

Demos look for moral leader in Lieberman

By Taylor Kenamer
Old Gold and Black Reviewer

Sen. Joe Lieberman is not a high-profile politician, but he has quietly served in various government positions for almost three decades.

First elected to Connecticut's State Senate in 1971, Lieberman served as the majority leader from 1975-81 before he became the state's attorney general. He took office as a U.S. Senator in 1988, after being defeated in his bid for election to the House of Representatives

in the surge of Reagan-induced Republican popularity of 1980. In the last decade, he has served on the Armed Services, Government Affairs, Environment and Public Works, and Small Business committees, as well as acting as the Democratic Deputy Whip.

Born in 1942 in Stamford, Conn., Lieberman attended Yale University for both undergraduate and law school, and graduated in 1967. In addition to his political experience, Lieberman has authored several books, including *In Praise of Public Life*, *The Power Broker*, *The Scorpion*, *The Legacy*, *Child Support in America*, and *The Tarantula*.

Lieberman has a reputation as a "centrist" Democrat, blending liberalism and social conservatism. Notably, he authored his first major legislative bill in March of this year. The result was an education proposal on which he collaborated with several moderate Republicans; the measure was defeated resoundingly, by a Senate vote of 84-13.

Lieberman's nomination to serve as Al Gore's running mate is also a landmark for Jews. If elected vice-president, Lieberman will be the first Jewish person in the nation's history to serve in this capacity. The self-styled "New Democrat" attends a synagogue led by

Rabbi Barry Freundel, who said in an interview with ABC News that Lieberman's nomination was a "breakthrough moment."

Buzzwords in the Lieberman campaign include consumer rights, elevated minimum wage and environmental protection. Borrowing a page from Tipper Gore's book, the senator has also been known to advocate "cleaner" rap lyrics, and leans toward the privatization of Social Security - much like George W. Bush. Lieberman also advocates free trade and tax cuts for capital gains.

Gore's selection of Lieberman also speaks to the blight upon the Democratic party introduced by the Clinton-Lewinski scandal; Lieberman was one of the first Democrats to denounce the President's actions, and he has been described as "morally unassailable." According to CNN reports, Lieberman's strengths include the ability to work with broad constituencies and a strong voting record supporting abortion rights, including a vote to veto a ban on late-term "partial-birth" abortions. Lieberman has also been cultivating his image as an accessible, unorthodox politician, even going so far as to be photographed on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle in Kansas City.



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Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman refers to himself as a "New Democrat," citing consumer rights, elevating the minimum wage and environmental protection as primary concerns.

Experience nets Cheney Republican VP nod

By Kate Gibson
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Richard Bruce (Dick) Cheney, the Republican candidate for vice president, has become, according to Rich Bond, the former Republican National Committee chairman, "a conservative who doesn't scare people."

During his political career, Cheney earned a reputation as a serious, thoughtful conservative. In the words of Gov. George W. Bush, the man who chose Cheney as his running mate, "He's a good, solid man. He's a reliable, steady person. I trust him."

Cheney was born in 1941 in Lincoln, Neb. He grew up in Caspar, Wyo. and attended public schools in both Lincoln and Caspar. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from the University of Wyoming, and in 1963 Cheney began his political career.

He worked for three years as an intern in the Wisconsin legislature, and in 1966 he became a staff aide for Wisconsin Gov. Warren Knowles. Two years later Cheney came to Washington, D.C. as a congressional fellow. He served on the staff

of Republican Rep. William A. Steiger of Wisconsin, and then became an assistant to Donald Rumsfeld, the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. From 1971 to 1973, Cheney served in the Nixon Administration as a White House staff assistant and later as the assistant director of the Cost of Living Council.

In 1973, Cheney left politics briefly and accepted the vice presidency of Bradley, Woods and Company, a Washington, D.C.-based investment firm. He returned to the White House in 1974 and worked as a deputy assistant to President Gerald Ford. One year later, he became the chief of staff, holding this position until Ford left office.

After Jimmy Carter won the Presidency, Cheney returned to his home state of Wyoming and ran for Congress. He won and was re-elected five times; during his term in office, he served as the Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, Chairman of the House Republican Conference and Minority Whip.

Cheney's most significant work began when President George Bush selected him to serve as Secretary of Defense in

1989. During his four years in this position, Cheney reshaped the defense budget to fit America's needs in the post-Cold War era. He recognized that the breakdown of the Soviet Union could put weapons in the hands of more volatile powers, advocating a policy he described as "arms for America's friends and arms control for its potential foes."

In addition, Cheney took part in two of the nation's largest recent military operations. In 1989, he helped plan Operation Just Cause in Panama. General Manuel Noriega, head of that nation's military, had denied president-elect Guillermo Endara his rightful office in order to escape pressing drug-trafficking charges in the United States. After Noriega's forces shot an American serviceman, U.S. troops invaded Panama. Within a few days, they had placed Endara in office and arrested Noriega.

Cheney also shared command of Operation Desert Storm with Gen. Colin Powell, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Desert Storm Commander Norman Schwarzkopf. This venture drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, protecting Kuwaiti cit-



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"I picked him because he is, without a doubt, fully capable of being the President of the United States," Gov. George W. Bush has said of his selection of former Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney as his running mate.

izens and preserving the oil supply of the West.

For the past five years, Cheney has worked as CEO of the Halliburton Company, a Texas-based corporation that provides services to the oil industry.

While some have criticized Cheney for his unassuming demeanor, many of his colleagues share Bush's respect. Powell says that Cheney "adds depth to a Bush administration," and Democratic media consultant Frank Greer

acknowledges that he is "respected for his seasoned experience."

Cheney's wife, Lynn, holds a doctorate in British literature from the University of Wisconsin and was chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Humanities from 1986 to 1993. She advocates education reform and the teaching of core knowledge in every subject area. The Cheneys have two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, and three granddaughters.