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Mexicans perplexed
Number of American tourists down from last year

Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico - Northern Mexicans - battered by a tourist scare that is keeping many Americans out of their country - would

like to know just one thing: Why?
In a region where the words "mi casa es su casa," or "my house is your house," are offered from the heart, people don't understand what they call "exaggerated" reports of vio-lence against travelers in Mexico. What Americans don't know, they say, is hurting Mexico.

Mexico's problems started in October when American diplomatic sources said the U.S. Embassy was considering calling for an advisory warning tourists of possible dangers

Although the embassy shelved the plan after Mexican officials promised more police security in troubled areas, the damage to Mexico's image already had been done.

The American Automobile Association began warning members to use caution when driving in Mexico after four travelers died during Sep-

tember.

Meanwhile, the cases of six miss-

Total income from tourism has risen, but northern Mexicans aren't encouraged. Tourist guides and shop owners in Monterrey say the number of Americans they serve is off by as much as 70 percent.

ing Americans in Guadalajara and the kidnap-slaying of American drug agent Enrique Camarena Sala-zar have fueled the hot controversy.

Tourism Secretary Antonio Enriguez Savignac reported recently that the number of visitors arriving by road to Mexico fell off by 17 percent in the first three months of this year, although travel by air remained

He said foreign income generated through tourism — \$2 billion in 1984 — was up 11 percent so far this

Those promising figures, however, aren't encouraging northerners. Tourist guides and shop owners in Monterrey say the number of Americans they serve is off by as much as 70 percent.

"In the last three to four months

tourism has decreased considerably," said Porfirio Sosa, owner of a Mexican popular art shop in Monterrey's tourist zone.

"Fortunately this store doesn't function by tourism alone or I would have closed down," Sosa said.

Based on stories Americans have read or heard in the United States, Sosa said, "I don't blame the tourists for not coming, but I do believe

they've been misinformed."
Higinio Cuesta, vice president of the Chihuahua Hotel-Motel Association, said his group met recently with hotel operators from El Paso, "to exchange opinions and erase the campaign of discredit against Mex-

The Tijuana Chamber of Commerce reported that tourism in that northwestern border city is down about 20 percent compared to

Oscar Salinas, executive dim of the Monterrey-based Inte tional Good Neighbor Cound, s the organization is inviting members to visit Mexico white Mexican Hotel-Motel Associand its Texas counterpart formed a committee "to disc problems of both regions conce

"We're doing everything we're solve this problem because it's hing Mexico a lot," Salinas said.

Those interviewed said Amen

lack of understanding about M is the main factor keeping tra from venturing south of the bor They say many Americans pic Mexico as a dirty, backward cour

In a June 2 article, The New Times' London bureau chief! Apple Jr., wrote of his first was Mexico, "We were unprepared for the cleanliness of the place.
"And we personally neither nor heard anything of the sort of identification."

cident that gave rise to report lier this year that the State Department ment might warn Americans to s away from Mexico.

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Counselor arrested for kidnapping son

Associated Press

AUSTIN - A woman who had worked for nearly two years as a counselor for battered women will not fight extradition to California where she faces felony charges of child stealing and false imprison-

Sharon Murphy, 35, had been living with her 9-year-old son under an assumed name to avoid arrest, authorities said. Officials caught up with her last week and returned her son, Colin Johnson, to his grandmother, author Maya Angelou.

Angelou took him to California and Colin's father, Guy Johnson, was given legal custody in 1980, officials said. The boy became the object of a nationwide search after he was snatched from his father's home in

Santa Rosa, Calif., in 1981.
"I think I might not see my son again for a very long time," Murphy told the Austin American-Statesman. "I had no choice but to give him back; they had me.

Murphy, known as Sharon Mur-phy Johnson when she fled California, described herself as "an in-thestreet social worker" doing everything she could to resolve marital problems, including custody fights, for her clients.

"She's one of the best counselors we've ever had," said Judy Reaves, her supervisor at the center. "Every-body here loves her.

'So many battered women who come to the center from out of state have assumed names," she said. "I guess it was assumed she had cus-tody of her son."

What's up

MSC AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 352 MSC to discuss Field Day.

STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID: is having an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder. Everyone's welcome to attend and find out how to help fight apart-

STUDENT GOVERNMENT STUDENT RELATIONS: applications for this new committee are available in 221 Pav ion. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday. For more information call 845-3051.

TEXAS A&M MOO DUK KWAN TAE KWON DO CLUB: is holding a membership drive from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today through Friday in 266 G. Rollie White coliseum. For more information contact Scott at 846-9448.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

equipment, animals

Pseudo 'A-Team' at work in Houston

Associated Press

HOUSTON - They look like creatures in a science fiction movie, but the workers, clad in goggles and plastic suits and dubbed "The A-Team," have the delicate task of re-moving asbestos from 30 Houston

The crews should finish the \$7 million project before school opens Sept. 3, officials of the Houston Independent School District say.

The project includes work at 19

elementary schools, six middle schools and five high schools.

Asbestos was used widely between the 1950s and 1970s for ceilings and insulation in public buildings. Medical researchers believe the material, when inhaled or swallowed, can cause lung cancer and other dis-

The substance, applied mostly by spraying, releases fibers into the air when it crumbles.

Workers on Monday began the complicated task of preparing the classrooms and removal should begin by the end of the week, district spokeswoman Geri Konigsberg says.

Crew members are not allowed to work on the cleanup project without first undergoing pulmonary tests

The workers put on plastic or paper suits, rubber boots, goggles and face respirators, and they must put through two decontamination characters. bers before leaving the work area

Harry Owens, 21, one of the workers, says, "I know there is a deger, but I feel I am trained adeger. tely enough that I am not worre

The cleanup team has done sin lar work at 20 schools in the past

MSC GROVE 85

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HEWITT — Cattle rustling was big in the years when cattle drives pushed north on the Chisholm Trail to stockyards in Kansas. But cattle rustling is even bigger today, says Eddie Foreman, field inspector for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. Foreman is one of 32 TSCRA

cattle inspectors in Texas and Oklahoma who looks for stolen farm equipment and animals. Based in

Hewitt, a couple of miles south of Waco city limits, Foreman covers McLennan, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Bell, Lampasas and Hamilton coun-

Foreman does not like the term him, the crime is cattle theft.

"What they're doing is stealing people's livelihood," Foreman says. 'I don't dress up a thief any more than what they are

"cattle rustling'," saying it conjures up romantic television images. To

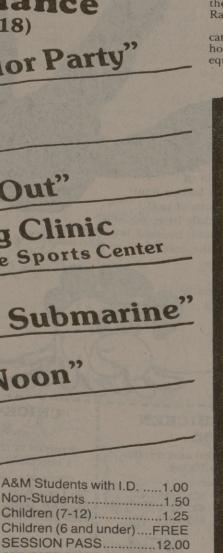
Cattle thieves steal today for the same reason they stole in the past money. Foreman says. Cattle in a trailer are not as easy to

track as 40 head tromping across the range. And selling a cow at current prices of more than \$300 is greater temptation than the 1880s' price of \$12 to \$15 a head.
"Cattle thieving — it's a multimillion-dollar business," Foreman says.

Even during the past 20 years, the big central stockyards have given way to more and smaller local in stock sales that are easier for the to reach and harder for law enforce ment officials to monitor.

Computers have countered so of that advantage by keeping tailed, centralized lists of stolen mal descriptions.

"If cattle went through a state then hopefully they'll be recorded and a computer will find them Foreman savs.





Inspector tracks stolen



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