

The College of Mount Saint Vincent Responds to Kappa Beta Phi Controversy

4/3/2014 - Riverdale, N.Y. – The College of Mount Saint Vincent is responding to the recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education regarding the activities of the Kappa Beta Phi organization, which noted that trustees of numerous colleges are members of the fraternity.

The College has followed with sensitivity and disinterest the extensive coverage of the great Kappa Beta Phi controversy. A number of middle aged, presumably straight financiers performed in a drag show for other, presumably straight (or hurt and fearful) financiers, and some told homophobic jokes.

Some parts of the academy have expressed hurt, some have expressed indignation, some have called for resignations, some have expressed fear, some feel offended, and most admirably, some have analyzed the differences between breakneck, corporate, insensitive culture and the deliberate academic culture of sensitivity, high principle, and self-righteous indignation.

The College of Mount Saint Vincent has a number of trustees, former trustees, and if things go well for us, future trustees in the evidently purposeless Kappa Beta Phi. It is beyond the scope of the study that led to this statement to point out that Phi Beta Kappa may (not yet proven) be equally purposeless and that the overlapping membership of the two organizations may (not yet proven) be evidence of a misallocation of resources, including indignation.

The College watches this academic controversy bewildered that anyone can sincerely express indignation or hurt or even surprise that some middle-aged straight men think they are funny when they are not (proven). We are, however, fearful that some women may (not yet proven) lack a sense of humor, too. We recommit ourselves to better, more refinedly crude, Jon-Stewart-like humor for everyone, and are adding that outcome to our assessment matrix.

About the College of Mount Saint Vincent

Founded in 1847 by the Sisters of Charity, the College of Mount Saint Vincent offers nationally recognized liberal arts education and a select array of professional fields of study on a landmark campus overlooking the Hudson River. Committed to the education of the whole person, and enriched by the unparalleled cultural, educational and career opportunities of New York City, the College equips students with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary for lives of achievement, professional accomplishment and leadership in the 21st century.

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