Backling Bush

Why should readers of the BJGP be subjected to your and your contributors’ glib views on the recent US presidential election?1,2 At least one of your readers is happy that Bush was re-elected. Kerry voted against the 1991 war against Iraq. Had he been in power then, we would have faced a Saddam in charge of a ‘greater’ Iraq enriched by Kuwait’s oil wealth. He was often ambivalent in his support for the war on terror, managing to portray himself as being both against it and critical of it not being fought with more vigour.

In Bush we have that rare thing, a politician who says what he means and does what he says. I am grateful for his, and Blair’s, resolve to overthrow Saddam’s regime. I don’t mind you disagreeing with me. I do mind the cosy assumption of so much of the media that the re-election of Bush is ‘perplexing’ and that only an idiot much of the media that the re-election of Bush is ‘perplexing’ and that only an idiot could support him.

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REFERENCES

Dirty magazines

I read with great interest Dr Charnock’s1 paper about bacterial contamination of waiting room magazines. I wonder whether he made any attempt to differentiate between titles? Were there similar numbers of bacteria on Readers Digest as The Field? Is Cosmopolitan as dirty as Good Housekeeping?

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1. Charnock C. Swabbing of waiting room magazines. I wonder whether he made any attempt to differentiate between titles? Were there similar numbers of bacteria on Readers Digest as The Field? Is Cosmopolitan as dirty as Good Housekeeping?

The act of communicating

I read the discussion paper on communication skills by Professor Skelton with interest.1 Having been involved in the teaching of communication skills to medical students and GP registrars for some years I feel that the paper raised interesting issues about the subject and its future. Traditionally the model of medical expertise used to design teaching (and assessments) considered the three domains of knowledge, skills and attitudes. A fourth domain of problem-solving skills was later added. In this model, communication and consultation...