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Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [January 14, 1941]

Virginia Brainard

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P.S. I found the stamped
envelops.

Tuesday, Jan. 14
1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

My work is going along very well and I'm no longer scared or worried. So don't you worry needlessly about it, either. It won't help in the least. I know I can do it and it's all up to me, now. Dean Kelsey called me in for a talk last Saturday morning. He had ~~the~~ Daddy's letter in front of him and went over the same round of questions that you always ask and to which the answer is always "No." He was just grand, tho', and told me to come right in as soon as I hit my snags. The results of my first tests will be the first real indication I'll have of my progress and I don't know where they'll come up. I expect trouble in Applied Art because of my lack of ability, but Dorothy, my room mate, is helping me because she's a major. Also, Economics is terrifically hard. I can see through it all but it's so darn technical. But if I start slipping I'm going to ask Edwards if he'll shed a little light on the subject.

I've got my "beat" on the Student! I have charge of handling all the dorm news from the Dorm Council and the entire system — 12 of them — 4 men's and 8 women's. It's works of course, but just fascinating and I have a "crew" — a reporter in each dorm — working with me.

Daddy, how much would it cost an out-of-state

Received the \$1.00

student to go to summer school at T.C. the first session next year? — including board and room. My room mate, Dorothy Everts, has to go to summer school next year so we think it'd be fun if she come up to St. Cloud and went to T.C. with me. If we rent our rooms again, she could rent one and stay with me. She can travel on a pass — her dad is a railroad man — an electrical engineer. Her major is Applied Art but there are quite a few general subjects she could transfer. She's from Boone — about 15 miles east of Ames.

Religious Emphasis Week was last week. Dr. Paines gave the most wonderful addresses I've ever heard from any pulpit. He's so human and down-to-earth and real. No abstract ideals or principles. He made everything concrete. None of this "Don't question ~~the~~ what is right. Just do as you are taught. God knows best." He ~~taught~~ told us why we should hang on to our principles and ideals — defined those, told us exactly what to do to strengthen ourselves and also showed that ^{ministers} ~~understanding~~ mis-steps — None of this "If you don't do thus and so, you'll go to hell." It was the most liberal, realistic outlook on religion that I've ever heard. It put into words the outlook I've always had. His Marriage Forums were simply wonderful. He spoke forcefully in presenting the fundamentals of marriage rather than the romance.

P.S. Don't forget to send my papers!

My laundry bag is going out today. Can't find the cake ~~cartons~~ — Saw about a "birthday cake." It's my turn up here!
Love, Virginia