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MEDIA RELEASE

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29TH MONTANA SCIENCE FAIR SLATED AT UM IN APRIL

MISSOULA--

The 29th annual Montana Science Fair for junior and senior high-school students is scheduled April 13 and 14 in the Harry Adams Field House at the University of Montana.

Len Porter, director of the science fair, said two recent changes will continue this year: an additional category, Environmental Sciences, for exhibits in the high-school division and the award of a silver medal for the best exhibit by a freshman. He said freshmen compete against high-school upperclass students and a special award gives them recognition and increased incentives for participating.

Certification forms will be required for any proposed experiment by a high-school student involving vertebrates as subjects. These experiments must be approved by a Montana Science Fair board. High-school teachers who have students with this type of experiment in mind should contact Porter as soon as possible.

Seventh and eighth grade experiments involving vertebrates as subjects require no special documentation. Science teachers are expected to ensure the exercise of sound judgment and humane treatment of subjects in these experiments.

High school students (grades 9-12) will compete for prizes in 12 categories: biochemistry, medicine and health, environmental sciences, microbiology, physics, engineering, mathematics, zoology, behavioral and social sciences, earth and

(over)

29TH Montana science fair--add one

space sciences, chemistry, and botany.

Silver and bronze medals will be given to grand-award winners in the seventh and eighth grade categories. Gold medals will be given to the boy and the girl who are grand-award winners in the high school category. They will also receive an expense-paid trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair May 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio.

A total of 289 students entered exhibits in the 1983 Montana Science Fair last April in Missoula, the largest number in several years.

The girl grand-award winner at the 1983 fair, Melody Stevens of Sunburst, won two major awards at the International Science and Engineering Fair in May in Albuquerque, N.M. Stevens won a \$100 grand award for third place in botany. She also won a major special award, second place in botany in the U.S. Navy competition for which first-place awards were two trips to the London International Youth Science Fortnight.

The state science fair was founded at UM in 1956 by Reuben A. Diettert, UM professor emeritus of botany, who directed the event for 18 years. Porter has now directed the fair for 10 years. The fair is co-sponsored by the UM and the Missoula Exchange Club.

Registration forms and detailed science fair information will be mailed to school science teachers the first week in January. Applications must be received by April 2.

Requests for an information packet about the fair may be sent to the fair's director, Len Porter, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812.

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