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Graphic Novel– Forty Years On: Women Lawyers? Still on That? And Ecofeminism . . . Again?

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Seattle, Washington, 1955.



A six year old boy sometimes entertains himself
reading the World Book Encyclopedia...



"No doubt some people

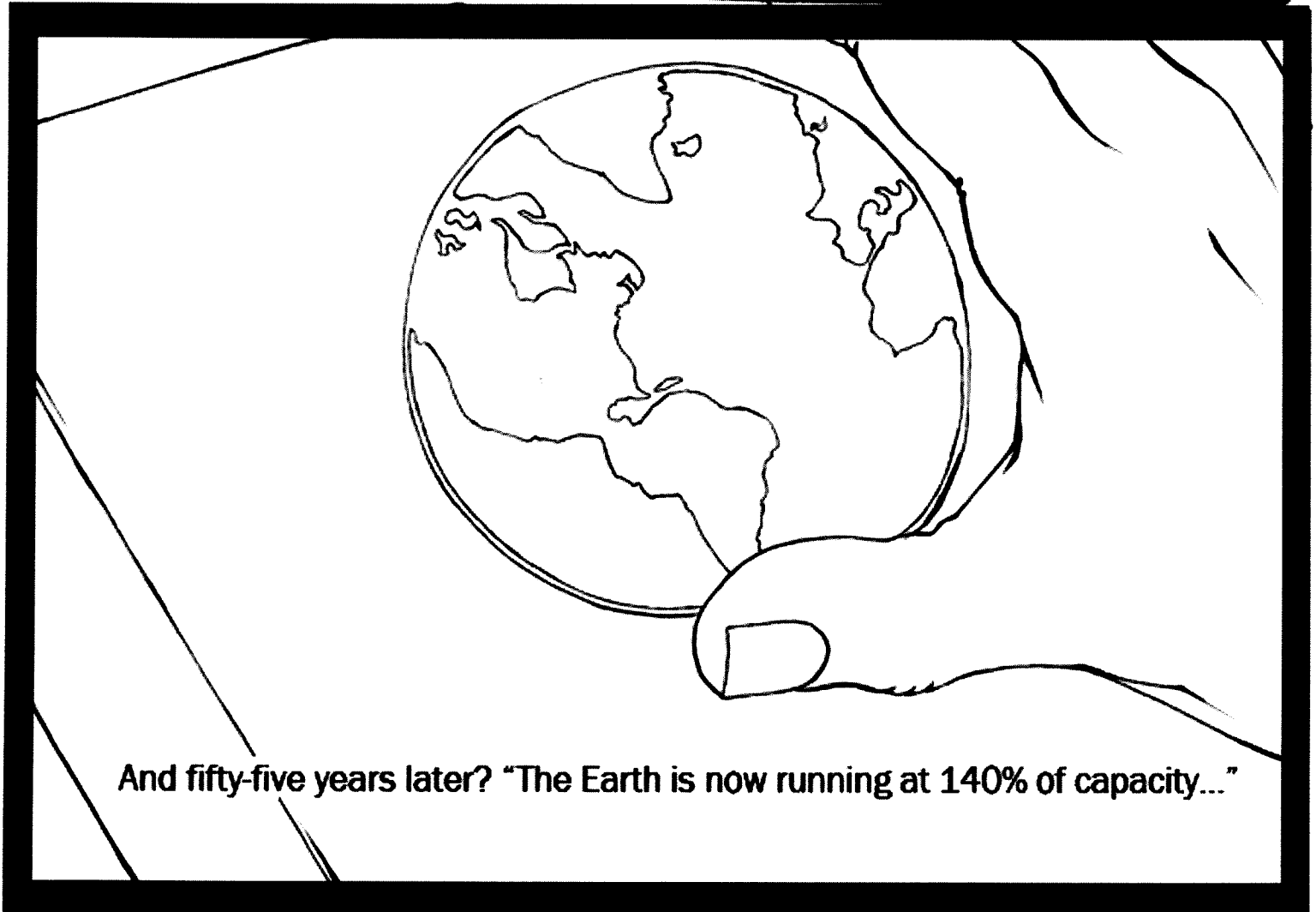
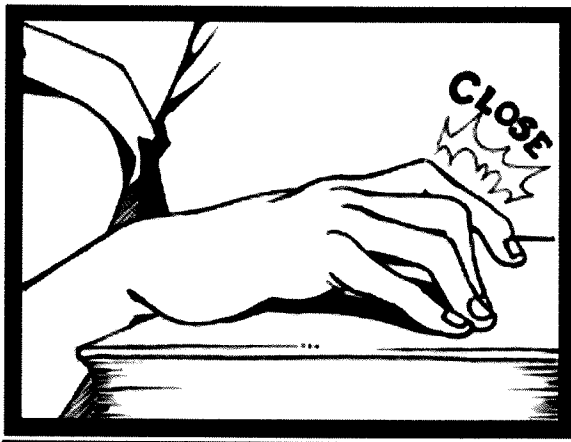
realized when they were children
that there can't be infinite growth
in a finite space."

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



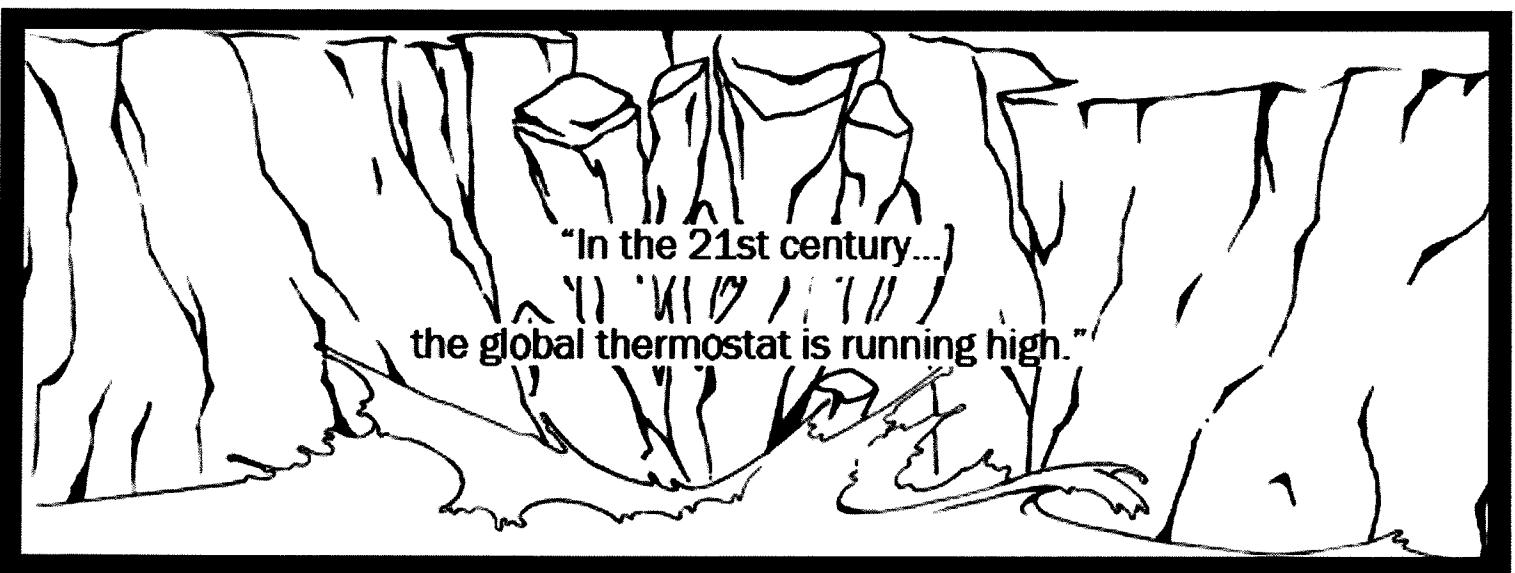
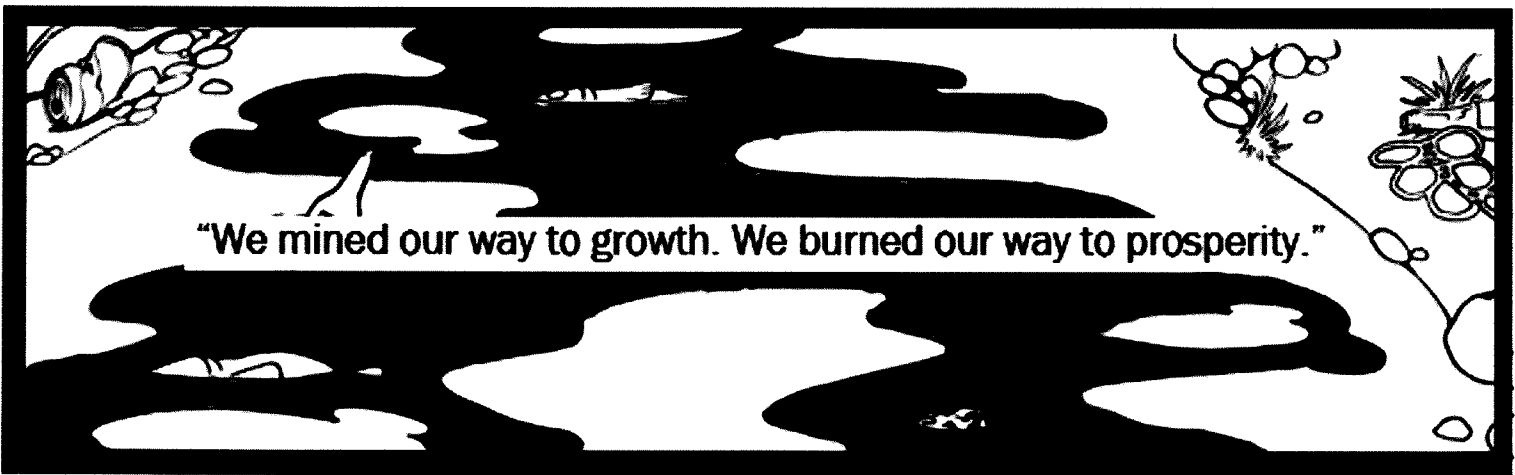
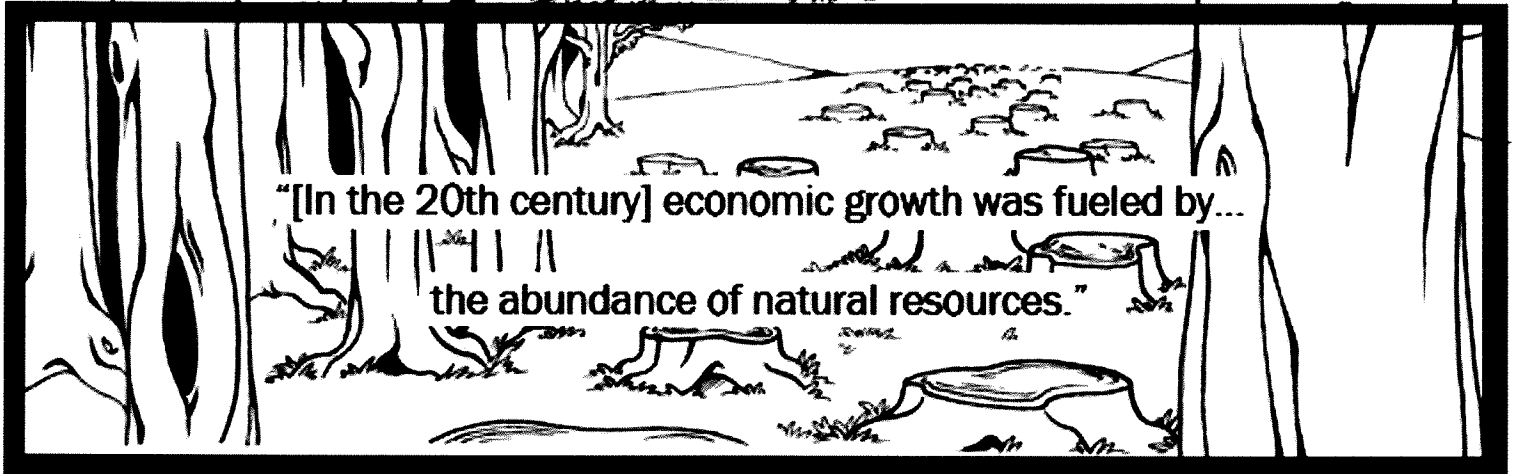
"...But the problem of overpopulation is one for which no practical solution has
yet been found" *The World Book*, p. 6499 (1955).





And fifty-five years later? "The Earth is now running at 140% of capacity..."

"The Environmental Crisis at the Global Level"



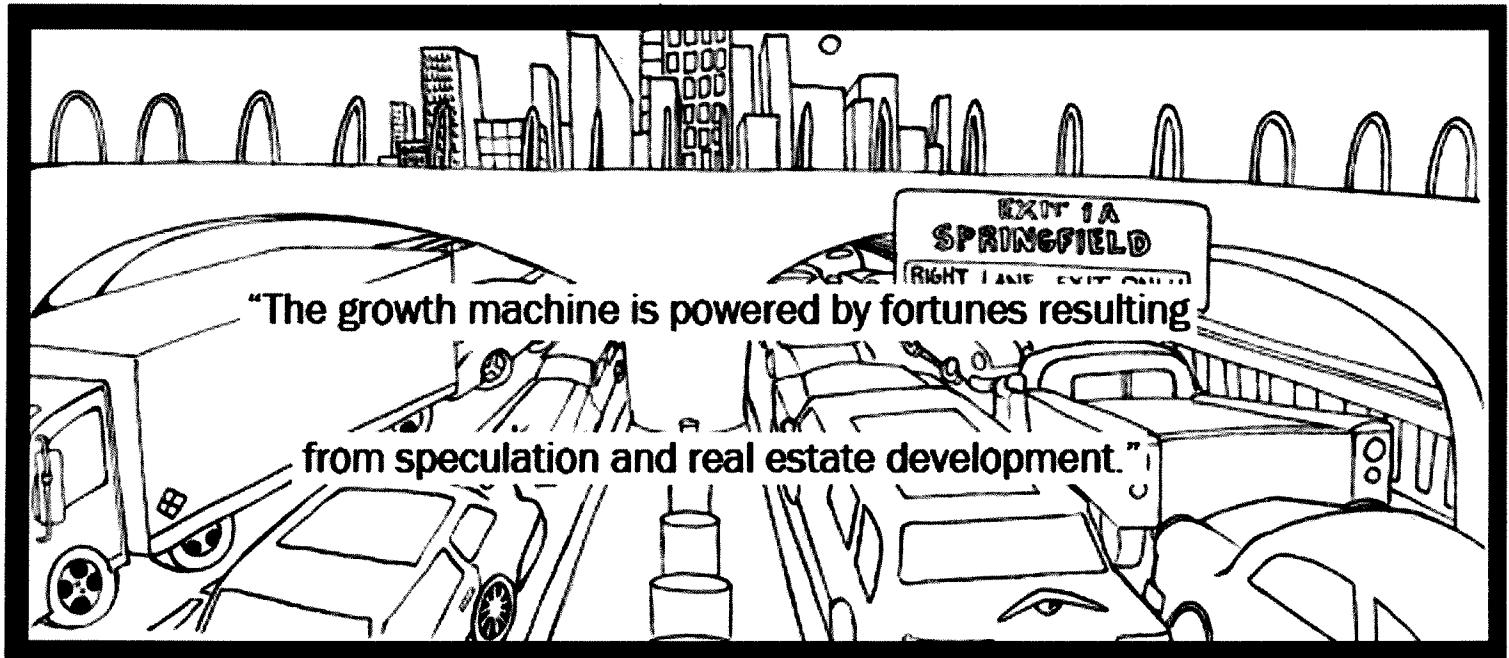
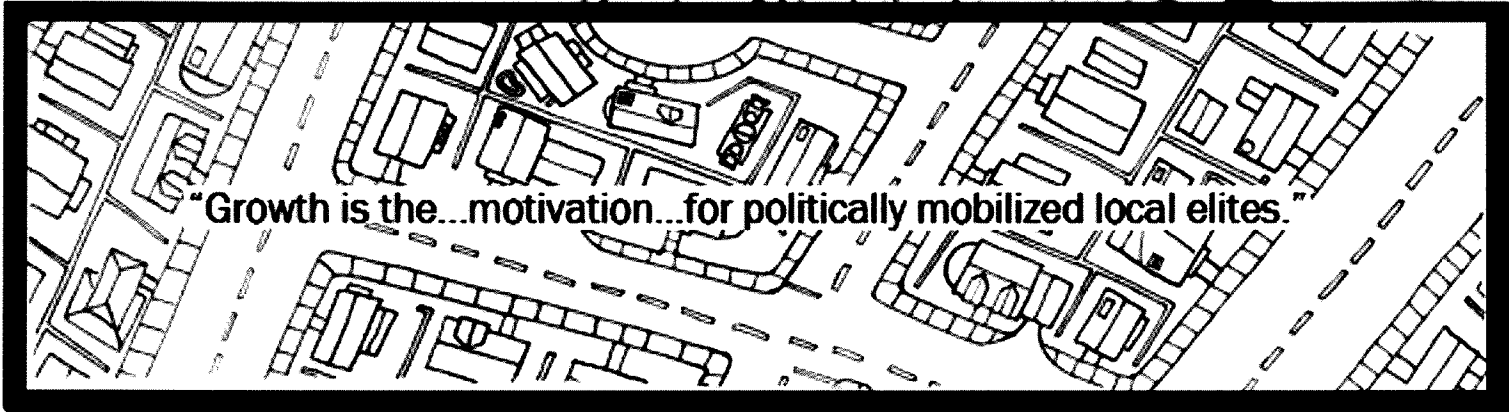
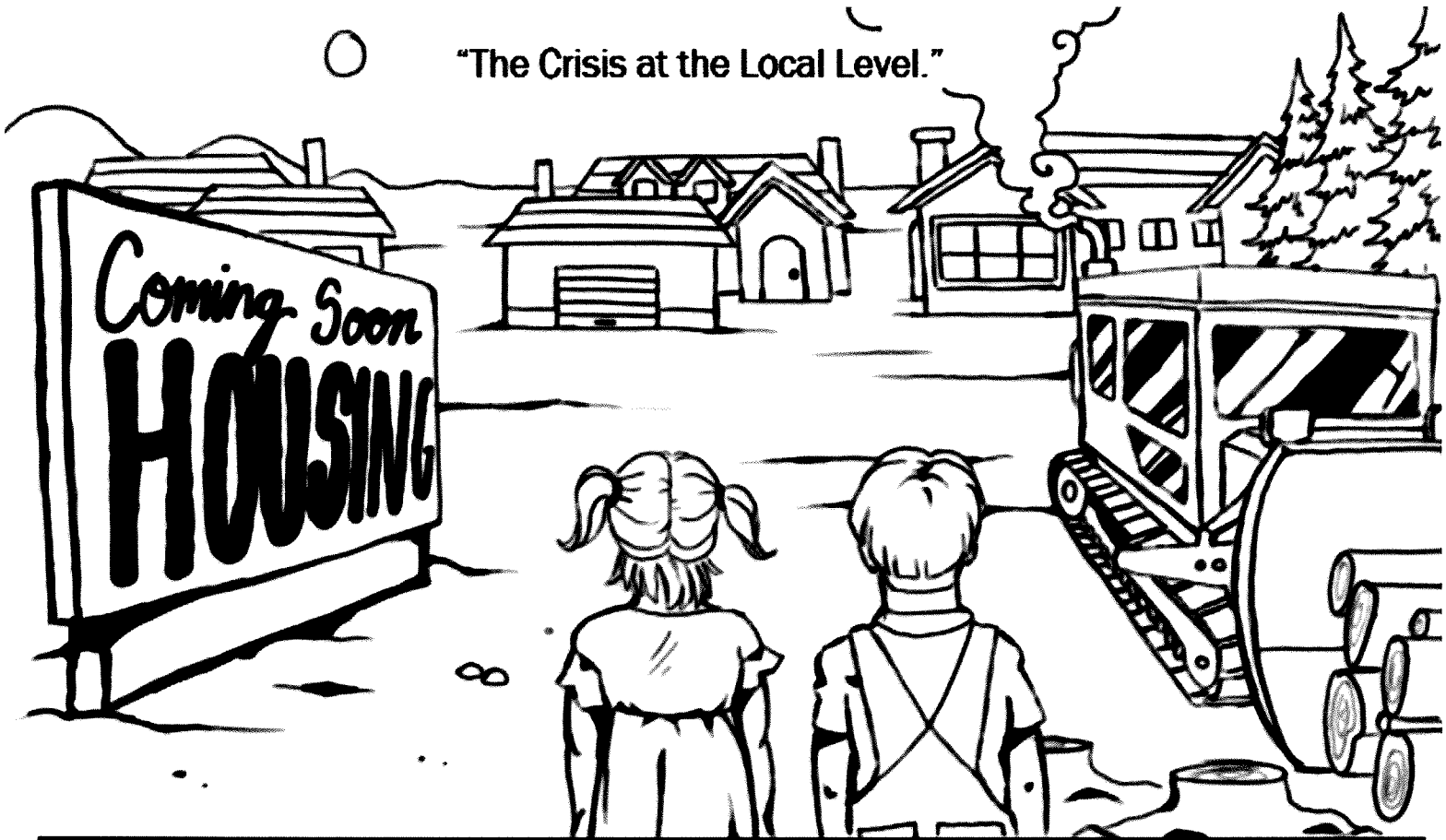
“The Crisis at the State Level.”



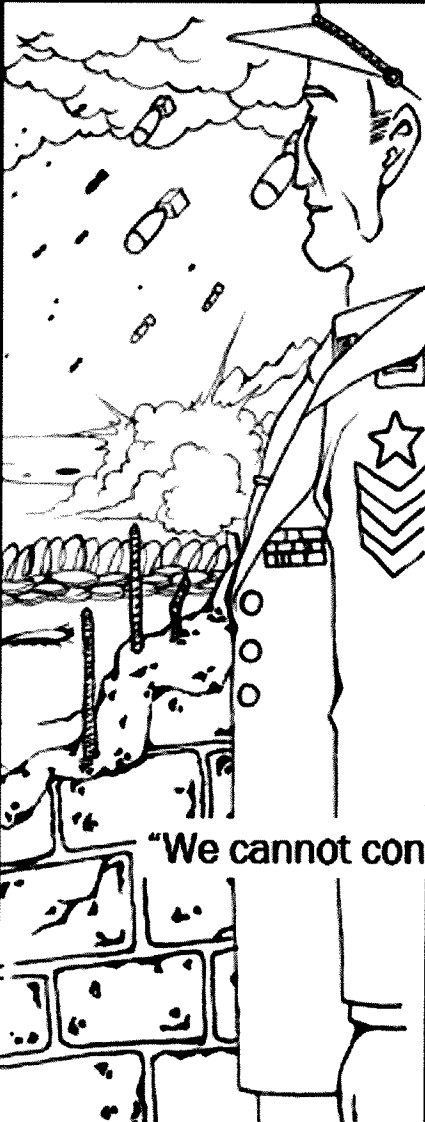
“We have already lost much... in just a few generations.”



"The Crisis at the Local Level."

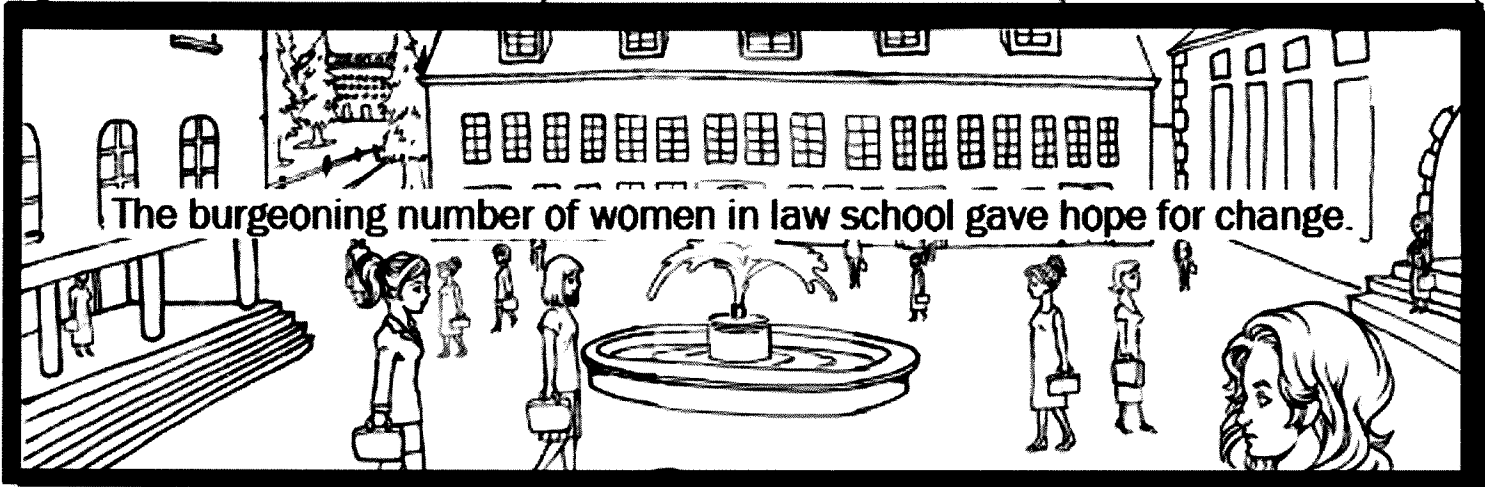


"We have been borrowing from the future."

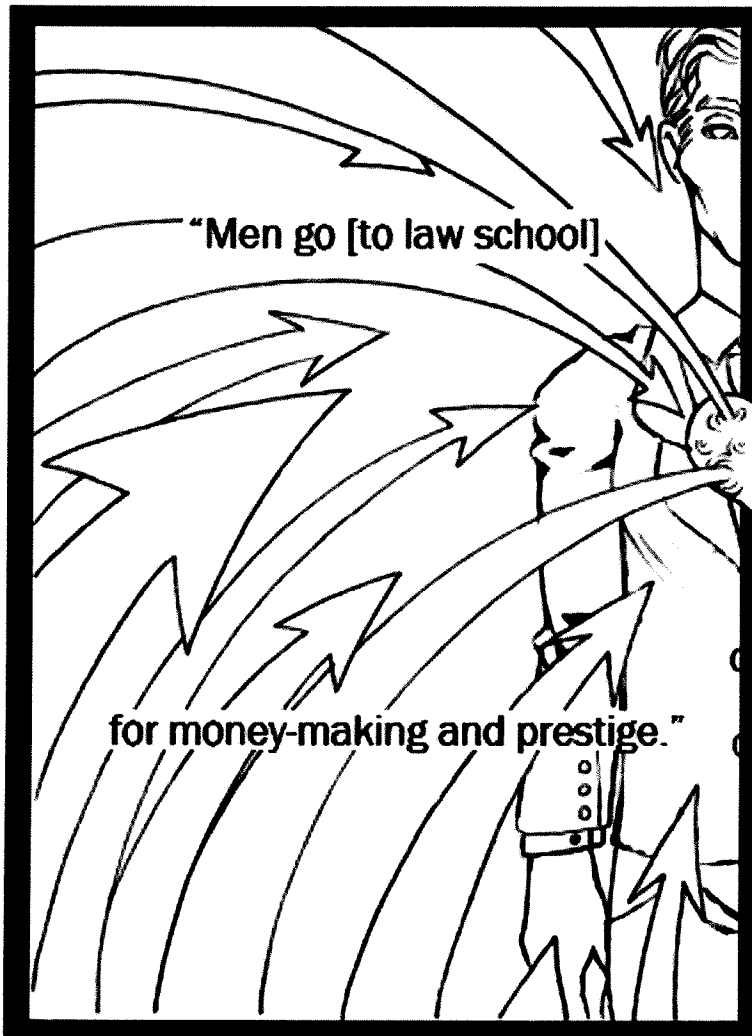


"We cannot continue to 'grow the economy': the earth is finite."

"Hope for change"

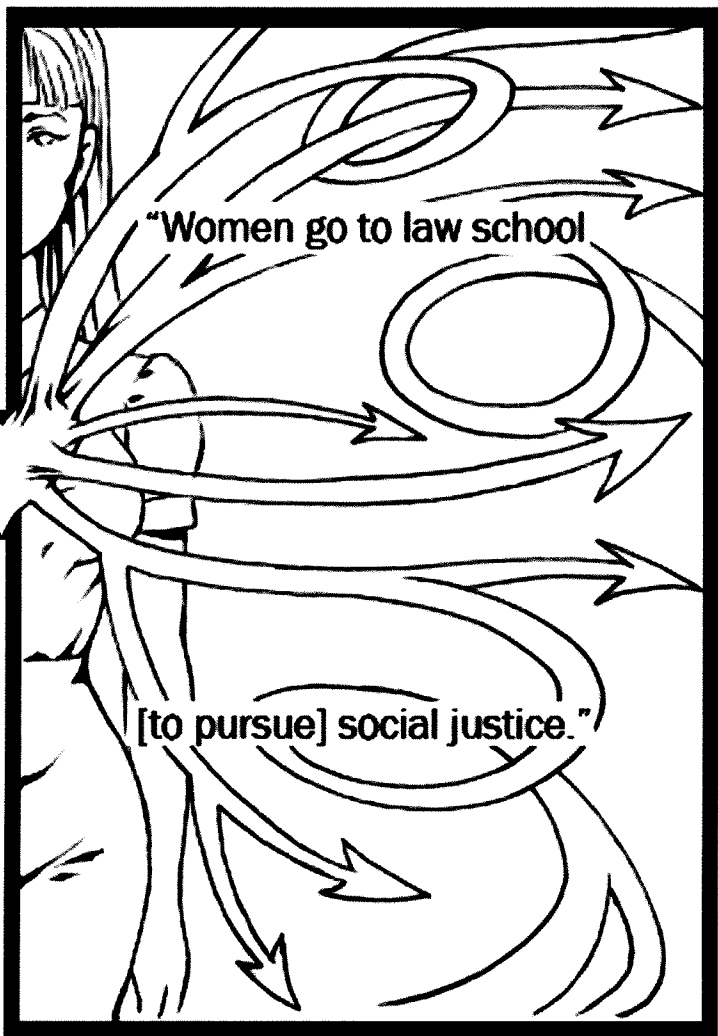


The burgeoning number of women in law school gave hope for change.



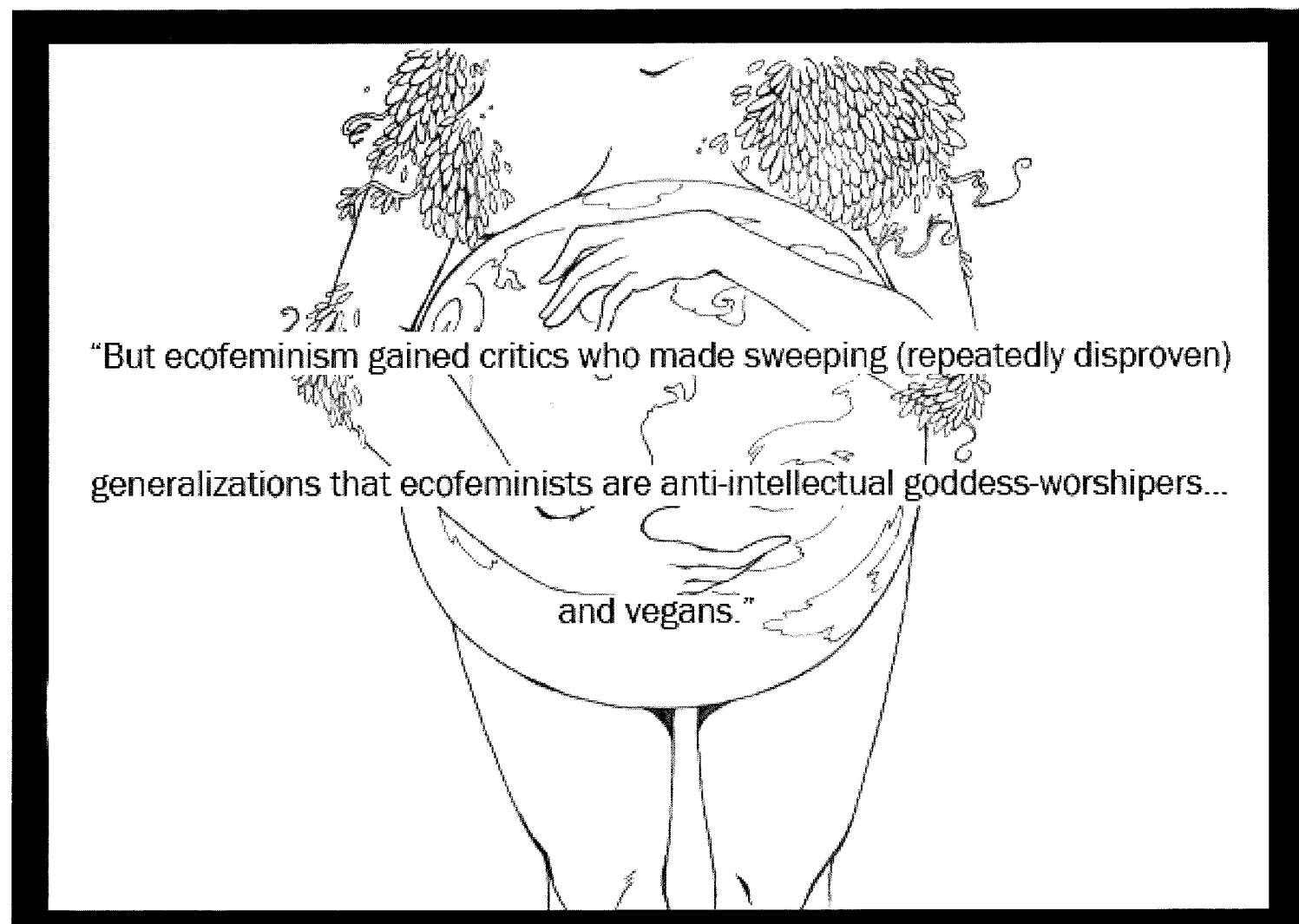
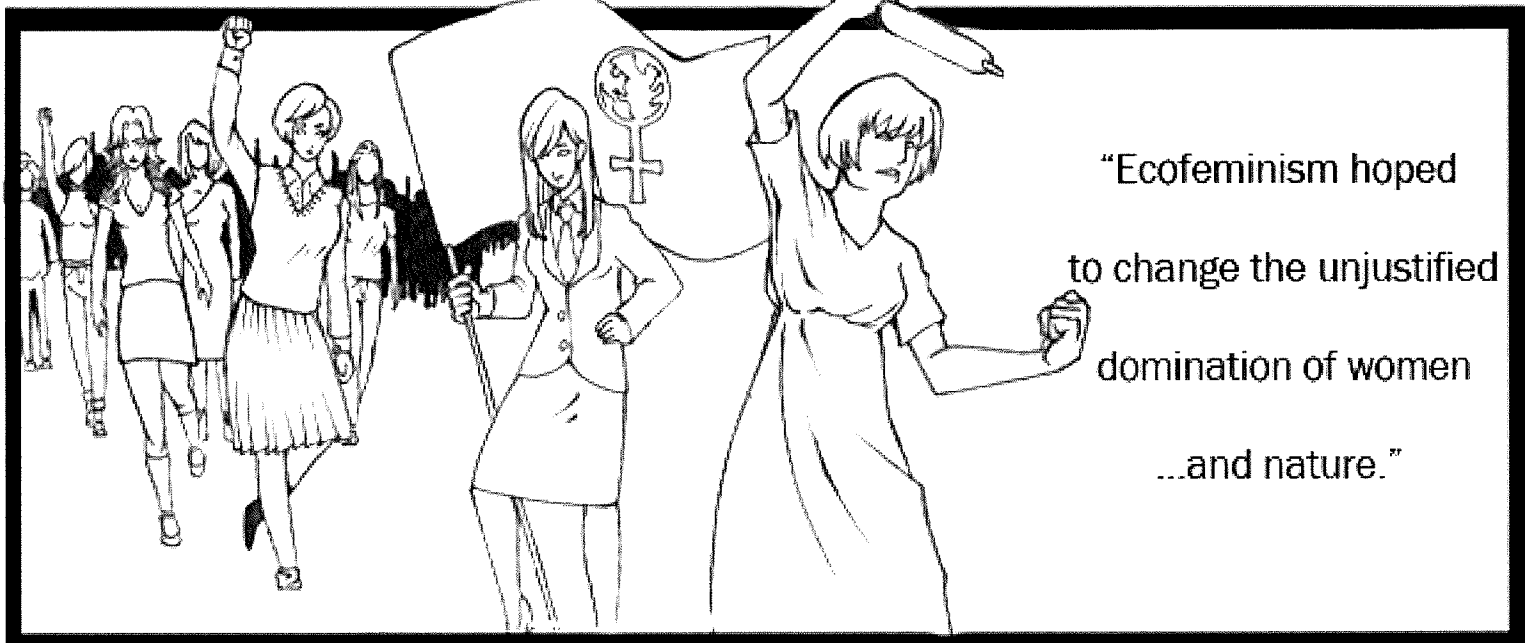
"Men go [to law school]

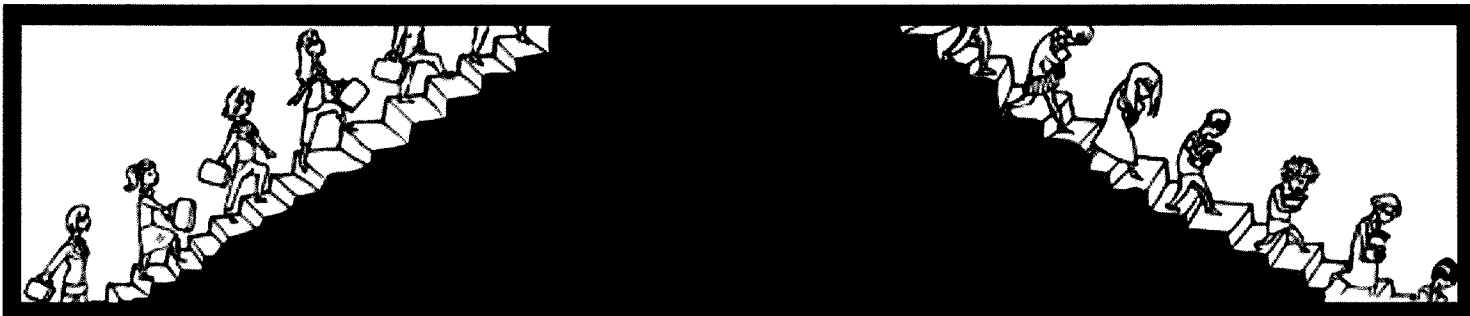
for money-making and prestige."



"Women go to law school

[to pursue] social justice."



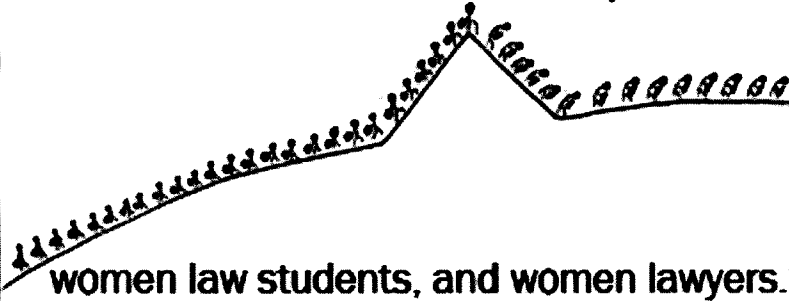


But...

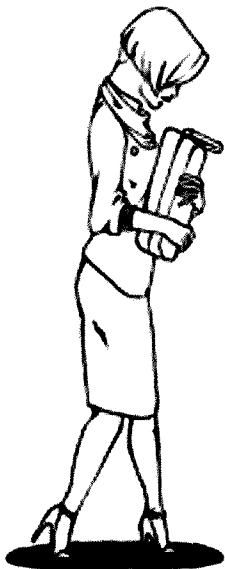


“...[w]omen feel alienated and oppressed during their law school years.”

“There has been a decline in the percent of...

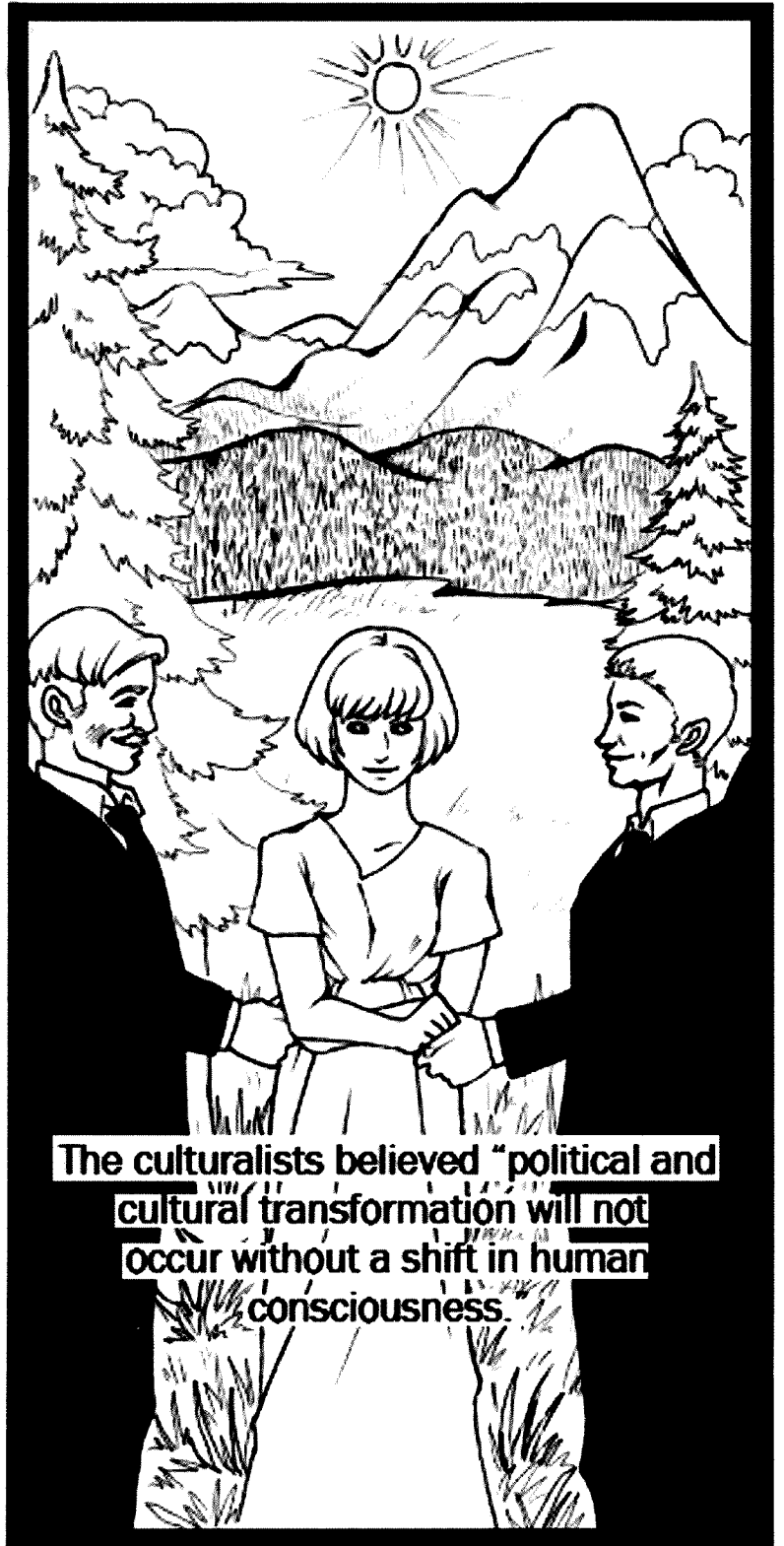


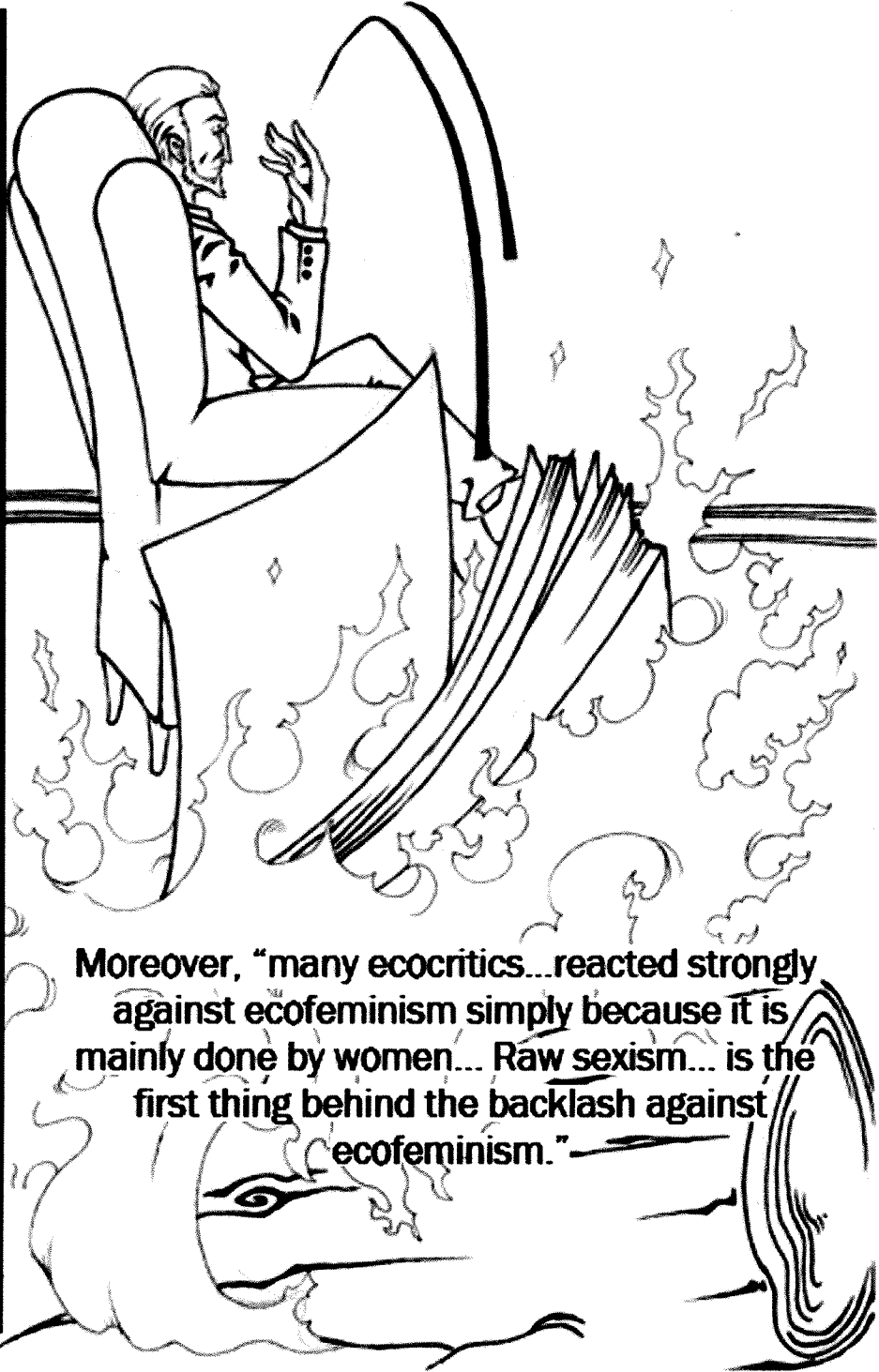
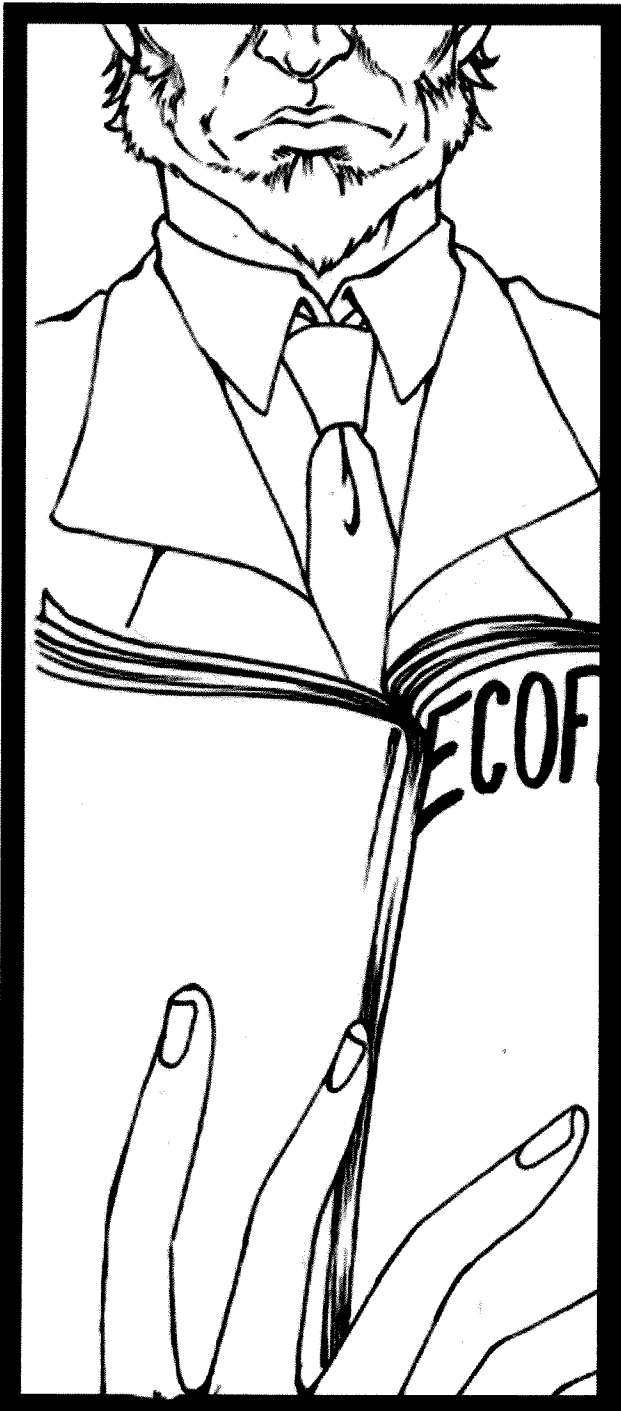
“Women lawyers have found it very difficult to work full time and still have children.”



“Thus are dashed the hopes of those who imagined the 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...





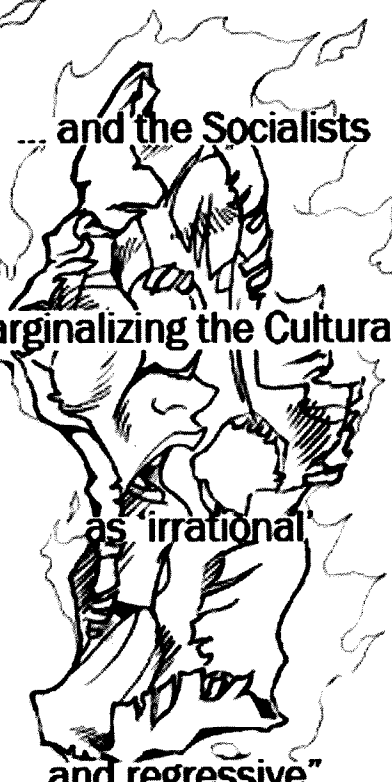
Moreover, "many ecocritics...reacted strongly against ecofeminism simply because it is mainly done by women... Raw sexism... is the first thing behind the backlash against ecofeminism."



With the culturalists thinking

the socialists were playing

a man's game...



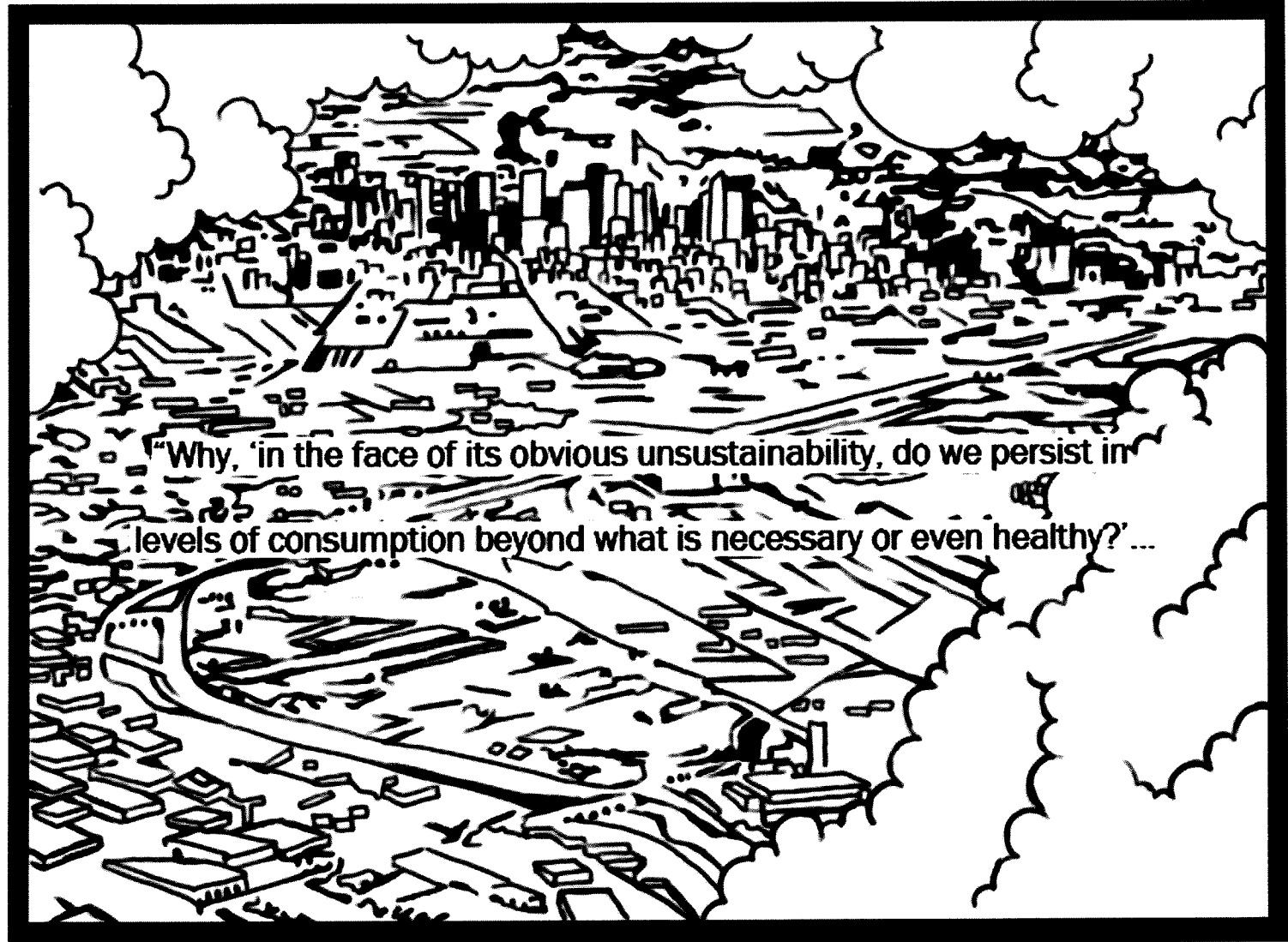
...and the Socialists

"marginalizing the Culturalists

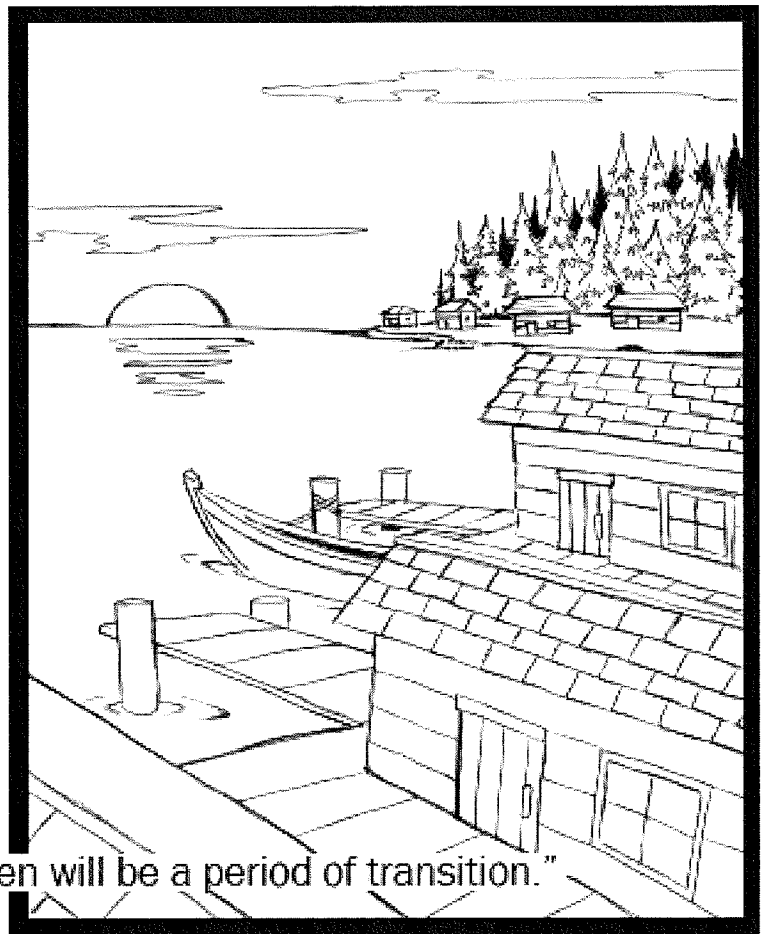
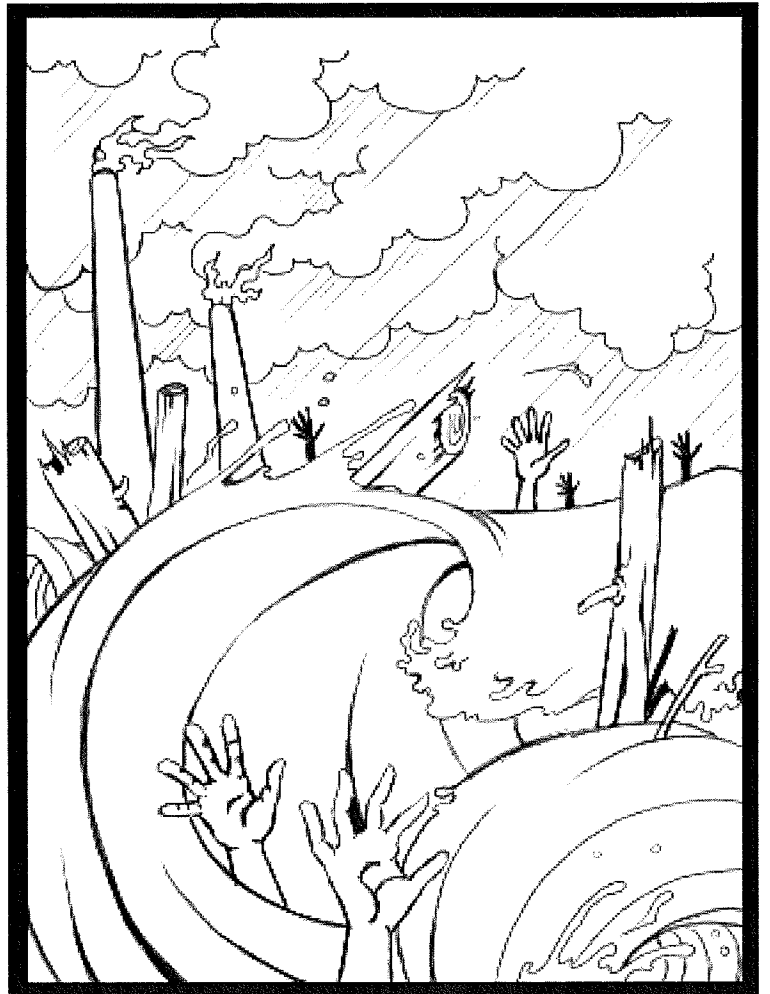
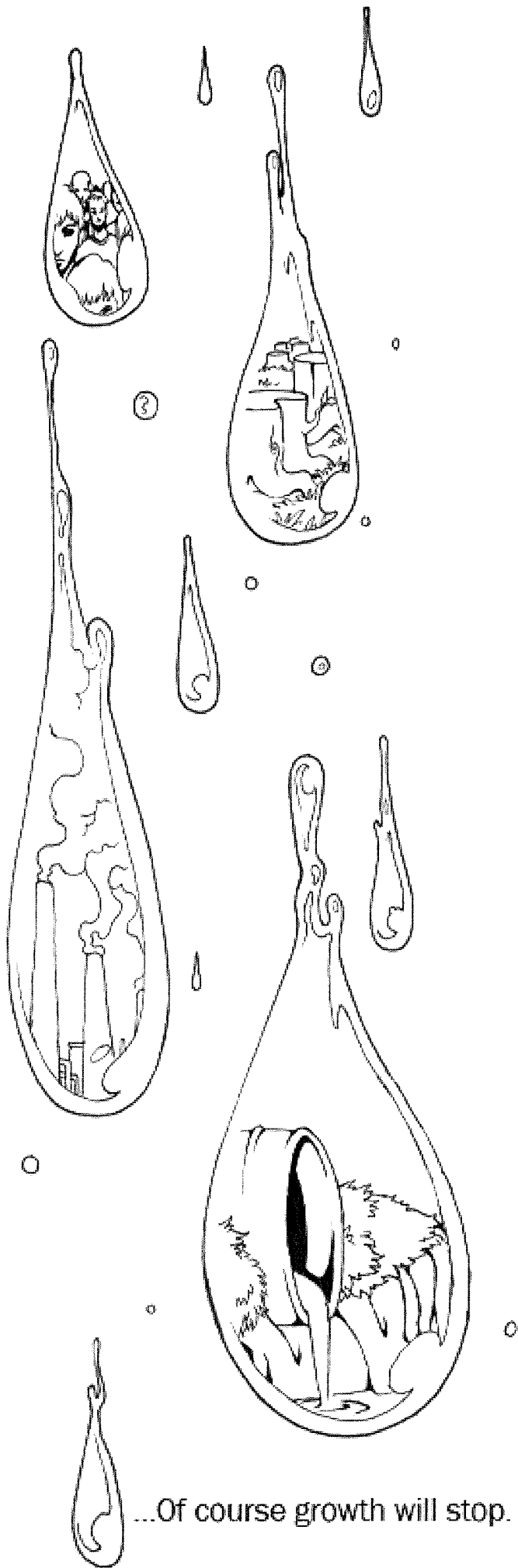
as 'irrational'

and regressive" ...

... "it appears that
ecofeminism collapsed
in a hail
of both infighting and
misogynic ridicule."



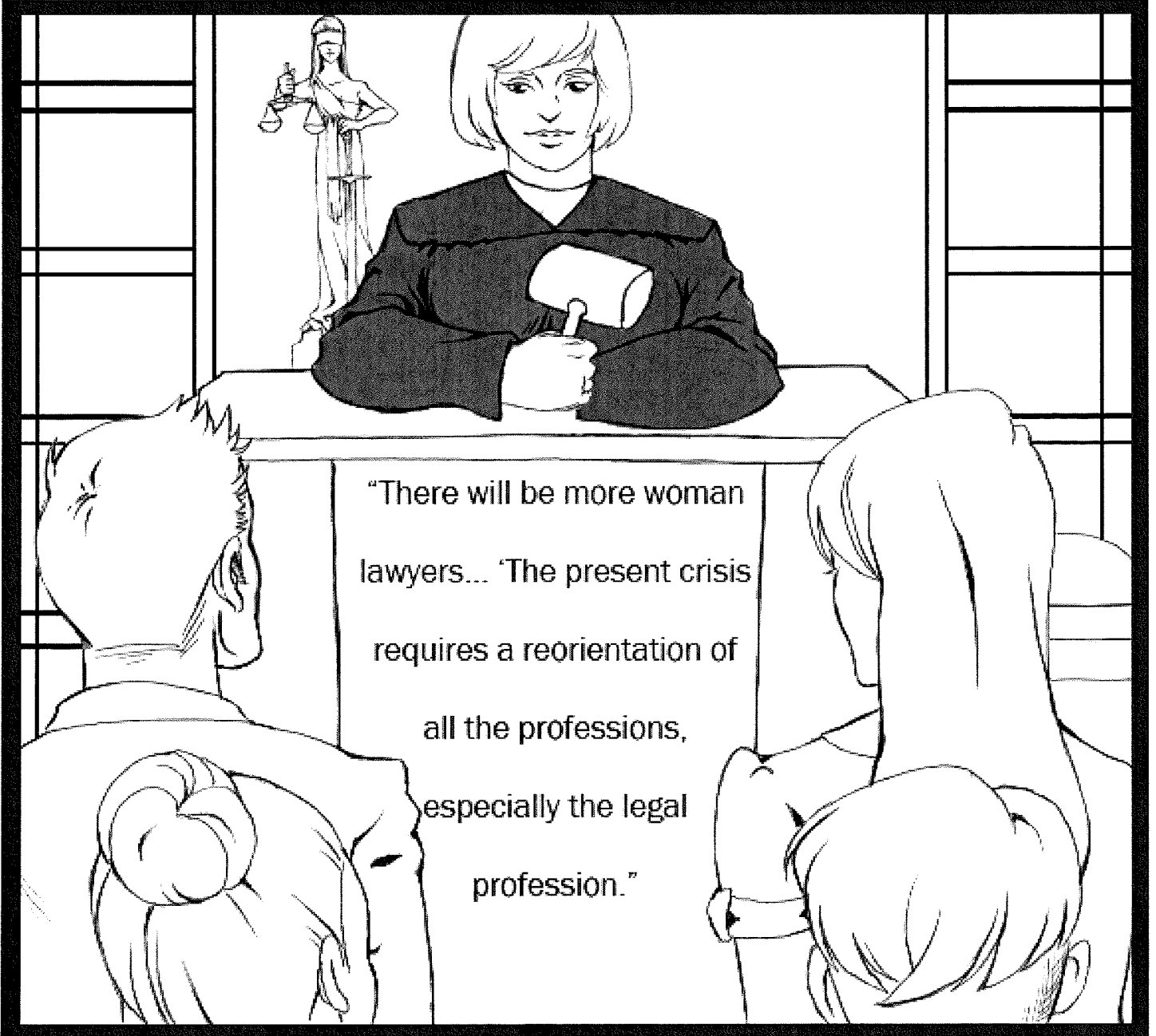
"Why, 'in the face of its obvious unsustainability, do we persist in
levels of consumption beyond what is necessary or even healthy?' ...



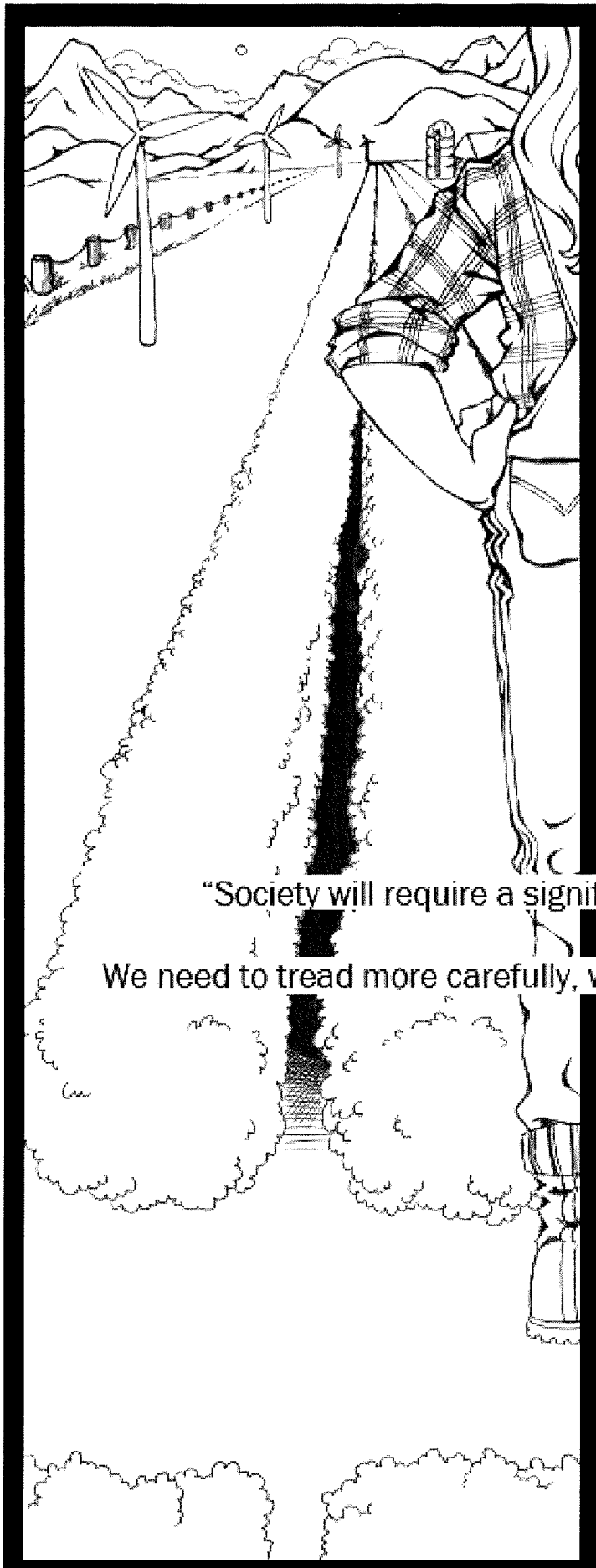
...Of course growth will stop. Then will be a period of transition."



What will the new society require?

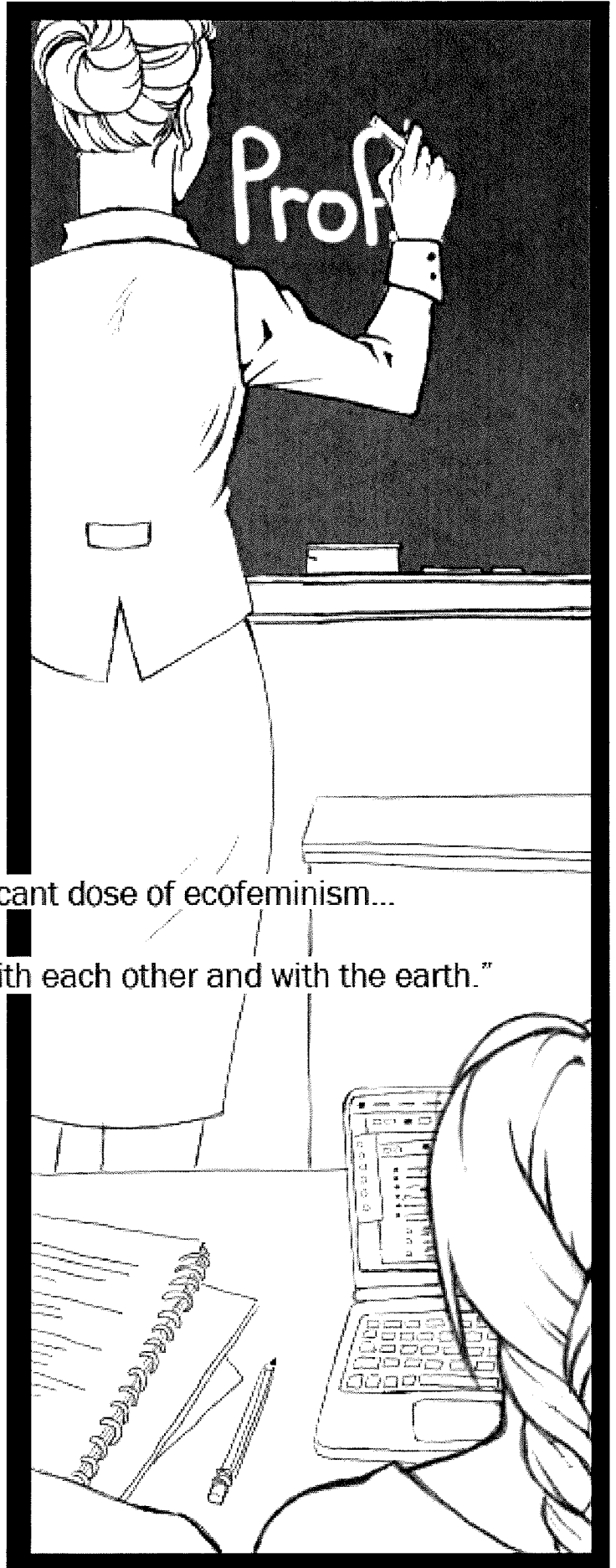


"There will be more woman lawyers... 'The present crisis requires a reorientation of all the professions, especially the legal profession."

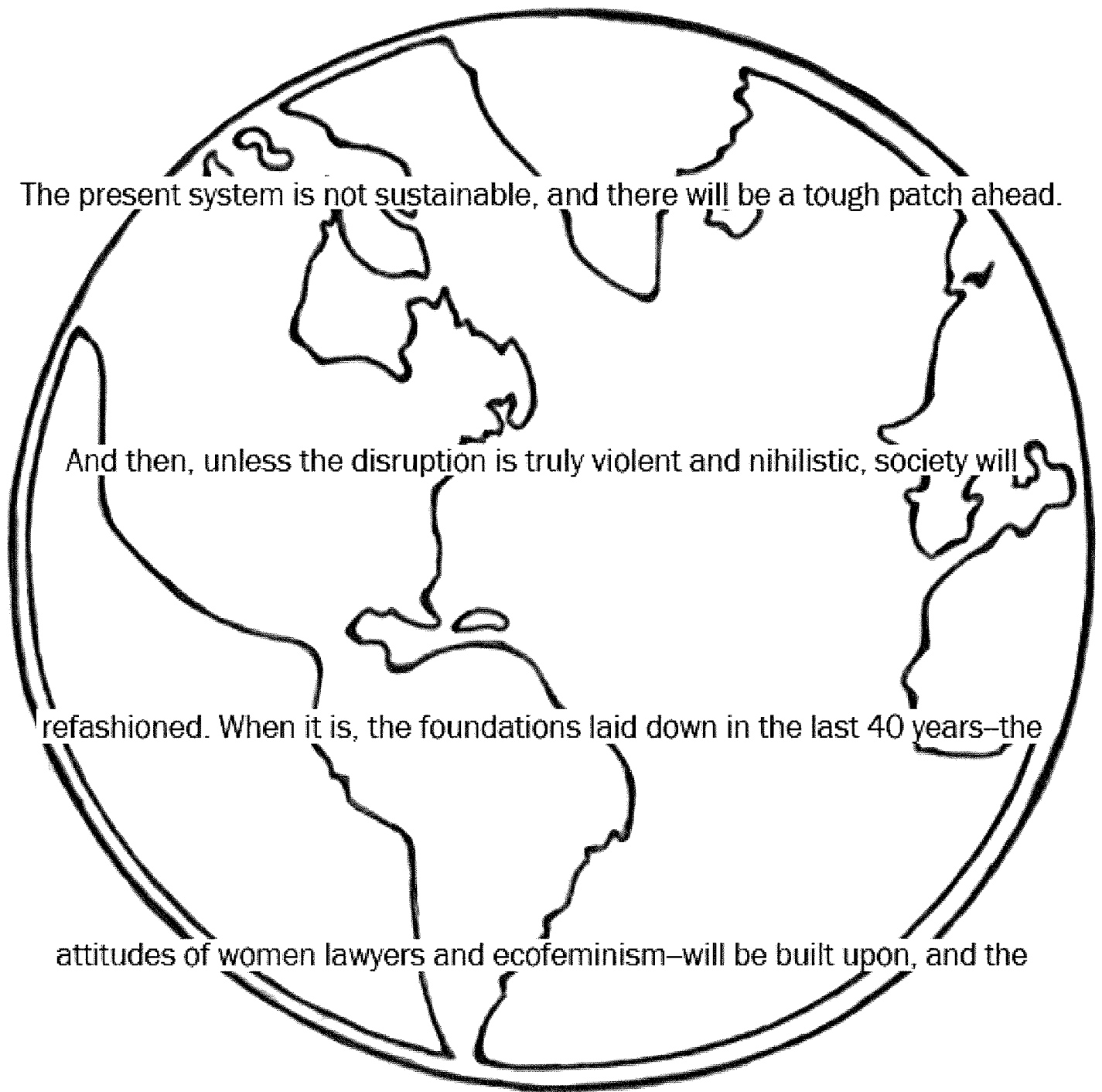


“Society will require a significant dose of ecofeminism...

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

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.”