

Nolan's Technophobia: The Romanticization of Space Travel in *Interstellar*

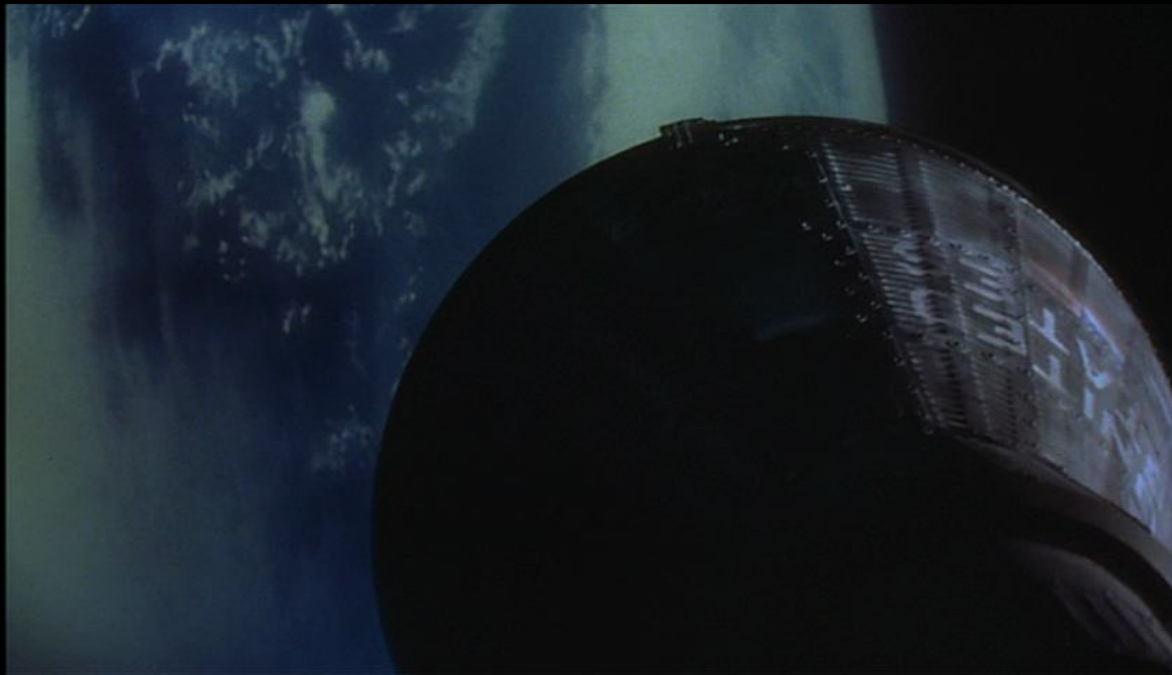
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THE RIGHT STUFF

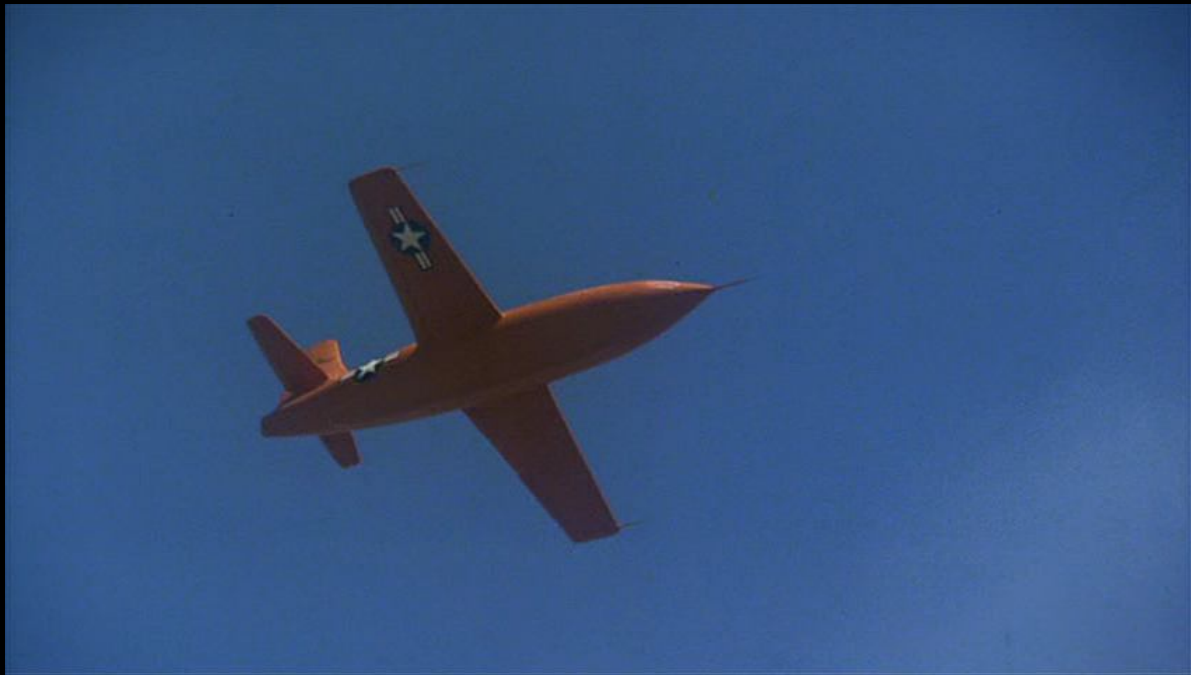


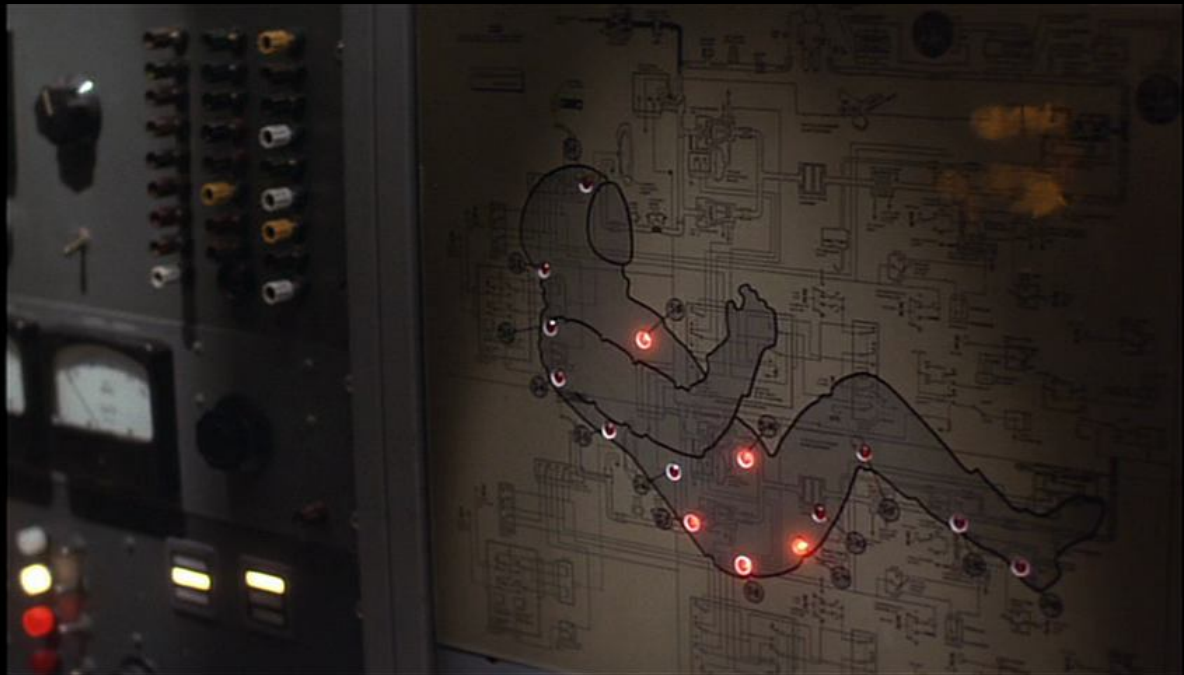












The Psychology of Astronauts

by NORMAN MAILER

Part II of *A Fire on the Moon*, Norman Mailer's book about the U.S. venture that sent men to the moon



It was Aguirre, we may remember, who was free to declare the voyage of Apollo 11 was either the noblest expression of the century or high mark of the fundamental insanity of the time. But who is to be the judge of the ship of James? It was Kierkegaard who declared that man could never know his most fundamental nature—a saint could as easily be convinced he was a monster or a saint of the deep—the devil we know by way of Milton is the architect of the angels. The point, propounded instead to Aguirre's ecclesiastical dimension, is that he does not know how diabolical or generous his nature may be. There were years—precisely those years when his ego was hard as a diamond—when no one could have told him, seriously not the editors of *Life*, that he was not working for the Lord. Now, in fact, he was writing for *Life*, for deadlines, for assignment, for fair fortune—he did not know if his own meat was ripe for the best or gone over and corrupt. So he could not comprehend the journey to the lunar sphere with the confidence his judgments were in tune, for even as a novelist may create every character but one—a novelist possessed of greater inspiration than his own—so a man who is not entirely without bravery may judge every coward but comes to a pause before men of mere fortitude than himself. That was the devil of the assignment—to judge the astronauts. That, I suppose the confidence of Aguirre; he was, after all, not in the least convinced that there must be a contemporary writer better equipped to take on the trickiest questions of the age. The moon would then be meat for his corrupt trust.

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Secretly, the job attracts him. Aguirre has worked his way through technical manuals this summer, he has dreamed a little of how much he would like to write about race on their way to the moon. It is the crown of his lifetime, and yet it has been a dull event. The language which wreaking of this extraordinary task is flat as an anemone harp. The contrary has nothing any more.

BY THE AUTHOR OF *THE WHITE HOUSE*

Before they left for the moon, Apollo 11 Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins talked to the press from inside a plastic box meant to protect them from infection.

APOLLO 11 LUNAR SURFACE OPERATIONS PLAN

PREPARED BY

LUNAR SURFACE OPERATIONS OFFICE
MISSION OPERATIONS BRANCH
FLIGHT CREW SUPPORT DIVISION

2.0 MISSION PLAN

2.1 Mission Purpose

The primary purpose of the Apollo 11 mission is to perform a manned lunar landing and return. Subordinate objectives are to perform limited selenological inspection, photography, survey, evaluation, and sampling during the lunar stay. Data will be obtained to assess the capability and limitations of the astronaut and his equipment in the lunar environment.

APOLLO ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGS	(Aggs)	Abort Guidance System (LM)
AK		Apogee kick
APS	(Apps)	Ascent Propulsion System (LM) Auxiliary Propulsion System (S-IVB stage)
BMAG	(Bee-mag)	Body mounted attitude gyro
CDH		Constant delta height
CMC		Command Module Computer
COI		Contingency orbit insertion
CRS		Concentric rendezvous sequence
CSI		Concentric sequence initiate
DAP	(Dapp)	Digital autopilot
DEDA	(Dee-da)	Data Entry and Display Assembly (LM AGS)
DFI		Development flight instrumentation

