

# TENANTS TALK

NEWSPAPER OF THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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

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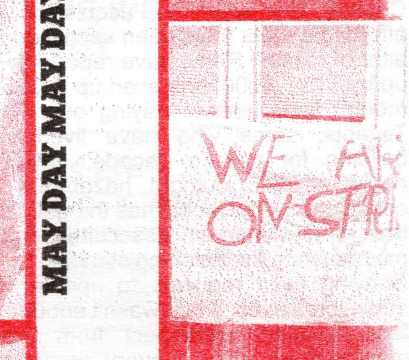
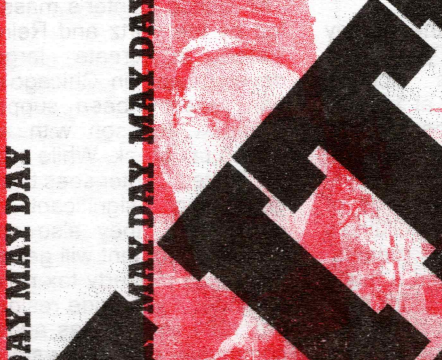
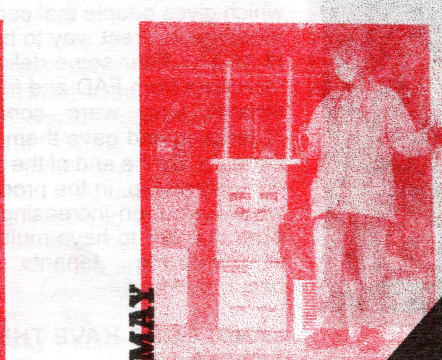
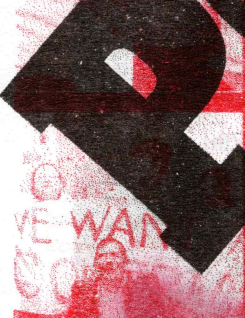
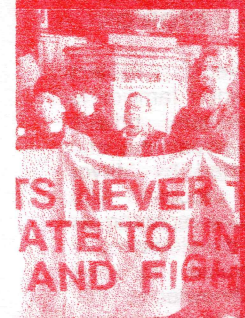
ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

Issue 24

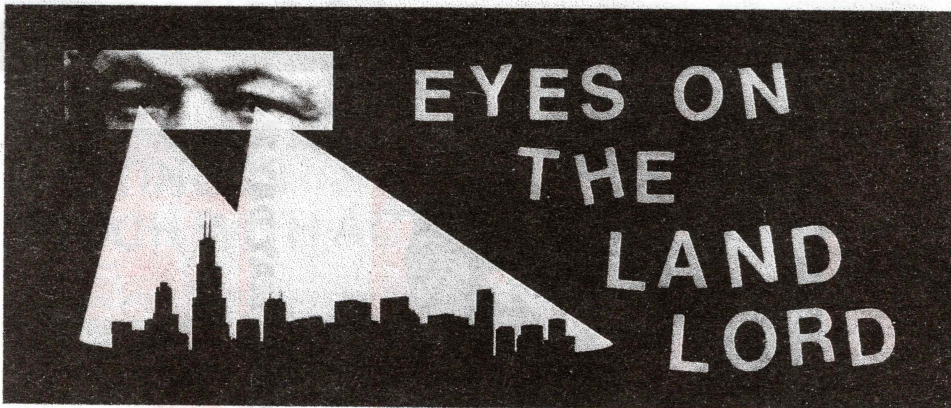
May 2026

Chicago, Ill.

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# FREE TENANT NEWSPAPER



## FAD FIGHTS FOR THEIR BANNERS MONTHS ON STRIKE: 6

On April 19th, Fuerzas Activas de la Damen (FAD) organized their very first FADista Market. The market was put together to raise funds for union rent strikers who have been going through difficult and unexpected circumstances. FADistas brought together an incredible spread of food—pambazos, gorditas, enchiladas, ceviche de camarón, chicken tinga, tamales, and more. Before long, the park filled up with friends, families, and neighbors showing up to support the union. At one point, union leader José grabbed the mic and started singing for the crowd. People gathered around, singing along, dancing, and enjoying the afternoon together. The FADistas are flying high as they enter their 7th month of the largest rent strike in modern Chicago history, and the momentum is still growing. Stay tuned for more FAD union events this summer—full of singing, dancing, and delicious food.

## VILLA CAPITAL @ MONROE & SAINT LOUIS

The tenants living at the intersection of Monroe & St. Louis, just south of Garfield Park, have decided to organize! Their complex has recently been acquired by Villa Capital and with the acquisition, their affordable rents have been sacrificed at the altar of capital. Rents have reportedly gone up by \$150, \$200, and even up to \$350 per month! New tenants paying over \$1,500! Tenants, some who have lived in the building for over a decade, have long-neglected and outright hazardous living conditions. Villa Capital has the gall to raise their rents without any associated repairs or maintenance for their long standing tenants. Denying even requests to update stoves and microwaves. If that wasn't enough, they face constant disrespect from property management who at every corner try to creep their way out of doing their job of managing the property. These tenants have said they WILL NOT face another year of sub-par living conditions and rampant, misogynistic, disrespect with yet another round of increased rents on the horizon threatening to put them out on the streets!

## WHAT'S GOING (DEV)ON?

Eyes up, tenants. We've got another money hungry slumlord for you to direct your ire at. This particular slumlord is actively neglecting some good folks over at 1414 W Devon Ave., and his name is Robert Kantor. Word on the street is that slumlord Kantor is using Cagan Management as his loyal lapdog, steadily raising rents upwards of \$100 per year whilst leaving the building's tenants to put up with families of rodents, dungeon-like laundry facilities, and a faulty plumbing system that's probably older than the landlord himself (the guy is pushing 70). But the good tenants of this building are talking—and they've had enough. Taking inspiration from tenants in their surrounding neighborhood, the tenants of 1414 W Devon Ave. are collectivizing their voices and power to demand what they deserve from slumlord Kantor. And ACTA stands with them.

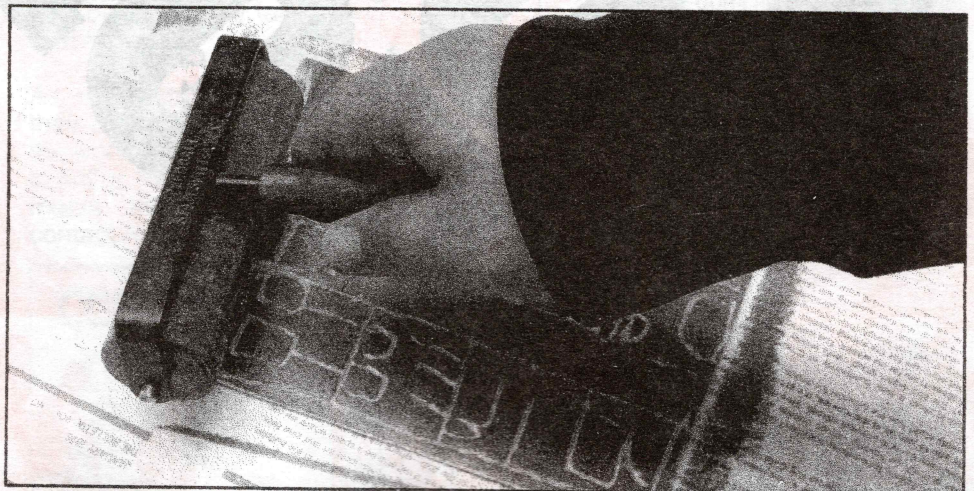
## JUNTA POPULAR

We closed off April with our second Junta Popular. The Junta Popular are monthly meetings that are the linchpin of ACTA's Northside chapter. As we move towards creating a space to have tenants come and talk about their issues with others who have experience organizing, we are marching

towards creating a new form of organizing in ACTA. This second Junta Popular coincided with ACTA's new constitution, which gives people that come to the chapter meetings a direct way to become members of ACTA. After some delicious food, union members from FAD and from FIBC greeted tenants who were completely new to organizing and gave them a history of their struggle. By the end of the night, ACTA grew in membership. In the proceeding meetings we will work on increasing attendance and work in order to have multilingual meetings to welcome tenants from various backgrounds.

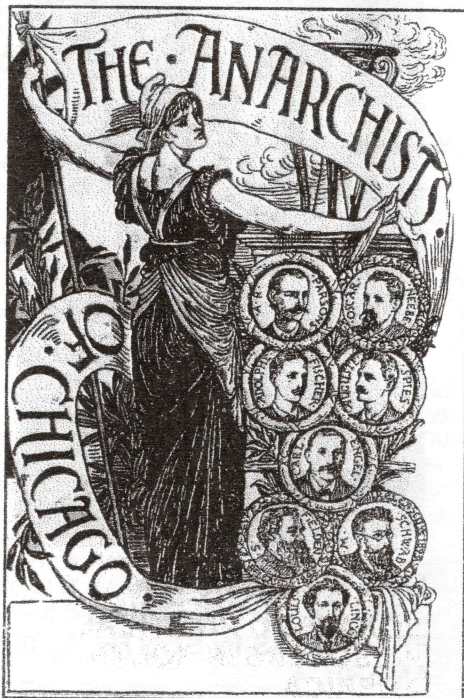
## LANDLORDS HAVE THE MAYOR ON THEIR SIDE

The United Center's massive 1901 Project led by the Wirtz and Reinsdorf families is slated to create large-scale private development on Chicago's Westside, and has recently been supported by Mayor Brandon Johnson with a proposed \$55 million tax break. While a spokesperson for the United Center sees this development as generating "significant value for the community," they also acknowledge that "the development will generate significantly increased property tax revenue over time." I wonder if Westside residents will feel that the 1901 Project has added value to their community once they start receiving large rent hikes due to this increase, and are forced out of said community. This is gentrification, plain and simple. What is very thinly disguised as beneficial to an underserved area of Chicago, will be devastating to working class residents who will be forced out of their homes by private development catering to the upper and middle classes. And now, this project has the stamp of approval from Mayor Johnson. The proposal was expected to be approved in April 2026 but has since been delayed. While the exact date of approval is unclear, this proposal is likely to pass with the backing of both Mayor Johnson and Alderman Walter Burnett (27th).★



Children and youth from Fuerzas Activas de la Damen made their own ink prints while learning about Oscar Romero with members of ACTA's Young Questioner division.

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



## DON'T FORGET THE MARTYRS!

### THE HISTORY OF MAY DAY IN CHICAGO

The morning of May 1, 2026: ACTA members meet at Pottawattomie Park in Rogers Park for a march in solidarity with the brave striking tenants of Fuerzas Activas de la Damen. These tenants have been on rent strike for six months in what readers of Tenants Talk will know is the largest rent strike in Chicago in many decades. Facing displacement by their evil slumlord Imran Khan, the tenants fight on, and we march beside them. At the march, comrade Jose of FAD chants "¡Manos arriba, el dueño abajo!" (Hands up! The landlord, down!)

ACTA members and tenants, along with comrades from People's Defense Chicago, Chicago Workers Circle, and the Revolutionary Student Union Chicago are participating in a long tradition of working class people showing up to march in solidarity against the capitalists and landlords who exploit them.

Later in the day, workers from all over Chicago meet in Union Park to march downtown for the city's annual May Day celebration. People cry out, "Get up! Get down! Chicago is a union town!" The march also connects to demands for an end to the war in Iran, the genocide in Gaza, and the terror of ICE in the US.

In most of the rest of the city, though, it is just another windy spring day. People go to work or school, and if they work downtown, they may wonder why people on the street below are out in the cold protesting. There aren't even as many people as at the confusingly titled, demandless 'No Kings' march a month earlier.

Eduardo Galeano, an Uruguayan writer and socialist, wrote about his experience visiting Chicago in the mid 2010s and the shock of learning that most people in the United States don't celebrate May Day, even in the city where the holiday originates.

He wrote, "May 1st is the only truly universal day of all humanity, the only day when all histories and all geographies, all languages and all religions and cultures of the world coincide. But in the United States, May 1st is a day like any other. On that day, people work normally and no one, or almost no one, remembers that the rights of the working class did not spring whole from the ear of a goat, or from the hand of God or the boss."

In many other countries, including Latin American countries with histories of strong revolutionary movements, May 1st is a day to celebrate the struggle of the working class against capitalism, and to remember the brave Haymarket martyrs who died for the movement in Chicago.

Why does ACTA, along with other workers and revolutionaries in the city, celebrate May Day even though most of Chicago continues with business as usual? It begins with the Haymarket Affair.

On May 1, 1886, workers throughout the United States took to the streets to withhold their labor as the beginning of a national strike for the eight hour work day. Rapid industrialization throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century was met with resistance from the working class throughout the country. Workers endured 10+ hour shifts under increasingly dangerous conditions. In response, many joined a growing labor movement to fight back against the exploitation of capitalism.

In Chicago, where many major industries were based, a huge outpouring of workers gathered for the inaugural May Day. For the anarchists leading the cause, the call for the eight hour day was just one part of a larger working class movement. Leaders at the May Day rally spoke about the significance of class struggle and the role of the labor union in the restructuring of society against the state.

The fight continued after the first of the month. On May 3, at McCormick Reaper Works, a large factory on the Southside, workers were holding strong on the picket line while factory owners employed scabs to keep production going. During a shift change, police began firing into the crowd outside the factory and killed four striking workers. Tensions grew from there, and Chicago anarchist August Spies quickly

published a leaflet calling all working men to arms, to meet at a protest the next day at Haymarket Square (near today's Fulton Market district).

On May 4 at Haymarket Square, in what is now called the Haymarket Affair, thousands rallied to continue the fight for the eight hour day and to demand justice for the workers killed at McCormick the day before. As is often the case, the rally was peaceful until police arrived. Some people were leaving the square, while others were merely continuing to chant for justice, when police arrived and began harassing the protesters. Soon after their arrival, dynamite went off in the police ranks and all hell broke loose. Police began firing indiscriminately into the crowd, killing their own men and several protesters, while injuring hundreds others.

And yet, the mainstream story after the Haymarket Affair was that the anarchists were the violent ones. The press deemed their calls to organize in their speeches, newspapers, and union meetings as dangerous to the status quo, to the proper functioning of capitalism. In a sweeping, reactionary indictment, eight Chicago anarchists were charged with conspiracy to commit murder following the Affair.

While none of the anarchists threw the bomb (it was never determined who did throw it), they were continually smeared in the media, given a completely unfair trial, and later convicted. Four were given the death penalty and publicly hanged.

In the end, the trial was more about what counts as violence, about who is able to commit violent acts, and the state won against the workers. Men were allowed to risk their lives going to work in factories where machinery cuts off their limbs and fills their lungs with toxins, to be shot dead on a picket line or at a protest, but they could not by any means organize their fellow workers, as this might lead to violence against the state. It's not acceptable to fight for collective control of the means of production, but it is okay to break the necks of four men for all to see.

August Spies spoke out during the trial, "If you think that by hanging us, you can stamp out the labor movement ... then hang us! Here you will tread upon a spark... and everywhere, flames will blaze up. It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out." And so on May Day we remember the brave Haymarket martyrs, and vow to continue their fight. We will not let their fire go out.

While Galeano was in Chicago, trying to find Haymarket martyrs monument (you can visit it in Forest Home Cemetery!), he visited a bookstore where he saw a poster with an African proverb on it: "Until lions have their own historians, histories of the hunt will glorify the hunter." Tenants Talk will always glorify the lions. All glory to the Haymarket martyrs! Come celebrate with us next May Day! ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



## WORKERS OVER BILLIONAIRES

On May 1st, the FADistas participated in an international movement: a May Day march in Rogers Park hosted by the Chicago Workers Circle. These protests emphasized labor rights, higher wages, better working conditions, and the large wealth gap between the working class and billionaires. May Day protests took place in major cities such as Metro Manila, Istanbul, Casablanca, Buenos Aires, Chicago, and New York!

This brings us to the topic of production and who makes the big boss his big bucks! For example, think of the logistic process: how your produce arrives at your local grocery store. First, the farmers have to grow the crops, harvest, clean, and package it. Second, think of the process of taking this produce to a distribution center, where it is sorted and inspected, and its inventory is tracked. Third, pallets of produce get loaded onto an outbound truck and enter the long 'in-transit' process, where it's taken to stores. Lastly, when it arrives at stores, these pallets are unloaded and stored in coolers. When the time is right, this produce is put out for people to buy. Now, think about it, who keeps this process in motion? Who puts in all this labor? Who's throwing their back out in order to make a wage that is barely livable and work in unsafe conditions? **THE WORKERS!**

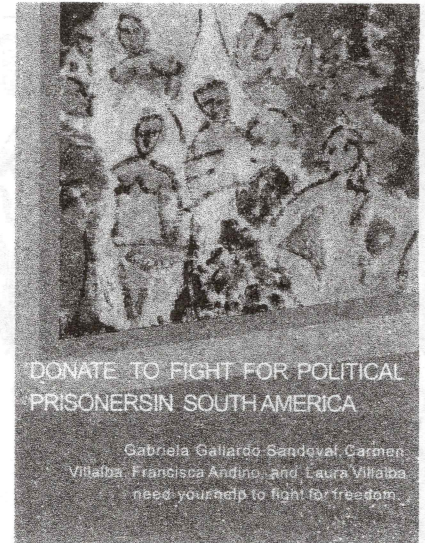
Now, how does this tie into Fuerzas Activas de la Dama? Think about it: After a long day of labor, these people just want to rest in the comfort of their own homes. But they can't! Why? Well, it's because of a slumlord named Imran Khan, who's only adding onto the ever-growing gentrification problem in Illinois, so he can line his

pockets with more money than he knows what to do with. Can you imagine what that's like? To live amongst rodents and in inhumane conditions. To live in fear of not knowing if you and your children will have a place to call "home" the following day? Khan is aware of these living conditions, but still plans to raise the rent for these tenants by 60% before fixing a thing. He'd rather kick these workers out than negotiate a fair contract with them, but all hope is not lost! They have chosen to fight this with a rent strike of their own.

Here is a quote from the Nueva Central de Trabajadores in Mexico: "La base de todas las opresiones está en la opresión salarial," which translates to: "The root of all oppression lies in wage oppression." This statement has been proven to affect workers worldwide. Employers don't want to pay more. The federal minimum wage in the United States has remained at \$7.25 since 2009. Can you live off of that?

The argument is that "if wages go up, prices will go up as well." Yet, the minimum wage has remained the same, and prices have only risen. Whether we like it or not, discrimination is still a prevalent issue globally, not just in the United States. Pay discrimination can be caused by many reasons, such as race, sex, or religion, and it can impact people in many ways.

Imagine if you were working a job that paid you less for the same amount of work your co-worker does just because of your sex. That's not fair now, is it? Now, on top of that, you have to afford to live. You need to afford rent, groceries, gas, and bills. You barely make enough to get by. Oh no, look out! Your building has been bought, and your new landlord plans to raise your rent by 60%! Now you need to make a decision. Move out, take on a second job, or you can stand up and fight back. Make your voice heard, not just for yourself but for those years from now who are in the same predicament as you. These bosses, landlords, and even our government rely on the people's silence to keep doing what they want. ★



## THIS MOTHERS DAY, DONATE TO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH AMERICA

The Anti-Imperialist Network are launching a campaign in support of comrades imprisoned for political reasons in Ecuador, Paraguay, and Chile, in collaboration with the Argentine Lawyers' Union and the families of some of these prisoners. The campaign focuses on the cases of Gabriela Gallardo, a seriously ill comrade from Movimiento Guevarista Tierra y Libertad in Ecuador, and the political prisoners of the EPP (Paraguayan People's Army) in Paraguay, who are being subjected to inhumane prison conditions.

*"Gabriella is subjected to torture, unjustified transfers and separation from her family, increasing her suffering and further affecting her health. She was arrested with her comrades from Movimiento Guevarista Tierra y Libertad."* - PRT on May 19, 2022 in Ecuador.

The conditions of confinement for these prisoners are extremely harsh. They suffer absolute isolation for 23 hours a day, confined in a military prison. The cruelty of the Paraguayan regime is extreme. Despite everything, their will to fight and resist remains unwavering.

*No to torture. Freedom for all political prisoners.★*

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★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

## I AM A REVOLUTIONARY

In the most basic sense I am a revolutionary because I believe that the problems of the world will not change unless the underlying structures of society change. With that belief comes action, I feel uneasy when I'm not doing anything. This general unease is what first prompted me to join the various organizations in my life.

### AMERICAN SMELL

From when I was four months old in 1993 to the age of 8, I grew up in Tenango, a rancho (small rural settlement) with maybe 200 people in the Mexican state of Zacatecas. Being a landlocked state in the central part of Mexico, the blistering sun would bake the earth on summer days.

Those lazy days were broken up by the arrival of aunts and uncles visiting from the United States with gifts and large suitcases. They carried much more than my family had. The distinct smell of their packed clothes became a fascination to me, I associated it quickly with the smell of America. As my relatives would tell stories about life in America I would peck at crumbs of the conversation, satiating my curiosity about the place that seemed like paradise.

### THE TURTLE

In Tenango my time was split between spending time at my mom's house and my grandmother's house. Like our neighbors, our family made their living farming and raising livestock. The fields of corn were a stone thrown away and the cows would be in the corral a couple hundred feet from my bed in my grandmother's house.

Running just outside the house was a canal that would bring water into the fields after rain and dry up during droughts. Once, when the canal was dry, I was exploring the canal looking for treasure and found a turtle. I made it my mission to take that turtle to a safe place.

My grandma and I walked the cows to the communal grazing area, carrying the turtle along the way. Once there I delivered the turtle to its new home, the large watering hole.

That was the last time I saw those cows. All but a handful were sold in an act of desperation. I later learned NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) was wreaking havoc on rural farmers like my family at this time.

### THE COMIC STRIP

I moved to Chicago in 2001, and was enrolled in the local CPS school a few blocks away from my new home. The biggest surprise was how little I would see my mom. In these years she and my stepdad worked at a food processing factory for Dominick's. They worked night shifts, and their hours were long. I only

spoke Spanish, and lacking the language to communicate with those around me made this period exceptionally isolating.

Every day me and a cohort of other working class kids from around the neighborhood would get picked up by workers for an afterschool daycare. It took 3 years before I was finally able to converse with the group in English. I remember talking with Howard, a gray haired Black daycare worker who would pick me up every day. Howard became a source of guidance for me and I would spend a lot of my time asking him the various questions I had in my mind about the world. We would listen to James Brown while playing a card game called 500.

Around May 2005 the president of Mexico, Vicente Fox, had caused some controversy for saying "There's no doubt that Mexican men and women full of dignity, willpower and a capacity for work are doing the work that not even blacks want to do in the United States", this was satirized in a comic in Howard's copy of the Sun-Times. When we talked about the comic, I parroted what I had heard from my family. I told him I thought it was true. I've never seen another person be so upset and completely lost for words. I felt absolutely awful. It was the first time I saw the impact of my family's words on someone who they were directed towards. The world around me made less sense.

### THE DECISION

Once I started high school my mom had no other option but to allow me to travel there myself. Everyday I faced a grueling hour-plus ride from the house in Wicker Park up to Foster and Kedzie, but it turned me into an independent city traveler. I fully took

advantage of new independence and would take the buses and trains to different parts of the city. The distinct character of the various neighborhoods fascinated me. I was particularly curious about the vast emptiness of the South-West side, where to this day there are scores of empty lots.

Over the four years in high school I began to develop a wide range of interests. At the same time, my new identity as an independent city traveler caused the world to begin to open up. The reality of my life and its trajectory came to a head as the end of high school approached and I had to decide what I would do next. It became increasingly clear that my future would be different from other kids who came from well off families. My family was poor, my brother had schizophrenia and autism and had to get taken care of daily. To make things worse, ICE raids became a regular topic on the news under the first Obama administration (I was the only US citizen in my immediate family).

I began to retreat into myself, to hate the world. I wanted nothing more than to tear it down, and if that was impossible, at least to end my world. After a stint at a hospital, I was prescribed various drugs to keep happy and motivated, or at the very least alive. Representatives from different schools would come and each do their sales pitch. The representative of my future college put it simply: "study computer science and you will make a lot of money". I gave up on my personal desires knowing that I would have to help my family financially and potentially take care of my brother.

### THE COMEDOWN

Shortly after starting college I alternated



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between malaise and anxiety, afraid of failing any courses and losing my scholarship. Alcohol, weed and other drugs became a regular part of my life for a few years. Despite every attempt to forget about the world, that same unease kept creeping up. That familiar feeling of something being wrong, not just with my life but also the world outside me. Why was race so complicated? Why am I forced to go to do a job I don't want to do? Why did my parents risk their lives to come to a country that hates them? Why am I a citizen and they are not? Why am I poor?

My equally distressed friend introduced me to the International Socialist Organization. I joined around the time of the 2012 NATO and Occupy protests. The feeling was electric; all around me there was action. When this died down the days became still, I helped table for the ISO on campus and distributed their paper, Socialist Worker. It was hard seeing so many people that didn't care. As one of my comrades said, "it's the apathy that kills me".

I was coming down hard. I blacked out on a combination of benzos and alcohol. The next day I stopped taking all the drugs prescribed to me and stopped doing hard drugs. I left the ISO shortly after. I wish the folks at the ISO took better care of their comrades and I wish I had not abused my body so much in those years.

## CHINESE DINNER

After graduating college, I vowed to just work and save a bunch of money because the lingering fear of something happening to my family never left the back of my mind. After working for a few years I finally attained what many people dream of: a nice job downtown and a relationship moving towards marriage. Still, I did not relate to that social circle. I was surrounded by tech bros and girl bosses who threw their bodies and minds into the industrial machine of our times, hoping to ascend the social strata.

Around the same time I joined the CDSA (the Chicago Democratic Socialists of America) after a friend told me about it. That kept the feeling of hopelessness at bay. My tepid activity in the CDSA confused me, I wasn't sure what I was supposed to do. At a meeting to my left was a guy talking about how we should set fire to police stations and to my right there was a guy with electoral political ambitions. No cohesion.

It's 2019. My face is red, and my fingers are stinging. The DSA has decided to go full throttle on the Bernie Sanders campaign and I am now with a group of eight or so members walking around the Armour Square neighborhood getting drenched by the rain. We are knocking on doors canvassing for Bernie's campaign. It's miserable.

Home after home we interrupt family dinners, and can't communicate clearly with folks who are just as confused as I am. "I am so sorry no one thought two seconds

about the language barrier and that my Spanish skills won't help me here" is what I wished I could have told the folks. The only silver lining are all the delicious smells of Chinese dinner that entered my nostrils. Afterwards, I drove home simply thinking "man I am wasting my time here".

## THE RECURSIVE LEAP OF FAITH

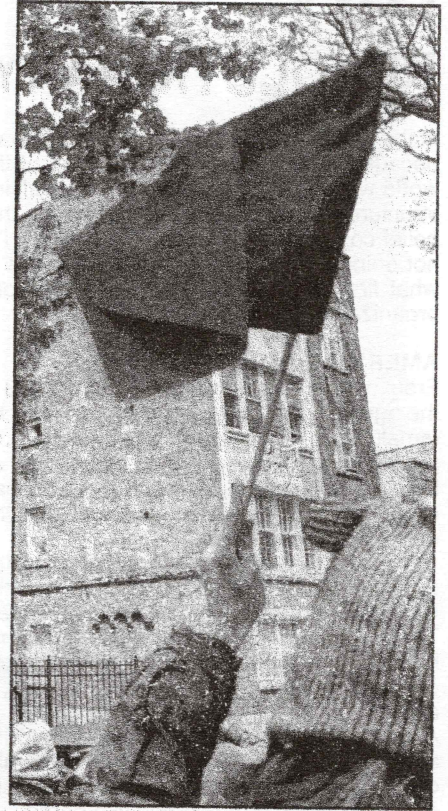
In computer science there is a concept called recursion. A recursive solution solves a problem by breaking it into a smaller part and trying the same process. If the problem is still too complicated, it does it again and again until it reaches the basic case, a problem with a known solution. It's a little like solving the problem from the inside out, working from small to large. Everything above builds off that base case. The difficulty is that the base case is so much simpler than the whole problem that it's easy to overthink it. My professor in college explained that in order to move beyond this base case one must take a "Recursive Leap Of Faith", i.e. assume that your base case is correct and start building the solution around it.

I'm smoking Newports after ending the relationship with my partner. I am staying with my parents stuck inside due to the 2020 pandemic trying to figure out what to do next. Once again I feel the urge to retreat into myself. I was focusing too much on the base case. I thought I could simply ignore a deep desire in me for change, but I couldn't ignore all the questions I had since I was very little, nor the memories of those that I hurt with my ignorance. I was at a crossroad and I had to take a leap of faith if I ever wanted to move beyond this cycle of highs and lows. I took the leap away from the mess of my past and began to transition into something new.

When I regained some solid footing, I toyed with the idea of rejoining the CDSA. Luckily for me I found a flyer for NSRA (the organization that would become the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance) under my door. It was for their 1 year anniversary. I was quite worried about repeating patterns from before and didn't want disillusionment to catch me off guard. Once again I took a leap of faith reassuring myself that I would be able to handle it. NSRA later transitioned into ACTA with me alongside it, carrying the same questions as before and working to understand them.

*"Knowledge is a matter of science, and no dishonesty or conceit whatsoever is permissible. What is required is definitely the reverse--honesty and modesty. 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."* — Mao Tse-Tung

I will always find myself doing revolutionary work, because it's the only thing that will answer these questions.★



# POLITICS IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

When someone talks to you about politics, what do you think of? For many, the first things that spring to mind are corruption, broken promises, and empty showmanship. It's only natural to recoil from this vision of politics with disgust, since after all, aren't politicians really just trying to line their own pockets?

Of course, this is exactly how corrupt politicians want people to think. There is nothing better for the wealthy ruling class than a mass of obedient rent-paying workers who proudly avoid "political discussions." In the eyes of the ruling class, political discussion is likely to lead to political opinion and political opinion may end up with, dare I say it, *political action*.

In fact, politics has been transformed into the opposite of action, at least in our own neighborhoods. That is why our aldermen and mayors throw

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up their hands and look the other way as capitalists run our city.

Politics hasn't always been the exclusive playground of the rich and powerful, however. There have been times in history where regular people recognize that everything keeping them out of politics, from discriminatory laws to apolitical cultural trends, has the effect of cutting them out of the decision-making about their own lives.

The workers in Russia in the early 1900s, the anti-imperialist movements across Asia, South America and Africa, the Black Panthers in Oakland and here in Chicago—there are countless examples of everyday people realizing that taking political power for themselves is the only hope for a better future.

Today, when people treat politics as poisonous, they are not rising above the level of politicians. People who try to "keep out of politics" are locking themselves in at a level below even the corrupt politicians and pretending that's dignified.

We need politics for the people. This means picking up where all these movements left off and pushing them forward to new limits. To do so, we need to commit to learning and improving. We need to be reading what we can in order to understand the way the world works and how the capitalists keep their place on top. No more begging for a place at the table.

Accepting the politics of the people means asking, "why not take control of our own homes?" It means becoming the kind of person who questions received wisdom. The whole of history is the history of owners taking control of land, workplaces, and factories by force. How do you think we ended up in this position, paying for the right to a place to sleep, all so we can head back to work in the morning?

The class of people who own the housing, the factories, and the corporations don't work to keep their position. They keep that position by keeping working tenants coming back to clock in every day, and by keeping thoughts of politics out of our heads.

Nothing frightens them more than the idea that workers might once again return to the political table, reject their corrupt representatives and take political power by force. They fear this because they know that if the workers have a fair say in the way things run, the politicians and the capitalists they serve won't stay on top.

If any of this sounds right, if you want to learn more about what it means for the people to take politics into their own hands, you should reach out to ACTA. ★

## TENANT GRAPEVINE

WHAT DO THE PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY?

### WOULD IT BE NECESSARY TO WORK 8 HOURS A DAY IF ALL THE ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCTION WERE ORGANIZED MORE CONSCIOUSLY?

#### AT AUSTIN DOLLAR PLUS

People should be working more!

But how would you spend time if you had more?

With my kids and family — I don't have a lot of time with them now.

#### AT AVERS EXPRESS:

8 hours ain't shit, I work 12! It's probably not necessary though.

#### AT BIG MOE'S:

People went on strike in Chicago. Why do you think they did it?

Because they were being slaved, and not being paid what they deserve

Do you think that still happens to people today?

Hell yeah

### PICK A COUNTRY AND IMAGINE A CORNER STORE THERE: WHAT WOULD YOU WANT THE WORKERS TO KNOW ABOUT CHICAGO?

#### AT R&M FOOD MARKET:

Workers relations with customers are completely opposite here compared to Jordan. Here the customer is always right. In Jordan, it's strictly business. But I think that it's better here (in relation to stores being a more social space).

#### AT M&S CAFE:

No matter what country they're from, I would tell them: your food isn't as good as mine!

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

## THE BASICS OF TENANT ORGANIZING: GETTING IN TOUCH WITH ACTA

In the last entry, the topic was the benefits of starting a group chat. They allow you to quickly communicate with your neighbors about issues that may be happening in your building in a way that is private and secure. That article ended with a hypothetical group chat message of "I heard about a group called ACTA that helps organize tenants. Should we call them?" This article will pick up right at that point in the process, with how to get in touch with ACTA and what to include when you do.

Before reaching out to ACTA, it is helpful to have some information already gathered to move the process along quickly. Some things that you should ask yourself or be prepared to discuss include: conditions of your building and unit, current rent and recent increases, how your neighbors feel

about it, and any interactions or communications you've had with your landlord about these issues.

ACTA is an organization that helps tenants organize to fight their landlords. Some issues that tenants have experienced that ACTA have helped with include: extreme rent increases, maintenance requests being ignored, uninhabitable living conditions from things such as pests and mold, people who don't live in the building coming inside and sleeping in the hallways, and other issues. If you are experiencing anything like this, ACTA can help you and your neighbors organize and fight for better conditions.

What ACTA is NOT is an organization that will solve these issues single handedly for you. For example, we won't come in and repair your leaks or take care of your pests personally. Instead, we will work with you and your neighbors to ensure that your landlord is providing you with a reasonable living space.

If you don't have any of the information mentioned previously, that's okay! ACTA will work with you and your neighbors to get these answers and look into it further. There are multiple ways to get in touch. ACTA can be contacted by texting or calling (773) 770-



5650. In addition, ACTA has its own website with a form that you can fill out. That website is [www.chicagotenants.com](http://www.chicagotenants.com). If ACTA thinks your building is ripe for organizing, be prepared for ACTA to reach out and visit sometime soon!

*(This story is a continuation of The Basics of Organizing: Start with the Group Chat that was a part of last issue's Tenant's Talk) ★*

## WHAT IS THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE?

The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance (ACTA) is a socialist organization of Chicago tenants. The time is right for workers and tenants across Chicago to stand together and fight for control over our housing and our lives.

In the neighborhoods, control means:

- **Housing Control** – Housing out of the hands of landlords and into the hands of the workers
- **No Poverty Profiteering** – No more politicians or capitalists getting rich off of people's exploitation
- **Neighborhood Self-Determination** – The people determine the future of our own neighborhoods—not corporations, out-of-state investors, or greedy slumlords

To win this, we have built a dedicated, militant group of organizers prepared to bring the fight to your landlord.

How does this work? We want to build power for tenants so we cannot do it without you. We'll come to your building and help put together a Tenant Union, an organization that can demand more from the landlord and back it up. Over the last two years this strategy has been proven. ACTA unions have carried out protests and rent strikes in response to arrogant slumlords. At the end of these struggles, tenants come out ahead—but only because they take power into their own hands.

As landlords and capitalists intensify their exploitation in our city and around the world, working people will be the first to suffer. Be a part of the movement that meets these challenges head on: contact ACTA today. ★

**CONTACT ACTA TODAY**

FILL OUT OUR 'ORGANIZE WITH ACTA' FORM



## ACTA NEEDS FUNDING TO FIGHT THE WAR AGAINST SLUMLORDS!



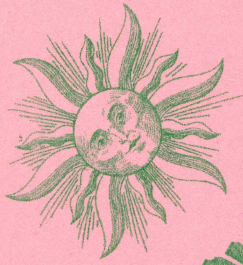
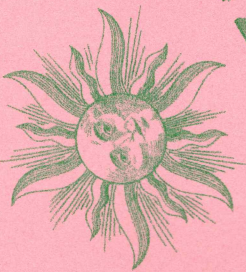
Want to support ACTA and Tenants Talk, but don't have time? **You can contribute money instead.**

**\$10 a month** or a one time donation helps pay for operating expenses and Tenants Talk printing costs.

**VENMO** 

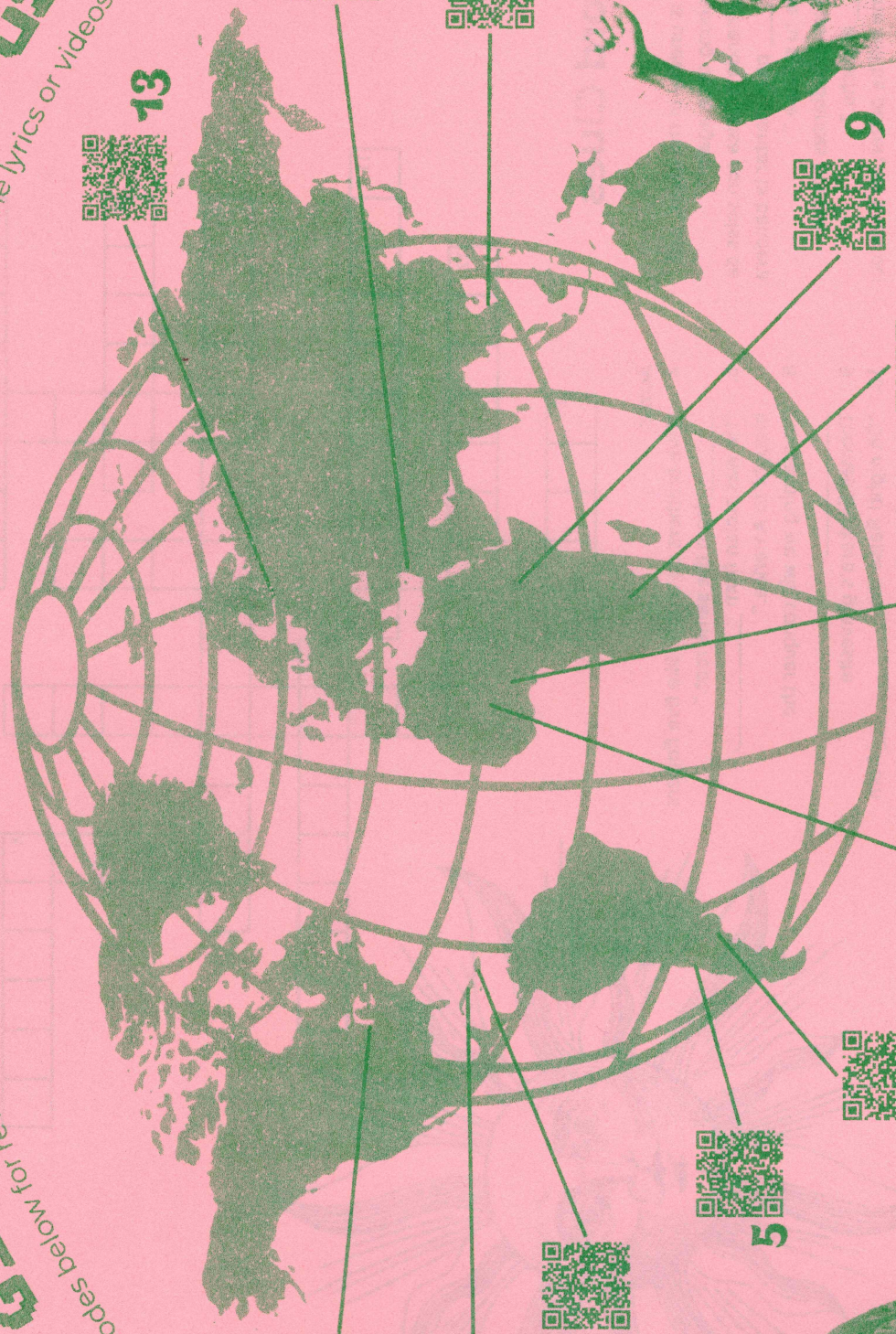
 **CASHAPP**

**KO-FI** 



# THE GLOBAL MUSICAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

scan the QR codes below for revolutionary music from around the world! The clues are hidden in the lyrics or videos of the songs...



3



11



6



5



10



1



4



2



9



12

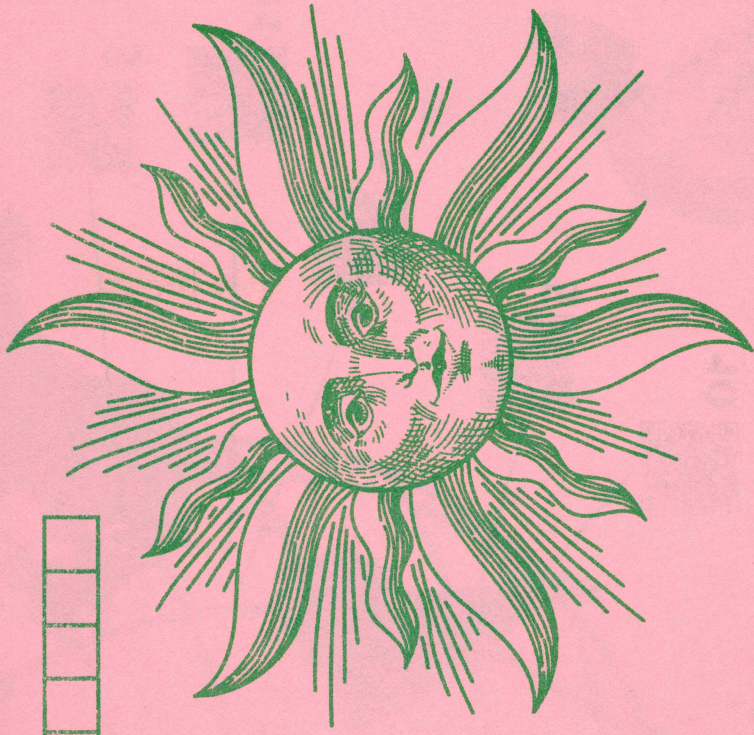
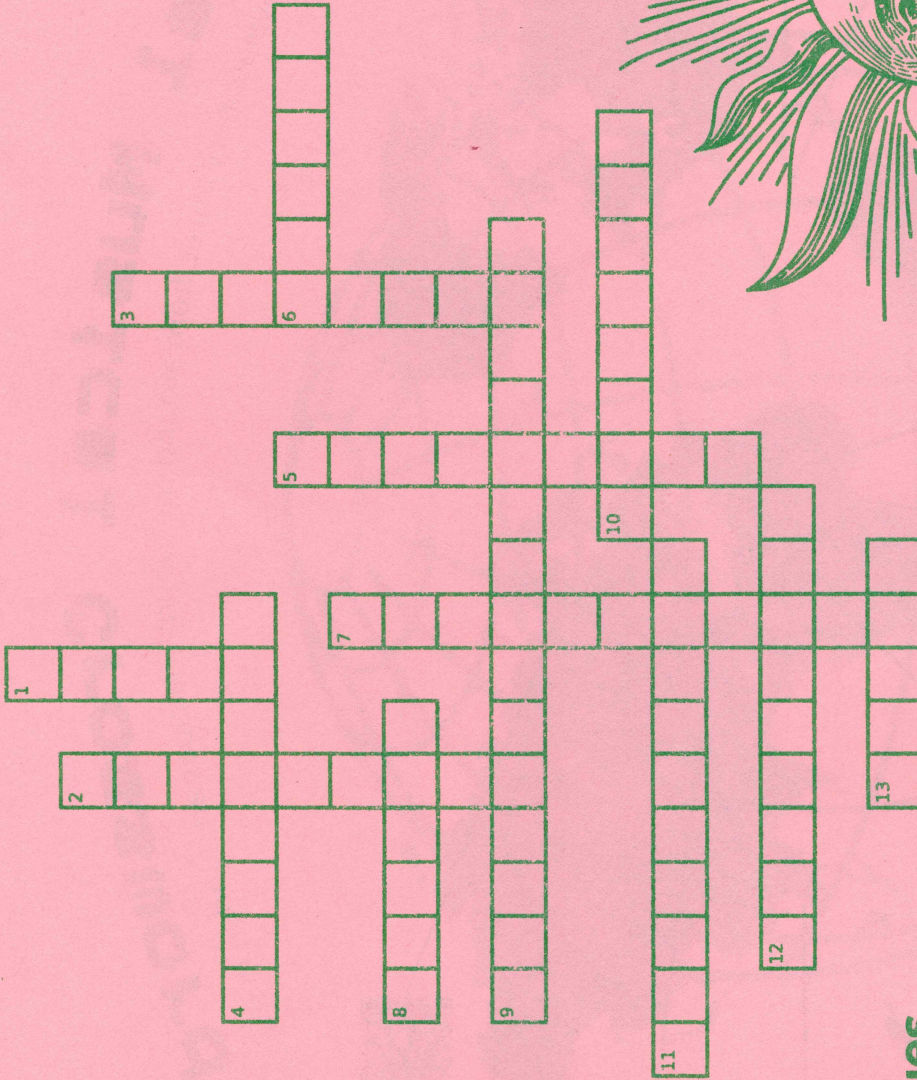


8



13





## Crossword Clues

Down:

1. "The heart is uneasy in the chest, and \_\_\_\_\_ is young once again!"
2. "Vienes quemando la brisa con soles de \_\_\_\_\_ para plantar la bandera con la luz de tu sonrisa."
3. "Me gustan los estudiantes porque \_\_\_\_\_ el pecho."
5. "Life to come will be better, let's win our \_\_\_\_\_!"
7. "I don't want people to be tricked by \_\_\_\_\_."

Across:

4. "Five brothers on a tank, like five flowers \_\_\_\_\_ from the same root."
6. "He was stolen from \_\_\_\_\_, brought to America."
8. "In learning we will conquer the \_\_\_\_\_."
9. Thomas Sankara's gravesite
10. "Oh night! Raise the \_\_\_\_\_ from their slumbers."
11. "The revolution will put you in the \_\_\_\_\_."
12. "Throw away your \_\_\_\_\_."
13. "This uprising will bring out the \_\_\_\_\_ in us!"