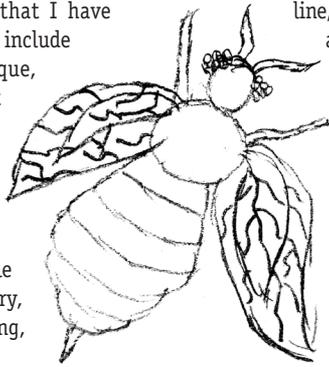


Sun brings light to the powerful impact of handwritten poetry

by Esther Sun
Opinion Editor

The general conceptions of “poetry” that I have observed in people around me as of late include either rhyming poetry or the Tumblr-esque, Rupi Kaur-pioneered internet poetry that has served as catharsis for teenage girls around the world since the release of Milk and Honey in 2014. While I am not writing today to debate the merits – or lack thereof – of Rupi Kaur’s poetry, I think it’s a shame that many people today are unable to appreciate more nuanced modern poetry, which can be so incredibly profound, striking, and even healing.

There is a misguided expectation that a reader should be able to “understand” a poem after just skimming it once and then perhaps returning to it to find a deeper meaning. I have found, however, that truly powerful poems don’t open themselves up to just anyone. They aren’t “easy” to read and grasp right away, and the work required in reading is necessary for the poem to come alive for the reader. When I



learned to approach a poem slowly, allowing myself the time to conjure each striking, unusual image in my mind as I moved through each line, I found myself leaving each poem with a much more complex and yet clearer idea of the poet’s purpose.

For me, one of the most rewarding parts of reading poetry is appreciating the imagery and allowing its strangeness to show me the subject in a new light. For example, Ocean Vuong constructs his poem “Aubade with Burning City” with pieces of imagery to set the chaotic scene of the evacuation of Saigon during the Vietnam War. The poem is made even more haunting by Vuong’s juxtaposition of the terror with quiet, peaceful images. Of Saigon, Vuong writes, “The city so white it is ready for ink.”

This, along with his other images listed below, sharply contrasts the black chaos and sense of foreboding that one would typically associate with the Fall of Saigon. The insertion of tranquility makes the poem all the more horrifying.

“He fills a teacup with champagne, brings it to her lips. / Open, he says. / She opens.”

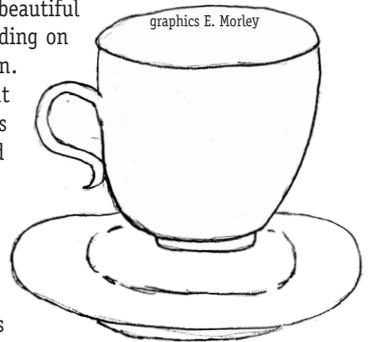
“Milkflower petals on a black dog like pieces of a girl’s dress”

“The bed a field of ice cracking”

And, finally: “In the square below: a nun, on fire, runs silently toward her god — / Open, he says. / She opens.”

Modern poetry does not need to be “inaccessible” for the masses or confusing to read. Poets, like novelists, write to tell a story and/or create experiences for the reader – experiences that vary in beautiful and interesting ways depending on the reader’s interpretation.

Exploring online and print literary journals (my favorites are Waxwing, Crazyhorse, and Adroit, to name a few) is a great way for individuals to discover different poetic styles and specific poets that appeal to them. For more on why Instapoetry is not the end-all-be-all, I would highly recommend Rebecca Watts’s essay “The Cult of the Noble Amateur” and The Stanford Daily’s piece “Rupi Kaur’s literature: Is it poetry?”

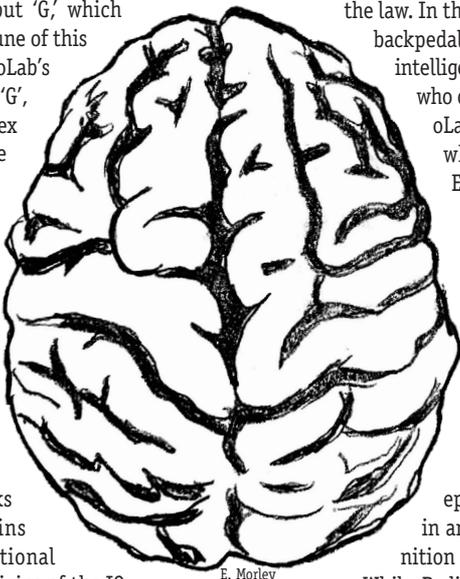


RADIOLAB HOSTS NEW MINISERIES

by Emmy Morley
Graphics Designer

WNYC’s Radiolab began in late 2014 and has been covering various topics including science, psychology and society in its six year run. There is no topic too big or too small for RadioLab hosts Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich who have delved into complex topics like addiction and beauty, as well as the stories of individual people like hockey player John Scott and reporter David Weinberg.

RadioLab has hosted many miniseries since its beginnings in 2014, but ‘G,’ which aired for the first time in June of this year, is quite possibly RadioLab’s most compelling. Before ‘G,’ RadioLab focused on complex sciences, history, and the human condition, offering thought-prompting ideas for the listener. While ‘G’ carries similar ideas, it seems to go just a bit deeper. RadioLab’s senior editor Pat Walters posed a simple question when creating the series, “are some ideas too dangerous to be mentioned?” The series seeks to understand the origins behind the idea of traditional intelligence, tracing the origins of the IQ test and how it has evolved throughout history. It touches on IVF, which can help couples select premium embryos and predict their traits, the most compelling of which for many, is intelligence. ‘G’ set out to discover how modern society perceives intelligence, and if it can be quantified through numbers or tests.



E. Morley

‘G’ began its journey with the story of a court case in California in the 1970’s: Larry P v. Riles. In the case, the IQ test was put under intense scrutiny after determining a competent black child was a special education student. This led to IQ tests being off-limits to black children in California. The second episode goes deeper, interviewing families that are struggling with the law. RadioLab deep-dives into how the IQ test changed as a result of Larry P v. Riles, and more importantly, the people that are affected by the law. In the third episode, the hosts backpedaled a bit to the origins of intelligence itself, and the people who originally defined it. RadioLab spoke to the journalist who tracked down Albert Einstein’s brain 27 years after it was stolen upon his death in 1955. In ‘G’s’ final two episodes, the hosts explored the 1920 Supreme Court decision to allow forced sterilization of ‘unfit’ people as well as an even deeper look into IVF. ‘G’ concluded with an episode about intelligence in animals, and how our definition differs.

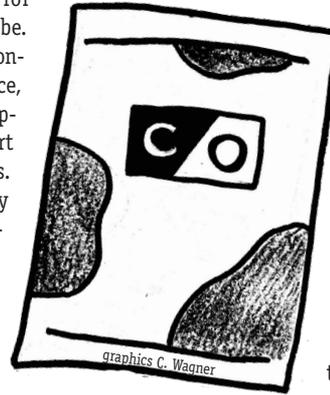
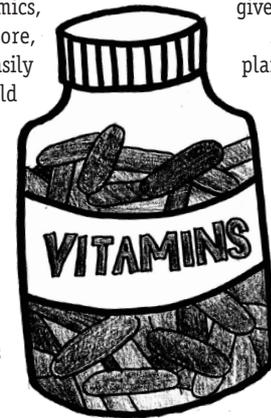
While RadioLab couldn’t come to a final conclusion about intelligence, they graced the complexities of the idea with ease. With careful explanations and fascinating interviews, it’s guaranteed to draw you in. ‘G’ is a series for anyone who wants to look deeper into the established idea of intelligence, and maybe for a new conclusion about themselves.

VITAMIN PACKS HELP STUDENTS STAY HEALTHY

by Sami Elizondo
Culture Editor

As a high school student on a constant grind, trying to balance academics, sports, friends, jobs, and more, taking care of yourself can easily fall far below where it should be on your list of priorities. Not everyone has time to develop an elaborate night time and morning routine, and eating a balanced diet is nearly impossible when you are barely getting five hours of sleep a night. Care/of is a company that is aware of this struggle, so they have created thousands of thoughtfully crafted vitamin packets for students all around the globe. By subscribing to their personalized daily vitamin service, you are ensured quality supplements that will support your personal health needs.

The company is led by a board of doctors, scientists, and nutrition experts, meaning the extensive research that goes into Care/of products is quality and engineered to be effective and easy to use. Subscribers get 30 vitamin packs, made from a biodegradable film, once a month. In order to get a mix of pills that is appropriate for them, customers take a survey that asks basic questions about their lifestyle and health-related goals. From this data, Care/of recommends a combi-



graphics C. Wagner

nation of vitamins, supplements, and powders. Of course, customers are not locked into any kind of agreement and can cancel a pill or powder at any given time.

Along with the remarkable personalized planning that goes into this business, the packaging also deserves recognition. It is completely customized to you and your recommended pills. The individual packages come in a dispenser with instructions on when and how to take the pills, as well as detailed information about each and every supplement so that you are confident that what you are consuming is completely safe and practical. In addition to the obvious lengths that the company goes to in order to make their customers feel safe regarding the medicine, the packaging is also clean and aesthetically pleasing. Featuring subtle bursts of colorful patterns on a predominantly white surface, the containers are sure to compliment any place in which you may store them.

As far as the cost, it is completely dependent on the type of supplements and how many you decide to order. This is beneficial for customers because it allows them to be selective with how they spend their money. Also, the idea that you are ordering the exact amount that you will need means that, if you follow the instructions on the package, nothing will go to waste.

From the customized plan to the reasonable price, Care/of is an impressive vitamin subscription service that can compliment any student’s lifestyle and improve their health with little effort.

ROSELLI EXPLAINS JOKER MOVIE CONFLICTS

by Jenna Roselli
Opinion Editor

Joker has sparked controversy with movie critics. The DC comic film focuses on the dark origin story of the infamous Joker, Batman’s ultimate nemesis. The film portrays Arthur Fleck, a man who dreams of being a stand-up comedian, who ultimately turns into the leader of a terrorist group as he evolves into the Joker.

In an era of mass shootings, some feel the movie hits too close to home and claim it glamorizes mass murder. Others even consider that the film sympathizes with the Joker and thereby justifies his actions. Even before the movie was released in theaters on Oct. 4, people feared a repeat of the shooting that took place in Aurora, Colorado, during a screening of the 2012 Batman movie, The Dark Knight Rises.

As a result, the U.S. military took precautionary measures to issue a warning about extremists who could possibly target a screening of Joker. Family members of the 12 lives lost in the Aurora shooting wrote a letter to Warner Bros., addressing their concerns with the movie, as well as asking them to donate money to organizations that support victims affected by gun violence.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, rumors that the shooter from 2012 claimed he was the Joker led people to fear the possibility of the movie provoking individuals to follow in the footsteps of the character and copy his behavior. For the release of the movie, the NYPD and LAPD increased security in and around

movie theaters. In spite of the heavy police presence, Joker has risen to become the highest-grossing R-rated film ever, making 850 million dollars.

The controversy shocked the movie’s director, Todd Phillips, as he claimed the movie is built to portray the Joker as the villain of his own movie and to critique individuals like the main character. Various critics accuse Phillips of being irresponsible with the way he has portrayed the violence in the film. According to IndieWire, Phillips believes his artistic choice is a responsible move because his goal was to associate the violence with real-world situations. He argues: “isn’t it a good thing to take away the cartoon element of violence that we’ve been so immune to?” Despite the controversy, Phillips said he is happy to see that the film has catalyzed conversations and debates. Phillips intended to direct the film in a way that made the movie more complicated in an effort to show that nothing is simply black and white.

(Sources: IndieWire, Thrillist, Gizmodo, The Ringer, Hollywood Reporter)



graphics C. Wagner