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Editorial: Learning the Hard Way...

Sometimes you have to learn the hard way. Lesson #1: Just because a name is available to purchase does not mean you don't have to do trademark research.

Lesson #2: Greed is malignant. The ones you least expect will rip you off. Lesson #3: Jimmy Buffett has no sense of humor and doesn't care diddly squat about you, me or the Florida Keys.

I stopped in Keys Kritters the other day and watched Sherrie feed the birds. As she gently cooed to them while dropping handfuls of veggies into their cages she explained to me the difference between the two different breeds of African Grays. The more expensive one had a vocabulary of 1,500 words, the most of any parrot. Some say they have the intelligence of a five-year-old child. That's pretty impressive for a critter with a brain smaller than a key lime. Brings to mind the name of Jimmy Buffett's faithful followers, the "Parrot Heads".

I was sitting in the Pilot House having conversation with a couple of local businessmen when a group of "Parrot Heads" flocked in for a meeting. As they tottered on by, one of my cronies commented, "Holy crap, it looks like a geezer convention!" The other laughed and said, "It's the Pirates on the walkers." Just then a woman came in and said "If anyone is looking for me tell them I'm in the corner with the old people." Another said, "Their logo should be a pair of depends with a cutlass through it. Will it hold up?"

Now all joking aside, these guys are not all that old and they do bust their butts for the community. It is a great organization and we respect the work they do. I just have a beef with Jimmy Buffett. For a guy that got busted with over 100 tabs of ecstasy in an airport in October 2006 in the South of France, claimed they were vitamins, and only had to pay a fine of \$380,

you'd think he'd be happier. Here in the USA the fine would have been \$100,000.

Lesson #4: Congratulations to the Coconut Telegraph for its 2nd year anniversary. Wow, 2 years! How come I'm not rich yet? Refer back to lesson #2.

Lesson #5: Congratulations to all our advertisers. The hurricanes kicked our off-season butts and we are still doing better than a lot of others.



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Letter to the Editor

Response to letter of 9/08

To whomever you are:

I have no idea who you are, or more importantly, who you think you are. If the incident you are ranting about is the one I remember, it was you who caused the problem for commuters that morning. As I said, since you did not have the courage to identify yourself, I can only guess that you are the inconsiderate driver that tried to run me off the Whale Harbor bridge and then had the unmitigated gall to follow me and yell obscenities at me for going around you instead of running into you and causing a very disastrous situation.

How dare you attack me? You had traffic backed up for miles due to your insistence on driving at or below 35 mph and the speed limit there is 45. When you moved to the right at the bridge I naturally tried to pass. That is when you suddenly and inexplicably swerved back into traffic trying to run me off the bridge. I did what any sane person would do. I increased speed around your vehicle and tried to get as much distance as possible between you and myself. I continued on to work. My fears were realized when you followed me to my place of employment and verbally assaulted me. My only response to your ranting was to say something to the effect of "Get away from me. You tried to run me off the road!" I then entered the building to end the encounter safely. The person acting as though he was above the law was you. No one is above the law and no one is allowed to run people off the road just so he can hog the road. I am sure that the many people who voted for me and my many friends are asking, if they read your drivel in this newspaper last month, is, "Who is this lunatic?" Please, Mr. Cowardly Lunatic, in the future if you want to attack someone, particularly someone running for office, have the courtesy and courage to identify yourself so you can be exposed to all exactly what you are. Be careful about the outrageous things you say in public.

Signed,
Richard M. Behr
Attorney, Key Largo



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