

Hillary abuses media - and they come back for more

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

I have been scratching my head for months now trying to understand the relationship between Hillary Clinton and the mainstream news media. Even though they clearly don't like her, they nevertheless fawn over and defend her. This can't be explained entirely by their shared leftist ideology. The press has other choices. But then I realized that I've seen something like this before.

The relationship between Clinton and the mainstream news media has degenerated into the equivalent of abused spouse syndrome. In an abusive relationship, the abused spouse reacts in a manner precisely opposite to what would serve his or her best interest. Instead of placing physical and emotional distance between herself and the abuser, the victim keeps crawling back, trying to win the affection of the abuser.

The relationship is one of dependency, not unlike drug dependency. The abuser makes the victim miserable, but the abuser also becomes the victim's sole source of happiness, when, on those rare occasions, the abuser metes out tiny measures of pleasantness.

The abuser understands this power and reinforces it with escalating abuses. The victim's life begins to revolve around a yearning for affection that the abuser rarely grants. The victim finds himself or herself sinking into the most demeaning of conditions, crawling back again and again, craving kindness that the abuser trickles out only rarely and in tiny doses.

And the abuser feeds off the power that this dysfunctional relationship confers.

Now Clinton certainly understands what it's like to be an abused spouse. She endures innumerable indignities from her husband, who still holds the title as America's most admired living Democrat.

The undisguised contempt with which Hillary treats the news media has grown into the stuff of legend. Her mentor in abusive press relationships, Barack Obama, probably treated the press worse than any previous president, and yet their adoration never flagged. Recently, Clinton had her minions corral her press entourage with ropes to keep them clear of her highness. The press accepted this indignity with little complaint. It was as close to bondage and discipline as you could get in a public setting.

Clinton rarely consents to speak, and when they dare to ask her for more access, she dismisses them with an arrogance that would embarrass Marie Antoinette.

And when she does deign to speak with one of them, the interviewer is obviously intimidated and fearful that, should he ask Clinton a challenging question, she will cast him screaming into the fiery pits of hell. Or she might at least cast him into exile. On the other hand, she has it within her power to make their careers. And it's a power she's happy to abuse.

I don't pay much attention to CNN. I get lied to enough at work. But I am familiar with a few of the network's more prominent talking heads. I respect the work of Jake Tapper, but find his frequent sidekick, Chris Cuomo, loathsome. Carol Costello is a disgrace to her surname. And I doubt that Wolf Blitzer could hold his own in a chess match with a turnip.

But before she was selected to interview Clinton, The Most Merciful, I had never even heard of Brianna Keilar.

I didn't watch Keilar's interview with Clinton. And I had that in common with most Americans. In spite of the build-up, ratings for the interview came in far short of expectations. And I have no doubt that most Americans eschewed the palaver because they knew what I knew: Clinton would not sit down for her first interview since announcing her candidacy with someone who might ask her a tough question. And Keilar was not about to jeopardize future opportunities to interview Clinton by discomfiting her majesty.

Keilar's career has already benefited from her interview with Clinton. And the sad part is that she gained her new fame precisely because she is so bad at her job.

In one memorable moment, after Keilar asked Clinton about the emails that were erased from her private server, Clinton responded with a bald-faced lie, claiming that her emails had never been subpoenaed.

Keilar simply let that lie stand unchallenged. This means that all of her preparation for the interview took place in the makeup room, or she was fearful of Clinton's wrath. Or it could be all of the above.

Costello is a research technician at Washington State University. His email address is kozmocostello@hotmail.com.