'Apollo 13' mission a success

TICKET

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project was

doomed from the

get-go. Scheduled to welk on

the moon on the

13th dow of the

13th day of

April, 1970, the

crew of the 13th

Apollo space

MONAGHAN

mission experienced a ship

malfunction that almost stranded
then between the sarth and the

between the earth and the

incon.

'Many predicted a similar fate for director Ron Howard. His recent "Far And Away" was an epic disappointment while the last high profile movie about the space program, Philip Kaufman" "The Right Stuff," wowde critics but kept audiences away in decrease.

rane stight Stull, "wowed critics but kept audiences away in droves.

Kaufman approached his subject like Ken Burns did baseball and the Civil War in his aweeping 304-hour dramatization. Howard, recognizing the drams of this single mission, has east some of Hollywood's most likable performers in an amazingly suspenseful and entertaining film.

Tom Hanks infuses astronaut James Lovell with a passion for walking on the moon. Even though the American public has lost some of the interest peaked by Armstrong's historic "faint leap for mankind," Lovell and histwo-man crew approach the follow-up mission as the realization of the American dram.

Fellow astronauts Fred Haise (Bill Patton) and Jack Swigert (Kevin Bacon) have nover been in space. Lovell has private doubt about Swigert, a last-minute replacement for crack pilot Ken Mattingly (Gary Sinise), grounded by Mission Courtel because he may or may not have the measies.

The script, based on Lovell's sutoblographical "Lost Moon," opens the possibility that Swig-





ert's careless flick of a switch be-fore taking proper instrument readings led the oxygen tanks to blow, resulting in an explosion that blew off a side of their ship. Forced to leave the main ship, they have to pilot the lunar mod-ule home while preserving precious fuel and oxygen.

ous fuel and oxygen.
Howard captures perfectly the claustrophobis of the astronauts and their vital link to Mission Control, which scrambles to come up with a solution to get them home. After "Crimson Tide," which showed how maybem must result before anything can get done in the modern military, the

effects crew shows the liftoff from NASA team can accomplish nothing without teamwork. At one point, the astronauts are being smothered by their own carbon dioxide levels. They must plece together, with the help of Mission Control and only minutes to spare, a filter system with plastic bags, duct tape, and even a sock.

plastic case, acces to pe, into over a case, and of uning countless stock footney, the "Apollo 13" special country, the "Apollo 13" special policy and the country page. Howard displays his own ingeneity while liming in "space" comedimentom outside with faces visible in the windows or as astronauts float from one part of the ship to another.

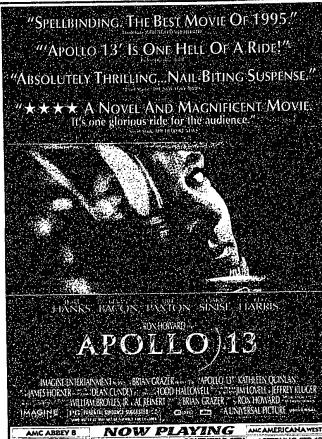
from one part of the ship to an-other.

Hanks, often called the '90s an-swer to Jimmy Stewart, could play this part (nice guy in an im-possible situation) in his sleep. Others (especially Sinise and Bacon) log some of their finest and subtlest performances on screen.

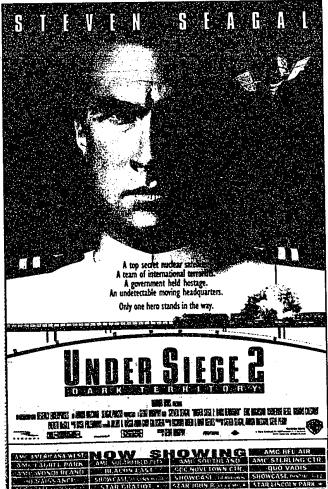
and sublest performances on screen.

Familiar faces pop up throughout the film, including Bd Harris (he played John Glenn in "The Right Stuff") as the bead of Hission Control and Howard family members mom and brother Clint. You'll even spot Roger Comman, who gave Andy Griffillia boy Grown of the chance to direct his first movie in the 1970s. "For Howard "Apollo 13" goes beyond mere entertainment. With savry he has rekindled the prewhits enthusiasm of the savry he has rekindled the promise of the savry has the savry has the savry he has the savry has been savry has the s

To leave a message for John Monaghan, dial 935-2047, mail-box number 1865, on a touch-tone phone, fax him a note at 591-7279, or write him in care of Entertainment, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 30251 Schooleraft, Livonia 43150.



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