

Bandemonium

The 1995-1996 *Dynamo* described Bandemonium in this way: “Hinman’s Bandemonium is like Bethel, NY’s Woodstock, but on a much smaller scale! One full day of peace, music and song rocks the quad for all of Hinman to hear.”¹ Bandemonium was a huge event that became popular in the 1990’s and at its peak eclipsed Dorm Wars, Hysteria, Bus Stop, and Rockefeller Room in popularity. Bandemonium was held on the Hinman Quad and featured many on-campus (and the occasional off-campus) bands. It also featured Binghamton acapella groups such as the Binghamton Crosbys. The event was held in the spring on the first Sunday after Hysteria* as an opportunity to wind down from all the previous week’s events. Bandemonium would start in the morning and go until late at night, with little rest periods in-between. During the day, the staff of the Hinman Dining Hall brought food outside so that the students could have a picnic lunch and/or dinner while they watched and listened to the groups perform. Besides from the musical performances, the emcees of the organization would hold small contests and give away prizes. Often they would throw special Bandemonium Frisbees out to the crowd to keep them excited and on their toes. An HCC Barbeque would often occur during Bandemonium, as would a carnival.

At its height, Bandemonium was perhaps the largest event ever to be held on the Hinman Quad, with the possible exception of the events of Co-Rec Weekend during the era of Bob Giomi in the mid-1970’s. Furthermore, earlier in the 1990’s decade, Co-Rec football had been moved to its present location at Sterling Field. Besides Dorm Wars and Hysteria, the only official event to be held on the quad was Bandemonium. The last Bandemonium occurred in the year 2000. Joshua Kittenplan, a senior at the time and former HCC President, was selected as the host for that year. Although it is uncertain what killed off this huge and seemingly universally popular

* Hysteria Events Day is traditionally held on a Saturday.

event, what likely killed it was the decision to move Bandemonium from the Hinman Quad and into the Hinman Dining Hall and to shorten its hours to just an evening event.² Bandemonium was also victim to Binghamton's infamous weather. The last few Bandemoniums were all but rained out. Many students became frustrated after having spent countless hours putting together a large stage in the quad, booking acts and arranging for food to be brought out to Hinmanites, all to have it killed by a sudden downpour. Acts of God were also partly responsible for the downfall of Bandemonium.

¹ *Dynamo*, 1995-1996 edition, 75, on file in the Hinman Archives.

² Joshua Kittenplan, e-mail message to author, February 8, 2007.