



Orion's belt is a big waist of space. I know, it's not that great a joke. I only give it three stars.

# THE WITTE TIMES



## Because These Are Those Times

Volume 20 (!), December 2017

Making terrible jokes in Lansing, Michigan

### Semi-deep thought

Merry Christmas.

My mother always said, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." So, I'm going to say nice things about some really nice people. If I don't mention you, then....

wedding party and Joy's Dad did a great job officiating.

For those who aren't regular subscribers to *The Witte Times*, Jake and Linds have been dating since high school.



Jake and Linds at Lily Lake the weekend of their bachelor/bachelorette party.



The happy couple appearing even happier because, Corvair.

Linds is a nurse working in Grand Rapids and they have a very nice apartment in Grandville.

Jake graduates from law school in a few weeks and takes the bar

exam in February. I had the privilege of reviewing his resumé and I was incredibly impressed. I won't go through all the details but he is far more accomplished at this point in his nascent legal career than me, which I suppose means we succeeded, though I am not sure I'm fond of that deep-seated

feeling of inadequacy.... Wait, where was I?

Oh, yeah, Jake. Jake has turned into a little gun broker. Since he's a student still (for a bit longer) and therefore a bit broker himself, he has been buying guns for low prices, selling them for higher prices and using the money to get a nicer gun. He's going to be like the guy who parlayed a used phone into a Porsche Boxster on Craigslist, only Jake will be better armed at the end.

Speaking of phones, I have turned

### Introducing Mr. & Mrs. Witte

The most momentous event this year for our family was the marriage of Jacob Witte and Lindsey Marshall on July 8, 2017. We couldn't be happier for them and they are both so happy with each other. We had fun throwing a surprise engagement party, attending multiple wedding showers and going to the elegant wedding *en masse*. Jake is grinning in 100% of the photos, all the kids were in the



A bro moment between Jake and Seth



Glenn, me, Allison, Jake, Seth and Joy at Seth's graduation.

responsibility for Jake's cell phone over to Jake and Linds, so I think at this point, he's officially launched. We are incredibly proud of both of them!

### Seth joins the real world

Speaking of launches, Seth's now supporting himself.



He graduated from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit this spring and went to work at American Expedition Vehicles, where he interned last year. He loves working there and is one of those unicorn art students that graduated with a good paying job. If you want you can buy things that he drew. Those things now include three different sets of wheels that are in production and have been getting great reviews. That's pretty cool.

has gone into cocaine-level overdrive. For those that don't recall, Seth bought said Accord last year, and it spawned into two Accords, the A-Cord and the B-Cord. It has since turned into three Accords (the third, a clapped-out race car, is referred to as the F-Cord). He's restoring the A-Cord to a very high level, painting it and adding a sophisticated air-ride system. The rebuilt B-Cord parts car is

now a running, viable vehicle, and therefore has its own parts car. It's a lot to keep track of but the good part of all of this is that we see Seth just about every weekend, as he comes home to work on his car (no, cars) at every

opportunity. Read more at [b0cks.blogspot.com](http://b0cks.blogspot.com)

Most of the time, he's accompanied at some point with one or another of the rogue's gallery he refers to as "friends." Actually, they are a great



Seth and Ben commit violence to the F-Cord's CV shaft in a vain attempt to remove it.

The 1988 Honda Accord insanity that started last year

bunch of guys, and they keep things busy and interesting around here.

### Caty tackles the world

Caty has been on her own for most of the last year and a half and has enjoyed her independence.

This year she has had several restaurant jobs and lived in Detroit for the summer. While there she worked in an independent business preparing herbal teas, did landscaping work and volunteered at a church kids' camp for a week.

Due to some medical issues, Caty moved home this fall. While we wish the reasons were better, Joy and I have truly been enjoying having her at home.

When she can, Caty spends time with her boyfriend, Devonte Leggett, who is currently living in Detroit. It's a family tradition to do the long-distance relationship thing, and I think it's a good test of any relation-





Joy, Seth, Caty and Allie celebrating Caty's 20th birthday.

ship.

Caty accompanied Joy and me to the annual Federal Bar Association Bankruptcy Section seminar at Boyne Highlands in July. It was so pleasant to spend time together, just the three of us, exploring Harbor Springs, playing cards, and enjoying each other's company. Caty quietly turned 20 that weekend, leaving teenage years behind. At that point the kids were 20, 22, 24 and 26.

Caty spent three days with Joy, and Joy's sister Gay Ellen in Findlay, Ohio, in October and had a very pleasant visit. Later the same week, Joy and Caty flew with Joy's Mom to Florida to attend a four-day event hosted by Wycliffe Bible Translators. They enjoyed the program, the sun, the pools and the beach, and Caty got

her record it. We have some ideas we want to explore and I'm very excited to see them develop.

I'm so proud of my sweet girl.

### Glenn heads for the finish line

Glenn has become the exchange student with the most time at our house, as this marks his fourth year with us. I sincerely hope we haven't

done any permanent damage.

He remains a quiet, thoughtful young man who spends a lot of time doing homework and getting excellent marks.

to play a wonderful grand piano at the hotel.

Speaking of pianos, we have had some opportunities to do some recording since she's been home. I love her music and love helping

He is our only exchange student to take Advanced Composition, a challenging course for anyone for whom English is a first language, let alone a second!

He's in that now-familiar mode where he's deciding where to go to college and getting squared away on admissions. He took the ACT again



Man of the future.

this morning to try to improve his score. While he was doing that, I went to the office. I think I had the easier time of it.

Glenn and I had a very fun weekend this fall going to the Air Force Museum in Dayton. He's a great traveling companion.

For his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Glenn got to go for a discovery flight in a Cessna 150 and really enjoyed it.



Glenn went to South Manitou Island for Senior Survival weekend this fall. He packed in his gear, and remarkably, he survived. We're very glad because we'd hate to have 'splainin' to do with Mr. and Mrs. Ha.



Caty and I try to repair the Imperial's back-up light switch (in vain).

He says that he is planning studying computer science in college. There's no doubt that he has the smarts to do well at anything he chooses. We're not sure yet which college he'll attend but we hope it's not too far from Lansing, so that he has the opportunity to come home for a weekend now and then.



Survivor.

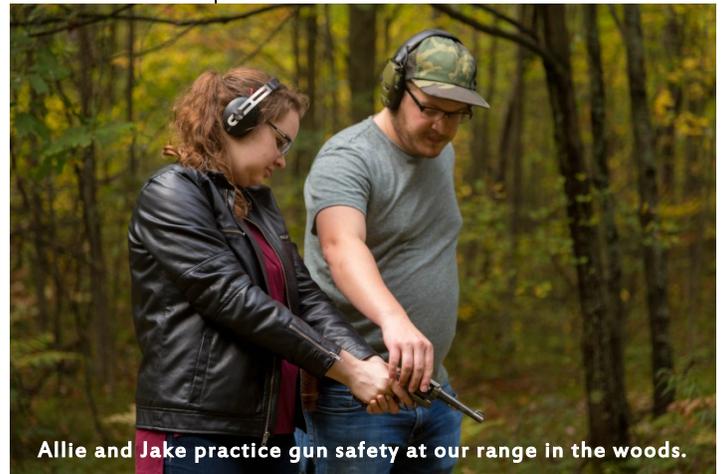
to ensure the permanent humility of her parents, she is also crushing law school. Last semester, she got the book award (given to the highest grade in the course) in all three of her classes. In one class she got the first perfect score on a final the prof had given in 14 years.



### Elaborate and excessive birdhouses

Allison is now in her second year at Cooley Law School and saving money by living at home. In an effort

She has been accepted onto the Moot Court team and serves on the



Allie and Jake practice gun safety at our range in the woods.

Grade Appeals Board - of which Jake is Chair.

Allie also has a very popular humorous blog based up on a Marvel character named Bucky Barnes with whom I'm not familiar, but apparently 21,000 other people are. Her blog has spawned a new genre of similar blogs. Every now and then she does illustrations related to the blog and sells them to her minions, who eagerly pay for them.

About the birdhouses. When Allie moved home, she picked up a couple doves. This led to conversion of an entertainment unit into a birdhouse she keeps in her room.

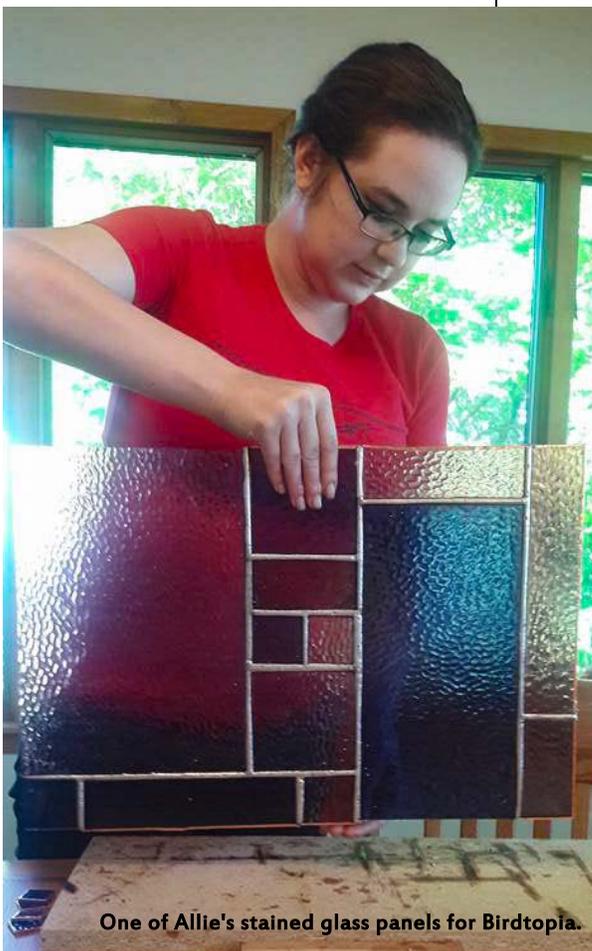
Because too much is never enough, Allie has now begun construction on an outdoor birdhouse. This one is twelve

feet long, about eight feet wide and at the peak will be about eight feet tall. It will have vintage warehouse windows, a man trap so that the birds don't escape, stained glass panels which she is making, and a copper clad roof. These birds have no idea how good they have it.

Allie is still dating Jake Looze and we think he's a great guy. Since he lives in Wisconsin, they aren't able to see each other that often, but they are faithful about their Skype calls. That long distance thing again....

Once again Allie went to the Wisconsin Dells in November to volunteer at Daisho Con. Attendance possibly crossed 7,000 this year. She thrives on the high pressure, high energy atmosphere of the event.

I know it won't be long before she moves away but we're really enjoying the time we have with her. She is maturing into a poised, highly capable young lady.



One of Allie's stained glass panels for Birdtopia.



Joy finishes the bicycle stage of the Hawk Island Spring Triathlon.

She continues to handle our landlord tenant hearing load, driving to courts all over the state. We've added some clients and so we're filing in more courts and having more hearings.

plane. It was a great trip down and a great trip back. (I am definitely getting aviation envy!) In May we had fun at Joy's 40<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. In August we spent a long weekend in Detroit's Renaissance Center with a great view. We had a wonderful time being tourists in a rapidly reviving city.

Joy also spends a lot of time helping with my mother, who is dealing with Parkinson's disease. We had to move Mom into Storypoint, the memory care unit at Independence Village. It's very hard on Mom but she

### My wonderful wife

This year marked our 28<sup>th</sup> year of married life, so I have passed the point of being married more than half my life. So this means that Joy has quite literally become my better half.

Of course, that's nothing new.

Early this year, the Hidden Treasures Thrift Store closed, which was a tough thing for Joy, since she really poured her heart into it.

She has had no trouble keeping busy, though. Running, swimming and biking have become a routine part of her life now, and she competed in her second triathlon this year, improving her time from last year and again scoring a third place finish. To top things off she did three 5k races and also consistently improved her times there, including her fifth straight 1<sup>st</sup> place at Lansing Christian School. She highly recommends beginning to compete in one's late 50's.

Joy and I have managed a several really nice getaways. We flew with Tim and Shawn Brenner in their plane to Snowmass, Colorado for a weekend of skiing and hand and foot tournaments.



Joy's family celebrates her parents' 62nd wedding anniversary.

This spring we drove Rich and Sharon's '71 Corvette to Tennessee for them, and then hitched a ride home in Tim's

does her best to keep good spirits. We enjoy having her home every Sunday for church, lunch and cards.



Joy and I at Glenwood Canyon on our trip to Colorado with the Brenners.

Joy takes her to doctors' appointments and helps out in many other ways. She has such a tender heart for service and our whole family appreciates the time she spends on Mom's behalf.

This summer Joy discovered Facebook Marketplace and has been busily selling off plants, extra stuff we don't need and anything else that sends itself. She's a

wonderful entrepreneur.

As the kids move out it's inevitable that our house will become quieter, but I'm looking forward to having more of Joy to myself. Maybe that's a bit selfish, but, hey!

### The man, the madness

The chaos that I seem to generate wherever I go continues unabated.



Family picture with Grandma Witte.

I can't say that there have been any real significant events for me personally this year. I did pass the 30-year milestone in my practice of law, but I haven't caught up with Joy yet.

The biggest car-related event (of



Mr. Unsuccessful in the Imperial.



Dilbert the Delmont 88 aloft.

course we had to get there) was the 1967 Oldsmobile Delmont 88 that we pulled out of a garage in Holt after a

41-year slumber. I've been working on getting it back in operating condition and right now we have the motor torn down and ready for rebuilding.

Of course, there were many other car projects. In addition to

those related to Seth's car, we helped a friend swap suspensions on a pair of Camaros (that was a busy day), I did a bunch of little projects on the Imperial, put an electric fuel pump in the convertible Corvair, and have been installing Euro headlights on the Mercedes. I'm sure that's just scratching the surface.

A few weeks ago I drove the Imperial to Ten-

nessee to surprise Rich for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had a wonderful weekend together and I had a thoroughly enjoyable trip there and back.

One highlight for me was seeing Steely Dan at VanAndel Arena with Joy. It was the first concert I've been to in years, and it was a blast.

Most of the news is with the rest of the family, so I just sit back and smile!

### The end part

Well, that was nice, mostly, so I will end this the way it began.

Merry Christmas.

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Seth and friends speed away after graduation in the Mercedes.