

TV ads are outlet for actress inside of Cindy Wanek

By Mick Dyer
Staff Reporter

Her blue eyes sparkle and laugh when she talks. She speaks with enthusiasm and pride about her family and career. And it almost seems that she is living out a fairytale dream existence.

Cindy Wanek is in love with life. The story began when Cindy was 14 years old -- the year she started working at Wanek's of Crete. That's when she met her husband, Alan. Her first job was selling beanbag chairs at the furniture store.

"Alan likes to say our first date was on a mattress," Cindy said. "We were sitting on a mattress in the warehouse and Alan's father was giving us a lecture on sales."

"He was 17 and I was 15. He said I had such beautiful blue eyes and he kissed me. It was then I figured we were probably going to get married," she said with a smile.

Cindy and Alan celebrated their ninth anniversary Wednesday. They have two children: Lisa, who is 5 years old, and Thomas, 20 months old.

You may have seen Cindy sing and play the guitar or wear outrageous costumes and assume unusual personas in television ads for Wanek's. It's the natural thing for her to do.

Cindy graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1980 with a degree in broadcast journalism. She said majoring in broadcasting was an easy choice for her to make.

"I was always attracted to the performing arts," she said. "Journalism seemed like more of a meat-and-potatoes approach to the arts."

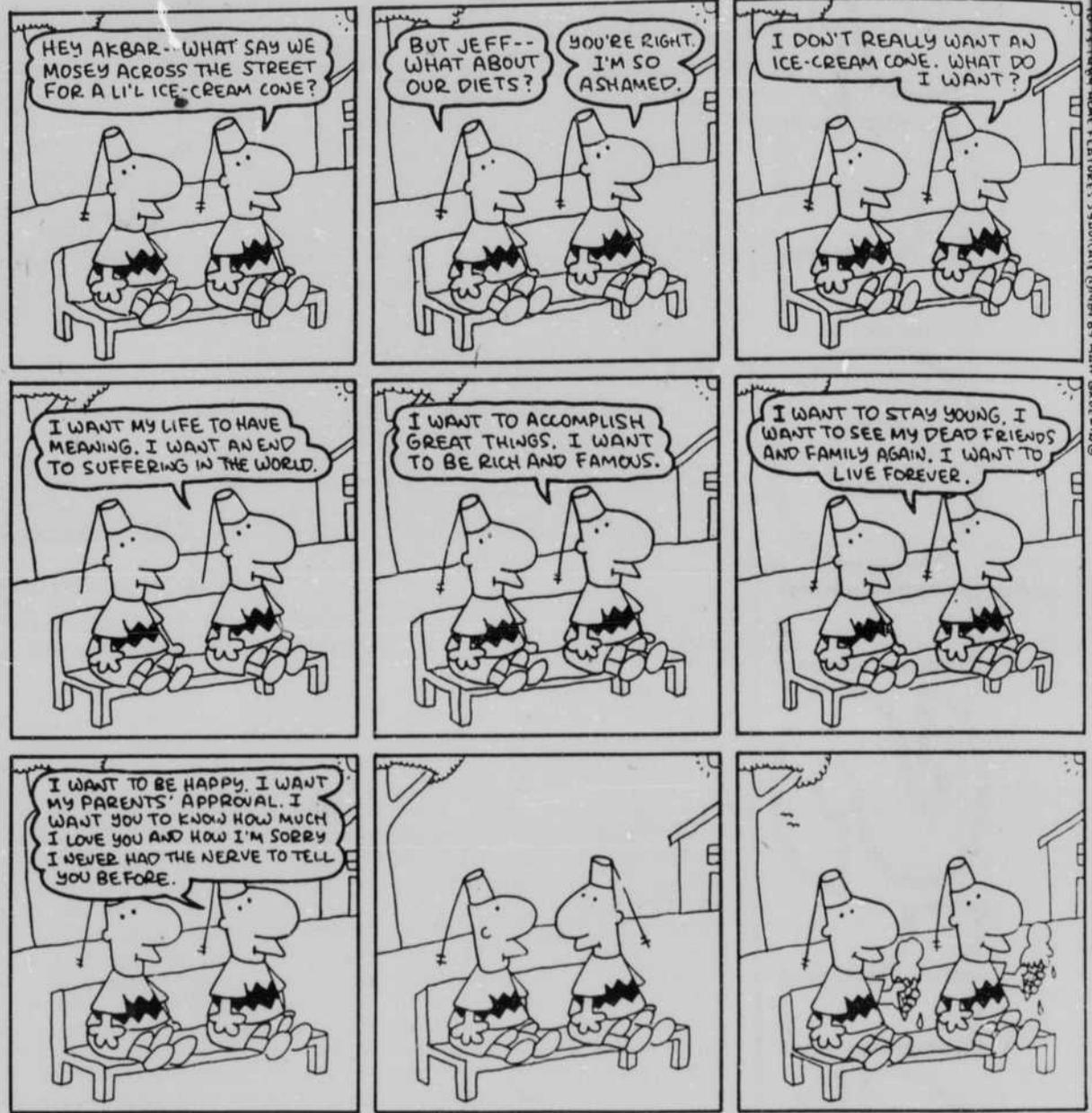
Today, she uses her broadcast training to write and produce

See WANER on 10

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LIFE IN HELL

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By MATT
GREENING



I had a WEIRD DREAM LAST NIGHT

I was at a dinner party. St. Francis, Gary Cooper and Keren from Banarama were there, too.

Suddenly, I turned into a teenage girl who wore too much makeup. I was writing a poem about New Kids on the Block when Sigmund Freud told me he would make me Miss America if I took care of his baby. He held a glittering tiara in his hand; then I realized it was the baby from 'Eraserhead.'

I looked down and suddenly I was myself again, but I was wearing a crown, a banner and an ill-fitting sequined gown. Then I realized I was standing in the middle of Sesame Street. Oscar the Grouch told me I should shop at better stores. I was really embarrassed.

Then these punk-rockers with clown makeup on started yelling at me. They yelled 'Mike, Mike!' but my name is Mark. I didn't understand. Then they all pulled out long butcher knives.

I tried to run, but my feet had turned to cinder blocks and I was sinking in quick sand. They were getting closer and closer....

...THEN I Woke UP