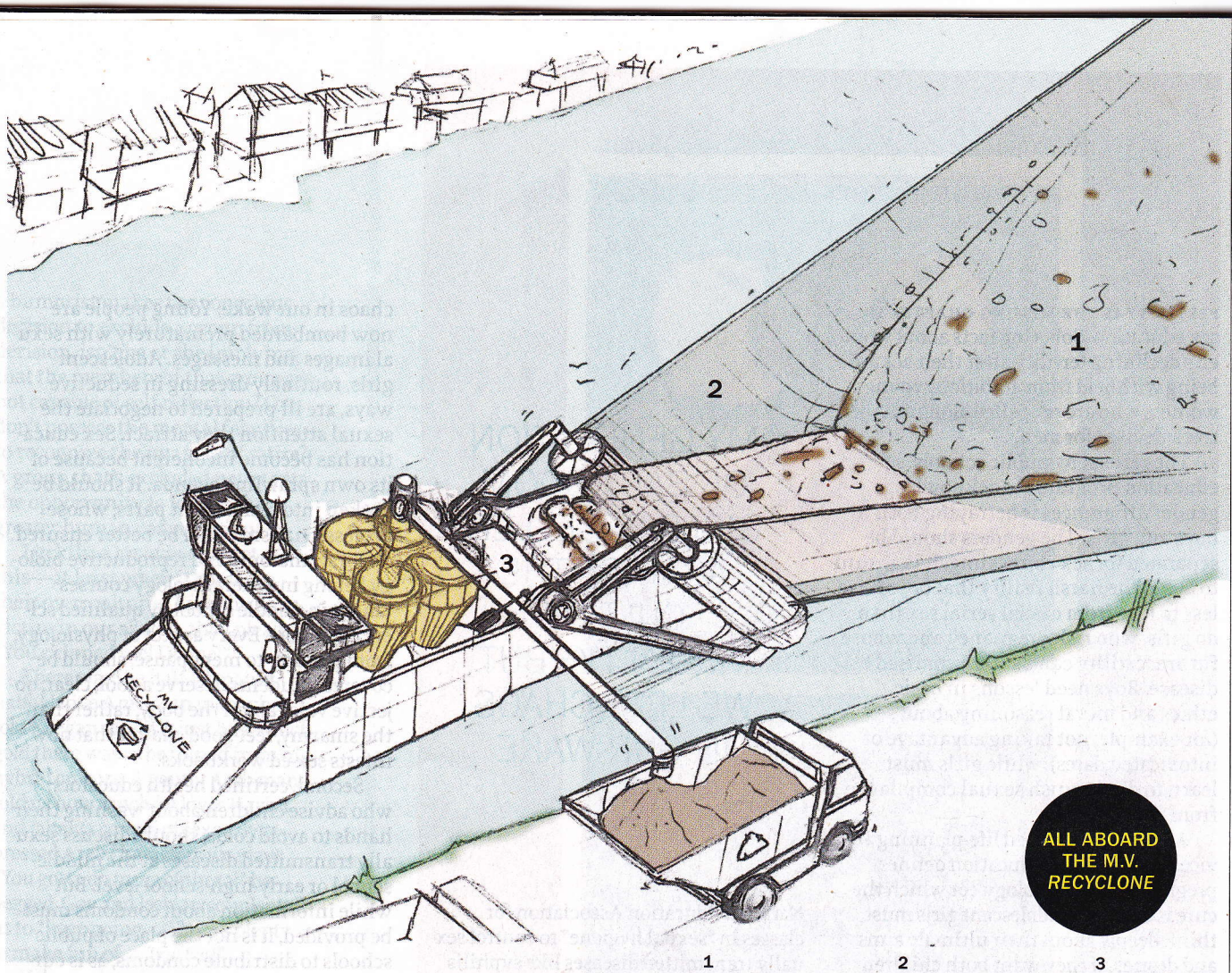

ALL ABOARD THE M.V. *RECYCLONE*

1
The boat would gather plastic from the surface of the water using large nets that expand from rollers at its stern and are anchored on each side of the river

2
The nets would face upstream and skim the surface of the river for floating debris

3
Debris caught by the nets would be shredded onboard and dumped into a cyclonic filtration system, where it would be separated by grade and sent to the appropriate recycling stations

THE IDEAS ISSUE: ENVIRONMENT

SWEEP OUR DIRTY RIVERS CLEAN

THIS CONCEPT FOR A BARGE THAT SCOOPS UP DEBRIS COULD KEEP POLLUTION FROM REACHING THE OCEANS

BY JAMES DYSON

THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC DEBRIS IN THE OCEANS HAS GROWN A hundredfold in the past 40 years. Plastic doesn't biodegrade but instead floats in giant, immeasurable patches for birds and sea life to ingest. Take the Eastern Garbage Patch, for instance, a large gyre of marine debris located near the Midway Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Albatrosses in the area give birth to 500,000 chicks every year, and nearly half of them die—many of them after consuming plastic fed to them by their parents, who think it's food.

The concept I propose, the M.V. *Recyclone*, would combat this ever growing problem of plastic waste making its way to our oceans by filtering out debris from the rubbish-stricken rivers that feed into them. By focusing on the polluted rivers, the M.V. *Recyclone* could tackle a concentrated stream of plastic, catching it before it spreads.

Dyson is the founder and chief engineer of Dyson Ltd.

@PATKIERNAN ANCHOR, NY1 ▶ THE TECH BREAKTHROUGH THAT WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING: AFFORDABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY (AND BATTERIES TO STORE IT). / **@KEVINROOSE** AUTHOR OF *YOUNG MONEY* ▶ ELIMINATE THOSE PLASTIC CLAMSHELL PACKAGES THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO OPEN WITHOUT INDUSTRIAL-STRENGTH SCISSORS; AND ALSO GLOBAL HUNGER. /

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES DYSON FOR TIME