

Newspaper Clips

October 26, 2011

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No gals for IIT guys

The IIT campus was buzzing with activity on the second day of its annual festival - Rendezvous. It seems though, that IIT-D has downgraded its annual festival celebrations from last year when Anushka Sharma and Ranveer Singh were present along with the Ja band.

Running in its 50th year of existence, IIT-D hosted a number of sub-fests at the annual festival. These included Shubha Mudgal's performance at the Indian musical fest called Saaz and Mexican band Pate De Fua's performance at the International musical festival - Confluence. On display was also an Formula 1 car which was the centre of attraction for all curious bystanders. "Formula Student of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) is a course in IIT, and these guys can produce tech and machinery. They can even get together an F1 car," said Saurabh, a computer science student.

At RDX, a couples-only poolside dance was organised, however a lot of DU boys managed to get in and the IIT-ians, who were without female company, were given the cold shoulder by the girls. When a group of IIT-ians were asked why they were stranded without a girl in their own college, they replied, "The sex ratio here is skewed. We don't have a lot of girls." When prodded further they joked, "Probably girls don't like geeks and if they do probably we don't make for a very good-looking bunch."

Caroline D'Cruz



WHAT A STEAL: Students at a scarves stall



PLAY IT ON: Mexican band Pate De Fua wowed the audience



A member of Mexican band Pate De Fua



Shubha Mudgal

e-paper

Times of India ND 26/10/2011 P1

24% rise in H-1B visas to Indians

Top Beneficiary In 4 Years: US

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: More Indian skilled professionals are apparently winging their way to the US again. The US government has reported a 24% increase in H-1B visas to Indians between 2010 and 2011.

In a statement on Tuesday, the US embassy in India

► Booming trade ties, P 14

said specialized skills work visas for Indians had increased from 54,111 in 2010 to 67,195 in 2011.

The US statement comes

UK blacklists 1,900 Indian banks

Britain published a list of nearly 1,900 banks in India — most of them cooperative — whose financial statements will not be accepted for student visa purposes, a move that will affect thousands of Indian students planning to study there. The new list has just 85 banks in India whose statements will be accepted for student visas.

on the back of sustained Indian complaints from industry and government that more and more Indian skilled workers were being denied entry.

Oz cancels 15k student visas, Indians hit hard

Melbourne: Australia has cancelled 15,066 student visas of foreign nationals for breaching visa conditions and over 3,000 face deportation for flunking subjects, with Indians among the hardest hit, reports said.

The Immigration Department has already cancelled 15,066 foreign student visas in the past year, a 37% spike from the previous year.

About 3,624 students are facing deportation for flunking subjects or missing class-

es and a further 2,235 visas were cancelled on students who quit their original courses and were working illegally, in some cases in brothels, The Daily Telegraph reported.

The report said that one in every five international students is Chinese, while one in every six is Indian. The majority of international students were placed in New South Wales and Victoria. The report said Indian students have been hit the hardest. AGENCIES

Economic Times Kolkata 25.10.11,p-1

As West Heads South, Ivy Grads Eye India

Bain, AT Kearney & BCG see increase in no. of resumes from top B-schools graduates



SALAM

SAUMYA BHATTACHARYA
NEW DELHI

Graduates from the elite Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) may be the cat's whiskers in the job market but perhaps not for too much longer.

They will now have to vie with their global counterparts from Ivy League universities and other top institutes worldwide for top drawer placements and compensation.

The most-coveted consulting firms at top B school campuses in India such as Bain and Co, AT Kearney and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) say the number of resumes from graduates at top B schools such as Harvard, Wharton, Kellogg, Stanford, and INSEAD-France has shot up recently.

These include largely students of Indian origin, although feelers are coming in from non-Indians, too. The good news for graduates from IIMs and other top Indian B-schools is that

they still constitute close to 90% of the total hires of such esteemed firms, which are among the top choices for students.

"Given the troubled economic scenario in the western world, India seems like a good option," says Sampath Sudarshan Kumar, partner, Bain & Company. Bain, which hardly ever received resumes from non-Indians, has of late seen such requests for direct hiring into India.

"We expect to see more of this as having the China and/or India experience is increasingly becoming important—almost a necessity—for career progression," adds Kumar.

At BCG India, queries have been increasing from institutes such as Harvard, Stanford and Kellogg. "At the moment it is reactive hiring, but BCG India is planning to look at it more actively," says Ravi Srivastava, partner and director, BCG India.

Working in India ►► 6

Companies Get More Requests for Working in India Offices

►► From Page 1

AT Kearney in India hires mostly from the IIMs — Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, and sometimes Lucknow; it also taps the India School of Business, Hyderabad. Of late, though, there have been some shifts.

Vikas Kaushal, partner & vice-president, AT Kearney, says: "It is true that a lot more aspirants from Ivy League institutions and top B schools now approach us for working in India."

For example, at INSEAD in France, the number of queries to work in the India offices of AT Kearney has gone up in the last couple of years.

AT Kearney teams in France under-

take the recruitment program in INSEAD and also identify potential candidates for the Indian practice, says

At INSEAD in France, the number of queries to work in the India offices of AT Kearney has gone up in the last couple of years

Kaushal. AT Kearney selectively looks at people from leading B-schools such as Wharton, Harvard and others.

The firm has also started getting requests from graduates from Western B schools who want to work in India for a few years.

"It's good to have India on the CV. There is an increasing set of people who want to work for two-three years. The interest

in getting work experience in a growing economy like India has increased. We get applications where people want to work in India for a few years," says Kaushal. McKinsey & Company does get several applications from students at Ivy Leagues and other top institutes, but has no near-term plan to recruit from there.

"We're blessed with great talent in India, and as a firm have the benefit of an excellent global talent pool; so we have no near-term plans to proactively recruit abroad for entry level for India," says Renny Thomas, partner, McKinsey & Company.

For the Ivy Leaguers and graduates from top B schools abroad, salaries are Indian. Firms say that pay packets are role-linked and not institute-linked.

"Ivy League students will get the same salary as IIM students for the same role," says Kaushal.

That effectively means Ivy League students are willing to take a salary cut to work in India. At Bain, none of the overseas candidates is paid differently when compared to equivalent candidates in India.

"The consulting price points in India will not permit us to pay Western salaries but our compensation is extremely competitive and comfortable from an Indian perspective," says Bain's Kumar

UK blacklists 2000 Indian banks from student visa process

Financial statements from these banks won't be recognised

Vidya Ram

London, Oct. 25

As of November 24 this year, around 1,940 banks – mostly cooperative ones – have been named as “financial institutions that do not satisfactorily verify financial statements,” according to the UK Border Agency.

It means that students who need to show evidence that they have enough funds to support themselves through a course in the UK won't be able to rely on statements from any of those institutions. The agency, part of Britain's Home Office, provides a full list of names, ranging from the Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-Op Bank Ltd, to the Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd, to the Pondicherry Coop. Urban Bank.

In most cases the banks had been excluded because they didn't verify financial statements to the UKBA's satisfaction in at least half of a sample of cases looked at, UKBA said. That meant that requests for further information weren't



A file picture of a queue for visa outside the British High Commission in New Delhi.

responded to, or that UKBA weren't able to get in contact with the bank. Others had been excluded because they weren't part of wider verification schemes. “The list will be kept under review and additions or deletions made as appropriate,” said UKBA in a statement.

Just 85 banks make it onto the list of accepted Indian institutions, ranging from ICICI to Karnataka Bank to subsidiaries of foreign financial institutions including Citibank, BNP Paribas, and the Bank of Nova Scotia.

In June this year, as part of a wider tightening of the immigration system, UKBA

said it would publish lists of acceptable institutions for the Tier-4 visa application process. Once listed, the ban on a specific institution will come into effect in 30 days.

The initial list of accepted and excluded institutions covers just three countries: India, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Tightening the immigration process for students has been a central part of the coalition Government's pledge to reduce non-EU immigration from the “hundreds of thousands” to the “tens of thousands”.

The Government believes that major abuses of the system had taken place. The Prime Minister of the UK, Mr David Cameron, told MPs earlier this year that more than a third of student applications verified by the British embassy's visa department in New Delhi last June were found to contain forged documents. Large numbers of education providers in the UK have had their licences revoked, while others won't be able to bring in non-EU students.

Business Line ND 26.10.2011 P-22

NASA new launch to test tech to be used by nextgen satellites

Associated Press

Los Angeles, Oct. 25

After a five-year delay, an Earth-observing satellite will be launched to test new technologies aimed at improving weather forecasts and monitoring climate change.

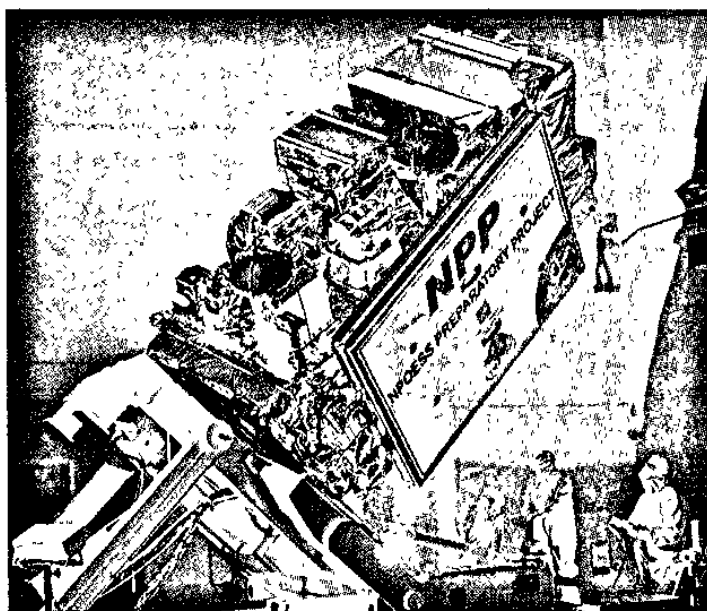
The \$1.5-billion NASA mission comes in a year of weather extremes from the Midwest tornado outbreak to the Southwest wildfires to hurricane-caused flooding in New England.

"We've already had 10 separate weather events, each inflicting at least \$1 billion in damages," said Louis Uccellini of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The satellite will lift off before dawn on Friday from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, aboard a Delta 2 rocket that will boost it into an orbit some 800 km high.

The space agency already has a fleet of satellites circling the Earth, taking measurements of the atmosphere, clouds and oceans. But many are aging and need replacement.

The latest about the size of a small school bus is more sophisticated. It carries five different types of instruments to collect environmental data, including four that never before have flown into



Will hit space on Friday: A NASA handout picture of workmen performing final tests on NASA's National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System Preparatory Project (NPP) satellite at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. NASA is set to launch this Earth-observing satellite to test new technologies aimed at improving weather forecasts and monitoring climate change. — AP

space.

One of the satellite's main jobs is to test key technologies that will be used by next-generation satellites set to launch in a few years.

NOAA meteorologists plan to feed the observations into their weather models to better anticipate and track hurricanes, tornadoes and other extreme weather.

The information will

"help us understand what tomorrow will bring," whether it's the next-day forecast or long-term climate change, said Andrew Carson, the mission's programme executive at NASA headquarters.

The satellite is part of a bigger programme with a troubled history. Originally envisioned as a joint civil-military weather satellite

project, ballooning costs and schedule delays caused the White House last year to dissolve the partnership.

Under the restructuring, the Defense Department is building its own military satellites while NASA is developing a new generation of research satellites for NOAA. Friday's launch is considered the first step toward that goal.

The satellite was supposed to fly in 2006, but problems during the development of several instruments forced a delay. NASA invested about \$895 million in the mission while NOAA and the Air Force contributed \$677 million.

For the launch, NASA invited 20 of its Twitter followers to Vandenberg, where they will receive front-row seats to view the liftoff.

Once in orbit, the satellite, built by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. in Boulder, Colorado, will spend the next five years circling the Earth from pole to pole about a dozen times a day. Data will be transmitted to a ground station in Norway and routed to the US via fiber optic cable. NASA will manage the mission for the first three months before turning it over to NOAA.

Hindustan Times ND 26/10/2011 P-4 (hteducation)

University rebranded?

The 120-year-old University of Wales rebrands itself after a visa scandal relating to foreign students

The 120-year-old University of Wales (UoW) is no more as we know it, after a visa scandal relating to foreign students. A University of Wales (UoW)-linked institute, Rayat London College, was reportedly raided and suspended by the UK

Border Agency over graduate work visa-related allegations. College officials are reported to have allegedly offered to assist international students in exams for UoW courses and work visas.

"On Friday, October 21, the University of Wales Council

met to discuss its future in light of the strategic challenges set by the Welsh Government. The University of Wales Council re-affirmed its merger with the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David and Swansea Metropolitan University. In a significant change to its previous position the Council agreed that the unified institution will be merged under the historic 1822 Royal Charter of Trinity Saint

David, rather than under the 1893 University of Wales Charter. The university's decision was made in the context of the objectives set by the Welsh Government and in particular the recommendations of the Review of Higher Education Governance (the McCormick Review) with regard to the reconfiguration of higher education," said the institution's website.

"The transformed university will build on existing brand loyalty and will enhance its influence on public life in Wales and within an international context. To this end the transformed university pro-

poses to establish a Wales Trust which will act as a stakeholder group," said the message on the website.

The vice chancellor of the University of Wales and the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David, Medwin Hughes said, "I warmly welcome the historic decision taken today by the University of Wales Council. The transformed university will serve and deliver for Wales. Our country will have several universities which can all be regarded as national institutions, each one delivering to their core strengths and specific mission. After a decade of leading

academic institutions, I look forward to working with the government and other institutions in Wales to establish a strong higher education sector. Wales needs strong brands, and the University of Wales has committed itself to an irreversible change which will deliver for our Nation; it signifies a sense of history but also a commitment to a new beginning."

D Hugh Thomas also announced his resignation as chairman of the council.

The university has said it would publish more details about the proposed merger in the "near future".

Times of India ND 26/10/2011

P19

Nasa solves 2,000-year supernova mystery



OUT IN THE OPEN: Remains of the oldest documented example of a supernova RCW 86 S

New infrared observations from Nasa telescopes have revealed how the first supernova ever recorded occurred and how its shattered remains ultimately spread out to great distances. The US space agency said on Monday its Spitzer Space Telescope and Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer had solved a mystery dating from 2,000 years ago when Chinese astronomers witnessed what turned out to be an exploding star. The findings show that the stellar explosion took place in a hollowed-out cavity, allowing material expelled by the star to travel much faster and farther than it would have otherwise.

HindustanTimes

Title : Diwali at the world's top universities

Author : Rahat Bano rbano@hindustantimes.com

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Diwali at the world's top universities



Indian students at major international universities are sharing their culture through fabulous Diwali bashes

Rahat Bano
rbano@hindustantimes.com

They are thousands of miles away from home on Diwali but Indian students are going — firecracker blazing — to recreate the festive atmosphere at the world's top academic institutions — Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics (LSE).

Diwali is going to be hot and happening at the Oxford Diwali Ball (slated for November 5 this year). Diwali Dhamaka at the London School of Economics will offer a buffet, "extraordinary" student song and dance performances and a DJ playing Bollywood numbers.

At the University of Oxford, the Diwali Ball, will feature a traditional three-course Indian meal, a surprise headline act (a British-Asian music artist) and stalls serving mango lassi, pani puri

and other Indian snacks. The grand finale will of course be a fireworks display.

"The Oxford University Hindu Society is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Every year since the society's inception, we have hosted the Oxford Diwali Ball," says Jamie Patel, secretary of the society and a second-year medical student. "Exeter College is the only Oxford college to celebrate Diwali on the exact day (October 25) of the festival with fireworks and feasting," says Patel.

As for the turnout, "students from Cambridge, Oxford Brookes, London universities, and even Bristol are attending the ball," Patel adds. Cambridge University India Society (CUIS) is arranging for a coach to take students to the Oxford Ball, informs CUIS president Malti Bipin Vaghela.

"Non-Indians make up around a quarter to a third of our guests at the Diwali Ball each year, and they love the idea of immersing themselves in a completely different culture for the night!" says Patel.

At Cambridge, the Hindu Cultural Society's Diwali dinner is one of the highlights of

the group's calendar. Prayers and a sumptuous Indian meal will be organised at Wesley House on November 12, informs Nikhila Ravi, president of the society. As part of the post-dinner entertainment a classical dance drama based on an aspect of Hindu mythology, involving dancers from the Cambridge University Indian Classical Arts Society will also be staged.

"The emphasis this year is on the cultural aspects of Hinduism, with a modern twist. In addition to the dance drama, we are going to act out the Ramayana, Harry Potter-style," says Ravi. Complete with sparklers to light up the night, "it will be a celebration, a religious occasion, a cultural feast, a gastronomic delight but a completely alcohol-free party! Despite the intense Cambridge work schedule, students always take the time to come and celebrate Diwali with friends," she adds.

The students invite non-Indians too. "The puja is an optional part of the celebration. So religion aside, people of all faiths enjoy the cultural aspects. They're left amazed by the rich traditions of India, the vibrant community spirit and of course, they rave

about the lovely Indian vegetarian food," says Ravi.

"This year's Dhamaka promises to be bigger and better than ever before," says Siddharth Gopakumar, former president of LSE's India Society, Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture and Ethos (SPICE). "We are for the first time doing it as a joint university event, with King's College London (KCL) and we also have a fashion show being co-organised with Strand of Silk, a fashion house in the UK specialising in contemporary Indian clothes," says Gopakumar, a second-year accounting and finance Indian student who grew up in Oman. Last year the event had 250 people and this year many more are expected.

The event draws "quite a few students", many of them from Pakistan and Bangladesh. The queue, however, is growing longer. "We had Europeans, British as well as Chinese come last year. Some come for the food, some come to dance to Bollywood music and some just to support their Indian friends and celebrate Diwali with them," adds Gopakumar.

ON THE AGENDA: FROM DANCE TO PANI PURI

■ The Oxford Indian Society is organising a Diwali Dinner, a three-course dinner including starters, main course and special kheer for dessert, on October 26. Tea/coffee will be served after dinner. The food has been "subsidised" at £12 per head. Oxford University Hindu Society's Diwali Ball, slated for

November 5, will feature a traditional three-course Indian meal, plus mango lassi, pani puri and other snacks.

■ This year, University of Wisconsin - Madison's Indian Graduate Students' Association decided to offer a free dinner for up to 350 UW-Madison students and staff



University of Rochester students dig into Indian food at the fifth Diwali Dinner in 2010



CELEBRATIONS DOWN UNDER

A group of students from the sub-continent doesn't hold a party on Diwali at the Australian National University because it falls close to the exam period. So, "...we attempt to host a 'ball' for our members each year," says Eshan Kulkarni, treasurer, EKTA - Indian Subcontinent Students' Association based at Australian National University



London School of Economics will offer a buffet, song and dance performances and a DJ playing Bollywood numbers



Cambridge's "will be a celebration, a religious occasion, a cultural feast, a gastronomic delight but a completely alcohol-free party"

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Hindustan Times

Title : Diwali at the world's top universities

Author :

Location :

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Continued from page 1

Diwali at the world's top universities

According to him, the LSE bash is bigger than that of other London universities. "We always have a number of UCL (University College London), KCL and Imperial students coming to our annual event, which has been running for over 10 years now," he says.

In the United States, The Hindu Students' Council of Yale have revived the 1990s tradition of Diwali festivities since 2005 after a long break. The hour-long Diwali pooja includes meditation/prayer and singing of Hindu hymns. The event is open to Yale undergraduates, graduate/professional students, faculty, staff, family, friends, community members, and "anyone else who's interested."

University of Pennsylvania's Indian Association, Rangoli, too is gearing up for a bigger bash this time. "In collaboration with four other organisations from Penn and Drexel University, this Diwali will be our grandest

event," says Rishabh Rajiv, president, Rangoli.

The festival, an annual feature at Penn for the last couple of years, will begin with a Rangoli competition, in which participants will be provided with dried flowers and coloured powders. "Following the results, we will have a Diwali puja, and prayers for Lord Rama, Goddess Saraswati and Lord Hanuman. Bands Penn Nasha from Penn and Nova Nassa from Villanova University will present a few of their popular numbers. The floor will be thrown open to the public to dance to dhol beats and Bollywood tunes.

Scrumptious snacks and lavish dinner featuring desi cuisine will be served as well," says Rajiv, doing an MS in computer and information science there.

"Usually celebrations involve traditional Indian food and a DJ. However, this time we are planning a brief puja as well for evoke the true spirit of the

festival and to make everyone feel as if they are not away from home."

Diwali Night at the University of Wisconsin Madison is also quite a big affair now. Organised annually for five years by the Indian Graduate Students' Association (IGSA), a registered student organisation, it features Indian and other dances, music and dramatic plays followed by fireworks display and dinner. This year the organisers offered free dinner for up to 350 UW-Madison students, staff and faculty, on a first-come-first-serve basis, at the function on October 23.

"In terms of events organised by student organisations on campus, our show is one of the biggest, attracting audiences of 1250 (house full) or more every year," says Mufaddal S Soni, president, IGSA, UW-Madison, who is also working towards a PhD in biochemistry.

HindustanTimes

Title : The money and the marketing

Author : Rahat Bano rbano@hindustantimes.com

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The money and the marketing

Major Diwali bashes are ticketed, but 'just to break even' with the costs involved in organising the event

Rahat Bano

rbano@hindustantimes.com

Diwali bashes are major events on the cultural calendars of a number of prominent universities in the US and UK. Some are ticketed, others are not.

At Cambridge, ticket prices are £9 for its Hindu Cultural Society members and £12 for non-members. "We do charge a ticket price, but it is only to cover the cost of the dinner, hall hire and other overheads. Our society doesn't aim to make a profit and the money from the tickets goes to cover puja costs," says Nikhila Ravi, president, Cambridge Hindu Cultural Society.

Members paid £6 and non-

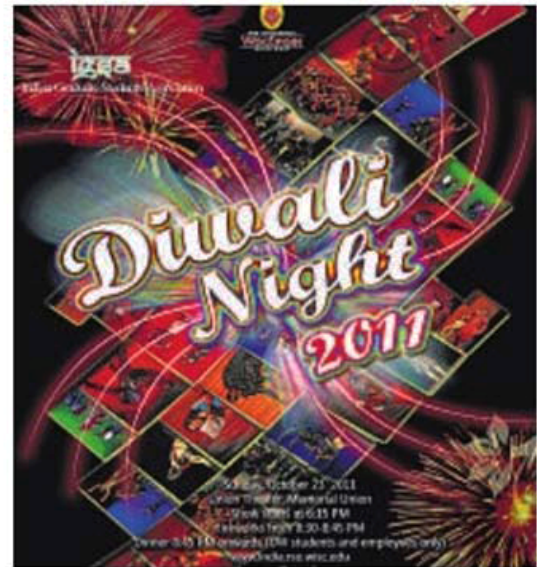
members £8 to attend Diwali in the Quad 2011, organised by LSEs Society for the Promotion of Indian Culture and Ethos and King's India Society, on October 25.

Though University of Pennsylvania's Indian Association, Rangoli, had been charging a minimal fee "just to break even with the costs involved in organising the event, this year it's being waived," says its president Rishabh Rajiv.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison's show gets financial support from various organisations on campus. Funding for this year's event came from the Associated Students of Madison, the Multicultural Council (MCC) and the

Wisconsin Experience Grant and co-sponsorship from the Department of Economics plus support from community donors. "The show and fireworks are free every year. This time, the food is free but limited to 350 UW-Madison students, staff and faculty," says Mufaddal S Soni, president, IGSA, UW-Madison.

Students put out flyers and create Facebook pages to publicise the programme. The FB post on LSE SPICE's and King's Diwali in the Quad 2011 enticed people with a fashion show in association with an Indian contemporary designer wear retailer, Indian food, courtesy Moolis and Raja's Banqueting, and professional photography on site.



The University of Wisconsin-Madison's show - flyer above - got financial support from various organisations on campus