

Dear Americans and foreigners,

Last week we navigated bravely over the dark waters of morality as we sought humility in the great Sea of Virtues. By the end of the evening the majority of declaimed members and attendants both claimed to have glimpsed humility in the waves, although a smaller group maintained that they must have been mistaken, for this particular moral value can only survive in colder waters. During the course of our journey we explored topics including the contributions of humility and pride to greatness and art, the value of humility as a socializing force, and the inescapable problem of self-knowledge.

This Thursday we return to shore and continue our expedition on foot as we explore the following:

Resolved: Cultural Diversity Is Good For Our Democracy.

Affirmative: Joachim of Fiore '16

Negative: Allan Bloom '14

From the beginning of American history, immigration has played a vital role in the development of American politics, culture, art and more. America has long been referred to as 'the melting pot' for the way in which individuals of varied cultural backgrounds have come to blend the values and habits of their home country with those of America, both becoming more American and changing what it means to be American in the process. Today, however, some would prefer to see America composed more like a salad bowl, where each cultural group maintains its distinct qualities within the broader American society and assimilates only in very minor respects.

What degree of assimilation is best for our democracy? Is the success of the American political project only possible insofar as every American pays homage to certain fundamental principles and values? Or is our democracy instead best served by the open questioning of all alleged political virtues? Do the varied perspectives of different cultures on all facets of life, both public and private, contribute to the continued vitality and innovative

success of the American state? Or do they instead deprive us of a sufficient and necessary common ground for political and social discourse?

Join us at **7:29pm** this **Thursday, October 24th** on the **third floor of Massachusetts** hall to determine for yourselves.

Patriotically yours,

Adam Smith & Allan Bloom