Eight if by School Bus

by Ben Smith
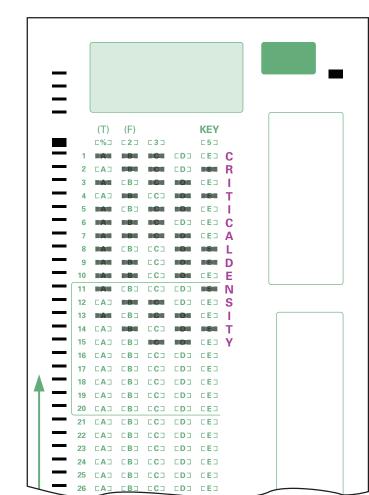
From the mentions of standardized testing in the flavortext for this puzzle, solvers should deduce that this is what they need their Scantron form for.

This is a paint-by-numbers puzzle (25 × 5 for hard teams, 15 × 5 for normal teams). Once solvers have correctly filled in the bubbles on the test form, the filled in sections should resemble a picture of … nothing in particular.

That's because each row is meant to be interpreted as its binary equivalent. Teams should deduce from the flavortext's reference to "negative space" that rather than using the black bubbles they filled in, they should use the empty spaces as binary ones. Converting each row to its corresponding letter of the alphabet will reveal the answer, **CRITICAL DENSITY**.

Hard version

Normal version