

Board mulls education issues

By Mike Sims
Of the Emerald

The State Board of Higher Education discussed a variety of topics relating to academic reform during its two-day retreat at the Hatfield Marine Sciences Center in Newport on Wednesday and Thursday.

Chancellor Bud Davis explained that the board's primary objective during the retreat was to address the major problem facing Oregon's system of higher education: funding for academics.

The chancellor stated several facts that paint a dim picture of the state higher education system's fiscal situation. Davis said Oregon ranks last among Western states and in the lower 10 percent nationally in terms of faculty salaries at its public colleges and universities.

Davis asserted that passage of Ballot Measure 2, a 1.5 percent property tax limitation measure, on the Nov. 6 general election ballot would be very detrimental to Oregon's public schools and would have grave consequences for higher education in Oregon.

The board proposed and drafted a resolution opposing the measure during the retreat, and then unanimously approved the resolution at its regular monthly meeting Friday in Monmouth.

Davis also reiterated a belief that the system needs to put more money into building repairs, maintenance and equipment at its eight colleges and universities. He said that such a commitment is essential

if the higher education system is to make a "full contribution" to Oregon's economic development.

Specifically, Davis said that full computerization of the state college and university campuses, particularly libraries, was essential.

And Davis again expressed a concern that if the 1985 Legislature were to give the state higher education system less than its requested \$641 million budget, Oregon's public colleges and universities might

be forced to restrict enrollment.

Much of the first day of the retreat was spent hammering out campaign strategy for the 1985 legislative session, during which the 1985-87 higher education budget will be allocated. Davis and Wil Post, vice chancellor for academic affairs, told board members that they had discussed the board's higher-education budget request with 57 legislative candidates and possible 1985

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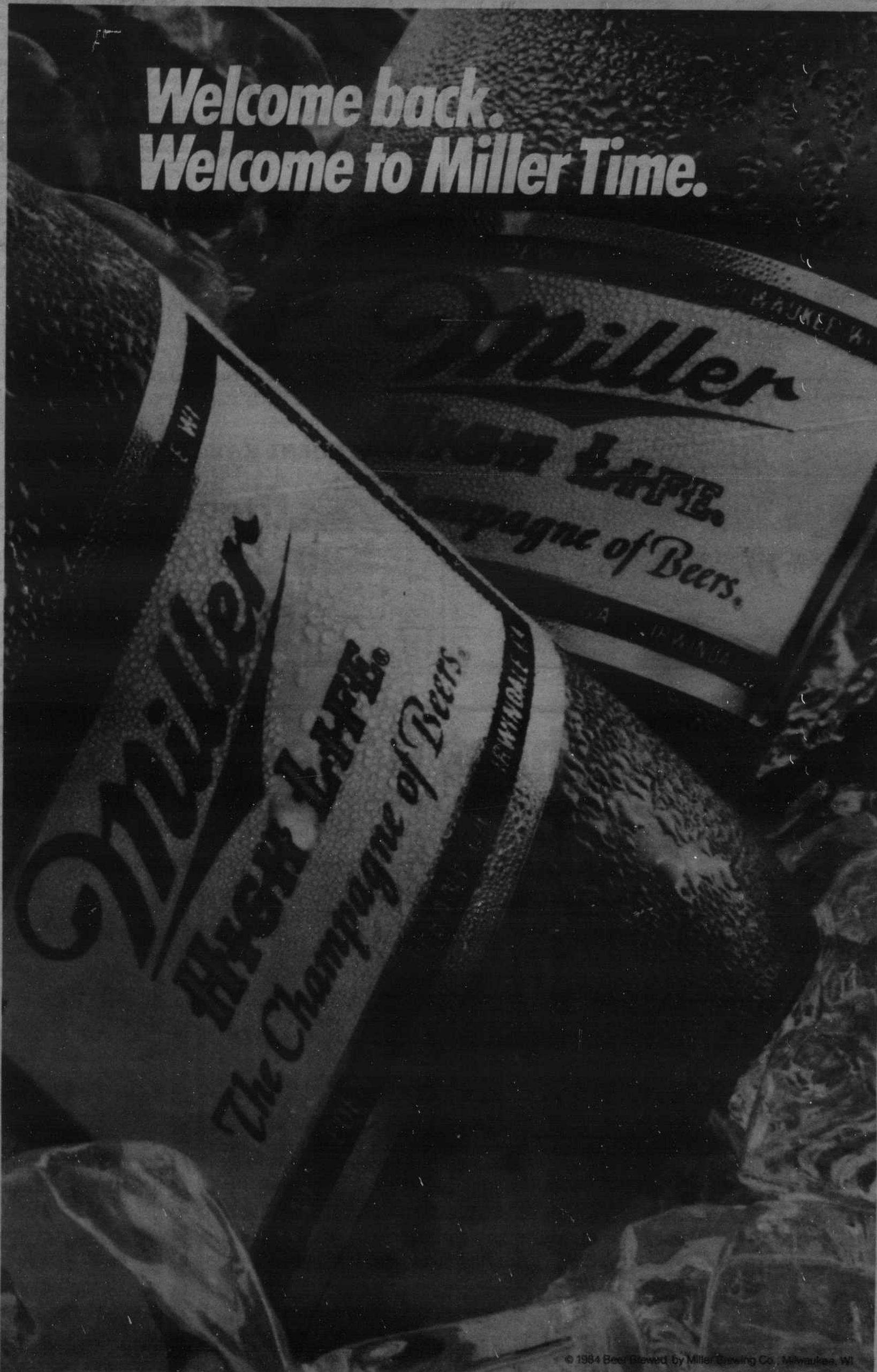
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