Diversity at Holy Cross: Does it Exist?

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Diversity is an issue that never seems to go away at Holy Cross. Recently, when Holy Cross was reaccredited, it was told to work on reaching its self-imposed goals of more diversity. The Princeton Review has quoted a Holy Cross student as saying that Holy Cross is as diverse as a “box of nails.” It is hard to go an entire month without hearing someone say something regarding the diversity, or lack thereof, at this fine institution. This school, in its own way, is acceptably diverse, and ought to stop trying to “diversity” itself.

We are a school of J. Crew and Abercrombie models. It’s true: when it comes to attire, this school is about as diverse as a “box of nails.” We are a school of primarily white students and this is completely acceptable. We are a school of primarily middle- to upper-class students, perhaps this ought to change a bit, but no one has sent the memo on diversification down to the financial aid office yet. I’m not sure anyone knows where the financial aid office is, or even if it truly exists. We are a school of students with many similarities, but we are nevertheless a diverse institution.

Every college is diverse in terms of character. Schools are composed of individuals and every individual is different (as everyone learns in kindergarten). This seems quite simple, but many people say that this is not diversity at all. Those people are wrong. In the never-ending quest towards “diversity,” schools across the country, especially Holy Cross, have lost sight of what diversity really is. Dictionary.com cites the American Heritage Dictionary as saying that diversity is: “a point or respect in which things differ.” Quite simply, no two people are exactly alike in terms of their backgrounds, upbringing, and life experiences; as such, all people differ from one another in certain respects, and, therefore, any group of people is a diverse group of people.

Think of all of the people you know at this school for a moment. Are any two exactly alike? I can say “no” without thinking twice. The people at this school are very diverse in terms of where they are from, their style of upbringing, and their overall attitude towards everyday life. The overall character of every individual at this school is different. Diversity is widespread at Holy Cross, though it may not show on the surface. This college’s administration would never be so shallow as to see and care about only that which is immediately visible. It was this very Mormon school, and this is accepted candidate. The issue of being a minority is certainly not a true qualification in any sense, though today it is apparently treated as such throughout the country. This certainly sells short the regular, boring white guy because he is immediately at a disadvantage when applying to colleges and later on when applying for jobs. The need for a false sense of diversity cheapens every college and every institution that is attempting to “diversity.”

Holy Cross is a very diverse place. In every seminar you will see a diversity of viewpoints. At every table in Kimball you will hear a diversity of accents and opinions. There is a general diversity of character all over this campus, and diversity of character is the only fair diversity for this school to try to achieve, and it already has. The bigoted diversity of color that both the school and its vaunted accreditation association are looking for is cheap, unfair, and wrong. Holy Cross is a diverse place. The students are happy; the school is excellent; there is no need to put great effort into changing the makeup of the student body. This place is what it has been since 1975, and there is nothing wrong with that.

Brandeis University has a reputation for being a primarily Jewish school, and that is ok, it is thought of as a great school... Unfortunately, Holy Cross is not as good a school as it could be because it is primarily a Catholic institution.