

## Oktoberfest

Anyone familiar with this Bavarian holiday knows that the traditional Oktoberfest is a fun-filled event that is saturated with copious amounts of alcohol, especially fine German beer. While not on the scale of the world-famous Oktoberfest held in Munich each year, the Hinman College version was no less popular for those who lived in Hinman. Almost every community in Binghamton at this time had an Oktoberfest celebration, but during its heyday (the mid-1970's to the early 1980's), the Hinman Oktoberfest celebration was regarded as one of the biggest and the best. Oktoberfest would be held every year in the lower dining hall which would be decorated with a German theme. Large quantities of beer and German style food (bratwurst, wiener schnitzel etc.) would be served. Live music would be performed by a German "oom-pah" band clad in lederhosen and other traditional Bavarian garb.

Unfortunately, Oktoberfest would not last. The chief reason why this popular event would not continue at Hinman or any other community would be because the drinking age (which at the time was 18) was raised to 21. The vast majority of the people attending would not be able to drink, which more or less defeats the purpose of Oktoberfest. Even though it lasted only a brief period of time, Oktoberfest was a fun and popular event for many a Hinmanite, and provided for many of their fondest memories of their time in Hinman.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Joel Horowitz, e-mail message to Al Vos, September 12, 2006.