

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 wife has been away for a while caring for her ill parents. Because I was alone, I decided to experiment with wearing women's clothes and found that I really enjoyed wearing leggings. They make very comfortable pajamas. I also found that sports bras not only provide compression that feels good, but also serve a purpose because I have rather enlarged breasts. Should I hide everything and put away my leggings and bras, or should I let her in on some of my secrets?

— *Dressed Up In California*
Dear Dressed Up: I'm not sure what other "secrets" you have been hiding, but if they involve cross-dressing, you're not the only man who has discovered he enjoys wearing women's clothes. Your reasons for wanting to wear a sports bra and leggings seem practical. I see no reason to try to hide it from your wife.

Dear Abby: I'm a widow. I totaled my car four months ago and asked a friend, "Stan," for the type of help my husband would have provided. Stan was great and did so much. I felt bad he refused my offer of money, so one day I took him out to lunch.

A few weeks later, he invited me to dinner and took me to my favorite steakhouse. He and his longtime girlfriend were parting ways because she was selling her home and moving to live with her son. We started going out to eat once or twice a week.

Abby, after two months, he disappeared! I think I fell in love with him without even realizing it. Now he's gone every weekend, and I'm in so much pain. How could

I fall in love so easily?

— *Wasn't Expecting That*
Dear Wasn't Expecting: You were vulnerable, and Stan was there and seemed willing to step in and fill the void left by your husband's death. That's how you fell in love with someone who was, I assume, a longtime trusted friend.

Stan may have met someone, have other commitments or felt unready to make one with you. That he hasn't given you a reason for his disappearance is disappointing, but it happens. Please don't beat yourself up over this. You did nothing wrong. These disappointments are a part of life.

Dear Abby: I've been married to a verbally abusive woman for 49 years. To the outside world she seems perfect, but behind closed doors she's nasty. She overreacts angrily to the tiniest problem and jumps down my throat when I ask her the simplest question. She complains about my poor memory and hearing. I am 75 and in good shape except for a belly, which she often makes fun of. I have recommended couples therapy, but she refuses to go. Please help me.

— *Exhausted In Arizona*
Dear Exhausted: Therapy would be a good idea. Because your wife refuses to go, it might benefit you to talk to a mental health professional. While it won't solve her problems, it could help you get to the bottom of yours. Chief among them would be figuring out the reason you have tolerated your wife's abuse for nearly half a century, and deciding what, if anything, to do about it. Please don't wait.

TODAY
IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 2022. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On **Sept. 21**, 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

In **1792**, the French National Convention voted to abolish the monarchy.

In **1937**, "The Hobbit," by J.R.R. Tolkien, was first published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. of London.

In **1938**, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England, causing widespread damage and claiming some 700 lives.

In **1957**, the legal mystery-drama "Perry Mason," starring Raymond Burr, premiered on CBS-TV.

In **1961**, the first Boeing CH-47 Chinook military helicopter made its first hovering flight.

In **1973**, the U.S. Senate confirmed Henry Kissinger to be Secretary of State.

In **1982**, NFL players began a 57-day strike, their first regular-season walkout ever.

In **1985**, in North Korea and South Korea, family members who had been separated for decades were allowed to visit each other as both countries opened their borders in an unprecedented family-reunion program.

In **1989**, Hurricane Hugo crashed into Charleston, South Carolina. Twenty-one students in Alton, Texas, died when their school bus, hit by a soft-drink delivery truck, careened into a water-filled pit.

In **1996**, President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act denying federal recognition of same-sex marriages, a day after saying the law should not be used as an excuse for discrimination, violence or intimidation against gays and lesbians. (Although never formally repealed, DoMA was effectively overturned by U.S. Supreme Court decisions in 2013 and 2015.)

In **2001**, Congress again opened the federal coffers to those harmed by terrorism, providing \$15 billion to the airline industry, which was suffering mounting economic losses since the Sept. 11 attacks.

In **2011**, Josh Fattal and Shane Bauer, two Americans jailed in Iran as spies, left Tehran for the Gulf state of Oman, closing a high-profile drama that brought more than two years of hope and heartbreak for their families. The state of Texas executed Lawrence Russell Brewer for his role in the gruesome dragging death of James Byrd Jr.

Ten years ago: A man was bitten multiple times after leaping from a monorail into a tiger exhibit at the Bronx Zoo in New York.

Five years ago: Millions on Puerto Rico faced the prospect of weeks or months without power in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly to discuss the ongoing crisis involving North Korea. Facebook said it would provide congressional investigators with the contents of 3,000 ads that had been bought by a Russian agency; it had already released the ads to federal authorities investigating Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election.

One year ago: A coroner confirmed that human remains found in remote northern Wyoming were those of Gabby Petito, a 22-year-old who disappeared while on a cross-country road trip with a boyfriend, Brian Laundrie. (Laundrie's body would be found in a Florida swamp in October; the FBI later said he had admitted killing Petito in a notebook that was discovered near his body.)

Today's Birthdays: Author-comedian Fannie Flagg is 81. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer is 79. Musician Don Felder is 75. Author Stephen King is 75. Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore is 73. Actor-comedian Bill Murray is 72. Movie producer-writer Ethan Coen is 65. Actor-comedian Dave Coulier is 63. Actor David James Elliott is 62. Actor Serena Scott Thomas is 61. Actor Nancy Travis is 61. Actor Rob Morrow is 60. Actor Angus Macfadyen is 59. Retired MLB All-Star Cecil Fielder is 59. Actor Cheryl Hines is 57. Country singer Faith Hill is 55. Rock musician Tyler Stewart (Barenaked Ladies) is 55. Country singer Ronna Reeves is 54. Actor-talk show host Ricki Lake is 54. Rapper Dave (De La Soul) is 54. Actor Billy Porter is 53. Actor Alfonso Ribeiro is 51. Actor Luke Wilson is 51. Actor Paulo Costanzo is 44. Actor Bradford Anderson is 43. Actor Autumn Reeser is 42. TV personality Nicole Richie is 41. Actor Maggie Grace is 39. Actor Joseph Mazzello is 39. Actor Ryan Guzman is 35. Actor Nikolas Brino is 24.



San Francisco 49ers defensive end Samson Ebukam (56) and defensive end Kerry Hyder Jr. (92) pressure Seattle Seahawks quarterback Geno Smith (7) Sunday in Santa Clara, California.

Scot Tucker/AP

NFL

Offense worries Seahawks after 6 quarters of failure

BY TIM BOOTH

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The concerns about the Seattle Seahawks going into the season centered on the offense.

Sunday provided an example of why those worries were legitimate. The Seahawks' struggles continued after an unproductive second half during their season-opening win over Denver.

Seattle's 27-7 loss to San Francisco probably should have been expected. Coming off the emotional high of beating the Broncos and Russell Wilson in his return to Seattle, a let-down was probable.

No matter Seattle's emotional state, the offense has clear problems. Seattle hasn't scored an offensive point since the second quarter of the opener. Its run game is mostly nonexistent. Geno Smith's performance at quarterback has been serviceable, but also lacking the big plays the Seahawks relied upon in the Wilson era.

And when Seattle finally put together a sustained drive in the second quarter against the 49ers, the baffling decision to call a pass by running back DeeJay Dallas blew up on the Seahawks and ended with a deflating end-zone interception.

"There's some real solid things, but we've got to get the running game a more active part of the game, and in this game we needed to take what they were giving us more so," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Monday.

Carroll said his team should have let Smith throw more often with the 49ers focused on stopping the run. He said there was concern about how rookie offensive tackles Charles Cross and Abraham Lucas would hold up against the 49ers' pass rush.

"We didn't want to open it up and expose the tackles any more than we had to. So that all kind of fit together," Carroll said. "But they're holding up. They did a nice job in general. Ge-

no's in command of what's going on, he's real accurate with his decision-making. I think it's just more freely taking advantage of what's going on rather than being concerned about our ability to hold up."

What's working

The Seahawks' red-zone and goal-line defense has been exceptional. San Francisco was 2 of 5 on red-zone trips on Sunday and 2 of 4 inside the Seattle 10. In the opener, the Seahawks held Denver to 0 for 4 in the red zone and 0 for 3 inside the 10. That's still a lot of scoring chances Seattle is surrendering, but it is an early positive.

What needs help

Stopping the run has been a problem. Denver rushed for 103 yards in Week 1 and the 49ers followed up with 189 yards rushing on Sunday. Dating to last season, the Seahawks are 4-8 in games when opponents have rushed for at least 100 yards.

Stock up

Rookie cornerback Tariq Woolen looks like the next top defensive back to come through Seattle. Woolen appeared to allow only one catch in coverage against the 49ers, cleaned up the penalty issues he had in the first week of the season and blocked a field goal that Michael Jackson returned for a touchdown.

Stock down

Offensive coordinator Shane Waldron seemed to make all the right calls for the first 30 minutes of the season opener against Denver. In the 90 minutes since, Seattle's offense been a mess. In the second half against Denver and both halves against San Francisco on Sunday, the Seahawks have gained a total of 250 yards on 68 plays, a 3.7-yard average. Seattle has held the ball for barely 30 minutes over those six quarters.

Harrison

Continued from A5

Smith thought the finish to the Fresno State game, coupled with a determined week of practice working on eliminating dropped passes, paid off against Montana State.

"There was an emphasis all week, getting locked in with our eyes, catching the ball," Smith said. "He played really well on Saturday. Obviously, the end of the Fresno game when he made a couple plays, I think that helped his confidence."

Back to college

This week marks the return of students to Oregon State for fall quarter. It's always an interesting week for the football team, which has settled into a routine since early August of nothing but football. Now it's time to mix classes with football practice. One adjustment is starting practice about an hour earlier, to adjust for afternoon class schedules.

In talking to the team this week about the transition to school, Smith used his own experience as student-athlete at Oregon State.

"Way back my first week of school, there was a lot going on Wednesday night, Thursday night, Friday night," Smith said, smiling. "I think we've got a little bit. I think we've got a very mature group that

"There was an emphasis all week, getting locked in with our eyes, catching the ball. (Tre'Shaun Harrison) played really well on Saturday. Obviously, the end of the Fresno game when he made a couple plays, I think that helped his confidence."

— Oregon State head coach Jonathan Smith

knows we're keeping the main thing, the main thing."

Fourth-and-oh-no

It's become somewhat automatic for Oregon State. Fourth and short, and into the game comes Jack Colletto to get the first down. Which was the case Saturday against Montana State during a fourth-and-1 situation during the second quarter.

Colletto lined up at fullback for the play. Instead of the ball going to Colletto, quarterback Chance Nolan took one step to his right and pitched to running back Damien Martinez. The freshman bobbled the pitch, but a fortunate bounce put the ball immediately back into his hands, resulting in a 17-yard gain.

Smith said the play was

shown prominently to the team during Sunday's video session.

"It's 21-14, fourth-and-1 and we're going. If we don't get that, it could have been a whole lot different," Smith said. "There's always play calls. You could have done this, or that. I think we scored almost every time we had the ball in the game, so I didn't give (offensive coordinator Brian) Lindgren that hard of a time."

Briefly

Oregon State will wear orange uniforms against USC on Saturday. ... OSU is selling 500 standing room tickets for the USC game. They're on sale at the school's website, osubeavers.com. ... The 68-28 win over Montana State allowed Oregon State to liberally use backups. Among those who caught Smith's eye were receivers John Dunmore Jr. and Jimmy Valsin, quarterback Ben Gulbranson and offensive lineman Tanner Miller. ... Smith said he probably won't be reliving many of the USC hits from Oregon State's past, namely the upset wins of 2006 and 2008. He says players are aware of what happened through social media. "They understand that it really comes down to 60 minutes on this Saturday. That's what really were focused on," Smith said.

With Eugenio Suarez on the 10-day injured list with a broken index finger and Julio Rodriguez and Mitch Haniger fighting through back soreness, the Mariners need France to return to his All-Star form. "I thought his at-bats were really good," manager Scott Servais said. "It was great to see."

France is nearing his own kind of 20-20 club. He now has 20 homers and has also been hit by pitches 19 times this season.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21, 2022: You love the thrill of sensations. You are fascinated by things that are unusual, exotic and sometimes dark because you like the stimulus. This year is the last year of a nine-year cycle for you, which means it's time to take stock. Let go of whatever holds you back.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ This is a wonderful day for a date or any kind of romantic connection. It's a fantastic day to socialize and enjoy playful activities with kids. Artists will be productive because they have visionary ideas plus the energy to follow through on what they see. Tonight: Enjoy!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You have two choices today: You can hunker down and enjoy yourself in a very pleasant way at home. You also might get busy with home improvements. Or you can choose to entertain at home and have the gang over. It's a great day for a meeting at your home or any kind of congregation. Tonight: Good vibes.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ This is a powerful day for those of you who sell, market, teach, act or write, because you are enthusiastic and upbeat, and you have lots of mental energy. You'll have no trouble convincing others to go along with your ideas. You will enjoy entertaining at home as well. Tonight: Upbeat conversations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ This is an excellent day for business and commerce because you are confident about financial matters. Furthermore, you feel bold and adventurous about entertaining new opportunities. Think before you act, because there's a tendency to go overboard. Nevertheless, you're in the groove! Tonight: Money plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing beautifully with fiery Mars and lucky Jupiter. Things couldn't get better! This astro combo makes you feel energetic, proactive, friendly and upbeat with everyone you meet. People want to be in your presence! Tonight: You shine!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ This is a strong day with the Sun and fair Venus in your sign. (Actually, it's an excellent day to buy wardrobe items for yourself.) You will enjoy schmoozing with others or, alternatively, you will also enjoy some quiet solitude to contemplate your navel. Tonight: Solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Enjoy schmoozing with friends, members of groups and organizations, because this is a lovely day to socialize. Very likely, you are ready to greet people from your past — old friends as well as ex-partners. You're willing to entertain ambitious ideas because you feel confident. Tonight: Set goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You look mahvellous dahling! Everyone is impressed with you because you exude confidence and positive energy. Meanwhile, you're enjoying an excellent rapport with friends, especially creative, artistic people. Why not share your hopes and dreams for the future with someone to get their feedback? Tonight: You are noticed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You are the traveler of the zodiac, and today is an excellent day to either travel or make plans to travel in the future. (All the things you love to do.) You might find that a partner or close friend is keen on your ideas. Perhaps even a group will jump on board for a future holiday. Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Travel for pleasure appeals to you now; however, today, you might be wise to deal with issues related to shared property, inheritances, insurance disputes or the wealth of someone else. This is because you will be lucky in these dealings. You'll come out smelling like a rose! Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You are a networker extraordinaire, and today your ability to interact with members of the general public is tops! Relations with children will be excellent. You also will enjoy schmoozing, because you inspire people today! Tonight: Cooperate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ This is a productive day for you, because no matter what you do, people will be supportive of you. In fact, whatever you do might indirectly boost your earnings or lead to increased wealth in the future. You will enjoy helping someone who needs it. Tonight: Work.