

The Awesome Foursome
of
TAMU-CC

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi



The Island University



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These letters of four college students to their future grandchildren serve as a remembrance of what life was like in the mid-nineteen nineties. Each letter clearly depicts a story of what day-to-day life was like for us and what current events molded us and our environment. Our life styles may have been different, but we shared a common goal, we wanted our grandchildren to know who we were and what we were about. These letters will not be found in any History book, but they do have valuable information about what society was like.

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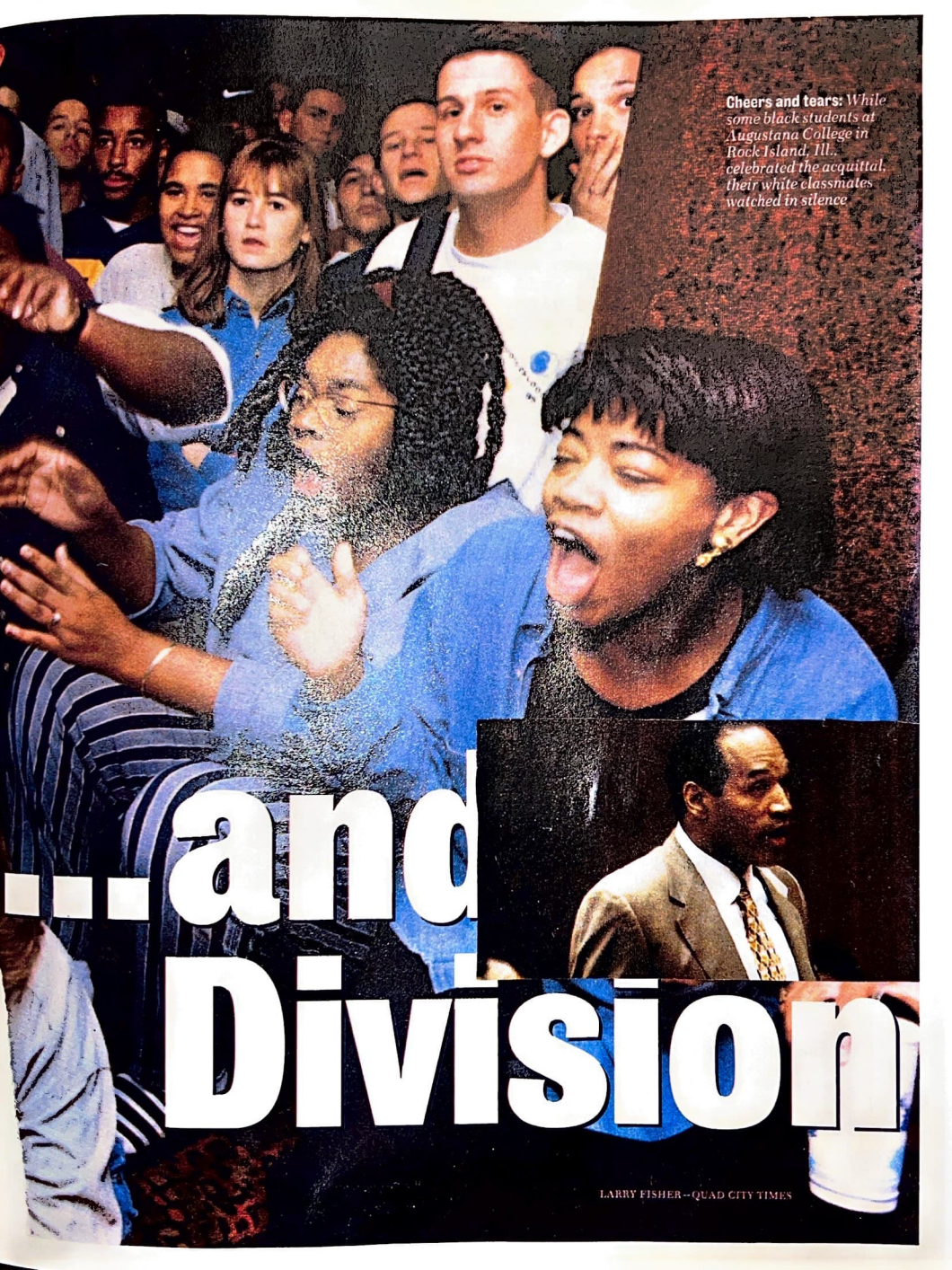
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Billy King



Cheers and tears: While some black students at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., celebrated the acquittal, their white classmates watched in silence

...and Division

LARRY FISHER—QUAD CITY TIMES
















Racism

When I was a college student, America was divided following the verdict in the case of Rodney King vs. The Los Angeles Police Department. A primarily white jury found several police officers innocent of brutally attacking King, a black man. The evidence in this case included an appalling videotape of the police officers brutally beating King while he lay helpless on the ground. This videotape, which was aired across the country, offended the black community. The black community was so outraged after the verdict was given, they rioted the city, which caused massive destruction. They strongly believe that racism was the reason for this attack, and so do I.

A second case of racism involved a popular figure in the black community, O.J. Simpson. Simpson was a superstar running back in the NFL (National Football League) for many years, serving as a role model to the black youth. This case involved the racist actions of the Los Angeles Police Department once again. Simpson was charged with the vicious killings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. The LAPD was accused of planting evidence at the residence of Simpson in order to put him in jail. The black community once again felt that the white police officers acted in a racist manner, in order to incriminate Simpson for a crime he didn't commit.

It's Over Edition

Will Rosa Lopez get a talk show? Is there a Hertz commercial in Allan Park's future? The trial's over, but the CW just can't let go

| Players | Conventional Wisdom | Players | Conventional Wisdom |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Ito | Like a weak person, he lost control of the courtroom early on, allowing the lawyers to turn the trial into a marathon of minutiae. Next time, sideline those sidebar. |  Dupps | Hey, we're outta here! Imprisoned so long they bonded on everything—especially the need to go home to work on their books. |
|  Cochran | The black community's now superstar beat The Man at his own game. But that Fruit of Islam escort was rotten. |  Geraldo | The father of tabloid TV puts on glasses, cuts through b.s. His CNBC show was best nightly trial fix. |
|  Clark | Ignored jury consultants' advice, hung on to Fuhrman much too long. But her commitment and smarts still make her a Yuppie role model. |  Abramson | She and all the other legal kliegles became predictable and tedious. Naturally, the CW couldn't get enough of them. |
|  Shapiro | Only member of defense team to express some ambivalence about their race-card tactics. But stash your dirty laundry in O.J.'s garment bag. |  Shipp | No more Jacuzzis for Ron. Black former cop and ex-O.J. friend put integrity before race and Rockingham perks. This is still sad, O.J. |
|  Darden | The most genuine of the bunch was considered an Uncle Tom by many blacks, blamed for the glove fiasco. Says he may quit the law. Who wouldn't? |  Resnick | One of many 'friends' of Nicole who saw dollar signs before bloodstains. But she was still right about O.J. |
|  F. Goldman | His civil suit will likely force O.J. to take the stand. But his biggest contribution was giving victims' families a voice. |  Cowlings | Al, in your book, don't forget to tell us exactly what O.J. was planning to do with that disguise, passport, cash and gun in the Bronco. |
|  LAPD | Neither time nor competence for a frame-up. But if this is how they conduct a high profile case, it's time to call the coroner—this force has no pulse. |  Kardashian | Phew—acquittal means no indictment as an accessory for whisking away O.J.'s garment bag that night. |
|  Lee | The best witness money can buy. Fellow scientists not impressed with his choice of clients—but jurors impressed that he said hello every day. His fees should skyrocket. |  Fuhrman | Even ex-LAPD chief Daryl Gates has cut him loose. Even if you didn't plant the glove, you sowed the seeds of O.J.'s acquittal. |

Billy King
English
October 19, 1995
Final Draft

Dear Great Grandchild,

I am writing you in order to describe what life was like when I went to college to give you a sense on how the times have changed. The attitudes that society feels about numerous topics will have undoubtedly changed with the times. I want you to know who I am, and the environment in which I was raised while attending college.

When I attended college, students felt a freedom that they never felt before, time. Ever since I was five up until college, students were required to attend school a minimum of seven hours a day. However, in college, a student's full schedule adds up to be over 25 hours less school time per week. This required students to make choices concerning their time management. The most important advice I can give you on how to do well in college is to manage your time well. This tool will not only keep you in school but improve your grades, because you will have already prepared for tests where others are cramming to learn as much information as possible in a small amount of time.

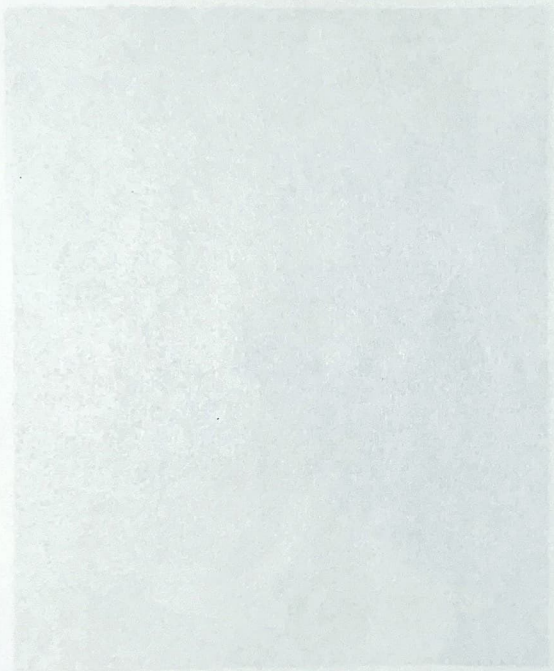
Times will have changed politically when you begin college. When I attended college, society was dissatisfied with the government and the steps they took in running the country. A big problem was the national debt which always seemed to keep growing, as well as the amount of taxing the government would issue. It seemed that the candidate that promised to lower taxes would always be elected. Abortion was an issue that was split between the people. Some believed in the right to life, while others believed in the right to choose, and yet some believed in both, but with special circumstances, like if a woman got raped and became pregnant then she could have an abortion.

Our nation was also plagued with deadly diseases like Aids and Cancer. These diseases have killed millions of people, and thus made it necessary to begin to teach children as young as twelve years old about sex education. These diseases are not only deadly, but the risk of catching one are increasing, which will make your generation the most vulnerable.

During my generation, racism had become less tolerated in public, however, gripping footage has shown this to still be a problem, as in the Rodney King beating where many peace officers were shown beating a helpless black man. Also in the case of O.J. Simpson, where the majority of blacks voted him innocent of the crime of double homicide, the majority of whites voted him guilty. This not only shows the lack of unity between the blacks and whites, but also shows the bitterness of blacks against whites, where they would side with their brother, instead of believing the evidence which clearly proved him guilty.

I have written you in order to describe what life was like when I went to college, and I hope I have accomplished my goal. Times I'm sure have changed since I went to college, but I hope you can

gain an appreciation of the decisions we made. Your generation will have many dangers including diseases, racism, and possibly the corruption of government, but if you are strong and study hard, you will succeed in your society.



Lori M. [unclear]

SAVE OUR MEMORIES



Lori McKenna

SAVE OUR BEACHES

In today's times beaches are very popular among vacationers and the locals. Whether it be to swim or just catch a little bit of sun the beaches prove to be the perfect place to get away from the work life. However, we find now a days that it is rare to go to a beach and find no trash or litter.

This garbage that is spread through out the beaches looks harmful and is harmful for the preservation of the beach and the animal life. There must be a stop put to the the littering of our oceans so that in the future for years to come the beach will remain the perfect vacation spot. Always do your part to help save our beaches for the sake of future generations.



November 5, 1995

To my niece,

Hello. I am your aunt. This letter I hope will inform you on what life was like both historically and politically forty years ago when I was a student in college. The purpose of this letter is to remind you and others the way things were in the 90's so that you understand. It may be helpful to understand my letter by knowing where I lived. I lived in Corpus Christi in South Texas. Many things happened in my life that I want you to know about. Three issues that I found important in life while living in Corpus that you should be most concerned about are technology, environment, and headline breaking news.

There were top-of-the-line inventions that boosted the 90's technology well into the 20th century such as the Macintosh II AC or laptop computers with high tech color printers. People in my days were also impressed by compact discs (cds). Cds were small round discs that played music when put into a cd player. These two things were among the many items that every household was equipped with in order to be caught up with the 90's technology. Other important things were the introduction of cellular phones and pagers. Most people became so accustomed to relying on these things on a daily basis because they made communication in the 90's much more advanced. If you needed to get a hold of someone that wasn't at home then you could page him or her or call him or her wherever from your cellular phone.

Secondly, the environmental problems that I had to face along with the other people of Corpus Christi is well worth studying in order to keep the environment from deteriorating any more than what it is already. Some real problems were with the Ozone Layer because it was slowly deteriorating because of cars, factories, etc. The problem concerning the Ozone Layer was; therefore, not just in Corpus Christi; however, Corpus did have more of a problem than certain cities or states. There were even certain days that were labeled as an Ozone Action Days where it was advised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ride your bike to school or work and not to use aerosols or anything harmful to the ozone. Corpus also had a serious problem with polluted beaches and parks. Trash along the beaches was very upsetting to most of the locals because the beaches were one of the few things that people were proud of in Corpus. There was a big emphasis on being sure to throw away trash properly. A common slogan, aired on television regularly, said "Don't Mess With Texas." This was Texas' attempt to keep people from throwing their trash out the window while driving down the highway.

Finally, I think that now you are a twenty-year-old college student you should be aware of the news issues that I dealt with while going to school that were constantly involved in my life. In the future some of these events might be learned only by reading history books in school. One issue is the O.J. Simpson case. O.J. Simpson, a former professional football player, was accused, arrested, and tried for the murder of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her suspected lover, Ronald Goldman. The world was shocked when the news hit the television. His loyal fans felt he was innocent, and those of us (myself included) who didn't care, just wanted the whole thing over with. I believed he was guilty. After six months in court,

many jurors later, and exclusive media coverage the jury found Simpson innocent on both charges of murder. I believe that if it had been an average man who was on trial for two charges of murder, he would have gone to prison for life without parole with only a week in court. Therefore it just goes to show you that money and fame in my days could buy people and things. I hope things aren't still like that for you.

Well, after reading my letter things should be much clearer for you on certain topics in the 90's. I bet my days in college are considered outdated compared to your present college life. I hope that you can always remember these things so history (my history) isn't completely diminished in the minds of Twentieth Century people. Once Mrs. Jennifer Graham, my history teacher, told me that the reason for studying history is so that we don't repeat our ancestors' same mistakes. I hope that in comparison to my life yours is much better. Take care of yourself so that you can live a long and prosperous life as I once did.

Your Loving Aunt,

Lori McKenna

Lori McKenna

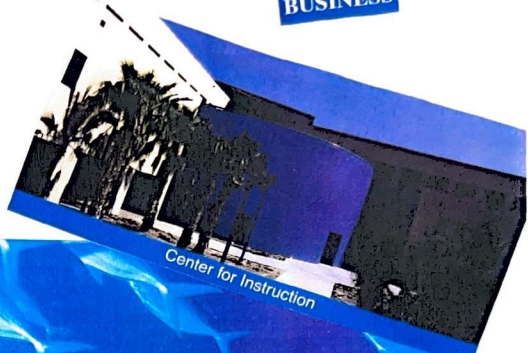


Jeresa A. Wilburn

COLLEGE LIFE

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS



Center for Instruction

EDUCATION

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi



The Island University

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is located midway along the Texas coast on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. The site is built on 240 acres of land. In the year we were freshman, 1995-96, we were only the second group of freshman on the campus because TAMUCC was only a junior/senior college.

For most students, many of their classes are located in the Center for Instruction building (as pictured above). That is where we spend most of our class time. It is also one of the places we come to use TAMUCC's great computer resources. I am typing this portion of the book in the computer lab in the CI building right now.

The colleges that were available during the time we were there was: Arts and Humanities, Education, Business, and Science and Technology.

English 101
10-19-95

Dear Great Grandchild,

Through the course of time everything changes, people, the environment, as well as daily life. I know that before you read this letter you thought of your great grandmother as just another old link to your family tree, but I hope to change that through the course of this letter. I want you to know who I am, and what the world was like when I was in college. Hopefully you will be able to appreciate who I was and what I mean in your life.

College is everything that I expected it to be, work. I am not a person who can study every day, but that is exactly what is required. I am the type of person who crams at the last minute, and so far that is working, difficult, but it works. That is not the case for Chemistry, however. In Chemistry I am struggling because it is different from the science classes I took in high school. We are constantly taking tests, and each test or quiz makes me sick to my stomach, but I think I will be all right. The reason that I am taking this class is that my major is Environmental Science, and once I have completed college I plan to become a Chemical Engineer. I am disheartened to see this planet slowly deteriorate, and that is why I want to work in a field that desperately needs to take into consideration the environment. In the rest of my classes, Political Science, Political History, Freshman Seminar, and English, I am doing great. Of course, there is always room for improvement.

Aside from school, there is the apartment life. Here at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, they do not have the traditional dorms, like you would see at many of the older universities. Instead, they have apartments, and you have a choice of single, double, or quadruple bedroom apartments. I have a double with an old friend from high school, Melinda Cordova. She is a very studious person, and every day she is in her room studying. I wish that I could have half of her patience to study like that at every day.

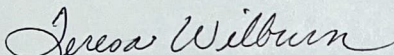
I am the work study in the Science and Technology Department-Dean's office. I get five dollars an hour, which is a good sum of money for a college student at this time period, and the work is not that hard. All that I have to do is run some errands and file papers. The money that I earn goes towards all my college expenses, particularly the apartment fees and food. The scholarships and grants that I received only cover the tuition and one month of the apartment rental. Overall my tuition came out to be \$976.00, and the apartment fee is \$325.00 per month, and my food bill comes out to around \$100 a month.

I wonder what the world has come to, and what problems you are having to deal with. The major events which affected me and the world today are these: the O.J. Simpson trial, an ex-Pro football player accused for the murder of his ex-wife and her friend; the

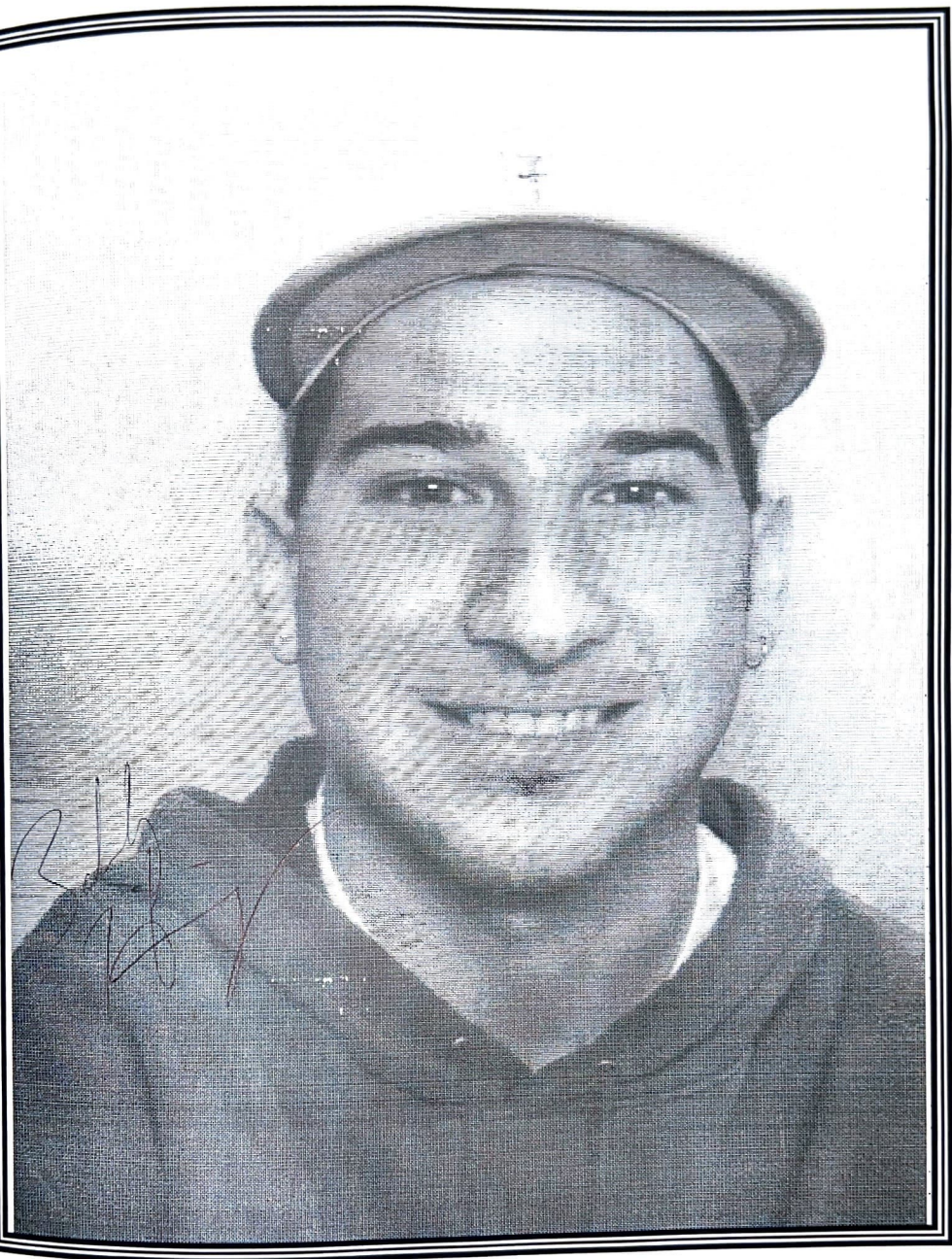
Amtrak derailment, which recently happened and is attributed to a group calling themselves "Brothers of the Gestapo"; the Gulf war crisis, and many other events. Another issue that is on the minds of many young adults today is AIDS. AIDS, a virus which has no known cure at this time, and is taking the lives of many people around the world. I hope that by the time you read this that there was a cure found and that you do not have to worry about this deadly disease. It sounds so odd to be referring to the current events that are happening right now to be considered ancient history to you.

I wish that I could be there to see the things as you see them, so I could experience the life you have. In a way I wish you could be here to experience "my time". That is one reason I have for writing you this letter. The other reason is so that you can put a personality with my name, so you know what type of person I am. This way I am not some old person that is in your family tree. I hope that you better understand who your great grandmother really was. Great grandmother, that too sounds so odd because marriage is so far from my mind right now, and children is an even scarier thought.

Love, one of your oldest relatives,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Wilburn". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'T' and 'W'.

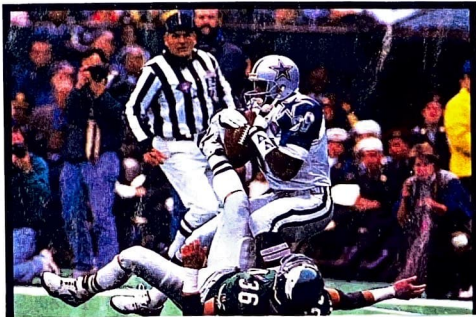
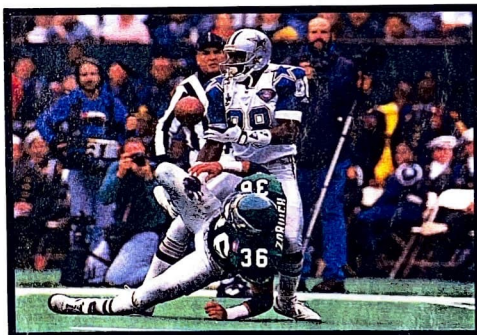
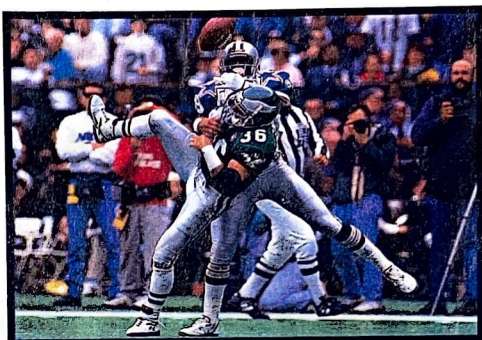
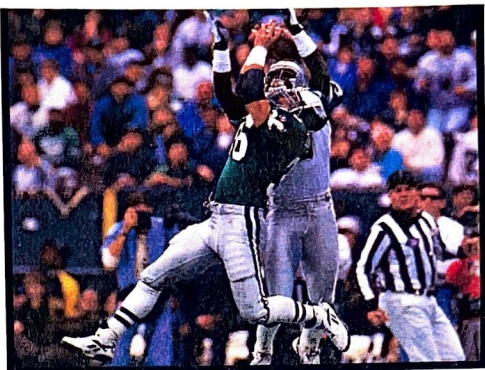
Teresa Wilburn



It's the game of our lives!



When people think of "America's Team", most people think of the Dallas Cowboys. They earned this title in the 1970's when they were the dominate team in football. But with their lack of production in the 1980's, the title took a back seat and people thought of them as the team that could not beat anyone. Now in the 1990's, with four play-off appearances in five years and two Super Bowl wins in three years, the title of "America's Team" is back in full force.



AL HEBBURN (3)

October 17, 1995

Dear nephew,

By the time you read this I may have already gone on to a better world. I am writing this letter for your eyes only because I wanted you to get an idea about the type of world I lived in, so you could compare how your world stacks up. I am 18 years old now and a first-year college student. In government, the Republicans run Congress and O.J. Simpson, the football star, was recently acquitted of two counts of murder. AIDS is the top threat in society and the Dallas Cowboys dominate the National Football League.

In politics, Bill Clinton is President, but people think his wife, Hillary, is always making the decisions. The main concerns are welfare and the national debt. Welfare is a concern because of the abuse of food stamps and medical insurance. Congress is claiming they are on a mission to trim the national debt, but nothing gets done because of the methods suggested. The president vetoes proposed bills because he is a Democrat and Congress votes no on bills because Republicans dominate the votes.

Besides politics, people are concerned with the AIDS problem we have encountered because of blood transfusions, reuse of needles by drug users, and unprotected sex. Millions of people have already died and more will follow. AIDS has claimed the life of Eazy E, a popular rap star. It has also ended the life of tennis great Arthur Ashe. AIDS will eventually claim the life of Magic Johnson, a pro basketball player. When AIDS is contracted, the disease eats away at the immune system eventually causing a painful death when it reaches it's most intense level.

In the world of sports, the Dallas Cowboys are dominating the National Football League. They won the World Championship in 1993 and again in 1994. The Cowboys will probably win it again in 1996. With a running back like Emmitt Smith and a quarterback like Troy Aikman, they are virtually unstoppable. Their defense is solid and with the acquisition of star corner back Deion Sanders, they can only get better. With so many great sports out there like baseball, tennis, golf, and football, I hope you have or have had the opportunity to play the sport of your choice.

That's really all I have to say, kid. Just remember to stay away from drugs, get an education, stay out of trouble, respect your elders, and always have protected sex. Although the cure for AIDS will probably have been discovered, unfortunately, STD's will always be out there.

Your Uncle,



