Summer Mustang

Officials fume about losing taxbase

By Phebe Fletcher

San Luis Obispo government officials are still fuming about the city's tax base being eroded by the State of California as a result of the recent state budget battle.

The city lost $360,000 in taxes to the state this year, down from a proposed $890,000. The state will keep city and local agency assistance funds and a larger portion of the motor vehicle registration fees.

Though no city services were cut for next year in San Luis Obispo, the state's decision to take more of the traditional city taxes limits the amount of capital purchases cities can make. Cities all over the state are mastering forces against future tax takeovers.

For the first time ever, the amount of money cities lost to the state threatened to exceed the gains from state programs and grants they receive. This has been dubbed by city officials across the state as a "reverse bail out.

Reverse bail out

The reverse bail out occurred because the state now lacks a fund surplus. After Proposition 13 reduced property tax revenues, the state realigned the cities with the budget surplus. But now that the surplus is gone, the state has been looking to cities, counties and schools for money. Proposition 13 is the indirect effect affecting the state, said Paul Floyd, deputy county auditor-controller. "The state is doing this on its own.

Though no cuts were made in city services, San Luis Obispo Finance Director Rudy Muravez wasn't relieved. He is angered the state is withholding $65,000 in city and local agency assistance funds and keeping $450,000 in motor vehicle registration fees.

"Believed, No. It's like after you hit your head against a stone wall. Although you are smart, you are not relieved because it doesn't hurt," said Muravez.

Punish absorbed

San Luis was prepared to absorb the loss of the lower tax revenues. Officials later found out the state would not pass a balanced budget this July. This would have activated the AB-14 deflator dime which mandates the AB-14 bail out program be eliminated should the state run out of funds. Malincon said it prevented the city from paying more than it is, only 60% of the state now. But by the time the state managed to balance its budget in July, city department in San Luis Obispo had already made contingency plans in the form of a 4 percent emergency budget cutback. Out of a city budget of $18 million, "we could have lost $960,000. Instead we lost $360,000," said Muravez. Fortunately the city had some unexpected surprises from last year's budget. Other cities were not so lucky.

Way to limit sharing

In addition to the tax takeovers, the state has "combined licenses with taxing," said Muravez. It has done it by increasing its role in general revenue sharing. Under revenue sharing, the government asks for money in the form of tax collections and then redistributes it to other localities. The state did this when it kept more of the motor vehicle fees to be used to maintain and construct roadways.

Though general revenue sharing has long been an accepted practice, the state added a new twist -- it is simply pocketing more of the money, said Muravez, to build up the state surplus.

City officials from San Luis Obispo feel the state actions are brazen in light of the fact that while the city cooperated with the state to equalize revenue benefits around the state, the revenue money has been used to set the state's financial house in order.

San Luis was also mandated cities of a few certain programs then denies the project will incur any costs. The League of California Cities is engaged in writing legislation to prevent the state from mandating a program without supplying the necessary funds. They also seek to keep the cities' tax revenue base from being eroded away by the state tax. There is also a citizens' lobby and a core of city officials over all the state fighting to hold on to their tax revenues.

"The fighters may not get what they want without long legal court battles. Like any government process, it is a slow process, and we have to keep our heads around some more. With arms outstretched, " said Muravez.

As with Reagan's New Federalism, the state may take the same approach -- let a little dribble down to cities and counties as if saying, "once my house is in order. Don't let you in on some," said Bill Sheldon, Arroyo Grande City Administrator.

Sheldon sees the state's actions as stemming from poor management. Whatever the cause, there are those on the local levels who want to stop it.

Rich Little gives hell to the chief

By Tom Johnson

It was a scenario which had been repeated often. As a scratchy rendition of "Hail to the Chief" squeaked from a portable phonograph, two Secret Service men strolled into the press conference room, scanning the gallery of journalists for weapons. They were followed by a man whose slow, but bouncy gait and glittering eyes immediately betrayed his identity: President Ronald Reagan.

President Reagan stepped spritely up to the lectern and adjusted the microphone. A reporter stood up and fired a question. What will you do to stimulate the economy?

The president stared perplexingly down at the lectern then answered in a soft, grandpaty voice.

"Well, I'll put a nude picture of Bo Derek on the 20 dollar bill."

Little captured the voice, the mannerisms and subtle nuances of Ronald Reagan. Little is Reagan, like the genuine article, bobbled his head and stared down thoughtfully before answering a barrage of questions with Reagan's familiar tag."Well..."

Reagan (aka Little) fielded questions of how to solve the energy shortage. Develop a gasoline from animal waste guaranteed to eliminate byphasing to assessing his term as president. "Jimmy Carter had Bill to make him look like an ass. I'm going to do it all by myself!" -- all in the patient, kindly voice which characterizes Reagan.

America may have Richard Nixon to kick around some more. With arms stretched out and a scowl on his face, Nixon assured he would be back in the White House soon. If you think Rich Little does a good Truman Capote (above) wait until you see President Reagan's impersonation.

Please see page 8
Dietary 'wonder drug' receives mixed reviews

BY ANNE FRENCH

The new weight loss drug may not be as wonderful as its supporters claim, according to many researchers and nutritionists. This new dieting sensation is the Legume Protein Concentrate, otherwise known as the Alpha Amylase inhibitor or "starch blocker." "Starch blocker," said under numerous brand names, recently began appearing in health food stores and pharmacies to quickly become the latest diet mania. The blockers contain extract of kidney bean or other beans that inhibit production of intestinal enzymes that aid starch digestion. Therefore, much of the consumed starch passes through the body unab sorbed. Due to lack of clinical investigation, the starch blocker is still experimental.

Dietary breakthrough

The original starch blockers were first marketed in this country in 1981 by Dr. J. John Marshall under the name "Carbolite," following a 12-year study. The dietary "wonder drug" received mixed reviews. Places such as "Foods For the Family" (FS) located in the Creamery started carrying "Amy-Lite" and "Alpha-Slim." Worker Dennis Finucan guessed it became the subject of talk shows such as Phil Donahue. Cal Poly nutritionist Mary Pedersen said people react in one of two ways when they take the drug. Some feel no change while others spend half the day in the bathroom (due to resulting gas, cramping, and diarrhea). Health care practitioners agreed the product's side effects could be catastrophic.

Suddenly people started demanding the item. Places such as "Foods For the Family" (FS) located in the Creamery started carrying "Amy-Lite" and "Alpha-Slim." Worker Dennis Finucan guessed it became the subject of talk shows such as Phil Donahue. Researchers and nutritionists. "I think the stuff is dangerous. To someone with a certain condition, the effects could be catastrophic, even fatal," said J.J. Marshall. "It is not a replacement for quick weight loss. It is not a replacement for proper nutrition and proper exercise."

Suspect enters innocent plea

The suspect arrested last week for the alleged attack on a Cal Poly woman student was arraigned Monday in San Luis Obispo Municipal Court. Frank David Becerra, 22, pleaded not guilty to felony charges that he attempted to kidnap and rape a young woman who was walking near Mustang Stadium last Tuesday around 6 p.m.

Two Cal Poly football players, Steve Gibson and Ken Copas heard the screams of the woman and rushed to her aid. The suspect allegedly threatened Gibson and Copas with a knife. Gibson managed to knock the knife from the suspect's hand and subdue him until university police arrived. The suspect is being held in the County Jail under $50,000 bond. Bail originally was set at $10,000 but due to the seriousness of the crime, said investigator Wayne Hall, police and the District Attorney's office petitioned the court for an increase.

Becerra will undergo a preliminary hearing August 6 to determine whether there is enough evidence in the case to justify the felony charges.
Aromas lure noses into Ye Olde Candy Shoppe

BY VALERIE BRICKMAN

Staff Writer

It happens to you everywhere you are anywhere near Higuera Street. A sweet aroma overwhelms you as your nose guides you to the doorway of Ye Olde Candy Shoppe where the intoxicating smell of the caramel corn lures you in.

Ye Olde Candy Shoppe, located at 862 Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo, is not simply child's paradise. The store has something for both young and old, girl or guy, candy lover or dieter.

The store, owned by Malt and Norma McMichael, started 20 years ago as part of a franchise which was called Karam Korn. After the chain disbanded 10 years later, it was given its present name. The McMichaels have been the proud owners for the last three years. Though it originally sold nothing but caramel corn, the McMichaels now boast their own line which has expanded significantly since then.

Friendly Habits

The store exudes such a friendly atmosphere that the McMichaels have some customers who have made the store a habit for years.

"We have a two-way communication with our customers; they tell us what they like and what they don't like which gives us an idea of how we are doing," Norma said.

Ye Olde Candy Shoppe has something for every sweet tooth. The store features a line of Shaw's chocolates, the favorite, being caramel, according to Norma. There are several kinds of chewy candies such as gummy cinnamon bears and jelly bellies (Reagan's treats) which range in flavors from watermelon to strawberry daiquiri and everyone's favorite: candy corn and licorice. There are different kinds of peanuts and a selection of coffee cordials.

Not all the candy is bought through distributors. Ye Olde Candy Shoppe also specializes in four homemade treats. In addition to the original caramel corn, the McMichaels have added peanut corn which is made with more butter, vanilla and peanuts to enhance its flavor. The second specialty is the nutty corn which is made from three nuts: almonds, pecans and cashews. The shop also specializes in peanut brittle which is guaranteed to be the best you have ever tasted, said Norma. Lastly, the store is known for its English toffee.

Hot seller

The caramel corn sells so fast there is always a fresh batch brewing, said Norma.

"The confection smells so good that Norma has been tempted to bring in a tape recorder to record the comments of the customers. "They (the customers) say it smells so good in here, they ask if you can get fat just by sniffing," Norma said.

"People are always asking how we can work in here and not get fat..." said employee Kathy Kahn.

The McMichaels introduced the chocolate and oatmeal chip cookies, which are made fresh everyday and come in two sizes. Real butter and eggs are included in the recipe to give them a distinct flavor which keeps bringing the customers back for more. There is also sugarless hard and chocolate candies for those who want that sweet taste but not the calories.

New this summer is a line of trail mixes.

Aside from the sweets, there are hot dogs, chips, and both cold and hot drinks. Please see page 6.

Owner Norma McMichael always attracts a flock of noses when she brews a batch of peanut corn.

Summer Mustang - Valorie Brinkman

Owner Norma McMichael always attracts a flock of noses when she brews a batch of peanut corn.

Summer Mustang - Valorie Brinkman

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541-4420 WE DELIVER
Engineers attempt to get project off ground

From page 4

viding the force to push the wings around. The string is not a continuous loop; therefore, the helicopter can only maintain two to three minutes of "flying" time.

Space age copter

The helicopter is 100 feet in diameter and weighs 255 pounds with the pilot. It is constructed primarily of aluminum, fiberglass, wood, plastic, and what Johnson calls "space age materials" such as teflon, carbon graphite and kevlar, which is used in bullet proof vests.

Peter Kuykendall, a bicyclist, was chosen the "pilot" for the invention because of his "superhuman strength," according to Johnson. He said a number of students were tested for horse power, and Kuykendall was picked for the job.

If all goes well, the helicopter should work the next time it is tested, which will be in a few weeks, according to Barry.

"We've tried three times already without success, but each time we learn more," said Johnson. "We keep working out bugs. It's like a refining process; something breaks each time, but we have continued to be optimistic about it."

The students are quite confident their helicopter will fly. Johnson said the entire crew will probably have a "big bash" when the project is completed. He said he is happy he has had the experience of working with other students toward a common goal, communicating ideas, and meeting deadlines.
Children of the Civic Ballet are scheduled to perform with Mozart and other classical composers. The San Francisco-based Kronos Quartet will debut music by contemporary composer Tom Constantin. Two well-known piano soloists, Richard Goode and Jerome Lowenthal, are featured performers for several recitals and concerts during the week.

The 1982 Mozart Festival will open on August 2 and feature a variety of musical presentations and activities during the week-long celebration. At least one event each week during the festival, free performances will be held in Mission Plaza. Brass concerts, folk dancing, poetry readings and the opening concert will be presented on Thursday, August 5 in the Cal Poly Theatre. The program was designed by Gary Lamprich, director of the San Luis Vocal Arts Ensemble.

The Ear Opener will boast a variety of musical presentations in which Lamprich will suggest what the audience should be aware of when listening to a classical concert. Tickets for the performances are $3.00.

Friday, August 6
3:30 p.m., Chamber Concert by members of the Mozart Festival Singers and Orchestra, Cal Poly Theatre.

8:15 p.m., Piano Recital by Richard Goode, Cal Poly Theatre. Works by Schubert, Schuman, Poulenc and Mozart.

8:15 p.m., Mission Concert, Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. Mozart, Concerto in D-flat major for bassoon, K. 191, Greg Barber, soloist; Brahms, Variations on a Theme of Haydn; Mozart, Alas de los creadores, K. 271, Haydn, THEMES, Raymond Heer-Erickson, soprano; Mary Heyler, alto; Peter Atherton, baritone; Timothy Mount conducting the Festival Singers and Orchestra.

8:15 p.m., Chamber Music Recital, Kronos String Quartet, Cambria Veterans Memorial Building. Some program on Thursday's performance except Lakić's String Quartet No. 1 is in place of Shostakovich Quartet.

Saturday, August 7
3:30 p.m., Chamber Concert, Cal Poly Theatre.

Mozart, Concerto in F major for three pianos, K. 448; Mozart, Piano in C minor for two pianos, K. 446; Shostakovich, String Quartet No. 8, K. 446; Richard Goode, soloist.

8:15 p.m., Repeat of Mission Concert.
Little claims Nixon will return, Carter still lusts

From page 1
Reagan not alone
But Reagan wasn't the only chief of state to be lampooned by Little's mimicry. The impersonator broke not his Jimmy Carter face stretching and assured that he still listed after women in his heart. His sunny smile then turned to a dark scowl and his bright eyes became menacing as he warned in Iranian tones that in three years he'll be back in the White House or in China as ambassador.

Little then shed the Carter smile and the Nixon scowl and answered questions in the character voice he does best—Rich Little.

Little said the lure of show business sparked his interest in impersonation. By age 14 he could imitate his high school teachers—giving them the wrong answers in their voices.

Throughout studying his subjects in detail, listening to recordings and watching videotapes, Little has developed a repertoire of 200 character voices. Though Little does some obscure American and British character actors, Little primarily mimics famous politicians and entertainers.

"You have to go with the ones well known. Politicians are still the best to do. We put them on a pedestal," Little said. He claimed that the impersonator's job is to knock politicians and celebrities off their pedestals, but to do it in a funny way.

"Who does he imitate the best?" The people I do best are those I respect most," Little then rattled off enough celebrity names to force Grauman's Chinese Theater to build another pedestal: Humphrey Bogart, Jimmy Stewart, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Carson and others.

Little claims that no one has ever appeared insulted from his mimic ribbing, although Richard Nixon didn't laugh when Little impersonated him. In fact Reagan enjoyed Little so much that he did his own impersonations—Jimmy Stewart and Capote.

The president, apparently, does a great Capote.

Candles sold for seasons

From page 3
The McMichaels are helping in their busy store by two assistant managers: Heidi Hansen and Karen Willsher and part-time employee Kathy Kahn, all are or were Cal Poly Students.

There is always a steady stream of people coming in. The shop is a child's heaven.

"This is a treat for people so usually are in a good mood. This makes the job fun," said Hansen.

Holidays are big for the employees as candles are purchased extensively for every major occasion.

The McMichaels purchased Ye Olde Candy Shoppe after Mel, a Cal Poly business professor, taught a small business enterprise class and became interested in owning a small business of his own. He looked around and bought Ye Olde Candy Shoppe.

This friendly San Luis Obispo store is open Monday through Saturday. 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is open until 9 p.m. on Thursdays.
School competition dominates Orient

BY CAROLINE SMITH

Students who complain that the workload is too heavy in high school and colleges should think twice about attending school in either Taiwan or Japan.

President Warren Baker, who recently returned from a month long cultural and educational mission to Japan and the Republic Of China, said Japanese and Taiwanese students must pass a rigorous exam before they can be considered for college.

The actual trip taken by the President and his wife Carly was a combination of two separate invitations to the Far East. Baker was one of five college presidents in the United States to be invited to head up an educational mission to Japan, which was sponsored by the National Alliance of the Republic of China.

"Some of the science and math courses taken in high school are considered for college. If students have two years of college level prep in some areas of study in the United States," Baker explained.

Japanese dance show today

The Spanish style Mission Inn Hotel was the site of a festive Oriental atmosphere tonight as visiting Japanese students will present a show featuring native dances.

Three hundred Japanese students, dressed in kimono's and other Japanese garb, will demonstrate native dances from 7 to 9 p.m. No admission will be charged and the public is invited to the event which is billed as Friendship Night.

The 300 students are part of the Educational Development International and the Pacific English Language Institute, a program which brings Japanese students to Cal Poly to take classes in English. Baker explained that the purpose of E D I is to "create better personal friendliness and attraction of the United States."

Baker was one of five college presidents in the United States to be invited to head up an educational mission to Japan, which was sponsored by the National Alliance of the Republic of China.

"The key step is being admitted to the university of one's choice," commented Baker. "Then it is assumed that success will be guaranteed from there. However, it is at this point that school burn out is likely to occur."

"As far as bypassing any of these educational barriers, technical education is the way," Baker stated. "Our system is so different from the Japanese and Taiwanese systems that there's not much that could be applied to high education in the United States."

While traveling, the Baker stayed in both hotels and in the homes of students and faculty who had been at Cal Poly. The only night spent was before coming and going between appointments.

As far as the language barrier, President Baker explained, "We could converse with everyone we met. My Japanese isn't very good but I picked up enough of it to get by with a conversation. Basically most people understood some English."

I was extremely touched by the personal friendliness and generosity of the Japanese people. They are very charming and delightful," Baker commented.

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All alone

After a year of trying to convert the wilderness areas he was sworn to protect into industrial playgrounds, Secretary of the Interior James Watt has simply proven the old addage that it is lonely at the top. But recent oil and gas leasing decisions may have put Watt beyond lonely to simply alone.

From the man who brought your promises to streamline "cumbersome" strip mining regulations and to turn over pristine forests to timber interests, comes a plan to open up nearly the entire U.S. coastline—including all of California—to oil and gas exploratory drilling. Predictably, the decision has caused more people to call for Watt's hide then call his name in praise.

Conservationists, not surprisingly, have deplored the decision. They mourn the inevitable damage oil spills will cause to the fragile marine environment they shutter at the image of once majestic ducks being washed up dead on beaches, their bodies defiled by the deadly black goo, and the thought of rare species being eliminated completely. The decision has also drawn heat from politicians who fear what offshore oil drilling could do to their state's fishing and tourist industries.

Thus California and Alaska have joined a collection of environmental groups in filing suit against Watt's exploration schedule.

The preservationists and politicians may find they have a most unlikely ally—the oil companies themselves. The oil companies do not object to the music Watt is playing on his jungle, but they don't like the speed he is playing them; the records should be played at 33 rpm and not 78. Watt is proposing that 1 billion acres be leased to oil companies for exploration during the next five years. Expanding that much in such a short period of time would severely tax the oil company's ability to provide data to make bids on the tracts, drilling rigs, manpower and, more importantly, capital. Atlantic Richfield told a reporter at Business Week last year that "drastic changes (in lease site drillings) can upset capital, equipment and manpower planning efforts of many firms including our own."

Even many oil companies, then, prefer that offshore drilling take place at a slower rate than Watt proposes. Watt also picked a peculiar time to issue his exploration schedule. Demand for petroleum has been reduced because the country is being eliminated, producing a glut in the oil market. Why would oil companies want to produce oil at a time when supply is up, but demand is down?

Watt has claimed that more offshore sites must be opened if this country can ever expect to become energy self-sufficient. Statistics counted Watt's claims. The Energy Act规定的 tracts be leased at a slower rate than Watt proposes. Watt also picked a peculiar time to issue his exploration schedule. Demand for petroleum has been reduced because the country is being eliminated, producing a glut in the oil market. Why would oil companies want to produce oil at a time when supply is up, but demand is down?

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James Watt is asking the American Public to peacefully accept the biggest land grab in this nation's history. Americans must join those states and environmental groups in voicing their vehement objections to Watt's irresponsible stewardship of this nation's resources. The public must show Watt how alone he really is on this issue.