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March 10, 1999
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**UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON TAKES STEPS
TO ENSURE A SAFE ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

DAYTON, Ohio — University of Dayton administrators and the Student Government Association (SGA) are taking precautions to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day — the first one with students on campus in five years.

All undergraduate students this week will receive a letter informing them of "expectations and responsibilities," a measure designed to prevent a return to the rowdy celebrations of the early 1990s, according to Joseph A. Belle, assistant vice president for student development. SGA will also issue a letter urging students to act responsibly, according to Rodell J. Mollineau, SGA president.

SGA is taking out a "drink responsibly" ad in the *Flyer News* student newspaper, submitting a public service announcement to Flyer Radio and organizing a dinner without alcohol.

Five years ago, UD instituted a spring break during the week that included St. Patrick's Day in response to problems with drinking and damage during past celebrations that attracted college students from around the state and local high school students. This year, St. Patrick's Day fell too close to Easter to justify the timing of the spring break, said Belle, noting that next year's academic calendar has spring break scheduled during the week of St. Patrick's Day.

"Although current students have not been around to witness or take part in St. Patrick's Day festivities, we think it's important that they know they need to make good decisions if they choose to celebrate," Belle said. "All students are expected to demonstrate prudent judgment in their actions and be responsible for their personal behavior."

The letter reminds students of University fire safety regulations that require students to leave the vicinity of any fire or face suspension. It also outlines the University's party policy

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that holds students responsible for hosting open parties that could result in crowd control problems, such as disorderly behavior, liquor control statute violations, blocking sidewalks or streets, fires or failing to comply with University officials or Dayton police or fire personnel. City ordinances and University regulations prohibit live bands in yards or on porches, and students living in residence halls and the Campus South complex are expected to register overnight guests.

Dayton police and UD's public safety force will patrol the campus neighborhood to ensure peaceful celebrations.

In 1993, a task force of students, faculty and administrators adopted more aggressive measures for the most recent on-campus celebration, including restricting access to streets in the student neighborhood and towing cars. Between 50 and 70 officers patrolled the student neighborhood on the weekends preceding and following St. Patrick's Day.

In 1992, before UD took steps to control problems on St. Patrick's Day, seven students were suspended for their roles in setting fires, and another dozen were cited for violations including underage drinking and the distribution of alcohol to minors.

Administrators and students are expecting peaceful celebrations. "We expect students to celebrate in a prudent way and to be responsible for their choices," Belle said. "We're not expecting a huge, wild, out-of-control party," Mollineau said.

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For media interviews, contact **Joe Belle** at (937) 229-3317 or **Rodell Mollineau** at (937) 229-4444.