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At the age of 12, I had it all figured out. An awkward literary nerd and certified animal freak, I used the Vulcan-like logic of my pre-teen mind to conceive my ultimate dream job: star veterinarian-slash-novelist. I imagined the adult me as something akin to the British star veterinarian-slash-novelist, James Herriott (yes, this career path did in fact work out for someone). I would pour over his books, envisioning the day when I, too, would spend mornings and afternoons employing my savvy medical skills to save puppies and horses from certain death, and my evenings documenting each day's adventures in deft and brilliant narrative prose. It was a dream that lasted until my first biology class. I didn't fail, but suffice it to say that like many creative writer types before me, I discovered I wasn't a natural born Einstein.

But that's the beauty of science... you don't have to be a nuclear physicist to geek out on it. No matter who you are—sub-par biology grades and hazy recollection of high school physics aside—science has undoubtedly intrigued you and affected your life. It is defined rather vaguely as, “knowledge attained through study or practice,” but there is a wonderful truth in that generalization because it is so much more than ions and Petri dishes. Science explains our bodies, our universe, our past and our future. It is the engineering that brings us touch-screen technology, the chemistry that gives us life-prolonging medicines, the archaeology that tells us our past, and the psychology that explains our inner neuroses. It is truly how things work.

Sci Q believes wholeheartedly in the broad definition of science, and that learning the whys and hows of our universe should be nothing short of fasci-



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE TOMPKINS

nating, fun and sometimes hilarious. We kept this in mind as we created our premiere issue, which is why you will find intriguing stories like “Rock the Cosmos” (p. 36), an exciting examination of the eccentric world of meteorite hunters, and “This is Your Brain on Sports” (p. 10), which reveals why watching ESPN might be helping you do more than kick back and tune out. Science is even found in the shallow recesses of the candy pop culture we all love to hate. Check out “Monsters, Mayhem & Mother Nature” (p. 34) to discover what the evolution of disaster movies says about our changing culture.

Science is all around us, affecting our lives in more ways than we realize. Somewhere along the way, it picked up the reputation of being a total square—maybe it sat down with the math club kids one too many times at lunch, or spent too much time with awkward gamers—who knows? *Sci Q* is here to show the world that science is no longer the territory of computer nerds and rocket scientists. It is definitely hanging with the cool kids now.

Aranya Tomseth, Editor-in-Chief