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3200, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100

15

JENNIFER MITCHELL

# LOST MY BOO AND TV 'VIEW'

## Rosie's jokey despite splits

Rosie O'Donnell managed to crack wise despite recent breakup with her second wife (right) Michelle Rounds and ensuing departure from "The View."




**BY OLIVER COLEMAN, NICKI GOSTIN and DENIS SLATTERY**  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

ROSIE O'DONNELL, one day after leaving her gig on "The View," thinks "NBC Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams should join her on the unemployment line.

"I don't know how you can have somebody embellish and have the trust eroded when they're delivering the news," O'Donnell said Saturday night.

"But I hope that everyone in America wakes up to the fact that what we get as news is not often truth."

The comedienne also cracked wise in her first public appearance since the double-barreled bombshell announcement that she was leaving "The View" and splitting with second wife Michelle Rounds.

"Remember when Walter Cronkite was the most trusted man in the world?" O'Donnell asked after an uptown screening of an hour-long standup special at the Athena Film Festival.

"Now we've got Brian f----- Williams saying, 'I discovered electricity!'"

The self-deprecating O'Donnell mentioned her separation from Rounds, her wife of two years, before unloading on the newsman.

"Will that deflect from my divorce?" she then asked the appreciative crowd.

O'Donnell mingled the two subjects in explaining why she decided to go public with word of her separation.

"In this day and age, as Brian Williams knows, you can't claim something's true that's not true," said O'Donnell, 52. "You only have to go on Instagram. You can see she's not in the house with me, right?"

"It's been since Thanksgiving. People are not idiots. I don't want to lie and fabricate."

The comedienne returned to her standup roots with the show, "Rosie O'Donnell: A Heartfelt Stand Up," which airs Valentine's Day on HBO.

The standup segments, which include some references to Rounds, were filmed in December before a live audience at Levity Live, a comedy club in Nyack.

She will have plenty of time to work on new material after her departure from her daytime gig.

Sources say ABC execs are in no rush to name a replacement for O'Donnell, who said through a spokeswoman that she was leaving to focus on her family.

The network has been trying to reinvent "The View" since Barbara Walters, who created the show in 1997, retired in May.

The show will likely rely on a revolving door of guest hosts to fill the void left by O'Donnell's departure.

ABC touted ratings data Saturday showing "The View" trouncing its rival "The Talk" in recent weeks among women ages 18-49.

O'Donnell: A

RICHARD CORKEN/DAILY NEWS

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ROSE O'DONNELL WITH SHEILA NEVINS AT BARNARD COLLEGE TO PROMOTE NEW STANDUP SHOW.

