

The Rodkey Reader

To be taken in the morning with a grain of salt

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The Great Race



"And coming around the final bend into December... they're neck and neck!"

Well, it's been a tight race so far, but this last stretch is notoriously challenging, with hazards like holidays and concerts to avoid...

Wait, it looks like Jeanne is falling behind.

Maybe the colder weather is affecting her... No, it looks like she got distracted by a bystander in need! Will she be able to catch up?

It seems unlikely that she can close what is now quite an impressive lead on John's part, but...what's this? He's slowing down...perhaps it's another flat tire, but no...wait...I don't believe this!!! He's getting off his bike to take books to the post office! What is he thinking? ...and... it's BookEnds by a hair!"

Such were the final moments of the epic year-long race between Jeanne's BookEnds Project and John's Biking Commuting! In this closely watched high stakes race, which kept fans enthralled to the end, the number of books sent overseas by Jeanne were pitted against the number of miles biked by John. The race was surprisingly close: final count 2545.5 miles for John, 2554 books for Jeanne.

But behind this feel-good story of good deeds and exercise lurks scandal! Observant fans noted that despite John's notorious competitive streak, his behavior during the race was not consistent with a winning strategy. Many an evening, he was found enter-

ing book titles into the BookEnds database, helping Jeanne pack books into boxes, and even filling out customs forms. What accounts for this overly-caring conduct? Allegations that he intentionally threw the race are under investigation, and fans kept breathless during the race are in danger of going into respiratory arrest while they await the official verdict on the sensational photo-finish. — *Elissa*

BookEnds Stats:

2554 books, 15 countries, 43 families

Biking Stats:

2545 miles, 3 Bent rims, 5 Broken spokes, 13 Flat tires, 2 Tires worn out, 3 Accidents

Erik Moves Eastward, Acclimates to Indiana

"Ah, to be an Eccentric" sighs Erik wistfully, little knowing how nearly he has attained his goal. Certainly Bloomington passersby who look askance as he bikes between the apartment he and Krista share and his work as computer support for Indiana University seem to share this view. "What is wrong with wearing wool trousers, argyle sweater-vest, button-down collar shirt, bow tie, and patent leather shoes while biking?" he asks. This rhetorical question may have received an unexpectedly practical answer as Fall turned to Winter, See *Hoosier*, pg 3

Miniature Musicians Multiply; Minuet in Masks

Wandering Westmont students were shocked one November afternoon as children four to fourteen burst from Deane Chapel. Are freshmen really looking that much younger? No, it was Adelle's fall costume recital, her innovative solution to the busy Christmas season: transform the traditional Christmas recital into a Halloween Fest! After all, Minuet in G sounds decidedly imperial when played by Darth Vader, and the concert atmosphere is far more festive when attended by gypsies, fortune tellers, princesses and pirates!



Adelle's creative approach to teaching has borne fruit in other ways: her music studio has swelled to 30 students, and she has thrown off the shackles of non-musical employment to become a full-time piano teacher. She delights in the special challenges that come with entertainingly young students, and also the more sophisticated musical discussions possible with older students. With her many interactions with children, she has been infected with the childhood passion to "write her own book", and has been creating her own music reading curriculum to satisfy this fancy. Of course, writing a book containing musical symbols brings its own difficulties, and to overcome these hurdles she has learned to use a music typesetting program, Lilypond, under Erik's tutelage.

Meanwhile, Adelle's mad oboe skilz have not been neglected. During the Christmas season she was called upon to play in a string of concerts in SLO & SB areas, for a

See *Musicians*, pg 3

Eldest Becomes Elder, Experiences Rowing Pains

Bored by her easy conquest of the Psychology Conferences, est Elder at her church, and a grueling practice and exercise where she has presented to great acclaim, Elissa Rodkey, routine as a member of the York University Rowing Club, Scholar Extraordinaire, has gone in search of additional chal- where she learned the finer points of single- and double-sweep sculling. “But what of the summer,” — I hear our readership enviously musing — “surely she could not have had more such similarly exciting adventures in the summer months?” Yet, truly I must report that it was so. In the time of year when most decent folk say “heigh-ho, how about a lazy spot of fishing,” she was as busy as always, single-handedly organizing the history of infant pain research (sadly this involved reading the Psychological Archive of Psychologists who aren’t in Ak- about countless hapless babies being poked with pins by ron, but who sent their stuff there anyway. Ah, Akron—Mecca overzealous psychologists), which is being published in the for History of Psychology! As intrepid organizer of the unlabeled, Elissa, the real Psych Detective, embarked upon a jolly game of “guess the psychological artifact.” Her research be the subject of her dissertation. Elissa spent her fall semester helped identify such oddities as a carpet-lined box for sub- balancing dissertation research, TA-ing, her duties as the new- jecting unsuspecting ducklings to aural stimulation. — Erik



Musicians (Cont'd from pg 1)

grand total of six performances of Bach Magnificats! She also performed solo and in small groups as part of the SB Music Club. Thinking that perhaps she wasn’t busy enough, she has now taken on teaching oboe to several Westmont students.



Although it is now several years since Adelle gave her famous “I have a

dream...that one day I will not be the only one to weed the yard” speech, she remains the most horticulturally responsible member of 280 Big Sur. When interviewed by Householders For Chore Equality, Jeanne responded to accusations that she never weeded by pointing out that she did “weed the easy parts occasionally”. But no one can deny that the lion’s share of the yardwork is accomplished by Adelle, and that the plants are growing by leaps and bounds under her care. When not weeding, practicing, or making oboe reeds, she can be found reading Victorian novels such as *Jane Eyre* and *Bleak House* for her literature class, playing soccer, or going on walks with her friends. — Krista

Rationalist Rationalizes Restful Routine

When RR approached the illustrious philosopher Krista Rodkey, she was engaged in research for her upcoming lecture “The Virtues of Idleness” by taking an afternoon nap. “I believe it’s important to support philosophical concepts with hard empirical evidence,” she said on waking, though when asked whether she would consider herself a part of the wider experimental philosophy movement she said she thought they’d taken it too far: “After all, if they fulfill their promise to ‘Burn the Armchair,’ where will I get my forty winks?” Krista’s interest in applied study has not led her to neglect a literature review; she’s read Stevenson’s “Apology for Idlers,” Sayers’ “Why Work?” and Jerome K. Jerome’s “Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow.”

Although her idleness research has been called ‘groundbreaking’ she says she probably “can’t be bothered” to publish; after all, Krista’s pursuit of

the subject is motivated by her teaching duties. As a senior student she teaches her own Intro classes, and with her usual tendency toward historical philosophy, both spring and fall classes feature such figures as Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, and Nietzsche. But her commitment to applied learning lives on, and when her plan to take her ethics students on field trips to do ethical and unethical things was coldly received by university authorities, she had to content herself with drawing illustrations for Plato’s *Republic* and bringing Aristotle’s forms into the classroom in the form of sugar-cookies. The classes’ historical content is balanced by forays into modern issues, including Work & Idleness, Memory & Forgetfulness, and Friends & Family, which topics she explores in her experiential research by forgetting to call home.

Over the summer, Krista found ample relaxation in the See *Idleness*, pg 3



Hoosier (Cont'd from pg 1)

prompting a switch to coats, boots, and unfashionable but practical fleece hats. Erik's impressions of winter: "Its all



gushy and slushy and nasty to walk through." Yet Erik's fashion sense has not been totally banished. Children in the choir whom Erik prepared for the roundly acclaimed Christmas Pageant

Idleness (Cont'd from pg 2)

mountains near Calgary, where she traveled to present a paper on Hume at the Society for Hume Studies. She is done with her own course work and is currently doing thesis writing on philosophy of language. Despite her obligations as teacher, grad student, and departmental president, Krista's commitment to idleness research is motivated in part by the cautionary tale of Descartes' death, precipitated by teaching at 5 a.m. "You can never be too careful about resisting the insidious temptation to work." To be fair, Krista did have a legitimate reason to seek rest and relaxation this spring. A bout of severe anemia reached a crisis mid-semester, requiring a blood transfusion and correct diagnosis of her malady. Erik's presence in Indiana has had beneficial effects on her health as he has taken over chief bread baker and curfew enforcer. — Adelle



Plato's Republic: the just and unjust man



admire the oddities of their fearless leader; Bloomington clothing stores experienced an unprecedented run on bow ties and sweater-vests during the advent season.

Had they been on Oahu, Hawaii during February, they would have seen an alter ego emerge, as he spent hours flying and soloing an Aeronca Champ barefoot, in shorts and T-shirt. He continued flight training throughout the spring and summer,



only to be tragically stymied by airworthiness documentation problems that prevented taking his checkride for the Sport Pilot Certificate. He vows vengeance, that is to say, to successfully

obtain his license in the summer of 2013.

Meanwhile, Erik is busy learning essential Midwestern survival skills: experiencing his first tornado, learning how to double- and triple-layer for snow, mastering corn-belt cuisine — though he focuses on baking bread rather than casseroles. "All in all," Erik reports, "it is quite jolly, what with the foreign culture and climate and whatnot. And being an IT support technician

is not nearly as horrid as I had imagined." Indeed, he is gathering a large collection of humorous IT support calls with which to regale his newly acquired Hoosier friends. — John



Textile Artist's Reputation Looms Large

An unfamiliar whirring, soft clicking, and rhythmic clacking can regularly be heard in the Rodkey domicile these days. No, it is not Adelle experimenting with avant garde percussion: family friend Shannon Ludington, gifted textile artist and beloved adopted cousin, has summoned the courage to throw in her lot with the Rodkeys for a while. In

addition to spinning wool into yarn, knitting hats, socks, sweaters, and scarves, she also has procured a four-foot loom on which she has woven beautiful shawls and decorative hangings. She keeps at-home Rodkeys in stitches as she spins yarns, following the thread of her life as it weaves from Santa Barbara to Bulgaria, Russia, Uzbekistan, Germany, Colorado and back to Goleta. No word yet on whether living with the Rodkeys has permanently warped her sense of humor. — John

Happy 20th Birthday, dear Toyota truck!
Congratulations on 315,000 miles successfully traveled.
You are an inspiration to us all.
Your affectionate family, Dodge Caravan and Infiniti i30

Green Dragon Inn Catering Service – 'The Shire's Finest'

Looking for a unique gala to celebrate a beloved Septuagenarian ?
Second breakfast served after 'Pin the Arrow on Smaug' and before elevensies.
Open exclusively Christmas Eve. No admittance except on party business.

Top Travel Destinations, 2012

Rodkey Reader staff were sent On Assignment to find the Best Travel Destination of 2012. Here are the surprising results.

Visit the gorgeous scenic countryside of **France**! Accommodations in old-World farmhouse, with magnificent open timber rafters, spiral staircase, rose-draped walls, tranquil pond, and in-season cherry-tree. Local attractions include pre-historic cave paintings, Roman ruins, impressive cathedrals, and Nazi 'frescos' in the wine-cellar of a once-occupied manor. The surrounding wheat fields are perfect for hiking through to an idyllic reading spot overlooking rolling golden hills. Luscious homemade meals enjoyed outdoors in the long summer evenings are restful and restorative after a long day of touring. Tired of peaceful country life? Venture into Paris for a whirlwind visit to the Louvre! Mandatory: eat at least two pastries each day. Best enjoyed with a few close friends and sisters in celebration of your 30th birthday.

Submitted by: Elissa

Hawaii boasts beautiful beaches and verdant mountains best viewed "bird's-eye" while soaring in a glider, Aer-onca Champ, or open-cockpit 'Breezy'. Get your Sport Pilot solo checkride done in a week! End each day reminiscing with a Tuskegee Airman or enjoying a barbeque on the glistening white beach as the tropical warmth slowly subsides. Boarding accommodations sparse — blankets on a couch in a hangar — but entirely adequate.

Submitted by: Erik

Upstate **New York** has simple rustic appeal, making it a delightful location for the wedding of a beloved brother to his new bride. Another advantage is its proximity to Toronto, where you can go on a tour of highly acclaimed Knox Presbyterian Church or wander through a sculpture garden composed of Toronto architectural detritus. But remember to take your passport!

Submitted by: Jeanne

Travel to **Guatemala** for an exotic and memorable experience! Plenty of opportunity for adventure-packed bus rides and unsafe caving tours of underground rivers. The brilliant colors of Lake Atitlán will tempt you to go kayaking, but make sure to apply sunblock or you will also turn brilliant colors. Accommodations in the 'Sarah Agee's Pleasant Stay B&B', with built-in food and friendship. Southern Californians guaranteed to be shocked at the greenness of the foliage.

Submitted by: Adelle

Close to home, the **Pacific Northwest** provides a lovely venue for family reunions. Visit the Lemay antique car museum in Tacoma with cousins, delight in the development of young cousinlings, hike the Columbia River Gorge at sunset, swim in the Spokane River, and watch lightning storms from your grandparents' porch. Additional perk: Calgary is not far off, and one can easily fly up for the odd Hume conference. Hiking in Banff with philosophers is highly recommended!

Submitted by: Krista

There is no place like home. Visit **280 Big Sur Drive** in Goleta, recently awarded "Most Dramatically Improved Curb-side Appeal" for its renovated landscaping, lawn, driveway, new paint, and stucco retaining wall with its graceful elliptical form. Also voted most likely to cause long-time friends to drive past without recognizing the place. Stay awhile in somewhat chilly comfort; the Rodkeys have thoughtfully declined to repair their furnace so as to enhance their visitors' Spartan experience.

Submitted by: John

The Rodkey Reader: All the fun of writing your own newspaper without the tedium of fact-checking!
You too can confuse fact with fiction!

Rodkeys Recommend Reading

Okay for Now	The Johnstown Flood
13th Tale	In This House of Brede
Queen of Attolia	The Human Person
Gilead	Blackout

Rodkeys Recommend Watching

Castle (the TV series)	How to Train your Dragon
Three Idiots	The Spirit of the Beehive
Lincoln	Murder on the Orient Express (1974)
Hud	Passion of Joan of Arc (1928)

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