



Going natural

by **Soo Wern Jun**

SOMETIMES we wish that we never have sensitive skin simply because we know that looking for a suitable product for our skin is not easy. There are many factors which we need to take into account. For instance, the ingredients, the scent and even the pricing of a certain product.

Sometimes we end up feeling unhappy, having to settle for products which may conjure a certain stench or worse, our skin suffers side effects from a chemical reaction.

As an individual who suffers from skin complications, Michelle Chen, 30, also went through tough times sourcing for the right substances to maintain healthy skin. Wanting to share her discoveries of luxurious ingredients found in various parts of the globe, Chen decided to help provide a range of products by starting bodybar, a beauty retail outlet concept store which specialises in all-natural and organic products.

"The store carries hand-picked brands from around the world including Malaysia that meet its brand philosophy of "If it's not good enough to eat, it's not good enough for your skin".

"Beauty matters, absolutely, but shouldn't what you put on your skin matter too?" said Chen, co-owner of bodybar during the launch of the beauty retail concept store recently.

"All of us, be it women, men and children use the basic soap, cleanser, shampoo, and moisturiser. Some of us in fact love to indulge ourselves more than others in our beauty regimes.

"What bodybar offers is an alternative to conventional products via all-natural and organic products which contain natural or organic ingredients and none of the harsh chemicals, synthetic ingredients, parabens, artificial fragrance or colouring," added Chen.

Under the beauty retail store, there is a wide variety of products consisting skincare, bodycare, hair-care, men-care and also baby-care.

"These products are even tried and tested by myself and my friends

before we decided to bring them into Malaysia. We wanted to make sure that these products are suitable for Asian skin especially the climate in Malaysia," Chen revealed.

"I have also met the manufacturers and founders of each brand that we take under bodybar to be



bodybar

natural & organic skincare



if it's not good enough to eat, it's not good enough for you
www.bodybarskincare.com

bodycare products are priced from RM80 to RM100," added Chen.

Currently bodybar carries Mukti Botanicals, Remedica, Madara, Sanctum, Biguine bio, bioBotanica, Just Herbal, Organic Indulgence, Yuan Soap and Soapy, brought from countries such as Australia, Latvia, Taiwan and France.

Bodybar is located at Tropicana City Mall, Sunway Pyramid and Pavilion Kuala Lumpur. For more information, log on to www.bodybarskincare.com.

assured of their commitment not only to the brand's philosophy but also to deliver products that work as well if not better than their commercial synthetic-based products," added Chen.

In overcoming stereotypes of high prices tagged with all-natural and organic products, Chen also shared that bodybar's main aim is to make the products accessible so prices are kept affordable.

"You can get a bar of natural soap from RM10 while most of the skincare and



Clockwise from left: Bodybar store front; Michelle Chen; Madara Flower Attack range; and Mukti Gentle Foaming Cleanser.

Move a child's life forward

ALL children need the right start in life and less fortunate children is no different. They too need adequate love just like other children. Caring and loving children has always been in the heart of Clarins. Moving a child's life forward and ensuring children reach their full potential is what Clarins believes in. The power of knowledge and education is the greatest gift in building a child's future.

Clarins started its annual charity fund-raising campaign back in 1998. Clarins We Care Charity has touched the lives of many less fortunate

has created special water tumblers using motifs of nature (animals in rainforest). Aimed at highlighting the importance of 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) as well as to educate people around us to do their bit by



children in the society by improving their quality of life through education and bringing a brighter future for them.

This year, Clarins We Care Charity aims to achieve two objectives. Firstly, continue to provide children with a sound and solid education and secondly to instil healthy greening knowledge so that they will live in harmony with nature for sustainable futures. Our lives impact the environment in many ways hence it is crucial for us to play an active role in preserving our mother nature. Clarins strongly believes in inculcating an environmentally-friendly habit among children so that they will learn to appreciate nature and adopt a 3R lifestyle.

With this in mind, Clarins

Make a pledge

CLARINS has also created the Clarins We Care 2009 microsite (www.clarinswecare.com.my) to educate everyone on ways to recycle as well as listing down the recycling centres available. You can also make a green pledge on how and what you would do to help save our dwindling rainforests! The best 20 pledges will receive a beautiful Clarins hamper worth **RM100**.

reducing consumption of mineral water bottles as one plastic bottle uses up to one million years to decompose!

The sale of the tumblers will be sold at RM12 and available at all Clarins counters from Nov 1 to Dec 31. Proceeds received from the sale of the tumblers will be used to purchase educational tools such as computer, laptop, reference book, storybook and dictionary for children of four homes, namely Agathians Shelter (Petaling Jaya), Persatuan Anak-anak Yatim & Ibu Tunggal Kg Medan (Petaling Jaya), Rumah Kebajikan Kank-Kanak Rhema (Seremban) and Vinashini Home (Seremban). - Alex Yip

Beauty label releases lip gloss to protect against date rape



A business woman from Liverpool (UK) has thought up a lip gloss range that comes with an inconspicuous drug testing kit to find out if your drink has been spiked.

"Through personal experience and those of my close friends, I identified a need for such a product," Tracy Whittaker says. "So I set about researching drink spiking drugs and what type of testing kit I could put in a lip gloss pack alongside developing the perfect lip gloss for a glitzy night out."

What came out of Whittaker's research is 2 Love My Lips, a range of five different glosses that come with tapers to detect the common "rape drugs" GHB and Ketamine, circulating in bars and nightclubs.

"If a drink tastes funny, or

you are suspicious something is amiss simply dab the ends of the taper in your drink and if they turn blue tell your friends immediately and get help from Security and the Police," explains Whittaker.

But too "man-hating" her lip-gloss is not: after all, it "plumps lips to maximum fullness" and smells of mint to make wearers "irresistibly kissable". The product is for girls that want to "play hard" but "feel safe."

Despite these double standards, Whittaker's lipgloss has been nominated for a major entrepreneurial award and is supported by the Roofie Foundation, which helps victims of drug rape in the UK.

2 Love My Lips is available online and in UK stores for £9.99 (RM55). - AFP Relaxnews

For more, log on www.2lovelylips.co.uk

Global beauty shoppers opt for all-in-one make-up sets

LOOKING at beauty retailer Sephora's top 10 best-seller lists in the US, Europe and Asia, it seems as if combination sets are all the rage in make-up right now.

In France, the bareMinerals Get Started Kit by Bare Escentuals - containing several products for the face, make-up brushes and a DVD and manual explaining the different looks - is one of the top three products sold in the store's make-up section.

Meanwhile, in the US, there are two combination sets especially popular among shoppers. The Sephora Favourites Lashstash Mascara Deluxe Sampler includes different mascaras by hip labels Tarte, Stila, Benefit, Smashbox, or DuWop. With the purpose of such a set not quite evident at first sight, the brand explains that it wanted to combine its "favourite, most wanted mascaras in one box" in order for the shopper to "mix n' match 'til you create the lush lashes of your dreams."

The second set, which also ranks in the US top 10 of best-selling make-up products, is Star Bright by Star Light, a "set packed with purse-friendly evening essentials [lip products, mascara, eau de parfum] that will get you looking party-perfect in no time."

Finally, in China, make-up sets such as one by Lancôme, comprising different mascaras and eye make-up remover, are gaining popularity.

An important reason for this trend is without a doubt its budget-consciousness. With most customers thinking twice about their purchases, it is likely that they are more prone to buy combination sets than the individual products: the bareMinerals starter kit sells at €65 (RM330) instead of its €156 (RM780) total value and Sephora's mascara sampler costs US\$39 (RM136.50) instead of US\$96 (RM336), for example.

Stila also just assembled a set of its best-sellers (including eye and lip products as well as powder and beauty tools), which sells at US\$38 (RM133) instead of the products' actual total worth of US\$192 (RM672). Budget constraints have previously also resulted in an all-in-one approach taken by beauty labels, introducing products that can double or triple in its functions.

And another trend can be observed here: shoppers are turning their homes into beauty salons. The DIY trend has recently seen customers buy their own make-up airbrush sets, and beauty fans are increasingly turning into their own make-up artists. The DVD and manual included in one of the sets take advantage of that tendency. - AFP Relaxnews

