

# SOUND OFF

“...the snarky, snotty observations by Metra’s customers about fellow commuters ... offer some of the best free entertainment around.” - SouthtownStar, March 13, 2009

## Alert! Alert!

Please alert fellow ignorant riders that it is very rude to sit next to a person quietly reading and then proceed to yammer on your phone, talk to the person next to you, or loudly slurp your coffee.

Yes, all of these have happened to me and I have actually excused myself to get up and stand or find another seat rather than put up with their rudeness.

Melissa

*We’ve been alerting people about rude behavior for more than 25 years now. As Cecil Adams says in The Straight Dope, it’s taking longer than we thought.*

## Seat-hogging part 222

I’d like to offer another perspective to Karen’s concern about aisle-seat-sitters. Although some might use this as a seat-hogging tactic, I can tell you that I choose the aisle for other reasons. On countless previous occasions I have been trapped at a window seat by an aisle-seat sleeper who is difficult to wake up, or someone who is hesitant to step into a crowded aisle (allowing me to get out at my stop), or a grouch who is visibly disgruntled for having to put away their newspaper, iPad, laptop, breakfast, makeup, etc., when I choose to get up. I will ALWAYS willingly avail the window seat to anyone who wants it. Doing so also allows me the ability to get up and out whenever I may have to step into the vestibule of the Quiet Car to take a phone call.

Steve

For BNSF rider Karen – and “Sound Off” – taking an aisle seat is not “just another variation



of the ole’ seat-hogging theme.” Passengers often seek aisle seats for the same reasons they seek them on planes, e.g., more room for elbows and crossed legs. Being able to choose an aisle (or window) seat is one reward for boarding early.

Jeffrey

*We heard from a handful of riders who also prefer the aisle seat for similar reasons. As long as they willingly move for someone wanting to sit down in the window seat, and don’t block the window seat with their belongings, the Court of Seat Sitting hereby declares the practice acceptable. But don’t do it just to have two seats.*

## For the birds

I thought I’d seen it all. To the filthy man in the gray baseball cap that says “CHIEF” over skull & crossbones on the Metra Electric out of Millennium Station: to sit there and chew sunflower seeds like a cow is one thing (sickening to watch). But do we have to watch you spit the casings into a paper cup like you were chewing tobacco? I sat upstairs ABOVE you get-

ting a bird’s-eye view of the disgusting contents of your cup, not to mention seeing you spit not once, not twice, but like 40 times during the ride. The train is packed moron, get it together ‘Mr. Manners!’ Cannot believe you wouldn’t be self-conscious of what all others around you are thinking of you. You just exited at Ashland Avenue. (Here’s a hint: I’m the one that yelled out, “Don’t forget to take your SPIT CUP with you, sicko!”) Take it home to your family; they HAVE to deal with you. We shouldn’t have to. Seriously... who raised you?

Leanne

*Leanne conveniently attached a photo “for those at Metra who have already eaten.” We are using a different one that’s not so icky.*

## Get a room

I cannot even believe that as an adult I am writing about PDA: Public Display of Affection. This was the term we used in high school when couples were displaying too much love to one another between classes. I am a regular on the BNSF. My friends

and I cringe whenever we see a certain couple coming. They sit in a four-seater, put their feet on the seat (once when told by a conductor not to do so, the man took off his shoe and then put his dirty sock on the seat – gross), and the worst part of it all is that they openly display affection to one another by necking, kissing, and putting hands where they should not go in public. At first, we all assumed they were having an affair, but now we actually think they are married (they get off at the middle stop and get in the same car). I think it is wonderful that at their age they have such a robust marriage, but I would prefer them keeping it in the bedroom. I don’t enjoy being totally uncomfortable on my train ride home.

Danielle

*You could look on the bright side and think about the free show they are providing...*

## Smelly thoughts

Why do people put on so much cologne and perfume that the rest of us gag and our eyes water all the way to downtown? Last week a pregnant woman threw up from the perfume smell, and a guy had an asthma attack. This morning two women sat in front of me tossing their hair around and reeking of two different kinds of perfume. The woman next to me had to cover her face with her scarf. I wished I could do the same. Oh, and thanks for the hair that wafted back on the perfume smog cloud and landed on my coffee cup.

Curtis

*In case of emergency, you are authorized to use this newsletter as a fan.*