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NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 24, 1997

ANTHOLOGIST TELLS HOW TO PULL AN ESSAY COLLECTION TOGETHER

MISSOULA —

Ask poet, essayist and anthologist Rick Newby how many ways there are to look at Montana literature, and he'll say at least 26, some of which he'll share in a talk Thursday, March 6, at UM's Center for the Rocky Mountain West, located in the Milwaukee Station.

Newby's talk about how he and his co-editor, Suzanne Hunger, pulled together the essay collection "Writing Montana: Literature Under the Big Sky" will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the main-floor meeting room. The event is free and open to the public.

The collection features essays on various aspects of Montana's literary tradition by 26 of the state's leading writers, including present or former UM faculty members Earl Ganz, Bill Bevis, Margaret Kingsland, Roger Dunsmore and Paul Zarzyski.

Showcasing Montana's broad literary terrain and bringing disparate points of view together between book covers was a challenge, Newby said, because he and Hunger found Montana's literary community to be more diverse and lively than they had dreamed possible. The collection of essays not only celebrates the remarkable diversity of Montana's literature, but it also analyzes it and argues with it, he said.

In his talk Newby will describe how he and Hunger -- along with a panel of librarians, booksellers and scholars -- shaped the book's table of contents to "provide pleasure, generate new scholarship and provoke lively debate."

Newby.rl--2

A Montana native and UM graduate, Newby has published two collections of poems, the first of which, "A Radiant Map of the World," won the Montana Arts Council's First Book Award. He also publishes essays on contemporary ceramic sculptors and Montana writers and works as the editorial director of Falcon Press in Helena.

His lecture is part of the spring program series sponsored by the Center for the Rocky Mountain West.

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