

Piercing debate about scars seen and unseen



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading the letter from “Upset in Collegeville, Pa.,” regarding the 15-year-old girl who wanted to get her belly button pierced. Your response included, “As long as the procedure is done hygienically, it shouldn’t cause any damage.” I am a gynecologist. I have observed that navel piercings often cause significant permanent scar-

ring, especially at the upper piercing site. These scars are far larger than one would expect. They can also be associated with darkening of the skin at the scar site, which makes them even more cosmetically unacceptable. I can’t explain why other piercings such as earlobes usually have no scarring while navel piercings often result in unsightly permanent scars.

Anyone considering a belly button piercing should be aware of this potentially permanent problem. — OREGON GYNECOLOGIST DEAR OREGON GYNECOLOGIST: Thank you for writing. Although I live in Los Angeles, probably the navel-piercing capital of the United States, I cannot claim to have seen as many belly buttons “up close and personal” as you have, so I bow to your expertise. Many readers commented regarding that letter. Read on: DEAR ABBY: May I add a note to your response to the parents who agreed to let their daughter pierce her belly button, then changed their minds? I am 62 and still can’t quite

forgive my father for much the same thing. He was old-fashioned and wouldn’t let my older sister drive. When I was 15, I begged to take driver’s ed and get my license at 16. He agreed — on the condition that I pay for the lessons myself. Well, I did — and passed with flying colors. But when I turned 16, he refused to allow me to get my license. When I asked why he’d lied to me, he said he hadn’t lied. He simply thought I’d never be able to save enough to pay for the course. Even after 46 years, I still think he lied to me. My advice to the parents: Do not break your word. It could damage

your relationship with your son or daughter forever. — MARJ G., WESLACO, TEXAS DEAR MARJ: I agree. She fulfilled her part of the bargain, so the parents shouldn’t have reneged on their promise. DEAR ABBY: In some states, piercing isn’t legal before age 16, even with parental consent. If the parents relent, I hope they’ll find out what the local laws are and go to the most reputable person who performs piercings. My advice to potential piercers: Stay away from those who will do the piercing regardless of state law. — SUZANNE, PRIMEVAL INK TATTOO, MONROE, WASH.

DEAR SUZANNE: Good advice. DEAR ABBY: While I respect the right to change one’s mind, the relationship of a parent to a child can be permanently damaged by relatively small betrayals. In today’s world, belly button piercing is little more than a fashion statement, and the parents who are waffling over their promise to let their daughter pierce her navel in exchange for good grades risk far more by breaking their promise than by allowing the piercing. — GEORGE (A YOUNG PARENT WITH CHILDREN), SANTAMONICA, CALIF. DEAR GEORGE: I agree. And you stated it very well.

SATURDAY EVENING										MAY 1, 2004									
E	S	6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30								
36	53	A&E	American Justice "Death in a Small Town"		Cold Case Files		City Confidential		Crossing Jordan "Strangled" (N)		American Justice "Death in a Small Town"								
4	6	ABC	★★★ "Remember the Titans" (2000, Drama) Denzel Washington, Will Patton. White and black football players overcome their prejudice. (N)		News (N)		Genesis Awards 2004 (N)		News (N)		(:35) Seinfeld (N)								
26	48	ANPL	Thoroughbred (N)						Thoroughbred										
63	54	BRAVO	★★★ "Black Rain" (1989) Michael Douglas. A hard-nosed cop chases a fugitive into Japan's underworld. 'R'		★★★ "The Professional" (1994) Jean Reno. A hit man takes an orphan girl under his wing. 'R'		★★★ "Black Rain" 'R'												
11		CBS	Price Is Right Million Dollar Spectacular (N)		The District "Open Season" (N) (N)		The District (Season Finale) (N) (N)		News (N)		Drew Carey								
24	50	DISC	Rally Round the House "Chalet Chic" (N)		Double Agents "Sell to Buy" (N)		New Detectives: Forensic Science		New Detectives: Forensic Science		Dangerous Company (N)								
33	44	DISN	Kim Possible: The Proud Family (N)		Even Stevens (N)		Sister, Sister (N)		That's So Raven (N)		Lizzie McGuire								
49	81	E!TV	Bachelor: THS		Uma Thurman		Will Work for Stars		Wild On...		Howard S. Howard S.								
22	56	ESPN	NBA Basketball: First Round Game 6		NBA Basketball: First Round Game 6		Teams TBA		SportsCenter (Live) (N)										
54	57	ESPN2	NHLRA Drag Racing		Countdown to Indy (N)		Baseball Tonight (Live) (N)		Billiards		Fastbreak NBA								
32	46	FAM	★★★ "Brave New Girl" (2004) Lindsey Haun.		★★★ "Brave New Girl" (2004) Lindsey Haun.		Funnier Home Videos												
59	-	FIT TV	Peak Performance (N)		I Want... (N)		Workout		Peak Performance (N)		Paid Prog. (N)								
35	31	FMC	★★★ "Miracle on 34th Street" (1994)		Hour of Stars		Iron Chef "Battle Oyster"		Unwrapped Top 5		Emeril Live "Gimme Garlic" (N)								
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "Gimme Garlic" (N)		Great Garlic Cook-Off (N)		She Spies "Wedding of the Century" (N) (N)		Mad TV (N) (N)		Blind Date (N) (N)								
13	7	FOX	Cops (N) (N)		America's Most Wanted-Fights Back		She Spies "Wedding of the Century" (N) (N)		Mad TV (N) (N)		Blind Date (N) (N)								
40	38	FX	★★ "Planet of the Apes" (2001) Mark Wahlberg, Tim Roth.		★★★ "Kiss of the Dragon" (2001) Jet Li.														
30	55	FXSP	Golf Life Rockies		Best Damn Sports Show Beyond the Glory (N)		Boxing Rocky Mt. America												
5	14	HBO	(5:30) ★★★ "Head of State" (2003) (N) 'PG-13'		(15) ★★★ "Eddie" (1996, Comedy) Whoopi Goldberg. Premiere. (N) 'PG-13'		★★★ "The Matrix Reloaded" (2003) Keanu Reeves. Freedom fighters revolt against machines.												
62	67	HGTV	Sensible Decorating		Mission Designers' Design		Home Smart		Sensible Decorating										
58	52	HIST	JFK: A Presidency Revealed		President John F. Kennedy wrestles with dangerous times in American history. (N)		Vanishings! (N) (N)		JFK: A Presidency Revealed (N) (N)										
25	35	IND	(5:00) ★★★ "Out for Justice" (1991) (PA)		★ "The Glimmer Man" (1996, Suspense) (PA) Steven Seagal, Keenen Ivory Wayans. (N)		★★★ "On Deadly Ground" (1994, Adventure) (PA) Steven Seagal, Michael Caine. (N)		1-800-Missing (N)		"Kidnapped-Par." (N)								
18	63	LIFE	(5:00) "Obsessed" (2003) Elizabeth Berkley.		Student Seduction (2003) Elizabeth Berkley.		Osbornes Osbornes		The Real Real World										
23	77	MTV	Real World Real World		Band II Band II		Video Osbornes		The Real Real World										
3	9	NBC	Entertainment Tonight Scoops. (N) (N)		★★★ "Twister" (1996) Helen Hunt. Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ritual" (N)		News (N)		Saturday Night Live								
8	8	NBC	★★★ "Twister" (1996) Helen Hunt. Storm chasers race to test a new tornado-monitoring device.		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ritual" (N)		News (N)		Saturday Night Live Lindsay Lohan; Usher. (N) (N)										
34	43	NICK	Grown Up Romeo! (N)		All That (N)		Amanda Cosby		Roseanne Roseanne		Cosby								
2	2	PBS	Art Auction				Austin City Limits "Brooks & Dunn" (N)		Soundstage "Trace Adkins and Travis Tritt" (N)										
38	83	SCIFI	(5:00) "Deadly Swarm"		"Flying Virus" (2001, Action) Gabrielle Anwar. (N)		★ "Rats" (2003) Sara Downing. (N)												
61	41	SPK	Trucks! (N) Trucks! (N)		Trucks! (N) Trucks! (N)		WWE Velocity (N) (N)		Ride Ride		Trucks! (N) Trucks! (N)								
39	51	TLC	In a Fix The crew installs a kitchen.		Trading Spaces: Family (N)		While You Were Out		Trading Spaces (N)		Trading Spaces Family room; living room. (N)								
28	37	TNT	★★★ "Payback" (1999) Mel Gibson. (N) (DVS)		★★★ "The Fifth Element" (1997) Bruce Willis. Premiere.		Soldier												
51	86	TRAV	Kings of the Road (N)		Great Outdoors (N)		Ends of the Earth (N)		Kings of the Road (N)		Great Outdoors								
21	82	TVLND	TV Land Moguls		Bewitched GreenAcre		Griffith Leave		Family Ties Cheers (N)		Pufnstuf Lidsville								
60	89	UNIV	Sábado Gigante Lizi Rodriguez; K1, ex miembro de		Kumbia Kings.		Impacto Noticiero		Otro Rollo										
20	34	USA	(3:00) "Spartacus" (N)		Law & Order		Nashville Star "Finale"		Law Order Cl		Nashville Star "Finale"								
12	3	WB	(4:00) "Die ★★ "Blown Away" (1994) Jeff Bridges, Tommy Lee Jones. A mad Irish bomber plots revenge on his former pupil. (N) (N)				News (N) (N)		The Cosby Show (N) (N)		"Candy-man" (N) (N)								
99	36	WGN	MLB Baseball: Blue Jays at White Sox		WGN News at Nine (N) (N)		Fresh Pr. ★★ "Blown Away" (1994) (N) (N)												

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SUNDAY EVENING										MAY 2, 2004										
E	S		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30								
36	53	A&E	Child Stars: Their Story How young celebrities deal with fame, pressure and wealth. (N)				Airline (N)	Airline (N)	Family Plots (N)	Family Plots (N)	Child Stars: Their Story									
4	6	ABC	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (N) (N)				Alias "Legacy" (N) (N)		The Practice "New Hoods on the Block" (N)		News (N)	(:35) Seinfeld (N)	Sports Machine	Diamond Adventures						
26	48	ANPL	Land of Lost Monsters Mankind arrives Down Under and in the New World.				The Crocodile Hunter (N)		Land of Lost Monsters Mankind arrives Down Under and in the New World.											
63	54	BRAVO	Inside the Actors Studio Hugh Jackman. (N)				Sexiest Moments in Film "Seducers" (N)		Sexiest Moments in Film "Seductresses" (N)		Sexiest Moments in Film: Scenes		Inside the Actors Studio Hugh Jackman. (N)							
7	11	CBS	Cold Case "The Plan" (N) (N)				"The Book of Ruth" (2004, Drama) Christine Lahti. Newlyweds live with the woman's abusive mother. (N)				News (N)	(:35) News (N)	(:05) The Outer Limits "Patient Zero" (N) (N)							
24	50	DISC	JFK Conspiracy Kennedy assassination. (N)				In Search of Liberty Bell 7 An expedition to find and recover a NASA space capsule.				Killer Whale: Killer Culture (N)		Dive to Bermuda Triangle (N)							
33	44	DISN	Braceface (N)		Braceface (N)		Braceface (N)		Braceface (N)		Lizzie McGuire		★ "Model Behavior" (2000, Comedy) Kathie Lee Gifford. (N)		(:45) Braceface (N)					
49	81	E!TV	Laci Peterson: The El True Hollywood Story (N)						John Walsh: THS		Laci Peterson: The El True Hollywood Story (N)									
22	56	ESPN	MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Texas Rangers. (Subject to Blackout) (N)						SportsCenter (Live) (N)						Baseball					
54	57	ESPN2	NHRA Drag Racing						2003 Poker		2003 Poker		Fastbreak		NHL 2Night					
32	46	FAM	★ ★ "Home Fires" (1998) Drew Barrymore. (N)						Who's? Who's?		Switched		Videos		J. Osteen Feed					
59	-	FIT TV	Fitness		Navy SEALs Training		In Shape		Workout		Fitness		Aerobic		Workout		Navy SEALs Training			
35	31	FMC	Cult Culture				(:01) ★ ★ ★ "The Poseidon Adventure" (1972)				Cult Culture		(:01) "The Sicilian"							
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "Salt of the Earth" (N)				Good Eats: Eat This Rock (N)		Snacks Unwrapped		Unwrapped		Top 5		Emeril Live "Salt of the Earth"					
13	7	FOX	The Simpsons (N) (N)		The Simpsons (N)		Malcolm in the Middle		Malcolm in the Middle		Stargate SG-1 "The Changeling" (N) (N)		The Outer Limits "Patient Zero" (N)		★ ★ "Safari 3000" (1981) David Carradine.					
40	38	FX	Cops (N)		★ ★ ★ "Kiss of the Dragon" (2001) Jet Li				★ ★ ★ "From Hell" (2001, Mystery)		Johnny Depp. Premiere.									
30	55	FXSP	Best 101 Knockouts (N)				Boxing: Ruiz vs. Vargas		Beyond the Glory (N)		Sports Emmy Awards		Rocky Mt.		Rocky Mt.					
5	14	HBO	5:30 "★ ★ ★ "Encino Man" (1992) Sean Astin.				★ ★ ★ "The Ring" (2002) Naomi Watts. A videotape brings death in one week to all who watch it.				Naomi Watts. A videotape brings death in one week to all who watch it.		Six Feet Under "The Opening" (N) (N)		The Sopranos "Unidentified Black Males" (N) (N)					
62	67	HGTV	Designed		Curb		Reel Homes		If Walls		Building		House		Remember!		Designed	Curb		
58	52	HIST	Samurai and the Swastika The strategic alliance formed by Germany and Japan from 1939-1945.						Mail Call (N) (N)		Tales of the Gun		Tactical to Practical (N)		Samurai and the Swastika					
25	35	IND	★ ★ "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory" (1995) (PA) Steven Seagal, Eric Bogosian. (N)						★ ★ "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory" (1995) (PA) Steven Seagal, Eric Bogosian.		★ ★ "Fire Down Below" (1997) (PA) (N)									
18	63	LIFE	"Moment-Truth"				The Division (N) (N)		Strong Medicine (N)		1-800-Missing "MIA"		Wild Card "Sand Trap"							
23	77	MTV	Band 11		Real World		The Real		Real World		Wild Boyz		Viva Bam		Pimp Ride		Punk'd (N)		Viva Bam	Pimp Ride
3	9	NBC	Dateline NBC (N) (N)						"10.5" (2004) Kim Delaney. A series of powerful earthquakes threatens the West Coast. (N)						News (N)		(:35) Over-time			
8	8	NBC	(5:00) Dateline NBC (N)				"10.5" (2004) Kim Delaney. A series of powerful earthquakes threatens the West Coast. (N)				News (N)		(:35) The West Wing (N)		Inside Edition					
34	43	NICK	Garcia		Sabrina		Full House		Full House		Cosby		Cosby		Roseanne		Roseanne		Cosby	Cosby
2	2	PBS	Art Auction						★ ★ ★ "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969, Western) Paul Newman, Robert Redford.											
38	83	SCIFI	★ ★ ★ "Dog Soldiers" (2002) Sean Pertwee. (N)						Van Helsing-Monsters		Tripping		Scare		Code Name: Eternity (N)					
61	41	SPK	Ride		Ride		Ride		Ride		WWE Heat		Ride		Ride		Great Drivers			
39	51	TLC	In a Fix "Superhero Bedroom"						Trading Spaces: Home Free "Winner's Circle"		Trading Spaces: Family Living room, den. (N)		Trading Spaces: Family		In a Fix "Monte Carlo Dream House" (N)					
28	37	TNT	Law & Order "Burned"						Law & Order "Harvest"		Law & Order (N) (N)		★ ★ ★ "K-9" (1989) James Belushi, Mel Harris.							
51	86	TRAV	New Vegas						Vegas Whales (N)		Vegas Cheaters		New Vegas		Vegas Whales (N)					
21	82	TVLND	Griffith		Munsters		Bewitched		GreenAcre		Griffith		Leave		Family Ties		Cheers (N)		Sanford	All-Family
60	89	UNIV	(5:00) La Parodia						Hora-Reventon		Ver Para Creer		Impacto		Noticiero		Tras la Verdad			
20	34	USA	★ ★ ★ "Frequency" (2000) Dennis Quaid. Premiere. (N)						Dennis Quaid. Premiere. (N)		Touching Evil (N)		Law & Order		Touch Evil					
12	3	WB	High School Reunion (N) (N)				Charmed (N) (N) (N)		High School Reunion (N) (N) (N)		News (N)		News Sports		Friends (N)		Everybody-Raymond			
99	36	WGN	Andromeda (N) (N) (N)				The X-Files "Ascension"		WGN News		Replay		Matlock (N) (N)		In the Heat of the Night					