

PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Pittsburgh, Pa.
**
SCHENLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Bigelow Boulevard and Centre Avenue, 13

April 13, 1956

Mr. George Culberson, Executive Director
Commission on Human Relations
City of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania

Dear George:

The attached statements were made in writing to me by five teachers. I think they speak for themselves. I took the liberty of asking a number of teachers whether they thought the exhibits were serving a purpose. Without exception all teachers, regardless of subject, thought the exhibits were intriguing and had aroused intelligent curiosity on the part of many students.

I stopped and visited with a great many pupils from time to time, especially before and after school. My feeling is that these pupils were profiting from even their casual use of the exhibits. At other times I noticed small groups of youngsters talking about the exhibits with considerable animation.

I believe that the exhibits and the booklets were a new and unique approach to a subject about which we concern ourselves in classes on occasion. I would recommend that other schools use the cases and books if at all possible. But, if the problem of transporting the cases is too difficult or too expensive, I suggest that the booklets be made available for use in social studies classes. Teachers' comments to me were that the booklets were as good as textbooks but their use was enhanced with the three dimensional exhibits that were so conveniently located in the building.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mac

B. J. McCormick
Principal

BJM:bk
Enclosures (5)

(#6496-F1)

COMMENTS ON "WE HUMANS" EXHIBIT

Schenley High School

The booklet "We Humans" had a definite effect on the interest of the students. I think the booklet was well prepared; however, some of the terms were too complex for the students to grasp and needed explanation. The students had many questions to ask concerning the material. They were very impressed with the showcases.

I believe the material that we covered had definite value and is one of the best means I've ever seen to present the origins of races to the students.

Ralph Casciato

COMMENTS ON "WE HUMANS" EXHIBIT

Schenley High School

My evaluation of the booklet is "good" for it was presented in a very logical, readable manner that adds enlightenment even to the most biased.

The subject "We Humans" is per se one of interest which even attracts the most indolent pupil because of the unique way the material is presented.

After the material is presented and understood, it makes one stop and think that people should be judged by their contribution to society and leaves only the matter of application to be reconciled.

Arthur Goldberg

COMMENTS ON "WE HUMANS" EXHIBIT

Schenley High School

Through the pamphlet "We Humans" and the connecting cases, the students received a clearer understanding of inter-group relationships. By means of the visual aids many erroneous statements about races were corrected. Many prejudices were scientifically refuted, such as, the Caucasoid race is the superior race in the eyes of God to the Negroid and Mongoloid races. In the class discussions this belief was challenged and proved to be unfounded. In addition, the pamphlet and cases were tremendously effective in showing, among the eight physical and cultural aspects of human inheritance, that all races and subdivision of races have their good and bad peoples and possess the ability to discuss and manufacture new products if shown how. The unit was educationally sound because (1) the pamphlet was supplemented by worthwhile cases and (2) approved by the religious leaders of the community. This inter-group material produced for the student a better understanding of peoples and probably resulted in the easing of racial tension during these critical times.

The following are some of the students comments:

"You should judge a person as an individual, not as a member of a race or nationality group."

"All men are created equal."

"After reading the pamphlet "We Humans" the acts of those people trying to continue segregation certainly cannot be justified."

Harry C. Mavrinac

COMMENTS ON "WE HUMANS" EXHIBIT

Schenley High School

Although the ideas presented were perhaps too subtle for the type of student in my History 6 class to grasp without discussion and explanation, the exhibits and booklets were provocative and refreshing in their approach to a subject that is pointless and "tired."

Mrs. Sara M. McGill

COMMENTS ON "WE HUMANS" EXHIBIT

Schenley High School

Values:

1. Presented material from a reputable source -- museum -- which permitted free discussion among mixed students about race.
2. Taught facts about race

What scientists think

3. Created interest, for discussion among students, which extended beyond the classroom.

Effectiveness in developing or changing attitudes:

No real way to tell if any at all; however, I noticed, or sensed that students were more "American conscious" than "race conscious" during the discussion.

Francis J. Rifugiato