



The Fifty-eighth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

“OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE”

SCHEDULE CHANGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES IVINS CANCELLATION AND ADDITION OF HIGHTOWER PLENARY

BOULDER, April 6 – The Fifty-eighth Annual Conference on World Affairs will be held **April 10-14, 2006** 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

Syndicated columnist Molly Ivins has had to cancel participation in next week’s Boulder Conference due to health issues. “We were very sad and disappointed to hear the news that she won’t be able to be with us this year,” says CWA Director Jim Palmer, “but Molly’s friends and fans should know that there is every expectation that her chemo treatments will be successful.”

Ivins is a long time, regular participant in the Conference on World Affairs. In fact, this year’s program particularly honors her as follows: “The Fifty-eighth Annual Conference on World Affairs is dedicated to Molly Ivins, proud Texan, political author, storyteller, humorist, and champion of the Bill of Rights. Molly’s progressive journalism speaks truth to power with remarkable integrity, wit and insight.”

Ivins’ scheduled plenary slot on **Thursday, April 13 at noon** in Macky Auditorium will now be filled by popular humorist, author and political commentator Jim Hightower. “When Molly learned that she would have to cancel her trip to Boulder, she called her friend Jim Hightower to ask if he’d deliver a plenary address in her stead. We are very grateful to Molly for sending her good friend to us. We know Hightower will find a very enthusiastic reception in Boulder.” The title this plenary address will be posted to the

Conference website within the next few days: www.colorado.edu/cwa

Hightower, a former newspaper editor and Texas politician, is now constantly on the road visiting America's grassroots and spending his days "fighting brute force and old-fashioned scheming among the power elites." Hightower publishes a monthly newsletter, broadcasts daily radio commentaries, gives more than 100 speeches a year and travels with his Rolling Thunder Chautauqua Tours, a combination of country fair fun and popular activism. His books include *Thieves in High Places*, *If the Gods Had Meant Us to Vote They Would Have Given Us Candidates* and *There's Nothing in the Middle of the Road But Yellow Stripes and Dead Armadillos*. To him "agitator" is not a negative word. "Being an agitator is what America is all about," Hightower says. "If it was not for the agitators of circa 1776, we'd all be wearing powdered wigs and still be singing 'God Save the Queen.'" "An agitator," he adds, "is the center post in the washing machine that gets the dirt out."

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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