

news

Mary Clancy put on ice

by Gazette Staff

On Wednesday, October 21 the Dalhousie Student's Union organized a "Freeze the Fees" rally outside the SUB. One action on the agenda was lambasting a giant tuition cheque with ice. One action not found on the agenda was lambasting Mary Clancy.

Mary Clancy, Liberal Member of Parliament for Halifax riding, was one of the figures invited to speak at the "Freeze the Fees" rally. During her address to the crowd, she was strongly heckled. At one point in her speech, Clancy mentioned the government's responsibility to maintain university funding levels in an

After her speech, Clancy stepped down to directly confront the hecklers. The debate grew quite heated, and Clancy moved to walk away. Jack Roberts, one of those involved in the altercation, then hit Mary Clancy on the leg with his cane.

Within minutes Clancy had telephoned Lâle Kesebi, President of the Dalhousie Student's Union, to report the incident. Kesebi issued an apology and asked Clancy if she was going to press charges. Clancy said she would not press charges, but asked the DSU to officially deal with the incident and the offender.

By Friday, October 23 Clancy had filed a formal complaint with the DSU. Jack Roberts was repentant, and more than willing to apologize to Mary Clancy, but she refused to have any dealings with him. In response to the complaint, Roberts has since been barred by the DSU from participating in any DSU Council events, and has been asked to resign from his position on SWEAT (Students Working on External Affairs Things).

Paula Cornwall from the Dalhousie International Socialists Club called what Jack Roberts did,

"impulsive and irresponsible. Of course there is no way we can condone that kind of behaviour."

Roberts has since been barred

As to Roberts' affiliation to the group, Cornwall said, "Jack is only an interested supporter of Dal Socialists, he's attended meetings, but he's not a bona fide member. The whole thing got out of control at the rally, as ideological debate can get."

"I don't even understand why he and others were bothering to talk with Mary Clancy in the first place," said Cornwall. "I mean, they're obviously not going to win her over to a more radical mode of thinking."

Concerning the decision to bar Roberts from further DSU Council events, Cornwall said, "It seems the DSU is siding with Mary Clancy over a student activist. While what he did was not acceptable, he is certainly very sorry for it and it's not a monumental big deal."

The whole thing got out of control

effort to keep tuition fees down. Hecklers responded with, "Yeah, we'll hold you to that when you come into power."

Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (Dal)

NSPIRG-Dal, an organization working to promote student involvement in issues concerning the environment and social justice, is opening nominations for an interim position on its Board of Directors. Anyone interested in applying, please stop by our office, Rm 312 of the SUB, for a nomination form.

The Gazette needs one (1) student representative and one (1) faculty representative for its Publishing Board.

Duties include: presenting the student or faculty point of view (POV) at the bi-monthly general meetings. No stress involved. (Students! Looks good on resumé). If interested, please contact the Gazette, room 312, Dal SUB.



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