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College Lt. Bernie Kapella College Station Police Page 8/The Battalion/Thursday, March 22, 1984

Armadillo leprosy found in Texas

United Press International

DALLAS — A government study has found that armadilloborne leprosy — an infectious human disorder — is generally concentrated along a 100-mile-wide coastal strip of Texas, the state with the nation's highest

leprosy rate. 'Our studies indicate the leprosy risk grows the closer you get to the (Texas) coast and the farther you move south," said Dr. Keith Clark, director of the

state's zoonosis control division. Zoonosis is the study of animal diseases transmissible to

man. 'If, however, you live more

the chance of encountering an infected armadillo are less than 2 percent. Down along the coast, the chances are more like 5 to 12 percent."

The findings, which include summaries of five independent studies, were to be released Thursday at the annual "Diseases In Nature" conference. The conference is a spinoff of a World War II committee appointed to protect the nation against Nazi biological weapons. An advance review by UPI of

the three-year surveillance report indicates the danger of leprosy increases with direct contact with animal tissue.

'We know of at least one case than 100 miles from the coast, in which a man, who dressed

out armadillo meat for sausage, contracted leprosy," said Clark. There have been other cases, but we haven't confirmed them.

"Frankly, nobody knows for sure the cause and effect order of leprosy — whether armadillos give it to humans or humans give it to armadillos.

"One thing for certain," he said, "there is no longer any reason to believe that armadillo leprosy is any different from the human disease.

Clark's study summarized pioneering work by Dr. Jerome Smith at the University of Texas-Galveston, published last year, which reported 21 of 450 the interior, armadillo samples — roughly 5 "These r

gions were infected.

The percentage increased to 12 percent in the Brownsville-Harlingen area," Clark said, where many human leprosy cases are concentrated.

More than 340 samples, analyzed in the report, were gathered by the zoonosis division, Atlanta's Centers for Disease Control, the Gulf South Research Institute and an inde-pendent team from Abilene Christian College, he said.

The findings generally confirmed that most infected cases were concentrated in coastal portions of the state, away from

These rates reflect the in- he said.

essarily the rate in an e

county or region.' Leprosy is a chronic infe tious disease caused by back that attacks the skin, flesh at nerves. It is characterized

skin ulcers and limb deform Texas has more indigeno cases than any other state. "That's in addition to cases brought in with the infe of Asians and different im grants," Clark said. "The me ber of new cases runs around

"There is more leptor around than most of us thin

Inmate begins hunger strike; officials monitoring condition

United Press International

LEWISBURG, Pa. - Prison officials are monitoring the condition of a Colorado man who launched a hunger strike to protest his confinement at the Lewisburg federal penitentiary, a spokesman said Wednesday.

But Clifford Kinney, executive assistant to Warden George Wilkins, denied allegations by inmate John McBride, 28, of Durango, Colo., that he has been placed in solitary confinement and is being fed intra-

"We don't force-feed inmates," said Kinney. "If that became necessary, it would not be done at Lewisburg.

sentence as alleged mastermind of a \$15 million bomb extortion plot against a Gulf Oil refinery in Baytown in 1982. Four people were convicted or pleaded Bride Wednesday morning guilty in the scheme.

In a letter released by his former attorney Monday, McBride said his incarceration at Lewisburg violates a 1983 plea agreement that stipulated he would serve his time at Termi-nal Island, Calif., a minimumsecurity prison.

Kinney said McBride, who arrived at the maximum-security Lewisburg facility Feb. 15, was moved to the prison's hospital unit March 9 when officials became aware of the hunme at Lewisburg."

McBride is serving a 40-year

ger strike so his condition could be monitored daily.

McBride claimed in his let he stopped eating March 2 Prison physician Dr. 1 Strubeck last examined 'he seems to be okay now. (Strubeck) can see no cause!

concern," Kinney said. Kinney said although & Bride refuses food, he hash drinking water and coffee. He added McBride is held

himself in a hospital room are other inmates with medi-problems, "but we don't be solitary confinement here

Kinney said if Strubeck termines McBride's health b deteriorated to a life-three ing condition, the inmate

AT&T hike inquiry requested

United Press International

AUSTIN — The lawyer the Hobby F
represents consumers in mil • A burn
rate cases Wednesday asked speed bicyc
Federal Communications (whe Aston H
mission to investigate whele
AT&T Communications resaltor was sto
rate hike request would shiftent Office
dize its national managemen • A stud
attempts to lobby against saming a Ca
eral legislation. eral legislation.

AT&T Communications and so its rate hike request on baselin from with the Texas Public Commit books Commission last week, sayin nal Student

might not be necessary.

But Jim Boyle, consuccounsel in PUC rate cases. he still was concerned then hike could have been use boost the utility's successful forts to fight legislation could have kept telephone in check.

'Almost 50 percent of al penses which AT&T indu in its Texas rate filing wi paid to ATT-C (the mar ment firm), and \$133 mil ATT-C's total expenses at voted to public relatio ernment affairs departme

Boyle said. "Ratepayers should n asked to subsidize A views on telephone regula



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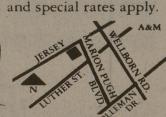
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