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What has The Psychologist every done for me?

Apart from the seemingly endless supply of tutorial talking points, I have twice been inspired by The Psychology to explore topics I might not otherwise have known about. The first instance was an article by Esther Burkitt (2004, 17(1); p566-568) on drawing conclusions from children's drawings. The second instance was an article by Justin Park and Mark Shaller (2009, 22(11); p942-945) on the behavioural immune system. Both of these articles have led to 3<sup>rd</sup> year student projects of various kinds, 3 conference presentations (one of which was an invited poster at an international conference where Professors David Perrett and Robin Dunbar both gave me a hi-five!) and two full journal submissions (one submitted and one almost ready to go).

I also got my first single authored publication (a book review) in The Psychologist (Dunn, 2006; 19(4); p229). It was a really great thing to do because it (a) was good writing practice, (b) good for the CV, (c) I got a free book and (d) it was nice to see my name in print. Consequently, I now recommend that all my PhD students get reviewing books in their first year (and most of them have).

I think that what I like about the The Psychologist, is that even when there's a clear theme, you never quite know what it's going to give you or where it's going to lead. As a case in point, I was thinking about Pipes (see, Ciarán O'Keeffe's recent "Looking back: The ghost in the living room"; p856-859) and it reminded me of a Paul Daniels Halloween Magic TV special, where it ended without knowing if Paul was dead or alive. Does anyone else remember that?

I have a tutorial in a few minutes on ghosts and being skeptical. Guess where the inspiration came for that?