

op-ed

What right do Latino groups and WWII veterans have to complain about being **written out of history**. Where were their voices when PBS and KNME-TV broadcast "Surviving Columbus" a one sided, anti-Hispanic and historically inaccurate account of Indian and Spanish Catholic relations in New Mexico. They did not ask why the important Spanish contributions of the people of New Mexico, La Florida, Cuba, and all of the Spanish dominions were not acknowledged by Ken Burns Revolutionary War documentary, or why New Mexico's roll in his Civil War documentary was hardly mentioned.

Why the silence when our governor signed a bill sending the statue of a mass murderer of Catholic Indians and Spanish to Washington to represent New Mexico, even though he was responsible for the destruction and loss of so many Pueblos in the State, or why not the outcry when an Indian legislator sponsors a bill to do away with Columbus Day, while the positive contributions of Western Civilization and Christianity are not taught to are children in school. Latino groups need to stop crying out only when its there toe being stepped on, but speak out whenever their culture and religion are being attacked, ignored, or denigrated.

Orae Dominguez, Albuquerque

Melvyn Montano op-ed June 5, 2007

In reply to Orae Dominguez op-ed about Latinos speaking out. Let me provide a factual truth, if the Albuquerque Journal will publish this reply. I say this because I personally know of many Hispanic individuals and organizations that have objected to the broadcasts by PBS and KNMETV about the same subjects mentioned in the Orae Dominguez op-ed but lets be candid about who has editorial license to decide what gets published, the Albuquerque Journal editors. It is naive to conclude that we Hispanics are either too unassertive or uneducated to allow such denigration of our culture or religion, but reality is reality. A great book to read that will provide an accurate understanding of why we as Hispanics do not get equal visibility is: "The Tree Of Hate" by Prof Philip Wayne Powell of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Let me site an example of exclusion of recognizing Hispanics for military bravery and performance, besides what Mr. Ken Burns left out of his PBS documentary "The War". Recently the "Tuskegee Airman" were presented The Congressional Gold Medal as were the "Navajo Code Talkers" a few years ago and these were well deserved, but why has Congress not recognized "The Battling Bastards of Bataan" who engaged the Japanese Army in the Philippine Islands before any other U. S. military forces, after surrendering against their will were forced on the notorious "Bataan Death March" where many died and those who survived were subsequently sent to Japan as POW's and treated inhumanely until they were liberated at the war's end. Does this sound like an oversight or deliberate exclusion? Another WW II tidbit, did you know that Squadron 201 of the Mexican Air Force fought with the Americans against the Japanese in the Pacific? We Hispanics have been participating in the military since the Spanish discovered the western hemisphere in 1492. There have been numerous efforts to try and inform and educate not only the public at large but also our children in order to instill a sense of self-esteem to a culture that has been inaccurately depicted for centuries.

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