

The Buzz

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VOLCANIC ASH CAUSES MAYHEM

Thousands of flights in the UK and Europe have been cancelled until at least 7am BST because ash and debris from an Icelandic volcano is at risk of damaging plane engines.

The eruption occurred in the Eyjafjallajökull area and sent giant clouds of sand, ash and glass into the atmosphere.

Those with a long memory may recall the story of a British Airways jumbo jet having to close down all four engines in 1982 as it flew through an ash cloud.

One disgruntled traveller was Barry Westfield of Croydon whose flight from Heathrow to Glasgow was cancelled: "They cancelled the flight and the only explanation we got was 'Volcano'. The Wifi wasn't working so we couldn't get online. It was chaos."

Coventry students will be delighted that they left the UK on Saturday though it is unknown whether the cloud will have cleared up for the return flight.



KARAOKE PROVES BIG HIT

After initial organisational troubles, last night saw Chinese students finally treating their British counterparts to a night of Karaoke, albeit in an unnatural library setting.

In typical British fashion, the Coventry students and staff were worried about making fools of themselves but after encouragement by both Chinese students and local lager, these worries were soon quashed.

The eclectic 'East meets West' playlist proved successful with both sets of students, with songs ranging from traditional Chinese ballads to radio-friendly rock.

Karaoke, or KTV, is very popular in China. ZUMC student and avid Karaoke fan Mei Hang said, "At first we felt nervous, but eventually everybody became excited. The language and culture is so different, but we sang and felt comfortable together as we both had the same ideas about music."



F1 PREVIEW

The Formula One championship moved into Shanghai today with Felipe Massa looking to cement his marginal lead in the world championship.

The Brazilian has yet to win a race this year but leads team-mate Fernando Alonso and Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel having taken two podiums and 39 points. Vettel will be hoping he can build on his lightning pace so far after taking a well-deserved win in Malaysia two weeks ago.

First practice saw world champion Jenson Button topping the timing sheets with Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton close behind. Fernando Alonso's engine blow up was followed by a horrifying crash for Toro Rosso driver Sebastien Buemi as he speared into the barriers after both front wheels flew off.

Coventry students will be granted backstage access to the Grand Prix courtesy of Sauber with Alex Kersten and John O'Brien watching qualifying and Jason Craig and Victoria Howe attending on race day.

Jason Craig, editor of CUToday, said: "The prospect of being in the thick of the action during race day on Sunday promises to be something very special indeed. I could never imagine that my first taste of the competition would see me reporting from the very innards of the sport and it will be the perfect opportunity to make new contacts."



中国 的又一次呐喊

回到寝室打开电脑上网，才知道当天（4月14日）上午7点49分在青海玉树发生了7.1级地震，伤亡严重。中国近期似乎总是不太平，从08年的5·12到现在，在中国境内已经发生三次大的地震（还有许多次余震，杀伤力也不小）。许多中国人都开始怀疑电影中的“2012”是真实存在的事情。

看到这则消息的时候，看到英国的朋友Liana在MSN上，就和她聊起这个事情。她也认为地球最近很“不老实”，或许很多原因是人类自己引起的。我们总是从地球的各个角落索取自己需要的东西而从来没想过去回报什么，我们必须给予环境更多的关心。前天她给我们展示了她自己做的一个网站，呼吁全世界的人来关注我们的地球，关注我们的居住环境。她最担心的是如今我们再来保护环境已经太迟，地球已经开始报复我们了。我用中国的一句古话“亡羊补牢，未为迟也”来安慰她。她很开心我们中国的学生也会有和她相似的想法，这说明地球如今所面临的问题已经引起了许多人的关注。或许引起地震频发的原因有很多，地球内部能量的释放，地震带的转移和扩大，地球板块的相对位移，诸如此类。但是一定有人类自身的原因，这是我们不能推卸的责任。中国又一次呐喊了，或许这是它表达自己情绪的最直接的方式。毕竟在中国，关注生存环境的人太少太少，许多人都是得过且过，各行其是，或许这些灾难的频发，可以引起国人足够的重视，让我们来关注和保护我们的地球。当然，这些灾难发生的同时也让我们看到中国政府的行动效率在提高，媒体的效应也逐渐凸现出来。比起30年前的唐

山大地震，中国真的有了很大的改变，无论是政府，人民，还是媒体。中国的人民也因为经历了这些大灾难，更加紧密地团结在一起，或许我们从来没有花如此大的精力来关注我们的国家，但是如今我们的心却紧紧链接在一起，这或许是我们从灾难中获取的最宝贵财富。从汶川地震开始，中国第一次接受外国援助。这是中国在外交方面跨出的一大步。中国如今确实强大了，这种强大不仅仅表现在经济和综合国力上，更表现在处理问题的思维上。我们在有困难的时候可以接受别人的帮助，而不去考虑那些政治的条条框框，这就是中国在人道上的进步。我相信，在全世界范围内，所有的

国家对生命都有着共同的认识——重视每一个人的生命，无论他是什么国籍，什么肤色，他的国家是否发达。

狂野的西湖

西湖给我们的感觉是烟雨江南，阴柔温婉。但是昨天却是风雨大作，让我们考文垂的朋友见识到了西湖的狂野。走在白堤上，衣着单薄的我们尽量靠近地走在一起，似乎我们并没有国界、文化和语言的距离。

相处了几天，第一次看到他们开怀玩乐的样子。毕竟之前一直都是和他们一起上课，惊讶于他们专业技术的同时更敬佩的是他们严谨的合作，他们尊重中国学生的想法，并且信任我们。他们在西湖没有抱怨天气，只是尽情享受着杭州的雨，并且称赞杭州的春天总是生机勃勃，五颜六色的，在这个季节，英国仍然非常寒冷，你能看到的，只有光秃秃的树干和灰蒙蒙的天空。很庆幸他们喜欢中国的风景，

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