

phrase. It should become clear when you've found the answer. Sometimes you may think you need to consult external information; that's okay, no resource is off-limits when solving. When you think you know the answer, submit it on our website.

Remember, during this semester, each puzzle will also come with a "wedge". You do not need to look at this wedge in order to solve the puzzle. However, the answers to all the puzzles will combine to form another puzzle, called a "metapuzzle". You will need to use the wedges to solve the metapuzzle.

LOOSE ENDS

Here's the play-by-play from the race.

Today's competitors are Brezhnev, Eagle, Houdini, Norah, Russell, Shakespeare, and Univac. And they're off! Oh no! Our premier contestant has crashed! The next contestant has landed on the ground... Cheers are absent as this contestant crashes. It looked like this contestant would escape, but he's crashed. It looks like a bug made this contestant crash. It was logical that this contestant would crash. And the last remaining contestant crashes dramatically!

This column is another in our ongoing series. (You can find an archive of past columns on our website). These puzzles have a **TITLE**, some *flavortext*, and the content. Figuring out what to do with the content is the hardest part. The title and flavortext usually indicate the theme of the puzzle, and provide clues about how to manipulate the information you've been given. The full meaning of these clues may only be evident once you've figured out what to do. Solving the puzzle requires extracting an **ANSWER**, which will be a common English word or short

