

# ***New York Post***

## **Bad picture of arts prez**

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The National Arts Club fired back at its eccentric former president yesterday, saying the ousted leader owes the company \$3 million for misusing money, artwork and a slew of apartments to hoard junk and antiques.

Aldon James, who ran the club for 25 years, his twin brother John and their friend Steven Leitner were accused of making sweetheart deals on 20 apartments in the famed Gramercy Park club, as well as hoarding belongings, mismanaging club finances and harassing members.

“Their failure to pay appropriate rent for the multiple spaces they occupied at the club will be established at trial, but is believed to exceed \$1,500,000,” according to a counter claim filed by the club’s president and board of governors.

The club also said the trio used at least \$600,000 from its ATM debit card for personal expenses.

The claim also alleges that the men’s “willful neglect” caused \$500,000 in damages to the club’s historic home at 15 Gramercy Park South, and that they are responsible for a \$400,000 drop in the value of club assets because of missing items or art that was stored unsafely.