

The Greenlees Administration

September 15, 1980 saw the first HCC meeting of the year take place. One of the major pieces of new business at this meeting and in subsequent meetings of that year would be whether Hinman should recognize the newly formed Hinman Production Company (HPC).¹ The meeting also dealt with the issues of committees. HCC needed people for social, publicity and movie committees. This year, as in previous years, HCC was desperate for anyone to volunteer to help them make living in Hinman a better place.¹

In previous years, HCC had been at times a rather glum and all too serious organization. This year it appeared that the members of HCC were ready to have a little bit of fun. There is little to report about HCC during the 1979-1980 academic year. Jim Greenlees was the President of Hinman at the time. Over twenty-five years later, Greenlees claims that the biggest thing he did during his tenure as President was keep the meetings short and that he brought beer and Dunkin' Donuts to the final meeting.² This is the tone from a humble HCC President who did much to make Hinman a better place and worked incredibly hard at his job.

Besides bringing beer and doughnuts to HCC meetings, Jim was the butt of good-natured jokes, usually about this last name, that appeared frequently in the *Hinman Halitosis*. Jim lived in Lehman Hall as did every other member of the HCC E-Board. With Lehman Hall basically running the show, many in HCC began to joke that Lehman was planning on taking over all of Hinman and creating a greater Lehman Empire. There was also speculation that the E-Board was having talks with their counterparts in Newing College Council for a collusion of sorts during the annual Newing-Hinman snowball fight. Rumors even began to spread that they were keeping a secret file on all non-Lehmanites and those who harbored sympathies against a great Lehman Empire.³

¹ For more information on HPC see the chapter on Community-based Theater.

Going along with the joke, a letter concerning the issue of Lehman Hall taking over all of Hinman purportedly written by Jim was published in an issue of *Halitosis*.

The *Halitosis* recently printed several articles accusing Lehman hall of plotting to take over the rest of Hinman College. The author even had the temerity to claim an alliance between Lehman and (gasp!) Newing College.

This baseless slur against that fine dorm is so ridiculous that it is almost funny. It is sheer coincidence that all executive positions on Hinman Council live in that fine hall, and that academic and social committees meet in Lehman, and that the first movie was shown in Lehman. As far as winning Dorm Wars is concerned, it reflects not so much a prelude to takeover as it is a reflection of the quality of the dorm.

In sum, anyone who dares deface the image of that shining bastion of campus life and social involvement is obviously a subversive from CIW or even (yawn) Dickinson, seeking to promote internal squabbling and thereby undermine this community for the purpose of invasion after the next snowstorm.

Yours truly,

Jim Greenbeans [sic]
President, Leh [the Leh struck through as if in correcting] Hinman College

Undeniably, Lehman Hall was the powerhouse building that year and the good natured ribbing in the *Halitosis* and during HCC meetings helped make rather boring and mundane meetings all the more interesting and fun. Apathy may still have been a problem, but effective leaders like Jim Greenlees (or Greanbeans, Greanleaf and many other assorted surnames that he seemed to possess) made life in Hinman and HCC better.

In late October there was much activity on the HCC front. News of noteworthy importance was the announcement that student managers would now be on duty in the Hinman Commons from 7 p.m. until midnight each night. HCC Social Vice President Diane Fischer would now be responsible for renting out the sound equipment, a duty that the student managers were originally supposed to handle. In a hotly contested issue, four buildings were fined for not cleaning up after the Fall Weekend festivities. Smith Hall and Cleveland Halls were fined \$6.25

a piece and Lehman and Roosevelt Halls were fined \$12.50. The money earned through the fines would go back into the coffers of the Social Committee. The animosity of the fines gave way to the joy of hearing that the social committee would sponsor a happy hour in the dining hall with all drinks costing only fifty cents each. Also, a change in the *Hinman Halitosis* Charter was passed. The amendment called for a change in how the editor-in-chief would be chosen. Before the editor-in-chief was selected by the assistant coordinator of Hinman, but now the editor would be selected by a committee of five students. In other news, it was also reported that Lehman and Cleveland Halls would be the first buildings to get new furniture for their rec rooms.⁴

Just before Thanksgiving that year there was a sizeable amount of snow covering the ground. This could only mean one thing: it was time for the annual Newing-Hinman snowball fight. Virtually every year since the two residential colleges were built the two communities would engage in a near epic struggle whereby the “Newing Horde” would march across campus and attack the Hinman defenders. Soon CIW and Dickinson were incorporated in the great snowball fight, and it became a near campus-wide event. The snowball fight was never officially sanctioned; however many residents from all of the residential colleges would participate in this fun event to herald the start of the long Binghamton winter.

This year began with much anticipation over the snowball fight. In years past, Newing would march up the steps and through the Hinman Patio and attack the community somewhere near the hill where in the dug-in Hinmanite defenders would rain down their snowy ammunition upon the invaders. Although winners were mostly arbitrarily chosen, it had been agreed that Newing was the winner of the great snowball fight most of the years. This year the leaders of Hinman College vowed that it would be different.

This year's snowball fight started off like any other. However, many of the Hinman defenders began to get antsy and itched for a fight. A small detachment of Hinmanites led mostly by some Roosevelt Hall residents performed a sortie at CIW, sparking the great war that was to come. The small band was pushed out of CIW by their stalwart sentinels. Raising a white flag of truce, the leaders of Hinman met with the leaders of CIW and through some tricky backroom political wrangling convinced CIW to join them in an alliance. The united residential colleges then spearheaded an attack on Newing. On their way to Newing, a band of Dickinsonians were found and they too were convinced to help with the assault on Newing. United, the three residential colleges marched deep behind enemy lines into the belly of the beast. This time, Newing would have to fight on its own territory. Newing was caught completely off guard, and a group of innocent Newing residents who were out sledding were pulverized with a torrent of snowballs. As the army marched through Newing College they chanted anti-Newing slogans and like the barbarians of old sacked the Newing Library. Satisfied with their successful raid, the armies decided to disband and return to their respective communities. This raid, though, was only the opening battle in a larger conflict. The war was only begun.⁵

On the way back to Hinman, a group of Hinmanites composed largely of Smith Hall residents was waiting outside the Student Union. At this time a number of people from OCC were also present. Not yet ready to say farewell to their arms, the Hinmanites began an impromptu skirmish with the unsuspecting OCCers. The battle quickly subsided when the OCC bus came to pick up its passengers. Filled with bloodlust and itching for a fight, the newly reinvigorated Hinman army decided to return to Newing and rub their victory into the faces of

those who had beaten them so many times before.⁶ However, the brave Hinman warriors were in for a surprise.

Upon returning to Newing to sack the once mighty horde yet again they discovered that old alliances had been severed and that the other residential communities had joined forces with Newing. After a long and hard fought battle, the desperately outnumbered Hinmanites retreated to friendly territory. Upon returning to Hinman, the loyal defenders had fortified their positions and a large snowball making assembly line had been created to prepare for the final climatic (pun intended) battle of the day.⁷

Meanwhile, the Newing Horde backstabbed their onetime ally CIW and completely ransacked that community. The massive army of darkness moved slowly away from CIW towards Hinman, laying waste to everything in their path.

Finally, the enemy appeared, a black stain against the white snow. These infidels marched boldly into the paid parking lot and were met by charging legions of Hinman defenders. Newing recoiled back down the slope, and three more Hinman charges sent them running for home. Up until now, no foreign boots had tread on Hinman soil during the fight, nor would there be another chance.⁸

With the Newing Horde reeling from their embarrassing defeat, Hinman then rallied its troops, charging headlong into the woods surrounding CIW to exact revenge upon their onetime ally. Hinman easily trounced the CIW defenders outside of Cayuga Hall. However, the stairs between Cayuga and Seneca Halls were more heavily defended and the Woodsies² held firm and pushed the Hinman army back. As the Hinman army retreated to better ground, the remnants of the CIW expeditionary force rallied for one final push. In an epic onslaught second only to Pickett's Charge, the forces of CIW threw themselves with all their might against the retreating Hinmanites. After a harrowing fifteen-minute battle filled with hand-to-hand combat, the beleaguered Woodsies finally gave up and retreated to the safety of CIW. Sporadic fighting

² Slang term for a resident of CIW.

between the various remnants of the residential colleges continued for another twenty minutes. When the snowflakes settled and the ice thawed it was obvious who the victor of this year's snowball fight was: Hinman College.⁹

The Great Snowball Fight of 1980 is all but forgotten in the chronicle of Hinman history. Truth be told, the story of the snowball fight has entered the popular history as the stuff of legend and much of the reality of the fight has given way to myth. Exactly who participated in the fight and how many people were involved is unknown and probably never will be known. However, the snowball fight did show one important thing. The leadership of Hinman College, and HCC in particular, was one of the driving forces behind the spirit and the pride that led the residents of Hinman, traditionally the losers of the fight, to victory. The victory over the other residential colleges and over Newing in particular was a source of great pride amongst Hinmanites for many weeks to come. Hinman College, regardless of previous years of apathy and problems with government, was a place full of indefatigable pride and everlasting spirit.

As the semester slowly wound down, HCC tried to tie up some loose ends before winter break. Diane Fischer brightened everyone's spirits by bringing in some "slightly hardened" cider for HCC to enjoy. One of the big controversies of that meeting focused around the complaint that the ACE milk machines often dispersed sour milk. The ACE representative stated that they were looking into the situation and hinted that the poor refrigeration of the milk had to do more with the subcontractor who supplied the machines and not ACE itself. Of more concern was the notification that no letters of intent for HCC positions were received. In other words, no one was running for HCC office. As in every single year before, the student apathy had once again reared its ugly head. It was the hope of President Greenlees and other HCCers that new leaders would step up to take on the important mantle of leadership of HCC.¹⁰

The next meeting saw the changing of the guard in HCC. President Jim Greenlees saw his Social Vice President, Diane Fischer assume the presidency of HCC. During her final report as Social Vice President, Fischer stated that the Semi-Formal was a huge success with all 250 tickets being sold. The bad news was that Cleveland Hall and Hughes Halls were each fined \$11.25, Smith Hall \$5 for not sending the sufficient number of people to help with the clean-up. She also gave a special thank you to Smith Hall resident Rich Wilen (of Co-Rec fame) for all his help that semester.¹¹

¹ "Order!" *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 3, September 18, 1980.

² Jim Greenless, e-mail message to author, January 26, 2007.

³ "True Facts," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIII, No. 4, September 4, 1980.

⁴ "Council Counsel," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 8, October 23, 1980.

⁵ "Hinman Is Victorious," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 12, November 20, 1980.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Council Countdown..." *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 13, December 4, 1980.

¹¹ "Changing Of The Guard," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 14, December 11, 1980.