

# Student charges CYSF pres with sexual harassment

by David Tompkins

An article entitled, "Donato 'sexist and threatening'" in Bethune College's newspaper, *The Lexicon*, on February 20 has led to a charge of sexual harassment against Peter Donato, president of the CYSF. A female student filed a complaint at York's Sexual Harassment and Education and Complaint Centre (SHEACC) March 15.

The article quoted Donato as saying the student is a bitch, needs a slap in the face and a swift kick in the ass.

Donato does not deny saying these things to *The Lexicon*, but he told *Excalibur*, "The comments have been blown all out of proportion."

The student, who asked to

remain anonymous, said she had "arranged for mediation with [the provost] when the article first came out, and a meeting was set for March 15, but [Donato] didn't show up."

Donato said, "The meeting was cancelled."

"*The Lexicon* took what I said out of context," said Donato. "I've been quoted out of context a lot in *The Lexicon*... [*The Lexicon*] wanted to put the screws to me."

The student said that John Montesano, editor of *The Lexicon*, phoned her in advance and told her the article was about to be released. She said she was "unaware of any reasons [Donato] would say these things."

The student said Donato was given a chance to retract the statements, and chose not to.

Donato said he was never offered a chance to retract any

statement, and he said he would only consider retracting statements if the student apologized for her behaviour. He said, "She's the reason this whole thing happened."

Donato said he received a card, prior to the article in *The Lexicon*, which said in letters cut out from newspapers, "Dear Peter: Hope it hurts! The Peter Donato Right Buttock Fan Club Inc." This card referred to an injury he says he received in an alleged altercation with CYSF vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco.

Donato said the student who has filed the charges and another student "asked me two days later if I had received the letter."

Donato said the student has also been very abrasive in her demands for financing the York Women's Centre. He said she has often been in the council's office and has been

abrasive towards all members of the CYSF council.

Donato said, "There are people at the Women's Centre who don't want to be connected to some of the things she's said or done."

The student said she is very aggressive and vocal about what the CYSF should be doing — especially with regards to the Women's Centre. But, she said, "[Donato] has something against strong women."

Further, Donato said the Women's Centre has distributed letters quoting him as saying, "If I can abuse my power, I will." The letter then implies Donato is misusing his power by not funding the Women's Centre.

The Women's Centre is an important organization, said Donato, but is not ready to handle a lot of money from the CYSF. The Women's Centre

does not have one leader, he said, as it is based on a collective model. The CYSF had been finding it difficult to deal with six or seven different people, he said, but since January, the CYSF has been meeting with two people regularly and it has been much easier. He said, "When it comes down to dealing with finances, you have to have people recognized as regular spokespersons."

Donato said *The Lexicon* published the article because it has been supporting CYSF president-elect Jean Ghomeshi and published the article to "deamean me, demean the CYSF and give Jean Ghomeshi an extra edge."

Donato said Ghomeshi promised full funding to the Women's Centre next year, and for this reason the Women's Centre campaigned strongly for Ghomeshi.

## "longer hours and better service"

cont'd from cover

At 19 meals a week, Crandles said students are getting a great deal. While some students remarked that they were not eating on campus seven days a week, Crandles replied, "Does York have a part-time residential programme or not? York is indeed a seven day a week residential programme and I have no sympathy for the minority of students who only eat on campus five days a week or less. The programme is for the student who comes from Timmins or Hearst who stays in residence seven days a week and doesn't go home for the weekend."

To be more flexible, the servery will have longer hours and better service. Marriott, in Canada, is actually the recently bought out Saga Foods, and Marriott U.S.A. wants to bring its Canadian venture up to the American standards.

Although Crandles said he was "bummed out" by some of the service during his stay in residence, he told the protesters that he believes that if Marriott can bring its standards up to those of the U.S., then the plan will work.

The Founders students originally believed that the plan was a done deal. Crandles told them it wasn't and, "If any students have any good ideas, now is the time to let me know... join the process to make it better."

When asked why students were not asked about the deal initially, Crandles replied that you can't have a plebiscite on every issue.

Students also complained about the high cost of the plan, \$2,100 compared to \$1,600-1,800 for this past year. They said if the plan is added to higher tuition and residence fees, some may not be able to afford to return to York. Crandles said that broken down, each student can eat as much as they can for less than \$10 a day, which is the lowest cost in the province.

Both Crandles and the students said the meeting was constructive. However, students are still concerned with the high cost of the plan and the quality of service from Marriott. "With no competition, Marriott has no need for upgrading their service," one student complained.

This plan is only a trial, Crandles said. "During the course of the next 12 months, we'll have to examine what we should do with undergraduate residence feeding." Crandles said getting out of the "undergraduate residence feeding business" altogether is an option.

## CORRECTION:

In Derek Polcyn's article "The Berlin Wall," two sentences should have read, "Historically, the German nation has held a Central European position, being neither Eastern or Western in its cultural characteristics," and "West Germany's chancellor Helmut Kohl's hesitation to guarantee the Polish west border indicates that the Germans have not yet come to terms with the loss of these territories."

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## Humber cancels mandatory mealplan

by Tamara de la Vega

The meal plan at the new residence will no longer be mandatory.

Vice-president of administration John Saso announced that students will not be forced to buy a meal plan in order to live in the residence.

"We are looking at the possibility of offering it [the meal plan] to anyone," Saso said. Two weeks ago, it was an-

nounced that students at the new residence would be required to join a new meal programme that would provide a greater variety of foods and weekend services.

While students welcomed the wider service, they became enraged at the possibility of having to pay up-front for meals, tuition and residence fees.

According to Saso, the meal plan will be optional and "if you don't like the food there, you can eat at the Pipe."

The cost for the three different meal plans will remain the same and a "limited amount of 500 plans will be available on a first come first served basis," said Saso.

Students who opt for the meal plan will still be required to pay up-front, but there are some benefits. "You can get a well-balanced meal plan and there is no provincial sales tax," Saso said.

courtesy of Coven, Humber College

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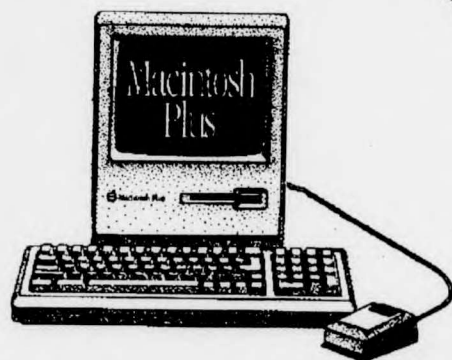
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