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A plastic shopping bag has a "working life" of about 15 minutes, and we're using a trillion of them a year. That's one highly visible source of plastic trash—but it's only the tip of the iceberg in an ocean saturated with plastics.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JORGE GAMBOA



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In a nation that doesn't emphasize individuality, portraits of ordinary citizens may look like propaganda. Viewed as a group, they're unsettling.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STÉPHAN GLADIEU

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To Conserve or Hog Resources

If society depended on it, would you share—or would you be selfish?

BY DYLAN SELTERMAN



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BY CHRISTINA NUNEZ

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BY DAISY CHUNG AND RYAN T. WILLIAMS

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FEATURES

Plastics

We make them. We depend on them. We're filling the ocean with them. Beyond what we've incinerated or recycled, a staggering 5.5 billion tons remain, taking centuries, or more, to break down. Can we enjoy this miracle material and have a clean environment too?

BY LAURA PARKER
PHOTOGRAPHS
BY RANDY OLSON

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Parrots may be too popular for their own good.

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What happened on Roanoke Island?

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