

Steels: one 'slick' player

By Doreen Charles

The Nebraska Union's Colonial Room cramped the crowd which gathered to hear Anthony Steels sing last Friday night during the Walpurgisnacht.

Anthony Steels, known as "Slick" to most, and a member of the Cornhusker football team, not only sings but is a self-taught piano player. He has been playing for two years and, having had no formal training, plays totally by ear.

Originally from California, Steels, whose father is in the Air Force, has traveled all over the world, including Greece and Spain. He attended school in Spain where his high school coach recommended that he come to Nebraska to play football.

"I walked on and earned a scholarship," said Steels, who is now a second-year sophomore.

Steels discovered his musical talent by teaching himself to play on a residence hall piano.

"I guess I get my talent from my father," he said. He has developed immensely in two years and has played in several talent shows. He sang at the Orange Bowl in Miami with the Orange Bowl queen.

Steels does not practice regularly and, although he cannot read music, has created songs. He plans to take a music course sometime.

"I still would like to know what I'm

playing," he said. "Right now, if somebody asked me what key I was playing in, I couldn't tell them."

Steels admits the controversial assault case involving him last semester still is in the minds of many and said he regrets the negative connotation it has given his name.

Although the woman who pressed charges against Steels, eventually asked that the charges be dropped, Steels said he never got a chance to publically clear his name.

"But I don't worry about it," he said. "People who know me know I didn't do it."

He plans to stay with Nebraska and hopes to get drafted by a professional team after graduation.

"If I don't play football, I'd like to teach," he said. "I like to work with kids."

A singing career is also a possibility for Steels, who said he has plans for more public appearances such as a show at a big hall, and possibly performing in various bars.

Since the Walpurgisnacht performance, Steels admits his popularity has increased.

"A lot of people come up to me that I never saw before," he said. He was impressed with the crowd that showed up to hear him.

"I'd like to thank everybody for coming," he said. "I also want to thank Brent Williams for being announcer, and Russel Gary, Rodney Lewis, and my drummer Paul Hansen for helping out."

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