Alea McDuffie
DeMott, 3A

Made to Break Reveals the Roots of our Throwaway Culture
 by Terry Tamminen

In this article, Terry Tamminen goes back in time to display the effect that industrialization and marketing in America has had on today’s consumers and how this effects the environment. America began showing signs of mass consumerism in the 1800’s with disposable products with packaged biscuits and paper shirtfronts with most of the everyday products being made for men. In the 1920’s convenient products like condoms and razor blades added to the mass consumerism being that more people were working and they were to market such items off to a larger market, like women. As time went on, new dependence on technology gave way to more harmful consumerism made by everyday American people with the ideas of “reduce and reuse” being naturally disregarded.
 I believe that in the past few years we have become more aware of what our mass consumption does to the Earth, simply because it is more apparent now. With theories like global warming becoming more noticeable and water shortage becoming more rapid, we have developed a sense of alarm in which we finally take into account the fact that we must reduce consumption to live more sustainably. Our actions are a little last minute being that it took massive changes in climate such as drought in Texas and a longer hurricane season to inspire us to actually ‘go green’.
The basic message this article gives out is that Americans’ consume more resources and use more products than any other country in the world. By doing so, we have set ourselves up for economic catastrophe when said resources have disappeared or become more expensive.