Corvette vs Vega

(a short story found hiding on the hard drive of John Six)

We Amiga users sure take a lot of heat from the PC crowd. Seems like every time a new person buys their first clone we are then considered trash users. Quite ironic when one stops and thinks about it. Sort of like comparing a 1995 Corvette to a 1975 Vega.
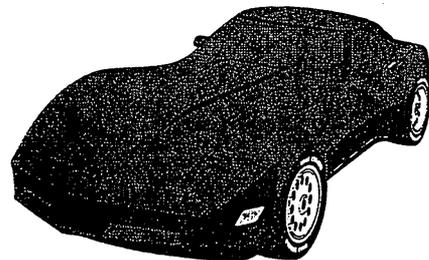
The Vega (PC's) made in 1975 cost less and didn't even compete with the 1975 corvette. The Vega was very plain, slow (4.77mhz) and you didn't really have any choice of colors depending on the monitor (Green, Black, White or Amber) and for sound you usually got one speaker so the technician new the ignition key was on. The 1975 vet was 3 times faster came with 32 colors and stereo sound plus creature comforts like user configurable controls and automatic windows.

Well the makers of Vegas decided they wanted more options to their car to compete with the Corvettes. They added a bigger motor (286), better sound (8 bit soundblaster) and some more colors (16 wow). They still had a problem. When they added the bigger engine they discovered their transmission couldn't handle the extra output so they installed a bigger one called a eisa. This helped but they still only had one option for the driver (DOS). Meanwhile since the corvette was a well thought out machine the engineers tweaked a little here and there and added another 32 colors and made the user configurable controls snappier and more reliable. (WB1.3) They also added a new model called the 500 (econo) and the extra racy 2000 which had room for more options than the original 1000 model.

Now the vega people not giving up decided to keep tinkering with the old vega. They added a newer engine called the 386sx and since that engine had 32 ports they decided to add 16 bit sound and 256 color options even though they were still using the original DOS exhaust system it was quite a improvement over the 286. Since the 386 had more power their car would now run up to 33khz. Surely everyone would start buying the faster vega over the corvettes now. They also got a boost from a major parts supplier called Microbill. Now Microbill had a plan. He would make some user configurable options for the vega and arrange it so if any other options were added on it would have to be tied to his company. He called his options Doors. Now since the doors had to be built to meet the various specs of the vegas doors were usually quite hacked by the time they were installed on the vega. You see even though the vega had more colors, better sound and bigger motor which means it ran faster there were still lot's of vegas out there in totally stock mode.

-continued

Meanwhile the Corvette people decided to make a newer model. They could see 32 port engines becoming popular so the first thing they did was to design their new vette with a bigger transmission. They also doubled the carburetor size to 2megs and added options for a bigger motor should the need arise and added a newer exhaust system to relieve back pressure called WB2.0. They called this new vette the A3000. They also had parts available to increase the colors but for some reason forgot to put them on.

The vega people laughed and kept improving their vegas. Pretty soon they had 486's installed in their car and also added a bigger tranny called a vesa local. Micro Bill added more options to the doors but in the process the doors got bulky and started taking away some of the speed due to the extra weight. No problem said the vega makers just tell everyone they need more gas (ram). Everyone knows the more gas you have the farther you can go.

The vette makes decided to improve their machine again. This time they remembered the more color options (256) but instead of leaving the reliable ignition they started installing what the vega was using, IDE ignitions. Now the vettes were not as interchangeable as they once were so quite a few people decided to keep their old ones since their after-market parts would no longer fit. The new Vette was still very nice. It had an 040 package that could run at 33mhz and deliver 30mb to the exhaust ports.

What I am getting at is yes your can get a vega to run and handle as good as a corvette but it eventually cost more and when all is said and done quite a hack job.

I own both models and prefer to drive my limited edition CD32 vette with the SX1 option. It doesn't have the raw power of the 486dx40 vega machine but the vette handles better and my doors open and close quicker and don't lock me out nearly as often as the vega does. My vette isn't very expandable but it seems like every year I'm installing enough parts in my vega that I could buy another vette. Hey that's a great idea. I think I'll let the vega live out it's useful life and buy me a new corvette. I heard the new owners are going to release some of those 4000T's soon and that would be the ultimate ride. Just think an 040 scusi vette. The only thing it needs is some more colors.

I'll probably give my CD vette to the kids, that way they can show the other children where their parents went wrong by following the cattle...er, I meant crowd.
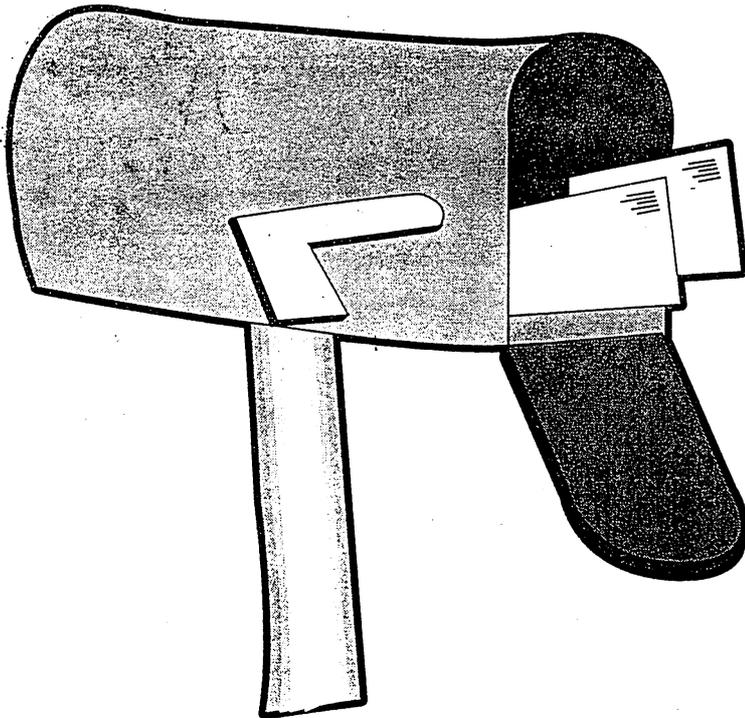
Insights from the Internet

C:\Bad command or file name! Go stand in the corner.
Bad command. Bad, bad command! Sit! Stay! Staaay..
Southern DOS: Y'all reckon? (Yep/Nope)
Buy a Pentium 586/90 so you can reboot faster.
2 + 2 = 5 for extremely large values of 2.
Computers make very fast, very accurate mistakes.
Computers are not intelligent. They only think they are.
My software never has bugs. It just develops random features.
Best file compression around: "DEL *.*" = 100% compression
The Definition of an Upgrade: Take old bugs out, put new ones in.
Why doesn't DOS ever say "EXCELLENT command or filename!"
As a computer, I find your faith in technology amusing.
Backups? We don' *NEED* no steenking backups.
E Pluribus Modem
Ethernet (n): something used to catch the etherbunny
A mainframe: The biggest PC peripheral available.
An error? Impossible! My modem is error correcting.
CONGRESS.SYS Corrupted: Re-boot Washington D.C (Y/n)?
Does fuzzy logic tickle?
A computer's attention span is as long as it's power cord.
11th commandment - Covet not thy neighbor's Pentium.
Disinformation is not as good as datinformation.
Windows: Just another pane in the glass.
SENILE.COM found . . . Out Of Memory . . .
Who is General Failure & why's he reading my disk?
Ultimate office automation: networked coffee.
RAM disk is *not* an installation procedure.
Shell to DOS...Come in DOS, do you copy? Shell to DOS...
All computers wait at the same speed.
DEFINITION: Computer - A device designed to speed and automate errors.
Press <CTRL-<ALT-<DELto continue ...
Smash forehead on keyboard to continue.....
Enter any 11-digit prime number to continue...
ASCII stupid question, get a stupid ANSI!
E-mail returned to sender -- insufficient voltage.
Help! I'm modeming... and I can't hang up!!!
All wiyht. Rho sritched mg kegtops awound?
Error: Keyboard not attached. Press F1 to continue.
"640K ought to be enough for anybody." -- Bill Gates, 1981
Excuse me for butting in, but I'm interrupt-driven.
DOS Tip #17: Add DEVICE=FNGRCROS.SYS to CONFIG.SYS
Hidden DOS secret: add BUGS=OFF to your CONFIG.SYS
Press any key... no, no, no, NOT THAT ONE!
Press any key to continue or any other key to quit...

Central Ohio Commodore Users Group
P.O. Box 28052
Columbus, Ohio 43228-0052

Look what came in the mail today!!