

RISING STARS

The Elections And Us

Sumaira Azim

NEVER since its birth has Bangladesh been fully democratic. The country has been brought up by leaders who took advantage of their position. However, there is a time when even a country must grow up, as Bangladesh has recently done. It has discovered its true parents - those who fought for the nation's liberty in 1971, leaving their creation a legacy of freedom and justice. These ideals have finally been re-discovered and must be followed. The country is taking the steps it should have taken nearly two decades ago; the hesitant but paradoxically sure steps of a toddler. He has never walked before but knows instinctively that this is what he must do. For now there are people who remember the dreams this country was born with to lead it. What about the future when the present young generation will be the only leaders? How do they feel about their nation? About the elections?

Although their patriotism cannot be doubted, the reply to the second question was strangely enough "Which elec-

tions?" After an explanation comes a reply. Many said that they were "OK"; others said that they were nice "because there was a holiday." Many others said that they had ignored the voting altogether. Of the small minority who were interested, most were only passively so.

Fortunately, this is only the top of the cross-section of society's children. Everyone else seemed to care. A student of a local Bengali-medium school admitted that, "We have more fights than discussions when it comes to politics."

If the young citizens of Bangladesh are unexcited about the arrival of democracy in their country, they are not the only ones to be blamed. Most inherited their political views from their parents who, remembering past elections, feel that the '91 ones might be a farce as well. Besides, there is no political education in schools. In the restricted years of the '80s, teachers felt it unwise to express their thoughts on the government or the opposition, and did not even

bother to inform their pupils about political systems found in other countries. This has, of course, led to children having no ideas other than those of their parents or peers.

Another point to note is that children are hardly ever included in the political scene. Apart from the street-urchins who ran along with processions, there were no gatherings of the young to express their sentiments. Consequently, there were very few speeches that mentioned the role of the young in the future of their nation. Also, there was no coverage of the offspring of the candidates. This is all contradictory to the treatment of the young generation abroad.

There, family relations are always stressed: Mr X has two daughters and five grandchildren, followed by a picture of five smiling children hugging their grinning grandfather. Besides, there are always speeches and policies aimed at attracting youngsters - and their parents.

There were, however, cer-

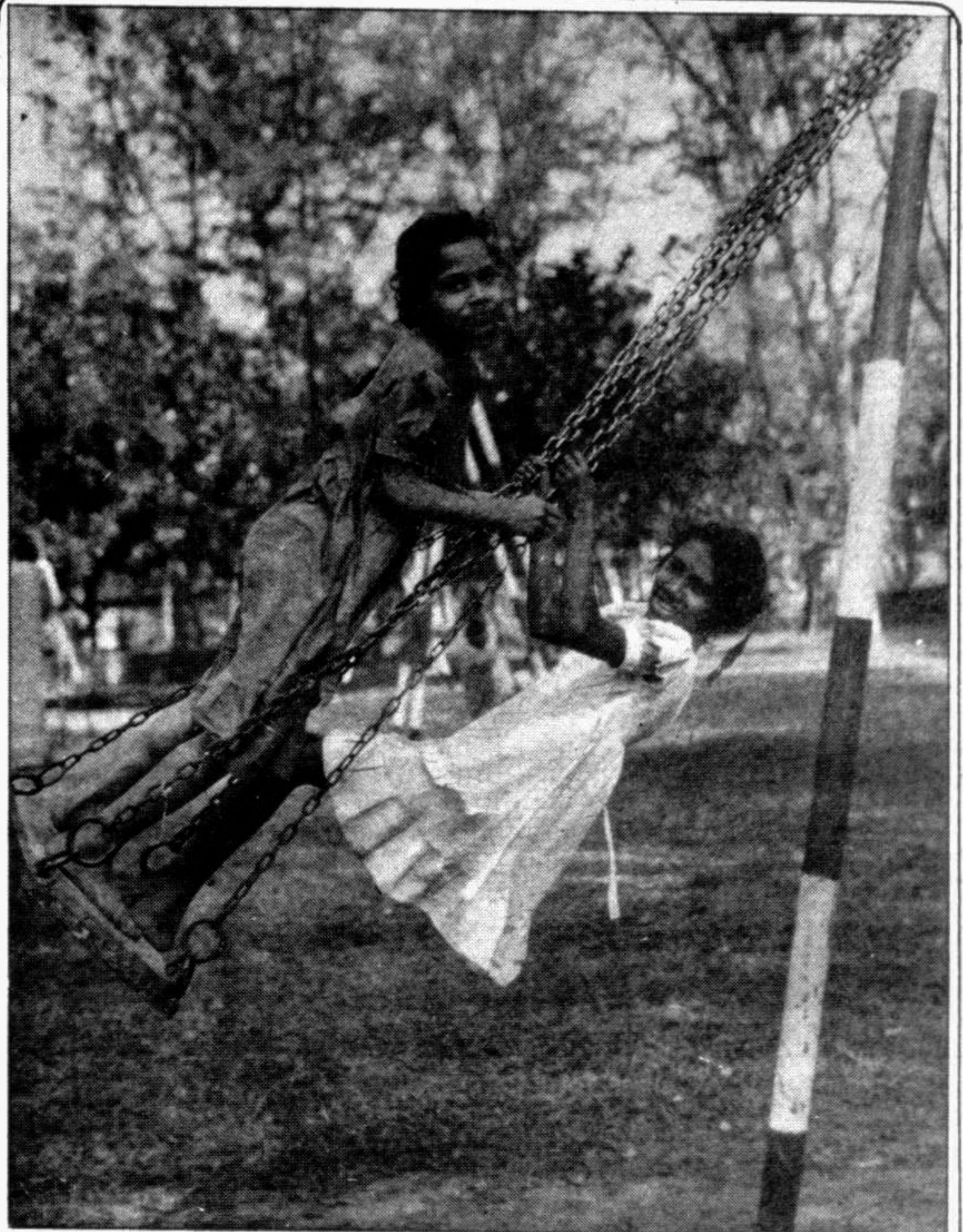
The Rising Stars in our new junior page, but a junior page with a difference. This is your chance to have your say. From politics, our education system, what you would like to see changed in our society, to clothes, friends, recreation, sports, and news that interests your age group: we will carry articles on a huge variety of subjects. Adults are also part of the page: experts on education, music, health, and career planning will contribute their advice and opinion. Children are welcome to send in pieces: stories on what's happening in town, favorite photographs, travel articles, and of course questions and suggestions.

Our Rising Stars Editor presents a number of regular items. This week we introduce the Quiz Club. General knowledge questions will appear each week. Send your answers to the address given below, and you might win a prize!

tain teen-agers to whom the elections are an unforgettable experience. Sanjida Rahman, 14, claims that she was informed that her name was on the voter's list. Disregarding the illegality of the matter, she went ahead and voted. Shafkat Ahmed and Nayan Choudhury, both 16, declare to have done much the same thing. Thinking of the fairness of the elections, however, these are possibly stories.

Now is the time for democracy to be implemented - as well as a time for it to be

taught to the youth of the country. Compared to the rest of the nations of the world, Bangladesh is itself an infant. A child learning to walk will stumble, fall, hurt himself and cry - but he will always get up and go through the process all over again until he can finally do what he has set himself to do. It must not be forgotten that this stumbling, injured, crying child will one day become someone who walks confidently, looking forward - the difficult years of so ago totally forgotten.



The rainy season has always been the time for a swing. These two girls catch a moment of fun in one of the city's children's playgrounds. More facilities of this kind, with stricter sanitary controls, greater security and enough greenery are an absolute necessity for growing children, especially in a city. Unlike children in the countryside, youngsters in Dhaka have little opportunity to enjoy nature. Parks are so unsafe few parents let their children go play by themselves, yet playing in the neighborhood park is a normal and most essential part of one's childhood.

JPL : PROBING OUTER SPACE

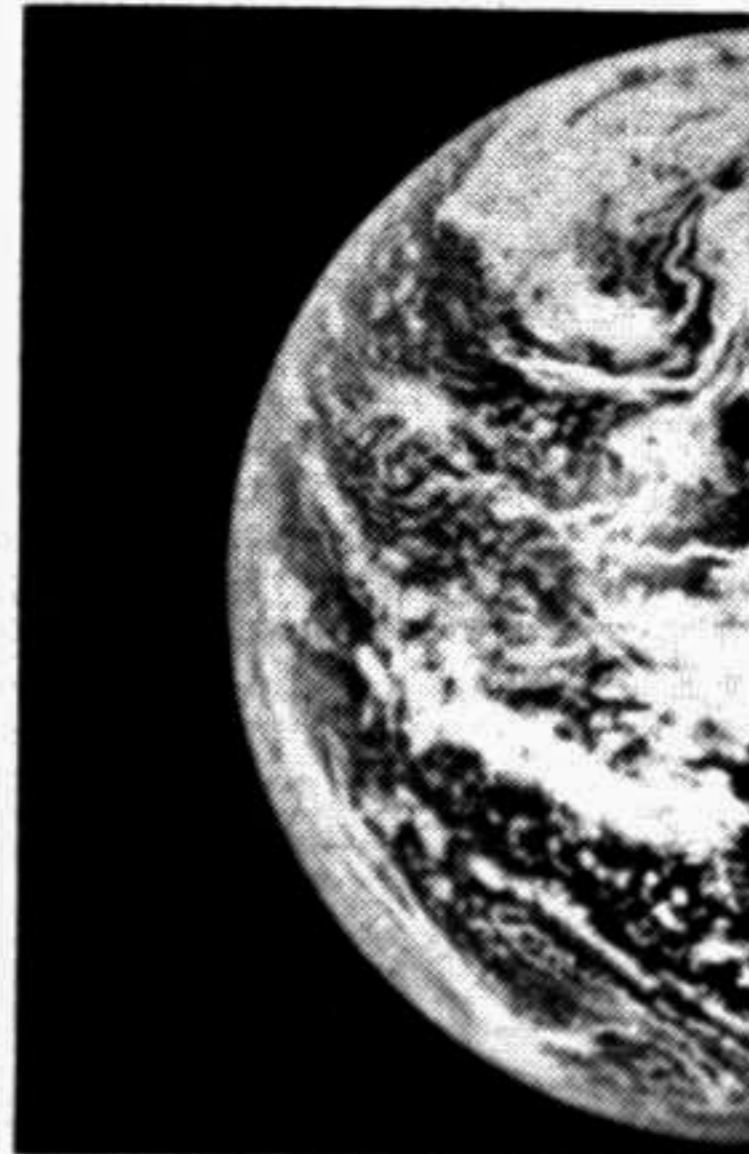
Mashruk Zahid

"SPACE, the final frontier....." with these words begin another episode of the hit TV series and movie "Star Trek". But these words are not just mere fiction. The statement is a fact. It is impossible to comprehend the limitlessness of space. It goes beyond the beyond. And Man cannot be held captive to just a small sector of it. He attempts to expand his horizons and by doing so has already conquered the Moon, which has been a truly remarkable achievement.

All this has been made possible thanks to rockets and spacecrafts. These ingenious masterpieces created by Man have become his tools in the conquest of space. To send a man to the moon requires extensive amount of data most of which has been collected by the unmanned space probes designed by the Jet Propulsion Lab. The JPL, situated on the hilly locale of Pasadena, California, pioneers in the field of rocketry and sophisticated unmanned space-craft. At first glance, JPL may not seem fitting to its image. No spacecraft are ever launched there, and, other than data collection, it has helped the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with very little in its shuttle programmes. But in its own humble way JPL is slowly changing our outlook on our galaxy.

The Jet Propulsion Lab was started in 1936 as a small research project in rocketry. It was run by a group of students and scientists from the California Institute of

Technology, which is also a division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Over the past couple of decades, JPL has been responsible for quite a number of discoveries: in 1985, the Van Allen Radiation



Belt by Explorer 1, America's first orbiting satellite. In 1962 the first planetary probe Mariner revealed Earth's nearest neighbour Venus to have a surface temperature of over 400 degrees Celsius and an atmosphere comprising mainly of sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide. In 1964 cameras aboard JPL's Ranger 7 transmitted pictures of the moon, close - ups with 2000 times the resolution of the best Earth - based telescopes. Soon after, Mariner 4 provided images of the desert planet Mars locked in an Ice Age. Almost a decade later, instru-

ments aboard the Viking soft-landers analyzed samples of Martian soil, offering insights into the possibility of the sustenance of life on the planet.

One of the most memorable of all JPL's achievements are the Voyager missions. In 1977

two Voyager spacecraft were launched toward Jupiter and Saturn, 628 and 1276 million kilometers from the Earth. Reaching Jupiter in 1979 and Saturn in 1980, the Voyagers made many major discoveries. They found unknown moons and the first active volcanoes outside Earth. Eight years after completing their original mission, the Voyagers continue to forge through space, transmitting information that has increased our knowledge of the planets a thousand - fold. Now, as Voyager 1 approaches the edge of the solar system,

Voyager 2, reprogrammed by JPL navigators to fly past Uranus in 1986, is speeding onwards towards Neptune to be the first spacecraft ever to reach that planet.

Keeping track and maintaining control over such projects would definitely provide a problem. To overcome it, a system of antennas, receivers and transmitters known as the Deep Space Network, has been installed to keep in constant contact with JPL's space probes. Through the DSN, scientists can alter the Course of a spacecraft, direct instruments toward interesting phenomena, gather chemical and meteorological data or record images of space never before seen by man. DSN stations in California, Spain and Australia conduct radio experiments as well: as part of the International Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Project, these stations are carrying out an all-sky survey of radio waves, hoping to stumble on some sign of distant civilization.

Cameras and transmitters aboard these space probes are the finest known. Images gathered by these space probes pass through special filters which break them down into a sequence of numbers or codes representing colour variations and darkness. These are then formed back into pictures at the DSN labs by what is known as image processing. This process is also used to diagnose cancer patients and burn victims, showing that modern technology is not just benefactor to cosmology alone.

QUIZ CLUB

FOR all you Trivial Pursuit lovers, here is a regular quiz section. Not only will you have to wrack your brains to find the answers to some of these questions, you might even have to resort to consulting books and parents. But it you get the answers right, you just might win a copy of your favorite book. So take up your pencil and start firing. Send your answers in by next Friday to this address, and please write clearly!

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The winner will be drawn by lottery from all the correct answers sent in. Good luck!

QUIZ NO. 1

1. Which famous Greek author created the character Oedipus Rex?
2. Name the architect who designed our parliament building?
3. Who won Best Actor in the 1991 Academy Awards?
4. What is the name of the British lawyer who drew up the plans for India's Partition in 1947?
5. Who said "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"?
6. What is someone who has acrophobia afraid of?
7. What is a PA system?
8. Which organization of the UN works to help refugees?
9. What part of a leaf of a plant enables it to collect sunlight to perform photosynthesis?
10. Which war was said to be "the war to end all wars"?

(Answers in two weeks)

Bet You Didn't Know

A 17th-century monk, Joseph of Cupertino, had the distressing habit of lifting off the ground and floating in the air when he became excited. This tended to disturb other monks, so he was asked to pray by himself.

Remarkable similarities have been found between late American Presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. Both men were assassinated. Lincoln's killer John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839; Kennedy's assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was born in 1939. Both presidents were shot in the head from behind, on a Friday, and in the presence of their wives.

Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, had advised him not to go to the theatre where he was shot. Kennedy's secretary Lincoln had told him not to go to Dallas, where he was killed.

Abraham Lincoln was elected to office in 1860, and J. F. Kennedy became president in 1960. To top it all, both were succeeded by men named Johnson.

Contributed by Siltmat Chisti

Fashion & Health

The Swinging Sixties are Back!

Sumaiya Andaleeb

History, they say, repeats itself, and the same is true for fashion. First the full swishy skirts of the 50s made a massive comeback and now the late 60s style is back in vogue. Top designers such as Ralph Lauren and Paco Rabanne to name but a few, have done more than just re-

memorabilia trunk; they're no saying what wonderful treasures you'll find, forgotten all these years. It's time to take them out again so that you can dress up to be the coolest chick in town!

To beat the heat of summer, fashion in shalwar-kameezes have taken a turn to loose, comfortable cuts, using masses of semi-transparent material to create a fairy-like effect. The

shalwar or churidaar is embroidered or printed up to the thighs. The churidaars are topped by umbrella cut kameezes, known as 'orefs', which has a fitted bodice and a full flowing skirt from the waist downwards. The skirt of the kameez is of see-thru material and hence allows the motifs to be seen. This is already a big hit in India but the trend is now catching on in Dhaka.

Time Off

Here are some well-known proverbs. Fill in the spaces with the appropriate vowels to discover the proverb!

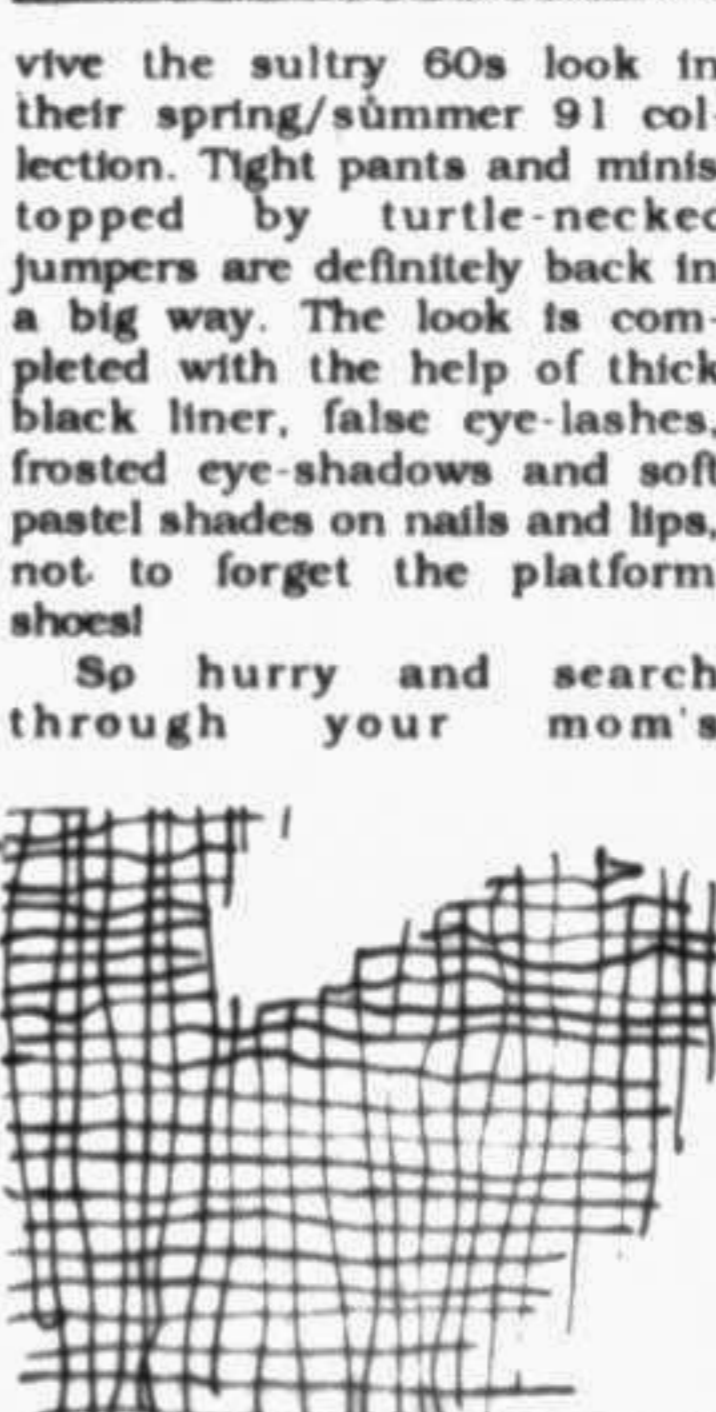
1. B---TY -S -NLY SK -N D---P.
2. B-TT -R L-T- TH-N N-V-R.
3. L---K B-F-R- Y---L---P.
4. -BS- NC- M-K-S TH- H---RT GR-W F-ND -R.
5. CH-R-TY B-G- NS -T H-M-.
6. SP-R- TH- R-D -ND SP---L TH- CH-LD.
7. - FR---ND -N N---D -S -FR---ND -ND---D.
8. -N- R-TT-N -PPL- SP---LS TH- B-RR-L.
9. B-RDS -F -F---TH-R FL-CK T-G-TH -R.
10. - W-TCH-D P-T N-V-R B---LS.

Answers: 1. Beauty is only skin deep. 2. Better late than never. 3. Look before you leap. 4. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. 5. Charity begins at home. 6. Spare the rod and spoil the child. 7. A friend in need is a friend indeed. 8. One rotten apple spoils the barrel. 9. Birds of the feather flock together. 10. A watched pot never boils.

Search for Sunshine

Maria Irene

There is a local paper rolled up in rubberband. Some people take hostage; some people kill a man. There is only one lifetime to live. We are not to take, we are to give. Still the world has no peace. Disputes, pain and evil form a fatal disease. Children playing in the streets are kidnapped and never again heard of. Murders, robberies are no longer uncommon in a world so tough. Wars contaminate millions of innocent lives. The polluted air smell thickly of blood, scream with the slashes of knives. Hunger, poverty, hardships are part of daily routine. As if punishing us for some unforgivable sin. Yet if we join our hands, we can reach happiness. It's not too far away. And one day the headlines will say: 'Not much to print today. Can find nothing bad to say.'



Study Time



Rita's History Lesson

by Judith G. DeCosta

Rita loved her history classes. She always paid full attention to whatever Mrs. Khan, her teacher, said and always found it all so interesting. She would be given special assignments, for her enthusiasm for the subject did not go unnoticed. Her latest was to research into Japan's role in World War II. So, as soon as class was over that day, off she went to the library to see what she could find on the assigned topic.

Japan, she read, was highly successful in the first few years of the war. It found an opportunity to rule the East with the outbreak, invading British territory at Hong Kong, Singapore, running in as far as Burma, which was so close to India. Fancy the Japs ruling India! Rita mused to herself. Manila was occupied in January, 1942. Singapore in February and Rangoon in March.

However, things soon took a bad turn for the Japanese, when they lost the Battle of Midways in June, 1942, to the Americans. After that the future looked pretty bleak. In 1944, they were stopped from invading Assam, by the combined forces of British and Indian troops. The Japanese lost all that they had conquered, gradually, as the British and the Indians recap-

tured Burma, the Americans the Philippine islands. Oh, poor them, thought Rita as she read on. Well, you can't win them all, can you?

Owing to the taking over of Western-occupied territories by the Japanese, they had now become the West's worst enemies. They were bombarded by bombs released from aeroplanes and were additionally jeopardized owing to their fuel transport dilemma: all fuel had to be carried by ships which were being blown up! To add to this catastrophe came a greater blow, so to speak, when on the 6th of August, 1945, Hiroshima, Japan's great military station, was bombed by the world's first, thankfully last, ever so famous atomic bomb. Thousands of people were killed by the explosion itself and many more killed because of its chemical - rather physical - potential. Rita knew that till today, the effect of the great mushroom cloud hung heavily over Hiroshima - all of Japan, for that matter, and for one instant, she hated mankind and its inventive brain.

More was yet to come for this ill-fated nation. The Soviet Union declared war on the 8th of August and entered the province of Manchuria the

next day. That day, Nagasaki was almost totally obliterated by a second atomic bombing. This proved to be too much for even the mighty Japanese to handle and so they began contemplating a surrender. They had stood up during the outbreak of World War II to try and see how they could expand their empire. Now, after losing much of what they had recently captured, the homeland itself was in the danger of being either wiped out or conquered, whichever would come first! They had had their share of "fun", bombing Pearl Harbour at Hawaii on the 7th of December, 1941, but paid for that by the Hiroshima tragedy. Thus, the government tried to base surrender-conditions, under conditions which would not show them forsaking their pride as fighters, with the allies, of course with the whole hearted hope that those would be accepted by the allies. They were! The people's conditions were compromiseable and the Pacific war came to an end on the 14th of August.

The atomic bombing, Rita understood, along with the Soviet entry was what prompted the Japanese to draw their peace conditions. They must have been aware of their poor position when the

allies brought on a submarine blockade, thought Rita as she was collecting her notes and getting ready to leave. Not only that, but they were in quite a hopeless position when merchant ships were being sunk! Poor, poor them, thought Rita, leaving the library.

Japan remained under the control of the Americans, during which time they helped them repair all the damage the war had caused. The Japanese were forced into surrender but so what? Their defeat meant that the countries they would have ruled had a chance to start over and rebuild themselves as independent nations, as Burma and what is today known as Sri Lanka did. Well, as I said before, you win some and you lose some!

A father read that a middle aged man should not shovel wet snow because he could have a heart attack. So he said to his teen-ager, "Son, I shouldn't be shovelling wet snow. Would you do it for me?" The son said yes. He'd do it immediately, and the father had a heart attack!