“Forget fair and balanced—we’re the only news source up here.”

Well, Hello There

The Crumb welcomes you to the 87th Annual Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Today’s edition of The Crumb will fill you in on such basics as bookstore hours and how to make departure arrangements. Hereafter, it will contain daily schedules, program changes, and announcements of special events. You will find copies each morning by the dining room door.

Letters to the editor of The Crumb and community announcements may be left in the box marked The Crumb outside the back office; personal advertisements are not accepted.

Hours of Operation

Back Office: Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  Monday, August 20, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Front Desk: Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Switchboard: Same as Front Desk

Library: Open at 7:00 a.m., locked at 1:00 a.m.  Librarian on site weekdays, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Apple Cellar: Same hours as the Library

Bookstore: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  Saturday and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Health Clinic: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (Cornwall Cottage)

Changes or additional operating times will be noted in The Crumb.

A WORD ON WEATHER

Weather on the mountain can be a bit volatile. Expect sun one minute and rain the next, oppressive heat in the morning and a chill in the afternoon. While The Crumb does its best to provide you with accurate weather information, please be aware that the editor’s degree in meteorology was from an unaccredited online institution in the Maldives.

WEDNESDAY’S WEATHER:

High 75°
Low 58°
Scattered thunderstorms
Bread Loaf Campus Facilities and Services

Back Office
The back office is in the west wing of the Inn, next to the Blue Parlor. The staff is happy to help with any photocopying or faxing needs as well as any questions you may have.

If you would like to arrange a special discussion or activity, please feel free to post an announcement. In the past, Bread Loafers have organized AA meetings, groups to talk about writing and parenting, touch football games, and tennis matches. The back office staff would be happy to help you plan an activity, from finding a good place to post the announcement to arranging an appropriate meeting place.

Barn Social and Barn Pub
The Barn, located in a central spot on the Bread Loaf campus, is a place for participants to gather and socialize. On most days, from 5:30 p.m. until just before dinner, a Barn Social will take place, with soda and munchies available free of charge, and beer or wine that can be purchased. And on most evenings, a Barn Pub is set up from 9:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Bells
We’ll start your day with a wake-up bell at 7:30 a.m.; thereafter you’ll hear a bell to announce the start of each meal, as well as ten minutes and then again five minutes before the start of each lecture and reading.

Blue Parlor Readings
During the Conference, all are invited to take part in the Blue Parlor readings. These informal readings, hosted by coordinator Harriet Clark, will take place in the Blue Parlor in the Bread Loaf Inn. These readings provide an opportunity to share some of your writing and to meet Bread Loafers from other workshops. Those interested in reading will be asked to sign up in advance. Details about the Blue Parlor organizational meeting will be noted soon in a forthcoming issue of The Crumb.

Bookstore
Books by faculty and fellows are for sale in the Bookstore, as are miscellaneous supplies—soap, toothpaste, stationery, phone cards, and tee shirts. The store is located in the basement of the Annex; the entrance is at the rear of the building. Cash, Visa, MasterCard, personal and traveler’s checks are accepted.
Computer Lab in the Apple Cellar

A computer room is located in the basement of the library on the Bread Loaf campus. A computer technician will be on hand some days—the tech’s schedule will be noted in the Thursday, August 16, issue of The Crumb—and the Middlebury College helpdesk will be available by phone (dial 2200 from any campus phone) or email (helpdesk@middlebury.edu) on weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You may want to note that wireless access is available in the Library, the Bread Loaf Inn, and the Barn. There is fair to good reception just outside of these buildings, too.

Cornwall Clinic

The clinic is a small cottage located across the street from the Bread Loaf Inn. A nurse will be on hand from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Before entering the clinic, please knock, and wait for a reply. The nurse will provide aspirin, icepacks, and advice; she will contact a physician for you if necessary. She can store your medications if you wish.

The nurse will also assist with mental health care matters, or you can call the crisis team at the Counseling Service of Addison County. The team is available around the clock at 388-7641. If you need further assistance, contact the director, assistant director, or administrative manager (Michael, Jennifer, or Noreen) for a referral.

If you need medical attention during off-clinic hours, contact the front desk of the Bread Loaf Inn.

Procedure in case of Emergency:

Call 911 and tell them you are at the Bread Loaf Campus in Ripton. Tell them someone will be waiting for them on the front porch of the Inn to direct them to the scene.

After calling 911, inform the Front Desk of the situation:

From 8:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m., call extension 2700. They will take care of directing emergency care providers to where you are on campus.

From 10:00 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., call Edward and Victoria Brown at extension 2710.

The Crumb

Read The Crumb daily for program changes and special events. You don’t want to show up for a meeting with an editor only to discover she’s on the other side of the campus.

All lectures and readings are given in the Little Theatre. Locations of craft classes, discussion groups, workshops, panels, informal readings, etc., will be announced in The Crumb.

Informal, impromptu readings and meetings are encouraged; we’ll be glad to help schedule them and note them in The Crumb.

The Crumb routinely features hard-hitting journalism by correspondents from all over the conference. If you see a story worth reporting, we encourage you to submit it in the box marked The Crumb by the back office or by e-mail to blcrumb@gmail.com.

Faxing

There is a fax machine in the back office. We will send faxes for you after you’ve completed a cover sheet. If you receive a fax, we’ll put it in your mailbox (another reason to check your mailbox frequently). The fax number is 802-443-2087.

Front Desk

See the front desk for check cashing, issues regarding your room or any aspect of the physical plant, lost and found items, local lore, postage, transportation tips, and general information. There is a limit of $50 per person, per day, in cashing personal and/or traveler’s checks. Two party checks are not accepted.

Library

The Library is the white building behind the Theatre. In addition to its permanent collection, there are books by faculty and fellows, magazines, and the daily issue of the New York Times. You will also find a complete set of the 2012 workshop packets on the reserve shelf.
Laundry

Washers and dryers are in the Laundry House in front of the Barn. The Front Desk can give you change, and laundry soap is sold in the bookstore.

Linens

Sheets, blankets, and towels are provided. The towels will be replaced once during the Conference, and in an effort to conserve energy, bed linens will not be replaced during the session. Nevertheless, a fresh set of bed linens can be requested if you find it necessary to replace them. Please contact the Front Desk staff about making these arrangements.

Lunch (staggered lunch schedule)

Lunch will be served buffet style, and to avoid long lines, we urge you to follow the procedure noted here, based on your workshop schedule:

- On days when your workshop does not meet, please go to the dining hall starting at noon.
- On days when your workshop does meet, please go to the dining hall between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Lunch service continues until 1:30 p.m.

Should a line form at the dining hall door, you can scoot in through the dining hall door to start at the salad bar, if you like.

*The first Thursday and final Friday*

On the first Thursday and final Friday, when all workshops meet at 1:30 p.m., we ask the poets and nonfiction writers to show up at 11:30 a.m., and fiction writers to please wait until noon to enter the dining hall. On this day, service will continue until 1:00 p.m.

We’ve arranged for you to join your faculty workshop leader and fellow(s) for lunch on this Thursday, if you like. We’ll include more details about this in the Thursday, August 16, issue of *The Crumb*, so you’ll know where to look for them in the dining hall. It will be a nice way to meet some in your group before the first workshop gets started that afternoon.

Mail

The Post Office (with limited services) is located in the Front Office. Outgoing mail leaves at 4 p.m. on weekdays, and 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Incoming mail is ready for distribution at mid-day. UPS mailing is available at reduced rates.

Check your mailbox at least daily. Messages from us, from your colleagues at Bread Loaf, and from people at home will all be placed in your mailbox. If you have trouble opening your mailbox, the front desk staff will be glad to help you. Most Bread Loafers will share a mailbox with one other person; when picking up your mail, please be sure it is addressed to you.

Please use the following address for any regular mail:

Your Name  
Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference  
Bread Loaf CPO  
4265 Ripton 125  
Middlebury, VT 05753

You should use the following address when receiving something from Fed Ex or UPS:

Your Name  
Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference  
4265 Ripton 125  
Ripton, VT 05766

Mail can only be received Monday, August 13, through Thursday, August 23. We cannot be responsible for mail arriving after August 23, as the Bread Loaf post office will be closed.

Massage

Massage appointments are available for a fee payable to the visiting masseuse, Jayne Webb (Bread Loaf School of English grad, 1968). Other modalities of healing are also available. Jayne will post sign-up sheets on the morning of August 15, and appointments will be available starting that day. The sheets will be posted on the bulletin board near the dining hall. She encourages people to sign up for appointments early in the Conference as the slots are limited and all tend to fill up quickly.
Meal tickets for those staying off campus
It is possible to buy tickets for individual meals. Tickets can be purchased at the Front Desk.

Newspapers
Copies of the *New York Times* will be in the Library every day. If you have subscribed in advance, you may pick up your copy at the Front Desk around 11 a.m., beginning Thursday, August 16. There may be a few extra copies at the Front Desk, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking
Please park your vehicle in the large parking lot in front of the Barn. It is illegal to park on the highway, and you may get a ticket.

The space in front of the Inn is reserved for the Bread Loaf van. The space behind the Inn is reserved for delivery trucks; the lawn adjacent to the north side of the Little Theatre is not a parking area.

Phones
In most cottages, there is a phone on each floor. This can be used to call out if you have a calling card number. Otherwise, there is a phone booth located next to the Laundry House.

Incoming calls may be taken through the Bread Loaf switchboard (and direct calls to dorms and houses will transferred over to the switchboard after four rings). The front desk number is 802-443-2700 (hours 8:30 a.m. –10:00 p.m.). Tell people who may call you to keep time differences in mind. If your hall phone rings, answer and take messages for your hall mates. They’ll return the favor for you. Please remember to check your mailbox frequently for phone messages.

Photocopying
Members of the office staff will be glad to copy limited quantities of material for you at the rate of 10 cents per page. It helps if you give them lead time. At the copy center, you will find sheets you can fill out with the details of your order.

Off-Campus Opportunities

**Downtown Middlebury**
Trips to Middlebury are daily (except for the first Thursday and Monday). The van will depart from the front of the Inn at 1:45 p.m. and will return to Bread Loaf at about 4:00 p.m. The driver will leave Middlebury at about 3:40 p.m. for the return trip. He will not be able to wait for stragglers. There is no charge for a trip to town on a scheduled run. The Front Desk has information on hand regarding churches, shopping, restaurants, etc. The sign-up sheet is posted daily at the front desk for that day’s trip.

**Middlebury College Main Campus**
The Library located on the main campus in Middlebury has an extensive collection, and it is available to you. You can also leave a note on the desk in the Bread Loaf library if you would like the librarian to bring up a book for you.

During the time of the Conference, the Middlebury College fitness center and pool will be open on weekdays for a limited number of hours (see hours noted below). The athletics facility staff will have a list of Conference participants on hand, so you will just need to give your name to a staff member upon entering the building. The Bread Loaf Inn front desk staff would be happy to give you directions to the athletics complex.

August 14 to 17:
Fitness Center—6:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and noon to 8:45 p.m.
Pool—6:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and noon to 8:45 p.m. (noon to 1 p.m. is faculty/staff lap swim)

August 20 to 24:
Fitness Center—6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and noon to 2:00 p.m.
Pool—closed
SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

If you have driven your car to Bread Loaf, you will have noticed that Route 125 (which is the road going over the mountain) is a narrow, winding road. It can be very dangerous, so please stay within the speed limit.

In Vermont, we recycle cans, bottles, and all kinds of paper. Before using a trash barrel, please look for a recycle bin and recycle whatever you can.

Vermont State Law prohibits smoking in any building on campus. Smoking is not permitted in front of the Inn, nor should you smoke on any of the porches or within 25 feet of the buildings (smoke will go in through open windows).

Please don’t turn off hallway lights. Fire laws dictate that hallway lights be on at all times.

Please be considerate of your roommate and neighbors. Some Bread Loafers go to sleep early, and some like to sleep in. The Barn is available for late night socializing and early morning workouts. You can also use the far side of the meadow, if you like.

Please do not eat or drink in the Little Theatre, the Library, or the Apple Cellar.

Film Panel and Screening Sign-Up Begins Today

Brad Watson, Helen Schulman and Ted Perry will offer this year’s film panel, entitled “A Film Scene I Wish I Had Written,” on Monday, August 20 at 9:15 a.m. in Barn Classroom 1. This year’s panel will discuss *The Passenger* and *The Station Agent*, both of which will be screened twice during the conference. Participants who plan to attend the panel should try to view the two films being discussed.

Those attending one or both of the 5:30 PM screenings should sign up for a bag meal in advance. The sign-up sheets are now posted on outside the conference office door. Meals can be picked up in the kitchen just before the 5:30 p.m screenings, and may be eaten during the film.

*THE PASSENGER* (1975, revised and released again in 2006, 126’)

Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni (*L’avventura, Blow Up*), and written by Antonioni, Mark Peploe and Peter Wollen, the film stars Jack Nicholson and Maria Schneider. A frustrated journalist, unable to find and interview the rebels leading a resistance in a North African country, assumes the identity of a dead man and follows his itinerary, only to find the other man was an arms dealer.

“Dazzling . . . A superior suspense melodrama . . . probably Antonioni’s most entertaining film.” – Vincent Canby, the *New York Times*

Friday, August 17  5:30 p.m.  Barn Classroom 1
Saturday, August 18  9:30 p.m.  Barn Classroom 1

*THE STATION AGENT* (2003, 89’)

Directed and written by Thomas McCarthy, the film stars Peter Dinklage (Finbar), Patricia Clarkson (Olivia), Bobby Cannavale (Joe), and Michelle Williams (Emily). When his only friend dies, a man born with dwarfism inherits his dead friend’s abandoned train station in rural New Jersey and then moves there, only to meet a chatty hot dog vendor, a woman dealing with her own personal loss, and a librarian interested in sex. As Roger Ebert wrote, “Finbar is a dwarf, and nothing about him interests other people more than his height. His response is to live in solitude. This works splendidly as a defense mechanism, but leaves him deeply lonely. . . . Finbar is a character of particular distinction as a man who is defiantly himself. Rarely have I seen a movie character more present in every scene.”

Friday, August 17  9:30 p.m.  Barn Classroom 1
Saturday, August 18  5:30 p.m.  Barn Classroom 1