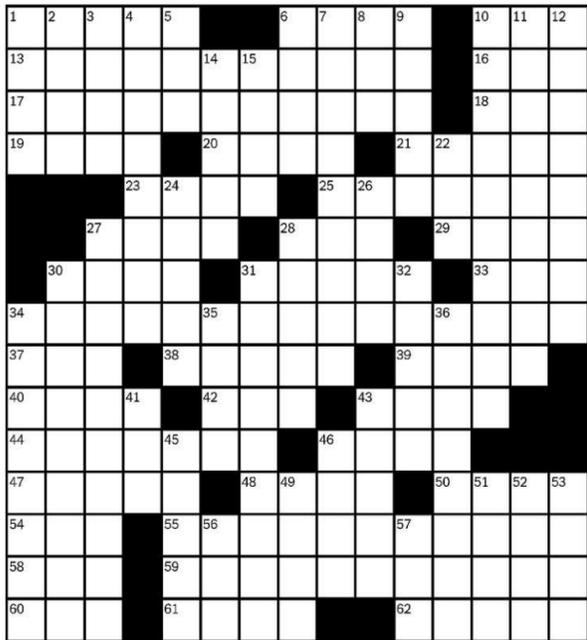


NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0322

- ACROSS**
- Something to deliver, with "the"
 - Toast, say
 - Name on a Chinese menu
 - Pie preference
 - Moved cross-country?
 - One of two in Mötley Crüe
 - Black church initials
 - Winter coat
 - Option for emphasis
 - 2020 sci-fi film with a palindromic title
 - Water-loving dogs, for short
 - Causes
 - Half of a Melville title
 - Aunt ("Bel-Air" role)
 - Place
 - Primary directive
 - Loses power
 - Cereal
 - Newly immigrated, say
 - July birthday celebrant
 - Staid
 - Tamil
 - India
 - Invalid
 - El Mundo article
 - Low-lying area
 - Go head-to-head
 - Something used to hunt and peck
 - Reserved
 - ___ Dutta, winner of the Miss Universe 2000 pageant
 - Light shade
 - Modeling software, familiarly
 - Petty person?
 - Stalemate
 - It's in the neighborhood
 - '60s peace org.
 - Indie pop duo
 - Sylvan



Puzzle by Mansi Kothari and Erik Agard 4/26

- The difference between who I was and who I am?
- Small storage space
- Some annual plans
- Publishing bigwigs, for short
- Assists on offense?
- Until now
- Sets of values
- Parts of windmills
- PowerPoint, perhaps
- Intricately
- Building block of life
- Festival closing act
- Southwest sch. known for its numerous online offerings
- One-named actress on "Parks and Recreation"
- Slogan on a blue, pink and white pin
- Inapt response when somebody says "Happy birthday!"
- presumably
- Scale range
- Icebreaker tidbits
- Go clubbing? "What's up?"
- Shortest of a group of 12
- Handed out
- Coming
- They may be AA or A
- Childish retort
- Tommy in the Hockey Hall of Fame
- Clears
- Ring bearer?
- Lowercase ones look like v's
- AP subj.

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE:



DEAR ANNIE
How to have fun beyond the party scene



BY ANNIE LANE
dearannie@creators.com

Dear Annie: I've always disliked house parties. During the first ones I'd been invited to, I had to leave early due to the loud music, vulgar dancing and drunk classmates — an environment that would only make me feel anxious. I thought this feeling would wear off and I'd eventually be able to integrate and have fun just like everyone else. However, after attending a couple more, I came to the realization that it's just not my thing and that I like to have fun in other ways. So, I began declining all house party invites with silly excuses. Because of that, I earned the reputation of being a boring and wearisome person. My high school days are over, and I am about to begin university. I know I will be invited to parties in the coming months. What would be a more assertive and confident way to decline all these invites? — 'Boring' Student in South America

Dear 'Boring': Embrace what makes you comfortable. A simple "No, thanks, that's not really my scene" is honest and assertive. Suggest an alternative way to hang out that aligns with

LEXIGO 4-26

Start at the double hexagon. Spell solutions to the clues below by winding your way through the grid. You can backtrack to use letters more than once. Each new word starts with the last letter of the previous word.

- Underworld groups G _ _ _ _
- Steam room _ _ _ _ _
- Rearranged word or phrase A _ _ _ _ _
- Oversee a process _ _ _ _ _
- Agreement to marry E _ _ _ _ _

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your interests. This shows you're open to socializing on your terms and helps others understand your preferences without having to make excuses or get caught up in a lie. Your university years can be a fresh start to find like-minded friends who respect your idea of fun.

Dear Annie: When I was in college, I dated someone for a year. It was great, and I respected and loved her. She went on to complete her studies, and I started working. We then went our separate ways, the reason being to give her more space to study and for me to get settled in my career. When I finally felt ready to settle, I tried to contact her again. When I called, her husband answered. I took it like a man and moved on, I thought. I had relationships after that, but it seems I never got over it because I can't get her out of my mind even at 57. I never got married and can't seem to find the right person. I know this sounds unfair, but no one else matches up to her. How do I get out of this hole? I can't settle for a relationship just to ease the pain. I prefer having female

friends, but nothing serious until I meet Mrs. Right, I hope. I hope she's happily married, and I don't think I yearn to rekindle with her. Is there perhaps another deep-seated reason for my predicament? — Crazy In Love

Dear Crazy In Love: You're dealing with unresolved feelings and idealizing a past relationship, which is quite common, especially after one as impactful as yours. The fact that no one seems to measure up to this woman, though, indicates that you're comparing all of your more recent relationships to an idealized version of her, rather than seeing each new person for their unique qualities, which, in turn, creates a barrier to forming new, meaningful connections. Reflect on what you truly miss about that relationship. Is it the companionship, shared interests, or simply the way you felt about yourself at the time? A good therapist can help you figure out why you're holding on to this history and develop strategies to open your heart to new love. Remember, it's about finding someone who fits with the person you are now, not who you were.



Kentucky athletics director Mitch Barnhart, left, speaks about Kenny Brooks during his introductory press conference as the Kentucky women's basketball coach last month. Since taking the UK job on March 26, Brooks has already radically altered the paradigm for the Kentucky program.

FROM PAGE 1B
STORY

century. "Obviously, we are going to have more size. We are going to try to surround them with some shooters so we can keep the floor spaced," Brooks said of Kentucky's new playing style on his debut radio show on the UK Sports Network on April 15. "We will play a little bit fast, but not typical, helter-skelter, up-and-down (tempo). "We are going to be very opportunistic in our tempo and transition. If we can push the ball and get an easy opportunity, we will. But when you have low-post presence, you want to wait for the bigs to get down the court." The other major change Brooks has already implemented at Kentucky is, for UK, a new-found ability to succeed on the international recruiting market. Of the nine players currently on the Wildcats 2024-25 roster, three are from outside the United States.

All-America point guard Georgia Amoore followed Brooks to Lexington from Virginia Tech. She will become the most-accomplished player to wear Kentucky blue and white since Rhyme Howard exited after the 2022 season. Amoore is a product of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. She will be joined at UK by incoming junior-college transfer Amelia Hassett, a 6-3 forward from Albury, New South Wales Australia, and Silva, a native of Faro, Portugal. It is not as if Kentucky hasn't had good players from outside the United States. Ex-UK star Evelyn Akhator, a native of Lagos, Nigeria, was the No. 3 overall pick in the 2017 WNBA draft, after all. Previously, however, UK has not been as consistently able to attract top international prospects as it needed to be. The ability to recruit internationally is vital in women's college hoops. Simply put, there are not enough elite American players to go around — and the top, home-grown prospects have tended to congregate at the already-established programs.

One way to bridge that gap is to seek the top players from across the globe. In this season's NCAA Tournament, there were a combined seven international players on the rosters of the teams that reached the Final Four. On his radio program, Brooks credited one of the assistant coaches who has accompanied him to Kentucky from Virginia Tech, Radvile Autukaite, with opening up the international recruiting market. A former member of Lithuania's national teams at various age levels, Autukaite "does a phenomenal job internationally," Brooks said. "Look at our roster, you see sprinkles of international. She's responsible for that." So, already, Brooks has built a UK roster in which 66.7% of the Wildcats players now stand 6-foot-1 or taller and 33.3% are from outside the United States. It took the coach one month to create what seems very much a new day in Kentucky women's basketball. *Mark Story: 859-444-4731, @markstory*

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