

CUTS from page 2

# Cafeteria loses tax-exempt status

by William Holt  
For The Yell

For years, Theresa Chiang, director of the Moyer Student Union, has been under the impression that food items sold within the boundaries of this university were to be exempt from government taxation. Since the campus is state-owned and the cafeteria serves the student population, Chiang said the university has had no reason to tax food items in the past.

Starting this fall semester, however, all food items sold by vendors on campus will be subject to sales tax. Exceptions to the rule are the meal plans included in packages for residence hall students and in some sorority and fraternity programs.

The decision to tax was based on an opinion given by the Office of the Attorney General under Attorney

General Frankie Sue Del Papa. The Nevada Department of Taxation has reconsidered the statute which dictates that the sale of food served by public or private schools, school districts, student organizations or parent-teacher associations to the students or to teachers of a school be exempt from taxation.

The attorney general's office made the point in its memo to the Department of Taxation that there is no mention in the statute that sales by privately-owned vendors would also be exempt from sales tax.

Since both the University of Nevada-Reno and UNLV contract out their student food services to private vendors and since the cafeterias are open to the general public, UNLV Student Services has responded to the opinion of the attorney general by imposing a sales tax on food items sold in the MSU cafeteria, snack items sold in the bookstore and items sold by



photo by Bob Weidenfeld

The MSU cafeteria now must charge students tax on food purchases.

outdoor vendors on campus.

Chiang said she is under the impression this decision has

been influenced by the recession and the state budget crunch.

POLLS

from page 2

level include the economy, the environment and abortion rights, activists say. If students want to address these concerns, they must first register to vote, registration organizers say. That way, they can vote for candidates who most closely represent their ideals and ideas of what government should be, and what issues the representatives should address.

According to the Census Bureau, 26 million men and women in the 18-24 age group are eligible to vote, and approximately 40 percent of this group is registered. Among college students who are registered, 80 percent vote, said Jamie Harmon, president of the College Democrats of America.

"Many students don't feel they are a part of the American

community. They don't have families yet, they don't have sunk-in roots, so they are not as politically active," Harmon said. "Political participation increases with age. We want to show students today that the political and governmental system isn't a joke."

The College Democrats are organizing a Victory Vote program on campuses nationwide, with the goal of registering 50,000 students this fall—ideally as Democrats. Having targeted about 500 college and universities in 15 states, the College Democrats plan to hold rallies, get publicity and have politicians from the local and national levels speak to students. Harmon said national polls show students identifying with the Democratic Party,

## News Briefs

### Jobs are out there; students are eager

The good news is that there are jobs out there for recent college graduates. The bad news is that the economic downturn has enabled employers to hold the line on initial salary offers, the College Placement Council found in its annual salary survey.

Another survey shows students are optimistic that they will find employment in a short time and expect the beginning salaries will range from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

The council's July 1992 salary survey also found some employers were not able to place graduates in positions that they had been offered. The survey "shows that though the recession did not provide for an abundance of employment opportunities, not all graduates' employment prospects were affected by it," the Bethlehem, Pa.-based council said.

—College Press Service

### HIV infection rate higher for students than recruits

AUSTIN, Texas—University students show a higher incidence of the HIV infection than military recruits, said a speaker at the second-annual Summer HIV Prevention Institute for Colleges and Universities.

"Studies show that one in 500 university students is HIV positive," said Carolyn Parker, executive director for Texas AIDS Network.

A recent survey issued at the International Conference on AIDS said nearly half of U.S. Army soldiers admit to hazardous sexual practices, such as failing to use condoms, the *Daily Texan* reported.

Although many universities in Texas have AIDS awareness information available through student health services, AIDS needs to be discussed in all areas of campus life, Parker said.

"The AIDS issue needs to be addressed in other areas, like history and English, because it's a phenomenon that can no longer be ignored in their writing and teaching," she said.

The number of deaths from AIDS already exceeds that of the Korean and Vietnam Wars combined, she added.

The AIDS institute was held in late July.

—College Press Service

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result of the recession," Mitchem added. With young people unable to find jobs, many are returning to school and seeking additional aid.

Mitchem and other advocates had hoped Congress would pay for the shortfall through a supplemental spending bill or by delaying the costs until 1994, when lawmakers again could transfer funds from defense to domestic programs. Either scenario would free up more money for education programs next year.

House leaders, however, said they wanted to address the problem before it reached dire proportions. "We have faced up to the shortfall now rather than confront a crisis in 1994," Natcher added.

In addition to the Pell reductions, House leaders cut 1 percent from many other education programs, including supplemental education grants, aid to historically black colleges and universities and programs for disadvantaged youth planning to attend college.

In some cases, these cuts meant that the House set lower funding figures than those proposed by the Bush administration last winter. Still, lawmakers noted they did protect some programs such as Perkins Loans and work-study from deeper cuts proposed by the White House.

Specific funding figures in the House bill include: \$608 million for work-study, a \$4 million cut from current funding; \$571 million for supplemental grants, a \$6 million reduction; and \$375 million for disadvantaged youth programs, a cut of \$3 million.

The bill allocates \$6.5 billion for Pell Grants, including \$704 million to help cover the shortfall. The House also set funding of \$2.86 billion for new subsidies under the Guaranteed Student Loan program, an increase of \$426 million.

House members approved the spending bill by a 345-54 vote and sent it to the Senate, which is just beginning to hold hearings on education funding issues and is expected to act sometime this month.

Mitchem and other education advocates say they will press for restoration of cuts during the deliberations.

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