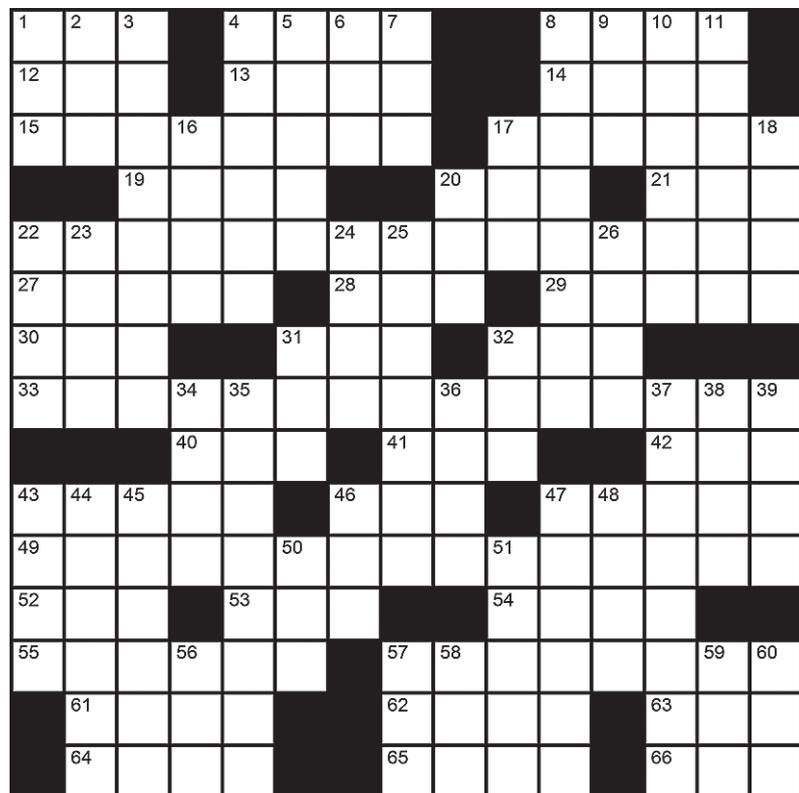




## Stabilize Your Government

by Mike Selinker



Eighteen centuries ago, the Pirkei Avot coined the axiom "Pray for political stability, for if not for fear of the government, men would swallow each other alive." A functioning government seems crucial to societal progress, yet in recent weeks that has seemed quite elusive. This puzzle includes some pointedly punny barbs in the direction of those who turned off the lights.

### ACROSS

- 1 Republicans
- 4 Shine brightly
- 8 He inspired Kevin Clash's book *My Life as a Furry Red Monster*
- 12 Country that opposed 13-Across
- 13 WWII faction
- 14 Cook ahi, perhaps
- 15 What the Republicans reached a point of, or hoped to get from voting the way they do most of the time?
- 17 What some Oscars honor
- 19 Rent-\_\_\_
- 20 *This American Life's* Glass
- 21 Greek letter
- 22 Emulate the House since the Republicans gained a majority?
- 27 With "The," its 10/08/13 headline was "Congressional Aides Withholding Sex Until Budget Compromise Is Reached"
- 28 \_\_\_ *Day Now* (Alan Cumming film)
- 29 Alternative to Slurpees
- 30 Nonetheless
- 31 Least frequent NFL result
- 32 Noted hallucinogen
- 33 What the Republicans found the government impasse to be?
- 40 Hill occupant
- 41 DC Comics cowboy Jonah
- 42 Vote against
- 43 He-Man's sister
- 46 It was founded in 1983 as Control Video Corporation
- 47 Palmolive spokesperson who said "You're soaking in it!"
- 49 Emulated a Republican strategist on 10/01/13?
- 52 Path of a catapulted stone
- 53 "Blech"
- 54 Type of saxophone
- 55 French Polynesian vacation site
- 57 Ex-House Majority Leader who last shuttered the government in 1995, suggesting his name was apt?
- 61 Mortgage option, slangily
- 62 Cain's brother
- 63 Caustic agent
- 64 House Majority Leader Cantor
- 65 Feel bad for
- 66 Use a needle

### 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 \_\_\_ d'
- 11 Lavishly decorated
- 16 \_\_\_-1 (Ghostbusters' automobile)
- 17 Quest for Indy
- 18 With 37-Down, Detroit vehicle?
- 20 Unwelcoming
- 22 Train rider, perhaps
- 23 And higher, as in a cost
- 24 Placed
- 25 What My Son John had off, and also on
- 26 Hard rock band that released...  
...this explosive single in 1976
- 32 Unit of illuminance
- 34 Drug buster
- 35 Skilled at thinking logically
- 36 Clutched
- 37 See 18-Down
- 38 Herb in a Simon & Garfunkel line
- 39 Looked at
- 43 2003 Samuel L. Jackson remake
- 44 Zimbabwe's capital
- 45 *Reptiles* lithographer
- 46 Query
- 47 One way to put it
- 48 Kick in, as chips
- 50 French assent
- 51 *Glegarry Glen Ross* author
- 56 "\_\_\_ Fell" (Beatles tune)
- 57 Beer source
- 58 \_\_\_-Wan
- 59 Vote for
- 60 Tree used for making longbows

Answers on page 11

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# 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 modification 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



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be resistant to viruses and grown 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 kashrut 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.