

Friday Follies

June 25, 2004



Hey!

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Hope all is going well for you. My family has had a very rough few weeks, so please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Life sometimes seems to go in cycles, ya know? Sometimes very bad, sad cycles that seem to never end . . . I can remember several in my lifetime. But they eventually do . . .

Well, things haven't changed much here. We have been going non-stop since I wrote last. Just things going on and tons of chores around the house. I did manage to get in some painting, some beach, and some violin time this week, though - usually from 10:00 P.M. until 1:00 or 2:00 A.M. (not the beach time, of course . . .) Hey - You do what you have to do, right?

I decided a long time ago that sleep was a waste. I try not to go to bed until I am about to drop! JP turns in most nights one or two hours before me, and then unless it is the weekend, I am up and "at it" an hour or so before he rises, and he is fairly normal - needs about eight or nine hours sleep.

But - get this - I figure, if on average, I add three waking hours a day - or let's just say it is two for the sake of the argument - then I have 14 more hours per week, 56 more hours per month, 672 more hours per year, which basically means I get an extra full month out of every year I live! Ha! That's the truth, folks! And since I am over 45 years of age, (ever-so-slightly) that means I have added almost four years of time to my little existence here on earth already! Amazing! (Of course, I look like hell . . . Ha! But who cares!)



I had my first violin lesson and worked in a few hours of practice. Man, the violin is fantastic! It just mesmerizes me! I played the piano a little growing up, but this is so incredibly different. I can read the music, but finding the notes on the strings . . . and using the bow is not easy! I had to cut all of my long, beautiful fingernails, too. Oh well. My teacher, Charlotte, plays with the Virginia Symphony and she is awesome! We just giggled and had the best time. She was so complimentary of me after my first lesson that it made me very proud. She was telling me how I was farther along after one hour than many of her students are after a month. (Of course I am sure they are ten years old, but it still made me feel good!) Honestly, you could see she enjoyed it, too. I am sure it is nice to have a student who is hungry to learn vs. one who begrudgingly takes classes just to get out of study hall. Shoot, man! I wanna learn how to fiddle! She even understands that! Cool, huh?

Well, I was looking for some inspiration to paint this week and I came across this incredible work done by a friend of mine, Bruce Bingham. She is so incredibly



talented (and beautiful!) She paints just the way I see things, but I do not have the skill or knowledge to paint the way she does. (I cannot believe as much as I have loved trying to paint this last year that I have not taken lessons! Shame on me!) Anyway, the painting at the top left of this column is her oil painting that inspired me.

I had not painted with acrylics since a friend gave me paints for my birthday over a year ago, so I thought I would give them a go. Here is my “copy” - even though not finished) of Bruce’s work. Man, how do you get that smooth, calm feeling her painting has?



Then it occurred to me to try the same subject, but in oils. Below is the very much unfinished painting in oils, but you can still see the difference. I have not finished the mountains, clouds, or the dock, but you get the idea, don’t you? What an amazing exercise.

JP gave me some watercolors not long ago and I have never tried those, so maybe I will pull those out



and try the same scene in water color. Oh, boy! I am in over my head. Time for a few lessons, right?

The fun thing is that Jessica has become very interested in it, too. She has never had lessons either, but she just has a natural “eye” for it. We went to the beach one day this weekend, and I took along a sketch pad. While sitting there, we got bored, so she started drawing. She drew this abstract sketch of me which I think it so unusual. Really neat!

Of course, none of these photos show up the way they really look - but again, you get the idea.)

Here is Jessica hard at work on her sketch and here is her sketch we call , “Jessica’s mother.” HA! I think it is pretty cool.



I also promised her I would put in a photo of the little “angel” she is baby sitting for this summer while going to school – her nickname is “Piper” because, man, she has a set of PIPES! Isn’t she adorable.

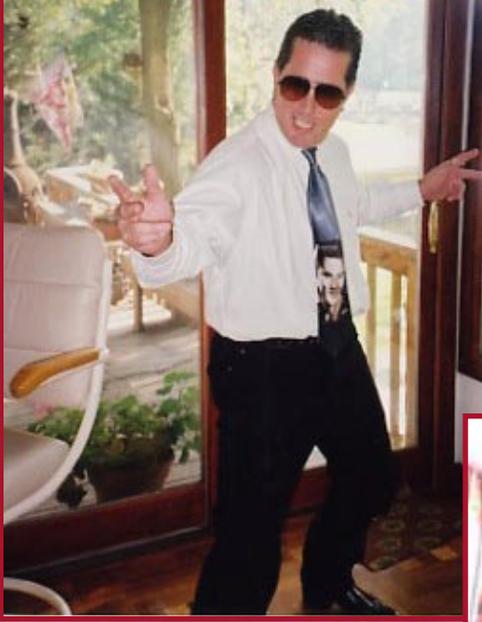
This weekend is the “Viva Elvis Festival!” It goes from Thursday through Sunday night. There are Elvis Parades, Elvis Karaoke Contests, Elvis Recliner Races, Elvis Concerts ALL weekend long all

along our beautiful Boardwalk complete with Young Elvis, Black Elvis, Female Elvis – you name it. Jerry Presley is even here for the event. And if that isn’t enough to convince you, they even have SKY-DIVING Elvises! (Plural) The whole sky is just full of them! Too cute!

JP was going to do the Karaoke this year. He has been practicing his song and planned a costume to make this week, but he got a call today and they want him to be one of the celebrity judges for the event. (He and Rudy Boesch and a few others...) SO, I guess he won’t be able to compete if he is judging.

Oh, DARN!

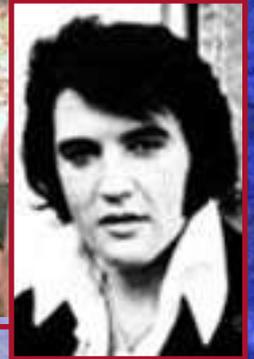
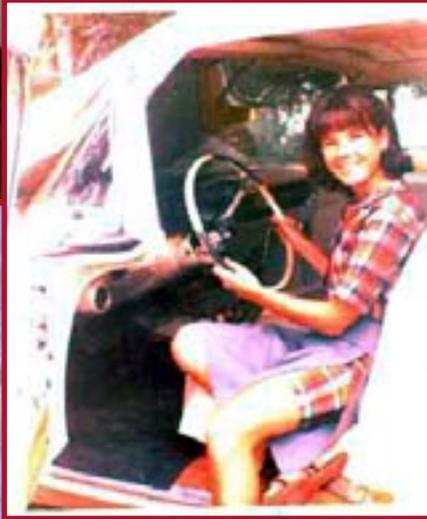
Elvis Lives!



Here he is last year dressed for the weekend. I am not kidding! He wore those stupid electrical tape side-burns for four days. He wore them so long, he even had a “funny” sun tan when he took them off.

Below is a photo of me taken behind the wheel and in the backseat of Elvis’ Gold Cadillac back in the sixties. It was amazing! While on vacation in Houston, one of my mom’s cousins had a car dealership and he told me he had a great surprise for me out back! Turns out he had been asked to take care of Elvis’ Gold Cadillac Limo while Elvis was away for a couple of weeks. Well, I am telling you...I have never before or since seen anything like it. It had a solid gold TV in the back (in the sixties!), a solid gold

wet bar, a solid gold radio, a solid gold case built in for his solid gold hair brush and comb, solid gold drinking glasses, and cushioned shoe cabinets complete with golden slippers inside.



The exterior of the car shimmered in an almost supernatural way. My cousin explained to me that it had over 40 coats of paint on the exterior, and all 40 coats contained crushed Mother of Pearl which gave it that iridescent glow. Very, very pale gold and beautiful beyond words. My cousin went back to the house after taking a couple of photos for me...but I will always remember staying out there and “playing make-believe” for hours! They had to DRAG me in for dinner.

Then when I was a senior in high school, I was selected to represent my school in the Memphis Cotton Carnival as a Duchess. I do not know how, but my escort and I were selected the Grand Duke and Duchess of the Memphis Cotton Carnival — which is nothing to sneeze at, let me tell you! Anyway, at one of the parties, Elvis made an appearance. Just one of those quick walk-through-the-room- and-wave-kind-of-things. Even though I was not a fan of his, I thought it was very cool. (Wish I had had a camera then!)



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, Costa Rica, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, 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



HIGH SCHOOL ROYALTY—Crowning of royalty from high schools in Memphis and the Mid-South highlighted the oldest portion of the Cetton Carnival's Children's Festival at

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!