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## Letter, Virginia Brainard to Dudley and Merl Brainard [October 22, 1942]

Virginia Brainard

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Thursday  
Oct. 22, 1942

Dear Mother and Daddy,

You were right about Fred. I feel like a heel. I wrote him a letter the other day and am now waiting and hoping patiently for an answer. I suppose the rest of my college days and the next few years will be spent like that so I might just as well get reconciled to it. Of course, he hasn't written me, either, since I was in Des Moines two weeks ago but I'm hoping that he can come up next week. If not, Nov. 1 is only another week away and he gets paid then.

I've been analyzing the whole situation in the cold light of day ~~→~~ these last weeks. Marriage, of course, is supposed to be our ultimate goal. But first I have to graduate. We can't get married while I'm in school because we haven't any money. And if I were ~~married~~, I wouldn't ~~have~~ ~~→~~ get as good a job as I ~~→~~ will as a single woman. A good job <sup>for me</sup> is essential because he has at least 7 expensive years of school after the war. All right. Supposing I <sup>am</sup> graduated and ~~→~~ have a good job. And supposing that he has his specialist's rating. Let's pretend that this is a year from today and I'm established in a good job and he's established in camp drawing fairly good pay. Then could we get married? If we did we couldn't live together and could see each other maybe once every two months for one weekend. And we still wouldn't be able to afford <sup>it</sup> because he has to save his money for med. school. So the war goes on and the years go on and eventually the war is over and 6 months later he is released. Then he goes into med. school and the years still go on. And that's how we spend ~~→~~ our "best years." The next 5 to 10 years are when we should get married and ~~→~~ ~~→~~ have children. But I guess we can't buck fate. I still think that <sup>worth</sup> he's <sub>1</sub> waiting for.

I'm sorry to have been so long about writing. These weeks have been pretty hectic for me. But now I'm settled down into some sort of a schedule and will write regularly at least once a week from now on.

I'm ~~me~~ having mid-term tests this week and next. However, I did take time out yesterday from 4 to 6 p.m. to see a movie, "The Pied Piper." Don't miss it. It's so wonderful. It's from the novel by Nevil Shutes. I'm glad I took the time and I usually waste those two hours anyway.

Our enrollment has dropped only about 100 so Iowa State is now the largest school in the state. Iowa U.'s enrollment is down about as much as Minnesota's. You've probably read that we've changed <sup>football</sup> coaches after two disastrous defeats this fall. Ray Donels resigned last Wednesday and Mike Michalske took over his duties. The following Saturday we played Drake and beat them 29 to 7.

Thanksgiving vacation has been abolished so there won't be a breathing spell before finals this year. However, the 3 days of vacation have been added on to our Christmas vacation so that means that I can come home about Dec. 16 or 17 depending upon when I'm through with my finals. I'm wondering <sup>what</sup> the transportation situation will be by that time.--there are so many wild rumors going around,

My editor and managing editor expect to go into the army at Christmas rather than in March so these are the last months of the Daily Student as I have known it and worked for it. Many changes will take place and most of the work will be handled by the women. I'm almost sorry that I won't have much of a finger in it. We'll probably cut down to publishing 4 pages rather than 8 pages.

I'm reading "The Last Time I Saw Paris" by Elliot Paul. The French, may I say, really knew how to live! Am also reading "Not Peace But a Sword" by Vincent Sheean and "Philosopher's Holiday" by Erwin Edman. I enjoy them both very much. Sheean's picture

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of England's incredible stupidity and complacency of 1939 is acidly drawn. He might have been talking about our Middle West just before Pearl Harbor.

Board in the dorms has now gone up to \$5.50 a week--that makes it \$22 a month. I'm glad I'm getting out of here in June. Incidentally, my board is due this week.

I hope Mother and Grandma have a nice trip to Michigan and that Mother has a good visit and rest.

P.S. Just got your letter & will write Grandma right away & Connie soon. Am sending the pictures & negatives - not so good.

Love,  
Virginia