

**Viewer**

**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> Viewer		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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**REVISION HISTORY**

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# Chapter 1

# Viewer

## 1.1 The BLAZE Humor Viewer

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The BLAZE Humor Viewer  
A Collection of Humorous Articles About  
The Commodore Amiga

Copyright 1990-1994 by Daniel J. Barrett  
Version 1.1

\*\*\*\*\*

General Information:

What Is This??

Installation

Reading The Articles

Warning!!

Author/Copyright Info

Special Thanks

Viewing All Articles:

Chronological order

Alphabetical order

Viewing Some Articles:

Favorite articles

April Fools articles

Published articles

Weird articles

## 1.2 What Is This?

WHAT IS THIS?

Since 1990, I've been writing Amiga-related humor in magazines and electronic discussion groups. And now, despite popular demand, here are all the articles collected in one place for your enjoyment (or torture, depending on how you look at it...).

HOW IT ALL STARTED...

Back in 1990, a heated argument was going on in the Amiga discussion newsgroup on

USENET

(then called "comp.sys.amiga"). Actually, there were SEVERAL arguments going on at the same time -- after all, this was a multitasking newsgroup...

- o Games that "take over the machine" vs. games that multitask.
- o Games that do/don't install on a hard drive.
- o Copy protection: merits and methods.
- o The "C" programming language vs. assembly language.
- o Fantasy encounters involving  
goats

Nowadays, thankfully, all of these topics have been settled. (Yeah, right!!) But the discussion inspired me to write the article which is now found in the file 01\_BLAZEMONGER in the Articles drawer.

To my great surprise,

BLAZEMONGER

is still being discussed in 1994!

I have no explanation for this, except perhaps the more than eighty followup articles that leaped, of their own accord, from my computer keyboard during the past 4-5 years. Enjoy!

## 1.3 Installation Instructions

INSTALLATION

If you are using this software on a Fresh Fish CD-ROM, then everything is already installed. You may skip the rest of this page.

Otherwise, before you can use this viewer, you must have several things set up:

- (1) The program "AmigaGuide" or "MultiView" must be installed.
-

(Obviously it is, or else you would not be looking at this.)

- (2) The program "More" must be in your search path.
- (3) The drawer "Articles", containing all my humor articles, must be inside the current drawer.

## 1.4 Reading The Articles

### READING THE ARTICLES

To read the articles using AmigaGuide or MultiView, just click on buttons. You can read them either all at once ("Viewing All Articles" on the Contents page), or in related groups ("Viewing Some Articles" on the Contents page).

Many articles are accessible from multiple locations in this viewer, because they fall into several categories.

If you do not have AmigaGuide nor MultiView, you can read the articles as ordinary text files. They are found in the "Articles" drawer. The filenames are preceded by numbers that indicate the chronological order of the articles. Some articles build on information in previous articles.

Notes About People In The Articles

Notes About USENET Jargon

## 1.5 Notes About People In The Articles

Some of the articles discuss "famous" Commodore employees and

USENET

contributors. If you see a name you don't recognize, then it probably belongs to one of these people. Or not. Here are a few common names:

Irving Gould      Chief Executive Officer of Commodore

Peter Cherna      Very helpful and well-liked Commodore and  
Dave Haynie      ex-Commodore employees. (There are many  
Ross Hippely      others too, but not that appeared in my  
Peter Kittel      articles.)

Andy Finkel

Carolyn Scheppner

Mike Sinz

Sue West

Urban "Zop" Mueller Maintainer of the Internet's largest freely distributable Amiga software site, "Aminet."

---

Marc Barrett USENET personality well known for complaining about Amigas. No relation to Dan Barrett.

Dan Stephenson Frequent participants in the USENET newsgroup  
Evan Torrie comp.sys.amiga.advocacy, known for their love  
Paul Prescott of non-Amiga computers.  
Paula Lieberman

Gerald Washington Vocal Amigans in comp.sys.amiga.advocacy.  
Greg Block  
Skip Sauls "Slu Aspiks"

David Navas Devil worshipper in California, USA. (Hi Dave!)  
Jack Radigan Author of JRComm and other software packages.

Henning Schmiedehausen Employees of various graphic card companies.  
Dietmar Heidrich  
Ulrich "Uli" Sigmund

## 1.6 Notes About USENET Jargon

### NOTES ABOUT USENET JARGON

If you are not familiar with USENET, some symbols in the text may be unfamiliar to you. Here is a brief explanation.

Any line beginning with a '>' is a quote from another person. A number of these articles were written in response to other peoples' articles, and the other person's text will always be preceded by a '>'. If there are two such symbols ('>>' for example), this means that the quoted person is quoting YET ANOTHER person, and so on.

The symbols

:-) ;-) 8-) and so on...

are smiley faces (tilt your head to the left and you will see the eyes, nose, and mouth). They indicate the presence of humor. Similarly,

:-(

is a frowning face, indicating sadness or a thumbtack in the butt.

Finally, certain abbreviations may be new to you:

BTW By The Way  
FYI For Your Information  
IMHO In My Humble Opinion  
ROTFL Roll On The Floor Laughing!  
WYSIWYG What You See Is What You Get  
MNIGAIHAPON"M" My Name Is George And I Have A  
Pet Otter Named "Maude". :-)

## 1.7 USENET

ABOUT USENET

USENET is an international computer network with special interest groups, called "newsgroups", for discussion all kinds of topics. There are more than a dozen newsgroups devoted to the Commodore Amiga.

## 1.8 Goats

Goat: "Any of numerous agile, hollow-horned ruminants of the genus Capra, of the family Bovidae." [The Random House College Dictionary, Revised Edition, 1975.]

Known to eat anything... just like most of the monsters in BLAZEMONGER do.

## 1.9 BLAZEMONGER

BLAZEMONGER: The ultimate game, d00d!! Get a LIFE!!

## 1.10 \*\*\* Warning! \*\*\*

WARNING!

These articles may cause you to laugh, go insane, or throw

iron spikes  
at your grandmother. The author refuses to take any responsibility for this strange behavior, and advises you to see a competent therapist before proceeding. Read them at your own risk. If you can't do that, then read them at somebody else's risk.

This collection contains nearly 67,000 words. It turns out that 80 of them are "swear words." There are also a few sexual innuendos and vague references to toaster ovens. If these sorts of things offend you... well, you have been warned.

## 1.11 Iron Spikes

IRON SPIKES!?!?

Now that I have your attention, I thought I'd mention that BLAZEMONGER INCORPORATED is always on the lookout for new talent. If you are interested in working for the ULTIMATE PROGRAMMING COMPANY on the PLANET, send a detailed resume, a liter of human blood (not necessarily your own), and \$10,000 cash to:

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"Personnel" Department  
BLAZEMONGER INCORPORATED  
666 Satan Speedway  
Chickenmilk, WI 53000  
USA

All applicants will receive a free 'I Survived BLAZEMONGER "Customer Service"  
T-shirt.

## 1.12 Contacting The Author

### CONTACTING THE AUTHOR

Postal mail: Daniel J. Barrett  
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Lederle Graduate Research Center  
University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, MA 01003  
USA

Electronic mail: barrett@cs.umass.edu (Internet, USENET)  
>internet:barrett@cs.umass.edu (Compuserve)

### COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

The enclosed articles and this viewer are Copyright 1990-1994 by  
Daniel J. Barrett.

You are welcome to make copies of these files and give them to other  
people for free, as long as they are distributed UNCHANGED. However, you  
may NOT:

- (1) distribute modified copies of these articles.
- (2) sell them, without my written permission.
- (3) include them in any publication, free or commercial,  
without my written permission.

Fred Fish is explicitly given permission to include these articles  
on disks in his AmigaLibDisk and FreshFish series.

If you want to publish any of these articles, please contact me.  
(If your publication is free, like a user's group newsletter, I will usually  
let you publish them for free... but ask me first.)

## 1.13 Special Thanks

My undying endearment and infection goes out to...

---

David Tiberio

For responding to the first BLAZEMONGER article on the Net,  
thereby forcing me to write about it continually for the  
next 4 years. \*

Mike Smithwick

For his AmigaTrek stories oh so many years ago, earning him  
the title of "The Father of Amiga Humor."

Leo Schwab

For his wonderful "display hacks" of years past, earning him  
the title of "Hey, I'M the Father of Amiga Humor, DAMMIT!"

Commodore Employees on USENET

For their voluminous volunteer work and good cheer, helping  
us Amigans on the Net.

Commodore Business Machines

For providing me with an endless supply of material.

Monty Python, Bill Griffith/Zippy The Pinhead, and Dave Barry

For humorous influences far beyond the call of duty.

Denny Atkin (no relation to Marc)

For publishing my humor with a touch of class.

Marc Atkin (no relation to Denny, nor Leo for that matter)

For beta-testing this BLAZE-Humor viewer.

Registered BLAZEMONGER owners everywhere

For your many helpful suggestions that have made BLAZEMONGER  
what it is today!

## 1.14 April Fools Jokes

April Fools Jokes, 1993:

Product reviews:

BLAZEMONGER review  
HyperMorph review (Read with ImageTickler)  
ImageTickler review (Read with HyperMorph)  
Kickstart ROM review

Other:

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Fish Disk #1 For Sale

## 1.15 Published Articles

Articles that have actually been published (heaven knows why):

Amiga User International  
"The Fat Lady Sings":

BLAZEMONGER	April 1992
BLAZEMONGER 2	April 1992
BLAZEMONGER 2.5	April 1992
BLAZEMONGER 3	April 1992
Clipboard Support	April 1992

Source Code	May 1992
CBTV	May 1992
BS/2	May 1992

Other Stuff...  
May 1992

COMPUTE's Amiga Resource  
WeirdBench  
column:

AmigaDOS 6.0!  
March 1993 (not included)

BLAZEMONGER  
April 1993 (not included)

Expansion Explosion!  
May 1993 (not included)

Ask WeirdBench	June 1993
Pie A La Modem	July 1993
Rev It Up	August 1993
Programming Explained	September 1993

IPISA  
Conference Proceedings:

Ten Amiga Programming Tips For The Real World

Humour The Computer  
book:

The Monthly BLAZEMONGER Cheat Sheet

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## 1.16 Amiga User International

The Amiga User International (AUI) Articles

These articles, originally posted on USENET, were published by Amiga User International without my name (to my surprise!). They appeared in the April and May 1992 issues, in a column called "The Fat Lady Sings." When I contacted AUI, the editor was very apologetic about the mistake, and we cleared up the matter in a friendly way.

The story is told in the August/September 1992 issue, page 121. An observant reader, Jean-Pierre Riviere, recognized my work and wrote a letter to the editor. Bud Vennos responded:

"... Jean-Pierre, you are quite right. The author of the Blazemonger episode in The Fat Lady was indeed Daniel Barrett. And thereby hangs a tale. The article was presented to us anonymously and we attempted to find the author by putting out a message on the net. We had no reply so as we thought it very funny and worth running in the magazine, we decided to print it and hope the writer would get in touch. If you noticed, the Fat Lady was said to have a collaborator -- a Mr Anon whom we asked to contact us.

"Daniel did and we are glad to have had the opportunity to get know a very witty writer and one who is very knowledgeable in things Amiga. We hope he will be writing again for us in the future, though probably not as a Fat Lady again! In the old days when the Amiga community was much smaller we would possibly have known who wrote it anyway. However, the Amiga dimension is so much bigger these days...."

The "Fat Lady Sings" column unfortunately typeset my articles in a very strange manner, filled with typographical errors and strange asterisks. Here, I present the articles in their original form.

## 1.17 More AUI Info

There were a few more paragraphs in the May 1992 AUI article, but I did not write them.

## 1.18 About WeirdBench...

About WeirdBench...

"WeirdBench" was a monthly humor column I wrote for COMPUTE Magazine in the "Amiga Resource" section. The column ran from March to September, 1993. Unfortunately, COMPUTE cancelled the entire Amiga Resource section in September, 1993.

Unlike my USENET articles, WeirdBench had to suit a wider audience in a "family" magazine, so I had to tone down some of my humor and remove USENET references. Still, it was fun to write.

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If any magazines are interested in picking up "WeirdBench" again, please

    contact me  
    . Thanks!

## 1.19 COMPUTE WeirdBench Copyright Information

The magazine COMPUTE owns the copyright to this article, so I have not included it. Unfortunately, to get it published, I had to sign over my copyright to them.... :-)

## 1.20 About IPISA...

About IPISA...

IPISA '93 (Incontro Programmatori Italiani per lo Sviluppo Amiga) was a conference held for Amiga programmers in November, 1993. One of the organizers, Sergio Ruocco, invited me to submit a humorous paper among the serious ones. This was the result. :-)

## 1.21 Humour The Computer

"Humour The Computer" is an anthology of computer-related humor collected by Andrew Davison (University of Melbourne, Australia). It is scheduled to be published by Addison-Wesley in early 1994.

The article given here is the original, as posted on USENET. The version in the book is slightly toned down for a more general audience.

[Update: At the last minute, Andrew Davison rejected several articles that he had already accepted, and unfortunately this was one of the articles. Quite rude, eh?]

## 1.22 Favorites

These articles seem to be favorites -- that is, I have gotten the most favorable mail about them.

BLAZEMONGER (the original)  
The History of BLAZEMONGER  
Commodore TV Commercial  
Frequently Asked Questions (USENET)  
PHRASEMONGER  
A History of User Interfaces  
The Monthly BLAZEMONGER Cheatsheet

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Interview with Bobby Blazebleeder  
 The Case of the Detonating Disk Heads  
 A Tour of BLAZEMONGER INCORPORATED  
 Let's Blaze a Great Deal!  
 A New Assembly Language System

## 1.23 All Articles In Chronological Order

To read an article, just click on the number. Some articles ←  
 will  
 not make sense unless you read the earlier articles first. On the other  
 hand, some articles simply don't make sense...! :-)

01 (BLAZEMONGER)	02 (BLAZEMONGER2)	03 (MissingROMs)
04 (BLAZEMONGER2.5)	05 (BLAZEMONGER3)	06 (Clueless)
07 (Wildcard)	08 (Future)	09 (Clipboard)
10 (SourceCode)	11 (CBTV)	12 (UsenetStyle)
13 (HistoryOfBM)	14 (MemoryProtection)	15 (BS2)
16 (REGNOMEZALB)	17 (AsTheCPUBurns)	18 (PHRASEMONGER)
19 (Suggestions)	20 (TakeoverCBM)	21 (PHRASEMONGER2)
22 (Commercial)	23 (HAM-E-Parody)	24 (ReorganizeUSENET)
25 (BLAZE-PC)	26 (StopIt)	27 (BLAZE-PC2)
28 (NewMarkets)	29 (FAQ)	30 (BLAZEPLANT)
31 (UserInterfaces)	32 (FAQ2)	33 (BuggyAmigaDOS)
34 (Cheapo-Kloanz)	35 (Cheatsheet)	36 (CustomerService)
37 (AmigaDOSVersion0)	38 (WorldOfCBM)	39 (Mushrooms)
40 (Book)	41 (A4000Questions)	42 (A4000Facts)
43 (4000Reasons)	44 (FamilyValues)	45 (Pirates)
46 (Pirates2)	47 (AGA)	48 (NotSexist)
49 (Morphing)	50 (Warranty)	51 (BobbySpeaks)
52 (ApplicationList)	53 (DoomAndGloom)	54 (StripPoker)
55 (FirstProgram)	56 (DetectiveStory)	57 (Statistics)
58 (Predictions)	59 (FishDisk1)	60 (BLAZEReview)
61 (Hypermorph)	62 (ImageTickler)	63 (KickstartROM)
64 (BLAZEMONGER-Inc)	65 (XPK)	66 (XPR)
67 (JumpingShip)	68 (BLAZE-Fest)	69 (LetsBlazeAGreatDeal)
70 (MiscGames)	71 (Hallelujah)	72 (InsiderConference)
73 (Assembly)	74 (Environment)	75 (BLAZE-24)
76 (GraphicFlames)	77 (ProgrammingTips)	78 (HistoryOfCBM)
79 (A5000Facts)	81 (CD32Piracy)	
82 (InstallDisk)	83 (BLAZEMONGER-CDROM)	

Published articles

For "random" article selection, hold down the TAB key for a while, ←  
 let go,

and press RETURN.

## 1.24 All Articles In Alphabetical Order (By Subject)

ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY SUBJECT:

A more efficient way to flame  
A simple solution  
Angry, angry, angry... gee whiz, am I angry!  
Are you looking for Amiga pirate ftp sites? Read this!  
BLAZE-FEST '93 -- the TRUTH emerges!!  
BLAZEMONGER and SEX (was Re: NO MORE BIMBO ADS!!)  
BLAZEMONGER finance and organization (was Re: GAS RELEASE: CBM)  
BLAZEMONGER now available on CD-ROM!!  
BLAZEMONGER's response to all this jumping ship stuff  
BM for the whole family (was Re: Family Values...& vulgar stuff)  
Bobby B. from BLAZEMONGER brags about banging the BIOS  
Call for criticisms (was Re: HEMP PLANT)  
CBM no more?  
CPU's in flames  
Customer Service (was Re: What exactly is the Gleep Chipset?)  
Doom and gloom (was Re: DataTax will be out in Jan (U.S. version))  
Finally: a SOLUTION for all the flames in c.s.a.advocacy  
FOR SALE: Fish Disk number 1  
Four Thousand Raisins... unclothed!  
Frequently Asked Questions Which Are Asked Very Frequently  
Fungus Among Us  
Graphs, Statistics, Damn Lies, and Dismembered Weasles  
HELP COMMODORE MY IADDRESS IS FULL OF EELS  
HEY, MORE NON-DISKLOSURE STUFF, LIKE, READ THIS NOW!!!  
How LOW can you GO? (wasn't Re: 386SX Bitchboard announced)  
I was right TOO! No, REALLY!!  
Insider information turned INSIDE OUT!! (was re: BLAZEBOOGER)  
KOMMODORE PRESS RELEASE -- NEW MACHINES!! FINALLY!!!  
Latest BM innovations (was: Valium Hardware Comparisons)  
Let us sing a new song... hallelujah! (was Re: I wish Marc would etc)  
Let's BLAZE a great deal!!!!  
Liar, liar, pants on fire (was Re: GVP EGS-28/24 memory?)  
Marc Barrett's first C program?  
MINI-REVIEW: HyperMorph  
MINI-REVIEW: Image Tickler  
MONTHLY POSTING: BLAZEMONGER cheat sheet  
MONTHLY POSTING: The BLAZEMONGER Application List, 12/92  
New BM (was Re: WHERE THE HELL ARETHE 2.0 ROMS FOR THE 2000 AND 500? Mars???)  
New Markets Under Our Noses! (was Re: Europe is SNOT enough)  
No more arguments -- the ULTIMATE has arrived  
Pirate ftp site explodes... film at eleven  
Please help me decide  
Press release: BLAZEMONGER backs out!  
PRESS RELEASE: Commodore proposes new environmental strategy!!  
Questions, questionz, we got kwestchins, ooh ooh call on me teacher  
Re: Source to OS (Was Re: Information on Amiga Technical Reference Seri)  
Re: Amiga basher  
Re: Amiga sightings and other things BLAZEMONGER-y  
Re: BLAZEMONGER  
Re: BLAZEMONGER  
Re: Blazemonger cheats  
Re: Blazemonger Install Disk Melted  
Re: Blazemonger junks  
Re: Blazemonger upgrade  
Re: CBM Advertising  
Re: CDTV News  
Re: looking for good strip poker

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Re: No more arguments -- the ULTIMATE has arrived  
Re: The ONLY way to get RAW, UNBRIDLED SPEED in an Amiga program  
Re: What the heck is BLAZEMONGER??????  
Re: WHERE THE HELL ARETHE 2.0 ROMS FOR THE 2000 AND 500? Mars???  
REAL inter-application communication [was Re: Clipboard etc]  
REVIEW: BLAZEMONGER  
REVIEW: Kickstart 1.3 ROM  
Shells vs. GUI's vs. Muhammed Ali  
So, you want to write programs as fast as BLAZEMONGER, eh...?  
SUMMARY of BLAZEMONGER suggestions (long)  
Ten Amiga Programming Tips for the Real World  
The A4000 SUCKS! Commodore BITES! Marc BELCHES! Film at eleven!  
The Answers To Which The Questions That You Wanted Answers For Need  
The BOOK that will CHANGE YOUR LIFE  
The LATEST LATEST OS SPECS!!! F\*ck the NDA!!!  
The long-awaited History of BLAZEMONGER  
The ONLY way to get RAW, UNBRIDLED SPEED in an Amiga program  
The real truth about memory protection (was Re: Memory Protection)  
The SECRET STORY behind everybody's disk problems!!!  
The TRUE history (was Re: what's Irving Gould's history?)  
The TRUTHFUL TRUTH about the TRUE A4000/AGA graphics modes  
The ULTIMATE wildcard (was Re: Wildcards in the CLI)  
The ultimate, ULTIMATE \*ULTIMATE\* MORPHING PROGRAM... ppthht!  
W...W...Worried about the Future Of Amiga  
Zorro? Pass-thru? Blitters? GOAT STIMULATION?? YOU WISH!!!

Published articles

## 1.25 Weird Articles

People have told me these are the "weirdest" articles I have written.  
In fact, I might deny writing them altogether. :-)

Fungus Among Us  
Statistics  
Hallelujah!