

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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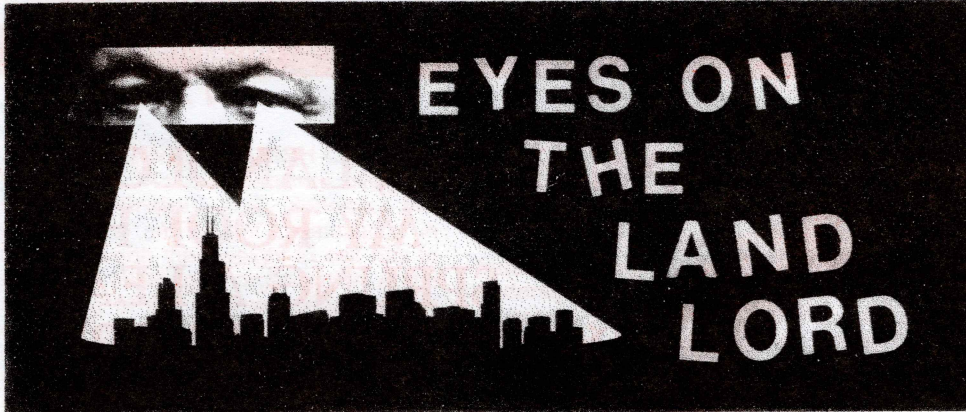


LANDLORD, LANDLORD,
MY ROOF HAS
SPRUNG A LEAK.
DON'T YOU 'MEMBER
I TOLD YOU
ABOUT IT WAY
LAST WEEK?
LANDLORD,
LANDLORD,
THESE STEPS IS
BROKEN DOWN.
WHEN YOU COME
UP YOURSELF
IT'S A WONDER
YOU DON'T
FALL DOWN.
TEN BUCKS YOU
SAY I OWE YOU?
TEN BUCKS
YOU SAY IS DUE?
WELL, THAT'S TEN
BUCKS MORE'N
I'L PAY YOU
TILL YOU FIX THIS
HOUSE UP NEW...

— LANGSTON
HUGHES

FREE TENANT NEWSPAPER

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★



Keep your eyes open!
Don't let your landlord isolate you from the tenant movement blossoming in Chicago!

Be ready!
Decades of landlord control over our neighborhoods won't end without a fight!

Stay smart!
Landlords pump their perspectives into every news outlet in Chicago; it's time tenants had a voice of their own!

Tenants Talk has eyes on the landlord. Do you?

LTU MEETS TO DETERMINE THE WAY FORWARD

Written by a tenant-leader of the Lunt Tenants Union

On January 11th, the Lunt Tenants Union (LTU) held its first building-wide tenants meeting of the year. The goal of this meeting was to facilitate discussion around our Union's collective goals and communicate the Union's actionable next steps as we continue to fight against our landlord, Henry Woo, his arbitrary rent increases and ongoing negligence of the building. What came out of this meeting was a strong sense of support and optimism; it's clear that what tenants want is a safe, warm, and cared-for home they can come back to at the end of a long workday.

With the next building-wide tenants meeting on the horizon (February 8th), tenants are passionate about cultivating real community in the building by organizing political art-making events, sharing food and literature, and speaking with their neighbors to keep them abreast of the one fact that will not go away: we are paying

more and more for less and less. Henry Woo and his lapdogs (aka Winnemac Properties) do not care about the tenants of our building. And as a union in a period of relative calm, now is the time to strengthen our ranks and steel our strategy, all in the interest of showing Henry Woo that we are not docile renters.

We are fighters, and we are not going anywhere.

PARKSIDE TERRACE ALLIANCE DEMANDING MORE REPAIRS

The lions of the Parkside Terrace Alliance (PTA) have completed the first part of their odyssey. In September, they reached an agreement with their landlord, Infinity Capital, to forgive nearly a year's worth of rent in debt, remove a neighbor who was selling drugs in the apartment, and hire a maintenance man. More than thirty tenants voted for the agreement, and this success was achieved through the hard work of the PTA leaders, strong women with big hearts.

But after the agreement, the struggle continued. The conditions of the apartment were still terrible. The slumlords of Infinity Capital did not want to spend their pile of money on the tenants, because landlords only care about one thing: profit. The PTA leaders, with the help of the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance (ACTA), started a campaign to win better conditions, focusing on the limited power of the city. They talked to their neighbors and created a long list of every problem in the apartments and sent it to the city and the landlord demanding repair. Weeks passed and only a few repairs were made.

Tired of waiting, the leaders said enough is enough and called for a protest. The press, a city representative, and dozens of supporters attended the protest where the leaders declared, "We will win!"

Soon, more repairs were made, but it wasn't enough. With determination, the leaders organized a delegation to the alderman's office and demanded inspections of every unit. And finally, after weeks of calls to the office, inspectors visited the apartment and inspected every

unit.

Of course, the fight against the landlord never stops, but the tenants of Parkside say that the situation of their homes has changed a lot in the year of the lions' struggle. Now it's time for the leaders to decide what to do with a quieter time. Consolidate forces in the building? Spread their story to other tenants in the neighborhood? Keep your eyes on the lions and Tenants Talk to learn more!

FAD DEFEATS IMRAN KHAN, FACES NEW ENEMIES

Rogers Park has one of the highest population densities in Chicago, and recent years have seen greedy landlords scrambling to claim their ground in the rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. Years of work by the various real estate and business associations in the neighborhood have resulted in the liquidation of the longtime residents of the neighborhood. Only a few enclaves remain as the neighborhood turns over. One of these enclaves is along a stretch of Damen and the surrounding area: four buildings with which a group of Latin American tenants have called home for decades.

In 2025, slumlord Imran Khan bought those buildings and immediately hiked the rents by up to \$700 a month. Despite almost doubling rents, Khan dragged his feet on making any major repairs to the building. Under Khan's management, tenants faced leaks, flooding, holes in their walls, rats, drafty windows, heat and hot water outages, and cockroaches. Added to this was nearly constant harassment from Khan and his employees, pressuring tenants to sign contracts at unaffordable rates. It looked as if the tenants would have to leave.

The only other option available to the tenants was to unionize and rely on strength in numbers to secure their homes. The tenants and ACTA members began to meet and soon 70 of the tenants came together into a union calling themselves Fuerzas Activas de la Damen (FAD). Khan tried everything from intimidation to bribery to root out the union, but the tenants stayed strong. By November it became clear that they would need to raise the stakes. FAD voted to go on a rent strike, holding onto all of their rent until Khan offered them a fair contract.

The landlord Imran Khan was not used to people standing up to him. He threw a fit and filed two lawsuits against the FADistas and ACTA, trying to shut down organizing and silence the voice of the tenants. The lawsuits are ongoing, but neither ACTA nor FAD will be silenced.

In mid January there was a major development in the struggle. The management reached out and offered to negotiate with the union. The FADista's selected a small group of trusted representatives from within the union to meet with management and present their

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

demand: a fair contract. The negotiations were quickly revealed to be a sham, however. Management revealed two major details:

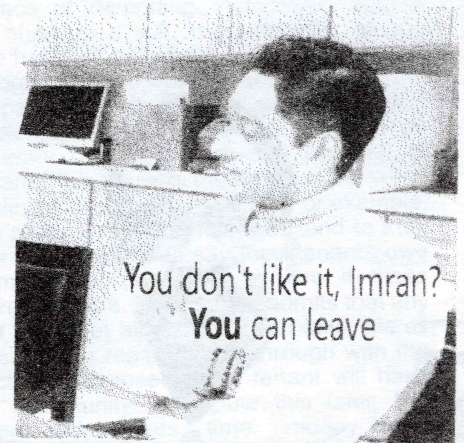
First, Imran Khan was out. Like wolves, the other investors turned on their own and devoured him, firing Khan and throwing him under the bus. Good riddance.

Second, the investors had lied to the union. They had no intention to negotiate at all. In fact, they revealed that they had been planning the entire time to throw everyone out on the street and turn the buildings into luxury apartments while raising rents to \$2,500 to over \$3,000 a month. Tenants were told that their lives in the buildings did not matter. The investors told the tenants that their connections and

friendships with the people in the neighborhood did not matter. They told them that it did not matter that their kids had been born there and go to school in the neighborhood. All that mattered was that they had bought the building, and that the tenants could never afford the rents they had in mind. If the tenants didn't accept a paltry sum to move out, the owners threatened evictions. The tenants refused to trade their homes for the landlords' insulting bribe.

What will happen next in the struggle for the Rogers Park buildings? FAD and ACTA are standing firm, but we need your support. Spread the word about these brave tenants as they fight for their homes.

★



ATTACK ON VENEZUELA: FOR THE RICH, AGAINST THE PEOPLE

On January 3, the United States attacked yet another country—making it the third in a span of six months, after Iran and Nigeria. This time the South American country of Venezuela was on the chopping block. Over 150 US aircraft and dozens of special forces invaded the oil-rich country, where they kidnapped the president and his wife and killed over 100 people—bombing military bases, electrical towers, apartment buildings and medical warehouses.

What made our government continue its killing spree this time? The stated reason was that the Venezuelan President, Nicolas Maduro, was the leader of a drug cartel. There is very little evidence for this claim and experts on drug trafficking in Latin America think the accusation is hiding other motives. In fact, many researchers have pointed out that there is plenty of evidence that the US, through the CIA and DEA, have profited off of the drug trade to the tune of billions of dollars.

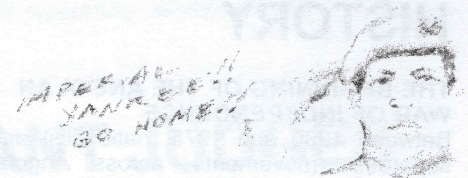
So what's the

real story? When it comes down to it, the people who run the US government only do things that are good for them and their friends—in other words, certain groups of capitalists found it in their interest to attack Venezuela. Investigating this basic motivation—the interests of capital—reveals five main factors:

1. Displaying US military forces to the rest of the world in a time when countries like China are now providing an alternative to US domination.
2. Allowing rich US businessmen to exploit the workers and resources of Venezuela by forcing the government to privatize their businesses and programs.
3. Creating an excuse to mass-deport Venezuelan migrants from the US now that Maduro has been removed.
4. Suffocating the revolutionary country of Cuba, which has received considerable support from Venezuela since Venezuela's 1999 revolution.
5. Ending the revolutionary socialist project that has been ongoing in Venezuela since 1999.

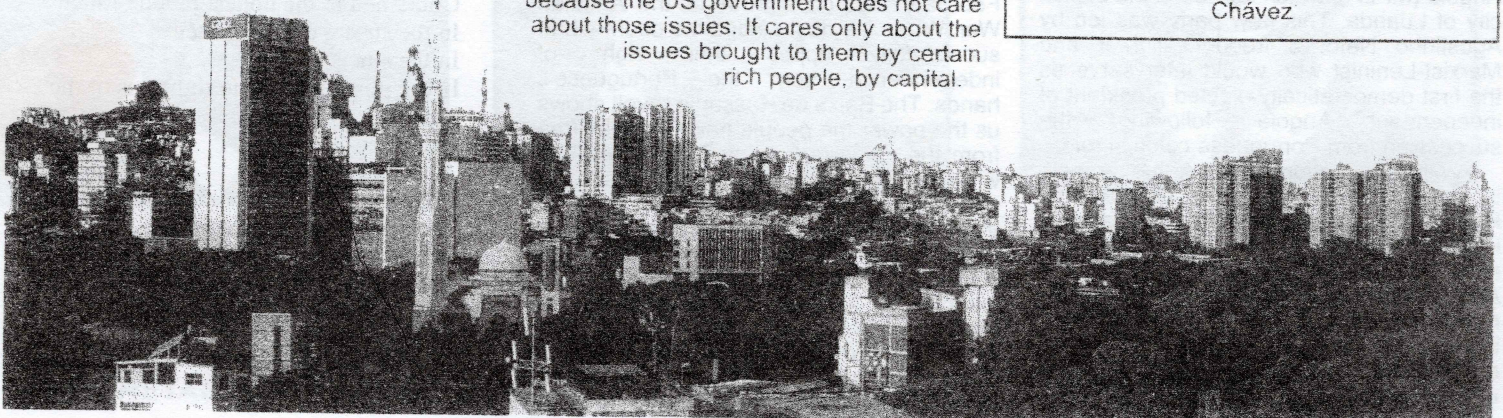
You may notice that this list does not address any of the issues facing the millions of tenants and workers in the US. That is because the US government does not care about those issues. It cares only about the issues brought to them by certain rich people, by capital.

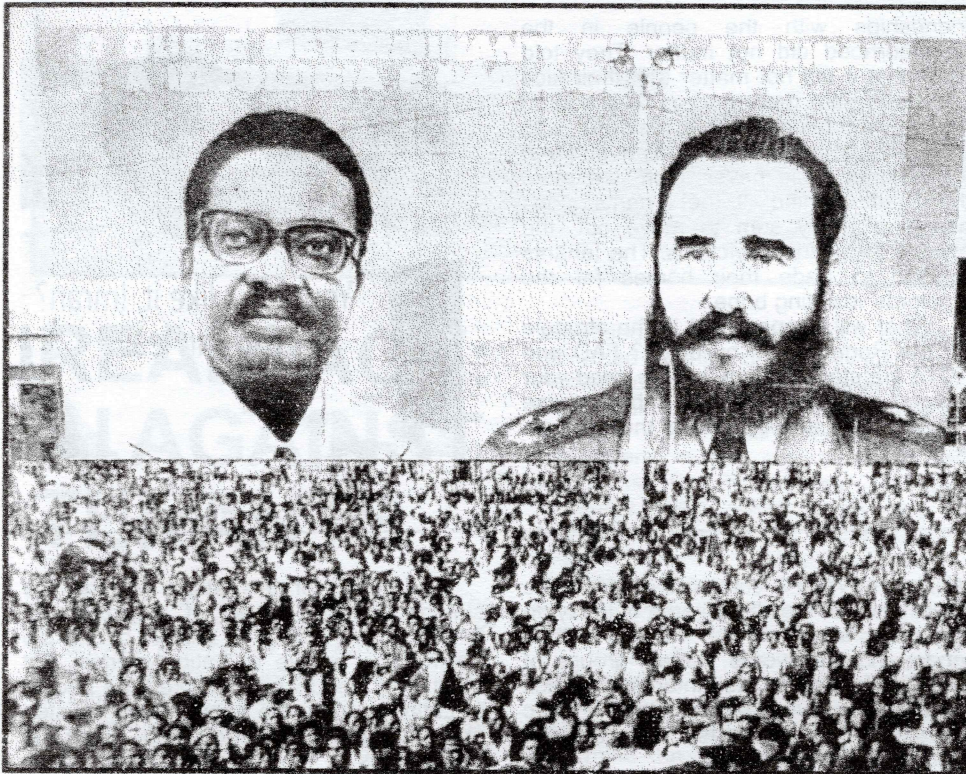
The result of this attack will be the suffering of the people of Venezuela. It follows a long history of attacks by the US against the people of Latin America. But each time the US has attacked the people of Latin America, the people have resisted and struggled for emancipation. Since the attack, tens of thousands of Venezuelans have taken to the streets to defend their country—marches led by women's organizations, labor unions, communes and the youth have filled the streets with chants of perseverance and sovereignty. La lucha continua—The struggle continues!



I think the United States and the secretary of State should be concerned about the poverty in this country - people without health insurance. The United States should stop being the empire and be concerned about other countries. You've got to be more worried about your own people.

Former President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez





FEBRUARY IN REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

THE BEGINNING OF THE ANGOLAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Between 1960 and 1975, nationalist and separatist movements across Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and Mozambique sprouted against Portuguese colonial rule. In Angola, the beginning of the successful liberation movement began in the month of February. In response to years of imperialist exploitation of Angola by the Portuguese, anti-Portuguese nationalist groups developed across the nation. One of these newly formed nationalist organizations was the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which formed in the capital city of Luanda. This new party was led by Agostinho Neto, a freedom fighter and Marxist-Leninist who would later serve as the first democratically elected president of independent Angola following the succession from Portuguese colonial rule.

With the creation of MPLA, the struggle in Angola was directed not only against Portuguese colonialism but also against imperialism. For the first time an Angolan nationalist organization argued that the Angolan struggle was a class struggle and not only a racial conflict. In 1960, the MPLA issued its first call to all Angolan organizations to create a single united front against Portuguese colonialism. Soon after,

the MPLA sent a declaration to the Portuguese government demanding the right of independence. Portuguese dictator Salazar responded with silence, a massive influx of Portuguese troops, and new waves of arrest and repression across Angola.

In January, 1961, The people of Baixa de Kassenje, exploited by the Portuguese and Belgian capitalists, went on strike against forced cotton cultivation by the imperialist Portuguese. The Portuguese napalmed the Malanje region and massacred more than 20,000 agricultural workers. On February 4th, 1961, MPLA militants, armed only with clubs and knives, led the people of Luanda's shantytowns in a heroic assault on the main Portuguese prison. The militants aimed to free political prisoners. Beaten back by police with guns, forty Africans died along with seven Portuguese.

It was the Baixa de Kassenje revolt in February that gave birth to the Angolan War. When the dust settled the country had successfully ripped their right of independence from the Portuguese's hands. The Baixa de Kassenje revolt shows us the power the people have to break free from the colonizer's control. It proves that when unified and organized against the oppressors, the people can take control of their own destiny. In addition to being a revolutionary freedom fighter, Agostinho Neto was a poet. We have included one of his poems, "Grieved Lands of Africa", in which he writes of the impact of servitude in Africa after over four hundred years of human slavery to European and American colonial and imperialist powers. ★

THE GRIEVED LANDS OF AFRICA

The grieved lands of Africa
In the tearful woes of ancient and
modern slave
In the degrading sweat of impure dance
Of other seas
Grieved

The grieved lands of Africa
In the infamous sensation
Of the stunning perfume of the Flower
Crushed in the forest
By the wickedness of iron and fire
The grieved lands

The grieved lands of Africa
In the dream soon undone in jinglings
of jailer's keys
And in the stifled laughter and
victorious voice of laments
And in the unconscious brilliance of
hidden sensations
Of the grieved lands of Africa

Alive
In themselves and with us alive
They bubble up in dreams
Decked with dances by baobabs over
balances
By the antelope
In the perpetual alliance of everything
that lives

They shout out the sound of life
Shout it
Even the corpses thrown up by the
Atlantic
In putrid offering of incoherence
And death and in the clearness
Of rivers

They live
The grieved lands of Africa
In the harmonious sound of
consciences
Contained in the honest blood of men
In the strong desire of men
In the sincerity
In the pure and simple rightness of the
stars'
Existence

They live
The grieved lands of Africa
Because we are living
And are imperishable particles
Of the grieved lands of Africa.

— Agostinho Neto

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

HOUSING COURT JUDGES: DEFENDERS OF TENANTS OR LANDLORDS' PROFITS?

Readers of Tenants Talk know: unlike workers, landlords do not produce anything for society. They profit from accumulating properties, and leasing them to people who actually need places to live. Landlords extract money from tenants by leasing them housing units which they have bought specifically not to use, and that they often don't care to maintain in livable conditions. There is a clear power imbalance between tenants and landlords, rooted in the fact that landlords privately own the scarce housing stock, whereas tenants must do with what they can afford, with the wage their bosses pay them. This is the "normal" state of affairs that the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance intends to change.

As you know, evictions are a key weapon that landlords hold over tenants' heads. Chicago landlords file evictions for pretty much any reason they want. After the landlord files an eviction case, tenants are pulled away from their lives, their family, their work, to court. The vast majority of tenants who end up in court because their

landlord filed evictions against them, do not have lawyers to defend them. On the other hand, almost all landlords have lawyers to help them kick out the tenants. Some landlords, like the notorious Imran Khan, are lawyers themselves.

When a tenant and a landlord's legal team are sitting in eviction court, does the judge decide things between them, fairly? No. Clearly there's a power imbalance between tenants and landlords. The roof over the tenants' head is at stake - not so for the landlord. Almost all landlords have lawyers - not so for the tenant. And judges do not do anything to remedy this power imbalance. But that's not all. Tenant organizers around the country know: judges work in the interests of landlords!

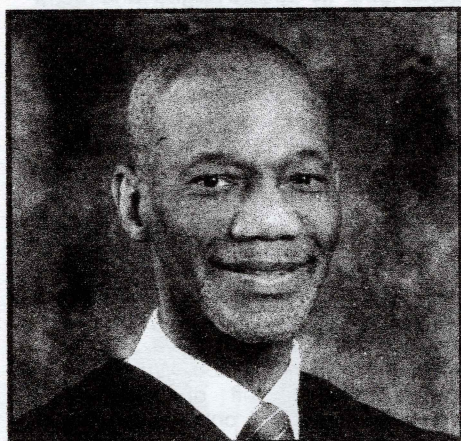
Let's consider the way that the eviction court meetings are scheduled. Do judges tend to consider that the tenant is a worker, and someone who likely has much less access to reliable transportation, than the landlord? No. Not only do judges tend to prioritize the landlord's scheduling preferences, they also tend to accept landlord's requests for last minute continuances. Many eviction trials take less than 10 minutes. Ten minutes, and the tenant is out! That itself is a sign of how much the legal system, including judges, cares about the consequences of an eviction on a tenant. When the judge sees that a case appears "more complex," and a landlord asks for a continuance, they may reschedule the court hearing. But again, these last minute changes weigh a lot heavier on tenants, than they do on cash-counting landlords.

Laws are far from clear, so lawyer-less

tenants (most tenants) have very little chance of defending themselves against the shark in a suit, the landlord's lawyer, who has built his whole career learning the quickest tricks to kick unwanted tenants out of apartment units. Judges also tend to give landlords the benefit of the doubt to an extreme degree, which as readers of Tenants Talk know, is the wrong move when dealing with pathological liars. For example, one study showed that judges tend to trust how much landlords say their tenants owe them, without checking to see if these claims are true. If the tenant admits that any rent is due at all, judges often take this as enough of a reason to go through with the eviction. Supposedly, the tenant will have the opportunity to dispute this later. But again, this takes time, money, and experience with the law, all of which the landlord has accumulated much more than the tenant.

We could continue to list the ways that judges work in the interests of landlords for pages and pages more. But we're sure you want to get on to read the rest of our articles! So let's end by saying what ACTA does not think the solution is. The solution is not better judges, just as the solution is not nicer landlords. The solution is a massive movement of organized tenants, across Chicago, across the country, and across the world, who will stand up collectively, with their unions, and use the strongest tools they have to fight for control over their own housing. Problem with your landlord? Unionize! Join ACTA! We will stand with you, as will our fearless rent strike supporting lawyers. ★

THREE OF THE MANY ANTI-TENANT JUDGES



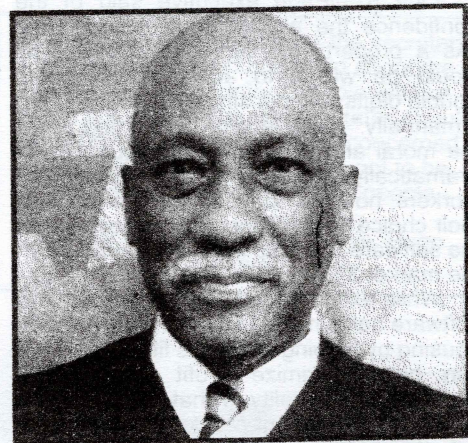
JUDGE ALLEN PRICE WALKER

ALLOWED LANDLORD TO FILE RETALIATORY EVICTIONS DURING AN OPEN RETALIATION CASE.



JUDGE JOSEPH PANRESE

PUSHES EVICTIONS THROUGH AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, FAVORING LANDLORDS.



JUDGE LEONARD MURRAY

BIAS IN FAVOR OF LANDLORDS: "THERE MIGHT BE SOME BAD, BAD PROPERTY OWNERS, BUT THEY'RE NOT SLUM LANDLORDS."



REALPAGE: AI AGAINST TENANTS

In Tenants Talk 16, we wrote about The Rainmaker Group, a company that boasted an artificial intelligence software that could maximize profits for property managers by calculating rent prices, ideal occupancy, and building costs within the market. Well now RealPage, the company that bought Rainmaker, is back in the news as it comes under fire for alleged violation of antitrust laws. Let's see what the AI freaks are up to now!

The Department of Justice recently settled a multi-year antitrust lawsuit against RealPage, accusing them of "algorithmic collusion." The illegal practice in question involves RealPage's algorithm, which uses both publicly available rental data and confidential data about what competitors in the area actually charge their tenants to suggest the highest possible rent property managers should charge.

One RealPage executive said of the confidence the algorithm gives landlords: "As a property manager, very few of us would be willing to actually raise rents double digits within a single month by doing it manually." If any landlord is worried about the moral and economic consequences in dramatically hiking rent on families and workers, now they have RealPage to make their choice easy! Their website boasts that the software can help landlords "outperform the market 3% to 7%."

While executives at RealPage claim the software helps make use of already existing housing by helping landlords fill units, that it can both maximize profit and reduce vacancies, the reality is that the algorithm prioritizes higher rent at a lower occupancy if that's what it takes to make more money. From the investor point of view, undervaluing property to more quickly rent out a unit does more to hurt the market in the long term, so the algorithm will rarely suggest lowering rent to fill vacancies.

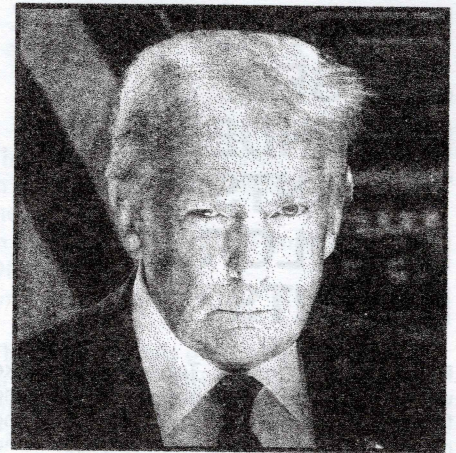
Price fixing like this is technically illegal, which is where antitrust laws come in to

supposedly maintain fair competition governed within our very just market. According to the Federal Trade Commission, antitrust laws "protect the process of competition for the benefit of consumers, making sure there are strong incentives for businesses to operate efficiently, keep prices down, and keep quality up." But what about when the collusion doesn't happen between the competitors themselves, but rather through AI algorithms that do it all 'behind the scenes?' Well, then it's a bit more of a gray area legally. The laws really do protect us, don't they?

RealPage's software uses public data in addition to its clients' confidential data to determine the highest possible rent price the tenants can absorb, in a move the DOJ has dubbed "cartel-like illegal price collusion." Price collusion done by AI instead of by cartel members, that is. Even if a bunch of landlords in suits didn't get together in a smokey room and agree to fix rental prices, is it still illegal? What if the price fixing appears on a screen, brought to you from a massive data center guzzling millions of gallons of water somewhere far away?

While the DOJ has been able to settle with RealPage against algorithmic collusion via their use of real-time, private data, the deal doesn't do much in the end. According to the Associated Press, it still allows for RealPage-like AI models to continue to drive rent pricing with public data. RealPage also pays no damages in the settlement. Ten states, including Illinois, have joined the DOJ's lawsuit against RealPage. And yet we know that powerful, diabolical companies like RealPage will continue to find newer, sneakier ways to rent squeeze.

Algorithmic rent squeezing isn't nearly as prevalent in Chicago as it is in cities like Boston, Denver, and Seattle. Yet so long as practices like this remain essentially unchallenged, we have every reason to believe the landlords of Chicago will use them against us. We won't wait for the courts to settle on this. We won't wait while rents continue to rise, and property managers find different ways to skirt the law and exploit us even more. We believe that now is the time to get organized, to make rent-squeezing and AI irrelevant and useless against collective tenant pushback. Many tenants in Chicago are already waking up to this fact. Will you? ★



IS TRUMP RIGHT ABOUT HOUSING?

On January sixth, Donald Trump surprised landlords and investors around the country when he declared he would be taking action against the rampant corporate investment in housing. The president declared that he would be "taking steps to ban large institutional investors from buying more single-family homes," and ended with the slogan "People live in homes, not corporations." The statement comes as rents soar to record highs and as a result, houses become more and more valuable for investors. Although Trump's policy has otherwise been disastrous, inhumane, and expensive, he is right about one thing: investors are absolutely the ones who are keeping housing expensive for tenants and would-be homeowners alike.

What if we roll with Trump's logic though? Homes are for people, not corporations, not investors. Shouldn't this extend to all homes? We say that Trump is right about this, at least: *Homes are for the people, and this includes apartments, too.* When we let capitalists profit off of owning an apartment, that not only pushes rents up, it raises the prices for anyone looking to have a home for their own personal use. When people look to buy homes, they're bidding against the corporations that know they can make back double what they pay for it. Regular people who just want a place to live cannot keep up.

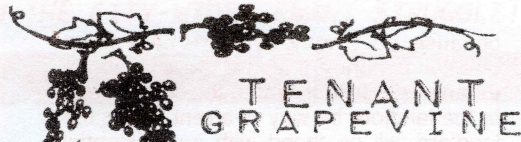
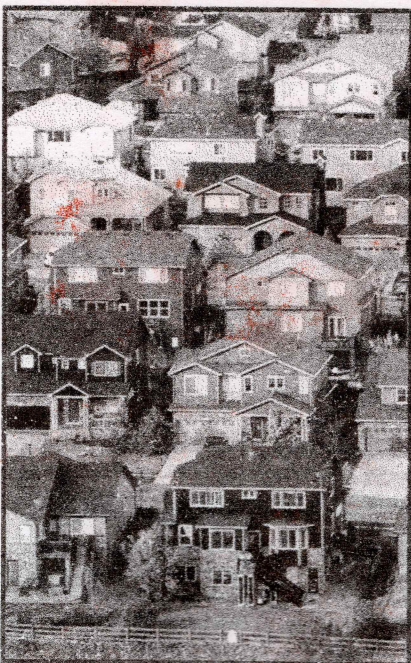
★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

Trump proposes keeping corporations out of single family homes, but the truth is he's not going far enough. People will be able to really take control of their own homes only when all of the landlords, investors, and corporations are barred from the housing market.

The investors know that Trump's proposal is bad news for them. CNN is already rushing to the defense of Wall Street. In an article titled, "Trump's housing plan casts Wall Street as the villain. He's got the wrong guy" this article made the deceptive claim that "it is the chronic shortage of supply that has pushed the median home price to about \$410,000, up nearly 30% since 2020." According to census data, however, there are currently around 40,000 units which are completely liveable and vacant in the city of Chicago alone. Additionally there are hundreds of thousands more which could be made liveable at a low cost.

Why would wealthy elites, corporate investors, and landlords keep demanding more supply as a method of bringing down housing prices? To answer that, let's ask another question. Why would wealthy elites, corporate investors, and landlords want to bring down housing prices in the first place? These people know that supply and demand doesn't work when you've got a monopoly. More supply just means more for them to buy.

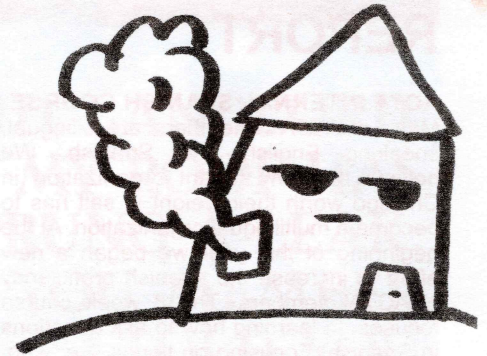
Trump has called for no more profit-seeking investors owning single family homes. Let's take that a step further. We say: No more investors in any housing. While we're at it, why wait for Trump? Let's take that slogan into our own hands. ★



TENANT GRAPEVINE

The Tenants Talk distribution team braved the cold and snow this past month to keep papers stocked at stores across the Westside.

A distribution team has also started up on the Northside, with Tenants Talk now in stock throughout stores in Rogers Park and Uptown.



As always, we want to hear from you! Have a story about your landlord, or about renting in the city? Want to be featured in an interview in the Tenant Grapevine? Call ACTA at (773) 770-5650.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING THIS MONTH!

NOAH FOODS:

"Rent is high! I like Tenants Talk, I read it."

BIG MOE'S:

"People need to talk!"

"People need to get together! You can do so much more with a union."

BLACK STAR BARBER SHOP:

What's a compliment or gesture someone did for you that made you feel warm inside?

Jason at Black Star Barber Shop: "It made me feel warm when you gave salams." (Salams are Islamic greetings meaning "peace be upon you")

AVERS EXPRESS:

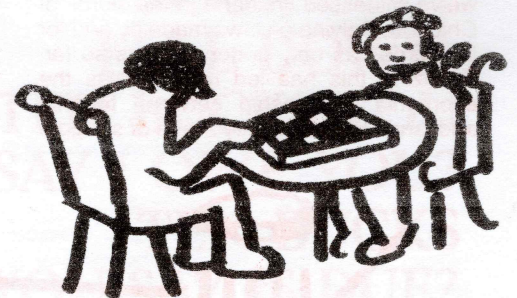
What should be built for the kids in the neighborhood in 2026?

Older man: "Indoor and outdoor places for kids to play, like pools, etc. So they won't be stuck on their phones."

Young man: "A better Boys and Girls Club, with a game room. The churches he went to as a kid used to take him on field trips, like to 6 flags."

Kids: "A hotbox house!"

Older woman: "The kids need more board games and books, so they can read more, and get off their phones."



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

ACTA MONTHLY REPORT

ACTA INTERNAL SPANISH COURSE

Many of ACTA's members are bilingual, speaking English and Spanish. We believe that any tenant organization in Chicago worth their weight in salt has to become a multilingual organization. At the beginning of this year we began a new effort to increase the Spanish proficiency of ACTA members. The 8 week course focuses on learning how to ask questions in Spanish. Focusing on things like: who, what, where, when, etc, we are working our way to being able to door knock in Spanish.

BIG THINGS COMING...

January was filled with a lot of exciting developments that will see the light of day soon, but not in this issue. Keep your eyes on our Instagram ([all_chicago_tenant_alliance](https://www.instagram.com/all_chicago_tenant_alliance)) and our Facebook (All-Chicago Tenant Alliance) for future announcements and updates on the fight!

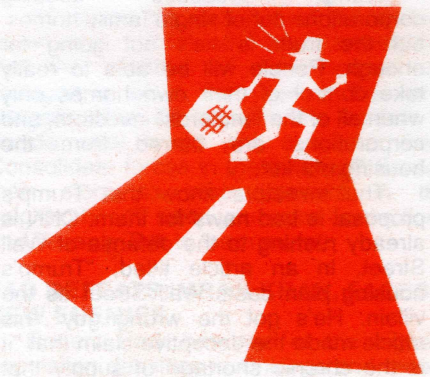
WHAT IS THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE?

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.

A Hungry Mouse

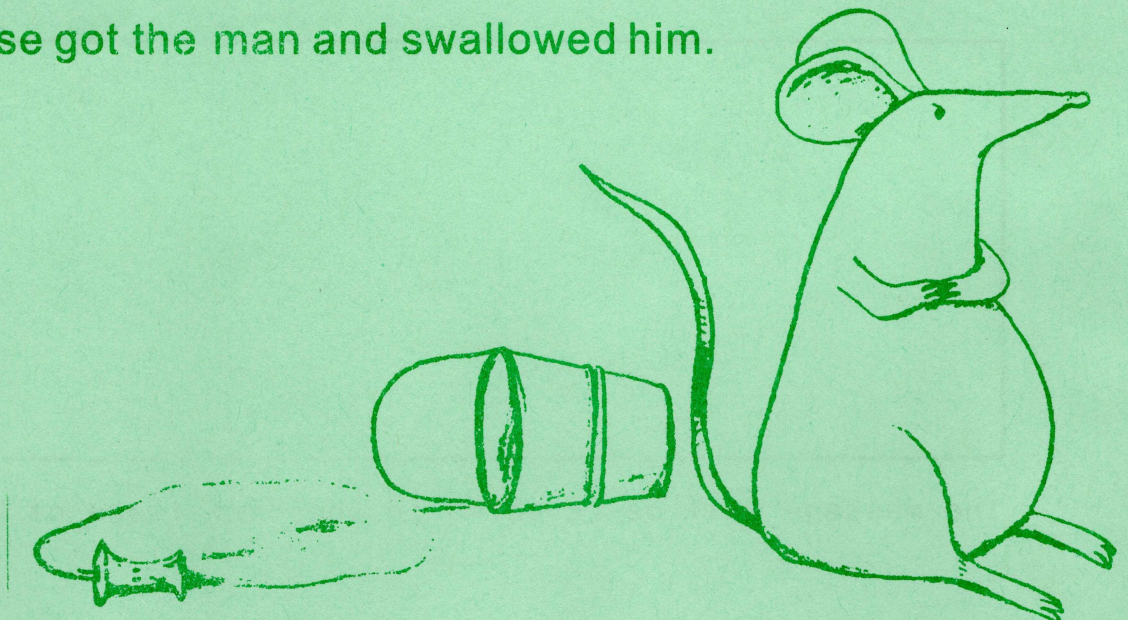
[This story was written by a revolutionary Iranian author named Samad Behrangi. We translated it from Persian to English for you to read].

Once upon a time, there was a mouse who lived in the desert. One day, he got hungry, and went to a garden. He got a hold of three apples, and ate them. A strong wind tore the leaves off of the apple tree and scattered them on the mouse's head. The mouse got mad and ate the leaves too, and left the garden. He noticed a man was walking home, holding a bucket of water.

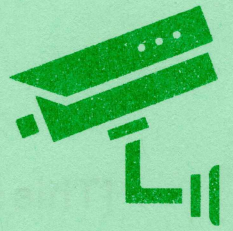
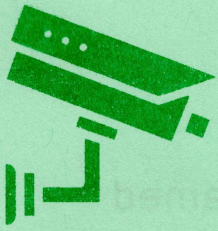
He said: "Hey man! I ate three apples in the garden, and the wind blew leaves onto my head, and I ate those too! Now I'm going to eat you too!"

The man said: "I'll hit you in the head with the bucket, and you'll die on the spot!"

The hungry mouse got the man and swallowed him.



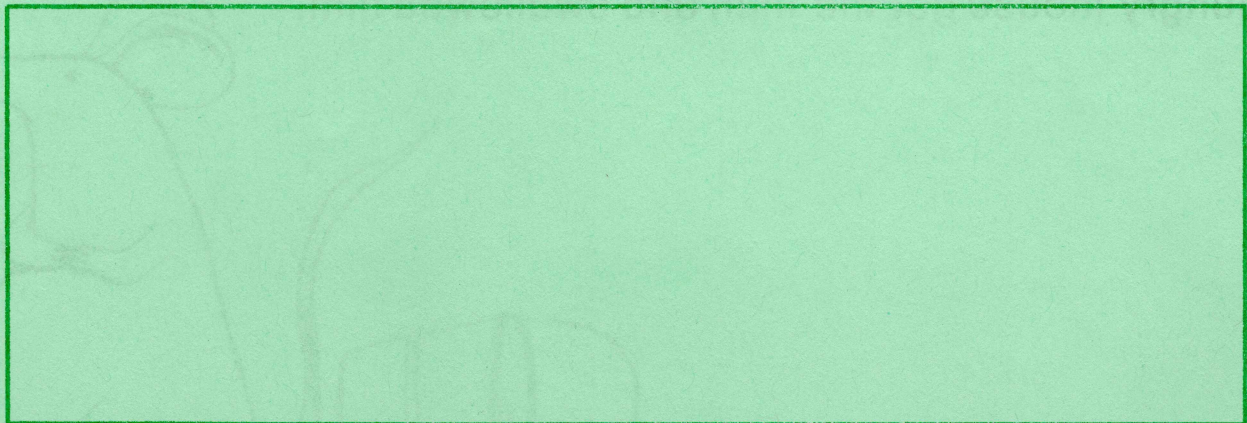
To be continued...



CAN YOU DE-CODE THE SECRET MESSAGE?

“GUR YVSR BS N FVATYR UHZNA
ORVAT VF JBEGU ZVYYVBAF BS
GVZRF ZBER GUNA NY
GUR CEBCREGL BS GUR EVPURFG
ZNA BA RNEGU.”

—PUR THRINEN



The message will be revealed in the next issue of Tenants Talk