

## COMMUNITY

# Hospital workers to lose jobs

By Rebecca Merritt  
Oregon Daily Emerald

At least 57 Sacred Heart General Hospital employees will lose their jobs to make up for lower patient levels and less federal support, officials announced Tuesday.

An additional 55 employees will lose their current jobs and will be redeployed in other hospital positions. Sister Monica Heeran, president of Sacred Heart Health System, said the hospital is restructuring to save \$5 million this year and \$55 million during the next four years.

"Although we are glad that the total number of affected positions is not larger, we fully recognize that this decision affects the lives of people who have provided quality work. We truly regret that any layoffs are necessary," Sister Monica said.

Sacred Heart employs more than 2,400 people full time. Of the 112 people who will either lose their jobs or receive new positions, 53 are registered nurses. The jobs of 18 hospital managers will also be affected. The remaining cuts will come from non-registered nurses and direct care workers.

Individual employees received notices of their possible lay-off or redeployment Tuesday. Hospital administrators do not know which employees will leave the hospital. Redeployment is based on seniority and will probably begin this week. Lay-

**'We truly regret that any layoffs are necessary,'**

— Sister Monica,  
president, Sacred Heart Health System

offs should go into effect within the next two weeks, Sister Monica said.

The hospital has issued warnings since September about possible job cuts. The average length of patient stay at Sacred Heart has declined by more than 10 percent since 1990, while the average number of employees per patient has increased. Supply costs have increased, and lower Medicare reimbursements have affected about 50 percent of the hospital's revenues.

Sister Monica said the lay-offs won't affect the quality of patient care.

"I would like to emphasize that we have been very careful to ensure that quality patient care would not be compromised," she said.

Hospital officials said the reorganization plan would include voluntary severance packages for long-term employees, as well as a workforce management program that includes processes for redeployment and retraining.

## Religion helps homeless man turn his life around

By Stephanie Sisson  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Other than a quick, "Sorry, I don't have any change," I'd never talked to a homeless person before.

When I told Keefer this, he smiled gently, relit his homemade cigarette and said, "It isn't hard."

We sat on a bench near 12th Avenue and Oak Street, facing the street, while Keefer, 38, told me why he was homeless and what it was like to be a homeless man.

"I've basically lived on the streets my entire life," Keefer said. "I've had jobs in the past but can't seem to keep them. And generally, up until three years ago, when I had this big revelation and I turned to Christ and became a Christian,

my only religion was drugs. That's what I did. I lived on the street and worked for dealers."

On the night of his 13th birthday, Keefer's mother and his probation officer "cooked up this tough-love scheme" to scare him into straightening out. Instead of going along with it, he left home that night.

Keefer said he hasn't seen his mother since, and, 25 years later, he does not want to.

"I've been on the streets a long time," Keefer said. "I've been off the streets (for short periods of time) before. ... I've been involved in relationships with people who thought they could do something for me ... but it's never exactly been

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## ET ALS

### MEETINGS

Returning Students Association will meet today at 11 a.m. in EMU Room 27. For more information, call 346-4305.

Student Projects, Inc. will conduct its board of directors meeting tonight from 5:15 to 6:15 in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 346-2859.

Vietnamese Student Association will meet tonight at 7 in Room 302 Geringer. For more information, call 686-9942.

AISEEC will meet today at 5 p.m. in Room 332 Gilbert.

### RELIGION

Jewish Student Union will meet and offer "hang out" time today at 4 p.m. in EMU Suite 5. For more information, call 346-4366.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Museum of Natural History and Association of Anthropology Graduate Students will present Ken Ames, an anthropology professor at Portland State University, as part of the group's Thursday lecture series. Ames will give a lecture titled "Life on the River: Chinookan Land Use Patterns Along the Columbian River" today from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Museum of Natural History. For more information, call 346-3024.

Academic Advising and Student Services will offer the program "Applying to Law School" on investigating the best major and courses, how to select the right school, how to prepare for law school and for the LSAT, and how to apply to law schools. The program will be today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 164 Oregon Hall. For more information, call 346-3211.

Outdoor Program will offer its "Emergency Ski Repair Clinic" tonight at 7:30 in EMU Room 37. For more information, call 346-4365.

Oregon Fair Share will have a table in the EMU today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 346-3235.

U.S. Department of Justice and Immigration/Naturalization will have a table in the EMU today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 346-3235.

Career Planning and Placement Service will offer an internship opportunities workshop today from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon and is requested to be published earlier.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style.

## CORRECTION

In a Jan. 7 article, it was incorrectly stated that "the burning of fuels produces greenhouse gas that slowly disintegrates the earth's ozone layer." The burning of greenhouse gas causes global warming.

An article that appeared in the Jan. 14 Emerald should have attributed the Ani DiFranco interview to the Lavender Network.

The Emerald regrets the errors.

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