



The Fifty-sixth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

"Divided We Stand"

Opening Procession

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWSBRIEF: *The Fifty-fifth Annual Conference on World Affairs* will begin with an opening procession and keynote address on Monday, April 5, 2004.

EDITORS: Reporters and photographers are welcome. The "participant march" will begin at a quarter to noon in Norlin Quad and cross from south to north along a walkway lined with international flags, into Macky Auditorium for the 12 noon keynote address. The keynote address, "Game Plan For Taking Back America," will be delivered by Arianna Huffington. Contact Ramsay F. Thurber at (303) 492-2526 for more details.
(***Attached is Huffington's Biography)

(Boulder) – April 5, 2004 – *The Fifty-sixth Conference on World Affairs* will commence with the annual "participant march" across Norlin Quadrangle into Macky Auditorium at a quarter to noon (11:45 a.m.) on Monday April 5. The procession is a colorful CWA tradition which celebrates the gathering of people and ideas from all over the globe at the annual week-long event.

Leading the march through the flags of over 80 nations will be University President Elizabeth Hoffman, keynote speaker Arianna Huffington, Conference Director James Palmer, CWA Co-Chair Jane Butcher, CWA Co-Chair Juli Steinhauer, Chancellor of UCB Richard Byyny, Arts and Sciences Dean Todd Gleeson, and Roger Ebert. Conference participants, students and CWA volunteers will join the procession.

At 12 noon in Macky Auditorium President Betsy Hoffman will make welcoming remarks and introduce keynote speaker Arianna Huffington, who will then deliver her address, "Game Plan For Taking Back America." The keynote address, as with all Conference events, is free and open to the public.

There will be over 200 panels and performances addressing the overriding theme of *Divided We Stand*. The Tuesday evening jazz concert (April 6) and another perennial Conference favorite, Roger Ebert's *Cinema Interruptus* (April 5-9), will highlight the schedule. This year Ebert will analyze *The Rules of the Game* in Macky Auditorium from 4-6p.m. daily. Ebert, who has made the annual trek to Boulder in April as a participant for 35 years, has dubbed the CWA the "Conference on Everything

Conceivable.”

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 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 email 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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Arianna Huffington

Arianna Huffington, a syndicated columnist, author and political commentator, is an impassioned advocate for political reform and social awareness. Recognized as one of Washington's most influential commentators by *Newsweek* and *People*, her syndicated column appears in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Boston Herald*, the *Dallas Morning News* and others. In 2003 when she ran for governor in California's recall election, her grassroots campaign was praised for putting a media spotlight on the influence of special-interest money in American politics.

A former Republican, Huffington now operates outside the two-party system. Her disillusionment with party politics stemmed from her realization that the parties were more interested in servicing the special interests of their well-heeled campaign contributors than serving the interests of the people they were elected to represent.

Author of nine books, her *New Yorks Times*' bestseller, *Pigs at the Trough*, exposes the alliances among Wall Street, CEOs, politicians and lobbyists and discusses the methods they use to undermine America's core values. Her new book *Fanatic and Fools* is a humorous, behind-the-scenes look at the California recall election. Her *Picasso* biography was made into a film.

Voted the "funniest celebrity in Washington, D.C.," Huffington slipped into a nightie to appear between the sheets with Al Franken for the "Strange Bedfellows" segment of *Politically Incorrect*. She appears frequently on television, including *Larry King Live*, *Crossfire*, *Nightline*, *Oprah* and the *Today Show*. She also co-hosts *Left, Right & Center*, public radio's popular political roundtable.

Born in Greece, Huffington graduated from Cambridge University with an MA in economics. She serves on boards that promote community solutions to social problems, including the Points of Light Foundation and A Place Called Home.