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## Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [March 26, 1941]

Virginia Brainard

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March 26, 1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

The new quarter started Monday and everything is just fine. My grades haven't come through definitely yet but I talked to my counselor and I'm off probation — for which I can shout "Halleluia!" The week of finals was horrible, <sup>and</sup> I worried so I hardly knew what day it was. You don't know what a night-mare it is. I dropped 9 pounds and my doctor over at the hospital told me I'd better pick it up in a hurry. But vacation wasn't any rest either. I spent it studying for this next quarter. I went out once — Saturday night. Studied Thurs. morning, afternoon, evening, Friday the same and Sat. morning and afternoon. So I'm all worn-out and up to my neck in this next quarter.

I'm sending this special because I haven't any money for books. And I hate to mention it, but I guess I need shoes. I haven't had any since last August and these won't stand the pace much longer. Will I be able to get anything for spring? I'd like a sweater and shirt or something like that. But what I really need is socks and pretty badly, too. Thanks so much for the pair you sent me. And I loved that blouse. It makes me feel so fresh and clean and brisk. My reversible came just in time — we've had alot of rain

and wet, heavy snow.

I saw Uncle Hal when he was here. He and Mr. + Mrs. Norman Powers took me out to the farm for Sunday dinner and I had a lovely afternoon with them. It was so nice. They have a grand place with a brand new house which they moved into ~~the day~~ ~~so~~ right in the midst of that terrible Armistice Day blizzard. I met their son who has been drafted and left last week for camp and also met the girl who spread all that propaganda about Ames and sororities, etc., last summer. She's very nice but certainly carries a chip on her shoulder. It was just been seeing Uncle Hal again. We called on Edward, too.

I signed up for tennis in Physical Education which means I've got to get a racket. I thought we could rent them but I guess not. Should I try to get a cheap one here or just what?

I don't see why this college costs so much money. Every time I turn around there's something else, 50¢ dorm dues, 50¢ gym fee, exorbitant prices for books and every professor assigns at least two text books ~~at~~ (which he himself has written, of course). Two or three of us often go together and buy a book between us and that stretches out the money some.

The \$5.00 saw me through vacation nicely. Room rent was \$2.00 ~~with~~ the other \$3.00 went for meals. I just ate breakfast once and I had a little left over to buy some paper for this quarter but that's all.

It's 11:30 and I promised myself I'd try to get eight hours of sleep every night — Good night.

Lou, Virginia