

'Woodstein'

From reporters to

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The Gold Dust twins of modern journalism continue to ride the wealthy crest of superstardom — now four years since their sensational Washington Post headlines felled a U.S. President.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein remain out on the Watergate trail honoring personal appearances in promotion of their two books and movie which has transformed the two young reporters into overnight millionaires.

Last week the dynamic newsprint duo attracted over 3,000 persons to one of those personal appearances at Towson State College and through two hours of retelling of the Watergate escapades and anecdotes still managed to withhold (drat) the identity of "Deep Throat" — their secretive, high-powered source on much of the most incriminating evidence in their Watergate stories.

The two instant folk heroes, these days, seem more preoccupied with keeping tabs on their growing millions rather than racing against newspaper deadlines with yet more national headlines.

As Richard Nixon sits in San Clemente assembling his memoirs and "All The President's Men" remain in jail, on parole or involved in appeals, Woodstein — as the Washington Post editors came to call their young reporting team — are travelling about warning the American people to remain watchful for yet another Watergate.

"We are not saying there is a Watergate behind every story," Woodward responded to a question. "What we are saying is that a healthy skepticism is a good thing in this post-Watergate era we seem to be in."

Not looking very much like Robert Redford or Dustin Hoffman, the two Hollywood actors who portrayed the youthful, inexperienced (before Watergate) reporters in last year's film, "All The President's Men," Woodward and Bernstein told of how they were able

overnight

millionaires

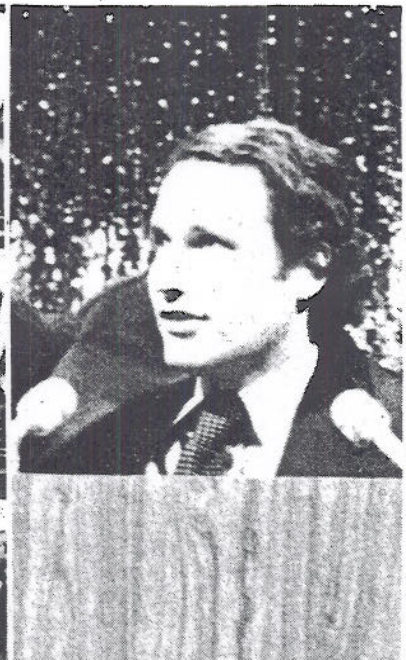
to persevere on the story and finally manage to set about Congressional impeachment proceedings and a constitutional crisis.

"A big part of our success was the result of us being 'outsiders' in the Washington political scene," offered Bernstein. "Too much of Washington reporting is based in the 'stenographer tradition of journalism' where the reporter simply copies down statements

and reports them without looking behind the words."

"We got our best advice from John Mitchell (Nixon's Attorney General)," added Woodward. "Right after he came to Washington, I remember him telling a group of reporters to 'Watch what we do, not what we say.'

"We couldn't have received better advice," Woodward praised of Mitchell



'Woodstein'—Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

who would obviously not find much pleasure in having his words turned against him.

The Washington Post odd couple of a Yale graduate from the mid-west (Woodward) and a local college drop-out (Bernstein) claimed similar surprisingly allegiance with fellow media critic, former Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew.

"We often remember a speech Agnew

made in Des Moines about the press not doing its job well enough," said Bernstein. "We agree. While the press does a helluva job most of the time, I find the political reporting in D.C. to be the most remiss."

Bernstein went on to warn against complacency on the part of the public or press following the Watergate revelations.

Woodward agreed with his partner, adding many potential Watergates exist yet to be uncovered, but do not exist everywhere.

Prior to that fateful night in June, 1972 when a Washington Post editor happened to assign these two, wet-behind-the-ears reporters to an apparent routine burglary at the luxury Watergate apartments, Woodward and Bernstein occupied relatively low-level

assignments at the paper.

Neither was married and both led a disheveled bachelor reporter's existence of Big Macs and irregular sleeping hours. Things got worse prior to the current days of gold-plated success, marriage for the both of them and few worlds left to conquer.

How did it all come about?

"We were outsiders who were not

drawn into the mystique of the presidency or Washington power politics," the pair related. "We were able to retain a detached view of the events as they unravelled and we got tremendous support from our paper and editors."

"We were lucky, too," Bernstein, the more casual of the two freely added.

Are they disappointed that Ford pardoned Nixon after all their troubles to

link the Watergate crimes to the former president?

"We disagree on this," Bernstein began. "My response was when I heard about it I called Bob and told him, 'The S.O.B. just pardoned the S.O.B.'"

"I think because of the timing and the condition the country was in," disagreed Woodward, "that it was a correct and necessary thing for Ford to do."

"Yeh, but he voted for Nixon in 1968, too," tattled Bernstein.

"Only because I thought Nixon had a better chance to end the Vietnam war sooner and I was in the Navy at the time," excused Woodward.

Do we now know the full Watergate story?

"I think so," Bernstein offered without delay. "Obviously, we don't know every detail, but I feel we have seen the essence of the Watergate story revealed by ourselves and some other reporters."

What about involvement of the CIA?

"I think there is evidence to the contrary," said Woodward. "Yes, the CIA knew of (Gordon) Liddy's and (Howard) Hunt's activities inside the White House (with the plumbers) and about their role in the Ellsberg break-in, but I don't think it was a get-Nixon thing with the agency or anything like that."

Who is 'Deep Throat'?

"He was a single person in a high-level position in the executive branch of the government," revealed Woodward. "But, just like all our confidential sources, we would not reveal any names unless that person first said it was ok."

Are there any reasons when information or a story should be kept out of the papers?

"In very rare cases, for the benefit of national security, there could be a case made for withholding information from a story," both agreed.

So, how rich has "Woodstein" become?

"We don't know; it's still coming in,"

said Bernstein. "All I know is, it's more than we could have ever imagined — it's up in the millions," laughed Bernstein.

With the end of their Towson lecture and question-answer session, the journalistic heroes were swamped by autograph hounds just like rock or sport stars.

Those who could not get close to the pair retreated to the Towson lobby where Woodward and Bernstein's book sellers pushed copies of "All The President's Men" and "The Final Days."