

COMMUNICATIONS

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about this questionable method of treatment. I happen to be a student of psychology.

Anyone with even a sparse background in psychology realizes that the diagnosis and the treatment of mental disorders usually takes more than just one session with a therapist and that the actual presence of the therapist is extremely important.

Drs. Cavender and Fischer take an alarmingly simplistic view of psychological problems by stating that "eighty percent of people's problems centered on problem-causing beliefs." This idea does not make sense, especially if one considers various types of schizophrenia and those mental illnesses that have some basis in biological causes.

I found their answers to be vague and misleading, and not very professional. I question the ethics of such a practice that claims it can set one on the road to a happier life. Perhaps the most revealing aspect of this article is that Anne Klein did not say whether the treatment was effective or not. I would not be surprised if therapy by mail becomes another fad that will quickly fade away.

James Watson
Warren, Mich.

Unlucky Winner

I am honored that James Randi has used *Omni* [Last Word, May 1982] to give me his 1982 Uri Award for the "silliest statement made about the paranormal by an academic." Given Mr. Randi's passionate commitment to attacking anything that suggests that the psi abilities might be real, his need to single me out for this award assures me that my research must be becoming more productive.

The statement he attributes to me, "The prediction of any event becomes more difficult the more distant in the future the event is," is the opposite of what I said in a paper I read at the 1981 meeting of the Parapsychological Association.

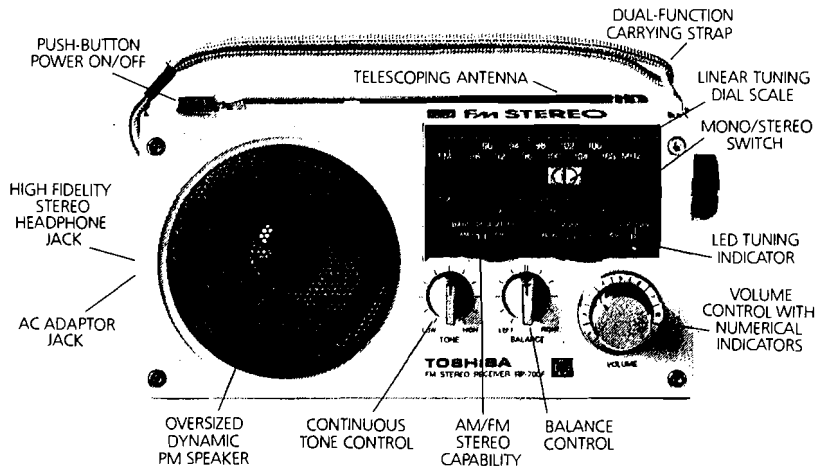
If elementary standards of competency were used by Mr. Randi in giving his award, such as being able to read correctly what someone has written, in all honesty I would have to decline it. Judging from his past performances, though, I'm sure Mr. Randi was not too concerned with what I actually said when he selected me for his award. So I can accept it with a clear conscience.

I would prefer if Mr. Randi shipped me my award "... tastefully bent spoons, each mounted on a cheap, clear plastic base," by parcel post rather than by teleportation.

Charles Tart
Davis, Calif.

Erratum

We mistakenly stated [Forum, June 1982] that Eric Siegel was the founder of Aesthetic Realism. The name intended was Eli Siegel.—Ed. **OO**



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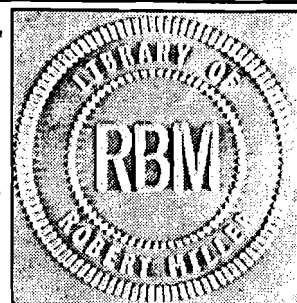
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