DEAR

ANNIE

Annie Lane

FEATURES

No one is calling her back

Dear Annie: I am in my mid-60s. I live in a small town, where I know lots of people but have only one friend I can count on. Another really good friend had to move out of state for her job. And another friend I have known for

35 years, but I get absolutely nothing in return. We only get together if I reach out to her. I'd like to cut her off, but I have no one to take her place.

My extended family members are not too far away, but they are too busy to make a phone call or send an email. I'm friendly with my husband's family mem-

bers, but they never call or make any effort to keep us informed of family news. My husband has never helped in that regard because he doesn't keep in touch with them, either. He also makes no effort to get together with friends. I have a happy marriage but need more than my husband to keep me company.

Having no friends is a problem I have had my whole life. My family was rather dysfunctional, with a brother who was troubled and made it difficult for all of us. My parents were preoccupied with him and expected the rest of us kids to take care of ourselves, and because there were no other kids in the neighborhood to befriend, I feel that I was unprepared to make friends. I could

have been a better friend to people as I became an adult but didn't really get it at the time. I get along fairly well socially now, but there is no one I can call and say, "Hey, let's do something." I also worry about what would happen if my husband or I got sick. Whom would I call for support?

Facebook makes me sad because it appears that others my age are still enjoying a very active social life. Has our culture created an atmosphere in which no one cares, or is it just me? — Nobody Calls

Dear Nobody Calls: First off, there aren't any people who are having as good a time as they seem to be on Facebook. If looking at those posts is bringing you down, log off for a while. Second, the best way to get somebody to call is to call her first. I know; you have tried reaching out. But keep trying.

Check out Meetup, a website designed to bring people together in real life over common interests. There's a group for everyone — amateur quantum physicists, alcohol-free adventurers, beer-drinking book-clubbers, puzzle enthusiasts, bridge players. The point is that you need to get out and try new things.

Dear Annie: Your advice to 'Broken Living Room," missed the mark and may cause the breakup of a friendship.

Chairs are constructed to withstand years strain of overweight bottoms. If this friend was capable of getting to "Broken Living Room's" house and getting herself seated, her weight was not the cause of the chair's failure. The chair in question was either of poor quality or well on its way to failure before the friend sat in it.

"Broken Living Room" should replace the chair with a quality chair, or she should find a place to put her fragile chair where heavy friends won't use it. Then she should forget the incident and nurture her friendship. She shouldn't blame the friend. — Overweight Chair-User

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

interactions.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone makes mistakes. You're apt to forgive and forget when the mistake is someone else's. Forgive vourself, too, so that you can go back to believing wholeheartedly in your own goodness

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even though sacrificing much and working very hard isn't a cakewalk, the one who makes you work harder will, oddly enough, be your hero. You don't know what's inside you until you open it up and put it to the test.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you have a flair for something, your time yields more potent results. Invest yourself there! You might make colleagues angry and jealous at first, but they will get over it in time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Most of the armors we build around ourselves are not truly hard and impenetrable. Instead they are like decorated parchment paper, easily poked through for the person with such an intention. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Stop judging yourself

in terms of being good or bad at something. Your innate talent is beside the point. The thing to focus on is progress. Figure out how to improve. That's what's important. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If you haven't

achieved to the level you think you're capable

of, these are the days you'll push yourself. How can you give, love, extend a little more? You'll figure it out and execute. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maximize the input from your team. It's no small thing to have people around you who believe in you and support

you. Also, you'll learn today that the one who is

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you really

on your side is really, really on your side.

like someone you get jealous of anyone who's ever had a piece of that person's heart. Of course, if you keep going along these lines, it's going to be an exhausting journey. Feel free to stop anvtime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not going to be fun if you're too worried about what other people think. It's good, however, to know how other people think. That will help you create a logical and comfortable flow to

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This isn't a thing about timing. It's real, and it would continue to be real in any time frame. You love, and you are loved. You give fun communication, and you get it back. What it's really saying: You love and you are loved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The giddiness you're experiencing might remind you of something that visited your stomach in a classroom when the test was being passed out, or when that certain very attractive someone was strolling by.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The passion is there. It's alive. It's in you. The work doesn't seem to be channeling it, and that's where you have to push yourself. You know how to do this. Just do it.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 14). Cosmic boldness will have you making more money and taking more chances in the first three months of the year. You'll see how shrinking wasn't serving you. In May, your wishes will be the wishes of others, and the collective energy will push things up, over and out. New living arrangements will help your work in July. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 28, 5 and 9.

FRANK AND ERNEST













BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH

OKAY, HOW ABOUT WE AT LEAST WATCH A MOVIE TOGETHER? CAN WE DO THAT AS A FAMILY?



OH GOOD! NOW LET'S JU

FIND SOMETHING

SURE.



45 MINUTES OF SEARCHING LATER.

EVERYONE

THIS SETUP

DID WE EVEN

HAVING 23

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

DOESN'T HIDE THE FACT

NETFLIX HAS BARELY

SIX NON-

MOVIES

THATABABY

























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SIX CHIX









NON SEQUITUR WELL, I SUPPOSE

WIZARD OF ID

PORTRAIT



BABY BLUES











ZITS





ROSE IS ROSE



