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UA12/2/1 Love as Scene in the Movies

WKU Student Affairs
LOVE

as scene in the movies

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The story of Collin Turner and Elisabeth Knauer may never merit a mention from Nicolas Sparks. It centers on two obviously opposite characters, but it’s less about plot than detail. It’s not marked by melodrama, but accented with subtlety—private professions scribbled on Post-it notes, and a single separation that answered the most important question.

Turner, a Fort Thomas senior, met Western graduate Knauer four years ago during their senior year of high school.

“I don’t know if people believe in love at first sight,” he said. “But I was pretty smitten. She smiled, and I was sold.”

Unfortunately, Knauer’s heart wasn’t on the market. The two had met at a birthday party for her boyfriend at the time.

Tuner waited patiently for the relationship to end. Then he planned his big move—a first hug that was particularly memorable for Knauer.

“He was dressed up like Night Wolf,” she said, remembering his Mortal Kombat costume. “He had all this chest hair, and he rubbed my face in it.”

Knauer still laughs when she tells that story, which marked the beginning of the relationship between the shy, highly-organized, 5’2” girl, who studies psychology, and the outgoing, messy, 6’2” boy, who dreams of becoming a performer.

“I mean, we have a comedy routine built into our life,” Turner said.

After graduation, he and Knauer headed to Western, where the new environment and absence of familiar faces fortified their relationship, Turner said. The two even began sporting promise rings.

But by sophomore year, the rings reminded them less of the love they had and more of the experiences they didn’t — time out with friends and a chance to date other people.

“I hadn’t really tested my game out since high school, and I thought it was awesome in high school,” Turner said, laughing.

But a month after their split, neither was joking. Knauer said she realized that she and Turner could lose each other in their quest to be young and adventurous, and it simply wasn’t worth it.

So the two opposites came together again, and this time it’s for good, Knauer said.

Turner and Knauer now live together, which is no surprise to friends, who have already dubbed the couple “mom and dad,” Knauer said.

But the two said they’re careful to keep their displays of affection to themselves, opting to write each other notes in the morning and inventing “I love you day” as an excuse to give each other gifts at home, she said.

“I’ve never been one to skip down the hallway holding hands,” Turner said.

Though the couple has resolved to stick together for better or worse and private romantic gestures seem to be part of their everyday life, Turner said they have their fair share of disagreements.

“I can’t imagine our relationship without fights,” he said. “But I think we’ve just learned how to fight better.”
Atlanta senior Kelly Higgins is getting married in October to Drew Hays, a senior from Wichita Falls, Texas. They met on www.myyearbook.com about four years ago, the summer before Higgins’ freshman year at Western.

“It was kind of a lame site,” Higgins said, laughing. “In the first month or two of signing up, I came across his photo and thought he was really cute. But he seemed really, really intelligent, and I was afraid even to talk to him.”

She said that she eventually realized that the intimidation was mutual.

“I guess it was the way we presented ourselves to be impressive or whatever,” Higgins said.

She said that Hays usually went to IHOP with friends on Friday nights, but one night he stayed home, and they struck up a messaging conversation online.

“I can’t even remember what it was about,” Higgins said as she turned to Hays to see if he could recall. “He doesn’t know either.”

Hays said the conversation might not have happened if he hadn’t stayed home.

“It was a lucky accident,” he said.

Higgins said she started her first semester at Western that fall while he was attending school at a community college in Texas.

“I remember my first weekend — I was at a party with all these guys that grossed me out so badly I called Drew and asked him to marry me then,” Higgins said. “I was kidding and kind of not kidding at the same time. Every other guy just seemed so gross at that point.”

For several months, Hays made trips to see her in Bowling Green and in her hometown of Atlanta.

“We had our first kiss on the kissing bridge,” Higgins said.

She said she became exhausted with the long-distance relationship and asked him to move to be closer to her.

“It was hard and heartbreaking every time he had to say goodbye,” Higgins said. “He really loved Kentucky and wanted to get away from the Texas heat. His mother and father were eventually very supportive.”

Higgins said finding Hays online never felt uncomfortable for her.

“I spend most of my time online, and I’ve always had an open mind when it comes to technology, so it came very natural to me,” she said.

Higgins said because long-distance online dating is seen in a weird light, it took a while for people to understand their relationship.

“At first it was weird, but anything can be safe if you’re aware of what you’re getting into,” she said.

Hays proposed to Higgins in Atlanta last summer at the zoo.

“It was the sixth day of the sixth month at 6 p.m. so it’s easy to remember,” Higgins said.
'FOR LOVE OF THE GAME'

Dinosaurs fascinating for student

By EMILY WADLEY
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The 1999 drama and romance “For Love of the Game” features Kevin Costner as a talented baseball pitcher who is forced to chose between the game he loves and the woman he’s in love with.

Louisville freshman Caisey Whelan isn’t obsessed with baseball, but like Costner, she does have a love in her life.

Whelan said she loves dinosaurs.

She said her fascination doesn’t have a major impact on her personal life.

But Whelan said that when she first tells people about her love, she thinks “it comes off to them that I’m immature and unrealistic.”

She said she thinks people use it as a way of judging her.

Whelan said her fixation isn’t an indicator of immaturity; it’s just one of her personal interests.

Whelan’s favorite kind of dinosaur is the Triceratops. She likes how they are short and stout, but she said she thinks that people underestimate the Triceratops as a whole.

“I think I heard that the Triceratops was the last dinosaur standing,” she said.

While dinosaurs aren’t part of her everyday life, Whelan said she likes participating in certain dinosaur-related activities.

Whelan said she likes to go to Dinosaur World in Cave City with her friends. She said she plans on making a Dinosaur World trip soon, because one of her friends has taken an interest in dinosaurs as well.

She said she enjoyed watching a ‘90s television show called “Dinosaurs” last semester with her old resident assistant.

The show is an Emmy-winning sitcom that followed a family of dinosaurs living in modern times, according to the Internet Movie Database.

One of her favorite possessions is her rubber Triceratops, Sarah, which she has proudly displayed in her dorm.

Michelle Branaman, a freshman from Scottsburg, Ind., is Whelan’s roommate. Her friends from home give her dinosaurs as presents for every occasion, she said. The result is various toy dinosaurs all over the room.

Renee Thomas, a freshman from Peachtree City, Ga., lives in the dorm room next to Whelan. She said she noticed Whelan’s affinity for the prehistoric creatures right away.

“Being her neighbor, I noticed that she takes a special interest in dinosaurs,” Thomas said, “especially her Triceratops which she keeps on her microwave.”

Craig Stem, a junior from Hermitage, Tenn., portrays a character from “For Love of the Game.”
Unlikely couple grows with conflict

By KATHERINE WADE
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He likes classical music — she likes Miley Cyrus. She wants the bright red couch — he wants the leather, brown one. Some would call them opposites. But some also say opposites attract.

Kaitlin Keane and Matt Lund — both Oldham County sophomores, have been dating for a year and three months, during which time they’ve learned that they’re a little contradictory.

Lund and Keane said they relate to the characters from “Along Came Polly,” the 2004 romantic comedy in which a reserved guy and sociable girl fall in love despite their differences.

“I guess you would describe it as me being more conservative and her being more outgoing,” Lund said.

Although opposites attracting is a popular theme in film and television, Aaron Wichman, a psychology professor, said research indicates that people who are different in important ways are often unsuccessful in a relationship.

“However, differences can spark interests,” he said.

Keane said she thinks they fit together really well.

“We balance each other out,” Lund said.

Lund and Keane went to high school together, but they didn’t really know each other until after graduation.

“I knew of him, because he was the drum major, and I was the photo editor on the newspaper,” Keane said. “We didn’t really know each other until after graduation.

“I think it bothers him sometimes that it’s so much different from his room,” she said.

Lund said these differences lead them to clash occasionally.

“It happens a little too much actually,” he said. “But we grow from it.”

‘MEET THE PARENTS’

Students recall run-ins with parents

By WHITLEY TOBIN
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Meeting the parents is a highly anticipated step in a relationship. For some people, the experience is smooth, enjoyable even. For others, it’s one of the most uncomfortable things they’ve had to do.

Some Hill-dwellers share stories that made them smile, grimace and blush.

“I came to my boyfriend’s house while we were in high school and we were going to watch a movie. His dad decided to watch it with us. About the time the popcorn is done and Conner leaves the room, a crazy sex scene comes on while it’s just his dad in the room with me. It was ending when Conner walked in.”

—Mt. Washington junior Sarah Jessie, four-year relationship

“When I first met my boyfriend’s dad he was like, ‘So this is the girl that you’ve been hiding from us.’”

—Louisville sophomore Desiree Shoulders, 13-month relationship

“My ex-girlfriend asked me to drive her home one night, but she wanted me to drop her off a few houses down. Well, it was dark out, and I couldn’t read the house addresses, and there was a lady standing outside, so I asked where 1733 was. She told me her house was 1733 and at the same time, my girlfriend addressed me as her boyfriend. Her mother never knew we were going out, but she invited me in for tea. I told her I was busy and rushed off.”

—Vietnam sophomore Dao Nguyen, three-year relationship

“When I met my in-laws, I also met my husband’s aunt and grandma. They were visiting Bowling Green and wanted to go to dinner. We hadn’t been seeing each other long, and I honestly had no desire to meet them. I had been saying for sometime that the next set of parents I met I wanted to be my last... I’m generally an outgoing person, so it wasn’t awkward at all. I love his parents, and I’m glad they are the last set of parents.”

—LaGrange senior Stephanie Moyes, married nine months

“Look at that mustache!” was my first thought when I met my boyfriend’s mother, and every time I see her I think the same thing.”

—Atlanta, Ga. sophomore Brittany McCarthy, two-year relationship
Students give love advice

By MARY BARCZAK
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For some Western students, the stories in last year’s popular date movie, “He’s Just Not That Into You,” are similar to their lives.

This Bowling Green-set plot also deals with the trials and errors of dating, relationships and falling in love.

What is he looking for?

Summersville freshman Zach Berry said he’s looking for someone who is funny and knows how to make him smile.

Berry said he wants someone who is smart and has a good personality. He added that being hot is a plus.

Morgantown freshman Robert Hartlerode said he wants someone who has self-confidence.

“I don’t like girls that wear a lot of make-up, because one, it’s not attractive if it’s caked-on,” he said. “It makes me wonder what she’s hiding underneath.”

What is she looking for?

Versailles junior Kasey Vaught said she’s looking for someone who is funny.

“I can pretty much overlook anything else if he has humor,” she said.

Georgetown junior Kelley Boothe said the guy should initiate the relationship.

“In general, the guy should make the first move — you shouldn’t have to call them,” she said.

Who should pay for the date?

Boston junior Holly Lawrence said she thinks the guy should pay.

“I like when a guy takes the first initiative to pay,” she said. “That tells me that they actually want to be there and doing that for you.”

Boothe said she thinks girls should pay sometimes.

“Money’s tight nowadays, especially with this economy, so I think that it’s OK,” she said.

Berry and Hartlerode both agreed that it’s the guy’s responsibility to pay, especially on Valentine’s Day.

“You don’t want her to feel left out,” Hartlerode said.

Lawrence said the girl should call him.

“I think it’s OK for girls to call a guy today,” she said. “If there’s that mutual attraction there, then why not?”

Hartlerode said that if he’s not calling, then he’s not into the girl.

“I know by the time I leave with a girl’s number for the first time if I’m going to call her or not,” he said. “I judge it by the way she looks at me.”

What are the signs that she doesn’t want to date you?

Berry said he can tell that a girl isn’t into him if she’s ignoring his texts.

“I usually wait about an hour, and then I’ll send her another text,” he said. “If she doesn’t answer after the second, then I’ll stop.”

Berry also said that he knows a girl isn’t into him if she puts him in the “friend zone.”

“I’ve been in the friend zone my whole life,” he said. “I’m not really sure how to keep out of it.”

Hartlerode compared the “friend zone” to football.

“The friend zone means: 50-yard line and go no further,” he said. “The end zone is dating. It’s like you’re at the four and 20 — it’s not gonna happen unless you’re Peyton Manning.”
Couples thrive despite racism

By ANGELA OLIVER
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When Nashville sophomore Marcus Bagwell met Evansville, Ind., sophomore Cassie Kaufman, he immediately saw something special.

“She matches just how I am,” Bagwell said. “She’s jubilant and gets pumped about everything, just like I do.”

They met during their freshman year at the Baptist Campus Ministry and have been dating for about four months.

Bagwell said nothing can destroy the relationship, not even the dirty looks they get because he’s black and she’s white.

“We brought it up a few times, because we know racism still exists,” he said. “But we chose each other, and we don’t pay attention to it ‘cause it’s not about them.”

Before they made it official, Bagwell felt compelled to take Kaufman to a dinner at home with his parents. He said they love her just as much as he does.

“They like her because she’s so unique and she laughs about the same things they laugh about,” he said.

Bagwell said Kaufman stole his heart; he swoons over everything about her from her outgoing personality and relationship with God to the snorting sound she makes when she laughs.

“I’ll have to take the heat for this, but she snorts, and I think it’s so cute,” Bagwell said.

They aren’t the only couple who delight in each other’s peculiarities.

Western graduate Dave Waymon, from Liberty, said his girlfriend, Henderson junior Darla Hayden, won him with her humor.

Hayden, whose grandmother is half-black and half-Irish, said she embraces interracial relationships.

“How could I not? It’s how I got here,” she said.

Though Hayden and Waymon were in the same business fraternity for months, they didn’t get to know each other until last April.

“It was always ‘hi’ and ‘bye’ with us,” Hayden said. “Then we were texting one day while I was at work, and I jokingly asked him to come get me, because it was raining, and I didn’t want to walk. He actually picked me up, and I thought, ‘He’s a really sweet guy.’”

Waymon is close to Hayden’s family. But she has yet to meet his family, who is white, even after almost a year.

“His mom knows my name. She doesn’t know my color,” Hayden said. “I’m just being patient.”

Despite not meeting his family, Hayden said her relationship with Waymon is a strong one — though not without friction.

“When we go out, there’s the typical ‘oh, separate checks?’ Like we can’t be together,” she said. “It’s annoying, and he can’t see it, but I think I can, because I was paranoid about it at first.”

Bagwell said he never had any concerns about dating Kaufman because her qualities were all that mattered. He advises other interracial couples to think the same.

“You’re always gonna be judged, but you and your significant other have a bond that no one else can break,” Bagwell said. “We understand that, and that’s how our relationship works.”

Pair bonds over love of sports

By TABITHA WAGGONER
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Though some romantic relationships end because of one person’s sports obsession, some relationships begin because of a mutual love of sports.

Cleveland, Ohio senior Kara Key and Ohio State University senior Danny Tarter are living proof.

It’s been official since Oct. 24, 2005 in the days where Tarter wore an A.J. Hawk Ohio State jersey and a Cleveland Indians baseball cap to every high school football game he went to with Key.

Their first date was an Indians game. As Key began to keep tabs with her scorecard, Tarter sat there watching her with “the dumbest smile on his face,” she said.

Key gets into basketball rivalries and Tarter wrings a towel or stress ball in anticipation while watching football. When Ohio State University loses a game, Key settles him down.

“The thing about Danny is, he won’t back down,” Key said.

She said it can be a little embarrassing for her but amusing too. If they fight, it’s over sports.

“Sometimes I think you can go a little too far,” she told Tarter.

“Like the time I yelled at [MLB outfielder] Jason Michaels and he turned around and looked at me?” Tarter said as he laughed.

They said they try to beat each other when it comes to finding out the latest scoop.

“He’ll call me and be like, did you know a 13-year-old committed to USC?” Key said.

They said others don’t understand how they never seem to get tired of sports.

“It’s always interesting when he’s in town,” says housemate Brianne Bohannon, a senior from Apex, N.C.

Since Key enjoys sports and Tarter doesn’t have to explain things to her, they have a great thing going for them, she said.

“That’s just what we do,” Key said. “I don’t think I ever get burnt out on going to games, but I think I can get burnt out just sitting there and watching games.”

Occasionally, they need to air it out.

“Sometimes we gotta go on normal dates,” she said. “He’ll say, ‘maybe we can go to dinner, then after we can watch the end of the Cavs game.’”

Key said she isn’t without romance. Dried-out bouquets and sports memorabilia hang alongside photos of her boyfriend in her room. She saves all her game ticket stubs.

“We’re always trying to remember the times we’re together,” she said.

On Valentine’s Day, Tarter will visit Key, and they will “go do romantic” stuff.

At the end of a game, 10 seconds can go by like lightning or as slowly as eternity.

For Key and Tarter, 10 days apart is an eternity and 10 days together disappears quickly. But they agreed that they’ve at least learned to play the game.
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