

Miss Fitch

February 16, 1965

Mr. John D. Fitch, Instructor
Trade Training
Lincoln Hopkins Education Center
1410 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida

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Re: (Paul A. Hernandez)
1810 N.W. 4th Street
Miami, Florida

Dear Mr. Fitch:

This is in reply to your comments on the last grading sheet regarding the above captioned individual. I appreciate your passing along those comments.

(Mr. Hernandez) came in to see me today and feels that he would like to continue on in the mechanical drafting as well as in the basic preliminary work which he has been taking in drawing. There are some things which I would like to pass along to you of which you may not be aware.

Up until a year ago, (Mr. Hernandez) was a severe epileptic and had many seizures. At that time, he had a cranial operation which has helped him considerably. More recently in the last eight months, he states that he has had 11 seizures, one of which was in your class. This is liable to happen on occasion, but not very frequently; and, of course, if the class knows it and you are aware of it, there is no reason to be disturbed by it. More serious is probably the fact that he is under medication -- barbiturates of one kind or another -- under prescription of a doctor to prevent him from having seizures, and this tends to make him operate slowly and, of course, to be drowsy. However, he states that he has never fallen asleep in the class.

Previous to this, he had taken one year of electrical engineering in Havana. He is very serious about learning machine design and is interested in this area. He states that he has never copied a single drawing and has done everything on his own. I also questioned him as to whether he understood your lectures and what you put on the blackboard, and he states that he does but that he works slowly. I thought that if he could apply more time, that he probably would be able to keep up easier being one who works slowly and drafting being a course based primarily on the amount of time applied. He said that he thought that he could come in about 15 minutes early and do a little work before the class started, but that he could not work at home for lack of instruments and that the room was closed to him except for this 15 minute period.

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I appreciate your suggestion about architectural drafting. I feel that if his English is a problem, that he will not probably do any better there than he would in your class. The tests given at the University of Miami, which were given both in English and in Spanish, indicated that Mr. Hernandez had aptitude for mechanical or architectural drafting, advertising layout work, pattern making, design, etc., etching, engraving and various bench and craft work. Also, on the Revised Beta Examination he scored a rating of 93 which is average to slightly sub-average. It is felt that his ability and skills are held back considerably by his disability and that otherwise, he would be perhaps above average.

If it is necessary to drop him from the class, of course, this is something which is up to you, but we think that he should be given every opportunity considering his interest in the work and his trying to make it go at this.

Thank you for any courtesy extended this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon D. Smith, Counselor
Vocational Rehabilitation

GDS:cab

cc: Mrs. Maria Evans
Dr. A. Haces
Mr. Garvin Miller