

Mrs. Kathy Weber  
108 Beacon Road  
Bethany, CT 06524

12/18/95

Dear Kathy,

Wonderful your book is doing so well! Congratulations! Your maternal grandfather, who was no mean essayist, would be proud!

From the FBI's backlog there is not much you can be except be exasperated.

What you sent me does not include any references to <sup>or</sup> notizations of proofs of death. If you've not done that be sure to get it on file and as you have, always use the number they've assigned. I had Toller's name confused with that or another playwright but the Times will provide his obit and Sidney's if you do not have a copy.

You misunderstood me. I did not suggest a search under other names. Rather I said to be sure the FBI includes all its "see" references. Those are references to Sidney in documents of which he is not the subject. See under, etc.

With this backlog I think it is worth taking the time to file those requests at the field offices. They do not have such backlogs and may respond fairly promptly. Comparatively, anyway!

It is proper that the FBI protect the privacy of others but that privacy ends when life ends. You may be well advised if you do any searchings, as in the Times, which is indexed (or better if you have a friend there who can get copies from their morgue), to include while you are at it all those you know Sidney had any association with ~~wh~~ in whom the FBI could have had an interest.

You say Sidney was active in movies about the time of the Hollywood Ten. If he had any connection with them or with that case knew that one Edward Dmytryk was a fink amongst them. That SOB stole most of what I'd collected for a book on those UnAmericans! He came with a man with whom I'd worked on the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, a man I trusted, to get what they could use in their defense. It was ~~never~~ <sup>never</sup> returned. Years later, when I located him through one of the others, he claimed to have no recollection or knowledge.

The one name I remember that Sidney mentioned having any movie connection with is Walter Wanger. He was then a top producer.

But if <sup>Sidney</sup> he was in any way associated with any of the Ten then the see references are important to get. You can be sure the FBI had quite a few symbol ~~informers~~ <sup>informers</sup> informers (who worked for the FBI and not mere sources) in whose reports Sidney might have figured.

That reminds me: I think I met him through an editor, later a medical writer and editor, named Allan Chase. Chase then worked <sup>The Magazine</sup> for CLICK, then officed in Phila. and later in NYC. Another possible "see" source. Last I saw Allan he lived on the upper west side, about 100 and Broadway.

Did you know <sup>Sidney</sup> he produced the MacBeth that won an Emmy for NBC-TV? The dir-



tor got the Emmy.

Do not refer to "files." Refer to records. Not even documents because records have other forms, like photos and tapes. And if you have not mentioned including the "see" references be sure to include that in some <sup>letter</sup>, as if you send any obits. Martha Dodd and Alfred K. Stern, for example, are both dead. I think I told you enough of that story. The <sup>FBI</sup> had ample reason to have exhaustive files on her. She was bedding all the prominent Nazis she could when he father was ambassador. He was a <sup>respect</sup> historian.

I remember <sup>Sidney</sup> ~~her~~ met with Howard Fast in whom there years earlier had been an <sup>FBI</sup> interest. Sidney was trying to get the rights to some of Fast's writings he did not get. He also met with the man who produced The March of Time (magazine if that is not what you know about, for Time.). DeRochemond, something like that. He was gay and the FBI had a sick interest in them. Aside from politics, real and imagined.

I/for no other reason the FBI would probably have a London file on Burdberg because she introduced my first Whitewash to Collins and the stinker they had do a peer review was working for British intelligence and was in touch, at least, with the LEGAT in the Embassy. She was, as I remember what Sidney told me, the "brains" of Sir Arthur Rank, well-known producer.

He got Gordon Harbord to act as my agent in London.

As best I recall the name, he also introduced that book to Fischer AG, then a major German publisher, through Stephanie Huntziger. Their mail to me never reached me (they wanted to do the book) nor did the ms. when they mailed in <sup>back</sup>. In those days the FBI was intercepted <sup>INB</sup> foreign mail for the CIA. Came out in the Church committee hearings.

He had contacts in Yugoslavia, in which the FBI and CIA were interested. He told me of producing a film there.

And I know so little of his life, only what came up in conversation that I can recall.

With 900 pages the <sup>of</sup> given total I believe that may be <sup>of</sup> records on him only, with no "see" references." Of which they should be quite a few.

I do encourage you to perfect the record to the degree possible <sup>before</sup> they get to processing. The page number probably comes from the records listed in his name in HQ central files. Not only do I believe that the FBI in general avoids those when it can, you gave it what it can use as an excuse in referring to "files." I think that when you make this <sup>clear</sup>, that you want everything, you should also say that you understand that may increase the cost and you'll pay that increased cost. They will not cheat you on that because they'll assume you can count.

This is <sup>at</sup> a day that has no religious meaning to me but is one that should tell us to keep hope up and to keep trying.

love,

Dandy

Katharine Weber

108 BEACON ROAD, BETHANY, CONNECTICUT 06524

December 15, 1995

Dear Harold,

I appreciate your advice. Enclosed are copies of the correspondence. (I printed out what was on my hard disk of my end of the correspondence and made fax copies of incoming, as I have one of those, but no copier here in my office. As you no doubt know, these are impermanent copies.) I will request those records of those additional names be searched, but as you can see, it appears that there is a wealth of Sidney material already identified (see correspondence dated 4-09-93).

Here, too, is a photocopy of the catalog listing for my forthcoming paperback edition of Objects. I can't remember if I told you I've sold the French rights, to Bellefond. Here's hoping it breaks a foreign rights logjam and results in a few more.

All best to you both -- And I really do hope you and I both live to see these records!

As ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katharine".



December 30, 1992

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Freedom of Information Section  
10th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you to request, under the FOI regulations, copies of any files you may have on me. My maiden name is Katharine Swift Kaufman, my name now is Katharine Weber, address as above. My social security number is 064 50 7560. My birthdate is 11/12/55. *reply was negative*

I would also like to request any files you may have for my late father, Sidney Kaufman. He was born on 3/28/10 and died on 7/30/83. His address in New York for many years was 14 Fairway Close, in Forest Hills. He was politically active in the film business, particularly around the defense of the Hollywood 10. He also knew the playwright Ernst Toller.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Weber

203 393-0147  
782-1956



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

MS KATHARINE WELLS  
108 BEACH ROAD  
BETHANY, CT 06525

Washington, D.C. 20535

JAN 15 1993

Request No. 369149

FOIA REQUEST

✓  This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) request.

Based on the limited information you provided, we cannot make an accurate search of our records. Please furnish your complete date of birth, race, sex, and place of birth, prior addresses, and employment, and any other data that would permit us to locate the information requested.

✓  Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Freedom of Information Act is not a law designed to ensure that the government's activities are a reasonable means of protecting individual privacy, right of access to the information.

We will conduct a search of our information systems for any arrest record that might pertain to you. Please supply with the enclosed a definition set forth in Attorney General Circular 500-37. Except that you may wish to request that we compare with records in the following areas: (1) criminal records; (2) records disseminated to an agency; (3) etc.

We are currently conducting a search of our central records system files at FBI headquarters for any documents which may pertain to your request. Upon completion of this search, you will be notified of the results.

Provide the complete name, date and place of birth, to the subject of your request. If the subject is deceased, you should give death and any burial records you have.

Your request has been assigned the number indicated above. Please use this number in all correspondence with us.

Sincerely yours

*J. Kevin O'Brien*  
Chief

Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington D.C. 20535

JAN 22 1993

MS KATHARINE WEHLE  
108 BEACON ROAD  
BETHANY, CT 06529

Request No. 369,150  
Re: Sidney Kaufman

Dear Requester:

We can neither confirm nor deny the existence of the records you are seeking about other individuals without either proof of death or a notarized authorization (privacy waiver) from those persons.

Proof of death can be a copy of a death certificate, obituary, or a recognized reference source. Waivers of personal privacy must be notarized, must specifically identify the person waiving privacy (including full name, date and place of birth, and present address), and must be specifically directed to the FBI, permitting the FBI to release personal information from its files about the person executing the waiver. The waiver should be dated within a reasonable time period preceding the request, and the original copy of the waiver must be provided to the FBI.

Without proof of death or a notarized authorization, the disclosure of law enforcement records or information about another person is considered an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Such records are exempt from disclosure pursuant to Exemptions (b)(6) and/or (b)(7)(C) of the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552.

If you submit either a copy of the proof of death or an original notarized authorization directly to the FBI, we will conduct a search of our records. In addition, to insure an accurate search, please provide the complete name, as well as the date and place of birth of the subject of your request, if you have not already done so.

This response should not be considered an indication of whether or not records responsive to your request exist in FBI files.





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

APR 9 1993

MS KATHARINE WEHLER  
108 BEACON ROAD  
BETHANY, CT 06524

Request No. 369,150-001  
Re: Sidney Kaufman

Dear Requester:

This is in further response to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Act (FOIPA) request.

Documents which appear to be responsive to your request consist of approximately 2 pages. If all pages are determined to be releasable, duplication costs of \$ 70.00 could result, representing a charge of ten cents per page. No fees are assessed for the first 100 pages of duplication. It is emphasized that this is only an estimate; and that the actual charges, after completion of processing of these records, will most likely be less. No duplication fees will be charged for pages that are withheld in their entirety pursuant to any FOIPA exemptions.

Department of Justice regulations (Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 16.10 and 16.47) require notification to a requester when anticipated charges exceed \$25. This letter constitutes such notification.

Please indicate in writing your willingness to pay the estimated fees so that further action can be taken on your request. No payment should be submitted at this time. If you wish to reduce the scope of your request to meet your needs at a lower cost, please advise this office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Kevin O'Brien*

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief  
Freedom of Information-Privacy  
Acts Section  
Information Management Division



April 13, 1993

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief  
Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Section  
Records Management Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

With regard to your communication re Request No. 369,150-001 (Sidney Kaufman), I acknowledge that the copying costs of approximately 800 pages will result in a charge to me of approximately \$70, which I am prepared to pay. I look forward to receiving these files from you.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Weber





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

APR 20 1993

Ms. Barbara J. [unclear]  
200 [unclear]  
Bethany, CT 06801

Request No. 200-1-10001

Re: Sindy Kaufman

Dear Requester:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 12, 1993 expressing your willingness to pay the estimated fees of \$70.00.

The FBI has over 200 employees assigned full time to comply with the disclosure provisions of the FOIPA. Despite this commitment, a significant increase in the number of requests received has strained our resources and resulted in a tremendous backlog of requests awaiting review. At the end of March, 1993, our total requests on hand in various stages of processing numbered over 10,000. These requests will require the review of an estimated 3.2 million pages.

In fairness to our thousands of requesters, we handle requests based on approximate order of receipt consistent with sound administrative practices. In view of the large volume of requests on hand, delays in excess of one year are not uncommon.

In order to reduce unnecessary correspondence, we will notify you only after the processing of your request has been partially or fully completed. Thank you for your anticipated patience and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief  
Freedom of Information-Privacy  
Acts Section  
Information Management Division



December 24, 1993

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief  
Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Section  
Records Management Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

With regard to your communication re Request No. 369,150-001 (Sidney Kaufman), I acknowledged in April of this year that the copying costs of approximately 800 pages will result in a charge to me of approximately \$70, which I am prepared to pay. I look forward to receiving these files from you. It has now been almost a year since I began these inquiries. When may I expect to hear from you? I am under the impression that the Freedom of Information Act requires response within a time limit that has now been exceeded.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Weber





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

Mr. Kathleen Ryan  
108 Beacon Road  
Bethany, Ct 06525

JAN 25 1994

Request No. 369153-001

Re: Sidney Kaufman

Dear Requester:

We are in receipt of your letter dated Dec 24, 1993, regarding your Freedom of Information-Privacy Act (FOIPA) request.

Your request is still pending with the Bureau, unfortunately, due to the many thousands of requests and millions of pages awaiting review, we are unable to give you a definite date regarding the completion of your request.

Our analysts handle cases of all degrees of complexity and it is virtually impossible to estimate when a particular request will come up for review. To process your request out of turn would be unfair to the other requesters who submitted their requests prior to yours. You will be advised only after the processing of your request has been partially or fully completed.

We regret the unavoidable delays we are experiencing and want you to know we have recognized our increased workload demands. In connection with the annual budget process, the FBI has made repeated requests for additional FOIPA personnel to the Office of Management and Budget to no avail. We, therefore, do our best with the resources available to us.

Sincerely yours,

*J. Kevin O'Brien*

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief  
Freedom of Information-Privacy  
Acts Section  
Information Resources Division



November 8, 1994

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief  
Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Section  
Records Management Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

Re: Request No. 369,150-001  
Sidney Kaufman

This request has been delayed for nearly two years. I recognize that you have a huge volume of requests under the FOIPA, but the delay has now exceeded what I understand to be the legal limit. I am anxious to see this material, and would like to hear from you a date by which time I can expect to receive the approximately 800 pages, for which I have agreed to pay the approximately \$70 of copying costs. Please let me know where we stand. I will be forced to initiate legal action if this can't be resolved in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Weber





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

M. F. [unclear]  
105 [unclear]  
Bethany, CT [unclear]

Washington, D. C. 20535  
JAN 1 1992

Request No. 302150-001

Re: Sidney Kaufman

Dear Mr. [unclear]:

This is in reference to the Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request noted above.

Unfortunately, due to our limited resources and thousands of requests on hand, we are unable to give you a definite date of when this request will be assigned. At the end of November, 1991, our total requests numbered over 200 with an estimated 200 million pages to review. We assign our requests for processing based on the date of receipt consistent with sound administrative practices. We have this request filed in our backlog of unassigned requests by the date of January 3, 1992, the date we received it. We are currently assigning cases we received in February, 1992 and, therefore, you can expect an extensive delay in assignment.

In recent years, the FBI has experienced a general increase in the level of new FOIPA requests. At the same time, we have not had sufficient resources to address this increase or the backlog of work on hand. Repeated efforts by the FBI to obtain additional resources through the annual budget process have not been successful. The FOIPA Section has also been obligated to comply with court deadlines and other legislation, requiring the expenditure of a large number of resources on a limited number of requests. These court deadlines and other legislation have further exacerbated an already bad backlog situation, causing additional delays in the assignment of work.

We have enclosed a copy of the guidelines issued by the Department of Justice that set forth criteria for accelerated processing if a requester can demonstrate exceptional need or urgency. The circumstances surrounding this request do not appear to qualify for expedite handling and to assign it out of turn would be unfair to the other requesters who submitted their requests earlier.



October 6, 1995

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief  
Freedom of Information-  
Privacy Acts Section  
Records Management Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

Re: Request No. 369,150-001  
Sidney Kaufman

This request was first made at the end of 1992. I have repeatedly inquired as to its status, and I do recognize that you have a huge volume of requests under the FOIPA, but the delay has now exceeded what I understand to be the legal limit. I am anxious to see this material, and would like to hear from you immediately with information on when I can expect to see this material. I have an urgent need for these approximately 800 pages, for which I have agreed to pay the approximately \$70 of copying costs. Please let me know where we stand.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Weber



JUNE

# Objects in Mirror Are Closer than They Appear

Katharine Weber



"An amazing first novel...witty, hip, deep, witty—characteristics which are seldom found together. It is also a good story."  
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A NOVEL

HARriet Ross, TWENTY-SIX, IS AN AMERICAN THROUGH WHOM just winning recognition for her work. A friend-fellowship brings her to visit her best friend and former roommate, Anne Corwin, in Switzerland. In an ongoing letter to her boyfriend, Harriet reports on strange developments in Anne's life, most notably her affair with a much older married man, which seems to be leading to a disastrous conclusion. Before she can rescue Anne, events take a series of unexpected turns, and Harriet must reexamine her own life and past, and come to terms with the difficulties and possibilities of human relationships.

"Engaging...Ms. Weber's nuanced renderings of childhood traumas, of families in crisis and of Harriet's grandmother are impressive."  
—Elizabeth Benedict, *The New York Times Book Review*

"She provides a blend of artistry and insight far beyond what we usually see in a first novel. This debut offering transports us to a world we usually see in a new talent well worth watching."  
—Andy Sedwington, *San Francisco Chronicle Book Review*

"Witty, interesting...a meticulously-drawn cast of characters, keen irony, and a flawless sense of place."  
—Janith Kahan, *The Plain Dealer*

TITLE ABBREVIATION: DETAILS  
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# Katharine Weber



"Wonderfully complex characters, witty prose, ironic situations and tragic consequences...It's Weber's control of the language that holds this cleverly touching book together."  
—Jean Bish Sices, *Chicago Tribune*

JUNE

KATHARINE WEBER'S first fiction in print was a portion of this novel that appeared in *The New Yorker*. Her fiction has also been published in *Stern*, and her journalism and reviews have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *Publishers Weekly*. She lives in Berkeley, Connecticut with her husband and their two daughters.

PICADOR FICTION 111

*Olyvia made the NYT's Best Reads 1995 "notable" list!*