

FRIDAY FOLLIES

July 11, 2003



Well, all that angst and worry over nothing. I had nightmares about having a house full of twenty-year-olds here for the Fourth of July for Jessica's 21st birthday. WRONG! It could not have been more delightful; in fact, a few of the neighbors and friends that popped over could not believe it. Normally, we throw two big parties a year – Christmas and the Fourth. This year we were not going to have one

because of all of the other great “stuff” that has been going on with “Mr. Happy,” and quite frankly, we were tired! But about two weeks before the Fourth, Jessica asked us if she could have her 21st party here. (Her birthday is actually the fifth of July.) We said, “Sure.” Then dragged out all of the decorations.

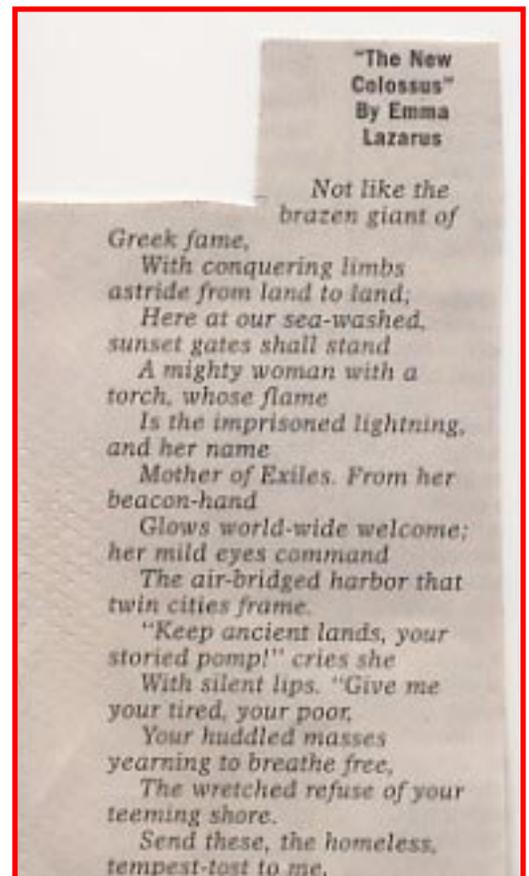
I am so very glad that we did. The last few parties we have been to where there were kids that age, well, let's just say it was a bit wild, to say the least. Plus, they just looked so raunchy, and the music was so blunt and unappealing. I should have known better from Jessica's friends and most of these kids I have known for years. They looked fantastic, many home from college and several back from studying in Europe, they talked, laughed, and conversed like the young adults they are, they helped with the fireworks and the food, and get this, I had a big, huge bucket of party favors for any “younger” kids that might show up, and we even got those out and had a blast with those...necklaces, hats, star-shaped sun glasses, patriotic tattoos, pin wheels, airplanes, you name it. Honestly, before the night was over, everyone at the party had at least one tattoo.



SOOO much fun. As I told J.P. after it was over at 5 A.M. the next morning, I do not EVER remember our house being filled with so much love.

At one point, we had city council members, a former Lt. Governor, and President Bush's Chief of Staff's Senior Assistant from the White House, Susan Ralston, (the third highest ranking female in the USA) and her husband, Troy, here for the party. She, by the way, is a young, beautiful, intelligent, woman who seemed to enjoy the group as much as we did.

The funny thing is, I had a beautiful photo of the American flag that I had taken at a Mississippi State game (on page 1 of these Follies), a copy of the poem from the Statue of Liberty, and a patriotic photo of President Bush on the refrigerator and before the actual party, some of the girls said I should take him down. I said, "No! It's the Fourth of July!" and they said, "Yeah, but with a bunch of college kids here, they will do nothing but ridicule him." Well, after Susan left, all of the girls cornered me and wanted to know more about her. Very, very impressive, young, role model. Way cool!



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In addition to all of that fun and fireworks, Jessica and her friends who had arrived with her at 6:00 took off in time to celebrate when she actually turned 21 (by 12:01). Shortly after, probably no more than 15 minutes later, five kids (three guys and two girls) showed up. I explained that Jess and the others had just left and even called them. But I also invited these kids to stay and eat and sit on the deck and talk for a while. They did. It was a blast! Then about thirty minutes later, about twenty others, (many of the guys I had known since they were “wee ones”) showed up after the fireworks display down at the beach. They, too, decided to stay and eat and laugh and talk with us for a while. It was just amazing!! There was one other couple our age still left here, and they could not get over it. The clothes, the manners, the pacing, the conversation and the obvious love were heart-warming. I have never, ever done anything like this before because I have never condoned parents allowing under-aged kids drinking in front of them. What a difference 21 makes! And, as I said before, what a delight.

They all left about 2:00 A.M., and JP and I stayed up to pick up and just “download” about all of the great conversations we had had. TONS to share. I think we finally hit the bed at 6 the next morning. Jess showed up at 10:00 to help clean up.

Here are a few shots, but the truth is, we were so busy, that I forgot to take many. I wish I had taken more of the kids mixing and mingling, but, like I said, it was a bit busy.



Shawn and me teaching the girls, Sammie and Courtney, how to puff (and not inhale) cigars. We were not very successful.

Watching the fireworks!



Hostesses, Jessica and (my other daughter – ha) K.C. Craig and Matt (our neighbors) trying to impress the girls.



Some of the girls before they kidnapped Jess for the big celebration.

And my “fellas” who showed up late and stayed till early. You can see Mr. Happy and Scott (AKA Commander Fireworks) in the background mixed in with all of the guys.



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Well, more Mr. Happy stuff going on. Be sure to snoop around the website, www.mrhappyusa.com for more information. In the next couple of weeks there is the TAPS Black-tie Gala, Roman Gabriel's two Celebrity NFL Golf Tournaments, and the Grand Kick-off for "Gus and Judi's Sunshine Pasta Sauce." (I promise to do a better job of picture taking!) There have also been a couple more articles in various newspapers and newsletters. The momentum just seems to keep on building. Hope it never stops!



Congratulations to our Jeremy in Oregon who, after his first day on the job, was called in and given a raise because they were so pleased with his work and knowledge.

Also congratulations to our new friend and famous artist, Sylvain Copon, who exhibited at a huge show, Art Philadelphia 2003, to benefit local charities there. Thank you for the invitation! So sorry we could not make it. Hope you raised lots of money!



Please keep my nephew Allen Greenhaw in your thoughts as, once again, for the third summer in a row, he prepares to go out to west and fight the wild-fires. Last summer he spent in Montana and he told me that he was so high up on the mountain ridge that when he stepped out of his tent in the morning, he could see the glaciers in Alaska.

Hello to our new friend, Brandon Noble of the Washington Redskins! Great meeting you at Bob McDonnell's this week, Brandon, and I know we will get together again very soon. Stay in touch!.

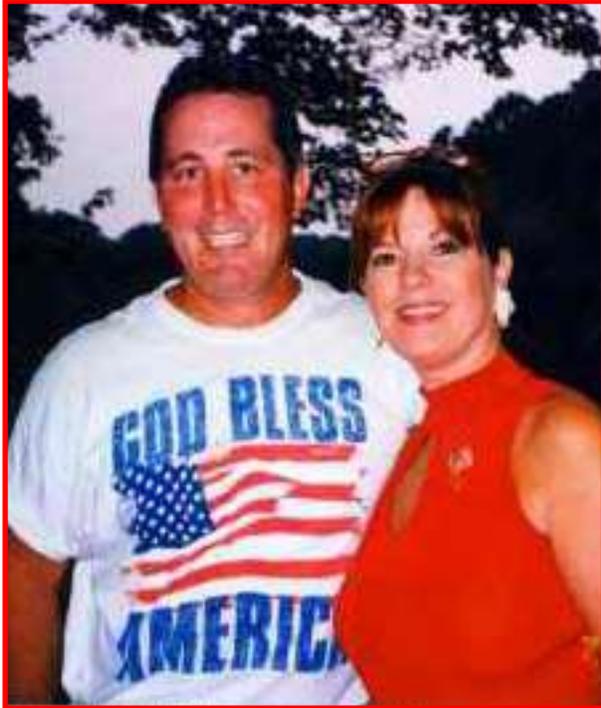


Susan, if you are settled back in Kuwait, please let us hear from you.
Cheryl and Wallace, be watching for us in Bermuda in September.
Dan and Pat, Josh and Betty's oceanside garden is featured in this month's *Southern Living* magazine!
Lydia, thanks for the tip on *The Columbus Packet*.
Welcome to the list, Roger.
Paul, THINK about it! It would be fun!
Good luck, Richard!
Thanks for the good news, Dennis!
Chuck and Jenna, we could not be more thrilled about your news!
Third time's a charm, Jimmy.
Babs and Bill, How can we thank you?
Welcome home from Europe, Aubrey.
Happy birthday, Amanda.
Happy birthday, Wendy!

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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, Washington D.C., Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, New York, Oregon, Maine 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 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!