

# Point of View

## Thanksgiving Day

When Americans sit down Thursday, Nov. 24, to eat turkey and give thanks for their blessings, they will be repeating a ceremony first performed 367 years ago.

It was in the autumn of 1621 when Massachusetts Bay Governor William Bradford invited neighboring Indians to join the Pilgrims for a three-day festival of recreation and feasting, in gratitude for the bounty of the season.

By the end of the 19th century, Thanksgiving Day had become an institution throughout New England and was officially proclaimed a national holiday by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The traditional feast of turkey and pumpkin pie, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, has become an indigenous part of American culture.

Thanksgiving also has been celebrated in Canada as a national holiday since 1879. The Canadian Thanksgiving is observed on the second Monday of every October.

## The 1988 Campaign: Fear and Charges of Racism

by  
**Eleanor Holmes Norton**  
Member, Democratic  
National Committee

For more than three centuries, racism was fundamental to American ideology. Then the civil rights movement achieved an exorcism of sorts, leaving racism to the dark places of American life and making it a political liability. At the same time, if hurtled recklessly, as it was in the notorious case of New York teenager, Tawana Brawley, the charge trivializes a great American tragedy and siphons off credibility.

Now, for the first time in memory, the charge has made its way up the ladder of a Presidential campaign. Is the Bush campaign an innocent bystander that has had a rock thrown at its back? I don't think so.

Bush introduced this country to Willie Horton, a black murderer who was furloughed although ineligible for parole. A further violent crime while on furlough made both crime and Horton fair game. For the President has jurisdiction over some violent crimes and appoints the judges who hear these cases. But in this country when a black rapist becomes the central theme of a Presidential campaign, race is likely to become an issue for millions of Americans, who have many varieties of responses to race. Yet over and over again, in both speeches and commercials, Bush made Horton not only an issue, but the issue to which he always returned. In none other, not even his other symbolic issue, the flag salute, did the Vice-Presi-

## To Be Equal

# THE RACIAL PARITY GOAL

by John E. Jacob

We may have overdosed on charisma in the White House these past eight years, but effective leadership needs to project a vision of the future that inspires people.

President-elect Bush needs to tap into America's 200-year-old dream of equality and embrace the bold vision of racial justice essential to secure America's future in a largely non-white world — racial parity by the year 2000.

It's a vision that can free the deepest energies of our people . . . that can release our noblest moral instincts . . . that can make Americans feel good about themselves and their country, as they haven't since whites and blacks joined hands to destroy segregation a generation ago.

It's a vision that can be implemented by carefully designed policies, such as:

—a national effort to create jobs or training opportunities for every disadvantaged person,

—a national education policy that puts every poor child into a quality early childhood education program and brings excellent educational opportunities to all disadvan-



John E. Jacob

tagged youngsters.

—transformation of the welfare system to provide decent living standards for the poor along with the education, training and jobs to be productive.

—a massive, targeted pro-

gram to end the crisis in affordable housing.

—equitable access to quality health care for the many millions who have no health insurance.

—an end to the plague of drugs that's destroying our communities and turning our schoolyards into combat zones, and

—aggressive national policies to protect civil rights and wipe out the last vestiges of

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racism and discrimination.

Those programs aren't liberal or conservative—they're just common sense, rational policies to reverse the backward drift of two societies—one rich and white, one poor and black.

Government has the resources and the responsibility to do the job—and the new President has to acknowledge that.

He can't tell us that a trillion dollar budget won't accommodate investments that cut poverty and create opportunities.

Nor can he tell us that a five-trillion-dollar economy won't support programs that cut inequality and invest in the human resources that represent our best hope for the future.

A nation that spent two trillion dollars on the Pentagon over the past eight years can afford to invest in its human needs.

President-elect Bush can't tell us we don't have enough money for nutrition, training housing, health, and education programs.

His task is not to say why we can't have those things but to tell us how government will train and educate our young people, keep them healthy, and give them access to the social services they've got to have if they're to make decent lives for themselves.

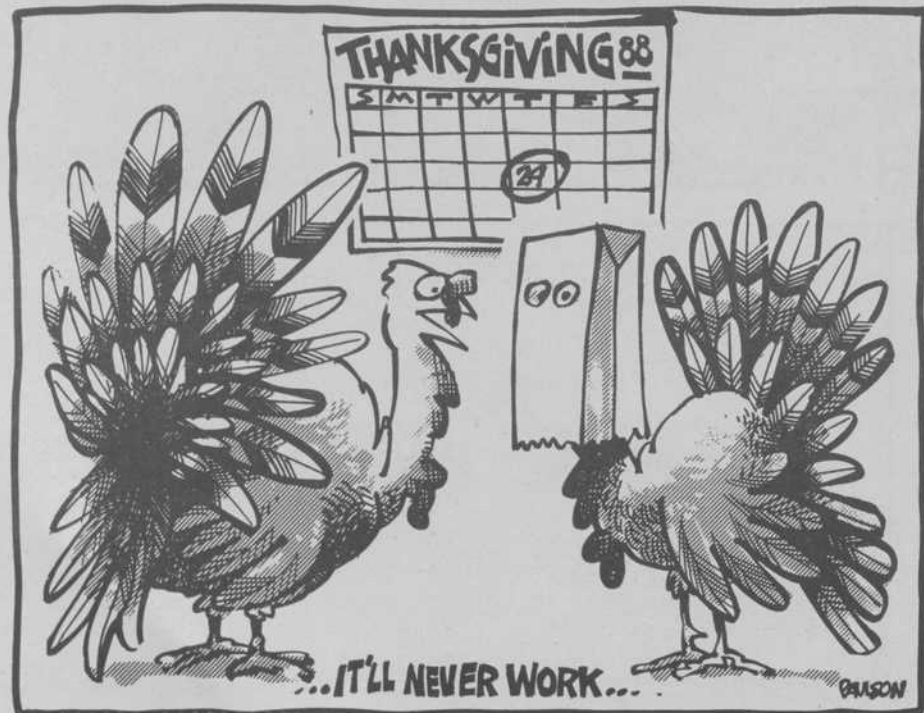
Mr. Bush needs to assure us that his Administration will do more for the poor than for the wealthy; and that the vision of a "kinder, gentler America" that he projected on the campaign trail will lead him to pursue more positive programs that result in racial parity.

Senior Center in San Francisco. "I grew up in West Oakland, and granted, it wasn't as rough then as now, but black elderly had control with the approval of parents. NBAN wants to harness the values existing in those days and make them work now."

"If we don't at least try to

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## Expert:

### Elderly Must Help Black Youth Regain Lost Value System

by Richard Spencer  
The Tribune

Elderly blacks may be the most valuable resource for helping black youth in trouble, George W. Davis maintains.

plead naivete about the special negative force of a black rapist of a white woman.

I cannot vouch for Bush's handlers, but nothing in the Vice-President's career has hinted of racism, and it is hard to believe he intended a racist appeal this time. But he lives in a country which is still trying to defeat both intentional and institutional racism. He wants to be President of a nation that is only recovering from a history of virulent racism. One of the qualifications for becoming President in such a country, Mr. Bush, is a demonstrated sensitivity to the wild card of race.

"There is a black lost generation 15 to 30 years old," said Davis, a native Oaklander who is executive director of the National Black Aging Network (NBAN).

"They are lost because they were never part of the black value system. Consequently, no one ever gave them survival skills.

"Born to parents who knew the civil rights movement in its intensity and who were determined to give their children things they lacked, the lost generation lost its most valuable building block — a value system developed by blacks who lived before the movement.

"Blacks now in their 80s achieved more during more difficult times than the younger older group now in their 60s," said Davis, who is also head of Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose

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