8-21-2000

Alternative LA

Kelly Candaele
Peter Dreier

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.oxy.edu/uep_faculty

Part of the American Politics Commons, Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Community-Based Learning Commons, Community-Based Research Commons, Comparative Politics Commons, Environmental Policy Commons, Health Policy Commons, Inequality and Stratification Commons, Other Political Science Commons, Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons, Place and Environment Commons, Politics and Social Change Commons, Public Policy Commons, Social Policy Commons, Transportation Commons, Urban Studies Commons, Urban Studies and Planning Commons, and the Work, Economy and Organizations Commons

Recommended Citation
Candaele, Kelly and Dreier, Peter, "Alternative LA" (2000). UEP Faculty & UEPI Staff Scholarship. https://scholar.oxy.edu/uep_faculty/702

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Urban and Environmental Policy at OxyScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in UEP Faculty & UEPI Staff Scholarship by an authorized administrator of OxyScholar. For more information, please contact cdia@oxy.edu.
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 pleaded 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.