

Letters From A Crash Test Dummy



'The Gonz' Sammie Mays

Sent: Sat., Mar. 8, 2008, 10:29am
Subject: For Immediate Release: Letter from the Gonzo Camp...

Gonzo writer Sammie Mays was involved in a car accident on the Overseas Highway on Friday, March 7th at 5pm. The Gonz was headed to the Waterfront Playhouse in Key West to take in 'Reefer Madness' when she was rear ended by a Sarasota tourist traveling at a high rate of speed. It appeared the tourist, overly anxious to get to her destination, may have decided traffic in the left passing lane was not moving fast enough when she switched to the right lane and accelerated. The Gonzo Girl had slowed to make a right turn off the highway when her Xterra was impacted. The SUV was sent into a tail spin and according to witnesses flipped twice. When Tavernier Fire and Rescue arrived, the vehicle's engine was still running, the right turn signal flashing and smoke was coming from the vehicle. The doors were locked with Gonzo Girl trapped inside and dazed. Teeter-tottering, the rescue team placed wooden blocks under the vehicle to prevent it from rolling again and extracted the writer through the windshield. Both vehicles were totaled and both drivers were taken by ambulance to Mariner's Hospital.

Sent: Sun., Mar. 9, 2008 11:44am
Subject: Letter from Publisher of Coconut Telegraph...

Got a picture of your car

today... Tow-hulk wouldn't let me in unless he was to charge your account \$75. I took a shot through the gate but heard that Video Dave was able to get in and document it. I called the hospital on Saturday and you weren't there. Is that your real name? Anyway your car looks like sh*t. Get well soon or you're going to miss all the fun! Love, D

Sent: Sun., Mar. 9, 2008, 7:39pm
Subject: Letter From Rehab...

"My head hurts, my feet stink and I don't love Jesus. That kind of mornin' really was that kind of night. Tried to tell myself that my condition is improving and if I don't die by



Black and Blue and Gonzo All Over

Thursday, I'll be roaring Friday night!" - Jimmy Buffett.

Hell's bells even my hair hurts today so I took a prescribed Hydrocodone and drank two beers just to be able to sit on my derriere and write this email. It's an unusual view from the inside of a rollover, when the car stopped spinning and the dust settled, I couldn't differentiate up from down. I think it best be described as a Walt Disney World Industrial Clothes Dryer ride. I might not remember everything but I remember dollar bills of multi-denominations floating like

confetti through the air. Surely I've died and gone to heaven I thought. I wonder if bystanders and the authorities thought I was a drug dealer or just forgot to tip the stripper?! I'll tell ya... a good rear ending can screw up your whole weekend! I for one am thankful that hell was full on Friday. gOnZ

Sent: Thurs., Mar. 13, 2008 7:43am
Subject: Letter from a gonzo crash test dummy...

Sprang every part of my body humanly possible and I still have shards of glass in my @\$\$\$. My locks are falling out from my head being banged about.

Claustrophobic, I'm in a neck brace and feel like I'm being choked by the very thing that I suppose to keep me from becoming a bobble-head. Goin' stir crazy - thank goodness for pain meds and internet. gOnZ

Sent: Mon., Mar. 17, 2008 3:48am
Subject: Revelation!

Have had lots of time to contemplate how I survived the car accident and have had a revelation! It was that Nissan Xterra I was driving that saved my life that day. Witnesses described the accident as that of a NASCAR wreck, the

grinding sound of metal to metal complete with flips and spins. That vehicle, in all respects, should have been an accordion. Come to find out, its body (not mine) was reinforced and had high-impact windows. Any other car would have crumpled like a piece of old aluminum foil. Didn't feel much like going, but with the threat of my rental car being taken away, I pulled my achin' end together over the weekend and purchased a Nissan Pathfinder. I am a living, breathing, hobbling advertisement for Nissan. Thanks everybody for checkin' in on me and watch out for the crazies. gOnZ

Sent: Mon., Mar. 17, 2008 4:01pm
Subject: Too Much Time On My Hands

Still trying to figure out what the lesson is that I was supposed to have learned from the accident. All I know today is that I'm glad that the damn thing didn't blow up while I was trapped inside. I think I would have preferred death to a slow burning.

Sent: Tues., Mar. 18, 2008 11:44am
Subject: Rumors Exaggerate My Demise

Not having been seen out at my usual watering holes since the wreck, rumors of my demise have been significantly exaggerated. So to lay them to rest I caught a few happy hours yesterday - one at the Pilot House, another at the O.V. and another at The Whistle Stop. I figured that if the bartender served me that I must still be alive and if I weren't serviced, well then, the rumors are not rumors and that the gonzo spirit is just too darn stubborn to move over to the next dimension. I am relieved to report a substantial buzz. gOnZ

***Sammie can be contacted at www.saminthekeys.com.**

Editorial

...Continued from page 2
 Let us not forget that we are all part of the Conch Republic!

The Keys Visitor Center (owned by the Coconut Telegraph) located at Gilbert's Resort is proud to say that we are having a great season. We are averaging about 75 visitors a day and are delighted to personally put the Coconut Telegraph (see map page) in their hands, as well as discount coupons and brochures from our advertisers. And by the

way, we do not charge for that! The Reporter newspaper is also available there. It has a really great classified section. Soon there will be two more Visitor Centers opening, one in Tavernier and in the Lower Keys.

A special congratulations to Artist of the Month JC Costello, he is the one that keeps First State Bank looking soooo beautiful. If you drive by and see "the man in white" give him a happy conch honk.

Florida Keys Council of Arts Welcomes New Director



Florida Keys Council of the Arts staff (from left) Reen Stanhouse, Andrea Comstock and Michael McCabe enjoy a lunch meeting to welcome new Executive Director, Elizabeth Young.

For more information about the council or art events in the Keys visit www.keysarts.com.

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Some Dance To Forget*

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