

Chouinard Interview 13 We Were Manipulated

Skip: I think that the truth about the United States is that it is self-correcting over time, eventually. Dianne Lynch, who appeared on this program, is the Dean of Communications at Ithaca College, said “what does it take to get Americans to get up out of their seats and say ‘this isn’t right?’” An example of that ___ (0:25 – 0:30) this isn’t right, and this isn’t the way our country is, and if we let it go this other way it’s going to become a terrible place. It’s going to cause the World to fall back in to the Dark Ages.

And so, ___ (0:48 – 0:59) Sheldon Solomon this year. He and his colleagues have done a lot of research on the work of Earnest Becker. ___ (1:11 – 1:13) published a book called *Denial of Death*, which won the Pulitzer Prize. And that is about how we as human beings have terror of death itself, and that it’s so deep in all of us. Almost all of our behaviors relate to trying to prevent our death. They did a very meaningful DVD documentary called “Flight from Death: The Quest for Immortality”, which addresses this, and in 2004 news of that award-winning documentary was suppressed by various people ___ (2:07) exactly. So, what is the best way to get the word out ___ (2:15) research, because the research at this point says that we were manipulated in 2004, that the president, by putting scenes of 9/11 in his campaign ads, basically used this fundamental fear that we all have as a way to get people to vote for him.

Chouinard: Well, first of all, I can’t speak specifically to that documentary; I haven’t seen it yet –

Skip: I’m going to send you a copy, hopefully before I leave.

Chouinard: -- and I don’t know the series of events that lead to them not getting coverage, so I can’t comment on that specifically. I will say that a lot was written about the fact that in the last campaign, the Republican Party as a whole used fear as a huge and very successful tactic. If a group of people or an individual feels like they’ve been blackballed in some way, it’s hard to get around that. If it’s one entity, if it’s one network, one show that they’ve been given the runaround on or something like that, sometimes you can, off the record, get somebody to say “look, this is what went down, and this is why this happened”.

Skip: Which is what did happen.

Chouinard: If they know for a fact that took place, then I think there are other outlets to try. There’s power in the internet, there’s power in a lot of , you know, once you get to blogs, to really put that information out there and to have links to the site where people can get copies of the documentary and see for themselves, I think to be able to work from the grassroots up, from the ground up, to do as many speaking engagements as they possibly can, to publicize this fact, to get as much print coverage as they can. You might have to start in alternative publications more, that’s kind of what you have to do until enough happens, you know, it’s like the information is in enough different places where mainstream media picks up on it, and the fact that mainstream media in a way booted these people off becomes the story in and of itself.

I will say that in general, there’s usually a mainstream media outlet who isn’t afraid to turn the light on themselves, when that has been shown. Once again, journalists, broadcasters, they like to think they have ethics, so when there’s a clear-cut case where, hey, somebody was wrong, I will say they usually are not afraid to report it. But, you know, you’ve got it, then come around from another way. You can’t come in the front door, then come in the back door, come in a side door, look in a window, and you should get that.

Skip: We’ll continue to do that.

Chouinard: That’s wonderful.

Skip: Thank you very much.

Chouinard: Thank you very much for the opportunity, it was really great to meet you.

Skip: It's great to have this interview for Bridges TV. I really appreciate it.

Chouinard: Wonderful, thank you.

Skip: This has been Words Matter coming to you from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.