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Judy Zink joined about 250 other Sacred Heart Hospital nurses in a rally in Skinner's Butte Park Thursday. Among contract issues facing the nurses are wage, seniority and workload questions; according to a federal mediator, negotiations are at a standstill.

Nurses rally to gain new contract support

By PAUL YARNOLD
Of the Emerald

About 250 Sacred Heart Hospital nurses and their supporters rallied last Thursday to mobilize dual support for their wage demands and for the Oregon Nurses Association, which represents them at the bargaining table.

The group gathered in the late afternoon shade at Skinner's Butte Park for an hour of position statements, testimonials, sing-alongs and a skit.

A majority of the supporters wore nurses' uniforms and identification to visibly demonstrate their solidarity. They listened to about 35 nurses make personal statements from the podium, offering evidence to support their grievances.

The major point of negotiation involves setting a new wage-per-hour scale for registered nurses. But other grievances from the nurses include insufficient compensation for seniority or accumulated work experience and a workload they say continually assumes more responsibility.

According to ONA figures, any outcome of the bargaining will affect 435 nurses currently employed at Sacred Heart.

Negotiators began in March to revise the registered nurses' pay scale, which is currently governed by a three-year contract signed two years ago. After several months of negotiations, the Sacred Heart Hospital administration has failed to

secure a contract agreement with the ONA, and despite the aid of Federal Mediator Tom Drew, the situation is deadlocked.

Assistant Administrator Robert Whitman says the administration will make no "extended" comments at this stage of the bargaining. He did say, however, the administration is not concerned about the rally and its resulting publicity, adding that the ONA representatives acted responsibly by informing the administration before bringing the media into the debate.

Whitman made no comment about specific contract offers, but he said that with the aid of the federal mediator a "maximum" increase will be agreed upon by both sides.

Unofficially, the ONA claims the hospital's offer is a 7 percent increase. According to an ONA press release, the nurses' representatives are asking for a settlement of about 13 percent.

A new contract will be negotiated next year in any event.

As to where the funds for a pay increase will come from, David Zumwalt, a spokesperson for the nurses, says that since a reported \$9.3 million is available for building expansion, the hospital has the means to upgrade salaries for its loyal employees.

In response, Whitman claims depreciation funds must be allocated for "replacing, upgrading and expansion of hospital facilities" as well as salary maintenance.

State board ratifies tuition fee increase, gerontology program

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

Inflation will hit students — especially non-residents — hard in the wallet this fall.

Instructional fees, the major component of tuition, were set at \$211 per term for resident undergraduates by the State Board of Higher Education when it approved staff and committee recommendations for 1979-80 tuition, health and incidental fees in its monthly meeting Friday.

The lowest increase goes to resident graduate students, who will pay \$23, or 7 percent, more per term. Next in line are resident undergraduates, who will pay \$17 more per term, an increase of 8.8 percent, in instructional costs. Non-resident undergraduate costs will increase \$109, or 13.5 percent, more per term.

Non-resident graduate students are hit the hardest under the new rates, with a \$220, or 50 percent, increase per term.

Increases in instructional fees are also due to changes in the percentage of the total instructional cost students pay.

Decreases in that percentage account for small increases in tuition. Resident undergraduates currently pay 24 percent of the total cost; next term they will pay 23 percent. Resident graduates currently pay 29 percent of the cost; that will be reduced to 27 percent for the next school year.

The large increases dealt to non-resident graduate students are tied to large changes in the percentage of instructional costs they pay. Non-resident graduates' load increases from 38 to 50 percent. Non-resident undergraduates will continue to pay all of their instructional costs.

Health service and incidental fees will increase at the University from a com-

bined total of \$56.50 per term to \$63, an increase of 8.6 percent.

The board also approved a request by the University to establish a B.S./B.A. degree program and a certificate program in gerontology within the College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

The University estimates that it will enroll 100-150 undergraduate major students and 60 certificate students when the programs are fully operative. The board's Committee on Instruction, Research and Public Service last month rejected the University's request to offer a master's degree program in gerontology.

The board also approved funding for an academic computer for the University when it divided up \$900,000 in funds allocated by the Legislature for computer program improvement in the State System of Higher Education.

Most of that money, \$241,251, goes to the University. Next in line are Oregon State University with \$222,000 and Portland State University with \$200,000.

The board also heard a report by the state system's audit division on charges made last month by Nahum Chandler, former Southern Oregon State College student body president and chair of the Oregon Student Lobby Board of Directors, that the work-study program at SOSOC was being abused by the school's intercollegiate athletic program.

The report concluded that 17 male athletes were paid a total of \$777 for work on campus while they were actually attending athletic events in other cities. One student was asked to sign a travel voucher for an athletic trip he did not make, and another student's signature had been forged on two travel vouchers.

SOSOC officials said the report would be reviewed and acted on by the college.

today

Coburg citizens directed cries of harassment at their police force at a recent council meeting. In recent weeks, tickets have been issued more frequently along the town's main street, and merchants are complaining of a speed trap. **See Page 4.**

John Thomas, inventor of the hand- and foot-powered Manuped, has been improving his invention over the past seven years. With several investors providing funds and work, he hopes to see his invention become widely-used in city travel. **See Page 5.**

The field burning controversy rages on; the latest development is Gov. Vic Atiyeh's entry into the fiery fight. Atiyeh says he may exercise his power to suspend the 50,000-acre limit enforced by a Eugene court last week. **See Page 8.**