



"Beyond the palace, hemi-powered drones scream down the boulevard..." That's right...under this beard, I'm really Bruce Springsteen! And you're getting NEW JERSEY for Christmas!!!

THE WITTE TIMES

BORN TO RUN.



VOLUME 16, DECEMBER 2013

HISTORIC LANSING, MICHIGAN

NEW!! EXPANDED!! MORE BORING THAN EVER!!



also made frequent guest appearances at the Witte "crib" last school year.

Andy, or as we affectionately call him, "Jihad," is a senior this year at Lansing Christian. You better be nice to him because he wants to be an air traffic controller and you wouldn't want him slamming your Dreamliner into a mountain somewhere.

Andy is a great kid. He is one of the most up-beat people I've ever met. He's eager to help and willing to try anything new.

We took him for a bit of a test drive last winter when we went to Topsail Island for Christmas and he had a great time there. We knew then he would be a fine fit with our family. You can see a short video from our trip to Topsail here:

<http://tinyurl.com/kt24v4q>

Andy started off playing soccer this fall, but had to stop due to injuries. This was a big disappointment for him, as LCS went on to win the state championship for the first time. He has signed up for baseball this spring, so he has one more chance to cover himself in sports glory before he graduates. When he's not studying, committing *seppuku* while playing "Up the River, Down the River" (a card game also known as "Screw the Dealer"), or hurting his hamstring, he sings in the LCS Chorale. He was cast in *Cinderella*, Lansing

MAYBE THIS YEAR WILL BE BETTER THAN THE LAST¹

As I was saying, I have this spreadsheet. It has all the kids' names in it so that I can try to keep track of the rotation of names in the newsletter so each of the kids go first the same number of times or something like that. And then for a year or two I accidentally got mixed up, so I had to come up with a weighted formula to try to figure out who had the strongest averages, just to balance things back out. Some of you may recall that we discussed the spreadsheet last year.

Then came the exchange students. Adding them to the mix completely demolished my formula and introduced the new problem of where to slot them, how

¹ For those of you who do not share my peculiar musical tastes, as a means of amusing myself, I've decided to use song lyrics for all of the headlines in this year's newsletter. This is not without precedent, as I used a song line for a headline in volume 2, page 3. If you're bored, you can Google the lines you don't know.

to weight their average, and so on. Now, a third exchange student has been added to the mix, and I am hopelessly confuzzled. My brain hurts. Caffeine is the only answer left to me.

I never knew love involved so much math. So, in no particular order of any significance whatsoever...

PULL ME OUT OF THE AIRCRASH

We have a "new" addition to our family this year from Korea (and who even knew we were expecting?!). I put "new" in "quotes" because Ji Hoon Ha, or Andy as he is also called, "hung out" with us on our Christmas "vacation" at Topsail Island last "year," and



Christian's musical last spring, and no, he did not get cast as Cinderella.

This fall, Andy and Guannan both got to participate in the Student Statesmanship Institute through school, and had the opportunity to be State Representatives for the day, sitting in the House chambers. Pretty exciting! I bribed them both.

Andy's applied to a number of colleges around the country, but his first choice is Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida, where he has been admitted. Wherever he goes, it's not likely to be here in Michigan, so after graduation he'll be far away, but he will never be far from our hearts.

PLAY FOR THE STARS AND THE IMMOBILE CARS

Next up in the rotation that has no significance whatsoever is Caitlin, known to me as my sweet Muggie, now a sophomore at Lansing Christian. This year she



The Topsail video I provided a link to earlier was accompanied by Caty's piano; here's another one, albeit very short:

<http://tinyurl.com/lzkaalw>

Caty attended the junior-senior banquet this year (as the guest of a junior) and was resplendent in her blue dress, so I had to include a picture.

She played indoor soccer last winter, then bowled and was diving again with the Williamston/LCS swim and dive team. I think she worked really hard and improved her diving quite a bit.



is getting awesome grades and takin' what they're givin' 'cause she's workin' for a livin'.

Caty gets her braces off next week. She hasn't complained about them, but after two years, I'm sure she's ready.

Over the last couple of years Caty has added guitar to her repertoire. She took a handful of lessons, and then just learned how to play it. I'm sorry we haven't had the chance to do more recording but we want to do another CD in the next year.

This summer Caty gave me a lot of help working on the '68 Imperial we bought this spring (more on that later). She prepped trim for refinishing, helped repair the automatic headlights, and generally did a lot of stuff with me in the barn. I love working

with her. She's not just a good helper, she's great company, and sharing time together is what these projects are all about.

Caty was gone for most of Thanksgiving week on a mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico. She had an incredible experience. Her tender heart was touched by the orphans there and the people living in landfills, and



she'd like to return because the need is great.

I sure do love this girl.

HE LAUGHED AT ACCIDENTAL SIRENS THAT BROKE THE EVENING GLOOM

Seth is now a college man, having started his freshman year as a transportation design major at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. They grow up so fast!

Winning admission to CCS, the nation's leading school for trans design, was

a major accomplishment, and we're proud that Seth earned a significant scholarship as well. He's now living in a building that used to be General Motors' design headquarters and he has fallen in with a group of all-around great kids. CCS is working him like a dog and he's a bit stressed, but the work he is doing is remarkable. We're

very proud of the start he's gotten.

This summer Seth worked for my friend Bob Reeve at Carshine Auto Refinishing, helping Bob restore classic cars. Seth's job, for the most part, was sanding.



He enjoyed working there and hopes to return next summer.

Seth, Andy and I attended Autorama at Cobo Hall in March, our first visit, and it was amazing. We saw so many cool custom cars. This event is going to become a Witte family tradition.

Seth and Guannan worked very hard on the animation for our Robotics team last year. The video they produced, a twist on "War of the Worlds," can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/mxx7x8f>

Seth's artwork in SketchUp has continued to improve and we were excited and proud when he was featured on the website of HEMMINGS MOTOR NEWS, the foremost publication of the automotive restoration hobby. Here's a link to that story:

<http://tinyurl.com/ltzmdch>

I think that Seth might actually make art pay. Way to go, dude!



'TIL I FINALLY MAKE UP MY MIND TO LEARN DESIGN AND STUDY OVERSEAS

Allison is kicking butt and taking names. She's in the midst of her third year at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and crushing it.

She's still working on the events staff as a tech, doing sound and lighting for



concerts and such. She got to run sound for Arlo Guthrie this fall, but I don't think she's going to burn her draft card any time soon.

Daisho Con is an anime and gaming convention hosted in the Wisconsin Dells and organized by students at Point, and for the third year Allison was on the event staff. This year's attendance doubled again, topping 2,500. She was the executive secretary for the board, co-chair of the raves (dances for us old-timers), sound tech for the raves, and control head, meaning

that she was more or less the air traffic controller for the entire event while it was in progress. This meant that she got about five hours of sleep in four days. Although there was some talk of recruiting her to be event chair next year, she had to pass, because she has other plans.

Specifically, in January she's flying to England to start a study-abroad term at Liverpool Hope University. After that, she plans to go to London to do a graphic design summer internship, so we won't have her home again until August. It will be hard to have her so far away for so long, but what an exciting opportunity! We just hope that she can learn the language in time.²

Oh, and in between, she's maintaining pretty much straight A's in school.

Her friend and roommate Jen Smith did not return to Point this year, so Allie found an apartment off campus. She joined a sorority this fall; I think it's called Triangle, Circle with a Line Through It, Capital E. They made her wear white clothes when everyone else was dressed in black, so I guess there is still hazing in the Greek system.

YOU TAKE THE PAYLOAD, AND I'LL DUCK AND COVER³

Jake's been having a banner year at Grand Valley. He has a semester or two to finish up a communication arts degree there, after transferring from Calvin College.

After a bit of a slow start at Calvin, Jake's been doing very well at GVSU. He has been getting great grades in his classes and seems to be enjoying school. Several times this semester he has had his papers

² This reminds me of the quote misattributed to Churchill and others, "The United States and Great Britain are two countries separated by a common language."

³ Ok, that one's a little obscure, so in the interests of fair play, here's a link: <http://tinyurl.com/my6jbgg>
The video on YouTube is pretty awesome, too.

read aloud in class as examples. Awkward, but still, pretty cool.

Jake has also been working at UPS at the warehouse in Wyoming, Michigan this year loading packages into trailers at breakneck speed. It's physically taxing work but he is doing well there. He no longer can pick up a cardboard box without reading the label.

Jake and his girlfriend Lindsey Marshall have now been together for four years. We really enjoy Lindsey's cheerful personality and appreciate her very much. We're so proud she was accepted into GVSU's nursing program this fall.

I really enjoy the time I spend with Jake. With his sense of humor, his common sense, and his perspicacity, I always come away feeling better for the time spent. That's my boy.



REMEMBER WHEN YOU FALL ASLEEP

Guannan, our exchange student from China, is a senior this year. Not that he knows it; he says school is a great place to catch up on sleep. Apparently there is a madness to his method, because he's getting A's.

Also known variously as "Jack" and "Gitmo," this is his third year with our family and I think he has been fully assimilated into our Borg collective. His sarcastic, edgy and off-the-wall sense of humor meshes very well with the weirdness that seems to be routine around here.

Gitmo has been pretty busy working on college applications. He has long discussions in Chinese on Skype with his moth-

er and studiously ignores us while we try (unsuccessfully) to speak Chinese with him. I can only imagine what his mom must think at the racket in the background. It sounds like someone dumped a closetful of pans down the basement stairs.

Despite the cacophony, Jack has managed to win admission to Rutgers and University of Colorado at Boulder so far.

It doesn't look like he's going to stay in Michigan, either. I can't understand why a boy who grew up around the equator would want to flee the Great White North, though to be fair his other choices aren't exactly tropical, either.

Guannan looked very statesmanlike in his suit on the House floor at SSI. Per-



haps a career in politics is in his future. We're not quite sure where he's going to



end up, but after three years, he's part of the family and will be missed.

I STUDY NUCLEAR SCIENCE, I LOVE MY CLASSES

Seunghye, our other exchange student from Korea, has graduated from LCS and is now at Penn State. We also know her as Cindy, but we haven't come up with a clever quasi-military nickname for her yet. Maybe that's something we can work on over the Christmas break.

Cindy got to perform in the LCS musical production of *Cinderella* this spring as well. Then it was on to graduation. It was hard to say goodbye to our Korean daughter last spring, but the good news is that the dorms are closed at Penn State over the Christmas break, so she's coming home to us for three weeks. We're going to have a huge crew here for the holidays.

Cindy seems to be adapting to college life just fine. She's enjoying all of her classes and getting great grades. She's posting pictures of food on Facebook, and went to New York City over the Thanksgiving break to hang out with Yimo Wang, one of

Seth and Cindy's fellow members of the LCS class of '13. There, she took and

posted more pictures of food. I don't understand how she stays so thin.

but she's happy to do it and makes the best of the time in the car with the kids.



Joy is now serving as chair of the Hidden Treasures Thrift Store, where she has been a volunteer since it opened. Hidden Treasures is a venture by Lansing Christian and supports the school. The store was doing well when she stepped in and she's hopeful things will only get better.

On the work front, Joy continues to be the primary courtroom attorney for our

Joy and I celebrated 24 years of marriage this year. We're off to a good start.

I'M JUST DREAMING, COUNTING THE WAYS TO WHERE YOU ARE

We have now reached Yr. Mst. Hmbl. & Obt. Srvt.'s chapter in this endless mis-sive. I think I might talk mostly about cars. Big surprise, huh?

The big automotive news for me is that I bought a 1968 Imperial Crown four-door hardtop from a seller in Bremerton, Washington this spring. This car has special significance to me because my grandfather had one when I was growing up and I thought it was the most spectacular car imaginable. More about the Impe-

RESOLUTION OF HAPPINESS

Joy's turn. I could write a newsletter just on her, but I will try to keep things reigned in a bit.

She has been working out a lot at the Y with Erin House, our neighbor across the street, and ran in her first two 5-Ks this fall. She's also been doing a lot of swimming. I think it's wonderful because she enjoys the time with Erin and the Houses' kids, and enjoys the exercise as well.

In March, Joy took a trip to Florida to visit her friend Carole Caraker for Carole's birthday. She had a great time and it was good for her to get away so that she could appreciate me more.

Joy has been deep into the time-honored mother's ritual of driving kids from place to place. With Caty having dive practice every day in Williamston this fall, Joy racked up a lot of miles (the school is about 35 minutes from here by freeway)



landlord-tenant practice.

While making dinner earlier this year, Joy had a slight mishap in the kitchen and inadvertently discovered the cure to Alzheimer's. We're now working with a patent attorney and hope to retire shortly with inconceivable wealth. Well, o.k., none of that was true, but I am just trying to find out how many people actually read this far because my section's next.

rial at <http://tinyurl.com/nsradoe>

This was also a year in which there was a lot of work to be done on cars. The motor in our '65 Corvair Corsa convertible received a rebuild, and the same is happening to the Imperial.

In addition to Autorama, we also did the Woodward Dream Cruise and the 28th Street Cruise in Grand Rapids, each for the first time. In addition, we discovered the Tuesday night car shows that take place all summer long in Lansing at Olympic Broil. The national Corvair convention was in Michigan this year and even though both Corvairs were out of commission at the time, we did make it down for the car display, which was a



great time to catch up with old friends from the Vair community.

The cars are lots of fun for me, but the best part is attending together as a family.



WHEN THE AUTUMN WEATHER TURNS THE LEAVES TO FLAME

And now, the traditional family recap round. I'll start where the last newsletter left off, with us departing for Topsail Island for Christmas. It was wonderful. Cate and her family, Rich and his, my mom and our crew except Guannan (who went back to China for the Christmas break) all went. The weather was passably warm and we had a marvelous time just being together at the ocean. It went too soon.

Not long after the first of the year, my Aunt Joyce passed away. Cate, mom and I flew out to Joplin, Missouri for the memorial service. Aunt Joyce was very sweet and the entire Witte family loved



her dearly, so it's hard to let go. We had a great time with family making too much noise in the hotel conference room and I think Aunt Joyce would have been pleased with the celebration of family. I only wish she was still here.

For spring break, Joy, Seth, Caty, Guannan, Seunghee and I met my mom in Charlotte to reconnect with her family. I'm embarrassed to admit that it had been about 20 years since I had been to Charlotte and things have changed there a lot in that time. We had a wonderful visit with my cousins and aunts and uncle. We also visited the Biltmore Estate, which really hasn't changed much at all.

This summer mom sold her condo in Bay City and rented an apartment at Independence Village in Grand Ledge. She's much closer which is wonderful, because we can have her over nearly every week. This fall her sisters Anna and Betty flew up to see the new place and we had a very nice visit with them. I was glad that we were able to show them around the Capitol City.

2013 was a little less eventful on the Stulp side of the family. Joy's dad had hip replacement surgery and if the recovery took a little longer than hoped, it went well and he's getting stronger. Leanne found new work, so we are very happy for that. Joy's mom laid on an incredible spread for Thanksgiving and it was so nice to be together as a family. We frequently gather at Lanae's house on a Sunday afternoon for lunch, and I treasure the chance to be a big, happy family.

So there you have



the story for 2013: another good year in the books. Who knows what next year holds in store for us? I say, enjoy the time we can and never forget that every day is a gift. Whatever the circumstances, share it joyfully with the ones you love. It only comes around once.

Oh, and we got our driveway paved this year. I forgot that.

—THE WITTES

Please keep in touch:

Norman and Joy Witte
10711 W. Jolly Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911
(517) 913-5111

ncwritte@wittelaw.com

jlwritte@wittelaw.com

www.wittelaw.com/personal

This and past issues:

www.wittelaw.com/personal/times

