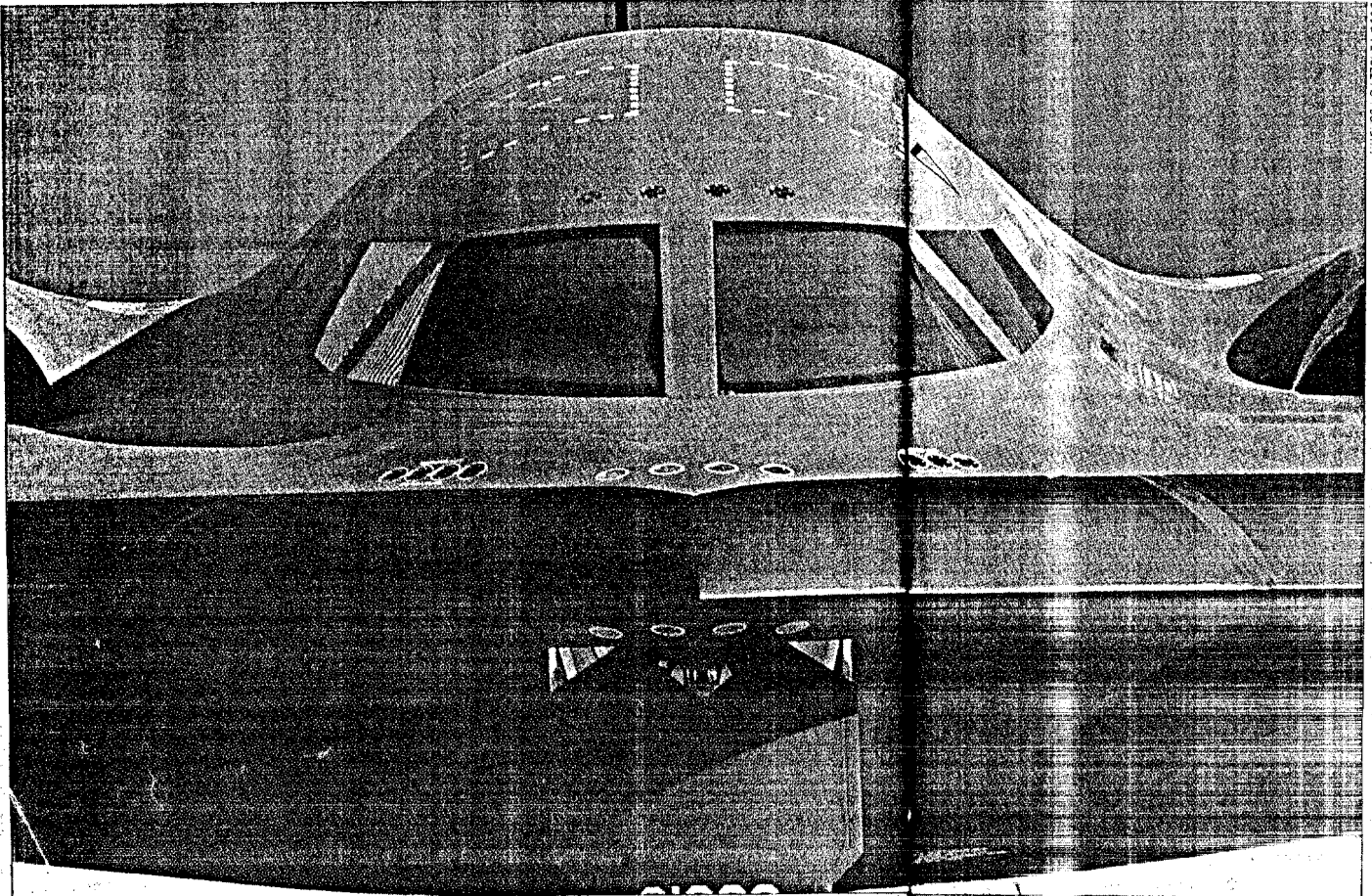


**CURRENTS**

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DAVID J. PHILLIPS FOR TIME

**STEALTHY IN THE SUN.** When the hooded, batlike jet was rolled out of a top-secret hangar in California last week, the world stared for the first time at the B-2 bomber. And the \$500 million plane, looking as sinister as Darth Vader, stared

right back. Yet it did not shed all of its mystery. Guests were kept 200 feet away, screened from seeing the B-2's rear and sides. The plane was designed to make the bomber nearly invisible to radar. Lest anyone be tempted closer,

guard dogs watched menacingly as a band played. The unveiling, after eight years of rising public interest, had become a national event. Test flights will begin soon and will be conducted in daylight. Stealth could be hidden no longer.

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