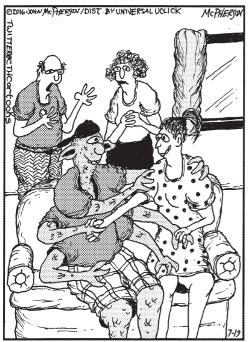
CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"I have no problem with Betsy dating an alien, there's just something about Zormbog that makes me uncomfortable."

Story of abuse taints reader's memories

Dear Abby: I am in shock. My grown son, 'Ryan," recently told me he was molested by his late father when he was a young boy. I had no idea, but I believe him. Ryan is an only child and has recently started

seeing a counselor. I loved my husband very much and I believed he loved me, but I no longer know what to think. If he were still alive. I would most likely leave him. But what do I do with more than 40 years of mostly good memories? Please help. — Nota Clue in Indiana



JEANNE PHILLIPS

DEAR ABBY

Dear Not a Clue: That your son didn't tell you sooner,

while you could have intervened, is regrettable. That he is now seeing a counselor about it is laudable. I don't blame you for having mixed emotions, but at this point it is too late for you to change anything. Hang onto the good memories, because you can't change history.

Dear Abby: I saw myself in the Jan. 15 letter from "Diana in San Diego," the lifelong compulsive nail biter who wants to stop. I was his ashamed then-fiancee hide her bitten-off, diagnosed with trichotillomania (hair pulling stubby nails when showing off her engageand skin picking) three years ago, and it is ment ring by suggesting she put on artificial closely related to nail biting. The trichotillomania learning center website, www.trich.org, is worth checking out for treatment options such as medications, behavioral therapy and support groups. — Erica in Massachusetts

Dear Erica: Thank you for the information. I received a deluge of helpful, caring responses to Diana's letter, and several readers mentioned trichotillomania in the more severe cases. Some had taken my advice to keep an emery board and cuticle scissors nearby a step further, by learning to do a full manicure and suggested she paint her nails a dark or bright color to help her stop biting.

Buffing was mentioned as a way to smooth imperfections that could be "triggers." A reader in Virginia added decorations to her nails decals, stencils and rhinestones — that served as an impediment and cured her of

nails as a way to allow their natural finger- P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. nails to grow out. James in Delaware helped

ones. While she proudly showed off the ring to everyone, her own nails grew out beautifully and she never chewed them again.

Additional growing-out tips mentioned by readers were: coating the nails with a hardening solution, keeping the cuticles moist with petroleum jelly, cuticle cream — even lip balm. A reader reassured Diana that there are indeed "bad-tasting" products that successfully work as a deterrent.

Keeping the hands busy has helped many readers. Breaking off a corner of one of her front teeth stopped Pat in Texas. Others found addressing a vitamin deficiency did the trick for them. Wearing a tight rubber band around the wrist to snap when the urge hits can give a nail-biter the incentive to stop. And from Sandi in San Francisco: "A teacher showed me an enlarged picture taken from a microscope of what was under fingernails. Now I don't even think about biting!'

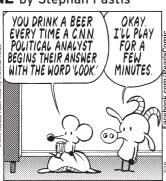
Other readers have used artificial (acrylic) Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis







GARFIELD by Jim Davis







JEFF MACNELLY S SHOE by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins







WIZARD OF ID by Brant Parker





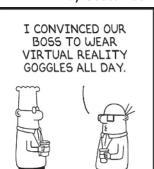


THE PHANTOM by Lee Falk

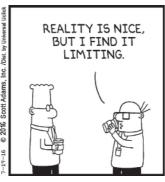




DILBERT by Scott Adams







MARK TRAIL by James Allen







PEANUTS by Charles Schulz









PICKLES by Brian Crane









FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston









YEAH, I'M

STARTING TO

POOT FOR THE

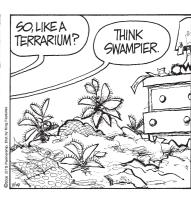
BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman







DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker









Daily Horoscope

drop off your schedule naturally, don't fight it or try to reschedule right away. Let it happen. You will experience a greater level of time-affluence and feel truly rich!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Nothing takes you out of the moment like criticizing your own

thoughts. Also, it's impossible to be fully awake and mindful and judge all of your thoughts at the same time. So how about you go easy on yourself?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Has a perfect stranger ever captured your attention to the point where you project an entire persona onto the person? Should you HOLIDAY actually get to know this person, MATHIS be careful not to let that made-up



and that will begin the journey LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There are forces at work that you don't know about and won't know about until the plot thickens. Suffice it to say,

you'll have angels on your side when you need them. Let that comfort and inspire you. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Because you really love a person, you'll sacrifice much to make things work, get along and accommodate wishes.

If you also happen to be extremely compatible

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When things with this person, even such efforts won't require much energy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can't blame a person for just trying to have fun, even if your kind of fun is in direct opposition to this person's. Probably the most graceful thing will be to remove yourself from the situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe you've behaved badly to someone in the past, but of course that doesn't make you bad in general. Perhaps you need a new cast and setting. Different people bring out different sides of you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are not your thoughts. Thoughts are just ideas passing through the atmosphere, most of them not even generated by you, just yours to claim or not claim depending on what best suits the person vou want to be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Once you learn a new way to make money you'll experience a financial upswing. It will be a day to investigate options, poke around, ask questions and try to determine what interests you enough to follow through to the finish. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are there

for your friend, regardless of the details of this person's troubles. First of all, it will be a while before you even know those details, and second of all, that's the kind of person you are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may have emotionally moved on from a situation, but there are remnants of it everywhere, not to mention a few practical matters connected with it that need to be cleared up. Today is a good day to start.