

Twenty-six American states have already passed laws declaring English their official language. Iowa wants to make it 27. One would think legislators have better things to do than spending valuable time on laws that have little or no benefit, as has already been demonstrated in the states that preceded Iowa. Generally, states have declared English their official language because of an increase in immigration, concern that new arrivals did not want to learn English and fear that the U.S. would fall apart without the glue represented by a common language. English-only laws also reflect a desire to get rid of bilingual education, which many Americans fear will **Balkanize**<sup>1)</sup> the country, as they think has already happened in Canada. If all Americans speak English, the fantasy goes, then a lot of problems will disappear.

The vast majority of states that have declared English their official language have done so through an **initiative**<sup>2)</sup> process. Voters were asked if English should be the language of the state and **electors**<sup>3)</sup> agreed by high margins. Who could be against the English language? Certainly not immigrants. They realize very well the need to learn English. Lack of English fluency means not being able to ask for a painkiller after surgery. I saw this happen to an immigrant from Mexico who shared my wife's hospital room, both having had babies through **C-section**.<sup>4)</sup> Did

1) Balkanize: (종종 b-) -을 할거케 하다, 분열시켜 서로 싸우게 하다.

2) initiative: U 발의, 발기. (보통 the -) 의안 제출권, 국민 발안(권).

3) elector: 선거인, 유권자; 【미국】 정·부통령 선거위원; (보통 E-)

4) Caesarean section [operation]: 【의학】 (때로 c-) 제왕 절개술.





the lady wish she knew English? **You bet.**<sup>5)</sup>

Not knowing English means becoming invisible. When I first came to the U.S. as a teenager, I worked for my uncle, a small contractor in New Jersey. I knew no English, but I clearly remember one instance when my uncle was talking about me with a customer as I was standing next to them. I had no idea what they were saying. Nothing bad I am sure, but although I was 16, I felt as powerless as a baby. How I wished I knew what they were saying.

Immigrants know only too well that English is the key to education that opens the door to becoming a doctor, engineer, lawyer, or college professor. Immigrants flock to English as a Second Language classes because they are keenly aware that this new skill will enable them to leave **menial**<sup>6)</sup> work behind them and become part of the American social and political system. American history tells us that current immigrants learn English and Americanize as quickly, if not more quickly, than immigrants of the past did.

This does not mean that immigrants cannot use some of the help residents of Oakland, California, are getting. Last year, for example, the city government of Oakland passed an **ordinance**<sup>7)</sup> that will provide services in Chinese and Spanish to the growing ethnic population of the city. The services will help residents who are not familiar with the English language to have contacts with officials and increase their exposure to American culture.

The government is for all the people, even those with limited English. With or without government help, immigrants will assimilate. Hispanics, for example, integrate into the American mainstream as **readily**<sup>8)</sup> as immigrants of the past did. This is most visible with language. Third-generation Hispanics struggle in my community-college Spanish classes alongside of other Americans. The Spanish of

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5) You bet. (구어) 정말야, 틀림없어, 물론; 맞아.

6) menial: 천한, 비천한; 머슴 노릇하는. \*a menial occupation 천한 직업.

7) ordinance: 법령, 포고; (시읍면의) 조례.

8) readily: 즉시; 쉽사리; 이의 없이, 기꺼이, 쾌히.

their ancestors is gone.

And Hispanics, like other ethnic groups, usually marry outside their ethnic group by the third generation. Thus Hispanics, most of whom come from Mexico, become Americans, and do so willingly, even enthusiastically. The last thing Hispanics and immigrants in general want to do is to re-create the political and economic system that forced them to emigrate in the first place.

Declaring English the official language is meaningless because people learn whatever language is necessary to succeed. And if a new language is necessary, people will learn it. The Swiss are a classic example of a country where several languages are used without causing the kind of problems people associate with multilingualism. The fact is that problems around the world are caused not by the presence of more than one language, but rather by political, social, economic and religious conflicts. If language were at the root of the problems in Northern Ireland, the problems would disappear overnight.

Those wishing to make English the official language aim to protect it. Unfortunately, they seem to be unaware that if any language needs protection, it is not English. English is the current lingua **franca**<sup>9)</sup> of the world. Although Chinese has several billion more speakers than English, the power and influence of the English language is so **pervasive**<sup>10)</sup> that it is causing serious concern among speakers of other languages. There is a proposal in the U.S. Congress to declare English the official language of the country. It has not gone anywhere. Iowa legislators should take their cue **from**<sup>11)</sup> Congress.

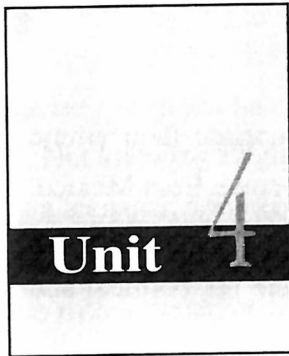
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9) lingua franca: 프랑크 말(이탈리아 말 · 프랑스 말 · 그리스 말 · 스페인 말의 혼합어로 Levant 지방에서 쓰임); (혼성) 공통어; 의사전달의 매개가 되는 것.

10) pervasive: 퍼지는, 널리 미치는; 스며드는.

11) take the [one's] cue from: -에서 단서를 얻다, -을 본받다.





## Mission Impossible: Unrealistic standards of “beauty” threaten mental and physical health.

Plato said that we behold beauty in the eye of the mind... and that’s still the problem. In his 25-year career, for example, director Joel Schumacher has worked with, among others, Demi Moore, Julia Roberts and Sandra Bullock. But, he says, “I have never worked with a beautiful young woman who thought she was A) beautiful or B) thin enough.”

In Hollywood, such insecurity is not without reason. At last March’s Academy Awards ceremony, actress Alicia Silverstone, 19, the fresh-faced sensation of *The Crush and Clueless*, did the unthinkable: She appeared in public despite the fact that, like many of her teenage **peers**<sup>1)</sup> around the country, she had just added on 5 or 10 pounds. Was she congratulated for the self-confidence and assurance it took to be herself? Hardly. The **tabloids**<sup>2)</sup>, noting Silverstone’s role in the next Batman sequel, **blared**<sup>3)</sup> out lines like “Batman and Fatgirl” and “Look Out Batman! Here Comes **Buttgirl!**”<sup>4)</sup> and *Entertainment Weekly* **sniped**<sup>5)</sup> that Alicia was “more Babe than **babe**”<sup>6)</sup>. Silverstone won’t comment on the commotion; Schumacher, who is directing her in the upcoming *Batman and Robin*, says he was startled by

1)peer: 동료, 동등[대등]한 사람(사회적·법적으로)

2) tabloid: 타블로이드판 신문, 선정적인 기사로 잘 알려진 3류 신문.

3) blare: (나팔을) 울리다; 외치다, 고래고래 소리지르다(out). to make a loud unpleasant noise.

4) butt: (pl.) (구어) 궁둥이(buttocks).

5) snipe: (적을 숨어서) 저격하다(at); 익명으로 비난 공격하다

6) babe: an attractive young woman / Babe: 양치기 개가 되고자하는 영화 “Babe”의 주인공 돼지

the meanness of the stories: “The news coverage was outrageous, disgusting, **judgmental**<sup>7)</sup> and cruel. What did this child do Have a couple of pizzas”

In a word, yes. In the moral order of today’s media-driven universe—in which you could bounce a quarter off the well-toned **abs**<sup>8)</sup> of any cast member on Melrose Place or Friends, fashion magazines are filled with **airbrushed**<sup>9)</sup> photos of **emaciated**<sup>10)</sup> models with breast implants, and the perfectly attractive **Janeane Garofalo**<sup>11)</sup> can **pass for**<sup>12)</sup> an ugly duckling next to “Beautiful Girl” **Uma Thurman**<sup>13)</sup> in the current hit movie *The Truth About Cats & Dogs*—the definition of what constitutes beauty or even an acceptable body seems to become more inaccessible every year.

The result? Increasingly bombarded by countless “perfect” body images projected by TV, movies and magazines, many Americans are feeling worse and worse about the workaday bodies they actually inhabit. The people being hurt most are the ones who are most vulnerable: adolescents.

“Kids aspire to be thin,” says Thomas Cash, professor of psychology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. “But just any kind of thin isn’t sufficient, now it has to be thin and **toned**<sup>14)</sup>. If people compare themselves with these unrealistic standards, they can only conclude they are born losers.” “We’re

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7) judgemental: (disapproving) judging people and criticizing them too quickly

8) abs: [pl.] (informal) = abdominals [the muscles of the abdomen]

9) airbrush: (사진의 흠 등을) 에어브러시로 지우다; (무늬 · 사진의 세부 등을) 에어브러시로 그리다.

10) emaciated: 여윈, 쇠약해진

11) Jane Anne “Janeane” Garofalo: (1964-) an American stand-up comedian, actress, political activist, writer. She has made fun of popular culture and the pressures on women to conform to body image ideals promoted by the media.

12) pass for [as]: -으로 통하다; -으로 간주되다: \*He passes for a gentleman. 그는 신사로 통하고 있다.

13) Uma Karuna Thurman Hawke: (1970-) an American actress. She performs in leading roles in a variety of films—*Dangerous Liaisons* (1988), *Pulp Fiction* (1994), and *Kill Bill* (2003-04).

14) toned: (of a body) firm and strong





evolving toward an unnatural view of beauty,” says Los Angeles social psychologist Debbie Then. “What real women’s bodies look like is labeled wrong and unattractive.” Says Mary Pipher, author of *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls*, the bestseller about the psychological and physical health of teenage girls, “Society’s standard of beauty is an image that is literally just short of starvation for most women.”

Another sign that the problem is getting worse is that it’s also getting worse for men and boys. “We see more eating disorders in men than we did 10 years ago,” says Dr. Arnold Andersen, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Iowa. The National Association of **Anorexia Nervosa**<sup>15)</sup> and Associated Disorders estimates that 1 million males suffer from anorexia or bulimia.

The most alarming response of all to body image anxieties is self-imposed starvation. Nationally, the reported incidence of both anorexia and bulimia has doubled since 1970, according to the American Psychiatric Association. And, say experts, the patients are getting younger and younger.

It only gets worse when the desire is to be skinny and **buff**<sup>16)</sup>. Many teens are unaware of the intense work that goes into the celebrity **physiques**<sup>17)</sup> they are trying to **emulate**<sup>18)</sup>. The fact is, stars often battle the beast of body image as fiercely as their fans do. Even so, some of the most beautiful stars choose—or are required to use—body **doubles**<sup>19)</sup> for nude or seminude scenes as, for example, Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*. “People are **poised**<sup>20)</sup> like **vultures**<sup>21)</sup> to attack imperfection,” says Lindsay Chag, a casting agent who cast the sitcom *Anything*

15) anorexia nervosa: 신경성식욕부진

16) buff: (of) a pale yellowish brown color: \*a buff envelope

17) physique: U 체격. \*a man of strong physique 체격이 튼튼한 사람.

18) emulate: -와 (우열을) 다투다, 겨루다, 서로 지지 않으려고 애쓰다

19) double: [영화] 대역; 1인 2역을 하는 배우.

20) poise: 「수동태 · 재귀용법」 (-의) 준비를 하다, (-할) 각오를 하다 (for; to do).

21) vulture: 독수리; 콘도르; (비유) 탐욕스러운 사람. \*vulture capitalist (경멸적) 모험 자본가.

*But Love.* “I see a lot of actresses who are incredibly talented and very sexy, but if they are not thin enough, I can’t bring them farther.”

Whoever is to blame, Mary Pipher, **for one**<sup>22)</sup>, is concerned. “It makes me angry,” she says, “the needless suffering by women who are putting energy into losing weight when they could be focusing on making themselves better people, making the world a better place. We need a revolution in our values.”

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22) for one: 개인[자신] 으로서는: I, for one, doesn't believe it. 나는 [나도] 믿지(를) 않는 사람이다.

