Midnight’s Children Premieres

On Mar. 21, the month-long Midnight’s Children Humanities Festival, which has featured an array of lectures and symposia, extended to the Apollo Theater on 125th Street with the presentation of Salman Rushdie’s play, Midnight’s Children. (See pages 6-9 for a roundup of events)

Emergency Preparedness Update

S
ince September 11, 2001, New York City has been under a heightened security alert (orange). And on March 17, 2003, the U.S. government raised its national terror threat level from yellow ("elevated") to orange ("high"). While there have been no specific threats indicating Columbia University as a potential target of a terrorist act, it is important to be prepared in these difficult times. Since September 11, 2001, Columbia has actively reviewed and revised, when appropriate, its emergency procedures. Recently, we increased security on the campus, at the gates, at our loading docks, and at entrances to campus parking garages. Columbia is well prepared to respond to any emergency. We have procedures in place in the event of an emergency related to current international events. The University has established an operations center with emergency management teams ready to take appropriate action for the safety of the Columbia community. In addition to maintaining frequent contact with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies for the most up to date information, we work closely with the New York City Police Department and the precincts near the Morningside Heights and Health Sciences campuses.

In the event of an actual occurrence, Columbia will follow instructions from the NYC Police Department and the NYC Office of Emergency Management. The answer to the question of where to go in an emergency will vary depending on the circumstances, location, and nature of the emergency.

If the incident occurs on campus and you are inside a residence hall or other University building, follow instructions from emergency personnel and building supervisors as to whether to evacuate or shelter in place.

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Bill Gates to Give Away Most of Fortune, Largely to Global Health

BY JASON HOLLANDER

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ill Gates told an audience of students, professors, administrators and special guests that he plans to give away almost all of his vast fortune, largely to the cause of global health. Gates said that eventually his entire fortune will be put to use, especially New York-

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Two Architecture Alumni Design September II Pentagon Memorial

BY KRISTIN STERLING

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ver the past few months, Americans, especially New Yorkers, closely followed the decision-making process for redeveloping the World Trade Center site with Daniel Libeskind’s “Memory Foundations.” But Columbia architecture alumni Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman have been preoccupied with another September 11 memorial—the Pentagon tribute. On Mar. 3 they were named winning designers for the 2-acre memorial site near the spot where the Pentagon attack occurred and across the highway from Arlington National Cemetery.

Their design, “Light Benches” was selected from more than 1,100 entries worldwide and is expected to be completed in September 2004. This is the first academic project that the pair worked on together.

“We are immensely honored and overwhelmingly touched,” said Kaseman at the press conference. “We are truly honored to be given the opportunity to develop the idea we had and that the distinguished jury saw in it a way for family members, colleagues and friends of all those whose lives were lost, and the nation, to deal with the tragedy that unfolded here at the Pentagon.”

The memorial will include 184 benches with the name of each victim engraved. Each bench will be positioned according to the age of the victim, progressing from the youngest, age 3, to the oldest, age 71. Each bench will have a glowing light pool set underneath. Benches honoring the 125 Pentagon victims will face the building and the 59 benches of Flight 77 victims will face the airplane’s flight path.

“[The memorial] stands as a place of common memory and also makes an effort to note individual circumstances of the victim—lives—whether they were uniformed or civilian personnel at the Pentagon or passengers on Flight 77,” said Terry Riley, design jury chair and chief curator of design and architecture at the Museum of Modern Art. “We were impressed with the way in which the designers involved students, professors, administrators and special guests that he plans to give away almost all of his vast fortune, largely to the cause of global health issues, Gates said that eventually his entire fortune will be put to use, especially New York-


CU Scientists Work to Improve Health, Economy In South Asia

Bollinger, Sachs and Rosenfield Visit Region

BY JASON HOLLANDER

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ue in part to assistance from Columbia, a family in a small village in Bangladesh may soon have drinking water that is free of arsenic and other poisons. In fact, the University is involved in projects that stand to improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people in South Asia over the next several years.

President Lee C. Bollinger, Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, and Dean Allan Rosenfield of the Mailman School of Public Health, recently visited India and Bangladesh to meet with government officials and tour sites with Columbia researchers.

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Inside

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates (Continued on Page 11)

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SOA alumna makes Broadway debut in August Wilson revival, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.

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Archie Rand chosen to narrate reissue of classic documentary, The Mystery of Picasso.

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Columbia scientists working to improve health and economy in South Asia.

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John Jay Awards honor Columbia College alumni for distinguished achievement.