



Blank Canvas: A Short Story

By: Cecily McPherson
Coordinating Editor

An absent glow spread over the tourist-ridden island, creating an atmosphere where every visitor was lost amongst their daily excursions. Waves crashed upon the shore, dragging seashells, grains of sand, and lost dreams with it. Store clerks stood frazzled within their small confinements as they attempted to smoothly ring up all the impulse purchases bought with an irrational mind. Their hands moving in the same motions, repeating the same eleven words to every customer. "Will this be all for you today?" And after their costumer nodded in agreement, "Have a nice day".

With all the hubbub that was circulating this immaculate but brisk evening, no one seemed to notice a singular visitor facing out towards the sea. She wore a simple tan skirt down to her ankles, leather bound sandals, and a flowing pastel pink blouse. She was stunning. Her soft brown hair was tucked into a simple bun. It was how she wore it every day. It was the only task she felt she could still do in the same concise manner as before.

She waited, facing outward toward the horizon while people scurried in every direction around her. She hoped that she had found the right location. A friendly touch was all that was needed to assure her that the guest she had been waiting for had arrived.

All the noises she heard around her created an echoing of what could have been an experience so different. She could hear the children playing on the glistening rocks below her while their parents yelled out to them to be careful. They laughed as they skipped upon the stones heading further and further out into the water. The splashing of their tiny toes was the only assurance she had to confirm the presence of the wide open space that lay in front of her.

The ocean. An endless mystery full of clouded depths and obscure creatures. She tried to picture what it must be like to be an inhabitant of this mysterious world. Her conclusions were textbook at most. Her accident prevented a full, colorful picture from being present within her mind.

A tear streamed down her face. "If only" she thought.

Behind her she heard a friendly voice followed by the gentle clanking of heels against the pavement. "Hello there," said her visitor. "I was hoping you would find this place."

"I do my best," the woman said. "I missed you. It has been so long."

"So it has," said the other as she pulled her friend in for a hug. Despite the accident, despite the life altering change that her friend now had to endure, she still had the same warm arms, the same boney shoulders, the same soft hair and kind smile. She could have hugged her forever.

As the women split apart, they looked towards the sea again. The sun was just setting, casting an orange glow upon the water. The streets were beginning to clear out as the visitors made their way back to their hotels. The quietness was needed to circulate a comforting peace between the two women.

Neither of them knew quite what to say. It had been so long. Times had changed. They grew apart. But now as they stood in a place so familiar, so heartwarming as to bring them back to their youth, memories began to flood their minds.

The first visitor grew tense. She stared blankly, hatefully, cruelly out towards the water. The waves came in, crashing at the rocks. A vicious monster.

"It hurts" she said.
"What does?"
"Knowing that it is in front of me but not knowing at the same time."

The hurt that then circulated through her friends being hit her like a pound of bricks. She remembered the happy little girl with the twinkle in her eyes. The girl who laughed and played as the sailboats passed by. They used to ride their bikes down this same path years before, racing each other to see who could get there first. The loser always had to buy the winner ice cream. Life was easy. It was beautiful, but now all her friend could see was an empty canvas.

"How can I help," she asked her friend.

"Color in the picture," she replied. "Help me be able to see what this place looks like again."

This simple task brought tears to the woman's eyes. She looked around her, completely aware of the gift she had been given. She absorbed everything. The splashes of color on the trees. The different shades of orange, blue, pink, yellow in the sky, and the multi colored boulders that shone as the water splashed upon them. She began to describe the scene like she had never seen it before.

Her friend breathed in the cool air and closed her eyes. She listened intently with her ears, trying to create a canvas of the scene around her. She must draw the picture, depict the scene from her memory of what it used to be. She had only her ears and the guidance of her friend to make up for the indescribable battle of blindness.

A Changed Leo

By: Daniel Seguin
Staff writer

Finally the world's greatest travesty has ended. Leonardo DiCaprio has won an Oscar.

After years of hard work, the man has finally won an Academy Award. After suffering through movie after movie, ceremony after ceremony, year after year horrible torture, this man's life is finally looking up.

Let us take a moment and recognize all the tragedy this man has undergone on his way to the red carpet.

Firstly, there was the money. Dicaprio has copious amounts of money. More money than most people will ever gross in their lifetime. What's a man to do with all this money? The world only has so many islands available for purchase. When you have money to burn, and no Oscar to show for it, it's a hard life.

Being extremely famous can take a toll on a person. Everywhere he goes, people compliment him. Just imagine. You walk into your favorite restaurant that charges \$1,000 per plate, and the other patrons want to take pictures with you. Their lives are changed forever just by his very presence, and they will tell that story forever. What nuisance for him. All the other non-Oscar accolades can be a real stressor. Throughout his career, DiCaprio has received countless other accolades, such as multiple Critic's

Critic's Awards, MTV Movie Awards, and Golden Globes. In his trophy case, for years there has been an Oscar-

All the other non-Oscar accolades can be a real stressor. Throughout his career, DiCaprio has received countless other accolades, such as multiple Critic's Choice Awards, MTV Movie Awards, and Golden Globes. In his trophy case, for years there has been an Oscar-shaped hole. Well no longer. The injustice is over.

Many people are rejoicing. An anonymous sophomore said, "Yes, there may be starvation in Africa, and ISIS may be growing, but thank God Leonardo DiCaprio finally has an Oscar."

Others believe that the Academy shouldn't be congratulated for awarding DiCaprio an Oscar. Some even say they should be denounced for dragging their feet for so long. In fact, many actors and actresses have decided to protest this year's Awards because the vast majority of Oscars did not go to Leo. He wasn't even nominated for most of them.

The Academy Awards still have a long way to go. I hope for a world where Leonardo DiCaprio is not only nominated for every Oscar, but wins. This year was a step in the right direction. Godspeed, Leo. Godspeed.

Wrestling

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years to place even higher.

Colton McKiernan 171

McKiernan wrestled at 171 for individual's states.

McKiernan said "My most memorable moment from states is that I had a one-time chance in a rematch round with and being able to beat him and taking third."

Taking third was not a bad thing, but instead a thrilling moment having to go up against many of the best kids in the state.

Coach Day has really impacted McKiernan and his older brother as athletes and also as people.

"Coach Day has always kept me going. He also makes sure I'm always working my hardest and not slacking off at all," said McKiernan. But his coach wasn't the only one who impacted him this season. McKiernan's family had a heavy influence on him as well.

"My family was always behind me throughout the whole season. No matter how bad of a day or meet I had, I knew I always had their full support," he said.

McKiernan went out with a bang this season by taking third

at individuals and being a major success to the wrestling team.

Tyler Marino 215

Marino wrestled at 215 for individuals; sadly he did not place after going up against state qualifiers from last year.

"If I could go back, I would just be more aggressive and not be nervous." Said Marino. He wishes he could have done better.

Marino is already planning his mind set for next season.

"I need to work harder and just make sure I do what Coach Day tells me to." Marino said.

Coach Day has also impacted Marino.

Marino said, "He prepares us throughout the year. Then towards the end he really gets on us and makes us work a lot harder."

Wrestling has taught Marino a lot about being an athlete, and even more about the real world.

"It's really taught me good morals that I know I can use in the future." Said Marino.

Marino's advice for the upcoming freshmen will be very helpful for them next year.

Marino said, "Don't worry about winning or losing and just don't be nervous."

In Our Opinion



Question of the Week

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What are your Spring break plans?

Staff



“Alabama Gulf Shores”- Mr. Bourdeau

Senior



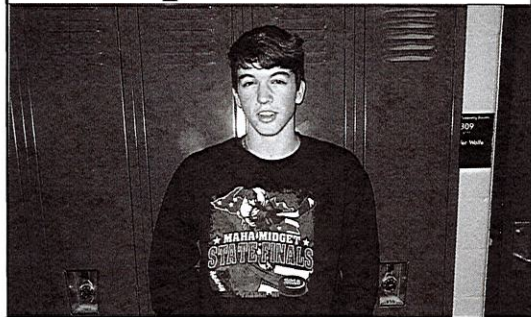
“Siesta Keys, Florida”- Andrew Hamel

Junior



“Mrytle Beach, South Carolina”- Morgan Gaigalas

Sophomore



“Sarasota, Florida”- Jay Dziegelewski

Freshman



“Florida”-Kayla Monte

Staff Editorial:

Life Through the Screen

The audience begins taking their seats, the lights dim, the curtain starts to open. As the music begins, the phones light up. Its Michael Flatley's Lord of The Dance—a highly successful dance show. In the audience there is a very diverse group of people. Young children, teenagers, parents and grandparents, but there is one thing all of these generations have in common: they're watching it through their phones. Nobody could thoroughly enjoy the show because they were sucked into the electronic daze that encompasses the modern world. Everyone was videotaping it to watch later or show their Facebook friends they went out and did something. Instead of actually enjoying the art in front of them these people were completely blinded by the technology

they hold at their fingertips constantly. Right before everyone's eyes dancers were performing complicated routines, singers were hitting incredible notes but instead of watching that with their own two eyes, the audience chose to watch that through a digital screen. Why buy a ticket? Why not just watch the videos online? There is no need for actual human interaction anymore. There is no need to actually witness art unfold in front of your very eyes anymore. There is no need to leave your house anymore. We no longer live in a world where humans can interact and actually enjoy something live. Our intellectual thoughts have shut down, our sense of communication has dissipated, our emotions are now emojis. Our minds are dim and our phones are lit.

Sunshine, Swimsuits, and Fun!

By: Jacquelyn Loria, Emma Gillem, and I guess Hailey Dziegelewski

Spring break is a time of relaxation. Whether you are going on vacation or staying home, it is nice to be away from school for a week.

Without school for a whole week, students are worry and stress free. For a whole week!!!!

Spring break is the best break of the year if you are going on vacation. If not, it's still a nice break since the weather is usually nice enough to go outside and enjoy the outdoors.

For the vacationers, chilling on a beach listening to the sound of the waves crashing onto shore is something everybody loves. Warm

weather, tans, and good friends or with family is what a vacation is all about.

The others, use this time to catch up on homework, college classes, or even books they want to read.

For those going away, it is important to take precaution of the dangers that come with traveling.

Always stay with a buddy when wandering, or take advantage of the iPhone FindMyFriends App just in case.

Stay safe and make it back to Richmond High School safe and sound.

Have fun in the sun but make sure to be responsible.

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Mission Statement:

Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devil's Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

Letters:

We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by writing to the Editor. See the drop off box in the library or you may email us at: mmurphy@richmond.k12.mi.us. Include your name, address, and grade level.