

Jessica  
KENNEDY

# Out on a 'lamb'

Season when a girl's or boy's fancy turns to love



letter of appreciation, Mom would probably get one, so would my adviser Rick Alloway and Lisa, my best friend from high school. The great thing is that these are only three of the many people I've appreciated over the years.

People like my boss or my professors who give a little bit of themselves every day. Whether they're conscious of it or not, that little bit of self makes me a stronger and better person.

The concept of making someone else feel good, which in turn makes you, too, feel good is completely accurate. There aren't many more things satisfying than making someone smile or perk up. Sometimes making someone feel good is as simple as taking an interest in his or her life.

I challenge you to take advantage of the next few weeks while the temperatures are mild and spirits are rising. Compliment a stranger, have a heart-to-heart with an old friend, do whatever you've been putting off doing. Smile at everyone you pass on the street.

It takes so little effort to put a smile upon a neighbor's face! Even less effort is required when the environment is so agreeable.

Do you know what I saw on Friday? A perfect reason to feel joyous. There were crocus leaves popping up right next to Burnett! In my book, those premies rank right up there with robins as indicators of spring.

So off with the gruff faces and bulky sweaters! On with the smiles and spring linens!

Grouchiness begone — let



MATT HANEY/DN

kindness prevail!

Sure, I'm a tad bit idealistic, but why not? It's spring.

That means it's time to romp and play and jump and skip.

Skip to your car, skip class, skip over the puddles, whatever. It doesn't really matter.

Spring's all about letting the blues and blahs of winter melt, making way for new life.

Let go of your prejudices, release your grudges, forgive the unforgivable.

Spread the appreciation and share the joy.

And when no one's looking, let your hair down to blow in the breeze.

Kennedy is a senior advertising and broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraska columnist.

Our yearly liberation has begun. The robins are back, the air is warming, the flowers are beginning to grow.

Campus has again been infused with life — bustling activity, fraternities' music blaring, bikers roaring through campus.

Goodness, I love spring!

Everyone feels great — they're smiling and walking with a slight bounce in their step. People are just friendlier.

It seems hard to stay upset this time of year. How could you possibly think nasty thoughts when the sun reaches down, warming you while the breeze caresses your face?

Spring is about attitude adjustment, reflection and hope.

Everywhere, niceness abounds; jocundity permeates everything and everyone.

During this season of rejuvenation and rebirth, it's a great time to look for the good — either in people or the things around you.

Here's the perfect example: Two weeks ago was "Write a Letter of Appreciation Week." What a fantastic way to make both you and whoever receives the letter feel great!

If I were going to write some

J.J.

HARDER

# No more Babel, please

English should be primary language of the U.S.



Our country may very well still be the land of opportunity that it was in the early 20th century, but we have now defined our history and have further solidified our place in the world — with renowned customs, attitudes and importantly one language.

The hundreds of thousands of immigrants who come to our country each year bring with them their own traditions, but that does not mean that they should continue to live in their own little individual embassies.

I am well aware that immigrants want to hold onto their own languages, but when they come to America, they should be ready to adapt to our culture — and that means learning our language. They do not have to speak English in their homes and within their families, but our government should not have to allocate any funds to deal with other languages.

Now, for all you J.J.-despising grad students out there who think I am some kind of Mexican-hating, cross-burning, Democrat-killing member of the dark side of the force, I would like to clarify.

I encourage visitors to journey to our country for education, tourism, diplomacy or whatever else, but those who decide to make a permanent domicile on our side of the border should at the very least not require traffic signs and government publications written in their native tongue — whether it be Spanish, French, German or Sri Lankan.

On past trips to California and Florida, it disturbed me greatly to

see a plethora of signs written in Spanish. I am sure that the many daily visitors we receive need a few instructions in Spanish near the border, but to be honest, there were whole sections of San Diego where it was difficult to find signs in English!

I do not want my already wasted tax money spent on publications like signs, brochures, voting ballots and other things for people who cannot function in our society without carrying around a pocket translator.

The fact that Nebraska is lacking of immigrants compared to the border states is noted, but our immigrant population is ever-growing, and if it does come to the point of needing signs in some other tongue — I dearly hope that I am out of this state and in one that can make competent governmental decisions.

I really don't think that it is too much to ask to be able to go through a McDonald's drive through in the southern United States and not be forced to break out my pocket Spanish-English dictionary, but for some, this might be an extreme, harsh expectancy.

So I won't advocate eliminating the use of other languages. However, I hope that our country would raise our standards and sanction the use of English in all governmental operations.

Harder is a sophomore broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

John  
FULWIDER

# Uncle Sam wants you?

Students' effort to change policy on right track



The world got a tiny bit easier to live in last week.

Around 70 students from all four Lincoln public high schools appeared before the Lincoln Board of Education to propose that the board ban from the schools job recruiters who discriminate when recruiting.

Specifically, they're thinking of recruiters from the U.S. Armed Forces — forces comprised of some of our country's most honorable women and men. Women and men who are dishonored somewhat by the armed forces' "don't ask, don't tell" policy of discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons who are open about their sexuality.

The school board took no action on the resolution. But the students' effort was not wasted. With their dedication, they inspired people to fight on against discrimination in all its detestable forms.

The Lincoln Board of Education adopted this Educational Equity Policy in 1978: "Educational equity is an educational philosophy which seeks to prepare all students to be citizens committed to recognizing the dignity and worth of human beings, regardless of economic status, and affirming the differences and similarities of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sex, age, mental, physical and linguistic abilities."

(The students say Lincoln Public Schools officials have said "sex" is taken to mean both gender and sexual orientation.)

What the students want is for LPS to follow its policy by banning from the schools any recruiters (military or otherwise) "who have as a stated policy that they do not extend equal rights to all qualified individuals ..."

They have a larger long-term goal, as well — to force the abolition of "don't ask, don't tell." They hope other school districts will follow Lincoln's lead, adopting their own nondiscrimination policies. The armed forces would then have so much trouble finding new recruits that they would need to give up on discriminating against homosexuals.

Part of the students' motivation for eliminating the policy is an article in the Feb. 26 New York Times that showed military discharges of homosexuals have gone up since President Clinton enacted "don't ask, don't tell" in February 1994.

The Times cited Department of Defense statistics that showed 850 homosexual men and women were discharged in the fiscal year that ended in February. That was an 18-percent increase from the year earlier and a 42-percent increase from 1994.

This is egregious. Those 850 women and men voluntarily took an oath pledging they would go to their deaths if necessary to defend the freedoms Americans enjoy. Their deaths! — and yet they're not good enough because they're different.

"This is egregious. Those 850 women and men voluntarily took an oath pledging they would go to their deaths if necessary to defend the freedoms Americans enjoy."

The students say discrimination by any employer in general, not discrimination by the military against gays specifically, is the target of their efforts.

Still, military discrimination is hard to miss. Despite comments by school officials to the contrary, listening to military recruiters isn't a voluntary thing. Lincoln public high school students are required to attend a career education class in order to graduate. One of the class's required sessions features a military recruiter.

Because of this, the students think LPS is actively promoting discrimination — in direct violation of its own equity policy.

"Therefore you've got to either change the equity policy or get the military out for recruitment purposes," said John McCall, one student helping lead the anti-discrimination effort.

The students think the military has a legitimate educational role in the schools — for example, Navy submarine engineers talking about nuclear power. The students aren't anti-military, they're simply against the policy the military is forced by its commander-in-chief to obey.

Some school districts already have nondiscrimination policies similar to the one the Lincoln students want — among them Portland, Ore., San Diego, San Francisco and Rochester, N.Y. McCall said it took Portland three years to finally adopt its nondiscrimination policy. He's hoping for a miracle here in Lincoln — adoption of the policy this year — but is prepared to wait it out.

McCall, a senior at Lincoln Southeast High School, won't be around next year. But the organization he helped found, Students for Discrimination-Free Schools, claims enough sophomore and junior members to carry on the fight when he and compatriots Erik German and Emilie Eagan leave for college.

Speaking of college — McCall plans to attend Colgate University next year. The diversity coordinators here at UNL would do well to at least try attracting him here. Our university could certainly use such an open-minded and socially conscious student.

Perhaps some recruiting efforts are in order.

Fulwider is a junior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan AP Wire Editor.