

'Call it a climb-a-thon'

# Pair plan mountain climb for charity funds

By HARRY ESTEVE  
Of the Emerald

Telethons, walk-a-thons, and bike-a-thons all are proven ways of raising money, but two University mountaineers may be the first to climb a mountain for charity.

"Call it a climb-a-thon," says Glen St. Louis, a University first-aid instructor, who will be climbing Alaska's Mt. McKinley with science major Wayne Miller

in an effort to raise money for OXFAM, an international hunger-relief organization.

The idea is to convince people to "sponsor" the two climbers for every 1,000 feet of altitude they ascend when they make their first assault on the peak this summer.

"A typical sponsor might sign up for 50 cents per thousand feet," Miller says. "That would amount to a \$10 donation to

OXFAM."

At 20,320 feet, Mt. McKinley is the highest peak in the United States.

St. Louis and Miller say they chose to work with OXFAM because of its national acclaim as a successful relief organization. OXFAM spends only 17 percent of its funds on administration, with the remainder aiding poor and famine-stricken people in developing countries,

Miller says.

A "personal concern for hunger" and simple love of adventure motivated St. Louis to agree to Miller's idea for the fund-raiser.

"I see it as a chance to explore ourselves and to recognize our civic duty to our fellow man," St. Louis says.

Miller says he began thinking of a fund raiser when he tried to "justify spending so much

money on something so elitist as climbing a mountain."

The trip will end up costing more than \$2,000 in equipment and travel expenses, so the two are looking for people who want to help defray their costs. However, both stressed the donations to OXFAM and the donations to defray their personal costs would be strictly delineated.

Both St. Louis and Miller have several years of mountaineering experience to draw from when they come up against the high-altitude ice falls and snowfields of Mt. McKinley.

St. Louis has spent the last eight of his 28 years climbing and backpacking in this country and the European Alps. Miller, 25, says he was "introduced to the mountains" four years ago while traveling in Switzerland and has been mountaineering ever since.

Unescorted attempts to reach Mt. McKinley's summit fail half the time, according to St. Louis. For that reason, they have spent most of their spare time the past six months training and preparing for the assault.

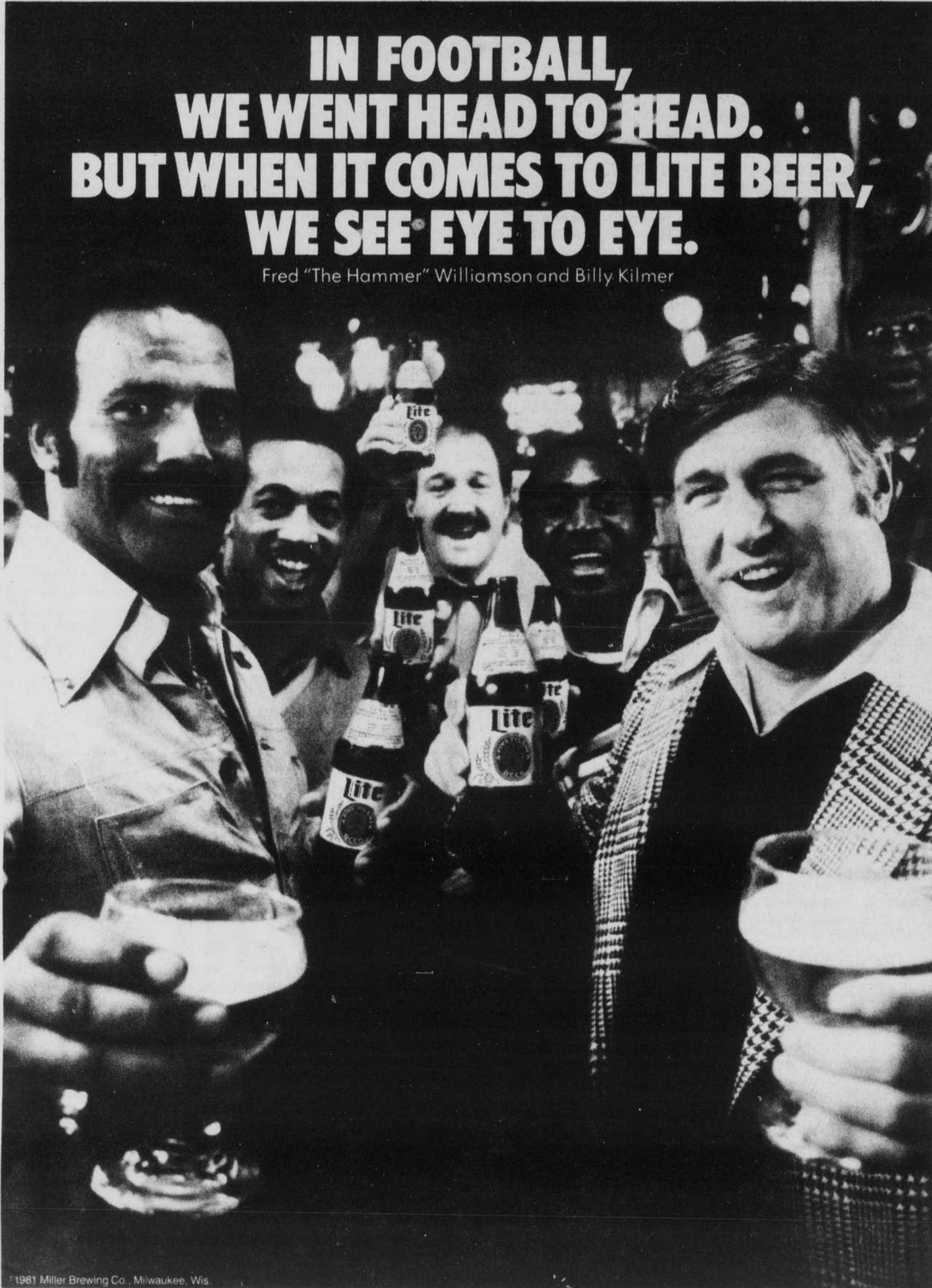
Miller says he sold his car to pay for special oxygen equipment they will need when they reach the higher elevations. The pair have been spending their weekends walking up the steep side of Spencer Butte carrying 75-pound backpacks.

"I think our chances for success are 100 percent," St. Louis says.

The two plan to arrive at the base of the mountain in mid-July. From there, it could take anywhere from 10 to 30 days to reach the summit, depending on weather conditions. To be safe, they will carry enough food for five weeks.

Using a group of students who already support the fund-raiser, St. Louis and Miller hope to use the campus as a base for a citywide and statewide publicity campaign. Miller says OXFAM representatives have expressed interest in developing a national campaign to publicize the climb.

"We want to raise a quarter of a million (dollars)," Miller says, "but we're pretty optimistic."



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