

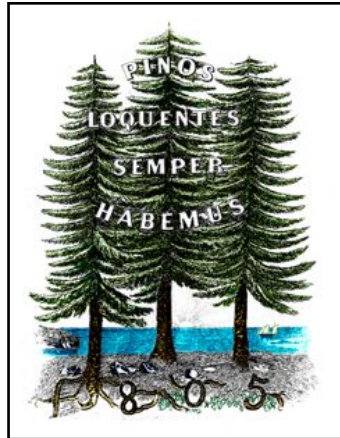
# CHRONICLE

## Affirmative

Alex Carpenter '10, delivering the affirmative address, asserted that people are naturally good and are therefore capable of governing themselves without interference from a larger governing body. Carpenter believed informal communal governments (small "g") based on a unifying communal fear would keep people in a "peaceful stalemate." To conclude, he asserted that without government, the various militant factions of Iraq would not have engaged in fighting to form their own dominating regimes.

## Resolution

*Men can be happy  
without government*



### SIGNIFICANT THEMES

- ⊗ Small "g" vs. Big "G"
- ⊗ Conceptions of Government
- ⊗ Necessity of Government

## Negative

Julian Chryssavgis '10, presenting the negative opinion, prefaced with the Hobbesian belief that people are naturally self-interested and must therefore rely upon a third party (big "G" gov.) to protect themselves from the potential but uncertain aggression of others. Without this basic security, he asserted, one could not have peace, or the development of virtues, invigorating debate, the arts, etc. In conclusion, Chryssavgis noted that only governments could solve global environmental problems like climate change.

## THE SOCIETY DEBATE

For Alex Carpenter '10, this Disputation provided an opportunity to answer his pressing question from April 10: "How and why can we not implement anarchy?" As the implementation of anarchy seemed undesirable to some, acceptable to others, and desirable to a few, this question spurred the controversial resolution, "Men can be happy without government."

Debate began with some questioning of the capability of anarchy to solve the pressing global problems of our day. It then quickly took an ethical turn as members began to debate the fundamental self-interest of humans. The original practical questioning resurfaced occasionally throughout debate.

Dan Brady '08 led the charge on this topic, and soon he began to express his own ideas about a "Dantopia," commandeering most of the debate. One newly-admitted member of the '08-'09 Society, Dan Jose '10 supported this growing movement of Dans, and it was all President Ross Jacobs could do to interject occasionally to restore order. In these interjections, Ross attempted to refocus debate on the possibility of progress with and without government.



In the end, the Society concluded its final Disputation of '07-'08 with many questions and thoughts swirling through crania. As usual, discourse continued well into the evening and into the early hours of the following morning.



# QUESTIONS CONCEIVED

“Is progress equal to happiness?” — Kyle Ritter '09

“Can we shed the legacy of Cain?” — Joshua Miller '08

“Are we capable of possibilities of which we cannot now conceive?” — Daniel Brady '08

“How far beyond the self can we expand the self?” — Jeffrey Jeng '09

“Is government required to solve global problems? After we solve them, is government desirable? Why or why not?” — Wesley Hartwell '11

“If we lived in a utopia, what do we have to talk about? Would we descend into nihilism?” — Bryant Johnson '11

“Is anarchy coherent, sustainable, or effective?” — Julian Chryssavgis '10

“How did government evolve from when human beings were beasts to when they became civilized?” — Alicia Martinez '10

“Can modern humans abandon self-interest for an interest greater than themselves?” — Jasmine Qu '09

“Is the ‘Danshake’ (the universal handshake ideal of Dan Brady '08) possible?” — Christine Carletta '10

“What is worth living for in ‘Dantopia?’” — Sam Smith '10

“Do people need to love their government?” — Ross Jacobs '10