

# TENANTS TALK

NEWSPAPER OF THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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

TEXT (773) 770-5650!

ALIANZA DE INQUILINOS DE TODO CHICAGO



ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

Issue 11

April 2025

Chicago, Ill.

chicagotenants.com

# RENT STRIKE!



## TWO HISTORIC RENT STRIKES!

*¡FUERZAS INQUILINOS!*

*¡ARRIBA!*



*LANDLORD DREW MILLARD*

*↙ AT THE BREAKING POINT!*

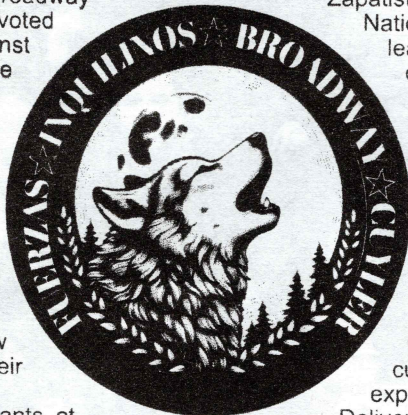
*READ MORE INSIDE...*

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



## RENT STRIKE FORCES GROW

A second rent strike! Just one month after BSTA's historic strike declaration, the Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler unanimously voted to join the strike against their landlord Millionaire Millard. 11 tenants were at the meeting and another 13 have signed on since, bringing the number of striking tenants to 24 out of 38 units. Millard is now facing a \$50,000 monthly dilemma: continue his plundering ways or allow the tenants to stay in their homes.



The majority of tenants at the two Broadway and Cuyler buildings migrated from Mexico over the past few decades—some have been living in their building for over 40 years. The apartments have seen dozens and dozens of people grow up, graduate school, get married; parents have had children and those children have had children of their own; generations have turned over while the same tenants stayed in place.

A number of the tenants are from Chiapas, a region in the south of Mexico that has long been the site of a more intense and violent struggle for land. The United States and its richest business owners implemented the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994,

which led to wide swaths of land being stolen from the people of Chiapas and turned into farms that produced cash for US businessmen and intense poverty in Chiapas. Many in Chiapas resisted this attack on their dignity, with some taking up arms under the umbrella of the Zapatista Army of

National Liberation, leading to the defense and control of good chunks of land. Regardless, migration from Chiapas has increased tenfold since NAFTA, as land that was once used to reproduce generations was torn from the hands that tilled it.

Some of these tenants have remarked at the relative ease of their current struggle given their experience in Chiapas. Delivering a letter to fancy offices

in the West Loop is nothing compared to defending your land from national armies backed by the richest people in the world.

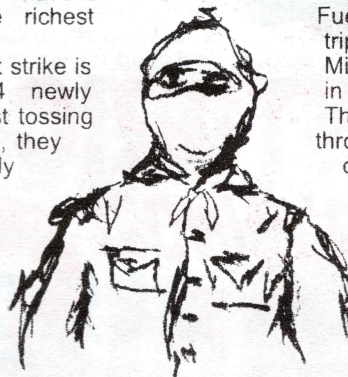
Their stake in the rent strike is clear, though. The 24 newly striking tenants aren't just tossing another tactic on the pile, they are strategically strengthening their side of the fight.

The increased leverage that the striking Fuerzas bring to the battle is significant. Millard has to stay afloat on his

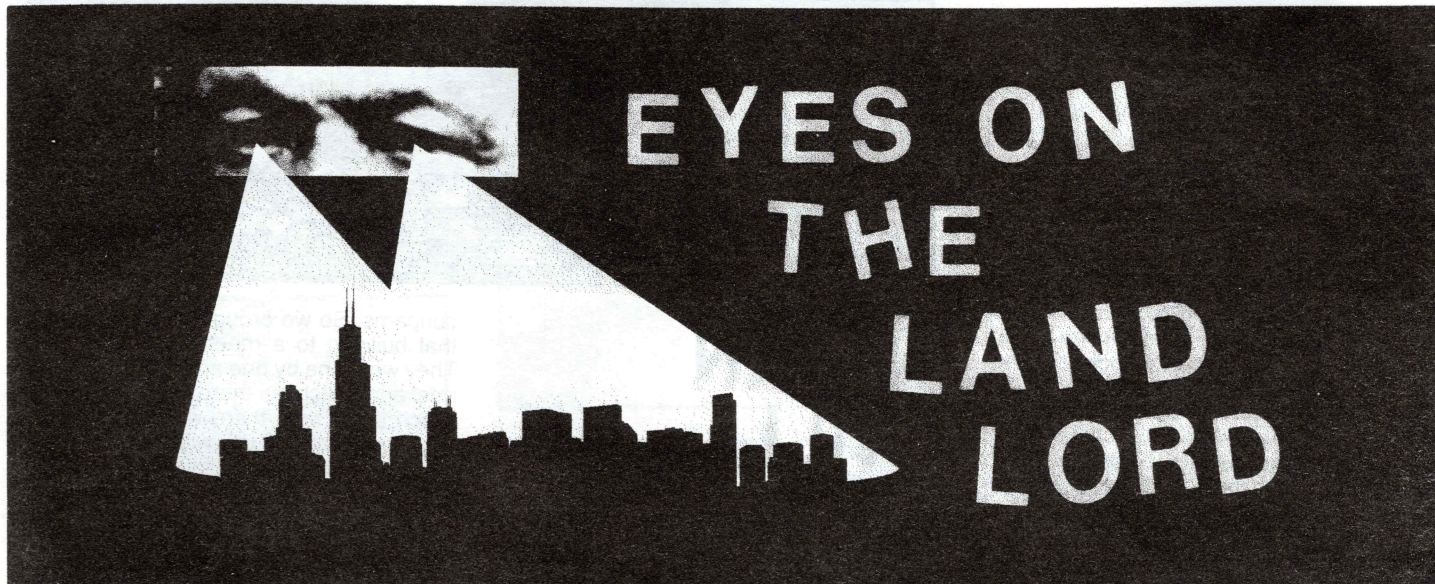


mortgages, but it doesn't matter where his money comes from—the bank accepts payment as long as it's green. This means that if, suddenly, his building on Belden and Sawyer is no longer bringing in enough money to cover that mortgage, he can simply reach into the stream of money coming from his other buildings—like the one on Broadway and Cuyler—to cover his losses. Just like the rent money coming from many different tenants in a building ends up in the same stack of cash on the landlord's desk, the same is true of the rent money coming from different buildings. In order for the leverage of a rent strike to work, tenants must consider the total cash flow going to the landlord. In ACTA, we call this the landlord's portfolio.

So with one unanimous vote, the Fuerzas Inquilinos have more than tripled the leverage that all of Millard's tenants are now wielding in the fight to keep their homes. This is no small feat, and it came through the determined labor of the core tenants and ACTA's organizers. Weekly meetings and tireless door-knocking produced a situation where the tenants of Broadway and Cuyler did not hesitate to raise the greatest weapon tenants have: the rent strike. ★



★ 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?**

### **LAKESIDE UP!**

Notorious villains Lakeside Management and Boruch Gottesman are doing what slumlords always do - nothing. You may remember these characters from Tenants Talk 8, where tenants in Austin were teaming up to take a stand. Since then, ACTA has been working with more tenants across Douglas Boulevard in North Lawndale who have formed the Lakeside Tenants United Union (LTUU). Of course, Lakeside and Gottesman leave these tenants in deplorable conditions - rats, roaches, mold, lead paint - and with no way to contact them. The maintenance man can block tenant phone numbers, there are signs in the hallways now saying that only email works for contact, and with no real office to confront these losers at, Lakeside and Gottesman are cowardly hiding away

from the tenants they leech voucher payments from.

They've known about lead paint in at least one of their buildings, since last Spring, and yet there has been NO ACTION for remediation, regardless of the big lead paint notification from CDPH stuck to their front door. Tenants' children are showing signs of high lead exposure and even lead poisoning, all the while slumlords are sleeping soundly at night.

The LTUU demand letter is soon to be released for Lakeside and Gottesman to answer to the 10 buildings they've neglected in North Lawndale... Do you or some you know live in a Lakeside Management apartment? Sick of the Lakeside-treatment? Contact us at (773) 770-5650!

### **HOW LONG MUST WE WAIT?**

Last issue, Tenants Talk covered a developing situation in a slum in Albany Park at 4184 N. Elston, where tenants are organizing against their slumlords, the Battista family, for much needed repairs in the building. Since this story's publication, ACTA's organizers joined two tenants in canvassing the building and talking with neighbors about the organizing effort. It may be easy to forget, but if your apartment is screwed up, your neighbors probably are, too. Flyers were passed out detailing the shared conditions-issues in the building and details on how to begin the organizing process: contacting the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance and joining their neighbors in their weekly meetings.

Unfortunately, there has been little activity since the canvassing. We can only speculate on why. What led tenants to ignore the call to join their agitated neighbors? While it could be many things, it may be thanks to the nature of slum-housing in general. While these apartments

are in terrible conditions, they are cheap and easy to qualify for. Many of us in slums are pushed to stay quiet due to the fact that we would not be able to jump over common hurdles required to get another apartment: a monthly income of three-times the rent, a 650+ credit score, or even U.S. citizenship. For the many on the edges of society, putting up a fight against slumlords means risking not only their occupancy in their current apartment, but being able to have an apartment in general!

We can only ask: How much of a beating the tenants in the many slums of Chicago can take before it's too late? What will be the last straw? The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance not only looks to meet tenants when that straw lands on the camel's back, but also looks to show them that there's no need to wait for it. If you, too, see no reprieve in sight for you, your children, or your neighbors, know that you are not alone. The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance is here to fight with you.

### **LIONS, OH MY! GREGORY B. JONES, BYE-BYE!**

The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance has its eyes on Infinity Capital! Over the past few months, tenants at 143 N. Parkside renting from the Atlanta-based slumlord Gregory B. Jones have been fighting as a union for the dignified housing they deserve. They call themselves the Parkside Terrace Alliance, A.K.A. The Lions. Since our update on their activity in the last issue of Tenants Talk, the union sent a demand letter to the current property managers, Eastlake Management, notifying them of the poor conditions in the building. Eastlake was quick to acknowledge the union and fix some small issues in the building, but the tenants are not satisfied with piecemeal repairs of doors and faulty heating. The union is blazing forward to hold Eastlake and Gregory

accountable for the wretched conditions and non-existent communication the tenants face on a daily basis.

Fighting tooth-and-nail is no easy task and battles like these are not fought on even ground. Without the union, landlords have legal and monetary leverage to beat on tenants in isolation. Without the union, tenants scatter like buffalo in the valleys as landlords perch atop hills like lions, prepared to pounce on disorganized prey. To even the playing field, the people's power must start with building unity: unity of strategy and unity of action. With the union, a metamorphosis takes place. Scattered buffalo begin to congeal into one form, with claws and fangs, transforming from prey to predator. To battle a predatory landlord, the tenants unify into a lion themselves. Building this unity, making this transformation, has been a careful process for the PTA over the course of a few months. Thanks to the leadership of key tenants in the building, the union is on its way to a hilltop of its own.

But the PTA are not the only group of tenants under the paws of Gregory B. Jones. Tenants at 5416 W. Washington find themselves in the exact same position: paying for miserable apartments owned by Infinity Capital. These tenants, too, are sick of the rats, poisonous mold, and merry-go-round management. Today, organizers from the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance are investigating the building, speaking with tenants, and with the help of the PTA, seeking for the establishment of a union of their own. Gregory B. Jones may be on the hilltop today, but there are sleeping lions waking up from every corner of the valley. Keep your eyes on Tenants Talk for updates on these developing fights.

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## WHEN WILL THINGS CHANGE?



### 1950s - DOLORES WILSON

Where we'd been living on the South Side, on Sixtieth and Prairie, they were like fire traps. The buildings were just deteriorating. The placement at the private real estate office would charge us ten dollars to find an apartment, and at that time, ten dollars was a lot of money. But we paid it, and everywhere they sent us were nothing but fire traps. They were no good, and some of them said they didn't want children 'cause they throw rocks and break windows—like every child will throw rocks and break windows.



### 1960s - JIM KECK

They wanted a meeting with Dr. King and the pastor there, and several other pastors. They wanted to have a meeting where he listened to the people's

concerns. So we brought the people from that building to a meeting with Dr. King. They went one by one and said there were rats and roaches; there was lead paint, which there was; there were no screens. Everybody came up with a "Dr. King, please help us" kind of thing. While this was going on the landlord shows up with some white guy with a cigar in his mouth. And he's standing by the door where everybody could see him. Then five people jump up behind our people to speak. We organizers were thinking, "Who the hell are these people? They're not people we work with." Four of them were painters and they all get up and say they never use lead paint, that the people are lying. They were all African American guys. The last one was a middle-aged black woman and she said she was the rent collector. She apparently was, because people were really scared of her. She proceeded to say that the tenants are a bunch of liars, they're filthy, they're a problem, they've been reported to the police, and that the landlord is the greatest thing that's happened since Wonder Bread.



### 1970s - RISING UP ANGRY REPORT ON BUILDING CONDITIONS

The building, owned by Mr. R. Goyal, had been in bad shape for a long time. Building inspectors had found over 96 violations in the building, but had done nothing to force the landlord to improve the conditions. Most of the apartments had cockroaches and mice. Julia La Santa had found mice in her baby's crib three times. Carmen Fletcha's four-year old had been bitten by a rat and hospitalized for three weeks. Two of the top floor apartments had leaks coming through electrical ceiling installations. William Lane had his floor ruined and needed to keep two pots on the floor to catch rain for six months.

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

Evangelina Perez had fallen down a flight of stairs when she fell through a bannister built by the landlord without a permit. Theresa Diaz had broken windows and holes in her floors. Other apartments had exposed wiring, leaky plumbing and peeling plaster. In the summer, no screens were provided and in winter, the walks were never shoveled. Many times the tenants had gone individually to the landlord and asked him to make improvements, but he never did anything.

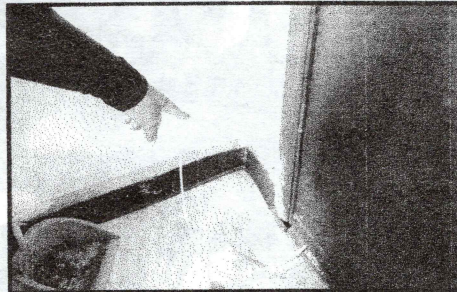


### 1990s - ASHLEY CORTLAND

"It was only maybe two or three people in there and they were responsible for maintaining the entire complex. I remember my mother going to that office a lot. The staff would say, "Oh yeah, we'll put the request in, we'll put the request in," and nothing would happen. My mother—she tried not to get frustrated in front of us, but we could tell that she was pretty upset. But you know, there was nothing that she could really do except go down there and keep asking. I guess I kind of got used to the lack of response after a while. At first, I was just like, Are they ever going to do something about this? But then after years, I just thought, This is how it is. They're not ever going to change anything. And I guess that's why I don't have any emotional attachment to the building itself because it was just so deteriorated.

One time, when I was very young, this girl, my older sister's friend, was playing around in the front of the building and the gate actually fell on her. It was a really big, wrought iron fence gate and it fell on her. And it messed her leg up. It's still messed up to this day. She broke her leg, and

afterwards it was just a back and forth argument with the management office to try to get who was responsible for the accident. Management staff would say, "Well she shouldn't have been playing on the gate."



### 2020s - THERESA STEPHENSON & ARETHA MITCHELL

"My unit has no insulation. There have been times when I had to use big blankets to put on my children's windows. I'm currently having issues with mold in my unit as of December of this year. An inspector came out on Jan. 26 and the results were determined it was indeed mold. No one has been scheduled to clean the mold."

"It was a mess, it was ridiculous. This is hell what I'm going through. There's garbage slung all in the back of the alley, trash be everywhere. It's very sad if you have property and there are mice flying out the walls. 312 Properties—this right here is just the worst. I'm out of here. Moving out."



### 2040s - YOUR CHILDREN?

The house I grew up in didn't look too different from the one I live in today. My old

house in Garfield Park isn't there anymore, it deteriorated because nobody took care of it. By the end it was so dangerous that we were relieved to get out. At first, we thought we would move to some place better, but we couldn't afford any of the places we looked at. Now we're in a different neighborhood. We still have rat holes and leaks in the ceiling, but it's okay. I've had a long time to get used to them.

The new landlord is a lot like the old one too. I remember my mom working until it got dark and then trying to stretch the money that didn't go to rent. At the time I thought things would be different when I grew up, but now I know that's just how the world works. I get home tired and send the money I make to the landlord. The funny thing is, he lives right by where my mom used to live, but now that he's there it looks completely different. It's almost like they were waiting for us to get out so they could fix it all up—that's how fast it was!

I hope my daughter won't have to live in a place like this when she's grown. Someone's gotta change something someday.

**Nothing's going to change if we don't make it change. This cycle has been here for over a century and it will continue until the people put an end to it for once and for all. Working tenants have been forced to live in these conditions for too long, but some of us are starting to stand up. We are armed with the memory of those who failed in the past and the hope that future generations will live in a world of their own making. If you share this vision of a future where working tenants stand together and break free from the paths imposed on us by landlords and owners and you have the discipline and curiosity to build it, contact ACTA. We need people dedicated to making this change by any means necessary. ★**



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

## VENDEPATRIAS - THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA SAY "DON'T SELL US OUT!"

Donald Trump has his eyes set on the Panama Canal. He has been making noise about "taking back" the Canal—a thin waterway that is crucial to global trade—since right after he won the 2024 election. This has culminated in Trump ordering the US Military to draw up plans for an invasion if the Panamanian government doesn't appease his murky demands to expel other countries, particularly China, from the canal. This threat forced a Chinese company to sell its shares in a company that operates some of the ports in the canal. Blackrock, an enormous US investment firm famous for swallowing up foreclosed homes after the 2008 financial crisis, has agreed to purchase the shares.

The proposed invasion wouldn't be the first time the US has attacked the small Central American country. In fact, the US has had its military stationed in Panama since 1904. The two most famous explosions of violence by the US against the people of Panama were in 1964 and 1989. The former saw the US kill 22 Panamanians following a protest against US occupation of the canal zone; the latter was a full scale invasion that led to the murder and disappearance of thousands of civilians.

But the people of Panama are not letting Trump push them around like pawns on his global chessboard. Continuing a long tradition of resisting the selling off of their country, large scale protests have erupted against both Trump's imposition and the Panamanian government's introduction of a new law that will privatize social security in the country. The people of Panama know that the US' control of the canal will be used by wealthy businessmen to fatten their already swollen pockets, and that the social security law will allow for huge investment firms to turn the sweat of Panamanian



workers into profits for the ultra-rich of the world.

The protests have been led by two groups: SUNTRACS, a 40,000-member strong trade union that has fought for the dignity of the Panamanian people for decades; and Juventudes Revolucionarias (JR), a group of socialist, revolutionary youth who are dedicated to improving the lives of Panama's working-class through deep, structural change.

The two groups' commitment to justice has gone beyond mere words and protests—they have put their own freedom on the line. On January 31, 2025, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio came into the country to try to intimidate the people of Panama. JR responded by calling a protest that ended in a brutal assault of young women by the Panamanian security forces. Shortly after, four of JR's members were detained, while others had their homes raided by forces wielding assault rifles.

Just two weeks later, militant workers in SUNTRACS fled to a building they were constructing—after a violent crackdown on a

protest against the law privatizing social security. Panamanian security forces surrounded the building and forcibly detained over 480 workers. SUNTRACS quickly responded by authorizing a 24-hour national strike and continued protests.

Despite the intense repression, JR and SUNTRACS have not folded. Protests, road blockages, and University occupations continue to be carried out by the organizations. They are giving leadership to the popular will of Panamanians, who are trying to prevent another generation of poverty and theft by the hands of US elites. There is much we can learn from the organized militants. What would you do if your livelihood was being ripped from your hands?

***We fight because we are certain that the stones we throw will build a better Panama. And, while we do so, we continue to fight. In the face of political persecution, we have no choice but to fight for the ideal of a new Panamá. It is necessary to fight for national refoundation - although they imprison us, although they pluck out our eyes. Because as Diana Moran said, secretly, "We will plant red jasmine."***

***- Joyner Sanchez, member of Juventudes Revolucionarias***



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★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

## I AM A REVOLUTIONARY

I am a 38 year old man. I live in Chicago, I moved here from the South. Before that I was in the West where I stayed after I dropped out of high school. During my youth I spent time in the Rocky Mountains after a childhood in and around the Shenandoah Valley. I was born in Akron, Ohio.

I am a carpenter by trade, a job I started after getting hired as a construction worker building houses when I was in my early 20s. Today I am a worker in a small furniture production facility and I also teach woodworking on the side. This kind of work has damaged my spine, resulting in surgery last year. Now I am trying to decide what to do for a living for the rest of my life. I just got my GED so that I can go to college. I think I might become a teacher in CPS.

in my mid-20's, Trayvon Martin was murdered in Florida. Two years later, Michael Brown. I have always been a social person. But at that time in my life, I felt like I was alone in the world. I had spent the previous five years attached to my brother, but now he was starting a family. We had just relocated to Nashville, Tennessee and without any kind of community or circle of friends, I was swept up in the protest movements.

This is when I began to encounter revolutionary ideas more frequently. I didn't even know what socialism or Marxism were, but I knew that I now had a desire to learn. I remember vividly the first socialist text I got my hands on, it was called Pedagogy Of The Oppressed, a book of theory by the Brazilian Marxist and educator Paulo Freire. It's not the most difficult book to read, but I did not know how to read it because the words and ideas were foreign to me, so it stayed on my shelf. But the ideas were so exciting, just my intuition about them drew me in.

What I did believe already was that America is a fundamentally racist country. It did not take Mike Brown's murder to teach me that. Racist oppression was something that I was very disturbed by ever since I was a little boy. But I did not understand racism until I began to read revolutionary books. Revolutionary theory and history, specifically. When I began to learn, it felt like being ejected off the floor of the pitch black ocean into the bright sky.

What I learned from revolutionary theory has made me believe that racism can't be stopped without turning our world completely upside down with a revolution. This is because our society is a capitalist

society. That means that a small group of very rich people own and control all of the necessary resources of earth, including the military forces to defend their property. They are the capitalist class. They have the power to do no work but live luxuriously in mansions, yachts and jets because they exploit the labor of everyone else in the world who are forced to work in factories, mines and plantations while sleeping in the slums, in cars and under bridges. These exploited and oppressed are the working class.

Revolutionary history taught me that this situation started in Europe and grew by the conquest and plunder of Africa.

I learned how the United States came to power by tearing Africans out of their land and enslaving them for centuries in the cotton, sugar and tobacco plantations in the South and Caribbean islands. Racism is a problem that is attached to the capitalist way of organizing and controlling workers.

Revolutionary books made this all click. It was no secret any longer why there are police and the KKK. It was no longer only a sad mystery why Africans living in America are working for half the wages of whites or why they are trapped in the slums or in prisons right across the street in the most fantastically wealthy and carefree civilization that ever existed.

Now, many years later, I can understand Pedagogy Of The Oppressed because I have taught myself to study. I can understand a lot of other books too, revolutionary books, socialist books, Marxist books. Revolutionary books made me believe that the only way any of this can even begin to be addressed is if we transform this society into one that does not rest on the private ownership of our natural wealth and products of labor. That's what socialism is all about.

But what I've also learned is that this kind of change is not going to come about if I continue living in the normal way. If I just go to work and try to get by using my free time to watch TV, going to restaurants, pursuing hobbies

and relaxing to pass time, nothing will change. It also means that I can't just read books, either, no matter how revolutionary they are. I believe that I have to live in a revolutionary way, that's why I am a revolutionary. I think this is what Marxism is all about.

It's not enough to understand the world, "the point is to change it," as Marx says.

None of this means that I am not a normal man. I blend in with anyone else. I have common interests, I like music a lot, I like to dance. I like eating, I like building things and drawing, I like my friends and spending time with them. I like the summer breeze. But, most of my time is not spent living like a normal man because I am a revolutionary, and I like being revolutionary more than anything else. I belong to a revolutionary organization called the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance because I've also learned that without an organization to fight with, my individual efforts will be futile.

In ACTA, we see the connection within capitalism between racist oppression and housing. We are trying our hardest to organize the working class as tenants so we can overpower capitalists and stop their ability to make a profit off of us, our neighbors, and eventually our children. This is called revolutionary practice.

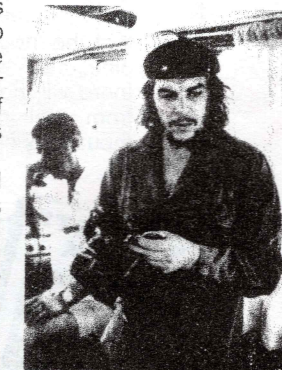
condition for every man, woman and child no matter what. It should all belong to the people and be organized by the people. We also know that we have to fight for our beliefs. So, we fight for this. Fixing our houses is not going to last or even be completely possible without the total transformation of the entire economic system, so we try to figure out how ACTA can link itself to other peoples across the world who are fighting against capitalism.

Anyway, sometimes I worry that believing in this kind of stuff is associated with being young and idealistic. But beliefs are just ideas, and what I think is idealistic are beliefs that aren't backed by action. It's taken me many years to learn that. As far as my increasing age is concerned, I don't know what is in store for me when it comes to my job, my health and all that stuff. But I do know that each day I get older, I get more revolutionary.

I think it's important to understand that normal



**pedagogy  
of the  
oppressed**  
PAULO FREIRE



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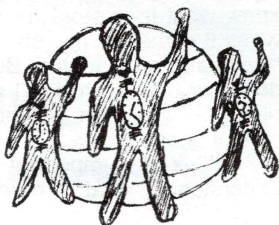
people like me are revolutionaries. One of the most important things books have taught me is that revolutionaries do not always act the way they're portrayed in pop culture, with big guns and fatigues like Che Guevara - a heroic revolutionary though he was. Che was extraordinary not because he fought with guns, but because he learned what had to be done and he did it at all costs, even at great personal sacrifice.

In fact, Che Guevara was training to be a doctor when he joined the revolution. A career which in his youth he believed would help people and, of course, would have made him rich along the way. But he sacrificed this because, in his words, he "realized a fundamental thing: For one to be a revolutionary doctor or to be a revolutionary at all, there must first be a revolution."

That's what all revolutionaries have in common. A revolutionary is someone who fights the hardest in their own time and place to change the world, no matter what. Next year, I will be as old as Che Guevara was when he was killed. I hope to live the rest of my life in the way that Che was not able to. I am a revolutionary and I think you can be one too.

***"The more radical the person is, the more fully he or she enters into reality so that, knowing it better, he or she can transform it. This individual is not afraid to confront, to listen, to see the world unveiled. This person is not afraid to meet the people or to enter into a dialogue with them. This person does not consider himself or herself the proprietor of history or of all people, or the liberator of the oppressed; but he or she does commit himself or herself, within history, to fight at their side."***

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## 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.

Because of this long-term horizon, we work to build long-term unions that can sustain themselves without the constant support of people outside of the unions. This is necessarily a slow process full of fits and starts, and it requires us to build strong relationships with the tenants we work with in buildings. We support the development of these relationships—and the building of a political consciousness amongst tenants—not only through ACTA's direct engagement but also through a free political school, the School of Many Questions, that develops programs like the youth education-focused Young Questioners.

**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. ★**



**EVERY ISSUE  
AVAILABLE  
FREE ONLINE**



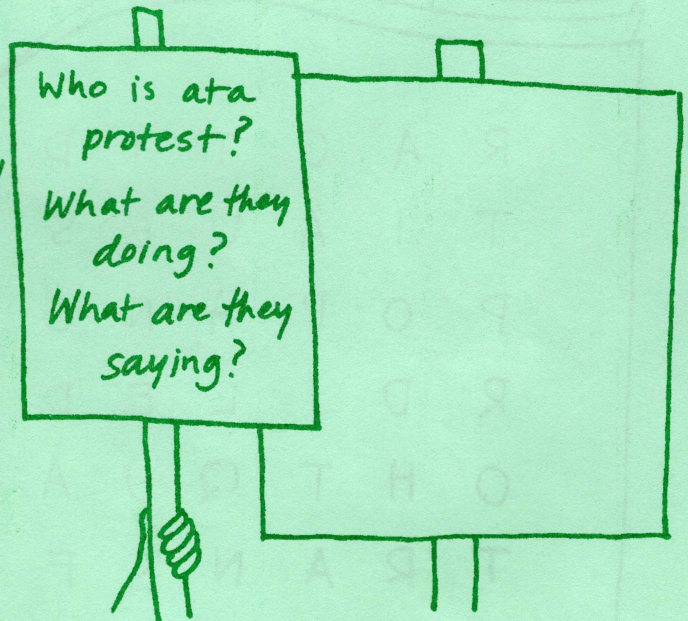
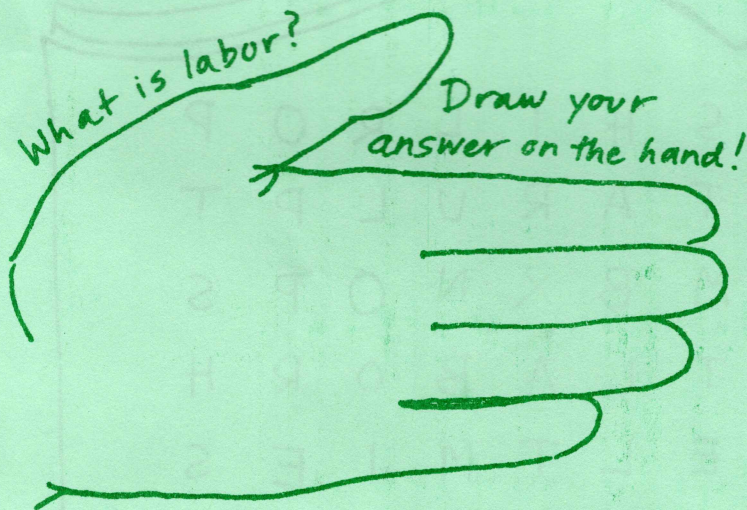
# ACTIVITY PAGE

Help! Someone scrambled up a Tenants Talk article! Can you find these words?

LABOR PROTEST OPPRESSION TRANSFORM  
CAPITALISM SOCIALISM UNDERSTAND

R	A	C	T	I	D	S	H	I	L	R	O	P
T	I	A	U	E	S	T	A	R	U	L	P	T
P	O	P	A	N	G	M	B	X	N	O	P	S
R	D	I	L	E	D	T	L	A	B	O	R	H
O	H	T	Q	U	A	E	L	T	M	I	E	S
T	R	A	N	S	F	O	R	M	N	A	S	U
E	H	L	I	A	H	U	H	S	M	A	S	I
S	W	I	Z	S	T	M	O	N	T	P	I	L
T	U	S	R	M	A	L	P	O	R	A	O	P
S	T	M	B	L	I	G	N	O	Q	U	N	I
E	I	L	S	O	C	I	A	L	I	S	M	D

The words in the word search are from the article "I am a Revolutionary." In the article, an ACTA organizer tells the story of the work that he has done to understand the world more clearly, so that we can change it. There are many ways to learn about the world. Words are tools for learning. Sometimes people use words that describe something really big and complicated. Sometimes people use words and assume that everyone thinks the word means the same thing, but really people have different ideas about the meaning. If we want to change the world, it is important that we know how and when to use all the tools we have whether it is a word, a hammer or a rent strike.



Have you ever heard the words Capitalism and Socialism? Where did you hear them? Who was talking? What were they talking about?

