

## Christopher Bond Officer Report as Welfare Officer 07/08.

After fulfilling the joyful two weeks of anarchy that was Fresher Fortnight my plans turned toward raising awareness for the necessary Welfare issues. Unfortunately the attempts to advertise were harder than first imagined due to a lack of board space in the Union. Even with this obstacle we've hosted a successful Chlamydia Bop, which brought in a record turn out of samples for the Chlamydia team, thankfully resulting in only a tiny percentage of students having Chlamydia.

As a Welfare Officer should do, 'Thursday Chin Wag with Welfare' was established, a weekly event advertised throughout the union giving students the chance to come and talk to me about any qualms, concerns or worries they had surrounding any Welfare topics, or just for a chat. Although proving rather unsuccessful I feel that giving this service was just and I'm glad that it was there for students.

The end of November saw a momentous occasion where I had the pleasure of walking round a Bop filled Union handing out as many condoms as my person could physically carry for the Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance, aka SHAG, Bop. During the day we offered information on the topic of Sexual Health, HIV & Aids and offering more free Chlamydia tests. This information was also seen dotted around the union during the night, a highlight being the G.I. Jonny campaign.

From the beginning of term in September the wheels were put in motion for the upcoming 'PLAYmates' week. From the beginning of January the committee has had another meeting and been liaising with all members to push forward this fantastic week. Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March will see Professional Guidance themed day with career advice, housing advice, essentially an extension of the student services. Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> hosts a Personal Safety themed day highlighting bullying with advice given by the police hopefully with role-play and presentation. In the night we'll see a RAG fundraising theme 999 Night. Sexual Health once again, a favoured theme of Welfare, will take place on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> running up to another Chlamydia Bop. Thursday and Friday although they will not be specific days, will have on offer all of the information of the previous days around the Union. Hopefully the week following, Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of March will host a 'Help Stop Smoking' Campaign day. Although the intentions aren't clear for this day something will be held for sure.

On top of these Welfare duties I hasten to add my involvement with representing the Union at Regional Conference in Bournemouth, Extraordinary Conference in Leicester; and closer to home representing the Union in multiple committees and boards that operate with the University. I have also dabbled with the Fair Trade aspect within the Union and University taking part in-groups for the upcoming Fair Trade Fortnight. More relevant to my personal interest the Union succeeded a Bronze Medal with the NUS run Sound Impact Awards, of which I helped a little; quite an achievement considering it was the first year of entry. There are some more personal achievements I have succeeded in alongside this topic, but aren't directly relevant to Welfare so I won't inform you of them here.

All in all these past six months have presented me with an outstanding opportunity that I would like to thank everybody that voted for me into this position as well as everybody that has helped point me in the right direction. For the term after Easter I'm not sure what will be achieved from a Welfare perspective, currently money worries seem tempting. Regardless I intend to throw myself into it head first.