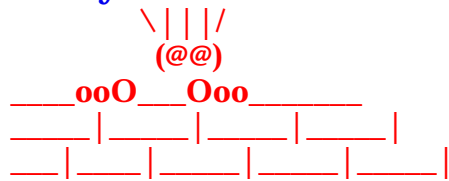


Friday Follies 07/26/02



Hey!

Last week my son, Jeremy, called me from Colorado to tell me about an experience he had. He was headed out of town for the weekend and when he passed



through Rocky Mountain State Park, he noticed the air was smoky. He rode a bit farther and said there was a small fire burning over about 200 acres. He passed through, but said on his return trip that Sunday, the fire had exploded.



The little town he had stopped in had been completely evacuated. He passed a Wal Mart type parking lot and there were 500-600 families parked there complete with pets, kids, and photo albums. He stopped and chatted with one of the men who said his family had their stuff (irreplaceable items) packed by the door for weeks in case this happened. He said all you have time to do is gather your pets, family, photos and head out the door. You then just have to pray that insurance will cover the rest.

Post Script: Jeremy called one night this week to tell me to turn on the news because the fire he had seen was now so large it was on NBC. Man, what a summer those folks have had.



And now the beautiful Sequoias are burning!



Here is a neat photo of my mom and dad when they came out to visit me in California during the 70's. My dad just could not believe the size of the trees.

All of this reminds me of when I was in college and we had to evacuate my folks' home. My family had been in the same area for decades and floods had never been a problem. But the Tenn. Tom Waterway was being constructed, and our little town, being bordered on both sides by rivers, was affected. The Army Corps of Engineers swore the construction of the lock and dam had nothing to do with it, but Columbus has never flooded like that before or since. My parents got a call from the National Guard at 2:00 in the morning telling them to evacuate within two hours. My father was in a wheel chair, so that was no easy task. My brother-in-law helped them get out and put as much as possible up on cinder blocks. I didn't know about it until they called me in my dorm the next day. When I heard that my cat had been left behind, I lit out for home.



I could not believe what I saw. The water was so deep that the National Guard was patrolling the mall and neighborhood shops for looters, and boats were floating up and down my neighborhood streets. I waded for blocks to my house, and when I got there, went in to find my cat. It was so incredibly eerie. Baskets and small objects were floating around the house. The carpeting in each room had trapped the air underneath and had risen into small, domed shapes that appeared to be hovering above the water level in the middle of each room. In the den, we had a plate glass window. The water was at least five inches deeper outside than inside which made it easy to see how fast the water was flowing. It was rushing underneath the doors. You could also see all kinds of debris...fish, squirrels, and trash floating by. I just stood there and cried.

Finally I remembered that "Rusty" sometimes liked to go in the garage. I waded outside to the carport and opened the garage door. When I did, the smell of gas almost knocked me down. A dead frog floated by my hand. That is when I saw that the gas can for the lawn mower had flipped over and mixed with the murky water. At that point I heard my little "Rusty's" scared cry and saw her crouched, very weak, on top of the spare refrigerator. I grabbed her, and we waded back through waist deep water to safety.

As I was coming out of the water, a National Guardsman stopped me and reamed me out for wading through the water. He said, "Don't you know how many water moccasins there are in that water!" I honestly had not even thought about that, I was so concerned for "Rusty." But when he said that, I freaked.



It took six months for the walls of our house and the insulation to air out and for all of the mildew to be scrubbed off and everything repainted and carpeted. That spring, I moved home from the dormitory, and with me came my water bed. I forgot to mention that to my mom, and when she walked in my room from work and saw the garden hose coming through the window filling up my mattress, I thought she was going to faint dead away! Funny now....wasn't then! But looking back on it, I realize we were lucky. Others evacuate for fires, floods, hurricanes, and wars and never get to go home again.

Alright, I told you I had a few photos from fund raiser and events over the past two weeks. Well, here they are. Here is Bruce Smith from a fund raiser for Bob McDonnell, and one with Bob McDonnell.



By the way, all but two of these folks are on our Follies List (including Bruce). So when I put all of these photos in week after week, please understand that it is just a big "Goof." Many BEG to be in the Follies now which really makes it fun!



Senator Frank Wagner and the Bartholomews

And here are our newly elected City Council members attending a special event at our beautiful Triple-A baseball team's Harbor Park.



Councilmen Peter Schmidt, Jim Wood, Richard Maddox, and Jim Reeve



Same folks, except this one also has Councilman Ron Villanueva and Jim Reeve's son. Jim's son is the one in the red cap. Ron is in the blue shirt (...just kidding, Ron.)



Stan Tseng and Senator Nick Rerras and son.

All of these events were great fun! Thanks so much!

We have company coming in this weekend from Pennsylvania and guess where we are taking them Saturday night?

The Larry Holmes vs. Butterbean Fight in Norfolk. It will be on pay-per-view if you want to watch. I have never been to a fight in person before. I am excited. I'll be sure to send you photos.



OK, that's it. Take care,

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 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 lighthearted 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. You tend 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). I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!

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