

West Hunter Street Baptist Church

1040 GORDON STREET, S. W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30310

Ralph David Abernathy, Pastor

PASTOR'S STUDY
(404) 755-8300

TELEPHONES: (404) 758-5563
(404) 758-5564

November 16, 1982

Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Ma. 02537

Dear Paul:

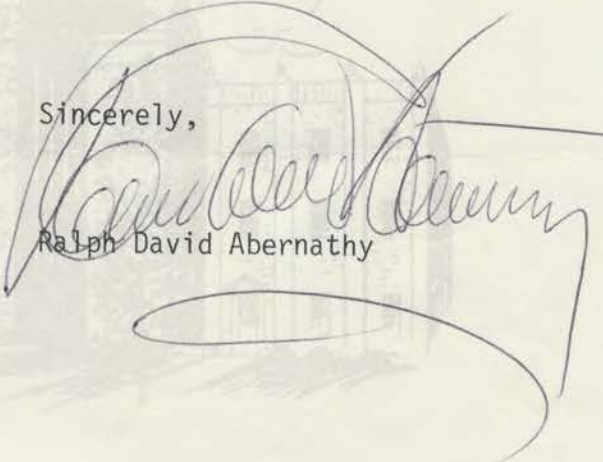
I am honored that you selected me to be a part of the famous people you are making a survey of. I congratulate you and all of your fellow fifth grade glass members.

Now, in answer to your question, Do I believe in God? Yes, I believe in God, and I believe in Him beyond the shadow of a doubt. God has manifested Himself to me in so many ways. He first made His presence known to me when I was a little boy through Nature - when I observed the rising and setting of the sun and the fact that each year was always on schedule. I knew then, that there is a God somewhere. Another important revelation to me was made when I discovered that the earth evolves around the sun and that the earth is constantly moving and yet the waters of the Atlantic, the Pacific nor any ocean ever overflowed. As I grew older, I have seen God manifesting Himself in many forms including history, in the affairs of our Nation and in the affairs of mankind. God is my personal friend. He walks with me and He talks with me. He has been so good to me until pages are not available for me to write of His goodness and time is too short for me to tell of His goodness. If you will give your life to Him, then one day you will know of God's presence.

May God continue to bless you and guide you into growing into being a fine upright and outstanding young man.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,


Ralph David Abernathy



ANSEL ADAMS

ROUTE 1, BOX 181, CARMEL, CALIFORNIA 93921 TELEPHONE (408) 624-2558

Nov. 12, 1976

Mr. Paul Rifkin
4212 25th St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94114

Dear Paul Rifkin,

Thanks for your letter which was awaiting my return from a trip to New York and Boston. Sorry for the delay in reply!

Your question is difficult for me to answer. I would say that I don't believe in God, but I do believe there is some higher order to life.

Good luck with your class report.

Sincerely,

AA:at

+ Creedsija!

Pollard Road
Lincoln, NH 03251
September 22, 1980

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
RFD 2 - Off Grant Road
New Market, New Hampshire 03857

Dear Paul:

I am in receipt of your letter of September eighth.

The answers to your questions are:

- (1) Yes

- (2) Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Sincerely,


Sherman Adams

SA:w

EDWARD ALBEE
THE OFFICE
14 HARRISON STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10013

October 19, 1960

Dear Paul Riffkin:

Thank you for your letter. Let me try to answer your question about G&E.

The miracle is consciousness; the glory is being alive. The "G&E" I comprehend is the manifestation of these two.

Regards.

Edward Albee

Lion's Gate Films, Inc.



November 9, 1976

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
4212 25th St.
San Francisco, CA 94114

Dear Paul:

I do not believe in God because my presence precedes his. Therefore I must assume that he is my creation - and I MUST NOT believe in my own creations or I would be guilty of the authorship of this note.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Altman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Altman



Cluck

Productions

Feb. 15, '13

Dear Paul,

In answer to your question Yes, I do believe in the existence of a God. God makes his presence known to me every day through the wonder of the Universe.

Love, Kenneth Anger

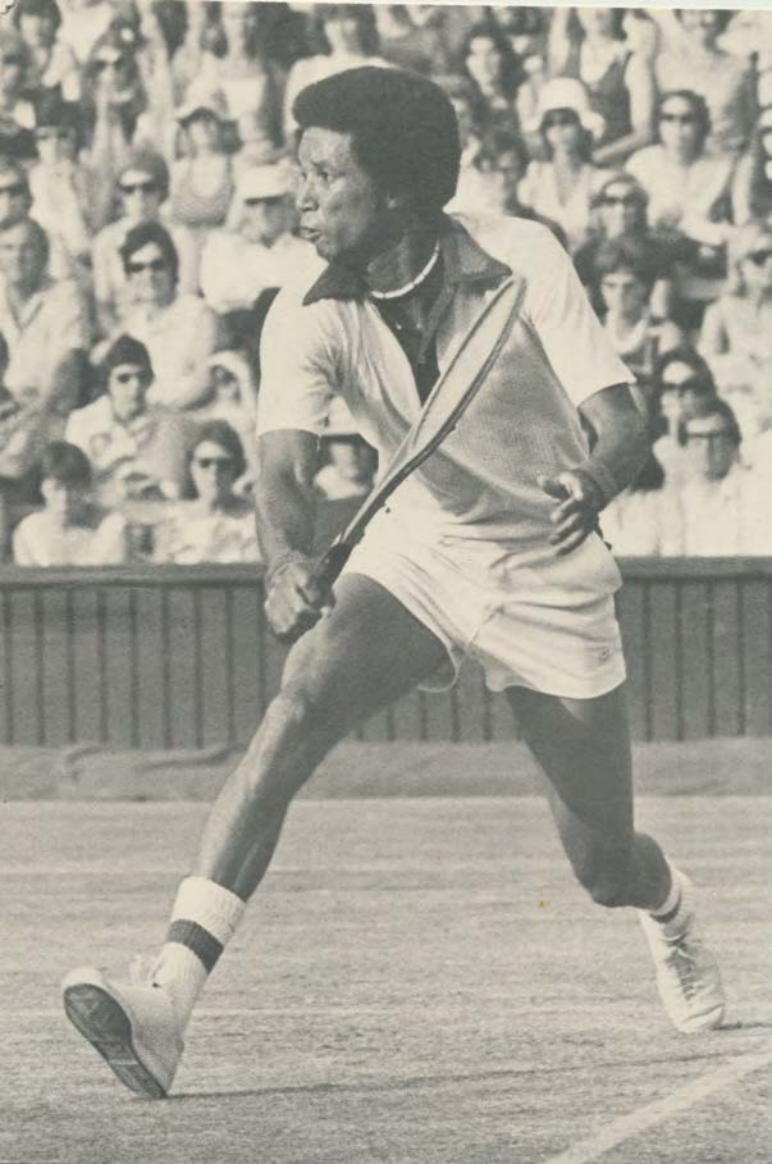
Kenneth Anger

Resident Magus

P S Paul: Good luck with your class report! I'm kinda curious how someone so young could know my work in movies well enough to "respect", but I'll take you at your word. Let me add a few words about God. All this around us, including our own selves, just didn't happen by any "accident." I feel this God is Love, although it is part of his Mystery to allow Hate, Cruelty, Pain and Suffering to exist also. Perhaps to show up the overwhelming beauty of

is Love, although it is part of
his Mystery to allow Hate,
Cruelty, Pain and Suffering to
exist also. Perhaps to show
up the overwhelming beauty of
Love.

your friend, Ken



ARTHUR ASHE —
1975 Wimbledon Champion



Paul,
you, I believe in
something
greater than we
are.

Arthur

PAUL RIFKIN
GRADE 5
4212 25th ST.
SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIF.
94114



edward asner

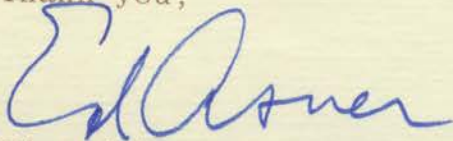
February 25, 1983

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter and for your respect--I appreciate it, and I'll try to answer your question.

I'm unable to say flat out that God exists. I vacillate in my belief, but when I do it's usually because of witnessing some gorgeous act or view of nature, or in some act of God's creatures (man and animal), such as music, dance or movement. If God exists, it is safe to say he has many flowers.

Thank you,



Edward Asner

kk

8-6-83

MR. PAUL RIFKIN, GRADE 5
EAST SANDWICH, MASS 02537

DEAR PAUL

YOUR LETTER ASKS TWO QUESTIONS. 1. DO I BELIEVE IN GOD?

THE ANSWER: YES, MOST DEFINATELY! THEN:

2. HOW HAS HE MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN TO ME?

WELL, PAUL I THINK ALL KNOWLEDGE IS OBTAINED BY ONE OF FOUR WAYS:

1. AUTHORITY. THIS INCLUDES THE WORDS OF THOSE WE REASONABLY CAN BELIEVE. IT STARTS WITH PARENTS AND TEACHERS BUT GOES ON TO MANY EMINENT AND RESPECTED PERSONS. IT INCLUDES BOOKS OF SACRED SCRIPTURE, DICTIONARIES, SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS, ETC.
2. RATIONALISM. THIS MEANS THAT THE WHAT WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BELIEVE MUST BE REASONABLE. IN ISAIAH 1 : 18 GOD SAYS, "LET US REASON TOGETHER."
3. INTUITION. I CANNOT EXPLAIN ALL THE MODERN THEORIES ABOUT HOW SOME PERSONS SEEM TO HAVE INSIGHTS TO FACTS THAT HAVE ELUDED OTHERS, NOR HOW SO MANY OF THE ANCIENT PATRIARCHS RECEIVED GREAT TRUTHS BY WAY OF DREAMS AND VISIONS. NO DOUBT THERE *are* MANY AREAS OF THE HUMAN MIND THAT ARE STILL A MYSTERY. IF OR WHEN YOU HAVE SUCH AN EXPERIENCE YOU WILL KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT. IT WILL SURPRISE YOU.
4. EXPERIENCE, OR WHAT SCIENCE CALLS: EMPIRICISM.

WE WILL ULTIMATELY, REALLY BELIEVE ONLY THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE VALIDATED BY THE FACTS WE ENCOUNTER IN LIVING. AS THE YEARS GO ON WE WILL TREASURE THE TRUTHS WHICH SEEM TO HAVE BEEN VERIFIED IN OUR LIFETIME ADVENTURE... AND PERHAPS CORROBORATED BY OTHERS. BUT WE MUST NOT REJECT BEAUTIFUL TEACHINGS SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY MAY NOT SEEM TO CONFORM TO SOME OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS WE KNOW TAKE PLACE. TO UNDERSTAND LIFE AND TO SEE THE HAND OF GOD WITHIN IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF STUDY, THOUGHT AND PATIENCE BECAUSE, BEYOND ALL OTHER PROBLEMS, YOU ARE SEEKING THE MOST IMPORTANT, AND DEEPEST MYSTERY KNOWN TO MANKIND. BUT START WITH FAITH AN DETERMINATION TO STICK WITH ALL THE IDEALS OF TRUTH, GOODNESS AND BEAUTY. DON'T LOOK AT ONLY SURFACE EVIDENCE BUT TRY TO COMPREHEND THE UNDERLYING DIRECTION OF THE UNIVERSE...AND MANKIND... NOT JUST OURSELVES OR THE FRONT PAGES OF THE PAPERS.

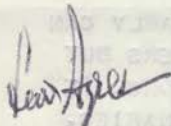
I HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO DO THAT, AND BELIEVE ME PAUL, IT HAS PAID OFF. I SEE MANY SAD THINGS IN THE WORLD, BUT I KNOW THEY ARE THE PRICE OF OUR FREEDOM...WHICH MUST BE SO THAT WE CAN GROW, MATURE AND BECOME THE GLORY OF THE UNIVERSE. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF THE BEAUTY WHICH LIES

AHEAD FOR MANKIND KNOW THAT IT WILL BE A HARD, HARD STRUGGLE, AND MANY MAY LOSE HOPE ALONG THE WAY. BUT IF WE DO NOT BECOME CYNICAL, IF WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE RIGHT AND GOOD...NOT JUST FOR OURSELVES OR OUR OWN LITTLE GROUP BUT FOR EVERYONE ...AS BEST AS WE CAN KNOW IT (AND THAT'S NEVER AN EASY DECISION)...THEN BIT BY BIT, WE WILL ALL COME CLOSER TOGETHER, WE WILL SOLVE THE STUBBORN PROBLEMS WHICH NOW STAND BETWEEN US....AND ALL MANKIND WILL HAVE WON THE GREAT VICTORY THE WORLD HAS SO LONG BEEN WAITING FOR....TRUE LIBERATION, RESPECT AND CONCERN .. FOR ALL.

AND NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS, PAUL, NEVER DOUBT FOR ONE MOMENT THAT WE CAN DO IT....FOR IT IS MY BELIEF...OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME, THAT THIS IS GOD'S WILL, AND THAT HE IS WITH US.

THE FOREGOING IS JUST A PARTIAL ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ASKED. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT GOD'S PRESENCE HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO ME BY THE FOUR WAYS CITED ABOVE.

SINCERELY,



LEW AYRES

CHARLES AZNAVOUR

1) in a way I believe

2) By being "in me and my family"
through love



- Sincerely -

Joan Chandor Baiz

Oct 15, 1980

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your letter. I'll try and answer it.

Yes, I believe in God - but he/she doesn't make himself/herself known to me in very obvious ways. It's more like a feeling of graciousness and happiness when I see something very beautiful - like a new baby in the arms of its mother, like a dark storm passing by and the sun coming out and warming my skin, like leaves covering the ground under a tree in the fall...
God must have something to do with joy...
and with sadness.

and with kindness, beauty, + love.

but I don't claim to know,

yours,
Joan Baiz

Pearl Bailey Production Corp.

P.O. BOX 52

NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA 91328

PRESIDENT: PEARL BAILEY

DODI WILLIAMS
Executive Secretary

November 12, 1976

Dear Paul:

Thank you for taking the time to write to me and for your interest in my belief in God for your survey.

You bet I believe in God! He has been very good to me and has blessed me with much - primarily the talent He gave me and the ability to meet, understand, love and care about all humanity. I have known Him all of my life -- He has been a constant companion and the only true Physician.

I hope this gives you some idea of how strongly I believe in God and I hope your project will be a wonderful learning experience for you.

God bless you always and thank you again for having written to me.

All love,

Miss Pearl Bailey

PB/dw

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 23, 1976

Mr. Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

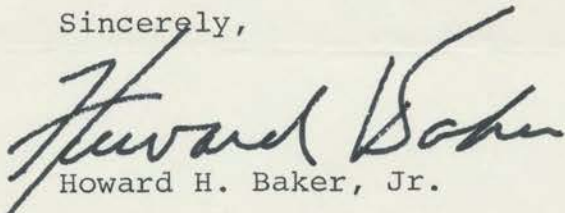
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter. I certainly appreciate hearing from you and knowing of your interest in religion.

In answer to your question, I certainly do have an innate and inherent belief in God, which has been part of me from early childhood. This faith has been a source of strengthening encouragement and solace for me during all of my life. I also believe that all of us can only benefit by remembering our country's impressive, influential spiritual heritage in conducting our nation's affairs with that background in mind.

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,



Howard H. Baker, Jr.

HHBJr:gh

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1983

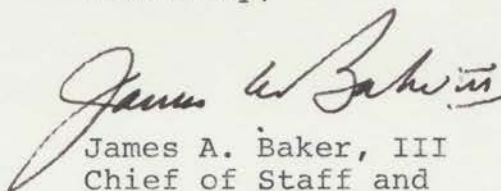
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter.

In response to your question, I do believe in God. I have a happy family, a successful career and my own good health. For all of this (and more), I thank God.

It was good to hear from you. I wish you and your classmates much success with your studies this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Baker, III". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

James A. Baker, III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA. 02537

The New York Times

229 WEST 43 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

November 9, 1976

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

I do not believe in a god who is an aged, bearded man dressed in sheets. I believe, however, that there is a universal order utterly beyond the human powers of comprehension. This might be called "god."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Baker". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Russell Baker

BOB BARKER

New Paul —

I am pleased and
flattered that you chose
to include me in

your survey.

I do, indeed,
believe in God — I
think God's presence
is made known to
all of us in many
ways.

If you have a
dog, look into his
loving eyes, let him

lick your hand, watch
his tail wag as you
speak to him — I
am sure you will
realize that your
pet is one of God's
wonderful creations,
and one of God's
gifts to you.

Sincerely,
Tom Barker

Rona Barrett

June 6, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

I most definitely do believe in a GOD...whether God looks like a person or is a force more powerful than anything we've yet to comprehend...my faith leads me to believe that such a power is out there in this vast universe.

My first encounter with "God" that I can recall occurred when I was five years old. I was born physically handicapped and a group of children one day followed me home from school and began taunting me with sticks. I fell to the sidewalk and prayed that someone would come along to help me up and protect me. Just then my best girlfriend arrived on the scene and literally dragged me into our apartment building. She saved me. Somehow I knew right there and then that somebody-up-there did not want me to be physically hurt more than I already was. From that moment on I began praying to "God" to help me. When I was a child I used to pray for very specific things and many times my prayers were answered.

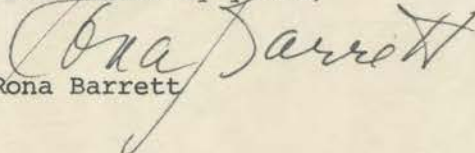
In later years I discovered it is not necessary to pray for "specifics" but to ask God for "right direction" -- and then what is meant for you shall be yours.

Writing such a short paragraph about one's belief in God is quite difficult. I hope, however, these few words will give you some idea of where I am coming from and my deep and abiding belief in "God."

May good thoughts...good days...and many of your wishes come true,
Paul Rifkin.

Thank you for writing me.

Most sincerely yours,


Rona Barrett

ANNE BAXTER

July 16

Dear Paul Perkin;

Young people think that "seeing is believing." But can you eat love like an ice cream cone? Can you wear it like a sweater? No. But it is visible in your parents' eyes. God is just as real. I've believed in him as long as I can remember praying before bedtime.

So many times in my life I've been desperate for more strength than I've had, and have prayed to God for

that super-human strength.
God has NEVER failed
to give it. People often
do. Try it. It works.

Sincerely
Gene Felt

Birch Bayh

March 2, 1983

Dear Paul,

I appreciate hearing from you and am glad to respond to your question.

Certainly I believe in God and have since I can remember. I suppose my most profound experience with religion came as a young lad in a small one room church where I attended services every Sunday with my grandparents in a little place called Goshen, Indiana. Somehow God seemed to fill that room and to be a comfort to all of those who participated in the services.

There are a number of questions about God and religion that I am not wise enough to answer. I do believe He is there watching over us, guiding us and sharing his love with us. I only wish I could do better and be more worthy of his love. I wish you the best in the future and I am glad to see that you are prepared to follow His way.

Sincerely,

Birch

Dear Paul, in haste after a months absence and a pile of MAIL now on returning ^{business} involves all I see are human beings dead-scared of their MORTALITY. * EVIDENCE fabricating 1000's of different religions and "gods" (based on fear) BUT WHO become - ~~IT~~ ^{IT} ~~leaves~~ ^{leaves} one thing I believe is HOW LITTLE we know about the physics + mathematics of the universe + therefore about life - + time + infinity + space + matter etc. - - -

Dear Mr. Beard -

I am making a SURVEY ~~of~~ people I ^{have heard of} ~~know~~ for a 5th Grade Class report

My question is: Do you believe in God?
If yes, how did God "make himself known" to you?
(Do let me know what Glen Campbell, Pat Boone, Pat Robertson (club 700), Dale Evans etc... say)
Thank you in advance For Your Response. P.B.

Sincerely,
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5

RFD 2 - off Grant Rd.
Newmarket, N.H 03857

appals the HASTE ^{warmest regards} of yours - ^{Thank you} ^{intriguing} ^{note,} ^{idea,} ^{survey}

(and his logic) title its a result about just

Dear Paul, in haste
now on returning
all I see are Human
fabricating 1000's of
and it has not

My question is: Do you believe in God?
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Sincerely,

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5

RFD 2 - off Grant Rd.
Newmarket, N.H. 03857

book
Becker's AT H
DET title results
exact results about
AP the exam are just about
the same
the exam are just about
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the exam are just about
the same

P.S.

* see

Salem,
Fall
(Send)

good luck + let me know
how the animals
respond -

your intriguing note, idea, survey

PAUL

THE NEW YORK TIMES THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1980

The New York Times

Founded in 1851

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1995
ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1995-1961
ORVIL E. DRYFOOS, Publisher 1961-1968

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER
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Dead as the Proverbial Dodo

→ SCAPEGOATS → RED HERRINGS

Mention "endangered species" to most people and they think of a few highly publicized creatures like the blue whale, the Bengal tiger or the tiny snail darter. But an estimate for the Federal Government's recent look ahead to the year 2000 suggests that up to two million species — perhaps 20 percent of all species — could be wiped out by the turn of the century. Most are tropical insects or plants that have not even been classified or examined. They will die out as the forests and jungles in which they live are cut down. Pollution of water, air and land will also take its toll.

The extinction of species is hardly news. Dinosaurs were destroyed 70 million years ago and other once dominant creatures have suffered mysterious fates throughout geologic history. No less than 90 percent of the 100 million or more species that have appeared on Earth over the last 3 1/2 billion years have died out. But the rate and scale of extinctions appear to be increasing. And the action of human beings has now surpassed all other natural processes as the main killer. The projected loss of between 500,000 and two million species over the next two decades would be "without precedent in human history," according to the Global 2000 report.

Would the loss of so many forms of life matter? That's hard to say because most species have not even been studied. Some conservationists deplore extinctions because they reduce the diversity of life and make the globe less interesting. Others contend that all forms of life have a right to exist and that human

beings have no right to exterminate a species, even inadvertently. But such arguments have to meet other value judgments. Is it more ethical to save an obscure insect or to cut down its forest home so that hungry people can have fuel, lumber and land?

Something of value is bound to be lost in such biological slaughter. According to the Global 2000 study, some tropical forest species might well serve as new sources of food, drugs, predators of pests, building materials, specialty woods and fuels. How many products comparable to rubber or quinine will disappear before they are even known to have existed?

It is not possible, or even desirable, to save every species. There are just not enough scientists to describe, let alone study, the enormous number of organisms and plants. Many large groups of insects are not being looked at by anyone, anywhere. But steps can be taken to limit the massacre. Many plants with known food value are being preserved in seed banks; more could be. International agencies are encouraging nations to establish "preserves" to protect as many varied habitats as possible so that their biological resources can be gradually studied and exploited. That effort needs to be accelerated, especially in the vulnerable tropics.

All such efforts will fail if the growth of the human species is not restrained. Rich nations have been derelict enough; poor nations compelled to move into the forests to support large populations are not apt to respect organisms of unknown value.

→ "The Gardeners of Eden"

* like "TSAVO"

This is essentially what all my books are about

as the next get fouled

and all are just... waiting in line

PAUL

IN BRIEF: MORE BIOLOGY (ECOLOGY), + less "opium the ma"
[SEE THE CALHOUN RAT STUDIES "REPORT" from Bethesda, Maryland]

THURS. JULY 31ST 1980 (cont'd from p. 1)

Report to Carter Urges Global Action on Resources

Continued From Page A1

ecologically, and more vulnerable to disruption than the world we live in now."

No recommendations for dealing with the predicted problems are made in the report other than urging that the nations of both the industrial and developing worlds, with the United States taking the lead, start now to undertake "determined new initiatives."

The report had been scheduled to be made public tomorrow by the White House, but publication was advanced when an embargo on its release was broken today by the Knight-Ridder newspapers.

As a result of the report, President Carter will establish a new Cabinet-level "Task Force on Global Resources and the Environment" under the chairmanship of Gus Speth, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, to insure "high priority attention is given to important global resource, population and environmental problems."

In an interview, Mr. Speth said that while the 800-page report presented no startling new findings, "it is in many respects important and, indeed, unique."

He continued: LONG OVERDUE
"It is, for example, the first time this Government or any government has made an effort to project the trends in all of these crucial areas at once. It is the most highly detailed and quantified study of these trends and their interrelationship ever made. And it provides the basis for major strides forward for domestic and international policy."

"We have to understand that these are absolutely crucial issues we must address for humanitarian and security reasons," he added. (DON'T ASK THE POPE)

Asserting that "the world in 2000 will be different from the world today in important ways," the report presents these forecasts on population, income, resources and the environment:

POPULATION

There will be little slowdown in the rapid growth of the world's population, which will grow from 4 billion in 1975 to 6.35 billion in 2000. The vast majority of the added populace will be in the poorer, less developed countries.

There will also be major shifts of population from rural to urban areas. Mexico City, with a population of 11 million in 1975, is projected to have 31.6 million by 2000.

INCOME

While the output of goods and services is expected to grow more rapidly in many less-developed countries than in the industrialized nations, the gap between rich and poor will increase because high population growth rates will keep per capita income low in the poorer countries.

While per-capita gross national product is expected to reach \$8,000 annually in 1975 dollars in the industrialized countries and \$14,212 in the United States, in the less developed countries per capita gross national product will average less than \$600 a year, the report states.

FOOD

Assuming no deterioration as a result of climate changes or other factors, world food production is expected to increase by about 90 percent from 1970 to 2000 and per-capita production nearly 15 percent in the same period. However, most of the increased food consumption will be in countries where diets already are adequate or better. Individual food consumption in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East will hardly grow at all and in some cases will decline below present levels.

Meanwhile, the price of food in constant dollars is expected to double within 20 years largely because of the rising price of petroleum used in agricultural production.

FISHERIES

The world fish harvest, an important

source of protein, leveled off in 1970 and is not expected to increase by much, if at all, by the year 2000. Despite increased fish farming and the gathering of nontraditional marine species, such as Arctic krill, pollution and overfishing are likely to keep the harvest at no more than current levels.

FORESTS

Deforestation of the world is proceeding rapidly and per-capita supplies of growing stocks of wood is expected to decline 47 percent worldwide by 2000. The shortage will be critical in cultures that depend on firewood for fuel.

WATER

Regional water shortages, already serious in many parts of the world, are likely to become worse 20 years from now in the face of increasing demand for water for human consumption, irrigation and new systems of energy production.

ENERGY

In the 1990's, world oil production will reach maximum capacity and prices will continue to rise as demand also increases sharply. The burden of energy prices will fall most heavily on the less developed countries.

NONFUEL MINERALS

There is no projection that any mineral resources will be exhausted by 2000, but prices will rise sharply as will prices for most commodities in a resource-scarce world.

ENVIRONMENT

The report says that perhaps the most serious environmental problem over the next 20 years will be "an accelerating deterioration and loss of the resources essential for agriculture," including the loss of crop land to erosion and deserts as well as the increasing urbanization of lands now devoted to growing food. The use of pesticides and other chemicals while increasing yields, now present a broad range of serious environmental threats to crop lands and people.

The heavy use of chemicals also will mean spreading water pollution. Increasing salinity from excessive irrigation is also likely to threaten water supplies.

Despite progress in reducing air pollution, the quality of air is expected to worsen, in the developing as well as industrialized countries, as increased amounts of oil, coal and other hydrocarbon fuels are burned.

One result will be an increase in the amount of carbon monoxide in the air, which many scientists believe will raise the world's temperature with disastrous results. Also to be expected is more acid rain, which is believed to destroy wildlife in freshwater lakes and damage cropland. Increased ozone in the air could sharply increase the incidence of skin cancer and damage food crops.

Finally, the report says, "the world faces an urgent problem of loss of plant and animal genetic resources" through the accelerating extinction of species.

Guide to Governments

The authors of the study said that public policy in this country and abroad was starting to address some of these problems. They also emphasized that the report was not a prediction of what would actually be the situation in the world in the year 2000 but rather a call and a guide to governments to adopt policies to avert the predicted trends.

"This is not a council of despair," Mr. Speth said in the interview. "We have an opportunity because of this timely warning to address these issues before it is too late."

One of the major lessons to be learned from the report, he said, is that "it is a mistake to view economic development and environmental protection as antagonistic."

The focus of the new task force formed by President Carter today, Mr. Speth said, will be to "build a consensus" in this country and internationally on the course of action that must be taken to deal with the threats described by the report.

Because of range grass cakes to the ration, an er...

Handwritten notes in the left margin: "C.P. Suburbia - Low Summers - Human Being - GRANTS - over - Finance - ..."

Handwritten notes in the right margin: "Prayer to ..."

RALPH BELLAMY
8173 MULHOLLAND TERRACE
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90046

September 22, 1980

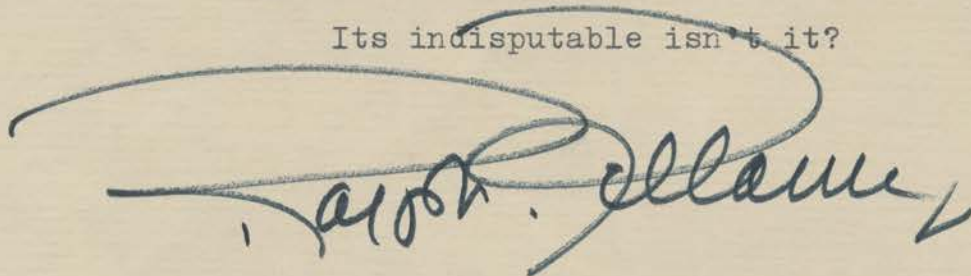
Dear Paul Grifkin:

In reply to your letter of September 18 it is heartening to know of your selection of subject matter.

You have asked two questions:
Do I believe in God. The answer is yes.

And how did he make himself known to me: The answer is from the beginning of mysense of realisation, ^{of} all kinds of life, including my own, and the seasons and fruition of everything that grows in the fields and seas and forests and jungles and nests and cradles.

Its indisputable isn't it?

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph Bellamy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval loop that starts above the text and ends below it, with a small arrowhead pointing to the right at the bottom of the loop.

Dear Paul,

yes I certainly do believe in God. He made His presence known to me through my family. As soon as I was able to talk I was taught to say my prayers at bedtime. When I was old enough I went to Sunday school, and then to church.

Hope this reaches you. The address under your signature was different than the one on the envelope.

Best wishes

Juan Bennett



God is Love!
Get Paul's!
Bobby Jensen

THOMAS BERGER

Washington Spring Road
Palisades, New York 10964

Dear Paul,

24 September 1980

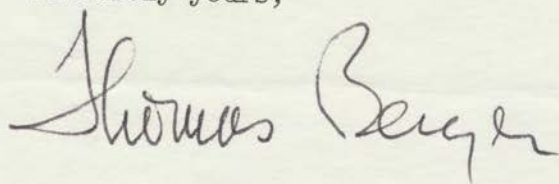
Thank you for your letter with its two-part question.

My answer is: Yes, I do believe in God, who made Himself known to me first by speaking to me at a time when I needed assurance.

But I do not belong to any organized religion, and I never seek God in any house of worship--though I have no criticism of those who do.

I wish you good luck with your report.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Berger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Thomas Berger".

Columbia Artists Management Inc.

SIR RUDOLF BING
Special Projects

Direct Line
212/397-6940
841-9604

May 2, 1983

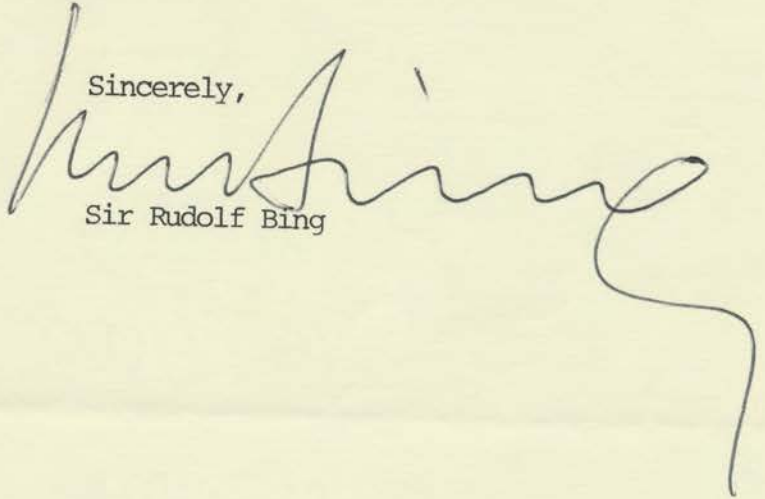
Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God. He makes his presence known to me every morning when the sun rises and when life around me begins.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A large, fluid handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rudolf Bing', with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Sir Rudolf Bing

SRB:CMD



THE · CLARIDGE

HOTEL · AND · CASINO

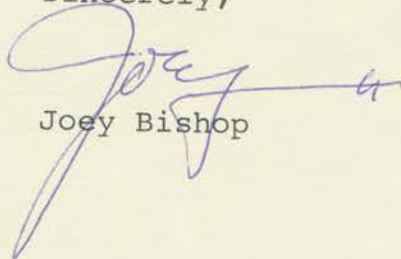
July 12, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul,

Yes, I do believe in God. As long as I
can remember I have felt his presence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joey Bishop", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joey Bishop

MEL BLANC

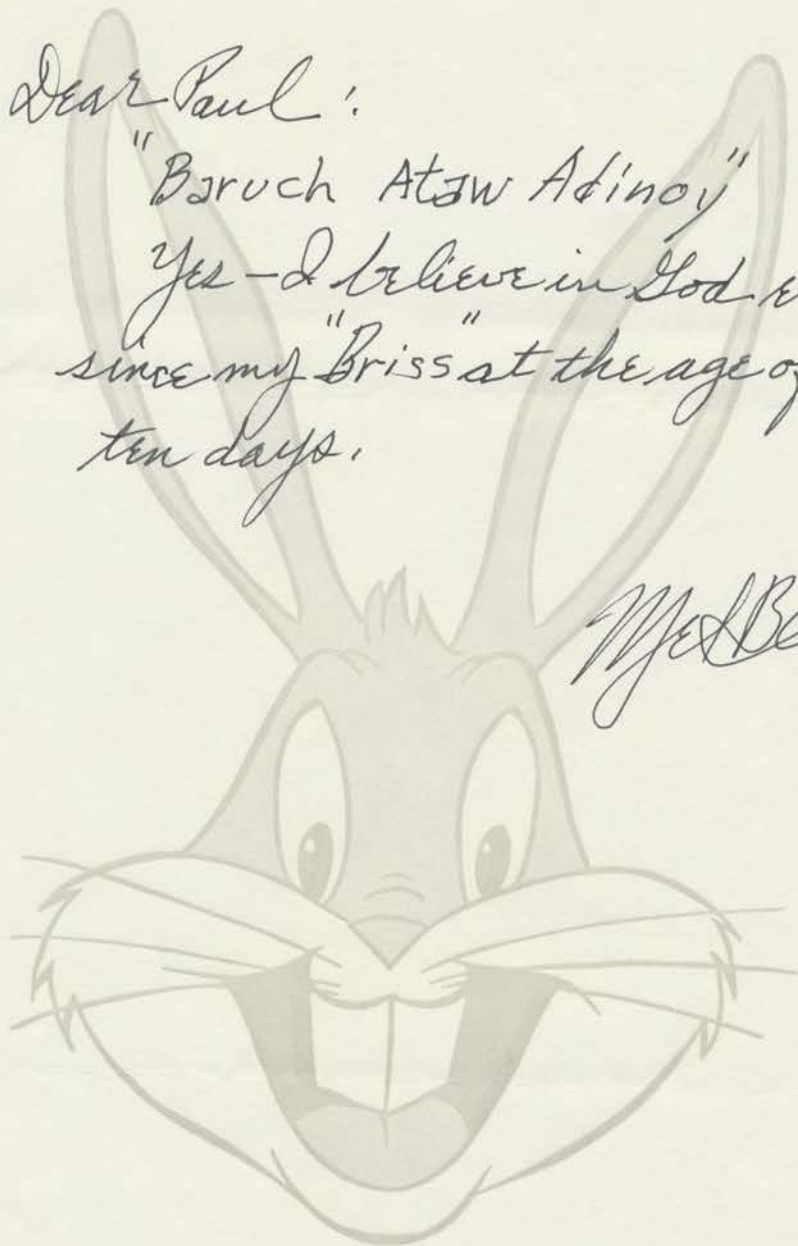
5-26-83

Dear Paul:

"Baruch Atzw Adinoy"

Yes - I believe in God ever
since my "Briss" at the age of
ten days.

Mel Blanc





den Fane -

Do beine i

god!

best

Bir Blaw

H&R Block, Inc.
Corporate Headquarters
4410 Main Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
(816) 932-8413

Henry W. Bloch
President and
Chief Executive Officer

February 14, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for writing and asking for my opinion. Yes, I do believe in God and I feel he has had a strong influence in my life and career. His presence is constantly known to me in every major action I take, both businesswise and otherwise. If you are going to live your life as an upright citizen who always deals fairly with your fellow man, you must have a strong belief in God.

With kindest personal regards.

Very truly yours,



Henry W. Bloch

HWB:mam

March 7, 1983

Dear Paul:

God has always been an important part of my life. I cannot imagine a day without Him. To me He's not a one-day-a-week shot; it's every day. He gives you perspective and makes you remember what you're all about.



Erma Bombeck

Erma Bombeck



Julian Bond
SENATOR
THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT

The State Senate
Atlanta

426 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
361 WEST VIEW DRIVE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30310

February 7, 1977

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thanks for your letter. I do believe in a higher order.

God has never made "His presence known to me" in any formal sense; I've had no visions or mystical experiences. I simply believe.

Sincerely,

Julian Bond

Julian Bond

JB/bc
enc.

Mr. Paul Rifkin
333 W. Frances Willard
Chico, CA 95926

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Telex 47214



Please reply to _____

Tuesday, June 28th

Dear Paul —

I am very sorry it took me so long to reply to your letter. As you can see, I live in England and your letter was passed on to me by my family.

As for your question — Do you believe in God?

I must answer — not really; though I am prepared to change my opinion. So probably you should put me down as a 'don't know'. Especially, as I think the question should not really be — Do you believe in God?, but — What is God?

Anyways I hope my 'don't know' answer will help a little. Thank you again for your interest.

Regards,

Simon Bond

VICTOR BORGE

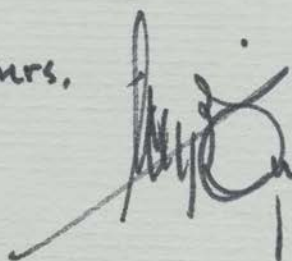
Nov. 15/76

My dear Paul:

Yes, I believe that God is
light and love, who made
it possible for you to speak
to me and me to you.

With kindest
regards,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Victor Borge', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the word 'Yours,'.



February 22, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674/Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

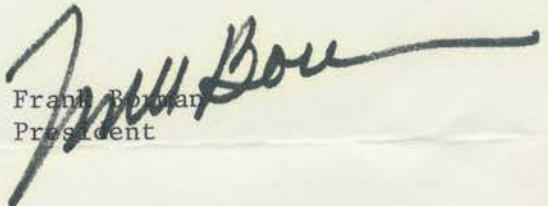
Dear Paul:

Regarding the question in your recent letter, I am proud to say that I am a very strong believer in God.

There was no particular single instance where His presence was made known to me. I've been conscious of God, and His influence upon my life, since my earliest recollections. And it is the confidence that He has the power to direct my life that has sustained me in every major decision I've had to make. Without this foundation of faith, my life could never have been so rewarding.

Thank you for your interest, and for including me in your report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Bowman".
Frank Bowman
President

BILL BRADLEY
NEW JERSEY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1980

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
RFD 2- Off Grant Road
Newmarket, New Hampshire 03857

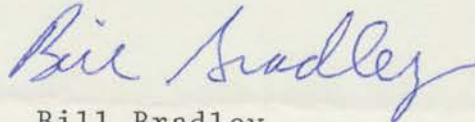
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the survey you are conducting for your fifth grade class report.

In answer to your question, I certainly do believe in God and believe He makes Himself known to us in a direct confrontation with the strength, variety and beauty of nature and natural forces.

Best wishes for the success of your project.

Sincerely,



Bill Bradley
United States Senator

BB/mg

Dear Pair (or Pavi)

Thanks for including me in your survey. I don't, however, think I should share my private thoughts with strangers. I hardly ever burden my close friends with my opinions or beliefs. I will only say that I have often wondered whether God believes in me.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan D." with a decorative flourish at the end.



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

15 February 1977

Paul Rifkin
333 W. Frances Willard
Chico, California 95926

Dear Paul

I have your letter regarding your 5th Grade Class report.

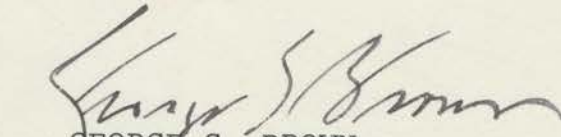
Here are my answers to your questions:

- Yes, I believe in God.
- God has not yet made His presence known to me in any direct or dramatic way that would be very helpful to your survey.

I wish you success with your report.

Kind regards.

Sincerely


GEORGE S. BROWN
General, USAF

P. O. Box 42451
Atlanta, Georgia 30311

January 11, 1977

Mr. Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Dear Paul:

I hope my response to your question is not too late to be included in your report.

I am a Muslim and our belief is that there is one God and his last Prophet is the Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings Be Upon Him). In addition, God's presence is made known to man through man's living.

Thank you for writing.

Peace and Blessings of Allah
Be Upon You,

H. Rap Brown (Jamil al-Amin)

H. Rap Brown

COSMOPOLITAN

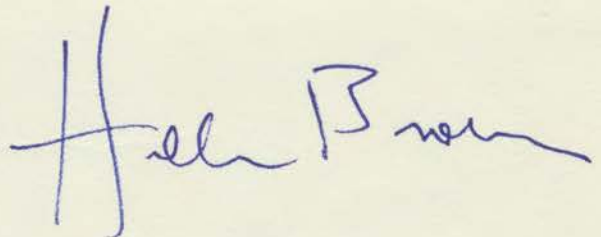
Helen Gurley Brown, Editor • 224 West 57th Street, New York, New York, 10019, (212) 262-7916

February 14, 1977

Dear Paul,

It's hard to describe the kind of God I believe in because God, to me, is not a person or entity who sits out there making judgements. God is a kind of force that makes itself known by rewarding you for good work. "Good work" includes everything from working very industriously at your job to being a good friend to your friends, taking care of your family, being a good lover to the person you love...when you pour everything into these endeavors, God - or this special force that is God - rewards you with very rich blessings... more success in your job, more or deeper friendships, a happier family, a happier lover or whatever... My particular god does not do bad things to anybody...that's another force entirely. We have to come up with another definition of whatever that force is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Helen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Brown".

Master Paul Rifkin
333 W. Frances Willard
Chico, California 95926

HGB/pmq



Phyllis George Brown
Governor's Mansion
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter regarding
your school report.

I believe that religion is an
important part of everyone's life, and
I know you must enjoy your studies on
this subject.

Best wishes, and again, thank you
for writing.

Sincerely,

Phyllis George Brown

PHYLLIS GEORGE BROWN

THE DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET

221 MILLSTONE ROAD
WILTON, CONNECTICUT 06897
(203) 762-7710

MANAGER: RUSSELL S. GLOYD

December 17, 1982

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, MASS 02537

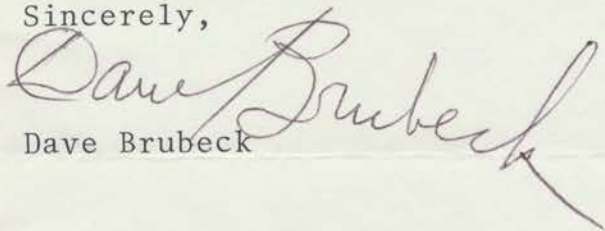
Dear Paul,

First of all, I would like to thank you for writing to me especially requesting such a unique reply. My feelings are very strong about God, and therefore I answer your first question of my belief with a very firm yes.

God created the earth as he created all of us; His presence is in the gift of Life.

Again, thank you Paul for your letter. Hopefully this will help you in your school report. I wish you a very joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Brubeck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dave Brubeck



The Center for Strategic and International Studies
Georgetown University / 1800 K Street Northwest / Washington DC 20006 / Telephone 202/887-0200

Cable Address: CENSTRAT
TWX: 7108229583

April 25, 1983

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter. I do believe in God. I do so because I think there is some deeper meaning to our life, which we cannot fully comprehend ourselves -- just as we cannot fully comprehend the concept of infinity (that is, the absence of a beginning and the absence of an end).

With best regards to you,

Sincerely,

Zbigniew Brzezinski

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

ART BUCHWALD

1750 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 1311
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

TELEPHONE
393-6680

September 13, 1983

Dear Paul:

I believe in God. I don't know why I'm able to write the way I do or where it comes from, so I figure God is behind all creativity.

Sincerely,



Art Buchwald

Paul Rifkin
East Sandwich, MA

Dear MR. Buckley:

I am making a survey of Famous people I respect for a Fifth Grade CLASS Report.

My question to you is:

Yes

Do you believe in God??

[If the answer is yes, please describe how God made his presence known to you]

Thank you in advance for your answer.

~~Sincerely,~~

Paul Rifkin

Grade 5

674 Route 6A

East Sandwich

MASS. 02537

through
faith,

& revelation.

See Bible.

(address)

Paul Rifkin

3900 B WATSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016

June 1, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 6
674 Rt 6 A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

I am sorry to be so long in answering your letter, and I hope my reply is not too late for your report.

You ask a very important question, which deserves a serious answer. I do believe in God. It is harder to put in words why I believe in God and how he has made his presence known to me. I think the best answer I can give you is contained in the Gospel of St. John, Chapter 4 in which he writes that "Everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God."

I have been fortunate in family, friends and colleagues all of whom have at times revealed aspects of God.

I hope you are equally fortunate.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellsworth Bunker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Ellsworth Bunker

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
4212 25th Street
San Francisco
Calif. 94114

Anthony and Liana
Burgess
Rue Grimaldi, 44
Monaco (MC)

November 28, 1976

Dear Paul,

Thank you for writing to me. I think I do believe in God, though I find it hard to define exactly what I mean by God. I suppose I mean the creative force that produced spirit out of matter and enabled man to develop such values as truth, beauty and goodness. He manifests itself to me in things that science cannot explain, in the beauty of art and nature, in acts of precognition, in love.

I agree with Voltaire, who said that if God did not exist it would be necessary to invent him.

I enclose a photograph which gives you an idea of how ugly I am. But a kind heart beats under that repulsive exterior. God also reveals himself to me in cigars, so long as they are not too expensive.

With every good wish to you and your
fellow students,

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Burgess

Gary R. Burghoff

Sept 1983

Dear Paul,

When the Lord felt I was ready to understand, he opened my eyes and my heart, and I began to understand the Bible, every time I read it.

I had already become a "famous" person and I had all the material things that a person could want. Yet, I was unhappy. When I had nowhere else to turn I finally (as a last chance) turned to God.

Today my life is filled with good friends and my out-look is 100% better. I try to live a simple life and concern myself more with people and less with "making it."

God bless you.

Gary Burghoff

E L L E N B U R S T Y N

P.O. Box 217, Palisades, NY
10964

August 1, 1983

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt 6A
East Sandwich
Mass. 02537

Dear Paul,

Yes, I do believe in God. I feel God's presence at all times, everywhere.

Very best wishes,

Ms. Burstyn is in California. She dictated ^{to me} a response to Paul over the phone. She was not here at her New York address to sign the letter. Lily Parker, asst. to EB.

Sincerely,
Lily



THE VICE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20501

February 24, 1983

Dear Paul,

I was interested to learn of your class survey. One's beliefs are, of course, a very personal thing, but my Christian faith has always been a most important part of my life and has been a constant source of strength and joy for me.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Barbara Bush

I feel God's presence often
but especially at two times
of birth and death. Especially
when spring comes every year.
The answer to your question is -
You bet - I believe in God!



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 8, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

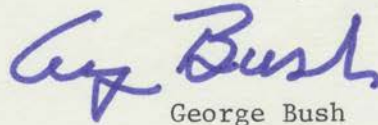
Dear Paul:

One of the nicest things about being the Vice President is hearing from the young people of our country.

I do believe in God and have been a Christian for many years. I am constantly aware of God's presence.

Best wishes and thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,


George Bush

Dear Paul:



Yes I do believe in God. I have always been a fairly faithful Catholic but in 1979 I had an experience which has brought me even closer.

I made a laceration in Oct. 1979, and at this retreat I experienced the presence of our Lord. I looked back over my life and realized that it was Him who gave me the gift to play football and it was Him who had it end for me because of an injury. I feel it was for the purpose of moving on and doing more of His work with the people who I have an influence on and that is what has happen since the laceration.

With friendship
Alub Butler

P.S. You have good penmanship for a 5th grader!

10/23/76 Dear Paul

Of course I believe in God -
He is a real presence in our lives.

Best Regards
Earl Butz

DEAR Paul,

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER.
THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION
'DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?' IS
YES.

GOD MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN
TO ME IN THE MOST BASIC WAY.
HE ALLOWED ME TO BECOME AWARE.

MANY THANKS FOR THINKING
OF ME.

John Biner

Cambridge Survey Research

Suite 301 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 Telephone (202) 223-6345

April 30, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

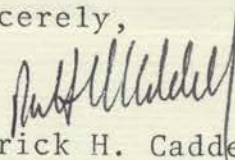
Dear Paul,

Please forgive me for taking so long to respond to your letter. I have been very busy lately and I am a bit late in answering most of my mail.

As for your question -- Yes, I do believe in God. I don't feel that it is a matter of making his presence known in any tangible form but a matter of my belief manifested by my faith in God. Acceptance of a premise as true and certain of the doctrines the church teaches in Christ's name. We sometimes cannot understand the mysteries of christianity as we understand human things, but through the gift of faith, we know that they are true.

I hope I have been able to express my belief in a way you can understand it. Religion, faith, God are things that are not always simply explained.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. Caddell

PHC/hb

San Francisco Chronicle

November 19, 1976

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your letter, and sorry to be so late in replying.

Yes, I believe in God, for He makes me feel good when I have done something decent and generous, and He makes me feel awful when I have been mean, selfish, petty and vindictive. You may think I am talking about my conscience, but actually it is the spirit of God. I am trying to emulate Him. When I fail, He and I are disappointed.

All best,



NOTE-O-GRAM[®]

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JOHN CAGE

101 WEST 18 STREET (5B) • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10011

MESSAGE

REPLY

TO

Paul Rofkin
RFD 2 opp Grant Rd
Hewmarket, N.H. 03857

DATE

Oct. 7, 1980

DATE

(The goal) is Samsara (this
very moment and place).With best wishes,
John Cage

I am not a member of a church.
I studied the philosophy of Zen
Buddhism with Daisetz Suzuki
in the late '40's. We do not speak
of God. We see each being,
whether sentient or non-sentient
as the Buddha. Creation has no
single center but is a multiplicity
of centers in interpenetration
and non-obstruction. Nirvana

BY

SIGNED

Form N-R73® The Drawing Board, Inc., Box 505, Dallas, Texas

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MARY S. CALDERONE MD, MPH *Gadjunk professor*
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
51 WEST FOURTH ST. 5 FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10003

(212) 677-2994

June 1, 1983

Dear Paul,

That's an interesting question you ask, and I'll be looking to hear the results of your survey. How are you defining the word "famous?" How many people are you asking, how are you choosing them, ^{the} results you get? All that is called "setting the parameters," which means the rules, standards, boundaries, and other qualifications necessary *in any* survey.

You see, I am not only a medical doctor, but I have special training in public health. This always includes study of statistics, how to collect them, analyze and draw conclusions from them, and then make them known to the public. The people you will be questioning are part of that public, and have the right to know the answers to such questions, especially the very personal ones you are asking.

Now I'll answer your first question: yes, I most certainly believe in God as He is described in the New Testament by Jesus. I am a Quaker, and Quakers have a very special feeling about their relationship with God, and about all of the teachings of Jesus who based them on love of human beings as children of God. I have my Bible, given to me by a dear friend on my 14th birthday, 1918. In it she wrote, "Let your light so shine before men that they will see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven." That year I read the whole Bible through, and as I lived my life these past 65 years, I tried to use my scientific knowledge and what I have learned over the years about human beings and their needs, to be of help to them with some of the many difficult problems they meet in this great world.

The Quaker belief is that God works through people, that there is something of God in every person. I believe that, and I try to deal with people in that way. (By people I mean e_v_e_r_y_o_n_e -- babies, girls, boys, men, women), and I have many rewards: a loving family, (three children, two grandchildren and a third expected next November, and three great-grandchildren). And though I have not sought them I have been overwhelmed by the many honors and awards from universities and professional groups who understand what I am trying to do for people because I care about them. But the silver medals and honorary degrees framed on the wall are not to be compared to the love and caring I receive everywhere I go, from people I have never met but who recognize and thank me for my books, TV interviews and speeches which have helped them. Even on subways and in airports this happens, and that is more than enough reward.

*That was all my answer to your second question. Your friend,
Mary S. Calderone MD*

Erskine Caldwell
PO Box 4550/Hopi Station • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

24 Sep 80

Dear Paul Rifkin =

I believe in
goodness. I let others
believe in a god.

Sincerely,

Erskine Caldwell

DEWEY, BALLANTINE, BUSHBY, PALMER & WOOD

1775 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.
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45, AVENUE GEORGE V
75008 PARIS, FRANCE
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CABLE: DEWBALAW

May 6, 1983

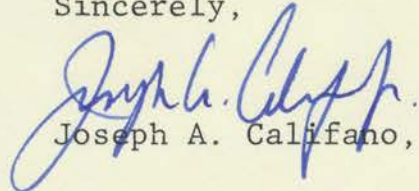
Master Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter about your fifth grade class report.

I do believe in God. I am a Roman Catholic and have been educated in Catholic schools at the elementary, secondary and high school level.

Sincerely,


Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

Paul

Yes I believe in God

Just Look UP

in the Sky

Do you think that
Man could have put
that together

Best Wishes

Ray Campanella

August 12, 1983

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Mass 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for the wonderful letter! I was so impressed with the question you asked me and I'm more than happy to reply as God is No. 1 in my life. He makes his presence known to me in so many ways. It's almost as if when you make the decision to open the door and surrender to God's power, you see it everywhere. One of the most prevelant places I see and feel his presence is in the love I feel for everyone. It's a love that is not dependent upon being loved....I just love people for what they are it's very rewarding.

I send you a thousand happy thoughts and hope that you asked that question because God is a conscious part of your life too.

Sending some of that love your way.....

John G. Gandy
John G. Gandy

August 4, 1983

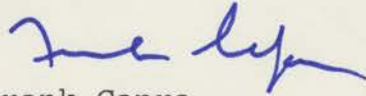
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich
MASS 02537

Dear Paul:

Yes, I believe in God and His presence is constantly
around you in birds, trees, animals--yes, animals
from ants to elephants.

God is life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Capra", written in a cursive style.

Frank Capra

Dear Paul: About your
school paper — I was trying
to get to sleep at about 11:00
in the morning, and I was in such
a state that I started thinking —
'what if there was no earth, no
sky no anything?' Even to the
point that I visualized every thing
including myself no bigger than
the head of a pin, at that
point I cried out aloud for
Gods ^{help} and it was there that I
realized that I truly believed
in him.

Good luck.

Henry Curmicha

inside
story

A Public Television Series
On the Press

Hodding Carter

inside
story

inside
story

New York:

One Lincoln Plaza
New York New York 10023

Telephone 212 595 5981

Washington Bureau:

918 16th Street Suite 503
Washington DC 20006

Telephone 202 223 8392

May 25, 1983

Dear Mr. Rifkin,

Yes, I believe in God.
At first, I believed because that
is what my parents and church
had taught me.

Then, shortly after I
left college, I came to believe after
considerable study and prayer. God's
presence seems obvious to me in
every aspect of life.

Sincerely,
Hodding Carter



JIMMY CARTER

September 21, 1983

To Paul Rifkin

Thank you for asking me this question.

I have believed in God since I was a young man. My mother and father took me to a Baptist Sunday School and Church every week and I was taught to read God's word in the Bible. I also believe that Jesus is God's son.

I am grateful for your kind words and send you my warm good wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "C" at the end.

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

**JIMMY
CARTER
WALTER
MONDALE**



Leaders, for a change.

November 26, 1976

Dear Paul,

Thank you so much for your letter. Yes, I do believe in God and I had my religious experience because of my Christian family upbringing.

Thanks again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Lillian Carter
Lillian Carter

LC/jw



OLEG CASSINI

February 15, 1983

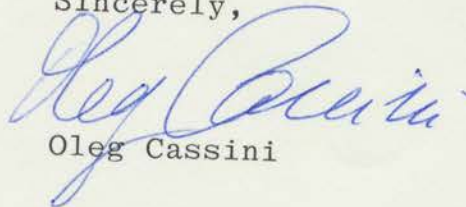
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt.6A
East Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul:

Many thanks for your letter.

I do believe in God and I feel His
presence constantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Oleg Cassini".

Oleg Cassini

OC/rf

HARRY CHAPIN

January 17, 1977

Paul Rifkin
4212 25th St.
San Francisco, CA 94114

Dear Paul,

In response to your letter the following is a poem from my poetry book, Looking...Seeing.

"An Admission"

Being modern
and agnosticated
I don't possess a God
to push and pull about
to match fate's idle motions.

But every once and a while,
not very often
let me add quickly,
being only human
I am prone to feeling
lost and somewhat miniscule.
Shyly I place
some sort of Being,
entirely nonreligious
let me assure you,
above me in the firmament.


HARRY CHAPIN

I let Him laugh
at my endeavors
and grant myself,
only at these weakened moments
the grace of Someone
Else's recognition
of my very doubtful
existence.

I hope this answers your question.

Sincerely,

HC/dr


Harry Chapin



UNITED FARM WORKERS of AMERICA AFL-CIO

National Headquarters: La Paz, Keene, California 93531

(805) 822-5571

March 24, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6-A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for the letter you wrote to me on February 10, 1983. I am sorry that I could not answer you sooner, but many meetings with farm workers in California and additional speaking engagements made it impossible.

I am pleased that you included me in the survey of people that you respect. My answers to your question will be brief, but I hope they will be satisfactory.

Yes, Paul, I definitely believe in God! The presence of God has been made clear to me first of all by my parents. My father (who died last October at the age of 101!) and my mother were good Catholics and brought us up with great respect for God. They made sure that we learned our prayers, that we respected the teachings of the Church, and that we tried to live justly.

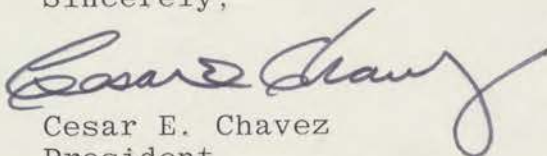
Since I have grown up, the presence of God has been made clear to me in two different ways: through other good people who love God and their brothers and sisters so heroically (Gandhi, St. Francis of Assisi, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa) and through my own personal prayer, especially meditation. I find that, if I provide time and silence for God, He will make his presence known to me.

As I said, my answers are quite brief, but I hope they will give you an idea of the presence of God in my life and that they will be of use to you in your survey.

Good luck with the survey! I hope that you will always remember the cause of poor migrant workers and other oppressed people who suffer so much.

Viva la Causa!

Sincerely,



Cesar E. Chavez
President

CEC:ew

October 31, 1980

Dear Mr. Riffkin -

I'm sorry I can't answer
your questions about God -
They are very difficult questions,
and I am very private about
such matters.

But thank you for writing
me, and I ask you to
forgive me for being so
long in replying -

Sincerely yours,
Paddy Chayefsky

JOHN CHEEVER
CEDAR LANE
OSSINING, NEW YORK 10562

September 23rd, 1980

Dear Paul Rifkin,

I come, as you may know, from New England where no one is every famous and where it is thought impertinent to question a total stranger about his spiritual life. I think it a great mistake to confuse factual and spiritual matters and since I am an old, old man and you are in the fifth grade I feel it my responsibility to say so.

Sincerely,

John Cheever

ANNA CHENNAULT
INVESTMENT BUILDING
1511 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

(202) 347-0516

February 14, 1983

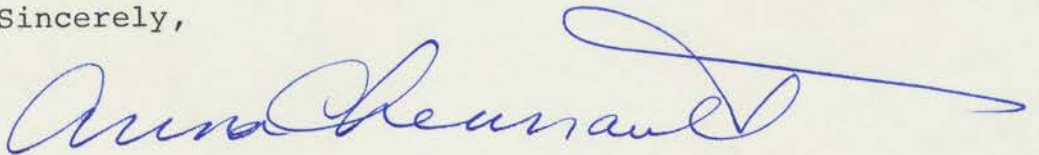
Master Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul:

Yes, I believe in God. I am a Roman Catholic.

I consider God makes his presence known in many ways. Sometimes in time of trouble or in time of joy, but most people find the answer from God by prayer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna Chennault", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Anna Chennault

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND PHILOSOPHY

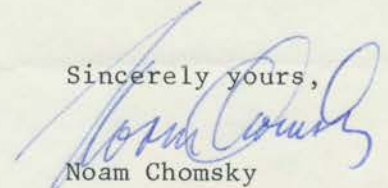
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

April 18 1983

Dear Paul,

You asked in your letter whether I believe in God. Sometimes it may be comforting to have such a belief, but I have never read or heard any good reason why one should have this belief, or why one should adopt one of the specific versions of the belief proposed by the various religions of the world. So I would have to say that my answer to your question is No.

Sincerely yours,



Noam Chomsky

Dear Paul,

You asked if I believe in God. Well, I believe that the Universe, Nature, Life, in all its million forms is sacred. And that it is all God - as are each one of us. Each one of us is a miracle and we are related to all the other billions and billions of miracles in the world whether it be a speck of intergalactic dust, one of the few remaining red kites, an endangered whale, or an atom. So, to me, the

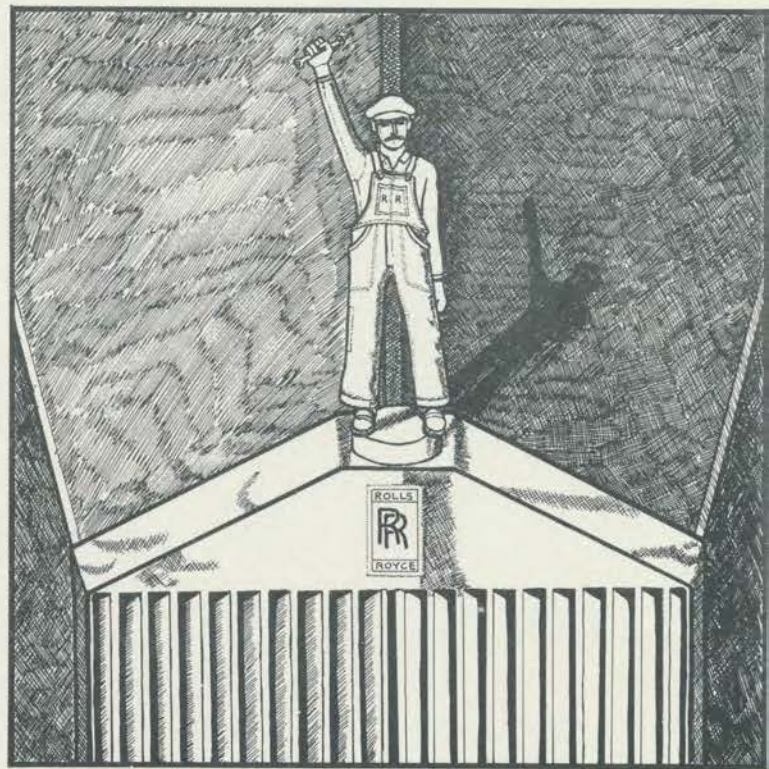
idea of splitting an atom is a crime. And making nuclear weapons which can destroy this sacred planet, is an equal crime.

But I don't believe in a white God with a long beard sitting in the clouds, turning a blind eye to all these crimes.

First of all, ~~if~~ ^{why} God why should God be a man? It seems really silly that it should be a man, or a woman, but men are so war-like, I think God

would be more likely to be a
woman if it was anything.

No, I think we all
have Godliness within us. It's
just a question of not losing it
when all we are encouraged to
do is think of things + getting
things, + making money, which
is the opposite of God, because that
encourages Greed. Anyway,
I wish you luck with your survey,
Take care,
I wish you a happy life —
Julie Christie,



SWEETWATER FILMS
9336 West Washington Boulevard
Culver City, California 90230
(213) 204-4020

Aug 5, 83

Dear Paul:

The answer to your question is "yes." God shows us his face in the mountains and the rivers of the earth -- in the birds and the stars in the sky -- and in the smile of a child. "May God show his face to you" is an old Irish wish for good luck.

Sincerely yours

Michael Cimino

The New York Times

229 WEST 43 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

March 3, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

Please forgive my long delay in answering your letter but I have been away from my desk and home for a prolonged period.

To answer your question, perhaps because I need to compensate for my feelings of failure and other shortcomings, I believe that there is and always have been mystic forces acting in my behalf. Supernal beings. Among other things, as I have stated, I do believe in God, although I do not belong to any organized religion. I envision God as some vague, bearded, robed, paternal figure out of a Michelangelo painting, something perhaps from the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. And when I am in need (even for trivial, small, material things) I pray to Him quietly and, perhaps because of my belief, which makes me act positively when I might have otherwise acted negatively, I often find my prayers answered.

I hope this answers your question.

Sincerely,



Craig Claiborne

THE NEW YORK TIMES COPY ROOM
MAR 3 1983

THE CITADEL

THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLESTON, S. C. 29409

GEN. MARK W. CLARK, U. S. A., RET.
PRESIDENT EMERITUS

18 April 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Mass 02537

Dear Paul:

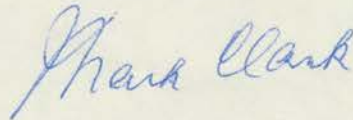
Your letter has been received and I note your interesting survey you are making.

To answer your first question; yes, I do believe in God.

I cannot answer your second question with a definite statement as you have requested but I will tell you that as a little boy my family taught me to say my prayers and of more importance, to believe that they would be answered. During my long service in the Army, involved in combat in World War I, World War II, and Korea, I was in command of many soldiers, and responsible for their well-being, and their very lives. I continued to say my prayers, knowing that they would be answered, and they were.

I hope you get a high grade on your interesting class report.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Clark

MWC:tp

Dear Paul, pl. see over.

FROM: Arthur C. Clarke

As I now receive several thousand items of mail a year, it is not possible for me to answer you personally. Moreover, it is sometimes many months before letters reach me. This reply is designed to deal with about 90% of the questions I am asked. I hope you will understand the need for it, and I thank you for your interest in my work.

ADDRESS: My home address is 25, Barnes Place, Colombo 7,
Sri Lanka, (Ceylon).
(Telephone: Colombo 94255: UNDERSEA, COLOMBO, Sri Lanka).

My London office is: Rocket Publishing Company
88 Nightingale Road,
London, N22, 4PP
(Tel: 01-888 7778)

BIOGRAPHY: Biographical details will be found in the standard references e.g. WHO'S WHO, CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS, CONTEMPORARY NOVELISTS, DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL BIOGRAPHY, CELEBRITY REGISTER, BRITANICA 3. For Ceylon background see the accounts of my underwater activities there, especially THE TREASURE OF THE GREAT REEF. NEW YORKER "Profile" 9 August 1969.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Now about 50 books; see above references, or the list in any recent edition.

RIGHTS: All editorial queries should be addressed to:

David Higham Associates
5-8 Lower John Street,
Golden Square,
London W1R 4HA (01-437 7888)

or

Scott Meredith
845, Third Ave.,
New York,
N.Y. 10022
(CI 5 - 5500)

LECTURES: I no longer accept lecture requests outside Sri Lanka.

SPACE: Obviously, I cannot answer queries about space; there are hundreds of books on the subject readily available. For general information in this field, write to the Secretary, The British Interplanetary Society, 12, Bessborough Gardens, London, S.W.1., or to Department of Public Affairs, NASA, Washington, D.C. 20546.

PHOTOS:

I am sorry, but I cannot supply photos and autographs. In particular, I cannot autograph and mail back books!

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will I comment on manuscripts: for some of the reasons, see chapter "Dear Sir....." in VOICES FROM THE SKY. Nor am I interested in ideas for stories, as I already have far more than I can ever use!

ADVICE TO AUTHORS:

The only advice I can give to would-be authors is as follows: Read at least one book a day and write as much as you can. Read the memoirs of authors who interest you. (Somerset Maugham's A WRITER'S NOTEBOOKS is a good example. Correspondence courses, writer's schools, etc., are probably useful - but all the authors I know were self-taught. There is no substitute for living: as Hemingway remarked: "Writing is not a fulltime occupation."

2001:

The answer to all queries on this subject will be found in the novel 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (NAL in US, Corgi in UK).
The book THE LOST WORLDS OF 2001 (NAL in US, Sidgwick and Jackson in UK).
The two concluding essays in REPORT ON PLANET THREE (Harper & Row in US, Gollancz in UK).
Jerome Agel's THE MAKING OF KUBRICK'S 2001 (NAL) is also a very useful reference, with many photos.

PUBLICITY QUOTES:

So many publishers and authors have asked me to comment on books, or to write prefaces, that I am now forced to turn down all such requests, no matter how good the cause.

I do not believe in God, but I
am very interested in Him (Her?)!

Srial
atth
3 Nov 76

Dear MR. CLARKE,

I am making a survey of Famous people I respect for a Fifth grade class report.

My question to you is:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD? YES

[If the answer is yes, please describe how God made his presence known to you] THROUGH ALL THE WONDERS OF NATURE.

Thank you in advance for your answer.

Sincerely,

Paul Ripkin
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6A
E. Sandwich
Mass. 02537

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH

RIVERSIDE DRIVE AT 122nd STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027



WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN, JR.

June 3, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA. 02537

Dear Paul:

It's late at night, and I'm trying to catch up on the mail. It may also be too late for this letter to help you with your fifth grade class report.

Yes, I do believe in God, and God has made His (or Her) presence known to me in Bach's b minor Mass, in Verdi's Requiem, and Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, in the face of my father and uncle and friends, but most of all, in the face of Jesus whom I see as the window through whom we see as much as is given to our mortal eyes to see of God. I don't think God is confined to Christ, but to me as a Christian, God is most essentially defined by Christ.

For many years I visited my aunt further up the Cape in Yarmouthport. I know exactly where East Sandwich is, and I hope you'll soon be out on those great dunes.

Very sincerely to you, too, Paul,

Bill @

William Sloane Coffin

CBS NEWS

A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 975-4321

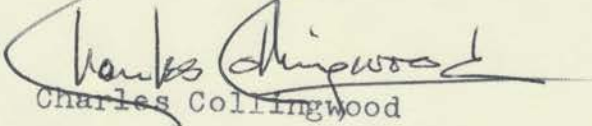
23 March 1983

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

I suppose I do believe in God. At least I believe that there is a guiding power in the Universe, usually benign. Having been brought up in a religious family, I tend to call that God, but I think that personalizes Him too much. I cannot visualize Him at all and think of his influence as a force, a power, rather than as someone in whose image I was created. I haven't the faintest notion whether we look alike or not.

I have had no revelatory experience and couldn't tell you how God made his presence known to me. It is something I have grown up with and I sense his presence in all things, however contradictory it may sometime appear to me.

Yours sincerely,


Charles Collingwood

stroke and was unconscious with his brain destroyed by the stroke. If he had lived he would have been a complete vegetable. The children and I prayed for God to take Bob, and He did. As active a life as this brilliant reporter, author and lecturer lived, he could not have borne living on..and God was good enough to take him to Heaven. As one nun said to another one at the wake, "If Bob isn't in heaven, there is no hope for any of us". But of course there IS hope for all of us if we believe and trust in God.

I hope this helps you with your class report.

Most sincerely,

Millie Considine

(Mrs. Bob Considine)

P.S. Our two lovely grandpchildren live in San Francisco as you do, and attend Nova school.

Bob Considine

Nov. 2, 1976

Dear Paul,

Thank you for choosing my husband Bob Considine as "a famous person you respect" to put your question "Do You Believe In God" to. Unfortunately Bob can't reply himself, because he has been with God for a year. But I was married to him for 44 years and I pretty much know his thoughts. Of course he believed in God. How could anyone look at the beautiful flowers God gave us, the sun and the moon, the food He put into the ground for us to eat, a baby, without knowing God did it all for us. Bob was a most religious man, a Catholic, a Knight of Malta, and went to Church to pray every day of his life. God made his presence known to Bob by answering those prayers..and believe me those prayers were never for himself or for money, they were for the sick, the needy, the soldiers and anybody else who needed help and guidance.

God made his presence known to Bob in more ways than I can tell in just one letter. God put Bob into Vietnam during the war just at the moment when an orphanage there had a little Vietnamese baby to be adopted by an American family, but red tape was holding up getting the proper papers for the baby to be able to leave. Bob went directly to Premier Ky and got those papers, and brought the baby home personally to deliver to her anxious and loving new parents. Bob was standing outside the gates of Castel Goldolfo waiting for the word that Pope Pius had died, so he could send out the story to his 300 newspapers. Just as the announcement of the Pope's death was announced and Bob was wondering how he could get out of that mob of people and to an office where he could write the story when the gate he was standing by opened and a car drove through. A Bishop who recognized Bob was in the car, and he opened the door and said "Hop in, Bob". And the Bishop took him into the room where the Pope was lying, having just died. Bob kissed him while he was still warm, and of course was the only newspaperman in the world who was in the death room. Don't you think God was rewarding Bob for his faith by arranging for that Bishop to go through just then?

Another time Bob was flying from New York to Las Vegas to cover an atomic test in the desert. At that time one had to fly to Los Angeles, then transfer to another plane to fly back to Las Vegas, and Bob was afraid he would be too late to cover the test if there was much of a wait between planes in Los Angeles. Well, believe it or not, his plane didn't go to Los Angeles--it made an emergency landing in Las Vegas so that Bob was in plenty of time. Oh God did look out for Bob..even when Bob died. He had a massive



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND
BIOBEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

ADDRESS REPLIES TO:
RM. 2859 SLICHTER HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

August 24, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul,

The fact that I am alive on the planet Earth
in a Solar System which is part of a galaxy
in a universe in which there's at least
four trillion other galaxies is as much
evidence as I need or can absorb.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Cousins".

Norman Cousins

NC/cpb



INSTITUT OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE

FONDATION ALBERT 1^{er}, PRINCE DE MONACO

RECONNU D'UTILITÉ PUBLIQUE

Téléphone : 30-21-54
30-15-14

MONACO-VILLE, le January 14, 1977

LE DIRECTEUR

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, Cal. 94114

Dear Paul:

It was very thoughtful to write to me and I thank you for your letter.

I think I am going to disappoint you but I am not going to answer your question. It is too complex and profound a problem to just dash it off in a letter.

What I am going to say, though, is that you should ask yourself that question and meditate on it. You might find out perhaps that when you have the answer it will no longer be necessary for you to know how other people feel about God.

Good luck all the same for your assignment,

Sincerely yours,

Jacques Yves Cousteau

bs

Law School of Harvard University

Cambridge, Mass. 02138

9 November 1976

Mr. Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, Calif 94114

Dear Paul:

This will acknowledge your letter of
November 3rd.

I am reluctant to respond to very per-
sonal questions from someone I do not know.

In one way I am sorry not to help you
with your work. I would also like to encourage
your religious faith. If there are less per-
sonal questions I can answer for you, I shall
be glad to do it.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Archibald Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Archibald Cox

AC:has

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

May 10, 1983

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich
MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God, whose presence God has made known to me in the love people have shown me, and still do; in the Bible; and in the vastness and intricacy of nature.

All the best,

Harvey Cox (RT)
Harvey G. Cox

rt



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

PHILIP M. CRANE
ILLINOIS

May 23, 1983

Dear Paul -

Thank you for your letter regarding your class report. The answer to your question is an emphatic YES!

You ask how God has revealed Himself to me. I cannot begin to tell you all the ways, Paul, because time does not permit.

I never recall questioning the existence of God since

I grew up in a very religious family, but God's presence and strength I have known whenever tragedy struck (I lost my older brother, George, for example in a plane crash), but I have known God's beauty in sunsets and nature, His love with the births of my eight children, and His peace during times of anxiety.

If I did not have God to turn to on a daily basis

in my life, I don't know how I could endure this oftentimes difficult adventure called life.

Most importantly, He promises reunion with Him and our loved ones after this life. For that reason, we need never be afraid. I hope this helps, Paul.

Warmest regards,

Phil Crane

MICHAEL CRICHTON

December 9, 1976

Dear Paul Rifkin:

Thank you for your letter. I do believe in God, although I am not sure I can make my beliefs clear. (They aren't clear to me.) I have come to my beliefs through my understanding of science, particularly physics, which is ordinarily thought to be Godless, but isn't.

I do not have much interest in organized religion. Organized religion is a business and nothing else, unless you want to think of it as a way to organize wars efficiently. Also, organized religion tells you what to think, and I believe the only way to know about God is to find out on your own. What somebody else tells you is of very little use except on an ethical or moral level. But ethics and morals are just arbitrary social agreements, no matter what anybody tells you.

I believe that we are all God, and God is all of us. But this means you can find out everything you need to know by yourself, by what you see and what you feel. Nobody knows any more than you do---even though you're just in the fifth grade.

Best wishes,

Michael Crichton

THE SALK INSTITUTE

April 20, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul,

No, I do not believe in God.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Crick

F. H. C. Crick

FHCC/bml

TV GUIDE

1290 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019/212-484-9900

October 22, 1980

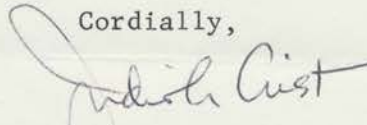
Mr. Paul Rifkin
RFD 2-- off Grant Road
New Market, New Hampshire 03857

Dear Mr. Rifkin,

Your letter has only now been forwarded to me
from Radnor.

I would like to know the reason for your question,
which hardly seems to me the subject for ^a fifth-grade
public school student. I would also like to know
if a grownup is helping you with this project with
a book in mind. I do not know many fifth-graders
who are concerned with God "making himself known."
Perhaps if you could tell me the source of your
interest and the purpose of your inquiring among
"famous people" I could be of specific help to you.

Cordially,



Judith Crist
Film Critic

JC/ds

Bing Crosby

November 8, 1976

Dear Paul:

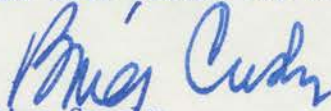
Yes, I certainly do believe in God. I have since my first conscious moment in this life, and of course, I went to a Jesuit school for eight years, which only fortified my beliefs.

God has never made his presence known to me, but I only have to look around me to know that he exists. How else can you explain the world we see around us in all its wonders?

Only the existence of a Divine Creator could have made it possible.

I hope this proves suitable for you, Paul -

All best wishes for the success of your project,



Bing Crosby

BC:lm

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

norm crosby

March 18, 1983

Dear Paul,

Sorry to be so long with this answer, but as usual, I've been on the road and just found your letter.

You asked if I believe in God and how he made his presence known to me; It's a very interesting question.

I guess people do have special occasions in their lives, Paul, when God lets you know he's around ... but I don't think I ever needed a particular event to convince me.

God gifted me with an ability to make people laugh, to make them forget their problems even for just a little while and when I consider the great success that I have enjoyed with my career (from a humble beginning) .. when I realize how wonderfully I have been able to provide for my family ... for my parents as well (when I had them) and for my two boys who are in the third and eighth grades now ... when I can help to raise money for marvelous causes by appearing at benefits and telethons all over the Country and people do respond because I asked them to help ... when I receive hundreds of letters from nice folks who just want to say "Thanks for all the joy you've given us " ... now who do I thank for all this if not God ?

Hope this is what you needed, Paul, and my very best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

Norm Crosby

Dear MR. Cummings:

I am MAKING a survey of famous PEOPLE I Respect For a 5th Grade class Report.

My question to you is:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?? **Yes!**

[If the ANSWER is yes, please describe how GOD made his presence KNOWN to you],

THANK you IN Advance FOR YOUR answer,

Sincerely,

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5

333 W. Frances Willard
Chico Ca. 95926

Through my mother,
who was an ordained
minister

Love & Blessings

Bob Cummings



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

MARIO M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

February 25, 1983

Dear Paul:

Do I believe in God?

I certainly do.

He made his presence known to me almost from the day I was born. As soon as I began to become aware of the world - its beauty, its wonders - I was receptive to the idea of God.

That receptivity turned into belief as I learned how to think systematically, how to draw conclusions from evidence at hand.

I hope this has been helpful.

Thank you for asking about one of my favorite subjects.

Sincerely,

Mario M. Cuomo

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER
INSTITUTE OF CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE
412 FIFTH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001
(202) 624-8220

SAMUEL DASH
DIRECTOR
HERBERT S. MILLER
CO-DIRECTOR

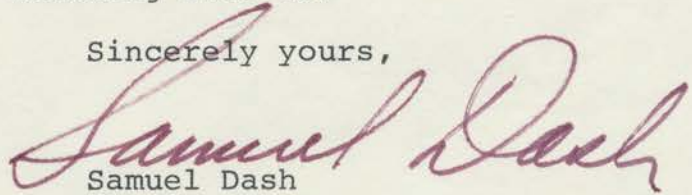
December 20, 1976

Master Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of November 6. Yes, I do believe in God. I believe it would be difficult to describe how His presence was made known to me in any one way. But I have always felt that He was with me and watching over me.

Sincerely yours,


Samuel Dash
Professor of Law

SD:mpd



Paul Kipkin:

I don't feel it's helpful
to you to answer the
question. The search for a God
is so personal that you should
make the quest a personal and
intimate one for yourself.

Good luck to you.

Clive Davis

with
**Ossie &
Ruby**

P.O. Box 1318
New Rochelle NY
10802



Dear Paul Ryan.

Yes, I do believe in God. He makes
His/her presence known to me in
my deepest inner feelings

Sincerely
Osno Davis

Yes.

✓ Through an experience of
inner light - from meditation.

This knowledge of God within me was revealed
to me by the spiritual master, Gurn Maharaj Ji

Thank you for your question - Rennie Davis

Pam Dawber

Dear Paul,

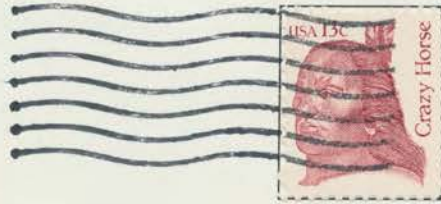
I'm sorry for the delay³
but your letter was
in a bag of mail
that was accidentally
misplaced.

To answer your questions:

Yes, I believe in God.

I feel his presence through
the positive energy (the source
of love) that comes out of
his power. Positive breeds
positive.

Thanks again!



Paul Rifkin
674 RT 6A
East Sandwich, Mass.
02537



much love,
Sam Dauter

Paris, France

June 26, 1984

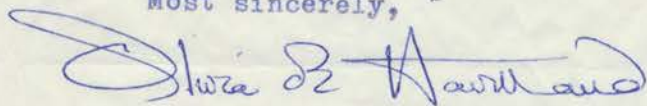
Dear Paul Rifkin,

Many months ago you wrote me regarding a survey you were making for a fifth grade summer school project. The letter became mislaid and has only now come into my hands.

Just in case you will be engaged this summer in a similar project, I am sending herewith my replies to the question which your letter posed: Indeed, I do believe in God and have received answers to prayers many times.

Much good luck to you in every way,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Olivia de Havilland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "O".

Olivia de Havilland

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Mass.
02537 U.S.A.

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
(713) 790-4951

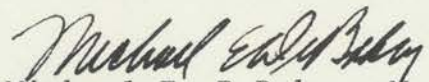
December
10
1976

Master Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

Dear Paul:

In reply to your inquiry of November 30, 1976, I am a Christian.
Best wishes to you for successful completion of your report.

Sincerely yours,



Michael E. DeBakey, M. D.

gp

Dear Paul,

Forgive me for this paper, but my writing has gotten very sloppy and this will help me to be neat.

My answer to you is, yes, indeed, I do believe in God. I cannot say that He made his presence known to me. I guess you could say that in some way I found Him. How is not easy for me to describe. The best way to put it is that as I grew older, I came to realize that life and the universe ~~is~~ ^{are} not disorderly, that they have rules. If you learn the rules of the universe, science lets you discover more and more about it. If you obey the rules of life -- to like each day and be grateful to have it being the very first rule -- life, no matter how painful, feels good. It is rich. The laws of nature and human nature are God. Everybody, deep down, knows those laws. When you try to disobey them -- and we all do sometimes, because people are disobedient -- you are punished by feeling that it makes no sense to be alive.

I suspect you are too young to understand this in your head. But in your heart and on your fingertips is where it matters.

Midge Deeter

RONALD V. DELLUMS

8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CHAIRPERSON,

COMMITTEE ON THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MEMBER,

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

2136 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2661

BARBARA LEE,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

ROBERT BRAUER,
SPECIAL COUNSEL



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ANY REPLY TO THIS LETTER
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
OFFICE CHECKED:

- 201 13TH STREET, SUITE 105
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94604
(415) 763-0370
- 3557 MT. DIABLO BOULEVARD
LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA 94549
(415) 283-8125
- 2490 CHANNING WAY, SUITE 217
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704
(415) 548-7767

DONALD R. HOPKINS
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

May 9, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

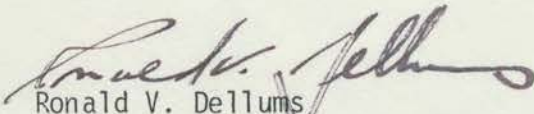
Dear Paul:

I am happy to respond to your inquiry regarding my religious belief and am pleased to be considered one of the people you respect.

Yes, I believe in God. I cannot answer your questions as to when God made His presence known to me because there is no specific date that I can refer to. He was and is always within me. His presence is continuously made known to me every time I see the beauty of life.

I hope that this answers your questions and thank you for writing.

Sincerely,


Ronald V. Dellums
Member of Congress

RVD/rdh

JAMES DICKEY

4620 Lelia's Court
COLUMBIA, S. C. 29206

September 22, 1980

Mr. Paul Rifkin
RFD #2 -- off Grant Road
Newmarket, New Hampshire 03857

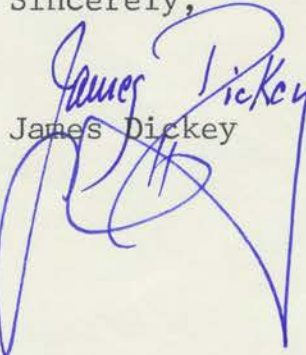
Dear Paul,

Thank you very much for your letter.

In answer to your question -- do I believe in God --
I would say this: whatever made what is, from the
sand grain to the galaxy, is worthy of my worship.
Whether such a force as we call God knows anything
about me or not, I don't know. I would say to
God what the angels say to Him in Goethe's Faust:

Thine aspect cheers the hosts of heaven
Though what Thine essence, none can say.

Sincerely,


James Dickey

/lb

yes. i Do Love
God and have
all ways Love God

Love From
Daddy

ONE FEDERAL NOTE

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

5

5

BO DIDDLEY

BO DIDDLEY



580673



SERIES 531 A

*Love From
Bo Diddley
1983 Bob on*

Treasurer of the United States

Secretary of the Treasury

FIVE DOLLAR

5

5

PHYLLIS DILLER

August 10, 1983

Dear Paul

Thank you for your nice letter. Here is my answer to your question, "DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?"

"I believe in the spirit of good, the life force, nature. That is my "form" of what some people call God. I cannot picture a man in human form as God."

Good luck with your project!

Best wishes

Phyllis Diller
Phyllis Diller



BOB DOLE
KANSAS

STANDING COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 25th, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MASS. 02537

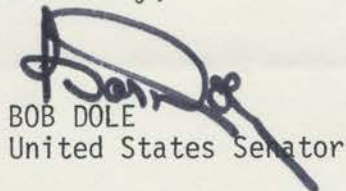
Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thank you for your letter concerning your survey of famous people.

I have always had a strong belief in God. Because of this I have been a consistent supporter of voluntary prayer in public schools and generally support any measure which, within constitutional boundaries, would restore the right of school children to the freedom of religious expression. These measures are pending in the Judiciary Committee of which I am a member.

Again, thank you for contacting me on this important issue. Please accept my best wishes for your academic success.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLE
United States Senator

BD:db

J. H. DOOLITTLE
702 MUTUAL OF OMAHA BLDG.
5225 WILSHIRE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90036

—
(213) 936-8109

28 March 1977

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
333 West Frances Willard
Chico, California 95926

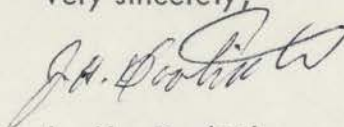
Dear Paul:

Have your letter of the twenty-fourth.

Yes, I believe in God. I am sure that a Universe as vast and orderly as ours could not have just happened. There must be some Controlling Power behind it.

Every good wish to you and yours.

Very sincerely,



J. H. Doolittle

DOUBLEDAY

A COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 22nd, 1983

Dear Paul:

Of course I believe in God. He is responsible
for all the good all around us.

Best,


Nelson Doubleday

ND:lt

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich
Massachusetts 02537

HUGH DOWNS

November 5, 1976

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter with the question "Do you believe in God?" which I will try to answer:

The answer is yes. But it is important to explain in what way I believe. For many people it is comforting to accept a specific dogma and descriptions of God drawn largely by other people living and dead. I find it is not possible for me to accept any of these sets of descriptions as a package. While I respect the right of other people to accept formal religions and I respect their sincere beliefs, I do not personally believe in the way of any other people I have met or read about. This means that I am like a man named Carlyle who once said "There is one true church of which at present I am the only member."

For years I thought I would find proof of the existence of God through scientific and logical truths. I have come to believe that any such "proofs" would limit the concept of God and a limited God is not what I believe in. His presence was made known to me on a personal level that has nothing to do with scientific proofs one way or the other. Since this is very complicated I probably could not describe it to you without the danger of limiting the concept and defeating my purpose.

Perhaps I could throw some light on it by explaining some things that God is not, in my belief. He is not a statue or idol, or a kindly old gentleman with a beard looking down from somewhere above the clouds, nor anything totally outside myself (and yourself.)

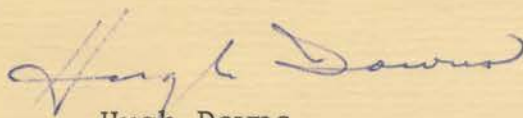
He is not a symbol used by temporal powers and organizations to make me behave. He is not a product of my fears and hopes nor a result of my intellectual deliberations.

I have only glimpses of something totally indescribable. Anyone determined to know God fully must probably be prepared to make enormous sacrifices in specific desires and ego ("He who would save his life must lose it.")

I am coming more and more to believe that no harm can come to a good man in life or death. This was said first over 2,000 years ago by a man named Socrates in Greece. I hope that you are aiming at becoming a good man. You will probably develop your own way of arriving at a faith, but becoming a good man is one way.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,



Hugh Downs

HD:jf

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001

ROBERT F. DRINAN, S.J.
PROFESSOR OF LAW

March 1, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

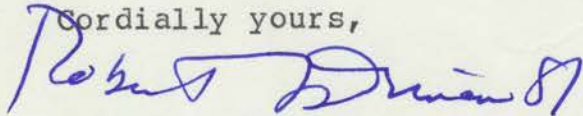
Dear Paul:

I thank you for your letter.

The attached resume will show you my activities and demonstrate some of my convictions.

With my sincere appreciation, I am

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Drinan". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke.

Robert F. Drinan, S.J.

RFD:lcb

Attachment



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

May 5, 1983

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for writing to include me in your survey of people you respect for your class project. I'm pleased by your compliment!

I came from a family that felt strongly that personal religious beliefs were to be discussed only in church or the privacy of our home. It probably seems pretty old-fashioned now, but I think this is one area that I still want to keep within the private rather than the public domain, except to say that I am a member of the Greek Orthodox Church.

I appreciate your letter, and I wish you good luck with your survey. Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Dukakis

MSD/ap

DAVID DOUGLAS DUNCAN

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Castellaras
06370 Mouans-Sartoux
FRANCE
Phone: (93) 75.24.53

12 April, 1983

Dear Paul:

Yes, I believe in a force greater than anything known here on Earth--so let's call it God.

However, to believe is not the same as demanding proof that God exists, as your query implies ("if the answer is Yes, please describe how God made His presence known to you."). I've never demanded evidence of such a Power, as one might have to provide before judge and jury, if taken to court. I neither ask nor care about proof.

In my profession as a photographer, working sometimes in areas of high physical risk such as war, I've wondered in the deepest sense about the inequities discovered within our lives and never found a satisfactory solution to my personal sense of injustice seen everywhere around me. I'm referring to the fact that young men, one-half or one-third my age have been shot and died beside me; young men surely more innocent than I, with all of their lives still unfulfilled and stretching as a long and seemingly rewarding road ahead of them . . . yet, suddenly it's all over, ended by a single piece of metal or the blast of a shell that left almost everything intact within the soldier--except his life. And I, standing only feet away, continued living--untouched.

What would you think about God on a morning like that?

Thank you for writing to me, Paul. And I wish you the knowledge that will provide you with a deeper understanding than mine about God, in your life ahead.

Saludos,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Douglas Duncan', written in a cursive style.

David Douglas Duncan

Will Durant
5608 Briarcliff Road
Los Angeles, Calif. 90068

11-15-76

Dear Paul:

Yes, I believe in God, but I define
him as the energy of the atom and the creative
vitality of living things.

Sincerely,

Will Durant