



WKCR was born as CURC, for Columbia University Radio Club, an AM station broadcasting to the college dormitories. It went FM in 1956 and acquired a transmitter in midtown in the 1960s. Since 1985, when it switched to its World Trade Center facility (the culmination of ten years of student and alumni effort), its signal has reached listeners in a 25-mile radius.

The anniversary celebration began on October 10 with the traditional Thelonious Monk birthday broadcast, including Monk's first known recordings, made by Columbia students at Minton's Playhouse in Harlem. Other archive programs presented classical music, opera, drama, news and sports, plus recorded interviews with legendary jazz figures, many from the collection of Phil Schapp, a WKCR disc jockey for two decades. A black-tie dinner in Low Rotunda for station alumni was held on October 12.

CURIOSITIES

The Little Corporal

Beneath the gilded dome of the Invalides in Paris lie the bones of Napoleon I. The fallen emperor is protected by six concentric coffins within a sarcophagus, in a crypt adorned with statues commemorating his career. "The majesty of the setting perfectly befits the Emperor's image," says the Michelin guide.

But part of Napoleon is in a less secure facility. A recent letter to the *New York Times Book Review*, responding to a review of John Vernon's *Peter Doyle*, revealed, "The novel's subject matter—a quest for Napoleon's amputated penis—is more accurate than Mr. Vernon or [the *Times* reviewer] realized. Napoleon's penis was removed from his body by the surgeons attending at his death [and] is now owned by a surgeon at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center."

The custodian of Napoleon's manhood is Dr. John K. Lattimer '35C, '38P&S,

'43Sc.D., who chaired Columbia's urology department for 25 years before "retiring" in 1980. (He continues to teach and see patients.) He acquired the item a few years ago, when a collection of Napoleoniana was broken up. "I thought it should be treated with some dignity and respect," he says, and the Squire Urological Clinic's collection at the medical center seemed an appropriate setting.

Lattimer has long been interested in medicine as history. After serving in World War II, he was one of the physicians assigned to care for war criminals tried at Nuremberg. "Our job was to keep them alive until they could be hanged," says Lattimer, who is writing a book on the subject. The author of *Kennedy and Lincoln: A Medical and Ballistic Comparison of Their Assassinations*, he also owns the bloodstained collar from the shirt Lincoln was wearing when he was assassinated, as well as a fragment of the car seat John F. Kennedy was sitting on at his death.

Dr. Lattimer has non-medical interests, too. His

collection of silver-headed swords will be shown at the Metropolitan Museum this fall, and the Englewood (N.J.) Historical Society published his *This Was Early Englewood: From the Big Bang to the George Washington Bridge*.

How did the Napoleon relic escape entombment with the rest of him? When Napoleon was dying in exile on St. Helena in 1821, he knew the doctor treating him, a fellow Corsican, was waiting to do his autopsy. "Napoleon was spitting on him, casting aspersions on his sexual capacities—generally being obnoxious," says Lattimer, so the doctor took revenge. "During autopsies in the tropics, the stench is terrific. There wouldn't have been any witnesses."

Napoleon's severed member is not preserved in a jar. "It's air-dried, mummified," says Dr. Lattimer. "It's about the size of your finger."



NEWSLINES

• The Graduate School of Journalism will celebrate "Freedom Week" this December, marking 200 years of freedom of the press and the First Amendment. From December 9th through the 15th, the school will sponsor a lecture series, programming on WNYC radio and TV, and, on December 11, a gala

dinner honoring the First Amendment and Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., with readings from First Amendment literature by Caroline Kennedy '88L, William Safire, and others. In addition, *Columbia Journalism Review* will publish a special issue on the First Amendment. For lecture information, call (212) 854-4150. For dinner reservations, (212) 755-1190.

• The University's library system has acquired its six millionth volume, *Iter Italicum, Volume Five*, by Paul Oskar Kristeller, the Woodbridge Professor Emeritus of Philosophy. Subtitled "a finding list of uncatalogued or incompletely catalogued humanistic manuscripts in Italian and other libraries," the series is recognized as



Kristeller

crucial to medieval and Renaissance scholarship.

• A Columbia alumnus led the United Nations team held in Iraq when its mem-

bers refused to hand over information about Iraq's nuclear capability they uncovered in a government office in Baghdad. David Kay '67Ph.D. is "small in stature but large in spirit," says Richard Gardner, a professor at the Law School who has worked with him. The captives, and the documents, were released after four days in a Baghdad parking lot.

# COLUMBIA

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COLUMBIA, The Magazine of Columbia University, is published quarterly for alumni and friends by the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations. Volume 17, Number 2, Winter 1992. Copyright © 1992 by the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, Michael I. Sovern, President. COLUMBIA is a member of the Magazine Publishers Association. **Editorial Offices:** 3 Claremont Ave., NY, NY 10027/(212) 280-3603. Subscriptions: \$25/year. **Address Changes:** Send to Circulation Desk at address above.

Opinions in these pages do not necessarily reflect official positions of the University.

**National Advertising Representative:** The Nexus Group, Inc., Robert F. Sennott, president. 254 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10001. Telephone: (212) 684-5603 / Fax: (212) 532-7516.

# LETTERS

recently married a registered nurse who works on the cardiac floor in a nearby hospital, we both thoroughly enjoyed Greg Fraser's article on heart arrhythmias.

**John M. Evans '91C**  
*Marlton, N.J.*

The fall issue might be the best yet. You should be proud of the magazine you have made. Splendid articles, and all the rest is good, too: Essays (especially the alumni seminar), Letters, Books, Research, College Walk. And while we are at it—who is the wise guy who thought up the headline "The Little Corporal"!

**Jack Arbolino '42C, '57TC**  
*Harrington Park, N.J.*

Let me express my outrage at the story in your Fall 1991 edition on the subject of Napoleon's penis (College Walk). The article is atrocious enough, but the real obscenity is the fact that Columbia University has harbored this relic over the years.

I neither view the emperor as a hero of the French nor as the scourge of Europe, but this kind of concentration on a private part of his being I do view as unseemly.

Could the University, over the years of my grandfather's, my father's, my, and my son's loyal relationship with it, not have quietly returned this personal memento to the French government to have interred it in whatever fashion it might have decided? Or could it now do so, without the attention of your prurient reporters?

**William E. Colby '47L**  
*Washington, D.C.*

Theodore Bestor's "On the Waterfront" (Fall '91) pictures a monument outside a Tokyo fish market—a monument that "pays tribute to fish that have given their lives for sushi."

What a misuse of the verb *give*.

No fish "give their lives" for sushi! Fish are treacherously seized from the water, then brutally slaughtered—for barbarians to eat.

I am thankful to be a lifelong vegetarian.

**Anne Lohrli '32M.A.**  
*Claremont, Calif.*

## Moscow from the Hudson

I opened the Fall 1991 issue of *Columbia* and read with interest the article titled "Couped Up" (College Walk). I, too, am a Columbian (and freelance reporter) who was at the coup.

August 19, 1991, started out like any other Monday in Moscow; but when I turned on BBC radio at 7:30, I heard that a right-wing emergency committee had taken control of the country and imprisoned Gorbachev in his Crimean dacha. Thirty minutes later, I heard a rumbling noise outside my window. Looking down on Kutuzovsky Prospekt, which leads to the Russian Parliament and the Kremlin, I saw a line of tanks roaring toward the center of Moscow.

Around noon I heard another loud rumbling sound from the street. This time the parade of tanks lasted several minutes. I headed to the Kutuzovsky Bridge, which I considered a safe vantage point from which to watch the action.

While I was on the bridge, some Muscovites threw iron rods in the path of the tanks. One ground to a halt, which forced the line of about 25 tanks behind it to stop in their tracks. The soldiers closed their hatches.

After about 30 minutes, they warily stuck their heads out, assessing the scene. Realizing that the crowd wasn't dangerous, they sat on the tanks or jumped down, stretching their legs. People in the crowd cajoled the soldiers into reading Yeltsin's decree, which he had issued minutes earlier when he courageously climbed onto one of the tanks near the Parliament. The decree called on the soldiers not to shoot and urged workers to stage a general strike. The soldiers seemed unaware why they had been sent into Moscow.

I spent the rest of the three days of the coup in or around the Russian Parliament. On Tuesday around five o'clock, I was inside interviewing the deputies when Sergei Stankevich, the deputy mayor of Moscow, got on the loudspeaker and said that tanks would storm the Parliament in 15 minutes. Luckily it was a false alarm.

**Patricia Kranz '81M.I.A.**  
*Washington, D.C.*