

FERRIS STATE STUDENTS:

We've Had It, Now Let Us Try To Live, Work Together

By FREDERIC E. PASS JR.

BIG RAPIDS — "I've had it. Let's start living and working together, now."

That's the keynote of the campaign, organized by All-College Student Government president Jerry Nielsen and Ferris NAACP president Ron

Snead, to heal the deep wounds left by the confrontation last Tuesday between black and white students at Ferris State college.

The campaign has the backing of all major campus groups as well as Big Rapids Mayor Robert Horan, Dr. Laurence Jensen, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and Norman Christensen, Chamber of Commerce manager. Ferris State president Victor Spathelf has given his complete endorsement.

But even as this campaign moves forward, bitter recriminations can still be heard, and the unanswered problem of what to do about the 12 students arrested Tuesday morning continues to irritate the uneasy calm on the campus.

The students, nine black and three white, were charged with unlawful assembly, after a near-riot between 200 black and white with each group reportedly calling for the other's blood. Sixteen students were treated for injuries.

Damage to the college was estimated at \$4000, but this figure does not include nearly 50 cars that were also damaged. Signs reading "KKK" and "White Power" were painted on the sidewalks.

Both blacks and whites agree it's a small minority of both groups that are triggering these incidents and feeding on racial tensions on the campus.

In effect, the confrontation Tuesday began the week before when a white student published a newsletter saying black students ate like pigs.

Although the student was expelled, several rock and bottle throwing incidents occurred, and following a verbal exchange between whites and blacks at one of the

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RON SNEAD (left), president of Ferris NAACP, and Jerry Nielsen, president of All-College Student Government, the two who led the successful movement to launch the

"I've Had It" campaign, discuss editorial in Friday's Ferris Torch, calling for swift action against those who participated in Tuesday morning's confrontation.

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Students who will serve on the examining committee which will question the debaters include Gerry Nielsen of Gowen, Stan Pagonis of Hamilton, Ont., Russ Rhynard of Shepherd, Ron Snead of Grand Rapids and Sue Storey of Detroit.

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