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A.M. Stir: Nasa's tweets are out of this world

BY JEFF BRUMLEY | STORY UPDATED AT 1:37 PM ON MONDAY, AUG. 10, 2009



John Raoux/Associated Press

I MACHINE: LRO's Tweets are cool, but a little odd, too

If you're on Twitter and you like space stuff, be sure to follow NASA's awesome lineup of space-related Twitter feeds. There's the main one, @NASA, but many specialty ones, too, such as @NASAKennedy (for the Kennedy Space Center) and @NASA_Astronauts, which compiles Tweets tweeted by various astronauts. (To find these feeds, simply click on "find people" and type in "NASA" and they'll be right there).

One of the coolest ones is @LRO_NASA, which posts updates for the ongoing mission of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. It's basically a satellite orbiting the moon taking photos of future landing sites and gathering other data and stuff. But it's also kinda weird because its Tweets are posted in the first person — as though the machine itself has an iPhone up there and is posting via text or Twittelator. Like this recent Tweet from orbit: "Happily orbiting the Moon on Orbit #342, all systems nominal :-)"

I think it's cool they are keeping us space geeks up to date on the LRO mission, but not sure what I think about the first-person approach. What do you think? Feel free to write me at jeff.brumley@jacksonville.com or at [Twitter.com/JeffBrumley](https://twitter.com/JeffBrumley).

JUST IN CASE: Homicide as a solution?

"Lady, when you're with me I'm smiling."

That lyric from the Styx hit "Lady" has been on my mind for several weeks, which means I've been singing it out loud over and over again, which means my neighbor/co-worker dude Tom Szaroleta is going insane.

So much so that he even wrote to his sister, who writes professionally about rock 'n' roll, to ask if the repeated singing of said lyric constitutes a death sentence for the singer. He also asked if my less frequent singing of "Blue Collar Man" was also worthy of capital punishment.

"'Lady' is justifiable homicide and I'll contribute to your legal costs," Tom's sister wrote in reply. "'Blue Collar Man' may simply be free speech."

So, faithful Stir readers, should I meet an untimely, unusual and extremely violent end, please tell the cops to make Szaroleta their prime suspect. After all he will have even more motive now that I have Googled the lyrics and plan to sing "Lady" more than ever.

GOING LEFTY: Looking for advice and stuff

My right arm has been really sore lately. I think it's from a combo of overdoing it at the gym and all the computer mouse moving around stuff.

To solutionize this situation, I have started using my left hand to manipulate the mouse. Much of the time it's no bother. But there are other times when it makes me want to scream, because it takes soooo long for me to be able to get the cursor onto a little button or box or whatever. And if I'm in a hurry, look out!

While I have noticed it reducing the soreness in my arm, I have yet to notice much of an improvement in the dexterity of my left arm and hand. So, yo, Adrian, if any Stir readers have experience with this issue and have any advice, e-mail me at jeff.brumley@jacksonville.com.

AWESOME WORD: Unite to save this gem of a word!

A recent Stir asked why human beings have eyebrows. I theorized they developed to keep dust from our cave dwellings from getting into our food.

Well, I got several good answers but none spunkier than this one from Sally in Jacksonville: "You nitwit!!!! Eyebrows help keep moisture out of our eyes. For example, when we sweat they protect the eyes from the sweaty salt. They also can be used for a variety of expressions. ... You can move them up and down like Groucho Marx, etc."

Hats off to Sally not only for imparting what is probably a more accurate theory regarding eyebrows, but for using the word "nitwit"! What a great word. Try using it on a co-worker today!

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