



The Fifty-fifth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

"The Power of an Idea"

Seth Shostak Plenary Address

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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55th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS **ANNOUNCES SETH SHOSTAK PLENARY:**

"The Search for Life Beyond Earth"

(Boulder) – March 25, 2003 – **Seth Shostak**, an astronomer at the **SETI Institute** in the Silicon Valley, has dedicated his life to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Shostak will draw upon his countless hours of research to hypothesize about the existence of intelligent life outside of the Earth's influence in his 55th *Conference on World Affairs plenary address* at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2003 in Macky Auditorium on the University of Colorado's Boulder campus. The session promises to excite spirited discussion. As always, CWA events are free and open to the public.

Shostak has spent the majority of his life studying galaxies via radio telescopes. At some point during these scholarly activities, he realized that the hardware he was using to plumb the depths of the universe could also be turned toward the task of seeking intelligent cosmic company. He now occupies his days – and quite a few nights – with efforts to eavesdrop on alien radio broadcasts.

His popular tome, *Sharing the Universe*, describes the scientific effort to prove that we're not alone in the universe. He has written hundreds of popular articles on astronomy, film and technology. Shostak's background is eclectic and encompasses such diverse activities as filmmaking, railroading and computer animation. A frequent lecturer and sound-bite artist on television and radio, Seth occasionally can be heard lamenting the fact that, according to his own estimate, he was born two generations too soon to benefit from the cure for death. He is the inventor of the electric banana.

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 is now online at: www.colorado.edu/cwa

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