The threat by the Government to levy VAT on books in the forthcoming budget has been roundly condemned by the university sector. Dr Kenneth Edwards, Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors & Principals (CVCP), has written on behalf of all universities to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging him to give serious consideration to the impact that such a tax would have on university finances, libraries and the individual purchasing power of academic staff and students.

Sussex University Librarian, Adrian Peasgood, warned that if the present zero rate of VAT were replaced by the standard rate of 17.5% the library would require an extra £150,000. "If no extra money were provided," he added, "the result would be a cut of roughly 15% in our present intake."

Both the University Bookshop, which has launched its own petition in protest against the tax, and the Students' Union expressed grave concern about the impact of the tax. Emma Nuttall, VP Education, remarked: "At a time when students are screaming out for books and our library is completely overstretched we are faced with the possibility that both students and the library will be able to buy even fewer books."

Wednesday 10 November sees the culmination of a vigorous nation-wide campaign against the tax with the presentation of a public petition to 10 Downing Street.

VICE-CHANCELLORS URGE RE-THINK ON TEACHER TRAINING

Earlier this week, university Vice-Chancellors urged the government to re-think its plans to reform teacher training. According to the CVCP the government's proposed reforms not only pose a serious threat to quality, but could lead to political control over teacher education. Universities, it says, must continue to play the leading role in teacher education if the quality is to be maintained and improved.

Presenting the response of the CVCP, its Chairman, Kenneth Edwards, said "The proposals present no logical argument in support of a fundamental shift towards school-centred initial Teacher Education, or of a new quango to fund it. We have plenty of arguments as to why these ideas would, if implemented, be a seriously retrograde step. The Government must reconsider."

LLAMA LINDA
Survival of the Knitters

Four years ago, Peter Childs, who works in the Thermo-Fluid Mechanics Research Centre, went to Peru. On his return he set up a company, Llama Linda, to provide a market for the alpaca wool jumpers knitted by two shanty town dwellers: within Peru they just couldn't sell them. In the first year of trading, to Peter's surprise, Llama Linda managed £20,000 of sales. Every year since then the sales have doubled, but nobody in this country (apart from the VATman) has made a penny. Llama Linda relies on a volunteer force that includes Peter, his wife, and Sussex students Jenni Jackson, Katie Crosland, Nathan Mosher and Julia Bacon. "We lose 10% of the money to the costs of petrol and paper. The rest goes back to Peru," says Peter.

The Peruvian side of the workforce has now swelled to eighty; all but ten had no work at all before the project started. "The families no longer need the children to work in the street markets," says Peter. "The workers can afford to let their children go to school." At the request of the knitters, Llama Linda also partially funds a daycare centre to help those from the shanty-town who can't be involved in the knitting project. Children are looked after during the day, and given medical and dental checks, as well as some pre-school education.

All of this is funded from the sale of the jumpers, which range in price from £30 to £65 - not cheap for a company born and raised in a recession. Half of the sales come as a result of 'jumper parties', where volunteers (usually the students - middle class ladies adore them, according to Peter) take the jumpers into

Continued on page 3
In Brief

LIBRARY NEWS
In the first two weeks of term the number of catalogue searches performed outside the Library (i.e. via the computer network) doubled as compared with last year. All PCs on the network have access to the catalogue, and 7.5% of catalogue lookups are now performed 'remotely'. It is hoped that as more PCs are added to the network more users will choose to do catalogue searches at them, thereby relieving pressure on the computer terminals in the Library.

The three containers on the verge of Library Road contain low use stock awaiting transfer to an off-campus store. Material therein is temporarily inaccessible.

VACANCIES
The following posts within the University are vacant. Further particulars may be obtained from Personnel Office, Room 227, Sussex House.

Teaching Faculty
Chair in English.
Chair in Experimental Physics.
3 posts in Psychology: Lecturer, Reader and/or Professor.
Lectureship/Senior Lectureship in History of Art, Grade A.B or Senior Lecturer.
Lectureship in Media Studies, Grade A.
2 Lectureships in Philosophy, Grade A.

Administrative Faculty
Administrator, IRC, Grade 2 or 3.
Contact Professor O'Shea, IRC.

Computing Faculty
Unix Systems Programmer, Grade 2/3.
System Manager, p/t, Grade 2.

Clinical & Related
Deputy Conference Officer, Grade 5.
Receptionist, Computing Service, part-time, fixed-term, Grade 2.
Secretary, MOLS, Grade 2/3.

YOUNG BUSINESS WRITER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION
Open to undergraduates and offering prizes of £1000, £500 and £200. To enter you need to write 1,000 words on one of the following:
- Is the UK falling behind the rest of Europe in producing an educated workforce?
- Can Europe ever be united?
- Does business need the law?
- A profile of a local entrepreneur and their business, operating close to your place of study or home.

Entry forms are available from Information Office Reception, Sussex House, tel: 3766.

News

Some like it VERY HOT

The lads go out for a curry, the girls go Italian. Sexist nonsense? Maybe not. Research at Sussex into the liking for chili amongst different groups of people shows a significant difference between male and female subjects. The research was carried out by Dr. Martin Yeomans and Dr. Richard Stevenson, who tested people’s response to different concentrations of capsicin, the irritant found in chili peppers. Women reported a more intense chili-burn than men for an equivalent dose, regardless of whether or not they enjoyed it: they were far more sensitive to capsaicin than the male subjects. Research has shown that women generally feel pain more intensely than men, but no-one knows why. Neither is anyone really sure why we choose to eat foods that cause pain and discomfort.

“There are reasons why we eat most foods,” says Dr. Yeomans. “We like sweet tastes, because that means sugar, which provides energy. But there are also things we eat and drink which are initially unpleasant to us.” Driven by peer pressure to drink alcohol, most young people choose to begin with a sweet drink such as cider, which disguises the unfamiliar and unpleasant taste. It is the association between alcohol and its pleasant effects that is believed to make us develop a liking for the taste. “Something like chili would appear to have no positive effects,” he admits. “But it seems we can train ourselves to like things which we find extremely disagreeable.”

In Mexico, where a pile of chili peppers will often accompany a meal, children have to learn to like them. “The body may eventually compensate for the unpleasantness by switching on its anti-pain mechanism: a very agreeable feeling, similar to the jogger’s high.”

Running great distances has for a long time been associated with a ‘nirvana’ experience. Once hooked, athletes cannot shake the desire for a fix. Similarly obsessive, even addictive, behaviour observed with chili use encouraged Dr. Yeomans to investigate the mystery. It is not an exclusively male phenomenon: he has a female friend who regularly eats a raw chili for breakfast. With reduced sensitivity, according to Dr. Yeomans, anyone could come to like chili. And who would dare accuse the lads in the curry house of being insensitive?

What the papers say . . .

Sussex through the eyes of the press
Not content with the forthcoming New Year, The Sunday Times (24 October) keenly anticipates the approach of the big one, Saturday, January 1st, 2000. Amongst its predictions are that New Year’s Day, 2000 will usher in ‘the biggest hangover in human history’ and that M&F will waste no time in opening early for its grand ‘Sale of the Millennium’. The enthusiasm of The Sunday Times is not shared by Sussex’s Emeritus Professor Norman Cohn who remarks: “Students are always asking me what’s going to happen in 2000 and I say there’s no reason anything particular should happen. The year 1999 was particularly quiet as it happens.”

Former Sussex student, Isobel Stoddart (Environmental & Development Studies) aims to be the first person to cycle across Mongolia’s inhospitable and deserted interior (Evening Argus 26 October). Undaunted by the 1,500 miles that stretch ahead, Isobel said: “Mongolia is virgin territory; it’s a good cycling challenge as it has both mountains and plains.” The aim is to raise money for the cycle charity Sustras and Isobel will be accompanied by two colleagues including Toby Mollins (MAPS) who plans to film and sell the escape to TV.

Rachael Philippis’ (CCS) thesis on violent women in films has produced a number of interesting findings (Evening Argus 26 October). Responding to the film Thelma and Louise, half of the two hundred women surveyed approved of the women’s violent behaviour. A quarter claimed they would carry arms for protection if it were legal and 50% felt Louise was justified in shooting a man about to rape her friend. Rachael commented: “Seeing women acting like Thelma and Louise fulfils a fantasy. They enjoy the lawlessness of it as they feel the law doesn’t work for them.”

Public Lecture

Human Infancy: A Brief History
Professorial Lecture
by George Butterworth
Professor of Psychology at Sussex
6.00 pm on Tuesday 9 November
MOLS Lecture Theatre

The study of human infancy is a recent science. Research in the field began in earnest in the early seventies, and has proved popular assumptions to be false: a baby’s perception is quite sophisticated. Not only are they sensitive to patterns of sight and sound, and able to relate what they see to what they touch, babies can also follow someone else’s gaze. These abilities are being investigated at Sussex, and Professor Butterworth’s lecture will relate the discoveries made towards a better understanding of communication development.
RSL — Fact or Fiction?

The recent ruling in the High Court by Judge Prosser QC that Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) was ‘meaningless’ and ‘has no place in the medical books’ has provoked a mixed but generally critical response.

Judge Prosser’s view is one held by orthopaedic surgeons who argue that the term has no identifiable pathological basis. Yet the Health and Safety Executive, amongst others, accepts that while RSI may be difficult to define, it nonetheless exists and is growing. Cramp, shoulder, arm and back pain are all cited as classic RSI symptoms. A major problem is that, like back pain, sufferers exhibit no visible injury giving rise to the belief that it is all in the mind and to comments like Judge Prosser’s that such people ‘need to get a grip on themselves’.

This is not a view shared by Al Thomson, CCE Lecturer, who was instrumental in setting up the University’s RSI Support Group. He feels the ruling is ‘a really backward step and one in a long line of disastrous legal decisions in this country.’ Al contrasts the situation in the UK with that in his native Australia where RSI is a legally recognised complaint and where employers, by necessity, attach considerable importance to ergonomics and safer working practices.

Staff Welfare Officer, Richard Price, points out that Sussex also recognises RSI as a genuine problem and has taken steps to minimise risks to employees such as the ‘Avoid RSI—Take Your Screen Break’ posters, observance of the 1992 Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations Act and provision of safety advice which has long since been available. Commenting on Judge Prosser’s ruling he says: ‘My feeling is that this decision will be rapidly overturned in another court’.

Llama Linda

continued from front page

willing homes. The rest of the sales come from their mail order service, and attending festivals and shows.

Having earned enough money to buy her own machine, Nati can now work from home

Jenni Jackson, an undergraduate in BIOLS, coordinates the student volunteer help. “We already have some students involved, and there was a lot of interest at the Societies Fair,” she says. “At the moment, though, we are not a society—what we need is 16 people willing to pay their £3 membership fee.”

There have been about 40 volunteers in the history of the company, and Peter values the student help in particular: “Morality and ethics tend to be stronger amongst the young,” he says. “As I’ve grown older my will to stick by the ethical principles has decreased. It’s a terrible generalisation, and I’m wary of saying it, but the student base is absolutely essential, just to keep us on the track of doing what’s right.” His trust in the students extends to involving them in decisions that affect the company: at the weekly meetings everyone in attendance has an equal voice.

The enthusiasm of the volunteers is constantly fuelled by the changes seen in the shanty towns. “One lady, Nati, was sharing a tiny dry stone block with a tin roof when she started work with the project,” says Jenni. “There were four of them in there. Now she rents a room with an electric light—her prize possession—and lives there with her little boy, Luis. Working has meant that not only does she have somewhere decent to live, but she has managed to buy her own knitting machine. Luis was selling sweets on a street stall, but now he can go to school. They’re all absolutely delighted with the opportunity to work and have some guarantee of an income next week. Its something they’ve never experienced in their lives.”

Anyone interested in volunteer work with the project or holding a Jumper Party should contact Jenni Jackson, BIOLS u/g or Llama Linda, 17 Worcester Villas, Hove, BN3 5TA, tel: 439471.

Research

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information on any of these sources of research funding, call the Research Office on ext 3761 (Louise Vincent) or email louisev@admin.

- WELLCOME TRUST. Research Re-entry Fellowships, for postdoctoral scientists returning to active research after a period away from science, for up to four years. No closing date.

- WELCOME TRUST. Research Career Development Fellowships in Basic Biomedical Sciences, for up to four years. No closing date announced.

- MATHEMATICAL BIOLOGY. Wellcome Trust Postdoc Research Training Fellowships, also Research Studentships. Closes 21 Jan. 94.

- MRC Senior Fellowships (non-clinical) for 5-10 years. Closes 4 Jan. 94.

- US NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH FELLOWSHIPS 1995/96, not limited to NIH labs. Applications to MRC by 1 April 94.

- SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Washington, Fellowships (senior, postdoc, predoc.) in anthropology, biological sciences, materials analysis, earth sciences, history of art, history of science and technology, social and cultural history. Closes 15 Jan. 94 for 1994/95 (and 95/96 for senior).

- VENETIAN RESEARCH, grants by Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. Closes 17 Jan. 94.

CHANGING FACE OF CAMPUS

The following new work is being undertaken by the Estates Division. You are asked to take care in the vicinity and to stay outside any safety barriers.

Work in Progress

- Refectory and Sussex House: Installation of CCTV, and microwave security communication link to York House.

- Junction of Eastern Ring Road and Pavilion Road: Relocation of main water meter, end of October to start of November.

Planned Future

Works in 1993/94


- Gardner Arts Centre and Falmer House: Major repairs, subject to listed building consent.

What’s on...

Monday 8 November – Sunday 14 November

 Lectures, Seminars, Colloquia

Monday 8 November
12.30pm Sussex Continuing Education Research Centre: Walking the Tightrope: Experiences of Mature Mother Students on a Primary PGCE Course. V. Griffiths, Arts D310.

1pm Experimental Psychology Seminar: Synonyms. M. Doherty, EP3.9, BIOLS

3pm Maths Analysis Seminar: Approximation of the Scattering Matrix Using Multiresolution Analysis. A. Holst (Lund), PB2A2, MAPS I.

4pm Women’s Studies Seminar: Equal Opportunities: Lancaster and Elsewhere. D. Groves, Arts A70.

4.15pm Chemistry Colloquium Programme: Keeping Healthy With Nitrile Acid. A. Butler (St. Andrews), MSLT, MOLS.

7.30pm Friends Centre Open Lecture: The Third World: Participating in Sustainable Development. Prof G. Conway (Vice-Chancellor, Sussex University), Friends Centre, Ship Street, Brighton.

Tuesday 9 November

2pm Condensed State Physics Seminar: X-Ray Studies of Monolayer Xenon on Graphite. W. Nuttall (Keeler/MIT), PB1A1, MAPS I.

3pm SEI Research-in-Progress Seminar: Crisis in the European Community and the Limits of Economic Integration. Prof. L. Tsoukalas (Hellenic Centre for European Studies, Athens), A70 SEI.

4pm COGS Seminar: Complex Symbolic Objects. J. Slack (Kent), PB5C1, MAPS III.

4.15pm Hopf-algebras Lectures. PB2C1, MAPS I.

4.15pm Biochemistry & Genetics and Development Seminar: Molecular Chaperones In and Out of the Cell. P. Lund (Birmingham), Biology Lecture Theatre.

5pm Media Studies Graduate Seminar: Women and Radio in Weimar Germany: Renegotiating the Public and the Private. K. Lacey, Arts D722.

6pm Professorial Lecture: Human Infancy: A Brief History. George Butterworth, Professor of Psychology, MOLS Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 10 November
12.30pm Environmental Science Seminar: Sea Levels. R. Parish, MS1, MOLS III.

2pm Algebra Seminar: Cameron’s Question. R. P. Lewis, PB2A11, MAPS I.

4pm IDS Seminar Series: An INQUIRY INTO WELL-BEING AND DESTINATION: Seminar 4 – Land, Labour, Savings, Credit, Underconsumption and Institutions. M. Lipton, Room 221, IDS.

5pm Media Voices Seminar: Informal discussion with those working in the media. Martin Freeth (Producer, BBC Horizon), Arts A103.


Thursday 11 November
12.30pm Inorganic Seminar: Inter-molecular H-bonding Between Transition Metals Present in Solution. S. Kazarian (Nottingham), MS1, MOLS III.


1pm IDS Seminar Series: Has Botswana got it Right? M. Buchanan-Smith, Room 221, IDS.

2pm Statistics Seminar: Applications of Permutation Tests D. Chanter (Brookwood Statistics), PB2C1, MAPS I.

4.30pm Experimental Psychology Colloquium: Why Do People With Impaired Hearing Have Trouble Understanding Speech: And What Can We Do About It? B. More (Cambridge), EP3.9, BIOLS.

5pm History Work-in-Progress Seminar: Witchcraft, Fantasy and the Maternal Body in Early Modern Germany. L. Roper (Royal Holloway), Arts A155.


Friday 12 November
2pm Chemical Physics Seminar: Overtone Spectroscopy and Dynamics. Prof. J. Mills (Reading) MS3, MOLS.

4pm Algebra Seminar: Cameron’s Question. R. Lewis, PB1A1, MAPS I.


Career Workshop Programme

Social and Community Work – Mon 15 Nov, 11am – 1pm.

Interview Skills – Tue 16 Nov, 10am - 12noon.

Practising Selection Tests – Thur 18 Nov, 10am – 1pm.

Working for Experience – Thur 18 Nov, 2 – 4pm.

Design Your C.V. – Fri 19 Nov, 11am – 12noon.

All courses are in Falmer House and must be booked in advance. For details on the above and on various Career Talks contact the CDU on ext. 84289.

Centre for Continuing Education

University Day Schools – Sat 20 Nov

Further details from Sue Faquellle on ext. 8537.

Community Publishing. Introduction to the theory and practice of community publishing. £15 / reduced £10 / minimum £4.

Introduction to Body Language. Learn about body language and develop interpersonal skills. £15 / reduced £10 / minimum £4.


Gardner Centre

Othello

Custard Factory Theatre Company’s hard-hitting production of Shakespeare’s Othello. Tue 9 Nov, 7.45pm. £5.50.

Song of a Bluefoot Man

Music, poetry and dance depicting the story of a Jamaican traveller. Wed 10 and Thur 11 Nov, 7.45pm. £8.50 / £6.50.

Music Recitals

REICAL ROOM: Michael Finissky (piano). Tue 9 Nov, 11.15pm.

MEETING HOUSE: Marjory Ashenden (cello), Kate Mead (cello). Tue 9 Nov, 11.15pm.

Earn While You Learn

Want to launch a business, develop overseas contacts, practise public speaking or learn Neuro Linguistic Programming? If so, the Entrepreneurial Network is the place for you. Contact Dave Trevena. COGS u/g, p/h or email: Davet@cosgs.

Blood Transfusion

Your chance to assist the NHS by giving blood. All welcome. Thur 11 Nov, 10am – 4pm, Mandela Hall. Contact ext. 3354 for details.

Miscellaneous

DANCE SOCIETY: Would like to contact all faculty/staff/students willing to share their dance expertise. Contact Jorg on 301438 or email: jorgb.

EARRING LOST: Between Gardner/Library/Falmer paths on 22 Oct. Sentimental value. Contact Chris Abuk, AFAS p/g. p/h.

Small Ads

TO LET: Two rooms and own kitchen in house near London Rd BR. Share bathroom with one other faculty member. Suit female faculty or p/g. £240pcm. Contact ext. 8523 or 621872 (home).

HOLIDAY COTTAGE TO LET in Devon. Available for weekend and longer lets. Contact David on ext. 8300.

WANTED: Bridge players seek secondhand folding card table (any condition). Contact ext. 2728 or 504540 (home).


FORSALE: Wharfedale Diamonds MKIII speakers, 100 watts. £65. Contact Alex on 677691.

Bulletin

The four-page Bulletin appears each Friday with the copy deadline the preceding Friday. We welcome suggestions for news, details of events, letters and small ads, etc. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House, ext. 8209 or Email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk