



Just in case you're wondering, this is the one place where using Comic Sans as a font actually makes some sense. But if you weren't wondering, sorry.

# THE WITTE TIMES

## Enough of Last Year's Wimpy Font



Volume 19, December 2016

Commenting on fonts in Lansing, Michigan



### Seth/Motorhead v.2

I have successfully spawned another motorhead in the world. Unfortunately there was an error in the programming and he turned out to be a Honda fanboy. Oops.

Seth is a senior at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. He was in a studio last fall designing a future Corvette and his clay model was selected to be displayed at the North American International Auto Show in January.

Last summer he did an internship at American Expedition Vehicles in Wixom, Michigan. While there he designed the wheels and decals for the 2017 JK350 AEV 20th Anniversary Edition Jeep Wrangler that AEV featured at the SEMA show in Las Vegas. You will be able to buy the

wheels from AEV. So if you look over at a Jeep and see these wheels, you know who designed them.

This fall he has been

enjoying a studio sponsored by TARDEC, the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineer-

ing Center. He has been working on designing a "SUSV," an articulating all-terrain transport. He has really been enjoying the class and is exploring the possibility of working for TARDEC after graduation, designing things that blow other things up.

This year Seth bought a 1988



Honda Accord DX coupe. I did not quite understand it at the time but it was really quite a cool car. He did a lot of work to the car, installing a new clutch, lowering the suspension and rebuilding much of the front end. Then it got bent, so last week he bought a nearly identical car and will be building one sweet Accord out of the pieces of two. All the Accord work means that he is home a lot to use the

### Off to a late start on Ye Olde Newsletter

My hard drive died. I've been busy. I don't feel like working on it. I'm out of snappy one-liners.

Excuses, excuses, bla bla bla. Here's a perhaps slightly more edgy version of *The Witte Times*. Don't say I didn't warn you.

(If you don't like it, you can read the Van Koevinger's Christmas letter. It's



far better written and they are more interesting people.)

Alright. Let's get started.



service facility known as "Barntopia."

Seth has been doing contract artwork for one of the artists at DC Com-



ics, and has had some other freelance jobs. It's been quite the year for Seth.

Livin' the dream, baby. Livin' the dream.

### Caty Launches

2016 has been a year of self-discovery for Caty, with some ups and some downs. She started life on her own this spring. She has had a couple of roommates and is living in downtown Lansing.

She recently started working at Jimmy John's downtown. She has been getting lots of hours lately and is enjoying the work. I have a new favorite lunch place!

Caty worked as an intern for the Michigan Republican Party for much of the year and voted with her mom. Joy thought that was a special experience.

This spring she went with us to Chicago and we enjoyed visiting Shedd Aquarium, the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower, the Adler Planetarium and the Museum of Natural History.

We enjoy her visits to the house and love listening to her play the piano. Earlier this year we set up a very nice recording studio and we are hop-

ing to make more use of it in the coming year.

She and I are planning a road trip to Tennessee when Rich's Corvette is finished (more on that later). I'm looking forward to some good daddy/daughter time.

It always warms my heart to see her smiling face, and I could not be more proud of her. She will always be daddy's Muggie.

### Glenn Rides Again

Glenn Ha is back with us for a third year and is a junior at Lansing Christian.

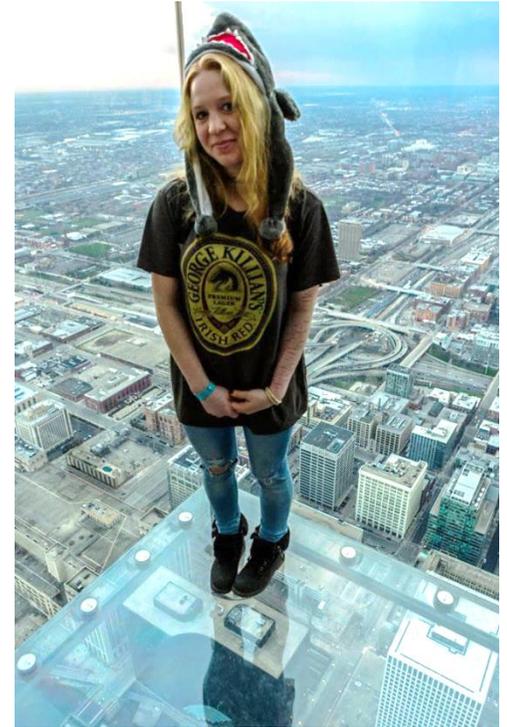
Glenn was not able to fit choir in-



to his schedule this year, so we miss his baritone, but he does play the piano for us.

In the spring, Glenn played junior varsity baseball for LCS. I was proud to watch him score several times. It amazed us how well he played, especially since he had never played baseball before!

This fall Glenn tried out for soccer and played on the JV



team. Like his brother Andy, Glenn is naturally athletic. He is a graceful player and works hard for the team.

Glenn is a quiet young man who is always willing to help. He is getting nearly straight A's in school, and we sure enjoy his company.

### Carl Finishes Strongly

Our other exchange student, Carl Wang, graduated from LCS this spring and is now a freshman at the University of Kansas. I am sure he has a better



appreciation for corn than he ever did before.

For his birthday, Joy, Glenn, Caty and I took him to watch the Pistons play the Chicago Bulls in Chicago. The Pistons won, and it was an exciting night for Carl, who is a big NBA fan.

We got to meet Carl's mom, who came from China for a visit in the spring. She is a very charming lady.

At graduation this spring, Joy had the privilege of handing Carl his diploma due to her previous service on LCS's board of trustees. Carl is the seventh LCS graduate to receive a diploma from her.

Carl came to a new country and spent two years at a new high school, played basketball and ran track, traveled to Gettysburg and Washington DC, and graduated with honors. We miss Carl's easy smile and happy manner but really enjoyed our time with him.

### Big News for Jake

Jake continues to excel at Cooley Law School, still maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Smokin' the old man, he is. Not



assistant, and is chairing the Grade Appeals Board at Cooley. He recently picked up a 9mm CZ-75 automatic, and enjoys going to the range with it.

We see less and less of Jake around here, which is the natural way of things as kids grow into adults. I treasure the time we spend together, and am pleased at how well this young man is doing.

that I am bitter or anything. It's not a competition, right?

Smart aleck.

This summer, Jake decided it was time to pop the question, so he put together an elaborate plan (as is the

custom these days) and asked Lindsey Marshall, his girlfriend of seven years, if she wanted dinner.

### Allison Finishes off Wisconsin

Allison finished her studies at the



She said yes. He also asked her to marry him, and she said yes to that, too. She's pretty agreeable!

Linds graduated from Grand Valley and is now working as a nurse in Grand Rapids, so they are back to the long distance relationship thing while Jake works toward finishing up his law degree.

Jake is interning at a law office this year, is a teaching

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and graduated on a pleasant spring day in May.

Courtesy of my friend Tim Brenner and his brand new Cirrus SR-20, Joy and I flew to Stevens Point a week before Allie's graduation to see her senior art exhibition. It was a fun trip and, since we were driving back in a week for graduation, we really appreciated the short travel time. We had a beautiful day for her graduation and we held an outdoor party and said goodbye to her many friends.



Allie started Cooley Law School this fall. Like her brother, she earned a full ride scholarship, and she is also living at home. They commute together some, a sight not seen since 2009! So far she seems to be doing very well. Her first exams are this week, and she has been studying very hard. At this moment, she and Jake are holed up in a study room at Cooley. Godspeed to both of them.

On her way back from Stevens Point, Allie bought a couple of doves. We built a big cage for them out of an entertainment center, and we can hear them cooing throughout the

house. I never thought cooing was that loud. Anyway, she finds them fascinating, and the cats haven't found a way to eat them yet, so that's good.

Allie has a new boyfriend, Jake Looze, though he's not a new acquaintance, since she's known him since her first year at Point. We like Jake and have enjoyed meeting him.

Allie continued as a volunteer for Daisho Con for a fifth year. This year her role was considerably diminished because she was in school in

Michigan, but she did enjoy going to the Con in the Wisconsin Dells, and Seth and Ben Von Ilten accompanied her.

When she's not studying or tending birds, she works part time at Hidden Treasures Thrift Store. Busy, busy young lady.

### Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joy, as always, is the love of my life. She is ever gracious, ever forgiving and I cannot imagine what life would be like without her. Anything good you're reading about in this newsletter started with or directly benefit-



ed from her.

So she's not bad.

Joy has continued to be one of the most dedicated volunteers at Hidden Treasures. Her parents love to come with her to the store and work there.

She has had the chance to go off with her sister Gay Ellen for some extended stays while Gunzai works in exotic places like Findlay, Ohio and Saginaw, Michigan. They really enjoy one another's company.



Some crazy notion took hold of her earlier this year and she decided to participate in the Hawk Island Triathlon held on September 11. She worked very hard getting ready for the event and did great! I of course had to work very hard as well, carrying a heavy camera from place to place.

She and our neighbor, Nancy Hedin, had a number of adventures going horseback riding. I don't think Joy even fell off.

Now in her 30<sup>th</sup> year, of practice, Joy continues to handle the bulk of our landlord/tenant practice and covers hearings in numerous courts when she's not chauffeuring kids, vol-





unteering, working out or keeping our house running in tip-top shape. How does she do it? It's simple: she just has to be awesome all the time.

I think it was good therapy for the Davises and for me as well.

The Vette was something my brother Rich and I discovered while Rich and family were up for a week this summer. Rich bought the car and it was my job to do some work to the car to get it ready to go to Tennessee. Unfortunately some of the mechanical work (not being done by me) is taking longer than expected and while the snow falls outside, the Vette is still in Michigan. It has a great patina and an all new interior that I installed. It may take several years to get everything done (insert diabolical laugh here).

Joy continues to enjoy the barns as I do; they bring many friends and family on site for challenging projects and shared company. Now, if I could only get to my cars....

### Norm News

This year got off to a very hard start with the loss of my close friend and law partner Matt Davis, who passed away from complications arising from his battle with lymphoma. I miss Matt terribly.

Before Matt died, I agreed to help his wife Penny, sons Zak and Henry and daughter Katie restore the 1959 Plymouth Sport Fury convertible that Matt's dad, Clif Davis, owned.

The Fury ended up in my barn for about five months and we spent many days and evenings working on the car.



The Fury was not the only visitor to Barntopia. There was also a 1991 Mercury Capri that shall not be discussed further, the aforementioned Accord that occupied my lift for over a month, and a 1971 Corvette.

I have also been starting to work again on getting my private pilot's certificate. This was prompted mostly by Tim Brenner, who has taken me on a number of adventures in his Cirrus. One of the most memorable adventures will certainly be our trips last Saturday as part of Operation Good Cheer in which over 200 pilots flew gifts for nearly 6,000 foster kids to airports around the state for personal delivery. I had nev-



er heard of this event, and the magnitude of this effort was staggering, with hundreds of people participating in the air and around the state.

My practice remains reasonably steady and I am grateful that I have meaningful work that provides our family with a comfortable living. I just finished a big case so now I get to relax a little. Maybe.



The only car I bought this year (except for the unmentionable Crapri pictured above which has now been sold, thanks to Craigslist) was a 2009 Cadillac CTS, which I bought Joy for

My mother had a couple of falls this year. One led to a hip replacement and the other to back surgery. It's been a tough year for her but she has been recuperating very well.

Joy, Cate, Mom and I traveled to North Carolina this summer to celebrate my Aunt Betty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had a lovely time as we always do when visiting the Charlotte family.

Joy's mother had a terrible diagnosis of mycobacterium avium complex and miraculously fully recovered, which is exceedingly rare. The Michi-



gan kids all gathered at the Stulp house early this summer to tackle a number of landscaping projects. Lots of hard work, lots of fun, happy mom and dad. Granny can garden even more than before!

his work cut out for him. Mom and Dad bought a Toyota Camry Hybrid but I still love them.

So now is the part where I say something touching and wish you a Merry Christmas.

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Mother's Day. So that wasn't too bad, was it? She says she only asked for a Mother's Day card. Oops, again.

## Family Matters

The Witte family lost cousin RJ Witte, my Uncle Ron and Aunt Geri's son, to cancer this year. Earlier, Aunt Geri also passed away, so it's been very hard for Uncle Ron, who has one son left, and is the last of the ten siblings in my father's family.

Joy's dad continues to preach occasionally and sings with the Holland (or as I call it, the "Okay") Chorale. He has started swimming and I suspect he's going to surprise Joy by beating her in a triathlon, though he should be warned that he has

