COMING UP EMPTY

BET YOU CAN'T POUR WATER THROUGH A HOSE!

THE SETUP: You will need a garden hose that is at least five-eighths of an inch in diameter, a reel for storing the hose that is at least one foot in diameter, a funnel, a bucket of water, and an empty bucket. Coil the hose at least five times around the reel. The hose should be completely empty and have no kinks. Put one end of the hose in the empty bucket. Hold the other end several feet above the reel. Insert the funnel in this end and pour in the water. Watch for it to come through the other end.

THE FIX: You could watch forever! Nothing will ever come through. Water just overflows the funnel and nothing ever empties into the bucket. This is a scientist's nightmare. There are several theories as to why the water doesn't run through the hose. It should, according to all logical explanations. But it doesn't. Scientific American magazine asked scientists to write in and explain it. None wrote in. But we bet that someone, maybe you, will come up with the answer someday.