

Due to production problems, certain paragraphs in this article were juxtaposed in the March 22 edition of *Excalibur*. The following is the correct version of the article.

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.

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

CYSF pres to lay charges against vp

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 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 before the alleged assault.

Merrick also alleged he was subsequently threatened by LoFranco, who allegedly said 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.

Academic 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."

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 should have got his deal with LoFranco in writing, and that "it takes two to tango. Franco is the easiest person to pick on 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" 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.

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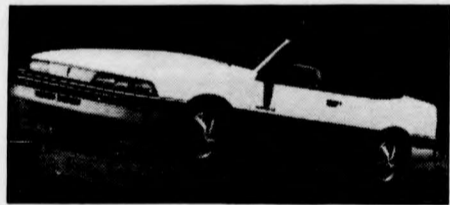
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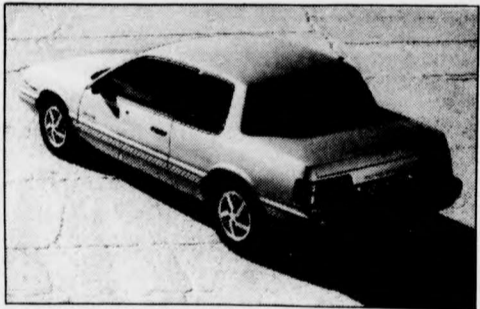
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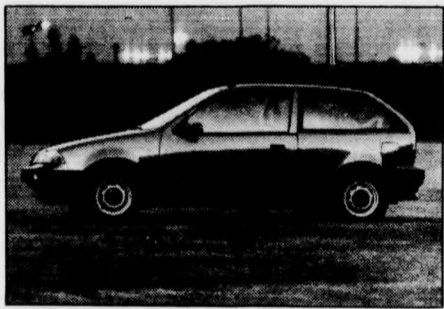
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