With one semester down, and one to go, I think we can all say that it has been quite an eventful year so far...from homecoming to successful sports teams and hardworking clubs, it’s obvious that CHS shines in all that we do. Read up on some of fall 2013’s highlights in this issue of...

_The Sphinx_

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‘TWAS A SUPER HOMECOMING, INDEED

LAUREN BALLESTRO

Carterville High School’s Homecoming was a pop-bam-booming success. The themed days were a Hulk-approved smash, the football players flew in for the victory, and none of it would have happened without the Student Council, parents, administration… and a Mr. Stan Lee.

Stan Lee grew up the son of Romanian-born Jewish parents. Living in a one-bedroom apartment with his family wasn’t easy, and teenage Lee wrote obituaries and delivered sandwiches to earn some extra money. It seems unlikely that this very modest background inspired the “genius” behind the stories of extraordinary superheroes. But nonetheless, Lee worked his way through the comic business to create the stories adored by many.

A shout-out is also given to artistic extraordinaires Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. After all, it’s difficult to create a character. It is just as difficult to bring life to someone’s vision. Thanks to these men, Spider-Man isn’t hot pink and Wolverine’s abs are quite perfect.

While nobody in Carterville has any super powers (not to my knowledge anyway—they could be in disguise), we are still a special place. And our Homecoming this October was no exception. CHS’s students extend our appreciation to all the heroic guys and gals that dedicated insane speed, incomparable strength, and stunning brain-power to make it possible.
Uncaged: Our Country’s National Treasure
By Megan Behan

There are probably only fifteen people in the entire world who enjoy Nicolas Cage more than I. The man is a legend. I remember the first film I’d ever seen that featured him. *Raising Arizona*, the film about a young couple who kidnap a quadruplet, as they are unable to have their own children. By no means was this film exceptional, but the one stand-out was him. Nic Cage was a star. He captivated all scenes, and the mustache he sported for the movie was perhaps the most glorious facial hair I have ever laid eyes on. Of course, that isn’t his only film. Nicolas Cage has starred in over 80 movies, which is pretty impressive for his 49 years. Probably his most well-known film is *National Treasure*, where he plays Benjamin Gates, a man intent on stealing The Declaration of Independence in order to decipher the hidden code on the back, as it leads to hidden treasure. I’ll tell you what the real treasure was. Nic Cage. This man has had us heartbroken in *Next*, and giggling in *G-Force*, all while reigning as King of the Internet. His face has been featured on t-shirts, blankets, phone cases, shoes, even eye shadow. That’s right, coming this January, yours truly will be sporting “Nic Cage Raking Leaves on a Brisk October Afternoon,” a lovely golden brown pigment. The World Wide Web cannot get enough of him. I view him as a hero above all else. He has changed my life. Before him, I had nothing exciting to talk about, I was lost. My interest in Nic Cage has launched my personality to the next level. I am proud to know that when people think of Nicolas Cage, they think of me. He is an integral part of my life, and he is an integral part of our nation.

Thank you Nic.
For everything.
Student Spotlights!
By Teagan Marron

Freshman Face
Bailey Morgan
Favorite football season memory:
-All of the wins and the support we were able to give the team.
Favorite marching band memory:
-Band Camp!!! And winning 1st place at SIU Music & Motion!
Match socks or not? -Mismatched
Coke or Pepsi? -Pepsi
Crushed ice or cubed? -Crushed
Requests for upperclassmen:
-The freshmen love it when you support us. Even a glance or “hi” in the hallway can brighten our day
Favorite Homecoming festivities:
-The pep rally was the best part of homecoming, considering I was at a marching band competition at U of I which was so much fun!

Sophomore Silhouette
Deep Patel
Favorite memory from football season:
-The comeback during the final playoff game!
Favorite marching band memory:
-Winning 1st place!
Match socks or not? -Match… duh
Coke or Pepsi? -Coke
Crushed ice or cubed? -Crushed
Advice for freshmen:
-Don’t be stupid, walk on the right
Favorite Homecoming festivities:
-I enjoyed the class vs. class games
Favorite school lunch:
-Tater Tots

Jolly Junior
Andrew Poole
Homecoming Festivities:
-I went to Taco Bell for dinner and took pictures in front of my date’s house.
Coronation was soon after dinner and then I went to the dance and was one of the first people to arrive.
Favorite day of Homecoming/Favorite Costume:
-Spirit day is jam packed with fun activities like the pep rally, parade, and the football game. I enjoyed Halie Parks’ orange and blue tutu, it was quite festive.
Match socks or not?
-I most DEFINITELY make sure that my socks match!
Crushed Ice or cubed?
-Cubed, because I hate choking on the small chunks of ice when you crush it.
Advice for Freshmen:
-Study as much as you can! You may not be applying for college yet, but it will sneak up on you faster than you think, so maintain those A's! It will only get harder as High School progresses so study hard!

Senior Spotlight
Holly Westbrook
Homecoming Festivities
-I went to get Chinese food and went bowling.
Favorite day of Homecoming/Favorite Costume: -Superhero day
When eating a taco, do you turn your head or the taco?
-I turn my head
Coke or Pepsi? -Pepsi
Advice for Underclassmen:
-Be better than what society thinks your generation is like.
TO FRACK OR
NOT TO FRACK?

Zvonimir Stojanovski

What is fracking? Basically, water, sand, and chemicals are pumped deep underground to break rock and release natural gas. If you want to sound fancy, it’s called hydraulic fracturing. This process is used by about 90% of all natural gas wells in the U.S.

One of the biggest problems with fracking is that it injects dangerous chemicals into the ground. Some 750 substances are used in fracking, including:

- Benzene, a well-known carcinogen
- Isoquinoline, which has been linked to Parkinson’s disease
- Toluene, an inhalant neurotoxin
- Formaldehyde, a carcinogen

All that good stuff ends up—where else?—in the water we drink! That is possible because Congress exempted hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act in 2005, during the Bush-Cheney administration.

Advocates of fracking say that it would create thousands of jobs in Southern Illinois. That is a true, but not for long. In areas where there is fracking, the cost of living, especially rent, increases because of the influx of workers. And what happens in the long run? After a few years, when most of the natural gas has been squeezed out, the drilling companies just leave—and leave behind a contaminated wasteland.

Recently, Illinois imposed some of the strictest fracking regulations in the U.S. Now, there are rumors that fracking will be shifted toward Indiana, which is less regulated. We will see.

Recently, the global anti-fracking movement gained one more supporter.
Looking Back on the Marching Field
Mikayla Thomas

The marching band at our school has grown to be more than a band; they have become a family. Jessica Heim-Brouwer (Sr.) says, “Our group dynamics were great this year. Having a good attitude is half the battle and I think that's a battle we won this season.” Whenever a group gets along, they are able to enjoy their season, and are able to perform at the best of their abilities.

The marching band competes in many competitions each fall. The first competition is always Drums At Appletime, in Murphysboro, Illinois. The band gave it their all and was awarded with Best Music and Emily Weisel (Sr.) was also awarded Best Drum Major. They also competed at SIU in Carbondale, Illinois’ Music and Motion. There the band was awarded with Best Drum Major, Best Percussion, and even though they were the only band to perform in the rain, they pulled off first place. “Even though we were literally the only band that got rained on, we still gave a great performance, and I think we deserved our first place,” Courtney Kinnard (Sr.) states. This was the first first place the band has received in the past five years. Emily Weisel was also awarded Best Drum Major when the band attended EIU. The band was a part of the U of I competition and the Edwardsville competition as well.

The band also performs at their small town parades, (including Cambria Labor Day, Free Fair, and Homecoming Parades) and at Friday night football games. For a lot of the seniors, EIU was their last competition ever. I’d like to share some of their memories from being a part of the Carterville Marching band. Courtney Kinnard: “I’ve had so many amazing memories. I especially love whenever we break out into spontaneous pep band tunes in completely random places. It’s so cool to see everyone come together and just have fun.” Ashley Hahn: “In general, I loved spending the past five years with my favorite people, showing Squidward what it truly means to be in a marching band.” Jessica Heim-Brouwer: “I would have to say that I really enjoyed going to U of I my 8th grade year. I was in awe of the atmosphere of a huge college campus and field, so being able to perform on it was a huge deal. Afterwards, we got to roam the streets of Urbana for a bit too, and a few close friends and I dined at a delicious Chinese restaurant and then took our leftovers back to the stadium to watch the remainder of the bands. Eating the leftover Chinese with our hands, we laughed and talked and had a really, really great time. The 2 A.M. call time and getting back around the same time 24 hours later was totally worth it, because those are the days I’ll always remember.” Elizabeth Hensley: “I must say that Xavier taking off his shirt and sling it around when another band won is definitely on my list.”

There are, of course, many more memories to be made through the upcoming concert band and pep band, and the band can’t wait!
When Scholars Go Bowling
By Courtney Kinnard

If you watch one match, you’ll see why Carterville Scholastic Bowl is all that. The team’s season began on November 6th, when the CHS varsity shut out the team at Pinckneyville. In similar fashion, the Lions brought their skills home in a match against Murphysboro on November 12th. Again, Carterville dominated the buzzers and prevailed over the opponent. Two days later, the Lions were back on the road for a meet in Harrisburg, where they dominated the Bulldog Scholar Bowl team. After two weeks, the varsity Lions are undefeated, and their prospects are looking quite favorable. Last year, the team won all but a handful of matches and advanced all the way to the IHSA 1A Championship round, where they finished the season with a nail-biter against Peoria Christian Academy. The match ended in a narrow defeat for Carterville, but they have come back this season with a brand new fire. Captain Zvonimir Stojanovski (Sr.) hopes to lead the Lions back to the State competition for the third consecutive year, and the team has set a goal of being the first-ever champion Scholar Bowl team from Carterville High School. Keep your eyes out for CHS Scholastic Bowl this year; they have an exceptionally promising five months ahead!

Picture above: last year’s scholar bowl team, coached by Mrs. Osborn and Ms. Owen, at the IHSA State Competition after receiving second place. This year, they have their sights set on first.
Teacher Feature:
Mrs. Watson
By Jacob Smith

When I was assigned the “Teacher Feature”, I immediately began thinking of teachers to interview. I was unsure if I wanted to interview a more humorous teacher like Coach B or someone a little more serious like Mrs. B. Two days before the article was due I decided on a happy medium: Mrs. Watson. For those of you who don’t know, Mrs. Watson teaches physics and biology here at CHS.

Although she teaches at CHS, Mrs. Watson’s alma mater is Carlinville High School. Carlinville, which is about three hours away, was the catalyst of Mrs. Watson’s love for math and science. Her favorite class in high school was Algebra; however, she was not too fond of her teacher. Perhaps her experience would have been better if Mrs. Tyner or Mr. Clark were her teachers instead. Mrs. Watson was an active participant in many extracurricular activities in school. She was a member of Carlinville’s dance team and was the manager of the track team. Few know this, but we are actually in the presence of royalty; Mrs. Watson held the title of Carlinville’s Rotary Queen. She was the President of the Building Better Citizens Club and was a featured dancer in her school musicals: Music Man, Hello Dolly, The Wizard of Oz, and Oklahoma. Mrs. Watson says that most students now would have called her a “prep” while in high school.

After her time at Carlinville, Mrs. Watson graduated from Illinois College with a degree in Biology and from SIUC with a certificate in teaching. When she wasn’t busy at school, Mrs. Watson was hard at work in the workforce. At her first job, she was a “busgirl” in a busy local eatery. After teaching a course, Mrs. Watson said that her favorite job was managing a restaurant. Mrs. Watson is very particular about her food. During high school she and her friends would go to Dairy Queen for lunch because they had an open campus. Now Mrs. Watson’s favorite school lunch is the Thanksgiving meal that our wonderful lunch ladies prepare.

When I asked Mrs. Watson to pick one teacher to be trapped on an island with, she replied with her partner in crime, Mrs. Taylor. She said, “I would definitely be entertained the whole time. She of all people would find a way off of that island. She would eventually come up with something that would get us home. She’d have some grand idea like trying to build the Titanic.”

Mrs. Watson’s favorite books include all of the Harry Potter books, The Hunger Games, and Salem’s Lot. Her favorite movie is The Lost Boys. She loves Fleetwood Mac and the color purple. Current senior Leslie Hancock said that “There are so many great things that I have learned from Mrs. Watson. Mostly what I’ve taken away from my time with her is that no matter what, I need to follow my dreams. She always encourages me to do what makes me happy and not what will please others, no matter how daunting the task may seem. She once told me, “stay away from people who mistreat you, no matter how close of a friend they are; good friends are hard to come by.”

As I ended my interview with Mrs. Watson, I asked her to give some advice to the students of CHS. She said to have fun, but take school seriously. She warns that if “you goof off now, you won’t be able to change it in the future.” Mrs. Watson was an absolute delight to sit down and interview. I hope all of you reading this get the opportunity to experience one of CHS’s finest teachers.
As we approached the end of first semester, final exams, and the holidays, it was easy to become overwhelmed with the events of the present. These small occurrences in our lives dominated our thoughts, and we became stressed over events that in even one year, we won't remember. However, during hectic times, it is important to never forget the important events of times past. Regardless of whether they changed the world in a positive or a negative way, they helped to shape the world in which we live. By remembering, we are able to both learn from the mistakes of past generations, and take inspiration from their accomplishments as we move forward and attempt to leave our own mark on the world in which we live.

**December 1, 1838**
The Trail of Tears began, during which 14,000 Cherokee were forced from their homes, causing the deaths of over 4,000.

**December 1, 1955**
Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus, leading to her own arrest, and the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott, a landmark event in the U.S. civil rights movement.

**December 2, 1982**
The first successful artificial heart transplant was completed at the University of Utah Medical Center. The recipient was 61-year-old Barney C. Clark.

**December 7, 1941**
Japanese warplanes attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

**December 15, 1791**
The United States Bill of Rights went into effect.

**December 16, 1903**
Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright carried out their first successful manned, powered flight.

**December 21, 1620**
The Mayflower Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

**December 31, 1879**
Thomas Edison publicly demonstrated his incandescent light bulb for the first time.
Bring Back the Classics
By Taylor Simmons

We can all recognize the beginning notes of the Christmas carol that began playing on the radio following Thanksgiving, if not before. Many cannot wait for the familiar songs to be sung by their favorite, super cool, and hip new pop artist. These renditions are what caused my extreme hatred for that special time of the year when all one can hear on the radio is the auto tune version of Jingle Bells. Our modern day ‘stars’ have ruined the real stars of Hollywood, such as Frank Sinatra, Paul McCartney, and Louis Armstrong. Classic artists like these are starting to fade from the memories of our generation, if only we could turn on the radio and hear White Christmas by Frank Sinatra; then I would be able to stomach the radio at Christmas time. This new ‘Christmas music’ is a monstrosity to our ears and to our souls, for this new generation is being betrayed when they listen to and enjoy such awful music. Maybe next year it’ll be different…I guess we have until Thanksgiving to find out!

Overactive Imagination
By Alex Muniz

Hey Stein, remember that time I went skydiving?

Nooo.

Oh, well how about that time I flew to the Moon?

Can’t say that I do.

I know remember that time at band camp?

Franky, the only memory I have with you is this conversation which would make sense because this is our first cartoon strip!

Oh! I guess I just have an overactive imagination!
A New Year’s Gift
Editorial: By Anna Spoerre

New Year’s Resolutions, post-holiday depression, a week straight of leftovers, and boxed up Christmas trees all seem to pile up until they push us off the edge of holiday bliss and into the crevice most commonly known as January. Back to school, back to work, and back to business like the holiday never even happened. And the best part: New Year’s Resolutions. No more spending hours in front of the T.V. before realizing that you haven’t even opened your backpack. No sir, no more procrastination…or at least, not until you accidentally hit the Netflix button. Okay, scratch that resolution. How about being healthier? So you vow to never touch junk food again. But after three days of eating like a rabbit (if you even last that long) you kind of go crazy and start devouring as much chocolate as you can get your hands on before someone from Walmart has to escort you out of the check-out line and into their counseling office. Alright, so admit it, resolutions are hard. We all have habits that we try unsuccessesly to break each January 1st, but by January 6th we’re all back in our same old routines.

One better routine I’ve gotten into includes visiting my next door neighbor. She’s 85 going on 25 and has the spirit and gumption of a women who is very much alive, and very much enjoying it. On one recent visit, as we sat putting together a puzzle, she enlightened me with a story that I found especially intriguing.

“Do you believe in angels? Because I do. I believe that people can be angels on Earth too. And that you can find them in the grocery store.”

So she began her recounting of a recent shopping trip in which, after spending an hour surviving the holiday rush only to realize that she left her checkbook at home, my neighbor found herself unable to pay the eighty-some dollar bill. The roads weren’t great that day, but she decided she would leave the cart and drive home to grab her checkbook. Before she even got the chance to leave the line, however, the woman behind her reached forward, swiped her credit card, and told my confused neighbor not to worry; she’d taken care of the bill for her. Of course my neighbor was completely shocked that someone had paid her grocery bill for her without hesitation, so she demanded the lady give her name and address so that she could reimburse her later; the stranger insisted it wasn’t necessary. My stubborn neighbor did get the lady’s name out of her though, and she decided that since she couldn’t pay her back, she’d instead make a sizeable donation to a local charity in the woman’s name.

If Christmas is the season of giving, and the New Year is a time of new starts and self-betterment, why can’t we all just combine the two into one purposeful New Year’s resolution that will benefit not only ourselves, but mankind? Here’s my New Year’s resolution for you: go out of your way to give. Now this doesn’t necessarily mean paying someone’s grocery bill or hauling your piggy bank over to St. Jude’s, but if the Knights of Columbus tootsie roll drive is ever preventing you from getting home at a decent pace, instead of getting frustrated, share that wealth of quarters and dimes that have been collecting in your cup holder. But giving isn’t just about money. Give of yourself—give your time, your talents. Give the small moments that seem to matter little, but actually matter most. Help someone chase after those spilled calculator batteries in the hall—a few extra seconds won’t make you late for class. Take the extra fifteen minutes to stay behind during a wintery day and make sure that everyone who doesn’t have an ice scraper gets their windshield cleaned off. Now don’t expect angel wings to sprout from your back anytime soon, but I can promise you this: If you’re up to the challenge, as you should be, giving of yourself will be well worth your effort in the end.
Witty Winter Horoscopes  
By Jessica Heim-Brouwer

Aries, you are one of a kind
And under the brilliant white snow you may just find
A season unraveling all of your fears;
The darkest point of your teenage years.

Taurus, shall I compare thee to a winter’s day?
Your soul is so cold, it scares most away
But take heed of any new mate
For he, she, or it may demolish your fate.

Gemini, rather than spending your leisure behind a closed door
Pick yourself up; do not be such a bore
Find a new hobby – I recommend crocheting
Over you, a new crowd of admirers will be swaying.

Cancer, your day of birth suggests summer is your best season
But that’s no excuse to commit reckless acts of treason
Regardless of how you’ve been wronged in the past
I instruct you to not leave others aghast.

Leo, the summer left you with a marvelous, golden complexion
Which was pleasing when you saw your own reflection
But I ask you to refrain from getting carried away
And baking in the tanning bed each hour of this break’s days.

Virgo, I know this semester has been hard
Which you think is an excuse to sit idly like lard
Invest your time in something a tad more worthwhile
Lest you pass your days in a state of denial.

Libra, so Thanksgiving confirmed it;
you’re allergic to corn
Though this issue you shall not further adorn
For amidst the sea of all your despair
Alas, a splendid horizon this winter does bear.

Scorpio, you only live once – yolo indeed
A wild, edgy lifestyle is one you may lead
Please yolo responsibly this break– yes, it’s a verb
Since your equilibrium you wish not to disturb.

Sagittarius, in certain areas you’ve been doing well
But you need quite some work on that awful smell
It is becoming a little bit out of hand
Either bathe yourself right, or leave this land.

Capricorn, over this winter I know just what you’ll do;
Write your lover a brief, romantic Haiku!
The first and last lines have five syllables, the middle one has seven
How hard could it be? Your work will proceed to poetry heaven.

Aquarius, we know you’re a star, but a star you can be
Without climbing to be the star on top of your old Christmas tree!
Avoiding this situation is what I most strongly advise
Unless you wish to fall off the tree to your tragic demise.

Pisces, by this time of the evening
I can no longer rhyme
Nor predict your winter fate.
Sorry.
Happy New Year from the Sphinx Staff!

Just something to keep in mind as we enter second semester:

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”
- Colin Powell

Thank you for supporting our school newspaper!