Let $waggart feed hi$ $heep, $aving$

Jimmy Swaggart, the TV evangelist with a roving eye for lewd women, says he's going to return to preaching in a few weeks despite what his church elders say.

They want him to hush up for at least a year and spend two years being counseled about straying from the path of righteousness. As you recall, he strayed all the way to those seedy motels.

But Swaggart has decided that a year or two is too long for his flock to be deprived of his spiritual guidance. So he's going to get back to the pulpit in May.

And I don't blame him. Why should he be singled out for sterner punishment than is meted out to others in his line of work?

We've read of dozens of show-business people — rock stars, actors, actresses, comedians, movie producers and others — who have been busted for sniffing and smoking illegal herbs and spices. As quickly as they make bond, they are back on stage or screen earning their big bucks.

We've lost count of the number of star athletes who have done the same. They snort white powder, miss a game or two, spend a few weeks in a rehab resort and return to their teams as soon as their eyes become uncrossed.

Sometimes it is more than dope. Now and then we read of a football star forcing his masculine charms on some helpless female in the basement of a bar. He is arrested and stands trial.

But is that enough to get him barred from earning a living for one or two years?

Of course not. Just as soon as his lawyer can settle with the female, he's back on the field.

The fans aren't offended. They sometimes welcome the wayward jocks with standing ovations.

So why shouldn't Swaggart be allowed to go back to work?

What's that you say? He's not a rock star or an athlete. He is a preacher, a man of the cloth, so he should be held to different standards?

Nonsense. Rock stars are in show biz. Professional athletes are in show biz. And Jimmy Swaggart, preacher though he be, is in show biz.

The rock stars are peddling music, the comedians peddle laughs, the athletes peddle violence and vicarious thrills.

Swaggart is peddling salvation, with a little bit of religious bigotry and intolerance thrown in.

Like the others, he's out there on the air waves hustling a buck. Millions of bucks, since he's been the biggest of the show-biz preachers.

And he knows that being benched for a year or two while some shrink asks him when he first developed a craving for dirty pictures is going to cost him millions.

Mike Royko

Why, even before he made his decision to return in May, he was hustling his faithful followers for whatever they can spare.

He sent out a mass mailing that included these poignant lines:

"For some time Frances and I have worked until the point of total exhaustion and in the midst of this, Satan was trying to destroy me with a terrible problem."

He didn't elaborate on what Satan made him do, but I assume it was his habit of putting on a jogging suit and taking hookers to a motel. That Satan, he gets such kinky ideas.

He went on: "Oh, the days and nights spent in prayer, the tears shed, the days of fasting."

Not to mention, of course, the dread that the motel keeper might not be fooled by the sunglasses and recognize him.

"However, I think most of you know that from the very moment this tragedy began, even though I have suffered humiliation and shame as possible no human being on the face of the earth has ever suffered, I have done the right thing — and that is what I want to emphasize."

The right thing? Did he give the hooker a generous tip?

"When I stood before the whole world and repented, that was the right thing to do."

It was also the smartest thing to do. It made for great show biz. He blubbered. His kid blubbered. The audience blubbered. I haven't seen that much effective sobbing since actress Jane Wyman was in her weepy prime.

After blaming the devil for what he did, rather than his own horny tendencies, he said:

"I have sought direction from God as I have never sought it before and He has told me in the very depths of my being, 'Feed My Sheep.'"

Does that mean that Swaggart is going to do penance by working on a sheep farm?

No, he explains: "Now I need your help. I need your hand. I need your heart. I need your prayers."

And besides that, he needs your greenbacks. And at the end of the letter is the pitch. It's the part the faithful fill out, stuff in an envelope and it says:

"Yes, Brother Swaggart, you can count on my support. Enclosed is my gift of $____."

So I say that Swaggart shouldn't be treated differently than any of our other show-biz figures who have their little flings. Let him make his bucks. If the Lord didn't believe in free enterprise, he wouldn't have given us computerized mailing lists.

And, as Swaggart said, he has an urgent mission from God. He must feed those sheep.

Or did he say fleece?

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Royko is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist with The Chicago Tribune.

Letter

Reader: Police need help

In response to the UNL Police notice (Daily Nebraskan, March 5) it seems obvious that a UNL policeman would savor the opportunity to remove a bicycle locked to a handrail. When my locked bike was stolen from in front of the union, they inexcusably lost the report on the incident two months later.

They are skilled in writing tickets but can't prevent thefts from occurring in parking lots during snowstorms. The most appalling fact is that they have statewide jurisdiction. Now, I'm afraid to lock my bike to a handrail in Crete.

Erik Wagner
natural resources junior

Laser Visions
Sundays, 3:30 p.m.

April 10-Special 1958 Edition
April 17-Laser New Age
April 24-Fleetwood Mac
May 1-Special 1958 Edition

$3.50 Adults
$3.00 Students with ID
$2.00 Children 12 & under

Mueller Planetarium
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ASUN UN-L STUDENT GOVERNMENT CAMPUS WIDE VACANCIES

APPOINTMENTS BOARD: Review all applications and make appointments for student representation to campus wide vacancies.
GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIR: Coordinate communication of the student view to government officials, administrators and the community at large.
GLC REGISTERED LOBBYIST: Active lobbying for student concerns with various entities of governmemt.

Applications and information are available at 115 Nebraska Union. Deadline April 6, 1988.

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Are you looking for a Part-time Job or just a Summer Job?

Make the right move today. Check the Job Boards outside Room 120, Administration Bldg.

Check the Job Boards for:

Clerical — Babysitting
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Variety of other positions!

Or, inquire about a Summer Camp job — many openings still available.

Make the Right Move Today! New jobs added daily.

JOB LOCATION OFFICE
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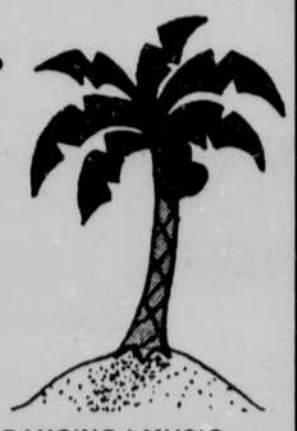

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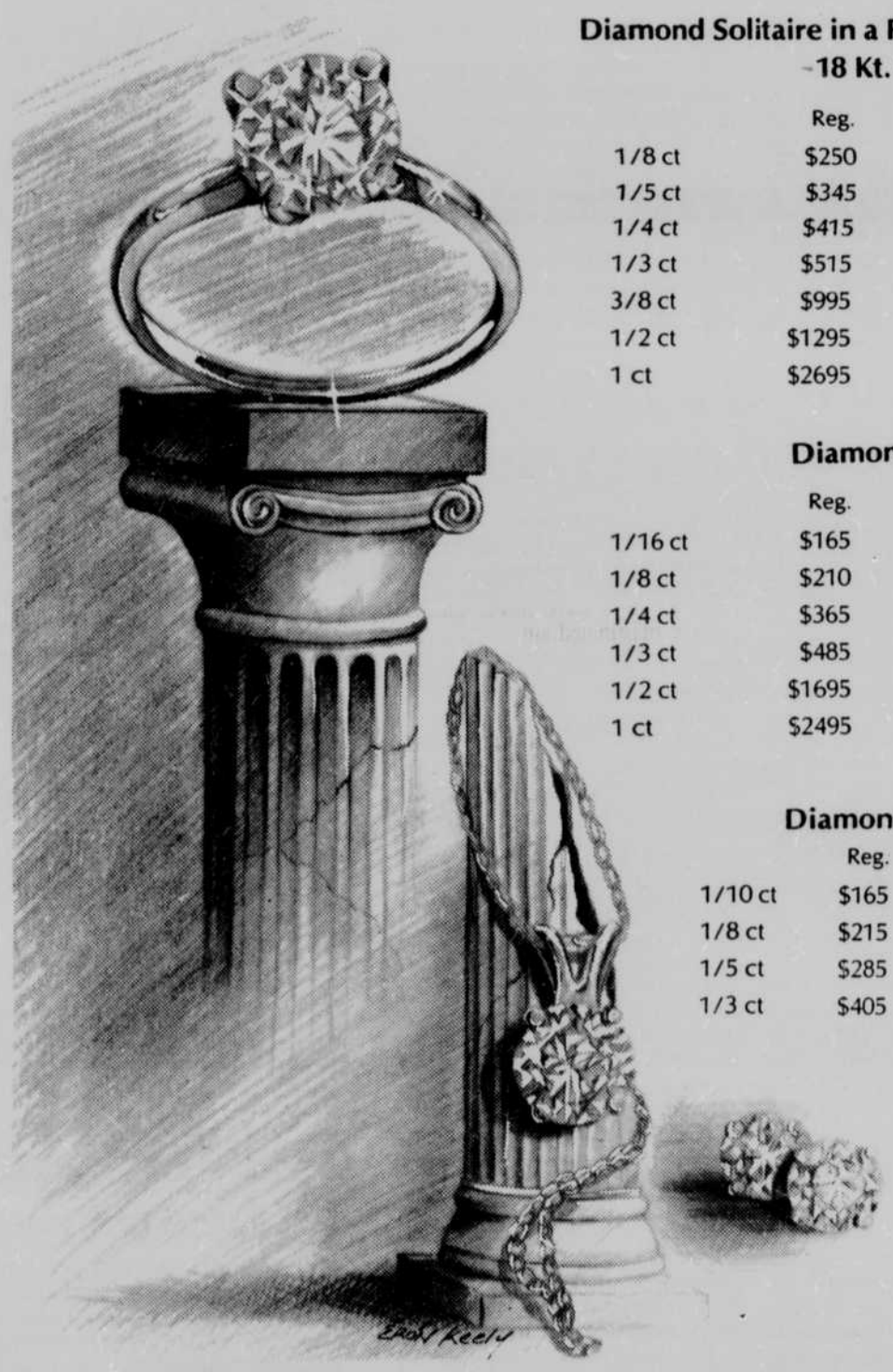
Diamond Solitaire Special



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1/5 ct	$345	$295
1/4 ct	$415	$325
1/3 ct	$515	$395
3/8 ct	$995	$795
1/2 ct	$1295	$995
1 ct	$2695	$1995

Diamond Pendant

	Reg.	NOW
1/16 ct	$165	$95
1/8 ct	$210	$145
1/4 ct	$365	$295
1/3 ct	$485	$375
1/2 ct	$1695	$995
1 ct	$2495	$1995

Diamond Earrings

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1/10 ct	$165	$99
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1/5 ct	$285	$195
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