

# Arts and Entertainment

## Ro Lohin Displays Work in Houghton

By Lauren Wells '12  
Herald Contributor



After frantically searching for a parking space for ten minutes, I finally found a spot that seemed miles away from the Smith Opera House. Normally, I would not have minded walking to the venue, but the abnormally cold temperatures made it almost unbearable. After being frisked by the security guard, and having my ticket torn, I welcomed the warmth and distinct atmosphere of the Smith.

The Smith's executive director, Kevin Schoonover, greeted the mediocre-sized audience with a few words regarding the night's upcoming acts and introduced Saratoga Springs natives, Phantogram. The technologically savvy duo played a short set, urging the audience to bounce in their seats. After a few songs, twenty or so audience members dismissed the bouncing and began to dance. With prerecorded beats primarily seeming somewhat questionable, the duo, comprised of Joshua M. Carter and Sarah D. Barthel, was very good regardless. Barthel's vocals were especially strong and not contrived in any way. Her soft, raspy voice did not overpower the underlying synth-produced rhythms,

and Carter's guitar riffs had a similar effect. Carter, singing on various tracks, complimented Barthel's talent on keyboards and tambourine. They have recently been signed to BBE Records, so expect releases in the near future. Their only blunder occurred when Carter attempted to introduce the next band but could not remember its name, resulting in the crowd yelling, "El Ka Bong!"

Crowd favorite El Ka Bong played a longer set much to the crowd's enjoyment. This was my first experience with El Ka Bong, and it definitely will not be my last. The band members are approachable and charming, always engaging with the audience; there were numerous instances when various members would walk offstage, pass through the side corridor, and dance in the crowd. Lead singer, Laura Black, radiated joy; it is refreshing to see a band that genuinely loves performing. Their reggae-funk-rock sound definitely appealed to the audience, and they relentlessly promoted their new album, *The Harvest*, ten dollars and it's yours. Black's vocals were showcased by Zach Schoonover's bass-lines, James Eddington's guitar

riffs, Jamie Ralls on snare, and Aaron Holland on the keyboard and acoustic guitar.

Headliner Ra Ra Riot was well-received by the audience, as lead vocalist Wesley Miles struggled to keep his microphone intact. Regardless, his vocals were impeccable as his band-mates provided him with the ultimate indie-rock rhythms. The two well-dressed females of the group, Alexandra Lawn (cello/vocals) and Rebecca Zeller (violin), were situated at opposite ends of the stage, providing room for Miles to roam around with his male band-mates, Milo Bonacci (guitar) and Matthieu Santos (bass guitar). After the tragic death of their drummer, John Pike, in 2006, Ra Ra Riot plays on with a replacement drummer. Their tour is scheduled to end in May after playing with various bands such as Telekinesis, Tokyo Police Club, Passion Pit, Cold War Kids, Death Cab for Cutie, and many more. A band comprised of Syracuse University alums, Ra Ra Riot has recently released their debut album entitled *The Rhumb Line* that is in stores now.

## "Taken By Surprise"

By Ethan Guralnick '11  
Herald Contributor

Gnarly. I can't really think of any other word to describe this movie. It's just plain nasty and gnarly, but not in a way that should turn you away from it. This movie surprised me because it was good. The plot is very simple. Liam Neeson plays Bryan Mills, a retired CIA agent who has moved to LA to get closer to his daughter and make up for lost time. On her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, she asks him if he will let her go to Paris with her friends. He refuses at first, but in the end lets her go. Moments after his daughter arrives at their apartment in Paris, Albanians who run a prostitution ring abduct her and her friend. This sets off the murderous rampage that her father goes on in Paris, and it's a doozy.

I was really skeptical at first to see Neeson playing an action role like this, but he does quite well as the retired, badass father. Mills' ex-wife is a straight-up witch who has married a millionaire. In contrast, Bryan leads his life with almost no money. One aspect of the movie I liked was that he isn't jacked like most action leads are these days, which makes his butt kicking that much cooler. There is gunplay, but also a lot of Bourne-like hand-to-hand combat throughout,

which brings me to the violence. The violence in this movie is short and quick, but extremely effective. Too many movies these days rely on long, extended action sequences. Here the scenes are probably no longer than two minutes, but are extremely gut-wrenching. This is rare for big budget movies. There is something Bryan does right before the beginning of the third act that truly shows how far he is willing to go for his daughter.

I don't have too many quarrels with this movie as it does what it's supposed to do, which is to entertain and nothing more. I could nitpick but I won't because it's not looking for Oscars. One thing that really bothered me was the acting of the daughter, which was pretty bad. She is supposed to be 17 but comes off as if she is 13. Another issue would be that Bryan freaks out about her going to Europe alone. Europe is pretty safe, but he has run into so much conflict with his career. What father who has been fighting terrorists wouldn't be scared for his 17-year-old daughter traveling alone?

Overall, January is usually a slow month, and it is nice to find small movies that surprise. 7.5/10



The architects of the Mini-Quad igloo gather for a moment to celebrate their victory

## JuicyCampus Comes to an End

Open Letter From JuicyCampus Founder

**JuicyCampus**

Juicy Campers,

What a wild ride this has been! In the past year and a half, JuicyCampus has become synonymous with college gossip, and is more popular than I could have ever expected. We've expanded to more than 500 campuses across the US, and have more than a million unique visitors coming to the site every month. It's clear that we have provided a platform that students have found interesting, entertaining, and fun.

Unfortunately, even with great traffic and strong user loyalty, a business can't survive and grow without a steady stream of revenue to support it. In these

historically difficult economic times, online ad revenue has plummeted and venture capital funding has dissolved. JuicyCampus' exponential growth outpaced our ability to muster the resources needed to survive this economic downturn, and as a result, we are closing down the site as of Feb. 5, 2009.

On behalf of everyone here at JuicyCampus, I would like to thank all of our users for reading, contributing to, and telling your friends about the site. And I'd like to thank everyone who has engaged in meaningful discussion about online privacy and internet censorship. JuicyCampus has raised issues that have passionate advocates on both sides, and I hope that dialogue will continue. While there are parts of JuicyCampus that none of us will miss - the mean-spirited posts and personal attacks - it has also been a place for the fun, lighthearted gossip of college life. I hope that is how it is remembered.

Keep it Juicy,

Matt Ivester  
Founder & CEO, JuicyCampus.com

## Spelling Bee: Not Just for Kids

By Katie Taylor '09  
Herald Contributor

If you were in the pub on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, you saw a fun and creative fundraiser: a spelling bee to promote literacy in our surrounding communities. Hobart and William Smith Colleges has not participated in this competition in years past, but thanks to an anonymous donor, HWS is sending a team to compete with other spellers in the area. Nine HWS students showed up to compete for three team positions and an alternate position; the team will participate in a larger competition on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Canandaigua Academy.

Those who participated in the HWS Qualifying Bee include Trevor Browne, Sasha Miller, Mame Thiam, Esthéfanie Giordano, Courtney Good, Ellen Harvey, Eli Gleason, Matt Ozoria, and John Badger. Provost Teresa Amott read the words and provided

comedic commentary during the qualification spelling bee. The HWS team is composed of Sasha Miller, Trevor Browne, Courtney Good, and Ellen Harvey.

The Literacy Volunteers Ontario County (LVOC) is an organization in its fourth year of existence. They work with volunteer tutors to improve the literacy rate in Ontario County. Katie Flowers, Assistant Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL), located in Trinity Hall, coordinated HWS' participation in this fundraiser which has

eighteen teams registered, making LVOC approximately \$550. All participants-HWS students, faculty, and staff, are invited to go to the competition. If you are interested in attending, the fundraising bee is Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Canandaigua Academy.

