

“Intolerance of Intolerance” Diversity Awareness Corner



Beyond This Place... There Be Dragons!

Intelligence v. Bigotry



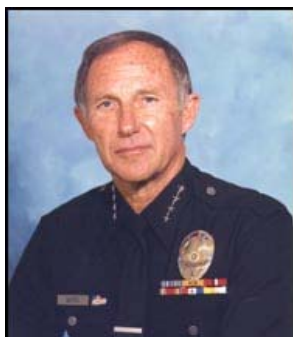
Dr. Josef Mengele

Can Intelligent, Educated People Be BIGOTS?

In 1968, Jane Elliott, a third grade school teacher in Iowa, conducted an exercise with her students in an effort to teach them about bigotry. She told her students that for one day they would all play a “game.” For one day, all of the blue-eyed children would be treated better than the brown-eyed children. Those brown-eyed children would be last in line for lunch. The brown-eyed children were not allowed to use the water fountains, but had to drink from the paper cups. The brown-eyed children were not allowed to play with the blue-eyed children at recess.

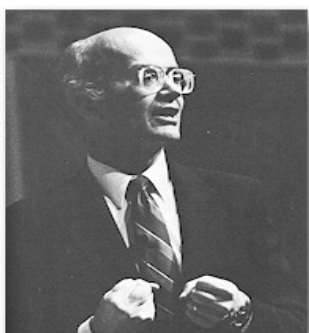
Almost immediately, tensions ran high. Fights broke out, and the brown-eyed children quickly became “second-class” citizens—all based upon nothing more than their eye color.

Where did Jane Elliott get the idea to use something as arbitrary and inconsequential as “eye color” for her exercise in bigotry? While at Auschwitz, Nazi Dr. Josef Mengele developed a method by which he could chemically change a person’s eye color from brown to blue. Whenever Mengele found an “inferior” he liked, he could change their eye color from brown to blue ... allowing them to survive since they would appear to be more Aryan.



Gates explained that a disproportionate number of blacks have been injured or killed by police chokeholds because “in some blacks... the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people.”

~~ L.A. Police Chief Daryl Gates



“We have every kind of mix you can have. I have a black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple.”
James Watt, President Reagan’s Secretary of the Interior: Responding to criticism that his newly formed Coal-Leasing Commission was not diverse.

BIGOTRY IS ABOUT POWER & IGNORANCE!

**Nazi Germany Had Some Of The Most Enlightened And Intelligent People In History.
They just also happened to be BIGOTS!**

Discussion Questions

- How often do you hear people in positions of power, or supposedly educated people, make such bigoted comments as, “All those people...” “All those lawyers,” “I know what those people are like...”
- Where do YOUR children learn their BIGOTRY? At home? In college?
- Do YOU do this? How often do you catch yourself doing this...or see it in others?

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