Stabilize Your Government
by Mike Selinker

ACROSS

1. Republicans
2. Shiner brightly
3. He inspired Kevin Clacht’s book My Life as a Furry
4. Country that opposed 13-Across
5. WWII faction
6. Cook shi, perhaps
7. What the Republicans reached a point of, or hoped to get from voting the way they do most of the time?
8. What some Oscars honor
9. Rent: ___
10. This American Life’s Glass
11. Greek letter
12. Emulate the House since the Republicans gained a majority?
13. “With The,” its 10/08/13 headline was ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
14. Day Now (Alan Cumming film)
15. Alternative to Sturpees
16. Nonetheless
17. Least frequent NFL result
18. Noted hallucinogen
19. What the Republicans found the government impassive to be?
20. Hill occupant
21. DC Comics cowboy Jonah
22. Vote against
23. He-Man’s sister
24. It was founded in 1983 as Control Video Corporation
25. Palomino spokesperson who said “You’re soaking in it”
26. Emulated a Republican strategist on 10/01/13?
27. Path of a catapulted stone
28. “Bleich”
29. Type of saxophone
30. French Polynesian vacation site
31. Ex-House Majority Leader who last shuttered the French Polynesian vacation site
32. What some Oscars honor
33. He inspired Kevin Clacht’s book My Life as a Furry
34. “Blecch”
35. Orange-colored material from one species to another non-related species. This is relatively new territory that began in the early 1970s and is on the verge of entering the mainstream food chain in the U.S., where genetically engineered salmon is expected to be FDA-approved in the next few weeks for sale in stores. It will be the first GM animal ever approved for human consumption and contains genes from an “eel-like fish” and another breed of salmon.
36. What the Republicans found the government impassive to be?
37. [Clue not provided]
38. With 30 Down, Deutsch, vehicle?
39. Unwelcome
40. Train rider, perhaps
41. And higher, as in a cost
42. Placed
43. What my Son John had off, and also on
44. Hard rock band that released ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
45. ...this explosive single in 1976
46. Unit of illuminance
47. Drug buster
48. Skilled at thinking logically
49. Clutched
50. Looked at
51. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
52. 1932 Samuel L. Jackson remake
53. Nibiru’s Glass
54. Reples Lithographer
55. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
56. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
57. Beer source
58. “Wan
59. Vote for
60. Tree used for making longbows

DOWN

1. Second Amendment concern
2. Disney Junior’s spy bear series Special Agent___
3. One who takes something and gives nothing
4. Death March origin
5. Town far from the city’s core
6. Broadcast
7. Site with a Bing search button
8. One seeking mental diversion
9. Permit
10. ___
11. Lavishly decorated
12. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
13. Quest for Indy
14. With 30 Down, Deutsch, vehicle?
15. Unwelcome
16. Train rider, perhaps
17. And higher, as in a cost
18. Placed
19. What my Son John had off, and also on
20. Hard rock band that released ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
21. ...this explosive single in 1976
22. Unit of illuminance
23. Drug buster
24. Skilled at thinking logically
25. Clutched
26. Looked at
27. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
28. 1932 Samuel L. Jackson remake
29. Nibiru’s Glass
30. Reples Lithographer
31. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
32. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
33. Nibiru’s Glass
34. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
35. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
36. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
37. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
38. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
39. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
40. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
41. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
42. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
43. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
44. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
45. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
46. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
47. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
48. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
49. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
50. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
51. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
52. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
53. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
54. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
55. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
56. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
57. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
58. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
59. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)
60. ___-1 (Ghostbusters’ automobile)

Answers on page 11

Confused by I-522? Look to Israel for guidance

JANIS SIEGEL JTNews Columnist

If you’re baffled by Initiative Measure No. 522, the proposed genetically modified food labeling ballot measure in the upcoming Nov. 2013 Washington State election, it might be instructive to explore Israel’s agricultural research and its regulation of GM foods. It may not necessarily clarify your position on the subject, but Israel’s approach to the use of the technology along with the rest of the world’s varied responses to allowing it into their food supplies are worth considering.

GM foods typically contain DNA from a plant or animal of the same species inserted into them to obtain a desired trait. Many detractors of the process have raised serious objections to the more unconventional transplantation of DNA or genetic material from one species to another non-related species. This is relatively new territory that began in the early 1970s and is on the verge of entering the mainstream food chain in the U.S., where genetically engineered salmon is expected to be FDA-approved in the next few weeks for sale in stores. It will be the first GM animal ever approved for human consumption and contains genes from an “eel-like fish” and another breed of salmon.

The genetic engineering of plant seeds can save populations by optimizing the presence of life-saving vitamins in them, increasing their insect and virus resistance, upping their yields, and designing them to tolerate higher amounts of herbicides.

However, GM seed can also leave human populations vulnerable to everything from serious digestive problems to documented deadly allergic reactions, as well as their economic and environmental effects on the land.

For over a decade, the European Union has resisted pressure from the United States, via the Free Trade Agreement, to accept our GM food imports. The U.S. has already genetically modified several crops used in most domestic food products, including corn, soy, and canola, and the modifications of the cottonseed oil crop is quickly accelerating.

Just this past month, a Mexico judge banned GM corn due to its harmful environmental effects.

In Israel, agricultural research in universities is heavily subsidized by the Israeli government and international corporations. Universities are very accepting of GMs in the laboratory. Most of the research is on the genetic modification of plants and it focuses on improving its resistance to diseases, herbicides, and pests.

Currently, food researchers are experimenting with a tomato that would be resistant to viruses and grow without seeds. Tomato researchers are also working to modify genes to manipulate the amount of non-saturated fat in the plants.

But Israel’s Ministry of Agriculture highly regulates the research on GM foods to prevent the contamination of GM seed to other non-modified crops within the country. Seed drift is a large problem wherever GM foods are grown.

Globally, local and organic farmers have sued corporations accusing them of intentionally allowing their seed to contaminate local crops in order to claim patent infringement and overtake them.

In Israel, a highly specific research plan must be submitted by anyone wanting to experiment with GM plants and their related microorganisms.

But perhaps most importantly, in addition to the initial strict application process in Israel, researchers can only develop a technology to the “proof of concept,” or research, stage.

Although Israel allows the use and sale of GM foods in the country, it does not allow them to be grown there commercially.

Once developed, a GM technology that is ready for a real-world application must be exported to other countries for testing. GM researchers can only test small projects in enclosed greenhouses or, if in open fields, it must be far away from agricultural areas.

In addition to the health effects of GM foods, which are in dispute with many of its promoters, Israel’s laws of kosher complicate the issue. Some religious groups do not see it as a threat while others support its detractors.

The Israeli kosher authority has ruled that genetic engineering doesn’t affect a product’s kosher status because genes are microscopic.

However, other Jewish groups believe that the foods created by transferring DNA from one species to another is in direct violation of the biblical directive to not mingle different seeds and breeds together — whether plant or animal.

There are no requirements for labeling GMs in Israel. However, its Ministry of Health is preparing regulations to require labeling when a food product contains GM corn or soy. The proposal would require the words “genetically modified” to be printed on packaging.

Should Washington State do the same?

Longtime JTNews correspondent and freelance journalist Janis Siegel has covered international health research for SELF magazine and campaigns for Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.