

**We live in an ever-changing world.
Everywhere we look, there is
progress.
Everywhere we look, there is
conflict.
This is a collection of letters
written by a diverse group of
college freshman to their
grandchildren in an attempt to
show future generations what our
world was like in the year
1995.**



**A Weekend in the Life
of David Cavazos**

David Cavazos
Eng 101 BD
11/6/95 Final

Dear grandchildren,

As a freshman at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, it was required of me to write a letter to my grandchildren, so here it is. My day begins with a shower, followed by breakfast. I usually eat pop tarts for breakfast on the way to class due to the fact that I wake up late for class. I'm not even sure if you know what a pop tart is, but just in case I'll tell you anyway. A pop tart is some what of a pastry that is filled with fruit jam. Pop tarts come in a plethora of flavors, some even have icing and sprinkles on the outside. They come two to a pack and are warmed in the toaster. A toaster is a metal box with anywhere from two to six slots across the top. The pop tarts are placed one in each slot and the lever is pulled down. As the pop tarts are lowered, there are metal bands that become red hot and cook the pastry. This is a daily ritual for me from Monday through Friday.

My weekends, however, are spent at home, in San Benito. Friday after class I gather up all my dirty clothes from the week and take them home to dear ole mom. On the weekends I am obligated to tend to my cattle. After breakfast, I go to my pasture and feed my cattle. If there is anything that needs to be done, such as mending a fence, or giving a shot to a cow or anything of that sort it is my responsibility to make sure it gets done. While I and, Art, a friend of mine, are busy stringing a fence, my father is busy getting the fire ready for the barbecue. My dad loves to barbecue and this is the prime opportunity to. My parents will call up my sister, Denise, my brother, Danny their friends, my friends, the neighbors, and just about whoever else wants to come.

After the work is done for the day, my friends and I will get together at someone's house at around seven in the evening and begin thinking about what to do. We usually end up about twenty miles from civilization near the arroyo. Someone will get the urge to build a fire, which always starts off as a normal fire about three to four feet tall, but eventually turns into a twenty foot bon-fire. It's almost like a small party, some people are fishing, some are drinking, a couple are around the fire, and a couple doing other things, but we are all friends! This goes on until about two or three in the morning once we get bored of that, we all go back into town and find out where the other parties are. At around 4 or 5 A.M. the night starts to come to an end, and I take everyone home, that I picked up, on my way home. When I get home, I usually get yelled at for coming home so late, before I go to bed. The following day I'm up at around ten-thirty or eleven to finish the work that was left at the ranch.

The day is spent almost exactly the same as the previous one. It's now Sunday and my whole family meets at church, after church we almost always go out to eat. After that, my friends and I will go bass fishing until about five or six in the afternoon. Then I'll go home take a shower and get ready for the drive back to Corpus to recover from the weekend. And the cycle starts over on Monday morning.

Love your grandfather,
David Cavazos



Home Is Where The Heart Is
by Carlye Clark

Dear Grandchildren,

November 4, 1995

I am writing you this letter to show you how the "world worked" when I was eighteen. The year is 1995. I'm a college freshman at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, in Corpus Christi, Texas. I am full of hopes and dreams for my future as well as yours. I hope that when you read this I will have laid a good foundation for the futures of you and your parents.

I am also worried that you won't have the opportunities that I have had. I have this overwhelming fear of what the world is going to be like for my children and you. I picture the world as a very dark place in forty years. It has already changed so much from the tree lined streets of the 1950's, where kids were free to play outside without the fear of a drive-by shooting or being kidnapped. Now, I don't feel I can trust a licensed day care center not to neglect or hit my children.

Speaking of children, I am now in the beginning stages of planning my wedding and my life away from home. I can't wait to be in my own house and live on my own terms. The man I plan to marry is wonderful. His name is George Leonardo Lerma, Jr. He has a level head and knows what he must do to provide a good life for us. I will continue going to school after we are married and receive my degree in Education. We are planning on having a family so I'm not sure if I will start teaching right away or not. We both agree that I should stay home with the kids when we start our family. That way they will have a parent around at all times and not have to go to a day care center or be home alone. George and I will not put our children in a day care center, we would rather leave them with someone they love and trust. I think the trouble in this world today starts at home. The kids who are brought up in single-parent families with no father figure or stable lifestyle pay for it. These kids have a low self-esteem, poor value systems and usually aren't taught to have respect for people no matter what their age, social status, or color. These are the ones who are causing problems. It's not the children's fault, but the parents responsibility to teach them this.

The gangs of today are a result of parental neglect, racism and prejudice. My brother, Adam, who is your Great Uncle, lives in Los Angeles, California. His son Chris (who is 14) has been chased home from school by gang members, threatened, and has gotten into fights. Luckily, at his young age he stands six feet tall and can defend himself. But others don't stand that tall and can't defend themselves. Recently a five year old girl was shot and killed over a stupid argument between two young men about who had the better car. Everywhere I look, I see different people trying to get ahead of one another. The African Americans of today are trying to prove their self-worth in the world, while many white people are trying to keep them out of it.

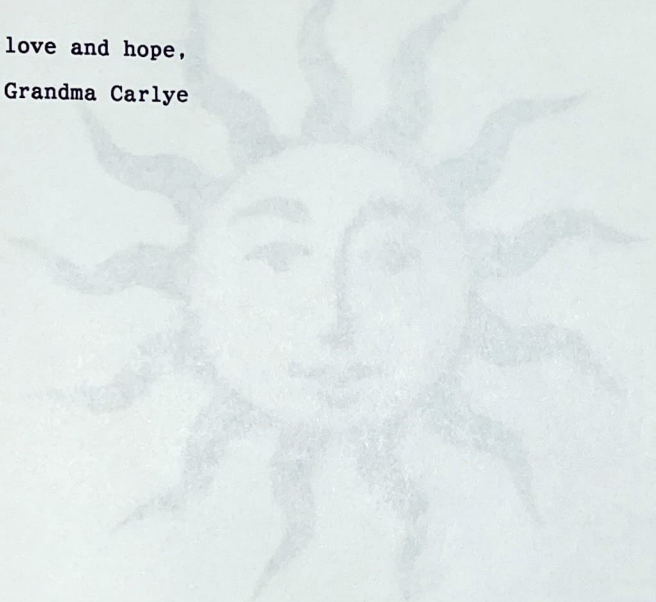
Because of all the gangs and violence that surrounds us, I am scared to bring children into this world, but I will. I believe that children are the purest form of humanity and can be molded into respectable people. There is also no greater love than the love you get from your family, and no matter what mistakes you make, your family will be there. I also hope that, as a teacher I can help in some tiny way to show these children

to treat people with the respect that they deserve. This lack of respect leads to wrongful displays of violence, racism and prejudice towards innocent people.

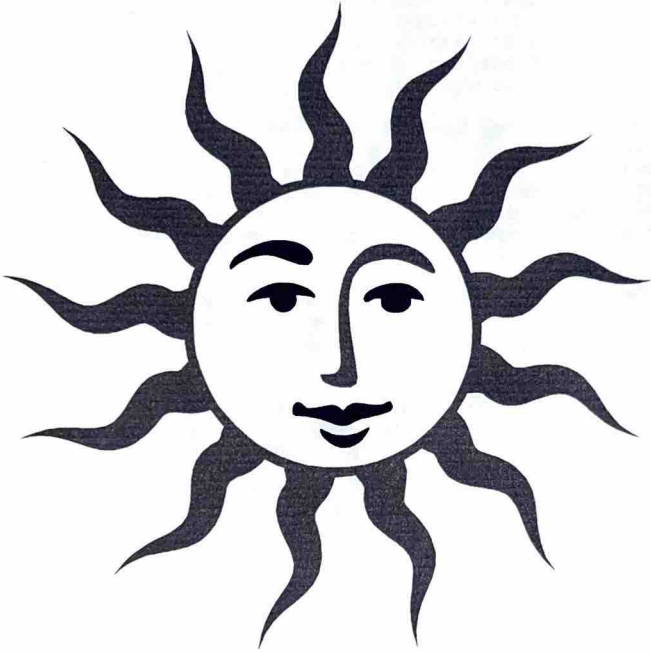
I hope that when you read this, it is evident that I have succeeded in my goal of raising a family I can be proud of free of hate and full of love and happiness. I ask you to do the same for your children, because the love you give your children at home will prevent your daughter from taking the wrong kind of "love" from an abusive boyfriend and your son will know that he can be accepted because of who he is, not because of what he has.

With love and hope,

Your Grandma Carlye



An Enlightening Of 1995
By Tracy Harvey



An Enlightening Of 1995
by Tracy Harvey

Tracy Harvey - Section BD
10-19-95
English Comp. 101

Dear Grandchildren:

The intent of this letter is to inform you, my future generation, of life before you were born. I hope that you find its content to be an intriguing and important part of your history. The letter is going to be written to you, not from your grandmother, but about the life, politics, and history through the eyes of Tracy Marie Harvey, the 18-year old Freshman at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi in Texas.

At this point in my life I have lived for two months here on the college campus. I share a 4-bedroom apartment with 3 other girls - Jennifer Bronson, Ashlee Straabe, and Jaime Bailey - all of whom I like and get along with very well. I love college life - being out on my own, cooking in my own kitchen, and best of all, having an apartment that overlooks the bay. Right now my aspired goal is to graduate in Pre-Med and go on to medical school. It is going to take quite a few years and much hard work for me to achieve this goal. In the meantime I plan to enjoy college and give it my best.

There are a few things about life in these last few years of the twentieth century that I would like to share with you. Technology, for instance, is one thing I am positive will be very different in your lifetime than it is in mine because of the rate it is advancing. Computers play a part in every little aspect of America today. They are inserted into our cars, radios, televisions, automatic doors, space shuttles, and the list goes on. Most people have one in their homes, but I do not yet. Cars are also a very important part of American life so that we can go from place to place. People are predicting that by the time you are my age the cars will be flying and running on sunlight or something to that effect. Today they are still on four rubber tires and use gasoline as their "go power".

Television, with it's sidekick, the remote control, is probably the number one source of entertainment in America. They have upgraded since first being invented in the 1940's to having small boxes in the corner that you can watch another station on and closed captions for the deaf.

The telephone, though, has really amazed me in its progress just from the time I was a child until today. When I was young I don't remember anyone having a cordless phone, and I especially know that they did not have car phones or cellular phones, which are both very common today. They have just recently come out with monitor phones that you can see the person on the other end, but those are still very rare.

In the ever-changing politics of the United States, our current president is Bill Clinton. He is well-known for being controlled by his wife, Hillary. In Texas, the current governor is George Bush, Jr., who was just recently inaugurated in January of this year. His father, George Bush, Sr., was the the previous president of the U.S. before Bill Clinton.

There are many big issues that are very conflicting among politics and among the people. One of the biggest is the issue of abortion and whether or not it should be made illegal. There are strong opinions on both sides, and people are willing to go to jail or even to kill someone to be heard. I personally think

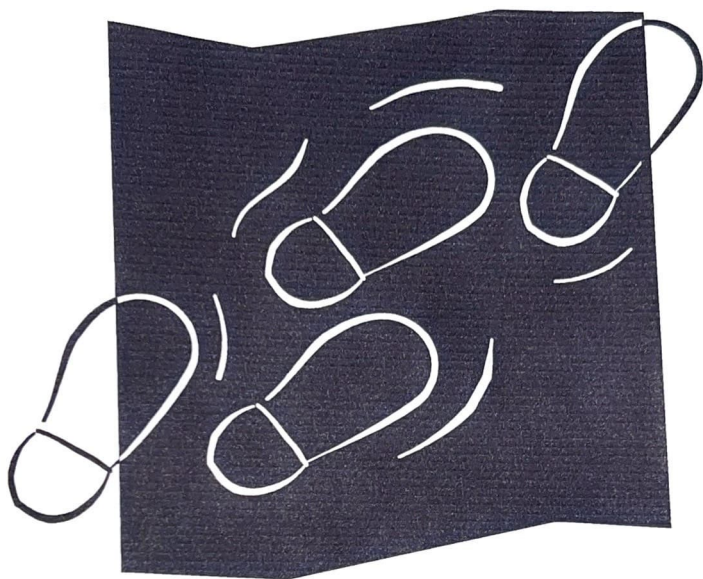
abortion is murder, but it should not be denied in certain cases like incest, rape, or life-threatening situations. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a sensitive subject to touch on because it is so rapidly spreading and killing people - especially since there is no cure. It is a small and very deadly virus, which once is contracted, eats away at the immune system so that a person can die from the most minor sickness. Another sensitive subject is the matter of Gay Rights. Gayness is becoming more and more acceptable now and they are starting to demand rights. I think it is disgusting and always will be. Other than those negative issues, there are a few positive trends that are steadily growing in popularity. One in particular is being environmentally smart. It includes recycling, animal rights, and Greenpeace. People have come to realize that in order for us to preserve the earth for our future, we must learn to take care of it.

I want to end with one of the most important things that happened in this century, and it happened last week. It was last Tuesday, October 3, 1995, that the students all over campus were crowding around the TV monitors and everything was quiet for a few rare moments. Everyone here at TAMU-CC, and all across America, were waiting for the verdict reading of O.J. Simpson, the ex-pro football Hall of Famer. After a trial that lasted for a little over a year, the jury found him "Not Guilty" on the charges of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman. It was a joyous moment for some who thought he was innocent, and an angry moment for others who thought he got away with it because he was rich and famous. And then there were those who were just glad it was over with - like me.

Well, I hope this letter has been fascinating and will be something you will always remember. See you in the future.

Your Grandmother,

Tracy Harvey
Draft Two



A Walk Through 1995
with Shannon Middleton

Shannon Middleton
11/07/95
Final Draft
Eng 101 - BD

To Whomever Reads This,

Right now it is the year 1995, and I'm in my Freshman year of college. I just got home from my busy class schedule and turned on the television. As I watched I began to think about just how things are going. In college I'm having a great time but I don't believe that the rest of the world is having such a great time. Let me start by telling you about some of the tragic recent events that have shaped this year to make it what you read in the History books.

I'll start with one of the most popular topics on television, the case of O.J. Simpson. O.J. Simpson is a very famous former football player that was put on trial for a double murder. He was accused of killing his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. It is though T.V. that the whole world was able to watch this trial in their home from the beginning to the final verdict. As everyone, I followed the trial but I did not see the entire case. I can remember though, when the verdict was about to be announced. Our professors let us out early and everyone rushed to the closest television. Many people just stood in front of the T.V. as the jury read the verdict. The jury had found O.J. Simpson to be not guilty on all charges. The next day he was a free man but he still has civil lawsuits to go through. On matters more close to home, here in Corpus Christi, the trial of Selena's death is about to begin in Houston. Selena is a Latino singer from Corpus Christi. One of her employee's was recently accused of shooting and killing Selena at a hotel in Corpus. Selena was a young Hispanic woman that was very popular here in the South Coastal Bend area and amongst the Hispanic culture. This case, unlike O.J.'s, will not be aired on T.V., but the news media is still closely following and reporting on the trial.

Lately, the U.S. has had growing fears of terrorist attacks such as the bombing of the World Trade Center and the Oklahoma City bombing. I can remember I was at the airport about to fly home, Midland, for the weekend, October 6, and an announcement was made that security is at level three. The reason was that of the trials of the accused terrorist of bombing the World Trade Center had begun. On a even heavier side, the bombing in Oklahoma was a very disastrous event. It is not completely known yet who was actually involved, but many people believe who it was a terrorist attack. Many men, women, and children were killed in these awful tragedies. The most tragic aspect of the bombing is the great number of innocent children that were pulled out dead. The public kept there T.V.'s on as rescuers searched for the remaining survivors; yet because the nursery was on the second floor not many survivors were found. As I watched the rescuers recover the dead bodies on the television, I had a sick feeling about everything. I could not believe that someone would do this to innocent children. This event stirred deep emotions of the people in the U.S.

In today's society non-curabile disease have become of great

concern. The biggest problem, right now, within our society is the non-curable disease of AIDS. AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS is a very serious disease that can take many year to develop. AIDS is contractable through sex, blood transfusions, and unsterile needles, to name a few. When AIDS was first recognized many people believe that only homosexuals could contract it. But anyone dealing with blood, needles and/or sex is at risk of contracting AIDS. For anyone that has come in contact with any of these risks testing centers are available. The only thing is that because this disease does take such a long time to develop one could be carrying the disease around and not even know. I can only hope that your generation will be able to find a cure.

These are only a few events that cause me to wonder if this year has been a great year or has it been disastrous. I can only wonder how your Freshman year in college will be. Will your schedule be just as busy? Who will the President be? Will terrorist still be of great concern? Will your generation find a cure for Aids? You'll have to continue when the time comes and save this letter so the next person, in the next generation who reads it can compare the two different generations.

Sincerely,

Shannon Middleton

Technology in 1991
by Shannon Middleton



Technology in 1995
By Chris Washa

Chris Washa

October 23, 1995

Draft 1

Dear grandchildren,

I am writing this letter in my freshmen composition class, at Texas A&M--Corpus Christi, in order to show you what a normal day in the life of a college student would be if you lived in the 20th century. I live in a house out on Padre Island with my mom, dad, and brother. I set an alarm clock in order to wake me with enough time to get up and make it to class in time for our early morning lectures. Since I don't live on campus, which a majority of the students do, I have to drive my Honda Accord about seventeen miles to class. Right now my goal is to graduate from this university as a nursing major. It is going to take a few years of hardwork and determination to achieve this goal but, I plan to enjoy as much of this time as possible.

Technology, is advancing in such a rate that I predict all of the newly invented technologies will be out dated by the time this letter is read. Computers are used basically by everyone and everything. Computers at this time run our lives. For example, the cars that are being driven on our highways are run by computers and the televisions and radios that are associated with our everyday lives are run by computers. Televisions are advancing at a fast rate, they have gone from small, unclear screens to large clear screens that can be operated from the

convenience of our couches by the development of the remote control. Radios and stereos are another example of the advancement in technology. When my mother was young they had a thing called a record player in which a disk turned and a needle ran along a groove in the disk which in turn produced music. This record player made music in which the clarity was not very good. Now days, we have a object called a compact disk (CD) player. This is a disk that is turned at varies rates while a laser ran along a groove in the disk. This CD player produces a clarity that is unheard of. There is also a thing called a laser disk player that hasn't become to available yet, it will probably be outdated by your time.

In the everchanging and controversial issue of politics, our current president is Bill Clinton. He is a Democrat from the state of Arkansas. Bill Clinton succeeds George Bush Sr., whose son is now the governor of Texas. George Bush Jr. was inaugurated in January of this year.

I want to end with one of the most highly publicized and controversial issues of this century. After a little over a year of deliberation over the matter, the Los Angelos courts found O.J. Simpson not-guilt of the double murder charges that were brought against him. The many people who thought he was guilty were very upset with the verdict. October 3, 1995 was the day that at least half the nation had there eyes glued to the television set as the verdict was read. Being an ex-football Hall of Famer with a lot of money, many people thought it was the money and fame that set him free.

I hope that I have given you a little incite onto what the past was like and what the future will have in store for you .

Take care and always be careful.

Your Granfather,

Chris Washa

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