



Seldovia Gazette

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2 Cents Worth:

Do you like to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in any special manner?



"I like beverages of green and pinching people who don't wear green!"

Will Brun
(Honeybee's son)

"I like green beer ."

Jacquelyn Brown



"I love corned beef and cabbage with mustard. "

John Carluccio

" It just happens to be my green eyed, red hair daughter's birthday. Corned beef and cabbage was her favorite."

George Nathan



Letters to the Editor

Editors response to last weeks letter from Buck Brown on the "high cost of the Lumberjack Dinner"

Just out of curiosity, I asked the Tidepool Resteraunt what they charged for their special Friday Night Ribeye Steak Dinner.

Ribeye dinner=\$22 + drink=\$1.50 + dessert=\$4 + tip=\$5.50 = \$33.00

Cost of the Lumberjack dinner was \$35.00, which is only \$2.00 more than the Tidepool dinner.

Is that still a lot of money to spend on a dinner, you bet it is, but that's what a steak dinner and the extras cost today.

Bottom line is that this was simply a fund raiser dinner anyway to help launch the upcoming Chainsaw Carving Contest in Seldovia and we're gratefull to the 48 people who attended for their time, talent and dollars. It was a fun evening.

TO THE EDITOR:

I can't believe there are Creationists around who still call themselves Creationists. I thought they all jumped ship to the new, improved, supposedly Supreme Court friendly version that they're calling Intelligent Design Theory, since their first laughable attempt at subverting rational thought failed so badly. Seldovia was scraping the bottom of the Fundamentalist Literalist Christian propoganda barrel when it wound up with this outdated version of religious fundamentalism.

Rather than address this ancient and completely debunked fundamentalist fantasy, I would like to concentrate on their newest idiotic attempt to force their religious beliefs on school children, as I'm sure they will get around to sending a new representative to Seldovia, probably during the third or fourth incarnation of this farcical nonsense.

This will take far longer than three hundred words but as no scientist or philosopher was allowed three days at the Church, I beg your indulgence.

Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake and Galilaeo died in prison for pointing out that the earth goes around the sun. Lucky for Darwin, by the time he rolled around, the Western World, unlike the Middle East where Fundamentalist Monotheisms developed, no longer allowed religious zealots to murder heretics. However, religious fundamentalists have a long history and copious experience in subverting the truth by whatever means available when it contradicts a literal interpretation of whichever book they believe in.

Intelligent design was invented at the Discovery Institute in Seattle - a right-wing Christian think-tank who's stated goal is to promote the teaching of Christian theology in public schools - after the 1986 Supreme Court ruling against a Lousiana law requiring the teaching of Creationism in public schools on the grounds that it violated the Establishment clause of the Constitution. "Intelligent Design" has nothing to do with science. They simply revamped creationism to try to sneak it by the Supreme Court. These Biblical Literalists have manufactured the "ID controversy" in the same way the "tobacco controversy" was manufactured by the tobacco companies. There is no controversy. ID is pure subterfuge.

Science, in a nutshell, is this: "The physical world is very complex, if we apply deductive reasoning to empirical evidence, we can understand how it works." The basic premise of ID is: "The world is very complex, therefore, (while we won't

TO THE EDITOR:

In May of 1969 when Neil Armstrong took that "giant leap for man kind" the world, and especially the NASA scientists held their breath. Why? Because science (the practice of observation and calculation of what is seen) told the NASA engineers that space dust accumulates on the moon at a rate of 1 inch per ten thousand years. They had taken this data into account when fitting the Eagle lander with large, round "snow-shoe" like feet. We all have seen the picture of Mr. Armstrong's foot print, but maybe we forget that his next statement referred to the firmness of the moons surface. The picture shows maybe a half inch of dust. The fact is, the science wasn't wrong, but the BELIEF system of the scientist was!

It has long been put forward that the Bible is in conflict with science. Long before the world's leading intellectuals were in fear of falling off the edge of the earth, Isaiah recorded in chapter 40:22, that God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth. True, the Bible is not a science book. True also, that the Bible is a BELIEF system requiring faith, but it clearly isn't blind faith. Believing God created the world is not the biggest step of faith people are taking today. It takes far more faith to BELIEVE that everything came from nothing. That life came from rock. That order came from disorder. That a prince came from a frog.

A scientist who observes the water color painting on your wall, seeing the various colors, identifying purposeful brush strokes, seeing a pattern in it's presentation, never concludes that billions and billions of years must have been required for the paper to form out of nothing, the paint to form out of nothing, and the paint to arrange itself in such a manner that it would represent something as specific as a fishing boat sailing out of the harbor. Instead, though he wasn't present when the painting was done, and may not know the one who did the work it is a simple conclusion to make that there is an artist. You don't have to be a medical professional to see the design of a human eyeball.

The fact is that evolution is a belief system. The god of evolution is TIME. This is why every few years a new study comes out increasing the time from the beginning of the universe. The effort is to use time to explain the complexity of the universe. But time doesn't help evolution it hurts it. From what we observe we see the universe winding down, as the second law of thermodynamics explains. We can observe earth's gravitational hold on the moon slowly weakening. We are losing our moon. However, if the universe were billions or even millions of years old Neil Armstrong drowning in dust would be the least of our worries. We would be drowned twice

actually say Male Deity because we know how the Supreme Court feels about that) there is a Male Deity in the sky". Simply saying, "God did it" does not advance scientific understanding and has nothing to do with science and that is why the entire scientific community unequivocally dismisses it. Ideas of God belong to religion, not science.

There should be no conflict between religion and evolution, as science and religion deal with two very different kinds of truth. Although there is of necessity a conflict between Biblical literalist views of creation and modern science, the majority of Christians do not hold these views. Neither, do Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists, Jews, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Sufis etc... Faith in God does not require belief in a literal interpretation of the Bible, nor does it require belief in the Male Deity concept of God "Who" is beyond all concepts. You are also not required to shake in your boots when Christian preachers threaten you with Hell.

More than 10,000 Christian clergy in America have already signed [The Clergy Letter](#) which is a statement of support for evolution in particular and science in general and an acknowledgement that "evolution is a foundational scientific truth". The Vatican Observatory Director says that the ID movement "actually belittles God" and notes that "science and religion are totally separate human pursuits. Science is completely neutral with respect to theistic or atheistic implications which may be drawn from scientific results". The rest of the world gets it. Even the rest of the Christian world has gotten over it. The only people who feel threatened by evolution are the loud and well funded Born-Again, Fundamentalist, Literalist, Apocalyptic, Messianic, Right Wing, Holier than Thou, One True Religion, Gerry-Fallwellian, Evangelical, American Christians.

It is extremely unfortunate that the entire scientific community and most of the Christian community was dismissed so callously by the Seldovia Gazette reporter who seemed dazzled by what I can only conclude was her first introduction to this pseudo-science and its deceptive rhetoric and obviously to science it's self.

If you wish to understand science you must study science. As with Buddhism, which deals with entirely different subject matter, there are no shortcuts through blind belief. In [Kitzmiller v. Dover \(2004-05\)](#) it became clear that even a right-wing Christian Republican Bush appointed judge could see through the blatant misrepresentation of fundamentalist literalist religious belief that is "intelligent design theory". As can any rational person disinclined to believe in talking snakes.

Sincerely,
Kevin Gain

a day by horrible tides. Likewise, our sun is losing both mass and diameter. This is being measured. Millions of years ago the earth would have been uninhabitable with a much larger sun. Another observable fact is that there is still very high pressure in the oil and gas wells, pressure that would have dissipated over millions of years. Observation tells us that our universe is winding down not up.

Evolution stands on the claim that things are progressing upward. This too isn't proven out by observation. One of the most complex parts of living matter is the chromosome. One would think that man would be at the top of the chromosome list or at least near the top. Not true. We know man has 46 chromosomes. We also know a silk worm has 56 and a fern 480. Beyond that we can see that evolution of chromosomes isn't a benefit. We have all most likely known someone born with 47 chromosomes. As loving and genuine as these people are, none of us would call Down Syndrome an evolutionary miracle. Mutations are always seen to detract from a species, never improve it. In addition to that, an intermediate type has never been found either living or in the fossil record.

I am not a scientist and I will quickly admit that there are many who know much more than I do. But the honest observation of design requires a designer. How else could a giraffe lean his head down to a pool of water without the blood pressure in his head killing him. Evolution can not explain the many tiny valves in the giraffe's neck that stop blood flow for a moment while his head is down and then reacts by pumping the blood up to the brain when the head is raised again. How many giraffes had their head explode before they decided to evolve. The fact is, that anything less than a complete giraffe couldn't drink, couldn't procreate, couldn't live and couldn't evolve. The closer we look at this world of ours the more we will see this principle nearly everywhere we look.

I am not speaking for the "Intelligent Design" movement. I have never met or spoken with anyone who promotes it. I am not speaking for the Christian community or for any organization. This is what I believe. I believe there is design clearly evident in our universe. I believe the Bible tells me who that designer is. Is it faith? Yes. Most certainly. Is it a blind leap out into an unintellectual darkness? Absolutely not. God has shown His handiwork in the Creation. Everything from beauty for the sake of beauty to the emotions of anger or joy that we feel while reading this, that cannot be explained any other way. He has shown His handiwork in the images of my unborn babies sucking their thumbs. In the beating of my heart to my cognitive thought. And most importantly in the forgiveness I know in my life for all the junk I have done and the change that He alone has produced in me. In the corner of the painting is His signature.

If this makes me a "Bible thumping, born again, right wing fundamentalist, creationist", then I will proudly wear that badge. If by all that we simply mean that I believe in the God of the Bible, that I take Him at His Word and I am allowing Him to create in me the person He wants me to be. If this offends some folks I can't apologize for that. But I can sympathize, I am offended by all kinds of things as well. If you want, we can get together and go over them. That's part of life in this melting pot. Thankfully we still have the first Amendment that allows us all

the freedom to speak our mind.

Everybody believes something. Everybody believes in some kind of god. Our belief systems shape the way we live and think in this life. The God of the Bible has passed the test. I am so thankful He got my attention and so thankful for the joy that comes from knowing Him as He intended me to do, through Jesus Christ, my Savior.

Please feel free to let me have it or to ask me more about my Jesus. After all, for the time being we still live in a free country.

**For His greater glory,
Jonathan Hoard**

Dear Editor:

I am not in favor of rezoning Lot 1, Block 13 from public use to commercial marine.

First of all I would like to say that I am not in favor of rezoning any of our public use lots in Seldovia to Commercial Marine. Close your eyes and visualize what do you want the waterfront of Seldovia to look like in 25-30 years.

Our waterfront area is a special place with phenomenal views of the small boat harbor and existing bay and mountain ranges beyond. I have a lot of respect for the individuals in the '60s, who had the foresight to set that area of town aside for the use and enjoyment of our community.

When Tom and I first moved to Seldovia and purchased the house on Lake Susan I always felt so closed in and one of the first places I would go to shake that feeling is the waterfront and sit and enjoy the views of the small boat harbor and Iliamna in the distance. Soon after we purchased the house on Main Street I watched other people enjoying the same thing I enjoy and the idea of a park in that location seemed like such a logical thing to do. People picnic on the big timbers that are sitting out in the lot just about every day in the summer. We live in an isolated community and the last thing we need to create is isolation from the beauty that surrounds us.

In talking to people in our community, one of the messages that I heard from local residents was that having our waterfront to use and enjoy is a mental health issue. People not only need it, they must have it to remain healthy in our community.

I also remember with fondness when this was the site of a horseshoe pit. We visited one summer before we moved here with the grandkids and they loved it. All they wanted to do was go play horse shoes. I later learned that Gerry Willard had put the pit in. I consider him a man with a vision for what this lot could be. My grandkids still ask what happened to the horse shoes.

(continued next column)

We need a place to have a park that can be used for community gatherings such as picnics, or just sitting and watching the boats come and go in the harbor. Visitors sit wherever they can or mill around trying to watch the harbor and wait for their boat to come in. We have no such public park place in our community.

What better place than Lot 1, Block 13? It has the nicest view of the harbor and beyond. It is across the street from the Seldovia Village Tribe Visitor's Center, which provides restrooms to visitors and near the Harbor Master's building. It would greatly enhance the beauty, friendliness and desirability of our small town. I know that if we had a public park in this location, visitors coming to our town would utilize it, and they would remember this special place.

Further what do we really expect to gain by rezoning this lot from public use to commercial marine? I did the math on the property tax revenue the City of Seldovia could put in the bank if the lot were to sell for \$80,000 (which I believe is an unrealistic appraisal value). Using the mill rate of \$7.25 per thousand, we could expect annual revenue of \$580.00 or less than \$48.33 per month. Sales tax revenue is very difficult to estimate. We don't know anything about a future business. I guess it comes down to understanding what the issue is, if it is all about money, do we sell our assets today because we are desperate, or do we start planning responsibly and work together as a community for the future of Seldovia.

Today this public use land belongs to all of us to use and enjoy. If we sit back and let it happen what will we lose tomorrow. Will our grandchildren still enjoy the Seldovia we know today, when they visit or plan to live here?

We need to all think about this issue, and let the public know what you do think about it, because it being discussed on various P&Z and Parks & Rec Committee agendas, and eventually action could be taken without your input. One month ago 92 citizens of Seldovia signed a poll in support of a park in this location.

Thanks for listening. For your readers, what are YOUR ideas about what Seldovia should look like twenty-five years from now?? Let your city council members know what YOU think. Don't let action happen by default.

Sincerely,

Peggy Keesecker

The Seldovia Gazette values freedom of speech. We welcome original, insightful letters from our readers on issues that are of concern to them. However, due to space considerations, please limit letters to 300 words. We also reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and submitted by Tuesday at 5 pm in order to be printed in that week's press. We accept letters submitted by one of three ways: by email at tomg@seldovia.com or maryg@seldovia.com, by fax at 907-234-7526, or by mail at Seldovia Gazette, P.O. Box 97, Seldovia, Alaska 99663.

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