

FRIDAY FOLLIES

May 7, 2004

Hey!

Look at this little hunk of precious! Isn't he adorable? I purposefully put our hands in the photo so you could get



an idea of how *tiny* he is! I named him "CT," short for "Cotton Tail." He came to us quite by accident! Last Friday night, I was home just getting ready to relax. J.P. had headed out to a Tides baseball game, and I was looking forward to a nice, quiet evening at home! I finished a few chores, and when I walked into the kitchen, our black cat, "Scraps," (AKA Buddha - looks like she weighs 68 pounds!) looked up at me with pride in her eyes and this little, sweet baby in her mouth. She was so happy to bring me a gift!

I screamed! She dropped him! He splayed out dead as a doornail on the kitchen tile! She bolted for the pet door! I stared in disbelief and screamed again! Then I realized it was a *baby*bunny. I cried. I ran to the laundry room and got a table cloth so I could wrap him up and take him out into the bushes. I was NOT looking forward to picking up a dead rabbit! I covered him with the cloth and ran to answer the phone. When I came back, I had a sneaking suspicion that he would be gone. But he wasn't. I uncovered him and just *had* to touch him. His little eyes were still open - frozen - not blinking - and even though he was not breathing, I just wanted to touch him.

He appeared to have no puncture wounds, but he had teeth marks on his fur, and his little back looked like it might be broken because his



back feet were going in one direction and his front feet in another. When I sat down and rubbed his soft fur, he quivered, blinked, and let out a loud gasp! I jumped back thinking it was just his body releasing his last bit of breath. Then, about



five seconds later, another loud gasp! I couldn't believe it! I sat and stroked him softly and sure enough, every five second or so, there was breath. After a few minutes, he started breathing normally. I guess he was just in shock or was "Playing Possum," (you know, playing dead - hoping his prey will get bored and leave him alone.) Whatever it was . . . it was a MIRACLE!

I sat with him on the floor for awhile until he was comfortable, and then I lifted him and held him close. It felt like he was "purring." I was amazed. I was getting ready to throw this little creature out into the woods.....which would have been enough to kill him if he hit a tree somewhere in the dark. Anyway, he liked being held and put his little twitching nose under my arm. I got an empty, clear-plastic "Gus and Judi's Sunshine Pasta" box and put newspaper, food, water, and a towel in it. Jess came over and we doted over him. When JP came in, he could not believe his eyes. I had told him before about the cat bringing in a rabbit, but I really do not think he believed me. (She also recently brought in a mouse - a HUGE mouse - but he scurried out the door before I had to deal with him....ugh!)

Anyway, it was bright out that night, so I took "CT" outside twice and tried to let him go. I put him on the ground, and he just sat there and looked up at me like, "You aren't really going to put me out in the dark, are you?" What could I do? Back in the house we went . . .both times!

The next morning, with three cats and a dog, I just knew this was NOT going to work. I took him back out and tried again. Jess came over and helped me coax him. He just sat there, shivering. Every time a bird would screech, he would slide a little closer. It was sad. I started thinking - EVERYTHING is his enemy...cats, dogs, birds, snakes, people, cars, you name it! After a while, he finally built up his nerve and bolted. The problem - he bolted in the wrong direction! He headed straight towards the street. I tried to head him off. That freaked him out and he bolted again. This time, he darted across in front of a car! I ran to where he disappeared into the bushes, and you will not believe this, but he ran into the bushes right underneath a three-foot long snake skin hanging from the shrubs! I saved this poor little rabbit so he could be slowly devoured by a snake! Well, Maybe not - but it reminded me of "Watership Down!" Anyway, "CT" was a *treasure* and remarkably soothing for my soul. I hope he felt the same.



We put in our garden this week. It was a lot of work, but it is so exciting once it is in. I love watching it change ever-so-slightly daily during the spring. Then in the summer, I love hauling in the fruits of our labor.

There are times during the summer when I go out early to get the paper and stop in the garden to “check on things.” Before you know it, I have every pocket of my robe overflowing. Then I always take the paper out of its clear plastic wrapper and fill it to the brim with tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, etc. It is truly one of my favorite times of the year.

This year, we planted five different varieties of red and yellow tomatoes, green, red, and yellow bell peppers, Pimento, Jalapeños, Habaneras, Cherry Peppers, Banana Peppers, squash, eggplant, watermelon, lots of herbs and



even two new grape plants. We gave up on corn - too hard to grow - even though the stalks are “killer” in the fall. I thought we would try our luck at grapes. If they work and produce, they will be cool, and we will not have to replant them every year.

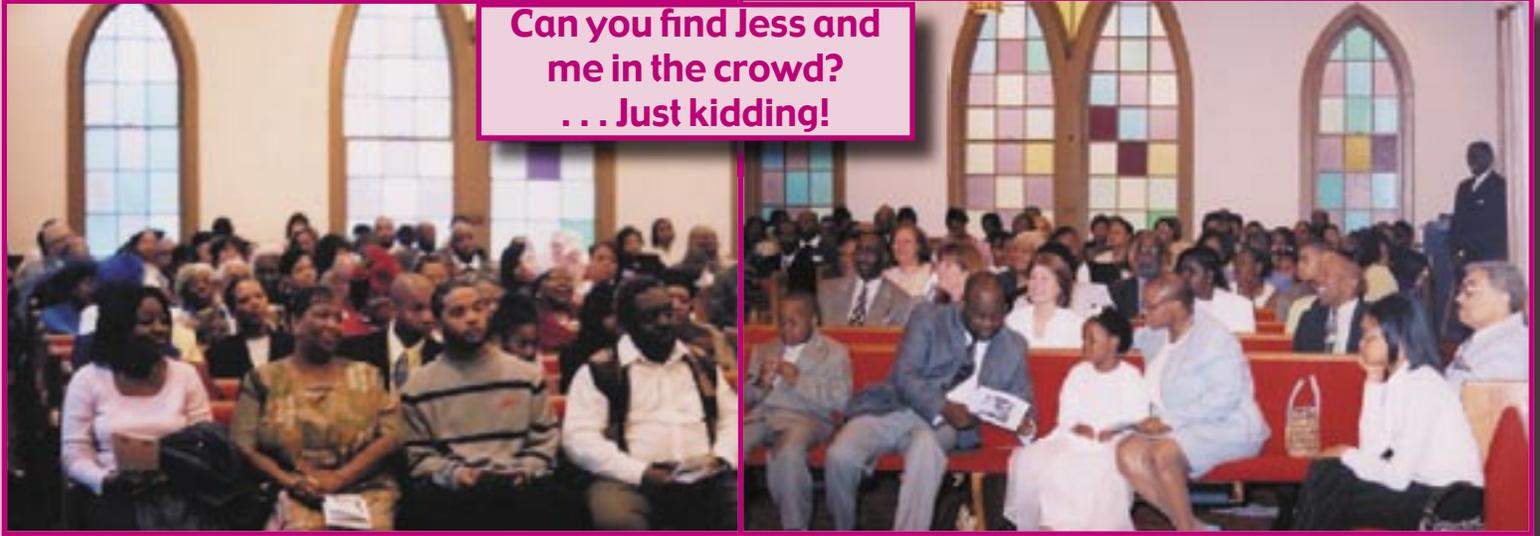
I guess this means it will soon be time to start experimenting with new sauces and recipes . . . Hmmm . . .



I just have one more “Animal Kingdom” shot to show you. I am sure you think I am “Mother Nature” this week, but there just happened to be some “very unusual happenings” in the Godsey neck-o-the-woods lately. Here is a shot of a woodpecker in our backyard. He is without a doubt the biggest woodpecker I have ever seen! It was raining, so I could not get too close, but he honestly looked like a buzzard he was so big! “Gandalf The White” was even scared to go outside! (I wish this showed up better. He really was huge!)

Alright. It is time to play catch up! I had these photos in my camera from Easter and never got a chance to share them with you. Easter Sunday, J.P. was the guest speaker (not the preacher) at the Mt. Zion church here in Virginia Beach. It is the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Virginia Beach. It is well over 100 years old and the pastor, Reverent William Dyson, serves on the Human Right Commission for Virginia Beach with J.P. They have gotten to be good friends. Bottom line - it was one of the nicest, classiest churches I have ever been to. There were nothing but genuine smiles everywhere we looked. We have talked about going back sometime, just for us...not because JP is speaking. Anyway, here are the photos. It was awesome. A perfect way to spend a rainy Easter morning. I have to tell ya, though...with JP in the pulpit, Jessica and I kept thinking lightening was going to strike. Ha!

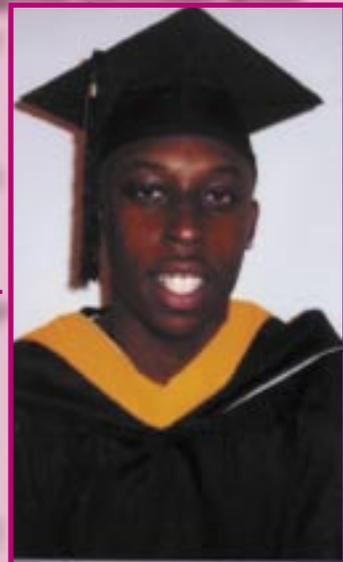
Can you find Jess and me in the crowd?
... Just kidding!





Congratulations: to Troy who graduates from Old Dominion University this month; to Andy who is graduating from Mississippi State University and is going into the Army Rangers in August; to Jeremy (our son) who transfers to the University of Oregon next month; to Tara for growing her business so much that she had to move to a bigger location in Steam-

boat Springs, Colorado; to Amanda in the great "Outback" for following through with the choices of her heart; to Teresa for not being afraid to persue her dreams in NYC even while her boyfriend (a Navy Seal) is in Afghanistan; to Leah on your new marriage; to steve on your new marriage; to Josh and to Clara for both having new, exciting careers; to Bobby on an unbelievable City Council election; to Rev. Dyson for being named Head of the Human Rights Commission; to Peter for a fabulous new position in sunny Florida; to Ann for being Ann; to Dev-roop fora new life in South Africa; to Susan, MaryAnne, Mike, and Kevin all with new houses; and to Brandy and Craig for the new baby on the way. Marta, it was great to see you recently. Andre, it is great



to have you back. Michael, you are only supposed to have ONE date for the prom . . .not SIX. Steve, good lookin' team you have there.

I could go on and on, but I must stop. Congratulations and God bless you all.



*Remember
your moms
on Sunday!*

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

P.S. 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!