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Forget 31 Flavors: Israel's Scream Kasher Gelato



Pix From Saraghina in Redford



Magnolia Regrets Its Trash



An Authentic Beer Garden

Robot Tongue Tastes Better Than People

By Chantal Martineau in Edible News, **Featured**

Wednesday, Aug. 19 2009 @ 10:30AM



doug88888/flickr

Frank Bruni will be replaced as *Times* food critic by [Sam Sifton](#) starting this October. But could he have been replaced instead by a robot? *Wired* reports that a new artificial tongue is better at detecting subtle differences in sweet flavors than the human lick.

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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