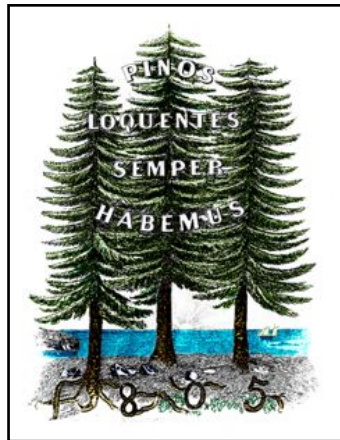


# CHRONICLE

## Resolution

*Federalism has outlived its usefulness to America*



### SIGNIFICANT THEMES

- ⊙ The Purpose of the State
- ⊙ Historical Precedent
- ⊙ Modern vs. Historical Federalism

### Affirmative

Archibald Abrams '09, delivering the affirmative address, asserted that the states should be seen as useful administrative components whose function is to help the national government decentralize, but that in order to promote efficiency and truly address the needs of local communities, the states should no longer be semi-sovereign entities. "We live in a new world, and this new world calls for a different means to approach the challenges that face our country."

### Negative

Steven Bartus '08, presenting the negative opinion, asserted that by allowing the states to innovate and compete, federalism allows an atmosphere in which the needs of local citizens are addressed and states can work with and against each other to craft the best policies. Because it continues to benefit the modern United States, "Federalism was created by the founders of the Constitution in 1787, and its doctrine should continue to be realized in today's society."

### THE SOCIETY DEBATE

Hours before the wrangling of society members officially commenced in Disputation X, four Peucinians formally debated the resolution in the Shannon Room of Hubbard Hall for an independent study in Constitutional Law with Professor Richard Morgan. Archibald Abrams '09 and Christine Carletta '10 each affirmed that federalism has outlived its usefulness to America while Steven Bartus '08 and Ross Jacobs '10 each advocated for federalism's retention.

❖ Steve to Christine: State innovation and competition meet the needs of local citizens

❖ Christine to Steve: In particularly large areas of competing state policy (environmental regulations, healthcare, etc) it is inefficient for states to compete for resources and business; the benefits of strong, national government policies outweigh any single innovative policy a state might offer

After a short hiatus for dinner, the four debaters reconvened in the Peucinian room to open the debate to the Society. Members engaged the subject in new and intriguing ways, but the essential arguments of the four remained prevalent throughout discussion.



❖ Ross to Archie: Though America has changed, the human tendency toward fame, ambition, and self-interest has not truly changed

❖ Archie to Ross: There is no unique characteristic of federalism worth preserving in today's society whose goals require national