

June 13, 2003

# Friday Follies 1

Hey!

Long time no Friday Follies! Needless to say, life has been turned upside down since March 3. Good things, but absolutely no time to breath. We have a few things to tell you, and soon these Friday Follies will be located on the [www.happyusa.com](http://www.happyusa.com) site. You need to check it out as there is now a new "splash screen" where you can see a few pictures from our "Happy Times" and can hear some Mills Brothers harmony before the webpage appears. There are also many new appearances and a few new items and products.

The book, *Be Happy: The Ultimate Guide To Happiness By The Happiest Man In America*, is about a quarter of the way through and our good friend and the Senior Writer for *USA Weekend Magazine*, Dennis McCafferty, is the coauthor. He and JP are doing a great job! I know all of the stories already, but the way JP tells them and then Dennis writes them in JP's special style, well, it is fantastic! It truly is going to be an everyday guide to happiness and not some "pie in the sky," "holier than thou" kind of thing. Right now, with only four chapters totally finished, our literary agent in L.A. says there have been numerous "serious nibbles" already. It is so exciting!



JP signed with American Programs Bureau which is one of the premier speaker's bureaus in the country. They manage Larry King, President Mikhail Gorbachev, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jane Seymour and hundreds others and we are thrilled that he has signed with them. He has his first PAID speaking gig this week. YEA! We have been busy taping many of his speeches for PR, promotions, and also for practice.

In addition, we have been contacted by a six-star cruise line about doing a cruise to Bermuda (with one to the Mediterranean soon after) that will feature "Happiness." JP will give several seminars and workshops and for that, our cruise will be paid for, plus there will be a fee included. More on that later. (Mrs. Happy is very haapy about that! grin . . .)

Our "Gus and Judi's Sunshine Pasta Sauce" has been scientifically tested and the labels are being prepared. The first batch will be ready for the shelves within the next six week, and there are many wonderful prospects with that. If I could tell you now, I would. But it may be the most exciting thing we are involved in. SERIOUSLY!

OK, go to the website when you have a chance and do it often. There is just so much going on and, honestly, more happening every, single day. This thing is wonderful and has the potential to positively affect more lives than we ever imagined.

For example, J.P. gave his first Commencement Speech this past week. It was one of the most touching ceremonies I have ever seen. It is a small, prestigious, independent school where one of my best friends is the Head of School and each graduate had some-one special in their lives present their diplomas. There was not a dry eye in the house when it was over.



We recently went to a Merle Haggard concert and got back stage to meet Merle himself. Our good friends and neighbors, Richard and Debbie Cilley, went with us. The outdoor concert was fun, and it was the only time in six weeks that it has not rained!

Now listen to this. We almost got on the show *Trading Spaces*. Debbie sent the following letter to the producer when she heard they were going to be filming in Virginia in July.



June 2, 2003

Dear Ms. Kornutik,

*I am writing to let you know about a great opportunity that exists right here in the city of Virginia beach.*

*Recently, Virginia Beach was selected as the best place in America to live by USA Weekend Magazine. In addition to that, our neighbor, J.P. "Gus" Godsey, was proclaimed the happiest Man in America after USA Weekend Magazine did an extensive search, interviewed scores of individuals who knew him, and put him through intensive psychological testing. Perhaps you saw him in March on Good Morning America, FOX News, CNBC's Power Lunch, and both he and his wife, Judi, on Connie Chung Tonight. (For more*



*information on the JP and Judi, you can go to their website at [www.mrhappyusa.com](http://www.mrhappyusa.com))*

*Now here is where this gets interesting! My name is Debbie Cilley. And yes, my last name is pronounced "SILLY." So you see the happiest man in America and his wife live across the cul-de-sac from the silliest family in Virginia Beach!*

*We are all very handy people around the house. Richard and I like to paint (me in particular) and we like to do all kinds of handyman jobs, including wallpaper removal and application, wood trimming, etc. J.P. and Judi even added a room onto their home, doing most of the interior work themselves.*

*We are all very interested in being on Trading Spaces, and we know it would be fun for your viewers as well.*

*Thanks so much,  
Debbie Cilley*

They responded that they had gone to the website and thought it was a great idea, but wanted to make sure we both had kids at home between the ages of 9 and 19. WRONG! Jeremy turned 24 this Tuesday and lives in Colorado (moving to Bend, Oregon to go back to school this weekend) and Jessica turns 21 on July 5 and lives in her own place here in Virginia Beach where she goes to school and works two jobs. Guess that knocks us out. But it would have been fun. Personally, I think there are enough people who watch the show who have an "empty nest" or are getting ready to transition into one that it would have been a great premiss. Maybe next time!

Happy Birthday Jeremy! Have a safe move!





# Friday Follies

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Well, Elvis was in town last week! Thousands of them. There were Elvis parades, Ski Diving Elvises, Black Elvis, the Gracelanders, James Presley, and on and on and on. It is truly a grand time to live in Virginia Beach. . . Free concerts everywhere. The only bad part is that I had to live with the “Happiest Elvis” for four days during the event. I KID YOU NOT! He had black electrical tape stuck on his face like sideburns and had on dark shades for four days! I listened to *The Wonder of You* 4,332 times! When he took the tape off, he had the outline still on his cheeks for three more days! Hilarious (after the fact).

The funny thing is that when he decided to “BE” Elvis, he had to find the “right” sun glasses, and lo and behold, his boss, John, had a pair right in his desk....Makes me wonder about you, John. . . (smile)

Another major event for us was taking our little Pontoon Boat, the “Til Then” out for an afternoon (the first time this spring!). We have been in this weather pattern, like most of you on the East Coast, where it rains all weekend and then clears up on Monday. This has been going on forever! There were only 8 days in May that it didn’t rain. Well, Monday before last, we were both pooped and decided on a beautiful Monday to take the afternoon off and spend it on the boat, fishing and going to our little secluded beach along with “Gandalf the White”. It started out well, but our little cruise turned into a “Gilligan’s” kind of thing.

We packed the fishing poles and tackle, the dog and his food, the sunscreen, the cooler, etc. and headed out. We took our time cruising up the Lynhaven River to the Chesapeake Bay, and then over to our little private beach at First Landing Seashore State Park. Breathtakingly beautiful. We approached just at the crest of high tide and rammed the boat on shore, as we usually do. We like to laugh at those in their big power boats and sail boats who have to anchor off shore and swim in. We just pull up and unload right onto the sand, barely getting our feet wet.

We got all set up and enjoyed a few hours in the sun and playing catch with our dog. There were great walks through the woods on the well-marked trails and swims in the still cool, brackish water. Sounds lovely, doesn’t it?

Well, that is where this “serene tale” ends and the “Gilligan” part begins. “Skipper” all of a sudden looks at (am I a “Ginger” or a “Mary Ann”?) and says, “AAAAAAh, I think we may have pulled a bit too far inland this time. It looks like the tide is still going OUT.”



We put what we called “time sticks” on the shore (markers), and sure enough...at 5:30... it was still going OUT! Now we started to worry a bit because the sun was bearing down and the bugs were starting to come out in swarms for their late afternoon snacks. Gandy was tired and kept trying to get back on the boat, and we both knew it was a good hour or



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so before the tide would turn. Then, as with any good tale, the sun went behind a bank of clouds and the wind started to blow. It was very chilly to say the least, especially when everything you have on is damp or wet.

Well, we made up seashell throwing games, we read the paper, we placed bets on when the tide would turn, we moved the time sticks . . .and it still was not making much of a difference. That is when we noticed . . .we had rammed the boat on shore so hard, that it had gone over a little gully and was sitting on a mound of sand...meaning that the tide was going to have to get VERY high before we could get out and over the rift. By “The Professor’s” estimations, over halfway up the beach!

**ONLY THE GODSEYS!!!!**

J.P. said he would “dig” us out. (Bless his heart, there was NO WAY! But he was determined to get us out.) He dug and he dug and he dug. Meanwhile, “Mrs. Howell” was totally covered up with wet

towels, shivering on the boat. Gandy had had enough, too.



What we didn’t realize was that J.P.’s digging just made us go deeper into the rift. Long story short, the tide finally came in about 8:30, and we were able to physically shove the boat back into the water and walk it for a loooong distance until there was some depth to the bay.

But by now, it was growing very dark. I asked “Mr. Happy” where the spotlights and flashlights were so I could point out the

crab pots for him, and he sheepishly said, “In the garage at home where I was fixing them.” (We had no idea our three-hour cruise would have lasted until long after dark.)

We made it back to the Chesapeake Bay, and then when we turned south to head back down the Lynhaven . . .you honestly could not see your hand in front of your face. We both agreed that it was impossible to continue, so we turned around, docked at a restaurant on the water, and called a good friend, Michelle, to come and rescue us at 9:30! (Michelle is getting very used to these rescues operations as she has done it for us a few times before.) As I said, **ONLY THE GODSEYS!!!!!!** (THANKS, Michele!)



And one last adventure I will tell you about this week - we went to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (actually Pawley Island) this past weekend where J.P. was the keynote speaker for Ervin "Blueprint" Parker's Celebrity NFL Golf Tournament. We had a blast. You football fans out there might recognize some of these names:

Ervin "BluePrint" Parker - Bills/Chargers/Seahawks

Roman Gabriel - Rams/Eagles/NFL MVP

Joe Cribb - 49ers/Bills

Billy Ray Barnes - Eagles

Jeff Sevenson - Redskins/Rams/2 Super Bowl Rings

George Rogers - Saints/Redskins/ Heisman Trophy

Benny Snipe - Steelers/Tampa Bay

Jim Lane - NHL/NY Rangers

And on and on and on...



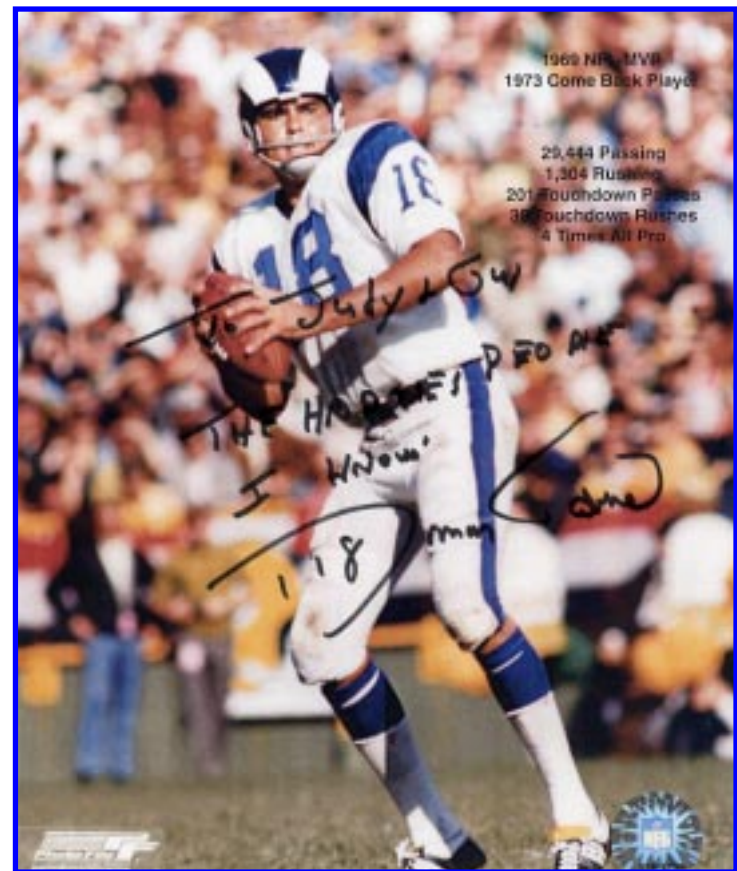
Ervin "Blueprint" Parker

J.P. did a great job, and I will have photos of that a bit later in the month, but the really fun part was when we met Roman Gabriel, Billy Ray Barnes, Jeff Sevenson, and Jim Lane after the awards ceremony and we started goofing around with them. We ended up being invited to go back to their condo for dinner.

What a hoot! These guys have been friends forever, and it was obvious that we were being included as guests on sacred ground. They were constantly "busting" on Mr. Happy and, of course, J.P. fit right in. Jeff has a TV show in L.A. and also is an accomplished song-writer. At one point he broke out the guitar and made up a song about Mr. Happy! We laughed and laughed. There were songs for everyone, and we all joined in. Then they sang me a song!

Roman even got up out of his chair and came over and stood in front of me to sing it! There is no way I can explain it, but it reminded me of when J.P.'s fraternity brothers gathered around and sang to me at our wedding reception - very special. Very funny and very special, indeed.

I think we have made good friends for a long time to come. As a matter of fact, Mr. Gabriel called this week to invite J.P. to speak at his golf tournament later in July, and Jeff is talking about us coming to California for J.P. to be on his show. They both called in and were on J.P.'s radio show this week. Isn't life strange. You just never know what is just around the corner.



Okay. I guess that about does it for this week, (whew!)even though it has been more like a month since I wrote you last. I will try to do better, but I have a feeling the Follies may become a monthly “gig” now instead of a weekly one. But I promise to stay in touch. Love to you all, and I wish you well.

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, wonderful weekend, 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

*P.S. 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!*

*Friday Follies*