

# Racial understanding promoted through 'Ebony and Ivory'

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About 400 people participated in workshops and listened to speakers at last weekend's Ebony and Ivory program, which helped promote race relations at the University.

The weekend's events, organized by Alpha Phi Alpha and Beta Sigma Beta fraternities, were designed to inform participants about the

problems facing minorities on campus, said Mark Wisner, Ebony and Ivory weekend co-chairman.

The activities began with Saturday's keynote address by former Dallas Cowboy football player Calvin Hill on recognizing racial attitudes in society and increasing racial harmony.

Lectures, workshops and films presented during the afternoon focused on problems such as stereotyping, historical prejudices

and cultural biases.

The programs tried to inform people of the race relations problems at the University, Wisner said.

Some people will not change their attitudes no matter what, Wisner said, so this weekend's events focused on that segment of the population that did not realize the magnitude of the problem.

"The programs were intended to

promote racial harmony by making people aware that there are race relations problems," Wisner said.

The weekend culminated with a concert last evening by Spyro Gyra.

The organizers were pleased with the turnout for all events in the first year for the weekend. Wisner said students from Behrend and Altoona campuses also attended the programs.

David Casman, co-chairman, said

during a fraternity panel discussion the fraternities joined together to organize the weekend because Alpha Phi Alpha, a black fraternity, and Beta Sigma Beta, a predominantly Jewish fraternity, sometimes face discrimination because they are minority groups.

Tony Stimpson, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, said he learned from the program's events that he "can work with a white person for a good cause."

"We made the initiative and it paid off," he said.

At the fraternity panel discussion, Jon Kaplan, a member of Beta Sigma Beta, said more combined activities between predominantly black and white fraternities would help race relations.

Wisner said the weekend may become an Interfraternity Council event next year so more people will become involved.