



PRESIDENT TOURS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

President George W. Bush recently visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to pay tribute to those who died in Nazi death camps. There with his wife, Laura, Bush noted, "This isn't like any other museum. This museum bears witness to the best and worst of the human heart. We must always remember the cruelty of the guilty and the courage of the innocent. [Never has an evil] been so ambitious in its scope, so systematic in its execution and so deliberate in its destruction... So many stories in the concentration camp will never be told, because so many of the witnesses did not survive," Bush said. "The stories we have must be preserved forever. The stories of mothers who sacrificed their lives to save their children. The stories of children trying to shield their parents. These tell the greater truth of the Holocaust. That evil is real, but hope endures."

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Though Israel is facing an increasing shortage of water, defense needs have prevented the country from expending funds for desalination facilities. After unveiling the \$45 million Larnaca, Cyprus plant that will make Mediterranean seawater drinkable, Israeli entrepreneur David Waxman commented, "This is simple technology, the prices are affordable so why do we (in Israel) have to suffer?" And perhaps he struck the right chord. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon recently ordered the immediate building of a desalination plant in the southern port city of Ashdod. Another facility is to be built simultaneously in nearby Ashkelon.

Unfortunately it will take two years before these and additional plants will be online to supply the Israeli population. Said one government representative, "When you're focused on bombs in buses, what are you going to do?"

NEW HEAD FOR EL AL

Israel's Transportation Ministry announced that Michael Levy will replace Joseph Ciechanover as chairman of El Al's board of directors. Levy, president of the Israeli textile company Nilit, was asked by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh to head the state-run airline. Ciechanover served as El Al's chairman for six years. El Al also announced that because of the drop in tourism caused by the recent Palestinian *intifadeh*, it would implement a cost-saving plan that will result in a 20 percent reduction in its activities.

TO THE VICTOR THE PRIZE

Dale Schenk, Ph.D., senior vice president of discovery research for Dublin-based Elan Corp., will be the first-ever corporate recipient of the American Academy of Neurology's ("AAN") Potamkin Prize. Dr. Schenk will receive the award for his contributions to Alzheimer's disease research. He intends to donate the \$100,000 cash award, which accompanies the prize, toward the establishment of a post-doctoral program in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. The Potamkin Prize was first awarded in 1988 to recognize and promote excellence in neuroscientific research. It places a special focus on efforts to find the cause of Alzheimer's disease, Pick's and related diseases, and to develop effective therapies.

WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS ANOTHER TALE FOR THE GANDER

In a quiet cul-de-sac in the suburbs north of Philadelphia, a driveway leads to a tranquil estate with two stone houses and a chapel. The land has recently been home to Roman Catholic nuns-in-training and a pair of Greek Orthodox monks. But when

a small congregation of Reform Jews struck a deal to buy it and applied for permission to turn it into a synagogue and Hebrew school, Abington Township officials refused. "It was fine for the Catholic nuns, it was fine for the Orthodox monks. It ought to be fine for the Jewish *minyán*," said Anthony Picarello, a lawyer with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a Washington, D.C., firm helping the congregation sue. Kol Ami needed a variance for nontraditional use of property in the residential district. The Abington Township zoning board cited neighbors' concerns, mostly about traffic, in denying it. Some members of his 200-family congregation wonder why zoning exceptions were made for the nuns and the monks, but not for them.

KOSHER IN SPACE

Though there have been Jewish astronauts, such as Judith Resnick and David Wolf, no one has requested kosher food until now. Col. Ilan Ramon, the Israeli astronaut who is training for a U.S. space shuttle mission, will be the first to get a kosher meal in space. Ramon is not religious but realizes that as Israel's first astronaut, "I'm kind of representative of all the Jewish community." To accommodate Col. Ramon, Vickie Kloeris, system food manager, said NASA contacted My Own Meals, a company in Deerfield, Ill. that sells certified kosher food in "thermostabilized" pouches. Of 10 kosher choices, Ramon picked: Florentine lasagna, beef stew, chicken Mediterranean, My Kind of Chicken (which the company describes as chunks of light and dark chicken with brown rice, peas and carrots), and Old World Stew (beef with brown rice, zucchini, pinto beans and flavors of the Middle East), Kloeris said. Bon appetit.

HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE

Deep in the recesses of the remains of an ancient Muslim palace from which Muslim Caliphs ruled the area in the 7th century, a computer simulation is part of a new interactive museum that recently opened just outside the Al

Aqsa Mosque once site of two temples—one built by King Solomon and the second by King Herod. Muslim clerics who administer the compound claim there is no archaeological proof that the Jewish Temples once stood in the place of the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques. For them, the new Israeli display "is not a museum of historical events, but a factory of lies," said Adnan Hussein, director of the Trust that administers the site. Nevertheless, in the high-tech computer simulation, developed with the University of California at Los Angeles, visitors are guided by computer images under a high gateway and up a grand staircase to the majestic Second Temple, as it stood before the Romans destroyed it in 70 A.D. Some 1,500 hours were involved in developing the computer simulation, with more than 900 digital photographs of the area around the Temple Mount included in the depiction.



HILLEL OPENS FIRST FOUNDATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

Dignitaries from South America, the United States and Israel were on hand when Hillel opened its first facility in South America in Montevideo, Uruguay. Uruguay Hillel, which will serve 2,000 Jewish college students from three local universities, is being funded by Hillel International Board of Governors Chairman Edgar Bronfman; Hillel International Board of Governors Co-Chair Michael Steinhart; Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life; the Jewish Agency for Israel; the Jewish community of Uruguay, and prominent South American Jewish philanthropists. Opening ceremonies at La Fundación Para La Vida Universitaria Judía (L-r)