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Stew Salowitz

Illinois Wesleyan University

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CONTACT: Stew Salowitz, 309-556-3206

Bart Simpson Voice to Speak at IWU Nov. 2

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Emmy Award-winning actress and voice-over artist Nancy Cartwright, best-known as the voice of Bart Simpson, will speak at Illinois Wesleyan University on Friday, Nov. 2.

The person who breathes life into comments such as, "Don't have a cow, man!", will speak at 7 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St. The event, sponsored by the IWU Student Senate, is free and open to the public.

Cartwright has cultivated her talents on stage and on-camera while voicing many popular characters in animation, most notably the wise-cracking 10-year-old Bart Simpson, who was hailed by Time Magazine as "one of the 100 most influential artists and entertainers of the 20th century."

Cartwright detailed her involvement with the long-running TV series in her autobiography, "My Life as a Ten Year Old Boy," published in October 2000. A mix of obscure behind-the-scenes trivia, the book traces "The Simpsons'" rise to wild popularity. The book also tells how the sound effects and animation are done and offers tidbits on the show's celebrity guest stars.

A native of Kettering, Ohio, Cartwright is a 1981 graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles with a degree in theatre arts. She also studied with Daws Butler, the legendary voice of the cartoon characters Yogi Bear, Huckleberry Hound, and others.

Cartwright has built an extensive animation career, voicing hundreds of characters in such favorites as "Richie Rich" (as Gloria); "Pound Puppies"; "My Little Pony", and since 1987, as Bart in "The Simpsons."

Her on-camera career has included roles in the TV shows "Fame", "Empty Nest", and "Cheers", and the motion pictures "Twilight Zone The Movie", "Ghost of a Chance", and "Godzilla."

The highlight of Cartwright's stage career is her one-woman play, "In Search of Fellini", for which she received numerous rave reviews and the prestigious Drama-Logue Award for her performance.

Cartwright's expertise in voice-over animation has led her to lecturing on the subject, serving on the board of Women in Animation and creating her own company, Happy House Productions, which is developing animation for television and feature films.

Cartwright has also been involved with several non-profit organizations. She became the spokesperson for "The Way To Happiness," an organization that coordinates youth, family and community activities as well as a wide variety of social improvement projects in cities and

countries around the world. She has also volunteered her time with "Famous Fone Friends," a group designed to help kids who are terminally ill or who have been in a tragic accident.

Media Note: For information about Cartwright's schedule, contact Heidi Anderson of IWU Student Senate, (309) 556-2729.