IV. Alfred Nobel (1833 - 1896) and his legacy

When Alfred Nobel was 34 years old, he invented dynamite and 22 years later, smokeless gunpowder. These are hardly things one would associate with a name that has become synonymous with peace. However, peace is just one of the six prizes that are awarded each year in the name of the Swedish chemist. The other prizes are for physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and economics.

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by a Norwegian committee, while the other five prizes are awarded by Swedish committees. The reason behind this has never been clear. One argument suggests that the Norwegians had shown a special interest in mediation, arbitration and the peaceful solution of international disputes, and was therefore the natural choice.

Next year, 2001 will mark the centenary of the Nobel Peace Prize, and within the 100 years of its existence, about 70 of the individual winners have been men and about 15 of the individual winners have been women. The first woman to win the prize was Nobel's friend Bertha von Sutter in 1905, and the most recent was Jody Williams in 1997 for her work on the banning and clearing of anti-personnel mines. Whereas the other prizes can be awarded to individuals (to a maximum of three), the Peace Prize can be given to institutions and organizations as well.

This year's winner is Kim Dae Jung, of South Korea, who has worked for human rights and for the reconciliation between North and South Korea. The ceremony will take place, as usual, on December 10th at the City Hall, Oslo, Norway.
1. Alfred Nobel was
   a) Swedish
   b) Norwegian
   c) Danish

2. He was a well-known
   a) writer
   b) priest
   c) chemist

3. He was responsible for
   a) developing the typewriter
   b) arranging peace deals
   c) inventing dynamite

4. How many Nobel prizes are there?
   a) 4
   b) 5
   c) 6

5. The first Peace Prize was awarded in
   a) 1801
   b) 1851
   c) 1901

6. A woman first won the Peace prize in
   a) 1905
   b) 1956
   c) 1979

7. What is the maximum number of individuals that can share a Nobel Prize?
   a) 1
   b) 2
   c) 3

8. True or false?
The Nobel Prizes can only be awarded to individuals, not organizations.
   T (     )   F (     )
9. The most recent winner of the Peace Prize is from
   a) South Korea
   b) South Africa
   c) South America

10. The Nobel Prizes are awarded annually on
    a) August 10th
    b) December 10th
    c) April 10th