

State / National

Administration plans to transfer Cubans

United Press International WASHINGTON — The U. S. government is planning to transfer 100 Cuban refugees at Fort Chaffee, Ark., to four communities in the San Francisco Bay area, a spokesman said Wednesday. Oliver Cromwell, spokesman for the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, said there are 543 refugees located at the Fort Chaffee facility, where they were sent after arriving in the United States during the 1980 boatlift from Cuba. More than 125,000 Cuban refugees arrived on U.S. shores by

boat last year during the "Freedom Flotilla" from Cuba. Most have been resettled. The administration, which has been looking for months for a place to relocate the Fort Chaffee refugees, who once numbered over 1,000, has encountered local opposition from communities where the Cubans could have been settled. Many of the Fort Chaffee refugees have been difficult to relocate because they were considered antisocial by public health officials, Cromwell said. However, the 100 Cubans are

not felons, ex-felons or mentally ill, he said. The Cubans would be transferred to halfway-house facilities in San Jose, Watsonville, Gilroy or Mountain View — with the first group of about 10 to be moved within the next two weeks, he said. "They will not all be concentrated in any one area," Cromwell said. Negotiations are continuing for a permanent refugee center at a former air force base at Glasgow, Mont., he said.



Staff Photo by Gabriel

Irony of fate?

The law of repercussion finally caught up with this tow truck as it was being towed away by another tow truck. The incident occurred on Finfeather Road in Bryan, Monday.

Scientist backs space work

NASA facing big budget cuts

United Press International PITTSBURGH — The chief scientist for America's Voyager project to explore the outer planets says the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is facing some tough decisions because of budget cuts, but should not abandon its planetary exploration program. "It's not in the best interest of the United States to kill off the program," Dr. Edward Stone said, after presenting some of the latest Voyager findings at a meet-

ing of the American Astronomical Society Tuesday. "Many benefits derive from the program." Dr. David Morrison, chairman of the society's division of planetary scientists, said in a statement issued before the meeting that the budgetary belt-tightening now going on in Washington may eliminate the planetary effort. "Given its tremendous boost to national pride and prestige, many people don't realize that the entire planetary effort uses only 3 per-

cent of NASA's budget, and all of NASA is less than 1 percent of the federal budget," Morrison said. "Yet this highly successful effort is to undergo more than a belt-tightening, it may be killed outright." Sources said the White House Office of Management and Budget had asked NASA to trim the current spending plan by \$367 million and the proposed budgets for the next years by \$1 billion each year.

"The budget situation is a difficult one," Stone said at a conference Tuesday. "Generally there is quite a bit of support for the space exploration program in the United States, but it is important that we contact those who make the decisions on exploration. "The more we learn about nature works in general, the better we understand how it works in specific cases such as on Earth."

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Golden Fleece Award pans foundation's pigeon project

United Press International WASHINGTON — A National Science Foundation project, which found that pigeons sometimes follow generally accepted human consumer patterns, won Sen. William Proxmire's monthly "Golden Fleece Award" for the most ridiculous example of waste or loss of taxpayer money. "This is one project that should be pigeonholed pronto," the Wisconsin Democrat said Tuesday.

The study cost \$144,012. "While it may be said that our current economy is going to the dogs, the NSF apparently felt it had to go to the pigeons and rats to prove it," he said. But the agency said: "The scientists found that laboratory animals sometimes behave just as economic theories predict humans would behave. The finding is important because it gives econom-

ists a new tool with which to test economic theories." Proxmire said the foundation's pigeon tests merely confirmed commonly accepted, historical, proven, fundamental economic principles of supply and demand. Government funding stopped last year, and the researchers are supported by the Hoover Institution of Palo Alto, Calif.



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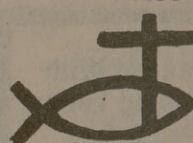


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