

### Movies in the Residence Halls

During most of the 1970's it was the charge of the social vice presidents of each hall to host a movie night in their respective halls on a weekly rotating basis. In other words, one week there would be a film shown in Cleveland, the next week it would be in Hughes, the week after that in Lehman, and it would continue to circle around the community till the end of the year. There were a wide variety of movies shown, including some now considered classic, (though at the time they were very recent) such as *On The Waterfront* and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, to name just a few. This rotating system of movies was a welcome source of entertainment for many bored Hinmanites or those just looking for something to take their minds off of their school work or the pressures of the day. Towards the end of the decade, the films moved from the individual halls and into the Hinman Commons, which was seen as a more central and universal location. Sadly, the weekly showing of films would not last. Though the reason why they ceased to be shown is unclear, the probable cause was that the motion picture industry around that time began to clamp down on public showing of their feature films to audiences. To this day, it is illegal for a film to be shown in a public area (main lounge, Hinman Commons, etc) without getting the proper rights to do so. The exception to this rule is if a film is used only for "educational" purposes. For example, faculty use of films for instructional purposes is legal. While to the outside observer the showing of films may seem like a rather dull part of Hinman life, to the best knowledge of this author, no other residential college at Binghamton at this time showed films for the benefit of their residents. This was also well before the advent of VCRs and DVD players, YouTube.com, and downloadable films on the Internet. For many students this was their only opportunity to see motion pictures, especially if they could not easily get to

the cinema. It also offered a welcome form of diversion of many Hinmanites for the better part of the decade.