

Bill.

Ref my suggestion that
I take your place on Shuttle
if you can't make it. If
the attached article is anything
to go by, I am more qualified
than you anyway.

Chff

Outer Space

By ALLAN PARACHINI, *Times Staff*

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif.—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is finding, little by little, that tomorrow's space explorers may benefit—with apologies to Tom Wolfe—from having a little bit of the wrong stuff.

That's the chief conclusion drawn so far from tests on volunteer subjects at NASA's Ames Research Center during the last 10 years. The verdict: Ordinary people—"middle-aged sedentary slob," as one research scientist calls them—may be far better equipped to withstand the physical rigors of prolonged weightlessness and re-entry into Earth's atmosphere after a mission than the highly conditioned astronauts of today.

Useful Safeguards

In fact, the researchers say, youth and the excellent physical condition of an athlete are not necessarily advantages in withstanding the rigors of weightlessness and the extreme gravitational forces experienced during re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere. A slightly heightened blood pressure and some mild symptoms of hardening of the arteries, it turns out, are useful safeguards in space flight—undesirable as they may be elsewhere.