

PUBLIC FORUM

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Writing to Public Forum: We welcome letters to the editor on all issues of public concern. Letters must be signed and must include the writer's home address and daytime telephone number. All are subject to editing and condensation. They can be published only with the writer's true name. Mail letters to Public Forum, P.O. Box 4200, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

Two bright spots

I found two bright spots in this other-

wise dismal election season. First, Los Angeles County bucked the national trend and chose Michael Dukakis over George Bush by 53-47 percent. The second is the report by the Los Angeles 2000 Committee.

The committee recognizes the serious problems that lie ahead and has made sober and progressive recommendations. Chief among these is that we had better start laying the groundwork now if we want a livable Los Angeles for our children and grandchildren. This requires that we rethink our attitudes toward government and create a new definition of community.

The main obstacle to this goal is our fixation with material things and our unwillingness to tax ourselves for the sake of our children's future. Addressing the problems of crime, pollution and education requires spending money. If we do not accept that, we condemn our posterity to "beggar-thy-neighbor" competition for low-paying jobs, decent housing and access to health care.

Los Angeles 2000 President Jane Pisano asks: "How bad do things have to get before people are willing to make changes and to invest?" Let us hope that John Kenneth Galbraith was wrong when he said, "People of privilege will always risk their complete destruction rather than surrender any material part of their advan-

tage.”

— Bill Becker
Woodland Hills