

Round Two - Gonzo Girl verses Corporate Giant



'The Gonz' Sammie Mays

Whatever happened to the golden rule? Yeah you know the one - don't start no sh*t and they'll be no sh*t rule. When you break it down, no matter how you say it or where you're from in the world, it's pretty much a good rule-of-thumb to live by. Of course that's my philosophy as a traveler only visiting this diverse planet, and obviously not that of those from the Florida City Wal-Mart store who attacked me and my young daughter while shopping for gym shorts in the Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen department.

In reader response to the Gonzo Girl has a Wal-Mart Attack and is Attacked at Wal-Mart story (published in an earlier issue of The Coconut Telegraph), it seems as though a shock wave, perpetuated by the broad-daylight in-store attack, has washed over the Florida Keys and Homestead area like a tsunami. I must admit before getting it down on paper, the decision lay in limbo on whether or not to print the story for fear there may be some retaliation by the Wal-Mart camp or possibly even the employees who were accomplices. The go-ahead for the publishing of my attack was made based on others who were also attacked at that same Florida City Wal-Mart store and those whose cars were broken into while parked in

that "supposedly secured" Wal-Mart parking lot.

A phone call from a Key Largo insurance company employee (name withheld by request) stated she recently purchased a car stereo from the Florida City Wal-Mart and had them install it on the spot. When the work was completed she moved her car into the eighth parking space from the store front and returned to finish shopping. Approximately thirty-minutes later, loading her "bargain" goodies into her car, she discovered her new stereo uninstalled and missing! The stereo had been meticulously removed with a right-angle tool, the same type of "special" tool that was used to install it. "I believe I was burglarized by Wal-Mart employees!" The woman said.

According to the victim, she called police and reported the crime but when asked for that days' security tape, the woman and her insurance company discovered that the Florida City Wal-Mart store only secures the first six spaces of the parking lot.

Maybe that's why, when a few months back, a lady exiting the Florida City Wal-Mart was robbed and knocked down in the parking lot. While employees looked on it was a Good Samaritan driving pass that stopped and helped the woman to the safety of her car. When the surveillance tape was sequestered, Wal-Mart could not or did not want to produce it. As for the surveillance tape from my "in-store" attack, Wal-Mart has not yet responded to the request and frankly I don't expect that they'll want to share any video evidence.

I've definitely stuck my neck out on this story but in my opinion, I believe folks have a right to know which public

places pose a danger to them. So since I had the balls to write the story and The Coconut Telegraph had the balls to print it, I think it only fair to follow-up with a few reader responses. If you missed reading the initial piece email me at:

gonzogirlsammie@hotmail.com and I'll forward it to you. To answer the question as to whether or not I'll ever shop at the Florida City Wal-Mart store again...well let me put it to you this way, as a practicing Christian, I'd have to say... NOT NO BUT HELL NO!

I grew up in Chicago and consider myself street smart, but I do not go to Wal-Mart! I consider the parking lot, in itself, one of the more dangerous situations, even in the daytime. For you to be attacked inside by store employees...well, we're forwarding this story. Thanks! Tom

Good Gawd Girl friend. That is one scary story. I went there Christmas before last - what a crap hole! In fact that whole Fla. City & Homestead is scary the way it is evolving. Glad you're still writing...G

Sorry this tragedy happened to you. People are getting angrier and more blatant daily. Have been told to expect an escalation of such behavior...Pretty sad commentary on our times...Susie

Holy crap! Marti

Loved (but scared by) your "Gonzo Girl has a Wal-Mart Attack and Is Attacked at Wal-Mart" feature in December's Coconut Telegraph. As a Wal-Mart

(UK) associate, on a six-month career break, which I am spending in Key Largo - I go to that store occasionally, so am doubly fascinated by your story and will email it to all my colleagues in Britain...Teresa

And we are supposed to lead our young people into a non biased future...somehow it does not work on both sides does it? I was born in Gary, Indiana in 1941...60% black at the hospital...if you have read anything about Gary recently you will understand that nothing has changed since I was a kid has it...? It is very difficult for me to warm to all mankind when the overall plan does not seem to be working. Former region rat...Ron

Thank you Coconut Telegraph for running this gonzo girl story. I read all the newspapers and like broken records they repeat themselves and each other. I have not yet seen the "Gonzo Girl Attacked at Wal-Mart" story in the "mainstream" papers though. I guess the potential advertising dollar is more important than public safety...BS

Wow Sammie this is so upsetting! I believe you and I believe I will not go to Wal-Mart anymore because of this horrible episode for you and your daughter. I am so sorry you had to go through this. It doesn't make a lot of sense unless the "ex-employee" was right and it is a "GANG RUN STORE!" In these times we live in anything is possible. Other than not patronizing the Wal-Mart, I plan on

taking affirmative action! Linda

I am sending this story to everyone I know! Stacie

Dear Gonzo, We read your article in The Coconut Telegraph and were quite shocked at the attack on you by the "racist female gang members" who work there. Did this incident really happen or was this a tall tale? We have a home in Key Largo and are concerned because we do go to Wal-Mart in Florida City. Thank you...L. and B.

Hey Sammie, I am sorry to hear about your ordeal. I am one to openly admit that I am afraid of and avoid that Wal-Mart as much as I can...Sarah

F*#K Wal-Mart! H.L.

Hey Sammie, after reading your story it makes me want to go see if I can cause a repeat performance of the scene you had. Probably wouldn't happen to a man though. Regardless, I think I'll just take a leisure stroll while keeping my eyes and ears open like I do anyway. I'd like to be there when an incident like yours happens. I can see the headlines now - "Customers Reprimand Wal-Mart Employee Thugs." Let's Shop! Bill

Well Sammie that's what you get for going to the Wal-Fart!...Pat

Sammie is a former member of the National Enquirer's elite team of "Foreign Legion of Journalist." She is the feature entertainment /travel writer for Travel Host magazine of the Florida Keys and Key West and the Host for Comcast channel 5 "Spotlight on the Keys." The Gonz can be reached at www.saminthekeys.com.

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