

THE MINISTER'S VISIT

- Andy Sparrow



Najib terpegun mendengar penerangan pelajar perubatan

'He's coming!'

We were waiting in the Anatomy Lab for the visit of the Minister of Education. As in the UK, it seems de rogeur that such events run a little behind schedule and our sense of anticipation was heightened by the delay.

Students, placed at various stations around the lab, had spent much of the day practising their presentations; indeed, my strongest memory of the visit is of their enthusiastic participation in all aspects of the preparation. As I wandered in and out of the lab during the day I saw students undertaking tasks which varied from rearranging and cleaning the furniture to making sure that sophisticated imaging and computer equipment was functioning correctly. They undertook these tasks using the same qualities of enter-

prise and initiative which had already impressed themselves on me.

Their mood also struck me. There was a mix of good humour and excitement over the coming event which would certainly not have been as marked in the UK, where I suspect the disruption to (self) important, busy routines would have elicited some resentment. Quite rightly they were going to enjoy the day and take a pride in showing off their lab! It was nice to see the way in which the atmosphere that had been engendered over the preceding weeks, in which the students clearly felt at home and at ease in the lab, was paying off.

Of course the academic staff had also been busy over the preceding days, planning ahead, to make sure the various display specimens and equipment would

be in place. The multimedia projection facilities, CCD camera and 'pots' of prosected specimens were as good as anything at home.

This was clearly a joint effort between staff and willing students - and that impressed me. Organisation would have been more rigid back in Nottingham, with less student participation, and I really liked the palpable sense of community associated with this visit.

'Do you think he liked it?' It hardly seemed that a moment had passed before the Minister and his entourage, having toured the lab, were off elsewhere. He could hardly fail to have been impressed. I was!

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