

[INAUDIBLE] of it all, and why do we do what we do? And what I think is important that, as individuals, we can make the difference by our conduct, being accountable and behaving in a morally-responsible fashion. But that by itself is not enough. This can only be done by someone who is enlightened by knowledge and has some understanding, intellectual understanding of how, for example, genocide can come about, or how the Holocaust could have come about. And that is one of the most studied genocides of all.

And we know that in contemporary times, in our time, we have many genocides taking place right now. And for that very reason, our purpose to educate the students along these lines was to develop the type of insight which will turn them into activists, so that they will stand up when the need will arise and say no to something, and will support those movements which will prevent another Holocaust.

And that was a major reason why we have done, at least that's what I've seen, my major reason for having done all this rather difficult work, as Carol has, I think, very adequately and appropriately explained, which is very difficult work and a very thankless job. So we've done it because of that. And I think in that, we may have succeeded to some degree, in some measure.

Do you think that the real popularity of the lecture series attests to the impact that you have had as an educator?

Well, you see, it's very difficult for me, and I feel very uncomfortable to assess it myself. Because I don't want to blow my own horn, in a way, which may not be adequately objective and appropriate. But certainly, I think one thing can be said, that people who are survivors and reflected on the time of suffering and dreadfulness and the ghastly situations in which survivors found themselves and reflected on that adequately, and have come out with some sort of insights.

And insights which they can relay to students, I think, is invaluable. Because they are eyewitness accounts, people who have gone through that themselves, rather than them reading a text, which may be very informative and very meaningful, but simply is not a substitute for some experience which enables them to listen to survivors talking about their own predicament during that Nazi Holocaust situation. And that is very valuable, and that's not going to be with us forever, because we are all getting older and more decrepit, and what have you.

So this is also one reason which we haven't mentioned, why we have videotaped most of our major lectures. And they are on file until the time, I think, we will be discovered. Because what Carol has very, very correctly said, we have not been discovered yet. And much of the work we have done was perhaps a little bit ahead of its time.

And in my case, I can say-- and I'm fairly confident-- that people will recognize me posthumously, but it may not be during my lifetime. I would like to do that. I'd like to see that, because I think my son would enjoy that, and I think would appreciate that. But I'm very pessimistic about that because of the experience we've had. And I think, again, I only can say that Carol has really summarized it exceedingly well, very precisely. And I certainly share the feelings, the way she has described it.

And it has been a very useful thing for us to do, but the price was exceedingly hard. And obstacles, and I really would say unbelievable, unbelievable obstacles which were put in our path of activity. And frankly, we don't quite understand it, other than in depth psychology probably would explain that best. But it is difficult to take, and it's very discouraging, has been very discouraging for us.

I was just going to say that Carol is the outstanding one, but you certainly have the devotion and dedication of several people who have been your students over the years.

Well, of course, these people disperse. And some keep in touch, and some people also have been great disappointments who, when they were supposed to stand up, did not stand up, and then sold us out in so many ways because of opportunistic reasons, or whatever. And so, yes, there are people who stay in touch and appreciate, and it may have made a difference in their lives. There's no question about that. And I think they will stand up and will understand, then, to become active and what to do when they have an opportunity, or seek opportunities in which they can become active and contribute to prevention of carnage of that nature.

And so, yes, there are quite a few. And we have letters, and these letters one day may be of importance, and perhaps might be publicized in one form or another. But right now, because of the problems we've encountered and the difficult times we've had, we are in a mood in which somehow, we need to remove ourselves a little bit and develop a different type of perspective.

Because it has been very destructive for us, which is something which we certainly haven't reckoned with when we started our work. Because we felt that some people would give us sufficient support and appreciate it so that it would give us additional strength and motivation to go on and do the thing which, by itself, is very difficult to teach. How do you teach such a dreadful thing, such a dreadful catastrophe to people? Monumental catastrophe, as I like to call it.

And that is very difficult, because people don't want to face up to a reality of that kind. It's a very threatening thing. And so I don't think we've been psychologically and emotionally sufficiently prepared to deal with all that. And since we don't have anyone else who really has seriously worked, we have a lot of people who crave to be in the limelight, but very few people who have done more than be agents of hot air. And those people talk a lot and try to put us down, minimize our contribution without having made any contribution to speak of.

So the whole road has been difficult from the beginning to end.

That's right. Absolutely.

But it seems that up until this past year, you at least were able to plod forward.

With considerable difficulty. With considerable difficulty and with a great deal of sweat and blood at all times.

But now it's practically impossible.

Now it's becoming even more difficult than before, because people want to take over, not in order to work, but to reap some sort of recognition and limelight for just very pure ego purposes.

They want our program and not us, at this point. But it's questionable, wanting our program, whether they really even want Holocaust.

Well, that's right.

As far as the subject.

And also they are not particularly interested in working hard, which we have. We've been there at times until 11, 12 o'clock at night, and Carol having her family and her responsibilities and financial worries. No one has recognized that. They said, you should be, you got a substantial sum of money for two semesters, which was about \$4,000, not quite.

\$4,800.

\$4800.

And then [INAUDIBLE].

And had the gall to rub that under her nose.

That I should be quiet now.

That she should not, yeah, she should really be grateful for this substantive amount of money she received for her little, quote-unquote little work.

Well, when you retired, did you retire by choice, or is it an age thing, you got to retire?

No, no, no. You see, what we did, I could have stayed there until I was totally senile and had other sort of physical breakdowns. But I chose to take what they call a golden handshake, which gives you four years in the four years credit towards your retirement, so an additional four years of credit. And since I felt that I'm not going to teach four years anymore, in terms of my choice and my feelings, in terms of what I should do, and I've been also advised by my physician that I really should think of retirement.

Because if I don't think of retirement now, I may not enjoy anything which comes with retirement. But that's a question of [INAUDIBLE], because I'm not a person to retire anyway. I don't feel well if I don't do anything. So that was one of the reasons also, and to be free from all these sort of ludicrous problems which are an everyday occurrence. And I was getting very tired of this sort of pettiness and people who want to be educators who want to profess something without really having the substance, and who are, for practical purposes, what I would define, or one of my students has defined for me, buffoons.

And so I was getting very tired of that, and I felt that my level of tolerance was getting rather thin, and I needed to get out if I really wanted to have some enjoyment. Also if I wanted to continue to write, because to do all the things plus be very active in writing, be very productive is exceedingly difficult under the circumstances. Because we have to teach 12 hours a week, plus office hours, plus useless committee work and so many other things which take up your time without really producing anything. And I just felt that I was no longer willing to suffer that.

So while you're not teaching, very clearly, your life is filled with much work, as you say, that the writing, the projects that you have in mind, the Holocaust-related projects. So do you have any sense of the direction in which you plan to go with this?

Well, the sense of direction is just to develop proper strategies, which we have not developed, or were unable or were prevented to develop during the Sonoma State situation. And as I said earlier, my plans are very simple. I think we need to be affiliated with a viable institution, number one. Number two, find enough time to be productive in terms of writing and continuing research and all that, which I am doing as much as I can, and then come out with products which simply cannot be ignored, so that we get the type of recognition which, so far, we have not been able to receive. And that is my immediate goal, and also maybe enjoy life a little bit for a change and have some fun.

Really?

And laugh a few things. And we've had some of it, you know, recently, yesterday and all that. And I think that's exceedingly important. I think we were pretty much burned out in the process of doing all this. And it's not because we don't have to give something which is worthwhile, but simply the response, the echo, the echo was so bad that we didn't have any reinforcement, no reinforcement and no support, moral support or other support. And we're not really talking that much money, only. We're talking moral support, and that was totally missing, absolutely missing, with very, very few exceptions.

Yeah, and so think that, for example, when I wanted to teach the sociology of the Holocaust, which is, this is the syllabus here, which I have here-- I'm going to show it to you-- is something which was very difficult to put together. Because it just was not really getting the type of support which it deserved.

And then what we have not mentioned, we have been very successful with working with the Oral History Project, the Holocaust Oral History Project, and especially along the lines with the Japanese-Americans and their redemption. And I think that was, I think, very successful, and I was very gratified with some of the lectures I was permitted to give outside the university, as well as within the university. And I think it made a difference, and I think that is something to build upon and work with in the future.

And I think what [? Lenny ?] and John and all the other co-workers have been doing, such as yourself, Sandra, is invaluable, and I think will be recognized and has been already recognized by very many people, which, of course, includes us. Because we are more sensitive to recognizing things which are solid and have a basis and a foundation to

build upon.

Well, I will say the same, that despite the reaction and attitude of your university colleagues, your body of work remains itself, the research with the perpetrators, the teaching, whose ripples you may never know, that still stands and always will stand.

Well, that's what we hope. And that's one thing, talking about strategies and looking back, and looking back at the present and in the future, is that what you publish cannot be unpublished. And therefore it's very important to put things on paper, because words may fall on fertile ground, but doesn't necessarily have to fall on fertile ground, and then it will vanish. It will disappear. It will evaporate. But anything which is written down and has been printed will not, and I think that's an important thing for us to do in the near future.

So as I said before, just two things, be affiliated with a vital institution as number one, I think, very important, so that we don't just hang in midair without any proper ground and foundation. And then work on those publications which will receive recognition. Because things which were of lesser magnitude receive recognition, so things which we consider to be major contributions might receive the type of recognition which they deserve.

Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Well, I hope that we all survive, that's all, we all survive in some degree of satisfaction, equanimity, and peace, peace.

Agreed. Is there some other message you might like to leave?

Be accountable, and have compassion. And do something. Understand and be motivated to do something, what you have understood. Make a difference.

I want to thank you very, very much for all the time and energy you have poured into this long series of interviews, and to say that you have done something.

Well, very many thanks for your not only response, but also for the work you put in, being an excellent first-rate interview.

Thank you.

Who stimulated my responses, or our responses, and I'm talking for Carol as well. And that is very much appreciated, because so many people we talk to never asked us a single question which had any meaning, or depth, or consequence, was of consequence. And that was one of the very painful aspects of our work, that we dealt with people who were so ignorant that they couldn't even ask questions. And I'm talking about faculty. I'm talking about people who were mature, and people who confessed or whatever, all sorts of things, and professed and all sorts of things. But when it came to action, they were just absolute failures.

And a big thanks to you, too, Carol, not only for, obviously, all your work that you've done over the years with John, but so devotedly coming to every single interview and writing notes, and getting simulation and questions, and thank you.

It's all of her hide, above and beyond the call of duty.

Yes.

Well, let me just say that, in spite of the fact that it is some of the most difficult work you can do, facing the shadow of humanity and your own shadow in doing this work, it's a privilege.

Well, I'm glad you feel that way. And thank you again.

Yeah, I'm glad you feel.

Thank you both.

I don't know whether I do, but that's all right.