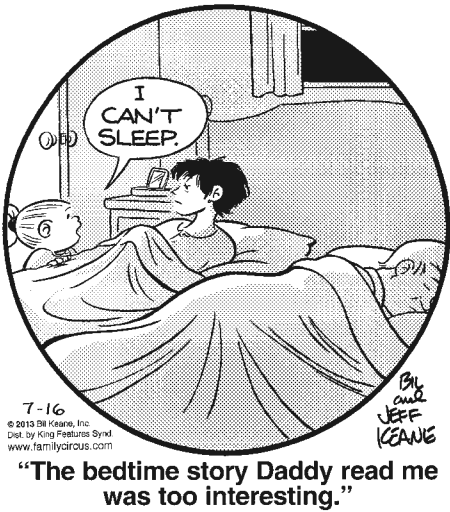
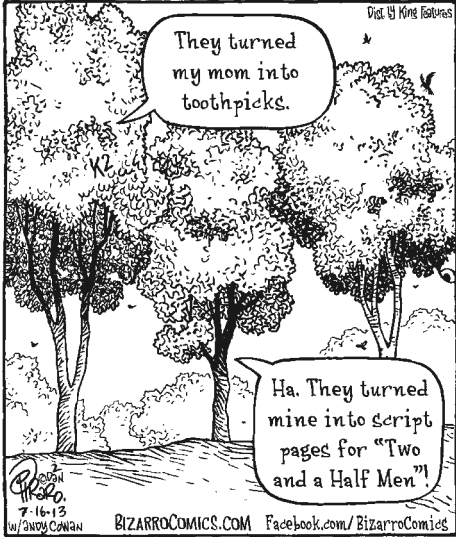


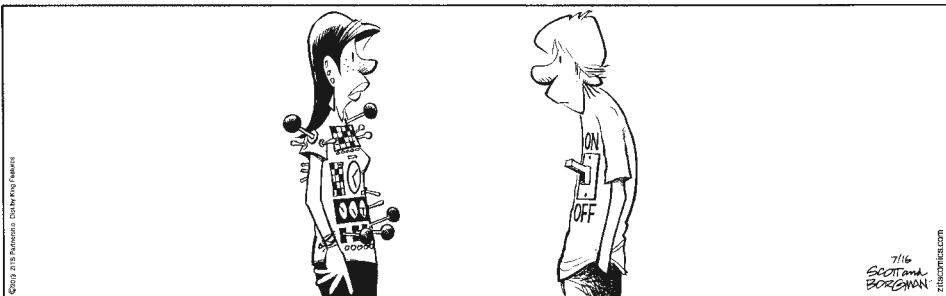
**FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE**



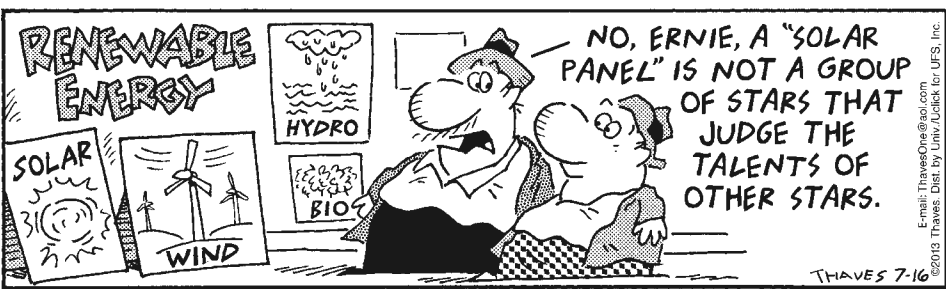
**BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO**



**ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN**



**FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES**



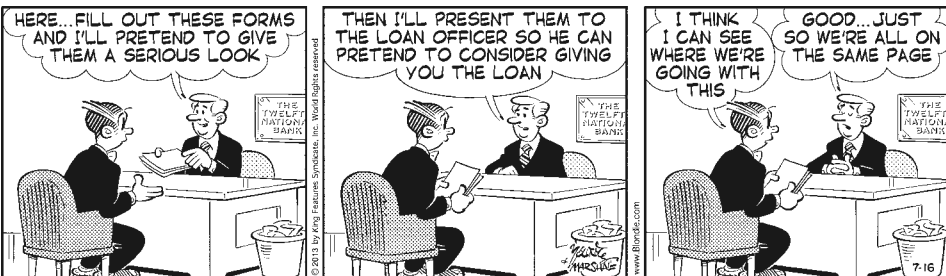
**PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ**



**DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS**



**BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE**



**GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS**



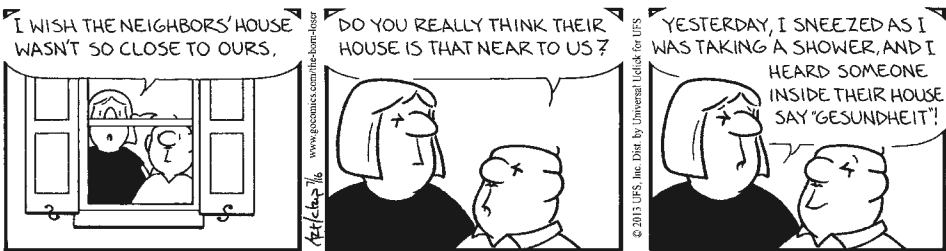
**BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER**



**HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER**



**THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM**



**MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS**



# Former Cutter Is Hesitant To Expose Scars To Clients

DEAR ABBY: I was recently hired for a job I have wanted for years. I am a counselor for troubled teens. I love it, and I empathize with those I work with. (Ten years ago, I was a teen placed in a similar facility for some of the same reasons.)

The problem is, when I was in a dark period of my life, I was a cutter. I still have deep scars on one arm that are noticeable. How do I handle this now that I'm in the psychological field? I don't wish to go into detail about my past, as that would be poor boundaries as an employee and counselor. But it's hard to avoid with hot summer weather here and my past literally "on my sleeve."

Please help. Some actions have permanent consequences. I hope this will remind other cutters that their wounds may be something they wish they could undo once they are emotionally healed. — NAMELESS IN AMERICA

DEAR NAMELESS: I hope your comments will remind other cutters not only that actions have consequences, but also that there are more effective solutions for emotional pain than self-injury. This is something you should discuss with your employers. My thinking is, if your clients see your scars, it may help them to talk about their own cutting, which would be therapeutic.

DEAR ABBY: I recently became a father for the third time. My children are 18, 5 and 3 weeks old. My wife, "Molly," had complications during this last pregnancy that caused her blood pressure to remain in a heightened state for the last few months of her pregnancy. She had been hoping for a little girl, but we were blessed with another boy. I'm turning 40 and my wife is 37. I have

reached a point in my life where I'm ready to be done changing diapers, but Molly wants to try again for a little girl. I have issues with my back and have a hard time getting to my 5-year-old's level now. I'm afraid if we continue having children, I'll be unable to be the involved dad I want to be.

Am I a bad husband for feeling this way? I don't want Molly to go through life regretting not having the daughter she always wanted, but there is no guarantee it will happen if we decide to try again.

I make a fair living, but with additional mouths to feed come additional financial responsibilities. I'm afraid I won't be able to provide for my growing family as I need to. Am I right in my thinking, or am I being overly cautious? — STOPPING AT THREE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR STOPPING AT THREE: You are thinking clearly. At 37, and with her medical history, your wife would be considered "at risk" if she becomes pregnant again. While I sympathize with the fact that she yearns for a daughter, allow me to share a true story with you:

A man was in a similar situation to yours, but he had four daughters. So he and his wife decided they would try "one more time" for a son. Sure enough, his wife became pregnant. She delivered beautiful identical twin ... daughters. At that point he gave up and had a vasectomy!

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447,

© 2013, Universal Press Syndicate

## JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Cancer and a Moon in Libra if born before 7:24 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Scorpio.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2013:

This year, opportunity after opportunity seems to head your way. You will feel like a kid in a candy store. Come winter 2013 into 2014, luck might play an even bigger role in your life. You will have the ability to merge good, solid sense with the luck from an invisible rabbit's foot in your back pocket! If you are single, you could be attracted to someone older or more serious. Use care with commitments, because once you make one, it will be nearly impossible to get out of it. If you are attached, the two of you are likely to add a concrete manifestation of your caring. A fellow CANCER is a soul mate.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

### ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

★★★ Opportunity merges with a sense of responsibility, and your confidence is strengthened as a result. The path in which you choose to head has very good indicators of success. Remain sensitive to a family member who could be facing a difficult time. Tonight: Head home.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Your expectations of a project will be more than reasonable, especially following a very upbeat conversation. A partner or an associate will be on the same page as you, which will add extra pizzazz and energy. You are on the same team. Tonight: Go where there is music.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Understand that the power you wield is a result of having competence, knowledge and financial backing. Ask someone to join your team in order to make a project better and easier on you. This person's enthusiasm might surprise you. Tonight: Buy a card on the way home.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ You might not be aware of how responsive others are at the moment. You are like a locomotive, with the enthusiasm and energy. Others are like the rest of the train, with the expertise and knowledge. Together, you are a winning team. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★ You could be taken aback by someone's stubbornness. The less said the better. You might

be quite amused by this person's attitude at first, but by evening, it could get old rather quickly. You will be a bit touchy by late afternoon. Tonight: Don't hold back. Share your feelings.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ You have a keen sense of direction, and you know what needs to happen. Use your strong support system to create more of what you desire. Someone is quite responsive to your ideas, and he or she will take a lot of the burden off your shoulders. Tonight: Have a long-overdue talk.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You might want to take a good look at the basics before you move in a new direction and try to foster a seemingly good idea. If you can be honest with yourself, you might see a weakness in your finances. Weigh the impact of this issue before you act. Tonight: Time for a talk.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★ What might have seemed difficult now seems much easier. Listen to news from someone at a distance. Evaluate what is happening, then decide if you want to take action. This could involve taking a workshop or listening to a lecture. Tonight: Others are delighted to see you.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Deal directly with someone who holds the purse strings. This person is in this position because he or she has a good sense of what is needed. You might not agree, and you could feel put off. Choose to learn from this person. Ask questions. Tonight: Spend time with a loved one.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You could be exhausted and looking for a solution. You might discover how willing others are to be your support system and/or to pitch in. Pick the people with the most determination and endurance. Meetings keep dotting your calendar. Tonight: Choose what makes you happy.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

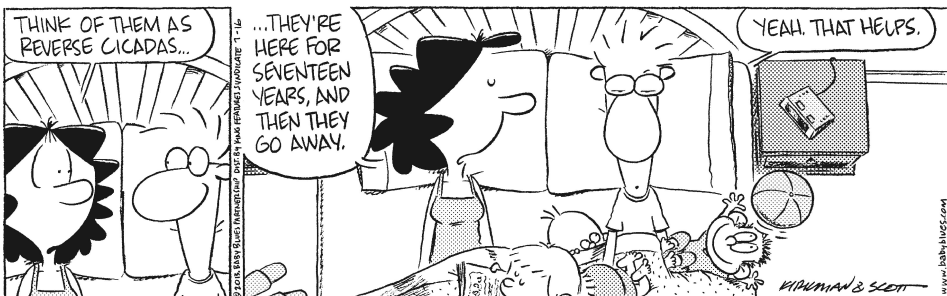
★★★★ Pressure builds, as you could be stressed out by a boss's requests. You will go out of your way to deliver what this person wants. Even if he or she appears to be stern, it does not mean that is the case, nor does it mean that he or she is not pleased. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ You know how to read beyond what someone says. You will look at the person in question, and you'll carefully assess his or her demeanor. Note what he or she does not say as well. You will be able to tell whether a fact or two are missing. Tonight: Where you can relax.

© 2013, King Feature Syndicate

**BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT**



**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON**

