

Dear Peucinians,

Welcome back to campus for yet another year at Bowdoin College and another year of the Peucinian Society. We hope you all had excellent summers and are returned with an intellectual spirit invigorated for debate. Your new council has already spent many hours in the Peucinian and Chamberlain Rooms formulating new, and recasting old resolved statements to be disputed this semester. So, please join us for our first disputation of the year:

RESOLVED: SCIENCE DISENCHANTS NATURE OF ITS BEAUTY.

AFFIRMATIVE: EDGAR ALLAN POE '14

NEGATIVE: WERNER KARL HEISENBERG '14

As modern science continues its onward march of dissection, experimentation, and scrutiny, does nature lose its sense of wonder which once inspired man to philosophy, poetry, religion, and literature? Too focused on the minutiae, do we lose our ability to contemplate nature as more than the sum of its parts, or cells? Can a cell be beautiful if we can only see it through a microscope? Can a planet be beautiful if we can only see it through a telescope? Has an inundation of arguably useless knowledge, as far as the layman is concerned, suffocated our capacity to have an authentic experience with nature?

Or rather, have the advents of modern science actually revealed complexities and intricacies in the natural world, which are far more awe-inspiring and beautiful than could be seen by the naked eye? Is there, in fact, a certain magic to be witnessed in the outer reaches of space and on the chalkboards of geniuses that is unparalleled by a mockingbird sitting on a tree branch? To be sure, the kind of utter brutality we observe in nature between predator and prey is absent from the harmony of cellular composition.

We will be meeting at 7:30 pm on Thursday (the 19th) in the Faculty Room of Massachusetts Hall. Please wear a tie or the equivalent thereof.

PLSH,

Bloom