

FRIDAY FOLLIES

August 19, 2005



Hey

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Well, I could tell you about my beautiful, new house, how excited I am, the colors I have picked out for each room, and closing on it this week. I could tell you about all of the hoops I had to jump through to get the financing approved on time. I could tell you about the fantastic job my realtor, Betsy, did by negotiating a price that is actually LOWER than the appraised value of the house. (Doesn't happen around here anymore...bidding wars...houses going for waaaay above appraised value and even list prices.) I could tell you about slowly boxing up my belongings over the past week, trying not to disrupt the animals and birds too much, and how they are still a bit confused. (Gandy and Maggie have been through this so many times, they just look at me like, "Oh, no! Not again!" Maggie has taken every step I have taken for the past three days. She knows what's up. She just doesn't know *when*.) I could tell you how I will be slowly moving myself in all weekend and each night after work next week - everything that I can physically move myself. I could tell you about the movers coming on the 27th for the really heavy stuff and my having to live partially in two houses for a week. I could tell you about my sweet friend of twenty years, Bobby, who has helped move me the last five times I have moved. I could tell you about having to buy and install a new washer, dryer, and refrigerator before the "big" stuff actually arrives. But I think what I will actually tell you about is...



MY NEW TRUCK! YUP!

I did it! I bought myself a big, ole' white, 1990 Ford F-150 pick-up truck!

Yippee! I am honestly more excited about the truck than the house! I have tons of friends with trucks, SUVs, and pick-ups, but who wants to borrow a friend's truck and then mess it up

moving and hauling stuff like firewood? Plus, sometime in the very near future, I need to go to Mississippi and move my furniture up here ~~that my mom left me...~~ (great, beautiful stuff like a couch, two wing-back chairs, a secretary, drum top table, large drop -leaf table, wicker patio furniture..etc.) I checked into renting a U-haul one-way, and it was over \$500 PLUS GAS! This truck is not much more expensive than that and with a tune-up and new tires, off I go. It even has a trailer hitch! I figure I will use it to move and to go get my furniture, and then if I see I don't need it, I can sell it...but there are always *things*...like I need to get my lawn mower fixed and my bike-for-two does not work - *things* that simply will not fit into the convertable. Cool, huh?

OK, now I want to tell you about this little "fella." I went to the beach this past weekend figuring it might be my last chance to just sit there and relax for the rest of the summer. With so much to do, I only stayed a couple of hours,

but it was blissful! Irene was sitting in the Atlantic churning away, and the waves were spectacular. Every surfer for miles around was there. This little Sea Gull decided he *liked* me. (I did NOT FEED him...) He sat beside my chair the entire time. Waves came and went as did friends, neighbors, surfer dudes, kite-surfers, boats, kids building sand-castles, but no matter what, he sat right there -- my little "Beach Buddy" for the afternoon. Just adorable...



Also this week, I heard from several of my former students - some of whom I had totally lost touch with over the years. It caused me to start thinking. My first teaching job was in Mississippi when I was 21 years old. Many of my students were 18, 19, and some - 20! Next, California where the same thing was true, only I was mid-twenties at that point. Do you know it suddenly dawned on me when I heard from these former students who are now in their late thirties that some of the students I taught are now in their late forties! They would be my *friends* now! Back then, they seemed so *young* to me. Mind-boggling!

Anyway, here are a few I heard from this week:



- Drew - he was a judge at the Miss Universe Pageant this year, for the TV show, *America's Top Model*, and he has his own modeling and casting agency in NYC.

- Julie is now the Arts & Entertainment Editor for a newspaper down south and also (get this) is a trapeze artist!

- Jessica went on to play college tennis at UNC and now works for *Esquire Magazine*. Actually, she said this week that she has been hired as the Special Events Manager at Hermes in NYC! Awesome!

- Amanda - just went skydiving and is trying to get me to go with her in September. I am *seriously* considering it. She has been a model in NYC, went to college in Australia and now is a personal trainer here while finishing school.

There are so many others I would love to hear from. They make me feel like perhaps I *did do something* right. I have always been amazed at how many of my former students went into drama or some related field. Very, very heart-warming.



AHHHHHH!
Just another day
at the beachoo

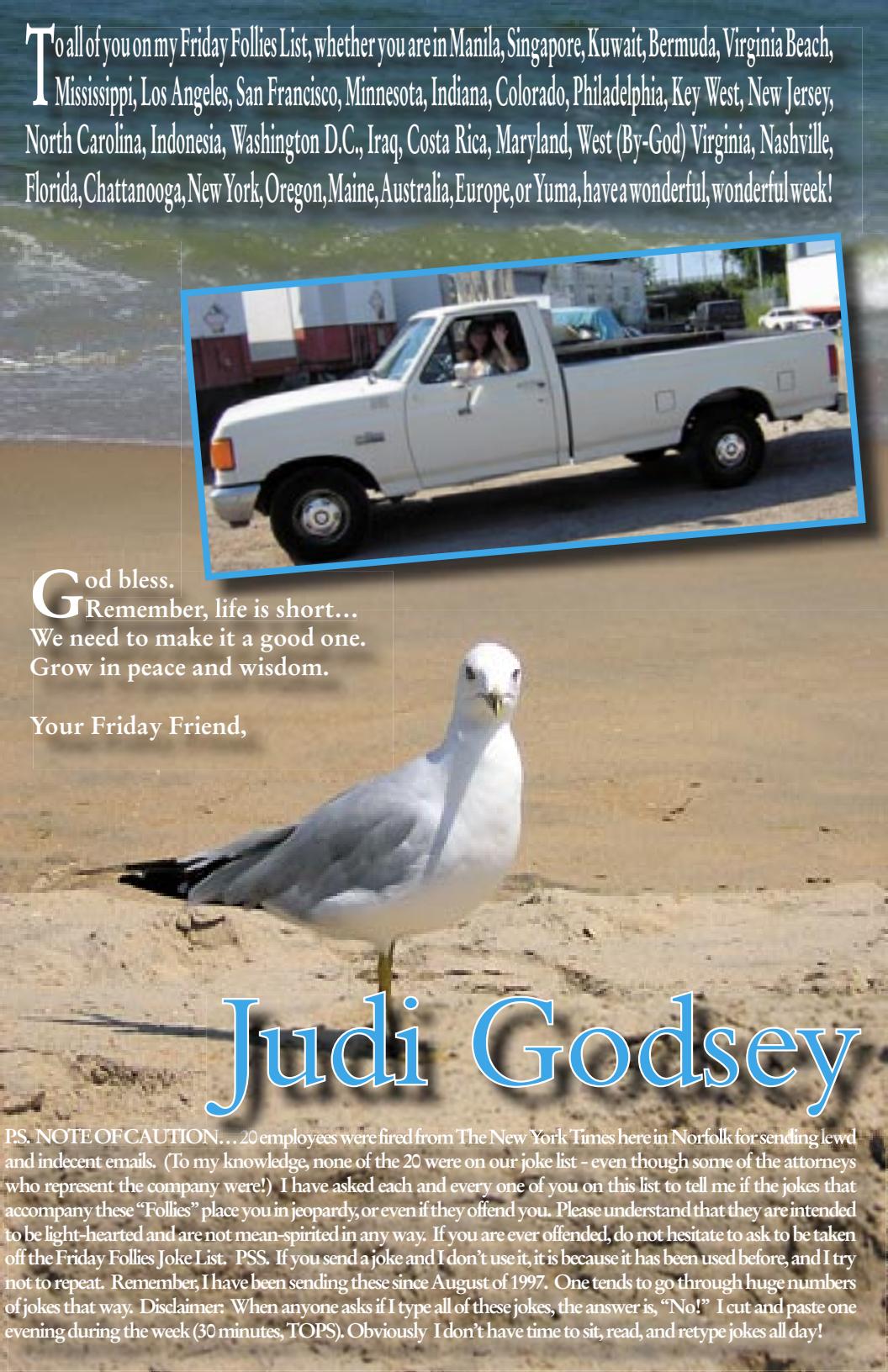


To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Maryland, West (By-God) 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,

A large seagull is standing on a sandy beach. It has light-colored feathers on its body and darker feathers on its wings and tail. Its head is white with a yellow beak. The background is a sandy beach with some low-lying plants.

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. 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!