

By MIKE NIEMANN

Ron Snead of Grand Rapids, a black student at Ferris State College, has been the target of swearing, bottle-throwing whites; he has been arrested and jailed

twice; has been refused service at several Big Rapids restaurants, and has had his car turned over and virtually destroyed.

A week ago, after spending a night in

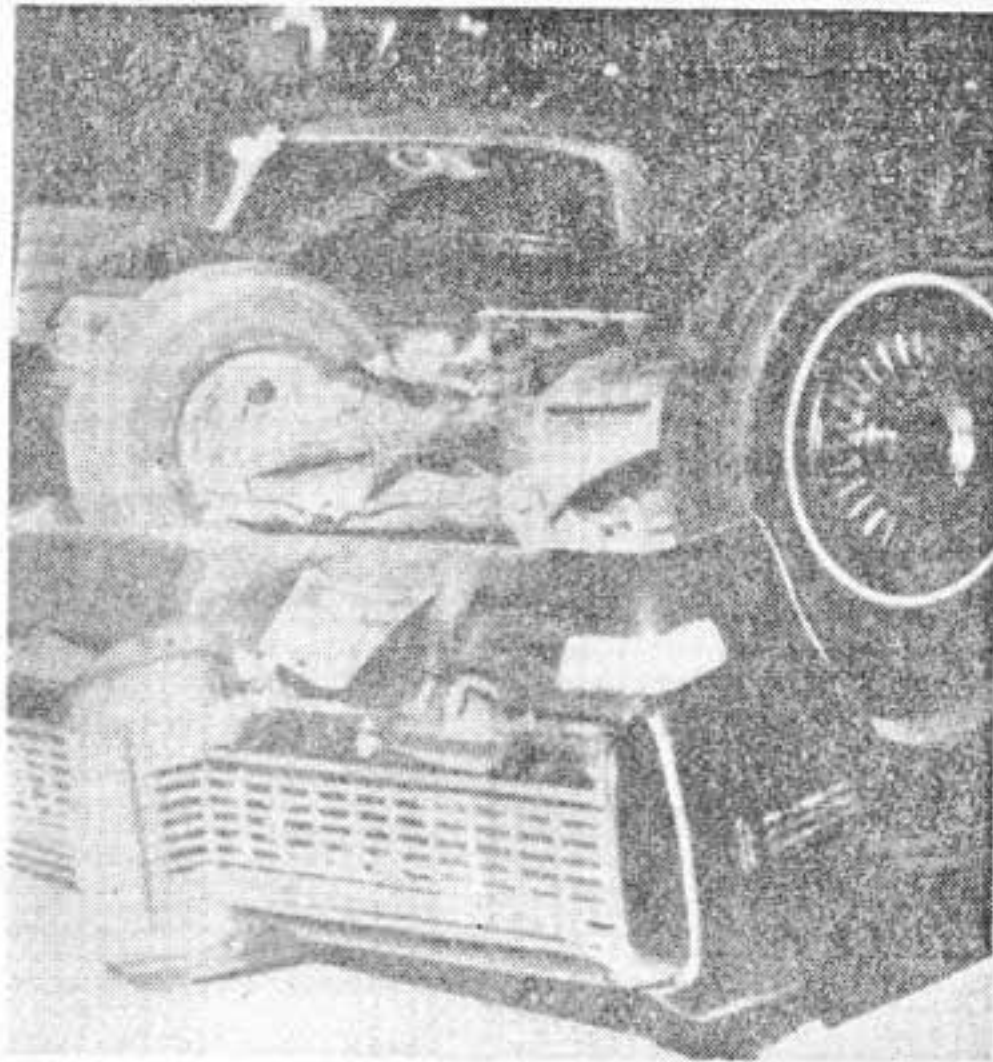
jail on charges of unlawful assembly that were dropped in the morning, he said bitterly, "The whites can have this school," and wondered whether getting a college education, at least at Ferris, was worth the risk.

But the day after his release Wednesday, May 21, Snead, 25, whose local address is 501 Henry Ave. SE, swallowed his bitterness, ignored the fear, and announced he was staying. With Jerry Nielsen, a white student newly-elected as student government president, and other student leaders, Snead, president of the NAACP student chapter, is now working optimistically to promote true racial harmony at Ferris.

Thousands of ribbons have been passed out which read: "I've had it. Let's start living and working together—now." At a dance last Friday, a white member of the school's administration danced with a black female student and a racial harmony rally was staged this Wednesday.

Not surprisingly, Snead's present optimism is tenuous. He believes in partner Nielsen's sincerity and leadership ability and he believes that overwhelming numbers of students want peace. But he has reservations about the extent of the administration's commitment and the faculty's apparent lack of power.

Even in the best of times, racial harmony at Ferris would be difficult. About two-thirds of its students study vocational and technical courses, like welding, radio-TV servicing and highway technology. Thus, though no statistics on economic backgrounds are kept, it can be fairly assumed that many students are from white working class families, according to Dr. Donald Scannell of the College Relations Office. Workingmen,



—AP Wirephoto

FERRIS RIOTING—Black student Ron Snead of Grand Rapids reported that his car was among those damaged in the Ferris State College rioting on May 20. This car was among the more than 30 cars smashed.

Race violence ends with 13 arrests

Wanton destruction seemed the dormitory area was estimated to only goal of from three to four have caused between \$3,500 and hundred Ferris students as violence broke out between Black and White groups in the early hours of Tuesday morning, May 20.

When the window breaking, bottle throwing, car smashing melee ended, 13 persons, 10 Black and 3 white, had been arrested by State and local police officials. Those arrested were arraigned Tuesday afternoon by District Court judge George Worcester and informed of the unlawful assembly charges lodged against them. Bail was set by Worcester at \$200. By Tuesday evening all the students arrested were free on bond.

No clear reason for the Tuesday morning confrontation was forthcoming from either Blacks or Whites involved. The fight which erupted brought the most severe damage yet to the Ferris campus from an interracial skirmish.

Glass breakage alone in the Pickell, Brophy, Ward, and Miller ed earlier this spring.

Sixteen students were treated for injuries sustained in the battles which flared back and forth between the dormitories with two students hospitalized in satisfactory condition at the Student Health Center until the next day.

All of the Blacks arrested had been involved previously in the Starr "lock-in" and were presently on strict probation laid down by college officials at that time. Two of the Blacks arrested were no longer students. Both had been suspended after involvement in the problems which flared earlier this spring.