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Mrs. Meyers

Onondaga Lake

Stinking, smelling, reeking, discolored, fungus- filled, mutant fish, and all around disgusting are some of the adjectives I think of when I hear Onondaga Lake. Yet, I hope, this will change with time. Hopefully nature will rid itself of the harmful effects of the many chemicals that were disposed of into the lake by Allied Chemical Company. Maybe, some day, the lake will have clear water, healthy ecosystems, and an abundance of fish.

When that glorious day of purity arrives, if artificially or naturally brought about, Onondaga Lake will become a place of recreation and beauty. I have dreams of fathers and sons having weekly fishing trips. I have dreams of small children playing in the water and making sand castles on the beach. I have dreams of shrieking children, as they glide along the surface on water skis or air- filled tubes. There can be a contest for the best sand castle, or the largest fish caught. There could be summer concerts, such as Blue's Fest. Wonderful New York State commodities like apple cider from Beak and Skiff, Hoffmann's hotdogs, and salt potatoes can be sold. When the weather changes from summer to winter, there will be a huge outside skating rink. This will be an Olympic sized rink, making the Clinton Square rink seem like the top of an ice cube. And for those fathers and sons who refuse to give up their weekly fishing trips, there can also be a spot for ice fishing. In the winter, there can be figure skating contests, ice

sculpture exhibits and free hot cocoa. This will be a family oriented place, but certainly a perfect get- a- way from the dinner and movie routine teenagers often follow.

A breath of fresh air, I feel, is exactly what Central New York needs. With Carousel Mall being an indoor place of entertainment and seeming to imminently grow in the future, many people are staying indoors. Onondaga Lake can be a wonderful alternative to the indoor norms of Syracuse, a healthier choice rather than sitting, watching a movie at the mall.