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## CLUBS

Florida Keys Orchid, Fern and Bromeliad Society meets the 3rd Thurs. of every month at Key Largo Library Community Room 7pm. Free/open to the public. 451-3000

The Key Players, Inc. Community Theater Group needs volunteers to work behind the scenes and audition for roles! Go to: www.thekeyplayers.org

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#### PERSONALS Send us your ad

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#### MUSICIANS WANTED

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## You Are Not Crazy Taking a Time Out

Sometimes as adults, we just need a time out to refocus and gather ourselves before starting out again.



Most of us feel a little crazy from time to time. Periods of high stress can make us feel like we're losing it, as can being surrounded by people whose values are very different from our own. Losing a significant relationship and moving into a new life situation are other events that can cause us to feel off kilter. Circumstances like these recur in our lives, and they naturally affect our mental stability.

The symptoms of our state of mind can range from having no recollection of putting our car keys where we eventually find them, to wondering if we're seeing things clearly when everyone around us seems to be in denial of what's going on right in front of their eyes. For most of us, the key to survival at times like these is to step back, take a deep breath, and regain our composure. Then we can decide what course of action to take.

Sometimes a time-out does the trick. We take a day off from whatever is making us feel crazy and, like magic, we feel in our right mind again.

Talking to an objective friend can also help. We

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begin to see what it is about the situation that destabilizes us, and we can make changes from there.

At other times, if the situation is particularly sticky, we may need to seek professional help. Meeting with someone who understands the way the human mind reacts to stress, loss, and difficulty can make us feel less alone and more supported. A therapist or a spiritual counselor can give us techniques that help bring us back to a sane state of mind so that we can affect useful changes. They can also mirror our basic goodness, helping us to see that we are actually okay.

The main purpose of the wake-up call that feeling crazy provides is to let us know that something in our lives is out of balance. Confirm for yourself that you are capable of creating a sane and peaceful reality for yourself.

Try to remember that most people have felt, at one time or another, that they are losing it. You deserve a life that helps you thrive. Try and take some steps today to help you achieve more balance and a little less crazy.