

Reason Your Writing

Newsy, gay letters, says June Welch, will bring parents big returns on their investment in you

"GOODBYE, write soon and tell us all about college." How many parents have said the same thing! They will receive real pleasure and satisfaction from newsy letters telling about your busy days.

Meeting new people and going new places is fun, and every family wants to hear about it. It is a good idea to scribble down reminders of the day's happenings. Then when it's time for the next letter there will be many interesting items to include.

Don't be a Dismal Daisy whose passing troubles, little colds and pains must be shared with Mother. Mother may have more time to worry than thoughtless Daisy. Parents who have planned for your college years will get big returns on their investment in you if your letters are newsy and gay.

Mother is especially interested in hearing about your room. Tell her how the curtains fit and how you've arranged the furniture. Add diagrams and sketches wherever you can. Parents will also appreciate a map of the campus.

Some freshmen send daily postcards home, a wonderful way in which to keep a college diary. A postal card brings news to the family of your campus life. In the fall there are football games to write about, climaxed by gala Homecoming festivities. Thanksgiving arrives and in a few weeks comes all the excitement of Christmas. After you return from vacation and start winter quarter, news of basketball victories and Iowa State's marvelous team will cover many post cards. This is a season for formal dances, too.

In the spring will come picnics and in the beginning of May is Veishea, the highlight of the school year.

OF COURSE, there are others beside your family who are on your correspondence list. Friends attending other colleges will want to hear from you. Wherever they are, they will be interested in the same things you are—school dances, exchanges, dormitory life, interesting classes—anything that is connected with the fun of being in college.

In writing to the girls back home, tell them about college life, but don't exclude all other subjects. Comment on changes at home, people you know and happenings that are similar to experiences you have had together. Discard the idea of writing one long letter and then revising it slightly for several other friends. Such letters lose their zest, and you lose your flare for letter writing.

A long letter writing list need not be staggering. It may be shortened easily with a little planning. Make a complete list of the letters you owe, placing the most important ones on top. Set aside a certain time each day, perhaps the half hour before or after dinner, and write at least one letter a day, crossing off names as you go.

One pleasing and simple way to make letter writing easier is to have attractive stationery. Pick the paper to fit your personality. Pastel paper is sweet and feminine. It can be monogrammed to add a note of originality. Iowa State stationery picturing the campanile is attractive too.

Post-cards which Suzy, typical Iowa State coed, writes home daily bring her family an up-to-date diary of her college life

Dear Family:

Mid-terms are coming up next week so I'm spending the evening buried in my books. Of course, not all of my time is spent studying—Tom and I are going to the Iowa-Kansas State football game Saturday afternoon.

Plan to come down for Homecoming. Everyone will be here!

Love,

Suzy

Dear Mom and Dad:

Mary and I gave a spread tonight. After hours, some of the girls from our corridor came in to help us eat the luscious cake and cookies that you sent. The party was climaxed by a serenade beneath our window.

Love,

Suzy