

C-SPAN
400 North Capital Street N.W. 650
Washington, DC 20001

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I bet that if Ms. Clift had white hair, a pot belly, and wore a pin-stripped suit, she would not be characterized as "appalling," but rather, powerful, persuasive, competent, and sharp. It blows my mind that every time a strong woman states her opinion (and lets face it, no one does it better than Eleanor Clift) people start calling names. I mean, for crying out loud, even Rush Limbaugh is characterized positively in the press as jolly, witty and insightful.

Eleanor Clift is a pioneer in a field that is still dominated by men that cater to the men that they think are the primary readers and viewers of their medium. (Look at any major newspaper's front page right now and tally up how many lead articles are written by women.) Like hailing a cab in New York City, survival skills take over: it is certain that for a woman to rise to the level in the news industry that Ms. Clift has, certain endurance skills have been employed. ("It's MY cab!" instead of, "Oh, sure, go ahead and take this cab even though I was here first.")

If there were more women in top positions at newsmagazines such as Newsweek, and that then subsequently spoke out on news shows such as C-SPAN, the public and the decision-makers in the news industry would not be so taken aback when a woman exercises the ability to debate the big issues. Ms. Clift takes on the news-industry, society, and convention every time she jumps into the arena on one of these news shows. However, and most importantly, she is paving the way for more women to do the same.

It is for this lack of representation of women in the news industry that I have not subscribed to a magazine such as Newsweek in the past, however, as a direct result of the blows Ms. Clift took on C-SPAN (particularly the man that said he would not subscribe to Newsweek because of her), I intend to give subscriptions of the magazine to my friends and family for Christmas. For every one man like that caller, there are dozens of women such as myself - that read the newspaper (gasp, including the op-ed page,) have money (gasp, and intend to earn more,) and have a career (gasp, and intend to go farther.)

Please make sure that Ms. Clift's boss knows that she is not losing readership by speaking up, but only tapping into the very underrepresented body of women that are only beginning to speak up. In essence, she is teaching us how to catch a cab in New York City.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Kirkland, WA 98034



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