

Beyond Personal Computing

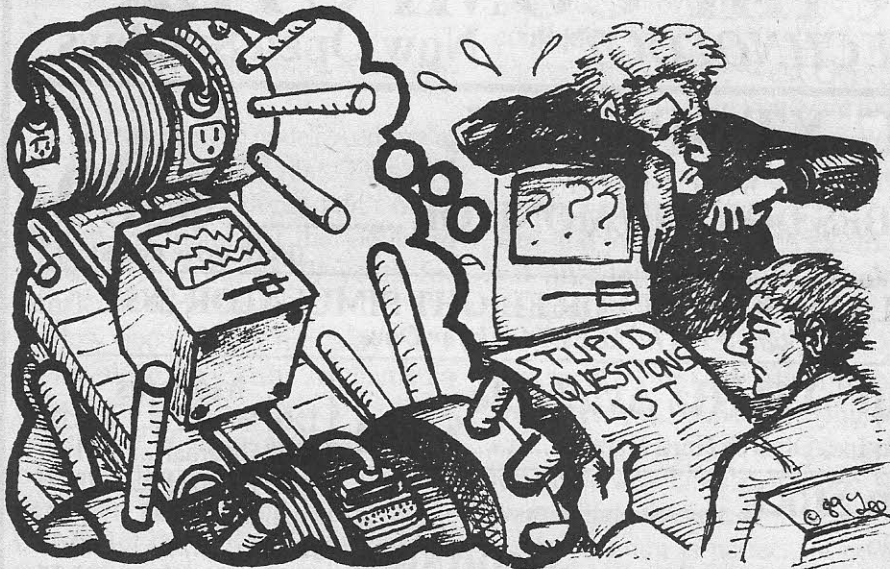


Illustration by Bob Lee

Computers Haven't a Clue

By Michael Wich

Computers are the most logical thinking devices known to mankind. Yet ask one of them a sim-

ple question, for example, "Who's got the sexier smile: Janet Jones or Rosanna Arquette?" and it's liable to

answer, "Command not found," "Syntax Error," or "What about Vanna White?"—all inappropriate answers, especially the one about Vanna.

Just what kinds of questions are computers unable to answer? I have gathered some very compelling examples:

The important philosophical questions that mankind has posed throughout the centuries, such as "What is Love?" "Where is Socrates? He was supposed to help me get this cow into the barn," or "No, not Plato; Where is Socrates!"

Questions of sexuality, such as "Paul, do you like me better naked or with one bobby sock on?"

Questions of good taste: "What goes better with Cheez Whiz: a sparkling white zinfandel or Jack Daniels?"

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