



*The Fifty-ninth Annual*

## Conference on World Affairs

*BELAFONTE, EBERT SEND  
REGRETS*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS BELAFONTE, EBERT SEND REGRETS***

BOULDER – The Fifty-ninth Annual Conference on World Affairs continues this week, **April 9-13**, with broad array of panels, plenaries and performances. All sessions are free and open to the public. The full schedule of over 200 events and biographies of more than 100 prolific participants may be viewed online at [www.colorado.edu/cwa](http://www.colorado.edu/cwa)

**Harry Belafonte** was scheduled to deliver a plenary address on Thursday, April 12, as well as to participate on several panels. Conference organizers were informed late Monday that he will be unable to travel to Boulder due to a temporary health concern. Belafonte expressed deep regret over the cancellation. He expects a full recovery soon and hopes to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual CWA April 7-11, 2008.

**Roger Ebert**, also unable to attend this year's CWA because of health issues, sent a message to Film Interruptus attendees yesterday. Seattle film critic Jim Emerson, who is presiding over the annual film analysis this year, read Ebert's message to the audience on Monday, the opening day:

“I can scarcely believe that after all these years I am missing the Conference on World Affairs. It has been my annual respite from the mundane. It is a unique insitution, and has become invaluable. I also mourn the death of one of my Conference's favorites, Molly Ivins. It won't be the same without her.”

“I commend Jim Emerson to you for the shot-by-shot analysis (Democracy in the Dark), not only because he is a film critic and the editor of Rogerebert.com, but because he is a general all-around cineaste and has a great sense of humor. His choice of film, *Chinatown*, could not be

better.’

“After another operation I expect that my health difficulties will resolve themselves, and I look forward to being back in Boulder in 2008. In the meantime, have a Tom's hamburger for me.’

“Oh, and be sure to stop by the Boulder Book Store to look over my three new books: *Awake In The Dark*, *Movie Yearbook 2007* and *Your Movie Sucks*.”

After listening to Ebert’s message, Interruptus audience members participated in an “electronic get well card.” A handheld camera was turned onto the audience, who waved and called out a greeting to Ebert in unison, “Hello, Roger! We miss you! See you next year!” The film is being sent to Ebert electronically.

Emerson gave an introduction before an uninterrupted screening of *Chinatown*. The rest of the weeks’ “interruptus” sessions continue through Friday, April 13 at 4 p.m. each day in Macky Auditorium, where the audience and Emerson analyse *Chinatown* in stop and start fashion, discussing the film scene by scene.

The CWA will finish out its week with a full sleight of panel sessions and a host of plenary addresses by popular speakers:

Best-selling author **Ambassador Joe Wilson** has recently been added to the CWA’s schedule of events. He will deliver a plenary address entitled “The Politics of Truth” in Macky Auditorium on **Thursday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Senator Joe Biden** will speak on “America’s Interests and Iraq’s Future” in Macky Auditorium at **1 p.m., Friday, April 13**. *New York Times* columnist **Paul Krugman** will deliver the Molly Ivins Freedom Fightin’ Memorial Plenary at **2:30 p.m., also on Friday, April 13** in Macky. Following Krugman’s speech will be a “Moment NOT of Silence” in honor of Ivins. Audience members are invited to bring pots and pans to bang, as suggested by Ivins’ final column.

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 720-635-0482, or email the Conference on World Affairs at [cwapress@colorado.edu](mailto:cwapress@colorado.edu) . The full CWA schedule is available online at [www.colorado.edu/cwa](http://www.colorado.edu/cwa)**

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