

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: I work as a receptionist in a small medical office. I love my job, but I cannot tolerate when my co-workers make fun of our patients.

Sometimes it happens while the patients are still in the exam rooms, maybe within earshot. Even the doctor contributes to this crudeness.

Some examples: "Did you see the size of that guy's nose?" or, "What's with the color of her hair?" or, "He smells like he hasn't had a bath in weeks."

This goes on throughout the day every day. Is there anything I can do or say to change this mindset? We have great patients.

— *At a Loss for Words*

Dear At a Loss: The person who's responsible for the lack of respect for the patients is your employer, the doctor.

If this is happening sometimes within earshot of the patients, I am, frankly, shocked that he or she has a medical practice.

There is nothing you can do to change the culture in that environment.

Because it upsets you — and I can certainly see why it would — you might be happier working for another doctor.

Dear Abby: My daughter "Tiffany" is 12. Her best friend, "Wendy," lives down the block.

We are good friends with her parents.

How do I put this: Wendy is a thief. She has no impulse control.

When she comes over, she helps herself to whatever is lying around, mostly candy and trinkets. For this reason,

we no longer allow friends into our children's rooms.

Recently, another item went missing, and my daughter spotted it at Wendy's house.

I told her she should say something and take it back, but she is shy.

I want to say something to the parents, but I'm afraid it will ruin our friendship. I don't think the mother knows her daughter does these things. Any ideas?

— *Sticky Fingers*

Dear Sticky Fingers: If the shoe was on the other foot and your daughter was stealing things from her friends' homes, wouldn't you want to know what was going on so you could deal with it?

Talk to Wendy's mother! Tell her you don't want to spoil a friendship you treasure, but Wendy has a problem she needs to know about.

If you ignore it, the problem will only escalate.

Dear Abby: Would you please settle an argument between my husband and me? One of us thinks it's OK to dry our everyday dishes with the same dish towel we clean our dog's bowl with.

The bowl is first rinsed with soap and water then wiped with the dish towel.

One of us thinks it's disgusting.

The other disagrees. Would you wash your dishes with said towel?

— *Curious in Kettering, Ohio*

Dear Curious: Although the dish may be perfectly clean after being washed with soap and water, because of the "ick" factor, I sure wouldn't.

NBA | PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

Simons making case for more playing time

BY AARON FENTRESS

The Oregonian

Anfernee Simons sank his ninth 3-pointer in nine tries at the 10:35 mark of the fourth quarter during the Portland Trail Blazers' 133-112 win Tuesday night at Indiana.

Only seconds later, Simons again had the ball in his hands while needing one more to tie the NBA record for 3s made without a miss in a single game. Simons brought the ball up the court in transition and after taking four steps past halfcourt, launched a deep shot.

"I just wanted to see how hot I was and see if I was going to miss tonight," Simons said.

The shot clanked off the back of the rim, leaving Simons at 9 of 10 on 3-pointers. His nine consecutive 3s without a miss fell one short of the NBA record, but broke a franchise record previously held by Terry Porter, with seven.

Simons finished with a game-high 27 points and added four assists. He made one 3 in the first quarter, three in each of the next two quarters, and two in the fourth.

"That would have been nice had that last one gone in," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "He had a special night."

Simons is enjoying the best season of his three-year career, averaging 8.2 points and shooting 44.4% from deep. But his playing time has been inconsistent, other than when C.J. McCollum missed 25 games with a broken foot.

Simons didn't play a single minute on April 13 during a loss to Boston, and four times this month he has played fewer than 10 minutes. But he has consistently played well, shooting 50% from the field in April and 52.8% on 3s.

Even before Tuesday night, Simons was 19 of 43 (44.2%) from long range in April. That's by far better than the team's top three guards, Damian Lillard (35.9%), McCollum (35.7%) and Norman Powell (28.6%).

Lillard, a mentor to Simons, said the two often talk at night after practices or games.

"I just got a lot of confidence in him," Lillard said. "I know how talented he is. I know how much ability he has. When he gets in those positions, I'm just always trying to encourage him to keep going. Don't be shy. Don't worry about what people might think."

Simons' immense talent, Lillard said, demands that he is allowed opportunities to flourish and to be encouraged to keep firing.

"We've got to allow him to



Craig Mitchell/derby/AP file

Portland Trail Blazers' Anfernee Simons (1) shoots over Memphis Grizzlies' Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) on Friday night in Portland.

grow into that," Lillard said. "I think moments like tonight kind of play into that. When you just allow him to experience that. He got hot."

Simons said he realized he was on fire after the first 3 he hit in the second half.

"After that, I felt like it didn't matter who was contesting and how close they were, if I was able to get it off, I knew it was going to go in," Simons said. "So, it was a good night for me."

Shooting clearly isn't what's costing Simons minutes, and he

said he has been working on influencing games in other ways because he knows the team has plenty of scorers. Areas where he remains raw are on defense and as a playmaker.

Defensively, Simons grades out poorly. However, those numbers are improved from where they were a month ago.

As for his passing skills, Simons made several quality passes Tuesday to open players from a variety of angles that didn't result in assists but kept the offense moving.

It is a skill Simons said he has been working hard to develop.

"Last year I had trouble seeing the court fully," Simons said. "But I think last summer and then going into training camp, and kind of working on that stuff, opened up my mind. I think it's been helping me out a lot. Just keeping the defense honest and not getting caught up in trying to score, I think it's going to open up my game a lot by seeing the passing plays as well."

Sewell

Continued from A5

It's never fair to the players and just like when former Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert was questioned about his leadership last year Sewell as been tagged with "maturity concerns" because, well, he's 20 and is a fun-loving guy off the field.

"NFL draft comes out and all these scouts and teams want to do is look at guys' shortcomings instead of what they put on tape," Ducks offensive line coach Alex Mirabal said. "I would trust what they put on tape because if not Justin Herbert is going to happen all over again for all those teams that bypassed him. I believe the same thing with Penei. Him and Trevor Lawrence are the best players in the country hands down and then you can fight for whoever you want third and I don't care if you need a quarterback. If you need a quarterback you better take a darn left tackle who's going to protect him."

Mirabal freely admits he's biased towards Sewell, but it doesn't make him wrong.

"If you just say Penei at the end of that sentence should be greatness," said George Moore, Sewell's backup and successor at left tackle.

"He was probably the best player I've ever seen in my life play football. Him and (former quarterback) Justin (Herbert), he was different. It's so hard to explain. Everybody has seen it; the whole world

"(Penei Sewell) was probably the best player I've ever seen in my life play football. ... He was different."

— **George Moore, Oregon Ducks offensive lineman**

has seen Penei play and everything he did from the way he approached the game to the way he changed his body that first year when we came back. His mindset, he was a different dog.

"I don't think I'll ever prob-

ably see a player like that again face-to-face. He was different."

In an offensive line room full of older and more experienced players in fellow starters Shane Lemieux, Jake Hanson, Calvin Throckmorton, Brady Aiello and Dallas Warmack, Sewell

commanded Oregon's offensive front.

"On gameday it was Sewell's team and they knew it and they respected it," Mirabal said. "I think he's unbelievable, phenomenal and whatever team the offensive line coach who takes him is going to be blessed."

An NFL team could be adding a foundational pillar of its franchise for years to come.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021: Steady, confident and helpful, you've come to realize that making positive changes will open doors. This year, you need to protect yourself from self-doubt and excess humility. A deeper involvement in your community will lift your spirits. If single, an exotic type will catch your eye and win your heart. If attached, make sure you and your partner are on the same page. LEO shows you how to have fun.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Teach a colleague something that gives you both a sense of mastery. Sharing what you know with someone you respect makes you more confident in your abilities. You'll feel deeply satisfied after an intellectual conversation. Tonight: Imagine your fantasy vacation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Dig deeper into a conversation, and you'll get past the superficial level in your relationship. Ask questions that show your need to understand. Friends and lovers appreciate feeling as though you really want to hear them. Tonight: Practice an instrument.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Make a fun experience much more memorable by sharing it with your life partner or your best friend. Try to stay focused on being in the moment with just that one other person. Avoid distractions. Tonight: Share a deep secret.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Dig into physical exercise that makes you feel awake and alive. Eating right helps you keep your body running at its best. Treat yourself to healthy habits that improve every facet of your life. Tonight: Crossword puzzle or word game.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Don't even try to contain your high spirits today. Plans for a future party or even a delicious date will fuel your cheerful, generous attitude. Don't push a friend into a social circle. Tonight: Make your own fun at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Home and family attract your attention now. Call a lonely relative or friend. Your voice will make them light up. Buy a colorful pillow or throw rug to bring warm weather joy into your home. Tonight: Get cozy on the couch.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep an eye on your email and news feeds. A message or story that touches your heart will make your day. Get in touch with old neighbors and find out how they're doing. You'll make them smile. Tonight: Gathering after dinner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Buy an item you've been ogling for some time. Quality means more to you than anything, so don't settle for less than the top of the line. Someone who loves you might offer a gift of appreciation. Tonight: Quiet moments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ A needy friend could reach out for help. Avoid getting dragged into someone else's drama since it is not the first time. Focus on what you want and treat yourself to it. Make today all about you. Tonight: Get a massage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Retreat from a social obligation that just seems like too much noise. You'll get much more out of alone time. Meditate and relax. When you rest your mind, inspiring ideas bubble up. Take good notes. Tonight: Listen to soft music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Seek out friends who share your passions. Whether it's just for fun or in support of a meaningful purpose, gathering with a group makes it even better. Be ready for a lucky break. Tonight: Watch a comedy special.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ It's time for your moment in the spotlight. Humble to a fault, you don't always like to take credit for your good deeds. This time it's different. Let influential individuals see what you can do. Tonight: Update your professional profile.

DON'T MISS
THIS WEEKEND'S
ISSUE

