

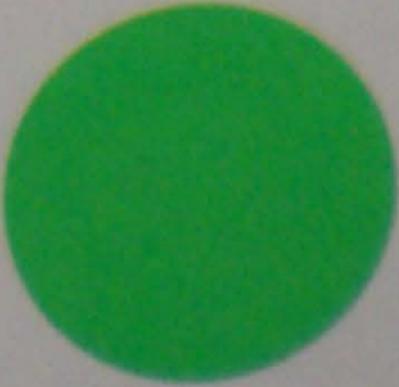
2006-1877-F

OPEN, Box 1 of 1

Clinton Presidential Records
WHORM—Subject File—General
GI002
258564 [OA/ID 17039]

TO

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange-Non-Record (Mar 97-Jan 01)
[Movie Contact]
[07/11/1997 – 11/07/1997]
[OA/ID 630000]



FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Records Management - SUBJECT FILE

Series/Staff Member:

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 17039

Scan ID: 258564

Document Number:

Folder Title:

GI002

Stack:

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Row:

84

Section:

6

Shelf:

4

Position:

3

258564
GT002

WE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES RUFF

CR

FROM: LORI ABRAMS *Lori*
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GIFT UNIT

SUBJECT: GIFT TO THE PRESIDENT FROM JOSEPH J. BEARD

The President received a letter from Joseph J. Beard, a professor of law at St. John's University. Mr. Beard specializes in laws regarding "virtual humans and ...digital actors." The letter refers to the use of the President's image in the film *Contact*. He included a copy of an article he wrote on this topic. It is my understanding that you are working on this matter, and I thought this information might be of interest to you.

We have not thanked Mr. Beard for this gift, yet we will be happy to do so, unless you would like to respond directly. Please let us know what you decide.

Thank you very much. I can be reached on x6-5499 if you have any questions.

free



FOUNDED 1870

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

July 30, 1997

SCHOOL OF LAW
(718) 990-6005

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

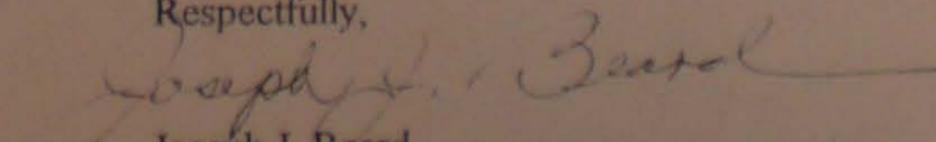
The unauthorized use of your image in "Contact" has prompted me to write you. Since 1992, I have specialized in the law regarding virtual humans and particularly digital actors. Included in that field is the digital manipulation of pre-existing images in new formats such as the Diet Coke ads featuring Cagney, Bogart and Cary Grant and now the use of your image in "Contact." Before your views on the use of your image in "Contact" were made known publicly, I was interviewed by the Los Angeles Daily News (copy enclosed). I said that a public figure has a right of publicity which cannot be disregarded by invoking the First Amendment.

The unauthorized use of your image in a fictional film may offend the dignity of your office but at least it is not dangerous. There lurks in the future, however, the possibility of misuse of a president's image for deadly purpose. As you may know, there is ongoing research in U.S. laboratories and overseas that promises totally digital replicas of individuals. On July 28th, a segment of CNN Show Biz was devoted to your "role" in "Contact." In that segment I pointed out the danger that misuse of the technology will permit. I believe that in the near future the technology will have progressed to the point that a totally digital replica of the President will be practical. The possibilities for misuse of such a digital image are limitless. For example, a spurious digital President blaspheming a religion over the Internet could cause immediate havoc before the phony "President" is unmasked. I say this not as an amateur hooked on video games, but as a 64 year old submarine officer/engineer turned law professor of copyright/trademark and entertainment law, who specializes in virtual human technology and its legal implications.

I enclose an article I wrote in 1993 on the legal issues involved in digitally resurrecting dead celebrities: "Casting Call at Forest Lawn . . ." While the article focused on the right of publicity and moral rights of deceased celebrities, it also applies to situations involving living celebrities illustrated, for example, by the unauthorized use of your image in "Contact."

In "Casting Call . . .", I suggested that the legal community examine the legal issues of virtual human technology while the problems are merely theoretical and not real as they will be in the not too distant future. Protecting our precious First Amendment rights is of extraordinary importance. The price, however, should not be the surrender of the right to ourselves.

Respectfully,



Joseph J. Beard
Professor of Law

Enclosures

◆ 8000 UTOPIA PARKWAY ◆ JAMAICA, NY 11439 ◆ (718) 990-6600 ◆ FAX: (718) 591-1855 ◆
CAMPUSES: QUEENS, NY ◆ STATEN ISLAND, NY ◆ ROME, ITALY

WALLY HERGER

20th DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2433 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3078

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 INDEPENDENCE CIRCLE, SUITE 104
CHICO, CA 95973
(530) 893-8363

410 HEMSTED DRIVE, SUITE 115
REDDING, CA 96002
(530) 223-5898



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET



March 13, 2000

President William J. Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I recently received the attached correspondence from a constituent of mine, Jane Miller, regarding President Clinton being paid to appear in the movie "Contact". I would appreciate your review and consideration of this issue and a thorough response at your earliest possible convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Wally Heger
WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress

WH:dm

Paper Copy Generated by
NLWJC Staff

CONSTITUENT INPUT

PRO _____

CON _____

NAME Jane Miller

ADDRESS PO Box 916

Paradise 95967

PHONE () _____

Saw Clinton in movie "Contact".

1. Does he get paid for that?

2. What does Wally think of that?

She thinks it's wrong if

he gets paid! We didn't vote

someone in to be a movie star!

DATE 3-6

STAFF X

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Records Management - SUBJECT FILE
Series/Staff Member:
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14010
Scan ID: 229809SS
Document Number:

Folder Title:
PR015-01

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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229809 SS

PRO15-01

Aug. 4, 97 - Interview with Gene Siskel

97 AUG 4 12:43

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1997

Copied
McCurry
COS
Hernreich

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM : MIKE McCURRY *MMC*
SUBJECT : INTERVIEW WITH GENE SISKEL

CBS would like to tape an interview with you and the movie reviewer Gene Siskel. Siskel, of "Siskel and Ebert" fame, is a contributor to *CBS Morning News*.

The interview would be on summer movies including your thoughts on "Air Force One" and "Contact". It would last about 10 to 15 minutes and air on *CBS Mornings News* and, possibly, *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather*. You would need to tape it this Thursday.

Rahm and I think this would be a good interview for you to do. It would get wide exposure and is a topic that is of interest to Americans during this heavy movie going season. Erskine and Doug are not in favor of the interview believing that it is not Presidential.

Would you like to do the interview with Siskel or would you like us to regret it?

On a related note, we are also trying to schedule an interview with you and *Bloomberg News Service* to discuss the budget. The interview would take place sometime before you leave for vacation. Everyone thinks this will be an excellent venue to amplify your historic budget agreement.

Thank you.

WJC
Need a list of the
last 10 movies I've seen
before I do -
WJC

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING