

commentary

from other pens...

Lieberman sees few campaign problems

Sen. Joe Lieberman's strict observance of the Jewish Sabbath may cause minor inconveniences during his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, but the Connecticut senator and his staff expect it will pose few obstacles to waging an aggressive campaign.

The bigger challenge for Lieberman in the Democratic contest for president could be addressing such issues as the Middle East, where he wants to develop a position on the region that both Jews and non-Jews see as fair and independent.

He must persuade Democratic primary voters to support him, even though his centrist views may be better suited to a general election campaign, and win over voters even though his low-key, humorous style may be better suited to small groups at a coffee shop than big audiences in a crowded convention hall.

"I don't think his being Jewish is the most important thing about his candidacy or critical to his success," said political analyst Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution. "The bigger question is whether Joe's temperament and moderation and instinct for working with the other side of the aisle fits the mood of Democratic activists."

Lieberman's logistical obstacle with his Sabbath schedule became apparent as Democrats began scheduling a series of "cattle calls" that occur on the weekends.

Lieberman's staffers describe him as "an observant Jew," while others describe his beliefs as "modern Orthodox."

"It has always come above politics over the long term and I obviously hope people will respect that," Lieberman said Monday of his faith. "I will have to work harder on the other six days."

There are times Lieberman can attend a Saturday evening campaign event by traveling to the location on Friday and observing the Sabbath in the same place as the political event. He can communicate at events through a surrogate or with use of a videotaped message.

Lieberman will miss an event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Saturday night at which Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean are expected to speak. Aides say missing the event has more to do with Lieberman's Sunday schedule.

Democratic activists in states with early presidential contests like Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina all said they will work with Lieberman to make it possible to participate in their events.

"Hopefully, Democrats will be a tolerant group of all sorts of religions and willing to make accommodations for all candidates," said Kathy Sullivan, chairwoman of the New Hampshire Democratic Party.

In South Carolina, Democratic chairman Dick Harpootlian said party officials are looking for ways to accommodate Lieberman when the party holds its meeting in May, with a Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner on a Friday night and a candidates' forum on Saturday.

Lieberman aides say observance of the Sabbath has not been a hindrance in previous campaigns, whether for the Senate or for the vice presidency in 2000.

The balancing act of pursuing an independent course on the Middle East could be a tougher challenge than his scheduling constraints.

Lieberman met with Jewish leaders in New York on Wednesday to reassure them his remarks during a Middle East trip about the need to improve Palestinian living conditions and accomplish Palestinian statehood once violence is under control were no different than his longheld positions.

Surveys taken during the 2000 race indicated Lieberman's faith is unlikely to be an issue for most voters, said University of Akron political scientist John Green, who specializes in religion and politics.

"Majorities of survey respondents tell pollsters they would not have a problem voting for an otherwise qualified Jew for president," Green said. "Lieberman's moderation on many social issues and his hawkish views on foreign policy probably help in this regard."

EDITOR'S NOTE— Will Lester covers politics and polls for *The Associated Press*.

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REALITY-BASED DOCUMENTARY REVEALS PROCESS OF HUMAN CLONING

Fog makes us notice what is close

I don't know about you, but where I am today, the world is encased in fog.

I started to say "shrouded with fog", but somehow that seems too ominous.

I'm glad I don't have to be out driving in the fog, although I should do some errands today. I'm hoping the fog will lift, so that driving won't be so hazardous. But then maybe I'm supposed to just stay inside and enjoy life today.

Fog always makes me think of the time I lived in England. The suddenness of its appearance in a dip in the road, the fear that the road would turn and we wouldn't, the relief when we made it through. It could appear on a seemingly bright night and be gone again before your heart adjusted to the shock.

There were other times, of course, when it took over the whole world and lasted for days. Life slowed down and insisted you take notice of it.

Fog creates a different kind of world, doesn't it?



**lorna
gt**

• commentary

It forces you to notice what's close around you — almost as if the rest of the world doesn't exist. It makes things quieter, shutting out a lot of the noise our minds have learned to filter.

Even if you live far away from an ocean, you almost listen for foghorns warning of danger. Since the eyes can't handle the situation, you rely on other senses to take up the slack and keep you alert.

I kind of like the fog - when I can enjoy it from a safe, warm place.

I pray for people to be sensible and stay out of harm's way. I enjoy the coating it sometimes gives the trees and shrubs when it freezes on

them; then when the sun comes out to show God's masterpiece of sparkle and joy, how can you not say thank you to the Creator for such a display of power and beauty? But I know I have to appreciate it quickly and enjoy it fully, as it won't last long under the sun's warmth.

Fog allows us to have a deeper understanding of trust.

There is so much of the world that is beyond our regulation, no matter how important we might think we are. Fog humbles us, slows us down, can even give a sense of calm — if we allow it. For me, fog is like a blanket of peace; it makes me aware of the need to be sensible and to trust.

There are so many things, like fog, that are beyond my control. Why not just take the time to enjoy the serenity instead of fighting it?

I need to slow down more often and truly appreciate the moment anyway. I'll bet you do too.

Parties switch sides in budget debate

In Congress this year, you're going to hear one party yell a lot about growth in the federal budget.

This party will complain that excessive federal deficits will strangle the recovery, bog down the economy and even threaten inflation. Deja vu?

Not hardly.

This party will be the Democrats, the same party that fueled the growth in the deficit in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. The same party that bowed at the altar of deficit spending and scoffed at inflation for decades. The party that owned the deficit.

One party will defend the deficit and call for more.

That would be the Republicans.

And while they'll take a different tact than the tax-and-spend Democrats of yore, they will be boosting the deficit like crazy.

The same Republican Party that year after year cried that the Democrats were going to break this country.

This Congress will mark an almost complete role reversal in the two parties on the deficit.

The Republicans are the party of the unbal-



**steve
haynes**

• along the sappa

anced budget. The Democrats are the party calling for less deficit spending.

The Republicans will be running a war without cutting back on domestic spending — the "guns and butter" policy they decried when Lyndon Johnson did it.

Democrats will try and convince us that deficits are bad.

Who are *they* kidding?

It all amounts to a tremendous twist in the political fabric, but in a weird sort of way, it all makes sense.

The Democrats don't really care about the deficit. They just need something to complain about. Give them their lead, they'll be back to their good old tax and spend ways in a jiffy. They always want more social programs, more domestic spending.

But if Republicans are building the deficit

Cooking by moonlight



**pat
schiefen**

• postscript

In her cookbook "Cooking by Moonlight" by Karri Ann Allrich, the author connects her recipes to the seasons and the lunar cycles in particular.

Crabmeat Enchiladas

Filling

1 pound snow or imitation crabmeat, flaked
4 green onions, peeled, chopped (white sections only)

2 to 3 garlic cloves, peeled, minced

juice of 1/2 lemon

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning

Freshly ground pepper

3 tablespoons sour cream

10 fresh corn tortillas

3 to 4 cups Green Chili Tomato Sauce

1 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese

Garnish

sour cream

freshly chopped cilantro

Preheat oven to 350.

Combine crab with green onions, garlic, lemon juice, mustard, Old Bay Seasoning and pepper in a bowl and toss to mix. Add sour cream. Blend well.

Oil a baking pan that will hold 10 enchiladas smugly. Divide the filling among 10 tortillas spooning into the center of each tortilla, roll and place seam side down in baking dish. Pour Green Chili Tomato Sauce over enchiladas and top with cheese. Bake uncovered for about 25 minutes until enchiladas are bubbling and cheese is melting. Garnish with spoonful of sour cream and a sprinkling of freshly chopped cilantro. Cooked pinto beans and be used instead of crab. Serves four.

Green Chili Tomato Sauce

1 to 2 tablespoon olive oil
1 small onion, peeled, finely chopped
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1 garlic clove, peeled, minced
2 cups crushed tomatoes or 1 (16 ounce) can crushed tomatoes

1 (14 ounce) can green chilies, drained well, chopped

Dash of sherry or red wine vinegar

Heat oil in medium saucepan, and sauté the onion, chili powder and cumin for 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another 3 minutes. Add tomatoes and green chilies and add a dash of sherry. Bring sauce to medium simmer, cover and lower heat. Simmer for 15 minutes.

The office rates this four forks with five forks being the best. The enchiladas are pretty dry so you may want to use more sauce and or more cheese.

Blue Moon Berry Crisp

6 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen, washed (or thawed)

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons flour

1/3 cup granulated sugar

1/2 cup shelled natural pistachios or almonds, finely chopped

1 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed

1/2 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) cold butter or margarine

rine, cut into pieces

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 2 quart casserole dish.

In a large mixing bowl combine blueberries with tablespoons flour and sugar. Toss well and set aside. In a separate bowl combine remaining flour, pitachios, cinnamon, brown sugar, salt. Mix well. Mix by rubbing the butter and the dry ingredients between your palms, crumbling the mixture until it resembles coarse meal.

Pour blueberry mixture into baking dish and smooth the pistachio crumb mixture on top of the berries, covering completely. Bake for 45 minutes, until topping is browned and berries are bubbling. Serve with ice cream. Serves 6 to 8.

berry's world

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Jim Bowker
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