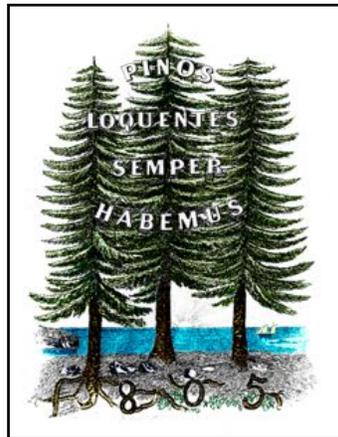


CHRONICLE

Resolution

Science impoverishes our souls



SIGNIFICANT THEMES

- 🌀 Science vs. Philosophy
- 🌀 Rationality vs. Irrationality
- 🌀 The Known and the Mysterious

Affirmative

Mr. Ross Jacobs '11, delivering the affirmative address, questioned our stalwart faith in scientific reasoning, noting that the German word for truth, "treu" translates literally as "trust." He then asked, "what can we trust to lead us to the good?" Because only philosophy allows us to engage our conflicting desires through questioning and thought, it alone allows us the intellectual struggle essential to our human existence. Science, eclipsing other forms of thought, is too narrow and banal for humanity.

Negative

Mr. Julian Chryssavgis '10 and Mr. Bryant Johnson '11, presenting the negative opinion, asserted that science plays the heroic role of countering the dangers of human irrationality. Though they acknowledged that humans can manipulate science to serve their interests, Mr. Chryssavgis and Mr. Johnson affirmed that science moves us slowly but steadily forward. It undergirds our faculty of imagination, a faculty which pushes science to discover new things and nourish the soul with its rational progress.

THE SOCIETY DEBATE

After the traditional reading of the Poet Laureate, Mr. Samuel Smith '10, and of the historical anecdote of the Chronicler, Mr. Wesley Hartwell '11, Mr. Julian Chryssavgis '10, Mr. Ross Jacobs '10, and Mr. Bryant Johnson '11 made their opening statements. These orations taking considerable time, debate began an hour into the disputation.

As many were anxious to speak when the disputants finally concluded, the first minutes of debate consisted of a near cacophony of rapid fire assertions. With much confusion over the meaning of the orators' statements and the definition of the "soul," clarity remained elusive.

Eventually, Mr. Nyle Usmani '12 and Mr. Kyle Ritter '09 began to develop

the definition and qualities of science, asserting that science stresses predictability and that its mechanistic worldview denies the mystery in art and improvisation, impoverishing the soul. Mr. Bryant Johnson '11 responded that jazz music is only sweet if we believe it is, and others, including Ms. Alicia Martinez '10, agreed that our preferences matter.

Though Mr. Johnson acknowledged that science can't comprehend everything, Mr. Hassan Muhammad and Ms. Jennifer Therrien '11 asserted that science helps us to philosophize because it directs our desires and gives our beliefs weight. In the end, after much debate, the assembled members voted eleven to nine against the resolution, affirming that science *does not* impoverish our souls.





QUESTIONS CONCEIVED

“Is science concerned with merely material, not ethical matters?” — Mr. Samuel Smith ‘10

“Is there an ultimate truth?” — Mr. Kyle Ritter ‘09

“Does progress, the foundation of science, limit or impoverish our souls?” — Mr. Wesley Hartwell ‘11

“Is there a limit to scientific progress?” — Ms. Jennifer Therrien ‘11

“Does science refer to knowledge?” — Mr. Akiva Zamcheck ‘11

“What can we do to reinvigorate our souls?” — Mr. Bryant Johnson ‘11

“Can our morality evolve?” — Mr. Hassan Muhammad ‘10

“Which is better, equality or diversity?” — Mr. Thomas Marcello ‘12

“What are the origins of our belief in scientific truth?” — Mr. Ross Jacobs ‘10

“Are there deadly truths? Is philosophy impoverishing our souls?” — Mr. Julian Chryssavgis ‘10