





Robot Tongue Tastes Better Than People

By Chantal Martineau in Edible News, Featured

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Frank Bruni will be replaced as Times

food critic by Sam Sifton starting this

October. But could he have been replaced

new artificial tongue is better at detecting

instead by a robot? Wired reports that a



subtle differences in sweet flavors than the human licker.

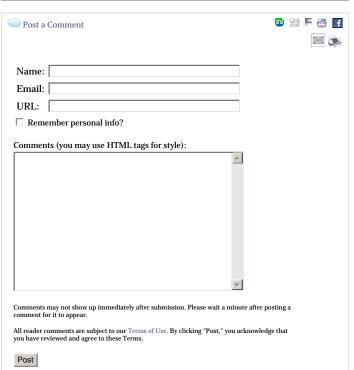
About the size of a business card, the

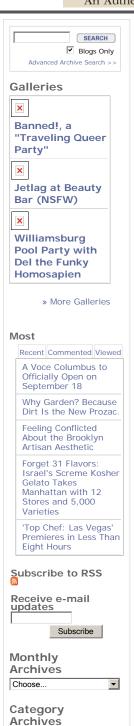
sweetness sensor can tell the difference between natural and artificial sweeteners in beverages, cakes, cookies, and chewing

gum. It has identified 14 kinds of natural and artificial sweeteners with 100 percent accuracy in 80 different trials, and could eventually replace human tasters in the food industry.

But could the robot tongue take over for people in other tasting jobs, such as restaurant critiquing? It's not likely. Chemist Kenneth Suslick of the University of Illinois says the sensor could be used "for routine quality control." So, Sifton and others are safe. For now.







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