

Gonzo Girl has a Wal-Mart Attack and Is Attacked at Wal-Mart



Sammie Mays 'Gonzo Girl'
305-776-7776
www.saminthekeys.com

I ain't as good as I once was but I'm good once as I ever was. Those lyrics from the Toby Keith song ricocheted through the mind of Florida Keys gonzo writer Sammie Mays as she debated on what to do as she was attacked inside the Florida City Wal-Mart store by three black women, two of whom were dressed in Wal-Mart uniforms.

"Hey I'm no stranger to weird encounters, as a matter of fact, a day without a strange encounter is almost like a day without sunshine but this attack came totally unwarranted and right out of left field." The Gonzo Girl told the Coconut Telegraph.

A former reporter for the National Enquirer and now feature travel /entertainment writer for the Florida Keys/Key West TravelHost Magazine and T.V. host for Comcast 5 "Spotlight on the Keys" - Sammie Mays had left the rock to shop for gym shorts with her daughter Evangeline when a pleasant afternoon took an unexpected dangerous twist.

"We had been in the store less than twenty-minutes when we encountered a wild-eyed angry black woman going berserk. From two isles over Evangeline and I witnessed the woman flailing her arms about, flipping her middle finger in the air and cursing a blue streak

saturated with white racial slurs." Sammie said. "My daughter and I both looked at each other and simultaneously turned around and look over our shoulders to see who the irate woman was so upset with. Dumfounded, it appeared to be us! With a perplexed look on her face Evangeline whispered, Mamma that woman's crazy - is she talking to us? Who knows, I said. Grab your things and let's go.

Walking down the main thoroughfare of the store we headed toward the checkout isle. Practically having dismissed the incident as just another weird encounter with just another South Florida weirdo; Evangeline and I saw the two black female employees from the women's clothing department/changing room area with their heads together, snickering, with their "obvious" friend - the irate woman from moments earlier. In that split second, in all her glorious wisdom, Evangeline recognized danger and broke away, making a sharp right turn as I continued on my course toward the checkout isle. As I got closer the three women suddenly spread out and refused me passage. One stepped directly into my path stopping me dead in my tracks spewing horrendous racial venom. Surrounded by the female gang and with no way to retreat I had no other choice but to look directly into the eyes of the racist and I quote, "Look lady you must have me confused with someone else. I've never in my life seen you before! I'm here shopping with my daughter and I don't appreciate the fool language and your threatening manner." That's when she shoved me backwards and maliciously stood over me daring me to dual. None

of the three women even seem fazed by the presence of the cameras or the onlookers. From that alone I quickly surmised I was in a very dangerous potentially life threatening situation.

One lady who witnessed the assault began shouting and pointing her index finger at the attackers. "Call security! Call the police! Those three people there attacked that woman. I saw it all!" Thankfully her yelling drew the attention needed to stop the assault. The witness, a former twelve-year employee of the Florida City Wal-Mart store, dialed 911 on her cell phone.

With the attacker and two accomplices still visually threatening us, Evangeline, myself and the witnesses nervously awaited the arrival of the police. That's when the main witness informed me that this particular store is being run by "female gang members" and that this type of scare tactic happens all the time and that is exactly the reason why she no longer chooses to be employed there. She has a pending lawsuit against the Florida City Wal-Mart.

While the three women defiantly looked on, the police questioned us and felt mine and Evangeline's safety was in

jeopardy, enough so that we were escorted our car. However to my disappointment, Wal-Mart security and the stores manager, even though paged several times over the intercom system, never came. According to store employees the manager was in-store and on duty at the time.

I really owe that brave woman a great deal of gratitude. Think about it, if it were not for that witness drawing attention to the situation I might have had to go a few rounds with the Wal-Mart representatives. It may be a little on the large side but I like my nose just where it is.

As a trained investigative reporter, day and night, I find myself thinking about that unprovoked attack and it irks me or maybe I've been traumatized because I am constantly talking about it and warning my friends of the dangers of the Florida City Wal-Mart. In the dozen times or so that I've repeated it I've discovered three similar incidents that happened at that very same store.

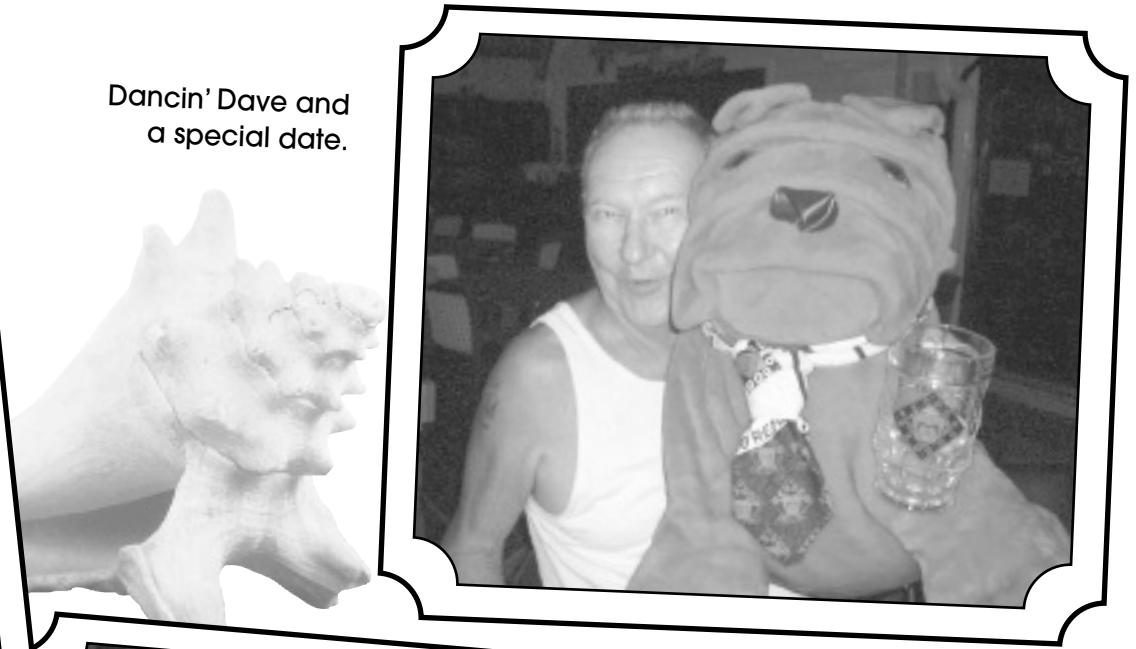
Don't reward Wal-Mart for allowing bad behavior. Do your business in the Keys because they'll appreciate it. After all, when I had an attack to go to Wal-Mart, I was attacked at Wal-Mart!

Custom Mailboxes and Designs by Scott Walz
305-731-3827

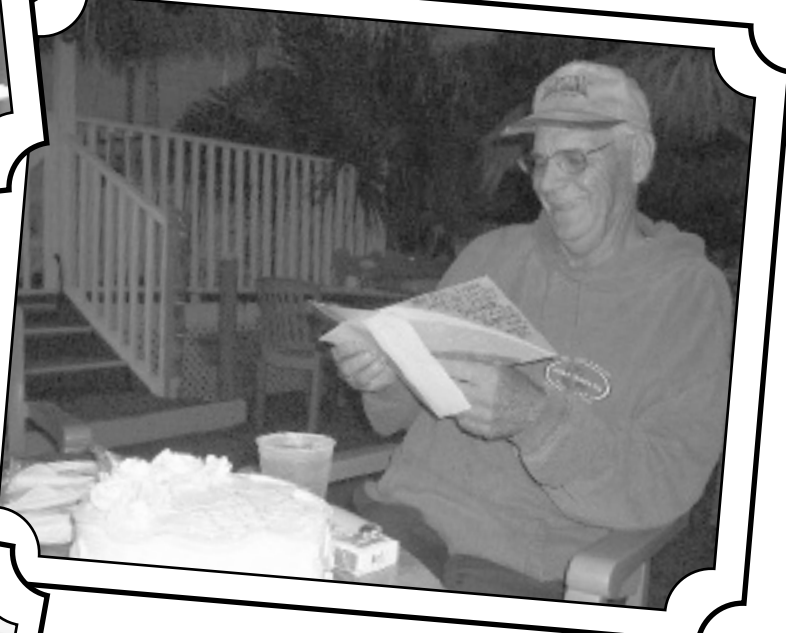
Coconut Conch Characters of the Month



Sid cooking up his famous burgers at the Andrew Ball fundraiser at Sharkey's



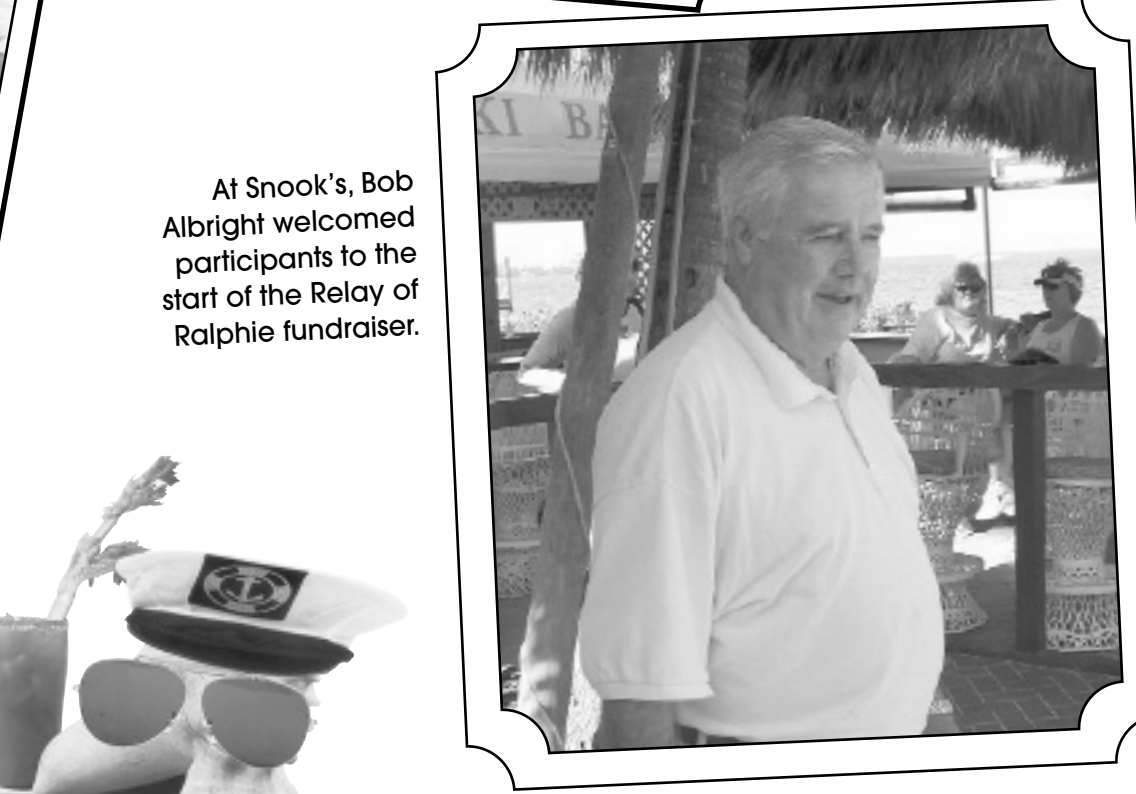
Dancin' Dave and a special date.



Happy Birthday Dave.



Shane Marshall offering medical support at the Relay for Ralphie event.



At Snook's, Bob Albright welcomed participants to the start of the Relay for Ralphie fundraiser.



If you have pictures of fun and interesting goin's on in and around the Keys just send 'em along to TheCoconutTelegraph@yahoo.com Be sure to include your name and phone number so we can contact you if we have any questions!