

DISPUTATION CXXXVI

September 17, 2015

Dear Peucinians,

First of all, let me say hello to our newcomers! I hope you soon find yourself welcome - not only here at Peucinian, but also at Bowdoin. The first couple of weeks can be challenging, so hang in there. I'm looking forward to meeting and talking with you all. Older members, it's been far too long.

We will be convening tonight for the first disputation of the fall semester to discuss the following...

RESOLVED: DEMOCRACIES SHOULD EMBRACE STATE PATERNALISM

Affirmative: Jerome David Salinger '16

Negative: Μένων '16

Should we be saved from ourselves? Or do we have a right to autonomy, regardless of what impact it has on those around us? Can a government by and for the people restrict a citizen's choice for the sake of his own interest? Prone to error, irrationality, and cognitive bias, can we truly make the claim that we know what's best for us?

What do we gain by following the loving-but-forceful hand of the paternalistic government? Is the loss of "doing whatever we please" something worth grieving over? Specific knowledge of the arguments of philosophers like John Stuart Mill or Locke, while useful, are not necessary to participate in this discussion. As educated citizens of a democracy, we have a considerable stake in tonight's discussion. Please come with questions and an open mind.

7:30 PM Thursday September 17th (Tonight)
Massachusetts Hall Faculty Room (Top Floor)
Semi-Formal Attire

Sincerely,
Αϊαντος

Pinos Loquentes Semper Habemus