



6219 Palma Boulevard #210  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33715

September 9, 1989

Axelrod Publishing  
1304 DeSoto Avenue, Suite 308  
Tampa, FL 33606

Dear Sirs:

I was handed your "Psychic Children" questionnaire when I entered the studios of WTVT (Ch. 13) to participate in a Sept. 6 program on psychic power. As I explained on the show, despite the claims of alleged "psychics", no one has ever successfully demonstrated psychic power under conditions which eliminate the possibility of cheating or self-delusion. As far as scientific evidence is concerned, psychic power has never been shown to exist.

Colleagues of mine such as James Randi (who was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1986 for his work in exposing psychic fraud) have been searching throughout the world for 30+ years for anyone who is actually able to do what he/she claims to be able to do. Randi has a standing offer of \$10,000 which he will award on the spot for a successful psychic performance. None of the hundreds of subjects tested has ever succeeded.

The Tampa Bay Skeptics, which I founded last year out of concern over the widespread public belief in such unsubstantiated claims as psychic power, offers \$1,000 to anyone able to demonstrate evidence of psychic power to us. We have had occasion thus far to test only one "psychic", who failed to perform successfully.

It is distressing enough to learn that "an educator in the Hillsborough County School System" believes in the existence of psychic power. It is tragic to hear that she may be planting fantasies of psychic power in the minds of innocent children who have not yet developed the capacity to reason for themselves.

Sincerely,

Gary P. Posner, M.D.  
Founder, Tampa Bay Skeptics

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# *Axelrod Publishing*

OF TAMPA BAY

September 18, 1989

Gary P. Posner, M.D.  
Founder, Tampa Bay Skeptics  
6219 Palma Boulevard #210  
St. Petersburg, FL 33715

Dear Dr. Posner:

Thank you so much for your letter of September 9, 1989. I understand your concern about children who have not yet developed the capacity to reason for themselves.

Perhaps we overstated our goals in the questionnaire. For lack of a better word, our provisional title is for all practical purposes a misnomer. To more clearly state the subject matter of our forthcoming book, "the highly developed sixth sense" of some children seems much more appropriate.

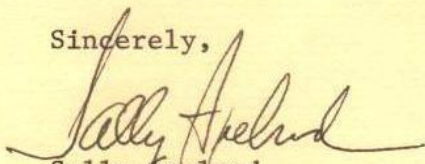
If you look back upon your own very early years, I feel quite certain that you may agree that the natural curiosity and sensitivity that you were born with, was somehow stifled in the "growing up" process. We are told how to think, act, speak, and this leaves very little left in the way of creativity.

Some children, the minority I'm sure, are encouraged to explore their own natural tendencies. The parents of these children are not threatened by the fact that the children are more sensitive about the world around them, and in some way there is a connection made that ultimately creates a child with a highly developed sixth sense.

I did attend the "Eye On Tampa Bay" show in which you were a panelist. We would certainly prefer to have you as an ally, rather than an adversary. I hope that this letter helps to clarify our goals in a way that will create a bridge of understanding across Tampa Bay.

Please accept this letter as our sincere way of saying that we have no intention of offending anyone.

Sincerely,



Sally Axelrod