
A six year old boy sometimes entertains himself reading the World Book Encyclopedia...
"No doubt some people realized when they were children that there can’t be infinite growth in a finite space."

The 1955 *World Book Encyclopedia*’s article on population growth said...

"...But the problem of overpopulation is one for which no practical solution has yet been found" *The World Book*, p. 6499 (1955).
And fifty-five years later? “The Earth is now running at 140% of capacity...”
"The Environmental Crisis at the Global Level"

"[In the 20th century] economic growth was fueled by...
the abundance of natural resources."

"We mined our way to growth. We burned our way to prosperity."

"In the 21st century...
the global thermostat is running high."
“The Crisis at the State Level.”

“We have already lost much... in just a few generations.”
"The Crisis at the Local Level."

"Growth is the...motivation...for politically mobilized local elites."

"The growth machine is powered by fortunes resulting from speculation and real estate development."
“We have been borrowing from the future.”

“We cannot continue to ‘grow the economy’: the earth is finite.”
The burgeoning number of women in law school gave hope for change.

“Men go [to law school] for money-making and prestige.”

“Women go to law school [to pursue] social justice.”
“Ecofeminism hoped to change the unjustified domination of women...and nature.”

“But ecofeminism gained critics who made sweeping (repeatedly disproven) generalizations that ecofeminists are anti-intellectual goddess-worshipers...and vegans.”
"[w]omen feel alienated and oppressed during their law school years."

"There has been a decline in the percent of women law students, and women lawyers."

"Women lawyers have found it very difficult to work full time and still have children."

"Thus are dashed the hopes of those who imagined the 'feminization' of law school would auger for improvement in the patriarchal, hierarchical, competitive and domineering attitudes that contribute to the eco crisis." But another hope remained.
Moreover, "there was bitter disagreement..."

between branches of ecofeminism.

Social ecofeminists believed politics must change first, and then salutary social changes would follow.

The culturalists believed "political and cultural transformation will not occur without a shift in human consciousness."
Moreover, “many ecocritics... reacted strongly against ecofeminism simply because it is mainly done by women... Raw sexism... is the first thing behind the backlash against ecofeminism.”
With the culturalists thinking...  
...and the Socialists  
..."it appears that  
Marginalizing the Culturalists  
as 'irrational'  
and regressive"...  
Ecofeminism collapsed  
in a hail  
of both infighting and  
misogynic ridicule."

"Why, in the face of its obvious unsustainability, do we persist in levels of consumption beyond what is necessary or even healthy?..."
...Of course growth will stop. Then will be a period of transition.”
What will the new society require?

“There will be more woman lawyers... ‘The present crisis requires a reorientation of all the professions, especially the legal profession.”
"Society will require a significant dose of ecofeminism...

We need to tread more carefully, with each other and with the earth."
“It is getting very late now, quite possibly too late to avoid a "Great Disruption."

The present system is not sustainable, and there will be a tough patch ahead.

And then, unless the disruption is truly violent and nihilistic, society will be refashioned. When it is, the foundations laid down in the last 40 years—the attitudes of women lawyers and ecofeminism—will be built upon, and the potential for a new, more sustainable future will be laid out.”