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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Award-winning TV documentary produced by UM professor to air" (1982). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 7437.

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4/9/82
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AWARD-WINNING TV DOCUMENTARY
PRODUCED BY UM PROFESSOR TO AIR

MISSOULA--

Montanans will have a rare opportunity April 27 to see a special award-winning documentary airing nationwide on PBS. The documentary, which profiles the problems surrounding usages of the world's water supply, has won numerous critical awards, including gold awards at the 1981 Chicago Film Festival and the 1980 International Film and Television Festival in New York.

Of special interest to Montanans is the fact that the producer of the film is from Missoula. Jim Cox, professor of chemistry and education at the University of Montana, wrote the original outline for the one-hour film and spent nearly six years seeing the project to completion. The film, titled "Water, More Precious than Oil," was produced with a \$220,000 grant Cox obtained from the National Science Foundation and the United Nations Environmental Programme. It will air on cable TV from 10:30 to 11:30 p.m.

According to the film the scarcity of water is no less critical than the shortages of oil that caught the world's attention during the '70s. More than 97 percent of the earth's water is salty and most of the remaining 3 percent is frozen in polar ice caps. Each human being, the film points out, needs a fifth of a gallon of water a day to survive and over a billion people live without an adequate supply of water. Furthermore, 80 percent of all diseases are water-related and over 200,000 million people suffer from water-borne diseases.

"Worldwide the water situation looks pretty bleak," Cox said, "because of the continuous destruction of vegetation cover." Also, he said, the world's

(over)

TV Documentary--add one

flood plains are being populated, which increases the tendency to build more dams and brings about dam-related problems such as ground water seepage, lack of nutrients downstream to feed fish and fertilize agricultural crops, and dam siltation.

In the United States, water rights battles are already heating up. Scientists predict California's water supply won't be adequate by the year 2,000 and neighboring states are vehemently opposed to exporting water from their own rivers.

Also many of the nation's larger cities not only have bad-tasting water, but water taken from polluted rivers must be heavily treated with chemicals to be purified. Many people fear that these chemicals may themselves pose a serious health hazard. Cities such as Philadelphia, Miami, Cincinnati and New Orleans are cited as having poor-quality water.

Copies of the film can be rented through the UM Instructional Materials Service (IMS) on campus.

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