

★ 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?

landlord Gregory B. Jones and Infinity Investments, while also demanding that the city respond to the 311 reports that have been filed. The lions, donning their new in-house-made black and red Parkside Terrace Alliance shirts, shared the details of what they've been dealing with in their apartments and the work the union has done together to address these issues. The tenants called on the press, Alderman Taliaferro, and the city to actually do their jobs, and visit the apartments for which 311 reports have been completed. Even State Representative La Shawn K Ford came out to support the tenants and spoke to urge the city to conduct individual unit inspections. The fight continues for the PTA lions. As always, stay tuned to our Instagram to learn what's next and how you can support the PTA.

TENANTS ARE SICK AT THE HARRISON COURT APARTMENTS

Tenants in the Harrison Court Apartments are sick—sick of the empty promises from the Chicago Housing Authority and literally sick from the

conditions the CHA has left them in. The 122-unit, 3-story, "affordable" high-rise apartment complex owned and operated by the CHA is riddled with problems: leaking toilets and tubs, mold, lack of heat, broken doors, you name it. Jimmy Murray, a long-term tenant in the complex, was quoted saying, "For two years, I've been telling them about the tub and toilet leaking. They haven't come up to fix anything. Now, I'm sick from the mold. My dog is sick."

While the conditions are shocking, unfortunately stories like these come as no surprise to Tenants Talk readers. Nor are they surprising to the many tenants who live in CHA buildings themselves. The Chicago Housing Authority historically has subjected tenants captive to living in their buildings to some of the most pronounced neglect, disrespect, and subjugation. Why? The CHA have their excuse: the Harrison Court Apartment Complex falls under a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which limits how they can use federal housing dollars for repairs.

But Tenants Talk has the real answer: CHA doesn't repair their buildings because no one is forcing them! While the laws on paper require them to upkeep buildings to certain standards, when they don't uphold their duties, no one is making them pay! Angel Tingle, a tenant who has lived in the complex for nearly 25 years, was quoted saying, "Just because we are CHA residents, I don't think we should live in these inhabitable conditions." It is a well-known fact in Chicago that tenants living in subsidized housing like the Harrison Court Apartments are being silenced and forgotten about!

The CHA have been looking to offload their problems in the apartment complex to some lucky investor since May this year. But ask yourself this: if you had the money, would you buy this building?

The tenants are coming together and



PARKSIDE TERRACE ALLIANCE HOLDS PRESS RALLY

The Parkside Terrace Alliance had a fantastic turnout for their latest "Rally for Repairs!" The tenants made their official press announcement regarding their victory in August, following the deal they struck with

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calling on Mayor Brandon Johnson for investment into repairing the complex. A demand letter is being delivered to the mayor's office. Keep an eye on the Harrison Court Apartment tenants!

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES AT RAIDED SOUTH SHORE BUILDING

As if the raid weren't enough, the tenants of 7500 South Shore Drive, covered in the last issue of Tenants Talk, have been informed they will only have 18 days to move out of their building. Maybe landlords can afford to pick up and move on such short notice, but for the working class tenants of the building, finding a new home and then moving their entire lives there in weeks is an impossibility. Many tenants in the building are elderly or disabled. The city, CBP, and the landlords have pronounced an implicit death sentence on those unable to move themselves.

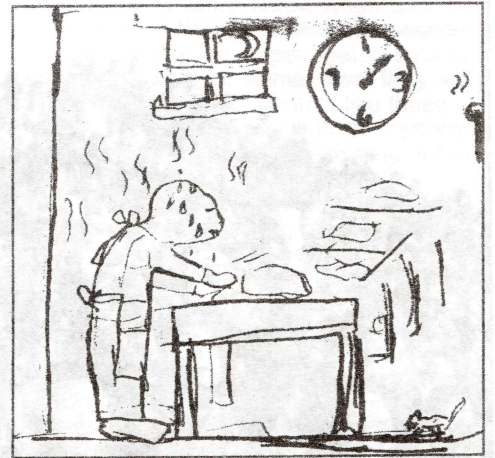
Fortunately, the tenants have formed a union with the help of Southside Together, and are demanding \$7,500 in relocation assistance to deal with the upheaval to their lives.

The events in South Shore shine a stark light on the state of tenants in Chicago. You may think that you have rights, but all it takes is a single crisis for that illusion to be broken. Landlords run the city. When crisis hits, landlords always win and tenants always lose. The only way these tenants will find any relief is through standing together, unionizing, and taking on the powers which see them as nothing but cheap labor to be pushed around the city on a whim. ★

WORKING TENANTS: ROBBED BY CAPITALISTS

Anyone who has a job dealing with sales knows that the difference between profits and wages is extremely high. It is a common experience for workers of all types to watch as they make an entire day's wage in hours or even minutes. But despite bringing in more money than they get paid, workers are forced to keep going. It is hard not to think about how every minute of labor after that wage comes in is going straight into the boss' pocket.

The reality of capitalist labor is that workers have no choice but to work until they produce not only the value they need to survive, but also enough to pay for any expenses and provide a cushion of profit on top. If you think about how long it takes to produce the amount of value you personally need to survive as opposed to the amount of time you spend working, the difference is even more extreme. Many workers produce many times the amount of money for the company that they need to survive each day, but only take home a small part of it. Workers have no say in this either. If you want to work at all, you have to spend most of that time working for the boss. The truth is that for most of your life you are not



exhausting yourself for your own well being, your family's well being, or the well being of the community. The majority of your work hours are spent enriching the owners.

But this isn't the end of it. A similar scam is being run in workers' homes by the owners of their apartments. You're not just being exploited by your boss, you're also being scammed by your landlord.

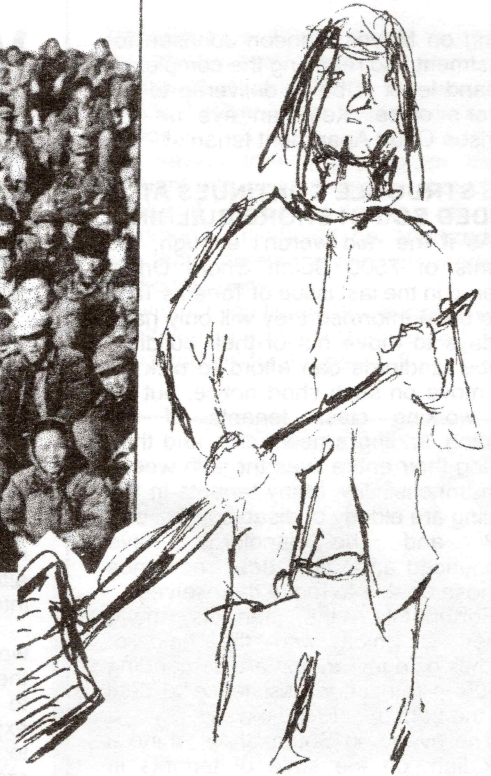
If you break down the cost of maintaining a building, it turns out that the money necessary is far lower than the rent tenants pay. This is the truth landlords don't want you to think about. Rent does go towards the cost of making repairs and paying taxes, but that's not all you pay for. Just like when you're on the clock, you pay what is necessary and then you pay extra on top. That extra is to pay for your landlord's home, his car, his vacations in the Bahamas, and most importantly the next apartment building he wants to buy.

Do you think these giant landlords paid for these buildings with their own hard earned cash? No, they borrowed the money from a bank and then they funnel the extra profit they skim off of your rent into paying off the homes. Just like in the workplace, we have no choice here. If we want a home at all, we have to accept that a large part of our monthly rent is going straight into the landlords' pockets. And don't go thinking homeownership is the answer either. Any home which is affordable to a tenant will be affordable to a landlord as well who can outbid us and then make us pay the difference in increased rent. The capitalists, that is, the landlords and the company owners, have all of us firmly under their thumb.

So what is the answer? We think that not only should workers be in control of their labor, the people should also control their homes. The freedom of the people in the apartment buildings to make decisions about their own homes. The freedom to work with their neighbors and create places worth living in without some wealthy landlord skimming off the top. This is what the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance is fighting for, but we cannot do it without you. ★



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I AM A REVOLUTIONARY

I am a 26-year-old woman from Cleveland, Ohio. I've lived in Chicago now for seven years. My dad owns a school photography company that my grandma started to help distract my grandfather after he returned from being a photographer in WWII. He died when my dad was 18, so I grew up hearing stories about his strength and composure—how real men never cried and always wore suits. My dad carried on the business, and for a long time I thought I would too. I loved his business stories. "There's only one winner, and everyone else is a loser," he'd say.

From a very young age, I've been on a hunt to solve the question of who or what is "right." Along these lines, as far back as I can remember, I wanted so badly to be a spy. Back then I thought being a spy was all about traveling the world to solve mysteries, sneaking around catching bad guys, and using high tech gadgets while wearing cool black outfits. A good guy who would bring about justice when no one else could. And I really believed that I was cut out for the job! It probably began with being obsessed with figuring out which parent of mine was "right" in their divorce. I had notebooks of clues, I became very observant, and I even think my hearing developed better because I got so good at listening to conversations through walls.

As I got older and closed the case on my parents, I had to start thinking about what I wanted to do when I grew up. My decision was based on the skills I had always used in finding "what was right," my dream of being a spy. What was the closest real job that I could think of? The FBI.

When I was 15, Tamir Rice was shot and killed down the street from my house,

at a park I frequented. My brother and I used to play with his nerf guns there. My brother was able to start a "nerf gun club" at his high school, where 12-year-old Tamir Rice was murdered for doing the same thing. I became much more aware of racism, police brutality, and the injustices of the system. I was very outspoken and started debates against anyone who disagreed with me. I knew the justice system was corrupt, but I truly believed that if I could get inside, I could make a change.

When I moved to Chicago for school, I studied criminology and criminal justice. After my first year of school, I became very concerned about my decision: I learned how the police originated from slave patrols, how deeply rooted this all is, and possibly most concerning at the time—saw how all of the professors I had who were former FBI or police were very clearly bad people. They made crude and horrible remarks about women and people of color. They would laugh about brutality. I remember a former Chicago sergeant who primarily patrolled Cabrini Green made fun of women cops for using tasers more than guns, like this was a bad thing! At last, I began to pick up on how class was the major factor of criminalization. Not right and wrong.

A few years ago, I moved neighborhoods and met people in an organization called the North Spaulding Renters Association, which later became the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance. These people immediately left an impression on me and reminded me of the organizations I had read about in my prison abolitionist books. They were really smart and knew so much about history. They put a lot of work into the things they did, and they were very serious about achieving their goals. I had never met a group of people like this. I was pulled in after the first meeting I attended.

I became challenged intellectually in ways that school or anything else had never

even come close to. My fire of figuring out what was "right" was reignited; I had missed an entire portion of history, and I had been way off. I felt extremely embarrassed at times. How little I knew, and how much those around me did. But I also felt invigorated because I wasn't just complaining about all the things around me that are bad, I was working with others to do something about it.

For work, I became a case manager for low-income seniors, doing home visits in Douglas, Bridgepoint, and Chinatown. I could write a whole story on how depressing this job was, but I could also write one about how much I enjoyed getting to know these seniors. I've now done a few different jobs in the social work field and each is engaging in its own way. Even in this "helping" field, poor and working class people are put down, disrespected, and deprioritized over making money. At the end of the day, these are just jobs; they do not work to "change the system," but to get by and make more money.

Becoming a revolutionary has changed me fundamentally by reshaping how I see myself—how I can be, and how I should be. I've learned that growth and struggle are inseparable. And I see now that if I truly want enormous change, I need to act like it. My free time, away from school or work, needs to be dedicated to this.

Revolutionary work initially appears unenjoyable because it demands a lot of change—at least it did for me. I went from hitting the couch after a long day of work to sitting at my desk to tackle one of my many

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tasks or getting to the next meeting. From knocking on strangers' doors with nervous shaking hands, to spending hours creating exercises that I don't always feel all that great about, this is not what most people do!

On the opposite side of this, there is nothing else I'd rather do than this work in ACTA, despite it being so difficult. I see my comrades do the same - showing up tired, nervous, and uncertain, yet always returning with renewed determination, seriousness, and commitment. I read about revolutionaries like Che Guevara and Fred Hampton, who faced far greater challenges but kept going because they believed deeply in work that needed to get done. Their examples and examples of many others remind me that revolutionary work is not about fearlessness, but about commitment in spite of it.

I think we often idolize revolutionaries of the past, thinking that they were born with a gift, that they never made mistakes, and even that all of their work was immediately exciting. This cannot be true.

Now, I see difficulty is a sign of being on the right track. Even in the moments I feel unconfident, I know it's purposeful. I began to understand that the discomfort itself was part of the transformation. Struggle has changed from something to avoid into something to embrace, that is if I am to become the kind of revolutionary I want to be.

My hunt for what is "right" has led me here, and being a member of ACTA has felt like one of the clearest and most certain "rights" I've ever known. Che Guevara speaks about becoming new men and women in order to succeed in revolutionary actions. This means we need to continuously work to grow into the people who we want to be and the people who are necessary to do this difficult work. I am a revolutionary because I am committed to doing this until I die. "Oh, what a life of luxury for a revolutionary!" ★

CONFRONTING THE LANDLORD

Earlier this year Imran Khan purchased 4 buildings. Between these four buildings there are around 150 units. In other words Khan purchased the homes of around 150 people—people with families. To many people there is nothing wrong with what Khan is doing. The buildings were owned by someone else and they were sold to someone else in a private exchange. However this purchase, the purchase of property by an individual leaves the tenants in a precarious situation.

At no point were the tenants involved in the changing hands of their homes. The tenants, just like many Tenants Talk readers, are a means for the owner to profit off of their purchase. In the case of the Rogers Park tenants, their purpose is to enrich two individuals. Khan is working to squeeze as much money as possible from the tenants. Shortly after the purchase he sent the tenants a notice saying their rent would be increasing to almost double what they were currently paying.

Landlords are able to do this because landlords have such a high degree of dominion over the tenants that live in the buildings that they own. There is no law that prevents a landlord from increasing the rent by any amount. But if there were one, would they obey that law?

Let's fast forward a bit. The tenants living in the buildings Khan purchased came together and they formed a union, Fuerzas Activas de la Damén (FAD). While the union was developing, the relationship between it and Imran Khan became a point of conflict. Pressure has been building since the union organized. Outside of this relationship a larger conflict emerged as the federal government opened the gates to an unimaginable reality of gangs kidnapping people off the streets. Chicago soon became inundated with ICE and other federal agents abducting people off the streets.

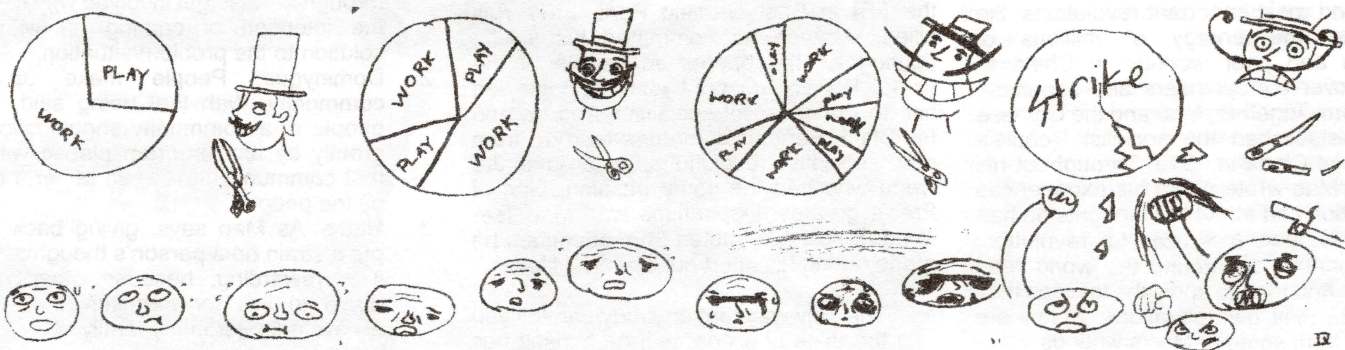
At a quick glance it would seem that there is a distinct separation between the

threat of the landlord Imran Khan and the threat of ICE. But there is a connection. There is an implied threat that if tenants cannot stay safe at home then they will have to deal with ICE. Tenants like those in FAD are then forced to weigh the options: Comply with the whims of their landlord or be out in the streets.

So what are the whims of Khan, what environment is he creating for the tenants? Since FAD formed Khan has hired security to intimidate union members coming to their union meetings. He has also sent message after message to the union threatening legal action. There is also no shortage of threatening letters sent to union members. In one instance he gave tenants a trespassing notice that threatened to call law enforcement agents if tenants go to different areas of their own building or their neighbors buildings. In perhaps his most egregious action, he ordered his employees to steal the cameras that belonged to tenants. It makes no difference if he is a landlord, an individual stole the personal property of several people, plain and simple.

Khan's behaviour with the union is a microcosm of what is happening in various cities across the country with regards to legal institutions. The sparks from both conflicts shine a bright light into the law, revealing to everyone the reality that the law is nothing more than a facade. In the same way that the federal government defies court order after court order, Khan repeatedly defies the rights of union members, both as tenants and as individuals. Neither Khan nor the federal government have changed any particular part of the law. The reason that Khan can behave with impunity and ICE can freely kidnap people is simply because there is no one empowered to force them not to. The laws are mere suggestions to them.

In short, Khan treats the tenants with such hostility because he is allowed to do so. There is very little push from the law to prevent him from behaving like a tyrant. This is the reason that the union FAD drives him crazy. The union represents something Khan has never experienced before. A check on his power. A group that is willing to tell him "no". Khan can throw all the tantrums he wants, the tenants will continue to defy him and they will not be moved. ★



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DECEMBER IN REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

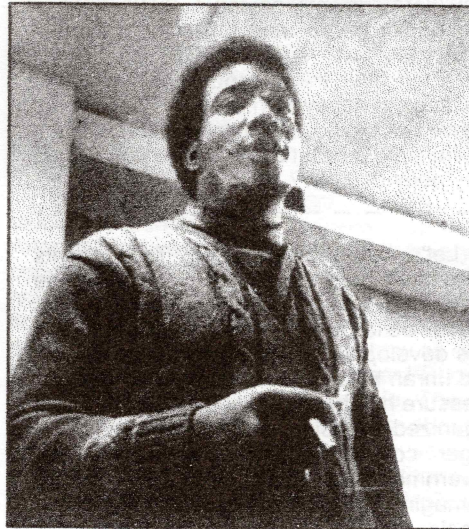
Many revolutionaries—Che Guevara, Bhagat Singh, Medgar Evers, Fred Hampton—have said something along the lines of “You can kill a revolutionary, but you can’t kill revolutionary ideas.” In the writings and speeches of freedom fighters throughout history, you can see the influence of ideas from past revolutionaries on full display. Two such revolutionaries can be commemorated in the month of December: Mao Tse-Tung and Fred Hampton—Mao was born and Fred was assassinated. Despite the two never meeting, the speeches of Fred Hampton are full of references to Mao’s ideas. Today, members of the Parkside Terrace Alliance are inspired in their own right by these two giants, and they have taken this occasion to put their own spin on the ideas Fred learned from Mao.



MAO

Mao Tse-Tung was born on December 26, 1893 in China. Mao led one of history’s largest and most important revolutions. He channeled the energy of millions of peasants and poor workers in China to triumph over corrupt rulers and Japanese colonialism. Together, Mao and the Chinese people established the socialist People’s Republic of China in 1949. Throughout his long life, Mao wrote about his experiences of revolution and about the thoughts he had on how to lead a successful revolution. Revolutionaries all around the world read his works and tried to apply the lessons they learned to their own situations. Below are excerpts from some of Mao’s writings.

1. Whoever wants to know a thing has no way of doing so except by coming into contact with it, that is, by living (practicing) in its environment ... If you want knowledge, you must take part in the practice of changing reality. If you want to know the taste of a pear, you must change the pear by eating it yourself ... If you want to know the theory and methods of revolution, you must take part in revolution. All genuine knowledge originates in direct experience.
2. Our duty is to hold ourselves responsible to the people. Every word, every act and every policy must conform to the people’s interests, and if mistakes occur, they must be corrected—that is what being responsible to the people means.
3. Wherever there is struggle there is sacrifice, and death is a common occurrence. But we have the interests of the people and the sufferings of the great majority at heart, and when we die for the people it is a worthy death.



FRED

Fred Hampton was the Deputy Chairman of the Black Panther Party. On December 4, 1969 he was assassinated in a raid carried out by the Chicago Police Department and the FBI in East Garfield Park. Fred was killed because he committed his life to fighting for the oppressed people of the world. His commitment to the people led him to the cause of socialism, and he and his Black Panther comrades learned from other socialist revolutionaries around the world who had the same passion. One of Fred’s greatest inspirations was Mao Tse-Tung. Below are quotes from speeches he made during his short but powerful life.

1. The only way that anybody can tell you the taste of a pear is if he himself has

tasted it. How do you learn? You learn by observation and you learn by participation, and that’s the way the Black Panther Party believes in doing things.

2. I’m saying that any program that’s brought into our community should be analyzed by the people of that community. It should be analyzed to see that it meets the relevant needs of that community.
3. Why don’t you live for the people? Why don’t you struggle for the people? Why don’t you die for the people?



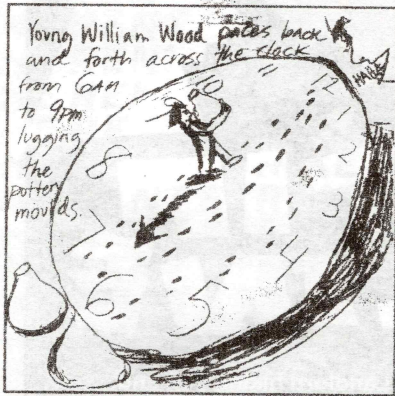
PTA

The Parkside Terrace Alliance is a tenant union in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago. They have been fighting against their corporate landlord for the past ten months. Through their dedication and ability to motivate their neighbors, the PTA has improved the conditions of their building and pushed back against the greed that infests our neighborhoods. PTA’s leaders have also spent this time learning about the revolutionary legacy that they are carrying on. The following are the leaders’ versions of the quotes by Mao and Fred.

1. Coron: In order to know what’s going on you have to experience it or go through it—also get involved with it with the intention of coming up with a solution to the problem/situation.
2. Dominyque: People make up a community. With that being said, the people of a community should benefit greatly by any program placed within that community. It is even better if it is by the people.
3. Hattie: As Mao says, giving back will put a strain on a person’s thoughts, but it is rewarding, because others are afraid to live for themselves. I was always a fighter in my family. ★

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TENANT GRAPEVINE



Young William Wood paces back and forth across the clock from 6AM to 9PM juggling the butter moulds.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S THE MOST UNDERRATED SNACK? (11/22/2025):

ANSWER FROM AVERS FOOD EXPRESS:
MUNCH

FROM NOAH FOODS:
HOT CRUNCHY CURLS

FROM BIG MOE'S:
PINEAPPLES

FROM R & M FOOD MART:
WATCHAMACALLIT

FROM AUSTIN DOLLAR PLUS:
SNICKERS

FROM M & S CAFE:
SNICKERS

FROM G & N FOOD AND LIQUOR:
HOT CRUNCHY NUGGETS

FROM AFRICAN FOOD AND LIQUOR:
OATMEAL CREAM PIE

S From G & N Food and Liquor:

People's access to Link has been cut off. People need relief! They're under a lot of pressure. Republicans shipped a lot of immigrants over here and then proceeded to send wannabe feds after them. ICE and feds shouldn't be allowed to go after people and violate their rights, especially in public spaces. Nobody in Chicago asked for these wannabe feds! Immigrants are not stealing black jobs. That's a lie. Undocumented people are paying taxes and it's not going to support them. Their vulnerable immigration status is used by employers to exploit and abuse them further. I agree with the idea of having an eviction moratorium again, like we had during COVID!

Briuna:

I'm a Chicago Housing case manager. Landlords don't do maintenance because they want to cut costs on tenants. The solution is to withhold rent! You'll win, it'll cost them. Stick together! Squatters rights exist.

E from Big Moe's:

You know Obama deported more people than Trump?

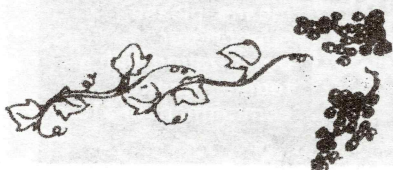
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S YOUR CRAZIEST CHICAGO SNOW STORY? (11/29/2025):

- My flight out of Arizona got cancelled!

- I blew up my engine!

- In '84, we got 15 feet of snow. We had to stay in the house!

- In 2011 it was crazy, but we still opened up the store.



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ACTA REPORTS: NOVEMBER 2025

TENANTS TALK AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

Over the past 4 months, ACTA has kept copies of Tenants Talk regularly stocked at stores all across the Westside of Chicago: from Big Moe's and Avers Express on Chicago, to Noah Foods on Augusta, to G & N Food and Liquor and African Food & Liquor on Madison, and many more shops in the East Garfield, North Lawndale, and Austin areas! Regular readership has grown fast! We've installed newsstands where we've seen papers fly off the shelf in order to keep the place stocked every week. If you're reading this after picking up a copy at a Westside corner store, send us a picture of you and your copy of Tenants Talk at (773) 770-5650!

We restock stores every Saturday. After 4 months, members of our distribution team who make their rounds to each store have gotten to know some of the store clerks and customers pretty well. Great conversations about what's going on in our world has led to the development of a section in Tenants Talk to spread the word across the Westside. 'The Tenant Grapevine' is the finger on the pulse! If you've got stories about your landlord, stories about the history of the working class struggle in your neighborhood, or even stories about what you like to get up to, reach out to us! We'd love to talk with you!

ACTA ORGANIZER RECRUITMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

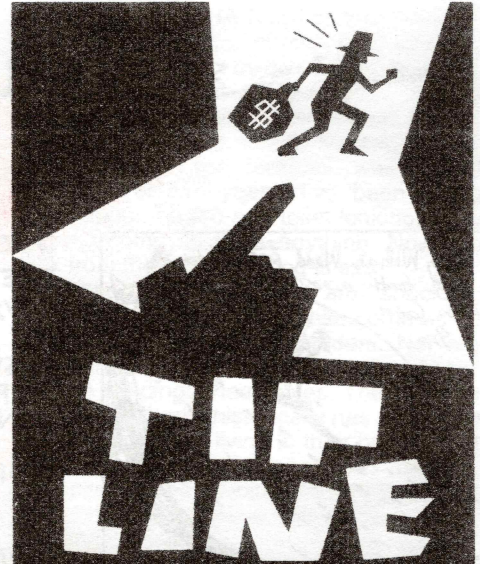
ACTA held a recruitment event this month to bring in new organizers. This is in preparation for a new wave of activity beginning in the new year. With a few of our building level projects coming to a

close, ACTA organizers are looking forward to a new chapter of Chicago tenant organizing, bolstered by a wave of new members looking for action. The movement is still young, but each year, more and more tenants are becoming more conscious of the power the landlords wield over our lives. What will the new generation of organizers accomplish in 2026? We are eager to find out!

Additionally, this month ACTA ran its first round of our new four-week training program for new members entering the organization. The training is designed to teach new members about pedagogy, Marxism, principles of organization, and concrete skills for tenant organizing. These sessions center around organization as a practical approach to changing the world. Because of this we don't spend a lot of time reading or lecturing, and instead dive into exercises that teach members through action and serve as points of reflection. We're very happy to have graduated the first two members from the program and we look forward to their contributions to the tenant movement going forward.

ACTA ON THE NORTHSIDE!

ACTA's expansion in Rogers Park and surrounding neighborhoods continues! On the Northside, our regular activity has expanded membership and as we work on identifying opportunities in this new territory we've been training up our members. In November, we focused on training our members in practical skills for the beginning stages of building organizing, from landlord research to doorknocking. Moving into the new year we are looking to identify tenants who are tired of their landlord's excuses. Are you ready to fight back? Call ACTA today! ★

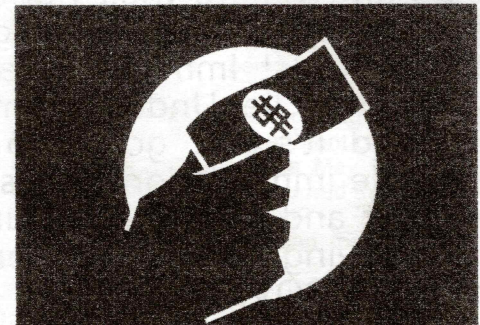


Landlord hiking you and
your neighbors rent?

Landlord kicking you and
your neighbors to the curb?

Want to build a union and
do something about it?

Text us at (773) 770-5650



SUPPORT ACTA

The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance is run entirely by volunteers and is supported by dues and donations from supporters across Chicago.



If you have the means, please support our organization with a regular monthly commitment of \$10.

The Collector of Homes

CHAPTER 8 - AT THE GATES

The buses pulled up one by one to the Euclid avenue bus stop, each packed completely full with people. The passengers were engaged in animated conversation, some even breaking out into song as they flooded out onto the wide suburban sidewalk. From the windows of the identical houses lining the street, people looked out at the crowd, surprised and angered by the sudden crowd. As the gathering expanded they pulled down their shades or recorded the unexpected gathering.

Freddy, Angie, and Archie waited until their entire bus was empty, and then thanked the bus driver.

"No, thank you!" she said in a spirited tone, "I've driven too many people out here only to drive them back after they lose hope. It's about time someone did something about the Collector."

Freddy and Angie waved goodbye to their companion as the bus rolled off towards the city. They hoped the next time they saw her she would be taking them home.

"Comrades, I believe it is time for you to lead the way," Archie said, gesturing to the restless crowd of people. Although the children felt uncomfortable with the idea of leading, they knew the way. It was as simple as heading off in the right direction. They walked and the people followed.

By the time they reached the soot colored gate that walled off the Collector from the world, the people had begun to sing. **AH, ÇA IRA, QUI VIVRA, VERRA.** The flood of men, women, and children pressed up against the cold iron pickets, grabbing them and shaking them, never ceasing their song. **DONC, VIVONS, ÇA BIEN VITE IRA,** Their voices joined together in a resounding chorus which alerted The Collector and his bodyguard Mondo. The little metal speaker on the gate buzzed and a metallic voice called out, "STEP AWAY FROM THE FENCE!" The plea went unnoticed beneath the wave of passionate voices. **ÇA VIENDRA, NOUS LE VERONSTOUS!**

The gate gave way with a crack and hundreds of feet squeezed through the opening and trampled out onto the perfect grass of the Collector's yard, instantly turning it to mud. Freddy and Angie were pushed forward by the wave, up onto the steps of the collector's front stoop. Caught up in all of the excitement Freddy raised a hand to knock on the door. Before he could make contact, however, the

door swung open, pushing a few of the most enthusiastic supporters off the stoop. Freddy felt a meaty hand clamp down around his wrist and before he could struggle he was lifted into the air. Everything went silent.

"Step away from the house! I have your leader!" Mondo shouted breathlessly. Sure enough, Mondo had a firm grip on Freddy, holding him in the air menacingly. Angie watched her brother struggle in vain to break free and felt her heart sink. Behind her, Archie clenched his fist in rage.

"Drop him, he's only a boy," Archie growled.

"I won't hurt him if you all remove yourself from my employer's property. Think very carefully about what you all do next," Mondo said with a crazed look in his eyes that dared anyone to defy him. Freddy watched the crowd mutter angrily but take a collective step back, giving Mondo space. The people seemed to lose some of their energy and suddenly Freddy saw in them the same hopelessness they had broken away from the day before. He felt it in himself too, and realized that like the people he would never be totally free from it, especially not when men like the Collector and Mondo had so much power over his fate.

Angie watched as victory seemed to slip through their hands. The people in the yard moved back again, unwilling to call Mondo's bluff. She looked out beyond the gate at the people who had not yet even made it inside. Some of them turned away and started back towards the bus stop. But there was also movement within the cluster of people. Someone small, making their way through the crowd. When she realized who it was Angie jumped into action. She only had a moment to make sure everything was ready.

"You think that we're going to leave you alone if anything happens to Freddy?" she said, drawing Mondo's attention away from the crowd and onto the impetuous girl in front of him.

"I don't think you have it in you to find out," Mondo sneered. Angie took a step forward and Mondo tightened his grip on Freddy's wrists, making him cry out in pain.

"Freddy! Don't worry, he'll let you go. You'll be okay," Angie said, advancing slowly on the gigantic bodyguard. Mondo took a step back but chuckled.

"What's a little girl like you going to do? Look around you. You're all alone again! They're backing off!" Mondo shouted, but as he gestured to the crowd he glimpsed a flash of black fabric and a smooth white shape sailing through the air right at his head.

SPLACK!

The rotten egg collided with Mondo's expansive forehead and sent its putrid contents oozing over his unsightly features.

"Aghhh! You! You!" Mondo screamed as the rotten goop slid down over his nose and lips. He stumbled backwards, loosening his grip on Freddy, who was free in an instant.

"You really should have expected me, I'm here the same time every day," Kira explained matter-of-factly.

Before the corpulent bodyguard could recover his footing, Archie leapt forward, seizing him and calling some of the crowd up to hold him and keep him out of the way.

Before they continued to confront the Collector of Homes, Kira stepped up to the house, decked out in black fabric and bandoliers customized to hold a carton of eggs. Angie hugged her gratefully.

"Thank you for saving Freddy," Angie whispered with tears in her eyes.

"I didn't think you would make it back, but I'm glad you did. You weren't the first to head out there," Kira said, gesturing over to Archie.

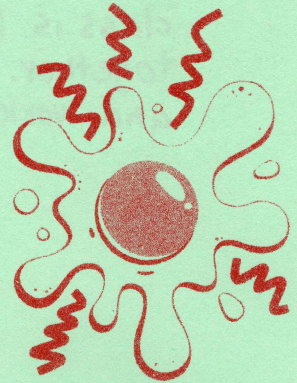
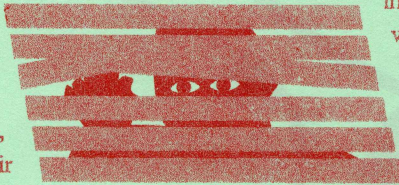
"Yes, I owe you an apology," Archie said sheepishly I overestimated myself, and—"

"Save it for once we're done," Kira cut him off.

With Mondo out of the way, Angie and Freddy were able to swing open the front door with ease and step past the threshold. Once again the people pushed forward, eager to make their way to the Collector's chamber.

TO BE CONTINUED...

**WANT TO READ
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THE STORY?
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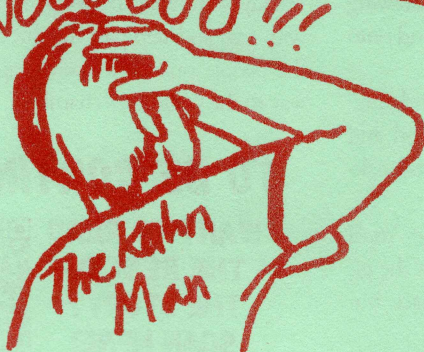
As the FADistas enter their second month on rent strike, their landlord, the Kahn Man, unleashes another of his dirty tricks on the determined tenants.

Ask an adult what the working class is. Use wikipedia to research together. What is a trait eagles, and working class people share?

What is a trait that snakes and landlords share?



NOOOOO!!!



The Kahn Man's slimy snake is no match for a beak sharpened by working class struggle!