

Friday, Jan. 23, 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, cause I can't take it anymore, but it got me very first by-line and on the lead-off story, too-----it's in the first Student you're getting. As 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 constibution 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. I'ts a good theory if it works.

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

I decided I'd wait to finish this until the formal came. 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 formal 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 decoy.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 see how she (Vivian) could ever go with anyone except Harvey when she was used to "nothing but the best, I can see where her judgement would be completely out of kilter.

There are a lot of good kids at T.C. but the ones that have all the glamour seem to be the ones with the last on the fall. Or maybe the trouble is with those who are looking at them. I don't know. Anyhow, I see things differently now. [Darov?] here men are MEN- or at least reasonable [faesimiles?] I'm thinking of Ron without a doubt are one of the most brilliant students in school-and I'm thinking of Howard with his 3.8 all college average-back up there good looking and firm and popular and [real?] leaders. And then there's Marlow ho is top 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 Burchaw had it last year and she's now managing editor of the special edition.

My beat this quarter is all the administrator offices except Pres. Friley. It's the top beat are 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 [argue?] about the war what to believe in, what to live by, death and what comes after it. It's 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 than anything else in many cases and, in spite of a persons [regard?] they can make or break his future. Write soon.

Love,

Virginia

P.S. Will you please send me some more medicated soap?