

To the editor:

Regarding Andrew Wolfson's July 29 story, "John Schnatter targeted his company's CEOs in the past. And wrote about it:"

It is absolutely true that over the 35 years since I founded Papa John's, when CEOs have not performed, I moved to replace them. That is the fiduciary duty of every Director in a public company and it is my ethical and moral obligation to our franchisees and employees.

And while it is also true that I went to the Board and presented it with a 20-page presentation that said "if the management team kept this up, it would irreparably harm the company in the long run," I did not – as Mr. Wolfson wrote – go behind his back. I acted as a Board member.

It is easy to make false statements when one hides under the cloak of anonymity. It is notable that Mr. Wolfson's story has a number of such anonymous statements. For example, it is not true as unnamed "former executives at Papa John's said," that I resented that Travis had replaced me as chief executive. Had I not supported his appointment to CEO he would not have gotten the job.

With respect to Steve Ritchie, I recommended and supported his promotion to CEO – and he took on that role about a year before a formal announcement was made. This support was demonstrated by my public statements at the time. However, he has not performed well as CEO, and I let the Board know this in the first quarter of this past year. Despite his trying to blame the company's lack of performance on my misreported NFL statement – I basically said the NFL leadership needed to do their job and fix the problem to both the players and the owners satisfaction – a review of the company's financials showed that that statement was not the cause of the company's disappointing performance, which started well before then. It was management.

The dog ate my homework excuse can only work so many times.

John Schnatter