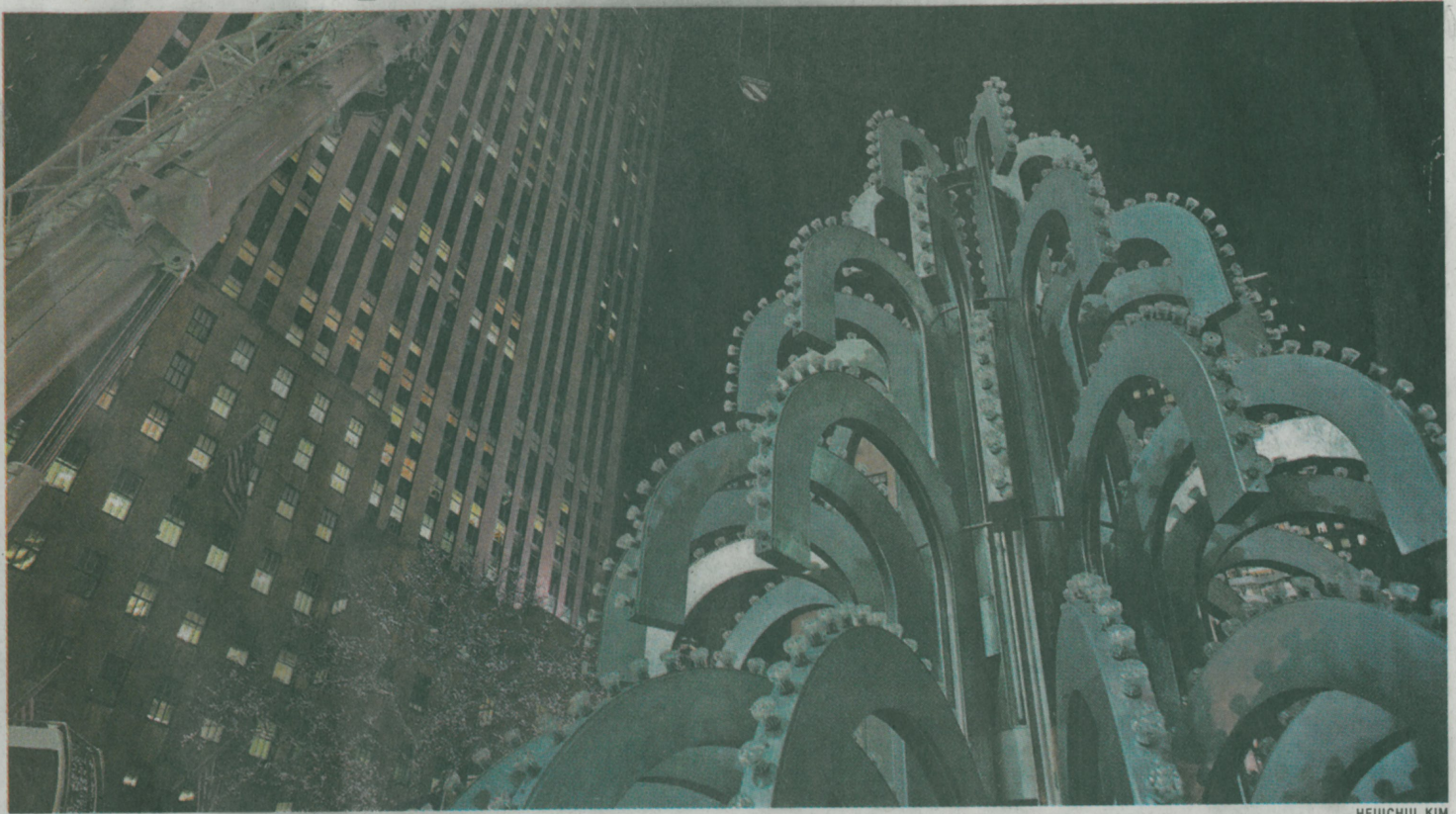


A New Sculpture Is Installed at Rockefeller Center



HEUICHUL KIM

LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT A 20,000-pound steel structure is installed at Rockefeller Center yesterday. The 35-foot electric fountain, which has 3,390 LED and neon bulbs, will light up Rockefeller Center between February 27 and April 5.

'Saturday Night Live' To Make Up for Lost Time

By DAVID BAUDER

"Saturday Night Live" has been gone for so long that you'll never know who its Mitt Romney impersonator was going to be.

The writers strike-imposed absence of the NBC institution ends this weekend with the first of four straight weeks of new shows, the first time that breakneck schedule has been tried since 1976.

"The last time we did it, it almost killed us," the show's veteran executive producer, Lorne Michaels, said.

Old friend Tina Fey is the first guest host, with Carrie Underwood the musical guest.

The last new "Saturday Night Live" aired on November 3. It was such a generation ago politically that the opening skit was about a party at Hillary Clinton's house where she was portrayed as the presumptive president — with the real Barack Obama taking a cameo role.

That's what irritated Mr. Michaels and cast member Seth

ing one of the most exciting nomination contests in generations, they've been sidelined.

"I was in a rage for three of the four months," Mr. Michaels said, "then I sort of calmed down."

Even though shows with Conan O'Brien, Jon Stewart, Jay Leno, and Stephen Colbert returned without writers until the strike was settled, Mr. Michaels said it was never an option at "SNL." NBC placed no pressure on him to do so, either.

Returning before the strike ended would have been a breach of faith with the writers guild, but also with the collaborations between writers and cast members on the show, he said. It's a writers show; internally, the skits are produced and identified with whoever wrote them.

Mr. Meyers — who joined with Mr. O'Brien and David Letterman in growing a "strike beard" — shaved his off before going back to work. Some of his creative energies were burned off doing a week-

Part of the reason Mr. Michaels picked Ms. Fey for the first show back is that she's a former head writer and cast member at "SNL" and it gives a comfort level for the expected rustiness.

Mr. Michaels said he learned from a 1988 strike that it took awhile to get viewers back in the habit of looking for the show following an absence.

"Our competition isn't other

television shows," he said. "It's 'Guitar Hero.' You have to re-establish the bond with the audience when you don't show up for a long time. It's like any other relationship. When you don't show up, people lose interest."

Maybe the most painful missed opportunity: Amy Winehouse was the scheduled musical guest for the show of November 10.

Associated Press

Bloomberg Threatens Foreclosures

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"I was always for trying to reduce the burden on the majority of folks who pay their bills on time, and was never happy with the fact that there are some people who just don't pay and there weren't very many mechanisms to get them to pay," he said.

The city hired a private collector that is a subsidiary of the Bear

Jersey in October about Xspand said it takes in between 12 and 25 cents of every back dollar it recovers.

A spokeswoman for the company, which was previously run by the former governor of New Jersey, James Florio, declined to comment yesterday.

A spokesman in the city's Department of Finance said he could not immediately say how much