

the weekly
Standard

Feb. 1, 1999

Dear Juanita (and David),

I heard from your son that the NBC story hasn't been officially declared dead, though that's what we've all been lead to believe. Obviously, the prognosis isn't good, and for that, I offer my sympathies. I know that screwing up your courage to go on-camera after resisting for so long took an exhaustive amount of deliberation, and seeing your effort rewarded by network sniping and internal politics must be maddening.

No one would fault either of you for avoiding contact with anybody even remotely related to our species again. But if you are considering re-telling your story - (rumor has it that you're flirting with CBS) then I'd once again like to extend the offer - generous, I know, as I'm sure nobody else has expressed an interest.

I don't mean to sound self-aggrandizing (though if I don't promote myself, who will?) I would remind you however that in my dealings with the both of you, I have always honored any commitment of confidentiality, and would continue to do so while reporting out the details of your story. Juanita, you know I have an intimate familiarity with the minutiae of the case, and though it's a shame that your decision to finally go forward with NBC resulted in their own indecision, that doesn't have to be the final word. The story can still be reported and told right - by the Weekly Standard. I hate to sound like a timeshare salesman in Sarasota, but we really could do this better and a lot cleaner - assuming everything checks out (and I heard that it did check out for NBC). My editors are not only influential and well-respected, but they have the fortitude to publish a corroborated story such as this without you having to worry about it getting bogged down in some network-executive morass. I don't know if it's true that you're thinking about CBS, but I'll predict what I predicted about NBC, any network is going to have the same difficulties getting it on the air no matter how credible they think you are. And I know you don't want to put yourselves through something like this again for nothing. I hope you'll consider this, and give me a call [redacted] or [redacted] even just to talk about it if you haven't reached a final decision - off the record, of course.

Sincerely,



Matt Labash
[redacted]