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ACQUISITIONS

For your personal  
protection

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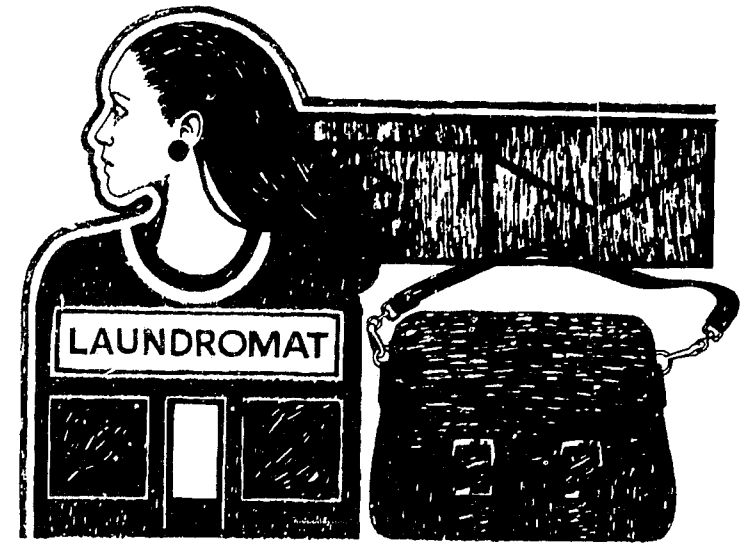
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- Stay away from deserted laundromats or apartment house laundry rooms at night; be cautious even in the daytime.

- Be alert in crowds, where pickpockets do their best work.

- The safest place for a man to carry his wallet is in an inside or front pocket.

- When you take out your wallet, don't reveal your money. Don't flash your cash for fun, either.

- A woman should carry her handbag next to her body, with the flap or clasp toward her.

- Don't leave your purse on a store counter or set it on the floor in restrooms, theaters, restaurants, or other public places.

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*This booklet was developed by the Minnesota Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control and was funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.*

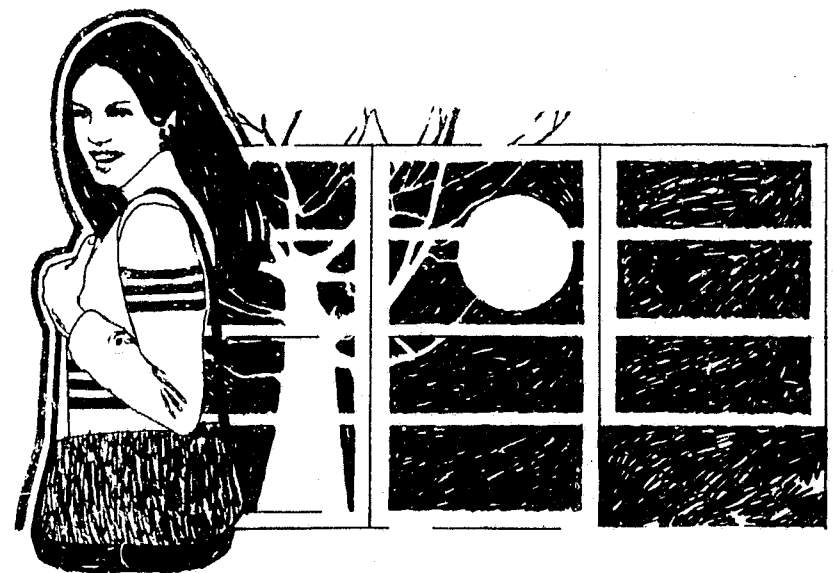
# In Your Car

- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up most of the way.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.
- If someone tries to break into your car, honk your horn repeatedly.
- If you are being followed, don't drive directly home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, hospital emergency entrance, all-night restaurant or other safe place.



Rape, robbery, purse snatching, mugging...no one wants to be the victim of such a crime. We all think about the possibility, but there's no need to be tormented by it. Crimes of violence occur *least* often. In the United States, only 9% of the crimes reported involve a confrontation that could lead to personal injury. In other words, you're much more likely to have your property stolen than your life threatened.

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity. A dangling handbag invites a purse snatcher. An unlocked window invites an intruder. If you eliminate the opportunity, you could avoid the crime. Here's how:



# Out Alone

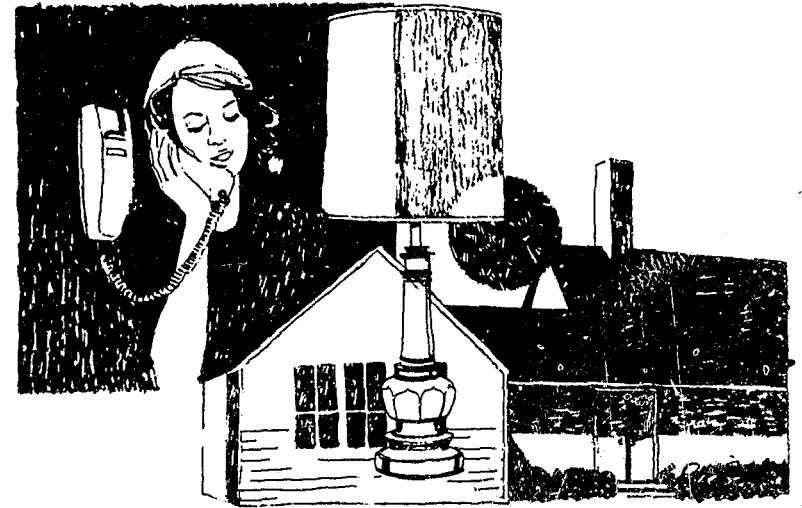
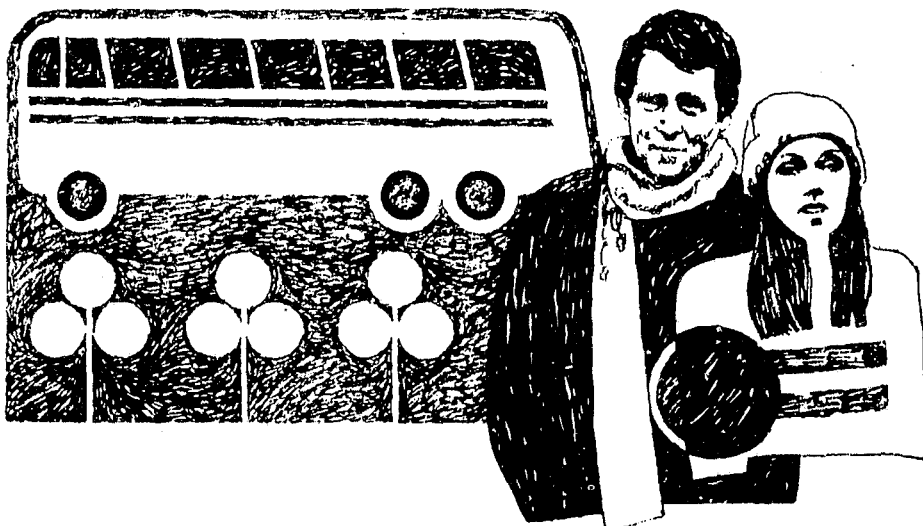
- At night, try to stay on well-lighted streets; avoid doorways, shrubbery, dark shadows near buildings, and other potential hiding places.

- If possible, walk with a friend.

- Better yet, take a bus. If there are few people on board, sit near the driver.

- In a cab or friend's car, ask the driver to wait until you signal you are safely inside your house.

- Don't be a hitchhiker.



- Always check the I.D. of any repairman, salesman or policeman who wishes to come inside.

- Instruct children and babysitters not to give out any information about who is home, who is out and for how long.

- If you suspect your home has been broken into, don't go in or call out. Call the police from a neighbor's.

- Don't leave your keys hidden outside. They're too easily found.

- Always lock your doors and windows, draw your shades at night and leave a few lights on.

# In Trouble

- If a robber demands your valuables, give them up! Your money or your jewelry is not worth risking injury or your life.

- Don't carry a gun or any weapon. It can easily be turned against you.

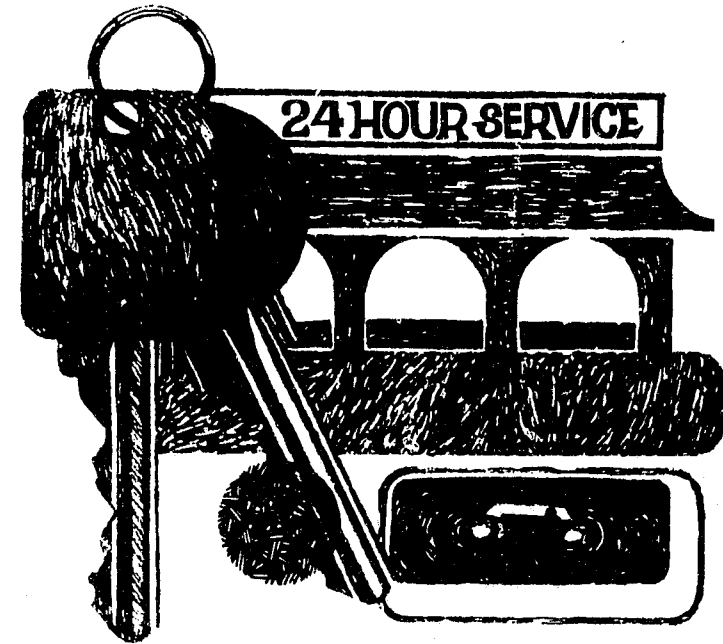
- Be selective about new acquaintances; don't *invite* a forcible sexual encounter.

- If you are confronted by a rapist, stay calm and maximize your chances for escape. *Think* through what you will do.

- You should not *immediately* try to fight back. Chances are, your attacker has the advantage.

- Try to stay calm and take stock of the situation.

- You should never resist if your attacker has a weapon.



- You should not travel at night when you know you have car trouble or are low on gas.

- Look for a well-lighted parking place and lock up.

- If you must leave your key with a parking attendant, leave only your car key, never the keys to your house. These can be duplicated while you're gone.

- Before getting into your car, check the trunk, back seat and floors for someone hiding there.

# At Home

- A woman living alone should use only her first initial and last name in the phone book and on the mailbox.

- Be cautious around elevators; if you are at all suspicious of another passenger, wait for the next car.

- When changing addresses, change your locks, too. Install a deadbolt, security chain, peephole.



- Screaming is likely to scare him off if there's someone nearby to hear you.

- Don't depend on talking your way out, but *seeming* to cooperate with your attacker may give you the time you need to devise a means of escape.

- If you're convinced your life is in danger, strike when your attacker is least expecting it. Surprise is essential.

- Write down everything you can remember about your assailant; call the police right away.

- Do not change your clothing, bathe or apply any medication. Although this would be your natural reaction, don't do it. The physical evidence will be important in the prosecution of the attacker.

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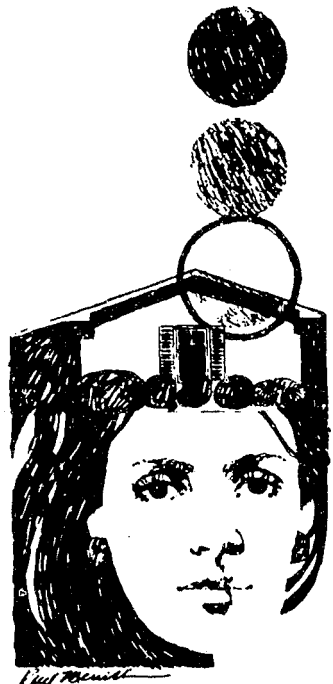


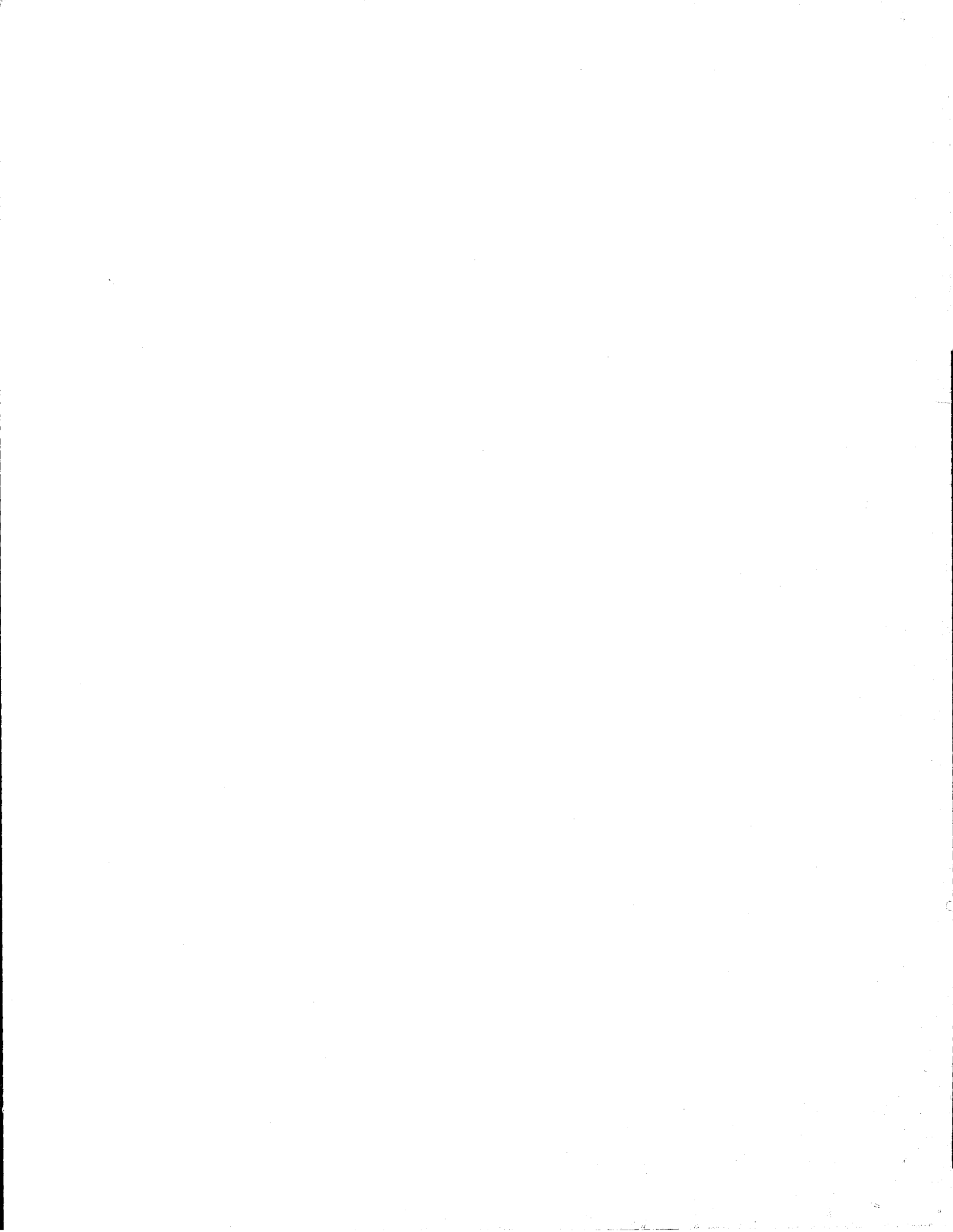
THIRD CLASS

## REMEMBER,

if you eliminate the opportunity,  
you could avoid the crime. If  
possible, take the safest route  
when walking at night. Keep  
your home locked when you're  
not there—and when you are.  
Carry your money wisely. And  
if you are threatened, don't panic.  
Use your head.

For more information, talk with  
your police or sheriff.







**END**