To Our Grandchildren:

by

Liz Conrad John Iden Morgan Jolley Kristy Kostelnick

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Liz Conrad 10-19-95 Final draft

Dear Grandchildren,

Today, I was reading an article about DNA replacement in Newsweek magazine and began to wonder how this will affect future generations. In particular, I started to imagine my grandchildren and how life will be for them in 30 years. This letter is directed to my descendents with the hope that what I have experienced will somehow help them to understand the ground work of their present day society. Also, I wonder how history has been written compared to how I have experienced it first hand.

One of the greatest events of 1995 centers on the racial issues that resulted from the murder of African-American O.J. Simpson's caucasian spouse Nichole and her friend, Ron Goldman. Never before has a double murder trial played such a role in everyday American life. The international news channel, CNN, broadcasted the trial as if it were a soap opera. The nation was divided and still remains so between those who support Simpson and those who believe that he actually killed his own wife. Ugly heads of racial tension surfaced when the police detective, Mark Furmann, was exposed as a man of hatred and vindictiveness. He had initially investigated the crime scene and helped compile the state's evidence against Simpson. Although I personally feel that he was guilty and has been wrongly freed because of his wealth and power, fortunately for Los Angeles and for the entire nation, the football legend was found innocent. Several years prior, riots erupted when L.A. police were captured on video beating African-American Rodney King. I feel that because of his innocence, the city of Los Angeles was spared further racial hatred and life now continues as normal.

A second and even more troubling event for me is the seemingly endless slaughter of human lives in Bosnia. DNA restructuring can prevent certain genetic problems but cannot end the ethnic injustices that are occurring among the fighting religious sects of Bosnia. The former Yugoslavians are massacred; yet little care seems to be given for their deaths! Several years before this, our nation sent multitudes of troops into Kuwait, but that was an oil rich emirate worth defending. Ironically, Bosnia is simply a nation torn asunder by ethnic hatred; therefore, some believe it is not worth the same political effort. Sadly, everything revolves around governmental wants and not human needs.

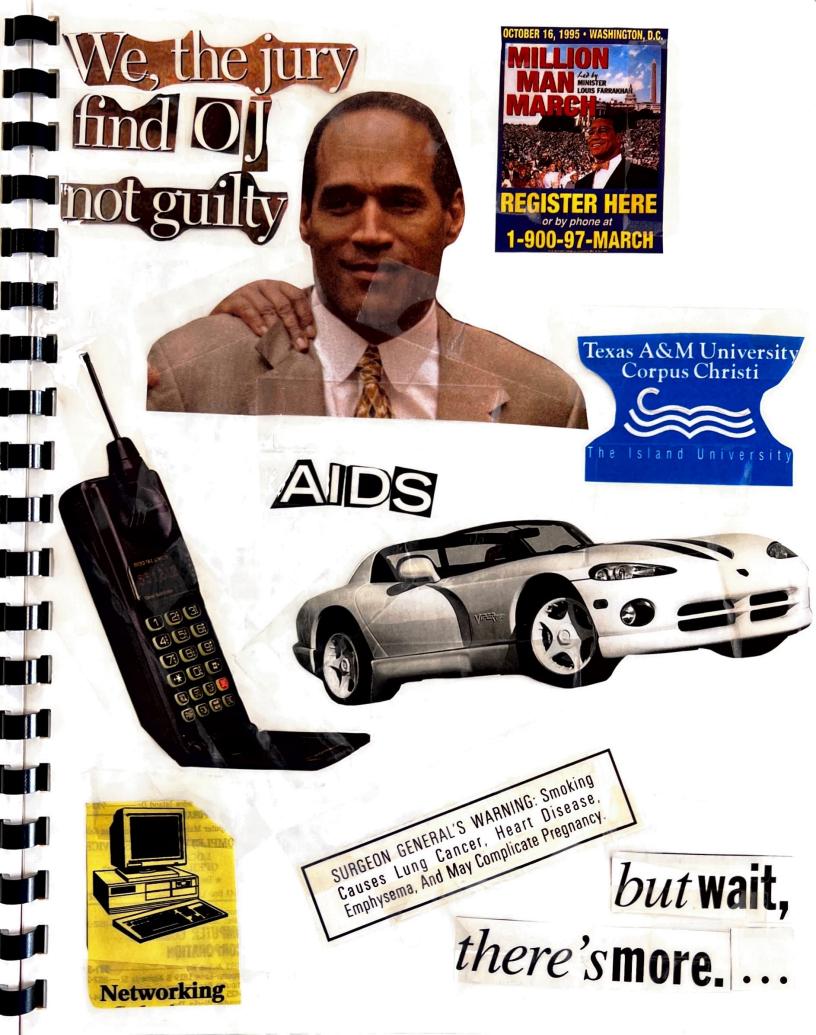
Even at the modern university Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, which I currently attend, I probably cannot relate to your futuristic lifestyle; I can only predict. Two of my favorite pastimes are dove hunting and fishing; interestingly, the killing of wildlife is still a sport and not deemed totally unacceptable which I feel it will be in your lifetime. We are primarily a carnivorous society; however, some people, for instance your Great Aunt Catherine and Uncle Vince, are leading a vegan lifestyle. A vegan is an individual who denies all animal products from his or her diet; butter, eggs, milk, and meat are unacceptable. A vegetarian simply refuses meat; most likely, you are one of the two. With all of the fats and other harmful product we consume, I am sure you can only imagine the terrible

things that we're doing to our bodies. I wonder, will you ever taste a dove? I predict it will be a violation of federal law, but I cannot help but wonder how you, the generation of the future, will deal with my suspected regulations. Will you also be guilty of carnivorous tendencies?

In closing, dearest children, I only hope that your generation will be better equipped than we are. generation has been labeled "Generation X" by our parents, and that seems to be a slap in the face. This generic title is given to us because we are looked upon as selfish, unproductive citizens without any true identity. I have always believed that I am someone with contributions and attributes worth recognizing. I participate in beach clean-ups on Padre Island, and I work with the Christian soup kitchen for the needy. Regardless of the neverending hours that my friends and I devote to helping society, there are countless numbers of gang members who perpetrate society and poison it. I believe that the events of the last part of the Twentieth Century will be so different from what you will experience; so I hope your generation will be able to overcome all obstacles. The Simpson trial, the Bosnian massacres, and the nonvegan lifestyles are all important to me. I wonder what will fill your lives in the not so distant future? Have fun and be careful!

Fondly,

Grandmere Liz



To My Grandchildren:

The reason that I am writing you this letter today is to give you an idea of what my life is like during my freshman year of college. It is the 11th of October, 1995 and I just arrived home from a tough day of school at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christ. As I was driving home I began to recall all of the current events and issues surrounding my lifetime. I started wondering if all of the technology we know in the late twentieth century will be obsolete by your life time.

In my generation, we are just beginning to become computer literate. All kinds of new things have been recently introduced that can be done with these machines. For instance, all of the students of my English 101 class have been taught to send their written work to each other through an inter class network, allowing us to look over each other's work and send comments over the computer. A number of us also have been learning to e-mail friends and teachers both on and off campus across the internet.

Lately, I have been following a number of judicial trials as well as some important health issues on T.V. Simpson trial recently ended about two weeks ago and although I did not follow the trial day by day, I still wonder if justice has been served with his non-guilty verdict. O.J. is a famous ex-football star that has been accused of the double homicide of his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ronald Goldman. Also, a famous Tejano star from my home town of Corpus Christi, Selena, has been murdered and her killer, Yolanda Saldivar, is awaiting her trial. Secondly, A number of health issues, such as the right for a woman to terminate her pregnancy through abortion and the deadly disease AIDS, have made me curious as to how they will play a role in your lifestyles and lives in general. So far we haven't found a cure for AIDS, the fatal disease that attacks the immune system. I wonder if there will be, if the disease still exists, for your generation. With the issue of abortion, it is hard to find a group of people who are one hundred percent for or against it although much controversy is surrounding this issue.

President Clinton is now getting ready for the 1996 presidential elections. He is hoping for re-election but some people do not think he is the most popular candidate because he has been under constant criticism of whether or not he has followed out his presidential duties. One of the issues I believe the next group of presidential candidates will campaign on is working on the problems of air, water, and land pollution and the depleting of the ozone layer. These are two important events that have worried and puzzled many people of this country and around the world.

Ever since the civil rights movement in the 1960's, the United States has become more tolerant of certain trends and lifestyles. For instance, body piercing and tattoos have become a rising trend in our modern society. Also, a large amount of attention has been given to the rights of minorities to ensure equal rights of all Americans. This has also lead to good relations with some foreign countries.

Television has become a big part of all our lives. Movie stars like Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone, and Chevy Chase have made an impact in their own ways. During the 1980's, Stallone was thought by many to be one of the all-time great action stars. Recently, Stone has caused some controversy of how far an actress can go in portraying the lifestyles of gays in the movie

Basic Instinct. In addition, Chase has given us the pleasure of

his outstanding comedy.

I currently do not know what the future has in store for your generation, but I do believe the we are all moving in the right direction. The many people of the world have been trying to take care of our environment and their culture. I just hope that the many technological advances in store for you will bring positive things to both the world and its people.

Sincerely,
John Iden
(Finol) Draft \$



Morgan Jolley October 19, 1995 Final

October 12, 1995 a.d.

To my prodigy,

Hello children; I hope the world is treating you kindly. I thought that you might want to know how it was for me when I was a teenager in college, so I decided to write this letter to tell you. I'll be talking about my personal life, today's news,

politics, clothes, and current technology.

Well, my personal life could be going better, but it would be a lot worse if I did not have one! You see, your grandmother, Ann Marie Pietrantonio, and I are in a bit of a tip now. We don't get to see that much of each other, and I wonder how far we have drifted since I am going to college at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and she is a senior in Orange Grove High School (Orange Grove, Texas). I know that things will get better, though, because we both want to make our relationship work. I guess it's not as bad as I make it out to be. Things in the country could use some work though.

Probably the most talked about thing in the U.S. was the nationally broadcasted O.J. Simpson trial. The trial, which took about a year, finally ended last week. O.J. Simpson was accused of murdering his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman. The jury took only about four short hours to contemplate the fate of O.J., and to the disappointment of many Americans, he was found not guilty. Believe me when I say I could have lived without the long boring trial. Unfortunately, more tragedy has occurred.

Terrorism in the United States has returned for yet another year. This time, though, it's our own people that have caused the disaster. A group of people got together and successfully derailed an Amtrak passenger train in Arizona. They did it by pulling up the spikes that held the rails down, and when the train came speeding by, it came off the tracks. A note was left by the group saying they did it in retaliation of the Waco incident.

Waco is a town in Texas where a man known as David Koresh lead a group of religious people known as the Branch Davidians. David Koresh had his people preparing for a last battle. The incident ended with government forces assaulting the Branch Davidian compound. David Koresh had the compound put to fire, and was assumed to have burned to death.

Excuse me a second while I change the music CD (that means compact disk for you modern youngsters) in my computer... The band Alice In Chains has to be my favorite band. Try looking it up in the hard rock section section of your local music store some day.

On the medical front, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is still being a nuisance with all its problems. AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease that attacks the body's immune system leaving it defenseless to normal everyday illness. I hope a cure for the deadly disease is found soon, because people are dying from it every day.

In the political world, next year President Bill Clinton will be challenged in the 1996 Presidential Election. I hope someone capable wins. We need a good president to lead the nation.

You might be interested in what people are wearing these days. Well, I don't know, but if it's different it's usually good. I can tell you, however, that your grandmother looks great in any clothing. (Be sure to show her this letter, so I can get on her good side!)

Let's talk about technology. Earlier I mentioned using audio CDs in a computer. That's called multimedia. Today, a person can have their television, phone, and other household appliances connected to their computer. This is big stuff now days! Currently the fastest personal computer processor is a 586 (for DOS based systems). Next year, though, they'll come out with the 686, and my computer now will be out dated.

Overall, the year 1995 has been fun. I hope I have given you at least a little taste of the current times, and I hope to write you again one day, perhaps in happier times. For now, though goodbye.

Love, Grandpa Morgan



Kristy Kostelnik October 19, 1995 Draft 3

To my grandchildren:

How are you? I am your grandmother and this letter's purpose is to give you some idea about what goes on in the life of a college student at the end of the twentieth century. I hope you find it some what interesting or informative. There will most likely be a chance for us to discus the topics touched on in this letter, but until then this will have to suffice.

Today is October 12, 1995. At this time I am eighteen years old, a freshmen in college at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi, and I just got home from one of my classes and am watching MTV. MTV stands for Music Television and is a mostly music video channel. My roommates and I have also been checking the weather channel quite often lately to hear the latest coordinates, speed, and direction of tropical storm Roxanne since we live so close the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to viewing these features on T.V., getting to see the entirety of a television show has been hard to do until the deliberation of the verdict in the O.J. Simpson trial. O.J. Simpson, a national sports hero and role model for many, was charged with the murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman, but was found not quilty on both counts. This is a landmark trial because it could and most likely will set presidence for similar trials concerning the same subject, in the future. Since there were so many questions about the role of racism, planted evidence, and the obvious abuse Nicole Brown suffered from the hands of O.J. Simpson in this case opinions about Simpson's guilt and innocence are varied.

Other than watching television I attend six classes and work on most Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at Beall's in Padre Staples Mall. My title as sales associate requires a number of tasks to be completed every time I work. In the department I am assigned to, the Men's Department, I must greet customers that enter within thirty seconds, suggest particular items, know almost everything about the merchandise, and open at least one Beall's charge account per every \$3,000 merchandise I sell. These tasks are sometimes hard to do, especially when intolerable customers are encountered. All in all, though, this job is not so bad since I get to meet a great deal of people.

Then, when I am not working, my classes keep me extremely busy. They include Political Science, Political History, Freshmen Seminar, Composition, Chemistry, and Chemistry Lab. Of which Chemistry is my most preferable because it is associated with my career goal, which is to become a Registered Nurse. I would like to work in pediatrics because I love spending time and interacting with children. In addition to this I also enjoy going home to Hallettsville and spending time with my family when I can.

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When I get to go home some weekends, spending time with my parents and brother are some of my favorite activities since I

do not see them very often. I also enjoy seeing both sets of my grandparents and my aunts, uncles, and cousins. On your grandmother's side of the family there are eight siblings, which makes for great parties and family gatherings, and on your grandfather's side there are five which also makes for great times when we all get together. Since almost all of both of these families live in Hallettsville, contacting them for gatherings is fairly simple.

In Hallettsville my father owns cattle and had intended on expanding this relatively small endeavor, but the cattle market has dropped considerably due to NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the drought in Mexico. Since they have no way of continuing their livestock's upkeep, Mexican cattlemen flooded the markets with cheap cattle, especially in Texas, leaving little to no competition for Texas cattlemen. This has affected many herd owners in the beef industry, including my father, your grandfather, and your Great-Grandpa Jansky.

Well, these are some of the events that detail my everyday life and I hope they may give you some idea as to what my life is like. I contemplate what circumstances your lives consist of in the future and what dramatic changes have occurred. There are so many questions I have for you, but I'm sure we will have plenty of time to talk one day.

With love, Your grandmother, Kristy Kostelnik