1080-05-121 **Jesse Taylor*** (JTAYL75@math.lsu.edu). *On a class of nearly binary matroids.*

We give an excluded-minor characterization for the class of matroids $\mathcal{Z}$ such that a matroid M is in $\mathcal{Z}$ if and only if M/e or $M\backslash e$ is binary for all e in $E(M)$. The class $\mathcal{Z}$ is closely related to the class of matroids in which every member is binary or can be obtained from a binary matroid by relaxing a circuit-hyperplane. We also provide an excluded-minor characterization for the second class. (Received January 19, 2012)