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An important goal for the BSU is a program for promoting understanding among students from a variety of backgrounds. They plan to model it on a similar one held at University Park on a January weekend.

The "Ebony and Ivory" weekend was co-sponsored by two of that campus' fraternities. Its goal was the improvement of race relations at the institution. The program consisted of a series of lectures, workshops and panel discussions that explored the personal feelings, behaviors, values and attitudes of the participants.

"Right now, most of our energies are being used to get through Black History Month," Samuels said, "but we do think it would be a good idea for our own campus. I wasn't able to attend, but from what I've heard about it, it was an excellent program and I'm sure any campus would benefit from an event like that.

"Perhaps in the spring we'll have a similar program here. A lot of our students go home on weekends, especially in winter, and you have to plan your events around things like that to get maximum participation."

For an Ebony and Ivory program at Capitol, Samuels believes it would get more attention when the weather is warmer, "when people are staying around because there are more things happening to keep them here on weekends."

Samuels wants this and other things to happen in order to remove barriers that she believes exist between student groups.

"For the most part I think there are divisions between students, more specifically between blacks and whites. But fortunately, you always have exceptions where individuals and clubs will mingle and support each other."

She gave as an example of potential misunderstandings a move by the University to provide tutorial services to black and minority students as part of a program aimed at increasing admissions and retention of these groups. This effort was part of a statewide attempt to bring the Commonwealth's colleges and universities into compliance with the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The University is extending the tutorial service to include all students because of concerns expressed by a number of groups that the initial policy would only aggravate any existing tension in

the University system.

"One of our (BSU's) priorities became that the University not limit those services to blacks and minorities," Samuels said.

"I think that for people to understand the workings of these special groups, they have to mingle and communicate. If they have questions like, 'Why are you guys getting special treatment,' or something like that, they can at least discuss the issues.

"An Ebony-and-Ivory-type program would encourage students to get together and do this," she added.

The BSU, which according to Samuels, is not only comprised of blacks "by any means," also has been working on the idea of mailing a regular form letter that would keep students informed about the various cultural events at the Black Student Center.

"Very few black students live on campus and we've been trying to find ways of reaching black students."

Another means of keeping people aware that is under consideration is holding meetings at someone's home. "Very informal," according to Samuels, "in the evening perhaps, to give people a chance to come and find out what's happening within the organization. With all our

schedules as crazy as they are, it's hard for people to know what's going on. All the clubs have the same problem. It's always going to be like that, so we feel we should establish alternative ways of getting information out.

"If we get enough support to pull off a program like Ebony and Ivory here on campus, I see it happening through the Presidents' Council. That's where I hope to gather co-sponsors." (All organization presidents meet as often as possible to keep each other up to date on what the groups are doing.)

"I think this could be an important program for all of us on campus. I think a lot of people could learn not only about others but also more about themselves, especially if they go into it with an open mind, if they leave their preconceptions at the door," Samuels said.

"When we leave our little capsule world here at school, we're going to have to know how to deal with people from all types of cultures," she went on. "The quicker we begin to understand and learn to deal with the diversity, the better off we're going to be. If we don't take chances while we're in this relatively protected atmosphere, it's only going to be more difficult to deal with when we get out. That's the way I see it."

Will Ebony and Ivory play at Capitol?

"I'm an optimist, I believe anything is possible. It depends only on how much you want it to work," she said. "I think that by all means the program could go off."

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as we close our eyes to the problems over which we could have some control.

Racism will not only be history, but present and future as well, and we will still need a Black History Month.

Let's not use February as a month to remember what one race did for this country; we can and should do that all the time. Let's use February to really think about what we can do to change our attitudes about people, especially in an academic environment such as Capitol Campus. Racism is not permanent and one day we will eliminate it. When Martin Luther King, Jr., sang, "We shall overcome. . ." from the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., he wasn't talking about blacks.

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