

CBS NEWS

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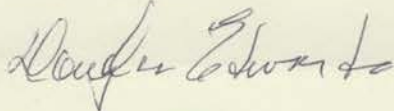
Dear Paul,

Please forgive the delay in answering your letter. I have been away on vacation, followed by hospitalization and recuperation for an appendectomy. I do hope my answer is not too late for your report.

Yes, I do indeed believe in God. He made his presence known to me from my very earliest days of understanding, through attending Sunday School, joining the church, and on a day-to-day basis in the general observation of nature and its wonders -- the birth of a baby, the change of seasons, the migration of birds, the precision of the sunrise and sunset, the wonders of the heavens and the deep-rooted belief that all of these marvels were the work of His creation. His presence has also been manifested to me many times in the answering of prayer.

Good luck with your report, and please let me know how you made out on it.

Sincerely,



Douglas Edwards

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

March 10, 1983

RALPH EDWARDS

1717 NORTH HIGHLAND AVENUE
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028

March 7, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Sure, I believe in God. I have ever since I was five years old and my mother and I were driving through one of those outrageous hail storms in a buggy pulled by a chestnut mare. The hail finally got so intense, the mare raised up on its hind legs, and I thought she was coming right back over on us. My mother said, "Don't worry son; God will take care of us."

Holding onto the reins with one hand, and reaching for the buggy whip with the other, she brought that whip down over that mare's back so hard the mare straightened out and never stopped running with us until we reached our homestead.

I wondered for awhile if God were associated with a buggy whip, but I certainly knew from then on, there had to be a God.

Sincerely,



Ralph Edwards

HOOVER INSTITUTION

ON WAR, REVOLUTION AND PEACE

Stanford, California 94305



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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of November 8. I would like to answer your letter, but since the School District of San Francisco does not know you, has absolutely no record of a 5th grade student named Paul Rifkin, are you sure that you are doing a class report for the 5th grade? Or, perhaps, do you go to a different, private school?

If so, please advise us, and tell us a little more about the nature of your report, who assigned it to you, and also what you believe. Dr. Teller is out of his office today, so I have answered your first letter for him. But, please do fill us in on more information about yourself so that we may be of help to you. I want to praise you on your very nice handwriting, I resort to typing, because at 30, my handwriting isn't half as good as yours at only 10 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Cassell".

Susan Cassell
Assistant to Dr. Teller

DEAR MR. EHRlich;

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?!

[If the ANSWER is YES, please
describe how GOD made his
PRESENCE KNOWN to YOU],

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR
YOUR ANSWER..

No. I believe that
people must be responsible
to one another for their behavior,
and not to mystical demons.
Paul Chebet

SINCERLY,

PAUL RIFKIN
GRADE 5
333 W. FRANCES Willard
Chico, Ca. 95926

MILTON S. EISENHOWER

4545 NORTH CHARLES STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21210

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

April 19, 1983

Dear Paul Rifkin:

I am a lifelong active Christian, an Episcopalian. So of course I believe in God. He has not been "revealed" to me, and I have never known anyone, even my fundamentalist parents, who actually had God revealed. My faith is based upon a complete understanding of both the Old and New Testaments, and constant study not only of the Bible but of helpful books about the Bible.

I accept much on faith, not on revelation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Milton S. Eisenhower". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

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



Institute for Advanced Study in Rational Psychotherapy

45 East 65th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021 (212) LEhigh 5-0822

30 March 1977

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
333 W. Frances Willard
Chico, Calif. 95926

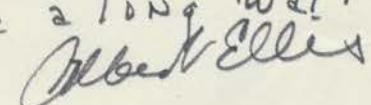
Dear Paul:

In answer to your question, Do I believe in God? The answer is certainly not. ~~I do not believe in any kinds of gods or devils or any kinds of magic.~~

Sincerely yours,


Albert Ellis, Ph.D., Executive Director

AE:mr

I am a probabilistic atheist, and believe that the probability of any God existing is exactly the same as the probability of the existence of any fairy, gnome, or hobgoblin. Such entities could exist but the probability of their being extant and having power over humans is about .0000000000000000001. Therefore, I choose to believe that they do not exist and will skeptically wait for evidence that they do. I expect quite a long wait!




NOVEMBER 24, 1976

PAUL RIFKIN
4212 25TH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

DEAR PAUL,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER AND FOR WRITING TO ME
DIRECTLY WITH YOUR QUESTION.

THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD AND I DON'T NOT BELIEVE IN GOD. IN THE *est* TRAINING WE TALK ABOUT "EXPERIENCING," WHICH IS DIFFERENT THAN "BELIEVING." I DO HAVE AN EXPERIENCE OF WHAT MOST PEOPLE CALL GOD AND WHAT *est* CALLS THE EXPERIENCE OF SELF.

THE ANSWER TO YOUR SECOND QUESTION IS THAT WHAT I KNOW, AND WHAT BECOMES KNOWN TO ME, IS A FUNCTION OF MY EXPERIENCE. BEST OF LUCK WITH YOUR REPORT.

WARM REGARDS,

WERNER ERHARD

CLIFTON FADIMAN

4668 VIA ROBLADA

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110

8 March 1977

Dear Paul:

The only way I can answer your letter is by saying that I think this is a very poor subject for your teacher to assign to a fifth grader. If you wish, you may show her this letter.

Sincerely,

Clifton Fadiman

Clifton Fadiman

M*A*S*H

August 17, 1983

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter. As my assistant indicated in a note that she sent along with the letter, it is not the simplest of requests that you make.

The first answer is short. The answer is yes - I believe in God. I should add to that that I have come to that belief after a great journey around and in and out of many different places and feelings on the subject, many different philosophies, and a lot of soul-searching (if you'll pardon the pun).

The second question requires a bit more of an extensive answer. God did not make "his" presence known to me. I say that because I don't think of God as a "him". God has made "its" presence known to me at many times and in many situations during my life, and in not all of those situations in my life was I aware that that was what was happening. The death of a thirteen year old boy required me to see the difference between the living, breathing boy/man who was a friend of mine and the lifeless heap in the road. That experience required for me to come to some reckoning with the spark of life that I now think of as the spirit.

Having now spent a considerable amount of time trying to open myself up to the notion of a spirit, or as they put it, very aptly I think, in the Star Wars movies, "the Force", I see evidence of it everywhere.

MIKE FARRELL

M*A*S*H

So, in that sense, God makes "its" presence known to me every day in the colors I see, in the sounds I hear, in the shining eyes and the voices and the tears of my children, in the fears and the hopes and the dreams of my friends, in the life that surrounds me and the joy that I experience, and in the sorrow, too.

I hope that what I've had to say on this subject has been of some help to you. I admire you for asking this particular question and I hope you'll look beyond the pat answers that people will want you to accept about reasons to believe or not believe in God and search out answers that will work for you in your life.

Be well and happy.

Peace!

*Mike
Farrell*

MIKE FARRELL

ORVAL E. FAUBUS
GOVERNOR'S HILL
HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS 72740

9-19-77

Paul Rifkin
Chico, Calif.

Dear Paul,

Yes, I believe in Dad.
His presence was felt by me when
alone surrounded by the wonderful and
beautiful world of nature, - which to me
only an omnipotent supreme being could
create.

I have felt his presence in the
brotherhood and fellowship of men and
great stress, great danger and great sacrifice -
as combat during WWII.

Then, with all our faults and failings,
and the many things that go wrong, and so
many not righted, one has to believe in a
time and place when all wrongs are righted,
all defects cured, and turmoil replaced by peace,
else there is no genuine purpose in life.

Sincerely
Orval Faubus

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME



Football Office

GERRY FAUST
Head Football Coach

J.M.J.

June 8, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

In answer to your question, "Do you believe in God?" yes, I do. God is present everywhere you look--in the people you deal with, in the beautiful trees and flowers and plants, in the whole universe.

I don't feel that I could live without God. Even though I've hit some tough times, He has always helped me out of adversity. I always thank God for what He has given me and don't dwell on what I don't have. I really feel that if you're thankful for what you have and never worry about what you don't have, you'll always be a happy person in life. God has been exceptionally good to me in my life, and every day I try to thank Him for what He has done for me.

I hope that all goes well for you. May God bless you always.

Yours in Notre Dame,

GERRY FAUST

ks

Dear Paul:

No. Not since the sixth grade.

Sincerely,

WMS FETTER

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
AND MUSEUM
COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK

plaque of
ROBERT W. A. FELLER
Elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame
1962
Baseball Writers Association of America



Published for National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc.

Dear Paul: 12/19/83

ans. yes

Bob Feller

Mr. Paul Wiffen
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6a
East Sandwich
Mass, 02537

C35226

Mike Roberts Color Productions
Oakland, CA 94623

Bob Feller



ROBERT WILLIAM ANDREW FELLER

CLEVELAND A.L. 1936 TO 1941

1945 TO 1956

PITCHED 3 NO-HIT GAMES IN A.L., 12 ONE HIT GAMES. SET MODERN STRIKEOUT RECORD WITH 18 IN GAME, 348 FOR SEASON. LED A.L. IN VICTORIES 6 (ONE TIE) SEASONS.

LIFE TIME RECORD: WON 266, LOST 162, P.C., 621, E.R. AVERAGE 3.25, STRUCKOUT 2581.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM
Cooperstown, New York

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES / 401 NORTH WABASH / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611 / CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

March 9, 1977

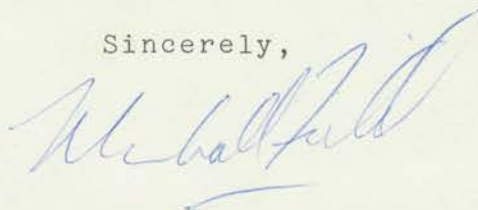
MARSHALL FIELD
PUBLISHER

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your note ---

You asked me if I believed in God and I am afraid the answer is no. I do think there is some extra power none of us can explain and if you choose, you can call that God but I am not sure it is a God in the way we are taught to think about it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marshall Field", with a horizontal line underneath.

Paul Rifkin
333 West Frances Willard
Chico, California
95926

JAMES F FIXX

September 29, 1980

Dear Paul,

I think you've undertaken an interesting research project. Yes, I believe in God. The God I believe in is not, however, the specific God of the Catholic Church or any such organized religious body. Rather, I believe that built into the universe are certain principles that we should not violate. For example, I think it terribly important to tell the truth because truth seems to me of great value. I would rather suffer a little bit for telling the truth today than suffer a lot, as I think I ultimately would, for telling a lie.

God, in this sense, has made his presence known to me by demonstrating, time and again, that good results when we follow our deepest instincts.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Fixx

FROM THE DESK OF
RHONDA FLEMING

August 18th, 1983

Dear Paul:

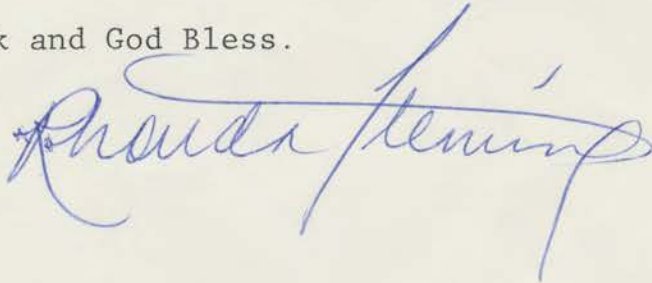
I do hope this does not arrive too late
for your project.

Thank you for your nice letter, and I am
so glad you asked me these questions.
Yes, I do believe in God and in His Son,
Jesus Christ. I believe the founding
fathers of our country knew the wisdom
of putting God in charge of our
country and each of us need to put Him
in charge of our lives - every aspect
of it.

God has been a very real and personal friend
to me. He has richly blessed my life
from the time I was 18 years old and turned
to Him for help. He was there, and I'll
never forget it.

I do hope and pray that you, too, believe
in God, and I'd love to know how many people
answered your project letters and what
they said.

Good luck and God Bless.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long, trailing flourish at the end.



THE WHITE HOUSE

January 3, 1977

Dear Paul,

Thank you for writing and informing me of your school project.

I am deeply touched that you chose me as one whom you respect, and you can be sure that I am grateful for your friendship.

I do indeed believe in God and His presence is made known to me daily. I know Him in all that is good in life, in the beauty of the earth, and love from my family and friends.

I hope this information is useful to you, and I send our family's wishes to you for a happy healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Betty Ford

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

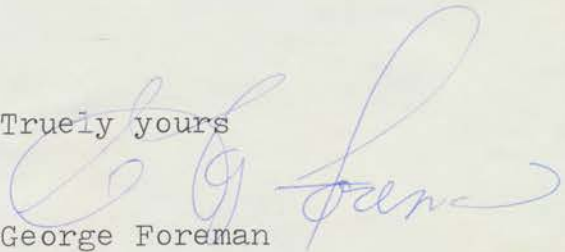
Dear Sir;

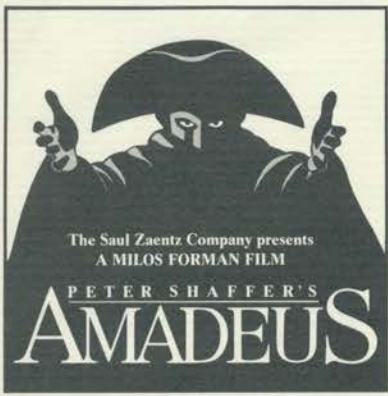
I got your letter. And the answer to your question is, yes. In March 1977, after my last boxing match on returning to the dressing room I lost my life yes, DIED, I in a moment time, I was in a deep dark empty place, For years there had been talks about God but real belief, But without hope in, such a sad dark place, I said, I do not care if this is death I still believe in God. When I spoke those words there was once again life in my body. So happy to be alive screamed I Am dying for God.

Then without control I started reciting the Bible how Jesus had died on the cross and was still alive to day. I even saw on my head, feet and hands the blood where he was wounded.

I retired from boxing. To day I preach.

Truely yours


George Foreman



Sept. 4. 1983

Dear Paul,

Yes I believe in God.
Not necessarily in the image
of the old man with long
white beard, but I do
believe in a divine creative spirit.

I just can not accept
an idea that Nature in its
incredible complexity and the
Life itself happened by
accident.

Yours
Milos Forman

BOB FOSSE
850 SEVENTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019
—
(212) 245-9049

Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

November 2, 1976

Dear Paul:

You're asking me an extremely difficult question -- one that I find nearly impossible to answer. I have a friend, a lyricist, who also writes poems on occasion. He once wrote the following (I'm not sure I'm quoting this accurately, but this is the substance).

OR MIGHT

"Try as hard as I may I cannot find it within me to believe in God. My only hope is that he believes in me."

This somewhat describes my own feeling.

Sincerely,



Bob Fosse

BF:vs

English Department
Rutgers University
Newark, New Jersey 07102

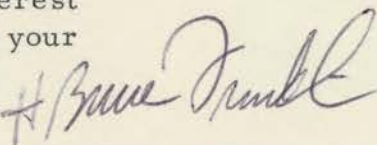
Paul Rifkin
4212 - 25th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Dear Paul Rifkin,

Throughout history people have believed in many different gods and called them by many different names. My own belief is in the power of people to develop ourselves into a society of respect for one another right here on this earth. Slowly but surely human beings will wipe out injustice and poverty and there will be equal opportunity for each individual to develop his or her capabilities to the fullest extent. That way after a certain point each generation will advance beyond the previous generation. People will live in harmony with each other and with the universe, understanding more and more of life as time goes by. In short, there will be paradise on earth.

Thank you for your letter. I deeply appreciate your interest and wish you good luck with your survey.

Sincerely,



多少事，
從來急；
天地轉，
光陰迫。
一萬年太久，
只爭朝夕。

四海翻騰雲水怒，
五洲震盪風雷激。
要掃除一切害人蟲，
全無敵。

*So many deeds cry out to be done,
And always urgently;
The world rolls on,
Time presses.
Ten thousand years are too long,
Seize the day, seize the hour!*

*The Four Seas are rising,
clouds and waters raging,
The Five Continents are rocking,
wind and thunder roaring.
Away with all pests!
Our force is irresistible.*

—from a poem by
Mao Tse-tung



CB

William Denis Fugazy
767 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017

March 14, 1983.

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

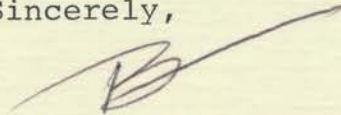
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your kind note and for your very astute question.

Yes, I do believe in God and feel that His presence is everywhere. I believe that everyting we do, act or say is with the knowledge of God.

I hope my answer is as you expected it to be.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM DENIS FUGAZY

wdf;l

RITZ TOWER

465 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK

Dear Paul Tipton -

Of course there is a
God - He made His presence
known to me when I married
one of His Angels - my wife!

Sincerely
Martin Gabel

date: Nov 7,
76

Dear Paul,

Yes. I believe
in a God...

He made his
presence known to
me through the
birth of my
beautiful child.

Sincerely,
Zsa Zsa Zsa

Zsa Zsa

DEAR MR. GABRIEL;

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?

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

Thank you in advance for your answer.

Yes, I believe in God! Even when I don't practice my faith the way I should I know God is still with me.
Roman Gabriel

SINCERELY,
Paul Rifkin
grade 5
RFD 2
Newmarket
N.H. 03857

NOV 2 1976

Dear Paul



Bill Green

THE GALLUP POLL
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION

DR. GEORGE GALLUP
CHAIRMAN
GEORGE GALLUP, JR.
PRESIDENT
THOMAS REINKEN
EDITOR

53 BANK STREET
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540
609 924-9600

November 15, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

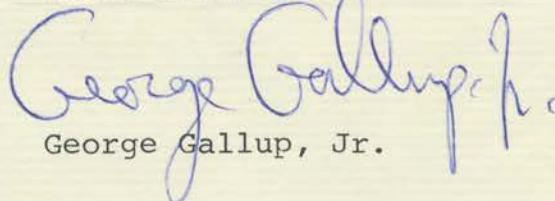
I was pleased to receive your letter. Your project is a very interesting one and I wish you luck.

To answer your question:

Yes, I believe strongly in God--a personal God whom we can reach in prayer. God's work is evident to me in nature, in the changing seasons, in life and death, the miracle of birth, and in love toward others. I believe that anyone can have a close relationship with God through prayer, sacrifice and an intense inner life.

I hope these remarks are helpful to you in your project. With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


George Gallup, Jr.

GG:sg

P.S. You might be interested to know that I have a child who is in fifth grade, also. Her name is Kiki.



The Firm

P.O. Box 156

Summertown, Tennessee

38483

Dear Paul

Yes I believe in God

God manifests in everything that we see in the whole world. The question is not what is God. The question is what is every thing and the answer is God. There is nothing which is not God.

Love

Stephen

Gaskin

Dear Paul
I hope I haven't hung you up.

I haven't done my
mail in some
time as you
see

Love

Stephen

July 12th 1983

Dear Paul,

The Gatlins do believe in God. First let me begin by saying they were converted at a very early age in life and have believed in God ever since. The believe real to them through a child like faith we should all have in God. Read John-3-16.

It is born into every man to believe in some thing. We chose at an early age to believe in Christ. His presence is made real through the reading of "The Bible". We believe it to be the truth the life & the way.

Hope we have helped.

Sincerely,
The Gatlins

GAMMA SERVICES CORPORATION

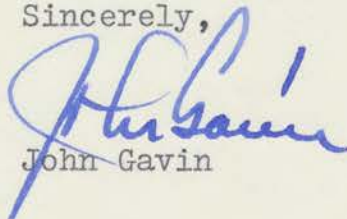
My dear Paul,

In response to your letter: My feelings of ignorance and insignificance on the subject you've inquired about are truly enormous. I am not an atheist but sometimes I feel very much of an agnostic. That is, I feel there is so much I just do not know. Still, I do believe in a Creator or Prime Mover or Prime Force -- which is to say that I do, indeed, believe in God.

I cannot, however, tell you that God has ever made His presence known to me. Such revelations seem to be for saints -- and I am far from that. But that something greater than man must exist is evident to me from the almost totally accepted "Big Bang" theory (intellectual response) to the blooming of a flower in Spring (emotional response).

I have given you my notions. How about telling me what you think?

Sincerely,



John Gavin

Los Angeles

29 September 1980

Flat 2
22 Park Crescent
London W1N 3PD
Nov. 18, 1976

Dear Mr. Rifkin:


Your letter of November 8 has been forwarded to me in England, where I am spending the year. Please forgive, therefore, the delay in my reply.

The simple answer to your question is: No, I do not believe in God. I know of no evidence to support such a belief. It is, of course, impossible to account for the origin of the world without God, but, in the same way, it is impossible to account for God. Thus, an appeal to the problem of origins solves nothing.

In the end, of course, God must be taken on faith. And faith cannot be commanded, ordered, willed, or deduced. You have it, whatever it may be worth, or you do not. I do not.

I should, however, like to know more about your question. Why you have chosen to ask it. What it means to you. Perhaps you will be kind enough to write me again some time about these matters.

Sincerely,



Eugene D. Genovese

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN ART

12th Edition, 1976

NOTE: It is not the purpose of this book to give a complete biography, but rather to list those major achievements that indicate your position in the art world.

MANTON, JOCK (ARCHIMEDES ARISTIDES GIACOMANTONIO)

Sculptor, Art Administrator

Preferred Media: Bronze, Marble.

b Jersey City, N J, Jan 17, 06.

Study & Training: Leonardo da Vinci Art Sch, New York, N Y; Royal Acad Fine Arts, Rome, Italy; also with Onorio Ruutolo & Vincenzo Gemito. *Ruotolo*

Work in Public Collections: Truman (sculpture), Truman Libr, Independence, Mo; Vincenzo Gemito (sculpture), Galleria di Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy; Grandma (sculpture), Royal Palace, Rome; Mediterranean Flower (sculpture), Mus Capitoleum, Rome.

Commissions: Spanish American War Soldier (sculpture), Union City, 42; Eisenhower (sculpture), West Point Mil Acad, N Y, 45; Wounded Soldier (sculpture), Lincoln H S, Jersey City, 46; Christopher Columbus (sculpture), Hoboken Citizens, Columbus Park, 48; Christopher Columbus (sculpture), Jersey City Columbus Mall, 50.

Exhibitions: Montclair Art Mus, 38; Metrop Mus Art, New York, N Y, 43; Nat Acad Design; Allied Artists Am; Nat Sculpture Soc.

Positions: Trustee, Mus Jersey City, N J; reviewer arts, Am Broadcasting Co, 51-71; exec dir, Sussex Co Arts Coun, Inc, 71-

Awards: Maynard prize, Nat Acad Design; first prize for sculpture, Montclair Mus; first prize for bust of Beethoven, Radio Sta WEAJ, 26.

Bibliography: Truman poses for Giacomantonio (film), produced on ABC-TV.

Memberships: Nat Sculpture Soc; Lotos Club; Allied Artists Am.

Mailing Address: 42 W 67th St, New York, NY 10023.

Dear Paul,

The fact that I have a new friend in California, plus all these nice things that have been happening to me, is evidence that there is a God and he has bestowed upon me all his blessings. I am truly grateful.

*Regards,
Archimedes Giacomantonio*

Thanksgiving 1976

The above is a proof of your entry as it appeared in the previous edition. Please print or type corrections clearly. Delete as necessary to maintain the limit of five entries in the sections covering Work in Public Collections, Commissions, Exhibitions, Memberships and Publications. Entries are limited to three for Awards and Bibliography.

Professional Classifications are limited to two; Preferred Media are limited to two for each professional classification selected. Beginning with this edition, artists are being asked to give a brief description of STYLE & TECHNIQUE: TRADITIONAL, IN THE MANNER OF THE OLD MASTERS. CLASSICAL.

Please check list on the reverse for indexing.

Signature Archimedes Giacomantonio AKA Jock Manton Date May 27th 1975

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Jaques Cattell Press, P.O. Box 25001, Tempe, AZ 85282

Dec 11, 1976

Dear Mr Pickle!

What a Pickle! To tell you whether I think there is God or not?!

God is a Pickle.

That is to say, any god you project is a projection (Perception, view etc) of Pickle.

If Pickle wants to be god, Pickle will be god. He'll be god maybe 10,000,000 years in the highest God Realms. But then he'll get sick of being Pickle.

So then he'll decide a permanent Self is not necessary.

Whew! No Pickle, no god, no ego, no Claustrophobia! (No Pressure.)

Take it easy

Allen Ginsberg

P.S. Just opened yr. letter today P.S. Can you understand this in the 5th Grade?

DEAR PAUL: I'M FLATTERED BY YOUR
ASKING ME, BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY
EVIDENCE OF THE EXISTENCE OF A SUPERNATURAL
BEING. THEREFORE, I DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD.

ALL BEST,

Paul G. H. H. H.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 23, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for writing to express your interest in government, and in my role as representative of the people of Ohio in the United States Senate.

I have always believed that the highest service a person can give is to his country. For 22 years I served in the Marine Corps as a combat pilot, test pilot, and astronaut. I believe that my political service is merely an extension of that earlier commitment.

In the early 1960's I came to know the late President Kennedy. Like him, I had always believed that one individual could make a tremendous difference in the world, and that if we would all set our goals high, and reach just fingertips beyond our grasp, there would be no telling what could be accomplished.

In this light, I still think that if every American would work to marshal their resources and inspire those around them, we could create conditions where progress and growth would flourish to the benefit of us all.

While I have not yet made a final decision about my political plans, I am obviously considering very seriously the question of running for President in 1984, and intend to give the matter continued careful consideration. Any decision that I might eventually make to run would be based on my assessment of the problems facing our country, the solutions I have for those problems, and my belief in the need to deal with those issues in ways that fit my ideas.

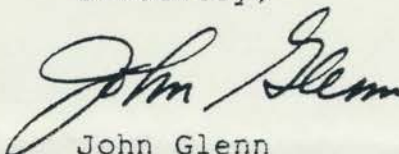
In answer to your question, I do believe in God and am presently an Elder of the Presbyterian Church. Religious beliefs have always played a major role in my personal life, as they have in a larger context in the life of this nation.

Paul Rifkin
Page 2

Thank you again for writing; and remember to pay close attention to your schoolwork.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Glenn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John Glenn
United States Senator

JG/jtm
Enclosure

JOHN GLENN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 22, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 62537

Dear Paul:

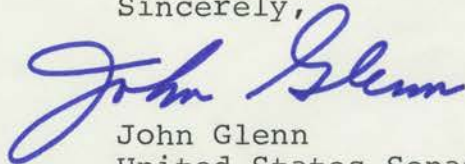
Many thanks for your recent letter. I am glad to hear from you and answer your question.

I have always been a religious man (Presbyterian) who believes in God. Faith and prayer have always been inspiring forces in both the public and private aspects of my life.

As most of us have, I have sought God's guidance in the past, during times of joy as well as sorrow. Undoubtedly, I will continue to seek spiritual guidance from God in the future.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



John Glenn
United States Senator

JG/jl

ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG

March 7, 1983

Dear Paul:

This is in reply to your letter to me.

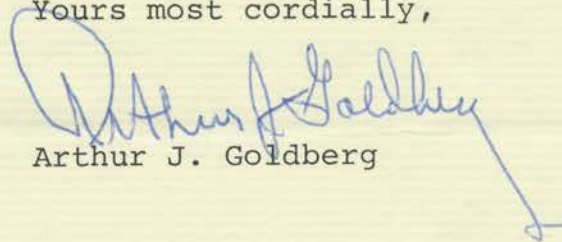
It is easy to say that one believes in God but very difficult to explain how God made his presence known to me.

You see, Paul, I do not believe in an anthropomorphic God, i.e., a Jehovah with a long beard.

My belief is similar to that of the greatest of scientists, Albert Einstein. I, like he, am of the view that there is a divine force which is pervasive but which defies definition.

With all good wishes, I am

Yours most cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arthur J. Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Arthur J. Goldberg

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

THE CAROLINA ISRAELITE

THE MOST WIDELY QUOTED PERSONAL JOURNAL IN THE WORLD
HARRY GOLDEN, EDITOR

ONLY IN AMERICA
FOR 2¢ PLAIN
ENJOY, ENJOY
CARL SANDBURG
YOU'RE ENTITLED
FORGOTTEN PIONEER
MR. KENNEDY AND THE NEGROES
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
THE SPIRIT OF THE GHETTO
A LITTLE GIRL IS DEAD
ESS, ESS, MEIN KINDT
(EAT, EAT, MY CHILD)
THE BEST OF HARRY GOLDEN
THE RIGHT TIME (THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF HARRY GOLDEN)
SO LONG AS YOU'RE HEALTHY
THE ISRAELIS
GOLDEN BOOK OF JEWISH HUMOR
THE GREATEST JEWISH CITY
IN THE WORLD
TRAVELS THROUGH JEWISH AMERICA
OUR SOUTHERN LANDSMAN
LONG LIVE COLUMBUS

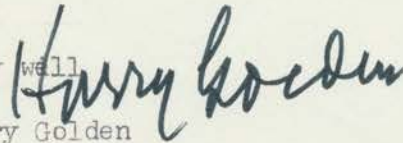
Nov. 10, 1976

Dear Paul:

You want to know whether I believe in God, The answer is YES and He made His preserr
Known to me by the wonders I see wll wround me and for the
fact that Ksrael exists. Israel is the key to God and I love him
for it.

Stay well

Harry Golden



BARRY GOLDWATER
ARIZONA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COMMITTEES:
INTELLIGENCE, CHAIRMAN
ARMED SERVICES
TACTICAL WARFARE, CHAIRMAN
PREPAREDNESS
STRATEGIC AND THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMUNICATIONS, CHAIRMAN
AVIATION
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE
INDIAN AFFAIRS

May 19, 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
G74 Route GA
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for your recent letter. In answer to your question "Do I believe in God.", I certainly do. I have always been guided by his presence and see his work in everything from the beauty of the sunsets in my own state of Arizona to the way this country has lived and thrived under freedom.

Sincerely,



Barry Goldwater



3570 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD, SOUTH
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109
AREA CODE 702-734-7110

December 16, 1976

Mr. Paul Ripkin
4212 - 25th Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94114

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God. I cannot help thinking that God has shown his presence to me in many ways due to the fact that I,ve had a good life.

Sincerely,

Richard "Pancho" Gonzalez
Richard "Pancho" Gonzalez

RAG/vp

~~PAUL~~
If you go outside & ride your bike & open your eyes -
you'll see God all around you - In the air, water
trees, animals. or as Maxm says: ATWA - All the
WAY ALIVE - AIR - TREES - WATER - ANIMALS.

Dear Sandra Good:

you can serve God
by serving his
creation in ATWA.

I am making a survey of
famous people for a Fifth
Grade School Report.

My question to you is:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD??

[if the answer is yes, please
describe how God ^(makes) his
presence known to you].

Thank you in advance
FOR your answer.

~~PAUL - I have~~
~~quoted other famous~~
~~people - many who were~~
~~persecuted in their times -~~
~~who express more eloquently~~
~~than I could, how God makes his presence known.~~

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

Paul - I have
quoted other famous
people - many ~~some~~ who were
persecuted in their times -
who express more eloquently
than I could, how God makes his presence known.

you dont write
like a 5th grader. Is
someone using you to look into
my head?

AND THE WORLD IS A SONG OF PRAISE TO GOD.

over

Holy persons draw to themselves all that is ear.
The earth is at the same time mother,
She is mother of all that is human.
She is the mother of all,
for contained in her
are the seeds of all.
- Hildegard of Bingen

The earth does not belong to people; people belong to the earth... This earth is precious to the creator & to harm the earth is to heap contempt upon its creator...
Our dead never forget this beautiful earth, for it is the mother of the Red People. We are part of the earth & it is part of us - Chief Seattle

"The DAY of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw - and knew I saw - all things in God and God in all things" - Mechtild of Magdeburg

Should one faint by the way who gains the blessings of one mountain day / whatever his fate, long life, short life, stormy or calm, he is rich forever.
- John Muir

"This then is salvation: when we marvel at the beauty of created things & praise their beautiful creator" - Meister Eckhart

"All praise be yours, my Lord, through SISTER MOON + STARS,
All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers WIND and AIR
All praise be yours, my Lord, through SISTER WATER."

- St. Francis of Assisi

Glance at the sun, see the moon & the stars,

Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings,

Now, think

what delight God gives to human kind
with all these things....

All nature is at the disposal of human kind,

we are to work with it. For

without it we cannot survive.

- Hildegard of Bingen

"The truly wise person
kneels at the feet of all creatures
and is not afraid to endure
the mockery of others"

- Mechtild of Magdeburg

"The fire has its flame & praises God
The wind blows the flame & praises God
In the voice we hear the word which praises God.
And the word, when heard, praises God.
So all of creation is a song of praise to God.

over

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you
I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears plentiful fruit

- John 15: 4, 5.

" God created all things in such a way that they are not
outside himself, as ignorant people falsely imagine.

Rather, all creatures flow outward, but none the less
remain within God

- Meister Eckhart

Humanity has reached the biological point where it must
either lose all belief in the universe or quite resolutely
worship it.

This is where we must look for the origin of the present crisis in
morality. Henceforth the world will only kneel before the
organic centre of its evolution.

TO: (Sender - See Return Address)		FROM: (Institution)	
Paul Rifkin 674 Rt 6A E Sandwich, MA 02537		FCI Alderson Box A. Alderson, W.V. 24910	
INMATE'S NAME:		REGISTER NUMBER:	DATE:
Sandra Good		02971-171	05-11-85

(Check one)

Material Returned

You enclosed with your correspondence ~~stamps or~~ stamped items that cannot be given to the inmate.

You enclosed with your correspondence an incorrectly prepared negotiable instrument.

The correspondence or letter has, however, been provided to the inmate with a copy of this notice. Specifically, the material returned is:

1 Stamped envelope

S. A. Bremer / Legal Technician
(Printed or Typed Name and Written Signature of Mail Officer)

DISTRIBUTION:
Original - Addressee (with material)
Copy - Inmate
Copy - File

GOODSON-
TODMAN
PRODUCTIONS

NEW YORK

MARK GOODSON

375 PARK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

October 4, 1980

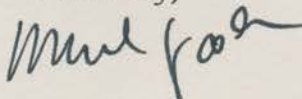
Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Maine 02537

Dear Paul,

Much as I would like to be able to answer your letter about my belief in God, I am afraid that my feelings about this are personal, and that I would not be able to put them down in a letter.

But I do thank you for inquiring.

Sincerely,



Mark Goodson

Dear Paul

In answer to your question (Do you Believe in God?) yes I do believe in God, but better still, let me go one step further and say I not only believe in God, but I believe God. You said in your letter describe how God made his presence known to you. Well I surrendered my will to his will. Which means I realized that I could ^{not} save myself. therefore I must have someone to save me. Let me try to Explain.

at the ocean we are allowed to go into the water at any Public beach. To provide a margin of safety they always ^{have} life guards present. they are there to come to anybody's assistance ~~if~~ they ^{should} call for help, help would be provided. You don't have to pay for this help, in order to be saved from drowning. You need simply to call out for help in the water and the life guards who have been given the authority to Rescue you ^{they} will do so without payment because
→ turn

it has already been payed for by the City
Government. When God made his presence known
to me I realized ~~that~~ that it is by grace we
are saved not by works or payment or any other
act's of our will. We simply have to want to
be saved and then cry out for him to
save us (the Lord God). Jesus was the final
payment provided by God so that we need not
have to pay for our salvation. All we need
to do is cry out for God to forgive us of
our sin's and save us. And just as the illustration
of the Life Guards this act of grace is
given. I hope this helps you! God Bless
you

Sincerely in Jesus Name

(Gene) Anthony Foudines

THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY

1150 Fifteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20071

KATHARINE GRAHAM

Chairman of the Board

May 9, 1983

Dear Paul,

In answer to your letter -- it seems to me too personal a question. But the answer is, not exactly but sort of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Graham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Sincerely,".

Paul Rifkin
677 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts
02537



ELLA GRASSO
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HARTFORD

October 7, 1980

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

Dear Paul Rifkin:

In reply to your questions, I want you to know I believe in God and that through prayer and meditation I have felt God's presence.

Good luck with your report!

With best wishes,

Cordially,

Ella Grasso
ELLA GRASSO
Governor

Dear Mr. Gray:

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? **ABSOLUTELY!**

If the answer is yes, please describe how

God made his presence known to you.
in every moment of life!

Thank you in advance for your answer.

Sincerely,

Bambrey

Paul Ritkin
grade 5
674 RT 6A
E. Sandwich
Ma 02537

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 6, 1980

Dear Paul:

I found some old stationery on which to write. I had the privilege and opportunity to serve in Congress from 1955 to 1975. Now I serve on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education and several other Boards.

In response to your letter, yes I have a deep religious faith and certainly believe in God.

The Bible tells us that "God is Love". That's the only Biblical definition of God that I know of. I believe God's Love is the greatest power in our world. Like electricity, its energy is there; we must "plug in" to receive electric energy. And so, God's love is here, there, everywhere, but we must "plug into it" if it is to affect our lives.

One way to "plug in" is through prayer. I think it is a great mistake to under-estimate the power of prayer. I sometimes compare it to a laser beam. A great concentration of His love can be powerful at times of difficult personal or family relationships; when there is illness, grief, loneliness; at times when a difficult decision is to be made and in times of joy and celebration.

You ask how God has made His Presence known.

When I see a beautiful sunrise or sunset, when I look out on the grass, the trees, the rivers, the lakes, the snow-capped mountains, I feel the Greatness of God.

After my father's death and forty years later at the time of my mother's last illness, these were very personal real experiences (not imaginary) which will, for all time, convince me there is a power much greater than our

own that is guiding our lives.

I have two dogs who give love in great abundance and in return want and need so much love.

Not far from where I live I see deer, the blue heron, pheasants, quail. I see them and think of the Greatness of His Creation.

And, of course, when I see my sons, my grandchildren and very dear friends, I think of God's love as it is expressed in these relationships.

Electricity is seldom seen, but its energy is a powerful force.

God's love I have not seen in a physical form, but I have felt it.

It's there in abundance, if we just "plug in".

My very best wishes to you as you continue your report in the fifth grade -- and as you continue your education.

Sincerely, Edith Green

CAPPY PRODUCTIONS INC.

October 14, 1980

Paul Rifkin
67Y Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter.

To answer your question, my belief in God stems from an incident that changed my parents' lives, and in turn, my life.

My older sister Judith was dying, with no hope of recovery. The doctors who were treating her gave up hope, and told my parents that there was nothing more they could do for her. She was beyond medical help.

My father, who was not a religious man, went to the synagogue and prayed for Judith's life. He prayed that if God spared her he would become a devout Jew.

He spent a half-hour in the synagogue, and upon his return home, he saw smiles on the faces of Judith's doctors. They greeted my father with the news that something miraculous had happened in the last half-hour, and that for the first time in weeks Judith was responding to treatment.

Judith recovered and is alive, happy, and healthy, living in Florida. From the day of her recovery, the belief in God has been part of our lives.

Sincerely,



Bud Greenspan

BG/das



WAYNE D. GRETZKY

June 20, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for considering me in your report for your class. In answer to your question, yes I do believe in God, and I believe that he makes his presence felt in different ways. However, to try and describe that presence in my case is very difficult to do. But He is a force in people's lives.

Hope this helps.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Gretzky".

Wayne Gretzky

/jk

Grossinger's
HAS EVERYTHING YEAR ROUND

October 6, 1980

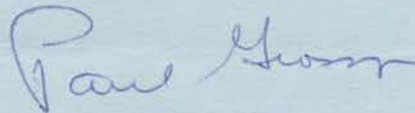
Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
E. Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

I believe in God. God makes himself known to me when the sun rises in the morning and when the sun sets at night, the moon, the stars, the water, the food he gives us to eat, the trees, the flowers, all of God's creatures that inhabit the earth, and in the clothing and shelter we are able to provide.

He makes himself known to me by putting me in contact with my fellow man. What I am saying to you is that miracles are not what make God but the ordinary every-day things in life - both good or bad, happy or sad - in other words, the things that make me believe in God is just being alive.

Sincerely,



PAUL GROSSINGER
President

PG/jm



FROM THE DESK OF
RON GUIDRY

March 21, 1983

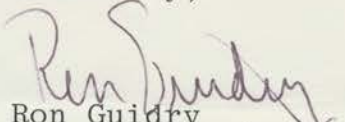
Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Yes I do believe in God. For me to say that one way that God has made his presence known to me is very difficult. Because God has been in presence in my life throughout my years. But one instance does come to mind very well. It relates to my brother Travis. When Travis was born he suffered brain damage. For over a year he could not utter a sound. When he first cried, I cried too. I felt that this was a message from God that I would have to use my ability to the fullest for both Travis and I. And God has watched over me and brought me great success in baseball.

Wishing you the best of luck.

Sincerely,


Ron Guidry #49

RG/bz



49



July 22, 1985

Dear Paul,

A long time ago, when you were in the fifth grade, you wrote to me for a summer-school project asking whether I believed in God. I'm sorry that I misplaced your letter and didn't answer it in time, but hope this reaches you anyway.

I don't participate in any organized religion because I don't subscribe to the dogma of any particular church or faith. Particularly, I have trouble with religions that place restrictions on women, saying they can't preach or whatever.

However, I do think that there's more to the world than what we experience with our conscious minds; I think that much of it is mysterious and will never be accessible to logic. Perhaps, for some people, an organized religion makes it possible to connect with this mysterious source of power.

If you are in the seventh grade now, you may be thinking about these things all over again. I hope you will read as much as you can about the various religions in the world, finding out what other groups of people have thought and believed, in order to find the best answer for yourself.

Best wishes,

Janie Faith
Indianapolis 500
1977-78-79

monty hall

November 17, 1976

Dear Paul,

Thank you for asking me to give my opinion on your question "Do you believe in God?" - although I am not quite sure that my answer will be enlightening.

I suppose that when one looks at the universe and how all the planets are held in some kind of super-natural control and how even the gift of life is a miracle; and that when one studies all the elements of wind, water, fire - then one has to believe that there is something bigger than all of us mortals who inhabit this planet, and indeed all planets.

Yet it is so difficult for me sometimes to accept the fact that there is a benevolent deity when little children I have known and loved die before they have even known a full life, when so much havoc is spread throughout the world by famine, by war, by flood. To have someone tell us this is God's way is an easy answer, but not for me. I have wrestled with this question all my life.

I suppose the answer is for all of us to believe that there is something of God in each one of us: the way we conduct our lives, the way we treat our fellow men. This is as much as I can offer you. The rest is up to the teachers.

You ask if God has made his presence known to me, and I am afraid I cannot answer in the affirmative; but if you ask me if there is something divine about the birth of a child who grows up in your image, then I can answer honestly - yes, that I have experienced.

I congratulate you for making this survey; and while the answers that you receive will differ, I am sure, it is something for you and your schoolmates to think about now and for years to come.

My kind wishes to you,

Monty Hall

MARVIN HAMLISCH

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

Dear Paul:

I certainly do believe in G-d.

However, I do not necessarily think that it is important if He has made His presence known to me, ~~but~~ just the opposite-- that is, if I have made my presence known to Him. Through my deeds and actions in trying to be a good human being, I believe I make my presence known to Him. And it is precisely because I feel that way, that I do not have to seek out G-d, all I have to do is know that He is there, watching over me.

Sincerely
Marvin Hamlich



Billy James Hargis Ministries, P.O. Box 977, Tulsa, Ok 74102

March 30, 1983

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route GA
East Sandwich, MA 02532

Dear Paul:

Please forgive me for not having answered your welcomed letter earlier than this. I have been very busy and have gotten behind, therefore, I am slow in answering you.

You asked me the question, "Do you believe in God?" I most certainly do. I believe in a personal God. I was an orphan. I never knew my real parents. A wonderful Christian couple in Texas by the name of Jimmy and Lucille Hargis, gave me a home and gave me a name. When I was 21 years of age, I legally became their adoptive son. They were so good to me -- no real mother or father could have been nicer than my mother and dad. They went to church every Sunday. Although they didn't have the benefit of a formal education, they were experienced in life and were very smart people. My dad was a truck driver and a farmer and my mother was a housewife. They read the Bible every night before retiring. We prayed before every meal and went to church on Sunday morning and Sunday night.

I was ordained to the ministry when I was 17 years old. I have been in the ministry 40 years.

When I was a youngster attending elementary school I was aware of the presence of God. I remember how I would hum and sing the words of "Jesus is all the World to Me" during exam time. I felt that if I could be a minister it would be the greatest thing that I could do -- the highest calling that a man could ever have. I wanted to be a minister so much and I was so thankful that my church felt that I was ready for it at age 17.

God has made His presence known to me by supernatural acts. I mean that too. I know that God answers prayer because there is seldom a week in my life that some prayer hasn't been answered. It couldn't be just an amazing happening. I know that God has answered my prayers. Because of my crusade against Communism and frequent trips that I have made to troubled spots of the world -- even behind the Iron Curtain -- I have had several close ~~shades~~, but I was always supernaturally cared for by God. I believe in God because of supernatural events that I have experienced and could have only been referred to as answered

escapes

Paul Rifkin
March 30, 1983
Page 2

prayer.

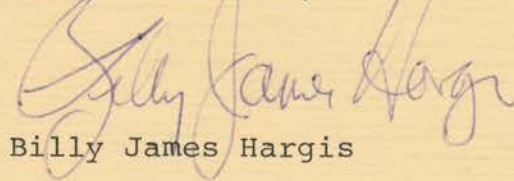
God has revealed Himself to me through answered prayer. He has revealed Himself to me through the love of a mother and dad and the love of a wonderful wife and four children. He revealed Himself to me by giving me the idea for a unique ministry -- one-of-a-kind that no one else had a similar "for Christ and against Communism" ministry when I started Christian Crusade.

There is an overriding belief in my life that Christ is coming back. I have never doubted the existence of God. Even when I did wrong and was punished for it and when things went wrong for me, I accepted it as the will of God.

God bless you, Paul, and best wishes.

I am

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Billy James Hargis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Billy James Hargis

BJH:bj
encl.

August 11, 1983

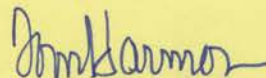
Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 RT 6A
East Sandwich, Mass 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your nice letter regarding your project for school. I don't have any idea of how other people would react to your question but there would be no doubt in my mind. You can bet your boots that I believe in God. There is no question in my mind there is a supreme being looking out for all of us. My experiences in the war (World War II) gave me many examples of God's presence. First off, I was lost in a jungle in French Guiana. Our plane ran into a terrible tropical storm and we went down. 6 days later, after bailing out of the plane, I managed to find a native village. Then later in the war, I was shot down in a dog-fight in China. This time it took me 32 days to find my way back to my base. I was badly burned but the good Lord watched over me and guided me back.

So you see Paul, I feel very strongly about God. I feel every person on earth would be a lot better off if they believed in God and had faith in his guidance.

Sincerely,



Best wishes to you.

Cordially,

Julie Harris

September 6 '83

Dear Mr. Rifkin -

It's very difficult for me
to express in words - my belief
in God - but I do believe - and
I think my coming to believe
has been a very gradual process.

Dear Mt. Hartford:

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? ~~In~~ ^{*} Godiness!

(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 RT 6A

East Sandwich

Mass 02537

* Physical evidence of God is a dramatic symbol of God. God is necessary to our belief in godiness

H

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Santa Monica, CA 90401
(213) 393-2717



TOM HAYDEN
Member, California State Assembly
44th District

July 20, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

Very few of us can know if God exists, but we can believe -- and I do -- that there is a creative force that is larger than all of us.

I was born and raised a Catholic, but in whatever way we think of God, it is a reminder that we are more than individuals, that there is a common bond of humanity that unifies us, and that we are responsible for one another.

That is a faith that can fulfill and sustain one over the years, a faith that can keep us going and searching, and makes life worth living.

Thanks for taking the time to write. Best wishes on your search for faith and fulfillment.

Regards,


TOM HAYDEN

TH:svt

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OFFICE OF THE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

November 5, 1976

(212) 262-8898

Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

Dear Paul:

I do indeed believe in God!

While he has never made his presence "known" to me -- as you put it -- that is through any audible message or dream or appearance, I believe in Him because of what I have read of the life of Jesus Christ and His utterances as quoted in the Scriptures.

I think it was Voltaire, the famous Frenchman of letters and philosopher, who is credited with observing that "If God did not exist, man would find it necessary to invent Him."

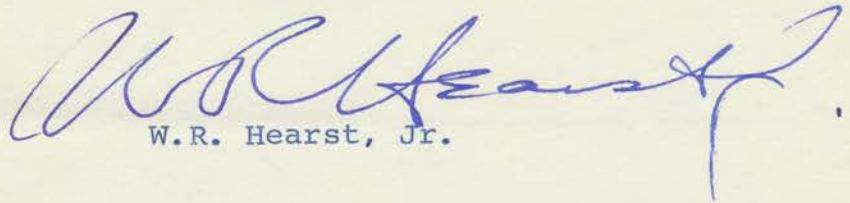
What Voltaire meant by this cryptic remark was that throughout recorded time man has needed something to worship -- some Supreme Being to believe in. Some people worship the sun, others the moon, others gold images of animals, while others have deified people who actually lived.

I'll give you one more quote which you can think about and which may help explain the existence of God. It was a phrase I heard constantly (author unknown) during World War II, and it went like this: "There are no atheists in foxholes." This means, in case it's a little obscure to a young person, that when you were under intense shellfire you had to burrow into the ground like an animal to give your body as

much protection as possible, that little ditch was known as a foxhole. And when you had to do that and you were scared to death, chances are you prayed to God for your life; thus you were not an atheist.

Hope I made some constructive contribution to your philosophy of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W.R. Hearst, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

W.R. Hearst, Jr.



XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

Cincinnati, OH 45207
513/531-1053

HENRY J. HEIMLICH, M.D.
Professor of Advanced Clinical Sciences

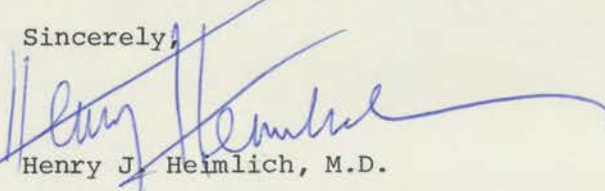
April 5, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God. My belief may be different from yours, and different from someone's in China, Russia, India, or Egypt. My God does not look like a man with a flowing beard, who is always white. To me, God is a thought within our brain that we communicate to each other and through which we make choices as to how we shall live with one another. Should the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union continue to make decisions to increase nuclear arms, then our choice will be to destroy all the people and their minds, and God will no longer be with us. I hope that you and all other children will convince your parents to make the governments stop fighting, just as they keep you and your friends from fighting. Life is a wonderful thing. Do not let the older people take it from you.

Sincerely,



Henry J. Heimlich, M.D.

HJH/ph

No, I don't.
I wish I ~~did~~ did. It
might make life
easier. But I don't
have the necessary

skills. ~~But~~
Not-~~that~~

John Hersey

R. F. D.,

Box 1607, Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts 02568

October 8, 1980.

Dear Paul Rifkin:

You've put a very hard question. I was brought up the son of missionaries, in China, and when I was small I think I was stifled by too much formal religion; I have been skeptical of sectarian religion ever since. I think I am an agnostic, though I have a powerful sense of the mystery of the universe. When did it start? The scientists say there was a "big bang," but they can't say what happened before the big bang! And I am constantly astonished, and deeply moved, by the wonderful complexity of the natural world--so many intricate forms of life, so much that is both beautiful and awesome. I don't believe in an intelligence behind all this; it seems to me just to have happened in some unaccountable way. Whatever the way, I am very glad to be a small part of it all, to be alive!

Sincerely,

John Hersey

Walter J. Hickel

BOX 1700
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510
907-276-7400

May 18, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Rt 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter.

I am glad to know you are studying about God in school--in most places that is limited to Sunday School.

I believe God is in the mind. For as long as I can remember in my mind I have felt his power. None of us can accomplish anything without Him.

I would hate to even imagine what life would be like without Him.

Hopefully you believe in Him too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Walter J. Hickel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

Walter J. Hickel



November 20, 1980

Paul Ritkin
674 Rt. 6A.
E. Sanwich, Ma. 02537

Dear Paul:

In answer to your questions:

Yes I believe in GOD, but I don't remember how he made his presence known to me because I can't ever remember GOD not being there.

In regard to your request, I have enclosed an autographed photo, as a token of my appreciation for your interest.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Al Hirt", written in a cursive style.

Al Hirt
Al Hirt Enterprises, Inc.

Enclosure

ERNEST F. HOLLINGS
SOUTH CAROLINA

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June 9, 1983

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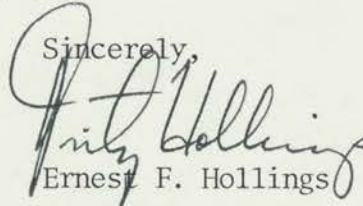
Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thank you for your letter of May 20. I do, indeed, believe in God and am a member of the Lutheran Church. I cannot look back and describe any one time when God made his presence known to me. I was brought up in the Lutheran Church and have believed since I was a youngster in a supreme being. I also believe it is important for our country to emphasize the ideals and values which built this nation. Although we have no state religion, we were founded as a religious state and my strong hope is that the spiritual values which helped take America to greatness will forever endure.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,


Ernest F. Hollings

EFH/mcc

Saturday
November, the 8th
1980

Dear Paul -

This is being written on a
trip To Indianapolis + then Dallas!
Yes, of course I believe in God!
But, when you say the word,
what do you mean? I do not think
of a man with a white beard in the
sky.

No, to me God is the Universal
plan of which we are all an infi-
nite part. Anything which is an
expression of this harmonious balance
is of God. Our little planet, earth, is a
very small spaceship in the Cosmos.

Do you watch that program on
Public Broadcasting - "Cosmos"? I find
it very exciting & I'm wild about
one called "Connections", too.

I have been aware of this
for a long time!

-2-

I have been aware of the divine plan ever since my grandfather taught me how to tell the time by the sunlight on my own windowsill.

Then in kindergarten, I watched a bean sprout to grow & lift its green leaves to the sun, turning to expose the flat side to receive as much light as possible to develop.

The fact that each one of our baby cells knows in which direction to grow into a mature human being, provided it receives the right nutrition & encouragement is an expression of this miraculous plan.

All of us are a part of the plan - to rejoice in it.

Kindness is another part of this, I believe! When you show kindness to another person you show your recognition of your partnership with the rest of the people on this earth. We must keep this partnership & take care of this earth, together otherwise those who forget this may

destroy it!

So I am delighted to be a human being, aware of my place in a universe, so much larger than any one of us.

And this is one reason why I became an actress, to remind people of the values of life itself + their relationships to each other in it.

We are flying over the mountains of West Virginia. It is beautiful! Naturally -

Cecilia Hol

V.I.P. Ltd.

March 19, 1983

Dear Paul,

In answer to your question "Do you Believe in God" my answer is yes.

When I was about your age I remember looking all around me + seeing how perfect everything was + how beautiful. All the birds + animals + trees + flowers; the sky + earth, sun, moon, stars, etc. + most of all human beings.

What an unbelievable creation! That power + intelligence that is respon-

911

sible for creating + sustaining everything in the Universe is referred to as God. God is not a person. He (She or It) is omnipresent, omniscient + omnipotent. In other words, God is present everywhere all the time. He makes himself known to us every minute of every day if we can just open our eyes to this fact.

Good luck with your class report. You picked a big subject.

Sincerely,

Paul Horn

Yes, I do believe
in God - I always
and will do so always -
I support I have always
felt His presence
as a little boy of 10 or 11
up. ~~Jack~~

CHINA REBUILDING FEDERATION, INC.

P. O. BOX 5014

LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK, 11105

U. S. A.

Nov, 16, 1976

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

I am glad to hear that you are going to make report for a 5th grade class. Yes, I believe in God. God made His presence known to me in many ways:

- (1) Whenever I pray He answers my prayer.
- (2) During the world war II every city under my jurisdiction was air-raided and my head-quarters was destroyed. But I survived the horrible raid thank to God's protection.
- (3) On July 21, 1956, I saw a vision in Hongkong. what happened then was as the following:

On July 21, 1956, (at 6:30 PM) I went up the roof of my apartment and stood in silence for meditation and prayed thus: "I beseech Thee have mercy upon the Chinese people who are suffering under the Communist tyranny. As Thy servant is deeply concerned about the future of China, I need Thy guidance. Would Thou grant me a vision transforming the cloud into a human figure, if Thy servant could return to China and help the Chinese regain their freedom in the years to come as Thou hinted to me through the bible the other day? . . ." My Lord

As soon as I opened my eyes looking westward at the sky I saw a huge human figure in a sitting pose and attired in classical robe. After a while another figure appeared wearing peasant garment in a sitting pose, too. He had a smiling face and held a baby in his arms.


Such wonderful experience as this seems of course utterly incredible to those who are either atheist or agnostics. Moreover, the following poem of mine, which is included in the book "New voices In American Poetry 1976", may be interesting to you.

God is Living

Omnipotent God isn't dead but eternally living,
only those who believe in Him are able to see him.
Omnipresent God isn't afar off on Him we lean,
only those who follow Him become worthy beings,
Omniscient God forgives us enriches our feeling,
Let's not indulge in taking but be bent on giving.]]

Let me hear from you again regarding your own religious experiences.

sincerely


Ching-yu Hsu (Prof. ret.)



L. Ron Hubbard

27 March 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
E. Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul,

Thank you for telling me about the survey you're doing. You may get some very interesting answers to your survey question.

You'll find a copy of the Creed of the Church enclosed for you. I think this will help to answer your question.

You're welcome to write to me again.

Sincerely,



RON



L. Ron Hubbard

27 November 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul,

I appreciate your persistence.

However, I would like you to get in touch with Author Services Inc., my literary agents, who handle this sort of matter for me. You would need to obtain approval via them. Their address is:

6464 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 900
Hollywood, CA 90028

Sincerely,



RON

The Church of Scientology

CREED

We of the Church believe:

- That all men of whatever race, colour or creed were created with equal rights.
- That all men have inalienable rights to their own religious practices and their performance.
- That all men have inalienable rights to their own lives.
- That all men have inalienable rights to their sanity.
- That all men have inalienable rights to their own defense.
- That all men have inalienable rights to conceive, choose, assist and support their own organizations, churches and governments.
- That all men have inalienable rights to think freely, to talk freely, to write freely their own opinions and to counter or utter or write upon the opinions of others.
- That all men have inalienable rights to the creation of their own kind.
- That the souls of men have the rights of men.
- That the study of the mind and the healing of mentally caused ills should not be alienated from religion or condoned in non-religious fields.
- And that no agency less than God has the power to suspend or set aside these rights, overtly or covertly.

And we of the Church believe:

- That man is basically good.
- That he is seeking to survive.
- That his survival depends upon himself and upon his fellows, and his attainment of brotherhood with the Universe.

And we of the Church believe that the laws of God forbid Man:

- To destroy his own kind.
- To destroy the sanity of another.
- To destroy or enslave another's soul.
- To destroy or reduce the survival of one's companions or one's group.

And we of the Church believe:

- That the spirit can be saved and
- That the spirit alone may save or heal the body.

WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE

P. O. Box 248
HARTSELLE, ALABAMA
35640

May 21, 1983

Dear Paul Rifkin....

It was kind of you to ask me such an important question. My reply has been delayed by my being away.

Very early in my long life I was taught to respect life's mysteries. Meaning that I have never been impressed by how much human beings know and can ever know about the miracles of life and the universe. I have instead been impressed by how little we can ever know and therefore how much we must rely on what we call faith.

So I am a man of faith, and my faith tells me that the miracles of life and the universe didn't just happen. There had to be a Creator....a Creator whose appearance, size, shape, and place of abode man can never hope to understand or even imagine. This Creator men have called God, and I don't know any better name. So, yes, I believe in God.

Many human beings search for God in groups, others of us search alone. I have always been a loner. God has never made Himself known to me in any spectacular manner. But I have felt His presence many times. I suppose I have tried to serve God by showing respect for His creatures, His handiwork, and His mysteries.

May God bless you throughout your life.

Wm. B. Huie

E. HOWARD HUNT

Paul:

Yes, I believe in God.

I first felt His presence in the
skies and the seas, the wonders of
nature around us.

1245 N.E. 85 Street, Miami, FL 33138

Dear Paul -

I've been on tour with a play -
Sorry I couldn't answer your request
sooner -

As for the question - I can't say
I do believe in God - certainly not
in the accepted Judeo-Christian
sense. I do, however, honor and
respect the life force about me,
and believe that more love, honor,

Kim Hunter

and respect among mankind
could help that force create
a "heaven" here on earth.

All good wishes to you —

Kim Hunter

Dear Paul
Thanks for
your letter
in answer to
your question

God's presence
is everywhere
it stayed with
our lives (cheap)
constantly.

All the best
John Hunter



Distributed by Southern Postcard Co.
Box 906 Emeryville, CA 94608

the Continental card

PAUL RIFKIN
GRADE 5
674 - ROUTE 6A
E. SANDWICH,
MA. 02537

KENTUCKY MARE and foal in the Blue Grass
Country.
B11116

© Mike Roberts Color Productions
Emeryville, CA 94608



LEE A. IACOCCA
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

October 29, 1980

Paul Rifkin
674 Rte. 6-A
E. Sandrich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your nice letter regarding
a class report that you are preparing.

In answer to your question, yes, I do
believe in God. I am a practicing Roman Catholic, I
attend Mass regularly, and as is the case with most
Christians, God revealed his presence to me through
the scriptures.

Sincerely yours,

JANIS IAN

16 October 1980

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your very well-written letter. You certainly have chosen an interesting topic for your class report.

To answer your question - I do not believe that there is a God in the everyday Judeo-Christian sense that we in the United States are usually brought up to accept. In other words, I don't think there is a little white-haired man who decides who will live and who will die, and who will be born with a good soul and who will not. I do, however, believe that there is a force much greater than we human beings; maybe that force is even the collective strength of all our hopes and aspirations.

I'm afraid I can't do much better than that... I hope your teacher can explain anything that doesn't make sense to you!

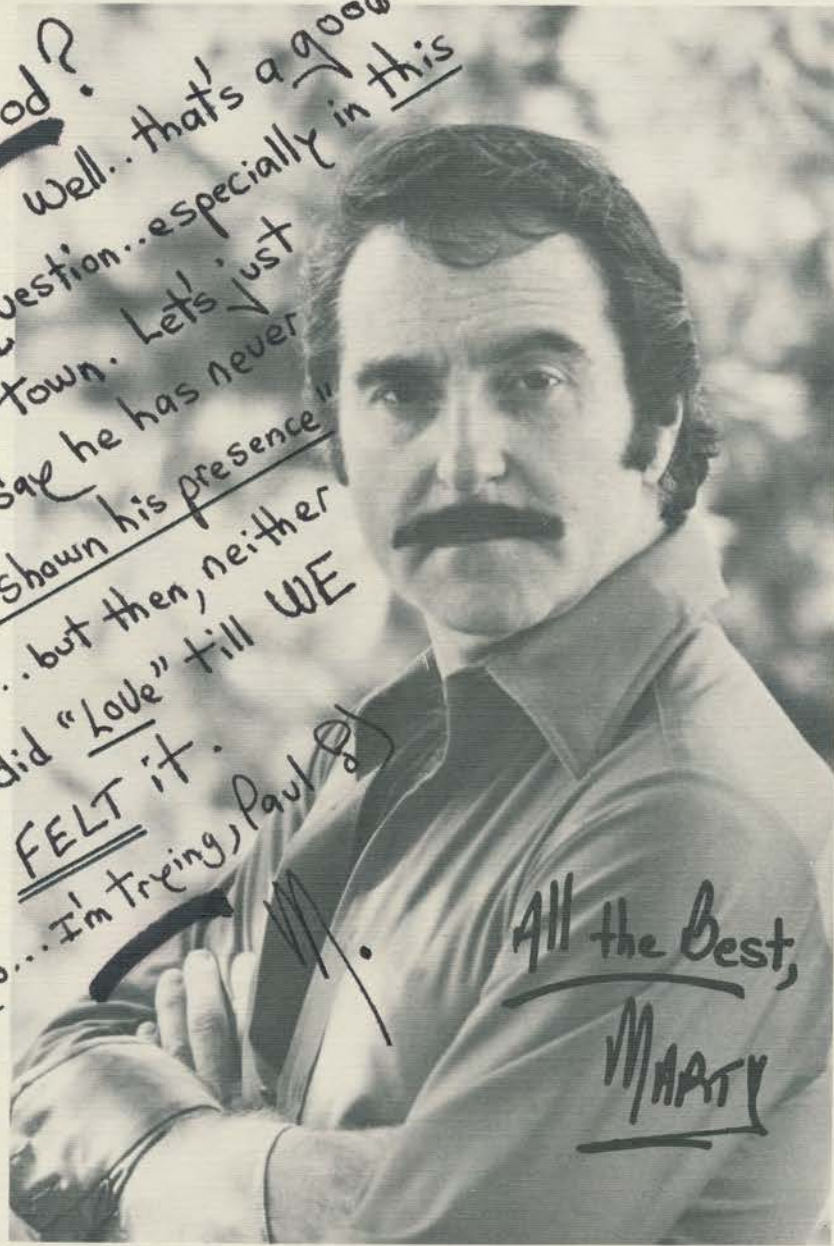
Thanks again --

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janis". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

God?
Well... that's a good
question... especially in this
town. Let's just
say he has never

"shown his presence"
...but then, neither
did "love" till WE
FELT it.

(So... I'm trying, Paul &)



All the Best,
MARTY

20 April 1983

Dear Paul Rifkin:

In answer to your question, "Do you believe in God?" I can only tell you this: during my life, I have met several dozen people who, I am certain, really did believe in God. This belief guided them throughout their lives and gave them strength and made them happy. In fact, their happiness was something wonderful and it seemed more powerful than any misfortunes which they met with. So I can say, at least, that I believe in their belief in God.

Sincerely,

Christopher Isherwood

Christopher Isherwood

CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD
145 Adelaide
Santa Monica, California
90402

BURL IVES
1880 EAST VALLEY ROAD
MONTECITO, CALIFORNIA 93108

Aug 17-1983

Dear Paul

I am answering your questions at
the request of my husband.

- ① yes Burl believes in God!
- ② God made His Presence known
to a young Illinois Boy through
the grace of a loving family.
Through the joy of nature's
renewal and when he heard
and recognized his own
heart beat - he knew he was
of God - God Bless You.

Yours in Light

Dorothy
Mrs Burl Ives

To Paul
Burlingame

Dear Paul:

June 14 - 1983



In answer to your question Do
I believe in God - and if so how did
he make his presence known - I have to
answer in my own way -

I believe in God with two o's spelled
"Good" - as a force - and I believe in that
God - Good Force when I see happy healthy
children - I believe I've been blessed by
having loving children - and I believe that
I strive for the Good in God. I also believe
that God has no form and that there ^{are} ~~is~~ no
"Chosen" people - that that Force works for
all peoples - from every race, color and creed -

Sincerely
Anne Jackson

April 1, 1983

CAVELIGHT MUSIC

P.O. BOX 127

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY 07863

TELEPHONE : 201-453-3041

Dear Paul,

I don't usually answer the personal mail as it mostly consists of people asking for autographs and other silly things like that. However, your project interests me and I wonder if you could send me a copy of it when it's finished. If so, send it to the above address.

Now to your question: Hopefully you won't mind a longer answer than "yes" or "no". I have faith in the spirit that animates us, and I believe that to be close to God is to work as little against this spirit as possible. I also believe that to do this a human being must first work to become Conscious (in other words, on the average we are asleep and we must wake up) and to stay Conscious in order to participate in the Spirit (or to work with God). When we are conscious, then it becomes obvious what to do (then you don't believe in God, really; you know God).

So, this means that the second part of your question is also a little tricky. God did not make his presence known to me. I've tried to

CAVELIGHT MUSIC

P.O. BOX 127


OXFORD, NEW JERSEY 07863

TELEPHONE : 201-453-3041

work to discover his presence in me. This is what I think we are here for. You see, God's already done his work and is present, so we must work hard to be conscious of him. That is how He is known. Then, however, there are not two things (God and you or God and me), there is only God.

I hope this isn't too complicated as I am really not a writer, but again I really appreciate your letter. I have a son in fifth grade and I would only hope that his class reports were as valuable to him.

Sincerely,



KEITH JARRETT

P.O. BOX 127

OXFORD, N.J. 07863

Dr. Robert Jastrow
Box 90
Hanover, NH 03755

April 15, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thank you for your recent letter.

My views on this question are those of the agnostic---the person who is not certain whether God exists. I do believe, however, on scientific grounds, that there is evidence for the existence of forces in the Universe that are beyond the power of scientific description.

I am enclosing a complimentary copy of a book I have written on related matters that may be of interest to you and your teacher.

Sincerely,



Robert Jastrow

RJ/na

JACOB K. JAVITS

375 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10152

April 27, 1983

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


Dear Master Rifkin:

There is a Hindu chant which reads:

OM NAMAH SHIVAYA

Translated it means: I believe in the
Divinity which is in me. . and that is God.

Sincerely,



Jacob K. Javits

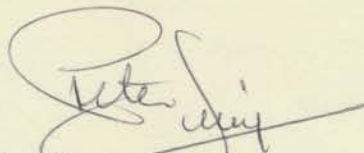
Peter Jennings
Chief Foreign Correspondent

6th April 1983

Dear Paul,

I do indeed believe in God. I was raised a Christian and always try to conduct myself in a Christian manner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Peter Jennings', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Jennings

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

Dear MR. JORDAN:

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??

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

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR
YOUR ANSWER.

Sincerely,

Dear Paul -
I believe in
God and have that
belief due to faith.
Your friend,
Hamilton Jordan

Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6A
E. Sandwich
Ma. 02537



Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.

April 25, 1983

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Yes, I believe in the existence of God. My faith, or confidence, is not based on His having ever made His presence known to me; rather, it seems to me that the order of the universe and man's striving within it are quite senseless to behold were one to assume life begins and ends wholly within the generations of creatures on earth.

Yours,

William Jovanovich

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



Columbia Pictures Television

Stacy Keach

September 26, 1983

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

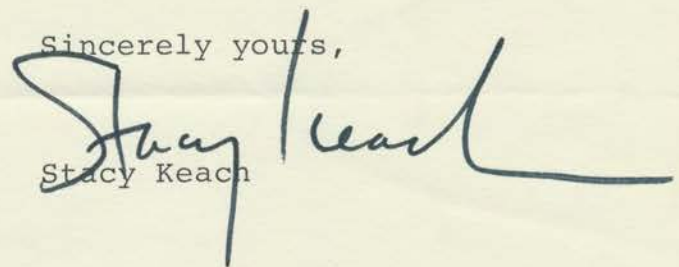
Dear Paul,

Your letter finally reached me last week, and I apologize for this delayed reply. Yes, Paul, I definitely believe in God.

Darwin's theory of Natural Selection may have something to do with a definition of how life has evolved, and the "Big Bang" concept of the origin of the Universe may also have something to do with it... but only a God could be capable of such astonishing miracles.

My very best wishes to you for success and happiness, and thank you for your letter.

Sincerely yours,


Stacy Keach

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

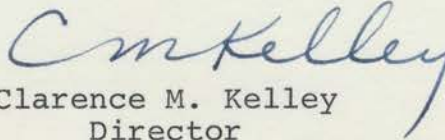
December 8, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

Your letter was received on December 6th. In reply to your inquiry, I do believe in God. I am enclosing some literature which contains my views on this subject, and I trust it will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,


Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Enclosures (2)

KITTY KELLEY

April 1, 1983

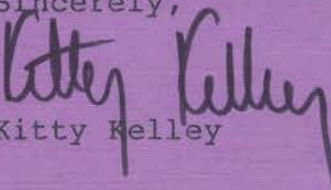
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route 6A
East Sndwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul Rifkin,

I received your letter regarding your fifth grade class survey on the existence of God.

Yes, I believe in God and He makes his presence known to me everytime I see the face of someone I love.

Sincerely,


Kitty Kelley

JACK KEMP
38TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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AREA CODE 716: 846-4123

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

October 28, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

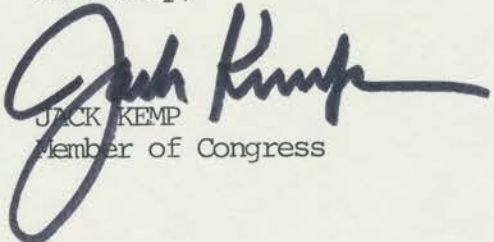
Many thanks for your recent letter. It was pleasure to hear from you.

Yes, Paul, I do believe in God. He gives me strength and inspiration in these trying times. As I weigh the merits of the many pieces of legislation that come before me I call on God for guidance and judgement to help me in my decision.

Paul, thanks again for your letter. If I can be of any further help to you in the future, please be sure and let me know.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



JACK KEMP
Member of Congress

JK/ck/pfw

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 9, 1976

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

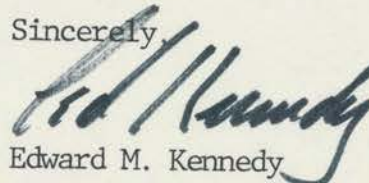
Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for writing to me, and I certainly hope that I can help you complete your survey.

The role of faith has been such an important one in my life. The belief in a source of strength greater than our own can bring not only courage and comfort during difficult times, but also the humility to embrace the truly meaningful things in life.

Please say hello to your teacher and classmates for me, and with this note, I send along my very best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

Edward M. Kennedy

Spain.


May 3rd. 1983.

Dear Paul,

In answer to your question: 'Do you believe in God', the answer is of course 'Yes'. But there are many, many ways of believing in God as we know all too well. I do not believe in God in the sentimental form of a white-robed, golden-haired human, as illustrated in many books and bibles. I do believe in an infinite MIND, and its infinite manifestation. God is all in all, and is in us and around us at all times. We have only to call on this power and believe. In this sense His presence has made itself known to me by showing me the way when one is beset with problems and decisions.

I hope this answer to your question, (which is a very difficult one in these troubled times) will satisfy you.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Kerr". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Deborah Kerr.

Paul Rifkin,
Grade 5, 67Y RT 6A,
East Sandwich,
Mass. 02537,
U.S.A.

Dec. 21, 1980

Dear Mr. Ripkin

I'm sorry to be so long
answering your inquiry, and
I'm sure I'm too late for your
report. I have had to spend
too much time running in and out
of town this fall.

But, to answer your question
briefly, yes, I do believe in God,
mainly because of certain very
strong personal intuitions of His
presence. Together with an equally
strong experience of answered prayer.

I could not deny these, or
what I believe to be their
source, and still be honest.

May I wish you all the best
for the holidays — and in your
work?

Sincerely,
Walter Kerr

Dear Paul:

Of course I believe in God.
Everyone does, its just that some
people dont admit it, or
recognise it, or appreciate it,
this belief.

How was this belief made known?
I cant remember. The Spirit of Christ
was revealed to me one night at
Crater Lake, but I think I've always
believed in God.

Peace & Strength
Ken Kesey



Rt 8 Box 477 Pleasant Hill OR 97401

Kesey



Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
333 W. Francis Wilber
Chico Ca 95926



SUFI ORDER

Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan

Head of the Sufi Order

1570 PACHECO
SANTA FE, N.M. 87501
(505) 988-4411

June 13, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul,

I like challenging questions. Out of my scruple to avoid brainwashing my pupils, I always prefer encouraging people to get into a state where they can experience the divine qualities trying to come through their being, and the divine glance through their eyes, rather than locking them into a belief system.

Yours in His service,

Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan

PVIK:k



THE KIPLINGER WASHINGTON EDITORS

1729 H Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20006 Tel: 202-887-6400

Cable Address: Kiplinger Washington DC

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May 19, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Yes indeed, I believe in God. I suppose everyone conceives of God in a different way. To me, God is the all-pervasive, ever-present force of life in the universe. And it is really unnecessary to talk of "putting God into your life," since God is always there, always has been and always will be.

I'm glad you are concerning yourself with important things. If you ever get to Washington, do come and see me.

Sincerely yours,

Austin Kiplinger

KING & SPALDING

2500 TRUST COMPANY TOWER
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
404/572-4600

1800 M STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036
202/466-7640

October 13, 1980

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rte. 6-A
E. Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

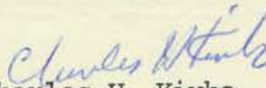
Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thank you for your very nice letter requesting that I answer the question, "Do you believe in God?"

Yes, I do. I am a member of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Sandy Springs, Georgia. My father was a member of the Christian Church and organized a small church in Bainbridge, Georgia where I was born and I was brought up in this Church by parents who were very much interested in the Church and the life of the Church. They taught me the Bible and it was through their teaching that I learned about God and since then I have continued in this same faith. I have seen through my experience in life the work and the presence of God.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,


Charles H. Kirbo

CHK/b

Nov. 1983

THE BOSTWICK FARM
NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT

Paul: In answer to
your question - Do I believe
in God?

I believe in a Supreme
Being - no matter what
he - she - may be called - I do
not believe in organized
religion - I feel the presence

Being is within me at
all times and I feel more
beautiful each time I am
conscious of this feeling and
it is there at all times.

Latha Hat

Calvin Klein

20 April 1983

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

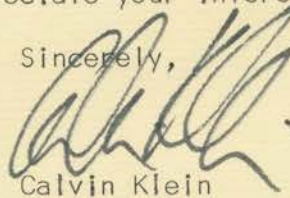
Dear Paul,

Thank you for your recent letter.

Unfortunately things are somewhat hectic for me at present due to the Fall Collection and I am unable to reply in any great depth, but I am enclosing a copy of my biography and most recent press kit which I hope will be of some help with your project.

I very much appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Calvin Klein', written over the typed name.

Calvin Klein

CK:dob

Fletcher Knebel

208 Edgerstoune Road Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Phone: (609) 924-2949

May 26, 1983

Dear Paul:

An eternal question, that one.

Whether or not I believe in God makes little difference in the grand scheme of things since my belief won't influence reality one iota. God either exists or it, he or she doesn't and nothing I think can change the fact.

Yet men have ~~xxxxxxx~~ fought, killed and slaughtered one another on the premise that piles of human bodies would somehow prove their dubious theology.

My core belief on these eschatological matters is that no one knows. It is all a great mystery, unpierced by any man or woman since the dawn of human intelligence. Therefore when I hear some money-raising, shouting and ranting preacher proclaim this, that or the other theological certainty, I put him down as a scoundrel, an ignoramus or an honest man sadly misled by his own ego.

Here we are tiny specks on a pea-size planet, floating out in the boondocks of space in one of the billions of ~~gxxx~~ galaxies that make up this fantastically huge universe. For us to pretend that we know anything about the existence or non-existence of a superpower, why, it's ridiculous.

A friend, Monsignor Illich, a rebel mind in the Catholic church, was once asked why he continued in the church if he felt so alienated from its theology.

"To celebrate the mystery," he replied.

I too am often overcome with awe at the immensity

of the unknowns and the vastness of this never-ending universe. It is all too much for our little minds to comprehend. So I have streaks of spirituality when I celebrate the mystery.

Do I believe in God? No. But what difference does that make? Would my belief prove anything?

Good luck, Paul. Keep asking the big questions.

All the best,

Fletcher Knebel



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

October 15, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God. And
God makes his presence felt every day
simply by permitting me to awake each
morning and do my job.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Koch", written over a horizontal line.

Edward I. Koch
Mayor

mg

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas
77058

OCT 20 1980

Reply to Attn of: AP

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter. My answer to your question is yes, I do believe in God.

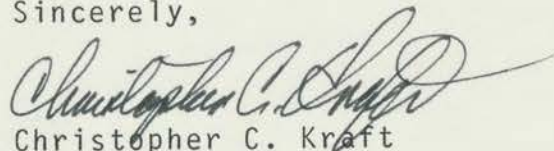
I have always accepted the existence of a Supreme Being. When I was a child, I'm sure my belief stemmed from my parents' teaching and influence. As I matured and became educated as an engineer, my faith in God also grew.

My work in the space program continues to strengthen my belief that our universe was planned. It is too well-ordered to have emerged accidentally. We are able to send spacecraft to other planets because of natural laws and the preciseness of the movements and relationships of those planets.

I believe this is the result of a Creator, a master planner. To accept it as happenstance just doesn't make sense to me. My question to you is: How can anyone gaze into a clear night sky full of stars and then declare there is no God?

Best wishes for a good class report and for a happy, productive life.

Sincerely,



Christopher C. Kraft
Director

Dear MR. KRAMER:

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].

In the morning, when I watch the sun rise, I realize the power of someone beyond mortal man.

Thank you in advance FOR

your answer.

Sincerely,

Paul Ripkin
Grade 5
4212 25th St.
SAN FRANCISCO
Calif. 94114

June 11

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your note. It is hard to say whether one believes in God because the concept is so vague. To me, God is a word that serves as a metaphor for the mystery of my relationship--every moment~~so~~--with the universe. Thus, even if I am an atheist, I seem to have more of an ongoing intimacy with this deity that I don't believe in, than many who profess belief in God. Ultimately, it comes down to believing in yourself, since that is the only consciousness you have. Hope this is of some help to you. I would be interested in seeing a copy of your report.

Cordially,

Paul Krause

November 5, 1980

Dear Paul,

I am happy to hear from you about
your survey of famous people.

Yes, I believe in God and religion
has played an important part in my life.

Good luck to you in your report.

Sincerely,

Juanita Kreps

Paul Rifkin
674 Rte 6-A
E. Sandwich
Massachusetts 02537

Saybrook Institute

* Fred Trinklein
L.I. Lutheran H.S.
131 Brookville Rd.
Brookville, Glen Head,
L.I., NY 11545

Dear Paul -

You have taken a very
important survey. My affirmative
answer is explained on the

last page of his interview.

You might read Fred Trinklein's
book THE GOD OF SCIENCE,

a similar survey of famous
Scientists. If the book is

not in your library, you might
write *Mr. Trinklein whose address
is enclosed. ^{cordially}

Stanley Krippner



Office of the Commissioner

Bowie K. Kuhn
Commissioner

February 17, 1977

Dear Paul:

You ask if I believe in God. The answer is that I do with all my heart and all my soul. How could the answer be otherwise? Yet in a sometimes cynical world, there are those who, sad to say, profess not to believe. So your question is a fair one. God is present in so many ways! What is the source of the endless universe if it is not God? Scientists cannot answer that question but you can and so can I. Doubters often look in the wrong places for God and His work. But you can find Him in the love and kindness you see about you. While surely there is much evil in the world, human love is there too and abundantly. It is the light of God's inspiration. The Spirit of God is within us all and needs only the nurture of love to transfigure us. Finally I find God most surely in the miracle of the Resurrection which we celebrate on Easter Sunday. In that joyous event, mankind finds its greatest cause for hope.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Rifkin
333 W. Frances Willard
Chico, CA 95926

BKK/jc

75 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10019
(212) 586-7400

I believe in a spirituality
that binds each of us to
one another and relates
us by kinship with all
living things, the earth,
the sky and the universe.

I learned this from the American Indians I have represented.

William H. Kusler

11/9/76