

DISPUTATION CLXXVI

December 6, 2017

Dear Peucinians,

Tomorrow we gather 'round the table for the last time before winter break. This is sad. Nevertheless, we will not let that somber fact dampen the flames we will stoke with our scrutiny of an uncomfortable proposition advocated by a worthy addition to our coterie from the Class of 2021 as she faces off against the venerable lover of steaks (and thoughtful orator) Jane Jacobs, returning for his second appearance at the lectern. Mollie condemns the daily behavior many of us engage in, asking us to do something we've perhaps considered before, but not seriously enough...

RESOLVED: BECOME A VEGETARIAN

Affirmative: Mollie Eisner '21

Negative: Jane Jacobs '20

In a break from my typical style, I will not summarize the arguments for each side. Instead, I want to convey the importance of this question and all it entails. These two disputants have reflected carefully to develop sets of fresh arguments (while avoiding the hackneyed) that artfully implicate concerns about the moral status of animals, the environment, personal choices in relation to political ones, the special role of mankind in the world, pleasure and pain, and the significance of culture. No matter what your current eating habits, this disputation will challenge what you believe and what you think you know.

My understanding is that if you vote in the affirmative, you must become a vegetarian at risk of blatant and flagrant moral hypocrisy. If you vote in the negative, you better feel confident about your philosophical position. This will not be easy—for anyone.

See you tomorrow. Bring yourself, bring your thoughts, bring the fire. (But what will you roast on it: asparagus or a Kobe N.Y. strip?)

Thursday, December 7, 7:45 p.m.
Third Floor of Massachusetts Hall
Semi-formal attire

PLSH,
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

P.S. I've been getting annoyed at our conduct at the beginning of disputations. In my mind, the first 15 minutes of the evening are for camaraderie, not dashing to beat each other out for seats at the table. Why don't we do our schmoozing over by the couches, enjoy each other's company, and then civilly approach the table when it's time to begin?

P.P.S. If you haven't attended a disputation yet but still want to get our emails next semester, please let me know.