

# RISING STARS

## Too Close to Home

A new problem is threatening the world, big global environmental problems are beginning to have stronger impact on human beings than war and its consequences. The greatest problem might be the climate change and the ozone layer depletion. Some people avoid or try not to face the problems, but an increasing number of people face the facts and hope to save the world and to stop the depletion of the ozone layer. The most important environmental issues for any living thing are clean water, air and solar energy from the sun.

Ozone is a molecule made of three oxygen atoms (O<sub>3</sub>). Many of these molecules together combine to form a slightly bluish gas. A layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere protects the earth by blocking most of the sun's harmful ultra violet light. The thickness of the ozone layer varies from sixteen to forty-eight kilometers. The distance from earth's surface to the ozone layer varies from fifteen to thirty kilometers. When ozone appears in the lower atmosphere it is categorized as pollution. However, in the upper atmosphere ozone is considered valuable for any living thing because it blocks ultra violet light from shining directly to the earth's surface, but pollution is now breaking down the ozone layer which lets ultra violet light pass through. This is harmful to living things. Ultra violet radiation is invisible to the human eye. Ultra violet light is produced by high temperature surfaces, such as the sun. Ultra violet light can produce direct and indirect effects upon the human body.

The world now knows danger is shining through the sky. The evidence is overwhelming that the earth's stratospheric ozone layer, the shield against the sun's ultra violet light, is being eaten away by man made chemicals far

faster than any scientist predicted. A main factor of the ozone layer destruction is the mad made chemical, chlorofluorocarbon (CFC). The process in which CFC depletes the ozone molecule is that the CFC splits the ozone molecule, leaves two atoms of oxygen behind and sticks to the other, forming chlorine monoxide. This makes it easier for the ultra violet light to pass through the protective ozone layer. When this repeats it eventually makes a hole.

CFC gases are used in refrigeration and in air-conditioning, as cleaning solvents in factories, and as blowing agents to create some kinds of plastic foam. In many countries

by Andreas Tingulstad

populated place affected by the ozone hole over the southern hemisphere is Punta Arenas in southern Chile. In Punta Arenas, the scientists found out that for every one percent ozone disappeared, the skin cancer cases rose by five percent. Minor problems leading to skin cancer are aging and wrinkling caused by too much ultra violet light. Other things caused by the ultra light are reduction of the immune system which then reacts on the body in a way that the body is more susceptible to infectious diseases. The eyes can develop cataracts, causing the lens to cloud up. The result of this

set up a lab for study of the ozone layer supported by an aeroplane owned by NASA stuffed with equipment for research. As well as Norway, there are labs in Kiruna, Sweden and in Greenland. In Punta Arenas the scientists have planned to set up a research center. Two of the main reasons they have put up these centers are because the ozone loss is greater than any scientist predicted and there has been a ten per cent ozone loss the last decade. When these things happen, the people researching at different places get together and discuss the problems and then try to convince the people that the earth is greatly in danger. As well as

countries working on their own refrigerant-recycling programs. Though these countries have begun to reduce the CFC production, the CFC production in the world today is much too high. The map below shows the consumption of CFC's in the world yearly.

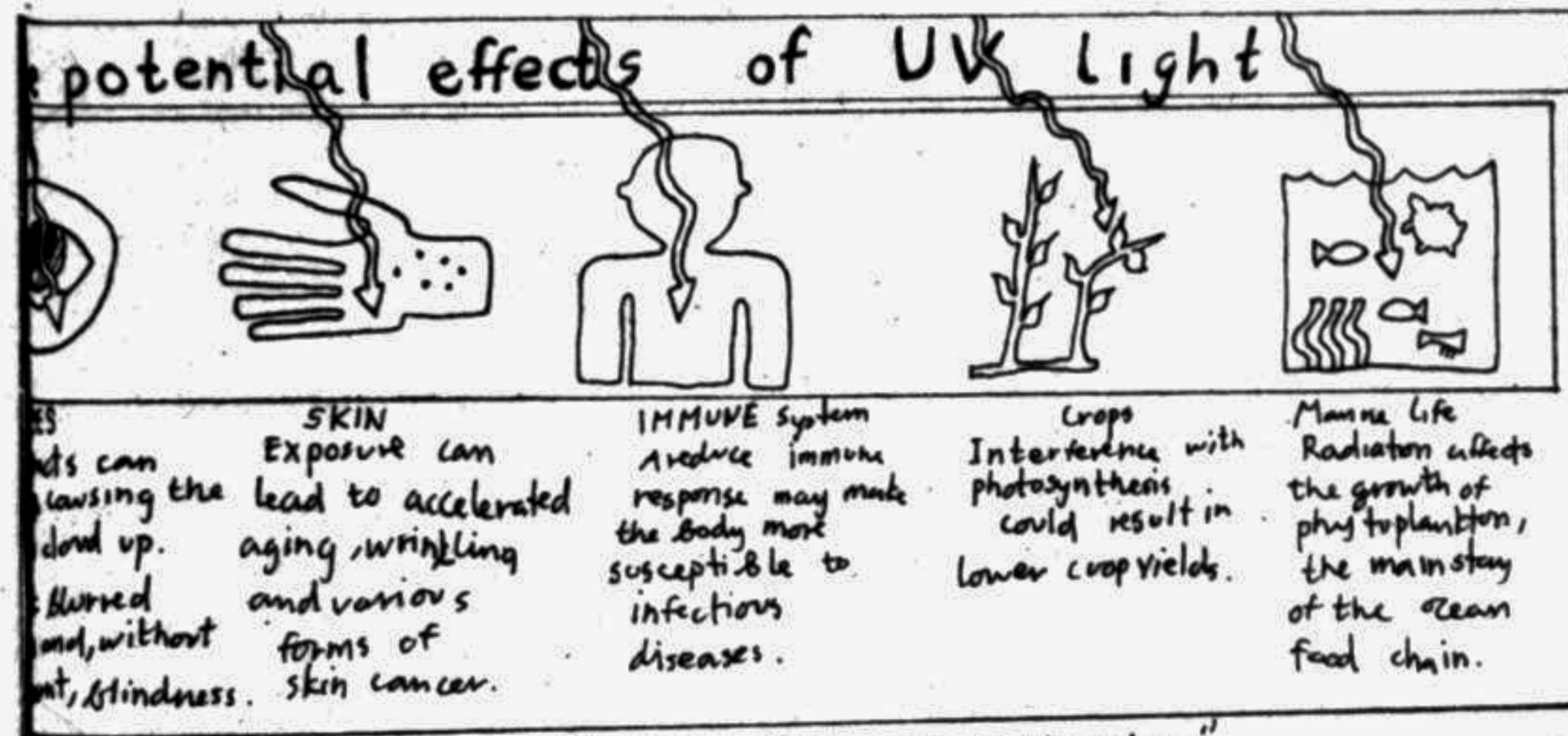
This could be stopped, one could start simply by avoiding substances containing CFCs or chlorine, like cleaning solvents and aerosol sprays. One could change out substances consuming CFCs like air conditioners taking twenty per cent of the total use of CFCs. Refrigerators taking fifteen per cent and buy new not consuming CFCs (as shown in figure 4). Solving such a great matter of natural destructions is hard, but though teaching a lesson to everyone about taking care, does not require much energy.

When bright sunlight occurs, sunglasses of high quality, treated to absorb ultra violet radiation should be obtained. One should try to minimize the time spent in the sun between ten in the morning to three in the afternoon. When comfort calls for shorts and T shirts, use broad sunscreen with a factor of at least fifteen.

Another way of protecting is that one could wear a hat to protect the head from the ultra violet light. Certain areas might not be affected, but if it will, it will be wise to listen to the experts who know and follow their suggestions carefully.

Once we made a mess of the earth, it takes a very long time for the earth to heal itself, so people will hear about this forever. No longer is the threat just to our future the threat is here and now.

The writer is a student of the 8th grade of American Int School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Time, February 17, 1992 "The Ozone Vanisher."

CFC's are still spewed into the air as part of aerosol sprays.

In the North Pole area, scientists predicted that there would be a hole in the ozone layer by February 1991. All the necessary compounds to make a hole were there, like enough CFC gas, icy clouds and sunlight. The missing link this time was cold weather. Over the southern hemisphere the same problem occurred. The hole over Antarctica has now reached twice the size of the United States. The most heavy

could be blurred vision and, without treatment, blindness. Interference with photosynthesis could result in lower crop yields and in marine life the radiation affects the growth of phytoplankton, which is the mainstay of the ocean food chain.

Since dangerous things can happen if the ozone depletion is not stopped, scientists have put up research centers and labs around the northern hemisphere. In Spitsbergen, on the coast of Norway there is

scientists, politicians are helping the environment. The UN has made an environmental plan (UNEP) which states that every country member of the UN, should stop any form of CFC production by the year 1995. Some of the countries that resisted CFC controls at first are taking the lead today. Germany became the first country to establish a system for recycling CFC's from discarded refrigerators. Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands are among other

## On a Beauty

By two beasts, Ahsan and Zia.

ZERO phones Riad. Usually, their conversations are so highly intellectual, dealing with such topics as God, life and, most important of all, where the best food and girls can be found, that the ordinary listener is left bewildered. A piece of a recent edifying conversation:

"You moron."  
"You idiot."  
"You stupid, selfish, conceited, foul-mouthed, thick-headed, empty skulled donkey."  
"You skinny, donkey-headed, lardy, nincompoop!"

As you can tell, they are highly articulate and intellectual. People like you and me are just left flabbergasted by such exchanges.

Back to the matter at hand. Now, Zero says: "You know, I had a weird dream last night." "So what's new? You've got a weird mind to match it."  
"It was about what's-her-name."  
"Do I have to go through this..... again?" Riad's tone is that of resignation.

"What are you talking about?"  
A sigh. "When you say what's-her-name, do you mean—"  
"No, I don't mean her. I mean—"  
"That's who I mean."  
"Let's be serious for once. You have a tendency to take life as a joke."  
"So tell me about it."  
"Alright," says Zero. "Remember you asked me to find out why WHN doesn't take to you? I dreamt finding out."

"Really? What did she say? What did she say? Come on, man, don't leave me in suspense. Riad is so eager."  
"I can't remember."  
"You mean that you called to tell me about forgetting what you had dreamt? Oh man, are you bored. Ciao."  
"Bye."  
"Hang up."  
"You hang up."  
"Okay. Sign! Sometime later..."  
"You, man. Do you remember what her answer was yet?"

"What answer?"  
"The answer, in the dream."  
"Oh. That dream." Zero sounds somewhat guilty. "Well, let me try to remember the circumstances. I know for sure that we were sitting somewhere Close. And I know that I was friendlier with her than I am now."  
"Ahem."  
"At least we were friendly enough."  
"And what did she say?"  
"Let's see. Hmm. This and that. I think she said something about your being an idiot and a dork."  
"Were you enjoying yourself?" Riad teases.  
"Was I supposed to?"  
"I'm not going to think about asking her anymore."  
Zero is perplexed. "Why not?"  
"You've got a crush on her."  
"I what?"  
"You have a crush on her."  
"Don't be ridiculous."  
"She is rather cute and—"  
"How should I know! I don't notice these things."  
"You might not admit it, but I can tell. Riad can be so irritating at times."  
"Yeah? How?"  
"You know, the way you talk about her, how you behave."  
Zero growls: "Go to hell."  
"See! You wish I was in hell so that you'd have a free-hand with her. I mean, you already do, surprisingly, but you just

want to cement it. Keep me out of the way."  
"Oh, brother. If I did, wouldn't I say so? And besides, I have plenty of reasons not to."  
"Yeah, right," says Riad sarcastically. "Why is it that whenever I'm interested in a girl, one of my friends is as well?"  
"You ought to be shot, hanged, boiled, fried and diced and served as an entree. I am not keen on her."  
"Are too."  
"Am not."  
"Are too!"  
"Am not!"  
"Face it, my boy. It's life."  
Riad, I'd choke you if I could."  
"But you still haven't told me what her answer was."  
"Well, it was a dream. Does it matter?"  
"Of course it does? You're useless. You can't even get the answer to a chemistry question when I asked you to."  
And so ends the saga of the Question (and Answer) of the Dream. As of this writing, Riad is still interested in the person in question, and Zero denies that he (Zero, not Riad) is. Riad is also depressed for his failure to make any headway with her, while Zero is yet to remember the answer. A consequence of this was that Riad flunked his chemistry examination.



## Fangs Jr VII

Sagheer Bin Faiz

ON the other side of the world i.e. the side in which the hapless Waffles crashed, he fell in love with a beautiful Saudi Arabian princess and decided to spend the rest of his life pursuing her. He is now out of the story. We bid him a fond farewell and wish him the best.

On this side of the world, things were much more turbulent. C. C. now had again pointed at Fearsome Shabs, while Dr. MM almost flattered by Shab's fall through the ceiling recovered on a settee.

"All right, you two?" yelled up at SuperJudes and Don M. "Get here before Fearsome Shabs comes." He shook his head in search of a suitable pen and then gave up. "Just get here."

"Back to square one!" FS grumbled.

"Not quite....." Don M snickered.

"Even Superkar can't rescue us this time," Super Judes said. "This cellar is twenty feet under ground."

"Nema problems" was Don M's laconic answer. He was just about to say something when the coffin next to them

which they had presumed to be empty, budged and knocking sounds emitted from inside.

"Oh God! I knew this place was haunted!" Super Judes yelled, as the coffin lid burst open and amid screams, ooh's and aah's Saggie B and Sue came out, looking like they had been put into a washing machine with a spin cycle of 50.

"Jeez! What took your guys so long?" Sue yelled.

"I'd say you were a bit too early." The lecherous grin off Saggie B's face told it all.

Sue took the hint and was about to hit Saggie when Don M the eternal diplomat, stepped in.

"Alright! Hold it you two! Saggie, gave your sick puns for later."

Then he grabbed his stomach and the two rolled helplessly on the floor in laughter.

"What did we do to deserve to be saddled with these two?" FS groaned.

"Oh, they've been like this since high school!" Sue answered with the wisdom of someone who had been the victim of many a prank from those two.

"Ok! If you clowns are finished, we've got to get out of here!" Super Judes expostulated.

"Alright", Don M got up "Let's carry on my death-defying plan."

Super Judes crossed herself once and Don M brought out a tiny transmitter.

[To be continued]

## STAR PROFILE

Name—Jodie Foster

Born—Nov 19, 1962  
Marital Status—Single(?)  
Did you know that:

—She made her debut appearance at the age of three doing commercials?  
—She won the best actress Oscar award for her role in 'Silence of the Lambs' and 'The Accused'?

—She is the director of the movie 'Little Man Tate'?

—Her role in 'Taxi Driver' inspired a man to try and assassinate President Reagan?

—Her mother, a single parent, has been the strongest influence in her life, both on and off screen?



## Bangladesh

by Moinuddin Ahmed (Abby) Class IV

Bangladesh is sun home land  
That's what I want to say,  
It's a very lovely place  
So I want to stay.

Before the sun is up in the sky  
The villagers go to the fields to plough.

When the sun is bright and red  
The women work with needle and thread.

I want to lead  
As happy a life,  
In my homeland —  
Bangladesh  
with my children and wife.

## Registration

Nazzina Binthe Mohsin  
Shaheed Moinul Road  
Dhaka  
RS: 0239

Md Nageebul Islam  
Green Road, Dhaka  
RS: 0240

Shazneen Rahman  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
RS: 0241

U Than Way  
Lalkhan Bazar  
RS: 0242

Syed Saadat Qadri  
Siddeshwari, Dhaka  
RS: 0243

Maria Sultana Munni  
Arambag, Dhaka.  
RS: 0244

Nazzina Binthe Mohsin  
Shaheed Moinul Road  
Dhaka  
RS: 0239

Md Nageebul Islam  
Green Road, Dhaka  
RS: 0240

Shazneen Rahman  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
RS: 0241

U Than Way  
Chittagong  
RS: 0242

Syed Saadat Qadri  
Siddeshwari, Dhaka  
RS: 0243

Maria Sultana Munni  
Arambag, Dhaka.  
RS: 0244

Moinuddin Ahmed (Abby)  
R K Mission Road, Dhaka  
RS: 0245

Syed Golam Moznabin Sheyum  
Zafarabad, Dhaka  
RS: 0246

Farzana Hussain (Liza)  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
RS: 0247

A S M Haider  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka  
RS: 0248

## Bet You didn't know....

Teddy bears are named after a President of the United States — Toy bears were popular long before the 20th century but 'Teddy' bears got their name from Theodore or Teddy Roosevelt, President of the

United States of America from 1901 to 1909. Roosevelt was particularly fond of bear-hunting and on one occasion returned from an expedition with a live baby bear. The newspapers picked up the story

and for ever afterwards children's toy bears were called 'Teddy' bears. Roosevelt was a very popular president who did a great deal to make America an international power during his term of office.

## QUIZ CLUB

Here are this weeks quiz questions. Please send in answers by Thursday. Don't forget — if you get all of them right you may win a very attractive prize!

1. What was the real name of George Orwell?
2. Where is the Cotopaxi volcano situated?
3. In which year was Halley's comet first seen?
4. Who was the youngest man to win the Nobel prize?
5. Which disease is known as lysssa?
6. Which capital city of Europe had the former name Christiania?
7. Name the Greek god of blame and mockery.
8. In music, what does the phrase 'con brio' mean?
9. Which famous conqueror regarded himself as 'Man of Destiny'?
10. What was the first newspaper of China called?

Answers to November 7th's Quiz Club:

1. New York
2. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives.
3. White House
4. 1703
5. 400 metres
6. Sol
7. Stratford-on-Avon
8. Jerusalem, Israel
9. Cricket
10. Pearl S. Buck

We are happy to announce November 7th's Quiz Club winner. This time many of you got all the answers right so we had to do a lottery. And the lucky winner is...Farhana Sultana Saleh. Congratulations Farhana! Please contact our office to know when you can collect your prize!

## The Turtle and the Wolf

by Nayeem Mahbub (7 yrs old)

ONCE upon a time there lived a nasty wolf in a forest. He liked to eat little animals. All the animals were afraid of him. Sometimes one or two got away. And when he couldn't catch his food, he howled "Whoooooo!" One day the wolf met a little turtle.

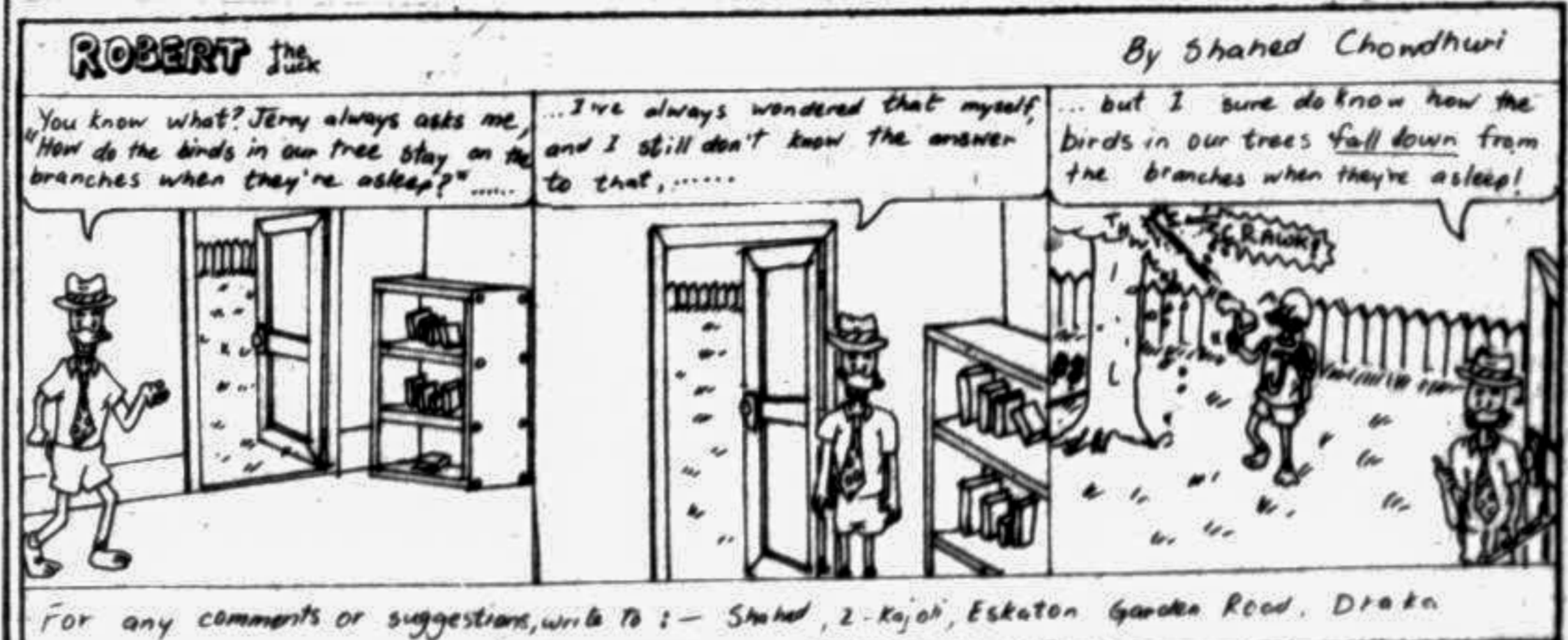
"Hi there, little fella!" said the wolf, "Come with me for little walk!"

"Why?" asked the turtle, softly. He was feeling very scared.

"Because it's a fine day, little fella," said the nasty wolf. So they started to walk.

After a while, the wolf stopped and said, "I'm hungry! I'll eat you up!"

"Never!" shouted the turtle. But the wolf jumped on the turtle. Just then the turtle pulled his legs and his head into his shell. The wolf bit on the hard shell and all his teeth broke off!



For any comments or suggestions, write to: - Shaded, 2, Kojab, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka