

The Rodkey Reader

To be taken in the morning with a grain of salt

February 7, 2008 Vol. 3 No. 1

Women Take to the Road

Cramming four adults and household belongings for three into a van for a month-long road trip may not sound like your idea of a fun time, but Jeanne was ecstatic. "Just think: making connections with hundreds of friends and relations across the U.S., visiting with my girls for hours, and getting to drop off each at their respective schools and make sure each knows the location of the closest thrift store! What could give more joy?" The response of her fellow-travelers was more subdued. "Don't blame me if the van's suspension is ruined: I only brought one suitcase!" stated Adelle. Krista quietly mourned the distance her grad school, Indiana University, lies from her beloved college roommate. Even Elissa was heard to mutter "I don't want to go to Toronto" in her troubled sleep. Their work done, the packers extraordinaire, godlike in their spatial visualization abilities, were left to fend for themselves at the homestead. Surprisingly, they did not starve to death.



After leaving Krista at Indiana, Elissa at Toronto, and Adelle at Wheaton, Jeanne proceeded to Rochester, MN – that hotbed of Mulhollands, pasture of Penzes, home to hundreds of aunts, uncles and cousins. Luxuriating in relationship-heaven, she reluctantly returned home, accompanied by one of her Santa Barbara friends, Janice Lee. Despite many opportunities afforded the van over the last three years to demonstrate its solidarity with all previous Rodkey vehicles and break down at the worst possible moment, it decided to be reliable now. For greater contrast later, no doubt. - *John*

Correspondence Queen Reigns From Rodkey Residence

Sure, she's now a (re) licensed nurse and a bona fide "Lactation Educator", but relieved of her homeschooling duties (and associated board work), Jeanne has considerably more time on her hands. This time is not wasted: as correspondence queen, she keeps in contact with the Rodkey diaspora as well as potential book donors and recipients (for more, see 'Book Ends', p 4). Jeanne will be busier next year as she starts her first paid job in 25 years as RN at Life Network. There she will perform ultrasounds for women with unplanned pregnancies. But she will keep her afternoons free for watching Cody and his cousins, running Book Ends, and, of course, email correspondence. - *Krista*



Competitive Conservie a Senior

The sidewalks between dorm and practice rooms have required additional maintenance to repair the groove worn by Adelle in her many trips to and fro, but this is par for the course in the highly competitive world of Wheaton's Music Conservatory. In fact, oboists vying for the first chair have occasionally resorted to the ancient form of the duel to settle the issue of primacy. The reed mortality rate has been appalling. In addition to the normal hectic schedule of any senior, her year has been filled with preparation for the required Senior Recital, to be held March 17. In November, Adelle treated Elissa and Krista to a genuine Wheaton Thanksgiving. Her sisters stayed in her dorm room, met her friends, and enjoyed a full Thanksgiving dinner (miraculously prepared in an apartment kitchen with limited utensils and elbow room). Pies were plentiful, but the highlights of the visit were the walks around town.

Asked about her plans after graduating, Adelle declined comment. - *John*



Elissa: International Student

Having organized the Psychology lab to a fare-thee-well and gained a new fondness for rats, Elissa completed her employment at Westmont. Her next adventure took her to Ethiopia, where she visited friends from college. Her month there included working in an orphanage, trips to the beautiful countryside, playing



with the family's kids, and discovering the realities of missionary life in the context of third world poverty

Later that summer, Elissa departed for another country: the somewhat less exotic, but no less challenging concrete jungle of Toronto. Somewhat surprisingly, the challenges of Ethiopian culture proved good preparation for her first semester of grad school. York University's History and Theory of Psychology program provided her introduction to such bizarre academic rituals as publication, conferences and colloquiums. Elissa enjoyed her introduction to the his-

Sunday Soccer Superstar

"It's a great way to play a nice, friendly game of soccer," quips Rodkey, - number 42 boldly emblazoned on his jersey - limping off the field with a sprained ankle, raw steak firmly pressed to his rapidly swelling forehead. "Most of the families come in their entirety. It's really quite an invigorating way to spend a Sunday afternoon."

But what drives the man to such daring feats of sportsmanship? As always, the Reader brings you an

in-depth, personal look at the man behind the cleats.



Could it be that this new-found obsession is in part a method of coping with stress in the IT department this year? The evidence supports

this position, with server outages nearly outnumbering his average hours of sleep. Even in Israel he continued to telecommute, working an astounding two full-time jobs. While John does not refute the alleged connection between IT stress and his soccer activity, he points out that his passion is independent from work pressures. "Imagine a week completely free of IT woes - at the end of that mythical week, you'll still find me on the soccer fields." - Erik

Erik Survives Europe; Begins College

"Will we ever see him again?" was the question haunting the remaining Rodkeys as Erik departed for a month long solo trip to Europe to celebrate his high school graduation. Despite adventures that included spending a rainy night in a doorway in Dunkirk and being forced to subsist on wild berries, Erik had a grand time exploring parts of Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, England and Scotland. He enjoyed actually getting to see castles (Germany, England and Scotland), glimpsing the brilliance of Dover from sea, and exploring a period WWII grass airfield and hangar (courtesy of one of John's Aeronca friends).

At the end of the summer Erik tested his newfound survival skills with his first semester at Westmont College. He returned safe and sound, but spouting quaint



new sayings such as "Bring frumpy back!" and "What the Faulkner?" The latter phrase stems from one of the challenges of his semester—an honors English class for which he

tory of psychology, and produced the paper *Last of the Mohicans? James McCosh and Psychology "Old" and "New"* with a brilliance that is no doubt a sign of things



to come. Now she occupies herself by dithering over which of her various obscure historical interests to choose for her master's thesis topic. Asked about her impression of Canada, Elissa said "Well,

I don't recommend visiting Canada in the middle of the American election season unless you appreciate unsolicited political advice, but Toronto's not representative, eh?" Although urban life is not generally Elissa's forte, exploring the city, finding a church located in the picturesque old downtown, and making friends are well on their way to endearing her to the place. - Jeanne

got milk?

See Jeanne Rodkey, lactation educator

saw 7 plays and read 11 books. But he's not complaining: the class involved trips to see excellent plays in LA and San Diego— including Sir Ian McKellen in the Royal Shakespeare Company, performing Chekov, and naturally, Shakespeare. Erik also enjoyed Men's Chorale but by far the highlight of his semester was the Principles of Art class—his introduction to painting and sketching inspired him to add art to his plans for the future.

On the social scene, Erik had no problem making friends (they were no doubt impressed by his VE Day costume on the freshman holiday-themed cruise) and spent many happy hours playing games and studying in the lounge. He annoyed his family by maintaining email silence throughout the semester and foiling Facebook spying attempts by taking only abstract "artistic" photographs of his experiences. Vowing to mend his ways, he returns to Westmont for another exciting semester. - Elissa



Bloomington Beckons Illustrious Graduate

Sunny with a slight breeze: the perfect weather for black gowns, mortarboards, and academic bling. Krista graduated from Westmont College with honors and much cheering from the Rodkey section of the field. After the ceremony the revelry continued with a reception and croquet match in the gardens of a nearby park.

In August Krista left California to pursue her philosophical studies at a graduate program in Indiana. So far the reports have been good. Krista feels at home in her new apartment and has rapidly accumulated friends both within

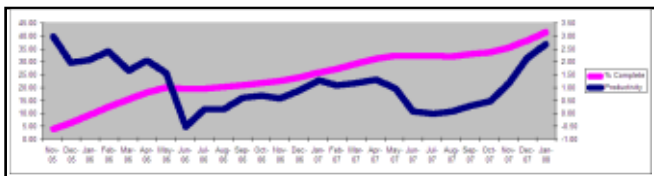


and without the department. Krista takes pleasure in Bloomington's beautiful campus: lofty trees and limestone buildings prove ideal surroundings for meditating on the works of Hume and Kierkegaard. This year Krista also underwent initiation into the Greek-speaking populace: "δεια τοις γε σοφοις τα τοις θαλαττης" remarks Krista on this exciting development. Krista returns to IU for an exciting semester of Plato, Truth and Predication, and Contemporary Ethics. - Adelle

Wanted: Warm Winter Wear

Will trade California garb for Toronto winter-gear —Contact Elissa

Business



Cottage Industry Takes Off

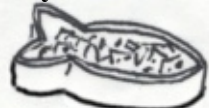
Production is up this year at Rodkey Aeronautical Restoration Enterprise (RARE), making a come back from the all-time low of 2006, when RARE was forced to relocate to cramped, inadequate facilities. Since then, business has returned to normal with at least 50% of the metal and wood restoration complete. The more difficult design aspects of emblems, fine metalwork, leather, wood and detailed paint required to recreate the stylish 1940's interior of the Aeronca Chief are currently underway.

What's in store for the future? CEO John Rodkey stated that his current goal is to finish the rebuild: nothing beyond that is certain. However, when asked if rumours of a possible Fokker DR 1 rebuild were true, Rodkey did not deny it. "It's a definite possibility," Rodkey said, "but my woodworking department would kill me." VP of Paint Removal,

Sanding and Database Operations Anne Anderson comments: "A DR 1? I think the paint fumes have been getting to someone." - Erik



Cody's Fishbrittle



Contact Fred



'Book Ends' Startup Delivers on Promise

The Goleta charity 'Book Ends,' headed by visionary Jeanne, has continued to expand—both in business and on the bookshelf. This has been a record year: the total of books sent this year nearly equaled the cumulative total of books sent in its previous four years. Though still sharing quarters with RARE, the charity has made great progress by adopting a more efficient system of bookkeeping and by settling on the name 'Book Ends, International' and the

motto, "Sending books to the ends of the earth"

The statistical breakdown is impressive, but more important is the impact, attested by many a letter of thanks, that this ministry has had on the people it serves.

- Krista

Book Ends Stats

In 2007

Books Sent in '07: 2450
Recipient Families: 67
Recipient Kids: 182
Countries: 42
Book Donors: ~35

Last 5 years

Total Books Sent: 5369

Looking forward

Books on Hand: ~4400

Goal for '08: send 3000

Want to be involved?

See Jeanne



Rabbit Topiaries For Sale!

All-natural creations by free-range rabbits

Arts & Letters



German Film Festival Favorite

Despite the Hollywood strike, the annual Rodkey Film Festival took place as usual, naming *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* this year's winner of the Elwood award. This German language movie follows Sophie Scholl, a leader in the WWII youth resistance movement "The White Rose," through her arrest, interrogation, trial and execution.

The script was based on survivor interviews and recently recovered court and interrogation transcripts, so part of the film's fascination comes from its close correspondence to reality. The intensity of *Sophie Scholl*, however, comes from the clash of ideas, as Sophie spars with her Nazi interrogator. Sophie's courageous stand for, as she puts it, "decency, morals and God" is a challenge to the modern viewer. -- *Elissa*



Arts flourish in Rodkey Household

The artistic community blossomed this year under the Southern Californian sun. Krista, the established family artist, honed her skills with a figure drawing class. Besides her usual musical endeavors, Adelle dabbled in composition and arranging—a performance of her original composition "The Life and Adventures of Jack" on piano and violin was greeted with hearty applause. Erik made his artistic debut in drawing, painting and collage. Even John tried his hand at mid-20th Century functional art, involving wood-sculpting, sand-blasting, art deco emblem replication and aerodynamic structures (See *Takes Off*, p3). - *Adelle*



Letters to the Editor

The last *Rodkey Reader* included an endorsement of the film *Hoodwinked*. Imagine my shock when, upon watching it at your recommendation, I found it to be rife with dark and disturbing material! Such offensive, grim tales such as *Little Red Ridinghood*, which endorses kidnapping, stalking, and drug use (the solution to the climax of the story is the administration of a performance enhancing substance!) deserve our condemnation, not our approbation!!! This is not the discerning writing I have come to expect from the *Rodkey Reader*! -*Disturbed in Des Moines*

Aware of this issue, the editors designate 'Not for the faint of heart' those movies which might be considered offensive to our dedicated public. The Rodkeys have a penchant for obscure or foreign films and hold that films that contain disturbing elements are valuable to the extent that they accurately portray sin and redemption. Readers holding a different perspective are urged to exercise their own judgment when it comes to watching recommended movies. However, hyperactive squirrels drinking coffee strikes us as particularly innocuous.— *The Editors*



Related Resources ...

<http://zeitahdata.blogspot.com>
<http://mygrowlery.blogspot.com>
<http://kristicity.blogspot.com>
<http://arodkeylife.blogspot.com>
<http://mackerel-sky.blogspot.com>
<http://picasaweb.google.com/erodkey>
<http://youtube.com/profile?user=MackerelSkyLtd>



Recital

7:30 p.m.
 March 17, '08
 Wheaton College

Miss Adelle Rodkey

performs works by

Gordon Jacob

Camille Saint-Saëns

Johann Sebastian Bach

Rodkeys Recommend

Watching ...

Zelary*	Hero*
Due South	Foyle's War
Junebug*	Judgment at Nuremberg
Im Juli	Sophie Scholl: The Final Days
IT Crowd*	His Girl Friday

*Not for the faint of heart

Reading...

The River Why
 Life of Pi
 Mountains Beyond Mountains
 Concluding Unscientific Postscript
 (Kierkegaard)
 Death of a Naturalist
 (Seamus Heaney)