

Ben Bradlee

Quotes

*People, Journalism, Jobs, News, Government, Country, Running, World,
Newspapers, Editors, Thinking, Worry, Telling The Truth, Monkeys, Leaks,
Politics, Campaigns, Today, Tape, Rough Drafts*

It changes your life, the pursuit of truth.

~Ben Bradlee

The first rough draft of history.

~Ben Bradlee

As a child, one looks for compliments. As an adult, one looks for evidence of effectiveness.

~Ben Bradlee

There is nothing like daily journalism! Best damn job in the world!

~Ben Bradlee

The history of American politics is littered with bodies of people who took so pure a position that they had no clout at all.

~Ben Bradlee

It is my experience that most claims of national security are part of a campaign to avoid telling the truth.

~Ben Bradlee

The biggest difference between Kennedy and Nixon, as far as the press is concerned, is simply this: Jack Kennedy really liked newspaper people and he really enjoyed sparring with journalists.

~Ben Bradlee

Sure, some journalists use anonymous sources just because they're lazy, and I think editors ought to insist on more precise identification even if they remain anonymous.

~Ben Bradlee

You never monkey with the truth.

~Ben Bradlee

Hire people smarter than you are and encourage them to bloom.

~Ben Bradlee

The Nixon administration really put a lot of pressure on CBS not to run the second broadcast.

~Ben Bradlee

Everybody who talks to a newspaper has a motive. That's just a given. And good reporters always, repeat always, probe to find out what that motive is.

~Ben Bradlee

If an investigative reporter finds out that someone has been robbing the store, that may be 'gotcha' journalism, but it's also good journalism.

~Ben Bradlee

Our best today; better tomorrow.

~Ben Bradlee

The champagne was flowing like the Potomac in flood.

~Ben Bradlee

In the perfect world every source could be identified, but like the man said, "It's not a perfect world."

~Ben Bradlee

I think he had a strange, passionate devotion to the truth and a horror at what he saw going on.

~Ben Bradlee

It changes your life, the pursuit of truth, if you know that you have tried to find the truth and gone past the first apparent truth towards the real truth. It's very, it's very exciting.

~Ben Bradlee

I do worry about how newspapers respond to falling circulation figures. I'm not sure that the answer is for newspapers to try to cater to whatever seems to be the fad of the day.

~Ben Bradlee

Those [Watergate] tapes are going to take me to my grave with a huge smile on my face.

~Ben Bradlee

There will always be leaks; in Washington, everywhere.

~Ben Bradlee

Maybe some of today's papers have too many 'feel-good' features, but there is a lot of good news out there.

~Ben Bradlee

Generals who can write always make me nervous.

~Ben Bradlee

I never believed that Nixon could fully resurrect himself. And the proof of that was in the obits.

~Ben Bradlee

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