

on celebrities

Someone once said that celebrities are people who are famous **for being** famous and **boy**, was he **spot on**. Now, you could probably **trace** each **celebrity's** fame to an occupation or an **act** (usually a **mean one** or a **fluke**) that **made** people **aware** of his or her **annoying** mosquito-like existence. But **there's more to being** a celebrity than **getting lucky** just once. A celebrity **needs to be able to cause** this initial input to **snowball** into something that **takes on** a life **of its own** and then **keep it up no matter what**.

This **is** usually **achieved by marrying** another celebrity, then **having an affair** with yet another, or a couple of them, shaving your hair **in the process** (not your pubic hair, **though**; you can't become a celebrity if you have pubic hair **in the first place**). It certainly doesn't **hurt** to **hang out with** other people that tabloid newspapers **are after, all the while making sure** there are some paparazzi **around. Just in case** the paparazzi haven't heard **about you going** out, a wise thing to do is to call them **in advance. Otherwise**, the whole evenings is **ruined**, a **major waste** of time, as you have to **spend it talking** to other people who have **as little to say as you do**.

The relationship between the tabloid press and celebrities **has been described** many times. **Although** both celebrities and tabloids **bend over backwards** to convince us that the **deal** between them **deserves to be thought of as** some sort of a meeting of minds, it is **in fact** nothing but mutual dependency, with both parties simply **feeding off** each other. Nothing romantic or **sophisticated about** that. Perfectly worked-through, yes. But not **in a good way**.

Suppose you're a **struggling** celebrity. You're **off** the magazine covers and your desperate **attempts** to revive your career **have failed**. What **do** you do? **Easy**, you **pop into** a rehab. This is a **surefire way to get** some attention. If your career is **on the rocks**, you **can do a lot worse than check into** a rehab. **Whatever** gets you fifteen **more** minutes of spotlight, you **grab** it. You can then **clutch on to** that spotlight **by leaving** the rehab the next morning--**after having** a nice breakfast, signing a few autographs and doing some photo-ops--and going on another drinking spree or **getting stoned** again or **drinking and driving** or **whatever** it was **that** got you into the rehab in the first place. Some people go to a spa, you go to a rehab.

The question that **gets asked** a lot is, who exactly is a celebrity? What **makes** you **one**? Is every famous person a celebrity? **Actually**, I'd **subscribe to** that last bit. I believe that **being** famous automatically makes you a celebrity. I had **this** argument once with **a friend of mine** who works in the film industry. She **insisted** that this lady on TV was not really a celebrity. I insisted she was. My friend said she was sure she was right. I told her she was totally wrong. Then we both **got drunk** and forgot all about the lady. If that's not the best way to **treat** celebrities, I don't know what is.