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NEWS RELEASE

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Jan. 6, 1999

Contact: William Marcus, UM Broadcast Media Center director, (406) 243-4154.

UM AIRING YEAR 2000 COMPUTER BUG INFORMATION

MISSOULA--

With 1999 under way it's only 12 short months before the year 2000 and potentially devastating Y2K computer bug problems.

In an effort to inform the public about some of the challenges presented by the Y2K bug -- a problem where computers may fail because of an inability to accurately recognize the 00 in the year 2000 -- The University of Montana-Missoula will host the Year 2000 Forum Jan. 13-15. For those that can't make it to Missoula, forum speakers will broadcast information live Thursday, Jan. 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. to six western Montana cities via METNET, the Montana Educational Telecommunications Network interactive video system. This one-hour session is free and open to the public.

Speakers will be Scott Lockwood, Montana's Y2K compliance officer, and Cynthia Beal, a small business owner and Y2K expert. They will discuss how serious Y2K problems are likely to be -- whether utilities, food supplies and transportation will be affected -- and hit on possible solutions.

Year 2000 Forum METNET sessions will be held in:

■ **Billings** at Montana State University-Billings, Special Education Building Room 162,
1500 N. 30th Street.

-more-

Metnet--2

□ **Bozeman** at Montana State University-Bozeman, EPS Building, Room 126, Burns Telecommunications Center, corner of South Seventh and Grant.

□ **Butte** at Montana Tech of UM, Engineering Lab Classroom Building, Room 231, 1300 West Park Street.

□ **Great Falls** at MSU College of Technology-Great Falls, Room 147, 2100 16th Ave. S.

□ **Helena** at Helena College of Technology of UM, Room 209, 1115 N. Roberts.

■ **Kalispell** at Flathead Valley Community College, Learning Resource Center, Room 120, 777 Grandview Dr.

For more information, call William Marcus, UM Broadcast Media Center director, at (406) 243-4154.

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