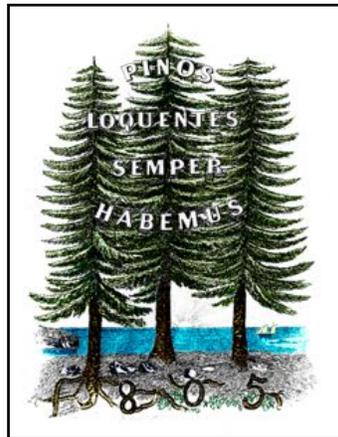


CHRONICLE

Resolution

Too many of us are choosing financial careers



SIGNIFICANT THEMES

- The Value of Higher Education
- Serving the Common Good
- Leading the Good Life

Affirmative

Mr. Samuel Smith '10, delivering the affirmative address, prefaced with the observation of a significant "commercial drive" that dominates American society. He then asserted that Bowdoin students should consider their education not "apparently useful" to serve them in financial careers. Instead, as Eva Bran has noted, "a liberal education should be pre-practical, not impractical." According to Mr. Smith, without such an education those bound for finance lack an essential and important moral foundation.

Negative

Mr. Archibald Abrams '09, presenting the negative opinion, opened by asserting that we should embrace the economic advantage of the U.S. economy by choosing careers in finance. Such careers, he posited, are far superior to "sitting around for the rest of our lives" as a lifelong liberal arts student. Agreeing with Mr. Smith, he suggested that Bowdoin's liberal arts background prepared one well for a career in finance, and he continued to state his belief that only in such a career could someone lead a truly productive life.

THE SOCIETY DEBATE

The first debate of the Fall Semester began with an introductory speech on the theme of "leadership" by President Mr. Ross Jacobs '10 and a short "Discourse on Elegance" from Mr. Bryant Johnson '11 before orations from Mr. Smith and Mr. Abrams. After these orations, Mr. Benjamin Freedman '09 posited that one could serve the Common Good as a philanthropist after a successful career in finance. Mr. Jacobs then questioned whether making money was an honorable way to lead one's life.

With the floor opened, others quickly joined the foray, and debate began to sizzle. When Mr. Jacobs introduced Bowdoin President Barry Mills's credo, "do well [make money] and then do good [become a philanthropist]," discourse

moved quickly between those opposed, those in favor, and a few (namely Mr. Michael Corbelle '10 and Mr. Wesley Hartwell '11) who believed it possible to do well and good simultaneously.

On this subject and related tangents debate raged fiercely for some time until Mr. Smith re-rooted discourse with the deep question, "What is the best thing we can do with our lives?" Mr.

Benjamin Stern '09 asserted his belief that something fulfills everyone, and continued to assert his belief in a universal good life, a polarizing proposition. Eventually, after several more points were made, debate ended with a close 9-8 vote in support of the resolution, resolving that "*too many of us are choosing financial careers.*"





QUESTIONS CONCEIVED

“Do careers in the humanities exist for a legitimate purpose?” — Alicia Martinez ‘10

“What is so good about comfort?” — Samuel Smith ‘10

“In our free-market society, what isn’t a financial career?” — Daniel Jose ‘10

“Should we serve ourselves or the Common Good? Can we serve both?” — Mike Corbelle ‘10

“Should college curricula emphasize great books?” — John Cunningham ‘10

“Why like the Braves?” — Benjamin Stern ‘09

“What aims are there beyond utilitarian aims?” — Kyle Ritter ‘09