Globe reporter recounts disagreement between Bill O’Reilly and me

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Last Dec. 21, Jack Thomas, my Globe colleague, used this space to make some, oh, colorful remarks about former Channel 5 columnist Bill O'Reilly. ''Approximately half of what he said was nonsense,'' Jack recalled, ''but it was difficult to figure out which half.'' Relieved that O'Reilly ''and his ego'' had left Boston, Jack noted that he was now anchored at the ''sleazy'' ''Inside Edition.'' In the name of fairness, and to maintain the face of equality, here's O'Reilly's open response: Dear Jack: First of all, "Inside Edition" is not a "sleazy tabloid show" as you put it. We have received good reviews in TV Guide, Entertainment Weekly and The Chicago Sun Times, among many others. We have been nominated for a National Emmy Award.

Former reporters on Inside Edition are now correspondents on NBC's "Dateline" and CBS' "Street Stories": a number of former "Inside" producers are at network magazines as well. Very often we see stories first aired on "Inside Edition" redone on "60 Minutes," "Dateline NBC" and "Prime-Time Live." One of our best investigators, Matt Meagher, once headed up WBZ's I-team.

As for me, Jack, I'm fine thank you. Me and my ego, as you put it, continue to bloviate (great word Jack) on a regular basis. In fact I minored in "Bloviating" at Boston University.

So it's 1993, Jack. I hope you get to watch "Inside Edition" as much as I read your column. I think you secretly might like us. Ooops, there I go bloviating again.

Your pal, Bill O'Reilly

Public service note: Webster's dictionary defines "bloviate" thus: "To speak at some length bombastically or rhetorically."