

SECURITY TIPS 702 TRANSIT



AUGUST, 1995

cta



CTA BUSES AND TRAINS ARE SAFER THAN EVER!

Crime on CTA's buses and trains has declined for the past 8 years. In fact, less than 1% (**yes, one percent**) of all crime in the city happens on CTA.

The tips in this brochure can reduce the already slim chance of your being a victim. Help yourself---and help make CTA even safer! For additional copies of this brochure, call 836-7000 from area codes 312, 708 or 815.

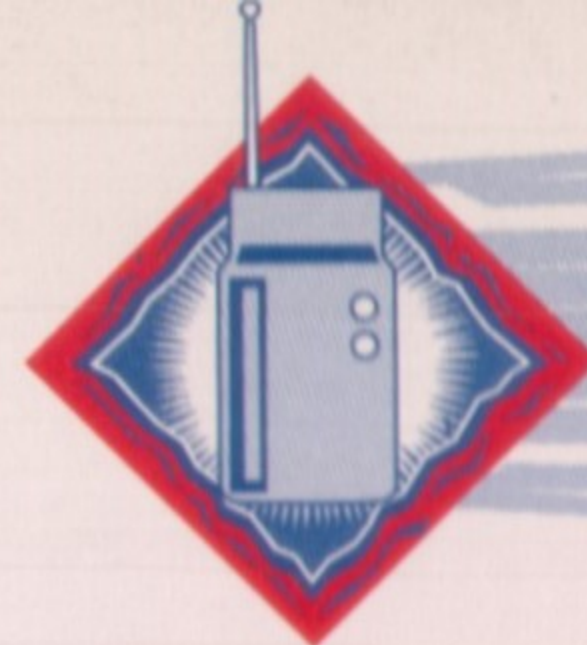


IN GENERAL

The first rule: *Stay alert!*

Relax and enjoy your ride, but do not fall asleep or become so distracted that your purse or packages become unguarded. Know your route ahead of time, and have your fare ready while boarding, so your attention is not distracted.

People-watching is one of the benefits of riding transit - but there are some types of behavior that should be watched with suspicion. Assume a purposeful manner ... if you look apprehensive, some people might be more inclined to take advantage of this.



HELP IS NEARBY ...

ON OUR BUSES

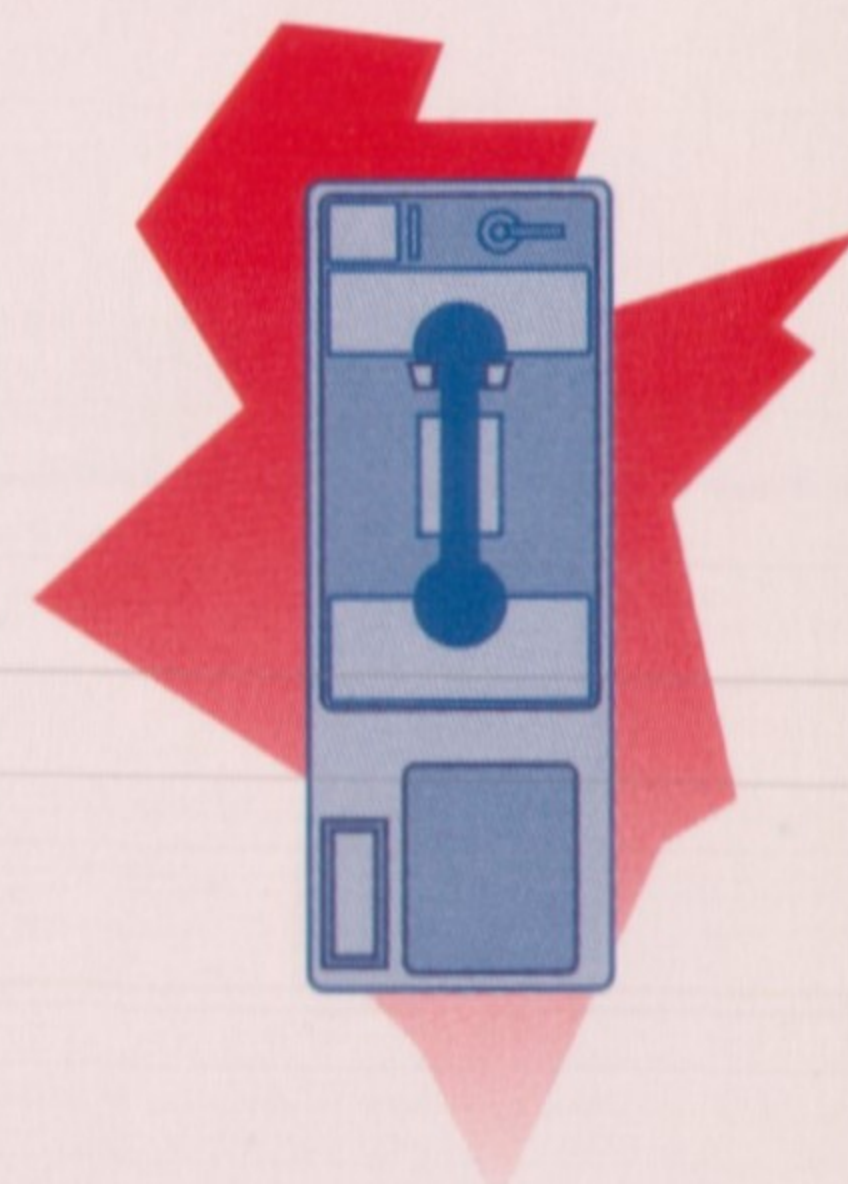
Every CTA bus is equipped with a two-way radio. Tell the bus operator if an incident is occurring. Buses are also equipped with alarms for emergencies.

AT OUR STATIONS

Station agents are on duty at most stations during day and evening hours. Subway stations have an agent whenever they are open. The agent's booth has a direct line to CTA's Control Center for the agent's use.

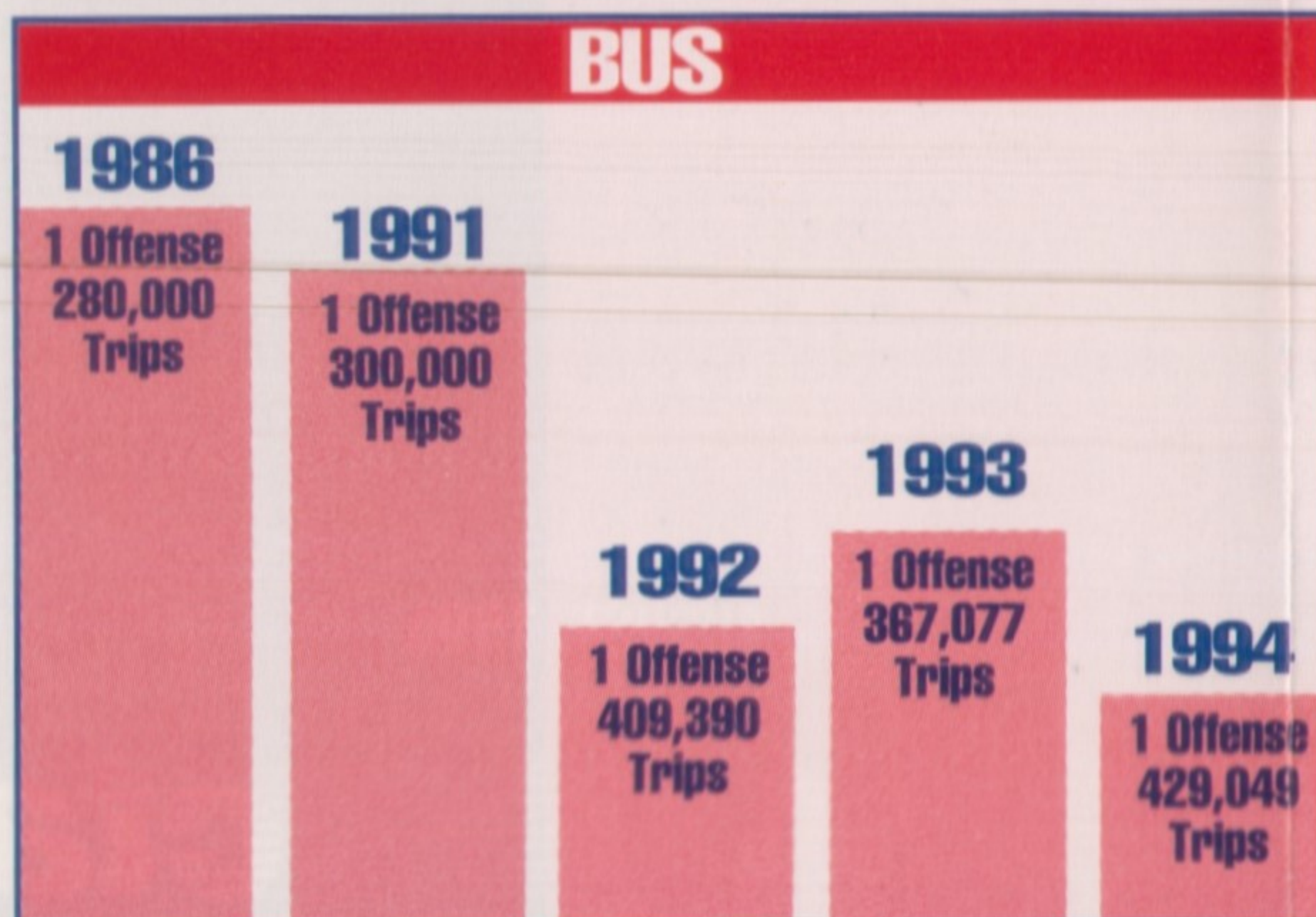
Public phones are located on every station platform and on most mezzanines. There is no charge to call for emergency services (911).

Supervisor booths are located on some platforms as well, and are usually staffed during daytime weekday hours.

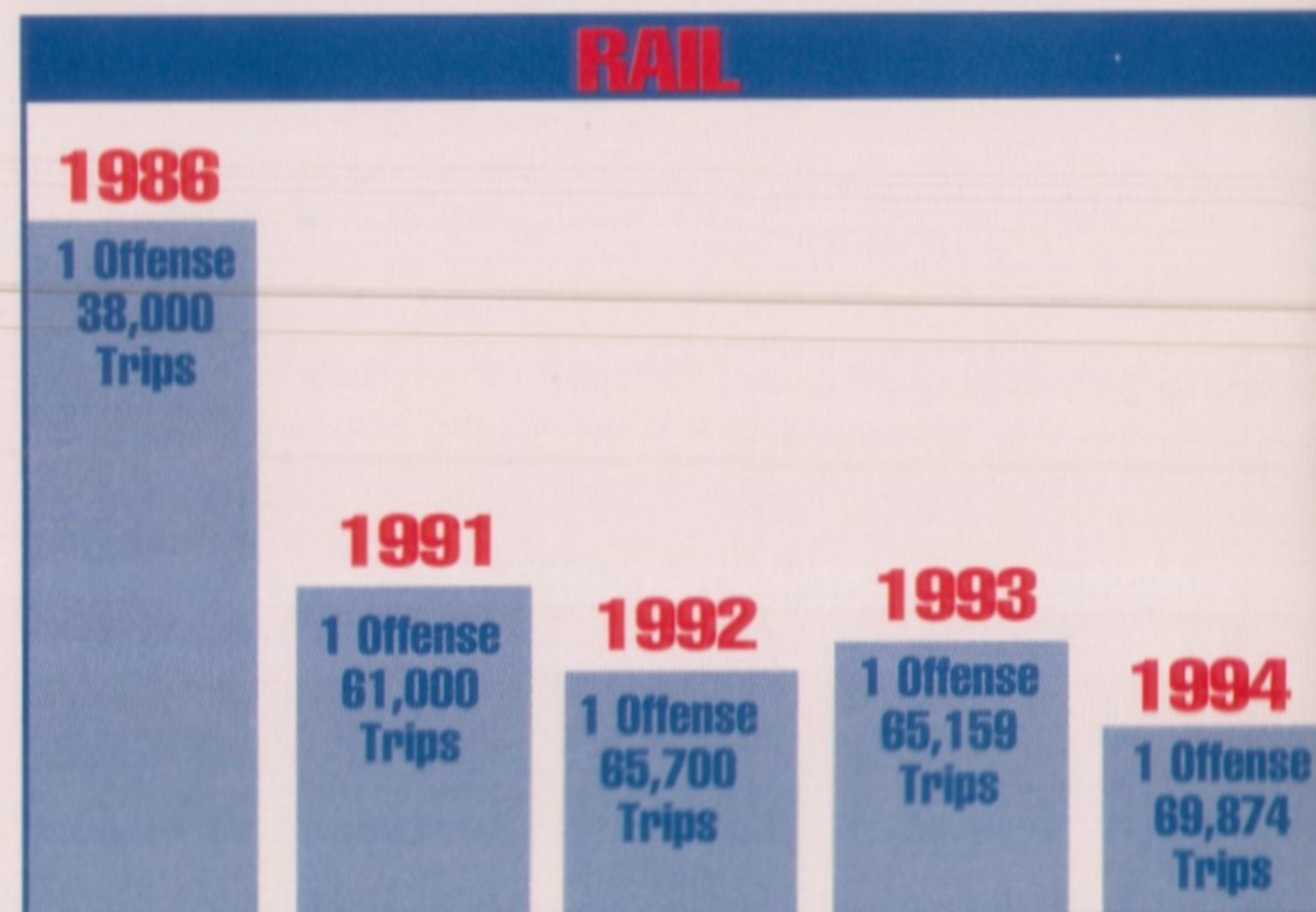


CRIMINAL OFFENSES ON CTA

BUS



RAIL



ON OUR TRAINS

CTA train personnel and supervisors carry two-way radios.

- Red, Blue and Purple line trains have a motorman and a conductor. The conductor is located in the middle of the train.



- Brown, Orange, and Yellow line train operators work the doors and make announcements. This person is always in the first car.



Trains on these lines also have a two-way communication system in each car that allows riders to talk directly with the operator. A button is located near one doorway, beneath a large blue and white sign.

This should ONLY be used for emergency situations.



THE MOST COMMON CRIMES

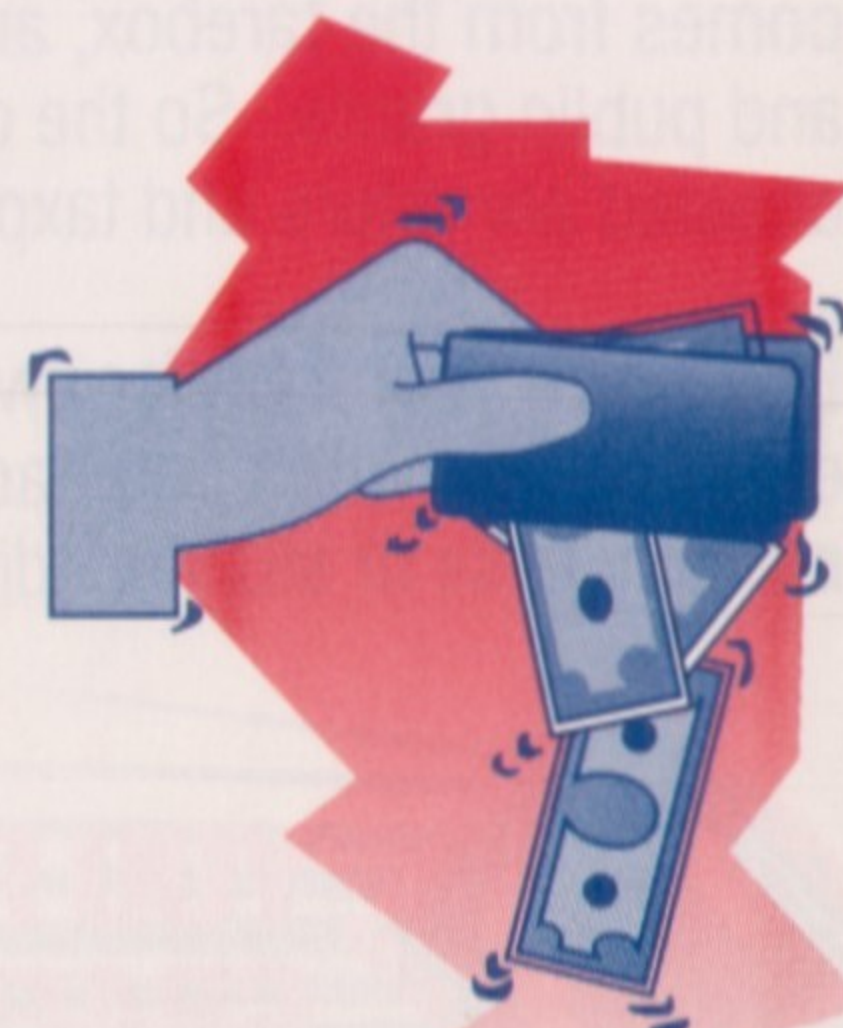
The most common crimes that occur in public places are pickpocketing, purse snatching, jewelry theft and gambling. Here are ways to protect yourself, and to prevent these crimes from occurring in the first place.

PICKPOCKETING

A skillful pickpocket, often working with an accomplice, can remove a wallet in a couple of seconds and be gone before you notice the loss.

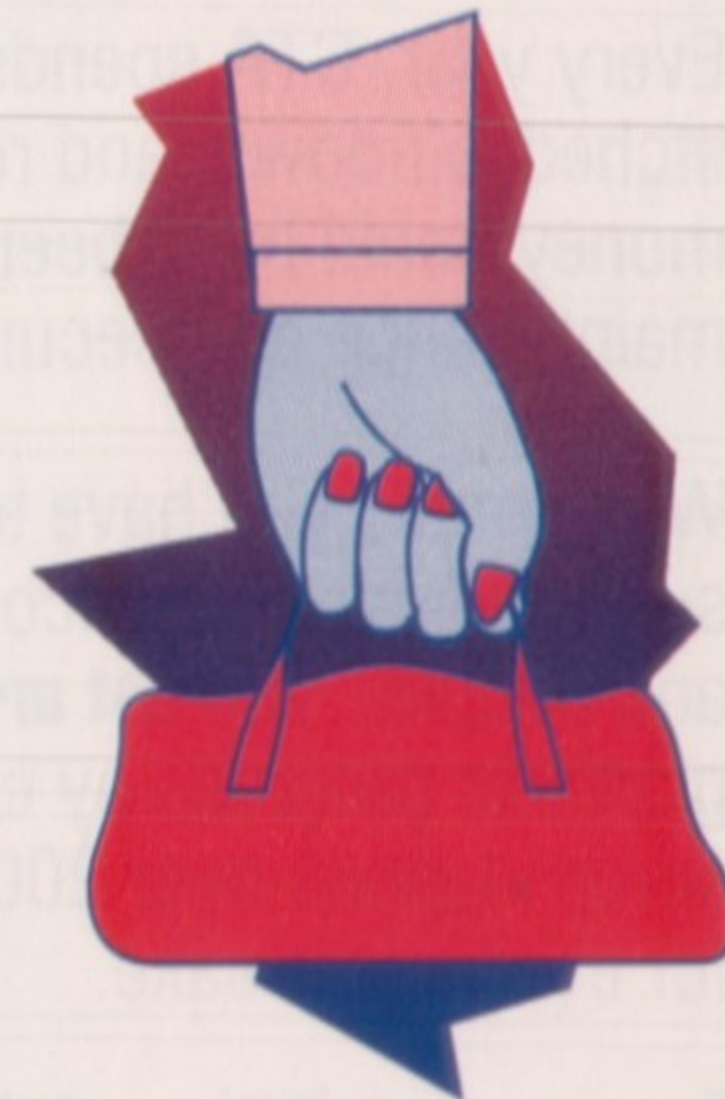
Men:

Do not carry **your wallet** in your back pocket—it's so easy to take out! Always keep your wallet in a front coat or pants pocket, buttoned or zipped if possible.



Women:

Make sure **your purse** is closed—pickpockets will try for the valuables inside the purse as well as the purse itself. Always know where your purse is—and hold on to it.

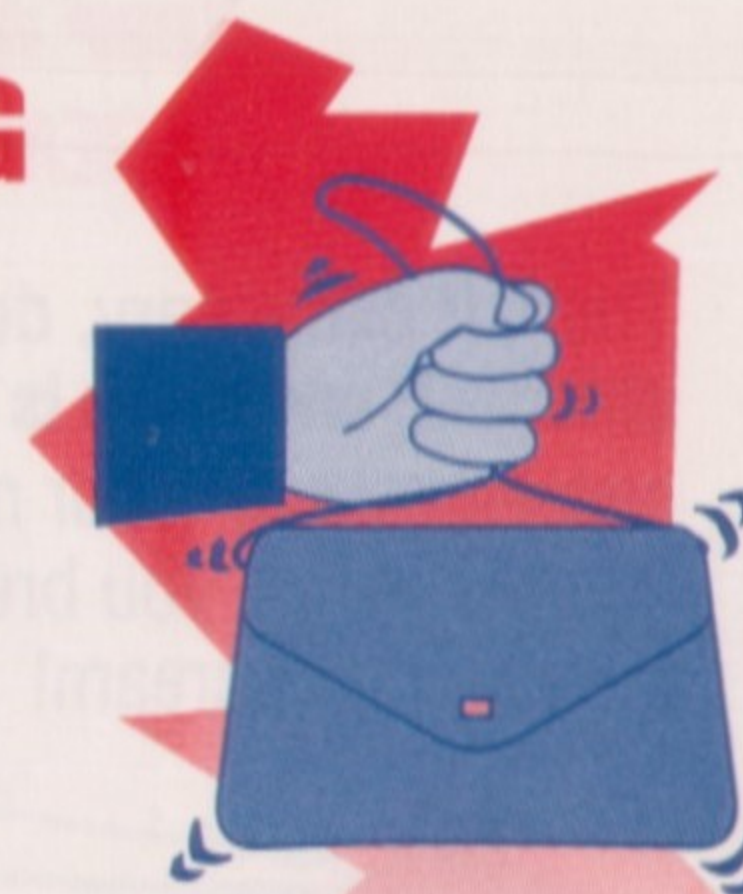


Everybody:

Beware of someone jostling you ... or blocking your path ... or loud arguments. These may all be ploys to distract your attention while another member of a pickpocket team collects your wallet, purse or package.

PURSE SNATCHING

When waiting for a bus or train, keep your purse in front of you, and hold it close to you with both hands. If a snatch is attempted, **do not** cling to the purse. Resistance could result in injury. *Do not wrap the strap around your neck.*



Do not carry anything more valuable than you can afford to lose. Keep your wallet and credit cards in separate places. Leave unnecessary credit cards at home. Hide your valuables from view.

JEWELRY THEFT

Do not display flashy jewelry, chains or rings. It only takes a moment to have these torn from you ... with a high risk of injury. Keep all jewelry **out of sight**, in an interior pocket.



GAMBLING

This is for Las Vegas ... not a CTA bus or train. The favorite con games are three card monte or the shell game. **The odds are 100 to 0 against you!**



Gamblers will entice you by shouting "Five will get you ten" or "ten will get you twenty." Often, they'll have a friend acting as a stranger who will "win" to encourage others to play.

The wad of money can be counterfeit or mostly blank paper.

Remember:

Gamblers don't give away money!



IF ATTACKED

**Your #1 defense:
SCREAM, SCREAM, SCREAM.**

Then, if necessary, defend yourself. **Each incident is different, and there is no "one response" that can be recommended.** Your main objective should be to avoid injury. When you break away, run toward light and people, and scream!



REPORT CRIME IMMEDIATELY

If a crime goes unreported, two bad things happen: **(1)** The assailant cannot be caught, and **(2)** It allows criminals to operate without interference. Some people say, "What's the use? They'll never catch him."

If everyone thought that way, no one would be caught! This attitude actually produces more crime by the same criminals. Whether you are a victim or a witness, call the police. ***Get involved!***



OBTAIN A DETAILED DESCRIPTION

If you are the victim of a crime, it is important to give as complete a description as possible, **as soon as possible.**

Make notes about the offender's height, weight, sex, age, race, distinguishing marks and clothing. Describe any weapon used and note in which hand it was held.

Write it down!
You may not remember it when you need it.
Get witnesses if possible.



YOU PAY FOR FARE EVASION

Fare cheating is a crime ... not only for the act itself, but in how it hurts other riders and our service in general. Money lost from fares not paid can only be made up by:

- fare increases • service cuts • not making improvements in service.

CTA doesn't make money; about 50% of our revenue comes from the farebox, and the rest from various taxes and public grants. So the only people that are being cheated are riders and taxpayers like yourself.

Don't give your transfer away ... why should someone else ride free when you had to pay? Don't loan your monthly pass or student riding permit to someone else.

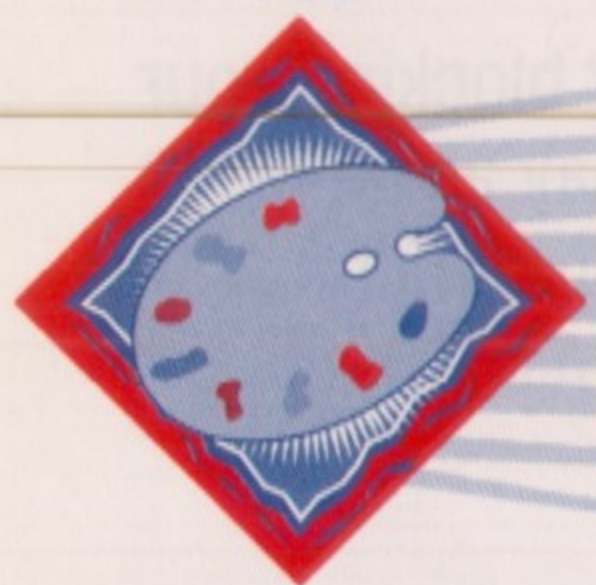


YOU PAY FOR GRAFFITI

Every year, CTA spends **millions** to remove graffiti and etched windows, and repair other vandalism. That money could have been used for better service, maintenance and security.

Why should you have to ride in uncomfortable surroundings that encourage disrespect for property and people? **It's not art ... it's vandalism.** Report acts of graffiti in progress by calling 911. We've repainted some stations over 200 times. It's time to stop this ... for everyone's sake.

To report graffiti or etching in progress, call 911. To report graffiti or etching which has already occurred, call 744-1234.



MURAL ARTIST PROGRAM

For the past two years, CTA Marketing has sponsored a "mural artist" contest that has redirected "taggers" to create legitimate murals on permission walls throughout our system. These efforts, along with strict police enforcement and diligent maintenance, have resulted in a major decline of graffiti.



PEDDLERS AND PANHANDLERS ARE PROHIBITED!

The **selling of newspapers** or any other items by peddlers on CTA property **is illegal** under City Ordinance 93-191 section 1. This also applies to **begging or soliciting for donations**. Persons violating this ordinance can be arrested.

CTA riders have the right to a quiet ride, without being bothered by intrusions. Let the conductor, train operator, or station agent know about unauthorized peddlers.

Most importantly, **don't buy from peddlers or give money to panhandlers**, as this only encourages unauthorized behavior.



SAFETY AND CIVILITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Safety from crime involves responsible behavior by all riders. Do not invite crime by your actions, and report crime when it does occur. Remember, crimes are committed by a very small percentage of CTA riders.

Don't let them ruin it for the rest of us!

Civility means appropriate behavior in a public place, such as at our stations or on our vehicles. We all know it's against the law to smoke, litter, or play radios without earphones on CTA.

But there's more to civility than that ... such as avoiding loud behavior, horseplay, fighting, sprawling over seats, and in general bothering other riders.

CTA gives you the freedom to think, read, talk, listen, and watch the passing scene. **Let everyone enjoy this!**

