

April 27, 1903

Dear Father:-

Our monthly exams for April are now over and all the results have been posted. They are as follows:

Mathematics,	stood 11 with 3.4
Physics and Chemistry	“ 25 with 3.32
Spanish	“ 3 with 3.85
Naval History	“ 34 with 3.51
Mechanical Drawing	“ 17 with 3.45

So far my monthly averages in everything have given me an average mark of

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about 3.51. Next month is a review month and the chances are my general average for next month will be about 3.50 because we have no exams next month to pull down our weekly marks. My general average for ~~next~~ last term was about 3.38. In order to star for the year I will have to make about 3.42. So you see my chances of starring are very good.

Today Beauregard

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came in to see us. He seems to be a very nice fellow and I think he will get in all right. He is studying with Prof Werntz. Today our baseball team played Georgetown University and it was a very exciting game. They beat us though, the score being 8 to 7 in their favor.

I have been rowing on the third crew for the past two weeks and the other evening when we were out, the coach seemed to take a little more interest in us. New tonight when I went down to the boat house, I found myself billed to row in first crew. You can imagine my surprise. Well – we went out as usual, and beat the other crews and I got along fine. One thing, I do not hope to stay on

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the first crew, and I will consider myself lucky to get a seat in the second crew.

One thing, I really don't think that a person of my age is developed and hardened enough to stand the strain like that. Sometimes at the finish of our of our [sic] two mile practice races, I am completely exhausted

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that is, I have spent every pound of muscle and energy in me. The first races come off next Saturday.

The first crew will row the University of Pennsylvania's varsity crew and our second crew will row their freshmen crew. It is certainly going to be a hard tussle.

Everything is nice and green around here now and I certainly like it better than the winter.

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There are several hundred candidates out in town and the next fourth class will contain about 300 members. Temporary quarters are being erected in the yard. It is a large ungainly wooden structure but they will tear it down as soon as the Main Quarters are completed. I am having a slight trouble with my eyes again. It is on account of the target practice with the large rifles. This morning, two divisions went out in the Bay on the monitor Terror, and had target practice. We have that every Saturday now. Some of the second classmen have drill on the submarine boat Holland. They go way out in the Bay, and the only thing one can see, when the boat is under is the top of the flag staff.

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The cruiser "Topeka" is also here. She is being used in connection with the Marconi wireless telegraphy system. She is sent out to sea and the experiments all conducted between her and the Academy. Besides her there are a number of other vessels here, the torpedo boat destroyer "Stewart," three torpedo boats, the "Gwin," the "Manly" and

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the "Talbot," two gunboats, the "Alvarado" and the "Sandoval" and the sailing ship "Chesapeake." Indeed, we have a right respectable looking fleet here now and we use them all for drill.

I have heard that our cruise will be with the North Atlantic Squadron, Rear Admiral Sands, commanding. That being the case several of us will see

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service in many of the different ships.

In the last naval appropriations bill, by some mistake which a clerk in the department made, the midshipmen are deprived of commuted rations. It was due to an error in copying the bill. This will take about \$9.30 monthly from our pay account. Now the chances are that I may not be able to come home this fall on account of the fool clerk's mistake.

Is Mother well? How is Aunt Augusta and the baby?

Well, I have rattle on about enough so goodbye until after the race.

My best love to Mother, the children and all the rest.

Your son

[signed]

Chester W Nimitz