

Greene wonders who will house Milhous

New Yorkers are just too weird. They think nothing of walking down the same streets with muggers, rapists and jackrollers. Derelicts vomit on



Bob Greene

them and they just shrug if off. They get on the subways and are groped, fondled and punched; that's fine with them. Taxi drivers curse at them and insult them with the vilest possible

epithets; they think it's merely another colorful part of the city life.

But let Richard Nixon try to move into one of their buildings and they get all fainthearted and dizzy. "Oh, no," they say. "We can't stand it."

Last week — for the third time since Nixon left office in 1974 — a Manhattan co-op apartment board tried to prevent him from moving in.

The former president had tentatively concluded the purchase of a 12-room co-op at Park Avenue and 72nd Street; he was offering \$1.8 million for it.

Nixon's reason for the proposed move was a simple one. Since 1981 he has been living in a 15-room house in

Upper Saddle River, N.J. His wife, Pat though, has suffered a stroke, and Nixon thought it might be better for her to live in a smaller home. "It's a question of whether she wants the burden of a big house," he said.

The six-member board of directors of the co-op building had been expected to approve the sale. But at the last minute, a building resident named Jacob Kaplan — who was described as "a 93-year-old millionaire philanthropist and longtime supporter of liberal causes" — won a temporary restraining order in the State Supreme Court delaying the sale.

Kaplan won the restraining order by using a legal loophole; the co-op board had been scheduled to meet by telephone, and Kaplan's lawyers argued that telephone meetings were illegal under the by-laws of the co-op. But Kaplan made it clear that his goal in the long run was to keep Nixon out for good.

Kaplan contended that "the value of our apartments would go down dramatically if Nixon were admitted."

Kaplan said that if the former president were allowed to move in, "We would be forced to ride with Nixon and his entourage in the elevator." He reminded his fellow co-op owners, in case they had forgotten, that Nixon had resigned the presidency during the Watergate scandal; Kaplan said that if Nixon had not been pardoned by President Gerald R. Ford, "he would have faced criminal proceedings, probable conviction and a prison sentence."

Now . . . as I write this, the co-op board is preparing to meet again, in person; by the time you read these words, a decision may have been made on whether to allow Nixon to live in the building.

But regardless of what the board decides, I imagine Nixon must be getting pretty tired of having these groups of New Yorkers tell him he is an undesirable.

After all, Nixon must realize that New Yorkers are among the most ill-mannered, foul-tempered, shrill, nervous, uptight, snappish sorts on Earth. They deal with their ill-mannered, foul-tempered, shrill, nervous, uptight, snappish neighbors every day, and think nothing of it. It's just part of New York life.

But their standards are too high for them to deal with Nixon?

Here is a man who twice was elected president of the United States; who opened the doors to China; who has traveled all over the world to meet with international leaders. Granted, he had a little problem there near the end of his term. We all know that. But New Yorkers gladly suffer murderers, psychopaths and sexual degenerates walking blithely among them; now they're saying that they can't put up with a former president.

It's hard to understand exactly how Nixon could cause the other residents of the co-op trouble; his Secret Service protection would probably make the building the safest one in town. Nixon turned 71 years old this month; do the co-op members think he's going to leave his garbage out in the hallway?

Maybe they're afraid that Nixon is going to track mud into the lobby, or let his dog run loose, or lift weights at the crack of dawn and let the barbells drop on the floor, waking up the neighbors below. Maybe they're afraid that he will hold loud poker games, or invite his bowling team over at all hours of the night, or leave his wet galoshes in front of the wrong apartment.

Whatever . . . I hope that in the end Nixon does get to move in, and that he's very happy in his new home. I hope that in a month or two this whole controversy dies down. And next Halloween, when his neighbors in the co-op are all asleep, I hope he soaps their windows and toilet papers their doors.

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Letters

Loungers unite

I am opposed to the converting of the women's lounge on the first floor of the Nebraska Union into a computer terminal location. It is a relaxing place to study or rest. Students who live off campus and must spend the entire day at school especially appreciate the lounge for its quiet and solitude.

Everyone who is opposed to closing the lounge should attend the Union Board meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the union. A petition opposing the plan is available to be signed at the Women's Resource Center, 117 Nebraska Union.

Deb L. Swinton
senior
Human Development

Column erroneus

Eric Peterson's column (Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 26) on faculty unionization has errors of fact as well as the usual misrepresentations. First, it pretends that AAUP seeks signatures of all UNL faculty, when in fact one significant group is being deliberately excluded. Second, it is based on last year's statistics.

UNO's union received a 6.6 percent salary increase and UNL received 2.5 percent, not "zero," for the year '82-83. Last fall the regents authorized elimination of 19.25 UNO faculty positions to meet the anticipated median of faculty salary increases within the allocated budget. Salary raises have resulted in firings, not hirings, at UNL. It tarnishes the rosy picture of "intelligent and committed applicants" being attracted there.

This year's UNO salaries haven't been negotiated yet. Ours are reportedly "zero," though most have received a minimal increase. Two factors will keep this from influencing new job applicants. One, the drastic shortage of positions in all but a few disciplines. Most applicants are desperate for a job, whatever the circumstances. Two, the competitive beginning salaries we

offer to attract good candidates in most fields. They apply in droves!

I challenge you to prove that "many departments have seen some of their best teaching faculty leave in the past few years, in part because of low salaries." As far as I know, our really great teachers are still here. Oh, we've lost a few "nibblers", but for most, moving is a very costly, painful process that must offer greater incentives than the 6.6 percent raise you're talking.

Finally, you must compare us with other AAU land grand universities in salary, and thus find we are 12.3 percent below their salaries, not 15 percent. And since Eric cited the Senate debate, we should note AAUP's dependence upon the Commission of Industrial Relations. Law forbids public employees to strike in Nebraska. Wage disputes are therefore settled in the CIR. But that has begun to rankle in the Unicameral, whose budget allocations have been "messed up" by the court. The Legislature created the Commission of Industrial Relations. And I've been told by Sen. Warner and others, that if the CIR destroys many more budgets, the Unicameral will remove its power to arbitrate wage disputes. That would leave the union in a very tough place, indeed.

Nels W. Forde
professor
history

Hail Diversity!

Hail the students who actively pursue their education. And woe to the unidimensionally trained business majors on campus. College should not demand of its students such pompous pursuit of any one discipline. We are here to learn about as many things as we possibly can. Diversification is the goal. Anyone who is here to study one subject is in the wrong place. That's what schools are for.

Jane Raglin
senior
journalism