

Neither Dave Hafner (nor Ken Smart or DelRay Rocky) are racist, sexist, or homophobic. I personally don't care if James Llanas is gay or where he grew-up. I lived in Portland, Oregon for two years. I was born and raised in the Twin Cities. And I played baseball in Florida long enough. These are three of the top four hotbeds for the gay lifestyle in the United States. I know many gay people and some of them are my friends.. Not because they are (or are not) gay. I also work with and socialize with gay individuals. If we are going to do our jobs (assuming we have one) and if we truly believe in freedom and human rights and treating people justly and respectfully, then these are things most of us do. Some of the friends and acquaintances of whom I speak represent some of the kindest and gentlest people that I know. One is no longer with us and I miss him dearly. He was a former student teacher of mine.

I don't care if people are white, black, brown, yellow, red, or polka dot green. If there were people that were polka dot green you can bet some of them would be my friends. I don't know anyone that is actually white, black, red or yellow. I do know many that are "brown" and some that I guess some call some shade of "yellow." I also consider some of them to be my friends.

If one is truly non-racist, then you will not find yourself continually referring to the color of a person's skin. Why does James Llanas continually do this? Council member John Nephew infers the Smart team is "lily-white and not all gay." (Look it up on his web site before he deletes it, as he has done so many times before). Johnny Nephew has his colors mixed up, and needs to break out his box of crayola crayons to determine the difference. They should be next to the rest of his toys.

I have lived right next to two Hmong families and still do. For 17 years on the East side of St. Paul and for the last five years in our city, Maplewood. Sao and Shoua and their children are the nicest, quietest, most respectful people I know. And some of the best neighbors I've had the pleasure of living next to. They are moving soon—looking for a more affordable place to live and have a for-sale sign in the front yard. I will miss them and none better will take their place. Gau, Za, and their children Sher, Ka, Chu, Cheng, Mary, and Pauline are as nice a family as you will ever meet. Gau is the best welder I've seen (and I know a few) and Sher is so honest he returned the 35 cents that fell out of my pocket.

Rigoberto Huerta lived next door to my parents for years. We affectionately call him Rigo.. He now lives with his family in my parents former house of 55 years and the house I grew up in. My parents moved to Maplewood. Rigo and his family are Hispanic. They also are some of the nicest, kindest, generous people we know. The Hispanic community impresses me as being a group of dedicated, hardworking, and respectful people. And they are predominantly Christian and I like that too.

It is time to put a rest to the hype, name-calling, false accusations, character assassination and rotten politics that are destroying our city and nation. It is time to free ourselves from the slanted and dishonest viewpoints of the media and the press. And it is time to vote for the only three candidates who are running without an agenda. If you feel flooded with garbage from the the entire political spectrum, we are sending you the row boat, the canoe, and the helicopter. Take your pick and jump in. They won't be coming by again. This is the place, and this is the time. Write (right)-in SMART for mayor, write-in ROCKY for council. No need for first or middle names. Fill in their ovals with the black marker, and fill in Dave Hafner's oval as well. My name is on the ballot. Vote for the entire SMART team. You want honesty, that is all you will get from the entire SMART team.

Thanks, Dave