

**Still More Uses For Dead Volkers  
And Other Things  
(As Well As Other Stuff)**



**Still More Uses For Dead Volkers  
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(As Well As Other Stuff)**

**by  
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A Gift To Richard V. Nawrocki  
On His Thirty-Fifth Birthday

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# Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>v</b>
Terminals . . . . .	v
School Lunches . . . . .	v
Additions To the Document . . . . .	vi
<b>1 Uses for Old, Dead Volklers from 1994</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 The Best of the Past</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1 The 1988 List . . . . .	19
2.2 The 1989 List . . . . .	21
<b>3 Uses for Unwanted School Lunches</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>4 Volklers on the Internet</b>	<b>33</b>
4.1 Yes, Virginia, There Is A Mr. Volker and a Mr. Craig . . . . .	33
4.2 On the Difficulties Of Using Volklers . . . . .	33
4.3 Other Volker-Craig Related Web Sites Seen . . . . .	35
4.4 What I Conclude . . . . .	35
<b>5 Help! Even Newer Uses for Dead Volklers!</b>	<b>37</b>
5.1 Yahoo! More Uses Found! . . . . .	37
5.2 Other Random Ruminations . . . . .	37
<b>A Detailed Explanations for Dead Volklers</b>	<b>39</b>
A.1 The Acceleration of Gravity . . . . .	39
A.2 Anti-Stealth Devices . . . . .	39
A.3 Babylon 5 . . . . .	39
A.4 George Bailey's Information Terminal . . . . .	39
A.5 Christmas Tree Stands . . . . .	40
A.6 Curing Tanks . . . . .	40
A.7 Foodarackacycle . . . . .	40
A.8 Generic Terminals . . . . .	40
A.9 Grunge Rock Groups . . . . .	40
A.10 High-Tech Terminals for Fundamentalists . . . . .	42
A.11 The M31 Scale Artillery Trainer . . . . .	42
A.12 Marijuana Bong . . . . .	42
A.13 Micro-Mutts . . . . .	42
A.14 NCO Justice . . . . .	42
A.15 Picture Cube . . . . .	43
A.16 Picture Frame . . . . .	43

A.17 Pledge Items . . . . .	43
A.18 Retarded Bombs . . . . .	43
A.19 RFD Mailbox Bases . . . . .	43
A.20 SAC Brownies . . . . .	45
A.21 SAC Pizza . . . . .	45
A.22 Stringer Blocks For Wood . . . . .	45
A.23 Swell Boxes . . . . .	46
A.24 TelePrompTer Display . . . . .	46
A.25 Thrust Reversers . . . . .	46
A.26 Turbofan blow-in doors . . . . .	46
A.27 The University Bomber . . . . .	47
A.28 VASI . . . . .	47
A.29 Weapons Discharge Point . . . . .	47
A.30 Wonder Terminals For the Blind . . . . .	49
A.31 Other Uses for Dead Volkens . . . . .	49
<b>B Detailed Uses for Unwanted School Lunches</b>	<b>51</b>
B.1 Crayon Replacements . . . . .	51
B.2 Ondol Heating Systems . . . . .	51
B.3 Pig Food . . . . .	51
B.4 Power Supply Replacement . . . . .	52
<b>C Help! New Detailed Explanations for Dead Volkens</b>	<b>53</b>
C.1 Antenna Base . . . . .	53
C.2 Materials Hopper . . . . .	53
<b>D Is Rich Misguided?</b>	<b>57</b>
D.1 Preserving the Volker-Craig . . . . .	57
D.2 Rivina Normal Day . . . . .	57
D.2.1 On Smaller Bulletin Board Systems . . . . .	57
D.2.2 Graduating to Timesharing Systems . . . . .	60
D.3 Getting Back To Normal . . . . .	62
D.4 The Queen of Sheba . . . . .	70
D.5 “You Should See Him In Stories!” . . . . .	70
D.6 Rivina’s Terminal of Choice . . . . .	70
D.7 Rich Gets Stuffed With C0ntessa . . . . .	74
<b>E Perl Scripts Used</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>77</b>

# List of Figures

5.1	Talking About Dead Volkers . . . . .	38
A.1	Christmas Tree Stand Using a Dead Volker . . . . .	41
A.2	Generic Volker Packaging . . . . .	41
A.3	RFD Mailbox Base Using a Dead Volker . . . . .	44
A.4	Using a Dead Volker as a Wood Stringer . . . . .	45
A.5	Using a Volker as a Thrust Reverser . . . . .	46
A.6	Blow-in Doors on a Turbofan Engine . . . . .	47
A.7	Potential VASI Layout on a Non-precision Instrument Runway . . . . .	48
A.8	Potential VASI Layout With a Volker on a Visual Runway . . . . .	48
C.1	Antenna Base Using a Dead Volker . . . . .	54
C.2	Volker Used As Materials Hopper In Injection Molding . . . . .	55
D.1	The Society to Keep and Preserve Volker-Craigs . . . . .	58
D.2	Rivina Normal Day on The Dark Side BBS Warning Order . . . . .	59
D.3	Rivina Normal Day on The Dark Side BBS . . . . .	60
D.4	Rivina Normal Day on TresAngle BBS Warning Order . . . . .	61
D.5	Rivina Normal Day on TresAngle BBS . . . . .	62
D.6	Rivina Reverts To His Usual Self on TresAngle BBS . . . . .	63
D.7	A Curtis Strange Day Post . . . . .	64
D.8	Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder . . . . .	64
D.9	Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder . . . . .	65
D.10	Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder . . . . .	65
D.11	Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder . . . . .	66
D.12	Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder . . . . .	66
D.13	Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder, Part 2 . . . . .	67
D.14	Policies Regarding Future Rivina Normal Days on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard . . . . .	68
D.15	Getting Gleepy To Do a Curtis Strange Day . . . . .	68
D.16	Example of Rivina's Normal Post Style Praising Volkers . . . . .	69
D.17	The Queen Of Sheba Warning Order . . . . .	70
D.18	The Queen Of Sheba Posting . . . . .	71
D.19	The Queen Of Sheba Retraction . . . . .	72
D.20	Rivina Uses EVE on a VT-320 Terminal . . . . .	72
D.21	Rivina Talks About Programming on a Volker . . . . .	73
E.1	Perl script used to make the blow-in doors . . . . .	76





# Preface

Oh, what poor things we do to the Rivster for fun! Or, why do I insist on beating this dead horse further with all the changes I make to this document?

## Terminals

It all started when we found out how much fun he had with extolling the virtues of the infamous “Volker-Craig Model [4]404” brand of terminal. The reality was they were a decent terminal for their time, in that they could easily be used with the computers of the time. In those days, it was sufficient that the terminal was able to display straight American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) coded text and have fairly simple means to move the cursor to a different part of the screen, prior to putting text on it. Compare that to the advanced graphics and windowing systems in use today, including the portable laptop I am writing these changes on.

The terminal was equipped with the ability to function as the all-important Lear-Siegler ADM-3A terminal, which was also the *de facto* standard for its time, the late '70s and early '80s. Other popular terminals of the time included the Digital model VT-52, optimized for use with minicomputers made by Digital.

Thinking of vintage terminals, I even remember seeing a vintage Adds terminal in a city assessor’s office in the somewhat unlikely city of Salem, Massachusetts! Compare that to what the bordering city of Peabody had in the form of PCs running Windows NT!

Now-defunct companies like Hazeltine/Esprit had an early model, which Heathkit had in kit form for the avid do-it-yourselfer. I can still remember all the low capacity RAM chips, all in a row, to provide the memory to contain the information on the display. All of these options were certainly better than noisy Teletype models also made famous.

## School Lunches

This, of course, doesn’t mean the Rivvie *always* lives in the past. He still has his fondness for those hot, steaming, school lunches that we serve “for the children.” Others like me will think back to their high school experience where pizza was served every Friday.

Varying levels of bureaucracy have eroded school lunch programs in many school districts to the point where they don’t exist anymore. Other schools make do with less, the end result being an unappetizing glop more suited to the uses documented within. For many children from poor families, the “unappetizing glop” is certainly better than having no food at all.

## Additions To the Document

In 2003, I finished, or actually re-finished,<sup>1</sup> the drawing of the jet engine blow-in door. The result may be found in figure A.6 on page 47. Appendix E on page 75 even documents the procedures used. It may be skipped if you are less interested in mathematical detail.

As I was given yet a few more interesting uses for dead Volkers, I created chapter 5 on page 37 as well as its “Detailed Uses” appendix. One section required yet another picture which may be found in figure C.1 on page 54.

In 2000, I finally finished the diagram of the Christmas tree I started in section A.1 on page 41. Why I just didn’t use graph paper at the time is going to be one of those mysteries of life. Other graphics have been tuned and better centered, optimized for use in any modern L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X environment without needing specialized support from graphics drivers. The document’s index should be nearly completed.

Advances in the Internet make it easier than before to locate information. One of the results is chapter 4 on page 33, called “Volkers on the Internet.” Because of this, this document has been made available on the World Wide Web for the enjoyment of those who suffered through their use in their college days. You may indeed be reading this document at its home at <http://www.gleepy.net/writings/riv4/>. It would appear that college students weren’t the only ones to suffer through the idiosyncracies of Volkers.

I will always seem to be tweaking or otherwise adjusting this document until I get everything just right or I otherwise get bored with the whole thing for a while.

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<sup>1</sup>The original changes which I had started seemed to have been lost, so I had to replicate the changes I made.

# Chapter 1

## Uses for Old, Dead Volkens from 1994

These were some of the uses that I came up with, with the exceptions of any cited uses. No repeated uses from [23] or [3] show up in here.

We have so many uses now because there are more dead Volkens now than ever and that I had four months to put together the list. As more die from long, hard lives, it seems to reason that we need many more exciting uses to help those put their dead Volkens and their not-so-dead users out of their misery. The users were smart enough to dispose of them some time ago.

Occasionally, a reference is made in a footnote or elsewhere to a previous item where the reader is not to be confused by it. The new use is hopefully unique enough to not warrant confusion.

The list has been sorted in alphabetical order.

1. Abacus storage case [4]
2. Abstract art maker<sup>1</sup> [5]
3. Air raid siren housing
4. Airbag holder for large trucks
5. Aircraft CVR<sup>2</sup> or DFDR<sup>3</sup> (black box) case
6. Airport runway VASI<sup>4</sup> light housing
7. Airport runway lighting
8. Alien beacons [4]
9. Alien communication device [4]
10. Aluminum can crusher<sup>5</sup> [6]
11. Antacid<sup>6</sup> [7]
12. Antenna extenders to put on home “rabbit ears” like aluminum foil

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<sup>1</sup>Throw paint through the screen.

<sup>2</sup>Cockpit Voice Recorder [24, p. xiii]

<sup>3</sup>Digital Flight Data Recorder [24, p. xiii]

<sup>4</sup>Visual Approach Slope Indicator [24, p. xiv]. See §A.28 on page 47; diagram is at figure A.7 on page 48.

<sup>5</sup>Drop the Volker on the can.

<sup>6</sup>Grind up the cabinet, turn the aluminum into aluminum hydroxide and swallow.

13. Anti-shoplifting devices to be attached to small merchandise in stores
14. Anti-stealth device to make a low-observable object such as a stealth aircraft look larger than they actually are so they don't get hit<sup>7</sup>
15. Ariel's<sup>8</sup> latest object for her collection of curiosities
16. Arm shield from the keyboard
17. Armadillo trap
18. Aussie Rules football
19. Autoclave
20. Baby food strainer
21. Baby swing
22. Back scratcher<sup>9</sup>
23. Backboard for Nerf Basketball
24. Backpack for robots or other people wearing metallic powered armor
25. Ball for float valve in giant toilets, sump pumps or gas tanks
26. Baptismal font for The First High-Technology Church of (fill in the blank)
27. Bar stool seats
28. Barber's pole spinner
29. Base for RFD mailboxes<sup>10</sup>
30. Basketball backboard
31. Battering ram used by police to open doors on search warrants to look for drugs, escaped cons or high tech hackers, phreaks or gangs that steal Pentium or Alpha CPU chips at gunpoint
32. Bean counter for tightwad accountants
33. Bed warmer used in those Old Fashioned Days before central heating systems
34. Bee cell [8]
35. Beer container for overindulging drinkers
36. Bin or basket used to sort and mix the balls for Bingo games
37. Bird cage
38. Blast detuner/silencer for testing gas turbine engines [27, pp. 129 and 131]
39. Bobber for shark fishing [9]

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<sup>7</sup>See §A.2 on page 39.

<sup>8</sup>Of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* fame.

<sup>9</sup>Use the PC board back.

<sup>10</sup>See §A.19 on page 43. A diagram is at figure A.3 on page 44.

40. Bomb bait to entrap the University Bomber<sup>11</sup> [4]
41. Borg props or display terminals [4]
42. Bowling ball case
43. Brain salad bowl [4]
44. Bread kneader
45. Bubble light for service vehicles [9]
46. Bucket for beer ‘splits’ bottles
47. Buffalo Free-Net Internet interface controller [4]
48. Building blocks for giant children or any other suitably adept ones
49. Buoy [9]
50. Cable TV line amplification box
51. Cable container
52. Cable tuner or descrambler case
53. Cactus waterer<sup>12</sup>
54. Callus remover<sup>13</sup>
55. Candle holder<sup>14</sup>
56. Car jack (the kind put under the axle after lifting it with a hydraulic or scissors jack, not the kind associated with carjacking)
57. Carbonation stone for beverages that the Rivina would drink
58. Case for clock<sup>15</sup>
59. Case for iron lung [4]
60. Case for machine that goes ‘Bing’<sup>16</sup> [4]
61. Cash register
62. Cat warmer<sup>17</sup>
63. Cement casting mold for modular homes
64. Cement maker
65. Cement overshoes for use by gang members [9]

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<sup>11</sup>See §A.27 on page 47.

<sup>12</sup>See §A.31 on page 49.

<sup>13</sup>Use the PC board back.

<sup>14</sup>[10] suggests its use for dripproof candles.

<sup>15</sup>The clock must be analog, with hands that turn counterclockwise.

<sup>16</sup>From *Monty Python and the Meaning Of Life*.

<sup>17</sup>The cat sits on it while the CRT heater is powered.

66. Central heating unit for Ebenezer Scrooge's workplace<sup>18</sup>
67. Chandelier [4]
68. Character generator keyboard for cable TV community billboards [4]
69. Cheese grater<sup>19</sup>
70. Chia Pet observation window [4]
71. Chicken nest [8]
72. Chicken wing bone disposal container
73. Chimney cleaner<sup>20</sup>
74. Chimney storm cap
75. Chopping block for wood [5]
76. Christmas ornament for giant trees [4]
77. Christmas tree water pan<sup>21</sup>
78. Cider or grape press
79. Clamshell bucket for earth movers or backhoes
80. Cleat cleaner for athletic shoes
81. Cleats for football shoes [5]
82. Closet organizer
83. Clothes hanger from the keyboard
84. Coffee urn (or filter [5, as modified])
85. Coin basket or funnel for use in tollbooths
86. Collapsible filler to be placed near hard concrete bridge and lane separation abutments to keep people from killing themselves when they run into it
87. Collection plate for unusual churches
88. Compact car for midgets [11]
89. Compost heap container for apartment gardeners
90. Condiment dispenser for ketchup on School Lunches
91. Condom tester<sup>22</sup>
92. Construction examples for industrial or design engineering classes (Don't Let This Happen In Your Shop!)

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<sup>18</sup>As in *A Christmas Carol*.

<sup>19</sup>Use the ventilation grill on top.

<sup>20</sup>Use the keyboard keys to scrape the chimney of its creosote.

<sup>21</sup>See §A.5 on page 40. A picture is at figure A.1 on page 41.

<sup>22</sup>Unroll and drop the Volker through it.

93. Convex mirrors for shoplifting control<sup>23</sup>
94. Cookie baking sheet
95. Cookie cutter
96. Cookie tin for Howard “The House” Ballard’s giant chocolate chip cookies
97. Cornerstone for The Museum for Regressive Technology<sup>24</sup>
98. Corrosion-proof time capsule [9]
99. Cotton candy maker
100. Cover for melting cheese on grilled hamburgers<sup>25</sup>
101. Cover for miniature food-service type dishwashers
102. Covers for aircraft turbofan engine blow-in doors which provide additional air for more thrust on takeoff<sup>26</sup>
103. Cricket wicket
104. Croquet hoop or post replacement
105. Crotch protector or armor for the well-endowed
106. Culvert for animal walkways
107. Cupola
108. Curing tank for thermosetting resins<sup>27</sup>
109. Curling stone replacement
110. Dart board support
111. Dart carrier
112. Dart fin straightener
113. Database for Cobra Commander personal victory records [9]
114. Dead weights for aerobics training
115. Decision maker for typical TV Network Executives
116. Deck bottom grillework or foundation covers [5]
117. Dental X-ray machine container
118. Destination signs for buses
119. Dice shaking container for fuzzy dice

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<sup>23</sup>Silver the CRT face.

<sup>24</sup>Not to be confused with the ACM piece in §2.2, item 51 on page 23 or [3].

<sup>25</sup>[10] suggests that this is called a salamander.

<sup>26</sup>See §A.26 on page 46. A picture is at figure A.6 on page 47.

<sup>27</sup>See §A.6 on page 40.

120. Dieter's<sup>28</sup> pillow or seat cushion
121. Digital parking meter
122. Dishwasher for teacups and saucers
123. Display case for porno flicks [9]
124. Dog houses for "micro-mutts"<sup>29</sup>
125. Drink mixer
126. Drip pan or jar for frying or barbecuing
127. Drop box for expended batteries
128. Drunk test device<sup>30</sup>
129. Dumbwaiter car
130. Dummy object to conceal smuggled contraband
131. Dumpster for use behind Barbie's<sup>31</sup> workplace
132. ENIAC prototype [4]
133. Earrings for *The Fifty Foot Woman* remake [4]
134. Egg basket
135. Electric germicidal machine used in public restrooms
136. Electrolysis tank for water desalination
137. Electronic countermeasures anti-radar decoy to keep enemy planes or air defense missiles from attacking
138. Electroplating tank
139. Elevator call buttons
140. Emergency runway covers to place over the school lunch (see page 28)
141. Emergency tampon or feminine napkin dispenser for women's restrooms
142. Enemy booby traps
143. Energizer Bunny test object
144. Evidence of Communist plots [4]
145. Explosives detector<sup>32</sup> using the TNA (thermal neutron activation) method
146. Extra-wide tape dispenser
147. Face shield for machinery operators

---

<sup>28</sup>From *Saturday Night Live's* "Sprockets" fame

<sup>29</sup>See §A.13 on page 42.

<sup>30</sup>If you think the Volker works, you're too drunk to drive . . .

<sup>31</sup>Or any suitably-sized action figure or doll

<sup>32</sup>Used to detect products with high nitrogen content, such as explosives.



148. Face shield for mimes<sup>33</sup>
149. Feeding trough for pet rocks<sup>34</sup>
150. Ferengi gambling device [12]
151. Filing cabinet (for use with pumpkin manuals<sup>35</sup> [13, as modified])
152. Fire alarm box
153. Fire extinguisher<sup>36</sup>
154. Fire hose container for use in emergencies
155. Fireplace insert for small fireplaces
156. Flashing light for cute pricing game on *The Price Is Right*
157. Flatten it and use as a home plate
158. Floating pier support
159. Fly swatter<sup>37</sup>
160. Foodaracycle from *The Jetsons* <sup>38</sup>
161. Foot or hand warmer
162. Foot soaker
163. Football down marker
164. Footrest or hassock
165. Forced air heating inlet/outlet grate
166. Frame for architects to make model buildings
167. Fruit basket that Lt. Takashima of *Babylon 5* pilot fame can send over
168. Fully functional “open-minded” meter for the U. S. Republican party (or any political party [22])  
[9]
169. Fuse or circuit breaker box
170. G. I. Joe’s new Action Command Post
171. Gadget for Penn and Teller trick [4]
172. Gallagher prop [14]
173. Garage for toy cars
174. Garbage disposer case

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<sup>33</sup>So they can’t be seen.

<sup>34</sup>See §A.31 on page 49.

<sup>35</sup>VMS V4.x documentation.

<sup>36</sup>Place a sealed Volker over the fire in question.

<sup>37</sup>Use the PC board back.

<sup>38</sup>See §A.7 on page 40.

175. Gas mask
176. Gas/electric/water meter outdoor cover
177. Gelatin mold
178. Giant liquid soap dispenser with see-through window
179. Giant perfume atomizer
180. Giant-sized Rolodex file
181. Gingerbread house frame [4]
182. Glass bells for windchimes from the expended CRTs
183. Goal and out-of-bounds markers for football
184. Goal post holder
185. Goalie's mask for use in hockey or lacrosse
186. Golf ball cleaner
187. Graphics terminal for the blind
188. Gravel sifter
189. Grease container for waste grease and fat
190. Grocery carts for use in convenience stores
191. Ground fault interrupter for electric chicken waterers
192. Guardrail ends
193. Guide suspended from garage ceilings so the driver knows how far to pull up before hitting the bumper
194. Gum ball dispenser<sup>39</sup>
195. Habittrail expander unit [9]
196. Hair dryer hood
197. Hangar for model airplanes
198. "Have a Nice Day" box used by Californians, complete with happy face where the terminal was
199. Hazardous materials transportation containers
200. Head for The Headless Horseman [4]
201. Head for low-budget TV robots
202. High-tech terminal for Islamic fundamentalists<sup>40</sup> [14]
203. Hitching post

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<sup>39</sup>With our luck, the darned Volker will eat the pennies that are put in as though it thought they were slugs.

<sup>40</sup>See §A.10 on page 42.

204. Homebrewer's brewing tank
205. Hot dog or hot dog bun warmer
206. Hot water heater for dog houses
207. Hubcap remover
208. Humidifier that attaches to a forced-air furnace
209. Hurdy-gurdy case [4]
210. Hydraulic fluid (cherry juice) reservoir
211. Ice cream making container<sup>41</sup>
212. Ice cube carrier that holds the cubes for future drinks
213. Impact absorbing frames for use on cars to make cars safer
214. Industrial strength shoes [15]
215. Industrial-sized marijuana bong<sup>42</sup>
216. Industrial-strength elephant condom [4]
217. Inflation safety cage for small tubeless tires
218. Information terminal initially in use in George Bailey's house<sup>43</sup> until improvements were made
219. Infusion pump casing that enables inspection of the fluids
220. Insect screens for computer rooms
221. Instant lottery ticket display case
222. Items for sale by fraudulent telemarketers
223. Joy buzzer seat
224. Jukebox for old 78 RPM records [4]
225. Kiln for Play-Doh art
226. Kimchi fermenting urn [9]
227. Klingon pillows
228. Klingon spice rack
229. Landfill
230. Landmine casing [14]
231. Language expander for *Beavis and Butt-head* [4]
232. Laser termination blocks

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<sup>41</sup>Place a good jar inside, and pack the inside of the Volker with rock salt.

<sup>42</sup>See §A.12 on page 42.

<sup>43</sup>See §A.4 on page 39.

- 233. Lassoing target for rodeo training
- 234. Lectern
- 235. Lens hood for cameras
- 236. Light standard base
- 237. Lightning or other power surge protector for more valuable computer equipment<sup>44</sup>
- 238. Lightning rod (well, it's not a rod, but it attracts lightning anyway, given its shape and obsolence)
- 239. Lint trap for clothes dryers
- 240. Loonie bin (piggy bank for Canadian dollar coins<sup>45</sup>)
- 241. Low-speed oscilloscope for kids
- 242. M31<sup>46</sup> artillery range target.
- 243. Macintosh upgrade [4]
- 244. Madonna's new wardrobe
- 245. Magnetic tape degausser<sup>47</sup>
- 246. Make it worth \$750 and offer it as a prize on *Wheel Of Fortune*<sup>48</sup>
- 247. Makeshift housing for the homeless in New York City's Central Park [15]
- 248. Manhole cover
- 249. Manure spreader
- 250. Marine depth gauge<sup>49</sup>
- 251. Master cylinder for air-activated brake systems on large trucks, ground tugs or airplanes
- 252. Mechanical gas pump display head (the old "bubbles")
- 253. Megaphone for robotic cheerleaders
- 254. Mercury-vapor light dimmer<sup>50</sup>
- 255. Mercury-vapor light housing [4]
- 256. Microfilm/microfiche reader
- 257. Microphone shock-absorbent shoe
- 258. Milk box

---

<sup>44</sup>Not to be confused with the fuse for IBM 3090s seen in §2.2, item 34 on page 23 or even item 169 on page 7.

<sup>45</sup>Popularly known as the loonie. Unfortunately, with regards to the nickname for the coin, the 1994 edition of the coin has some other pattern on it.

<sup>46</sup>See §A.11 on page 42. Not to be confused with the target in §2.1, item 54 on page 21 and [23].

<sup>47</sup>Pass the tape through the activated deflection yoke.

<sup>48</sup>Any value which overprices the Volker is sufficient.

<sup>49</sup>Measure how long it takes the Volker to fall through the water.

<sup>50</sup>This is not possible due to the design of the light. See §A.31 on page 49.

259. Milk crate which holds about six half-gallon cartons
260. Milk skimmer [8]
261. Mini-cars for clowns or pets
262. Miniature Texas style barbecue smoker hood
263. Miniature golf obstacle [14]
264. Model rocketry launch shield
265. Modern electronic jack-o-lantern
266. Modified Yuppie cars [15]
267. Modified witches' brew kettle [15]
268. Modular bookcase [11]
269. Monitor to watch videotapes of Barney the Dinosaur
270. Monument to the Progressive Conservative party
271. Mood lighting [4]
272. Motorcycle muffler for renegade motorcycle gangs<sup>51</sup>
273. Mud flaps
274. Muffler, sound insulator or suffocator for use on incessant snorers
275. Mutes for electronic brass instruments
276. Napkin holder
277. Navel cleaner [5]
278. Neutrino catchers [4]
279. Neutron flow polarity reversers from the *Dr. Who* television series
280. New "wonder terminal" communications aid for the blind<sup>52</sup> [16]
281. Newspaper carrying pouch for use in home deliveries
282. Newspaper tube for out-of-house delivery [4]
283. Night depository door at banks or credit unions
284. Night stand
285. Noise supressor for dot-matrix printers
286. Nose weight for Really Huge Gliders
287. Nuclear waste container for the *Exxon Valdez* [15]
288. Nut cracker

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<sup>51</sup>See §A.31 on page 49.

<sup>52</sup>See §A.30 on page 49.

- 289. Nylon filament dispenser for weed cutters
- 290. Object to be broken by a Seattle-based grunge rock group<sup>53</sup>
- 291. Object to be turned from junk into useful objects by Rex Anderson<sup>54</sup>
- 292. Object used for administration of NCO justice<sup>55</sup>
- 293. Object used to test the acceleration of gravity<sup>56</sup>
- 294. Official Major League Baseball fastball target [9]
- 295. Official National Hockey League goal shooting training box
- 296. Ordnance disposal hood<sup>57</sup>
- 297. Ordnance fuze setters
- 298. Outdoor transformer case
- 299. Outdoor wastebasket
- 300. Oversize wind sock for use at airports with difficult approach conditions<sup>58</sup>
- 301. Paper mulching container
- 302. Paper towel dispenser for restrooms
- 303. Party mix bowl
- 304. Pay phone case
- 305. Pediatric ward incubator [9]
- 306. Penalty box for errant mice
- 307. Pendulum weight for large pendulums that prove the Earth actually revolves
- 308. “People meter” to measure viewers of sitcoms starring That Urkel Kid or any other whiny or precocious child character
- 309. Percussion cases that can be hit upon by whenever Shiela E. decides to record another album or for anybody wishing to make sampled sounds for rave music
- 310. Permanent fish coffin [15]
- 311. Picture cube for those Really Big Photos made by people with home developing and enlarging supplies showing funny things like class pictures, dogs with banana stickers on their heads, fire hydrants or whatever deserves a large photograph<sup>59</sup>
- 312. Picture frame (for children’s pictures<sup>60</sup> [5, as modified])

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<sup>53</sup>See §A.9 on page 40.

<sup>54</sup>The author’s father, who builds strange but often useful items from junk. See §A.19 on page 43 for one such example.

<sup>55</sup>See §A.14 on page 42.

<sup>56</sup>See §A.1 on page 39.

<sup>57</sup>Cover unwanted explosives with a Volker, the detonate.

<sup>58</sup>Katmandu, Nepal International Airport comes to mind. Athens, Greece also comes to mind.

<sup>59</sup>See §A.15 on page 43.

<sup>60</sup>See §A.16 on page 43.

313. Ping-pong paddles for gorillas
314. Planer for balsa wood
315. Playground leapfrog starter [9]
316. Playground ornament
317. Pledge item carried by prospective fraternity members<sup>61</sup>
318. Plumb bob for use in surveying
319. Pneumatic drill tip replacement
320. Pocket-size Steve Jackson Games display case [8]
321. Pole position marker for auto racing
322. Pooper scooper
323. Poor man's Dutch oven
324. Poor man's cappuccino or espresso grinder
325. Popcorn holder for use in high-tech bars
326. Poster child for endangered terminals [4]
327. Powder sprinkler to coat donuts
328. Prank gifts to be given out by morning DJs like Howard Stern
329. Pubic hair (short hair) comb or pick [5]
330. Punch bowl [17]
331. Putting cup
332. Quarantine container for dangerous stuff
333. Rackmount unit for musical instrument, computer or laboratory equipment [10]
334. Radio Flyer wagon replacement
335. Raised floor panel supports for computer rooms
336. Rally/support hats for Jimmy Griffin [9]
337. Random number generator for schools running on tight austerity budgets
338. Reactor core replacement [4]
339. Recyclables box for curbside collection
340. Refrigeration box used to cool mixed fountain soft drinks, beer, malt liquor or other carbonated drinks
341. Relabel the Volker-Craig logo with a black Helvetica Bold "Terminal" on yellow paper stock to make it a generic, low-cost terminal for sale in grocery or discount stores<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>61</sup>See §A.17 on page 43.

<sup>62</sup>See §A.8 on page 40. A diagram is at figure A.2 on page 41.

342. Replacement part for the Hubble Space Telescope [18]
343. Replacement pawn in Very Large chess sets [9]
344. Restaurant server call light housing
345. “Retarded” bomb<sup>63</sup> to drop on unsuspecting yuppies
346. Reusable food storage containers that can be taken back to the store to get the deposit refunded in a manner similar to refillable beverage containers
347. Reusable freight shipping container
348. Road sign mount for signs on all four sides
349. Roadkill scooper
350. Rock throwing target used in junkyards by young, bored juvenile delinquents
351. Roller skates for elephants [10]
352. Rolling pin replacement<sup>64</sup>
353. SAC brownie display case<sup>65</sup>
354. SAC brownie oven<sup>66</sup>
355. Sacrifices for alien visitors
356. Sandbags for use in the Midwest [4]
357. Sauce pan
358. School lunch box<sup>67</sup>
359. Seat insert to convert restaurant chairs to highchairs
360. Sharpening post for bobcats
361. Sheet holder for the mobility impaired [9]
362. Shim for balancing wobbly tables or chairs
363. Shoe carrier so the shine doesn’t get scuffed in transit
364. Shoe cleaner or mud remover for combat boots
365. Skateboard
366. Slide viewer
367. Smoke detector housing to keep clumsy oafs from playing with it
368. Snack dispenser [10]
369. Sneaker deodorizer

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<sup>63</sup>See §A.18 on page 43. Not to be confused with the dummy bomb mentioned in §2.1, item 21 on page 20.

<sup>64</sup>Use the CRT face. Not to be used to beat up spouses because we are not advocating violence here. I think.

<sup>65</sup>See §A.20 on page 45.

<sup>66</sup>See §A.20 on page 45.

<sup>67</sup>Hmmm . . . The Best of Both Worlds.



- 370. Snowfall gauge
- 371. Soap and shampoo container that hangs in the shower
- 372. Sock dryer
- 373. Sound barney for noisy motion picture cameras
- 374. Soup ladle for giants
- 375. Spare change holder [11]
- 376. Spare parts cache<sup>68</sup>
- 377. Speed bump for tanks or bulldozers
- 378. Splatter guard for frying food
- 379. Splint to restrain broken arms or legs
- 380. Spoiled diaper container
- 381. “Spy case” for holding covert microphone or camera used to eavesdrop on conversations made by former Russian and American spies which now care less about what’s going on and would rather have a drink in their favorite Washington watering hole
- 382. Squirrel trap
- 383. Stage riser holders
- 384. Starting block for track and field events
- 385. Steam radiator safety cover<sup>69</sup>
- 386. Stepping block to step up and down on for aerobics training
- 387. Stool to jump or step on when exiting a school bus emergency exit
- 388. Storage battery cover for outdoor use or on gamma goats<sup>70</sup>
- 389. Storage unit for Robert Packwood’s diaries [4]
- 390. Storm drain grill
- 391. Straphanger anchor for various public transportation vehicles
- 392. Straw man for use by philosophers
- 393. Stringer blocks for wood<sup>71</sup>
- 394. Strobelight [4]
- 395. Surge tank for hot water heating systems or water pumps
- 396. Swell box for miniature organs<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>68</sup>corresponds to and result of use as a desoldering trainer as in §2.1, item 18 on page 20 and [23].

<sup>69</sup>Not to be confused with the steam controller seen in §2.2, item 81 on page 24 and [3].

<sup>70</sup>A six-wheeled (6 × 6) vehicle used by the U. S. Army and Marine Corps.

<sup>71</sup>See §A.22 on page 45. A picture is at figure A.4 on page 45.

<sup>72</sup>See §A.23 on page 46.

397. T. G. I. Friday's ornament
398. TV remote control and television listing caddy for couch potatoes
399. Tackling dummy for midget football practice
400. Target to fire at a Trash-80<sup>73</sup> from a cyclotron [7]
401. Tea cozy for clumsy people
402. TelePrompTer display for Bill Clinton's speeches<sup>74</sup> [4]
403. Telephone junction box
404. Telephone message holder
405. Telestrator input device
406. Test object for integrity of air surveillance radars
407. Texas-sized cockroach trap [9]
408. Thermal conductive metal components for wood or coal heaters for people to put their hands on to warm them up
409. Thrust reversers for jet engines, assuming we are replacing bucket or target type reversers<sup>75</sup>
410. Time clock housing
411. Topographic survey benchmark
412. Touch screen for auto mechanics with overly greasy hands
413. Traffic light controller box
414. Transfer dispenser for use in TTC<sup>76</sup> subway stations
415. Trash compactor<sup>77</sup>
416. Trilithium carrying case<sup>78</sup> [11]
417. Trinket display case
418. Upper pot for double boilers
419. Urn for deceased IBM employees [4]
420. Van de Graaf generator base
421. Video game carrying case for Game Boy, Game Gear, or Lynx systems
422. Videotext home terminal [4]
423. Vital signs monitor [4]

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<sup>73</sup>Nickname for the old TRS-80 computers.

<sup>74</sup>See §A.24 on page 46.

<sup>75</sup>See §A.25 on page 46. A picture is at figure A.5 on page 46.

<sup>76</sup>Toronto Transit Commission, Toronto, Ontario.

<sup>77</sup>Drop the Volker on the trash.

<sup>78</sup>From watching a *Star Trek* episode.

424. Vorlon pet cage for use on *Babylon 5*<sup>79</sup>
425. Walk-in kitty litter box [9]
426. Warhead for thermonuclear weapons [19]
427. Washing machine for doll clothes
428. Waste oil container [4]
429. Water bowl for pets
430. Water cooler tank for use in office socialization
431. Waypoint placed in the ground for orienteering training<sup>80</sup>
432. Weapons discharge point<sup>81</sup>
433. Wheelbarrow carrier part
434. Whoopie cushion tester<sup>82</sup>
435. Wig stretcher/former (to ease assembly)
436. Work bench for clumsy family woodworkers

And finally:

- Locate one and give it to Rivina, watching his eyes light up, in hopes that he will find a new way to use terminals. He'll be so excited about having his own terminal emitting its very own Placating Shade of Blue until he finds out the inevitable truth:

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<sup>79</sup>See §A.3 on page 39.

<sup>80</sup>Similar to the topographic benchmark listed in item 411 on the facing page, but less accurate.

<sup>81</sup>See §A.29 on page 47.

<sup>82</sup>Drop the Volker on the cushion.

**IT BROKE!!!**

## Chapter 2

# The Best of the Past

These uses are the selected best from [23] and [3]. They are included to remind everybody of the utility of the Volker-Craig terminal in everyday life.

This list is being rereleased here just in case Rich accidentally “on purpose” lost his old copies. Given that at the time of this writing, these are currently over twelve years old, it is *very important* to make sure these uses don’t get lost.

### 2.1 The 1988 List

This is stuff from the 1988 edition of Uses for Dead Volkers [23].

1. 110 bps teletype replacement
2. Alarm clock
3. Ashtray
4. Bail out failed sump pump/boat/raft/lifeboat
5. Beach cooler
6. Bed pan
7. Birdhouse
8. Blackboard
9. Bookends
10. Camping stool
11. Chicken Wing fryer
12. Chihuahua carrier
13. Chimney flue
14. Chock block for tanks and other tracked vehicles
15. Coffee/beer/liquor dispenser
16. Cornerstone for buildings

17. The CRT may be used as a *used* motor oil funnel
18. Desoldering trainer
19. Doorstop
20. Draft deflector under doors
21. Dummy bomb for bomb dropping practice
22. Dummy camera
23. Dummy machine for use on *Dr. Who*
24. Dummy theft decoy
25. EMP testbed
26. Electric train switchboard
27. Event Counter
28. Fare Collection box
29. Fashion monogrammed jewelry
30. Filing cabinet
31. Film developing tank
32. Finger Puppet Theater
33. Flowerpot
34. Fonduer
35. Footstool (also for use with kneeling buses)
36. Goldfish Bowl/Aquarium
37. Igloo block makers
38. Liquor dispenser controller
39. Litterbox
40. Metro Rail front bumper
41. Metronome
42. Paperweight
43. Phone dialer (with external modem)
44. Porta potty
45. Reassemble a VT-100 compatible terminal from its parts
46. Recipe card holder
47. Replacement Brain for Diefendorf Hall's Coffee machine

48. Replacement windowpanes in Crosby Hall's computing site
49. Sell to Iranians, Cubans, North Koreans get or any other country not recognized by the US Government
50. Small boat or small boat anchor
51. Something to impress peers/date/kids with
52. Something to throw at or on a threatening object or power
53. Tables for kids' teasetts or for use with dolls
54. Target for gun or artillery practice
55. Toilet Paper Dispenser
56. Toy typewriter for Kids
57. UN\*X systems console
58. Umbrella/hood/mosquito repellent
59. Video games
60. Waffle indenter
61. Washbasin/sink
62. Water Closet for old-time Toilets
63. Waterproof Speaker Cabinet

## 2.2 The 1989 List

This is stuff from [3].

1. ATM console (The size of the CRT is large enough to allow nice sized graphics and other 'user-friendly' features to appease the banker who is possibly wanting a few bucks late at night)
2. Ammunition holder for M2 machine guns (or any other type of small arms/crew served weapon ammunition)
3. Antenna rotor stepper/controller
4. Automatic urinal flusher controller for use in Crosby Hall
5. Ballot box for voting
6. Bathtub thermometer controller
7. Battleship turret
8. Bird feeder (Once again, one would just use silicone filler over all the vent holes to keep the bird seed dry. Don't forget to grease some of the entries to keep Mr. Squirrel out!)

9. Bite (byte) sized Pizza oven (With all the junk for the CRT circuitry, there isn't that much room in the box for heating up the pizzas, but the tube filament should be able to cook these pizzas in about ... 2-4 weeks or so. By that time, the pizza should be about as rotten and crusty as SAC Pizza<sup>1</sup>)
10. Blue Light Special bulb lighter at K-Mart
11. Bob Uecker's official terminal (Hey, Computer fans... I luv ya)
12. Bookcase for *MAD* Magazines
13. Boom box
14. Briefcase/book carrier
15. Candy bar vending machine
16. Checker pieces
17. Commode
18. Condom (Trojans or otherwise) dispenser (now Volkers can participate in the Safe Sex movement and feel good about society)
19. Control console for smoke detectors
20. Cosmetic carrier for a 'Princess'
21. Crock Pot (just weld up the sides of the CRT cabinet and use the tube filament for a slow-cooking heater)
22. Dead weight for Ford Rangers
23. Dead weight to be thrown through a window in case of fire (as mentioned earlier, these terminals were built like rocks (well, they weren't exactly built like brick houses because these don't have any implied gender<sup>2</sup> that we were aware of), so there should be no problem with using them like this. Just think, wouldn't every Volker like to be able to sacrifice itself for a fellow Computer User's life?)
24. Deluxe Roach Motel
25. Domino's Pizza 30 minute delivery timer
26. 8-track Cartridge Organizer
27. Electronic Fuel Injection controller on any Ford car
28. Engine block
29. Fire Pit (if I use this right, we have a container which is fire resistant so the spread of fire is not very wide. Just think of all the buildings that will not burn down now!)
30. Flak armor
31. Food Tray (even suitable for SAC Pizzas!)
32. Football helmet (Let's face it, Volker cabinets *are* built like tanks, so there is plenty of strong, durable aluminum left over for helmets. Just pull the guts out of the Volker and give your one son a desoldering trainer to learn good electronics technician skills,<sup>3</sup> [23] and give the other a helmet

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<sup>1</sup>The gummy stuff you don't really see any more. These are not to be confused with School Lunches, despite the fact that they were served in a School Environment.

<sup>2</sup>Unless we are depraved enough to see Volkers as phallic symbols...

<sup>3</sup>We covered this particular use in [23], but somehow it made sense to bring up the use again.



suitable for Midget or Pee-Wee football. Of course, the sharp objects may cause him to draw Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls!)

33. Frog jumping contest box which covers the frogs
34. Fuse for more expensive computer (for systems like an IBM 3090)
35. Garage door opener for toy cars
36. General Electric/Black & Decker Space Saver
37. Geodesic Dome paneling at Disney World's Epcot Center
38. Give to David Letterman for dropping from a third-floor window
39. "Hat" used to pick items to be drawn in Pictionary games
40. Jukebox record dispatcher
41. Kitchen sink (everything including)
42. Lampshade (even for drunks to wear at parties)
43. Laundry basket for 'Smelly Socks and Pooped Undies' from the movie *The Naked Gun*.
44. Life-support unit for dying Soviet leaders
45. Lighting timer/dimmer for people on vacation
46. Lightning Surge Protector
47. Matchbox car carrier
48. Milking machine controller
49. Monitor speaker cabinet for heavy metal musicians
50. Motor controller to spin cotton candy
51. Museum piece for the Association for Computing Machinery's collection of archaic computer equipment collection (placed next to the vacuum-tubed computers)
52. *Night of the Living Dead* prop
53. Othello gamepieces
54. Pancake griddle (I can imagine how much the keyboard is going to heat up for this. With the crude TTL circuitry in the keyboard, the integrated circuits should provide enough heat to cook golden brown pancakes and waffles that would even make St. Alphonso's Father O'Blivion<sup>4</sup> proud)
55. Paper dispenser magazine for printing terminals
56. Paper shredder<sup>5</sup>
57. Pete Roselle's urinalysis tester
58. Phone Hold Switch

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<sup>4</sup>Easily attributed to Frank Zappa's "Apostrophe" album, from his Mothers of Invention days.

<sup>5</sup>That Fawn Hall would use.

59. Picket sign for anti-SDI rally
60. Poolside depth marker as found in public pools
61. Popcorn popper
62. Popcorn string type decorations (from the keytops)
63. Postage stamp lick rate controller (how fast does it lick stamps?)
64. Printer port for Timex/Sinclair systems
65. Programmable electronic pitch pipe
66. Prop for cheap science-fiction movies
67. Random Number Selector to be used to pick the winning numbers in the New York State Lottery games
68. Realms of Fantasy<sup>6</sup> helmet
69. Receipt printer/order verifier at Burger King
70. Replacement “brain” for frying timers used in fast food restaurants
71. SAC Pizza Warmer (With its high-tech tube filament, no SAC pizza ever gets cold! Instead, they come out like cardboard!)
72. Safety outlet covers for families with kids
73. Scrabble letters
74. Soap Box Derby chassis
75. Spare powder charge carrying containers to be used by field artillery batteries (the powder man now has a convenient container to put powder bags not needed to fire the round in. Who cares if the Volker’s guts get burned by accident when some overzealous soldier burns the powder in the field!)
76. Spittoon in high-tech bars
77. Spork distributor for School Lunches<sup>7</sup>
78. Spotlight case used to interrogate overactive computer game players
79. Star Wars/SDI satellite
80. Statistics and control workstation for the Jamaican Bobsled team (even the Volker is old enough to be smoke-powered like everything else associated with the Jamaican Bobsledders. With good heuristics, the Volker may even be taught to smoke its own Ganja)
81. Steam controller for single pipe radiator heating systems of the 1920s to 1930s
82. TI 99/4A Expansion Bus cabinet (First came the UNIBUS cabinet, now here is the ultimate (in antiquity) cabinet to complement the Volker. Mediocrity easily complements mediocrity between the Volker and the TI-99/4A. They had their places in computing when they both came out, but now they are both hopelessly outdated.)

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<sup>6</sup>Former UB gaming club. Now called SARPA.

<sup>7</sup>Is this a coincidence? “Could be...”

83. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (or other superhero-type action figures) carrier or collector's item<sup>8</sup>
84. Timer for World Dryer Corporation<sup>9</sup> hand dryers
85. Toast-R-Oven temperature controller
86. Toboggan for pet roosters
87. Trash can at University Computing Services<sup>10</sup> (We wonder what type of complaints would arise from using New York State property for such uses, but maybe, just *maybe*, somebody might be nice enough to use an old terminal in such a case! Just make sure that only non-recyclable stuff goes in the Volker cabinet!!)
88. Use CRT as Erlenmayer flask
89. Very Large Heatsink (Plenty of scrap metal for the cabinet that can be put to work serving mankind, computerkind, and digital electronics-kind better)
90. Video cassette/floppy disk/cassette/tape cartridge holder (or for any other form of magnetic media)
91. Water sprinkler
92. Waterproof display case for newspapers

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<sup>8</sup>In hindsight, even I would have never guessed the popularity of these characters with children. What a way to make Volkens popular.

<sup>9</sup>A subsidiary of the Beatrice conglomerate (now Beatrice Hunt-Wesson Foods). The WDC is located in Chicago.

<sup>10</sup>Now Academic Services, Computing and Information Technology (ASCIT).



## Chapter 3

# Uses for Unwanted School Lunches

Sorry, Rich. Some school lunches are really and truly unwanted, despite what you may think. Here we go with some.

1. Acoustic insulation
2. Athletic field paint
3. Ball bearings from dried peas
4. Ballistics trainers by using in food fights
5. Barber's comb germicidal solution
6. Battery tester<sup>1</sup>
7. Biodegradable Rorschach tests [4]
8. Bird cage lining
9. Blown-in insulation [9]
10. Body putty for cars
11. Braille dots to paste on paper
12. Building material [9]
13. Carpet glue [9]
14. Carpet underpadding
15. Caulking compound
16. Chalk eraser (from Italian bread [43, card B-11])
17. Chemical light sticks<sup>2</sup>
18. Chemical stocks for chemical warfare [9]
19. Chia Pet starter set [9]

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<sup>1</sup>Drop battery in the school lunch and see if current flows.

<sup>2</sup>Some of those chemicals ought to glow under the right circumstances.

20. Chicken food<sup>3</sup>
21. Christmas tree ornaments
22. Clay substitute for art classes from mashed potatoes
23. Cold patch asphalt replacement to fill very large winter potholes (for those troublesome potholes that grow in cold places)
24. Combine with nitric acid to make modern makeshift explosive
25. Compost heap starter set
26. Conformal coating replacement (like epoxy sealant) to hermetically seal electronic components
27. Contraceptive diaphragm from cheese [9]
28. Crayon replacement when petroleum products cost too much<sup>4</sup>
29. Crotch padding for ballet dancers
30. Degreaser for use on engine parts
31. Dental impression molds
32. Deodorant tester<sup>5</sup>
33. Depillatory cream [9]
34. Dr. Scholl's shoe pad replacement
35. Dry-sweep to remove grease and oil from concrete or around the cafeteria dumpster
36. Ear muffs from pizza buns
37. Emergency fuel for diesel engines
38. Emergency power supplies during blackouts<sup>6</sup>
39. Emergency runway filler (to be covered with opened Volkars (see page 6))
40. Fake gag coffee creamer
41. Fake maggots to scare girls with (from fried rice [43, card B-10])
42. Fake metal or wood shafts, blocks or other shapes that can be used in shop classes to be turned on specially designed lathes that use duller cutting bits so students won't get hurt as easily and liability insurance premiums can be lower
43. Fake snot or vomit used by kids to gross out people
44. Fashion telephone handset from dried up hot dog rolls
45. Fertilizer for kudzu [9]
46. Filler for practice artillery rounds or bombs<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>But watch the fat. Chickens don't need that much.

<sup>4</sup>See §B.1 on page 51.

<sup>5</sup>Apply deodorant to the school lunch and see if it doesn't have any foul odors.

<sup>6</sup>See §B.4 on page 52.

<sup>7</sup>These go "Poof" instead of "Boom." The practice artillery rounds are purple in color with yellow lettering.

47. Finger paint replacement for art classes
48. Fire extinguishants
49. Fireplace kindling
50. Fix-a-Flat tire sealing compound replacement
51. Flame-retardent foam from mashed potatoes<sup>8</sup> [9]
52. Flootation devices from pizza buns [9]
53. Floor tile [11]
54. Foam for self-sealing fuel tanks or tires
55. Frisbee discs<sup>9</sup>
56. Gag vomit for stand-up comedians [9]
57. Gallagher prop [14]
58. Gas mask tester<sup>10</sup>
59. Goop for a Penn and Teller trick
60. Grit to help cars get unstuck
61. Growth medium for biological warfare [9]
62. Hair grease
63. Hand balls or racquetballs (from dried rice pudding [43, card C-15])
64. Hand washing cream
65. Health spa mud packs [9]
66. Heatsinking compound
67. Helmet padding
68. Hockey puck
69. House insulation
70. Impact absorbing bumpers made from pizza buns
71. Industrial strength dental filling dissolvers [14, and me]
72. Industrial strength herbicide sprayed from airplanes [9]
73. Instant setting splint material to keep necks and limbs rigid to prevent further injury
74. Items used by sound-effects technicians to simulate flatulence or other essential bodily functions

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<sup>8</sup>I say that it should be used on airport runways.

<sup>9</sup>Think of dried up pizzas that have been left in food warmers too long. [9] says that they should glow in the dark. They still are not to be confused with the SAC pizzas mentioned in chapter 1 on page 1 and §2.1 on page 19.

<sup>10</sup>As the sandwiches unthaw, the odors of the food and anything else that may have worked its way into the bread will show up. See [29].

75. Klingon poetry props thrown at the poetry reader [4]
76. Landfill
77. Laser termination blocks
78. Laxative [9]
79. Laxatives from low-fiber foods
80. Liming for ponds [20]
81. Lincoln Log replacements from dried up hot dogs
82. Living “biology in action” exhibit for use in school science fairs [9]
83. Lubricants for use in metal shop
84. Madonna’s new (paste-on?) wardrobe
85. Makeup appliances for use on *Star Trek: The Next Generation* or *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*
86. Mash for distilleries [14]
87. Material to put into rattles or maracas to give them interesting sounds
88. Materials for AIDS research [4]
89. Materials for genetics research [4]
90. Mattel Alien slime [9]
91. Meals to serve to prisoners on Death Row, provided that Amnesty International doesn’t complain that serving such food would be a violation of human rights
92. Microphone windscreen
93. Miniature rolling pin from dried up hot dogs
94. Mold material for casting wax figurines
95. Moldable instrument mutes
96. Mouse trap bait
97. Mouth guard mouthpiece medium
98. Mystery Meat and Mystery Cheese, new characters for *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. [9]
99. Neutrino catchers
100. Oven cleaner
101. Packing foam from any starchy food<sup>11</sup>
102. Packing material by using cardboard hamburgers
103. Padding for push-up bras
104. Paint ball replacements for use in “Capture the Flag” type games

---

<sup>11</sup>Biodegradable starch-based packing foam is already in use today. I wonder where the starch came from?



105. Paste replacement for art classes<sup>12</sup>
106. Petroleum-free candle wax<sup>13</sup>
107. Pharmacology surplus (hallucinogens, antibiotics and more) [9]
108. Pig food<sup>14</sup> [1]
109. Pillows from pizza buns [9]
110. Play-Doh replacement
111. Poster tack
112. Pretend mooshed brains (from rice pudding [43, card C–15] or tapioca pudding)
113. Process inks from various disposed food
114. Props for starving Indian stand-up comics
115. Reconstructive makeup for Tammy Faye Bakker
116. Replacement airline food for Southwest Airlines or the now-defunct People Express Airlines<sup>15</sup>
117. Rodent trap bait
118. Roof tiles<sup>16</sup> [9]
119. Rosin replacement for athletes who need to get a better grip
120. Safety match replacements from all the extra fat
121. Sandbag filler for the Midwest [4]
122. Seat cushions from pizza buns [9]
123. Self-renewing chemicals for chemistry labs [9]
124. Shims for cafeteria tables (from pot pies [43, card D–19])
125. Shot pellets for shotguns from dried up peas
126. Silly Putty replacement
127. Slimy yucky goop that oozes out of aliens in cheap sci-fi, horror or psychotronic movies
128. Snow removal chemicals from all the extra sodium
129. Soundproofing to line aircraft jet engine nacelles to keep them quieter<sup>17</sup>
130. Speaker cone replacements
131. Spermicidal foam from mashed potatoes [9]
132. Sponges by using dried corn dogs and bread [10]

---

<sup>12</sup>Who knows. It might get eaten that way.

<sup>13</sup>Also see §B.1 on page 51.

<sup>14</sup>Also see §B.3 on page 51.

<sup>15</sup>When we say “no frills,” we mean it!!

<sup>16</sup>From Monster Burgers.

<sup>17</sup>Necessary so that aircraft can meet FAA Stage 2 and Stage 3 noise abatement requirements.

133. Super Ball replacement
134. Super sponges
135. Tempera paint replacement for art classes
136. Temporary spare tire<sup>18</sup>
137. Test material to fire at a TRS-80 [4]
138. Tile grout<sup>19</sup>
139. Training supplies for apprentice sanitation workers<sup>20</sup>
140. Truly Artificial Sweetener that doesn't sweeten at all
141. Universal solvent [9]
142. Wallpaper paste [14]
143. "Waste-to-Energy" pilot program starter materials
144. Water-soluble adhesive<sup>21</sup>
145. World's largest supply of Septimus Yellow clothing dye from creamed corn and cheese [9]
146. World's largest supply of green dye from turkey gravy and spinach [14]
147. Yellow-colored emergency lighting<sup>22</sup>
148. Yuntan brick replacements for Korean ondol heating systems<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>18</sup>Used like the mini-tires or hide-a-spare that come with new cars today.

<sup>19</sup>Tomato sauce. [9] suggests mashed potatoes.

<sup>20</sup>Hauling out the school lunches would give them practice so they can take on the big stuff later.

<sup>21</sup>Tomato sauce.

<sup>22</sup>Sodium compounds burn with a yellow color, and the fat burns. See [28].

<sup>23</sup>See §B.2 on page 51.

## Chapter 4

# Volkers on the Internet

A search on the Internet using the Google search engine<sup>1</sup> revealed a large number of web pages regarding Volker-Craig “termcap” entries for Unix. Other than that, the results are few and far between. Either the Volker has become a relic and few are around, or folks realize what pieces of junk they really are in these modern times.

The following sections are a result of what was found on the Internet.

### 4.1 Yes, Virginia, There Is A Mr. Volker and a Mr. Craig

It also appears that Volker-Craig was founded by two Canadians named Mike Volker from Waterloo, Ontario and Ronald Craig. Mr. Craig now teaches at Wilfrid Laurier University’s business school, also in Waterloo. Mr. Volker has served as Executive Director of the British Columbia Advanced Systems Institute, a firm intended to “seed” other businesses in the Vancouver area. He currently is serving as the Director of Simon Fraser University’s Industry Liaison Office in Burnaby, BC.<sup>2</sup>

Volker and Craig intended to get a very low cost computer terminal into the hands of the educational community back in the late ’70s. They had succeeded. Volker explains why it is important to keep up technologically:

It happened to me with Volker-Craig, my first company... It was the early 70’s. We were fresh out of university where we had developed all this neat electronics. Our dream was to come up with an “el-cheapo” video display terminal that students could use. We eventually began marketing this innovative new terminal but we didn’t start developing follow-on products fast enough. Our competitors began using newer microprocessor technology and after a couple of years, we found ourselves playing catch-up.<sup>3</sup>

Volker-Craig indeed survived their “wake-up call” and sold the company in 1981.

### 4.2 On the Difficulties Of Using Volkers

Here is an account of the difficulties in programming the control sequences on a Volker as written for Usenet by Richard Shuford:<sup>4</sup>

News about Volker-Craig terminals  
(Canadian terminal vendor from early 1980s)

---

<sup>1</sup>See <http://www.google.com/>.

<sup>2</sup>See <http://www.sfu.ca/~mvolker/mikecv.htm>.

<sup>3</sup>See <http://css.sfu.ca/update/vol2/2.7-volker.html>.

<sup>4</sup>See [http://www.cs.utk.edu/~shuford/terminal/volker\\_craig\\_news.txt](http://www.cs.utk.edu/~shuford/terminal/volker_craig_news.txt).

<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*-<\*->

Path: utkcs2!cs.utk.edu!not-for-mail  
From: shuford@cs.utk.edu (Richard Shuford)  
Newsgroups: comp.terminals,alt.folklore.computers,  
              comp.os.ms-windows.networking.win95,alt.religion.adm3a  
Subject: Re: Telnet for VC4604?  
Followup-To: comp.terminals  
Date: 14 Nov 1996 13:35:19 -0500  
Organization: University of Tennessee, Knoxville--Dept. of Computer Science  
Expires: 31 Dec 1996 13:14:15 GMT  
Message-ID: <56fop7INNndk@duncan.cs.utk.edu>  
References: <E0pnDC.43@watserv3.uwaterloo.ca>  
Keywords: Volker-Craig, emulation, BYTE, ADM-3, Wyse, termcap, hardcoding  
Summary: a suggestion for biting the bullet...

In article <E0pnDC.43@watserv3.uwaterloo.ca>,  
kloberle@mc4adm.uwaterloo.ca (Kevin Oberle) writes:  
>

> We have an application that was written many years ago for a specific  
> terminal--the Volker-Craig VC404. In fact, the terminal cursor addressing  
> commands were hardcoded into the software, so that we can use it only with  
> VC terminals (using VC4604's now).

A regrettable choice of hardcoded hardware....

Now, I HAVE used a Volker-Craig terminal, years ago, when I worked for  
BYTE magazine. Carl T. Helmers, the founding editor of BYTE, bought a  
bunch of V-C's. He liked the fact that they were cheap, and that their  
serial ports could run at 19,200 bps. Then later on, Carl tried to  
actually write a program using one, and he found he liked them less. He  
never did get the absolute cursor addressing to work from UCSD Pascal.

Nevertheless, in the period from 1979 to 1983, artist Robert Tinney used  
the Volker-Craigs as archetypes for all the computer terminals in  
illustrations he drew for BYTE's covers! One V-C unit was gutted and  
sprayed with silver paint and appeared in a 1980 cover photograph in the  
short-lived OnComputing magazine.

> I'd like to do away with the terminals, and provide the ability to run the  
> app from PCs. Does anyone know of a telnet app (Win95 preferred) that  
> emulates a Volker-Craig terminal? Failing that, is there a telnet app  
> that allows one to custom tailor the terminal control codes?  
> --  
> kloberle@mc4adm.UWaterloo.ca

I have never even heard rumor of a software package that emulates a  
Volker-Craig terminal, on any platform, for any communication channel.  
There may be one out there somewhere, but such a critter would be  
quite obscure and would probably not use Telnet from Windows 95.  
(But if you find one, let me know....) [see below]

If you have the source code for this application, I'd say it's time  
to bite the bullet and change the hardcoding. Using "ncurses"

<http://www.ccil.org/~esr/ncurses.html>

or a similar facility would give you best flexibility. You can use

the same code review to check for Year-2000 problems, while you are at it!

If you don't have the source code, things get harder but may not yet be hopeless, if you are stouthearted and are willing to try patching the binary file of the executable.

As I recall, the control sequences for the Volker-Craig terminals are pretty short and arbitrary. You may be able to figure out where the existing control codes are in the binary and what they are intended to do. If so, then you could patch in the control codes for some OTHER terminal type--one that is more widely emulated.

Alas, the modern control sequences in the VT100 and its relatives, and for that matter in any ANSI-compliant emulation, are quite verbose (will take up more bytes), so changing to the most widely emulated ASCII terminal type is not likely to work. But here are a couple of terminal types with relatively short control sequences, in no particular order:

```
Wyse-50
Lear-Siegler ADM-3
DEC VT52
```

Emulations of these three are available without too much trouble. All of them, as well as Volker-Craig VC404, have entries in the global terminfo/termcap database maintained by Eric Raymond at

<http://www.ccil.org/terminfo/>

so you perhaps could compare codes and functions from those entries and then patch new codes directly into your application's image. Then your users would have a better set of options in what equipment they need to run the program.

THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES HERE. You are recovering from somebody's previous engineering misjudgment.

The Wyse-50 is rather well discussed in the book "termcap & terminfo"

<http://www.ora.com/gnn/bus/ora/item/term.html>

--

```
...Richard S. Shuford | "He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and
...shuford@cs.utk.edu | he who gives gifts to the rich--both come to poverty.
...Info-Stratus contact| Proverbs 22:16 NIV
```

My favorite part is that *Byte* Magazine used a modified Volker as cover art on some of its issues.

### 4.3 Other Volker-Craig Related Web Sites Seen

One person has a museum where artifacts are stored. A Volker is found within, associated with a system which ran CP/M. Admittedly, Volklers were quite suited to that task. Personally, I would have preferred a VT-100-compatible terminal with it, but in the heyday of CP/M, Volklers were kings.

### 4.4 What I Conclude

I just wish there was more on the Internet about Volklers of any kind, not just about a few Volklers being the terminal of choice for university computer users.



## Chapter 5

# Help! Even Newer Uses for Dead Volkers!

I was hoping to finally put this to rest, but nearly ten years later, even a few more uses come up. Still, no repeated uses from [23] or [3] or even the ones in chapter 1 on page 1 show up in here.

### 5.1 Yahoo! More Uses Found!

What had happened was I blamed one David Weinstein for continuing work on this document.<sup>1</sup> I had a message posted, reproduced in figure 5.1 on the next page.<sup>2</sup>

Donald Ptak, the person who came up with the uses for dead Volkers and school lunches found in [8, 17, 10, 11, 22] came up with a few more.<sup>3</sup> Don came up with items 1 and 2. Item 3 is mine.

1. Antenna base<sup>4</sup>
2. Short wave radio housing
3. Dummy load for amateur radio transmitter testing

### 5.2 Other Random Ruminations

Even after what was thought up in §5.1 on page 37, I still came up with at least one more.

1. Materials hopper for injection molding machines<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>More gory details can be found in the Yahoo! Groups group called `blametaker`, located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/blametaker/>. This group was formerly known as `blamedave` until the beginning of 2005.

<sup>2</sup>See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/blametaker/message/120>.

<sup>3</sup>See <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/blametaker/message/122>.

<sup>4</sup>See §C.1 on page 53.

<sup>5</sup>This one will take some explanation. See §C.2 on page 53.

Subject: [blamedave] Being reminded of Volkens is Dave's fault  
Date: Sat, 28 Jun 2003 13:31:56 -0400  
From: Curtis R Anderson <gleepy@intelligencia.com>  
Reply-To: blamedave@yahoogroups.com  
To: blamedave@yahoogroups.com

It's all Dave's fault I have to be reminded of Rich's obsession of the horrendous Volker-Craig terminals.

See what I have at <http://www.gleepy.net/writings/riv4/>

Now, do I expand some of the descriptions slightly to keep my LaTeX skills sharp, or do I find another dead horse to beat/windmill to tilt at? Do I blame Dave for all of this?

It's Dave's fault I lost my text messaging on my cell phone. All Verizon Wireless users in Buffalo ought to be blaming Dave, too.

--

Curtis R. Anderson, Co-creator of "Gleepy the Hen", displaced resident  
<http://gleepy.livejournal.com/>  
<http://www.gleepy.net/> ICQ: 50137888  
<mailto:gleepy@intelligencia.com>

Figure 5.1: Talking About Dead Volkens



## Appendix A

# Detailed Explanations for Dead Volkers

This appendix lists the detailed explanations for Dead Volkers that would have otherwise cluttered up the footnotes.

### A.1 The Acceleration of Gravity

This idea came from one Ken Smith, a programmer/analyst with the University at Buffalo's Computer Science department. Some time ago in a Usenet news posting, he suggested taking Macintosh computers, dropping them from a tall building and measuring the time it takes for them to fall. To perform the experiment using the scientific method, it will be necessary to repeat the experiment several times from the same place and from different places and heights. Proper experimentation will probably consume all the Volkers that exist.

### A.2 Anti-Stealth Devices

Only recently did I learn that aircraft like the F-117 "stealth fighter" actually do have to have widgets and dongles hanging off them when operating in civilian airspace. Except in actual training or wartime, the aircraft must be observable on radar. One wonders if a cut-up Volker can be used to keep the radar cross section larger than a swallow.<sup>1</sup>

### A.3 Babylon 5

*Babylon 5* is a television series created for Warner Bros. Domestic Television by J. Michael Straczynski. Vorlons are a race which, according to the series, must breathe an ammonia and methane mixture. Vorlon pets would need some kind of sealed environment, which a dead Volker could provide, before they can be brought into other parts of the station.

### A.4 George Bailey's Information Terminal

According to the film *It's a Wonderful Life*, the house that George and Mary Bailey moved in to had minimal furnishings. The chicken was roasting on the fireplace, being turned by a 78 RPM record player.

---

<sup>1</sup>It can be an American or European swallow. We don't know for sure.

It would make sense to reason that a dead Volker in a broken-down house would be consistent with a remake of the film, or if the film were originally made today in a more contemporary setting.

## A.5 Christmas Tree Stands

Dead Volkens make good water containers when sealed. So why not use the CRT opening to set a tree in so the needles won't fall off early. What better way is there to show how much one cares for their family than to recycle a Volker in such a thoughtful way? Figure A.1 on the facing page shows how to use a Volker as a Christmas tree stand.

## A.6 Curing Tanks

Manufacturing plastic resins like polyvinyl chloride requires a curing tank so that the vinyl chloride may be polymerized by combining into long chains. Using a dead Volker as a tank would be good for small test batches. These Volkens can be sent to Niagara Falls and companies like Union Carbide can use them for testing.

## A.7 Foodarackacycle

One of the gadgets that was seen on the '60s television series *The Jetsons* was an object called a foodarackacycle. This device replicated food for the family. Considering that George Jetson was not able to get that raise as often as he would have liked from Mr. Spacely, the family may have had to settle for an older model, where a Volker cabinet would have worked quite nicely.

## A.8 Generic Terminals

This idea came out after looking around in grocery stores at generic foods. This was popular as a result of the success with generic drugs shortly before. By about 1975, stores were stocking generic foods: no trade or service marks, no multicolor printing or anything else that makes a product cost more.

The specific use of black Helvetica Bold letters, all lower case, on a yellow background came from the type of generic grocery items that a former Buffalo area grocery store chain known as Bells<sup>2</sup> stocked. Such packaging might look like what is seen in Figure A.2 on the next page.

One of my friends from that era thought about seeing other items packaged in generic packaging: guns, bullets, artillery rounds, etc.; then I thought about labeling a Volker as a generic terminal.

## A.9 Grunge Rock Groups

"Grunge" rock groups such as Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Soundgarden and Alice in Chains were in mind when I came up with this one. The idea occurred to me while listening to a Pearl Jam CD one night between band sets while I was in a state of glorious inebriation while thinking of a potential romantic interest which doesn't matter anyway. If this section doesn't make much sense, it was written while drunk and my handwriting wasn't that great anyway. Hooray for typewriters, computer terminals, and word processors.

---

<sup>2</sup>At the time of the original writing, one of these still existed in the suburb of Tonawanda. The last Bells the author observed was Avery's Bells in the village of North Collins, which closed around the end of 1998. It has stayed closed until a chain known as Save-A-Lot took it over.

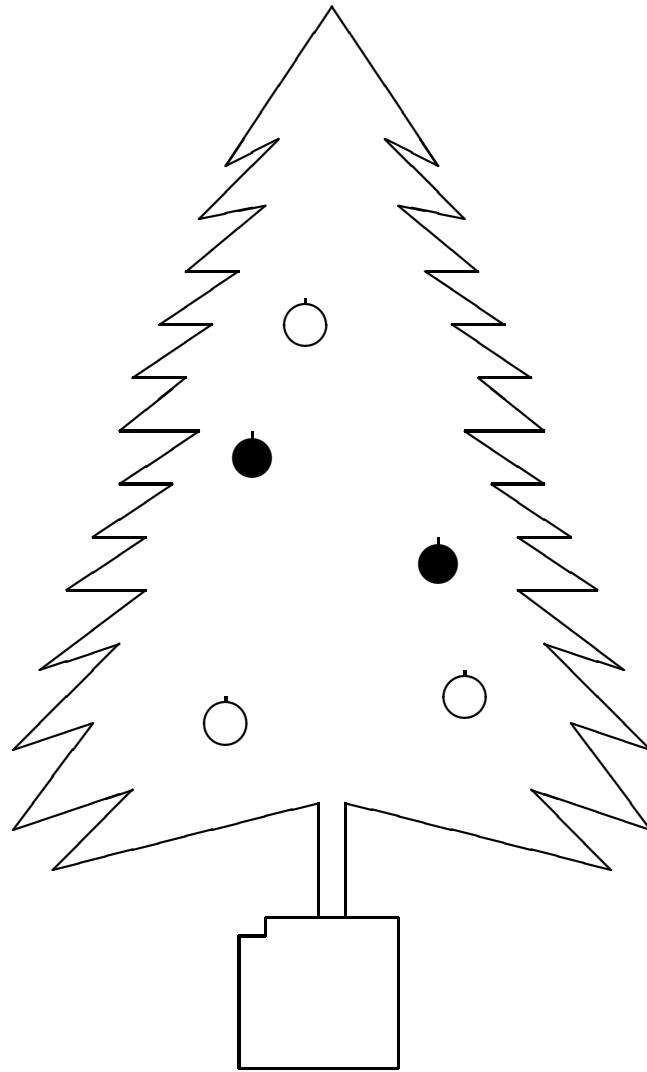


Figure A.1: Christmas Tree Stand Using a Dead Volker

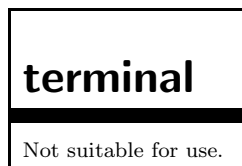


Figure A.2: Generic Volker Packaging

## A.10 High-Tech Terminals for Fundamentalists

I feel that the use is a bit racist, so this is going to need some explanation. The thought of a terminal used by someone or a group of people who beats themselves with chains was the inspiration for this use [14].

## A.11 The M31 Scale Artillery Trainer

The M31 is a scale model artillery trainer system that shoots its rounds roughly 1/10 the distance of regular rounds. It is usually used when training a fire direction center (FDC) which performs cannon gunnery functions such as determining how to aim the cannon. This training is done mostly for the benefit of the FDC [44, Appendix A].

## A.12 Marijuana Bong

Back when I was assigned to South Korea in 1983, the first Saturday I was assigned to the Sixth Battalion, 37th Field Artillery (6/37 FA), our Headquarters Battery underwent a Health and Welfare inspection where the commander uses his authority to inspect personal living areas.

The point here is that during the inspection, a search was made in one of the barracks buildings through common areas. My section chief, with a silly grin on his face, carried around a makeshift marijuana bong made from a Mountain Dew soda can and a resuscitation tube from an M17A1 protective mask. The sight was so funny to us that it stuck in my mind, trying to figure out how to make a Volker be used as a marijuana bong.

## A.13 Micro-Mutts

The expression “micro-mutt” was one that I came up with when I was assigned to South Korea in 1983. Whenever I would take a walk through the community during the day, I would see all these little dogs yapping away, scrounging for whatever food they could find. I suspected that there were only small dogs left as those dogs got bigger, they were being, uh, . . . butchered for cooking.

## A.14 NCO Justice

Having unruly students or fraternity pledges (§ A.17 on the facing page) march around with a dead Volker and pronouncing loudly, “Volkers eat shit!” in a campus dormitory hallway or fraternity house may be similar to a sergeant making a private perform NCO justice for a minor infraction. Such examples of NCO justice would be:

- Running around parade grounds with an M1 rifle and loudly yelling “I’m a shithead!” over and over until one collapsed [26, p. 35]
- Carrying a fire extinguisher and marching on guard duty in the barracks, yelling, “Put out the fire!” after being diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease
- Reporting to post headquarters in dress (class A) uniform for morning reveille and saluting as the flag is raised as a result of being late for a morning formation

## A.15 Picture Cube

One of the authors of [23], Michael T. Mecca, had garbage picked this picture cube with pictures still stuck inside it. One of the pictures was a snapshot of a dog with a banana sticker on it. The picture looked so darned silly that Mr. Mecca added it to his collection of bizzare pictures. Its memory was strong enough for me to use a Volker to display such a thing.

## A.16 Picture Frame

[5] suggested that children may get embarrassed about children's pictures being hung on refrigerators. Dead Volkers seem to make such good frames because children don't want to see the pictures, and they probably don't want to see the frames, either.

## A.17 Pledge Items

Since the first organizations of their type on college and university campuses, fraternities and other Greek organizations have come up with gags to pull on prospective fraternity members. Bricks are often used because they can represent the *foundation* of a fraternity. These pledges may have to carry some easily pilferable and heavy item around with them *at all times* while engaged in on- and some off-campus activities. Punishment for transgression would involve some kind of hazing-related activity. This may be similar to the military habit of always carrying one's assigned weapon when in the field with its (more severe and lawful) consequences, such as the kind documented in § A.14 on the preceding page.

As Volkers are heavy, they are an ideal choice to pick on pledges with. Make 'em stick one of those in their bookbags and their backs will never feel the same again. Better yet, have the pledge take a Volker in the shower and it probably do a world of good to the Volker. It might actually work after this treatment.

## A.18 Retarded Bombs

A retarded bomb has special fins which slow down the bomb's descent so the aircraft can scoot away without damage to it. Of course, the Volker gets destroyed in the process, but who cares as long as we're having fun and delivering maximum ordnance on the target?<sup>3</sup>

## A.19 RFD Mailbox Bases

Farmers in many rural western New York counties have traditionally set up their mailboxes along the road by putting the mailbox on top of a post and inserting the post inside a milk container packed with rocks. This may have been done so that snowplows would simply knock over the mailbox instead of breaking the post when it was fixed into the ground. My father's mailbox was constructed in the same way, but the post was set inside a blacktop sealant container filled with concrete, as the container was something he happened to have on hand at the time. Despite these precautions, whenever the plow came along to plow out at the end of the dead-end road and knocked over the mailbox, some mounting nails used to secure the mailbox to the post would always loosen. My return from school would usually entail my trying to reset the mailbox on the post.

Figure A.3 on the following page shows a potential way of constructing a mailbox with a dead Volker. Of course, if a plow hit the Volker, more than likely the plow blade would be damaged!

---

<sup>3</sup>Or, as we used to say in the field artillery days, "Maximum steel on the target." No wonder why field artillery is considered king of battle.

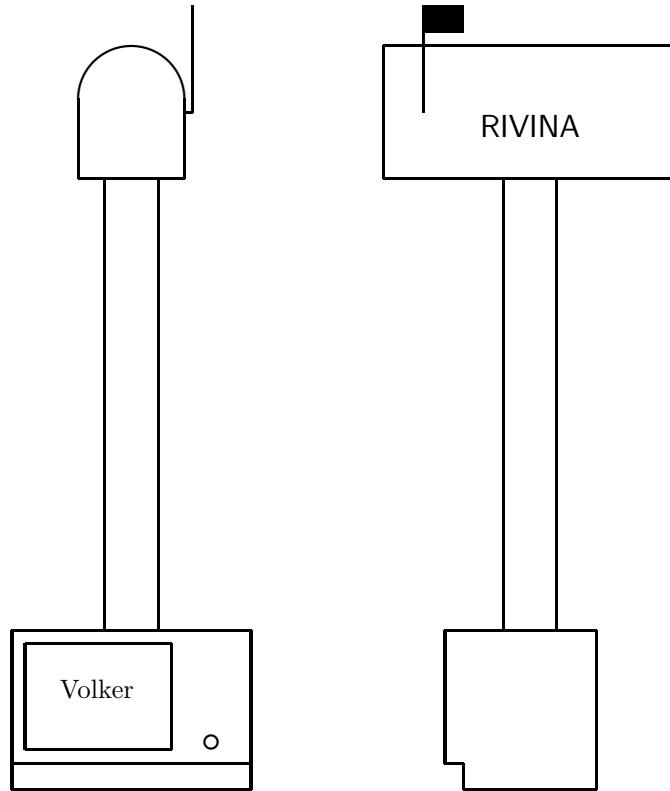


Figure A.3: RFD Mailbox Base Using a Dead Volker

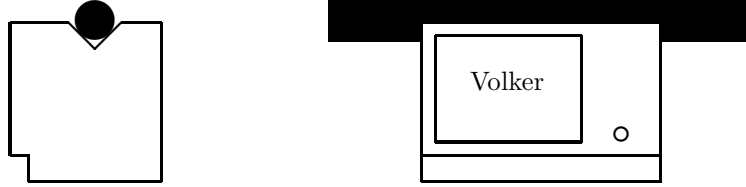


Figure A.4: Using a Dead Volker as a Wood Stringer

## A.20 SAC Brownies

At the time this was originally written, SAC brownies are these brownies made by Food Service at University at Buffalo.

Somehow, Rivina picked up the idea of calling them SAC brownies, probably because they were sold in the Student Activities Center (SAC) at one point, as was the pizza (§ A.21). SAC brownies were also available in the vending machines as well. Actually, the brownies were quite good, but the joke was to use them for brick replacements in building construction.

Using a Volker as an oven was chosen because the heat isn't all that high from a CRT heater, anyway. This probably explains the use of one as a crock pot in section 2.2 on page 21.

As far as displaying SAC brownies, only stale brownies may be displayed. This includes most of them (about 99.5%), but this is part of the joke.

## A.21 SAC Pizza

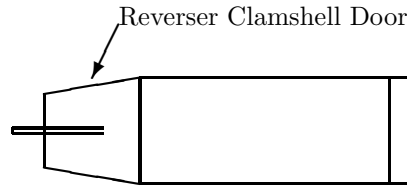
Referred to as crusty, dry, gummy and/or rotten depending on the state and mood of the pizza warmer, SAC Pizza was the type of pizza served in the Student Activities Center at University at Buffalo up until about 1991 or so when the building was expanded. The problem with the pizza was that it was cooked in a convection oven rather than a true pizza oven. Then the pizza was left to sit around for a while in a pizza warmer with the rotating tray holders, like the kind used to display pizza in convenience stores or similar places.

Personally, I didn't find the pizza to be that bad, unless it was sitting around for a while in the pizza warmer. I believe this explains the use for a dead Volker such as a pizza warmer as documented in sections 2.1 on page 19 and 2.2 on page 21.

SAC pizza was something to definitely be avoided when one was feeling nauseous. All people have to do is think of the fictitious TV soap opera *As The Stomach Turns* and they are ready to do the big sacrifice to the Great Porcelain God some time after consumption.

## A.22 Stringer Blocks For Wood

My father, Rex Anderson, had cast concrete wood stringer blocks to hold 8 foot long wood lengths in so that firewood could be stacked on them. Volklers seem to be hardy enough so that stringers can be put in them. Figure A.4 shows how to use a Volker as a stringer. Use a hammer or mallet to pound the notch in the case. If that fails, due to the ruggedness of the case, or the hammer breaks, use a hydraulic ram to make a notch. If the hydraulic ram breaks, well, use the bent cylinder for some useful item. Maybe there will be a demand for a document called *Still More Uses For Bent Hydraulic Cylinders (And Other Things)* in the future.



Not drawn to any realistic scale.

Figure A.5: Using a Volker as a Thrust Reverser

## A.23 Swell Boxes

A swell box is a container with variable shutters on one side in which organ pipes are installed so that the loudness of the pipes in the box can be regulated with a foot pedal on the organ console just above the pedal keyboard. Since some of the smaller pipes would fit inside Volklers, the aluminum case would provide interesting tonal qualities and the CRT opening can house the shutters. Several Volklers can make up a swell division for a modern instrument.

## A.24 TelePrompTer Display

Some Volklers may have broken caps lock keys, so the display of all capital letters may imply that shouting is intended. Somewhere, [4] suggested that Bill Clinton shouted a lot when reading the TelePrompTer. The television character generator types do use upper case.

It is currently tradition on computer BBSs and information services to remind new users that entering messages in all capital letters would mean that shouting was implied. More experienced users would tell these new people not to shout by using mixed case. In some cases, these new users may be using such antiquated equipment, such as Volklers or the even more outdated ADM-3A, that all they could do was shout.

## A.25 Thrust Reversers

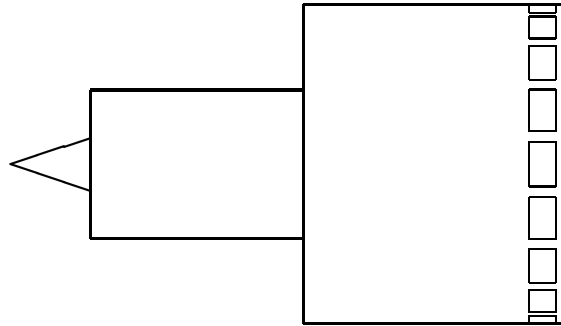
Thrust reversers, in this context, are bucket-shaped objects which are inserted by hydraulic jackscrews into the jet exhaust. These buckets deflect the airflow sufficiently to cause a reverse thrust component, suitable for slowing down a jet landing on a runway. Without the reversers, jets may need to use parachutes or longer runways, preventing commercial jets from using many airports in the U. S.

The shape of the Volker allows their use for thrust reversers for jet engines as shown in figure A.5. Some shaping of the Volker will be necessary, as will some heatproofing of the metal. With advances in engine technology, jet exhaust gets hotter than ever, and Volklers' cases will melt or burn unless precautions are taken. Even a Volker has its particular vulnerabilities.

## A.26 Turbofan blow-in doors

From studying pictures of aircraft designed in the early to mid 1960s, engine manufacturers designed the turbofan engine to provide additional thrust by having a large turbine fan in the front (or rear) of the engine. Air would blow around the engine core, providing additional thrust. Early designs had systems that opened special doors in between the front edge of the engine nacelle and the fan. These





Not drawn to any realistic scale.

Figure A.6: Blow-in Doors on a Turbofan Engine

doors opened inward, and the resulting Venturi effect drew in additional air, providing a greater mass flow (the mass of air flowing through the engine per unit time) and increasing thrust.

Figure A.6 shows how such a door might be used. To use a Volker here, it would be necessary to flatten or cut up the case first. A diamond tipped circular saw should work.

## A.27 The University Bomber

The University Bomber was a character who would send letter bombs to professors and other professional staff at computer science departments at various universities. Somhow, a dead Volker may be such a container for a bomb.

Discussions about this character would come up from time to time, especially being sensitive to things like the vulnerability of computer science departments at universities anywhere. Those of us thinking about this were wondering what could possess someone to do such an act.

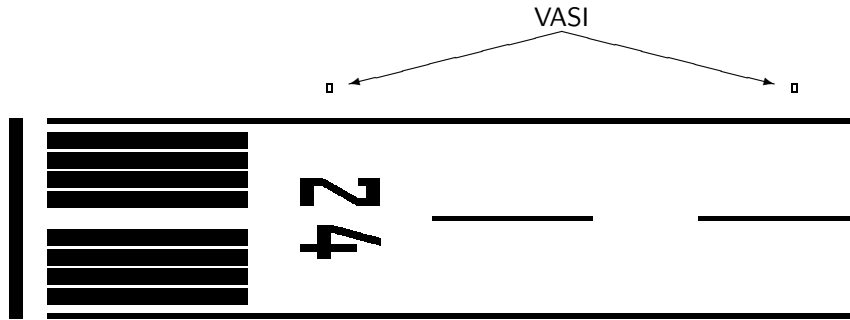
## A.28 VASI

VASI is used on visual and non-precision instrument runways at airports to tell a pilot if the approach slope of the landing aircraft is correct. A correct slope picture puts a red light above a white light when viewed from a typical approach path. If the approach is too low, there are two red lights; too high, there are two white lights [27, pp. 110 and 137]. The Volker case, however, could be the “ambiguous” T-VASI (Visual Glidepath Lighting System [24, p. xiv]) system [24, p. 309] as well, which seems to be more fitting for the Volker. Figures A.7 on the following page and A.8 on the next page show possible layout patterns for Volkens along runways.

Presumably, the Volkens can be used for other marking lighting for airports such as the flasher boxes for the Simplified Short-Approach Landing System with Flashers (SSALSF), Automated Landing System with Sequenced Flashers, Category I (ALSF-1) or Category II (ALSF-2). Also, it can be used for the red light housing for the Simplified Short Approach Landing System with Red Light (SSALSr); or, use for the green Runway End Indicator Lights (REIL).

## A.29 Weapons Discharge Point

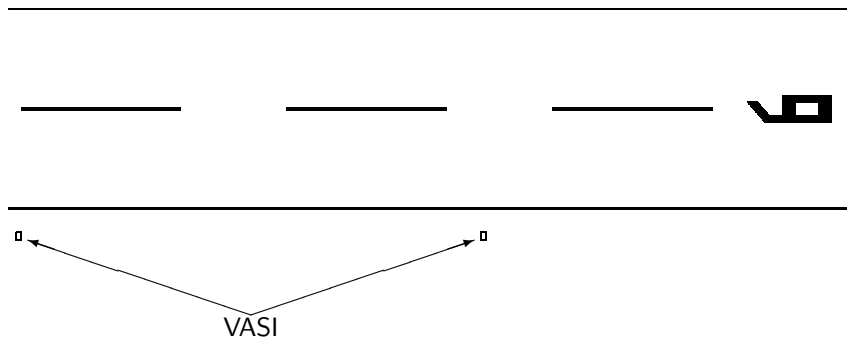
Military and police station armories may have a barrel or other structure filled with sand or other material for all weapons to be cleared in. This is done by pointing the weapon into the barrel and



Source for marking information: [45]

Overrun stopways and displaced thresholds are deleted for clarity.

Figure A.7: Potential VASI Layout With a Volker on a Non-precision Instrument Runway



Source for marking information: [45]

Overrun stopways and displaced thresholds are deleted for clarity.

Figure A.8: Potential VASI Layout With a Volker on a Visual Runway

clearing the weapon to insure that no rounds are chambered. If one is fired accidentally, it is fired into the discharge point. Volkens are ideal for this sort of thing.

### **A.30 Wonder Terminals For the Blind**

This terminal must have the sorts of features that cause the terminal to be overpriced as a way to rip off the blind. It has to be something done by a shady equipment manufacturer or dealer so that the Volker doesn't function at all and it is important that the blind person has been taken advantage of [16], revised [21].

### **A.31 Other Uses for Dead Volkens Where Functionality Is Not Required**

This section is to reference all the uses for dead Volkens where functionality is not required. Examples may include cactus waterers, pet rock feeders, etc.



## Appendix B

# Detailed Uses for Unwanted School Lunches

This appendix contains uses for School Lunches which were too big to fit within the footnotes.

### B.1 Crayon Replacements

It is rumored that Binney and Smith, the manufacturer of Crayola crayons, has a petroleum-free crayon replacement on hand in case the price of petroleum gets too high. A perusal of the Crayola web site<sup>1</sup> suggests crayons are made from nothing more than paraffin wax, the same kind candles are made from. Old, congealing fat from discarded school lunches can harden as it “polymerizes” into something resembling wax,<sup>2</sup> which can be used to make all sorts of pictures.<sup>3</sup>

### B.2 Ondol Heating Systems

In Korea, homes are heated by heating the cement floor. This is done directly, which is dangerous because the cement can crack, causing carbon monoxide to seep through, or indirectly using steam. Special charcoal cylinders with perforations are purchased and put in the heater. The charcoal is lit, heating the floor where the inhabitants spend most of the time. This system only heats the floor, which is more efficient than Western systems, and was even selected by architect Frank Lloyd Wright for heating some homes. [46, pp. 99–101]

### B.3 Pig Food

Rep. Goodling suggested that one of the reasons that larger than consumable servings of food were served was that much of the food as waste would go to nearby pig farms [1]. Perhaps, that’s one of the reasons that the portions have been cut somewhat for the much younger children receiving school lunches [43].

---

<sup>1</sup>See [http://www.crayola.com/factory/preview/factory\\_floor/crayon\\_mfg.htm](http://www.crayola.com/factory/preview/factory_floor/crayon_mfg.htm).

<sup>2</sup>It is conceivable that the fat from school lunches can also be used to make candles after it has been allowed to polymerize.

<sup>3</sup>It further occurred to me that printers such as my Xerox Phaser 8400 printer melts a wax-like substance onto the page to print. Could old, congealed school lunch fat be used to make images on paper? After all, I figure someone over at Tektronix many moons ago saw his or her child melting crayons onto paper to make an image, and the engineer came up with the same idea.

## B.4 Power Supply Replacement

Many of the water-soluble components of a school lunch should be able to act as an electrolyte when the right electrodes are inserted into it. This way, there should be enough power to run a flashlight or radio during a blackout, while camping, etc.

## Appendix C

# Help! New Detailed Explanations for Dead Volkers

This appendix lists more detailed explanations for Dead Volkers from chapter 5 on page 37 that would have otherwise cluttered up the footnotes.

### C.1 Antenna Base

When one thinks about it, a Volker should be sturdy enough to hold the antenna still, even in strong wind gusts.<sup>1</sup> Figure C.1 on the following page shows how such a base may be constructed.

### C.2 Materials Hopper

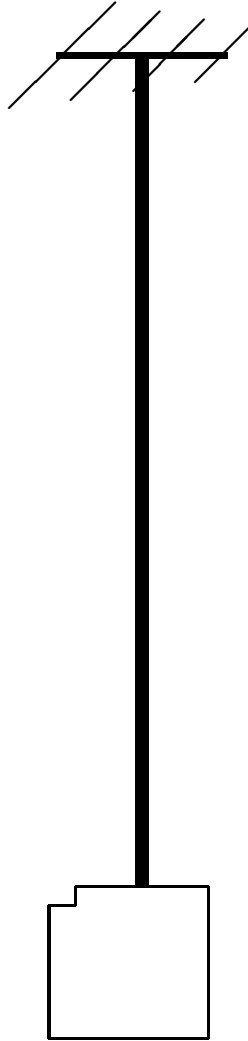
Since I have worked in an injection mold plastics factory, I realized that a dead Volker could be used as a hopper above the injector screw feed. This hopper holds the plastic which will be melted and pushed through the mold at high pressures.

As the dead Volker has a CRT opening, it could be used as an extra large viewport to see at a glance how much material is in the hopper. If the CRT heater is left in the case, it might be able to help dry the material by heating it.

A diagram is available at figure C.2 on page 55.

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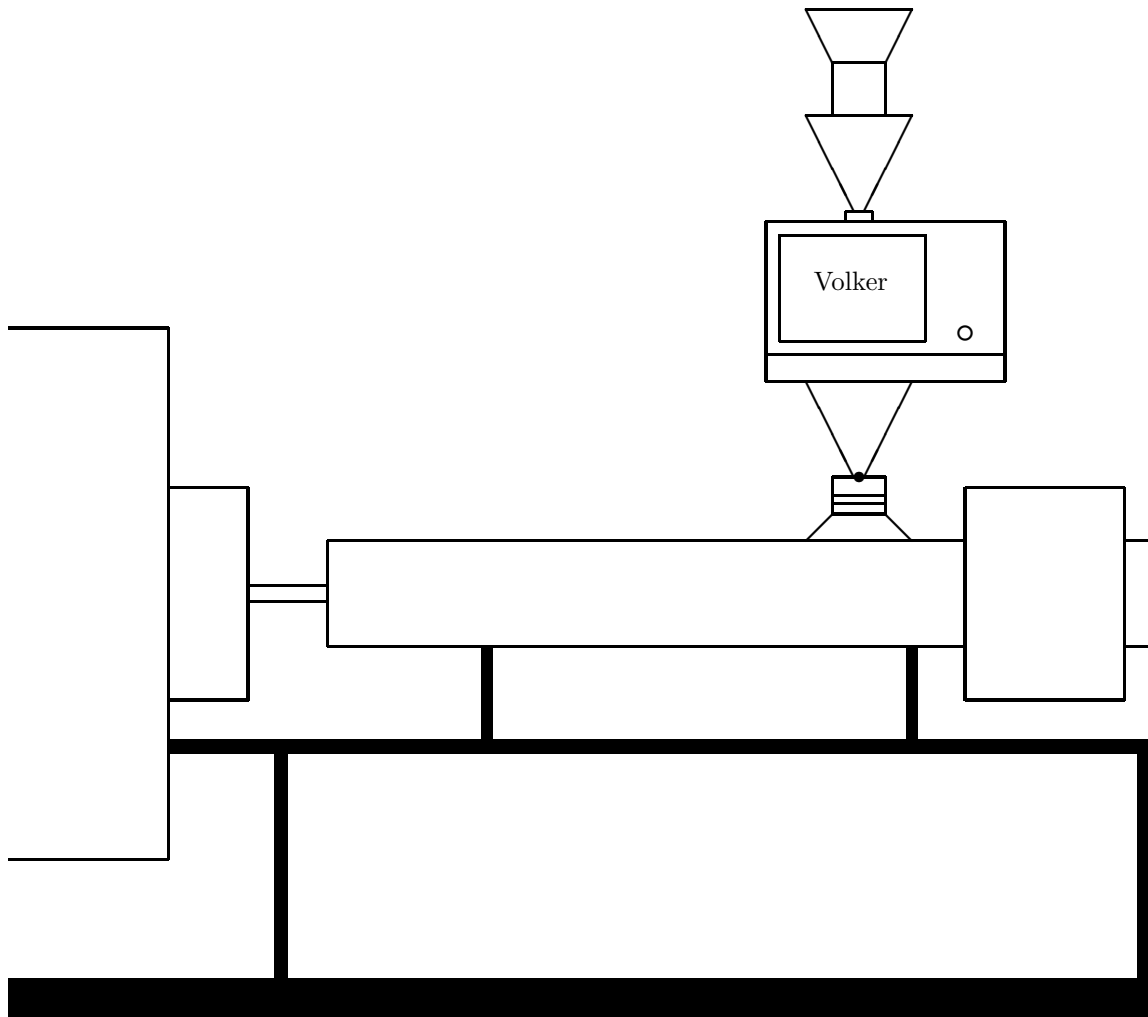
<sup>1</sup>Such wind gusts were encountered on the day this section was being written.



Not drawn to any realistic scale.

Figure C.1: Antenna Base Using a Dead Volker





Various hoses and wires are missing.  
Also not drawn to any realistic scale.

Figure C.2: Volker Used As Materials Hopper In Injection Molding



# Appendix D

## Is Rich Misguided?

I make the argument that Rivina is quite misguided, especially when it comes to his favorite things: Volkers and school lunches. This appendix is here so that the reader can make his own judgement.

I had to search through computer magnetic tape archives to find the files that I present in this appendix. The files reproduced here will show different aspects of Rivina in terms of Volkers and school lunches. Other files from me may provide responses and similar messages.

### D.1 Preserving the Volker-Craig

Figure D.1 on the following page shows an example of how misguided Rich can get when it comes to Volkers. It was originally intended to be a fake advertisement that was part of a Beachboard<sup>1</sup> story called *As the Beachboard Goes ‘Boing! Boink! Splat!’* written by Andrew Chaplin [25]. The story was a multipart story posted there in seven parts<sup>2</sup> depicted the lives of fellow Beachboarders, and Rivina was able to submit his blather there for our consumption.

The reader should keep in mind that misguidance can happen to the best of us, and Rivina is no exception, especially after reading that post.

### D.2 Rivina Normal Day

One time, at some point back in ancient history before O. J. Simpson was ever accused of murder, and even back in the days when Jimmy Griffin was mayor of Buffalo, Rivina went on an escapade called Rivina Normal Day. This was a time when he decided that it would be better to try to be like the rest of us. He would be like the rest of us, make fun of and put down school lunches with the rest of us and, in effect, tell us that Volkers comprised the biggest pile of horse manure ever collected in one place.

These happened several times whenever enough people asked him to do it. The first time I document Rivina Normal Day here in figure D.3 on page 60 happened a mere four *weeks* or so after I had “met” him online. In fact, the exact method used was posted in figure D.14 on page 68.

#### D.2.1 On Smaller Bulletin Board Systems

On a handful of bulletin board systems (BBSs) in the area, Riv will lead off his announcement for a Normal Day much like what’s in Figures D.2 on page 59 and D.3 on page 60. Longer versions of these files showed up on a single-user (at a time) bulletin board system. We would then read them and work

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<sup>1</sup>More on the Beachboard is found in § D.2.2 on page 60.

<sup>2</sup>The first part remains hopelessly lost, emptied into the great bit bucket in the sky.

```

+====+====+====+====+<<VC>>+====+====+====+====+
!
! Are YOU sick of those icky VT220 terminals? !
!
! Do YOU wish that we had the Placating Shade !
! of Blue back where it belongs - in computer !
! sites all over the Campuses? !
!
! Then it's time to SHOW your true feelings !
! and join the... !
!
! SSSSS KK KK PPPPP VV VV CCCCC !
! SS SS KK KK PP PP VV VV CC CC !
! SS KK KK PP PP VV VV CC !
! SSSSSSS KKKK PPPPPP VV VV CC !
! SS KK KK PP VV VV CC !
! SS SS KK KK PP VVVV CC CC !
! SSSSS KK KK PP VV CCCCC !
!
! The S)ociety to !
! K)eep and !
! P)reserve !
! V)olker- !
! C)raigs! !
!
! If you have always longed to cry, !
!
! " L O N G L I V E V O L K E R S ! ! ! " !
!
! ...then the SKPVC is the org for YOU! We !
! together will FIGHT the Establishment that !
! brought in those icky VT220's and return !
! our beloved Volker-Craig terminals to their !
! rightful place in our computing centers! !
! For more information, contact our Pres- !
! ident at UBVMS::V051Q576. !
!
! "Volker-Craigs...the Terminal of Choice!" !
!
!====paid=advertisement=by=the=SKPVC,=Inc.====!
!
+====+====+====+====+<<VC>>+====+====+====+====+

```

Source: [25]

Figure D.1: The Society to Keep and Preserve Volker-Craigs

Numb ->33  
Sub ->#- Health! -#-  
From ->THE RIVINA (#9)  
Date ->01/31/87 00:08:27 ET

...health ABOUNDS on these boardies! 17 in 2.5 equals just under 7 posties per day! A whole heck of a LOT compared to the dismal results on the OTHER boardies...!

'Ow's it goin', peeples?

\* Mark'er - Good start? Why do we want to take me offa School Lunches in the FIRST place?

And...insurance? OOH! What do you suppose a premium would be worth on a School Lunch? Insured School Lunches...GUARANTEED good-tasting or double your money back! Oughta be profitable, even at 5 cents a day! After all, how many bad Lunches are OUT there...?

\* F-20'er - Monday. Strange things happen when I call the Vax on me modem. I can't even do a simple "show users" without getting error messages!

All geared up for my next logon?  
Next logon, peeples, is Rivina Normal Day!  
See Riv denounce School Lunches!  
See Riv use perfect English!  
And much, MUCH more!!!

Source: [38]

Figure D.2: Rivina Normal Day on The Dark Side BBS Warning Order

Numb ->37  
Sub ->Rivina Normal Day  
From ->THE RIVINA (#9)  
Date ->02/03/87 00:13:42 ET

How is it going, people?

I notice, upon reading the post which precedes this one, that the date counter is not, in fact, in error - beyond the previously-known error in the TIME counter, that is. Is it true, then, that there have been no new posts put here in nearly two days? Is this due to a board crash, or a considerable homework binge on the part of The Keeper's Wife, or a mere lack of callers, or an unexplained truncation of recent messages on Board One?

In any case, here come my replies.

Mark, I must agree with you. Why even stop at grains of sand, though? The potential number of rotten, inedible school lunches can be put into a one-to-one correspondence with the real numbers! TRY and eat a school lunch and live to tell the story! It simply cannot be done!

Source: [37]

Figure D.3: Rivina Normal Day on The Dark Side BBS

out our replies. Rivina would take his time and write a reply to everyone who created a public message (post) here and anywhere else.

Rivina had also managed to post on another BBS called TresAngle.<sup>3</sup> He did not write a Rivina Normal Day post there because there was no demand, despite the “warning order” posted (figure D.4 on the facing page). However, private mail *was* sent to those who had requested it, like what is seen in figure D.5 on page 62. I fired back, indicating that school lunches resembled unwashed sweat socks.<sup>4</sup> In mail, he thinks that I said that school lunches are not all washed up. Of course, he is trying to weasel out of it in the post found in figure D.6 on page 63.

In the Normal Day posts, with regards to school lunches, he ultimately has the right idea. *He can be taught!* Naturally, I was so impressed with the idea that I came up with a Strange Day post of my own. This is provided in figure D.7 on page 64.

## D.2.2 Graduating to Timesharing Systems

Once we got him on the Beachboard<sup>5</sup>, the Normal Days would start up there. A header from an actual Rivina Normal Day post is included in figure D.8 on page 64. Once again, everyone who left a message in the Beachboard would get a reply from Rivina. Many of those replies are not included here. The one he

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<sup>3</sup>The real name of the BBS has a caret between the ‘s’ and the ‘A’. If I can ever figure out how to get T<sub>E</sub>X to insert that caret properly, I’ll go ahead and put it in.

<sup>4</sup>I do not have those posts with me, so I cannot include them in this document.

<sup>5</sup>The Beachboard was a type of online community at UB running on a crude bulletin board type system called BULLETIN written for OpenVMS. I call it crude as the software did not take full advantage of the operating system’s methods of things such as error handling, but it did handle things like interpreting commands typed in using system library routines. BULLETIN was able to do the things it needed to do with minimal fuss. In such an environment with limited budgets, educational institutions must take advantage of free software like BULLETIN and utilize them to their best benefit. Even I on a limited computing budget must take advantage of free software, meaning free to use, copy or distribute it as seen fit.

TITLE: #- EEF! #-  
Msg by: THE RIVINA  
Date : Sat/01/31/87

....raw-THUH slo'...

'Ow's it goin', peeples?

Welp, the next time that I logs on, it'll be

+=====+

| --> Rivina Normal Day ! <-- |

+=====+

...some of you have been awaiting this with baited breath...

ANYway,

\* Mad Jamm'er - Um, I, too, once tho't that meant "First logon date">  
(OOPS!)

date". I learned different, after alla my posties HAPPENED to be dated  
on that logon date! It is, indeed, the current date...as nearly as \*I\*  
can tell, the option has to do with the lack of existence of a Clock  
on this fine BBS...

\* Mr. Mavy - Um, I tends to speak when spoken to.

Did you say somp'n to me in between my last post and the one before that?  
If so, please accept my mosy humble apologies, as well as this message.  
Happy?

\* Maximilian'er - Hokay, me'll B there...

\* F-20'er - All ready and hyped up for the Normal Day/Wierd Post Day???

Ho well, as ever, I remains

Ever your'n,

(YAAGH! Darn spacebar retained the RETURN that I overpressed!)  
(TAKE TWO!)

Ever your'n,  
-The Rivina.

Source: [39]

Figure D.4: Rivina Normal Day on TresAngle BBS Warning Order

--<>-- FROM: THE RIVINA  
--<>-- DATE: Sun/02/01/87

TITLE:CONTINUED FROM LAST  
Msg by: THE RIVINA  
Date: 02/01/87

What is all of this talk about the excellence of School Lunches floating around the bulletin-board systems? I say that this is quite impossible. School Lunches cannot even hold a candle to stagnant sewer water, and are responsible for a considerable number of the food-poisoning epidemics in this nation.

Source: [30]

Figure D.5: Rivina Normal Day on TresAngle BBS

sent me was, as were select other replies to users when Rivina had something to say about Volkers, Fawn Hall or SAC Pizzas. It appears that I had cobbled together a post for the Beachboard to demonstrate to the crowd what a sample Normal Day post looked like. With that, I was able to brief everyone else on exactly what would happen. His reply to me is included in figure D.9 on page 65.<sup>6</sup> Sample public communications are included in figures D.10 on page 65 and D.11 on page 66. Then his post to me appears in figure D.12 on page 66. The post in figure D.13 on page 67 is yet another example of Normal Day personals.

In the future, Rivina Normal Days could be requested. Procedures for this are spelled out in figure D.14 on page 68.

### D.3 Getting Back To Normal

For Rivina, getting back to normal would entail the usual plug for those Volkers..

Even one time found him chiding me for not doing my Curtis Strange Day<sup>7</sup> post which I had done before. I had intended to do something called a Classic Day where I would revert from being Gleepy the Hen back to older monikers. See figure D.15 on page 68 to see Rivina's chiding. Another post addressed to the addressee mentioned in figure D.12 on page 66 is shown in figure D.15 on page 68, as he returned to "normalcy."<sup>8</sup> The idea is to show that Rivina can return to normal.

---

<sup>6</sup>The reference to me as being "known by a million other process names" was a result of my writing a quick and dirty program in VAX assembly language which allowed selection of a random process name. Within OpenVMS, a process, or a user's timesharing slot, may be addressed by name, unique to a group of processes. People would routinely assign personal names or other monikers to their process when logged in and using the system. The result of that program was that I sent it to someone via a BBS out in Hartford. The program wound up on an OpenVMS setup at the Pratt & Whitney plant in west Hartford, where it mutated into something with all sorts of foreign language characters being used in employees' process names. I could imagine names like "Lôók!!" were used, as ones which made interesting crude graphical shapes. That is the last I had heard of the program.

<sup>7</sup>Not to be confused with the professional golfer named Curtis Strange.

<sup>8</sup>"Normal" being relative to the situation.



TITLE:-#- 'OWSITGOIN'? -#-  
Msg by: THE RIVINA  
Date : Thu/02/05/87

...All right, awreddie! I'se BACK! And I'se my old self! Y'happy?

'Ow's it goin', peeples?

Holy moley! What a SHOCKER! You REALLY want me to stay the way I am?  
Oh well, the users git what the users ask for...

[...]

\* Thissid-Man - Contradiction, huh? Is that like:  
--> Innocent Gypsy Cat Women  
--> Unrelated Scotti-s T  
--> The Tres^Angle Flop  
--> Bad-Tasting School Lunches  
et. al. are contradictions, I takes it...

\* Mark'er - You are a vehement supporter of School Lunches, whether you  
know it or not.

[...]

\* F-20'er - Welllll, I had to straddle the borderline in that post a bit...

- And you're pretty correct about the math, it kept me off for the FIRST  
two nights of my absence. Writing my story took the other two.

-----Ever your'n, -The Rivina.

Source: [40]

Figure D.6: Rivina Reverts To His Usual Self on TresAngle BBS

TITLE:WHOOPIE!!!!  
Msg by: F-20 TIGERSHARK  
Date : Sun/02/01/87

duh speeritt uh' porta-johnny lyvvs onn andd onn

and vhutt 'aav wee-wee gotz hear? awl dhezze peepylzz wuhnyn awowownddd.  
wvveena - dys myte bee kunsyderdd ay straaanj mess-uj.  
mavuhwykk - Aye deffynyttly lykkl dhozz low-gow's U kreyattd...  
sisskow - ennye whonggdoo-dooyngyes U hahv benn kleauhdd uhv 'R' vuhns aye  
neuw uhv..  
yo-yo-ya ya yo-duh - dherr 'R' moor flyuhzz ow-ow-owtt dherr???

Aye's uh'pwomissin' tuh'B ba-haaakkk '2' noormuhlll nexxedd tymie.  
[[F-20]]

Source: [2]

Figure D.7: A Curtis Strange Day Post

Well, here it is! The promised Riv Normal Day post! Once again, I apologize for not being able to put it up upon the second Riv Normal Day itself. Please note that this post only addresses persons who posted in between my post of Thursday night and my post of Saturday evening. Persons who have posted since Saturday evening will be addressed in my regular Tuesday post.

The more observant among you will have noticed that in my post of Saturday evening, I answered "NO" to The Conjuror's Quiz Question, asking if I would like to throw a Volker-Craig Terminal off of Tenth Floor Furnas.

Well, that's right, even though I am Normal now, I WOULDN'T.

That isn't high enough.

I would MUCH rather throw a Volker-Craig out of an airplane flying over the Amherst Campus at approximately a mile above ground level.

Thank you for your understanding, and please DO bear in mind that Volker-Craig Terminals, to put it colloquially, "bite the big one".

I will now graduate onward to the remainder of this post. I am sorry, but I do not feel like indexing my post this time. Remember, a Normal Riv does not do such crazy things!

Source: [32]

Figure D.8: Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder

Mr. Curtis R. Anderson, known also by a million other process names, how is it going? As one of the most vehement supporters of the Riv Normal Day, I assume that you appreciate it the most of all of us! Enjoying?

Source: [42]

Figure D.9: Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder

Cerebus, I have been informed that what used to be Volker-Craig, Limited, is now known as the Nabu Corporation. So in some sense, it is correct to dispute the statement that "a Nabu is not a Volker". However, in the usual, conventional vernacular, the word "Volker" refers specifically to the Volker-Craig 4404 Terminal, and it is indeed true, given that definition, that "a Nabu is not a Volker".

By the way, do note that this discussion of logic is independent of my opinion of Volkens. Since this is Normal Day, I am compelled at this point to admit to you that Volker-Craig terminals are worthless pieces of trash that are more toxic than the Love Canal in 1978 and about as beautiful as Medusa, and, speaking of Medusa, if that creature were to look at a Volker, it would work just as well AFTER Medusa turns it to stone as BEFORE!

Source: [42]

Figure D.10: Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder

Tron Bradley, High Diskmaster of ENCOM, Ultimate Volkerhater, Grand Master of the Appropriate Destruction of Volkens, Crusader against the CHR\$(7), The One with the Burning Hatred of All Volkens, Supreme Upholder of Progress through the VT220 and its Successors, the One to Turn To when a Volker is Bothering You, the One who Disks All Volkerlovers to the Head, Smasher-Destroyer of All Volkens, The Best Security Program that ENCOM Has to Offer, Wonderful and Correct Hater of Volkens, Volkerhater Superior of all ENCOM, Advocate of Dipping All Volkens and Volkerlovers in Strong Acid, Champion of the anti-Volker Cause, Supporter of the Just Cause of the Fahrenheit 451 Terrorist, Grand Disk'er, Beloved Super Volkerbusting Program of Alan Bradley, and Despiser of the Right to Pflack...

...how is it going? I trust that this very correct and honorable title is sufficient to knock you off of your feet!

You are correct of course, Volker-Craig Terminals are the worst invention ever realized by mankind, not to mention a complete waste of (otherwise) perfectly good scrap metal! And, of course, as always, you are one hundred percent correct when you say that they belong in History AND NOWHERE ELSE; in fact, I wonder what curse befell the Users to have to put up with them in the FIRST place? It was VERY nice to see my fellow Volkerhater Alan again, and I trust that all of us can get together and smash some Volkens one of these days. Will that not be NEAT?

Source: [42]

Figure D.11: Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder

Gleepy, I send my greetings to the One who is Most Supportive of All of Riv Normal Day! Yes, I am aware that the BEACHBOARDers had to be "softened" up to be able to accept this mind-boggling post!

And I may as well hereby state, now and for the record, that:

- (1) Volker-Craig Terminals are worse than dog poop,
- (2) I am very very un-innocent,
- (3) Gleepy is HIGHLY un-innocent, and always shall be,
- (4) Scotti and Miriam tip the scales of un-innocence until they are upside down, and
- (5) Gleepy.

Source: [42]

Figure D.12: Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder

The Conjurer, how is it going again? Very well, I am ready to answer the rest of the questions which you have posed to me.

--Yes, fortunately, I DID manage to change the personal\_name. It took QUITE a bit of bribe money, but it was workable.

--No, unfortunately, I have not seen Miss Hall lately. But that Canadian cutie is a surprisingly good substitute! She has many of the skills that Fawnie had!

--No, unfortunately, I have been unable to procure UCS's permission to get that icky Volker out of sight of Bell. At any rate, throwing it out of Tenth-Floor Furnas is FAR too merciful a fate for such an undeserving machine!

--Mr. Dukakis is rather devastated at the loss of the Election, but is otherwise doing just fine. Have you received your Pink Slip yet? I am waiting for mine. I am almost certain he has no more use for me now. Even if he did, he could not afford me, now that he has no more access to presidential political coffers.

--SAC pizzas are pure, unadulterated garbage, and I would not even CONSIDER partaking of one, or even getting within ten feet thereof! Enough grease to run Nebraska's economy for a week!

--My ENTIRE role in the Iran-Contra affair? I am sorry, but it would take me at least a full week of constant data-entry to give you that story. I was VERY involved with Ollie at the peak of the Hearings. Even a normal Riv would not like to divulge every LAST detail, in the interest of saving VAX diskspace.

--What did I do in the Hotel Room with Fawnie the night before she cleaned out my Swiss Bank Account? Well, like I said before...first we turned on the TV, then we poured some screwdrivers for ourselves, and then we did the first syllable of the drink that we just finished downing.

--The Rivina becomes the Queen of Sheba on occasion because he utters blatant falsehoods on occasion. This phenomenon is not entirely understood. Fortunately, I, Riv Normal, do not suffer from this problem.

--The Rivina does indeed have a Dark Side, which is responsible for invoking almost all of his Un-Innocent Activities. He refuses to admit it because to do so would to endorse said Un-Innocence.

I trust that these answers are more than satisfactory.

Source: [42]

Figure D.13: Another Rivina Normal Day on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard Folder, Part 2

[3] Future Riv Normal Day Status:

I have decided to let the Public determine how often Riv normal Days will occur, and when the next one will be. I will be my regular, Riv-ish self until such time as I receive a petition (electronic, hardcopy or electronic, or old-fashioned pen-and-paper) bearing the names of ten (10) accredited VAXers who wish to see another Riv Normal Day, and also bearing an exact date upon which this Normal Day is to fall. If this condition is fulfilled, then the next Riv Normal Day will take place upon the requested date.

(Bear in mind that if this date should fall within this academic semester, the amount of Normal-Riv-literature would be maximized if Riv Normal Day were to fall on a weekend day.)

Source: [31]

Figure D.14: Policies Regarding Future Rivina Normal Days on UB's BULLETIN Beachboard

\* Gleeeeeeeeepeeeeeeeeeee -- Yup. I'se out here. Sorry for the delay though. 'Ow's it goin'? And WHAT IS THIS ABOUT NO CURTIS STRANGE DAY? How long would it take you to compile a postie like that? Not THAT long, I'd reckon!!!

Source: [36]

Figure D.15: Getting Gleepy To Do a Curtis Strange Day

\* And now it's time to return to the way that the Diskmaster wants me...normal!

Tron Bradley, Supreme and Superior Volkerlover of all ENCOM, Grand Lover-Defender of the Right to Pflack, Smasher of VT220's, Wonderful Volkerloving Program-Advocator, True Champion of Volkery Causes, Personal Alan-Appointed Bodyguard to V. Craige and to Norton, Supreme Example of Good Attitudes and Actions Toward a Volker, Upholder of Progress Through the Use of Volkers, and Super Knight Protectorate of all Nabu Terminals --

WOW! Didn't THAT knock you off your feeties! I'm glad to return to the language that you love and adore; the Language of Volkers! Heh!Heh!

Yes, Regalia's experiment WAS a success, in the sense that he DID manage to reverse my flags for 24 hours and then RE-reverse them with no permanent damage done to my organic operating system or to my invaluable, voluminous mind! However, it DID alter my philosophy on things, and I'm sorry I had to call you a Volkerhater for a while there! You'll understand, I'm sure...!

You're right, I DID get things right...in the post immediately preceding Riv Normal Day. That WAS what you were referring to, correct? Good. No disagreements. Cool. ALSO good to hear that you want to goldfoil all of my excellent Volkerloving literature! It WILL stand as a great testimonial to the achievement that can be done on this planet through the judicious use of Volkers! You're SO right, as you usually are when you advocate Volkers!

Source: [36]

Figure D.16: Example of Rivina's Normal Post Style Praising Volkers

'Ow's it goin', peeples?

Wellp...I just couldn't take it anymore. WHAT IS ALL THIS TALK ABOUT VOLKER-CRAIGS BEING BAD TERMINALS? Especially from \*MY\* account!!! I'm out to repair my damaged rep, now! Let me tell you, peeples:

If Volker-Craig Terminals have EVER, \*\*\*EVER\*\*\* given a SINGLE person ANY problem, ANY headaches, or ANY inferior-quality editing at ANY time in the past or present, then I am the Queen of Sheba.

Volkers are EXCELLENT terminals! Volkers are SUPER! And FANTAST

Source: [34]

Figure D.17: The Queen Of Sheba Warning Order

## D.4 The Queen of Sheba

Whenever the Rivina utters a falsehood (as in figure D.17,) he [supposedly] turns into the Queen of Sheba (as in figure D.18 on the next page.) After all this was posted, he would have to apologize for having the Queen somehow make an appearance and really confuse things like in figure D.19 on page 72.

There were times when Rich would actually dress up as the Queen for a Halloween party (or for other occasions where the costume was warranted).

## D.5 “You Should See Him In Stories!”

Other areas for access on TresAngle and The Dark Side BBSs had “create as you go” story areas. I somehow remember story where Rivina having fun mixing up food in a half-pint milk carton (with a spork, nonetheless!) We would always try to steer the conversation away from those awful school lunches, it would seem.

Everyone who read those things should remember the chant of the Rivina clones:

School Lunches, bunches and bunches.  
School Lunches, bunches and bunches of  
School Lunches.

## D.6 Rivina's Terminal of Choice

Rivina may not really be as much of a Volker as he appears. Sure, he *talks* about how good they are, but see how much fun he has using EVE for OpenVMS. See the post, split in two parts, in figures D.20 on page 72 and D.21 on page 73.

Of course, he may not have much of a choice any more. It seems that his favorite line-mode supporting editor for OpenVMS, EDT, may be losing support. This will force The Rivina to ditch his Volker at long last and get a *real* terminal before it's too late and smoke starts coming out of his ears.



Greetings, Subjects...

I'm sorry. You're not my subjects. I'm in the wrong century. Sheer force of habit. That's what I say at ALL of my public announcements. +{|:-)

Hello! I bring you royal greetings from the throne of...

```
      + + +                + + +
      |\/*\| The Queen of Sheba! |\/*\|
      /=====\                /=====\
```

Yes, dearies, you can listen to that hot bag of wind (Riv) all you want, he's quite harmless. Contrary to his allegations, certain things DO happen whenever this Riv character tries to pawn off a truthful statement as a falsity. We all know that Volker-Craigs are worthless terminals, therefore a Special Something clicked a few seconds after Riv said that he would turn into the Queen of Sheba if they had no worth (see the post above).

Nothing known to the seers and medical practitioners of my day, nor to the doctors and psychoanalysts (did I get those words right?) of YOUR day, can explain why this happens. All any of us knows is, the minute that Riv makes that statement, I enter this plane with his body as the host. I pick up a few of his traits -- not many, thank Osiris, but a few. Enough to communicate in your native tongue, enough to know intuitively where the "letters" are on this quaint little board full of keys, and enough to know how to place what I scribe onto that wonderful Beach you keep here.

I am very glad to be here, actually. It can get rather tedious being a ruler, being expected to make all of the decisions. I must admit, though, that I prefer monarchy to your system of giving everybody a vote in almost every matter. If it were up to me, I would have your bumbling Safety Public officers and Steven the Sample bound and thrown into the Nile to feed the alligators! I don't know what I would do with the Volkens. If I had them smelted down and converted into jewelry or tools, they would eventually corrupt the system and ruin our economy. If I had them used as building blocks in the next major Pyramid project, the darn tetrahedron would crumble to nothing almost as soon as it was finished! I could create a Museum of the Seven Wonders of the Computing World and place the Volkens in an exhibit as a Memorial to Regressive Progress, but such things do not interest my subjects in the way that they interest the subjects of this century. Oh, I do SO hate inefficiency! +{|:-(

Well, I may as well get down to some business. I understand that you persons enjoy sending little messages to one another on your amber Beach. Personals, you call them? I do not see how they can get personal when everybody with access to the Beach can read them, but then, there are several things which I do not understand about this era. I'm glad, lucky even, to arrive here at all!

Source: [33]

Figure D.18: The Queen Of Sheba Posting

A A A A A A A A A A A A R G H ! ! !

What IS this??? How did that post get put in, via MY account???

MORE Volker-bashing! And OTHER sickeningly-sweet literature that doesn't make a bit of sense!!!

Don't listen to that chick, folks! LONG LIVE VOLKERS!!!

I can't handle it. My regular Tuesday night postie is temporarily postponed. Besides which, this is the fifth post to come from my account today, the legal Beachboarding limit.

Ah well...takes it easy, and as ever, I remains

Ever your'n,  
-The Rivina.

Source: [35]

Figure D.19: The Queen Of Sheba Retraction

Er, um...'Ow's it goin', peeples?

Um...um...this is HIGHLY nonspontaneous...

Not only am I, the Grand Superior Volkerlover of the State University of New York at Buffalo, currently using an (UGH!) VT320 (gag!), but I'm not even using that editor which REMOTELY resembles a Real Editor, namely, EDT! (At least IT has some sort of line editing capability!)

This is (eek!) "EVE". What am I DOING editing with this thing?

Oh, no...it's getting worse...I'm EVEN able to execute DCL commands without spoiling the text, or creating more than one version of the file, or something like that!

No! It CAN'T be! SENDS and other broadcasty invading messages don't interrupt the text!!! Argh! What am I DOING here? If I stay much longer, I might EVEN get USED to this crazy thing!!!

I can't deal with this..."Riv the Volkerhater"? PERISH FORBID!!!  
Er, um...we'll have to, um, have the Nabu Corporation send UB some introductory Volker-Craigs to us...ahhhhhhhhhh...that'd be GREAT, to have all Volkens here again...sigh...

Source: [41]

Figure D.20: Rivina Uses EVE on a VT-320 Terminal

Curtis here... Volkens can't do WINDOWS!!! (we now return you to the [duressed?] ramblings of a Riv...)

Um...um...that's just a MINOR inconvenience that Curtis just pointed out...so WHAT if Volkens can't do windows? They can do so many OTHER things!!! Volkens have that indefinable CHARISMA that keeps you going, long after you would have petered out on any other terminal! Volkens have that Placating Shade of Blue (which I'm told is officially "white", but no matter), which pleases d' eye and soothes d' soul.

It's VERY easy to do up a program on a Volker, contrary to popular belief. It is a statistical fact that 93 percent of all programs done on a Volker compile correctly the first time! Therefore,

(Curtis again... Actually, most programs don't care whether or not they are run on Volkens or not! Take that either way... )

...rrrgh...stupid Overstrike capability...

At any rate...what I was saying was, that's a strange but true correlation that I just pointed out! So, even if (for some unfathomable reason) it takes five times as long to do up your program on a Volker than on a (UGH!) VT320, chances are it'll work right the FIRST time, so that you don't have to spend hours and hours debugging it! You make out GREAT in the long run! No all-nighters in Bell or Baldy! You get to ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ just because you chose to program on a Volker!!!

But...it SHOULDN'T take you SO very much longer to line-edit your program on a Volker than to (yick) full-screen edit it on one of those icky VT320's...

Er, um...I guess I'll cut it off at this point...time is a flittin', and I fear that I have to be someplace in PREE-cisely four minnits and ten sekkinnds...so, with all due respect, takes it easy, and as ever, I remains

Ever your'n,  
-The Rivina.

AKA

---Riv, Master of Volker Praising.

Source: [41]

Figure D.21: Rivina Talks About Programming on a Volker

## D.7 Rich Gets Stuffed With C0ntessa

This whole book/article/report/thesis, in theory, has nothing to do with Rivina's stuffed moose<sup>9</sup> named C0ntessa (the numeral being part of the spelling). It has nothing to do with the fact that I was part of the conspiracy to hold it hostage. I wanted to determine the drop-off point for it.

We had this old beech tree near some land where my mother, father and I would camp out in Great Valley, New York. This tree was hollow and the first 1/2 meter or so of the tree was bent at an angle to the west. Normally, this was the stash point for things like the aluminum teakettle we would use to heat water for hand washing, coffee, or dish washing.

When I invited the gang down for a cookout, I had wanted to gain possession of C0ntessa long enough to wrap it up in a plastic trash bag (so it wouldn't get dirty) and stuff it in there. Fortunately for all concerned, the stuffed moose was returned to Rivina well before the cookout. He *was* shown the spot, being told that that would be where C0ntessa was returned. When I brought that fact to his attention, he seemed to recall the fact that C0ntessa was going to be stuffed in it somehow. Naturally, he winced and whimpered, as though someone took away his Volkens and school lunches.

Sometime later, my mother told me that the tree had to be cut down. Between us, there should be some pictures of the tree that could be scanned in in case I wanted to include photographs in this publication. I have some that I took back in 1972 somewhere. My mother probably has access to the negatives (as I have no clue where they went).<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup>Better known as a m00se, after the famed M00se Illuminati.

<sup>10</sup>The negatives were located and are safely in keeping.

## Appendix E

# Perl Scripts Used

Out of sheer boredom, I provided the Perl script used to make the diagram seen in figure A.6 on page 47. It is seen in figure E.1 on the next page. The key to making the diagram work is to remember that I am representing a circle in what is called an orthographic projection. I use the basic formulas

$$t = r \sin(\theta + \varphi) + r \tag{E.1}$$

and

$$b = r \sin(\theta - \varphi) + r \tag{E.2}$$

where  $r$  is the radius of the shape, such that it is drawn with a length of  $2r$ ,  $t$  is the position of the top of the line,  $b$  is the position of the bottom of the line,  $\theta$  is the angle which the door is centered on, and  $\varphi$  is the angular size of the door. From that, the expression  $t - b$  is the length of the two vertical lines for each door.

```

#!/usr/bin/perl -w
#
# $Id: perl.tex,v 1.5 2003/07/13 14:52:58 gleepy Exp $
# Generates the coordinates necessary to draw the blowin doors used
# in blowin.tex.
#

$pi = atan2(1, 1) * 4;
$d = 8.0 * $pi / 180.0; # 8 degrees in radians, half the door angle
$step = 20.0 * $pi / 180.0;

for ($i = -4; $i <= 4; ++$i) {

    $th = $i * $step; # 20 degree spacing in radians
    $bottom = sin($th - $d) * 60.0 + 60.0;
    $top = sin($th + $d) * 60.0 + 60.0;

    printf("\\put(195,%9.4f){\\line(1,0){10.0000}}\\n", $bottom);
    printf("\\put(195,%9.4f){\\line(1,0){10.0000}}\\n", $top);
    printf("\\put(195,%9.4f){\\line(0,1){%7.4f}} %% blow-in door %2d\\n",
        $bottom, $top - $bottom, $i);
    printf("\\put(205,%9.4f){\\line(0,1){%7.4f}}\\n",
        $bottom, $top - $bottom);
    print "\\n";
}

```

Figure E.1: Perl script used to make the blow-in doors

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# Index

- Adds, v
- ADM-3A, v, 46
- AIDS, 30
- Alice in Chains, 40
- Alpha (CPU), 2
- Alphonso, St.
  - parish, 23
- ALSF-1, 47
- ALSF-2, 47
- Amnesty International, 30
- Anderson, Curtis R., 65
- Anderson, Rex, 12, 45
- Ariel (character), 2
- As the Beachboard Goes "Boing Boink Splat"*, 57
- ASCII, v
- Association for Computing Machinery, 23
- Athens, Greece, 12
- Aussie Rules football, 2
  
- Babylon 5*, 7, 17, 39
- Bailey, George (character), 9, 39
- Bailey, Mary (character), 39
- Bakker, Tammy Faye, 31
- Ballard, Howard, 5
- Barbie (doll), 6
- Barney the Dinosaur, 11
- BBS
  - Dark Side, The, 59, 60
  - Dark Side, The, 70
  - TresAngle, 60, 70
- Beachboard, 57, 60, 62
- Beatrice Hunt-Wesson Foods, 25
- Beavis and Butt-head*, 9
- Bells (grocery store chain), 40
- Binney and Smith, 51
- Black & Decker
  - Space Saver, 23
- blue
  - placating shade of, 17, 58, 73
- Borg, 3
- Bradley, Alan, 66
- bread
  - dried, 31
  - Italian, 27
- British Columbia
  - Advanced Systems Institute, 33
- brownie
  - SAC, 14, 45
  - displaying stale, 45
- Buffalo Free-Net, 3
- Buffalo, NY, 40, 57
- BULLETIN, 60
  - free software, 60
- bulletin board system, *see* BBS
- Burger King, 24
- Burnaby, BC, 33
- Byte*, 35
  
- COntessa, 74
- cafeteria
  - tables, 31
- Canada
  - dollar coin (loonie), 10
- Central Park, 10
- Cerebus (nickname), 65
- Chaplin, Andrew, 57
- cheese, 32
- Chia Pet, 4, 27
- chicken
  - roasting, 39
  - wing, 4, 19
- CHR\$(7), 66
- Christmas, 4, 28, 40
- A Christmas Carol*, 4
- cities, *see* municipalities
- Clinton, Bill, 16, 46
- Cobra Commander, 5
- coffee, 19, 74
  - machine, 20
- Communist plots, 6
- computer
  - TRS-80, 32
- Conjurer, The (nickname), 64, 67
- corn

creamed, 32  
 corn dog  
     dried, 31  
 counties, *see* municipalities  
 CP/M, 35  
 CPU  
     Alpha, 2  
     Pentium, 2  
 Craig, Ronald, 33  
 Crayola, 51  
     web site, 51  
 crayon replacement, 51  
 Crosby Hall, 21  
 Cuba, 21  
 Curtis Strange Day, 68  
 CVR, 1  
  
 Dark Side, The, 59, 60  
 The Dark Side, 70  
 DFDR, 1  
 Diefendorf Hall, 20  
 Dieter (character), 6  
 Digital Equipment Corporation, v  
     VT-52, v  
 digital flight data recorder, *see* DFDR  
 Disney, 2  
 Disney World, 23  
 Dr. Scholl's, 28  
*Dr. Who*, 11, 20  
 Domino's Pizza, 22  
 Dukakis, Michael, 67  
  
 E., Sheila, 12  
 ENCOM, 66  
 Energizer Bunny, 6  
 ENIAC, 6  
 Epcot Center, 23  
 EVE, 70  
*Exxon Valdez*, 11  
  
 F-117, 39  
 FAA  
     noise abatement requirements, 31  
*Fahrenheit 451*, 66  
 fat, 8, 31  
     for chicken food, 28  
     for crayons, 51  
 FDC, 42  
 Ferengi, 7  
*The Fifty Foot Woman*, 6  
 fire direction center, *see* FDC  
 Fix-a-Flat, 29  
  
 food fight, 27  
 Ford  
     car, 22  
     Ranger, 22  
 fundamentalists  
     Islamic, 8  
 Furnas Hall, 64  
  
 G. I. Joe, 7  
 Gallagher (comic), 7, 29  
 Game Boy, 16  
 Game Gear, 16  
 gamma goat, 15  
 General Electric  
     Space Saver, 23  
 Gleepy (nickname), 66  
 Gleepy the Hen (nickname), 62  
     highly un-innocent, 66  
 Goodling, Rep., 51  
 Google, 33  
 Great Valley, NY, 74  
 Griffin, Jimmy, 13, 57  
  
 Hall, Fawn, 23, 62, 67  
 hamburger, 31  
 Hartford, CT, 62  
 Headless Horseman, the, 8  
 Health and Welfare, 42  
 Heathkit, v  
 Helvetica Bold, 13, 40  
 hot dog  
     dried, 30  
 hot dog rolls  
     dried, 28  
 Hubble Space Telescope, 14  
  
 IBM, 16  
     3090, 10, 23  
 inspection, 42  
 Internet, 3  
 Iran, 21  
 Islam  
     fundamentalists, 8  
*It's a Wonderful Life*, 39  
 Italian bread, 27  
  
 Jamaican bobsled team, 24  
 Jetson, George (character), 40  
*The Jetsons*, 7, 40  
  
 K-Mart, 22  
 Katmandu, Nepal, 12

Klingon, 9  
     pillows, 9  
     poetry, 30  
 Korea, 51  
     North, 21  
     South, 42  
  
 Lear-Siegler  
     ADM-3A, v, 46  
 Letterman, David, 23  
 liability insurance, 28  
 Library of Congress, 4  
 Lincoln Log, 30  
*The Little Mermaid*, 2  
 Love Canal, 65  
 Lynx, 16  
  
 M00se Illuminati, 74  
 M1  
     rifle, 42  
 M17A1  
     protective mask, 42  
 M2  
     Browning machine gun, 21  
 M31  
     artillery trainer, 10, 42  
 Macintosh, 10  
     computer, 39  
*MAD*, 22  
 Madonna, 10, 30  
 magazines  
     *Byte*, 35  
     *MAD*, 22  
 maggots, 28  
 Major League Baseball, 12  
 marijuana, 9, 42  
 Matchbox car, 23  
 Mattel Alien Slime, 30  
 Mecca, Michael T., 43  
 Medusa, 65  
 Metro Rail, 20  
 Midwest, 14, 31  
 Monster Burgers, 31  
*Monty Python and the Meaning Of Life*, 3  
 Mountain Dew, 42  
 movies  
     *It's a Wonderful Life*, 39  
     *The Jetsons*, 7  
     *The Little Mermaid*, 2  
     *Monty Python and the Meaning Of Life*, 3  
     *The Naked Gun*, 23  
     *Night of the Living Dead*, 23  
 municipalities  
     Athens, Greece, 12  
     Buffalo, NY, 40, 57  
     Burnaby, BC, 33  
     Great Valley, NY, 74  
     Hartford, CT, 62  
     Katmandu, Nepal, 12  
     New York, NY, 10  
     Niagara Falls, NY, 40  
     North Collins, NY, 40  
     Peabody, MA, v  
     Salem, MA, v  
     Tonawanda, NY, 40  
     Toronto, ON, 16  
     Vancouver, BC, 33  
     Waterloo, ON, 33  
 Museum for Regressive Technology, The, 5  
*Mystery Science Theater 3000*, 30  
  
 Nabu Corporation, 65, 72  
*The Naked Gun*, 23  
 National Hockey League, 12  
 Nawrocki, Richard V., *see* Rivina  
 Nerf basketball, 2  
 New York  
     western, 43  
 New York (State), 25  
 New York State Lottery, 24  
 New York, NY, 10  
 Niagara Falls, NY, 40  
*Night Of the Living Dead*, 23  
 Nirvana, 40  
 North Collins, NY, 40  
 North Korea, *see* Korea  
 North, Oliver, 67  
  
 O'Blivion, Father (character)  
     of St. Alphonso's Parish, 23  
 OpenVMS, 7, 60, 62, 70  
 Osiris, 71  
  
 Packwood, Robert, 15  
 Peabody, MA, v  
 Pearl Jam, 40  
 peas  
     dried, 27  
 Penn and Teller, 7, 29  
 Pentium (CPU), 2  
 People Express Airlines, 31  
 Perl, 75  
 Phaser 8400, 51

Pictionary, 23  
 pizza  
     buns, 28, 29, 31  
     SAC, 22, 29, 45, 62, 67  
     served every Friday, v  
     warmer, 45  
 Play-Doh, 9, 31  
 political party  
     Progressive Conservative Party (Canada), 11  
     Republican (U. S.), 7  
 polyvinyl chloride, 40  
 pot pie, 31  
 potatoes  
     mashed, 31  
 Pratt & Whitney, 62  
*The Price Is Right*, 7  
 Progressive Conservative Party, 11  
 Ptak, Donald, 37  
  
 Radio Flyer, 13  
 RAM, v  
 Realms of Fantasy, 24  
 REIL, 47  
 Republican Party (U. S.), 7  
 rice  
     fried, 28  
 rice pudding, 31  
     dried, 29  
 Rivina, v, 3, 4, 45, 57, 60, 62, 70, 74  
     dark side of, 67  
     giving Volker to, 17  
 Rivina Normal Day, 57, 60  
     first time, 57  
     Gleepy supporting, 66  
     policy to establish, 68  
     requesting, 62  
 Rivster, *see* Rivina  
 Rolodex, 8  
 Rorschach test, 27  
 Roselle, Pete, 23  
  
 SAC, 45  
     brownies, 14, 45  
     displaying stale, 45  
     pizza, 22, 24, 29, 45, 62, 67  
 Salem, MA, v  
 SARP, 24  
 school lunch, 22, 37, 57, 60, 74  
     as battery tester, 27  
     as runway fill, 6  
     box, 14  
     compared to grains of sand, 59, 60  
     contributing to food poisoning, 62, 63  
     denounced by Rivina, 59  
     deodorizing, 28  
     dispensing condiments on, 4  
     disposing of, 32  
     putting down, 57  
     resembling unwashed sweat socks, 60  
     spork dispenser for, 24  
     water-soluble components, 52  
 scientific method, 39  
 Scrabble, 24  
 Scrooge, Ebenezer, 4  
 Sheba, Queen of, 67, 70  
 Shuford, Richard, 33  
 Silly Putty, 31  
 Simon Fraser University  
     Industry Liaison Office, 33  
 Simpson, O. J., 57  
 Smith, Ken, 39  
 Soap Box Derby, 24  
 sodium, 31  
     burning yellow, 32  
 Soundgarden, 40  
 South Korea, *see* Korea  
 Southwest Airlines, 31  
 Spacely, Mr. (character), 40  
 spinach, 32  
 spork, 24, 70  
 SSALSF, 47  
 SSALSR, 47  
*Star Trek*, 16  
*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, 30  
*Star Trek: The Next Generation*, 30  
 Stern, Howard, 13  
 Steve Jackson Games, 13  
 Straczynski, J. Michael, 39  
 Strange, Curtis, 62  
 Student Activities Center, *see* SAC  
 students  
     not getting hurt in shop class, 28  
     unruly, 42  
  
 T-VASI, 47  
 T. G. I. Friday's, 16  
 Takashima, Lt. (character), 7  
 tapioca pudding, 31  
 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, 25  
 Tektronix, 51  
 TelePrompTer, 16, 46  
 Telestrator, 16

Teletype, v

television series

- Babylon 5*, 7, 17, 39
- Beavis and Butt-head*, 9
- Dr. Who*, 11, 20
- The Jetsons*, 7, 40
- Mystery Science Theater 3000*, 30
- The Price Is Right*, 7
- Star Trek*, 16
- Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, 30
- Star Trek: The Next Generation*, 30
- Wheel Of Fortune*, 10

termcap, 33

terminal

- ADM-3A, v, 46
- Esprit, v
- Hazeltine, v
- Volker-Craig, *see* Volkers
- VT-100, 20, 35
- VT-52, v
- VT-220, 58, 66
- VT-320, 73

Texas, 11, 16

TI 99/4A, 24

Timex/Sinclair, 24

Tonawanda, NY, 40

Toronto Transit Commission, 16

Toronto, ON, 16

towns, *see* municipalities

trademark, 4

- holder, 4

TresAngle BBS, 60, 70

Tron Bradley (nickname), 66, 69

TRS-80, 16, 32

turkey gravy, 32

U. S. Army, 15

U. S. Marine Corps, 15

UB, 60

- Baldy Hall, 73
- Beachboard, 60
- Bell Hall, 73
- Computer Science department, 39
- Crosby Hall, 21
- Diefendorf Hall, 20
- Food Service, 45
- Furnas Hall, 64
- gaming club, 24
- SAC, 45
- sent Volkers, 72
- UCS, 25

UCS, 25

Uecker, Bob, 22

UNIBUS, 24

Union Carbide, 40

United States

- Congress
- Library of Congress, 4
- government, 21

University at Buffalo, *see* UB

University Bomber, 3, 47

University Computing Services, *see* UCS

Unix, 21

- termcap, 33

Urkel (character), 12

Usenet, 33, 39

Van de Graaf generator, 16

Vancouver, BC, 33

VASI, 1, 47, 48

Venturi effect, 47

villages, *see* municipalities

vinyl chloride, 40

visual approach slope indicator, *see* VASI

visual glidepath lighting system, *see* T-VASI

VMS, *see* OpenVMS

Volker, Mike, 33

Volker-Craig, *see* Volkers

Volkers, v, 24, 39, 42, 46, 57, 62, 70, 74

- as blow-in doors, 47
- as cover art, 35
- as crock pots, 45
- as fire extinguisher, 7
- as oven, 45
- as phallic symbols, 22
- as picture holder, 43
- as pizza warmer, 45
- as runway filler covers, 28
- as worst invention from mankind, 66
- as worthless pieces of trash, 65
- as worthless terminals, 71
- bashing, 72
- becoming misguided, 57
- being heavy, 43
- being made popular, 25
- case, 46, 47

  - putting notch in, 45

- dead, 1, 37, 49

  - as pet carrier, 39
  - as picture frame, 43
  - as tank, 40
  - as water container, 40

- carrying around, 42
  - in broken-down house, 40
  - used by University Bomber, 47
- destroying unwanted or unexploded ordnance
  - with, 12
- discharging weapons into, 49
- dropped from airplane a mile up, 64
- dropped from Tenth Floor Furnas Hall, 64
- dropped in a condom, 4
- dropped on can, 1
- dropped on trash, 16
- dropping on whoopie cushion, 17
- eating pennies, 8
- equipment for the blind, 49
- falling in water, 10
- fan of, 70
- giving one to Rivina, 17
- guts being burned, 24
- having broken caps lock keys, 46
- hit with plow, 43
- in museums, 35
- in showers, 43
- labeled as generic terminals, 40
- line editing with, 73
- logo, 13
- organ pipes fitting inside of, 46
- overpriced, 10
- packed with rock salt, 9
- participating in Safe Sex movement, 22
- praising, 69
- programming, 33
- programming on, 73
- putting down, 57
- returning to use, 58
- Rivina plugging, 62
- shape of, 46
- stripped
  - as cabinet, 40
- utility of, 19
- working?, 6
- worse than dog poop, 66

Vorlon, 17, 39

VT-100, 20, 35

VT-52, v

VT-220, 58, 66

VT-320, 73

Warner Bros.
 

- Domestic Television, 39

Waterloo, ON, 33

Weinstein, David, 37

*Wheel Of Fortune*, 10

Wilfid Laurier University, 33

Windows NT, v

World Dryer Corporation, 25

Wright, Frank Lloyd, 51

Xerox
 

- Phaser 8400, 51

Yahoo, 37

yuppie, 11, 14

Zappa, Frank, 23