



Kids Activity Downloads

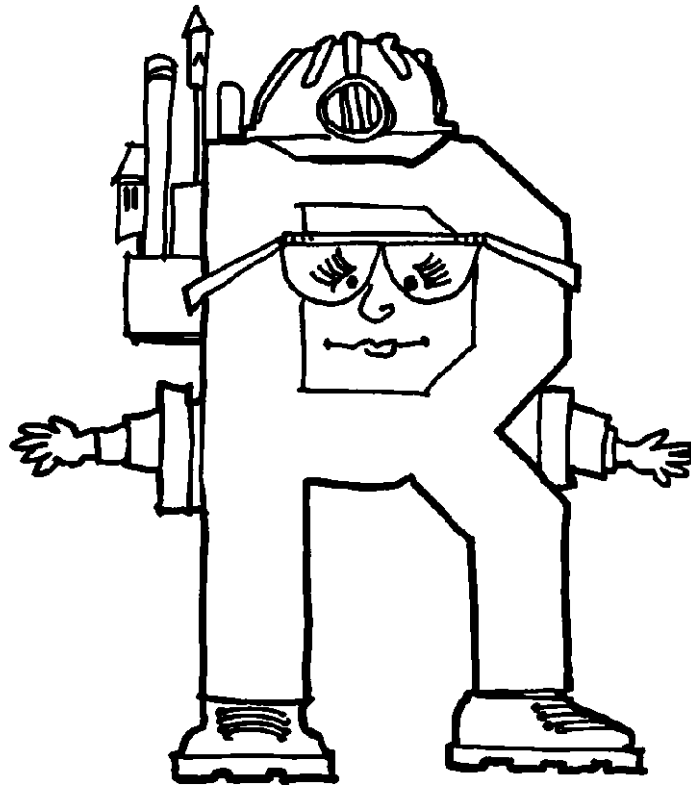
[Environment - Recycle Coloring Book.pdf](#)

[Environment - Reduce Coloring Book.pdf](#)

[Environment - Reuse Coloring Book.pdf](#)

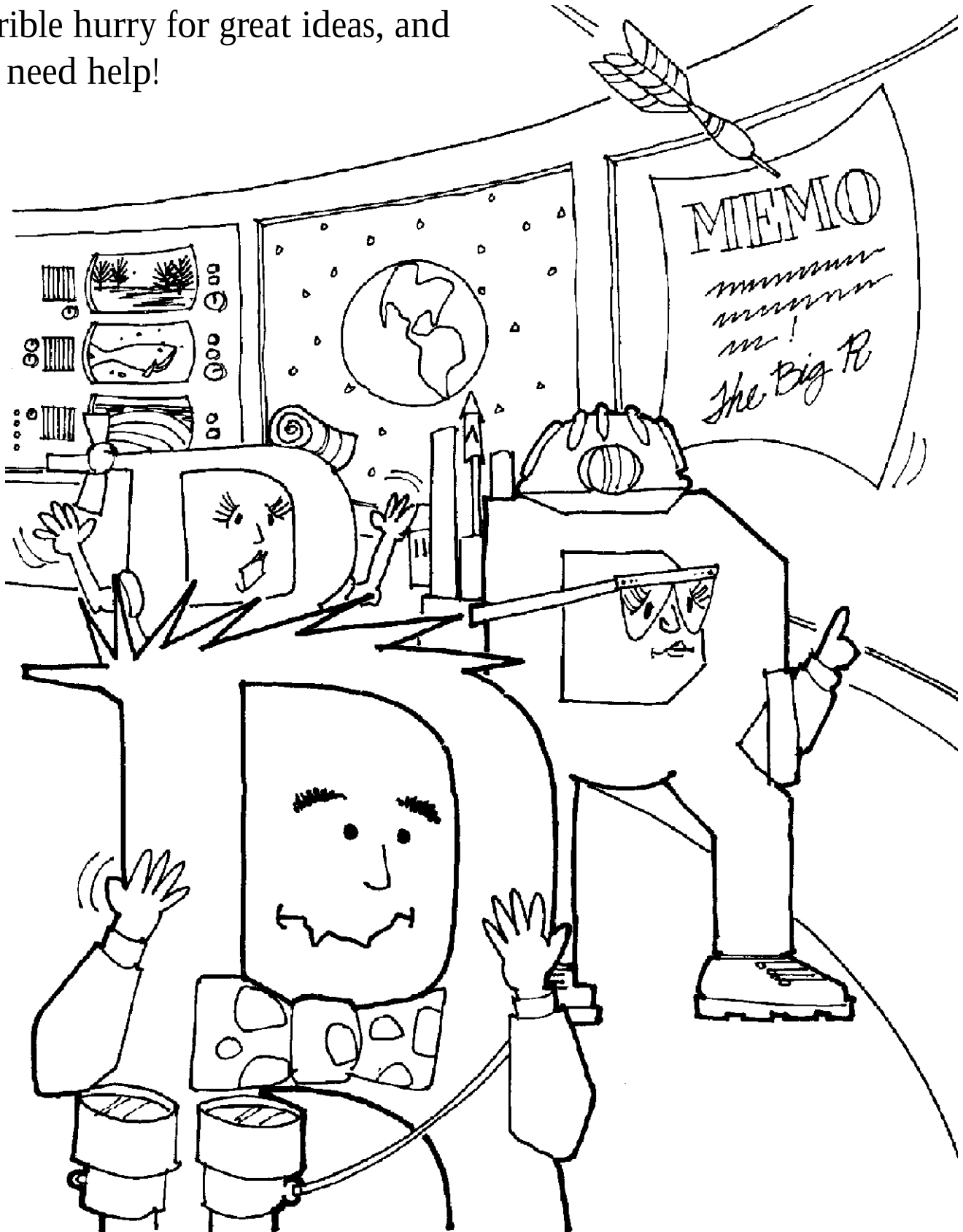
BOOK
3

Rrready, Set, Recycle!



Big Trouble from the Big R

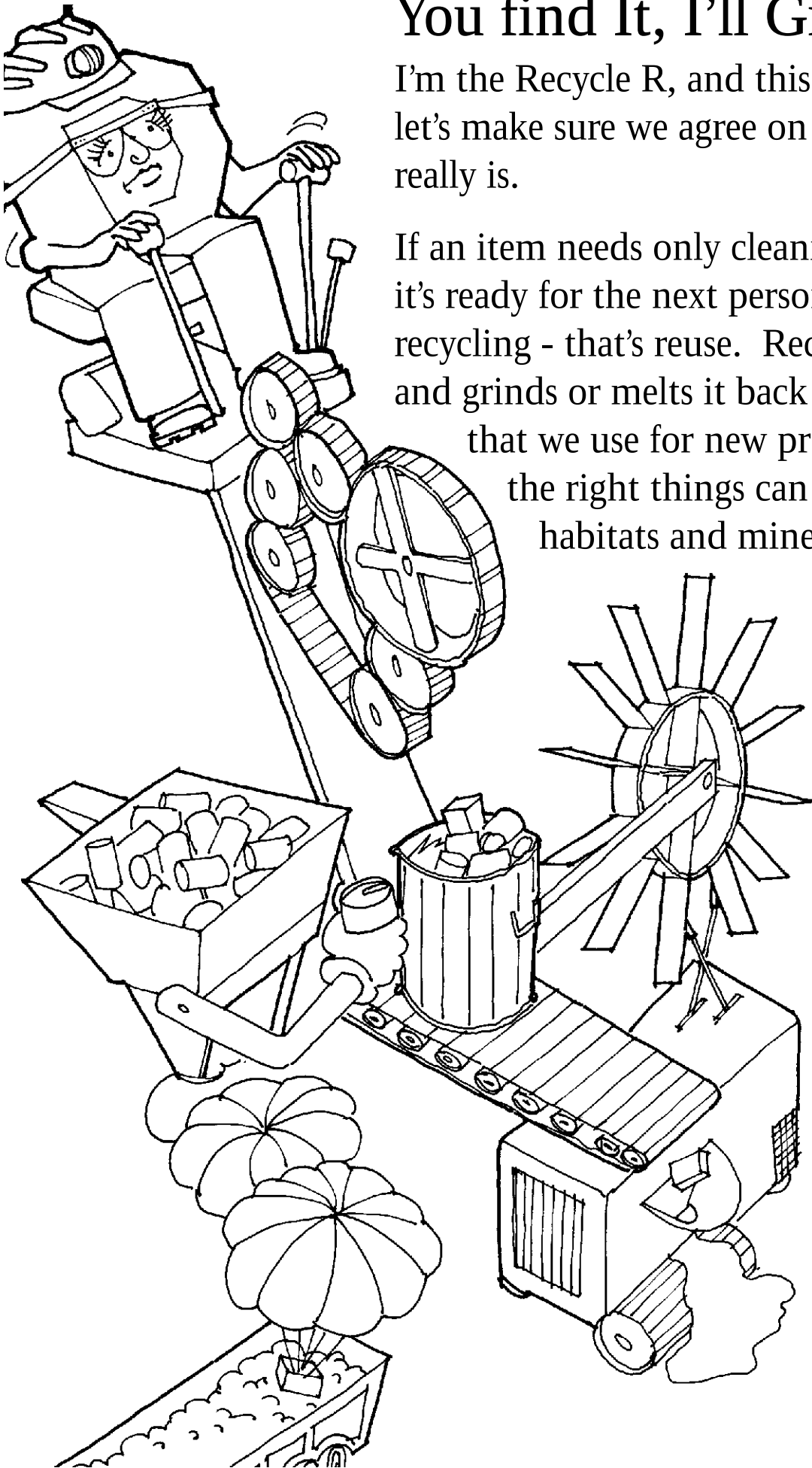
Hi! We're the Three R's. We have to report back to our boss, the Big R. She wants to know from us how people could be reducing, reusing and recycling more, fifty years from now. She's in a terrible hurry for great ideas, and we need help!



You find It, I'll Grind It

I'm the Recycle R, and this is my book. First, let's make sure we agree on what recycling really is.

If an item needs only cleaning or repair before it's ready for the next person, that's not recycling - that's reuse. Recycling takes trash and grinds or melts it back into raw materials that we use for new products. Recycling the right things can save energy, animal habitats and minerals.



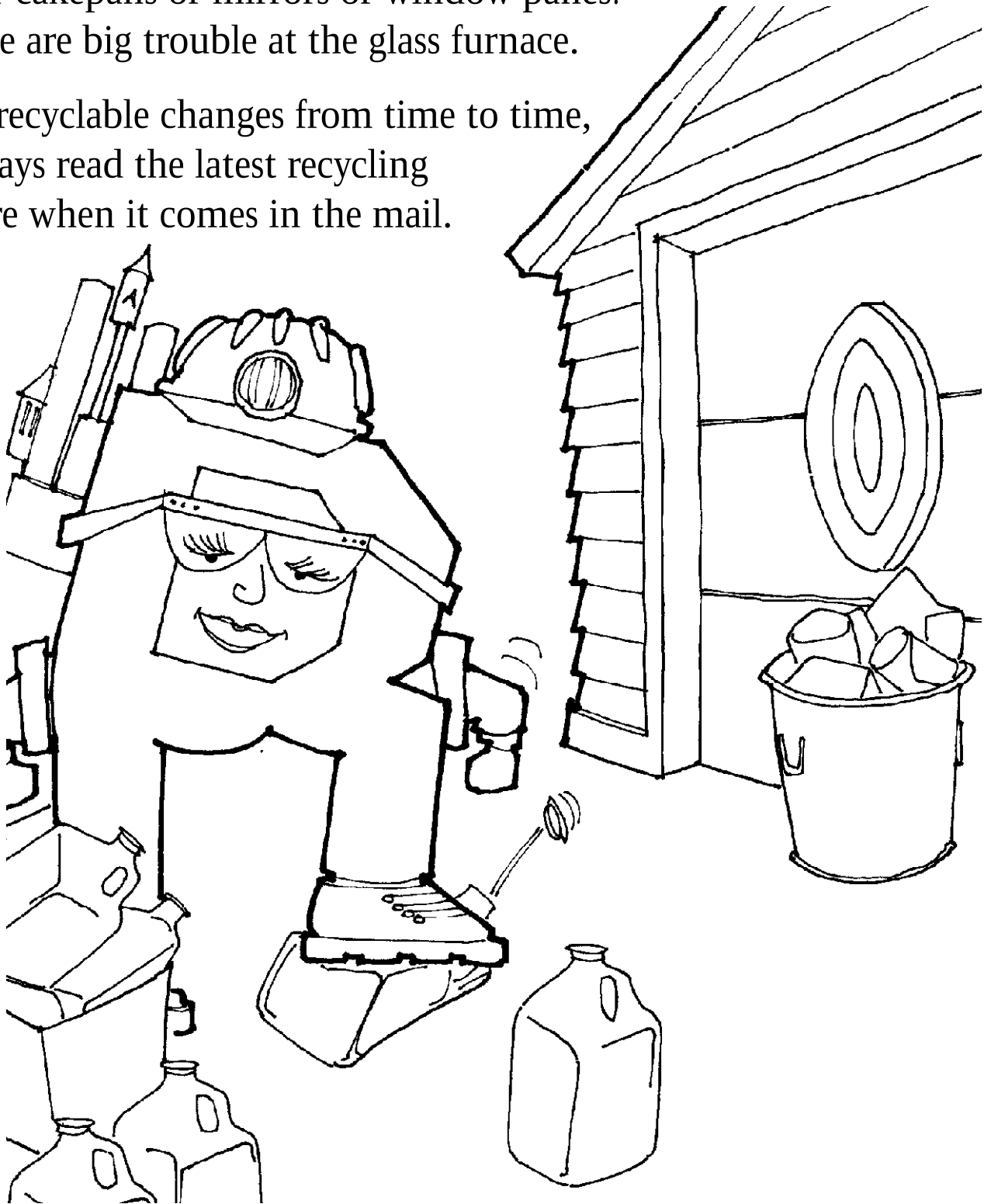
Machines are Picky Too

And you know what? Recycling factories can't take everything either!

Caps on milk jugs and soda bottles, for instance. Caps and lids don't melt the same as bottles and jars. Take'em off and throw'em in the trash! And when I put out my glass for recycling, you won't find any mugs or cakepans or mirrors or window panes!

All those are big trouble at the glass furnace.

What's recyclable changes from time to time, so I always read the latest recycling brochure when it comes in the mail.

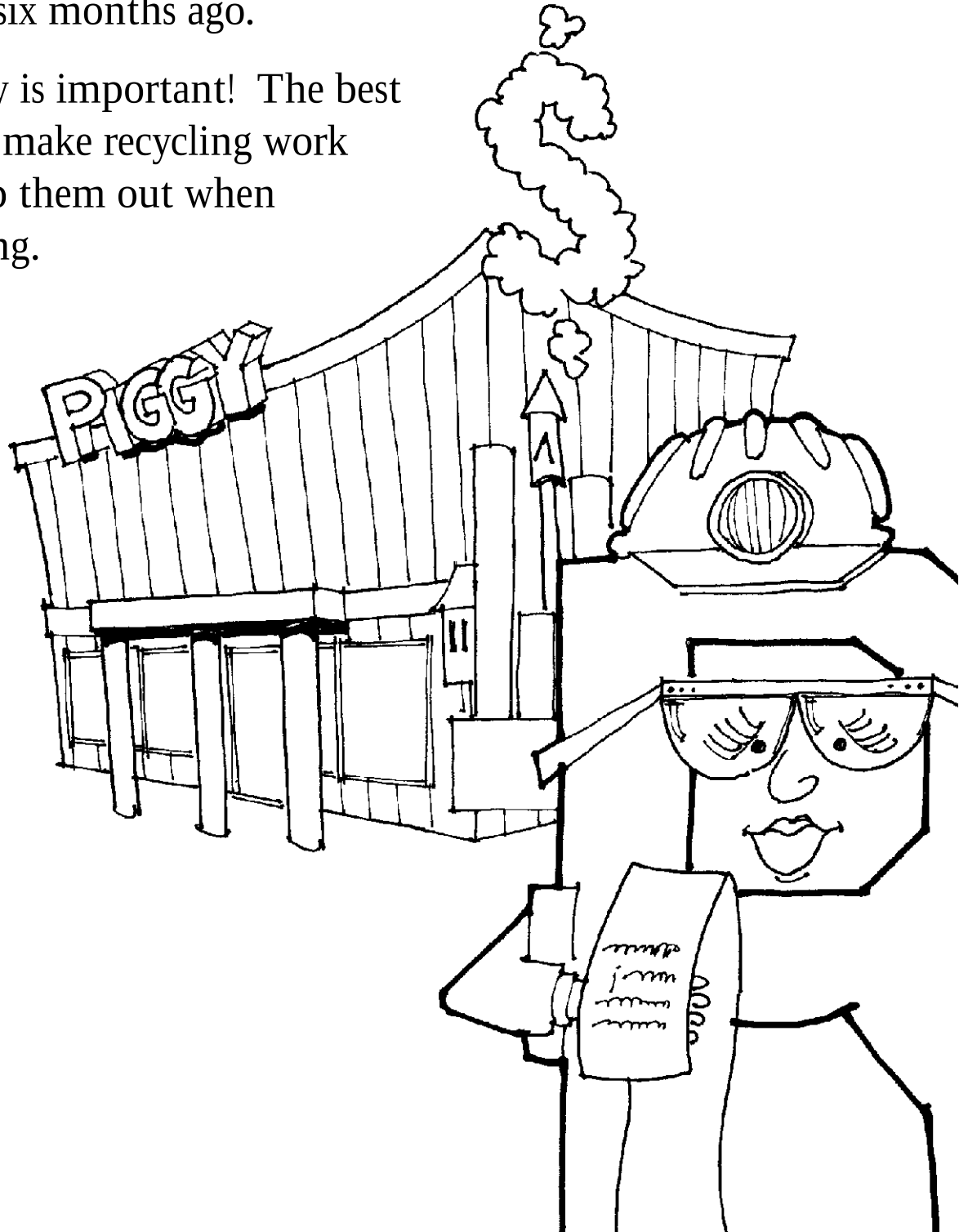


Garbage: Shop Till It Drops

Let's see. I need milk, bread, eggs, cookies, recyclables, and more cookies! That means I look for packaging that I know I can recycle in my city.

I also look for labels that talk about 'post consumer' recycled content. It means I could be buying back the same glass I put into the recycling bin six months ago.

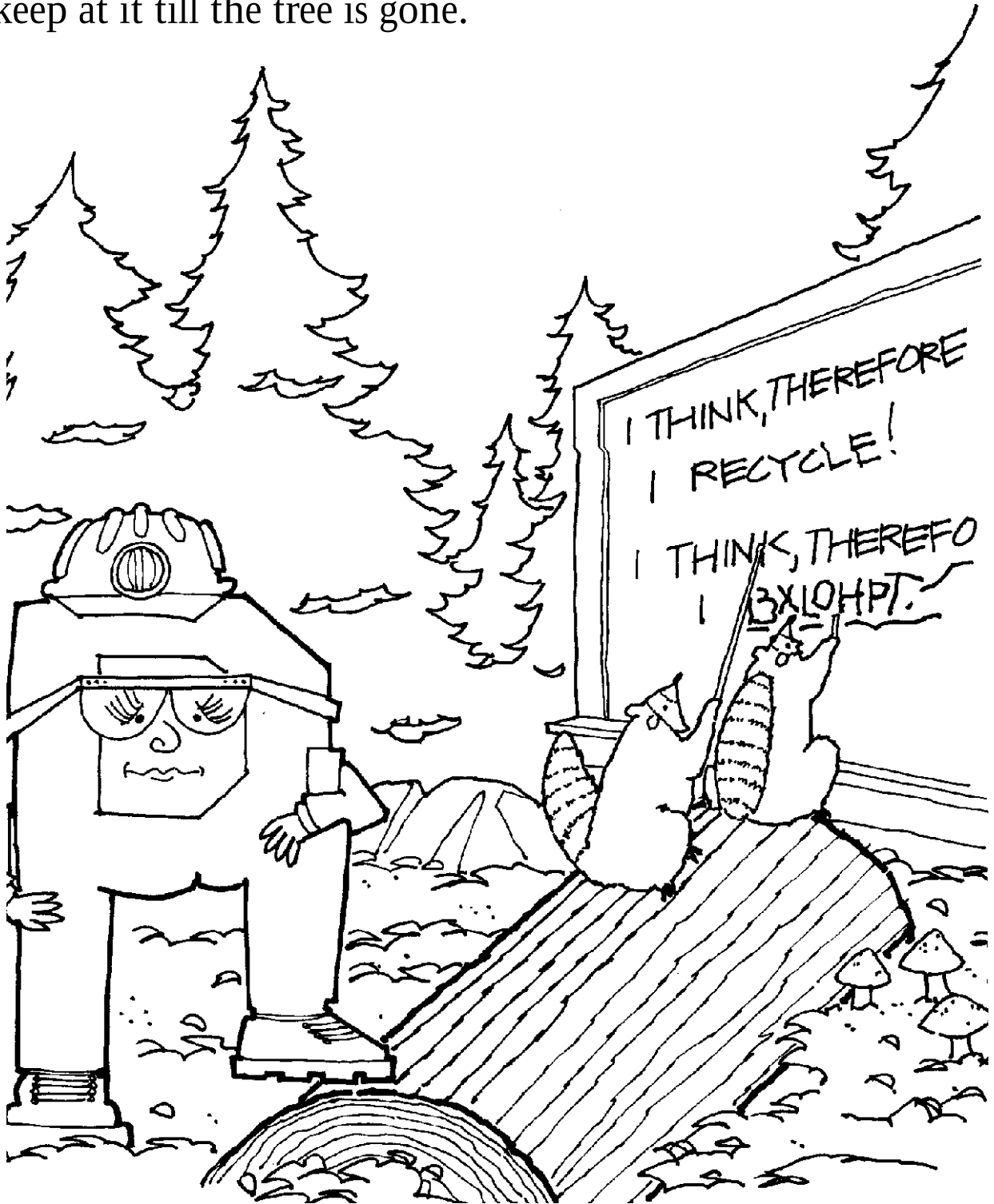
What you buy is important! The best factories can't make recycling work unless we help them out when we go shopping.



Doing What Comes Nature-ly

Animals know all about recycling, even if they aren't going to win any spelling contests about it.

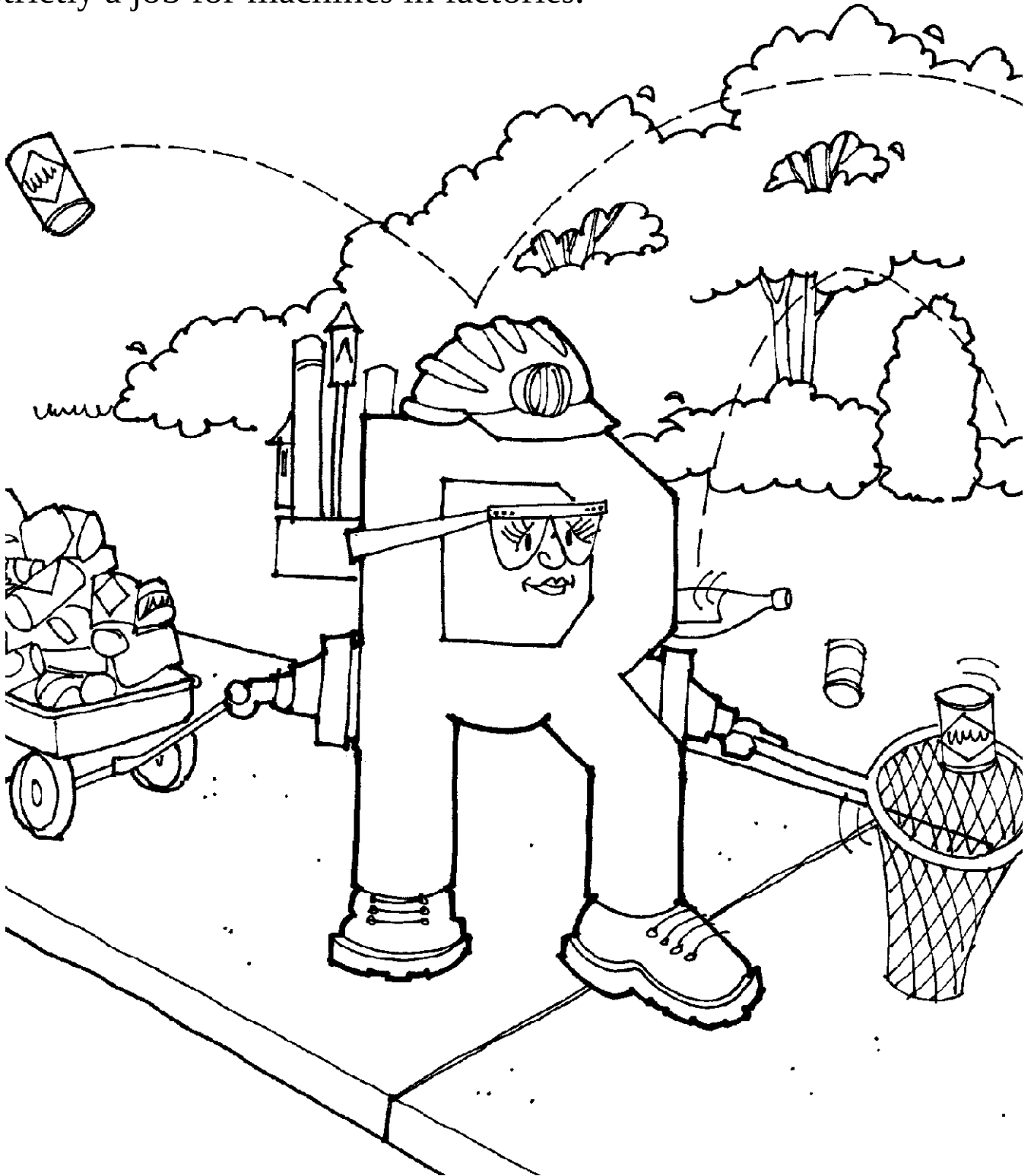
When a tree falls down, plants and animals begin recycling it into nice, fresh dirt. There's plenty of work for termites, moss, lichens, beetles and worms. The job might take fifty years, but they keep at it till the tree is gone.



Keep Your Trash Out of Our Trees, Please

Nature can't handle everything, though. Even the toughest termites in town can't recycle your cans and bottles into dirt. If the animals could, I'd bet they'd throw our litter right back at us.

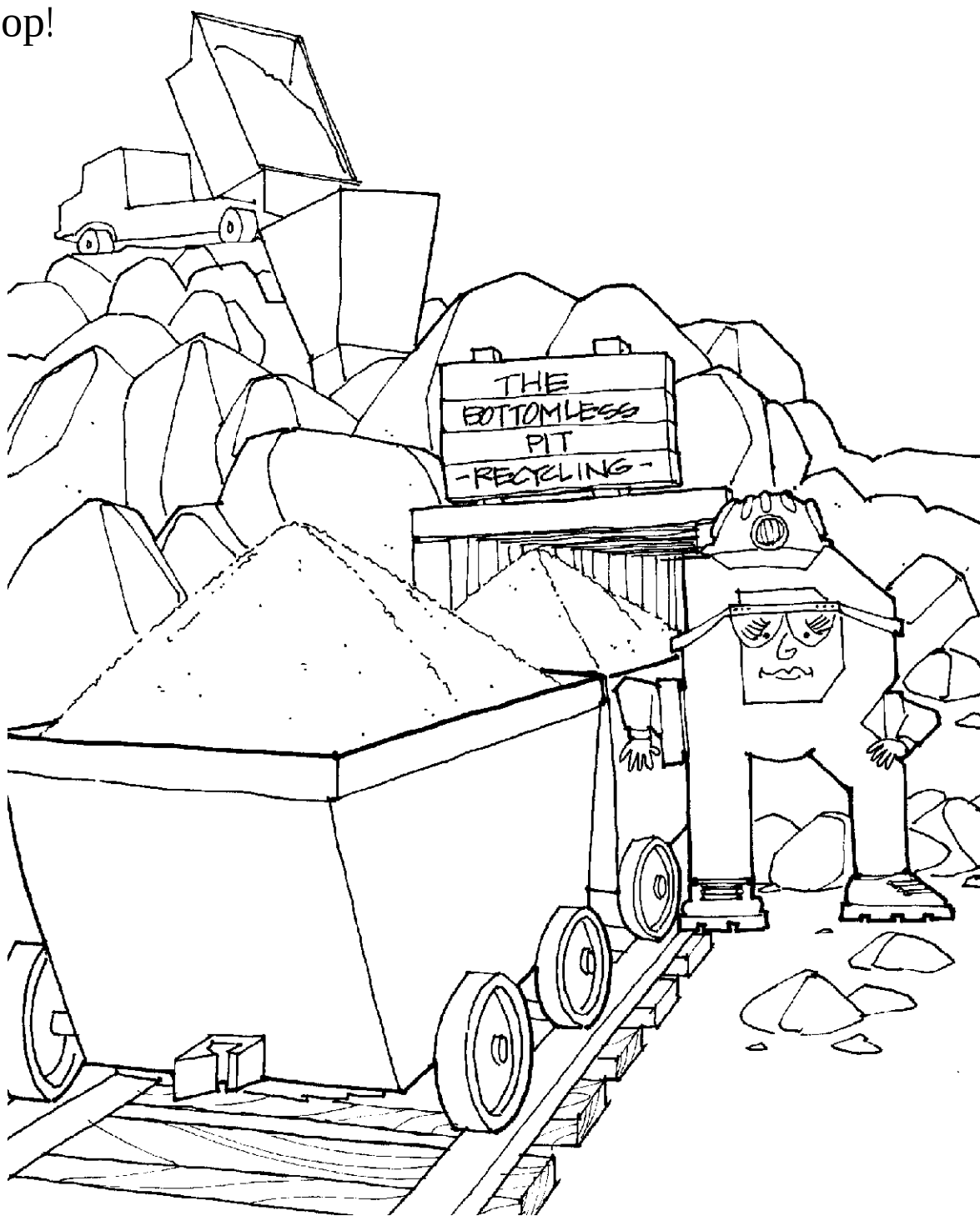
Grinding up our old paper, plastic, metal and glass into raw materials is strictly a job for machines in factories.



Mine Your Own Business

Have you ever heard of a bottomless cup of coffee? At a restaurant, it means the waiter or waitress will come by and fill up the cup before it's empty.

The cans, boxes, bottles and paper that we turn in for recycling are like ore from a bottomless mine. It's nice to know that the recycling mine will never run out - as long as we keep closing the recycling loop!



Deep Thought

So that's what recycling is. We recycle a little more than a quarter of all our trash now. The Big R wants the best possible ideas on how we can recycle even more fifty years from now. Here's a few I thought of.

How about a giant motorized stomping boot that comes down the street and flattens all the cans in my recycling bin? Or push-buttons on old appliances that makes all the non-recyclable parts fly off? Or

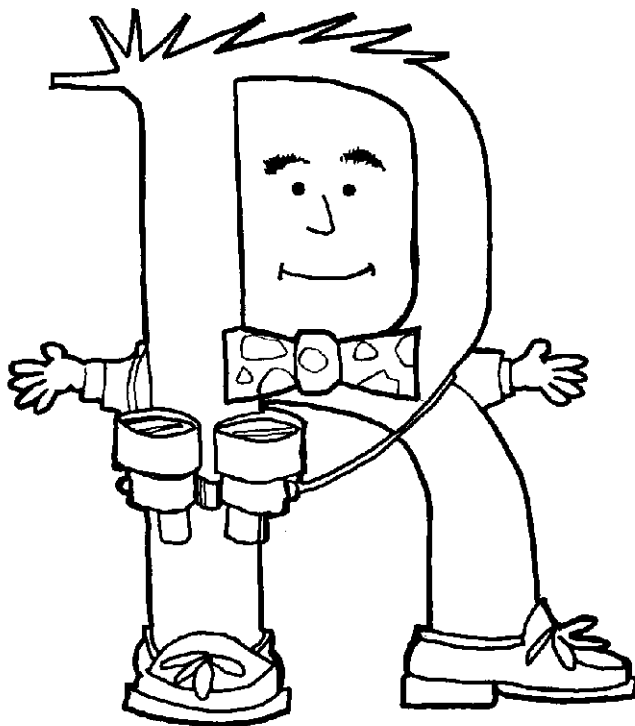
tress that shed their leaves on command,
directly into a yardwaste bag?



BOOK

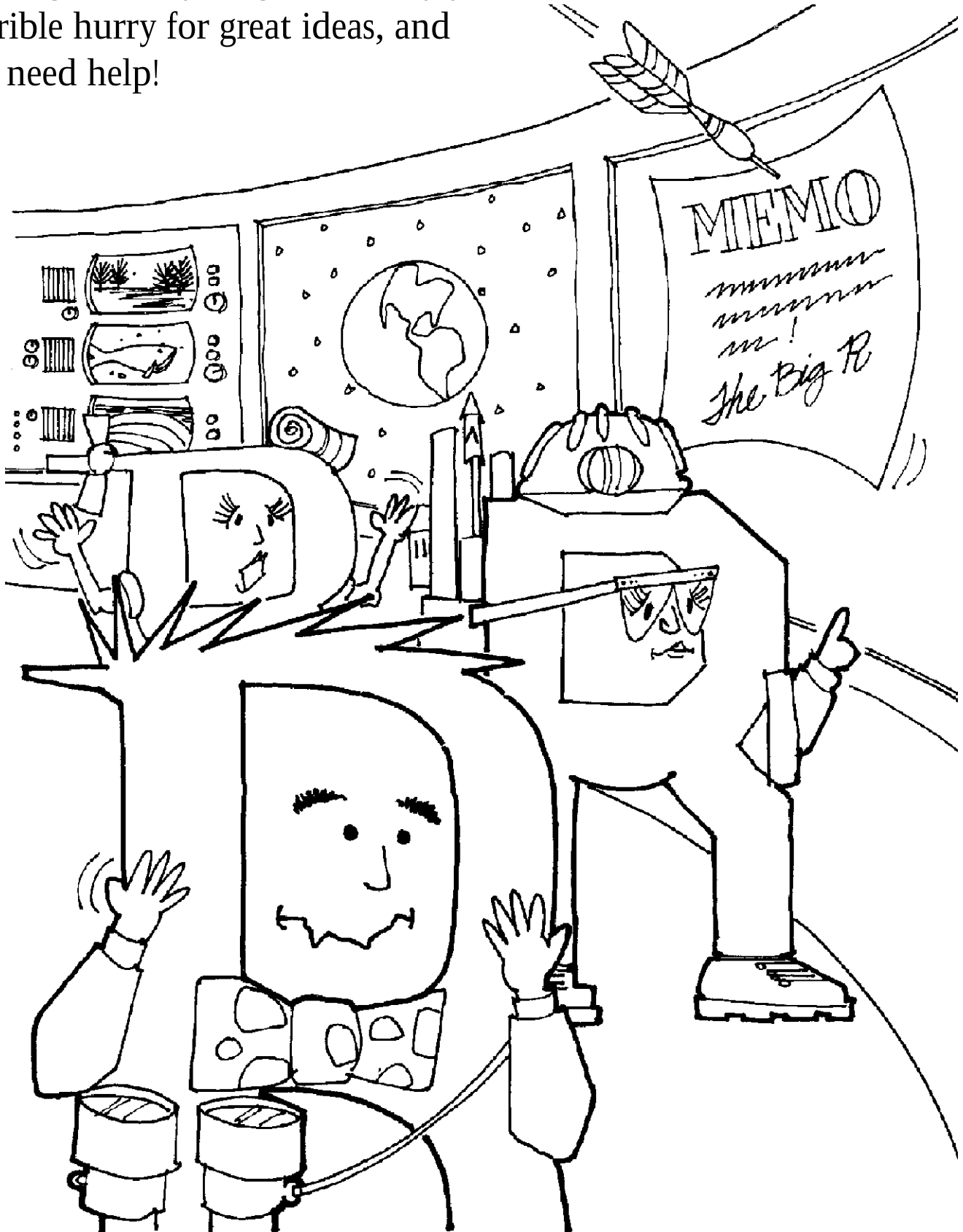
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Rrready, Set, Reduce!



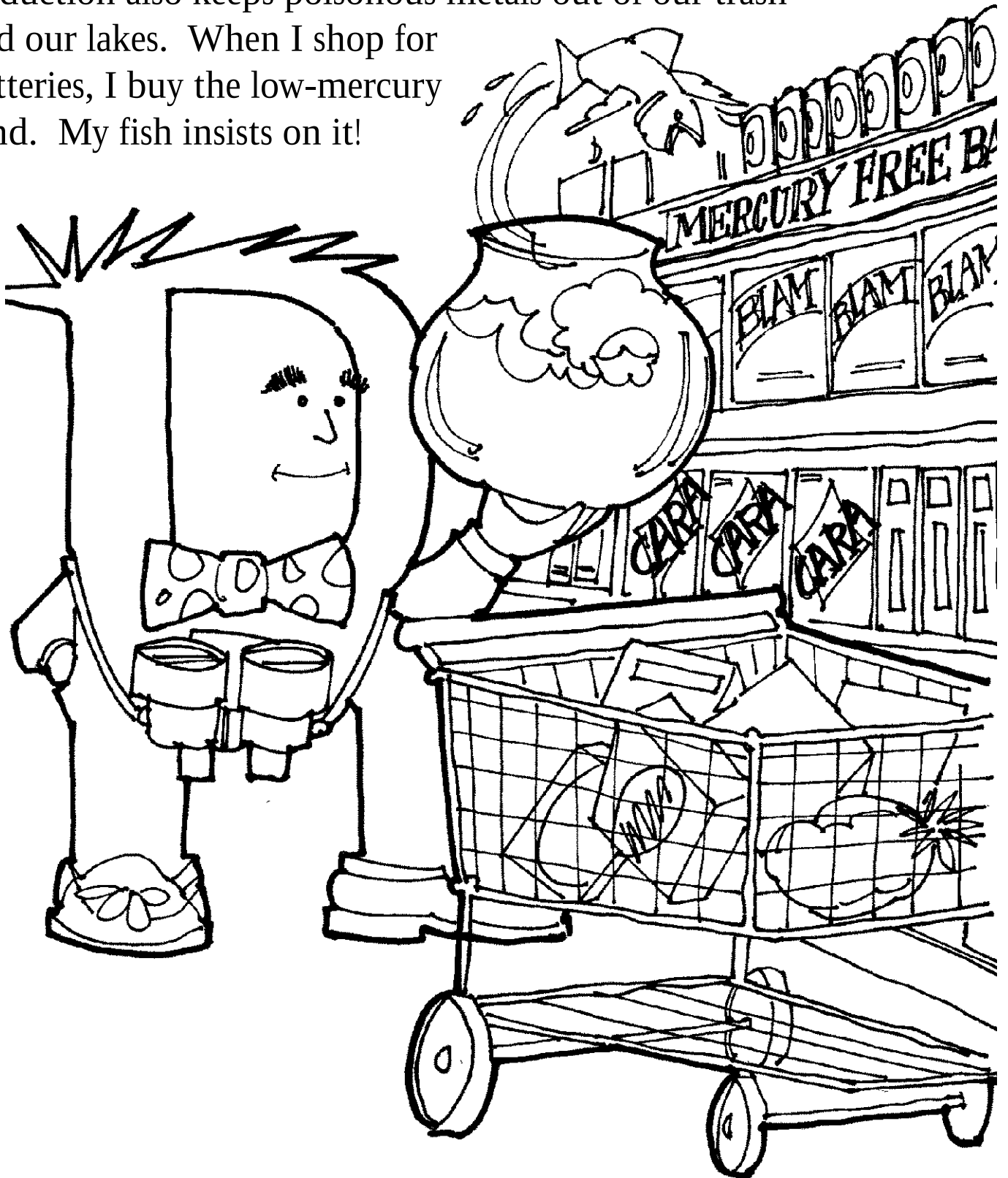
Big Trouble from the Big R

Hi! We're the Three R's. We have to report back to our boss, the Big R. She wants to know from us how people could be reducing, reusing and recycling more, fifty years from now. She's in a terrible hurry for great ideas, and we need help!



Think Like a Fish

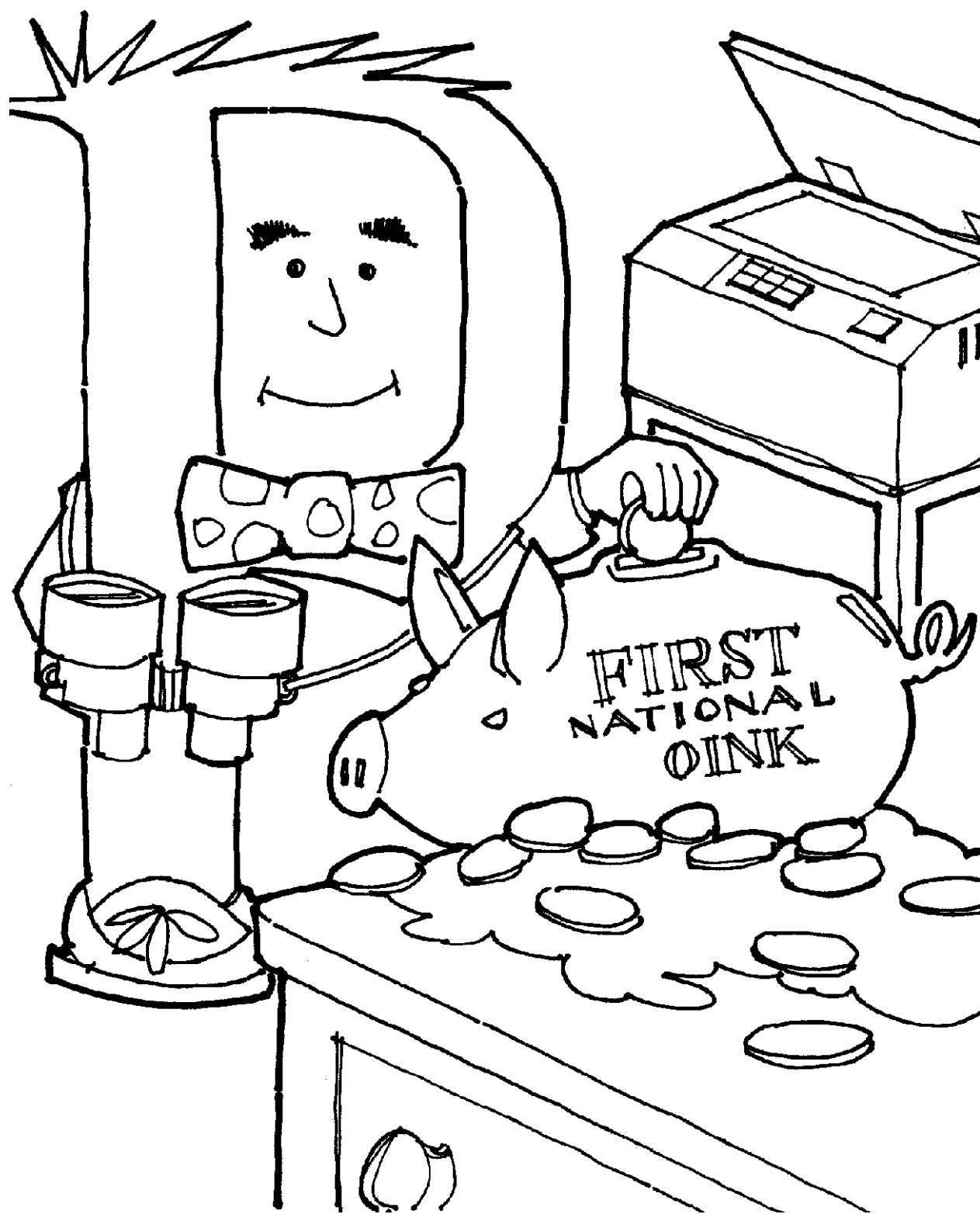
I'm the Reduce R, and this is my book. First, let's agree on what reduction is. It's different from the other two R's because it avoids manufacturing stuff that turns into trash later. That means we have to take less minerals from the Earth, and we leave more for later. Reduction also keeps poisonous metals out of our trash and our lakes. When I shop for batteries, I buy the low-mercury kind. My fish insists on it!



Two Sides to Every Story

Notice how well I'm dressed! I save money by reducing, so I can afford to buy nice clothes. I live well, but I only buy what I need.

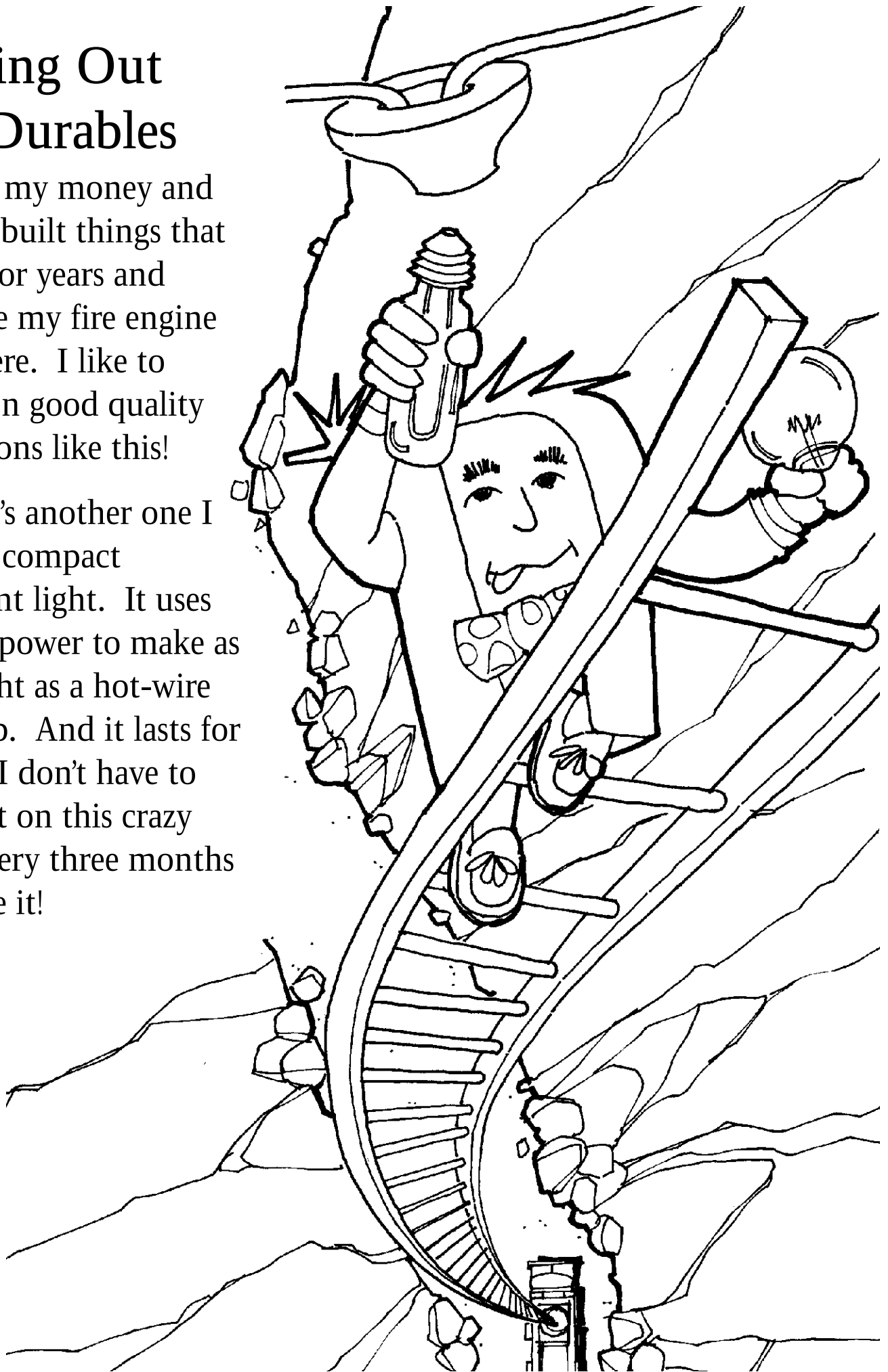
This is money I saved when I began photocopying on both sides of every page. Now I buy half the paper I used to!



Hanging Out with Durables

I save up my money and buy well-built things that will last for years and years, like my fire engine down there. I like to depend on good quality in situations like this!

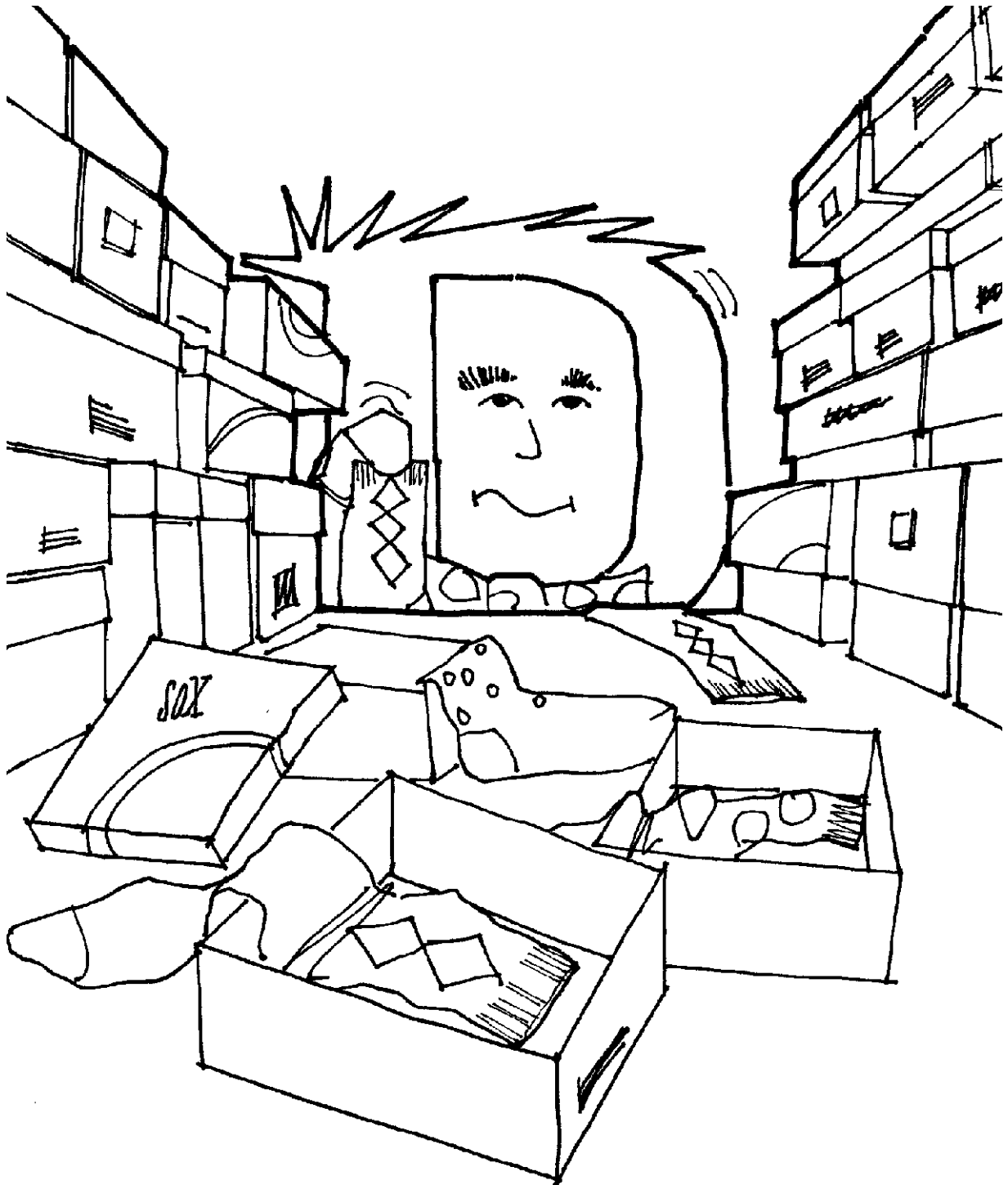
And here's another one I like: the compact fluorescent light. It uses a lot less power to make as much light as a hot-wire light bulb. And it lasts for years, so I don't have to climb out on this crazy ladder every three months to change it!



Boxes of Sox

What if every pair of socks in the store came inside four boxes? That would certainly sell a lot of boxes, but it would be more packaging than we need. You won't find many socks sold in a box, but there are always ways to reduce packaging.

When I get thirsty for fruit juice, I buy it concentrated and mix it myself. That saves from buying a new bottle each time.



Look and See

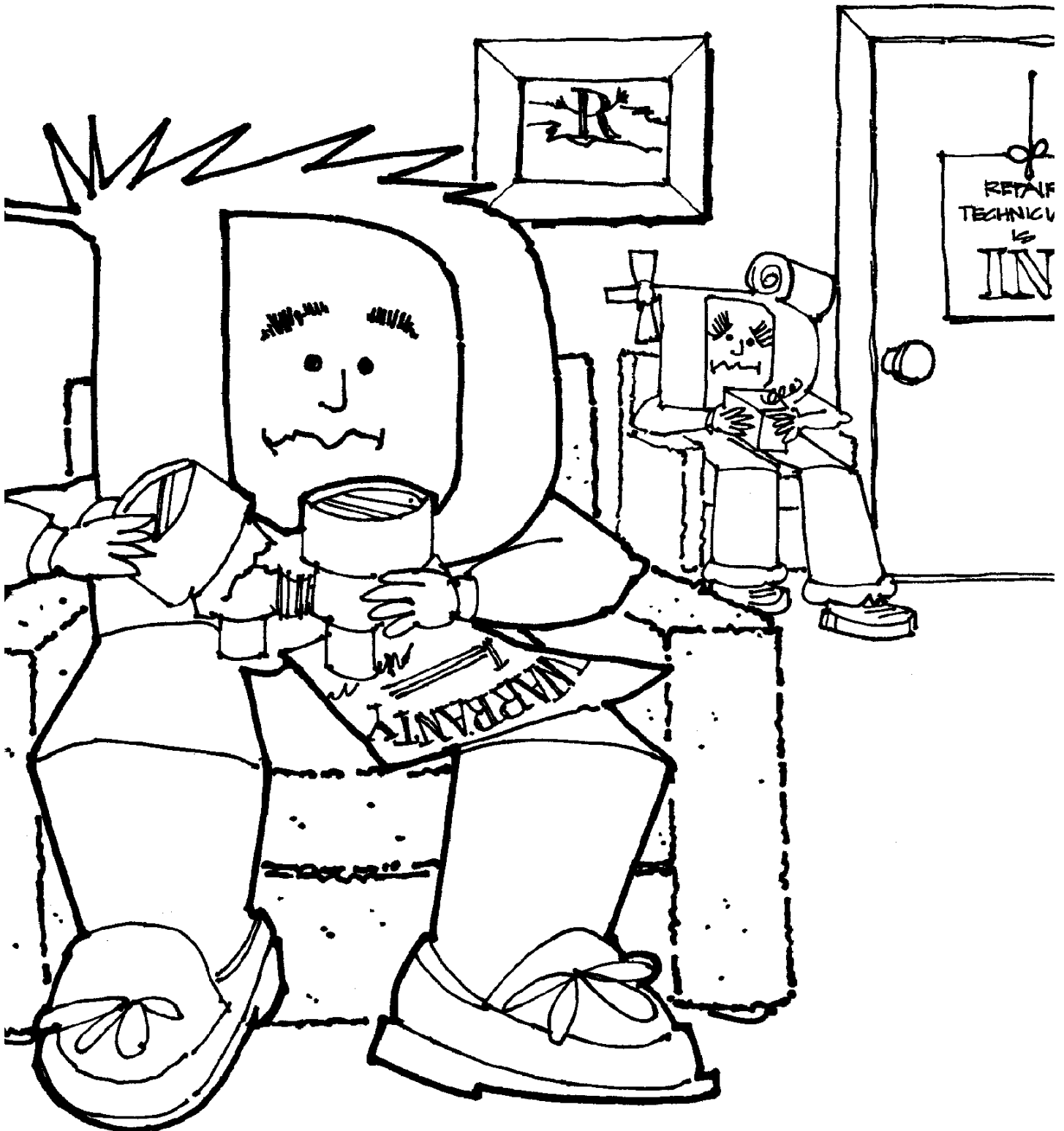
Knowing the right things to buy for reduction can take some hunting. That's why I invented these Buy-noculars.

Hmmm! Looks like buying things in tiny boxes costs more because it uses a lot of packaging. I'm going to buy big boxes and bags of the stuff I use all the time - like laundry detergent, or dry food for my pet lizard, Sheila.



In a Fix

My Buy-Noculars quit-working! It's a good thing that I bought a pair that's easy to fix, and has a long warranty. The warranty says the factory will pay the repair bill for three whole years after the day I bought it.



Deep Thought

That's how we reduce already. Now the Big R wants the best possible ideas on how we can reduce our trash production fifty years from now. Here's a few I thought of.

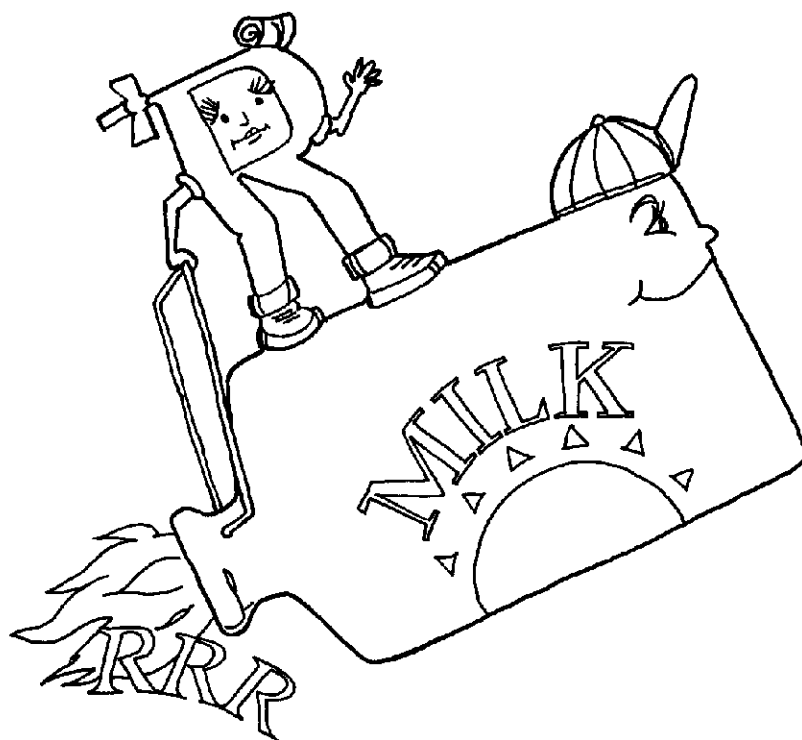
How about a Shrink O'Ray to reduce our garbage? Grass that doesn't grow over two inches high?

Soda pop pipes running to every house, we don't need bottles? Boxes that you can eat? I bet you can do better!



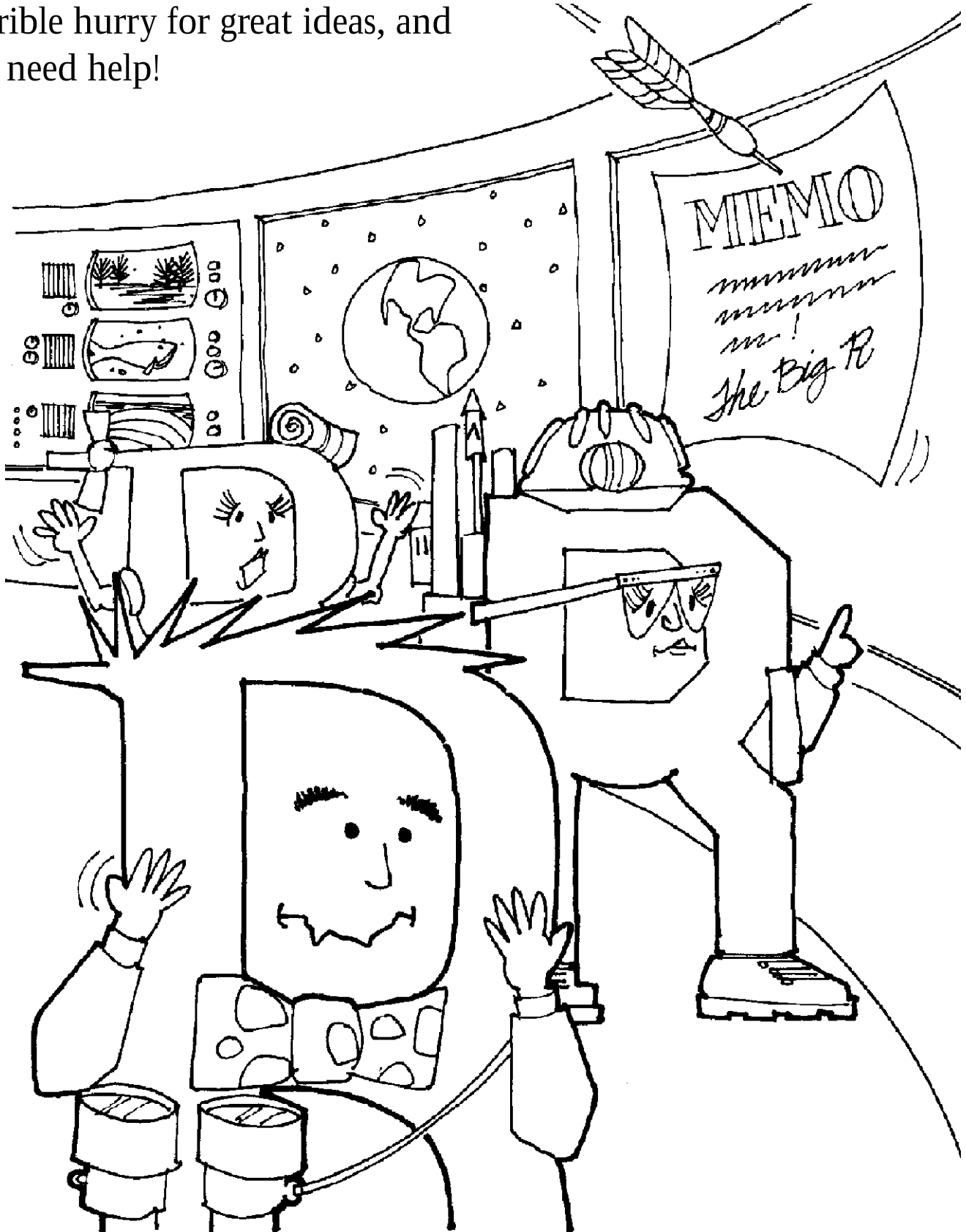
BOOK
2

Rrready, Set, Reuse!



Big Trouble from the Big R

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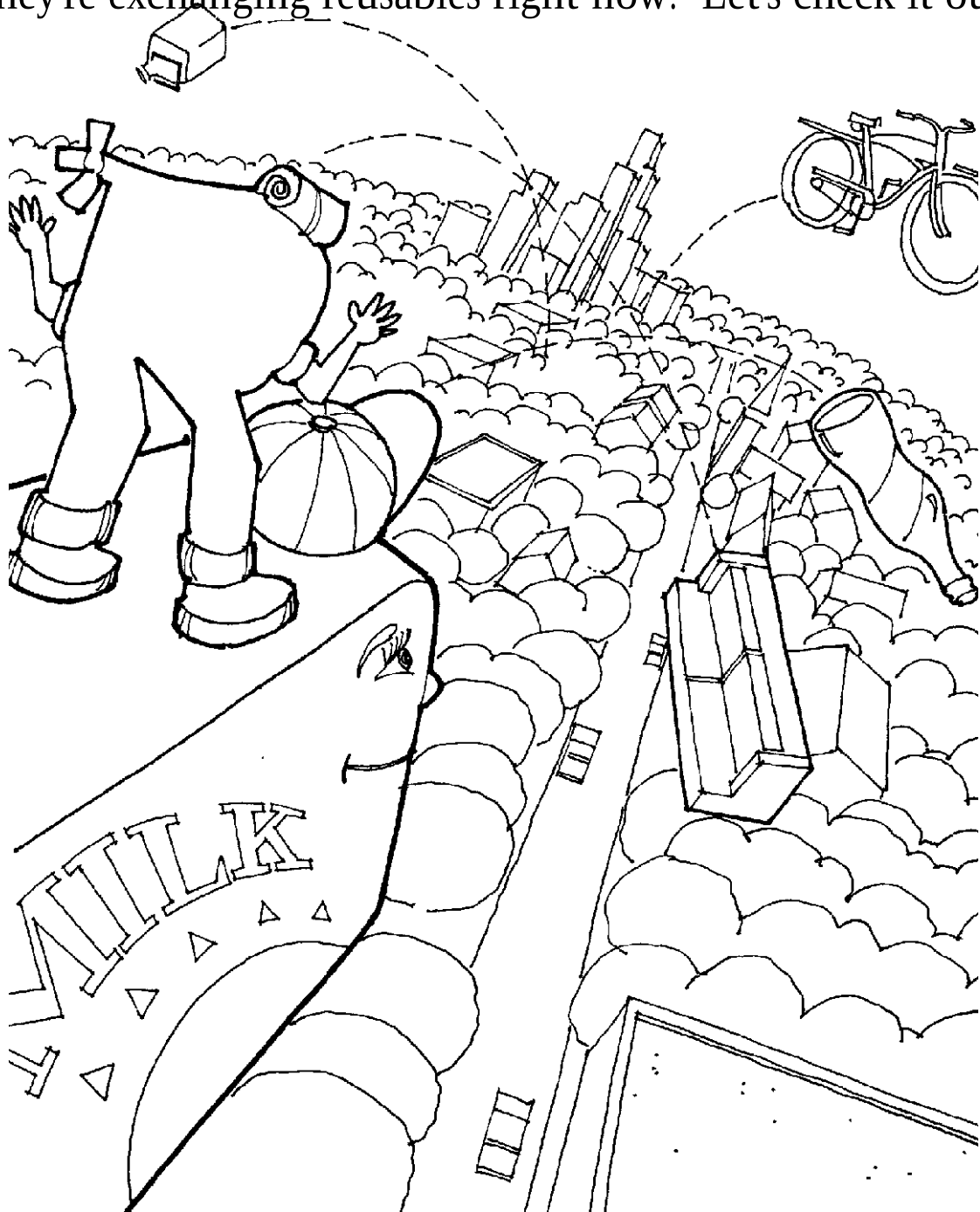


Up in the Air

I'm the Reuse R, and this is my book. And let me introduce Ricky, the Refillable Rocket!

Let's make sure we agree on what reuse really is. A reusable thing might need sterilizing, a wash or a repair, but then it's right back to work.

Reuse is all around your town or city, like mine down there. Look - they're exchanging reusables right now! Let's check it out.

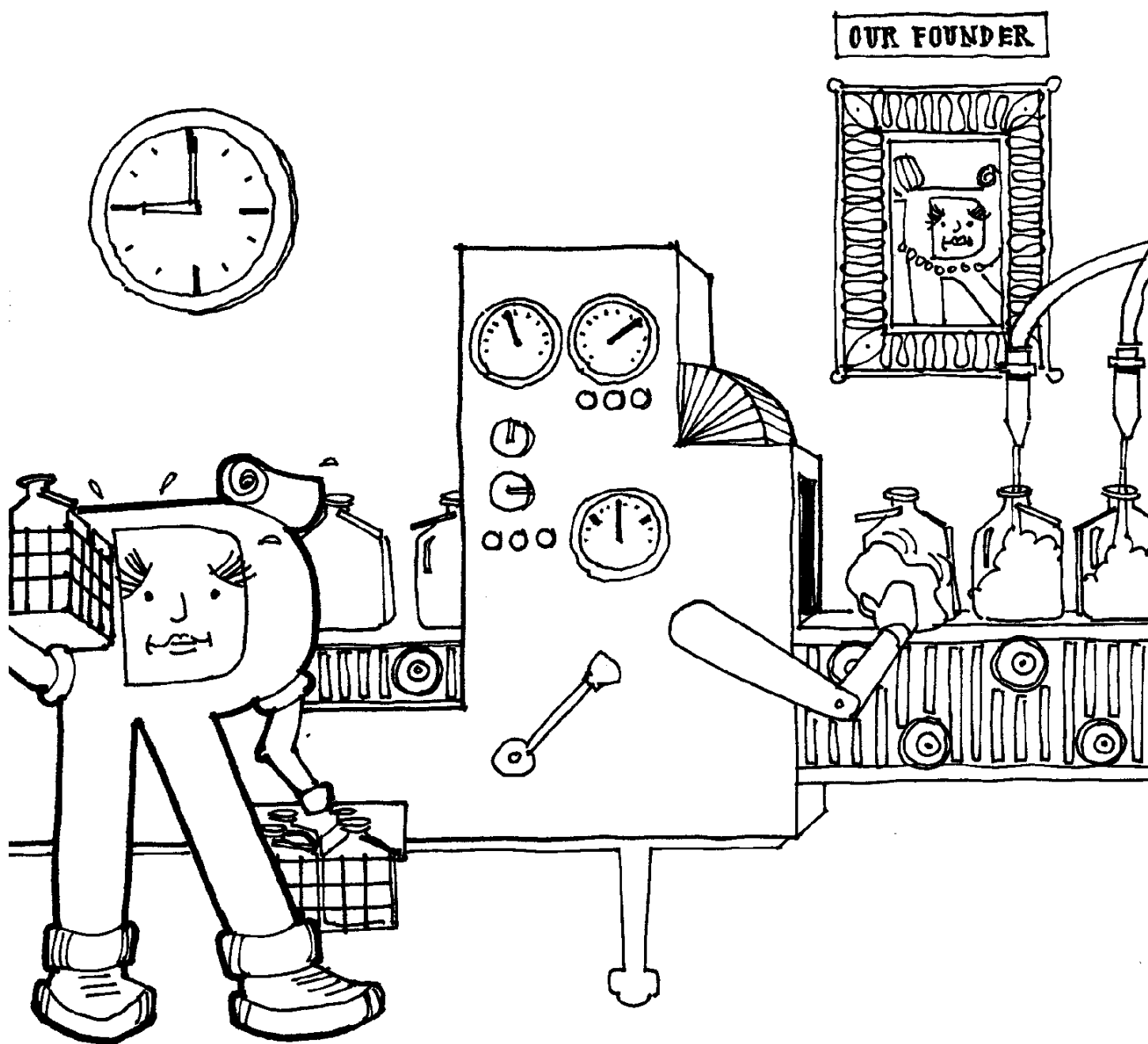


Here Today, There Tomorrow

These jugs will be cleaned, refilled and back on the dairy shelf tomorrow.

Besides, saving money and energy, reuse can mean new jobs around my town. Cleaning and repairing things for everybody, taking bottles back for refilling - all that takes a lot of work!

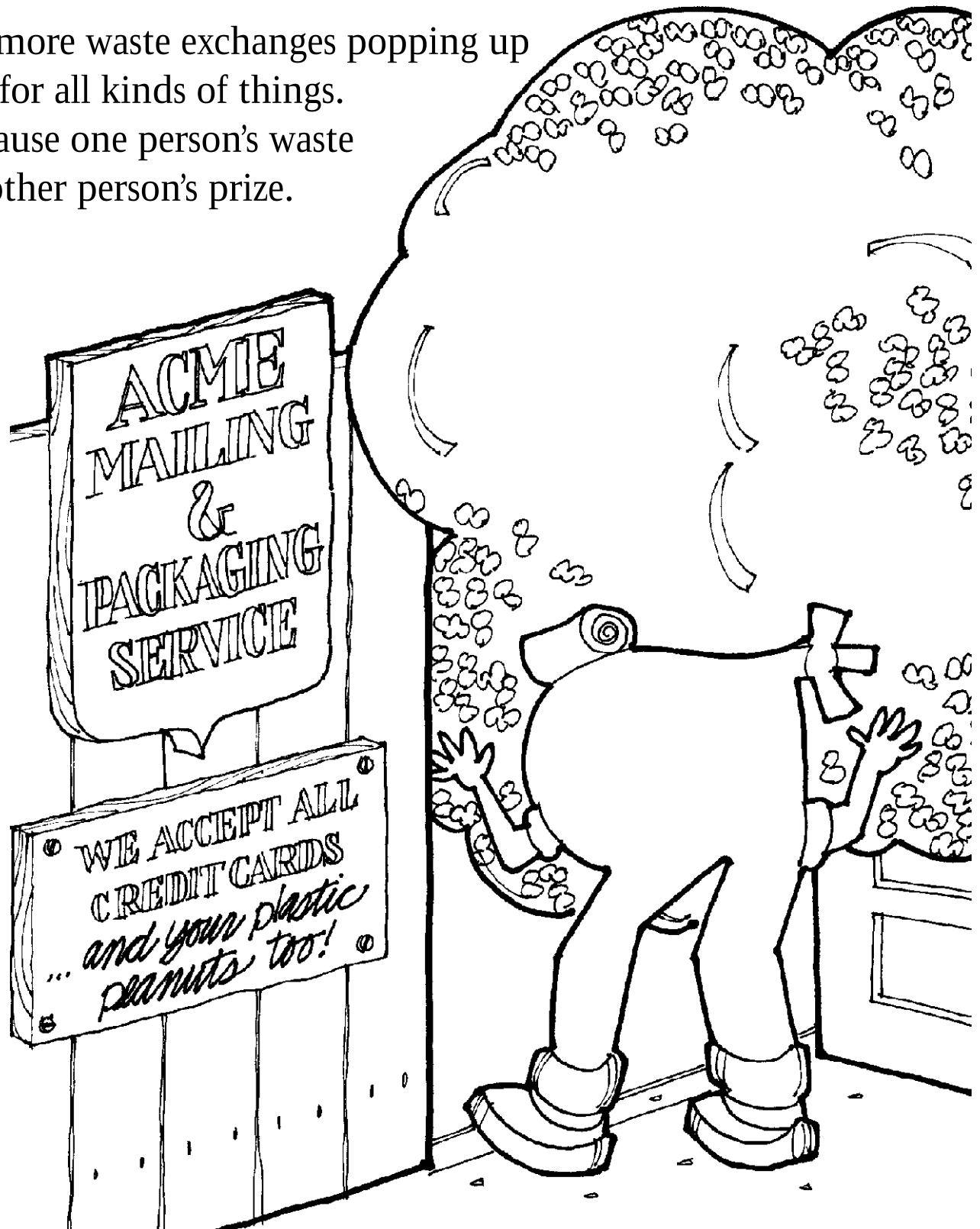
Whew! I could sure use a refillable bottle of soda pop right now!



Foam from Home

After the holidays, I always end up with boxes and boxes of plastic foam packaging peanuts. I keep what I need, and drop off the rest at stores like this that can sell them to someone else. It's called a waste exchange.

There are more waste exchanges popping up every day, for all kinds of things. That's because one person's waste can be another person's prize.

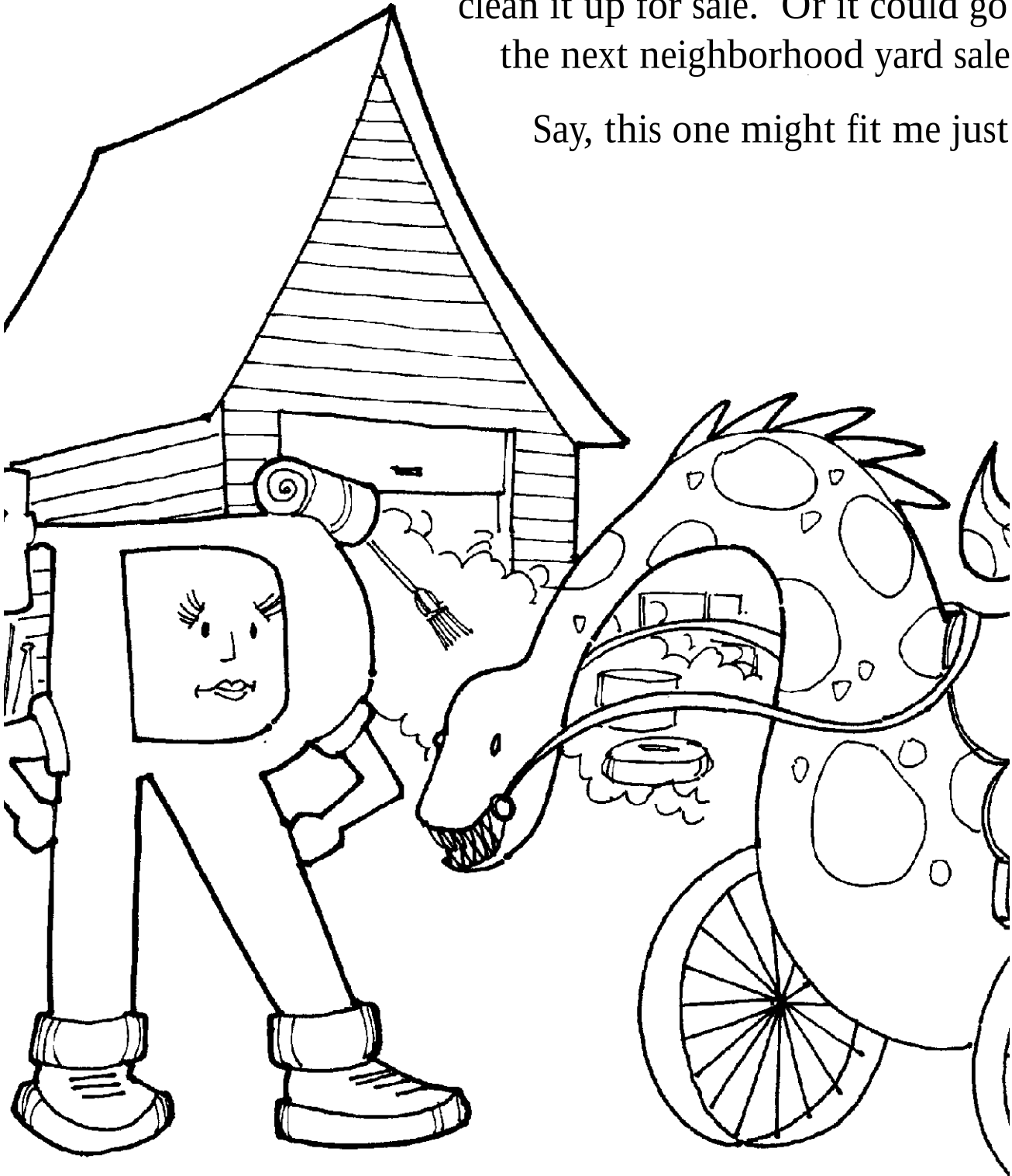


Don't Recycle that Cycle

Looks like this family is about to get rid of the Dino-Cycle. It might look old and ready for recycling back into steel. But sometimes, somebody somewhere could use it - somehow!

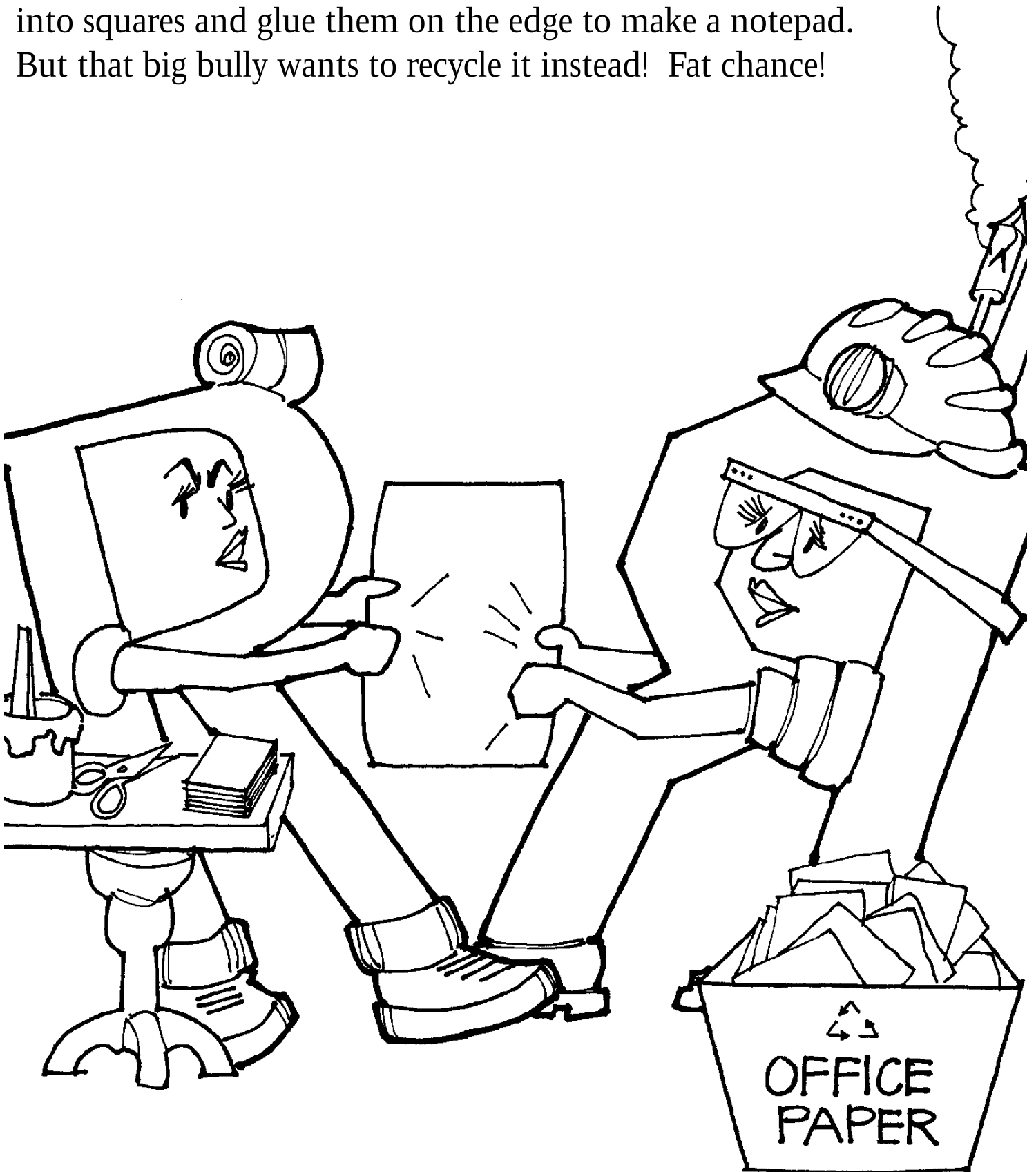
The only way to find out is to ask! We could call up a veterans' organization, Goodwill or the Salvation Army, to see if they want to clean it up for sale. Or it could go out in the next neighborhood yard sale.

Say, this one might fit me just fine!



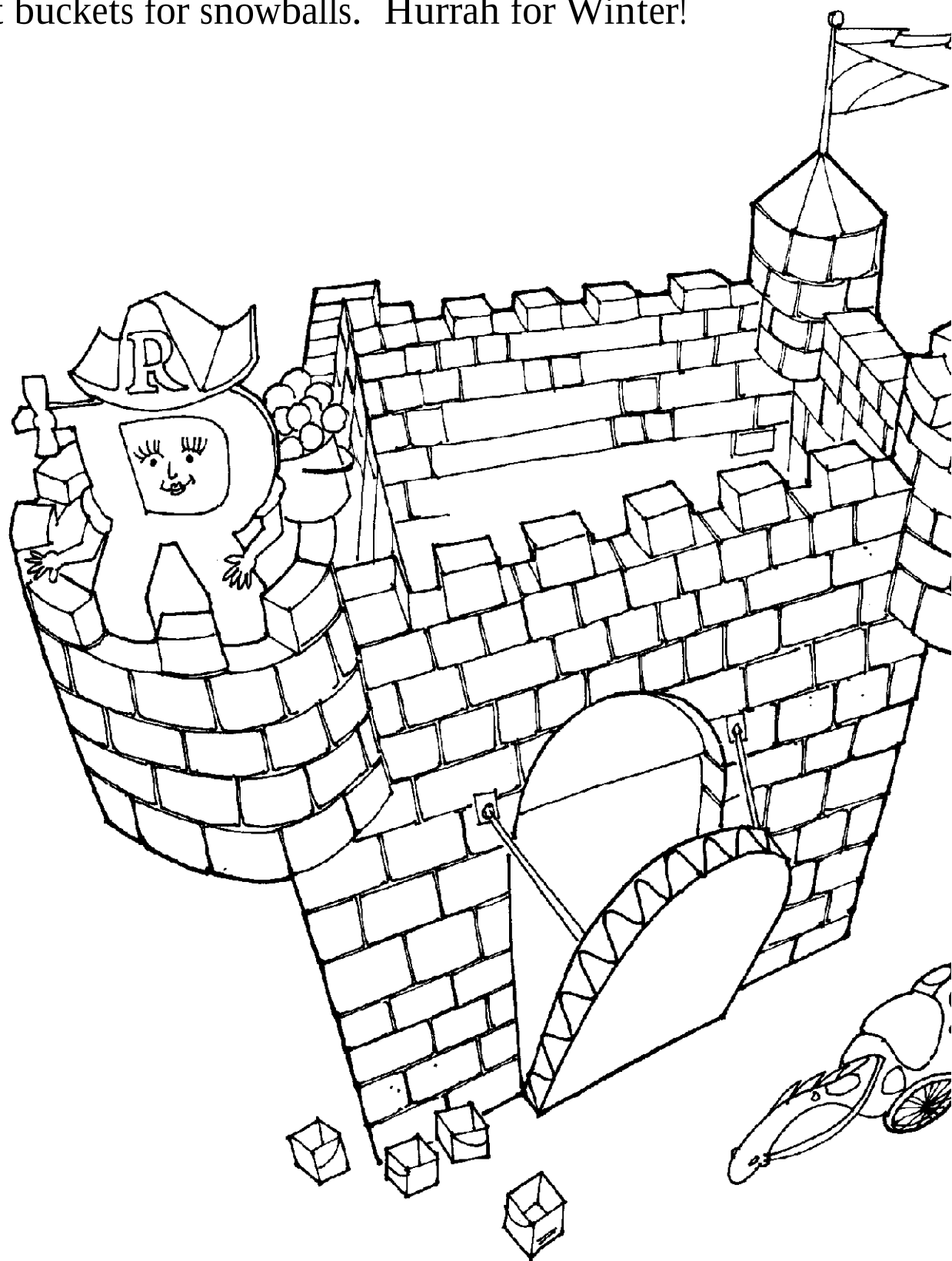
We're Having an R-gument

Sometimes we R's fight over who gets what. We just found a sheet of paper, printed on only one side. I want to cut it up into squares and glue them on the edge to make a notepad. But that big bully wants to recycle it instead! Fat chance!



The Great Defender

Some packages have more reuses than my cat has lives. I washed out dozens of milk cartons, cut them in half and used the bottom halves as molds to make all these neat ice blocks. And ice cream pails make great buckets for snowballs. Hurrah for Winter!



Deep Thought

So that's how we reuse already. Now the Big R wants the best possible ideas on how we can reuse even more fifty years from now. Here's a few I thought of.

How about packages you can build a treehouse out of? Or conveyor belts in the street that take reusables back to be washed? Or old homes that we could fix up and reuse as houseboats?

