

September 27, 2002

Hey!

How's it going? Remember me? Please forgive. It has been a very tragic and stressful time. I won't go into details, but losing friends is bad enough. It is even harder when your children lose their's. Impossible to understand. A whole lot of talking has taken place. That is for sure. And that is always good. I sincerely hope these "Follies" find you and your's well.

Work has been incredible. Very interesting. We have a new CEO, and watching the dynamics of people trying to "figure it all out" is amazing. It has been a bit stressful, to say the least, but also, very rewarding. I have new responsibilities and am taking computer courses that I am loving. (Can you tell?) May sound weird, but I adore learning all of this new stuff. Soon, I'll be able to do very professional looking brochures and ads and magazines. I guess you can teach an "Old Dog!"

You know what we did today (Saturday)? We loaded up the fishing poles, champagne, a picnic lunch, and the dog, and headed out to sea. Actually, just about a mile down the river, we stopped and tied the boat up to a channel marker, and watched the Oceana Naval Air Base's air show. We sat for hours and had our own little private show. The Blue Angels buzzed us so closely that we were standing and yelling and waving at the pilots. There were a couple of other boats with families and

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small children on them, and they were doing exactly the same thing. It was very exciting.



After that we went over to a new little private beach we discovered and went fishing. We both

caught a bunch, but listen... I AM THE MASTER FISHERWOMAN!

I have even been known to catch two at a time! One on each hook, seriously! We always throw them back, though. We just fish for the sport of it. (I hate to clean and cook fish. JP doesn't like to eat fish either.)

Reminds me of the time I was fishing in Maui and caught a 20 pound tuna. I was so excited as I was reeling him in.

We were all commenting on the way the sun

was glinting off his side as he was struggling against the line. Well, as we were commenting and watching, you will never guess what happened next.. One of the guys up on the tower yelled, "LOOK!" and pointed out beyond my tuna in the water. As my tuna was struggling with all of his might, what he didn't realize was that he looked like a lure flopping around like that.

Yup! A White Marlin had spotted my catch and wanted my tuna for lunch.

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We watched in disbelief as the Marlin took my tuna...hook, line, and sinker. Unbelievable!



He was only 100 lbs., but with the tuna in his belly, he weighted 120 lbs. (Smile) ...I was only 123 at the time!

It took me forever to bring him in. And when I

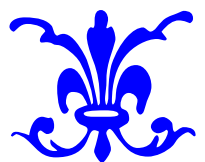
did, since he was so small for a Marlin, we were going to release him.

Couldn't. The hook had somehow lodged in his belly. Man! So sad. They had to club him. I cried... Literally.

Not only that, but it was my last day in Maui. So, I had my picture taken with him, and I do not have any idea what they did with the meat. It sure would have been neat to be able to bring back 100 lbs. of fresh Marlin and 20lbs. of tuna. Oh well, I have the memory of that

huge fish glistening in that blue, blue water, and my Marlin moving in for the kill. An amazing act of nature. I was simply an observer

Well, on to this week... This Thursday night, my Rotary Club is going to get a first hand look and demonstration of the experimental MagLev system being built at Old Dominion University. I can't wait. I have been a supporter of the MagLev since I first heard about it five or six years ago.



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Basically, it is a magnetic monorail which weighs about one third what a "Light Rail" system weighs, and it is the most energy efficient train I have ever seen. It actually hovers above the rail which is twenty or so feet in the air. It is totally unmanned. Everything is computerized.

A few years back, Virginia Beach was looking into building a "Light Rail" system, and it was going to be hugely expensive. Everyone admitted we needed one, but the cost was prohibitive. Then I heard about the MagLev. The only problem was that it had not been built anywhere in the world for real transit purposes, so they agreed to build a demonstration rail on the campus of ODU.



I hope it is hugely successful. I love innovative ideas, and the people who push through all difficulties to prove that they work.

Saturday we were are going to ride our bikes across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. It is a twenty-something mile bridge here that spans the Chesapeake Bay and is connected by two tunnels. It goes from Shore Drive over to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Several years back, as a "Clean the Bay Celebration," they started this day where they shut down one lane of traffic and let people walk or ride their bikes across.

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We have not done it yet, but it is supposed to be spectacular. That is the plan...to ride our bicycle-built-for-two across the bridge.



Also, today I found out that we have been given two tickets to Senator Allen's annual "Hoe-Down" in Richmond. I have never been, not even when he was Governor, so I am sure we will end up doing that too.

Regardless, it should be an interesting weekend.

JP has his first Human Right's Commission Panel discussion Thursday night at ODU. (We will both be on the ODU campus at the same time for different reasons!) I misspoke in the last "Follies" when I said he was appointed the Chairman. I should have known better: He is one of the Commissioners. I am still extremely proud of him. We will let you know how that goes.

I guess that is about it. Just remember to hug your children and tell them how much they are loved...as well as your siblings, spouses, parents, and friends.

And remember...Life is short. We need to make it a good one.

Grow in Peace and Wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey

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Childhood Friends..

These young people went from Kindergarten through the Twelfth Grade together. They graduated from high school in 1997 with about 40 other classmates. They are Sarah, Nick, Katie, my son, Jeremy, Stacey, Jenna, Sabrina, and Preston. Can you imagine the memories they share? God Bless them all.

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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.

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. 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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