

Strengthening Jewish Identity



Dr. Reuven Feuerstein, Bar-Ilan University psychology professor and an expert in the field of child development, believes that a strong sense of ethnic identification in the family provides an optimum framework for intellectual growth.

Field Trip



United Nations Development Program officials John Olver (left) and Tim Rothermel (center) inspect drought-and-salt-resistant plants with Dr. Dov Pasternak of Ben-Gurion University's Boyko Institute for Agriculture and Applied Biology. The two UNDP representatives recently visited Ben-Gurion University to explore how the University's advances in desert agriculture can provide solutions to ending famine in Africa. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is supported in the United States by American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev with offices at 292 S. La Cienega Blvd., #322, Beverly Hills, CA 90211, (213) 854-6161.

Ethiopians Celebrate Bar Mitzvahs At Boys Town Jerusalem



JERUSALEM — In a joyous Bar Mitzvah ceremony held at Boys Town Jerusalem, ten immigrant boys from Ethiopia were welcomed as equals to the fold of the Jewish people. Each of the boys received a pair of t'fillin (phylacteries), talit (prayer shawl) and siddur (prayer book) as a gift of the school. They were instructed in the use of the ritual items by their "big brothers" of the Boys Town Junior High School. A total of 83 Ethiopian immigrants are receiving a religious, academic and vocational training at Boys Town. The school's 18-acre campus is located in Bayit Vegan, a Jerusalem suburb in the Judean Hills. The school has 1,400 students, most of whom come from economically disadvantaged families who immigrated to Israel from 44 different countries. Boys Town's New York office is located at 91 Fifth Avenue, Suite 601, New York, N.Y. 10003. Telephone: 212-242-1118.

Lavi Jet Fighter Plane Unveiled

TEL AVIV (WNS) — A white-painted aircraft prototype of the Lavi, did not dispel the shadows that hang over its future. The Lavi project, which cost over \$1.2 billion for research, development and construction, most of it supplied by the U.S., has become the object of bitter controversy both in Washington and Israel. But the array of colored lights that bathed the pencil-thin The Pentagon

Yeshiva University Honors Peres In Israel



Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres (second from left) was presented with Yeshiva University's Centennial Medallion at a reception and dinner at the Knesset that climaxed the University's Centennial Celebration in Israel. Dr. Norman Lamm (second to right), Yeshiva University president, welcomed the Prime Minister while Ludwig Jesselson (right), chairman of the executive committee of the Boards of Yeshiva University and treasurer of the University's Board of Trustees, presented the medallion to the Prime Minister. Hon. Herbert Tenzer, chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, was the master of ceremonies. "It is important that Yeshiva University continues its efforts on behalf of Jewish education in the United States and in Israel," the Prime Minister said in his address. In marking the University's Centennial, key leaders of the University were joined by delegates, alumni, and their families in a week-long series of activities. The celebration included a special gathering of more than 1,000 alumni at the Jerusalem Theater. Government leaders who participated included Israeli Vice Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, President Chaim Herzog, Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, and United States Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering.

believes the cost of producing the plane is excessive -- a view shared by some senior Israel Defense Force officers and there has been less than subtle pressure by the Reagan Administration of late for Israel to abandon the project.

Nevertheless, the unveiling was a gala occasion. President Chaim Herzog cut a blue-and-white ribbon across the huge hangar doors and a tractor slowly pulled the plane on to the tarmac to be admired by the throng of dignitaries and other VIPs invited for the occasion.

But one of the Lavi's most important boosters was absent. Premier Shimon Peres flew to Morocco for meetings with King Hassan. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin officiated instead. But there was no mention by the television and radio reporters covering the Lavi that the Prime Minister was not at hand. Live coverage was reduced to a few minutes because of

the Cabinet crisis in the wake of Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai's resignation earlier that day.

Peres' trip to Morocco was announced. Israelis who are used to surprises may have guessed that something was afoot when Peres attended what was billed as a dress rehearsal. It was a private, unofficial roll-out of the plane for the benefit of Israel Aviation Industries (IAI) workers who designed and built it.

The Premier, in his remarks, acknowledged that the Lavi was a "big risk" in many ways. But, he noted, "those who want to take small risks will remain small. Those who want to succeed in a big way must be daring in a big way. That is the reason for the Lavi."

Rabin, in his official remarks, said the Lavi has already passed a major hurdle. He stressed, however, that much more effort and sacrifice would be required before it went into production.

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