



**The  
Perfect Gift  
for the  
Special People  
In Your Life!**

**GIFT  
CERTIFICATES**

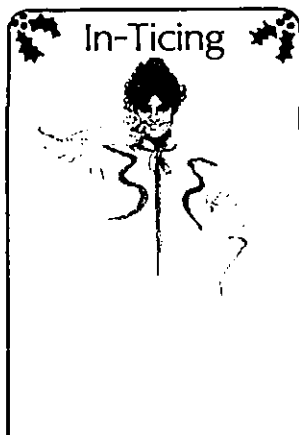
\$1 or \$5  
denominations

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## 'Tis the season For pickpockets and thieves

For many shoppers, this Christmas holiday will become a debt-deluged New Year.

But for those who fall victim to thieves who lurk like Grinches behind street corner Santas and department store tinsel, the price is even higher.

Streets crowded with Christmas sight-seers and stores filled with bustling shoppers are ideal settings for skilled pickpockets and purse snatchers. Here are some tips for safe and pleasant gift buying from Pinkerton's, an independent security and private investigation firm:

- Women should carry pocketbooks securely under their arms.
- Avoid wearing gold-chain necklaces while shopping or commuting on buses and subways.
- In stores, women should not set down pocketbooks on a counter while they examine purchases or talk with a sales clerk. One moment's inattention and a purse can be stolen, or a wallet or cash removed by a thief.
- Men should avoid carrying wallets in hip pockets. Place them in inside pockets of suit coats.
- While walking on the street or in a store, shoppers should be wary of being jostled suddenly by an apparent passerby. If that happens, the shopper should check

immediately to make sure he still has his pocketbook or wallet.

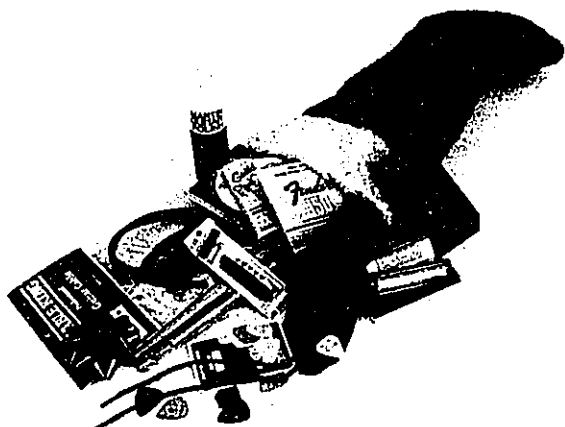
For shoppers who plan to make purchases on credit cards only, a stolen purse or wallet can be just the beginning of holiday woes. The thief may be able to fraudulently use the card to charge hundreds of dollars of merchandise.

Here are some tips from Jonna LaToure, a credit card product manager for a savings and loan association, to minimize those holiday woes:

- Carry only the credit cards you'll be using on a specific shopping trip.
- Make an inventory of all your credit card numbers and the phone numbers to call for lost cards. Keep the list in a safe place — and keep it updated. It can save time when you have to report stolen or lost cards.
- Make sure your credit card is returned with your purchase.
- Retain your credit card receipts because (a) they can be compared to the charges on your monthly statement and (b) you can avoid fraudulent use of the card.

Another area of credit card fraud is telephone solicitations. So be cautious in giving your credit card number over the phone.

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