



# The Court Street Press

DOYLESTOWN, PA • VOLUME 2018-2019 • ISSUE 3 • FEBRUARY EDITION

## THE BEST ROM-COMS OF ALL TIME

By Mattelyn Beahan

I will admit, I have watched an embarrassing amount of romantic comedies. Especially around Valentine's Day. So, whether you are single or not, sit back and enjoy a list of my top ten favorite rom-coms.

**WARNING:** This list does not include *Mean Girls*, because you've all seen it already.

**10 Things I Hate About You:** Who doesn't love a late '90's, Heath Ledger? Attractiveness aside, this movie is a modern adaptation of William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. It's funny, romantic, and heart-wrenching at times, but it deserves the top spot because of its feel-good mentality and lesson on having your own opinion and standing up for it.



**How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days:** This one almost had the number 1 spot; it's a must-watch! Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson deliver a hilarious, unique story set in the early 2000s. In the end, the audience learns that having the ability to confront your significant other on their behavior is crucial in a relationship.



**Clueless:** This iconic rendition of *Emma* by Jane Austen is probably one of the most well-known romantic comedies from the 1990s. Cher, played by Alicia Silverstone, is a typical Beverly Hill's teenage girl who also happened to provide an assortment of iconic phrases which are still heard today. In the end, she has some sudden realizations and falls for the most surprising guy.



**Bridget Jones's Diary:** I'm almost positive that everyone's mom has seen this movie in her lifetime. It tells the story of Bridget Jones and her quest to find Mr. Right. It's British, it's hysterical, and it's slightly provocative at times. After all, it's never too late to want to make a change and it's never too late to fall in love.



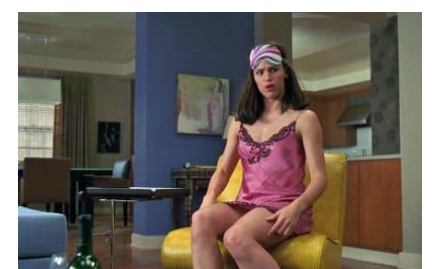
**Mamma Mia!:** Although this movie is a musical, it has all the characteristics of a memorable rom-com: catchy music, a dreamy setting in Greece, Amanda Seyfried, and Meryl Streep. This movie taught me that there is no right time in life for love and that heartbreak is a natural part of life and you should embrace it. It's definitely a movie worth watching...maybe more than once.



**Crazy Rich Asians:** It features a beautiful setting in Singapore, and it elicits the extravagant lifestyle of Nick Young and his family as he tries to convince them to accept his girlfriend, a normal girl from New York. I love this movie and how funny, yet serious it can be at times. The biggest lesson I took away from this movie was to never let anyone's judgment prevent you from being happy.

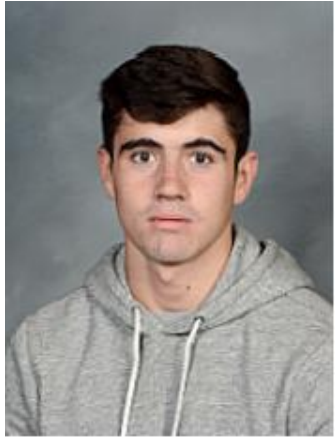


**13 Going On 30:** This movie is fairly iconic for the early 2000s and features Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo in this simple tale about a 13-year-old girl who's propelled 27 years in the future and forced to figure things out herself. Through her light-hearted trouble, she finally realizes that everyone should cherish the present while it's here, instead of longing for the future.



## JACK MULHEARN: BASKETBALL Q&A

By Eli Baylin



*CSP: How have your relationships with coaches and players changed since freshman year?*

JM: I have gotten to know my coaches more and more each year so that has helped my with confidence on the court. Being a senior helps with building chemistry because I have been playing with some of these guys for my whole career here at West.

*CSP: What is your favorite moment from your career here at CB West?*

JM: Definitely sophomore year when I got fouled and made the basket towards the end of the East-West game. That one shot gave me a ton of confidence and the crowd reaction made me feel like CB West basketball was my home.

*CSP: How have you changed for the better from CB West basketball?*

JM: Playing with upperclassmen and being a part of different programs like basketball with buddies has definitely made me more mature and helped me outside of basketball. I find it easier to talk to adults now that I have built strong relationships with the coaching staff.

*CSP: What advice would you give to the 9<sup>th</sup> graders who plan to play basketball at West in the future?*

JM: It's all confidence when playing, especially as an underclassman, because being confident takes your game to a whole new level.

*CSP: How much of a leadership role do you have as a senior?*

JM: My role as a leader has definitely increased because I know, in order for our team to be something special, I need to take more of a leadership role. When I got a Captain role, I knew the coaches were going to rely on me to build the team to the best of my ability.

## WHO'S THAT ANNOUNCEMENTS KID?

### AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL BRENNAN (BY MICHAEL BRENNAN)

By Michael Brennan

#### FAQs

*Q: To start off, just who is Michael Brennan?*

A: I don't know, but he sounds like a real goof (joke, he's me!)

*Q: How did you get the job of doing the announcements?*

A: I just asked Mrs. Zaleski last year about it since a bunch of people were like 'Hey, you should totally do the announcements next year.' After asking her, she pretty much set everything up for me, so shout out to Mrs. Zaleski!

*Q: How do you choose the music in the mornings?*

A: A lot of the time, I pick whatever I think just sounds good. My main goal is to expose people to different kinds of music, not to just keep it to a fixed genre like pop or new wave, which explains why one day you might hear some cheesy tune from the 80s and afrobeat the next. To put it bluntly, continuity is the least of my concerns, it's really just a matter of ensuring that it is: A. school appropriate, B. mostly upbeat, and C. something that people will like. Other times it's just requests from students and staff!

*Q: How early do you have to get to school?*

A: Ideally, I should be in the office at 7:15, but most of the time I show up a bit before 7:20 because of my terrible morning routine.

*Q: Where do you have to go in the morning?*

A: In a small room tucked away right in the main office, visit me sometime!

*Q: What do you have to do to once you get to the main office?*

A: Just plug my phone into an aux cord, flip a couple of switches, turn a dial, enter a super duper secret code into a keypad to disable the bells, press play on whatever tune I have lined up for the morning, and just hope that nothing goes wrong!

*Q: Do you get to just show up late to class?*

A: Pretty much, yeah.

*Q: How do you plan out what you're going to say each morning?*

A: 75% improvisation, 25% worry about the possibility of stuttering and somehow doing so anyway.

*Q: How do I go about requesting a song for the morning announcements?*

A: To be frank, I don't have a set way for people to do that. Most of the time, people will request some stuff in conversation which is difficult to keep track of, so I, unfortunately, forget sometimes (quick apology to everyone this has happened to). If you ever see me though or just know of someone who knows me and is willing to pass the word along, feel free to request something! Hope everyone has been enjoying hearing the announcements this year and thanks for all of the positive feedback! ☺



# THE REVIEW

## BOOK REVIEW: *I BELIEVE IN A THING CALLED LOVE* BY MAUREN GOO

By Amelia Betancourt

At first glance, *I Believe in a Thing Called Love* by Maurene Goo seems like your typical sappy, overused plot, young adult romance novel. The brightly colored book jacket does not immediately scream, "An amazing book that you should definitely read!" While it may look tacky and predictable on the outside, *I Believe in a Thing Called Love* is an amazing book that I recommend to anyone looking for a heartwarming book.



The book follows Desi Lee, a Stanford bound senior who excels in all of her endeavors, except *romance*. Desi viewed her past love life as a montage of failures and embarrassments, but one day at school, a new boy arrives. The epitome of an edgy and mysterious teen, Luca instantly catches Desi's eye. She decides that, like all rom-com heroines, she'll try to catch *his* eye as well. Unlike other romance novel heroines (Bella Swan, we're looking at you), Desi does not rely on her good looks and mysterious intrigue, but instead upon a list of steps that she has put together after watching romantic Korean Drama TV shows with her dad. As you can imagine, her plan to follow the plots of K-dramas to ultimately get her own happy ending, does not go as planned.

*I Believe in a Thing Called Love* is a gem among YA novels. Instead of being written painfully dramatically, it is quirky with dry humor. It is fast-paced and well-written. To my fellow college and career bound seniors, Desi's struggle to find a path to take after graduation will undoubtedly resonate with you. To my fellow hopeless romantics, Desi's determination will inspire you to fight for your own happy ending. It will leave you both happy and sad: happy, because it was worth the read, and sad, because now you'll have to find a book good enough to top this one.

## MUSIC REVIEW

By Michael Brennan

### *Soy Pablo* by Boy Pablo



Norwegian pop band Boy Pablo's latest EP, *Soy Pablo*, does little to redefine the rising Indie pop/Indie rock genre, but all-in-all still proves to be a fun listen. This is seen in the opening track "Feeling Lonely" with its punchy lead rhythm guitar laying down a super upbeat vibe that continues throughout the rest of the album and also provides some perfect exposition for first time listeners of the band to really understand what the Norwegian group is like. It's also further seen in the song "Losing You" which--despite its angsty lyrics about the pain of having one's heart ripped out--brings the EP back to its buoyant roots after it seems to take a slower approach in the middle of its seven-track listing.

**CSP Rating:** 8/10

## MOVIE REVIEWS

### BIRD BOX: 9/10 STARS

By Alec Mettin

*Birdbox* has captivated the masses since its release date in mid-December on Netflix, gaining over 45 million views in just the first 7 days. But why wouldn't it? With a suspenseful trailer that showcases some of the movie's best scenes and graphic episodes of chaos throughout two alternating time periods, the movie appeals to a wide audience despite its R rating.

In the 124 minutes of heart-pounding horror, Malorie Hayes (played by Sandra Bullock) and her two children are left to fend for themselves in a dystopian world while fighting off various strangers who try to pry open the eyes of the innocent in order to let them see the "beautiful thing" occurring outside of the sacred blindfold. Rather than living alone and with trepidation, courageous Malorie took her children, named Boy and Girl, on down the river to safety. While attempting the two-day journey, the trio is faced with countless difficulties, including the lack of food, warmth, and shelter.

The film alternates between a nightmarish past and horrifying present, as viewers discover the provocation for a growing international mass suicide epidemic.

*Birdbox* fascinated its viewers and prompted countless internet memes which only added to the film's popularity and appeal. Shortly after its release, the film was compared to its predecessor, *A Quiet Place*, which had a similar plot. Because of this, *Birdbox* has been seen as a copy-cat film, despite its base in the 2014 novel by Josh Malerman. That being said, the film was a monumental success – keeping the attention of its viewers from start to finish - which would have translated to about \$400 million dollars in box-office revenue. Watch it-- I guarantee you will enjoy the memes, if not the movie.



### GLASS: 5.5/10 STARS

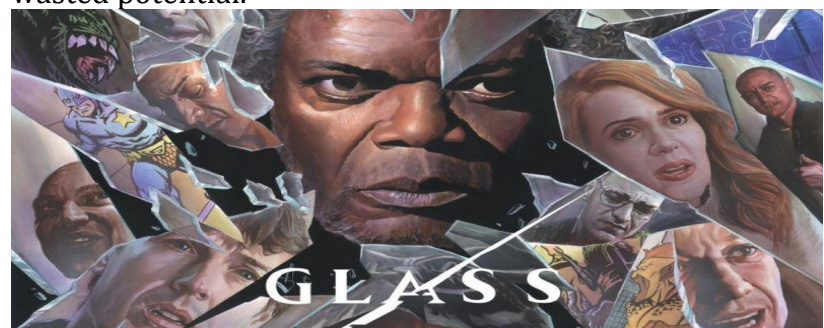
By August McBride

Saddle up horror fans, M. Night Shyamalan's back at it again! I have never seen a movie of his that I didn't enjoy. His new movie, *Glass*, is the third in the kinda-superhero saga taking place in the shared universe of two of Shyamalan's best films, *Unbreakable* and *Split*. Heroes and villains of both return to maybe conclude the current trilogy, but that doesn't much matter if the movie's garbage. So, is it?

In a word: No. However, it was nowhere near as good as its predecessor, *Split*. Without getting into spoilers, there were inconsistencies with some of the prison scenes. It was one of those "X only works when the plot needs it to" routines. The psychiatrist, played by Sarah Paulson, was lame, and the "twist" ending left me unsatisfied. It was predictable and nonsensical.

The villain, Mr. Glass (Samuel L. Jackson), was also disappointing. They did a great job showing his genius and his plan to escape was clever right up until the end where the "twist" is incorporated. It was interesting to watch his scheme slowly unfold, though I feel he got robbed. He didn't have nearly enough screen time and a big part of what he did have was him just sitting there while something so much more compelling could've been done. Speaking of villains, James McAvoy absolutely stole the show with his character(s). It's really incredible to be able to pour so much effort and individuality into what seemed like at least ten different personas within not only the same movie but the same character. McAvoy effortlessly switched between them and each was so well-performed and fun to watch. He is a world-class actor.

The movie was visually appealing, but not fantastic. As a fan of Shyamalan's work, I enjoyed it, but am disappointed by its wasted potential.



WALKER'S PUZZLES

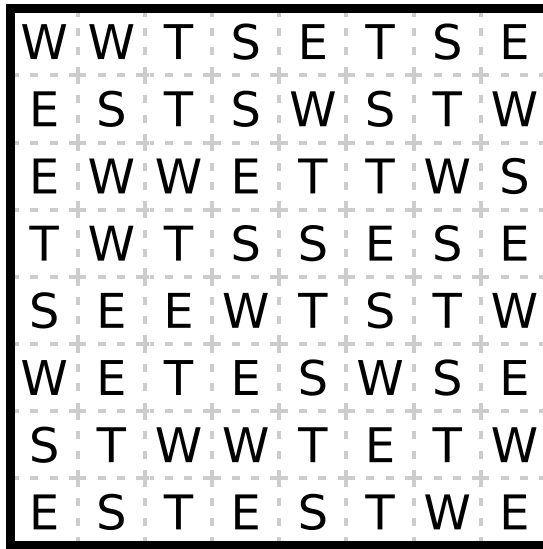
By Walker Anderson

**Block Party**

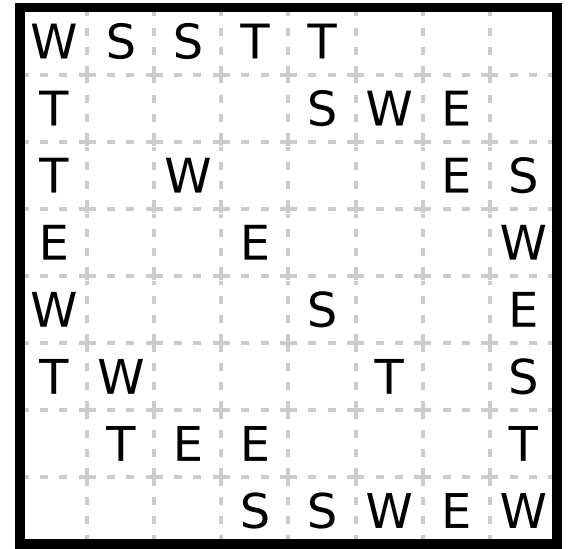
Divide the grid into blocks of connected cells. Each region must be the same size and contain each letter in WEST exactly once each. The size is printed below each puzzle. Blocks do not have to be rectangles.

Good luck! ☺

P.S. To learn more about CSP's resident puzzle-master, read below the puzzles.



4 Cells



8 Cells

HEARD IN THE HALLS

If we heard you and quoted your conversation we do not mean to insult you or your conversations in anyway (we are assuming that in context it made sense...). We are simply having a laugh and making you aware of the fact that *we can hear you, Matt.*

- "It's great when your dad takes you to a dog fight, it's like real life Pokémon."
- "I want to follow up with you... just not in the bathroom."
- "Access denied!! Sorry, the government isn't home right now, leave a message after the tone!"
- "I held a baby last night and I hated it, it was so scary!"
- "A female Bavarian tunic, it's just what I need!!!"
- "'What is Lunar New Year?' ... 'Maybe when the moon sheds its skin?'"
- "Man, I feel like Lindsay Lohan right now."
- "We didn't do anything all day yesterday." "Well, you didn't."
- "Do you ever just kinda want to do a cartwheel for no reason?"
- "I'm a prosecutor, baby."

By Amelia Betancourt

WALKER ANDERSON: THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LEGEND...

Congratulations are in order for Walker Anderson, math whiz, puzzle-master, and the creator of the bi-monthly newspaper puzzles we all love so much! Walker is a CBW Stem Research Club Council Member, and recently he won \$2,000 for himself as well as \$2,000 for the school by becoming a top 300 scholar in the 78<sup>th</sup> Regeneration Science Talent Search Competition. Along with this outstanding achievement, this year Walker has been accepted into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), won 1<sup>st</sup> place for under-18 and 6<sup>th</sup> place overall at the World Puzzle Championship, received the Rueben Shaw Memorial Award from the Delaware Valley Science Council, and got the Top 5 Award at the Research Science Institute Program. This spring, Walker will also be presenting at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Bellairs Winter Workshop on Computational Geometry in Barbados and at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana. We can only wait to see what he does next—Go Walker!

THE COURT STREET PRESS  
Staff 2018 - 2019

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"A SNOWMAN VALENTINE"

By Connor Sturza



Connor Sturza 2019