## **NASA Choses First Black Woman Astronaut**

Mae C. Jemison, 30, a Los Angeles doctor, is one of 15 people chosen by NASA to join the first class of astronaut trainees since the Challenger disaster. In addition to her degree in medicine, Jemison holds a degree in chemical engineering. She served as a staff doctor for the Peace Corps in Africa for two years.

"I like to do a lot of different things," she says. "I'm always willing to explore other areas."

She says she can't really remember what actually went

through her mind when she first heard that she'd been appointed one of the new astronauts. "I just remember I started smiling really broadly. I just remember thinking, "Oh, no, oh, boy!"

Jemison is not afraid to

soar off into space. I'm not afraid,'' she says. "If I didn't have confidence in the program, I wouldn't have applied in the first place. Lots of things in medicine are not 100 percent and are not going to work 100 percent of the time, either. I'm con-

fident that everything that can be done to make the next shuttle flight safe will be done."

"The area I'm going into is a new area and is extremely exciting to be in at the beginning. I don't think it's at all unusual for a physician or a

woman to want to be involved in this. After all, one does not only fly airplanes in the space program. There's a very practical aspect to 'hands-on medicine.' ''

Jemison will be a mission specialist, whose primary See ASTRONAUT, Page 13

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