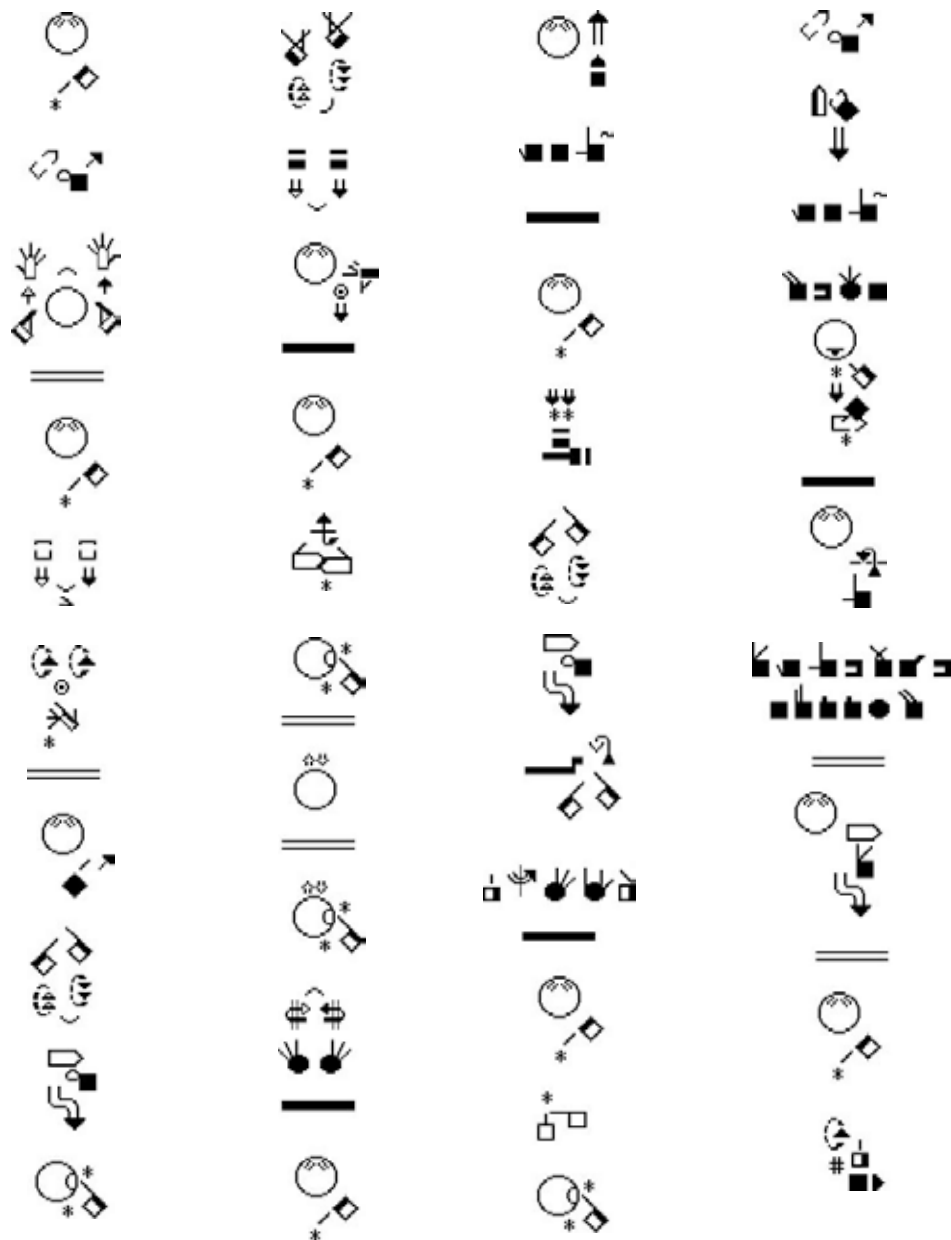# SignWriting®

A Deaf Perspective...

by Lucinda O'Grady Batch

I am writing to tell you how strongly I feel about SignWriting and how much it can benefit Deaf people.
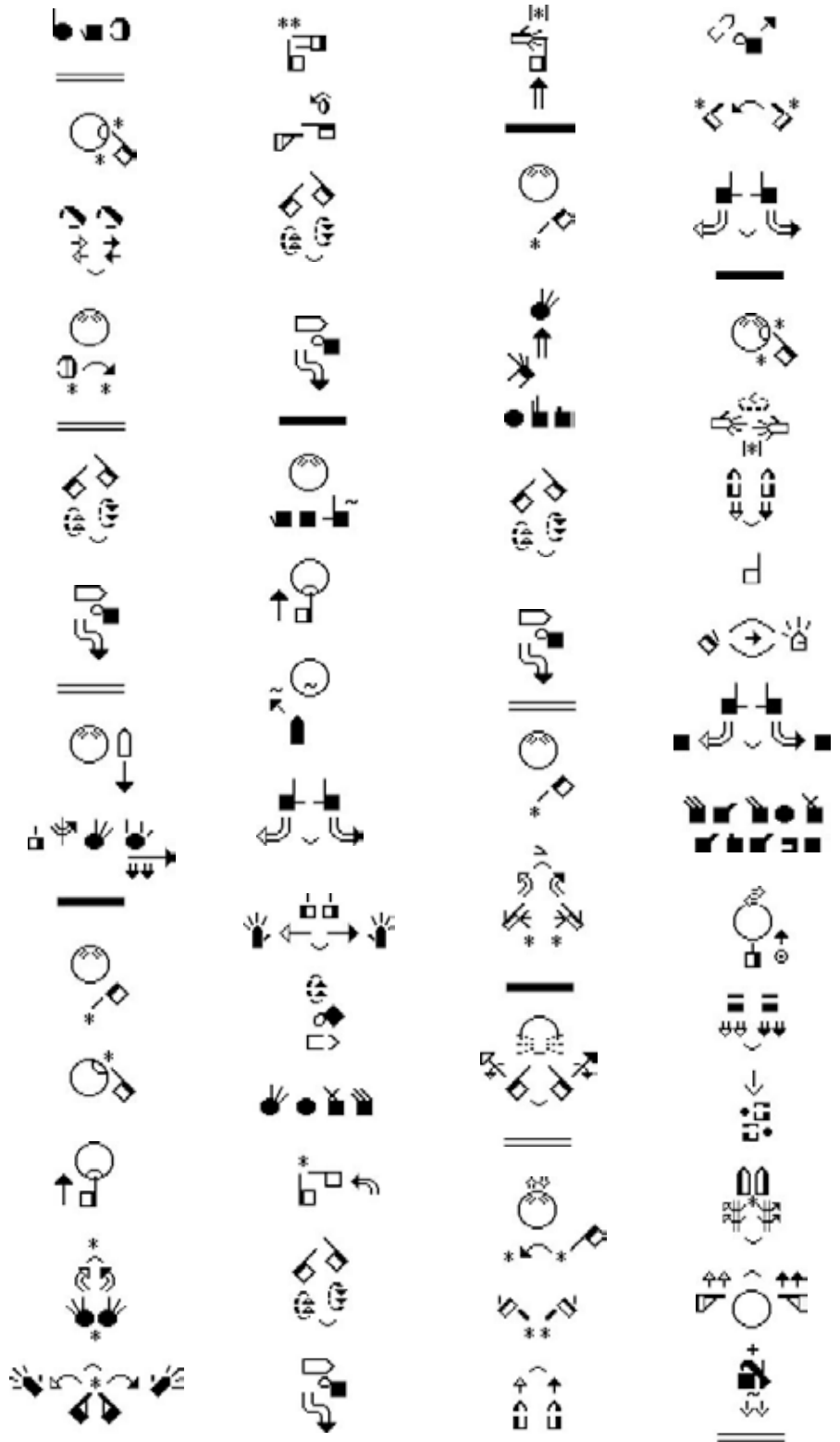
I was born Deaf to a Deaf family and I am a native American Sign Language (ASL) user. I have been working with Sign Writing since 1982. I was the first Deaf person to write articles in ASL, in Sign-Writing, for the Sign-Writer Newspaper. Later Valerie Sutton and I established
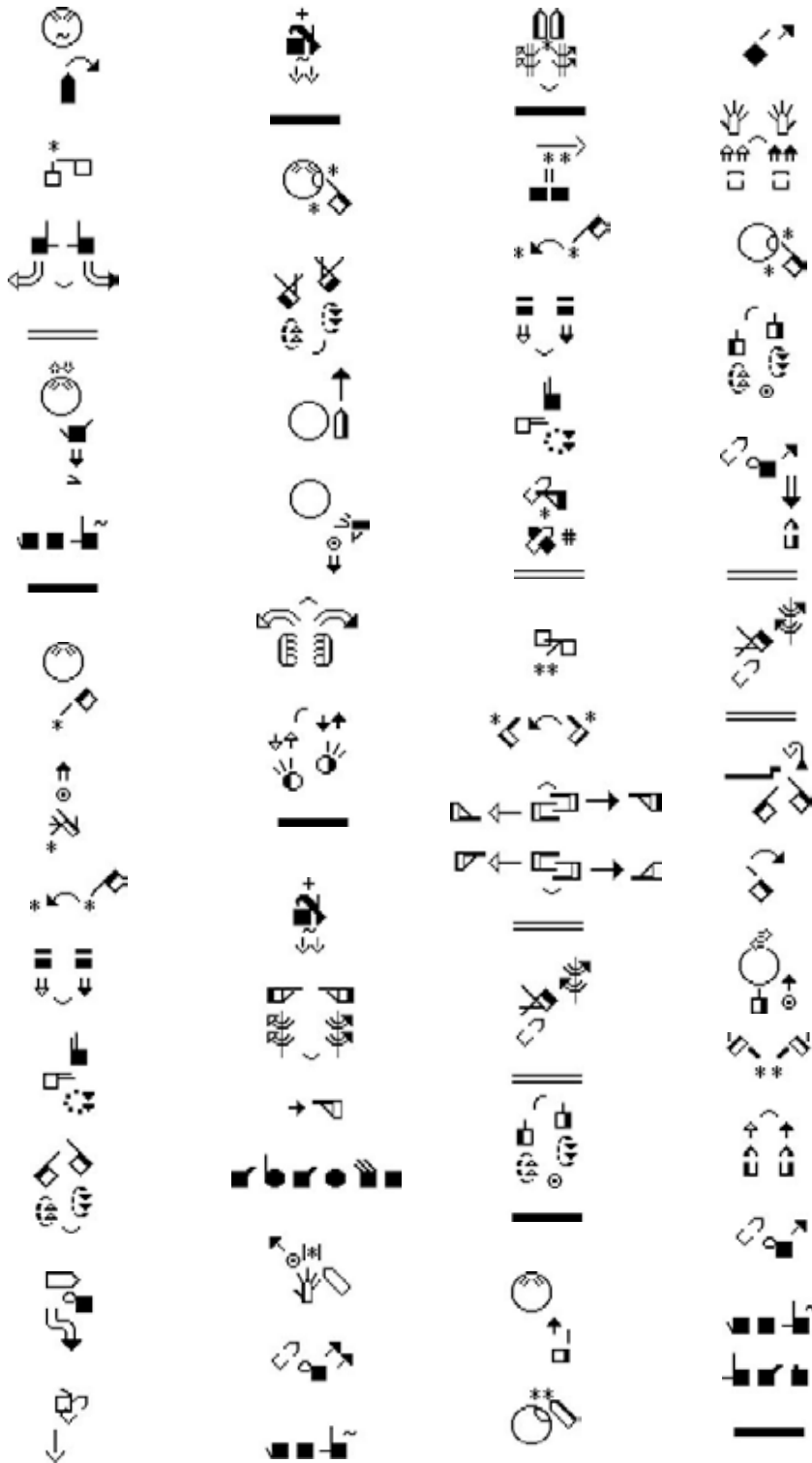
the Deaf Action Committee For SignWriting (the DAC) in 1988.

I think it is very important to spread the word about SignWriting. ASL is a language in its own right, yet until the development of SignWriting, it was a language without a written form. When I found out about Sign Writing I was thrilled to think that at last we would have a way to write our language.

Deaf Americans are one of the very few linguistic minorities that are unable to get books that teach English in

their native language. I feel that we can use SignWriting in order to learn English. Deaf people will benefit greatly from books explaining English grammar and idioms in written ASL.

We can also use it to write down and preserve our stories, poetry and plays. As you know, there are many Deaf playwrights and poets, and up until now, they have not had a way to write the ASL in their literature.

No matter what the project, SignWriting encourages us to read and write and I feel that is important.

All of us hope that you will enjoy learning SignWriting. Your interest and support is a great help to our Deaf community.

Lucinda
O'Grady
Batch