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Immediate Release : "IT Kills Most... but it Keeps Misfits, Drunkards and Failures Alive!"

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March 29, 1994

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"IT Kills Most. . . but it Keeps Misfits, Drunkards and Failures Alive!"

Twain, Truman, and Mussolini come back from the dead to offer words of wisdom to student journalists at Illinois Wesleyan University. In celebration of 100 years of *The Argus*, IWU's student newspaper, goes public with its rendition of David Letterman's *Top Ten*.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.-- What did Benito Mussolini, Mark Twain, and Harry S Truman have in common? The staff of *The Argus*, Illinois Wesleyan University's student newspaper, found that each had opinions about journalism and journalists. Inspired by the views of these historic personalities, *The Argus* staff offers these quotes as a tribute to all the "hell raising drunkards, misfits, and failures," who like themselves, are called *journalists*.

The Argus Top 10 Journalism Quotes

10. "Journalism is not a profession, but a mission."
-Benito Mussolini
9. "Journalism kills you, but it keeps you alive as long as you're doing it."
-Horace Greeley
8. "Get your facts first, and then you can distort 'em as much as you please."
-Mark Twain
7. "Journalism . . . a low trade and a habit worse than heroin, a strange seedy world full of misfits and drunkards and failures."
-Hunter S. Thompson
6. "Journalism largely consists in saying "Lord Jones is dead" to people who never knew Lord Jones was alive."
-G.K. Chesterton
5. "It is a newspaper's duty to print the news, and raise hell."
-Wilbur F. Storey
4. "Blessed are they who never read a newspaper, for they shall see Nature, and through her, God."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson
3. "To hell with [the press]. When history is written they will be the sons-of-bitches, not I."
-Harry S Truman

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Cent. II, Main Sports, Bus,
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AP Special Feature*

2. "Journalism is literature in a hurry."

-Matthew Arnold

1. "As long as I am in this office, the press will never irritate me, never affect me."

-Richard Nixon

James Plath, professor of English and faculty advisor to *The Argus*, originated the idea of using journalism quotes as an educational, yet entertaining way of commemorating the centennial celebration.

"David Letterman has his top ten lists, so we thought we could do something similar and maybe Letterman would put it on his show," said Plath. Plath has a collection of over five pages of journalism quotes which he proposed to the staff, for them to vote on while at a pizza party. "I read off the quotes, and they gave it the thumbs up or thumbs down," said Plath.

According to Chris Fusco, assistant editor for *The Argus*, "It's not so much the quotes themselves, but who said them that makes them interesting."

To commemorate the centennial of *The Argus*, Minor Myers, jr., president of IWU, commissioned IWU students to write a book about *The Argus*. Jennifer Barrell, chief editor of *The Argus* and assistant editor Chris Fusco authored "Through the Eyes of *The Argus*: 100 Years of Journalism at Illinois Wesleyan University," a 256-page, fully illustrated history of the newspaper. There was a Feb. 12 banquet at IWU to celebrate the publication of the book and the newspaper's 100th anniversary.

The banquet's keynote speaker was *Chicago Tribune* syndicated columnist and "ABC News Nightline" contributing correspondent Bob Greene--author of the best-seller, "Hang Time: Days and Dreams with Michael Jordan."

A featured speaker at the banquet was Bob Page, former vice-president of United Press International and president-publisher of the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Boston Herald*. An alumnus of IWU, Page serves as the chairman and publisher of *Health & Fitness Sports Magazine*. During his years as a student at IWU, he served as the chief editor of *The Argus*.

Helen Thomas, UPI White House Bureau chief, delivered an address at IWU's Founder's Day Convocation on Feb. 16, where the centennial of *The Argus* was celebrated campus wide. Thomas, who typically asks the first and last question at presidential news conferences and closes each encounter with her trademark phrase, "Thank you, Mr. President," received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the convocation.

Each speaker received a copy of "Through the Eyes of *The Argus*" and an *Argus Centennial* T-shirt, which has *The Argus Top Ten Journalism Quotes* printed on the back.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. For five consecutive years, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked IWU No. 1 in the Midwest among regional colleges and universities in its annual "America's Best Colleges" edition. *U.S. News* also rated IWU as a "best buy" in higher education in its first survey, "Paying for College," published in October, 1993.

To purchase . . .

"Through the Eyes of *The Argus*: 100 Years of Journalism
at Illinois Wesleyan University"

Call IWU Public Relations-New Services at 309/556-3181.

The cost is \$9.95.

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