



# *Letters . . .*



*by :*  
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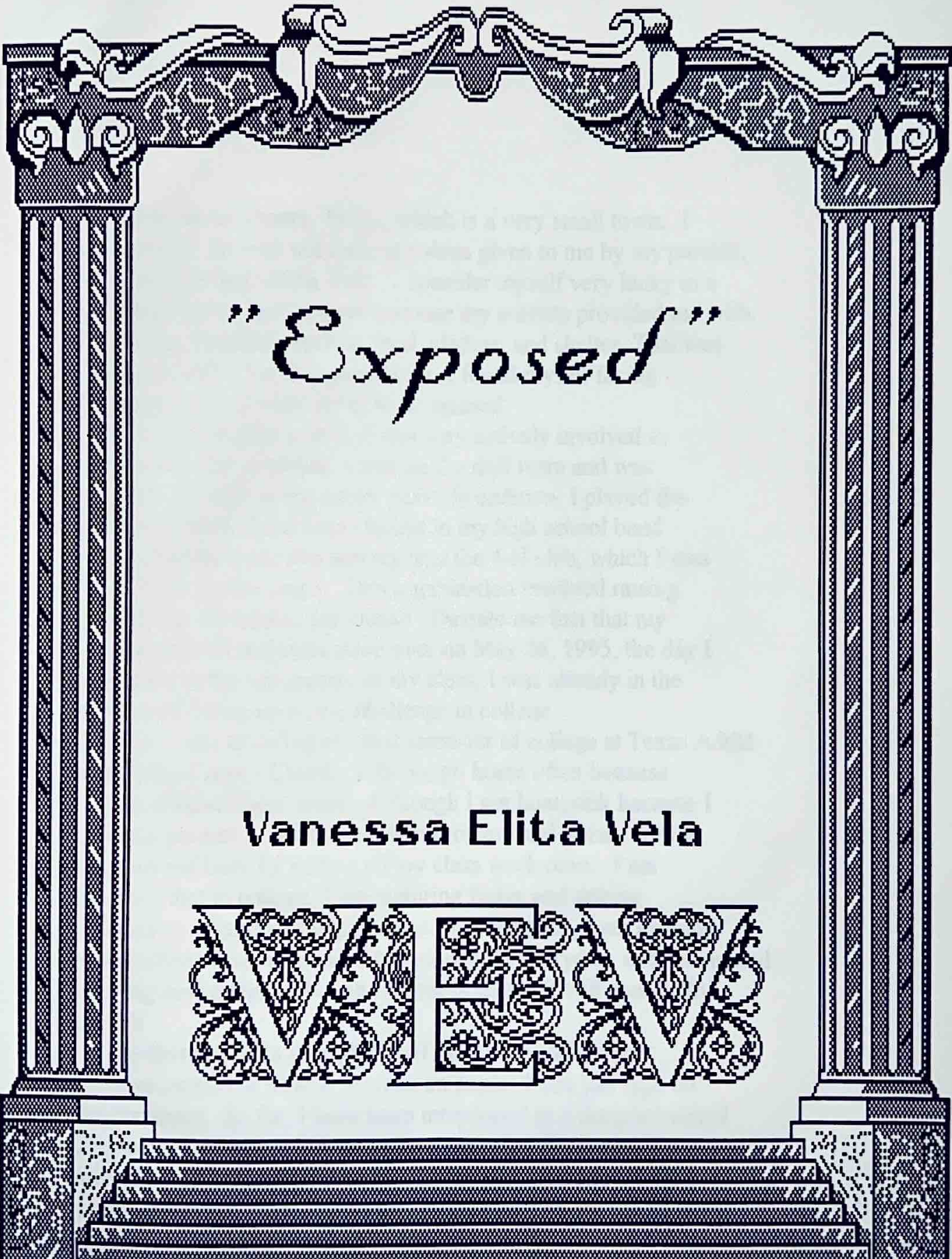
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## *Introduction*

*The following collection of letters is dedicated to and written for the future of our earth, our legacy, our grandchildren. Hopefully, they will reflect upon the events in these letters and feel the same feelings of joy we felt as we experianced them.*





*"Exposed"*

Vanessa Elita Vela

**V E V**



## To My Future Grandchildren,

I grew up in Zapata, Texas, which is a very small town. I was brought up with old fashion values given to me by my parents, Juan Manuel and Ofelia Vela. I consider myself very lucky in a way that I never had to work because my parents provided me with everything I needed, such as food, clothes, and shelter. This was fine for a while, but as I grew older, I found myself facing closed doors that were about to be opened.

Throughout high school, I was very actively involved in extra-curricular activities. I was on the drill team and was selected 2nd officer my senior year. In addition, I played the clarinet as well as the bass clarinet in my high school band. Another extra-curricular activity was the 4-H club, which I was involved in for ten years. This organization involved raising animals for the county fair shows. Despite the fact that my extra-curricular activities were over on May 26, 1995, the day I graduated in the top quarter of my class, I was already in the process of taking up a new challenge in college.

Now, I am attending my first semester of college at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. I do not go home often because Zapata is three hours away. Although I get homesick because I miss my parents as well as my two brothers and sister. I try to keep myself busy by getting all my class work done. I am realizing that in college, I am maturing faster and getting exposed to a variety of experiences. For instance, I am learning to be independent, meeting different people everyday, and seeing and learning new things. Though college is tough, it will eventually pay off.

My favorite class is English 101BG. I am so thrilled because instead of having to write on paper, I can just type on the computer. So far, I have been introduced to a program called Daedalus. I think that it is so technologically advanced. We have what is called the Internet. Just by pressing a few keys on the computer, I am able to write to my friends anywhere in the

United States or the world.

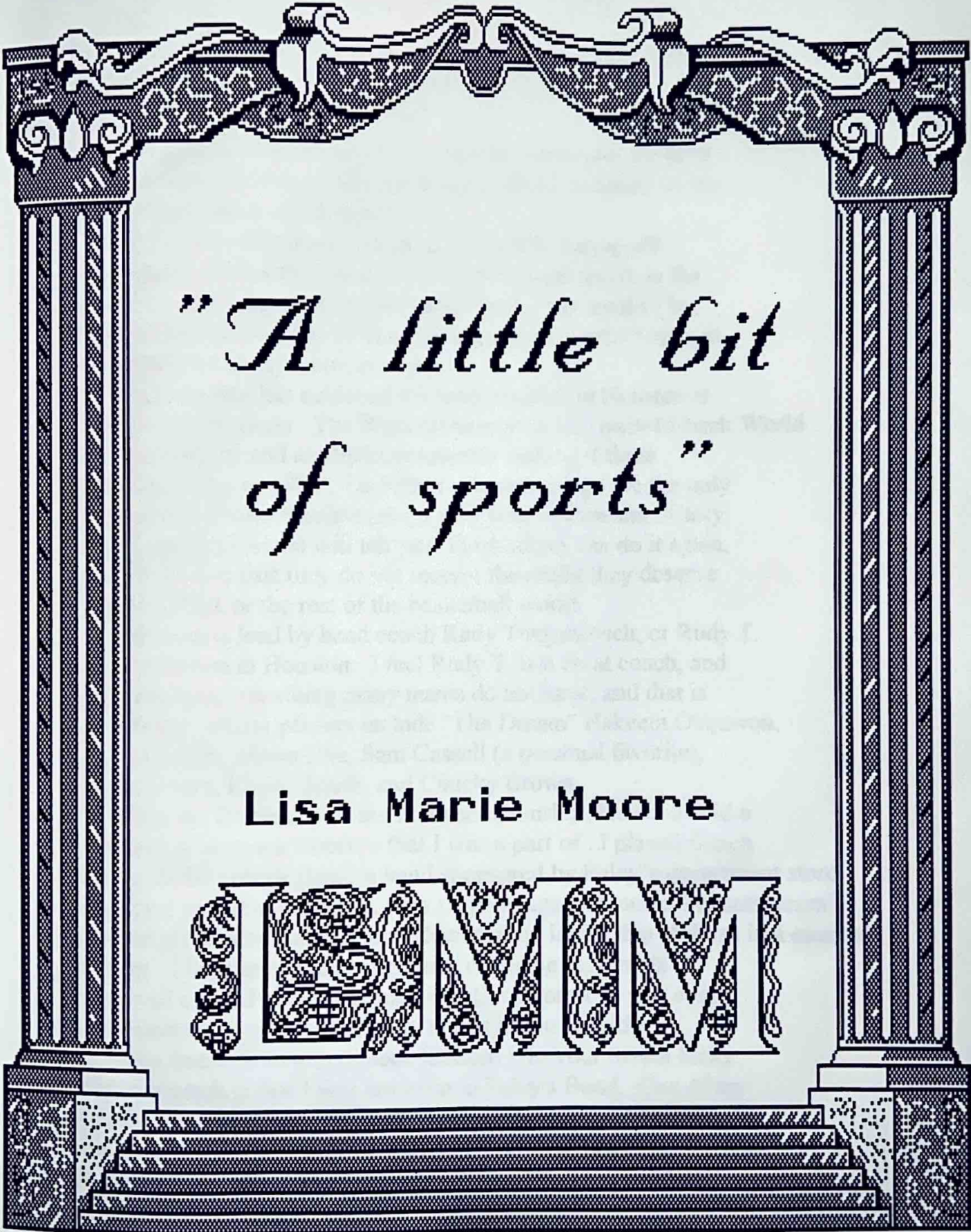
I am always interested in what the latest fashions in college are. If you lived the life of a teenager at this time, trends would be easy to get into. For example, the clothing during the 1970's, were "bell bottoms" and "clogs", which are an older trend, that are back in style. The 90's fashions are a combination of old and new styles. However, body piercing, which is a whole new trend of its own, is considered the "in" thing as well. In this time and age everything and anything goes. From army boots to clunky high heels, so long as it's different, it's the latest look.

I hope this letter is a window to the past for all of you. By writing this letter, I hope that you might have a better understanding of where and how I lived my life. I hope that by the time you all read this letter the world will have continued changing because change is good.

Sincerely Your Grandma,

Vanessa E. Vela





*"A little bit  
of sports"*

**Lisa Marie Moore**

**UNIVERSITY**



Dear Grandchildren,

As I sit here wondering where I will be when you are born and growing up, I have had time to think about incidents in my life that have been of interest to me.

Living in the Houston area most of my life, I have not managed to escape the influence of professional sports in the city. I am not what most would call a "jock," nor could I be, and I am not an avid fan of most sports, but the sports teams in Houston have always amazed me.

The team that has achieved the most success in Houston is the Houston Rockets. The Rockets have won two back-to-back World Championships, and are looking towards making it three Championships in 1996. These two championships are the only professional sports championships ever won in Houston history. As anyone in Houston will tell you, the Rockets can do it again, despite the fact that they do not receive the credit they deserve from the NBA or the rest of the basketball world.

The team is lead by head coach Rudy Tomjanovich, or Rudy T. as he is known in Houston. I feel Rudy T. is a great coach, and gives his team something many teams do not have, and that is confidence. Major players include "The Dream" Hakeem Olajuwon, Clyde Drexler, Mario Elie, Sam Cassell (a personal favorite), Robert Horry, Kenny Smith, and Chucky Brown.

When the Rockets won the first championship, Houston held a parade in downtown Houston that I was a part of. I played french horn with the Foley's Band, a band sponsored by Foley's department store where the potential members, who range in age and musical talents, learn a specific piece of music and must demonstrate leadership abilities in a musical manner. I have to say the experience of seeing thousands of people all excited about one team was the greatest. I was even lucky enough to get on television, that is if you consider getting a french horn mouthpiece jammed into your mouth lucky. The only catch is that I was not even in Foley's Band. One of my friends was though, and when she went to get her music for the parade, I decided it would be a fun experience to march in downtown Houston. This year when they won the second



championship, I did not participate in the parade, but I did go to the parade and crowded on the downtown streets getting a glimpse and snapshot of my favorite players.

Another Houston team that has experienced much notoriety, but not in a positive manner, is the Oilers. They have been in the record books a few times, but only for making some of the biggest mistakes in football, including being the first team to lose to an expansion team in 1995. In the past they have come close to achieving success, but they always find a way to mess things up. They have choked more times than any team I know of. Despite the many fallen hopes, "True Blue" fans have still managed to make it to games and cheer on the team to minimal success.

This year all feelings towards the Oilers and the organization's administration changed when Bud Adams, the owner, decided to sell the team to someone in Nashville, Tennessee. At first, the people of Houston were angry because not many people have a high opinion of Bud Adams or how he runs his team. Now, many people have decided that this move may be good because Houston needs a good football team with good players and good management.

As far as baseball goes, the Astros are all we have. Despite the 1994 baseball strike that turned many fans away from baseball, the real fans of the game have stuck by. Because of the low turnout at many Astros games, the team management sponsored games where admission was free. The Astros did well this year, and my younger brother, Roy, followed every game and every player to the very end, and even got a few autographs along the way. This summer Roy finally got to go to a game and see his hero, Jeff Bagwell, in action. At the game, Roy was one of the many children that night to get hit in the shoulder by a foul ball. If you ever get a chance to go to the Astrodome, look for a statue of Vivian Smith, my great-great aunt. Her husband gave the land to the builders of the Dome many years ago, and after he died, she was a major part of the Astros life, throwing out the first ball of the season in the Astrodome for many years.

A team that has recently come out of the woodwork in Houston is the hockey team, the Aeros. As of now, I am not sure how they have done in their league because I do not follow hockey, but I do hope this team does not follow the losing tradition of many

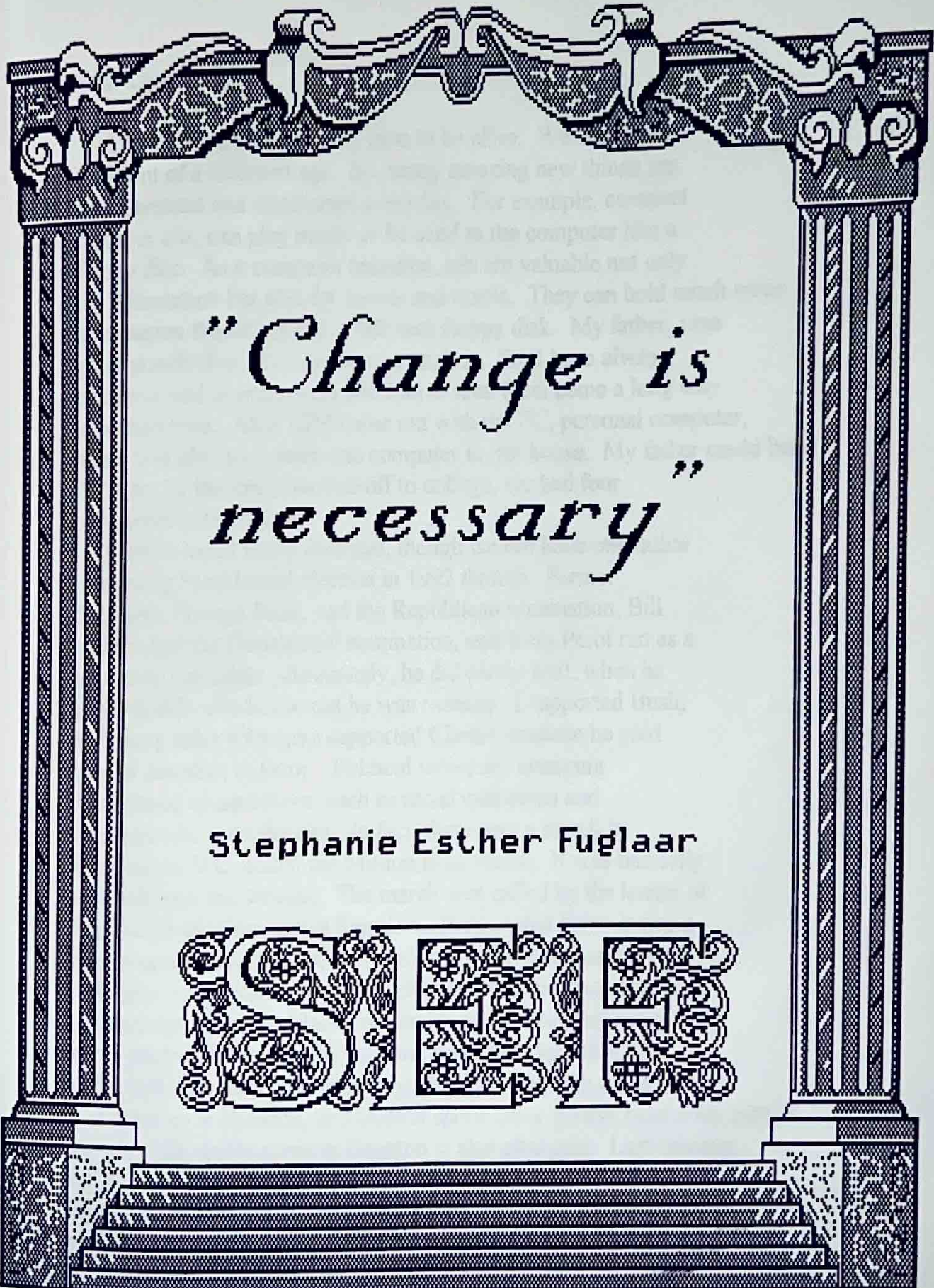
Houston teams. Another new team in Houston professional sports is the soccer team called the Hot Shots. As with the Aeros, I do not know how well the team has done so far.

I hope that with the little bit of information I have given you about sports in the Houston area you will be able to compare the way sports are at the time you are reading this with the way they are at the time I am writing this.

Your loving grandmother,

Lisa Moore





*"Change is  
necessary"*

Stephanie Esther Fuglaar

**S E R I E S**



Dear Grandchildren,

The 1990's are an exciting time to be alive. We are on the forefront of a different age. So, many amazing new things are being created and discovered everyday. For example, compact discs, or cds, can play music or be used in the computer like a floppy disc. As a computer resource, cds are valuable not only for information but also for games and music. They can hold much more information than the 3 and a half inch floppy disk. My father, your great grandfather, was a computer analyst. So, I have always been exposed to computers and I have seen them come a long way in a short time. After IBM came out with the PC, personal computer, there was always at least one computer in our house. My father could build PC's; so, by the time I moved off to college, we had four computers in the house.

Politics hasn't really changed, though we did have one rather interesting Presidential election in 1992 though. Former President, George Bush, had the Republican nomination, Bill Clinton had the Democratic nomination, and Ross Perot ran as a non-party candidate. Amazingly, he did pretty well, when he could decide whether or not he was running. I supported Bush; but, many other teenagers supported Clinton because he paid special attention to them. Political views are changing. Acceptance of minorities, such as racial minorities and homosexuals, is on the rise. In fact, there was a march in Washington D.C. called the Million Man march. It was basically all black men and women. The march was called by the leader of The Nation of Islam, Louis Farrakan. From, what I saw it was a very peaceful orderly march. I think what Farrakan had to say will make a big difference in the future because he teaches non-violence and urges the black community to pull themselves up out of the ghetto. Hopefully, by the time you read this letter, the world will be a safer and more peaceful and accepting place.

I grew up in Houston, so Houston sports have always been a big part of my life. The sports scene in Houston is also changing. Last summer, the Rockets won the NBA finals for the second year in a row. Those were great games to watch. When they won, the city of Houston and its suburbs partied for about three days. There was



a huge party on Richmond street and later a parade. The baseball team in Houston is called the Astros. They have done all right in the past. But, because of the baseball strike people's interest in baseball has declined. The Aeros, the Houston hockey team, are just getting themselves established. It seems strange to have a hockey team in Houston, especially since we really don't have a real winter here. The Aeros' rink is about twenty minutes from my house. My friends and I tried to go ice skating there once or twice, but the schedules are kind of weird. The Oilers have left Houston. I am not too upset about it. They were never very good any way. Maybe now we will get a good team.

In the last few decades, the government has realized how precious the environment is and worked on cleaning it up and protecting it. Lately, the environment has become a major issue in elections and peoples lives. More people have started recycling. Companies are manufacturing products with recycled materials and making things easier to recycle. Strict rules are placed on dumping hazardous materials anywhere. My mother is a chemist at Houston Lighting and Power and works mostly with the environmental problems. She has to make sure they are following all the regulations and not contaminating the ground, air, and water, or endangering any animals.

Things are changing in my life also. I started college this year. Living on one's own for the first time is a new experience. Things that probably never crossed my mind before suddenly become very important. I am also living in a different town, Corpus Christi. I spent my entire life in the Houston area; so, it is a big change. It is really weird not knowing where anything is or not knowing a lot of people. College is also different. It gives the student a lot more freedom. The work is not very difficult because I spent four years in college prep courses. There is just a little more of it. I study a lot; if I am going to get into graduate school or medical school, my GPA needs to be a three or better. My new life is different. I like it though; change is good. I am also getting to experience something I would rather not, a long distance relationship. I live three and a half hours away from my boyfriend. We are able to talk on the phone and write letters, but that is a lot different than seeing him every day.

I hope that the changes we are going through will make the world a better place for you and your children. Always remember to accept change and not go against it because change is necessary. I also hope that you will remember all that we have gone through to give your world. Do not just throw it away.

Love,

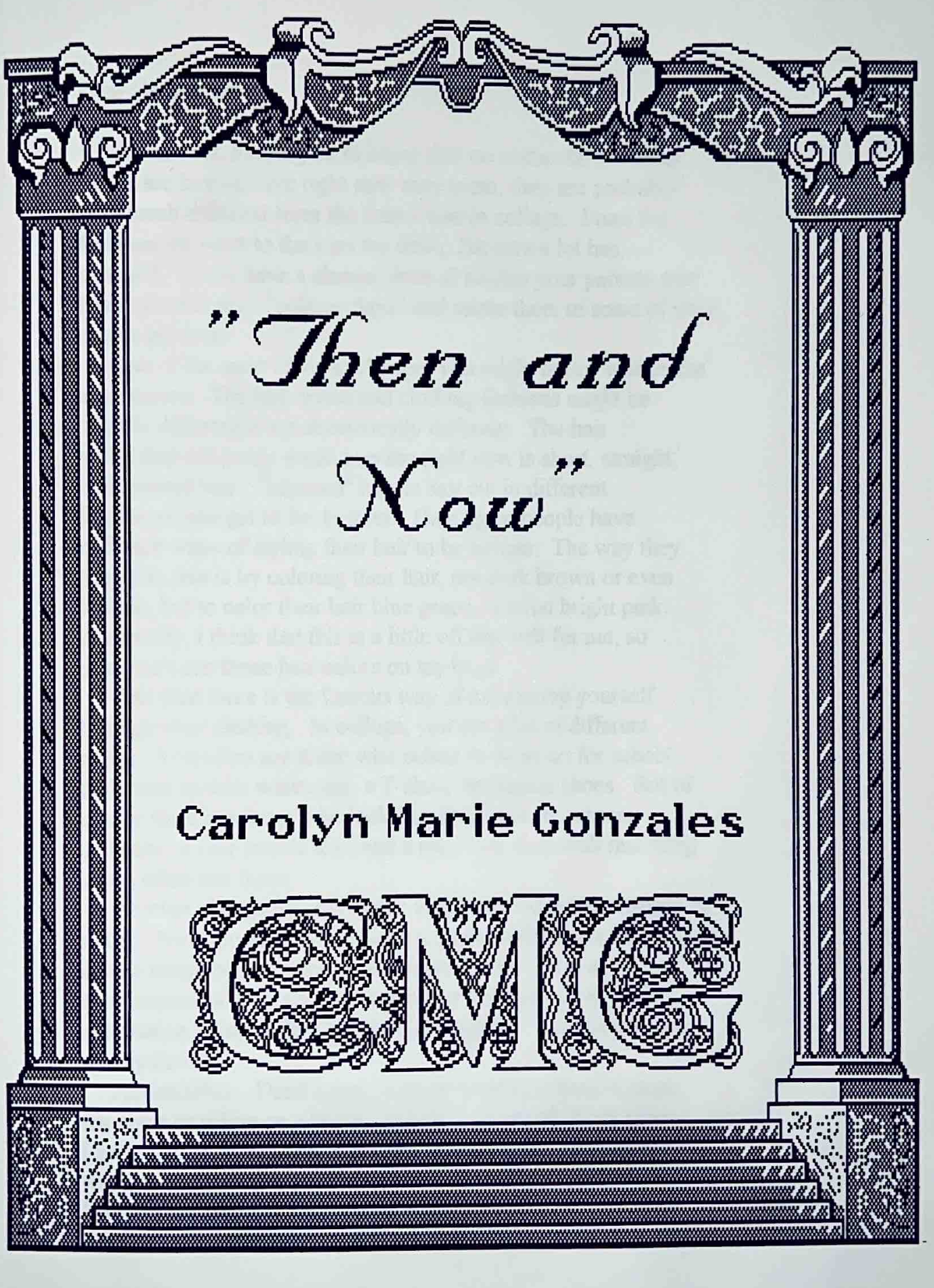
Stephanie

*"Then and  
Now"*

Carolyn Marie Gonzales

CMG





*"Then and  
Now"*

**Carolyn Marie Gonzales**

**CMG**



Dear Grandchildren,

To start off, I want you to know that no matter how normal things are in your time right now may seem, they are probably very much different from the time I was in college. From the fashions we wear to the cars we drive, I'm sure a lot has changed. If you have a chance, look at photos your parents may have of me in my "college days" and relate them to some of your recent pictures.

One of the most obvious changes you might notice will be the appearance. The hair styles and clothing fashions might be slightly different if not dramatically different. The hair styles that are pretty much popular right now is short, straight, and layered hair. "Layered" hair is hair cut in different lengths as you get to the bottom. Then again people have different ways of styling their hair to be unique. The way they might do this is by coloring their hair, not dark brown or even blonde, but to color their hair blue green, or even bright pink. Personally, I think that this is a little off the wall for me, so you won't see those hair colors on my head.

And then there is the famous way of expressing yourself through your clothing. In college, you see a lot of different styles. You often see those who refuse to dress up for school and come in with warm-ups, a T-shirt, and tennis shoes. But of course there are those who look like they have to impress someone; a nice ironed shirt and a matching skirt with matching shoes often suit them.

Another change that may have also occurred is the changes in music. Now, popular music more college students are listening to is new music by the name of Alternative music. It is a combination of rock and pop music put together. A popular Alternative group is the "Smashing Pumpkins." Personally, they are my favorite.

Automobiles. Don't worry, I never went to school walking ten miles or riding on a horse. In fact, I got my first car when I turned sixteen years old. It wasn't a brand new car, but it was one I didn't have to complain about. It was a gray 1990 Mitsubishi Galant. I liked the car because it wasn't too small

and wasn't too big. It was a great car, however, to go out in. Even now the most impressive cars are still the most expensive cars. I'm sure that hasn't changed. The most popular cars out right now are the fastest ones like the Chevy Camaros and the Ford Mustangs.

Even after all the changes you could name, technology has to be the most important. By now your computers can probably walk to wherever you are to serve you in anyway possible. Now computers are rapidly getting advanced enough to where they can produce sound, photographic images, and create life-like video games.

I hope this letter has at least given you some idea of how it was during the time I was going to college. If I am still alive by the time you read this, please do not hesitate to ask me questions about anything, or if you just want to hear some stories.

Sincerely,

Your Grandmother  
Carolyn Gonzales



## *acknowledgments*

Kinko's copies

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