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Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [February 25, 1942]

Virginia Brainard

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Recommended Citation

Brainard, Virginia, "Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [February 25, 1942]" (1942). *Dudley Brainard Family Letters*. 57. <https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/brainard-letters/57>

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Tuesday, Feb. 25
Counselor's Office
Beardshear Hall

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I'm in my counselor's office waiting to pre-classify for next quarter — she just called me in and I guess I don't preclassify until March 4. I plan to take:

second quarter Chem. 106
" " Applied Art - 105

third " Econ. 213 - and get that sequence out of the way while I still know something about it. I'll take 16 - perhaps 17 - hours.

Wednesday

Today is the first day of Lent - Ash Wednesday. We all overslept because Ginny got up for 6:00 Mass and didn't ~~set~~ set the alarm again. We all jumped ^{her} when she got back and she was so appologetic about it. She sure has to take a lot from us but I guess it's good for her. She catches on quickly. Dorothy and I have figured out that it's not being an only child that's the matter there. It's her religion. I don't want you to think that she's an awful person and that I dislike her because that isn't true. She's very sweet and kind and just an all around swell person. She's just about my closest friend down here and you'll like her a lot so please don't be prejudiced. It's just that when you're living with a person their habits crop up that often drive others nearly crazy. I know I have them too.

Golly, but I miss you so damn much. I don't see how I go until June without seeing you. That's an awfully long time from now. Is there any way I can come home? I can't take my exams early and ~~to~~ be through by Monday at the very latest. I'm pretty sure I can get a ride home because a prof. here is from Minneapolis and says that anytime I haven't a way home to see him and he'd be glad to take me with him — and Lois Schumacher wants to come home, too, and possibly Mary Louise Halstead. We could all come together with him and divvy expenses — the gas cost in thirds — anything else? ~~The~~ None of the dorms will be open at all during vacation so I shall have to move

into the Union which means extra boards and room for that time just like ~~Thank~~ Thanksgiving vacation. ~~5~~

I had a talk with my physics instructor today and I've got a "B" in the bag all right. That's a four credit course, too. But I can't hear Selma Stone tonight!! I'm so disappointed I could cry. I have a Physics test tomorrow and have to pull my "B" again. Besides that I have an hour of tutoring in Econ. this evening and a class at 4:00 this P.M. — the time of his afternoon lecture.

Dorothy and I have decided to give up candy during Lent. We have concluded that it's bad for our systems + faces and besides, a real sacrifice! So please don't tempt us with any in my laundry bag — I'll mail it this noon.

I received the \$10 and thank you very very much. I reserved our table for the dinner dance yesterday. ~~There will~~ We made up a party of 14 — seven couples — for our table and I had third choice of all the tables in the ballroom. Ours is right on the edge of the dance floor. The orchestra will play during the dinner hour so we can dance between courses, Nice? We're going to decorate our table with Shamrocks and stuff for St. Pat's Day.

It snowed today so spring won't come to Iowa State for awhile. I'm on the committee for our A.E.C. Tech. Journalism Open House for Weishea and have to write to all sorts of famous women who have "arrived" in our field. I'm excited about it.

I wrote to the Personal Shopping Service at Younkers for a jacket for my formal. I can't find a thing here in Ames. So she'll send me some things on approval. I hope I can get what I want. I sent a sample of my dress and described about what I want.

Oh, I want to come home so badly. Isn't there a way we can work it out??!!

All my Love, Virginia