

# CYSF pres to lay charges as attempt to impeach vp fails

by Nancy Phillips

**A** motion to impeach CYSF vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco was defeated at last Wednesday's council meeting and CYSF president Peter Donato says he will now press criminal assault charges against him.

of acting in faith with Franco." LoFranco did not speak at the council meeting.

Donato called Merrick to be a witness to the assault. Merrick said that LoFranco alleged that Donato cut his buttock as a result of tripping over boxes, but Merrick and Donato had taken all of the boxes out of Donato's office two days be-

by bringing forth the motion.

Donato said a Metro Police officer will lay assault charges against LoFranco after the officer receives written testimonies from people, including Merrick, who are either witnesses or have been threatened. He hopes to have charges laid by the end of the week.

should have got his deal with LoFranco in writing, and that "it takes two to tango. Franco is the easiest person to pick on that Merrick 'wouldn't make it to the tribunal.'" Merrick told *Excalibur* that he is not comfortable in the CYSF office now and that he does all of his work at home, and that he has witnesses to the threat.

Merrick also told *Excalibur*, "I have been threatened by another presidential candidate and this can be backed up." He would not say who the candidate was or why the threat was made.

Vice-president (programmes) George DiPede said, "This fiasco has been going on for a long time. Peter shouldn't have waited so long" to bring this to

council.

Vanier representative to council, Morley Conn, said he could not support Donato's motion because that, in effect, would be "voting that the president's version of the story was right, but there was no one there."

Only three council members voted in favour of the motion to impeach LoFranco. The rest of council voted against it.

Internal commissioner Tina DeLuca said she voted against the motion because Donato waited too long — two months — to bring it forward. "If it was important," she said, "it should have been dealt with right away. The budget could have been done [without LoFranco]. There's always a way."

## "This fiasco has been going on for a long time. Peter shouldn't have waited so long"

Donato tabled the motion in response to an alleged assault against him by LoFranco on January 10 and subsequent threats allegedly made by LoFranco against vice-president (external) Peter Merrick.

Donato filed an official complaint with the university after the alleged assault in January. Although no one was present, Donato claims that LoFranco assaulted him in the CYSF president's office. He claims that LoFranco caused welts on his neck and a gash on his right buttock.

LoFranco says, "I didn't touch him. I'm smarter than that... Donato is making allegations that aren't true." The university will hold a tribunal on the matter on April 20.

At the council meeting, Donato said that he had an agreement with LoFranco that LoFranco would resign after he tabled the revised budget at the February 22 council meeting in exchange for Donato dropping the charges with the university. Donato said LoFranco had originally asked for the deal, but then did not resign, and so the charges were not dropped. Donato told *Excalibur*, "I made the mistake

fore the alleged assault.

Merrick also alleged he was subsequently threatened by LoFranco, who allegedly said because he has a temper. But that doesn't mean he's violent."

DeLuca added that Donato had circulated a memo before the council meeting to all council members except for LoFranco, outlining his motion and why it was being put forward. Donato said he did not give LoFranco a copy "because I knew he'd see it anyway. What is formal with regards to Franco LoFranco? What's the point?"

Donato said he's lost faith in a lot of his council members because of the motion's defeat. He said DeLuca was the person he had the most faith in because he was expecting her to support his motion.

DeLuca said this was just an assumption on Donato's part. She does admit, however, that she did see a mark on Donato's neck after the alleged assault.

Donato added, "Frank has done a great job of intimidating people on council, including Peter Merrick."

LoFranco told *Excalibur*, "It's all a joke. Donato showed irresponsibility as president"

Donato explained that he waited because he wanted to keep the issue out of the public eye to preserve the image of the CYSF.

DeLuca also said Donato

## Frat clears racism charge against Merrick

by Nancy Phillips

Before last Wednesday's council meeting, CYSF president Peter Donato circulated a letter to council members which stated that he went to a Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity meeting. Donato said vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco was trying to discredit vice-president (external) Peter Merrick.

Merrick and LoFranco are both members of Sigma Alpha Mu.

President of the fraternity, Derek Reingold, said fraternity brother and vice-president-elect (finance) Brad Abrams put forward a motion to have Merrick thrown out of the fraternity for inciting racism. Reingold

said he was shocked by the motion and that it seemed to come down to nothing more than personal problems between individuals. "There was no proof, no factual evidence and I threw the whole thing right out," said Reingold.

Abrams would not say why he brought the charge of racism against Merrick and said he feels the matter should remain an internal fraternity issue.

Donato told *Excalibur*, "Franco was trying to get Merrick kicked out of the fraternity. It all had to do with Franco trying to get fraternity members to vote for Brad Abrams and Joe [Dematteis]." (Dematteis and Merrick ran for president in the recent CYSF

election and they both lost to Jean Ghomeshi.)

"Merrick thinks that I was behind everything," said LoFranco, "but Brad and Tommy acted on their own. Why Peter [Merrick] mentioned me I don't know."

LoFranco blames the problem on misunderstandings.

Donato said that at the meeting LoFranco was talking about LoFranco's alleged assault on him and Donato went there to tell his side of the story. Donato alleges that LoFranco assaulted him in the CYSF president's office on January 10, but there were no witnesses. LoFranco denies the allegation.

Merrick would not comment.

## Woman calls in bomb threat to CYSF office

there are about 1,000 bomb threats a year in Metropolitan Toronto

by Sid "Midnight" Tyson

**T**he security control centre received a bomb threat for the CYSF office last Thursday. An anonymous female telephoned the centre at 5:55 p.m., saying, "This is a bomb threat for the CYSF" and then hung up, according to the Major Daily Security Incidents reports of March 16.

Four uniformed security officers arrived at the CYSF office shortly after the call, and asked everyone in the office if they had made a phone call to security, said Tina DeLuca, CYSF internal commissioner.

"The response was no, so then security asked if anyone knew the CYSF offices well," she added. DeLuca told the officers that both she and vice-president (programmes) George DiPede knew the offices quite well. Security asked everyone else to leave except for former CYSF president Tammy Hasselfeldt and Chief Electoral Officer Garry Choo, and began the search, said

DeLuca.

"We were not told we had to help, but were asked if we would [help search the office]," said DeLuca. Both she and DiPede agreed and were warned not to disturb anything that looked suspicious. Hasselfeldt and Choo, who were working in the rear offices, also joined in the search, said DeLuca.

All eight people began a detailed search of the premises. DeLuca stressed that security told the students they could leave if they so desired, but all four students chose to stay. While the search was going on, about 10 people gathered outside the glass door of the CYSF office.

Metro Police arrived at 6:40 p.m. and conferred briefly with York security, said DeLuca. Satisfied that all was in order, both the Metro Police officers and York security officers left. No bomb had been found and the CYSF returned to normal, said DeLuca.

Choo's only comment on the bomb threat was, "Security handled the situation poorly." Choo

said there should not have been eight people searching for the bomb and that security should have moved people away from the glass door. "But Metro Police [officers] were even worse. They were pathetic. I feel sorry for the people of this community." Choo would not elaborate.

Eric Pond, assistant director of security, said security handled the situation properly, although "it was not a good idea" to let people stand around the door. He added, "Until you find the bomb, there is really no danger. The more people present who know the office, the faster the search will go."

According to Constable McMahon of Metro 31 Division's Bomb Squad, the procedure when receiving a bomb threat is to allow those most familiar with the area to look for anything suspicious. A sergeant and an officer are dispatched to the local security's command post and wait for the search to be concluded. If nothing is found, the officers file a general occurrence report and the matter is closed. If something is found, McMahon said the police officers would step in, clear the area and proceed from there. McMahon noted that there are about 1,000 bomb threats a

year in Metropolitan Toronto.

McMahon also said that if members of the bomb squad saw people at the CYSF door, they would have been frank with the spectators and asked them to leave. For the glass door to actu-

ally blow out, the bomb would have had to been right next to the door, he added.

McMahon said York security acted within proper safety parameters. Security was unavailable for comment.

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