



Happy Holidays from the Worcester Home

(Miamisburg branch, that is – 2002 Edition)

Hi,

Hope this finds you enjoying the Holiday Season. Now over a year removed from the horrific events of 9/11, it is feeling more... 'tis the season. It has been a very interesting year, filled with changes, surprises and new events in many parts of my life.

Sadly, I began the year as I ended 2001 - being under-employed and miserable at the Olive Garden. However, I remained on good terms and in contact with my former employer, TDH Marketing & Communications, and in March of this year I was offered a position back with the firm. I started back on April 1st, and was enjoying my 'renewed' position. In October, just a couple weeks after my six-month review with TDH, I received a call from one of the competitors – Chisano Marketing Communications. I interviewed with Chisano after I was laid off last summer, and even did a freelance project for them early this year. They offered me a NICE jump in pay, a far better computer (a laptop which I can take out of the office whenever I like), a better opportunity for advancement in the future, and a few other benefits. So, I jumped to the competition. Plus, I got to pick my own job title – I'm an eBusiness Architect.

I never was able to collect from that company that stiffed me on the bill for web sites I did for them in 2001, but I have continued to do freelance work this year, and my business has grown tremendously! I formed another 'alliance' earlier in the year with a gent here in the area, but working with him was FAR more trouble than it was worth so I officially severed ties with him a couple months back. I have found a few new clients of my own this year, and I also established a very productive and mutually beneficial business relationship with a guy named Jeremy who lives here in the 'burg. He's a Fairborn grad as well – graduated in Jay's class. I look forward to continuing to work with him in 2003 and building each of our respective businesses. One day, I WILL be self-employed.

Outside of work, I have also taken up a few new challenges this year. I began painting the interior of my homestead here over the summer, and I'm near the end of that project along with a few other 'home improvement' adventures around here. I also decided that after seeing it sit in the corner for two years, it was time to learn to play my guitar and I've been taking lessons for the last few weeks. In the next several months, I will be able to sing and PLAY the songs that I love. I also began a quest to try and become a decent runner! Even when I was on the wrestling team in high school, and ran fairly regularly, I've never been that good at it. Well, I want to change that. I ran a 3-mile and a 5-mile race this year, and going to officially begin training next month for a marathon down in Cincinnati in May (<http://www.flyingpigmarathon.com/>). It will take me probably every day of the next 6 months to prepare, but I want to run a marathon.

I took my first week-long vacation in the last few years this past September. Some friends of mine got transferred and moved to Arlington, Texas. I went down, via car, with a mutual friend of ours, and we got into a little spat while we were down there and I haven't seen him since, but our visit with Greg and Karen was very nice. Texas was beautiful, there's a lot to do down there, and it was good get out of Ohio for a week.

I also had a couple surprises this year. Easily the biggest surprise of the year was receiving a letter from my long-lost ex-love Lisa in September. I hadn't spoken to her since January of 1997, and I figured that I had heard from her for the last time. Though our breakup was bad and very painful for me, what's that old saying... "time heals all wounds"? I remember the first time she called me, she was waiting for me to blow up on her, but I didn't see the point. It has been great to get reacquainted and get to be friends again. She came to Ohio in October with her mother and son to visit her grandparents, and I saw her most every day she was here that week. I have no idea what might happen between us in the future, if anything beyond

friendship, but no matter what that course may be, it is wonderful to have her back in my life – in any capacity. There has always been a connection there that I can't even begin to explain.

I also received a letter in mid-November from Nicole, a friend I used to work with at McDonald's when we were teenagers. I hadn't talked to Nicole in eight or nine years. She's in the military, has been moving around a lot in recent years, and is apparently headed to Germany in June for a few-year stay. Dad's told me that Nicole was his favorite of all my 'girl friends', though Nicole and I truly were just friends. She'll be in town over the Holidays, and I look forward to seeing her for the first time in nearly a decade, along with her sons.

Unfortunately, I have been slacking on pursuing my quest to be a published author. I even built a couple simple web sites for each of my two completed novels, but haven't sent out too many queries to publishers. Renewing that quest and trying to write again are at the top of my resolution list for 2003. Once I wrap up these home improvement things, I'll have a lot more time for one. I still read fairly regularly, but I've had only a few inspirations of creative writing all year. I also am on a mission to find "the one" – wherever she may be.

All the other Worcesters here in the Dayton area are well also. Mom and Dad have enjoyed a few vacations this year, including a cruise down south and a visit with Mom's sister in Arizona. Both are still active in the church, dance regularly, and always seem to have a smile when I see them. Jay is doing well at his full-time job, currently working on a deal with Best Buy that could make him a nice chunk of change if he can get them to sign on the dotted line. He's also gone through a bit of a roller-coaster with his karaoke ventures this year, but now has a couple solid, weekly shows. Nick and Chris are doing well also, each doing better in school from what I hear, and growing into little men. Jay brings them to church every week, and they pretty much ALWAYS beat me to the Lord's Home, as I'm typically the tardy boy.

Well, I was trying to keep this to one page this year, but I have proved to be a little too wordy once again. Oh well. Hope the Holidays find you well, and best wishes for a joyous and prosperous New Year!

Happy Holidays,

Shaun