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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2001

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THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
"THUMBS UP!"



JULIA STILES · SEAN PATRICK THOMAS
SAVE THE LAST DANCE



VALENTINE
Thursday, February 1st
7:30pm
at a Boston theater.



The Media The scoop nobody wanted to touch

By Mark Jankowitz

The National Enquirer's big scoop on Jesse Jackson's love child was labeled "World Exclusive" but after the story appeared, it seemed to be the world's worst-kept secret.

Time magazine's Jack E. White wrote that "everybody who was anybody in black political circles" had heard of reports of Jackson's affair with Karin Bradford, rumors that circulated before their child's birth 10 months ago. Rex Egan, Rivers of Dorchester recently told The Boston Globe he had heard the story more than a year ago and clanked doors with news editors. Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page says he knew about it in early summer, and his colleague, Tribune Washington bureau chief James Warren, figures he first heard the tale about a year ago.

"After we broke the story, every reporter ran to his editor and said, 'I had that story,'" chuckles a somewhat skeptical Enquirer editor-in-chief, Steve Cox.

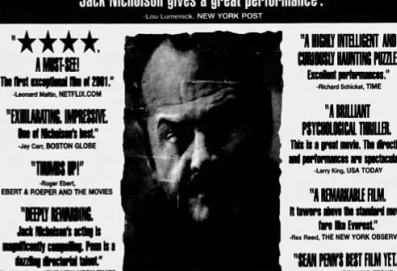


The Rev. Jesse Jackson wipes his eyes as he prays last Sunday during a Baptist church service in Chicago.

Truth is, there is a tradition of not wanting to be first on such stories. At the time the Clinton-baiting editorial pages of The Wall Street Journal broke the February 1999 story of Juanita Broaddrick, the Arkansas woman accusing the president of a 1978 sexual assault, NBC News and The Washington Post were sitting on outlier interviews they had done with her.

During the 1996 presidential campaign, Time and The Washington Post ultimately opted out to run a story alleging a quarter-century old affair between Bob Dole and a woman named Meredith Roberts, even though both outlets had pursued and interviewed Roberts, after both outlets dropped the story, the affair ended up generating screaming headlines in — you guessed it — The National Enquirer.

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JACK NICHOLSON
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