

# Zatechka dims cable TV visions despite majority student turn-on

By Kevin McCoy  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Although about 70 percent of the residence hall students surveyed say they would pay for cable television, UNL Housing Director Douglas Zatechka said he is not sure it will be installed soon.

Surveys were completed by 251 of 510 residents selected through a method of stratified random sample by UNL's Residence Hall Association. Students were asked to rank in order of preference four options, cable television, unlimited food for residence hall food service and soap and paper towels in residence hall restrooms.

Although Zatechka hesitated to say cable would be installed, he did say unlimited food would be a better idea. More than 40 percent of surveyed students ranked the option last.

"When I think of raising room and board rates for things that are enhancements when I know rates will go up for necessities, I'm very hesitant," Zatechka said. "If anything would have come in over 90 percent I would have really taken notice."

The survey estimated there would be a \$100 increase in room and board cost without the implementation of any of the options. It projected a \$20 increase for unlimited food, and \$18 increase for cable television and \$2.50 each increase for soap and paper towels.

Zatechka said unlimited food has an advantage over cable because if the budget were tightened, unlimited food could be stopped, he said. But cable would call for an extended contract and installation of equipment and wiring.

Zatechka also said while few schools have installed cable, the trend in food service nationwide has been toward unlimited food.

The rising costs of tuition, books and other expenses also weigh against the new options, Zatechka said, because it would bring an

even greater increase in the total cost of education.

"We want to do whatever will give students the most benefit at the cheapest cost," he said.

Zatechka said he has changed his mind on cable several times since he began to study its feasibility. He said that now he is "not much in favor of it, even if a majority of students are."

Several schools have rejected cable because "they do not see it in their mission as an educational institution," Zatechka said. Among Big Eight schools, only Kansas State University has cable, which was installed to make television reception better, he said. Iowa State University and the University of Colorado at Boulder re-

cently had considered cable, but rejected it. Students at the Georgia Institute of Technology recently voted down cable because they thought it would distract their studies, Zatechka said.

RHA President Dave Edwards said the low returns favoring the other options left cable television as the only option worth purchasing by RHA. The group's executive board will meet next week to vote on whether RHA should encourage housing to finish negotiating for cable television, Edwards said.

Zatechka said the results showed there was no clear mandate for any new services included in the survey.

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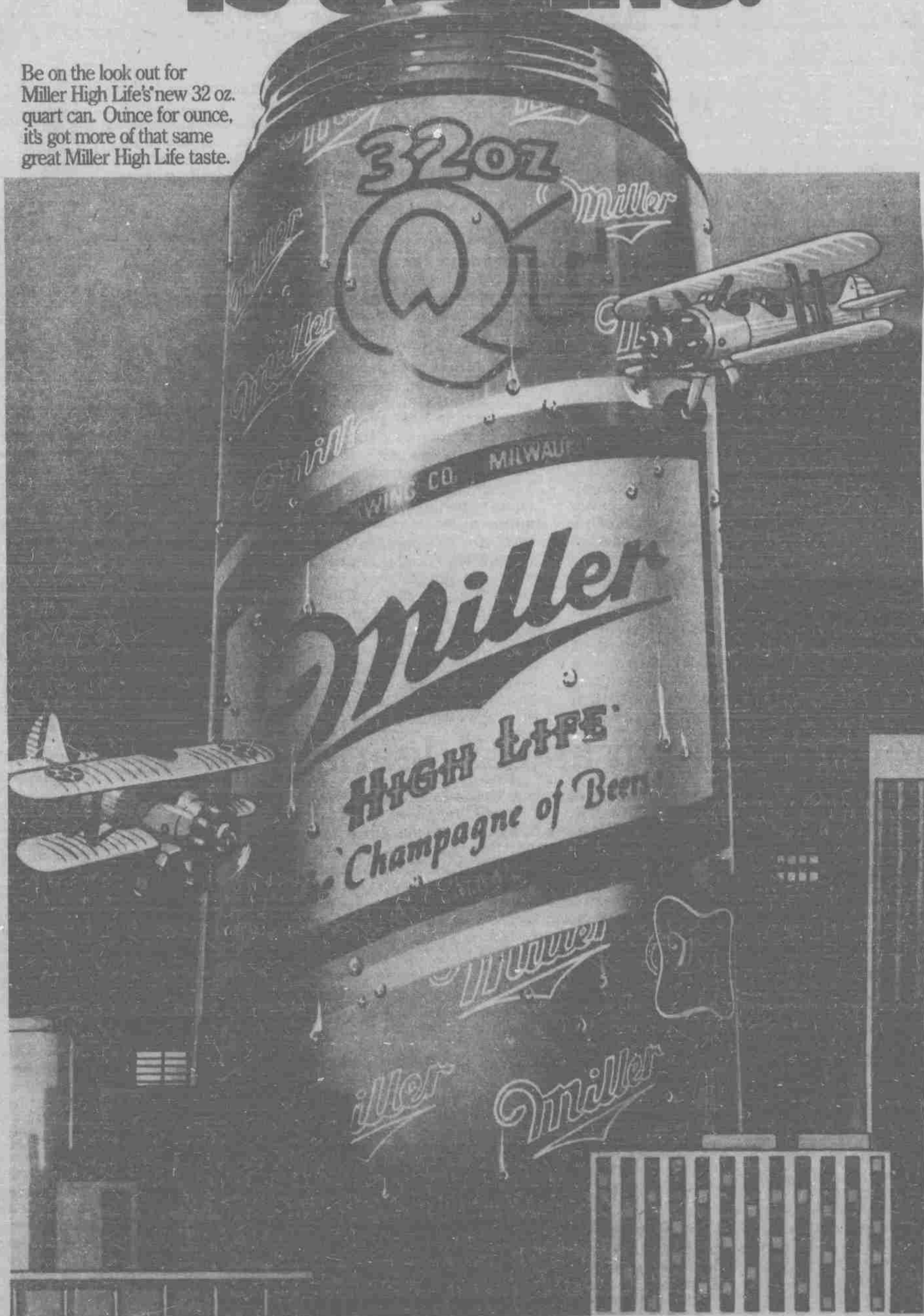
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