



To our numerous friends on this list who are VA Tech Alums, and especially to all of our young friends currently students at Virginia Tech... Ben, Whitney, Adam, Karen, Alex, Brett, Josh, Zach, Charles, Pretti, Chris, Matt, Carli, Lisa, Blake, Laura, Teraya, Raynor, and Brooke... We are all so very, very thankful you are OK and with your families now. Know that we all grieve with you over your losses. I know many of you actually lost very close friends and admired faculty. We have all been touched by the tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Anyone wishing to respond to the VT community, the *Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund* has been established to support the counseling, grief advising, and community spirit projects that are currently going on in the wake of the tragedy. The VT website has information about the Memorial Fund. Feel free to share this information with others who also would like to do something.

Now, to all of you from Brooke -

“National Orange and Maroon Effect Day 4/20/07

Virginia Tech family members across the country have united to declare this Friday, April 20th, an “Orange and Maroon Effect” day to honor those killed in the tragic events on campus Monday, and to show support for Virginia Tech students, faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and friends. “Orange and Maroon Effect” was born several years ago as an invitation to Tech fans to wear orange and maroon to Virginia Tech athletic events. We invite everyone from all over the country to be a part of the Virginia Tech family this Friday, to wear orange and maroon to support the families of those who were lost, and to support the school and community we all love so much.

I know that you all are very busy and probably getting just as tired of all the media and press as we are. I would just like to ask that you send this to family and friends. I know these are hard colors to come by unless you have gone to Tech, but it would mean the world to all of us here to have this support. Times are trying and fragile right now and we need all the support we can get.

Also, I know many of you have been watching the news and hearing how President Steger should resign and that he is responsible for this. That is not true. That is not how any of the students feel. Yesterday at our convocation ceremony he had a longer and more heartfelt standing ovation than George Bush. As Tim Kaine said yesterday during his press conference “For any who want to turn this tragic event into their political hobbyhorse, I have nothing but loathing for you.”

So please, if you hear people calling for his resignation just let them know that that is the twisted version of the story from an overzealous media. They don’t understand how anyone on this campus feels, and they are forgetting that President Steger was not the one carrying a gun 4/16/07. He did not want or cause this to happen. He, like all of the Hokies and their families, was a victim that terrifying day. Just please keep this in mind before anyone else starts pointing fingers. The only person responsible for this tragic event is unfortunately dead, along with 32 innocent and wonderful people. Cho Seung-Hui is to blame.

Thank you so much for your concerns and prayers. It helps to know that the Hokies have such a large extended family right now. All your thoughts and prayers mean the world to us. Please be safe and take care. Thank you again.

Brooke

Proud to be a Hokie now more than ever.”

FRIDAY FOLLIES

April 20, 2007



Hey...

April 20, 2007

Anything else I wanted to say this week seems a bit pointless. Still a bit numb tonight as more and more very strange and sad details become available.

We will get through this. Of that, I am sure. And it will be our friends and our families who help us. Keep them close and safe.

Painted the kitchen and the breakfast/sun room this weekend. It was raining and cold, so not much else to do. More high ceilings to scale, and had to move the birds to another part of the house because of the paint fumes, but I think it turned out nicely. Very yellow, bright, and cheery.

Now it is time to turn my attention to the yard and the garden - even if the house isn't painted yet. That is right! Still plastic on some of the windows. It is not the painters fault this time though. The weather just has not cooperated.





Had dinner with my good friends, Michelle, and her brother, Jimmy, this week. Oh, and let's not forget Napoleon and Magnolia!



Man, when I get exasperated with my Oliver for not behaving when company comes over... well, let's just say it helped to be around Napoleon and Magnolia.



It was not a happy get-together, though. Michelle has taken a job in Northern Virginia and will be moving very soon. I guess I was the lucky first person they told. What will I do without my Michelle! It really makes me sad, but I am so very, very happy for her. This is going to be a great opportunity for her. Plus, their parents live outside of DC in a gorgeous home in the country. She will be closer to them. Guess I will be making road trips to Northern Virginia more, now....

And look at this. Michelle just had her backyard





landscaped, so it looks beautiful. She also has this incredible Wisteria bush. But the amazing thing is that ON it, she has these rounds, solar-powered balls that almost look like Christmas ornaments. Get this... at night, they come on and turn different colors. I don't mean they blink. I mean they slowly turn these beautiful, bright colors! They are simply magical! I have never seen anything like them before. She also had a sand box built for the dogs to dig in... Very cool!



Here are a few photos from when Jess and Ricky came to see me at work a week or so ago.

It is always fun



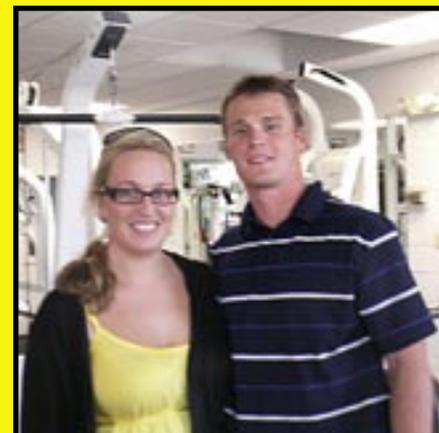
because Jess gets to see so many faces of folks she loves who have watched her grow up... coaches, teachers... younger students. At one point, I turned my back to say something to someone and she and Ricky tried out

the rope climb in the wrestling room. I guess we never grow up, do we? I hope not...



My buddy, Marta, came by to see me one day, too. She was glad to see her classmate, Wes, who is now coaching and teach-

ing at the school. Just fun! These are the things life is made of...





Now! TADA! Drum roll, please!!!

I did it... well, with the help of two very good friends! I actually submitted my song to *American Idol*! (Me and probably 6,000 other people - LOL). As of last Tuesday, they already had 5,000 entries. Lord only knows how many there were by the time the entry period was over this week. Now they whittle it down to 20 and the voting on the songs begins May 2. The song with the most votes will be performed live on the final show and then recorded and released. Over 63,000,000 people voted on the winner last year. Is that amazing, or what? That is like a presidential election or something. Anyway, Sammie helped me by doing the arrangement and accompaniment, and John actually brought his portable studio over and set it up so I could record it in the comfort of my study at the house. It was a RIOT! I am SOOOO BAD! I did not realize HOW bad until he mixed it and sent it to me the next day. Anyway, that is the last of that, but it was fun. I will have to get it posted to the website sometime so you can hear it. I LOVE the song, but I am NOT a singer anymore...that is for sure.

OK. I am sure there was more I was going to tell you, but like I said at the beginning - nothing seems important this week. Wear something maroon or orange this Friday, pray for our friends and loved ones at VT and across the nation, and also remember our men and women overseas risking their lives to keep us safe.

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, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, 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

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. 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!