

August 17, 1982

Thelma Toole
% Grove Press, Inc.
196 West Houston Street
New York, NEW YORK 10014

Dear Mrs. Toole:

I feel compelled to write you regarding the wonderful, and brilliant book of your son's A Confederacy of Dunces. I have just read it and am in the process of re-reading it. It is funny, tender and full of wit, satire and truth. My only regret is that I did not read it sooner.

I sit on the bus to my job as a secretary (which I hate) in an office much like the one described by O'Reilly, flouorescent lights, bad air etc. I sit on the bus and laugh aloud for the truth and wit of this marvelous book. I identify in so many ways with your son, even though I am a 50 year old divorcee living alone, working to support myself but escaping in good books and in taking courses in my free time. I, too, am a beginning writer taking a course at the Univ. of California. on Saturday mornings. My instructor mentioned your son's book at the beginning of the class in June, but I had forgotten about it. One day in a bookstore I made the marvelous discovery.

Thank you, thank you for having the stamina and perseverance in getting this book published. It is truth and wit personified.

I feel grieved that your son cannot write anymore. But he has given us something of that that is in Albert Camus saying, "In the midst of winter, I have finally found in me an invincible summer." John Kennedy Toole is invincible. Thank you for having such a son and for letting us read his words and wisdom.

Sincerely and with all good wishes to you, Mrs. Toole,

Dorothy Edwards Moore

DOROTHY EDWARDS MOORE
5 Rico Way, # 104
San Francisco, CA 94123