

Vassar Student Association
Council Action 23-3
Resolution on the Sale of Coca-Cola Products on Campus
ADOPTED - Sunday, November 2, 2008

WHEREAS a goal of Vassar College is “to nurture not only pleasure in learning but also an informed and active concern for the well-being of society;”¹

WHEREAS there have been allegations of severe labor abuses directed at union members of Coca-Cola’s Colombian bottling plants and severe environmental abuses in the surrounding communities of Coca-Cola’s Indian bottling plants;^{2,3}

WHEREAS union organizers in Colombia and community organizers in India have called for an international boycott of Coca-Cola in order to assist their struggle for human rights for employees and surrounding communities of Coca-Cola’s bottling plants;⁴

WHEREAS there is an international movement, primarily consisting of students in North America and Europe, to hold Coca-Cola accountable for its actions, and 45 colleges, universities and high schools have removed Coca-Cola from their campuses, including Bard College, Bryn Mawr College, Carleton College, DePaul University, Grinnell College, Hampshire College, Macalester College, New York University, Oberlin College, Oxford University, Smith College, and Swarthmore College;⁵

WHEREAS six VSA organizations are participating in the Vassar Kick Coke Campaign, the College Committee on Sustainability has endorsed the Campaign, and a majority of respondents to a campus-wide Food Committee survey said they would like to have Coca-Cola products removed from campus;⁶

WHEREAS the Vassar Kick Coke Campaign, the College Committee on Sustainability, the Food Committee, and Campus Dining have worked together to find potential replacement companies for Coca-Cola products (including Coca-Cola, Dasani, Fanta, Minute Maid, Nestea, Odwalla, Powerade and Sprite) on campus, and the Purchasing Office has stated that it would be economically and logistically feasible to replace Coca-Cola products with an alternative company (or companies);⁷

WHEREAS the Committee on College Life (CCL) is seeking a stance from the VSA Council on the sale of Coca-Cola products on campus.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

- 1) THE VSA COUNCIL URGES the CCL to support the removal of Coca-Cola products from campus;
- 2) THE VSA COUNCIL SUPPORTS replacing the sale of Coca-Cola products on campus with a viable alternative company (or companies);
- 3) THE VSA COUNCIL REQUESTS the Food Committee to continue its work with the Vassar Kick Coke Campaign, the College Committee on Sustainability, and Dining Services in finding the most viable alternative company (or companies) to replace Coca-Cola.