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Holiday jobs help season go smoothly

■ Seasonal workers prepare the community for the holidays and Y2K

By Felicity Ayles
Oregon Daily Emerald

While some festive holiday-lovers will be staying home to spin dreidels and deck halls this season, many people work over the holidays, making sure all the necessary modern conveniences remain available.

Even during the holiday season life must go on, and many employees in Eugene and at the University will be working to make sure that it does.

Campus Operations and Maintenance manager Ron Bloom said he sees the winter break as an opportunity to do maintenance projects that can't be done when students are in class and the buildings are busy. Bloom said more than 170 employees will work at the University over winter break.

"All of our classified staff works the holidays. We're very busy during the break," he said.

Custodians and facilities services employees will keep themselves busy repairing everything from classrooms and buildings to plumbing and drainage, he said.

"We have a lot of people working over the holiday, and with Y2K, it makes it even better," he said.

Bloom will be at the University all night on Dec. 31, to make sure



Catharine Kendall Emerald
Officer Rick Ellis sets up holiday decorations in the West University Police Station. He is one of many police officers who have to work during the holiday season.

things go as planned for the turn of the century.

Perhaps the busiest employees working off campus during the holidays are those that work in the retail business. Last-minute holiday shopping can create a rather hectic workplace, as DeVar Jensen can bear witness.

Jensen is the assistant manager for the Emporium department store at Valley River Center and he said he has already seen large crowds of holiday shoppers this year.

"This is the beginning of our busy season," he said. "The weekends are extremely busy."

To prepare for the abundance of mall goers, Jensen said the Emporium has been preparing for months by coming up with sales and promotions, even shifting the look of departments to make way for holiday specials.

Emporium doesn't usually hire

seasonal employees but sometimes takes advantage of the numbers of students looking for temporary holiday work, especially for their gift-wrapping department, he said.

On a personal level, Jensen said his job can sometimes get in the way of some of his own holiday preparation.

"If you haven't got your Christmas shopping done before [work], you're not going to get it done," he said.

Once all the gift-buying is finished, there may still be more shopping to do, and Ron Bromps works over the holidays to make sure Safeway is fully prepared for every occasion.

Bromps works as the assistant manager for the West 18th Avenue Safeway and said that after working holidays for 10 years, it is

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In Town for the Holidays?
The Newman Center is open!

Mark your calendar for events to remember in December:

6th	1:15 pm - 2:45 pm Tea Time
7th	5:15 pm Vigil for Immaculate Conception
8th	12:00 pm Immaculate Conception Mass on Campus
9th	6-9 pm Twilight Retreat
10th	8 pm Rivers of Light Concert
11th	6 pm Movie Night
15th	8 pm Taizé Prayer
20th	4:45 pm - 7:00 pm Soup Kitchen
24th	5:00 pm Family Mass
	12 Midnight Mass
25th	10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

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