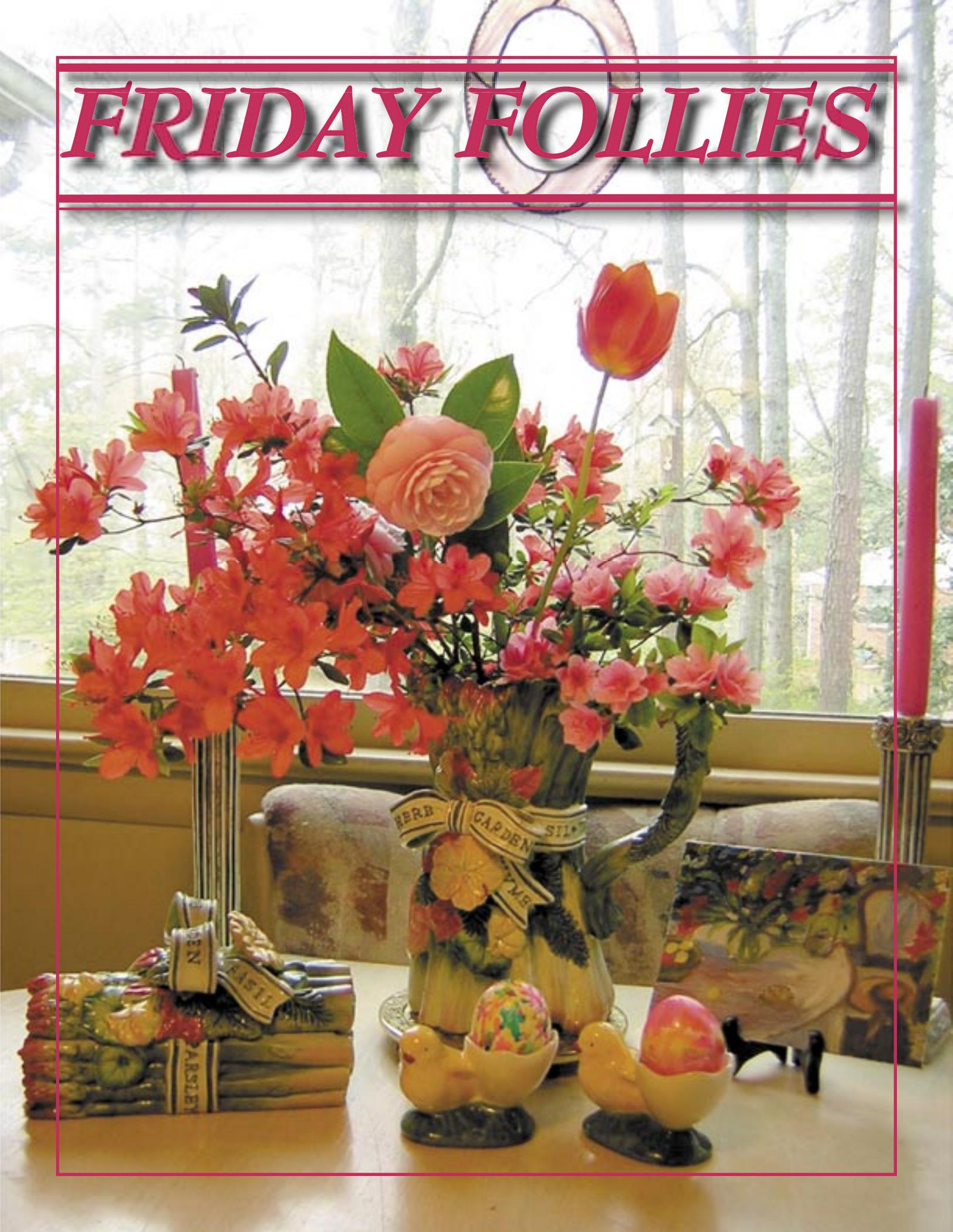


FRIDAY FOLLIES



April 16, 2004

Hey!

I hope you had a grand Easter! We certainly did! What a beautiful time of year. Even nature's colors are gentle. All the flowers in the yard are starting to bloom, so these Follies are filled with photos I took of the cuttings from our yard. I think I told you that one of the original owners of our home was a horticulturist for the Norfolk Botanical Gardens years ago. We have well over 300 dogwoods, azaleas, and camellias in our yard - all hybrids - every size, shape, and color you can imagine. Some of the plants even have three different variations on the same bush. Awesome! It would be great to have enough time to learn about all of them and treat them properly. All I do is cut them and bring them in the house to admire.

These Follies are also special because this past week, on Good Friday, I took a Photoshop course in Norfolk. I have been experimenting with how to make some of the files I create smaller, but have not had time to try much of the artistic stuff. That is another reason why the Follies are so important for



me. Every week, without exception, I learn something new that helps me with my job. The truth is, though, the course I took and the things I learn each week, only prove to me how little I know. With everything I learn, I simply have more and more questions . . . and more and more to learn.

I think I have a pretty good “*eye*,” but design is something people study for years! I do not fool myself into thinking I know a great deal about design. I just do what I like, play a bit, and then try to imitate other things I have seen that have merit. The problem is...the problem *always* is, there are only so many hours in the day, and with work, dealing with Mr. Happy, taking care of family, the Sunshine Products, and occasionally . . . myself, there’s simply not enough time to become as proficient as I would like. Every passing week I realize how *much* there is still to learn . . . but I do *love* it so!

On to other subjects...

Jeremy called this week, and he is doing well. I am proud of him. He is running the airport in addition to his job at the Sunriver Resort, and absolutely



loves it. He will qualify for in-state tuition in Oregon this summer. I send him books to read from time to time, and he often calls to compare notes on what we think about them. He is 24, and for the first time (I mean, he cared before – but as with most of us at that age – not really), he is really torn about this Presidential election.

Like so many of the young people I talk with right now, he is disillusioned and suddenly doesn't believe either party. My only advice to him and to others I talk with daily is to read and read and read every magazine, every book, and every newspaper (not email) they can get their hands on. I tell them to believe some of it, try to verify the rest of it, question the sources, remain skeptical (but not *cynical*), and then make up their own minds according to their instincts, gut, and heart. What else can we do? Don't we all become disillusioned with it from time to time?



For example, I have a young friend who is very dear to me. She is 21 and is a very “old soul.” Her father is a retired Navy Seal, her brother is a Navy Seal just back from Afghanistan,

and her very serious boyfriend is a Navy seal. They have known since February that he is being shipped out to Afghanistan with orders to "Get Bin Laden before November." I said, "Oh, well. He will be home in November then," and she responded that he was told he will not return until Bin Laden is caught! His deployment date has been changed three times, but he left today, (as I write this, Monday, April 12.) Now, I have to tell you, that made me stop and question a bit myself. You know this stuff goes on, and you know why it has to go on, but it still seems very "*contrived*." "It makes it very hard not to become disillusioned.

But as I continually tell Jeremy and Jessica, I do *honestly* believe that MOST of the people in elected office (and I do mean in *both* parties) are good people at heart. Most of them are there because of their deep beliefs and deep convictions. I truly believe that. I know there are some egomaniacs, but most of the time, if someone is a real *loser*, they are "found out" and will not be elected. It is also true that many times the people they surround themselves with (just because of the nature and the magnitude of politics) are real "trouble," and that



brings many politicians down as well . . . good or bad.

The truth is, it is very easy to judge them when we are not wearing their suits. Once, a few years ago, I was invited to attend the Virginia General Assembly and work for one of the Delegates during session. Before, I had

always gone up for a day at a time. You really don't see much that way. But when you are there for a long period of time, and you go to the committee meetings, and sit in on the sessions, and watch them deliberate for hours – sometimes days before a vote, well, there is so much more than the general public knows. They are exposed to so many testimonies and facts and figures in

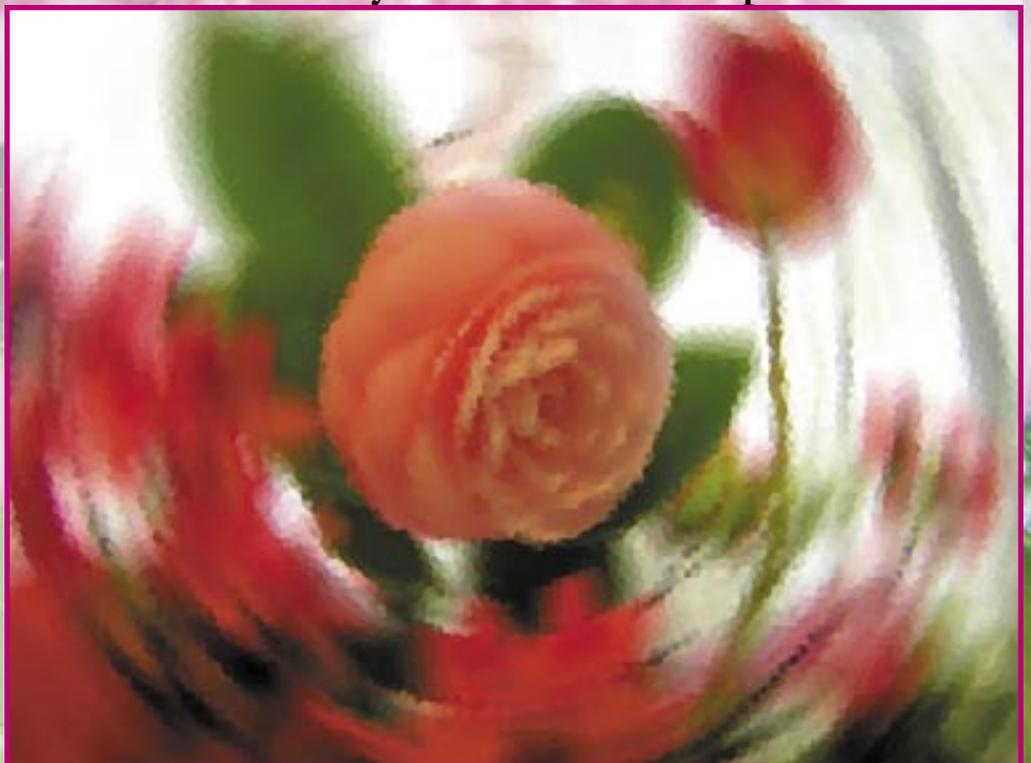
those committee meetings that the average American might not be privy to. Because of that, the decisions they sometimes make do not make sense to all of us. How can we be experts on everything? Why *should* we be?



The public often “launches” without knowing all of the details and intricate facts. The “electeds” are in a position to have more information, and make no mistake about it, their decisions are hard ones. That, in my humble opinion, is why we elect them. They pay their dues. Sure, there are those who are in it for what they can get out of it, but of all the elected officials I have ever - EVER - known, be they democrat or republican, local, state or national, that has *seldom* been the case. Generally, they are people of *great* integrity! Period! No discussion! Does that mean we, the public, do not dig, and sleuth, and try to find out if they are hiding anything? Absolutely not! That is *our right and duty* as citizens of this great country. Not to do so would be negligent and unforgivable on our part.

Well, I could go on and on, but I will not. The Follies are supposed to be light-hearted “fluff”but occasionally you have to allow me to *pontificate*. I could go on for pages, but I promise I won't.

Hey! Guess what? Next Thursday we are headed up to Philadelphia for a product meeting with QVC! QVC! It looks very promising, but there are some details we need to hammer out. I will be sure to report to you! And if it is agreeable, I will



let you know when “Gus and Judi’s Sunshine Products” will be on the air! We go into production for more Sunshine Sauce, Salsa, Hoagie Spread, and Chili Sauce soon. We have a new look for the label, new cookbook, and much, much more (as soon as I get it finished...HA!)

I did want to tell you that since January when I quit smoking there have been many changes. The first was that I gained 10 pounds...so I promptly began to smoke again...OK...occasionally. But then, I went on a strict diet and joined a gym. I am 16 pounds lighter than I was the beginning of February – but that is not even the important thing! I *feel* like a million bucks! I have so much energy and I look so much better...(well, to me, anyway . . . the best I can for my age.) My clothes fit so much better, and I am not nearly as self-conscious as I was. JP jokes about being Super Man all of the time – Now I have come up with a new nickname of my own – “*Wonder Wife!*” I think it fits. I think I will keep it! HA!

I will close with this shot of the Lynnhaven House where Rosemary Wilson, our dear friend and my “Rotary Sister,” held a fundraiser for her City Counsel election. It is always one of the nicest fundraisers we attend each year. Just plane *nice!* AND she invites the Easter Bunny!

Have a good one!





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, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Maryland, West

(By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Chattanooga, New York, Oregon, 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

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. P.S.S. 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!