
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Environmentalists mustn't give up now

I have been an environmentalist since I was a child and remember the effort to be one when it was not popular or the accepted course of action. I remember filling my mother's car with newspapers and cans (which had the old-fashioned throwaway tab when opened as opposed to the leveraged tab today) and getting about \$3 for a month-long effort.

The furor surrounding Rep. Sue Kelly does not concern me as much as the environmental movement as a whole. The idea of a Mother Earth who is alive and must be cared for strikes me as



**Willy
Gissen**

promoting the correct ends but using the wrong means. Concern about the Earth where we and our children must live should not need to create a metaphysical rationale to succeed.

However, the one thing that has hurt the environmental revolution more than anything else is success. Lakes were cleaned; smog was reduced; species were saved from extinction; offshore oil drilling was curtailed. And the natural result of success is to relax, to rest on our laurels, to think that the job is complete.

But the price of environmental success is the need for vigilance to maintain past gains and secure future ones. The hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica is a greater challenge than any we have faced in the past, and the stakes are much higher. We must assume our rightful role as stewards of a precious and beautiful Creation.

— WILLY GISSEN
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