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Upcoming: Dayton Community to Benefit from UD Blood Drive; 'Mad as a Hatter' Origins Linked to Mercury Poisoning

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DAYTON COMMUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM UD BLOOD DRIVE

The Dayton Community Blood Center will receive as many as 200 units of blood that will be collected on Monday, March 13 at the University of Dayton. Sponsored by the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, the blood drive will be held in the Kennedy Union Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We wanted to do a service project for the whole campus," said Therese Sullivan, service chairman of ZTA. "We collected 130 units of blood last year and this year our goal is 200 units."

Many of the 85 sorority members will be passing out balloons in Kennedy Union Plaza to help promote the event. Campus organizations will be competing in two categories. The organization that has the highest percentage of blood donors from among its members will be recognized, as will the organization that participates the most by providing refreshments, acting as hosts or hostesses for the event or participating in another way.

For further information on the Zeta Tau Alpha blood drive, contact Therese Sullivan at (513) 443-0970.

'MAD AS A HATTER' ORIGINS LINKED TO MERCURY POISONING

The University of Dayton Chemistry Department will sponsor a seminar on "Famous Mad Hatters" by James F. O'Brien of Southwest Missouri State University on Thursday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m. in Wohlleben Hall Room 110 on campus.

The origin of the phrase "mad as a hatter" is due to the incidence of odd behavior on the part of workers in the early felt hat industry. Their odd behavior, or "madness," was the result of mild cases of mercury poisoning.

Other persons working with mercury also suffered health problems. O'Brien's presentation will cover examples such as Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday and Alfred Stock from the field of science; King Charles II of England and Boston Corbett (the man who shot John Wilkes Booth) from the world of history; the "Mad Hatter" from "Alice in Wonderland" and William Makepeace Thackeray from the field of literature; and Peter Paul Rubens, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Raoul Dufy and Paul Klee from the art world.

For further information on the chemistry seminar, contact Gilbert Nelson at (513) 229-4531.