

Would-be astronauts:

LEGION OF ANGRY WOMEN

BY JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. As long as men dominate the space program, an American woman may not make it into space until she can book a seat as a passenger on a commercial spaceship. Or, until a Russian lady cosmonaut invites her on a Soviet trip.

This is the view of would-be women astronauts who believe that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Academy of Sciences are deliberately trying to keep them out.

Both the space agency and science academy delicately deny they discriminate against the ladies. Yet NASA hasn't lifted a pencil to begin research on spacesuits and other trappings a woman would need in space. And now the academy

has turned down the 17 women who tried to become scientist-astronauts this year—though some could boast scientific credentials and heroic exploits that would force any male astronaut to look to his laurels.

"The U.S. government isn't going to have women astronauts for 2000 years," grumped one discouraged applicant, Mrs. Janett R. Trubatch of Los Angeles, after the academy's decision. "NASA thinks the American ideal is for women to marry, have kids and stay home."

"I don't think there's any intention of including women in the space program," despaired another, Mrs. Gladys A. Philpott of Sunnyvale, Calif. "What can you do? It's a fact. It's a kind of discrimination that is not spelled out."

Women had first tried to enter the space program in 1961, as pilot-astronauts, but all were rejected on grounds they had to be military jet test pilots. They were encouraged to try again in the late '60's, when scientists as well as pilots would go into space. Now those hopes, too, have been dashed.

Actually, the spurned spacewomen generally suspect their rejection may have something to do with America's puritanical mores. The gentlemen in charge of space travel apparently boggle at the thought of a man and woman riding together in the close confines of a space capsule. They can almost hear the reaction if a single woman should go hurtling into space with a male astronaut, since almost all the astronauts are married. It would be worse to send a married woman. Could a divorcee even be considered? Several of the lady applicants are divorced; some have remarried. No divorced men have become astronauts; in fact, one resigned because he was planning a divorce.

Gladys Philpott, with just a trace of bitterness, described the type of woman she thinks would be chosen. "A woman with short, straight hair," said Mrs. Philpott, whose own tresses are blonde and reach below her shoulders. "A woman with thick glasses, cotton lisle stockings, shoes that tie, a mannish tweed suit and a briefcase."

Mrs. Abigail E. Beutler, an Ann Arbor, Mich., space physicist who aspires to rise above the laboratory, disagrees. She believes the ideal lady astronaut in the screening boards' mind, would be "a Jackie Kennedy with a Ph.D."

Another obstacle to admitting ladies into orbit is the question of personal hygiene equipment, which is now designed only for men and, apparently, still doesn't function entirely satisfactorily. Before a woman could be catapulted into space, NASA would have to design "his" and "hers" spacesuits.

This is an alibi the ladies don't buy. "I'm hard pressed to believe," said Mrs. Emily G. Kozakoff, a University of Maryland research programmer, "that NASA can send a rocket to the moon but doesn't know what to do about the problem of feminine hygiene."

Why would a normal American girl want to go soaring out of this world in the



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They yearn for space but NASA says, "No." Mrs. Emily Kozakoff (left) and Dr. "Charlie" Haynes are among women applicants rejected by astronaut program. They charge prejudice.

continued

ANGRY WOMEN *continued*

Why would a normal American girl want to go soaring out of this world in the first place? **PARADE** interviewed eight of the lady applicants. All are attractive, witty, intelligent. They share a love of science and a zest for adventure, have the same dash and daring that made instant heroes of the original seven astronauts.

"There is a certain frontier spirit that appeals to me in the space program," said Abigail Beutler. "I wanted to be a part of it, having missed the opening of the West."

"We're going to find life on Mars," eagerly predicted Mrs. Philpott, a life scientist, "and, oh boy! that would be the place to go."

"Let's face it," said Mrs. Jane B. Hart, an aviatrix who is incidentally the wife of Sen. Philip Hart (D.-Mich.), "for many women, the PTA just is not enough. I don't want to downgrade the feminine role of wife, mother and homemaker. It is a tremendously fulfilling role. But I don't think, either, that it is unwomanly to be intelligent, to be courageous, to be energetic, to be anxious to contribute to human knowledge."

In the 1961 rejection of women, NASA banished from space 13 applicants, including Jerrie Cobb, then 31, who has flown 63 types of aircraft, in-

cluding jets. She had test-piloted conventional airplanes, but couldn't get accepted as a jet test pilot. At the time, she had logged more than 10,000 hours of flying time, contrasted with 5100 for astronaut John Glenn and 2900 for astronaut Scott Carpenter.

Since the educational requirements had been waived so Glenn (who holds no college degree) could become an astronaut, Miss Cobb requested a similar waiver of the test-pilot requirement. To demonstrate she could hold her own in space, she breezed through three phases of astronaut testing, including a test in which she swallowed three feet of rubber hose.

The astronauts had spent three hours in an isolated, air-filled room to measure their ability to remain alert, without hallucinating, in a weightless state. Miss Cobb took a far more rigorous test, submerging in body-temperature water in a shockproof, soundproof tank which deprived her of sight, sound, hearing, smell, taste, and feeling. She still hadn't reached her tolerance limit when she was pulled out after 9 hours and 40 minutes. At this point, NASA abruptly halted her tests with a terse explanation that it had "no requirement" for a female astronaut.

The decision was supported by male astronauts who, at least in public statements, insisted they didn't want a woman along on space trips.

"Why?" demanded Rep. James Fulton (R.-Pa.) of astronaut Glenn, "wouldn't a woman be good company on a trip to the moon?"

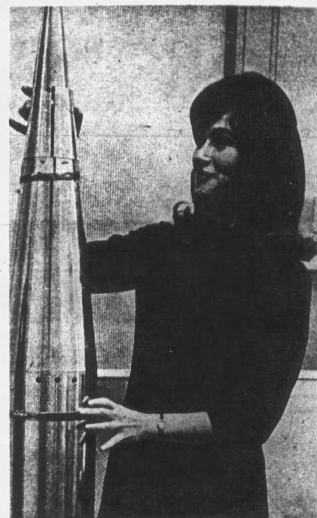
The astronaut replied, "I'm not looking for company, Mr. Congressman, I'm looking for the best qualified person to do the job at hand."

In the most recent rejection the 17 applicants were up against "outstanding" scientists, explained Dr. Eugene Shoemaker, chairman of the science academy's selection panel which reviewed the scientific qualifications of the scientist-astronaut candidates for NASA.

The selection panel—all men, by the way—examined more than 900 applications. Solely on the basis of scientific education, training and experience, 69 applicants — again, all men — were determined to be exceptionally qualified. NASA then narrowed the number to the 11 who were finally chosen.

Dr. Harry Hess, a Princeton geologist who served on the selection committee, told **PARADE** that the 69 finalists ranked in the upper 5 percent of all American scientists. "Proven research ability" was stressed, added Dr. Shoemaker. If so, the selections must have been based more on promise than accomplishment. Of the 11 scientist-astronauts, four were in their 20's and four got their doctorates only this year.

Exactly what qualifications a woman



Abigail Beutler, physicist at Michigan U., has four college degrees but can't orbit.

will need to get into a spacecraft is hard to envision. For the 17 rejected spacewomen certainly comprise a most impressive group of flunkouts.

There was, for example, Mrs. Elizabeth Cuadra, 35, of Manhattan Beach, Calif. The daughter of a Kansas tenant farmer, she used to watch enraptured as the hawks circled in the sky above their farm. "My trouble," she now says, "is having grown up on that farm. It wasn't

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Earthbound in lab, Linda Hunter was Florida State's first woman chemistry Ph.D.

a place that had sex roles so sharply drawn. I grew up thinking I could do anything that anyone else could, that there were no limits except my own intelligence."

She was the first girl ever to enter the University of Wichita aeronautic school, transferred later to the University of California, where she earned her B.S. degree in 1959. Then, two consecutive Amelia Earhart fellowships helped her



A spurned applicant, Janett R. Trubatch, publishes works on gravitational theory.

earn a master's degree in fluid mechanics and acoustics. Now she is a \$14,000-a-year research specialist for Wyle Laboratories in El Segundo, Calif.

She has been the author and co-author of 11 scientific papers, dealing with such matters as changing the orbit plane of space vehicles with small amounts of power; flew in the 1953 transcontinental Powder Puff Derby and, last year, scaled the 18,885-foot summit of Ori-

zaba in Mexico.

Gladys Philpott, has had an equally dramatic career. At Boston University, she picked up an undergraduate degree in biology in 1960, her master's degree the following year, and a Ph.D. in histology and cytology in 1963. Now 34 years old, she is doing research in two areas of concern to astronauts — the poisoning effects of high concentrations of oxygen, and the search for a bio-adhesive, formed of natural substances, that would not be damaging to human tissue over extended periods. This is needed to fix telemetry equipment to the skin of astronauts.

Another applicant, Dr. Charlie Haynes (she had her given name, "Marjorie," legally changed to a nickname her late husband conferred upon her), has been fighting all her life to do things men think she cannot. She had no male competition, of course, as a commercial fashion model. But she cajoled her way into a scuba diving course limited to U.S. Marines at Camp Lejeune, and she held her own against the husky men. She is now a veterinarian in Houston.

Abigail Beutler is a divorcee who is raising three children and has four degrees—but no doctorate. She wants to believe it is the lack of the Ph.D. and not prejudice that kept her out of a space capsule. She got her undergraduate degree in physics at Radcliffe in 1950 then

three master's degrees. She worked for three years as a research analyst on guided missiles, another two years with the University of Michigan radio astronomy observatory planning space probes of the planet Mars. She is now an associate research physicist in the space physics research laboratory at the University of Michigan.

The other female flunkouts also have excellent credentials. Janett Trubatch was the first woman graduate of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. Mrs. Lina L. Robinson Painter, 27, of Knoxville, Ky., is completing her doctorate in radiation physics this year with an Atomic Energy Commission fellowship. Dr. Linda Maria Hunter, 27, holds a post-doctorate position in the radiation laboratory at the University of Notre Dame. She was the first woman to get a Ph.D. in chemistry from Florida State.

The women who volunteered for space flights have a burning ambition to participate in the work and to share in the excitement. None are the least interested in marching on Washington or picketing NASA or lobbying with Congress.

Elizabeth Cuadra, the Kansas farm girl, expressed a regret that was repeated by most of the rejected applicants.

"There is a time in life for everything," she said wistfully. "My time for going into space is past."

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