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April 25, 1989

Letters to the Editor
Sarasota Herald-Tribune
P.O. Box 1719
801 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 33578

Dear Sirs:

Your April 23 lead story on faith-healing was misleading in several respects, as a result of the distortion and exclusion of nearly all of the information that I provided to your reporter during our hour-long conversation (I was the "skeptic" interviewed).

Rather than being "rarely provable", I noted that no such case has ever been documented by skeptical researchers, despite 30 years of searching by investigators such as MacArthur Foundation Fellow James Randi, author of The Faith Healers. My own investigations of a half-dozen such claims have proved fruitless as well.

I mentioned the Southern Medical Journal article as an example of an embarrassingly flawed study that served only to further muddle the distinction between scientific fact and religious faith. My critique of the study is scheduled for publication in "Free Inquiry" magazine later this year.

Sincerely,



Gary P. Posner, M.D.