

The Rodkey Reader

To be taken in the morning with a grain of salt

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Krista Philosophically Majors in English

Having endured many late night soliloquies, the family was unsurprised at Krista's decision to major in philosophy. Nor was it a shock when the family's acknowledged bookworm added English for a double major. This major has the distinct advantage of allowing Krista to participate in Westmont's England Semester, to be held in 2007. Despite Westmont's close vicinity, Krista's visits home remain infrequent, enjoying the independence of college without the inconveniences of travel. On campus, Krista's social life has flourished. With Karen, her long-suffering roommate of both years, late nights, dance breaks, and kidnappings have become the norm. —Adelle

Erik Runs Away to Sea

Urged by his sisters to put his passion for all things military to a more active use, this summer Erik joined the newly founded local squadron of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Like the ROTC, but for the Navy, the Sea Cadets specialize in teaching marching, drilling and beating the tar out of cadets at



Rodkeys Snug, Dry and Fashionable in "New" Home.

Due to the extreme irregularity of the publication of the Rodkey Reader, its devoted public may be unaware that in 1997 after an eventful 2 month campout during the rainy season while the house was in escrow, the Rodkeys moved into a house in Goleta, CA. Since that time, the house on Big Sur Drive has become home, and many of the neighbors have become good friends. Although the house was in good condition when purchased, over the course of 7 years, several small problems have developed, leading to various annual summer projects. For example, carpeting, painting rooms colors other than white, and building a bike shed.

Most recently, multiple leaks in the 40-year-old roof (2 gallons of water were siphoned out of a wall at one point) pointed to the need for a new roof. Brimming with somewhat naive family spirit, the 4 Rodkey children volunteered for primary construction duty. There were some complications along the way: there were

boot camp. Cadet Rodkey got to enjoy this singular experience, returning home gaunt, ravenous and with burns from ironing his uniform hurriedly and doing push ups on blisteringly hot asphalt. A more pleasurable experience was marching as the part of the



Popsicles raised, Rodkey kids celebrate shingle removal

actually two layers of shingles to be removed, and the roof had an odd shape due to the design of the addition and numerous skylights. However, the energy of youth prevailed and the roof was completed just days before departure on family vacation. The new roof has stood the test of time, suffering only 1 easily fixed leak (sparking furious disputes over who was responsible) and providing a new location for watching the city's 4th of July fireworks.

With Elissa's return from college (widely regarded as interior decorator authority), critics anticipate considerable positive change in the decor, with subtle introduction of East Coast sensibilities. —Elissa

Color Guard in the local Veteran's Day Parade where he enjoyed showing off his spats and new rifle handling tricks. The only downside to life with the Sea Cadets is that they have displayed at disconcerting affinity for land: Erik has yet to go to sea. —Elissa



Kids with kittens in Minnesota.



Rockport, MA: Quintessential New England.



Resting tired feet in D.C.

An Epic Journey (Only One Breakdown)

This past May the seasoned Rodkey travelers put their endurance to the test by driving cross country to attend Elissa's college graduation in Massachusetts. The 8,500 mile sojourn, which included detours to sight-see in Boston and Washington D.C. and to Minnesota to visit Jeanne's numerous relatives, was, thanks to Adelle's extreme frugality, \$250 under budget.

The Rodkeys enjoyed seeing Gordon College for the first time as a family, getting an introduction to the charms of Boston's North Shore and meeting friends and professors Elissa had accumulated over the course of four years. Favorites of the time in D.C. included the Library of Congress, the Air and Space Museum and Mt. Vernon. However the return trip as not

as uneventful as hoped for. After having weathered an Adirondacks cloudburst, several southern and midwestern thunderstorms, and one tornado, the exhausted van drew the line at an unseasonable snowstorm in Colorado. One transmission later, we made it safely through the western desert, home just in time for Adelle's high school graduation. —Elissa

Adelle Departs for Wheaton Amidst Tears

Adelle's departure for Wheaton as a music major was met by loud wailing and gnashing of teeth. "Rejoicing with those who rejoice" is a bit hard when it involves the loss of the only member of the family with a modicum of organizational skills and zeal. She has found Wheaton to be every bit as challenging as she had hoped, and looks forward to the next few

years there. Highlights of her first semester include backpacking in Wisconsin, gathering a circle of close friends, finding a good church, and playing oboe in concert with Michael Card. The rest of the family looks forward to her return, not only because of the zest she brings, but because we anticipate needing professional help. To unbury the house, that is. —John

New Youngest Child

Erik lost his status as "family baby" when Cody Ramirez entered the family. Our connection with Cody began when Jeanne mentored his mother, Silvia, before he was born, but it wasn't long before both Silvia and Cody were full-fledged members of the family. Every workday, Cody spends his after-school hours at our home, playing Playmobil, sword-fighting with



Erik, and listening to read-alouds. Now aged 6, his latest accomplishments include riding a two-wheeler, basic multiplication, and beginning reading. He loves cowboys, knights, pirates, or any combination of the three. Despite being displaced, Erik bears no grudge: on the contrary, the entire family takes great delight in its newest member. —Adelle

"The Cousin" Returns!

The Rodkeys were much mistaken if they thought sending children to college would decrease the household population. The first semi-permanent addition to the family was jovial Joe, John's sister's son, who came to learn computing. No sooner did we get him cleaned up and married off than his younger sister Jessica (a.k.a. "The Cousin") moved in. Jess is with us now, and like her predecessor, she combines school with work. We are continually astounded by her passion for the color green, her dramatic interpretations, and her numerous convincing accents. —Krista

Wanted:

Brilliant recent grad seeks high-paying job with short hours, lots of benefits. Highly analytical, creative, multiple skills useful for arcane research. Serious Inquiries only. Contact editor.

John Digs Israel

Since 1999, John has applied his computer skills at an archaeological dig in Israel, documenting artifacts found at the tel. Instead of digging in the dirt under the blazing sun with trowel in hand, he gets to sit at the computer in an air-conditioned room! Lest you think his job is too easy, rest assured that the long hours make up for any physical comfort. Political unrest precipitated a hiatus of two summers, but the dig resumed this past summer, continuing exciting work on an ancient city. You may read his diary and see pictures of the dig at his web site. —Jeanne

Making All Things Really New!

Little did we know how apropos our church's motto for last year would prove. "Making all things new" took on new meaning as within the course of a year we commenced an ambitious building

Elissa Graduates; Faces Existential Questions in Job Search

Having graduated (*Summa Cum Laude*) with a major in psychology, Elissa returned (via the epic journey) to the ancestral halls. Elissa now sits at home, pondering the question of vocation while skimming the local employment ads.



Choices, choices: substitute janitor or under dishwasher?

Unfortunately, in Adelle's absence, she acts as both—and the pay is not exactly minimum wage! Elissa denies that increased household duties are her principal motivation for going to grad school. Says Elissa, "I do genuinely want to learn; I love psychology research and I don't feel half done studying it". —Krista

Stolen! 1 Little Italy Sweatshirt, Black. Last seen in the possession of a sinister character in green. Tips or confessions? Contact Krista.

campaign which will result in a beautiful new sanctuary; our beloved pastor, who had been at the church 23 years, was called to lead Missions for the Covenant denomination, the music pastor left; a new one came, and the youth pastor left. Did I mention the new interim pastor, or that the children's ministry director also left, and her replacement also left? Despite these comings and goings, there is a lot to be excited about.

Erik and John are part of team that assembles and displays the powerpoint during the service, and John sings with the worship team. Jeanne is on the missions committee, Elissa works with the 5th and 6th graders and John serves on the council for community outreach, and on the board of Santa Barbara Community Development Center, assisting needy Hispanics in the local area. —John

Jeanne's Passion for Books goes Global

In the unlikely event that you were to happen by the Rodkey residence some sunny day when someone had left the garage door open, you would notice that one wall of the garage is entirely lined with bookshelves, which are crammed with books of all kinds. Although some are the result of 13 years of homeschooling, most were collected and stored for a specific purpose.

Among Jeanne's many ministry concerns, one particularly dear to her heart is providing support and encouragement to missionary families. Based on her own childhood experience in remote Alaskan villages, as

Airplane Crash!

John walked away from an airplane crash last April. He and a pilot friend were taking off in the friend's Grumman Yankee. The plane's throttle cable broke seconds after taking off, making it impossible to climb or safely land.



They crashed in a vineyard at the far end of the runway, but thankfully escaped unscathed. The plane, however, did not fare as well.

His own plane has safely borne him through the skies accumulating 1000 hours of thoroughly enjoyable flight, many shared with children to whom he has given their first flight. —Jeanne

well as conversations with missionaries serving in other countries, books, and particularly new books for growing children tend to be a rare commodity on the mission field.

Combining her love of books and missions, the past few years Jeanne has been pleased to see the fulfillment of her longtime dream of sending

Sports

Blitz! Adelle wins tourney

Adelle declared to be 'Vonderful, Goot!' Dutch Blitz Champ.



Match results:

| Month | Winner |
|-------|--------|
| Jan | Adelle |
| Feb | Gramma |
| Mar | Adelle |
| Apr | Adelle |
| May | Adelle |
| Jun | Adelle |
| Jul | Adelle |
| Aug | Adelle |
| Sep | Adelle |
| Oct | Adelle |
| Nov | Adelle |
| Dec | Adelle |

Erik, Elissa Draw Swords

Erik and Elissa learn fencing on opposite sides of the country.

Rollerblading Accidents Take Toll

Erik's knees take on new character as he begins blading again after years away from the sport.

One-man Unicycle Hallway Polo Gains Ground Despite Small Fan Base.

books to missionary kids. She has sent 200 books to a school in an Asian country that must remain nameless, 50 books to Japan, and over 400 books to a conference in Thailand that distributed books to missionaries in numerous countries in Asia. "Thanks: your selfless gift will bring joy to a lonely heart" reads one note in the thank you from the conference. "This is a terrific, helpful ser-

Raquetball Injuries Raise Serious Questions

Why are the balls blue? What is the cause of broken legs, torn muscles and contusions? Do the players have an excess of testosterone, or can 'nurture' explain all? John refuses comment.

Arts & Letters

Santa Barbara Children's Chorus

In spring, 2002, Adelle skeptically followed an unlikely lead to an extraordinary program: the Santa Barbara Children's Chorus! The quality of this choir, led by its energetic and talented director, with her

quiet, loyal and near-perfect accompanist enticed the Rodkeys to fill in the ranks of this fair venture. It has been a glorious experience for Krista, Adelle, Erik and now Jess, singing a wide variety of high quality music in concerts in Santa Barbara, San Diego and



even as far away as Carnegie Hall in New York City. —Erik

Wanted:

Desperate family seeks housekeeper. Attraction to Sisyphean tasks a plus. Contact editor.

Rodkeys Recommend Reading ...

Mind of the Maker, Dorothy Sayers
The Enchanted Castle, E. Nesbit
The Napoleon of Notting Hill, G.K. Chesterton
The Space Trilogy, C.S. Lewis
War in Heaven, Charles Williams
The Code of the Woosters, P.G. Wodehouse
The Little Britches Series, Ralph Moody
Watership Down, Richard Adams

Rodkeys Recommend Watching ...

Fortunes of War
The Thin Man Series
Nero Wolfe
Much Ado ... (Branagh)
The Color of Paradise
The Road Home
Johnny Bagpipes
The West Wing
Band of Brothers
The Mission

Related Resources ...

<http://www.seacadets.org>
<http://www.zeitah.net>
<http://pulsar.westmont.edu/zeitah>
<http://www.montecitocovenant.org>
<http://www.youngeagles.org>
<http://aeronca.westmont.edu/pics/rodkey/crash>

Letters to the Editor ...

You should be ashamed of yourself! 9 years between issues! You call this a Newspaper? Cancel my subscription immediately!

- Tired of Waiting in LaPine

yours would stoop to using the word 'Calisthenics'. Have you no decency, no sense of propriety? I await your public apology.

- Apalled in Aspen

I found your article on Tulip care especially enlightening, and 'Anecdotes From a Moose' truly life-changing.

- Inspired in Story City

I'm so impressed with your newsletter:(sic) how can I become a publisher?

- Wannabe in Winnemucca

[Just use Linux, install Scribus, and strive to emulate our sparkling wit and deep insight. — ed.]

<http://www.sbchildrenschorus.org>

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