



ROGER EBERT, former Daily Illini editor, talks to Gail Sadock during an autograph party at the Illini Union Paper Back Center Friday afternoon. Ebert's book "An Illini Century," commissioned by the Board of Trustees, is the University Centennial book.

(Staff photo by Margaret Cusock)

Hold Autographing Party in Union . . .

Ebert Authors Book

By **MARY FORD**
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An autograph party in the Illini Union Paperback Bookstore Friday afternoon launched the centennial book "An Illini Century" edited by Roger Ebert, former Daily Illini editor.

Ebert, now film critic for the Chicago Sun Times, reminiced and joked with friends while signing books. Published by the University Press the 214 page book covers the history of the University as extracted from the files of The Daily Illini in news editorials, articles and letters to the editor.

According to Ebert, the only fallacy in the book is that "all of the 10 decades which divide the book are off one year. But if the University thinks this is the centennial year I can use its timing for my book."

The University, though chartered in 1867, actually was opened in the spring of 1968.

According to Ebert, 5,000 copies of the book are being printed, both paperback and hardbound. "Sales are booming. We've sold 21 copies and we're headed for the best seller list. My mother came and bought 10 copies."

The cover of "An Illini Century," in orange and black, features a centennial symbol superimposed on a stack of newspapers. According to Ebert the cover was designed by the University Press.

The book was commissioned by the Board of Trustees and is the official centennial book.

The book covers University politics, traditions, and innovations including coeds, the Greek system and football. Mark Van Doren, in his introduction, emphasizes The Daily Illini's part in the University's history: naming a committee to choose the University colors, campaigning to change the school's

name from the Illinois Industrial University to the University of Illinois, emphasizing the intellectual atmosphere and resisting fraternities, an Athletic Association and "eastern customs."

"Walt Disney productions have bought the movie rights," Ebert informed his visitors, who included Tony Burba, former Daily Illini executive editor; Gaylord Hatch, assistant dean of men, faculty mem-

bers and friends, "They've cast Dumbo in the author's role."

Publication date for the book is June 1, but copies were air freighted down for the party. Commissioned to write the book in 1964, Ebert worked intermittantly on the research and commentary, finishing last August.

"This book was such an effort," he said. "I don't think I'll ever write another one in my life."