

Coconut Telegraph

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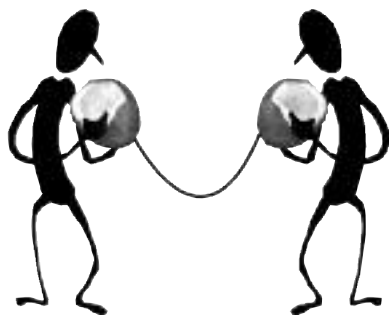
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Editorial:

The First Amendment for Idiots and an Apology to KLI

Our 1st amendment rights are:

- 1.) Freedom of Speech
- 2.) Freedom of the Press
- 3.) Freedom of Religion
- 4.) Freedom of Petition
- 5.) Freedom of Assembly

It is for these rights that our fore fathers came to this country and our veterans have fought to keep it. These freedoms are what has set us apart from most other countries, and what makes America a great place to live.

Those of you that know me know I am community minded and have worked hard in my 22 years in the Keys doing benefits and donating to various organizations too numerous to mention. In the five plus

years I have owned and operated the Coconut Telegraph I have gained a reputation for "saying it like it is."

For a month there were numerous signs posted inside the VFW Post 10211 stating that anyone who parked in front of KLI while they were decorated for the holidays would have their cars towed at the vehicle owners expense! I overheard several customers and veterans voice their disapproval and say they would not shop at KLI anymore. I felt the same way and wrote an editorial in the January issue in support of our Veterans.

As a teenager during the Viet Nam era I remember what it was like to lose many friends and family to a war and took the signs as being anti-veteran. Then much to

my surprise I find out that KLI did not threaten to tow vehicles, they asked nicely and of the VFW Post took it upon themselves to hang up signs that were false and obviously damaging to KLI's good reputation.

I received an email from the VFW Post 10211 Adjutant who also works for Monroe County in Veteran's Affairs admitting that the VFW Post wrote the threatening towing message that hung on the walls for a month! The sad thing about it is that they chose to project their error and anger on me for reporting it, as I and many other observant customers saw it, during the month of December.

It is sad that people that have no

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Editorial

...continued from page 2
business experience and have never accomplished anything in their lives sometimes are running these types of organizations. They have allowed their positions of being, as

Fred Flintstone would say, "Grand Poobah's" go to their empty heads. The intelligent thing to do would have been to publicly apologize to KLI for their



huge mistake. Upon finding out this grave error I immediately posted an apology on my website to KLI from the Coconut Telegraph. We have received no letters of apology to KLI from the VFW Post 10211. Since receiving hostile emails from the VFW Post 10211 officer, I have been barred. Doesn't the first amendment apply to them? Do they think they are above the law and the constitution? Barring one non-member will not solve the multitude of problems plaguing this place.

For the most part the members and customers (non-members are allowed admittance in this Post) are a great bunch of people. It is only a few power-hungry, corrupt morons that falsified

the information. It goes with the old idiom, "a few bad apples spoil the whole bunch."

It is from the Coconut Telegraph and the good apples that we would like to acknowledge

the many generous contributions that the owners of KLI have bestowed upon the Upper Keys community and needy Veterans for many years. Thank you KLI. We, the good apples, and human kindness shall persevere. If you are a veteran visiting here do take the opportunity to visit the Marathon American Legion as I recently did. They are a super-friendly, organized group that understands what "the good of the order" really means.

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