

Travel

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some extra traveling time.

AAA representative Kelly Kirchoff said the quickest route for the 1,619-mile trip would be to drive through Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and on to Florida. If drivers obey all speed limits along the way, she said, the travel time to Miami will be about 24 hours.

On the way through Florida, fans should take time to stop in Orlando — about 3 1/2 hours north of Miami — and spend a day at the Epcot Center or

the Magic Kingdom, she said.

For fans who want to leave the driving to someone else, Greyhound Bus Lines offers round-trip tickets from Lincoln to Miami for \$320.

When fans finally arrive in Miami, they shouldn't wait too long to find a place to stay, said Tim Brigham, a spokesman for the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Hotel rooms throughout the city are going fast, Brigham said, and he suggested that reservations be made as soon as possible.

Room rates in Miami range from \$75 to \$100 a night for a motel and \$120 to \$175 for a hotel on the beach,

he said. For students with money to burn, luxury hotels range from \$200 to \$300 a night.

Most of Hurricane Andrew's damage in late August did not extend to Miami, Brigham said, so shopping and partying won't be hindered.

Cover charges at most clubs are about \$5, he said, with drinks ranging from \$2 to \$4 for a glass of beer and \$6 for well drinks. Popular night spots are Miami's Art Deco District and Coconut Grove.

Last but not least, Nebraskans making the trek shouldn't forget their swimsuits, Brigham said. Florida's 75-degree temperatures await them.

Patterson

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mean?" Patterson said she realized they were just curious.

When people ask her stereotypical questions about herself or other blacks, Patterson said she would rather explain the reality than brush off the question.

Patterson said she had noticed that throughout the years, stars such as singer Michael Jackson have tried hard to not be black. Patterson blamed the media for creating their desire to be white.

If a crime suspect is black, Patterson said, people are going to see the picture of the suspect in handcuffs being taken away. If the suspect is white, however, the media avoid publishing a photo, she said.

The world is mired with stereotypes that black is bad, and white is good, Patterson said.

White always is depicted as snow, virginity and peaceful thoughts, while black seems to be associated with death, she said.

Patterson came to the university six years ago. She said she decided to come to UNL because she was a football fan. Many of her friends also were coming to UNL, she said.

During her time at UNL, Patterson

has served as secretary and vice president of the Afrikan People's Union, the UNL black student government.

While at UNL, Patterson said, she has encountered racial tension on campus. She said one of her friends once received physical threats in a letter printed on Ku Klux Klan stationery.

"I didn't even know the Ku Klux Klan had its own stationery," she said.

Patterson said she had another encounter with the Ku Klux Klan while UNL was preparing for a Big Eight conference of black student governments here.

This threat also came in a letter, which was sent to the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, Patterson said. The letter referred to blacks as "niggers," among other things, she said.

Patterson said she also had encountered racism while attending class at UNL. One of her professors once said: "We (the people in the class) don't understand racism because we are all white."

Patterson said she raised her hand to correct the professor, but instead of apologizing, the professor "tried to talk his way out of it," she said.

The professor told Patterson that she was "almost white."

Patterson said she was proud to be black, and hearing a professor tell her

she was mostly white upset her.

After she graduates, Patterson said, she would like to work as a nurse in a city with a more diverse population.

She said she wanted to help improve the medical system so that all Americans had equal access to medical care.

The rich can afford transplants and other necessary medical care, she said, while the less fortunate don't have the same option.

"It's not fair that the (less fortunate) can't get the same care," she said.

For now, Patterson said she would strive to represent blacks at UNL. She said she had been asked to write down everything she did while reigning as Miss Black UNL so future winners would have an idea of their responsibilities.

Patterson said she would participate in the Women of Color Conference, and assumed she would be asked to participate in Black History Month. Patterson sang at the Nebraska basketball game last Saturday, and is ready and willing to represent the black population in other events.

Patterson said she was proud to have been selected as a representative of the black population, and believed blacks could be proud of her.

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