



The Fifty-ninth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

“MINDS AT PLAYS”

Opening Procession

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ramsay Thurber

Tel 303.492.2515

Fax 303.492.3934

E cwapress@colorado.edu

<http://www.colorado.edu/cwa>

NEWSBRIEF: *The Fifty-ninth Annual Conference on World Affairs* will begin with an opening procession and keynote address today, Monday, April 9, 2007.

EDITORS: Reporters and photographers are welcome. The participant march will begin at 11:00 a.m. in Norlin Quad and cross from south to north along a walkway lined with international flags, into Macky Auditorium for the 11:30 a.m. keynote address. The keynote address “**The Middle East in an Era of Transnational Threats**” will be delivered by Judith Kipper, Middle East expert. Contact Ramsay Thurber at (303) 492-2515 for more details. (***)Attached is Kipper’s Biography.)

(Boulder) – *The Fifty-ninth Conference on World Affairs* week will commence with its annual participant march through Norlin Quadrangle and into Macky Auditorium at **11:00 a.m. today, Monday, April 9**. The CWA opening keynote procession and address is a colorful, time-honored Colorado tradition.

Keynote speaker Judith Kipper, CU president Hank Brown, CU Boulder chancellor Bud Peterson, Dean of Arts and Sciences Todd Gleeson, CWA director James Palmer, CWA student volunteer coordinators Harshana Goolab and Sarah Petrak will lead the procession along a sidewalk lined by a brilliant display of over 80 international flags. Conference participants, students and CWA volunteers will join the march into Macky Auditorium.

At 11:30 a.m. Hank Brown will make welcoming remarks and introduce keynote speaker Judith Kipper. Kipper’s keynote address “**The Middle East in an Era of Transnational Threats**” is free and open to the public, as are all CWA events. This year the CWA’s 200 panels, plenaries and performances will address the overriding theme of *Minds at Play*.

A perennial highlight of Conference week is the **Tuesday evening jazz concert**. This year's date is **April 10 at 8 p.m.** in Macky Auditorium. *Cinema Interruptus*, another beloved CWA tradition, will again highlight the schedule **Monday through Friday at 4 p.m.** in Macky Auditorium. The selection for analysis this year is Roman Polanski's *Chinatown* (1974).

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, environmental activism, science, journalism, visual arts, diplomacy, technology, spirituality, the film industry, politics, business, medicine, human rights, and so on.

Every year in April over 100 participants representing a wide range of backgrounds gather in Boulder for what *The New York Times* calls "a week-long extravaganza of discussion and debate" on 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."

"It's a mind camp. We put fascinating people together and let them think out loud in front of an audience. The Conference is a unique product of students, faculty and community members," explains Jane Butcher, who began her involvement in the Conference as a student volunteer in the 1960's and is now CWA co-chair.

Past participants at the Conference have included Studs Terkel, Molly Ivins, Simon Hoggart, Andy Ihnatko, Dave Grusin, Tim Wirth, Adam Fortunate Eagle, Andrei Codrescu, R.E. "Ted" Turner, Rita Klimova, Steve Allen, Paolo Soleri, Yitzhak Rabin, Ralph Nader, Norman Cousins, Henry Kissinger, Arthur Miller, Howard Nemerov, Buckminster Fuller and Eleanor Roosevelt.

For further information, feel free to contact Ramsay Thurber at 303.492.25125, or email the Conference on World Affairs at cwa@colorado.edu. The full CWA schedule and participant biographies are now online at: www.colorado.edu/cwa

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Judith Kipper

Judith Kipper is an internationally recognized Middle East expert. She is the adviser for Middle East Programs and director of the Energy Security Group at the Council on Foreign Relations and a longtime consultant on international affairs for ABC News. Her extensive expertise includes U.S.-Middle East policy, Arab-Israeli conflict, Gulf security and regional issues, Arab development, reform, democratization, and culture. Kipper has extraordinary access in all the countries of the Middle East—Israel, the Arab states, and Iran. She visits the area frequently to meet with monarchs, presidents, and ministers as well as other officials, academics, business leaders, clerics, opposition, and the press.

Kipper has testified before U.S. Senate and House committees on Middle East issues. She speaks frequently in the United States and abroad. She is often quoted in major news outlets, including BBC World Service and BBC World. Kipper was an assistant to Walter Cronkite at CBS News and was an adviser on *Sadat's Ancient Egypt*, a CBS documentary with Mr. Cronkite. She worked for several years in France on international issues, the transatlantic relationship, and the Soviet Union. Subsequently, Kipper was a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institution, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She was also a consultant to the RAND Corporation.

Kipper co-edited *The Middle East in Global Perspective* and commissioned several strategic studies on Middle East issues. She has a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles.