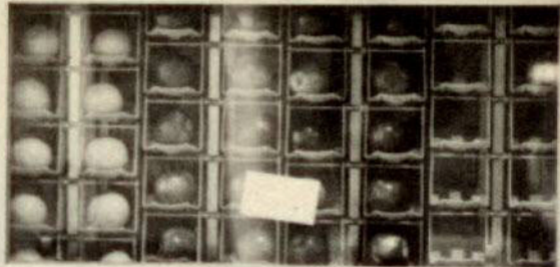


FRUIT-O-MATIC



Apple Machine Strikes Again

by Gary Warren

How many times have you trustingly, put your faith and your dime into the apple machine--only to receive nothing but a blank stare? No apple. No dime.

First reaction is to push one of the little buttons, located so conveniently next to each of the four bottomless slots. The prospective buyer patiently presses down, keeping in mind that his coin probably just didn't catch, and that by pushing only once, his dime will surely return and a new--this time successful--attempt will be made.

After pressing patiently for the 14th time though, he begins to wonder--and to hit. A simple slam on the side should retrieve the dime. But after a few simple slams, and still no results, the student reverts to the ultimate: the kick.

Just one good wallop to the base of the monster should not only free today's dime, but also the four he lost last week and a few apples besides!

Seemingly, it is always at this point that the bespectacled little custodian, wielding his broom, looms out of nowhere, demanding an explanation.

"Nothing, just gettin' the gum off my shoe," offers the yet-dimeless student weakly.

Now, the final signs of surrender loom. The apple machine's latest

victim picks up his books and shuffles out of the janitor's sight. As he moves away in defeat, he hears the not-too-familiar plunk of the machine, and the all-too-familiar crunch of the custodian.

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