

Sunday, April 27, 1941

Dear Mother and Daddy,

Another week gone and the weather has been beautiful! If you only could see this campus. Its simply beautiful. [Vushea?] will be here in less than ten days and I'm looking forward to it so much. My mid-terms will all be over this week. I spent yesterday afternoon and evening – yes. Saturday evening – studying Chem. This afternoon was also devoted to Chemistry although I don't have a test until Thursday. Guess I told you I got 92 on my negative ion test. But on the other hand there is my first lecture quiz on which I got only 68. I get so discouraged when things like that happen. Our tests have six questions and we're to answer only five. Each question will have from three to six parts. There wasn't anything really wrong with my test. I mean I didn't make any big mistakes, such as not knowing how to work problems but it was the little mistakes that counted up. A -6 here for an unbalanced equation, a -2 there for a wrong valence. It all counts up. A lot of it is carelessness but I have to work so fast that I can't recheck. It has to be right the first time or else. But I love Chem. That surprises me so much but I like it so much! I wish it weren't so hard for me.

Last Friday we did some more cooking in Household Equipment. We made waffles and I used an electric waffle mold and also made brownies on it. I learned how to use a pressure cooker and cooked carrots in it. It took just three minutes. Then I made some coffee in a pyrex "Silex" coffee maker. Some of the girls baked gingerbread in an electric oven just like the one you have.

My roommate has just gone downstairs to buy us our suppers – two candy bars! But I still weigh 130. Wish I could gain at least ten more pounds but I guess not.

Betty Nolan and Wayne Kaski were here this week-end as you know, and it was so good to see them! I saw them just twice and then rather briefly. We made all sorts of plans to meet and for them to come over to the dorm but meetings interfered every time. I was kind of disappointed cause people from St. Cloud, specially my own friends, don't get down here every day but they were so busy and so was I. But it was swell seeing 'em, all right.

The war! I don't know – it must be spring or something but two of our girls from Roberts were married today. There were two five-pound engagement parties today and at least five or six girls were "pinned" over the week-end.

Everyone is bearing down on studying for test this week. Do you know how they do it? The night before a test, instead of sitting down for a last review or exam-session, which (?) the case may be, they make out little [cribs?] and then go to bed. I'm still above that but it's a hard struggle. College certainly doesn't stack some of the finest standard and attributes. Some of the kids just get desparate over grades. It just becomes an obsession with them. They want to squabble with the prof. over every minute grade and mark. They keep regular lists of every little grade they get and spend hours and hours adding and subtracting to figure their average. I've been like that all too often myself but you have to fight for what you get. And they weigh us down with all these darn prerequisites! Here I am with about four or five quarters of Chem on my

curriculum. Well, I love Chem. but when I start cooking on my job or in my home am I going to care whether it's the negative or positive ions that made my food burn?

I'm so tired. I'm going to add some more to this in the morning. Mother, do you supposed you could send me a pair of nylons? We wear stockings so little around here and they just last and last. I know I had bad luck with my first pair but I've gone right through my other stockings, too. The way nylons wear around here, they certainly seem to be worth the money paid for them. Some light – but not too light – shade with a coppery, brownish tint. That would be just swell. Thanks so much for the anklets. I sure need them. Could you send me some yellow ones to go with my yellow blouse? I've been thinking that we'd better let the shirt go. I haven't bought a thing new for spring but I don't even care much anymore. I haven't time. I just throw my clothes on. I can dress for breakfast in eight minutes and that includes everything! It isn't very conducive to good – grooming, neatness and good care of clothes and person but no one else has time for it, either. It certainly is true that “1 out of every 10 girls are beautiful and the other three come to Iowa State”!!

Must get to bed now. 'Night –

Monday Morning

Mm – it's a beautiful morning! I'm waiting for the mail and have no 8:00 class but that time must be spent in chem. There we only about six more weeks left. I must get a job this summer I had a letter from Jane Gale saying that she's not going to college next year. Sometimes I wish I could get out and work for a while. I get so tired of studying – studying – studying day in and day out. I've gone to school for 21 months now without a break. I've just got to get a job.

The mail is in now so I'll mail this right away.

Love,

Virginia