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World prepares for 2014 Olympics

By SU CHO

From Feb. 7-23, hundreds of talented, skilled winter sport athletes will represent their respective countries and compete for gold in the 2014 Winter Olympic games at Sochi, Russia.

Athletes from a record number of 88 nations will participate in different events. The most popular and anticipated events this year are figure skating, ice hockey, ski jumping, snowboarding, and alpine skiing.

Figure skating, an event that plays a lead role in every Olympics, will be under an even larger spotlight. For the ladies' figure skating, both South Korea's Kim Yu-na and Japan's Mao Asada have high expectations from their respective countries for the gold medal.

For the men, Canada's Patrick Chan hopes to add

an Olympic medal to his accomplishments, which include three world titles.

This year Olympic hockey is returning to its roots with a standard 200-by-100 foot international ice surface, compared to the extremely large NHL-sized rink at

ice to recover. There's too much space to move the puck through you. With that much room to operate, it becomes a very tactical game rather than an emotional game." Ken Hitchcock, Team Canada's assistant coach, says. This year, Team Russia

In Sochi, history will be made in ski jumping. Since the Winter Olympics in 1924, ski jumping was solely a men's sport. This year, women will be able to compete for the first time.

Japan's Sara Takanashi is the fan favorite to become the first female Olympic gold medalist in the event.

Over the last ten years, snowboarding has become more widespread and well known. This year, Shaun White hopes to add another medal in the men's half-pipe.

White has won back-to-back medals in this event for the last two Olympic games.

The Sochi Olympics seems to be the most controversial and tense of the Olympic games, due to the anti-gay legislation of Russia and the numerous terror threats received.

Despite international outcry, Russia's law that restricts

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Courtesy of sochi2014.com

Vancouver in 2010.

This will affect much of the geometry of the game, including shooting angles and positioning of the players.

"You can't take the risks that you can on a small surface. There's too much

hopes to win gold with their country behind them.

"If Russia plays for gold, it will be the biggest game in Russian hockey history. More pressure than Game 8 (against Canada in the 1972 Summit Series)," Igor Kuperman says.

Beyoncé's new single, XO, causes NASA controversy

By CAROLINE LIU

In Beyoncé Knowles newly released single, *XO*, from her latest album, *Beyoncé*, the singer/song writer has caused a heated debate after incorporating audio recordings of the 1986 Challenger shuttle disaster.

The tragic accident resulted in the death of all seven crewmembers aboard the space shuttle. In the opening of the song, NASA public affairs officer Steve Nesbitt is sampled saying "Flight controllers here looking very carefully at the situation. Obviously a major malfunction."

In response, Lauren B. Worley, NASA's



An image from Beyoncé's single, *XO*.

Courtesy of digitalspy.com

press secretary, released this statement: "The Challenger accident is an important part of our history; a tragic reminder that space exploration is risky and should never be trivialized. NASA works every day to honor the legacy of our fallen astronauts as we carry out our mission to reach for new heights and explore the universe."

Many NASA astronaut families are also objecting

to Beyoncé's usage of the recording in the pop song. June Scobee Rodgers, the widow of Challenger space shuttle commander Dick Scobee, told ABC, "We were disappointed to learn that an audio clip from the day we lost our heroic Challenger crew

was used in the song '*XO*'. The moment included in this song is an emotionally difficult one for the Challenger families, colleagues and friends. We have always chosen to focus not on how our loved ones were lost, but rather on how they lived and how their legacy lives on today."

saying that "the choice is little different than taking Walter Cronkite's words to viewers announcing the death of President Kennedy or 911 calls from the World Trade Center attack and using them for shock value in a pop tune."

Beyoncé and her

management however have come out defending Beyoncé's artistic choices. "My heart goes out to the families of those lost in the Challenger disaster. The song '*XO*' was recorded with the sincerest intention to help heal those who have lost loved ones and to remind us that unexpected things happen, so love and appreciate every minute that you have with those who mean the most to you," Beyoncé said

in a statement to ABC. "The songwriters included the audio in tribute to the unselfish work of the Challenger crew with hope that they will never be forgotten." At NCSSM, it is well known that Instructor of Chemistry Myra Halpin has many connections with NASA. Having flown her students experiment aboard NASA's Reduced Gravity Plane and been named NASA's Teacher in Space Finalist, Halpin is also friends with many NASA astronauts, including those who were on the flight.

"I was there for the launch at the time and I knew most of the crew. So when I heard the countdown, it definitely brought back strong emotions, just listening to the verbiage." When asked about whether or not she thought the recording was appropriate in the song, Halpin responded "I don't see that it was a tribute to the tragic incident. I think it just evoked emotion, leaving the listeners confused. I think it would have been more fitting if the actual song had been related to the loss of the great Heroes."

SG update

By KIM NGO

This month SG has been collaborating with Mr. Brown, the new head of the PFM, and Director of Residential Life Michael Newbauer about issues students were concerned about with the PFM food as well as participating in the ASG conference.

Many students complained that dinner lines were being closed before 7:30 so less options were available to students who came into the PFM later to eat dinner. SG emphasized this issue to Brown, since it is a violation of the PFM contract, and it has been fixed.

Another significant focus is menu modifications. Since there are some menu items that are very popular with students (such as chicken parmesan and Mexican "build-your-own" tacos), SG wants to increase the frequency of those dishes and decrease the frequency of less popular food items.

Vegetarian options were another major concern for students. While there is generally pasta, steamed vegetables, and rice, there is a significant lack of vegetarian protein. Tofu has been added now to the stir fry line (in addition to the meat option). The PFM staff is working to incorporate other sources of vegetarian protein into the menu as well.

SG also wants to encourage more healthy and nutritious options, which will allow students to maintain a healthful diet and optimal well-being. One thing that has already been done is having fruit salad available at the salad bar during lunch and dinner. (It was previously only available at breakfast). SG wants to make sure this is continued, and has advocated for fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Over extended, four SG delegates attended the January meeting of the Association of Student Governemans hosted by UNC-Greensboro and North Carolina A&T. Two funding grants were approved at the meeting, one to support Junior Anli Zhang's Multicultural Fashion Show and another to purchase a camera for SG.

Delegates also discussed a resolution to encourage the UNC system to procure only electronics made from conflict-free materials and approved a program encouraging Student Governments to conduct financial literacy training workshops for their constituents.