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## *Patriotism Will Define Columbus Day Parade*

By DAVID W. CHEN

The route, up Fifth Avenue, will be the same. There will be a grand marshal, too: Bobby Valentine, the manager of the Mets.

But almost every other aspect of the Columbus Day Parade tomorrow will be markedly different after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. One-third of the high school bands scheduled to march have pulled out. Patriotism, not Italian-American heritage, will flavor the music. And the crowd's mood promises to be somber, muted, perhaps even defiant.

"I don't think anything about this parade will ever be the same," said Alfred Catalanotto, the chairman of the parade, which is organized by the Columbus Citizens Foundation. "We're looking to do more of a tribute. I don't even like using the word parade."

For a time, it was uncertain whether the parade, now in its 57th year, would even be held. But two weeks ago, Mr. Catalanotto said, city officials decided to go ahead with the parade as the first major street event since the terrorist attacks.

The hope, of course, was that the parade could offer another familiar and reassuring ritual. But the reality, as reflected in the rash of no-show high school bands, is that some people are still gripped by concerns about safety and logistics.

"The difference between Sept. 11 and October is just too close," said Kevin Bayen, district director of music for the Hewlett-Woodmere School District on Long Island, which decided against sending its band to New York.

This year, the parade will feature

a lot of red, white and blue instead of red, white and green. Fifth Avenue will echo with the strains of "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "God Bless America." The traditional competition among bands will be suspended.

In all, about seven or eight bands have canceled, leaving 10 high school and 10 adult bands. And some participating bands will function with smaller crews.

The All-City marching band for the Board of Education will have perhaps two-thirds of its 90 members in the parade. Douglas Ocharsky, the band director, said the music would be different this year. "We usually play something that's ethnically appropriate, but if you don't play patriotic music at a time like this, why would anybody ever write any?" he said. "Maybe we'll throw in 'New York, New York,' put a little pride in there, make people feel good."

One of the absent groups will be the 225-member Perry Hall High School marching band from Baltimore. When school officials surveyed band members' parents to see if they wanted their children to participate again in New York's Columbus Day parade, 35 percent said no, fearful of "the debris and the smoke, inhaling all that stuff," said Chad Roberts, the band's co-director.

Most cancellations have involved schools on Long Island. They include East Meadow High School, Mineola High School, Lawrence High School and Walt Whitman High School in Huntington Station. The reasons included safety concerns, timing and travel complications.

And while many students, natural-

ly, are disappointed that they will not be participating, many parents and school officials said there is a sense of relief, too.

"Our sense is that until they resolve their issues with the deceased, it's still somewhat of a sacred ground," said Robert Dillon, superintendent of the East Meadow Union Free School District. "Out of respect for what's going on there, I wouldn't have a parade in a funeral home."

Members of participating bands have mixed emotions, too. But they also believe that their appearance can help.

"I basically told the kids that this is an opportunity for them to contribute to the healing in New York," said Michael Antonelli, band director at Valley Central High School in Montgomery, N.Y., just outside Newburgh. "And I know it's important to the organizers, too. They called us three times in the last week, saying: 'We're counting on you. We're really counting on you.'"

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