

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 was married for more than 40 years. My ex constantly badmouths me to everyone. He got to our grown daughter early during our separation, and it's clear to me she has sided with him. He's a very intelligent narcissist who manipulates people and they're not even aware of it. Our divorce took three different lawyers and cost me thousands, which was his intention. Should I open up to my daughter and try to get her to understand why I can't be around him? I don't want to alienate my only child.

— *Free But Not Totally Happy*

Dear Free: If you were married to your husband for 40 years, your daughter is no longer a child. Do not attempt to diminish her opinion of her father — simply explain why you could no longer stay married to him. If you can discuss your divorce with her and point out specific examples she may have noticed in her youth that led to your divorce, I see no reason why you shouldn't.

Dear Abby: My daughter and I are both immunocompromised. I have cancer; she has asthma and rheumatoid arthritis. Our doctors have advised us to not gather with crowds. We didn't attend my niece's wedding or her baby shower because nobody was masked and everyone was together. Now it seems like we have been forgotten.

We were not invited to recent holiday celebrations. My sister-in-law always sent group invites to these events, but we haven't received any. They haven't even asked us how we are. We are still not able to attend, but we would like to think we are still welcome. Am I justified in feeling this way?

— *Excluded In California*

Dear Excluded: For the time being, you must accept that you won't be able to mingle with large groups. However, that doesn't mean you can't meet with small groups. To be less at risk, consider hosting some small get-togethers with vaccinated friends and relatives, and you may not feel so isolated. But please do not blame folks who know your circumstances, and whose invitations you have refused, for removing you from their guest lists for now.

Dear Abby: My crush is in love with this girl. I love him, and this girl isn't right for him. I mean, she's the jealous type and totally possessive. She's telling me she's his "owner," and that after they get married, his body and everything about him is hers. I'm saying no matter what she says, he will never be hers.

You can't own a person, and you really shouldn't be with someone who's possessive because it means they're insecure, and it's not healthy for a relationship. She basically tried to make me jealous. I love him so much. I want him to be happy, but I don't think it should be with her. I need some advice.

— *Crushing In Georgia*

Dear Crushing: You are entitled to your opinion, but as you stated, this guy is in love with her, not you. She may act possessive because she knows you want him, so she's trying to establish boundaries. If she is really as insecure as you think, there will come a point after which he may begin to feel smothered. That may be when you'll finally get your chance. For now, back off and sweeten up.

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 Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 21, 2022: You are charming, multitalented and articulate. You love adventure. You enjoy the company of like-minded people. This year is the beginning of a new nine-year cycle for you. Be open to new opportunities. Be ready to take action and define your goals. You might take on a leadership role.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Keep your eyes open, because solutions that could apply to your work, your job or even your health might be revealed today. Admittedly, something unexpected might require your attention. Be smart and give yourself extra time so you have wiggle room to deal with surprises. Tonight: Get organized.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ This is a mildly accident-prone day for your kids, which means parents and childcare workers should be vigilant. Meanwhile, a surprise invitation might come your way today. Be ready to act fast with changes related to sports, social occasions and the entertainment world. Tonight: Play!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Your home routine might have a surprise today. A small appliance might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Someone unexpected might knock at your door or surprise company might drop by. Stock the fridge so that you're ready! Tonight: Cocoon at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ This is a busy, restless day for you. Expect to meet new faces and see new places. Unscheduled short trips are likely. On the upside, you might be full of clever, original ideas. On the downside, plans might change at the 11th hour. Stay light on your feet. Tonight: Busy conversations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Something to do with your assets and your money is unpredictable today. For example, you might find money; you might lose money. Be smart and protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. Write down your moneymaking ideas for future consideration. Tonight: Check your money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with unpredictable Uranus. This makes you easily excitable, spontaneous and impulsive. That's why you feel you have things to do, places to go and people to see! You will learn something new. Nevertheless, think before you speak or act. Tonight: You're in charge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ It's a restless day! You have that feeling that you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Bide your time, because you are in charge of things due to the fact that the Sun, Mercury and Venus are all in your sign. You've got this covered. It's a good day to shop for wardrobe items. Tonight: Solitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ A friend might surprise you today by saying or doing something you didn't expect. Or possibly you will meet someone new who is unconventional or a bit different. Whatever the case, you will be tempted to modify your future goals. Tonight: A friendly conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Relations with bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs and the police are a bit unpredictable today. You might not be sure what's going on. You might be able to count on their support, but can you really? Be smart and make sure you know what's really happening. Don't count your chickens before they're barbecued. Tonight: You're noticed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Travel plans might suddenly change today. They might be canceled or delayed. Likewise, although you might have clever, original ideas related to publishing, the media, medicine and the law, these same areas are subject to unexpected changes and cancellations. Be ready for this. Tonight: Explore!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Be smart and double-check banking issues, insurance matters and anything to do with shared property or shared responsibilities, because something unexpected might need your attention. When it comes to money, you snooze, you lose. Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Be patient with partners and close friends today, because they might throw you a curveball. Almost certainly, they will do or say something that surprises you. Don't jump to conclusions. Make sure you have all the facts before you respond so you don't end up with egg on your face. Tonight: Cooperate.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 21, the 294th day of 2022. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 21, 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light at his laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed.

In 1917, legendary jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie was born in Cheraw, South Carolina.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH'-kuhn).

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

In 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 1976, Saul Bellow won the Nobel Prize for literature, the first American honored since John Steinbeck in 1962.

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White — who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate — was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 2001, Washington, D.C., postal worker Thomas L. Morris Jr. died of inhalation anthrax as officials began testing thousands of postal employees.

In 2014, North Korea abruptly freed Jeffrey Fowle, an American, nearly six months after he was arrested for leaving a Bible in a nightclub. Former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, 93, died in Washington.

In 2015, Vice President Joe Biden announced he would not be a candidate in the 2016 White House campaign, solidifying Hillary Rodham Clinton's status as the Democratic front-runner.

Ten years ago: Former senator and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern, 90, died in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A Wisconsin man opened fire at the Brookfield spa where his wife worked, killing her and two others and wounding four other women before turning the gun on himself.

Five years ago: The five living former presidents appeared together for the first time since 2013 at a concert in Texas to raise money for victims of devastating hurricanes.

One year ago: A gun held by actor Alec Baldwin on a movie set in New Mexico killed cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza. The House voted to hold Steve Bannon, a longtime ally and aide to former President Donald Trump, in contempt of Congress after he defied a subpoena from the committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection. President Joe Biden, speaking at a forum hosted by CNN, said the U.S. was committed to defending Taiwan if it were to come under attack. Human remains that were found in a Florida nature preserve were identified as those of Brian Laundrie, who'd been a person of interest in the death of girlfriend Gabby Petito when the couple was on a cross-country road trip.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joyce Randolph is 98. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 82. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 81. Singer Elvin Bishop is 80. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 80. Actor Everett McGill is 77. Musician Lee Loughnane (Chicago) is 76. Actor Dick Christie is 74. Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 73. Actor LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 73. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 69. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke is 67. Singer Julian Cope is 65. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 65. Actor Ken Watanabe is 63. Actor Melora Walters is 62. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 51. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 49. Actor Jeremy Miller is 46. Country singer Matthew Ramsey (Old Dominion) is 45. Actor Will Estes is 44. Actor Michael McMillian is 44. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is 42. Actor Matt Dallas is 40. Actor Charlotte Sullivan is 39. Actor Aaron Tveit is 39. Singer Glenn Powell is 34. Country singer Kane Brown is 29.

Candidates

Continued from A1

The candidates also addressed ways the unusual three-way race could play out to partisan advantage.

Johnson, a longtime Democrat until she left the party last year to run for governor, refused to accept the premise that she has no chance of winning, despite being more than 15 points behind front-runners Drazan and Kotek in at least two recent polls. She said she "absolutely" won't consider dropping out even if that means she is a "spoiler" handing a victory to Republicans.

Kotek, responding to Johnson's criticisms that Kotek had "spoiled" the Democratic Party by taking it too far left, implied Johnson's presence in the race was clearly increasing the odds of a Drazan victory. "We don't need to take a hard right turn to put our state back on track," Kotek told Johnson.

Drazan accused her two opponents of "having an argument about what Democrats should be about" while she would bring what is best for all of Oregon — which she suggested would be to have "balance" brought by a Republican governor after longtime Democratic dominance.

On the subject of how to fight Oregon's drug epidemic, all three said they do not support mandatory drug treatment in any circumstance. Johnson said she favors incentives to get addicts to undergo treatment, while Kotek said outreach workers need to build relationships with addicted individuals to encourage them to turn their lives around.

At multiple points in the debate, front-runners Drazan and Kotek accused each other of lying.

Kotek accused her opponents of misrepresenting her record after Drazan claimed Kotek was the "original defund the police candidate" and Johnson contended that Kotek both walked and sided with "rioters" during protests in Portland in 2020. Kotek, who did not vote to lower a police

All three candidates agreed that homelessness is among the biggest issues facing the state and said they would support a so-far bare-bones plan by Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler to ban unsanctioned camping in the city and relocate homeless individuals to large designated camping areas.

budget and who walked with peaceful racial justice protesters, disputed both claims. "I think it's important when you're running for governor that you don't lie to voters."

Kotek said there needs to be more sworn officers in Oregon and that the state could help local police departments by increasing the number of classes available to train new officers. Drazan said communities are less safe today because there are fewer police and said she would ensure the state police are fully funded.

Johnson said that while she served in the Legislature, she ensured that the Oregon State Police had adequate funding and faulted Democratic lawmakers for passing legislation that she said "tied the hands" of police departments. Most of the police policies she referred to limited police tactics and added accountability for officer misconduct — reforms that Kotek praised and Drazan largely supported.

On education, all three candidates said Oregon kept schools closed for too long during the pandemic, although Drazan and Johnson said so in starker terms.

To help students catch up, Johnson said she would listen to classroom teachers' ideas, while Kotek said she helped pass funding for summer school and would continue to support added learning time for students who need it. Drazan said she would refrain from closing schools as governor and said she advocated spending more on Oregon schools but was shot down by Kotek and other Democrats.

That prompted Kotek and Drazan to again clash over claims of dishonesty, with Kotek pointing out she led passage of a \$1 billion a year increase in funding for schools

from a tax on business sales that Drazan voted against. Drazan accused Kotek of failing to vote to reopen schools and instead going shoulder to shoulder with Gov. Kate Brown to throw kids "under the bus" by allowing school districts to keep schools closed.

A Portland woman concerned about climate change asked Drazan what she would do to address emissions from transportation — the largest single source of carbon emissions in Oregon. Drazan responded by praising clean energy technology and Oregonians who choose to buy electric vehicles or other low-emissions options. She acknowledged a moderator's statement that she wants to suspend Oregon's main policy for lowering transportation emissions, its clean fuels standard.

The plan requires fuel suppliers to reduce greenhouse emissions from the products they sell by 50% by 2035 and 90% by 2050, and Kotek asserted, "It's working." Drazan said current high gas prices are the reason she wants to waive those requirements for a time.

When asked during a lightning round if Merritt Paulson should sell the Timbers and Thorns in the wake of a player abuse scandal, all three candidates said yes.

At the end of the debate, the candidates were asked to say which of their two opponents they respected more. Kotek and Drazan, unsurprisingly, both picked Johnson, while Johnson picked Kotek — only to throw shade.

"Ms. Kotek because she has brought the unbridled use of power to an art form in pushing legislation through the Oregon House," Johnson said. "That means I'm effective," Kotek retorted.

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