Racial Protest At NMU
Organized racial protest, which has created frictional problems on campuses throughout the nation, came finally to Northern Michigan University Monday night. It came as a surprise, although perhaps it should have been expected. In the past several years, Northern has had a growing enrollment of black students. Its John R. Mcllwain Center for Women, the only on a college campus anywhere, has enrolled a large proportion of black trainees. Almost all student officials in the student body of 4,000 were targets of prejudice in subtle, if not overt, manners. This coupled with a national trend of protest, sometimes almost for the sake of protest, created a condition that fostered the sort of behavior that occurred Monday.

The protest came in the form of a strange demonstration in which 80 Negro students, men and women, seated themselves on the floor of the fieldhouse court and staged a sit-in at NMU and Pan American College from being played. Black leaders said the confrontation was triggered by an altercation of grievances Negro students held against the university.

This confrontation resulted in cancellation of the game between Northern and the team from Edinburg in the Madison border. This brought understandable disappointment to the estimated 4,056 persons who were present with an admirable restraint that probably prevented a regrettable display from becoming a violent and ugly scene.

The display was regrettable because its motivation was correct and its execution demonstrably misbegotten.

The motivation was never quite clear except as it was part of a Negro leaders' charge to the Negroes to bear injustice as they have suffered over the years. Vague black students assembly to this point, indicating that the project was not well organized or at least not well directed. The student spokesmen gave varying reasons for the demonstration. Many of the demands put forward for the preservation of civil rights were reasonable or downright impossible of fulfillment.

For instance, one demand called for more Negroes to be hired as janitors and in other positions. It was pointed out by Dr. John X. Jamrich, university president who reflected that such a demand is impossible to fulfill and that it is very difficult situation, that blacks already are well-represented in key campus jobs. It could be made that they are over-represented. Blacks comprise only three percent of the university's total population, but they make up 23 percent of the Student Senate.

Another demand consisted on more black faculty members. Northern has never shown any prejudice against Negro professors. Dr. Jamrich, the university's first dean, later became a vice president of the university. Dr. Jamrich said those Negroes who desire to hire as many black faculty members as it can, although it is difficult to know why race can be a qualification for academic usefulness.

It was the execution of the demonstration, however, that was totally incomprehensible. It followed a day in which university officials had met with black students in a sincere attempt to resolve the matter. But, it followed a day in which university officials had met with black students in a sincere attempt to resolve the matter. But, it followed a day in which university officials had met with black students in a sincere attempt to resolve the matter. But, it followed a day in which university officials had met with black students in a sincere attempt to resolve the matter.

Throughout modern history, blacks have been the victims of unaccountable prejudice and injustice. The resulting frustration of the brute of man's inhumanity to man. Their drive for equality is not only under attack, but itself has been subjected to attack. The United States is to escape the terrible consequences of apartheid.

This is not whether the drive for equality should be pursued but what form it shall take. In the press, the black movement is being portrayed as a new and dangerous force. It is no longer for a minority to deprive a majority of its rights because it is for a majority to surpass a minority.