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DEE RYDER-BARRATT . . . "I want to dress as I choose"

DEE FIGHTS COLLEGE ON HIS STYLE OF DRESS

WHEN Dee Ryder-Barratt walked into college wearing a neat blue blouse, matching skirt and just a hint of perfume, it caused a sensation and Dee was asked to leave.

The reason—Dee Ryder-Barratt, from Chester, is a man.

The Dean of North East Wales Institute, Connah's Quay, told his new student that, unless he returned in "recognisable male clothing," he would not be permitted to sign on for his Higher National Diploma course in computer studies—even though he had a letter of acceptance from the college.

Now the case of Dee Ryder-Barratt, believed to

wearing women's clothes and I said that, if he'd wear recognisable male clothing, he could take the course.

Mr. McDonald declined to go into further details. Asked if he was shocked, he said: "I see enough not to be shocked."

Students have rallied round to the support of Mr. Ryder-Barratt and even plan to give him an official role in the students' union.

At Shire Hall, Mold, headquarters of Clwyd County Council, a spokesman said Mr. Ryder-Barratt was not "removed" from the campus, he was asked to return in different clothes.

Mr. Ryder-Barratt said: "I want to take this course in computers, but I want to take it in complete freedom and to dress as I choose in this democracy," he said.

If necessary, his solicitor may apply for an injunction against the college.

Professor John Griffiths of the London School of Economics, chairman of the Council for Academic Freedom and Democracy, has never heard of a wholly similar case.

Mr. Ryder Barratt's solicitor, Mrs. J. M. Wakefield, also said she had been unable to find an exactly comparable case. But she suggested this may be because other "cross-dressers" have been accepted without any fuss.

Democracy and Equal Opportunities Commission, as well as his solicitor.

I spoke to 29-years-old Mr. Ryder-Barratt at the home in the exclusive Dee Banks area of Chester, where he lives with his parents. He wore make-up and jewellery, cream blouse and petrol blue skirt—the kind of clothes he has worn for years.

"I'm a man," he said, "but I have a feminine manner and I've always chosen to wear feminine clothes. I was disgusted to be told I could not dress as I liked at the college.

"I believe it's wrong for somebody in charge of a college to ignore normal rules that apply to everyone else."

Mr. Ryder-Barratt went

to the North East Wales Institute for his interview in a black trouser suit, blouse, necklace and make-up, including bright red lipstick and scent.

He later received a letter, signed by Mr. M. J. Ratcliffe, the computer course tutor, which said the college was "pleased to inform you that you have been granted acceptance on the course," giving details of hostel accommodation and advising Mr. Ryder-Barratt when the course was due to start.

But, when he went to start the course, he came up against opposition.

The Dean of the college, Mr. Alec McDonald explained: "Educationally, he is suitable. But he was

By Ian Craig

be unique in this country, is being taken up by various organisations.

Mr. Ryder-Barratt has been advised by his Euro-M.P., Mr. Andrew Pearce, to write to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

He has also raised the issue with his own M.P., the National Council for Civil Liberties, Council For Academic Freedom and