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Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [March 3, 1941]

Virginia Brainard

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March 3, 1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Guess what! Yesterday noon Mrs. Colbert called me. I was so excited I hardly could talk to her! She said "It must be hard for you to know who this is when you're 300 miles from home!" And I nearly jumped out of the phone booth! At first I thought it was June Burdick ~~but~~ because ~~to~~ their voices sound just alike over the phone. It was wonderful. They were just going through and so I couldn't see them - but wasn't it nice for her to call me? I told her to tell you I want to come home so badly I hardly know what to do. I miss you so much and June is so darn far away. Would it be possible for me to come home if I got a ride as far as Minneapolis?

Everything is going along pretty well here. Finals are coming up in 13 days. Need I say more? From now on I'm going to see 1:00-2:00 every night. Tomorrow I pre-classify for next quarter.

I've had two evenings of tutoring so far. My prof. told me I should have at least eight hours but I don't know if I'll need them. I did go to Leland Stowe Wednesday evening after all - I finally worked it in. He said a lot of things which many people here disagree with. What he had to say about our position and how America should act certainly sounded sensible to me. Of course, his talk was punctuated with propoganda but all the same I think he knows what he's talking about. Discussion at a Coffee Forum here ^{the day} afterwards took the attitude that America ~~is~~ should keep hands out of Europe until we ourselves are actually in physical danger and then fight ~~for~~ for ourselves; and that aid to Great Britain would be practically a declaration of war. Well, that seems stupid to me. I can't believe anyone could believe we are actually neutral in this situation. Our whole stand ~~against~~

in foreign affairs has been ^{definitely} pro-British and
condemning Germany. I'll write out the notes I took
on his speech. I really got quite excited about it altho'
I certainly didn't agree with alot of what he said.

The dorm-dinner dance was just lovely Sat.
night. I had a wonderful time. We had music during
the dinner hour and danced between courses. It was
real sophisticated. Do you know, I couldn't find a
single thing in the line of a jacket here in Ames?
Not a thing - and I wrote to Younkers and they had
nothing either!! I was so disgusted. So I saved my
~~my~~ money but I was disappointed. I finally at the
last minute wore my white jacket over my green
formal. It was nice but I felt awfully "thrown-
together." Is there any chance for a new formal for
this spring? I ~~have~~ had a beautiful corsage. Six
beautiful roses - deep gold tipped with ~~is~~ a sort
of cerise red. Nice?

Thanks so much for the cold cream and soap
and Neel's Chocolate & Boullion cubes. Mother, could
you pick up a pair of dark brown gloves somewhere?
Spring is coming to Iowa state. The weather has
been lovely. I had a card from Robyn Sandborn
and she's in Hawaii!! I can hardly wait for a
letter.

I'm a celebrity now!! I crashed one of the
~~the~~ columns in the campus newspaper. First
one just to get in and we've been plotting for
months how to get in!! And Sat. morning I
picked up the student and there it was! It isn't at all
funny - its very obviously a space filler but
its my name and my room mates are jealous!

Nope - the Pi Phi's & Tri-Delt's and the Omega's
have done exactly nothing about me at all. Of
course they're not interested in anyone with low
grades but I've been rushed by the A. D. P.'s and
Alpha Gamma back whom know my grades aren't
up - yet. I'm not sure I want to pledge even
if I had the chance but I'd certainly like to have
the chance, anyway. Please think some more about
the possibilities of my coming home -

P.S. Would you like to send me a chocolate cake - I wish?
All my love,
Virginia