

THE *Ayn Rand* LETTER, INC.  
188 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10016

P.O. Box 177  
Murray Hill Station  
New York, NY 10016

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

Thank you in advance for your answer

Sincerely

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

No, I do not believe  
in God.  
*Ayn Rand*  
10/18/80

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH  
260 PARK AVENUE SOUTH  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010

November 1, 1976

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

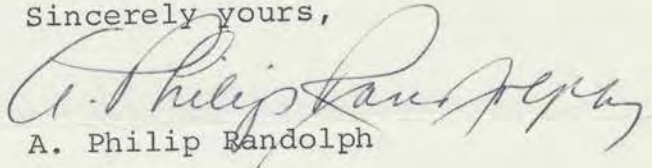
Dear Paul:

In answer to your question I am pleased to inform you of the fact that I believe in God. I was raised in a family dedicated to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in which my father was a preacher.

I regret that I do not have a picture of myself as a young man to send you as you request.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



A. Philip Randolph

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8-7-83

Dear Paul -

I believe in God  
because of the beauty  
of the universe. Only  
a loving creator  
would give us so  
much to enjoy -  
and so much challenge  
to keep.

Sincerely -  
Nansen Pagan



RONALD REAGAN

SUITE 812  
10960 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

November 8, 1976

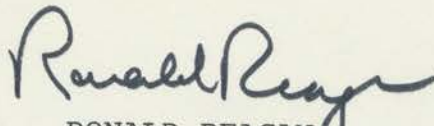
Paul Rifkin  
4212 - 25th Street  
San Francisco, CA. 94114

Dear Paul:

Yes, I not only believe in God but ask for His  
guidance every day.

Enclosed is the autographed picture you  
requested. I hope you'll enjoy it.

Sincerely,

  
RONALD REAGAN



Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST

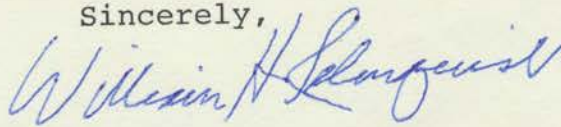
October 16, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Thanks very much for your letter explaining your class project. Unfortunately, I think it would be inappropriate for me to answer your questions. I enclose a booklet on the Supreme Court which you may find helpful. Good luck with your assignment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William H. Rehnquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "R".

# The New York Times

WASHINGTON BUREAU  
1000 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036  
202 862-0300

JAMES RESTON

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

September 13, 1983

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter. Yes, indeed, I believe in God, and He has made His presence known to me in many different ways over the years. When I was a boy growing up in Scotland, my whole family walked the two miles to Sunday services at our Presbyterian Church. Just as important as the weekly meetings of the congregation were nightly Bible readings in my home. So as you can see, my belief in God started very early and has continued through today.

I hope this has helped your research. Good luck with the project.

Kindest personal regards,

*James Reston*

FRANK REYNOLDS

October 24, 1980

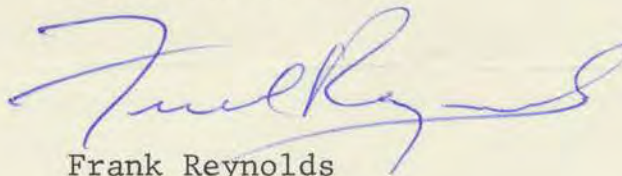
Paul Rifkin  
674 Rt. 6A  
E. Sandwich,  
Mass. 62537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for including me in your survey, but I make it a practice never to answer questions regarding my personal beliefs. Correspondents get in enough hot water during the course of their careers trying to make sense out of current events. For reporters to make known what they privately believe could only lead to grief.

I appreciate your writing to me and wish you a great year in the fifth grade.

Sincerely yours,



Frank Reynolds

ab



Dear Paul:

If you will carefully read my book,  
"Not in Ourselves Nor in Our Stars Either,"  
you will find the answer to your question.

Your friend,

*Malvina Reynolds*



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

October 21, 1976

Paul Rifkin  
4212 25th Street  
San Francisco, California 94114

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of October 15 and I appreciate your selecting me for your class survey. In answer to your question; yes, I do believe in God.

Unfortunately, I do not have any readily available pictures of me when I was a young man, but hope you will enjoy the enclosed picture which is the Department of Commerce official photograph.

Good luck in your class project.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,



Elliot L. Richardson

Enclosure



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

WILLIAM JAMES HALL 380  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

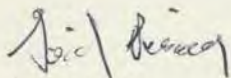
26 April 1983

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

I consider myself a religious person, but I do not believe in God in the sense in which many people use the term, that is, a god made in the image of man--indeed, particular men at particular times and places, such as the Jews in ancient Israel. I have no objection to the word "God." The presence of something that transcends everyday life is made manifest to me throughout the universe. The answer to the question of why we are here and our self-consciousness about being here seems to me a religious quest.

Sincerely,



David Riesman

DR/mf

Cathy Rigby  
P.O. Box 387  
Blue Jay, CA 92317

Dear Paul,

In answer to your question, yes I do believe in God. I am a Catholic. My oldest boy is in 3rd grade at St Mary's Catholic School. I can't say as there is any one time that I can say" God made himself known to me, I have always known he is with me and in times of trouble maybe more so. As my other children become old enough they to will go to Catholic school as I did for part of my schooling, and my husband all through school. I have three children at the present time.

Thank you for your letter, good luck on your project.

Sincerely,

*Cathy Rigby McCay*

JOHN RITTER

DEAR PAUL—

Yes I do believe  
in God. And HE has  
comforted me all my  
life with His love  
and Spirit —

Best Always —  
John Ritter



# JOAN RIVERS

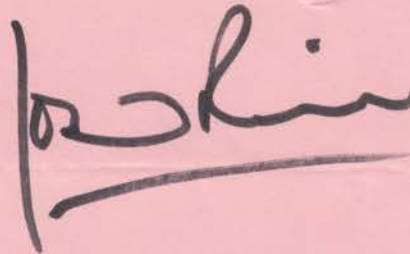
November 1983

Dear Paul,

Yes, I believe in God and he has made his presence known to me by giving me a beautiful daughter, a good life and the ability to make people happy.

Much happiness and good luck to you always.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Rivers", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

# The President's Advisory Committee for Women

200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210  
Room S-5520 (202) 523-6707

November 6, 1980

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Paul Rifkin  
674 Route 6A  
East Sandwich, MA 02537

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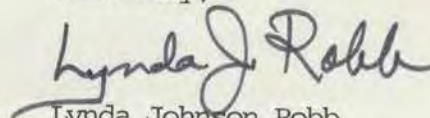
Dear Paul:

You have certainly chosen an interesting subject for your fifth grade report.

Yes, I believe in God. It is difficult to put into words how God's presence is known. In the miracle of life itself one feels a powerful force beyond the reach of human beings. All around us in our daily lives are signs if only we will see them. In nature, the vivid colors of the leaves in fall and the dramatic rebirth of spring. In our daily lives, through books we are touched by the inspiration of the author. Or, in our families, we are lifted by the laughter of a child. All of these speak to me of God's presence.

I wish you success in your work, and good luck for a full and happy life.

Sincerely,

  
Lynda Johnson Robb  
Chair

**MIAMI  
DOLPHINS**

MIAMI DOLPHINS, LTD.  
330 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33132  
(305) 379-1851

JOSEPH ROBBIE  
Managing General Partner



November 14, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Yes, Paul, I believe in God.

If we have faith, God gives solace and comfort during difficult losses you cannot understand.

It is not necessary to see or touch or hear or feel God to believe in Him. Faith enters where the human mind cannot comprehend or understand the magnificence God has created.

When you are happy and don't know why or when you accomplish and don't know how or when you act instinctively and your action is right, then you know that you are in the presence of God.

May God bless you now and always!

Sincerely,

Joseph Robbie

JR/kim



ORAL ROBERTS

November 16, 1976

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

fs

Dear Paul:

Let me begin my letter by telling you this -- the greatest gift God ever gave man is Himself. He came to us in the form of His own Son. And it's an exciting fact for you and every need you face.

I once had a vision in which my sons were involved. In the vision one of them was picked up by rough men and carried away. I rushed after them but wasn't able to find them until later in the evening. And they had nailed my son to a cross. I rushed up and pulled him down, and he died in my arms with my name on his lips. In the vision God said, "How many sons have you, Oral Roberts?" I said, "Two." He said, "I only had one and I gave Him." I began to understand and said, "There isn't a human being that is worth the life of Your Son." He said, "You have no right to decide that. I say every human being is worth the death of My Son. That's what every person is worth." That was in 1951 and it marked my thinking about the value of people. I came into a realization that every human being is worth something beyond my own ability to calculate, because who can estimate the worth of God's only begotten Son? He was God's seed planted to bring the miracle He wanted. We're all important to God. He loves us all. And nothing can take that love away from you or from me (Romans 8:38-39).

My darling wife, Evelyn, and I are very interested in you. We're interested in you because you took time to write us. We have a ministry of prayer. When we receive a letter from you, we pray, and we write you back. It's a ministry we have with people all over the world. And I lovingly give you an invitation to write me often. Write what's in your heart. I'll write you back every time. And I believe God will give you a new hold on life.

Now, may God abundantly bless you. And I believe He will.

Your prayer partner,

*Oral Roberts*



Yes I believe in God. Since I  
was a kid my mother has always  
taught us to believe in God.

Sugar Ray's

**Sugar  
Ray's**

Youth Foundation

1060 S. Crenshaw Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90019



Paul Rifkin  
674 Rt 6A  
E. Sandwich  
MA 02537

18260 9M

Mrs. **NORMAN ROCKWELL**  
**STOCKBRIDGE**  
**MASSACHUSETTS 01262**

Sept. 24, 1980

Dear Paul Ripkin:

I have been ill and, while I am feeling much better, it would just be impossible for me to answer your question.

I am sorry.

Sincerely yours,

*Mary P. Rockwell*

Mrs. Norman Roxkwell



April 27, 1983

Dear Paul,

I believe in God in a personal way  
- not so much the way he's described by certain  
religions -

See you on the road one day -  
Bill Rodgers

372 Chestnut Hill Ave., Boston, MA 02146 • (617) 734-7317

353-T N. Marketplace, Boston, MA 02109 • (617) 723-5612

PETER W. RODINO, JR.  
10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
970 BROAD STREET  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102  
TELEPHONE: 645-3213

November 1, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

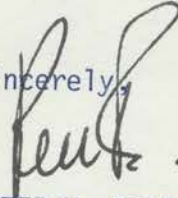
Thank you for including me in the survey  
you have undertaken.

In response to your question, I can assure  
you that I do believe in God.

As requested, I am enclosing a photograph  
of myself.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



PETER W. RODINO, JR.  
M.C.

PWR:dkr





Center for Studies of the Person

October 28, 1980

Paul Rifkin  
674 Route 6A  
East Sandwich, MA 02537

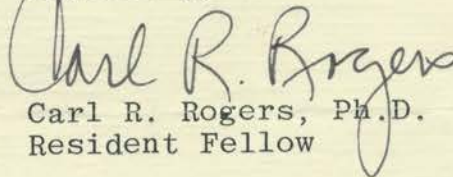
Dear Paul:

I have been away for many weeks, so I don't know just how long your letter has been on my desk.

In answer to your question, I would say that it seems clear to me that there is some sort of a force working through you and me and all of us and probably through the inanimate world as well, struggling to make the universe a more complete and perfect place. I think we are all part of that force, and each of us has our obligation in it.

Whether you wish to call this "God" or not, is up to you. I hope you keep up your searching inquiries.

Sincerely,

  
Carl R. Rogers, Ph.D.  
Resident Fellow

GEORGE ROMNEY  
1840 EAST VALLEY ROAD  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48013

October 15, 1980

Dear Paul,

Yes I believe in God, because:

1. You and me, the world, the universe and everything about them required a Creator.
2. He has answered my prayers and I know that He exists.
3. Other know what I know as they too have prayed.
4. The purest truth we have about how we should live comes from His prophets and especially His only begotten Son in the flesh.

If you saw a beautiful watch in your friend's wrist and you asked him who made it, you wouldn't believe him if he said, "No one". It just happened or evolved."

Sincerely,  
George Romney



Andrew A. Rooney

**CBS  
NEWS**

A Division of CBS Inc.  
524 West 57 Street  
New York, New York

Dear MR. Rooney:

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??

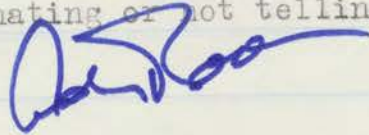
[If the answer is yes, please  
describe how God made  
his presence known to you.]

Thank you in advance for  
your answer.

Sincerely,

Dear Paul,

No, of course I don't and  
anyone who tells you that  
there is a god who made his or her  
presence known to him or her  
is hallucinating or not telling  
the truth.



Paul Rifkin

Grade 5

674 Route 6A

East Sandwich

MASS. 02537



From the desk of

REGINALD ROSE

Oct 15

Dear Paul,

Sorry to disappoint you, but no — I do not believe in God. My reasons are many and varied — and I hope not cynical. I believe in humanity — if it would only start behaving itself.

I'll ask you a question. In the bible, first there were Adam and Eve. They had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain killed Abel. Then the bible says "and Cain knew his wife." where did she come from?

Good luck with your report.

Sincerely,

Reginald Rose



# Shanti Nilaya

A non-profit, non-sectarian organization  
dedicated to the enhancement of life and growth  
through the practice of Unconditional Love.

*Founded by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, M.D.*



April 11, 1983

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

My dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter.

Yes, I do believe in God. It's not only that I believe in God; but I know that he exists, and to me, knowing and believing are two very, very different things.

I do not think all of us on this planet earth with so many billions of people could survive in this chaos and with our own negativity all over the earth if God would not interfere and help us to survive, help us to give us the courage to keep on keeping on. If he would not have created flowers, trees, birds, salamanders, rabbits, mountain tops, rivers and waterfalls, which give us peace, enjoyment when life seems to be a little too rough. I hope that answers your question.

With love and blessings for your project.

*Elisabeth K. Ross, MD*

Elisabeth K. Ross, M.D.

EKR/td



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA 94542

(415) 881-3219

February 22, 1977

Paul Rifkin  
333 W. Frances Willard  
Chico, California 95926

Dear Paul Rifkin:

You will have to excuse me if I respond to your question in a rather cagey way. I have come to the conclusion that such questions should not be asked in ordinary, everyday language. Sometimes words confuse great philosophical issues more than they clarify them.

Everything I have to say in response to your question is in a recent book of mine which may give you an interesting approach to religious problems. It is Unfinished Animal which will soon be available as a paperback from Harper and Row. I would prefer to let that stand as my reply.

Best wishes,

*T. Roszak*  
T. Roszak (ema)

TR:cms



JAMES W. ROUSE | COLUMBIA, MARYLAND 21044

May 27, 1983

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

Dear Paul Rifkin:

Yes, I do believe in God.

His presence did not come to me through sudden revelation or any special event that I can identify. It came over time as a result of church teaching -- and thinking about it.

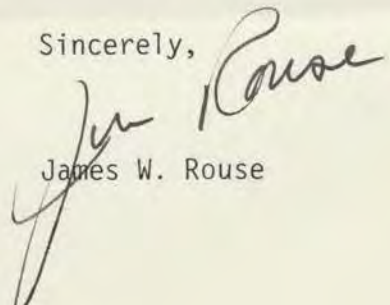
I had a basic grounding in religion as a child at home and in Sunday School -- but it didn't really stay with me in a serious way until I was a young man; went to church one Sunday; heard a powerful sermon on "Why you should go to church;" didn't miss a Sunday for 18 months.

That brought me into weekly association with God, prayer, the Bible; made it an important part of my life; led me to know that there was a higher purpose in life than living for myself, my own purposes; made me realize that living out God's purposes for me was the road to fullness of life, happiness, freedom.

As this awareness grew in me it became deep-seated purpose for me; made God ever present and made life very simple -- just try to find what God wants and do it.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
James W. Rouse

JWR/sw



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
MEN'S INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712

*Office of The Director  
and  
Head Football Coach*

February 9, 1977

Dear Paul:

Yes, I do believe in God.

I have always believed in God as far back as I can remember, but I don't know how He made His presence known to me.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

*Warren Royal*



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

SCHOOL OF LAW

ATHENS, GEORGIA 30602

November 3, 1980

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

Dear Paul Rifkin:

Yes, I do believe in God, but it is a matter which is so private and so personal that I do not discuss it publicly. I hope, therefore, that you will forgive me if I do not try to answer your second question.

Cordially,

*Dean Rusk*

Dean Rusk

# THE CHAPEL

13527 Leadwell Street  
Van Nuys, Calif. 91405

Nov. 4th.76

Dear Paul, Bless you:

Question .

Do I believe in God, is your

Yes, Yes with all my heart. I accepted Jesus as my Redeemer & Lord when I was only a very young child.

I was baptised in the HOLY Spirit ,when I was in my teens ,and I pray about everything in my life.

When we were in High School we built a little Chapel on our property and called it THE EAGLE'S NEST.

God is the great Eagle & we are the eaglets ,learning to fly.

God answeres every prayer, sometimes the answer is NO & sometimes it is Yes.. Dont forget God sees the end ~~for~~ from the begining and knows if the thing you want is good for you, So NO is ans answer as well as yes.

We have service every Friday night, so people can go to their own church on Sunday.

I helped put the roof on the Chapel and we all worked very hard to finish it.

You will never be sorry that you trusted God .Remember this: "Greater love hath no man ,than he lay down his life ~~for~~ for his friend & I lay down my life for You." John 15:13

Paul ,Jesus will never let you down.Cling to HIM.  
God bless you,

Jane Russell

MARK RUSSELL  
office  
2800 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Suite 810  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
202/362-5045

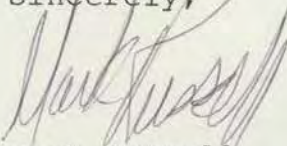
April 19, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for asking me to participate in your fifth grade class report. My answer to your question is, "yes, I believe in God, because I have seen more than 18,250 sunrises and every one of them has been exactly on time."

Sincerely,



Mark Russell



# Jim Ryun Sports Camps

P.O. Box 965

Lawrence, Kansas 66044

913-749-3325

Route 3, Box 62B

May 7, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your note and interest in responding to a survey you're conducting in your fifth grade class. I hope that this letter will give you all of the answers you had requested.

Do I believe in God? I most certainly do! It wasn't until I became a born again Christian in 1972 that I really believed in God and met His Son Jesus Christ. In essence, that is what happens when you become a born again Christian. I have enclosed a little magazine with a story related to this that will probably help you understand more about what I am saying.

God has indeed blessed me with a wonderful talent to run. He has also given me a marvelous wife and four happy healthy children. I have Him to be thankful for. Have you ever met God? Have you ever asked Jesus Christ to come into your life and to make you a born again Christian? It's very simple and the end of this letter will explain just how you can do that.

*in the Bible read John 3:3-8*

Now to your second question. How had God made His presence known to me by circumstances and events. Once you put God first place in your life then all other things fall in place. For example. As a runner I thought that my identity as an individual was based upon my success in racing the one mile distance. With that sort of thinking I always felt I had to continue to excel or my identity would be taken away if someone achieved the same thing I did. When I would achieve in a race that which I felt I was capable of I would have a peace in my life. That peace can best be described as a calmness and a moment of relaxation in knowing that everything was O.K. However that peace would disappear once I realized again that I must keep pressing on and excelling in my sport or my identity might be taken away. In May of 1972 when I became a born again Christian I received that kind of peace permanently. I no longer have to excel in sports and think that to be my identity. God knows my name and in fact in my mother's womb knew that I would someday be a runner. I know God exists

*"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength...  
they shall run and not be weary..." Isaiah 40:31*



for many other reasons, another one I would like to share with you.

The second example relates to the fact that I very much enjoy being involved in sports and athletics in particular running. I expressed to the Lord a number of years ago that desire and He has returned to me an opportunity to run again as well as encourage others to take care of their bodies physically. He has done this because I have been willing to serve Him in speaking to others throughout the world and sharing with them about Jesus Christ. God generally works through circumstances although He is at His best in working miracles in individual's lives. I know from personal experience and from others who have shared their experiences that they have seen God miraculously heal them and heal them of physical problems or financial problems.

I had  
retired  
for a period  
of time

I hope this letter has been of help to you. God be with you.

Sincerely,



Jim Ryun  
John 3:3-8

# SANTANA

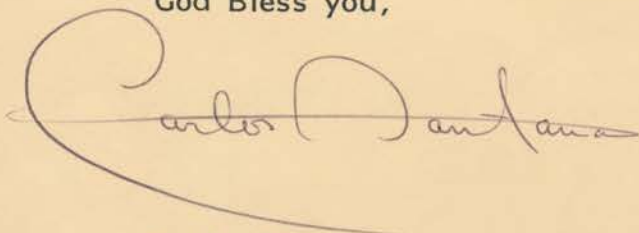
June 8, 1983

Dear Paul:

Yes, I believe in God. In fact, praying and meditating on God's Presence in my life is most important to me. I first felt the presence of the Lord in my heart like the cool sensation of a baby's trembling sigh. When I heard a soulful and glorious speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., I understood dedication to God and felt His call in my life.

I pray He is real to you, too.

God Bless you,

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

Carlos Santana

*"For the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him."* Romans 10:12





Reservation Phone  
(212) 221-8440

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE • 234 WEST 44th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036 • Tel. (212) 221-8444

April 22, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

I'm afraid I don't believe in the conventional God as taught by the various religious orders that I've come into contact with. I do feel that there's a "force" that does control and affect our lives and the universe. However, I do not feel that it has a beard or that it is a person of any kind. This will probably confuse you more than help you, but it is the best I can do in a brief letter.

Sincerely,

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

Vincent Sardi  
VS:bab

November 21, 1980

Dear Paul,

Good luck on your project. I hope this answer isn't too late to be of help.

If indeed, as Carl Dreyer said, God is love—then I believe in God. And He has made his presence known to me very often in life though not in any way that could be called supernatural.

Sincerely,



Andrew Sarris

Dear MR. Scavullo:

I am MAKING a SURVEY OF  
FAMOUS PEOPLE FOR a FIFTH  
GRADE SUMMER ~~SCHOOL~~ SCHOOL PROJECT.

My question to you is:

Do you BELIEVE IN GOD?? *yes*

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

Thank you in advance FOR  
YOUR answer.

Sincerely,

love  
By The divine  
& enjoy I feel  
D worth in me  
and all  
around me.

PAUL RIFKIN  
Grade 5  
674 Route 6A  
East SANDWICH  
MASS. 02537



DORE SCHARY

November 15, 1976

Dear Paul:

Yes, I believe in God.

God has not made His presence known to me. I simply know He is. Perhaps only the prophets have earned the right to have had the Lord appear to them.

*Dore Schary*

DS/ts

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

CHRIS SCHENKEL

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter.

Yes - I believe in God. To have traveled as I have - one could not believe otherwise, constantly seeing the marvels of nature, created by a supreme being.

I first discovered God through early teachings in my church, and on the good examples set by my parents, who like myself, love God.

I hope you too will have a religious life - remember - God is everywhere!!

Sincerely,  
Chris Schenk



MURRAY SCHISGAL

May 23, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

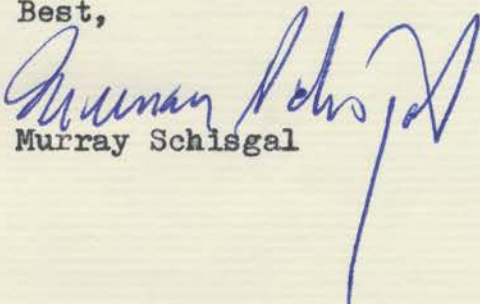
The answer to your question is yes: I believe in an Almighty Creator who has control over our lives.

God has never made his presence known to me.

But I cannot survive without His presence and so I spend my life searching for Him.

Goodluck on your report.

Best,

  
Murray Schisgal



Dear Mrs. Schlafly;

I am making a survey of famous people I respect for a fifth grade class report,

My question to you is;

Do you believe in God?? *Yes*

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

*Many events in my life have no explanation except*

Thank you in advance for your answer,

*God's hand*

sincerely,

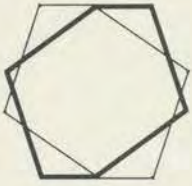
Paul Ritkin  
grade 5

674 RT 6A

East Sandwich

Mass 02537

*Phyllis Schlafly*



**The Graduate School and University Center**  
of the City University of New York

Albert Schweitzer Chair in the Humanities  
Graduate Center: 33 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036  
212 790-4261

April 12, 1977

Paul Rifkin  
333 W. Frances Willard  
Chico, California 95926

Dear Paul:

I believe that there is an ultimate mystery in the universe -- a mystery that must constantly remind us all of the finitude of man, the limits of human wisdom and will and the frailty of human striving. If people want to call that mystery God, it is OK by me.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Schlesinger, jr.



**MICHAEL J. SCHMIDT**

P.O. Box 32  
Rydal, PA 19046

March 1, 1984

Paul Rifkin  
674 Route 6A  
E. Sandwich MA 02537

Dear Paul,

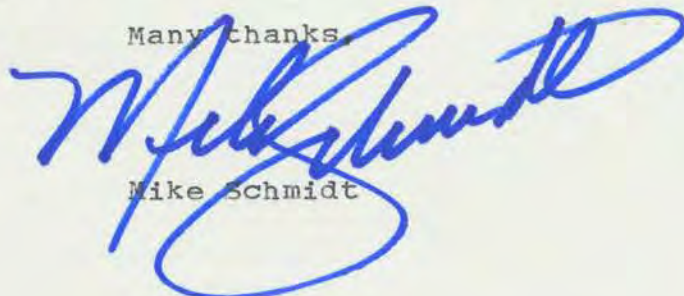
I want to thank you for writing to me and I certainly appreciate your good wishes. It has given me a great deal of pleasure to read your letter Paul, as well as many other letters that thoughtful fans have written.

I try my best to fulfill requests such as yours, however Paul, I hope you will understand that this is often difficult to do since I receive so many of them. I am sorry I could not send you what you asked. I look forward to reading the mail from my friends, and I would like to thank everyone personally. Since this is not always possible I hope you will accept this letter and enclosed autographed picture as an expression of my appreciation. I know that although my reply is not always prompt, it is only because I like to read each letter personally.

I feel very good about the 1984 season. As I am writing this to you we are just starting spring training. We were not picked to win the title last year, and we probably won't be picked again this year. There is nothing we would like more than to bring the World Championship back to Philadelphia and to our friends. I am very anxious to get started.

Thank you again Paul for your good wishes. Fans like you are very important to me. You have taken your time to write, and please be assured that I have taken the time to read and appreciate your letter. It gives me a warm feeling to know that so many people like you care about me and my teammates.

Many thanks,



Mike Schmidt



**Daniel Schorr**

**MEMORANDUM**

to PAUL RIEKIN date Oct. 18

I AM HAPPY ABOUT YOUR RESPECT, THOUGH  
I DO NOT CONSIDER MYSELF A FAMOUS PERSON,  
THOUGH I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO ANSWER  
YOUR QUESTION, IT IS HARD FOR ME TO DO SO.  
THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT I CONSIDER  
VERY PERSONAL--MY RELIGIOUS FEELINGS, IN  
THE FIRST PLACE, <sup>and</sup> ~~THOUGH~~ EVEN HOW I VOTE.  
I HOPE IT WILL NOT EESSEN YOUR RESPECT FOR  
ME.

*Paul Riekin*  
*Daniel Schorr*



Dear Mr. Rifkin -

I received your INQUIRY ABOUT MY BELIEF in God with PUZZLEMENT AND A BIT of CONCERN; For, though I do HARBOUR such UNSCIENTIFIC BELIEFS I do in PRIVACY with NO DESIRE TO PROSELYTIZE NOR BE SO ENCUMBERED BY ANYONE ELSE.

Do I BELIEVE? ... Yup!

How do I BEST DESCRIBE God MAKING HIS PRESENCE KNOWN TO ME? .... IN TWO WAYS. 1. BY BLESSING ME WITH AN INQUISITIVE MIND, SIMILAR TO YOURS.

2. IF YOU EVER TASTED MY MOTHER'S CHICKEN MATZOH BALL SOUP -- YOU TOO WOULD KNOW!!

Best wishes with your project -

Love  
Abe / Schickel

CHARLES M. SCHULZ  
NUMBER ONE SNOOPY PLACE  
SANTA ROSA, CALIF. 95401

April 26, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Your question is one that is most intriguing,  
but I am afraid is also much too profound to  
be answered in a simple manner.

It seems that no matter what one tries to say,  
it will be misinterpreted, and I don't like  
criticism.

Best regards,

*Charles M. Schulz*  
Charles M. Schulz

CMS%pl



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CHARLES M. SCHULZ  
NUMBER ONE SNOOPY PLACE  
SANTA ROSA, CALIF. 95401



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



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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 16, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 11 asking about my religious beliefs.

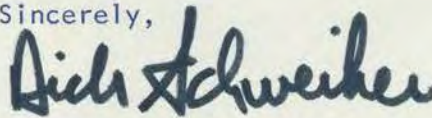
I am a member of the Schwenkfelder Church of Norristown, Pennsylvania, and I've enclosed some background information which explains our religious views.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can help with anything else.

Best of luck with your class report.

S

Sincerely,



Richard S. Schweiker  
United States Senator

RSS:kdt

Enclosures

DEAR PAUL -

YES - IN PART THROUGHOUT  
YOUNG BOYS WHO ASK  
IMPERTINENT QUESTIONS

Just by Schmitt  
APR 6 9

Lizabeth Scott

Dear Paul:

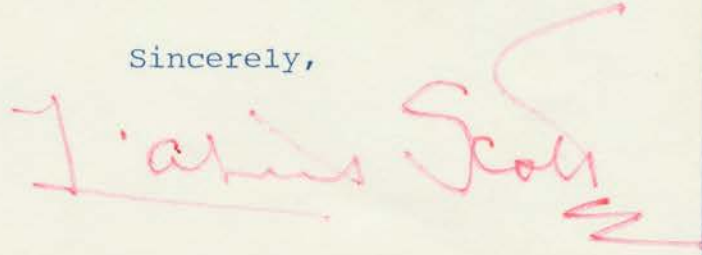
Thank you for your letter.

As to your question, "Do you believe in God?"

My answer is: I do believe in God. I have always believed in Him. It almost seems as if I was born with the knowledge of His existence.

I hope the above makes a contribution to your survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Lizabeth Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

July 22, 1983.



Dear Hon. William Scranton;

I am making a survey of famous people I respect for a fifth grade class report,

My question to you is,

Do you believe in God?? YES

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

Thank you in advance for your answer,

Sincerely,

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

through the  
life of his son, our  
Savior, Jesus Christ

Charles Scribner, Jr.

Dear Mr. Scribner:

I am making a survey of Famous People I Respect for a Fifth Grade class report.

My question to you is:

Do you BELIEVE IN GOD?? YES

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

Thank you in advance for your answer.

Sincerely,

Paul Rifkin

Grade 5

674 Route 6A

East Sandwich

MASS. 02537

Yes I do.  
I sense his presence in the beauty of our world and the elegance of the laws that govern it & in the gift of life & and in love for one another that we both give and receive.

ASR

VIN SCULLY

Dear Paul -

I believe in God  
with all my heart and  
Mind and Soul. I  
was Made to Know  
Him and Love Him  
and serve Him in this  
world and be Happy  
with Him in the next.

The orderliness of  
things shows me the  
Existence of God and  
His Goodness is all  
around me.

Sincerely,  
Vin Scully



Dear Mr. Seeger

I am making a survey of famous people I respect for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class Report.

My question is: Do you believe in God? If yes, how did God make himself known to you?

Thank you in Advance for your response.

Dear Paul - I could answer Sincerely,  
your question yes or no, and  
in either case, it would be Paul Rifkin  
meaningless without a long discussion  
of what you mean by the words  
"believe" or "God". I urge  
you to pay less attention to  
what people say, and more  
to what people do.

Sincerely  
Pete Seeger

和

ERICH SEGAL

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

Dear Paul,

Sorry to be so late in answering your  
letter.

In answer to your question, the answer  
is, ofcourse.

Sincerely,

*Erich Segal*

Erich Segal



HUBERT SELBY, JR.  
139 NORTH LA JOLLA AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90048  
TELEPHONE (213) 655-8582

November 24, 1976

Paul Rifkin  
4212 - 25 Street  
San Francisco, Calif. 94114

Dear Paul:

I just received your letter and thank you for the compliment. To be known and respected by a 5th grader is humbling and extremely flattering.

I assume from the fact that you are in the 5th grade that you are about 10 years old, but have no intention of talking to you as an adult to a child. You have asked the most important question in the world and are, therefore, a person that does not need to be talked, "down" to because of his age.

Yes, I do believe in God. I also believe that an individuals relationship with God is the most important thing in their life.

God made his presence known to me, I guess, in many ways, all of which can be summed up in the word, LOVE. He loved me enough to allow me to make all the mistakes I could make and never once chastised me or frowned upon me.

He allowed me to follow the path of self-will where I constantly ended up in the black pit of despair.

He allowed me to do all the things I knew in my heart and soul a man should not do, the very things I always said I would never do, yet he always helped me out of the pit of degradation and self-loathing, never once punishing me.

He allowed me to hate and despise Him for many long and painful years of my life, He allowed me to damn, defy and deny him and still no matter what I did all He ever did was love me.

He allowed me to find out in my own way that a man is not a guy who attains worldly success, but that a real Man, is a guy who can humble himself before God.

He allowed me to find out all these things in my own way and in my own time and then when I finally ran out of energy and stopped hating him for a moment He stepped in and turned



the direction of my life around.

God allowed me to find out in my way and my time that happiness is a process of elimination, the ultimate elimination being a life based on self-centeredness. I tried every way I could to find happiness, and, as I said, He never stopped me. It was only by trying all my methods that I was able to eventually accept the fact that God is the only answer, the only reality, the only truth, that in His Will is our Peace, that it is indeed true that God is Love and that Love is the greatest thing in the world.

God continued<sup>s</sup> to make His presence known to me in many ways, but some of the personal ways are a feeling of peace and contentment; a feeling of inner security and serenity of purpose; a feeling of hope; by intuitively giving me the answers to questions that absolutely baffled me in the past; by helping me try to have a reverence for all of His creation; by giving me a desire to seek Him; and by turning my hatred into a love affair... a love affair with my God.

I hope this letter fulfills your needs and desires, to some extent at least. If you have any other questions I will be happy to try and answer them for you.

I hope you and your family have a happy Holiday Season, and enjoy the blessings of Gods love.

Love,

*D. Selby, Jr.*



Forrest C. Shaklee, Sr.

Chairman Emeritus, Shaklee Corporation  
5286 Dunnigan Court  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

June 14, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

I received your letter dated April 10, 1983 on my return from a rather long trip. To answer your question: yes, of course I believe in God. There was no one particular time that God made His presence known to me, as in a revelation but from my earliest days I was aware of His great creative energy as the power behind all of nature. I hope this answers your question.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Forrest C. Shaklee

FCS:lj

P.S. Thank you, Paul for writing me, and  
Congratulations, for your deep thinking  
and inquiring mind.

My best wishes to you, and your family.



July-8, 83

Paul,

Thanks for your letter. Starting right off, yes I do believe in God. I found the God of my understanding in a hospital in Los Angeles about 5 1/2 years ago while I was recovering from a problem with drinking. I found out that I had a disease called alcoholism + so far <sup>to this</sup> ~~today~~ I haven't had a drink or pill I wouldn't be alive today if I wouldn't have found God. I hope you have him in your life.

Have a good year in school -  
all the best!

Del Shannon



SHARMAN, BILL

Dear Mr. Sharman:

I am making a survey of famous people I respect for a fifth grade class report.

My question to you is:

Do you believe in God??

Yes!

(If the answer is yes, please describe how God made his presence known to you). *Through the Bible, nature and common sense. — Bill Sharman*  
Thank you in advance for your answer.

sincerely,

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



MOST REVEREND FULTON J. SHEEN, D. D.  
TITULAR ARCHBISHOP OF NEWPORT

November 29, 1976

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

Dear Paul:-

You ask me if I believe in God. You know very well that I believe in God. I did not make myself, nor did the Universe make itself, nor did anything in the world make itself. Nothing in creation is due to chance. You just put in a box thousands and thousands of letters of the alphabet, and shake them up and see if you can ever shake out the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence had to be written by someone and so this Universe had to be made by God.

You ask how God makes His Presence known to me. I talk to Him constantly and He talks to me in prayer. We know one another very well.

With prayers and blessings, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Titular Archbishop of Newport



Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter -  
In answer to your question - yes I do  
believe in God!

He has made his presence  
known to me in every living thing I have  
ever felt -

Sincerely

Martin Luther

1/24/63

Thank you in advance  
for your answer  
Sincerely  
Paul Riffin  
George S  
274 South 2A  
Fort Sandwith  
MA 02737



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January 17, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

Your question is easy to answer, but hard to explain fully.

Do I believe in God? The answer is yes. I do.

Since my answer is yes, you ask me to describe how God made his presence known to me; and that's the hard part of your letter to answer fully.

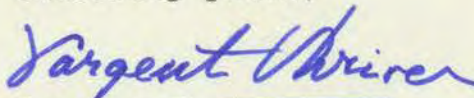
The simplest answer to that question is probably the fact, or the reality, that God makes his presence known to me about ten times a day. It's only necessary to pause for a moment and ask "Why am I alive rather than dead?", or "Why was I born to begin with?", or "Why are there any people at all?", or "Why is there even a world, a planet, like ours to live on?".

Page 3  
January 17, 1983

mitted itself to taking on a human form just like yours or mine, dying for us, and through that death, giving you and me a chance to live forever, and as children of God, sons of God, friends of God. That's the message of love personified by Jesus Christ.

I told you this answer would be long, but even now it is not complete. I hope, however, that it helps you even though it is reaching you very, very late for your fifth grade assignment.

Sincerely yours,

  
Sargent Shriver



Page 2  
January 17, 1983

Very few people believe that the entire universe, including our planet, came into existence through pure chance. The most recent scientific theory says that the entire universe, not just our planet, but the entire universe, seen and unseen, came into existence "in the beginning", as the Bible says in its first chapter, when there was nothing. To quote the most recent scientific presentation of the beginning of the universe, let me give you these words: --

"In the beginning there was an explosion, not an explosion like those familiar on earth starting from a different center and spreading out to engulf the circumambient air, but, an explosion which occurred simultaneously, everywhere, filling all space from the beginning, with every particle of matter rushing from every other particle..."

Now there are some people who believe that such an explosion occurred "by chance", but I am not one of them. I believe that the Being, or the Person, or the Force, or the Power which caused that explosion is what we call God.

We wouldn't know much, if anything, about God, that original Being, or Person, or Force, or Power we call God, if God had not revealed His nature to us. And that's precisely what we do know about God, namely, the information or the facts, which have been revealed to us in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

The overwhelming belief of Christians is simply that this Being, Person, Force, or Power, awesome though it is, is characterized by love. In truth, that's what the Force, or Being, or Person or Power is. It is the endless, bottomless, all encompassing, omnipresent, omnipotent love. It is this love which sub-



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September 22, 1980

Paul Rifkin  
RFD 2 - Off Grant Road  
Newmarket, N.H. 03857

Dear Paul,

Thank you very much for your letter and also for including me in your survey of Famous People.

I was raised a Catholic by my parents. I try to give a little time each day to ask and thank God for special requests.

Good luck with your report and I hope my comments have helped you in some way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don F. Shula".

Don F. Shula  
Head Coach &  
Vice President

DFS/ar



SEATTLE  
SUPERSONICS

C Box 14102  
Seattle, WA 98114



DEAR PAUL: I CERTAINLY DO  
BELIEVE IN GOD AND HAVE BEEN  
A CHRISTIAN SINCE I WAS A SMALL  
BOY. I WAS RAISED IN A CHRIS-  
TIAN HOME AND GOD MADE HIS  
PRESENCE KNOWN TO ME THROUGH  
MY WONDERFUL FAMILY AND THE  
EXAMPLES THEY SET FOR ME.

DO YOU, TOO, BELIEVE IN GOD?

SINCERELY,

To: PAUL RIFKIN  
GRADE 5  
674 ROUTE 6A  
EAST SANDWICH,  
MA 02537

Photo: Jack Leffler/SKY EYE





London W.11  
May 5th. 1983

Dear Paul Rikkin,

I believe in God as a form of  
morality. We still live basically  
by the Laws of the God of Israel.  
I have always known this, even  
though I may not always have  
acknowledged it to myself.

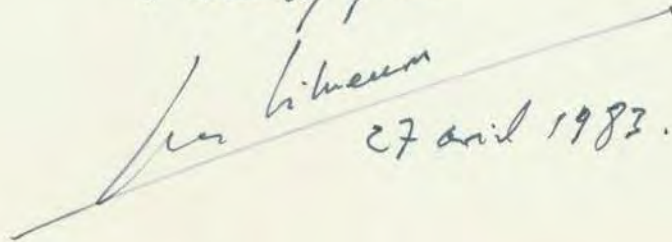
Yours Sincerely,

Alan Sillitoe.

GEORGES SIMENON

Dear Paul Rifkin .  
My answer is : No .  
God, for me, is the entire universe .

Friendly yours

 27 april 1983.

12 AVENUE DES FIGUIERS, 1007 LAUSANNE

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20220

NOV 9 1976

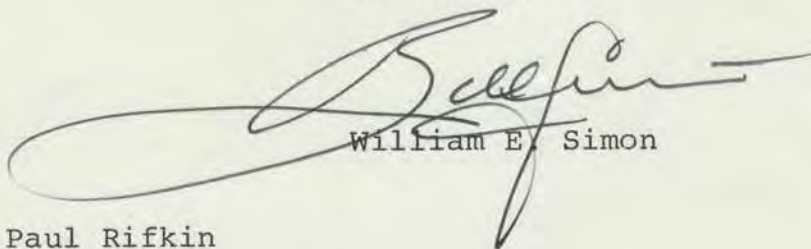
Dear Paul:

I am very happy that you wrote to me, and that I am on your list of favorite people. I certainly do believe in God, and I'm only sorry that you are growing up at a time when some people say they have lost sight of Him. Maybe they aren't looking hard enough! I'm glad that you are, and I also hope that you and the rest of your fifth grade will continue to care very much about America and her leaders.

Your letter was one of the more important happenings in my day, and I want to thank you again for writing.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



William E. Simon

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

Enclosure



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL RELATIONS

WILLIAM JAMES HALL  
33 KIRKLAND STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

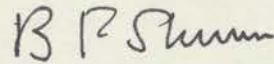
November 15, 1976'

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

My answer is No.

Yours sincerely,



B. F. Skinner

BFS/tms

# Margaret Chase Smith

October 23, 1980

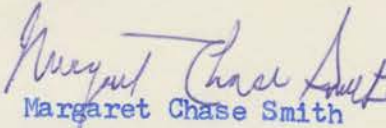
Paul Rifkin  
Grade 5  
R.F.D. 2  
Newmarket, New Hampshire 03857

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your respect for me. Before you were born I ran for President in 1964 and started in New Hampshire.

I believe in God -- but He has never made his presence known to me. I suggest that you read the "This I Believe" Chapter (especially page 448) of my book "Declaration of Conscience" published by Doubleday 1972 and in your public library.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret Chase Smith



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D.C.

June 21, 1983

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

Dear Paul::

Thank you very much for your letter. Although we received your letter too late to be of help in your project, you were certainly working on an interesting and important subject for your report.

The answer to your question is yes. I am reminded of the observation attributed to Voltaire, the French philosopher, who was asked the same question. He replied, according to the story, that if he were walking along a path and found a watch, he would assume that the watch would have been made by a watchmaker. It would not have simply come together by chance or accident. That is, I believe, a good way to look at the world and universe where we live. Your question also reminded me of the observation that "there are no atheists in foxholes." In other words, the circumstances of life sometimes lead people to different beliefs or views -- including on the question you posed -- than they perhaps otherwise would have had.

I wish you all the best in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

William French Smith  
Attorney General





April 11, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

In reference to your class project, I am pleased to state that I believe in God.

When I was a very young boy, it was quite evident to me that there was a divine power that controlled in harmony and rhythm the universe including the earth, moon, sun and many other planets not visible to the eye. This divine power, I believed and still believe, is God.

In the present day business world, when a person expresses truth, joy, honesty, patience, and respect for his fellow employees, he is expressing qualities of God.

Sincerely,

Chairman

PHS:nel

Dear Paul -

yes I believe in God -  
I thank him for the ability he  
has given me - And for looking  
after me. when I am racing.  
The ability to realize my  
limitations in the things I do.  
My good health and a family that  
I can be proud of - -

Do the best you can at what  
ever you try. If you work -  
hard - you will be rewarded -  
your friend >







RCA VICTOR  
RECORDS

# Hank Snow

POST OFFICE BOX 1084  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202

WSM GRAND OLE OPRY  
AND TV

July 15, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to drop these few lines in answer to your request regarding my strong belief in the Great Almighty.

Although I lived in the height of poverty during the thirties and the early forties, and although our one and only child was born in the charity ward of the Salvation Army Hospital in Nova Scotia, Canada, He has given me the strength, courage and determination to go forward in life with a most successful career throughout the fifty years, allowing our one and only child, Jimmy, to become an ordained Minister, preaching the gospel for the past twenty-three years....and above all, He has allowed us as a family to keep our health and still remain together. This, I could not have done without a firm belief in the Great Almighty.

In closing, I wish you the very best of luck with your project.

Warmest regards,

HANK SNOW

HS/sb



Jacki Sorensen

7/83

Dear Paul,

Yes, I believe in God!  
He makes his presence known  
to me each and every day as  
I appreciate all the wonders  
of nature and experience  
the loving goodness of people!!  
Happiness, Health and Love to you,  
Jacki

Dear Ms. Sotheman;

I am making a survey of famous people for a fifth grade summer school project.

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).

**I've felt his presence since I was Born!**

Thank you in advance for your answer.

sincerely,

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



DAVID SOUL

July 22, 1983

Dear Paul -

Thank you for your inquiry. I think your question is a very important question. I also think it's a very difficult one to answer as a part of a survey. You see, I could answer, yes, and then you might jump to the conclusion that I'm an alright guy. Then I could give you a man-made answer to describe how God made his presence known to me. But those answers would frustrate me, because they would ~~be~~ limit God's presence.

I would only pray that God would give me His grace so that I might find in spirit His Truth, not my or any mans Truth.



Only God can judge a man's  
heart; and it's only in my  
humanness that I may seek  
Him. The answer is yes.

Much Joy —

John A. Long



M E E T T H E P R E S S

*America's Press Conference of the Air*

September 23, 1980

Paul Rifkin  
RFD 2 - Off Grant Road  
Newmarket, N. H. 03857

Dear Paul:

I am glad to answer your questions.

- 1) I do believe in God.
- 2) He did not make himself known to me.  
My belief is based solely on faith.

Cordially,

Lawrence E. Spivak  
Consultant  
NBC News

LES/im

aboard "Carapace"  
British Virgin Islands  
May 20 1977

Dear Paul

I guess I'm what you call a  
humanist. If I ever join a church it  
will be the Unitarian-Universalist Church.  
I believe in the idealistic and spiritual side  
of humanity and that what good a person  
does lives after him. I don't actively  
disbelieve in God and I'd never argue  
with a believer - I'd envy him. But I  
don't <sup>know</sup> whether God in the sense of a personality  
exists - I'm doubtful.

Human beings are a naturally believing  
species, as is shown by religions and gods all  
over the world. From a psychological point  
of view I'd say that this is derived from the  
small child's love of, trust in, and awe of his  
father

Sincerely  
Benjamin Spock



# ROBERT STACK

June 23, 1983

Dear Paul:

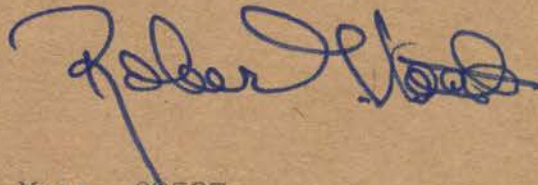
In answer to your first question:

I do believe in God.

Your second question is more complex; "How did God make his presence known to me?"

I don't think that God needs to perform obvious miracles to make his presence known. The real miracle is this life he has given us. I believe our faith in God is reflected in how well we use his gift.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Stack". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

BEN STAHL • APDO. 421 • SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE • GTO. • MEXICO

Stahl

Mr. Paul Rifkin  
East Sandwich  
Mass. U.S.A.

Dear Paul:

Thank you for the honor of being included in your list of famous people. The answers that you will receive, I am sure will be most interesting. It is quite a question!

It seems to me that your fifth grade class must be remarkable. In my fifth grade class a momentous question would be...Do you think that the New York Yankees will win the pennant?

To your question, "Do you believe in God?" my answer is a qualified yes. And it would be easier for me to tell you what I think God is not rather than tell you what I think God is. For an example...my God does not have a long, white beard and He doesn't live in a place called Heaven. He knows all about me the same way he knows all about the wind blowing a branch of a tree. Both, the wind and I being a part of His Grand Plan. To me He has no physical substance...He is idea. He is not likely to walk into your classroom, his long robes flowing, and say, "Hi Paul!" Yet, using a set of iron-clad laws, he runs the entire universe, from the tiniest speck of matter to the largest sun. To a human there is always a start and a finish. To Him, there is no beginning...no end. I often refer to Him as "Nature", and he certainly gives me a lot to think about. For which I am grateful.

Very truly yours,

Ben Stahl

Ben Stahl

April, 22, 1983



MAURICE H. STANS

May 24, 1983

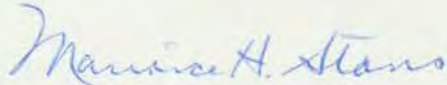
Master Paul Rifkin  
674 Route 6A  
East Sandwich, MASS. 02537

Dear Paul:

This is my answer to your letter and your question of whether I believe in God.

Yes, Paul, I have always believed that there is a God. How else could I understand the existence of this universe, the order that exists within it, the beauty of nature, and the opportunities which we have to make our lives happy and worthwhile.

Sincerely,



Maurice H. Stans

MHS:ar





Bart Starr  
Head Coach

July 5, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

In reply to your letter concerning your summer school project, yes I believe in God and feel that he makes his presence known to all of us everyday.

You need only to look at the sun rise or set, a bird sing or nest, or a rabbit scurry away when frightened to blend in so beautifully with God's plants that his enemy can't detect him.

The list of reasons for knowing God is present is endless and thus I challenge you to make some of your own.

Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

Bart Starr

BStarr/dk

Kay Starr

'8/14/'83

Dear Paul Rifkin;

Do I believe in GOD? Usually this is such a personal matter that one does not discuss it with a stranger, but I feel our belief in Him should keep all people from being strangers.

I think first I must tell you that I am 3/4 American Indian. Therefore I see the Maker in all things. All His signs are all about us. All his creatures are of his making. It escapes me how anyone who is in full custody of all their senses does not stop and wonder about it all.

Since I am a singer I feel that is a gift from GOD. I thank him constantly for the joy it gives me to perform as well as the enjoyment it gives to some people. This is my way of reaching people without having arms long enough to actually touch ~~ing~~ them. It would be hard to explain this feeling to a grownup, perhaps you will understand.

I must compliment your instructor upon the courage it must take to make this subject a lesson and my hat comes off to you Sir, for having the spirit to ask people of my profession. I hope you will not be disappointed in the response.

If everyone will just believe in "something", perhaps that will be our Salvation.

Good luck with your life,  
and your school project

Kay Starr



Dear MR. Stassen,

I am making a survey  
of Famous people I respect for  
a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class Report.

My question to you is:

Do you BELIEVE IN GOD?

If the answer is yes,

Yes

please describe how God made  
himself known to you.

Thank you in advance for  
your answer.

Through the  
wonders of  
the world  
I saw around  
me in my  
boyhood on  
a farm

Sincerely,

Paul Ripkin

Grade 5  
674 Rte 6-A  
E. Sandwich  
Mass 02537







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**Roger T. Staubach**  
PRESIDENT

November 11, 1980

Paul Rifkin  
Grade 5  
674 Route 6-A  
East Sanwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul:

I appreciated your letter regarding your class report.

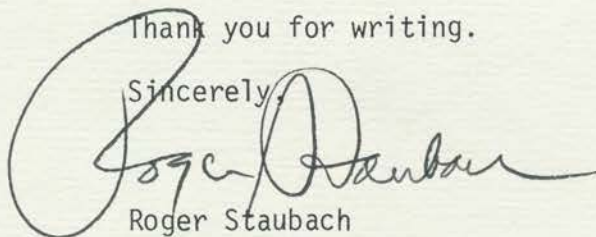
Yes, I do believe in God.

My parents gave me a good Christian background in our home by teaching me and also through example and I attended Catholic schools and church, which I still do.

I can't remember when I didn't have a belief in God and Jesus Christ, but it has become stronger and more real to me over the years. It has only been through my faith in God that I have been able to get through some very negative times in my life.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Roger Staubach

RS:rc

Dear Ms. STEENBURGEN:

I am making a survey of famous people for a fifth grade summer school project.

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.

Dear Paul —

Sincerely,

Yes, I believe in God — although perhaps not in the traditional sense — I think God

is our own goodness and

I most see God in the faces

of my children — My best to you — Mary

Paul Rifkin

grade 5

674 RT 6A

East Sandwich

Mass 02537



October 17, 1980

Dear Mr. Ripkin,

To answer your question, "DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?": I wouldn't use the word "believe", but I feel there is something that people call God, & I feel it in everything around me, especially in the beautiful things. I don't think we are ever going to learn anything about God by asking or trying to answer such questions.

Sincerely yours  
William Steig



Dear Ms. STEINEM:

I am making a survey of famous people for a fifth grade summer school project.

My question to you is:

Do you believe in God?? No. I believe in the still undiscovered and perhaps infinite possibilities of human beings and nature that we sometimes personify as God.  
(If the answer is yes, please describe how God made his presence known to you.)

Thank you in advance for your answer.

W W W sincerely,

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



NBC News

A Division of  
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.

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

May 12, 1983

Paul Rifkin  
674 Route 6A  
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter. I am flattered that you thought to write to me.

Yes, I do believe that there is some force greater than the individual that leads human beings and some other living things to operate beyond self-interest. I guess that is what we call God.

God is revealed to me in the goodness of others.

Also, I think you are on the right track when you ask how God made his presence known to me. In framing the question that way, you recognize that religious beliefs come from a lifetime of personal experience, and that a person should not tell his neighbor what to believe.

It was nice to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carl Stern".

Carl Stern  
NBC News-Washington



YUSUF ISLAM

27 CURZON ST.

LONDON W1Y 7AE

Dear friend,

Thank you for your letter, and for showing your appreciation for my music.

I'm sure you will find that hidden inside my music was the soul of a seeker, and I am now happy to say that I have found what I was looking for.

I was given the Holy Qur'an in 75 and since then I have not looked back. The Qur'an is the last message sent for the guidance of mankind and it will remain so up to the Last Day when all things will



so up to the Last Day when all things will be known. After reading it I decided to embrace Islam and worship Allah, Lord of the Universe, Creator of life and death, and to seek true knowledge of Him

May Allah guide you to the straight path, there is no god but God and Muhammad is His servant and messenger.

John D. Ken

January 21, 1984

Dear Paul -


As I have been travelling quite a lot, your letter just caught up with me - I noted that you had a question: "DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?" -

The answer is YES - As you may know my daughter Jennifer was born with some defects - however, I was blessed with a wonderful doctor and she has been healed for many years now. I'm sorry it's taken so long to answer you.

For the past year, I've been working on a novel, "ELISEBETH RYAN" which should be published later this year- also made several motion pictures, "SWEET SIXTEEN" and "THE RETURNING", and now am touring with the play "AGNES OF GOD."

Many people, when writing express interest in my Fan Club, so now I automatically include an application.

Love & Light -

  
SUSAN STRASBERG

Enclosure:



GERRY E. STUDDS  
10TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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1501 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 25, 1983

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617-826-3866  
CAPE AND ISLANDS  
146 MAIN STREET  
HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS 02601  
617-771-0666

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thank you for writing to me in Washington about my religious beliefs. I am honored that you chose to include me in your survey of famous people.

However, while I appreciate your inquiry, I feel very strongly that one's religious beliefs or convictions are a matter of personal conscience, and as such should remain private in nature.

Again, thank you for selecting me for your survey. I hope my answer has not disappointed you and that you will not hesitate to contact me again on any future matter of concern.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

  
Gerry E. Studds

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



*Loretta Swit*

14 August 1983

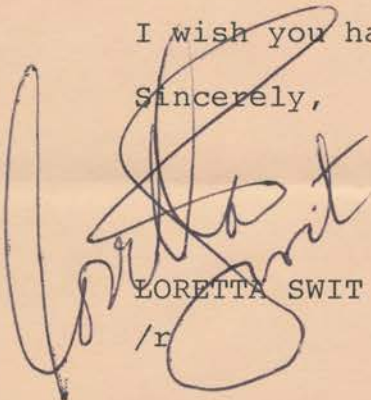
Dear Paul,

I will try and assist you with your school project:

My sense of "believing in God" is that I feel there is within each of us a part of the total universe. All living creatures are related one to the other. We share time and space integrally. We all together comprise the universal spirit -- and it is for each of us to enhance that core of the spirit which is uniquely ours that we might contribute to the goodness of the universe in our own personal way.

I wish you happiness in your life.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loretta Swit'. The signature is written over the typed name and includes a small mark below it.

LORETTA SWIT

/r



**SOONERS**

# The University of Oklahoma

Football Office

Room E-8

Norman, Oklahoma 73019

#### ORANGE BOWL

1939  
1954  
1956  
1958  
1959  
1963  
1968  
1976  
1978  
1979  
1980  
1981

#### SUGAR BOWL

1949  
1950  
1951  
1972

#### GATOR BOWL

1947  
1965

#### ASTRO-BLUEBONNET BOWL

1968  
1970

#### FIESTA BOWL

1976  
1983

#### SUN BOWL

1981

#### NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

1950  
1955  
1956  
1974  
1975

#### CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

1915      1956  
1918      1957  
1920      1958  
1938      1959  
1943      1962  
1944      1967  
1946      1968  
1947      1972  
1948      1973  
1949      1974  
1950      1975  
1951      1976  
1952      1977  
1953      1978  
1954      1979  
1955      1980

April 27, 1983

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

Dear Paul:

I am very surprised and somewhat embarrassed that a young boy in 5th grade in Massachusetts would think that Barry Switzer, the coach of the Oklahoma Sooners was a famous person. It's obvious that sports hold a high priority for you.

You asked me if I believe in God. My answer is yes and the reason is this beautiful world of ours could not have occurred through happenstance, not just from comets and meteorites clashing together and creating the wonder of our universe. There are too many things of our nature that are so precision perfect that someone had to have planned their happening.

Thank you for allowing me to be one of your famous people.

Sincerely,

*Barry Switzer*  
Barry Switzer  
Head Football Coach

BS:kd

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

UPSTATE MEDICAL CENTER  
750 EAST ADAMS STREET  
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13210

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

AREA CODE 315  
473-5630

October 17, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Thank you for your letter. The answer to your question is:  
I do not believe in God. (But I would like to add that I believe  
the moral teachings of religions are very important.)

My compliments to you for your enterprise.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Szasz*

Thomas S. Szasz, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry

TSS:bas



GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR (RET)  
2500 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

27 April 1983

Dear Paul:

Yes I do indeed believe in God.  
Who could not who sees the budding  
flowers in spring time and the Milky  
Way at night? They all bear witness  
to the Creator.

I hope you will feel the same  
as I do.

Best regards.

Maxwell D. Taylor

+LDM

Missionaries of Charity  
54-A, Lower Circular Road  
Calcutta - 700 016

8 / 5 / '83

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter.

Yes, I believe in God and in His presence with us in the world to-day. Faith is more important to me than life itself because without it there would be no fullness of life. I would be disposed to give my life rather than my faith.

Our life and work as Missionaries of Charity are built on faith - faith in Christ who said " I was hungry, I was naked, I was sick and I was homeless, and you took care of me" God has made His presence known to us in the poor. He comes to us as the hungry one, the sick one, the unwanted one and gives us the chance to love Him and serve Him in the distressing disguise; it is the same Christ who is in all of us. Let us recognise Him and love Him in one another even as He loved us-until it hurt. Assuring you of our prayers and those of our poor.

*God bless you  
M. Teresa*

I believe - 'God is love - Because  
He loves us - He has created  
us for greater things,  
in His own image - to  
love and to be loved. We  
are Precious to Him - He  
loves you and me"

God bless you Teresa





*Never let anything  
so fill you with  
sorrow as to make  
you forget  
the joy  
of the  
RISEN CHRIST*



# WFMT

CHICAGO'S FINE ARTS STATION / 98.7

March 4, 1977

Paul Rifkin  
333 West Francis Willard  
Chico, Calif. 95926

Dear Paul,

I believe there is a God in every person; you, me, all on this earth. His presence is known to me by the fact that we are alive and breathing and thinking.

Yours,

Studs Terkel

ST/mt

PROGRAM DEPARTMENT

(312) 751-7100/20

500 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE / CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

MEMO

from

ROBERT THEOBALD

~~J. M. SCOTT~~

TO

Paul

DATE

11/28

TIME

SUBJECT

Thank you for your letter.

Yes, I do believe in God. I believe that there are rules in the universe that we human beings must obey and also that when we act together with God's help we can change things for the better.

I hope this answer is helpful to you.

Robert Theobald.

REPLY  INITIAL AND RETURN  SEE ME

Form MGL © The Drawing Board Inc., Box 505 Dallas, Texas



LOWELL THOMAS, JR.

7022 TANAINA DRIVE  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502

Oct. 17, '80

Dear Paul:-

Your letter arrived today, asking how God made His presence known to me. You are to be commended for your interest in such an event.

There have been several instances in my life when I came to realize that the Good Lord must be watching over me, or I wouldn't have survived. Perhaps the most vivid example of His presence was during pilot training in our Air Force during World War II. The moment came on a takeoff from a Georgia airstrip one pitch black night; my student pilot and I got our plane off the runway at the very last moment and were climbing away at a low angle. It must have been God who prompted me to flick on our landing lights just in time to see tall pine trees dead ahead, and to swive the plane's nose hardy in time to avoid a certain crash.

There have been other close "saves" which I can only attribute to God and ↓

His watching over me.

Thanks for writing and asking--

Best wishes--

Sincerely,

Lowell Thomas Jr.



OCT. 28, 1976

Dear MR. Thompson:

I am making a Survey of Famous people I respect for a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class Report

My question to you is:

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?

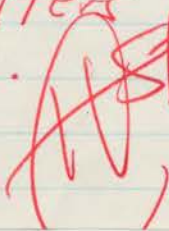
No - but I'm not always right, and

[If the answer is Yes, please describe how God MADE His presence known to you].

Thank you in advance for your reply.

Sincerely

I don't think it matters much anyway.



Paul RIFKIN  
Grade 5  
4212 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
San Francisco  
CALIF 94114



March 10, 1977

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

Dear Master Rifkin:

Thank you very much for your letter. I am sorry it has taken me this time to answer your letter, but I was out of the country lecturing in Canada.

Yes, I do believe in God, and although I received a traditional Roman Catholic education, I did not have any direct meditational experience of higher states of consciousness until my 18th year. At that time, while I was listening to the Ninth String Quartet of Beethoven, I experienced an uplifting of my normal consciousness into a higher one. The experience changed my life, and all the years of Yogic practice and intellectual study come out of that experience. The Plains Indians of America used to take their young men out of the settlement and into the woods, where they would fast and meditate to receive a vision of their guardian spirit. This vision was then called a "power vision" and was considered to shape the entire future life of the young men. The great Irish poet, W. B. Yeats, also has indicated that one is given a vision of his life's work in his teens and the rest of one's life is simply the working out of that original vision.

The ideas of the Plains Indians and the Irish poet, W. B. Yeats, seem to have been confirmed in the development of my own life, since everything comes out of that vision I had while listening to Beethoven's Ninth String Quartet.

A word concerning the nature of copyright laws concerning letters. You may share this letter with your friends or teachers, but it remains the property of the sender and the receiver; and therefore it cannot legally be published without your permission and mine. I would prefer you keep this information for your own use and for your close friends and teachers, but do not publish it in any form or way.

With every good wish for the growth and development of your own studies,

Yours very sincerely,



William Irwin Thompson

WIT:vc



oct 23 - 83

Dear Paul Riffin!

The reply you are referring to, (letter 12.10-83) is not mine. Some body else answered your letter in my name. Therefore would I be happy not to have you to use any of it for your Book!

Here is my answer: I believe in a higher intelligent order (It has to be discussed not to misunderstand what it stands for) I do not believe in the God described in the Bible. I am against him. I would not be — " — — " — if I did not believe in something else!

Sincerely, Ingrid Tulin please compare signatures

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS., CHAIRMAN

BIRCH BAYH, IND.  
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.  
JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.  
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HOWELL HEFLIN, ALA.

STROM THURMOND, S.C.  
CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR., MD.  
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ORRIN G. HATCH, UTAH  
ROBERT DOLE, KANS.  
THAD COCHRAN, MISS.  
ALAN K. SIMPSON, WYO.

STEPHEN BREYER, CHIEF COUNSEL

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 28, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

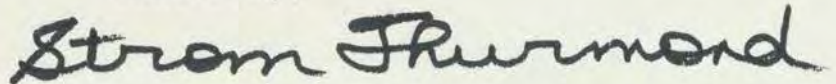
It was a pleasure receiving your letter as I always enjoy hearing from the youth of America.

Yes, I do believe in God. I have been a Christian since I was a very young boy, and I owe everything I have to my faith in God.

Best of luck with your survey, and I am sure you will do well in your class report.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,



Strom Thurmond

ST/wv



*United States Senate*  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 28, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter concerning your 5th Grade Class project. I am always delighted to receive a letter, such as yours.

I am the grandson and son of Methodist Clergymen. God has played and continues to play the most important role in my life. I ask for His Divine Guidance many times a day, beginning and closing each day in prayer.

Please give my warmest regards to your classmates.

Yours sincerely,

  
John Tower



LEE TREVINO ENTERPRISES, INC.

May 19, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Yes I do believe in God and God has made his presence known to me in many ways.

The least of all being in my God given ability to play golf. More so in blessing me with my wonderful family. Last, by letting me survive being struck by a lightning bolt and very serious back surgery.

Thanks for your interest and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lee Trevino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "T".

Lee Trevino

LT/bab

Enclosure

25 North St. #202  
INDEPENDENCE MASS 01938

October 23, 1980

Dear Paul:

It was nice of you to write me and I wish I could help you with your report but it is my policy not to respond to questions. I am sorry to disappoint you.

With best wishes for a happy life,

Sincerely,

*Ben Zeman*

Paul Rifkin  
674 Route 6A  
East Sandwich, Massachusetts 02537



Deat Ms. TUCHMAN;

I am making a sutvey of famous people I respect For a fifth grade class report.

My question to you is;

Do you believe in fod?

If the answet is yes, please describe how God made his ptesence known to you.

Thank you in advance fot your answet.

Sincetely,

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

Dear Paul - I am afraid I must answer No  
Sincerly, Barbara Tuchman



DEAR PAUL

YES, I BELIEVE IN GOD.  
I EXPERIENCE GOD IN LIFE'S  
DAILY CELEBRATIONS AND IN  
MY VISUAL QUEST AS AN  
ARTIST... I KNOW I  
CANNOT DO WHAT I DO  
ALONE.

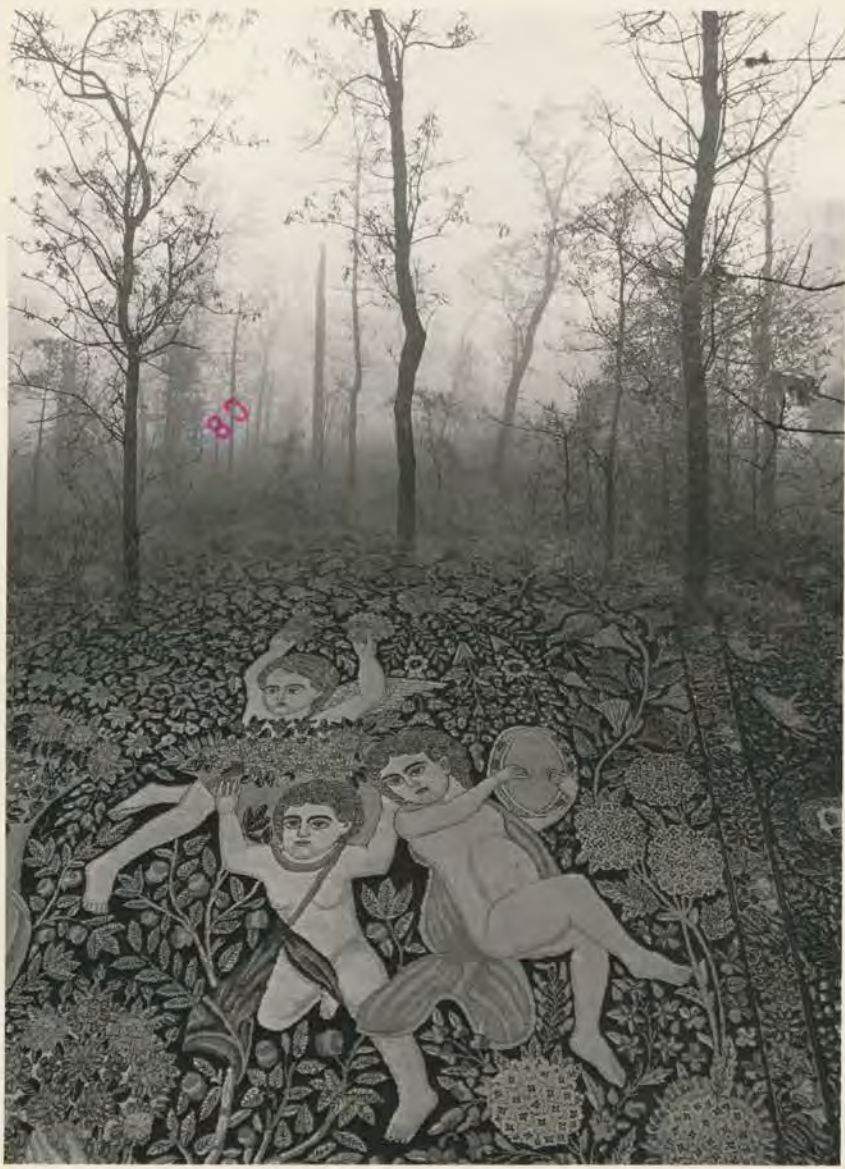
FRIENDLY THOUGHTS.  
JERRY N. UELSMANN\*

Published by The Wilkin Gallery, Inc., 41 E. 57th St., New York, New York 10022

TO: PAUL RIFKIN  
674 RT. 6A.  
EAST SANDWICH, MA.  
02537









February 11

Dear Mr. Rifkin:

Yes, I do. He makes known his presence to me in the beauty and intricacy of Creation.

Best wishes,

*Jim Updike*

Dear Mr. Rykin -

Thank you for your letter, with its simple, leading question. It is evident from your directness and the startling economy of your expression that whatever I believe, you will be Chief Rabbi before you are through, and I therefore congratulate and wish you all the luck I am sure you deserve.

Do I believe in God? I don't believe in venerable bearded father-figures, but I do believe in the human conscience and the instinct for good within all of us, which is nurtured or neglected according to temperament. Black and white are necessary symbols, but the living deal in light and dark gray. However, if I am confronted with a bearded father figure pro

after death, I shall not be entirely  
surprised, and will think of your  
question with the necessary gravity  
and affection before answering the  
no doubt awkward questions

Yours sincerely  
R.D.



Dear MR. Valenti:

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 most assuredly believe in God.

Jimbaloni

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



**NBC Memo**

Richard Valeriani

Oct. 22

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter.

The answer to your question is, Yes.

And the only way I know to answer your follow-up is to say that God made His presence known to me intellectually.

Sincerely,

Richard Valeriani



# ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA

425 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

*Executive Offices*

November 12, 1980

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your nice letter.

I do believe in God.

But I cannot tell you how He has made His presence known to me. I do not think He has ever made His presence known to me. However, that is not necessary for me to believe in Him.

Perhaps the existence of the world itself is the best evidence for the existence of God. Someone must have made the world. Who could that have been other than God?

But as I say this is all unnecessary. I believe in God without having any evidence of his existence. I believe God exists because He must exist.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Van Doren



ONE BATTERY PARK PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10004

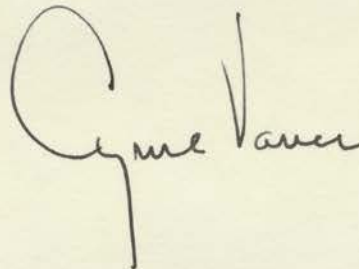
October 27, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for your letter  
of October 10. My answer to your question is  
yes, I most certainly believe in God.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eugene V. Laver". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sincerely yours,".

(Encl.)

Dear Paul -

Aug 11, 83

Hope this answer does not  
come to you too late -

I do believe in some unex-  
plained yet force. If that  
should be called God then  
yes I believe in him or  
it or that miracle or that

energy -

Nothing specific has  
made me believe it's  
just a feeling. I'm grate-  
ful for that feeling -  
it makes ~~me~~ feel  
protected

Sincerely  
Juen Cerdon



Bausheim - Auerbach, 6/20/83.

Dear Paul Ricker,

It took a while for your letter to reach me, so probably time is out already long ago for your class report. But I will give you my answer anyway.

I do believe in God. Why I do, is much more difficult to tell in a few words. However, in spite of all the tragedies to mankind, big ones and small ones, that are happening all the time, I still can not find any reason to think that He does not exist. A great Swedish poet once wrote, that although we cannot see God in person - or a god - or any gods - we continuously see His influence. He is here with us all the time, but He is disguised. "If a look bid us mingle in quiet Agape - us, dull and coldly single as most men be; if a hand, all unbidden, like true celestial balm on soul misery-ridden, should touch our palm; and if a radiance guide us, where we tormented trod - then unrevealed beside us there walks a god." (HJALMAR GULLBERG).

All good wishes!

Hausman



Verw.  
Ref. A.1/9

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Kantoor van die Eerste Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
Union Buildings  
PRETORIA  
0136

9 NOV 1976

Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October 1976.

Yes I believe in God. God is the creator of the earth and everything we see around us. He is not only our heavenly Father but in His infinite mercy He sent his son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to die for us to atone for the sins of man and to bring salvation to man.

In reply to your question how God makes His presence known to you and me, I can only give you the old words: God moves in His mysterious way His wonders to perform. If we only look round each day we cannot help but to see God's work and the way He guides the destinies of people.

In conclusion I have to inform you that I am not the President of South Africa but the Prime Minister. Our esteemed President is Dr. N. Diederichs, our former Minister of Finance.

--- I enclose the requested photograph and wish you as a young boy well for the future.

Yours sincerely

.....  
Master P. Rifkin  
4212 25th Street  
San Francisco  
CALIFORNIA 94114  
U.S.A.





## STATE OF ALABAMA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

MONTGOMERY

GEORGE C. WALLACE  
GOVERNOR

October 19, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter. It was very thoughtful of you to write and ask if I believe in God.

As a young boy I was raised in a family that had Bible devotion at breakfast. My father and my mother read me Bible stories before I was able to even read myself and my grandfather and father carried me to the camp meetings in the summer at Indian Springs in Georgia as a little boy. In the panhandle of Florida was where I think I first found and came to know Jesus Christ.

Paul, I know from experience that God is alive and that Jesus saves. And I know that I, like many people, have been in the valley of the shadow of death, and I know that when I was there that I asked God to let me live if it be his will, but if it not be his will, that I cast my lot with Him.

I would say to you Paul, and to all young people, if you have Jesus Christ in your heart and in your soul then by the worldly standard that we sometime measure things you are a multi-millionaire.



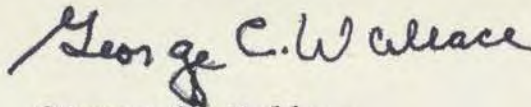
Mr. Paul Rifkin  
October 19, 1976  
Page 2

As Governor, I have dedicated and re-dedicated my life to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I can certainly say that being a christian has helped me to be a leader for the people of Alabama.

In closing, always remember if you have Jesus Christ in your heart and he has you in the hollow of his hand, you are whole. And I am whole.

Again, thank you for writing and give my best wishes to your teacher and your classmates.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George C. Wallace". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

George C. Wallace  
Governor

GCW:kct

IRVING WALLACE

Dear Paul,

Oct. 21, 1980

no.

Irving Wallace

22 Apr 1983

Dear Paul,

Jim still hoping  
drop by my house.

He might

Your friend,

Joseph Wambaugh





JOSEPH WAMBAUGH

THE NEW CENTURIONS  
THE BLUE KNIGHT  
THE ONION FIELD  
THE CHOIRBOYS  
THE BLACK MARBLE  
THE GLITTER DOME  
THE DELTA STAR

**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Chairman, Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces  
Subcommittee  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
Chairman, Energy and Mineral Resources  
Subcommittee  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING  
REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL COMMITTEE

November 22, 1982

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

Dear Paul:

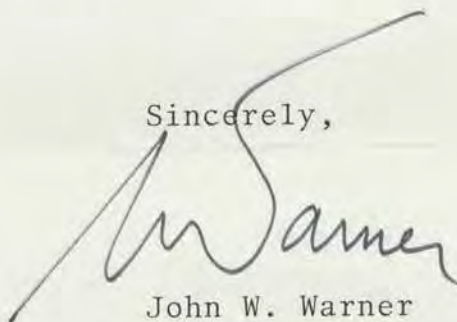
Normally, I would not respond to letters like yours, but I can appreciate the commitment you have demonstrated in completing a survey for your school report.

When my father died, I had the good fortune to live with my uncle, the Reverend Charles Warner, for several years while I was finishing my college education. Reverend Warner served as Rector of St. Albans Parish on the Cathedral Grounds. Later, I was privileged to serve on the Cathedral Chapter (similar to a Board of Trustees) of the Washington Cathedral for many years. I resigned soon before my election to the United States Senate.

You may indicate in your report that I do have a strong belief in God and am a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Middleburg, Virginia.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Warner", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John W. Warner

JWW/cbn



# LESLEY ANN WARREN

December 31, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

First of all, I would like to appologize for having taken so long to write you. But I have been very, very busy and don't often write personal responses to the letters I recieve just for that reason. But I felt moved to answer yours for two reasons:

One being that you happened to ask me a question on a subject that is very important to me, and, two, I was impressed that someone as young as yourself was interested in asking it. So, here is my answer.

Most definitely, yes, I do believe in God. I had always believed that there was a God, but now I definitely know there is a God because it did make itself known to me and here is the story of how it happened.

About a year ago I was driving down the street, just having been to my doctor's office where he had told me after an examination that I had a cyst in one of my breasts. This is something I have suffered with from time to time all through my adult life, as some women do, but this was the first time that one was big enough to have to be removed by surgery. And in such cases, the fear always is that the cyst might be cancerous, and they can never tell if it is or it isn't until after they operate. Before I go any further, I just re-



membered that you are in 5th grade, and perhaps you have not yet learned what a "cyst" is. Well, incase your parents aren't close by to explain it to you, a cyst is an unnatural growth of tissue somewhere in the body. Sort of like a hard "knot" in the body that doesn't belong there normally. Anyway, many are not dangerous, they call that type "benign" (pronounced: "benine"). But, occassionally they are made up of cancer cells, (cells that eat healthy cells) and that type they call malignant.

Anyway, whenever people find out they have a cyst, they are afraid that it is going to be malignant. Well, I was no different, and perhaps worse than most, because I was absolutely terrified that I may have cancer.

I was driving down the street, I came to a stop light and I started to cry very hard, just full of fear, I felt lost, like no one in the world could help me...Very, very alone and scared, and then I heard a voice, not through my ears, exactly, like you would hear another person's voice, but kind of from inside of me, but it wasn't me thinking because I know the difference, and it said "I'm here with you, and everything is going to be all right." And then I felt this warmth fill my whole body, kind of like there was a light inside of me, and I stopped crying and looked around me and everything looked very bright and peaceful. It was like one moment I was in terror and the next I was in absolute peace. And I know that was the voice of God because it gave me such peace. Not only that, but it didn't lie, because I went on to have the surgery and, guess what?...The cyst was benign, it was not cancerous, they removed it, and today I am absolutely fine.

And since then, a couple other things have happened to again prove to me the existance of God, but I don't need to go into them because I think the above story is the most important because it was the first time and it sure made a believer

Page 3

out of me!

Now, whenever things get very painful or hard, as they sometimes do in life, I'll remember that God proved its existance to me and I will try to take comfort in that fact and realize that all you have to do to have God in your life is to be consciously aware of it and choose God's Peace over the world's hypnotism.

Thank you for writing, and I hope I have answered you in a way that you are able to relate to or at least understand. If not, I know you will someday.

Have a happy and joyfilled New Year.

A large, stylized handwritten letter 'L' in blue ink, which is the first letter of the signature 'Lesley Ann Warren'.

Lesley Ann Warren

LAW/aa



*Muddy*

October 28, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

I am responding to your recent letter and question.

I have always valued my religious beliefs as being extremely personal and therefore do not make public statements about my feelings.

I am honored that you have chosen me to pose this question to and hope that you will understand and respect this privacy and not be disappointed by my response.

Sincerely, your friend,

*Muddy Waters*

MW:cas  
enclosure





Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

P.O. Box 100, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724 (516) 367-8310

April 26, 1983

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

Dear Paul Rifkin:

I do not believe in God!!

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Watson  
Director

JDW/as

**TOM WATSON**  
GOLF PROFESSIONAL  
911 MAIN  
1313 COMMERCE TOWER  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64105  
TELEX 910-771-0545

June 3, 1983

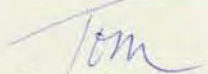
Mr. Paul Rifkin  
674 Route 6A  
East Sandwich, MA 02537

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your recent letter. In answer to your question, I do believe in God by the totally unexplainable universe.

Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Watson

TW:dek



January 19, 1984

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

Dear Paul:

I was happy to receive your letter. Thanks for you continued support.

I am sorry that it took so long for your letter to be answered. The answer to your question 'do you believe in God?' is yes.

Enclosed is a biography with some information you may be interested in.

And keep the eye of the tiger.

Best regards,

Carl Weathers

CW/nk



Jessamyn West  
2480 THIRD AVENUE  
NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94558

April 14, 1983

Dear Paul Rifkin,

God made his presence known to me  
through the words and acts of my  
parents.

They were Quakers, as I am, and  
were accustomed to reading the Bible  
praying, and following the Command-  
ments of Jesus. Through their Example  
the presence and Existence of God  
was made known to me.

Thank you for your letter.

Best wishes,

Jessamyn West

*Betty  
White*

July 25, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

Do I believe in God? A very definite yes!

There have been three occasions in my life when I quite honestly didn't think I could handle it. Each time I stood very, very still and simply thought "Help Me" with every ounce of my strength. In all three instances the strength to take one step forward at a time came from somewhere - from Someone.

The important thing to remember to do is - on the good days as well as all the days in between - be still for a moment and say "Thank You."

Good luck on your project, Paul, and thanks for your letter.

Sincerely,

*Betty*  
Betty

BW/gc



KEVIN H. WHITE  
MAYOR

CITY OF BOSTON  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY HALL, BOSTON

May 16, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

I have received your recent letter and must confess my surprise at the nature of your class project.

In response to your survey question may I say that I was born and raised in the Roman Catholic Faith and continue as a practicing Catholic.

Thank you for writing. I hope that your report will help expand your appreciation for the individuality of human nature and expression and teach respect and tolerance for diverse religious scruples.

Sincerely,

Kevin H. White  
Mayor

KHW/nm



**The New York Times**

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

TOM WICKER  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

December 31, 1976

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

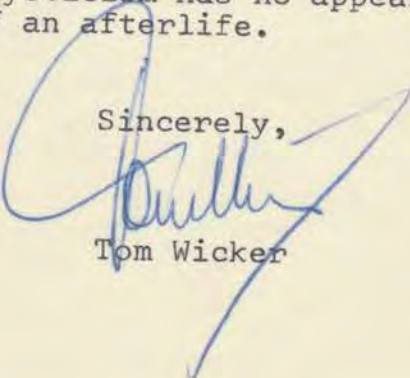
Dear Paul:

This is a long delayed reply to your letter of November 1 about my religious views.

I cannot give you a brief or specific answer because I do not have strongly formulated or long-formed religious attitudes. As a child, I was forced by my family into a typical religious pattern within the Methodist Church; since then, I have scarcely attended church at all, but I would not say I have no religion.

I'm sorry if this seem inadequate, but I have to say that my primary concern in life has been ethical behavior in life rather than religious faith. Mysticism has no appeal to me, nor the idea of an afterlife.

Sincerely,



Tom Wicker



# Boston University

University Professors  
745 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
617/353-4566

*Elie Wiesel, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities*

April 14, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your recent letter.  
Unfortunately, I cannot answer your  
question in a letter.

Perhaps one day we will meet  
and then we can talk about it.

With best wishes,

*Elie Wiesel*  
Elie Wiesel *EW*

EW/mlh



# SEATTLE SUPERSONICS

C. Box 14102 — Seattle, WA 98114

April 19, 1983

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

Dear Paul,

I do believe in God.

I believe that God has been instrumental throughout my life. His blessings have manifested themselves in the wonderful family I have, the friends I have, and all of the things I have been able to accomplish.

Sincerely,

Lenny Wilkens  
Coach/Dir. Player Personnel

LW/jf



Dear Paul,

Thanks for your letter.

I'm not sure about God, but I believe there is definitely a power that governs us.

I believe this because of the way nature recycles itself. And I believe that some power designed the human body as an almost perfect machine.

I believe that we will never understand or know about God (or whatever power) - just as hundreds of years ago man could never understand how we can transfer pictures and words around the world, live. And if man has this power now, then there are even greater powers out there that we will probably never learn. At least not in this life.

Meanwhile, enjoy it, and good luck

Med Weller



G. MENNEN WILLIAMS  
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

1425 LAFAYETTE BUILDING

October 30, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

Yes, indeed I believe in God. I feel that God has given me guidance throughout my life and particularly opened my eyes to the opportunity of serving his children and my fellowman when I was still in school.

Thanks for writing and with every good wish,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "G. Mennen Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

GMW/bp

**MEREDITH WILLSON**

June 22, 1983

Dear Paul Rifkin - -

Thank you for your letter of June 17th and I am happy to answer your question - - I CERTAINLY DO BELIEVE IN GOD!

In fact, as far as I can recall I have believed in Him all my life. For that Gift of Faith, I am indebted to my dear Mother who was Superintendent of the Sunday School at the First Congregational Church of Mason City, Iowa and I can still remember sitting on her lap during church services when I was small.

I certainly hope when you are 81 years old as I now am you will have the same kind of lovely memory.

Sincerely,

  
Meredith Willson

MW:ldm

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



Memo From



Dear Paul Ripkin

It is not possible to answer your letter accurately because you fail to mention

which God?

The Hebrew God  
The Christian God  
The Islam God  
The Hindu God  
or any other?

Good Health always  
Dr. Paul Winchell



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of MACHINISTS**  
**and AEROSPACE WORKERS**

MACHINISTS BUILDING, 1300 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

Office of the  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Area Code 202  
857-5200

GL-6 W<sup>3</sup>

October 20, 1980

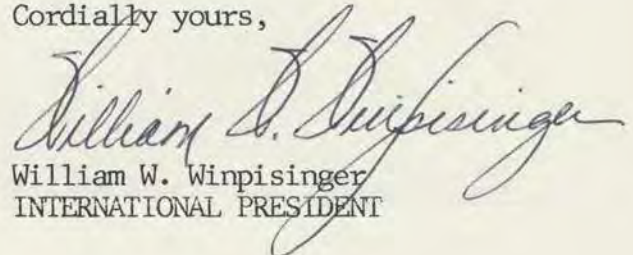
Mr. Paul Rifkin  
674 Rte. 6-A  
E. Sandwich, Mass. 02537

Dear Paul:

You can definitely count me among those for whom God's existence cannot be questioned. Physically, God shows Himself to me everyday in the perfect symmetry of His universe. Spiritually, my faith in the fatherhood of God is strengthened by my belief in the brotherhood of man. For if I did not believe in the brotherhood of man I would not have had the faith needed to commit my life to the cause of labor.

With very best wishes I am

Cordially yours,



William W. Winpisinger  
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

W/bo



New Mexico April 18/83

Dear Paul,

Your letter is of great interest to me. Yes, I believe in God.

I see Him in all things; in the life of my son, the love of my wife, in my work; in things humble and grand. His presence was known again to me in the love your parents have for you in the raising of such a fine young man.



Fame is simply a name, an action,  
a life known to many. It may  
be known for reasons good or

bad. Respect, however can only  
be felt in love; when the human  
spirit grows to feel, to sense  
higher states of selfless giving.

When I was a child I had a hero  
He wasn't famous. He was an old  
cripple man who I saw every morning  
passing my house on his way to  
church. I never saw his face  
because he was too bent over  
in his slow agony; in his pain  
he dragged himself along the  
fences and walls of the buildings.  
He was always dressed in a pin-striped  
it was a large black hat



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He wasn't famous. He was an old  
cripple man who I saw every morning  
passing my house on his way to  
Church. I never saw his face  
because he was too bent over  
in his slow agony; in his pain  
he dragged himself along the  
fences and walls of the building.  
He was always dressed in a pin-striped  
suit and wore a large black hat.  
At times I could hear through his  
moaning words in Italian - prayer.



One morning I found myself having  
a great need to go to church. I  
went on Sundays with my mother  
but that day I HAD to go, some-  
thing, some great needful purpose  
compelled me. I sat alone in silence,  
for a time praying and then admiring  
the paintings and sculptures. Then a  
bell rang. It was the beginning of  
the Mass. I participated in the service,  
and when it came time for Holy Comm-  
union I walked to the altar and  
knelt down. I was so engrossed in  
the service and the expectation of  
receiving Christ into my soul and  
body in Communion that I hadn't  
noticed the sound next to me.  
The old cripple man



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knelt down. I was so engrossed in  
the service and the expectation of  
receiving Christ into my soul and  
body in Communion that I hadn't  
noticed the sound next to me.

It came from the old cripple man  
I saw every morning. He was kneeling  
next to me at the altar on my right  
side. I then saw his fine thin hands,



outstretched to hold the Host. Then  
I heard again his praying. But most  
of all I could see his face. It was  
radiant. Such a face I'd only  
seen in paintings and sculpture in  
Churches and museums.

Just in silence after the Mass was  
over knowing I had seen and felt  
the courage and love that old and  
crippled man had for God and  
for all things.

I never saw the old man after that  
day. I was told soon after that he had  
died. I could only wonder about the  
history of his life and all the people  
and things he had known and  
found in



Churches and museums.

I sat in silence after the Mass was over knowing I had seen and felt the courage and love that old and crippled man had for God and for all things.

I never saw the old man after that day. I was told soon after that he had died. I could only wonder about the history of his life and all the people and things he had known and loved. Beauty can be found in all things, because the presence of God exists.

Yours In Light,  
Joel - Peter Withen,  
servant of God.

JOHN WOODEN

7-16-83

Dear Paul,

Yes, I believe in God, but  
am more concerned as to whether or  
not He believes in me.

I can not single out one  
occasion when God made His  
presence known to me, but simply  
know that He is always present.

A few years ago when I was  
not feeling well, the following  
thought came to me -

Do Not Look Back

The years have left their imprint  
on my hands and on my face  
Erect no longer is my walk and  
slower is my pace

But there is, no fear within my heart  
because I'm growing old  
I only wish I had more time to  
further serve my Lord



when I've gone to Him in prayer  
He has brought me inner peace  
And soon my cares and worries  
and other problems ceased  
He has helped me in so many ways  
He has never let me down  
Why should I fear the future when  
soon I may be near His crown  
Although I know down here  
my time is short  
There is endless time up There  
And He will forgive and keep me  
ever, in His loving care  
May I not waste an hour that's  
left to glorify the name  
Of the One who died that we  
might live  
And for our sins took all  
the blame.

Sincerely,  
John Woodson



THE PYRAMID OF SUCCESS

John R. Wooden  
Head Basketball Coach, Retired  
UCLA

*To Paul Ripkin,  
with best wishes and the hope  
you will grow up into a world  
of enduring peace and true  
brotherly love.*

*John Wooden  
7-16-63*

SUCCESS

*FAITH*  
Through prayer  
PATIENCE  
Good things  
take time

COMPETITIVE GREATNESS

"When the going gets tough,  
the tough get going."  
Be at your best when  
your best is needed.  
Real love of a hard battle.

*INTEGRITY*  
(speaks for itself)

*FIGHT*  
(effort and hustle)

POISE

Just being yourself.  
Being at ease in any  
situation.  
Never fighting yourself.

CONFIDENCE

Respect without fear.  
Confident, not cocky.  
May come from faith in  
yourself in knowing  
that you are prepared.

*RELIABILITY*  
(others depend  
upon you)

*RESOURCEFULNESS*  
(proper judgment)

CONDITION

Mental - Moral - Physical  
Rest, exercise, and diet  
must be considered. Mod-  
eration must be practiced.  
Dissipation must be  
eliminated.

SKILL

A knowledge of and the  
ability to properly execute  
the fundamentals.  
Be prepared. Cover every  
detail.

TEAM SPIRIT

An eagerness to sacrifice  
personal interests or glory  
for the welfare of all.  
The team comes first.

*HONESTY*  
(in all ways)

*ADAPTABILITY*  
(to any situation)

SELF-CONTROL

Emotions under control.  
Delicate adjustment be-  
tween mind and body.  
Keep judgment and  
common sense.

ALERTNESS

Be observing constantly.  
Be quick to spot a  
weakness and correct it  
or use it as the case may  
warrant.

INITIATIVE

Cultivate the ability to  
make decisions and think  
alone.  
Desire to excel.

INTENTNESS

Ability to resist temp-  
tation and stay with your  
course.  
Concentrate on your  
objective and be determined  
to reach your goal.

*(makes* *SINCERITY*  
*Friends)*

*AMBITION*  
(properly  
focused)

INDUSTRIOUSNESS

There is no substitute for  
work. Worthwhile things  
come from hard work and  
careful planning.

FRIENDSHIP

Comes from mutual  
esteem, respect, and  
devotion.  
A sincere liking for  
all.

LOYALTY

To yourself and to  
all those dependent  
upon you. Keep your  
self-respect.

COOPERATION

With all levels of your  
co-workers. Help others  
and see the other side.

ENTHUSIASM

Your heart must be in  
your work.  
Stimulate others.

Success is peace of mind which is a  
direct result of self-satisfaction in  
knowing you did your best to become  
the best that you are capable of  
becoming.

*John Wooden*



KEENAN WYNN

July 8, 1983

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

My dear Paul:

YES, I BELIEVE IN GOD! I do not necessarily see Him with a beard, sitting on top of a cloud, however, in my 67 years on this earth He has come to me when I needed Him, on many occasions. I can best describe this as follows. When I have needed that extra push, physically or mentally, I call for His help in my own way, and I am most humbly grateful to Him for the number of times He has helped me.

Paul, I hope this answers your question. It is the only answer I have.

From me to you -  
Keenan Wynn

SAM YORTY

Dear Paul:

Of course, I believe  
in God. Just look  
at the Universe.

"THE FINITE MIND  
CANNOT UNDERSTAND  
THE INFINITE"  
EMANUEL KANT

Sam Yorty



ANDREW YOUNG  
5TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

RULES COMMITTEE

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

October 18, 1976

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

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of October 10th regarding your class survey.

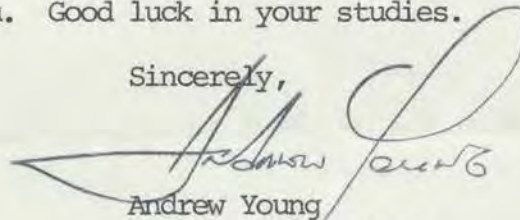
I am honored by your expression of respect for me and I will continue to strive to be worthy of your esteem.

You asked me about my belief in God, and I can truthfully answer you that I do believe in the Lord as the Creator and Giver of Life to this world. As you may not know, I am an ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ. Before I was first elected to the Congress in 1972, I worked with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the social movement for human justice in America during the 1960's.

I have enclosed for you a short biography which may be of interest to your survey.

I appreciate hearing from you. Good luck in your studies.

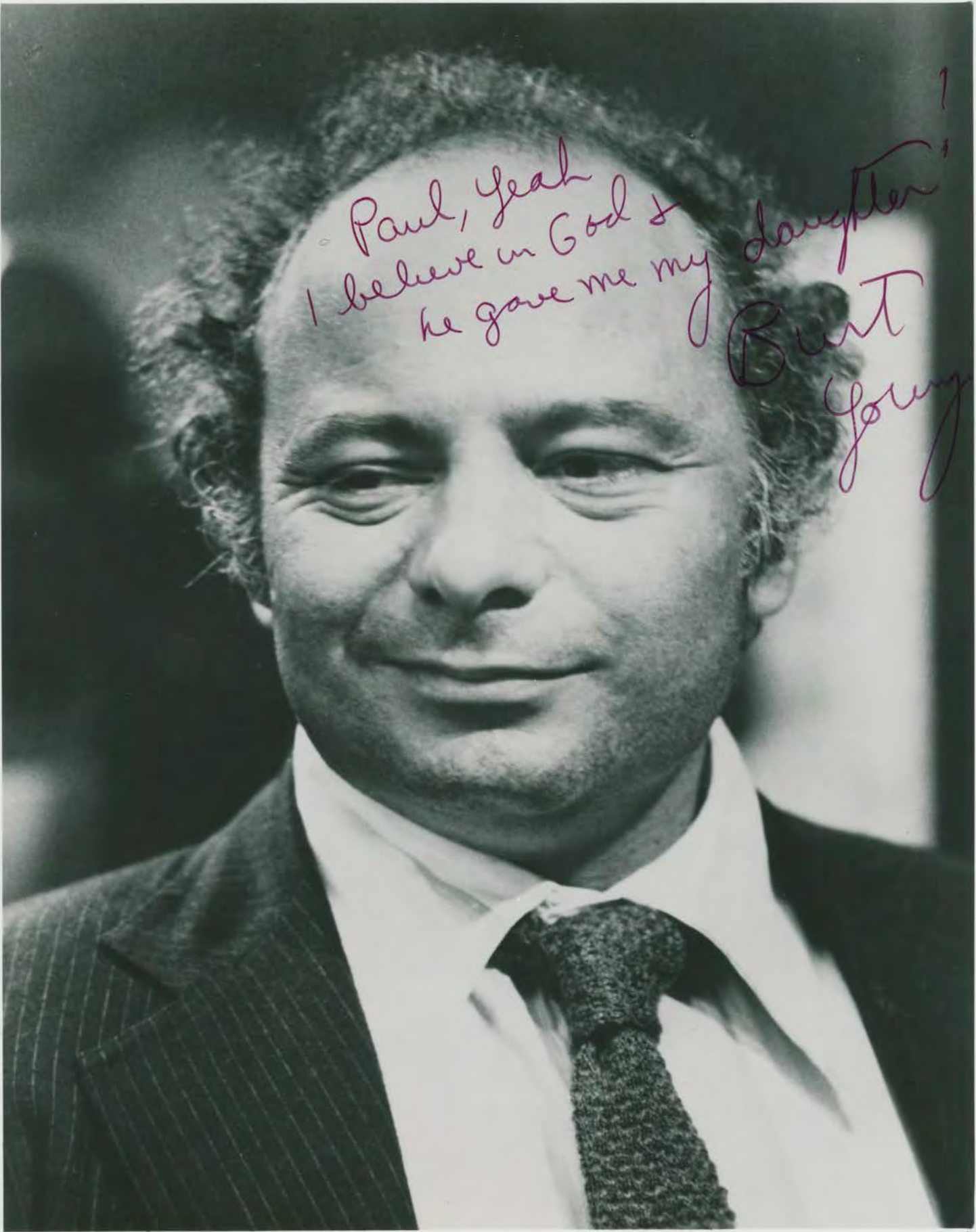
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Young", written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Young  
Member of Congress

Enclosures

AY/afh



Paul, yeah  
I believe in God &  
he gave me my

daughter!  
Burt  
Young



Oct 18, 83

Loretta Young

Dear Mr. Kopkin -

I was fortunate. I was born to a bad loving mother - I grew up knowing and loving him, as I did her -

He has never ceased to make himself known to me because I've never ceased to seek him, to love him, to do what ever he asks of me - I don't always make it - I guess, though I try.

But I take consolation in remembering something a priest once said to me, when I was a child - "Remember" he said "God only sees the trying. He expects you to fall because you're



human and He made you  
that way. What interests Him  
is - do you get up again  
and start over."

"Keep struggling" is an expression  
I love - because its really the  
whole secret to living, & knowing  
God is there - no matter  
what - "keep struggling"

I'm a beggar. I ask Him  
for every thing, and anything  
some times He says "yes"  
some times no. But always  
He answers because I ask  
for signs - any sign that He's  
heard me - and I get them!

In my mature years I  
have come to simply pray for  
more faith - more love - more  
willingness to do His will in  
all things - after all He really  
does know whats best for me  
better than I do - Loretta Young

PIA

Dear Paul,

I've been touring  
and just got your  
letter. I'm sorry if it delayed  
your project, but here's my  
answer to your question.

I discovered God on my  
first Christmas and now  
I realize he's in everything  
we do, everyday of our



lives. Without Him we wouldn't  
be here. He watches over  
us; He's someone greater than  
we are and is responsible for  
the beauty of nature and  
people. Besides, God is love.

Good luck with your  
project, All the best,  
Pa'Jahora



Oct. 20, 1980

Dear Paul,

Yes, I believe  
in God - more than that, I  
know He exists. I have  
experienced Him directly.  
I see His guiding Hand in  
my life every day, and He  
speaks to me through His  
Word. The incredible thing  
is not that I believe in  
Him, but that He believes  
in me!

Sincerely,

Effrey Zimbalist, Jr.

Wednesday, September 28, 1983.

Dear Paul,

I am sorry that I could not write to you sooner, and I fear that I am too late for your summer school project, but I will answer your question anyway.

Yes, I do believe in God, and I believe in Jesus Christ. Not a day goes by that I am not aware of His presence, but I am particularly aware of His hand when I travel. He is always looking after me and caring for my safety. Again I don't have any one miraculous incident to relate to you, just little things every single day.

May I wish you all the best in your walk, Paul and that you enjoy peace and contentment all your days.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Zimbalist*





# Boston University

College of Liberal Arts  
232 Bay State Road, Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Department of Political Science

November 5, 1980

Dear Paul:

Do I believe in God? If that means: do I believe in one Supreme Being who bears responsibility for everything that happens, and to whom we should pray for the things we need, and whose will is presented to us by priests, ministers, rabbis, and various churches and synagogues and sacred documents -- then my answer is no.

If believing in God means believing there is mystery in the universe, there is much that is unknown, there is a spiritual quality to things which cannot be expressed in words, that love among human beings is the most important thing in the world, that all men are brothers and all women are sisters and all human beings should respect one another, and that it is up to us to act (not to pray) to bring about a state of love and brotherhood and sisterhood -- well, then, you would have to say I believe in that.

I'm sorry to give you such a complicated answer to a simple question, but that's the only way I can answer it! Best of luck in your survey.

*Howard Zinn*  
Howard Zinn



July 25<sup>th</sup>, 1983

Dear Paul:

God never made his  
presence known to me but yes,  
I believe in Him.

Best of luck and  
happiness to you.

Fred Zimmerman

---



**E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.**  
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

21 November 1980

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

Dear Paul:

God first made His presence known to me in the battle of Surigao Straits when the Japanese battleships had opened up on my destroyer with their main battery guns. The first salvo was over. The second salvo was short. The third salvo would have hit but, at that point, our torpedoes hit them and our U.S. battleships opened up on them. The Japanese shifted their fire and we were not hit. Afterwards, we discovered that every man on our ship was praying at that moment.

I have not always been constant in my prayers, but I have found that, in adversity, He is there and quite forgiving for my lapses.

All best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22209  
703/841-8960