

Rivera-'activist' interested in truth, real life reporting

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"I think of myself as an activist journalist," he says. "I think any good journalist is interested in truth. Truth is an absolute. You can't destroy the truth. So as long as truth is your goal, all that stuff about advocacy and objectivity becomes moot."

In an attempt to abide by this advocacy journalism, Rivera says he tries to do many things.

He tries to highlight realities that need some attention.

He tries to do what other shows are not doing, not in an attempt to "be offbeat, but just to cover necessary corners that aren't being covered.'

He tries to do what he does best.

And what Rivera says Rivera does best is to report about real life.

Real life

The real life of Lenny Bruce, independent of the Dustin Hoffman/Valerie Perrine image, accompanied by a film documentary of Bruce and his problems with drugs and the police, and complete with Bruce's 19-year-old daughter Kitty as a guest.

The real life of drug abuse and poverty in Harlem.

The real life of the Clifford Irvings.

Rivera and his staff decide what topics Good Night America will feature, from "the super frivolous to the heavy and profound." This range is a legitimate one, he says, and one on which he

us are of some interest to the people who are watching the program."

Letters Rivera receives from readers seem to agree with him, he says, because they represent a variety of reasons for watching the show.

Positive feedback

"The range we get in letters-and that's really the only positive feedback I get-the live audience isn't really representative of the television audience-the letters indicate a broad spectrum of reasons and that's cool," he says, "that's cool. I just hope that people take a little away with them. I hope that in some way the show is educational or informative aside from being educational."

If, on the Good Night America, he does anything differently than other talk or news show hosts, "it's just maybe to look harder for those kinds of topics that I think I can, in some way by presenting to the American people, prick their consciences and cause some kind of movement, some kind of change on that issue," says Geraldo Rivera, the man who was a storefront lawyer before becoming a broadcaster.

The man who says big breaks don't exist, but if they did, his would be being hired by WABC in 1970, because before that he never had any intentions of being on television.

The man who believes that, in television journalism, "if you think you can gimmick your way through or think you can dazzle them with your style or your footwork, you're just real wrong because you can do that maybe with one shot, if you're on television once, or five times, or ten times. But when it's your life, when it's your career, that's what you have to do, I mean you have to work hard or people will see right through you."



hopes he can expand so that Good Night American does not become a New York-based program.

"We know the things that are of interest to use, just the six of us. We try to project from the theory-hopefully the correct theory-that we are representative of a large segment of the population and the things that are of interest to

Professor

tax policy

criticizes

Exon's

The man who can end an interview by saying: "And. . .I think I'd better go to work now." The man who is Good Night America.

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He said some incentives, such as tax rebates for users of small amounts of fuel, should be instituted into the income tax system. Evans said federal officials could devise more imaginative tax incentives to curb energy consumption.

"A junior or senior-level class could come up with better ideas about how to conserve energy than what the President has done," Evans said.

'Enlightened' aid

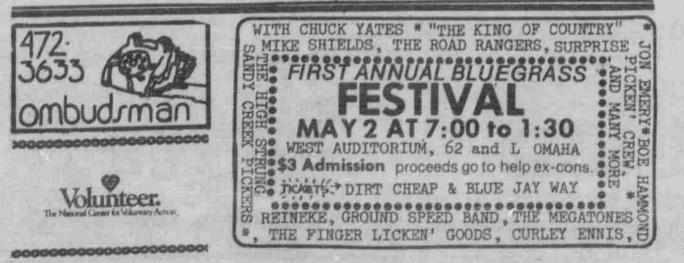
Evans also was critical of U.S. foreign policy.

"Our policy should be more toward enlightened assistance rather than a policy of paying off local dictators," Evans said. "We spend all too much in guns rather than in food and other aid."

Evans also criticized Exon and his state tax policy. He said local and state taxes, as they stand now, are unfair.

Evans told of a friend who lost about \$10,000 in farm revenue last year. He paid \$3,000 in property taxes, Evans said. He said Exon has not introduced the legislation needed to standardize taxation.

Evans, an army veteran, ran for the House of Representatives in the old third district in 1958.



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