

# Bumper stickers still decorating the backs of people's cars

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Long before "Mother-In-Law in Trunk" signs were invented, a long drive to work or a "Sunday Spin" was a calm, almost hypnotic experience—only occasionally interrupted by a distracting parking permit or Triple-A sticker on another vehicle.

Lately, though, the idea of an "as is" automobile is becoming obsolete and many drivers seem compelled to bombard their vehicles with crazy bumper stickers, signs hanging in rear windows, or reconstructed lettering on the back of their trucks, causing others to judge, even criticize them.

Usually, bumper stickers containing financial statements are found on cars over five years old. Many popular ones include, "Hit Me-I Need the Money," "Don't laugh-It's Paid For," and "I Owe, I Owe, So Off to Work I Go." Maybe these people expect a philanthropist to pull them over and hand them a donation.

Some other stickers, not claiming a monetary need, are filled with statements featuring "I" and a heart, symbolizing the word, "love." There are too many "I (heart) Unicorns," "I (heart) Mike," and "I (heart) my Dog" stickers to go around. Does the woman with "I (heart) my Husband" on the back her car expect a congratulations from passers-by?

And what are all those people who "heart" NY doing in Las Vegas? Many of these stickers are so confusing, they sometimes cause drivers, contemplating their meaning, to miss a turn or forget their destination.

It is difficult to forget how to drive, though, with all of the "Buckle Up" yellow plastic signs hanging in the back of car windows. Other distracting signs are "Baby on Board," "Baby I'm Bored," and "Student Driver on Board."

Maybe the owners of "Born to Rock" signs were

first told so by the doctors who delivered them, then had it printed on their birth certificates, and finally placed on display in their cars. Would the "Musicians on

Board" like those who share the road with them to sing as they pass?

Toyota truck owners do not have to put anything in their windows to make a

statement. They just enjoy deciding what words can be made by deleting certain letters in the word, "Toyota," on the back of their trucks. Some, usually

meaningless, "words" constructed include, "Yo," "Yot," and "Toy." The most challenging is deciding whether the truck displaying "Toot" is refer-

ing to the sound of its horn or the street name for cocaine. Whatever these statements mean, it seems that people are just trying to be heard.






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