



The Fifty-ninth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

“MINDS AT PLAY”

Rachel Maddow Plenary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS
AIR AMERICA’S RACHEL MADDOW TO DELIVER PLENARY ADDRESS***

“Can America Take a Punch: Reactions and Overreactions to Terrorism”

BOULDER – The Fifty-ninth Annual Conference on World Affairs will be held **April 9-13, 2007** on the University of Colorado’s Boulder campus. The week’s broad array of panels, plenaries and performances are all free and open to the public. The full schedule of over 200 events and biographies of 110 prolific participants may be viewed online at www.colorado.edu/cwa

Rachel Maddow host of Air America’s *The Rachel Maddow Show* will deliver the plenary address ***Can America Take a Punch: Reactions and Overreactions to Terrorism*** at **9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11** in Macky Auditorium on the University of Colorado’s Boulder campus. As with all CWA events during the week, this session is free and open to the public.

According to Maddow, “Post 9/11, Americans have put a lot of national thought into issues of strength—the strength of the terrorist threat around the world, the strength of our American military, the strength of our alliances with other nations... We consider ourselves rich, powerful, and unmatched in our military capacity—but a great national offense should not be confused with an adequate defense. Londoners were back on the subway one day after the terrorist attacks on their Tube system. Would we do the same? Hardening our likely targets and building up our infrastructure so we can absorb and bounce back from the inevitable next attack is something that conservative governance just can’t handle—our national resilience has suffered for it.”

Maddow's background is in commercial radio and political activism. She has a doctorate in politics from Oxford University and a degree in public policy from Stanford.

The University of Colorado's Conference on World Affairs was founded in 1948, originally as a forum on international affairs. CWA expanded rapidly to encompass music, literature, environment, science, journalism, visual arts, diplomacy, technology, spirituality, film, politics, business, medicine, human rights and so on.

Every year in April approximately 100 participants representing a wide range of expertise gather in Boulder for what *The New York Times* calls "a week-long extravaganza of discussion and debate" on over 200 non-academic, cross-disciplinary panels, plenary sessions and performances.

The Conference challenges its participants to discuss a wide-range of issues on an impromptu basis—offering a refreshing alternative to the specialized gatherings of academia and the business world. According to columnist Molly Ivins, CWA panels offer "astonishing, cross-disciplinary insights, whole new ways of looking at old questions and information that can transform the way you look at things." Roger Ebert, who has made the annual trek to Boulder in April as a participant for 37 years, has dubbed the CWA the "Conference on Everything Conceivable."

Past participants include Studs Terkel, Simon Hoggart, Andrei Codrescu, R. E. "Ted" Turner, Steve Allen, Paolo Soleri, Yitzhak Rabin, Ralph Nader, Norman Cousins, Henry Kissinger, Arthur Miller, Howard Nemerov, R. Buckminster Fuller, George McGovern and Eleanor Roosevelt.

For further information, contact Ramsay Thurber at 303.492.2515, or email the Conference on World Affairs at cwypress@colorado.edu . The full CWA schedule is available online at www.colorado.edu/cwa

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