

## DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** I am in a rock band with some friends. All of us are in our 50s and 60s. We have been playing together for the last three years. Last year, our bass player joined another band (while staying in ours) because another friend was in it, but they broke up because of COVID. Now that music venues are opening up again, he has joined yet another group.

I'm a loyal guy, and it bothers me that he doesn't seem as loyal to our band. He says he can easily do both, but for me, it causes booking issues because the other band will be blocking out dates that we might be able to book. I see no other conflicts. He even asked if I was interested in joining the other band, too, because he figured that if he can't be in two places at once, it might as well be both of us. Should we cut our losses and replace him? Loyalty is really important to us.

— *Rocking On in Texas*

**Dear Rocking On:** Because you feel that loyalty is paramount and your friend may have scheduling conflicts because of his participation with the other band(s), yes, he should be replaced with a musician you can rely on.

**Dear Abby:** I have a friend who feels a need to correct the behavior of others by writing letters. There are not too many businesses around town that haven't received one of her letters and, no doubt, others in her circle of friends have, too.

After a misunderstanding-

ing for which I apologized, I received one of them. Because she lacks understanding or the ability to forgive, a vitriolic diatribe came my way. In her letter, she related past "unfortunate (in her opinion) ill behaviors on my part for which I should be ashamed." Then she ended a friendship we had for many years without trying to mend the relationship. This is very hurtful for me, and I'm sure for others. How does one respond, if at all, to something like this?

— *Suffering in Michigan*

**Dear Suffering:** One does not respond. One copes by recognizing that the only person this unhappy woman is punishing is herself, as her circle of friends diminishes and businesses around town no longer welcome her.

**Dear Abby:** My wife recently asked me if she could take off her wedding ring in favor of wearing her mother's, which is much larger than the one I gave her. I regard it as a lack of respect for our marriage, which has been under a lot of stress for a long time. (No affairs.) I also view it as symbolic of how much she has financially sacrificed being married to me. What do you think?

— *Wondering in the East*

**Dear Wondering:** I "think" you should tell your wife it would hurt you deeply if she follows through, and why. I also think the time has come for the two of you to talk about what is "stressing" your marriage with a licensed marriage and family therapist.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Memphis Grizzlies' Ja Morant (12) shoots against the Golden State Warriors Friday. Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young reacts during Sunday's game against the New York Knicks. Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic shoots against the Los Angeles Clippers Saturday.

AP photos



## Mickelson

Continued from A5

"Until I actually did it," Mickelson said, "there was a lot of doubt."

Never mind that he had gone two years without winning on the PGA Tour, eight years since winning a major, nine months since playing a final round on tour that mattered. The physical part wasn't an issue. This was more about the mind, and it deeply concerned him.

It was only three weeks ago that Mickelson spoke of mental lapses during a round that was costing him careless bogeys, keeping him from contending or even making the cut.

"I don't have a great solution right now," he said after missing the cut in the Valspar Championship. "But I'm working on it."

He found the answer.

Some of the shots he hit Sunday were exquisite, whether it was the pitch-and-run from behind the second green to a back pin that led to birdie or his 7-iron into the wind and over an expansive waste area to start the back nine with a birdie for a four-shot lead.

Through it all, Mickelson kept his head in the game. He walked slowly. Except for a few lapses to be expected of anyone in such testing conditions as Kiawah, he didn't hit a shot until he had a clear picture of what it was supposed to look like.

"It's very exciting because I've had a few breakthroughs on being able to stay more present, be able to stay more focused, and physically, I'm striking it and playing as well as I ever have, but I haven't been able to see that clear picture," Mickelson said.

Most telling was what he shared going into the weekend about trying to find more length, not with his driver but with his concentration.

"I might try to play 36, 45 holes a day and try to focus on each shot so that when I go out and play 18, it doesn't feel like it's that much," Mickelson said. "I might try to elongate the time that I end up meditating, but I'm trying to use my mind like a muscle and just expand it because as I've gotten older, it's been more difficult for me to maintain a sharp focus, a good visualization and see the shot."

"Physically, I feel like I'm able to perform and hit the shots that I've hit throughout my career, and I feel like I can do it every bit as well as I have," he said. "But I've got to have that clear picture and focus."

His brother was an enormous help. Tim Mickelson, the former golf coach at Arizona State, became his caddie four years ago and knew what buttons to push over the weekend.

"It's trying not to overthink things," Tim Mickelson said. "We'll talk about a shot 200 yards away and I'd say, 'Let's worry about it once we get there.' I told him to keep his mind quiet, not think about

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— Phil Mickelson

anything until it was time to hit the shot."

The concentration lapses are only natural for someone who now has PGA Tour victories 30 years apart — no one in tour history has done that — and for a player who loves to compete at age 50 as much as he did when he was 20.

Confidence has never been an issue for Mickelson. It stems

from the joy of competing. Steve Stricker was reminded of that when they arrived at Kiawah Island for a money game on Monday — Stricker and Mickelson against Zach Johnson and Will Zalatoris.

"Phil and I were 3 up after three and he said it loud enough so everybody could hear, 'You know, Strick, I thought we'd be up more at

this point.' And we were 3 up after three," Stricker said. "Typical Phil. He still has a tremendous amount of desire to compete at this level, and that's why he's doing it."

Mickelson is scheduled to play at Colonial this week. The U.S. Open — the one major he lacks for the career Grand Slam — is a month away. Mickelson originally needed an exemption for the U.S. Open. Now he can play through 2025, unless he wins another major.

Would winning another be a surprise given his endless supply of desire?

"I think the best players in the world, I think they all have that," his brother said. "Phil has just carried that on for 35 years. He just loves golf. When he's at home, he's still playing almost every single day. It never stops for him."

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Georgia Nicols*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

**MOON ALERT:** Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. EDT today (2 p.m. to 8 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Scorpio into Sagittarius.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021:** You have a quick wit and a fabulous imagination. You are caring and compassionate, and you have an organized, analytical mind. You have a strong sense of justice. Your year ahead will be wonderful because now you will begin to reap the benefit of your previous actions in the past nine years. Expect kudos and applause! You will also exercise more power this year.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★Relations with others are passionate and intense! Something might occur that actually has a therapeutic effect on your relationship by releasing hidden energies that might have weakened the ties between you. Tonight: Learn something new!

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★Today you will do whatever you can to get at the true meaning of your feelings for a partner, spouse or close friend. You want to get to the bottom of things. You want to bring things to the surface so you can deal with them. "Is that you, Siggys?" (Oh yes, Freud was a Taurus.) Tonight: Expect a favor.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★You'll find it rewarding to get down to basics to improve something today. This could be related to your health or about your job. You want to tidy up things so you feel better organized and more on top of your game. Tonight: Enjoy good times with others.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★Romance is passionate today! This is because passions are running high. When talking to others, you will want to experience life at a profound level — nothing superficial. Superficial is for other people; today you are special. Tonight: Your health is vigorous.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★It will please you to tidy up at home today. Make changes, especially short-term changes like cleaning, repairing and reorganizing things. At least get everything in neat, tidy piles. Note: If you put out fresh flowers you don't have to dust. Tonight: Socialize and schmooze!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★You might be obsessed about something today to the point that you lose track of everything else. If you can channel this focus of concentration, you will get a lot done. If you can't channel it, you are at its mercy. Tonight: Entertain at home.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★"Show me the money!" Your thoughts about your possessions and your earnings are not casual today. You have specific ideas about what you want to do with what you own. You definitely want to make it work for you. Tonight: you feel optimistic!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with your ruler Pluto, which triggers a love of mysteries in you. You will enjoy reading a good mystery novel or delving into anything that is mysterious or hidden. You see the subtext of things. Tonight: Trust your moneymaking ideas.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★You want to withdraw from the busyness of the world around you so you can explore hidden knowledge or look for deep answers about who you really are. It feels like this is a kind of day where, if you look hard enough, you will find something. Tonight: You're happy!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★If you're talking to a friend today, you want to get right down to the nitty-gritty of things. You want to know what really makes this friendship tick. What are the variables at play? What needs do you each fill for each other? Tonight: Life feels secure.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★Because you are prone to obsessive, compulsive thinking today, tread carefully when dealing with bosses, parents or the police. It is in your best interests to be more open-minded and receptive to what they have to say. Tonight: Socialize with friends.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★Today you are curious about hidden knowledge and attracted to information about astrology, psychology, supernatural phenomena and anything that explores the unknown. You want the big answers to the big questions. (Like what's the best volumizing shampoo?) Tonight: VIPs like you!



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