

# LOUISIANA WEEKLY

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## *An economy based on ethics*

I'm a New Yorker who fell in love with your city when I was performing there last August. Like thousands of others, I hate what people on our Gulf Coast have been made to endure these years, including from BP's horrendous oil spill. I want your readers to know what Eli Siegel, the great historian and founder of the education Aesthetic Realism, explained in the 1970s: America's economy, based on the contemptuous using of people's labor for personal profit, had failed and would never recover despite all the attempts to save it.

And in a recent issue of the journal *The Right of Aesthetic Realism to Be Known*, Chairman Ellen Reiss describes what Americans are feeling right now when she writes: "Millions of people are conscious that the company, BP, did not take the needed precautions, and for only one reason: to do so would have cut into BP's profits, which mattered much more to it than people's lives. There is fury in America about this fact....Deep in the American people is the feeling: 'Human beings and the American earth do not exist to be used for someone's private profit. America's earth and waters belong to all of us.'"

Our economy will be efficient and kind when it is based on ethics, on people, including in the government, answering honestly the question Mr. Siegel said was the most important for our nation: "What does a person deserve by being a person?"

— Anne Fielding

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