

100 Years of Snowy Winters

Anthony Caporale, Staff Writer



A photo from the 1930s depicts SVC students playing ice hockey on the Saint Vincent Lake. SOURCE: SVC ARCHIVES

Saint Vincent College experienced a snow-packed February in 2021. Just like the previous winters at Saint Vincent, when the snow starts to pile up, sleds start rolling down the campus hills. The history of Saint Vincent College packed with stories of snow and fun.

Now, during the cold Pennsylvania winters, students enjoy a handful sports like sledding, snowball fighting and ice skating. However, students are not the only ones who participate in these winter activities. Staff members and monks have a long history of enjoying winter activities too.

Br. Barnabas O'Reilly, O.S.B, explained that a sledding monk is not an uncommon sight to see in winters at Saint Vincent.

"I have gone sledding and snowman building with monks! It is especially fun to take some of our monks who have never gone before. Once we had a visiting Abbot here from a monastery in Brazil and we took him sledding for his first time ever," O'Reilly said.

O'Reilly has one description for his favorite hills to sled on: "I'd say the safe ones!" Saint Vincent hosts some very steep
Continued on page 2

SVC sets up COVID-19 vaccine clinic

Samantha Hilyer, News Editor

Saint Vincent College has opened its doors to Mainline Pharmacy in order to set up a vaccine clinic in the Fred Rogers Center. The Moderna vaccine is being distributed to eligible community members in Pennsylvania's 1A category, which includes adults over the age of 65 and healthcare workers.

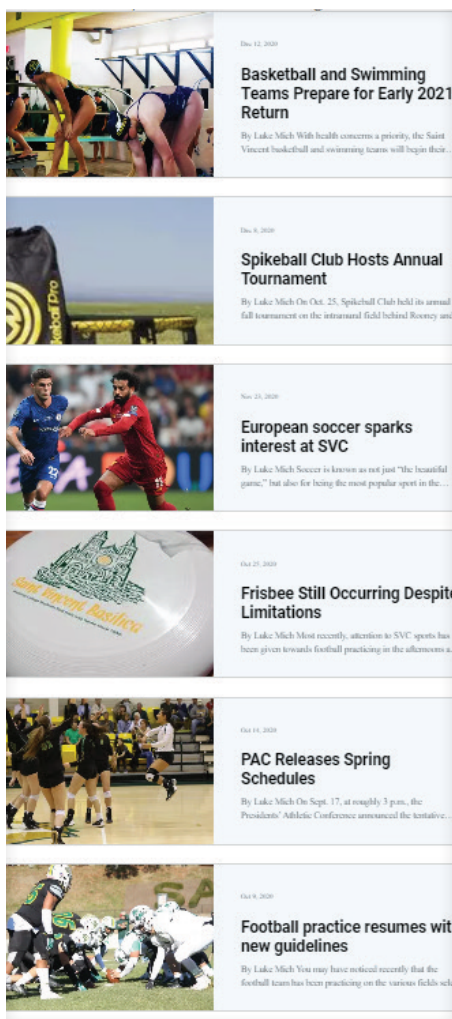
Dr. John Smetanka, vice president of Academic Affairs and academic dean, said that serving as a haven for the local community is nothing new for SVC.

"We are very excited that the vaccine can be distributed on campus," Smetanka said. "Back in the Depression, Saint Vincent was a place that handed out bread to those who were hungry, in times of war people came here for peace, and I am very pleased that in times of pandemic, they can come here for the vaccine." Saint Vincent is not requiring eligible faculty and staff to receive the vaccine, but those who wish to be vaccinated have the opportunity. Smetanka, who received the first dose of the Moderna vaccine during Mainline Pharmacy's first clinic at Saint Vincent, said that he found the experience as "easy as getting a flu shot." He reported that he had the same arm pain as
Continued on page 3



NEWS

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“Gee! Theres nothing to do.”

continued from page 1

and formidable hills, and for the past several years, Student Affairs has erected numerous signs to prioritize student safety. The signs warn against and prohibit sled riding on the steep slopes around campus. For example, the area surrounding Chuck Noll field has signs prohibiting sledding. However, years before Saint Vincent was coed and before the construction of the Rooney and Benedict dorms, students had less of a concern about safety.

According to Guy Davis, the Saint Vincent archivist, “The steep hillside below Rooney and Benedict dorms was once a popular hill to sled down, and students would use cafeteria trays as sleds, much to the dismay of the cafeteria staff who needed the trays for mealtime.”

Davis also revealed that, hidden in the Saint Vincent Journal-Volume 31, there is a written account of an annual sleigh-ride of the professors. On Feb. 13, 1922, students were allowed a half-holiday. Classes ended early at 10am to allow everyone to go sledding for the day.

“Everyone who had any experience at all on a pair of skates found their way to the new lake” according to the journal.

The “new lake” refers to the Saint Vincent Lake. Davis explains that, when frozen over during winters, the campus lake “was once a very popular spot for ice skating and pick-up hockey games and was heavily used by students at Saint Vincent.”

In fact, in 1903, Willie Brennan

started a hockey program at SVC that had its practices and games “on the spacious pound on the college grounds,” according to the Saint Vincent Journal-Volume 12.

Whether it is the winter of 1903 or of “the awesome 1990’s,” (in the



SVC students sled in the winter of 1946.
SOURCE: SVC ARCHIVES

words of Fr. Brian Boosel, O.S.B, the cold snow always seems to have a snowball effect on student attitudes. As the Saint Vincent Journal of December 1946 says, “Many a free time is spent in a good snowball battle. Faces that appear not to have been washed for weeks are cleansed with the help of a friend in the freezing snow. No, I don’t think anyone will say this winter, ‘Gee! There’s nothing to do.’”

Vaccines at SVC

continued from page 1



Zachary Homyak, a Duquesne University pharmacy student, prepares to vaccinate Sandy Quinlivan of Latrobe at the first clinic. (SOURCE: SHANE DUNLAP/TRIBUNE-REVIEW)

when receiving a flu vaccine, but he did not experience any other side effects. He and many of those who also received the first dose during the first clinic were scheduled to receive their second dose—which can come with flu-like symptoms/side effects—on Feb. 23.

The process, after a total of three clinics, has been streamlined since the start of the clinic on campus in January 2021, in which long lines formed and some people waited around two hours to receive the vaccine. However, the space is now effectively arranged so that there is almost no wait time and the entire process is easier and safer, according to Smetanka.

Those seeking vaccinations can wait in their cars if they arrive early. At their appointment time, they register in the downstairs portion of the Fred Rogers Center, go upstairs to receive the vaccination, and then enter the banquet room to wait out a 15-minute observation period—to make sure the recipients have no allergic reaction to the vaccine—in a socially distanced fashion. After the observation period, the recently vaccinated can head home.

Around 700 people came to each clinic and the total number of those who have been vaccinated is about 2,000—most of which are members of the general population and the broader community surrounding Saint Vincent.

The first clinic included Duquesne students as volunteer vaccinators, but now the volunteers are Saint Vincent graduate and Excelsa Health nursing students.

Smetanka is hopeful that the continued distribution of the vaccine will lead to normalcy of life sooner rather than later. “What we would really like to see happen is all of our students get vaccinated by the end of the semester,” Smetanka said.

However, Smetanka mentioned that there are many variables in this hopeful plan, such as distribution process speed and the availability of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which only requires a single dose as opposed to two. For now, Saint Vincent has been able to assist in the local distribution of the vaccine to those who are most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19.

Irene S. Taylor Passes at 87

Sean Callahan, Arts and Culture Editor

On the evening of Feb. 21, Dr. John Smetanka, vice president of Academic Affairs and academic dean, emailed the SVC community to inform them of the passing of Irene S. Taylor, mother of Fr. Paul Taylor, O.S.B., president of Saint Vincent College. According to Mrs. Taylor’s obituary, she passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 20. She was 87 years old.

On Feb. 24, at 11:30 a.m., the Christian burial Mass for Mrs. Taylor was live-streamed via Zoom. The Mass took place at Sacred Heart Church, with Fr. Paul Taylor presiding over it.

Mrs. Taylor is survived by three sons, seven grandchildren, three brothers, and one sister. She is described as hardworking and active in the community, having worked in nursing since 1956 at Georgetown University Hospital, and having been a consistent member of choir, Respect Life and RCIA at Sacred Heart Church. She also attended daily Mass, enjoyed time with family and liked going to Saint Vincent events.

Mrs. Taylor’s family intends to have a celebration of life later this year, should gathering safely become possible.

SPORTS

Masks Off, Helmets On

Luke Mich, Sports Editor



Members of the men's lacrosse team watch from the sidelines of UPMC Field as the team plays Mount Union in their home opener last season. Saint Vincent won 10-7.
SOURCE: ATHLETICS.STVINCENT.EDU

The last Saint Vincent athletic competition before COVID-19 shut down all interscholastic athletics was March 12, 2020. On that day, the women's lacrosse team beat Mount Aloysius College on the road 18-4. A few days earlier, on March 7, the men's lacrosse team won their third and final 2020 game, a 12-9 result against Hood College. Now, almost a full calendar year later, both teams will shortly begin interconference competition as a new season is about to unfold.

Junior marketing major Casey Moore, a defender, noted that training began well before students arrived on campus for the new semester.

"We started training pretty much as soon as we got home for break," Moore said, adding that his coaches sent training regimens detailing what to do each week over break. Once the team returned to campus, practices occurred almost daily, with only one off day each week.

Additionally, to ensure a safe and healthy season, temperature checks and COVID-19 screenings are performed regularly.

"We are screened for COVID-19 every day before practices, which includes a questionnaire and temperature check," Moore mentioned.

Because of the current situation with COVID-19, there are many differences this season from seasons past. One is that all games are

against conference opponents, and another is the limit on locker room access.

"Some obstacles are definitely the lack of the social gatherings that we as a team can take part in due to the social distancing guidelines," Moore added.

As difficult as it is playing and practicing under these guidelines, coaching is just as challenging. Jym Walters, head coach of the women's lacrosse team, talked about some of these challenges.

"There's a lot of [Bearcat sports] teams that are using the turf field, so the practice times have been cut a half hour," Walters said. "Everything COVID-related can become a distraction to the team if we allow it to be."

However, Walters said the team has done a "great job of staying focused."

This lacrosse season, anything can happen, such as matches being postponed or cancelled—or worse, the season ending early once again. Still, Moore noted that understanding this makes the team stronger and more grateful for having a season.

"This makes us focus more on the present than we ever have before as athletes, and it makes us thankful for every opportunity we have to practice and play. We're grateful for every chance we get to compete," Moore concluded.

Walters believes his team has the potential to have a very successful season.

"We have outstanding returning
Continued on page 5

Team Standings

Men's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
Geneva	5	1	W5
Westminster	5	1	W2
W&J	4	1	W3
Chatham	3	3	W1
Grove City	2	2	W1
Thiel	1	1	W1
Waynesburg	1	2	W2
Saint Vincent	2	4	L3
Franciscan	1	4	L4
Bethany	0	5	L5

Schedule: @Westminster 3/6 1:30 PM

Women's Basketball

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	5	0	W5
Grove City	4	0	W4
Saint Vincent	3	0	W3
Westminster	3	2	L1
Geneva	3	4	L1
Bethany	2	3	L1
Franciscan	1	3	W1
Chatham	1	4	L1
Thiel	0	2	L2
Waynesburg	0	4	L4

Schedule: Franciscan 3/3 6 PM, Westminster 3/6 2 PM, @Grove City 3/8 5:30 PM

Men's Swimming & Diving

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	3	0	W3
Westminster	2	1	L1
Saint Vincent	1	2	W1
Chatham	0	1	L1
W&J	0	2	L2

Schedule: PAC Championships @ Grove City 3/2-3/3, 3/5

Women's Swimming & Diving

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	5	0	W5
Westminster	4	1	L1
Chatham	2	2	W2
Franciscan	2	3	W1
W&J	1	2	L1
Saint Vincent	0	1	L1
Bethany	0	5	L5

Schedule: PAC Championships @Grove City 3/1-3/2, 3/4

Men's Cross Country

Schedule: @Bethany 3/6 1 PM, PAC Championships @Bethany 3/20 1 PM

Women's Cross Country

Schedule: @Bethany 3/6 Noon, PAC Championships 3/20 Noon

Men's Lacrosse

@Grove City 3/6 1 PM, Westminster 3/13 Noon, Bethany 3/17 4 PM

Women's Lacrosse

Schedule: Westminster 3/13 3 PM, @Thiel 3/16 7 PM, @W&J 3/20 3 PM

Softball

Schedule: @Grove City 3/3 2 and 4 PM, Franciscan 3/6 1 and 3 PM, @Chatham 3/9 6:30 and 8:30 PM

Women's Volleyball

Schedule: @W&J 3/6 2 PM, Chatham 3/11 7 PM, @Grove City 3/16 6:30 PM

Lacrosse season has begun

continued from page 4

leadership and a talented freshman class. I'm looking forward to seeing them in action and if we can stay healthy, I fully expect this time to make some noise in the playoffs!"

"We have outstanding returning leadership and a talented freshman class. I'm looking forward to seeing them in action."
– Coach Jym Walters

Moore and the men's lacrosse team played their first match on Feb. 27 against Franciscan and their next match will be at Grove City on March 6. Coach Walters and the women's team will open play against Westminster at home on March 13, their first game in 366 days.

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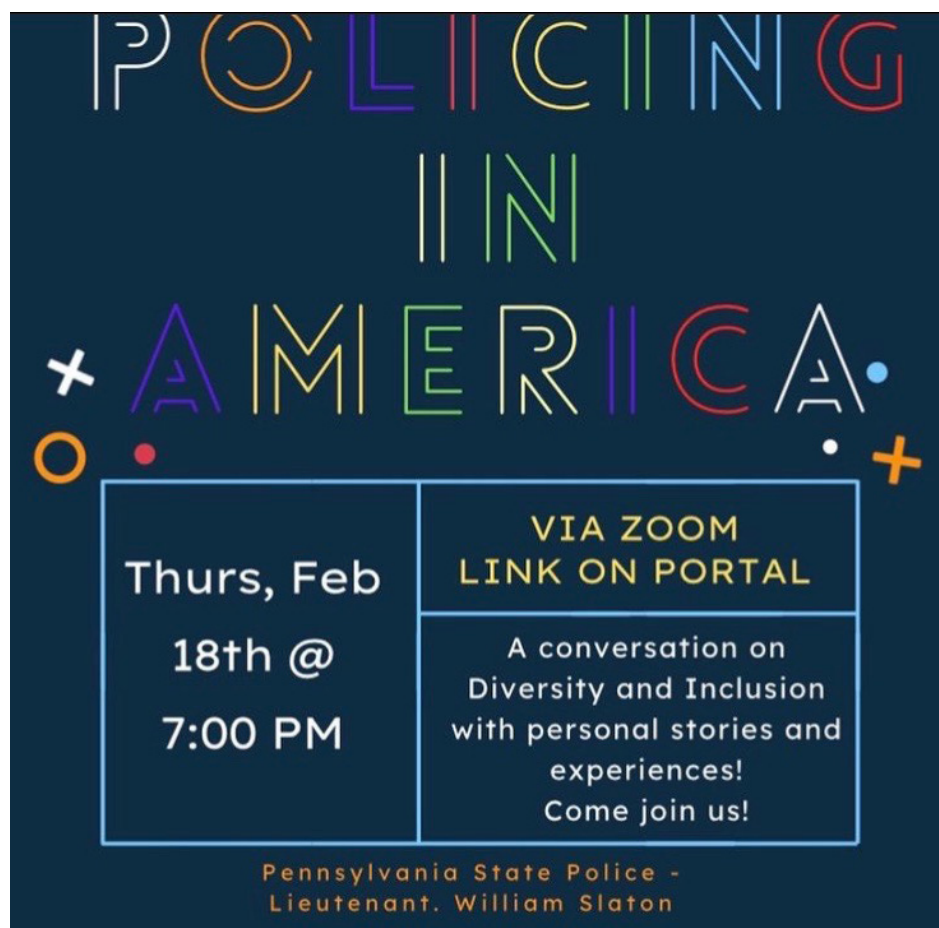
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The Review

ARTS & CULTURE



A poster advertised the panel, which was sponsored by the Uniting All People Club.
SOURCE: CALLAHAN

UAP Club hosts Policing panel

Sean Callahan, Arts and Culture Editor

inology at SVC, emphasized that he had been taught mutual respect and equality through past careers.

“One of the lessons that was instilled in us during our military police training in boot camp was that we were all different shades of green,” Kocian said. “Some lighter, some darker. So race didn’t come up much at all.”

But from Slaton’s perspective, his occupation must be sensitive to racial differences: “Some police officers just simply don’t understand the history of police and minorities,” Slaton said. “[Back then,] police in the south were slave catchers.”

He highlighted the racial violence during reconstruction, through the Civil Rights Movement and argued that minorities had a right to be frustrated with law enforcement. He voiced desires to root out “implicit biases” despite the issue’s complexity.

Allen added to Slaton’s assertion of frustrated minorities with his own story. He commented on being an African American and watching his father get arrested, which led him to despise law enforcement at the age of 16.

“I hated the police as a kid. But positive interactions that I had with local police officers were so important
Continued on page 8

The Uniting All People (UAP) club—committed to bringing together people of various ethnic groups, religions, and sexual orientations—has persisted in its mission with a webinar on policing. The club organized a panel with Dr. Jeff Mallory, executive vice president of Saint Vincent College, and various public figures in law enforcement, including Latrobe Chief of Police John Sleasman and a local district attorney. The panel occurred on Feb. 18, running from 7 p.m. to almost 8:30 p.m. The discussion mainly revolved around race and police-related questions, presented by UAP member Laura Horn, sophomore history student and a moderator for this event.

The initial question, for example, involved the extent to which race played a part in each panelist’s job. Pennsylvania State Police Corporal Aaron J. Allen and Lieutenant William Slaton agreed that they had to consider race in police conflicts on the street. But some interviewees felt race played a much smaller role in their jobs. Sleasman felt that because Latrobe was a small community—as opposed to a larger city—race wasn’t a prominent part in his occupation. Michael Mahady, a judge in the Westmoreland County magisterial district, agreed with Sleasman, due to his commitment to make decisions based off the law. Similarly, Dr. Eric Kocian, assistant professor of crim-

OPINION

American Angst

Kevin Martin, *Opinion Editor*

Our country is currently in a battle with a disease that has now afflicted the world for a year. This fight with our invisible enemy does seem to be coming ever closer to an end. This is not meant to undermine the severity and the pain that this dangerous disease has caused; the contention is simply that the worst is likely behind us. Due to a multitude of factors, COVID-19 cases have seen a national nose-dive since early January. The 2-week trend for COVID cases, according to the New York Times, has seen a 45% reduction. To make matters even better, our vaccine distribution has been averaging 1.5 million doses per day, and if all goes to plan this number will only get higher. We have reason to hope for an escape from this misery, and we also now have the means to do so. This is great news indeed! Americans ought to be in a cheerful mood, for our generation's version of "V-Day" rapidly approaches. But, to my chagrin, the American psyche is weighed down by anxiety. This American angst has not arisen from fear of any disease or foreign power, but rather it is a creation of our own making; it is a fear of ourselves.

On Jan. 6, America's attention was fixated on our Capitol. Rioters, determined to "fix" a "stolen" election, stormed the U.S. Capitol building. Anger swelled through this crowd of thugs and mob mentality took control. They sought a—after prominent politicians such as Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, Mitt Romney, and Mike Pence. It is due to the bravery of the Capitol

Police and the mob's incompetence that they did not find these politicians. Truly the worst could have occurred had they succeeded.

Americans across the nation were shocked and angered by what they had witnessed. And it served to solidify what many already believed; that those politically misaligned from them were the true enemy to be feared. It is fair to categorize those who stormed the Capital, and the people who encouraged them, as threats to our republic. Nonetheless, the idea that we can transpose the actions of these few onto tens of millions of fellow Americans is a dangerous one indeed. Whether we like it or not, there will always be those in this country with whom we disagree, even on the most basic of principles. This is the nature of any free society.

What truly matters today is what we as a nation do going forward. Do we, out of fear of our neighbors, pass new domestic terrorism laws? Certainly, this is unnecessary. It could hardly be argued that our security apparatus is either underfunded or lacking the requisite power to safeguard this country from attack, whether that be internal or external. Jan. 6's catastrophe occurred without serious resistance not because our security is weak, but because the relevant agencies were both lacking presidential leadership and incompetent. Ultimately, they failed to recognize the evident threat brewing before it was too late. The answer is no, new Patriot Act-type legislation is not what we should do, for if we act in fear

without thought to the consequences, we very well might regret it.

What then can be done to settle this American anxiety? Some national tasks come to mind: for example, certain members of the Republican Party ought to be excised from the organization to save it from solidifying into a total cult of personality. It is also critical to reduce the rhetorical heat in this country, especially from the media. These tasks, however, are large, too large for the likes of you or me to accomplish on our own.

This being the case, I propose that we focus on what we can do as individuals. We must cultivate ourselves into more respectful and thoughtful people, with careful attention to how we treat others in our daily lives. If by chance we encounter those with whom we disagree, we must not shout at them or shame them; rather, it would be most productive to talk to them. In reality, the only way for Americans to stop fearing their neighbors is for them to make friends with their neighbors. Yes, disagreements are bound to take place, but friendship has a way of smoothing such things over. This solution requires effort and dedication; it is not simply a post on Instagram and then a return to normal life. Make no mistake, the issues that we face are significant. No single action or person can relieve the national pressure. But I truly believe that if we aspire to relieve this American angst, making deliberate efforts to be better, more friendly Americans, we as a nation might someday be able to celebrate our eventual victory over COVID-19.

Arts & Culture: Policing in America

continued from page 6

because they changed what I could have been. I could have easily gone to jail and followed my dad,” Allen said.

Allen added that it was those small interactions that led him to become a state trooper today, to make a difference among the police.

Likewise, Mahany spoke highly of officers, but acknowledged the power gap.

“It really affects young guys when they get all of that authority. And some of them let it go to their head. Some of them abuse it,” Judge Mahany said. “In the old days no one would say anything to them. Nowadays the younger officers will take them to task over it.”

Assistant District Attorney Anthony Imanrelli strongly agreed. “Every police officer that I work with, who cares about this job, wants nothing more than to punish bad police officers,” Imanrelli said. But Kocian took a modified stance on the issue of race-based police violence.

“I think we had a police brutality problem sixty or seventy years ago,” Kocian said. “But I would contend that today, we have more of a civilian compliance problem.” Kocian clarified that while high profile cases—such as that of George Floyd—could have been handled much better, noncompliance with law enforcement escalated those situations. He also expressed concerns that facts such as noncompliance were being overlooked by the media, because of social outrage.

“Once upon a time, with regards to the media, the nomenclature was ‘if it bleeds it leads,’” Kocian said. “Now it’s become, ‘if it bleeds black and was shot by white, it most certainly is going to be the lead story.’”

However, Lieutenant Slaton argued that—to some minorities—compliance can mean death by an officer anyway. He explained that his department is better educating incoming officers and their civilian community on topics such as law enforcement stereotypes and racial profiling. They are also making citizens comfortable and familiar with officers using local town events.

Concerning local happenings, Chief Sleasman recounted a story of a Black Lives Matter protest that occurred in Latrobe,

following George Floyd’s murder. He peacefully walked with the protesters through town, with no arrests or complaints. He claimed he wanted to maintain trust with his community, a struggle that fellow panelist Imanrelli also shared as an attorney.

“Who are my victims? They’re the underprivileged, the underserved. We’ve got to level the playing field for them,” Imanrelli said. During closing remarks, the panelists emphasized the importance of staying informed on criminal justice matters and knowing what career people wish to pursue to better their communities.

“You have to remember why you’re there. Stay true to yourself. And if you don’t like what you see: Fix it,” Sleasman said.



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