

Students for peace

By: Lauren Campbell, Staff Writer



Activists and students participate in an encampment protest at the University Yard at George Washington University on Thursday, April 25.
(SOURCE: NPR)

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas—an organization described by The Council on Foreign Relations, PBS News, and other sources, as an 'Islamic militant movement', and designated by the U.S State Department as a terrorist organization in 1997—launched rockets at Israeli communities from the Gaza strip, killing an estimated 1,200 people and taking 200 hostages. This resulted in a declaration of war by the Israeli government, who then launched multiple aerial strikes on Gaza. Although the government claims it was intending to defend itself from Hamas, according to U.S News, more than 33,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza as of April 15.

As the conflict has continued and the death toll has risen, people across the U.S and across the world have argued over the morality of the conflict, particularly Israel's response to the original attack. In recent months, students on college campuses

have taken up protests to disrupt both campus and community life to draw attention to the conflict, whether in direct protests in support of Palestine, or in counter-protests supporting Israel.

Given the state of the conflict and the tense debate being had, some students at Saint Vincent College (SVC) do not feel the Israel-Palestine conflict has been discussed enough on campus.

On Wednesday, April 3, a student-run discussion was hosted to debate and spread awareness of the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel. The discussion was hosted by Tia Epps, senior Sociology major, and Jacqueline Moon, junior English major, along with other students passionate about this topic. They both emphasized how important it is for campuses like SVC to stay educated and informed about conflicts and issues like this, despite its small size.

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Eduardo Richa wins 10th season of The Voice!

By: Sean Callahan, Editor-in-Chief

For current students, it might be hard to believe The Voice was a recent addition to SVC campus traditions, due to how popular it has been every spring. However, this year's season is only the TENTH in SVC's history, and it was just as popular and emotional as the previous ones.

The judges and teams this year were led by Dr. Catilin Michael, Professor of Marketing, Dr. Anthony Kane, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Br. Bosco Hough, O.S.B, graduate student in seminary, and Lee Intachai, Assistant Director of Community Relations and Outreach.

The SVC Esports Club graciously streamed every Voice event for those students and families who could not make it and wanted to see, making the attendance even larger than ever thought possible to view this beloved campus tradition.

On Wednesday, April 3, blind auditions were held, where a packed theatre watched as judges got to pick three people for their team. Battle rounds then occurred on Tuesday, April 9, and Thursday, April 11, where judges were forced to eliminate team members. Then, the knockout round occurred on Wednesday, April 17. By the end, Eduardo Richa of Team Lee, Abigail Karkowski of Team Bosco, Abigail McGinnis of Team Kane, and Alexandra Gronski of Team Cait were left for the finale, which occurred on Saturday, April 20. All events were held in the Performing Arts Center (PAC)

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NEWS

SVC students discuss the Palestine-Israel

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People expressing support for the Palestinians march through Hyde Park (London) towards the Israeli embassy. (SOURCE: BBC NEWS)

“We wanted to host this event to have an open discussion amongst students about the ongoing crisis in Gaza,” said Epps. “We noticed that this conflict was not being discussed amongst the Saint Vincent Community, despite the tragic images and news stories that have flooded social media since October. As students, I believe it’s important to discuss social and moral issues and how our country responds to these events.”

Along with Epps and Moon, students Mason Gage, Tanner Wilkinson, and Bec Ulmschneider, all worked on a zine titled “Students for Peace”, which consists of articles written by the students about the genocide of Palestinians. The zine includes direct citations and statistics, opinion pieces, and suggestions on how to get involved. Epps emphasized the importance of zines to spread awareness, citing their use by the Black Panther Party. Moon highlighted the contributors and their inputs for the zine.

“It was important to me that we made something physical that students could walk away with about the genocide after the event, so that’s what gave us the idea of making the zine,” said Moon. “We all

worked together to think of topics to write about and made a list of about 7 or 8 article ideas to pick through. As we got closer to the event, each writer picked a piece that they felt drawn to and wrote from there. Tia, Mason, Tanner, and Bec all wrote extremely insightful articles.”

Moon explained that Epps’s *Anatomy of a Genocide* is the heart of the zine and conveys the main message they wanted to get across. Gage, in addition to his article on the Catholic Church’s perspective on the genocide, designed the zine and took care of the organization and technical details.

The discussion was a success; students held a respectful and mature discussion about the issue. Epps and Moon hope to hold another discussion about this topic, along with another issue of “Students for Peace”.

“I would love to host more student-run events and open discussions like this as they are much more absent than they should be on this campus,” said Epps. “We hope to hold another discussion on the genocide of the Palestinian people before the end of this semester.”

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Dr. Kane reminds us not to 'Forget You'

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Eduardo Richa and Lee Intachai celebrate on stage with the voice hosts. (SOURCE: CALLAHN)



The four team leaders and their final remaining contestants stand on stage. (SOURCE: CALLAHAN)

Sometime during the Voice, after being urged by students, Kane agreed to sing a song of his choice at the The Voice finale if the Esports stream reached a particular number of viewers. It did reach that number, at over 250 viewers, leading to Kane solo performing Ce-Lo Green's song 'Forget You' for an ecstatic crowd.

Additionally, as per tradition, SVC invited a contestant from the actual Voice TV show to perform in between the finalist performances. This year, SVC hosted Gyth Rigdon, a country singer who appeared on season 16 of The Voice.

The winner of SVC's season 10 was voted on beforehand by the SVC Community via various methods, such as physical voting, votes on social media, and ordering particular shack meals or barista drinks that stand in for particular Voice finalists! The ultimate winner was Eduardo Richa of Team Lee.

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We Shall Return

By: Julia Hogan,
Winner of Ragan Poetry Contest

after the dust rises from its grave
and settles once again
where can it live but inside us?
we fear to step foot on hallowed ground
but don't we know we're already haunted
by the blood that courses through our veins?
what once belonged to our ancestors
is now ours; we become their resurrection.
some died laughing, some died screaming;
now their voices live in us.
we are one flesh, one blood, one cry of terror;
we share one past, one future fate—
who are we but the ghosts we fear?

ARTS AND CULTURE

Evolve with the class of 2024

By: Lauren Campbell, *Staff Writer*



The title wall for Evolve: 2024 Senior Showcase in the Verostko Center of Art during the opening reception. (SOURCE: SVC FLICKR)



Exhibition poster designed by Donovan Baxter (SOURCE: STVIN-CENT.EDU)

Come and see the beautiful artwork of Saint Vincent College's (SVC) 2024 graduating class at the new Verostko Center exhibition, *Evolve: 2024 Senior Showcase*.

The showcase features art from the following senior students: Donovan Baxter (digital art and media— graphic design), Lilly Chabala (digital art and media— video/animation), Caitlin Cole (digital art and media— video/animation), Alex Colecchia (digital art and media), Cameron Dimeo (digital art and media— video/animation), Jakob Gmuer (digital art and media— graphic design), Jacklyn Koehler (communication), Monique Koehler (communication), Kieran Rapp (digital art and media – video/animation) and Lauren Turkovich (digital art and media— graphic design).

Students from both the Visual Arts and Media Design department and the Communication department are featured in the showcase. Jacklyn Koehler is one of the communication students featured in the showcase, and she shows that inspiration can come from anywhere.

"I am really proud of my booklet and poster for this showcase, and my favorite is probably the booklet due to it having all my animals in it," said Koehler. "My animals are the biggest part of my life, they mean everything. If I could save all animals in the world, I would."

Baxter praised the students and faculty of the art and design department and spoke about the inspiration for his featured pieces.

"My work centers around capturing the ephemerality of life and our experiences," said Baxter. "I am inspired by the transient aspects of life and use fragile and impermanent subjects in most of my work. The community of the faculty and other art and design students has helped a great deal. Everyone wants to see each other succeed and that is a great thing to have around you."

Cole gave her thoughts on how it feels to be leaving SVC in only a month.

"SVC has helped me as an artist by teaching me and helping me be well-rounded within the field of digital art and media," said Cole, "I am now well-versed in not only video but graphic design, animation, and storyboarding. All tools that will carry with me. Of course, I am very sad to be leaving Saint Vincent. This has been my home for the past four years. However, I am very excited to start the new phase in my life and will always look back on Saint Vincent with fond memories."

Evolve: 2024 Senior Showcase will run from April 17 to May 8 in the Verostko Center of the Arts, located on the second floor of the Dale P. Latimer Library.

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SPORTS

Historic run to the AMCC championship

By: John Syms, *Staff Writer*



The team celebrates after a successful set. (SOURCE: WATKINS)



The Bearcats gather in a huddle with their Coach and several monks. (SOURCE: WATKINS)

The Saint Vincent College (SVC) Men's Volleyball team were crowned the regular season champions of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC), with a 9-0 conference record. The Bearcats were given the one-seed in the conference championship tournament, and on April 12, they faced off against the fifth-seeded Penn State Behrend in the Carey center gymnasium.

Penn State Behrend previously defeated fourth-seeded Penn State Altoona in their first playoff game, before moving onto the semi-finals against SVC. The Bearcats would defeat the Behrend Lions at home with a score of 3-2, as Shawn McSwiggen, sophomore middle-level education major, recorded 21 kills.

Unfortunately, on April 13, SVC would lose the AMCC championship against the second-seeded Hiram College with a score of 3-0. Hiram finished the regular season with an 8-1 record, with the Terriers only loss coming from a February 28th match against SVC with a score of 3-0. The Terriers were the only team in the AMCC men's volleyball playoffs to not lose a single set, as they not only swept SVC with a score of 3-0, but also swept third-seeded Thiel College.

McSwiggen was named the 2024 AMCC Men's Volleyball player of the year, and Head Coach Kate McCauley won Coach of the Year. McCauley led her team to the AMCC championship game in her third season as head coach of the Bearcats.

Matthew Minkin, fifth year political science major; Zach Wyant, sophomore history major; and McSwiggen were named All-AMCC First Team while Matthew Klasnic, fifth year business management major and Zebediah Wyant, sophomore mathematics major made Third Team.

During the 2024 season, McSwiggen registered 377 kills and

had 13 assists in 26 games. Despite the tough loss on April 13, McSwiggen believed that he and his team had a successful season.

"Overall, the volleyball season was an amazing success, as it was the best record in program history of 19-9, and five players [were] awarded AMCC All-Conference Honors."

"[A favorite] personal feat of mine was securing the Player of the Year award for the conference, which I am grateful to receive, and we went undefeated in conference play, making us the regular-season champs," McSwiggen said.

This will be the last time that the SVC men's volleyball team will compete in the AMCC; the Bearcats competed in the conference for four years. Men's Volleyball will begin to be sponsored by the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) next year as its 24th sport, and McSwiggen is excited for it to happen.

"I am stoked for joining the PAC next season, since we do not have to drive up to Buffalo, Erie, or Altoona for conference games."

Also joining the PAC next season for Men's Volleyball include Geneva, Thiel, Chatham, Hiram, Grove City, and Bethany. With the tough loss against Hiram College, McSwiggen still believes that there are high hopes for next season.

"Although we came up short in the end by losing to Hiram in the championship our team as a whole proved that we could do great things."

McSwiggen additionally said that "just four years ago, when the team started in 2020, not a single game was won, but over time if you look at our schedule over the years it shows how far we have come as a team."

SPORTS

SVC Softball finishes tight season run

By: Alwyn Jimmy, *Part-time staff writer*

Jessica Laporte attempts a hit on an incoming ball.
(SOURCE: WATKINS)



The senior Softball players pose for a picture with their families during Senior Day festivities.
(SOURCE: WATKINS)

Going into the penultimate match week, SVC's Softball Bearcats looked to bounce back from their last loss with a victory, that could lead them to a PAC playoff, after having endured a mixed bag. However, they were unable to sign off with a victory as they slumped to a defeat against Grove City in the final doubleheader in the regular PAC season. A difficult opening game ended with the team losing 15-1. Although the second game was tighter, it still ended in favor of Grove City, 6-2.

Jessica Laporte, senior marketing major, was one of the players who was recognized in an on-field ceremony before the game. The corner infielder and designated hitter was among three other seniors who had helped guide the team to 78 wins over the last four years, with trips to the PAC postseason in both 2022 and 2023.

When asked on her feeling on this current season, she said: "We have not done as well as we have in the past. Personally, this year has been my lowest batting average. As a team we couldn't string hits together when we needed to. We have a very young team, and I don't think we really gelled together as we started to progress through the season," Laporte said. "I think this season we were not making the right adjustments when needed. We did not have the tenacity to be as successful as we could've been."

When asked about her highlight of the season, she said: "It is hard to really pick a highlight of this season. When you are a senior, you can't take anything for granted. Staying physically healthy and getting to play my entire senior season was the real highlight. I was just happy to be included. It has been an honor to watch our freshman starters develop over the course of the season. Those players are going to be nothing short of incredible someday." Laporte looked back on her softball journey with SVC with pride, reminiscing about her beginnings with the team, through the ups and downs of her time:

"Coming in as a freshman was scary. Covid was around and I

will admit I was overwhelmed at first. Most of the upperclassmen had competed in a PAC championship game. I knew it was going to be difficult to get on the field."

However, Laporte was approached by the coach at practice one day and asked to pitch for the team. Coach approached me at practice one day and asked if I could pitch for the team. Laporte was initially unsure of this, since she had been 'set up to fail' in pitching by coaches before SVC.

"I ended up becoming a starting pitcher the second half of my freshman season," Laporte said. "The confidence Coach Karr gave me freshman year helped me in every area of my life, and I will never be able to thank her enough for that. She made me realize I can do anything I truly put my mind to."

Laporte had to work through injuries her sophomore and junior years. Although her hopes fluctuated, she credits the athletic trainers and coaches at SVC for giving her more chances and having confidence in her to succeed during those same years. This assisted in the Bearcats gaining PAC tournament runs, Laporte gaining second and first team PAC honors, and in other successes during both of those years.

"Going into senior year, I knew it would be a wild card. We had a totally new dynamic, and now the girls were looking at me to be a leader," Laporte said. "I might have played my last game, but I know that softball will always be an important part of my life. I cannot thank my coaches enough for the opportunity to play the game I have loved for over a decade."

Currently sitting in seventh position in the PAC standings, the team will be hoping to qualify for the six-team PAC Championship Tournament. The team's destiny is now out of their hands with their qualification relying on favourable results elsewhere during the doubleheaders between Waynesburg vs. Westminster and Washington & Jefferson vs. Bethany.

Team Standings

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
Allegheny	24	8	W3
Westminster	22	10	W1
Geneva	24	14	W3
Grove City	23	15	W2
Bethany	25	12	W1
Waynesburgh	20	16	L1
Saint Vincent	17	17	L5
W&J	12	18	L1
Thiel	13	23	W1
Chatam	10	26	L1
Franciscan	1	31	L29

SCHEDULE: END OF SEASON

MEN'S BASEBALL

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	24	9	W6
Waynesburg	23	15	W1
Allegheny	20	10	W1
Grove City	20	12	W3
Chatham	16	16	W2
Westminster	15	20	L4
Thiel	14	21	L2
Saint Vincent	10	23	L1
Geneva	15	19	L1
Bethany	10	26	W1
Franciscan	7	25	L2

SCHEDULE: THIEL 5/4 1 PM, @PAC 5/8-5/12

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Team	W	L	Streak
W&J	10	6	W10
Allegheny	9	6	W8
Grove City	12	5	L1
Chatham	9	7	W3
Thiel	9	6	W1
Westminster	5	10	W1
Franciscan	3	11	L1
Bethany	4	12	L3
Saint Vincent	2	12	L6
Waynesburg	1	16	L12

SCHEDULE: END OF SEASON

MEN'S LACROSSE

Team	W	L	Streak
Grove City	13	4	W10
Allegheny	9	6	W1
Saint Vincent	8	8	W4
Westminster	10	7	L2
Chatham	9	8	L1
Franciscan	10	7	L1
W&J	3	11	L5
Bethany	6	11	W1
Thiel	3	11	L7

SCHEDULE: PAC 5/1 - 5/4

MEN'S TENNIS

Team	W	L	Streak
Allegheny	15	5	W10
Grove City	13	7	L1
Saint Vincent	15	7	L1
Franciscan	8	11	L1
Geneva	7	6	L1
W&J	7	10	L1
Westminster	2	10	L2
Waynesburg	2	11	W1
Thiel	1	9	L9

SCHEDULE: END OF SEASON

*Correct as of 4/28/2024

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The Review office is located next to the Wimmer Bridge.
Office Number:
724-805-2513

Contributions, Comments, Questions, Advertising:
review@stvincent.edu

Website:
stvincentreview.com

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