

Demonstrations

A Strange Demonstration On Pacific Avenue

By Peter Walls
Sentinel Staff Writer

What began evidently as an attempt to hand out goodies to Easter week visitors and home folks alike ended up as a loud lark Good Friday evening.

At the height of the unannounced handout Friday about 10 p.m. an estimated 500 to 700 young persons, most of them curious onlookers, snarled traffic along Pacific Avenue as they marched, shouted and distributed poetry, bread and balloons.

The Santa Cruz Police Department, taken by surprise, called every officer it could reach, and requested that both the Sheriff's office and the California Highway Patrol stand by.

There was no serious confrontation, no mis-sives short of epithets were hurled at police who in turn cracked no heads during the more than two hours of parading.

Police said a group of about 40 persons whom they thought to be members of new left organizations at UC, Santa Cruz, gathered near the main Post Office shortly after 9 p.m.

They had filtered into the area in small groups and the few police who normally patrol Pacific Avenue on weekend nights suddenly realized the swell existed only when it began moving down Pacific Avenue.

Demonstrators shouted, among other things, that the streets belong to the people, referred to the police as "pigs" tied balloons to car aerials, and handed out a printed poem to passersby.

The poem lamented 20th century freeway affluence and pollution and urged the people to "dance off the disease, be free, be clean, cast off the narcotic American cloak of wealth and un-health."

The marchers danced and shouted down the avenue, crossing only the crosswalk to snarl traffic—which police soon diverted—and made their way to the beach.

Police ordered the boardwalk closed 15 minutes early — about 9:45 p. m. — and once at the beach, with their numbers dwindling, the marchers came back up Pacific to the Post Office again.

They then turned down Front Street. A number of them stood in front of County Jail where, according to Sheriff's Patrol Lt. Kenneth Kegg, they sang "Jingle Bells," tried to sing God Bless America, but forgot the words, and asked that John be let out.

Police said the marchers carried two red flags, but no placards. By the time it was over, everyone was soaked from the rain. "Thank God for that," said one officer.

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Millions Attend Easter Services

U. S. troops paused only briefly for services by chaplains in combat fatigues at little outposts in Vietnam

fly back to Washington in the evening. He is expected to take part in the White House egg roll Monday.