

BUSINESS & FINANCE NEWS

CNN Probe Finds Gollust Provided Guidance to Cuomo

By Joe Flint
and Benjamin Mullin

CNN’s parent company determined that the network’s former marketing chief provided guidance to then-anchor Chris Cuomo as he tried to help then-New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo deal with allegations of sexual misconduct, in violation of CNN’s standards, according to people familiar with the matter.

Allison Gollust, who resigned last week as CNN’s marketing and communications chief, through a spokeswoman denied offering advice to Andrew Cuomo and said the notion that her communications with Chris Cuomo could be considered as such was “patently ridiculous.”

When Ms. Gollust resigned last week, CNN parent WarnerMedia Chief Executive Jason Kilar told employees that an investigation had determined Ms. Gollust, former CNN President Jeff Zucker and Chris Cuomo had violated company policies, including CNN’s news standards and practices; he didn’t offer details as to how WarnerMedia is a unit of AT&T Inc.

CNN anchors have pressed Mr. Kilar for more information related to the exits of Ms. Gollust and Mr. Zucker, who resigned earlier this month citing his failure to disclose a consensual romantic relationship with Ms. Gollust. Ms. Gollust has said she regretted not disclosing the relationship at the appropriate time.

People familiar with the matter say there were multiple factors that led to Ms. Gollust’s departure, including what they describe as her mischaracterizing the timing of the relationship with Mr. Zucker; not promptly handing over a device that contained some of her communications; and exchanging messages with Andrew and Chris Cuomo that the company deemed were in violation of the



CNN review found Allison Gollust offered then-anchor Chris Cuomo advice to help his brother.



MIKE GROLL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

company’s standards.

As part of a wide-ranging probe into Chris Cuomo’s assistance of his brother, investigators hired by CNN reviewed text messages between Ms. Gollust and Chris Cuomo, who was fired by the network in December. In one of them, Ms. Gollust—who prior to working at CNN was briefly a top aide to Andrew Cuomo—sent Chris Cuomo a sentence she said she would have added to a statement that Andrew Cuomo had issued earlier that day in February of last year, after an accuser went public, some of the people said.

In another message, she asked Chris Cuomo whether another accuser ever said publicly that the then-governor had never touched her—something Ms. Gollust said Chris Cuomo had told her in a previous conversation, those people said. Ms. Gollust went on to tell Chris Cuomo that if such a statement existed, CNN should report it, they said.

There was also a message in which Ms. Gollust conversed with Chris Cuomo about the lawyers assigned by the New York attorney general to investigate Andrew Cuomo, they said. Andrew Cuomo, who has denied touching anyone inappropriately, resigned as New

York governor in August after a state report found he had sexually harassed multiple women.

“Allison Gollust never offered advice or counsel to Andrew Cuomo. Period. If she wanted to advise the governor, she could have called or texted him directly (she didn’t),” Risa Heller, a spokeswoman for Ms. Gollust, said in a statement. “The farfetched notion she was laundering covert advice to the Governor through casual conversations with a colleague is patently ridiculous. These are innocuous, mundane conversations that are being spun into a nefarious tale.”

A spokesman for Chris Cuomo said that the former anchor wasn’t interested in “finger pointing between Ms. Gollust and WarnerMedia.”

“Chris’s lawyer has been requesting to see the results of WarnerMedia’s investigation for weeks, and the right thing to do is for WarnerMedia to honor that request and also make the results public,” the spokesman said.

As part of the probe, which was conducted by law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, both Mr. Zucker and Ms. Gollust were asked to turn over their phones to investigators, the people said.

Mr. Zucker complied with

the request, while Ms. Gollust provided a phone that didn’t have all of the communications investigators were seeking, according to people familiar with the matter.

Investigators later asked Ms. Gollust for her BlackBerry, and she provided her newest BlackBerry device, they said. Investigators later determined that they were still missing communications from Ms. Gollust, the people said.

The investigators raised the issue to Ms. Gollust, and she handed in a third device, her older BlackBerry, they said.

A person close to Ms. Gollust said she gave investigators the phones she was asked for each time she was asked for them.

Ms. Heller said WarnerMedia investigators have been fully aware of Ms. Gollust’s communications since the middle of January, before the company finished its investigation.

Other text messages reviewed during the investigation showed Andrew Cuomo had mentioned to Ms. Gollust certain questions he wanted to be asked by CNN during an interview that aired on March 28, 2020, regarding the coronavirus pandemic, some of the people said. A spokesman for Andrew Cuomo didn’t respond to calls seeking comment.

Container Ships Have Edge in Talks Over Freight Rates

By Costas Paris

Container ship operators and big importers such as IKEA and Walmart Inc. will soon negotiate freight rates that could affect the prices consumers pay for everything from jeans to cars.

Yearlong freight contracts, which contribute up to three-quarters of annual revenue for ship operators, will largely be settled at the TPM conference in Long Beach, Calif., this coming week. The average price to move a 40-foot box from China to the U.S. West Coast is likely to be between \$7,000 and \$8,000, a record high for annual freight pacts and higher than last year’s average of around \$5,500, according to executives of carriers and importers involved in the talks.

After two years of supply-chain disruptions and transportation delays through the Covid-19 pandemic, importers are putting a premium on reliability and predictability of services, with some seeking longer-term freight contracts, analysts say. More than a quarter of all shipping containers entering the U.S. are cargo for large importers such as Walmart and Amazon.com Inc., among others, according to ship operators and freight forwarders.

“We are now increasingly seeing importers sign up to yearly contracts early as well as to contracts of a longer duration,” said Lars Jensen, chief executive officer of Denmark-based advisory firm Vespucci Maritime. “It is about managing risk in an environment where the uncertainty about the stability of the supply chain in 2022 continues to be very high.”

Representatives from several carriers and cargo owners declined to comment on the freight talks. A range of companies in recent months have said

higher transportation costs or efforts to get around supply-chain issues have eaten into their profit margins, with some projecting expenses to remain at elevated levels this year.

“We’ve never had such market dynamics, with the liners holding all the cards,” said Patrik Berglund, CEO of Norway-based transportation data and procurement specialist Xeneta. “The top five operators control three-quarters of all container capacity. That’s a lot of pricing power to very few players.”

Earnings for container shippers took off during the pandemic, as demand for manufactured goods like appliances, cars and home-improvement materials soared, with not enough ships to move them. At the same time, labor shortages from Covid-19 outbreaks at ports across the world and not enough truck, rail and warehousing capacity extended delivery times.

To replenish falling inventories, a number of importers booked sailings with spot rates that were separate from their annual freight contracts. Some importers paid daily rates of more than \$20,000 per box in sailings across the Pacific Ocean last year, with vessels waiting for weeks to unload cargo at choked ports that had no space to bring in more containers. Large importers also went as far as chartering their own ships to get around port delays.

Spot prices to send a container from Shanghai to Los Angeles have eased but continue to hover around \$16,000, according to the Freightos Baltic Index, compared with about \$4,700 a year earlier.



Scan this code with your mobile device for a video on supply-chain issues.

Starbucks Workers Vote to Form Union at Arizona Cafe

By Heather Haddon

Starbucks Corp. baristas voted to unionize at a third company cafe, as the chain has intensified efforts to win over employees who have held pro-union rallies.

The 25-3 vote tally in favor of forming a union at a cafe in Mesa, Ariz., took place Friday afternoon, after the main U.S. labor relations body struck down the coffee company’s request to reconsider whether it was appropriate for individual stores to vote to organize.

The Starbucks Workers United union is set to represent baristas at three Starbucks stores, following a successful organization campaign at two chain locations in the Buffalo, N.Y., area late last year. That vote formed the first union at Starbucks’s U.S. corporate stores.

Starbucks said Friday the company will bargain with unionized workers in good faith, and that the company hopes the union will do the same.

Mesa Starbucks workers said pro-union baristas in Buffalo helped them quickly organize the Arizona store, as Starbucks Workers United is doing in other locations through social media and videoconferencing tools.

The number of stores considering unionization represents a small number of Starbucks’s nearly 9,000 U.S.

corporate locations employing around 230,000 baristas, and analysts don’t anticipate the union formation at the Buffalo cafes to have much immediate impact on Starbucks’s business. About 3,500 of the chain’s licensed U.S. stores are unionized, typically at hotels, grocery stores and travel plazas.

The National Labor Relations Board said it would certify the Mesa election results by March 4, barring any objections filed to the count.

Starbucks this past week launched a new website targeting workers considering whether to join the Starbucks Workers United, an affiliate of the Service Employees International Union.

“We don’t believe having a union will meaningfully change or solve the problems you’ve identified in your stores,” the Starbucks site said. “We know we aren’t perfect, but we believe our challenges are best addressed by working together.”

Starbucks Workers United, which is organizing baristas across the country, in recent weeks has held rallies in Boston, Memphis, Tenn., and other cities in response to the firing of seven workers at a Memphis cafe that is seeking to unionize.

More than 100 locations across 26 states have petitioned for union elections since the first three Buffalo-area

stores filed for union votes last year, including two of the chain’s flagship roastery stores and coffee production employees working in one of those sites, according to National Labor Relations Board records.

Labor contract negotiations between the company and Starbucks Workers United began in Buffalo roughly a month ago, with both sides describing the talks as preliminary so far.

Richard Minter, organizing director for the Workers United union that is backing Starbucks Workers United, said the union drive is gaining momentum and public attention as the chain pushes back at it.

“Starbucks has misread this moment,” Mr. Minter said.

A Starbucks spokesman said they would continue to listen to employees and educate workers about unions.

—Allison Prang
— contributed to this article.

BIDDING NOTICE
SEINFRA INTERNATIONAL
BIDDING NO. 001/2022

Type: selection criterion Lowest value of the Maximum Availability Payment to be paid by the State Public Administration, pursuant to article 12, item II, subparagraph a), of Federal Law No. 11.079/04. Purpose: Contracting a public-private partnership (PPP), in the SPONSORED CONCESSION modality, for the preparation of projects, construction, operation and maintenance of the BELO HORIZONTE METROPOLITAN RODOANEL. The bidding documents (bidding notice, contract and annexes) are available for consultation on the SEINFRA website (<http://www.infraestrutura.mg.gov.br>). Additional request information must be sent to the email rodoanelmetropolitano@infraestrutura.mg.gov.br. The public session for delivery of envelopes will take place on April 25, 2022, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the B3 headquarters (Rua XV de Novembro, 275, Centro), in São Paulo. Date of Public Session: April 28, 2022, at 2:00 pm, at B3's headquarters. Fernando S. Marcato - Secretary of State for Infrastructure and Mobility.

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EFICIENTE.

An American from Paris

Pierre Claude Bass

Born in Lyon, France on August 28, 1945, Pierre Bass was destined to leave the land of his birth. Pierre left school in Paris at age 13 to learn photography and excel at it. He traveled with prominent European journalists throughout Europe as a photographer for magazines. Six years later, at age 19, he flew to the land of his dreams. The sight of the Statue of Liberty and the soaring optimism that Pierre felt upon arrival was exhilarating—a feeling which he never forgot. For Pierre, TWA’s touchdown in New York in June, 1964 and U.S. citizenship were dates he would celebrate every year of his life.



Pierre was soon hired by Motown Records to photograph album covers of its musical artists—a job he loved; photographing the Motown stars he admired. And they loved him back.

“The work of Pierre Bass graced the sleeves of some of Motown’s most important 1968 albums, including the Marvelettes’ Sophisticated Soul, Marvin Gaye’s In the Groove and Diana Ross & the Supremes Sing and Perform ‘Funny Girl.’” White, Adam. “Shooting for the Stars, Smiling for the Camera – The Work of Motown Photographers (At the Right Price)” adamwhite.com, 6 Nov. 2020.

Pierre then launched his own photographic studio in Detroit. His accounts included the Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Company.

But a brilliant analytical mind is a miraculous gift, and the University of Chicago knew this. The College encouraged Pierre to apply. He did and was awarded a B.A. Degree (Economics). Chicago Booth School of Business followed with an MBA in Finance. During all 6 years, Pierre carried a full course load while working.



Recruitment at UChicago offered Pierre a high finance position in banking (“Chase”) which was later followed by a position with the Norton Simon Companies (“NSI”). Pierre’s initial duties at NSI involved his analysis of the consumer goods companies owned by the conglomerate, which was followed by NSI assignments to secure distributorships throughout Europe. Pierre was indefatigable; applying rigorous discipline and energy to all positions offered him. NSI then tapped Pierre to be C.E.O. of Max Factor Australia and Orlane Australia. Executives referred to him as “NSI’s ace called Pierre” with a warning to “..... watch out when he takes out his calculator.” Following the acquisition of both companies, Pierre declined to continue in his position; opting, instead, to return to the U.S. Pierre’s work at NSI was followed by adept turnaround of other U.S. companies and, later, his single-handed development and launch of an innovative skincare line which enjoyed coveted display space by a leading retailer. The line was received enthusiastically by consumers but not by the competition. When the retailer sought to return products due to admitted pressure from a Fortune 500 competitor to do so, a lawsuit was filed resulting in settlement. The experience was characteristic of Pierre’s strong belief in “right vs. wrong” and the resolve to right that “wrong”.

Having been exposed to American jazz as a child in Paris, Pierre treasured his recordings of his beloved “Duke”, “Monk”, Ben Webster and other giants as well as legends of American musical theatre Jerome Kern, Gershwin, Bernstein and Richard Rogers. All the while, Pierre remained amazed at the richness of his country. He was as fascinated by U.S. history and Native American artwork as appreciative of Van Gogh and other European masters.

Pierre derived great joy in photographing the herons, egrets and sunset over his beloved “Paradise” in South Carolina - a sanctuary which he personally cultivated with as many trees as the landscape would allow. That same joy was also met with cross-country drives traversing every state; in particular, the majestic canyons and deserts of the American West.

Throughout it all, knowing how blessed he was, Pierre was there for those less fortunate than him. Whether trying to help a heroin-addicted saxophone musician in Chicago drop addiction or supporting the education of Native American children, Pierre remained sensitive to the needs of others. Pierre respected all sentient beings, including stray animals, cherished pets and all wildlife except mosquitoes. Corporate titles and flights on the Concord had never been important. What captivated Pierre was the joy of work in the country he loved.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

1 Corinthians 13:4

Pierre passed away on January 23, 2022 with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife, Daphne, his sons James (Michelle) and Andre, his brother Michel and granddaughters Taylor and Natalie.



Starbucks said it will bargain with unionized workers in good faith.