

RISING STARS

Too Much Garbage

by Teh Su Lee (8th grade, Malaysia)

DRINK cans, sweet wrappers, leftover food, paper, bottles and other unused materials. This is what people all over the world throw away everyday. What happens to all this garbage after it leaves the garbage can? The real problem now is how to get rid of it. People come up with ideas and solutions but somehow, sometime, somewhere, there is a problem with it.

Garbage can be a threat to the environment and even people's health. People don't really understand these problems but if they do, do they really care?

Earth is like a large garbage can. The contents in it are endless. They range from crushed cans, bottles, fish bones, to household items and some can be toxic or dangerous. Most of the contents of a dustbin is packaging. As shown in the picture some parts of the packaging are really unnecessary. The ribbon and the plastic cover are only to make it attractive, the bubble pack is used for protecting the contents, which really doesn't need to be protected. What's worse, all these — and other things — are thrown away. In fact, forty per cent of our trash comes from packaging itself. An average amount of waste produced by one person in one year is about ninety drink cans; two trees worth of paper, seventy food cans, forty-five kilograms of plastic and one hundred and seven bottles and jars.

The real problem now, is where the garbage goes. Ninety per cent of the garbage generated in the United States is disposed in landfills, six per cent is burnt, and four per cent is recycled.

About three quarters of what we throw away is burnable. The energy released by burning wastes could be converted to electricity or steam. Some cities are utilizing their garbage as fuel to make electricity. The Environmental Protection Agency is allocating money to other places for this

pect the refuse in them to decay. However, many materials decompose slowly because of lack of oxygen.

Recycling is the best method so far. Use it again. As mentioned, only four per cent of the world's garbage is recycled, which is not enough. Fortunately, in the next

fills. Also, another toxic liquid from landfills called leachate can ooze out from the bottom of landfills and through the ground and mix with drinking water supplies.

In one case at Niagara Falls, a company dumped its waste into an unused trench called 'love canal' for thirteen years. The company warned people not to build their houses near the canal, but soon houses and

United States, Europe, Japan and other progressing countries which throw more garbage away. Maybe, this is because they tend to take for granted the things they have.

For example, plastic or glass bottles can be kept to store or keep things instead of just throwing them away. Poorer people will do this but richer people will just buy a better looking bottle to store things in.

The Americans throw away the most waste worldwide, followed by Australians and Canadians.

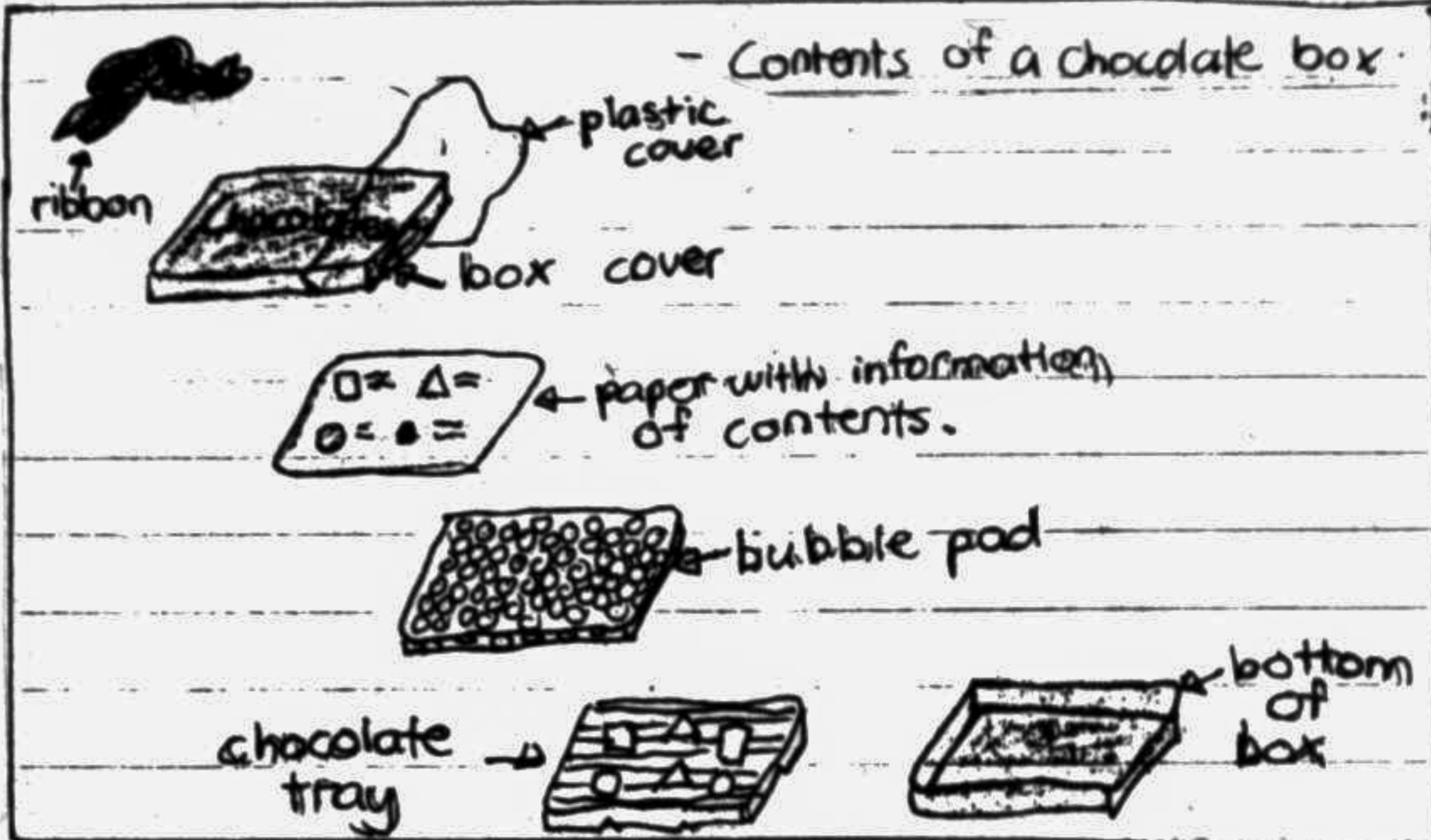
Fortunately, the government is trying to do something about it now. Some countries and states require a small deposit for soft drink and beer bottle cans. Children can also earn extra money picking up cans and bottles.

Environmentalists would like to see groceries and other goods in less wrapping. Scientists took this idea to the extreme and developed food packaging that can be eaten.

Nowadays, recycling has become more familiar to the world. Some 'things' which we use now are probably made of recycled materials. For example, the gray lining inside a cereal box was probably a newspaper, and even newspapers are made from recycled paper. Now, there are lots of recycling companies recycling garbage, such as aluminum cans, paper, glass and other things. In the future, there will be lots more of these companies because of the lack of natural resources.

Although we cannot do a whole lot overnight, we can still do our bit at home. We should always try to throw away only what is necessary to dispose of and recycle as much as possible.

The main culprits of all this dangerous waste are the



kind of 'waste utilization'. This would make about 150 million barrels of oil a year. This is only one example. Many other companies also have 'bought' trash to make electricity or oil.

In landfills, the waste is packed firmly by tractors and covered with earth each day. This prevents insects and other animals from getting near them. In time, when the landfills fill up, operators ex-

decade, recycled waste may rise because of the decrease in natural resources, such as iron and coal. Recycling is away to convert garbage and trash into usable materials.

If garbage is not properly disposed of, it can get dangerous. For example in landfills, decaying garbage in them gives off an explosive gas called methane. Many workers have died from explosions in land-

schools were built. A few years later, a strange black liquid seeped into basements of homes. The air smelled foul, children received burns and people were sick with many diseases. Many of the chemicals caused cancer and other illness or damage to unborn children.

Space, Bubbles and Me

by ASK

DAY 1. Boing-a-boing-boing-boing. I like my ukulele. It sounds good and does whatever I tell it to do — and it keeps me company, something which I am in dire need of. At this very moment, I am alone. In Space. In what is laughably my home. What can I do? Fate, that troublesome little monster that cannot be controlled, has marooned me on a spaceborne rescue bubble.

Heard that? Laughably. Go ahead. Laugh. Make a pig out of yourself. Most creatures haven't been tortured like me. They don't know what living in a rescue bubble is like. How many people have been stranded, solo, in a bubble? We are talking about Space here, not oceans. Oceans are only a footstep across compared with the vastness of Space — it would take quite a number of footsteps to cross Space.

I should have taken the Windblower. I might not have fallen into this particular predicament. But, but, but... trouble always did have a tendency of dogging my footsteps.

I can't remember much... the details are rather blurry, like an out-of-focus picture which hasn't been processed well. But what I can say is, perhaps, sufficient. I was travelling in the Jona Daniel from Earth to my home planet, Qualtor. I was visiting Earth to do some research which I could not do electronically from Qualtor.

Anyway, I was dozing lightly in my seat, when there was an explosion. I do not know what caused it but I can only guess. Maybe the stardrive blew up, or some terrorists decided to

have some fun. It doesn't matter anymore. I mean, who cares? Not you, not me, not anyone else.

In any case, that noise was so loud, I woke up, really annoyed. How dare anyone bother me in my sleep? Doesn't anybody know that it's against the law to wake me up? Not even food was that important. I decided to call the stewardess and ask her what that was about. But no sooner had I thought these thoughts did I black out several very,

Here is a new exciting serial story about a funny astronaut trapped in a space bubble after his spaceship has exploded. He relates his experiences in diary form. Each day is full of surprises and especially worrying since the bubble is programmed to disintegrate in 50 days! Will he be rescued before that? Read on to find out...

very short moments later. Some time later — I don't know how long — I woke up somewhere. And guess where that somewhere was?

I suppose it was for the best. The frog-brained stooges who constituted the crew of the Jona Daniel decided that the only way to save me — and other passengers, I'm sure — was to stuff me into a rescue bubble. I'm not objecting to their altruism, but could they not have stuffed someone else with me?

Oh well. Might as well make the best of it. But don't get the idea that I'll enjoy myself. I won't. I thrive on companionship.

The floor of my lifeboat contains food supplies, a computer, an environment controller unit and some other I-don't-know-what units, a recorder — which I'm using now — a rescue beacon, mattresses — wow! The guys who designed this thing managed to fit in a toilet, too!

By the way, if I didn't say so already, I'm recording this on the built-in recorder. But that's only logic, isn't it? It doesn't take someone with a degree in anything to know that. Even someone as stupid as my kid brother could have figured that out. Even someone stupider, like my relatively muscle-bound but brain-deficient nemesis from way back in grade school could have reckoned that.

Of course, having a Masters in Nanomechanics like me wouldn't hurt, would it?

The floor is enclosed in a plastic bubble which is impenetrable unless it is surrounded by an atmosphere which is suitable for human life and enough pressure to prevent that life from exploding.

That doesn't make much sense, does it? Said another way, the plastic bubble cannot be broken when in Space. people can leave or enter the bubble only when the environment outside the bubble has oxygen, and only breathable gases, and the atmospheric pressure is high enough to keep a human in one piece.

I'm real tired now, so I might as well log off. To be continued... snore.

to be continued

BOOK WORM

by Sonia Hossain

PETRE Dimitrov's only hobby is collecting books, which has turned into an obsession. He is a tall, pale, lean man in his late twenties with dusky brown hair, which matches his deep brown eyes. Most of his face is covered with a thin beard. He has a striking resemblance to a Turk-Bulgar in the 17th century. He is doing his PhD in History, at the University of Sofia.

Petre spends most of his spare time browsing through book stores, buying books he finds interesting. In fact, he buys a book or two everyday. His day is never complete if he doesn't buy any. Somehow he has acquired a crazy notion that one day the world will be without any books, that books will be destroyed and substituted by something else. He comes home adds another book to his collection, which is

filled on the floor. The three piles of books are almost touching the ceiling. He stands there admiring his books from different angles, with a slight smile on his face. These books would be handed from generation to generation. Everybody would talk about how he came to rescue these books — his name would be part of history. He quickly wakes up from his reverie. All those books aren't enough — he wants more.

Petre's thoughts are always preoccupied with books. He is socializing less with people, and moving further away from his friends and family. Soon people start whispering whenever he is near about — Petre hardly notices.

One night before going to sleep, Petre is looking at his books again, when something weird happens. He had been thinking about famous people for some days. Then, all of a

sudden, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Napoleon Bonaparte and Julius Caesar with their battalions and many others he cannot recognise come out from his books. Hitler climbs on his pile of books and declares war on Petre Dimitrov. Everybody starts bombarding Petre with his own books. He is having a hallucination. His brown hair turns grey with fear, and he cries out for help.

Petre has been driven to the hospital in an unconscious state. He has been unconscious for a long time. Gradually, Petre starts recovering and soon he is fully cured. He stops collecting books — he has developed a phobia for books, he cannot stand the sight of piles of book anymore, which always brings back bad memories. He has donated all his books to a library and taken up gardening as his hobby.

Registration

Here is a new list of Rising Stars Club members. Please send in your articles, stories, poems, sketches etc with your registration number.

Name : Sonia Nasreen Ahmed
Siddheswari, Dhaka.
Rs : 0194

Name : Fehmida P Ali
Dhaka.
Rs : 0195

Name : Salman Sohail
Mohammadpur, Dhaka.
Rs : 0196

Name : Sana Akbar
Dhaka.
Rs : 0197

Name : Tazreena Sajjad
Kakrail, Dhaka.
Rs : 0198

Name : Aniq Sajjad
Ramna, Dhaka.

Rs : 0199
Name : Rashad Shaba
Banani, Dhaka.
Rs : 0200

Name : Masud Sohail
Mohammadpur, Dhaka.
Rs : 0201

Name : Samia Saeeda
Salaudin
Mohakhali.
Rs : 0202

Name : Tazreen Rahman
Indira Road, Dhaka.
Rs : 0203

Name : Wasima Haque
(Mouri)
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Rs : 0204

Name : Mustakin Ali Khan
Eskatan Garden Road,
Dhaka.
Rs : 0205

Riddles

When did the Chinaman go to the dentist?

Tooth-hurtee.

Why is it dangerous to tell secrets in a field of wheat?

Because corns has ears.

Why did the lawyer carry a ladder to work?

So he could take his case to higher court.

Why does lightning shock people?

Because it doesn't know how to conduct itself.

Why is Sunday the strongest day?

Because it is the only day that can't be broken.

My Dog

by Sanjana Sadique

(Class II)

I never will hurt my dog.
For he is so soft and grey.
And never will I hurt him.
For he is born today.
And never will I hurt him.
For he is so sweet and kind.
And never ever will I hurt him.
For he is only mine.

QUIZ CLUB

Here are this week's quiz questions. Now don't forget — if you get all of them right you may win a very attractive prize. Please send in answers no later than next Thursday.

1. Name the two Pakistanis who were arrested recently at ZIA airport for smuggling gold.
2. What is the name of Michael Jackson's latest world tour?
3. Where was this year's SAARC summit on children held?
4. Name the five 'New kids on the Block.'
5. Which American state is Gloria Estefan's fan club in?
6. Who built 'Ahsan Manzil'?
7. Who starred as Batman in the 90's televised version?
8. Who is Judy Garland's world-famous daughter?
9. If mixed in the right proportions, what colour will a combination of yellow, red and green give you?
10. Who is Bill Clinton?

Answers to September 12th's Quiz Club:

1. St. Thomas.
2. Ancient Egyptian obelisk.
3. Corsica.
4. 1988.
5. Nepal.
6. Adam's Bridge is a path of sand and rock between India and Sri Lanka.
7. Proxima Centauri.
8. Courage induced by intoxicants.
9. Gibraltar.
10. National Kiev Library in Russia.

STAR PROFILE

Name: Gloria Estefan

DOB: September 21, 1957
Marital Status: Married to Emilio Estefan

Did you know that:
— Her first public performance was at a relative's wedding

— Her favourite nick name is Canga Queen

— She was almost killed a couple of years ago in a vehicle accident but miraculously survived and now has steel rods inserted at the base of her spine

— She has a teenaged son named Nayib

— She owns a little island in Miami!



'Thank God'

By Trishna

Look at the poor child, crying out of hunger.
No one to feed him no one to make him feel stronger.
Look at the weeping woman, her family has drowned in the flood.
Now she lives under the open sky and on the dirty wet mud.

Look at the crying old man, unable to fulfill his hopes.
His hands and feet are tied, but without any ropes.
Look at the little girl wailing in pain.
She has lost everything and now there's death to gain.

Look at the young widow, sad and heart broken.
Her husband fell asleep and she hopes he would awaken.
Look at the mad mother, doesn't recognize anyone.
Her son died and now for her there's no one.
Look at the baby lying in the dustbin.
His poor mother must've left him, but he doesn't know his sin.

Look at us and see how well we're living in this heaven.
So forget the little pains we have and thank God for what he has given.

Jokes

What letters did the girl say when she opened the fridge and found that it was empty?

OICURMT.
Batty books:

What did the hamburger say to the tomato? I've had enough of you sauce!

What can you always count on?

Your fingers.

What does a bird use in an emergency?

A sparrowchute.

Mum: Remember, never put off till

tomorrow what can be done today.

Rob: We'd better eat the rest of this pie, then.

Why is an island like the letter T?

Because it is in the middle of water.

Sara: Has anyone lost fifty pence?

Sue: I have.

Sara: Where did you lose it?

Sue: Where you found it.

Will February March? No, but April May before June.

Sam: I know everything there is to know about netball.

Pam: OK — how many holes are there in a netball net?

What's the best way to get in touch with a shark? Drop him a line.

What do you call a sheep that's just been sheared?

Bare, bare, black sheep.

Batty books:

The Hills are for Me by Marsha Long. How to Diet the Easy Way by MT Cupboard.



Sketch by Tauseef (Class V)

Bet you didn't know

The first electronic computer was made in 1946 at the University of Pennsylvania. The 30-ton machine stood two storeys high and was named ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Calculator). Leonardo da Vinci, the artist and inventor, made a

mechanical lion to greet King Louis XII when he visited Milan. The lion advanced to the city gates and opened its middle with its claw to show the coat of arms of France.

The machine gun was invented by a man who was a doctor during the American Civil War.

It's easier to walk on wet sand than on dry sand because water acts as a sort of glue and keeps the particles of sand closer. This results in the increase of force of attraction.

Ice packed in saw dust does not melt quickly because saw dust is a bad conductor of heat.



Fill out this form and send it to us, and you will be a member of the Rising Star Club. Send in your writings, illustrations, and cartoons. It is an ideal opportunity to express yourself through the print media.

Name:

Father's Name:

School:

Class:

Full Address:

Telephone No.