TENANTS TALK

NEWSPAPER OF THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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

ALIANZA DE INQUILINOS DE TODO CHICAGO

ACTA

ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

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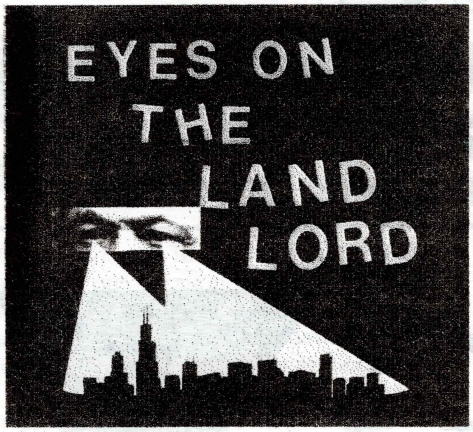
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SEE BACKPAGE FOR LOCAL CHICAGO TENANT MEETINGS



seeds seeds seeds that feed feed feed the people are planted by the people

A tenant newspaper covering
How to fight addiction
History of Uptown
and more



A ROUSING AT RIDGE

All ain't so quiet 'round the way of N Ridge Blvd., folks. We have here a pair of buildings—6414 and 6424—that have likely seen better days. Or maybe not, if slumlord Shahjahan Khan and his crony Mohammed Khan have anything to say about it. These guys are responsible for an ongoing roach infestation, mail theft, extensive water damage, and collapsing corridor ceilings and stairways that have left residents no other choice but to collectivize their voices and start putting together a list of demands for better conditions. We would also be remiss to not mention the one-day notice lease renewals that come with up to $150 rent increases and recurring maintenance fees, something the tenants here are particularly keen on remedying. Meeting with ACTA has put them in a position to think beyond the often disappointing confines of 311 services, aldermen, and lawyers. They are coming together as tenants in the same subpar conditions and committing themselves to real change—at their own pace and of their own accord. And ACTA is with them to realize this change.

THE LIONESSES!

This past month, the East Garfield Park Tenant League, a westside tenant union, has learned from the meetings with fellow westside tenant union Parkside Terrace Alliance about the importance of reflection and adaptation. Management has continued to be as inconsistent as ever after merely paying lip service. Tenants receive rent notices after only 5 days, but management can turn a 3 day maintenance order into a 4 week (and counting!) ordeal? NO! We refuse such an order of affairs! The Lionesses are adapting; setting their sights on a new campaign to get a dedicated maintenance man at their complex, so that these "forever work orders" become a thing of the past. Timely rent, timely response! Timely rent, timely repairs! Keep your eyes on Tenants Talk for updates!

WESTSIDE CHAPTER MEETING

ACTA has gone Hollywood! September marks the first month of screenings for ACTA's first movie, "Then Came the Strike". These screenings did not take place tucked away in theaters, but out with the people. With the help of a wooden stand and a dvd player, the ACTA movie has been able to be enjoyed in corner stores and bus stops throughout the Westside.

The story of Chicago's fighting tenants is spreading and with it the fight itself! With this, we are excited to announce that the Westside Chapter meetings will be opening up to the public. The first of these public meetings will be held on October 21st at the Legler Public Library. For more information, feel free to reach out!

MONTCLARE WILL DARE

A new union is on the rise at the Montclare senior residences. They had an explosive start, with their first meeting drawing over 150 residents. This huge turnout is a clear indication to the management, the Michaels Organization, and their landlord, Mark L Morgan, that they mean it when they say they've had enough of the confusing fees and rent increases, poor conditions like rats and leaking ceilings, among a long list of other grievances. The residents invited ACTA and the alderman, Chris Taliaferro, to the initial meeting. While the city of Chicago says there's not much to be done about rent increases, ACTA says otherwise. Unionizing is just the first step. Keep an eye out, a storm may be brewing. ★

CHE'S REBEL

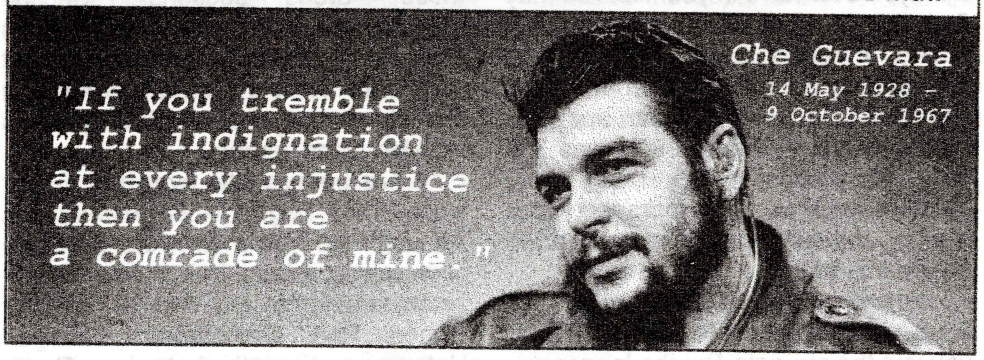
Monika Ertl has something to teach us. It's the importance of rebellion.

Che Guevara died in Bolivia where he had traveled from his home country of Cuba to fight against the dictatorship of Rene Barrientos. This came on the heels of his guerrilla campaign in the eastern Congo, which he fought against the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko, the Belgian government, and the CIA as one of the more than quarter million troops that the Cubans committed to defend Africa in the 1960s and 1970s. More Cubans per capita fought in Africa, for Africans and against colonialism, than Americans fought in Vietnam. If the Congolese and Cubans had succeeded, we might be hearing about Congolese AI models and the threat of the US being outcompeted by Africa today; people do not know how close Africa came to being a center of world socialism, and in that, a world power.

But in the long run Africa's enemies succeeded, launched an orgy of violence, and threw Che out. Back in Cuba, he did not rest content with this defeat and quickly redeployed, this time to Bolivia, on an ill-fated journey where everything went wrong. He was captured in late 1967, photographed standing next to a CIA officer, mutilated, and executed.

This is where Monika enters the story. Like Che, her story is bound up with United States imperialism. When World War II ended, the US helped hundreds of Nazis flee to South America, if not thousands. When Nazi Germany was defeated and France wanted to arrest and execute the men who had tortured and murdered their loved ones, the US helped those torturers escape. The US was in bed with the Nazis; and if the Jews, socialists, gays, Roma, disabled people etc. of Europe were their first victims, their second victims would be campesinos and workers and peasants of South America. The US helped the authors of the Holocaust escape. And the authors of the Holocaust, in turn, participated in indigenous genocide in

October marks the month Che Guevara was captured by the CIA and executed. Che Guevara is the most famous revolutionary freedom fighter in the world. Here, we honor his death with a lesser-known story involving Che, one that is not plastered throughout his popular history but one that contains a lesson no less important than the famous ones he left us with.



the Americas, and the repression of Black and working-class people, via the anticommunist struggle of the 1900s.

Monika's father was one such man. He was a minor figure in film history, a Nazi artist. He fled Europe and settled in Bolivia, where he lived among other former Nazis. Monika grew up in this crowd; a charmed youth with both a big house and a yard. For a time, she even had a Nazi husband: all settled in.

But then everything changed. Like so many people who died for the cause and were murdered with American help, we don't know much about her ideological development. But at some point in the 1950s she left her Nazi husband and went to Europe. In Europe, she met left-wing Germans and avenged Che Guevara by killing the man who cut off Che's hands during his execution. He was Bolivian colonel Roberto Quintanilla. He invited Monika into his office when she claimed to be a German who wanted to be a tourist in Bolivia; he thought it was obviously a good thing to have an attractive young girl in his office and he invited her in. She pulled out a gun and shot him. She then went to Bolivia, where she joined the ELN guerrillas. When attempting to kidnap Klaus Barbie, a Gestapo torturer who had personally killed scores of Jews and socialists in Lyon, she was killed.



It is easy to be absorbed by the drama of Monika's later actions. She assassinated an assassin, became a revolutionary fighter, and was killed when attempting to capture one of the most infamous Nazis of all time. But the point we want to make about her is more ordinary. All of that happened later: first, she abandoned the only world she had ever known.

Rebellion is everywhere; it is marketed in capitalism; but these marketing images are only that, images. Considered as an emotional feeling, rebellion is necessarily disorienting. It involves a strike against some outside authority, the rejection of an oppressive way of life, and most importantly, it causes uncertainty.

Rebellion is, in short, a collision with an authority that produces uncertainty. It is always personal, it always comes with personal terror because the rebel rejects the rules that come from another person, the authority figure. A rebel rejects the predictability that life has under those rules, its guarantee of a certain future (not that such a future is painless; it is often painful, and this is why rebellion occurs). Rebellion involves a strike, a statement to hostile authority, and this is a new creation. The rebel invites the reaction of the authority and is unsure how the authority will respond, who will win the ensuing struggle, hence the personal terror of rebellion. But the rebel chooses life, freedom, and her inner self-determination against compliance, putting up with things, being silent, and harboring inner pain. Monika could have been an unhappy Nazi housewife; she would have had every comfort in doing so; just like her father did until he died peacefully.

But she rebelled and must have felt terror. The terror when she left her husband, terror when she joined the underground revolutionary cause, terror when she killed Che's killer. But she was able to face it anyway and create: and so she lives not as a Nazi housewife, but as a hero. She now belongs as a part of something we think is sacred and full of spiritual grace—that is, fighting back.

We should all be like Monika Ertl. We should not be afraid to take irreversible acts. We should not be afraid to start fights against what we have always gritted our teeth and gotten along with. We should not be afraid to take action that creates an uncertain future. For us, in ACTA, we see this as a lesson. We must take the candle of our rebellion, the flame that lets us see that the oppression of landlords and the abuse of our homes belongs to the same system against which Che and Monika fought. We must take his flame and touch it to the gasoline. That's what Che and Mon did and they did it for one thing: the triumph of the revolution and the self-rule of the working people of the world and the final end of oppression everywhere. Let us make their goal ours, and their courage too. ★

UNIONS AND ADDICTIONS

One of the most common struggles that people face day to day is addictions. We don't always want to talk about it, but for so many of us, it's a constant cycle. From smoking cigarettes, to buying lottery tickets - from staying in abusive relationships, to

watching pornography, all of these small habits entrap people in cycles of short term pleasure and long term self-harm. "Harder" drugs like heroin and cocaine end up notorious, but legal addictions like flipping real estate and getting drunk are no less destructive to ourselves and others.

In Babylon, USA, having an addiction or dependency of some sort is not rare at all. It's part of the system. This is a country that is constantly starting meaningless and destructive wars with other nations, cutting healthcare for the people who need it the most, and brutalizing the dignified Afrikan and Latin people who do the essential work to keep our world running. The American system of capitalism and imperialism is based around addiction and dependency - both on the part of the oppressor and on the part of the oppressed.

Many people who are addicted have tried to get free. But it's very difficult to do it alone, and society mostly places the pressure to change on people as individuals. People need collective space to express their frustration, rage and despair. People need places to talk together and hear our problems out. People need space to figure out how to direct our energy towards overthrowing the oppressors that keep us in slum conditions, with barely livable wages, and with bullshit education and media!

I will make a suggestion: one of the best ways to overcome addiction and dependency is to form or join a revolutionary organization. This could be a union — one that ACTA helps you start in your building!

Addictions and dependencies are based around trapped energy. They are repetitive habits that keep our energy circulating in a loop. But we need that energy to be liberated! Not pushed down and repressed, not denied, and not sunk into money for the liquor store owners or landlords. Revolutionary organizing directs your energy towards a better future for yourself and your community.

When you join an organization, you will immediately need to find ways to work together as a collective. You and your neighbors will begin to think about the world strategically, and find effective methods of solving the problems that you are facing together. You will need to learn constantly. You will need to communicate, and yes, to study, more than you ever have in your life. You may find this is your first time giving a speech in front of local media, your first time writing an article for Tenants Talk, your first time giving criticism and self-criticism. All of these challenges will give you boosts of energy and encouragement, and increase your level of commitment and connection to the people around you.

I'm not saying you'll stop smoking or leave your shitty boyfriend the day after you join the struggle. But the longer you stay committed, the less desire you will have to stay with these stuck habits. You will be struggling not only for your own sense of control and dignity, but the power of all working people to control their destiny! And you will have many many people who stand by you and support you through the challenges, so that you don't have to face this system alone. ★

SECTIONS AND YOU

As an organization, the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance relies on different methods to organize tenants: doorknocking, cold-calling, etc. These methods have brought us real success over the years and have created real change for Chicago tenants. However, as an organization called the *ALL*-Chicago Tenant Alliance, we know there is more we can do to unify the tenant struggle into a single, city-wide fight. This year we began a new organizing method: monthly, local meetings based in small neighborhood regions. We call these areas "sections." Section meetings are where ACTA members work in tandem with their closest neighbors to learn about organizing and develop their consciousness as working-class tenants.

It has been a little over half a year since we began this experiment. Although we had a slow start, we are now seeing it bear fruit in two distinct sections: one in the West Ridge and Rogers Park area, and another in Uptown and north Lakeview. These sections belong to those tenants as much as they belong to ACTA.

In the West Ridge + Rogers Park section we have sprouted three organizing efforts. Tenants from three different buildings came to section meetings. In these meetings they talked to ACTA organizers as well as tenants from their neighborhood who have organizing experience from their own efforts. They were then able to take this information and seed their own organizing efforts! The section meeting is the place tenants from Devon, Howard, Ridge, Sheridan, Western, Clark are coming to get advice on how to organize their building and to discuss larger issues affecting all of us. In the last meeting we discussed the real differences between the capitalists and the working class. We did this so that we can understand where our power as working class tenants lies. As one tenant said "It's nice to come to this meeting and get your mind thinking."

In the Uptown section, attendance continues to grow month after month.



Right now, four tenants from a building were able to meet each other for the first time at the meeting. Now, they're pushing their organizing efforts forward and are planning their first meeting with the other tenants directly in their building. Another group of tenants from a different building have also been coming to the meetings, attempting to do the same thing.. They got the opportunity to connect with ACTA organizers, and we are now planning to collaborate. Attendees of Uptown meetings also have the pleasure of speaking with former members of the legendary Fuerzas Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler (FIBC) tenant union. These famous unionists reunite monthly to tell the story of their historic rent strike, and provide advice and support to tenants looking to follow in their revolutionary footsteps.

We are bringing the fight from one building to another just a few blocks away via ACTA Sections. These meetings are the place where individual struggles unify into a larger tenant movement. Every neighborhood in Chicago needs a place where tenants can come together to break bread (or tostadas, mole, and cookies), share their problems, and strategize as a community. We are looking to build these communities all over the city under the common banner of ACTA. We want to create spaces where tenants can build a culture of solidarity, a space where they can share in the joy of each other's victories and support them through their losses as a singular, united class.

The landlords have their associations and regular events, too many if you ask me. Don't you think it's about damn time we do as well? Don't sit around and wait for things to get better for you, take action! We have organizers all over the city who want to help build a section in your neighborhood. All you have to do is get in touch with us. ★

It's nice to come to this meeting and get your mind thinking

ONWARD MAYA!

With both sadness and fondness, we announce the departure of one of the key members of Tenants Talk's editorial board, our comrade Maya O.

The first issue of Tenants Talk appeared in 2022 and it was not until April of 2024 that the fifth issue was printed. During that 21 month period, producing the newspaper was unsystematized, unprofessional, erratic and, more than anything, a huge burden on our organization, ACTA. That is why we could only manage to make 5 issues.

But then came Maya O together with the remaining editors who consolidated the editorial board and committed to turning Tenants Talk into a professional newspaper. That's exactly what they did for 23 issues. For comparison, this was all done during her tenure which lasted two years. With her help, the editors streamlined the writing, the editing, the layout, the production and the distribution of the newspaper. If you're reading this right now, it's because of them!

Largely owing to her influence, the newspaper transformed from one of marginal, niche interest to a serious periodical with mass appeal that expresses a perspective that is completely unique in our city—the revolutionary perspective! Hundreds of people now read Tenants Talk in neighborhoods all over Chicago and beyond. Tenants Talk is also read online and it circulates in other states and other countries.

Maya O helped turn our newspaper into a proper labor of love that our entire organization touches and takes pride in. That's who Maya is, she illuminates what is important to do and brings her comrades into a correct understanding of things together. This makes pitching-in to the hard work contagious. Under Maya O, Tenants Talk became ours at the same time as it became the city's. On the other hand, Tenants Talk is also unmistakably hers. ★

UPTOWN'S HANK WILLIAMS VILLAGE

On the back page of this paper, you'll find three pillars that guide the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance. One of these pillars is titled Neighborhood Self-Determination. It is our position that people living in a neighborhood should be the ones who determine the future of it. Our neighborhoods should be organized by and in service of us, the residents, not in service of the extraction of our value by outside capitalists and landlords. To stand for this pillar is to struggle against those directly at odds with it, and for ACTA, this means battling greedy landlords who seek to squeeze us for all we got, kick us to the curb when we're dry, and dictate the future of our neighborhoods. Through our self-organization as tenant unions in apartment buildings, we leverage our collective might against the landlord to stay in our neighborhoods on our own terms and take our future into our own hands.

ACTA's fight for neighborhood self-determination today is interwoven in a tapestry of working class struggle for control over the conditions of our own lives, a movement that stretches from Cuba to Russia to Burkina Faso to even your own block. In this series of articles, we'd like to highlight class struggles that have taken place in our own neighborhoods here in Chicago so that we can learn lessons that can guide our movement today. One moment that exemplifies the principle of neighborhood self-determination is the fight for the Hank Williams Village in Uptown.

After World War II, the coal-mining industry in the southern US saw a steep decline, which led to a large migration of poor workers seeking better jobs and living conditions in the industrialized north. Here in Chicago, Uptown was a destination for migrating Appalachians, which earned it the affectionate name "Hillbilly Heaven." By the late 1960s, an estimated half of the 60,000 Uptown residents were southern-born migrants. Yet Chicagoans were hostile to the

Appalachians of Uptown thanks to the fearmongering of newspapers whose moneyed interests frequently depicted them as lazy, violent, and dirty. In a 1958 article titled "The Hillbillies Invade Chicago," for Harper's magazine, Albert N. Votaw, executive director of the Uptown Chicago Commission wrote, "These southerners bring with them suspicion of landlords, bosses, police, principals, and most church people, settling in deteriorating neighborhoods where they can stick with their own kind, living much as they did back home, often removing window screens, they sit half-dressed where it is cooler and dispose of their garbage in the quickest way." In their manufactories, the capitalists worked the desperate migrants for long, grueling hours. In their apartment buildings, the landlords hassled them to fork over what little they had in-exchange for rat-riddled housing. And in their newspapers, the capitalists and landlords proclaimed that it was the Appalachians that were the cause of Uptown's blight!

In the 1950s and 60s, Chicago was in a phase of "urban renewal" where "the need for higher education" was the weapon used to displace the poor working class and attract more affluent suburbanites back to the inner-city. In the 1950s, the University of Chicago used $50 million in state and federal funds to clear out thousands of homes in Hyde Park and Kenwood. In the 1960s, Mayor Richard J. Daley laid the red carpet for the University of Illinois-Chicago development onto the Black, Italian, and Mexican neighborhoods around Maxwell Street. To the chagrin of the capitalists, these colleges swept the working class out of their neighborhoods. In 1968, the Chicago City College system unveiled plan to do the same in Uptown through the development of the Harry S. Truman College. At the time, the Tribune reported that this development was "viewed by [Uptown] community leaders as a great asset in helping community groups receive federal funds for vast urban renewal projects." But who were these "community leaders?"

The city planning departments managed federal development funds and relied on recommendations from Conservation Community Councils. In theory, council members were supposed to represent the local community and provide guidance about what kind of development the community wanted, but in reality, members of these committees at the time were appointed directly by Mayor Richard J. Daley. The Uptown Community Conservation Council (UCCC), the community council of a neighborhood of mostly southern-born, working-class tenants, was entirely businessmen and landlords.



The proposed development naturally excited the members of the UCCC and their cozying elected officials and civic leaders. The ward's alderman at the time, Robert O'Rourke, said that the development and subsequent destruction of the Honky Tonk bars would "develop the community into an area which would attract stable income families." The proposal would potentially displace between 4,000 and 6,000 of the mostly Appalachian Uptown residents.

With social mobilization at a peak in the late 1960s, the class character of Uptown attracted the attention of the Students for a Democratic Society as an area to organize working class power. In 1965, SDS members established the JOIN Community Union, and at the corner of Winthrop Avenue stood their office where community members would come and work with organizers to address social problems within the neighborhood. Through working so closely with the community, JOIN members came to understand that housing was one the most pressing problems affecting the workers of Uptown. JOIN concentrated on organizing tenants against the Uptown slumlords, organizing vibrant rallies on the streets and rent strikes within their buildings. Virginia Bowers, a recent Arkansas migrant and organizer said, "We had a tenant strike, which I was involved in. I lost my first job as a manager in a building because I stuck up for a couple with kids that had been bitten by a rat in their apartment. The owner wanted me to lie about it and I couldn't lie. The couple went to JOIN and complained about it to them. One of the main organizers came to my house and we set up a meeting and we won." At frequent tenant rallies, chants of "we shall not be moved" echoed through the neighborhood streets. JOIN's successes emboldened the community. An ideology of resistance had been sowed in Uptown.

When the City Colleges announced the Truman College plan, Appalachian and Uptown organizer Chuck Geary established the Uptown Area People's Planning Coalition (UAPPC), a federation of eleven neighborhood organizations focused on housing for poor renters. Geary was known for delivering charismatic public speeches and mobilizing poor residents to attend public meetings. Geary was tall, affable, and had, as one writer described, a "stomp-on-the-tables and grab the microphone" approach to public speaking. He often chewed tobacco for the effect it would bring in public meetings. Geary would eventually develop relationships with the Black Panthers and the Young Patriots Organization (a short-lived organization that grew out of the JOIN movement), both of which would later be bound together in the Rainbow Coalition. The UAPPC organized

educational programs, community meetings, hosted food pantries with the Young Patriots, and published a newspaper called The Uptown Light where they were highly critical of the new wave of urban renewal.

In direct opposition to the Truman College plan, the UAPPC, with the assistance of self-taught architect Rodney Wright, counter-proposed to the Uptown Community Conservation Council a redevelopment plan of their own: The Hank Williams Village, appropriately named after the influential country musician and icon of the Appalachian residents. The ethos of the counter-proposal was to fix up existing buildings instead of destroying them and minimize the displacement of the neighborhood's residents. The development plan was designed by and for the community, with a town hall for meetings, child care and recreational facilities, a medical clinic, a hotel for migrants, wide pedestrian streets, low-income housing, communal spaces, and generous numbers of trees. The city, landlords, and business owners painted the people of Uptown as savages, but the people, who made their way from the south seeking stability in the first place, simply wanted what we all do: resources to live in dignity and a sense of belonging within their own neighborhood.

Wright presented the plan to the Uptown Community Conservation Council (UCCC) for a vote to recommend the plan to the Department of Urban Renewal. It was a tense meeting. When the Chair of the UCCC called the supporters "militants", Chuck Geary shouted back that they might see Uptown burning if the college was built. After heavy antagonism from supporters, the UCCC voted unanimously to recommend the Hank Williams Village plan on the condition that Wright secured $475,000 in initial funding. Wright eventually secured the funding, but the UAPPC betrayed their word. Instead, the committee conducted their own internal investigation into the security of the funding, which led to "doubts." Though they had to take the scenic route, the committee ultimately got their way and recommended the Truman College plan to the city over the Hank Williams Village. In The Uptown Light, Geary responded to the UCCC, writing "As for the people who do not want us here, we know that you have set out to make Uptown a Gold Coast and ship our families back to the farms…"

The Harry S. Truman college was completed in 1975 after the demolition of 1,200 apartment units, displacing between 1,800 - 4,000 tenants. Today the Appalachian legacy in Uptown is slim, but still kicking with Carol's Pub on Clark Street serving as one of the last bastions of the honky-tonks of the time. The Hank Williams Village was a lofty but spirited plan that faced insurmountable financial and institutional opposition. While it serves as an example of neighborhood self-determination, it also serves as a lesson in how we must select our battles today. In order to truly dictate the future of our own neighborhoods and end landlord domination within them, we must make a sober analysis of what we are capable of credibly threatening if our demands are not met today. In the case of the Hank Williams Village, the UAPPC made their demands to city councils, made up of landlords and capitalists, without a consequence that the council needed to wager against their demand. At the scale of the neighborhood, big demands need big threats. Big threats require lots of coordination. This is why today, at a time when the movement is young, ACTA's struggles begin within our apartment buildings, where small but mighty unions can threaten big damage to landlords who do not listen by collectively cutting off the cash flow.

From these smaller battles today, we can grow and fortify into an organization that can fight larger battles tomorrow. It is only then, when the people are strong enough to win these larger battles, that we can truly determine the future of our neighborhoods and name them as we please. If you would like to take the first steps on that road, consider joining ACTA.★

3 YEARS SINCE THE FLOOD

It is sickening to remember that the genocide in Gaza has continued for 3 years now. While war against the U.S. empire continues in West Asia, the genocide of Palestinians throughout isreal has continued. As of 31 August, 1,320 people have been killed in Gaza since the October 2025 ceasefire and another 4,385 injuries were recorded, according to the Gaza Government Media Office. The "Yellow Line" area continues to expand from the border of the Gaza Strip. The area between the border and the yellow line where isrealis have destroyed the land to fire rifles and drive military vehicles.

Armed resistance to the isreali military has not wavered. isreal still cannot complete any military objectives that it set 3 years ago, but they still keep vital supplies from reaching Gaza. The people there are still struggling. Furthermore, all armed resistance has escalated against the imperialist war being executed by the United States, isreal and their allies. We can see this is the start of cracks in the war machine of the United States. Ansarallah in Yemen is regularly defeating Saudi forces on the battlefield and destroying Saudi oil infrastructure. US air and naval bases are also being hit by Iran regularly, and the US military admits the cost to rebuild will be enormous. The Palestinian resistance has reignited a fierce fight against US imperialist allies in the region, a defensive fight that has not seen many mistakes. ACTA forever stands with the people of Palestine!★



Want to fight back?
Text (773) 770-5650 or
visit chicagotenants.com

TENANTS TALK

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★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

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. ★

GET IN CONTACT TODAY

FILL OUT OUR **ORGANIZE WITH ACTA** FORM →

TENANT GRAPEVINE

WHAT DO THE PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY?

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE IS LYING?

Everything's a lie nowadays...you can't tell true from false. (TG)

People don't necessarily know much about each other. This makes it harder to develop trust. (AJ)

If they add unnecessary details (YG)

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SAYING?

You have to risk it to get the biscuit. (E)

Wishing for freedom and victory for the Palestinian cause, and peace for all nations. (P)

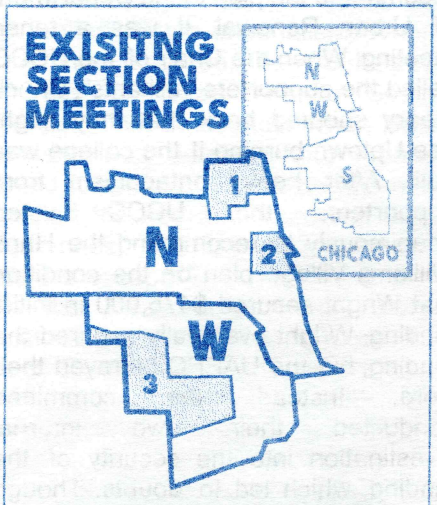
Finance capitalists are vampires (Y)

JOIN YOUR LOCAL SECTION MEETING

"Section" meetings are where tenants get educated and collectively solve their housing issues with the help of ACTA's organizers. Sections are where tenant unions in buildings can be born and bring the rest of the neighborhood into their fight. Sections will become the center of the tenant power movement in the neighborhood and, through ACTA, it will be connected to the whole neighborhood chapter which in turn will be connected with the whole city. ACTA's goal is to fill up our neighborhood chapters (the Northside, the Westside, the Southside) with sections for every neighborhood where tenants are, so that everyone dealing with landlords has an organization that they can easily join and fight back in.

1. **Find one other tenant in your area who is committed to helping you organize.** You can't do it alone. This can be a roommate, a neighbor in your apartment building, a friend or coworker who lives down the street—whoever!
2. **Join ACTA as a general member.** You can do this in person at one of our meetings, on our website chicagotenants.com, or by phone at 773-770-5650. General Members have to pay at least $1 per month in dues, that's it.
3. **Contact ACTA and tell us that you want to start or join a section.** If your neighborhood does not have a seciton already and you would like to start one, both of you have to agree that you will host or join section meetings at least once, but ideally twice, a month. ★

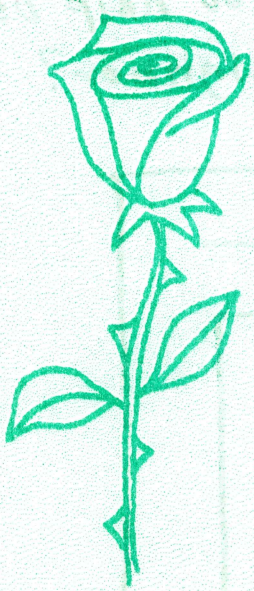
EXISITNG SECTION MEETINGS



1. ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE
2. UPTOWN/BUENA PARK
3. AUSTIN/EAST GARFIELD PARK/NORTH LAWNDALE

TENANTS TALK KIDS PAGE

We all have things we do and don't like about the places we live. By the rose, write something you like about your apartment. By the thorn, write something you don't like.



Now, think of three neighbors you would like to talk to Draw a rose for each person. Go find them and ask them what they like about their apartment and what they don't like. Write what they say by the rose and thorn you drew for them.

Did anyone say the same thing?

What does the All Chicago Tenants Alliance do? We help tenants organize tenant unions to fight back against landlords. We knock on a lot of doors and deliver Tenants Talk to people. The hallways in this building are confusing! Can you help us deliver Tenants Talk to the neighbor?



