

HUMOROUS NEWSPAPER CORRECTIONS

The Yiddish word for “newspaper” is “tsaytung.”

“Humoristish” means “humorous” and “grayz” means “error.”

“Toes” also means “a mistake.”

“Nit-rikhtik” means “incorrect.”

“Ikh hob geton epes shlekhts” means “I have done something wrong.”

By

MARJORIE GOTTLIEB WOLFE



In 2002, Linda Amster and Dylan Loeb McClain wrote a “vunderlekh” book, “Kill Duck Before Serving - Red Faces at The New York Times.” The book is a collection of the newspaper’s most interesting, embarrassing and off-beat corrections.

Conan O’Brien said, “The New York Times had to issue a correction after an article referred to Dick Cheney as president of the United States. The Times apologized to Dick Cheney and changed his title to ‘former president of the U. S.’”

And Seth Meyers said, “Today The New York Times had to issue a correction after it mistakenly referred to Dick Cheney as a former president. Of course, George W. Bush made the same mistake all the time.”

Over the years I, too, have collected some very humorous corrections from newspapers and from around the web. Enjoy!

“shkheynehaft” (neighborhood)

“A ‘Living In’ article last Sunday, about Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn,

misidentified the ethnic group most closely identified with the neighborhood. It is Jewish, not Italian. In addition, a picture caption misstated the name of the street shown. It is Ocean Avenue, not Boulevard. And a map misstated the name of another street and misidentified one of two subway lines near the neighborhood. The street is Oriental Boulevard, not Avenue; the subway is the B, not the D.”

The New York Times, Sept. 16, 2007

“zeyde” (grandfather)

“An article about the growing number of Orthodox Jewish couples moving back to the Lower East Side of Manhattan misstated the circumstances that allowed one couple to take over her grandfather’s apartment on Grand Street. He moved out; he did not die.”

New York Times, March 1, 2000

“esn” (to eat)

“The Forward previously reported that [Israeli Ambassador Michael] Oren reached for the ham, which misrepresented what Leibovich wrote in his book. Leibovich’s account never insinuated that Oren ate the ham. The Forward regrets the error.”

“A picture caption about a debate in Borough Park, Brooklyn, over an eruv, a symbolic enclosure within which Orthodox Jews may carry objects without violating a Sabbath ban, misidentified a man in a cherry picker stringing a fishing line to expand the area. He asked not to be identified, and was not Rabbi Moshe Unsdorfer, who favors the eruv.” (June 8, 2000)

Linda Amster/Dylan Loeb McClain, “Kill Duck Before Serving”

“fathandlung” (negotiation)

“Because of a transcription error, a dispatch from Tel Aviv on negotiations for a new Israeli government referred incorrectly to Yosef Burg, leader of the National Religious Party. It should have described him as a veteran (not Bedouin) in Israeli politics.” (Sept. 13, 1984)

“Kill Duck Before Serving

“kashress” (kosher condition)

“In the Eat Out section of Tony 549, the Passover meal served at restaurant

Zoe was listed as kosher, when it in fact it is only kosher-style. We regret the error.”

TimeOut New York, April 13-19, 2006.

“awser” (forbidden)

“A chart about a Jewish ritual bath, or mikvah, misstated one condition for its use. Under Jewish law, it is not forbidden for women who have had premarital sex. Married women are welcome to use it, regardless of their past sexual activity.”

The New York Times, Sept. 14, 1997

“The attribution yesterday for the Quotation of the Day, drawn from an article in Science Times about the proliferation of mountain lions, referred incorrectly to some copies to the outcome of a man’s struggle to rescue his daughter’s cat from a cougar. As the article reported, the cougar ate the cat.”

The New York Times Corrections, Nov. 13, 2002

“der rov” (the orthodox rabbi)

“An article on April 5 about Capers Funnye, a rabbi who is a cousin of Michelle Obama’s, misstated the name of an organization to which he considered applying for membership. It was the Union for Reform Judaism, not the Union of Reform Jews.”

The New York Times, March 26, 2009

“Because of a reporting error, Dr. Arleigh Dygert Richardson III, former teacher at Lawrence Academy in Groton, was describe in his obituary yesterday as favoring tacky pants with tweed jackets and Oxford shirts. Dr. Richardson favored khaki pants.”

From the Boston Globe, The New Yorker, Feb. 13 & 20, 2006

“sanik” (brassiere)

“An article about Ivana Trump and her spending habits misstated the number of bras she buys. It is two dozen black, two dozen beige, and two dozen white, not two thousand of each.”

“Kill Duck Before Serving”

“oyfele” (infant)

“Police received a report of a newborn infant found in a trash can at Wal-Mart. Upon investigation, officers discovered it was only a burrito.”

Brea O’Keefe

“tipirn” (to typewrite)

“Due to a typing error, Saturday’s story of a local artist Jon Henninger mistakenly reported that Henninger’s band mate, Eric Lyday, was on drugs. The story should have read Lyday was on drums. The Sentinel regrets the error.”

“An article last Sunday about the documentary maker Morgan Spurlock, who has a new film on the boy band One Direction, misstated the subject of his 2012 movie, ‘Mansome.’ It is about male grooming, not Charles Manson. The article also misspelled the name of the production company of Simon Cowell, on whose ‘X Factor’ talent competition show One Direction was created. The company is Syco, not Psycho.”

The New York Times

“khazer”/“chazzer” (pig)

“30,000 pigs didn’t float down river. Baralaba Piggery owner, Sid Everingham, was quoted as saying 30,000 (Yes, thirty thousand) pigs were floating down the Dawson River, when he actually said that “30 sows and pigs” were floating down the river. The Morning Bulletin would like to apologize for this error.”

Mazl-tov!

“hultei” (person of loose morals)

“Congratulations! George Brownridge for pleasing 15 women for an entire day! We were all exhausted and very satisfied and we look forward to next year. We all thank you.

Our sincere apology for George Brownridge and staff. Our intentions were to thank him for a generous holiday shopping trip which he arranged.

This annual tradition is much appreciated. Any inappropriate innuendoes were unintentional and we take full responsibility for the ad that appeared in yesterday’s papers.”

“gelibter” (lover)

“An article about a memorial service for the poet Allen Ginsberg omitted context for a comment by a friend, Nancy Tucker. When Ms. Tucker said to the poet Gregory Corso, ‘Such a lover,’ she was referring to what she regarded as Ginsberg’s ‘kind and generous nature.’ She was not suggesting that she and Mr. Ginsberg had been lovers.”

The New York Times, April 17, 1997

“retsept” (recipe)

“In a recipe for salsa published recently, one of the ingredients was misstated. The correct ingredient is ‘2 tsp. of Cilantro instead of ‘2 tsp. of cement.’”

“di shtele” (the job)

Editor’s Note: “In the September profile of Chelsea Clinton, ‘Waiting in the Wings,’ by Jonathan Van Meter, Dan Baer was mistakenly identified as an interior designer. He is a deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the U. S. Department of State.”

“get” (divorce)

“A report about Elizabeth Taylor’s filing for a divorce from Larry Fortensky misstated the number of her divorces. This would be the seventh, not the eighth; she was widowed once.”

The New York Times, Feb. 8, 1996

“universitet” (university)

“An article last Sunday about older alumni who have been helped by university career counselors, referred imprecisely to David Munson, a 1990 graduate of Lehigh University. Mr. Munson, who lost a job in February when his company was downsized, was speaking generally--not about himself specifically--when he said that newly unemployed people sometimes mope around the house in sweatpants.”

The New York Times, Aug. 9, 2009

“luftkilung” (air conditioning)

“The Check In column on July 20, about Motel One Edinburgh-Royal in Edinburgh, misstated part of the name of a park that the hotel overlooks. It is Princess Street Gardens, not Princess. The column also referred incorrectly to the climate control in the rooms. There is no air-conditioning at the hotel, so it could not have ‘worked well.’”

The New York Times, August 3, 2014

“Komish Meydl” (Funny Girl)

“An article last Sunday about Barbra Streisand’s musings on her life and career as she prepared to release her new album, ‘Partners,’ referred

incorrectly to the origins of her hit song, 'People.' It was written for the 1964 Broadway musical 'Funny Girl,' not for the 1968 film version."

The New York Times, Sept. 21, 2014

"farfine" (to seduce)

"The Night Out column last Sunday, about the actor Michael Cera, misstated a plot element in 'This Is Our Youth,' the Broadway play in which he is a co-star. His character seduces the character played by Tavi Gevinson; his character does not lose his virginity in the encounter."

The New York Times, Sept. 21, 2014

MARJORIE WOLFE'S FAVORITE QUOTE:

"PROOFREAD CAREFULLY TO SEE IF YOU ANY WORDS OUT."