Forum

Both Duke and Buchanan wrong

unexpectedly favorable harvest from the unsavory rhetoric of presidential aspirants David Duke and Pat Buchanan.

instincts of American citizens, but they have triggered an effective reaction from the media.

Duke, an avowed but behind-

Black people are reaping an birth rates and other data remaining Penny's, and various others. reasonably constant, whites will be the minority in this country within the next 50 years.

Because whites will be a Both appeal to the worst minority in fifty years, many leading educators and other officials are urging that the tradition of affirmative action be established now for the eventual protection of whites

But big media including NBC, CBS, and CNN have kept pace by intensifying black participation in positive images and by apparently softening stereotypes. Psychological studies have shown that the projection of individuals in positive roles causes the general population

favorably. These favorably projected individuals become status symbols and opinion leaders, authority figures, and role models. Their being in these communication positions denotes status conferral and implicit

acceptance by power people.

to perceive related groups more

This development is very important, for it denotes a rather sharp change. Whereas in the past, blacks were represented by their worst (as buffoons, flunkys, clowns, and ignoramuses) now, for at least, emphasis has changed and showcases the best — as has been done all along for whites in history books, movies, dramas, art, etc. This is one way of influencing public opinion and public behavior.

The Anita Hill factor in the Thomas hearings brought before America a type of brilliant black talent never before assembled and viewed by millions of Americans. Also, the prominence of Bryant Gumbel, Bernard Shaw, Ed Bradley, the Cosby Show and others radiated aswave of positive. images to America.

· Whether America's "power people" reacted with fear or alarm to the ravings of Duke and Buchanan I do not know. But we can be thankful that the pendulum of time and circumstance has swung



MINORITY REPORT

By JAMES E. ALSBROOK, Ph.D.

the-scenes Klansman and Nazi, is using racism cloaked in code words like "welfare and food stamps people" and "dirty affirmative action" to blame black people for the electronic media. nation's problems. Buchanan, an avowed far-rightist with Nixon's and Reagan's anti-minority sentiments, said on television that Amershould deal with Haitians and blacks accordingly.

which reports that forty-four percent - nearly half - of food stamp recipients are white. Twentyeight percent are black, twentythree percent are Hispanic and others are Asians, Pacific Islanders, Indians, and Alaska natives.

Buchanan is also proven wrong by the U.S. Government, Census figures show that more than onefourth of the nation's population is non-white, including blacks, Hispanics and various others. Population projections indicate that with

when they become a minority.

But the immediate harvest blacks get from Duke and Buchanan talk is the reaction of the

following the prominence of Duke. Buchanan and the Thomas hearings - many advertisers, talk show ica "is a white nation" and therefore hosts, local television and radio broadcasters and others are using more qualified but hitherto obscure Duke is proven wrong by the black professionals. Many hold U.S. Food and Nutrition Service - doctorate degrees in various disciplines.

Talk show hosts using black experts include Phil Donahue, Oprah Winfrey, Geraldo Riviera, Sally Jessie Raphael, Joan Rivers and others.

But also prominent on the airwaves have been more talented but local black anchor people.

Nationally known businesses ing. They include General Motors, Ford, I.B.M., Folger's, Kentucky

Within the last month or so -

have used more blacks in advertis-

Fried, Colgate, McDonald's, Sears, in a favorable direction.

another opportunity for all persons committed to justice and freedom to rebuild and revive the progressive "movement" for social change in the United States. 1991 was the year of profound changes in many regions of the world from the forapartheid South Africa.

But here inside the United importantly it takes persistence States of America, there are many in places of high political power, from the White House to governor's mansions, who remain determined to prevent this nation from achieving the kind of fundamental social transformation necessary to eliminate racism and economic exploitation. We have witnessed in many communities throughout the nation a growing "grassroots" demand for justice and empowerment. This is good news for "movement build-

ing." History teaches us, however, that effective movements for social change, particularly in a nation that denies its deep-rooted racial inequity, do not occur through the mere coincidence of popular or minority outrage. An effective social justice movement has to be organized, built, nurtured, and consistently revived with new vision and leadership.

Be it therefore resolved that we, together with you, will work harder than ever before over the next 12 months to rescue the United States from the historic clutches of racial discrimination and exploitation by reviving the justice and freedom movement in every community in the nation.

It is unfortunate that many of the announced candidates for President, both Democratic and Republican, have chosen campaign slogans alike: "America First" or "America Only." It is as if politicians believe that the way to get elected in 1992 is to engage the nation in a new round of myth-making by blaming "others" for the sad state of the domestic economy. Yes, God has blessed America, but shouting "America Perfect" is a myth and another attempt to submit to a dangerous form of national "self-idolatry."

Even though it was watered down to the extreme in terms of compromises, the successful enactment of the Civil Rights Act of

The new year 1992 offers yet 1991 over strong opposition from the White House should be viewed as a victory for the cause of social justice. This past year is a good example of "one step forward amidst a strive taking two steps backward." The important point is that it is still possible to wage an mer Soviet Union to racist effective struggle. . . but it takes organization and mobilization; most

Revive 'The Movement' in the U.S.A numerous inquiries from youth leaders who want to be involved and committed to challenging the various forms of injustices in their communities. The genius of the "movement" of the 1960s was how it opened up and allowed mass participation by youth and students. We do not believe that the current generation of young people are the so-called "lost generation." There



CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

BY BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS JR.

even in the face of formidable odds. * For all of these reasons, we

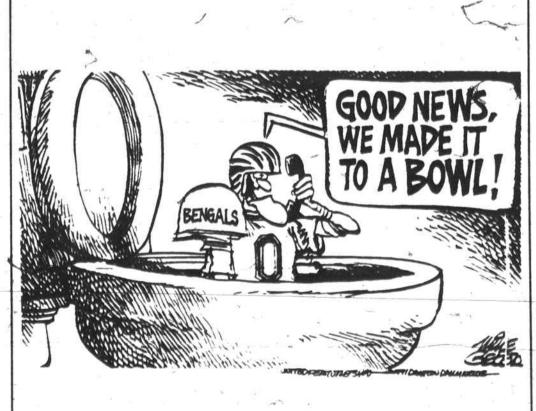
believe that 1992 becomes a pivotal year beyond the election of the President. We need to indicate to ourselves and to the world community that the just social transformation of this society is not only possible but absolutely necessary. We recently caught a glimpse of this potential in the current efforts to build an "environmental justice movement" as a multiracial/multicultural grassroots effort to challenge environmental racism and injustice.

An important factor in reviving the struggle here will be the leadership role and participation of young people who are students or community activists. We have received

are literally millions of young persons in the nation who would like to be in the "movement" of today if given the opportunity to join.

We intend to give greater emphasis this year to the emergence of some of the new youthful voices that are at the cutting edge of saying no to oppression. The reality is that there is ample room for all of those that desire to be involved in the struggle no matter what age catego-

We, therefore, begin the new year with a sense of optimism and responsibility. Whether or not there is to be a revival of the "movement" in 1992 will be dependent upon what we together do, what we together tolerate, and what we together demand:





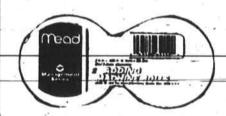
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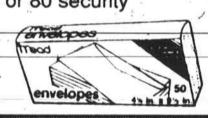
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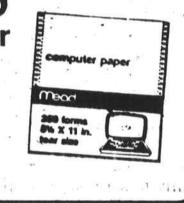
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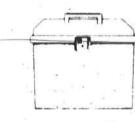
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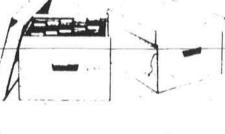


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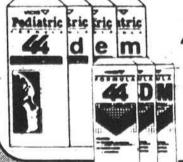


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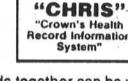
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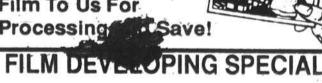


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