



PRESIDENT'S AWARD
for impact on media

The Men Who Rede Investigative Journalism

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein Receive Press Club's President's Award on 40th Anniversary of Their Watergate Reporting

BY ANNA SCOTT

AMERICAN JOURNALISM hit a major landmark this year: the 40th anniversary of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's pioneering reporting on the Watergate scandal.

Woodward and Bernstein's articles for *The Washington Post* traced the biggest American political scandal to date, culminating in President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974. Four decades later, the series still stands as a bellwether of investigative journalism.

A rare mix of factors allowed Woodward and Bernstein to crack the story, they told CBS's Charlie Rose during a live event earlier this month.

"We just look at the world a little differently," Woodward said of his and Bernstein's complementary reporting styles. "There was a sense of loving reporting. We were both unmarried, we were young ... and we had the running room from the editors."

To mark the 40th anniversary, the Los Angeles Press Club is honoring Woodward and Bernstein with the 2012 President's Award.

The scandal that made Woodward and Bernstein

the most famous reporters in America started four decades ago this month with a mysterious break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate office complex by five burglars dressed in business suits. Starting from that one bizarre event, Woodward and Bernstein followed a trail of clues that reached ever higher. Eventually, the trail unveiled a wide-ranging conspiracy of political sabotage aimed at undermining the electoral process. The revelations led to the indictments of 40 White House and administration officials and the creation of a special prosecutor to curb executive branch power. Watergate also exposed a dark side of American politics that was previously little

seen. Ultimately, President Richard Nixon resigned on Aug 9, 1974.

Along the way, Woodward and Bernstein became household names synonymous with investigative journalism. Public trust in the federal government has never been the same since. To this day, the



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Journalism was also permanently changed. Woodward and Bernstein have been credited with

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— Tom Brokaw, NBC News

inspiring generations of reporters, the formation of entire investigative teams at newspapers, and increased media scrutiny of the White House.

“What Carl and Bob did was begin to cover the White House, as I like to describe it, from the outside in and not from the inside out,” television journalist Tom Brokaw of NBC News said in a video posted earlier this month on *The Washington Post* website to commemorate the anniversary. “And that’s the most important way of covering not just the White House but the institution of a presidency.”

The story of Watergate has become such a well-known chapter in American history, it’s easy to forget that Woodward and Bernstein’s reporting unfolded painstakingly over two years, as they doggedly hunted clue after clue. When they began working on the story, they had no idea where it would lead. They even questioned whether they would ever figure out what it all added up to.

In the online *Post* tribute, Woodward recounted a lunch he had during the Watergate days with the *Post*’s then publisher, the late Katharine Graham.

“She asked, ‘when is the whole story going to



As young men, Woodward and Bernstein covered the White House for *The Washington Post*.

come out?” Woodward recalled. “And I said that Carl and I felt, because it was so concealed, it looked like never. And I remember she in a very pained way, said ‘Never? Don’t tell me never.’”

The support of Graham, the paper’s top boss, was key to following the story to its conclusion, Woodward said.

As for the day-to-day reporting of the Watergate scandal, Bernstein

told the *Post* this month, they approached it like the “local reporters” they were.

It was, he said, a “non-glamorous” investigation and a “shoe leather endeavor.”

Woodward and Bernstein’s work on the stories earned *The Washington Post* the Pulitzer Prize in 1973. Their collaboration also expanded into two best-selling books, *All the President’s Men* and *The Final Days*. The hit 1976 movie version of *All the President’s Men* starred Robert Redford as Woodward and Dustin Hoffman as Bernstein, and won several Academy Awards.

The story of Watergate continues to live on. In 2005, the news media was abuzz when *Vanity Fair* magazine identified Woodward and Bernstein’s famed anonymous source, “Deep Throat,” as former FBI official Mark Felt. Felt’s mythic

PRESIDENT'S AWARD BOB WOODWARD & CARL BERNSTEIN



Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford portrayed Bernstein and Woodward, top, in the film *All the President's Men*, below.



status continues (most certainly aided by Hal Holbrook's ominous portrayal of Deep Throat in the film), even though Woodward and Bernstein told Rose during this month's event that Felt was not as key as other sources. Judy Hoback, the bookkeeper for Nixon's re-election campaign, was much more integral to their reporting, they said.

"The real turning point in the coverage of Watergate was when Carl found the bookkeeper," Woodward said. "The bookkeeper had the details of the money and who controlled it and who got the money."

Bernstein added, "More than anything, [Felt] did contribute key details, but really what he did is he gave us this assurance that we knew we were right ... it eliminated a lot of doubt that we might have had."

For all its historic significance, Watergate was only the beginning of Woodward and Bernstein's careers. Woodward, who graduated from Yale University in 1965 and started his career at the *Montgomery County (Maryland) Sentinel*, remains at *The Washington Post* to this day. He has won nearly

every major American journalism award during his career, and has authored or co-authored twelve #1 national bestsellers. His books include *Bush at War*, *Plan of Attack* and *Obama's Wars*. The television program "60 Minutes" has produced segments on seven of Woodward's books, and three of his books have been turned into movies.

Bernstein, who started working for *The Washington Post* as a teenager, has written for numerous publications in the years since Watergate. After leaving the *Post* in 1977, he spent six months examining the relationship between the CIA and the press during the Cold War years, resulting in a 25,000-word cover story for *Rolling Stone* magazine. Since then, his work has also appeared in *Vanity Fair* (for which he is also a contributing editor), *Time*, *USA Today* and *The New Republic*. He has served as a Washington Bureau Chief and correspondent for ABC News, and is the author of several books. His works include the biography *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton* and *Loyalties*, a memoir about his parents during McCarthy-era Washington. 🇺🇸

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JUST ONE MORE



José, Can You See?

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José Carreras.
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