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Illegal aliens flee poverty

Border Patrol keeps busy

Associated Press

McALLEN - Illegal aliens, fleeing depressed economies in their countries, are making their way across the border in record numbers, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization officials say.

"It's been steady," said Jerry Hicks, deputy chief agent in the McAllen sector, which consistently records more arrests of Central Americans than any other southern

Texas has five U.S. Border Patrol sectors, from El Paso to Brownsville. Last year, the combined borders re-corded 811,368 apprehensions. As of July 31st, the five sectors already had apprehended 783,883 aliens. Mario Ortiz, an INS spokesman in Dallas, said, "Generally, the overall figure between this fiscal year and last approximately is running about

46-47 percent higher." Federal authorities are catching more illegal aliens, but more also are getting across the border, officials

"We catch one out of every two or three," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said immigration officials are using more sensitive equipment to arrest illegal aliens, but that more manpower is needed. He said the INS probably will request funds for additional officers.

In the past month, officers from the McAllen sector, responding to complaints from Rio Grande Valley residents, have been raiding con-struction sites in the Port Isabel-South Padre Island area.

Residents had complained that illegal aliens were taking jobs and public housing from American citi-

zens. The Border Patrol acted on the

"It continues to be effective," Hicks said. "We'll continue to work over there as long as it's effective. The complaints (from residents) are starting to subside."

Chief Agent Silvestre Reyes said that last year agents arrested people from more than 80 different countries. Central Americans, fleeing economic and political problems in their homelands, continue to cross into the United States through the Valley, he said.

"We arrest more than any other sector in the southern U.S.," Hicks said, adding that Salvadorans continue to enter the United States in

Suspects held in folk singer death

CONROE - Four men were being held Monday on murder charges involving the Feb. 22 shooting deaths of folk musician John Van-

diver and his girlfriend.

Vandiver and Davis, his booking agent, were found dead in the Magnolia home they shared about 35 miles north of Houston. Both had been shot and the woman's throat

had been slashed, investigators said. Three of the men are being held in the Montgomery County Jail and a fourth is being extradited from South Carolina, said a jail spokes-

Montgomery County Sheriff Joe Corley said investigators believe Vandiver's roommate of three months, Tom Mathes, engineered the scheme to rob and kill the cou-

Also charged were Cecil Covington Jr., John Makosky and Dennis Holland, said the sheriff.

Corley said Mathes was the only suspect who knew Vandiver.

"He knew a lot about Johnny Vandiver and knew he kept a large sum of money in his possession," Corley

Corley said it is believed that Vandiver was involved in a drug network in Texas and Colorado, but that Davis was not involved in the ring.

Deputies found \$13,000 in cash, two 30-pound bales of marijuana and more than eight ounces of cocaine in the Vandiver home, Corley

Prison gripes keep TDC officials busy

HUNTSVILLE - When the Texas prison system was faced with a backlog of complaints against its employees, former Army police officer Donald B. Jackson was summoned to help out.

Almost a year later, Jackson says his job as head of the Texas Depart-ment of Corrections' Internal Af-fairs Division still keeps him plenty

From 1982 until last year, TDC's Office of Operational Audits handled the complaints that piled up. But its small and untrained investigation staff was replaced last Octo-ber with the internal affairs office.

The new division now has 57 employees and will be increased to 78 people during the 1986-87 fiscal year, Jackson said.

Prison officials say the extra help is sorely needed.

Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 20, the Internal Affairs Division completed 736 investigations of complaints filed against employees and still had 700 cases pending.

Of the 736 investigations completed, Jackson said, 424 involved in cases which excessive force was used by prison employees. Thirty of the excessive force cases were sustained by his office.

When a case is sustained, it is reviewed by TDC legal counsel before any action is taken. James E. Riley, deputy director of operations, or the TDC's three regional directors decide on what discipline is given.

"With very few exceptions, when-ever a case is sustained against an employee, there is some kind of disciplinary action taken," Riley said.

Jackson said his office acts soley as administrative investigator and does not recommend discipline. The "ob-jectivity" of this policy encourages people to cooperate with investigators, he said.

Part of the Internal Affairs Division's job, Riley said, is to see that TDC complies with court orders involving the use of force on inmates. The orders stem from a 13-year-old civil rights lawsuit that attorneys for TDC and plaintiff inmates settled in

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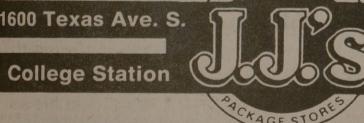


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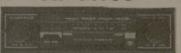


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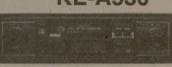
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