

If being stag is a drag, call Mike

FOR HIRE: Attractive, fun-loving companion for an evening on the town. Call 683-9238 before or after 6.

Students in need of an escort for that special occasion or business function can find such a service in the Eugene area.

"Mike's Universal Escort" officially opened for business last Friday and has already received more than a dozen calls from people interested in escorts.

The business is the team effort of brothers, Mike and Mark Cowles, who saw potential success in such a service earlier this year with the opening of the Eugene Centre downtown.

Company additions of a treasurer and two combination secretary/public relations representatives complete this enthusiastic group.

Prospective clients begin by selecting a few possible escorts from a photo album. Information, such as the escorts' personality and interests, are also provided.

As an extra protection for employees, the company does as much research about the client as is legally possible.

The escort available for the required evening is now "hired," and a meeting time is arranged. Clients pick up and drop off the escort at the business' location before midnight on Sunday through Thursday nights.

If the situation requires, arrangements for formal-wear rental are also made and are paid for by the client. Of course, the client can also choose to rent a limo for the evening — again at his or her expense.

In addition to paying for dinner, tickets and any cover charges, the client also pays an hourly fee of less than \$20. This charge is paid in advance and no refunds are given, even if the escort is not used.

As an extra help to the clients' pocketbook, certain local restaurants give discounts on meals associated with the escort

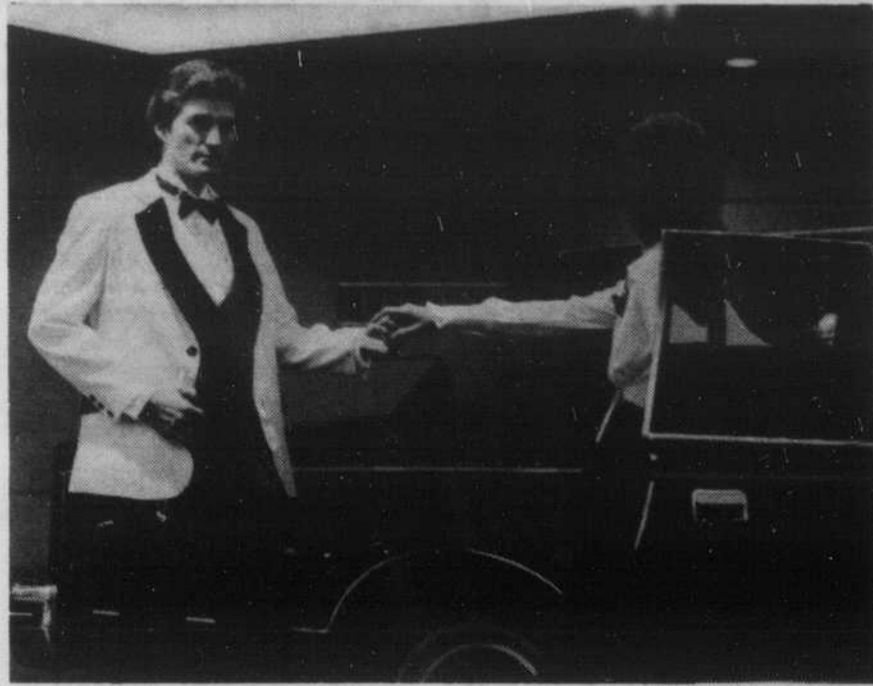


Photo by Dean Guernsey

A companion for an evening on the town is the specialty of Mike's escort service.

What does the client get for his or her money?

For starters, male escorts are expected "to treat the lady clients like queens," says Nicholas Stanley, treasurer. Female clients, though not expected to open doors for male clients, are to "act like ladies," he says.

Along with receiving warm and friendly companionship, clients are to be shown the best nightlife Eugene has to offer.

Not to be confused with a dating service, the service is "absolutely legal and above board," says Michelle Williams, secretary. Apparently the area's last such service, in operation about five years ago, "went bad" and disappeared, Williams says.

The company has between 50-60 escorts and is still hiring. The minimum age for escorting is 18, but there is no maximum age limit.

Hired escorts are paid \$5 an hour for their "labor." And though work for now is part time at best, employees like Michael Hoerber, who enjoy frequent danc-

ing and socializing, can't lose by escorting.

"Mike's Escort Service" is already making plans for a new office location locally, and will expand to Corvallis and Salem if business improves.

The business is located at 2300 Norkenzie St. No. 47 in Eugene. The number is 683-9238 and office hours are Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to midnight; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointments are taken after 8 p.m.

Story by Julie Shippen

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