

I believe the current American lifestyle is based on consumption. Current technology has made much advancement; watching TV is now realer than real life, medical advances allow for a longer lifespan, and the transfer of information is faster and more abundant. The cost of all this progress is its rapid evolution. Within a year or two all the electronics are obsolete, save maybe your alarm clock.

I have no concept of where this technology comes from or where it goes, it seems to only pass through my life. One of my big hobbies is working on cars. Cars are one of the most wasteful possessions we have, but I love the fact that they are rebuildable. I drive a 22 year old car that still gets 30 mpg. Granted I have to spend about 12 hours of hard labor fixing it every year, but it still serves its purpose. When there is a problem with a dated computer anyone will tell you that your better getting a new one, anytime a cell phone malfunctions you'll get a new one, and the same serves for all of today's popular electronics.

I believe this technology is useful, but at what cost. Is there really no way to make a cell phone last for 5 or 10 years and still stay up to date with the current technology? When your car breaks down you take it to the mechanic, and 90% of the time he'll be able to fix it. In terms of sustainability what would be more sensible shipping your cell phone to China in exchange for a newly manufactured one, or bringing it down the street to have it repaired.

The concept of sustainability promotes local products and labor. It's hard to bring things down to a local scale when the international infrastructure is so streamlined and affective. The life blood of this international infrastructure is shipping and jet travel and the lifeblood of those are oil.

I believe when the technology boom occurred the concept of low price and high production got blown out of proportion. Would we all be willing to suffer the same cell phone for five years even though it might not have a touch screen?! Eeek Torture! Could we turn a deaf ear to the cable company telling us that HD is the only way? This time of recession will hopefully allow us to slow down, and take stock in what's important.