



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

# More to Miami than football

By Larry Peirce  
Staff Reporter

The biggest challenge facing Cornhusker fans making the trip to the Orange Bowl Jan. 2 may be deciding which of South Florida's attractions to see.

Within miles of the Orange Bowl, fans can enjoy the arts at downtown Miami cultural centers, spend the day lazing at Miami Beach, see 2,800 wild animals in the cageless Metrozoo, or visit a 12th-century monastery, which was established by William Randolph Hearst.

Miami will be lit up and waiting for Husker fans, said Sandy Klukas, vice president of communications at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. One way to see the city lights is to take the elevated Metrorail, which has stops at or near major Miami attractions.

Downtown, visitors can take another system, the Metromover, to enjoy the skyline. The Metromover takes passengers to Bayside Marketplace, with its shops and restaurants, Klukas said.

The Coconut Grove district is another place for excitement, Klukas said. Coconut Grove's playhouses and bars are main attractions, she said.

"It's where the young people go," she said.

Gambling fans can bet on the ponies at Calder Racetrack and the dogs at Biscayne Dog Track. Both are in North Miami, and admission in both cases is \$1.

Hialeah Race Track is not in season, but fans still can tour the track and see 400 flamingos that live on its infield. Not far away is Miami's Jai-Alai Fronton, where jai-alai players hurl a rock-hard ball, called a pelota, at speeds up to 150 miles per hour. This also is a gambler's game, which runs every night

except Tuesday and Sunday.

During the week fans who stay in town can go to an international classic car show, a Ringling Brothers Circus, or Santa's Enchanted Forest Carnival, Klukas said. Miami's new National Basketball Association team, the Heat, will be playing at home Dec. 26 and 27.

In the Port of Miami, fans can embark on SeaEscape cruises. For \$39, they can take a six-hour cruise, and for \$99, they can take a one-day cruise to the Bahamas.

Each district or city in the 1,959 square miles making up Dade County has its own attractions. Here are a few for each:



• North Dade boasts the Monastery of St. Bernard, which was built in Spain in 1141 and moved to the U.S. in 1925 by Hearst. Not far away, in Opa-Locka, is the naval air station where Amelia Earhart left on her last flight.

• Southeast of Downtown Miami is an island called Virginia Key, host to Planet Ocean, where visitors can climb into a submarine or experience an indoor hurricane.

• Nearby is the Miami Seaquarium, home to TV star Flipper, Lolita the killer whale and Salty the sea lion. Farther down the causeway is Key Biscayne, with luxury hotels, golf courses and beaches.

• Back on the mainland at South Dade is the Metrozoo, with 2,800 wild animals in a natural environment. Also in South Dade is the Florida Gold Coast Railroad Museum and The Falls, a

tropical outdoor mall. Biscayne National Park, the nation's only underwater park, also is accessible from there. Nature enthusiasts can hike, bike or drive through the Everglades.

• Coral Gables has villages with French, Dutch and Oriental architecture. It also is home to the historic Biltmore Hotel and Country Club and Fairchild Tropical Gardens, the largest botanical garden in the continental U.S.

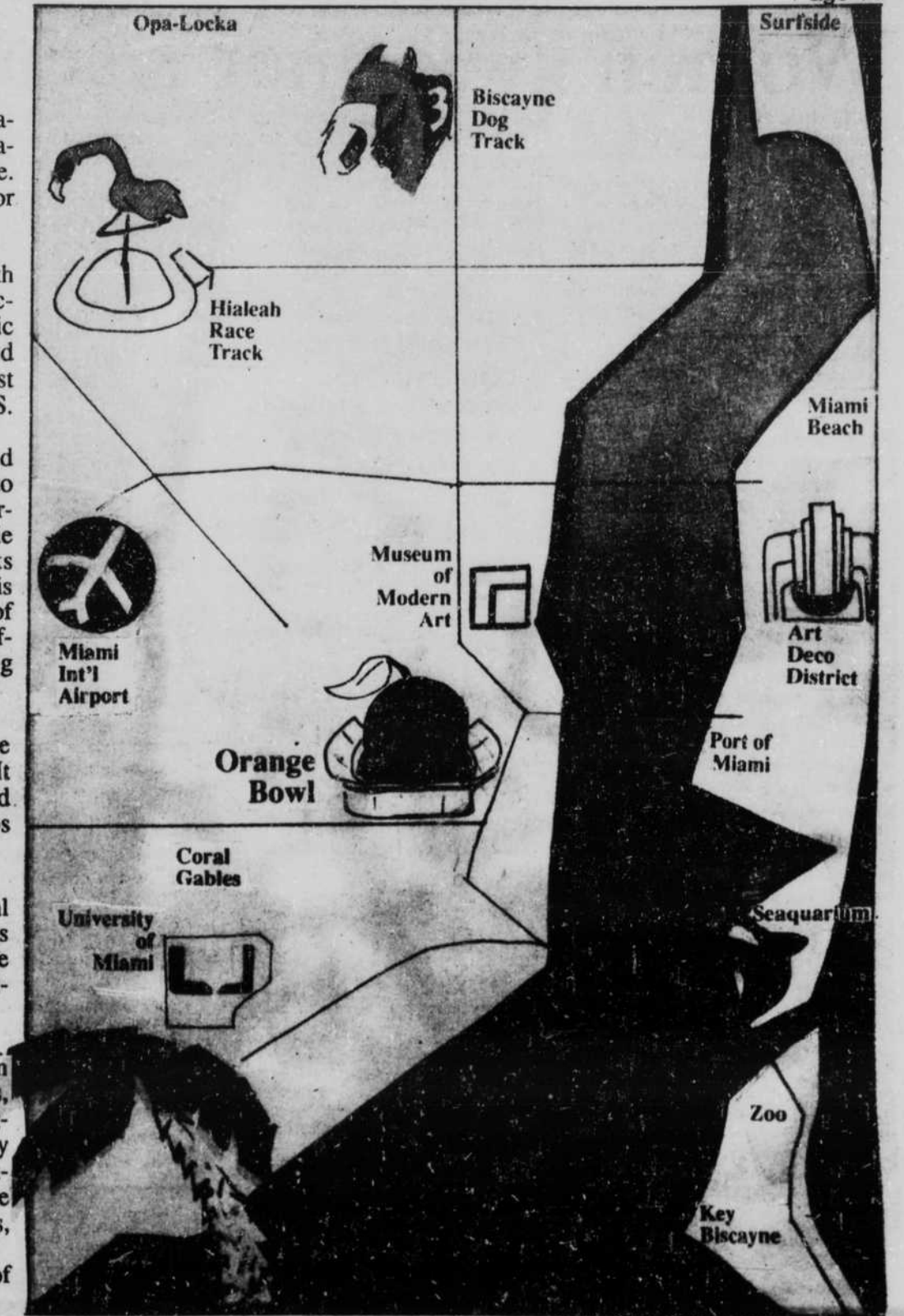
• Miami Beach has nightclubs and gourmet restaurants which cater to every taste. The play, "Les Miserables" will be running at the Jackie Gleason Theater. Eight square blocks of Art Deco architecture highlight this city. Miami Beach also has 10 miles of beaches and world-class fishing, surfing, windsurfing, sailing, snorkeling and scuba diving.

• To the north, fans can enjoy the small-town atmosphere of Surfside. It has a mile of uncrowded beach and palm-lined Harding Avenue with shops and restaurants.

• Still farther up the coast is Bal Harbour, with open air cafes, waterfalls and lush landscaping ready to welcome visitors. This city also features art galleries.

• If that isn't far enough away from the excitement, there is Sunny Isles, which offers hotels for different budgets. Some of this city's hotels are family oriented, many with kitchens. It's another place to enjoy the ocean, where people can rent a windsurfer, jet skis, paddleboats or a water bike.

And there's three more miles of beaches.



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