



The Fifty-fifth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

“The Power of an Idea”

Announces:

Theme, Dates, Ebert’s Film

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ramsay Thurber

Tel 303.492.2526

Fax 303.492.3934

E cwapress@colorado.edu

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

55th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES THEME, DATES & EBERT’S FILM FOR 2003

BOUDLER, March 10 – The Fifty-fifth Annual Conference on World Affairs will be held **April 7-11, 2003** on the University of Colorado’s Boulder campus.

This year’s Conference will focus on **The Power of an Idea** and the evolving status of the arts, humanities, politics, business, science, and the “human condition.” All events are free and open to the public.

In addition to a broad array of panels and performances, the Tuesday evening jazz concert (April 8) and another perennial Conference favorite, Roger Ebert’s *Cinema Interruptus*, will highlight the schedule. This year, Ebert will analyze *Floating Weeds* in Macky Auditorium from 4-6 p.m. daily. Ebert, who has made the annual trek to Boulder in April as a participant for 34 years, has dubbed the CWA the “Conference on Everything Conceivable.”

James Palmer, director of the Conference on World Affairs, says, “If you like grappling with ideas, the CWA is your week-long wrestling match. Come and pin down some ideas, lose some misconceptions, and join our imaginative participants and idea-mongers to get a grip on problems worth solving and a world worth saving.”

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 approximately 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 approximately 175 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 ‘townies,’” explains Jane Butcher, who began her involvement in the Conference as a student volunteer in the 1960’s and is now CWA Committee Co-chair. “We bring smart, interesting, introspective people, who are willing to share their thoughts and learn, network and solve problems.”

Past participants at the Conference have included Studs Terkel, Molly Ivins, Marianne Williamson, 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, Kenneth Boulding, Ralph Nader, Norman Cousins, Henry Kissinger, Arthur Miller, Howard Nemerov, R. Buckminster Fuller and Eleanor Roosevelt.

For further information, feel free to contact Ramsay Thurber at 303.492.2526, or e-mail the Conference on World Affairs at cwa@colorado.edu . The full CWA schedule will be posted on the Conference web site by March 24: www.colorado.edu/cwa

- ### -