

September 12, 2002

Editor,
Denver Post

In Jim Spencer's September 11 column he purports to describe the D.C. press conference attended by families of victims of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. His column is a collection of distortions.

He edited what we did say to twist our meaning, left out important parts of our statements to present a perverted version of our beliefs and then ridiculed what he claims we said.

For example:

1. He says that we "replaced the politics of multiculturalism with the politics of fear." He ignored our statement that of the 13-member Board of Directors of 9-11 Families for a Secure America, one is Hispanic, one was married to a Hispanic immigrant who died on 9-11, one is African-American, one is an immigrant herself. All but two are the children or grandchildren of immigrants.

I leave it to your readers to judge the honesty of his allegation that we are opposed to a multicultural America .

2. His attempt to associate us with a belief in "conspiracy theories" (beyond that of the hijackers themselves) as the cause of 9-11 is vicious and false. We merely state the fact that failure to enforce the laws regarding applicants for visas, and laws barring immigration without background checks contributed in a major way to the deaths of our love ones, and that many groups, such as employers of illegals, profit from this migration and have successfully lobbied Congress to allow it to continue.

3. He ridicules our opposition to issuance of driver's licenses to ILLEGAL aliens, people who are criminals the moment they enter the US. He chooses to ignore the fact that nearly all the terrorists used such licenses as the "valid ID" that got them on the planes that morning of 9-11, and that these licenses were the keys to entering American society that allowed them to get the credit cards, bank accounts, rental cars, hotel rooms and all the other means they needed to live freely in this country while they planned, rehearsed and carried out their conspiracy. (Forgive the use of the word "conspiracy," Mr. Spenser. Look at a dictionary for explanation.)

Our opposition to illegal immigration is due strictly to the fact that an illegal is a person whose identity has never been established and background never checked for terrorist or criminal activities.

Evidently, this is sufficient basis for Spenser to dismiss us, in effect, as conspiracy nuts, anti-multicultural, playing the politics of fear etc..

With his distortions he has attempted to trivialized our loss and our goals .The Denver Post's staff should feel ashamed at running such a piece.

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