

HCC in the Early 1980's

A minor controversy arose in early March, 1982, when Doug Gottlieb was chosen to be the editor of the Hinman yearbook, *Dynamo*. Gottlieb's selection as editor was not the contested issue. What was contested was how well the position, which was open to all Hinmanites, was advertised. Rony Daneli, the previous year's editor, claimed that HCC had insufficiently advertised for the position. He showed that the only advertisement for the job appeared in a single issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* back in December. Daneli charged that many people who would have been interested in the position were shortchanged because there was insufficient advertising. After much debate it was agreed that Gottlieb would remain in charge of editing the *Dynamo* but that the *Dynamo* charter would be revamped so that the editor would be selected in the Spring semester (not the Fall) and would include language that would guarantee that there would be sufficient advertising for the editorship position in the future.¹

Another controversy arose, when HCC President Dean Hartman reported that there was significant damage to the Hinman Dining Hall following a party on January 23, so much damage that the cost to repair it would total \$148. A great deal of debate came from the overtired council (SA sweeps that been that night) concerning where the money to pay the damages should come from. The Finance Committee suggested that each hall should cough up \$20 from their own budgets and that the Social Committee would pay the remaining \$48. Many Council members argued that this was unfair to the individual halls and that the money should either come entirely from HCC or that there should be a fundraising initiative to cover the costs of the damage.²

The end of the Spring 1982 semester also saw some major upheavals in the way HCC was run. Up until that point, HCC E-Board positions ran the calendar year (January to December) as opposed to the academic year (August to May). The majority of the student

governments on campus ran the academic year. A resolution was passed on recommendation of HCC President Dean Hartman which suggested that the HCC Constitution be amended to make terms of office run the academic year. Hartman said the change should take place for a number of reasons. The first reason was because Hinman officers would start their terms of office when officers in other governments were already experienced and knew each other well. Another reason to change was that the Hinman system confused most of the other communities' leaders who were suddenly surprised at having to work with new people mid way through the year. To make things more equal, Hartman suggested bringing Hinman's terms of office into line with the rest of the university. Opponents to the change stated that Hinman's system was beneficial in that the fall semester, which is a confusing time for most students both old and new. During the fall many groups hold their organizational meetings and it is also the time freshmen get acclimated to their new surroundings. An experienced HCC E-Board, they argued, was beneficial in that they knew what they were doing and had experience, which most of the other students did not. This would allow them to move programs and events along because they had experience with the procedure. They also stated that it would be beneficial for E-Board members with experience to be presiding over votes on the budget (which at the time was voted on in the Fall) and that when student groups came asking for money it was better to have veteran E-Board members to help newer council members decide where Hinman's money should be spent. The arguments for and against this change were both very persuasive. For the change to occur, a majority of Hinmanites needed to vote for it. The issue was decided in the referendum.³ During elections for HCC E-Board, and that year Hinman came into line with the rest of campus. That is to say, thereafter elections would be held in the spring, and terms of office would run the academic year, not the calendar year.

Another big debate to arise that year centered around something that had long been the bane of hungry Hinmanites since the earliest days: long lines in the dining hall. Although this problem was nothing new, lines during Sunday dinners were especially long for no apparent reason. This issue was brought before HCC and there was a great deal of debate between the Council members and representatives from Auxiliary Campus Services (ACE), the organization that ran campus dining services at the time. The Council suggested that the dining hall be kept open later to accommodate all the students. ACE responded by saying that this would be financially impractical for them, though it was pointed out that they made a profit every year and should be able to extend their hours of operation. ACE was also attacked for having Dickinson Dining Hall only open for the spring semester (ACE claimed that there was not enough demand to have the dining hall open year round). Council members shot back that the overflow was coming to Hinman and making their lines excessively long. Angry debates continued for hours as the ACE representative and disgruntled Council members verbally attacked one another. The verbal arguments were so intense that at times the lines of communication degenerated into a verbal brawl between the two sides. The lack of communication occurred for a variety of reasons. For one, the ACE representative took the criticisms far too personally and instead of working with the Council members to find a solution to the long lines he spent most of his energy trying to defend himself. On the other side, most of the Council members were far too concerned with outlining their criticisms of ACE and did not offer any real solutions to the problems. The dialogue between the two sides was not productive and as one witness noted, it often looked more like a “Point-Counterpoint” session between Dan Akroyd and Jane Curtain of Saturday Night Live fame. Also the facts were not clearly presented. Everyone seemed to blame ACE for the long lines. However, many witnesses stated that the lines were long because people

had a tendency to cut in front of others in the line, causing those behind them to wait longer than they should have. Although all agreed that the long lines were unreasonable, many who were present for the meeting believed that there was too much argument and not enough effort devoted to finding a solution to the problem.⁴

Following up on this long and contentious HCC meeting, ACE opened the Hinman Dining Hall fifteen minutes earlier and introduced a line specifically for second helpings. This helped to alleviate some of the long lines, though many complained that they were still too long. Although far from a perfect victory, HCC had scored one for the home team and had helped to improve the lives of ordinary Hinmanites by cutting down on the wait for food in the dining hall.⁵

Controversy again struck late in the Spring semester when HCC voted to give away 21 free tickets to the semi-formal to the HCC E-Board and others. The E-Board reasoned that the Social Vice Presidents deserved to get in for free because they would be working during the semi-formal (serving punch, refilling the bowl, cleaning up messes etc.) and it would not be fair to them to make them buy their own tickets. They also stated that it has been tradition for the E-Board to get in for free. The contention arose not so much with the distribution of free tickets, but rather that HCC voted on the issue during a regular HCC meeting and did not elect to send it back to the individual halls, as is customary procedure. In an editorial in the *Hinman Halitosis*, the editor stated, "I am not trying to accuse everyone on Council of stepping over the heads of the constituency, but instead to suggest that next time everyone think twice before deciding such a delicate issue."⁶

Besides the suggestions that HCC was inappropriately rewarding itself with freebies, critics also claimed that HCC was becoming an organization that was pompous and disrespectful

of other Council members and their views. One editorial writer took stock of this with an article in the *Hinman Halitosis* dedicated to the issue.

I have been to my share of Council meetings this year, and I have always felt I was the only one who felt this way until I heard Kurt Colbridge voice my feelings.

In watching Council from the sidelines, one becomes aware of how callously members treat each other. The Pompous attitudes of some members really sets my teeth on edge.

I know that college is a growing experience for everybody, and getting involved in organizations like council can really do a lot for your self confidence and personal development. However, something I feel every Council member could benefit from is sitting back and listening to themselves and the way in which they communicate with other people in the meeting.

Maybe it's because I've worked in sales for so long now, but I find the way some council members abuse and belittle the ideas and personalities of other council members really disappointing. For example, I have seen RDs (!!) calling names and berating students. The Social VP is sarcastic, which is not a crime, but to say: "That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard anyone say in my life" to a peer is really not something one would expect of an elected official. Statements like: "Well, that's pretty dumb," and "That makes absolutely no sense at all," without explanations don't help the person understand why one disagrees with him: they only serve to hurt the person they're aimed at and possibly make him refrain from making a suggestion that might be very good.

It's this kind of pompous responding that Kurt was speaking about. Such comments are usually made subconsciously, and often in the midst of heated argument, but should be avoided at all costs.

A more common form of disrespect is to begin shaking your head or say "NO!" before a speaker has even finished his sentence. What does this kind of action tell the speaker? It says you are not listening to his words: you have already shut your mind on the subject. Council is designed to consider all kinds of ideas, not to censor in the prime of thought.

Power is a very easy thing to abuse, and luckily, there has rarely been any abuse of power at Council meetings. The president has maintained order at most meetings without even having to raise her voice. However, even at this level, such statements as "my meeting" and "my right" can be misconstrued as a certain type of power-hoarding. In meeting situations, "our meeting," "your council" and "WE" instead of "I" can go a lot further.

Overall, I feel Council has done an excellent job this year, and this editorial is not meant to hurt of [sic] belittle any of the members. However, it is hard to hear how you sound when all you hear is the sound of your thoughts flying through your mind. I feel that both returning members for next year and those who are going off to the great off-campus world beyond can profit from taking a good look at how they communicate,

whether they get the results the [sic] want and how they could get better results by changing some very small habits of speech.⁷

Issues involving misconduct and poor behavior of the upper echelons of HCC and even of supposedly professional Hinman staffers were not needed in HCC at this time. The scandal of the free tickets compounded with these behavioral issues did not paint a rosy portrait of the Hinman College student government. Even more problems began to emerge right before the elections. As in many HCC elections past and future, candidates for important positions on the HCC E-Board were in high demand and short supply. One concerned Hinmanite wrote about the subject in a letter to the editor:

...For those who are new or unformed, Hinman Council is the governing body of Hinman College. It is a forum where all decisions are made for Hinman: It allocates several thousand dollars. Hinman Council does do things, and there are elected officers and representatives, (well, at least there should be.). I do not personally consider any “election” where there is only one name on the ballot for a position, a true election. There was only one candidate for President of Hinman Council, one for social vice president, one for treasurer, secretary, Harpur College Council rep., and A.C.E. rep.—all important, responsible, and admittedly, time consuming jobs. Is that what makes Hinman students fearful—it might take time away from their studies? Well, let me tell you what an office can do for you that far out—weights any “A” in any course or on any test. Being involved lest you meet more people, inspires confidence, and yes—it can be fun too.

For G-d’s [sic] sake people, this is Disney World!!! When are you going to realize that? How many columns have to be printed reminding you that college is much more than grades? How many of you realize that Binghamton—this very school was once a hot-bed of student activism? We were once a campus of radicals!!

So get involved, people. Expand your interests. Know what is going on. Get everything you can out of college before it is too late. One more benefit I did not mention, is that you can look back years from now and be able to answer the question “What did you do in college?” with a true, proud response. Yes, I did get involved, I did do something in between studying for tests.⁸

Another Hinman College resident echoed similar sentiments in a letter to the editor in the next issue of *Hinman Halitosis*. The author wrote:

Student apathy is a definite problem in Hinman College. Our last election proved this—all but one Hinman Council position was unchallenged. In addition, many students were not even aware that there was an election. While pollwatching [sic]that afternoon, I heard comments like, “oh no, not another election,” “Who cares who wins anyway,” “I don’t know any of the candidates,” and “It’s not worth it.” That got me thinking—is it all worth it? I’ve gone to several Hinman Council meeting this year, and I can’t remember one where I left without feeling a bit angry.

To begin with, the atmosphere of this year’s council meetings was very unfriendly. The evenings were filled with council members making rude comments about other people’s suggestions. I had to think twice about voicing my own opinions—did I want to be told in front of all those people that my opinions were stupid and worthless? If it could happen to an elected council member, it could certainly happen to me. Students had the right to speak up, but did not deserve to be ridiculed.

Secondly, I’ve learned through my experiences with Hinman Council that they did not play fair. When the charter of a certain Hinman organization called for specific council members to comprise a selection committee, it’s expected that those people be there—no substitutions and no exceptions. Hinman Council did not reserve the right to alter this group’s charter. And later, when this committee’s recommendation was given to council, it was voted on by a show of hands—IN FRONT OF THE PERSON recommended for selection. Now, is that fair?

This year’s last council meeting was the final blow. Prior to each meeting, the president made up an agenda which was to be followed, and supposedly completed at the meeting. The last two items on last week’s list were “Old Business” and “New Business.” The semi-formal ticket item was brought up and debated heavily. After a long discussion on this topic, the president allowed the meeting to be adjourned. Whatever happened to “New Business”? It was on the agenda, and there was a group of us there to bring something up. I’ve been told that the president had been aware that we’d be at council with the problem, and I’m sure that she did notice that we were there. So instead of adjourning the meeting, why didn’t she go onto “New Business”? I don’t care what anybody says—that’s not good politics.

This year had come to a close, and what was done cannot be undone. I only hope that next year’s council will be more responsive and more respectful of this college’s rules, charters, and constitution. Then maybe it will all be worth it.⁹

Defending not only herself but the whole of HCC, Hinman President Carol Stacy wrote her own article. Her article read:

First off, I’d like to thank all of [sic] a year that has been one of my most enjoyable and memorable. And, as much as I really would rather not have had to do this, I feel I need to clarify a few misconceptions that have been expressed recently.

Concerning the Semi-Formal, the possibility of chicken instead of London broil was looked into, and, since the price differential was 40 cents, naturally the Social Committee decided to go with the broil. Also, the price people paid only went to the cost of the food and [sic] labor for the food; alcohol was not included in the ticket price.

In addition, I think that some people are not aware that the decisions were brought back to the dorms for a vote and council did take a revote after this, to determine the final outcome of the complimentary ticket affair!

Council debated the issue for over two hours Monday night, not to mention time spent at dorm meetings, and the representatives felt that they were, therefore, sufficiently informed to make a decision.

Of course, any student body has to learn and grow in something such as council, and I believe that council tried its hardest to serve you, the students of Hinman, as best as it could.

As this point, I want to encourage returning students to find out about events, attend them, and the OPEN Council meetings each Monday night, so we can kill the 'apathy' once and for all...¹⁰

Along with the problems facing Hinman College Council and the charges leveled against it of being mean-spirited and closed to differing opinions, the ever-present specter of student apathy continued to hover over those involved in Hinman. HCC Social Vice President elect Pat Byrne wrote a letter to the editor challenging the students returning to Hinman in the fall to get involved and participate in committees and organizations (like HCC) to make the lives of their fellow students better.

Spring fever has finally hit Binghamton and another disease has attacked Hinman: Student Apathy. It is no longer an attitude, it is a way of life. We all attend this fine institution for higher learning. The competition is gruesome, cut-throat and ridiculous. Most people study every night yet I find it hard to believe that the 168 hours of the week are just spend on sleeping, eating and studying. Here the famous quote, "I have no time to attend floor meetings dorm meetings, or heaven forbid, Hinman Council Meetings" applies. Floor meetings take 20 minutes, dorm meetings, 30-45 and Council meetings run an hour. Rounding everything up it comes to the grand total of 2 hours!! You still have 166 hours left to eat, sleep and study. Get with it Hinman!! Teddy Roosevelt said that there are two types of people, those who watch things happen, and those who make things happen. Make those things happen Hinmanites!!!

It's outrageous, pathetic and pretty sad that four out of five Hinman Council officers were elected uncontested. Is it a sign of the times? I hope not.

Finals are generally the worse [sic] time to contemplate further involvement. When one has to read 2000 pages of Bio or Poly-Sci you have to laugh at these outlandish proposals. Yet after finals there is a great abyss of time—summer!! Take a long hard look at yourself Hinman. Hall elections take place in Sept. and most of the College and University-wide clubs and activities are begging for membership. Get involved, it's your university and your home for eight months—do something for it.¹¹

The 1982-1983 academic year ended on a sour note for HCC and Hinman College Council. Scandal over semi-formal tickets and charges of mean-spiritedness during HCC meetings overshadowed an otherwise successful year. The hope for those returning to Hinman in the fall was that HCC would regain some of its professionalism and that Hinmanites would become more involved, with student apathy becoming a thing of the past.

At the beginning of the 1983-1984 semester, HCC President Daniel J. Stermer wrote a letter to inspire everyone in Hinman to get out and get involved. His letter read in part:

On behalf of the Hinman Council, I would like to welcome all the incoming freshmen, returning students, and staff to Hinman College. For the freshmen that attended last Thursday's gathering, you have a headstart [sic] on the others. For the remaining students, we are trying to stress two key words this year: INVOLVEMENT and DEDICATION.

Students come to SUNY-B for a quality education, but that's not all. There is a lot more in life than getting good grades. In order to complete your education, to become fully well-rounded, we encourage people to become involved in the activities that they like. There will be dorm elections coming up in the near future...Everyone should consider running for a position if they have the desire. But, even if you don't run, become involved in your dorm and floor activities, or even come join us at Hinman Council meetings on Tuesday nights. The more people that become involved, the easier the entire college will run.

Dedication is another key word that follows directly from involvement. We are all dedicated to our work; we all should be dedicated to this college. Hinman has a long standing tradition of being the best college on campus. We intend on keeping it that way. The only possible way to achieve this is for people to become interested enough and have a desire to see it continue. This completes the circle back to involvement...¹²

Stermer's letter was the obligatory announcement to everyone in Hinman that they should get involved in Hinman activities and especially with HCC. The hope for that year and every other year was that a fresh crop of Hinmanites would show enthusiasm for their residential community and stay involved. Stermer and everyone else who was involved in Hinman knew that this would be the only way for Hinman's rich tradition of excellence to continue.

A small controversy arose at the end of the fall semester when it was brought to the attention of HCC that a number of people including Faculty Master Nick Sterling, the head of the Social Committee, and Hinman professional staffers and their dates would be receiving free tickets to Hinman's Holiday program (a semi-formal-esque event). That amounted to a total of 27 tickets worth \$135. An argument arose whether it should be written into the constitution that these positions should get free tickets each year or whether it should be voted on every year. After some debate it was decided to vote every year for the free tickets. Some also wanted to amend who got the free tickets. Some argued that the whole HCC E-Board should be removed. Others wanted the Faculty Master and the Hinman professional staffers removed. One drastic measure even called for only the Social Committee chair to be given a free ticket. This was eventually shot down. After much debate, the final result wound up being that the system in place would remain.¹³

A boost in morale came in January when Hinman was victorious in the annual campus-wide Snowball fight. Although Hinman had won the snowball fight for a number of years, not since the great Snowball Fight of 1980 had there been such a large scale turnout. At approximately 12:30 a.m. a combined force of Newingites and Woodsies attacked Hinman. The Hinman defenders were ready and waiting and fought back the onslaught. After a pitched forty-five minute battle, the Hinman defenders were able to drive the attackers out of Hinman.

Hinman quickly counterattacked and with a force three times the size of the opposing enemy combatants, Hinman charged into enemy territory, quickly and succinctly decimating the enemy forces. Other than a few minor injuries and a broken window the event was a very positive experience and brought out a lot of community spirit in everyone involved in the snowball fight.¹⁴

This sense of community pride and spirit was soon forgotten it what can only be called the Great Carnation War of 1984. Apparently both Lehman and Smith halls decided to do a fundraiser around Valentines Day. Both buildings decided to sell carnations. Instead of collaborating, each building worked hard to undercut the other, and a fierce price war began among the two halls. The war reached a frenzied pitch when Smith Hall came unannounced to an HCC meeting and began to sell their carnations. Tempers flared and fights nearly broke out. Only the quick and level-headed thinking of the HCC E-Board kept the altercation from becoming violent. A letter to the editor in the next issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* helped to clarify the situation.

As concerned residents of Lehman we would like to reveal a few facts about Lehman's decision to have a carnation sale:

1. Lehman, as a council, decided to have a carnation sale for Valentines Day in September.
2. There was no agreement or pact among the dorms to let Smith have the Valentine's Day carnation sale at any Hinman Council meeting. (Check with Danny Stermer or Melinda Keel).
3. Both Lehman and Smith had carnation sales last year and everything was fine.
4. The Carnation sale is not traditionally anybody's event.

Smith is not a godsend that is delivering fun to Hinman by throwing a great party on Valentine's Day, and Lehman is not going to use the money it makes solely for Lehman. The fact that Lehman does not have a specific holiday for a party does not mean that we aren't going to throw parties for all of Hinman.

We would like to add to those involved that the position of RA is not a political one and should not be used to gain favor for one dorm over another.¹⁵

The exact outcome of the great Smith-Lehman carnation controversy was never fully explained; however, one thing is for certain: for those who purchased carnations that year the price was very competitive. Many love-struck Hinmanites were able to give their sweethearts carnations without breaking the bank.

A rather humorous snafu occurred in a following HCC meeting. Apparently the meeting was cancelled but four HCC regulars who were not elected officials were not notified. Those four people were Faculty Master Nick Sterling, Mike Tice, Mike Ditkowsky (the managing and publishing editor of *Hinman Halitosis*), and ACE representative Ross Bodin. A rather humorous and tongue-in-cheek article about the “meeting” that occurred that night. It read in part:

...Ross had no Ace news to report, as he saved it for his article printed in article of the Hinman Halitosis. He did, however, enjoy talking with Nick. Mike Tice was very happy. He would now have time to study for his exam on micro-theory...Mike Ditkowsky left when the meeting was over and went back to his hole in the Halitosis office...Nick also had a very, very good night. He offered to take all council members present that night to his favorite home away from home, Scotch and Sirloin. Unfortunately, the offer was only valid that night and no council members attended. I guess everybody missed out!!! In addition, Danny Stermer promised Mike Ditkowsky that the next time a council meeting was cancelled, he would be called up on the telephone...This was the shortest meeting on record. It lasted for only nine minutes.¹⁶

Humorous interludes in HCC were not uncommon. HCC has always been a somewhat troubled organization, but that doesn't mean that it didn't know how to have fun every once in a while. Humorous anecdotes were not unknown among the members of Council, and as any HCC member past or present can tell you, a sense of humor is essential to successfully fulfilling the role.

Nearing the end of the semester and the academic year a highly successful program came to the Hinman Dining Hall. Hinman College sponsored a program entitled “Cultural Celebration” to help promote diversity on campus. The dining hall was decorated with various

national flags, balloons, streamers and photographs of other countries. Various cultural groups attended, such as the Jewish Student Union, the Spanish Club, the German Club, the Irish Student Association, the Latin American Student Union, and the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. All the groups spoke to attendees about their different cultures and offered various traditional cuisines such as tacos, Irish soda bread, plaintain [sic] and falafel to name just a few. Many of the groups also dressed up in their traditional cultural garb. There was music, stories from Israel, a demonstration from the Harpur Karate Club, and the African American Dance Group gave a lively performance. The Gospel Choir president (the rest of his group could not attend) sang and played the piano for the entertainment of the revelers. Overall it was a highly successful program and a great way to cap off the year.¹⁷

In the final regular issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter, outgoing President Daniel Stermer wrote a short of farewell address to the members of HCC and the residents of Hinman College. The letter read:

Dear Fellow Hinmanites,

As this school year comes to a close, I write to you to say thank you and plead to you in the same message. This year for me has been an experience that I will never forget. I hope that everyone else that lived or lives in Hinman feels the same way I do. The college life in this community has so much to offer that it is unbelievable. I wonder if people really know what their college has the potential to do. The problem that we encounter is the same as every other college; there is a lack of participation. Because of this, it is hard to plan events and try new programs.

Another major problem is that you can not run an event without people. If everyone would donate at least ½ hour sometime during the semester, this college could rock all year. As a graduating senior, one looks back at the four years of college and remembers. You will only get out of your stay here what you put into it.

Now for the thank-you part. To thank everyone by name would take forever. Of course some are necessary. Going back to the beginning of the year, thanks to those who helped with co-rec and congrats to “I Tappa Keg”. The next tip of the hat goes to the R.A.’s for Dorm Wars and this year’s winner, Roosevelt. Next, I must thank the members of each dorm council for all their time and effort. You people are the ones that make Hinman

College function. Next must be the executive committee. Thank you for doing a job that was above and beyond the call of duty. Priscilla and Sandi must be remembered for their help whenever needed. Lastly, and not leastly [sic], Nick [Sterling], Maggie [McHugh] (Hinman Coordinator), Maria [Brasacchio] (Assistant Coordinator), and the entire staff, a great big THANK-YOU. Your help has been so greatly appreciated. And to you, the rest of Hinman College; I hope you feel the same way I do!¹⁸

As the 1983-1984 academic year ended it was shown to be a good one. There had been controversies, but these storms had been weathered. Still there was the undying specter of student apathy that had haunted the year and every other year before it. Stermer's plea was the same as of every HCC President is that came before him and every one that came after him. The plea was to stay active, to be involved, and to continue the great tradition of spirit and enthusiasm that residents of Hinman College were known for.

The 1984-1985 academic year started off in much the same fashion. Newly elected President Steven D. Heller wrote a message to all the incoming students to encourage them to participate in Hinman activities that year.

On behalf of the Hinman College Council I'd like to welcome back all returning Hinmanites and welcome all students new to Hinman this fall. Welcome back! Welcome!

I have a very positive attitude coming into this year, an attitude that I share with the rest of the council and would like to share with the rest of the college. Hinman is full of activities for all interests...from taking or instructing non-credit courses, to planning parties, to playing co-rec football. If there's something you really want to do, you can probably do it in Hinman College. Get involved.

For those of you interested in dorm representative offices remember that Letters of Intent are due to Hall RDs on Friday, Sept. 7th for elections to be held the following Wednesday. Anyone can run for dorm positions with the exception of President who must be a resident of the dorm for at least one full semester. Apathy toward representative positions has hurt Hinman and all SUNY-Binghamton in the past. Many positions have been won by people running uncontested and this has led to taking these important positions too lightly. I hope this year we can change that. As I told Freshmen Thursday, you should run for office—I invite you to prove me wrong and show me that you can win. Get involved.

Hinman College has a great deal to offer—all you have to do is ask...

Get involved and get ready for a FUN year!¹⁹

Although undoubtedly there must have been numerous social and academic programs as well as a share of controversies, the record for this year (and the following years) is relatively sparse. There was a campaign to bring David Letterman to Hinman College; however, that campaign failed.²⁰ There was also a plea for Hinmanites to join a demonstration in Albany to protest the drinking age from being raised from 18 to 21.²¹ As every college age student knows, the movement to keep the drinking age where it was failed as well. It also saw the retirement of Jane Madden, the longtime secretary of the Hinman Office. Madden had worked at SUNY Binghamton for 18 years, the vast majority of those years in Hinman College. Like many secretaries before and since, Madden had become a sort of surrogate mother to the residents of Hinman College, especially those who were involved. Her retirement was a sad moment for everyone who knew her.²² Before she left Jane Madden did offer some parting words to the men and women of Hinman College who had meant so much to her over the years.

At LONG LAST, I am going to retire. For a long time I have looked forward to this day, not without mixed feelings to be sure I will miss you all, and I wish you love and success all the days of your lives.

Thank you to everyone who participated in my retirement party, the music, the dancing and singing, all the good food and wonderful friends made it the nicest celebration I have ever attended, and that it was in my honor made it even nicer. You guys really put one over on me.

All my love to Nick and to Rene, to Trees R. Green and Marie, you were right, I do just love you.

In appreciation for helping to make my stay at Hinman so much fun, I am giving you all...a free pass to Madden Patio.²³

The patio that she refers to in her letter is the Hinman Patio (the space between the Hinman Library and the Hinman Commons). That area is officially considered the Jane Madden Patio.

For a time there was a marker there stating just that. However at some point there were renovations of the patio and the marker was removed. The marker is now on display in the Hinman Library. It is located in the small area between the exterior and interior doors of the library's main entrance. Even though the plaque is no longer embedded outside, that area will forever be recognized as the Jane Madden Patio in honor of one of Hinman's longest serving and most beloved secretaries.

HCC President Steve Heller ended the year in the tradition of his presidential predecessors by writing a farewell address in the final issue of the *Hinman Halitosis*. His message read:

Fellow Hinmanites,

I would like to thank everyone for giving me a great term as Hinman College Council President. Unfortunately, I can't [sic] Apathy runs rampant at SUNY-UCAB [sic] and Hinman College is one of the more apathetic residential areas at this university. When I ran for this office, I wanted to bring a perennial university-wide event to Hinman. I thought the ideal event would be a real beach party-with sand and everything-in the middle of February. A lot could have been done with this, but not enough students seem to really care hence, the "SUNY—Binghampton, [sic] the Upstate Hampton's [sic]" Party was just another dorm party.

The most depressing example this year of apathy was the recent council elections. Only one letter of intent was turned in for A.V.P [Academic Vice President]; one for S.V.P [Social Vice President]; one for Treasurer, one for Secretary; one for Editor in Chief of the Halitosis. Another reason I ran was because last year there was only one letter of intent for President (before mine). Well, at least this year my action was repeated.

My final objective, of course, was wiping out communism on this campus. At least one thing worked!¹

On a serious note, despite my disappointments of the past year, the Hinman Council got a great deal accomplished. We've drafted revisions in both the Constitution and Judicial System; We've also approved a new Dynamo charter which will make Dynamo a full-yearbook—starting in the fall; also, come next fall, we should have a full-court basketball court behind Smith and Roos; hopefully repaved; we've honored Jane

¹ In earlier issues of the *Hinman Halitosis*, Heller had received a reputation for being an adamant anti-communist and a devout Ronald Regan supporter.

Madden-Madden Patio—and Nick Sterling-Sterling Quad² (both of whom have been establishments in Hinman).

I'd like to conclude by thanking everyone who has helped the council out this year, even Jill Fisher. I'd also like to say "you won't have Steve Heller to kick around anymore," but I am not a crook.²⁴

The 1984-1985 year was an accomplished year, as outgoing President Heller noted. While student apathy seemed to have become even more of a problem this year than it had in previous years, Hinman College and HCC still had much to be proud about. Both Jane Madden and Nick Sterling had been honored and the legacies and traditions of Hinman College would continue into the next year.

Unfortunately, the record for HCC meetings and much of Hinman College history is sparse following this year. The written record, which is predominantly old issues of the *Hinman Halitosis*, runs out around this time. While *Halitosis* continued to be printed well into the 1990's, coverage of HCC and other Hinman events is lacking. There are, however, a few areas which do stand out in these intermediate years of HCC history.

¹ "Hinman Council Notes," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIII, No. 21, March 10, 1982.

² "Hinman Council Happenings," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIII, No. 23, March 31, 1982.

³ "Editorial," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIII, No. 26, April 28, 1982.

⁴ "Illustrious Hinman Council News," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No. 9, October 27, 1982.

⁵ "ACE Report," *Lake Lieberman Halitosis* –Special Combined issue, November 1982.

⁶ "The Undisguised Opinion of the Editor," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIV, No. 25, April 27, 1983.

⁷ "Another Opinion," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 25, April 27, 1983.

⁸ Steve Kraus, letter to the editor, *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 25, April 27, 1983.

⁹ Lisa Zavlick, letter to the editor, *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIV Final Issue, May 5, 1983.

¹⁰ Carol Stacy, letter to the editor and Hinman College, *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIV Final Issue, May 5, 1983.

¹¹ Pat Byrne, letter to the editor, *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIV Final Issue, May 5, 1983.

¹² Daniel J. Stermer, "President's Letter," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XV, No. 1, August 30, 1983.

¹³ "Council News," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XV, No. 12, December 1, 1983.

¹⁴ John Ortiz, "Hinman Again Victorious in Annual Snowball War!!!" *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XV, No. 16, February 2, 1984.

¹⁵ "letter to the editor," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XV, No. 17, February 9, 1984.

¹⁶ "Hinman Council News," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XV, No. 19, February 23, 1984.

¹⁷ Jill Abramowitz, "Culture Comes To Hinman," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XV, No. 25, April 11, 1984.

² Nick Sterling would eventually be honored again—Sterling Field (1995) behind Roosevelt is the official Co-Rec playing field after the university administration prohibited play on the Hinman Quad for safety reasons (see the chapter on Co-Rec Football for more information on this subject).

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- ¹⁸ Daniel Stermer, "A Letter From The President," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XV, No. 27, May 2, 1984.
- ¹⁹ Steven D. Heller, "A Message From The President," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 1, August 28, 1984 [misprinted as 1983].
- ²⁰ "Do You Know Who These People Are?" *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 18, February 20, 1985.
- ²¹ "Council News," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 21, April 10, 1985.
- ²² "Spring Maddeness hits Hinman as Jane retires!" *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 22, April 18, 1985.
- ²³ Jane Madden, "Gone Fishin'," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 23, April 24, 1985.
- ²⁴ Steven Heller, "Farewell Address," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XVI, No. 24, May 1, 1985.