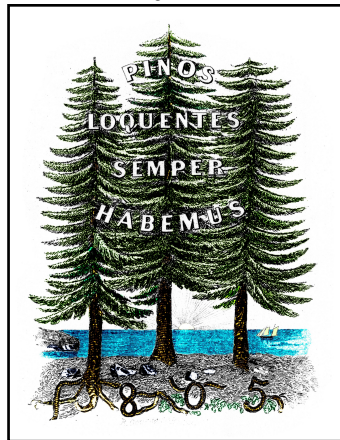


CHRONICLE

Resolution

Man must be forced to be free



SIGNIFICANT THEMES

- ⊗ Negative and Positive Freedom
- ⊗ Historical Example
- ⊗ Human Empowerment

Affirmative

Patrick Pierce '08, delivering the affirmative address, argued that we must resist our selfish, self-destructive passions and force ourselves to be free. Referencing Isaiah Berlin's famous essay, Pierce explained that negative freedom is "the ability to do what you want, 'free from external impediments,' as Hobbes would put it," and that positive freedom is "the ability to determine the rules which govern our conduct." Ultimately, he asserted that the quest for freedom drives us toward the common good.

Negative

Ross Jacobs '10, presenting the negative opinion, asserted that positive freedom that forces all to will the same object unleashes "the ugliest aspects of humanity" which threaten our foundational stability. Differently than Pierce, Jacobs explained Isaiah Berlin's forms of freedom thusly: "positive liberty is liberty as empowerment whereas negative liberty is liberty as release." Citing historical examples, Jacobs attempted to demonstrate that forcing man to be free was indeed undesirable.

THE SOCIETY DEBATE

Before the first Disputation of the Spring Semester commenced, President Ross Jacobs '10 requested that each member state to the group something discouraging and something that provided hope. Several members cited consumerism as their most discouraging phenomenon, and many suggested that the fervent intellectual discourse of the Peucinian Society gave them hope.

Debate commenced with questions from several members concerning the orators' explanations of Berlin's positive and negative freedom. These questions consumed a considerable amount of discourse, and they remained nebulously answered for most because of the complexity of Berlin's assertions and the varied knowledge of members.



Because both Pierce and Jacobs cited historical examples to support their claims, members spent a large amount of time discussing the accuracy and relevancy of these examples and bringing new examples to the floor. Like the discussion of Berlin's positive and negative freedom, the discussion of historical examples relied heavily upon members' knowledge of history and philosophers. As a result, debate tended to occur between a small number of historically-minded members, with some confusion amongst the rest.

When historical discourse grew tiresome and the hour late, President Jacobs adjourned the Disputation with the recitation of "*Pinos Loquentes Semper Habemus.*" After the end of formal debate, discourse continued into the morning.