

TENANTS TALK

NEWSPAPER OF THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

★ WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? JOIN THE CITY-WIDE TENANT STRUGGLE! ★

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ALIANZA DE INQUILINOS DE TODO CHICAGO



ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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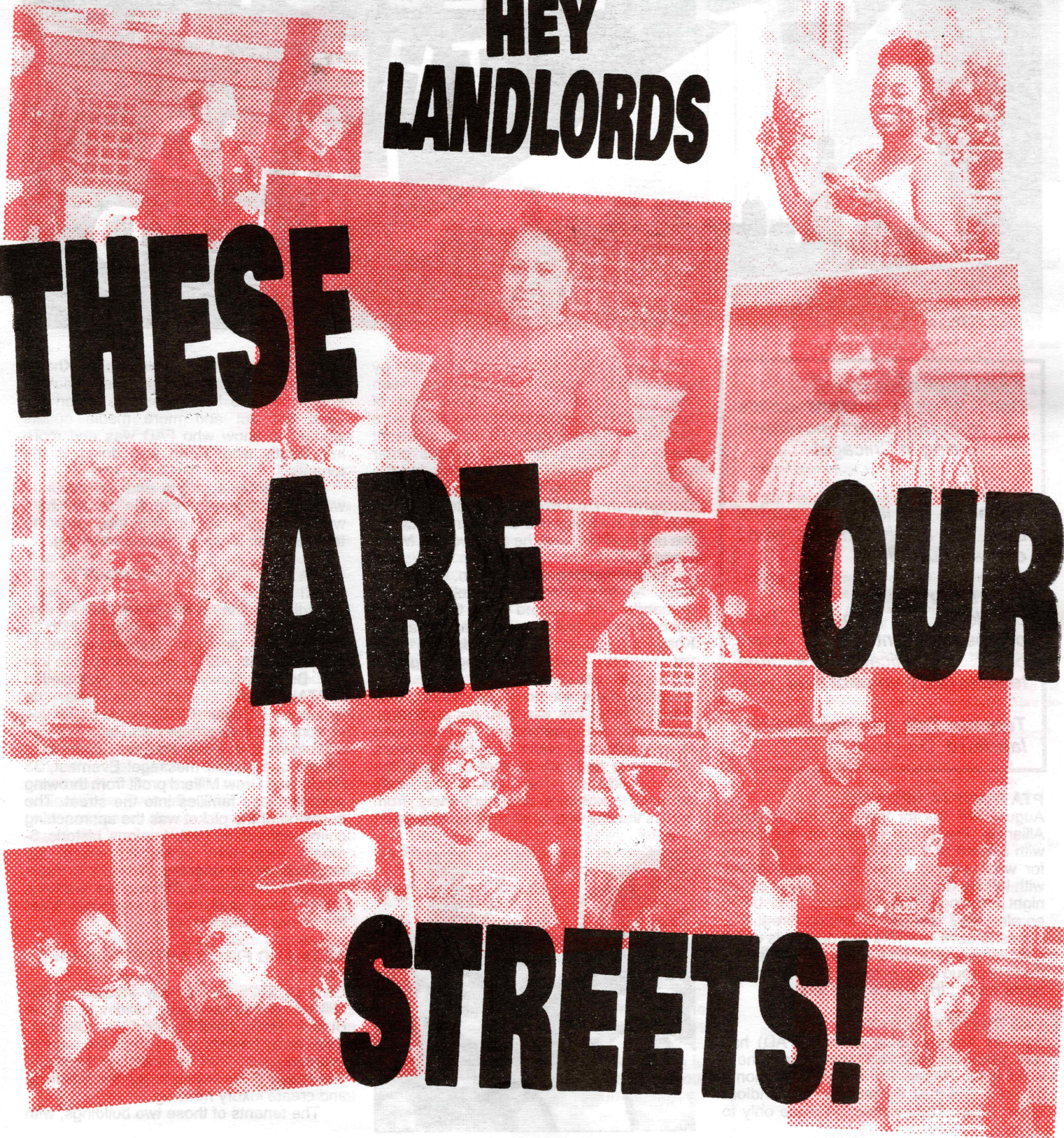
HEY LANDLORDS

THESE

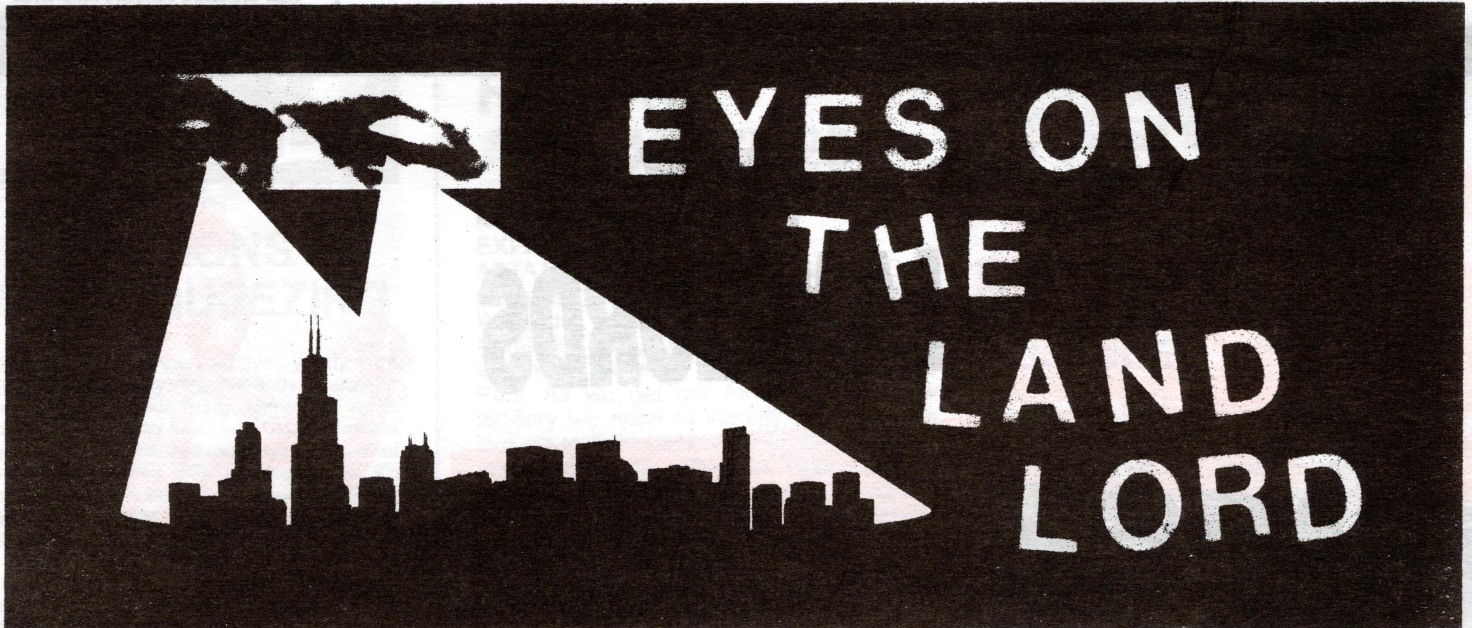
ARE

OUR

STREETS!



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



Keep your eyes open!
Don't let your landlord isolate you from the tenant movement blossoming in Chicago!

Be ready!
Decades of landlord control over our neighborhoods won't end without a fight!

Stay smart!
Landlords pump their perspectives into every news outlet in Chicago; it's time tenants had a voice of their own!

Tenants Talk has eyes on the landlord. Do you?

PTA BBQ/PTA UPDATE

August was hot for the Parkside Terrace Alliance! The union started off the month with a feast of a cook-out that set the tone for what was to come next...negotiations with Infinity Capital. Four hard weeks of late night meetings, door-knocking, and being on alert 24/7 resulted in forcing Gregory B Jones to cave to PTA's key demands of full rent forgiveness and security. While the Pride is proud of its victory, it knows the fight never ends...the PTA is here to stay!

FAD RALLY & UPDATE

Fuerzas Activas de la Damen (FAD) has had a busy month! The tenants from the 4 buildings in Rogers Park started the month by delivering their demands to the landlord Imran Khan. They visited his office only to

find it completely empty, and were told by other people around that they haven't seen the guy in months! Just what kind of business is this guy running?! To make sure that he got the demands the union also sent them via email to him and various other people he works with. Shortly after that the Northside Community Development Corporation (NCDC) called to let us know that they had secured a meeting between the union, Khan, and the alderwoman Maria Hadden.

At this meeting with Hadden, Khan, and FAD, tenants once again delivered the demands and insisted that the primary concern is the higher rents. Hadden asked Khan to consider the demands. We have yet to hear from Khan regarding the increase in rent.

While the outcome of the meeting was disappointing, this was also not surprising. With this meeting behind us, FAD continued forward with their plans. That being a press conference and rally in front of one of the four buildings. The hours-long rally attracted neighbors and supporters from across the city who all showed up to support



the tenants in their struggle against Khan's Gentrification Plan. Multiple media outlets also arrived to hear speeches. Soon the word got out and more media outlets wanted to know who FAD was and more importantly what Khan was doing to the tenants.

FAD remains strong and will continue working on strengthening the union! Khan, we know you are reading this, give the tenants a fair lease, the city is watching.

BSTA AND FIBC ON THE PICKET LINE!

Everything's fine on the picket line! All day, every day, all week from August 25th to August 29th, and from September 3rd to September 5th ACTA sent comrades to join the Belden Sawyer Tenant Association (BSTA) and Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler (FIBC) on the picket line in front of the Evernest / 33 Realty offices downtown. Every day, we gave hundreds of people one simple message: Evernest, 33 Realty and Drew Millard profit from throwing working class families into the street. The occasion of the picket was the approaching culmination of the tenant unions' historic, 6-month long rent strike, in which the negotiations are ongoing. We want to make it clear to Millionaire Millard: the beatings will continue until morale improves! Meet the unions' demands, Drew!

ACTA AND FIBC'S ANTI-ICE BLOCK PARTY

Early in 2025 the greedy investor, Drew Millard, purchased two buildings in the Buena Park neighborhood in Chicago. Right away he sent letters to all the tenants informing them that he is kicking them out. The reason? He wants to gut the buildings and create luxury housing.

The tenants of those two buildings, with

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



photos by Orian (@cyanoboy)

the help of ACTA, quickly organized and created their union by the name of Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler (FIBC). The members of Fuerzas are Mexican workers who have lived in their apartments with their families for multiple generations. The union's goal is simple: to remain in their homes.

It should be noted that the tenants of FIBC are organizing at a time where Hispanic people as well as migrants in general are being villainized day in and day out. The bold decision to fight their landlord was made with this looming over their heads. Despite this, FIBC organized and is in the midst of one of the longest rent strikes in Chicago since at least the 70s.

However, the threat of ICE is very real. In the past few months two members of FIBC received terrible news from their families across the country: their loved ones had been abducted by ICE. One was detained for 2 months and released when it was shown his detention was illegitimate, a process which cost his family over \$20,000. Another is awaiting trial in the southern parts of the country, far away from their home. On September 7th, to support our friends and comrades, FIBC and ACTA held a block party with the hope of raising \$5,000 for legal fees for their family members as they fight against the state's current reign of domestic terror.

After a long day behind the grills and ticket booths, we are happy to report that the block party was a smashing success, and our local communities were able to show out in support by the hundreds. The block party filled the corner of Broadway and Cuyler with music, spirited conversation, and children's laughter. The union raised money throughout the day through a mixture of carnival games, food, raffles, and souvenirs, and although ACTA and FIBC members were hard at work running the event and cooking the food respectively, we, too, were able to enjoy this moment of jubilee in the thick of the rent strike struggle.

The grand total of money raised... over \$10,000! ★

WHERE DO PROFITS COME FROM?

Any time tenants stand up for their homes we hear the same refrain: "What about the landlord? He's got a mortgage! He paid good money for that building, shouldn't he make some in return?!"

When they ask these questions they already know what they want the answer to be. They want you to think, 'Yes!' But is this the truth? Or is it what landlords *want* you to think is true?

Let's look at what really happens when a building sells. Take your average large multifamily building, for example. Someone built it and someone bought it, taking out a mortgage and borrowing the money to buy it. They fill the building with tenants who pay rent month after month, loyally sending the landlord their hard-earned cash so he can pay back his mortgage. The rents from the building do more than cover the mortgage, though. They also pay for the landlord's profit. Money he uses to take care of his own needs or puts towards other investments.

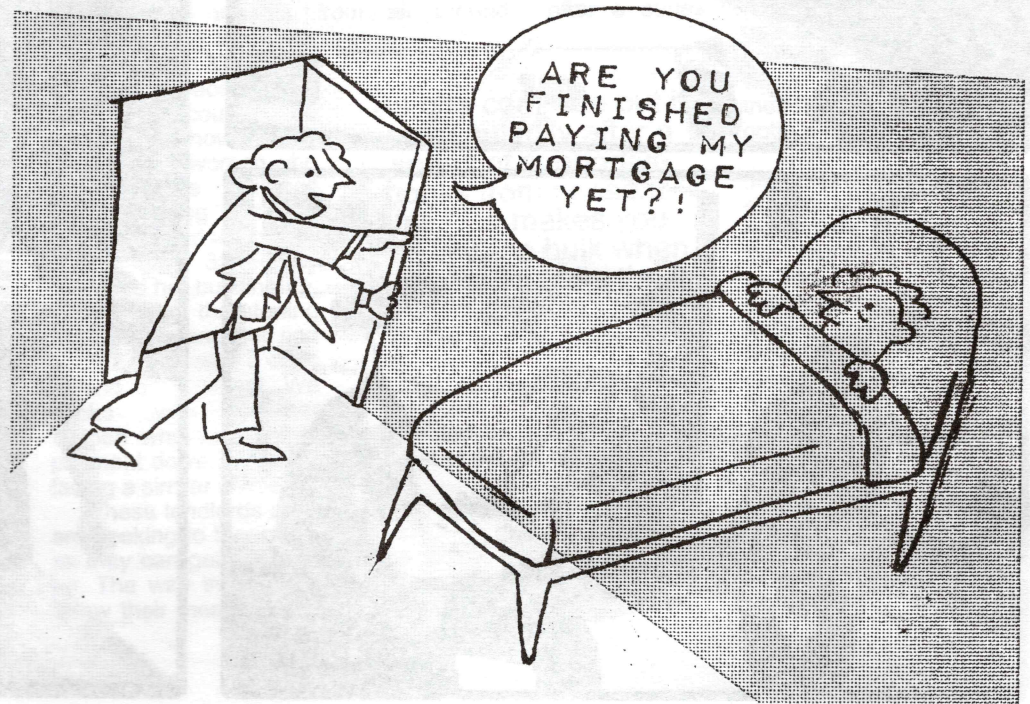
The landlord gets richer and richer until one day, usually ten to fifteen years after it was bought, the building is paid off. The landlord's mortgage payments are over. The hard working tenants successfully pay off the landlord's debts and he is free to think about his next purchase. The tenants have effectively bought a building for him. The landlord's cost of doing business goes

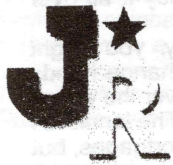
down by tens of thousands of dollars a month and he can return the favor for the tenants' years of loyal payments by lowering the rents...but does he?

Of course not! The landlord's rule is to always make profit. After paying off his mortgage and raking in additional profits for years, the landlord has a new opportunity to make some cash. If the time is right, the landlord can sell his building to a *new* owner. When you buy just about *anything* else in the world you pay for it and you get it. When it comes to housing, however, tenants are expected to pay again and again and again... on and on forever. I'm not talking about just monthly rent payments. I'm talking about the payment for the whole building. As we saw above, the tenants bought the building for their old landlord, but after that the new owner comes in and asks them to buy it *all over* again for him.

If you're watching closely, you might realize that as the buildings change hands from one landlord to the next over the years, nothing *new* is being created. The landlords claim they have to pay their mortgages, but the original mortgage was already paid. There wouldn't be a mortgage to pay anymore if landlords weren't passing the buildings back and forth *between* themselves. If you're a tenant, this *should* make you angry! Why are we, as tenants, paying for buildings again and again and again? Why are tenants and not the *owners* expected to foot the bill for the cost of the building, the cost of repairs, and the taxes? Worst of all, if we *are* paying for all this anyway, why is the landlord there at all?

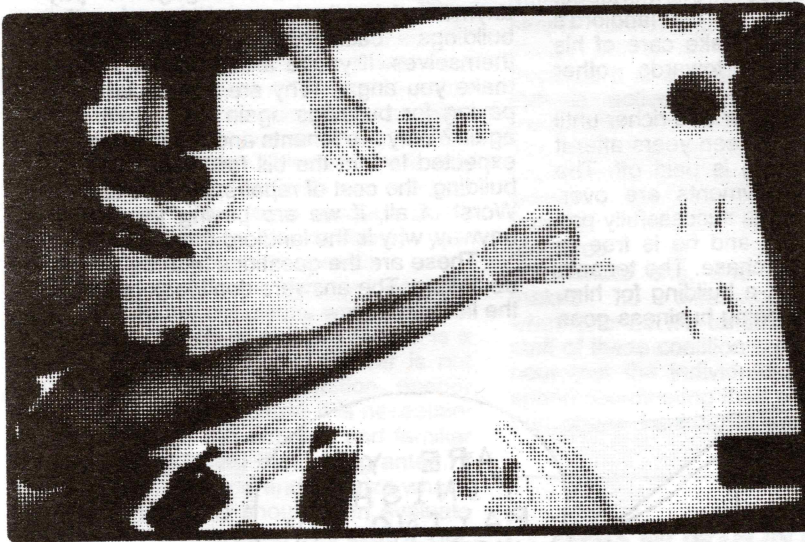
These are the questions tenants *should* be asking. The answers don't look good for the landlords. ★



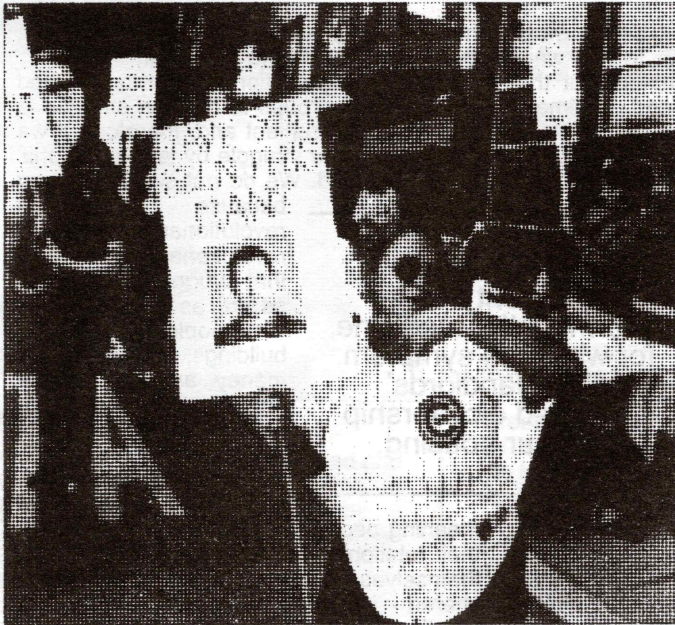


In January 2024, a few members of the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance visited Panamá upon invitation from our comrades in the revolutionary organization Juventudes Revolucionarias Agosto 16

These are some photos from our trip.



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



LONG WEEK AT THE OFFICE

REPORT FROM THE PICKET LINE AGAINST 33 MANAGEMENT

During the final weeks of August, facing down one tenant's eviction trial, the tenants of unions Belden Sawyer Tenant Association (BSTA) and Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler (FIBC) came together to turn the heat up with a picket line at 33 Realty offices in River West. The picket line is a tactic as old as the union itself, one which resembles the rent strike in a way. In a rent strike, as a show of good faith, and as a means of building leverage, members of a tenant union take the money that would be sent to the landlord as rent, and set it aside. This demonstrates that the money is there, however it won't be given to the landlord until the union's demands are met. A picket serves a similar function, members of a labor union will go to work, demonstrating that they are able to go, and ready to work, however rather than doing the bidding of the capitalist, union members form a line in front of their place of work and protest the mistreatment and greed that their bosses represent.

In a similar vein, the two unions, who are currently both on a rent strike against 33 Realty, came to the front of 33's offices in response to slumlord Drew Millard's petulant refusal to negotiate in good faith. From 9 to 5 the unions, as well as supporters from around the city and ACTA spread the word of 33 Realty's cruel and unusual conduct. On the line there was chanting, dancing, and plenty of truth

getting spoken into the megaphone.

Those who agreed with our message showed support by honking in agreement, every now and then setting off chain reactions of honks. A trend that stuck out to me personally was that working people know the truth. We felt support from city workers of all kinds, construction workers, truck drivers, bus drivers, sanitation workers, and more. Some locals who we had become acquainted with began to pass by regularly, shouting "F**** DREW MILLARD". The people can see clearly the

being carried out by Drew and his fellow Concord Cronies.

Speaking of said cronies, 33's offices were left empty every day that we were there. I suppose when you have the money that people like Drew Millard or Matthew Whitaker have, it's not a big deal to spend rent on a building that you don't inhabit, in fact it's not so different from what they do as their personal hustle! Wasting a week of rent is an acceptable loss for wealthy sociopaths, especially if it means avoiding the discomfort of having to see the faces and hear the voices of the decent folk you are throwing out of their homes for the purpose of further lining your own pockets.

However this doesn't mean the unions and their supporters were the only ones present at the offices! We met and spoke with several tenants from all around Chicago trying to deliver rent checks to 33, unable to do so because 33 employees couldn't be bothered to show up. We spoke with a woman who lived in the Marshall Fields building who had her rent raised about 300 dollars after 33 Realty snatched her building up, and was now threatening to evict her and her son because she was 5 days behind on payment. We spoke with another woman who was only 2 days behind on payment down all the way on 121st street, facing a similar situation.

These landlords and real estate agents are seeking to buy up as much of Chicago as they can get their greedy little rat paws on. The way they see it, they can simply throw their money at people's homes until

they can declare ownership over said homes. They simply want to sign a few papers, send over some money they got from the bank or maybe their parents or maybe even both, and then sit back and collect, with zero regard for the consequences other people have to face because of what they are doing. Not only do they want people to quietly, politely feed their bank accounts, going as far as to remove people from their decades long homes to do so, they can't even be bothered to come in and sit on their plexiglass thrones to receive the tributes tenants are forced to work and stress and struggle for. It doesn't matter to them whether these people are able to get by, or are able to live fulfilling lives, because at the end of the day they will get their piece of cheese, whether the tenant lives under them or not. What matters to them is that they get to maintain their own comfort, status, and stability, by any means necessary.

The tenants are tired of this! We refuse to pander to these false rulers! They may be able to hide and cry to politicians about how "threatened" they feel and how hard they try to "provide" for us but we know the truth! The only thing people like Drew Millard provide is emails written by AI telling us that they have decided they want to take even more from us, even more away from us. This is why the unions have come together from all across Chicago to push back, refusing to play along politely, and refusing to be silent! The spirit of the picket was strong, and unified, and, dare we say, even joyful! The struggle is not easy: it requires hard work, it requires bravery, and it requires commitment, but the power it gives you, not only to see yourself resist the pushes and shoves the ruling class throws at us, but to see your comrades stand by your side doing exactly the same is beyond words. As one comrade put it so beautifully after a series of supportive honks from

passers-by, "...it makes you feel like the hulk when someone honks their horn at you, you just gotta experience it".

BSTA is currently demanding for the entirety of their withheld rent to be forgiven, the next month of rent to be waived, and compensation for their leaving the apartments. Negotiation will only be considered as long as 33 Realty is also negotiating

with FIBC. Truly this is not much to ask for, if Millard is able to afford three cars, he is able to shell out for the harm he has caused. Word on the street is that Millard is very upset by the demonstrations he has instigated. As such, the picket is planned to continue until Drew Millard meets the demands of BSTA. ★

As one comrade put it so beautifully after a series of supportive honks from passers-by, "...it makes you feel like the hulk when someone honks their horn at you, you just gotta experience it".

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE?

In a recent promo for their cause, the Chicago Housing Justice Coalition, a group of housing advocates pushing for legislative solutions to tenant problems had this to say:

"Put yourself in a tenant's shoes. You have been renting for years. This apartment is your home. One day, your landlord sells the building and the new owner tells you that you must move out, because they are planning to make "luxury" rehabs and increase the rent. You don't have the personal savings to afford a move. You are worried about finding a new place. Tragically, this is a reality for many across Chicago. Many tenants unions are being formed to combat this exact issue, but what if there were a city ordinance that could make Chicago a fairer city for all tenants? That is where the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance comes in."

In typical middle-class fashion, CHJC aims to implement a legal reform as the medicine for what is a symptom of the landlords' organized dictatorship over our housing. It is self-evident that if we were given a choice between a situation in which the landlords had an easy time to evict tenants or a hard time, we would choose the latter. But the question at issue here is not, "Isn't it bad that the landlords can evict us for no reason?" That is no question at all, because the answer is obviously yes, because it has an obvious answer.

The hard question is "What is it going to take to create the conditions which make it harder for landlords to evict us?" That is a real question, because the answer is not obvious. To answer that question, deeper thinking is required because it is necessary to pierce through the ordinary and familiar things and quit taking them for granted. If we are able to discover and theorize what it is going to take, we should then evaluate whether we are willing and able to do it. But, CHJC proposes the "struggle" for a Just Cause ordinance without any of this kind of justification, as if it is self-evident that it should be pursued because it answers the earlier, self-evident but completely empty question. Similarly, we—"housing activists"—accept their proposition uncritically.

It is not obvious whether or not CHJC recognizes that the work of their coalition is not independent of, say, the work of ACTA. Replace ACTA in that statement with any other housing-related organization, and the question remains. It is not clear if CHJC recognizes that their effort to put limits on the landlord's legal justifications for eviction is, in fact, an effort. As an effort, it not only consumes energy and material, it also leaves behind a product which takes up space. As such, the efforts by other

organizations in the field of housing must react to the efforts of CHJC. In this way, ACTA and CHJC are connected, but the connection is disorganized and, at times, contradictory.

Consequently, it is hard to discern if this connection and its contradictions are understood by CHJC. In the statement above, they quite plainly counterpose ACTA's activity to their own: "Many tenants unions are being formed to combat this exact issue, but what if there were a city ordinance that could make Chicago a fairer city for all tenants?" Are we meant to understand their conception as one that holds that Just Cause ordinance is harmonious with tenant organization, or is their conception one that holds that the ordinance should ideally stand in for tenant organization so that, in fact, tenant organization is not necessary in the first place?

This latter conception, we fear, is the conception they hold. It corresponds to an attitude that is common. An attitude that we simply cannot agree with, and have no choice but to be actively hostile toward because it is an attitude that is actively hostile toward our own attitude. The idea that teams of professional activists can referee the struggle between tenants and landlords is an unfortunate one, and it makes no difference whether or not it is tenants who make up the staff of these coalition organizations. Every hour that the individuals in these groups spend coordinating their press conferences and phone banking is an hour that could

have been spent in apartment buildings, training tenants in the art of war.

The presupposition of the work carried out by these groups is that the struggle is bad and inconvenient and, therefore, if we can remove the struggle by legislation, this would be good. We do not see it this way

because we are revolutionaries. As revolutionaries, we know that struggle is inevitable as long as there is a class of people who own buildings, machines and money as their private property, and a class of people who own little more than their power to work. We think that self-conscious people,

meaning people with a clear awareness of their relationship to others who understand themselves as part of a unified class with shared interests (tenants), organized together and confronting their own enemies using their own collective intelligence and creativity is a universal good.

This principle corresponds to our activity—tenant organization—and it is our activity and our principles that we put forward as the substantive answer to the more substantive question: tenants

organized into militant and aggressive unions that are coordinated inside of one, revolutionary movement is what it is going to take! This and only this is the antithesis to the organized dictatorship of landlords.

It is the dictatorship of landlords that evicts tenants, not the absence of correct laws. "Put yourself in a tenant's shoes"—Join ACTA! ★

CHJC aims to implement a legal reform as the medicine for what is a symptom of the landlords' organized dictatorship over our housing.

It is the dictatorship of landlords that evicts tenants, not the absence of correct laws.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...

On September 12, 1924, Amílcar Lopes Cabral was born. Cabral was one of the leading figures in the nationalist movements in Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands. He was an anti-colonialist, a pan-Africanist, a Marxist and revolutionary socialist, and a large inspiration for us in the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance.

"Ideology is important in Guinea. As I've said, never again do we want our people to be exploited. Our desire to develop our country with social justice and power in the hands of the people is our ideological basis. Never again do we want to see a group or a class of people exploiting or dominating the work of our people. That's our basis."



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



WHO WAS WALTER RODNEY?

Walter Rodney was born in 1942 in a beautiful country called Guyana, which shares borders with Brazil and Venezuela. Rodney became a scholar - but he never accepted being caged in elite universities. He spent much time among working people, like in the ghettos of Kingston, Jamaica. The book "Groundings With my Brothers" records speeches Rodney gave on African history, politics, and identity to young, poorer Jamaicans.

Rodney wrote many powerful books about the history of Africa. He exposed how Europe developed at African workers' expense, through the slave trade, and through the colonial-capitalist system. But Rodney didn't just blame Europeans - he showed that upper class Africans also exploited the people and helped the colonialists. Even after African countries got independence, these upper class Africans used the systems the Europeans built to shut down people's movements! We can look around Chicago today and see similar cases ourselves. Think of Barack Obama or Brandon Johnson, and how they favor capitalists over working people in the United States, Haiti and Libya. Can you think of more examples?

The Jamaican government got worried about Walter Rodney's work, because he'd exposed the ruling elites. Jamaica's Minister of Home Affairs claimed that "he had never come across a man who offers a greater threat to the security of this land than does Walter Rodney." So they banned Rodney from Jamaica. But hundreds of

students and workers protested hard in 1968 in response! Remember, the 1960s were the height of the Black Power movement, with the Black Panthers, Malcolm X's Nation of Islam, and Kwame Ture active across the Americas, including Chicago. Ideas around Black/African Consciousness, fighting imperialism, and international workers power were being discussed and put into practice. Workers from Africa in Africa, the U.S. and the Caribbean, were moving with an awareness of their common destiny - both with each other and with struggling folk around the world!

Rodney went to Tanzania, a country in East Africa where peasants and the leader Julius Nyerere were working on building socialism. He learned a lot living there with his family. But in the end, he told one of his students: "I have to go back to people I know and who know me." So Rodney returned to Guyana, after speaking passionately in Chicago, in 1975, about the struggles of workers in Tanzanian factories, hospitals, and ports. See a pattern?

Back in Guyana, Rodney joined a political party - the Working People's Alliance. The WPA worked to unite the working class and peasants in Guyana in struggle. The working class in Guyana was mainly Indian sugar workers and African bauxite miners, who'd both been forced to come by the British. Bauxite is used to produce aluminum. Rodney's party told the Guyanese workers - put aside your racial differences: our common enemy is the capitalists and imperialists! Rodney was assassinated in Georgetown, Guyana in 1980, at the age of 38, for his dedication to the fight. Will you teach a friend about Rodney and keep his flame burning on? ★



We're Gonna Stay Mike Rawson and Rob Rosenthal We Won't Move: Songs of the Tenants' Movement

Red brick walls, leaky window panes
Place to sleep and stay out of the rain
But it's much more than that, more than a roof and
a floor
It's shelter for my family and a whole lot more
It's the bus on the corner that gets me to work
It's the store down the street where I know the
clerk
It's the schoolyard where my kids raise their
voices loud
It's where I start my day and end it proud

*Yes. I think I'm going to stay this time
I paid for this place. Why shouldn't I call it mine?
We paid your taxes and we bought your wine
Landlord, this time we're gonna stay*

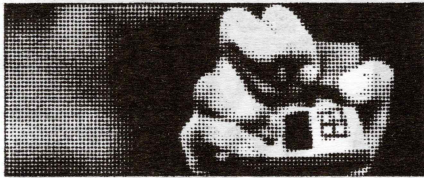
The place where I live is not my own
Though I fix it myself and pay the loan
Though I pay all the taxes and more with my rent
Some day they'll sell this building and I won't get
a cent
And "that's just the way it is", I'm told. "The way
it's got to be"
The place I call my home will never belong to me
"The landlord takes the risk", I'm told. Sure do
think that's funny
What's he got to risk gambling with my money?

*Oh, yes. I think I'm going to stay this time
I paid for this place. I'm gonna call it mine
We paid your taxes and we bought your wine
Landlord, this time we're gonna stay*

But now I've got this notice saying we've got to
move
Pay rent or leave. We've got to choose
And the same thing is happening all over town
We're all laid off and the plant's shutting down
But dammit we don't want to move and even if
we did
We can't cause these landlords refuse to take our
kids
And how can we afford to move? We can't afford
to stay
We have to fight to keep our homes! There's no
other way

*Oh, yes. I think we're going to stay this time
I paid for this place. I'm gonna call it mine
We paid your taxes and we bought your wine
Landlord, this time we're gonna stay*

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



INNOVATIONS IN RENT-SQUEEZING

From the renter's perspective, yearly rent hikes look arbitrary. Because they are. To landlords, it's a fickle thing. They want more money. BUT! Being flesh and blood humans they have emotions that make taking more of your money a little difficult. They know it's increasing your misery. Yes, they search for the optimal yearly rent increase, but they want to feel good too.

Author Robert S. Griswold gets to this emotional barrier. He notes yearly rent increases are "one of the most difficult challenges rental property owners face." His advice is to review rental prices of other local units when increasing rent to collude with other landlords. Which is a lot of work, and we all know landlords don't work! They barely keep an eye on their units as it is. This is where AI comes in. It finds the tightest, market informed hold that can squeeze out more rent.

A big player in the rent squeezing game is The Rainmaker Group. Their website brags that their AI software can "maximize revenue from day one - balancing between rents, occupancy, and turn-costs while considering market conditions." Many landlords appreciate the yoke of old-fashioned conspiracy this technology removes from their necks and the profit that comes with it. One landlord gleefully notes an increase in revenue of 4.3% after using Rainmaker's services. How much less disposable income do the tenants have? They didn't say.

Jian Wang, A VP for Rainmaker, gives a glimpse of how this 4.3% increase happens. She outlines the AI's fancy math that leads to a "max revenue". Read as "max theft." Removing the mathematical BS, her advice is the same as Griswold's—what are others charging? "Copy another landlord!" they say. "Copy prices for the benefit of the few!!" they scream. "And now you can automate it!!!" they gloat.

Decades of developing rent squeezing techniques all ignore the fundamental truth. All people need housing. No fancy math or technobabble will change that. It won't make eviction more palatable either. No tenant can be convinced to deposit more of their paycheck into a landlord's wallet. Only coerced. Which is why landlords copy each other's work.

Rainmaker was bought by the other key player in this industry—Realtor. They manage 24 million housing units. The landlords are united. They get together and prop up more rent squeezing technology. It will take the last of your money, displace your family, and the landlords will be spared the hardship of seeing it. They want it easy. So they get robots to do their work. Don't make it easy for them. Call ACTA today. Start a tenant union! ★

ACTA MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 2025

NORTHSIDE MASS WORK EXPANSION

ACTA has expanded to the Northside! Over the past two months, each week while Westside mass work is happening in Humboldt Park, ACTA's been testing out a secondary base of operations in Roger's Park. As we get our footing in this new territory we hope to identify more tenants looking to fight back against their landlord and businesses willing to host Tenant's Talks for distribution. Does this sound like something you want to help with? Reach out to us at actafights@gmail.com!

BEYOND LEGAL AID AND ACTA

We are happy to be working with Beyond Legal Aid (BLA). BLA has been a tremendous help in our journey towards organizing tenants across Chicago. With BLA we have been able to give the tenants from tenant unions Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler, the Belden Sawyer Tenant Association, PTA, and FAD the shield needed for defence in the legal battle against landlords. With the rent strike they wield the sword. Together they are a force to be reckoned with.

RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ACTA held a recruitment event titled "Marxism and Tenant Unionism", where organizers across Chicago learned more about our analysis of tenant unionism and its revolutionary potential and how to join ACTA. This event preceded a new 4-week development program, where members learn more about our influences in Marxism, our theories in pedagogy, and the basics in tenant organizing. The first sessions are at the end of September. If you are interested in joining ACTA and joining the next wave of development sessions, please reach out to us at actafights@gmail.com!

ACTA ATTENDING "THE WORLD TRANSFORMED" CONFERENCE

Fellow members of the Tenant International have extended invitations to The World Transformed conference in Manchester, England to North American tenant unions including the Los Angeles Tenant Union, Crown Heights Tenant Union, York South Weston Tenants Union, and the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance. ACTA has delegated two members to attend on the organization's behalf. If you or a member of a tenant union you know is going to be in attendance, please reach out to us! We are looking forward to meeting fellow tenant unionists from around the world. ★

ALIANZA DE INQUILINOS DE TODO CHICAGO



ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

WHAT IS THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE?

The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance (ACTA) is an organization of Chicago tenants who organize tenants into tenant unions. We do this because we believe that building robust tenant organizations is the only real way to stop the landlord terror that we've witnessed firsthand in the slums of Chicago. Relying on laws made by and for landlords, has only gotten tenants so far. Realizing this has led us to stress the economic relationship between tenants and landlords as the key arena of struggle because, put simply, landlords care about one thing: money. If a solid organization of tenants is able to threaten the flow of cash to the landlord by way of a rent strike, the landlord will be faced with an existential decision: do what the tenants demand or go broke. It is ACTA's goal to build this capacity in the unions we help birth.

On the citywide scale, ACTA's intention is to create an organization of tenant unions: a union of unions. We understand that the 'housing crisis' cannot be solved piecemeal—a union here and a union there will not lift all of Chicago's tenants from their scandalous conditions. The thousands of slums across the city are not the result of a prevalence of bad landlords, but instead are the inevitable result of the commodification and private ownership of housing, where landlords own more homes than they can use as a way to generate profit and nothing else. In order to confront this fact, ACTA is working to build a united movement of strong tenant unions that can begin to change how housing is owned and operated. We believe that this will require a large degree of coordination between unions, in order for tactics and resources to be shared, ideas to be sharpened, culture to be built and a collective strategy to develop.

It is our hope that through a serious and creative attempt at developing Chicago tenants into a unified fighting force, the racialized and deplorable reality of renting in the city will be confronted and transformed. This is a serious undertaking that will require the participation of a great number of tenants. We are not discouraged by this fact, but instead look forward to all the difficulties that we'll face standing together with the tenants of Chicago. Join the organization with your interests at heart.

The Collector of Homes

CHAPTER 5 – BUS RIDE TO NOWHERE

In the morning, Angie and Freddy thanked Kira for letting them spend the night with a roof over their heads. Over a small breakfast of canned beans, Kira asked them what they thought about her plan to barrage The Collector's home with rotten eggs every morning.

"I just don't think it is going to work," Angie told Kira. Kira frowned. "We just need more people. What about all the others? I saw hundreds of homes back there in his collection. Where are all of the people who lived in those?"

"They've come through just like you, but none of them had the guts to join me. Most of them just take the bus past the end of the line," Kira said, wrinkling her nose as she recalled numerous others who had been wronged by the collector but refused to fight.

"Why can't we just get them to come back and help us? Mondo is strong but not strong enough to stop so many people," Freddy asked excitedly.

"You can try. I haven't seen one person come back yet, not even Archie. I don't know what's keeping people there, and I don't want to know. My fight is right here," Kira said.

Angie and Freddy realized that Kira would not be swayed, and made the hard decision to leave their fiery friend in search of more allies.

"We'll be back with reinforcements!" Freddy called as the siblings left the dilapidated garage and headed towards the bus stop.

"Sure you will," Kira said under her breath, before turning and heading back to prepare a full complement of rotten eggs.



On the bus, Freddy and Angie were surprised to see the same bus driver from the day before. She was an old woman who had clearly had many occasions to cry but just as many to smile—she had the wrinkles to prove it. She greeted the children with a voice that filled them with warmth and reminded them of their grandmother reading them a story before bedtime.

"Where are you two headed? You seem awfully far from home," she asked.

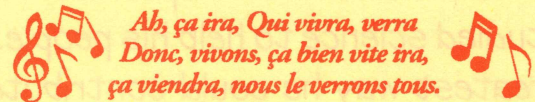
"We're headed beyond the end of the line!" Freddy said proudly. He had begun to feel like a real adventurer, only two days into his first ever adventure.

The bus driver's face darkened.

"Way out there? I'll take you if you want, but it's going to be a long ride. Sad times that kids your age are making that trip," as she spoke, the

bus driver shook her head slowly and sadly, suddenly looking even older than before.

The bus driver was telling the truth. The trip was long. As they drove onwards, the bus driver quietly sang a song in a voice tired but determined. The engine of the bus seemed to hum along in tune to the song. Freddy listened closely but the words were in a strange language he had never heard before.



It was a couple hours before the driver called out the end of the line. All the passengers except Angie and Freddy emptied out onto the sidewalk in a bustling wave before the doors snapped shut. With a groan, the bus started up again and headed out beyond the end of the line. Slowly the houses began to get further and further apart until there was nothing but the trees and bushes. Then those too became more sparse and drained of their verdant color. The horizon levelled out flat and gray as far as the children could see in every direction. Something was off about the place they were headed towards. Even the ground seemed to lose its color and texture, becoming an unnatural and uniform grey. Both of the children began to wonder if they had made a terrible mistake.

When the bus creaked to a halt, the bus driver took a firm grip of the handle to open the doors as if she were preparing for it to fight her.

"You children sure you want to go out there?"

"Yes, we have to. We're trying to get our home back," Angie said bravely. Freddy was beside her, secretly hoping his big sister would ask the driver to turn the bus around and go home...except there was no home waiting behind them. The only way to go was forward.

"God protect you two," the driver muttered. "I'm going to bring this bus back here tomorrow at the same time. If you change your mind, you better be here and you can have a ride back to the city."

The children thanked her as she opened the doors, and for the second time in two days, they stepped off the familiar safety of the city bus and into a place completely unknown to them.

TO BE CONTINUED...

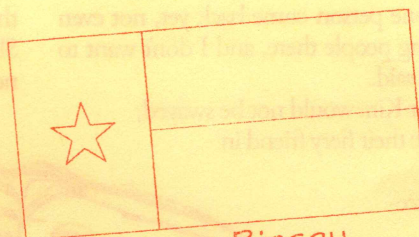
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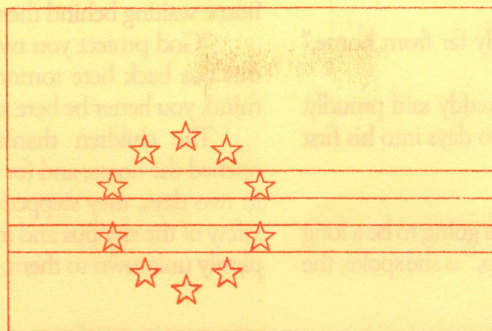
Tenants Talk Activity Page

COLOR AMÍLCAR CABRAL!

In this issue of Tenants Talk, we remember Amílcar Cabral, a great african leader. Cabral was born on September 12th 1924. Cabral learned to be an engineer and studied science to help his people. As he got older he realized that the people of the greatest way he could contribute to his people and country would be to join the struggle for independence. He was killed before Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde achieved independence from Portugal, but his legacy lives on.



Guinea-Bissau



Cape Verde