

FRIDAY FOLLIES

January 10, 2003

Hey!

I have thought about it all week. Now that the holidays are over and we are all back at work, school, in normal routines, and the real world is crashing in again, I have decided that I want a “Do-Over.”

Do you know what I mean by a “Do-Over?” Remember as a child when you were playing on a team in the neighborhood or at recess and you did something really stupid, or foolish or you really, really messed something up?

You were allowed, ever so often, to yell, “Do-Over!” With that, the other kids would allow you another chance to do it over and get it right.

Well, that is what I have decided I would like to do with this last holiday season. I want a “Do-Over.” It is traditionally my favorite time of the year, and it just zipped right by this year - very disjointed. My visit with my mom, my son, and others just felt very - unfinished - is the word that comes to mind. Oh, well. I am confident that we will have ample opportunities to make up for it in 2003.

(Here I am as the “getter” on our make-shift neighborhood baseball team. I was 12 years old before I found out there was no such position.)

One thing that is always nice, though, is while at home in Mississippi, I always find neat old photos that I haven’t seen in years. Here are a few of the children that I just LOVE!



Jeremy and Jessica on their first day of Montessorri School, and Jessica playing bathing beauty.





And these are priceless, too. Here are Jessica and Jeremy with friends at Summer Camp. Look how hot and sweaty they all are. Jess is on the far right and Jeremy is the third one in from the right.

Then this one was taken in New York City on a visit with the children's grandparents. Their dad was an airline pilot who was domiciled there, so they got very used to visiting the "CITY" over the years.



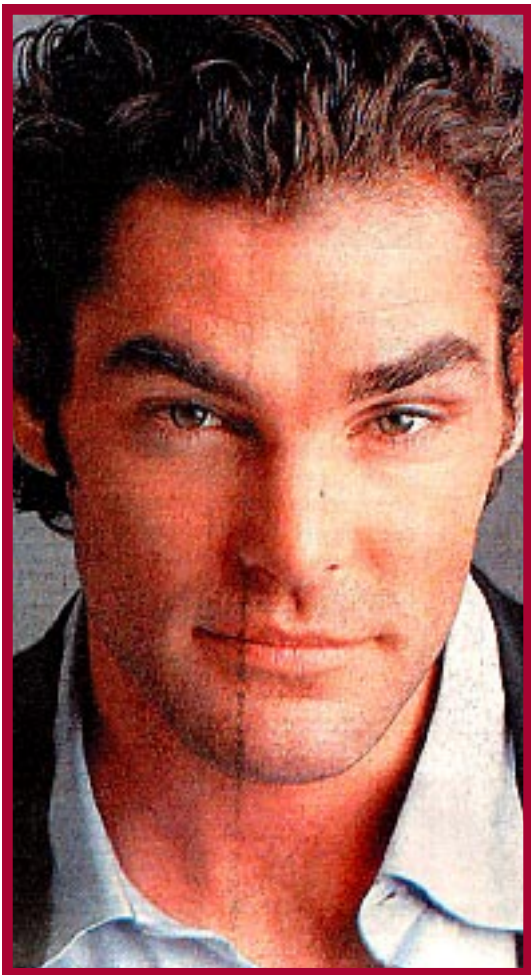
OK. Have you seen it? Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers? It is truly spectacular. Tolkien was incredible. I remember reading the books, all of them, while still in college. So many times you will read a great book, and then when you see it on the screen, it is not what your mind had pictured. These films are fantastic! So well done!

And did you finally see my Gandalf the White! Like I said, I have had Gandalf for eleven years now and another Gandalf before him. No one ever "got it" when I said his name was Gandalf the White...not until recently. Even last year when the first movie came out, they would say, why the White? why not the Grey.? That told me they had not read the books. . .



My Gandalf the White!

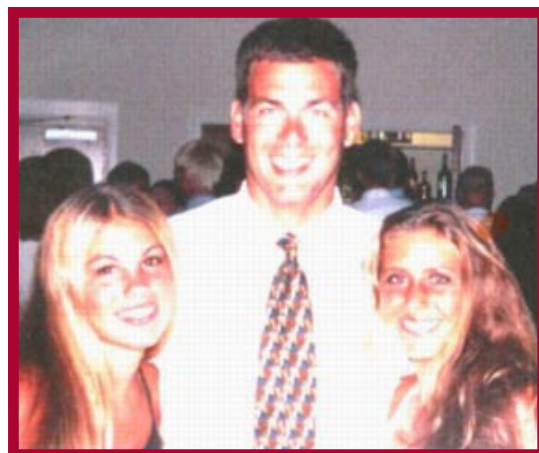




And how about this cutie!

Joe Millionaire!

Can you believe he is a ditch digger from Virginia Beach? Well, actually, he is much more than that. The media has tried to make him sound like a hick, but he actually went to a very exclusive private school here in Virginia, and then did some modeling in New York and other places. Yes, he was a ditch digger when they found him, but only because he was doing odd jobs in between gigs. At any rate, it is neat to have another "famous person" from Virginia Beach in the news. First there was Rudy, on Survivor, then "The Sexiest Bachelor in America," a school teacher and rescue worker my daughter worked for, and now Evan.



Even though we laughed at the concept, JP and I watched it out of curiosity the other night and got kinda caught up in it. It will be really interesting to see how it all turns out.

I also found it interesting that a very "prominent" bank president in Virginia adores the Follies so much, (as well as two bank presidents that I know of in Mississippi) that he wants to copy them. He had his assistant come to my office last week after the holidays to get some tips on how to create them each week. Seems he wants to do a newsletter to his clients and staff, and he wants to model it after the Follies. See, they are good for something!

We also received a phone call this week from a friend who is on this Follies list and owns an advertising agency/consulting firm. He said that the word had just come down that Virginia Beach was rated the **NUMBER ONE CITY IN THE TOP TEN CITIES TO LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES!** How cool is that! He said USA Today wanted to interview men in their 30's and 40's about the experience of living here. JP was asked to be one of the ones the magazine interviews! There will be ten men in a panel and from that they will choose two to be featured on the cover with tag lines leading into the article! If you get USA Today Weekend Magazine, you will see it soon. When I have more details, I will let you know. Hey! JP could be the next Rudy (or DitchDigger!)

Many of you sent the nicest thoughts and prayers and wishes for the New Year. I thought I would share a few with you.

AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH

*May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold ! ! ! ! a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.*

A NEW YEAR'S WISH FOR YOU...

Where there is pain, I wish you peace and mercy.

Where there is self-doubting, I wish you a renewed confidence in your ability to work through them.

Where there is tiredness, or exhaustion, I wish you understanding, patience, and renewed strength.

Where there is fear, I wish you love, and courage.



And I thought this one was especially nice...

To My Friend, I Wish

Today...I wish you a day of ordinary miracles.

A fresh pot of coffee you didn't have to make yourself.

An unexpected phone call from an old friend.

Green stoplights on your way to work or shop.

I wish you a day of little things to rejoice in.

The fastest line at the grocery store.

A good sing along song on the radio.

Your keys right where you look.

I wish you a day of happiness and perfection-little bite-size pieces of perfection that give you the funny feeling that the Lord is smiling on you, holding you so gently because you are someone special and rare.

I wish You a day of Peace, Happiness and Joy.

They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.



Then there are those in every crowd - This one came along . . .

Thoughts for the Day

- 1. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.*
- 2. Some people are like Slinkies . . . not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.*
- 3. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.*
- 4. Have you noticed since everyone has a camcorder these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they use to.*
- 5. According to a recent survey, men say the first thing they notice about women are their eyes, and women say the first thing they notice about men is they're a bunch of liars.*
- 6. Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.*

7. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

8. Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?

9. In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

10. Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.

11. How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

12. AND THE # 1 THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: You read about all these terrorists--most of them came here legally, but they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years. Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are two days late with a video and those people are all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration.

OK, I guess that does it for this week. I was down with a sinus infection for a couple of days and nights this week, so these are a bit later than usual. Hope they find you in good health and good spirits!

So, to all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, New York, or Europe, have a wonderful New Year and . . .

God bless.

Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.

Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

JUDI GODSEY

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent e-mails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday list.

PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way.

Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!

