

U.S. teams get backing from brewer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. men's and women's track and field teams, preparing for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, will be subsidized by a beer company, the Amateur Athletic Union announced Wednesday.

Officials said they anticipated only minimal, if any, reaction from religious and social groups who might object to the association of amateur athletes with an alcoholic beverage.

The AAU and representatives of Miller Lite Beer disclosed plans at a New York news conference for the brewer to provide "substantial funds" for the training of athletes and the conduct of competitions designed to improve American performances in track and field.

No amount of money was disclosed but the figure is expected to run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"It is the American way of utilizing free enterprise and corporate sponsorship," said Jimmy Cames of Gainesville, Fla., recently named head U.S. track and field coach for the 1980 Games.

A national track and field coach will be appointed by the AAU. The beer company will underwrite training procedures, sponsor events and pay travel expenses of athletes, said Thomas Shropshire, Miller's vice president for market planning.

Shropshire said no provision had been made to offer a stipend for the athletes or to compensate them for loss of time away from their jobs, a practice followed by the Soviet Union and other satellite Iron Curtain countries but frowned upon as "sham-amateurism" or "semi-professionalism" among Western nations.

The beer executive said the company would sponsor television of the 1980 Games and, as part of its new program starting next year, would promote the selection of an AAU-Lite "Athlete of the Month."

Joel Ferrel of Tullahoma, Tenn., president of the AAU, said corporate involvement was not new, although this marks the first time there has been outside subsidy for the track and field teams.

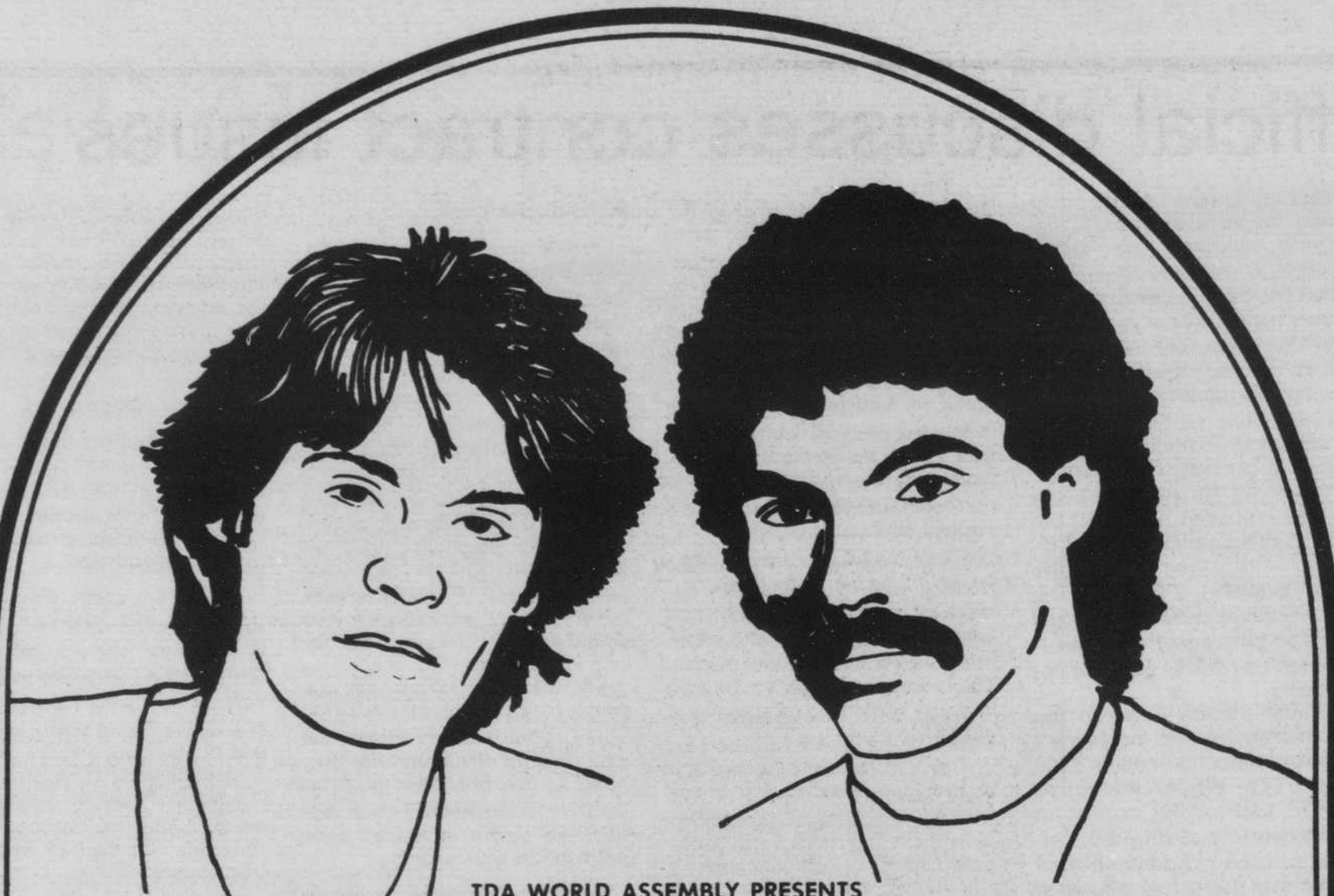
Corporate sponsorship of U.S. amateur teams is suggested in the new Amateur Act passed by Congress aimed at keeping U.S. international teams competitive with those of state-subsidized Communist powers.

GTFs to decide on strike vote

The Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Room 167, EMU to vote on whether to strike.

The GTFF has been at odds with the University over the proposed terms of a contract between the teaching fellows union and the administration. In a meeting last week, the union fell 14 votes short of a walkout ratification.

Thursday, October 26, 1978

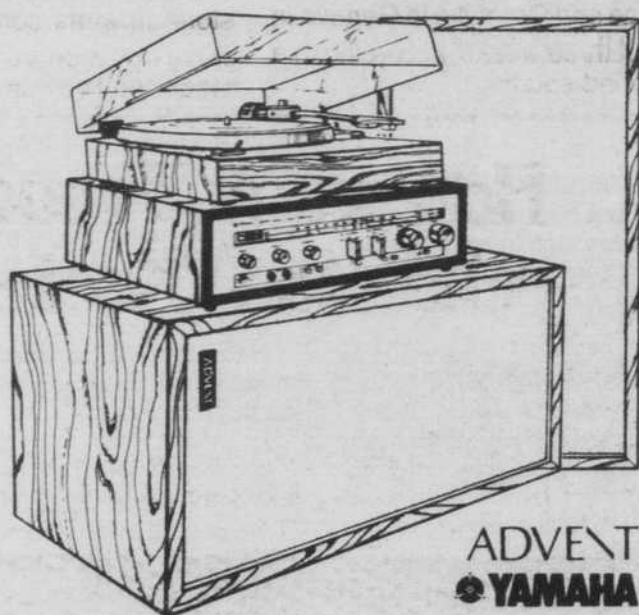


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