



EDITORIAL CARTOON

High Court's Low Decision

The Supreme Court of the United States has spoken, and once again Americans are the recipients of a regressive and regretful ruling, that foolishly fails to recognize that marijuana has multiple uses for medicinal purposes.

AIDS and cancer patients, gay Americans, and citizens everywhere will continue to fight for the right of patients to use marijuana medicinally. We will continue to advance the accepted notion that marijuana is a force for social change and has accepted medical uses.

We will continue to educate the American public and our government officials that the drug war destroys decent people, honorable lives, and good citizens.

We will continue to advance the honorable cause we have engaged, and ask

juries to nullify laws that suggest marijuana cannot be used in socially responsible and medically necessary ways.

We regret a ruling that interdicts doctors from prescribing legitimate medical uses, and patients from gaining access to it. We will call upon

Congressional leaders to right the judicial wrongs that have been inflicted upon us. And we will work towards supporting those candidates for office that have the courage and willingness to make a difference.

We adopt the doctrine of Bishop Tutu, that "It is far more noble to advance a just cause that will inevitably succeed than to back an unjust cause that is doomed to failure."

The Supreme Court decision is a setback because it once again firmly plants their feet a century behind the times.



Democrats.com Embarrasses Itself

One of the more aggressive forms of information we receive every day is news from an authorized web site of the Democratic Party, Democrats.com. Their zeal to present information seems to start and end with a desire to tell the world that George Bush did not win the Presidency, and Al Gore was really elected. Pathetically, they are still counting votes while the rest of the country is getting on with their lives.

Anyway, in what can only be best described as the pot calling the kettle black, this unofficial website served Jeb Bush's head on a platter last week, running with

the story of his alleged sexual liaison with a Tallahassee official. It was an embarrassment, but not to the Governor. Only to themselves.

As advocates of privacy rights, we should support those who support protecting personal relationships and not making them public through falsities or frenetics. After having spent eight years with a President whose penis could not be caged, Democrats can do better than attempt to chastise the sexual dalliances of other government officials. Because, ultimately, even if the allegations are true, we have no business making an issue of it.

THE EXPRESS CHAT ROOM

Letters to the Editor

Tributes To Karl Clark

Murphy: Karl Was A Pioneer

Karl Clark will be remembered by the early pioneers of the Dolphin Democratic Club as a man who was a true statesman in every sense of the word. With fellow Dolphins D.Lynn Mattingly and Tom Bradshaw, he helped move gay politics from the back room to the board room. We became power brokers due to his vigilance and bridge building abilities. Karl was unselfish with his time and his talents. As such an important member of this community, Karl never acted like one. I am sorry that our younger brothers and sisters will never know Karl Clark. He will be sorely missed.

Michael Murphy
Board Member -Dolphin Democrats
1983-85

Rubino: He Was a Delightful, Dedicated Man

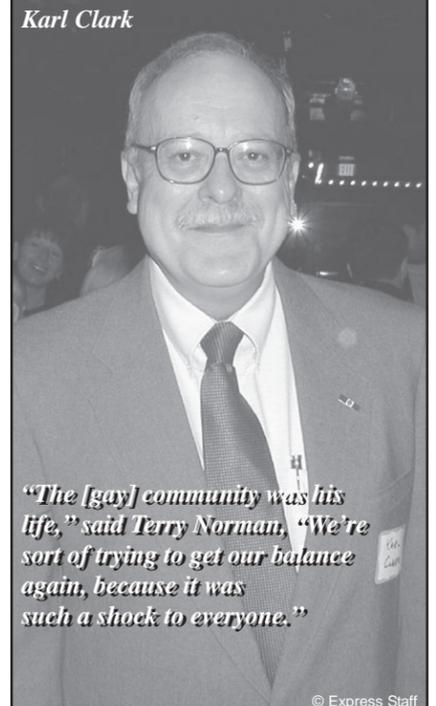
I was saddened to hear that a dear friend had passed away so suddenly. Karl and I go back many years when Anita Bryant was the big threat in SO. Florida. I worked with Karl on many committees in the early days when he and Lynn Mattingly formed The United Citizens for Human Rights, a political action committee.

Karl was instrumental and the driving force to get the Dolphin Democratic Club under gay and lesbian control. A lot of people think that South Florida has always been gay friendly and somehow politicians were always liberal. Not so. It took a lot of hard work and back room discussions with these local politicians who were terrified to speak in front of some gays and lesbians, let alone be endorsed by "them"? No way, it took a lot of hand shaking and meeting politicians till they found out gays were not out to rule the world and cause mass destruction to society. Remember this was in the mid 70s and there was no Gay Community Center, MCC was in someone's living room, and The Tuesday Night group met in "Joe Bell's" apt. to discuss strategy and fund raise to defeat not only Anita Bryant, but the bill that was being introduced in San Francisco to end gay rights in that stronghold.

Karl and the group knew if San Francisco fell so would the rest of the country. So the S. Florida gays and lesbians raised \$15,000 to send to California to defeat the initiative. It was the largest amount raised outside of California.

It was a time that gays came out of their condos and homes and even if they didn't come out to their families and straight workers and friends they attended meetings in apartments or at Buddy Markwell's Den of Antiquity. Long term friendships were started during that time and continue to this day. Karl was one of them. Karl was one of the activists that continued to fight for gay rights long after Anita was defeated. Many clubs and organizations were also formed during that time and continue to flourish. I am happy that I met Karl and we became friends. I will miss him and the world has lost a wonderful person.

Bunny Rubino



Karl Clark

"The [gay] community was his life," said Terry Norman, "We're sort of trying to get our balance again, because it was such a shock to everyone."

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Greenwald: Karl Was a Unifying Force

In a frequently fragmented and divisive community where gay role models are rare and leadership too loosely defined, Karl Clark fiercely and passionately took on homophobia, intolerance and anti-gay bigotry. And, he did so minus the fanfare, the over politicizing of issues and the grandstanding that often personifies gay activism.

Karl Clark vigorously and without the oversized ego, committed himself to the cause of gay rights, raising a clear and consistent voice against discrimination on behalf of all GLBT South Floridians and making a difference. Would not it be a fitting tribute to dedicate this year's gay pride event to this tireless, genial and unassuming gentleman, who quietly, intelligently and effectively began his battle against hatred and inequality when most of us reading this were neither born or too caught up in the hedonism of the 70's and 80's to care?

When you think of how much positive has been achieved in the SoFlo gay rights movement over the past three decades, you needn't look much further than Karl Clark.

Art Greenwald, M.S.

Fellow GLBT Veterans

On behalf of the New England GLB Veterans, please allow me to convey our condolences to the family and many friends of the late Mr. Karl Clark, longtime gay activist and proud gay veteran.

As always, we are deeply saddened whenever a fellow brother/sister advocate is taken from us.

May God bless Karl for all eternity.

Cliff Arnesen President



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