

# Agency joins parted friends and relatives

By Lori Steinbauer  
Of the Emerald

Occasionally a story appears in the newspaper about two siblings who meet after being separated from each other since birth, or about parents who are tracked down by a child they gave up for adoption many years ago.

The search for a long-lost friend or family member can cost a great deal of money and time, and nothing guarantees the effort will prove fruitful.

In response to his own barren search, Herb Farmer founded Friend Finders International — "lost and found for friends" — hoping to simplify matters for others.

For no charge, a person can register his or her name on a central worldwide data base and be notified immediately of

yourself available and one place to look. If people call in to register, they'll find out right away if someone is looking for them," Pedersen says, adding that the ones who register are also usually searching for someone.

However, he said the success depends on the cooperation of millions.

The business has already yielded results for Farmer, although he didn't conduct his search through the company computer.

While setting up FFI, Farmer located two of the lost friends he had been seeking, when an advertiser he was working with told him of a prisoner-of-war convention that was to be held in Seattle in July. From a mailing list at the convention, Farmer found the address of one

**'It's one place to make yourself available and one place to look. If people call in to register, they'll find out right away if someone is looking for them.'**

—Larry Pedersen

where to reach anyone who contacts FFI in search of him or her. For one request at \$5, and additional name requests at \$2 each, the FFI will check its computer each week for a year to see if the names being sought out have been registered in their computer.

Confidentiality is maintained by giving a message to the person who is sought out, rather than allowing the contact to be made by the one who has requested the search. This prevents someone from being contacted by a person he or she doesn't want to hear from.

"A system like this has never before been available," says Larry Pedersen, president of FFI, which opened last month in Poulsbo, Wash., near Seattle. "It's one place to make

man he had spent more than a year with in a German prison camp during World War II. Once the two hooked up, they located a third man from the camp.

FFI exposure in the media has brought new members to the organization, but the exact number is confidential, Pedersen says.

In addition, members have been referred to FFI from the Salvation Army Missing Persons Locator System, an international service that helps family members locate each other.

The FFI toll-free numbers for registration and search requests are: 1-800-223-2761 from the United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico; and 1-800-422-2514 from Washington state.



## Classic Ibsen tale coming

"Hedda Gabler," Henrik Ibsen's classic drama, will open Thursday in the University's Robinson Theatre. The play, written in 1890, is the tale of one woman's struggle to control her destiny, and is considered to be Ibsen's most popular play.

"Hedda Gabler" is the second offering in the University Theatre's '84-85 season. It will continue its run Friday, Saturday, Nov. 29, 30, and Dec. 1. Curtain time for all performances is 8 p.m.

Photo by Michael Clapp

## Holiday-season jobs available

By Robin Joannides  
Of the Emerald

They may be nice, but those gifts of money under the Christmas tree probably won't last the entire holiday season, much less the first week of the break.

The Job Location and Development program at the University may provide an alternative, however.

There are approximately 1,500 to 2,000 jobs available for students in the Eugene area during the holiday season, says Emmett Williams, program director.

The program aids students in finding jobs during the holiday break while helping local businesses increase efficiency and accommodate the sudden influx of shoppers.

"Students in the University's professional programs like business, computer science, journalism and architecture can be terrific assets to employers," Williams says.

Employers are required to pay at least the

minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour, but some jobs pay as much as \$5 an hour, Williams says.

Williams would not release specific names of employers because it would defeat the purpose of their program, which tries to match students with a job relating to their interests and abilities.

The program screens and directs the student to an employer rather than encouraging the job-seeker to go directly to the employer.

The University's employment office, located at 1511 Agate St., currently has about 100 possible holiday jobs posted. The job applicant must be a University student who has paid all registration fees.

Williams conducts a preliminary screening that includes the student's qualifications, appearance, availability and transportation. The student is then sent to an employer for a formal interview.

The majority of the available jobs are in retail sales, Williams says. He recommends that students apply immediately as the holiday season is rapidly approaching.

## Institute to offer business internships

By Michael Hosmar  
Of the Emerald

A new international-business internship program should be in full blossom this spring at the University and other colleges throughout the state, says Dr. James Manning, director of the International Trade and Commerce Institute at Portland State University.

The internships "will be a University program that we (the institute) are coordinating," Manning says. The University will select students for the programs, and the institute will design the program to fit each individual school, he says. "That's the only way we can do it."

"It (the program) will be full-blown and highly structured, with lectures and research," says Manning. The program is still in the design stages and won't be ready for applicants until this spring.

The institute was developed to act as a central, statewide organization to help Oregon businesses develop effective international business programs. Manning told the State Board of Higher Education in its Oct. 26 meeting. The institute will do this, he says, through programs designed to coordinate relationships between Oregon businesses, local government, and international business.

Manning says he is currently working with interns who are doing a study to find out why Oregon businesses aren't more involved in international business. He says the institute now has four internships, including one at the

U.S. Department of Commerce and Oregon Bank in Portland. In addition to these current internships, the institute wants a more comprehensive program that would entail 10 full weeks of work, he says. Manning envisions interns spending about two weeks at five different international businesses and organizations in Oregon.

"We (the University) are very supportive of what they are trying to do, says Richard Steers, associate dean of business administration. "It will increase the number of internships available to University students," he says.

"The institute will act as a clearinghouse for internships," Steers says. "They will take the initiative to contact individual businesses in Oregon and try to coordinate a program with the University."

"I'm a strong believer in internships," he says. "It helps students get jobs — it goes beyond textbook learning."

Steers says the new program comes at a good time because the business school at the University is trying to enhance its international business curriculum. The school is trying to make students more aware of the impact international business has on local government, he says. "It's something we haven't done a lot of," Steers adds.

The higher education board has already approved a master's degree program for international business at the University. "That's step one," he says. "Step two is getting money from the Legislature."

## Disabled students discuss future counseling services

Physically-disabled students will meet today to discuss future University counseling services and international education opportunities in Room 164 Oregon Hall from 4-5 p.m., says Mitch Turbin, a university counselor for disabled students.

Mobility International USA, along with the University

Counseling Center, is sponsoring the meeting to discuss the

possibility of establishing self-help groups among physically-disabled University students. The meeting will also inform them of exchange programs to international universities specifically available to disabled students.

Turbin hopes the meeting will act as a springboard for future meetings, activities and organizations among those at the University with physical limitations.

Except for specially-marked parking spaces and access ramps, disabled students have very few services available to them here, says Turbin, who is legally blind and has a hearing impairment.

"Physical disabilities are accidents of life, but if we choose to, we can turn what seems to be a liability into an asset. All it takes is coming out, accepting it, and working with what you have," Turbin says.



Mitch Turbin