

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: My daughter got married in a friend's backyard three months ago. Her husband built an arch for the ceremony. He spent \$285 on some very nice walnut, and they planned to keep it forever.

With my daughter's consent, my wife loaned it to a niece of hers. The arch was broken and thrown out. We found this out only after weeks of requesting that we get it back. They have offered to pay the \$285, but without even a "sorry."

My daughter is extremely angry at my wife and the niece and her husband. I need words to console my wife and daughter. This has caused a deep emotional schism in our family.

— *Wedding Mess in Arizona*

Dear Mess: It is time to talk to your daughter about priorities. Because of her deep emotional attachment to the arch her now-husband created for their wedding, her anger and hurt are justifiable.

That the niece and her husband not only damaged it but threw it away like a piece of garbage was terrible. That they not only didn't apologize, but also failed to recognize the sentimental value of the arch is shocking. (At least they offered to reimburse the cost of the wood.) However, for your daughter to blame your wife for the niece's carelessness is wrong.

It takes strength of character to forgive. This does not mean your daughter must forget what happened and how poorly it was handled. In the uncertain times we are experiencing, relationships and family unity are primary. I hope that, with time, your

daughter and her husband will realize this and repair the rift while recognizing the niece's shortcomings in the future. ("Neither a borrower nor a lender be...")

Dear Abby: At the end of last year, I sat down with my parents hoping that maybe we could approach the new year with a fresh start. One short month into the new year, my mother is back at it again, ridiculing me and making me feel like no matter what I do, it will never be good enough for her.

I have reached the end of my rope. I'm tired of dealing with the constant cycle of emotional abuse. I have overcome much in my life, and I'm proud of myself for it. During times when I struggle, I reflect on how much. I keep pushing myself forward, but at this point, I'm just tired.

I have considered distancing myself, but the recent loss of my grandfather hit me hard. I have been leaning on my family to keep myself going, so I'm in a pickle.

— *Hurt, Stunned and Tired in New York*

Dear H.S.T.: You may never be able to have what you want from your mother, not because there is something wrong with you, but because she has proven herself incapable of being supportive.

For understanding and the emotional support you are seeking, consider contacting your clergyperson (if you have one) or the officiant at your grandfather's funeral and asking about joining a grief support group. If you do, you may find the support you need while at the same time keeping safely at a distance from your mother.

BIDEN PRESIDENCY | CABINET HEARINGS



Dough Mills/New York Times file

President Barack Obama walks out with Judge Merrick Garland to introduce him as his Supreme Court nominee in March 2016 at the White House. Garland, who never received a hearing in the Senate for the 2016 court vacancy, is back before lawmakers — this time as President Joe Biden's choice for attorney general.

Snubbed as Obama court pick, Garland in line for a Biden job

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The last time Merrick Garland was nominated by the White House for a job, Republicans wouldn't even meet with him.

Now, the once-snubbed Supreme Court pick will finally come before the Senate, this time as President Joe Biden's choice for attorney general. Garland, an appeals court judge, is widely expected to sail through his confirmation process, which begins Monday before the Democratic-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee, with bipartisan support.

"Judge Garland's extensive legal experience makes him well-suited to lead the Department of Justice, and I appreciated his commitment to keep politics out of the Justice Department," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said in a statement. "Unless I hear something new, I expect to support his nomination before the full Senate."

DOJ's new direction

Biden's choice of Garland reflects the president's goal of restoring the department's reputation as an independent body. During his four years as president, Donald Trump had insisted that the attorney general must be loyal to him personally, a position that battered the department's reputation. Garland's high court nomination by President Barack Obama in 2016 died because the Republican-controlled Senate refused to hold a hearing.

Garland will inherit a Justice Department that endured a tumultuous time under Trump — rife with political drama and controversial decisions — and abundant criticism from Democrats over what they saw as the politicizing of the nation's top law enforcement agencies.

The department's priorities and messaging are expected to shift drastically in the Biden administration, with a focus more on civil rights issue, criminal justice overhauls and policing policies in the wake of nationwide protests over the death of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement.

Garland plans to tell senators the department must ensure laws are "fairly and faithfully enforced" and the rights of all Americans are protected, while reaffirming an adherence to policies to protect its political independence, with the attorney general acting as a lawyer for the American people, not for the president. The Justice Department late on Saturday released a copy of Garland's opening statement.

Garland will also confront immediate challenges, including the criminal tax investigation into Biden's son, Hunter, and

No shortage of challenges facing the Justice Department

Merrick Garland, 68, is an experienced judge who held senior positions at the Justice Department decades ago, including as a supervisor in the prosecution of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. But he is set to return to a department that is radically different from the one he left. His experience prosecuting domestic terrorism cases could prove exceptionally handy now.

Garland probably will face pressure from civil rights groups to end the federal death penalty after an unprecedented run of capital punishment during the Trump administration. Thirteen federal executions were carried out in six months, and they became superspreaders during the coronavirus pandemic.

There could be questions, too, about the department's handling of a federal criminal and civil rights investigation examining whether members of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration intentionally manipulated data about nursing home coronavirus deaths.

even though some privately questioned the gambit.

It was a huge political risk. Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton was ahead in most polls and could have easily nominated someone more liberal than Garland had she won the White House. But she did not, Trump did and Republicans were elated as they voted to confirm Neil Gorsuch as a justice a year later. The bet later paid off unexpected returns as the Senate remained in Republican hands for the next four years and Trump had the opportunity to nominate two additional conservative justices, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, reshaping the political balance of the court.

Before the high court drama, Garland had been repeatedly praised by some Republicans as exactly the sort of moderate nominee they could support.

The criticism, such as it was, came from liberals, who had hoped Obama would pick someone more progressive, or diverse, than Garland. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, then seeking the 2016 nomination against Clinton, said he wouldn't have chosen Garland. Liberal activist groups were tepid in their support.

Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., was one of a handful of senators who met with Garland, but didn't budge from his position that a president should not choose a Supreme Court nominee in an election year. Graham reversed course when his party had the chance, ramming through Coney Barrett's nomination in record time during a global pandemic with just weeks to go before the 2020 election, which his party then lost.

'A man of great character'

Graham said in a tweet that Garland would be a "sound choice" to lead the Justice Department. "He is a man of great character, integrity and tremendous competency in the law."

Garland is a white man; two other members of the Justice Department leadership, Vanita Gupta and Kristen Clarke, are women with significant experience in civil rights. Their selections appeared designed to blunt any concerns about Biden's choice for attorney general and served as a signal that progressive causes would be prioritized in the new administration.

The new chairman of the Senate committee handling the nomination, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said Garland was well deserving of the post.

"And in light of his past treatment of the United States Senate, his day before the microphones is long overdue," Durbin said.

calls from some Democrats to investigate Trump, especially after thousands of pro-Trump rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 as Congress was meeting to certify Biden's electoral win. Garland, in his prepared remarks for the Senate committee, calls the insurrection a "heinous attack that sought to distrust a cornerstone of our democracy: the peaceful transfer of power to a newly elected government."

A special counsel's inquiry started by William Barr, while he was attorney general, into the origins of the Trump-Russia investigation also remains open. It will be up to Garland to decide what to make public from that report.

No hearing in 2016

Garland was at the center of a political firestorm five years ago as part of a Republican gamble that eventually shaped the future of the Supreme Court. As Obama's nominee to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia, who had died unexpectedly in February 2016, Garland was considered to be a moderate choice and generally well liked by senators.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said hours after Scalia's death that he would not consider any Obama nominee — and that the voters should decide by picking a new president that November. McConnell's entire caucus went along. Many declined even to meet with Garland,

WORLD BRIEFING

Libyan interior minister survives attack on motorcade

The motorcade of the interior minister of Libya's U.N.-backed government came under attack Sunday in the capital, Tripoli, officials said.

Armed men opened fire at Fathi Bashagha's motorcade on a highway in Tripoli, wounding at least one of his guards, said Amin al-Hashmi, a spokesman for the Tripoli-based Health Ministry. He said the minister survived the attack and his guards chased the assailants, killing one and detaining two others.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, which underscores the insecurity in the North African country.

The U.S. ambassador in Libya, Richard Norland, condemned the attack and called for an investigation to hold those responsible accountable.

Oil-rich Libya was plunged into chaos

after a 2011 NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The country has been divided between two governments, one in the east and another in the west, each backed by a vast array of militias as well as foreign powers.

Earlier this month, a U.N.-picked body comprised of Libyans from both sides appointed an interim government — a three-member Presidential Council and a prime minister — to lead the country through elections, scheduled for Dec. 24.

Nazi guard deported from Tennessee

A Tennessee man has been sent back to Germany for his role in acts of persecution while serving as an armed guard at a Nazi concentration camp in 1945, the U.S. Department of Justice said Saturday.

Friedrich Karl Berger, 95, was found removable to Germany after a two-day trial

in February 2020. His service as an armed guard at an outpost of the Neuengamme camp near Meppen in western Germany constituted assistance in Nazi-sponsored persecution, the department said in a statement.

Prisoners at the camp included "Jews, Poles, Russians, Danes, Dutch, Latvians, French, Italians, and political opponents" of the Nazis, the DOJ said. At least 42,900 people died at Neuengamme and its satellite camps.

Berger is the 70th Nazi persecutor removed from the U.S., according to the Justice Department, which said it has won cases against 109 people since the government began a program to find, investigate and deport Nazi collaborators in 1979.

According to the department, Berger admitted to preventing prisoners from escaping during outdoor forced labor in the winter of 1945.

— *Bulletin wire reports*

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, FEB. 22, 2021: Unselfish, idealistic and dedicated, you turn your spotlight out on the world, illuminating worthy goals. This year, an angel helps you turn a dream into a reality, and you're very successful. Magnetic, you attract followers. If single, don't be so overcritical. You lose a love interest this way. The very end of next year, you meet The One. If attached, you're tight and as happy as clams. TAURUS hangs in there.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Today brings changes at work. You will plan leisure or vacation activities but should fulfill responsibilities related to home and family life first. Loyalty and what it really means to you is an issue. Tonight: Your career path starts to take a new direction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You have a deeper understanding of the psyche of a sibling. Keep relations with neighbors peaceful. An organized schedule helps you release stress. This is an active day with many projects in progress. Tonight: You are learning a great deal in regard to life experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Today emphasizes appreciation of possessions. You add to a collection or find a treasure. If you need a new garment or piece of jewelry, you can locate the perfect item now. Browsing online is an appealing pastime. Tonight: Serious talk with a family member.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your charm carries you a long way today. The pleasant impression you're projecting opens doors to preferences you've long deserved. An old friend puts in a kind word. You can combine friendly interaction with business matters. Tonight: Your kind of night.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ Today makes you sympathetic and helpful, but also more emotional than usual. You'll put changes on hold and recognize a temporary need for conformity. Get extra rest and be patient with yourself. Tonight: Old memories are strong. Try some journaling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Today is the start of a tremendous growth and opportunity cycle. Your standard of living is about to improve. Be alert to opportunities for promotion. Believe in yourself and try new projects. Tonight: Breaking counterproductive old habits from the past.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Today places your professional reputation under scrutiny. Be absolutely sure of details. Take a moment to verify and check the facts. Little annoyances clear up magically, and you enjoy a productive time. Tonight: A new and very important career contact is made.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You'll be inventive, communicate well, and can initiate improvements at work. Your willingness to experiment impresses the right people. Specific potentials come to light. Share scientific and metaphysical concepts. Tonight: Let friends know and celebrate a day well done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You will find ways to fulfill a cherished dream. Today allows you to show others your potential. Opportunities come. It's also a good time to make decisions about personal matters and health care. Tonight: Delighting in artistic or spiritual growth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ There are tremendous opportunities and an avalanche of ideas and projects. You might feel overwhelmed. Try not to take on too much. You realize that everyone needs a great deal from you. Tonight: Avoid a partner who has been a disappointment in the past.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Accept what you feel is inevitable. Resist the temptation to complain about routine chores and count your blessings. Health and fitness are a focus. Don't postpone a dentist appointment if it's needed. Tonight: Look at competitors as motivating influences to inspire you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You'll enjoy gambles and intriguing risks. Adventurous leisure activities have appeal. Regarding love, you'll seek a situation that is thrilling rather than safe and secure. Business takes a back seat to social and creative interests. Tonight: Too much time online.