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SOLUTION: Timeline

First, we attempt to discover the order in which the seven people were born. From clue #2, we know that Charlie was the second to be born. If we list the string of seven people's first initials from left to right (where the leftmost initial is that of the first person who was born), we know from clue #4 that "AG" must be in the string, and from clue #9 that FB must be in the string. Furthermore, because of clue #4 and clue #13, Daniel must have been born after Gail. The following observation will help us to complete the ordering:

- From clue #7, Abby must have been born either 4th or 5th.

Now note that "FB" and either "AGD" or "AG?D" must be in the string. Using the above observation and the fact that Charlie was the second to be born, we conclude that Fred must have been born 3rd, thus Betty must have been born 4th, Abby must have been born 5th, and Gail must have been born 6th. Therefore the correct birth order is:

Elizabeth, Charlie, Fred, Betty, Abby, Gail, Daniel.

Using the birth order and several clues, it is straightforward to partially fill out the table shown below.

	Aqua	Baby Blue	Chartreuse	Denim	Emerald	Fuchsia	Gargoyle Gas
Abby	X		X	X		X	X
Betty	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
Charlie	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
Daniel	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X
Elizabeth	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X
Fred	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Gail	X		X	X		X	X

Note that clue #15 is satisfied by Charlie ↔ Fuchsia. Now if Abby favored Emerald and Gail favored Baby Blue, then clue #16 would be satisfied, but clue #11 would **not** be satisfied by any pair of people. Whereas if Abby's favorite color is Baby Blue and Gail's favorite color is Emerald, then this is consistent with all the given clues. To obtain the final answer, we index into each person's favorite color, indexing by the order in which that person was born (for example, we extract the 'U' from FUCHSIA because Charlie was the second to be born). Thus we have the ordered color sequence

DENIM, FUCHSIA, GARGOYLE GAS, AQUA, BABY BLUE, EMERALD, CHARTREUSE,

and reading off the extracted letters from left to right gives the final answer of **DURABLE**.

DURABLE

