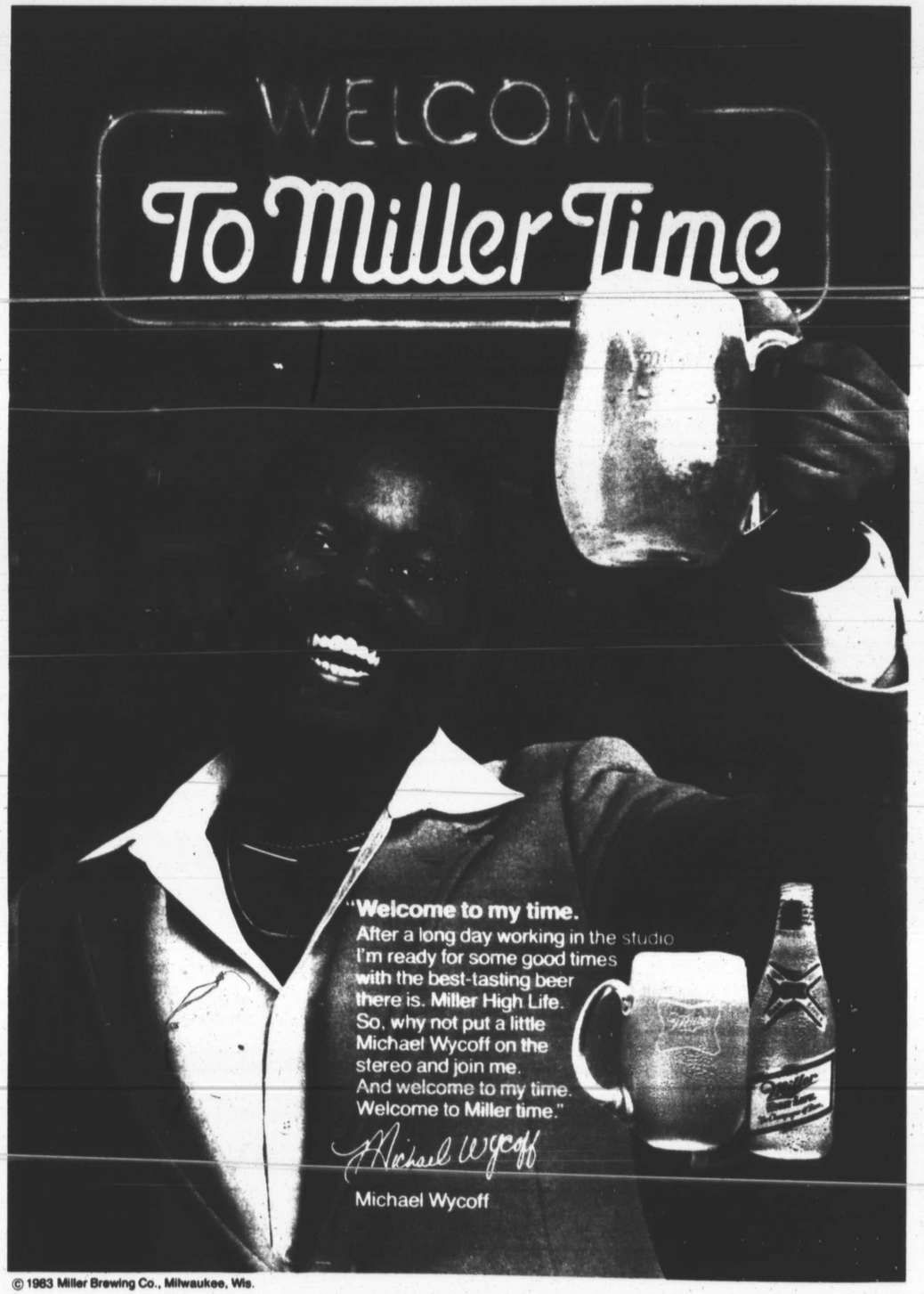

© 1983 Miller Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.

Focus on Fashion

By Paula Brooks

Swimwear in the Tropics

Preparing for a visit to the tropics, takes some time, but you'll find it a good investment. Two of our models decided on a braided hairstyle, as a way to beat the effects of a humid climate, and frequent dips in the ocean.

Each style took about four hours to do, but the time saved everyday in hair preparation can't be measured. If you want to spend your vacation having fun, instead of doing your hair, you might want to consider braids.

Roxanne Millers wears suit designed by Dona Norton. It also has matching cover-up.

There was also the little matter of nails. They may be small, but a person's hands, and feet tell a lot about them. Hand-painted nail designs have become all the rage, and we decided on delicate floral patterns for our island trip.

Next was the problem of unwanted hair removal. Depilatory creams give a much smoother look, and last longer than shaving, but it should be done a couple of days before the trip, so that sensitivity to deodorant will be minimal.

A lot of this year's suits have high cut legs, and nothing looks worse than hair showing below the swimsuit leg. Try your suit on first, so you'll know how much hair should be removed. Now you're set!

Designers of swimwear are increasing the trend to the one piece mallot, or tank suit. Norma Kamali has a five star collection that is full of mischevious, peek-a-boo, detailing.

Among the best are her "Vitamin C" suit — a one shoulder tank with most of the stomach cut out, and her bare to the waist back with plunging U-shaped neckline.

All her suits are designed with her signature french cut legs.

Sirena Swimwear also thinks it's fun to play "hide and seek". This is accomplished through cut out sections, and mesh inserts.

Oleg Cassini plays up the allure of the partially hidden-partially revealed, in one and two piece suits that are mixtures of lycra and fishnet.

Our favorite matching cover-ups were a cotton knit mini blouson with fishnet shoulders, a kimono styled mini, and an oversized thigh high bubble — all made from light, airy, open weave cotton.

The two-hour drive from Montego Bay to Ocho Rios, meanders through rolling pastures, studded with goats and cattle.

Karen Phang shows a seductive chamois bikini with lots of fringes & feathers (they can all get wet).

Verna Brogden wears bright orange tye-dye caftan by Paul Ropp.

This trip would not have been possible without the help of a great many people. Thanks go out to the Jamaica Tourist Board; Sherby Simmons-braids; Rayna of the Dett Set; Pauline Brooks Boutique; Roslyn Kaplan; Norman Kamali, swimwear; Sirena swimwear, and Air Jamaica.

Verna wears 2 piece bikini with fish net inserts in twilight blue.