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Alternative LA

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ALTERNATIVE LA

AN OFFICIAL GUIDE FOR THOSE INCLINED TO VENTURE OUTSIDE THE HALLS OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

By Kelly Candaele, Peter Dreier. *The Nation*.
Aug 21-Aug 28, 2000. Vol.271, Iss. 6; pg. 28B, 1 pgs

LA TIMES BUILDING

At 1 AM on October 1, 1910, a dynamite blast tore through the building that housed the rabidly anti-union Los Angeles Times, killing 20 workers. The labor leaders accused of the crime pled guilty in a plea bargain, dealing a terrible blow to the labor movement and progressive politics in LA. The modern wing of the current LA Times building (on the south side of First Street) faces the site of the dynamited building.

RAMPART POLICE STATION

The LAPD's most recent scandal, centered on the downtown Rampart precinct, erupted last year when a former officer told investigators about widespread brutality and framing of suspects. More than 70 officers have been implicated, and more than 80 convictions have been overturned.

SUBWAY TO NOWHERE

Los Angeles's new Red Line, which snakes through mostly low-density neighborhoods, is a potent symbol of LA's skewed transportation priorities. The 17.4-mile subway cost \$4.7 billion, but currently attracts only 100,000 riders a day. Activists charge that subway funding has starved the city's crowded buses, used primarily by the poor.

BELMONT LEARNING COMPLEX

The Los Angeles Unified School District has to build 150 schools in the next six years to meet growing enrollments. Its most recent embarrassment is the half-completed Belmont Learning Complex, located on a downtown site with leaking methane gas and boarded up after about \$140 million was spent in construction.

EL MONTE SWEATSHOP

The 1995 discovery of 72 Thai immigrants toiling in virtual slavery in the suburb of El Monte at 2614 Santa Anita Avenue helped ignite a nationwide antisweatshop movement. But LA remains the sweatshop capital of the nation, with over 140,000 largely immigrant garment workers facing substandard conditions.

PORT OF LOS ANGELES-ALAMEDA CORRIDOR

The militant International Longshore and Warehouse Union remains strong in San Pedro's Port of Los Angeles. The Alameda Corridor, which runs from downtown Los Angeles 30 miles south to the port, is lined with hundreds of light manufacturing businesses that employ primarily Latino immigrant workers in mostly low-wage, non-union jobs.

MODEL HOUSING

Three years ago 1979 Estrella Avenue in south Los Angeles was a cockroachinfested slum. The Esperanza Community Housing Corporation transformed the building into 11 spacious units for low-income tenants. Despite such progress, LA-which spends less on housing than any other major city-still faces a severe affordable-housing shortage and has widespread slums.

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