



The Fifty-fifth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

“The Power of an Idea”

Simon Hoggart Plenary Address

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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55th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES SIMON HOGGART PLENARY:

“Tony Blair”

(Boulder) – April 3, 2003 – Recently voted England’s Humorist of the Year, Simon Hoggart’s plenary address, “Tony Blair,” promises to entertain just as much as it will enlighten the Conference on World Affairs audience about Britain’s Prime Minister and politics across the puddle. Hoggart, parliamentary correspondent for the *Guardian* of London, writes a satirical daily column about events in the House of Commons. P. J. O’Rourke calls him “the P. G. Wodehouse of Westminster.”

The Hoggart “Tony Blair” plenary address will be at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8 in the University Memorial Center Ballroom on the University of Colorado’s Boulder campus. The event, as with all of the hundreds of CWA sessions during the week, is free and open to the public.

On the following Friday, April 11 at 2pm, Hoggart will import a special Conference version of BBC’s *The News Quiz* to the University Memorial Center Ballroom stage. Hoggart, who has been star of Britain’s popular network radio program for seven years, will host fellow CWA participants Roger Ebert, Molly Ivins, Terry McNally, Jurek Martin and Richard Aregood as game show contestants—leading them through a labyrinth of current news questions to determine which of these American journalists possesses the most savvy of media minds.

Hoggart is the author of many books, including the recent *Playing to the Gallery*, a “greatest hits” collection of his *Guardian* parliamentary sketch columns, *Bizarre Beliefs*, a

skeptical exploration of the paranormal, and *America—A User's Guide*, which was inspired by his years as a correspondent in Washington, D.C. for the London *Observer* during the 1980's. As a journalist, he has also worked as a journalist in Northern Ireland, Africa and Asia and is a frequent guest commentator on many news programs in England, Europe and the United States—including NPR, NBC and CBS.

Every year in April approximately 100 participants representing a wide range of backgrounds gather on the University of Colorado's Boulder campus for the Conference on World Affairs. The *New York Times* refers to the CWA as "a week-long extravaganza of discussion and debate" with over 200 non-academic, cross-disciplinary panels, plenary sessions and performances attended by an audience of about 40,000.

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 and a biographical listing of all our participants are now online at: www.colorado.edu/cwa

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