

No More Motown And More

A.M. Radio Station Abandons Soul Format

The Ray Willis Report

By: Ray E. Willis



Ray Willis

They say all good things come to an end. And so it was with the demise of the Motown And More format which gave Las Vegas radio its first all-Black oldies sound on 1340 A.M. Since the beginning of the year it had been rumored that the station, KMTW, would soon cease broadcasting soul oldies 24-hours daily in lieu of some alternate music format. Even so, I wasn't prepared for the sudden change when it happened recently.

Now, instead of the soulful sounds of legendary Black vocalists and musicians made possible through the Dallas-based Motown and More Radio Network, the station has switched to, of all things, a heavy metal rock format -- as radical a change as going from a night to day -- literally! No more Motown and More.

So now what do we do -- those of us in the 30-plus age group who had been accustomed to listening to real music? Not that the predominant soul music of today (urban contemporary and rap) isn't appealing. But seriously, how can today's music even come close to competing with the likes of, "Didn't I Blow Your Mind This Time" by the Delphonics, "Love Is Gonna Rain On You," by Archie Bell and the Drells, or "If This World Were Mine" by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell? The answer is, it simply can't.

Present-day proof of the enduring nature of old soul music can be found in an emerging new phenomenon that is the current rage in rap music. It's called "sampling." Sampling is when rap artists take a memorable line or phrase from a vintage soul classic and incorporate it into their rap song. The vintage record then becomes an integral part of the rap song, thus breathing new life into old songs.

Just think -- many young people today listening to rap music, who wouldn't have been caught dead turning into Motown and More, are hearing sampled lines from soul classics without even knowing it!

The down side of sampling is that many rap artists are not compensating soul artists whose records they sample, leaving them in a financial lurch while they make big money and keep it all for

themselves. But it's really good that the music of the past has a chance to be exposed to younger generations who otherwise would not hear it.

As Black people, devoid of ancestral roots or a history that is traceable to our origins in Arica, we must do all we can to preserve our recent musical history. And what better way to educate our young to appreciate the music we enjoy than to have a radio station as an outlet? That's why the loss of a station that played our music all the time, 24-hours daily, seven days a week, is such a tragic loss.

Yes, we still have KCEP 88.1 FM. But even there we're at a loss. Remember the Sunday Night Oldies Show with David Lee? Now there's not only no David Lee, but there's no Motown and More.

As much as I miss having an oldies radio station playing Black music, there is an alternative, and I intend to use it. Guess I'll have to dig deep into the Willis archives and dust off my extensive personal oldies collection, put 'em on reel-to-reel tape, and keep stepping with my own "Motown and More," right in the comfort of home.

Right now that's my only option, and yours too! By the

Local Drug Treatment Program Joins National Effort

September is National Alcohol and Drug Treatment month. A local group, Bridge Counseling Associates, has joined the national campaign by hosting an "Open House Celebration". When asked why the open house is listed as a celebration, Executive Director Carole Gordon replied, "We call our open house a celebration because treatment works. The costs are significantly less to treat addicts than to incarcerate them, and the chances of a successful recovery and productive integration into the community are greater for those in treatment than for those in prison." The open house which is scheduled for September 14, from 4pm to 7pm, will show case the programs that are available at Bridge Counseling.

Bridge Counseling was originally Operation Bridge. Founded in 1971, Operation Bridge was one of the first non-profits to tackle the

issues of substance abuse. During the last eighteen years Bridge has grown as the community needs have grown. Currently Bridge Counseling Staff has a case load of 400 to 600 client contacts per month. The phenomenal growth of the Las Vegas valley has brought with it an explosion of new clients and new issues. The staff at Bridge has come up with a variety of ways to meet the new challenges.

One of the ways that Bridge has met the challenge is with their Day Treatment Program. This innovative and highly structured treatment plan for adolescents has proved to be very successful. Day Treatment combines a drug free environment with individuals, family and group therapy.

To find out more, plan on attending the Open House Celebration on September 14, 1989 between the hours of 4pm and 7pm. For more information call 734-6070.

September Is Young People's Library Card Sign-Up Month

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, as designated by Congress, which passed the joint resolution during April's National Library Week. A child who is able to print his or her own name can receive a library card if he or she comes to any branch library with a parent or legal guardian, who must also bring a

way, those of you who are avid soul old soul music fans like myself who miss Motown and More, you're welcome to join me at my place on Friday evenings. Just give me a call.

So long Motown and More! Hello home-made tapes!

picture identification showing proof of current address.

"Every child should have

Black MDs On Aids, Court's Abortion Decision

The president of the National Medical Association, Frank L. Staggers Sr., M.D., Saturday said the NMA "welcomes the interest shown by the current national administration in making America a healthier place for everyone."

He pointed to the presence of U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Assembly of the NMA as evidence of the friendly interest of the Bush Administration. Dr. Sullivan is a longtime member of the NMA.

Dr. Staggers said the nation's oldest black organization "is deeply concerned about two of the most formidable problems facing minorities today -- AIDS and the concern over the effect the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision about abortion will have on poor and less affluent women."

his or her own library card, and a special certificate of recognition will be given to every child who signs up for one in the month of September. Parents should make it part of their children's back-to-school package," said

"The NMA endorses expansion of federal anti-discrimination laws to cover victims of AIDS," Dr. Staggers said. "We are continuing our efforts for enlightened public policy on AIDS, and improved medical care for its victims."

He added, "The NMA is also deeply concerned about the recent changes in abortion policies, which will have an unsettling effect on the lives of millions of women. The current situation, we are afraid, will precipitate a decline in optimal health care for child-bearing women."

"The (Supreme Court) decision provides for fragmentary utilization of medical attention, spread over a checkerboard pattern throughout the various states, meaning women may choose to exercise their option on having abortions, and many options may be unwise and unsafe," Staggers said.

Joyce Dixon, Young People's Library Coordinator for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

"You can get a card free from any branch library

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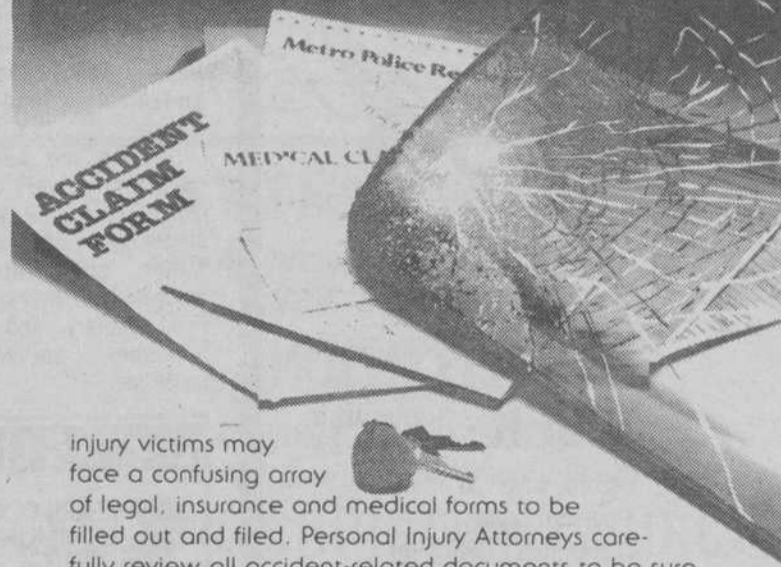
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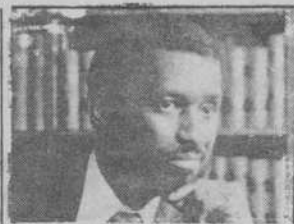


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