



Spring 3-11-1998

## First-Time Author/Teacher to Visit IWU

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### Recommended Citation

Warren, Laura, "First-Time Author/Teacher to Visit IWU" (1998). *News and Events*. 6953.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6953>

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March 11, 1998

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Imagine if legendary author Raymond Carver and legendary crook and former President Richard Nixon were to meet on a California beach and become friends.

Seem unlikely? Not to first-time author and educator Mark Maxwell, whose book *nixoncarver* explores the possibility of such a fictional friendship between these two American icons.

Maxwell will visit Illinois Wesleyan University on Monday, March 30th, to read from his novel and speak on balancing teaching and writing careers. The public presentation will take place at 7 p.m. in IWU's Merwin Gallery, 302 E. Graham St., Bloomington.

Maxwell will be selling and signing his book at the event, which critics have described as "a scarifying account of obsession, failure, and near-friendship that is at once sad, funny, jolting, and terrible, and highly recommended" (Library Journal).

Maxwell, a resident of Evanston (Ill.), teaches creative writing at Wheeling High School and is currently working on a second book.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities, business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--opened in August, 1997, as well as a new \$6.8 million residence hall. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 159 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.