

**Illegal Headline** (Letter to Santa Cruz Sentinel 9/16/06)

Sunday's front- page headline and story informs us that the feds have arrested and are deporting 107 "illegals," of whom an unspecified number were captured in Santa Cruz.

The people in question were (and likely will continue to be) residents and contributing members of our community. All have names and identities; all have inherent dignity and human rights; most presumably have been wrenched away from jobs, friendships and families.

They are entitled to the sympathy and respect of the Sentinel and of every citizen. No person is "illegal," only actions violate the law. The violation of our immigration laws by millions each year is a function not only of the hopes and ambitions and the incredible determination of immigrants, but of the requirements of our labor market, and above all, the conduct of our foreign policy.