

# Readers make pleas for public actions

## Letters

### Pro-education Jackson gets reader's praise

I am very pleased with the way the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska and the NU Board of Regents have taken on the sole task of improving the quality of education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but it's a shame that the federal government isn't also taking great strides in the same direction.

The Education Department's budget request for 1988 had an 8 percent decrease in spending from the previous year. That amount is \$400 million below the 1980 appropriation when Reagan came into office. These figures are not something that can just be ignored.

The future of this nation is in the education of today's youth, and this is why I feel it is extremely important to elect a president that proposes a solid plan to improve the overall quality of education in this nation. Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson is the only candidate that proposes the doubling of the federal education's budget when he gets into office.

By casting a vote for Jesse Jackson during the May 10 Nebraska primary, I am confident that a man who is concerned with the issues involving the young adults of America will be on his way into office.

Troy Huffman  
sophomore  
life sciences

### Remaining prejudices deserve much attention

What does it mean to be black in America instead of white? Surely it is just a matter of color, or is it? According to Webster's Dictionary, black is associated with death, uncleanness and evil.

On the other hand, white is defined as pure snow, clean and pertaining to angels. So what is this telling us? It is telling us that the word black is a 1980s word for Negro and Negro is a 1960s word for colored, and colored is a word from the '40s and '50s that replaced the word darky, and the story goes on. Whereas the "black man" in America is of African ancestry, let it be resolved that he is an African American. In the same sense, an American-born Japanese who has never seen Japan is a Japanese American and a Chinese who has never seen China is a Chinese American and a Jewish person who has never seen Israel is a Jewish American. With this thought in mind, the African American not only has a country but a continent with a rich history, a history that goes beyond the plight of the slave trade.

So let it be known that the history of the African American is American history; more precisely, American history is the history of the African American. And let it be known that this story of a people is not a pretty one, because a story of a people never is. In fact, this story is of struggle that still exists today: worldwide, nationwide, statewide, citywide and campuswide.

This struggle still exists in the

sense that we still live in a world that supports slavery by way of apartheid; in a nation that would rather buy weapons than feed the poor; in a state that harasses a state senator for his dress code and for speaking out on issues others choose not to speak on. We still live in a city where Jim Crow is dead but blacks live on one side of town and whites on the other; we live on a campus where there are no black/African Americans on the Board of Regents or on the student senate — and whereas there are more than 20,000 students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, there are less than 20 black instructors on staff. No, the struggle is not over yet! We still live on a campus where most people think that there are no black students on academic scholarships, just on athletic scholarships — and the ones on athletic scholarships are often exploited without even knowing it. No, the struggle is not over yet! The black students on this campus need to rise up and get involved. If you are not helping solve the problem, then you are part of it. It's about time for the sleeping giant to awaken.

Terry Goods  
president  
Afrikan Peoples Union  
black student government

### Reader says courtesy is no law, but needed

This letter is in response to Bryson Bartels' pro-smoking letter (Daily Nebraskan, March 14).

A very astute first-year law student you are. Correct, there are no laws against smoking in the Magna Charta, Bill of Rights or the Constitution. However, there also are no laws against spitting in other peoples' faces, defecating on someone's front porch or drooling on other peoples' food. Common courtesy and a sense of decorum dictate that people keep those habits to themselves. Maybe you will learn this in your second year in law school.

Rachel Pred  
senior  
English  
ex-smoker

### Reader says student may not have 'right'

In regard to Bryson Bartel's letter (DN, March 14): shouldn't a law student know better than to make the claim that he has "every right in the

world to smoke?" It seems to me that he is implying that smoking is absolute right. I'm surprised to hear that from a future lawyer!

As citizens of this country, we have a right to do certain things, as long as they don't harm or seriously affect other people. Take freedom of speech, for example — we can say whatever we want to, as long as it isn't slanderous to some person or group. In that same way, Bryson Bartels has a right to smoke, as long as he can prevent all of his smoke from getting into other people's lungs and stinging their eyes. That means that if he wants to smoke, he had better go to his own private room (where no one else ever sets foot in.) If he smokes in public place, or in another person's home, he is affecting the health of others.

Don't give me that lie about second-hand smoke not being harmful either. If smoke inhalation was such a great thing, fire fighters wouldn't wear oxygen masks.

No, Bryson Bartels, you don't have every right in the world to smoke.

Larry Stetz  
freshman  
agriculture honors

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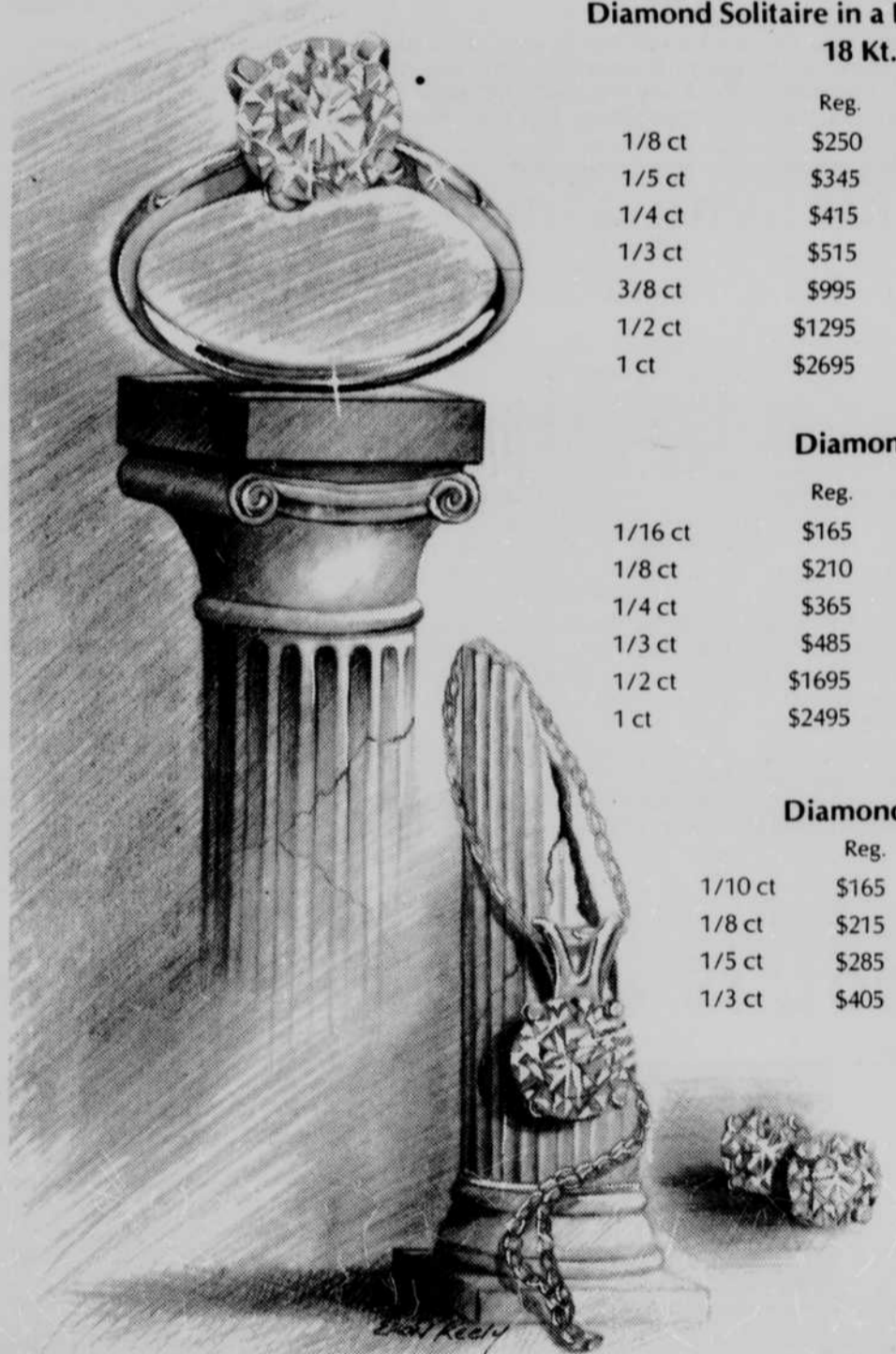
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