

DISPUTATION CLXIX

September 28, 2017

Dear Peucinians,

How should we remember the past, particularly trying days of hardship, violence and pain? Should we commemorate or merely acknowledge what has happened? Is it right for us to project our 2017 morality backwards onto the past, casting judgments on people and events situated in different societal and historical contexts?

For this roundtable, let us consider the statues, plaques, flags, and monuments we've erected in memory—either proudly or somberly—of the slave-holding Confederates, those traitorous rebels, villains of that bloodiest of wars. (Or were they valiant defenders of the Southern Way of Life?) What do these symbols mean, what messages do they convey, and who gets to answer these questions?

RESOLVED: TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS

Roundtable presented by Denis Diderot '19

A roundtable functions just like a disputation, except instead of two opposing orators, Diderot will present an intellectually diverse oration introducing us to the topic.

As always, I ask that you bring your attention and thoughtfulness, your intellectual and emotional passion, and most importantly, your respect. I'm excited to see you all around the table again, for the last time before fall break, to debate a proposition that strikes at the heart of our country's spirit, once again divided.

Thursday, September 21, 7:45 p.m.
Third Floor of Massachusetts Hall
Semi-formal attire*

Sincerely,
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Pinos Loquentes Semper Habemus

*For men, this means at least a shirt and tie with khakis or slacks. No jeans, please. If attire is an issue for you, please email me personally and we will work something out privately—no judgment or embarrassment.