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# THE CRUMB

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YOUR DAILY DOSE  
from THE BREAD LOAF  
WRITERS' CONFERENCE

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VOL. 83

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008

NO. II

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“Unafraid to tell you we’re proud.”

## TODAY'S EVENTS

7:30 A.M.

Breakfast, Bread Loaf Inn

9 – 10 A.M.

Lecture: “The Road Out of Tijuana is Paved with Ink,” with Luis Alberto Urrea, 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.

Panel on MFAs and the Writing Life, Barn A

2:30 P.M.

Matthew Power on Writing for Radio, Little Theatre

4:15 P.M.

Reading: Dan Albergotti, Margo Rabb, & Preeti Samarasan, Little Theatre

5:30 P.M.

Blue Parlor Reading, Blue Parlor

6:30 P.M.

Final Banquet, Dining Hall

8:15 P.M.

Reading: Michael Collier & Thomas Mallon, Little Theatre

9:30 P.M.

Bread Loaf Slide Show, Barn

9:30 P.M. – 12:30 A.M.

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. Power’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.

## INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT MFAS

Chris Castellani, Merrill Feitell, and Paul Otremba will offer an informal Q&A called “Questions You’re Afraid to Ask About the MFA and the Writing Life,” today at 1:30 p.m. in Barn A. The topics covered will include “To MFA or not to MFA,” colonies, journals, writing centers, and the many different paths during the early stages of the writing life.

## 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please Return Library Books**

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

**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, please pay at the front desk today. 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**

Please remember to take some time to fill out a feedback form. We go over the feedback forms carefully to see how things went and to consider any changes for the future.

**Group Photos**

Group photos that were ordered on last Wednesday by 9 a.m. can now be picked up at the front desk.

**Last Chance for Massage**

Today is the last day for massage and other healing modalities. Half-hour appointments are available between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thank you all!

**Correction to Guest Bio**

Although Kate Davis did graduate from Middlebury, she is actually from New Haven, CT, not New Haven, VT. So while she did grow up with a green, it wasn't the Green Mountains.

## And Then We Came To The End



The end has come. Tonight is the last Blue Parlor reading of the conference. Come tonight to hear those last words and to say goodbye.

Tonight's an open reading—so there will be work of all kinds. Reading tonight are Paul Austin, Kristen Wilson, Tom Mitchell, Kerry Krouse, Chip Cheek, Ron Lewis, Scott McFarland, Jaime Poissant, Kevin McNulty, Maria Stadtmueller, and Andrew Puckett. Food and drink will be provided.

*Questions? Goodbyes? Contact Blue Parlor Chief Nina McConigley.*

## Poissant (Superhero?) Finds Lost Wedding Ring



*Poissant, with the missing ring, Friday.*

Jamie Poissant, the Collier Challenge winner and photogenic conference celebrity, has given the Crumb yet another reason to put his name in print. Poissant, who was swimming with his eyes open in Pliad Lake Friday, noticed a sparkle on the lake bottom, and reached down to find a gold wedding band. Later that day, at the gala reception, he found himself listening to Ken Murray's tale of losing his wedding ring while swimming. Jamie was then able to appear magical by

pulling the very missing band from his pocket.

The story, however, continues. It turns out that earlier in the week it had been Ken's copy of *The Half-Known World* that Jamie had been browsing when he came across the winning passage, "I was the most incompetent waiter in Bread Loaf history." Jamie had quietly closed the book and excused himself to the Crumb box, going on to become the Challenge winner and, in turn, quite famous. But he never mentioned a word to Ken about where he'd found it. So yesterday, Jamie was given a chance to even the score by repaying Ken with his wedding ring.

Despite the obvious fact that these men are linked by fate, the Crumb would say it's a fair trade: an irreplaceable symbol of matrimony for a full-page photo with Robert Boswell.

### Visitors

The following visitors have now departed from the mountain:

Charles Baxter

Beth Bachmann

*SO HUMILIATED WHEN SHE REALIZED  
the cause of her husband's frigidity*

**Bread**  
LOAF

Free! NEW!  
For amazing enlightening new  
books containing true discourses  
of intimate personal facts, recently  
published—mail this coupon to  
Loaf Products Corp., Dept. M.R.A.,  
100 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

sending you home with  
too many books

### Answer from Yesterday's Quiz

Which faculty or fellow's wardrobe for the first three days of the conference came exclusively from TJ Maxx in Middlebury?

*Answer: Tom Mallon, whose bag was lost by the airlines for three days*

*(Special points to Ken Murray, Julie Agnone, and Nicky Beer for answering correctly.)*

## New Work: Excerpts from the Workshops

I lost a jacket just like this at twenty,  
a year consumed with losing many things:  
a well-thumbed *Ariel*, a Claddagh ring,  
and letters, tucked in text books accidentally.

Where did I leave the coat? The *The Three Kings*  
on Cromwell Road—the students still drink there.  
I slid it round the shoulders of a chair  
as someone snaked his arm round me, exciting

the heat that tranquilized the smoke-filled air.  
No wonder I went home without the jacket,  
and, hooked upon his mouth at twelve o'clock,  
it seemed film script romantic not to care.

And while it's somewhat pointless looking back  
it's clear to me I missed the pea coat plenty,  
more than the man, although quite evidently  
I lost him too, but he was only practice.

—“On Buying a New Pea Coat,” by Anna Evans

## Three-Day Forecast

