

May 26, 1917
Houston, TX
8:30 a.m.
2 cents

Miss Gainor Roberts
114 N. Winnetka Ave.
Dallas, Texas

Dearest Gainor,

Well, Honey, I sure am in a mess now. I believe that I have written you several times and said I thought I was going to have to live in a tent, etc., and I have always been lucky enough so far to get out of it. But I've one chance in a hundred this time, and if I get out, I sure am going to be a meek little human the rest of my days here. But I'm afraid there isn't a chance.

Last Wednesday night right after drill, we went to supper, and I think that everybody must have been possessed of the evil spirit because we all started to raising all sorts of racket. For the last three weeks we have been getting the worst meals you can imagine and a food riot has been brewing since that time. Anyway, Wednesday we had corn, canned tomatoes, and meat that was absolutely rotten for supper. Well, pieces of bread started flying through the air every now, and then all of a sudden, the whole thing broke loose. I never saw anything happen so quick, nor have I ever seen such a fight before. Everybody went under the tables as if by magic and then meat, dry bread, butter, break soaked in corn and tomatoes went thru the air, and so thick you couldn't hardly see anything. Of course, water was also plentiful.

Gainor, you should have seen that Dining Hall. It was absolutely impossible to run on it because you were sure to fall down.

They started repainting the walls today. Thursday, the juniors and seniors got together and did such a low down trick of turning in the names of those whom they saw throw anything. Well, naturally the sophomores and freshmen were the only ones whose names were turned in. Though we have been fighting each other all year, the sophs and Fish certainly are standing together now. We had a meeting today called by the chairman of the Hall Committee. He wanted us to turn in the names of all of those whom we saw throw anything. I've heard quite a few talks made by students, but I heard the best ones today I have ever heard. We absolutely refused to turn in any names other than our own, and also that if the Committee decided to suspend from the Hall a certain group of men for the fault which we had all committed, they would have to suspend us all. They all seem to think that it was our table that started the fight, but it wasn't. I have already gotten a letter from the Committee once for throwing H₂O and if they count that against me, I sure am blowed up. I don't care so much because there will be a bunch of us, but you know I was going to buy me a suit Saturday (tomorrow), but now I am afraid that I am going to have to spend all my money for hotel bills. That's what I hate. Gainor, please keep all this a dead secret. While some people might understand it, others wouldn't, especially the folks. Law me, if I am suspended, they above all other people shall never know about it. The Hall Committee had a long meeting last

night and they are having another one now. I have been on rather a nervous tension every since they started taking action.

The same night that this happened, a group of Freshmen went out some time during the night and painted signs of all sort on the lights out on the boulevard, the entire length of the Institute campus. They sure got off some good ones. It was mostly about the grub fight and about the profs. They sure did roast a bunch of them. Oh, I tell you things certainly have picked up down here in the last few weeks.

Well, Gainor, dear, I am going to get to come home a day sooner than I thought. I will be thru with my exams on June 7 and, believe me, that night, I leave this place, and oh how glad I will be. I know that I have got just lots and lots to go through before that time, but I sure am going to have lots of company. I have already got a date for the tenth with you, but I sure would like to have one on the ninth. If I can't have them both, well I'll just keep the 10th.

Have just heard that we are suspended from tomorrow at six until Wednesday at six. If that is true, I am awful glad that I was init because those few days won't bother me in the least. All I hope is that that is true. Well, just heard that it was. You know that news travels pretty fast. It's rather hard to write at present. There are only 12 boys in here and you ought to hear the noise going on outside. I'm afraid that there will be something pulled off tomorrow at dinner.

I went to a dance last night, and had to wear overalls. All the girls had on aprons. Sure did have a good time, although I didn't know many people, at first.

Gainor, I agree with you. I don't see how two people can go together and fuss. I just hate it.

Well, I guess I ha better quit now and start making arrangements for the next few nights.

I should say I do know where that place is on 12th street, and I can't hardly wait until I come up there.

Lots of love - Otto