

IMMEDIATE
December 13, 2001
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**A MONUMENT HONORING ALFRED NOBEL
AND AMERICAN LAUREATES TO BE ERECTED**

DATE: Monday, December 17, 2001
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Theodore Roosevelt Park
Enter Park at 79th Street and Columbus Avenue

***EVENT/
PHOTO-OP:* Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern, Consul General of Sweden Olle Wästberg, Eric Kandel, the 2000 Nobel Prize Winner for His Work in the Field of Neuroscience, Bronx High School of Science Principal Valerie Reidy, and Other Nobel Laureates Break Ground for the Alfred Nobel Monument, the First Monument To Honor the American Winners of the Prestigious Prize. Students from Bronx High School of Science, Where Many Famous Laureates Graduated, Will Help in the Ceremony.**

DETAILS: Three years ago at an annual Nobel dinner held at the Consulate General of Sweden the idea for a monument celebrating the American recipients of the prize was conceived. The construction of the monument was widely supported as a way to honor the centennial anniversary of the prize, which was first awarded on December 10, 1901. Parks and Consulate General of Sweden in New York joined together to have this special monument erected in New York City, home to many laureates. Theodore Roosevelt Park became the obvious location. The park, home to the American Museum of Natural History, is named for the U.S. President who in 1906 was the first American to win a Nobel Prize. It was for Peace.

Sivert Lindblom, a renowned Swedish artist whose work includes the Stockholm Holocaust monument, designed a monolith with four sides of rough-hewn red Swedish Granite resting on a round of black diabase. Two steps lead to the monolith and a black, polished diabase quarter-round (12" diam.) rests at the bottom corners of the monument. This motif is repeated at the top, where each corner is capped by a small sphere, this time of gilded bronze. The front side, facing north, carries a round, 3'5" diameter,

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bronze medallion suggestive of the actual award and bearing the likeness of Alfred Nobel below it is the text "Swedish Inventor, Industrialist, Philanthropist and Humanist." The remaining three sides of the monument bear the text: "American Recipients of the Nobel Prize". Beneath this is the chronological list of all the American recipients of the prize to date and their category. Space has been left on the monument for future prize winners.

The prize was created by Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) who having a great fortune and no immediate heirs, stated that his money should go to a new foundation that would divide up his estate "in the form of prizes to those who during the preceding year have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind." According to Nobel's wishes prizes are awarded in the areas of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and "work for fraternity of nations." In 1969, the Bank of Sweden added economics to the list.

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