

BERT LANCE

4-29-83

To Paul Rifkin:

Thank you for
your letter -

I have always
believed in God & His
power & that His eye
is truly on each &
every one of us.

Best wishes to
you -

Bert Lance

Dear Paul

In answer to your letter, If I believe in God? Yes I do, very much.

I was an Altar Boy when I was your age, and we were taught what belief in God meant.

If the young people of this generation had more respect for their elders and believed in God, maybe, we wouldn't have so much crime.

sincerely



TELEVISION CENTER
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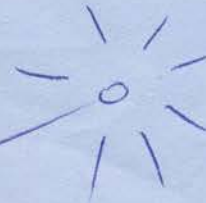
Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6 A
East Sandwich
Mass. 02537

Aout 1983

Si chaque jour Dieu vous
eclaire du soleil de son Amour.
Si chaque jour Il vient vous
prendre par la main pour
vous guider à travers tous les
brouillards = Croyez-vous
qu'il serait possible de penser
que Dieu n'existe pas ? !! ?

Est-ce que lorsque vous respirez
l'air d'une montagne ou de
la mer, on pourrait vous
obliger à croire que l'air
n'existe pas ?! - - -

Amities de

J. H. LARTIGUE 

LOS ANGELES


Dodgers

1000 ELYSIAN PARK AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90012

Dear Paul -

I received your nice letter,
to answer your first question,
yes I believe in God.

I've always believed in God and
he has played a great part in my
life. He has been great to me.

I hope this satisfies your
questions -

Best Wishes

Jan Lasorda

PAUL LAXALT
NEVADA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 21, 1983

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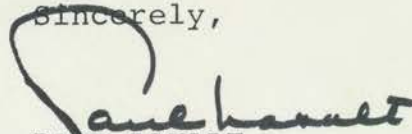
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter. I am honored that you chose to write to me in fulfillment of your class project.

I believe very strongly in God. Although I have never seen Him, nor has He ever spoken to me, my faith in Him has been sustained throughout my entire life. As a young boy in Nevada, religion was a fundamental part of my life. My mother was a very devout woman who tried to instill in her children a respect and a reverence for the Holy Trinity. This reverence is renewed often. The awe inspiring beauty of nature is a daily reminder of the presence of God. Equally awe inspiring are the brilliant minds of the men and women who, through science, have enabled us to send astronauts orbiting into outer space, or to prolong human life by means of an artificial heart. No one can deny that these minds were created in God's image.

Again, thank you for writing. I hope you will feel free to contact me again.

Sincerely,



PAUL LAXALT
U.S. Senator

PL/ag

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

TAT

COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY

NORMAN LEAR

March 1, 1977

Mr. Paul Rifkin
333 W. Frances Willard
Chilo, Ca. 95926

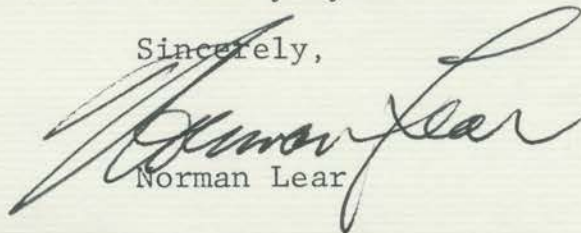
Dear Paul:

I do believe in God.

The God that I believe in is not a personal one in the sense that he or she takes no human form in my mind. I like you and man didn't make you, so the reason for your being is, for lack of a different word, God.

God has never really made his presence known to me. I don't know, perhaps he's saving me for last. Or, intends to snub me all together. I believe in him anyway.

Sincerely,



Norman Lear

NL:as

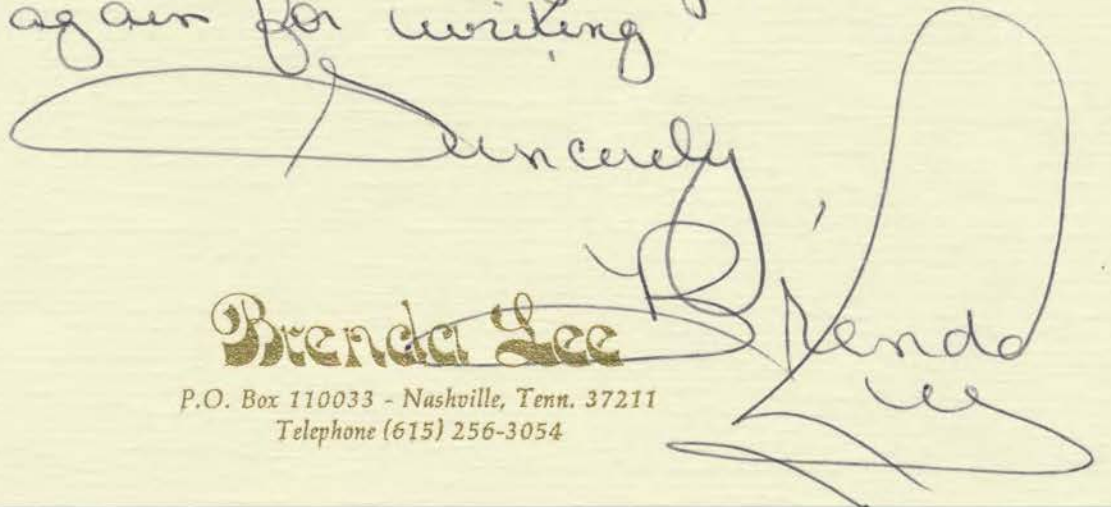
Dear Paul,

Thank you very much for your letter. I hope your summer project for school will be successful. - I am honored that you chose me to be a part of it. Your question was:

Do you Believe In God?

My answer is yes. - God first made his presence known to me through prayer. God makes his presence known to me in a lot of ways. - Whenever I look at my two girls; my husband; my family; my friends; things that I've been able to achieve personally as well as professionally; personal injuries health wise that I've been able to overcome; the happiness and peace of mind that I feel - I know that all these things are gifts and blessings from God, so therefore his presence is an ever constant factor in my life.

I hope this helps you out.
Thanks again for writing

Sincerely,


Brenda Lee

P.O. Box 110033 - Nashville, Tenn. 37211

Telephone (615) 256-3054

Le Guin
3324 N.W. Thurman Street
Portland, Oregon 97210

Dear Paul:

To answer your question:

I do not "believe in God" as a Christian (or a Jew or a Muslim) does. The idea of God as a person has no meaning to me, and I do not really know what the churches are talking about when they talk about "belief."

I do know there is something, and the poet Wordsworth described it as well as can be done in words:

A sense sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man.

That is the presence of the divine to me. With thanks for your question, and all good wishes,

Yours truly,

Ursula Le Guin



Janet Leigh Brandt

August 23, 1983

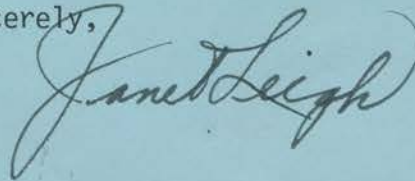
Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt 6A
East Sandwich
Mass. 02537

Dear Paul,

Yes, I do believe in God. I see Him in every delicate leaf, in every massive tree, in an exquisite snow flake, in each blade of grass. I see Him in the balance of life He created, from an ant to an elephant.

I see Him in all good.

Sincerely,



The Lennon Sisters



Mailing Address:
3230 Corinth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90066



May God bless you.

Priscilla
Debbie
Kathy
Janet
Dear Paul:
God gave us the gift of
faith, we have always
believed. Our family of 11
children was raised in
the Church.
God bless you
The Lennons

Multiple Photos, Los Angeles

POST CARD
ADDRESS

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

Lennon Sisters Fan Club
P.O. Box E - 1492
Binghamton, New York
13902

MPI 12776



THE LENNON SISTERS



GEORGE LEONARD

July 18, 1983

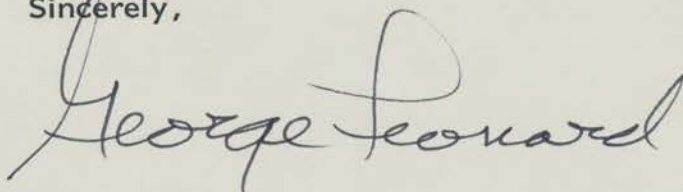
Dear Paul,

Your letter came while I was away for a two-month residency at Esalen Institute, so this reply is probably too late for your survey.

Nevertheless, I could say that I believe in the existence of a divine spirit. I'm not sure this spirit could be seen as a person, but is certainly at least personal. The divine spirit, which I might call "God," makes its presence known to me, not just at church or during religious services, but any time at all when I'm willing to open my heart to the wonders of existence; whenever, for example, I truly apprehend the essence of a tree or the flight of a swallow. Thus, God must exist in all of us as well as apart from us--both at once.

Let me wish you all good things in your life.

Sincerely,

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

BOX 609, MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 94942



Domaine d'Argenteuil

1410 Waterloo, April, 28th, 1983.

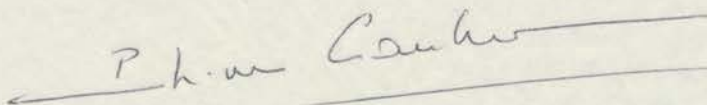
Dear Paul,

His Majesty King Leopold has received your letter.

I am authorized to tell you that King Leopold believes in God.

As far as the second part of your question is concerned, you shall understand it is such a personal matter that the King prefers not to answer it.

With kind regards.



Colonel B.E.M. Baron van CAUBERGH,
Aide de Camp du Roi Léopold.

To Paul Rifkin
674 RT 6A
East Sanswich
Mass 02537
U.S.A.

**JONATHAN CLOWES
LIMITED**

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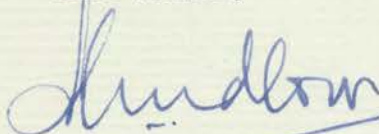
15th April 1983

Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
EAST SANDWICH
Minnesota 02537
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Rifkin,

Doris Lessing has asked me to reply to your letter on her behalf. She does not believe in God in the traditional sense and should you wish to understand her attitudes on this question, she has suggested that you might like to read her last four novels, beginning with SHIKASTA.

Best wishes,



Jonathan Clowes

JULIUS LESTER
600 STATION ROAD
AMHERST, MA. 01002

April 10, 1983

Dear Paul Rifkin:

Thank you for your letter. Your project sounds interesting and I commend you on it.

Yes, I believe in God, though "believe" is not the best word. To believe implies something done with the mind. God is to be known with one's entire being.

In answer to second part of your question - how God has made His presence known to me - well, I guess I would say, how has He not. For me it's more a matter of making my presence known to God, and what I mean by that is - God is there all the time. The problem is am I there, also, making my presence known to Him?

I know that I haven't answered your question directly, but I think that's because one's relationship with God isn't a matter of God making His presence known once, but of our being attentive, throughout each day, to God in every encounter we have. That is the purpose of the many benedictions which exist in Judaism for being aware of and praising God throughout each day. I'm referring to "Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe for...." and one can add whatever it is he or she is thankful for -- the blue sky, the rain, the sight of a bird, a smile, etc., etc.

Thank you again for writing and I hope your class project is successful.

Sincerely,
Julius Lester
Julius Lester

Paul Rifkin, Esq.,
Grade 5,
674 RT 6A,
East Sandwich,
Mass. 02537,
U.S.A.

29th April, 1983

Dear Paul Rifkin,

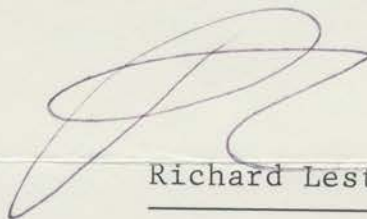
Thank you for your letter.

The answer to your question is :
NO I DO NOT AND NEVER HAVE BELIEVED
IN THE EXISTENCE OF A GOD.

I wish you every success with your class
project.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Richard Lester.

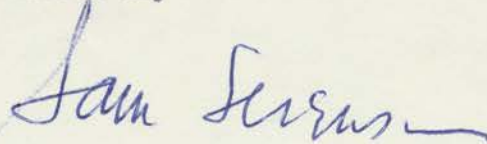
SAM LEVENSON

November 17, 1976

Dear Paul:

I believe in God. I know how He is but I don't know who He is. He has never revealed himself to me, but I have tried to reveal myself to Him. I know that He knows that. Perhaps He has tried to reveal himself to me and I wasn't receptive. I hope I get another chance.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Levenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Sam Levenson

COLLÈGE

DE

FRANCE

~~CHAIRE~~

~~D'ANTHROPOLOGIE SOCIALE~~

Paris, le 26/04/83

Dear Paul Rifkin,

The answer is: No.

With best wishes,

Yvonne Lévy-Strauss

The New York Times

84 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MASS. 02109

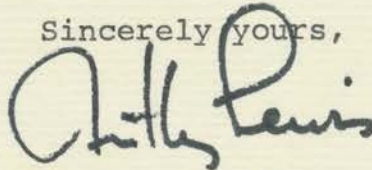
ANTHONY LEWIS

October 6, 1980

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thanks for your letter. But I do not want to discuss my religious beliefs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Anthony Lewis

From Art Linkletter

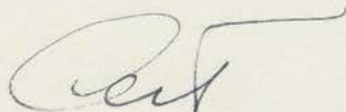
4/19/83

Dear Paul:

Yes, I believe in God.

How did He make his presence
known to me? Whenever I look
up at the stars or sail across
a mighty ocean I feel his
presence.

Best wishes,

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

COUDERT BROTHERS

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
ONE FARRAGUT SQUARE SOUTH
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

April 5, 1983

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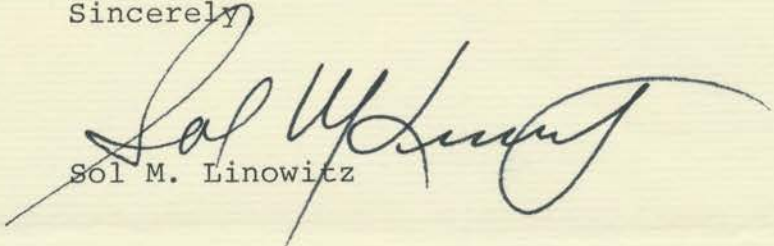
Mr. Paul Rifkin
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for your good letter, and I am glad to know about the report you are making for your fifth grade class.

In answer to your question, I do indeed believe in God. The best way I can describe how God makes his presence known to me is in finding goodness, thoughtfulness and kindness in so many people.

Sincerely


Sol M. Linowitz



Marty Liquori

Dear Paul,

What famous people believe about God should not influence your belief. I will say that I don't think God will make his presence known to you in any visible way, and probably never has to anyone.

Regards,
Marty Liquori

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 6, 1983

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

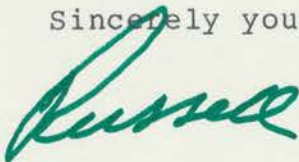
Dear Paul:

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

He has made His presence known to me in many ways. As a United States Senator, I am often faced with many difficult decisions, and I sometimes have to ask for the Good Lord's guidance in helping me make the right decision. After 34 years in the Senate, He has never failed to answer my prayers.

Again, thank you for writing. I wish you the best of luck with your project. I am,

Sincerely yours,



RBL/dd

1
Dear Paul
I've been slow in answering
my mail but your letter
got me.

I just opened it by chance
and said to myself this one
I'll answer right away -

Yes I do believe in God!
How he has made his presence
known to me

A new feeling of
peace and a new understanding
of the world I live in

I accepted Jesus as my
savior in late January
and my understanding of
spirit is growing daily

On Thursday June 9th I
called a friend in the
hospital thinking she had gone
home a week before - Her

voice was a whisper - She 2
said she was going to die
I hung up the phone and
got down on my knees and
prayed in Jesus name -
I went to the hospital and
saw a person who did
in fact look like she
was going to die - I
asked her if she would
accept Jesus as her
savior - She said yes. Later
another friend joined me
we prayed over her -
we watched her complexion
change - and her vital
functions began to function
we visited her every
day for 10 days and prayed
with her - She left the

hospital able to walk ³
with a walker only -
She is back home now
and growing stronger
every day. Jesus has taught
me that God is love
and taking time out
of your life to care
and love those around
you.

It's been a beautiful
experience watching what
Jesus could do and
being part of his
plan - we are all here
to minister to each
other - It's the best

job I've ever had
and the most gratifying

wishing you a very
happy summer and
exciting 6th grade

Love

Louis
1/10/11

HENRY LUCE III

FOUR SUTTON PLACE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 759-8640

10/12/80

Dear Paul,

Yes, I believe in God. I probably came to Him in childhood most strongly through my grandfather, Dr. Henry Winters Luce, who was a Presbyterian missionary-educator in China. His enthusiastic faith and pervasive goodness were a strong influence and example. I made the more intellectual commitment after a later teen-age period of questioning and doubt. I decided to affirm God as Creator, for I perceived that not to do so would leave me in a perpetual state of confusion and ignorance of the origin and purpose of the universe and life. It seemed obvious that we, mankind, would never be able to furnish an empirical explanation of this, and that, therefore, we had better hitch our star to an act of faith.

Sincerely yours,
Henry Luce @

Dear Paul

I feel God's presence
especially by observing
Nature and all his beauty,
his infinite universe and
his ever-gentle presence

CIKSUYA CANNA ŚNA

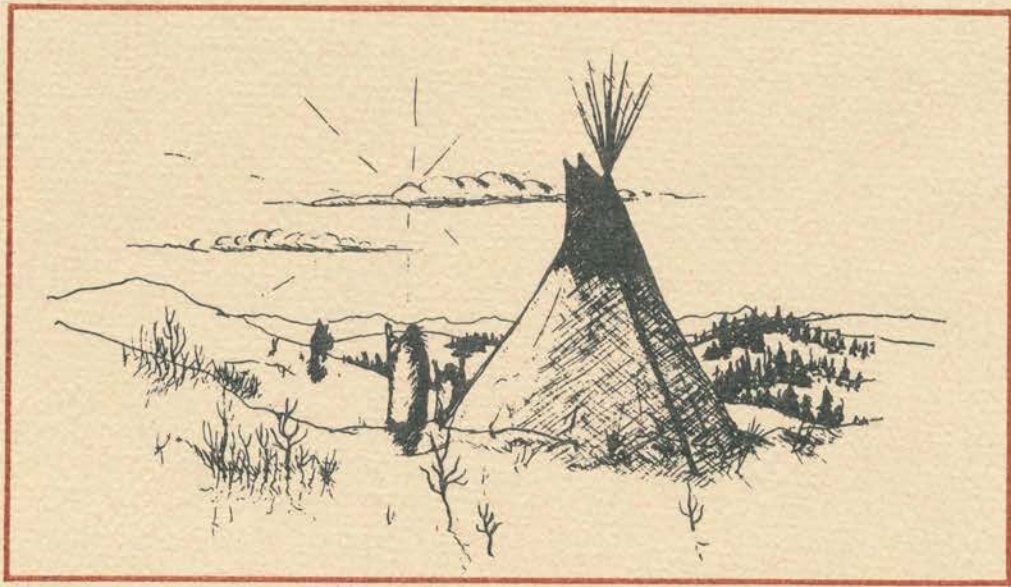
CANTEMWAŚTE VELO

whenever I remember you my heart is happy

God bless,

Chico MacKenzie

SIoux PRESS
ORIGINALS



MaLaine Enterprises, Inc.

P.O. Box 753
Cripple Creek, CO 80813

December 7, 1983

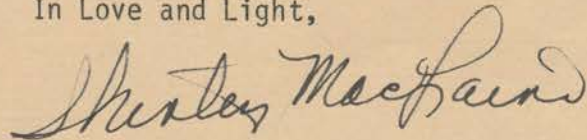
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 RT 6A
East Sandwich, MASS 02537

Dear Paul:

I am sorry that I did not receive your letter until today.
I have been in Egypt.

Yes, Paul, I believe in God. I believe that man is a unit
of God Consciousness extended and that everything is regulated by
Divine Law. I also believe in the Law of Cause and Effect or rather,
that you reap what you sow.

In Love and Light,

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

Shirley MacLaine



4/5.

Dear Paul.

I would like to help you but I think it is too personal a matter to discuss with someone I do not know.

Yours,

Robert MacNeil.

ROBERT MacNEIL

THE MACNEIL-LEHRER REPORT

Dear Paul Reppert —

Yes! I believe in God!

He believes in me — The least I
can do is believe in him.

Have a God believing summer.

Karl Malden

Dear MR. Malick!

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,

YES!
AND THANK YOU
FOR WRITING,
Paul

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

Wesleyan University

Middletown, Connecticut 06457

WILLIAM MANCHESTER
329 Wesleyan Station

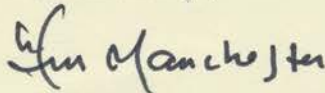
April 8, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

My religious convictions are deeply held, but they are so private that I do not discuss them with anyone, not even with members of my own family.

Faithfully,



William Manchester
Adjunct Professor of
History

WM/amr

*Michael Manley
2 Washington Close
Kingston 8, Jamaica*

March 17, 1983

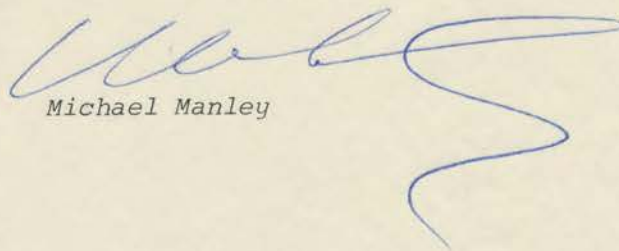
Dear Paul,

I received your letter asking me whether I believed in God. My answer is yes, I believe in God. Unlike most people, I am not able to feel the presence of God in a church. However, my Father had a home high up in the Jamaican mountains. At a point which is about 4,000 feet up, he built a bench with his own hands. It looks across a huge, deep valley and across to the highest point in Jamaica, the Blue Mountain Peak, The Peak, as it is called, is more than 7,400 feet high, which is a lot in such a small island.

When I sit on the bench and look out through the pine trees which surround it and across to The Peak, I often feel God's presence. At these times I get a sense of order and beauty; of timelessness and permanence. Then I know that there is some Force or Being which is cosmic and creative. If I am troubled I find peace; if I am confused I find clarity; if I feel lost I see a path forward.

I hope you find something like that one day. Or perhaps you already have!

Sincerely,



Michael Manley

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



COMPAGNIE DE MIME
MARCEL
MARCEAU

Paul RIFKIN
674 Rt 6A
E. SANDWICH
MA 02537 USA

Paris,
March 9th 1983

Dear Paul,

It is a very hard question to answer : "Do you believe in God ?"

I do not believe especially in one God, but in a superior being which could be the secret of the creation of the Universe.

I believe in the Godly and in the Divine in the spirit of Man which is the inspiration guiding humanity. In this sense I believe in God.

God has his presence in me through my heart, through the love I share with humanity and through my inspiration I hope to preserve for a long time to create and always bring out the best from me for the rest of my life.

With my best wishes, always your

BIP

Marcel MARCEAU

MARCUS

May 24, 1983

MR. PAUL RIFKIN
674 ROUTE 6A
EAST SANDWICH, MA. 02537

DEAR PAUL:

I have never seen any manifestation or evidence of a supreme being. Therefore, I must admit that I am an agnostic without fixed convictions that there is or is not a God.

This letter is a personal communication and is not sent with any permission to publish its contents.

Sincerely,


Stanley Marcus

SM:wI

Mary Martin

Dear Paul Rifkin.....

.....I am sure you will find many wonderful answers about GOD in your survey.....I cannot recall any particular time that GOD made his presence known to me as he has been with me all my life.....from the time as a child and throughout all of my life.....there is, however, a special time that I know he was beside me every moment and that was when I was in a terrible accident last year.....
.....I was very, very ill and he never left me all during my illness.....
and.....he is STILL with me at all times.....

Love,
Mary -

August 29, 1983

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your letter.

In answer to your question, YES
INDEED, I BELIEVE IN GOD! It
is my guiding light, my strength
from day to day in everything I
do. I have been a Christian since
a very young boy. I was raised by
Christian parents in a Christian
home, for which I feel most fortunate.
There is no doubt in my mind that
all things that have happened in my
life were a result of my beliefs.

Paul

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SUNSET/VINE TOWER
6290 SUNSET BLVD
HOLLYWOOD
CALIFORNIA 90028
PHONE (213) 462-1846

CABLE ADDRESS:
JONROMAT-LOS ANGELES

JOHNNY MATHIS

April 5, 1983

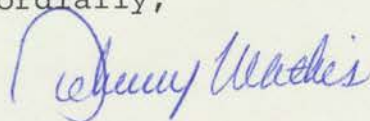
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter. Yes Paul, I do believe in God. I have ever since I learned to walk. My Mother and Father helped me to realize that there is a Heavenly Father, and He is very important to me.

Thanks for your interest and best of luck with your report.

Cordially,



Johnny Mathis

JRM/ms

January 6, 1977

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God.
I first started believing in God
when my son Charlie was born. He
is a very good boy and a very decent
person. I hope you will be the same.

Best wishes,

Jack Mattoon

Dear Paul -

I believe in the Creator
who is in all of us, the
Lord - who is seen within
("The Eye with which I see
God is the Eye with which
God sees Me," as Meister
Eckhart said) and also
the God who is seen in
everything, large and
small

Sincerely

John MacBride

ROLLO MAY, LTD.
98 SUGARLOAF DRIVE
TIBURON, CALIFORNIA 94920
415 435-3926

October 14, 1980

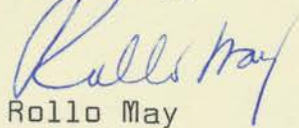
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 RT 6A
E. Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

In answer to your question, I do believe in God but it is not a God most people would recognize. God to me is the ground of meaning and being. He makes his presence known through everything about us and within us.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


Rollo May

RM/so

P.S. God should not be referred to as he. It certainly is as suitable to refer to him as she or it. Personal pronouns are not applicable in that area.

San Francisco Chronicle

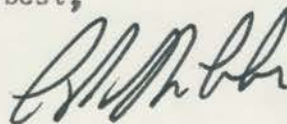
CHARLES McCABE

4/12

Dear Paul Rifkin,

Thanks very much for your note.
It's a tough question that you
ask. For openers, let's just say
I believe in belief. I'll need a
column to explain it all.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. McCabe", written in a cursive style.

141 rue de Rennes

Paris 75006

November 25, 1980

Dear Paul Ritkin:

I don't believe in God.

Sincerely,

Mary McCarthy

Mary McCarthy

*P.S. But I do believe in quite a lot
of Christ's teachings.*

PAUL N. McCLOSKEY, JR.
12TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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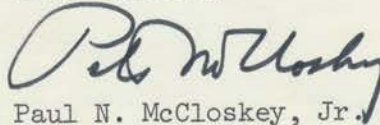
November 16, 1976

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

I'm not exactly sure who God is.
I more or less follow the philosophy of
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. I commend to
you the book, "The Mind and Faith of
Justice Holmes" written by Max Lerner.

Best regards,


Paul N. McCloskey, Jr.

PNMcC:ss

RODDY MCDOWALL

..... because, Paul ²¹. He is
with me and, hopefully,
I am with Him.

Roddy McDowall

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GENERAL COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 18, 1976

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of October 12th.

Yes, Paul, I am a devout believer in God. I am also a frequent reader of the Bible which, for all my life, has been my greatest source of inspiration. As you may know, I am the son of a Methodist minister, so my religious training came early and intensively. I also studied for the ministry myself and in fact had my own congregation for a while before going into teaching--and from there, of course, into politics.

Thanks for writing to me, Paul, and I would be interested in seeing the results of your survey if you would be kind enough to send them to me when you have completed your research.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,


George McGovern

Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Mary McGroary

April 15, 1983

Dear Paul -

Yes, I do believe in God. He has made his presence known to me through kind and loving people I have known - some of them, happily, close relatives of mine.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McGroary

The Washington Post 1150 15TH STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20071

Dear Paul Dittus

Yes - I do believe

in God the mysterious

X and I trust

Him

for the gift of life

and to be a part of

my profession

DMG

McKissick And Clayton

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

Post Office Box 931 - 304 Hillsboro Street

Oxford, North Carolina 27565

(919) 693-7393

October 21, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

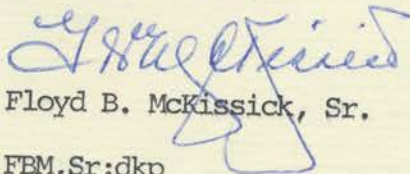
Thank you so very much for your recent letter, postmarked
October 8, 1980.

Please advise your 5th Grade Classas follows:

1. Yes, I am a Christian.
2. I believe in God.
3. God has made himself known to me in many, many ways.
Everything I own, I owe to God.

With very kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,



Floyd B. McKissick, Sr.

FEM,Sr:dkp

Rod McKuen

April 7, 1983


Paul Riffin
Grade 5
674 Rte. 6A
E. Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your nice note. In reply to your question as to whether or not I believe in God... I think it would be very difficult to believe in one's self without acknowledging a supreme being or a higher order.

I feel God is manifested in the faces of the young and the very old. Proof of God is in the good things people do for each other. But it is not just in people - how can one pass a tree, see an animal or even look skyward without knowing that God is in the neighborhood somewhere.

Good luck on your report.

My  best to you,

Rod McKuen

RM/cp

P.S. Enclosed is my book An Out Stretched Hand which explains my views on God even further.

Rod McKuen
P.O. Box G
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

October 26, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Hope my answer to your letter for a class report is not too late. Your letter came to my office while I was away and I have just returned.

Yes, I do believe in God. God made his presence known to me during the Korean War. My best friend and I took turns flying. We both went on a leave together and when we returned I went out on the first hop, my buddy took the second hop. When I went to relieve him I found he had been killed. I knew then God was watching over me.

Hope the above answers your questions adequately for your report.

Thank you for your interest.

Cordially,



Ed McMahon

ELM:pm

Dear Paul -

5-20-83

No, I don't believe in
God.

I guess I neither see my
reason to or feel my need
to. ^{Best}
P. McHenry

Dear Mr. McNamara:

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).

Yes
Robert S. McNamara

Thank you in advance for your answer.

sincerely,

Paul Rifkin
grade 5
674 RT 6A
East Sandwich
Mass 02537

MARGARET MEAD
15 WEST 77TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10024

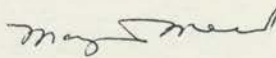
January 24, 1977

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin,

This note will acknowledge with thanks
your correspondence of December 2, 1976
which I am sorry to have to return to you.
At present I have neither the time, the staff
nor the space to cope properly with all the
letters I receive. Unfortunately, form letters
such as this seem to be the only way to deal
with the situation.

Sincerely yours,



Margaret Mead

September 8, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Of course I believe in God. I don't know how anyone could get through life without a firm belief and faith in the goodness of God. There is no problem that we encounter on this earth too big for God to solve for us if we turn our difficulties over to Him in prayer. We also must always remember to thank God everyday for all our blessings. We can pray to Him at any hour of the day. We don't have to wait until we are going to bed at night to talk to Him, and the more you pray, the closer you will feel His presence. If I have a problem, anytime I ask God for guidance, the answer always comes, and it is always right.

We seem to work hard at everything we do, such as in your case, going to school, doing your homework and playing in sports, but we never give the same amount of time to God.

If you make God part of your life as the best friend you will ever have in this world, you will have a fruitful, successful life.

With every good wish to you always.

Sincerely,

Audrey Mealms

Dear Ms. MEADOWS;

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 - definitely!*

If the answer is yes, please describe

how God made his presence known to you.

Every day, in every way - from the

Thank you in advance for your answer.

*morning sun to the trees & flowers, wind, rain,
animals, relatives, family,*

employees, work, food

rest, stars & moon - Paul Rifkin

all are gifts from grade 5

God - including our 674 RT 6A

health, talents, birth, E. SANDWICH

death, joy and sorrows MA 02537

*all are ordained by God -
love, I amne*

Jayne Meadows

October 13, 1980

Dear Mr. Rifkin,

Here are the answers to the questions that you asked Ms. Meadows.

Do you believe in God?

Yes- definitely!

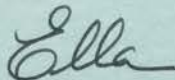
Please describe how God has made His Presence known to you.

Every day in every way--from the morning sun to the trees & flowers, wind and rain, animals, relatives, family, employees, work, food, rest, stars & moon--all are gifts from God-- including our health, talents, birth, death, joys, and sorrows-- all are ordained by God-

Love, Jayne.

I am sending this because I thought you might like a typewritten version of what she wrote. But, I am also enclosing what she actually wrote to you.

Sincerely,



Ella Clark

Jayne Meadows

Twenty-Ninth
November
1 9 8 3

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

The following is a slightly revised version of the statement sent to you some time ago:

It appears to me that God makes his presence known in the world of nature that lies all about us, from the morning sun to the stars and moon, from the trees and flowers, the wind, life-giving rain, the animal creatures of the earth, family, relatives, friends and fellow workers, from the food and drink the earth provides -- they all seem to me to be gifts from the creator, including the gifts of health, talent, the joys -- even the sorrow of life, and the final one -- are, I feel, ordained by God.

Also, I experienced a few years ago a dramatic healing that may have had miraculous aspects. In any event, I am grateful to God for life itself.

Love,

Jayne Meadows Allen

JMA:jla

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815 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

(202) 637-5000

November 2, 1976

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

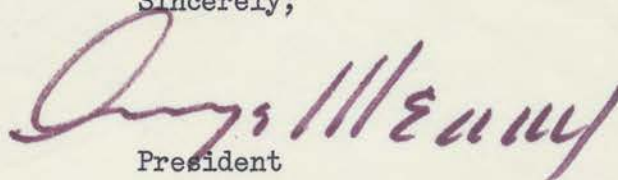
Thank you for your letter of October 12th.

In answer to your question, Do you believe in God? My answer is: I most certainly do.

I am most appreciative of your interest and will be happy to enclose an autographed picture.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,


President

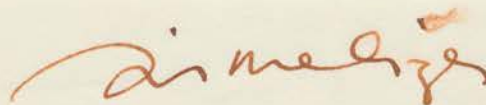
Dear Paul Rifkin,

Strange as it may seem, I believe God makes his/her presence known to me in everything, even in nothing. In the most terrible and in the most wonderful moments, that presence emanates. And if it's all in my head (or in a place imagined to be the soul which may be God imagining me) that Presence light's up my brain's dark ridges to reflect itself back onto the world. And what is seen or known is returned within and this circle of within and without is constant. God (or what is named the energy connecting us to everything and even nothing) surrounds us from within and without.

I've always pondered the words "believe" and "know." Sometimes I find belief gets in the way of knowing.

I hope this has been helpful.

Sincerely,



David Meltzer.

Dear Mr. Michaels:

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.

Sincerely

VERY EARLY ON

AT HEBREW SCHOOL

Paul Ritkin
grade 5
674 RT 6A
E. SANDWICH
MA 02537

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NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019
(212) 581-8484



October 15, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

I have received your letter asking about my belief in God. Although this may seem to be a simple question, it is really quite complex. It calls for a response of many pages, but I will try to be brief.

If your question relates to whether there is one, all-powerful being who oversees and controls the entire universe, my answer is I do not know. If, however, your question is whether I believe in the concept of "good" and "goodness" as an idea which can and should serve as a motivating force governing the behavior and thoughts of all of us, I would answer 'yes'.

Sincerely,

Marvin J. Miller

MJM/for

SHEA & GOULD

(MIRABELLI & GOULD)

1627 K STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

WILLIAM A. SHEA
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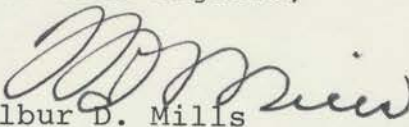
October 16, 1980

Paul Rifkin
674 Route 6A
E. Sandwich, MA 62537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter. Yes, I do believe in God. I believe He makes His presence known to all of us - all the time - if we just take the time to look. Too often, however, we're just too busy to see Him.

With kind regards,


Wilbur D. Mills

lp



RONNIE MILSAP

12 MUSIC CIRCLE SO. • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203 •

August 3, 1983

Paul Rifkin
674 Route GA
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul,

Please for give the delay in getting back with you, but, I don't always get the chance to answer my mail as often as I would like during these touring months. But, I always enjoy hearing from my friends.

In answer to your question for your fifth grade project.. yes, I believe in God. When I was growing up in the rural parts of Western North Carolina, my Grandparents used to take me to revival meetings and 'foot-washings' at a little church known as the Primitive Baptist. I sometimes sang for the people and felt from them a mixture of love and pity. Today as I perform, I feel the love and electricity from my audiences, and the passage of scripture comes to mind, 'love one another as Christ loved His church and gave Himself for it.' This is how God makes His presence known to me, as I love and it's given back to me. And, I'm very thankful He gave me a talent so I could give it back to my brothers and let them know how I feel about them.

Write anytime you have a question, and have a great rest of the summer!

Best regards,

RONNIE MILSAP



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November 18, 1976

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

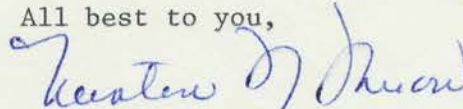
Dear Paul:

Thanks for your letter of November 11.

Yes, I do believe in God. I am not sure I know how God made his presence known to me. I think it is a result of my religious training and background and growing up in a home which observed Judaism and the Jewish religion.

Good luck in your survey.

All best to you,



Newton N. Minow

NNM/kjk

LAW OFFICES OF
MARVIN M. MITCHELSON
1801 CENTURY PARK EAST, SUITE 1900
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067
(213) 277-5545

WILLIAM J. GLUCKSMAN
JANIS C. BROWN

OF COUNSEL
STEPHEN R. LANDAU

OF COUNSEL
HAROLD RHODEN

CABLE "MARVELO"
TELEX 194-377

April 20, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter.

With regard to your 5th Grade class report, my answer to your question is "YES, I BELIEVE IN GOD," even more since, recently, I was involved in a bad traffic accident and my life was saved. I think this is God's way of telling me that he wants me to be here longer so that I may help people.

I hope this helps you with your report.

Sincerely,

LAW OFFICES OF
MARVIN M. MITCHELSON

By 

MARVIN M. MITCHELSON

MMM:jc

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November 15, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter,

As you know, my father was a Methodist minister. Religion played a big part in my upbringing. I think it has strongly influenced my adult life.

I am glad that you took the time to contact me and hope that you will do so in the future.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Walter F. Mondale

Walter F. Mondale

Dear MR. Montoya:

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
himself known to you].

Thank you in advance for
your answer.

Sincerely,

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

Dear Paul,

This is Mrs. Montoya writing. You probably know
that my husband is from Spain. He doesn't write
English, so he has asked me to answer.

Yes, he definitely believes in God. He was
brought up in a religious family and never doubted

that there was a God. After he grew up and thought more about it, he felt inside himself that there must be a power greater than all of us. He believes there is a God of all the human race not just the Christians or the Jews. Also, he feels closer to God in the country than in church.

I hope you will do well with your survey.

Good luck!

Sally Montoya



To Paul -

~~Kudly Moore~~

No - I do
not believe
in God.

ARTHUR
NEW YORK

Tad Mosel
400 East 57th Street
New York, New York 10022

12 October 1983

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

Dear Paul,

I am terribly sorry that your wonderful letter of last May was mislaid and has only now surfaced out of the chaos that I call my desk. I know it is too late for me to participate in your fifth grade class report, but I am writing to you personally, anyway, because your question is of great importance.

I was born a Presbyterian in Steubenville, Ohio, in 1922. From the beginning I was told that God existed, a fact which I never challenged but which I accepted as a bit of history - George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and God all existed in about equal parts.

I know now that He was making His presence known to me all along, but I did not actually let Him make His presence known - that is I did not stop to see it and feel it - until thirteen years ago when I was forty-eight years old. At that age I experienced the kind of bottomless despair in which you do not want to face another day, and when my spiritual fortunes reversed themselves I knew, after the fact, that it was God's work. It was a spiritual awakening, but not a flag-waving one, a day-to-day one that I have to work at; and as long as I work at it and do not forget the despair from which I have risen, I feel God's presence every minute of the day. Only when I forget, do I slip back into the old disheartened ways of thinking.

It is not really hard to find God, but it is sometimes very hard to hang onto Him - but oh, it is worth it!

Thank you for writing to me and giving me reason to put all this on paper. I don't think I have said it very well, because I am speaking of intangibles; but whatever I have said comes from the heart.

Sincerely,

Tad Mosel



**Triborough
Bridge and Tunnel
Authority**

Randall's Island New York, New York 10035 Phone 212 360-3050

October 20, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your interesting letter.

I have, however, no direct communication with
the Creator and never would make such an
extravagant claim.

Cordially,

Robert Moses

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SM/SP

28th April, 1983.

Master Paul Rifkin,
Grade 5,
674 RT 6A.,
East Sandwich,
Mass 02537,
U.S.A.

Dear Paul,

Thanks very much for your letter asking about my belief
in God.

Yes, I do believe in God but I cannot explain all the reasons
in a few moments or on paper.

Life is complex and the world around us, its' beginning,
continuance and end are all beyond my understanding, but
I do feel that the Maker has to exist.

Yours sincerely,

Stirling Moss

10/16

Paul:

Do you believe in God?

or Santa Claus?

If God exists, I don't know how
He or She ever came into being.

Who created God?

I do believe that there are
many mysteries + riddles + unknowable
aspects of our existence. I accept
those unknowns - tho we always
probe + question them. Some people
call the unknown, "God." IF THAT'S
what you mean, yes, I believe in the unknown.

OK?

Stewart

CBS NEWS

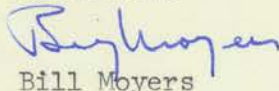
A Division of CBS Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 975-4321

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

Dear Paul:

I do believe in God because I have found no way to disbelieve, all of my efforts to the contrary notwithstanding. But the revelation of this truth has been in so personal a way that neither words nor reason are adequate to express it. God only knows the manner of its being, and I accept it as the ultimate mystery of my journey here.

Sincerely,



Bill Moyers



NBC News

A Division of
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.

4001 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016 202-686-4200

Dear Paul —

The answer to your
question is yes.

Corduly,

Ray Munson

6 Nov 80

Steeple Aston Oxford June 5

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter. I do not believe in God, that is I do not believe in a divine person or controlling intelligence. But I believe in religion as spiritual change, response to a spiritual reality. I think this is what Heidegger and Heidegger believe. All best wishes to you,

Iris Murdoch

KEMPIS
ORRISDALE ROAD
BALLASALLA
ISLE OF MAN
CASTLETOWN 2440

Feast Day of
St John of
St Facundus
(12th June 1983)

Dear Paul Rifkin,

You write asking Do I believe in God?
My dear chap, I think you must be a bit
soft in the head to even ask a question
like that. You might as well ask a whale
does it believe in water, or a swallow
in air. Who are we to believe or disbelieve?
Anybody who only believes in God must have
something missing. If you don't feel our
most dear and loving Creator in every breath
you breathe, every step you take, every
thought that crosses your mind, all I can
say is, God help you.

We have each one of us a tiny speck of God
within us, and our true purpose on earth
is to keep that alive.

So stop asking daft questions.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Naughton

SOCIAL
SCIENCE
INSTITUTE
HARBORSIDE, MAINE

10/11/1980.

Dear Paul,

In answering your letter:

In any serious discussion of a question such as yours - "Do you believe

in God?" it is customary for the one who propounds the question to state the question for discussion + define the terms.

Before I answer your question therefore, I would ask you to define terms

& begin by answering my request
by defining the term "God" ~~is~~
as you are using it. As you
know, the term has many
& various meanings.

Very truly yours,

Scott Nearing,

SOCIAL
SCIENCE
INSTITUTE

HARBORSIDE, MAINE

October 18, 1980

Dear Paul :

Thank you for your definition of God as "the energy that connects us all". That is an unusual and interesting definition.

I accept this definition, with a slight change. Omit "us", making it read : "the energy that connects all".

I suggest this because your definition as it stands seems to refer to human beings only. Taking out "us" makes it easier to include animals, flowers, rocks, trees and other aspects of nature that are part of the All.

Using that as my definition, yes, I believe in the universe as it is, in all its aspects. I also believe that the universe changes a bit each hour and each day, so there is an ever-changing All.

This makes possible an even shorter definition of our word God : "God Is". This wording makes God and Being mean essentially the same thing.

Hoping you will continue with your investigations,

Yours truly,

Seo H. Kearing.



San Francisco State University

1600 HOLLOWAY AVENUE • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94132

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

June 6, 1983

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God.

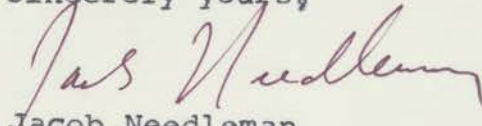
God made His presence known to me only after I began to learn how to look for Him. When I learned, I saw that He had been there all the time.

I've had to work very hard to learn how to see Him, and even then I see only a little bit of Him.

The most important part of this learning was to want to see Him, when everybody else is persuaded either that He's not there or that He's somewhere where He really isn't. And this makes me very tired of looking. But I found that I only see Him when I go on looking after I get tired.

You have chosen a good project, not only for summer school, but for your whole life.

Sincerely yours,


Jacob Needleman

Aug 20 - 1983

~~Hispania~~

Dear Paul:

Yes! I do believe in God!

and those who don't are stupid!

Observe the miracles of Creation that surround you - -- the Starry heavens, the vast, restless ocean, the mighty mountains, the sun - the moon - Change of seasons - flowers in the spring etc. etc.. Can any one believe they all happened by accident or by chance?

I have always been a religious person from my early years. My mother taught me how to pray and believe. She taught me to see myself as a child of God -- that He created me and cares about me. I am a Roman Catholic.

I keep praying for more faith and love -- I get this through the Bible - going to daily Mass, praying the Rosary, being charitable and always conscious of God's presence. Abiding by the 10

Commandments - and trying to live
the good life for the Kingdom of Heaven.

I hope this information is satisfactory

Paul. God Bless you and I hope this letter
has helped you too!!

Laz
Hilsuman

BOB NEWHART

10-23-80

Dear Paul

In answer to your letter,
and I hope this doesn't arrive
too late for your survey, I do
believe in God and feel his
presence is made known to me
by doing his work, you find hap-
piness.

Sincerely,

Bob Newhart

June 28, 1984

Jean Paul

Yes, I certainly do believe in God. With my eyes open or shut, the proof is awesome. I experience God all the time because I live from joy and harmony and creation, and other things too. I see God's work when I look at my little child and realize that I, by myself, could not create even his eyelash. God is present in war or peace, but mostly when one is at peace with oneself. You are proof that God exists, I love you. Julie Neuman

Jack Nicklaus

November 21, 1980

Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 RT 6A
E. Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

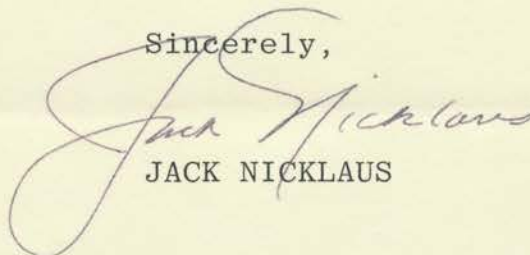
Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter.

I am honored that you have included me in the survey for your class report concerning belief in God. Yes, I do believe in God. He has made his presence known to me in the way I try to live my life, especially in raising my family in a proper way.

Thanks again for writing and good luck with your project.

Sincerely,

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

JACK NICKLAUS

PAUL H. NITZE

3120 Woodley Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20008

April 12, 1983

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

I do believe in God. I see no other way to explain the immense energy, power, diversity and beauty in the universe or the richness of life.

God has not made his presence known to me in any personal way, only through my observation of nature and humanity.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Nitze

PHILLIPS, NIZER, BENJAMIN, KRIM & BALLON

LOUIS NIZER
CHARLES BALLON
DINSMORE ADAMS
LEONARD S. BAUM
GEORGE BERGER
ALBERT H. BLUMENTHAL
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ROBERT W. FREIMAN
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40 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019
(212) 977-9700

ARTHUR B. KRIM
LOUIS J. LEFKOWITZ
ALFRED DONATI, JR.
OF COUNSEL

LOUIS PHILLIPS
(1925-1959)
ROBERT S. BENJAMIN
(1925-1979)

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September 27, 1983

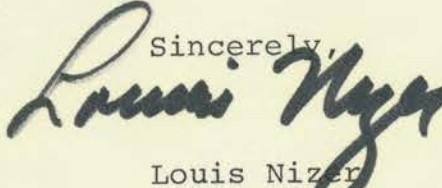
Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Rt. 6A
E. Sandwich, Mass. 02537

My dear Paul:

Since no rational person can fail to be mystified and exhilarated by the wonders of the world, from human beings to the most tiny insect, and now the revelation of cosmic realty, it is impossible to be an atheist. However, it is not impossible to reject the notion of an individual "person". That is why so many resort to the explanation of "nature" and other unidentified creative forces.

However, all of this is too large for a simple inquiry. Think it through yourself.

My warm regards,

Sincerely,

Louis Nizer

Whitewater,
Howth Summit,
DUBLIN.

May 5. 1983.

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

Dear Paul,

The answer to your first question is
yes. The answer to your second is contained
in an article of which I enclose a copy.

Best wds,

Yours sincerely,

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Conor Cruise O'Brien



LOS ANGELES DODGERS, INC.

1000 ELYSIAN PARK AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

(213) 224-1314

PETER O'MALLEY

October 16, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

My father, Mr. Walter O'Malley, passed away last year. However, you will be glad to know that he definitely believed in God and in his own private way prayed through his Church. I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

em

29th Feb. 1984

Dear Paul,

Please forgive the long-long
delay in replying to your letter.

Do I believe in God? Yes!
Because he made me write this
to you

Sincerely

Milo O'Shea



Charlie Jones
Merlin Olsen

(714) 459-7771



C-M PRODUCTIONS

8039 Calle del Cielo, La Jolla, California 92037

DEAR PAUL,

THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS YES
I DO BELIEVE IN GOD. THE SECOND PART
OF THE QUESTION IS MORE DIFFICULT
TO ANSWER.

I'VE NEVER SEEN GOD, EVEN THOUGH
I HAVE FELT HIS PRESENCE.
HE HAS NEVER SPOKEN TO ME, BUT
I KNOW HE HAS ANSWERED MY PRAYERS.

SOMEHOW IT IS ENOUGH FOR ME TO
KNOW THAT THERE IS A GOD, THAT HE
CARES ABOUT ME. THAT HE HAS A
PLAN THAT INCLUDES ALL MANKIND.

SOMEDAY IT WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL
TO HAVE A CHANCE TO BE IN HIS
PRESENCE. IT'S SOMETHING TO THINK
ABOUT AND TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT.

BEST WISHES,



1225 North Chester Avenue, Bakersfield, California 93308 / Phone Area Code 805-393-1011

October 24, 1980

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

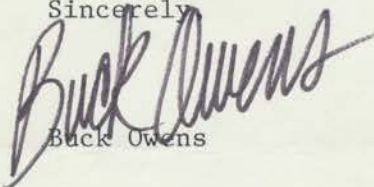
Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for wanting to include me in your survey for your class report. I am flattered.

Yes, Paul, I do believe in God. You want to know how he makes his presence known to me? I know, when I look in the sky and see the birds and the clouds. I know, when I look at the trees and the flowers. And most of all, I know, when I see the smiles on happy faces.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this with you.

Sincerely


Buck Owens

/tab

ARNOLD PALMER ENTERPRISES

- POST OFFICE BOX FIFTY-TWO
- YOUNGSTOWN, PENNA. 15696
- AREA CODE 412 537-7751



ARNOLD PALMER
PRESIDENT

January 10, 1977

Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California
94114

Dear Paul:

Sorry for taking so long to write back to you. I have been in Florida for the past three months and just had an opportunity to see your letter.

In response to your question, it seems like I have always felt God's presence in my life.

I hope this is satisfactory and that your survey is successful.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

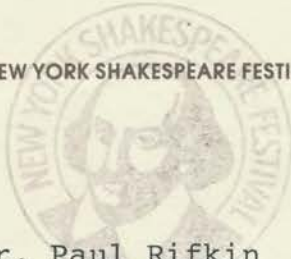
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arnold Palmer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Arnold Palmer

AP:kld

425 Lafayette Street
New York, New York 10003
212 598-7100
Cable NEWSHAKES

NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL



Joseph Papp Producer

October 14, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

When I was your age, God was to be found in the synagogue, a small storefront shul in Brooklyn. He was everywhere: in my father's "talis" (prayer shawl), in his tefilin (phylacteries) that appeared on my father's arm and forehead every morning, in the cracked voice of the neighborhood cantor who was a glazier by trade, in the chanting of the small, poor devoted congregation, but most of all I saw God in the arc which housed the precious Torahs, the scrolls covered with soft velvet material and decorated in "gold thread" with the great lion of Judah. When these huge scrolls were lifted high into the air, I held my breath. "If a Torah is dropped," my father would say, "it would be a tragedy of immense proportions. We would have to fast for forty days and nights to compensate." In the Torahs, to me, lay the secrets of the universe. Here God's breath permeates the elegant Hebrew letters covering the strong parchment. But God's presence was everywhere in my life, especially on the Sabbath eve and during the high holy days. When the ram's horn (Shofar) was sounded at the close of Yom Kippur (day of atonement), it was God's voice I heard forgiving us all for our sins. Today I still find God in shul and in the memory of my parents, plain and simple Jewish folk who gave me an everlasting gift of cultural continuity.

Paul, I hope these words will help you in your report and perhaps in your life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Papp". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

JP/tc

Estelle Parsons

Dear Paul —

I cannot answer your question 'do you believe in God?' with a yes or no. I have to ask you to define your God specifically, and even if you do I should wish to explain my beliefs, religious and spiritual, in great detail. Impossible! because much of what I feel and believe can not be put into words by me. I'm afraid can only be expressed by poets. And even then scarcely ever well enough. Good luck with your report.

Estelle Parsons

Joe Paterno

Dear MR. PATERNO:

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,

H Paul,

Yes, I believe in God.

PAUL RIFKIN

Grade 5

674 Rt. 6A

East SANDWICH

MA. 02537

God makes his presence to me everytime I look at my children or observe the orderly workings of nature

Joe Paterno



Floyd Patterson

P. O. BOX 336

NEW PALTZ, N. Y. 12561

July 23, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

I am writing in response to your recent letter about "How God Made His Presence Known To You.", and you can use the following:

First, let me say that I consider myself very lucky and at the same time very different from most people. That is, I was able to choose my religion and as a teenager I was baptised. The experience of not simply practicing a religion I was born into makes me appreciate being a Catholic all that much more. No matter what religion one believes in...it is especially rewarding when one truly loves what they choose to believe.

As regards how God made his presence known to me I must say that I developed an "awareness" at the same time that I chose my religion. The time came when I started to realize what death actually meant. As a child, it looked like something in a cowboy movie or a deep sleep. But as I grew older I became aware that it is much different. I could not and will not believe that we simply begin and end. Love is a unique phenomena. It makes those that feel it and those that give it realize that laws and rules do not define good and bad, right or wrong. The feelings of love make one "aware" of the feelings of good and bad. That phenomena has always touched me and guided me and convinces me that it's much too powerful, enduring and complicated to grow from flesh and bones...which do and will die. Everytime I think about death and everytime I feel love...I thank God.

Sincerely,

Floyd Patterson
Floyd Patterson



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FROM THE VATICAN, November 12, 1976

Dear Paul,

I have been asked by the Holy Father to thank you for your kind letter and to convey his blessing.

His Holiness will remember you in his prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Msgr. G. Coppa
Assessor

Paul Rifkin
4212 25th Street
San Francisco, California 94114

Enclosure



NBC News

A Division of
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.

Thirty Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020 212-664-2621

Jane Pauley
TODAY

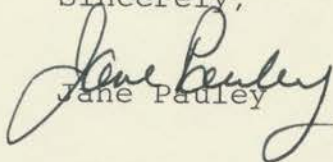
October 23, 1980

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for including me on your list of famous people worthy of your respect. Your question is certainly direct - and simple. But the answer is much too complex to attempt to put in a casual letter. Yes, I do believe in God. But how and why - I'll keep between Him (or Her?) and me.

Sincerely,


Jane Pauley

JP:as

LINUS PAULING INSTITUTE of SCIENCE and MEDICINE

2700 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, California 94025

Telephone: (415) 854-0843

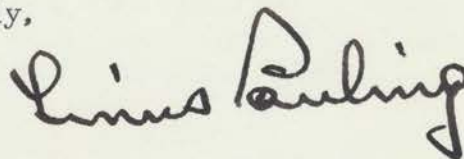
22 October 1980

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

In answer to your letter, I must tell you that
I do not believe in God.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linus Pauling". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

LP:dm

April 14, 1983

Dear ??

I couldn't quite make out your signature and rather than insult you by using an incorrect name, possibly even of the wrong gender, I will instead address you as "My Unknown Friend." So,

Dear Unknown Friend,

Thank you for writing to me and including me in your survey. To answer your question:

Yes, I do believe in God. He makes His presence known to me in a million ways, because I can say without exaggeration that wherever I look, if I look for Him there, He is there.

Thank you and - of course -
God bless you.

Sincerely,
Jim Paxton



FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

PAWLING, NEW YORK 12564

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE
Editor

December 27, 1976

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter.

In answer to your question, God made His presence
known to me when I made the decision to love Him,
follow Him and do His will.

He has become nearer with every passing day.

Cordially yours,

NVP:ao

Norman Vincent Peale

Paul,
My response
to your letter is
real late but to answer
your question "yes"
I do believe in God.
I believe that prayer is the key
to the kingdom & faith will unlock the
door. God has granted me the ability
to play football. I thank him
for that daily!



88 ★ Drew Pearson
WIDE RECEIVER • 6-0 • 183 • TULSA

Best Wishes,
Drew Pearson
#88

EMI STUDIOS
BOREHAMWOOD
HERTFORDSHIRE

December 14th 1976

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

Dear Paul:

In answer to your letter of October 30th:

One morning in Sausalito when the fog broke, and I was not hungover,
and one night in Malibu when I recognised what the speed of light
was.

Sincerely,


SAM PECKINPAH

IRVING PENN.

Dear Paul, God reveals
itself to me in a thousand
small things. I hope you find
the same. big Penn

CLAUDE PEPPER
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON RULES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND LONG-TERM CARE

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

April 8, 1983

FRANCES H. CAMPBELL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
2239 RAYBURN, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-3931

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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DONALD R. PETT
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

MARIA SOMEILLAN
LATIN REPRESENTATIVE

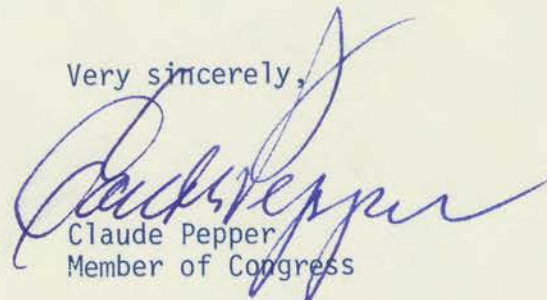
Dear Paul:

Your letter of recent date came to me and I am pleased to have it. Thank you for telling me about your fifth grade class report for which you are making a survey of famous people.

In answer to your question, yes I do believe in God. I was brought up in a good Baptist home where I was taught to believe in God and to attend church regularly. God makes his presence known to me every day as I look at the beauty and wonders of nature all around me and as I enjoy the love and companionship of my family and friends.

Thank you for including me in your survey, Paul, and very best wishes to you in your class report.

Very sincerely,



Claude Pepper
Member of Congress

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

ABRAHAM RIBICOFF, CONN., CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 23, 1980

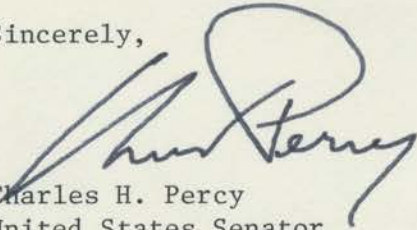
Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route 6A
E. Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter including me in your survey of famous people that you respect.

To answer your question, yes, I do believe in God. I hope this information helps you in completing your report.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Percy
United States Senator

CHP:ah



June 2, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

I certainly believe in God as who else would make the world
as it is.

Best wishes and have a good summer.

Sincerely,

Digger

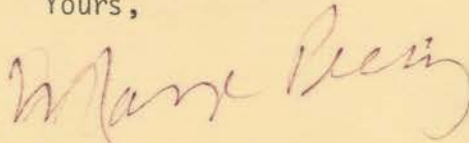
"Digger" Phelps
Head Basketball Coach

April 20, 1983

Dear —
Paul Rifkin: —
—
—

Thank you for your interest in my work. However, the question you ask is of a highly personal nature and a matter of private conscience.

Yours,



Marge Piercy

THE PARIS REVIEW

541 East 72nd Street
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021
UN. 1 - 0016

Dear Paul --

I am puzzled by God. . . this in reply to your letter. He has not made his Presence known to me in any way that makes me think Ah-Ha! God's there! I wish He would. I often wonder why His Kingdom is so often cruel. If you find out the answer, be sure to write me.

Very best wishes,

Joseph Beatty

Commentary

165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022
PLaza 1-4000



Norman Podhoretz, Editor

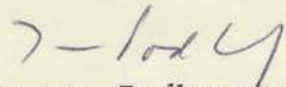
November 11, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God, and He
has made His presence known to
me through life itself and my
experience of it.

Yours,


Norman Podhoretz

NP:hd



ELIOT PORTER

ROUTE 4 BOX 33 SANTA FE NEW MEXICO 87501 • 505 983-6010

29 May 1983

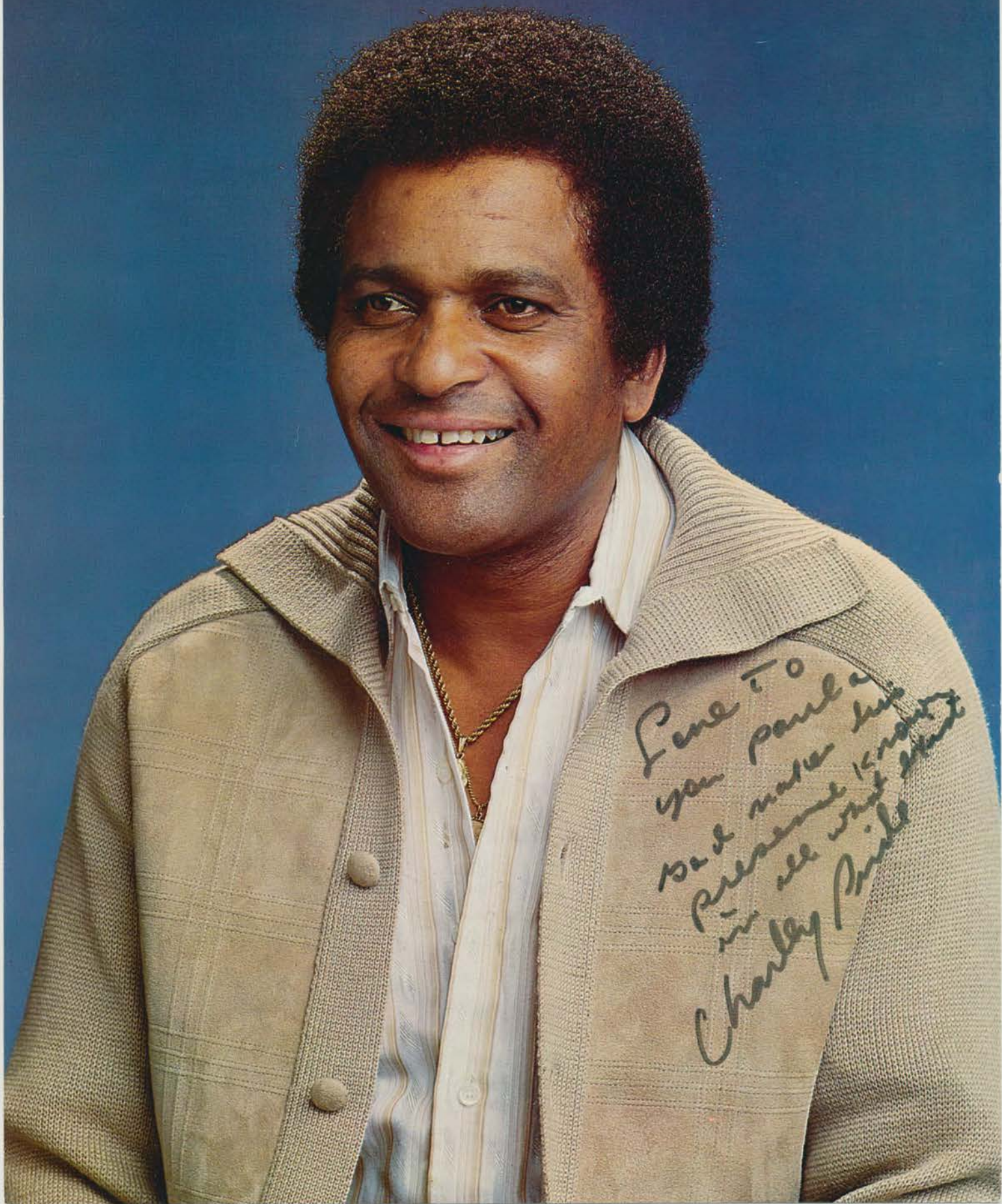
Mr. Paul Rifkin
Grade 5
674 Route 6A
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Mr. Rifkin,

During the eightyone years of my
life God has never made his existence known
to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliot Porter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".



Love to
you Paula
but make her
presence known
in all what you
Charley Pride

NATHAN PRITIKIN
627 LILAC DRIVE
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93108

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

April 18, 1983

Dear Paul,

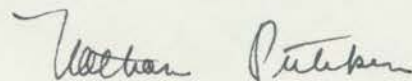
When I was a boy, I believed in God and continued my belief until I was 13 years old, when I was in my first year in high school and was introduced to the theory of evolution. Seeing the evidence as to how man has evolved from fish-like creatures and earlier from a single cell impressed me. But what convinced me was the growth of a human from a single cell to full development. During one stage of this development, the fetus has gills just like a fish. In a more advanced state, the fetus has a tail like a monkey.

One can trace the entire evolution of man from the single cell, through the fish and mammals, and finally to man, by studying the development of a human child before it is born.

Once I understood this, I no longer required the explanation of a supernatural being to explain the origin of life.

There are many mysteries that remain. But if you believe in a god, you need to ask who made god, and who made the being that made god? Believe only what can be observed or proven.

With all good wishes,



Nathan Pritikin

WILLIAM PROXMIRE
WISCONSIN

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 28, 1980

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


Dear Paul:

Thanks so much for your recent letter.

Religion is very important indeed to me. I do think it is a wholly personal matter and one that is hard to communicate.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

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

William Proxmire, U.S.S.

WP:gm

RANDY QUAID

Dear Paul, I hope this isn't too late for your survey, but I've been extremely busy lately. Anyway, in answer to your question "Do I believe in God?" The answer is yes. God is my strength and salvation; the Creator of the Heavens and Earth. He makes His Presence known to me everyday, everything I see is God, every smell, every taste. He answers my prayers and shows His Love in so many wonderful and exciting ways. It is my prayer that, if you don't believe in Him yourself, you will come to know Him as your closest friend. Love, in Christ
Randy Quaid