Minutes of the 12th Regular Meeting of the 1st Session of the 224th Year of the Societies

recorded by Sarah Barnett, Joint Senate Clerk, on Nov 19th, 2018.

Call to Order

* President De Mott called the meeting to order.
* SAA Barta called roll.
* President De Mott recognized the guests.
* PPT Valleysmith reminded everyone to purchase their December tickets
* Senator Ong invited the guests to Linda’s
* Senator Barnett asked everyone going to the December to fill out the poll about dinner
* Senator Gildehaus announced that the Di Caucus occurred and that Senator Barnett is now Di President
* Phi Pres Watson announced that you can’t spell literature without lit.

Slated Speeches

* Critic Brunton introduced the resolution: “Resolved: In a world of great suffering, it is wrong to devote one's life to writing poetry.”
* A straw poll was conducted: 2 would affirm, 15 would negate, and 12 would abstain. The resolution would FAIL.
* Senator Van de Sompel spoke in the primary affirmative. He made a big emphasis on the word devote in the resolution. He argued that devoting one’s life to poetry is a privilege and if one is in the position to write poetry all day, they are also in the position to make great change. He also stated that society is actively hurting and no matter how many people your poetry touches, it wont do nearly as much good as a well.
* SAA Barta spoke in the primary negation. She argued that poetry allows us to hold on to our humanity. She described it as a practice that is sometimes seen as wasteful but is valuable and essential and she then stated that accepting that poetry is valuable is enough to negate the resolution. She argued that humanity as it exists is fantastically inconsistent and that our comparative neglect of other essential issues outside of poetry is to blame for any temptation to affirm the resolution.
* Senator Lewis spoke in the secondary affirmative. She again stated that we live in a society. She stated that society feeds us and those of us that have been fed by society need to give back and serve society. She highlighted how truly dark and dreadful the world is. She stated that the only thing poetry can do is raise awareness but that poetry alone doesn’t cut it without action and good works. She finished by saying to we must stop writing about a revolution and start making one happen.
* Senator Ong spoke in the secondary negation. He began his speech by praising poetry. He stated that poetry has given a voice to those who needed it and that poetry allows for emotion and feeling. He stated that we are not just our brains but our souls and it is the poet’s dury to write about this. Because of the good that it can do, one is definitely right in their decision to dedicate their life to poetry.

Floor Speeches

* President De Mott opened the debate to speeches from the floor.
* Senator Gildehaus spoke in the affirmative. They argued that poetry is effectively dead and that you should devote your life to something full of life. The example they gave was devoting one’s life to God.
* Phi President Watson spoke in the negation. He shared excerpts from poems written to comfort women in prisons. He stated that you should do useful things but it is perfectly valid to be a poet as poetry is useful in a way that other professions are not.
* Senator Tobias spoke in the affirmation. He said that you can devote your life to writing poetry but that there is the caveat that it depends on the type of poem.
* Senator Gee spoke in the negation. He read Michael Hamburger’s translation of Deathfugue.
* Guest Alexander Dowdy spoke in the affirmative. He stated that he doesn’t believe that poetry specifically can incite good. He recognized that art has valued but he argued that it can’t change the world.
* Senator Robleh spoke in the negation. He stated that poetry is a form of expression that plays into the argument of what it means to be human. He argued that in a world where jobs are more automated, people will write poetry.

Debate Conclusion

* In the open chambers vote, 3 affirmed, 19 opposed, and 10 abstained. The resolution would FAIL.
* In the dues-paying senators vote, 2 affirmed, 13 opposed, and 4 abstained. The resolution FAILED.
* Senator Barta was voted best speaker of the night.
* Critic Brunton gave his report.
* The Societies entered into recess.

Business

* The Societies exited recess and entered into executive session.
* The Societies exited executive session and entered into business.
* Clerk Barnett read the minutes of the last meeting.
* motion to approve the minutes, seconded, passed
* Senator Gildehaus delivered the report of the Philanthropy Committee announcing that $90 was raised for Helen Keller International.
* Historian Moskowitz delivered the report of the Historian

Papers

* President De Mott opened the floor for PPMAs.
* Senator Tobias read one of the worst poems he had ever heard.
* Phi President Watson talked about his favorite graffiti that he has located on campus and encouraged senator to also find each piece.
* Senator Roehrig talked about her weekend in a cabin in the mountains while on her boyfriend’s mountain weekend.
* Guest Peggy Mullin talked about her friend who is currently in the hospital because of a stroke and then read on of his original poems.
* Guest Dylan Hennegan talked about how awful RDU airport is and about how it wreaked havoc on his weekend.
* PPT Valleysmith talked about how people talk about respecting different cultures but then lump Africa together completely ignoring the diversity within the continent.
* Senator Elect Emma Stogner talked about the law that North Carolina has that allows anyone to do whatever they want to an opossum between December 29th and January 2nd.
* Senator Ong read a short story titled “The Greatest Man in the World” by James Thurber.
* Guest Evan Liebgott talked about how he found out about DiPhi.
* Critic Brunton talked about the best way to be critical and how to critique things with grace.
* Senator Gildehaus talked about the war on juvenile delinquency and graffiti culture.
* JSP De Mott talked about why he says California Republic during role call.
* SAA Barta read an essay about really big numbers titled “On Caring” by Nate Soares.
* Senator Caleb Shuda petitioned the misanthropic society.
* motion to extend time, seconded, objection, called to question, motion failed.

Petitions

* AJ Moore petitioned the Dialectic Society for membership.
* The societies entered executive session
* The societies exited executive session.

Announcements

* Motion to fine Senator Gee for improper dress, seconded, passed
* Senator Gildehaus motioned to also call the lomg couch the lemgthly couch, seconded, passed
* Phi Pres Watson motioned that the Philanthropic Society is the superior society, seconded, objection, called to question, seconded, called to question, call to question passed, motion failed
* Motion to adjourn because this has gotten not fun anymore, seconded, passed

These minutes were accepted by the Joint Senate on 26th November, 2018.