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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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# The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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## **UM NEW STUDENT SERVICES GOES ON-LINE VIA WORLD WIDE WEB**

### **MISSOULA--**

Prospective University of Montana students across the country and around the globe can now access information about the University without traveling any farther than their personal computers.

Several campus departments have made information available on the World Wide Web, and more are expected to follow before long. UM's New Student Services is the most recent addition to that number.

The Web, part of the Internet computer network, combines graphics and text in an easy-to-use point and click format similar to Windows. Users follow links from one page of information to another just by clicking on topics they are interested in--there are no commands or key sequences to remember for moving around in the Web.

Right now, UM's home page is still under construction, said Tom Morarre, Computing and Information Services strategic planning director and director of UM's Web development project. "It's expected to be at least a year before most of the departments are represented" on UM's server, he said.

Still, Morarre said, there is valuable information already available. Some campus departments, including the School of Forestry and a handful of academic departments in UM's College of Arts and Sciences, are up and running now.

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New Student Services is the most recent campus department to put together a Web page, hoping to attract and answer questions from prospective UM students. People with Web browsers like Mosaic or Netscape or text browsers such as Lynx can get the information at <http://www.umt.edu/nss>.

"It's still evolving," said Gordie Pace, New Student Services publications manager, of the NSS page. "You can never say it's finished because it's always evolving. There's always new information to provide."

But interested people across the country have already started linking up to UM to learn about the school. Pace said most of the inquiries so far have come from prospective transfer and graduate students.

"They're the ones who have the most access to the Internet," he said. But, he added, "it's becoming more and more accessible." Users of Prodigy and CompuServe, two of the varied national on-line services, already have access to the World Wide Web, and "others will probably be close behind," he said.

Pace said there is not an official deadline for other campus departments to put a page together. "It's really kind of up to the individual departments," he said. But he thinks many of them will get involved before long.

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