

Black students discuss Stillman Program with critic

by STEVE STRASSER
Nebraskan Staff Writer

Two black students last week discussed their views on the Stillman Exchange Program with one of the program's critics and a Nebraskan reporter.

On October 14, the Nebraskan printed an interview with Ron Whitten, a white NU student, who criticized the ASUN student exchange program with Stillman College, a black school in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Whitten complained the program was shoddily set up and poorly promoted at both ends. He suggested the program should function with a black college more up to NU's academic standards.

"A white student going to a black college has to completely rid himself of his own culture," said Darryl Eure, a black stu-

dent and friend of two Stillman co-eds who spent a semester at Nebraska last year.

Eure and fellow black student Richard McCain were talking to Whitten and Nebraskan reporter Steve Strasser, who interviewed Whitten for the story.

"White super-liberals cannot expect to skip into a black college flinging the peace sign and expect black students to fling a 'right on' back at them," Eure said. "A white's job on a black campus is to accept everything, including their way of teaching. If blacks put on airs to make you more comfortable, that would destroy the whole experience."

McCain conceded it would be harder for a white to make it in a black culture than for blacks in a white culture. "Blacks are ready for it," he said. "Every time they leave the ghetto they have to adjust to white culture. Whites aren't used to changing cultures."

"Every black recognizes that he's black," Eure said. "After he recognizes that, he's forced to play two games, his and yours."

But even though whites may be unskilled in switching cultures, that's what they have to try to do in a black environment, Eure explained.

"Saying that Stillman is run like a high school is like saying that the ghetto system isn't correct," he said.

"A white has to say to himself, 'I'm in a black environment,'" Eure continued. "Then he has to try to become totally involved in that environment. He has to try to become a blue-eyed soul brother, to try to relate to another culture. That's what

blacks do all their lives."

McCain agreed, but added, "It's probably not fair to dump a white student into a black environment."

Eure thinks the exchange program would be more effective if a white student went to Stillman with a black one. They could live in the same room at Stillman and the black could help the white understand the new environment.

Eure did not envy Whitten his experience at Stillman. "You had to break every rule you

had down there," he said.

McCain thought the Stillman exchange program could be a worthwhile experience for white students.

Anyway, "it would be better than those week-end live-ins in Omaha," he said, referring to Wesleyan Foundation-sponsored trips to Omaha ghettos last year.

"Those were only sightseeing trips. You could come back from those trips with a look of good stories to tell your buddies at the next beer party."

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