100 items selected 10 at a time is approximately $1 \cdot 73 \times 10^{13}$ and not the value given by Thalbourne on page 92.]

2. Thalbourne's actual RANMAT program does not fit the description given in his Journal article.

3. The actual RANMAT program is essentially a Monte Carlo implementation of the 'direct-count-of-permutations' method described by Schlitz and Gruber (1980). This assumes a closed deck condition with nonindependence of trials. The implemented RANMAT method is not completely comparable to 'Morris' Exact Test' (Thalbourne's term; sometimes referred to as a sum-of-ranks statistic) because Morris' Exact Test assumes independent trials (Morris, 1972; Solfvin, Kelly, and Burdick, 1978).

4. Thalbourne claims that his Randomization Test gives greater statistical power over that of Morris' Exact Test. He gives no real evidence for this claim.

5. Thalbourne states 'The *reason* for the greater power of the Randomization Test [over that of Morris' Exact Test] is basically that it is "distribution free"' (p. 93). Morris' Exact Test is also 'distribution free'.

6. Thalbourne gives no confidence limits so that one might estimate accuracy of his simulations. Without this, we do not have any assurance that a claimed significant effect is indeed significant.

These points were brought to the attention of Dr. Thalbourne in 1982.

Psychophysical Research Laboratories   GEORGE P. HANSEN
301 College Road East
Princeton, NJ 08540

REFERENCES

Edge, H. L., Morris. R. L., Palmer, J., & Rush, J. H. (1986). *Foundations of Parapsychology*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Morris, R. L. (1972). An exact method for evaluating preferentially matched free-response material. *JASPR*, **66**, 401–407.

Schlitz, M. & Gruber, E. (1980). Transcontinental remote viewing. *JP*, **44**, 305–317.

Solfvin, G. F., Kelly, E. F. & Burdick, D. S. (1978). Some new methods of analysis for preferential-ranking data. *JASPR*, **72**, 93–109.

To the Editor,

Monte Carlo methods are becoming more frequently used in parapsychology. John Palmer (Edge, Morris, Palmer, Rush, 1986) indicated that such methods 'may well be the wave of the future in evaluating psi data' (page 151). One of the first examples was presented by Michael Thalbourne in an exceptionally readable article 'A More Powerful Method of Evaluating Data From Free-Response Experiments' (*JSPR*, **50**, 1979, pp. 84–107). Unfortunately, that paper contains a number of serious errors and misconceptions.

1. The description of the Randomization Test given on page 92 is incorrect; the method described counts combinations that cannot occur with the actual experimental procedure. If the described method were used it would result in a wrong probability value being estimated. [Also, the number of combinations of