



October 1, 2007

WHY BUY NOTHING ON NOVEMBER 23RD

November 23rd is “Buy Nothing Day” – an event originated by Adbusters Magazine, and willingly adopted by people in both the US and Canada.

U*U’s might Buy Into this concept for any number of reasons:

- We like to challenge ourselves to “walk the talk”. Buying Nothing for a whole 24 hours is actually a pretty big challenge. How big a challenge is determined by how strictly you define Buying, and Nothing. Do you turn off your electricity? Do you eat only garden produce that day? Do you walk or cycle to work instead of driving or taking a bus? Do you save all pay-per-use telephone calls until tomorrow?
- We believe that we are not only a part of, but also responsible for, the Interdependent Web of All Existence. This means that we have to be conscious of how much we are consuming, how necessary it really is, and what the costs are to the earth and to all living creatures when we consume anything. A tall order. But what the heck – we like challenges!
- We value the Inherent Worth and Dignity of all people. Some of those people we value are working for extremely poor wages, under unhealthy conditions, to produce inexpensive widgets that we mostly don’t need. Because we don’t need them, we will only buy them if they are very cheap. One way of our helping to slow down that race to ultimate cheapness might be to stop purchasing silly goods (or “bads”) and start putting that saved money into social justice projects instead.
- We want to grow spiritually. There’s nothing like a good dose of Nothing to put a person into a spiritually growthful space. Makes you aware of all the noise and stuff that fill your other 364 days. Empty yourself, it’s good for you.

I’m sure that as creative as we are, collectively we could come up with many more reasons to Buy Nothing on November 23rd.

Go for it!

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