



MARTIN CROSBY



WELFARE AND INTERNATIONAL



LISTENING, ACTING, HELPING:

Debt, crime, loneliness; the Students Union's fundamental priority is to help students avoid and deal with these kinds of problems. It needs to do this empathetically and effectively. The recent constitutional changes has given us the opportunity to make student welfare central to the Union, I feel being an international student myself and having the experience of running Torchlight and Nightline puts me in the ideal position to bring this positive change to the Union.

PROPOSED BY:

Rachael Bower
Nightline Co-ordinator

SECONDED BY:

Jenny Idle
Contact President

CONTACT DETAILS:

Email: **mc216**

Hello, my name is Martin Crosby; I'm in my final year of a History of Art degree. I was brought up on the Isle of Man, and during my gap year I worked as a postman there. In my first year I lived at Gilbert Murray and here are a few of the things I've done since.

NIGHTLINE CO-ORDINATOR (May 2007-Present)

Leicester Nightline is a listening, support and information service, serving the 30,000 students in Leicester and DMU and as one of the two co-ordinators I'm a public face of the service (the rest of the membership are anonymous). As well as representing the service publicly, particularly at Union Council and during recruitment drives, we run the organisation and help organise training for new members.

TORCHLIGHT PRESIDENT (June 2006-Present)

A group of us set up Torchlight as a society with the aim of making Victoria Park safer from crime. I've been the President for the past two years. Successes have included a police base being set up on the park and thousands of pounds being pledged by the council to improve safety. In this role I have had meetings with local councillors, the police and our MP.

NOTE-TAKER FOR DISABLED STUDENTS (Jan 2007 – Present)

My main income since joining Leicester has been as a note-taker for Clearlinks. This role means taking notes for disabled students in their classes. I have done this in History of Art, Psychology and International Relations lectures.

CONTACT VOLUNTEER (October 2005-Present)

Since becoming a member of Contact in my first year I have volunteered for Right to Read and Refugee Week projects.



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IF ELECTED:

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND:

For the SU to deal effectively with students problems, the service that can help has to be quickly identified and then brought in. But there are barriers to this happening in that the onus is on the student to identify the service they require. **I would therefore implement a radical new way of using Students Union Welfare**, where students can message a single, central email account (yourwelfare@le.ac.uk), I would then automatically refer that email onto to the relevant service, and then that service would get straight back to them. **This would take the pressure off the student themselves and help us speed up how quickly we can respond to their problems.**

REPRESENTATION:

With the loss of the International Students sabb it's important for the next Welfare and International Officer to take this aspect of their role seriously. For example, being classed as an international student myself, I recognise the huge variety of situations covered by the term. One of my first priorities, if I were elected, would be to **write a comprehensive, root and branch report into how the SU can best provide a service for International Students.**

STUDENT SECURITY:

Victoria Park is our common back garden and we have the right to expect to use it safely. But the biggest impact we can make is to improve our safety practices. **I would put on safety nights where students can come and learn some basic self preservation techniques.** We also need to work with the city if we're going to improve our security more generally, so I would also **set up an action group** which would include the police, the council, the university and our union which would formulate and implement new strategies for improving your safety from crime.

ACCESSIBILITY:

Now there is a dedicated Campaigns sabb, it has freed up the Welfare & International Officer to really focus on student welfare and representation; to achieve this, whoever is elected must be accessible and be seen by students to be **a listener and a problem solver.** I pride myself on being an easy person to talk to and a have learnt, through 18 months of call taking for Nightline, how to discuss difficult and often controversial issues while keeping a cool head.

VALUE FOR MONEY:

The prospect of students being saddled with staggering levels of debt for much of their working life is damagingly short sighted on the government's part so I support the Keep the Cap campaign. It is also vital **that International Students are not left voiceless** in this debate and I would ensure that wouldn't happen.. I would also make sure students are getting value for money in self-catered halls, **calling a conference of sub wardens and JCRs to look at how we make these more social environments** – as at the moment they can be isolating places.

Listening, Acting, Helping