

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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INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY



In March, we celebrate International Working Woman's Day. This holiday is celebrated throughout the world every year on March 8th. **But did you know that socialists created it?**

The exact origins for a proper women's holiday are not perfectly clear, but what is certain is that women workers in factories protested against sexism and organized for political equality in the 1800s through the beginning of the 1900s. Marxist organizers took up the women's struggle as a cause for

the entire international working class to rally behind, led primarily by women like Theresa Malkiel in New York City, Clara Zetkin in Germany, and Alexandra Kollontai in Russia.

The movement reached its heights on March 8th 1917 in Petrograd, Russia. When women staged huge protests against the destruction caused by World War 1 and against Russia's involvement in it. The strikes spread across the whole country so rapidly that eight days later, Russia's notorious dictator left his throne and the provisional government that replaced him granted all Russian women the right to vote. Seven months later, what was started by the working women of Petrograd was finished by the entire working class, united behind their political party, the Bolsheviks.

This was the first socialist revolution in

FREE TENANT NEWSPAPER

What's inside?

- Updates on landlord activity around the city
- Reflections on negotiating with landlords
- News from a group of revolutionaries in Kenya
- Words from the women of ACTA
- The Tenant Grapevine and more!



Alexandra Kollontai

history, which meant no natural resources, workplaces or houses were owned by individuals like they are in our capitalist society. No bosses and no landlords! No one could be exploited by another person. Instead, all of the working class collectively owned the things they produced and they governed society together. Russia began to call itself the Soviet Union and its leader was the great Vladimir Lenin. Five years after the revolution, at the urging of his comrades Zetkin and Kollontai, Lenin declared March 8 to be a state sanctioned holiday in commemoration of women's contributions to the revolutionary cause.

ACTA is a revolutionary communist organization and we are proud of that! The women of ACTA speak!

What do working class women have to deal with that working class men don't? How can working class men support working class women better?

Comrade Anay: We face harassment and discrimination by our own men, and we are paid less than men when we do the same work. I believe the way men can support us is to understand that just because we are women, we are not stupid. We can do the same work as them and often better, and we should not have to work in fear of being fired or getting disciplined just because we are women.

What are the differences in the life of a rich woman and the lives of working class women?

Comrade Anay: It's very different because she lives in her big, spacious house with money to pay her bills and doesn't have to worry about it. For working class girls it's difficult, everything is expensive. Wages are low, everything we earn goes to the bills and rent. Often, two or three jobs are necessary to get everything we need, and so we don't have time to be with our children.

How does exploitation and oppression in capitalist society affect women specifically?

Comrade Maya O: In the usual ways of course, but in addition to that, gendered

labor still persists. Reproductive labor, which takes place in the home and has traditionally been seen as "women's work", serving to offset the cost of the means of subsistence, driving the wage floor lower. This is still a major factor in national wage differentials, leading to super-exploitation in the third world. Here in America the trend has been towards dual income, but this does not mean the exploitation does not exist. In part because gendered reproductive labor remains invisible or is viewed as 'unskilled', reproductive wage workers are highly exploited and undervalued. The woman dominated services such as cleaning and caretaking are highly vulnerable. This is only a small picture of the economic exploitation of women.

Why do you think tenant unions are always led by women and girls? Why should women organize their neighbors into tenant unions?

Comrade Sarah: Because women make the world go round! They are in every role: caretaker of children and elders, cook, cleaner, manager of everything in the household (which means dealing with the landlord). Women see things that need to be done, and simply do it! It's all the more infuriating when their landlords write off problems: yet one cannot cook without a stove or a fridge, cannot focus on childcare if there is no heat, and no amount of cleaning will fix a building-wide infestation of rats or roaches. Of course, taking on all of these responsibilities is exhausting and isn't to be glorified, but women leading unions makes sense because leadership requires these same abilities: care for others and the community, resiliency, and a sense of justice that emerges from being written off by bosses, or landlords, or anyone else for that matter. Women have led the struggle, across history, and now in our own city, because they are tired of poor treatment by their landlords and know that they deserve habitable apartments and human decency—and their neighbors are too! Most of us have been taught that doing everything on our own or minding our business is the right way to live these days, but it takes a village and community with our neighbors to start in the union!

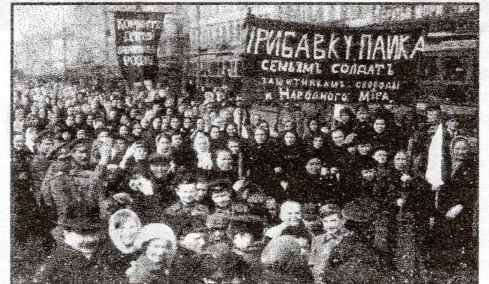
Why should women be Marxists?

Comrade Maya O: Women should be Marxists because everyone should be a Marxist. In particular though, I think Marxism offers the clearest picture of women's oppression, connecting gendered oppression to racial oppression and grounding it in a real economic mechanism. Other frameworks fail to account for why sexism has remained such a stubborn feature of our society while simultaneously undergoing major transformations with the development of human productive forces.

What is bourgeois feminism and what is

proletarian feminism?

Comrade Annie R: Bourgeois feminism says, there will be servants in society, but I don't want to be one of them. Instead of working to defeat the oppressor, the bourgeois feminist seeks to emulate one. The bourgeois feminist aspiration is inclusion with imperialists, capitalists, their collaborators, and their apologists. Bourgeois feminism is a reservoir of individualism and the idolatry of personal ascent. Proletarian feminism says, we all serve one another. A world system that requires a permanent underclass will not be tolerated. Proletarian feminism strikes at the most exploitative elements of capitalism-imperialism and takes seriously the gendered dimension of the burden that imperialist militarism, violence, psychological warfare, economic strangulation, and ecocide creates. US-led imperialism is the primary contradiction. With that in view, proletarian feminism calls for nothing short of a revolutionary transformation of interpersonal, labor, and land relations.



Workers strike on the first day of Russia's February Revolution in the capital Petrograd

What are three reasons why women should join revolutionary organizations?

Comrade Maya A: Firstly, the liberation of women, just like the liberation of other groups of people, is interlinked with the liberation of people everywhere. It cannot be plucked and completed in isolation. Secondly, you should join a revolutionary organization because you owe it to yourself, to those that came before you and those that will come after you. The problems that you face stem from the basic conflict between those who have power and those that don't. With this major conflict in place the various other issues cannot even begin to find their resolution. Finally, there is no salvation following the path that leads to despair, or leads to "but that's just how it is." Salvation will come only when it is taken, together with those who, like you, are ready to take it.

Who is a revolutionary woman fighter that you think the girls reading this should know about and why?

Comrade Kait: Grace Lee Boggs. Specifically I would encourage everyone to

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

read her very short book "Organization Means Commitment." You can find it for free online if you look it up. Grace seemingly did it all, she was an author and was active in many social movements from tenant rights, feminist movements, labour organizing, and most abundantly Black liberation in the 1960's and beyond. Grace spent the majority of her life in Chicago and Detroit. She understood that capitalism is the reason for the discrimination she experienced and witnessed, and that this was an international problem, not just one in the United States. She didn't just write about these things, she lived them and took action to change them. She teaches that in order for a revolution to happen, we don't need to only change society and the economic system we've been dealt with, but we need to change ourselves to be militant and serious to commit to the work that this will take.

Are there any kinds of things girls do in ACTA that you don't think are generally available to them in other places like school, jobs, sports or church?

Comrade Kait: What stands out most is the genuine sincerity that we're invited into the work and encouraged to shape the organization. In other spaces you may often wonder about ulterior motives: "Am I being respected because someone else is gaining social status? Are they hitting on me? Are they calling me a b**** when I walk away?"

In ACTA, I never question that, and if I ever did question this sort of behavior, I know I'd be taken seriously. Critique is part of our practice here, which keeps us all on the same playing field. There's not really ulterior motives in this organization. No one's profiting. We all want the same things and this breeds a unique level of respect and encouragement.

How do you believe communist society would change the daily life of women?

Comrade Annie W: In many ways I would say being a feminist led me to being a communist. Communist society is, to me, the only society in which women truly have equality. In a communist society, social reproduction is a collective project for all. Care is communal rather than private, and falls to all rather than inordinately toward women. Child care, cleaning, cooking, etc. are shared tasks and considered work to be done just as any other kind of work that must be done to keep everything and everyone going. Daily life becomes about being with others in continued struggle, and might also be about what gender looks like when everyone is free.

Do you know of any revolutionary poems about women to share with our readers?

Comrade Lesley: JOSINA MACHEL
CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

*Josina Machel, citizen of the world,
your heart knew all the words,
all the languages,
all the idioms;
in it everyone had a place.*

*Your heart of music and steel
knew only to beat out
the rhythms of freedom
and of love.*

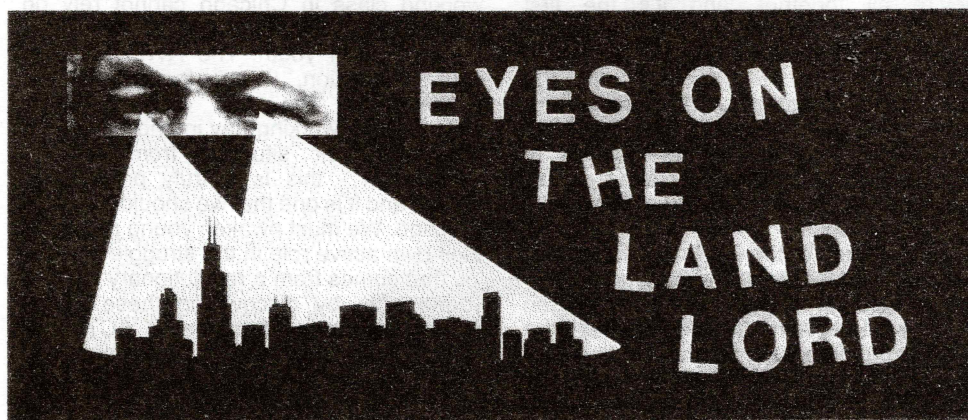
*You gave forth the strength of truth
and its light burned
like a sun.*

*You taught us to see the world
in a manner clean and true.
Your example showed us
that there are men and no races,
that in all the world's veins
the same red blood runs.*

*From you, Josina, we know
that to give ourselves is to save ourselves;
that the offer of ourselves to our people
is something beautiful more:
is ineluctable, necessary as the bread we
eat,
the air we breathe.*

*Josina, sister, teacher,
exemplar, seed, comrade,
you are not dead, will never die.
Love and freedom
can never be killed.*

—Rosária Tembe ★



THE PARKSIDE TERRACE ALLIANCE CELEBRATES ONE YEAR!

The Parkside Terrace Alliance turns one year old this month, which is a huge accomplishment to celebrate! Few unions reach the one-year mark. Many late nights, consistent weekly meetings, and hard work culminate into one unified union. This victory coincides with a big change that the leaders of PTA have been working up to—ACTA is stepping back. ACTA's goal has always been to work with and build up tenants' skills in the building, so that tenants no longer need ACTA's organizers at their weekly meetings. This month was the first time the leaders created all the agendas

and held the meetings completely on their own. ACTA organizers attended only 2 meetings this month and will attend only 1 each subsequent month at their request. PTA's fight is far from over, and ACTA will always be by their side, now in a supporting role. We're all looking forward to seeing what's next for the courageous lions of PTA!

FAD PRESS CONFERENCE

On February 15th, Fuerzas Activas de la Damen and ACTA spread the gospel of the rent strike. The two organizations gathered at United Church in Rogers Park to speak publicly for the first time since Imran Khan



filed his lawsuits against the leaders. He's charging them with defamation and tortious interference. Numerous tenants from the union, two members of ACTA together with their lawyer took to the pulpit to say the good word to the cameras: Khan and his lawsuit can go to hell. It isn't defamation when it's the truth and we'll say it again and again and again—Imran Khan is a rich slumlord and he is hiking the rents to levels that are making homes that have been affordable for decades into homes that the working class cannot afford. Month five of the rent strike is underway... ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN'S LEAGUE IN KENYA

In the imaginations of both right wing and liberal pundits, the Chicago Public School system has become a hotbed of radicalism and leftist indoctrination. But as a substitute teacher working predominantly in schools on the west side of the city, I can say that, unfortunately, they are exaggerating. While certain progressive histories have become more normalized and the perspectives of oppressed groups more common, the oppression of the working class or broader criticisms of a society characterized by class relations rarely makes it into these spaces of learning.

Let's take the presentation of Malcolm X, whose portrait makes an appearance in most history classrooms. Students learn about Malcolm as Martin Luther King's fiery counterpart who was ruthless in his criticism of white supremacy. They might even learn that he was clandestinely martyred by the US government. But his death is treated as a bizarre antidote from US history rather than your run-of-the-mill state terrorism against any sign of militant class resistance. Malcom X's turn towards internationalism near the end of his life and his famous speech about "bloodsucking capitalists" are the details of his story that go unmentioned.

As people committed to building an organized alliance of working class forces, the consciousness of young people is a problem we must feel responsible for solving ourselves. We might seek some inspiration from an unexpected place: a small but mighty group of revolutionaries in Kenya.

As I write this, there are around 20 women assembling themselves in Nairobi, Kenya. They've traveled long distances from many different corners of the country, all so that they can study together. They are mothers and workers, and now they will make themselves into teachers. But they

aren't becoming teachers in the way that someone might train to work in a state-funded school that reproduces the ideas and conditions of class society. They are training to become teachers with far greater ambitions for themselves and their country.

The group goes by the name of the Revolutionary Women's League, and they are part of one of the strongest organized forces against capitalism in East Africa. The women participate in a network of local study circles that meet weekly to discuss revolutionary texts, and they regularly make their voices heard in protests against oppression. Some are involved in the trade union movement or more rural forms of organizing. This is the first time in 2026 that they're all together, and it's the first convening of what will be called the Young Stars program. So what might we learn from their experience? Most importantly, the youth program has no relationship to the state; it will be run entirely by volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to shape the consciousness of young people in a way that orients them towards a life of collective struggle.

The women of the RWL also have their own criticisms of state-funded education. In Kenya, young people have inherited an educational system that reinforces the world order imposed on the continent of Africa by outside forces. As inheritors of the western-capitalist education system, young people are taught to value private property over public welfare. They subconsciously learn to associate the advancement of Kenyan society with an increased frequency of market transactions. Divisions are sewn between ethnic groups at a young age, fomenting disorganization and weakening potential class alliances between the peasants and the working class. Similar to schools in the United States, Comrade Gloria from the RWL describes the school system in Kenya as 'structural apparatus that instills in young people an individualist and pacifist consciousness.' This is a major ideological obstacle for a group like the RWL whose project of building a broad class alliance

against the capitalist class requires strong commitment to collective life and an active belief in the transformative power of people.

Inspiration for the program comes from a desire to resolve these ideological contradictions but also, in a more positive sense, the historic Mau Mau Young Stars. This was the youth wing of the Kenyan Land and Freedom Army which waged a war of independence during Kenya's darkest hours as a British colony. The Young Stars program is the continuation of the Kenyan people's struggle for liberation, ensuring that the lessons of the national liberation movement are passed to a new generation. It also embodies the spirit of the Young Pioneer programs, a living tradition for communist parties around the world which began in Russia in the 1920's and lives on today in socialist Cuba as well as revolutionary circles in Burkina Faso. Under the direction of the RWL, the Young Stars will study together about the Mau Mau movement for independence but also African revolutionaries like Dedan Kimathi, Thomas Sankara and Josina Machel who fought for a broad alliance against foreign capitalists in their countries. They will produce art and music, engage in social investigation in their community, and practice collective work. Students and their teachers will work to develop the seeds of a sustainable organization that can carry young people carefully and thoughtfully into the movement for Kenyan liberation as lifelong participants.

Just like the women of the RWL, the working class in Chicago cannot rely on regressive state institutions to determine the destiny of youth. The RWL model of youth education, where the learning is attached to the life of a political organization, working day in and day out to transform their situation from one of exploitation - this is a truly progressive model, and it is one that we should turn to in Chicago. We must awaken young people to their own active role in the struggle and the joy that comes from a revolutionary life at a young age, by discovering these things through practice. Members of ACTA are inspired by the RWL's commitment to revolutionary youth education, and we are actively working to build a youth program of our own run entirely by volunteer members.

You can help us support the RWL and the Young Stars Program by donating here via our online fundraiser!



"The success of this program will be seen in a new generation of Young Stars: children who love their community, understand the power of organization, and are prepared to continue the fight for a liberated Kenya." —Comrade Ashlyn ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

CAN LANDLORDS NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH?

Would you negotiate with someone who acted in bad faith? For tenants there's usually no choice. Acting in good faith means negotiating fairly and keeping one's word, but tenants rarely have any choice but to act in good faith. For landlords it is different. In a negotiation, acting in good faith shows mutual respect between the parties. When it comes to landlords, there is rarely any respect for the tenants to be found. This raises the question, can landlords negotiate with tenants in good faith?

Over the last year we've seen landlords blatantly violate the principle of good faith on countless occasions. Let's look at a recent case in Chicago involving some tenants we worked closely with. After long and intense negotiations, the landlord made an acceptable offer. At first, it seemed like it would be enough to bring negotiations to an end. The tenants were excited about the offer and quickly reached out to accept. We all felt excited about the new resolution. It wasn't as high as we originally hoped, but it was still something to be happy about. The next morning the news came to the tenants from the landlord's lawyer: "Oops, we messed up, we sent the wrong deal." Despite a verbal agreement from both sides, the landlord went back on the deal, insisting that their actual offer was thousands of dollars lower. This type of behavior in negotiations is beyond insulting. It was as if the landlord had spit in the tenants faces.

Since those negotiations, and in fact in every negotiation ACTA has been a part of, we have seen landlords engage in this behavior. Why do landlords always violate good faith in negotiations? In the world of business, where things are cutthroat, the rules of good faith can only be violated at your own risk. Act in bad faith and others will find out. You will see your business opportunities evaporate. In negotiations between bosses and workers, or landlords and tenants, on the other hand, there aren't the same consequences. What landlord or businessman would refuse to deal with a landlord who screws over his tenants? That's just good business. The naked truth

is that we have two classes here. The wealthy see each other as equals even as they are opposed to each other in business. There are some lines they won't cross. With the working class however, these lines are non-existent. Landlords have no limits to what they will do to tenants and workers. They will cheat you, steal from you, grind you into the grave and dance at your funeral. You are not an equal in their eyes. You are not worthy of respect or even the basic dignity of good faith in negotiations.

In ACTA we do what we can to level the playing field between landlords and tenants. No matter how little we think of the whiny landlords who believe the world belongs to them, ACTA never begins in bad faith. It is always the landlords who see an opportunity to cheat, lie, and steal from tenants, and never hesitate to take it. When it comes to this, we see no reason to naively look the other way. We have this to say to landlords: *what goes around comes around*. If you act in bad faith, you shouldn't expect good faith from us. Landlords clearly don't even think of this as a possibility. They think they are so far above the people of Chicago that they cannot even entertain the idea that ACTA might give them a taste of their own medicine. This may be the surest sign of the landlords' absolute stupidity. They are so self assured of their place at the top, so busy thinking of their next scheme, that they always take the tenants at their word.

Drew Millard is a sparkling example. ACTA offered in good faith to stop the media campaign against him. Despite our gesture of goodwill, Millard repeatedly acted in bad faith with the tenants,

seemingly under the belief that he had already silenced the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance. Let's say it again for Drew Millard to hear: *what goes around comes around, Drew*. Some of our readers may have noticed the disappearance of all Drew Millard content from our online posts. Have no worries. ACTA would never voluntarily self censor. We are committed to revealing the truth about the state of landlord control over our city. All content on the strikes and Drew Millard will soon be available for everyone to read once again. We will not be silenced. Drew Millard might see this as an act of bad faith, but of course we are stooping no lower than he has repeatedly stooped over the course of our year long struggle against him, 33 Realty, and Evernest.

With all the evidence to the contrary, we have to ask. Can landlords negotiate in good faith? Are they capable of meeting tenants as equals? The reality is that tenants are rarely capable of using their leverage to demand good faith from the landlord, but that doesn't mean tenants don't have that leverage. In a union there is power in numbers and this can be enough to force a landlord to treat his subjects as equals. In Chicago, tenants are finally standing up for themselves and demanding dignity and control over their homes. Landlords haven't gotten the memo yet. They still try to cheat and screw over the unions. They haven't realized just how much leverage the tenants really have. Let's look at the numbers. We've seen rent strikes cost the landlord fighting them over \$250,000 in legal fees, delayed construction, and other expenses even without considering the settlement—and this is on the low end! Tenants have real power to make a dent in landlord finances. The days of tenants being meek and subservient, the days of rolling over and taking the landlord's abuse, these days are over. The landlords better learn their lesson quick: act in bad faith and it's going to cost you. ★

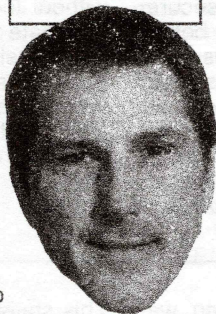
IMRAN KHAN

BAD FAITH NEGOTIATOR



DREW MILLARD

BAD FAITH NEGOTIATOR



FARIA IBRAHIM

BAD FAITH NEGOTIATOR



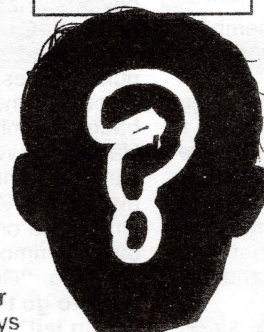
JORDAN FINFER

BAD FAITH NEGOTIATOR



INVESTORS OF ROGERS PARK I HOLDINGS

BAD FAITH NEGOTIATORS



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

CAPITAL WANTS YOU SICK

In December 2025, 8% of all doctor visits were related to the flu. Which led to 180,000 hospitalizations and 7,400 deaths by January 15th, 2026. You are currently living through the worst flu season since 2005. At the same time, the Affordable Care Act subsidies that gave millions of people access to some form, even an inadequate form, of healthcare has been defunded. You are living through the worst time to get sick in the 21st century. Catching the superflu H3N2 or COVID can reduce your ability to work, jeopardizing your employment and housing. You are in the exact position that your boss, landlord, and government want you.

Getting the flu is a yearly experience for most people. The precautions and treatments taken for the flu are the exact same each year: you get a vaccine or take over the counter flu symptom medication, and you rest. There needs to be a systemic approach. Where people have access to a secure, warm, and safe place to live and rest through the flu season. Why are landlords so inconsiderate of your health? They need to extract your wages once a

month. It's this extractive force that benefits the bosses. By holding your home hostage, the bosses get to force you to labor during illness. You'll lose your employment if you don't come in regardless of your health, moving you closer and closer to homelessness. The US government backs this extractive force by inflating healthcare costs. Having the majority of the working class threatened with large medical bills. All 3 forces benefit each other for the sake of keeping you sick and at the workplace.

Landlords are the weakest part of these overlapping forces. They do not labor, create, manufacture, sort, or append anything. Landlords don't have access to direct violence either. Tenants prop up the entirety of a landlord's position. By organizing against landlords, tenants can gain the right to rest. Chicagoans can stay out of the cold to get in better health. Imagine what a strong, militant, tenant union can negotiate for during the winter season. Together they can secure consistent building heating, better insulation, new double pane windows, and air filtering systems. Every person should have this for a safer winter season. Let's go further and imagine how a strong tenant union can negotiate for the flu season. When a tenant gets COVID or the flu they should get help. Workers fought for sick

days. Where they receive full payments in order to rest. What if tenants could fight for something similar? It can take the form of rent forgiveness due to missing work. If you are sick and out of work for 3 days, you have more time to pay your rent, or your rent is prorated to cost 3 days less at the end of the month. Landlords need you. It's in their benefit to ease your rent burden while sick. 15 million workers got the flu by January 15th, 2026. All 15 million should have their rent prorated due to illness.

What is preventing this? In short, greed. Greed that blinds landlords, bosses, and the government into forcing sick people to be sicker. It's a contradiction in the part of all of these extractive forces. Healthy people are more productive. Yet these forces converge to keep you sick, as a sick person is more precarious and therefore easier to control. Tenant unions place real power in tenants' hands. Giving tenants the right to stay in their homes while sick without the fear of losing it. Tenant unions negotiate to give you, the tenant, that right. Fortunately, landlords are the weakest opponents. If you are sick, rest up. Once you are rested and feeling better, organize your neighbors in preparation for the next flu season. Call ACTA to get started! ★



TT WITNESSES POLICE BRUTALITY

On November 22, 2024, ACTA members were distributing Tenants Talk to corner stores on the West Side of Chicago, when they witnessed a large group of Chicago Police Department officers surrounding a community member's car. The officers were shouting at the driver, an Afrikan man, to get out of the car. The driver's father was standing off to the side, and instructing his son to stay calm. The driver's partner was also standing nearby, understandably worried.

ACTA members were across the street watching this all unfold. They asked a man standing nearby what happened. It turned out he was the driver's brother in law. He stated that not only had he experienced this harassment himself, but he knows it happens regularly to men on the block.

We were mid conversation when we saw the driver open his car door. The CPD officers immediately pulled the driver out of the car, brutally yanked his arms behind his back, and zip-tied him. The officers were claiming that they had "seen a gun," but after a search of his car, it became clear that there was no gun, just as the driver had said.

The driver's brother in law told us that this same group of CPD officers had stopped him before for supposedly running a stop light, and they harassed him about a nonexistent gun as well. The officers made reference to "Pennsylvania Law" to justify themselves, despite the fact that that obviously had no relevance to the situation.

The ACTA members crossed the street, and asked each officer for their badge number. Despite the fact that they had just acted like thugs, the officers all gave their badge numbers, with the exception of Hanrahan. When Hanrahan was asked for his badge number, he didn't give it right away. The ACTA member had to ask three times, and on the third time Hanrahan spat out his number, then marched towards him shouting: "Get out of the street! Do you want to go to jail? Do you want me to put you in jail?"

This thuggish behavior did not intimidate ACTA, but rather, showed officer Kevin Hanrahan's true colors. Kevin Hanrahan's badge number is 7926, and according to cpdp.co, he has more "use of force" reports than 95% of CPD officers.

This statistic is not an outlier and we don't have to travel far in the directory to find another officer in the Chicago Police Department who has a track record of brutalizing working class Afrikan and Latino Chicagoans. Take Thomas Hanrahan for instance, badge number 2332. He has more civilian allegations and use of force reports than 96% of other CPD officers.

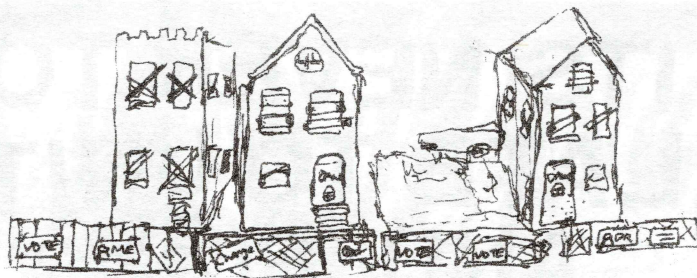
This issue goes beyond just individual CPD officers. If you look further back in Chicago history you will find... another Hanrahan. Cook County State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan to be exact. His office coordinated the counter-revolutionary raid on Fred Hampton's house, in 1969. Edward oversaw the assassination of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark with CPD bullets. This raid was carried out on the very same pretext as the brutality ACTA witnessed: "illegal weapons." It was also carried out on the very same West Side of Chicago.

After CPD left the scene, ACTA had a chance to speak to the driver, his father, and his partner, who work at a local car dealership. They emphasized the need to stay calm, and steadfast in your rights, when confronted with these situations. This is a great message. This whole episode is also a reminder: we must build revolutionary working class organizations across Chicago, by any means necessary! This is the strongest path towards our collective self-defense. ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

TENANT GRAPEVINE

What are the people of Chicago saying? *Tenant Grapevine* includes on-the-street quotes and interviews from tenants we meet when we deliver the newspaper.



"To the people of Iran: it's not us, it's the elites doing this. They're probably doing it for the oil."

"I don't agree with the war. If the bombardment was happening to us, we wouldn't be able to sell our exotic!"

"They're doing this in Iran to stay in power, and to distract from internal problems like the Epstein files. Everyone knows the U.S. and Israel are together on this. To the people of Iran: rely on God. Tawakkul."

On the DHS shutdown: "That's good, I hope it stays like that. Fuck ICE!"

"A lot of landlords are racist. I would never date my landlord. Don't date your landlord, it's not worth it."

"What they did to Maduro and Venezuela is probably because of their support for Palestine. It's all connected. Cuba too."

"Uptown is changing. No more gangs but rent is going up. In a way, I wish the gangs were back so the rent stayed cheap!"

INTERVIEW WITH B AT AFRICAN FOOD & LIQUOR

Perhaps more omnipresent than the cicadas that grace our ears every so often, the season of midterm elections are once again here. With its unmistakable sea of signs that seem to spring over night. This is particularly more jarring in the West Side neighborhoods which are a key part of Illinois's 7th congressional district. Block after block is littered with names who plead with the residents of the area to give them their vote.

But how do the residents feel about this? Only one way to find out:

TT Correspondent: We are asking people what they think about the politicians and all the signs for the upcoming elections?

B: So what is the deal with a Democrat or a Republican, and Democrats push us out but want us to vote for them? Where's the job opportunity for me and I been here? I see people who ain't from here getting better job opportunities and housing, so why can't I get the same treatment.

TT Correspondent: How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

B: I'm 50 years old. I ain't seen none of y'all when I was 8. So I want to know who is it built for. Where was the police camera [that] monitors us? Where was it for my accident? But I ain't get nothing. But why they ain't reveal the name? But cameras everywhere. But I thought they trained to do things. They trained to just pull us over and get tickets because the city gave it to parking meters away. So why we get blamed for it?

TT Editors Note: In July 2025 Chicago reached a 3 year high in the amount of speeding tickets given to drivers, 2,210,254 were given between August of 2024 and July 2025. In the first half of 2022 the city gave out 1 million parking tickets.

TT Correspondent: That's a good point.

B: But the police could ride around with handheld cell phones, and they ain't. I thought we were supposed to be hands-free.

TT Editors Note: The Chicago Police often

fails to address misconduct in their forces. While it may seem benign that the police don't follow the same laws they enforce such as using cell phones while driving, it stems from the same problem that allows the police to harass people in the streets or to sexually assault them.

Security Guard: Yeah. How do you know?

B: Yeah. Because I see it. I stand on the corner every day. I see it. I want to know who the rebuilding process was [for].

TT Correspondent: They sold the parking lot area to a private company, right? And this is public infrastructure.

B: And so what do the public get back? Just get charged and make more?

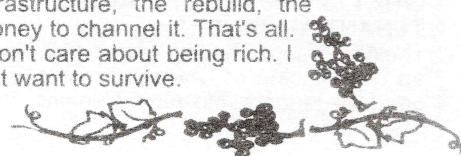
TT Correspondent: They increase the cost of the parking.

B: They increase the taxes on us just for them doing it, and they make the money. What do we make? Why we can't be able to clean something? Why we can't get something like that? Someone's got to subsidize jobs. Subsidized jobs are still hard labor. Why can't we do them?

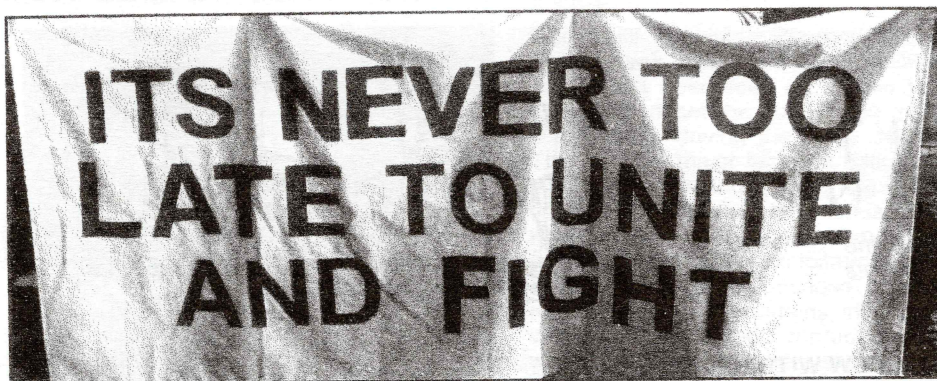
TT Editors Note: In 2008 Mayor Richard M. Daley sold the public parking areas of the city to a private company, CPM LLC. In total by 2025 CPM LLC made close to 2 billion dollars from you, me, and every other person in the city. 40 out of the 45 aldermen at the time voted for the deal.

TT Correspondent: Do you think there's any point in voting then?

B: What's the point of voting if we don't get what we want anyway? Politicians make more money. The alderman makes money. He comes to blockclub parties, he'll leave with more food than he already got. I'm saying, "What's the purpose of our alderman?" We got too many. Subsidize that. Maybe we'll make it make sense, and it'll be more money to spread out. It ain't about "I want us to get the money". It's the infrastructure, the rebuild, the money to channel it. That's all. I don't care about being rich. I just want to survive.



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



ACTA MONTHLY REPORT

YQ COLLABORATES WITH FAD

The Young Questioners (YQ), ACTA's revolutionary youth education unit, was active at a recent union meeting of Fuerzas Activas de la Damen (FAD)! YQ facilitated an art activity with the youth, designing banners and creating slogans for the union's press conference. FAD youth also created illustrations to inspire tenants across Chicago to organize, and express the union's demands. One young tenant in FAD got in touch with the YQ unit and wrote a powerful speech which he delivered at the press conference. He quoted Martin Luther King: "We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." This is exactly the kind of spirit that will lead the steadfast FAD tenants to victory.

The YQ unit of ACTA looks forward to further collaborations with the FADistas. In the coming months, it will also continue training young tenants from across various unions to produce original material for Tenants Talk!

R&D COURSES

ACTA's third cohort of new members has graduated! Our four-week development program prepares new members to join the organization through sessions covering pedagogy, Marxism, principles of organization, and the basics of tenant organizing. These are composed of interactive, exploratory exercises with a focus on problem identification and reflection. We are excited to bring these new members into ACTA and can't wait to see how they contribute. Are you interested in joining the revolutionary tenant movement? Fill out our Organize With ACTA form on our website to learn more.

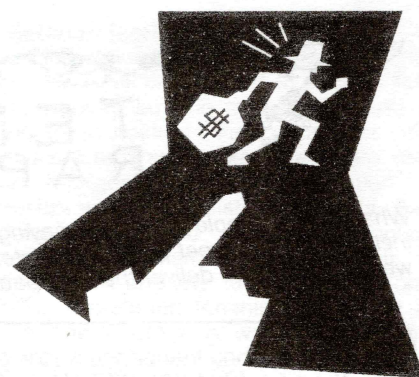
WHAT IS THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE?

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.★



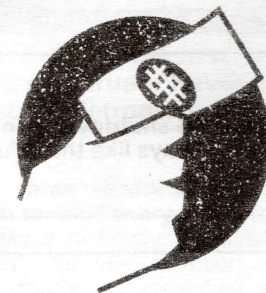
TIP LINE

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.

UNDERRATED HISTORIES

Do you like soul,
equality,
courage?
Then you'll like...

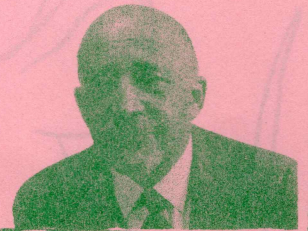
John Brown



WEB. DuBois said...

"John Brown worked not
Simply for Black men —
he worked with them."

Why do you think DuBois
thinks this distinction is
important? Who claims to
work for the people? Who
works with them?



JOHN BROWN WAS A WHITE ABOLITIONIST WHOSE LIFE WAS DEDICATED TO THE STRUGGLE TO END CHATTEL SLAVERY. HE OPERATED A STATION ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND WORKED WITH HARRIET TUBMAN, WHO HE CALLED GENERAL TUBMAN. HE IS MOST WELL KNOWN FOR LEADING THE 1859 RAID ON THE FEDERAL ARMORY IN HARPERS FERRY, VIRGINIA. HE AND HIS SMALL TEAM AIMED TO USE THE STOLEN WEAPONS TO ARM THE ENSLAVED PEOPLE OF HARPERS FERRY AND LIBERATE THE TOWN. THEY WERE DEFEATED AND BROWN WAS TRIED FOR MURDER AND LATER EXECUTED.

Imagine a time when your landlord
did you wrong,

what would John
Brown have done?

write a poem from
his perspective
using the words:

- traitor
- equality
- martyrdom



JOIN THE CAUSE
OPEN YOUR EYES
HEAR OUR SCREAMS
NEVER BACK DOWN

BRING IT ON
REMEMBER OUR NAMES
OPEN YOUR HEART
WE ONLY KNOW VICTORY
NOW IS OUR TIME!

-BELLS

A Hungry Mouse

[This is part two of our translation of a story, by Iranian revolutionary author Samad Behrangi.]

After swallowing the man, the mouse went and went until it arrived at a place where a bride was trying to start a fire.

The mouse said: "Hey missus bride! I went to the garden and ate three apples. The wind blew leaves onto my head and I ate those too. I ate a man and the bucket he was holding as well. Now I'm going to eat you!"

The bride said: "I'll turn you into a kebab with my fire starter!"

The hungry mouse swallowed the bride and went on his way until he arrived at a place where some little girls were sewing pretty flowers.

The mouse said: "Hey girls! I went to the garden and ate three apples. The wind blew leaves onto my head and I ate those too. I ate a man and the bucket he was holding. I ate a bride as well. Now I'm going to eat all of you!"

The girls said: "We'll poke your eyes out with our sewing needles!"

The hungry mouse swallowed them and went on his way. He went and went until he arrived at a place where some boys were playing marbles.

He said: "Hey boys! I went to the garden and ate three apples. The wind blew leaves onto my head and I ate those too. I ate a man and the bucket he was holding. I ate a bride. I ate the girls who were sewing flowers. Now I'm going to eat all of you!"

The boys said: "Oho mouse, we'll shoot all our marbles at you!"

The hungry mouse swallowed the boys, and went on his way. Finally, he arrived at the old lady's house...

