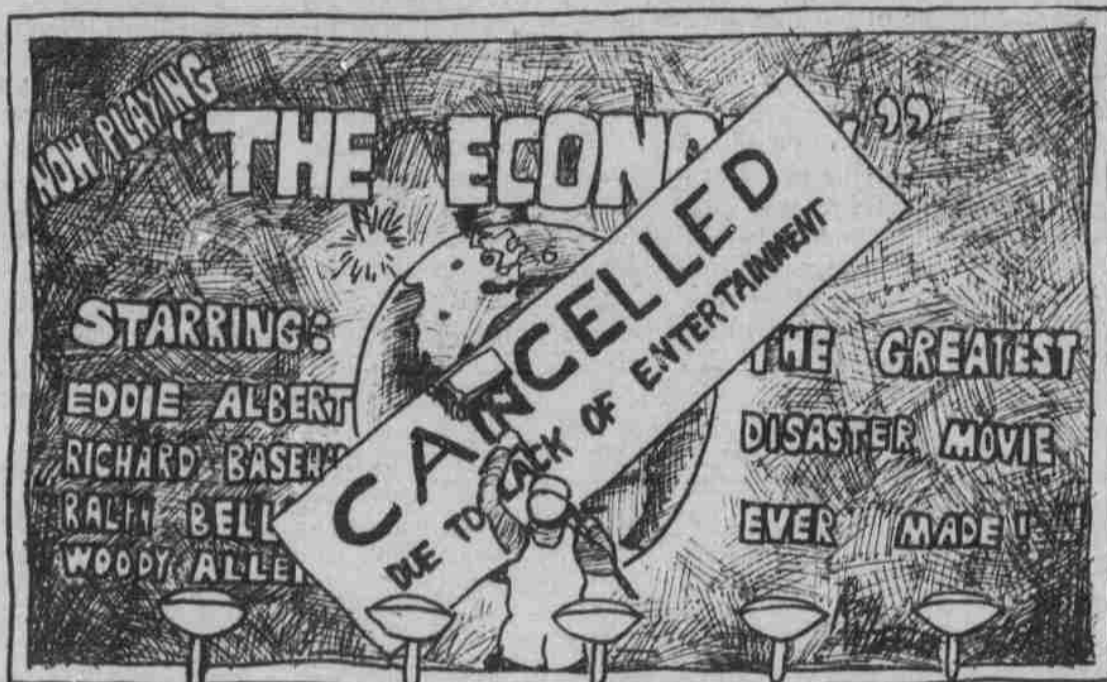


## 'The Economy,' another 'disaster film' this year



arthur  
hoppe

It's a great year for disaster movies. *The Poseidon Adventure*, *Airport 75*, *Earthquake* and *The Towering Inferno* have grossed millions. There's certainly nothing to take your mind off your troubles like a good disaster.

And now Catastrophe Productions ("If It's Not a Great Movie, It's Not a Catastrophe") has produced the greatest disaster movie of them all. It's called "The Economy!"

\*\*\*

innocent  
bystander

*The Economy* is a flying ocean liner 100 stories tall. It carries millions of passengers. They all have faith in their new captain, a decent, lovable well-intentioned man played by Eddie Albert.

He has just taken over *The Economy* from the villain, played by Richard Basehart. The unscrupulous Richard Basehart cuts corners, engaged in shoddy deals and bugged up the whole place with dangerous wiring that proved self-destructive.

Captain Eddie Albert has hired as his vice captain handsome,

dynamic Ralph Bellamy. Ralph Bellamy secretly thinks he knows how to run *The Economy* better than Eddie Albert does. He wants to be captain. But for the time being, he is acting very obsequious. That sets up a conflict there.

The excitement starts when *The Economy* goes out of control. The problem is that the Captain Albert, after carefully scanning his vast band of indicators, can't determine whether it is going up or down. He calls in his Council of Advisors, played with marvelous humorous relief by *The Three Stooges*.

"Gentlemen," he says grimly, "I want a yes or no answer. Is *The Economy* going up or down?"

"Yes," they say.

At this point, the captain's press secretary (Jack Lemmon) reassures the panicking passengers. "Don't worry, folks," he says, "our captain knows what he's doing." And this is true because the captain, who has frozen at the controls, is doing nothing.

At last he acts. "I know in my bones *The Economy* is going up," he says. He firmly pushes the down lever. *The Economy* goes into a nosedive.

In a dramatic scene, a tattered stockbroker (John Carradine) cries, "We have just plunged through the psychological barrier of 600!" And he jumps out the window.

As if this weren't enough, a sneaky band of Arabs is trying to sabotage *The Economy* by cutting off its fuel lines.

Captain Albert calls his top negotiator, played by Woody Allen. Woody Allen is making love to Jill St. John or Raquel Welch or both. But duty first. He threatens to kill all the Arabs if they don't stop making trouble. They just laugh. Fiendishly.

Disaster looms! *The Economy* is now clearly out of control, plummeting downward faster and faster. The passengers are shrieking. Captain Albert is feverishly twisting dials and priming pumps. All to no avail.

"Death before dishonor," he says. And he falls on his WIN button.

In a gigantic spectacle never before equalled on any screen, *The Economy* crashes — wiping out every single person aboard!

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Despite the millions poured into *The Economy*, it has attracted hardly a single fan.

"I can't understand it," says Herbert Thumstucker, head of Catastrophe Productions. "You'd think a really great disaster like this would be just the thing to take the people's minds off their troubles."

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