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## Group to fight child abuse

Page 4/The Battalion/Thursday, January 9, 1984

Reporter

Child a buse in Bryan-College Station is the concern of the newly-for med chapter of Mothers (and others) Against Murder. Or MEAAM, for short.

The local chapter is just getting started and needs concerned members, president Sandy Leatherwood says.

The goal of the non-profit organization, which has 46 chapters throughout Texas, is to educate the public about child abuse and to work toward stricter state legislation, she

says.

"There are good laws on the books but they're just not being enforced," says Leatherwood, who is the mother of a 2-year-

old and a 1-4-year-old.
"Child a buse is alive and well in Bryan-College Station. We want to ma ke people aware this is a serious problem."

Child ab use and neglect are

against the law in Texas. So is the failure to report suspected cases of child mistreatment.

A spokessman for the Child Abuse Hotline in Austin says a

person who reports suspected child abuse or neglect in good faith to the proper authorities is protected by law. Investigation of child abu se reports is the responsibility of the Texas Department of Human Resources. "Our basic policy or philoso-

phy is to protect the children and put the families back toge-ther, says Benjamin Robbins, a Child Protective Services worker for the DHR in Brazos County. "We were involved with approximately 270 families

He says the most common type of child abuse or neglect is lack of supervision.

The DHR studies also indi-

cate that most people who mistreat children were abused when they were children.

"There are some people who wouldn't loan a car, a dress or a gun to their best friend," he says, "but they aren't that par-

ticular about their kids."

The DHR investigates suspected child abuse, provides counseling for the family involved and removes the child from the home if presessary. from the home, if necessary, Robbins says. But the DHR cannot file charges against the suspected offenders.

The founder of MAAM Stephanie Boucher says a lack of any one organization's authority is a major breakdown in the present system dealing with child abuse.

'Too often an abused child is killed because someone thought it more important to keep the family together than to guard against the potential for further abuse," Boucher says. "Every case is different and not all families can be helped with counsel-

More effective prosecution and better training are needed to build court cases, she says.



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at 7 p.

Sherry P. McDaniel, a graduate sociology student from Pharr, cues up an album Wednesday at the KANMI station in the Pavilion.

## Mexican government studie way to get free food to poor

**United Press International** 

SAN ANTONIO — There have been no hunger riots in Mexico — suffering its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression — but the government is studying means of providing poor families with free food, an economist told mem-bers of the Texas Newspaper Editors Association Wednesday.

Dr. Edmundo Flores, university professor and former eco-nomic adviser to President Luis

Echeverria, said the working people of Mexico are bearing the brunt of the country's economic woes, brought about by a glut in the world oil market and the flight of capital from Mexico into the United States.

Dr. Gabriel Szekely of the Center of International Studies, College of Mexico, is scheduled to address the editors and pub-lishers Thursday.

Flores said government ex-erts are working quietly, behind the scenes, to develop a food package system for poor, unemployed people to make sure there are no hunger riots such as those which have oc-curred in Third World coun-

The government has been working very quietly to provide food for survival," he said. "We have studied American (food) stamp programs and we are working on a program that will provide the unemployed with enough food for survival."

Flores said Mexico, unlike other Central American nations and Third World countries, can rise above the present crisis. "There is hope for Mexico," he

Part of Mexico's stability in the present crisis, Flores said, stems from the government's solidarity with the lowers

class.
"Most of Mexico's The Eta S leadership has come in working class," he sai poor and the lower mid can relate to the leader SPIRIT country because they are lated, somehow.'

Mexico's cost of living creased to 150 percent in first of the series of people TAMU uations in 1982, he sai TAMU "The reaction of the

has been to restrict spen Flores said. "Food like of steaks have been exchan beans. The people stopped buying television TAML and radios. Working people are the price for the country

nomic problems, he sa ing that Mexico will con honor its agreements International Monetary Flores said the present economic crisis hit

warning, unlike the Great pression of the 1930s. "The 1929 crisis was dicted by economists, said. "Everyone saw it

but no one announced to val of this crisis. has been felt through border area," he said. "S

tonio is not the same d was four or five years ago Flores said the econo sis was caused, in part, transferral of large amo

capital to Saudi Arabia, a part, by the oil glut. He said the national proof corruption in Mexico not have surfaced as an

the country were not in nomic crisis. "Prior to the devalu Mexico was experience closest we have ever com employment," he said. maids were working i

struction, enjoying our pro

Also addressing the and publishers was Dr. Bosch, who delivered a arly history of relations tween the United State Mexico in the 19th and centuries.

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