

Université du Sud Toulon-Var
UFR Lettres et Sciences Humaines

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Département : LEA

Année : LEA2

Matière : ANGLAIS - VERSION ÉCONOMIQUE

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Salle :

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Enseignant : L. MINETTI

Documents autorisés : \emptyset

DISPOSABILITY

Disposability is, if anything, threatening to become the national standard, as much to be rallied around as the flag in which politicians are now so noisily wrapping themselves.

We throw away razors as though they were paper handkerchiefs, and now we are being urged to use disposable contact lenses – why bother with preserving them when you can toss them ?

When throwaway cameras arrived, Consumer Reports – that self-appointed guardian of the middle-class marketplace, said they « made good prints » and would be convenient for « a day at the beach or a boat trip » but had nothing to say about whether a throwaway camera is, in and of itself, a desirable thing.

Probably it is, at least in a society that seems determined to make everything as easy for itself as it possibly can. There can be no doubt that we believe ourselves to be deserving of any shortcut we can manufacture for ourselves, any convenience. However wasteful it may be is utterly irrelevant.

The message we send by buying any disposable convenience items is that we do not want to work. The other message is : to hell with the consequences not merely for the environment but for what might be called our national character.

Perhaps it is old fashioned or stuffy to believe that there is no free lunch, that our resources are finite, that we have an obligation to leave a few of those resources around.

The Washington Post