

Family's vaccination dilemma

**Dear Annie:** My wife is pregnant with our first child. She's due in a few weeks and recently asked me to get a vaccine for whooping cough (Tdap). I got the vaccine.

However, now she is talking about everyone who will be around the baby getting the vaccine, including my parents. I can just imagine me telling (not asking) my mom to get a whooping cough vaccine before she can hold her grandchild and her laughing maniacally in my face. Actually, that would be a good response. I could also see her flipping out, not doing it, my wife getting upset with me (obviously) and everyone being unhappy.

I know vaccines can be a charged issue, but this is more about being stuck between my wife and my mom. I have to back my wife, but I cannot control my mom's actions. How should I approach my mom? — *Vaccinated Into a Corner*

**Dear Vaccinated into a Corner:** It sounds like you are between a rock and a hard place — your wife's insistence that your mother get vaccinated and your anticipation that your mom will refuse

to get the vaccination. Approach your mom with empathy, and then with facts. Tell her that you understand her skepticism; she never had to ask her parents to get vaccinated before they held her babies, after all. But then explain what's changed. In the last several years, whooping cough has made a comeback. In 2012, there were around 48,000 cases, the most on record since 1955. And according to Dr. Nancy Messonnier, the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, "Babies who get whooping cough often catch it from family members, including grandparents, who may not even know they have whooping cough." Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough> for more information that might persuade her. And if she's still not convinced, perhaps you could ask your doctor to speak with her.

**Dear Annie:** How do you get your relatives to bring the right food at family gatherings? Last year, I sent out emails and asked each couple to bring a specific item: i.e., four sandwiches or other

items so that our hostess (namely Grandma) wouldn't have to cook or prepare food.

All the couples brought huge sandwiches from a franchise and we had way too much food! We thought that they would prepare ham and cheese sandwiches or roast beef and cheese sandwiches, etc., and cut into four pieces to arrange on trays for perusal. Why is it that young people now think they have to purchase items? Can't they make something? Is it too much to ask? — *Not Enough Cooks*

**Dear Not Enough Cooks:** You can look at the sandwich tray half-full or half-empty, and right now you're glaring at the crumbs. Instead of criticizing your family members for buying food rather than preparing it, be grateful that they brought food — and that you have leftovers. A great family activity would be to take the leftovers to a local homeless shelter or food bank. Be sure to call first and check that they can accept perishable foods.

And if you insist that your relatives must make food themselves rather than buying it, invite everyone over for a cooking party. I'm sure they would love to learn some of Grandma's recipes.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You are a firm believer in fresh starts, and the clean energy of this special day renews you like a trip to the oxygen bar. Your high spirits create distance between you and yesterday's problems.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The key is not to expect people to do things they are incapable of doing. This, of course, requires you to learn the capabilities of others. You can learn something by observing, and more by testing, too.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Your friendships work in the larger context of your friend group, but they must also work in the smaller one-on-one context to satisfy you. Today you'll finally get the individual attention you need.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Middles sag. That's the very nature of middles. Whether it's a story, a body or a project, it takes tremendous effort to create lift in the middle. Put in the work so you can get the satisfaction at the end.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You've often felt as though you're doing the right thing with the wrong person, though you've almost never felt the opposite of that. Because when you're with the right person, whatever you do, even nothing at all, feels so right.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Life is zesty for people in love. And even if you're not quite there, a flow of positive feelings and thoughts is still creating a bubble of happiness around you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Mental expansion ignites other parts of your life. It actually doesn't even matter what you're learning. Regardless of the subject matter, going from

ignorance to mastery is the thrill that makes you feel most alive.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You can accomplish quite a mound of work in the span of a few hours. You'll get busy, and you won't stop until the agreed upon time. The end of the day will bring a well-deserved boon.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You underestimate how others feel about you. While it's better to err on the modest side of such matters, you should know that if you don't show up, certain people are going to be very disappointed.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Most people you know could use a little help every now and then. Then there are those who are needy on an entirely different level. You may feel ready to help someone like that, and it will be a most rewarding experience.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll get the chance to fine-tune the image you present to the world. Actually, you could do this at any time. But today will give you both the motivation and the necessary tools.

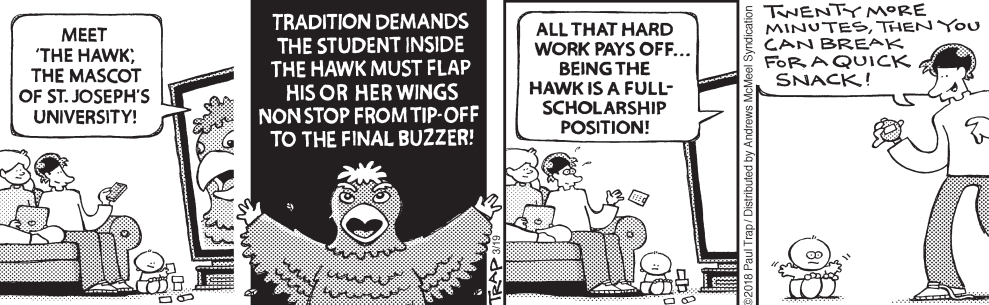
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** After years of tolerating others, you've become spiritually robust. The generosity that used to seem like work to you is now innate. To be the bigger person will require no thought at all.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 20).** As your personal life settles in, you'll gain clarity on a goal. Analyze the power structure; figure out the different roles how they work together and why. With a studious approach and a willingness to change and grow, you'll quickly rise up the ranks of an organization. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 13, 27 and 41.

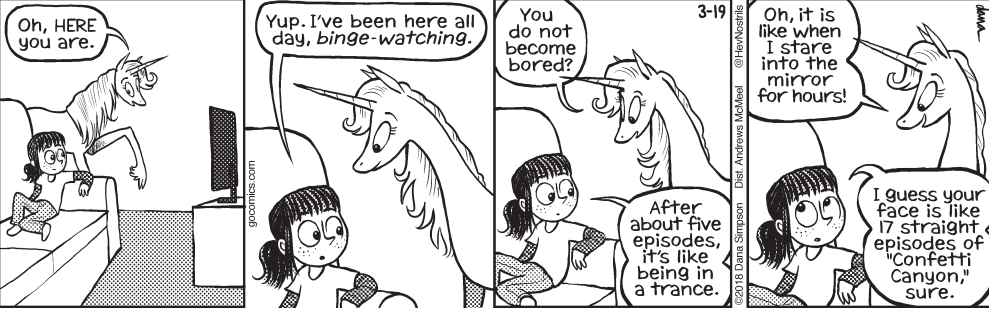
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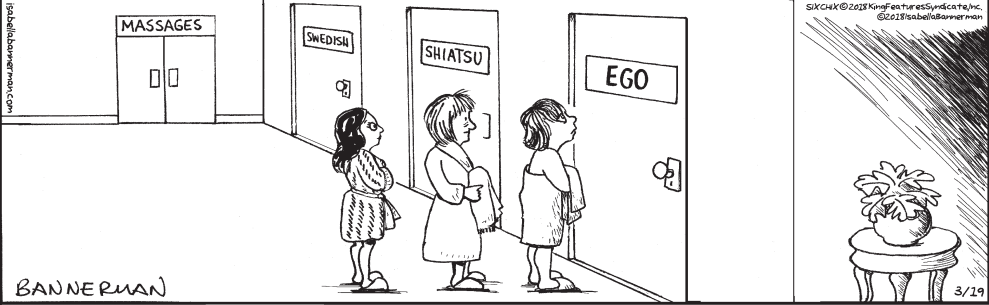
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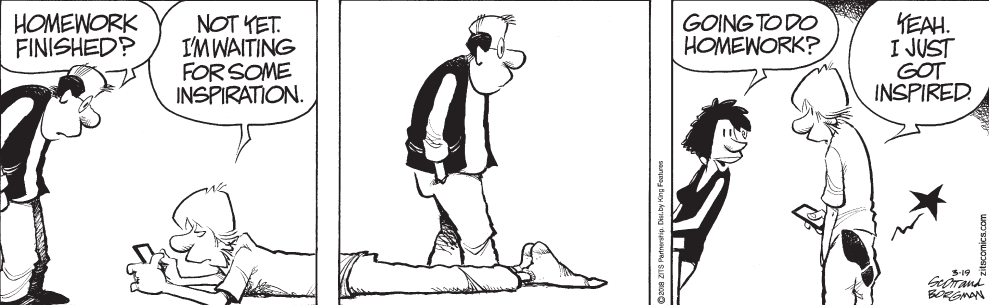
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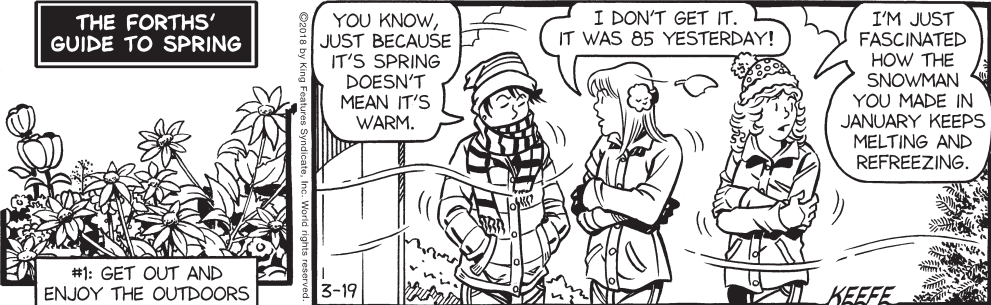
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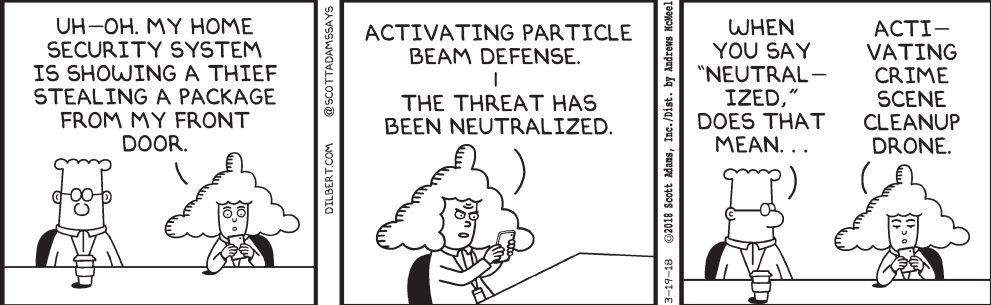
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