



HUGS AND KISSES - Stevie Wonder was showered with love by Mrs. Leah Tutu, wife of 1984 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Bishop Desmond Tutu, a few days before more than 200 radio stations paid tribute to the 35 year old singer-songwriter whose music is now banned in South Africa. "The Stevie Wonder Birthday Network," celebrated a togetherness that black radio has never shown

before," said black music trade publisher Jack "The Rapper" Gibson, organizer of the historic event, "and I hope the feeling of brotherhood will be only the beginning of something fantastic for the future." With back to camera is Lia Triff Belli, wife of famed Attorney Melvin Belli and chairperson of the California Democratic Council. (KNS Photo By Nareshimah Osei)

Wonder Birthday Network Makes Broadcasting History

Orlando, Fl. - (KNS) - The phones were ringing as if there would be no tomorrow in the offices of music newsletter publisher Jack Gibson on May 13 when members of the "Stevie Wonder Birthday Network" started confirming their participation in what is now being called "an historic event."
"Monday, May 13, 1985 will go down in broadcasting history," said Gibson, who is better known as Jack the Rapper, one of the pioneer black disc jockeys in the nation and a former promotion consultant with Motown Record Corporation. "What the black and pop stations did has never (in such great numbers) been done before, and probably will never be done again."

Though the music guru asked station and program managers for only an hour of Stevie's music to be played simultaneously at a specified hour, many stations developed unique and very personal programming for Stevie Wonder fans throughout the nation.

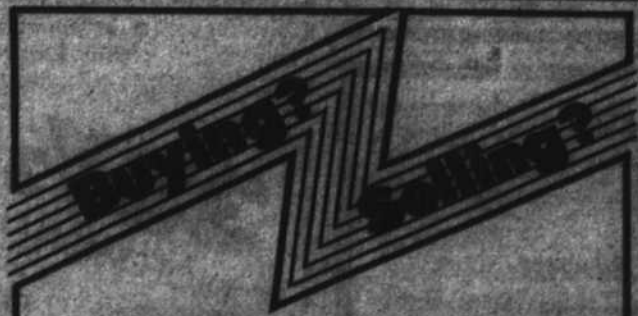
Typical of the tributes would be radio station KFGJ, in Los Angeles, where program director Kevin Fleming scheduled the hour requested by Gibson, then proceeded to air "triple-plays" of the 35 year old superstar's songs on the hour as Deedee Maxey rapped about the astounding le-

gacy given to America by Stevie Wonder.

At noon, veteran radio personality Roland Bynum played another hour of Stevie and continued the excellent programming that had started with Rick Nunez's moving tribute at 9 a.m. But it was the trivia segment on Tyrone "Boogie" Nelson's show in the late afternoon that allowed Stevie's fans to call the station with an array of vocal tributes and answers to questions that revealed a sizeable amount of information about the black star who accepted an Academy Award in the name of South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela for his song "I Just Called To Say

I Love You."
Donell Boyd, on the air from 7 p.m. to midnight, closed the tribute in the Los Angeles area by playing more Wonder music each and every hour. It was a musical feast for those who love Stevie and it was a time for reminiscing over tunes that Stevie has written and recorded in his nearly 25 years in show business.

The "Stevie Wonder Birthday Network" celebrated a togetherness that black radio has never shown before, according to Jack the Rapper, and he is hoping the feeling of brotherhood will be only the beginning of something fantastic for the future.



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