

Solution to **CAN YOU EVEN SPELL?!**:

Taking a filled square to be 0 (off) and an open square to be 1 (on), each set of eight blocks yields a binary byte that translates to an ASCII character:

00110001	1
00110100	4
00110101	5
00110111	7
00111001	9
01000101	E

Ordering the ASCII characters according to the numbers next to each byte yields the string 5441554E54494E47. Pairing neighboring numbers/letters gives the hexadecimal code for the ASCII characters that spell the answer **TAUNTING**. Congratulations to Zachary Abel, JB Parkes, and Halftime who were the first three to submit the correct answer to last week's puzzle on our website (<http://puzzle.berkeley.edu>).

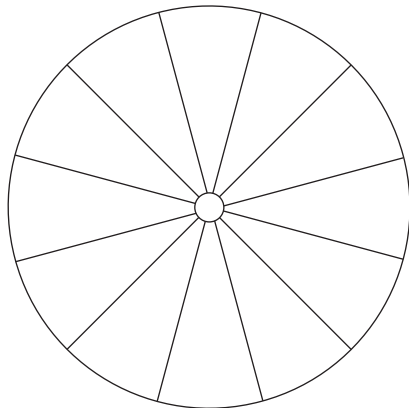
This column is the final puzzle of the semester. It is a "metapuzzle", which means it uses the answers from all of the previous puzzles. You will also finally get a chance to use the wedges that have been appearing next to the puzzles each week. An archive of previous puzzles (including solutions) is available on our website.

TOM SWIFT AND HIS ASTROLOGICAL OSCILLOSCOPE

"I've been working on this new invention for the past 12 weeks," Tom said tangentially.

"Well, what is it?" Bud asked.

"The thing I invented," Tom answered circularly.



What was the first thing Tom checked with his new astrological oscilloscope?