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## Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [January 23, 1942]

Virginia Brainard

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Friday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

It's Friday and it seems as though I've had only one or two letters from you since I left home,-----soooooo, how about some mail, huh? And I'll do my part, also.

This has been a difficult week for me. I've worked here at the Student every night until midnight. It's got to stop, now, ~~xxxxxxx~~ cause I can't take it anymore, but it got me my very first by-line and on the lead-off story, too-----it's in the first Student you're getting. A by-line on a story like that is something only the editors get, so I'm real proud. Night work may be a little hard on my constitution but it's wonderful for my career. I'm trying to get a real good start this quarter in journalism and get up enough impetus to shove me through the quarter on top. It's a good theory if it works.

P.S. Will you please send me some more medicine soap

~~xxxxxxx~~

I shall mess up this letter because I'm home now and this is easier than getting out my typewriter — which, incidentally, has to be fixed again! Can I get free servicing here in Ames? If so, how?

I decided I'd wait to finish this until the journal come. Mother, I love it, but I'm afraid it's too small. It seems to be too short. I could fix it up, maybe, but it isn't right to pay \$17 for a journal and then back it up. Could you send me the money you would have put into it instead? Then I could look around here and see if I have any mid-season luck. If not, I could buy material and have one made. My house mother knows a good dress maker here and it wouldn't take long. Will you do that? I might even be going to Des Moines — you never can tell — and could look there. So will you please send me the



money instead?

Gail F. was all dewy-eyed at Christmas when she told me about herself and Earl Teas. The only comment I could make then was "Ye Gods!" and that was purely mental. That is a good example of what happened to my judgement, too. Remember Harvey Shew? Gail said at Christmas that Vivian Fall didn't ~~she~~ see how she (Vivian) could ever go with anyone except Harvey when she was used to "nothing but the best." So, if Harvey there is nothing but the best, I can see where her judgement would be completely out of kilter.

There are alot of good kids at T.C. but the ones that have all the glamour seem to be the ones with the least on the ball. Or maybe the trouble is with those who are looking at them. I don't know. Ouyhow, I see things differently now. Down here men are MEN - or at least reasonable facsimiles. I'm thinking of Ron, without a doubt one of the most brilliant ~~of~~ students in school - and I'm thinking of Howard with his 3.8 all college average - both of them good looking and fun and popular and school leaders. And then there's Marlow who is tops any way you look at it. They were right about education broadening one!

Tomorrow is really going to be a big day.

We're putting out the special Women's Day Edition



of the student. For one day women will take the men's places in every position on the campus and the student will be put out entirely by us gals. So I'm Sports Editor! And I know absolutely nothing about sports. But I'm real thrilled because it's one of the top positions. Mary Burnham had it last year and she's now managing editor of the special edition.

My beat this quarter is all the administrative offices except Pres. Freley. It's the top beat on the campus and it's my big chance to get in solid with the administration. Through it I'm making the most important and influential friends I'll ever have while in school. I'm lucky. Dean Helser is my very good friend now. I see him twice a week. He hasn't had a story for me yet but we sit and talk for forty-five minutes and more about the war, what to believe ~~it~~ in, what to live by, death and what comes after it. It's ~~so~~ a wonderful experience for me just to listen to him. And if he's on my side, it will be just that much easier for me to get a job. Those friendships and contacts mean more anything else in many cases, and, in spite of a person's record, they can make or break his future. Write soon.

Love,  
Virginia