

Lieberman adds ethnic spice to trail

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Joseph Lieberman isn't the only one spouting Yiddish and Hebrew on the campaign trail. Sometimes it comes right back at him. Sort of.

In Nashville, there was a sign in the crowd: "Shalom, Y'all." And in Los Angeles: "Viva chutzpah!"

He talked about that last sign later, at a fund-raiser in Austin, Texas, as an illustration of how culturally integrated America has become.

"That brings it all together. That's what it's all about," he said with a smile.

For all the talk about the Democratic senator's being the first Jewish vice-presidential candidate on a major-party ticket, he doesn't spend whole speeches quoting Hebrew prayers or tossing off Yiddish one-liners. That's not exactly his schtick.

Often he's content to add just

a touch of ethnic spice — maybe by referring to Al Gore as a "menssch" — a good person. Sometimes, with the right audience, he can get rolling, the wise-cracks flying.

In Tamarac, Fla., before an audience of retirees, mostly first- and second-generation European Jews, he spoke their language.

He introduced Gore as a "Yiddishe neshoma," or a Jewish soul, and commented that their wives, Tipper and Hadassah, were getting all the attention, making the two of them feel like "nuchshleppers," or afterthoughts.

Even Gore was getting into the act. He greeted the crowd with a hearty "Shalom aleichem," or "Peace to you," and congratulated one senior citizen on her grandchildren with "mazel tov!"

And at a fund-raiser in Florida later that day, Lieberman joked that he and Gore wouldn't con-

"That brings it all together. That's what it's all about."

Joseph Lieberman

Democratic vice presidential candidate

fuse "tachlis" with "tuchis." The first means to tell it like it is; the second is Yiddish slang for a person's rear end.

Although Yiddish and Hebrew are often associated with one another by Americans, they are different tongues. Hebrew is the ancient vernacular of the Israeli people and is the language of the Torah — the word of God — and other sacred texts. Yiddish is a Germanic language and is the chief dialect of Ashkenazic Jews of eastern and central Europe. Yiddish, written with Hebrew characters, is spoken most often by ordinary people, rather than

religious scholars.

At a synagogue in LaCrosse, Wis., Congregation Sons of Abraham, Lieberman spoke in Hebrew to a group comprised mostly of baby boomers who have engaged in religious studies, and their young children. Lieberman, called to the front of the temple to participate in the service, read from the Torah in Hebrew.

In Chicago, he greeted a group of religious leaders with a line from a Hebrew song, Hine Ma Tov, that calls for "brothers and sisters to dwell together in harmony."

Expert panel calls for more oversight of genetic research

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Attempting to change genes and create future generations of perfect, healthy human beings is dangerous, irresponsible and should not be permitted now, a panel of experts says in a report.

A committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in a report issued Monday, called for the creation of a public committee to monitor and oversee the

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Theodore

Friedmann

University of California, San Diego

increasingly sophisticated research into genetic modification.

Much of the current research is concentrating on modifying the genes to correct health problems in living humans. This is called somatic gene modification and involves changing the genes in existing mature cells.

But, the committee said, there is animal research in

which there is an alteration of genes that affect future generations. This is called "inheritable genetic modification," or IGM.

Applied to humans, IGM could, in theory, allow the production of "designer children," or babies born with genes modified to make them, and future generations taller, more athletic, more beautiful or more intelligent. IGM could also be used to remove from a family lineage the genes that cause inherited diseases.

Dr. Theodore Friedmann of the University of California, San Diego, said that IGM technology now "is not safe for humans."

He said experiments have produced animals born with major birth defects, gross physical distortions and fatal abnormalities. The same thing, he said, could happen in humans if the current IGM technology was applied.

Friedmann said reports of gene manipulation and cloning experiments tend to concentrate on the successes. But behind each triumph there can be scores of animals that were born with terrible and usually lethal genetic problems. This, the committee said, shows that the IGM research is not now safe to use on humans.

"In animal experiments, this technology has been highly inefficient and not of proven safety," said Friedmann. "There are major technical barriers to using this technology in humans."

Sondra Wheeler, a teacher at the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, said permitting IGM research in humans also could be socially disruptive. She said there is the possibility that genetic changes that would produce healthier and improved children would be available only to the wealthy.

"This would widen the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' to an unprecedented extent," the report said.

"There is a moral problem on the distribution of these benefits," said Wheeler. "Who gets it? Who decides? What criterion do they apply?"

The committee report said a public committee should be organized to monitor and oversee any IGM research on humans. The report called for a public discussion to determine if Americans really want to approve human IGM research.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is the world's largest federation of scientists, with more than 146,000 members. The AAAS publishes Science, one of the world's major, peer-reviewed journals of general scientific research.

Traders skeptical of OPEC

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Oil prices soared Monday to a new 10-year high as traders remained skeptical that OPEC's promise to increase output would have much short-term impact and escalating tensions between Iraq and Kuwait raised fears that oil production from the Persian Gulf would be disrupted.

Crude oil for October delivery rose 96 cents to \$36.88 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil prices surged last week on the tensions as well as worries that Hurricane Gordon would disrupt production in the Gulf of Mexico. Gordon was downgraded to a tropical depression on Sunday.

"In a bull market, everything's bullish, and right now there seem to be a variety of stimuli," said Peter Gignoux, head of the petroleum desk at Salomon Smith Barney in London. "If it's not the Hurricane Gordon, it's Saddam. If it's not Saddam, we're worrying about inventories."

Gignoux believes Clinton's refusal so far to tap the strategic petroleum reserve has contributed to

unease in the market.

October heating oil rose .86 cent to \$1.042 a gallon; unleaded gasoline for October delivery climbed .36 cent to 97.02 cents a gallon; October natural gas was up 8.9 cents to \$5.295 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, November Brent crude from the North Sea rose 48 cents to \$34.46 a barrel.

Julian Lee of the Center for Global Energy Studies in London blamed the latest price rise on low heating oil inventories and on a shortage of the light, sweet crude that refiners "desperately" want to produce it.

"We're getting very late now for refiners to do very much ahead of the winter, and that's really what's driving price at the moment."

U.S. heating oil inventories are about 10 percent less than what they were last year, when inventories were already at an unusually low level.

Iraq's tiff with Kuwait is also a factor.

In the past two weeks, Iraq has flown a jet fighter over Saudi airspace for the first time in more than a decade and re-aired an old complaint that Kuwait digs border wells that allow it to

Unapproved corn focus of investigation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The government is investigating whether a variety of biotech corn that hasn't been approved for human consumption was used in taco shells sold in grocery stores under the Taco Bell brand, officials said Monday.

The corn, which is genetically engineered to kill an insect pest, is approved for use only in animal feed because of unresolved questions about whether it could cause allergies to humans.

Testing by an Iowa company found evidence of the corn in the taco shells, and a group of environmental organizations that are opposed to genetically engineered food announced the results in a press release.

Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration said they had not seen the test results but were looking into them.

"Our concern, of course, is whether or not this product, which is registered for animal feed, is somehow illegally finding its way into food that people eat," said David Cohen, an EPA spokesman.

If the test results are correct, the FDA would "consider that a very serious matter and would take action to get it out of the food supply," said an official of the agency who spoke on condition of anonymity.

FDA, EPA and the Agriculture Department share oversight of genetically engineered crops.

The corn at issue, which is produced by Aventis Corp. and goes under the trade name StarLink, is the only biotech crop that isn't approved for human consumption. The corn contains a bacterium gene that makes the plant toxic to the European corn borer.

The taco shells that were tested were made in Mexico and distributed by Kraft Foods Inc., according to The Washington Post, which first reported on the test results in its Monday editions.

"Taco Bell and Philip Morris are using an illegal genetically engineered ingredient that could put the health of their customers at risk," said Larry Bohlen, a spokesman for Friends of the Earth, one of the groups that announced the test results. "This food contamination incident could easily be just the tip of the iceberg."

Law & Order

Drunken driver on campus arrested

A drunken driver cruising through campus clipped a light pole and cut across sidewalks, causing at least \$3,000 damage early Saturday morning.

University Police arrested Ryan Grim, 25, a non-student from Grand Island at 4:30 a.m. for driving while intoxicated and refusing a Breathalyzer after his tear through campus, Assistant Chief Mylo Bushing said.

Grim drove west on Vine Street and around the stadium loop before he started causing serious damage, Bushing said. When Grim turned right onto 14th Street, he sheared off a light pole at the ground level before continuing south.

Grim drove straight south across campus and sidewalks. By that point he had also lost both tires on the left side of his car and was driving on the rims, which is when he was reported to police.

Police stopped Grim near 10th and Q streets, and Grim seemed surprised when informed that he was driving

on his rims, Bushing said.

After failing the field sobriety tests, Grim was taken to detox where he refused a breath test. Police then took him to jail where he tested .256 blood alcohol content.

Police break up early-morning party

Lincoln Police broke up a 200-person party at the Claremont Park apartments Sunday morning.

Several people complained of the crowd around 1:30 a.m., and when police arrived the party-goers threw beer bottles at the cruisers, Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell said.

It took police one and a half hours to get the crowd to disperse from the west end of the building where it had gathered on the lawn.

But some people couldn't take the hint. Police handed out tickets for failure to comply, failure to disperse and interfering with an arrest. Two people were also cited for minor in possession of alcohol.

Compiled by Josh Funk

Sheldon gallery to examine security after outdoor sculpture damaged

SHELDON from page 1

Around 8 p.m., an 18-year-old white man with a goatee wearing a dark baseball cap and white T-shirt was seen removing panels from the wall, Bushing said.

The suspect was seen riding away on a fluorescent orange BMX bicycle.

Driesbach said the gallery will work to educate students about the sculpture garden and the pieces inside to help prevent further problems.

"We will try to raise awareness of the artists and the pieces, so people will think twice before doing something that might damage a piece or the area," she said.

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