

Leadership emphasized in scholarship program

ROSEBURG (AP) — A southern Oregon wood products tycoon who became one of the richest men in America is launching what is expected to become Oregon's largest private scholarship program.

Kenneth W. Ford is founder and board chairman of Roseburg Forest Products Co. The Ford Scholars program will focus on students with leadership potential, not just those with top grades.

Eventually, 400 students at a time will have most of their four-year college expenses covered through the program. It is among 110 such programs administered by the Oregon State Scholarship Commission.

Such private programs are increasingly important as public financing for higher education shrivels, said James A. Beyer, the commission's director of grant programs.

There are 43 students in this year's initial group of Ford Scholars. They range in age from 17 to 50, and they come from communities across Oregon.

Some are beginning second or even third careers. Others are fresh out of high school. What they have in common is financial need, a commitment to community service and leadership potential.

This year's grants ranged from about

\$1,000 to \$10,000, with the average about \$4,450. Total program costs were \$191,000 — which could rise to at least \$2 million a year as the program matures.

"This program tries to help people who probably wouldn't go to college otherwise," said Charles U. Walker, a former Linfield College president who oversees the scholars program for the Ford Family Foundation. "Mr. Ford sees the potential to help people who came out of situations not dissimilar to his own."

Ford was born in Asotin, Wash., 87 years ago. He grew up in Enterprise and Lebanon, where he graduated from high school in 1926. Three years later, he moved to Roseburg with his father to build a sawmill.

The Depression hit, and they pulled back to Lebanon. But Ford returned in 1936 and patched together old machinery bought from junk dealers to open his first sawmill.

In the early years, Ford was the head logger, mill superintendent and lumber salesman, working out of a one-room office. He routinely worked 18-hour days to build Roseburg Forest Products Co. into one of the country's largest privately held forest products companies.

"This is more than a scholarship. I feel pretty proud of it."

— JOHN M. HEGEL
Ford Scholar

Today, Ford has turned over day-to-day management to others, but he still puts in 12-hour days.

A private man who shuns interviews, Ford always took a personal interest in his employees and his community. He hired hundreds of college students in the summer and contributed millions to educational, arts and social causes through the foundation he established in 1964.

Participants are expected to complete an essay at the end of the year, and to call on Walker and others affiliated with the program if they have any special needs.

John M. Hegel, a blue-collar kid from Montana, is the first of the five children in his family to go to college thanks to the Ford Scholars program.

Hegel and others say they expect to reward Ford's faith in them.

"This is more than a scholarship," Hegel said. "I feel pretty proud of it."

Audit reports fiscal problems in Klamath school district

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (AP) — A state audit shows the Klamath County School District wasted, abused and misappropriated more than \$48,000 over a five-year period ended Jan. 31.

In addition, the audit says district mismanagement resulted in the loss of \$830,000 in potential state funding.

The audit was done at the request of the Klamath County School Board after complaints that two administrators had abused their expense accounts.

In the 45-page report, the State Audit Division said the mismanagement was caused by lack of written policies and procedures as well as an informal working environment.

The district has since recovered \$11,730 of the total misused money and can take legal steps to recover an additional \$32,104.

■ ET ALS

MEETINGS

African Student's Association will meet tonight at 6 in Room 180 Straub. For more information, call 346-0629.

Career Center will sponsor a general meeting for Deloitte & Touche tonight from 6:30 to 8 in the Gerlinger Lounge. For more information, call 346-3235.

MISCELLANEOUS

Career Center will sponsor open sign up today at 8 a.m. in Room 244 Hendricks for interviews with the following organizations: Chevron, Principal Financial Group, Tektronix Inc. and U.S. Peace Corp. For more information, call 346-3235.

Career Center will offer an office orientation today from 2 to 3 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

Career Center will offer a resume and cover letter writing workshop today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance will sponsor the National Coming Out Day Information Fair and festivities today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EMU Courtyard. For more information, call 346-3360.

Outdoor Program will sponsor an essentials of sea kayaking clinic tonight at 7:30 in EMU Room 37. For more information, call 346-4365.

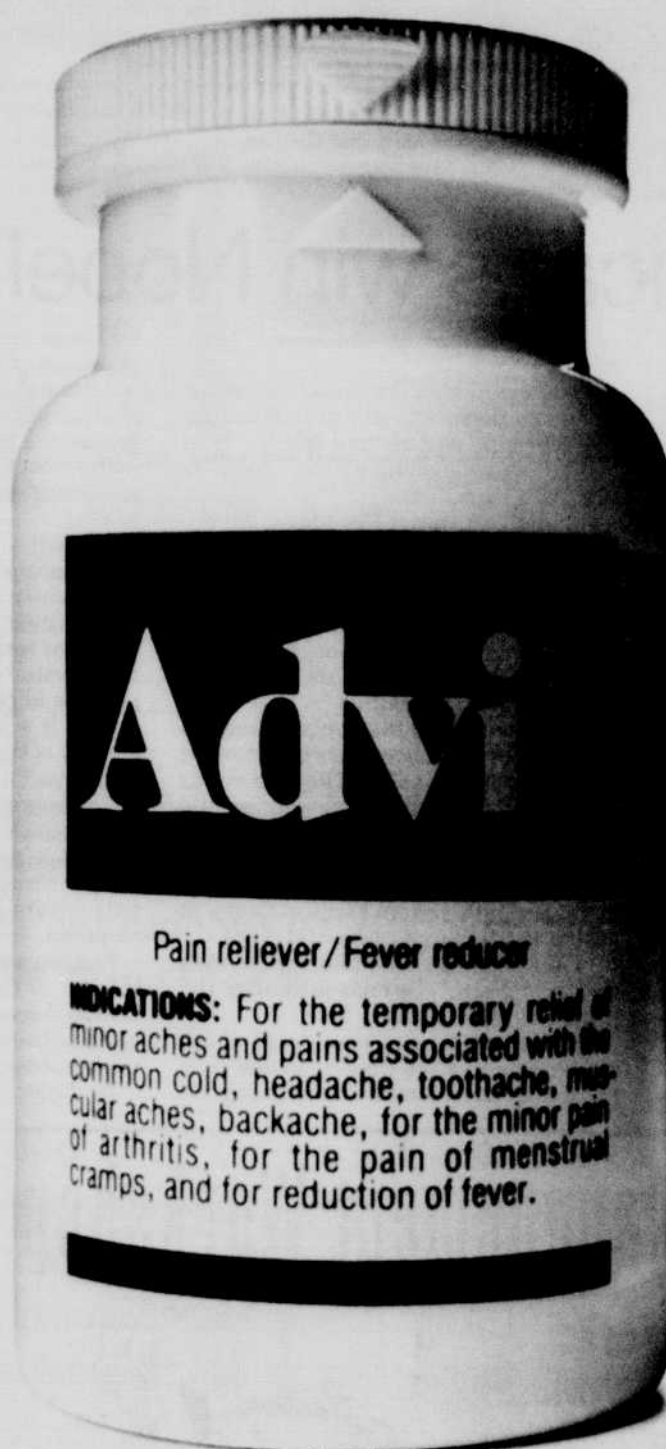
Survival Center will show an *Endangered Species of Oregon* film today from 2 to 4 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 345-3927.

■ CORRECTION

In the Monday, Oct. 10 issue it was reported that 200 people attended a NO on 13 rally. The attendance was around 1,000 people. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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