

BENNINGTON

C O L L E G E

BENNINGTON WRITING SEMINARS

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To: Writing Seminar Students

From: Priscilla Hodgkins

Date: October 31, 1995

Greetings from Bennington where we appreciate the subtle art of bare branches. The hills which were brilliant with color two weeks ago are now mauve, grey and taupe with an occasional amber flame of a not-so-mighty larch. The neck-craning tourists have departed and we locals can take to the roads for some early Christmas shopping now that the merchants have dropped their prices back down to our level.

What you want to know is not what it is like here now, but what will it be like in January. I haven't the foggiest idea. All I know is that predicting weather in Vermont is a losing game. We hope for a few feet of snow and temperatures in the 20's and 30's. We could get a repeat of the mild, spring-like, nearly snow-less weather we had last January or the spit-freezing blizzards of January '94. When it's time to pack your bag, put in plenty of long woolies or silkies, a fuzzy hat, thick socks and mittens, high boots, and dark sunglasses, sun screen and lip balm. A note to those who live in warm climates: The local Walmart, K-Mart and Ames discount stores sell inexpensive winter gear, which you may store in our closet in between residencies.

You should plan to arrive on Thursday, January 4 in the afternoon, the Seminars begin Friday the 5th and continue through Sunday, January 14. Plan to depart on Monday, January 15 in the morning. Looking ahead to June: the Seminars will begin on Friday, June 14 and end on Sunday, June 23 (graduation day); plan on arriving on the afternoon of Thursday, June 13 and departing on the morning of Monday, June 24.

This packet contains a letter from Liam to the entire Writing Seminars community. I want to add a few words of explanation. On page 7, where he suggests reading associate faculty work, he is referring to the books for the associate faculty seminars: that is, for Elizabeth Cox's Seminar, you could begin by reading Coetzee's Waiting for the Barbarians, O'Connor's "A Good Man is Hard to Find," and Poetics of Space by Bachelard.

This packet contains

A letter from Liam

Your mid-term evaluation

A photo from the last residency if you already sent in \$8.25.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

