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University of Dayton Student Wins Crime Prevention Citizen of Year Award

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UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENT 
WINS CRIME PREVENTION CITIZEN OF YEAR AWARD 

DAYTON, Ohio -- Before University of Dayton student El Domenicone began designing the Crime Watch Courier, a eight-page tabloid mailed to 15,000 Dayton residents, the monthly newsletter almost folded.

In April, the senior communication major from Cincinnati will receive the "Outstanding Ohio Citizen Involved in Crime Prevention" award for volunteering last fall to help the Dayton Police Department produce the publication, which publishes crime prevention tips. As assistant editor, she spends anywhere from 10 to 20 hours a month laying out the paper on a computer at the twice-weekly Flyer News student newspaper, where she is editor.

The award will be presented at the Ohio Crime Prevention Association's annual awards luncheon on April 17 in Cleveland. OCPA is the country's largest state crime prevention association. Domenicone's award is one of 11 recognizing outstanding contributions to community-based crime prevention in a number of categories. Robert Canning of Cincinnati will also receive an award in the same category.

"If it hadn't been for El coming to the rescue, I don't know where the Crime Watch Courier would be now," says detective Judy Abshire, a crime prevention specialist who nominated Domenicone for the award.

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"When I was given the responsibility for the paper, I decided to give a call to the Flyer News, to people who knew what they were doing—or else I'd still be working on the October issue. El has improved the design immensely. It looks like a real paper now, and it's packed from cover to cover."

Domenicone isn't one to procrastinate on assignments. She doesn't have time.

Besides editing the twice-weekly student newspaper, she is a part-time copy editor for the weekly Downtowner, occasionally strings for the Dayton Daily News and writes for The New York Times. In March, her story on a University of Dayton drawing class that visits a downtown shelter to sketch homeless people ran on the Times' "Campus Life" page.

"I always have something that I'm working on," Domenicone says. "I'm someone who has to be busy all the time or else procrastination takes over. With the Crime Watch Courier, I've been able to play around with the design on the computer and be more creative. I look at this (my volunteer work) as really good experience."

Domenicone will receive a $500 award from the Ohio Crime Prevention Association. Abshire, who nominated her for the honor, says proudly, "I just want to adopt her. She's made a major contribution to our publication."

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For media interviews, contact El Domenicone at (513) 229-5002 or 229-3226; Judy Abshire at (513) 449-1367; or Domingo Herraiz, executive director of the Ohio Crime Prevention Association, at (614) 459-0580.