

**TimeWarner Shareholder Meeting Question**  
**Oscar Murdock**  
**Project 21 / National Center for Public Policy Research**  
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While promoting the Warner Brothers film “Dolphin Tale” last September, actor Morgan Freeman went on Piers Morgan’s program on CNN and said that the tea party movement — and, by association, the Republican Party — is racist and wants to “screw the country.”

Clips of Mr. Freeman’s comments went viral — especially among conservative media outlets and on the Internet. The group I represent, the Project 21 black conservative network, said his comments were “outrageous” and “dangerous” in television, radio and even black community newspaper interviews and articles.

I think this can be directly attributed to a lackluster profit for “Dolphin Tale.” According to a Hollywood Reporter poll conducted by Penn Schoen Berland, “Dolphin Tale” polled higher in interest among people who called themselves conservative or a tea party member over those calling themselves liberal. Sizable percentages of conservatives and tea party members, however, said they were no longer interested in the film after hearing about Mr. Freeman’s comments.

It’s fair to assume that Mr. Freeman personally insulting approximately half of the American population had an impact on the gross for “Dolphin Tale.”

Warner Brothers has a sizable investment in the newest Batman movie to be released this July. It also stars Morgan Freeman.

Considering the potential damage Mr. Freeman’s radical politics inflicted on his last Warner Brothers film, is TimeWarner taking any steps to make sure that the press tour for the new Batman movie is not similarly used to promote Mr. Freeman’s divisive views but instead affirmatively draw people to movie theaters?

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