

FRIDAY FOLLIES

March 31, 2006

Hey!

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Hope you are having a great week. The cards and emails are still rolling in about Gandalf. I can not thank you all enough. Truly!

As the cover shows, St. Francis is still with me! He likes his new yard! Photos in the background and throughout this week are from some of the things starting to bloom in my new yard. I'm trying, but it is going to take a while to make it a SOUTHERN yard.

This week's Follies are a bit of a hodge podge, but there is so much going on, it is very hard for me to sit still! I am serious!

The electricity is fixed in my bathrooms and outside now, so I finally finished stripping all of the *@#^%##&\$* wall paper and finished painting. I even started on my bedroom! Yea! Slowly, but surely I am getting there. I want the inside finished for a while before warm weather hits this weekend and I start to put in my garden.

Here are a couple of business card logos I was "practicing on" for Jeremy's new company. I like them, but the art work needs to be changed because I "borrowed" it. I was just experimenting. I like the concept, though. I am learning. I am learning. He seems to be loving it and is staying VERY busy. Getting ready to purchase Taxi # three in the next couple of months. If you are out Tahoe way, look him up and take a ride! I am hoping to get out there in the near future, myself. May wait until the fall - after his busy season is over, though. Man! I miss him!



Here are a couple of photos of the two new babies, "Yellow Bird" and "Little B." I can't wait for them to come out of their nest. I want to play with them! Aren't they adorable!



I planted more grass seed this week and, as I said, painted. I also did a million other projects like this summer wreath. I actually made this for my mom in the nursing home a couple of years back, but when I got it, we had stored it in a closet and it had basically fallen apart. I got it out last night and redid it. I will enjoy it this summer on the door.

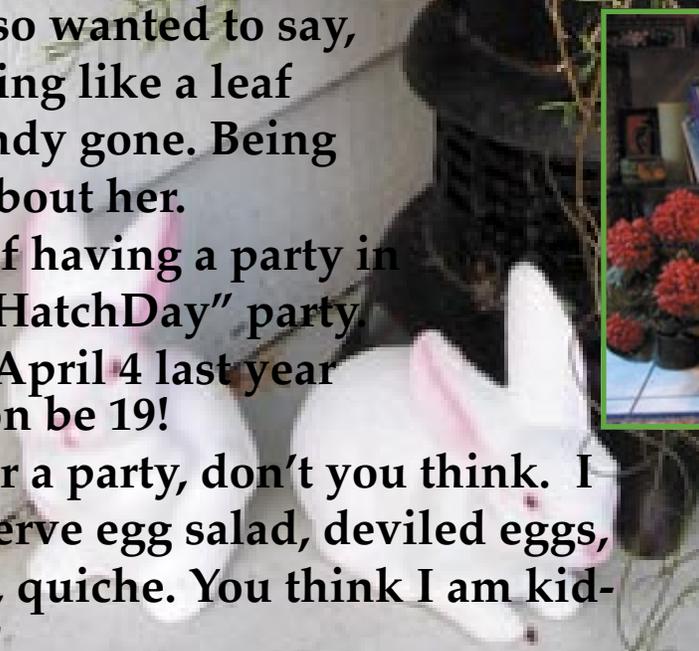


Maggie May also wanted to say, "Hey!" She is clinging like a leaf these days with Gandy gone. Being almost 19, I worry about her.



I am thinking of having a party in April. It will be a "HatchDay" party. Liberty hatched on April 4 last year and Maggie will soon be 19!

Great excuse for a party, don't you think. I am thinking I will serve egg salad, deviled eggs, green eggs and ham, quiche. You think I am kidding, don't you. Ha!



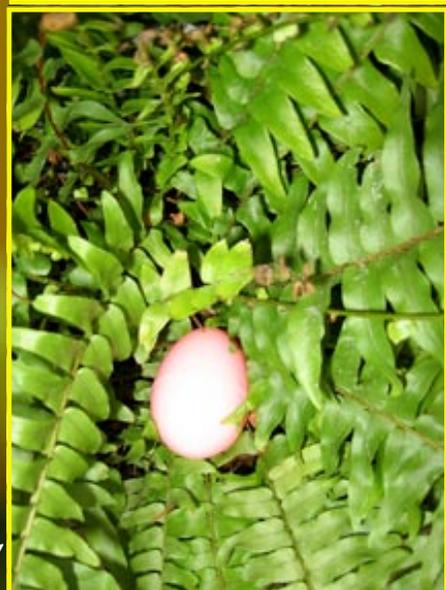
I am in the process of getting taxes done, getting estimates on a Florida room extension on the back of my house (which involved going to the city and the civic league and getting a variance), putting in a nice garden and fixing up my back yard, and seriously starting to think about "going out" and having a life again. Well, maybe. We will see. I am still having wonderful drop-in company for lunch, dinner, and cook outs, and Jessica pops in all of the time - so maybe I am just fine and do not need to start going out just yet.

Hmmm... what do you think?

The first of Roman Gabrielle Celebrity Golf Tournament is coming up the end of April, and I really want to go to that. I have a couple of friends that are planning on going with me, and I have had incredible emails from everywhere asking me if I will be there. How nice its that? I promise, if I go... I will fill you in. It will be a HOOT! That is for sure! I miss that group so much!

I got several stories in the newspaper this week, even a front page feature story. That was very cool. I LOVE what I do!

It is so much fun to promote other people! It is also fun to have so many newspaper people on this list... FROM everywhere! It is really hysterical! From *USA Today*, to *The Los Angeles Times*, to *The Commercial Dispatch*, to *The Virginian-Pilot*. I don't know how that happened. It just did. But I love it.



I heard from a friend who recently moved to Russia, found a new environment, adores it, and is painting like a fool, even put together a new newsletter. Very cool! Good luck, Bruce. I love your new work.

Well, you wanna hear the truth? I have started looking at other "fun properties," myself. Look at these I found in Italy. I may just have to take a trip and check them out in person. (Cheap)



Once upon a time, far far away, in the land of ice and snow, there lived an artist, painting quietly under a blanket of snow. The winter solstice came and went while she made magical paintings that made her spirit glow. The fires of creative solitude melted into beautiful art work meant to those over the frostiest snow.

This fairy tale became reality for me, Bruce Bingham, when I abandoned a busy American lifestyle and moved to the architectural gem of a city, Riga, Latvia. In fall of 2005 my husband, my dog and I chose to live and experience life in one of the oldest cities in Europe. Giving up the familiarity and ease of family, friends, cars and microwave, and inheriting a huge language barrier, I transplanted and immersed myself into a new story book experience. Rewarding by the "instant nirvana" that a change of location brings, I've been able to paint with increased inspiration and enthusiasm. This self imposed painting retreat has afforded me the time and energy to produce paintings I'm more excited about than ever before and I am looking forward to sharing them with you. My work holds a new magic for me and I hope it encourages you to chase your dreams. Stay tuned for quarterly updates as the adventure continues to unfold. Better yet, let me hear from you, www.brucebingham.com.

Kissing in color,
Bruce Bingham

Worst moment:
 Realizing that Estonian stretched canvas smells a lot like cran pie, opted for more expensive stretched canvas.

Best moment:
 Realizing the low angle of the sun casts long beautiful dark shadows all day long.



•Rustico For Sale in Madonna Del Sasso, Piemonte Italy, Beautiful garden with small mountain stream. 750 metres altitude. 20 minutes drive to Lake Orta, 45 minutes lake maggiore, 30 minutes to nearest ski station, 2 minutes outside of small village 20 minutes from Borgosesia. Would make nice 2 bed holiday home in an amazing area with lots to see and do.

•Home For Sale or For Rent in Pinzano, Friuli Italy (Venice/Austria/Slovenia). Built by a Venetian architect from previously standing old stone house. House is located in hills/mountain side at Pinzano al Tagliamento, close to San Daniele. Whole region is famous for wine production. In countryside, for summer, and close to winter ski resorts at border with Austria for winter.

•Farmhouse/Ranche For Sale in Casina, Emilia Romagna Italy. A magnificent stone farmhouse in the beautifully panoramic surroundings of the Emilian Apennines. The property comes with approximately 12,000 m2 of land. However more land is available on request.

•Charming Mediterranean Beach House For Sale in Peschici, Apulia Italy. Lies on a hill overlooking the sea and surrounded by the most rich and natural environment: The Gargano National Park in south-eastern Italy. The view of the sea from the house and garden is stunning, gorgeous sunsets to be enjoyed sipping a drink while sitting in your garden! The house is only 4 Km from the beach and can reach the nearest town and shops in 5 minutes. The road that leads you to the house is totally shadowed by beautiful umbrella pine trees, oak and carob trees! It is a residential area so every now and then you have villas hidden in their mediterranean gardens. The careful and loving recent restoration of this 60 sqm house has managed to turn it into the most charming nest for anybody that enjoys comfort and unique nature. One enters to the house through a gate which opens into the garden and the wide portico that leads to the house entrance. On the outside you have a working stone pizza oven and a well, the outside living area (2100 sqm of land pertinent to the property) is surrounded by fig and orange trees, olive trees and a vineyard and a variety of fruit trees.

OK, I have to go. Lots to do before I sleep!
It is still March, so here are some parting shots of noteworthy events
of the month. How About George Mason! Whoo Hoo!

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, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, Chattanooga, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Europe, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!

God bless.
Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey



May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
The rain falls soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you
in the palm of His hand.

-Irish blessing

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke 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 the jokes that accompany 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 Follies Joke 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!