

Keep the escorts

Within the next few days, student agencies will decide whether or not to continue the escort service begun last term. In the interest of the safety of women students, they have only one choice: to continue the service.

Set up after a rape and an attempted rape occurred on campus last month, the service may have prevented more rapes and assaults. It certainly relieved the fears of women who chose to call for escorts rather than take the risk of walking long distances alone at night.

Now the student groups that set up the service—the Undergraduate Student Government, the Association for Women Students, the Association of Residence Hall Students and the Student Assistance Center—may discontinue the service.

At its beginning at the height of

the rape crisis, more than 35 women requested the service each night. Near the end of the term, however, the number of requests dropped off to about 10 each night.

The sponsors of the service believe that the crisis is now over and that the number of nightly requests for escorts will not justify the amount of effort needed to keep the service going.

But the rape crisis is never over. A woman can be raped or robbed or murdered anywhere at any time. Even if the person or persons who committed last month's assaults is arrested soon, it will not automatically end all assaults.

No matter how strong or how liberated a woman is, she is still a potential target for attack. And every woman who must walk alone at night is entitled to protection if she wants it.

Even if there is little demand for escorts, the service would not require much effort beyond that already provided by existing services.

Last term, for example, women requesting escorts called the Student Assistance Center's Help Line, which kept a list of volunteer escorts. Volunteers then were contacted and dispatched through a few short phone calls.

There is no need to keep a full staff of escorts at the service's office throughout the night. The service could be staffed through the Help Line as it was last term, and any requests could be filled quickly by telephone.

If the student groups involved are concerned with the safety of women students, they must keep operating the service. Even if the service is not used widely, escorts must at least be made available to women who want them.



Tom Gibb

'At this point, I'll do ANYTHING to get their minds off Watergate.'

the daily Collegian Nixon's future: the talk of D.C.

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By STEVE OSTROSKY
of the Collegian Staff

WASHINGTON—The dominant question here in the nation's capital is not "Is President Nixon going to leave office?" but "When and how is Nixon going to leave office?"

While Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott and GOP National Chairman George Bush do nothing but tell you Nixon will not leave office until the end of his term, leading Washington journalists and an increasing number of legislators predict that Mrs. Gerald Ford will be First Lady next year at this time.

Washington's two major newspapers, The Washington Post and The Washington Star-News, are looking ahead to the day when Nixon will leave office. The Star-News is preparing a resignation page because, as one of its editors said, they like to keep ahead of the news. The Post has gone one step further: it is preparing a special resignation issue.

These papers would not be wasting time, money and reporters, especially the "Star-News," which is short-handed and in financial trouble, to cover a future event thoroughly unless they thought there is a good chance the special issues will be used.

There is no doubt that Nixon will be out of office this year in the mind of one member of The New York Times editorial board who works out of Washington. He predicts the House will approve impeachment

proceedings and sees the Senate impeaching Nixon if he hasn't already left office.

There are about 50 senators right now who would vote to impeach Nixon and the total will keep going up, the Times editor said. But he doesn't think they will ever get the chance to vote.

Since the impeachment vote probably would take place sometime during the summer in the middle of election campaigns, the editor said, the Republican Party leadership probably will ask Nixon to step down for the good of the party in the elections.

And the editor suggested Nixon might leave office in an unprecedented way — suicide. While that may sound farfetched, Nixon is a proud man who could quite conceivably resort to suicide if everything is going wrong.

And if you don't buy the suicide idea, the editor said, Nixon could become seriously ill for a long period of time and just turn the Oval Office over to Ford.

Not only are the newspapers ready for Nixon to leave; members of Congress are getting in their two cents' worth about Nixon and what to do with him.

About a week ago, Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., said although he would "hate to see" Nixon impeached and there has been no proof so far of an impeachable offense, he thought the President should resign.

But the strange part of about all this is that some Democrats are urging Nixon to stay in office, while

some Republicans would almost rather see a kangaroo in the White House than Nixon.

The Democrats are playing it smart. They know that the longer Nixon is president, the more mistakes he'll make and get caught at, making the GOP look worse and worse and the Democrats look better and better. Some Republicans would like to see Nixon out for the same reason.

The name of the game is politics. The Democrats want to make hay while Nixon's in office, but come an impeachment vote they'll vote him out in a minute.

And the game has become the talk of the town. At the dinner table, on the bus or in a bar, the most common topic of conversation is Nixon and his future.

But stop and think for a minute: you could be seeing history in the making, a presidential impeachment or resignation or suicide doesn't happen every day of the week.

Well, I always wanted to see history happen. Some people say Nixon's departure will damage the country permanently and the next day we'll be in World War III or a depression or the end of the world.

But no matter what they say, the country is in such bad shape right now that almost anything would help, especially getting Nixon out of office.

There you have it: impeachment, resignation or suicide. Take your pick. I wonder when someone will try assassination?

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