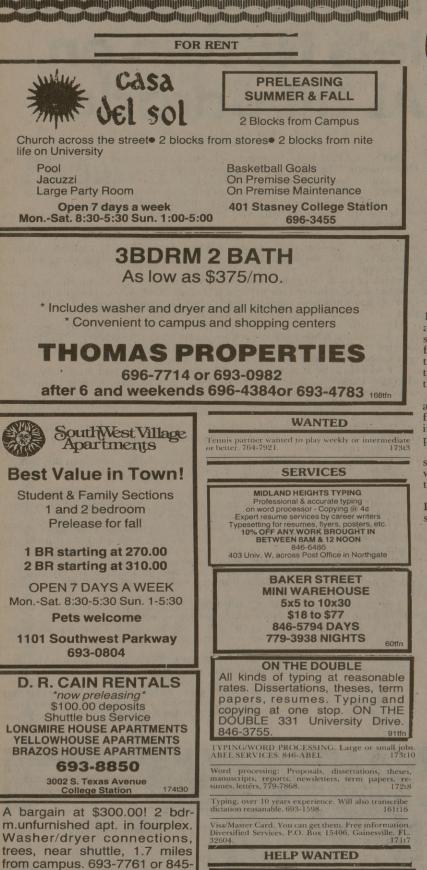
# **Battalion Classifieds**



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Smoke spurs evacuation

#### **Associated Press**

Page 6/The Battalion/Wednesday, July 17, 1985

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - Up to 10,000 people were evacuated after a dense cloud of choking, acidic smoke from a smoldering plastics fire spread over the southern part of the city, but residents were allowed to return home in early afternoon as the smoke began to clear. Cedar Rapids Mayor Don Canney

announced that the danger was over for the residents, who began returning to their homes in the southern part of the city shortly before 1 p.m.

Seven people complaining of scratchy throats and burning eyes were treated at Cedar Rapids hospitals.

Gov. Terry Branstad declared Linn County and Cedar Rapids di-saster areas Tuesday morning after

the fire sent a vast cloud of black smoke containing hydrochloric acid over Iowa's second-largest city. Branstad said he made the declaration mainly to enable him to put the National Guard on alert.

The fire, which started Monday afternoon when a crew was demo-lishing a plastic dome at the city's old sewage plant, was extinguished around noon Tuesday.

Doctors had said the hydrochloric acid gas did not pose a deadly threat to healthy residents, but could irritate eyes and respiratory systems. There is little danger of perma-

nent damage from such short-term exposure to hydrochloric acid in its eryone out." gaseous state, said Bill Poppendorf, an industrial hygienist at University Hospitals in Iowa City.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 Cedar Rapids residents had been evacuated by Tuesday morning, city police Capt. Howard Gardner said. The by Red Cross sheltered about 1,000 people at two schools.

One evacuee said the fumes made her feel sick. "It smells like sulfur, like 100,000

matches at once," said Debi Fields of the Hyde-Away Manor trailer court, who was evacuated to Taft Junior High School. "It started making me sick to my stomach. We closed all our windows and put on the air conditioners and hoped to stay the night.

The cloud erupted when a demolition worker touched a plastic dome with a torch, officials said.

# **U.S. files protest with Soviets** about treatment of soldiers

WASHINGTON — The United the incident is unknown. States, for the second time in four months, is protesting the treatment of American soldiers inside East Germany following a weekend inci-dent in which a U.S. vehicle was

American soldiers riding in the U.S. car was injured slightly and a protest was filed with Soviet military officials in Potsdam, East Germany, where the American mission has offices.

"The U.S. military authorities have made a protest to the Soviets and the Soviets have said they will look into it," Hoffman said. Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger "is very disturbed by it," the spokesman

**Associated Press** 

Reserve Board, faced with a per-

nounced Tuesday that it was holding

monetary policy steady for the rest of the year in a move likely to keep interest rates about where they are

While the central bank did not

an-

sistently sluggish economy,

in coming months.

of the Soviets who were involved in

"But regardless of whether it was an accident or a deliberate act, it accentuates once again the problem that we have faced in recent times, the difficulties that our perfectly legitimate liaison teams have been experiencing in operating in East Germany.

He said the incident occurred shortly after midnight Saturday on a public highway northeast of Berlin near Satzkorn, East Germany. The injured American was Col. Roland Lajoie, who heads the U.S. Military Liaison Mission, he said.

Lajoie was thrown against the "Let me underscore at the outset that we view this matter very se-riously," Hoffman said. "The intent

Federal Reserve Board to keep

current monetary policy in place

The American vehicle, described as resembling a Land Rover and clearly identified with distinctive liclearly identified with distinctive li-cense plates, was being driven by Staff Sgt. Jessie Schatz. Schatz was also the driver last March 24 for Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson Jr., who was shot and killed by a Soviet sentry while conducting what was described as a routine surveillance mission.

The United States is still awaiting a Soviet response to its demand for an apology and compensation for Nicholson's family.

The other American in the vehicle was identified only as a Maj. Lyons, the spokesman added.

Hoffman said details of the inci-dent were still sketchy. But he said the three Americans were "doing their work" and were not near any off-limits Soviet facility

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**Associated Press** 

rammed by a Soviet military truck. Pentagon spokesman Fred Hof-fman said Tuesday one of three

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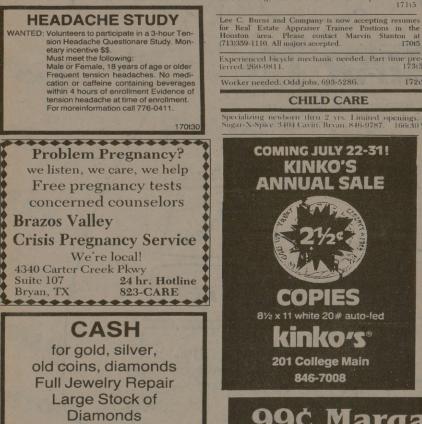
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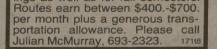
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make any significant changes in its money growth targets for 1985, the Fed did announce that it was revising the base period for computing the most closely watched measure of Stanton at 170t5

Daily from 4-7 p.m.

interest rates. But he indicated that the bank was sticking to the ba-sic policy course it has followed all year long.

The central bank tries to provide enough money to keep the economy growing at a healthy pace while guarding against allowing the money supply to expand so rapidly as a staunch inflation fighter. that it re-ignites inflation. He responded, "I am as con-

WASHINGTON - The Federal time when M1 has been well above the initial targets set by the central bank

Rather than abandon the original target, the Fed announced it would measure growth from this year beginning in the period from April through June, providing a higher starting base than the final three months of 1984.

Some analysts had predicted this change, viewing it as a way that the central bank could account for the rapid money growth without being Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker refused to predict at a brief-ing for reporters the future course However, this is only the second

time the Fed has ever resorted to a change in its base period to cover a major over-shoot of its money tarets. It made a similar correction in 1983

Volcker was asked whether he was concerned that the Fed's decision to rebase M1 would tarnish his image

However, economic growth has cerned about inflation as I've ever

sagged considerably this year at a been and I don't think we are yield-. . We are making reasonable ing. judgments which we think don't present inflationary risks."

Interest rates have fallen consid-erably in recent months. In June, banks lowered their prime rate, the base business lending rate, to 9.5 percent, the third cut this year.

Fixed-rate mortgages have dropped to around 12 percent, their lowest level in five years.

The interest rate declines came in part from Fed actions to ease monetary conditions as a way of spurring renewed economic growth.

So far this year, the economy, as measured by the gross national product, has advanced at a weak 1.7 percent annual rate while unemployment has remained mired at 7.3 percent for the past five months.

The Fed predicted that growth for the whole year would average 2.75 percent to 3 percent. In February, the central bank and many private economists were forecasting growth of 3.5 percent to 4 percent.

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