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NEWS RELEASE

April 24, 1998

Contact: Vanessa Morrison, 549-2133; UM Women's Center, 243-4153.

UPCOMING PLAY FOCUSES ON LOCAL DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS

MISSOULA--

The stories of 10 local domestic abuse survivors will come to life on stage at The University of Montana-Missoula during a play by Vanessa Morrison.

"Under Tow" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, and Thursday, May 7, at the Masquer Theatre. The play was written and directed by Morrison and choreographed by Heidi Schneider, both recent UM graduates.

"Under Tow" combines modern dance movement with narrative to personalize the issue of domestic abuse. It is presented by a Missoula nonprofit organization, Today Realizing Unity Sharing Tomorrow. TRUST's mission is to create a safe community for women and men with a variety of educational projects. "Under Tow" is the organization's premier project.

TRUST will hold a public forum after the play to discuss "Under Tow" and issues of domestic abuse. Literature will be available at the forum.

Morrison, who also attended New York University's Strasberg School of Theater, has performed in several plays, including "Macbeth," "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide" and a Missoula production of "But I Said No." She is a volunteer for the Missoula YWCA Battered Women's Shelter.

Schneider is a performer with local dance company MoTrans. She has previously

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choreographed several University productions, including "Dakota Drive," "Das Feuer" and "Chingada Chingo Y Chingare."

Tickets for "Under Tow" are \$5 at the door. For more information, call Vanessa Morrison at 549-2133.

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