

February 15, 1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

I have just received my mid-term grades – they are as follows

Applied Art – C
Chemistry – C
Economics – D
Physics – B
Psychology – B

These averaged together on the basis of A – 4 pts., B – 3 pts., C – 2, D, 1 – Each grade multiplied by the no. of credits the course is and divided by 16 – the number of hours I taking gives me a 2.12 average – and only a 1.75 takes me off probation so – everything is just fine and I feel very happy and relieved. And my counselor tells me I'll be up for promotion into senior college the middle of the spring quarter. I got that "D" in Econ. Because the first half of the course I'm taking is an application of the principle they teach now in 211 – the beginning course in the Econ. Sequence – which I didn't learn because I transferred that first course. So of course – I talked to my instructor and he said "Well, of course your mid-term test wasn't so good but it wasn't too bad, either, so don't worry about it. I'm not even going to average mid-term grades in on the final anyway. You would have been all right except for that one question which you couldn't possibly have answered without a good background in 24." So I want to take about 4 or 5 hours of tutoring so I can pass that final with a good grade. He recommended a good tutor and several of us may chip in and divide the expenses. It will be about \$1.75 an hour. What do you think? Can I afford it? I want to push that Econ. Grade up to "C," my psych grade up to "A," and Chem. Grade to "B" – which will give me a final average of 2.6. So tell Don he doesn't have to worry about my grades.

Its Saturday morning and as soon as I finish this I'm going to mail it and my laundry.

Thanks so much for the lovely candy, cookies, stockings. You're so darn good to me. Was I ever thrilled when I unpacked my laundry bag and (?) that box. Of course it was all gone by evening but we all enjoyed it so much and I was so happy. It was just been of you to give me a nice valentine's Day and taking my hint to Heart!

Wednesday I heard Eve Curie. She is truly a very exceptional individual – a true, (?) -a-goodness French woman. Made me wish that the ¼ French in me wasn't so far removed! Her lecture was "Science and a Woman" and she traced the history of the discovery of radium in relationship to Pierre and Marie Curie's life. I took some extensive notes and these qualifications are the one's I like best. There are Madame Curie's philosophies and evidence of her genius, courage and strength in her own words:

"Life, it seems, is none to easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance, we must have faith that we are meant for something in this world and whatever it costs, we must achieve that purpose." [The emphasis of my underlining is Eve Curie's -]

To the question of "Was radium Marie's or Pierre's genius and discovery?" Mlle. Curie said "Records prove that the start was Marie's. But the genius of each collaborated as in a beautifully blended piece of music or moved on different lines as in counterpoint." Madame Curie always regarded fame as a sort of conspiracy to keep her from working. She once said, "I long for calmer days in some quiet country where lectures are forbidden and newspaper men

persecuted.” Once asked “What is an ideal life for a woman she answered, “I can wish nothing better for a girl than a simple family life and some work that will interest her.”

I was very greatly impressed by the lecture and the example of her life. I suddenly wished that I could become as passionately bound up in my work but I want a much fuller, more rounded normal life. Eve Curie is very beautiful. I saw her on the campus during the day and was within arms reach after the lecture when she was signing autographs. She has a lovely warm, human smile and perfect poise.

The Minneapolis Symphony under Dimitri Mitropolous is playing here next Sunday. The following week Leland Stowe is to lecture here on his many experiences during this war. I’m so thrilled at the idea of hearing him. Wish you be here for that, Daddy. I’ll take some good notes and write it up and send it to you. Its good experience for me. I take notes at every lecture.

Tonight is the men’s Panhellenic Formal. Its about 10 to 8 and I’m all ready and waiting for my date. Its not a corsage dance but he’s bringing me his fraternity flower to wear in my hair – nice? I’m wearing my green formal. Tonight’s the night I’m supposed to keep entertain the President of the college and his wife and Dean Helser, etc.!

Yesterday I got to counting up and I’ve had 118 inches of material printed in the Student this year. The spring quarter I plan to enlarge my writing beyond just my dormitory beat. Its too easy.

I’ve begun to think a little bit more on the subject of sororities, now that my grades are up where I can pledge if I want to. The Alpha Gams have entertained me twice – at a coffee hour and then at dinner. At first I liked them very much and was quite interested – but the second time I wasn’t quite so sure that I’d like to live with them for two years. Of course that’s just my point of view and they may not even want me but, anyways what do you think? I still don’t want a sorority.

Virginia went home this week-end. Why couldn’t you and Daddy drive down to see during your spring quarter? Maybe you could bring Doris May – I wish – and Connie or El – Connie, I think. Getting a look at the college – any college other than T.C. might pep her up. Sure wish you could do it.

Sunday Morning

I had a nice time last night but – aw gee – I wish I could have a new formal so darn badly. We just can’t afford it at all because around these college towns here and in Des Moines they’re pretty darn expensive. The sorority gals all looked so smooth last night. Our big dorm dinner dance is March 1 – that’s in just two more weeks. Couldn’t I have about \$5.00 for a little jacket for my green formal? My white one is pretty badly tarnished. I know its expensive here but it would be even more so to get to Des Moines – we dress up so much more down here and my grades are up now – please?

I received your five dollars and thanks so much. Enclosed is what I did with it Daddy, I can’t remember your giving me money to pay that bill for Mrs. Lawrence but you much have if

its in your book. Did you give it to me New Year's Day when I went over to get my things from her? I'm positive I didn't use it for anything else because I had just \$10 when I left. I remember I had to get it changed so I'd have some small change. Can you get it straightened out? Let me know.

Mrs. Springer called me today and congratulated me on my marks. And my counselor says "The most important thing, Virginia, is that you're working and you're getting results."

Sunday evening

Tonight I had a very nice date – a steak dinner, movie and ice cream afterwards. That's spending a lot of money but his father's a banker – Oklahoma. Please write soon – I'm completely happy and well and healthy and I love you – Can't you come down here during spring vacation. I can't wait until June.

All my love,

Virginia