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ALTERNATIVE  
MEDICINE  
[www.hcrrc.org/sram](http://www.hcrrc.org/sram)

Dear Ms. Zahn,

Thank you so much for including Dr. Richard Sloan in last night's discussion about the purported miraculous effects of prayer. Without his enlightened skeptical insights, your audience would have been terribly misinformed.

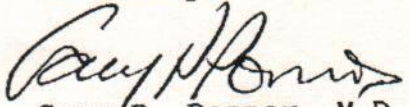
If only you had similarly included a skeptic during your recent embarrassing interview with John Edward. Any magician or psychologist with the barest knowledge of "cold reading" techniques could have pointed out how, rather than coming up with the information himself, Edward was actually obtaining it from the callers!

Please replay that interview and have it transcribed. You will see that his ratio of questions asked vs. facts given is astronomical. Lynn Sherr of ABC-TV News was similarly surprised to only belatedly realize that James Van Praagh (one of Edward's cohorts) did not "know" that the deceased man was her father -- upon reviewing the tape in the presence of renowned skeptic James "The Amazing" Randi, she clearly saw that **it was she who had first told Van Praagh** that the man was her father!

If you visit my website (address above) and click on "James Van Praagh," you will find my published critique of his technique, which is indistinguishable from that of Edward.

Please consider inviting a skeptic onto your show to explain how performers like Edward, Van Praagh, Kreskin, etc. are simply practitioners of "mentalism," a branch of magic. Edward no more communicates with the dead than David Copperfield "levitates" people on stage.

Sincerely,

  
Gary P. Posner, M.D.

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**Paula Zahn**  
Anchor

September 11, 2000

Gary P. Posner, M.D.  
1113 Normandy Trace Road  
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Dr. Posner,

Thanks for your feedback on my interviews with Dr. Richard Sloan and John Edward. I was impressed with your insights into Mr. Edward's and Mr. Van Praagh's techniques. That information will be useful to me in follow-up interviews.

Thanks again for watching "The Edge."

Sincerely,

  
Paula Zahn

PZ/je