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"Dangerous" Books; UD Campus Crime Rates Reported; Japanese Students Spend More Time in the Classroom

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"DANGEROUS" BOOKS -- Who tries to ban books? Primarily parents of school-age children, says Edward Garten, director of library services at the University of Dayton. School libraries are most likely to come under fire from parents who feel that a particular book or genre of literature is unfit for children and demand that the school board pull it off the shelves, he says. School boards will listen to complaints and then generally decide against censoring the book. Public libraries tolerate fewer challenges. And it's a waste of time to challenge libraries at the University level, he says. "There's virtually no argument at academic libraries," says Garten. "We tend to say we have a specific book here for a certain reason, it's needed here because it presents a particular viewpoint. And then we stick to our guns." Some recent titles that were targets of attempted book bans: Welcome Home, Jellybean and A Wrinkle in Time.

Banned Books Week is Sept. 26 to Oct. 3. Call Edward Garten at (513) 229-4265.

UD CAMPUS CRIME RATES REPORTED -- Staff, students and faculty will soon get a full report on crime rates on the University of Dayton campus as part of a federal law that took effect Sept. 1. The Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires colleges to publish statistics on crime rates. Public Safety Director John Delamer said the report is ready and will soon be distributed to the UD community. Delamer, who said the report shows UD's campus is a fairly safe one, believes sharing the information is a good concept. Although UD's campus isn't immune from crime, measures such as a safety patrol and campus escorts have helped make the area safer.

Call John Delamer at (513) 229-2131.

JAPANESE STUDENTS SPEND MORE TIME IN THE CLASSROOM -- Thanks to a decision by Japan's Education Ministry, Japanese students will have one Saturday off a month in their normal six-days-a-week school routine. But they'll still spend far more time in the classroom than their American counterparts. The Japanese school year is 240 days a year, compared to an average of 180 in the U.S. But there is a strong movement toward increasing class time here, says Roberta Weaver, chair of UD's teacher education department. "Our school system in its very beginning was built around an agrarian society. Even in some schools today, they let kids out during harvest. Although that need has passed, (the idea of) a shorter school year is entrenched. A better possibility is to look at extended days." The Japanese system produces good students, but it's their healthy attitude toward school that deserves high marks. Weaver gives the example of a Japanese student who visited with her family during a "vacation" and spent most of the time studying.

Call Roberta Weaver at (513) 229-3344.

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The University of Dayton
For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.