

# THE [WIRE]

**INSIDE: An Ode to Showcase Cinemas, Grammy's 2023 Fashion and Hot Takes, Cold Weather at Wheaton, 6 K-Dramas you NEED to See**

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# Letter From the Editor

Abram Buehner

Editor-in-Chief

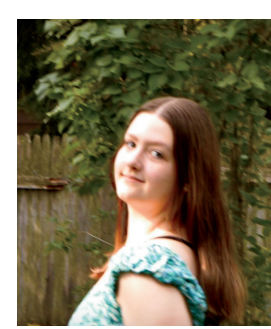
As I write this Letter From The Editor at 1:12 PM on February 12th, it's dawning on me that I'll never spend another 1:12 PM on February 12th at Wheaton College. I graduate in just about three months. I have a job and a future lined up ahead of me, the fork in the "what's next after college" road already routed. This remaining stretch feels like highway driving. My time is basically over, and I'm ecstatic that next chapter.

Some days, it feels hard to care about any Wheaton-related task. But, if I keep my eyes fixed on the horizon, I know that I'll reach my destination and realize I missed the journey. Make sure you take some time to appreciate your Spring semester. Even if you're not graduating yet, each year feels different than the last. You won't get another like the one you're enjoying now. So read the paper quickly and go, I don't know, stare at the Dimple or something. Reflect on how I've made you acutely aware of time's passage and that vague ache in your knees. All my friends at work say your bones become creaky by thirty.

With that, my melancholic letter is just about completed. It was kind of a bummer, huh? If you think so, please write to [thewheatonwire@gmail.com](mailto:thewheatonwire@gmail.com) and say that the Letter From The Editor section should be canceled. I was going to remove it myself, but was told by our Layout Editor, Moira Sankey, that it must be included. Back me up here!

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# Farewell For Good: Saluting the Greatest to Ever Do It

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By Caden Charpentier

Where do you start? I still remember running around my neighborhood in sheer joy after the game that was Super Bowl LI, celebrating a player whose legacy will last decades. The people that were able to see his career unfold should take some time to appreciate it — the world will never see something like it again. It's tough to put into words the greatness of Thomas Edward Patrick Brady Jr. He impacted so many lives on and off the gridiron in so many memorable ways, including mine. With seven Super Bowls, five Super Bowl MVPs, and three league MVPs, Brady is without a doubt the greatest winner in all of sports.

After a chaotic offseason where he couldn't quite let go of the game he loved, Brady sent out a simple video on the morning of February 1 to officially hang his jersey up. Brady finished his storybook career of a player that was once a sixth-round draft pick who turned himself into a living, breathing legend. He ranks first of all-time in almost every important category including passing yards, touchdown passes, and most importantly, Super Bowls. No other franchise in the history of the league has accumulated more rings than Brady himself.

By adopting the TB12 Method and producing two documentaries, Brady epitomizes what it meant to be great on and off the field. He studied film, looking to be a step ahead of the rest of the competition. The now 45-year-old went even further, using his

unique training and diet to prevent long-lasting injuries and time off the field.

No other player in any team sport around the world will ever be as obsessed with winning as Brady was for 23 years. The man has been inspiring people around the globe to be healthier, reminding them that if they do, the results can be exceptional. While Brady never got to experience what it was like to eat chocolate cake or even pumpkin pie during his playing days, ultimately he leaves the game knowing it was all worth it.

Brady notoriously remarked that he was going to play until he "sucked," but that day never came upon us. In his final season with Tampa Bay, the California native was third in the league in passing yards while finishing in the top ten in total touchdowns. They say numbers don't lie, and the five-time Super Bowl MVP had a habit of shattering the ones of the past.

Every football fan was waiting for the day that he would let go of the game, and that day has finally come. Opponents of what he stood for thought he was going to "fall off a cliff" years ago, and in classic Brady fashion, he just kept doing his job. During his apparent "farewell season" in 2020-21, Brady led the league in passing yards and touchdowns at the age of 44.

At 44, many men have trouble getting out of their lounge chairs without their backs making some

disturbing noise. Brady, though, was carving through elite NFL defenses like a hot knife through butter. When everyone said he couldn't, Brady knew in his heart that he could. When almost everyone thought age was going to catch up to him, he proved them all wrong by essentially conquering father time himself.

He passed for 403 more touchdowns than all the six quarterbacks ahead of him combined. As the NFL will miss Tom Brady, his legend will live on through the game he loved. For any sixth-round draft choice in this year's draft, remember Brady. Remember how he put his head down and worked until the moment came for him to prove his talent. From the starting quarterback at Junípero Serra High School in Santa Mateo, California, Brady chose to take his talents to one of the best football schools in all of the country, Michigan.

The former home of the Fab Five in the mid-90s to the great Bo Schembechler, Brady started his Wolverine tenure as the seventh-string quarterback. He ignored the outside noise and got to work from the get-go. Critics ahead of the draft said he was too slow, not athletic enough, or didn't have the arm strength. That all didn't matter in the end because Brady knew what he was capable of with the work ethic he possessed.

An extremely polarizing figure across American culture, no matter who you asked, people's opinions on Tom Brady can be all over

the spectrum. Opponents say he is a cheater, but nobody has yet to discover any sort of physical evidence to prove it. While him winning so constantly can become annoying to a Jets fan, Brady's ability to keep rolling so consistently at the level and age that he did must be admired.

How can someone hate a person who had to claw his way to the top? We all love comeback stories, but I am still stunned by how many people dislike Tom Brady. He did it the right way: ignoring the critics from all over the media world and dominating in a sport that everyone said he wasn't cut out to play coming out of the draft. He never blew you away with his athleticism or speed, but that didn't matter due to his drive.

No matter your opinion of Brady, his greatness, and relentless winning mentality has to be respected. From a scrawny kid that grew up right outside of San Francisco idolizing Joe Montana to someone who squashed all of his professional records, Brady really did live his dream.

Brady is the perfect role model for anyone who has their backs against the walls in any part of their life. With the attention to detail that he had during his football career, it is without question his broadcast career will be a successful one. Every quarterback from now on will try, but there will never be another Brady. The greatest quarterback of all time discussion is forever closed.

# An Ode to Showcase Cinemas

By Abram Buehner

When I was in high school, I had a big dream: I wanted to go to the movie theater regularly. Crazy, huh? I'm from rural Maine. Trekking to the theater was an endeavor reserved only for the biggest films that simply couldn't be seen anywhere other than the silver screen — the silver screen at Regal Cinemas at Cook's Corner in Brunswick to be precise. It's really not a nice theater, but I'll never forget seeing *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* or *Captain America: Civil War* there. At least it's adjacent to the Applebee's.

To be fair, I didn't really have a point of comparison. If I went anywhere else it was the lit-

tle indie theater on Brunsick's main street that I went to a few times with my friend Senior year of high school. But that was a little one-screen joint where a bag of popcorn was \$5 and the old man who ran the place played a little video introduction that he taped ahead of your film. We saw *Eighth Grade* and *Old Man & The Gun* there. It was a lot like the local theater in my town of Damariscotta, which played movies that were already out of their theatrical frame and were sponsored by a local business. I went just one time, my cousin and I saw *Arrival*.

I had a fair few one-off visits like this. My poker-playing

art teacher turned golf coach turned film club advisor took us on a field trip to Portland where we saw *Blade Runner 2049*. My family once spent a small fortune at an eat-in Florida theater to see *Zootopia*. My mom and I ended up at a Cinemagic to see *Justice League*. I can pinpoint these moments because every trip to the theater was, again, an endeavor. We didn't casually head to see a movie. The distance made this a luxury I couldn't afford.

And I can't drive. That's an important detail to this story. My inability to get behind the wheel after suffering through Driver's Ed can be attributed to the OCD and anxiety cocktail that my brain sips on with scary regularity. Funnily enough, part of my escape from that was, and still is, the movie theater. But I just couldn't get there very often. So going to the movies regularly became my dream.

Fast-forward to Fall 2019 and I'm a college freshman here at Wheaton. Just about a month into the school year, I end up on a train to Providence, Rhode Island to see *Joker* at the Providence Place Mall. My girlfriend Jeanne and I returned

a few weeks later by train for *Knives Out*. But the train's an ordeal. First you've got to catch the GATRA to the station, then you've got to actually ride the rails to Providence. Then you've got to walk to the mall. Then you have to endure the mall to reach the theater. Still, I came back Spring 2020 for a *Sonic the Hedgehog* and *Birds of Prey* double feature.

Then COVID shut the world down. I wouldn't return to the movies until Summer 2021, when I saw *Black Widow* in Lincoln, Nebraska with some of my best friends. That was a long year without a theater visit. Although, I came back to campus Fall of 2020 and desperately wanted to go see Tenet in the cinema. I almost did, but was afraid I'd get in trouble given the COVID guidelines that semester. Looking back, I wish I had just gone. Should I admit that?

Regardless, it wouldn't be until my roommate and I convinced a mutual friend to shepherd us (again, no car) to Attleboro for *No Time to Die* that I'd make my second theater visit of 2021. The third came in December — some six weeks after I settled for watching *Dune*



Caption // The Attleboro theater is unfortunately out of GATRA's area of service, but it does have the best seats around.

Photo Credit // Showcase Cinemas

in my dorm. I made a trip to see *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. As far as Marvel films go I found it unremarkable, more important for what the voyage represented than what I saw.

I didn't beg anyone to take me, and the trains didn't line up for a trip to Providence. As it turns out, I did a bit of cartography. GATRA Go's outer limits include Patriot Place, the sports and shopping complex that, most importantly, houses a Showcase Cinemas. For the price of your Wheaton tuition, your ID will get you that three-dollar bus ride "free of charge," depositing you directly outside Showcase's doors.

Of course, the GATRA Go turns a twenty-minute ride into a forty-five minute ordeal and makes seeing even a two-hour movie an affair that needs four hours budgeted. I didn't care. There was a route to my dream. Before too long, though, Jeanne got a car on campus. And we didn't have to struggle with the GATRA anymore, despite it remaining an option. When we lived on campus over the summer, I had to patiently wait for it to bring me to and from Patriot Place for *Nope* when she was out of town, but otherwise we

enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, short car journeys to the cinema.

Access allowed for even the films that don't "need" the big screen to be enjoyed there. *Three-Thousand-Years of*



Caption // Not only can the GATRA Go get you here, but there are a ton of good restaurants to visit here after your film too.

Photo Credit // Patriot Place

*Longing, Bones and All, A Man Called Otto* — I don't suspect that people felt like Tom Hanks' early 2023 acting vehicle and double adaptation *A Man Called Otto* needs a screen larger than all four walls in my Beard dorm put together. But I'm one of ten people who saw *Amsterdam* in theaters. Another three of those ten were Jeanne and two friends we pulled along.

For me, a film's scale isn't a predicate for its viewing at the

cinema. I got to the theater for the theater's sake. To me, the multiplex is an oasis, a big building dedicated to telling stories and enshrining them on a screen so large I couldn't cover it with every material possession I have. I'll see any

cup ready before I ordered. I guess I'm somewhat of a regular now. Although this sounds incredibly sad, it really did make my week to hear that. And while this sounds incredibly irresponsible, I'm happy to spend twenty or thirty dollars on each trip to the movies.

I want to support Showcase, though. I want to do my part to keep their doors open as each of my showings aside from *Top Gun: Maverick* and opening night comic book fare see attendance dwindle. I also pay for Showcase Subscribe, to get three tickets a month for a flat fee. So I can, through minimal mental gymnastics, justify those concession prices.

I'd just hate to see Showcase disappear. There's little doubt that tentpole filmmaking is all that's propping up the movie-going market. And that's sad. It's disappointing to me that my auditorium for *The Woman King* was maybe half full and that *The Menu* played at twenty-percent capacity. I love the reverence of the movie theater experience. I love the buttery popcorn fingers I rub on my pants when I inevitably forget a napkin. And I love that Showcase Cinemas has given me the opportunity to love that screen and those buttery fingers almost every week.

thing at the theater. And now, I think of Showcase Cinemas when I do. When I returned to Regal over Christmas break for *Babylon*, I wished I had been at Showcase. I also wished I had been in a screening without an annoying couple taking over Damien Chazelle's misunderstood masterpiece, but whatever.

When I saw *Bones and All* at Patriot Place right before break, the woman behind the concession stand had my *Blue Icey's*

# Cold, Cold, Cold

By Lily Maguire

I think we can all agree that a few weekends ago, the nights of February third and fourth, were the coldest we've ever felt on campus. Whether it was traveling to the dining hall, walking to class, or even opening the window for some fresh air, we all felt the biting cold.

It was strange. For two nights the thermometers were set in frigid temperatures, reaching record breaking lows, yet the very next day it felt like spring again, reaching a high of 50 degrees Fahrenheit. It's funny: the colder it seemed to get outside, the less cold I felt — well, apart from my hair freezing immediately after getting out of the shower. Everything just seemed so much colder than I had anticipated.

In Rhode Island, it was a record-breaking cold day as Time and Date illustrated, when it reached -4 and -9 degrees Fahrenheit. Massachusetts was just as "chilly" with -4 and -9 degrees. It got even colder as the day went by, reaching -8 and -9 degrees. Meanwhile, in many parts of Maine, the temperature fell to -40 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature alone was enough to hospitalize a few unlucky Maine residents, and the arctic winds created perilous temperatures in some parts of the North-

east. According to Reuters, in New Hampshire's Mount Washington, temperatures reached far below freezing at a stunning -45 degrees, with wind chills reaching -105 degrees Fahrenheit.

Extreme cold weather like this can be dangerous for a couple of reasons. Frostbite can take under a half an hour to set in when the temperatures are below freezing, but in these extreme cold conditions, it can settle in just fifteen minutes, especially when the temperature has reached below 18 degrees Fahrenheit, Texas.gov reminds us. Frostbite, though advertised in movies as turning white, actually looks quite different. Frostbite usually makes the affected skin turn a variety of different colors: first a pinky red, then a purple, and then finally an unsettling ashen gray color. When developing frostbite, it generally feels tingling — as in the pins and needles feeling.

A friend of mine showed the first signs of frostbite while out on a walk during that cold, cold weekend. If this ever occurs to you, follow her example: get to a warm environment, and run a hot bath (anywhere between 98 degrees and 102 degrees Fahrenheit according to the NHS), and allow color to slowly return

to the area. If you feel as though the color is not returning, are unsure what to do, or think you could be at serious risk, call 911 right away.

Frostbite can co-occur with hypothermia as well. Hypothermia occurs when the body drops below its standard 95 degrees Fahrenheit, and some symptoms include feverish shivering, slurred speech and memory loss, as well as sudden exhaustion according to the CDC. Hypothermia can occur in as little as a half an hour or under, when the temperature is below zero degrees Fahrenheit Everyday Health explains. Unlike frostbite, if you believe you or a friend has hypothermia, immediate medical attention is advised, as well as relocating to a warmer environment.

While frostbite and hypothermia are pretty well known, there's another extreme cold condition that's not as often considered: breathing in the cold air. A common myth is that breathing in extremely cold air can burst your lungs. However, while this is just a myth, there are some dangers that come with this activity. It's called bronchospasm, and it occurs when the body's airways become dry with the cold air. Bronchospasm does not mean your lungs are freezing,

but is the cause of the burning sensation, shortness of breath, irritation and cough, as relayed by the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine.

To prevent this from happening, it's advised to wear a scarf, balaclava or a mask over your mouth to filter this cold air. However, if you don't own one of these, don't fret. Our bodies are designed to deal with extremely cold temperatures and have a humidifying mechanism that will ensure your lungs' safety, the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine reminds us. With that being said, if you begin to feel a burning sensation in your lungs, don't panic. But, make sure to get somewhere warm. If the feeling of bronchospasm is extreme, or you feel you are at a risk, get medical attention.

While these record breaking cold temperatures are said to happen once every generation, we never know when this phenomenon will return. So, the next time we feel an arctic wave of this magnitude, make sure to not only follow President Whelan's advice of closing windows and keeping the heat on, but become well educated and ready to face the bitter winds.

# The Hottest Fashion and Takes of the Grammys 2023

By Alyssa Myers

The Grammys is a music awards ceremony that happens once a year. Its purpose is to recognize and reward artists for their outstanding musical achievements. But let's be honest, most people only watch it for the outfits and the celebrity drama.

When trying to discern what people thought about the 65th annual Grammy Awards, the first thing I asked was, “what’s an unpopular opinion that you hold about this year’s Grammys?”

Someone made a point that I found to be particularly compelling. “I think that if Harry Styles was wearing what Sam Smith wore, he’d be significantly more hyped up.” This hot take stood out to me for many reasons. First was that Sam Smith’s outfit was, in my opinion, not particularly outstanding and was instead a bit silly. Yet, they are not conventionally attractive in the way that Harry is endlessly celebrated for, to put things bluntly. Therefore, due to the pedestal that conventionally attractive white men are placed on in culture, I believe that this person was absolutely right to claim that Harry would be admired for wearing that outfit, in a way that only Harry can be admired.

This then led me to think about

what Harry infamously said when accepting the award for Album of the Year. “Things like this don’t happen to people like me very often,” which was ironic given that things like that do happen to white, conventionally attractive, British men all the time in this industry. Regardless, Harry Styles receiving the Album of the Year award brings me directly to the next point of contention: should he have?

On one hand, someone said that “I don’t think I have an unpopular opinion about the Grammys, I wanted Harry to win. I listened to that album so many times, no skips.” They followed up this thought by adding that “it was up against Renaissance, and I’m sorry but Renaissance is not Lemonade.” I think that what this comes down to is that Renaissance requires you to be in the mood to dance to every single song. So of course, when I asked someone who is quite literally always in the mood to dance, they said “mother Beyoncé was robbed again ... for the third time” followed by the explanation that “Bey should never attend ever again, they need her, she doesn’t need them.”

As unfortunate as it was for this Beyoncé fan that she did not win Album of the Year, I want to take

the time to acknowledge that she has 32 Grammys, which is more than any other artist in Grammys History — which is a typical Bey slay.

Next, I had to ask, “what was your favorite and least favorite outfit at the Grammys?” The honor of favorite outfit was almost unanimously awarded to Cardi B. She looked stunning, gorgeous, beautiful and iconic, to name a few things. This pile of adjectives can be attributed to both of her outfit changes, which is an uncommon celebrity dub. I think she was the only one, other than Harry Styles, who looked stunning in the silver and nailed the look without seeming like an eight-year-old wrapped her in tinfoil.

Some other notable remarks about favorite outfit included that “Lizzo also looked hot.” I do agree with the fact that Lizzo looked hot — she typically does. Yet, I will admit that her silver dress look was one of the ones that falls into my aforementioned category of “looking like an eight-year-old wrapped her in tinfoil.”

For people’s least favorite outfit picks, someone mentioned Bad Bunny, with the explanation that he could have done better than a suit with a backwards hat for the Grammys. I think that that expla-

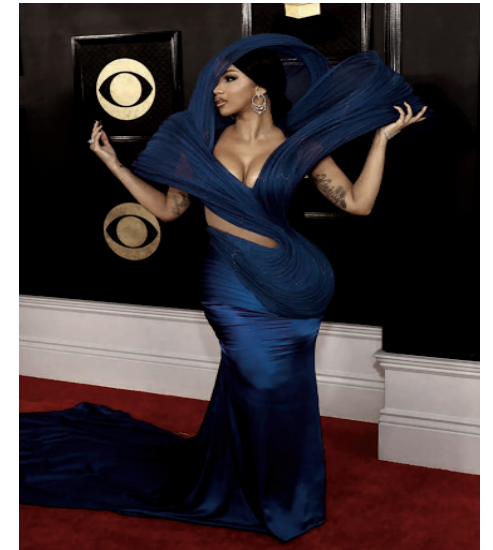


Photo Credit // People.com

nation speaks for itself. Lastly, I asked the question we were all dying to discuss: “what do you think Harry and Miss Swift were talking about?” Despite our pillaging quest for answers, most people agreed that it was likely nothing but mere casual pleasantries. They are cordial exes and were likely exchanging hellos. There appeared to be no “bad blood” between them.

From fashion to frustrations, that’s a wrap on what people had to say about the 2023 Grammys.



Photo Credit // Wikipedia

# 6 Korean Dramas to watch on Netflix this Spring

By Khushi Parikh and Mesalenuo Tsurho

## **Extracurricular (2020)**

Genre: crime, dark, high school, thriller

Content Warnings: Violence, self-harm, abuse, sexual assault, torture

Oh Ji-soo is a model high school student, or so it may seem. He leads a double life, anonymously running a security service for sex workers using a throwaway phone to earn tuition for college. But a series of unexpected events leads to him losing the phone and money, revealing himself to fellow classmate Bae Gyu-ri and upending his careful life. This is just the beginning of an adventure that gets darker and more thrilling with each passing episode. Their crimes begin getting larger and harder to conceal. The students deal with sensitive issues and make questionable choices, challenging their own — but also the viewers' — sense of morality.

The chemistry between the cast is out of this world. All of the characters are brilliantly fleshed out. The main leads are unscrupulous an-

tiheroes but you still root for them. The plot is unpredictable. Every moment is a climax, or perhaps there is none. It's mind-blowing and compelling — you'll be on the edge of your seat throughout. You'll crave for more after it's over, but it's also so unique that there's nothing out there like this one.

## **Extraordinary Attorney Woo (2022)**

Genre: Wholesome

This drama created the popular 2022 TikTok/Reels audio “woo to the young to the woo” and started a whole trend for over three months. Just like the audio, the show is playful and wholesome, starring Park Eun-Bin as Woo Young-Woo, our main character. The series surrounds Young Woo, a lawyer with Asperger's Syndrome, as she navigates through her workplace, love life, and society in general. The show balances comedy against a range of subjects from divorce and drama with empathy. It is an all-rounder that

pushes quirky actions just enough that it isn't cringey, but rather, endearing.



Photo Credit // Netflix

## **Hospital Playlist (2021)**

Genre: Slice of life, medical, wholesome romance, friendship

A perfect watch for a lazy Sunday afternoon. Hospital Playlist is a light-hearted drama that follows the lives of five doctors in their forties who become friends during medical school and share a love for music. They have a band of their own! How cool is that? The epitome of #FriendshipGoals, I couldn't stop smiling while watching it. It's funny, unpredictable, iconic and each character is lovable. There are no hospital politics, no unnecessary emergencies or panic — it is a refreshingly realistic take on adulthood, exploring the

lives of the doctors in the context of, but also beyond, their profession.



Photo Credit // Netflix

## **Reply 1988 (2016)**

Genre: Family, period drama

This 2015 K-Drama stole the hearts of viewers worldwide for both its iconic comedic scenes and for the heart-warming messages in every episode. Reply 1988 is part of the Reply series that are basically flashbacks to a time period in the lives of some adults. This particular series is set in a neighborhood with very unique (at times annoying) characters. From the Go (Baduk) champion to our happy-go-lucky Deok-sun who struggles academically, the drama follows the stories and conflicts of the five families that live in the neighborhood. It tackles academic pressure, love, a parent's sacrifice, insecurity, and at



a certain level, politics. Reply 1988 is a must watch for any new viewer getting into K-Dramas. It ticks all the right boxes with comedy and drama and the ability to make us, the viewers, relate and empathize with all the characters.



Photo Credit // Netflix

### **The Glory (2022)**

Genre: Revenge / Bullying  
Content Warning: bullying, assault, sexual assault, and gore.

Bullies. Drama. Fame. Revenge. The present as vengeance for the past. The show follows Moon Dong-Eun's meticulous decade-long plan to get revenge on a group of individuals that bullied her in high school. The show isn't your typical K-Drama with a side romance recurring every 5 minutes. It focuses on Dong-Eun, the past, and the plan unraveling in the present. The title, however, is

still open to interpretation as the end of Season 1 left everyone at the edge of their seats. Does Dong-Eun get her revenge and bask in the glory of her success? Or do the bullies finally get rid of her for good and revel in the glory of their final win?

### **The Heirs (alternative title: The Inheritors) (2013)**

Genre: cliché romance, melodramatic, coming-of-age

A classic. The main leads, Kim Tan, the heir of a large conglomerate, and Cha Eun-Sang, the daughter of a mute housekeeper, have a chance encounter in LA. Later, they reunite at an exclusive high school for the super-rich. This coming-of-age love story has it all: a heart-fluttering romance, a bad-boy romantic rival, estranged brothers, teenage angst, broken friendships, toxic parents, complicated family dynamics, corporate politics, and unlikely allies. But beneath all that, it is the story of a group of teenagers who stand up for each other when push comes to shove. Despite the large star cast, the writers managed to write three-dimensional characters, develop a scene-stealing supporting cast, and maintain a decent pace. The tenacity of the characters and heart-tugging moments offset the pre-

dictability, transforming the stale Cinderella plot into a must-watch.

Also, although this was a list of Korean dramas to watch, we absolutely HAD to recommend these too, out of our good conscience.

### **2gether : The series (2020)**

Country of Origin: Thailand  
Genre: Boy Love, Rom-com, College  
Where to watch: It's on Netflix in only select countries so you might need to use a VPN.

This series is a Thai BL (Boy love) that took the internet by a storm. It stars actors Bright Chivaree and Metawin (Win) who play two college boys that start a fake relationship. But as we've seen this trope before, the two end up falling in love through a series of hilarious and adorable events. The jokes, side character romances, and overall theme of the drama makes it a binge-worthy fan favorite.

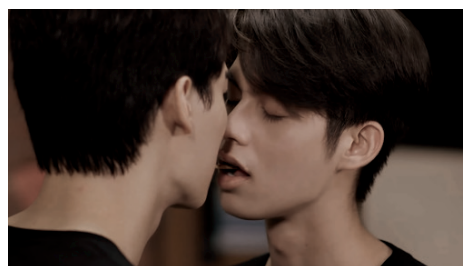


Photo Credit // Netflix

### **Nirvana in Fire**

Country of Origin: China

Genre: Palace intrigue, historical/costume drama, bromance, revenge, politics  
Where to watch: Amazon Prime Video, Rakuten viki

Hands down THE. BEST. DRAMA. EVER. Nirvana in Fire is an absolute masterpiece. Powerful General Lin Xie is framed by a political rival while in battle, and his entire army of 70,000 Chiyan soldiers are massacred. His son, Lin Shu, barely survives and returns to the capital after twelve years using an alias to restore justice. Layered. Nuanced. Subtle. Engrossing. The drama is a careful game of chess. Slowly, step-by-step — almost clerically — Lin Shu eliminates corruption and immorality from the imperial court, shakes up the monarchy, and helps his childhood friend, the stubborn and unfavoured Prince Xiao Jingyan to the throne.

Nirvana in Fire boasts magnificent cinematography, spot-on casting, and stellar acting from every single member of its sprawling ensemble. The writing is extremely intricate and detail-oriented; each action, each word spoken, each shot in every scene is there for a reason. All of the storylines come together completely cohesively at the end. Plus, the dialogue is brilliant because all the major characters are smart and consistently try to outwit each other. I can go on and on about it....

# An Ode to The Spoon Theory

By Madison Morin



Photo Credit // Unsplash

In recent years, chronically ill and disabled individuals have utilized the internet to find community and spread awareness. Often unseen and personal experiences that were once in the confines of individual lives are rising to the surface through user-generated content.

In 2003, college student Christine Miserandino uploaded a post to the blog, “But You Don’t Look Sick” titled *The Spoon Theory*. In the article, Miserandino makes an analogy

of her life as a chronically ill individual with Lupus to help a friend understand her daily life. Today, the internet-born term is well known among the chronically ill community and medical professionals.

To explain the theory to those who are not familiar, when a friend asked Miserandino what it is like to live with Lupus during a college dining hall conversation, Miserandino collected a handful of spoons to explain how she rations energy. Each spoon represents a unit of energy and for the demonstration, she wakes up with twelve spoons. She has to carefully decide what to spend her spoons on, with getting dressed using one and eating breakfast costing another. At the end of their theoretical day, Miserandino was left with no spoons to spare for typical ADLs (activities of daily life).

The spoon theory highlights the difficulty of completing ADLs many don’t have to think twice about, in addition to schoolwork or hobbies. Since 2003, Miserandino’s small student blog has snowballed into an online community of individuals who use the spoon theory and call themselves “Spoonies”.

“I explained that the difference in being sick and being healthy is having to make choices or to consciously think about things when the rest of the world doesn’t have to. The healthy have the luxury of a life without choices, a gift most people take for granted,” wrote Miserandino

On top of managing symptoms and delegating “spoons”, many spoonies have to find creative ways to endure the constant explanation of their condition. The spoon theory may have started as an aid to explain our lives to those who don’t understand, but it has also developed into an inward-turning community.

There has been recent controversy with the spoonie community in lieu of a Daily Mail article. In the article, journalist Emma James criticizes a demographic of teenage girls for creating online content about their invisible illnesses, saying that the spoonie community “often end up competing with each other for who is sickest” among other statements with little to no research backing up the claims. The article received critique for its ableist narrative on invisible illnesses.

Here is my response:

In 1968 in her book, *The White Album*, Joan Didion wrote an account of her experience with her chronic migraines. In her essay, “In Bed,” Didion tackles topics similar to the content young spoonies are creating for each other today, long before the word “spoonie” was coined. In the essay, she reviews her reluctance to admit the frequency and seriousness of her condition, the gaslighting and dismissal brought on by peers and medical professionals, and her long awaited acceptance of her condition.

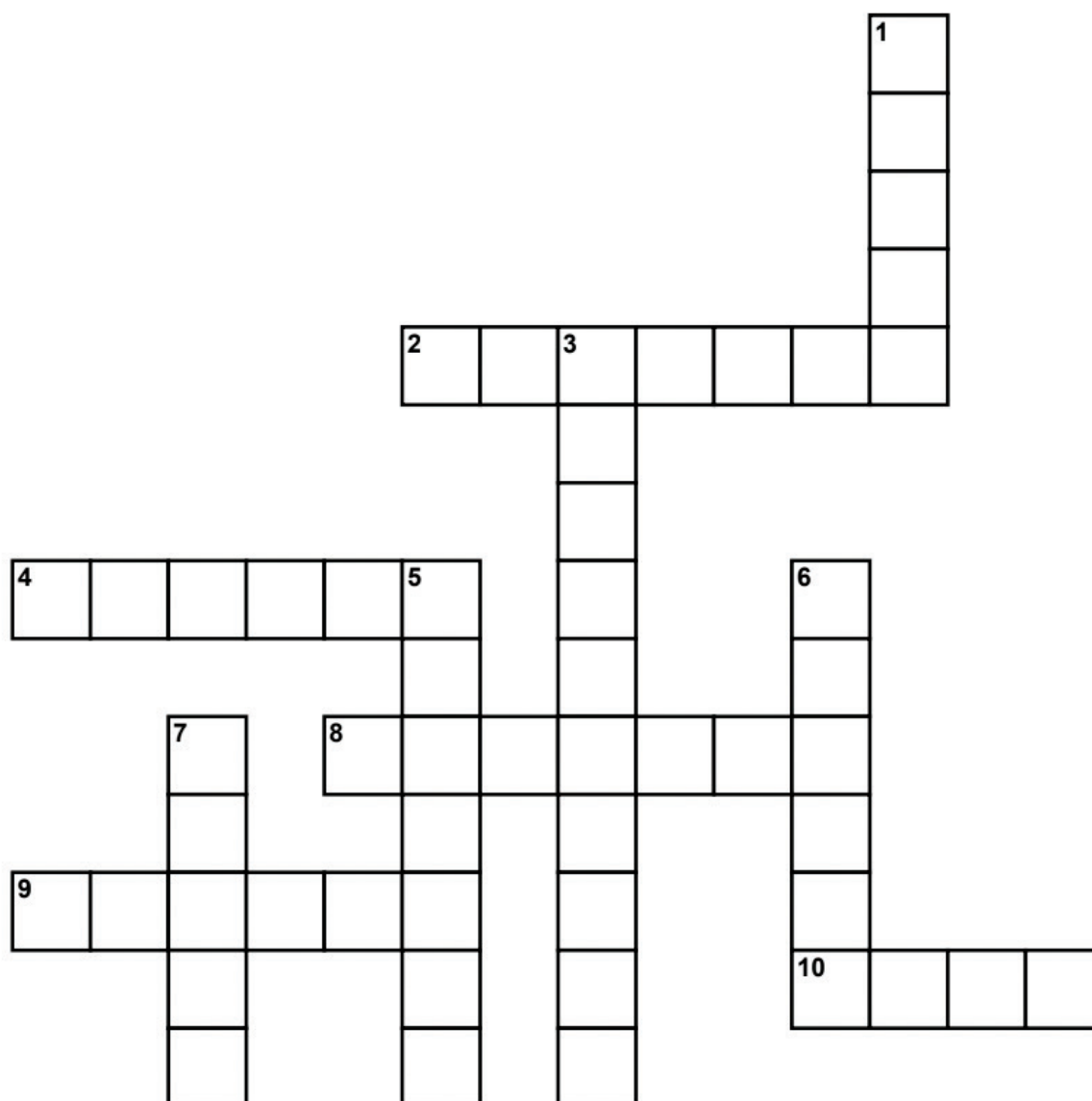
“Perhaps nothing so tends to prolong an attack [of a migraine] as the accusing eye of someone who has never had a headache. ‘Why not take a couple of aspirin,’ the unafflicted will say from the doorway,” wrote Didion.

My point of bringing in this reference is that we have always been here. Instagram Reels on chronic illness may not be written in the suave gonzo-prose of Didion, but it is the same struggle being expressed. That struggle being the added stressor of an “explanation” that any condition comes with.

# Wheaton Wire Crossword

By Alyssa Myers

Check the  
next issue for  
the answers!



## Across

- [2] Founder of Wheaton College, also an animal that goes “roar”
- [6] A video streaming service that has the same name as a body of water on campus
- [8] Early morning coffee and late-night mozzarella sticks can be found here
- [9] The basement of the library is also known as this
- [10] Head of the Peacock \_\_\_\_\_

## Down

- [1] The word before Rec Hall, between Madeleine and Wallace, and after Young and McIntire.
- [3] It was originally supposed to be a reflecting pool
- [4] Do not walk through the front doors of this building until you are a senior
- [5] Everyone’s favorite Lion/Lyon
- [7] “That they may have life and have it \_\_\_\_\_”

# Horoscopes (Unhinged)

By Moira Sankey

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)**

Try something new this year.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)**

Stock up on tissues.

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)**

Avoid condescending behavior.

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)**

Stay true to yourself.

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)**

Be wary of crossing your eyes.

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)**

Every week is a fresh start.

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)**

Stop psychoanalyzing people.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)**

It's time for some self-refelction.

**Libra (September 23 – October 22)**

How's the God complex going?

**Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)**

Spend some time gazing at the moon.

**Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)**

Open the door.

**Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)**

Not everything needs a schedule.

# Write for the Wire

Want to become a published writer? You're in luck! We're always looking for written work for The Wheaton Wire. Whether it's a new piece or an old favorite written for class that you'd love to see published, we want it all - prose, poetry, anything goes. Any topic, too! From campus events to global news to culture, sports, cinema, science, and everything in between, The Wheaton Wire is the home for whatever you're passionate about. Feel free to submit as much or as little as you'd like! You can make a one-time submission or become a regular contributor, we're flexible. Thank you so much for your addition to the Wheaton Wire legacy.



Scan the QR code to submit  
your work and art!

Wheaton is known for being a liberal arts school, with a large emphasis on art. Here at The Wire, we want to do our best to showcase student art and give it the recognition it deserves. This edition's featured artist is Mairen O'Neill, with an oil-on-canvas portrait "Theodore Jefferson."

