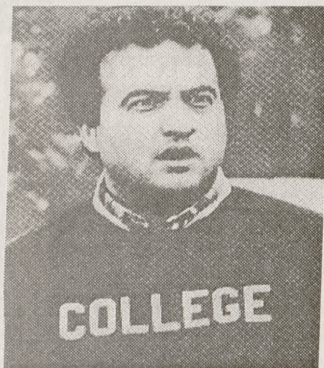
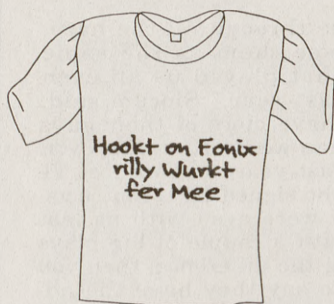


Inspirations

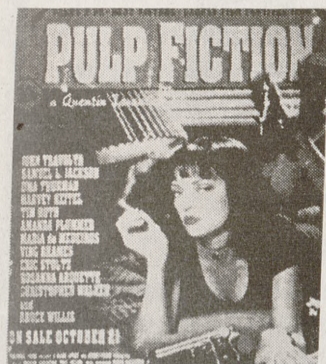


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Bumper stickers need a '90s edge

DAVID WINDER
SPORTSWRITER



While I was waiting at one of the infinite number of traffic lights on Texas Avenue, a station wagon in the lane next to me caught my eye. The area from the top of the back windshield to the bottom of the car was covered in bumper stickers. Some had been worn away, but the ones with intact messages were quite humorous.

Every type of sticker from the dirty to the moronic to the weird was represented. But one sticker could fit only into the boring category. Right there between "My kid can beat up your honor student" and "My gun has killed one person less than Ted Kennedy," was a sticker that simply said "Houston Astros." This made me realize that most sports-related bumper stickers are about as funny as a Sylvester Stallone comedy. They

contain no creativity, no clever puns and nonstop action (Wait, that's Stallone movies only). Most sports stickers simply state the team's name and maybe the year. If they are really clever, they say things like "Houston Rockets: Back-to-Back World Champions." They may even use different colors if they want to get really zany.

It is time for sports bumper stickers to move into the 1990s.

Bumper stickers for Major League Baseball fans
"Baseball: The game of unlimited drug suspensions."
"Cal Ripken has now scratched himself in 1,123 straight games."
"Hey Bagwell, ever thought about dodging a pitch?"
"Baseball: It might be boring, but it's a fun kind of boring."

Bumper stickers for fans of the Houston Oilers
"Who owns the worst rugs in Houston? The Astrodome and Bud Adams."
"Never thought I would miss Jerry Glanville."
"Latest Nashville hit song: My wife left me and the Oilers are moving to town."

Bumper stickers for Peter Neely fans
"I thought he was fighting Cely Tyson."
"He might be stupid, but at least he's rich."
"What in the hell was I thinking?"
"He's like an Irish Rocky who can't box."

Bumper stickers for fans of the National Basketball Association
"Please don't hit me, Mr. Maxwell."
"Remember kids, always wear your hard hats when the Magic are shooting free throws."
"Wow, I've never seen one of those pierced before, Mr. Rodman."

Bumper stickers for fans of the Dallas Cowboys.
"Pepsi. The choice of a greedy owner."
"My money and my child's college tuition both go toward season tickets."
"Hey Deion, you like movies? Three words, Shaft the Revenge."
"Tom, Jimmy and Barry. They stare, the hair and the prayer."

Southwest Conference Football FLASHBACK



1916

Conference Champion: Texas 5-1 SWC record, 7-2 overall

Texas A&M's finish: SWC: 2-1 (tied for third); 6-3 overall

Player of the Year: Maxey Hart, split end, Texas

Stat of the Year: In 10 games, Baylor allowed only 27 points.

Game of the Year: Rice 146, SMU 3


Astros silence Braves, 2-0

ATLANTA (AP) — Shane Reynolds allowed six hits over eight innings Wednesday night and the Houston Astros won their second straight game after losing a team-record 11, beating the Atlanta Braves 2-0.

Reynolds (9-9) snapped a two-game losing streak, striking out five and walking two. Jeff Tabaka and Todd Jones worked the ninth with Jones getting the last out for his 13th save.

The Astros started the night one-half game behind the Colorado Rockies in the wild-card race.

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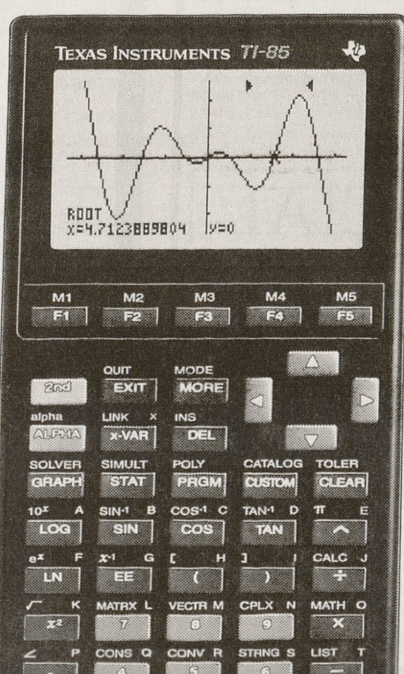
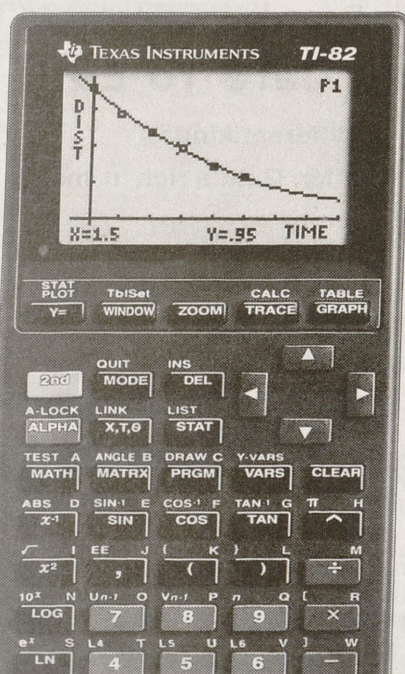
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