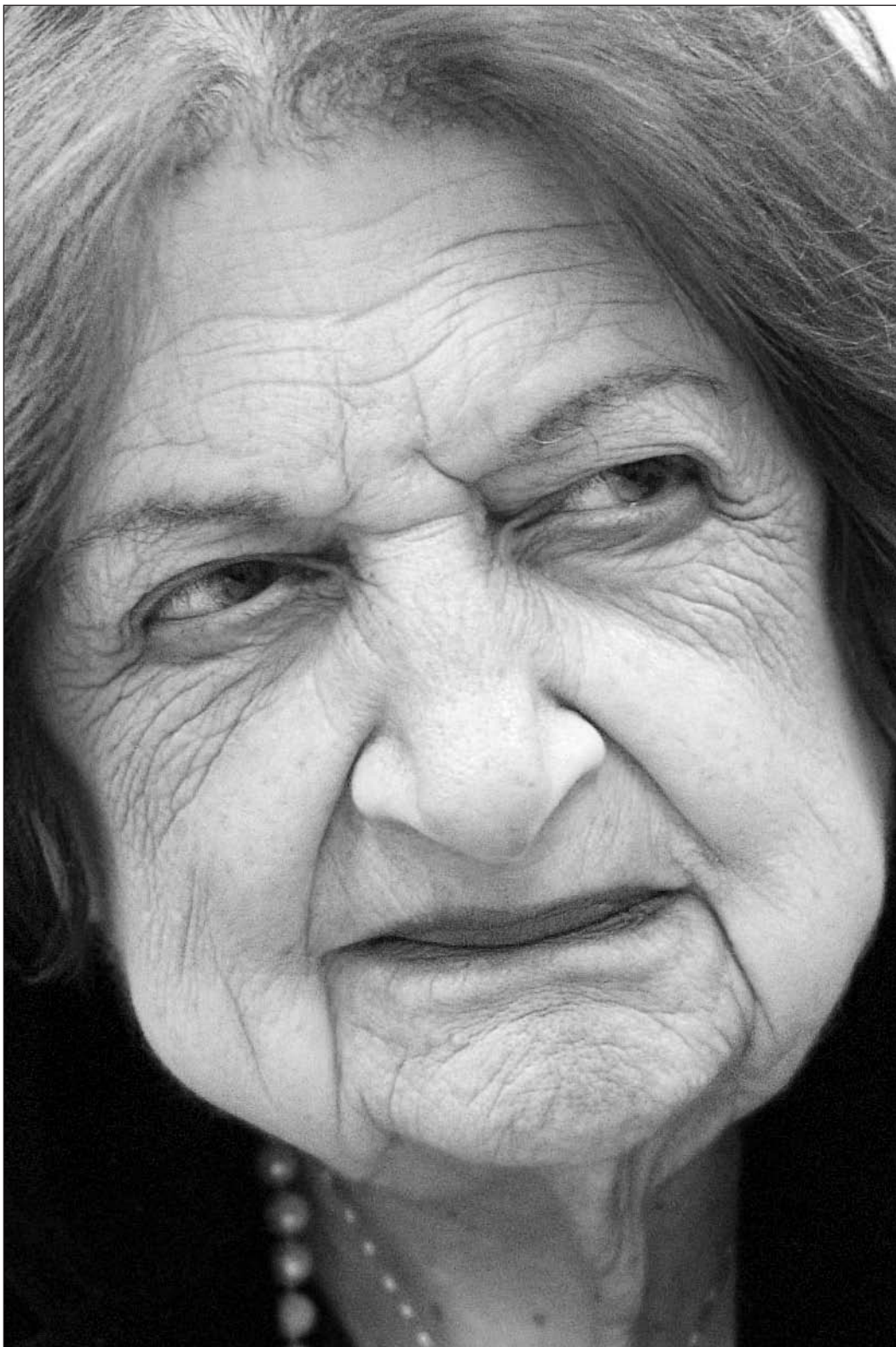


Helen Thomas has spent 57 years as a White House Correspondent for United Press International and has covered every president since John F. Kennedy.



"It's illegal, immoral, unconscionable and shameful to wage a war against a country that did nothing to us."

On the climate of 9/11, "Reporters and congress were afraid to be called un-American."



"Bush, Cheney, Rice all said they knew where the weapons of mass destruction were. Where are they?"

"It is time for peaceful solutions to set things right again."

"This is one of the worst times I've ever seen in American History"



"Nixon liked hard questions."

"Each person would answer differently why we went to war."



"I thought the press rolled over and played dead when this president wanted to go to war."

"The saddest thing is that (Bush) cant explain (the Iraq War) publicly because the reason is unacceptable."

"Education is a passport to a better life."



"This president has had a lot of support, even when everything was proven to be wrong or untrue."

"Kennedy was inspirational"



"Torture, wire tapping, reading e-mail, never have I seen anything like it before."

"The president is keeping up a charade that we were invited to Iraq."

On President Bill Clinton and the right wings, "They were after him constantly."



"We have seen the bill of rights assaulted, constant fear led this to happen."

The First Lady of the Press

Renowned journalist shares nearly six decades of presidential coverage

Helen Thomas is one of the most well known names in journalism. Commonly referred to as "The First Lady of the Press," she was the

White House correspondent for United Press International, covering every president from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush.

Thomas gave a lecture Thursday, April 5, in a sold out McAninch Arts Center Mainstage as part of the College Lecture Series, hosted by the International Education Office.

Thomas was able to shed light on the current White House relationship with the press, claiming unrestrained press protects the people from the government.

There was a saying at the White House in the early years of her career that, "God created the world in six days, and on the seventh he had to explain it to Helen Thomas."

She was a woman who never regretted asking the tough questions, maintaining that you only have "one shot in the gun," better make it good.

Her 57 year career with United Press International ended recently, but she still remains active in journalism, currently writing opinion editorials for Hearst Newspapers. She admits to waking up every morning and wondering, "Who can I attack today?"

Thomas' love of journalism stems from her early days at her high school newspaper, "After I saw my name in the newspaper for the first time my ego swelled."



Thomas fields questions, with political science professor David Goldberg during her Lecture.

Photos by Russell Augustine
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