


The Duke MBA

WEEKEND EXECUTIVE GLOBAL EXECUTIVE CROSS CONTINENT



Economist.com

CITIES

SEARCH Advanced
[E-MAILS/MOBILE/RSS](#)
[SUBSCRIPTIONS](#)

Friday February 11th 2005

[About **EB**](#) | [My account](#) | [Log out](#) | [Help](#)

OPINION
WORLD
BUSINESS
FINANCE & ECONOMICS
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
PEOPLE
BOOKS & ARTS
MARKETS & DATA
DIVERSIONS

CITIES GUIDE
COUNTRY BRIEFINGS

Economist Intelligence Unit
onlinestore

RESEARCH TOOLS
Articles by subject
[Backgrounders](#)
[Surveys](#)
[Economics A-Z](#)
[Style guide](#)
[Business encyclopedia](#)

ABOUT US
[Economist.com](#)
[The Economist](#)
[Global Agenda](#)
[Contact us](#)
[Media Directory](#)
[Advertising info](#)
[Job opportunities](#)

STAFF PAGES
[Media Directory](#)
[Staff Books](#)

ADVERTISEMENT
Economist Conferences
The Technology Industry Summit at CeBIT
Hannover Germany
March 9th 2005

Installation art

Printable page
 E-mail this

Gold sheer

Feb 10th 2005 | CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK
From The Economist print edition

Christo finally wraps up the city

WHEN the Bulgarian-American wrap artist, Christo and his wife Jeanne-Claude, first proposed strewing candy-coloured sheeting through Central Park in 1980, the authorities' resounding no the following year came in a letter that ran to 107 pages. As the New York City parks commissioner Gordon Davis summed it up later, the proposal was for the "wrong place, wrong time, wrong scale."

AP



Hair harmony

By 1991, the rejection had slimmed down to 26 pages. Things were looking up. There followed further talks, negotiations and compromises—even a new mayor—before no turned to yes. Approval notwithstanding, there has been plenty to be getting on with: over 60 miles of vinyl tubing to produce and some 1m square feet of special rip-stop nylon fabric from 116,389 miles of thread. On February 12th the Christos will finally be ready (weather permitting) to begin unfurling panel after panel of the saffron fabric from the 7,500 tall vinyl tube gates that have been planted along 23 miles of footpaths in the park.

"The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005", as the installation is formally called, has been going up all week. At the finale, each curtain will drop to a height of about seven feet (just over two metres) above the ground, offering the city's dogs and dandies a flash of colour through which to view the bare winter trees.

The project's entire cost (including insurance) will be financed by the artists, who are selling studies, preparatory drawings, collages and scale models of the project. The Christos are also donating \$3m to New York City's parks programmes as part of the deal. In addition to these financial details, the artists are particularly keen for people to know that they are intent on creating a democratic installation. No one can own the work, they say, and no one must pay to see it. By contrast, everyone who visits "The Gates" will own the experience, and

RELATED ITEMS

City Guide: [New York](#)

More articles about...

[The arts](#)

Websites

Christo and Jean-Claude give information on "The Gates", which will be installed in [Central Park](#) in New York.

ADVERTISEMENT

The New York Times

[CLICK HERE](#)

As low as
\$2.90
a week



Save on home delivery.

[CLICK HERE](#)

The New York Times

ADVERTISEMENT

Get the world delivered
as low as
\$2.90
a week.

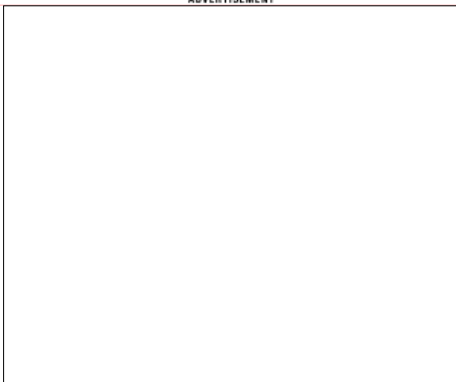
[CLICK HERE](#)
for home delivery

The New York Times

after 16 days it will be taken down and recycled.

The park's mid-19th-century founders would surely have approved these ideals; early advocates were especially keen that the picturesque woodlands and pathways should encourage poor people to avoid going to the saloon.

ADVERTISEMENT



[OPINION](#) | [WORLD](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [FINANCE & ECONOMICS](#) | [SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY](#)
[PEOPLE](#) | [BOOKS & ARTS](#) | [MARKETS & DATA](#) | [DIVERSIONS](#) | [PRINT EDITION](#)

An Economist Group business

Copyright © The Economist Newspaper Limited 2005. All rights reserved.
[Advertising info](#) | [Legal disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Help](#)
