

Teen wants to chart own path

Dear Annie: I am 15 years old and I love your column. Here's my problem: Ever since I was a little girl, I had one dream — to become an astronaut. I would gaze at the stars for hours each night, and I learned everything I could from books.

However, my parents have always drilled into me that I was to become a doctor or lawyer. They are very strict, and I always have obeyed them. I believe they do this for my benefit. My parents grew up poor. They want me to make heaps of money so I will want for nothing.

Whenever I bring up the topic of becoming an astronaut, they quickly shut it down, because they don't believe astronauts earn enough. My parents will never support me in this. I have only one path, already drawn, complete with college courses and job openings. My parents see their friends' children becoming lawyers, surgeons or specialists, and they expect me to do the same. Even my teachers and friends give me doubtful looks when I tell them what I want to do.

But let's say that I cut ties with my parents and take college classes in physics and astronomy

Annie's Mailbox

Creators Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



and don't get into NASA. Medicine is a solid field. You can find jobs anywhere. Shoot for the stars? Very funny. Do I live for myself or my parents? — *Trapped in the Grave of a Dream*

Dear Trapped: Dreams are great, but they do not always translate to reality, as you know. According to NASA, the competition to be an astronaut is, well, astronomical — there are an average of 4,000 applicants for 20 openings every two years. You'd need a degree in engineering, science or mathematics, and then three years of related experience. Astronaut salaries are solid, but will not make you wealthy. But we don't want you to give up your dream if you are that committed to it.

The good news is, you don't have to decide today. In college,

a pre-med program will require many of the same science classes that you would need to be an astronaut. This will give you an opportunity to see how well you do in those subjects, and your parents will have no objections.

Dear Annie: My husband died recently from complications due to Parkinson's disease. He, too, suffered the indignities of incontinence, and initially refused adult diapers, even though he needed them.

I solved the problem by asking the nursing staff not to use the "D" word. After all, infants wear diapers and I did not want to infantilize my husband. I asked them to use the word "undergarments" to preserve the patient's dignity.

I am happy to report that the entire staff eliminated the word "diaper" around my husband, and probably around all the other residents of the nursing home, as well. Hopefully, they understood that one must give dignity and respect to everyone, no matter the circumstances. — *Advocating for My Husband*

Dear Advocate: Sometimes the solutions to such problems are simple.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The deal goes down; the exchange favors you. You may not immediately feel the force of your good fortune. Maybe you won't even see how you're on top. Days from now you'll understand the many benefits of your position.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Relationship drama prevails. (SET ITAL) Is his love true? How do I win her heart? Will the dish run away with the spoon? (END ITAL) It's too soon to tell the answers. The important thing is not to agonize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your desire for achievement can be like a constant purring need inside you, and it can also be a ferocious, roaring hunger. It's the hunger that will motivate today's choices. Get out of the way, world!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Those who have been around the scene a while will try to mentor you, or maybe they are just showing off to impress the new person. Either way, relax and respect, but don't commit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This passionate sky could trigger your fire sign nature in any number of directions — maybe through intense love, and maybe through anger. Both can potentially affect your actions before you even realize how you're feeling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a way to get what you want and make another person richer in the process. Keep brainstorming until you hit on a mutually profitable arrangement. Fire signs (Aries, Leo, Sagittarius) will be particularly lucky for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Everyone likes a nice, good, decent person, and most are striving daily to fit the description. So why is it so hard to be good sometimes? Moments of weakness happen. Forgive yourself. Forget it.

Move on.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The disappointing experience of the past has created a new dynamic inside you. It feels something like revenge, but there is no ill intent in this fiery resolve to get powerful enough to make things right.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your work will be like a dance. You'll move in close and connect in support of a partner. You'll build trust. You are there to catch one another for those risky showoff moves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Bottom line: The ones who never fail aren't trying hard enough. You're becoming less and less concerned about looking like a winner. Your need to stretch and test the limits will override your need to keep up appearances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Friends will inspire you with what they do to stay healthy, attractive and well-fed. Maybe you'll even try out some of their practices. You have your own rituals, but you're always adding to that arsenal.

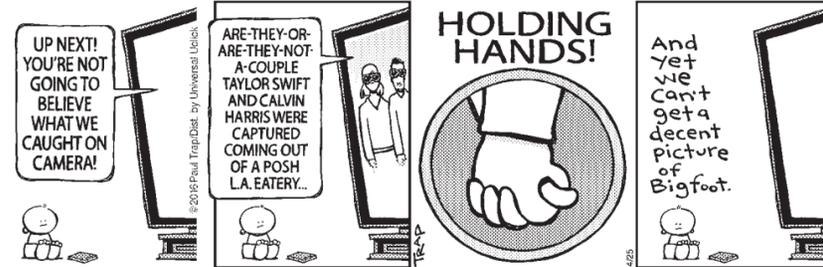
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being ready to take on the world starts with looking the part. Take as long as you need; an extensive self-care routine will be worth the effort and money. Your attention to detail will catch the eye of those you want to impress.

TUESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 26). You've weathered a process of review and now you'll excel because of it. You'll process and apply criticism then succeed in ways you've wanted to for years now. June, September and January are your most lucrative months. Be wary of large investments for the rest of 2016; small ones will take you further, believe it or not! Aquarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 11, 41, 7 and 19.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



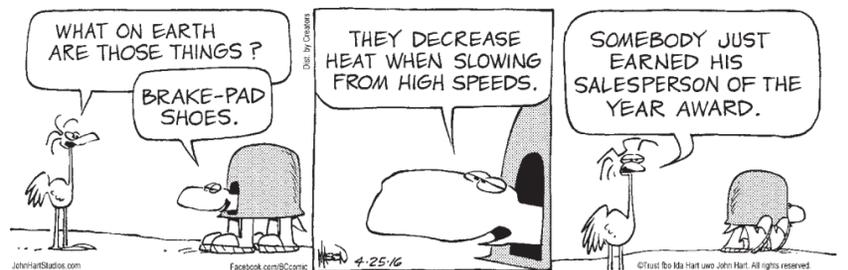
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

