



# Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, June 16, 2005

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## 2 Cents Worth

*Since May, three of the five full-time, certified teachers at Susan B. English School have resigned from their positions. Many see such resignations as a trend students and families must unwillingly accept each year. As fewer teachers remain consistent fixtures at the school, the Seldovia Gazette asked:*

### *How can the school district better retain SBE teachers?*



"I don't know that they can. It's hard nowadays with decreasing enrollment. We need more kids."

Crystal Collier



"They need to get teachers who can teach multiple subject areas. You can't expect an English teacher to teach Science."

Samantha Herndon



"Better budgeting and some administrative salary reductions."

Sharon Bond



"Hire someone from Seldovia. They might be more likely to stay."

Jackie Brown

## Letters to the Editor

*None this week - the Letters to the Editor section is a forum for you to comment on issues facing Seldovians. Write in. I will attempt to publish all letters in their entirety, so long as they are not libelous or long-winded.*

## Greetings from the Editor!



I've worn a number of "hats" in my few short years living in Seldovia, and I'm honored to wear this latest one: Editor of the Seldovia Gazette.

When Tom and Mary Glover approached me to write for the Seldovia Gazette, I was awed at the prospect of being able to stay in Seldovia and write for a living. I'm an English teacher by trade, and these days it seems teachers must go where districts place them. I count it a true blessing to be able to live and work in Seldovia.

I also see this paper as a great opportunity. Not just for me, but for Seldovia as a whole. Small-town papers are an important albeit quickly disappearing facet of American life. They foster community conversations. They give people the scoop, and let them make their own decisions. I look forward to the day I see two people talking over a cup of coffee, the Seldovia Gazette in their hands.

As Editor, I feel my role is to sift out the rumor and the spin that floats around all towns, and concentrate on what is true and significant about a story. Please, if you see a story that isn't being covered, tell me about it. My goal is to inform all citizens - elders, businessmen, fisher folk, homemakers, blue collar workers, students, artists, and the unemployed - of the news that is important and relevant to them.

A few words about me: Most of you have probably seen me at the Tide Pool Cafe where, as of late, I've been slinging sandwiches during the noon-time rush. I'm also a volunteer with the Fire Department. Originally, I grew up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In 2001, I moved to Alaska with my long-time partner, Andy Lorentz, and together we've lived in Seldovia for two years. This winter Andy and I left Seldovia briefly to travel Korea; the year before that I taught English at Susan B. English School. Andy and I live "out the road" with our two dogs, in a timber-frame cabin that is near-completion. We both love living in Seldovia and plan to make it our home.

By the way, the Letters to the Editor section is a forum for you to comment on issues facing Seldovians. Write in. I will attempt to publish all letters in their entirety, so long as they are not libelous or long-winded.

Thank you for your support in making the Seldovia Gazette a permanent and viable part of our town.

***Damara Burnett***