

To JM

Date _____ Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Nicole Sanderson

of NBC News

Phone 212.664.6017

Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL	☒
CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN	☐
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT	☐

RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐

Message _____

6017
best

Operator _____



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DATELINE NBC

FAX

212-664-6017

TO: MS. MARSHALL BERRY

FROM: MARTHA SPANNING

FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-7805

PAGES(incl cover): 2

IF TROUBLE RECEIVING CONTACT (212)664-2844

COMMENTS:

COBB / Dan Goldin met in her

wrote hvc - mty didnt go well w/ Goldin.
Mixed msgs...

Sen Inoff

Fair hearing ~~_____~~

Vicki
Vilmar



October 7, 1998

Ms. Marsha Berry
First Lady's Press Office
Fax: 202.456.7805

Dear Ms. Berry:

I am a producer at DATELINE NBC working on a story about Jerrie Cobb, America's first woman astronaut trainee. I understand that Jerrie Cobb met with the First Lady a few months back. The story I am producing is an update of one I did in 1995 profiling all 10 of the surviving women who passed the same rigorous tests as the Mercury 7 male astronauts, but never had the opportunity to complete their training or go into space. This time we are focussing on Jerrie Cobb and the grass roots drive that has developed supporting a renewed effort for her to fulfill her lifelong dream. I am writing to you with several requests.

- 1) Jerrie told me that there were some photos taken at the meeting and I would like to get a copy of a photo and permission to use the photo in my segment to represent the meetings Jerrie's had in her quest.
- 2) Jerrie related to me that in their meeting the First Lady asked if there was a film or documentary that had been done covering her early efforts. I would very much like to send a copy of the 1995 piece for her viewing. So please tell me how best to send it to your attention and what format you would like (vhs or professional beta). When the segment first aired it received a great deal of attention, including interest from several movie companies and there is a script in development by Producer Denise diNovi ("Little Women") at Warner Brothers based on the story. As someone who had been interested in training as an astronaut herself in her early years, and now that she has had the opportunity to meet Jerrie Cobb, I think Mrs. Clinton would find the story of interest.
- 3) Finally, I would like to request an interview with the First Lady that would be conducted by Correspondent Sara James exclusively on the topic of her meeting with Jerrie Cobb and her thoughts about Jerrie Cobb's quest to participate in NASA's study of aging that John Glenn is currently engaged in. This request is not related to Dateline's other requests for an interview with Jane Pauley via Marianne Haggerty, and we would not address any "news of the day topics" - only Jerrie Cobb.

The segment is scheduled to air October 28, 1998 so I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. I have placed calls to Missy Kincaid with these requests since she had been the person Jerrie Cobb dealt with, but since I wasn't hearing back, I am now seeking your help. Perhaps she forwarded my requests to you in any case. I can be reached at 212.664.2844 or paged at 1.800.sky.page pin#62967. I look forward to speaking with you soon. Thanks for your attention to these requests.

Yours truly,

Martha Spanninger
Producer

NBC Nightly News

Nicole 212-664-6017
Sanderson

30 Rockefeller Pl

NY 10112

Fed Ex
14396460-0

2 months ago.

Neal Lane/Beth OSTR
Holly Gulen OSTR COS
Jeff Smith

MV thinks phone call.

DONNA KOCIAN2500 Stock Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

September 30, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham-Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Jerrie Cobb and I would like to thank you for asking Dan Goldin to meet with her. We thought you might like to know the outcome of the meeting as well as the progress being made with her campaign, since we met with you in July.

Jerrie was asked to see Mr. Goldin along with two of his colleagues on September 8. Jerrie told me that he began the meeting by telling her that you had requested he see her. He then went on to say, "Tell me about yourself. I know nothing about you - who you are or why you are here." Though gracious, he told her she was "too young" for the research, he has enough astronauts and doesn't even know how he will accommodate various people from other countries to whom the President has promised a seat on the shuttle. He appeared defensive about his support of women in the space program.

There was no decision to be made, we were continuing this campaign. This week, Jerrie and I were in Ponca City, Oklahoma for the Grand Reopening of the Pioneer Woman Museum. Jerrie is a recipient of that award and was honored along with Clara Lupper. The week and weekend were comprised of interviews with People Magazine, CNN (Miles O'Brien), CBS Sunday Morning (Charles Osgood) and NBC Dateline (Sara James). Over 2,000 people were in attendance at the museum reopening. It was there that, prior to honoring Jerrie, Senator Inhofe (R-OK) announced the following message from Dan Goldin:

"If everything goes well and the data comes in after the John Glenn senior citizen space flight and the data works out, we will be doing it again. It is logical that a woman would be next and there is no one in America more qualified and deserving to be in that space shuttle than Jerrie Cobb."

Stunned does not adequately describe what we felt, though we are approaching this with cautious optimism. I have my doubts as to sincerity vs public relations, as Jerrie has not even received an invitation from NASA to Sen. Glenn's launch. Doesn't there seem to be some contradiction here?

Being space buffs, we have planned on going to Sen. Glenn's launch before her campaign was even off the ground. We are each bringing a friend, a "girls" vacation, "NIP" view from one of the beaches (Non Important People) and plan to make a day of it!

Mrs. Clinton, the beauty of this entire campaign is that it started without Jerrie even knowing about it. It is entirely grass roots. Every aspect of this is purely volunteer. It has a life of it's own. She is the people's astronaut.

Jerrie has interviews scheduled this week with German TV, Canadian Radio (international broadcast) and NBC Nightly News.

Jerrie wanted so much to continue to honor your advice and stay out of the press as long as she could. There is no one whose perspective we respect more than yours and we would be honored if you could offer further direction.

With life pulling you from all directions, we certainly appreciate your time and the sincere effort and consideration you have given to Jerrie's quest for women's research.

God bless you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna", followed by a horizontal line.

*133 US Astronauts: 103 male, 29 female: 45 male pilots, 3 female pilots. (Includes the current class. Source - NASA web site.)

Record Type:
Record

To: Julie E. Mason/WHO/EOP
cc: Victor J. Villhard/OSTP/EOP, Anthony J. Gibson/OSTP/EOP
Subject: Jerri Cobbs Flight on Shuttle

Julie, I'm also asking Vic Villhard (6-6042) of our office to call you as soon as he returns.

----- Forwarded by Jeffrey M. Smith/OSTP/EOP on 10/09/98 11:01 AM -----

Record Type:
Record

To: Neal Lane/OSTP/EOP, Jeffrey M. Smith/OSTP/EOP, Holly L. Gwin/OSTP/EOP, Duncan T. Moore/OSTP/EOP
cc: Victor J. Villhard/OSTP/EOP, Jefferson Hofgard/OSTP/EOP
Subject: Jerri Cobbs Flight on Shuttle

This is getting a bit more complicated. I followed up with First Lady's office, here's what they told me:

They referred Cobb (and her publicist/agent who basically secured the appt with FLOTUS) to NASA. Goldin met with her. Told her NASA wasn't going to fly any additional astronauts for aging research until Glenn data had been evaluated, peer reviewed, and the science community said "fly more." At that point, NASA would consider it but would do so on a competitive basis. Here's where it gets complicated.

She followed up with a letter to the FLOTUS saying meeting with Goldin didn't go well and that she was getting mixed messages. In her letter, she quotes a portion of a separate letter that she (Cobbs) received from Goldin that was very upbeat. It appears that the specific portion of the letter was read by Sen Imhoff at a recent event in Oklahoma featuring Cobbs. Now People magazine is set to do a story and NBC Dateline wants to run a story too. Dateline is asking if they can use picture of FLOTUS/Cobbs together.

I think our original advice is still valid: let's be helpful in making sure she gets a fair hearing w/ NASA but not get ourselves inserted in the process of deciding who flies/who doesn't. They (First Lady's office) asked me to take a cut at a response which we will do. In meantime, they've asked that we make sure she's not getting mixed messages from NASA. I told her we would try to close the letter out by Monday. FLOTUS returns from travel on Tuesday.

July
Prosple requested mtg. Was ref. to OSTP - ref to NASA.



