# City Council members: 1988 a good year

By Alisa Samuels
AFRO Staff Writer

Several black members of the Baltimore City Council summed 1988 up as a good year complete with innovative and productive bills.

Earlier this month, Vera Hall and Iris G. Reeves, Fifth District, and Sheila Dixon, Fourth District, met with the AFRO at the Johns Hopkins Inn to assess their productivity on the year-old Council.

The remaining black council members, Agnes Welch and Lawrence Bell, Fourth District, and Carl Stokes and Jacqueline McLean, Second District, failed to make the meeting.

"It was a good year for the council — a productive year," said Reeves, who is serving her fifth year. She took over her husband, Norman Reeves', seat after he died in February 1983.

The gay rights, housing and fair housing bills were three pieces of legislations each agreed she was proud to see introduced this year.

The gay rights bill was passed and it prohibits discrimination in employment and education based on sexual preference.

The other two bills, sponsored by Hall and Dixon, were introduced shortly before the council recessed for winter vacation.

Each of the bill's fates will be decided in 1989 when the council reconvenes.

Hall's housing bill, which aims to streamline current housing enforcement and compliance procedures, would allow the police commissioner to deputize special enforcement officers to issue citations to housing code violators.

Dixon's bill would prohibit discrimination in the sale and rental of housing in the city, including discrimination in financing mortgages and home insurance.

Dixon said she and other black council members are often criticized for not working in their constituents best interests because they appear to be less vocal than some of their colleagues.

Dixon said that criticism is unfair.

"You can introduce all the bills you want, but if they don't pass, what good are they," asked Dixon.

"Instead of one us saying we are the conscience of the Council, we try and get some action and be effective," Dixon said.

On the 1983 council, which had one black council person less than the current, boisterous Michael Mitchell, Fourth District, said he tried to be the Council's conscience and work hard for the black community.

Dixon said she was advised going into the council to not try and be a crusader and talk much rhetoric, but instead be effective.

Most of the the black city legislators said they felt a bond, but that bond does not supersede their constituent work.

And legislatively they have to go beyond black council members to get support from other members.

"We still only have a minority vote, if we stick together," said Hall.

"It's not enough for black council people to stick together, we have to get votes from moderate districts to get 10 votes," said Hall. The council has 19 members.

Council President Mary Pat Clarke has been supportive of the black members and has been labelled too liberal.

Dixon, Hall and Reeves agreed Clarke has been helpful in planting the new council on its feet. Hall added Clarke had also learned the importance of consensus building in the council to get people to support her causes.

When the council began last December, veteran members snatched Clarke's power away to assign committee chairmanships to new members, many of them black.

There are more than 10 committees and three are chaired by a black council member.

Although most agreed there was a special camaraderie with each other, they admit "we have seven different styles for various reason," Hall said.

In the Fourth District, for example, three different styles have blocked a cohesive delegation.

Dixon said she wanted to implement the Marshall Plan, a four-year comprehensive plan designed to combine community groups to share funds and programs to improve the Fourth District, but her colleagues, Bell and Welch really showed no interest.

Bell showed support, but only to incorporate his anti-drug lobbying into the plan and "Agnes really showed no interest," said Dixon.

Dixon said she wanted to build a strong cooperative delegation similar to the Third and Fifth districts.

Hall, Dixon and Reeves said they look forward to a good year in 1989 as well.

## Mfume elected to caucus chair

U.S. Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-7th, has been elected co-chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for the 101st U.S. Congress.

There will be 24 black congressmen attending the 101st Congress, one more than the previous Congress.

"The CBC has consistently voiced the concerns of black and minority Americans, as well as the poor, to Congress," Mfume said.

## Do you go downtown after dark?

Gary Christine

I generally don't come downtown other than just to work. Every now and then I go to the harbor or to a club. I don't come out a lot and I have no reason. Whenever I have a purpose I come down.

Clementine Locus

No. I don't live in this part of town. I like downtown, but I seldom get the chance to come downtown. I work downtown. Once I get off of work, who wants to come back. My daughter loves coming downtown.

Harry Johnson

No. I'm afraid. It's not only downtown, it's everywhere. I can't remember when was the last time I went anywhere after dark.

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Foreigners resented, legacy of colonial past:

# Africans, Chinese clash about injustice

By Mark S. Del Vecchio

NANJING, China — Chinese youths spat on African exchange students Thursday as they tried to return to classes following four days of massive anti-African protests, witnesses said.

At least two people were reported injured by police who used electric prods Wednesday night to break up the latest demonstration by thousands of Chinese demanding African students be punished for their role in a brawl with Chinese last weekend on a city campus.

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry acknowledged there had been "misunderstanings" and said authorities were investigating the incidents. But the officials denied any racial hostility was involved, despite witness accounts of Chinese protesters shouting "kill black devils" at the exchange students.

"The incident that has occurred in Nanjing is an isolated one having nothing to do with racial discrimination," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Zhaoxing.

Nanjing, a city about 600 miles south of Beijing, was calm Thursday after being convulsed by anti-African and anti-foreign protest since last Sunday.

About 150 African students were being held in protective custody by local officials for a third day at a guest house outside Nanjing despite their requests to leave the city for the capital.

But racial tension continued to run high. Two African students allowed to return to class at the Architectural Engineering Institute said they were spat on and verbally abused by Chinese.

"People spat at me and made comments under their breath," said Salah Kamal, 24, a student from Sudan. "The Chinese just want to make the African students afraid and then this will calm down."

A 29-year-old Cameroon student, Bourhame, said the students had been ordered not to leave campus.

"Here I am not safe," Bourhame said. He added that African students at nearby Hehai University, where clashes occurred last Saturday, "Just want to go back home now."

Some Nanjing residents blamed both the Africans and Chinese authorities for the spread of the protests, which began after rumors swept the city of the weekend violence at Hehai.

"The blacks are just wild," said a 30-year-old Chinese worker. But he added, "If the police had just brought in both blacks and Chinese when the incident occurred, none of this would have happened."

The fate of the Africans held at the guest house in Yangzhou, a town 50 miles northeast of Nanjing, presented a delicate problem for Chinese officials fearing further protests if the students are allowed to leave.

The Africans, along with a small group of dark-complexioned south Asians, fled to the city rail station Monday night to escape the crowds and were forcibly removed by police.

Officials denied the Africans were being held against their will, but were reported negotiating with African diplomats over how the students will be handled.

An announcement made Thursday at Nanjing University, where about 1,000 Chinese demonstrated Wednesday night outside the campus gate, said at least two people were injured when police broke up the protest using electric prods.

Hundreds of riot police were on standby to guard against further demonstrations.

The demonstrations, although largely peaceful, marked the first major campus unrest in China since nationwide student protests two years ago and the worst such racial incident in years.

The unrest is linked to longstanding racial hostility between Chinese and Africans in the country. African students have complained of discrimination and harassment by local Chinese and school authorities. The tensions previously led to violence. (UPI)

## Peace pact hailed historic'

The preliminary signing of what is being touted as a "historical" agreement in the Congolese capital of Brazzaville recently promises to end foreign intervention in Southern Africa, paving the way for Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola and the establishment of an independent government, under its own constitution in Namibia.

The formal signing of the tripartite agreement—which is actually two treaties—was in New York on December 22 at the United Nations. The timetable for the Cuban troops withdrawal will reportedly be detailed in the Cuban-Angolan treaty.

The Peoples Republic of Angola, Republic of Cuba, and Republic of South Africa signed the "Brazzaville Protocol" on December 14 at the palace of president Denis Sassou-Nguesso, culminating eight months of intensive U.S. mediated negotiations and eight years of persistent effort by one of America's most embattled State Department officials.

The protocol—which binds all of the participants to everything agreed upon during the negotiations—paves the way for the gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and provides for the transition to Namibian independence, ending 70 years of illegal administration by South Africa.

"This event signifies the end of a sad chapter in Africa's modern history and the beginning of a new chapter," Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester A. Crocker, the key U.S. mediator, reportedly said afterwards.

FIRST MEAL — Today in History: Exactly four years ago, Israel confirmed that 10,000 Ethiopian Jews had been flown to Israel. Ethiopia termed the operation "a gross interference" in its affairs. Pictured, is a young woman sitting down to her first meal after arriving in Jerusalem, four years ago.

## Jackson brother arrested

LOS ANGELES — A younger brother of entertainer Michael Jackson was arrested earlier this week when police who stopped his Rolls-Royce for a traffic violation discovered an outstanding arrest warrant for a prior violation, police said.

Steven Randall "Randy" Jackson, 27, of Beverly Hills, was held nearly four hours until he posted $262 bail on the warrant for failing to appear in court on the unspecified traffic violation, Sgt. John Zrofsky said.

Jackson was driving a 1987 Rolls-Royce Corniche along Melrose Avenue in Hollywood about 5:30 p.m. when he failed to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk.

Officers stopped Jackson and during a computer check discovered the outstanding warrant.

Although not one of the original members of the Jackson 5, "Randy" Jackson, a keyboardist and percussionist, started performing with his older brothers at eight years of age.

In 1980, he crashed his Mercedes on a rain-slick Hollywood street, broke both ankles and was paralyzed for a time.—UPI

# Funeral gives Robinson his victory in death

By Frances Murphy

WASHINGTON — Over a month ago I watched Maxie "Max" Cleveland Robinson, Jr, 49, hold his tubes and medical paraphernalia on his lap as he was wheeled into the Blackburn Student Union at Howard University.

At that time the thought stuck in my mind that he must have AIDS. And he did. He died from complications due to AIDS last week and his body was cremated.

All of us on the dais at Howard that night were asked to leave our seats and go down into the audience so that Max, who was the guest speaker, could make his way to his seat. But somehow I just stood where I was and applauded with the others. I just couldn't imagine the Max Robinson I remembered — the robust, strong voiced television anchorman — having to hold on to the wall and chairs to walk.

As Max gingerly came by me he gave me a quick hug and kiss saying in his usual outgoing manner. "It's good to see you."

These thoughts came to my mind as I sat in Shiloh Baptist Church for the funeral services for Max on Friday, Dec. 23 . This was a service for a man who because he was a first, had held onto his integrity as he fought against the insidious system of racial prejudice in the broadcasting industry.

The service was a victory of sorts for Max for it brought together people of all races and creeds to pay respect to man who opened doors so that hundreds of black men and women could show their faces on television.

I, along with other members from the media had been ushered to the front on the left hand side of the sanctuary where I sat with my back to the wall and a clear view of the entire congregation.

Mayor Marion Barry sat on the second row in the middle of the church with the family. Dr. Dorothy Height was on the far right side where Councilwoman Charlene Drew Jarvis and former Cong. Charles Diggs were seated.

Former Mayor Walter Washington and his wife Bernetta came in as did Dr. Orlando Taylor, dean of the Howard University School of Communications, Sam Yette, the retired Howard University professor, Dr. Marion Hull and the TV personalities like Carol Simpson, Dan Rather, Bernard Shaw, and Sam Donaldson.

Max Robinson

The Rev.Jesse Jackson, who delivered the eulogy and got a standing ovation from the almost 2,000 mourners present, said that "only Max could get this coalition to church on Friday."

He said that "Max would not adjust- that this was a homegoing for a tree...."

Jackson, who had watched Robinson come back from a comatose condition just a year ago, said that "Max sought to be a thermometer and to control the temperature."

Jackson said that the services were a thank you to Max not a goodbye and that he was convinced that it was not the disease from which Robinson had died, but what he had lived for that made the difference.

The Rev. Jackson reminded the audience that Max Robinson had "cultural integrity " and that when it is all said and done only our integrity is the measure.

The Max Robinson Scholarship Fund has been established for communication students at 545-8th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

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