

SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

Scientific Observations

"I'm not a big believer in 'insightful discovery' or the 'Aha!' moment in science. At least not as the kind of purely creative process it's sometimes taken to be. I think most of what are called discoveries already exist really,



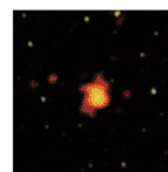
in the dots of different disciplines, that just need to be glimpsed by a single pair of eyes in order to be connected.... You're never going to do anything other than create a dot or two with your own work if you don't step-back to allow the broader patterns to 'pop-out.' In other words, it's 'pattern recognition' all the way down." DREW RENDALL, A BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE, CANADA, IN THE FEB. 10 CURRENT BIOLOGY

SN Online

www.sciencenews.org

ATOM & COSMOS

When astronomers say burst, they really mean it: GRB 080916C (shown below) is the most energetic gamma-ray burst found so far. See "New window on the high-energy universe."



HUMANS

Think positive! People who attended a few sessions on how to focus on positive words or images had at least four months of freedom from anxiety disorders. Read "Don't worry, get attention training."

BODY & BRAIN

The widely used drug propranolol could also help people who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Read "Beta-blockers erase emotion of fearful memories."

Science Past | FROM THE ISSUE OF MARCH 14, 1959

ARTIFICIAL PLANET LAUNCHED — The United States launched its first artificial planet, now in perpetual orbit around the sun, on March 3 at 12:10 a.m., EST. The



13.4-pound cone-shaped capsule joined Russia's Lunik in a sun-circling path. Some 41 hours after launching, the new space vehicle passed within 37,000 miles of the moon, about 17,000 miles further from it than had been planned.... Pioneer IV, which will be officially named Artificial

Planet Two, was the last of a series of five lunar and space probes authorized by President Eisenhower last March. The probes were planned to be part of the U.S. participation in the International Geophysical Year. The new baby planet's orbital period is 392 days.

Science Future

Until April 4

Participate in the San Diego Science Festival. Search the kid-friendly event calendar at www.sdsciencefestival.org

April 22

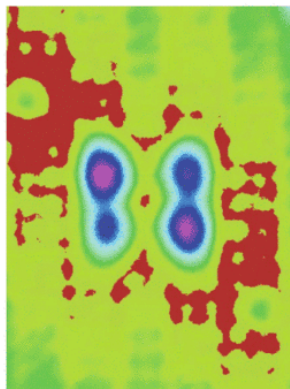
Find ways to join in the global celebration of the 39th annual Earth Day at www.earthday.net

Until April 26

The National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., presents "Orchids Through Darwin's Eyes." Visit www.mnh.si.edu

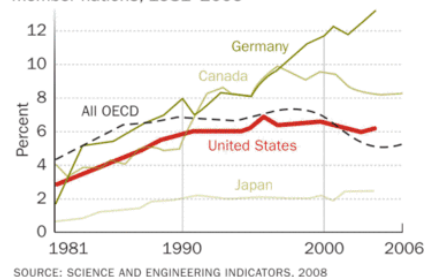
The (-est)

Each purple and pink spot in this image represents a "quantum dot" consisting of a single atom of silicon — the smallest quantum dots ever created. Scientists have suggested that quantum dots could be used to store information in powerful quantum computers. These dots are typically tiny bits of silicon roughly 10 to 50 atoms wide. But in research reported in the Jan. 27 *Physical Review Letters*, scientists coaxed single atoms in the surface of crystalline silicon to function as quantum dots at room temperature.



Science Stats | INDUSTRY-FUNDED R&D

Comparison of academic research and development financed by industry in all Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development countries and select member nations, 1981–2006



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KAREN RENDALL; STEFAN IMMERS; SWIFT/NASA; ROBERT A. WOLKOW