

# The Cistercian Informer

Volume 50 | Issue 3 | November 2018

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## Beto O'Rourke v Ted Cruz: Dawn of Justice

*Coby Scrudder, '21,  
who was cruzing towards  
Election day*

Texas was home to one of the biggest Senate battlegrounds in the country. The tight race was between incumbent Rafael Edward "Ted" Cruz and Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke. Regardless of who won, let's take a look at the road to the Election. At the end of September, these two candidates faced off in the first of their debates. This debate was focused on issues of domestic policy and covered topics ranging from the NFL protests, to gun rights, to taxation. Going into the debate, many assumed that Cruz would be the obvious winner. However, O'Rourke held his own well and, according to some people, even seemed to win the debate. This assumes that everything that each candidate said was true, but as we know, people don't always tell the truth.

The first major lie comes from O'Rourke when he

that Cruz is lying and trying to slander his name when Cruz says that O'Rourke called police "modern-day Jim Crow." The quote where O'Rourke said this comes from one of his rallies. When he used this phrase, he was talking about a system in which he says that police judge people solely on the color of their skin. However, he attributes this to all police officers, not just the ones that do this. Therefore, even though he did not explicitly say "Police are modern-day Jim Crow", he heavily inferred it based on the context of the quote. The next question was on the NFL protests. O'Rourke compared these protesters to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. He talked about how they are fighting for the same thing. Cruz countered this point by saying that the leaders of the Civil Rights movement would not have agreed with a protest that was disrespectful to America. After this, the two were asked about the Kavanaugh allegations. This was before the testimony and Kavanaugh's confirmation. Cruz talked about how we need to hear both sides, and that he believes that

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### Newsline

**IN NEST:** Mr. Haaser's 50th!

*So you hop in your Single Engine  
Cessna...*



**IN SPORTS:** Cross Country

*A little rain can't stop Coach  
Roane*



## The Past Slashes the Present

*Calvin Step, '20,  
who needs a good rom-com*

*Halloween* opened last month with a record \$76.2 million debut, grossing more in three days than any horror film save for *IT*'s \$127 million debut a year ago. Blumhouse was able to take a dusty old property and get modern audiences excited about the story of Laurie Strode and Michael Myers. Horror is currently in a boom, with movies like *Get Out*, *IT*, and *A Quiet Place* all bringing in big grosses and good reviews. Companies such as Blumhouse and New Line Cinema have been able to get audiences to go to horror movies in record numbers. But have we reached a point where we can create high-quality continuations of other franchises of the 80s and 90s? Remakes were

a fad a decade ago, and the results of those were not very promising. Slasher movies, in particular, have not been all that popular since the late 90s, with supernatural horror being the biggest draw at the moment. Even though *Halloween* bucked the trend and was a huge success, can any other old franchise recapture the results?

Making a good movie and letting people know it's good helps. *Halloween* premiered at the Toronto Film Festival more than a month before its release, and the word immediately got out that it was a worthy continuation of the original. By ignoring every prior sequel, the film was able to take things back to the basics and focus entirely on Michael being a force of evil. No long origin stories, no sibling obsession, no weird cults. The movie understands that Michael is like...

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## Middle School Checkup

*Dylan Smith, '24,  
who needs to lead  
the cheers*

School is more than a quarter in, and we are now all settled in for another year full of new teachers, books, and fun with our classmates. We have already taken several tests, and our grades are beginning to form properly. The First Formers are adjusting to their new school. The Second Form has run the Dot Race. The Third Form is finishing its first sports season.

A lot of us are struggling to pay attention in class, as we are still in that “summer mood.” However, it's still very important to try to find your strengths, especially at the year's start. Working hard and doing well on tests and quizzes is essential to get a good grade at the end of the semester. It always feels good to start on the right foot and not be behind in classwork or have low grades. Even the smallest homework or quiz grade can be the difference between an A or a B!

I have learned that if you show your teachers that you are

able to pay attention and participate in class, you might get lucky and they might help your grade a little bit if you are really close to an A or a B. Most teachers will reward students through the participation part of the grade. So not only is participation an easy way to raise your grade, but to also learn the class material and ask questions that some of your classmates could benefit from. The key is to stay on top of classwork and make sure to see teachers if you have any questions or are confused about material.

With more than two months of school under our belt, we are starting to figure out which classes we really enjoy or can excel in. Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. It's important to come together as a Form and help those classmates who are struggling at a subject you may excel at. It feels amazing to have a classmate help you with something you don't know. It only makes the bond between us Form brothers stronger when we pitch in and help each other study. This approach will make your Form Masters happy as well. Our Form Master, Mr. Nied,

is always trying to help us learn, grow and become sophisticated men, and helping each other difficult classes by ourselves is a great way to start.

One fun way to bond with not only the Form but the entire Cistercian community is to come to High School sports games. The games are consistently exciting, even when they don't go our way. In fact, one time, I went to a Cistercian basketball game, and the next day I found a note from a High Schooler on my desk thanking me for coming. It made me feel like a true part of the Cistercian community, and it's a memory that I'll treasure forever.

Don't let the classes, papers, study halls, and readings get you down. There are many opportunities to feel like a real part of this amazing Cistercian community. Just become involved and take interest in school activities. We are all in this together and we are HAWK STRONG!



Photo By Pixabay

## Ask Kattdaddy!

**When will the world end?**

*Submitted by John Koestler*

It is destined that when the eight planets align I, Kattaddy, will cough up a humongous monster hairball which will collide with earth. It's not you, it's me. Be grateful I warned you, so that your last few days will be cherished unlike right now!

Read the rest on our website,  
[CistercianInformer.com!](http://CistercianInformer.com!)

## MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ON...ACTIVITES

*“It felt good when we won our first game of the season against Providence.”*

**- Nick Saldaña, '24**

*Tryouts for the play were really great. I'm going to get to play the part of alien #3!!*

**- Owen Forsthoffer, '24**

*“I really enjoy Math Counts because Mr. Erickson is such a good teacher.”*

**- Charlie Humphreys, '24**

*“Football is going better for us than last year. We have some great expectations for the remainder of the season as our Quarterback and Defensive Line are pretty good.”*

**- Henry Kath, '23**

*“I am extra excited for the play this year, as it has a ‘Toy Story-esque’ theme.”*

**- Carter Soderberg, '23**

## Beto vs. Cruz (cont'd)

Kavanaugh is a good pick to the Supreme Court who will interpret the Constitution as it is written. He says that O'Rourke has supported liberal activist judges because he supported Hillary Clinton. O'Rourke tried to counter this point by saying that Kavanaugh not the best for Texas because he doesn't fit Texan beliefs. Cruz responded by saying that he would interpret the Constitution literally and that the judges that O'Rourke would support are anti-2nd Amendment (2A).

This is where we first see O'Rourke on the defensive. He first tried to call Cruz out for not knowing how our government works because the House has no say in Supreme Court confirmation. However, O'Rourke supported Hillary, and thus her judges, who she said would be anti-2A. He then tried to claim that he *is* actually pro-2A. At this point the moderator ended that question and moved on to the next, which regarded gun rights. O'Rourke has stated before that "assault weapons" need to be banned. However, this term has no real meaning. From what he was talking about, one would assume that he meant guns like the AR-15. He claims that a Vietnam Veteran was talking to him and he told him that an AR-15 is more dangerous than the weapons he had in Vietnam, which were primarily full-auto M16s. This claim is completely outrageous. Even though

they shoot the same caliber of ammo, the M16 has a maximum fire rate of 900 rounds/min compared to the 60 rounds/min of the AR-15. O'Rourke also claims that the AR-15 was only intended to kill people, which is blatantly false. The AR-15 might look like some military weapons, but it was designed for civilians and not for military use. When Cruz got a chance to respond, he mentioned that we need more armed guards and that these shootings are due in part to the removal of God from the public square. O'Rourke addressed the first point with only a couple of anecdotal quotes from people, not hard data. Then he said that we need more than thoughts and prayers. This drew a big reaction from the crowd, but Cruz did offer a solution and O'Rourke gave no reason that it wouldn't work. In the next question, O'Rourke blamed Cruz for Trump's tariffs, which were passed unilaterally by Trump. Cruz brought up O'Rourke's repeated votes against farmers as evidence that he can't be trusted. On some questions about his past, O'Rourke seemed to change some of the details. He mentioned that he did not flee the scene of his DWI, even though there was an eye-witness that saw him do so. He also said that he didn't want to legalize all narcotics, but he introduced a national debate into legalizing narcotics,

which you wouldn't do if you don't want them to be legalized. On the topic of Obamacare, Cruz said that he wants to repeal it, mandate protection of preexisting conditions, and allow for more competition in the healthcare system. O'Rourke said that it would be impossible to fully repeal Obamacare and keep protection for preexisting conditions. O'Rourke also mentioned how he wants universal healthcare or "Medicare for all." This would seem to be his answer to rising premiums because he gave no real answer in the debate. Finally, on the issue of the big tax cut, O'Rourke kept trying to claim that Cruz had been bought off by PACs (Political Action Committees) and corporations to give them more money. He said that the tax break would help the rich more than it did the poor. However, this is to be expected because of the US's tax structure. The top 50% pay 97% of taxes. O'Rourke seemed to forget how the tax bill doubles the child benefit, which gives money back to the people. O'Rourke made the claim that his campaign is only funded by people. However, if you look at his donation records online, you see that he has gotten money from AT&T and Alphabet Inc., which seem like weird names for people. O'Rourke is not honestly representing his donations, and this could undermine his campaign because the foundation of his

campaign is that it is 100% people-funded. In answering the final question, Cruz simplified his and O'Rourke's stances on taxes. Cruz said that a vote for him is a vote for lower taxes, but a vote for O'Rourke is a vote for higher taxes.

Before their closing statements, each candidate was asked to say something nice about the other. They both said a similar point about dedication and the like, but Cruz talked about how O'Rourke truly believes in what he believes in like Bernie Sanders, and how they believe in the same thing. O'Rourke took offense at this and made the comment "true to form" which elicited loud applause at the event. O'Rourke was trying to highlight how Cruz brought politics into a non-political question, but his shot at Cruz shows something deeper about O'Rourke. Cruz said what could have been taken as a compliment, but O'Rourke took it as an insult. This is because O'Rourke doesn't want the people of Texas knowing how far left he actually is. When I first heard of him, I heard that he was a moderate democrat. However, he is a socialist and this is a point that Cruz wisely made in his closing.

The people of Texas must know who O'Rourke is and who Cruz is, and realize the difference between himself, a constitutional conservative, and O'Rourke, an open-border socialist.

*\*These are the views of the writer, and this article does not necessarily reflect the views of Cistercian or the Informer staff\**

## Global Warming

*Horton Richard, '21,  
who looks good in a Hawaiian Shirt*

Global warming, or climate change, is the gradual increase of temperature thanks to the effects of carbon emissions and greenhouse gases which trap heat and pollutants in our atmosphere. At this point, research for global warming's existence is widely known and it is generally accepted that global warming is both a very real problem that we face and one that will have to be dealt with at some point. I'm not going to make this an article displaying all the evidence for climate change. I know that if anyone reading this still denies its existence, it is incredibly unlikely that a short research paper made by a high school student will change their mind. Therefore, I won't overly focus on trying to convince you that countless scientific studies

do, in fact, show the truth, but to those who are aware of the threat we face, I hope to give you a deeper understanding of just how great this threat is.

I feel as though many people know global warming is a threat, but not one that our generation will have to actually deal with. We hope, whether we admit it to ourselves or not, to do what the generation before did to us, passing on the responsibility of taking care of these problems, to our own children. However, aside from just significantly hotter summers, there are far more concrete and concerning effects in our very immediate future. The first of these is the disappearance of coral reefs from the planet. The ocean acts as a natural heat absorber for our planet to the point where if it disappeared, we would burn to death (on the 154 degree Fahrenheit surface) faster

than we would have a chance to die of dehydration. However, because of this, its temperature increases far faster than that of the rest of the planet. At a certain temperature, one that is being reached in more and more places all over the earth, coral expels the algae they live in symbiotic relationships with in a process called bleaching. When corals bleach, they die. When corals die, underwater ecosystems are destroyed. When fish that live in coral reefs die or move to harder to reach places, fishermen lose a source of income, and some of the 3 billion people who rely on seafood to survive go without a meal. Scientists estimate that 90 percent of these reefs will be gone by 2050. By the time that you're 50 years old, coral reefs will be gone from our planet if things keep on the way they are.

So aside from destroying one of the greatest beauties on the face of the planet, the death of coral reefs will take a huge chunk out

of a food source nearly half of all humans rely on. There are incredible amounts of other consequences brought by climate change including increased flooding, droughts becoming more common and lasting longer, and the strength of hurricanes greatly increasing.

The effects of global warming are real, immediate, and dangerous. You don't always have to spend your weekends cleaning up trash, protesting carbon emissions, or spending 80 thousand dollars on the latest Tesla. However, the next time you could just hold onto that candy wrapper for another ten minutes instead of throwing it onto the ground, or get the chance to carpool with a friend instead of riding alone, think of this article and consider taking a tiny step to help our planet out.

*\*These are the views of the writer, and this article does not necessarily reflect the views of Cistercian or the Informer staff\**



## Mr. Haaser's 50th!

*Leo Ontiveros, '22,  
who is not always right, but,  
in this case, he is right*

Mr. Haaser, a Cistercian legend, is an important member of our school's history. Best known to current students as the Form IV History teacher and Middle School baseball coach, Mr. Haaser has held many positions throughout his time here. Let us congratulate Mr. Haaser for his 50th anniversary at Cistercian as we get to know him better.

As a student, Mr. Haaser was enthusiastic about sports, and he used to be a quarterback for his school's football team in Little Rock, Arkansas. Eventually, he found his way into baseball, and became the pitcher for his very successful team. He moved to Texas to go to college at the University of Dallas, where he continued to play baseball. His resident assistant (RA), who played second base, was planning to graduate and then go to OCS (Officer Candidates School) in the Marine Corps. Since he was a Middle School coach

at the time, the RA was able to introduce Mr. Haaser to a "young headmaster by the name of Fr. Denis," and Mr. Haaser was hired by Cistercian. What seemed different about Cistercian to Mr. Haaser was that the boys were less into sports than other schools, and were more intelligent and relaxed with themselves and with their teachers.

He coached for 15 years, and in this time, Mr. Haaser worked with both High School and Middle School football, track, and also middle school basketball. During the last 7 years of coaching, he served as the Athletic Director. Then, he took the role of Director of Administrations for 14 years. There were few things he loved more than being the Director, because he thought of himself as the face of Cistercian. He knew that his actions would be reflected on the school, so he had to represent the school well.

Mr. Haaser even held a form master's position. His first class was that of 1984. "[Being a Form Master] is a great position. I hoped to help the boys in many ways: personal, academic, athletic, social, and religious ways. If I had input

in those areas over the next 8 years, maybe I could have done great things. But I found more to the job than just boys, they're here as a part of a family, so I tried to build a community as well."

One of his favorite events at Cistercian is seeing the new "young men" enter the monastery. He recently enjoyed this experience again when Br. Samuel, from Mr. Haaser's own class of 2014, became a novice.

If there was something to remember Mr. Haaser by, it would be one word: stories. Stories were always fun to him, whether from his grandparents, father, or friends. Like his UD history professor, he always found things more interesting when they were told like a story.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Haaser for his hard work that he has dedicated to Cistercian during these 50 years. He has etched his name into the face of Cistercian history, along with many other great people.

*"I don't care how smart a person is or how much he knows. If he's not a good person, his life will be a mess."*

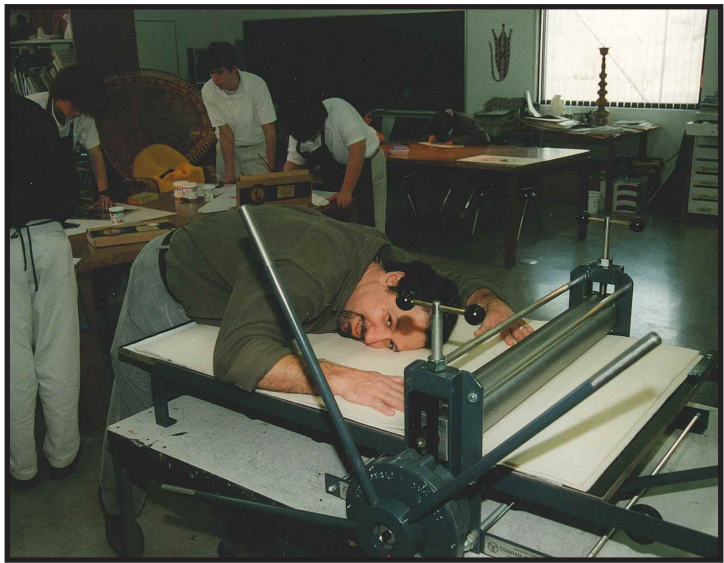
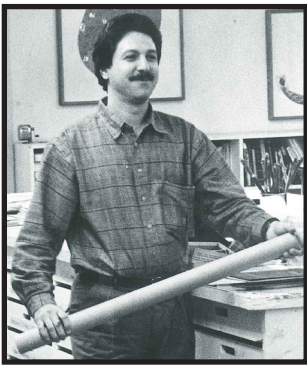
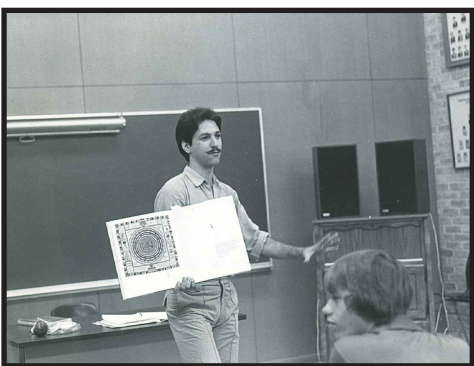
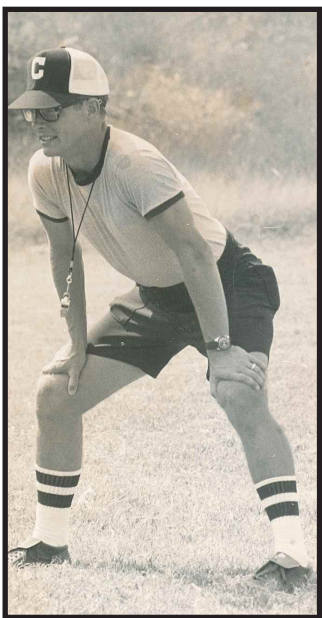


Photo By Mrs. Dudasko

*Leo Ontiveros, '22,  
who is a big believer in celebrating  
anniversaries*

Mr. Mungia has been with Cistercian Preparatory School for 40 years. This year will be his 40th year of teaching. He teaches the First Formers and the Third Formers and if you decide to keep going with art into high school, he welcomes you with open arms and guides you on your colorful quest. He hosts an Art Club every Tuesday and Friday.

Mr. Mungia found Cistercian by "providence." While

located right across the highway. Cistercian had an opening for an art teacher, and he saw Mr. Mungia as the perfect fit. His colleague was correct and Mr. Mungia fit in like a puzzle piece. He's been teaching and painting for Cistercian for, again, 40 years.

The moments that Mr. Mungia cherishes the most is getting to know the students who keep participating in art during high school. He has also enjoyed the creation of the art room, which was built because he wanted a room dedicated entirely to art. Now, it serves as a great environment for himself and his students. The best part of being an art teacher for Mr. Mungia is getting to work with different students, each in their own stage of

## Mr. Mungia's 40th!

exhibiting some of his recent work at the University of Dallas, he was approached by a colleague who told him about Cistercian,

development. Mr. Mungia is very proud of the encaustic class that he has taught yearly at Cistercian since 1989. Cistercian was one of the first schools to do this, and Mr. Mungia has helped other schools to do this as well. Now, it has truly blossomed. He is also well known for the music he plays during art class. He's willing to say that he is real picky about his music, and that it's not random. The music is hand-picked for work. "I want something to ride with the process that we're working with, not against." Mostly, he chooses instrumental bands (Boards of Canada and Brian Eno) that inspire the minds of artists.

Finally, a good day of school for him means that the kids are awake and excited, participating in class, and ready to ask questions and to challenge themselves.

We thank you Mr. Mungia for all the time you have given us. Many of us can truly say that we have been inspired by your passion for these subjects, and your geniality to your students.



## Mr. Graham on TV

*Noah Vetter, '22,  
who is vetter now*

Mr. Graham, one of our beloved teachers here at Cistercian, was interviewed this past summer on a Catholic network called *The Journey Home*. During the interview, Mr. Graham primarily talked about his faith life and his "journey" to become Catholic.

Mr. Graham explained that his father was a Baptist and his mother was a Methodist. Though his family didn't go to church together much while he was growing up, they started going to a Presbyterian Church when he was ten. However, Mr. Graham found that his love of science conflicted with his religion as he started high school. By the time he was a Sophomore, he no longer viewed himself as a Christian.

Farther along in the interview, Mr. Graham talked about a programming class he took because he was very interested in his father's new Apple 2 computer. Mr. Graham's friends in that class, Chad and Mike, gradually convinced him to return to a religious

life. They took him to evangelical events and brought their Bibles to school for him to read. Mr. Graham spoke of a specific occasion he particularly enjoyed where Mike listened to Christian rock in the car.

Over time, Mr. Graham began to believe that the Bible truly was a supernatural book. He started to reconcile faith with the science he had studied. He began going to his friend's Bible church and really enjoyed it, but he felt that something was missing - understanding about Jesus. Mr. Graham said that he was uncomfortable with the concept of Jesus until he read the Chronicles of Narnia. He felt he connected with Aslan, who he felt led him to Jesus.

By the time he went to college, Mr. Graham truly appreciated his faith in God, but his friends grew afraid that he would lose his faith while at university. Fortunately, he went to college for engineering and computer programming at Texas A&M, which had and still maintains a major Christian community. He began attending Grace Bible Church to keep his faith alive and was aided by a fellow student

to keep going to the church. He kept growing in faith rather than losing it. In fact, Mr. Graham started going to an inter-varsity Christian fellowship group to learn more about Christ. The group, made up of people from many different backgrounds, stayed away from division and focused on evangelizing others. Soon after joining this group, Mr. Graham began attending the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA).

After graduation, Mr. Graham moved a few times due to job transitions, and this movement resulted in his attendance of various churches, including a Calvinistic PCA church in Mesquite, where he was married. While there, he learned about Martin Luther and many other reformers in the Church. Almost by accident, Mr. Graham did some research on the liturgy at Catholic Mass, which he thought involved the congregation in his protestant service. Mr. Graham developed an interest in the Catholic church, which led him to seek answers for some of his questions.

He found these answers in Malcom Smith, a preacher and



Photo By EWTN

Anglican priest whom Mr. Graham and his wife encountered on a retreat. He indirectly led them to the Greek Orthodox Church, which in turn led them to a cathedral in Sherman. The whole process took almost two years, but it provided Mr. Graham with answers to his questions about Catholic doctrine and defined beliefs. At the Greek Orthodox Church, Mr. Graham observed the difference between Orthodox, Protestant, and Catholic teachings. Finally, he and his wife decided that they would go to a Catholic Church. At last, for the first time in his life, Mr. Graham felt that he had all the answers through the Church and Pope. Though it would take time to understand the veneration of Mary and the saints, he and his wife were confirmed as Catholics in 2006, a faith they still firmly hold to today.

## To Enkindle & Enlighten... Our Science Building



Photo By Picasa

*Walker Homan, '22,  
who studies Human Biology*

As many of you know, the science building was recently remodeled. As part of the renovations, the school had solar panels installed. Our school's solar panel efforts have recently been recognized as one of the top sixteen solar panel projects in the nation. There are 464 solar panels on the roofs of the East Gym, the West Gym, and the science building. The solar panels were installed by a company called Sunfinity Renewable Energy, and the system

can produce up to 156 kW on a good day. Even though the sun is out for a good portion of the day, we can only produce energy for about five to six hours

every day. This is because during dawn and dusk the sun is somewhat hidden from the panels.

Cistercian's solar panel project was one of the sixteen projects that was nominated by the Solar Builder Magazine to be voted on as the top solar panel project for the year. Over the month of September, people have been voting on which solar project is their favorite. As Mr. Parker was one of the chief people overseeing this project, I asked him if he thought we would win. He replied "No, I'm very doubtful that we will win, a lot of the other projects were much bigger, but it is an honor for ours to even be nominated." However, as the Cistercian community is very strong, we could have

had a larger block of voters than the other projects.

In an interview with Mr. Parker, one of the main topics discussed was why we decided to have solar panels installed. Mr. Parker said, "As a Catholic school we need to be good stewards of the earth, and part of that is investing in technology that harnesses renewable resources." Another reason that it was important for us to invest in renewable resources is because of Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical. Mr. Parker informed me that this encyclical was "A statement made by the pope about investing in technology and the importance of using renewable resources." Being environmentally friendly is not the only positive effect of these solar panels. Mr. Parker notes, "Not only are we being good stewards of the earth, we are also reducing our operating budget." This means that portions of the school's budget which previously went to paying for our energy needs can now be spent on paying for things like raising the teachers' salaries or replacing chairs with broken legs.

Mr. Parker was glad that we are "finally harnessing the energy that has been bouncing off of our roofs for decades." I asked him how he came up with the idea for getting solar panels and he informed me that it wasn't only his idea. Cistercian as a community has been trying come up with a way to go green for a while. In fact, when the Upper and Lower School were being remodeled, using geothermal energy for heating and cooling purposes was looked into. Sadly, that ultimately did not pan out. When Mr. Parker was asked if there was anything else he would want the students to know, he informed me that they are trying to make the screen on the first floor display the amount of energy the solar panels are producing. Even though our solar panel project might not win this contest, it's something the Cistercian community should take pride in. This project is a big step forward for our school with respect to using renewable resources.



## BY THE NUMBERS



Number of Cars that can fit in the Upper Parking lot

354

Number of Animal residents on Campus

7

Number of People who have Passed Fr. Peter's Latin Tests

3

Number of TX Counties Beto has visited

254

Number of Times He's Told Us  
2  
MANY

## Cross Country Keeps Running

*John LeSage, '20,  
who XC's to the hearts of the  
readers*

Cross country is one of those sports in which the high-ers don't cancel for anything less than the Apocalypse, and our last few meets certainly pushed that limit.

The Garey Horner Invitational was held on an early Saturday morning and took place well south of Dallas. The course itself was rather difficult, consisting of many sharp turns, ups and downs, and a grueling stretch along pavement, which is one of the worst things any runner's shins can experience (just ask anybody on the team). However, the Hawks rose to the occasion admirably, and we turned in some of our best times there. Our top three runners there were Luke Rakowitz (18:15), Alex Smith (18:18), and Bradyn Smith (18:35). The varsity team placed second, and JV placed fifth. With that, we put another back-breaking meet behind us, gained another piece of hardware, and snagged a few medals in the process.

After an intense training regimen that week, the team had its eyes on the next meet, looking forward to vanquishing the competition as usual. Unfortunately, they must have gotten on Mother Nature's bad side that week. After days of holding their breath, the skies burst forth in a deluge the likes of which have not been seen since the time of Noah. The course became a lake, and "sadly" the meet had to be cancelled.

The rain continued throughout the next week. After the scheduled meet that week

was flooded out (again), Coach Roane suprised us with the news that we would not have another Saturday off, but that we would be going to the Paschal

Invitational way out west in Fort Worth. Our scheduled meet would've taken place at one of the better courses from last year, but we instead had to run at one of our least favorite. The infamous course lays in the middle of a ranch, complete with gravel, very long, steep hills, and innumerable cow patties. To top the debacle off, it was pouring rain again during the meet, and the course became better suited for a Slip-and-Slide than anything else. Nevertheless, we all shrugged and said, "What rain?" Competing against at least 25 other teams, some from 6A schools, the Hawks performed superbly. JV finished 10th and Varsity claimed a close 6th; timewise, our top three runners there were John LeSage (18:19), Nico Walz (18:24), and Alex Smith (18:33).

With Homecoming fast approaching, the Hawks knew they had to knock the next meet out of the park to give some of the more "Socially Hawkward" members of the team something to talk to their dates about. The opportunity to do so lay with the W.T. White Invitational, which was about as different from the previous meet as you can get. The course was largely flat, and part of it even overlapped a running track. To make matters even better, it was at Brookhaven College, only a few minutes from



Photo By Coach Roane

the runners were stuck using a combination of best guesses and the conflicting directions of the race officials ("Turn left! ... No, sorry, right!") On top of that, the course had changed from prior years, so returning runners were not going the way they were expecting to go. Because of this, a large pack got so confused that they started running the complete opposite way they were supposed to go. Thankfully, they were able to correct themselves and keep going.

With near-prime conditions, the Hawks were poised to fly, and they did just that. They yielded some of the most impressive times that the team has ever seen. Almost...too impressive. The course was later re-measured and unofficially determined to be less than a 5K. Despite this, the times remain astounding. John LeSage turned in a 16:32, Nico Walz ran a 16:53, and Max Rogers closed out the top three with a 16:54. Even if adding a minute or so to compensate for the "shortened" distance, nearly all the runners had personal bests for the season. Both Varsity and JV placed second, and even Middle School showed up strong by getting third. The meet was a resounding success on every level.

After Brookhaven, practices have had a very irregular scheddule due to the unholy amount of rain we have recieved in the last month. After a few days of running stairs and loops in the gym, we were ready to go outside and run in the rain. It was only drizzling when we left campus, but it was poaring by the time we got to UD. And in true Cross Country fasion, we didn't leave. Now, with yet another meet on the horizon, the Hawks look forward to excel once again, and this time, we hope it won't be Slip-and-Slide.



some runner's homes. This was a welcome change from going out to podunk towns hours away at 6am on a Saturday morning. The only problem, really, was a glaring lack of course markers. To find their way,



## Cistercian BraveArtist Spotlight

*"I just went with it. I chose a weird mocha color that kind of looked like a tree color and I also used natural shapes like a flower or an arch. I chose different colors, but I didn't want them to be drastically different. I made a contrast between the tree bark texture on the left and the soft yellow on the right."*

- David Dorward, '21



## The Past Slashes the Present (cont'd)

...the Joker in that he doesn't need any backstory and it is much more interesting to see them without needing to sympathize. And it mostly works. The film tries to juggle too many subplots at the beginning, and at times the filmmakers overdo it with homages to the original. Even then, some of these references are very effective. David Gordon Green was able to stage some very tense sequences, particularly one sequence which uses automatic lights to keep you on the edge of your seat. The finale itself is worth the price of admission.

The return of the stars of the original created a lot of buzz months before the movie was released. Bringing back the original final girl, Laurie Strode, played again by Jamie Lee Curtis, brought a sense of nostalgia and prestige to the franchise, and having the original Michael Myers back after 40 years, though for one scene, helped with this back-to-the-basics notion. The movie also makes sure that you are invested in Laurie's character, so that when the showdown with Michael does come, you are cheering for her and not for Michael. The new characters in the film are also compelling (to a certain extent), especially Laurie's daughter and granddaughter (and Julian!). Many of them are fleshed out enough that you also don't cheer for their deaths. And thank you to whoever finally gave Judy

Greer something to do in a blockbuster. Beyond the actors, having the stamp of approval and involvement of the original film's director, John Carpenter, also helped build hype and get genre fans excited (not to mention his return scoring the film). This is how you get a 40-year-old franchise to make almost eighty million dollars in a single weekend.

However, are there any other franchises in a similar position? A lot of the marketing for this movie was centered on a PTSD-afflicted Laurie fighting Michael again. Most final girls in other famous 80s franchises like *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Friday the 13th* are either dead within their franchise or have lived but not remained in the Hollywood spotlight in the way that Jamie Lee Curtis has. In those specific cases, New Line and Paramount would have to find a way to create interesting characters to continue the stories of Freddy and Jason and have it be as effective. As the somewhat recent remakes of both of those movies show, the villain alone isn't going to create a new franchise. The brand name alone would bring about nostalgia, but you would not

be able to sell the movie on returning actors and long-awaited showdowns in the way *Halloween* was.

The franchise in the best position for recreating what *Halloween* did is *Scream* since Neve Campbell's Sydney is similar to Laurie Strode in many ways, and it is the only franchise that has living characters and actors around that people somewhat care about. It would also be easy for Blumhouse to be involved, as it's currently in rights limbo. A sequel featuring a final showdown of Sydney and another Ghostface could successfully be sold, but only if it bucks the trend in the self-aware, satirical way that *Scream* did back in 1996. It would have to bring back David Ar-



quette's Dewey and Courtney Cox's Gale as well. The biggest roadblock (other than Arquette and Cox's divorce) would be the passing of Wes Craven, the director of each prior film in the franchise. There would be no stamp of approval, and the producers would have to be very aware of that fact and not go against his original vision for the movie should it be pursued. It would help if Kevin Williamson were brought back to write the

script, as his dialogue and characterization are a big part of what made *Scream* seem so different. As long as the studio finds another director who won't disrespect Craven's vision but will take the franchise in new directions, they could create a situation similar to the factors that have made *Halloween* a runaway success.

The horror genre stands at a position where supernatural movies are much more common than slashers, even if we are only a few years away from when many of these big franchises were being remade. After last month, many of these movies will presumably be announced soon (a "reimagining" of *Child's Play* with Aubrey Plaza and Bryan Tyree Henry is in the works already), and hope to follow in the footsteps of *Halloween*. However, many of those will bank on brand name and nostalgia alone. What made *Halloween* work was the story of Laurie finally facing her demons in a way that was exciting for older audiences who wanted to see a sequel to the horror movie of their childhood yet stand-alone enough for teens who simply wanted to see an old crazy lady fight a creepy guy with a knife. The overall quality of the film and the buzzy elements that it was able to market beyond simply leaning into the brand name are what led to it breaking out, and what other franchises need to emulate if they want to be reborn into a modern franchise.



# Says Who?

*Doesn't the newspaper already have an advice column?*

That advice column is of an... inferior subject matter penned by an...inferior writer. The Informer's primary purpose is to give a voice to the student body. You can grumble about problems all you want, but having your opinion articulated and your concerns seriously answered gives your words a microphone that you can get nowhere else.

*What's your favorite class?*

The one that gives me the least homework. But seriously, it'd be the one that forces me off the diving board and into the deep end of learning where I lie floundering for a while, but eventually learn to swim. Which, here at Cistercian, is probably all of them.

*Why do we have pep rallies?*

In a small school, many would doubt our school spirit. After all, how loud can a high school of less than 200 students be? The answer: pretty darn loud. Anyone who's even been to a pep rally knows just how wild we can get. And after a long day of "rational" thinking, it's good to just sit there and feel. Feel excited, united, and determined.

*Why do football players dress up on Fridays?*

Probably because they look so gosh darn handsome when they do.

*Why don't we have after parties for other sports?*

If you can find the funding, it'd be our pleasure.

## IT'S TIME FOR A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

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