

Photo by Mehak Oberoi

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On the front page - A work from BU professor Lin Xu's "Pillow Series - Vestiges," featured in the new Nostalgiacore exhibit at the Glen P. Sutherland Gallery of Art. Lin Xu is a Ceramics professor in the Ishkaabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg Department of Visual Art, and has been managing the BU Ceramics Studio since 2004.

Read more about the Nostalgiacore exhibit on Page 6.

SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS ON STRIKE

By Yensy Lopez Molina, Junior Reporter

On Tuesday, November 16th, teachers across Saskatchewan took action in a one-day province-wide strike, in -30C weather. The STF (Saskatchewan Teachers Federation) announced the planned strike on January 11th, giving the government a five-day opportunity to allow negotiations regarding issues impacting students and teachers. It is important to know that the STF needed to legally give a 48-hour notice, but chose to give a five-day notice in hopes of an agreement which the government refused and ignored. Samantha Becotte, the president of the STF stated that teachers DO NOT want to strike, and that the action could have been avoided at any point if the government was willing to discuss long term commitments to address class complexity. "Teachers' working conditions are students' learning conditions." (Quote by

Samantha Becotte). Teachers in Saskatchewan are overworked, underpaid, and taking on responsibilities they should not be required and are not paid to do. Saskatchewan is currently the second lowest-funded province. SK has 7 school divisions, each having a budget of \$2.04 billion according to the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan. The STF has gained a lot of support from people across Saskatchewan as well as online, and 3300 letters have also been delivered to the Legislative Building in Regina in support of the cause. The Government of Saskatchewan continues to refuse their bargaining committee a new mandate to negotiate issues, therefore the STF has once again announced another five-day countdown. The next job action, announced January 18th, will be on January 22nd and will be another strike.

STORY CONTEST WINNER CHOSEN!

By Lily Hodgson, Editor-in-Chief

The Quill's Story Contest has officially come to a close, and we have chosen a winner! Read Blessing Onashile's short story, "A White Man's Love Story," on the next page. This story was written under the prompt "write a story from the perspective of a snowflake." Blessing recieved a bookstore gift card for winning top prize.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this contest, and keep your eyes peeled for more events like this in the future!

STORY CONTEST WINNER: A WHITE MAN'S LOVE STORY

By Blessing Onashile

It's 5am, and I'm staring aimlessly from your window in my silent cry for help, I've been hanging there for hours in the cold hands of the night. I lost my bus fare to the crust of the earth, I was kicked away by the narcissist wind and landed on your window. I watched you sleep so quietly, rolling and hanging on to the brink of your bed, one more roll and you'd hit rock bottom, the rhythm of your snore gave me strength there all night. I swear I'm not a stalker, just praying the sun never comes out and smites all my household in a daytime genocide.

I couldn't get you off my mind, so I begged God to send me to earth again, this time I came prematurely in anticipation to fall at your window again and watch you sleep. I thought I got the memo and pretended to have lost my bus fare so the wind would toss me to your window but this time around there was a free ride, it was New Year's

Eve. There was a long queue and I saw you were outside, I imagined falling on your eyelid so I could get a closer look at you, and you'd get to notice me. Or maybe your lips, so I could feel the love and probably have the best death like Romeo did, oh damn, I'm not a pervert. My ride came late so I fell to the crust right at your doorstep, hoping to grace your feet with my pure beauty, maybe you could make an angel out of me, but your housekeeper poured safe salt on me, I bet you, there was nothing safe about it. She sent me straight to hell and I couldn't even see your face.

Scared but angrier, I faced the devil, but he told me he would set me free on the condition that I cause someone to hurt. I really didn't know what to do, I was born as pure and faultless as a dove, but I've got to do what I've got to do, I'm just a white man in love. So, I came on earth and this time the devil got me stuck as ice in the middle of the road, I didn't read the devil's manual well, I was trapped. I caused cars to swerve, and brakes surely had nothing on me. I caused the children to swear at me and gave immigrants trauma, the old cursed me so bad that I got broken to pieces and died again.



Photo by Clover Tahhan

This time I begged God with the psalms of David, a man after his heart. "The sun shall not smite thee by day, Nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in." God indeed never turns against his words, so He sent me back to earth and landed me right on your window. You weren't home, it was just your best friend and her toxic boyfriend begging to have her back, I could tell in about half a minute how gullible she was or rather cold so she let him stay. Oh, humans,

I couldn't stand it, I committed suicide before the sun came out.

I came back the next morning, I guess obsession took over my desperation, I knew where to find you, I fell right on your window but saw you laying weak in bed. Sad but happy to see you, I whispered through the window and somehow physics worked, you took a snap of me and sent it to your friends.

That felt like a great

step of progress to me. Introduction cleared, I felt we were a thing now and it's safe to call you my girl. I got so delusional and stood all day for the longest time. Your mom called and you mentioned my name but you blamed your flu on me so I cried myself away.

Finally, I almost fell on the soft palm of your hands preparing to introduce myself all over again, but you shielded me with a thick heartless mitten. All I wanted was to know what your touch and pulsating vein felt like on the surface of your skin, but this time the rejection killed me.

I disappeared in April, saying it's over and I'm not going to try again, but, like your best friend's boyfriend, I'd be back in November hoping we can make things work for a little longer. I guess our cycle of love will continue. Till then, I will give God multiple reasons to send me down to earth, and boast to the angels how beautiful you are and how I found love on planet earth. While I wait, I will think about you every day in this long distance relationship.

Yours coldly,
Snowflakes

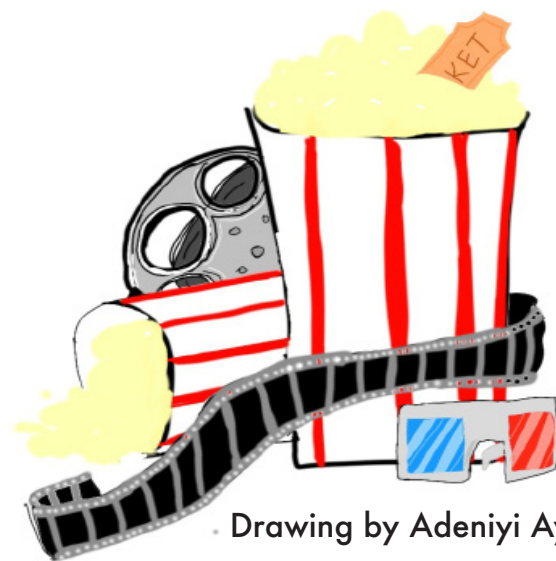


Jam Nights, Wednesdays at 7pm at Section 6 Brewery. Photo Collage by Clover Tahhan

THIS WEEKEND AT THE EVANS THEATRE: ANATOMY OF A FALL (2023)

In this psychological thriller, a woman is suspected of her husband's murder, and their blind son faces a moral dilemma as the sole witness. With two Golden Globes and a 96% on Rotten Tomatoes, this French film is one you won't want to miss.

Showings on January 26, 27, and 28 at 7:30 PM.



Drawing by Adeniyi Ayodele

RECIPE OF THE WEEK - DORM-FRIENDLY MICROWAVE BROWNIES

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 tablespoons light brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions:

To a small microwave-safe bowl, add the sugar, cocoa, water, oil, brown sugar, vanilla, and salt, and whisk to combine. Add the flour and stir until just combined, don't overmix. Add the chocolate chips and stir to combine.

Cook on high power in the microwave for about 1 minute, or until the brownie is as set in the center as desired.

(Note: This recipe was originally sourced from averiecooks.com)

MUSIC PUNS SECTION

Compiled by Hannah Hiebert

“Be sure to hang on to these music puns to use the next time you enter the School of Music!”

Q: What was Beethoven’s favorite fruit?
A: BA-NA-NA-NAAAAAAAAA

Q: What do you call a singing laptop?
A: A Dell

Q: What sound did the drum make as it rolled down the hill?
A: Ba-dum TSHHHH

Q: What type of music are balloons so afraid of?
A: Pop music

Q: Why did the fish make such a good musician?
A: He really knew his scales

Q: What makes pirates such good singers?
A: They can hit the high-C’s

Q: What is a cat’s favourite subject in school?
A: MEWsic

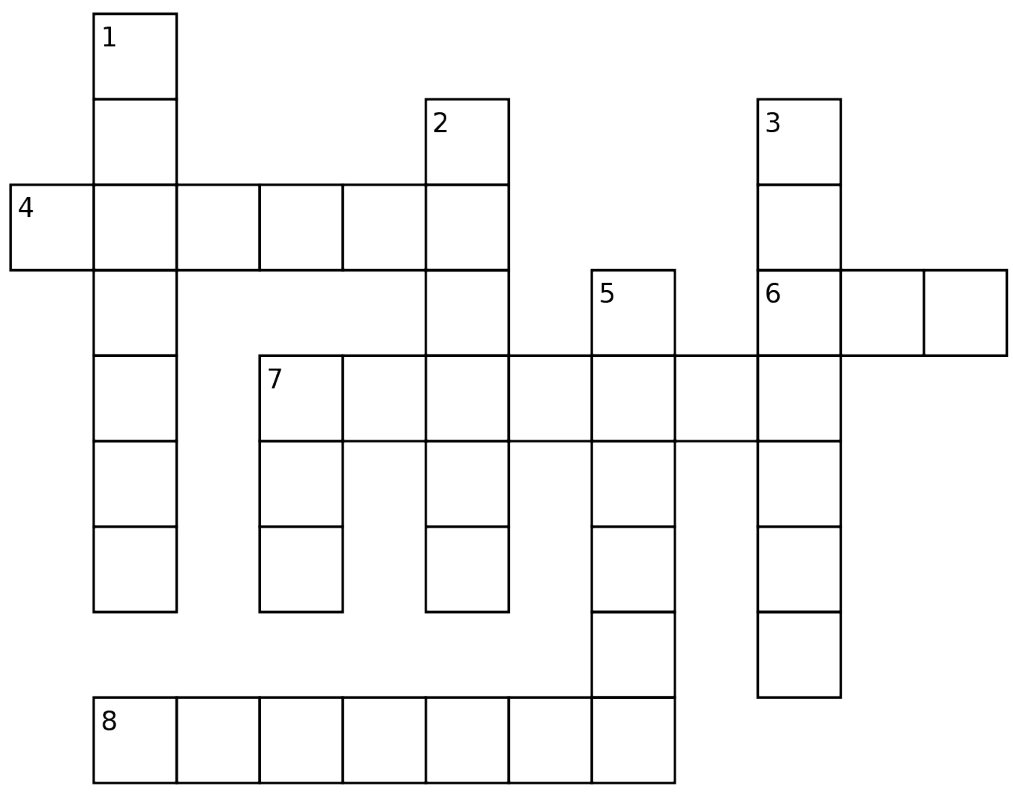
Q: Why was music coming from the printer?
A: The paper was jamming

Q: What do you call clean music?
A: A soap opera

Q: What do you get when you put a radio in the fridge?
A: Cool music

Q: What’s the difference between tuna and a piano?
A: You can’t tuna fish, but you can “tune a” piano

Crossword Puzzle



Down:

- 1. Colours that come after the rain
- 2. A fruit with the name of a colour
- 3. A chocolate company
- 5. The things that photosynthesize
- 7. An animal that meows

Across:

- 4. The coldest time of the year
- 6. A small carpet
- 7. Things you burn that smell nice
- 8. Used to keep your hands warm

Puzzle by Alicia Maki

Pet Corner

“This handsome old man is Oliver. He’s an english springer spaniel who loves belly rubs and is terrified of fart noises. He loves to play in the snow, go for walks, and snore really loudly. He definitely thinks he is a lap dog, but he is definitely wrong.”



Submit your own pet photo or recipe at eic.thequill@gmail.com to be featured in the next issue of The Quill!

NOSTALGIACORE

By Mehak Oberoi, Junior Reporter

On January 18, the Glen P. Sutherland Art Gallery debuted NostalgiaCore, an art exhibit featuring four faculty members from the IshKaabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg Department of Visual Art at BU. As described

by curator Dr. Stacey Koosel, "NostalgiaCore is an exhibition that looks at nostalgia, from four different artists point of view." The exhibit features Kevin Ei-ichi deForest, Kevin McKenzie, Lisa Wood and Lin Xu.

There is something uniquely intimate about being in the art gallery - a fairly small space, the walls are covered in the artist's works. In the center of the exhibit is a tatami mat covered in a warm quilt and a pillow, CD player on its side. Short white stands lie in corners, holding what look like cracked porcelain pillows. Perhaps it is the size of the space, or the crowd of people. Or maybe it is the exhibit itself, each piece an outcropping from a memory that we, the audience, are now being made privy to. The theme of the exhibit is apparent in the work: Lin Xu's "Pillow Series - Vestiges" features cracked pillows of ceramic sculptures, featuring a burst of nature erupting from the center. Each sculpture is an amalgamation of elements, whether it be tentacles or dragonfly wings. Kevin McKenzie's "Being Indigenous" features a series of paintings, freshly interpreted in style and story from a comic book series he loved in his youth. The work speaks on Indigenous issues



A piece from Kevin McKenzie's "Being Indigenous".

Photo by Mehak Oberoi

and experiences. Lisa Wood's photograph series "The Dinner Parties" features different female artists, assumed friends of Lisa Wood. The same nine people are present in the photographs, and the background remains the same.

What changes as you walk through the different scenes, however, is the moment in the night while they have dinner. Lastly, Kevin Ei-ichi deForest's series "Walks with Hanako" depicts a point of view perspective on walks with his dog Hanna, who passed away last year. The soft watercolor paintings were dreamy in a way that would make anyone who's lost a pet wistful for the small memories they

shared. His contribution to the exhibit also includes an art installation, titled "The Same Sweetness." The installation features a tatami mat, a tribute to his mother who passed last year. It is covered with a quilt made by the artist from his mother's old clothes. In the corner, his dog Hanna's old bed sits. The installation encourages audiences to participate by laying on the mat and listening to the playlist made by the artist on a CD player. The artist's work was a personal favorite of mine, and left me daydreaming in my bed late into the night.

The exhibition runs from January 18 to February 18, and is open Thursday-Saturday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. I highly encourage all students to check it out.



Photos from Lisa Wood's "The Dinner Parties".

Photo by Mehak Oberoi



Kevin Ei-ichi deForest with his work "The Same Sweetness".

Photo by Mehak Oberoi

UPCOMING EVENTS

Until February 18th, Thursdays - Saturdays 1-4

Nostalgiacore Exhibit

See previous article for more info.

Wednesday, January 24th - 7pm

Nora Wilson Trombone Recital

Head to the Lorne Watson Recital Hall for a free performance, including the world premier performance of Arcadia Trombonica by Kenley Kristofferson. Featuring Danielle Guina on piano.

Thursday, January 25th - Sunday, January 28th

Dakota Nation Winterfest Wacipi 2024

In the Manitoba Room of the Keystone Centre.

Friday, January 26th - 2-3pm

Trauma-Informed Teaching Discussion Panel

This Zoom event, featuring four different speakers, is hosted by the Manitoba Flexible Learning Hub. Register online for more info.

Friday, January 26th - 7pm

Bobcats Men's Volleyball vs UBC-Okanagan

Friday, January 26th - 8pm

Anastasia Jane - Live at the Lady

Musician Anastasia Jane is playing a show at Lady of the Lake. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased through Eventbrite.

Saturday, January 27th - 7pm

Bobcats Men's Volleyball vs UBC-Okanagan

Saturday, January 27th - 7:30pm

Dance Music For All Occasions by Tommy Crane

An evening of genre-bending electronic folk in Room 1-20 of the QEII Music Building. \$20 for students.

Wednesday, January 31st - 7-9pm

Stitching in the Stacks at the Downtown Library

A free evening embroidery group, all skill levels welcome. Email robin@wmrl.ca to register.

Wednesday, January 31st - 7:30pm

Noche Flamenca

Spanish music performances by Flamenco on the Prairies and Notas de 4. \$15 for students.

Email eic.thequill@gmail.com to have your event featured in the next issue!

Friday, February 2nd - 6pm

Bobcats Volleyball vs Mount Royal U

Women's game starts at 6pm, men's game starts at 7:45

Saturday, February 3rd - 5pm

Bobcats Volleyball vs Mount Royal U

Women's game starts at 5pm, men's game starts at 6:45

Every Monday at 7-8:30pm

Varsity Christian Fellowship Meetings

Come for snacks, worship, fellowship, and bible study! In the School of Music student lounge.

Every Wednesday at 1pm

Scrabble Club at the Downtown Public Library

Every Wednesday at 7pm

Jam Nights at Section 6 Brewery

Every Saturday at 11am

Chess Club at the Downtown Public Library

All ages and skill levels welcome!

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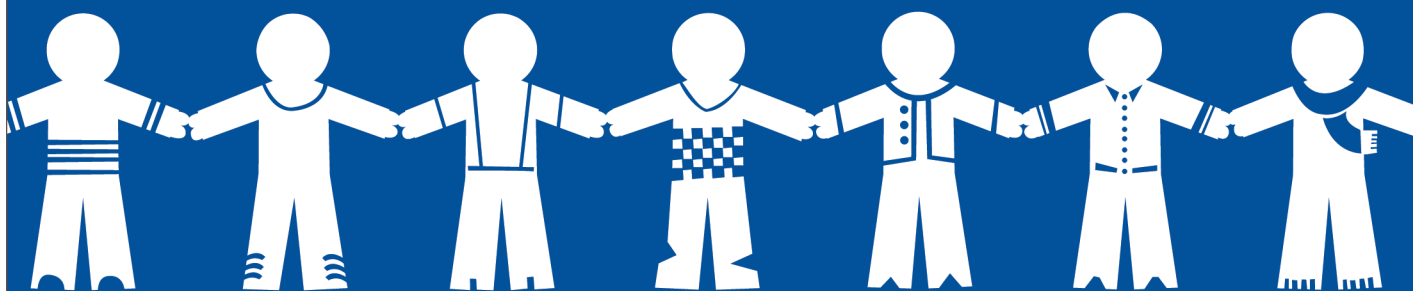
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