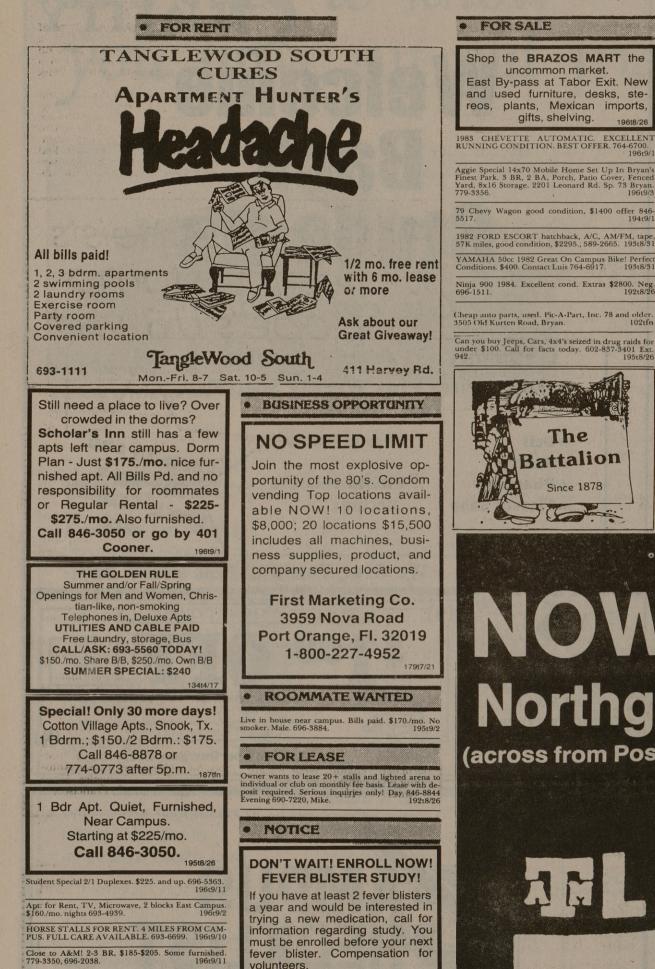
Battalion Classifieds Law has limited effects



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against influx of aliens Ok

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — The new U.S. law aimed at reducing the numbers of illegal aliens crossing the Rio Grande has yet to stop Mexicans from gathering on

the "soccer field" here to slip into California. Nor has the number of illegal aliens being sent back from the United States had any impact on Mexico's ail-ing economy, according to Mexican analysts. Some Mexican officials had been concerned that after the law took officials had been concerned that after the law took effect May 5 the returnees would add a burden to Mexico's unemployment rolls.

"Certainly there has been no noticeable effect yet," said Manuel Garcia y Griego, an immigration specialist at Mexico City's Center for International Studies.

"That may be because the number (of returning workers) is small or because these things just take a long time to have an effect," he said in a telephone interview. The "soccer field" — so called because Mexicans play

soccer while they wait - is as crowded as ever these days.

Raul Martinez, an undocumented worker who explained that he has been sneaking into California regularly for 15 years, said, "The people who are afraid to cross are the ones that come for the first time

He and other workers who had gathered there one recent day said the new U.S. law hasn't yet prevented them from trying to sneak in. Nor have they been dis-suaded by the deaths of 18 Mexicans in a locked boxcar this summer in Sierra Blanca, Texas.

Roberto Alvarez, another undocumented worker, said, "As long as they're giving us work, we have to keep going to the other side." He added that he has been coming to the soccer field two or three times a year since 1953.

The Immigration Reform and Control Act was signed by President Reagan in November. Since May 5 the law has offered legal resident status to aliens who can prove they had been living continuously in the United States for five years as of Jan. 1, 1987. It also offers temporary legal residence to others who worked 00 days in resideable areas here fore May 1, 1086

worked 90 days in perishable crops before May 1, 1986. But provisions of the law that could directly inhibit

illegal immigration, such as an increase in Bo trol agents and sanctions including fines and jair for employers who knowingly hire undouze workers, have not yet been implemented.

Arturo Solis, director of the Center for Infor and Migratory Studies in Reynosa, south of Mc quoted some workers as saying they are being \$500 by growers to cover any fines imposed for illegal workers.

Solis said he saw a brief lull in the flow of u mented workers crossing the Rio Grande but "the tion is the same as always.

"The workers were waiting to see what wonk pen with the law and once they realized that weren't going to be mass deportations many pergan risking themselves to go back to the other said

Jorge Bustamante, director of the Tijue Northern Border College, said the flow of mented workers from Mexico to the United down, but mostly for reasons other than fea or deportation.

"We're estimating a 15 percent drop this years eVOC pared to last year," he said. "The previous years an 8 percent decrease. MINNI

"I suspect the fear that something bad is gin happen to all illegal aliens has had some impart But he attributed the decrease chiefly to the

of traveling to and crossing the border. "It's 15 times more expensive to cross now! five years ago while wages have gone up by out times," he said.

That doesn't seem to be on the minds of Me gathering at the soccer field. Hilda Patricia Neira, an immigration resem Chief Ji lice said

und for Northern Border College, said college research doing a year-long study at the field to determine nway p ght atter the new law is affecting the flow of undoc workers.

"The only day we detected a real drop was (the day the law went into effect)," Neira said.

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