

Republic unfairly attacked me over 'mob' comment

In *The Republic's* Friday editorial "Recent events show pattern of recklessness," the newspaper made false charges against me.

In the underlying incident, I was walking away from a meeting at the Capitol when a reporter for Univision asked me to do an interview in Spanish, as I frequently do for them. Walking to where his cameraman was, I was spotted as an opponent of Mexican American/raza studies and surrounded by a mob, the front row of which was within touching distance of me, who screamed at me throughout the interview and all the way to my car.



TOM HORNE

My turn

This is typical of followers of raza studies. Tucson Channels 4 and 9 broadcast a film of the students performing a street play "The Killing of Tom Horne," in which a student wearing a face mask of my picture ended up dead on the ground.

When I gave a press conference in Tucson, the schools let the students out so they could cause a

commotion. When these incidents occur, I call attention to them so the public will learn how the people who support this program behave, and what they teach students.

The Republic attacked me for characterizing this mostly adult mob as thuggish. Dear reader, view the film of the incident at www.azag.gov and decide for yourself.

What is much worse, *The Republic* said that I "sought political advantage at the expense of Latinos, who make up 30 percent of Arizona's population." My argument is with a *small group* of radicals who teach or support an extremely dysfunctional program to a large number of students in Tucson, not with 30 percent of Arizona's population.

I know lots of Latinos who are much more conservative than I am. To suggest that, because I disagree with *The Republic* about illegal immigration, or the description of the mob, I sought to take advantage of all Arizona Latinos, 30 percent of the population, is *really* crazy. It is the worst kind of stereotyping, assuming that because of their race all Latinos agree with them and disagree with me.

As superintendent of schools, I



State Attorney General Tom Horne is heckled by immigrant-rights supporters March 14 as he leaves the state Capitol. JACK KURTZ/THE REPUBLIC

worked hard to develop better methods of teaching Latino kids English.

My entire career I have fought for prejudice reduction and against stereotyping. I have great respect for the Spanish language and Latin culture, having studied them diligently for the last three years.

I oppose raza studies because I oppose dividing students by race, and many, many Latinos agree with me. They also agree with me in disapproving the behavior shown on the film. *The Republic*

cannot legitimately draft an entire race to its side of an argument.

People are individuals. Race does not dictate opinion. I have a strong disagreement with a small group of radicals.

The Republic conflated that small group with the entire race of Latinos. Let's all agree to stop stereotyping, and stop dividing students by race and treat everyone as individuals.

Tom Horne is the attorney general of Arizona.

The excerpt below is from Tom Horne's press release on his encounter with protesters at the Capitol:

"Horne Releases Raza Mob Video
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, March 17, 2011
RAZA STUDIES SUPPORTERS, IN
A THUGGISH MOB,
TRIED TO SHOUT DOWN
ATTORNEY GENERAL HORNE

PHOENIX (Thursday March 17, 2011) — Attorney General Tom Horne today released a video of a screaming mob of Raza Studies supporters who interfered with the Attorney General's efforts to accommodate a request to be interviewed by a television news crew.

In the video below, viewers can see a thuggish mob of Raza Studies supporters trying to shout down Horne, to attempt to prevent an interview with Univision Television."

Editor's note: *The Republic* stands by its editorial.