

Mars Rover Leaves Computer Troubles Behind

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MARS ROVER LEAVES COMPUTER TROUBLES BEHIND The computer problems that crippled the Mars rover Spirit are now fully behind it, NASA mission managers said. A complete erasing and resetting of the memory the rover uses to store data cured a software glitch that on Jan. 21 cut the rover off from its controllers in Pasadena, Calif. On the other side of the planet, the rover Opportunity completed its examination of soil next to its landing site and rolled 10 feet to a new location.

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Â Kenneth Chang (NYT)

MINORITY MEMBERS GET MORE TRANSPLANTS Blacks, Hispanics and other members of minorities are having substantially more kidney transplants since the nation's transplant network changed its standards last year for matching organ donors and recipients, a new study finds. Members of minorities are three times as likely as whites to have kidney failure, and they account for more than half of the 56,500 Americans waiting for kidney transplants. But they are less likely than whites to find a good genetic match. In the first four months after the change, they accounted for about 39 percent of kidney recipients, an increase of about 7 percent from the same period the year before, says the study, which appeared in The New England Journal of Medicine. \hat{A} \hat{A} (AP)

A STEP ON THE ROAD TO HEALTHY FAT By inserting a worm gene into mice, scientists say they have taken a step toward producing food with a fat that reduces the chance of heart disease. The researchers, at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, report in the journal Nature that the genetically engineered mice produced omega-3 fatty acids, a heart-friendly substance normally found in salmon and other oily fish. Now they are trying to breed chickens that would lay omega-3 eggs. And they said the obvious follow-up would be transferring the gene to livestock to see if they can produce meat and milk rich in omega-3. Â Â (AP)

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