

**Transcript of KMYR series on The Public Affair freelance writers
Aired on November 18 & 22, 1974**

PA2019.068.001

Albuquerque Museum, gift of Zane Blaney

This radio program is a five-part series about the upcoming programs by freelance writers for KMYR's Public Affair program, hosted and produced by Zane Blaney.

Keywords and topics: radio, KMYR, rape, Diane Ingram, Tom Ormsby, Carrol Cagle, Peter Montague, David Lucero, environmentalism, recycling, creative writing, journalism, local media, government, law, New Mexico Bar exam, Native Americans, social reform, social justice

ZANE BLANEY: On Monday, November 25th KMYR presents a ten-part series on the problem of rape in Albuquerque. During the first week, Michael Blake interviews a public defender, a sex rehabilitation expert, and a convicted rapist. On Monday, December 5th, Diane Ingram, a student at UNM, photographer and freelance writer, interviews the women who help the victims of rape and the victims themselves.

DIANE INGRAM: The victims that I interviewed were very cooperative, but then there were a lot of women that I talked to that had been raped that were not willing to talk about it. I guess they hadn't worked through it completely enough to really feel comfortable discussing it. It's a – it's a horrible thing, you know? It does a lot of psychological damage. It's frightening and even talking about it can cause you to re-live so many of those feelings.

BLANEY: Diane Ingram talks about the media and rape.

INGRAM: They have been informative but I don't think that incidents in the newspaper, statistics given, um, information such as where you can go for help. It's not enough.

BLANEY: "The Victim" is the study in human nature and the motion, as Diane Ingram explains it.

INGRAM: It sounds like heroes in the movies. Uh, James Bond, I mentioned to you before. You know, it's a combination of violence and sex. The really virile man is also a very forceful, aggressive, powerful person. And in his relationships with women, she is – he is overpowering her, whether it's a mental or emotional persuasiveness or a physical overpowering, it's still, you know, the overpowering sense that you get. I mean, she is capitulating, she is, um, submissive to him. Uh, this is the way we are taught to relate. The man is on top.

BLANEY: Diane Ingram and "The Victim". Monday, December the fifth. A KMYR Public Affair.

[2:05]

[pause]

BLANEY: Thomas Ormsby has lived most of his life in Albuquerque and New Mexico. This past summer he returned from an eight-month stay in Europe studying transcendental meditation. Today, he is a creative freelance writer and journalist.

THOMAS ORMSBY: I've done straight reporting and the kind of things like covering meetings and lectures and the kind of thing that a newspaper would expect, but I found that I lost interest in that pretty quickly. I appreciate writing with a flair, creatively in a poetic style and something that has a little bit of a lasting value than just everyday news.

BLANEY: Beginning today, Thomas Ormsby presents the first of the KMYR "Public Commons".

ORMSBY: We're going to be doing a lot of information on the conservation of energy beyond the typical 'turn down your thermostat' kind of thing. As you know, Zane, I spent almost a year living in a tee-pee in the wilderness of Washington State through the winter in basically a survival situation. And I learned a great deal in that situation about the use of water and fire and shelter and food and things which I don't expect people to relate to, but, uh, there is information which I feel can be used to help people stretch their incomes and their materials and help reduce the wastefulness of our present day society. And

also, um, things that we've picked up about solar energy, wind power, the use of materials and the re-use of materials. Saving paper and metals and the kinds of things that we normally discard, you know, we can save and we can re-use them again. The tremendous waste of materials from our gardens, from our kitchens, that we can save and use and turn back into the earth.

BLANEY: In coming weeks, KMYR will present "The Creative Energy Radio Theater Playhouse". The cosmic adventure of Adam Nucleus. A creative production of Thomas Ormsby.

ORMSBY: Adam Nucleus is basically a fun project that I've had in mind for approximately four years when I first conceived it back in 1971. And Adam Nucleus, *The Cosmic Voyage of Adam Nucleus*, is going to be an attempt to have a radio theater depicting the life of one man who is the symbolic representation of all man. Who is – who dwells at the center of the universe in his consciousness. And through the use of music and sound effects, we're going to try to create an epic odyssey through the many full levels of human consciousness in a serious classic approach, in a ridiculous humorous approach. Just all the extremes of human mentality and, uh, in a theatrical – in a theatrical way. A radio playhouse.

BLANEY: Listen for Thomas Ormsby's "Public Common" beginning today and "The Creative Energy Radio Theater Playhouse" coming soon. Part of the KMYR Public Affair.

[5:05]

[pause]

UNIDENTIFIED: He used it in terms –

[pause]

BLANEY: Carrol Cagle is a Santa Fe-based freelance writer. A contract correspondent for *Time Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Civil Liberties*, *The Progressive*, and others. In coming weeks, Carrol Cagle writes for the KMYR Public Affair.

CARROL CAGLE: I've been thinking lately about the, uh -- the, um, dictum that Joseph Pulitzer once used about the job of the newspapers. He used it in terms of the newspapers and I like to think of it in terms of the media in general, and that is to "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted". And I really think that there's something to that. I think too many of the people in the media tend to act as extensions of the institutions of power. By that I mean they attend press conferences or otherwise receive information from the government or from, uh, economic interests and, in turn, relay that information along to the public. But the real duty is to act as an independent, uh, source of information for all the public rather than just reflecting what the official institutions say.

BLANEY: Concerning the news media in Albuquerque and New Mexico, Carrol Cagle says:

CAGLE: They tend to follow the easy way and to not invest the time and energy and most important, money, to support people to do the kind of reporting that needs to be done. The kinds of reporting that -- that's important, or that's pertinent to a society, a complex society such as what we have now -- It does involve money. It involves sophisticated effort. If you take a look at the downtown newspapers, for example. They're huge structures. They make millions of dollars but very little of that money goes to the actual news-gathering process.

BLANEY: In weeks ahead, Carrol Cagle will write about the coming transitioning governments in New Mexico and the impending sixty-day session of the state legislature.

CAGLE: I believe that many people in the government are honestly trying to do better things but they are hampered by the complex structures. So, what I hope to do is to analyze how those structures are working or failing to work. The legislature itself has -- has an -- as it has in the past, a series of interim committees that have met during the year studying various problems, say tax law, tax reform. Is the tax system fair and, if not, what can be done about it? Are the energy corporations paying their fair share? These were the issues that came up during the 1974 session being studying during the interim. Proposals will be made to the full session this coming January. So, I will be examining what the legislature itself

is preparing to do. Then, uh, because policies can't be treated in a vacuum, I'll be looking at people. What they are like who are moving into new positions of power. Uh, what their backgrounds have been and what they may be expected to do with that power during the coming months.

BLANEY: Freelance writer Carrol Cagle, a part of the KMYR Public Affair.

[8:33]

[pause]

BLANEY: Peter Montague founded the New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water. He is a news-stringer for *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines. And in coming weeks he writes for the KMYR Public Affair.

PETER MONTAGUE: I have, up until now, been primarily a writer. I have been a journalist using the printed word. I write for magazines and my wife and I write books. In the last four or five years, we have focused almost exclusively on environmental reporting. Uh, we are, I guess, called environmentalists, locally. Uh, we were active in starting a citizen's environmental organization in 1969 and we are still with that group. We find that environmental problems are very intimately mixed up with social problems and economic problems. And our perspective so far has been that, uh, most environmentalists sort of short-change some of the really difficult aspects of environmental problems. They want to solve the problems immediately right away, and our perspective is that this would probably bring about fairly severe social disruption by causing the loss of jobs for people, and so we always try to keep a balance in what can be done versus what should be done.

BLANEY: Concerning the media and the environment, Montague says:

MONTAGUE: The local media are not giving enough coverage to environmental subjects, in the sense that probably the newspapers in town -- and I'm sure that the radio and TV outlets in town -- could certainly, uh, put on more environmental news, in my opinion, without losing their audience. I think the audience is here for environmental news. I think this is one of the most environmentally-aware communities in the United States.

BLANEY: In explaining some of the issues Peter Montague will be dealing with on KMYR, he says:

MONTAGUE: The State Environmental Improvement Agency is in the process now of holding hearings to establish, uh, water quality standards for the underground waters of New Mexico. This is a potentially very important set of hearings. The – another environmental problem that the city is working on is waste treatment in the City of Albuquerque. We have two programs underway. One is an immediate effort to upgrade the quality of the Albuquerque sewage treatment plant. And the second is a very large \$1,250,000 sewage facilities plan to plan waste treatment facilities for this entire area for the next twenty years. This is in the works now. There are local people working with Navajo Indians trying to assess the costs and the benefits of using very large quantities of water in northwestern New Mexico to turn coal, which the Navajos have an abundance of, into gas. The gas would then be sent to California and to Oklahoma to be burned.

BLANEY: Peter Montague, freelance writer and environmentalist, and part of the KMYR Public Affair.

[11:58]

[pause]

BLANEY: David Lucero has worked with both of Albuquerque's daily newspapers. He is a former Scripps Howard Award winner and former editor of KUNM news.

DAVID LUCERO: I, uh, come from the school of journalism that says, "He who majors in journalism is an idiot" and what one really should do is get a general background in the kinds of things that you're interested in covering and then going out and doing it. And that's essentially what I have done. I've had positions at newspapers and regular beats, but the best thing I've done, I think, is in terms of general assignment reporting. And, so, my attitude toward my own work is that a journalist is a person who is a specialist in terms of getting the words down. He's a generalist in terms of what he covers. And this is what I'm striving to do is be as thorough a generalist on the things I'm interested in as I can be.

BLANEY: What does David Lucero think about the Albuquerque news media?

LUCERO: Totally inadequate. Totally without substance, usually. And this is not to criticize Albuquerque, New Mexico, especially because the whole country is suffering from lack of good journalism and lack of an audience for good journalism. It's something that – I think a crisis is near at hand. It's possible. In terms of the believability of the press. In terms of the press facing up to its basic responsibilities in a free society and being fearless. Saying things that are true. Saying them so people can understand them and not balking because of public reaction or because of the established interests that you might be treading on.

BLANEY: In coming weeks, David Lucero will present an exposé on the New Mexico Bar exam controversy.

LUCERO: Being a member of a minority group, I'm interested in the way that a law affects my community, or the -- say the Chicano community, the Black community, the ethnic community in New Mexico. Um, this particular story is very interesting because on the face of it, uh, there's a situation in which Anglos – 95% of the Anglos who take the test do very well. Something like 80% of Chicanos and Blacks that take the test – and Native Americans -- do terribly. They are not told – essentially, they're not told why they failed. And although they can re-take the test, they – whether they do well or not, is not something that they can go find out after the first mistake and, you know, do some studying or do some work in that direction. Um, it's very puzzling as to why the thing is working that way. And there is beginning to be a movement to look into the thing to possibly change the kind of law exam and, of course, this relates in a very big way to the kind of government we're going to be seeing in twenty years when it will be absolutely crucial that we have new government.

BLANEY: David Lucero and the New Mexico Bar Exam, a part of the KMYR Public Affair.

[14:39]

[end]