

Imperial College Union
S.H.A.G. Week Report and Campaign Plan
A Note by the Deputy President (Welfare)

S.H.A.G. Week

This year S.H.A.G. Week ran from 9th – 13th November, though the affect of this was that the whole event was a little lower profile than usual due to the date being changed at the last minute. It is felt that this campaign is best placed in the first term of the year as it aims to target Freshers' as it may be a topic they are unfamiliar with on arrival at University.

The aim of the week, as ever, is to promote safe sex and awareness of sexual health including sexually transmitted infections as well as the mental implications. As such, part of the week is highlighting the services that we have that run on a constant basis throughout college as well as sign posting where students can go for contraception in the future. Consequently the week was run with the help of the Student Advisor, Nigel Cooke, which was very gratefully received.

It is hoped, in the future, we may collaborate more with the Health Centre, as they are ideally placed to offer expert advice as well as being another source of free contraception for students.

Over the week, in line with the aims and trying to bring contraception to the students (instead of them having to seek it out), 3,500 condoms + lube in packs together with leaflets containing information about safe sex, STIs and the John Hunter GUM Clinic were given out. I would like to thank in the Deputy President Clubs & Societies, Matthew Fitch (International Officer) and Adam Gill (Welfare Campaigns Officer) for helping me to distribute condoms in the JCR during lunchtimes. Thanks also go to the very brave Alice Rowlands (CGCU Welfare Officer) for distributing condoms to a busy Sports Night.

To raise awareness of STI's we also had 4 sessions of Chlamydia screening. These were kindly conducted by the Terrance Higgins Trust (<http://www.tht.org.uk/>) and Brook (<http://www.brook.org.uk/>). They took place on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime in the JCR and Wednesday and Friday evenings in the Union respectively. The students seem to be very receptive to these, particularly when there are incentives for them such as a free pizza for every group of 4, and we have booked with these organisations to continue doing them throughout the year.

Overall, my opinion would be that the events that we did prepare were received well with high uptake. I'm pleased with the groups that we managed to target throughout the week. Improvements that I would recommend would be to align the week with World Aids Day, as there was a group of students who were keen to highlight both issues together. Additionally, I believe that the campaign could be improved in years to come by making a greater effort to engage a wider range of groups as well as having a larger team involved such as the Wardens. A larger stock pile of condoms may also be necessary since this was exhausted rapidly on each day that we were giving them out. It may also be of interest to explore the issues on a more sensitive level with the faith groups, with the guidance of the Chaplaincy as it may be the case that the current approaches to these issues are not sensitive to different cultures or perspectives.

Campaign Plan

We're looking to run the following campaigns throughout the rest of the year:

Healthy Living Week: 25-29/01/10 An action packed week is planned including MOTs, rowing/cycling competitions, special catering options, bike auction, college walks, bike doctor give it a go day (club focused), police uniquely identifying bikes and free classes and sessions in Ethos. This campaign is run in conjunction with many college departments.

One World Week: 01-05/01/10 A huge team of volunteers has assembled to run One World Week, celebrating five aspects of equal opportunity and diversity. Each day has a line up being planned and organised by a separate group of students. Events such as a film on prolific women, a disabled comedian, culminating in international night are planned.

National Student Survey: 08-12/03/10 Every year the NSS bombards our students with emails, letters and phone calls, in the middle of exam season. They continue doing this and will not desist until 50% of students have filled in the survey. I'm planning to go into lectures during this week and ask students to fill in the survey all together at the end of the lecture. Freebies will be available and of course there is a prize draw for everyone who enters.