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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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May 17, 1996

INFORMATION ON DISABILITY GOES ON LINE VIA UM PROGRAM

MISSOULA —

Information to help people with disabilities is now available over an electronic bulletin board system based at The University of Montana—Missoula.

The Rural Disabilities Info-net or RuDI, located at UM's Rural Institute on Disabilities, has information of interest not only to people with disabilities but also to government agencies, employers and the general public. It allows users to send e-mail and transfer files between their home computer system and the bulletin board system.

"We encourage the use of RuDI to help in the dissemination of information regarding disabilities and disability issues," said Peter Leech, director of the Rural Institute's MonTECH program. "For people residing in rural areas of Montana it is a way to get information that may not be available on a local level."

RuDI is accessible to the public free of charge via a toll free number within Montana and Wyoming. Callers from other states are subject to long distance telephone charges.

RuDI is configured with two incoming lines that allow for modem speeds of 14,400 baud. It is available on the Internet via FTP, Telnet or the World Wide Web at RuDI.MonTECH.umt.edu.

To get more information on RuDI or a RuDI users' manual, call Andrew Kreis, information systems specialist, at (406) 243-5676 or (800) 732-0323.

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Information is also available at each Access Cooperative for Assistive Technology: Action for Eastern Montana in **Glendive**, 365-3364 or (800) 488-3587; North Central Independent Living Services in **Great Falls**, 452-9834 or (800) 823-6245; Montana Independent Living Project in **Helena**, 442-5755 or (800) 735-6457; Summit Independent Living Center in **Missoula**, 728-1630 or (800) 398-9002; Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow in **Billings**, 259-5181 or (800) 488-3587; and Parents, Let's Unite for Kids in Billings, 657-2055 or (800) 222-7585.

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Contact: Peter Leech, project director, (406) 243-5676.

BL/tb
Dailies and weeklies
RuDI.rl