



Jargon Watch

Prayer tweet

n. Supplications to God via Twitter. Geeky Jews and Christians can now tweet their prayers for display at the Western Wall or the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

ROS

n. Robot Operating System. The open source software is intended to do for robots what DOS did for home computers, providing a common platform so developers can smoothly swap apps between, say, the Mars Rover and a Roomba.

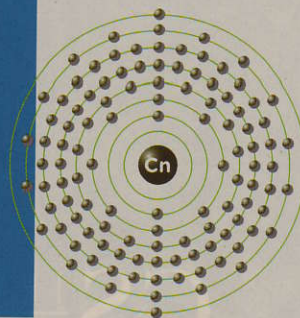
Bokodes

n. pl. Tiny barcodes that could hold a million times more data than today's scannable stripes. Bokodes represent data using a blur technique based on a Japanese photographic concept called *bokeh*.

Cn

n. The proposed chemical symbol for copernicium, named for Nicolaus Copernicus. One of the heaviest known elements, 277 times the weight of hydrogen, it's also one of the rarest—only 34 atoms have ever been detected.

—JONATHON KEATS
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Alpha geek Adrienne Kish

EXTREMOPHILE

A space biologist searches for germs in forbidding places.

Adrienne Kish, an astrobiologist at the Université Paris-Sud, is an old hand at hunting life-forms in inhospitable environments. As a 21-year-old intern at the Kennedy Space Center in 2001, Kish volunteered to extract effluent from the “volume F wet trash” of space shuttle missions—food scraps, astronaut diapers, and vomit bags—to learn what kind of microbes might be growing in the muck. ¶ She has since turned her exotic dumpster-diving into a profession. Last summer Kish took her bacterial expertise to Svalbard, a glacier-covered archipelago midway between Norway and the North Pole, as one of 35 scientists testing instruments and protocols for upcoming Mars missions. “We used Svalbard as an analogue for the Martian environment,” she says. “They’re similar in many ways.” Given that a round trip to our planetary neighbor

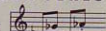
might cost \$10 billion, NASA wants to do as much preparation as possible. While studying the hardy microbial life of the Arctic for clues to how and where life might exist on Mars, Kish also helped devise a strategy for selecting samples to bring home for closer examination. If the effort succeeds, some lucky intern may someday get to sort through the wet trash of a mission to the Red Planet. —BIJAL P. TRIVEDI

DATASTREAM ICONIC TECH TUNES

ORIGINAL MAC
128K STARTUP



INTEL
INSIDE



NOKIA
RINGTONE



MODERN MAC
STARTUP



WINDOWS XP
SHUTDOWN



IPHONE
SYNC

