

THE CRUMB

YOUR DAILY DOSE
from THE BREAD LOAF
WRITERS' CONFERENCE

VOL. 82

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007

NO. II

“Will never sign your book ‘Best Wishes.’”

TODAY'S EVENTS

7:30 A.M.

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9 – 10 A.M.

Lecture: “Where Should We Be: Can Artists Be Anything But Regionalists?” with William Kittredge, Little Theatre

10:10 A.M. – 12:10 P.M.

Fiction Workshops

12:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.

Lunch, Bread Loaf Inn

1:30 P.M.

- Special Talk: Thom Didato & Caitlin Johnson on Internet Publishing, Barn 1
- Special Talk: Alane Mason & Ilya Kaminsky on *Words Without Borders*, Barn A

2:30 P.M.

Matthew Power on Writing for Radio, Little Theatre

4:15 P.M.

Reading: Sally Ball, Ravi Howard, & Douglas Trevor, Little Theatre

5:30 P.M.

Blue Parlor Reading, Blue Parlor

6:30 P.M.

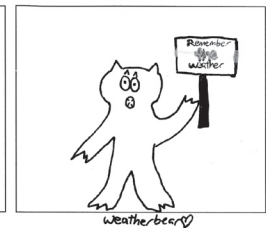
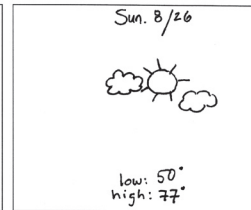
Special Final Dinner, Dining Hall

8:15 P.M.

Reading: Robert Cohen & Michael Collier, Little Theatre

9:30 P.M.

- Bread Loaf Slide Show, Barn
- Dance, Barn



SPECIAL TALK: WRITING FOR RADIO

Matthew Power will offer a talk titled “Writing for Radio” today at 2:30 p.m., in the Little Theatre. Powers’s travels have taken him to 44 countries and all 50 states. He is a Contributing Editor at *Harper’s Magazine* and *National Geographic Adventure*. His reporting and essays have also appeared in *GQ*, *Men’s Journal*, *Discover*, *New York Times*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Believer*, and elsewhere, as well as being anthologized in *Best American Spiritual Writing 2006* and *Best American Travel Writing 2007*. His radio pieces have been frequently heard on Public Radio International’s *The Next Big Thing*. He grew up in Cornwall, Vermont, within sight of Bread Loaf mountain, and lives in Brooklyn.

FINAL BANQUET

This evening’s dinner will be a special final banquet. Wine will be served for those who would like a glass. Please bring your driver’s license or other ID along, in case you need it.

LEARN ABOUT WARREN WILSON’S MFA PROGRAM

An informal Q&A about the Warren Wilson low-residency MFA program will be held today at 3:30 p.m. in Barn A. The talk will feature faculty, students, and alumni currently on the mountain. If you’re interested in finding out more about the Warren Wilson MFA program, please come! And if you’re a member of the Warren Wilson community, please come, too!

WORD LOAF

Enjoy the hay ride yesterday? Experience it again today, albeit through a cartoon. We’ll be screening the “Word Loaf” episode of *The Simpsons* tomorrow evening after the slideshow in the Barn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Return Library Books

If you borrowed library books, please be sure to return them before 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Carpooling

If you need a ride, or would like to give one, please see the list posted on the bulletin board near the dining hall. We hope this is helpful in connecting those who need a ride with drivers.

Departure Taxis

To all of those taking a taxi van to the airport on Sunday, thank you for paying so promptly. Tomorrow, please be sure to arrive ten minutes before your departure time, so the driver can assist you with your luggage and take attendance.

Send Along Feedback

You will find a feedback form in your mailbox today. Please, please, please take some time to fill this out. We go over the feedback forms carefully to see how things went and to consider any changes for the future.

Last Day for Massage

Saturday is the last day for massage and other healing modalities with Jayne Ela Quddus Webb. Thank you and blessings to all.

Send Us Your Photos

If you've taken photos during the conference, we would love to see them! When you post them, please let us know and send the link along to blwc@middlebury.edu.

Group Photos

Group photos that were ordered on Tuesday by 1 PM can now be picked up at the front desk.



Under the Influence



The end has come. Tonight is the last Blue Parlor reading of the conference. Come tonight to lament, praise, and hear good writing. Tonight's theme is "Homage: Odes, Influences and Elegies". Readers will tell us how they were influenced, honor grief, and pay tribute in their work.

Reading tonight is Hilary Houston Bachelder, Laura Minor, Sarah Woodberry, Lauren Smith, Stella Padnos-Shea, Susan Jo Russell, Alex Stathes, Todd Christopher Cincala, C. Dodds Musser, and Jamie Iredell.

Questions? Goodbyes? Contact Blue Parlor Chief Nina McConigley.

Ordering Bread Loaf 2007 Audio

The conference makes lectures and readings available for purchase on CD. Each CD will cost \$6 (includes shipping and handling). You should have found the forms in your mailboxes on Thursday. The form, with payment, will be due by 5 p.m. on Saturday. The college can only accept cash and checks for the audio orders.

Book Store Update

Find a twenty percent discount on everything (except consignment items and postcards). Hours: Today from 9 – 12 noon and 2 – 5 p.m.

* Please note that books for those reading at the 8:15 p.m. readings today will be available for purchase at the front desk of the Bread Loaf Inn.

* Please also note that books brought to be sold on consignment may be picked up by 4 p.m. today.

* If you have books on hold, pick them up. Any books still on hold after noon today will be returned to the general shelf.

Tips for Waitstaff & Housekeeping

If you would like to tip the waitstaff or housekeeping, you may do so by leaving money in an envelope at the front desk. For housekeeping staff tips: Please make sure the building name and room number are on the envelope, and please hand in all tips to the front desk by 8:30 p.m. today; this will ensure tips can be distributed before everyone leaves tomorrow.

Overheard

"I think I may have been inappropriate with my manuscript last night. I woke up and was in bed with it. I was like, 'You? What're you doing here?' Looked a little worse for the wear."

—Friday, Lunch

Visitors

The following visitors have now departed from the mountain:

Ellen Bryant Voigt

Stuart Bernstein

Mysteries Abound

As previously reported, plastic parachuters have been mysteriously appearing on the Bread Loaf mountain. Matt Hart joined Bret Anthony Johnston, Sam Amadon, and Stacey D'Erasmus, when he was delivered the leg of a plastic parachuter at dinner. If you know anything about this, please inform the Crumb immediately.

In other news, the Social Staff has been receiving mysterious notes on paper plates. The first had a drawing of an ant on it, along with the number 22. We are unable to crack this code, but if you know anything about it please inform the Crumb immediately.

Get to Know the Faculty, a Quiz

What Fellow's sister and best man were both arrested at his wedding?

(Submit your answers to the Crumb box. The answer will be published tomorrow)

Answer from Yesterday's Quiz

What faculty member was in a music video for the band Bright Eyes?

Answer: Stacey D'Erasmus

The video was for "The First Day of My Life," which is available on You Tube.

New Work: Excerpts from the Workshops

I watch him tip his head. "You got that guy Emmons lined up?"

"It looks like it,"

And he nods. "Well, it's still money."

I tell Kaylie about it. We're watching one of Big Jerry's DVDs, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, and I ask Kaylie if she's liking it and she shrugs and says she likes it being free. The problem though is that Big Jerry just got busted at the truck stop with over 700 DVDs, which makes it a felony, plus some of them were porn, which would have upped the problem, except the cops took the porn. And they also knocked the number down to 500, which lightened the offense. Still, Jerry's out of the racket, gone back to just trucking.

—From *Summer Avenue*, a novella by Stephen Schottenfeld

Words Without Borders

Founder Alane Salierno Mason and contributing writer Ilya Kaminsky will talk about *Words Without Borders* (www.wordswithoutborders.org), an online magazine for international literature hosted by Bard College and funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and other public and private donors. (1:30 p.m., Barn A)

Special Talk: Internet Publishing

Once the realm of bad writing and self-publishing, the Web now features a wealth of high-quality literary publications. Stories and poems published online are now recognized by the annual *Pushcart* and *Best American* anthologies and the online magazines have greatly increased the exposure of many literary writers. Join *failbetter's* editors for their insights on online literary publishing and its impact upon publishing landscape (both new multimedia and more traditional text-based publishing). Other topics will include: *The Online Option: Reader and Writer Beware*, a practical guide for fiction writers and poets looking to publish on the Web; and An Invitation to Join the *failbetter* family, an inside look at the online literary option, with tips on where and how to submit.

Loaf: *Some Definitions*

¹loaf ^{ˈlɒf} *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *lof*, from Old English *hlaf*; akin to Old High German *bleib* loaf

1 : a shaped or molded mass of bread

2 : *When capitalized and used with the definite article*, a specific gathering of writers (example: Don't bother calling my cell. I'll be at The Loaf.)

²loaf *intransitive verb*

Etymology: probably back-formation from *loafer*

1 : to spend time in idleness, in other words, what your co-workers think you are doing when you take all of your vacation time to go to "some writer thing."

2 : to spend all of you paid time off in a frenzy of literary activity.

loafling ^{ˈlɒfli[ng]} *noun*

1 : One who is technically too young to loaf, but who still finds him- or herself on campus

loaf-fling ^{ˈlɒfli[ng]} *noun*

1 : The potential origin of a loafling

overloaf ^{ˈoʊvər-lɒf} *noun*

1 : Fatigue brought on by intense exposure to literary non-fiction, fiction, poetry and the discussion thereof

deloaf ^{ˈdeɪ-lɒf} *intransitive verb*

1 : To escape down the mountain for a brief interlude of non-literary entertainment

2 : To depart for home

reloaf ^{ˈriː-lɒf} *intransitive verb*

1 : To return to the mountain and re-acclimate to the literary environs

—Laura Holloway

Imaginarily Yours

Here's our problem: the parachute. It arrived this evening, on a paper plate, accompanied by a slice of Provolone, framed by two forks. It seemed almost hieroglyphic, a message betraying your love.

"But you're lactose intolerant," she said.

"And allergic to hieroglyphics."

"Right, I forgot," she said. "So."

"So."

"Who sent it?"

My eyes swept the dining hall: Laura, Ru, Paul, Abigail, Nina? They fluttered their eyelashes and I could almost feel the breeze of their desire, or so I imagined.

"Was the parachute real or imaginary?"

"Real. So was the cheese."

"But we're not real?"

Let me explain: I have a Nissan Sentra, a pickaxe. But here—at Bread Loaf—I don't. I have you. We're together, see? One time we brushed hands in the lunch line, reaching for the same muffin. Yesterday, I smelled your breath. It smelled like Dentyne. And ham. It made me hungry.

"You have a pickaxe?"

"And a Sentra," I said. "How'd you know I have a pickaxe?"

"Right, right. I couldn't have known that. POV violation. Sorry."

"Accepted," I said. "But the parachute? The hieroglyphic forks?"

She exhaled. "I didn't send them."

"I wish you had."

Finally, that's what it comes down to—I wish. I wish I'd found you in the laundry room. I wish we'd left the party alone with PBR flavoring our breath. I wish we'd hiked the Frost trail. I wish you'd pushed me against that tree. I wish our teeth had clicked together, so powerful was our imaginary desire.

I wish.

—BAJ & BP