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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 26, 2006

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MOUNTAIN LINE DONATES ANOTHER BUS TO UM

MISSOULA –

It turns out there is such thing as a free ride. Two of them.

For the second time in as many months, The University of Montana is the recipient of a bus donated by the City of Missoula's Mountain Line bus system.

The Associated Students of UM Office of Transportation will now have two backup buses on the Park-N-Ride routes, making maintenance and repairs easier and less disruptive.

The extra carrying capacity of the longer bus also helps alleviate riders having to wait for the next bus during peak times, especially on the busy South Campus route.

"Having two 35-foot buses to South Campus will give extra leeway," said Nancy Wilson, director of the ASUM Office of Transportation.

The latest donated bus has undergone repairs for the last few weeks, but Wilson said she expects it to hit the road for the first time Tuesday, Oct. 31.

ASUM President Andrea Helling said that because of breakdowns and other required maintenance, the donated buses couldn't have come at a better time.

"The current buses are 1988 and 1989 models," she said. "Most cars don't even run that well when they're this old."

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Before the newly donated bus runs its first route, it must undergo a paint job to cloak it in UM maroon and white with Park-N-Ride logos.

“In our budget we can barely afford to have them painted,” Helling said. “There’s no way we could afford new buses.

“We’re just tremendously thankful to Mountain Line.”

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