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BYLINES

Hoaxer Strikes Again

Notorious media hoaxer **Joey Skaggs**, who has been duping the press for 30 years (see "Wanted for Media Hoaxing," April 1992), strikes again. In a December 29, 1995, CNN segment Skaggs posed as NYU research scientist Dr. Joseph Bonuso, luring CNN into an elaborate prank that had the network reporting on a revolutionary new computer program called Solomon. The program supposedly utilized artificial intelligence to produce accurate verdicts. Skaggs' peg for the story? The O.J. Simpson trial, of course. The fictitious Solomon, when given Simpson trial testimony, produced a guilty verdict, and the *Orange County Register* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, as well as CNN, took the bait. Skaggs, a self-described performance artist and media satirist, is pleased with the results of his latest scam, but insists his true intentions are misunderstood. "I use media attention to educate, enlighten and inspire.... Hopefully there's a lesson in these performances for everyone to be more media conscious and more media literate.

**Skaggs**

Don't just look to one source as the information source. Go out and question authority."