



Denis Rancourt <[redacted]>

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Information I heard about the activism course

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Wed, Feb 13, 2008 at 8:42 PM

To: Denis Rancourt <[redacted]>

Hello Denis,

*Maureen Robinson
x-Fulcrum columnist
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B.Sc. Biopharm*

Undergrad research S2007, D. Fogg.

I was very concerned and shocked when I heard from a friend, Jennifer Maclatchy, that her roommate Maureen was involved in the University of Ottawa's efforts to discredit you relating to your Activism course. My friend Jennifer is a student at Carleton University, and has never actually attended the Activism course, but has heard many good things about it from students and community members; thus she was not happy to hear what her roommate confided to her. But apparently Maureen had been convinced that what she was doing is right.

Basically, Maureen is a fourth year Chemistry student at the University of Ottawa. She had a previous established relationship with the Dean of Science, so he had approached her based on this to ask her to do a job for the administration. Maureen was then asked to help the Dean and the University Administration to gather information on yourself, the Activism course, and the students and community members who were supporting you in your defense to the University. Jennifer mentioned that Maureen actually told her that she was requested to gather information, including spying, to find out and gather anything she can that can help the University discredit you. Maureen had at one point boasted to Jennifer about how privileged she felt to get the chance to read all your email exchanges with the Dean.

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In exchange for this spying that Maureen was asked to do, she was and continues to be paid ("very generously" according to Jennifer) by the University. Not only did they give her her own office in the Science department, but they also purchased very fancy office supplies and furniture for her. Jennifer mentioned that they even got her up to \$500 worth of printer cartridges! Maureen is very

nicely rewarded for her work, and for this she keeps the University's confidence, but had told all this to Jennifer in confidence.

Among the tasks that Maureen performed was to find out (I am not sure how) when various students or community members were planning to attend hearings about the Activism course. Apparently on at least two occasions Maureen found this out and informed the Dean, who consequently cancelled the hearings so you would not have people there to support your case.

Maureen has also created a false Facebook account for herself to spy on community members such as Jane Scharf and others. Jennifer does not know whether or not this was a direct request from the University, or if it was an initiative Maureen took on her own. Her false Facebook name is "Nathalie Page" and Jennifer told me the picture there is also fake.

Maureen was convinced that the University is right in closing down the Activism course as the university had convinced her of their side of the story (according to Jennifer); Maureen defends her actions to Jennifer by claiming that your Activism course should not have been offered in a Science department. And she also has confessed to Jennifer that the money and incentives she gets from the University for spying on you are too good for her pass up.

Jennifer finds her roommate's actions unacceptable, but she is worried about her relationship with Maureen, and thus didn't want to personally come forward. But Jennifer said that Maureen is usually very sympathetic to social justice issues, but has somehow been persuaded by the University to help them build their case against you.

This is all I have heard and learned so far from Jennifer. I find this appalling and unethical, and I am sorry you had to go through all this.

I will let you know if I hear anything else.

Take care,

Abla Abdelhadi

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