

Baseball fans, quit playing games in the stands!

Once upon a time, back in the Big Town, John Q. Public and his two sons, Jimmy and Joey Public, were getting ready to go to the ballpark. Now Mr. Public was an honest, hardworking man who loved baseball. He also liked to go to baseball games well-prepared. So he checked with his sons to see if they had everything.

"Got the picnic lunch, Joey?"
 Joey gave the affirmative.
 "How about your gloves, for catching foul balls?"
 "Yep I got those, Dad." This from Jimmy.
 "And how about our bag full of trash?"
 "Yes sir" the sons chorused.

"Good," said their father. "We've got seats right near third base, so we can hit either the third base or home plate umpire. Also, if the other team's third baseman gives us any trouble, we can get him. And with your arm



Jeff Young
 Asst' Sports Editor

Joey, you should be able to nail their left fielder if need be.

Am I going crazy, or is all this really happening? From the windy April days to these cool October nights, fans all over the country have been (and are still) giving the old

pitching arm a workout. That's it, step right up folks! For only two dollars, you get a bleacher seat and a free shot at Pete Rose!

Now I'm not sure what I think of Pete Rose myself, but I'll be a horse's tail if my bouncing cans off his head would make any great improvements on the situation. If there's one thing that seems to be disturbing fans these days, it's the manner in which their beloved stars are holding out for more money each year, trying to get it while they can. But it's getting damn hard to blame the players the way the fans are shaving time off their life expectancies.

The citizens of Pittsburgh had a lovely evening two nights ago when their darling Pirates clinched the National League East title in a dramatic, come-from-behind fashion. But what had to be one of the most exciting games in an outstanding pennant race was stifled on several occasions when the spectators could no longer

maintain their passive roles.

Umpires' calls and events that in general didn't facilitate the Buccos' going prompted these actions, which reached a peak in the ninth inning when somebody didn't miss Chicago's Jose Cardenal by much.

The Cubs walked off the field and it took repeated public announcements and an appearance by Pittsburgh manager Danny Murtaugh to calm the fans down. They were having so much fun. They nearly threw their division title away.

Long, long ago, man was a tired and tense guy. I mean, if you had to chase your food and your wife around all the time, you'd be tired and tense too. Anyway, as a means of relief and relaxation, he invented games.

Man's come a long way, but he's still tired and tense a lot of the time. So he continues to lean on those games for diversion. But now, there are those who play the games so well they get paid to do so, while the less fortunate must learn to relax by watching them.

The point of essence here is that those who are playing for pay have become bona fide entertainers. But look at man's other forms of entertainment. Does he throw a bottle at the television if he doesn't like the show, or at the deer that he missed with his rifle? Would it help?

Now the Pirates must play the Los Angeles Dodgers for the NL championship, and here's hoping that everyone on the field has lots of insurance. And people wonder why baseball players are wearing batting helmets in the field.

Oh yeah, all you jolly souls that threw oranges out at Beaver Stadium last year better wake up too. By the way, what do you think you'll throw this year?

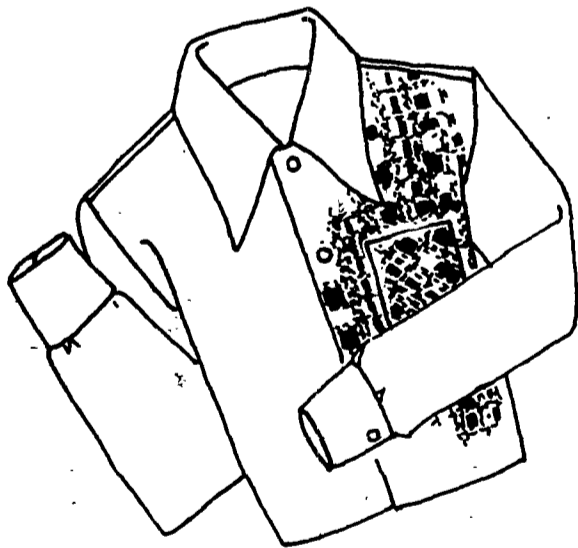
Pirate-Dodger starters

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Los Angeles Dodger Manager Tommorrow Don Sutton, 19-9, will go to the mound for the Dodgers against Jerry Reuss, 16-11. Sunday will see Andy Messersmith, 20-6, opposing Pittsburgh's Jim Rooker, 15-11.



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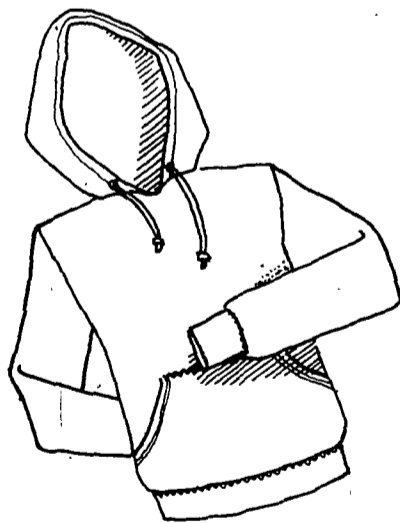
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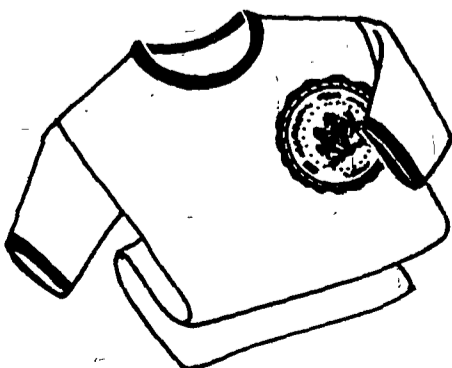
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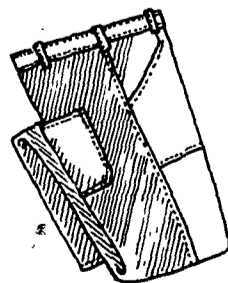
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