



2-15-1951

## Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, February 15, 1951

Linda Grace Hoyer

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February 15, 1951

Dear John:

We were delighted with your Valentine letter. And it will be rather hard on us to have to wait to hear about your meeting with the Lampoon judge until your spring vacation. Although the comparison with a fragile butterfly is, considering all things, all too apt, we are very proud of your initiation into one of the most exclusive of all exclusive societies. Once in a while, perusing the dictionary, I meet Icarus and remember that certain very real and special dangers are prepared for all men who leave the muddy routine that seems to be the usual lot of God's creatures. And yet a moment free in the air probably is worth a life time in the mud. I don't know, having viewed life from the vantage point that a fly has when its feet are fast on the flypaper and the rest of its body is tugging upward. But I'm not sorry. There are millions borne down who never even think of tugging upward. So, knowing that the Lampoon could and may make you foolish for the rest of your days, we congratulate you. Daddy, it seems, has already boasted so much about you that practically all the faculty takes to cover when they see him coming. And I have asked Mr. Dillon to let all his readers know about the Lampoon acceptance.

Be careful now, get your haircut, and send us what you consider to be the proper length for your trousers.

