

Time to Forgive China's CCTV Host for Anti-Foreign Rant

Contributed by Tom McGregor
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BEIJING: We Americans have many flaws, but one our best traits is how we can forgive others. CCTV TV host Yang Rui of the Dialogue Show faced controversy last May for posting an anti-foreigner rant on his Sina Weibo account.

It was disturbing and I didn't read it until this morning after receiving an email from Yang Rui, who apologized to his American and European Dialogue Show guests.

I met Yang Rui, when I appeared on his show twice before. I can say in all honesty that he seemed to be a gentleman and was deeply humbled by his gaffe. He treated me with respect and even encouraged me to do more TV broadcasting. For ten years, I pursued a journalism career. I spent most of my time copy-editing other people's stories or blogging. I live in relative obscurity waiting for bigger opportunities.

CCTV's Dialogue Show requested I talk about US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's foreign policy on a live broadcast. It would be my first TV appearance

As Dallas Blog readers know, I love to complain about Hillary and so it was like a dream come true.

But, I was nervous. I had seen Yang Rui interview people before and he can be tough. However, he was professional, and asked good questions. I didn't give a flawless performance, so I assumed it would be my one and only appearance on TV.

But, when I departed from the studio, Yang Rui, shook my hand with a smile and said he hopes to see me more often. I thought he was just being polite, but as it turns out, he spoke the truth. I was invited again, and he sent me email to invite me as a "regular panelist."

So it goes without saying that I accept his apology and hope the public can forgive him as well. Besides, he asked me if I thought Hillary Clinton is pushy? If a die-hard Texas Republican can answer that question on-air inside a Beijing TV studio then Yang Rui will always have my respect.

To read Yang Rui's anti-foreigner rant, link here: To view my appearances on CCTV's Dialogue Show, link here: and here:

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