



2350 Petefish Drive Lawrence, Kansas 66045 785-864-4900

April 25, 2005

Contact: Jonathan Earle, Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, (785) 864-4900.

'West Wing' producer, writer Eli Attie to speak at KU's Dole Institute May 4

LAWRENCE -- The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas today announced that Eli Attie, producer and writer on the NBC-TV show "The West Wing," will speak at the institute at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 4.

"'The West Wing' is part of our political culture," said Bill Lacy, institute director. "Eli will help people to better understand that culture as well as provide a highly entertaining program."

The event, which will be followed by a screening of a "West Wing" episode on a big screen, is free and open to the public, but reservations are required for seating in the institute's Hansen Hall. Overflow seating will be available in the Simons Media Room with the lecture shown on a large screen.

Attie has been with "The West Wing" for four seasons. He previously worked in professional politics as senior communications adviser and chief speechwriter to Vice President Al Gore (1997-2000), special assistant to President Bill Clinton (1996-1997), and special assistant and chief speechwriter to House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt (1994-1996). He occasionally writes about pop music for the Washington Post and other publications, and in addition to receiving an Emmy Award for a documentary episode of "The West Wing" (2002) has received ASCAP's Deems-Taylor Award for best pop music writing (2003). Attie is a graduate of Harvard University, and he is a native of New York City.

Dole Senior Fellow Steven Jacques (pronounced "Jakes"), who worked with Attie in the Clinton White House, will moderate the lecture and questions from the audience. "Eli's coming because of Steven Jacques, our senior fellow," Lacy said. "This shows one additional way that our fellows program can enrich the educational process."

Reservations will be taken beginning Wednesday, April 27, by calling (785) 864-4900 or by e-mailing doleinstitute@ku.edu. The Dole Institute is located on KU's West Campus, near the Lied Center.