

2d Clash on Campus

Racial Fighting Hits Ferris

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BIG RAPIDS — Nine black and three white students were arraigned Tuesday and charged with unlawful assembly in the aftermath of Ferris State College's second racial clash in three months.

Late Monday night about 75 black and 200 white students fought with clubs, bottles and rocks in and near two campus dormitories.

Black students smashed dormitory windows and 30 to 40 car windshields and whites overturned two cars belonging to Negro student leaders. College officials estimate the window damage at \$3,000 to \$4,000 and could give no estimate on the cars. No one was seriously injured.

SIMILAR TO the first incident on Feb. 27, there are conflicting reports on what actually triggered Monday's outbreak.

Negro students say that whites armed with clubs barred them from entering a dormitory to talk with fraternity brothers.

Whites said the Negro students were barred because the blacks were planning to beat up white students.

Both whites and blacks agree that an incident last Thursday was the first and most important spark to the latest fighting. A dormitory newspaper was published which said Negroes who ate in campus cafeterias were "pigs."

The white editor of the paper was expelled the next day.

Angry blacks met Thursday night but campus NAACP leader Ron Snead was able to control the situation. But by Friday morning several small racial incidents occurred.

According to students, Ku Klux Klan signs were displayed, there were fist fights between blacks and whites, a black student talking on a dor-

mitory telephone was hit in the back with a bottle and Negroes beat up a white student who had a bedspread resembling a confederate flag.

No arrests were made in any of those incidents.

ALL THE blacks arrested Monday were on probation for participating in a sit-in that followed the February clash. They now face expulsion.

Two blacks who were arrested had withdrawn from the college after the earlier clash.

Ferris President Victor Spathelf said in an interview Tuesday that he had no prior warning of the outbreak.

He added: "We are down to hard-core groups of blacks and whites whom it is diffi-

cult to reach with reason and understanding. I don't know the answer to this."

Spathelf said that state and local police would be patrolling the campus and that the college would investigate the fighting. He added that other students would be arrested when "the college has sufficient information to prefer charges."

Campus Racism And Draft Information Topics At N.A.A.C.P.

Two young men addressed the Grand Rapids Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. Sunday at New Hope Baptist Church on Student Problems at Ferris State College and the Draft Information Service.

Ronald Snead, President of the Ferris State College Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. described events leading up to black students barricading themselves in the library on Ferris campus last January. The 261

students taking part in what Snead called "a defensive action" have all been placed on strict disciplinary probation for the next two terms.

Snead charged the administration with complete lack of recognition or concern for the gap between black and white students at the college, and stated that the minority group (less than 300 of Ferris's 9,000 students are black) could not begin to bridge this gap without active,

affirmative support from the administration. He asked that letters be written to the Governor and State Representatives to seek help in alleviating tensions between the students and the administration, and the black and white students.

Snead showed a student paper distributed on campus last Friday whose lead article, entitled "Bay of Pigs" stated that "99% of black student are Black Pigs". He said a confrontation between black and white students had been narrowly averted over this latest display of Racism on the Ferris campus, and that black students have asked the administration to charge the author and publisher of the paper with intent to incite a riot.