



The Fifty-ninth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

*“The Politics of Truth”
with Ambassador Joe Wilson*

SCHEDULE ADDITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ramsay Thurber
Tel 303.492.2515
Fax 303.492.3934
E cwapress@colorado.edu
<http://www.colorado.edu/cwa>

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES ADDITION OF JOE WILSON PLENARY

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 220 events and biographies of over 100 prolific participants may be viewed online at www.colorado.edu/cwa

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.**

Joe Wilson’s career in international politics has been marked with numerous senior government appointments, including that of special assistant to President Clinton and ambassador to Gabon. He was a member of the U.S. Diplomatic Service from 1976-1998, serving the administrations of both parties and has held posts throughout Africa. From 1988-1991, he was the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The last American official to meet with Saddam Hussein before the start of the 1990 Gulf War, Wilson was the acting U.S. ambassador in Iraq throughout Operation Desert Storm.

In 2002, Wilson was assigned by the Bush administration to investigate reports that Hussein was seeking to acquire uranium for the advancement of Iraq's nuclear program. Wilson reported that he found no basis for the claims, and in a 2003 *New York Times*’ article, suggested that the Bush administration had exaggerated the threat of the Iraqi nuclear program. Soon after, the employment of his wife, CIA Operative Valerie Plame-Wilson, was revealed, leading Wilson to charge that White House officials leaked his wife's covert identity as retaliation for his *New York Times* denouncement. This allegation

has led to an investigation into possible violations of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act, in addition to sparking a running debate regarding journalism ethics. His best-selling book *The Politics of Truth* chronicles this chain of events.

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 . The full CWA schedule is available online at www.colorado.edu/cwa

- ### -