

# State

## It's Clements vs. White over prisons

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday Attorney General Mark White was aware that the governor's 1979 veto of a \$30 million appropriation for prison construction was responsible for overcrowded conditions in the state prison system.

During his weekly news conference Clements said he had written White a letter a year ago telling him that W. J. Estelle, the director of the Texas Department of Corrections, had agreed with the governor's staff on the veto. "It leaves me amazed since I wrote him that letter a year ago," Clements said.

Estelle, in a statement distributed to the news media, said the funds Clements vetoed could not have been spent during the current budget period and would not have avoided the governor's current recommendation for an emergency \$35 million appropriation to build facilities for 2,880 inmates.

The facts do not in any way support the suggestion or inference that the veto action has had any impact on prison overcrowding," Estelle said. "Prior to Gov. Clements making a decision about TDC sharing in his veto message of 1979, the governor's budget office contacted our fiscal staff to determine how best to make some deletions without impacting our construction schedule."

Clements also said he was considering seeking outside consultants to help the state with the full agreement with the justice department, implying that he was not totally satisfied with White's work on the agreement. The governor was told that White was "bragging" about his work on the prison suit.

## Ex-hostage creates Iran cartoon film

United Press International  
DALLAS — "Billy Joe Reza," a power-tripping Iranian hick, and a militant guard who accidentally blows off the head of his comrade will be co-starring with Marine Sgt. James Lopez in the former host's cartoon portrayal of the 444 days he was held captive.

to play around in an animation studio," he said Wednesday at Sundance Production's animation facility. "I call this place 'Fantasy Studio.' I'm in my dream phase. "I've always liked cartoons, comics," he said. "I like the freedom from reality. I got started with the old Tom and Jerry cartoons and I've always liked to draw."

farther from home than Tehran University and suddenly is on a power trip." Goddard has set March 15 as a completion deadline because Lopez must rejoin the Marines but doubts that will be met. Means of distribution has not been decided but several corporations have offered to sponsor it on the Public Broadcast System.

## Future of Houston cable TV up to judge

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A federal judge now must consider whether to keep intact Houston's five franchise cable television contracts, which were determined by a jury to have resulted from unlawful political deals.

have to compensate the companies that have been operating since 1978. "I do not know how Houston can realistically revoke these agreements," Lalor said Wednesday.

antitrust law in dividing the city among the five companies. It is up to Bue now to issue a final order after reviewing the jury's findings, which included an award to an unsuccessful franchise applicant of \$2.1 million, automatically tripled by federal law to \$6.3 million.

also asked the judge to issue an injunction and void the contracts. Affiliated issued a statement following the jury verdict urging the city to void the franchises and start the process over again. Such an approach would be in the best interest of the citizens of Houston.

withheld comment pending study of the ruling, but Homer Ford, who unlike Lalor was on the council when the contracts were awarded, said, "We did the best job we knew how."

## Officials confirm 39th case of meningitis in Harris County

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Public health officials Thursday counted another confirmed case of meningococcal meningitis, the 39th confirmed case in a recent outbreak that has taken at least three lives.

symptoms are fever, headache, stiff neck, vomiting and confusion. It can kill or cause neurological damage, including hearing loss.

Officials said the case was unrelated to the still unexplained clustering of five cases, including one fatality, in one sixth-grade class at Dodson Elementary School. That unprecedented clustering remains under investigation.

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## Fed court may get madam's tricks case

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — Attorneys for the newspaper El Pueblo played one court against another Thursday, apparently sparing the monthly newspaper from a state court restraining order against publishing a "trick list" from a prostitution operation.

Maloney represents accused madam Theresa Brown in her criminal case involving aggravated promotion of prostitution. Maloney, who had sought the restraining order against El Pueblo, said he would go to federal court and file a motion to have the case remanded to state court.

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