

January 18, 1995

Dear Deb,

I went through my collection and the 2 letters are the only ones I could find from Dad. And the 3 snapshots are the only ones I had.

The best advice I ever got from Dad was when I was about 12 years old. I had been fighting with Mom every Sunday morning because I didn't want to go to church. Dad took me aside one day and said that I could avoid the battle if, about an hour before church on Sunday, I would take my shotgun and go hunting and not return until well after they'd left for church. It worked.

Laura said she would see if you could change the date of the party from March 5 to March 12. We leave for a week in Cozumel on March 4 and will return on March 11. We are going to stay in a bed & breakfast owned by some Michigan state employees. It will cost us \$270 and we have our own bathroom. Another couple is going with us. He scuba dives, and I am taking a scuba class so I can get "certified" while we are down there. We had our first day in the pool today. I had to tread water for 10 minutes and swim the length of the pool 8 times. Next Monday we learn to snorkel and the following Monday we use the scuba gear. I am using leave time and taking the class in the afternoon. Carol doesn't want to try scuba, but she plans to snorkel.

We have about a foot of snow here, but it is not very cold. Last weekend would have been a great time to do some cross country skiing, or sliding down hill. But we stayed inside. Two Christmases ago I bought Carol an inflatable tobaggan, but we have never used it.

Tom, the Scientologist, and Amy, the Hindu, were here for Christmas to visit me, the atheist, and Carol, the Catholic. Tom is still peddling prints on street corners (and not getting rich). He lives in Edwardsville, MO, but travels out of state to sell pictures. Amy just switched from a full-time, permanent job in a real estate agency - where she was making \$8.50 an hour with no benefits - to a \$10 an hour temporary-with-possibility-of-hire job with a company that sells 911 software. She will be a customer service person, doing phone work.

Love,
Steve