

CPV Illegal Aliens RP 5/11/88

Activists in SC protest raids by Border Patrol

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A score of Santa Cruz activists turned out yesterday morning in the Beach Flats area to publicize, and perhaps prevent, Border Patrol sweeps of the area for illegal residents.

Their action reflected concern that efforts to arrest and deport undocumented residents may be stepped up in the aftermath of the May 4 deadline for legalization provided by the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.

"We wanted to make the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) aware that people are watching," said Kim Selleck, 20, a spokeswoman for the fledgling Citizens' Emergency Response Network, which organized the action.

Selleck said about 30 members showed up at the Beach Flats neighborhood park to hand out flyers to residents of the heavily Hispanic community, and also to be on hand "in case the INS decides to show."

Only four people showed up a week ago at the group's initial demonstration. Selleck said she expected the numbers to continue to grow and the demonstration to become a weekly event.

Network members, most of them volunteers in local Sanctuary or Latin American peace groups, have formed a telephone network in response to what Selleck described as daily INS sweeps of the Beach Flats area for the past several weeks. The idea, she said, is to generate a crowd whenever there is word of the green INS van in the area.

"The INS is afraid of publicity," she said. "They don't

want to make themselves too apparent." Awareness that local groups are monitoring their actions "will hopefully inhibit them from coming around so much," Selleck said.

Barry Williams, acting Border Patrol agent-in-charge for the Central Coast Region, called the network's action "not a constructive response."

"Santa Cruz is still a part of the continental United States," he said, "so we'll continue to conduct immigration-law enforcement in that area."

Williams denied that the increased publicity would inhibit the Border Patrol's work and said the demonstrations should cause "no problem" so long as demonstrators did not actively get in the way of agents.

Sweeps for undocumented residents in Beach Flats are not a response to the amnesty deadline, Williams said, but have been a fact of life in the area for all of the 14 years he has spent on the Border Patrol.

Williams denied that the patrol had been conducting the sweeps on a daily basis but admitted they were "regular." And it's possible, he said, that the pace of the sweeps could be stepped up if the patrol gets a manpower increase.

The activist group plans to turn out again next Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.

Forum on Measure A

A public forum on Measure A, the referendum on the proposed Wingspread project, will be held Monday from 7 to 8:45 p.m., in the meeting room of the Santa Cruz Public Library, 224 Church St. The forum is sponsored by the Environmental Council of Santa Cruz.