

# New York Metro

The Epoch Times

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December 4, 2008

Metro News B1

## Bell of Hope Rings for Mumbai

By JOSHUA PHILIPP  
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—The “Bell of Hope” sounded from St. Paul’s Chapel in lower Manhattan on Wednesday in remembrance of the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India.

Indian Deputy Consul General Dr. A.M. Gondane was joined by members of the clergy in the churchyard for a prayer for peace.

The still empty lots where the Twin Towers once stood behind the church were a reminder of the terrorist attack once felt in the city.

Gondane sounded the bell in the tradition of New York City Firefighters’ “four fives” salute to fallen comrades, ringing it 20 times in four sets of five rings.

“The bell sends a message that there is a tragedy that has happened. Hopefully such a tragedy, if it can be avoided, should be avoided,” said Gondane. “The thinking [is that] people should send a message that terrorism is no way for bringing your grievances forward.”

The Lord Mayor of London, England, gave the Bell of Hope as a gift to New York City just one year after the terrorist attacks on 9-11-01.

The bell was created in the same foundry in East London where the original Liberty Bell was cast, and is now rung once a year on the anniversary of 9-11. It was also rung following the bombings in London and Madrid, as well as for the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings.

“New York itself has suffered the rigors of terror. It knows the pain which is a consequence of such attacks,” said Gondane. “Therefore, New York has, in various meetings that we have attended, expressed that anguish, that pain, and they have identified their pain with our pain.”



PAYING RESPECT: Indian Deputy Consul General Dr. A.M. Gondane rings the “Bell of Hope” in remembrance of the victims of the Mumbai terrorist attacks. JOSHUA PHILIPP/THE EPOCH TIMES

The Mumbai terrorist attacks, which occurred last week, are still fresh in the minds of many in India. 174 people lost their lives when the terrorists, armed with rifles and grenades, raided India’s commercial capital.

The terrorists went on a rampage through the city, firing randomly at pedestrians and into crowded places such as hospitals and train stations. The terrorists then took a group of hostages and held up in two luxury hotels. The conflict

came to an end after Indian commandos eliminated the last of the terrorists.

“It’s a very sad thing that has happened and it’s very distressing that such an event could take place. We in India want to live in peace. We in India want to concentrate our efforts on tackling poverty, disease, shortages of food, and water shortages. All of our efforts and all of our energy are towards that. But somehow, in the midst of all this, an attack like this diverts our at-

ention from the real goals and real things we want to achieve,” said Gondane.

James Cooper, the director of the Trinity Church, St. Paul’s Chapel said that he and the members of his church hold compassion for the victims and their families in India.

“A bell can be tolled, which is a symbol of mourning and loss,” said Cooper. “We would do it with solidarity with those in other parts of the world who have gone through similar losses to the 9-11 loss here.”

## New Jersey Man Steals \$2.3 Million From Student Loan Company

Faces 25 years for extravagant spending spree

By KATY MANTYK  
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau announced on Wednesday the indictment of a New Jersey man for stealing over \$2.3 million from a student loan company based in New York City.

The defendant was arrested on Wednesday and was charged with Grand Larceny in the First Degree; his three companies are each charged with Money Laundering in the First Degree. Both crimes are Class B felonies punishable by up to 8 to 25 years in prison.

The defendant, Troy Hill, 34, a funding and portfolio manager at MRU Holdings, had been stealing money from an account that MRU Holdings, Inc. used to fund student loans during the period of October 29, 2007 to January 30, 2008.

Hill worked at MRU Holdings until February 7, 2008, when he quit shortly after his last wire transfer theft. His crimes were discovered a few months later during a company internal audit. The company’s president forwarded information about the thefts to the District Attorney’s Office.

The defendant initiated 20 wire

transfers, totaling \$2,308,471.31 into his personal bank account. After the funds arrived in his own account, he moved the money between his various bank accounts, and into bank accounts of the three companies he formed and controlled with his girlfriend, Robbin Coachman—TR Investment Group, LLC, TR Investment Group I, LLC, and TR Investment Group II, LLC.

The defendant also used the funds to purchase, among other things, at least four cars—two of which were titled in Coachman’s name—expensive jewelry at Jacob & Co., and two pieces of real estate which are owned in his and Coachman’s names.

Funds were also used to renovate Coachman’s house in Jersey City, NJ, where they both live. In addition, Hill transferred some of the stolen funds into Coachman’s bank account. From Coachman’s account, funds were used to purchase a franchise for two Port City Java coffee shop franchises in New Brunswick and in Jersey City, both in New Jersey.

Hill’s girlfriend Robbin Coachman is being sued in a parallel civil asset forfeiture action for the \$2.3 million as well.

## Child Entrepreneur Brings Green Message to Harlem

By KATY MANTYK  
Epoch Times Staff

NEW YORK—Riley Hoffer is a 12-year-old from Arkansas and inventor of a line of eco-friendly stainless steel water bottles to help save the environment. She visited the Alain L. Locke Elementary School on 111th Street in Harlem on Wednesday to spread her message.

Addressing about 260 3rd through 6th graders, Hoffer inspired her peers with confidence and leadership qualities well beyond her years. Without skipping a beat, the young entrepreneur gave the students a multi-media lesson on saving the environment, with a focus on recycling plastic water bottles.

“What are the three R’s?” Hoffer asked the students after the presentation. “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!” the students chanted back.

With the help of Hoffer’s mother and President of CG Kidz, Danelle Hoffer, they explained that America purchased a total of 30 billion water bottles in 2006 alone, and that only 14 percent of those got recycled. Young Hoffer asked the students how long they think it would take for a plastic water bottle to decompose. “700 years,” she said, shocking the young audience.

“We live near a landfill and I saw all the trash and plastic sitting there, and I thought we really need to do something about it,” young Hoffer said of her inspiration for the project. “I also love designing and making websites, and wanted to make a bottle, so that’s how I got started.”

Her stated inspirations, combined with her parent’s new busi-

ness venture, Cynergreen, an environmentally focused company making stainless steel water bottles, now has Hoffer on a campaign trail to visit schools.

Other than speaking at Gibson Island Country School in Maryland, known to be leading the way in green schooling, the Harlem elementary was the first of many to come.

“Four schools called us last week asking us to visit ... one in Oregon, one in California. But the next stop is Riley’s own school in Arkansas, which she’s really excited about,” said Danelle Hoffer.

Mrs. Hoffer then introduced the stainless steel water bottle daughter designed herself and the website she launched in August this year called CGKidz. The graphic on the bottle includes trees and earth that swirl with the logo of three rotating arrows on recyclable plastics.

The website is managed and written by young Hoffer, and provides kids ages five through 14 information about the importance of the environment and how they can make a difference.

“At my house my mother has a lot of plastic bottles. I’m gonna tell her we learned at school today about recycling and that we can reuse them,” said eight-year-old Kayla Monrow.

At the end of the school day, Danelle Hoffer’s company gave free CGKidz water bottles to the students and a starter pack for the Environmental Club they started at the school. It included information for teachers on environmental issues and lessons, contributed to by teachers at Gibson Island Country School.



YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR: 12-year-old Riley Hoffer visits Alain L. Locke Elementary School on 111th Street in Harlem to spread her message about recycling and give out free, self-designed CGKidz water bottles. KATY MANTYK/EPOCH TIMES

## NY Gov. Outraged No Women Nominated for Top Judge

NEW YORK (Reuters)—New York Gov. David Paterson said Wednesday he was “outraged” that no women were nominated to lead the state’s Court of Appeals, its highest court, forcing him to choose from seven men recommended by a panel.

Paterson said he believes the state constitution obliges him to pick one of the men nominated by a 12-member panel. But he directed state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to explore options for picking a new chief judge for the appeals court that is considered one of the most influential state courts in the country.

“Because we’re citizens of a state in addition to being public servants, we’re outraged,” Paterson said, adding that the panel’s rejection of more than half the population could discourage women.

“What we really wanted to do is just publicly acknowledge ... the disappointing fact that they spanned the globe and couldn’t find a woman in New York State that was qualified to serve as the chief judge,” he said. Still, he called the seven male nominees highly qualified.

Four women served on the nominating panel, which was created in the late 1970s to reform the highly politicized way judges were chosen.

The current chief judge of Court of Appeals, Judith Kaye, resigns at the end of the year. Three other women serve on the seven-member court, and Paterson, joined by the Democratic attorney general, questioned why none of them was nominated.



PATERSON NOT PLEASED: NY Gov. David Paterson expressed his displeasure with the lack of female judges selected by panel to lead the state’s court of appeals. GETTY IMAGES