



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Jan. 26 Behar lecture to be simulcast in North Platte

Richard Behar, an award-winning investigative journalist, will deliver a Jan. 26 lecture entitled “China in Africa: The New Scramble?” Part of the 2009-10 E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, the lecture will be simulcast in North Platte at North Platte Community College, 1101 Halligan Drive on the North Campus.

The E.N. Thompson lecture originates from the Lied Center for Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The simulcast begins at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public. A discussion on the topic will follow.

Behar will discuss China’s increasing involvement in Africa in search of resources to fuel its economy, how China’s path in Africa today might be compared to European colonization there at the turn of the last century, and how it all relates to America’s economy. Behar’s 25-year career as a business journalist has included work for *Fortune*, *Time* and *Forbes* magazines.

“For a decade now, the People’s Republic (of China) has been the world’s largest jailer of journalists,” wrote in “The Murder is the Message,” an article that appeared in the January edition of *Prairie Fire*. “Here in America today, many of our best investigative reporters are not being shot or imprisoned—just pink-slipped to death as their projects are now deemed too expensive to pursue. What’s more, large media companies now routinely and quietly settle libel cases—even when the stories are accurate—rather than endure the huge financial burden of defending them.”

The simulcast, sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council and North Platte Community College, allows more Nebraskans the opportunity to benefit from outstanding speakers and community discussion. Details about the E.N. Thompson Forum are available at <http://enthompson.unl.edu>.

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