

Ferris Administration At Fault, NAACP Hears

Monday May 19, 1969

Black students, who are only a small minority (300 of 9,000) at Ferris State College, cannot begin to bridge the gap between themselves and white students which led to violence again early Tuesday, without active, affirmative support from the administration.

The call for help came Sunday in a prophetic talk before the Grand Rapids chapter of the NAACP by Ronald Sneed, president of the Ferris NAACP chapter.

In Tuesday's outbreak, latest in a series between blacks and whites, state police were called to the campus to quell fighting that left 14 students injured and extensive property damage.

Sneed said here that the administration has shown complete lack of recognition or concern for the gap between the races at Ferris. He asked that letters be written to Gov. Milliken and state representatives to seek help in alleviating tensions between the students and the administration, and between the blacks and whites.

Sneed showed a student paper distributed on campus last Friday with a lead article entitled "Bay of Pigs" that stated "99 per cent of black students are Black Pigs."

He said a confrontation between blacks and whites had been narrowly averted over "this latest display of racism on the Ferris campus," and black students have asked the administration to charge the author and publisher of the paper with intent to incite a riot.

Sneed, incidentally, was one of at least 13 persons arrested Tuesday after law enforcement officers broke up the clash.

Police said Tuesday they did not know the cause of the violence earlier in the day but it may have been retaliation for a smaller scuffle last week.

Another speaker at the NAACP meet-

ing was Jashu Milanowski, counselor for the Draft Information Service at 129 E. Fulton St. who recently completed two years of "alternate service" at St. Mary's Hospital as a conscientious objector.

He said six choices are available to young men facing the draft: To do their military service, to escape through deferment, do alternate service as a C. O., go to Canada; go to prison, or go "underground." Of these, avoiding the draft through deferment is sought by most, he said.

He emphasized the agency is not set up to help "draft dodgers" but acts as a source of information and instruction.



Student government