New policy makes escort service safer

By Sherman Williams

2-26-83

University officials have added a liability policy to the escort service started autumn quarter by Park Hall for Stradley Hall residents.

The escort service was designed to provide a companion to accompany students to and from dormitories after dark.

University officials suspended the program after autumn quarter until an investigation of liability and responsibility was completed.

Glenda A. Belote, director of student development, said the suspension was not due to any incidents that had happened with the Park Hall program. The question of liability was brought up by a concerned faculty member, she said.

A committee, formed to look into the liability question, included Belote, members of the student development staff and area residence hall coordinators. Belote said her main concern of the committee was that escort programs be designed carefully.

Guidelines were released by the Office of Residence and Dining Halls the second week of February. They include instructions for all parties involved and deal specifically with the responsibilities of the escort.

The guidelines state that all escorts must prove, by signing notarized statements, that they have no prior police record for assault, sexual offenses or gross sexual offenses.

They also must not be under investigation for such actions by law officers, the Ohio State University or any educational institution.

The guidelines require that escorts attend training and orientation sessions held by the residence halls. These sessions must include information about the role and responsibility of the escort, who to call in emergencies and limitations of the escorts. The escort is specifically prohibited from carrying any weapon.

Anyone accused of improper behavior while serving as an escort, or implicated in violent behavior at any other time, should be temporarily suspended from the program until the situation is resolved, according to the guidelines.

Those escorted are required to attend a similar orientation and sign a waiver stating they understand the functions of the escort service and responsibilities of the escort.

The guidelines prohibit residence hall escort programs off university property, while classes are not in session or with the use of a vehicle to transport individuals.

Supervision must be provided by a senior staff member and resident student coordinator in residence halls or by a senior staff member designated by area coordinators in area-wide programs.

The student escorts must be volunteers.
Taylor Tower escorts to provide free service for dorm residents

By Marcy E. Abraham
Lantern staff writer 10-6-82

Taylor Tower Hall Council has established an escort service for its residents and will begin the service Oct. 24.

Interested escorts and escortees attended an informational meeting Monday night in Taylor Tower lobby.

The free service will be restricted to the campus area and will be offered 7 p.m. to midnight Sunday through Thursday. Only Taylor Tower residents can participate.

Before Taylor residents can use the service, they must have their name filed in the dorm office. People who want to be escorted must sign a liability waiver stating the student-run service is not liable for anything that happens to the escortee, said Diane Politi, a junior from Youngstown who is student coordinator for the escort service.

To be an escort, students must complete an application and be screened by two resident advisers, the senior staff adviser and the service’s student coordinator. If accepted, they must sign a notarized form stating they do not have a criminal record and do not intend to misuse service, Politi said.

Women may be escorts but must work in pairs.

Escorts and escortees will take a police-training course explaining precautions they can take when trouble arises.

The system operates like this: A student calls the Taylor Tower dorm desk requesting an escort. The office staff checks to see if the caller is a registered Taylor escorte. Then, the desk calls an escort. Escorts then must report to the office, identify themselves to the office staff and get an escort badge. A log book then is filled out with the escort’s name, departure time, return time, person escorted and the location.

Escorts meet callers at an agreed-upon campus location and walk them to their destinations. The escort is identified by the escort’s badge.

“it is a good, necessary idea,” said George Pandis, a freshman from Cleveland. “I am eager to get involved.”

“Most important, it is something we can do to really help people, especially freshmen who do not feel too secure on the big campus,” said Mark Thomas, a sophomore from Sagamore Hills and president of Taylor Tower.

“I feel that the problem will be in getting people to use the service,” he said.

“So far I have heard a lot of interest expressed from males as well as females interested in being escorts,” said resident adviser Betty Bazley, a senior from Elyria. Bazley is one of the two RAs assigned to the escort service.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if we get calls from males who wish to be escorted, said Lissa VanBebber, senior staff adviser for the service and assistant director of Taylor Tower. “It is not a macho thing but a sensible thing to do.”
Dorms start escort service

By David Castle
Lantern staff writer

Bradley, Paterson, and Siebert halls are starting an escort service for women students to combat the increasing number of assaults in the campus area, said Jim Roshetko, a resident adviser in Siebert Hall and organizer of the service.

"We're starting the escort service not only because of the increased assaults on campus, but for the overall safety of our residents," Roshetko said. A woman was raped in the Siebert Hall basement Jan. 2.

The service will allow women in the three dorms to travel safely around campus during evening hours. It also has the advantage of being run by the dorms' own residents, he said.

Roshetko, a senior from Cleveland, introduced the proposed service Jan. 18 at the group's first organizational meeting.

He said he had hoped to begin the service then, but a poor turnout at the meeting forced him to postpone his plans. "I'm disappointed that only 11 guys (including one girl) showed up. I expected a much greater turnout."

Interviews for prospective escorts are being held this week, he said.

The service needs about 25 escorts. Roshetko said he sees no problem in getting escorts, but getting the women to participate might be more difficult.

"We want the girls to see the value of the service and to realize that it (being assaulted) could happen to them, too."

To be escorts, students must be residents of the three dorms and fill out an application before being interviewed by the staff.

Similarly, women wishing to be escorted also must be residents of the three dorms, and must be signed up before they can be escorted.

If we don't get enough participation from our girls, then we may include Mack and Canfield (all-women dorms on south campus), Roshetko said.

After the interview, potential escorts must attend an orientation session by OSU police. This will teach escorts how to act in threatening situations and let them know where the biggest crime areas are, Roshetko said.

The service is limited. Escorts must walk or use campus buses. The service is available only on campus. Women wanting to leave campus may be unable to get an escort to accompany them, unless the escort agrees to go.

The south campus service will run five days a week while school is in session and only when dorms are open, Roshetko said.

Previous OSU escort services have failed. However, it is difficult to determine the many because the university does not keep record on programs that failed or were proposed but never started.

Roshetko is convinced that the new service will be a success.

"I don't see any reason why our service would fizzle out. If we can get the participation, then we're set. And I know a lot of people are interested in the program."

"If we only escort 10 or 20 girls I think it's a success," he said.

Bill Rivera, a freshman from Cleveland and a potential escort said, "I know this (escort service) should have been done a long time ago."

The Stadium Scholarship Dorm began a similar escort service Monday after a quarter of planning. The project has 15 escorts, including three women.

Dorm residents also began a safety-in-numbers program for students in night classes, said Armin Rudy, a resident adviser in the stadium dorm.

Rudy, a senior from Wakeman, Ohio, and one of three organizers of the stadium service, proposed the idea fall quarter, but had to wait until winter quarter to start.

"We ran into some problems we hadn't anticipated. The university has special guidelines for starting an escort service. There was a lot of extra work we didn't know about, too," Rudy said.

Because the stadium service just started, Rudy is unable to determine if it is successful.

"If we can stop one incident of harassment, then I think we are successful," he said.
Service may include women

South campus escorts serving 2 more dorms

4-8-83
By Dawn E. Wilson
Lantern staff writer

The Bradley-Paterson-Siebert dormitory escort service has been expanded to include two other South Campus dorms, said Jim Roshetko, the supervisor of the service and a resident adviser in Siebert Hall.

Mack and Canfield halls, both all-women's dorms, are now included in the service, Roshetko said.

Eighteen residents of Mack and Canfield expressed interest in being escorted by the service, said Heidi Knellinger, the resident adviser from Mack Hall who is helping to coordinate Mack and Canfield's participation.

Roshetko said over 70 female residents of the five dorms now are registered to use the service.

The service has 22 escorts from the original three halls.

Some residents of Mack and Canfield were interested in being escorts, but Roshetko said no decision has been made about women becoming escorts. He said the decision depends on if the number who are still interested is large enough to justify training them.

"If it's worthwhile, we will do it," Roshetko said.

Bill Topel, student coordinator of the service, said if women do begin escorting, two will always escort a third.

All escorts of the service must attend a training session by the OSU Police. The training includes learning the most dangerous areas on campus and how to avoid them, how to deal with harassment, and some self-defense instruction.

Laura Martino, a junior from Novelty who lives in Canfield Hall, said she is pleased with the service's expansion.

"I'm happy that this (Canfield) has it, because too many girls walk around by themselves. No matter what, it's safer to be with someone," she said.

Roshetko said the service has not been used as much as its organizers would like.

"We expected more use out of it, and would like to see more use of it," he said.

Martino said she hesitated to use the service because of the danger posed to the escorts.

"Sometimes I feel guilty asking someone to walk with me if I know they're in the same predicament walking back alone," she said.

However, Topel said residents should not feel uncomfortable about using the service.

"They (the escorts) want to do it. There's no hesitation," he said.

Brett Fletcher, a freshman escort from Gahanna, also said the escorts are happy to provide the service.

"It's not that much of a hassle. It's a way to get involved. The time it takes is minimal," he said.

Patti Nussle, a freshman from Avon Lake, Ohio, said she believes more people will use the service after they become more familiar with it and realize that others have used it successfully.

Joe Oktavec, a junior escort from Harrisburg, Pa., said he is glad the service is enlarged.

"It's that many more people we can help out. It's a small bother for a little peace of mind," Oktavec said.

Kathryn Kubik, a Whitehall sophomore who lives in Siebert Hall, said she felt silly the first time she called the service. She also offered one possible explanation for the lack of use of the service by female residents.

"You're admitting to yourself that you're vulnerable—that something very likely could happen," Kubik said. Many women may not like acknowledging that possibility, she said.

Roshetko said the service operates every weekday from 6 p.m. until 12:30 a.m., but the service may begin operating at 7 p.m. during the spring quarter because of increased daylight.

Roshetko said the organizers of the service do not plan to expand the service further.
North campus escorts meet mixed emotions

By Tracy L. Bradford
Lantern staff writer

Some North Campus female residents are dissatisfied with the new North Area Escort Service that began April 3.

The service open to North Area residents began this quarter when results from an escort service survey distributed on North Campus showed that residents and dorm staff were interested in the program, said Lissa VanBebber, an assistant hall director at Taylor Tower.

VanBebber and the director of Barrett complex, Mike Mercier, coordinated the service. The previous service operated in Taylor Tower, but not area-wide.

The surveys were distributed to 3,200 randomly selected students and of the 430 returned, 384 replied they would like to have the service offered.

Some female students, though, (male students have never requested to be escorted) have shown dissatisfaction with the service.

"I am dissatisfied with the services that I have received," said Ursula Schrotz, a junior from Middletown. "The times I have tried to use it, the dispatcher has not been clear on what he was supposed to do. My escort did not appear one time and I walked home from the library alone at 11:30 at night."

The service should not be area-wide, but every dorm should have its own system because people like to stay within their own dormitory, Schrotz explained.

"I know that some of the girls on my floor are reluctant to use the area-wide system because they would feel uncomfortable being escorted by a male from a different dorm," Schrotz said.

"It becomes impersonal when done this way. You lose control over the situation and can't monitor it as well," she said.

Sherri Flaschner, a freshman from Toledo, said, "I called the North Area office last Wednesday at 5:30 and needed to be picked up at 10 p.m. at Larkins. The lady on the phone said that she had read the information on the service but that she didn't understand what was going on."

As a result, she called the Taylor Tower office, which obtained an escort for her from their old escort system.

"It makes me feel safer to use a Taylor resident as my escort. I think it (the Taylor service) was better," she said.

Other residents are satisfied with the service and will continue to use it.

Pam Henning, a sophomore from Canton, said that she is not reluctant to use the service.

"I am very satisfied with the service. They (the escorts) are really nice," she said.

"I trust the people who screened them (the escorts)," said Barbie Place, a freshman from Marietta.

Faren Abrams, a sophomore from Cincinnati, has not used the North Area escort service but was a frequent user of the Taylor service. She feels that the escort service allows her more freedom.

"I feel I have a lot more freedom to go to visit friends on South Campus where supposedly there is a greater crime rate," Abrams said. "Even if I knew self defense moves, I'd still use it (the service)."

She doesn't let the fact that a stranger from another dorm may be her escort stop her from using the service.

"They've been screened and are qualified," Abrams said.
Service revived to prevent campus attacks

Stadium residents volunteer as escorts

By Patty Wise
Lantern staff writer 1-28-85

Two years ago it was small.
Last year it failed.
This year the Stadium Escort Service is in heavy demand.

About 41 stadium residents volunteered to donate two hours a week to escort students to and from evening classes and other campus locations, Stadium Dormitory Director Michelle Jacobson said.

"It took a while for people to get interested," Jacobson said. But it was easier this time because much of the paperwork had been done from the previous escort services, he added.

The service should begin this week, said Bob Hovan, co-chairman of the escort committee.

Hovan is a sophomore from Strongsville majoring in welding engineering.

Hovan said he and co-chairman Mark Brett, a junior from Ravenna majoring in pre-med, decided to organize the service because they weren't always available when friends asked to be escorted from classes.

Hovan said he and Brett circulated a survey in the Stadium dorm and found that a lot of students would use the service or work as escorts.

Students who applied to be escorts were interviewed by three committee members and had their applications notarized, Hovan said.

Hovan said this was required by the Otterbein Area Residence Halls.

About an equal number of men and women signed up to be escorts, he said.

Earlier in the evening, two women might be sent out as escorts, but two men or a man and a woman will be sent out after 9 p.m., he said.

Escorts will be available between 6 p.m. and 1 a.m., Hovan said.

Resident Dorm Liaison Officer Bob Wood said 80 percent of the attacks on campus are against individuals rather than people in groups.

Wood spoke to the escorts Jan. 24 as part of the Otterbein Area Residence Halls requirements.

Wood told escorts not to use the service as an opportunity to "get a date."

Escorts should make casual, impersonal conversation when escorting students because some are nervous about walking to class with people they've never met, Wood said.

Students are expected to stay near their room during the two hour block they signed up for, Brett said.

A resident who needs an escort will call the office, and the office worker will then call the escorts who are on duty, he said.

Maria Dennis, a freshman from Cincinnati majoring in electrical engineering, is an escort because "if I ever need anybody, I'd want someone there for me," she said.

Marcella Schelker, a freshman from Dayton majoring in computer science engineering, said she is an escort since "I would be using it a lot because I have two night classes."
Escort service to begin spring

By Suzanne Priore
Lantern staff writer

Beginning spring quarter, USG will attempt to make campus a safer place for students to walk at night after receiving $20,000 from the Office of Student Affairs to establish an escort service.

The service will be available to anyone who wishes to be accompanied to a destination within the boundaries of Lane Avenue to 11th Avenue and High Street to the Olentangy River. Hours will be Sunday through Thursday, 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. As of now the program will not be offered summer quarter.

Russell Spillman, vice provost for student affairs, said the program will be funded on an experimental basis. The money will be used for salaries to pay escorts, supervisors and dispatchers. Money will also cover uniform and equipment expenses.

Future funding will be decided next year after the university reviews the program’s effectiveness, he said.

Spillman said the program was proposed last year, but funding was delayed because it was not organized.

A lack of funds prevented USG from extending the service to seven days a week, said Alan Walker, chairman of the program. He said most people tend to walk around campus in groups on Friday and Saturday nights and are less likely to go out alone.

The program is modeled after a service at Kent State University, Walker said.

No one from the Kent State program could be reached for comment. Walker said the service is frequently used on Kent’s campus and has been successful in reducing the area’s crime statistics.

OSU escorts will be equipped with hand radios and will watch for criminal activity in the campus area as they work, Walker said. If problems arise, the escort will report to a dispatcher in the USG office who will notify OSU Police.

He said escorts will not be permitted to carry weapons.

About 35 OSU students will be hired as escorts by the end of this month. Students must be at least a sophomore and have a 2.6 or higher grade point average. Each applicant will be checked for previous criminal activities.

People interested in using the service will need to call the USG office where a dispatcher will assign a two-person team to accompany them, Walker said. Vehicle transportation will not be allowed.

The University Hospitals area is not included in the program because the hospital provides its own security, Walker said.

Each team member will possess a photo I.D. and will be dressed in a shirt or jacket with an escort emblem on it, Walker said.

Each team will be assigned a code name nightly, he said. The dispatcher will inform students of the assigned team’s code name.
USG escort service starts

By Scott Davis
Lantern staff writer

Three people were escorted to their campus destinations and one act of vandalism was reported to OSU Police Wednesday as USG's Crimewatch Escort Service made its debut.

Vandals who knocked over a booth on the Oval had fled by the time police arrived.

"The first week's kind of like a practice week for us," said the program's student director, Alan Walker.

Walker said recent incidents of theft and rape on campus were the reasons for establishing the service. "People feel less safe on campus."

Four pairs of students will patrol the campus from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday. A radio dispatcher in the USG office in the Ohio Union will direct the escorts to students and others who want to use the service. A student supervisor will be on duty to coordinate the program's activities.

The purpose of the program is to deter crime, not intervene once a crime has been committed, said Mitchell Livingston, dean of Student Life.

OSU Police showed students in the program how to deal with potentially dangerous situations and when and how to contact police, he said.

The program has been given a budget of $10,000 for spring quarter by the Office of Student Affairs. An additional $5,000 was spent to acquire radio equipment, identifying jackets and to hire personnel, Livingston said.

Twenty students are employed in the program. Patrol members will be paid $3.50 an hour and the supervisors and dispatchers will get $4 an hour.

Walker received a $200 stipend for his services.

Walker said the OSU program is patterned after a similar one at Kent State University. The Kent State program, now in its 12th year, employs two full-time, non-student staff members and 75 part-time student workers. It has been given about $165,000 for the 1986-

uneventfully

1986 academic year, said Larry Emling, security manager for resident services at KSU.

Emling said about 20 students use the KSU escort each night. The demand for the service is greatest in the warm months of fall and spring, he said.

There is no guarantee the OSU program will be around after this quarter, Livingston said. "It's a pilot program. We will evaluate it at the end of spring quarter and make a judgment of whether or not it should be continued."

Livingston said the number of people who use the service, the ability of the service to prevent crime and the attitude of the student workers will all be considered when the future of the program is decided.

OSU Deputy Police Chief Gary Wilson said the factor most important to the survival of escort services is dependability.

"If you're going to offer a service, it's going to have to be available consistently," Wilson said.

The number for the service is 422-2102.
Demand for escorts increases

By Suzanne M. Jansik
Lantern staff writer

The new USG Crime Escort Service is catching on around campus. "I've tried to develop a feeling of belonging to a group and working as a team," said Alan Walker, founder and organizer of the program. "That's what we need to do to have an effective service."

Walker said the service wasn't very busy during the first month in operation, but business is picking up. Word of mouth has helped the service become better known.

"In the first week we only had a few calls a night, but now we are averaging 15 to 20 calls for escorts per night," Walker said.

There are 20 escorts working for the service. Students using the service can recognize escorts by their red jackets and USG identification cards.

Anna Woodson, a freshman from Willowick, said she would rather take the precaution of using the escort service than run the risk of being assaulted or mugged.

Student escorts said they joined the service for reasons from enhancing their major to feeling a sense of community service.

Supervisor Greg DeLong, a senior from Toledo, said when he saw the help-wanted ad for the service, he thought it would give him a chance to get more involved in his major, criminology and criminal justice.

Escort Marla Winalde, a senior from Chardon, has been involved in student government for four years and is an undergraduate representative.

She said a lot of USG programs are just talk, but the escort service had a potential for success. That's why she wanted to become involved.

Helping the university community is why Jack Brown, a sophomore from Fairfield, applied for his escort position.

"Hopefully, this service will help to cut down on the amount of muggings that have been happening on campus," Brown said.

At a one-day training session conducted by OSU police, the police advised escorts not to get involved in stopping crimes in action.

"If we see a crime, we radio back to the office and they call campus police," Winalde said. "We don't have the authority or training to get physically involved."

She said escorts are not allowed to put the safety of the person they are escorting at stake.

The service is available Sunday through Thursday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Students can call for an escort at 222-2107.
Escort service halted

Because of a lack of student demand, the Undergraduate Student Government has discontinued the campus escort service.

USG President Brian Hicks said the Crime and Escort Service was evaluated after spring quarter and USG decided to drop the escort service but to continue with the Crime Watch Program.

Mitchell Livingston, dean of student life, said although there was no formal evaluation of the program, data collected on the number of requests for escort service made during the Spring Quarter illustrated that only the crime watch was worth maintaining.

A poll was conducted of students spring quarter and of those surveyed, 98 percent were aware of the escort service but fewer than two percent utilized it, Hicks said.

He said since the escort program did not begin until spring quarter, many students who were using individual residence hall escort services continued to use them rather than the one provided by USG.

The USG Crime Escort Service received $10,000 for spring quarter from the Office of Student Life. This year, the program will operate on an annual budget of $25,000.

The crime watch unit consists of four groups of two people who patrol the campus area Sunday through Thursday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. They look for unsecured doors, broken emergency phones and potential acts of crime.

A dispatcher is stationed at USG offices to receive radio information from the patrols, Hicks said.
Dorm escort service’s end prompts search for new plan

By Lucy Wolstenholme
Lantern staff writer

Students walking across campus late at night may feel more secure if plans for new escort services come true.

Becky Parker, assistant director of residence life, said currently no dorm has an escort service for residents.

Parker said escort programs are student initiated through a residence hall student government.

Todd Dailey, Ross House council president, said the towers’ student government is now working with the Olentangy Area Student Association to get an escort program started.

Dailey, a junior from Chillicothe, said some students wanted to see a service start and that he hopes that it will be in effect for winter quarter.

Denise Wawrosch, president of Stradley Hall council said her dorm is now planning an escort service.

Wawrosch, a sophomore from Boardman, said individual floors in both Stradley and Park halls will provide their own escort service.

Last spring the Undergraduate Student Government escort service was discontinued because students didn’t use it enough, said USG President Brian Hicks.

Last spring quarter a poll of 400 students showed that 98 percent of those surveyed were aware of the escort service but fewer than 2 percent used it, Hicks said.

Hicks said he is optimistic that the USG escort service will begin again. But the financial needs of the program may prevent it from happening.
USG service patrols campus
Quarterly report sees success in escort venture

By STEPHANIE SNIDER
Lantern staff writer

An Undergraduate Student Government escort service is succeeding in its efforts to make campus a safer place, according to the USG quarterly report.

During Autumn Quarter, the student-operated Crime Watch Escort Service reported 156 security violations to OSU police and escorted 158 campus-area students.

The escort service also helped Columbus police arrest a person on drug charges.

When a person tried to sell drugs to two escort service employees in November, they radioed their base in the Ohio Union. The base then notified Columbus police.

The escorts detained the person at a High Street convenience store by talking to him until police arrived. He was arrested and is awaiting trial.

The escort service started in spring 1986 but was discontinued after one quarter because of administration problems. When the service returned last quarter, it provided 30 more escorts than it had previously, said Bill Henke, a senior from Brunwick and assistant director of the escort service.

Henke said 50 percent of the escorts were requested for Thursday nights during midterm weeks.

Athena Yiamouyiannis, a senior from Delaware and director of the service, said even though the service had a successful quarter, it can still improve.

"The goal for this quarter is to try and get into the UVC classes and tell them about crime prevention and safety on campus," Yiamouyiannis said.

Henke said new security violation forms designed to cut down on paper work will help improve the service.

"With the new forms it will be less complicated for the roves to report violations, and it will let the campus police know earlier of the violations," Henke said. "Roves are the escorts.

The most common violations include open windows and unlocked doors of campus buildings, he said.

Yiamouyiannis said the service also plans to write building administrators and ask for help with security problems. In addition, the service also hopes to see an increase in the use of escorts, Henke said.

The escort area extends north to Lane Avenue, south to 11th Avenue, east to High Street and west to the agricultural campus, Henke said.

"I think the escort service did better Autumn Quarter than anticipated," said Marc Mattmiller, crime prevention coordinator for OSU police.

Yiamouyiannis said the service has 29 student employees who are trained in crime prevention; crisis, rape and fire prevention, CPR and first aid.

The employees work nightly from 10:00 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. For information about the free escort service, students can call 292-2101.
Escort service use increases

Director cites earlier starting time, residence hall lectures for success

By Kristen Hayes
Lantern staff writer

The Undergraduate Student Government's escort service has provided 218 escorts so far this quarter, compared to 208 Spring Quarter. The director of the service predicts more than 300 escorts will be provided this quarter.

Carl Hambelton, director of the escort service, said USG provides free escorts for anyone who wants them between the hours of 8:45 p.m. and 2 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday and until 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

"Two individuals will go to the destination from which the person called and they will walk that person home. We wear specified jackets to ensure who we are. Next quarter wristbands will be provided because we will want to wear heavier coats," he said.

The service began in the spring of 1986 and was called Crime Watch, dealing primarily with security violations and incident reports. It still deals with those two tasks but has added the escort service, Hambelton said.

"The terms 'escort service' have a friendlier connotation to them than 'crime watch.' People don't need to know we're watching for crime, too," he said.

Besides providing escorts, the service is an extra set of eyes and ears for OSU police, said Richard Harp, deputy chief of OSU police.

"They've added a dimension of security the OSU police might not otherwise have," Harp said.

"They help us out securing doors and windows and regularly reporting unusual or suspicious things. They are accurate and we are pleased with the cooperation we get from them," he said.

Hambelton said that this quarter was the escort service's most successful, partly because escorts worked with residence hall advisers.

"Another reason for the success might be the earlier time frame. This quarter we changed the time starting from 10 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

"The number of security violations we report will also be up from Spring '88, from 155 to 209 so far this quarter. Security violations include open windows and doors on campus. This is how things get stolen," Hambelton said.

"Incident reports — people caught breaking or stealing something — will probably remain the same," he said. "There really isn't a way to raise incident reports, it's a matter of being there at the right time."

Sue Green, director of the OSU Rape Education and Prevention Program, said an escort service can be helpful.

"But it's not good if women only rely on a service and not self-defense," she said.

Green said 60 percent to 90 percent of rapes are acquaintance rapes, and 50 percent to 60 percent happen in the victim's home.

"The service has a limited scope," she said. "It might keep someone from getting mugged or their purse stolen, but it's not there 24 hours a day," she said.
Escort service ensures students don’t walk alone
Near assault encourages student to participate in USG campus patrol

By Michael Zweig
Lantern staff writer

Gretchen Snyder was walking home alone from a friend’s house near 17th Avenue and High Street around midnight.
She headed toward south campus where she lived, crossed High Street, past Arps Hall to College Road. When she reached the Oval, she sensed someone following her.
Snyder stopped to tie her shoes and looked back to see three men. As she stopped, they stopped.
Frightened, she headed toward mirror-like amphitheater where it sounded like a concert was going on.
Snyder ran into a girlfriend at the amphitheater and pointed out the trio who had been following her.
Her friend walked her the rest of the way home while the men followed.

When they reached Mack Hall the men made their move. They blocked the entrance and began making sexual remarks, threatening to assault the two women.

Before the men could carry out their plan, two other dorm residents showed up with their boyfriends. One boyfriend used a nearby security phone to call for help.
The police arrived but the three men had already run away.

Her near miss occurred in the spring of 1986. Today she works with the USG Crime Watch Escort Service to ensure that what almost happened to her never happens to anyone else.

After the incident Snyder, a 21-year-old junior from Hicksville, became a regular user of the escort service.

“I was lucky and I know it, after that I just don’t walk on campus alone at night,” Snyder said.

Fall quarter she joined the service as a rove, a name University police call student-escorts and those students who patrol campus.
The service, established in the spring of 1985, accompanies students around campus a night.

There are about 20 roves employed by the service and work in groups of two. An average of six roves per night patrol campus and escort students.

Carl Hamilton, a junior from Cleveland, directs the service and is in charge of a $25,000 annual budget.
The money, allocated by the Office of Student Affairs, is used to buy equipment and pay the staff, he said.

Since the rove’s job is dangerous, strict guidelines are required to ensure their safety as well as that of the students.

Mark Mattmiller, of the University Police Department’s Crime Prevention Unit, teaches employees a variety of techniques that may help out on the job.

We teach the roves to observe and report,” Mattmiller said.

A complete report of weekly activities is given to police, he said.
However, there are groups that feel students do not have the authority, training or background to patrol campus.

Harvey Gittler, executive director of the Columbus chapter of the ACLU, said they were opposed to the service because such a group represents unauthorized police.

On the surface it sounds good,” Gittler said, but “who is responsible if they get hurt?”

Each student is equipped with a hand-held radio transmitter and keeps in constant contact with the escort service base, Hamilton said.

“Police are two minutes away,” he said.

“The service is the eyes and ears of the University Police,” University Police Chief Peter J. Herdt said. “With our limited man power, we have come to rely on the service they provide.”

On January 31, roves led police to the capture of two men observed firing a gun out the window of a car on campus, police said.

Police investigated the call and pulled the car over on 12th Avenue and College road.
A.32 caliber revolver, a used shell casing and a partially full container of alcohol was found in the car, police said.

Hamilton said that equally important to the work being done is the necessity to inform students that such a service exists on campus.

“I speak at dining halls on campus and post flyers to let students know about our service,” he said.

Several OSU students like freshman Kit Genco use the service regularly. Genco, a freshman from New York, said she uses the escort service to go between High Street and Morrill Tower.

“I am glad that they are there,” said Genco. “I don’t feel safe walking alone on campus. I don’t think campus is very well lit.”
The escort service runs from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. during the week and from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. on the weekends. Any students interested in using the service can phone 292-2101.
USG escort service

to begin Wednesday

By Tony W. Robinson
Lantern campus reporter

The Undergraduate Student Government's Crime Watch and Escort Service will start providing security Wednesday night and will be in full-service operation Monday, the director of the program said.

Bob Tumney, the director of the USG Crime Watch and Escort Service, said the program, although not fully staffed, will begin escort service Wednesday and start rounds Monday.

Tumney said staff members, called roves, who worked in last year’s program, will work extra hours until newly hired staff can complete a day-long training program scheduled for Oct. 8.

Last year’s program had 32 staff members and the goal is to have 35 this year, Tumney said. The program is still recruiting for this year so it will be operating with between seven and 10 experienced roves until the new ones are trained, he said.

David Straub, president of USG, said safety and legal concerns make it imperative that new roves go through the training program before beginning work.

Marc A. Mattmiller, crime prevention coordinator for the OSU police department, conducts a portion of the roves’ training.

Mattmiller said the most important goal of the training is to stress that roves not become involved in the incidents they witness on campus.

“Safety is a very big issue with us,” Mattmiller said. Roves are trained how to observe without endangering themselves or students they might be escorting.

Roves are also trained to note unusual occurrences, to write police reports and to pay attention to details — particularly with the identification of suspects.

The roves are in place to observe and phone in information, Mattmiller said.

When an incident occurs that requires police attention, Mattmiller said, the roves contact their dispatcher by walkie-talkie who, in turn, phones the police.

See USG: page 2

The police dispatcher then notifies officers in the field, Mattmiller said.

James H. Chisman, assistant vice president for public safety, also said the roves serve as a great set of “eyes and ears.”

Chisman said, in addition to the most important function of providing escorts, roves report burned-out lights, overgrown foliage and unlocked doors that may present safety or security problems on campus. Mattmiller said the roves also check the blue emergency phones on campus.

The Department of Public Safety can then act on correcting these problems much more quickly because of the roves’ report, Chisman said.

Richard A. Hollingsworth, acting dean of student life, said “The more eyes you’ve got out there, the safer the environment’s going to be.”

Hollingsworth said the program is based on the same principle that many neighborhood block watch programs are. “They are most effective when those most affected get involved,” Hollingsworth said.

Escorts are provided from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday, and from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, Tumney said.

Escorts are also provided from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily but must be requested in advance, Tumney said.

Beginning Wednesday, phone 292-2101 for more information.
Escort service struggles to meet increased demand

By Cheryl Curry
Lantern campus reporter

When darkness falls on the OSU campus, Carl Hambleton is just starting work. As a campus escort, his worn Reeboks will hit the pavement thousands of times in a night.

Hambleton, 21, works four days a week from 8:45 p.m. until 2 a.m. and walks at least 20 miles a night, he said. He is campus safety director and a full-time student majoring in economics.

"I really like what I do, but it's not as glamorous as some people might think," Hambleton said. "A lot of responsibility comes along with this job."

Hambleton calls himself a "rove" because it's his job to walk around campus looking for security problems.

However, after an Oct. 25 article in the Lantern, about a reported rape on the Oval, Hambleton hasn't had much time to rove. Requests for escorts have doubled to over 25 a night, he said.

He said the average time a student has to wait for an escort has also increased to between 20 and 30 minutes. Many people become impatient and walk alone.

"We can walk back and forth over and over again and still not be able to service everybody," he said. "We've just been overwhelmed with calls for escorts."

Armed with a flashlight, walkie-talkie and red-and-gray jackets that read "Crimewatch Escort Service," he and a partner will walk with students, faculty or staff anywhere on campus.

Funded by the OSU Office of Student Life, Crimewatch has a staff of 25 students who specialize in various areas of crime prevention.

Two pairs of escorts work Sunday through Wednesday 8:45 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Thursday through Saturday 8:45 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Hambleton and his partner, Keith Wallace, 19, an aerostatic engineering major, walk briskly to each call they receive.

Twice they have arrived at a location and realized the person requesting an escort had left. Hambleton said this is a result of being understaffed and unable to meet the recent increase in calls.

"You have an escort from Morrill Tower to Baker Hall," cranked a distorted voice over the walkie-talkie as they walked from a completed call.

Phone calls for escorts are relayed by Robert Tumney, crimewatch director, from the Ohio Union office.

After a cold five-minute walk to Morrill Tower, Hambleton and Wallace reached their destination. They called out "escort!" and a woman shyly approached them.

The woman, Stacey Jordan, 19, a chemical engineering major, said a friend told her about the escort service. She said she was using it for the first time.

"It's dark out and you can never be too careful," Jordan said. "I walked this way by myself the other night and I was so scared."

Hambleton said most escort requests are from women. Sara Andrews, 22, a nutrition services major, said, "I like to walk a lot. I do it myself, but I know I'd get in trouble this late at night." This was the second time she had called for an escort.

Hambleton said men probably don't use the escort service as often because they just don't think it's cool. But men are just as likely as women to be victims of crime, he said.

"People who come to college have a false sense of security. There's crime in every city and OSU is just like one big city," Hambleton said.

As they walked past University Hospitals at 10:30 p.m., Tumney's voice came over the walkie-talkie. "You have an escort at the Ohio Union. She's been waiting over a half-hour. Double-time it."
Escorts provided from law library

By Beth Herschelman
Lantern staff writer

Students studying in the law library can now use the escort service provided by the Student Bar Association.

Kirk Somers, coordinator of the escort service and member of the SBA, said the reasons for starting the service were provoked by recent crime around the law building.

Somers said the association recognized the need for student protection and wanted to start their own escort service because it currently takes too long to get an escort.

"I don't feel safe, and I won't walk to my car alone even if it's only 20 feet away because anything can happen.

People have this notion that nothing is going to happen, so they don't bother to ask anyone to walk with them."

— Anne Kuber

"I don't feel safe, and I won't walk to my car alone even if it's only 20 feet away because anything can happen," she said.

"People have this notion that nothing is going to happen, so they don't bother to ask anyone to walk with them. Once people get over the initial embarrassment of asking for an escort, they are happy with the service."

Kuber said a service is needed even if only one person uses it the whole night. "It's an embarrassment that Ohio State, with the caliber it has, just doesn't seem to treat this as a major concern," Kuber said.

The escort service is operated out of the law library. A table is staffed by two volunteers who will walk a student to their apartment or car.

"The intent of the service is to discourage any criminal activity," Somers said.

The service is available seven days a week from 5 p.m. until midnight. The hours will change to 6 p.m. until midnight beginning next Monday. Any law student or undergraduate student studying in the library may use the service.

Volunteers work in two shifts that run from 5 until 8:30 p.m. and 8:30 until midnight, when the library closes. Volunteers are both men and women.

Since there is such a large number of students volunteering, each escort only has to work approximately one shift a month, Somers said.

Bob Bachelor, a first-year law student, volunteers because it is needed and is not time consuming.

"It gives the student a sense of security. They can always ask for help," he said.

Bachelor works twice a month. Many people come to the library with others, so we have only one or two students to escort on each shift, he said.

Anne Kuber, a first-year law student, helped Somers coordinate the service.
USG escort program ranks third

By Shauna McCall
Lantern staff writer

The 1990-91 Ohio State University Undergraduate Student Government is concentrating on student body relations by emphasizing programs such as Crimewatch, carpool, and voter campaigns said Michael Clark, USG president.

“We plan to launch a voter campaign so that a large number of college students register,” Clark said. Students represent a large portion of the state and with their vote, they can make a difference on the outcome of state issues, he said.

Clark said the organization will advertise its Crimewatch Escort Service more so that students can take advantage of the service.

“Ohio State’s USG Crimewatch Escort Service was recently rated number three in public safety to other campus escort services throughout the country,” he said.

The research indicates University of California at Los Angeles has the best crimewatch service.

The crimewatch service which was established five years ago is a group of OSU students who are hired by the USG representatives to make the campus a safe environment during the night.

OSU’s crimewatch service, which works on foot, is designed to respond to student phone calls for protection.

The service will walk students to their destinations.

The service works with OSU police officers by checking campus areas that the officers can not check since they are riding in their cruisers, Clark said.

Clark said the service immediately notifies OSU police officers if the service discovers something unusual.

“Another important part of our student relation efforts is advertising the USG Park Program,” Angela Haskins, director of traffic and parking for the undergraduate student government, said.

USG Park Program was started by the undergraduate student government and MetroRides to get students, faculty and staff to carpool with each other so that commuters can find a parking space on campus more easily and reduce their parking sticker cost, Haskins said.

USG Park Program sets up carpools by the individuals’ schedules, the area where they live and their smoking preferences.

Clark said the Undergraduate Student Government will also work on releasing their newsletter, USG Today, once every quarter during the school year. The newsletter explains the organization’s plans and accomplishments.

For more information, call 292-2101.
Help needed for escort service

By Dennis Cleary
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State is one of two schools in the Big Ten whose escort service does not take students to off-campus housing. A Lantern survey found.
The survey of 11 Big Ten escort services showed nearly half of the students being escorted at schools other than Ohio State and Michigan State went to off-campus locations.

The OSU escort service, said Pam Gerber, supervisor for Penn State's escort service.

Ohio State is considering having escort students to off-campus locations, said Russell Spilerman, vice provost for student affairs.

He said the escort service was started as a crime-watch program to ensure the safety of students and the security of buildings on campus.

When Ohio State determined it needed an escort service, the crime-watch program took on that responsibility because it was already in place, Spilerman said.

He said the program just never expanded off campus.

The students operating the OSU escort service would like to be able to go off-campus locations.

"It seems kind of ridiculous to take someone to High Street and 14th and say, 'You're on your own from here,'" said Bob Tumney, director of the escort service.

"Most of the assaults around here happen off campus -- they don't happen on campus," he said.

The escorts occasionally take students to the edge of campus and have them continue alone the rest of the way to their apartment.

"We've not allowed to go off campus, because of liability risks," said Mitch Huber, manager of OSU's escort service.

The service escorts students north to Lane Avenue, south to 10th Avenue, east to High Street and west to West Campus.

Bob Janowski, manager of University of Minnesota's escort service, said, "We don't want to see (Minnesotans students) have to walk home alone because of an administrative boundary."

"We don't ever stop at the edge of campus and say, 'That is the end of your walk, [he said]."

Janowski said Minnesota has no special liability insurance but is covered by the university's regular self-insurance plan. Ohio State is also self-insured.

Big Ten Escort Service Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Annual escort budget</th>
<th>Avg. # escorted per night</th>
<th>Mode of transport</th>
<th>Area of operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>$22,440</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Vans</td>
<td>Within 1 mile of campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<td>$38,500</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Vans</td>
<td>Within 8 miles of campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Cars</td>
<td>Within 3 miles of campus</td>
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<tr>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Within 1 mile of campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan St.</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>Vans</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Within 1 mile of campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$29,500</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>On campus only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$50,000</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Within 2 miles of campus</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$168,000</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Car</td>
<td>Within 5 miles of campus</td>
</tr>
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</table>

SOURCE: Big Ten Escort Programs

Compiled by Dennis Cleary

OSU Dean of Student Life Richard Hollingsworth said a major reason the escort service does not have off-campus is money. He said extending off-campus could double the $25,000 escort service annual budget.

Escorts going off-campus would also be out of the jurisdiction of campus police, he said. If the escorts did encounter trouble, there might be some question as to which police force would respond, he said.

Tumney said OSU's escort service officials are working with the Community Crime Patrol, a new off-campus block watch program partly funded by Ohio State. He said they hope to arrange for the patrol to help escort students who live off-campus.

"We would like for them to help campus and have them (CCP) people take them where they're going from there," Tumney said.

But Community Crime Patrol Director Ann Zeller would rather the OSU escort service expanded to off-campus locations than have the patrol pitch in.

"That's a more logical function of the university escort service than ours," she said, adding that the patrol is a crime-watch program -- not an escort service.

"We could literally do escorts and nothing but escorts," she said. "But that's not our purpose."

Zeller said after the crime-watch program begins Oct. 15, patrolers on their routes might be able to link up with off-campus students who need escorts.

OSU escort program officials say it will take time to expand services to off-campus.

"We want it as bad as anyone else," Huber said. "We're doing what we can."
Escort service lacks appropriate funds

By Dennis Cleary
Lantern staff writer

The OSU escort service lacks adequate funding to meet all the escort requests it receives, escort officials said.

The escort service asked the Office of Student Life for $36,000 in this year's budget, but was allocated $29,500, said Bob Tumney, escort service director.

The current budget is an increase of $4,500 over last year's $25,000 budget, Tumney said.

"We're happy to get any increase because it's the first time we've gotten one in five years," he said.

The Office of Student Life might provide more funds this year if the escort service can show a need, said Mitch Huber, manager of the escort service.

"They said if we're having problems, if the numbers are way up, to come to them with the numbers," he said. "And hopefully, then we'll get enough money."

During the 1989-90 school year, the program provided 3,000 escorts — five times more than the previous year. Escort officials expect close to 6,000 escorts this year, Tumney said.

The escort service is keeping a more detailed log this year of how long students have to wait for escorts and how many students cancel because they wait too long, Huber said. Figures will be given to Student Life later this quarter.

"That didn't make any promises or anything," Huber said. "But hopefully, considering the importance of the service, they are going to be able to help us out. At this stage it looks like we're going to need the help."

Russell Spillman, vice provost, said there is no question that there is a definite need for a boost in funding for the service.

"The question is: Where do we get the money?" he said.

Escort service funding currently comes from the student affairs budget, he said.

Tumney said more students are using the service than last year. "We're averaging about 24 escorts per night which is up about from about 17 last year," he said.

For instance, on Sept. 25 and 26 the service provided 60 escorts and had to "turn away" nine one night and 12 on the next night, he said.

"They asked for an escort and we were so swamped that they had to wait for 45 minutes," he said. "They called back and canceled because no one wants to wait that long before they go home.

"They say they'll go ahead and walk by themselves and take their chances, and that's not right," he said.

He said a large part of the problem is that most students call for escorts between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. There are three escort teams available during that period, and two teams out from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Teams are comprised of two people.

"And people are saying, 'Put more teams out. Put more teams out,'" he said. But we'll be out of money by the end of fall quarter if we do that."

Escort officials suspect that the increase in student crime awareness has caused more people to think twice about walking alone, Tumney said.
Escorts strive to make campus safer

By Dennis Cleary
Lantern staff writer

Strolling the Oval at 2 a.m. in the morning for minimum wage is not a job most people would want. But the students employed by the GSC escort service said they do it to make campus a safer place at night.

About seven students work from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. each night, an hour later on weekends, escorting students to campus buildings and residence halls.

Escort service Director Bob Tunney said 97 percent of the students who use the service are women.

"But a football player used the service after the USC game," Tunney said. "He said he didn't want to walk home by himself!"

The escort service averages 24 escorts per night, up from 17 last year, Tunney said.

"You're better safe than sorry," he said. "The service is free; you might as well use it."

However, the increase in the number of escorts has put a strain on the escort service, Tunney said. While he is pleased more students are using the escort service, he wishes he had the funding to deploy more teams each night.

A student seeking an escort should call the service's USG office at 292-3322 where a dispatcher calls a team to escort the student.

Three escort teams work a 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. shift, followed by two teams which are on duty from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., an hour later on weekends, he said.

The teams each consist of two students and they can expect to walk anywhere from 15 to 25 miles per night. Most of the 40-member escort staff are male, but there are four females, Tunney said. He said he would hire more females but few apply. Female escorts are always paired with a male escort.

Escort Beth Leatherman agrees with that policy.

The sophomore physical education major from Liberty Center, who frequently used the escort service in the past, said she feels more secure when she walks with a man.

Leatherman, who has worked for the service for the past month, said many of the students she escorts do not expect to see a female in her job.

"They're always real surprised," she said. "They say, 'I didn't know they let girls on the team now!', and I go, 'Yes, they do.'"

She said female students may relax more with her because some might be intimidated to walk with two male escorts.

"People can't believe I walk around the campus all night," she said. "But people go out and get drunk and walk alone. I'm not drunk and I'm with a guy, so it really doesn't bother me. But every once in a while, I'll look behind my back," she said.

Her parents are nervous about her new job, but she is happy about her choice of employment.

"I need the money and it's got plenty of hours," she said. "It's not the highest paying job in the world, but it's a good way to get exercise and meet new people."

Some nights are more hectic than others.

When police are searching for someone in the campus area, they call the escorts. For instance, recently police called the service and asked it to be on the lookout for three men.

"And in a way you want to find them and in a way you don't," she said. "That night it was pretty scary."

No distance is too short to call for an escort, she said.

"On South campus they'll want to go from one dorm to the next dorm," she said. "It's a real short walk, but they don't want to walk alone. You see younger girls alone—I don't think they are aware of how dangerous that is."

Bob Tunney, 21, left, a senior in finance from Cleveland, and Beth Leatherman, 19, right, a sophomore in physical education from Liberty Center, escort Carla Ravagnani, 21, a senior in accounting from Greensburg Saturday night.
Minnesota crew tops Big Ten

By Dennis Cleary
Lantern staff writer

A look at Big Ten escort services show they walk, taxi and bike to get the job done.
Some use volunteers, others use paid staff. Some have only female escorts, other services are all male. Some have annual budgets of $160,000, others have budgets of $800.

One standout from the Big Ten pack is the University of Minnesota. In the last two years, its escorts have used CPR to save the lives of eight people and talked another person out of committing suicide.

The university allocates $50,000 per year to the Minnesota escort service, said its Manager Bob Janoski. Starting pay for escorts is $7.10 per hour.

Janoski said the high hourly rate is necessary to retain good students as escorts.

University of Wisconsin, which relies on cars to escort students, spends $165,000 annually on its program.

Escort Service Director Susan Podebradsky said the university contributes about one-third of its budget.

Wisconsin uses only female escorts because it wants to fight the stereotype that women must be protected by males, Podebradsky said.

With a budget of $800 per year—more than three times last year’s budget—Purdue University still has the smallest Big Ten allocation for an escort program. Director Paige Penstermaker said the program relies entirely on volunteers, many of whom are campus fraternity members.

At Iowa University, a focal point of the escort service is to keep the issue of rape and violence against women in the public eye, said Karla Miller, director of rape prevention.

Michigan State escorts an average of 67 students per night, more students than any other Big Ten escort service. Supervisor Ronald Solis said vans are used because the campus is so large. Like Ohio State’s main escort program, Michigan State’s escort service does not go to off-campus locations.

In addition to the main program, the OSU Law School has its own volunteer-based escort program, which receives no university funding. Director Kirk Sowers said the service began in January after an increased awareness about rape on campus.

The service has approximately 100 volunteers who average about 20 escorts per week. The service operates from 9 p.m. to midnight. Unlike the main escort program, the Law School service will take students up to two blocks off campus, depending on the circumstances.
The USG Escort Service is back! Do not walk home alone.

Personal safety is only a phone call away ...

Our trained escorts are on call every night to walk you to your intended destination. Our service area includes the dorms, libraries, school buildings - anywhere you want to go on campus!

Service begins September 24, 1990
Hours: Sunday-Weds. 7:45 pm to 2:00 am
Thursday-Sat. 7:45 pm to 3:00 am

Just make the call: 292-3322 or 292-2101

The Service is free
we reserve the right to refuse escorts

Undergraduate Student Government
The Ohio State University
OSU group offers free rides to fight crime

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The Ohio State University's Crime Watch Escort Service is to hit the road this weekend.

Operated by the Undergraduate Student Government, the escort service will offer students free rides in vans at night to campus area locations. The service will operate as a pilot program through spring quarter.

"We have been wanting to give escorts off campus, whether we had the vans or not, because we get a lot of requests for the service," said Robert Tumney, director of the escort service.

The service has been providing walking escorts on the campus for five years. This fall, the service is receiving up to 12 requests a night for escorts off campus, Tumney said.

Two vans will be used. One will ferry students to places on campus. The other will deliver students to off-campus destinations.

Off-campus boundaries of the service are, roughly, Hudson Street, the Conrail tracks, 5th Avenue and the Olentangy River.

Van escorts will be offered between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m. Walking escorts will continue to be offered on campus seven days a week between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Vans have been used to provide escort service at other universities, most notably UCLA, Tumney said.

"They provide about 150 to 200 escorts a night with their service," he said.

Last year, OSU's escort service provided an average of about 16 escorts a night. The service now averages about 40 escorts a night. With the vans, the service is expected to average about 125 to 150 escorts a night, Tumney said.

"The public safety concern on campus is up," Tumney said. "And as people become more aware of the service, we expect its use will go up."

The service received $29,200 to operate this year, and it has received an additional $56,712 from the university to expand its program. The money will be used to hire about 23 new escort staff members. A total of 37 undergraduate students work for the service now.

The service plans to rent the vans from University Transportation initially, but it is hoping someone will donate vans.
Escort service goes off campus

By Dennis Cleary
Lantern staff writer

The OSU Crimewatch Escort Service will begin giving off-campus escorts tonight, following OSU President E. Gordon Gee’s decision this week to nearly triple the size of the service’s budget.

The five-year-old escort service had been operating with a budget of $29,200 for the 1990-91 school year and has never provided off-campus escorts. Gee authorized an additional $56,712 for the program to boost its budget to $85,912.

“We want to make this the safest university environment in the country,” Gee said.

Bill Shkurti, OSU’s acting vice-president for finance, said the added funding for the escort service will come from the university’s general fund, not from existing programs.

Ohio State normally does not increase a program’s funding after the annual budget has been passed, Shkurti said. “But for an important priority like safety, we’ll find the money that is needed,” he added.

Earlier this year, the escort service requested a budget of $36,000 for 1990-91 but had to settle for $29,200 from the Office of Student Life.

Mitch Huber, escort service manager, said the student life office said more funds might be made available if the escort service showed there was a need. Escort service officials submitted a request for the $56,712 this week.

“We’re very pleased with what we got,” Huber said. “We really couldn’t ask for more than that.”

The added funding will allow the escort service to buy two vans for off-campus escorts, increase the program’s hours, and hire additional escorts. The additional funding will cover expenses through the end of the spring quarter, at which time the service will be re-evaluated.

The service will provide three walking escort teams from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. The teams will continue to give escorts and check to make sure campus buildings are secure, as they have in the past.

Huber said he hopes the escort service’s expansion will enable them to provide more than 100 escorts per night.

Bob Tunney, the director of the escort service, said the agency currently averages about 40 escorts per night, up from seven escorts per night in 1988-89.

Officials want to reduce the time students have to wait for an escort.

“Right now the average waiting time is about 15 to 20 minutes,” Huber said. “We think we should be able to cut it down to about five minutes.”

Gee said he was further persuaded of the escort service’s value after walking with escorts three weeks ago.

He said the University of Colorado had a similar program during his tenure as president there.

Gee said expanding the service off-campus is part of the university’s plan to combat campus-area crime.

In the past, large universities had a tendency to limit their attention to students while they were on campus, he said. Universities will have to take more responsibility for student safety off campus, he added.

The expanded escort service and the Community Crime Patrol, which is partially funded by the university, are two steps in that direction, Gee said.

The boundaries of the escort service will be north to Hudson Avenue, south to Fifth Avenue, east to the railroad tracks and west to the Olentangy River. They will also drive people to West Campus, the Agriculture Campus and to University Village.

Those boundaries are “very gray,” Huber said, adding that escorts will take students within a reasonable distance of campus. “We’re flexible, but we’re not going to run anyone out to Worthington,” Huber said.

Carla Ravagnani, a senior from Green Village majoring in accounting, said she was pleased to hear that the escorts will be able to take her to her North Campus residence.

“In the past I’ve had to get an escort to a dorm where I have friends,” Ravagnani said. “Then I’d have someone there get me the rest of the way home because they couldn’t get off campus.”
Van escorts give rides to neighborhoods

By Amy Murray and Ruth Gerstner

The student safety escort service has begun offering free door-to-door van rides to off-campus destinations.

From 6 p.m.-3 a.m. daily, the vans pick up and deliver students, faculty, staff and their guests in an area bounded by Hudson Avenue, the Olentangy River, Fifth Avenue and the Conrail tracks.

The expanded escort service is the second major initiative implemented this fall to increase the safety of Ohio State students and employees at the Columbus campus. The service complements the work of the Community Crime Patrol.

The Crime Watch Escort Service is operated by Undergraduate Student Government. The new van ride service will operate as a pilot project through the end of spring quarter.

President Gee last week authorized a $56,712 addition to the allocation for the Crime Watch Escort Service.

Continued on page 5.

Continued from page 1.

"Crime Watch is a valuable component in the University community’s campaign to increase the safety of the campus and surrounding neighborhoods," Gee says. "The student leaders who make up USG are to be commended for their initiative and diligence."

Robert Tumney, director of the Crime Watch Escort Service and a senior from Cleveland, says demand has grown steadily and is now four times what it was two years ago.

"We’ve been doing 40-45 escorts a night," Tumney says. "The new vans will allow us to provide 100 more escorts per night. We’ll be able to meet a growing need for off-campus escorts and decrease the waiting time before an escort arrives."

He says other benefits include enabling Crime Watch foot patrols on campus to spend more time on "crime watch." They’ll check doors, lights and emergency phones, and report suspicious activities to police.
New Ford vans aid escort service

By Effie Dracopoulos
Lantern staff writer

The Ford Motor Co. loaned two vans to be used by the OSU Crimewatch Student Escort Service for the transportation of students requesting an escort. The vans are on loan for two years.

Keys to the seven-passenger Ford Aerostar were presented to the escort service by Bob Krieger of Krieger Ford in Columbus.

The vans will replace the vans currently rented from Ohio State's transportation department and will help serve more students in less time while keeping costs down, said Mitch Huber, director of campus safety for the Undergraduate Student Government.

The number of escorts each night has increased since President Gee granted $57,000 to the service last November, hoping to increase campus safety, said Bob Tumney, director of the Crimewatch Escort Service.

Before the escort service began using vans, 15 to 20 students requested to be walked to campus destinations each night, Tumney said. When the service acquired vans and extended its boundaries beyond campus, 110 to 120 students sought escorts, he said.

The escort service boundaries extend north to Hudson Street, south to Fifth Avenue, east to the Conrail tracks (1/2 block east of Fourth Street) and west to University Village.

Huber said the vans cover an average distance of 85 miles each night. The vans will enable the escort service to transport students in less time and will free the patrol to check for security violations on campus, such as unlocked buildings, Tumney said.

"We feel very pleased and proud to be supporters of Ohio State," said Jack Eby, executive director of the Ford Motor Co. and president-elect of the OSU Alumni Association.

Eby, who holds a bachelor's degree in industrial management from Ohio State, said Ohio is an important source of employees and financial support. More than 400 Ford employees are Ohio State graduates, including three vice presidents, he said.

"Anything you can do to help fight crime in the city is good where everyone is concerned, especially in the campus area," said Krieger, who is also an alumnus of Ohio State.

The two-year loan will cost Ford about $10,000 for each van, Krieger said.

The loan extends through May 1993. After that period, Ford will evaluate the success of the escort program and consider continuing the lease, Krieger said.

The escort service is available from 6:45 p.m. to 3 a.m. every evening.
More money for escort service

By Lynn D'Anniballe
Lantern staff writer

Undergraduate Student Government's CrimeWatch and Escort Service will be operating this summer for the first time in its five-year existence.

The Escort Service is funded by the university through USG. Increased funding is the primary reason the service will be operating this summer.

Jason January, director of CrimeWatch and Escort Service, said OSU President E. Gordon Gee increased the budget for the program by approximately $56,000 last fall.

"With the new budget allocations made by Gee last fall, we were able to continue our program into this summer," January said.

CrimeWatch will be in operation this summer, but will cut back some services by more than 50 percent and the wait for an escort may be longer than the usual 10 to 15 minutes, January said.

During the summer weekdays, there will be one manager and one pair of patrollers on duty. On weekends, one van unit, instead of two, will be in service.

The boundaries that the escort service follows will not change during the summer: north as far as Hudson, south as far as 5th Avenue, east as far as the Conrail Railroad tracks, and west as far as West Campus.

Van services will continue to be available to University Village when the shuttles stop running for the evening.

"Everybody should use the escort service because there is a lot of crime that happens on campus, even in the summer," said Rich Scheid, assistant director of CrimeWatch and Escort Service.

"The reason the Escort Service is out there is to provide a safety in numbers type of policy on campus, and to keep a direct contact with the OSU Police Department," January said.

Besides having enough funds to operate this summer, there are other reasons why having the Escort Service is important.

"In the summer there are many commuters and students who take evening classes because they work during the day," said Christine Chen, president of USG.

Chen also said there are a lot of conferences on campus during the summer, such as freshmen orientation, that need the Escort Service for safety.

The Escort Service can be reached by calling 292-2101 or 292-3322.
Escort service to upgrade program

By Jodi Froning
Lantern staff writer

The USG CrimeWatch Escort Service geared up for another year of enforcing a "safety in numbers" policy with some changes and additions to increase the program's efficiency.

Beginning this quarter, the service will not provide escorts for those faculty, staff and students who are at an off-campus location and want to go to another off-campus location.

According to Jason January, director of the service, this change will ensure the service is only being used by the OSU faculty, staff and students it was designed for.

This year the service will have a computerized logging system to record escort destinations and pick-ups and basic radio transmissions. This system will help the service become quicker, more accurate and more efficient, January said.

The amount of training required for employees was increased this quarter. Employees had to attend a basic CrimeWatch training program, an eight hour driving course for the use of its van, and complete CPR, first aid and fire prevention training courses. There was also an optional self-defense course.

A CrimeWatch Advisory Board, appointed by the director and composed of faculty, staff and students, is another new addition to the service. According to January the board was set up to advise the director on ways to monitor and improve the system.

The USG CrimeWatch Escort Service provides escorts for any OSU faculty, staff or student who needs to go from a campus to a campus location, a location on campus to a location off-campus, or from an off-campus location to campus, January said.

“The service is not for physical protection but serves as a deterrent.”

—Jason January, director of USG CrimeWatch Escort Service

In addition to those changes, January has also set some new goals for this year's service. He would like to see the number of people using escorts increase from last year's 17,000 to 20,000.

January said he wants to see the service run during breaks because of the large number of people who remain on campus. He wants to make it a 12-hour service, running from dusk to dawn.

“The service is not for physical protection, but serves as a deterrent,” January said. There are 40 escorts who make up the CrimeWatch force, eight of whom are women.

The service operates Monday through Sunday between 7 p.m. and 3 a.m.

January said students can set up schedules for the whole quarter if they have a night class.
Crimewatch adds escorts

By Tom Harmon
Lantern staff writer

The USG Crimewatch program has extended its hours and added more escorts to respond to student demand during peak hours, Crimewatch Director Jason January said.

"At our peak times we had people waiting up to an hour for an escort," January said.

Several reasons for slow response times have been a short supply of escorts during peak hours, people abusing the service and requests for van escorts instead of walking escorts within the campus area, he said.

Crimewatch's two vans are a vital part of the program for people who live off campus; students who request van service on campus displace those who have a greater need for van service, January said.

"Our first priority with our van service is the people going to and from off-campus," January said.

"People have been using the van service out of convenience instead of for safety and it hurts our response time for people who need them," he said.

"We serviced University Village out of courtesy and non-residents began using us for a taxi service," January said. "So this year we will require an University Village I.D. to use the van service to University Village."

Crimewatch's new hours are 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Autumn Quarter set a record for Crimewatch; the program escorted 9,000 people, with more than 100 escorts on a regular night.

Rich Scheid, assistant director of Crimewatch, said he wished the program could do more actual "crimewatch" work, such as checking buildings and watching for potential problems.

But the program has too many requests for escorts to adequately do both jobs, Scheid said. "Maybe with more money and roves we can do more Crimewatch activities," he said.

January credits the Gee administration with the increased funding Crimewatch received, from $57,000 for Autumn 1990 to Summer 1991, to $86,000 for Autumn 1991 to Summer 1992.

Crimewatch is funded through the Student Organizational Services.

OSU Police Captain John Petry said assaults on campus are down slightly, from 73 reported assaults in 1990 to 69 in 1991, and the number of reported crimes is down from 2,870 to 2,861.

Petry said he thinks the Crimewatch program has had some effect on the amount of crime on campus.

"It's difficult to gauge the effectiveness of the program but I think it has reduced the number of potential victims on campus," Petry said.
Crimewatch to use bikes for patrols

By Mark Ruff
Lantern staff writer

USG passed a proposal that will improve Crimewatch patrols with the addition of two all-terrain bikes to the USG Crimewatch Escort Service.

Crimewatch has been patrolling Main Campus, but with the addition of the bikes, Crimewatch will be able to patrol the Agricultural and West campuses.

Amy Bashforth, director of Crimewatch, said the bikes add increased mobility in the surveillance of campus, which Crimewatch previously lacked. The bikes will enable us to cover more of the campus in a shorter period of time, she said.

The responsibility of the bike patrol will be patrolling campus, the bikes will not be a part of the escort service, which is also offered by Crimewatch, Bashworth said.

The bike patrols will follow the same procedures as the foot patrols, looking for suspicious activity, open windows and doors and reporting problems to the proper authorities, Bashforth said.

Currently, a procedures manual for the patrols on bikes is being examined by an advisory board, which will specify any additions that may need to be made, Bashworth said.

The manual includes safety rules and current auto and bicycle laws, she said.

The bike patrols will be trained and expected to obey all traffic and bicycle laws, Bashworth said. The Ohio State Police Department is trying to get a video to supplement our bike safety training program.

John Hilbert, president of USG, said the money for the bikes was donated to Crimewatch by USG. The total cost of the bikes was $908.62, which includes safety equipment like helmets and lighting equipment.

For now, Crimewatch is only going to use two bikes, Hilbert said. If the need arises, Crimewatch will look to buy more bikes.

Hilbert said the addition of the bike patrol was badly needed, because the escort service takes a great deal of time.

Crimewatch is funded by the university, and has an operating budget of $65,000, Bashforth said. The Crimewatch service employs 30 people, which are all students at Ohio State.
Correction

In the Aug. 6 Lantern, the director of Crimewatch's name was mis-spelled. The correct spelling is Amy Bashforth.
USG hears student’s appeal for bolstering of CrimeWatch

By Brian Cruickshank
Lantern staff writer

An OSU student who said she was attacked last week on the Oval gave an impassioned speech to the USG assembly last night, encouraging it to help her in the fight to improve campus safety.

"I am very angry right now because of this, and I'm asking you to get angry with me. We cannot afford to cut from student safety," she said.

The student, who requested not to be identified, said she was attacked last Wednesday at around 10 p.m. as she was walking near Orton Hall. She said she had requested an escort from CrimeWatch, but none were available. Because of previous self-defense training, she managed to escape.

"I'm not so much afraid for myself, but I'm afraid for other students," she said, trying to fight back tears. "I understand that we have to make budget cuts, but we can't take away from the security of the students."

She called for a march on Bricker Hall to show the administration that students are concerned about campus safety.

Rebecca Woods, USG representative and CrimeWatch manager, said in order to improve safety, changes must be made to the escort program.

"I really believe in the service, but I feel that we are not fulfilling our mission," Woods said. She cited student abuse of the vans as the main problem.

Woods and other CrimeWatch employees said many students use the vans as a free shuttle bus, especially during bad weather. As a result, the escorts cannot respond to legitimate requests. Woods wants to get rid of the vans to eliminate the misuse of the service. She said she advocates the use of more walking patrols and estimates that without the vans, escort requests would drop by 75 percent.

USG President-Elect Chris Norman and Vice President-Elect Jennifer Novelli said improving campus safety was a big focus during their campaign, and will continue to be during their term.

The student who had been attacked felt that USG can help in the improvement of campus safety.

"I think USG has a lot of influence and they have a lot of connections," she said. "I think they can work with Gee to implement a better safety program so that we don't have to go somewhere by ourselves; so we don't have to be afraid."

In other USG business, after a ten-minute debate, a resolution to encourage the purchase of United States flags for every classroom on campus was narrowly defeated by a 12 to 9 vote.

Andy Brenner, USG representative and co-sponsor of the resolution, cited patriotic reasons why the measure should be passed and said the flags represent diversity, struggle and change.

USG Representative Alison Woodward encouraged members to vote against the resolution. She said she cannot justify spending the money for flags when campus safety is still an issue.

If adopted by the university, the purchase of 310 flags would cost almost $5,500, Brenner said. But he added that about 25 flags is a more realistic expectation.

More election news: Of the 29 seats on USG Assembly, 17 have been confirmed, wrote Laura Walton and Adam Roslovic, USG election chairs.

Election officials are still checking GPA requirements and the intent of candidates-elect to serve on the new assembly.
On the dark side

Ohio State has always been notorious for its raucous and seemingly eternal nightlife. It's a characteristic of the university that has successfully scared the living daylight out of many parents who fearfully send their innocent young into the jaws of the High Street beast.

But fear not, oh worrisome fathers and mothers. Much more than mere partying happens on these sacred grounds, when darkness falls.

All of us know that academia can rear its ugly head at anytime, anywhere — and many students have developed the nocturnal habits that leave them sweating in libraries at all hours of the night, studying for quizzes, tests and, of course, the looming finals.

But not everybody who studies is studying books, and not everyone taking a test will have it affect their grade report.

Bill Thompson, a 23-year-old astronomy major from Columbus, spends many nighttime hours confined to a metal bubble atop Smith Lab, studying heavenly bodies.

Although the quarters of the observatory are dark, and what many would call “spooky,” the telescope sitting in the center gives him access to parts of the universe that the rest of us may never see.

He peers through a small viewfinder at the distant twinkles sprawling across the galactic ceiling. He studies the stars of the Leo and Gemini configurations that flicker, despite the interference of the streetlights that blur the horizon below.

He makes his notes and calculations as an attached instrument counts the number of photons that the stars are able to send the million-plus mile journey all the way to Earth.

While most of us are concerned with the things around us that are there, Thompson is interested in studying parts of the universe that aren't there.

"What I'm really interested in is called 'dark matter,'" Thompson said. "Nobody is really sure what it is, but it's the part of the universe that isn't there. We can only see about 10 percent of the universe. Everything else is dark matter."

As an aspiring astronomer, Thompson is a slave to the atmospheric conditions that vary so vastly in this part of the country. Tuesday's nice weather brought out the astronomers, as well as strollers who sought to enjoy the cool evening.

Since the grumpy forces of Ohio weather saw fit to bless us with a warm, moonlit evening, people traveled with a pace decidedly different from the normal rush hour clip of students scurrying from class to class.

The evening seems to bring a bit of leisure to the pedestrians who frequent the concrete labyrinth of sidewalks that crisscross the university grounds.

Both lovers and friends seem to walk with less worry from place to place, either with a purpose and destination or without.

Just as some walkers were out to enjoy the brisk weather, others still walked with definite intention.

The USG CrimeWatch Escort Service walks each night with the noble purpose of helping keep students safe as they traverse the immense compound of the campus.

The walking team of Chris Harmsy and Chris Kovach took their orders Tuesday night from a manager-in-training who was taking his own version of a final.

Jason Davidson, a sophomore in medical illustration from Oceanside, N.Y., sat at the helm of the CrimeWatch Escort Service communications office on the third floor of the Ohio Union.

He dispatched the escorts by himself for the first time Tuesday night.

Taking an average of 60 phone requests for escorts, it was his final test to become a manager for the service next quarter and prove himself worthy of the black jacket and emblem the escorts sport while on their patrols.

Students on campus do everything from studying to stargazing when darkness falls. Confirming the notion that when it's nighttime on the OSU campus — it's more than just dark.
(Left) Bill Thompson, a senior in astronomy, collects data from the telescope on top of Smith Laboratory. (Above) Sharon Kahn of Dayton and Penny Maddox of Reynoldsburg return from studying at the Main Library.
(Left) Students study in the new Engineering and Science Library. (Above) Chris Harmych, left, and Chris Kovach of USG CrimeWatch escort Dana Bowles across the Oval late at night.

Photos by Diane Meves
Story by Jim Miller
FORD GIVES NEW VANS TO OHIO STATE'S CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

COLUMBUS -- To assist crime prevention efforts in The Ohio State University area, Ford Motor Co. in cooperation with Krieger Ford Inc. of Columbus provided two new vans to Ohio State's Crime Watch Escort Service this summer.

The Ford Aerostar minivans are used for safe late-night transportation of university students, staff and faculty by the Crime Watch Escort Service, explained James P. Kane Jr., director of Student Organization Services. The new vans replaced two vans which were provided by Krieger Ford in 1991.

"The vans have had a significant impact on the Crime Watch Service, enabling the service to expand the number of escorts provided for the Ohio State community. Ford and Krieger Ford are to be commended for their continuing support of safety efforts at Ohio State," said Kane.

"We are pleased to be associated with such an important program at Ohio State University, and both Ford Motor Co. and Krieger Ford hope for its great success," said Doug Krieger, president of Krieger Ford Inc.

The Crime Watch Escort Service began operation in 1986 as a non-intervention crime prevention service through the Undergraduate Student Government, providing walking escorts to on-campus locations, as well as patrolling campus and reporting suspicious activities to authorities. The service is advised by the Office of Student Organizational Services, and all escorts receive training from the University Police.

In 1990-91, Ford Motor Co. donated the use of two vans for the service. The addition of mobile units made it possible to expand the program to off-campus locations where thousands of Ohio State students live.

- more -
The number of escorts has increased dramatically since then, from 17,652 during the 1990-91 school year to an estimated 36,000 for 1992-93, of which 85 percent are by van. While only 30 to 40 escorts can be performed per night on foot alone, more than 100 can be provided with the use of the vans.

Operating seven days a week, the free service has expanded its hours over the years to meet increased demand. It is available from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. during the academic quarters.

Well-known by students across the campus, the vans have become a familiar symbol of community safety.

"The Crime Watch Escort Service is doing a great job of addressing the problems of crime through prevention. We are proud to be a partner in a program that will enhance the educational experience for so many students by providing a safe learning environment," said Robert L. Rewey, vice president of Marketing and Sales Operations for Ford Motor Co.

Contact: Jim Kane, 292-8763.
CrimeWatch service expands

New vans provided to protect students

By Wendy Edwards
Lantern staff writer

Thanks to the Ford Motor Co., the campus escort service has been expanded to off-campus locations where thousands of OSU students live.

Ford, in conjunction with the Krieger Ford Inc., provided two new vans during summer to OSU's CrimeWatch Escort Service.

The Ford Aerostar minivans are used for safe, late-night transportation of university students, staff and faculty by the CrimeWatch Escort Service, said James P. Kane Jr., director of Student Organization Services. The new vans replaced two vans, which were leased for two years by Ford and Krieger in 1991.

"The vans have had a significant impact on the CrimeWatch Service, enabling the service to expand the number of escorts provided for the Ohio State community," Kane said. The number of escorts has increased dramatically since the vans were first donated in 1990, from 17,652 during the 1990-91 school year to an estimated 36,000 escorts for 1992-93, of which 85 percent were by van. Only 30 to 40 escorts can be performed per night on foot alone, but more than 100 can be provided with the use of the vans.

"Ford and Krieger Ford are to be commended for their continuing support of safety efforts at Ohio State," Kane said.

Doug Krieger, president of Krieger Ford says Ford is behind the service completely.

"We are pleased to be associated with such an important program at Ohio State University, and both Ford Motor Co. and Krieger Ford hope for its great success," Krieger said.

Robert L. Rewey, vice president of Marketing and Sales Operations for Ford Motor Co., said Ford is happy to be a part of the service.

"The CrimeWatch Escort Service is doing a great job of addressing the problems of crime through prevention. We are proud to be a partner in a program that will enhance the educational experience for so many students by providing a safe learning environment," Rewey said.

The CrimeWatch Escort Service began operation in 1986 as a non-intervention crime prevention service through the Undergraduate Student Government, providing walking escorts to on-campus locations, as well as patrolling campus and reporting suspicious activities to authorities. The service is advised by the Office of Student Organizational Services, and all escorts receive training from the OSU Police.

One student who has used the service said she thinks the minivans are a good idea.

"I had escorts walk me home when I used to live on campus," said Tracey Edwards, a senior majoring in journalism. "Now that I live off campus, it is good to know if I needed an escort I can use one of the minivans."

Kane says the CrimeWatch Escort Service is easy for students to use.

"Students can call the service in the evening and there will be someone on duty who will establish the places and times of pick up and drop off," he said.

Students are required to show a student ID in order to use the service.
Bottom line: Parking, campus security are still major problems

By Heather L. Englund
Lantern staff writer

Students living in the Olentangy residence halls voiced their opinions Monday night about limited parking and campus security in an open forum.

Two of the main concerns were the limited availability of buses on campus and the difficulty of getting bus passes.

Chris Smith, USG commuter student representative, said these complaints are common and are being reviewed.

The OSU Department of Transportation did not take into account the problem students would have acquiring bus passes, Smith said.

"I think it's (the bus problem as it stands now) a waste of resources and time," he said. "We need to get to the root of the problem."

Tonya Cheek, USG School of Agriculture and School of Natural Resources representative, suggested the new Buck-ID cards that are being discussed could be used as an alternative to bus passes.

The Buck-ID cards are currently under discussion by the university to be used as a credit card in order to buy books, pay tuition, and for food purchases in the dining halls and Ohio Union restaurants, Cheek said.

She also suggested the residence halls sell the bus passes at the front desks, so students may be able to buy them after the Department of Transportation closes for the day.

Other concerns brought up in the forum included campus security.

Eric Gallon, USG Olentangy living area representative, said new emergency phones have been installed near the Ohio and Drake Unions.

Datrice Lowry, a first-year intern for USG, said her biggest concern is safety in the Olentangy living area.

"Our area is one of the biggest areas (on campus)," Lowry said. "That's one problem I have."

Most students at the forum agreed the new community policing initiative was working effectively.

The new policing initiative is an effort by OSU police to talk to students and be more available in trouble situations.

Smith said he had noticed more police around campus and liked the idea of community policing rather than the old traditional policing policy, where police only attended their designated area and didn't interact with the campus community.

Gallon also spoke about the USG Crimewatch Escort Service.

"One of the main problems (of the Crimewatch Escort Service) is... undergraduates thinking this is a free taxi service," he said.

Gallon stressed how important it was not to abuse the service because of the high cost it demands to operate.

The Crimewatch budget is $85,000 a year, he said, but they ideally need $110-120,000 a year to keep it running well.

Gallon said students could help the escort service by having IDs available when using the service and calling at least two hours in advance.
Money for CrimeWatch remains on back burner

By Stacey Plotnick
Lantern staff writer

Even though two USG committees recently recommended that the assembly pass a bill to donate money to the CrimeWatch Escort Service, it was not voted on at the meeting Wednesday night because Treasurer Bobbi Montgomery had not approved it at the finance meeting this week.

Last week, the CrimeWatch bill was sent to both the finance and Issues Projects and Evaluation (IPEC) committees. The bill was presented because the CrimeWatch Escort Service is under budgetary constraints. The service needs more staff and better resources, such as umbrellas, costs, jackets, T-shirts and radios.

USG would like to form a CrimeWatch committee and fund. The committee would research the needs of the escort service and make the necessary purchases after seeking corporate sponsorship and vendors to donate materials at cost.

The fund would contain one-third of existing USG money, as well as funds remaining in members' constituency accounts. Constituency funds are used by assembly members if they need money to reach their constituents.

IPEC voted unanimously to recommend that the assembly pass the bill, and the finance committee gave a positive recommendation, although they were not clear about the rules and guidelines. Consequently, they needed the treasurer's approval. Montgomery was unavailable for comment.

Christopher Smith, one of the bill's sponsors, would like it to be passed quickly because it has taken so long to bring it before the assembly.

In other business, members of USG presented a resolution at an IPEC meeting that condemned revisions of the sexual harassment policy recently incorporated into the Code of Student Conduct by University Senate. However, while these members condemned the revisions, they did not offer an alternative version of the policy. IPEC members decided to revise the resolution and cite specific problems that the current policy presents.

"I don't need to be Jewish to say when something is not kosher," said USG member and resolution co-sponsor Jared Brown, in reference to the recently adopted policy.

This issue has remained in IPEC for several weeks because weekly meeting attendance has not met the required quorum of five people. Therefore, the committee was unable to make a recommendation on the resolution and send it back to assembly for a vote.

Assembly members also gave constituency reports at the meeting, some of which focused on restructuring.

Daryl Meeks, representative for the College of Education, said his college is holding restructuring forums almost every week, but changes will not affect many people currently enrolled in the college.

Ron Lawrence, University College Representative, added his constituents are unhappy about required UVC classes. Lawrence said he is planning to speak to Dean Mac Stewart about ways to make the class more informative.
USG event underscores the need for awareness

By Tiffany C. Miller
Lantern staff writer

Various organizations gathered on the Oval yesterday to provide crime prevention tips at the Undergraduate Student Government Safety Day.

The USG Safety Day was the beginning of a year-long emphasis on safety issues. Campus and Columbus organizations distributed educational materials and gave demonstrations on how to be safe on campus.

"I think the groups enlightened many students on the safety issues that face them," said Eric Roberts, community service and safety director for USG. "This was a great opportunity for us to offer education on crime prevention."

The OSU Karate Club received the attention of many students with self-defense demonstrations.

"We are showing students some of the different situations that could happen to them, and some possible ways to react," club president Angel Alexander said. "Our goal is to get students to ask questions about how they should act in a self-defense situation. If we can get them interested, we might be able to teach them something that may someday help them walk away from a dangerous situation."

Karate Club members gave advice on knife defense, and demonstrated body throwing techniques.

Representatives from the American Red Cross gave students information on CPR training, first aid, water safety, and AIDS issues.

"I am a firm believer that every person should learn how to do CPR and first aid," said Dave Decker, coordinator from the Red Cross. "It is important that we all learn how to react in an emergency situation."

Other organizations offered basic tips for students walking on campus.

"Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Trust your instincts, and learn self-defense," said Julie Quirke, member of Women Against Rape.

Members of the Crimewatch Escort Service advocated not walking alone at night.

"We are here to make sure no one has to walk alone," said Jason Toombs, director of Crimewatch. "Students hear about attacks and other violence that happens to people who walk alone all the time, so we receive about 90 calls a night to escort students home."

Holly Kemmer, a freshman majoring in art education, said the various crime and safety resources on campus have been a big help in answering her questions about crime prevention.

"My first day on campus I witnessed a robbery," Kemmer said. "I'm really trying to be smart about safety. I'm from a small town and I have had to prepare myself to deal with a new environment that has a lot more crime."

Members of the Community Crime Patrol said students are more aware of crime and violence.

"Crime can happen to anyone in a variety of ways," patroller Sally Williams said. "No matter who you are or where you are, you can always get hurt."

Toombs said there is not necessarily more crime around the campus area, but students have become much more aware over the past year.

"A lot of the fear probably has to do with Stephanie Plummer's murder. We are constantly hearing stories about attacks and incidents at bars," Toombs said.

Freshman Mark Noble said students may sometimes not want to deal with the crime issue because it scares them.

"I haven't had a safety problem, but I know people who have," Noble said. "I think students are scared, but they don't want to admit it. A lot of people joke about it."

Kari Spaulding, a senior majoring in education, was at Safety Day offering tips to prevent another common campus crime problem: bike theft.

Spaulding said students must properly lock bikes by putting a U-lock around one tire, the frame and the bike stand.

"Most importantly, always ride the cheapest, ugliest, nastiest bike you can find. Chances are, no one will want it, and if it is stolen, it is much cheaper to replace," Spaulding said.

Russ Robinson, left, a senior in communications and Dave Hogette, a graduate student in English, give a karate demonstration on the Oval yesterday.
Dark, dangerous nights on campus safer with escorts

By Johnny Wilson
Lantern staff writer

The days are short during Winter Quarter, and darkness quickly engulfs Ohio State, interrupted only by the orange glow of scattered light posts.

Walking around campus after dark can be downright scary. A nocturnal venture takes one through both well-lit areas and places so dark as to concern even the very brave.

But Ohio State does not shut down at sunset; many classes, libraries and laboratories have sessions lasting into the wee hours.

When pedestrians want safe passage through a potentially dangerous zone of darkness, they can call the Undergraduate Student Government CrimeWatch Escort Service.

CrimeWatch has been escorting people and conducting routine security checks on buildings and dormitories around campus nightly since it was founded by USG in Autumn 1995.

The service has grown from 10 to about 30 employees, mainly students, who patrol campus from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. year-round.

For Brenda Davis, a second-year animal science major, being escorted from Hopkins Hall to her residence in the Stadium Dormitory allows peace of mind for her and her family in Leesburg, Ohio.

"It eases my mother's mind with (my) night classes," Davis said. "It is a lot darker there (in the area around Larkins Hall) than I thought it was."

Davis is a "permanent escort." She is scheduled for pick-up the same time each night for the entire quarter.

Escorts are free to anyone with valid OSU identification. Those who call the service are told they can expect either an escort on foot or an escort by van.

CrimeWatch escort teams work in pairs, either in the two vans donated by Krieger Ford, or on foot patrols called "rovers."

When the temperature drops to frostbite level, the vans try to accommodate as many callers as possible, but CrimeWatch discourages people from using the service as a free taxi cab. The program's primary function is providing safe passage for campus pedestrians and deterring crime.

Cold winter nights can result in up to 150 escorts, and by 7 p.m. the vans are streaking along campus streets in an effort to respond to all calls. The pace usually does not slow until after midnight.

CrimeWatch Director Jason Toombs said he believes his staff, who earn around $5 an hour, are dedicated to the cause of campus safety.

"You'll have a hard time finding people who want to walk around in the cold for that kind of money," Toombs said.

CrimeWatch patrol members Karl Spaulding, left, and Autumn Yost check for unlocked windows at Oxley Hall.

CrimeWatch is funded through the Office of Student Life, with an annual budget of $85,000.

Mike Litty, a fine arts major from Bay Village, Ohio, said a sense of duty, not the hourly wage, motivates him to work for CrimeWatch.

"It's a service to the college," Litty said. "And I've always been safety conscience."

Members take their work seriously. CrimeWatch policy states fraternizing with people being escorted is strictly forbidden.

CrimeWatch vans handle the majority of escorts, covering an area between Fifth Avenue, Ackerman Road, Olentangy River Road and the Ohio State Fairgrounds.

In addition to escorts, vans and rovers perform security checks, ensuring doors and windows are locked, and keeping an eye out for suspicious activity.

Though required to take a course in self defense, CrimeWatch members do not intervene when they see a crime in progress, but immediately contact OSU police.

CrimeWatch also has a radio link to Columbus police for reporting off-campus violations.

Tuesday night, when the temperature was at a wind chill factor of 7 degrees, rovers found an open window in a campus building.

CrimeWatch member Karl Spaulding said unlocked buildings are a very common discovery.

Pilots immediately report unlocked doors and windows to their CrimeWatch supervisor, then enter and secure the building if possible.

OSU police notify the building supervisor of the security violation the next day.

CrimeWatch members said they believe their presence cuts down on campus crime. OSU police statistics show, since around the time CrimeWatch began, incidences of certain types of crime have declined, such as burglaries and sexual offenses.

OSU police logged 287 burglaries and 1,267 thefts last year. This is down from 1333 thefts and 307 burglaries in 1993.

OSU Police Captain James F. Gaynor III said he has responded many times to situations discovered by CrimeWatch, and considers the service an important element in preventing criminal activity, security violations and safety problems on campus.
OSU to improve student escort services as result of merger

Increased patrols part of plan

By Jason Sherman
Lantern staff writer

An improved escort service is planned for Autumn Quarter as a result of the merger between the USG Escort Service and Department of Student Safety.

Brian Snider, manager of the Student Safety and USG Escort Service, said the merger took place in June as the result of a recommendation by the Committee on the Undergraduate Experience.

"The merger took place due to budget constraints. The administration felt the program would operate more efficiently as one department," Snider said. He also said the escort service simply grew too big for USG to handle, in regards to liability and insurance.

The former USG Escort Service provided escorts to students on campus after hours, while the Department of Student Safety provided street patrols, reported safety violations on campus, and assisted university police with traffic control during football and basketball games.

Snider said escort service employees would now be performing all of these duties. He said that with the combined budget of the two services, there would be more money available to hire more escorts. There were 20-25 employees in the escort service last year.

"Next year, my goal is to reach 50-60 people," Snider said. Plans are to increase bike patrols, foot patrols, and when available, car patrols, he said.

The escort service relies on outside companies for donations, Snider said. "Krieger Ford and the Ford Motor Company provide vans, and Ameritech provides free cellular phones and phone service."

Snider said the number of vans available for escorts would remain at two. He said emphasis would be placed mainly on foot patrols.

Michelle Masters, a supervisor with the escort service, said a past problem was people who took advantage of the vans.

"We want to steer away from being everyone's taxi service," she said.

Snider said that when a student calls for an escort, they are not told whether it will be in a van or on foot. He said many times, students turn the escorts away if they are on foot.

Masters said operating hours will change slightly for Autumn Quarter with escorts beginning at 8:30 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.
Escort service merges with OSU police

By Gina Johnston
Lantern staff writer

The Ohio State Undergraduate Student Government Escort Service has merged with the student safety division of the University Police Department to increase the availability of the service.

As a result of a report issued in May by the Committee on the Undergraduate Experience, the new USG Escort/Student Safety Service has been given an annual budget increase of $60,000 and additional resources for upgrading equipment, said Brian Snider, of the USG Escort/Student Safety Service.

The committee, composed of faculty and students, felt that safety was a very important issue to be addressed, said Bob Arnold, vice provost for academic affairs.

"Safety was the number one issue on everyone’s mind," Arnold said.

The committee learned that the escort service needed to be improved through focus groups with campus residents and commuters, said Sherri Noxel, who charted the committee's results.

"We also polled OSU students and discussed the situation with university committees and organizations including: University Public Safety, Campus Partners and Community Crime Patrol," Noxel said.

According to the poll, 25 percent of OSU students have used the escort service.

Some students who used the service said they were not happy with the service because they often had to wait at least forty-five minutes before they were picked up, Noxel said.

Because of the increase in funding, the escort service now has about 60 employees. This will enable the program to provide more reliable services, Snider said.

All of the employees are students.

The service operates seven days a week from 7:30 p.m. to 3 a.m., Snider said. The boundaries the escort service operates within are from 6th Avenue to Hudson Street and from the railroad tracks east of North High Street to the Olentangy River.

To obtain an escort, students must call the service, give their name, location and destination, Snider said.

"The wait is usually 10 to 15 minutes," Snider said.

Eleanor Watkins, a senior at OSU, said she is satisfied with the reliability of the escort service.

"I've used it frequently and they are usually on time when I call. But I call ahead of time, I don't call them and expect them to be there in five minutes."
Ameritech joins OSU in escort protection

By Clindi Dohmicker
Lantern staff writer

Ameritech Cellular Services teamed up with University Police Tuesday to provide a wireless communication system for the campus escort service.

"The campus system of escorts using cellular phones helps them report crimes and thefts in a more timely manner," said Tami Schultz, an Ameritech spokeswoman.

Ameritech donated $12,000 to improve the escort service program, along with another $3,000 that is donated each year for equipment and uniforms, Schultz said.

"Because the escorts get paid, the money supports their salaries," Schultz said.

This is the second year that the program has been in effect and has provided outstanding benefits, said Ron Michalec, chief of University Police.

"The advantage of this cellular system is that the escort service can contact other off-campus agencies out of the realm of our radio," Michalec said. "Such as the Columbus police department."

Employees of the escort services are excited about this change as well, said Brian Snider, manager of student safety and USG Escort Service.

"I am absolutely ecstatic that we have the support of Ameritech," Snider said. "Without them, we would not be able to operate at this high of an efficiency."

Ameritech's donation of cellular phones, uniforms and equipment has improved the overall appearance of the escort service and the size of the staff, Snider said.

"The phones and free air time allows us to exchange confidential information that we would normally not be allowed to communicate over the radio," Snider said.

"It also benefits the community," Snider said. "If we run into a stranded motorist, we can call a tow-truck or help right from our van."

"The cellular phones cut down a lot of the time it takes to call the dispatcher on the radio and get in touch with whoever it is we need to talk to," Snider said.