

Productions Bi-Annual Report
Nick Charalambu, Productions Commissioner
January 23, 2004

Productions has had a successful first term. Two of our major events were the production of the Bob Revue and organizing a trip of cultural/theatrical significance

Fall Term

The Bob Revue

This year the Bob Revue took place from November 20th to 22nd, 2003. Directed by James Hartnett and David Reid, "The Bob Gets Dumped" proved to be very successful with what was believed to be a near-record attendance. This year VUSAC Productions was very involved in the productions aspect of the comedy revue, a change from previous years where the Victoria College Drama Society (VCDS) has been mainly responsible. Altogether it was an extremely successful show, the only suggestion would be that more immediate and open communication between the directors and Productions would have been beneficial. In addition, greater patience on behalf of the directors would have been more beneficial to the production and technical aspect of the show. At the same time, the production process would have benefited from greater delegation of responsibilities and a greater size of the production team. Further co-operation on both sides would have facilitated a smoother and less hectic production process. Regardless, this year proved to be an extremely successful event with a very large attendance of approximately 500 individuals (in total) attending the show over three days.

Fall Trip

In the fall VUSAC Productions organized a matinee trip to the Lion King. Also, a very successful event, the trip was sold-out until two cancellations occurred within a day of the trip. With \$25 tickets, the Lion King was also a success.

Williams Jans

Productions also assisted Vic-Xposure in securing William Jans, a Vancouver photographer who made a presentation of his trips to Asia. Included in his presentation was both a tutorial and tips for successful photography and a photo presentation of Tibet. With a greater-than-expected-attendance of approximately 30 individuals, it was a hit for Vic-Xposure as it was for Productions.

Winter Term/Spring Term

The Winter/Spring Term for Productions will be a busy season. The following are what Productions is working on.

- Film Festival
- Vagina Monologues with VCDS
- A Fashion Show
- A Spring Trip
- Re-organizing relationship of Productions with VCDS

VUSAC Productions looks forward to making the second term as successful as the first.

Vice President Internal Bi-Annual Report
John Woomert, Vice President Internal
January 23, 2004

The 2003-2004 year began with a full plate for the VPI position. Upon taking office, there were several objectives which had to be completed. September was consumed with the VUSAC bi-annual elections for VUSAC members at large, as well as positions on both the Victoria College Council, and the Victoria University Senate. It was a very competitive election with a record number candidates running for a small number of positions. After a painstaking and grueling 7 hour process, the scrutineers and select VUSAC members concluded the ballot counting process. After such an intense election, much was learned from this first election which will be of benefit for the upcoming spring election.

Upon entering the office in September, there was one main task at hand: to get it up and running to maximum efficiency. After an extremely successful orientation, there were a few problems left over with outstanding invoices with the Grand and Toy account which took several weeks to clear up. The result was an office which was running scarce on the essentials, but as soon as the account was cleared the orders went through without incident.

A major undertaking which was accomplished this term was the investigation into replacing and refinancing the notorious photocopier. Last year, the VPI began to research the possibility of replacing the ageing, unreliable machine with a new one after the leasing company approached her with this possibility. After much debate, a trip with TJ out to Pickering, and several meetings with the salesman, I was able to put together a presentation and proposal for VUSAC. After a very in depth discussion and debate, it was decided that it was in the best interest of the council, both financially and responsibility wise, not to get tied into another long term lease, even though we would be getting a new machine at a slightly lower price.

The upcoming semester is looking as if it will be very busy. The selection of both the Orientation Chair and executive will be chosen before Reading Week, and not long after, the spring elections will begin. As VUSAC has been having a charity month under discussion, my commission has been researching and hoping to run a blood drive towards the end of the semester. If all goes according to plans, the second semester should be a big success.

Special Projects Bi-Annual Report
Riona Israni, Special Projects Commissioner
January 23, 2004

The Students Special Projects Levy has now been open for three consecutive years, and never before has such a vast amount of interest been sparked. This last semester by far exceeded any of the past sessions and the task at hand was not without complications. With 11 proposals, totaling over \$122,000, the committee was faced with the challenge of allocating the \$81,000 of student funds where appropriate, and as set out in the Students Special Projects Levy Operating Proposal. The process was arduous, and the committee was well aware that many of the projects, worthy as they were, were not going to be able to receive full, or any, funding.

The first step taken this year was the set-up of a timeline. This included dates for committee applications, proposal submission, and committee meetings. Once an adequate timeframe was set up, the formation of the Students Special Projects Levy Committee began. Members whose positions require them to sit on the committee are: the VUSAC President, VUSAC Vice President External, and the VUSAC Commuter Commissioner. The Dean of Students sits on the committee as an ex-officio member, the Treasurer. The Cat's Eye Management as well, are required to hold seats on the committee, also as non-voting members. This leaves room for one commuter representative, two residence representatives and one clubs representative, all of which are elected positions. Finally, the committee is chaired and run by the VUSAC Special Projects Commissioner.

Once the committee was established, applications for funding were closed, and the projects were each formally presented to the committee during the meetings for questioning and further clarification. It was from here where the hurdles arose.

Needless to say there was a great deal of interest expressed in the fund and not enough money to cover all the projects. The first step in this process was to determine whether or not the projects themselves could be considered for funding as set out in the Operating Proposal. Those projects which were unable to meet any of the necessary categories were rejected. This eliminated a few of the projects directly, but we were still left with an excess requested amount to what we had. This was where we had to prioritize the projects, and start from the top. After several grueling meetings, the following decisions were taken and motions voted upon.

The Special Projects Committee allocated the amount of:

- \$48,100 for the renovation of the Cat's Eye including structural upgrades, video projection system, sound equipment and computer equipment.
- \$10,750 for the interior aesthetics of the Cat's Eye including seating, lighting and television sets.
- \$8,889.71 for the renovation of the Annesley Hall Tea Room for the use of equipment storage space for clubs such as Victoria College Drama Society and Victoria College Athletics Association.
- \$3,357.79 for the creation of a VicXposure Darkroom and its facilities
- \$2300 for the creation of a storage cage in the Annesley Tea Room

- \$1718.10 for the purchase of a guitar amp and a bass amp for the Pajama Jammers club.

The clubs which were denied funding for various reasons pertaining to the Assessment Criteria of the proposals as stipulated in the Operating Proposal, were as follows:

- VicXposure for the purchase of camera equipment
- NAMUN for the purchase of various related supplementary books
- The Strand for the purchase of new computer equipment
- Vic Dance for the purchase of mirrors for the Wymilwood Music Room
- UTFC for the start-up funding of a University of Toronto charity club

The committees' final decisions were then presented to VUSAC for final approval. The proposals were passed and the projects have started taking shape.

The committee decided that with sufficient funding still available, the Special Projects Fund would re-open for a second session starting Monday Feb. 9th and closing at 5pm, Friday March 5th. With such a successful turnout in the first semester, I look forward to re-opening the fund and hope to have as much interest expressed in Special Projects for Round 2 as there was for Round 1.

Commuter Commission Bi-Annual Report
Linda Tung, Commuter Commissioner
January 23, 2004

After a successful Orientation Week, the Commuter Commission was quick to get things rolling for the school year. This year, I have decided to create positions for VOCA (Victoria Off-Campusers' Association) coordinators, whose main responsibility is to organize weekly activities for commuters. They (Sandra Berjan, Adriell Chan, Mark Lapinski) have been doing a marvellous job so far and are a great help to the VOCA Member-at Large (Naomi Smith) and the commission in general. Some of the events this semester were: Yuk-Yuk's, Dinner & a Movie, Cosmic Bowling, and Yoga. The semester was ended off by a very well-attended Commuter Festive Dinner – a joint effort with the Campus Life Coordinator, Krista Steeves.

To keep commuters informed on the happenings at VIC, Ralph Yeung, Commuter Member-at-Large, publishes a bi-weekly Commuter Newsletter. The newsletter will be accessible through the VUSAC website in the coming semester.

Thus far, my work as the Commuter Commissioner has included representing commuters on various committees. They include: Special Projects, Cat's Eye Managers Selection, Cat's Eye Advisory Board, Cat's Eye Programming, Grad Banquet, Wymilwood House Committee, and other ad hoc committees. It was also a goal of the commission to liaise with SAC in tackling general commuter issues and concerns such as involvement opportunities, and campus accessibility. I have also co-organized some of the VUSAC parties alongside the Scarlet and Gold Commissioner.

For the upcoming semester, the commission will make further efforts to encourage commuter participation on campus. Numerous committee positions, the spring VUSAC elections and Orientation exec and leader selections will all give commuters more opportunities to take on a leadership role here at VIC. As for events, there will be a trip to Hart House Farm in the spring, and various charity activities during the VIC Charity Month and VOCA activities will continue every week.

I hope that all of you will be able to come out and join us for a very exciting and fun-filled second semester. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office or by e-mail (linda.tung@utoronto.ca).

Caucus List:

The first month or so of the school year was spent almost exclusively developing this list of VIC leaders which is now used to contact the college as a whole about upcoming social events, caucus meetings, important announcements, and any applications open to the public. In the first couple of months, some problems were encountered with delays in the receipt of caucus e-mails by members using Hotmail accounts. I went and spoke with the network administrators at Robarts, and they assured me that they were aware of the problem and that a solution was in the works. Sure enough, after another couple of weeks, the problem was resolved. It is now possible to send out mass e-mails with all the power of a tsunami. Anyone with an announcement they want made to the Vic caucus can contact me at tj_thomasson@hotmail.com or tj.thomasson@utoronto.ca. For urgent messages, the former address is your best bet, as I tend to check it more regularly than the latter.

Caucus Meetings:

So far this year, one caucus meeting has been held. A caucus meeting is open to any student wanting to raise concerns or simply hear discussion on important issues concerning Victoria University. Caucus meetings are aimed primarily at the members of the Vic caucus, as they are assumed to be the students most interested in such discussions. At this particular caucus meeting, the main areas of discussion included student feelings on the use of the Cat's Eye and concerns about the administration of the Residence internet access. There was much healthy discussion, and details can be found in the minutes from the meeting.

There will most likely be a second caucus meeting taking place just after reading week, and a third planned in conjunction with the new council after the spring elections have taken place.

WUSC:

One of the responsibilities of the VP External is to be the VUSAC representative on the WUSC committee. This year, the WUSC program has been run with an unbelievable amount of care and skill. Rohit Mohindra, the WUSC chairperson, has done--and is doing--an excellent job. The most important thing on my WUSC agenda at present is attempting to secure more funding for the program.

VCAA Special Project:

This year I helped the VCAA President to draft a request for funding from the Special Projects Committee to install cages in the Annesley Tea Room. The cages are intended to hold sporting equipment, specifically the hockey equipment of commuter players. Special Projects approved a grant of \$2300.

International Night:

This event celebrating international customs and traditions has been scheduled for the evening of Sunday, May 7th at our very own Cat's Eye. The event will include a

selection of foods from around the world, as well as student performances showcasing talents spanning the globe.