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This work in its entirety is dedicated to

Faculty Master Al Vos

I know that I am not alone when I say that Al is by far the most dedicated professor on this campus and his chief concern has always been for his students. Without his guidance I would never have been able to come as far as I have in college and have such an amazing experience as I did, let alone complete this project. Of all the people, not just in my college experience, but in my life, I can honestly say that Al has by far been the most influential person in helping me make some of life’s most important and difficult decisions. One of my few regrets from my days in college is that I did not seek out his advice more often or listen to it more when it was offered. There have been many influential mentor-mentee relationships (Socrates and Plato, Merlin and Arthur, Yoda and Luke, to name but a few) but the one which has had the most profound affect on me is the one that I have had with Al. Mitch Albom may have had Tuesdays With Morrie, but I had Wednesdays with Al.

“The best thing for being sad,” replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, “is to learn something. That’s the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn.”

-T.H. White
The Once and Future King
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Thank you mom and dad for believing in me and for supporting me throughout the entire course of this project, my four years in Hinman College, and for everything that I have ever done in life.

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Thank you to Dr. Larry Greenfield, Director of Harpur Academic Advising, a fellow history buff and my personal and professional career coach for the past two years. I think my document may actually be longer than your dissertation, Larry. I can’t thank you enough for always being there when I needed you.

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Last but most certainly not least, as any member of residential life can attest, some of your best friends are the people with whom you work. To Lauren Losapio, Michelle Grossman, Eric Kurs-Lasky, Yachao Zhang, Liz Mansdorf, Leanne Mercadante, Tammy Bui, and Christine Centola, I can not thank each of you enough. We started off as acquaintances, grew to be friends, and before we knew it, somehow we transcended all of that and became family. No matter where fate may take us or what the future has in store, I know that I will keep each and every one of you in my heart wherever I go and for as long as I live. Thank you for making my two and half years in the Discovery Program/Residential Life and my four years in Hinman College so amazing. God bless each and every one of you and may we never be far apart.

I would like to extend my apologies to anyone whom I may have failed to mention. The fault is completely my own.
Author’s Note

Writing any historical document is a difficult and all consuming process. Hours upon hours of research must be done and facts must be constantly checked in order to make sure that the narrative is told correctly and accurately. This is especially true when one is writing a history that is not well documented in many areas. Throughout the process of writing this history I feel as though I have taken extraordinary efforts to make sure that everyone who deserves to be mentioned is mentioned, that no one is portrayed in a negative light, and that no one is glorified or marginalized. Any college activity, especially Hinman College activities, are all team efforts and dozens upon dozens of individuals contribute. If at times it seems as though I am concentrating on one individual over another it is not to make them a “hero” and to marginalize the others who contributed, it is because of the language used and the structure of the narrative, not any conscious effort on my part to make any one individual seem larger than life. In the end it is an impossibility to contact everyone involved in an activity/institution to get their stories. I apologize if any one feels marginalized or left out. That was never my intention. My hope is that every Hinmanite can read this history and feel proud of what they accomplished, even if they are not mentioned by name. Everyone has a great and worthwhile story to tell and unfortunately not all the stories can be told in this volume. Let me assure everyone that I have gone to tremendous lengths to make this history as accurate as possible, but for the sake of the narrative, certain stories had to be cut before publication. It pained me to do so, but it was a necessary evil. My hope is that every generation of Hinmanite can read this history and take pride in the fact that they were a part of something great even if they are not the focus of the narrative.
Sing us a song, you’re the piano man
Sing us a song tonight
Well, we’re all in the mood for a melody
And you’ve got us feelin’ alright

-Billy Joel
“Piano Man”
The Spirit of Hinman

There is nothing more sad or glorious than generations changing hands.

- John Mellencamp

It’s hard to explain to someone who has never lived in Hinman College exactly what it is that’s special about Hinman. When you mention it to them, usually they’ll give you a weird look, their brow will become constricted deep in contemplation and their countenance will betray their severe inability to comprehend what you’re talking about. At most they’ll mutter the words, “What is so special about a dorm?”

I’ve had this experience myself. During the Clue Run event of Dorm Wars 2006 I was stationed as a judge along with a number of freshmen Hinmanites at the CIW Dining Hall. At the time, these young Hinmanites, new not only to Hinman but the entire college experience, took it upon themselves to ask me, a senior and four-year Hinman resident, the important question: “What’s so great about Hinman?” I tried as best I could to explain to them the glories of Hinman’s past and the potential of its future and all of the great opportunities that it had presented to me. I told them about our traditions, the opportunities for involvement, and the most special part of Hinman (to me at least) which was all the wonderful people I had met and the lifelong friends I had made along the way. To this many of them laughed suggesting that to them Hinman would be nothing but a bunch of bricks and mortar, a place that they would sleep while they spent four years studying to get their degree. In fact nearly all of them thought I was completely foolish to invest so much of myself in a single residential college when I could be off doing what they were doing, chiefly partying, experimenting with legal and illegal substances, and generally just being any other ordinary college student.

I came away from this experience somewhat perturbed, feeling lost and isolated. Was I really the only one who cared about Hinman? Then I reminded myself that one of two things
would happen to these young Hinmanites. They would continue to feel the same way they do now and eventually move to either another residential community or off campus. Some people, no matter how hard you may try to enlighten them, never attain the Hinman Spirit. You shouldn’t feel anger or resentment towards these unfortunate people. Instead you should feel sympathy for them for not experiencing this awesome and immensely gratifying feeling. The second possible event that could occur (and the one I hope for them and all other current and future Hinmanites) is that they’ll stay in the community and that they’ll learn and grow and, more importantly, stay involved. If this happens, there is a good chance that they’ll grow to love the community and appreciate the Spirit of Hinman.

“But you still haven’t answered the initial question” you may say, “what is the Spirit of Hinman?” The Spirit of Hinman is something that is not easily quantified or explained. I’ll admit it is a vague and abstract and intangible concept. Perhaps the best way to explain it is with another story. In the Spring of 2006, near the end of my junior year of college, inside the Hinman Commons the annual Hinman Pre-service meeting took place. For those of you who don’t know, the Hinman Pre-service is a time when all the returning RA’s and DA’s and the newly hired RA’s and DA’s get together for the first time and are allowed to mingle and meet one another. Also, team building exercises and some ground rules about the conduct of RA’s and DA’s are laid out for all to know. From here the following year’s RA/DA staffs are chosen by Hinman’s Assistant Director, Resident Directors, and Faculty Master. It was during this time that at the end of Pre-Service in a sort of kooky but ultimately fulfilling ritual, the lights of the Commons were dimmed and a candle was lit. This candle represented the Hinman Spirit. Everyone was to get into a large circle and the newcomers to Hinman were to read a quote from a cardboard placard that was handed out to them. The returners to Hinman were to share their
favorite Hinman memory. As the candle moved around the circle, slowly but surely making its way in my direction, I wracked my brain for what I was going to say. I mean, how do you boil down three years of what can only be described as pure joy into a single memory? I had more wonderful memories than I could possibly relate to my peers in this group. When the candle finally got to me I held it in my hand for a moment, admiring its beauty and all the happiness, hard work, and tradition of not only my minuscule three years, but of the people who lived through the previous forty years of Hinman history. I looked at the people around me, many of whom I had know since I entered Hinman three years previous as a scared, naïve freshman from a small town in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. All eyes were upon me. Even at this stage I had acquired something of a reputation for eloquence in my speeches. I tend to disagree, but I will admit that I do have my moments from time to time. I looked back at the candle, opened my mouth, perhaps a few words escaped me, the emotion boiling up from deep inside my soul. It was going to be a cathartic and nearly liberating experience, and then with the breath from my body overcoming my senses and my perceptions, I blew out the candle, extinguishing its flame and plunging the entire room into darkness. At first a hushed silence fell across the room for probably about a second or less, but to me it was an eternity. Then the room erupted into laughter at my gaff and a bit a relief fell over me. Whew, I thought, no one is going to lynch me for blowing out the Hinman Spirit.

Those who don’t know Hinman will never understand, but my act of blowing out the candle that represented the Hinman Spirit is akin to dropping the Olympic torch. It’s sacrilege to do so. Luckily for me one of the RD’s, Malindra Ratnayake, dutifully took out his lighter and relit the candle which allowed the ceremony to continue without incident. I vaguely remember
mumbling something about friendship and passed it off to the guy next to me, Ryan Schoefield, a fellow RA who I had known for years and who was barely containing his laughter.

“Ok, great story,” you say, “but I still don’t understand what the Hinman Spirit is all about.” I will respond by saying that the Spirit of Hinman’s very essence is contained within this story. By inadvertently blowing out that candle I had committed the most gross and heinous crime imaginably by Hinman standards. It was an act of high treason. I was Judas, Brutus, and Benedict Arnold all rolled up into one. My act was the Hinman equivalent of assassination. Blowing out the candle made me a John Wilkes Booth or a Lee Harvey Oswald or a James Earl Ray. I should have been Hinman’s public enemy number one, tarred and feathered and banished from the community for my unspeakable crimes. But instead of being ostracized or lynched by a mob of angry Hinmanites, I was spared. In fact, I was laughed at. No, I take that back. I wasn’t laughed at. I was laughed with. Almost instantaneously after my despicable deed I was forgiven and absolved of all my sins. My peers looked at me and laughed. They figuratively took me back into their arms and kept me as one of their own. I even ate dinner at the Hinman Dining Hall with some of them later that evening.

You see, that is what Hinman is all about. It’s about laughter. It’s about friendship. It’s about forgiveness, and so much more. A person could easily fill an entire chapter on virtues associated with Hinman and the people who have lived and currently live within its bounds. But the message you as a reader, whether you’ve lived four years or more of your college experience in Hinman or have never even heard of the place, is that it is something special, that it is something unique.

Over the summer, Professor Al Vos, the Faculty Master of Hinman approached me about writing a history of Hinman College as a sort of addition to Hinman’s Fortieth Anniversary that
would be held in the Fall of 2007. When classes reconvened in August of 2006, I agreed that I
would undertake this awesome task to write this history, partly because I thought it might be fun,
but also because I still felt guilty about blowing out the Hinman Spirit. You see, during Dorm
Wars, when those freshmen couldn’t even begin to comprehend what the Spirit of Hinman could
be all about, I felt that my symbolic act of blowing out that candle destroyed that spirit
jeopardizing all future generations of Hinmanites to apathy and making Hinman just another
dormitory community among many at Binghamton University and just another in a long list of
dorm communities at colleges and universities across the country and around the world. I
entered into this project hoping to make amends, and feeling the tendrils of student disinterest
and apathy already beginning to swallow the residential college that I love so very much, I hoped
that my writing could capture, even if just for a moment, a splinter of that glory and splendor of
Hinman’s past, and maybe, just maybe inspire a young burgeoning Hinmanite to follow in the
footsteps of Hinman’s founding fathers and mothers and set this community apart from all the
others. That is my goal and my hope for the future.

I don’t know if the words that you’ll read within this book will accomplish that, but I
hope that perhaps from reading stories, like the ones I have described to you and the ones that
you’ll read in the following pages, you’ll gain a greater understanding of what the Hinman
experience has been and by extension of that begin to comprehend the Spirit of Hinman.

Now that you’ve read this long preamble to an even greater epic that would make Homer
(the ancient Greek poet, not the character from The Simpsons) wince with effort I can now vainly
try to offer a definition of the Spirit of Hinman. The Spirit of Hinman is something that is held
within each and every one of us. Only by being a part of Hinman can you begin to fathom the
Spirit of Hinman. Like I said earlier, some never get the Hinman Spirit no matter how hard you
may try to offer it to them. Others, like myself, come to it easily, like a catching a benign influenza that spreads rapidly infecting everyone with its greatness and majesty. It’s something that makes no sound, yet you can hear it every time you sit in one of the lounges in any of the residence halls in Hinman and listen to the laughter of the residents living within their walls or whenever any Billy Joel song comes on the radio, especially *Piano Man*. It’s not visible, but you can see it every time a Co-Rec game is played or you watch an HPC production or go to a Dorm Wars or Hysteria event. It has no odor but you can smell it during those crisp spring days when the buds emerge and the fresh southern tier breezes blow the perfumes of blossoming flowers and a rejuvenated land across the quad. It has no discernible feel, but you can touch it each and every time you shake the hand of the welcoming staff member you met when you first set foot in Hinman or embrace the roommate or person who you haven’t seen in years yet became your best friend all because you shared a similar residential community. It has no known flavor, but you can taste it in the offerings of the Hinman Dining Hall, such as one of its jelly donuts. Come to think of it, maybe Homer Simpson would appreciate the Hinman Spirit.

The Spirit of Hinman is all these things and more. It is like a sixth sense that you can’t explain or prove that it exists but yet you know that it is there. It’s something that you have to experience, something that you have to live through to truly comprehend. It has all the power and glory of a religious epiphany, yet all the mild and down-to-earth simplicity of a simple smile from an old friend. *Civilus…Privatus…Scholasticus.* That is Hinman’s motto, but its spirit can be boiled down to community, friendship, family.

These musings on my part can do it no justice. So I will leave you with these parting thoughts. Like the tide of the oceans, the Spirit of Hinman may ebb and flow with each generation and within each individual but it is always there. To paraphrase Charles Dickens, it
may be the best of times or the worst of times, but it will certainly be the time that you will always remember. We, who have lived in Hinman, can state unequivocally that we will always remember our time in Hinman and cherish our memories of Hinman for the rest of our lives.

This history, though, is not my story. Rather it is the story of individuals who lived through every epoch of Hinman history and played a part in its development. It is to these individuals, alumni to a truly unique and special residential college, that this work is dutifully dedicated. Perhaps by reading these following chapters you will come to know and appreciate these individuals, who to the greater outside world are nothing special, but to this place they are truly exceptional and extraordinary. More than a history of a physical location this is a history of people, of individuals who embody the Spirit of Hinman.
Context: In May of 1979, Vito Sinisi, then Faculty Master of Hinman College, contacted George L. Hinman, the son of Harvey D. Hinman to whom Hinman College is named, to write a short biographical sketch of his father. The following is what George Hinman wrote:

Harvey D. Hinman

1864-1954

* * *

Harvey D. Hinman, for whom Hinman College was named, was one of the local community leaders who had a part in arranging for the establishment in 1949 of Harpur College (previously a branch of Syracuse University) as the State University of New York at Binghamton.

He was a vivid and strong personality who devoted a keen mind, tireless energy and great independence of spirit to the practice of his profession, the law, and to a life-long interest and vigorous participation in public affairs.

As a trial lawyer, he tried cases throughout the United States. His opening for the defense in the impeachment trial of Governor William H. Sulzer is included in the book “Famous American Jury Speeches” published some years ago by the law librarian of Columbia University.

He served in the New York State Senate when Charles Evans Hughes was Governor and became the Governor’s right arm in achieving the enactment of the Hughes reform program. In 1914 Theodore Roosevelt persuaded him to run for Governor in the Republican primary in an unsuccessful effort by Roosevelt to oust the so-called Barnes machine from political power in the state. Senator Hinman refused an offer by Barnes to back him for the United States Senate, which, in those days, would have meant his election to the Senate.
He loved a good fight and throughout his public career was a joyous battler for the right, an implacable foe of hypocrisy and of any betrayal of the public trust.

He was born in 1864 on a Chenango County farm, seventy-five years after the inauguration of Washington and a year before the death of Lincoln. He was born and grew to adolescence, and beyond, before the telephone, before the electric light bulb, before the automobile, before the airplane, before the radio or television. He died in 1954, at ninety, well into the nuclear age.

The world changed but the values acquired in the rural society of upstate New York in the mid-nineteenth century America, did not. The lessons of the Old and New Testaments, especially of the parables and of these, especially of the Good Samaritan, were always with him.

Above all, there was always with him the habit and the value of hard work. From his farm background he recognized hard work as the touchstone of individual survival, security and success; as the indispensable essential to the production of economic wealth, in turn the first and indispensable condition of social progress and social justice; and above all, as the key to individual happiness, which, indeed, it was to him throughout his life.

His name brings to the tradition of this college these old and time tested values. In turn, this college brings to his name a distinction he would have valued more than any other -- association with youth, with opportunity for youth, with excellence in the pursuit of learning.

In his own pursuit of learning, he had gone to school in a one room schoolhouse and then to the academy in the village five miles away. He had taught school to earn money for his legal education at Albany Law School.

He knew the value of education and, throughout his life, he was on the side of the young.

Genesis: Collegiate Structure at SUNY Binghamton and the Origins of Hinman College

In the beginning ALBANY created the State University of New York at Binghamton. The University was without form and void, and mud was upon the face of the campus; and the spirit of ALBANY was moving over the face of the campus. And ALBANY said, let there be collegiate structure, and there was collegiate structure. And ALBANY separated Hinman from Newing and Dickinson...iii

-Sandy Lazar, Assistant Editor for the West Harpur Other, 1969

To comprehend the character and the legacy of Hinman College we must first examine its origins. Hinman did not miraculously rise out of the mud. Hinman’s pioneering spirit sprang out of the minds of the founding fathers of the State University of New York (SUNY) system and the principal leaders within SUNY Binghamton itself.

In 1946 the first college in the southern tier of New York State opened. Called the Triple Cities College, because of its close proximity to the cities of Binghamton, Johnson City and Endicott, this college evolved out of a small extension program with Syracuse University that had been around since 1932 to serve teachers in the Triple Cities region. Pre-1946, this program was small, with fewer than three hundred students enrolled in classes limited to English, foreign languages, mathematics, psychology, history, and sociology. It had no campus (nearly all the classes were held in the Union-Endicott High School) and it granted no degrees. If student from the area wanted to continue their education and receive a degree, they eventually had to transfer to another college or university.iv

These modest beginnings changed drastically following the end of World War II. The end of the war saw millions of men and women discharged from military service. In order to assist with this huge return of servicemen from the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific, Congress passed the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act. Better known as the GI Bill of Rights, this legislation allowed, among other things, returning soldiers to pursue a college education by
paying for the student-veteran’s tuition and books, and by providing a monthly stipend for four years. In order to accommodate all these veterans, the Triple Cities College was founded, coinciding with a statewide initiative to create affordable colleges and universities in the state.

Triple Cities College was a cash cow for Syracuse University during the boom years of the mid to late 1940’s with the bulk of their students being returning GI’s. However, as the 1940’s came to a close, most of the soldiers had graduated. Triple Cities College was becoming more of a drain on Syracuse’s resources than it was a moneymaking venture. Glenn G. Bartle, the dean of Triple Cities College, and those closely associated with him knew that sooner or later Syracuse would cut its ties with the college. Without a larger institute sponsoring it, Bartle knew that Triple Cities College would not last for long. He began searching for a new sponsor and soon found it in the newly created State University of New York.

The story of how Triple Cities College entered the SUNY system, became Harpur College and eventually SUNY Binghamton is a long story filled with backroom deals, political wrangling, and the egos of many of the state’s powerful and influential politicians and businessmen. Early in 1946, New York State Governor Thomas E. Dewey drafted legislation to create the Temporary Committee on the Need for a State University. This committee would be chaired by man named Owen D. Young and the final report would be known as the Young Report. This committee would assemble all the necessary data to see if New York State needed to establish a public university system. Two years later the committee came back with its final report. The Young Report recommended that four-year colleges be created in areas that were not adequately served by current institutes of higher learning and where the number of students desiring higher education was great enough to establish such a college. It also established a state board of trustees to oversee the creation of the new State University of New York system.
Seeing the potential that this had for the future of Triple Cities College, Bartle immediately called upon all his contacts within the movers and shakers of the Southern Tier. Over a series of dinners and lunches, a group of politically savvy men would plan to get Triple Cities College admitted to the new SUNY system. Among the men who Bartle enlisted in this great endeavor was Thomas J. Watson, the founder of IBM and one of the most powerful and influential men not only in business but also in state and even national politics. Also present were Charles F. Johnson, Stewart Newing, and Edgar W. Couper, influential local businessmen, and George L. Hinman, the son Harvey D. Hinman, for whom Hinman College is named.viii

Glenn Bartle, a talented academic, was also politically adept and had many social connections with powerful figures in state and local politics, including key members of the law firm Hinman, Howard, and Kattell. With this group of politically savvy and business-minded individuals, The Southern Tier State University Committee was formed with the sole task of lobbying for Triple Cities College to become a part of the SUNY system. The committee, made up of members from local industry such as IBM, Endicott-Johnson, and the Union Forging Company, along with the Hinman, Howard, and Kattell law firm, lobbied the local Binghamton government. Without the blessing of the local politicians the committee was bound for failure when the time came to address the state. With so many powerful and influential forces in favor of forming a public university, it was a foregone conclusion that the local municipalities would come on board as well.ix

After securing the blessing of the local politicians, the members of the committee contacted Oliver C. Carmichael, the chairman of the SUNY board of trustees. Although initially unenthusiastic about the prospect of admitting Triple Cities College into the SUNY fold, Carmichael began to turn around when more and more of the politically influential members of
the committee began to correspond with him about the potential that Triple Cities College held for the SUNY system. The committee worked around the clock to gather such pertinent data as how much the new college would cost, the prospects of attracting students to fill its seats, and other necessary data, all in an effort to make a compelling case for their position.

The journey to admit Triple Cities College into the SUNY system did hit a snag—not because of anything they did, but because of a power struggle at the state level. The SUNY board of trustees assured they would be in charge of managing the SUNY system, and in part they were. They were tasked with creating a budget for the colleges and universities already controlled by the state and developing a system of community colleges to complement the four-year colleges and universities in the state. However, the Board of Regents, which up until this point had almost complete control over the state’s educational programs, resisted this new entity which threatened its power. What ensued was a turf war between two state agencies and a host of other forces. “This struggle…involved more than just these two bodies. In addition to their own interests, each represented a variety of political forces in the state.”

In an ironic turn of events, George L. Hinman, who at the time was the chairman of the Board of Regents, came up with legislation known as the Condon-Barrett Bill, which essentially would force the SUNY trustees to relinquish virtually all control over higher education in New York State to the Board of Regents. George Hinman’s father, Harvey Hinman, was a leading member of the Southern Tier State University Committee and openly supported the SUNY trustees. George Hinman (his position on the Board of Regents forced him to step down from the committee) appeared to be in open defiance of his father and his father’s support of the SUNY trustees. The reality of the situation was far more complicated. It was not that George Hinman did not want to see Triple Cities College be admitted to the SUNY system. On the
contrary, he was an advocate of it. The reason George Hinman fought the SUNY trustees was because he was loyal to the Board of Regents and furthermore he was having a sort of feud with Governor Dewey, who was trying to supplant the power and authority of the Board of Regents with the new SUNY trustees. In what would seem to be the answer to every problem in state politics (and in the future battles over collegiate structure) a committee was formed called the Committee to Save the State University. It was established by the SUNY trustees and their supporters to fight George Hinman and his legislation. The whole hassle became a non-issue when Governor Dewey vetoed the legislation on March 23, 1949. This effectively put the SUNY trustees in complete control over the state university system.xii

New obstacles emerged with changing political circumstances. Dewey, though he was a supporter of SUNY, was up for reelection and was desperately trying to forge a coalition between Republicans and Democrats in the state legislature that would support his budget. Many of Dewey’s fellow Republicans were demanding cuts to the budget, cuts that would all but destroy any hope for funding of the new SUNY system. With the ensuing fights over the state budget, Southern Tier State University Committee member Edgar Couper addressed the SUNY board of trustees and pleaded the case of the Triple Cities College. After much discussion it was agreed that in order to help take some of the financial pressure off the state, the local community would have to provide for half of the capital costs of the college.xiii While this was not ideal, it certainly was better than having absolutely no support for the college from the state.

Realizing that funds for the college had to be acquired locally, the Southern Tier State University Committee solicited the Broome County Board of Supervisors to levy new taxes to raise the sum of approximately 1.5 million dollars. This was a huge sum of money, especially in 1949. In order to win the supervisors over to their position, Couper devised a strategy whereby
each supervisor would be approached by an individual whom the committee believed to have the most influence over him.\textsuperscript{xiv} The extent of this shifty maneuvering can never be known; however, the committee addressed the Board of Supervisors on November 14, 1949, and pitched their idea to them. The Board’s reply to this address was that they would take the matter under advisement and adjourn until a later date. Following this, various local newspapers such the Press, the Sun, and the Endicott Daily Bulletin came out in support of the committee’s proposal.\textsuperscript{ xv}

By December the overwhelming majority of the Board of Supervisors were in favor of the proposal. This was in large part due to the efforts of the committee, who through political pressure and pure personal persuasion were able to convince the supervisors to allocate the necessary funds. Chief among those who threw their political influence around was Harvey Hinman and his son George. Both men made a series of phone calls to key members of the Board of Supervisors, persuading them to vote in favor of the committee’s proposal. Late in November of 1949, Harvey Hinman wrote a letter to all of the members of the board strongly urging them to appropriate the needed funds. His letter read in part, “I am convinced, as I am confident you will be when you have examined the subject, that failure to take advantage of this rare opportunity to secure a permanent State supported college would be a grave mistake—a mistake which could not be corrected.”\textsuperscript{xvi} The existence of this letter shows that the Hinman family, while playing a high stakes game with both New York State and local Broome county municipalities, was in the process of forever leaving their mark upon the new college and the whole of the Southern Tier.

Another obstacle that the committee had to overcome was the intense opposition that many of New York State’s private colleges and universities had for a public university system in New York. Most of these institutions felt that the creation of a system of publicly funded
colleges and universities in New York State would undercut their programs and enrollment. They lobbied hard for the state to use the money allocated for the creation of a SUNY system to instead be used as scholarships to send students to the existing private colleges and universities. The reality was that the SUNY system was designed for poorer students who could not afford to study and live away from home. The goal of the SUNY system was to make higher education affordable to the student who otherwise would not be able to afford a college degree. It was not so much the cost of tuition that hurt these poorer students; it was the costs associated with room and board, textbooks, and other miscellaneous expenses. Though the state government was now firmly behind the creation of a SUNY system, they faced opposition from powerful interests such as Edmund E. Day, Chancellor of Cornell University, and Everett Case, President of Colgate University. A series of letters and proposals were exchanged between these two men and various political leaders in the state, and they even held hearings with politicians in Albany, all in an effort to derail the creation of a SUNY system. Nearly all of the local newspapers harshly criticized Day and Case, whom they considered to be elitist and part of the old robber-baron establishment intent on keeping the sons and daughters of average middle-class working families out of higher education. However, with the political will of the committee and the mass media on the side of founding the SUNY system, the efforts of these men and others like them led to nothing. With opposition to the SUNY system all but eliminated, and with the blessing of the SUNY board of trustees, Triple Cities College was admitted to the SUNY system on February 7, 1950.

In an effort to continue public higher education, Bartle began plans to expand the existing college. Bartle’s main focus was to revise the college so that it would rival the more established, and expensive, Ivy League schools. Bartle believed that by recruiting only the best faculty,
providing top-notch facilitates, and having a strict admissions policy, the new public college would be able to draw a class of superior students and sustain itself well into the future even without veterans who were the initial backbone of the college. In July of 1950, Triple Cities College was renamed Harpur College in honor of Robert Harpur, a local man who played a minor role in the Revolutionary War and who had been a wealthy landowner in the eastern part of Broome County. The hope of Bartle and others like him was that this newly renamed public college would, distance itself from Syracuse University and cement the founding principles of quality affordable higher education within the SUNY system. Bartle, like many others involved with the college, envisioned Harpur becoming a public “Swarthmore in the Southern Tier.” The hope was that Harpur College would completely realize the dream of affordable higher education of the best quality for New York State.

With the foundations of Harpur College now established, Bartle’s task was to build the fine institution that he had dreamed about. On May 13, 1952, it was announced that Harpur College would relocate from its location in Endicott to a new site in nearby Vestal, NY. This new area, complete with three hundred acres of developable land located close to main transportation arteries, would be an ideal location to build the campus that everyone had dreamed about.

The journey to create graduate level programs throughout the SUNY system began shortly after the establishment of SUNY itself. The Trustees of the State University of New York proposed that the SUNY system expand and offer more graduate-level programs in order to meet the demand for more technically trained men and women with advanced degrees. Realizing the potential this initiative had for Harpur College, certain members of the faculty began to push for graduate-level programs at the college. They met some resistance from faculty
who wanted to keep Harpur College small, like Swarthmore. By February 1957, the Educational Policies Committee was established at Harpur College to research ways to develop graduate-level programming. Many influential men sat on this committee, including Glenn Bartle. Another man who was involved with this committee would become an icon in Hinman College History. That man was Christian P. Gruber, an assistant professor of English, would later go on to become the first Faculty Master of Hinman. But that was ten years away, and for the time being the task at hand was to create a graduate program at Harpur.xxiii

For the next two months the Educational Policies Committee spent much of their time drafting reports and recommendations to the faculty of Harpur College on how to establish a graduate program at the college. Unlike the previous fight to gain acceptance into the SUNY system, the fight to create a graduate program at Harpur College was not so much about local and state politics as it was about the internal politics of Harpur College itself. Many faculty members were skeptical of a graduate program that they felt was unnecessary for the mission that they were trying to achieve, that of affording a reasonably priced undergraduate education of the highest quality. Opponents in the faculty felt that a graduate program at this stage in the college’s development would only take away from the undergraduate program. These fears were salved by the various committees such as the Educational Policies Committee whose reports helped to justify the creation of a graduate program and won most of the college’s faculty over to its side.xxiv

In December of 1959, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller commissioned the Committee on Higher Education (better known as the Heald Committee named after its chair, Henry T. Heald, who was the president of the Ford Foundation) to investigate the need to expand higher education.

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1 Christian Paul Gruber was his full name. While signing documents he would usually refer to himself as C.P. Gruber. However, to those who knew him, he liked to be referred to simply as “Pete.”
education in New York State. On November 15, 1960, the Heald Committee released its report which called for many sweeping recommendations to be put into place. One of the recommendations called for the establishment of two university centers, one to be located in upstate New York and the other to be located on Long Island, which would provide comprehensive programs leading to Masters and PhD degrees. Though it did not name any specific SUNY colleges to become university centers, the implications for Harpur College were obvious.xxv

The next year the SUNY trustees published their Master Plan which recommended that two additional university centers be created in the state, bringing the grand total to four. “With the publication of the report of the Heald Committee and the trustees’ Master Plan, the four-year effort of some of the faculty and administrators at Harpur College to establish a graduate program had largely been realized.”xxvi Although much work remained in actually implementing a graduate program, the actions of the Heald Committee and the SUNY trustees would profoundly alter the development of Harpur College for years to come.

Until 1961 the state university system was little more than a hodgepodge of educational institutions which lacked a clear direction for their future. They were, to put it bluntly, relegated to performing those services which the state’s private colleges and universities regarded as beneath their dignity…A university is many things, but it cannot pretend to be a true university unless it offers graduate programs leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree. And it almost goes without saying that these programs must be composed of the highest quality faculty, extensive libraries, and a student body capable of completing intellectually rigorous training. These, then, were the things that many believed the state university could become. This belief was the primary motive behind the conversion of Harpur College from a small, high quality liberal arts college into a university center over the next ten years.xxvii

As early as September of 1961, Harpur College requested the SUNY trustees to implement a modest graduate program at the college. After reviewing the materials sent to them, the trustees gave Harpur College permission to grant Masters of the Arts (M.A.) degrees in a few
select subjects such as English and Mathematics. These subject areas would be followed by many more and eventually the granting of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees was also allowed. Harpur College now was officially designated as one of the four university centers, though the title State University of New York at Binghamton would not occur until 1965.xxviii

1965 was a milestone year in the history of the college, formerly known as Triple Cities College, then Harpur College. This was the year it became known as SUNY Binghamton. With its increased growth in population as well as its ever-expanding graduate-level programs, the name change made official the transformation of Harpur College from a small liberal arts college, the public Swarthmore, to a university center. Expanding programs and expanding facilities were not the only change to occur. The new university center decided to experiment with trimesters instead of the more traditional semester system. This experiment was nothing short of a dismal failure and after a few years they returned to the traditional semester system. Also, the original three divisions of Harpur College (humanities, physical sciences, and social sciences) gave way to a School of Arts and Sciences with various academic departments. In the years that followed, other schools followed, such as the School of Nursing and the School of Management. SUNY Binghamton was becoming big with a rich assortment of programs both at the undergraduate and graduate level to choose from.xxix

SUNY Binghamton soon became a fast-growing institute. Thanks to the legacy of Harpur College developed during the 1950’s, students from all over New York State and elsewhere were drawn to the exceptional quality of the liberal arts program offered at Binghamton. In its early days the university feared that not enough students would enroll; soon these fears proved unfounded. Far from having trouble recruiting students to the university, university administrators now faced the problem of how and where to house them. It soon
became clear that not all the students entering into the university could be housed off-campus. On-campus housing needed to be provided to incoming students.

The first cluster of dormitories constructed to meet this demand was Dickinson Community. Dickinson was named after Daniel Dickinson, a nineteenth century US senator whose statue currently stands in front of the Broome County Courthouse. Following closely after the construction of Dickinson was Newing College, named after the recently deceased Stuart T. Newing, a local businessman who had helped establish Harpur College. Following on the heels of these two residential communities was Hinman College, named after Harvey D. Hinman, the local lawyer and politician who had been instrumental in establishing Harpur College.

In the case of Dickinson Community, the buildings constructed to house students were simply that—buildings to house students. Newing and Hinman Colleges, though, were designed with something completely different in mind. They would be built as residential colleges, and they would follow the concept of collegiate structure, which was growing in popularity at that time.

Residential Colleges, also known as cluster colleges, grew out of the challenge of accommodating the huge influx of new undergraduate students into institutions of higher learning starting in the early twentieth century and increasing exponentially by mid-century. Truth be told, the idea behind collegiate structure was nothing new. The history of collegiate structure goes all the way back to the founding of Oxford University in England in 1249. Following in the footsteps of Oxford was Cambridge, both adhering to “the concept of a university as a collection of colleges which function as independent entities.” Collegiate structure eventually became to mean a semiautonomous college within the campus of a larger
institution of higher education. In the United States during the 1960’s, collegiate structure became vogue for numerous reasons. Some of the reasons included financial constraints, especially among smaller colleges, and the irrelevance of the existing academic programs offered at the college. The biggest reason why collegiate structure became popular was that many incoming college students during that era simply felt that their respective colleges or universities were getting too big and impersonal. Perhaps the biggest reason why residential colleges were created at SUNY Binghamton was to prevent these feelings of alienation from completely infecting the student body.

Residential Colleges were designed to be small semiautonomous units within the overall structure of the university. Each community within the structure would have a separate identity from the larger university while still maintaining the ties to the parent institution. In theory, their small size would allow the units within the collegiate structure to be more personal, allowing a greater amount of interaction and communication between the student living within the unit and the faculty who would be instructing him or her. With these greater student-faculty interactions, more personalized instruction and warmer relations between the student and instructor, the hope was that the student would feel a sense of identity and not be just another anonymous student in the assembly-line education process. “Cluster colleges, because of their size, are supposedly freer, less rigid and traditional than large universities…living-learning dormitories, and student participation in academic policy making are the norms at cluster colleges, rather than the exception.” All in all, the main goal of collegiate structure was not to simply divide the students into smaller groups. The idea was that smaller subdivisions within the living-learning environment would help students develop more personal relationships not only with their peers but also with their instructors. Students would see the faculty not only as their teachers but as
everyday people, and the faculty would see their students as human beings with dreams, desires and emotions, rather than simply another body in their classroom.

Though on the surface it may have appeared completely benign, the concept was opposed by those who felt that developing a university like SUNY Binghamton into a collegiate system would be costly because of duplicated clusters of dormitories and library facilities.\textsuperscript{xxxiv} They also felt that faculty should not be responsible for the self-actualization of the student, that that challenge fell upon the shoulders of the individual student and not the faculty or administration of the university. Various science departments had misgivings, nothing that it would be nearly impossible to incorporate science programs into the collegiate scene.\textsuperscript{xxxv} Perhaps the element of collegiate structure that most bothered its opponents was the call for coeducational housing within each individual cluster. This liberal policy presented the possibility of premarital intercourse, and the more conservative voices in higher education cried out against it.

The controversy over whether or not to develop a collegiate structure in American colleges and universities was fought all over the country, only adding to the increasing radicalization and hostilities that were the benchmark of the turbulent 1960’s in American history. In the case of SUNY Binghamton, in the spring of 1965 the Faculty Senate under the guidance of then President Bruce Dearing created an ad hoc committee to study the housing problems that a growing university could encounter and to propose possible solutions for those problems. The Committee on Collegiate Structure, as it was called, met often, and on January 7, 1966, the committee issued its final report to the faculty of SUNY Binghamton. The report, is often termed The Colville Report, after the committee’s chairman, Derek Colville. Colville was an Englishman who believed an Oxford model, could be adapted to the situation faced by the growing public university. American dorms offered little in the way of social relationships, and
Colville believed that the English model of collegiate units could work at SUNY Binghamton. With Colville leading the charge for collegiate structure, the committee and its recommendations would have profound and far-reaching effects on the entire university community and most especially for residential communities like the future Hinman College.

Serving on that committee was Francis X. Newman, a professor of English who had been teaching at SUNY Binghamton since 1962. Newman was appointed the secretary of the committee and actually wrote the Colville Report. Forty years later Dr. Newman would relate his experiences with the committee and their efforts to develop a solution for the burgeoning growth of the university. One of the first proposals was to build dormitories according to the classical college models. This idea called for each residential college to be a sort of “honors college” with a “Great Books” curriculum and few electives. For example, one cluster would be dedicated to humanities, and another dedicated to social sciences. This model called for a high degree of specialization and differentiation among the individual colleges. St. John’s College followed this model and the committee actually traveled to the college to view it. In the end, however, the Harpur College Council voted it down. The reasons were twofold. The first was that the students on the Council believed that this model with its emphasis on “great books” and classical education was too elitist. The second problem with this model was its expensive cost. With the classical college model dead, the committee moved on to investigate other ways to deal with the problem. The solution that they proposed was collegiate structure.

The committee was working on some basic assumptions. The first was that the university would see 5,000 students enroll by the 1970-1971 academic year and that in the near future it could grow to 10,000 students. With this extensive growth the university would have greater revenue, allowing for the expansion of facilities such as the library and research labs. The extra
money would also finance more guest lecturers and speakers and expand other academic and cultural programs that the university was experimenting with. However, it was also foreseen that students within this increasingly large and expanding university would feel separated from faculty involved more and more with research. Such separation between students and faculty could result in what the committee called “anti-intellectualism” and would hinder the development of individual students. The committee recognized that in the field of higher education, as in many other areas, growth increases the flow of revenue into the university’s coffers. However, expansion also threatens to destroy the personal interactions between the student and faculty. This experience of close personal contact with other students and faculty was key in the early days of the university and was what attracted many students to the university in the first place.

In an effort to combat those problems, the committee drafted five proposals for the residential program at SUNY Binghamton:

1. Each unit would consist of approximately 1,000 students and would be co-educational. A certain number of faculty members and administrative personnel would be associated directly with each unit.
2. The unit would be composed of students at all undergraduate levels, from freshmen to senior. Normally (although we recommend liberal transfer privileges) a student would be associated with the same constituent unit for all four years of his stay at Harpur.
3. Each unit would be located in one of the dormitory-dining hall clusters now existing or planned about the perimeter of the campus. The prototype unit that we have used in discussion is Newing Hall and the residence buildings grouped around it.
4. In addition to the buildings now existing, each unit would also have a library, faculty offices, and several classrooms, all of these perhaps in a single new building centrally located in the dormitory cluster.
5. The constituent unit would have more than simply residential functions: it would also be the focus for a portion of the students’ academic, social, and cultural activities as well.
The committee also recommended that a director who was a tenured faculty member would be responsible for the overall administration of the unit. This position would become the Faculty Master. Years later Dr. Newman would state, “The Master was crucial.” The committee saw the Master as becoming so important that he would eventually eclipse and ultimately marginalize the Dean. Newman adds, however, that “Masters never actually had that much power and in fact the Dean would eventually grow more powerful because of the development of colleges.”

The committee recommended that full-time faculty also be associated with each unit. This would be done in an effort to encourage more student-faculty interaction. Professional staff would live in the dormitories themselves. The idea of providing tutors and professional psychologists was also pitched by the committee.

One of the major recommendations in the Colville Report was the creation of a unit government that would discuss and create policies for each individual unit. The unit government would be comprised of the unit director along with affiliated faculty and students. Discipline problems would be handled within each individual cluster by a panel of students and faculty associated with the cluster. Large discipline problems would be referred to the all-college judicial body. The committee reported, “In all of this we assume a high degree of participation by students in initiating programs, deciding on policy, and executing the day-to-day functions of a unit.” Student involvement would be key in the successful operation of the proposed collegiate units.

The role of the individual student within the proposed collegiate structure was also explained. The Colville Report stated that students with a smaller community to identify with would be more likely to stay within their respective unit. By knowing that they would be living
there for approximately four years, they would have a higher stake in the cluster and would want to be active participants in the amelioration of their community. The idea of each cluster having its own dining hall was also touted as giving students a place to eat their meals with their peers to form better bonds not only between themselves but also with the faculty associated with the cluster, who would be encouraged to eat their meals as much as possible in the dining hall. The committee also stated that the units should organize social activities such as dances, open houses and parties. This would help to draw students into a controlled atmosphere of social interaction, as opposed to the fraternity social scene that then, as now, could become rather rowdy. An ‘Animal House’ atmosphere was a very real fear for many faculty members and administrators within the university at that time, and a collegiate structure could potentially hold the key to reducing that problem. The committee also endorsed collegiate structure as providing a forum for academic pursuits. With so many students clustered within an area, it was the perfect scene for faculty-initiated events such as guest speakers, student plays, and films. These pursuits would not have to be supported by outside social committees or the departments and would be completely run in-house by the cluster. Inter-cluster sporting events were also on the minds of the committee members. The report states, “The unit could also be a new and exciting element in student sports activity. The competitive possibilities here are obvious….” Student involvement in governing the unit was also touted, as was the creation of the unit’s own library where students could study within the comfort of their own cluster.

The committee encouraged the voluntary association of faculty members with individual clusters. They also suggested that the faculty be active participants in the governing of the unit and perhaps even do some teaching within the unit. Also suggested was that a diverse group of faculty from various departments be associated with the units, so that as many academic
disciplines could be represented as possible. Interestingly, the committee, while encouraging student-faculty interaction, did stipulate that the faculty associated with the clusters not become too close to their students and or budget too much time among many students within the cluster. An addendum of the Colville Report stated, “...in this regard, it may be well to say that the committee does not propose to institute any of the following new faculty positions: Amateur Psychiatrist, Big Brother, Drinking Buddy, Father Surrogate, or Avuncular-Chum.” Forty years after writing these semi-humorous lines, Dr. Newman would say that they were his favorite of the entire report. Tongue-in-cheek they may have been, but they did have a good reason for being there. The committee wanted professional relations to be maintained between the individual student and the faculty as much as possible.

Academics within the cluster would mostly be same as the rest of courses offered in the university. In fact, there was never any move made to make the clusters into academic units. That would defeat the purpose of restructuring the university. Students would take classes that would satisfy their general education and major requirements as dictated by the university and not by their individual cluster. However, the committee recommended that certain courses be offered within the confines of the cluster, especially if one of faculty associated with the cluster was teaching a unique course. The committee recognized that clusters could also provide exciting opportunities for experimental courses and inter-disciplinary enterprises.

One of the biggest concerns voiced in the Colville Report was the need for new buildings. Academic facilities in particular were of paramount concern. Buildings to house and feed students as well as classrooms, libraries and faculty offices were needed. The cost of the new residential colleges was manageable, they argued, because with the projected growth of the student body, new construction would be needed whether collegiate structure was chosen or not.
The cost of involving faculty was also negligible as they would be drawn from the pool of the currently employed faculty. All in all, the committee found that the costs involved with making the move toward collegiate structure were slight, and the university would have to meet the demands of future enrollment and construction anyway.\textsuperscript{xlix}

By the end of the report the committee proposed that the university move away from its current system and adopt collegiate structure. It cited the numerous advantages of collegiate structure, such as the smaller size of the units, which in turn would allow individual students the opportunity to be heard and make an impact on institutional policy that directly affected their life within their cluster. As the report stated, “The unit would be an institution midway between the student’s circle of friends on the one hand and the total university on the other. The unit would be big enough to allow anonymity to students who want it, but small enough to recognize individuals as individuals.”\textsuperscript{I} The arrangement of the unit would also allow for the cohesion and blending of a living-learning environment and foster intellectual growth amongst the student body. In short, the committee saw the need to transform the dorms from simply sleeping and studying areas to interactive spaces where both academics and social skills could emerge and be cultivated by faculty and professional staff. The committee rounded out the report by stating, “we have designed a plan that we think will help to meet the problems of growth as we foresee them…our plan, we feel, will make growth less difficult and will help to provide the Harpur undergraduate a richer intellectual, cultural, and social life in a dramatically expanding university.”\textsuperscript{li}

A front page article in the SUNY Binghamton student newspaper, The Colonial News (now known as Pipe Dream) expressed the sentiments of the Colville Report and its committee members and the advantages that collegiate structure held for students at the university. In the
article Dr. Colville and Dr. Newman “stressed the integration of social and academic realms under collegiate structure.” Colville went on to indicate that one of the immediate results of collegiate structure would be greater student participation in the decisions that would affect their lives both academically and socially. This would be a direct result of the change in the lines of communication between administrators, faculty and students. Colville in particular touted the importance of the new Faculty Master position stating that “They [the Masters] will…work directly with the students to evolve the policies of a particular units…students will not be subject directly to administration authority, but would deal directly with the faculty in the formulation of all policies…” The article also stated the hope by both the committee members and the Masters that the small size of the collegiate units would allow for varied experimentation and unique programming.

One might ask what does this have to do with Hinman College? The answer to that question is that it has everything to do with Hinman. Although the first buildings in Hinman would not be opened until 1967, the trademark features of the individual residential communities, including Hinman, were taking shape in the Colville Report as early as January 1966. The recommendation that residential clusters house approximately 1,000 students was realized with the construction of Hinman. Hinman would have its own dining hall where both students and faculty would not only eat but also engage in lively conversations and discussions of both academic and more pedestrian matters. The call for a director to oversee the cluster is an early anticipation of a Faculty Master role. Hinman would, after some false starts and political red tape, have its very own library of books for both personal enjoyment and research purposes. The call to have faculty linked with individual clusters is the first step toward the faculty fellow system that is present today. The recommendation for students to be active participants in self-
governing their cluster was realized in the formation of the Hinman College Council. The dorms (now called residence halls) soon after completion became more than just places to sleep and study. They became places of social interaction and academic advancement with cultural activities being sponsored by both faculty and the professional staff. The committee also prophetically foresaw that, given the opportunity, students would create their own organizations and make something great, as evidenced by the creation of the Hinman Little Theater, which ultimately became the Hinman Production Company, and of Hinman’s great claim to fame, Co-Rec football. The committee also paved the way for learning communities and area-based courses to be created in Hinman for Hinman residents. The Committee on Collegiate Structure paved the way for the community that today is known as Hinman College. Hinman College began shortly after the completion of the report and implementation of its recommendations. In fact, “Hinman was executed in accordance with the proposal. Hinman was the realization of the scheme.” Without the committee and the Colville Report, it is certain that Hinman College as we know it today would not exist. It is also interesting to note that while the first buildings in Hinman did not open until 1967, the date on the Hinman seal is the year 1966. When the construction of Hinman College was begun, it was with the intention that the community adhere to the principles of collegiate structure.

There are few materials chronicling the construction of Hinman College. There was a great deal of construction going on around campus during that time. The building that would become the Glenn G. Bartle Library along with the Fine Arts Building and a few other buildings gave the campus the appearance of a perpetual construction zone. Binghamton’s notorious rains made walking from place to place a muddy mess.
On October 5, 1967, a ceremony was held to dedicate both the new Fine Arts Complex and the still-under-construction Hinman College. Present at the ceremony was Bruce Dearing, then the President of SUNY Binghamton, Pete Gruber, professor of English and the first Faculty Master of Hinman College, and giving the keynote address was New York State Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. Also present at the ceremony was George L. Hinman, the son of Harvey D. Hinman, for whom Hinman College is named. George Hinman was responsible for getting Hinman College named after his father and was also a member of the Board of Trustees for the State University of New York. George Hinman, like his father before him, was active in New York State politics and was close confidant and special council to Governor Rockefeller. The program stated, in regard to Hinman College, “the Hinman College complex, when complete, will accommodate 1,000 students. This will be the approximate size of each of the component colleges that were established within Harpur College this year to help preserve the valuable qualities of the smaller institution, within a context of overall university and college growth.” There were high hopes for both the New York State government and the university administration for this new experiment in collegiate structure.

Although the dedication ceremony was in October, Hinman had opened for business in September. The first hall to open in September of 1967 was Cleveland Hall, known originally as Hall B. About two hundred students moved into this hall and found conditions that were less than inviting. Windows lacked shades, showers went without curtains, toilets were missing seats, the pipes had a tendency to break, and many rooms were missing furniture. As one early Hinmanite put it, paraphrasing Thomas Hobbes, “the original inhabitants of Hall B found life there to be somewhat nasty, poor, and brutish.” This was not the only difficulty that these first inhabitants of Hinman College had to face. With the Hinman Dining Hall still under
construction, students were forced to walk all the way to the Newing Dining Hall for meals. Walking to and from classes was also treacherous. As mentioned earlier, large portions of the campus were under construction and the seemingly interminable rains created hazardous patches of mud. With the majority of Hinman still undergoing construction, the new community had no good pathways through the obstacles. Shortly after the opening of Cleveland Hall, Hughes Hall also opened, with many of the same problems. In November, the dining hall was completed.

November 1, 1967, saw the Inaugural Dinner to celebrate the opening of Hinman College of Harpur College. No written recollections exist of the dinner other than a brochure commemorating the event. The brochure contains photographs of the reception that was held in the lower level of the dining hall as well as of the actual dinner and inauguration ceremony held in the upper level of the dining hall. The event was attended by residents of Hinman as well as such university big wigs as Peter Vukasin, the Dean of Harpur College, and Faculty Master Pete Gruber. Even the Broome County Mummers, a group of men who appear to be either an acapella group or a barbershop quartet, entertained the quests. By all accounts the evening was a night of firsts for Hinman. It was the first dinner ever held in the dining hall. It was the first event held in the building. It was also the first time that long lines would congest the dining hall as hungry patrons patiently waited for their food. These “immortal lines,” as they would be called, would be the bane of the hungry Hinmanite then as now. Other memorable lines uttered at the meeting included the valedictory remarks made by Herbert Klar, the United Student Government Representative of Hinman College, a now-defunct student government position. Klar, speaking on behalf of the student body proclaimed boldly, “Don’t bore us! Challenge us!” To this, Dean Peter Vukasin replied, “Hinman College is a new way to meet the challenge of growth and change at Harpur College.”

The first Faculty Master of Hinman,
Pete Gruber, spoke for Hinman as a whole. His words were both a reply to the concerns of the student body and to the response of the Dean of Harpur College: “We accept the challenge.”lxiii

These words, while maybe not as eloquent or as profound as the words of other statesmen or leaders of the past, would have symbolic meaning for the new college and still resonate today. The challenges faced by both the student body and the faculty of the growing university were diverse and numerous. Whether Professor Gruber expected it or not, his lines would be the hallmark of Hinman for years to come. Never in its forty-year history would Hinman turn down a challenge. Whether that challenge be financial constraints imposed by the university, student apathy, faculty disinterest, or threats to the very existence of collegiate structure itself, Hinman College would accept these challenges and overcome them every time. In fact the entire history of Hinman College is about challenges. Some of those challenges are public, such as the potential of losing the collegiate structure in the mid-1970’s, or the challenges faced by students groups such as the Hinman Little Theater/Hinman Production Company or participants in Co-Rec football, or the challenge of the Lehman Hall fire. Some of those challenges were private and personal. Virtually every single student who has lived in Hinman will attest that at some point during their stay here they were challenged, either by a class, a leadership role, or a personal problem such as substance abuse or even a death in the family. It has been Hinman College, though, with its incredible and unique network of support and structure that it gives to students that allows each individual student to be the absolute best that they can be. As the story of Hinman unfolds on these pages, these diverse and multifaceted challenges will become clear to the reader. For now, though, the challenge that presented itself to the men and women of Hinman College was simply to learn to live in their new environment and participate in the grand experiment of collegiate structure.
At some point during the inaugural dinner, Professor Gruber read a speech entitled “I, You, And We.” The speech, stated in part:

Last Sunday in the New York Times, James Reston’s column, was devoted to the inauguration of Hinman College, although he never once mentioned our name. He did so, because, writing of the large issues, of the macrocosmic malaise of the nation and the need for transforming American values, he accurately pictured the macrocosmic malaise of Harpur College and the need to transform our values.

Gruber went on to cite Walter Lippmann’s fear in 1914, the point at which the population of America was reaching 100 million people, that a unstoppable growing population would not be held in check by a higher social or moral authority, and that all the social, moral, and religious codes that were in place had no relevance to modern society of 1914 America. Gruber went on to compare the fears of Lippmann’s era with that of 1967 America. This was a country wracked with self-doubt and social strife. It was the era of many radical social changes and progressive movements. It was the height of the Civil Rights movement, Feminist movements, protests about the war in Vietnam, and rapidly changing social mores with respect to drugs and alcohol as well as premarital sexual relations. Furthermore, the population of America was at this time poised to reach the 200 million mark. Gruber drew parallels between challenges facing the nation and the challenges facing SUNY Binghamton. In 1963 there had been 2,000 students enrolled in SUNY Binghamton. By 1967 there were 4,000 and that number would continue to grow each year. Gruber drew many parallels between the situation facing the country and the problems that struck close to home, that is to say in our very own university, and the need to reevaluate values and long-held beliefs. Gruber called the dinner symbolic in that it was like a marriage where the partners pledged themselves to one another and vowed to build a future together. He continued by saying, “…ours is a very complex marriage, indeed, a monstrous marriage, for it involves many more than two partners…For here we are, students,
administrators, faculty, and staff, sharing a common meal, and pledging our time and efforts to
the creation of a new institution, a college-within-a University.\textsuperscript{lxvi}

These words describe the nature of the experiment in collegiate structure that the
university was dabbling with. However, the true spirit and meaning of Hinman would be
captured in Gruber’s final paragraph:

This College, small enough to maintain intimate relations (if you will excuse the
expression) among the partners, now looks forward to a time when, to I and you
relationships a new relationship, best expressed by the first person plural, will be added to
our consciousness. Thus tonight, I, and, I hope you, look forward to a time when we of
Hinman College, will know ourselves because we have defined ourselves, first by our
words, but gradually by our deeds.\textsuperscript{lxvii}

If anything sums up the experience of Hinman College, it is that final paragraph. Hinman
would certainly be a place of challenges, but if would also be a place where definition, of both
the college itself and of the individual student, would take place. These words would become the
gospel of Hinman. Though they may have been all but forgotten by succeeding generations, the
definition of the character, spirit, and meaning of Hinman would be embodied in these words. It
would all begin on that November evening in the old Hinman Dining Hall, when Hinman
residents were challenged to let their actions speak louder than words, and to forge for
themselves a new place within the tired institution of higher education, and out of that
dilapidated structure to create a new place for themselves to grow, to learn, and to mature into
adults. Unbeknownst to the participants in that first dinner in the Hinman Dining Hall, those
deeds would manifest themselves in a variety of ways including student organizations within
Hinman itself and leadership within its governing body. It would also show through in the
pioneering policies of Hinman such as apartment-style living, a liberal pet policy, self-regulation,
and even a cooking dorm. That, however, is for another chapter. The legacy that Hinman would
epitomize would be forged that night with the immortal words of Pete Gruber. The deeds of Hinman College faculty, staff, and students would become its true and lasting legacy.

The author would like to thank Professor Francis X. Newman for his invaluable contributions to this chapter and for teaching what can only be described as the best Beowulf class ever.

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v McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 4.
vi McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 56.
vi McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 58-59.
vi McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 60.
ix McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 60-63.
x McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 64-66.
x Mcntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 70-71.
xi McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 72-74.
xii McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 75, 77-78.
xvi McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 80.
xxv McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 82-83.
xxvi McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 240-242.
xxvii McIntire, Harpur College in the Bartle Era, 244-245, 261.
xxix C.P. Gruber, Harpur College into Binghamton University: A Personal Narrative, (Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, 1994), 4-7.
xxx Michele McFee, The Cornerstone, (Harpur College of Arts and Sciences, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2000), 90-92.
xxxiv Ibid.
xxxv Francis X. Newman (Binghamton University Professor of English), interview with author, November 17, 2006.
xxxvi Ibid.
xxxvii The Committee on Collegiate Structure, report to the Faculty [of SUNY Binghamton], “A proposal for restructuring the undergraduate college,” 7 January 1966.
Mortal Combat: The Fight to Preserve Collegiate Structure

If collegiate structure is to survive, we can expect to see the implementation of the principles of collegiate structure by giving the College units a greater degree of academic autonomy in the expansion of courses, programs, and curricula; or, we can expect to see the collegiate units suffocate from their inability to make meaningful changes in Harpur’s academic program. Thus we find ourselves with challenges on all sides as a small undergraduate college makes the transition into a larger university complex. The way in which we go about meeting these challenges is in large measure up to each member of the university community.\textsuperscript{lxviii}

-Sandy Lazar, Assistant Editor for the West Harpur Other, 1969

Severe challenges to collegiate structure, the heart and soul of Hinman College, arose in the mid-1970’s. During this time in history, the whole United States and in particular New York State was going through a severe budget crisis. Funds that used to be available just were not there anymore. In an effort to save the State money, politicians in Albany decided that funding to the SUNY system had to be cut. This was one of many measures that trimmed government services. With the state doling out fewer funds, the colleges and universities in the SUNY system got less support and had to find ways to trim their own budgets. Tuition increases were one measure, but this was not enough to sustain the financially strapped institution. Eventually, the SUNY Binghamton administration turned its sights on the fledgling residential colleges.

The first rumblings of a threat occurred in the Fall of 1973. On September 19, 1973, Edward J. Demske, the university’s Vice President for Finance and Management, sent a memorandum to the Masters of all the colleges in the university. Although at this stage Demske was not looking to eliminate collegiate structure, his financial report would herald a new wave of challenge to collegiate structure. In his report he itemized the costs incurred by the colleges for faculty, staff, custodial support, office supplies and equipment, and other miscellaneous expenses. All told the colleges had expended $22,247.97 of their $74,500 allotted to them.\textsuperscript{lxix}

While the units were spending well within their means, the expenditures for housing resident
faculty and paying for lecturers to teach within the borders of the colleges seemed high to some. Making the colleges more economical became a battle cry for the challenge to collegiate structure.

The administration of SUNY Binghamton was also concerned that the colleges were simply getting too independent. A faculty Task Force assigned to oversee and assess collegiate structure had made only halfhearted attempts at oversight. A memo from then SUNY Binghamton President Clifford D. Clark to Associate Dean Daniel Fallon, who was then chairing a committee seeking a new Faculty Master for Newing College, went to great lengths to show the administration’s desire to completely restructure the colleges to bring them more into line, under the direct supervision to the university administration. The memo, dated April 14, 1975, states in part, “this is in response to your…commitment to a process of thorough review, encompassing the possibility of complete restructuring of our present mode of operation, of the collegiate unit system at SUNY-Binghamton. Because I believe a constructive review of this matter is timely…I am pleased to commit the administration to the initiation of such a review.” The memo went on to give a brief report on the findings of the Colville Report. It also recognized that a few committees had been charged to evaluate collegiate structure, but, in the words of President Clark, by the fall of 1970 they had “quietly disappeared.” President Clark also made known his desire to address the “administrative authority of the Masters, the budgetary status and accounting process of the colleges, the role of faculty fellows and graduate or teaching assistants within the colleges, the nature and function of academic programs within the colleges, the governing structure and organizational patterns, both academic and social, within the colleges, and the scope and variety of student service functions such as advising and counseling within the colleges.” The most pressing issue to President Clark was the
organizational problems associated with the colleges, chief among them the relationship of the
colleges with existing schools, departments, governments and committees. Though this
memorandum may have seemed moderate and benign to the outside observer, those closely
involved in collegiate structure knew its implications. In short, President Clark had thrown down
the gauntlet with respect to collegiate structure. Ivory tower war had been declared.

President Clark assigned Vice President for Student Services Dudley “Doug” Woodard to
the task of reviewing the residential colleges and restructuring them in an attempt to save money.
By the summer of 1975, Woodard and his cronies had come up with a plan that would all but
completely eliminate collegiate structure from SUNY Binghamton. Also involved in overseeing
the restructuring of the residential colleges was Vice President for Academic Affairs Norman F.
Cantor. Both men would be looking for ways to dismantle collegiate structure and find ways to
shift resources to other areas in order to save the university money. Although both men would
be on the same side, so to speak, they did not get along and at times fought more with each other
than they would with the men and women working hard to preserve collegiate structure. At this
time, both Woodard and Cantor were waging a sort of turf war, and the battle over the future of
collegiate structure was just one front in that war. Dwindling resources for the university meant
that the offices of both men received less funding and each saw the colleges as a way to get some
of that back. Cantor in particular believed that by restructuring collegiate structure at SUNY
Binghamton he could control the residential colleges, increase his power and overshadow his
administrative rival, Doug Woodard. Though far from friendly to each other, they were still the
opponents of those seeking to preserve the sacred idea of collegiate structure. Over thirty years
later, Paul Stroud would say, “They [the administration] were the people out to dismantle
collegiate structure. The administration was the enemy.”
In a draft memorandum, Woodard reported on his committee’s plans to overhaul collegiate structure. Woodard’s plan called for the reallocation of $87,500 that was intended for the use of collegiate units, completely undercutting their budgets. This would potentially save the university $40,000 dollars overall. This plan, known as Proposal A or sometimes as Model A, called for a complete restructuring of the collegiate units. It called for the elimination of collegiate advisors, the consolidation of unit administration under a sole coordinator, and advising of declared majors by faculty within their own department. These moves would profoundly change student-faculty interactions and drastically alter collegiate structure. The proposal aroused the ire of many supporters of collegiate structure, including all the Faculty Masters of the residential colleges. The most vocal of all these defenders of collegiate structure was none other than Hinman Faculty Master Vito Sinisi.

The irony was that Model A would become the preferred model to be used after the formation of the Task Force on the Academic Development of Collegiate Units. Paul Stroud, who at the time was Coordinator of College-in-the-Woods, served on the committee. He, like others on the committee, wanted the colleges to operate on a classical model such as the one developed in the Colville Report years earlier and as they presently functioned. However, as time progressed and the university pressed them to come up with a money-saving alternative to how the colleges were operating, the committee members realized that Model A, as bad as it was, was the best alternative offered.

During this turbulent time the Task Force on the Academic Development of the Collegiate Units was the group fighting tooth and nail to preserve collegiate structure at SUNY Binghamton. Its chairman was Philosophy Professor and Hinman Faculty Master Vito Sinisi. Serving on the committee alongside Sinisi were numerous university faculty, staff and students
including Economics Professor Alfred B. Carlip, the Coordinator of Dickinson Community
William E. Creed, Professor of English and Comparative Literature Mario A. DiCesare,
Associate Professor of Nursing and Assistant Vice-President for Academic Affairs Grace
Dowling, Associate Professor of Psychology and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences for
Harpur College Daniel Fallon, Professor of Music and Chairman of the Music Department Harry
B. Lincoln, the Coordinator of Graduate Housing Gail Markham, Associate Professor of Physics
and the Master of Newing College Robert L. Pompi, Professor of Geology and Chairman of the
Geology Department Herman E. Roberson, Professor of Philosophy Stephen D. Ross, Associate
Professor of Political Science and Chairman of the Political Science Department Arthur K.
Smith, Jr., the Coordinator of Off-Campus College Jack A. Sperling, Associate Professor of
English and Education and Master of College-in-the-Woods Patricia E. Speyser, and the
Coordinator of Student Services for College-in-the-Woods Paul E. Stroud. Also serving on the
committee would be five students: Astrid Berg, Tom Riley, Robert Sass, Michael Smith, and
Rudy Troisi. These twenty individuals represented some of the best and brightest that the
university had to offer. More importantly, they would also be completely dedicated to
preserving collegiate structure as it was.

As noted earlier, since nearly the very beginning, just about everyone on the committee
realized that they were fighting a losing battle. However, Vito Sinisi believed that they should
fight the university every step of the way and perhaps even keep some of what the colleges
offered. This tenacious fighting spirit inspired committee member and fellow Faculty Master
Bob Pompi to give Vito the nickname “Don Vito” after the character Don Corleone of the now
famous, though at the time newly released, film The Godfather. Vito, ever the hot-blooded
Italian, loved the name and the symbolism behind it.
Two sides emerged in the fight over collegiate structure at SUNY Binghamton. In one corner was the Task Force on the Academic Development of the Collegiate Units, which held the philosophy that collegiate structure as it was at the university was sound and any alteration to it would be detrimental to the students living within the residential colleges. On the other side would be the university administration represented mostly by Vice Presidents Woodard and Cantor and President Clark. The ensuing struggle over the fate of collegiate structure at SUNY Binghamton was not a fight over philosophy or individual egos (though there would be much of them throughout) but more as a battle to decide where specific resources would be reallocated to save the financially strapped university. Still, tensions and tempers ran high and antagonism directed at each side was mounting. Rather than duking it out in an actual match of fisticuffs, the committee members and adversaries in the administration, virtually all of whom were university faculty or staff, fought the good fight the Ivory Tower way, warring with numerous memos and reports, each directed at undercutting the other’s position on collegiate structure.

During this flurry of reports and memos a furor was rising in Master Vito Sinisi. Bob Giomi, the Director of Social and Academic Programs for Hinman during most of the 1970’s, Head Resident of Lehman Hall, and perhaps the most influential founding father of Hinman College, remembers that turbulent time and the intense involvement of Vito Sinisi. While Giomi’s position as Head Resident was secure, the plans called for academic and career advising in the units to be centralized within one office. Therefore one of the most important parts of his job would be eliminated. This would be the beginning of a shift from the decentralized and mostly autonomous residential colleges to centralized Residential Life and academic advising offices. Over thirty years after the heated debates over the future of collegiate structure Bob Giomi would say, “Vito was very involved in the fight to preserve collegiate structure. [Pete]
Gruber and Vito were the most dedicated faculty working with students at Binghamton. Vito fought for students and he always fought higher administration officials. Every part of the collegiate structure was done for students. He [Vito] was always an advocate for the students and allowed me and my colleagues to do everything we could to provide for the students.\textsuperscript{lxix} During his tenure at Hinman, Bob would see two great Faculty Masters come and go. Gruber was the one who hired Bob, and when he decided to leave in 1972, Bob, along with others, was given the task of interviewing potential candidates and making recommendations on who should succeed beloved Master Christian “Pete” Gruber. Today Bob admits, somewhat sheepishly, that Vito was not his first choice to replace Gruber, that he felt other candidates were stronger. However, he would say, “I came to regret that decision after seeing how dedicated Vito was to the students and how hard he worked for them.”\textsuperscript{lxx} The mutual respect that they had for one another coupled with their intense desire to help the student body in anyway they could, brought these two men closer together than most co-workers could ever hope to be. Even though both men would move on, Bob eventually taking a position at Whittier College in California and then as an Assistant Dean at UC Berkeley (Vito Sinisi’s alma mater) and Vito eventually retiring, they would remain close friends and communicate regularly until Vito’s death in 2005.

Paul Stroud fondly remembers Vito as well. “Vito was a trip. He was someone I liked. He cared about the people and collegiate structure and could work with all sorts of people. Students just gravitated toward him and he gravitated toward them. He always spoke his mind and was never afraid of doing so…He had a clear idea of what he thought collegiate structure should be and he pursued it.”\textsuperscript{lxxi} Bob Pompi also remembers his fellow Faculty Master. “Vito was very Machiavellian and Medici at the same time. He was the major player and the senior Master at the time and instrumental in the committee and in the college.”\textsuperscript{lxxii}
On September 9, 1975, the Masters of Newing, College-in-the-Woods, and Hinman met with President Clark and Vice Presidents Doug Woodard and Norman Cantor to discuss the issue of retrenchment in the colleges.\textsuperscript{lxiii} Bob Pompi remembers this day clearly. “Back in those days the Masters had real power. Vito, Pat Speyser, and myself were known as ‘The Gruesome Threesome.’ That’s how scared they were of us. Whenever the administration saw the three Masters together they were scared [expletive deleted] of us.”\textsuperscript{lxiv} In the academic world, when a faculty member receives tenure or a professional staff member receives continuing appointment, it is difficult to fire them without just cause. Retrenchment in the academic world involves the laying off of faculty regardless of tenure status. During the mid-1970’s, university administration constantly threatened faculty with retrenchment due the harsh financial crisis. The fear of retrenchment was very real and frightening to faculty during that time.

Over thirty years later Bob Pompi would say, “The underlying theme of the whole thing was retrenchment. It was never said, but that’s what it was all about.”\textsuperscript{lxv} Typically when a faculty member comes to the university they are assigned to a department (English, History, Biology etc.) depending upon what their specialization is and what they teach. Once they receive tenure, that department acts as a protective force for the faculty member and it becomes very difficult for them to get fired. However, what Clark and others in the administration wanted to do was to take faculty and transfer them to the residential colleges. They called it “Strengthening the Residential Colleges.” On the surface it may have appeared that way, but the reality was far more sinister. Once that faculty members were assigned to a residential college, they were no longer protected by their department and were in fact out in the open and easily subject to retrenchment. Bob Pompi says it best when he said, “…the faculty would be exposed
in the colleges. They would be sacrificial lambs. lxxxvi The whole point of the September 9 meeting between the administration and the Master and of the ensuing war over the future of the collegiate units centered upon this issue. The administration wanted to reduce spending any way that they could and they saw the residential colleges as a place to do this. Not only could they reduce spending within the colleges themselves (as evidenced by the proposition of Model A), but also by assigning faculty to new academic units in the colleges they made them vulnerable to retrenchment.

During the meeting, the three Masters proposed to the three administration representatives that only three professional positions be retrenched as opposed to the administration’s desire to retrench five. In this meeting between the holy and unholy trinities in the battle over collegiate structure, arguments were respectfully heard and debated, but ultimately the President agreed to the proposal of keeping some of the professional staff that were pegged for retrenchment. This acceptance was important in that it invalidated an important part of Model A, the part which assigned only two professionals to Hinman and CIW lxxxvii

The Masters also strongly objected to the proposal of Model A that the professional staff of the residential colleges report to Mr. Ed O’Connor, the Director of Residential Life and a former Coordinator in Hinman. “The Masters made it clear that such a reporting function destroys entirely the concept of a residential college.” lxxxviii After discussing the issue, the three administration men agreed to go along with the proposal of the Masters which kept the professional staff reporting to the Masters and not the Director of Residential Life. lxxxix

The final topic of discussion during that meeting was the Model A proposal to reduce the rank (the ultimately the pay grade) of the college Coordinators. The Masters strongly objected to this reduction in pay grade and called for it to remain in place for all currently active
Coordinators within the colleges. This was something of a sticking point for the administration, though they relented somewhat by promising that the reduction in grades would undergo an administrative review before any decisions were made.\textsuperscript{xc}

On September 22, 1975, Director of Admissions Dale Terry, received a charge directly from Vice President Woodard that noted that duplication of efforts between the Task Force and Student Life subcommittee should not occur. The memo stated in part:

In order to ensure that there is ample divisional input and opportunity to comment on my proposal or to propose alternative models, I have recommended that each of you ([Messrs.] Terry, Richardson, Bullock, and Benson) chair a subcommittee whose constituents would be selected from the groupings of units proposed under the model...The Student Life subcommittee should comment on areas within Student Life that can be dealt with without the collegiate task force report and should comment on the other proposed areas of reorganization. I will ask the Student Life subcommittee to continue to function until they (sic) [parentheses in original] have had a chance to review the collegiate task force report and make final recommendations to me on the Student Life area based on this additional information.\textsuperscript{xci}

Attached to that memorandum was a copy of Model A. To Vito Sinisi and the rest of the Task Force on the Academic Development of the Collegiate Units, it was all too clear what the Student Life subcommittee was supposed to do. This subcommittee would enter into the fight on the side of those opposed to collegiate structure.

On September 25, 1975, the Masters of the residential colleges wrote to Terry:

It will not be possible for the Masters of the colleges to serve on your subcommittee on student life at this time since we are heavily engaged in work on the Task Force on Collegiate Structure, which is committed to report to the President on December 1. The proposal and exhibits that are enclosed with your memorandum of September 22 cannot be ’dealt with without the collegiate task force report’, [sic] since the reshaping of collegiate structure is their main thrust. It would be a waste of valuable time to attempt to duplicate or anticipate the work of the task force that has been assigned to that work by the President.\textsuperscript{xcii}
This was the Masters’ way of not only buying time, but also resisting the strategies of the Director of Admissions to undercut the Masters’ efforts to preserve collegiate structure at SUNY Binghamton. Neither Vito nor any of the other Faculty Masters wanted to be involved in a subcommittee that would potentially undercut everything that they were working so hard to preserve. Furthermore, the subcommittee would review recommendations that the Task Force would develop, which would create a serious conflict of interest.

On September 29, 1975, Dale Terry responded to the masters. He stated,

I was sorry to receive your memo refusing to participate in the subcommittee deliberations...that does not, however, preclude the valuable input of collegiate structure personnel in the consideration of other aspects of divisional reorganization. The intricacies of interaction between all offices and groups indicated on the reorganization chart dictates the necessity of such input. Consequently, on the direction from the Vice President, I am asking that you advise all professional staff, both full and part time, of the meeting to discuss divisional reorganization...I trust I may assume your cooperation in encouraging full attendance.xciii

In short, this memo was requiring the professional staff of the colleges to help dismantle collegiate structure. Rather ironically, some of these staff members had already been pegged for retrenchment according to the now notorious Model A.

That meeting of the subcommittee was scheduled for October 6, 1975, in the University Union Room 205-206. Exactly who attended this meeting is unclear, but what is known is that Dale Terry was present at the meeting. Also attending the meeting was someone who, though originally invited, was now certainly not welcome to be speaking in front of that subcommittee. That someone was Vito Sinisi. Sinisi strode into the room with an iron will and a four-page speech venting all of his anger and frustrations with the group that was working around the clock to destroy everything that he held dear. Sinisi stood before the group and read from his papers stating that he strongly objected to Vice President Doug Woodard’s charge to the subcommittee
to meet and make recommendations based upon the Collegiate Task Force report. Sinisi charged
that it was illegal for the subcommittee in its present state to exist. He argued that the Task
Force was assigned responsibilities that the subcommittee was trying to subvert. These tasks
included transferring a major share of the workload to the collegiate units for the 1976-1977
academic year (codeword for moving faculty to the collegiate units and thereby making them
vulnerable to retrenchment), providing recommendations on the academic development of the
collegiate units, and reorganizing and strengthening the colleges as well as Dickinson
Community (which by this time had become graduate student housing).

Using his characteristic style and flair Sinisi, a skilled logician, stated before the mostly
hostile crowd:

Making recommendations on the reorganization of the Colleges and Dickinson
Community has been assigned to the Task Force by the President. To have a
subcommittee within the Division of Student Services arrogate to itself this charge and
assignment is the height of conspicuous presumption.

The formation of this subcommittee raises serious questions of conflict of interest since
Bill Creed, Jack Sperling, and the three Masters are members of the Task Force. The
Task Force consists of 25 members; each of the Colleges and Dickinson Community has
a student representative. Surely the members of the Task Force can raise serious
objections to the formation of this subcommittee. It is strikingly inappropriate for a
person to participate in the recommendations and deliberations of the Task Force and then
to participate in a subcommittee of Student Services which will review those
recommendations and make recommendations of its own. This is precisely where the
conflict of interest lies.

I feel that it is singularly inappropriate for a professional staff member of the Colleges
and Dickinson Community to serve on this subcommittee. Students and staff of the
Colleges and Dickinson Community are well represented on the Task Force.

I do not wish to be misunderstood. I have no objections to the Division of Student
Services reorganizing itself, but I do object when the Division of Student Services
attempts to abrogate a responsibility given to the Task Force by the President.
Although the exact reaction of the gathered crowd to this challenge will probably never be known, it can be safely assumed that it had an impact, an impact that would shake the walls of the Couper Administration building all the way up to the office of the President. Vito Sinisi had made it known that he and his Task Force would not go down without a fight. If Collegiate Structure and the Faculty Masters were to go down, they would take everyone in the administration that they could down with them.

October 27, 1975, saw the release of a memorandum from the Subcommittee on a Collegiate-less College to the Task Force on the Academic Development of the Collegiate Units. This subcommittee consisted of members of the original Task Force and was meant to investigate different areas and to report back to the original committee. They were not formally assigned per se; rather it was simply a rearrangement among the members of the original Task Force. This memorandum contained the subcommittee’s findings on what it would mean to abolish collegiate structure from the university, namely that it would save the university desperately needed money by removing the Faculty Master position from the current form of collegiate structure. However, it was also clear to state that this would have an obvious negative impact on not only the residential colleges but the university as a whole. The memo states in part:

It follows from our definition of collegiate structure that to abolish it means to abolish faculty involvement with a particular residential-model approach to teaching contemporary and interdisciplinary academic subject matter…Thus, to abolish collegiate structure means to eliminate the Masters and whatever academic support is unique to the function of the Masters.xcvi

The memo would go on to concede that the removal of the Faculty Master position would result in significant savings for the university. The memo also spoke about potentially eliminating teaching assistants assigned to the colleges, which would also save the university
money. The subcommittee predicted that if significant portions of Model A were imposed on collegiate structure, the university could save a total of approximately $50,000. The subcommittee would go on to state, “Once having eliminated collegiate structure as we now know it, there are an infinite number of student and residence hall organizational models from which to choose. Some of these would be very similar to the current collegiate structure system, but without the real and symbolic involvement of the faculty in academic programming in the colleges.” Without collegiate structure as it was, the system of residential living would be similar to that of Off Campus College (OCC). Jack Sperling was a Task Force member and the Coordinator of OCC. But there had been some antipathy between the on-campus residential colleges and OCC. Sperling had pushed to get OCC a Faculty Master for some time but was usually rejected. OCC was so dissimilar to the on-campus residential colleges that the system used on-campus would not translate well for those students living off-campus. Sperling’s idealism led Bob Pompi to comment, “Jack Sperling was an academic Jerry Garcia.”

The Subcommittee on a Collegiate-less College would cite another model that had the potential of saving the university nearly $100,000, but would provide virtually no academic programming and residential colleges would be really nothing more than sort of sleazy hotel. This proposal was so outlandish that even the subcommittee would state that “such models often acquire adjectives like ‘zoo-like’, or ‘prison-like’, and we see no point in outlining them here.” In this way the subcommittee was trying to show not only members on the Task Force but also those in the university administration that eliminating collegiate structure as it was then would be detrimental to the university as a whole.
The subcommittee also emphasized their belief that eliminating student government, like HCC, from the collegiate units would seriously devalue the current quality of life experienced by students in the residential facilities:

We agreed that there would continue to be some form of localized student government arising from the actual location of students... However, we are not at all clear how this would relate to campus-wide government and to participation in student association activities. We believe it is very possible that a strong campus-wide student association would siphon off much of the leadership of the local units. It was the consensus of students, and others, on our subcommittee that students would probably lose a measurable portion of control over the quality of their lives should the formal collegiate structure system be withdrawn. [emphasis added]

The subcommittee believed that the quality of life of students would disintegrate if collegiate structure would radically restructure the way some in the university wanted it to.

The subcommittee would also comment on the concern many had that the colleges were eating up too much of the university funds. Funding for students and their organizations to create academic programs was, in the view of the administration, steering funds away from the university’s coffers. The subcommittee would report:

There was general agreement that if collegiate structure were eliminated, some sources of student funds that currently are directed in support of collegiate academic activities would no longer be available for this purpose. Students currently allocate funds from their own sources in support of such functions as films for film criticism courses taught in the Colleges, guest lecturers for courses taught in the Colleges, and various supplies for such courses. These monies, which are referred to by the jargon name ‘co-curricular support’ are, we believe, allocated at present by students because of their direct involvement in the academic programs they go to support, and because of the direct influence of the Master and some Fellows. By withdrawing the Masters and the Fellows, one withdraws the principal catalyst for using these funds in this way, and the best judgment of our subcommittee was that the funds would instead be used for general student-activity support of a non-academic nature.

By eliminating collegiate structure, according to the subcommittee, funds would not be saved but only redirected and used in ways less valuable to the University’s academic mission.
The final, clinching argument of the subcommittee was that the savings incurred by the university (approximately $50,000) would be about the same amount they would have to invest in order to create a new system to handle the needs of students.

In summary, we believe the cost of the present collegiate structure system...is on the order of the magnitude of $50,000. If this system were eliminated, there would be a need to develop a college-wide mechanism to provide for interdisciplinary programs and other sorts of programs of the kind now offered by the Innovational Projects Board. We believe this cost of setting up such a mechanism would be at least $50,000. We thus conclude that there are no significant dollar savings to be gained from eliminating the collegiate structure system...Collegiate structure is a convenient mechanism for providing these services and we therefore conclude that, even if there were no strong intrinsic academic and intellectual argument for the collegiate structure system, the system is nonetheless worth maintaining.

The subcommittee made it clear. The university would have to pay the same amount of money to implement an alternative to collegiate structure that it currently cost to run collegiate structure as it was now. Financially, it would make no difference whether collegiate structure stayed as it was or was completely restructured as some wanted it to be. The university would save no money by restructuring collegiate structure.

On November 5, 1975, the Task Force on Academic Development of Collegiate Units sent a memorandum to President Clark concerning their progress into investigating the value of collegiate structure. In the memo they gave a detailed report of all the documents, memos, reports, and meetings they had reviewed over the course of the year. This memo was used mostly as a means to show the President that the Task Force was working diligently to accomplish its goals. The memo clearly stated, "The Task Force has discussed almost all aspects of Collegiate Structure, from academic advising to transfer of faculty."

Five days later, Vice President Doug Woodard sent another memorandum to Vito Sinisi. This memorandum was a copy of a report given to Norman Cantor and Edward Demske back in
September concerning the available resources for the residential collegiate units. In the memo, Woodard stated, “As you can see, some of the underlying assumptions require further discussion, and some of the issues which your committee is discussing are not included.”

Attached to this letter was a memorandum dated from September 16 that, among other things, raised questions from the administration concerning the role of the Masters and their staff within the colleges. An interesting feature of this document, though, is the indication that the administration was not in favor of having the college coordinators report directly to the Director of Residential Life. Woodard himself stated, “I fully agree with you, Norm [Cantor], it would be inappropriate for the college coordinators to report to the Director of Residential Life. College coordinators must report directly to the Masters as they now do.”

Although this report was mostly concerned with financial expenditures of the collegiate units and various other mundane and marginal issues, the report did make clear that the administration, as early as September, had been willing to work with the Task Force regarding some issues surrounding the restructuring of collegiate structure. Although the fighting had been vicious up to this point, this memo showed that some common ground could be found between the two groups.

A new year dawned and there were new engagements between the forces fighting to preserve collegiate structure, and forces appearing to be against it. On January 27, 1976, a preliminary report outlining recommendations and procedures from the Task Force was released. The intention was to get feedback and from students, faculty, and administrators before any final recommendations were to be made. This report would be sent to Woodard and other members of the administration for their consideration.

On February 2, 1976, a day when most people were eagerly waiting to see if the groundhog had seen his shadow, Doug Woodard sent a memo to Vito Sinisi concerning the Task
Force’s report on collegiate structure and their preliminary recommendations. In the opening paragraph, Woodard stated:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations developed by your task force. I appreciate the enormous amount of work your committee has put into the development of the recommendations, an especially difficult task during a period when we have been beleaguered by so many budgetary and organizational uncertainties. My comments are offered in a spirit of cooperation and do not reiterate objections and reservations I have already raised in writing and in conversation with your task force.\textsuperscript{cviii}

Woodard recognized the efforts that the committee made in preparing their report and stated that his criticisms were nothing personal. To paraphrase another famous Vito, those comments were strictly business, nothing personal. While in his memo he would go to cite some objections and concerns he had with the Task Force’s proposals for collegiate structure, especially when it came to the expenses accruing to the university from the residential colleges, he still would do so in a way that made it clear that both parties were not looking to get one another, but rather they were all working together to do what was best for the university as a whole.

On February 5, 1976, the Task Force on the Academic Development of the Collegiate Units submitted their report concerning academic advising and their recommendations to President Clark. This was far from a final comprehensive report. It was the Task Force’s recommendations on only one aspect of collegiate structure. Academic advising, and the role that faculty would play, would be a key issue during the height of the battles over the future of collegiate structure at SUNY Binghamton. Previously at SUNY Binghamton, students could seek academic and career advising from a number of different sources. There was a central advising office but it was very small in comparison to today. The Career Development Center (CDC) existed back then but it was mostly responsible for helping students prepare resumes and other career-oriented tasks. If a student needed to know something specific about their major
requirements then they could go directly to their department’s advising office. Also at this time, each residential college had an academic advising office staffed with an advisor. If a student had general questions about a major or about career issues, they could go to their residential college academic advising office and see their college’s advisor. Bob Giomi in Hinman was an example. Among other areas, Bob was the chief academic advisor for Hinman during his tenure there. This system worked for the most part when the SUNY Binghamton was still a strictly liberal arts and sciences school. The introduction of the professional schools such as the School of Management and the School of Nursing made advising more complicated. The major problem that the administration saw was that advising was too spread out and that they could save resources by centralizing the offices.  

In the report the Task Force recommended that students who had declared their major would no longer be advised through their particular residential college, but rather through their major’s department. This was a compromise position taken by the Task Force. Originally the Task Force wanted all advising to be retained within the colleges, but that plan was strongly resisted. Now, the Task Force also recommended that professionals within a central office, not the residential colleges, take the lead in advising undeclared students. The report had long pages of detailed recommendations. However, the important part of the report was in its tone of compromise. The proponents and opponents of collegiate structure had come to agreements over the future role of collegiate structure within the university. Whatever bitter feelings of resentment may have lingered at this stage were unimportant. Headway for the sake of the student body was being made and, perhaps more importantly, peace between the two warring factions had been made. Or so it seemed.
The following day, Vito Sinisi sent an internal memorandum to President Clark outlining who voted for and against the recommendations made by the Task Force. The recommendations passed by a margin of 12 to 3. Importantly, two of the three voting against the proposals were students. The memo ends with Vito Sinisi requesting that the Task Force’s recommendations be published in Pipe Dream and that his committee would consider allegations that the professional schools, like the School of Management, had been drastically overlooked in regards to academic advising and the role that faculty should play in advising professional school students.\textsuperscript{cxi}

On March 23, 1976, President Clark released a memorandum to the entire university community concerning academic advising within collegiate structure. In the memo he stated that after careful review of all the data and reports given to him by the various committees and subcommittees associated with collegiate structure he had come to the determination that a transfer of academic advising responsibilities would be appropriate.

As of April 1, 1976, the academic advising responsibilities which now reside in the Student Services area will be placed under the direction of the academic deans, and all resources currently devoted to academic advising will be shifted…The academic advising function is significant among the services offered to our students. I believe we can expect an improvement in the quality of our advising following this change because of the opportunity provided for increased attention by members of the faculty.\textsuperscript{cxii}

Clark’s memo effectively ended any and all official academic advising functions within the collegiate units. No longer would the individual residential colleges be able to provide the type of academic advising services to their students that they were used to. That burden now fell upon different shoulders. For all intents and purposes, this was a loss for the defenders of collegiate structure. But the battle was far from over.

April 12, 1976, saw the Task Force submit their Preliminary Report to President Clark. In this report the Task Force reiterated its belief that collegiate structure as proposed in the
Colville Report was sound and beneficial to the university community and that it had been successful in helping students have an overall better experience in their time at SUNY Binghamton. “The Task Force has made an exhaustive and detailed analysis of collegiate structure on this campus, and its major conclusion is that collegiate structure has a vital, important, and distinctive role in the life of this campus, especially that of the undergraduate student.”

cxiii

The Task Force shot down any idea that faculty should be reassigned to the residential colleges from their respective departments. While stating that the colleges thrived on faculty who associated themselves with the individual colleges, actually transferring faculty to the colleges would be detrimental to both the faculty and the colleges themselves.

…it may be argued that if faculty members are permanently assigned to the collegiate units, they will feel divorced from their departments and colleagues in their discipline. Furthermore, a faculty member permanently assigned to the collegiate units might easily feel himself/herself to be a prime target should further retrenchment of faculty be required…it is the recommendation of the Task Force that faculty members should not be permanently transferred or assigned to the collegiate units. Thus, the collegiate units would not assimilate a permanent faculty of their own and would pose no threat to established departments…It is hoped that the faculty member serving in a given semester would view his/her position neither as a hostage nor as a sacrifice, but rather as someone freed to perform a genuine educational service and perhaps to experiment in a different environment.”

cxiv

The most important part of the report that the Task Force made clear was its position that no faculty should be removed from their departments and reassigned to the residential colleges. The Task Force recognized that far from strengthening the residential colleges, this move would give the administration the ability to retrench faculty. Their recommendation made it clear that the residential colleges would have none of this.
The Task Force also discussed the future of academic programs in the colleges. The residential colleges, even though they were still relatively young at this stage, were pioneers in developing unique academic programming that challenged their students to a higher level of learning not found within the regular university curriculum. The Task Force stated that they wished to see the colleges take on a more active role in academic matters on campus.

The Task Force believes that one of the basic thrusts of the academic program in the collegiate units should be the development of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs. Interdisciplinary and/or multidisciplinary programs require an operational base which, at the present time, is effectively lacking at this university. An obvious place for such a base is the collegiate units. This is a natural gathering place for faculty and students interested in bridging disciplines and/or subdisciplines [sic], for faculty and students who wish to explore and develop areas which cannot be accommodated within the restrictions of departmentalized disciplines. The collegiate units might have one or several such programs.

The report also mentioned the importance of the Faculty Fellows who would be involved in the colleges and stated a number of ways to continue to include them in the colleges such as giving them offices in the collegiate buildings and appointing them to three year terms as Fellows until they cycled out and a new faculty member came in. Fellows, according to the Task Force, would be an integral part of collegiate structure because its main focus was to foster student-faculty interaction in areas beyond the classroom. Without the Fellows, much of what collegiate structure meant would be lost.

More importantly, the Task Force laid out its perception on what reorganizing and strengthening the collegiate units would be. It argued that in order to continue to foster a living/learning environment that was unique not only in the SUNY system but also around the country, they needed to preserve collegiate structure as it currently was at Binghamton. One of the more important issues that came out of the report was what to do with Dickinson Community (not part of the regular collegiate structure at the time) and OCC. The Task Force recommended
that the Masters have administrative responsibility for the programs created and executed in the residential colleges and that the OCC Coordinator be responsible for these in regards to OCC. Besides that there would be no significant changes to how OCC or Dickinson operated.

The report also stated that the colleges would be responsible to both the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President of Student Services. Dickinson and OCC would be responsible solely to the Vice President for Student Services. The residential colleges would report academic matters to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and anything non-academic would be reported to the Vice President for Student Services. The Task Force recommended that the Vice Presidents be involved in any budgets set for the colleges and that they ensure that monies be made available to the colleges so that they could continue to host guest lecturers, films, and field trips. The Vice Presidents would also have a say in which personnel would be staffing the colleges. However, it also stated unequivocally that the Faculty Master would be in charge of the residential colleges. The report stated, “We cannot expect a Master to be responsible for a college without being in charge of that college.” For a time the university administration was considering either eliminating the Faculty Master position or else significantly weakening their power within the colleges. Not surprisingly, the Task Force, on which all three Faculty Masters served, stated that they believed that the Master position should not be weakened and if anything it should be strengthened.

With their recommendations now in place the Task Force waited to hear what the administration thought of their report and for the inevitable fallout. On April 26, 1976, Vice President Norman Cantor fired off an angry and scathingly critical memo to Vito Sinisi concerning the preliminary findings of the Task Force. While he agreed with certain areas of the report he was highly critical of the majority of it. His response to the Task Force is as follows:
I very much regret that I must express deep disappointment at reading the Preliminary Report dated April 9, 1976. As Chief Academic Officer of this institution I could not commit further resources to collegiate units on the basis on this Report. I would recommend to the President that he not endorse the Report for the implementation—indeed the Report is so vague in character and so lacking in specific programmatic recommendations that there is very little in it to endorse.

Cantor goes on to criticize the Task Force’s failure to provide “any specific programmatic identity for the collegiate units” and that it would “not suffice as a justification for resource allocation.” Cantor also said that there were plenty of other vehicles more apt to pursue this type of programming and more cost effective than the collegiate units.

Before this dispersal of resources occurs, there must be detailed justification for this departure, minimally involving specific academic identities for the collegiate units and detailed descriptions of unique programs to be offered in the collegiate units. Contrary to past practice in this university, the Academic Vice President does not write blank checks; budgeting is related to specific program identification and justification and a priority rating.

Cantor had virtually said that the collegiate units were not a priority and that they were undeserving of additional funds. Cantor also condemned the proposal to move faculty into the collegiate units for the development of the academic programming. Cantor writes, “‘such a transfer would likely require substantial revisions of faculty personnel policies and procedures’…The university personnel policies should not be given the status of the Ten Commandments—even the Federal Constitution has been amended several times.” In this statement Cantor agreed with the Task Force’s opinion that faculty should not be transferred from their departments to the residential colleges. Cantor would go on to severely criticize several other sections of the report including the role of the fellows in the units, the lack of spaces available to permit the types of academic developmental programs that the Task Force envisioned and even the selection of the Faculty Masters. Cantor would end his tirade by stating:
Looking through the roster of the membership of the Task Force, I see several people, including yourself [Vito Sinisi], whom I greatly respect. Why such estimable people should in the end have put their names to a Report so singularly lacking in imagination, courage, educational wisdom, and effective specificity is a matter of grave concern to me. I would guess that on any significant issues before the Task Force, no consensus could be reached, except on vague platitudes. If this is what happened, then the whole future of any kind of academic program in the collegiate units is brought into doubt.\footnote{xxiii}

These harsh and critical words sent shockwaves through the academic community and all those involved in the debate over collegiate structure. Just as Vito Sinisi’s earlier words brought the debates to a fevered pitch, the ruthless condemnation of the Task Force’s findings by Vice President Cantor rekindled the fire surrounding the debate over the future of collegiate structure.

Cantor would not be the only one to harshly condemn the Task Force and its findings. On May 3, Vice President Doug Woodard, struck back with his own harsh conclusions regarding the Task Force’s Preliminary Report. Woodard would write in his own memorandum:

The report to me seems to be a philosophical endorsement of the 1965 Colville Report and a restatement of the values underlying the creation of the collegiate units. The report, in my judgment, did not adequately respond to what I considered to be the President’s overriding charge to the committee, i.e., the strengthening of the collegiate units by recommending, minimally, guidelines for the establishment of distinctive academic programs for each unit.\footnote{xxiv}

Woodard would go on to state that many decisions of budgetary, program, and personnel natures were held up while waiting for the findings of the Task Force. He claimed that the Task Force’s report did not have adequate criteria to help university administration make these important decisions. Woodard called for the report to give a specific number of faculty to be assigned to the collegiate units rather than a vague, unspecified number. He also criticized the Task Force for not developing specific academic programs for the collegiate units to follow, even though the Chief Academic Officer of the University and the Office of the President gave them permission to do so. Specifically Woodard cited the Task Force’s inability to clearly define
the role of the Academic Councils within each collegiate unit and how they would function, even though the Task Force stated that programming would be their chief concern. He also stated that it was nearly impossible for the Masters of the units to have the sweeping power they called for in the report (it basically stated that all final decisions regarding programming would be channeled directly to the Master’s office). By the end of the memo, Woodard had condemned the report. He did so somewhat more respectfully, but there was no room for doubt in anyone who read his memo. The Task Force’s report was judged to be of poor quality and it reflected very badly on those who were advocates of collegiate structure.

Essentially both men had savaged a report that was singularly lacking in specificity. Both Woodard and Cantor were looking for specific recommendations from the Task Force, and rightfully so. The broad generalizations contained in the preliminary report was, did little to help the administration find a way to better consolidate and save money. While philosophically the report was correct, details were lacking. Though the Task Force had made it clear that the recommendations laid out in 1965 by the Colville Report were valid and that collegiate structure as it was at SUNY Binghamton was an asset and not a drain on the university, they failed to offer specific recommendations that the administration could implement to cut costs.

As hurtful as the comments made by Vice Presidents Cantor and Woodard were, they were not unexpected. Since the very beginning these two men had attacked collegiate structure as it was known at SUNY Binghamton. However, an unexpected twist occurred shortly after Woodard and Cantor released their respective memos. On May 5, 1976, the English Department wrote their own memo on their position concerning the Task Force’s report. At first it agreed with the Task Force that faculty should not be permanently reassigned to the collegiate units. The English Department, like the other academic departments at SUNY Binghamton, was fearful
of what this would do to their numbers, and with the specter of retrenchment constantly hanging
over their heads the last thing they wanted was to put their jobs at risk by being assigned to the
residential colleges. However it did offer up some concerns, one of which concerned the
residential colleges and their ambitious goals of furthering unique academic programming
through the colleges themselves.

While the English Department has always cooperated with students in the planning of
academic programs through its undergraduate and graduate advisory committees, it is
reluctant to share with random students, staff members, and other non-teaching
personnel the responsibility for developing and maintaining any program to which it
gives its sanction or devotes its personnel. In short, the department will not commit its
faculty members to a program which it considers to be academically unsound.

The English Department essentially was concerned with what the colleges were planning on to
offer with regard to academic programs. While the colleges saw them as unique and innovative,
the English Department, and other academic departments, saw this partly as an intrusion on their
turf, which was the conduct of academic and degree programs. More than that, the English
Department was concerned that any academic program created outside an already existing
department would be of an inferior quality and that they did not want to be associated with it.

The report went on to state in part:

The department has contributed unstintingly to those worthy programs currently offered
in the residential colleges…It chose to do this, however, because it agreed with the
philosophy and basic academic integrity of the program and not because it had previously
committed resources which were irretrievable. It would be folly to ask a first-rate
department, which enjoys general student approbation, to offer up blindly a part of itself
to a program over which it had no sanction. Unless we could be assured of direct
departmental control over programs offered by our people, we will not participate in any
scheme to divert departmental resources to the collegiate units…

To summarize, the department sees in the preliminary Report of the Task Force on the
Academic Development of the Collegiate Units the potential for real and genuine
development of a quality undergraduate program which would benefit undergraduate
education at SUNY-Binghamton. However, it cannot give is approbation nor devote any of its resources to a program with which it is not in full accord. cxxvii

As seen earlier, the English Department basically stated that it would refuse to commit itself to the residential colleges for fear that it itself would lose resources. The department, while not out rightly rejecting the academic programming proposed by the colleges, stated that unless quality of the programs could be ensured, they would not align themselves with them. The English Department, along with many other departments at the university, while certainly not against collegiate structure, saw the same problems in the preliminary report that were raised by both Vice Presidents Woodard and Cantor. The lack of specific recommendations in the preliminary report was a concern for the people in the English Department as well.

The English Department would not be the only department at the university to reject the findings of the Task Force. With the administration, numerous faculty members, and a growing number of departments within the university becoming increasingly concerned with preserving their resources, resources that collegiate structure was siphoning away from them, the Task Force was forced to make some hard choices. It became abundantly clear to Vito Sinisi and other members of the Task Force that in order for collegiate structure to survive substantial changes had to be made. The Task Force quickly realized that while collegiate structure as they knew it would be altered, they could at least put their energy into trying to preserve it as best they could. The war over collegiate structure was about to face its final challenge.

That summer the Task Force sent their Final Report concerning the development of collegiate units to President Clark. Before submitting the report, the Task Force made substantial changes and offered proposals with more specifics. It also saw the introduction of the
Integrated Semester Program. In the cover letter to the Final Report, Task Force Chairman Vito Sinisi all but pleaded the Task Force’s case:

I believe that if the recommendations of the Final Report are implemented, collegiate structure on this campus will finally be placed on a solid foundation, and will make significant contributions to both the development of new and valuable academic programs as well as the enhancement of the learning and living environment of our undergraduate students.\textsuperscript{cxviii}

The body of the report the Task Force also pleaded with its audience, that is to say, the university administration to accept its recommendations. These recommendations were made with considerable input from outside sources such as experts in the field of collegiate structure at other universities and hours of tireless research. Not only were they well-developed proposals, but more importantly, if they were not put into place, collegiate structure would be substantially changed from its existing form.

During its year of work, the Task Force has threaded its way through a maze of contrary interests, mindful of its charge to propose the means to strengthen collegiate structure and mindful also that there are no new resources with which to implement the strengthening. It has accepted as implicit in its charge that raiding, and hence imperiling, the undergraduate (or graduate) program for resources is not an acceptable means to strengthen the colleges, but would indeed be self-defeating. Since the report of the Harpur College Council Committee to Evaluate the Undergraduate Program in Harpur College reveals that the program is generally held in high regard by the university community, it would be inappropriate to recommend extreme redirection of the program or severe dislocation of its resources.\textsuperscript{cxix}

The Task Force developed its ideas throughout the report citing research and drawing heavily upon previous reports on collegiate structure including the Colville Report. It again reiterated its desire to increase student-faculty interactions by having faculty become associated with the residential colleges. This component of collegiate structure was perhaps the least
favored among the faculty, most of whom were not willing to commit to interacting with students on a near daily basis outside the classroom. The report sought to assure faculty that this responsibility would not be detrimental to either their teaching or their research and that strong and innovative academic programs could be created out this collaboration.

The academic identity of the colleges was also an issue in the report. The student members were strongly against creating halls segregated by academic discipline, and it was agreed that all the residential colleges would serve majors from all departments within Harpur College and the professional schools. Furthermore the population of the colleges would be capped at 1,000 students in keeping with the model presented in the Colville Report. The Task Force did concede that the academic programming currently in the colleges did need to be revised, so that it offered more than piecemeal courses to students.

This led to the introduction of the Integrated Semester Program which would combine classes from different disciplines so that students would gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the material covered in their courses. The Final Report has this to say about the Integrated Semester Program:

The Integrated Semester Program is a natural fit with the existing collegiate structure at this University. The administrative capability and the concern are already present in the masters of the three residential colleges. Freshmen in the residential colleges will live with others who are pursuing essentially the same basic course of study, reading the same books, and discussing them with the same instructors. Lectures, films, concerts, exhibits, and social events will bring them together in common pursuit of interests—a truly liberating experience for the new student whose choice of friends has been circumscribed by his neighborhood and the vagaries of school bus schedules.

For example, a Philosophy class teaching logic could be taught in conjunction with an English class. The Philosophy class would teach students a logical thought process, while the English
class would hone their writing skills. The hope was add an enriching experience to incoming freshmen and to offer them an opportunity to bond with their classmates and their professors in an environment that was not typically offered in regular college classes.

The Final Report outlined five key objectives that they hoped the Integrated Semester would accomplish.

1. to provide entering freshmen a rigorous course of study in methods of thinking and writing, using as subject matter a topic examined by an interdisciplinary approach-through literature and political science;
2. to assist entering freshmen in developing the intellectual skills essential to a meaningful education in the liberal arts;
3. to provide for entering freshmen a minimal structure for their first experience of higher education-one that will not constrain them but will, while sharpening intellectual skills, provide a base from which the student can discover and explore his interests;
4. to serve as a catalyst for a more rational concept of “all-college requirement”-which is to say, of lower-division undergraduate education-in Harpur College;
5. to exploit to their fullest the possibilities inherent in the collegiate system for integrating the student’s academic experience with his personal growth.

The hope of the Integrated Semester Program was to allow different disciplines to complement each other and bring the student an exceptional educational experience. It also was hoped that it would combat the problem that many freshmen faced when entering college-that introductory courses were usually held in a large lecture hall with little interaction with the instructor outside of the classroom. The Integrated Semester Program was supposed to have smaller class sizes and promoted lots of interaction between the students and the faculty teaching their classes.

While the Integrated Semester Program would not last it would the forerunner of the Learning Communities and the various area-based linked courses.

One of the major issues addressed by the report involves the faculty fellows within the colleges. The Task Force called for the fellows to be given a clear role in their respective colleges and encouraged them to become involved in student life there. The Task Force
recommended that the fellows serve on the college’s academic council, contribute to student
government, play an active role in freshmen and transfer orientation, and participate in panel
discussions, conduct non-credit courses or seminars for the students or even provide for lectures
or other types of performances for the students in the college. The Fellows would also be
expected to teach in the colleges when appropriate. The Task Force also called for funds for the
fellows to compensate them for their work within the collegiate units beyond their normal
teaching schedule.

The issue of who would be staffing the residential colleges was also raised. At that point
full time professional staff members worked as Head Residents (later to be known as Resident
Directors) and also played other roles in the central offices of the residential colleges. For a long
time, the administration called for these positions to be made part time and for them to be given
to graduate students. This was proposed in part because it would provide some graduate students
with housing and a part-time job, but mostly because it would be cheaper to hire part-time non-
professional graduate students than it would be to hire full-time professionals. The Task Force,
fearing a decrease in quality, urged that full-time professionals be retained for these positions. It
also proposed that the Masters Council be responsible for coordinating all the programs that
occurred within the colleges. This was done to add specificity to the Final Report, something
which was surely lacking in the Task Force’s preliminary report.

The report also called for acceptance of the collegiate libraries. The libraries within the
collegiate units were perhaps the most successful part of collegiate structure. Just about
everyone lauded them and called for their expansion. However, resources were scarce and the
report called for the libraries to seek new state monies and seek funding from other sources so as
not to compete with academic departments on campus. The expansion of the libraries was to be
key in the strengthening of the overall collegiate structure. Unfortunately, this would not happen. The libraries, far from expanding, actually contracted. Instead of being areas where students could check out books and research material in the comfort of their own residential college, the libraries lost their books to the main Bartle Library and became mostly empty space that was at best a convenient study area.

There was one final push for acceptance of these important measures. The section of the Preliminary Report (slightly modified in the Final Report) on Reorganizing and Strengthening of the Collegiate Units states:

> Collegiate structure is a valuable and distinctive element of this campus. Few public universities and colleges in this country have sought to provide, as we have, undergraduate students with a living-learning environment which ‘lies midway between the student’s circle of friends, on one hand, and the total university on the other hand.’ Each of the collegiate units provides a smaller, easily identifiable community for its students, serves as a focus for many of the student’s activities, and provides many opportunities for the student to participate in the shaping and control of his/her environment within the matrix of a large university. The University has an obligation to provide students with not only the best educational experience possible, but with living the physical conditions supportive of these experiences...We must insure that students have adequate and attractive living spaces, a reasonable amount of privacy, and a social environment conducive to their studies.

This was the last impassioned plea by the diehard supporters of collegiate structure. Following the issuance of the Task Force’s Final Report, President Clark and the rest of the university administration decided the fate of collegiate structure. The residential colleges wound up getting two professional staff members apiece, and that graduate students became the Resident Directors. The position of Faculty Master would be retained; however, the power of that office would be diminished and would continue to decline in the years that followed. The development of unique academic programs within the residential colleges was phased out and would never return. The colleges went from being on the cutting edge of academic programs to having
virtually nothing to do with them. In the end the residential colleges kept their basic structure and function, though they would morph, change, and evolve over the future decades. In the end the residential colleges kept their basic structure and function, though they would morph, change, and evolve over the future decades. cxxxvii

Today individual colleges still exist on campus. Eventually Dickinson became part of the collegiate structure when it graduate students were moved elsewhere. The latest residential community to follow the collegiate structure model is Mountainview College, built in 2003. In the Fall of 2006, even the apartment communities of Susquehanna and Hillside acquired a Faculty Master. Still, the glory days of the near fully independent residential college are gone. The Faculty Master, while certainly important, no longer has the power to hire staffs and set budgets and oversee the day-to-day operations of the unit. The lines of authority have changed. Residential Life is a far more centralized and bureaucratic system than it was before the mid-1970’s. No longer can individual residential colleges operate in a semi-autonomous environment like they used too. Today, the office of Residential Life is highly centralized and the colleges have no choice but to answer to the various assistant directors and the Director of Residential Life. Unfortunately, this has led to a loss in autonomy for the residential colleges, stifling efforts at creating unique and innovative programming. Academic advising within the collegiate units is now handled by the various departments, the advising offices of the various schools, and even the Career Development Center. There are linked and area-based courses taught in the colleges that are new since the year 2000, but no longer are specific academic programs located solely in the residential colleges, like Environmental Studies (originated in Newing College), Journalism (originated in Hinman College) and Psychobiology. Still, these courses share some similarities, in spirit if not in practice, to the courses offered only to students living within a particular residential college. The libraries, while still in existence in Hinman and CIW have no books and have become little more than convenient study spaces and computer pods for residents of the
college. Faculty fellows play a minimal role in the various colleges. From the perspective of this author, collegiate structure still exists, but it is not what it was before 1975.

Looking back on the years when the fate and future of collegiate structure hung in the balance, Paul Stroud, who is now the Associate Director of Judicial Affairs at Binghamton University remembers the glorious past of the residential colleges and the promise they held for the future.

Looking back the university wasn’t getting rid of the colleges. Still, it was a trying time for the colleges. They had good leadership at the time. If the Masters hadn’t been there the colleges would be a lot different today…You had the sense that it [collegiate structure] was something special. A lot had to do with the Masters. The Masters were great people and cut through a lot of red tape…

The colleges are still around and a lot of places still don’t have them…People see the colleges only as they are today, they don’t know what they used to be…The philosophy of the colleges has changed. If people wanted it to be something different it would be that way. As to the future [of the colleges]…I wonder sometimes. cxxxviii

Bob Pompi, who after serving many years as Faculty Master of Newing College returned to teaching in the Physics Department, offers similar sentiments.

It was because of the colleges that Binghamton got the reputation it has. The colleges increased the selectivity [of Binghamton]. Binghamton set itself apart because of the colleges. The application pool went through the roof. Lots of competition to get in here [because of the colleges]. Major hallmark because other places don’t have it….They [the colleges] were charged to develop new academic programming. Environmental Studies, Biochemistry, Psychobiology, all these programs came out of the colleges. They don’t do any of that anymore. They [Binghamton University] still advertises the colleges as these great places but they’re not what they used to be…

I loved my job as Master, just as I’ve loved everything I’ve ever done. I remember back when I was Master of Newing I was in the Physics Department talking with a colleague and then mentioned that I had to get over to Newing. He asked why I liked spending so much time over in “the sandbox” which is what they called the colleges at the time. I replied that I liked the people in “the sandbox” a lot more than the people here [the Library Tower/university academic departments]. The Masters used to have power too. I’d never want to be a Master again. As far as I see it they’re [the Masters and the
colleges] just window dressing now. I’m not window dressing. The resources that the
university spends aren’t spent to make it [the university] better. They’re used simply to
get more money.\textsuperscript{cxxix}

Over forty years after helping to write the Colville Report, the founding document of
collegiate structure and thus of Hinman College, Francis Newman remembers the promise that
collegiate structure held for the development of the university:

The main thing was that it wasn’t carried through as effective as it was hoped. We had
this idea that there would be rose bushes outside each of the halls and that someone
would tend to them for the four years that they were here and during their senior year
they would take a freshman under their wing and teach them how to tend the bushes and
when they graduated the freshman would take over and the cycle would begin anew.
This was just an example of the investment that we hoped students would make in their
college. That didn’t happen though. We didn’t want freshmen dorms, but that’s
essentially what they became. The halls today have populations of mostly freshmen and
sophomores. Most upperclassmen move off campus…the only seniors you see living on
campus are RA’s for the most part.\textsuperscript{cxl}

To some it would seem that the grand experiment of collegiate structure has failed. Like
Dr. Newman said, it was most certainly not carried out as well as it could have. There were a
dizzying array of forces lined up against it since the very beginning. Truth be told, given the
opposition to it during the mid-1970’s, it is surprising that it has survived as well as it has.

Even though collegiate structure is not today as it was originally intended, its form and
legacy lives on. Independent thinking and community spirit is still seen throughout the
residential colleges of SUNY Binghamton, with Hinman College leading the way. The ideas of
collegiate structure inspired the creation of Hinman in the first place. Without them Hinman as
we know it would not exist and neither would the great lasting legacies of the Hinman student
organizations and activities such as HLT/HPC, Co-Rec football, HCC, Dorm Wars and Hysteria
among many, many others. If collegiate structure was the genius of the early years of SUNY
Binghamton, then Hinman College is the heir of that spirit and continues to make innovations and challenge the ordinary to this very day. There were many gifts that collegiate structure gave to SUNY Binghamton, but the greatest gift of all, at least to the students who lived there, was Hinman College.

The author would like to thank Bob Giomi, Paul Stroud, Professor Robert Pompi and Professor Francis X. Newman for their invaluable contributions to this chapter and for their role in the development and preservation of the greatest assets on-campus: collegiate structure and the residential college.
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O Pioneers!: Innovation in Hinman and its Pioneering Spirit

All the past we leave behind,
We debouch upon a newer mightier world, varied world,
Fresh and strong the world we seize, world of labor and the march,
Pioneers! O pioneers!

-Walt Whitman
“Pioneers! O Pioneers!”
from Leaves of Grass

Prologue

Hinman College is known for its innovation in the realms of student life. Since the very beginning it has been open to radical and revolutionary areas of change that more conventional colleges would shy away from. It is seen in its design. The suite-style living arrangement, each with three bedrooms, a common living area, and a bathroom, is a far cry from the traditional corridor style of living, with no common area and a shared bathroom at the end of the hall. Suite-style living was not the norm in American institutes of higher education in 1967. Hinman was built with collegiate structure in mind and readily latched on to this novel concept.

Suite-style living and collegiate structure would not be the only areas where Hinman would lead the way. Hinman would also lead the way at SUNY Binghamton in creating the first self-regulating dorm, establishing apartment-style living, creating a cooking dorm that was not bound to the university dining system, allowing pets in all of its residence halls, and constructing a geodesic dome and a monument. Although not all of these policies and edifices would survive, they would have a profound effect not only upon the people who were there during the time these structures were in place, but also upon future generations of Hinmanites as well. While maybe not everything that Hinman created still stands today, the spirit of innovation continues with the present generation of pioneering Hinmanites.
Self-Regulation

The idea of self-regulation is the cornerstone of the pioneering spirit of Hinman. Prior to 1966 and the implementation of collegiate structure, most of the halls on campus were restricted to following the policies and procedures established by higher university administration. To the student of today, many of these policies and procedures seem draconian, completely restricting personal liberty. However, in the mid-1960’s these conservative policies would be the norm on college and university campuses across the country.

During this time period most dormitories in the United States were segregated by sex. The idea of coed housing was not even on the radar of most students, let alone university officials. Furthermore, who could enter into a certain dorm and at what time were strictly controlled. Rigid guidelines towards legal drugs and alcohol were enforced. Student self-government was not an issue because, for the most part, it did not exist and if it did it did not have the power to execute lasting change. While student suggestions on reform may have been considered, the student body certainly did not have much of a voice overall in reforming their college or university. That’s the way it was for most of the history of higher education in the United States up until the 1960’s.

The 1960’s in American culture was a decade full of popular unrest (especially among the student body in institutes of higher education) with many groups seeking radical social change regarding civil rights, women’s rights, and more liberal attitudes on illegal narcotics, to name just a few. Enter into this equation an unpopular war in Vietnam and the scene was set for an explosive confrontation between forces of the old conservative establishment on one side and the mostly young liberal reform movements on the other. This struggle for moral and political superiority took place all across the nation at virtually every level of society. Colleges and
universities were no exception and in fact were usually hotbeds of student activism and unrest. The State University of New York at Binghamton was no exception.

During this time, some liked to call SUNY Binghamton “the Berkley of the East” because of the high amount of political activism, especially anti-Vietnam War protests. Still, in comparison to other centers of student activism in the 1960’s, the activism of the students at SUNY Binghamton was comparatively mild. However, it was in this era of liberal thinking and reforms that new attitudes on many longstanding university policies began to take place, particularly in the area of social regulations. One of the largest social regulations to be challenged appeared in a movement to create self-regulating halls.

Up until this point, males and females were separated from each other either by living in completely different buildings or in different wings of the same building, such as the case was in Hinman. If a male student wanted to visit a female student or vice versa in their particular room, first their door had to be kept open at all times and furthermore their visit was either closely monitored or not allowed at all. This was all done in an effort to prevent premarital sexual intercourse from occurring. Most university officials at Binghamton and in other colleges and universities believed that most students were too immature to engage in sexual intercourse at this stage in their lives. The Sexual Revolution was sweeping the nation at this time and attitudes concerning sex were gradually beginning to change. That was all about to change with the introduction of self-regulated student housing.

In April 1966, Mary C. Richardson, the Associate Dean of Students, wrote a statement regarding the university’s view on issues such as self-regulation to the Self Regulating Hall Committee. In her statement, she made it clear that the university’s goal, of disseminating information and educating its students was still its primary goal and in order for the university to
continue in its quest to reach this goal certain policies, regulations and guidelines had to be maintained and enforced. She went on to write that everyone within the university, particularly those in the residence halls, had an obligation to follow rules set forth by the university in order to maintain these standards and to protect both community and individual rights. She also made it clear that the university was willing to allow the idea of a self-regulating hall as an avenue to maintain and expand these high standards. She wrote, “The opportunity to help individuals develop concern for others, personal integrity, and self-discipline is evident in your philosophy of a self-regulating hall…”

Richardson would continue in her statement to outline some concerns that the committee would need to address as it investigated the possibility of creating a self-regulating hall. One of the most important concerns that needed to be addressed was the curfew on women that was in place at the time. Women in student housing were not allowed to leave the building from late at night until sometime early the next morning. These regulations were imposed by the university in an effort to prevent premarital intercourse. There were ways around the rules, for juniors or seniors in good academic standing who could borrow a key to come and go as they pleased. Still, most women were confined to their building during certain hours of the day, a restriction that their male counterparts did not have. In her statement, Richardson wrote that curfews would continue to be enforced until self-regulation had been implemented in hall for at least one semester. Though she offered no guarantees, she hinted that the entire idea of a women’s curfew could be dropped if the experiment in self-regulation was successful. Hinman would be the first residential college to experiment with self-regulation.

Closely linked to the idea of self-regulation was the idea of open houses. Open houses were in essence the outcome of self-regulation. An open house, as opposed to a regulated house,
would have no restrictions to when members of the opposite sex could visit one another in their individual buildings and rooms. Open houses would also permit room doors to be closed, lights to be turned off etc. when members of the opposite sex were visiting. However, one source of contention was whether open houses should be 24 hours a day seven days a week or limited to certain hours of the day or to certain days, such as the weekends. Peter Lorenzi, a Hinman resident at this time, remembers the former policy of self-regulation and open houses. “At 11:00 pm until 7:00 am all entrances between each wing of the building would be locked. Women had keys to their wing but men weren’t allowed into the female wing unescorted.”

While the university was strict in enforcing this policy, Peter does remember well-established informal networks where somewhat surreptitiously women would sneak their boyfriends over to their side and vice versa.

In her document, Richardson reiterated the university policy:

While the University recognizes the student’s needs for interpersonal privacy it does not condone pre-marital intercourse on University property. Neither does it condone the use of certain drugs or illegal behavior of any kind.

The University feels that potential psychological and emotional effects of pre-marital intercourse pose a danger to certain individuals and hence the entire University community. It is felt that students at Harpur are capable of realizing these potential dangers and of creating an atmosphere in which a healthy interpersonal privacy will exist without psychological and emotional maladjustment. Therefore, the self-regulating hall will have the power to set the number and times of open house events, as well as all rules pertaining to doors, lights, and supervision. The residents of the dorm are themselves responsible for their conduct and the hall’s reputation.

Richardson, while reiterating the university disapproval of premarital sexual intercourse, was effectively allowing each hall the authority to decide how strictly they would run their open houses and how many open houses they would permit.

These were the most important issues discussed in the document, but the role and conduct of the resident counselor (now known as the resident assistant) was discussed as well. This
aspect of the history will be discussed in greater detail in a later chapter. When Cleveland Hall opened in the fall of 1967, it was the first hall on campus to adhere to the policy of self-regulation. By all accounts, this policy was wildly popular with the student body and very successful. So successful in fact that students from across the university led a protest in May of 1968 demanding that the university implement 24-hour open houses and self-regulation across the campus. Eventually the university concurred and self-regulation with 24-hour open houses became the norm all over campus.

The importance of this to Hinman history is evident in the fact that Cleveland Hall led the way through this frontier of social regulations. Every time a young male or young female student goes to the room of a member of the opposite sex they can give thanks to Cleveland Hall for being the pioneer in reforming social regulations at SUNY Binghamton.

The Hinman College Judicial Board

At approximately the same time that the rest of the campus was storming the Couper Administration building demanding self-regulation and open houses, Hinman College was experimenting with another area of social regulation. Hinman College instituted its own judicial board to discipline students breaking the code of conduct. In April of 1968, Faculty Master Pete Gruber sent a memo to the councils of Cleveland, Hughes and Lehman Halls alerting them that the Executive Planning Board (EPB) of Hinman College had approved the judicial structure proposed for implementation in Hinman. It would go into effect as soon as 2/3 of the hall councils approved of the judicial structure and when the Masters’ Council also approved it. On May 26 of that year, 2/3 of the hall councils approved of the structure and it went into effect.
The Hinman College Judicial Board consisted of five students elected from each building. Three faculty members would also sit on the board, as would one member of the Harpur College Administration to act as a “friend of the court.” Quorum would be reached with six members present at the meetings. Students who sat on the board had to have at least sophomore standing and had to have lived in Hinman for at least two semesters at the time of their election. The Chief Justice of the board would be selected from among the students. Ideally, this person had to have previous judicial experience and their term would run two semesters or a full academic year. Their responsibilities would include chairing the meetings and issuing decisions. Elections would take place two weeks into the fall semester and the term of office would be a full academic year. The Faculty Master would choose which faculty would sit on the board with the consent of the buildings. Their term would consist of one academic year.

Interestingly, the jurisdiction of the board would be rather broad in scope. The board would consider infringements resulting from the violation of the rules and regulations of Hinman College authorities, violations of the Harpur College handbook arising in Hinman College but not in a specific hall, violations by residents of Hinman in a Hinman hall other than their own, and other violations falling under the category 4b described in greater detail later. A very big point in the university judicial system to this very day is that they are not legal systems subject to laws interpreted by lawyers.

The document also states that each individual hall should have its own judicial board to deal with violations arising out of infringements of the rules and regulations of the Harpur College Handbook, violations of curfew and key regulations, and other rules and regulations established by the hall council. Halls could only hear cases where both parities lived within the
building and when the violation took place within their building. Section 4b of the document stated that reserved the right to determine jurisdiction when a party questioned the legality of the jurisdiction or if the Master questioned the jurisdiction. Only the Hinman Judicial Board could expel a student from Hinman. The individual halls could expel a resident only from their building, and that resident could potentially stay in Hinman. Noting the power of the Faculty Master of the time, section 5 states clearly, “All judicial decisions, except those involving minor infractions of hall rules, will take the form of recommendations to be carried out by the Master of Hinman College.” This final clause stated clearly that while the Hinman Judicial Board held a great deal of power, the final say in all disciplinary hearings fell to the Master.

On February 16, 1970, the Master and staff of Hinman College prepared a document entitled *Brief Overview of Hinman College Development: September 1967-February 1970*. This document outlined many areas of Hinman development in those early years and it paid particular attention to the judicial board. It stated that most forms of discipline were carried out either by peer pressure from the individual’s floor mates or by interdiction by either the resident counselor and/or the Head Resident. If none of these avenues worked, formal sanctions would be passed down by the Hinman administrative staff, which in turn could be appealed to the judicial board. The document itself states the unclear environment that the board functioned in:

> Although all procedures of the Hinman College Judicial Board are not set down or standardized, nor are the regulations and sanctions related to them carefully codified, the essentials of due process are carefully followed. Up to the present, no case tried by the Hinman Judicial Board has been appealed either by a defendant or a plaintiff. Moreover, the one case of administrative sanction appealed to the Board was upheld by the Board. The Hinman Judicial Boards have won the respect of both staff and students in the college.

It appears that the Hinman Judicial Boards were functioning well despite the legal and technical kinks that still needed to be worked out. Sadly, the judicial boards at the hall level and
the Hinman area-wide level would not last. Although the exact evolution of the process is unknown, at some point in time an effort to centralize all judicial violations and to make the judicial process the same for every student on campus came into effect and the individual hall judicial boards and the Hinman Judicial Board were disbanded. Still, this early form of disciplining university students would take shape again, not on the level of the residential college, but in the campus-wide judicial board which to this very day disciplines students violating policy.

**Apartment-Style Living**

Following up on the success of self-regulation and with the guidance and blessing of Hinman Faculty Master Pete Gruber, Hinman decided that it would push the envelope of social regulations even further. While self-regulation and open houses permitted men and women to mix with one another just about any time unsupervised, most buildings on campus were still only single sex buildings, that is men were assigned to one building, and women to another. In the case of Hinman College, one of wing of a building was designated solely for men, and another designated solely for women. The floor that you lived on would be filled with only residents of the same gender as yourself. The spring of 1970 would change all of that with the introduction of apartment-style living to Hinman.

Today when most people think of apartment-style living they think of real apartments with bedrooms, bathrooms and working kitchens. Many college campuses even boast this style of living for its students and it is a trend that is growing in popularity. Back in the early 1970’s, though, apartment-style living was the idea that members of the opposite sex (while remaining in suites filled with only their particular gender) to live on the same floor. The goal of apartment-style living was to make coed housing a permanent reality. Proponents of apartment-style living
argued that this type of living arrangement would more closely mimic the reality of living in a real apartment complex outside the university. They also stated that while certainly some sexual activity would occur between male and female residents on the same floor, it would not differ from what was already occurring with the self-regulation and open houses. Furthermore, they argued that close proximity to members of the opposite sex would better prepare both genders for the outside world where casual, friendly, platonic male-female relations were the norm. To sum up, the argument for those who favored apartment-style living stated that it more closely resembled the “real world” and that just because a suite of male students would be living next door to a suite of female students, this did not mean that both suites would automatically stop studying to engage in sexual intercourse. The relationships that would be forged, supporters of apartment-style living argued, would be close, but mostly platonic.

The experiment in apartment-style living in Hinman began in the winter of 1970. On January 22, 1970, Pete Gruber sent a memorandum to then president of the university Bruce Dearing supporting the case for apartment-style living arrangements. In the memorandum, Gruber stated the students of Hughes Hall, with the approval of HCC and the [Faculty] Masters’ Council and working closely with the residence hall staff, wished to experiment in apartment-style living for the Spring of 1970 semester. In the memo, Gruber pitched apartment-style living as a way to “encourage casual, mature, non-dating contacts between men and women living in the hall.” Gruber correctly prophesized that this type of living arrangement would allow for casual mixing and socialization of random strangers in the hall of both sexes and would more closely mimic that of apartments off campus, and most importantly that it would “aid students in bridging the gap between their home environment and the normal ‘outside world’ environment for which students are preparing themselves both in and outside the classrooms.”
Gruber would also argue that apartment-style living would increase the security of the building. Having male students on every floor would be a deterrent to intruders believing that they could prey easily upon defenseless female residents. He also stated that he believed that by mixing the two genders certain problems would be avoided such as noise and “masculine rowdiness.” Gruber believed that with females present on the same floor, male residents would be less likely to engage in forms of unruly conduct. He, like many others, believed that males would modulate their behavior so as not to harm the sensibilities of the fairer sex. In other words, men would offer security for the women, while the women, simply by being present in close proximity to men, would regulate the juvenile behavior of the men.

Gruber, ever the practical Faculty Master, clearly outlined his plan to gradually implement this radical living arrangement in Hinman. First, it would be confined to four of the six floors in Hughes Hall. Four floors would be integrated, and two would remain segregated by gender. All the Hughes Hall residents involved in the experiment would be volunteers and anyone not willing to participate in the experiment would be accommodated. Transfer students would be placed in exclusively men’s or women’s floor unless they volunteered to be a part of the experiment. Also, Gruber assured President Dearing that no exceptions to current social regulations would occur in the course of the experiment. Gruber also assured Dearing that no wide-scale implementation of apartment-style living would occur until the experiment was thoroughly evaluated by Hinman College staff members, Faculty Fellows, and Hinman residents.

Evaluation of the experiment would be as thorough as possible. Gruber outlined four areas that would be looked at specifically:

a. A comparison of grade point averages of students in the second semester to their previous grade point averages.
b. Evidence of increased or decreased use of psychological services by the participants.

c. Results of resident student-sociology faculty designed questionnaires [designed by students and the sociology faculty] to be administered to those participating in the experiment.

d. Comparison of results of our experiment with [the] experience of Goodyear Residence Hall of SUNY-Buffalo which has been similarly arranged since last September and with the experience on the Stanford University campus which has operated co-red residence halls for several years.

Gruber did not hesitate to list his hopes for the future. He hoped that if all went well, then apartment-style living would be implemented all over Hinman. He did note that it would be advisable, even if the experiment was a success, for certain floors to remain segregated for students who wished to live on a single-sex floor and that no freshman should be allowed to live apartment-style without parental permission.

For over a month, Gruber and the rest of Hinman College waited to hear what President Dearing would say. Would he approve or disapprove this radical measure? Dearing, unlike some future university presidents, was not afraid of controversy. Later that year he would lead a procession of thousands of people from campus all the way to the Binghamton Courthouse in the largest antiwar march in Binghamton history.

Still, with the suggestions of apartment-style living following up on the heels of the recently enacted self-regulation and open houses, many worried that Hinman was pushing for another radical measure far too soon. Their fears were quelled when on March 10, 1970, in a letter to Pete Gruber, President Dearing authorized Gruber to proceed with the experiment in apartment-style living. By mid-semester the students had moved in and began the grand experiment in apartment-style living in Hinman.
As the semester neared completion it became time to evaluate the progress of the experiment. On May 15, Mary Deci, the Head Resident of Hughes Hall, wrote a memo to Dr. Gruber outlining her initial findings in the experiment in apartment-style living. The full text of the document is as follows:

We had an all dorm meeting about a month ago to evaluate the experiment. All of the feelings that came out were very positive. People felt that this type of an arrangement was more natural, more comfortable, and made it possible for everyone to get to know more people, in and out of the dorm.

Even some of those people who did not want to be in the experiment originally spoke out for both the good of the experiment, and their regrets for not being in it.

An interesting course was evolved from the meeting. Everyone almost assumed that it was good, and they were interested how to preserve the arrangement for next semester. A committee was set up to look into this.

I could not find anyone to make a negative statement concerning the experiment. There seems to be a sizeable group whose interactions have not been altered to any great extent by the experiment. The vast majority is in favor of the changes it has brought about. No one is displeased with it. I can see no reason for not setting it up as a permanent living arrangement.\textsuperscript{113}

Three days after Deci’s evaluation was sent to Gruber, Dr. Gruber sent his own memo to President Dearing reporting the findings of the evaluation. Gruber also presented his view on what should happen next. Although he initially was for discontinuing the experiment in the fall regardless of whether it was a success or not, with the clear overwhelming support of the residents in Hughes Hall, Gruber petitioned Dearing to allow for apartment-style living to become permanent not only in Hughes Hall but in all of Hinman College.

The Hinman College Council, after it has evaluated the Hughes experiment in the Fall, and has submitted its formal, written recommendation to the Council of the State University of New York at Binghamton, shall be authorized to curtail or expand this experiment to other Hinman residences (and to resume the apartment-style living arrangements within Hughes Hall) on the basis of its findings unless the Council within one month of its receipt of the college recommendation formally asks for a delay in the implementation of the College Council’s decision.\textsuperscript{114}
With the permission of President Dearing and the SUNY Binghamton Council, and the approval in the fall by the Hinman College Council to expand the experiment, apartment-style living would come to every building in Hinman by Thanksgiving 1970.\textsuperscript{clxv}

In the Fall of 1970, it seemed as though apartment-style living was poised to become a permanent feature of Hinman. However, national and global events had conspired to delay slightly the implementation of apartment-style living. The expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia and the Kent State Massacre on May 4, 1970, caused a great deal of student unrest around the country and SUNY Binghamton was not immune. Many students were more concerned with protesting the war than filling out questionnaires about apartment-style living. However, by September 21, 1970, Pete Gruber felt that enough information had been gathered to submit a final report to President Dearing on the Hughes Hall experiment in apartment-style living. The writer of this report was a young resident counselor (a position later to be known as resident assistant) from Hughes Hall named Val Washington.\textsuperscript{clxvi}

Washington supplied a detailed questionnaire that was submitted to the residents on the four floors where the experiment took place, the two floors that did not partake in the experiment, and two other halls in Hinman that acted as a control group. A special questionnaire was given to the residents of the four experimental floors in addition to the regular survey given to everyone. Space was given for additional comments on the experiment as well. Washington did note that a large number of residents did not participate in the survey because they were engaged in antiwar protests, had gone home, or had simply failed to fill out the survey. Although she warned that sweeping generalizations could not be made based on the largely incomplete data, the results were considered valuable in showing trends in the attitudes of the students towards apartment-style living.\textsuperscript{clxvii}
Some of the findings of the report were startling. For instance, in the control dorms, 21% of the respondents answered the question “How do you feel toward your dorm?” with either “I dislike it” or “I dislike it intensely.” In the experimental dorms 90% responded to this question with either “I like it” or “I like it a lot.” In another portion of the questionnaire students were asked to circle words or phrases that described how they felt about their dorm. There were desirable words such as “happy,” “warm,” or “friendly” and undesirable words such as “depressing”, “cold”, “apathetic” as well as neutral words such as “noisy”, “quiet”, or “chaotic.” In Hughes, 62% of the respondents classified their dorm as happy and only 3% as depressing. The control dorms found that only 29% found their dorm to be happy and that 8% found it to be depressing. The neutral phrases has mixed results, with 42% of the experimental floors of Hughes believing their dorm to be noisy, while 32% of the control dorms felt the same way about their dorms. While the findings of the questionnaire did leave some unanswered questions, the results were overwhelmingly clear. Students in Hinman much preferred to live in an apartment-style living arrangement.

Included was also an evaluation on the experiment by Larry Moran, a resident counselor on the Hughes Hall north wing, second floor, one of the experimental floors. In his report, Moran would write,

> From this counselor’s point of view the experiment has proven itself to have a significant effect on floor interaction… I have observed that several very close-knit suites have chosen to relinquish the privacy they had previously sought within their own rooms for the openness of the floor lounge… A measure of the community spirit which evolved on the floor was the unusual circumstance of several well attended floor meetings and one very successful party planned entirely by the residents.

Besides the development of community spirit, Moran also cited the psychological benefits of having a mixed gender floor. “In Hughes Hall this semester, the presence of listening and sympathetic students of opposite sexes on the same floor has greatly facilitated the position
of the counselor. Moran also stated his belief that freshmen potentially had the most to benefit from this type of living arrangement. He related a story where a freshman male student entered the university and had a difficult time coping with his new surroundings. Even after psychological counseling was sought he still had problems adjusting and withdrew from the university. Moran stated his opinion, “I feel that had this student and his floor been exposed to the influence of a Co-ed floor a suitable adjustment might have been made. It seems that the experiment situation does work favorably to speed up that aspect of emotional development which comes with a broadening of personal experiment. I have not seen any new problems for freshmen which have arisen as a result of the experiment.

The experiment also benefited upperclassmen. Moran cited an increasing maturity in the social interactions of his residents which he attributed to the introduction of apartment-style living. A living arrangement that more closely resembled the non-collegiate world had profound positive effects upon the residents of Hughes Hall.

The only reservation that Moran felt toward the experiment was that it should have been conducted in the fall and not in the spring. This was because, as a resident counselor, he had to reestablish his authority halfway through the year which, as any current resident assistant can attest, is especially challenging. He summed up his feelings by stating,

To sum up my feelings about the experiment I would have to say that Apartment-Style Living has shown itself to be natural, practical, psychologically healthful and perfectly adaptable for the Hinman College dormitories. I would highly recommend that it be implemented throughout the complex as soon as possible during the coming semester with the exception of one hall which should be maintained as a traditional dormitory for those students who would prefer to live there.

Along with Moran’s evaluation of the experiment in apartment-style living, Val Washington also presented her personal opinions on the experiment. In her opening paragraph she stated unequivocally, “In my opinion the Hughes Experiment in Apartment-Style Living was
a success. As a student I enjoyed my floor more than any other floor I had lived on, and as a counselor I felt more like a friend than a proctor. She explained that the floor lounge, typically unused in the traditional single sex living arrangement, was almost always occupied with members of the opposite sex engaging in conversation, games, and other activities. “There was rarely a night when the lounge was empty and the atmosphere was generally friendly and open.” The experiment allowed Washington to excel in her job as counselor for the floor. She would write, “…I usually kept my door open and, unlike my first semester in Hughes, people would walk in and out asking to borrow a book, sharing cookies from home or wine from the Spirit Shoppe, and just talking. I felt very comfortable with most of the kids on the corridor…I began to feel the floor was a whole, rather than a group of semi-closed suites.”

Like Moran, Val Washington would describe the atmosphere on her floor as being natural. While there certainly were feelings of sexual attraction on the floor, the general feeling was mostly that of familiar relations and not sexual relations. Washington related a story where one of the boys on her floor would have wanted to date a girl on the floor but couldn’t because “she was too much like a sister.” For members of the floor, especially those who were more introverted or shy, this was a great way to have a cordial, non-sexual relationship with a member of the opposite sex. These types of platonic relationships built confidence in every member of the floor and allowed all the floor-mates to understand that everyone, both male and female, were thinking feeling human beings with similar dreams, desires and emotions.

She also explained that more and more residents from around the building and not just on her floor began to visit her in the office and that the same experience held true for her fellow counselors. Many nights in the Hughes office numerous counselors would keep her company as would many residents from around the building. This mixing of the floor had the unexpected

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2 The legal drinking age at this time was 18.
effect of bringing not just individual floors together, but the entire population of the building together.\textsuperscript{clxxviii}

Washington also shot down the concern that because she was a woman, the men on her floor would not open up to her (the same fear existed for female residents on a male counselor’s floor). She stated that the boys on her floor were very willing to open up to her and in particular many of the freshmen boys would spend time in her room either talking with her, conversing with other residents while she worked, or playing Jeopardy, which was a favorite pastime on her floor. She ended her report by writing, “I do think that coed floors are a very good thing. In my experience it was fun and beneficial as well. I hope that Hinman will begin instituting ‘apartment-style’ living in at least one dorm—if not all five.”\textsuperscript{clxxix} With the statistical data backing up the evaluations of both Larry Moran and Val Washington, the only thing Hinman could do now was to wait and see how the President would respond.

In a letter from President Dearing to Pete Gruber dated September 28, 1970, Dearing wrote what he thought about the matter of apartment-style living. In the letter Dearing stated that, “It is heartening to observe that there is so much enthusiasm for this essay in making the dormitory situation agreeable, and that there appear to be few if any strongly negative aspects.”\textsuperscript{clxx} He also said that he concurred with Gruber that further analysis was needed before a final recommendation or change in policy could take place but that he agreed that the experiment should continue.

In late October and early November of 1970, questionnaires were passed out in every hall in Hinman to gauge the interest in apartment-style living. Based on this each building would have a referendum in which every resident had a chance to vote on whether or not he/she favored apartment-style living. Then it would be decided if the experiment would be expanded outside
Hughes Hall. Included during all of this would be panel discussions where interested students could hear from students who had participated in apartment-style living in Hughes and ask them questions.

On November 4, 1970, Faculty Master Gruber sent a memo to Vice President Gordon outlining his desires concerning apartment-style living. In his memo he outlined his plan to incorporate apartment-style living arrangements throughout Hinman College. It is important to note that he did make it clear that it was up to the student body to accept apartment-style living and that it would only work by consent. According to Gruber, no one should be forced to move onto a mixed-sex floor if they did not desire to do so. It was Gruber’s hope that by the spring of 1971 all of Hinman would be following the apartment-style living arrangement.

On November 6, 1970, Mary C. Richardson, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs wrote a letter to Vice President Gordon outlining the current progress of apartment-style living in Hinman and chronology of its events. The letter also expressed Gruber’s desire to meet with Gordon to discuss the matter of implementing apartment-style living all across Hinman in the near future.

Although the exactly what went on during that meeting will probably never be known, the meeting between Dr. Gruber and Vice President Gordon was successful. In a letter Vice President Gordon dated November 19, 1970 Mary Richardson stated, “As was decided at our meeting of November 19, 1970, Mr. Gruber will proceed to implement the proposal on Apartment House Style Living in Hinman College, which was outlined in his memo of November 4, 1970. Gruber’s efforts were a success. Apartment-style living arrangements would eventually come to every building in Hinman and every floor would have both male and
female suites. This trend would also sweep across campus to the other residential colleges and to this day the vast majority of the floors on campus are coed.

Although apartment-style living became very popular with most of the residents of Hinman College, there still were some problems and internal snafus that needed to be worked out. Bob Giomi remembers one such problem during his time as Head Resident of Lehman Hall. One year during opening weekend when all the students including new freshmen were eagerly moving into their new rooms, a very irate mother approached Bob complaining that she did not want her daughter living in coed housing. Bob tried to explain to her that there were male and female suites and that only the floors were coed. The mother persisted that a young man was living in the same suite as her daughter. Bob investigated it and discovered that this was true. A young man by the name of Leslie had been assigned to a female suite. Somehow the people in charge of housing must have made a mistake, most likely seeing the name Leslie and thinking it was a girl. Bob cleared up the problem and Leslie moved into a male suite, deeply saddened that he would not be sharing a room with a girl.

It would seem to the outside observer that Hinman was blazing a trail not only of social reform but also of fearless experimentation in many other areas. The Hinman College Council, the college’s student government, was setting the example of what a student government should be. The pioneering spirit of Hinman and its residents would not stop at apartment-style living though. On March 30, 1971, Gruber and a group of interested students presented their ideas on another experiment that they would conduct in Hinman. Among their suggestions would be a hall that permitted pets, a co-op dorm where students would do their own cleaning and maintenance, a hall that would be furnished entirely by students and painted anyway they wished, a cooking dorm where the students could be exempt from the meal plan, a dorm which

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3 The development and legacy of HCC will be discussed in greater detail in a later chapter.
would permit the cooking of unprepared dining hall food but residents would still remain on the meal plan, a dorm for married undergraduate students, and in what many would consider a step backwards, a dorm that would impose strict quiet hours and a restricted open house.\textsuperscript{clxxxvi} Obviously not all of these experimental dorms would be implemented and the few that did would not last. However, Hinman had been bitten by the bug of pioneering spirit. The staff and students of Hinman were fearlessly blazing a new trail through the frontier of experimental living.

The Pet Policy

Riding high on the successes of self-regulation and apartment-style living, Hinman College decided to try another experiment in housing. In May of 1971 it was decided that Smith Hall would pilot a program in which pets including dogs and cats could be allowed to live inside the halls with their owners. Until that time no animals were allowed inside the buildings, and the owner of any of these pets was subjected to a $2 a day fine for every day that the animal stayed in the building. Smith Hall opened up its doors to four-legged friends as well as the human animals that occupied its suites. Certain restrictions were made of course. The animal had to be vaccinated against rabies, distemper and other diseases, and the floor had to sign an agreement allowing a pet to be inside the building. Residents also had to promise to take care of the pet and keep it well fed, groomed, and healthy. Also, if the animal’s behavior began to affect anyone (such as incessant barking disturbing people’s sleep or study patterns or if the animal was prone to biting) then the student would have to remove it from the building. Only after having all of these conditions met would a pet be allowed inside the building.\textsuperscript{clxxvii}
The experiment in Smith Hall was a success and shortly thereafter all of Hinman was opened up to pets in 1972. The idea became popular and although a relative few people actually owned pets, those that did had a wide variety of species occupying the five halls of Hinman. When the policy was created by the Hinman staff, they believed that mostly dogs and cats would be the pets of choice. While this was the case, other students brought in a wide variety of animals including an alligator and even a person.

One of the most famous dogs ever to live in Hinman was owned by Bob Giomi. The name of the shepherd/huskie mix was Half. To understand the origin of the dog’s name one must understand a little about Bob Giomi and one of his good friends and fellow Hinman staffer Gabe Yankowitz, who was Head Resident of Cleveland Hall for much of the 1970’s. Bob was five feet two inches tall and Gabe was even shorter than Bob. Whenever Bob and Gabe would walk anywhere together, Hinman residents began to say “There goes half and half,” jesting at the height of both men. The dog received the name Half in honor of these two beloved Hinman staffers.

John and Heidi Kowalchyk were a husband and wife who were co-Head Residents of Roosevelt Hall from 1978 until 1981. They owned a dog named Timber who quickly became the Roosevelt Hall mascot. John and Heidi, whose many claims to fame include the creation of Dorm Wars, had a specially designed t-shirt for Timber that said “Go Roosevelt!” on it. Timber truly became a Roosevelt mainstay, almost more so than his human counterparts. Timber was loved by virtually everyone in the hall and Timber loved them in return. Timber had the habit of lying in front of the door just outside the Head Resident apartment. He was a large dog and he sprawled out on the floor making it difficult for residents to walk around him. Showing the true sign of intelligence, Timber would do this because every time he blocked the way, residents were
forced to bend over and pet him, much to his delight. Timber also became a close companion of the RA’s in the building. Timber was known to regularly sit on duty with the RA’s and even sit on the couch like a human being. Timber acted so much like a person that he began to be treated as one. He truly became just as much a part of the Roosevelt staff as any of the RA’s. One of the biggest complaints that residents had about pets was the mess that they would leave on the lawns and roadways of Hinman. John and Heidi alleviated this problem by training Timber to go in the long grass and not on the mowed area, ensuring that no one would accidentally step in Timber’s mess as they walked to class or relaxed out on the lawn.

Allan Eller⁴, who was a Head Resident of Roosevelt Hall from 1972 to 1978 and then became Coordinator of Hinman from 1978 until January of 1980, also had a pet story. When he was a Head Resident, a student named Rodger Drum had a puppy named Jenny. Drum was in an accelerated program with ambitions of entering medical school and becoming a doctor. When Drum did not get into medical school, he could not afford to keep his dog, so Allan adopted her. Like Half and Timber, Jenny soon became part of the Hinman family, making appearances at many Roosevelt Hall and Hinman programs. In an effort to keep Jenny from harassing residents of the building, Allan trained her to stay inside the apartment when he placed a broom across the threshold of the Head Resident’s apartment’s doorway. Jenny was obedient and stayed within this boundary when it was necessary.

Maria Carra, who was the Resident Director of Lehman Hall and an Assistant Coordinator of Hinman in the early 1980’s had a pet story of her own. A student in Hughes Hall had a cat that had given birth to a litter of kittens. As soon as the kittens were old enough to leave its mother, Maria adopted one for herself. She named the cat Groucho Marx because the

⁴ Allan Eller suffered a severe horseback riding accident in 2005 which left him paralyzed from the neck down. He died on November 1, 2006 at the age of 64.
coloration on the cat’s face coupled with its whiskers made it look similar to the famous actor/comedian. She soon found out that this cat was a natural “attack cat” because it had the tendency to latch onto chairs that people were sitting in and playfully swat at their clothes, limbs and just about anything that would dangle.

While dogs and cats were certainly the pets of choice in Hinman, Gabe Yankowitz remembers an exotic pet from his days as an undergraduate living in Roosevelt Hall from 1968 until 1971. Gabe had a suitemate who owned a baby alligator which he would let wander around the study lounge of Roosevelt. One day when he and Gabe were playing with the alligator in the lounge, a young woman entered in an effort to find a quiet place to study. The suitemate decided that it would be funny to scare the young lady with his pet. When he approached the girl with the alligator in his arms, she was not frightened. Instead she was disgusted and asked how anyone could have a pet like that. She declared that they were not cuddly and you could not hold them and be affectionate to them like a cat or a dog. The suitemate said that he disagreed and in an effort to prove her wrong he began to rub noses with the alligator. While he was doing this the alligator opened its jaws (some of the most powerful in the animal kingdom) and clamped onto his nose. The terrified suitemate frantically clutched at the creature and tried to loosen the reptile’s grip on his nose. Finally he was able to break the alligator’s hold and removed him from his nose. At first it appeared that no damage had been done, but then slowly blood began to seep out of the spots on his nose where the alligator’s teeth penetrated the skin. The following day the suitemate had a large bandage over his nose. When asked what happened, he would reply, in an effort to avoid embarrassment, that he had “cut himself shaving.”

Perhaps the most bizarre “pet” ever to live in Hinman was not an animal but a human being. At some point in the late 1970’s, a patient at a nearby state mental hospital wandered off
the hospital’s grounds and somehow found his way into Cleveland Hall’s main lounge. Many of the residents of Cleveland took pity on this obviously handicapped old man and brought him food from the dining hall and blankets so that he would be warm. This went on for nearly an entire month until someone passing through asked the Hinman Office what the deal was with the guy sleeping in the Cleveland lounge. Upon learning of an unauthorized resident in the hall, the proper authorities were called and the man was returned to the hospital.\textsuperscript{cxiii}

Sadly, though the pet policy was it was popular, it could not last. Residential Life banned pets from living in the residence halls in the Fall of 1984.\textsuperscript{cxiv} The pet policy was rescinded and no more animals were allowed inside the buildings with the exception of a fish in a non-aerated bowl. While most of the residents cared for their pets, the few bad apples that did not spoiled it for the rest. In addition, awareness about pet allergies increased and a rise in the number of people with such allergies forced the university to discontinue the policy. While it lasted, though, the pet policy brought much comfort and welcome companionship to many Hinmanites of both the two-legged and four-legged varieties.

\textbf{The Cooking Dorm (Roosevelt Hall)}

Along with the experiments in self-regulation and apartment-style living, another grand experiment took place inside Hinman in 1973. One of the ideas floated after the initial successes in housing policy was to establish a dorm which would be outfitted with kitchens so that residents could prepare their own meals and be free of the university meal plan. It was decided that the A-wing of Roosevelt Hall would be outfitted with the kitchens while the B-wing of the building would remain a regular dorm.
It would begin on a trial basis and from there it would be decided by university administration whether or not to continue operation. In early October of 1973 university officials Ed Demske, Mary Richardson, Stu Gordon, and Walt May were given a tour of the cooking side of Roosevelt led by Head Resident Cheryl Eller (then wife of Allan Eller) and Faculty Master Vito Sinisi. They visited approximately half the suites at random and spoke to some of the residents who inhabited the cooking dorm. Most of the administrators came into the tour bracing for the worst. SUNY Stony Brook had tried a similar experiment which had failed miserably, mostly due to the students there not cleaning up after themselves and making horrendous messes in their living areas. This was not the case in the Roosevelt Hall cooking dorm. In fact, Walt May found the rooms to be “‘extremely neat and well-kept.’” All of the administrators were impressed with the near spotless cooking facilities that the students used, so impressed that they actually questioned whether the suites they toured were random. They were and Head Resident Cheryl Eller explained her thesis that students who opted to live in the cooking dorm were usually more mature students who understand independent living and responsibility and that they genuinely wanted to make the experiment a success. She also stated that the suites in the cooking dorm were by and large cleaner than most of the other regular suites in Hinman. The administrators left Roosevelt feeling that the sanitation was adequate and that the experiment could continue in Roosevelt. Vito Sinisi also promised to look into acquiring larger sinks for the suite bathrooms and screens to prevent food from going down the sink drains and clogging the pipes.

For many years the A-side of Roosevelt Hall was the cooking dorm and was a popular and coveted option especially for older students who were tired of the dining hall’s institutional food. Adam Brown, who was a resident of Roosevelt Hall for many years, first as a student then
later as a Resident Director, fondly remembers the cooking dorm as a very multicultural experience. The people who lived on that side of the building were a diverse lot from many different backgrounds. African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, Anglo-Americans and virtually every other ethnic group you could think of seemed to be drawn to the cooking dorm. It allowed them the opportunity to prepare their own traditional dishes, but it also allowed people who wanted to learn about preparing new and different cuisines a chance to do so. They may have come to learn about food, but they wound up learning about different cultures and each other. The cooking dorm became a microcosm of America’s melting pot with all the different ethnic groups living together and cooking together like a family. For many who had come from the New York metropolitan area, it was like they had never left home. For those who did not hail from New York City and its environs, and even for those who did, it was an experience learning not just about different types of ethnic foods, but also about cultures different from one’s own and gaining a greater appreciation for the differences of your suitemates and floormates. Just about everyone who had a chance to live in the cooking dorm loved it and each one can attest that they shared more than just food.\textsuperscript{cxcvii} Allan Eller even got in on the action, holding informal classes teaching the residents of the cooking dorm how to prepare simple dishes.\textsuperscript{cxcviii}

Unfortunately, this was not to last. During the 1983-1984 academic year the cooking dorm was closed and the kitchens were removed.\textsuperscript{cxcix} One of reason that the cooking dorm was not expanded to the rest of Roosevelt Hall or the rest of Hinman for that matter was that there still was concern on the part of administrators that sanitation would be an issue. In later years sanitation did become more of an issue with some residents not cleaning up after themselves and leaving a mess in the kitchens which would attract pests. The cooking dorm also became a fire
hazard. Since the day the kitchenettes were installed there had been problems with the electrical system. The sad truth was that Roosevelt Hall was simply not designed to handle the electrical demands and heat outputs of the kitchenettes. Sometimes a resident would mistakenly leave a pot or pan unattended for long periods of time, long enough to set off the smoke detectors. This caused concern that a fire could start from inattentive residents in the cooking dorm.

Perhaps the main reason that the cooking dorm was discontinued was the fact that the students who lived there could opt out of the university meal plan. It reduced income for the company that prepared meals for the campus dining services. It is safe to assume that ACE, which was the company that prepared meals for campus dining services at the time, played a significant role in bringing about the downfall of the cooking dorm.

The cooking dorm was the last in a long line of progressive measures on the part of Hinman College to experiment in alternative styles of housing for its residents. Like the pet policy before it, the cooking dorm may not have lasted long (in comparison to self-regulation and apartment-style living which still occur today) but it did have a lasting impact on all of the residents who lived within Roosevelt Hall at the time, whether they lived on the A-side or not. Self-regulation and apartment-style living brought together the two genders and allowed them to not only interact with one another on a casual basis, but also allowed them to learn from each other. The cooking dorm did the same thing, except it broke through the barriers of race, religion and custom and created a truly unique culture: the Hinman culture. While different ethnic groups certainly mixed in other buildings in Hinman, nowhere else was it more evident than in the cooking dorm. They not only lived and studied together, but they cooked together and shared their various cuisines with their neighbors, largely people who they would never have come into contact with otherwise.

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5 This fact proved true in the Fall of 2006 when Cleveland Hall suffered a small fire in its kitchen area due to someone leaving a boiling pot unattended for a long period of time. Luckily, due largely to the quick and heroic actions of RA Jimmy Galante, the fire was contained, minimal structure damage was incurred, and no one got hurt.
contact with if they had not lived in the Hinman’s cooking dorm. This simple act of sitting down and breaking bread together bound these residents together like nothing else could. Long before the rest of the country truly broke through the barriers of racism and ethnic stereotypes, Hinman was doing just that since the early 1970’s with much success. For this reason alone, the cooking dorm was truly a testament to Hinman’s pioneering spirit.

The Academic History of Hinman

One of richest and most diverse examples of Hinman’s pioneering spirit can be found in the academic courses offered through Hinman College. In the early days of Hinman’s development, the newly created collegiate structure coupled with the administrative policy of decentralization allowed Hinman to develop and offer credit and noncredit courses to the residents of Hinman College. This initiative would allow the residents of Hinman to learn within the comfort of their own residential community with peers whom they all knew and lived with. This unique aspect of Hinman history is often overlooked because it no longer exists, but a splinter of its legacy lingers on in Hinman’s living/learning community and its area-based courses.

Since nearly the very beginning of its existence, Hinman College, with the help of Master Gruber and the Hinman Faculty Fellows, strove to offer a wide variety of courses only to Hinman residents. On March 23, 1968, an all-day symposium was held to showcase the educational programs being considered by Hinman College. One idea being presented at this time was the Hinman Intense Semester. This program would offer Hinman residents an opportunity to gain 16 credits (a full semester’s worth) by taking a cluster of courses from various academic disciplines that were prearranged by the College. Once a student signed up,
these courses would be pre-registered into the student’s schedule. The students enrolled in these courses would all take the same classes together at the same time. The idea was that, besides presenting a greater opportunity for students enrolled in the Hinman Intense Semester to bond with their classmates and do group related work, the course instructors would be encouraged to collaborate so that material learned in one course could be connected to another course, enhancing the educational experience of the students. It was then proposed that students live in adjacent suites in the same building if they so chose. cci

The Hinman Intense Semester would explore a theme selected by either the students or the faculty member. An example would be “Alienation in Modern Society” with appropriate courses in sociology, philosophy, general literature, and theater complementing one another. ccii Another option was to explore a period in detail such as the Age of Enlightenment with appropriate courses in history, philosophy, general literature, English, economics, and theater. There were other examples but the main point was that the Hinman Intense Semester was an opportunity for the students to not only academically bond with their fellow Hinmanites like never before but also to take a number cross-disciplinary courses that complemented one another in their content areas and added to the educational experience of the students.

Another idea presented during this symposium was the Hinman Free-Form Semester. This program would also be 16 credits and would be offered only to exceptionally bright students who would then engage in an independent study honors project. An instructor would interview each prospective student to determine if he or she had the ability to not only research and complete an independent project but also to teach the core content of those projects to other students. This academic program, while offering much leeway in areas a student wanted to
study, would require a great deal of self-discipline and much effort. In many ways the Hinman Free-Form Semester would be more intense than the Hinman Intense Semester.

There was also the Hinman Enriched-Lecture Course plan. In this plan the College would arrange for either a single faculty position or the equivalent payment in money that a single faculty position would cost. Once these funds were secure, the college would negotiate with faculty to offer specific courses that would be “enriched” by guest lecturers.

The fourth plan outlined was the Hinman New Course. This particular plan envisioned Hinman College working with academic departments to offer three courses per year not listed in the Catalogue, but which would nevertheless receive college credit. Examples of this would be the political science department developing a specific course on the American Presidency specifically offered to Hinman residents. All of these innovative plans, depended upon not only cooperation from the various departments at the university but also the availability of funding for these programs.

Faculty Master Gruber did not want to stop there. As early as November 1969, he had envisioned that by the Fall of 1970, Hinman would have academic programs that it would offer to its residents that would meet the all college requirements established by Harpur College. Experiment A called for a grouping of 100 level courses offered to Hinman freshmen and sophomores that would help to satisfy their all college requirements. He also imagined that an upper-level independent study project, called Experiment B, would also be offered. Experiment B would allow for a student to research and study a project of his or her choosing that would be independent and cross-disciplinary. “Unlike the traditional form of independent study completed under the close supervision of a single tutor, the Hinman experiment assumes that a few
upperclass Harpur students are mature enough to devise acceptable projects and can carry them on without periodic tutoring.66

On October 1, 1968, a survey was given to the residents of Hinman College to gauge their interest in a variety of academic programs that the College was planning on offering. Only 128 residents responded to the course, a pitiful number given the population of Hinman at the time was 937. Still, certain trends could be seen. The survey showed that students desired pre-arranged combinations of courses dealing with specific subject matter, such as some specific courses in American History. It also noted a desire on the part of students to study Oriental philosophy and/or societies along with comparative religions of both the East and West. It stated the student’s desire for more specialized courses offered at the 100 level without the prerequisites that most 200 level courses required.67 The results of the survey show clearly that many Hinman residents were interested in courses such as Clinical Psychology, Negro History, and Anarchism. Interesting to note, only one student of the 128 surveyed said that he/she would be interested in a course on the stock market.68 How times have changed.

Hinman also pioneered the idea of course descriptions. Pre-1970, students would register for a course with simply a title, time, and professor’s name to go by. Little or no information on what material would be covered or the testing format of the course would be offered. By 1970, though, students in Hinman College voiced their displeasure over this to Master Gruber. Gruber then took it upon himself and threw all the resources of his office behind the effort to secure cooperation from all the academic departments at the university to make course descriptions a possibility. He solicited the help of all the department chairmen and the Dean of Harpur College himself all in an effort to make the lives of Hinman students a little bit easier. When the Hinman Pre-registration Course Bulletin came out in 1970 only about 15% of all the courses offered were
covered. However, it was the start of near universal descriptions of courses that would be
published in the Student Course Guide. The president even went on record stating that it would
become university policy to have course descriptions for all classes being offered available to
every student across campus. Today, every course has a description about it online that
students can access to help them make an informed decision about whether to register for it.
Without the efforts of Pete Gruber and Hinman College this important development in
Binghamton academics might never have become a reality.

Hinman also led the way in pioneering student-faculty interaction. A regular yet informal
group discussion called Table Talk was held regularly in the Hinman Dining Hall. Table Talk
was an event where students could meet with not only Master Gruber but Hinman Faculty
Fellows and other faculty members from various departments to discuss a wide variety of issues
that were agreed upon beforehand. Table Talk would occur during the dinner hours of the dining
hall and all the parties could discuss the topic while they ate. Usually the conversations ran for
about an hour but sometimes they would go on longer if the group was large or if the discussion
was particularly interesting. Various topics were discussed from the uncontroversial such as the
dedication of Harvey D. Hinman’s portrait to Hinman College, to the present state of the
university Sociology department, to the controversial and contentious issues of the day such as
“Black Dissent.” Depending upon the topic of discussion, Table Talk would be a popular way
for student and faculty to interact in an informal setting. While Table Talk would not last long
after the departure of Pete Gruber from the position of Faculty Master, its legacy can still be seen
in the Fellows’ Lunches that are held every Friday at noon in the Hinman Dining Hall.

A memorandum written by Pete Gruber to the Masters’ Council in October of 1972
outlined the Academic history of Hinman College up until that point. In the memo Gruber stated
that, “Our constant effort to bring students, faculty, and academic programs together within Hinman College has produced literally hundreds of sparks if no huge beacon fires.” In the report he went on to outline some of the events that occur in Hinman on a regular basis. He spoke of round table discussions, a sort of early Hinman Fellows’ lunch (or dinner) where students and faculty met in the Hinman Dining Hall at a specially built round table that seated ten people to discuss topics of mutual interest, such as the perennially popular Urban Studies course taught by Prof. Goertz. Also mentioned was that in 1971, 18 classes were held in student lounges with the consent of both the students and the instructor. Hinman funds provided support for guest lecturers, films, poets, and other exhibitions. The Hinman staff also presented educational programs on drugs, health, prison reform, mental health and other interpersonal topics. Once a week, students and faculty fellows would meet in one of the building’s main lounges to discuss an agreed-upon topic. Of particular note was the Hinman-pioneered idea of decentralized advising and career planning within the collegiate structure. The public school intern program and the pre-law club were extensions of this Hinman-pioneered concept. Hinman also held workshops in drama, photography (using its very own darkroom), poetry, folk singing, and chorus. It also sponsored its very own photographic exhibits, ecology exhibits, musicals, dramas, newspaper, and the first showing of Harpur original movies. Also sponsored by Hinman were academic retreats where on two Saturdays student academic interests were surveyed and discussed with over thirty faculty members. Hinman also, as mentioned earlier, initiated pre-registration of classes. Hinman also helped to develop a tutorial program where students in the subjects English, Math, Physics, and Chemistry were tutored by graduate students. “…the erection of the Innovational Project Board (IPB) in Spring of 1970 provided an efficient and responsible way for Hinman College to initiate student requested courses.” Hinman created a
council made up of both students and faculty to screen course proposals and approved 18 courses for academic credit. Hinman also spearheaded undergraduate programs in Urban Studies and pioneered the Public School Practicum, which became established within the Masters of the Arts in Teaching (MAT) curriculum. Hinman also initiated human relations courses with input from clinical psychologists and added them to the pre-law curriculum. To top it all off, Hinman even made a children’s literature course available. Gruber concluded his report by saying:

Had Hinman been provided modest and constant academic lines support, our formal academic programs would have developed in less haphazard fashions. Given the fragile shoestring on which our formal academic programs have been suspended, the formal academic contributions by Hinman College have been, I believe, outstanding.

Outstanding would be an understatement. Hinman College from 1968 to 1972 had, with very few resources, accomplished a Herculean task. They had provided a rich and diverse academic program to its residents and had in turn influenced the development of academics of Harpur College itself. Although these types of pioneering efforts in academics would not last much longer, the pioneering academic history of Hinman College is truly an extraordinary legacy.

The Geodesic Dome

As the previous examples have shown, Hinman has for virtually all of its existence been open to experimenting in new and sometimes even wild concepts. While this mostly involves social regulations concerning housing policy, sometimes it even included the construction of new structures. One example comes from the earliest days of Hinman history and concerns the construction of a geodesic dome on the grounds of Hinman.

In 1969, a commune from Colorado called Libre visited the SUNY Binghamton campus and preached a message of love and peace. Although they did not stay long, the message of the commune affected students so much that it inspired them into action. At first it was suggested
that students at Binghamton start their own commune. Faculty Master Pete Gruber offered an alternative. Gruber suggested that the group build a structure on campus that reflected the message of the commune and offered space on Hinman College grounds for construction and even money from Hinman College’s coffers to pay for materials needed to build the structure. Walter D. Lowen, who at the time was the Dean of Advanced Technology, even offered technical advice for the students. It was decided upon by the students that the structure that was best able to represent the message that they wanted to get across would be a geodesic dome.

The geodesic dome was a structural concept that was created and made popular by one of the most famous renaissance men of that generation: R. Buckminster Fuller. Fuller was born in Milton, Massachusetts in 1895, and adapted the beliefs of the New England Transcendentalists. He was an architect by profession, though he was never officially trained as an architect and in fact never even earned a degree and didn’t even receive a license until he was well into his 60’s. Besides being an architect, he was also a mathematician, inventor, philosopher, and poet. He coined the term “Spaceship Earth” and throughout his life preached that only by fully understanding technology and its implications could humanity find enlightenment and salvation.

Fuller, while creating many novel new concepts in architecture, was most famous for his geodesic dome, which could stand on the ground as a complete structure and had no limiting dimensions. “The strength of the frame actually increases in ratio to its size, enclosing the largest volume of space with the least area of surface.” The dome was a revolutionary development in architecture and the prefect structure to build that would represent the message that the students were trying to get across.

Three individuals stood up as leaders in the construction of the dome. Oddly enough none of them were Hinmanites and none of them were even enrolled at SUNY Binghamton.
They were Michael Bomstein, a junior at Syracuse University, Joseph Hryvniak, a junior at Rochester, and Naomi Aronson, a junior at SUNY Albany. At first, many students were interested in the structure and assisted in its construction. As time went by, though, and the dome slowly rose, students began to lose interest and eventually only the three originators of the project were left to finish its construction. The total cost of the dome was around $200, most of which came from a grant given by Hinman College to the student contractors. Construction was finally completed in the Spring of 1970.

There were many ideas on what the dome would be used for. Pete Gruber saw the dome as a “center for community activities of Hinman College, and a storage area for student belongings during summers.” Gruber supported the project because it was not that expensive, and he saw the dome as a way for students to come together and complete a difficult and worthwhile project together. He also saw it as a way for students to learn about where money in institutions like a university comes from and how to use those funds effectively. The construction of the dome also served as a recreational activity, as would the finished structure itself.

The students saw the dome in a different light. They imagined the completed dome as a sort of sanctuary from the rest of the college experience. They saw it as a place where higher learning could take place and where more artistic concepts of dance, sensory awareness, design and other non-verbal forms of expression and education could be taught and discussed. They also saw the construction of the dome itself as an educational experience. Each individual part of the dome relied upon another structural part, illustrating the concept that the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. The dome also had a more spiritual function. It was a testament
of the philosophy of Buckminster Fuller that humanity could use its environment and its resources to not only design structures but to shape their destiny for the better.\footnote{ccxxi}

The dome, like many other of the pioneering ventures of Hinman College, would not last. The dome was originally located where the Hinman Library is currently located, and when construction of that building began it was moved to a spot adjacent to the Hinman Commons building (where the Dynamo Monument currently stands). There was a great deal of protest concerning the movement of the dome. Angry letters to the editor came into the \textit{Hinman Halitosis} newsletter and students voiced their concerns. Some students even pulled up the surveyor’s stakes in the construction area, which besides delaying construction also cost the university an extra $1,000.\footnote{ccxxii} Sometime between 1974 and 1975 the dome was permanently dismantled and removed from Hinman grounds.

The sad reality is that the dome never really lived up to anyone’s expectations. It never really became a center for community activities as Faculty Master Gruber envisioned and it never became the symbol of peace, love and togetherness the world over as the student body believed it would. At most, the dome was a spectacle, an interesting marvel to admire as one walked toward Hinman College.\footnote{ccxxiii} Still, whatever the dome lacked it was but another example of the eagerness for experimentation with novel concepts within Hinman.

\textbf{The Dynamo Monument}

In an effort to offer something to replace the void left by the dismantlement of the geodesic dome, it was agreed that a monument would be constructed on its site. The Hinman College Council gave money to an art student to create a wooden sculpture to enhance the aesthetical qualities of the grounds.\footnote{ccxxiv} The plaque at the base of the monument has mostly
worn away but the name R. Penfield can still be made out as can the dates 1972-73. Besides that, little is known about who constructed the monument or the actual construction process. What was produced was the wooden structure of a dynamo, which is a type of electrical generator. Although the exact reason why this was picked is unclear, it can be safely guessed that the dynamo represents Hinman as a community full of energy and vitality. At some point in time the wood began to rot away and the dynamo fell apart. Unfortunately, it is now a mere fraction of what it once was.

Still, its legacy lives on today. The annual Hinman yearbook is called *Dynamo* after the structure. The energy and vitality that it represents still exists within the student body of Hinman College to this very day and no amount of snow, wind or rain can damage that. The Dynamo itself may not be standing but what it represents still does. The wood may rot away, but the Dynamo is still a monument to the pioneering spirit of Hinman.

**Conclusion**

One of the most remarkable (and overlooked) aspects of Hinman history lies within its pioneering spirit and its desire to experiment with new and different things. Since its very beginning, Hinman has embraced change and reform. It also established important precedents that other collegiate units and other colleges and universities came to embrace. Policies like self-regulation, 24-hour open houses, and coed living arrangements (in the form of apartment-style living) which were once radical concepts, are now the norm at Binghamton University and on college and university campuses across the country and around the world. While Hinman College may not be able to take all the credit for this change, it can certainly take the credit for pioneering this at Binghamton. It can also be credited with experimenting with novel ideas such
as a liberal pet policy and a cooking dorm which brought many people from different cultures and backgrounds together. Its innovations in academic programming led to lasting changes within the curriculum of Harpur College. That in and of itself is very significant, for it changed the way classes are advertised and taught on campus. Even something mundane like the geodesic dome or the Dynamo monument can be seen as special and unique. While it may be true that many of the experiments that Hinman College dabbled in did not last, what is undeniable was that these initiatives did not come from the upper university administration. They were born from the minds of the men and women of Hinman College, both its professional staff and its students. Like the pioneers in Walt Whitman’s famous poem, the people of Hinman College were unafraid, took the necessary risks, and debouched upon a newer and mightier world of their own creation. It was the people, not the policies, which are an undying testament to the Hinman pioneering spirit.

The author would like to thank Peter Lorenzi, Bob Giomi, Gabe Yankowitz, John and Heidi Kowalchyk, Allan Eller and Maria Carra for their contributions to this chapter and for being examples of the unique pioneering spirit of Hinman.

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cxli Gabe Yankowitz, e-mail message to author, January 25, 2007.
cxlii Michele McFee, *The Cornerstone*, (Harpur College of Arts and Sciences, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2000), 119.
cxliii Mary Richardson, “General Statement of the Self Regulating Hall Committee,” (State University of New York Binghamton, April 4, 1966), 1.
cxliv Richardson, “General Statement,” 2.
cxlviii C.P. Gruber, “Judicial System for Hinman College,” memorandum to Cleveland, Hughes and Lehman Hall Councils, April 8, 1968, Appendix #3 of *Brief Overview of Hinman College Development*, Hinman Archives.
cl Ibid.
cll Ibid.
clii Ibid.
cliii Ibid.

President Bruce Dearing to Dr. Christian P. Gruber, Master, March 10, 1970, Hinman Archives.

Mrs. Mary Deci, Evaluation of Experiment in Apartment-Style Living, memorandum to Dr. C.P. Gruber, May 15, 1970.

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C.P. Gruber, letter to President Dearing et al., October 29, 1968, Brief Overview of Hinman College Development, Hinman Archives.

Results of Hinman College Survey on Academic Experimentation,” November 5, 1968, Hinman Archives.


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We The People: The Development of Student Government in Hinman

The citizen can bring our political and governmental institutions back to life, make them responsive and accountable, and keep them honest. No one else can.  
- John Gardner

Prologue

Anyone who has lived in Hinman College knows that this residential community above all others is famous for its rich traditions and time-honored institutions. There is no organization in Hinman that exemplifies this standard of tradition and excellence so well as the Hinman College Council (HCC). Since 1968 HCC has been a powerful and driving force throughout all of Hinman. It has provided legions of Hinman residents the opportunity to get involved and make a difference within their residential college. Although HCC (like many other student governments) is sometimes blamed for being inefficient, not executing lasting reform, and for just generally being a waste of time, that could not be further from the truth. As in all Hinman institutions, HCC has had its ups and downs over the years, but through it all it has provided many important services to the student body living in Hinman. More importantly, HCC has been the forum for many individuals to rise up and take on leadership positions and gain valuable leadership experience and achieve self-actualization. Also, more so than any other of the great Hinman institutions, HCC is a fellowship of young men and women who join for a variety of reasons, but all end up striving to do what is best for their peers and in the process gain valuable leadership skills and create friendships that last a lifetime. While it is accurate to say that HCC is an organization that usually reacts to actions from other organizations, rather than being responsible for developing new policies for the community, HCC was and still is a force to be reckoned with and the most instrumental of all Hinman institutions.
HCC: The Early Years

The idea to establish a student government within Hinman College was laid out in the earliest days of Hinman’s existence. The first full year that Hinman was up and running saw some problems that had to be overcome. Hinman was a new college and still searching for an identity. In 1967 it was decided by then Faculty Master Pete Gruber and the rest of the Hinman College professional staff that the development of student government should be delayed a year to allow for residents to become more acclimated to their new residential community and to build up individual hall spirit. While this delay did allow for the establishment of strong individual hall spirit, overall community spirit was still lacking. In fact, it was not until April of 1969 that the Hinman Constitution was ratified and legal popular elections for a Hinman President were held. Still, even with the political framework in place, Hinman residents had little respect for area-wide student governance—so little respect that in a write-in campaign, a dog named Fish, won more votes than any of the human candidates running for political office. Obviously, students in Hinman were not sold on the idea of student government. Perhaps Faculty Master Pete Gruber said it best when he wrote, “Like the French and Italian Republics of the pre-World War II era, Hinman College has operated more efficiently on its civil service base than on its political base…” This may have been the case for now, but Hinmanites would eventually learn to embrace their area-wide government with open arms.

Some of the earliest records concerning HCC are from the late 1960’s and can be found within the early Hinman publication, The West Harpur Other. Not much is discussed concerning these meetings other than some people who attended. The November 24, 1969, issue of The West Harpur Other states that “Jim Geheran, Student Personnel Intern is a regular, contributing observer at the Hinman College Council meetings. This wouldn’t be mentioned, but so few
people, even among the elected members, attend that it is conspicuous.\textsuperscript{ccxxvi} Besides Mr. Geheran, also attending the meeting were Master Pete Gruber, Mr. Masters and Mr. Hopkins (presumably faculty fellows), Sandy Lazar, Jay Katz, Bill Froelich, Howard Abramoff, Howard Schwartz (which the article states came in late), Debbie Panson, Lynn Teichman, Mitchel Shapira, and Bruce Laubacher. Absent from the meeting were Mitchel Cohen, Robert Monheit (who the article reports had only gone to two meetings) and Faculty Fellows Mr. Bernardo, Mr. Bliss, Mr. Casparis, and Mr. Rowe. The only other mention of HCC in this article is a rather insulting statement toward the end: “Don’t like the way Hinman is dragging its ass in some particular area? Tell your Dorm rep to [come to] Hinman College Council. That’s his business.”\textsuperscript{ccxxvii} Even at this early stage, HCC was beginning to get the reputation of having lackluster and apathetic meetings. In defense of HCC, it was still early in its development. Still, this juvenile organization had a host of obstacles to overcome before it cemented itself in Hinman society.

\section*{HCC in the Early 1970’s}

The documentation on HCC is sparse for the next few years. However, that all begins to change with the advent of the longest running and most descriptive newsletter in Hinman College history, the \textit{Hinman Halitosis}. In April of 1971, the \textit{Hinman Halitosis} wrote a critique of HCC for the year. HCC had promised dances in the dining hall. They had never materialized. However, they had much to be proud of. They had consistently sponsored free movies, speakers, and had subsidized various charitable organizations like the handicapped Cub Scout troop and the Binghamton Welfare kids, and any Hinman student using the Lawyer Reference Service. They also sponsored the Hinman-created Urban Studies course (a popular course based in
Hinman), the *Hinman Halitosis* and *Soliloquy* (a Hinman publication filled with student poems and short stories), and an upcoming Roberta Flack concert. The article ended by stating:

> It wasn’t a great year; a lot of people still don’t know, or care, who the rep in their dorm is. If you were unaware that [sic] Hinman had been doing all of this this [sic] year, then I guess we failed there too. But this isn’t an article dedicated to our failures and shortcomings. There were probably a lot of things you wanted us to do, a lot we should have done—and we hope for a better year to come. The Council will need dedicated people if it is to succeed. We need your help.

At this stage in its development, HCC was an organization still striving to do its best for the community. HCC would have to try harder if it was to fulfill its obligation to the student body of Hinman.

Once again, exact information on what occurred in those early days is sparse. However, what is known is that HCC began to slowly rise in prestige as the years went by. The 1972-1973 academic year started off with big promises being made by HCC President Jeff Tanenbaum. Tanenbaum promised to turn HCC and Hinman around with the events and activities that they were planning that year. They would invite more faculty to participate in faculty-student discussions, show movie shorts in the dining hall during dinner hours, and had big plans for Halloween weekend. They also planned to utilize the soon to be finished Hinman Building (the Hinman Library and Hinman Commons) for a variety of activities. Tanenbaum ended his article by saying:

> We urge that as many people as possible become active in the affairs of Hinman College. During the past week, I’ve met a great number of interested and concerned students and I can assure you that Hinman Council will work hard to make life at Hinman as enjoyable and satisfying as possible for everyone. But—we can’t do it alone. We need people to run movies, set up parties, referee our co-rec games, and be willing to spend time on various committees. We’re always open to opinions and comments, and we hope that you will not hesitate to give them. Good luck to everyone.
With these strong words of encouragement by Hinman’s leader it looked like the future for Hinman College and HCC was bright and promising.

During the course of the year many of the promises of HCC were fulfilled, though not all of them. Still, programming-wise it was a good year. Student involvement in HCC was also high and Hinman quickly began earning the reputation of having an active student government. However, an unexpected twist occurred late February 1973 when President Tanenbaum suddenly resigned from his position. His letter of resignation was printed in the *Hinman Halitosis* and read in part:

I’ve learned a lot in my 6 months as President of Hinman College but the most important thing I’ve learned is that we all here are working not with students as physical entities but with students’ feelings. We are not working with a solid, unchanging physical being but with a delicate, changing person whose feelings are constantly being adjusted. I’ve found, much to my despair, that a great majority of Harpur students are unhappy, depressed and need some sort of love or understanding, from whomever they can get it. I came into this job as an enthusiastic student who felt the answers to the problems of college life was government and committee. We could run the college’s socially [sic]: movies, dances, parties. We could accomplish much academically: get professors to talk to students, lecture them, educate them, but none of these things had really accomplished what I hoped. They did not muster student interest nor did they increase student happiness. They are not the answer.

The fault lies with us as well as our educational system. We are not taking the individual person seriously. We are not addressing the students’ feelings. We are treating him or her as a physical being whose job is to accomplish a certain task in a certain period of time. We are treating the students as a whole, disregarding individuality, which is a grave fault. The individual’s feelings are rarely considered when he or she takes a course, just his or her ability to learn. It is enough that the pressures of our educational system with its competitive spirit depresses students but we are fools to think that USG⁶, FSA [Faculty Student Association] or anyone of this nature can solve this problem the way we are working.

Students seek a peace of mind that neither social or academic programs, the way they are being run, can accomplish. They need a system where they can make friends more readily, interact with people more on a personal level, faculty and administration included. The acquisition of the faculty into the collegiate structure is not going to accomplish anything if the formal separation of the two groups remains. By this I mean the fear of faculty among students and the refusal of faculty to remove themselves from

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⁶ The United Student Government (USG) was the precursor to the Student Association (SA).
their pedestal and cater to the students. The same separation exists among students and administrators as well. What students speaks to an administrator? What student knows who their administrators are? What can an administrator do for a student on a personal level? These are the types of questions and problems we must work with. We must work with feelings, with interaction. We must see ourselves as equals, respect each others’ desires and pitfalls. We cannot accomplish anything by mocking each other. We are not Newing vs. OCC vs. Hinman vs. C-I-W. We are not Administration vs. Faculty vs. Student. We are not Student vs. USG vs. FSA. We cannot be this way if we are to make headway toward our goals. This is just power politics and tricky maneuvering and I have seen too much of this in my meetings as well as on the Hinman Council.

I am a counselor [precursor to resident assistant] now and see a new side of the student: his or her personal problems. These have become more important to me and helping them solve their problems has become more rewarding to me than the seven months I have spent as President of Hinman College.

In the early stages right now is a new plan to incorporate the role of the counselor into student government. I have worked on this plan with three other people, two counselors and Bob Giomi. I feel this new plan has the potential to bring about the changes I would like to see and therefore, besides my personal reasons and those stated before in this talk, I would like to spend and devote my time to this new plan and working with students more on a personal level. Therefore, I am announcing my resignation as Hinman College President.

Before I conclude I’d like to give special thanks to Dr. Gruber and Bob Giomi for their help. We are lucky to have two dedicated people working for us like them. I would like to thank all the members of the council for the work they’ve done and the time they’ve given to themselves to help make Hinman a more enjoyable place to live.

By all accounts, Tanenbaum had been an effective leader. His resignation from HCC was a blow the organization and to Hinman College. Everything that Tanenbaum said was on mark. SUNY Binghamton was not meeting the needs of the student body effectively. Furthermore, the power politics being played at the level of the administration all the way down to HCC was also detrimental to the student body. Tanenbaum, like so many other past and future HCC presidents, had simply had enough and with his appointment to the position of counselor he was ready to try new avenues to improve the life of students in Hinman.

Almost immediately, Tanenbaum was criticized for his resignation and for taking the counselor position. Some claimed that he had simply taken the job not because he wanted to
help students but because he would be receiving free room and board for his work as a counselor.

As HCC president he received no compensation. The editorial staff of the *Hinman Halitosis* rushed to his defense with an editorial which read:

The news of Jeff Tanenbaum’s resignation did not come as a surprise to us. When one attempts to serve the Hinman Community as enthusiastically and as faithfully as Jeff did and receives the aid of only a few, in a University governmental system that does not seem to accomplish anything, then it’s only a matter of time before a president “burns out” and resigns. Only a change in the attitude of those in student government as well as an increase in the student body’s interesting collegiate and university affairs will save the rapidly decaying university structure at Binghamton. Until that time we should like to thank Jeff Tanenbaum for doing a great job and hope he will continue to serve Hinman in the same energetic manner as a counselor and a member of the Hinman community.

Tannenbaum’s resignation created a firestorm of controversy in the still fledgling HCC. Not only was the reasoning behind his resignation called into question, but a new president had to selected to fill in for the remainder of the year. Three candidates arose to take the spot vacated by Tanenbaum: Maxine Smooke, John Sutton, and Gary L. Birnbaum. All three candidates were qualified for the position, each having served on hall government in some capacity. The campaigning for the position was heated and tough, each one of them publishing their platform in the *Hinman Halitosis*. The campaigning grew so heated that it was even asked that residents of Hinman refrain from ripping down their campaign posters until after the election. Along with near dirty campaigning, anger began to rise in the Hinman community over an anonymous letter to the editor published in the same special election issue of *Halitosis* as the candidates’ platforms. One letter read:

The campaign for President is a full 3 days old now and I have witnessed some very disturbing and childlike goings on by various residents. IN my dorm, candidates’ signs are being defaced, torn down and used as a forum for people’s opinions (none appear to be favorable). Seeing as this is the case, I would like to offer the following comments:

Concerning the candidates: Hinman College Council is not the U.S. Senate; it is not even the state legislature!! To run a political campaign for such a non-political office as
President of Hinman College is absurd and demeaning to the office itself. Hinman Council is a service organization, with the singular objective of making Hinman College a better place to live. It does this both socially and academically. NOT POLITCALLY. If any of the candidates is out for political ambitions, he should run for USG. Any candidate who is running for the benefit himself (or herself) and not for the benefit of the college, should not run.

Secondly, there are strict laws about running a slanderous campaign at the university and these laws are also in the by-laws of the Hinman Constitution. If you want to go door to door tonight, feel free to do so. But promote yourself by stating why you want to be president, not why the others shouldn’t be. If any candidate is running solely because another candidate is, and because he or she wants to serve the people of Hinman College, kindly withdraw. You will do the college more harm than good by staying on the ballot.

Thirdly, let this letter serve as a warning against electioneering at the polls tonight. While I know that all of it can’t be stopped, the following precautions should be taken to insure a fair and honest election:

1. All signs within 50 feet of the polling area should be torn down.
2. Candidates should not be allowed near the polling place except when they are voting.
3. Poll watchers: try to keep the ballot secret. I don’t want to see anyone running through my dorm telling me that I better go down and vote because someone they don’t like is winning—(this happened in September in Cleveland Hall).

At times during the night, a resident will come up to you and say they don’t know who to vote for and will ask your opinion. Tell them to fold the ballot in half and put it in the box unmarked. I wouldn’t like to think that this election was won because one candidate had more friends as poll watchers than the other candidates.

Concerning Hinman residents: defacing, ripping down campaign signs is an extremely contemptuous act. If you’ve got a gripe about a candidate, write to the Halitosis or put up signs of your own. I strongly believe that one of the causes of apathy in our college is the fact that people see other people’s efforts being maligned, and therefore they don’t even bother trying.

Finally, the best way to insure a good election is for the residents to get out and vote. That is the only way your choice will be listened to in the end…

John Sutton won the election. Still the contentious issue surrounding the election left a bad taste in the mouth of many in Hinman. Politics seemed to be getting dirty and the attitudes toward students government remained much the same. What was hoped for was a new year and a new beginning for student government in Hinman.
HCC seemed to start off the new year with a highly successful program being held during the annual Fall Weekend. The Fall Weekend saw many different activities including music and dancing and of course the serving of alcoholic refreshments. Working around the clock, Vice President for Social Affairs Steve Young (of HLT fame), Editor-in-Chief of the *Hinman Halitosis* Pete Lorenzi, and Dave Florin taped music for the dance party that was held on Saturday night. John Sutton, Retep Iznerol, Jeanne Pilot, Stan Goldberg (founder of HLT), Edmund Dittion, Stan Ruszkowski, Bill Healy and Barry Steinhart also contributed to the program by helping to serve the beer. Ed Schrenzel and the rest of movie committee chose the movies that were to be show, Marty Finver prepared the bridge tournament, Ann Raszmann helped with the Crafts Fair and HCC President Sue Wild oversaw the entire process. A very special thanks was given to Bob Giomi for all his hard work on the program.

A special thanks must go to our own (1/2), Bob Giomi. Sometimes people overlook what Bob does, and if they have any problems they will dump them on him (which is not too big of a dumping place!). Point of information: No beer could have been served unless Bob was there, meaning from 9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. he had to pour beer. So next time you have a complaint, go easy on the little guy.

This was a somewhat bittersweet moment for the executives in charge of HCC. At this time in HCC history terms of office did not run the academic year (August – May) like they do now. Rather they ran the length of a calendar year (January – December) with elections being held in early December to decide who would be in charge in the HCC Executive Board. The positions up for grabs that semester would be President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Social Affairs, Secretary, and Treasurer.

There was a moderate turnout at the polls for that year’s election. Hughes Hall resident Stan Ruszkowski won the presidency, ex-president John Sutton won the position of Social Vice

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7 The drinking age at this time was 18 which allowed RA’s, student government representatives, and professional staff members to serve alcohol at programs and events.
8 Bob Giomi’s nickname was half (1/2).
President, Paul Karlinsky won the Academic Vice President Position, and Maxine Smooke of Roosevelt won the position of Secretary. Mark Wenger, the only incumbent, kept his seat as Treasurer. It is interesting to note, that unlike today, incumbents could run for E-Board positions. Ruszkowski won the presidency over Wild much to the surprise of everyone involved. Wild was the favored to win and Ruszkowski’s victory startled them all. Steve Young’s spot as Social Vice President was open because he was not seeking reelection. Instead he was doing a studying for a semester in Washington, D.C. John Sutton was the clear favorite to win the position and soundly beat his opponents. The battle for the Academic Vice President position was considered a toss up but Karlinsky, riding the wave that brought Ruszhowski to power, came into the AVP position that way. A last minute write-in campaign for Secretary by Howie Horowitz brought him 20% of the vote but not enough to beat Smooke. The members of the election committee were dismayed at the small voter turnout, but Pete Lorenzi, who had observed many elections during his time in Hinman, noted that the turnout was typical for a campaign that was fairly unemotional. 

**HCC in the Mid-1970’s**

Following the winter hiatus, HCC President Stan Ruszkowski wrote an open letter to all the residents of Hinman College. His letter in part:

…This semester can be a really great one for everybody in Hinman if everyone would be willing to put a little time and effort into the various Hinman activities. Many students feel that this is exclusively the job of the Hinman Council; nothing could be farther from the truth. The members of Hinman Council are not elitists as I have often heard them called, but rather they are students who have shown an active interest in our college and its affairs. If more students would devote a little time and participation into Hinman affairs by serving on committees or helping out at Hinman functions, more would get accomplished and bigger and better activities could be planned. Many students complain about the lack of social affairs going on in the college, but very few students
...I hope you will not just read this and then not do anything about it. Why not use a little of your free time and help out. You’ll feel good about doing it and everyone will have an enjoyable time. With constructive ideas and participation from everyone, I promise this to be the best semester Hinman has ever seen...

Ruszkowski, like his predecessors, was looking to make Hinman a more enjoyable place for those that lived there. One of the ways he wanted to accomplish this goal was through the offshoot of the Social Committee. This new committee known as the Socially Inconceivable Committee (SIC) was one way they hoped to accomplish this goal. SIC, which was the brainchild of Mark Wenger, was headed up by Social Vice President John Sutton who hoped to implement new and interesting social activities along with old staples like free movies, ice cream parties, and everyone’s absolute favorite, beer parties. One of the first large-scale programs that SIC introduced was a dance party in the Hinman Commons with live music. Not only was this program highly successful, it was also reasonably inexpensive. With successes like this, SIC was on the track to bring more social activities to Hinman without breaking the bank.

As a committee, SIC became very popular. At the first meeting close to twenty people turned out to help out with the committee. During the course of the meeting, many ideas were brainstormed on how to make Hinman a more socially active residential college. Some ideas that were proposed included a mystery bus ride, a semi-formal dance, and a dance marathon. In a humorous moment, an orgy in Bob Giomi’s apartment was suggested; however, that idea was thrown out due to a lack of willing participants.

Later into the semester, John Sutton announced his resignation from the position of Social Vice President. During the semester, Sutton, who was also an RA, put on many programs and was instrumental in giving Hinman a rebirth in social programming. However, Sutton noted
that he could not be an effective RA and be a part of HCC E-Board at the same time. At around the same time Mark Wenger, Hinman Treasurer, also resigned, opening two positions on the HCC E-Board.

Before his resignation Sutton set in motion what would become a long standing Hinman tradition: the semi-formal dance. The Semi-Formal, which was held in the Hinman Dining Hall, had all the hallmarks of the Semi-Formals of today. There was music, a buffet diner and unlimited mixed drinks (which have been eliminated from today’s semi-formals). Tickets were sold at the price of $6 per couple and $4 for singles. The theme of the first annual Hinman Semi-Formal held in April 1974 was “Spring Fling.” By all accounts, the Semi-Formal was an astounding success with Faculty Master Vito Sinisi writing “The First Annual Hinman College Semi-formal Dinner Dance was a ball! To everyone in planning and carrying out the Dance—my congratulations and thanks. You’ve established another Hinman tradition! I look forward to the Second, Third,…Annual Semi-formal Dinner Dance.”

The end of the 1973-1974 academic year saw much in the way of social development in HCC. Besides the popular and successful Semi-Formal there were also a dance marathon which lasted nearly fourteen hours. Steve Young also came up with the idea to tape music for parties, which helped to cut down on the costs of a live band. John Sutton discovered that Hinmanites didn’t always need beer to party, that they could have just as much of a good time if the atmosphere and the social setting was right. In the realm of HCC beyond social areas, a Finance Committee was created to make a fairer distribution of monies from Hinman. This year HCC truly came into its own. In the past, HCC had been viewed with some ambivalence by the residents of Hinman College. Granted, turnout during the elections was just as low this year as in previous years, but for the most part elected officials did their job to the best of their abilities
and put on numerous programs that greatly benefited the lives of Hinmanites. HCC was beginning to become more than just an honorary institution. It was beginning to become an asset to Hinman College.

The first HCC meeting of the 1974-1975 academic year was very well attended. Hinman student government representatives were all eager to start off the new year and begin working to make Hinman a better place. That year, the budget in Hinman was a whopping $17,000. Even for this time period, it was an exorbitant sum. Everyone in HCC drooled over the great programs that would be possible with this generous amount of money. During that meeting, $150 of that total was allocated to the ever-popular Hinman bartending course. Hinman had a lot of cash to throw around that year and everyone in HCC was looking forward to putting it to good use.

Controversy soon arose. Not over allocation of funds, but over what would become a seemingly never-ending source of debate and contention in HCC to this very day. Since the opening banquet back in 1967, the Hinman Dining Hall has been criticized for long lines, poor service, and inedible food. The company that managed the dining hall at that time, ACE, proposed that they would begin issuing fines between $25 to $100 for those caught stealing food. Many students claimed that this was unfair and that the penalties did not match the severity of the crimes. Another issue that arose concerned plans in the to build a staircase in the University Union to connect the bookstore (which was in the Old Union at the time) with the rest of the Union. HCC voted against this proposal, claiming that the staircase would do little to improve service and that the steep price tag ($10,400) did not justify its construction.

Other issues hit even closer to home. Social Vice President Vinnie Pantuso suddenly resigned his position and President Stan Ruszkowski asked Scott Salvie to fill in for the remainder of the semester. Salvie entered into the position as a favor, but was angered with the
reasons why Pantuso left, chiefly that student apathy in light of all their hard work was getting to him. Salvie lashed out at the greater Hinman community in a open letter to all Hinman students. His letter read in part:

As everyone knows by now, Vinne Pantuso has resigned the position of Social Vice-President of Hinman College. Stan Ruskowski [sic] asked me if I would be willing to fill this position for the rest of the semester. I agreed, albeit with some misgivings, based largely upon the feelings that seem to be prevalent in Hinman today.

I sense a feeling of disappointment and apathy throughout the college this year. What this feeling is due to, I’m not exactly sure. What I am sure of however, is that it must change. Elected officers of this college are resigning their positions; candidates for dorm positions ran unopposed in the beginning of this semester—indicating to me that no one gave a shit.

Most of Hinman’s events for the rest of this semester were already planned when I assumed office—there will be almost none that I will plan. To make these ideas and events work, however, I need help. It can’t be done with only a few people, many are needed.

Phil Ochs has a verse in his song “Outside a Small Circle of Friends” that goes like this:

Riding down the highway
Yes my back is getting stiff,
13 cars are piled up.
They’re hanging on a cliff,
Maybe we should pull them back with our towing chain

But we gotta move and we might get sued
And it looks like it’s gonna rain
And I’m sure it wouldn’t interest
Anybody—outside a small circle of friends.

That point, I think is obvious.

Get off you [sic] collective fat asses and help out; Hinman life will only be what YOU make it.

Salvie had a legitimate gripe. An ever-increasing problem in Hinman then, as now, was student apathy. HCC had been trying for years to get more Hinmanites involved in their community by joining student government.
Student apathy was not the only problem facing HCC and the rest of Hinman College.

Roosevelt Hall Secretary Jule Barad wrote this scathing editorial in the November 7, issue of *Hinman Halitosis*:

On Tuesday night, November 5, Lou Illiano justifiably assumed the “dictatorship” of Roosevelt Hall. Many of you may be outraged at such a seemingly arrogant gesture on the part of Lou. “Why, what right does he have to suddenly assume complete control of Roosevelt Hall?”, you may ask?

Having attended the Dorm Council meetings on a somewhat regular basis, I have seen the indifference and apathy that has permeated every issue discussed, every vote taken. When Lou has asked for volunteers for committees to organize parties etc., he has been met with blank faces and vague commitments. Whatever dorm functions have occurred are due practically in total to Lou’s personal efforts, with the help of possibly a few friends. That Lou could assemble more “Rowdie Townies” than Roosevelt dorm residents for a Roosevelt Dorm Council meeting is indicative of the apathy which exists.

Dorm Council itself is not a fault. Everyone knows when the meetings are held and that anyone is welcome to contribute ideas. It is like pulling teeth to get even some of the floor representatives to come to the meetings, let alone regular dorm residents. The Halloween Party was disastrous. Some have blamed Lou, Cheryl [Eller] or the Dorm Council. However, it is not the fault of the people who come to the meetings and who have attempted to get things organized. Blame is to be placed on those who have not cared enough to come to the meetings at all, although they have felt qualified to criticize the efforts of those who have attended.

Lou’s action, as seen in this light, are more justified. It is sad however, that maybe only now, when students are being threatened with the prospect of having their money spent without a say, will they have the time or energy to suddenly “participate” in dorm activities. Maybe this was a dramatic action, but something had to be done to arouse the residents of Roosevelt Hall; to make them aware that if activities are going to be successful, students must get involved and give a little of themselves. It is about time that students stop expecting things to be handed to them on a silver platter.

Much as Salvie’s letter was directed at those not getting involved in the Hinman community, Barad’s letter was directed at those who were not getting involved at the hall level. It appeared as though at this time that student involvement in the realm of student government was slim to none. The root cause of this apathy is unknown. However, the effects of this apathy were such that is was being extremely detrimental to the well-being of not only the individual halls but the
whole of Hinman College. If HCC were to survive they would have to do something to make the situation better and to get more students involved.

By early December it was time for elections, and descriptions of each position on the HCC E-Board were given along, with some functions inherent in the position. The article states that the President presides over all HCC meetings, appoints members to all-college committees and represents the policies and actions of Hinman College. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, besides assuming the duties of the President when the President is absent, serves as a representative to Harpur College Council (the other HCC), and serves as chairman of the Hinman College Academic Committee. The Vice President for Social Affairs chairs the Hinman College Social Committee, and represents Hinman on all-university social committees. The Secretary is responsible for recording and distributing the minutes of HCC meeting and for is responsible for any other various forms of publicity or communication needed by HCC. The treasurer, as the name may suggest, deals with the money of HCC. All of the financial transactions and reports are kept accounted by the Treasurer. The Treasurer also chairs the Financial Committee and submits a budget to HCC for approval, and if approved then submits that budget to USG. Although the names would change slightly over the years (Secretary would become Public Affairs Vice President and Treasurer would become Financial Vice President) and duties would evolve somewhat, these functions of each position would remain essentially unchanged till this very day.

In a showing of true Hinman spirit, Hinman alumni Mitch Karlick, who arranged for the *Hinman Halitosis* to be mailed to his home in Brooklyn, read about the apathy permeating HCC and the rest of Hinman College. Mitch wrote this letter to inspire the current students of Hinman and to reaffirm the unique nature of the spirit of Hinman:
My wife and I read with great enthusiasm about the recent HCRTHTF\(^9\) playoffs and the championship game. As you said in an article in the last issue of *Halitosis*, college spirit is alive and well and living in Hinman.

But both of us took offense at the statement accusing previous Hinman residents of being apathetic and scoffing at you. Since the inception of Hinman in 1968, the college councils had been striving for ways to have people identify with Hinman College and say “that’s the place to live on campus.” While there was apathy, an occasional idea did come into our heads. One of the first Hinman activities, for instance, was showing of cartoons and comedy shorts in the dining hall during Thursday dinner. Another thing was the creation of the Hinman dark room for photography buffs. Perhaps the biggest step towards a college identity came with the creation of the *Halitosis*. This weekly paper helped people get involved with the college. There are many other examples of activities that tried to spark college spirit. But the things that really did it were HCRTHTF and [Hinman] Follies. Finally, people are getting involved. Finally, people are realizing that they will get out of college life what they put into it.

The disease of apathy still abounds, though. We saw how no one wanted the job of Social VP. We heard how no one wants to work to get things done. Face it, people, if you don’t do it, no one’s going to do it for you!!

Now that I got all that off my chest, I’ll get to the actual reason for my letter. Why not hold a real homecoming weekend? I’m sure you could find out the whereabouts of former Hinman residents from the alumni office. And I’m also sure the response from alumni would be great. We folks are looking forward for an event like this as an excuse to come and visit. And with the parties, bridge tournaments, possibly tug of war, basketball and snow football games, it would really be a great weekend and another activity for Hinman to sponsor…

Karlick’s letter is an important document in the history of HCC and in the early history of Hinman College. Over recent years there has been much discussion about how apathetic students nowadays are in comparison to their predecessors. The reality was that apathy was a big problem in 1967, at the beginnings of Hinman College, just as much as it is a problem now in 2007, forty years later. Some students then as now certainly didn’t care whether or not they live in Hinman College. But to those students it is just a place to live while you spend four years studying to get a degree. To people like Mitch Karlick and many, many others who came after him, Hinman was a place that was unique, that was special. Granted Hinman had its problems,

\(^9\) Hinman Co-Rec Two Hand Touch Football (HCRTHTF). More information on the development of Co-Rec football will be given in a later chapter.
especially in areas related to student disinterest and apathy, but there were many students who realized just how special Hinman was. Even at this early stage, the spirit of Hinman was taking shape and influencing numerous individuals to go above and beyond what average college students would do and to make their community a better place and in the process make them better people and more well-rounded citizens. There were many areas of Hinman that contributed to this unique Hinman spirit, but perhaps the strongest and most influential one, was HCC.

Unfortunately, apathy would not be defeated easily. The elections for HCC E-Board positions in December 1974 had unprecedented low voter turnout. Furthermore, only the position of Secretary had two candidates running for the position. The rest were unopposed. A very tongue-in-cheek article concerning the elections was written in *Hinman Halitosis*. In it, Stan Ruszkowski ran for an unprecedented year and a half in office and won with 283 votes. Ruszkowski attributed his win to the fact that his only opponent, “Write-in,” was placed beneath his name. “When questioned about student apathy, Ruszkowski replied, ‘Who cares!’”cxlivii Paul Karlinsky won the position of Academic Vice President. Karlinksy attributed his victory to the support he garnered from the Hinman Blacksmith Club. Their support, the article said sardonically, was the equivalent of having the Teamsters Union on your side. Mike Lamberta won the position of Social Vice President and planned many new and exciting Hinman social programs including a mystery trip to the Genesee beer plant, swimming and canoeing in Lake Lieberman, and a new sport he recently developed, Co-Rec Root-Ball. Jeff Morris won the position of Treasurer. His predecessor, Barbara Sprung, was studying abroad. In the race for HCC Secretary, Karen Kuhrt beat Debby Levbarg with 60% of the votes in the election’s only contested race. In an interesting twist, with the election of Kuhrt to the E-Board, Hinman now
had a boyfriend-girlfriend pair serving on the HCC E-Board (Kuhrt and Ruszkowski were a well-known romantic item in Hinman at the time). With the elections over, HCC now turned to face the biggest problem facing Hinman at this time (and at virtually every other time in its long history): student apathy. In an editorial in the December 12 issue of *Hinman Halitosis*, the idea of paying students to get involved was virulently opposed.

There was some disturbing discussion at the last meeting of the Hinman Council Monday night. The subject was the lack of student involvement in Hinman and the discussion was what to do about it. What prompted this was the fact that last weekend’s semi-formal was put together and taken apart almost singlehandedly [sic] by a few dedicated Hinmanites. The disturbing part was the suggestion that was tossed around to pay students to do the dirty work for Hinman functions, namely setting up and cleaning up.

Paying students is not a solution to the problem. It is a step in the wrong direction. The problem is how to get people involved. The prevailing attitude is one in which students sit back waiting for “Hinman College” to entertain them. As leaders of the college, the Council members must take steps to wake up fellow students to the fact that the invisible, intangible entity called “Hinman College” means all of us.

That is why paying students for ordinary volunteer services would set a dangerous precedent. It would only reaffirm the sense that “Hinman doesn’t need my help” if people were paid to organize our activities. And what incentive would there be for volunteers on Council and its committees to continue their efforts as a service to Hinman?

When there’s work to be done in behalf of Hinman activities and no help to be found, it’s understandable for committee chairmen to feel discouraged and disgusted. The thing to do is review the situation. There are students more than willing to pitch in. A new approach is needed to tap this resource, to bring potentially interested students out of the woodwork. Some suggestions are floating around: More thoughtfully organized campaigns to recruit volunteers, and making the-morning-after cleanup squads more inviting as donuts-and-cleanup parties. These are steps in the right direction. They must be carried through and expanded upon. Only through continuous efforts along these lines will Hinman see a college run for the students by the students.

This editorial unequivocally stated the position of many of those in Hinman. Students should not have to be bribed into doing something that they should be volunteering for in the first place. If
Hinman residents needed to get paid before they lifted a finger to make their residential college a better place, then HCC and Hinman was in dire straits.

Not all was so gloomy. President Stan Ruszkowski wrote a letter in praise of all those who helped to make the semester an all-around positive one.

To the students of Hinman:

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to a few people who have put in a lot of time and effort in making the Fall semester a successful one for Hinman College. These people gave alot [sic] of themselves in what was often a thankless job, and they deserve personal recognition from every student in Hinman for a job well done.

The people I am talking about are those who have made up executive council of Hinman College: Barbara Sprung our Treasurer, Paul Karlinsky our Academic Vice President, Scot Salvie and Vinne Pantuso who have both served this year as our Social Vice President, and Barbara Shrager our Secretary. Without the efforts of these people Hinman would not have had as good a semester as we did. They all dedicated themselves to Hinman and tried their best to offer to Hinman as much as possible in order to make Hinman a better and more enjoyable place to live in. I cannot thank them enough for all their help this year. Unfortunately, neither Barbara, Scott, or Barbara [sic] will be on the executive committee in the Spring semester, as they all have different paths to follow or responsibilities to which they are obligated. I wish these three the best of luck in whatever they do and thank them again for all they did for Hinman College.

I would also like to thank all the people of the Hinman Council-the dorm presidents, dorm reps, the staff and Master Vito Sinisi for a job well done this semester. I hope that this Spring the new executive committee and Hinman Council will be able to perform as well as their predecessors in making life in Hinman College a truly rewarding experience. Thank you all again for everything.

Even the though the semester was plagued by student disinterest and apathy, there were things that had gone well. The Semi-Formal, for instance, had been highly successful and was on its way to becoming one of the most popular and long-lasting of Hinman traditions. Not everyone in Hinman was grossly apathetic. Some students cared deeply about their college and worked hard to make it better. There was hope for the future after all.

In January of 1975, Stan Ruszkowski, like HCC Presidents before, printed an article in the *Hinman Halitosis* to inform Hinman residents about what the new year would offer.
To The Students of Hinman,

Hi, and welcome back to Hinman College. To those of you who are new to Hinman an especially warm welcome to what we feel is the most exciting of the residential colleges.

…The key to the success of a college is in the involvement of the students of the college. In order for this semester to be an enjoyable one for all the members of Hinman College it is important that all of us give a little of ourselves in helping out and getting involved in the various activities of the college. Believe me, no one will ever be refused when they offer to help out. Getting involved will not only make life in Hinman more enjoyable for everyone in the college but will also give you a great deal of personal satisfaction.

There are many activities planned for this semester, but we are still looking for any new and different ideas for the college that might make for a fun time for all of us. Included in the present plans are movies, dances, several Little Theater productions, a dinner club, a semi-formal dinner-dance, a Hinman Olympics, and Hinman Spring weekend featuring the Hinman Follies and assorted other goodies. It should be a lot of fun—and will be even more so if we get as much cooperation as possible from all the members of the college.

This is my last semester in Hinman and I want to be my best one yet. I’ve seen a lot of good things happen here, and this semester has the potential to be the most exciting and enjoyable one of all time. I’m going to try my best to make this happen and I hope everyone else will take the same attitude. If so we can’t miss…Here’s hoping for a successful semester to all. Thank you.

Once again, the plea was for student involvement in Hinman and for pride in one’s residential college, something that had been lacking in the past. The hope of Ruszkowski and the rest of the HCC E-Board was to go out of this semester with a bang.

To what extent HCC accomplished their goals for that semester are unclear. However, when elections were held, Mike Smith was voted as the new HCC President and Jay Winter became the new Academic Vice President. In an unexpected twist of events, Mike Lamberta resigned as HCC Social Vice President. Mike joined the ranks of John Sutton, Vinne Pantuso and Scott Salvie who resigned from the demanding position of Social Vice President of HCC. Running for the position were Mitch Jaffe and Susan Kozlowski. Mitch had the good fortune of being endorsed by popular and long-serving outgoing HCC President Stan Ruszkowski.
However, due to reasons unknown, neither Jaffe nor Kozlowski would take the position and it would remain unfilled until the next semester.

In the fall of 1975, like his predecessors before him, Mike Smith, the new HCC President, wrote a letter to encourage more participation in Hinman. His letter read in part:

...For those of you who are new to Hinman, I would like to extend a special greeting and give you a little background on life in Hinman. Hinman has taken great pride in being the most innovative of the on-campus colleges. Activities that have sprung roots here include co-rec football and basketball, Hinman Little Theater, Follies, the semi-formal dance, supper club, and spiedies\textsuperscript{10} and beer parties. Hinman has also initiated several non-credit courses including bartending and automechanics, and credit courses such as Law and the Family, American Studies and a studio art course for non-majors.

Many activities are being planned but people are needed to help out in seeing these projects through...Last semester the amount of cooperation from students greatly increased in comparison to previous years and the trend continues. If everyone would just devote a little of his or her time and energy by participating on committees or serving at various Hinman functions, this year could be better than the last. All that it takes is a little bit of effort on everyone's part...\textsuperscript{ccliv}

Whether Smith’s call would be heeded was yet to be seen.

The position of Social Vice President was still to be filled and two individuals stepped up to run for the position. Sy Rolnick, one of the candidates running for the position, promised events such as mystery bus rides, costume parties, and an all-Hinman talent show. He also promised to be open to suggestions from his constituency. His opponent, John McDermott, promised to improve Supper Club and the Semi-Formal and obtain plenty of hit films for Hinmanites to view. McDermott stated in a letter to the Hinman community:

We are all tired of beer blasts, sock hops, greaser dances, and all of the other so-called parties that were thrown in the past. What we need is change! This is the seventies! Disco and romantic dancing are what’s happening. If am elected, dancing lessons of many styles will be given. Those who want to party will party!\textsuperscript{ccliv}

\textsuperscript{10} Spiedies are common in the Southern Tier of New York and particularly the greater Binghamton area. Spiedies are cubes of marinated chicken (or other meats) that are then grilled. They are typically served between bread.
The turnout for the special election was higher than in previous years. Sy Rolnick won the
election, garnering 80% of the vote. Mitch Kasper, who ran unopposed for the Academic Vice
President Position, won that seat. The HCC E-Board was now set and ready to tackle the
problems facing Hinman College.

Unfortunately, when time came around for regular elections to be held, there was
absolutely no interest in the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. Sy Rolnick had announced
that he wanted to run for HCC President and that Doug Schain was running for Academic Vice
President. It was so bad that Bob Giomi and Gabe Yankowitz announced (tongue-in-cheek) that
they would be running for the Treasurer and Secretary positions, respectively. Bob Giomi said,
“‘It’s a sad state of affairs when the staff has to run for these offices,’” and Gabe Yankowitz
reiterated that the situation was pathetic. Gabe also confirmed the rumors that he and Bob would
do a fact-finding study on student life in the Bahamas with Bob appropriating the money and
Gabe writing the full report. Luckily for both Bob and Gabe, they did not have to accept the
offices they were “running” for. New students stood up and ran for the positions, albeit
unopposed. The only contested election was for Treasurer and it was close, with winner John
Bansbach edging out his opponent Debbie Foster by only sixteen votes. Many complained about
the lack of choice in candidates; however, it was consistently mentioned that no one else took an
interest in running for office.

The Rolnick Administration

By the end of the Fall 1975 semester, just about everyone in Hinman knew that the
college and HCC was in trouble. Besides Co-Rec and Hinman Little Theater, and the Semi-
Formal, virtually no other social or academic programs of substance were developed and the few
that were developed were grossly under attended. President-elect Sy Rolnick spoke on behalf of the entire Hinman community when he said:

We have a new year upon us and a new slate of executive officers. I would like at this time to put it on the line as Hinman President. We are in trouble but many of you do not care and are not interested. Under no conditions will Hinman council or the executive council plan anything socially or academically next semester unless the participation increases or the complaining stops. The money is yours but if you don’t have any ideas or want to help then it will be spent in the way that Hinman executives feel fit. Many of you will be returning next semester and it is you who will have to help make Hinman a better place to live. There are many ways to improve this place but you must open your eyes and ears.

Following up on this letter, Sy Rolnick wrote another letter with hopes for a new semester in Hinman, but also making a bold statement that neither he nor anyone on his E-Board would go out of their way to put on social and academic programs unless regular Hinmanites rose to the challenged and helped them.

It is a new semester and one that your executive council hopes will be very enjoyable and worthwhile. We have begun to plan for the spring and what has been outlined by both our academic and social Vice Presidents are both new ideas and old ideas being tried again. The main concern of the entire executive council is to make Hinman College a better place to live and an enjoyable one. The problem we contend with is the apathetic attitude that is evident all through the students of Hinman College. We have the money to make this a great semester, but if apathy reigns then there will be as many flops as last semester and we also will be forced into having many cancellations in terms of academic and social activities. Neither Ken O’Brien, Doug Schain or myself are going to sit around and worry about planning activities if you do not step forward to help, make suggestions or turn up to the activities and courses planned. We are at the point where the college can either improve or go downhill. I would really like to see this place return to what it was in the past, a place where everybody enjoys the activities. Remember it’s your helping us that will make things go.

Ken O’Brien, the Social Vice President of HCC, reiterated his President’s sentiments with his own letter.

This is a new semester in Hinman and it can be a flop like last semester or it can be a great place to live. Everything will depend on your attitude and cooperation.

Last semester Sy Rolnick put a lot of hard work into all the events only to be made a fool. He was made a fool because nobody turned out. He tried a few new things:
Ride which nobody went to, and a Dunkin’ Donut party where only one third were given away until Sy began delivering them. The Supper Club and Semi-Formal went over well but the response was poor, so poor that Hinman lost a lot of money. The dances in the commons were also poorly attended.

…I have a few new ideas but I would like comments on them before they become a success or failure. We could try a Hinman Ski night and/or Dusters night. In addition to Co-Rec basketball maybe we can have a Co-Rec tennis tournament and Co-Rec softball.

These events can occur and turn out well as long as I have cooperation and there is a general concern. However if this semester’s outlook is like last semester’s all activities will be cancelled. Face it, Hinman’s social life is what you make it…

Rolnick and O’Brien were pleading with the Hinman community just as much as they were venting their frustrations. Their message, though, was clear: either regular Hinmanites step up to the plate and advance social and academic activities in their college or else there would be none at all. The HCC E-Board would no longer be solely responsible for programming in Hinman. Any failure of these activities would be placed on the regular Hinmanite.

The issues that plagued HCC in the past still plagued them now. Besides the ever-present specter of student apathy, Hinman was still without a Treasurer because for reasons unclear the election was invalidated. The Hinman Judiciary Committee was supposed to make a decision regarding the invalidated elections but failed to do so in a timely manner. For weeks, Hinman was without a Treasurer and therefore could not make any financial transactions. Business in Hinman College was at standstill. Hinmanites became so disgruntled with the entire process that some even called for a complete revamping of the election process whereby (with the exception of HCC President) every other position would be filled by a popular vote of those representatives in HCC as opposed to the popular vote from the entire community. Granted this would be less democratic than the existing election rules, but it would appoint better qualified candidates, or so it was argued. After two invalidated elections, John Bansbach of Lehman Hall defeated Hughes Hall’s Debbie Foster.
In an interview with the *Hinman Halitosis*, President Rolnick was asked many questions about the state of Hinman College. Rolnick talked about his discouragement over having 206 people attend the Semi-Formal, but with only getting help from six individuals. He also stated that he had high hopes for the ad hoc social committee being spearheaded by Social Vice President Ken O’Brien. He also stated that he believed that the elections should be revamped and that a constitutional amendment be made. The two botched Treasurer elections had left a bad taste in his mouth just as it had with everyone else involved in HCC politics.

With the election of Treasurer, most thought that this would be the end of HCC’s financial troubles. This was far from the case. SA Treasurer Mike Powers alerted Rolnick that he would be forbidden from signing any vouchers. The President’s signature was required on the vouchers in order for them to be cashed. This essentially would prevent Hinman from using any of its allotted funds. Powers argued that he took this drastic decision because HCC was allowing staff members (who paid no student activity fee) to vote on matters that related to the student activity fee. Vouchers without Rolnick’s signature could be directly given to Powers’s office, but Powers said that they would not be given priority. What this meant was that Powers could sign off on the vouchers whenever he pleased and could essentially freeze Hinman funds indefinitely. Powers promised that until this practice was terminated he would not accept any vouchers from Hinman. He cited a passage in the SUNY Fiscal and Accounting Procedure that stated “‘Purchase requisitions, orders, and contracts, in support of approved budgetary allocations, should be approved in behalf of the student organization by a responsible officer of the organization, and the treasurer of the student organization or his designee…’” Rolnick, as Powers’s designee, would be unable to sign the vouchers, therefore Powers could review and sign off on the vouchers whenever he felt like it. To those involved in HCC, Powers was
abusing his authority and had the potential to not only bring business in Hinman College to a standstill but to ruin their credit as well.

In a special two hour meeting, HCC decided, unlike the other college councils, to challenge Powers and what they viewed as his abuse of authority. The overwhelming majority of HCCers believed that the SA had no right to overrule their constitution (the HCC constitution said nothing about staff members being unable to vote). Rolnick and the rest of HCC were not going to take this lying down. They were not about to allow the SA to hold them hostage. While they may have been divided before on the issues of academic and social programming, they joined ranks in the fight to preserve their financial independence.

While the rest of the residential colleges caved into what they viewed as the invincible power of Mike Powers and the SA, Hinman dug in for a long and bitter fight. In a highly anticipated meeting between Rolnick, Powers, and the Assistant Vice President for Finance and Management, Eugene Kirch, Kirch defined the role and powers of the SA Treasurer. Kirch clarified for all that the SA Treasurer did have the authority within reason to control the financial activities of those in the collegiate structure. While not a glowing endorsement of Powers, this did lend credibility to his case.

Hinman College struck back with a vengeance when they authored a resolution calling for an investigation into possibly recalling Powers from his position as SA Treasurer. New information arose that suggested that Powers may not have been an enrolled student at the university at the time he was elected to office. If this were the case, then Powers would be ineligible to hold his position. After getting the tip, Rolnick visited the university Registrar’s office and found that no where on the official rolls was Powers registered as a student. Rolnick then questioned the Registrar himself who reported that he would not sign any official
documentation stating that Powers was an enrolled student at SUNY Binghamton. HCC then authored a resolution calling for the establishment of a committee to investigate Powers’s eligibility for office, to oversee the recall of Powers should it be determined that he was not an enrolled student, and for the Academic Standards Committee to inform HCC of any other SA members who were not enrolled students in the past semester. HCC was pulling no punches. Powers had declared war on the wrong student government and was about to get what he had coming to him.

While Powers vehemently denied the charges, saying that he had won an appeal in a decision that had declared him as un-enrolled during the time of the SA election. Most members of the SA backed up their fellow SA member. Heated and vicious verbal attacks from the pulpits of both HCC and the SA thundered throughout the realms of student government. A disagreement over a relatively petty financial procedure had erupted into an all out war between HCC and the SA. In the end, with the firestorm of controversy sweeping through the greater SUNY Binghamton student government, and with the fear of recall on the minds of many SA leaders (who had the same enrollment issues as Powers), Powers quickly and quietly reinstated Rolnick’s power to sign vouchers and returned fiscal freedom to Hinman College.

This victory was desperately needed in the fight over the future of HCC and the overall identity of Hinman College. For nearly ten years Hinman had been fighting hard not only to make an identity for itself, but also to show the rest of the university community, and more importantly itself, that it could manage an efficient and effective student government. HCC had had its fair share of trials and tribulations over these years. Most of its problems had stemmed from student disinterest and apathy. Many did not want to take part in HCC meetings nor did they care about the outcome of such meetings. HCC perhaps hit a low point when it saw staffers
Bob Giomi and Gabe Yankowitz prepare to run for positions that nobody else would fill. However, what this fiscal crisis involving the SA showed was that Hinman and especially HCC came together and backed not only their President but each other. HCC was, whether anyone believed it or not, becoming a united organization and an instrumental piece of Hinman College along with Co-Rec and HLT.

Like most victories in those early days of HCC history, it was short-lived. Shortly thereafter there was a student takeover of the Couper Administration Building to protest substantial budgetary cutbacks. The cutbacks had led to a decrease in the number of RA’s who were hired, along with an increase in tripling, the elimination of the Russian and Geography Departments, a decrease in in-patient care for the infirmary, and a decrease in overall student services. As a result a large number of students swarmed the Administration Building. Binghamton was not the only place to see students take over administration buildings in New York. Demonstrations and takeovers were also occurring at SUNY Purchase, Old Westbury, New Paltz, Fredonia, and many CUNY schools. Many students at Binghamton and these other SUNY campuses saw Albany’s budget cutbacks as negatively affecting their educations and academics and they saw non-violent demonstration as the only effective way to fight back.

During the course of the takeover, student demonstrators from all over campus, including Hinman protested inside the walls of the Couper Administration Building. The demonstrators met with President Clifford Clark and other university administrators who tried to offer the demonstrators a deal. After fifty-eight hours the occupation of the building finally ended when word came that the state police was planning on taking the building back by force. The administration reluctantly agreed to meet four of the students’ demands. Protests and demonstrations continued to occur at campuses across the state, but the student action at SUNY
Binghamton was effectively over. The fallout from the student takeover, however, was only beginning.

Near the center of this protest was HCC President Sy Rolnick and Hinman’s SA representative, John Huntington. Both Rolnick and Huntington had gone on the record as being opposed to the takeover, stating that it was done by a minority of students who were the most radical on campus and that their views did not reflect the majority of students on campus nor did it represent the views of most residents of Hinman College. They even went so far as to send a letter to President Clark stating just that.\textsuperscript{cclxxii} However, a large number of students on campus and in Hinman agreed with those who stormed the administration building. The position that Rolnick and Huntington took on the issue was very unpopular with the student body all across campus. The demonstrators were seen as heroes in the eyes of not only students but also many members of the CSEA union (an organization which was in solidarity with the student protestors) and other organizations that saw the university and the state as the enemy of the student body. The SA, still hurting from the embarrassing move by Rolnick and HCC that humiliated their own Mike Powers, saw this as an opportunity to draw blood. The SA publicly condemned Rolnick, Huntington and their supporters as being against the best interest of the student body and for being in bed with the President Clark and the rest of the university administration. These vicious attacks roused the ire of many students across campus, many of whom called for the heads of Sy Rolnick and John Huntington.\textsuperscript{cclxiii}

While Rolnick and Huntington could accept the condemnation of the SA and from students of other residential communities, the worst attack of all came from a resident of their very own residential college. One Hinmanite wrote a letter highly critical of Rolnick and Huntington:
During the past few years I have worked closely with Hinman President Sy Rolnick in many activities of student government. I have found him to be one of the most hardworking and most concerned presidents that we have had. However, because of his recent actions and statements concerning the fight against cutbacks and the recent takeover of the administration building, I have lost a lot of respect for Sy as a president...

Sy Rolnick and John Huntington...issued a statement concerning the takeover saying that they were “extremely disgusted and personally offended that some members of the university are acting in a most rude and irresponsible manner.” I wonder if these people were speaking for themselves or Hinman College? I would hope that if they were speaking for Hinman they would consult with some students. A majority of the people on my floor had been at the administration building and more sympathized with it. They were certainly not disgraced or offended. Were Sy and John speaking for them?

...The takeover was a necessary progression of steps. It was non-violent and only slightly disrupted services on campus. The students acted responsibly, using little confrontation and mostly realistic negotiations as a tool. When the students voluntarily left the building, effort was made to clean it...

...I have never heard students discuss student and university politics so much in all my four years here. Everyone on this apathetic campus was formulating opinions on their school, their future and their life. It was the first time students acted decisively at a time when students are working together and must cooperate even more in the future. Sy and John were opposed to the illegality of the takeover, yet what does that say about Martin Luther King and Gandhi? Although not comparing the demonstrators to them, these two people who our society has glorified for their use of peaceful, effective, but illegal means.

All in all I think the takeover was the best thing to happen on this campus in years. All in all I think the takeover was the best thing to happen on this campus in years. While Rolnick and Huntington may have been correct that the takeover was illegal and not the best way to solve the problems facing the university or of Hinman, their popularity in Hinman suffered considerably and the power of HCC was severely questioned. Some the gains they had made during their fight over vouchers with the SA were lost with their condemnation of the student protestors.

As the Spring 1976 semester neared to a close one Hinmanite, Steve Gersh, did come to the aid of Sy Rolnick by publishing an letter in the Hinman Halitosis praising him for all the hard work he had done.
Before we all go off on our merry ways for vacation, there is something we all should do. I don’t mean harvest those plants that Mom wouldn’t want to see. I don’t mean put the bong in storage. I think what we all ought to do is thank ol’ Sy Rolnick for a job very well done. For those of you a bit behind on Hinman current events, Sy is President of our elite little college. He served as Social V.P. in the fall, and last Spring. Sy is the most unselfish person I have met here. There is no one willing to give more to his fellow students, while getting nothing in return.

When Sy took over the job of President in January, I believe that he thought it would be easier than being Social V.P. It would have been for someone else, but not for Sy. When he found that his Social V.P. was having a difficult time getting the job done, Sy basically just took over. In effect he was both social V.P. and President at the same time. He directed the semi-formal and cleaned up until five in the morning, all alone. He runs co-rec basketball and has been involved in every other social, academic, and political event in Hinman College this semester.

It is Sy’s nature to be generous and friendly. Some say that he is foolish to do so when he receives nothing in return. I don’t understand why he does it either. Perhaps it is just his personality. Sy is a giver, not a taker. We are most fortunate to have him here. We owe him much. Without him, life in Hinman would be nothing like it is. I try to appreciate what Sy has done and I thank him. I wish that you would also. He certainly deserves that and more, much more.

Sy Rolnick deserved this accolade. More than any other HCC President before him, he had worked through overwhelming odds and had done everything in his power to make HCC a better organization and Hinman a better place to live. The close of the tumultuous 1975-1976 academic year was hopefully the close of a troubling chapter in the history of HCC.

The following year opened up with great expectations on the part of regular Hinmanites and those who ran the student government. Sy Rolnick began the year with an open letter to all of Hinman. The letter read in part:

The Executive Committee of Hinman College will be meeting and planning in the next week and is looking forward to improving on last year’s performance. Many activities are already in the planning stages, but we, as the Executive Committee, cannot do it alone. We need help to make sure all projects are successfully carried out. Last semester, there was a lot of disappointment in terms of help, and hindered our programs both socially and academically. I hope that this semester, with the aid of the new students in Hinman and those returning, that we are able to bring about a change in this. If everyone would just devote a little of his or her time and participate in Hinman affairs, not by just coming to events but by serving on committees or lending a hand at various functions,
then a lot more will be accomplished and more can be planned. A little effort on everyone’s part can make this coming year a most enjoyable one.

For those coming to Hinman from high school, other campuses and other places on this campus, I would like to extend an extra special greeting and give a brief background on life in Hinman. Hinman has taken great pride in being the most innovative of the on-campus colleges. Activities initiated here have included co-rec football and basketball, Little Theater, Supper Club, Hinman Follies, semi-formals, a trip to Monticello Raceway, and speidies and beer party on the patio. Hinman has also been a leader in the establishment of credit courses such as Law and the Family, freshmen-sophomore seminars and others. In the area of non-credit courses, we have been innovative with gourmet cooking, horticultural [sic], exercising and ballet…

…I just hope everyone will make some effort to get involved in Hinman activities. It does little good to sit on the sidelines and complain, give us some help and, hopefully, you will be able to improve Hinman life. I promise you will have a good time and gain satisfaction by participating…

Paul Caruso, the HCC Social Vice President, also extended his request for participation.

This coming fall term promises to be both innovative and exciting in terms of the social activities available to the students living in Hinman.

To take steps so the social wishes of the students are heard, now Hinman has an elected social committee [sic]. These two members of each dorm will report to their respective dorm’s meetings about what the social committee [sic] is planning to do. Students make suggestions to the social reps concerning events they would like to see take place in Hinman…

As in all previous years, the HCC E-Board was begging people to get involved. During the course of the semester there would be some programs that were successful and there would also be much student apathy. When election time came around Sy Rolnick, the incumbent President, decided to run again. His campaign promised that effective leadership was what was needed to make Hinman great again.

…The position of Hinman President is very important to the success of Hinman social life, academic life and collegiate policies. In the past year, as President I have attempted to represent the interests of Hinman students and to better the college. I feel that to be a successful President, one has to give the time, be prepared to sacrifice part of your social life, part of your studies and maintain a close relationship with the staff and administration. I have tried to keep in contact with people from all dorms and listen to what they are thinking and want done. We have accomplished a lot and will continue to
accomplish things. We will continue to fight for our individual autonomy, we will attempt to improve the social life and we will attempt to do what is desired by Hinmanites…An issue in my running is that I will only be here one semester and the job is a year’s position, but what is the matter with this? The job should be done by somebody willing to give the time no matter what their semester standing and I have proven in the past that I will give this time. I will not leave the college without a trained President, but if I win we will hold elections early enough for the new person to be trained. Also, you want experience and somebody concerned, not a person who is doing this job with an ulterior motive. I feel you have to consider all this at voting time. I know over the past three years here I have made friends and enemies but I think when it comes to an election you should put this in the back of your mind and vote on past accomplishment and experience…

Rolnick and the E-Board had another challenge to face besides the elections. During this time smoking was allowed in the dining halls. Rolnick along Hinman’s SA representative, John Huntington, petitioned and eventually were able to ban smoking inside the Hinman Dining Hall. Shortly thereafter the other dining halls on campus followed suit. The hope was that HCC could continue the streak of accomplishment in the spring semester.

A crisis hit the entire Hinman community early in the spring semester when without any reason or notice, mail service virtually ceased. HCC decided to form a special Postal Committee to investigate the issue. After two weeks the committee members were finally able to get in contact with the proper authorities. John M. Adams, the chief supply clerk at the Campus Post Office, informed the committee that the reason behind the nearly nonexistent postal service in Hinman was that in an effort to save money work-study students were hired to deliver the mail. The students, who had classes and examinations at all different times, were unable to deliver the mail as regularly as the usual full-time staffers could. “According to Mr. Adams ‘Students don’t always get to the mail on time because of classes and examinations. And, sometimes they don’t come in and don’t bother telling us, until it’s too late to get a replacement.” After HCC applied pressure to the proper authorities, mail delivery improved greatly.
Following the post office fiasco, another issue was brought before HCC’s attention: the unionization of students. Many students on campus felt that the Student Association was ineffectual in dealing with their problems and a new organization, the Student Union, should be introduced to deal with the problem. President Rolnick was in favor of the organization. Rolnick, like many others, believed that the SA was too bureaucratic and no longer represented the students well. However, he also stated that if a new Student Union should come into existence, it should be moderate. Gabe Yankowitz, while not against the Student Union, believed that it really was not necessary. While certain issues such as the allocation of money (such as the freeze on funds imposed on Hinman by the SA) and property rights (the university had been trying to confiscate Hinman land to make a parking lot) would be addressed by the new organization, the major belief among the student body was that the Student Union would really just be duplicating the role of the SA. 

The Pomerantz Administration

So ended that academic year and so began the 1977-1978 year. Newly elected HCC President Eric Pomerantz wrote this letter to the *Hinman Halitosis*, like his predecessors before him, to encourage student activity within Hinman.

Hi! My name is Eric Pomerantz and as President of Hinman College I would like to welcome both new and returning students to another year of Hinman life. Hinman is, I feel, quite unique throughout the University. This is due to the large number of activities that bring Hinman students together to form our community. The Hinman Student Government plays a large role in coordinating these activities and getting things started. This year we have many dedicated people working to keep Hinman tops as the place to be, but we can always use more help…

Pomerantz, like the previous Presidents of HCC appealed to the students in Hinman to step up and become future leaders. However, Pomerantz would have his work cut out for him in this and
in other areas of Hinman life. There had certainly been many great HCC Presidents. The previous President, Sy Rolnick, was one example. Each and every one of them played a major role in trying to make Hinman a better place and worked harder than any other student to do so. However, while many of the previous Presidents would have to deal mostly with such internal problems as student apathy, Pomerantz would, to paraphrase Shakespeare, have greatness thrust upon him. In the coming months Pomerantz would deal with what amounted to a seemingly unending series of crises, and in the end he would take on the greatest, most feared enemy of all: the SUNY Binghamton administration.

Scandal quickly struck Pomerantz and HCC shortly after Hinman’s annual Oktoberfest celebration. Besides the German cuisine and plentiful stores of beer, typically a traditional German Oomph-pah band would be hired to play music during the program. However, this year no band was hired, much to the dismay of many Hinmanites who had come to expect live music. Angry insults began to be hurled at certain student government individuals who were charged with gross dereliction of duty by not hiring the band. To put the rumors to rest and to restore order, Pomerantz quickly explained the situation in an open letter to the members of the Hinman community. Pomerantz explained that no one person was responsible for the lack of a band. He went on to say that the issue was brought up before the Social Committee and the chairperson suggested a plan to finance the band. That plan would require each building in Hinman to donate some money from their own funds for the band and was brought back to each individual hall. Not a single hall reported back on whether they liked the plan or not. With no funding secured for the band, none was hired. Pomerantz ended his letter by stating, “Any false rumors implicating a person or single dorm for there not being a band are totally erroneous and I hope that they quickly cease. On behalf of Hinman College, I apologize for the inconvenience and
pain suffered by anyone due to false rumors. More controversy struck when HCC decided to not put up money for the two and a half kegs of beer which would be the grand prize for the Co-Rec Super Bowl. In an effort to quell the anger brewing from the student body towards HCC, the Hinman Halitosis editorial staff wrote this article in defense of HCC.

It’s about time. There is now 2 weeks until Thanksgiving and 5 ½ weeks until the end of the semester and finally there is no violently radical issues to be solved. Between the band (or lack of one) at Oktoberfest to the kegs of beer for Co-Rec, Hinman Council, and for that matter, the Hinman student body has seemed to be pre-occupied with the above matters.

The Oktoberfest incident was brought up at Hinman Council and nothing more was said. Rumors were started that it was an individual(s) fault or a dorm’s fault. These rumors were started because of a misunderstanding between 2 people. The incident was explained in a letter by the president of Hinman, Eric Pomerantz.

The arguments for and against the kegs were fast and furious and many good points were brought out. For whatever reasons, there were no kegs as a prize, or during the game.

These issues seem to have changed Hinman from a group of people working and living together, to five separate dorms with hardly any co-operation between them. Without the dorms co-operating, nothing will get accomplished. If there was more co-operation, there may have been a keg and a band at Oktoberfest.

Hinman Council also has spent much of its time arguing and has not been a very together unit. There has been much heated debate and fighting over these issues and many unkind things have been said.

These issues are now over. Everyone still has their opinions on the issues and that won’t change. It is time, however, for the dorms and Hinman Council to join together and start working for the college and make Hinman College the leader in SUNY/B [sic] colleges that it has been in the past.

HCC had had its share of issues that semester, just as it had in the previous years. HCC needed a successful program in order to revitalize its image. They lucked out that year with the highly successful Hinman Semi-Formal. The only complaint stemming from the Semi-Formal was the band, which only played “low quality disco music.” Otherwise the program was highly successful, well attended and a boon for HCC and for Hinman.

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11 See the chapter on Co-Rec Football for more information on this topic.
HCC took a stand that year against some of the deplorable acts happening just before the start of winter break. In Hughes Hall, a Christmas Tree that had been on display on the first floor on the north side of the building. In addition, many residents of Hinman (and other communities) were going into the Nature Preserve to cut down trees in an effort to save money. HCC unanimously passed a resolution calling for this practice to cease partly because it was environmentally unsound, but also because it hurt the business of professional Christmas tree growers. In their resolution, HCC stated, “It is absolutely contrary to the holiday spirit, showing a total disregard for those who enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the Preserve. The Council finds equally reprehensible the theft of a tree from the floor lounge of one dorm over the past weekend. The stealing of Christmas trees, whether from fellow students, merchants, or public State property cannot and should not be excused.” HCC had spoken for the residents of Hinman College. No amount of Scrooges would hurt the holiday spirit of Hinman. As problematic as these challenges were in the early part of the Eric Pomerantz Administration, nothing would compare to what was about to come. What was to happen next would be, by far, the greatest challenge that HCC had ever faced up until that point.

In January of 1979, New York Governor Hugh Carey proposed legislation that would earmark $71,000 for building new parking lots and expanding existing ones on the SUNY Binghamton campus. Parking spaces (or the lack thereof) had been a contentious issue at that time and in many ways still is today. The main source of contention came from students, staff and faculty who commuted to campus and had to fight tooth and nail for a parking space. Just about everyone agreed that there were inadequate areas for parking on campus. Many on campus students, especially those interested in environmental causes, saw this proposal as nothing short of the administration quite literally paving over paradise and putting up a parking
lot. They also cited irreversible environmental damage, such as poor drainage and hazardous runoff, which would occur if these large parking lots proposed by the administration were constructed. What would raise the ire of those in Hinman and consequently those in HCC was that one of the largest parking lots was to be constructed on the land between Hinman and CIW. If Hinmanites were divided over issues such as a lack of kegs at Co-Rec Weekend and a poor music selection at the Semi-Formal, they now rallied behind one another and prepared for an all out war to save their land from the clutches of the university administration and their bulldozers.

In late January, Vice President for Facilities and Operations Walter R. May (who was also chairman of the Parking Advisory Committee) met with HCC to discuss the plans for construction of the 525 space parking lot adjacent to Hinman. He also stated the intentions of converting all but three current parking lots (CIW East, Bingham, and Smith lots) to commuter parking lots. This designation would essentially forbid on campus residents from parking their cars overnight in these lots during the week. Members of HCC stated that no student, whether they lived on or off campus would be served by the new parking lot because university civil service workers and faculty would arrive on campus long before students and use up all the spaces. HCC Academic Vice President Laurie Cohen argued that on-campus students were entitled to parking spaces, since they were considered tenants of the university. May argued that residents of the university were not guaranteed parking spaces and that all parking on campus was on a first-come first-serve basis. The meeting ended with HCC unhappy about the projected outcome of the project. The members of Hinman College Council felt that instead of listening to their concerns the administration was simply relaying to them what they were already planning to do. The meeting concluded with HCCers feeling even more ill at ease and realizing that they had to do something in order to protect the valuable open space between Hinman and
CIW. Knowing that it would be an uphill battle all the way, President Eric Pomerantz prepared for an all-out war against the administration.

Heated and contested debates surrounding the parking lot issue were huge all across campus that semester, and especially in Hinman, with Eric Pomerantz leading the charge to defeat the measures. Almost immediately after the issue of the expansion of parking on campus, Pomerantz set about to researching the issue. First off, he went to University Security to find out how many parking spaces were in each lot presently on campus. Next, he went to the Personnel Office where he acquired the number of full-time workers on campus. After evaluating this information, he found that in no way would students benefit from any additional commuter parking lots. He found that these lots would only benefit only faculty and staff who arrived early before regular students. Armed with this information, Pomerantz approached the Parking Advisory Committee and after sharing his newfound information with them, asked that they consider some alternatives to the commuter lot proposal. The committee refused. Not to be deterred, Pomerantz then went to OCC, the SA and every residential college to drum up support for his cause. Every one of them agreed to stand behind him, with the exception of Newing College. When plans to construct new parking lots were being pushed through, Pomerantz again went to the Parking Advisory Committee with a new plan. This plan called for a parking lottery that would help alleviate the problem of parking on campus. The committee refused to accept his idea, stating that it would be unfeasible. Lesser men would give up, but Pomerantz continued his drive to halt the construction of new parking lots and the conversion of existing lots over to commuter lots. He brought the issue up at a SUNY Binghamton Council meeting, a meeting that was supposed to rule on the issue. He watched heartbroken as the council tabled the issue for a month. In a last-ditch effort, he stated a petition drive and an aggressive media campaign, with a
storm of letters to the editor published in *Pipe Dream* against the construction of new parking lots.\textsuperscript{ccclxxxix}

The number of letters to the editor concerning the parking lot issue was astounding. Perhaps no single issue in the history of SUNY Binghamton mobilized the student body as did the parking lot controversies of 1978. An editorial in *Pipe Dream* in support of the parking lots was featured in the February 7, 1978 issue of the newspaper. The editorial read in part:

…All things considered, mass transit has become a better investment than parking lots…however [that] is not what the Governor prescribed. Rejecting the money as a protest against the automobile would be a senseless gesture. The automobile is here to stay, and it needs a place to park.

So the question comes down to: do we want more parking lots, and if we do, who should be allowed to park in them? Given all the numbers we’ve heard about vehicle to available space ratios, it’s safe to say that new parking lots certainly couldn’t hurt the situation. And if Walter May…is to be believed, construction of the two new lots…would not hurt the campus environment…In any case, though, in times of retrenchment and steady state one takes what one gets. The University should, when granted legislative approval, proceed with the lots—somewhere…\textsuperscript{ccxc}

Not everyone was as accepting of the parking lot proposal as the editorial staff of *Pipe Dream*. Dozens upon dozens of letters were fired off to the newspaper condemning its stance and issue of constructing more parking lots. One letter in particular summed up the feelings of many on the parking lot issue.

…Spending a million dollars for the construction of 900 parking spaces will create more problems than answers. The location and impact on the environment are potential controversies, but even though even though this project does not appear to cost the University any money, it is going to cost this campus valuable resources down the line.

I hope you and everyone else are aware that unless the State increased the University’s budget to maintain those parking lots, time, energy, and money will come out of the already meager maintenance and security budgets…

Where would you divert existing funds to pay for lighting, increased security patrols, plowing, repaving, etc? I’d hate to see maintenance services on this campus become watered down because they’ve had to increase their responsibilities and yet have received no increase in their budget…
…I’ve been a proponent of open parking on this campus since 1970…Open parking is the fairest, most equitable manner of parking. There were reserved parking lots for commuters, residents, and faculty/staff before 1971 and they caused much bitterness. If there is a cause to be fought for concerning parking on the campus, let it be over the plight of people with disabilities…

Environmental issues were on the minds of many students at Binghamton as this one letter suggests:

…just glance around where the proposed lots will be built. You’ll find empty space, dotted with trees and covered at the moment with snow. Nothing spectacular, just a nice place to walk through or throw a Frisbee. The sight becomes spectacular when we realize we might have in that same place in the future—377 cars. We must learn to appreciate these patches of nature before they are paved over. I’m not saying don’t build new lots—I am saying that if we must have increased parking facilities, let’s exercise caution before about where we put them.

These are just a few examples of dozens upon dozens of letters that were published in the *Pipe Dream*. The parking lot controversy galvanized students like nothing had before. Unlike the takeover of the Administration building, where proactive student action was taken, the parking lot controversy was fought mostly with meetings with administrators and letters in what some would call a more civilized discourse. However one wants to describe it, the parking lot controversy brought forth a form of student action which was led by one of Hinman’s own. Hinman had a huge stake in the parking lot issue. Not only would what was considered Hinman land be affected, many of the key players in the debate were Hinmanites, including the President of HCC, Eric Pomerantz.

In the end what would become the paid parking lot would be built between CIW and Hinman as would the additional lots proposed by the Parking Advisory Committee. It was also the beginning of the end for much of the open space on campus. The area behind Hinman unofficially known as Sinisi Park, which was a grassy area with trees that had become a popular recreational area for Hinmanites, was eventually paved over to make Lot M and M1, two more
massive parking lots. There was a small victory in that not every lot was made into a commuter lot. Some of the parking areas were still designated for on-campus drivers. While to many this victory may have seemed hollow in the overall scheme of things and the entire battle may have felt like a defeat, the reality was rather different. While it is true that Eric Pomerantz and the rest of HCC were unable to attain all of their goals, they did something that no other community had the gusto to do: stand up to the administration demanding equal rights for on campus students. HCC was the driving force behind those fighting for the parking rights and open space on campus. While they may not have achieved all their goals, everyone involved in the fight, especially Eric Pomerantz, went well above and beyond the call of duty. That action in and of itself is a victory. They took HCC which for over a decade had been troubled by student apathy and had the reputation for not getting anything done, and came close to achieving the impossible. What the parking lot controversies of 1978 did for Hinman College was give HCC a reputation for getting things done and fighting for the rights of not just residents of Hinman College, but for every student living on campus.

Though HCC left off on a positive note the previous year, the 1978-1979 academic year began with the same problems of student disinterest and. A rather tongue-in-cheek article appeared in one of that year’s first issues of Hinman Halitosis making fun of the rather poorly attended HCC meetings.

It has recently been brought to this reporter’s attention that Hinman College has a Council, a group of people who do government-like things, or, rather had a Council. No one has sighted any group resembling a college government since school started. Even more peculiarly, no one seems to care. It is rumored that there is a group of approximately thirty people who appear each Monday in various dorm lounges to mummer among themselves. However, informed opinion has it that the group is actually an Anti-Monday Night Football League which congregates to decry video violence.

Many Hinman veterans remember a government operating in years past. Some claim that it did actually perform a valuable function. On the strength of this testimony I tried
to contact Derrick Pomerants [sic], said to have run the group in the past. Pomerants [sic], unfortunately, could not be reached for comment.

Dr. Allan Eller, College Coordinator, states that there is indeed supposed to be such an organization. He was unsure as to its current status, “but” he said, “I sure would like to have Monday night free for football!”

As tongue-in-cheek as the article may have been, it did offer a sobering reminder to the residents of Hinman that HCC was important and that it played an important role in each and every one of their lives.

Residents of Hinman soon found out just how important HCC was to their lives. On Friday, October 20, 1978, fire broke out in Lehman Hall. The fire, which would consume most of the first floor on the A-side of the building, was the most devastating fire in Hinman history and in the history of the university. During this time, HCC continually acted as an advocate for the students of Hinman, and especially for the displaced residents of Lehman Hall. HCC and its leadership would help traumatized Hinmanites through what was undoubtedly the most traumatic event in the History of Hinman College.12

During the course of the year, HCC managed the inner workings of Hinman College and provided much needed services to Hinmanites. Unfortunately, little is written about the events that transpired that year other than the organization of the I Love [heart symbol in place in the word love] Vito campaign. Faculty Master Vito Sinisi was up for reinstatement as Master and a successful campaign was run to keep him in the position. On a less flattering note, the Hinman Social Committee was harshly criticized for the poor showing at their end of the year party on the quad.

…Although last Saturday was a sunny, breezy, and warm spring day, an ideal day for outdoor activities, only a small group of Hinman residents participated in the afternoon’s festivities. Why didn’t the majority of Hinman residents come out and enjoy the weather? Was it because all Hinman residents, excluding those who did show up and

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12 See the chapter on the Lehman Hall Fire for more information on this topic.
exhibit their frisbee [sic] skills at the tune of “Down with the Jocks”, [sic] were nerding out in the libraries? No. The main reason for the poor turnout of the event is simply that the members of Hinman Social Committee failed to perform tasks that they’ve been elected to perform—to organize and promote social events that are congenial to the taste of Hinman residents.

The HSC failed to do its job in two ways. First, it’s [sic] public promotion of the party was utterly inadequate. The committee made no special effort beside writing in [sic] article in Halitosis, to inform Hinman residents of the party. Not a single sign was posted on the dining hall or any other buildings in the college. Consequently, a great number of Hinman residents didn’t even know that there was “another day of Sun anFun” [sic] on Saturday, May 5. Secondly the Committee neglected [sic] its duty to serve the entire Hinman population by turning the afternoon’s activity into a “Dead” music show rather than a musical event designed to appeal to the diverse musical taste of Hinman residents. Considering the fact that the purpose of the party was to provide entertainment for the entire Hinman population, the afternoons [sic] music should have varied from hard rock to disco to soft folk music. By playing only “Dead” music, the committee fulfilled its commitment to a small minority of Hinman residents who do not come for “Dead” music.

Last Saturday could have been a day of “Sun and Fun” for the entire Hinman population. However, Hinman Social Committee’s inadequate promotion and irresponsible planning of the event have turned the afternoon of “Sun and Fun” into a semi-private party for a small number of Hinman residents. It is our sincere hope that inefficient and irresponsible manner in which Hinman Social Committee will not be repeated in any of the committee’s future endeavors.

With this, the 1978-1979 academic year ended on a relatively sour note for HCC. Though they had been highly successful in orchestrating the I Love Vito campaign and in being an advocate and source of information for the residents of Hinman after the Lehman Hall fire, the same problems that had affected them since the beginning were still plaguing them now. To the outside observer, HCC was an organization that was in desperate straits, while the reality may not have been that bad, and most certainly it was not all doom and gloom. However, the record (or lack thereof) tends to report only the defeats suffered by HCC and the problems facing them. It is important to recognize that HCC as an organization was still working tirelessly in the best interest of the student body of Hinman and regardless of the adversity it faced it was still positively affecting the lives of average Hinmanites.
The Horowitz Administration

Following up as President of HCC was be Joel Horowitz. Joel had entered Hinman as a freshman and quickly became involved in all activities related to Hinman. During his freshmen year he was a Dorm Representative for Roosevelt Hall. His sophomore year he moved to Hughes Hall and became the Social Vice President of Hinman. During the next election he successfully won the presidency of HCC. As noted earlier, the terms of office at this time ran from January until December and in a late February issue of Halitosis this is what Joel wrote concerning the overall state of Hinman College:

To Hinman College Residents,

Well, it’s 3 weeks into the semester and Hinman Council started the semester off right with a good performance by Tim Malchak. Last Friday was Hinman’s Valentines Day Party, held in Smith Hall. Dr. Battin’s discussion on cancer research was well attended, as well as being informative. And what about housing? Well after approximately 400 students showed up to complain about losing the floor lounges, a committee was set-up to meet with Vice-President Woodard and Ed O’Connor, head of housing. Right now we are waiting for their response to a proposed rec-room conversion. How about rectangular tables in the dining hall? They may be a reality when we come back after the Spring break.

So why am I writing this in the Halitosis? Because there are a lot of events being planned and we need your help! Without you there will not be a semi-formal or follies or non-credit courses. Without you to participate and get involved there is no reason to have these committees at all. So get involved! If we all work together, we can make Hinman a mirror image of our wants and needs.

Although coverage may have been lacking in this and in other areas of Hinman life at the time, one area that was a source of much contention was the university’s proposal to convert the building’s rec rooms (which today are better known as the study lounges) and all the floor lounges into additional housing. The university was planning on increasing enrollment and before additional housing could be constructed the university was planning on tripling students and converting the rec rooms and floor lounges into interim bedrooms. HCC believed that this
would be detrimental to the lives of most residents residing in Hinman and decided to voice their anger and frustrations at the university. An editorial published in the *Hinman Halitosis* made the issues at stake clear to everyone. The article stated that the seven people who would be housed in the converted lounges would most likely be detached from the overall social life of the building, and in addition it would be uncomfortable to live in.\textsuperscript{ccxcvi}

The university administration was unwilling to compromise. HCC along with the rest of the residents of Hinman viewed the administration as doing whatever they pleased and not taking student’s input into consideration. With talks between HCC and administration officials going nowhere fast, the largest and most provocative demonstration in Hinman College history was about to occur. Afterwards the Hinman Housing Steering Committee drafted a number of proposals that HCC could vote on. One proposal would create a single room in each floor lounge (for the floor’s RA) thereby opening up the RA’s room for two students. Another proposal called for tripling 90 upperclassmen and over half of the incoming freshmen. All five buildings of Hinman overwhelming voted down both proposals. With the administration pushing forward with the ideas anyway, many regular Hinmanites saw no other option than to protest. On Friday, March 21, 1980, over 250 Hinmanites stormed the Hinman Dining Hall and performed a sit-in to protest the housing issue on campus. This demonstration shocked not only the administration, but the entire campus community as well. The sit-in was organized by a few Lehman Hall residents and supported by HCC.\textsuperscript{ccxcvii} That day was picked because only the Hinman and Newing Dining Halls were open at that hour and therefore the sit-in would seriously disrupt meal service for that day. The sit-in organizers hoped this would give them publicity for their cause. Almost immediately the university administration came in to discuss matters with the protestors. Vice President for Finance and Management Edward J. Demske and Vice
President for Student Services Doug Woodard came to answer questions and to negotiate with the students. For four hours the student protestors debated the university’s position and made it clear their distaste for the state of affairs in student housing at SUNY Binghamton. In the end, the matter ended peacefully with the administrators agreeing to reconsider some of their previous positions and to take into account the views of the students. Duane Wanty, one of the sit-in organizers, summed up the feelings of most of the protestors when he said, “‘It’ll be their decision, not ours. This was an exercise in our right to protest…just to show for the record, if nothing else, that Hinman was dead-set against it and yet the administration did not listen to us.’”

While Coordinator Al Eller and Faculty Master Vito Sinisi publicly took a neutral position, behind-the-scenes they were secretly supporting the student protestors. Diane Castiglione (maiden name Fischer) remembers this event and the role that Vito Sinisi played in it. “Vito was all for it [the sit-in]. He was all about confronting the administration. Vito had gone to grad school in Berkley so he was brought up in that environment of student action and protest. He always told us to speak up and present our views and to always challenge authority.” Vito’s position and feelings on the issue could also have been held over from his days of crusading against the administration to preserve collegiate structure. Vito Sinisi was a man unafraid to challenge authority and to rattle the cages of the SUNY Binghamton administration. Vito secretly was proud of the Hinmanites who participated in the sit-in.

Following the sit-in Vito penned a final recommendation regarding housing in Hinman. He recommended that as a temporary solution, a bedroom should be constructed on the floor lounge of the first floor of each building, but that the second and third floors should remain as they were. He also recommended that the rec room of each building should be refitted to house students.
He also proposed that the Hinman staff would be consulted before these recommendations were put into effect and that tripling on the first floors would be kept to a minimum.

The results of the sit-in were mixed. The administration went ahead and converted the floor lounges into extra bedrooms. They had promised that this would only be a temporary solution until a more permanent one could be found. The reality was that for years and years afterwards, the floor lounges retained this extra room. Housing problems would be an issue that would continually resurface in Hinman and the rest of the SUNY Binghamton campus. Tripling would be a problem well into the new millennium. Even with the construction of Mountainview College in 2003, the ugly specter of a housing crunch continues to loom as more halls are designated as break housing. The proposal to completely demolish and rebuild Dickinson and Newing will undoubtedly continue to fuel the housing troubles. In the fall of 2007, Binghamton University Residential Life announced that tripling on campus would occur again. Thankfully, tripling will not occur in Hinman.

Another contentious issue that arose during this time resulted in the changes in the management of the Hinman Halitosis newsletter. Since 1971, when Bob Giomi started the newsletter as a way to advertise programs, social happenings, and events in Hinman, the Hinman Halitosis had been managed by Hinman staffer. The first managing and publishing editor of the paper was of course its creator, Bob Giomi. By 1980 this responsibility had passed to Jane Warren, Hinman’s Student Services Coordinator. This person would largely be in charge of the content that went into the paper. Many students who worked on the paper saw this position as unnecessary, that the students themselves could run the paper independently. They also cited that Halitosis was the only student-run paper on campus with staff oversight. The staff of the
paper went before HCC and for over forty-five minutes debated the merits of eliminating staff
oversight. In the end the council voted ten to four to retain the current set-up of the paper.\textsuperscript{13}

So ended another year full of trials and tribulations for HCC. However, the year would
end on a relatively positive note. At the end of the year, Joel Horowitz thought that it would be a
good idea to recognize in some way graduating seniors who had showed outstanding
commitment and excellence in Hinman life. Joel, along with others, came up with an idea to
create a sort of wall of fame in the Hinman Library. They would call it the Den of Distinction
Award. The name comes from the fact that there is a small anteroom or den for the Hinman
Library, and that where they envisioned exhibiting the names the award winners. Later they
decided to create another award, this one called the Harvey D. Hinman Award. The Den of
Distinction Award would be awarded to a number of individuals who displayed enthusiasm and
dedication in any one area of Hinman life, and the Harvey D. Hinman Award would be presented
to the individual who would show enthusiasm and dedication in multiple areas of Hinman life.
That year Keith Martin Balter, Susan L. Cohen, Steve Klein, and Heidi A. Stern would be the
first recipients of the Den of Distinction Award. The winner of the first annual Harvey D.
Hinman award would be Joel Horowitz (he was not on the selection committee for the award) for
all the years of hard work and dedication he had put into bettering Hinman life.\textsuperscript{ccciii}

HCC had come a long way that semester. It had seen issues stemming from student
apathy to major student protest to the potential restructuring of Hinman’s sole newsletter. It also
saw the creation of the Den of Distinction and Harvey D. Hinman Awards, the Oscars of the
Hinman world, which would be given out to deserving graduating seniors every year thereafter.

\textsuperscript{13} For more information on this issue see the chapter on Hinman Publications.
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). 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.

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. 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.

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14 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.\textsuperscript{cccvii}

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.

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. 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.

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.

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 Woodsies 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

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15 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.

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 dispensed 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 mantel of leadership of HCC.
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. 

The Fischer Administration

Besides Fischer as HCC President, Rochelle Benjamin would be the Academic VP, Elizabeth Reingold would be Social VP, Treasurer would fall to Sue Schneyman. It was also noted that perpetual Halitosis mascot Hermann Worm (AKA Herm the Worm)\textsuperscript{16} and John and Heidi Kowalchyk’s (RD’s of Roosevelt Hall) dog Timber were all write-in candidates. The Fall semester ended with the leadership of HCC being left in very good hands. The 1981 Spring semester looked very bright indeed.

The Spring semester started off on a somewhat sour note. For reasons unknown, Hinman finances were in a mess. Apparently, Hinman owed a number of groups close to $700. President Fischer assured everyone that the matter would be taken care of quickly. On a more positive note, that very same meeting of HCC saw a very special guest make an appearance. Pete Gruber, the very first Faculty Master of Hinman (who had earlier left the Mastership to accept a job as an assistant to SUNY Binghamton President Clark), came to the meeting to discuss a proposal. Gruber proposed that the Hinman Collegiate Center (the Hinman Library and Hinman Commons building) be renamed the Nelson A. Rockefeller Collegiate Center. Gruber explained that this

\textsuperscript{16} See the chapter on Hinman Publications for further details.
would be in keeping with naming the buildings in Hinman after New York State governors.\textsuperscript{cccxvi} What Gruber did not mention to HCC that night was that the plan to change the name was not simply to honor former Governor Rockefeller for all his work and contributions to the SUNY system. Renaming the collegiate center after Rockefeller would even the balance of the political parties represented by the buildings (Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Evans Hughes, and Nelson Rockefeller were Republicans, Grover Cleveland, Alfred Smith, and Herbert Lehman were Democrats). The hope of Gruber and President Clifford Clark was that Rockefeller would be flattered by the gesture and donate money to the university. They also hoped that Republicans in the New York State Assembly and Senate would earmark more funds to the SUNY system because of this gesture. In the end their efforts were futile. Rockefeller donated no funds to Binghamton and Albany sent no additional money to the university, in fact they wound up cutting the SUNY budgets even more.\textsuperscript{cccxvii} Still, HCC voted overwhelming to rename the Collegiate Center after Rockefeller.\textsuperscript{cccxviii}

Not everyone was happy with the name change. A former HCC President and editor of the *Hinman Halitosis*, Jim Bachman wrote an opinion piece sharing his disappointment with the name change.

I am writing this in response to the go-ahead vote given by the Hinman College Council on Monday night, February 2\textsuperscript{nd}, for the renaming of the commons area. I for one am appalled and angered at their approval for a variety of reasons. First of all, those elected to the Hinman College Council are supposed to represent the wished of the Hinman residential population. But did that meeting’s 15-0 vote with only two abstentions, in favor of the proposed name change reflect any input from the majority of Hinman College? How could it have when it was not first brought back to the dorms for discussion before taking any action, as normal procedure entails. Or am I to believe those council members gave their acquiescence were acting upon some prior divination of the opinions of their constituency, namely us. If this was so, and I certainly was never aware of their extra-sensory powers, possibly their talents could be put to better use elsewhere. Indeed, if it seems that those responsible for such actions are likely to repeat similar moves, perhaps it \textit{would} be best overall if they found positions elsewhere.
Granted, some might say, there was a degree of irresponsibility shown at the meeting, but why get so hot under the collar about the issue itself. Simple. There is an additional reason for my annoyance. This centers on a dreadful trend which I see on campus of concentrating upon naming or renaming of something rather than concentrating upon making contributions to its qualitative growth. Examples? How about the naming our main Library, The Glenn G. Bartle Library. A nice thing to do except that it will increasingly have troubles obtaining new books in spite of its illustrious late namesake. Or how about the renaming of Campus Security “ULED”, a truly impressive acronym of the type we Americans seem to delight in. Yet, in reality merely a change of uniform for a bunch of frustrated cops who seem to thrive upon writing out ten foot tickets to roll up and stuff down the unsuspecting throat rather than actively pursuing an investigation of the theft of your room-mates [sic] stereo. And finally, of course, we have this latest development in Hinman in particular. Of course Rockefeller contributed significantly to the growth of this campus. But why be pretentious in renaming our own collegiate “A” and “B” building complex “The Nelson A. Rockefeller Collegiate Center”? Unless of course this is some prelude to a preconceived plan of growth for our Library and the addition of new facilities for student use, something I see as extremely unlikely.

But didn’t someone once say “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet”? Maybe so, but in this case the whole issue of renaming the Commons area reeks [sic] of administrative meddling, and typifies the impotency of the whole system to contribute to any appreciable growth as of late on this campus. Seriously, what is Hinman’s real chance for getting monies from the Rockefellers if we rename some relatively small-time structures for one of their clan, especially when they haven’t seemed too concerned as of late with SUNY-Binghamton in general? Wouldn’t it be a better use of everyone’s time if we concentrated upon freeing the restrictions against new construction at Binghamton, say for instance in the case of a graduate complex? Then maybe there could be a Rockefeller center on campus of which we could all be proud and which would be a fitting tribute to and a reminder of the man so responsible for our initial period of qualitative growth.

The points raised by Bachman’s letter were sound ones. The renaming of the collegiate center was simply a political move on the part of the university administration to try to secure more funds from Albany and from the Rockefeller family in particular. In the end simply changing the name accomplished nothing. The expansion of facilities, which was desperately needed, would not be accomplished through a name change alone. Still, the name change went ahead and to this day the Hinman Library and Hinman Commons buildings are collectively known by the university as the Nelson A. Rockefeller Collegiate Center or the Rockefeller Center for short.

17 Campus Security became University Law Enforcement Division (ULED) which eventually became University Police.
On a somewhat humorous note, this name change has made life incredibly difficult, especially on new students during the first week of classes. Classrooms in the Hinman Commons building are given the designation RC (for Rockefeller Center). However, most students know the building only as the Hinman Commons. Many students wander around aimlessly searching for their classrooms, sometimes ending up in the study abroad office which is located in the basement of the Hinman Library. The study abroad office is usually given the designation as being in the Rockefeller Center, so sometimes student will go there in search of their classrooms. To this day, over two decades later, students, both old and new, informed and uniformed, from Hinman or from other residential colleges, continually seek out the Rockefeller Center only to hit dead ends by going into the wrong building. Perhaps that is the true legacy of Nelson A. Rockefeller and his collegiate center: perpetually lost and frustrated college students.

The following week, the search for the missing $700 continued. Apparently due to an accounting error, HCC was told that they had more money than they really had, therefore HCC overspent. A concerned HCCer, known in the record as only Bob from Roosevelt, called for an ad hoc committee to be formed to investigate the matter further. The HCC Treasurer went on to state that she reallocated funds from the individual buildings to give to other groups because the halls could raise money easier than the groups could. The Finance Committee agreed to meet to discuss this decision. After doing some rather intensive forensic accounting work that would make the management of Enron, Worldcom, Tycho and the various other firms exposed for their accounting scandals drool in grim appreciation, the HCC Financial Committee discovered the missing $700. Apparently, $330.42 had been allocated to Hinman originally, but at the beginning of the year, the SA took the money away from Hinman (and the other residential colleges) to help cover the costs of the OCC buses. The remaining $381.68 was used to pay
outstanding bills from the previous year. Those bills included $100 charged to Hinman by the SA for Senior week and $253.14 for food service bills and HCC’s phone bill which came to $28.54. With the matter of the missing $712.10 finally settled, HCC could move on to other pressing issues.

One of those pressing issues was the creation of the Co-Rec Football Committee. The committee would consist of two people from each hall. Their duties would include training referees, setting policies for the payment of the referees, scheduling the actual games, and creating the charter for the game. A charter for Co-Rec was important because it would ensure that an HCC committee would constantly be there to oversee the sport that had quickly become Hinman’s favorite pastime. Also of note was the move of the Hinman Student Government Office from the basement of the Hinman Library and into the Hinman Commons. The HCC office would remain there until around 2000 when it would again move into the Hinman Library, this time to the first floor in the back behind the student manager’s office and adjacent to the Hinman College office.

HCC and student government in general hit a sour patch toward the end of the semester when Smith Hall sponsored a drinking contest in its rec room. The rules of the contest had contestants drink one shot of beer every minute. If a contestant had to use the lavatory, they had one minute plus part of the next minute to do so but then they had to drink the missed shot and the following shot on time. If more than two shots were missed the contestant was disqualified. Regurgitation also resulted in immediate disqualification. The last man standing (or kneeling over the table) would be the winner and snag the coveted prize of a bottle of Jack Daniel’s whiskey. The previous record for the contest was held by Hohn [sic] Seymour which was 110 shots. An average six pack of beer held 72 shots. Everyone expected the average intake of beer
to be between 60-100 shots. Amazingly, many contestants passed this number by a great deal. Some went well over 200 shots. However, the large intake of alcohol was also beginning to make many of the contestants devastatingly sick. A large number of them were disqualified from the competition when they began to vomit up the excess of alcohol. One female contestant, after her 200th shot, had to be rushed to the hospital by Harpur’s Ferry. The winner of the competition downed an astounding 307 shots and then proceeded to take a 308th shot just to secure his title. Later that evening he preceded to go to one of the many dorm parties going on that night and consumed even more beer.

The aftershocks stemming from the Smith Hall shot-a-thon were serious and lasting. Many Hinmanites, both staffers and residents, believed that the drinking competition was dangerous and stupid. Many of the contestants became violently ill at the end and some would have succumbed to alcohol poisoning if they were not rushed to the hospital for treatment. One opinion printed the Hinman Halitosis spoke for many that disapproved of the competition.

Last weekend’s shot-a-thon, held in Smith (which has the reputation of being the worst dorm on campus), shows that Hinman is leading the way to university-wide drug abuse and insanity.

Of course, it was all in good fun: the most beer consumed by one person was only 4 gallons, and Harpur’s Ferry only had to be called once. Four gallons of beer put into one person in 3 hrs, and all to prove what? Maybe it was all good fun, but did anyone stop to consider the sickness of the idea?

For starters, the Shot-a-thon is a form of drug abuse. For people to drink so much that they can’t stand up and especially to drink so much as to warrant an ambulance to be called is not only unhealthy, but dangerous. Perhaps it isn’t very dangerous for a 200lb, 6’ tall person to drink 2 or 3 gallons of beer in 3 hours., [sic] (the larger the body mass, the more alcohol can be absorbed without danger,) but far less beer than that has proved fatal. For some people, imbibing even 2 gallons of beer in 3 hrs would cause alcohol poisoning, and with that comes the possibility of alcohol coma, and death. Perhaps too much time has passed for us to recall a college freshman at another SUNY school suffocated to death on his own vomit after fraternity hazing activities (remarkably similar to a shot-a-thon) only a few years ago. No one would consider holding an LSD-a-thon, so why are we so willing to tolerate the drink-a-thon?
Everyone defends it by saying “You can always stop”. But how many actually do stop when they should? Not enough. Call it pride, Macho, or determination, but too many would rather drink more than they can handle than be considered a “Sissy.” Trying to prove something definitely supercedes [sic] common sense in the majority of cases. And, because of the macho attitude, trying to stop someone from drinking more after the first gallon has been down can elicit violence, which endangers everyone present.

Besides, is it that much fun? Puking our brains up the rest of the night, or taking up valuable hospital or ambulance time, is that our idea of good recreational activity? Drinking shots is not relaxing and is not “social drinking”—it is drinking with one purpose only: drunkenness. Aren’t we sick enough of seeing our dorms vandalized by injudicious drinkers? Isn’t it about time we took a good look at what we’re doing and stop these dangerous and unhealthy activities, or will it take a tragedy before we wake up and do something about it?

There were differences of opinion. Many Hinmanites defended the Smith Hall shot-a-thon, as this counter letter to the editor shows:

I would like to take this opportunity to offer another view of the Smith Hall Shot-a-thon. But first I never knew that Smith was the worst dorm on campus. If it is, why does the author of the opinion in the last issue continue to live there. Secondly, How [sic] does someone who was not even there have the right to criticize what they only heard about. The most beer consumed by one person was approximately 385 ounces which is 3 gallons and 1 ounce. A little less than four gallons. At one shot a minute, it took 308 minutes to drink 308 shots (new math). This is 5 hours and 8 minutes, slightly longer than 3 hours.

I don’t think out Shot-A-thon should be criticized for intoxicating people. Any campus party is equally guilty on that count. I do suppose too much time has passed for us to remember that SUNY freshman that died. But, this was not a fraternity function and definitely not a hazing type activity. No pressure was put on anyone to continue beyond their desired quitting pint [sic]. Several people were required to stop when others felt that they had had enough.

Besides, it was a lot of fun! Less people than I thought did throw up and I don’t know of anyone who spent the night “puking their brains out”. It is true that one individual was taken to the hospital, but that was the only dark spot that evening. No vandalism occurred anywhere because of our activity. As far as drinking shots not being relaxing that is totally ludicrous. Everyone who was there was doing exactly what they wanted to and what could be more relaxing than that. One person even said, “That was the most relaxing night I’ve spent since I came here. I got to talk to a few people I really haven’t before and I had a good time. When I knew it was time to leave, I did.” I think that perfectly sums up the way most of us feel about our Smith-Hall-Shot-A-Thon.
The feelings on the Smith Hall Shot-a-thon were mixed through the community. There were supporters for both sides. However, whatever the feelings one had on the shot-a-thon, it did bring to the forefront awareness concerning issues of alcoholism and alcohol abuse by college students. Not long thereafter, the legal drinking age would rise from 18 to 21, in part to combat abusive practices of alcohol like the shot-a-thon on college campuses.

1981 was year that would see many people deeply involved in Hinman say goodbye. Graduating that year would be Hinman mainstays such as Jim Greenless, Jim Bachman, and Steven “Pudge” Meyer, all of whom had been deeply involved in HCC at some point during their time in Hinman. The final HCC meeting of the year saw Hinman saw goodbye one last time to these individuals who had done so much for their residential college. It also saw the final HCC meeting of Patti Koval, a highly influential Assistant Coordinator. Koval was accepting another position on campus as Coordinator of Conferences. Also saying goodbye during that meeting would be beloved Faculty Master Vito Sinisi. Vito, who had served eight years in Hinman as Faculty Master, was finally stepping down. Before he left, both former HCC President Jim Greenlees and Pudge Meyer toasted the man who had done so much for them as individuals and so much Hinman. Pudge Meyer in particular had had a special relationship with Vito Sinisi. Pudge, who had been active in HCC, HLT, and who had almost single-handedly saved the Hinman Halitosis newsletter from extinction, had grown very close to Sinisi, who had been a sort of mentor and father-like figure to him over the years. Before he left, Sinisi told Pudge that when Pudge had gone off to do study-abroad in Spain in the Spring of 1980, that had been a very tough semester for the aging Hinman Master. During Hinman graduation, when it came time to hand out the Den of Distinction and Harvey D. Hinman Awards, Vito personally presented Pudge with a Den of Distinction. Over twenty-five years later, Pudge Meyer still remembers that
That graduation saw the departure of many individuals who had fought long and hard to keep HCC and Hinman College together. It also saw the final farewell of one of Hinman’s most influential Faculty Masters. It had been a rough and tumble year full of many trials and tribulations. It had also been a year full of fun and laughter as far as HCC was concerned. The next year would see a new HCC E-Board take the helm of Hinman College, as would it see a new Assistant Coordinator and a brand new Faculty Master. This year truly saw HCC become an organization that proved vital to the happiness and well-being of the inhabitants of Hinman College. The hope for all was that next year there would be much of the same.

The 1981-1982 academic year started off right with the success of the annual university-wide screaming contest. Many people from each community participated in the event and HCC President Diane Fischer stated that she was very pleased to see all of the community spirit that came from Hinmanites who participated in the event. There were some problems associated with the event. The screaming contest, moved from community to community and with any large gathering of people, rowdiness and mob-like mentalities can occur. A number of windows were broken and a few small fights among the participants broke out. Even though there was no serious damage to any property and no one was seriously injured, there still was a call for people to remember to behave properly during these events. The administration had been threatening to cancel the event because of the property damage and fights. The participants, many of whom had come from Hinman, were warned to be on their best behavior for the next event.

Early in the semester a great source of contention arose from budgetary issues. Many in HCC believed that HPC was getting too big a share of the funds. This issue was eventually
settled relatively amicably.\textsuperscript{18} However the newly formed Outdoors Club was up and running and the Hinman Social Committee was planning on bringing many fine social events to Hinman including the annual Hinman Fall Weekend and a party to be held in the Hinman Dining Hall.\textsuperscript{cccxxx}

That semester also had a very competitive mural-making contest in Hinman. For close to three months, teams from the different halls competed with each other to see who would win the honor of having the best mural in all of Hinman. The award for Best Mural went to Cleveland Hall 2\textsuperscript{nd} South (Cleveland Hall 2A) and Best Dorm overall went to Cleveland Hall. Roosevelt Hall Floor 2B won First Prize.\textsuperscript{cccxxxi}

**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.\textsuperscript{cccxxxii}

\textsuperscript{18} For more information on this topic see the chapter on Community-Based Theater.
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.

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.

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 as 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. One 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.

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.

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.”

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 or 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 they want and how they could get better results by changing some very small habits of speech.

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 uniformed, 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
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.

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.

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…
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.

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: INVOLEMENT 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…

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.

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.

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 Valentine’s 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.

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.

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 of 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.
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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 thier 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!

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.

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. 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. 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. 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.

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!19

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 Madden—Madden Patio—and Nick Sterling—Sterling Quad20 (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.21

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.

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

20 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).
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.

**The Capp Administration**

In the Spring of 1990, HCC was going through some tough times. Membership in the student government organization was dwindling and student apathy, the monster that had been hounding HCC since its very inception, seemed poised to overtake the once mighty Hinman institution. Stepping into this picture was Jonathan Capp. Jonathan had been a resident of Hughes Hall his freshmen year (1988-1989) and then moved to Roosevelt Hall, where he lived for the next two years. Jonathan had always been interested in politics and wanted to get involved in student government in some capacity during his time in Hinman. He had won a seat as an SA representative for Hinman and was pleased at representing Hinman that way.

However, by the Spring of 1990, HCC President Kris Mauter announced that she was stepping down from her position as President. HCC desperately needed a new President and Jonathan stepped up to fill that role. cccv

Jonathan would go on to not only serve out Mauter’s term of office, but ran himself and won a full term of office for the 1990-1991 academic year. Nearly twenty years later Jonathan would explain why he decided to enter into student politics:

I had an interest in politics, in meeting people, in encouraging other students to get involved in campus affairs, and to get more students to have a stake and take responsibility for the quality of life in the on-campus residential communities. Also, I was especially motivated to get more people involved in student government because I
was constantly hearing how much everyone disliked "politics." People tend to associate politics (in a negative way) with government and public service without recognizing that "politics" is inherent in and a part of every interaction. I think some students came to that realization by participating in Council discussions (and letting their opinions be known!), and even came to enjoy the experience.

Recognizing that HCC needed a boost, Jonathan set about to improve morale and to get people excited about HCC and what it could do for the community. One of the first orders of business was to revamp the HCC Constitution. The constitution had been amended in the past, but what Jonathan and others like him saw was the need to make appeal to a more modern student body. For example, one amendment to the constitution updated and clarified the HCC E-Board positions and what their specific duties were. The position of Treasurer became Financial Vice President and the position of Secretary became Public Affairs Vice President. While some might claim that a simple name change would do little to improve HCC, the reality was that this was a first step in modernizing the organization and making more applicable to the current lives of students, as well as more in line with the world beyond student government.

Jonathan also sought to encourage more participation from HCC members and regular Hinmanites in political issues affecting them outside the university. On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, invaded neighboring Kuwait. This provocative military move forced many Western powers including the United States to come to the defense of neighboring ally Saudi Arabia and then to liberate Kuwait. During the build-up to Operation Desert Storm and during the actual operation itself, many groups organized protests both for and against the use of military force to diffuse the situation in the Persian Gulf. Jonathan encouraged Hinmanites to voice their opinions in campus publications including the *Hinman Halitosis*. This discussion on worldwide issues was not only beneficial for Hinmanites as US and world citizens, but it also got them interested in politics and the political process. Many Hinmanites
became inspired to enter into government and politics as a profession and they came to realize that a good way to gain valuable experience in this area would be by participating in student government. And what better way to get involved in student government than HCC?

During his tenure as President of HCC, Jonathan saw HCC meetings grow by leaps and bounds. Many HCC meetings were jam packed with representatives and spectators alike, all eager to take part in how their residential college was governed. One of Jonathan’s fondest memories of his time in Hinman are HCC meetings where over seventy-five people attended. It was during those times that the energy in the rooms crackled as debates were waged and opinions were heard and the political process took its course. With this newfound energy and enthusiasm, HCC was beginning to not only come out of its long apathetic stupor, but now it even began to exceed some of the so called “glory days” of HCCs past. HCC was poised to do great things.

The biggest challenge Jonathan faced during his tenure as HCC President resulted from what can only be called the great blood drive scandal of 1991. The US Food and Drug Administration had issued a warning to blood collection agencies like the Red Cross not to collect blood donated by people of Sub-Saharan African descent. They issued this warning because of one of the biggest fears facing the medical community at that time: AIDS. Although much headway had been made to educate the public about AIDS and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, many people were still fearful of the deadly disease. Unfortunately, then as now, AIDS was plaguing much of Sub-Saharan Africa, and the FDA believed that it was just too risky to take blood from this particular group. The only way to get around this was to have the blood collection agencies perform tests on the blood samples to screen for HIV. These tests were expensive and the Red Cross decided that it would be prohibitive to run the tests. In an effort to
save money they decided to simply block Sub-Saharan peoples from donating blood. This essentially prohibited African Americans from donating blood.

Not unexpectedly, this move roused the ire of many groups on campus who saw this policy as racist in the style of policies of the American South before the Civil Rights movement. Many protestors swarmed blood drive sites on campus to protest the action, posting up signs that said “Whites Only” and “Blacks Only” signs in clear reference to the old Jim Crow laws. In many cases, demonstrators outnumbered those giving blood. This turned many away who would have given blood. Many on campus, even those who agreed with the protestors in principle, argued that these were the wrong tactics to take. Driving away blood donors only hurt those who desperately needed blood transfusions. The heated and angry protests continued until finally three students were arrested when they entered into the lines of donors and purposefully held up the lines by asking a large number of questions to the Red Cross workers. When these three students were arrested for what many saw as non-violent civil disobedience, many in the campus community went into an uproar, with many declaring that the Red Cross and blood drives in general should be banned from campus.

HCC had traditionally sponsored a blood drive, but during this time many in HCC argued that they should not do so this year because of everything going on. Seeing this as an opportunity for discussion of issues concerning the blood drives and the positions of the FDA and Red Cross, Jonathan organized an HCC meeting that was predominantly focused on this issue. Students from all over campus, those both for and against the blood drives, came to that HCC meeting to give their views. The meeting that night was packed and heated debates occurred on whether or not HCC should sponsor a blood drive. Even though the meeting ran longer than usual, it inspired the passions of many of the participants. Even those that were
usually quiet during the meetings felt the desire to put in their two cents. The issue was certainly divisive, but it got people thinking and acting, that was exactly what Jonathan wanted. That HCC meeting was so successful that other residential colleges followed suit and had their own discussions on the issue. Even the SA had an open forum concerning the blood drives.

Although the issue of the blood drives was a divisive one and tempers flared during the debates, Jonathan had accomplished his goal. Hinmanites had their passions stirred and began to participate more in HCC. They came to understand that student government was not just a useless, honorary position, but one that could work toward and enact meaningful change for the student body. By the end of the semester and the end of his term in office, Jonathan left HCC knowing that he had accomplished everything that he had set out to do. Whether he knew it or not, Jonathan had taken a sleepy organization and had revitalized it into an effective student government that was not only active and enthusiastic but also enacted lasting positive reform for its constituency. Like past HCC presidents such as Sy Rolnick and Eric Pomerantz, Jonathan was not afraid of taking on controversial issues, and by doing so he increased the political capital and standing of HCC. Although the late 1980’s may have seen a general increase in student apathy across the board that had spilled out into the early 1990’s, Jonathan’s actions had reinvigorated HCC and set the stage for what it would do for the rest of the decade and into the new millennium. While other Hinman institutions began to see a decline during the 1990’s, the stage was set for HCC to rise to new heights of unprecedented accomplishment.

Throughout the 1990’s, HCC was considered the most active and influential student government on campus. The Spring of 1992 saw Hinman celebrate its Twenty-fifth Anniversary. Jessica Hogan and Jeff Horowitz were the Academic Vice President and the Financial Vice President, respectively, of HCC during this time. They, along with the rest of
their E-Board helped oversee what was a grand celebration marking this milestone in Hinman College history. Together, the entire E-Board that year organized numerous parties to celebrate the occasion and during the actual ceremony commemorating Hinman’s anniversary they dedicated a time capsule that is located somewhere in the Hinman Library that is to be opened on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Hinman College. The event also saw a large fireworks display to celebrate the anniversary. This was the first time that fireworks had been displayed over campus. Today, fireworks are fairly commonplace, occurring during either opening weekend celebrations or Homecoming. However, Hinman College has the honor of organizing the very first fireworks display over campus.

**HCC in the Mid-1990’s**

There are a few surviving records from the 1992-1993 academic year chronicling the events of HCC, such as this letter written by HCC President Marc W. Brown to Hinman College residents:

_Spirit…Enthusiasm…Togetherness…what do these three things have in common??...They are facets of Hinman College that SET us high above the rest. I am sure that if you have been to a co-rec game, seen a Hinman Production Company (H.P.C.) play, played basketball or tennis on the Hinman courts, or have just hung out around the quad, you would agree with me that Hinman College is a special place to live. This year, the Hinman College Council’s (H.C.C.) goal is to bring out these three facets in Hinman residents, and make Hinman a fun and meaningful place to live._

This years [sic] events began with our opening weekend activities. The Council sponsored a welcome back dance that many new and old residents turned out for, a Sunday morning cartoon brunch that was enjoyed in the Hinman Dining Hall, and the “Fresh Start” program which involved Hinman Fellows (faculty members) answering questions, and discussing what academics are like at Binghamton University. This informational program was organized by Hinman’s Academic Vice-President Eileen Biondi and Faculty Master Nick Sterling.

When September arrives and the last days of Summer in Binghamton pass by, the co-rec Football Season begins in Hinman College. This sport, which began here in the early
seventies, holds a long-standing tradition of sportsmanship, fun, and “interesting” team names. Co-Rec Football is headed by co-commissioners Lance Smith and Alan Stein, and assistants Rob Borrelli and Scott Jaffee for the fall 1992 season. Good luck to all floors in their pursuit to win the co-rec super bowl.

At the same time that the co-rec season began, there was a new addition to the basketball court behind Roosevelt and Smith Halls. The H.C.C. arranged to have new backboards and rims put up to replace the ones that were torn down from last year. The new rims and backboards are durable and should last assuming that no one hangs on them and/or damages them. If anyone happens to see somebody trying to damage the rims or backboards, please ask them to stop for the sake of the people who enjoy using them.

In late September and early October there was a plethora of community involvement in and about Hinman College. September 23 marked the first blood drive in Hinman College since December 1989. This blood drive was one of the most successful drives ever in Hinman and on campus. Ninety-one people donated and eighty-one pints of blood were accepted. That makes four-hundred and five lives saved. This blood drive could not have been so successful without the help of RA’s, RD’s, building coordinators, and residents who took timeout of their busy schedules to donate blood.

From Friday night to late Saturday afternoon, October 2-3, an annual tradition in Hinman College took place: Dorm Wars. This years festivities were organized by Hinman’s Social Affairs Vice-President Matt Levy and assistant coordinator Marie Driscoll. There were many new residents who had a great time participating in their first Dorm Wars and many older residents felt that this was one of the best dorm wars [sic] in recent history. I would like to thank all the captains and hall government councils who got their halls psyched up for the events and I would like to congratulate Lehman Hall for winning Dorm Wars.

Another event that took place during the early part of October was the Sprint phonecard, H.C.C.’s first fundraiser for the 1992-93 school year. This successful fundraiser, coordinated by the Financial Vice-President Frank Vellucci, raised $830. This money was put in the account for building a new volleyball court in Hinman College. This fundraiser could not have taken place if it was not for all those elected officers and various residents of Hinman College who took the time to sit at our booth in the University Union.

During the mild weeks of October, H.P.C’s production of You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown was performed five times in the Hinman Commons. The attendance for each performance was superb because of a great production and H.P.C’s long-standing history of excellence. Congratulations to all of those who participated in the production and the cast of this fine performance.

Most of these events could not have been as successful if it wasn’t for all of the publicity that went along with them. I would like to thank Hinman’s Public Affairs Vice-President Mike Van Nort for all of his ingenious and artistic signs for Hinman events.
As you can see there are many ways to get involved in your collegiate area and make a positive impact on your community. You can work on the yearbook, ref a co-rec game, be involved in a play, work on this newspaper, sit on various committees, and much much more. If you would like to be involved in the Hinman College Council feel free to attend any of our meetings on Tuesday nights at 10PM in rotating halls, or your own hall government meetings during the week. Look for signs posted.

From this letter I hope you can see that there are many ways that make Hinman SET high above the rest.

As evidenced by this letter, HCC was already off to a great start and anticipations ran high for a good year.

Soon however, student apathy began to rear its ugly head again. An anonymous letter was published in the Hinman Halitosis chronicling the writer’s lament for the sorry state of Hinman College.

As I walk through Hinman, I wonder if Hinman will ever wake up and start coming out of their rooms. Standing in front of Smith Hall, I can hear College in the Woods playing Co-Rec football by the residents screaming and having fun. They only thing I hear from Hinman (the founder of Co-Rec Football) are Smith 1A’s Josey and the Pussycats, and their touchdown chant, and Roos 2B’s Butt Dance. Other than that Hinman has been quiet. One of the RA’s had a free Toga Party with free food which he put a lot of effort to put on. You would think that people would come to see what it was like. WRONG!!! Only 40 residents out of 1000 came for even 5 minutes. Ask a resident why they don’t come out of their rooms. Their response is “I have too much work to do.” That is bologna. I do not see how anyone can study 24 hours a day and not take a 5 minute break to see what is going on around them. Part of living on campus is to also get some sense of community living. I have been here for a couple of years and have never seen something so terrible, and pathetic. If people could see a change. Dorm Wars was a great way to get people out of their rooms, but that was only one event out of many. Lehman won Dorm Wars but what happened when they wanted to have a celebration party, no one showed up for their own hall party. Cleveland has great spirit at hall meetings and are always involved in everything. I applaud them. But that is one hall. So next time I am standing on top of the hill I would like to hear noise. And to everyone who has too much work to do all of the time (go back to high school) this is college and the 1990’s. Let us show CIW that there are residents who do live in Hinman College, the once most talked about community.

Social Vice President Matt Levy shot back with his own letter which read:
Anyone who says that Hinman is lacking spirit obviously did not attend *Dorm Wars 1992* on October 2-3. The excitement leading up to the weekend was insurmountable. Friday nights [sic] festivities began with a beautiful rendition of *The Star Spangled Banner* by The Binghamton Crosbies. Banners were flying high and cheers were blaring on the eve of Dorm Wars, as the opening ceremonies began. At least 400 Hinman residents marched around the walkway of the quad. Finally, the five torches representing the five halls were lit and Dorm Wars was officially under way. For the next 45 minutes Hinman College was mesmerized by the music and choreography of the Crosbies as they performed such hits as “Lean On Me” and “How do I say Goodbye to Yesterday”.

Saturday arrived and so did the start of the events that would determine the victors of Dorm Wars ’92. Congratulations to Lehman Hall on their successful triumph. Personally, I want to also congratulate every hall for a couple of reasons. First, I was moved at the sight of everyone shaking hands at the end of the events. This is what I believe Dorm Wars is all about, residents of each hall uniting to form a bond. Finally, I want to reiterate my opening point. Hinman College has proved that we are hot, we are spirited, and we are where it’s at…

Mike Van Nort, HCC’s Public Affairs’ Vice President, also had a stern rebuke for the author.

I am writing in response to last issue’s letter entitled “Hinman Wake Up”, written by a concerned resident. I was extremely disappointed at its content and began to wonder if there was a problem in Hinman or if the problem was with the author and their lack of participation in Hinman. Since then I have decided that the problem is not with Hinman but with those individuals like “a concerned resident” that choose not to get involved.

You stated in your letter concerning Hinman that you have been here for a couple of years and have never seen “something so terrible and pathetic.” Well, I too have lived here for a couple of years and all I have seen is Hinman spirit increase. You also stated that, “The only thing I hear are Smith 1A’s Josey and the Pussycats, and their touchdown dance, and Roos 2b’s Butt Dance.” Apparently you have not attended many games or at least have not been listening because there are several teams with a lot of spirit this year. Maybe you should watch Lehman 1B, WAOOA, Cleveland 3A Wet Dream Team, 2A Castraiders, 2B We Do It In All Positions, Hughes Pittsburgh Feelers or Hughes 1A Semonoles.

You also mentioned that “Cleveland has great spirit, but that is one hall.” I lived in Cleveland for two years and yes we did and still do have great spirit. Now I live in Hughes Hall and have seen no difference in spirit. We also have great hall meetings and are always involved. Maybe you heard us the Wednesday before Dorm Wars chanting, “H-U-G-E-S, Hughes Hall is the best”.

Hinman College is full of spirit and continually increasing. Just because one Toga Dance Party is not a huge success does not mean that Hinman is “terrible and pathetic”. Events and committees such as Dorm Wars, The Blind Date Party, the Hinman Yearbook, Hall Volleyball Tournaments, Hinman College Council, Co-Rec Football, the
Semi-Formal, the Slide Show, Hinman Hysteria, H.P.C., and the Hinman Halitosis are only a few examples of what Hinman College and Hinman spirit are all about.

So the next time you are standing at the top of the hill and would like to hear noise from Hinman, create your own by getting you and your friends involved rather than complaining that everyone is studying.\textsuperscript{ccclxvii}

Although apathy was certainly a problem in Hinman at the time, the spirit that was possessed by many Hinman residents shone through in the way members of the HCC E-Board adamantly defended the honor of the community that they loved so much. That year saw many successful Hinman events including the ever popular Hinman Semi-Formal which had approximately three hundred and twenty-five people attend. HCC President Marc Brown said it best when he stated, “I feel that this event would not have been such a success if it were not for those dedicated Hinman residents who helped with ticket sales, decorations, song lists, and setting up of the dance. Because of their involvement and Matt’s [Levy] leadership the Semi-Formal was a big hit.”\textsuperscript{ccclxviii}

The year ended on a positive note. Hysteria, like Dorm Wars, was highly successful as were many other programs and events sponsored by HCC. At the end of the year, in the tradition of many other HCC presidents, Marc Brown wrote a farewell address to the residents of Hinman College. His message read in part:

It’s hard to believe that this is the first week in May, and that Hinman College Council had it’s [sic] final meeting of the year this past week. When the final report was given and the final adjournment was said, I reflected back upon this year and felt that the Hinman College Council was a tremendous success.

The Council took a different approach this year by focusing on making Hinman a more social place to live and learn. Through the organizational work of Hinman’s Social Affairs Vice-President Matt Levy, Academic Vice-President Eileen Biondi, Financial Vice-President Frank Vellucci, Public Affair Vice-President Mike Van Nort, and myself, many events took place that made Hinman residents want to partake in new and exciting programs as well as proven traditional ones. In late August, the traditional opening weekend ceremonies took place with a welcome back dance, a cartoon brunch, and the Fresh Start Program which placed the Hinman Fellows in the halls. The goal was to help
new students become acquainted with academic life at Binghamton University. In early September, the aerobics program was started and was held twice a week throughout the year. In mid-September, Hinman’s first Blood Drive in almost two years took place, and it was a tremendous success. In early October Dorm Wars arrived, and along with it came the new and spectacular opening ceremonies where the halls marched around the quad, the tiki torches burned and the Crosby’s sang…

…I would also like to acknowledge the work and programming of the five Hall Government executive boards and their respective Resident Directors serving as their advisors. These people took on a large responsibility when they were elected, and they took their work seriously and did a fine job of representing their halls either at the Hinman College Council meetings and/or their own hall government meetings. I salute them for all their patience and hard work.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the valuable input of the three and three members over the course of the year who showed great interest in the council by either serving as a committee chair, being a committee member, and/or giving input at our weekly meetings.

Through all of the successful programming that the Council planned this past year, and the resolutions that were passed which worked for the betterment of life in residence hall, I feel that the Council was a tremendous success…

The 1992-1993 academic year ended on a positive note for the members of HCC. They had accomplished much and had certainly left Hinman in a better place than they had found it. Their hope for the future was that the new E-Board would continue this tradition of success and excellence in their stead.

This tradition of excellence continued in an assortment of ways. One way featured the development of a unique position in HCC, an unelected position called the Hall Council Representative created by the influential Hinmanite, Brent Landau. Brent Landau had been active in HCC since his freshman year in 1994. During that time, there was a position called the Residential Assistant Representative, though in the HCC vernacular it was more commonly known as the “Three and Three” position. It got this name because in order to become a “Three and Three” you had to attend three hall government meetings and three HCC meetings before you could join HCC. It was not an elected position like the other hall council positions and
anyone could join. It was developed as a way for RA’s (who were barred from running for student government office) to stay involved in HCC. When the HCC Constitution was revised in 1995, Brent suggested that the name be changed to Hall Council Representative (HCR) and the name has stuck ever since.\textsuperscript{ccclxx}

The development of the HCR position is an interesting matter in and of itself. In 1995, the voting rights of HCR’s were expanded. At this time every HCR in a building shared one vote for all financial matters and had their own vote on all non-financial matters. Although Brent advocated allowing HCR’s to have their own vote for both financial and non-financial matters, by the time the constitution was revised again in 1998, Brent had decided that the original approach was the best. His reasoning involved the process that HCC followed to give student groups money. When a group came to request money from HCC, the issue typically went back to the individual halls for discussion and vote on what amount to give the group. Then the five hall financial vice presidents met and took the average of the amounts that the individual halls agreed upon. This amount was then proposed at the following week’s HCC meeting, when the final decision would be made. The fear was that if one building had a lot of HCR’s they could potentially tip the scales and vote so that the amount of money given to a group would be more or less than what the financial vice presidents recommended. This could result in giving groups amounts of money that did not reflect what the majority of the community wanted.\textsuperscript{ccclxxi} The 1998 amendment to the HCC Constitution allowed HCR’s to share one vote for all financial matters and have their own votes for all non-financial matters. The constitution was amended again in 1999 and 2000. However, it remains essentially the same as the 1998 amendment.
HCC remained a powerful and active force in Hinman for the next few years. Unfortunately, only oral histories are available, and details on what happened in those years are few and far between. One thing is for certain, however, and that is that HCC continued to be an influential organization which made profound impacts upon not only its members but also the average Hinmanite.

**The Kittenplan Administration**

Unfortunately, the written records for the 1990’s are few and far between. Only through oral histories of alumni who come forward will the complete story of HCC be able to be told. It would not be until 1996 that HCC would arise again to the forefront of not only Hinman politics but of campus politics as well. It would also introduce one of the most dedicated and influential Presidents that HCC has ever seen and one of the most passionate Hinmanites ever to serve the community. That Hinmanite would be Joshua Kittenplan.

Oddly enough, Kittenplan’s rise to power began with scandal. In the Spring of 1996 a man named Anthony Benardello was elected as President of the Student Association. Benardello was a nontraditional student. He was in his thirties and a former Army Ranger. What made Benardello notorious was his particular brand of reactionary politics. During that year’s election for SA E-Board positions, Benardello won the position of SA President by a considerable margin. Many monitoring the election cried foul, believing that Benardello and his campaign had fixed the election. No one at the time was ever able to prove that there had been tampering in the election, and voter turnout was so low that it was not inconceivable for someone with such strong views as Benardello to be elected.\textsuperscript{ccclxxii}
Later on it turned out that Benardello had rigged the election. Benardello hired 13 to 15 pollsitters who used two-way radios to keep him informed of the number of votes cast at each site. Then in an off-campus location he filled fake ballot boxes with the same number of ballots. The next day Benardello and his associates took the boxes to the Nature Preserve and switched them with the real ones. Even though Benardello had agents with two-way radios who were supposedly keeping track of the number of votes, the final count was still off. Although the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that the SA presidential race was off by about 400 votes. It was also unclear if other SA races were tampered with. Some of the people that Benardello hired to help him rig the elections were from Hinman.

Upon taking office, Benardello immediately took actions that many on campus viewed with dismay. He threw two minority students of color off the SA Judicial Board and filled six vacant spots in the SA with Caucasian males who had helped with his campaign. Perhaps the most controversial of his actions was that he completely eliminated the position of Vice President of Multicultural Affairs (VPMA) from the SA E-Board. During the summer, when the VPMA came to enter the office, she found that all the locks had been changed by Benardello. Benardello defended his actions by stating that the VPMA position was not sanctioned by the SA Constitution. This was technically true. The VPMA position was an appointed position and not a democratically elected one. Still, it had been recognized as a position in the SA during the previous few years. Actions which some saw as reactionary were beginning to infuriate many groups on campus, and many began to call for his resignation or impeachment.

The meeting to confirm the new Judicial Board, which had six Benardello appointees, was held in the Mandela Room. During this time, a number of students came to protest the meeting. The protestors were not allowed to enter the Mandela Room and speak their concerns.
in front of the assembly. Outraged at not being able to speak, the protesters began to disrupt the
meeting so much that no vote to confirm the Judicial Board took place that night.\textsuperscript{ccclxxv}

The next week’s SA meeting was held in UU 133. Although it can never be known for
sure, it is suspected that Benardello chose this location in an effort to control access to the
meeting. The last straw came when Benardello closed off the SA meetings to the public and
allowed only thirty people (chosen by lottery) to view the meetings. Outraged at the actions of
Benardello, approximately one hundred students congregated outside the SA office in the
University Union and demanded to be let in to the meetings. After the crowd was denied
entrance, a number of students became agitated and tried to force their way into the meeting.
ULED had to be called in to stop the angry students from entering the room. The fear was that
the protestors would come to blows with Benardello and his supporters. Fearing for their own
safety, ULED officers used pepper spray on the belligerent student protesters. One student was
arrested in the process and others were taken to the hospital.\textsuperscript{ccclxxvi}

News of the melee quickly spread and angry students staged a rally in opposition to what
they saw as the abuse of power on the part of Benardello and his cronies in the SA. The rally
was so big that classes were cancelled and a group of students even stormed the Couper
Administration building and took it over for several days. Even the SA office for a time was
occupied by protesting students. Following the rally and subsequent student takeovers, a
movement took place to impeach Benardello. One of the big controversies had to do with the
process of impeachment. The SA Judicial Board was the body actually responsible for trying
Benardello and removing him from office, and six out of the nine Judicial Board members were
appointed by Benardello. Many area government meetings’ main focus during that time was
how to best support the efforts to impeach Benardello and the matter was even discussed in
individual hall meetings. In Lehman Hall over 175 people packed into the Lehman Hall Main Lounge to discuss the issue of Benardello’s impeachment. One of the people at that meeting was Joshua Kittenplan. It was here that Josh got his first taste of campus politics and came to understand the importance that area governments played in the process. Later that semester, Benardello resigned, along with many SA representatives who had been close to him.

The SA was radically changed following Benardello’s resignation and numerous seats now needed to be filled. The SA reps for Lehman and Hughes were two such causalities. A special election in the Spring of 1997 was called to fill the vacancy. Around this time, Josh was sitting in his room when his phone rang. On the other end was his RA, Shannon Odenweller, and she asked him to come down to the RA office. Josh came down to the office fearing the worst. In the office were Shannon and several other RA’s and they told him about the vacancy and spent a good deal of time trying to convince him to run for the position. Josh argued that he did not have the experience necessary to hold the post, but the RA’s countered by saying that they needed someone who they could trust to represent them in the SA. After much cajoling, Josh finally agreed to run for the position. He ran unopposed and won in a landslide victory. The young, inexperienced Josh Kittenplan was about to enter the Hinman College political landscape.

Josh was woefully unprepared for the SA. Many of the SA representatives were still holdovers from Benardello’s administration. They were battle-hardened and nasty and knew how to use Robert’s Rules of Order to their advantage. The SA meetings were tough and malicious and a great deal of mistrust was held by everyone in the room. It was during this time that Josh came to be an expert in Robert’s Rules, something which he would bring to HCC, albeit in an abbreviated form, with great results. Also during this time, Josh met the new SA rep
for Hughes Hall, a man by the name of Larry Garnier. Garnier would become very active in HCC for the following three years.

In stark contrast to the SA meetings, HCC meetings were warm, friendly and fun. Joe Scaduto was the HCC President at the time and was very charismatic and trustworthy, something that the SA E-Board was not. Although he was not very vocal in HCC at this stage, Josh saw the camaraderie of the group and knew that this was an organization that he wanted to continually be involved with. It was during this time that he met HCC greats like Brian Haggerty, Ben Greenzweig, and Brent Landau. Brent Landau would be the start of what would become a sort of HCC political dynasty. Both Brent and his younger brother Eric and years later another brother, Matt, would become active in HCC.

Josh also met Jojo Karchanabut, who would later go on to be HCC President. When Josh told Jojo that he was interested in running for a position on the Lehman Hall E-Board, Jojo suggested he run for President. Once again, Josh felt that he wasn’t ready for such an important position, but Jojo continued to inspire him to run for the office. Before the year was out, Josh asked a friend of his, Melissa Snyder, to run with him. Melissa was charismatic, funny and attractive—all attributes which made her highly electable. She agreed to be his running mate and Josh left Hinman that summer and began to plan out his campaign for the Lehman Hall presidency.

The Fall of 1997 saw the sophomore Josh Kittenplan return to Lehman Hall ready to campaign for the Lehman Hall presidency. He quickly realized that just about all of the Lehman Hall E-Board would consist of people whom he was friendly with and they would almost all certainly win (most of the positions were unopposed). Unfortunately, three different sets of candidates were running for the presidency. One set of candidates was Alex Chesko and Nick
Rosenberg, friends of Josh and Melissa. In what can be called his very first backroom political
deal, Josh took Nick and Alex aside and explained to them that both their base and his base were
essentially the same people and they would cannibalize each others campaigns and that the other
set of candidates (the former social VP of Roosevelt Hall and her friend who had moved to
Lehman) would certainly win. Josh convinced them to drop out of the race for the presidency
and run instead for the open position of Academic Vice President of the building. To help their
campaigns, the four friends became Dorm Wars captains and were tremendous in getting regular
Lehmanites out of their rooms and onto the quad to participate in the events. This increased their
visibility in the hall and helped their campaigns. Also, during sweeps there was a high turnout
and both Melissa and Josh sounded out their platform to the residents of Lehman Hall. This was
especially difficult for Josh, who for the longest the time was anxious about public speaking. On
the night of the election, Josh was all pins and needles. He continually went around the building
encouraging people to vote. That evening he got a call from Jojo who told him the good news.
He and Melissa had won the presidency with 79 votes to their opponents’ 35.  

Following his ascension as Co-President of Lehman Hall, Josh Kittenplan was about to
undertake what can only be called one of the most transformative years of his life. Lehman had
barely lost to Roosevelt in Dorm Wars that year and the energy from the building’s residents was
absolutely amazing. The Lehman Hall E-Board was also exceptional. Even though they were all
sophomores (with the exception of one freshman) they were mature beyond their years. Josh and
the others on his E-Board actively sought out freshmen talent and encouraged them to be active
in the hall. From this policy of inclusion in hall and community government, virtually the whole
Lehman Hall E-Board for the next year would arise, mostly because of the tutelage of Josh
Kittenplan. They also had 10-12 Hall Council Representatives (HCR) and fully 1/3 of the active
members of HCC were from Lehman Hall. This large number of representatives meant that Lehman Hall, when voting as a bloc, could significantly impact the outcome of many HCC resolutions. Josh remembers this time vividly:

We had a reputation of being mean because of several highly vocal members of the E-board and the fact that 8 of us were always outside smoking before and after HCC meetings. I played the straight man, trying to keep it all together. Alex and I often scripted our hall reports to HCC to make them funny and we had several skits as hall reports, complete with props, music and dry ice.....just to be creative. It created a strong Lehman identity.

Seeking to become more involved in the process, Josh joined the Rules Committee. Then an opportunity to join the Elections Committee arose and Josh joined that as well and became its chairman. Slowly but surely, Josh began to come out of his shell and became more vocal in HCC. He also noticed that many people began to listen whenever he spoke. It was during this time that he along with others, like Brent Landau, amended the HCC Constitution and its bylaws. Josh was personally responsible for drafting reformed Election Bylaws. Much debate arose about how to improve the constitution. Through these amendments and debate, Josh and the rest of HCC learned the ins and outs of the constitution and knew it like the back of their hands.

Early in the Spring of 1998, already there was speculation on who would run for office on the E-Board of HCC. Early on the favorite to win the Presidency was Eric Landau, Brent Landau’s younger brother. Eric, like his brother Brent, was charismatic and intelligent and had been very vocal and active in HCC and had gained a following. Josh and Eric quickly developed a rapport. Josh at the time was seriously considering moving off campus the following year and certainly had no intention of running for HCC office. However, the fates had different things in store for Josh Kittenplan. The first twist of fate was that his parents essentially forbid him from moving off campus. The second twist came when Jojo approached Josh and encouraged him to
run for President of HCC. Jojo told Josh that if he decided to run for President, Jojo and the rest of the HCC E-board would throw their support behind him. With this new found encouragement from a leader in HCC that he respected and admired, Josh decided to stay on campus and run for HCC President. One of the most hotly contested battles for the presidency of HCC in the history of Hinman College was about to be fought.

When Eric Landau was nominated chair the Hysteria committee, Josh’s E-Board motioned to have a separate election to qualify Eric for the position. This was highly illegal and Josh vocally opposed his E-Board. Still, the thought was nice that so many people were throwing themselves behind him. For the rest of the semester, Eric and Josh carried on like two experienced politicians. They smiled at every HCC meeting and shook hands and got to know as many people in Hinman as possible. Josh had a slight advantage with both the Lehman Hall E-Board and the majority of the HCC E-Board on his side. Still Eric had a great deal of support himself and it was quickly growing. Eric’s campaign hit a stumbling block during Hysteria that year. For whatever reason, the planning and execution of Hysteria was a complete mess. Since he was the chair for the Hysteria Committee, Eric took much of the blame for what many called an unmitigated disaster. Although the reality was that Eric Landau’s actions probably had very little to do with the final outcome of Hysteria 1998, he still wound up taking much of the blame for its failure. Although he had taken a hit politically, Eric still had a strong base and the race for President was far from over. Josh organized his campaign staff of over thirty people and had them paper the walls of Hinman with his campaign posters. As the election time loomed ever nearer, Josh prepared to do battle with his opponent.

Right before the date when letters of intent were due, Eric pulled Josh aside one day to discuss the upcoming election. Here Eric told Josh that he was seriously considering dropping
out of the race to take a position in the SA. Eric offered to remove himself from the race if Josh could guarantee him a spot on the HCC Rules Committee. Josh agreed and in his second backroom political deal, Josh became unopposed in the race for the HCC presidency. Even though he was the only candidate running for the position, Josh saw sweeps as a validation of all his hard work over the past two years, with many people throwing their support behind him. In the end, he won in a landslide victory and became the next, and some would say, one of the most influential HCC Presidents of all time.

The 1998-1999 academic year started off with a bang. Unlike Hysteria 1998, Dorm Wars 1998 was a tightly run and well-oiled machine and was one of the most successful Dorm Wars in recent memory. That semester also saw a new Faculty Master come to Hinman. Nick Sterling, the longest running and one of the most beloved Faculty Masters in Hinman history, finally retired the semester before. Taking his spot was Professor Al Vos. At first, many who had known Nick and who had grown close to him were not sure how to size up this new, untried Faculty Master. Their fears soon dissolved when they saw just how energetic, supportive and enthusiastic this new Faculty Master was. Josh remembers this transition of power in Hinman vividly. “…it was Al Vos's first year as Faculty Master and he was just brimming with enthusiasm. He was so incredible because not only was he vocal but he also took a lot of time to listen to us and to understand what made Hinman and HCC tick. This attention is shown by his understanding of Hinman even today.” A new Assistant Director, Donna Denoncourt, also came to Hinman that year. Like Al, Donna was also brimming with enthusiasm and was incredibly supportive of HCC. Al and Donna became the dynamic duo of Hinman College, many even calling them “the mom and dad” of Hinman because of their incredible energy and support of the community.
Believing strongly in tradition and passing down the legacy of Hinman College’s glorious past, Josh would frequently dig out old back issues of the *Hinman Halitosis* and share stories from them during HCC meetings. Nearly a decade after his time in HCC Josh would write: “The incoming freshmen would never know the fabled Nick Sterling, who was revered, as well as Tamara Clark, who was steeped in Hinman tradition and was vocal about it at HCC. We knew that we needed to bridge the past with the future and overemphasized the history of Hinman that year. I was very proud of that because I think it was critical.”

Josh and his E-Board fought hard to preserve Hinman’s traditions and to pass them along to a new generation. During the 1997-1998 academic year, not a single issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter was published. Fearing that the new generation would all but forget what *Halitosis* was all about, Josh and his E-Board made sure that the newsletter was published during the 1998-1999 academic year. The E-Board appointed four people to chair a committee to oversee the publication of the newsletter. Even though only two editions came out during the year they were terrific and well designed issues of the uniquely Hinman newsletter. They even brought back “Herm the Worm” the official *Halitosis* mascot of bygone years. To the outside observer, two issues of *Halitosis* may not have seemed like an accomplishment, but it had an impact. Dave Berkowitz, the President of Cleveland Hall, was so inspired by the newsletter that he even created a mock newsletter called the *Hinman Gingivitis* which lampooned many popular Hinmanites including Josh and his E-Board.

Besides the welcome addition of a new Faculty Master, Assistant Director and the success of Dorm Wars, Josh and his E-Board settled down to implement policies that would bring Hinman into the new millennium. This year’s HCC E-Board was, by far, one of the best E-Boards in history. The Social Vice President of HCC was Sarah Dethlefsen, a fellow
Lehmanite and a close associate of Josh. Sarah quickly proved to everyone that her mind had a sharp attention for detail. Furthermore, under Sarah’s guidance many social programs in Hinman that had traditionally lost money either broke even or turned a small profit that year. HCC’s Financial Vice President was Ross Wolfson. Ross had a reputation for being somewhat eccentric and highly political, but he was the best at this job. He also knew how to get money for HCC. Ross was not afraid to approach the SA and give presentations on why the SA should give Hinman more money. Josh and Ross would give amazing presentations before the SA and quickly learned that if they told the SA that their programs would not happen if they did not receive extra funds, then the SA would typically give them more money. With Ross Wolfson handling HCC’s finances, HCC, perhaps for the first time in its history, actually made money.

Cat Suchy was the Academic Vice President of HCC. She had experience as the AVP of Cleveland Hall before entering HCC. Although not as political as some of her peers on the E-Board, Cat organized and ran some of the most successful academic programs (typically the hardest programs to develop and execute) in Hinman history. Cat was perhaps the person most responsible for the highly successful Academic Fair, one of the most successful ever to be seen in the history of Binghamton University, and that year’s Siblings’ Weekend was the most successful of its kind. Rounding out the E-Board was Hirsch Fishman, the HCC Public Affairs Vice President. Hirsch was the first person in Hinman history to create a website for Hinman. Hirsch posted the minutes of HCC meetings, committee assignments, and the names and contact information of elected officials on the website. The site also became a great way to advertise programs in Hinman and was a huge success PR-wise for the E-Board. Hinman became the first residential college in Binghamton history to have its own website. The talent and passion of this E-Board is undeniable and is considered to be the Dream Team of HCC E-Boards. Every
member of the board was hungry and eager to get to work to make life in Hinman the best of
every community.  

HCC got a lot done that year.  Countless social and academic programs were instituted
and were highly attended.  Well over 90 Hinmanites every week packed the HCC meetings,
willingly, to take part in the student government process.  Every HCC was fun and filled with
enthusiastic Hinmanites who relished taking a part in their community and making life better for
the average Hinman resident.  One particularly humorous moment occurred when Mike
Eisenstein bet Josh that he could not get Binghamton University President Lois DeFluer to come
to an HCC meeting and if he ever did, Mike would flash her.  Never one to turn down a
challenge, Josh pulled some strings and was able to get DeFluer to attend an HCC meeting.  Josh
decided to move the meeting to the Hinman Dining Hall to accommodate the extra people who
would attend.  Before the meeting started, as Josh and rest of his E-Board was sitting down
waiting for the appropriate time to start, Eisenstein approached wearing a long trench coat.  He
then quickly pulled back the coat and pretended to flash Josh.  Luckily for all involved, he really
was fully clothed under the trench coat.  This was just one of many examples of the lighthearted
and fun moments behind-the-scenes at HCC.  Things were going better than they ever had
before in the history of HCC.  Dave Berkowitz, co-President of Cleveland Hall and one of the
many great charismatic Hinman leaders of that era, called it a new golden age for HCC and for
Hinman College and that was exactly what it was.  At the end of the fall semester, both Al and
Josh challenged the members of HCC to make the spring semester even better than this semester.
The dedicated HCCers took up the challenge and made the spring of 1999 one of the best
semesters ever.  One of the major events in the spring semester was Bandemonium.
Bandemonium, a now defunct program, was a musical event that was held on the Hinman Quad
in the spring and various musical acts would perform sets to an audience of Hinmanites.

Bandemonium was always very popular, but that year’s Bandemonium was the best that had ever been seen. While the musical acts were usually student groups from on campus, Josh was able to book the band Perfect Thyroid, a popular group that regularly performed at Cheers, one of the more popular bars in Binghamton at the time. Hinman also had a carnival that year complete with rides and booths of games and other activities. Coming off this high of numerous successful programs and leading one of the best HCC’s in recent memory, Josh began to realize that the semester was drawing to a close and that his term of office as HCC President was about to expire. For two years Josh had won the Mr. HCC paper plate award. He had also lived, breathed, and reveled in Hinman political and social life. For a time he considered applying to be an RA, but some of his friends convinced him to move off campus. Not applying to be an RA in Hinman was the single regret that he has for his time in college. At the last minute Josh decided on a gambit. Although he knew he would never again be involved as much as he was in HCC politics, maybe he could try his hand at campus politics. At the last minute he threw his hat into the ring and announced that he would run for SA President.

Josh quickly organized a campaign staff made up of HCCers and began his trek towards the presidency. He made the runoff elections against Jordan Fox, who was a BU Counsel Rep from Dickinson. Jordan and Josh were friends, and the campaigns, though hard fought, were never nasty. Jordan had the upper hand on Josh. While Josh was known mostly in Hinman, Jordan was a well-known figure all around campus and had a wide array of support. Josh ultimately lost the election, but the bright spot in it all was that he received 188 out of 222 votes in Hinman College, which was the highest count vote-wise and the highest percentage of any candidate of any race that year, in any one community. To Josh this was validation. He may not
have been chosen to lead the campus politically, but he had undoubtedly left his mark on Hinman. Two other Hinmanites who ran in the SA elections did win. Eric Landau won the Academic Vice President spot on the SA and Robyn Kaplan won Vice President of University Programming. His senior year, Josh was still active in politics. He was the chair of the SA rules committee, a member of the Harpur College Council (the other HCC) and on the board of directors for Off Campus College Transport (OCCT). Through it all, Josh’s heart was still in Hinman and he became an active student fellow. The Spring of 2000 saw the very last of the Bandemoniums. In the past, the event had coincided with Hysteria, as an event on the Hinman Quad (Co-Rec having long since moved to Sterling Field). That year, however, Bandemonium moved to the dining hall and became a night event and its popularity quickly dropped. That year, Josh and his one time political rival, Eric Landau, co-hosted Rockefeller Room which drew over three hundred people. By this time, Josh had finally gotten over his fear of public speaking.

That year during Hinman Commencement, Josh would share the Harvey D. Hinman Award with Sharon Sher, a fellow Lehmanite who was Social Vice President of Lehman when Josh was President of the building. The award was presented by Lisa Hyman, the Lehman Hall RD, who spoke eloquently of all that Josh had done for the community. To this day, Josh still proudly displays his Harvey D. Hinman Award on his desk at work. Josh left Hinman that year proud of his accomplishments and honored that for even just a brief period of time, he had been able to make a difference and be active in his home away from home: Hinman College. Little did he know that his work on behalf of Hinman would not be over just yet. There was still one more battle to be fought.
When Josh had first come into office he began to poke around the HCC Office and discovered a letter written by Shaw Marguiles, a former President of HCC. Marguiles had addressed the letter to all future HCC Presidents. In the letter he told the story of the fight to save the Hinman Quad (which the university wanted to pave over) and implored all future Hinman leaders to be on the lookout because he was suspicious that the administration would go back on its word and pave the quad. Inspired by reading this note, Josh had taken the letter to HCC and had made a huge deal about it, beseeching all future Hinman leaders to be vigilant and to protect the Hinman Quad at all costs. That summer after his graduation from Binghamton University, Josh returned home for a welcome respite. That August, all the RA’s returned to campus for summer training. During that time, Josh received a frantic Instant Message from Hinman RA Mike Estrich, who had been the President of Cleveland Hall when Josh was President of HCC. Estrich alerted Josh that during the summer after everyone had left, the university had paved a path across the quad, effectively making it unusable for any sporting events like Dorm Wars or Hysteria. Enraged at this news, Josh got a hold of his old friend Dave Berkowitz and the two of them spewed fire and brimstone at the university administration. He and Josh and fired off a slew of angry emails to President DeFleur, all the Vice Presidents, and every Residential Life email address they could find stating that as new alumni they were horrified and livid over the deceitful tactics that the university employed. They also alerted every alumni that they could think of and encouraged them to do the same. Josh also called a reporter from the Press and Sun Bulletin who owed him a favor. With legions of angry alumni making phone calls, writing angry letters and emails, and with the bad press, the administration quickly relented and ripped up the pavement and reseeded the quad. It made the front page of
the Press and Sun Bulletin. Josh Kittenplan had scored one final victory for Hinman College.

To paraphrase an old proverb, you can take the boy out of Hinman, but you can’t take Hinman out of the boy. The years that he had spent in Hinman and all the good times that he had in the community inspired him and his friend Dave Berkowitz to create the Hinman Alumni Network in the year 2000. Although Josh would eventually step down to pursue his law school studies, the Hinman Alumni Network saw the creation of the annual Co-Rec in the Park, where Hinman alumni from all eras are invited to New York City’s Central Park for a picnic lunch, a pickup game of Co-Rec football, and the chance to catch-up with old friends and to meet new ones—the common bond being that everyone has lived in Hinman.

In 2007, Joshua Kittenplan had this to sum up his experiences with HCC:

HCC is at its best when it is a team environment. My role that year was as much a motivator as anything else, but without so many wonderful people dedicating so much time and energy to the community, my impact would have been substantially minimized…I could rave about so many people and their contributions to HCC that year, it was such a special, spirited bunch.

There is no doubt that there was truly something special about that HCC E-Board the year that Josh Kittenplan was President. However, as he said, it was truly a team effort. Any student government is a team effort and HCC is no exception. Countless people throughout the 1990’s made HCC an active and integral part of Hinman College and helped to make it the great place to live that it is today. Even though they may not be mentioned by name, it is these unsung heroes that helped continue the tradition of excellence of HCC and Hinman College.
Joshua Kittenplan, although perhaps one of if not the most influential of modern HCC presidents, was certainly not the last one. During the 2002-2003 academic year, Jordan Peck became the next to add his name to position of President of HCC. Jordan had come to Binghamton in the fall of 2001 partly because his father was an alumni but also because he was interested in Mechanical Engineering and Physics, and Binghamton University had both a good Engineering and Physics program. His freshman year, he lived in Roosevelt Hall, which at the time was the living/learning community for Hinman. Besides physics and engineering, Jordan had always been interested in politics and was encouraged to get involved in student government. His freshmen year he was the SA representative for Roosevelt Hall. Along with the regular SA meetings, he would also attend the weekly HCC meetings. There he quickly learned that HCC was at the heart of the community and the most active and influential of all the student governments at Binghamton University. He came to enjoy meeting new people and interacting with diverse groups who cared about being involved.

Following in the footsteps of Joshua Kittenplan, Jordan decided to run for President of HCC the next year. At the time the people in Hinman were somewhat ambivalent about him running for President. Though he was highly involved in the community he was viewed as an SA man and not one who was deeply committed to Hinman. Jordan did win the election and went on to be an exceptional President. Although his administration was not wracked with controversy like other earlier administrations, the Peck Administration still had issues to contend with. “We tried to strike a balance between keeping true to tradition and trying new things,” Jordan would say four years after his term of office. One such area in which they tried to innovate involved creating a new game for Dorm Wars. The game was a type of relay race

21 The Living/Learning community involves classes that are “linked together” (i.e. a philosophy and an English class or a biology and a chemistry class). The idea is that those in the living/learning community not only will do better at their classes but will study together and form close bonds.
where four people would pick up another person and carry them. Unfortunately, this particular
game was unsuccessful and resulted in numerous minor injuries. Still, it was this type of
innovation, a blending of the old and new, that Jordan and his E-Board tried to bring to Hinman that year.

The very next year, following his term of office as HCC President, Jordan, like Josh had
years earlier, decided to run for President of the SA. This time, though, Jordan won and a
Hinmanite was in charge of the whole Student Association. Efficient administration was a
characteristic of Jordan’s time running HCC and he carried this over to the job of SA President.
Jordan would learn the importance of efficient and rules-driven meetings during his time as SA
representative for Roosevelt. However, during his time as President of HCC, he also learned
about community and the importance of developing community. Combining the best of both
worlds, Jordan took office as SA President and quickly earned a reputation as being not only an
efficient administrator, but one who had heart as well. It is the latter of these two characteristics,
the importance of building community, that he learned by being President of Hinman College.

Other HCC Presidents and E-Boards followed. Frankie Seeman was President of HCC
for the 2004-2005 academic year. Anyone who knows Frankie can attest that he is a very
energetic, enthusiastic, and most especially, eccentric character. Numerous HCC meetings saw
Frankie strip some or nearly all of his clothes. One of the best and most memorable of HCC
meetings was one right before Winter Break when he came to the meeting dressed only in a box
around his waist that was wrapped in Christmas wrapping paper. On the box there was a tag that
read simply, “From: God. To: Women.” This is the type of raucous humor that made Frankie
one of the most beloved HCC Presidents of recent memory and one of the most dedicated and
active of the Hinman Student Fellows. Besides his humor and unstoppable drive and energy, Frankie also was able to get things done and run efficient meetings.

The Seeman Administration saw many reforms in HCC. One controversial change came when the HCC meetings, traditionally held at 10 p.m. on Tuesday nights, were moved to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays. Although to many this might to seem like a minor alternation to a schedule, many in HCC denounced the move, citing tradition and also the fact that many HCCers had late classes and/or meetings for other groups and organizations that met earlier in the evening. They declared that if the meetings were moved to 9 p.m. it would be all but impossible for them to attend HCC meetings. The supporters of the resolution argued that moving the meeting back an hour would get people out of the meeting earlier so they could study or go to sleep earlier if they had early morning classes. The arguments flew back and forth, though in the end it was agreed that HCC would be moved up an hour to 9 p.m.

One of the more interesting stories to come out of the Seeman Administration orginated during Dorm Wars 2004. During previous Dorm Wars, one of the events was to sell out the t-shirts for the hall. The first team to sell out the t-shirts got the most points. HCC ordered a set number of t-shirts, and when the box came the captains would give it to the halls and then it was up to the individual halls to sell out the t-shirts. However, that year’s Dorm Wars was in disarray and someone had forgotten to place the order for the shirts. Frankie and the rest of his E-Board rushed to the store that made the shirts and asked if the order of approximately 375 shirts could be in by the due date which was in just a few days. The proprietor of the store said that the best he could do was have the shirts ready by the end of the week. To cover-up their gaff, Frankie made up a story during the next HCC meeting about why the t-shirts would be delayed and instead handed out a “pre-order” sheet with the number of t-shirts and a set number of sizes to
each of the buildings. The E-Board’s mistake oddly enough turned into a success. The shirts sold out quicker than they ever did before. The system worked so well that from then on during every Dorm Wars and Hysteria, “pre-order” forms were distributed in advance of the event. Frankie, who was technically a member of the Class of 2006, decided to stay in college another year so that he could fulfill a lifelong ambition—study abroad in Germany. In the Fall of 2006, Frankie studied abroad in Germany and went on excursions throughout continental Europe. In the Spring of 2007 he returned to Binghamton to finish up his college career, and even though he had since moved off campus, he continued to come to HCC meetings regularly and remained active in Hinman as a Student Fellow.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, Josh Delmage was the President of HCC. The story of this HCC President was one of the most inspiring stories to come out of the history of not only HCC, but also of Hinman College. Josh, a resident of Tioga County, commuted to Binghamton University his freshmen year. Although he saved a lot of money, Josh felt that he was losing out on the college experience. For his sophomore year he asked for on-campus housing and he was placed in Smith Hall. He would remain in the very same room for the next three years. As luck would have it that first year, in that suite, were living HCC President Frankie Seeman and Ryan Schoeffield, who was the HCC Financial Vice President, at the time and who would go onto become an RA in Smith Hall. Virtually the entire HCC E-Board came from Smith Hall that year and Josh was exposed to the dedication and enthusiasm of that group of student government leaders. Seeing all of this, Josh was inspired to run for President of Smith Hall his junior year. Josh won the election and had an amazing experience with it. Josh would later say about his experience, “I lived it, I loved it, and I had to have more of it.”
for more involvement with student government, Josh decided to run for President of HCC and won.

It was also during this time that Josh met Victoria “Vicki” Wargo, a Smith Hall resident and the Academic Vice President of HCC during the Seeman Administration. Vicki would soon come to play a very important part in Josh’s life. Vicki came to Binghamton from Lagrangeville, New York, a suburb of Poughkeepsie. When she arrived in Hinman she quickly became involved in student government, partly because she was involved in government in high school, but also because she wanted to take on leadership positions in college. Eventually she worked her way up to Academic Vice President of Hinman College where she put on successful Research Fair and organized a Hinman team for the campus college bowl trivia competition.

One evening, there was an HCC program held in the East Gym where a game of dodgeball was to be played in the gym’s pool while the film *Dodgeball* would be projected onto a screen in the background. Present at this unique program was Josh Delmage. This was the time that Josh and Vicki first met. Their first conversation went as follows:

Vicki: “Nice arm.”
Josh: “Thanks.”

From this simple introduction the two grew to become close friends and began dating. Eventually Josh proposed to Vicki. These two seniors are presently engaged to be married in May 2008.

One contentious issue that during the Delmage Administration was an idea pitched by the Student Association for a “Super Community Meeting.” The SA proposal called for a combined meeting once a month of all the members of every area student government. The SA proposed this measure with the hope that it would bring students closer to the SA and allow the members of the SA to better inform the area governments. One problem with the “Super Community
Meetings” was that the meetings would be held on a rotating basis in each community. In other words, one month they would be in Dickinson, the next in Newing, the next in CIW, then Hinman, then Susquehanna and Hillside. The members of HCC would have to trek across campus. More importantly, it would take away a meeting of HCC. As everyone who has ever been involved with HCC knows, HCC meetings are long. This is not because a tremendous amount of business takes place but for other, far more important reasons. HCC is and has always been the social and culturally heart of Hinman College. The meetings times develop community like no other activity in Hinman. It allows its members to stay in touch and gives them a welcome opportunity catch-up with each other and to form bonds, many of which become long lasting and transcend the ordinary. The elected officials and HCR’s of HCC are unique among the communities in the sense that by and large they are all friends, both in the actual meetings and outside of it. HCC members work together and play together like no other residential college’s area government. These bonds of friendship and camaraderie often times go well beyond the college experience and translate into lifelong relationships. Taking away a meeting would seriously disrupt not only the business of HCC but also these important socialization and community-building experience. When the SA proposal was announced at one HCC meeting, the roar of disapproval was so loud that Josh took it upon himself to write a letter to the SA President explaining why HCC was against the Super Community Meetings. The SA President wrote back that Josh should run more efficient meetings. Not to be cast aside lightly, Josh along with Eric Katz, Hinman’s most vocal and influential SA representative, continued to call for an end to the Super Community Meetings. In a move reminiscent of the Sy Rolnick/John Huntington HCC duo of 1976, Josh and Eric fought the SA when all of the other residential colleges caved in to the decision of the SA. Eventually the decision was made that the Super
Community Meetings would be optional and later on the idea was abandoned completely. This was a victory for HCC. While the other communities had let the SA dictate to them, the leaders of Hinman stood up and fought for what they believed to be right. While that’s not saying that the Super Community Meetings would not be beneficial, the people of Hinman did not want them and it was HCC that made their wishes known.

The Legacy of HCC

In the Spring of 2007, Josh Delmage had this to say about the legacy of the Hinman College Council:

We back each other up. All of us have a sense of community. HCC is very much a growth process. It makes you ask the question of yourself, “What can you do to continue the traditions and legacies of Hinman?” HCC has truly been the best experience of my life in college and I’m sure it’s that way for others in Hinman too. How HCC is perceived is how Hinman is perceived. HCC is the most active of the area governments and we have a reputation for being the best. Other communities are just different. HCC is about showing the new students the passion of Hinman and passing it on to them so that they can continue with the traditions and pass that on themselves when the time comes.

Similarly, Vicki Wargo had these thoughts and reflections about her time and experiences in HCC,

Christina Ritter (AKA “Critter”-a former RD in Smith Hall), during her last HCC meeting before she left Smith said that “HCC is intense…it’s like no other experience. When you go to other communities it’s different.” I think that’s what it’s really all about. HCC values everyone…everyone has a say.

As great as these words of wisdom are, perhaps it is Joshua Kittenplan who best sums up the HCC experience.

I got involved in HCC because of being pushed through my RA, though other communities don't value public service the way Hinman does. I enjoyed HCC meetings, and the sense of camaraderie. When I was president I would go through my file cabinets in my office and read about the years gone by. I knew I was part of something larger.
than myself, but it was comforting to know that what we did at that time was the same as what was done before us and that those who came after us would do the same.

HCC is all these things and more. Belonging to HCC is belonging to the oldest and most dedicated of Hinman institutions. It is belonging to a body that makes important decisions that affect the lives of everyone who resides in Hinman. It is a fellowship that no matter when you went to Hinman, you can always, say “I was involved in HCC” and everyone will know what you’re talking about. It is an avenue for young people to hone numerous skills and become the leaders not just in Hinman but in life as well. Innumerable RA’s, DA’s and even SA Presidents have held positions in HCC. Countless doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and many others at the height of their professions all got their start in HCC where they learned confidence, poise, and invaluable interpersonal skills which transfer to any number of occupations. In other words, it is the place where boys and girls first entering college come to learn how to be adults and active citizens. Just as the Presidency of the United States is considered to be a sacred office, so too is that position in Hinman, maybe even more so. In fact, every position, from the President of HCC all the way down to each and every single HCR, is a valued and important member of the Hinman community. It is a fellowship that has lasted for nearly forty years and has only grown stronger as time goes by. If Hinman is described as a family, then HCC is the heart and soul of that extended family and the most central and shining example of the Spirit of Hinman.

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


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When Pride Still Mattered: The Legacy of Co-Rec Football

Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that.

-Bill Shankly, In Sunday Times (UK) Oct. 4, 1981

Prologue

While the statement above is in reference to the sport that Americans call soccer, the same truth applies to the American version of football and, more importantly, to the sport of Coeducational-Recreational (Co-Rec) football which was developed in Hinman College. This sport, with simple humble beginnings, grew to not only be the most popular pastime in Hinman but also swept the nation as one of the most popular collegiate sports played on college and university campuses. Most Hinmanites may not remember their professor’s name or all the classes they took, but just about each and every one of them remembers the name of their Co-Rec team and what their team T-shirt looked like. Co-Rec has provided exercise and much needed recreation for Hinmanites since 1971 and has been a staple of Hinman activities ever since. More than anything else, the sport of Co-Rec is one of the truest and most lasting legacies that Hinman College gave to not only the rest of Binghamton University but to colleges and universities across the country and around the world.

Bob Giomi and the Origins of the Sport

Unlike other areas of Hinman College life which are the results of a conglomeration of many students and professional staff, Co-Rec football was created and developed mostly by one man. That man, who is perhaps the most influential individual in Hinman College history, was Bob Giomi, the Head Resident of Lehman Hall and the Director of Social and Academic Programs for Hinman. Bob would be responsible for greatly influencing many areas of Hinman
life including the development of the Hinman Little Theater and Hinman Follies, but Co-Rec would by far be his greatest accomplishment. The idea behind Co-Rec sprang from the attempt by Giomi and others to create more social interaction within Hinman and to provide recreational activities for Hinman residents. One day Bob got to brainstorming and realized that intramural sports had always been popular with the student body, but that women rarely participated. Bob’s goal was to create a sport where both men and women could play on the same playing field. Bob then set about developing Co-Rec football, a sport that would integrate both men and women within a team. Co-Rec would be like any other touch football game, with two basic exceptions. One, women had to be on the team, and two, only the girls could be quarterbacks. Bob introduced this idea to the students of Hinman and the idea caught on almost immediately.

The first year that Co-Rec was played it was very experimental. While women had to be quarterbacks initially, there was no rule forbidding them to then hand the ball off to a man who could then throw it down the field. During the first few games Bob observed this and realized that once the men were handed the ball by the girls, they would pass only to other men. Seeing that women still were not fully being involved in the game, Bob amended the rules, and required that women and only women could pass the ball. With the exception of one “Guy Pass” allowed during the game, women would be the sole passers of the ball. Teams could be comprised only of members from a single dorm and each team had to supply a referee for the match. With this the game known as Co-Rec football was born.

The rules for Co-Rec in those early days were as follows:

1. 3 men, 3 women on each team playing on the field
2. Two hand touch, ANYWHERE!
3. 3 eligible receivers who must be designated before the snap
a. Quarterback is ineligible to receive

b. 3 men cannot be eligible receivers on one play

4. Female must be quarterback and she must throw the ball (if a pass play)

5. Two completed forward passes will be first down (over the line of scrimmage)

6. One first down per drive

7. Playing time

   a. Two 15-minute halves of non-stop playing time

   b. One 3-minute stop time period after second half

      i. Team behind at end of 2nd Period receives the ball on their own 20 to start the period

      ii. If a tie at the end of the 2nd period, flip of coin will decide possession

      iii. Each team is allotted two one minute time-outs in this 3-minute period

8. The ball is dead on hitting the ground; last team in possession keep ball at the spot

9. Maximum of 3 defensive line markers will designate side lines, end lines and the 20 yard lines

10. Ball will be set in play on the 20-yard line to start each half and after each score. First team in possession to be decided by flip of coin.

11. Any rules we forgot will be governed by IM football rules.

Shortly these ground rules of the game were laid down other areas of Co-Rec that are now familiar to Hinman residents arose, chiefly the colorful and innuendo-laced team names and team T-shirts. Once again, this was the brainchild of Bob Giomi. At this time Bob and his good friend and fellow Hinman staffer Gabe Yankowitz belonged to a team that played basketball regularly. Most members of the team were short in stature and both Bob and Gabe hovered in at
the height of around five feet. They also wore green jerseys with numbers on the back that were fractions (in reference to their short height). They also had their names across the back of the jersey printed so that they were like mock Irish surnames such as O’Giomi and O’Yankowitz. Their short stature coupled with the green jerseys with fractions and odd names on the back made their team name, “The Leprechauns,” all the more apt. Bob took this idea to the Co-Rec players and almost immediately they latched onto it. While Bob’s basketball team name was humorous and innocent, the team names developed by Co-Rec players were laced with not-so-subtle sexual innuendo that bordered on bad taste. The names printed on the back of the team T-shirts were risqué to say the least and the pictures on the on front oftentimes would make even the most liberal and open-minded person blush with embarrassment. Co-Rec football, as it is known today, had finally come into its own.

The 1972 Season

If the first season of Co-Rec was experimental, the second season started off with a bang with firmly placed ground rules and the grass on the Hinman quad thoroughly reseeded. This coupled with an intense desire on the part of most Hinmanites to play the sport would make for a great and popular season. There were approximately two teams for each hall including No-Name and Phaedrus both from Smith; Tomcats, Patton, and Lehman Lightning, from Lehman; Marbles, Lucifer, and archrivals Deadmeat and Livemeat from Cleveland; and Mash and Touch and Go both from Hughes Hall. Even the Hinman Dining Hall staff got in on the action with a team of their own called Vulcans. The first game of the season was uncomfortably cold, but fans came out in droves to cheer their team on. The first game featured Mash against No-Name with No-Name scoring first but having Mash tie it up quickly. With only 25 seconds left on the clock,
the No-Name quarterback threw a brilliant pass that resulted in a touchdown and a victory for No-Name. The final score was 12-6. Most of the other games for the season opener were not nearly as exciting and were mostly one-sided. Still, the season opener was popular enough to make an offhand remark enter into the Hinman Halitosis Quote of the Week. Overheard during a huddle was the sentence, “‘Giomi told us to go for short gains.’” So far the Hinman Co-Rec Two Hand-Touch Football League (HCRTHTFL) was off to a great start.

The next week saw more intense action as the teams really vamped up their competitive spirit. Lehman Lighting beat No-Name with a long touchdown pass to receiver Tom Fleck that brought the cheering crowds to their feet. Already at this stage in the season, the Lehman Lighting team was beginning to catch attention as a force to be reckoned with. The second game that Lehman Lighting played was against the Dining Hall team, Vulcans. During this game, Ed Schrenzel caught a pass and rushed 80 yards for a touchdown. The final score was Lehman Lightning 13, Vulcans 6. In another game the Hughes team Mash played against the other Hughes team Touch and Go. Mash had lost their previous game and was placed in the losers bracket. On this day, though, they would have a secret weapon. That secret weapon would be Pete “The Coach” Lorenzi. Lorenzi was very serious about his Co-Rec and would act as the team’s coach. It was rumored that he had a 360-page play book that he carried around with him during the games, though in reality it was only 18 index cards. Lorenzi would achieve fame that day for taking a losing team and soundly beating a better regarded rival with the respectable score of 21-6.

The third week saw some of the most intense Co-Rec action to date for that semester. The newly rebuilt Vulcan team soundly trounced the Tomcats 17-7. The weather had been cold and wet, forcing the teams that followed to play in less than satisfactory conditions. Lehman
Lighting would play Marbles, another Cleveland team. Lehman Lightning would fall behind at first, but would come from behind after quarterback Eileen Matthews threw a long pass to Ed Schrenzel for a final score of 7-6 Lehman. Controversy arose during the Mash-Phaedrus game when Mash players claimed that they tagged Lou Mauggeo in the backfield, but officials ruled that he had not been touched with both hands. Mash was in possession of the ball and had only one play left. Quarterback Wanda Ciofli threw a long, deep pass which was caught, stunning both Phaedrus and the crowd. Mash was victorious.

The next week was a big week for all of Hinman when local television station WBNG sent camera crews, and the local newspaper *The Sun Bulletin* sent reporters to cover the games and Co-Rec football. The Hughes team Non-Rabbits were to play the favored Lehman Lightning. Though the Non-Rabbits were beaten squarely, they played very well and both teams played tough. Quarterbacks from both teams took some pretty hard hits and yet still managed to make some impressive passes. The game was hard fought and made for good television. In another game Patton’s Andy Siskind almost single-handedly won the day for his team by catching an interception, returning a punt and catching a pass for a touchdown. The final score was Patton 18, Livemeat 0. The Vulcans had a difficult but exciting day as well. Although being outplayed during the first half, the second half featured a new quarterback, who threw two touchdown passes, bringing the score up to 20-18. On the fourth down, with exactly 20 seconds left to play, her pass was intercepted, denying the Vulcans their victory. In an earlier game, the team Phaedrus had been eliminated from the competition. Luckily for them, they were reinstated after their captains protested a call. The dispute centered around a Phaedrus player who had crawled into the end zone, but officials ruled that he had been down on the three yard line. The officials had been using College rules when officiating the game, but Phaedrus cited NFL rules.
which had been used in previous games and said that what they had done was not against the rules according to the NFL. It was decided to allow Phaedrus back into the competition but that in all future games only College rules would be used.\textsuperscript{cdxvii}

In the fourth week undefeated Lehman Lightning was challenged by Mash. Mash had previously demolished No-Name 45-12 with star quarterback Wanda Ciolfi throwing two bombs to Doug Renick, and Beth Coughlan threw perfect passes to Linda Curran and Pete Lorenzi, who broke open a tight game by catching an interception and returning it for a touchdown. Lehman Lightning, which until this time was securely in the top spot, saw Mash quickly rising to the third ranking and appearing to challenge the superiority of the as yet undefeated Lehman team. While the championship game rapidly approached, all Hinmanites took time off to watch Channel 12, which would feature Lehman Hall Non-Rabbits team complete with player interviews by reporter Phil Jacobs of WBNG.\textsuperscript{cdxviii}

The highlight of Fall Semester’s Hinman Weekend was the championship Co-Rec game between Lehman Lightning and Phaedrus. Eileen Matthews, who had been on Plato, the very first championship Co-Rec team, now played on Lightning and supplied all the scoring power that the undefeated team needed to clinch victory. The team ran a perfectly executed deep pass pattern which resulted in Don Kutner scoring early on in the game. Phaedrus blocked the extra point but could not come back as it had in previous games against Mash and Non-Rabbits. By this late in the season, the Hinman Quad had become a messy quagmire which tripped up both teams. Phaedrus in particular fell victim to the muddy mess. Several runs by Phaedrus players Lou Muggeo and Don Kutner caused some excitement, but in the end it was all for naught. In the final period Phaedrus was pushed back to its goal line and Lehman Lightning’s tight defense kept Phaedrus from penetrating any further. A last minute interception by Ed Schrenzel locked
up Lehman Lightning’s victory with five consecutive victories in their undefeated season. While Lehman celebrated its victory and the other Co-Rec teams celebrated a good and fun season, Bob Giomi and other Hinman staffers smiled with the knowledge that their experiment in co-ed intramural football had been a success. While much of the game play had been dominated by males, the females played an important role, and during some of the biggest moments of the season, it was women who were the crucial asset in the outcome of the game. Giomi and the Co-Rec teams washed their jerseys, put away their cleats, left the quad a muddy mess, and eagerly awaited the next Co-Rec football season.

The 1973 Season

The start of the 1973 season for Co-Rec had even more buzz than the previous two. Eileen Matthews was still in Lehman, but the search for the next great Hinman quarterback was on. Many speculated on how well Lehman Lightning and Phaedrus would do this year. The news that the grand prize for the winners of the season would be two and half kegs of beer also created much buzz. If the hype proved true, this third season in Co-Rec football would be the most intense and exciting to date.

The response to Co-Rec was even bigger this year than last year. So many teams applied that four separate divisions had to be created. The North Division consisted of the teams Cleveland Symphony (Cleveland Hall), returning second-place Phaedrus (Smith Hall), RIP (Roosevelt), and Clowns (Hughes). The South Division consisted of Off the Wall (Hughes Hall), Golden Touch (Roosevelt Hall), Sprite (Cleveland Hall) and Lehman III (Lehman Hall). The East Division had the teams Master Beta (Smith Hall), The Rocks (Hughes Hall), Matlin Fruit (Cleveland Hall) and returning champions Lehman Lightning. The West Division had the
team Cooties (Smith Hall), The Wild Ones (Lehman Hall), 3 Stories High (Cleveland Hall) and the return of the Dining Hall Team the Vulcans. The increase in talent promised to match the increase in the number of teams. Lehman Lightning had retained their most valuable player, quarterback Eileen Matthews but had lost many other key players from their champion squad. Ed Schrenzel, Don Kutner, Mike Alboucrek and Coach Mark Landman played for other teams. Their arch rival, Phaedrus, had only lost Lou Muggeo and were still a strong contender. The rest of the teams were a sprinkling of Co-Rec veterans and untried talent. Who would come out on top this season was anyone’s guess.

Due to winning the championship the previous year, Lehman Lightning retained their first seed spot even though they didn’t play that first week. All eyes were on Phaedrus this year because of their excellent showing and mostly veteran team. They beat Cleveland Symphony 27-0 on the opening day of play. Still, Cleveland Symphony’s coach, Mike Alboucrek, was a veteran of Lehman Lightning and it was surmised that his leadership would propel their team into new heights of victory once they gained some more experience. Golden Touch lost a close game to Sprite, with Sprite’s only score coming from an intercepted pass. The final score was 7-6. Though Nancy Chiccarelli threw a few good passes, Coach Leon Borden promised renewed vigor in Golden Touch’s practices. The major upset of season opener was when 3 Stories High beat the favored team Vulcans 18-0. 3 Stories High proved to have an excellent defense that kept the Vulcans star player, six foot five inches tall Jeff Edelman from scoring. The offense of 3 Stories High also proved successful with quarterback Valerie Herman showing signs of perhaps winning the MVP award. The Matlin Fruit Company soundly trounced the Rocks with a final score of 24-0. The team first known as Lehman III changed its name to Eros and was beaten by Off the Wall. Quarterback Wanda Ciofli threw two touchdown passes to Doug
Resnick and one to Stan Ruszkowski. The final score was 18-12. “RIP (R) handed the Clowns (H) a loss 6-0 when Rob Siegel returned an interception for a touchdown.”cdxxiii The action of the season opener proved that Co-Rec football was going to be hot this semester with tons of student involvement.

The following week saw Lehman Lightning shut out Master Betas 12-0 with Jim Lombardo scoring both touchdowns on passes from Eileen Matthews. The Wild Ones proved their own by shutting out the Cooties 25-0. John Knowles scored by returning an interception for a touchdown, as did Paul Engel. Marilyn Greif did a fine job as a quarterback for the Wild Ones. The Cooties, while unable to muster a score, did offer the most razzle-dazzle of the game. The awesome Phaedrus offensive machine plowed through the Clowns, earning themselves 26 points. Clowns receiver Ed Schrenzel made a number of spectacular catches, but in the end there was no laughter emanating from the Clowns, who were shut out 33 to nothing. Wanda Ciofli threw two touchdown passes and ran one in herself, helping Off the Wall beat Sprite 19-12. In another game, Off the Wall beat Golden Touch 25-6 thereby winning their division. Lehman Lightning easily handled the Rocks by shutting them out 25 to nothing. The Wild Ones surprised everyone by beating the Vulcans 13-0. The Matlin Fruit Company got canned by the Master Betas, one of the teams that appeared to be up and coming that season. The final score was Matlin 6, Betas 24.cdxxiv

The following week the mighty Pheadrus team was upset by RIP’s strong defense with the final score being 8-0. RIP won the North Division by later beating Cleveland Sympathy 13-6 in a postponed game. Master Beta ended the season with a stunning 42-6 victory over the Rocks. The superb offensive power of the team came directly from players Mike Jaeger, Charlie Boon, Steve Einstein and Janet Tillison. Myron Edelman and Paula Goldberg forced safeties and Jim
Doyle ran returned an interception for a touchdown. 3 Stories High won a well fought game winning 7-6 over the Wild Ones. In another exciting game, Sprite beat Eros 8-7 in the last few seconds of the game. A player known only as Sitar tagged Ed Schrenzel in the end zone causing a safety with clinched a victory for Cleveland Symphony over the Clowns. The final score was 2-0. The Lehman Lighting team chopped up the Matlin Fruit Company into salad with a final score of 33-0. Lehman Lighting, besides being undefeated, was the only team that season that had yet to be scored upon and it appeared that they were about to secure their season championship for another year. Matlin Fruit Company captain, Steve Matlin, executed some rather fruity (pun intended) plays including hiding the football under his shirt. For the Lehman team, Warren Sieder scored on two interceptions and star quarterback Eileen Matthews threw to Jim Lombardo for a few more scores. After the game, in a show of good sportsmanship, the Matlin Fruit Company took the Lehman Lighting team to the dining hall for dinner, supplying them with food, music and beer. MASH coach Pete Lorenzi thanked his team for all the hard work they had done that semester. With the regular season over, all of Hinman awaited to see how the remaining teams would do in the playoffs.

The playoffs began with Off The Wall ripping RIP a new one. Doug Resnick dashed to the end zone making the first score in the game. RIP tied up the score when Lou Maglio intercepted a pass close to the goal line of Off The Wall. Kenny Paster scored on the next play. Off The Wall came raging back with QB Wanda Ciolfi hitting Stan Ruszkowski with a pass that gave them their next touchdown. Doug Resnick scored the extra point bringing the score up to 13-6. Resnick showed even more dazzling maneuvers returning a punt the length of the field with the help of Robbin Berglund who provided some great blocks. Ciolfi threw another touchdown pass, this time to Resnick bringing the final score up to 26-6.
The second game featured 3 Stories High taking on favorite Lehman Lightning. This near epic battle resulted in a final score of 18-12 in favor of the underdogs. The game was tied 6-6 at the three minute stop time period. Lightning had been the only one to score by that point, but then Mike Hollander caught an aerial pass from Eileen Matthews. 3 Stories High evened the score in the second half when Rob Cohen snared Valerie Herman’s pass in the end zone. With 32 seconds left in the game, Matthews spotted Jim Lombardo and honed in on him, earning them another touchdown. Unfortunately, they were unable to get the important extra point. They entered into not one but two overtime periods, then Howie Sobel made a dramatic play that would go down in Co-Rec history. “…Howie Sobel returned a booming Andy Rothstein punt by zigzagging across the field, dodging twelve desperate Lightning hands to score the deciding touchdown in the second overtime period.” The crowd estimated at around 250 people swarmed the quad to congratulate the winning team. 3 Stories High had accomplished what some had considered to be the impossible. They had beaten what was considered an unbeatable team, the Lehman Lightning. The Lehman Lightning winning streak, including the previous season, tapped out at eight games. It was also the first game that the now legendary Eileen Matthews had lost. She had previously led the teams Plato and Lehman Lightning to victory the past two seasons. Her personal winning streak totaled twelve games, a record that has yet to be broken. 3 Stories High now was poised to take on Off The Wall the following week for the Co-Rec championship.

Far from the exciting upset of last week’s game, Off The Wall soundly defeated 3 Stories High in the championship game. Off The Wall got an early start with a crucial pass interference call followed by a completion which put them up 6 to nothing. 3 Stories High came back, only to be thwarted by an interception by Doug Resnick. This was the turning point of the game. 3
Stories High quarterback Valerie Herman threw a number of aerial passes with pinpoint accuracy the length of the field to Danny Cohen, the team’s receiver who made an extraordinary catch in the end zone at the end of the first half. 3 Stories, though, was unable to keep the momentum and was held by Off The Wall’s defense, which kept them scoreless for the remainder of the half. Wall scored twice in the second half, securing their victory. Unlike the previous year, the weather was warm and the quad was in excellent condition, which helped Wanda Ciolfi throw numerous amazing passes. Praise was also accorded to the team’s coach, Stan Ruszkowski, who had suffered a broken leg at the end of the previous season which kept him from playing for part of it. This season he was determined to put together a winning team and found solid talent in Gene Block, Robbin Berglund, Charlie DeMartin, and returning All-Star defense-woman Beth Coughlan. The end of the third season had come and gone, but the memories of this remarkable season would last a lifetime. It had seen the upset of the clear favorite Lehman Lightning by an underdog team, and Stan Ruszkowski, who had been denied a chance to play the previous season, got a chance to return and lead his team to victory. The third season of Co-Rec football proved that the sport would be around for a long time to come.

The 1974 Season

The fourth season of Co-Rec began in early September of 1974. It saw nineteen different teams or franchises come into existence, three more than the previous year. Even more amazing was that over half of Hinman’s student population was on a Co-Rec roster. The teams 3 Stories High and Lehman Lightning combined forces this year to create what they believed to be a super team called Highlight of Lehman. Star quarterback Eileen Matthews had graduated, leaving a void that needed to be filled. Highlight of Lehman did include the previous year’s stars Howie
Sabell, Artie Rosenberg, and Janet Krulick. Smith Hall’s team Master Beta included Charlie Boon and a recent draftee Kathy Kovack. Master Beta, having only lost one game in the last season, was a pre-season favorite for this year. The other Smith Hall team, Smith’s Sonian Institute, had included varsity players Mike Cunningham, Gary “Diz” Delprato and Ken Brann.

“General manager, assistant coach and all-around stud, Stan Goldberg [of HLT fame] has predicted his star quarterback Debbie Loeb to walk away with the Linda Hannah MVP award.”cdxxxi Also playing that season would be the Lehman team the Wild Ones. Steve Young [also of HLT fame] played for this team. The Wild Ones got their name because of their wild and raucous behavior both on and off the field. They would open their windows, remove the screens and blast the song “Born to be Wild” from speakers inside Lehman. The team would then charge out onto the Hinman Quad like Norse berserkers, partly in an attempt at intimidation, but mostly because they were just having fun.cdxxxii

That season saw three new rule changes to be added to the official Co-Rec rules.

1. All players are now eligible receivers.
2. Only 35 seconds are allowed in huddles.
3. A first down may be earned by two passes on completion or by advancing the ball past mid-field. Only one first down is allowable per drive.cdxxxiii

In the opening game of the season, the well organized and mostly veteran team Highlight of Lehman defeated the Cleveland team simply called What, 24 to 7. Howie Sabell scored on an end sweep and later in the game the team scored three more touchdowns. What’s Ellen Murray connected on a long pass to receiver Irene Knapp and along with the extra point made the last scores of the game.cdxxxiv
All was not lost for team What, though, which rebounded the following day by beating the team Nazz. Ellen Murray sprinted 40 yards to open up the scoring for her team, and Howie Glassman scored on a perfectly executed double-reverse. The final score was 19-6. The team Day-O stifled the team Uranus which originally was called Nematodes. Lou Maglio intercepted two passes which thwarted the offense of Uranus. Jim Lombardo rushed 90 yards on a punt return for his team Thunder, which was victorious over their rival Kapaygula. Smith Sonian Institute turned out to be a powerhouse with Alex Montarex scoring 4 touchdowns, two of which were on identical end sweeps. The final score was 47-7, a new record for Hinman Co-Rec football. The 47 points broke team Mash’s old record of 45, which it established two years earlier. The victory margin of 40 points was also a new record for Co-Rec football.

The following week saw Smith Sonian Institute again put on a powerful and exciting exhibition by defeating Hecklers 45-6. The team’s defense led by Pam Topar and Evan Anderson were given credit for the team’s victory that day because they each caught a key interception. Debbie Loeb proved her worth by connected to receiver “Diz” Delpardo. Pete Schirnoff of the Heckler’s saved his team from a complete shutout by catching an interception and running it back for a touchdown. In another game, underdog Uranus was beaten by Master Beta. With 30 seconds left in the game, Charlie Boon caught a long bomb in the end zone bringing the final score to 24-20.

A few weeks later there was much excitement when Bob Giomi announced that the national magazine Newsweek had contacted him with some interest in doing a story on Co-Rec football. However, play had been infrequent because the infamous Binghamton rains caused many postponements. The few games that were played were exciting, including one in which the Wild One’s Carol Stein threw an amazing 50 yard bomb. Laurie Cohn led her team,
the Kapaygulas, to victory over Uranus, with a mixture of great passes and dazzling runs. They also created a new record when their team completed all five of their extra point attempts. Master Beta won over Day-O with a final score of 31-13. Tom “Pollack” Pilholski had three interceptions, which included a runback for a touchdown. In another game, Uranus edged out Thunder with a final score of 33-31. Uranus’s Eileen Ehrenberg scored a touchdown early on which put the team ahead. Thunder, however, countered with three consecutive touchdowns, two by Alan Ginsberg and one by Jim Lombardo. What at first appeared to be a runaway game for Thunder was upset by Uranus when Arthur Ross intercepted a pass and scored a touchdown and the extra point. The Sonian Institute continued its winning streak and clinched a playoff berth in its game. Excellent defense by Evan Anderman helped bring the team to victory and Debbie Loeb hurled the ball 80 yards down the field to connect with “Daf” DeSantis. Their opponent Over-the-Hill did a fine job considering their quarterback, Charlotte Fellows, had an ankle injury. The final score was 32-2.

As the season came to a close, many teams began to get eliminated. The Wild Ones became a wild card after destroying the Sharks 30-12. The game was exciting, with Jose Santiago intercepting a pass and running 97 yards to make the touchdown. Carol Streim threw a pass that was caught by Bob Posner, who scored and consequently tied the game at 6-6 with 30 second left in the half. Streim connected with two more passes to Larry Weiss in the second half and Elliot “Babes” Arditti and Dan Block completed scoring for the Wild Ones, each once catching an interception.

The playoffs began with much anticipation as the remaining teams battled it out on the muddy Hinman Quad, all in an effort to earn their way into the championship game with the right to possess the coveted Robert Giomi Plaque. What came next was Hinman Co-Rec
Weekend. In the past, the championship Co-Rec games were important and well received, but this year it was going to be bigger than anything ever seen before. A Hinman Co-Rec King and Queen would be crowned, halls would be invited to build floats for a mini-parade, a Sock-Hop would be held in the Hinman Commons with no shoes allowed, a Bonfire/pep rally would take place at midnight at Sinisi Park (Sinisi Park was the area near the top of current Lot M. At the time it was a grassy and lightly wooded area where Hinmanites went to camp-out, play pick-up sporting games, or just relax in the sun. Although it was never officially given that name by the university, the students of Hinman began calling it Sinisi Park after beloved Faculty Master Vito Sinisi. It became so popular in fact that, even to this day, whenever anyone references that area, it is still known as Sinisi Park.) The event would be capped off with a parade of floats that included the king and queen, Grand Marshall Vito Sinisi, and Hinmanite Roberta Eagle singing the Star Spangled Banner with Paul Reiser accompanying her on the piano. Following this would be the 1974 Co-Rec championship game, complete with half-time show. Following the game Bob Giomi would present the victor the coveted Co-Rec Plaque, and the Linda Hannah MVP Trophy would be given to the most valuable female player. Afterwards everyone would celebrate at the Other Place and then have a victory celebration in the Hinman Dining Hall.

Before the festivities of the weekend could begin, the two teams that would go to the championship game had to be decided upon. Sonian Institute would play the Wild Ones for a spot in the championship game. The quad was wet and muddy, but both teams agreed to play anyway. The Wild Ones started out in possession of the ball and Carol Streim passed to Bob Posner, who scored the opening points in the game. This unsettled their opponents, who were favored to win. While Sonian quarterback Debbie Loeb played well as usual, her offensive line of Stan Goldberg, Mike Smith, and Alex Montenez had difficulty shaking the defensive line of
Elliot Arditti, Dan Block and George Levenson. Arditti scored again on an interception putting the Wild Ones even further ahead. By the end of the first half the score was 12-6, in favor of the Wild Ones. Both teams put up exceptional defenses and each yard was hard fought. Near the end of the second half, the Sonian captains requested that the five minute stop time period be postponed due to darkness. Referee Bob Giomi agreed, declaring that it would be difficult for him to judge fairly in the darkness. The two teams would have to wait to see who would be victorious.

Although coverage of the final five minutes does not exist, what is known is that the Wild Ones were the winners and advanced to the championship Co-Rec game against the Master Betas. The day started with the parade of floats. Elliot Arditti was chosen King and Mike Lamberta, taking the joke well, accepted the title of Co-Rec queen. With the necessary pageantry over, the two teams took to the field to decide the winner of the 1974 season of Co-Rec football. Within the first three plays, each team had scored a touchdown. Both quarterbacks, Kathy Kovach for the Master Betas and Carol Streim of the Wild Ones, were excellent and clearly the best in the league that year. Kovach was able to connect with Mike Jaeger for three touchdowns and extra points. The Wild Ones were able to pick up two touchdowns later on and by halftime the score was 27-19 in favor of the Master Betas.

The halftime show was just as spectacular as the play action. Mark Wenger brought out the Hinman Marching Non-Band which was really a bunch of people feigning to play instruments and walking all over the quad. The playing of these silent “air” instruments provided much entertainment for the crowd. There was a Bob Giomi impersonation and Head Resident Cheryl Eller performed a baton solo. The half-time show ended with the Hinman spirit chant. The chant was:
H is for the H in Hinman!
I is for the I in Hinman!
N is for the N in Hinman!
M is for the M in Hinman!
A is for the A in Hinman!
N is for the N in Hinman!
Perhaps it was not the most creative of cheers, but it still fired up the crowd and prepared them for some of the best Co-Rec football to date. The climatic finish between the two titans of Co-Rec for the 1974 season was about to come to its startling exhilarating conclusion.

The second half opened up with the Wild Ones scoring on a long pass to “Birdie” Bernadini. Patti Marcus ran in for the extra point. Bob Posner intercepted a pass with led to a touchdown scored by Rich Leroy. The defense for both sides worked exceptionally hard in an effort to prevent the other team from scoring. Ellen Kold in particular did well and was the only reason why the Betas didn’t go ahead in the last few seconds of the game. At the start of the five minute stop time period Steve Einstein intercepted a pass resulting in a touchdown for the Betas. The Wild One refused to give up and scored via a long pass to Bob Bernadini. With less than a minute left in the game, Carol Streim hurled a pass that went flying into Bernadini’s arms who then ran over the line, earning the Wild Ones a three point lead. With seconds to go and with Master Beta in possession of the ball, Bob Bernadini clutched the ball, almost dropped it, and then proceeded to outrun all the Betas down the field, scoring the final touchdown and earning the Wild Ones their first Co-Rec championship. After the game, Carol Streim was presented with the Linda Hannah MVP award and team captains Elliot Arditti and John Pruitt accepted the championship trophy from Bob Giomi. The fourth season was finally over, the most exciting and suspenseful season had come to a dramatic conclusion. All the upsets, the drama, and pageantry truly made both Co-Rec Weekend and the entire Co-Rec season something special. The dream that Bob Giomi had back in 1971 had come true beyond the imaginations of anyone.
involved. Hinmanites had latched onto the idea of Co-Rec and made it into something very special.

The 1975 Season

The 1975 season of Co-Rec looked as though it would not only match the previous season but surpass it. During housing sign-ups there was an intense drive on the part of team captains and coaches to recruit talent to their buildings and to their prospective Co-Rec team. This was especially true in the case of athletic girls, especially those who could throw a football. Captains, begged, pleaded and bribed young women to move to their halls so that they could play on their Co-Rec team. A few girls were so vigorously sought out by numerous teams that some would say that their treatment bordered on harassment. The biggest shocker for that season would be that the great Howie Sabell would move to Cleveland and quarterback Ellen Murray to Hughes Hall. Also, the number of teams per hall, which had been capped at four, was bumped up to five. Now even more Hinmanites could take part in the action of Hinman College’s favorite pastime.\textsuperscript{cdxvi}

Some surprising twists were to come this Co-Rec season. Smith Sonian Institute and Master Betas would join forces (by moving into Smith Hall) and creating a new team the Beta Institute. With them came quarterback Debbie Loeb and quickly became the pre-season favorite to go all the way. Last year’s champions, the Wild Ones, lost Carol Streim who had decided to move off-campus. Another favorite would be the Hughes team Sudden Death which had recruited Karen Simon and Jim Lombardo. Another Hughes team, Alcoholic Anonymous, or AA for short, had acquired burgeoning athletic talent Randy Mendelson and Maureen
With over 500 students signed up to play Co-Rec and with 46% of them being women, Co-Rec football in Hinman was about to reach new heights of glory.

New this year was an off-campus team called OCC-Hinman Alumni. Hinmanites who had moved off-campus still had the Co-Rec bug and asked Bob Giomi if they could form their own team. He agreed and the first OCC team to play Hinman Co-Rec football was born. The OCC team, complete with much experienced talent, entered into the fray and easily managed to claim the number one spot in only the second week of play. Carol Steim, the star quarterback from the previous year, played on this team and she had lost none of her throwing ability. She threw three touchdown passes, one of which was caught by teammate Bob Buckley, who also had an excellent day when he intercepted two more passes and returned them for scores. The OCC team beat the Tigers 38-6. The Wild Ones, even without Carol Steim, easily beat the Lower East Side 26-0. Sudden Death and 4-Play played a tight and competitive game, with Karen Simon, despite a sore arm, throwing three TD passes. Beta Institute rose to the challenge and beat Pas de Pomplemous (PDP) 13-9. The game was marked by a tactical error in which PDP threw a pass while they were ahead that was intercepted by Ken O’Brien. When the offense took the field Loeb threw a pass that resulted in a Beta Institute victory. The Roosevelt team Botulism beat out an unorganized Greatest Hits 19-6, moving the undefeated Botulism into the number five spot.

The following week of play saw torrential rains turn the quad into a muddy marsh. Still, the teams were determined to play and continued to slog it out even in the mud and the rains. Beta Institute beat out Greatest Hits 19-0. The OCC team (changing its name to Adults Only) conquered the Mishpocheh 44-7 due mostly a strong defensive line. PDP won over Grover’s
Gang, the final score being 18-2. The team Sudden Death clobbered Post Mortem 49 to nothing with a strong performance by quarterback Ellen Murray.

The next week of play saw Sudden Death beat Lower East Side and it moved into the number two rank, lagging behind only the OCC team Adults Only. Sudden Death broke the single day scoring record for a single team, which had been 50 points previously held by the Wild Ones. The final score was 63-6. Adults Only also jumped in on the action, trouncing Ya Mutha 34-2. In a rather exciting game, Son of What came from behind to beat ACE Menu 19-13, though the latter team planned on protesting the ruling to the coaches’ board. Unfortunately, the interminable Binghamton rains did not let up and many games had to be postponed due to the weather.

The coaches’ board, after reviewing the ACE Menu’s protest, ruled that they were correct. The problem arose when during the game, the ball had been jarred loose from a player on ACE Menu. It was then touched by a player on Son of What before hitting the ground. The referee awarded the ball to Son of What because he claimed that Son of What had had possession of the ball before it touched the ground. However, the coach’s board ruled that possession is defined as control of the ball and not simply touching it. It was ruled that the ACE Menu-Son of What game would be replayed if the outcome would affect who would make the playoffs.

While to some this might have seemed like a simply misunderstanding or as a bad call, the reality was that Co-Rec football at this time in Hinman was taken very seriously. ACE Menu was determined to get a second chance. When other teams would have simply let it go, they decided to fight the ruling and were found in favor. This was not unique simply to ACE Menu, this type of competitive attitude would be found in virtually every other Co-Rec team. Sure, they
were all there to have fun, but under no circumstances would they simply give up. Co-Rec football was serious business.

Besides overturning bad calls, that week also saw some exciting Co-Rec action. The Wild Ones/Sudden Death game was covered by the local newspaper *The Press and Sun-Bulletin*. During the game, 18 year-old sophomore Laura Devlin suffered a collision in the face and had the wind knocked out of her. After a few moments she got up and walked off the field to cheers from the crowd. There was no permanent damage and she rejoined the game after a brief respite. Sudden Death player Eve Zuckergood even brought out her pet dog Reginald Dynamite Van Gleason (“Reggie”). Reggie became the team mascot and wore a red shirt just like the team and when at half time the team changed to white shirts, so too did Reggie. For a little over an hour the two teams battled it out and interesting plays like a crisscrossing maneuver where the ball was handed off four times made the game exciting to players and spectators alike. At the end of regulation time, the score was 18-18 and instead of sudden death, penetration was used. Penetration was invented by Bob Giomi, mostly as a time saving measure. Penetration had the ball start at the 50 yard line, and in following eight plays whichever team had made the most progress into their opponent’s territory or whoever made a touchdown was the winner. The Wild Ones took this game, but both teams showed good sportsmanship and congratulated each other on a well-played game. Other games played during that week were Blome vs. Adults, with the final score being 12-7 in Blome’s favor. Son of What clobbered Star-O with a score of 33-0 and Beta Institute shut out Botulism 15-0 as did Greatest Hits over PDP. Coming back from a two-touchdown deficit, the Tampon Tigers won over Ya Mutha during Penetration.

The next week saw the beginning of the playoffs for that season and some astounding upsets. Sudden Death was squeezed out of a playoff berth when they were defeated by the Wild
Ones. During the game, the Wild Ones took a quick lead on an intercepted pass and then proceeded to score two more quick touchdowns. The final score was 39-12. Contagious, another more favored team, was beat out by Beta Institute in a see-saw battle with the final tally being 33-27. Other highlights from that week’s events saw Adults Only shutout Blome 33-0, with the Adults Only defense receiving kudos for their efforts. In the protested game between Son of What and ACE Menu, ACE made it onto the board first but couldn’t continue on to the main course. The final score was 33-6 in favor of Son of What.

The fifth Annual Hinman Co-Rec Championship game debuted to much fanfare and excitement amidst the usual pageantry and flair of the Co-Rec weekend; however, this time it was raining. At 1:00 p.m. the floats rolled out onto the Hinman Quad. Cleveland had a bicentennial themed float, Lehman had a large football, Smith had a scoreboard for a float, Hughes had a large Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade-style balloon, and Roosevelt had a gigantic football filled with balloons that were released skyward. The magnitude of the parade, according to the report in *Hinman Halitosis*, nearly made this year made Hinman’s Co-Rec weekend eclipse the Rose Bowl Parade.

The two teams playing in Hinman’s version of the Super Bowl were the controversial OCC team Adults Only and the previous year’s winners, The Wild Ones. The game began as a defensive battle with neither team being able to score. The Wild Ones were finally able to mount a successful drive, with Laura Harris throwing a pass to Brian Semler, who ran it in for a touchdown. Semler also caught the extra point. The score at the end of the first half was 7-0. During halftime, Vito Sinisi crowned Ellyn Merriam of Lehman and Pete Shernoff of Hughes as that year’s Hinman queen and king. Entertainment was provided by Matt James and the Flames, singing a number of old favorites and even performing a tribute to Bob Giomi. The halftime
entertainment ended with the introduction of a new sport that confused many but would later go on to become popular not only in Hinman but also on college and university campuses around the country. That sport was Ultimate Frisbee.

The final half started off with Carol Streim of Adults Only throwing a touchdown pass to one of her teammates. They scored again with a Bob Buckley interception. Unfazed, The Wild Ones drove the ball back down the field and scored on a surprise Harris to Patty Marcus TD pass. Streim then hurled the ball downfield and it was caught by Buckley who scored another touchdown for Adults Only. The game went into sudden death (Penetration was not used for the championship game) and Adults Only came out on top when Streim hit Mike Jaeger to score the final touchdown. The final score was 26-20.

Following the game it was announced by Co-Rec Commissioner Bob Giomi that the MVP award would go again to last year’s winner Carol Streim, and Patty Marus and Bob Buckley would receive the defensive and offensive award respectively. “Sportscasting [sic] was done by Cliff Gardner and Bobby Posner. Ellen Murray also provided commentary.” Bob Giomi, Gabe Yankowitz, Jeff Haber, Donna Fox, and Charlotte Fellows were commended for their excellent job officiating. Another exciting Co-Rec season had ended.

Hinman Co-Rec may have been over, but Adults Only was not finished just yet. Newing College’s championship Co-Rec team, Harness, challenged Adults Only to play a game to see who was the better team. The Newing team, living up to their dirty and trash-talking reputation, claimed that Hinman Co-Rec was far inferior to Newing Co-Rec and that the Newing team would easily defeat the Hinman team. Never one to turn down a challenge, Adults Only agreed to play their Newing rivals.
The next week saw the game between the two residential college archrivals. Everyone eagerly awaited to see who would come out on top. Everyone agreed that Newing was better at the throwing passes while the Hinman team was better at the running plays. Scoring began when Harness’s Ethan Falk intercepted a pass and ran it back for a touchdown. Mike Fuchs also scored for Harness. Bob Buckley and Arite Rosenberg scored for Adults Only. The game was close until Carol Streim threw a long bomb to Mike Jaeger, who ran for a touchdown. Jaeger would go on to score three more touchdowns that game. The final score was 32-13, making Hinman College, the birthplace of Co-Rec football, the victor in the first intercollegiate Co-Rec game.

The 1976 Season

The start of the 1976 season saw Co-Rec just as popular as ever and perhaps even more so. During housing signups, the coaches of virtually every team tried shamelessly to recruit people, especially athletic girls. Even within buildings, different teams vied for the pick of the talent with many backroom deals being struck over who would appear on that season’s roster. When freshmen moved into their rooms for the first time at the start of the semester, the coaches of each team pounced mercilessly. Scared and naïve freshmen signed up for teams without even knowing for sure what Co-Rec was all about. They were in for a pleasant surprise.

After some stern warnings to Hinmanites about abstaining from walking on the Quad to keep it from becoming a muddy mess, Co-Rec was ready to begin. This season saw many faces new to Hinman’s favorite pastime and much undeveloped talent stepped up into leadership roles. The Roosevelt team The Happy Cookers (in honor of the building’s cooking dorm) was the favorite to win. The Happy Cookers had both Debbie Loeb and Karen Simon, two of the best
quarterbacks in the league. The Corporation from last year strengthened its team with fresh female talent Laurie Cohen, Joan Kolins, and Gloria Diana. Steve Rosenberg, one of the better Co-Rec players from the previous year, was about to make Co-Rec history. Rosenberg had taken over the leadership of the team formerly known as Alcoholics Anonymous and transformed them into not only one of the most flamboyant Co-Rec teams ever to take the field, but also one of the best ever to play the game. That team, which would go down in the annals of Co-Rec history, would be the Jesus Christ Superstars.

The J.C. Superstars, as they were known, left a lasting impression on Bob Giomi. One would think that the creator of Co-Rec, having overseen five seasons of play by that point, would have seen it all. The J.C. Superstars, though, were something unique. Like the Wild Ones, the J.C. Superstars would blast music from their windows and come charging out onto the field. Adding to the humor of the moment was the fact that all the players were Jewish and playing on what appeared to be a decidedly Christian team.

That season’s play saw the teams J.C. Superstars (Hughes), the Corporation (Lehman), the Happy Cookers (Roosevelt), and Stacked Deck (Smith) on the top of their divisions, each one being undefeated. By midway through the season controversy arose during a game between Mild Stroke and the Corporation. Mild Stroke claimed that the Corporation’s quarterback, Diane Mazur, was tagged during an important play. After some heated arguments officials ruled in favor of the Corporation. Michele Carnavale of the J.C. Superstars showed some excellent athletic abilities, surpassing all with her throwing abilities. She helped her team win over What’s Inna Name with score being 40-15.

The following week’s Co-Rec activities saw many games decided by extra points or the lack thereof. The team Buzzed nipped the team called simply The Team with a score of 20-19.
The Pits barely won over the tough team the Oakdale Maulers by the narrow margin of 19-18.

The team Artful Dodgers also won over Blitzed, the final score being 20-6. However all was not well in Hinman at this time. An editorial in the *Hinman Halitosis* showed the frustration that upperclassmen Hinmanites felt toward the lack of spirit in Hinman College at this time.

It appears that since the beginning of the semester Hinman College has been suffering from a severe case of apathy. This is an unfortunate occurrence since many individuals work long hours to organize activities for Hinman residents.

One tradition of the college which has born the brunt of apathetic reaction is Co-Rec Football. In previous years spectators would crowd around the quad to observe the games. Even the atmosphere in the dining hall has mellowed during game time. Cheers and commentary about the plays, touchdowns, and the caliber of refereeing are few and far between this season. In a short time, the championship game, the culmination of Co-Rec Football will be held. So far there has been little response to work on the Co-Rec Weekend committee. In the past Hinman has brimmed with spirit and excitement about the dorm floats, and half-time show and the possible identities of the King and Queen of Hinman College.

Another event which elicited virtually no response was the all-Hinman Dance in the Hinman Commons a few weekends back. It was pitiful that so few people showed up. There was plenty of free beer, and good tapes for dancing. Yet the turnout was incredibly poor.

The social committee works diligently, planning activities for the future. However, it is the responsibility of everyone living in the complex to support the effort and make the activities worthwhile investments of time and money. All that is needed is a bit of interest.

While the letter was mostly venting the frustrations of the Hinman Social Committee, whose job it was to provide Hinmanites with recreational and social activities, the focus of the letter was disturbing. Its implications for not just Co-Rec football but other Hinman activities were depressing to say the least. While still immensely popular, for some reason Co-Rec was just not as appealing to the student body as it used to be. Still, high hopes for the rest of the Co-Rec season ran high as it hurtled towards its dramatic conclusion.
The following week saw the lowly ranked team Joint Effort upset division leader the Happy Cookers. This created the possibility of a five-way tie for first place in Division III of the Hinman Co-Rec Football League. In Division I, the J.C. Superstars went up against DOA for the division title, with the Cuckoo’s Nest a challenger to both. In Division II, Mild Stroke stayed alive and defeated the Oakdale Maulers in a close game. In a surprise twist of events, the Artful Dodgers surpassed the favorite the Corporation in a game that had to be postponed. Unlike previous seasons, who would still be standing after the playoffs for this season was anyone’s guess.

During the final rounds of the playoffs, The Team played Buzzed and led until Stop Time, when Buzzed tied the game and sent the match into overtime. During the sudden death period, Pam Martin threw a long pass that Dan Block valiantly tried to knock down, but instead wound up in the hands of Larry Brooks, who scored the winning touchdown. The Oakdale Maulers played the Corporation in a scoreless game until the Stop Time period, when Dave Rabkin caught a pass and scored a touchdown winning the game for the Corporation. They went on to play Mild Stroke, which beat them 14-12. DOA dominated the Artful Dodgers with a final score of 20-7. That afternoon the Happy Cookers played Stacked Deck, and the Cooker’s Debbie Loeb dominated, leading her team to an 18-6 victory. In the final game of the day, J.C. Superstars defeated Mild Stroke with a score of 38-20. Quarterback Michelle Carnevale threw pass after pass that connected to Randy Mendelson or Brendon Sullivan. Mike Spar assisted the team with an interception.

The next day was unusually cold and saw the semi-final matches. DOA beat up on Buzzed. Great offensive moves by Randi Franco, Rich Went and Pete Berman led the day for DOA. It was a disappointing end for Buzzed, which had come from a tough season to win the
A punt that bounced off a Cooker player and was recovered by a J.C. Superstar player sealed the fate of the Happy Cookers, with the final score being 28-25. It was a very well played game that could have been the championship game. It would also be the last game for Karen Simon, Debbie Loeb and Stephie Shalofsky, who had provided Co-Rec with some of its finer moments over the past few seasons. Everyone eagerly awaited to see the championship game between the J.C Superstars and DOA.

As DOA and the J.C. Superstars geared up for championship game, the rest of Hinman geared up for Co-Rec Weekend. An Oktoberfest theme was planned complete, with Brockwurst, Weiner Schnitzel, German potato salad, German chocolate cake, and of course, beer. A live Polka band would provide the entertainment. More importantly, and excitingly, CBS Sports had announced that they would come to film the activities of Co-Rec Weekend. Hinman Co-Rec football was hitting and airwaves and going national.

The championship game was complete with all the pomp and pageantry of years past. The game would be one of the most lopsided games in Co-Rec history with J.C. Superstars beating DOA 46-6 and earning the grand prize of not only having their name etched on the Robert F. Giomi Plaque but also two and half kegs of beer. J.C. Superstar’s quarterback Michell Carnevale consistently connected with Mike Spar, Randy Menelson and Brendan Sullivan for both long and short passes. This earned them seven touchdowns. The only touchdown scored by DOA was by Pete Berman. The J.C. defense was in top form and blocked every other attempt to
score. After the game Michelle Carnevale won the offensive player of the year award, and the defensive player of the year was Mike Spar. The MVP award went to Diane Mazur of the team Mild Stroke for her excellence throughout the season. The Half Time show featured the talented Cervantes Marching Band, a talented drum and bugle corps of 8-14 year olds who played such numbers as “It’s a Small World After All,” (the theme song of Co-Rec) “This Land is Your Land,” and “When the Saints Come Marching In.” Before the game began, the Star Spangled Banner was sung by Adinah Shulimson with a piano accompaniment by Paul Reiser. Everyone had a great time and it was a fun a memorable moment. The only let down was that CBS never showed up. Bob Giomi tried to cheer everyone up by reminding them that it was only third in the Nielson ratings. Even with the rather lackluster championship game and lack of televised coverage, Co-Rec football had had another successful season.

The 1977 Season

The 1977 season of Co-Rec began just as eagerly as the first one with teams from each hall signing up in droves. It seemed everyone wanted to be a part of the Hinman Co-Rec Football League. One problem early on focused on the state of the Hinman Quad. All too often the quad quickly became a quagmire of mud and torn turf. As players ran across the field tearing up the sod and the infamous Binghamton rains fell, destruction of the quad was nearly inevitable. However, this year Bob Giomi was dedicated to trying to preserve the quad in the off-season as much as possible. An article entitled “The Quad Cycle” in the Hinman Halitosis newsletter of September 1, 1977 stated tongue-in-cheek Giomi’s everlasting task in Hinman.

In the beginning—there was seed. And the seed was good. And then, there was rain, and rain, and rain and rain…And the rain and the seed made a perfect union. And Bob Giomi stood over the quad and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.” And a fence was erected.
When the summer heat had done its work, and after all were settled in their humble abodes, they looked out their windows and saw the miraculous green substance, and Giomi said, “Let the fence come down.” He looked over the green colored quad, proclaimed it grass, said it was good, and rested.

And, along with Bob Giomi’s sadistic sense of humor, there was created Co-Rec football—which does not mix with grass covered quads.

Since Lehman had sinned by losing the Co-Rec Championship, the wrath of Giomi was upon us in such furor that even J.C. could not save us. So, each October, the quad returns to its original sorry state of mud-dom. It thus remains until April, when the omnipotent and omniscient Giomi will again proclaim GRASS.

Though being a humorous anecdote, this passage was true in more ways than one. The quad was perpetually being torn apart to become a primordial mess of muck and mire. It was a never-ending challenge to the Hinman professional staff, and most especially Bob Giomi, to keep the quad in as good a condition as they possible could. For all of Co-Rec history, even when play moved from the quad to Sterling Field behind Roosevelt Hall, this was an issue that continually arose.

More importantly, Bob Giomi, humorously portrayed as the God of Hinman, was in many ways just that. Unknown to most Hinmanites, the beloved Head Resident of Lehman Hall, the Director of Social and Academic Programs for Hinman, confidant, advisor, and friend, was going to officiate his last season of Co-Rec. Bob Giomi, the individual who was solely responsible for creating a unique and exciting sport which would entertain thousands of Hinmanites over the coming decades, was planning on moving on. Heartfelt tears and emotions would have to wait. The 1977 season of Co-Rec needed to be played.

The season kicked off to a great start with a number of exceptional teams competing. Early on, the favorites to go all the way was the team Super Bowls who had amassed 62 points over two games and had only given up 13. What was even more amazing was that virtually everyone on the team had an equal amount of playing time. Their offense was crisp and player
Steve Fishoff caught nearly everything that was thrown his way. Chuggaluggers beat the favored Second Coming and the Knights of Erotica were beaten by Hot to Trot. Trapped Gas exploded with 24 points over On The Rocks and All the President’s Men defeated Zero’s Heros during Penetration. Ghoti dropped What’s Our Name during their match, but What’s Our Name took on Killer Elite and squarely trounced them. The Out of Towners were victorious over Sambo’s and Pat Mitchell’s (named after the famous and popular local ice cream shop) beat Zero’s Heros in a later game. The team the Other Place had sloppy play but still beat On the Rocks.\textsuperscript{cdlxxv}

Unfortunately, Co-Rec season was delayed for a time in late September. Binghamton, which is known for its seemingly unending rains had significantly more rain than usual that year. One of the local papers, the \textit{Evening Press} had the headlines “More Rain Forecast,” “September ’77 Area’s Wettest,” and “Ain’t No Sun Up in the Sky in Binghamton Anymore.” In fact, September of 1977 would be recorded as the wettest month ever on record for all of Broome County. The month’s total rainfall reached 9.57 inches, while the average amount was 3.02 inches of rain. The National Weather Service reported that from September 13 to September 29, 1977, it had rained on every single day. Needless to say, this did not do much to help the Co-Rec field. Play was postponed until the rains settled down and the quad dried out.\textsuperscript{cdlxxvi}

By early October the rains had subsided enough to allow for play to continue. Second Coming was to build their team back up during the hiatus and they rose to the top of their division. The Chuggaluggers kept up their winning streak and beat the team Sambo’s 26-0. Super Bowls was able to score 37 points even without their starting quarterback. The Knights of Erotica scored 39 points over Co-Wrecked.\textsuperscript{cdlxxvii}
The following week saw the team What Am I Wood splinter and drop into second place when One Track Mind defeated them. One Track Mind went on to defeat Knights of Erotica as well earning them much needed points. Both the teams I’m OK and Co-Wrecked were locked in bitter competition for a playoff berth while the favored Super Bowls lost to Mirth which allowed them to rise to the number-one spot in their division. Unlike in previous years, when there was usually a dominant team in each division, the teams this year were scattered across the board with not a single one rising above the others. This had a two-fold effect. First, it showed that none of the teams that year were consistent. In other words, none were really all that good. Second, it did make for an exciting regular season because just about anyone could get into the playoffs.

The next week of play saw the Super Bowls sink even further, losing out to the Freddie Fudpuckers. The Fudpucker’s quarterback, Irene Knapp, was on fire for that game and helped carry her team to victory. The team Mirth lost 6-0 to Murderers Row. That game was marked by many fouls and on numerous occasions the officials had to throw flags. What Am I Wood rebounded and defeated Hot To Trot 14-6. The Knights of Erotica found that if they lost one more game they would be removed from the playoffs. On top of that, the team called Rings of Uranus played an excellent game against All the President’s Men.

While the rains had put a damper on the season earlier that year, the lack of another liquid was about to rouse the ire of Co-Rec players and fans alike. It turned out that the Hinman College Council (HCC) had stated that they would not use funds to purchase the two and half kegs that were traditionally the prize for the winning Co-Rec team. The kegs had been described as a luxury item and not in the true spirit of game, which was not to celebrate solely winners but the love of the sport itself. HCC noted that the trend had been toward closed parties, where the
kegs would be offered only to a select few people. HCC wanted the parties to be open to more people and not solely for members of the winning team and their close friends.

HCC rejected the claim for beer kegs, stating that the $41.50 was far too high a price for the two and a half kegs. They went on to argue that they wanted to allocate $150 toward putting a cable hookup in the Hinman Commons so that Hinmanites could watch, big sporting events like the World Series, in color. HCC also stated that few students supported this allocation of money and that students should participate more in hall government if they wanted their views, such as getting kegs for the Co-Rec champions, to be known.

Despite the potential lack of alcohol, Co-Rec play continued unabated. Ghoti whipped the Rings of Uranus, whose offense was abysmal in that particular game. One Track Mind was also squarely beaten by No Sweat. Mirth scored 52 points that week, which was the most points since 1975, when Lower East Side was defeated by Sudden Death 63-6. The game of the week was considered to be the match between Out of Towners and Chugaluggrs, with the Out of Towners winning in a well-fought struggle against their opponent. The playoffs were at hand and still there was no powerhouse team or clear favorite. This season just about any team could potentially enter the championship.

The following week it was announced that instead of the usual crowning of the Hinman King and Queen during the championship Co-Rec game, there would be a vote for the ugliest male and female in Hinman. Contestants would be invited to make themselves look as ugly as possible. While at first this may have seemed rude, each vote would cost a cent and all the proceeds would go to the Big Brother/Big Sister program. Hinman was gearing up to have fun on Co-Rec weekend and to help a good cause too.
The playoffs that season were very exciting, with not a single team dominating. Second Coming was able to beat out Chugaluggers in a very exciting overtime match. Chugaluggers went on to win 6-0 over Knights of Erotica. The Out of Towners were successful in winning over What Am I Wood 19-14. With the playoffs over, the two teams that were to meet each other on the gridiron were Second Coming and Mirth. This match-up promised to be very exciting. Both teams had excellent offensives. Brendon Sullivan would face Pete Berman, who was not able to play in last year’s championship. These two all stars were ready to fight for the coveted Robert F. Giomi Plaque. Michele Carnavale would also be playing, as would Leigh Treat and Bev Carlson, some of the best female and all-around players in the league. All in all, it looked to be an exciting game for the close of the 1977 season.

The next Sunday saw the sixth annual Co-Rec Championship game. Neither Mirth nor Second Coming could use the wet, sloppy quad to their advantage. The afternoon’s parade was a strong showing of team and Hinman spirit. Paul Reiser had graduated the previous May so he could no longer serenade them with the piano, so Hinmanites were forced to hum the tune of the Star Spangled Banner. Brendan Sullivan scored for Second Coming on a run which had been set up by a pass that had been caught by Kenny Miller. Mirth came back and tied the game. Second Coming quickly rebounded and at the end of the half they led 25-6. The second half saw much of the same action as the first half, and the final score was 51-20 in favor of Second Coming. Following the game the MVP award went to both Sullivan and Carnavle. A new award, the Hot Water Soap award, went to Killer Elite and On The Rocks for their perfect seasons. They both lost six games and won none. Another new award that year was the Co-Rec Coach of the Year award that was awarded by the head referees on the basis of continued efforts to inspire his/her team to play Co-Rec the way it is meant to be played. That is for the love of the game. The
award that year was given to Frank Sangirogio for his efforts in inspiring his team Hot To Trot. After the game, both Second Coming and Mirth went to the OP (the 2 ½ kegs of beer were denied by HCC) to celebrate the end of another great Co-Rec season. Awards and commendations were also handed down to Bob Giomi and Gabe Yankowitz for all their efforts in both Hinman College but most especially for the sport of Co-Rec. These two men stated, “…to all the coaches and teams, we would like to express our thanks for the thoughtful awards which were presented to us. It is a gesture greatly appreciated, as was the help and cooperation you gave us throughout the season. By and large, it was the best season ever.”

It could not have been a more perfect way to go out. In the summer of 1978 Bob Giomi, the creator of Co-Rec football, the driving force behind Hinman Follies, the Hinman Little Theater, Hinman Halitosis and so many other Hinman events and institutions left Hinman to take a job in Whittier, California. During his tenure, Bob had done more than any other individual to create traditions that were uniquely Hinman. Many activities and traditions have been passed down from generation to generation of Hinmanites and the vast majority of them were created by Bob Giomi. Like no other Hinmanite, Bob did more during the formative years of Hinman College than anyone else. With contemporaries like Faculty Masters Pete Gruber and Vito Sinisi and fellow professional staffers like Allan Eller and Gabe Yankowitz, Bob was but one many great individuals in early Hinman history. However, none would have the lasting impact on both the college and the residents like Bob. The story of Hinman is not the story of one individual. Throughout its long and illustrious history many individuals have stood up to become leaders and giants within the community. Yet Bob Giomi should be recognized as the most important of these individuals. His tireless drive, devotion to Hinman, and dedication to the students living within its bounds would be unmatched by anyone in any other community or anyone who would
come after him. While he would be surely missed, the legacy that he would leave behind will go on forever as long as there are plays in the Hinman Commons, printed issues of the *Hinman Halitosis*, and Co-Rec being played on the fields of Hinman. While he may be short in stature, of all the giants in Hinman history, Bob Giomi is the tallest of them all.

**The 1978 Season**

Even without Bob Giomi to watch over the turf of the quad or to officiate, the Fall 1978 Co-Rec season started off with a bang. Unlike the previous year, the first week saw not a single drop of rain. This allowed the numerous Co-Rec teams to play on a dry and grassy Hinman quad. The game between Cunning Runts and Heads Up was played to a tie on a particularly blustery day which played havoc with forward passes. Brendon Sullivan and Michelle Carnavale were back together again, this time playing for the team Intensive Care. They took out Talking Heads by a score of 33-0. Slippery When Wet used its excellent defense to good use when they played against What’s So Funny and kept the team tied up on the gridiron. Kamanawan Alaya roared over Knowledge is Good, also to the score of 33-0. The teams that were favored to go all the way that season included Olympus, Good For What, and Heads Up, which contained the remnants of last year’s powerhouse Second Coming.

Unfortunately, a number of issues of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter are lost for the month of October, so no details on those games are recorded. By late October, however, the last week of regulation play was finally over. Slip of the Tongue finished the season with a perfect record of six wins and zero losses. They soundly licked their last two opponents, racking up a total of 62 points in those two games. Olympus, which up until that point had a perfect season, lost to Good for What. Like so many other sports teams in history, Olympus would not be a
master of its own destiny. Due to a trick in the rankings, If Good for What won their game with Heads Up, then Good for What would bump Olympus out of their number one spot. Yet if Heads Up was victorious, Olympus would remain in the number one spot. The players of Olympus watched and waited to see the outcome and rooted for Heads Up to win. In a thrilling game Intensive Care with its dynamic duo of Brendan Sullivan and Michelle Carnavale defeated Samurai Co-Rec Team in a down-to-the-wire match, the final score being 18-12. Atomic Waste took first in their division, with Pigs-in-a-Blanket taking second.

Controversy began to emerge about the competitive nature of Co-Rec. Apparently, Hinmanites were getting so into their beloved sport and becoming so concerned with winning that some were forgetting the meaning of Co-Rec in the first place. That is, they were forgetting that Co-Rec wasn’t all about winning, that is was about involving as many Hinmanites of both sexes as possible in a sporting event. Most important of all was that Co-Rec was supposed to be fun. Although the earlier editions of *Hinman Halitosis* are lost to us, apparently there was a flood of critical letters to the editor expressing concern about the increasing competitiveness of the sport and the view of some that Co-Rec was now all about winning.

In the October 19, 1978, issue of *Hinman Halitosis*, Hinmanite and Co-Rec aficionado Charlie Koenig wrote a letter to the editor concerning his views on the state of Co-Rec football in Hinman. His letter read:

Mr. Mancini’s points should be foremost in the minds of every player on a Co-Rec football team every time they take the field. There are, however, points that he overlooked.

Any time people take the field, court, ice, etc., versus any team, there will be competition no matter what rule changes have been made. There will always be people who care about winning, and that is good. There would be no sense in having divisions, playoffs, floats, championships, etc., if winning were not a factor. If the point is eliminating competition there might as well be no score, but just a schedule of teams playing at
random. If this were to happen you would eliminate not only competition, but interest as well.

Mr. Mancini’s mention of injuries (such as the broken clavicle and other [sic]) is good, except he did not mention that the injuries occurred accidentally. I played in both games and both plays were freak accidents. No matter what rules are in effect there will always be accidents. Apologies should be made if they have not already, but the injuries should be understood to be accidents, not a result of violent play.

What is most disturbing to me as a person is the violent aggression I have seen. I, like 99% of the people who play Co-Rec, do so purely for fun (with the hope of winning). What concerns me is a small group of people who begin a game with the [text unreadable] other team’s main objective was taking our best player out of the game via injury or ejection for fighting. I cannot believe that that idea came from mature college students. The girls on their team said they would not play on the team anymore. QUITE UNDERSTANABLE.

What that kind of play does is take the girls out of the game. They, as people, are afraid of getting hurt or involved in fights. The guys on both teams now have personal vendettas against each other and take over the game entirely. And without the girls it is not Co-Rec!

It is not how you win or lose, as Mr. Mancini had written; it is more How you play the game!!

Koenig’s letter stated clearly what was on the minds of so many Hinmanites at that time. Co-Rec was about the love of the game, not the love of victory at any costs. The injuries and increased violent contact during the games were beginning to turn away the very people that Co-Rec was supposed to attract, men and women that were not particularly athletic but who wanted to play in a competitive sport with minimal contact and have fun doing it. Another letter to the editor written by Barbara Gordon in the next edition of Hinman Halitosis brought up an important feminine perspective on the state of the sport.

In response to Mr. Koenig’s article, I feel a point should be made from another view. In general, all the injured have always viewed their injuries as accidental, and nothing more. We do not feel that we were purposely hurt and never did. True, a feeling of anger may have existed but it is a natural response due to the inconvenience produced. If an accident does occur in the boundaries of good sportsmanship-like conduct, an apology should be made.
However, a few points have still been overlooked. The injuries this year have surpassed those of past years. In one day of play, for instance, there were as many as four accidents. Another point is that most of the injuries are being received by the females. One of the reasons for this is that the females are more inexperienced in playing football, yet, it is also attributed to the fact that the game is slowly being dominated by the males and that violent aggression is continuing. If a person can hit someone with such force as to break or fracture a bone than something is being done wrong. Solutions to this problem could be introduced and looked into, helping to remedy the situation.

In conclusion, Co-Rec football is an enjoyable, fun game and although winning is the goal, it should not be achieved through the violence which has occurred this season.

It was becoming clear to the residents of Hinman College that their favorite pastime was becoming something that the vast majority of them did not want it to be. Co-Rec was competitive. Everyone agreed on that point. However, it was also supposed to be a sport that was fun and exemplified the inclusiveness and community spirit that was uniquely Hinman. There were some in the community that viewed Co-Rec as another sport where winning meant everything. As these two letters show, the cry of the community was just the opposite. Co-Rec was Hinman’s sport and it was supposed to be all-inclusive and fun, and no one was going to take that away.

Co-Rec Weekend and the championship game were postponed that year because of the Lehman Hall fire. Dealing with that crisis was far more important than seeing that the Co-Rec schedule was kept. However, as soon as things quieted down, all of Hinman became united in playoffs and upcoming glory of Co-Rec Weekend 1978. The playoffs began with Slip of the Tongue and its excellent quarterback Pam Martin stealing the game from Intensive Care. Slippery When Wet defeated Good For What and Atomic Waste beat Samurai Co-Rec Team. For a while it looked as though there could easily be a Michelle Carnavale-Pam Martin match-up in the championship game. Pigs-in-a-Blanket eliminated Intensive Care. In an amazing upset victory, Slippery When Wet defeated Slip of the Tongue and Atomic Waste came up victorious.
over Pigs-in-a-Blanket. Both Atomic Waste and Slippery When Wet, two underrated teams that absolutely no one thought could make it through the playoffs, were going to the championship game. 

The game was an exciting, down-to-the-very-last-second nail biter in the muddy Hinman Quad as Slippery When Wet took on Atomic Waste for the much coveted Robert Giomi Plaque. The game was played following the traditional parade of floats, with the Hinman Quad as the equivalent of stadium gridiron. The quad that year was a muddy, slippery mess with both teams sliding all over the ripped-up earth. In the end, Slippery When Wet barely defeated Atomic Waste, with the final score being 13-12. It was a hard-fought game and an enjoyable and exciting match for both the participants and the spectators. In the end the trophy was awarded to the winning team and a special thanks was given to the referees and Tom Truesdell, who had stepped in to fill the great vacuum left by Bob Giomi by taking over as the Publishing and Managing editor of the *Hinman Halitosis* and for devoting countless hours of his own time to Co-Rec. The final report on that season of Co-Rec as published in *Hinman Halitosis* stated, “…this season showed us some of the finest CO-REC football we have seen in a long time. The game was played as it was meant to be played. Sure, there was some competitiveness, but everyone involved (and even those that weren’t) had a good time. The games were close, most of the scores within six points and many games were decided by a single point.”

The 1978 season of Co-Rec was an important, perhaps the most important one in the history of the sport. The season showed that even without its inventor and greatest advocate, Bob Giomi, and even with much criticism of the sport by students and even in the shadow of the Lehman Hall fire, nothing could stop Co-Rec football. More than anything else, the success of the 1978 season of Co-Rec showed that Co-Rec football, as a Hinman institution was here to stay.
The 1979 Season

The 1979 season of Co-Rec began, like all the other seasons before it, with much excitement and zeal. In the opening issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter, one writer tried to pinpoint exactly what it was that made Co-Rec so popular in Hinman.

The excitement generated by this sport is for various reasons. Cut-throat competition will be seen among some of the players. Unyielding plays and determination will clearly distinguish them. Others look forward to the enjoyment, regardless of the outcome of the game. Many have joined in order to meet people. A common interest in “Co-Rec” can open the door to new friendships. Another motive to participate is the exercise: Running down the field is a good way to stay in shape.

In the spectrum of the student social life, “Co-Rec” can be one outstanding point. Many students agree with this and are anticipating their first match.

Co-Rec football even went international. A humorous article in the *Hinman Halitosis* written by a fictional international student, Zarico Lapoy, poked fun of the interesting, innuendo-laced Co-Rec team names.

My name is Zarico Lapoy and I am living in Hinman College for my one year stay at an American university such as Binghamton. Lately I have observed the students wearing brightly colored shirts with names. Someone told me there are no fraternities or sororities here at SUNY except for T.O.E. (sic) [parenthesis in original]. I now see why they are unnecessary. The students form their own private clubs…

Since almost everyone in Hinman belongs to a private club, I am thinking of joining one, but I am having difficulty choosing the best one for me. “We are not Eskimos” might be good since I am from Habovia, a tiny duchy in Eastern Europe. I am not “Criminally Insane” or a “Killer Weasel” so those two are immediate out. Being a pacifist, the clubs “I’ve Killed for Less” and “Off with Their Heads” sound too violent for me. I also think the activities of these clubs might be unlawful in this country.

“Deep Penetration” and “Oral Fixation” sound interesting though I know I shouldn’t get involved here: I would shatter my girlfriend back home, Lannistan. I know very little about American domestic politics so “Internal Affairs” would not be good. And since I don’t own a clone, I can’t send one or belong to that club either. I might try “Throw it up” for I have had much practice in that activity on account of ACE.

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22 This is in reference to the Co-Rec team “Send in the Clones” a parody of the popular song “Send in the Clowns.”
23 ACE was the company responsible for preparing the university’s dining hall food. ACE along with its successors Marriot and Sodexho, have been the butt of jokes (deservedly and undeservedly) since the very beginning of the Hinman College experience.
If I continue to have trouble choosing, I will join “No games in observance of Yom Kippur.” That sounds real exotic!

This humorous article shows the creativity that Hinmanites had coming up with new and interesting team names. Besides the ones mentioned in the article other interesting team names that season were Game of Inches, Comic Kazies, Something’s Burning, First Period, Cleveland 69ers, Barnyard Fun and Up Your End Zone. If nothing else, at least the team names were interesting and amusing for that season.

Play was furious over the weeks with the usual flurry of activity. As usual, a number of games were rained out. By early October the Cleveland 69ers, Criminally Insane, Killer Weasels, and the team simply called Generic Team were in the top of their respective divisions. A new policy was also implemented. All weekday games would start fifteen minutes earlier in an effort to save time. This would only be for the weekday games. A big problem facing Co-Rec that season was a lack of referees. Each team was supposed to supply a referee for the games but this season many referees were simply not showing up. To deal with this Jane Warren, the new Assistant Coordinator for Hinman and also the chief organizer of Co-Rec that season, implemented a harsh penalty. Any team whose referee did not show up to the game in which they were supposed to officiate would forfeit the rest of the season.

Besides competitive play, the Co-Rec games this season were filled with rain dates. So many in fact that the Hinman Office had to coordinate special times to replay the games and even announced that make-up dates would be posted in the Hinman Halitosis newsletter. A plea was also given to refrain from calling the Hinman office before 3:45 p.m. to see if the games had been rained out because the officials would not have decided before then whether to cancel the game. There would be no cancellation for a light drizzle of rain. Rather it would have to be a complete downpour, usually with thunder and lightning and other biblical attributes. Co-Rec
players were tough and quickly gained the reputation of playing in some of the harshest
conditions. By the end of October, When All Else Fails, Deep Penetration, Killer Weasels, and
Don’t Rush Me had risen to the tops of their respective divisions.

The playoffs were about to begin and all of Hinman was in jubilant anticipation. The top
twelve teams were to enter the playoffs and compete for a spot in the Hinman College Co-Rec
Football League Super Bowl. The number-one team, Deep Penetration, had a perfect season
with seven wins and zero losses. Don’t Rush Me, What We Do Now?, and Killer Weasels all
had six wins and one loss apiece. With so much excitement and competition brewing that
season, a reminder was sent out to the teams stating that only the team captains could dispute
calls and that any player that disputed a call would be removed from the game. Also, any captain
that became disorderly (swearing and other unsportsmanlike conduct) during a dispute would
forfeit the game for his team. The teams were also reminded that unnecessary roughness would
not be tolerated. Co-Rec Commissioner Jane Warren reiterated this proclamation against
unnecessary roughness. “It has been brought to my attention that the Co-Rec games have been
getting increasingly rougher and that teams are playing only to win. Co-Rec Football was
designed so people could get to know each other and it was designed for FUN. Let’s keep this in
mind for the remainder of the playoff games, before someone gets hurt.”

Every season of Co-Rec had a certain level of competitiveness to it and that is a good thing. However, for some
reason, this season had seen a dramatically increased amount of competitive play. In the past
Co-Rec was mostly for fun, for the love of the sport and bringing together the community. This
season seemed to be all about winning, about the outcome of the game. This was not what Bob
Giomi intended when he invented Co-Rec back in 1971. For reasons unknown, Hinman College
was changing, and so was the sport of Co-Rec, for better or for worse.
It is not surprising that within this atmosphere of contention, controversy arose during the last game of the semi-finals. With five seconds left on the clock, the score was 19-20 in favor of the team Deep Penetration. Criminally Insane had possession of the ball and quarterback Jakki Williams threw a pass to teammate Mickey Alexander who was very close to the goal line. Alexander was tackled by a member of Deep Penetration and he fell into the end zone. The ball crossed the line but Alexander’s knees did not. The question that arose was whether his knees hit the ground before the ball crossed the goal line. If this was the case, then there would be no touchdown. The head referee of the game, Jim Greenlees, ruled that there was no touchdown. Criminally Insane disputed the call saying that Alexander’s knees touched the ground only after the ball went into the end zone and that even if they had not they should still receive a touchdown by the simple token that the ball had passed over the end zone. For their part, Deep Penetration believed that Alexander’s knees touched the ground before the ball passed over the end zone. They believed that the referee made a decision that should stand. Even though there was much bickering and arguing the final score was 20-19 in favor of Deep Penetration, who would challenge Don’t Rush Me in the championship game.

Hinman Co-Rec Weekend was usually filled with the pomp and circumstance. However, this year it was marked by the dual controversies of the semi-final game and the unusually rough play during the season. The team Don’t Rush Me became the champions for that season with a come-from-behind win over Deep Penetration. The final score was 18-12 in a game that went into overtime. Tom Kavanaugh made the catch that won them the game. Their team was well regarded due to the quality of their female players including Jamie Goodbinder, Chris Voss, Karen Shansinger and quarterback Theresa Greene. Their tenacious defense never gave up and kept Deep Penetration scoreless until the second half. The team’s proprietor, Satch Siverman,
got into the action by pumping up his team before the game when he drove his 1979 Datsun onto
the quad and blasted the soundtrack from *Rocky*, all in an effort to energize his team. It was a
complete team effort that brought Don’t Rush Me to victory. This brought to a close another
successful Co-Rec season, yet it was a season that had suffered through many challenges on
numerous fronts. The sport had to adapt to new leadership, which it had done readily. More
importantly, it had suffered through a season filled with unnecessary roughness and a “winner
take all” attitude that seemed to be possessed by many teams. This had caused the traditional
players of Co-Rec (the less athletic and less competitive) to begin to get disgruntled with the
sport. Co-Rec had survived another season, but with the way the sport was going, would it last
much longer?

The 1980 Season

The 1980 season of Co-Rec began with an advertisement in *Hinman Halitosis* concerning
the now infamous and borderline bad-taste team t-shirts. In the article, the reporter spoke to Ed
Rosenfield, the proprietor of Harris’s Army and Navy store in downtown Binghamton. Harris’s
Army and Navy had supplied the bulk of the Co-Rec t-shirts over the past few years. Besides
Co-Rec, the store also made shirts for local businesses, like IBM, youth groups, summer camps,
and athletic leagues. When asked if he had anything as raunchy and in poor taste as the Co-Rec
shirts, Rosenfield replied, “‘I’ve seen so many shirts with sexual things that people have written
on their shirts that it’s just incredible….but we’ll see.’” Maybe Co-Rec hadn’t made much of
an impression on Ed Rosenfield, but it had on the residents and staff of Hinman College.

Earlier that year, in the 1980 Winter Olympics held in Lake Placid, New York, the US
hockey team beat their greatly favored Soviet hockey team and eventually went on to win the
gold medal. The now famous “Miracle on Ice” was in the minds of every single American that year. In late September of that same year, the Co-Rec version of the “Miracle on Ice” was about to happen. For previous four years, the Smith Hall ground-floor team, A Shot in the Dark, had not won a single game and had gone to the Soup Bowl (the game for the two worst teams in the league) for two consecutive years. They even lost that game. That all changed on Wednesday afternoon in the Fall of 1980 when they beat their opposing team, What’ve You Got to Lose, in an incredible 60 to 0 score. Some jokingly claimed that with the loss of their never-give-up leader, Andy Meissner, the curse on the team had lifted. Others credited their talented new quarterback as the reason why they won. Still others said it was simply a fluke. For the team A Shot in the Dark, their amazing victory was the “Miracle on the Hinman Quad.” The question now was, could they keep it up?

Trouble began to brew on the Co-Rec front the following week. HCC President Jim Greenlees announced that eight Co-Rec teams had not paid their mandatory $20 fee for participation in the league. Teams that failed to get their fees in would forfeit the rest of their games for the season. The following week saw five teams (all from Roosevelt) that still had not paid the obligatory fee. To add insult to injury, a football used for the games had been stolen. Greenlees promised to find the thieves and bring them to justice. The next week’s meeting saw all of the Co-Rec teams paying their fee; however, the mood was tempered because the football was still missing. On the bright side, the theme of Co-Rec Weekend had been picked: “A Tribute to the Hinman Dining Hall.”

From mid to late October the scores for the Co-Rec teams showed some rather decisive battles being waged for the Co-Rec plaque. Ready to Receive beat Come Play With Me 13-12. Finger Lickin’ Good defeated Win One For the Zipper during penetration. A Shot in the Dark
continued on its miraculous winning streak by beating Abuse, 35-6. What Have We Got To Lose had much to lose, in fact scoring no points against Inconceivable, which scored 24. When in Doubt was victorious over Good to the Last Drop, the final score being 32-0. Psychotic Philosophers weren’t psychotic enough, being hissed at by Snake Squad in a match with Snake Squad slithering to the top with 12 points to their opponent’s 7. The Cunning Linguists weren’t cunning enough, barely losing to Mean Machine in a close match. The final tally was 19-20 in favor of Mean Machine. All of the Co-Rec teams this year had been playing well and were eager to enter into the playoffs for a chance at the elusive Robert F. Giomi Plaque and the opportunity to call themselves Hinman Co-Rec football champions.

The dreams of these players were dashed when the biggest Co-Rec controversy to date occurred on Monday, October 27. That day it was announced that the playoffs for that season would be canceled. The outcry against this shook the foundations of Hinman College. A Hinman without Co-Rec would be like peanut butter without the jelly. The thought was nearly unconscionable. Cries rang out throughout Hinman calling for the head of HCC President Jim Greenlees. President Greenless explained himself with an open letter to the whole of Hinman College.

On Monday October 27, the cancellation of the playoffs for Co-Rec Football was announced. Before the outcry gets any louder, a statement of the facts is in order.

The decision to cancel the playoffs was made by the Co-Rec Committee. The Committee was selected by the team captains at the beginning of the season and was empowered to make any and all decisions and rule changes it deemed necessary for Co-Rec Football. The Committee consists of representatives from each dorm, with Patti Koval, Administrative Assistant, and myself as Advisors. The Committee met October 27 and decided unanimously that, due to the fact that sundown now occurs around 5 p.m. and that the rainy season is upon us, the season could not continue as scheduled. Either the remainder of the season or the playoff spots would have to be cancelled. Since many teams had not completed their seasons, and since most of the playoff spots were undecided, the regular season could not be cancelled. Since many teams had not completed their seasons, and since most of the playoff spots were undecided, the regular
season could not be cancelled outright. To play only those games affecting playoff positions would be unfair to those teams with no chance of making the playoffs. The only way to be fair to all teams would be to finish the regular season and cancel the playoffs. Again the decision was unanimous.

Contrary to rumour [sic], the decision was not made by the Hinman Office or by myself. The decision was solely that of the committee, which was well within its rights to do so. Patti Koval and I were present as advisors only. The facts were presented, and the committee made its ruling.

Secondly, the lack of playoffs does not in itself mean that Hinman will not participate in the University Playoffs. The decision was made at the start of the season not to participate. Ask your captains: they voted not to go.

Therefore, the decision to cancel the playoffs was made by people elected by captains, and who had every right to make the decision they did. The cancellation of the playoffs was not made for any other reason other than weather and light conditions and does not also mean the cancellation of Co-Rec weekend, unless you decide to cancel it by not showing up. That will be held as scheduled and will consist of a Saturday parade and “Soup Bowl”. Any group that feels that the lack of a “Championship Game” destroys Co-Rec weekend has lost sight of the meaning of Co-Rec, which is to have fun and of Co-Rec weekend which is meant to be a farce of Homecoming Weekends. So remember, go out Sunday, enjoy yourselves, and participate. The idea is not just to win, but to have fun.

Greenlees’s letter to Hinman made it clear that it was not his or the decision of HCC to cancel the playoffs. That decision was made solely by the Co-Rec Committee and they had every right to do so. Greenlees had done his best to try and stem the tide of frustration and anger that was rising in every Hinman Co-Rec player and fan. The anger and discontent so intense and the protest over the loss of the playoffs so loud that the Co-Rec Committee, in a closed-door session right before the HCC meeting that week, decided that they would reinstate the playoffs. This decision assuaged the anger of the Hinman Co-Rec players and fans. In an effort to beat the quickly lessening daylight, games were held simultaneously on the Hinman Quad and behind the Men’s Gym. The Committee had heard the cry of the angry masses. No one was going to take Co-Rec football, the sport invented in Hinman, away from them. No details on the playoffs or the championship game exist other than the Cunning Linguists beat the team Out To Score. Co-
Rec, once the most enduring institution in Hinman, was on thin ice. To many, the controversy surrounding the nearly cancelled playoff season was a sign that Hinman Co-Rec football was in trouble.

The 1981 Season

1981 was the beginning of a new year and with it came the hopes that a Co-Rec could be given a clean slate. Some new policies were introduced that year. The Lehman Hall first floor on the A side was allowed to bring in outside players because there was only one male suite on the floor. Also, Resident Directors (RD’s) were allowed to play on any team in their building as substitute players, in case a regular player was injured. Some of the more colorful team names to appear that year included One Track Mind, My Favorite Motion, Clash of the Tightends, Deflate Their Balls, Ben Dover, Comin’ At Ya, What’s Your Position, Any Which Way, Don’t Stop, Lust in Space, and One Inch to Go.

Contrary to the Hinman Halitosis promise to provide in-depth coverage of this year’s Co-Rec season, most of the reports were mundane and lacking highlights. However, some details did emerge. Later in the season, Too Drunk To beat Sudden Death during penetration in a close match. Later on Sudden Death beat Rush-in-Roulette 19-13. Mark Schlecter of Rush-in-Roulette (Cleveland) made an incredible punt from his own end zone which landed at the opposing team’s one yard line. It would be the longest punt in Co-Rec history. Also that week, Sudden Death’s (Smith) made another Co-Rec record. Sheldon Heber punted from deep within his team’s end zone and had it land on his own team’s ten yard line, making it the shortest punt in Co-Rec history. The 1981 season of Hinman Co-Rec football was already a record making and breaking season.
By October 13, 1981, the standings in Co-Rec were clear with a few teams dominating the others. In Division One, Red Rum was undefeated with four total wins. The number two spot went to My Favorite Motion with three wins and one loss. Division Two had Don’t Stop in the number one spot, also with four wins and no losses. Too Drunk To was number two with two wins and one loss. Division Three saw Ben Dover in first with four wins and no losses and What’s Your Position in second with five wins and one loss. Division Four had Every Coach’s Dream in first with five wins and no losses. Its closest competitor in the division was It’s Better In with three wins and no losses.

Co-Rec seemed to going well. The only real problem occurring that season was that referees were failing to show up to many of the scheduled games, forcing other officials to pick up the slack. Highlights from the week included Ben Dover’s Gene Feldman who intercepted a pass on his team’s own goal line and ran the length of the field to score a touchdown which tied the game. The team went on to win over their rival Comin’ At Ya in penetration. Also, Sudden Death’s Billy Alford scored a true sudden death victory when he scored on this team’s third offensive turn in penetration over Go For the Sack.

The next week saw My Favorite Motion take Any Which Way in a 12-6 game. Every Coach’s Dream turned out to be so when they won over Sudden Death 19-13. The Cunning Linguists were cunning enough to defeat In the Huddle 14-6. Sudden Death was able to rebound when they defeated the team ACE 24-6. Some highlights from the week included the Sudden Death-ACE game. The game was marked by a thoroughly drenched quad which resulted in very dirty teams and trashed uniforms. Still Sudden Death was able to defeat Ace 24-6. Also, the team Vidi Vici Veni (Lehman) scored a touchdown in stop time with 17 seconds on the clock. They were victorious over Sudden Death, the final score being 19-13. What was most amazing
was that this win brought Vidi Vici Veni’s win-loss record up from (0-4) to (4-1) a truly outstanding improvement for the season.

Just when everything seemed to be going well a problem arose that no one thought they would ever see. On Saturday night, during a Co-Rec party that was to celebrate the end of the regular season and the beginning of the playoffs, ten girls from off-campus walked into the dining hall (where the party was being held), harassed the beer servers, and walked out with between 20-25 down jackets and vests that had been hung up on racks in the lower portion of the dining hall. Four the girls were caught and most of the jackets were returned, but the fact that thievery had taken place during a Co-Rec party began to lend a bad reputation to the sport.

Like her predecessor, Jim Greenlees, HCC President Diane Fischer wrote a note in praise of all those who had worked so hard during the regular season of Co-Rec.

Now that the Co-Rec season is over there are some much maligned people that deserve recognition for all their hard work throughout the season.

The Co-Rec Committee in its first year of existence did an amazing job in planning and scheduling the season, as well as making sure that the games ran smoothly throughout. Unlined fields not withstanding, thanks go to Rich Wilen, Chuck Karra, Mike Braun, Reggie Dugard, Dan Merwin, Andy Boyd, and Matt Hansen.

The referees, possibly the least popular of anyone on the field, deserve a round of applause for withstanding the cold, the mud and the abuse. Extra special thanks to Dean Hartman, Chuck Bartle, Gary Morgen, Paul Balaschak, John Deigman, Todd Weintraub, Ronny Klempner, John Zuroski, for helping out when needed.

Last but not least, extra-extra special thanks, with sugar on top, to Ellen Schild and George Slediewski for coordinating the entire event.

Congratulations to all the teams that made the playoffs and to Don’t Stop and Any Which Way, who did a marvelous job of showing the rest of us how to do it right. Here’s mud in your eye!

In addition the staff of the Hinman Halitosis sent out a very special thank you to Mike Ditkowsky, the staffer who had been covering that season of Co-Rec for all the long hours that
he had put into covering Hinman’s favorite pastime. The season was not over yet over. The playoffs still had to be fought.

It was a long, hard-fought battle the entire way, but in the end the Super Bowl teams would be Don’t Stop and Every Coach’s Dream. During the Super Bowl, Don’t Stop took an early lead and by the end of the first half the score was 13-0. During the second half, Every Coach’s Dream put up a tremendous offensive and brought the score to 32-27. It was a last-minute touchdown and extra point that brought the final score to 39-27 and made Don’t Stop the 1981 Hinman Co-Rec football champions. In the parallel game, the Soup Bowl, Any Which Way earned the title of the worst team of the year by losing to One Inch to Go. The MVP award of the year went to Kristine “K.C.” Koester of the team Don’t Stop. Ever the gracious winner, Koester said that she was chosen because “’I have a hell of a lot of people who make me look good!'” On the other side, Any Which Way’s Christine Di Blasio took the year’s Least Valuable Player award. Once again, it was all in good fun and it ended another successful season of Co-Rec football.

The 1982 Season

1982 began with new students being introduced to the sport of Co-Rec who had never played it before. Some of the team names for that season brought the traditional innuendo-laced names to a new low. Some of the more interesting names included: Coitus Interceptus, Score At Any Cost, Catch it As It Comes, Coming Forcefully, Field So Good, Living Abortions and Unwed Mothers, Where Do You Want It, Leather or Knot, Suites to Eat, Compromising Positions, Gravy Sucking Pigs, Always on Top, Kiss Our Passes, Illegal Maneuvers, Drive It In, Good and Ready, Stiff Competition, Vibe Raiders, and Unnecessary Roughness. In the opening
weekend What Up defeat Totally Blitzed 28-6, Compromising Positions defeated Always on Top 32-26, and The Chosen completely dominated Leather or Knot 41-6.\textsuperscript{dxxv}

The next week saw Two Hand Touch rise to the top of Division One and The Chosen to the Division Two. Division Three had Suites to Eat in the number one spot as did Good and Ready for Division Four. Coitus Interceptus interrupted Totally Blitzed 40-6. The Chosen beat out the mutinous Magilla’s Crew 45 to nothing. Suites to Eat was triumphant over Always on Top and Where Do You Want It put it where Coming Forcefully definitely didn’t want it, the final score being 33-6. The miracle game of the week saw the ACE team upsetting the favored Leather or Knot 20-13.\textsuperscript{dxxvi}

As in previous years, many began to argue that Co-Rec was beginning to get too violent and competitive. As a sort of joke the \textit{Hinman Halitosis} printed an article on how to make the game more violent. Among its suggestions were to place metal spikes in the end zones so that when a player makes an out-of-bounds catch the referee could tell exactly where they were because would be pinned to the ground. Another suggestion was to string barbed wire between the Hinman Quad’s trees to prevent players from running out of bounds and wasting time. It was also suggested that they plant explosives in the ground before the game and blow them to create holes. Then animal traps should be placed in the holes to create a more defensive game. Another suggestion said that the two-second rush and closed-handed blocking should be eliminated. “This will encourage girls to punch, slap, pinch & bite—but no scratching, that’s not lady-like.”\textsuperscript{dxxvii} It was recommended that snipers be hired (their fee to be capped at $3 a game) to sit on top of the dining hall and shoot anyone who attempts to argue with the referee. Another recommendation was to wait until the end of each game to call Harpur’s Ferry. This would give the injured players time to get to know one another.\textsuperscript{dxxviii} Quite obviously, no one was to take
these recommendations seriously, yet they did have a point. For many years, Co-Rec had been undergoing scrutiny for its increasing competitiveness. This article, though it had a humorous tone, marked the problem that was increasingly on everyone’s mind.

The following week saw Two Hand Touch obliterate Instant Rush 33-0. The Chosen defeated Coming Forcefully 32-0. The Chosen had a 5-0 record and were only two victories away from first place in their division. Catch It As It Comes won over the Living Abortions & Unwed Mothers 20-6. Drive It In beat Unnecessary Roughness 20-7 and Where Do We Go From Here won over Aaaaah 33-27.

The following week saw the Co-Rec record for most interceptions in a single game in the match between Gravy Sucking Pigs and Compromising Positions. Four straight interceptions, two by each team, occurred without the completion of a first down. The Pigs won the game with a score of 12-0. Jeff Katz scored the winning touchdown in the first half, not surprisingly on a defensive interception. Also making Co-Rec history that week was the first ever field goal. Jim Liptack, a player for Score At Any Cost, took his team’s name to heart and made a 50 yard punt into their opponent’s (the team called Dome) end zone. Despite the excitement Score At Any Cost was defeated 12-0. The field goal didn’t really count because field goals are not technically allowed during the games.

The next week saw the Hinman Halitosis show the results of the Co-Rec t-shirt contest. The best name went to the team called simply Hughes 2B. The most disgusting name went to the Living Abortions. The best shirt material went to Stiff Competition. The best color coordination went to Aaaah! The best logo/design went to What Up and the best overall t-shirts went to Dome, Gravy Sucking Pigs and The Chosen. Some highlights from that year’s playoffs included the game between Catch It As It Comes and Where Do You Want It. Catch It
As It Comes was trailing 12-7 when Greg Walter caught a Pam Reilling pass that made the score 13-12. When they played What Up, Magilla’s Crew was being 7-0. Jean-Marie Finan threw a touchdown pass to Alan Rothstein right before stop time. Bob Venizelos then scored a safety in stop time to win it for Magilla’s Crew, the final score being 8-7. Mark Kelley of Good ‘N’ Ready caught three touchdown passes and an extra pint which accounted for all of his team’s points in their game against Aaaah. Their final score was 19-7. Many more good games were played during the playoffs that season, but the final teams that remained included Two Hand Touch, The Chosen, Hughes 2B, and Good ‘N’ Ready.

The Super Bowl that year would be played between the Chosen and Hughes 2B. Hughes 2B drew first blood when quarterback Cindy Neimeth connected with Moe Ray, bringing them into the lead. The Chosen quickly returned the favor when Mitch Cohen and Dean Hartman both scored. The extra point scored by Stacy Levin brought the Chosen into a six point lead. In the beginning of the second half, Moe Ray caught a touchdown and an extra point. The Chosen’s Barb Keen threw a pinpoint pass to Pam Sachs in the end zone. Dean Hartman then scored another extra point. The Chosen’s Franco Gallo intercepted the ball and ran down the field and put his team in an excellent scoring position. Mark Aledort scored a touchdown and Barb LeCascio gave them an extra point. The score at this point was 27-14 in favor of the Chosen. It was a see-saw battle the entire game, but in the end the Chosen came out on top with a score of 27-21. Both teams put up exceptionally good fights. Each team’s quarterback was especially responsible for a good hard-earned win.

That year’s Soup Bowl between Stiff Competition and Kiss Our Passes was equally exciting. Stiff Competition took an early lead but by the end of the first half the score was 12-6. When Kiss Our Passes quarterback, Diane Anderson was sacked in the end zone, this earned
Stiff Competition a safety, tie-ing the score at 14-14. Rich Hernandez used their team’s guy pass and Steve Beinhacker ran the length of the field to score the winning touchdown for Kiss Our Pass. The final score was 20-14. For a short while a disputed tag put the match’s outcome in jeopardy, but in the end the score was ruled good. Soup Bowls are known for their colorful plays and players, and especially for more slapstick moments that normal regulation games. This particular Soup Bowl saw more than its fair share of these last place shenanigans. Mike Tice of Kiss Our Passes invented a “Crutch Play,” which needless to say didn’t work, partly because he was on crutches at the time when he tried to execute it. The “Crutch Play” called for the player on crutches to rush down toward the end of the field to receive a pass. Stiff Competition had a “Sleeper Play” which might have worked except that the referee called a penalty for having too many players on the field, twenty too many players in fact. Kiss Our Passes captain Pete Smith and receiver Gary Granofsky stated that they wanted their team to win the Soup Bowl out of pride. It was also a floor tradition. Their floor, Lehman Hall 1A, had won the Soup Bowl for three straight years in a row.

Barbara Keen was chosen as that year’s most valuable player. She was considered by her peers to be the best quarterback in the league. Being ever gracious and modest, Keen attributed her success to the strong teamwork of her entire team, Hughes 2B. Mike Tice won the least valuable player of the year award for his antics on and off the field which included wearing a Baskin-Robbins 31 hat and his now infamous “Crutch Play.” Once again, it was all in good fun and no one was mean-spirited about it.

The end of the season also saw the play of an All-Staff Bowl in which RA’s and RD’s along with some distinguished players from various teams around Hinman competed in a sort of All-Star game just for the fun of it. Alan Fox of Team A scored on a pass, but then Mel Lowther
of Team B caught a pass and ran it into the end zone, which tied the game. Rich Wilen earned an extra point. Later in the second half, Team A was leading 19-13 and Pete Crino of Team A sealed the deal by intercepting Karen Lipman’s pass in the end zone and running it the length of the field for another touchdown for Team A. Rich Wilen was able to score a touchdown in stop time to bring the score up to a very respectable 25-19. The game was all for the fun of it, and Ira Cohen made Co-Rec and Hinman College history by becoming the first referee to score a touchdown and do it while blowing his whistle.  

Though perhaps not as marred with controversy as previous seasons, the 1982 season of Co-Rec had faced a number of challenges including the ever-growing issue of extreme competitiveness and outright violence in the games. In response to this, senior Roosevelt Hall Resident Assistant Rich Wilen, who had been very active in Co-Rec that year, had this to say about the 1982 season:

No matter what anyone says, I feel that this co-rec season has been very rewarding. The weather was amazing and the field held up well, that is, until last weekend. There are a lot of things I can remember about this season. Orange fences, mattresses, crutches, white hooded sweatshirts, tons of lime, good refs, and refs who at least tried. I want to thank the Co-Rec Committee for their help—that’s Ronny Klempner, Marianne Rogers, Nora Arnessen, Sandro Campanile, Rachel Roth, Barbara Keen, and Co-Chariman Reggie Dugard…I hope everyone enjoyed the season as much as I did.

Co-Rec football season had come to another close. While there had been much excitement and participation on part of the residents and staff of Hinman there was undoubtedly a sense that something was wrong and that something was missing. Co-Rec had its problems, just as the Hinman Little Theater (now know as the Hinman Production Company) had had its problems. But where the latter organization seemed to have sorted out its issues and was

24 Orange wire fences were placed around the quad to keep people from walking on it. This was done in an effort to preserve the field for Co-Rec play. Mattresses were tied to the trees surrounding the quad in an effort to prevent injuries if a player accidentally ran into a tree during play.
thrive, to those who knew and loved their sport they could not help but feel that something was terribly wrong.

The 1983 Season

Their fears were not unjustified. The 1983 season of Co-Rec began like any other season. Some of the more interesting and colorful team names to date appeared during this season. They included: Harvey’s Ballwangers, Produce on the Loose, Slip It In, Wendy’s Hot and Juicy, Pump ‘em and Dump ‘em, Premarital Sacks, Co-Rec, Playing the Field, Vicki’s Quickies, Leave It to Beaver, The Hardest Yard, I Tappa Keg, Sticky Situations, Virgin Turf, Ménage A Quad, and We’ll Lick Anyone. At first all seemed to be going well that season. Wendy’s Hot and Juicy, Produce on the Loose, Premarital Sacks, Feeling No Pain, The Misfits, Sticky Situations, and I Tappa Keg pulled ahead of the other teams early on and took dominance over the field. However, problems quickly began to emerge on many fronts. So many problems that Hinman Co-Rec Committee Chairmen Stephen Beinhacker and Barbara Keen felt compelled to write an article in the Hinman Halitosis newsletter. The article basically stated that Co-Rec was a limited contact sport and that tags were not to be made by slamming hands down on another person and that if a player was running towards the sidelines, people should refrain from pushing him or her into the trees. It also stated that unnecessary roughness would not be condoned. It went on to say to the referees that they were getting paid to do a job and that should take their jobs seriously and to take responsibility. It also once again asked them to be impartial and refrain from bias in their calls.

This article was more than a gentle reminder. It was a call for sportsmanlike conduct on and off the field, something which Co-Rec teams seemingly had trouble doing. Traditionally,
many Co-Rec teams either before or after a game would go to the dining hall for lunch or dinner, depending on when their game was held. Although a certain level of rowdiness was not to be unexpected from pumped up athletes and college students in general, friendly food fights between teams were beginning to break out. So many food fights that the manager of the Hinman Dining Hall stated that the next Co-Rec team to start a food fight would be charged $800 to cover the cost of the cleanup. The roughhousing and unsportsmanlike conduct both on and off the field were beginning to get the better of them. Granted, these were the actions of a relative minority in the Hinman Co-Rec community, but the few bad apples were beginning to spoil the bunch.

Mid-way through October the competition was heating up with Slip It In, Premarital Sacks, Misfits, and I Tappa Keg rising to the tops of their divisions. The team, I Tappa Keg, was looking especially good this season. Their undefeated season so far had raised speculation that this was the team to beat during the Super Bowl. On the flip side of that, Vicki’s Quickies and We’re Cookin’ were the favorites to battle it out for the inglorious spots in the Soup Bowl.

As usual, playoff action was brisk. In Search Of defeated Leave It to Beaver 20-6 when an In Search Of player intercepted a pass which set them up for a long bomb that resulted in a touchdown scored by Lisa Milla. In a very close and competitive game, I Tappa Keg beat Sticky Situations 19-13. With fifteen seconds left on the clock Todd Weintraub caught a tipped pass and ran it back for a touchdown and a victory for his team. Premarital Sacks beat U Gotta 26-19 and in their second game In Search Of outwitted The Misfits 13-7. In a tough defensive game, Make Me’s Barbara Keen threw to Drew Mandler who was able to score two touchdowns. Helene Thomas also had an excellent game and scored for Make Me. Make Me’s defense held Premarital Sacks offense to their goal line five times during the game and limited their scoring to
a single touchdown. In their second game In Search Of was eliminated in another tough defense
driven game against I Tappa Keg. An early touchdown followed by another in the second half
along with two interceptions caused I Tappa Keg to shut out In Search Of. That year’s Super
Bowl would see the favored Make Me with its star quarterback, Barbara Keen (this would be her
third Super Bowl), compete against the defensive powerhouse I Tappe Keg for the Robert F.
Giomi Plaque. It would be a close game and many fans were eager to witness its outcome.\textsuperscript{\textit{dxlii}}

With Co-Rec Weekend just around the corner issues surrounding the conduct of Co-Rec
players and teams surfaced again. In a letter to the editors published in \textit{Hinman Halitosis},
Hinmanite Stu Robinson made his feelings clear on the issue. He wrote:

I have watched a lot of co-rec football games both in this semester and in past years. I
seems to me, that with each year gone, the people have tended to get more violent and
play the game much more seriously than it was ever meant to be taken. Co-rec football is
and always has been touch football. Touch, as it seems necessary to define, means that
the person carrying the ball is stopped when an opposing player has two hands put in
contact with the ball carrier at the same time. A hard shove into a tree and a light touch
will both stop the ball carrier. Also, there are certain places people do no appreciate
being touched that can easily be avoided. In addition, blockers and defenders cannot be
tackled! I know this will come as a surprise to many of you who have not been playing
this way. I have seen just too many people get hurt because of overanxious players,
mainly, I am sorry to say, guys, but also a surprising amount of girls as well. Something
must be done since the referees obviously rarely call a penalty for excessive roughness.
This is what I purpose. Set up a board of inquiry to which complaints against either
individuals or teams can be taken. Then, have an independent observer or observers,
answering only to this board, be present at each game. They should be paid just like refs
are. These observers could back claims of unsportsmanlike conduct and would file their
own report on every game. The committee could then investigate and decide whether or
not action is necessary and what punitive steps should be taken (ex: suspension). Only
in this drastic, but unavoidable way can co-rec football be restored to its original intent--
safe, fun recreation.\textsuperscript{\textit{dxliii}}

Robinson’s idea of an independent board to investigate claims of unsportsmanlike
conduct may have been impractical, but his concerns were not. Over the previous few years, Co-
Rec, which had started off as way to get people involved and have fun doing so, had devolved
into a sport filled with overly competitive players, unnecessary roughness, and unsportsmanlike
behavior. The saddest part was that all too often the best teams were the ones that played the roughest and the dirtiest. This ruined it for the masses of Hinmanites who were drawn at first to the inclusiveness of the sport and who now turned away disgusted at what it had become. This was hardly the Co-Rec that Bob Giomi had envisioned over a decade ago.

Co-Rec Weekend and the Super Bowl was one of the biggest to date with well over two hundred spectators lined up around the Hinman Quad to watch the close of a controversial Co-Rec season. Make Me opened up by scoring early in the first half. Barbara Keen connected with Eddie Brandmark who put Make Me on the map. For a while it appeared that the projections were going to be true, that Make Me was going to wipe the floors with I Tappa Keg. The underdog team came back with a vengeance, though, with Mark Rosenbloom when he snatched up a pass from quarterback Nora Arnesen and scored a touchdown. Picking up the extra point, I Tappa Keg took the lead with 7 points to Make Me’s 6. Todd Wintraub then picked off one of Barbara Keen’s passes, lateralled it to Craig Joseph, who then ran it in for a touchdown. Picking up the extra point, I Tapp Keg was firmly in the lead by the end of the first half. Trailing 14-6, Make Me’s Nick Pasyanos picked up his second interception, which set up Drew Mandler for a clear drive for a touchdown pass from Keen. With eight seconds left in the game, Drew Mandler tried to force one last touchdown, but I Tappa Keg held him resulting in an astounding 14-12 victory for I Tappa Keg. 

This upset was a true Cinderella moment for I Tapp Keg. Their rival, Make Me had been 7-1 for the regular season. Make Me was the clear favorite to win with veteran players like Nick Pasyanos and Drew Mandler and Barbara Keen, who was seeing her third consecutive Super Bowl that season. The only real experienced player on I Tappa Keg was their captain, Todd Weintaub. Weintaub, elated at this team’s victory, proclaimed that while no one on his team
expected his team to win, they made it clear that they were not counting themselves out. I Tappa Keg’s quarterback Nora Arnesen announced after the game, “We really played well. We didn’t expect to win, but it feels good.”*\textsuperscript{dxliv} Weintraub and defensive captain Craig Joseph spoke candidly after the game. They said their victory was related to the girls on their team, especially their defense which rushed Barbara Keen to make some poorer than usual throws. They also brushed off rumors that they were a dirty team, stating that they were cleaner than most of the other teams they had played against. They also publicly stated their discontentment with Hinman Co-Rec Committee and their selection process for referees. For the most part, Weintraub and Joseph believed that the referees this season were not good. They did not make good calls and they did not enforce banning players who were violent. Joseph ended on a positive note by adding, “I’d just like to say: There’s nothing like Co-Rec!”*\textsuperscript{dxlv}

Parallel to the Super Bowl, the Soup Bowl saw Vicki’s Quickies defeat the ACE team 13-6. The most interesting part of the game saw Vicki’s Quickies players put on shirts from last year’s team Fields So Good, and try to hide the ball in the middle of a huddle and advance it downfield that way. Although it lacked some of the spark and flamboyant all-in-good-fun flair that previous Soup Bowls had, it still was an entertaining spectacle to watch.*\textsuperscript{dxlvii}

That years MVP award went to Nora Arnesen of I Tappa Keg and the Least Valuable Player award went to ACE player Patrick Morales. Todd Weintraub was voted the Least Popular Player in Co-Rec.*\textsuperscript{dxlviii} The best banner for Co-Rec Weekend went to Coming Attractions and the best t-shirt of the season went to the team Virgin Turf.*\textsuperscript{dxlix} Besides the usual good natured ribbing that occurred at the end of every Co-Rec Weekend, it seemed as though the season that was beset by pitfalls and controversy had ended amicably. As would be seen shortly, that was
far from the truth. The controversy and hullabaloo over Co-Rec Season 1983 was only getting started.

In retrospect, the Hinman College Co-Rec community should have seen it coming. It began when an article which was written by Make Me player Nina Axelrod entitled “Why Hinman College Dislikes I Tappa Keg” was printed in the *Hinman Halitosis*. The short but vicious article stated:

It is a well known fact that I TAPPA KEG is extremely disliked among Hinman College. One may wonder what this team has done to deserve this animosity. The basic response is that they have turned a supposedly fun, floor involved activity into a serious contest. Instead of allowing everyone to be involved, they have consistently played the same people in the large majority of their games. Scoping out the competition and formulating statistics on their performance is totally inappropriate. The consensus is that they should have just relaxed and enjoyed the games, so in the winning the championship, they would have also won the respect of their adversaries.

This inflammatory article prompted a rebuke from I Tappa Keg in the next edition of *Hinman Halitosis*. They responded by writing:

Does Hinman College really dislike ITK [abbreviation for I Tappa Keg] or is it a very vocal few who distort facts and pass these on as truth? Recall the noise level of most Co-Rec games; recall the heated disputes between captains and refs or even whole teams and refs; recall the number of injuries on the Co-Rec field; think about the still existing animosities between teams and individuals due to Co-Rec; think about missing banners; think about the fact that certain people dislike ITK as well as other teams solely because of Co-Rec. Who’s really taking Co-Rec too seriously?

We anxiously awaited the arrival of the Co-Rec Halitosis. When it arrived, we were shocked. Although not a professional organization, we would expect the members of the Halitosis staff to act in a professional manner, using discretion and common sense. This was not done. The opinion of a few was printed as the opinion of many, false assumptions were printed as truth, and people were quoted for things never said. The Halitosis [sic] showed poor taste in publishing parts of the last issue which were not journalism at all, but lies, mistruths, and false rumours [sic] that all wreak of personal vendettas, bad sportsmanship, and sour grapes.

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25 I Tappa Keg’s banner had been stolen during Co-Rec Weekend. An article about it being laced with a skin removal agent (purportedly written by I Tappa Keg) had been published in the previous issue of *Hinman Halitosis*. 
We the members of ITK feel sorry. We feel sorry for the people who could not let us savor an unexpected honor. We feel sorry that a few ignorant people felt it necessary to detract from the moment, and from Co-Rec in general. It is sad that they have turned a normally fun game into a vicious, mud slinging attack that has left Co-Rec the big loser.

In response to this, Nina Axelrod defended herself by writing:

The explanation for the “Why Hinman College Dislikes I TAPPA KEG” article was accidentally omitted in Monday’s issue. We apologize for this since it changes the entire tone of the article, but are by no means apologizing for its contents. In gathering Co-Rec quotes from the teams involved, I was surprised to find that practically everyone focused negatively on I TAPPA KEG, and in using journalistic discretion, we realized that these crude comments could not be printed. This attitude disturbed us and Steve Kraus [contributing writer for Hinman Halitosis] suggested instead that I follow it up and find out exactly why this animosity was present. The article consisted of consistent responses from teams and was not intended as a biased opinion. Words such as “a basic response” and “consensus” should indicate to any reader that it is not the opinion of any one or two individuals, but a wide majority. The Hinman Halitosis [sic] is the voice of Hinman College, and not one dorm or floor, so if these attitudes are prevalent, they should be explored.

Steve Kraus also offered up an apology of sorts to the members of I Tappa Keg. He wrote:

On page 7 of our co-rec issue, there were two made up, strictly for laughs, joke articles. They were entitled “Todd Wintraub Chosen as 1983 LPP” and “Public Service Announcement”. Todd’s quote in the former item was completely fabricated as was the threat of ITK’s banner being treated with a skin removal agent. I honestly felt people could not take these as real articles since it appeared to me to be obviously ridiculous. It is too bad some people did take them as the real McCoy. By the way, a cartoon, unless political should also be taken humorously. Any other items people had problems with should be taken up with the individual writers or the Halitosis Editor.

Latter in the issue, Kraus, who had no doubt caught a great deal of flak from the Hinman community, further clarified his position.

As an assistant editor of the Halitosis, I try to the best of my ability to serve the interests of Hinman College as a whole. I freely admit that I am human and, being so, make mistakes. Items that I feel are newsworthy, meaning articles that would interest Hinmanites, I try to get printed. Those that are not, I would not want to waste my time or effort on. Quite plainly, I have my own feelings on the newsworthiness of an item. Nina Axelrod’s article in the co-rec issue was, in my opinion, (and obviously Mike Ditkowsky’s as well) newsworthy. After all, I requested she write it. She wrote it, I read
it, we discussed it, and then it was printed. Had I had any part in the writing, I would, as any writer would, want to get credit for it—meaning a co-byline.

Never did the consequences of the article occur to me. I also never realized that because my name appeared in the article saying I prompted it (see “A Needed Explanation”, pg.2) [parenthesis in original] would it seem that I helped write it or necessarily agreed with it. I simply felt it was a necessary follow-up to events that had been occurring. I would never claim to be the spokesperson of I Tappa Keg, especially since I was not able to attend most of the games. That, however, does not make me any less happy for the floor members who were proud to have won, as they well should have been.

Guys, aren’t you going a bit too far already?

With explanations given regarding why these articles were printed, and with Steve Kraus squarely in hot water, Hinman Halitosis Managing & Publishing Editor Michael Ditowsky had this to say on the entire issue and on the Co-Rec season in general:

An exciting Co-Rec season has finally come to an end. It may have been an excellent season, but it was not without reservations. I Tappa Keg may have been accused of playing too seriously, but are we, the accusers, all not guilty of such?

Co-Rec season is supposed to be a time of fun, enjoyment, and team spirit; it should not be a time of false accusations and envious dislike. One example came in our article “Why Hinman College Dislikes I Tappa Keg.” If people had not been so callous as to hand in derogatory quotes about ITK, we would have had an enjoyable final quotes section for our special Co-Rec issue. We found it necessary to dispose of our quotes and find out why people said what they did. We decided to print this information in order to display the pathetic attitude of many Hinmanites. When our explanation and rebuttal were accidentally left out, this changed the meaning of the whole article, and made it appear as a personal attack on ITK. The saddest part came when people congratulated me on a great article.

I was very dismayed that people could have such a malicious attitude towards any team, especially when there were other floors who took Co-Rec more seriously than ITK. They also are not as dirty as many people claim they are. It was another team we (Leave it to Beaver) were playing when I was thrown into a tree. When we finally got to play ITK, although we beat them, they played a very clean game and were good sports. I wonder about some of the other teams we played.

The final topic I’d like to discuss was the fate of ITK’s banner. Rumor has it that people from several different teams may have conspired and burned it. I hope this is not true, but if it is, a great injustice has been done. It is the theft of banners that may be fun provided that they are eventually retrieved by their owners. The actual permanent disposal of private property is an act capable only of pinheads. Which reminds me;
Tuesday morning redecoration of the quad was uncalled for and was the act of one capable of beating a dead horse.

Fellow Hinmanites; Co-Rec football is meant to be enjoyed by everyone. The sarcastic attitudes of many of this year’s players tell a sad story. I believe that many of you owe ITK an apology and must end these animosities. Remember, ITK may not be perfect angels, but they are no more guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct than any of the other 29 teams in Hinman.

Please, Co-Rec is over, lay down your arms.

Incredibly, this was not the only letter to the editor concerning the Co-Rec season. HCC President Daniel Stermer wrote one in response the letter published by Stu Robinson in a previous issue of *Hinman Halitosis*. Stermer wrote in part:

This letter is in response to yours in last week’s issue. I, too, have watched Co-Rec games over the years. Competition has become very much a part of our lives here at SUNY-B. But, before I even go on to answer your letter, I would appreciate knowing who you really are. If you have a complaint, as you do, why did you not sign your real name so we could discuss the matter? That is what bothers me the most. I’m glad to see that you are concerned.

At the Hinman College Council Meeting on October 10, in Roosevelt Hall, the executive committee stated that Co-Rec would be stopped if there was a continuation of rough playing on the part of a few people. We also directed the Co-Rec chairpeople to have meetings with the team captains and a possible re-training session for the referees. In my opinion, this was something that was desired by the committee and passed on to Council to bring back to the dorms...We saw that a problem did exist, and did attempt to do something about it. We did not stand by passively and watch it grow. Another place you possibly could have found the statement was on the front page of the Halitosis [sic] dated October 13.

I agree with you that Co-Rec is a game of touch. But, sometimes people happen to get overzealous and accidentally hit someone else a bit rough. In my opinion, I did not think anyone was out to hurt another player. Another thing that happens is that some people appear to be tagged roughly, but were really off balance and fell. When playing touch, sometimes you accidentally touch someone in a “private” place. I tend to doubt that people plan to tag you in certain places.

As you can see, we did know that a problem did exist and did make a response that we all felt was appropriate. The only matter that I regret was that you did not sign the letter so I could personally talk to you.
Stermer had every right to be angry. As President of HCC he oversaw everything that went on in Hinman. Excessive criticism of HCC about Co-Rec, especially at this time when the sport was so stacked with controversy, was not something that needed to done in the manner that the student whose alias was “Stu Robinson” had to do at that particular moment. In his defense, there was no way of knowing the full extent of the fallout for that season of Co-Rec.

The controversy continued in other ways. The team Pump ‘em and Dump ‘em complained of unfairness during the banner judging competition during Co-Rec Weekend.

This past Saturday something happened which seems to be happening quite often since the beginning of the semester—something deserved by Lehman Hall has been taken away from it.

…Despite being what many people considered the best banner in the contest, Pump ‘em and Dump ‘em’s banner failed even to make a place standing, rather, it is why the banner was omitted from the judges decisions. According to rumor, the banner had nothing to do with football. Other than having a man wearing the Pump ‘em and Dump ‘em jersey, carrying a football, and running into the endzone [sic], we guess we have to agree that the banner had nothing to do with football. If this is the case, then why did Coming Attractions’ banner pull the first place standing? Not that the banner was bad, but even teammates from Coming Attractions questioned the judges decision, and furthermore, questioned the “fact” that if Pump ‘em and Dump ‘em’s banner had nothing to do with football, how on Earth did their banner?

Still, the afore mentioned incidents do not measure up to Pump ‘em and Dump em’s biggest grievance. If, by some chance, our banner had nothing to do with football how could the judges have known? After all, they walked past the banner faster than Vicki’s Quickies Road Runner moved away from Wile E. Coyote. Secondly, their eyes were open on the banner less than three seconds. Now, any normal human being could not have possibly have had ample time to judge the banner in that short a time period.

Also, if the judges are supposed to be unbiased, then why did Daniel Stermer, Hinman College’s own president, make a sarcastic remark when he was walking by the banner?

Now comes the most important part of the letter: discussing the issue of Maria [Carra-RD in Hinman and Assistant Coordinator], who also served as one of the judges Saturday. What it seems to boil down to is that Maria is, in a sense, being unfair to Lehman Hall in general. As you know, Maria served as the R.D. of Lehman Hall last year. Now it seems that Maria is attempting to be nonbiased towards Lehman. However, in doing so, she is being unfair to Lehman. We can understand that she might receive flack for giving recognition to Lehman, and therefore, tries to spread awards around to
other halls in Hinman. But she has to understand that if a particular group or hall deserves recognition, then they, no matter who they are, should receive that recognition.

This letter is not being written solely to criticize Maria or protest the outcome of the banner contest Saturday. This letter is being written to shed light on a problem. We hope the outcome of this letter will bring positive results.\textsuperscript{dlvii}

The following week the team would write an apology letter to Maria, clarifying that they did not perceive her as the problem, only one of many judges that they deemed to be unfair. Still, this letter along with the numerous other letters to the editor showed beyond a reasonable doubt that a large number of Hinmanites were dissatisfied with this year’s Co-Rec season.

So ended the 1983 season of Co-Rec football, which was by far the season most mired in protests, unsportsmanlike conduct, and controversy. Lost in the shuffle was the hard work done by the Co-Rec Committee and the many referees, players and fans who only wanted to have a good time in a sport that was Hinman’s own. In retrospect, everyone should have seen it coming. The past few seasons, almost since the time Bob Giomi left Hinman, had begun to show signs of hyper-competitiveness, unnecessary roughness, and general unsportsmanlike conduct. Part of the problem had been that referees and those in charge of Co-Rec, like the commissioners and committee members, had failed to nip these problems immediately as they arose. Over the years they had compounded into a culture of complacency and by 1983 they had come to a head. It resulted not only in a Co-Rec season that was not in line with the original mission and purpose of Co-Rec, but also in a season full of hurt feelings and alienation from the sport. Although just about all of the parities involved in the controversy had agreed to bury the hatchet, lingering issues remained. Upon witnessing the fallout, many Hinmanites became disgruntled with a sport that they once had found fun and inclusive, but was now exclusive, hyper-competitive, mean-spirited, and corrupt. Even some of the most diehard Co-Rec players and fans became disgruntled with the sport and vowed to leave it behind forever. Hinman Co-Rec football was at
a crossroads. Without serious and immediate reform it had the potential of going the way of Hinman Follies and other once great Hinman institutions. Many wondered if there would even be a Co-Rec season next year. The future of Co-Rec football was in jeopardy.

The 1984 Season

The start of a new academic year saw the revival of many old Hinman institutions such as HPC, *Hinman Halitosis* and Dorm Wars. It also saw the reemergence of Co-Rec football. In the very first issue of the *Hinman Halitosis*, an article was written to ensure both Hinman returners and those new to Hinman that Co-Rec was a sport for the people and that it would be more relaxed than last year’s hypercompetitive season. It also stated that the referees would be better trained than last years and that this year’s Co-Commissioners, Steve Heller and Pat Byrne, were working tirelessly to ensure that this season of Co-Rec would be fun and would not have all the added drama of the previous season.

If all the controversy and corruption of the previous season turned off people to Hinman’s favorite pastime, then it didn’t show in the number of teams admitted to the league that year and with the number of people who signed up. Some of the more interesting team names to appear that season included: Orgasmic Blitz, Split the Upright, Coming to Blows/Blowing to Come, Nads, Pump and Go Deep, We’re In, Joy of Sacks, Floreplay, Changing Positions, Go For the Balls, Ready Foreplay, Fetus Fever, Making Passes, Alcoholics Unanimous, Quadraceptives, Field My/Her Punt, Purple Reign, Condorms, Jump My Zones, and C-Men. The creativity and passion for the game was certainly there, but the real question was wither the sportsmanship would measure up?

Unfortunately, the coverage for this season of Co-Rec is relatively sparse. Other than the standings there is very little documentation of individual games or plays of that week. However,
by early October a few teams seemed to have pulled away from the pack and appeared to be real contenders for the Robert. F. Giomi Plaque. Go For the Balls, Ready Foreplay, and Quadraceptives all had perfect seasons so far. However, many other teams had only lost a single game and were still strong contenders. At this stage, it was far from decided who would be this year’s champion.

Furthermore, it seemed as though the level of sportsmanship had improved greatly over the course of this season. Steve Heller and Pat Byrne had this to say about the 1984 Co-Rec season thus far:

Contrary to popular belief, Co-Rec is not life. As commissioners of Co-Rec Football, we would like to take this opportunity to share some of our thoughts with you.

First, we were very happy about the reduction in violence from last year. Co-Rec is a game meant to foster floor community. We feel that this had been accomplished.

Secondly, the Co-Rec Committee is planning on meeting at season’s end to clarify some arbitrary rules that may have caused some confusion over this past season.

Finally, we would like to thank the Co-Rec Committee who painstakingly sat through some long meetings. We’d also like to thank the Co-Rec Refs who have unselfishly devoted their time to make Co-Rec what it should be—a game. A special thanks to Bill Katz who ran the ref’s instructional meeting in the beginning of the season and coordinated the refs for the playoffs.

In retrospect we’d like to ask you one question: Has Co-Rec made your floor grow closer? Hopefully the answer is yes, no matter what place you finished in. Then Co-Rec has accomplished the goal it was originally intended for when it was created over a decade ago.

We hope that disagreements that evolved through the course of a game have been resolved. There is no use in holding a grudge—Co-Rec is only a game. With this in mind, go out and root for the Superbowl, Soup Bowl and Staff contenders this weekend and show your Co-Rec spirit.

The playoffs that season saw Pump and Go Deep, Orgasmic Blitz, When In Doubt, Go For the Balls, Yukon Jack Attack, The Byrnouts, Ready Foreplay, Alcoholics Unanimous, YMS, Quadraceptives, Condorms, and C-Men battle it out for spaces in the Super Bowl. In the end
Floreplay and Making Passes wound up in the unenviable position of playing in the Soup Bowl. The Super Bowl saw the match-up between Quadraceptivs and Orgasmic Blitz, with Quadraceptives winning the day. Unfortunately, that is that is recorded about this Co-Rec season. While this season was lacking in highlights and coverage overall, what is clear is that it was a much cleaner season with less violence, hyper-competitiveness, and corruption. Hinman Co-Rec football had showed its resiliency and survived its most awesome challenge to date. With the success of the 1984 season, it showed that no amount of controversy of lingering bad feelings could conquer Hinman’s favorite pastime.

Later Seasons

In 1985 the record concerning Co-Rec football and other areas of Hinman College becomes even more incomplete. The Hinman Halitosis newsletter no longer put out large spreads on covering the Co-Rec season as they had done in the past. Other documentation concerning the subject is limited as well. What is known is that in 1985 the championship game was played between Come On Down and Getting Down, with the former being the winner. In 1986 Busch Longnecks played the team simply called X and won in the Super Bowl. In 1987 the championship was won by Cleat Me over their rival Our Gang Bang. Following that the team names disappear and are replaced by the hall and floor number. Hinmanites still came up with the wild and wacky names for their teams, but the written records only show hall and floor numbers. While most Co-Rec teams came from a single floor within a hall, it is unclear whether these teams had another name or simply went by their hall and floor, which was the case at times. From 1988 to 1996 the record of Super Bowl winners is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Roosevelt 2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Smith 3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Lehman 2A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Lehman 3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Roosevelt Pitts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Cleveland 3B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Smith 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Cleveland 1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Lehman 3A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately, this is all that the written record shows. While it is certain that Co-Rec seasons occurred following 1996, the record was not kept and until the fall 2003 season and it is unknown who won the Hinman Co-Rec Super Bowl in-between. The Robert F. Giomi Plaque still rests in the Hinman Library display case, but the names of the teams, their buildings, and any memory of what went on during those seasons is all but forgotten. From here on, this chapter relies on oral history passed down from eyewitnesses to the events. The only way for a complete record the season to be known is for alumni who played to game to contact me and relate their stories.

Perhaps the biggest challenge to the game of Co-Rec occurred sometime in the circa 1993. Previously, violence, hyper-competitiveness and unsportsmanlike conduct put the future of Co-Rec in jeopardy. However, these were all internal problems that were solved within Hinman. The biggest threat that would arise in the history of Co-Rec football would come from the outside. During this era, two different lawsuits were filed against Co-Rec. In one instance, a player ran into a tree and was injured. This individual filed a lawsuit against the university seeking damages. Shortly after this, another lawsuit was filed when another player fell on the field and broke an ankle. In both instances, the attorneys for these individuals claimed negligence on the university’s part for not removing known hazards and for not doing more to keep the quad in better shape. In both cases, the lawsuits were thrown out. It was ruled that
those who played Co-Rec chose to do so on their own accord and knew the risks involved. At first it seemed that the danger was over, though in reality it was just beginning. The university, fearful of future lawsuits and rising insurance fees tried to take greater control of the sport. At first, the university considered banning the sport all together. For a while they even threatened to tear up the quad and build a macadam path across it. This would have prevented play from occurring there. Hinman students threatened to make a lot of noise during the spring open houses and advise prospective students from attending the university. They even forced the university to put into writing that they would never pave the quad in order to ensure that it was safe. Then the university took Co-Rec out the control of Hinman College and transferred it to the Campus Recreation department. For a time Campus Rec required that Co-Rec football be played strictly with flags, so that it mimicked the more traditional flag football. Traditionally, Co-Rec had been two-hand touch style. While to an outside observer the change to flags may have seemed petty, it went against the twenty-year tradition of two-hand touch Co-Rec football in Hinman. Eventually, Co-Rec was able to go back to the traditional two hand touch format.

Still, the issue of the Hinman Quad remained. Since the very beginning of the sport, Co-Rec had been played on the quad because of its central location in Hinman and because it was the only flat grassy area in close proximity to the halls. It was true that the quad was a danger at times. The tree-lined quad, while certainly picturesque, was a hazard for overzealous players who could accidentally run into the trees. The dirt path that cut through the quad was also a hazard as was the drainage area near Cleveland and the heat exhaust pipe toward Hughes. The university now effectively banned anyone from playing Co-Rec on the Hinman Quad because they deemed it far too hazardous. The only other option that the university offered was to play
the games on the fields by the East Gym. This did not sit well with Hinmanites who by their very nature are traditionalists, but also because it was not fair to have Co-Rec players walk all the way down to the East gym to play the game that had been invented in Hinman. The university then offered a compromise. If Hinman promised to no longer play Co-Rec on the quad, then a new Co-Rec field would be built. HCC put aside money in the budget to build a new Co-Rec field, which was built behind Roosevelt Hall and became the official Co-Rec football field for Hinman. Originally, this field was supposed to be set up with lights so that night games could be played. Dwindling daylight, especially later in the season, had caused many games to be abruptly halted and/or postponed. The lights were supposed to stop this problem and allow Hinmanites to play their favorite pastime anytime, day or night. However, the money somehow got holed up with the Student Association, which was supposed to retain it and roll it over for the following year, which they never did. As a result the Co-Rec field was built, albeit without the lights. Between 1992 and 1993 the Co-Rec field was constructed and became the official arena for Co-Rec football games. The drawbacks of this field was that it was no longer in a central location and the lack of the dining hall meant that fans would have to watch the game outside in the elements (oftentimes fans would go into the dining hall and watch the games from the windows, especially during bad weather). Some of the positives of this field were that there were no trees and no other hazards, which meant that lawsuits would become a non-issue. Eventually this field gained acceptance as the official Co-Rec playing field of Hinman. In 1995 this field was dedicated forever as Sterling Field in honor of Nick Sterling, the current Faculty Master of Hinman and who would go on to become the longest serving Faculty Master in Hinman history. Besides Sinisi Park, this would be the only spot in Hinman that would dedicated in honor of a Hinman Faculty Master.  

26 Sinisi Park, though never officially recognized, was located where the Lot M parking lot now is. Only a small
With the creation of Sterling Field, it would seem that many of the problems associated with Hinman Co-Rec would finally be resolved. Unfortunately, old specters of the past began to haunt Co-Rec football. In the November 6, 1992, issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter, Scott Jaffee, the Co-Rec Football Public Affairs Commissioner, wrote an article to dispute some of the claims against the sport.

As one of the commissioners of co-rec [sic] football, I feel it is my responsibility to respond to Ellen Hoffman’s article in the previous issue [of *Halitosis*]. It was one of our main concerns this year to cut back on the amount of injuries which plagued the sport in the past. To this extent, the referees are doing an excellent job in their efforts towards attaining this goal. Although there are teams thriving on an aggressive, run-and-block style of offense, there is no longer a presence of teams which rely on bully tactics and intimidation. Except for the occasional captain who tends to get out of control (I myself fall into this category), the number of incidents during games has been held to a minimum.

As for the suggestion that games should not be held on the quad, as well as cancelled every time it rains, this is obviously a pointer from someone with little experience in the sport. First of all, the turnout and interest in the sport would plummet if teams were forced to trek to Hillside or West Gym for a co-rec game. Secondly, the field, as it does every year, has reached a saturation point which will not change until the snow begins to fall. Ellen seems to realize that we live in one of the rainiest areas of New York. Thus, if we cancelled a game every time it drizzled, we would wind up holding the Super Bowl some time next August. And finally, because of the slippery ground, the pace of the game has dramatically decreased, and so have the injuries. I have watched at least ten games a week, and the most serious incident is a belly flop into the infamous puddle near the Hughes end zone. In reality, the game has become much safer since the field softened up.

Admitably [sic], the mud has caused a change in the style and strategy of the game. But, how teams cope with the weather and conditions is a major factor which separates the good teams from the bad. To suggest that there is an injury problem which threatens the continuance of the game is an unfounded and wholly incorrect opinion. After all, co-rec may not be featured at Homecoming any time soon, but it’s the closest thing we have to real football around here. The only true problem with this sport is that if you are putting your heart into it, you will get dirty. Such is the game of football. Anyone who has a problem with this has no business on a football field, co-rec or otherwise. And, they certainly have no right to criticize those who are still enjoying themselves out there. The referees are doing an outstanding job in assuring that the game functions smoothly, and

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grassy area remains. Also, one of the theaters in the Fine Arts Building was named after the first Faculty Master of Hinman, Christian P. Gruber, though it is not located in Hinman and the dedication plaque does not recognize Gruber as a Faculty Master.
we look forward to the upcoming play-offs, which should being around Friday, November 6th.

Injuries were nothing new to Co-Rec. Since the very beginning of the sport, players had been getting hurt, some rather seriously, not because of malicious intent, but because they, as Scott Jaffee said, were pouring their heart and soul into and getting dirty. While it was not inappropriate for concerns to be raised regarding this issue, those who played Co-Rec did so with the realization that they did so at their own risk. In reality, this risk was reasonably small and as just about any Co-Rec player will tell you, the rewards of playing this all inclusive sport were great.

The 1992 Super Bowl winner, the Roosevelt Pitts also won the campus wide Co-Rec Football championship. In the semi-final game, Chip Cariola scored the first touchdown and Mike Orlando (the RA in the Pitts) shone on defense with a total of eight interceptions, several of which he ran back for touchdowns. Lou Smith and Michael Brownstein also aided on the defense. On the offense, key players included Scott Lewis, Chad Coleman, Nicole Pedone, Colleen Conklin, Tira Yaskulski, and Katie Solomon. They played against the CIW team and shut them out 56-0. The championship game was played against Dickinson Community’s Gang Green in the snow and in freezing temperatures. Mike Orlando once again showed his defensive skills and intercepted numerous passes and scored two touchdowns. Another touchdown came from a fake run which resulted in a pass from Nicole Pedone to Mary [surname unavailable] who ran in for the score. The final score of the championship game was 75-6. This achievement in Hinman Co-Rec history was astounding. The victory of the Hinman team over all the other residential colleges brought much needed pride back to Hinman. Hinman College is the birthplace of Co-Rec, a very special sport that had provided much-needed recreation to quite literally thousands of Hinmanites over the years and had spread to other residential colleges at
Binghamton and to colleges and universities across the country. The problems and issues that had plagued the sport since the controversial season of 1984 and the lawsuits of the early 1990’s which nearly killed the sport in Hinman, were all but erased forever. Co-Rec football in Hinman had survived its greatest challenges and would remain a part of Hinman forever.

Unfortunately, the record in the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter stops at the end of the 1992-1993 academic year. The record of Co-Rec football that year was sparse, as it was for many of the years in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. Undoubtedly, seasons occurred after 1996 (the last year where Super Bowl champions were recorded on the Robert F. Giomi Plaque) and championship games were played, but there is no record available that documents them. This time period in Hinman history is a sort of dark age where relatively little information is known and unless those who lived through it come forward with their stories and their memories, it probably never will be known. The record does pick up again early in the 21st Century. With the dawning of a new millennium a new era of Co-Rec emerged, an era that would see perhaps that greatest player who ever played the game take to the hallowed ground of Sterling Field and participate in some of the most exciting and dramatic Co-Rec action ever to occur within the bounds of Hinman College.

**The 2003-2006 Seasons**

Throughout the 1990’s and into the new millennium, Co-Rec football in Hinman has continually had a presence. Every season certain teams have stood out, as have individual players for their athletic prowess and their love of Hinman’s favorite pastime. In 2003, however, one individual stood out as being one of the best players during his four years in Hinman and
quite possibly as the greatest player who has ever played the game. That player was Eric Kurs-Lasky.

Eric, a Pittsburgh native, had been born blessed with natural athletic abilities and had participated in sports in high school. When it came time to look for colleges, Eric knew that he wanted to go to a school that had a good sports program and a good business program. The two schools that were on the top of his list were the University of Michigan and the University of Maryland. Though he had his heart set on either of these two schools, his parents persuaded him to look at some other colleges and universities as backups. Eric remembers thumbing through a guide to colleges and universities in the United States with his family and coming across a relatively small state school called Binghamton University. Binghamton had a good reputation for a business program, but its athletics were somewhat lacking, to say the least. Still, Eric haphazardly applied to Binghamton just as a backup. When the acceptance and rejection letters arrived, Michigan rejected him outright, but Maryland and Binghamton accepted him. At the urging of his family, Eric visited the Binghamton University campus, took a tour and liked what he saw. During his senior year of college, Eric would reminisce:

I remember taking a tour of the campus and going to all of the residential colleges. I also remember touring Cleveland Hall and going into the main lounge and seeing all the Dorm Wars and Hysteria banners hanging up.\(^{27}\) I especially remember the one dedicated to 9/11 and what a good job the residents had done on it…I really felt a great sense of community and right then and there I knew that I had to come here…It was because of Hinman that I decided to come to Binghamton University.\(^{dixix}\)

Eric decided then and there to come to Binghamton and stated that he wanted to be placed in Hinman College as his number one choice. The fates must have been in his favor, for he was placed not only in Hinman College but in Lehman Hall. At the time Lehman Hall had the

\(^{27}\) During this time all the banners from previous Dorm Wars and Hysterias were hung in the main lounges of each building. The Binghamton University Fire Marshal has since forced each building to take the banners down citing them as fire hazards. The walls in each main lounge are currently bare and Spartan in appearance and, in the opinion of many, very unwelcoming.
reputation as being the “jock” building and for having a very cocky and arrogant attitude.
Lehman had come off a win in both Dorm Wars and Hysteria the previous year, and those who
had lived in the building thought of themselves as the best. This atmosphere so permeated
Lehman Hall that it began to take on an air of elitism.

Although it would seem that this building would be the perfect fit for the eager young
freshman, it took Eric some time to adjust to his new surroundings. The first week being away
from home was difficult for him, just as it is difficult for any new student. Eric was one of the
few out-of-state students living in Hinman and the only one from Pittsburgh. Like many
incoming freshmen he had trouble adapting to the habits of his new roommate. Anthony Chu
(Eric’s roommate) and Eric would eventually become fast friends and even become RA’s
together a few years later, but at first they struggled to get used to each other’s habits. The
Hinman Dining Hall was also an experience that Eric had to get used to. While most freshmen
quickly lose the thrill of the novelty of dining hall food quickly, Eric had an especially rough
time. Eric was a picky eater to say the least. Throughout all four years of his time in
Binghamton, his diet has consisted of nothing but plain cheese pizza, salad (sometimes with gold
fish crackers mixed in), and the occasional bagel. The first week he barely ate, had trouble
sleeping and making acquaintances, and began to wonder if maybe he had made a mistake in
coming to Binghamton.

That would all change during the second week of classes. That week Eric happened to
look outside and saw what he thought was a pickup game of football being played on the
Hinman Quad. He had been dying for some sporting events and grabbed his cleats and rushed
outside. At this point he had never heard of Co-Rec football. When he got outside he was at
first very confused. It looked like there were girls playing alongside the guys and, horror of
horrors, they were acting as the quarterbacks. Eric entered the field and attempted to join the game, curious to see what this odd sport was all about. It was here that the fates met and he met Dimitri Bernadel. Dimitri (or Dim as he liked to be called) was a junior and a first year RA in Lehman Hall. The previous year he had been the president of Lehman Hall and a well-known and popular figure in Hinman. Dim had also been the leading figure in Hinman Co-Rec football and his team, the Lehman Lickers, were the championship team. Naïve Eric Kurs-Lasky was eager to learn the new sport, but as soon as he stepped on the field, Dim, who was on the sidelines still putting his cleats on, ushered him off so that he could take Eric’s spot and play. Eric, who is very competitive by nature, was a little offset by this affront and joined in on the game anyway. After learning a few of the basic rules and after completing a few plays, it soon became apparent to all that this new freshman had the hallmarks of a tremendous athlete. At one point during the game, Eric intercepted the ball, and in what would become one of his patented maneuvers, Eric juked around the field, avoided getting touched by every player and scored a touchdown. Dim, who was a great athlete himself, was impressed by this newcomer. At one point, the game moved from the quad and up to Sterling Field and on the way up, Dim introduced himself to Eric. He also introduced Eric to Mike Kid and Bret Lotito, who had been players on the Lehman team. On the way up the hill, Dim told Eric more about Co-Rec and even asked Eric to be on his team. Years later Eric would laugh about this moment:

Dim was an arrogant [expletive deleted]. He told me that it was a “great honor” to be playing on his team but because I was new I wouldn’t be getting a lot of playing time. He kept saying how much of an honor it was playing for his team…how they were so good. The truth was they needed me and they knew it.

With that the stage was set and the young Eric Kurs-Lasky was about to make his place in Hinman history and fulfill his destiny as the torchbearer for Co-Rec football.
Over the coming weeks, Eric learned more and more about the game of Co-Rec. The
team quarterback, Heather Young, explained to him the t-shirts. The new name for the Lehman
Hall Co-Rec team that year would be Well Hung Over. The front of the t-shirt had a picture of a
man passed out over a keg of beer with his penis peeking out through his shorts. On the back of
their shirts also had to be their unique names. The theme for Well Hung Over that year would be
each player’s favorite alcoholic drink. Eric, who abstains from consuming alcohol, told Dim to
put on whatever he wanted on the back of his shirt. Dim put the name “O’Douls” (after the non-
alcoholic beverage) on the back of Eric’s shirt as a joke. By Co-Rec standards, this t-shirt was
relatively tame, but Eric still cringes every time he thinks about that year’s Parent’s Weekend
and going out to the Cidermill with his parents wearing his Co-Rec shirt. “It was a little
embarrassing walking around with my parents wearing that shirt,” Eric would say four years
later.

Slowly but surely, Eric learned more and more about the rules and intricacies of the game
of Co-Rec football. The rules and regulations governing the sport had changed over the years
but still had remained basically the same as when Bob Giomi had come up with them over thirty
years earlier. Eric also learned the particulars of game such as the now infamous “Ghost Play.”
A “Ghost Play” features a Co-Rec player who lines up as far to one sideline as possible. Another
player stands on the opposite sideline and before the ball is snapped, the player on the field steps
off and the player off the field steps on. If done correctly, there is no penalty for too many men
on the field and the opposing team usually is not concentrating on the player who was off the
field. The player who steps on is usually wide open. Well Hung Over learned to perform this
play to perfection. Even though Dim had claimed that Eric would not be getting much playing
time, he learned that Eric was an asset to the team. Usually they would send Eric deep and have
their quarterback throw a deep pass to him which he would usually catch and score on. On average, Eric was scoring 2-3 touchdowns a week, something that made most of the more experienced upperclassmen very jealous.\textsuperscript{d1xiii}

That year Well Hung Over completely dominated Hinman Co-Rec. They were such powerhouses that they would come up with newer and more arrogant celebration dances each game just to make the other teams angry. One celebration dance had someone throw the ball way up in the air and then everyone would fall on the ground, like a bomb had exploded. Another had them spin the ball on the ground and then have the players act like they were warming their hands around the ball, like it was a source of heat or a campfire. There were many games that were held in the mud and the snow, but Eric relished each and every one of them. It didn’t matter what the weather conditions were. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor gloom of night could keep Eric Kurs-Lasky from the Hinman sport that he learned to love and was swiftly excelling at faster than any other player ever had. That year Well Hung Over went undefeated for the season and won the championship game. By the end of the season, the timid freshman from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had made a not only a home but a name for himself in Hinman.\textsuperscript{d1xiv}

The next year saw Eric, now a sophomore living, on the floor of Dim, his Hinman and Co-Rec mentor’s. Dim and Eric were the only holdovers from Well Hung Over, the rest either graduating, moving to other buildings or off campus. Both men knew that that year would be a rebuilding effort for the championship Lehman Co-Rec team. On move-in day for new freshmen, Dim scouted out new freshmen who looked promising, especially freshmen girls. It was then that Dim met Lissy Szalkiewicz, whose older brother Dan had been President of HCC the previous year. Lissy had a cannon for an arm and Dim convinced her to play Co-Rec for the
team. Along with Dim, Eric, Anthony Chu, Lissy and two other freshmen girls, the core members for this year’s team, the 12 Inch Kosher Dills, was ready for another exciting season of Co-Rec action.

It was during this time that another Lehman Hall team emerged. The team known as the Enijizzer Bunnies would be led by Lynsay Satriano, who was an RA in Lehman along with Dim, and Ashley Connor, a sophomore resident living in Lehman. While Dim and Lynsay were friends and fellow staff members, and while Ashley and Eric were acquaintances, and soon to be co-presidents of Lehman Hall, a huge rivalry erupted between these two teams for dominance in Lehman Hall and in Hinman.

They played each other once during the regular season of Co-Rec. There was a huge build-up before the game and lots of verbal jabbing and teasing on the part of both teams directed at one another. Eric was naturally competitive and this natural competitiveness was only amplified by Dim and his all-in-good-fun arrogance which he brought to the 12 Inch Kosher Dills. There was much anticipation on this day of the game, with both teams eager to see which was the better Lehman Hall team. It was a close game, the final score being 14-12 in favor of the Enijizzer Bunnies. Eric had played a hard game, but he was so distraught over not winning that immediately after the game he picked up his shoes and in Forrest Gump style he just ran. He ran down the hill. He ran past the Hinman Quad. He ran all the way down to the track and did a number of laps around it just to burn off steam. It wasn’t that he was a sore loser, far from it. He had just felt that he could have played better and brought his team a much deserved victory instead of inglorious defeat.

They met each other again during the championship game. The Enijizzer Bunnies had had a perfect season up to that point, and the 12 Inch Kosher Dills had won all but one game, the
one against the Enijizzer Bunnies. Both teams knew what was riding on this game. Along with
the title of Hinman Co-Rec champions, friendships were also riding on the outcome of this game.
One of the guys on the Enijizzer Bunnies was very tall, about six feet two inches, and was very
good. Dim and Eric developed a play whereby they would disguise their defense by starting in
the middle of the field. When the play started, Dim would run toward one receiver and Eric
would run towards the other. Both of them would start back behind their defensive line and
move accordingly. While on the surface this seemed relatively simple, it was devastatingly
effective. All throughout that season, Eric and Dim would have a competition on who would get
the most interceptions, passes and touchdowns. During this game, Eric would jump up and steal
an interception from Dim, infuriating his mentor. During the game there was one very
controversial play. The ball had been thrown in the air in the back of end zone. Both Dim and
Eric inadvertently sandwiched the receiver. The referee called pass interference. The ball was
then placed on the half line and this allowed the Enijizzer Bunnies to score, thereby winning the
championship game for that year. In the end everyone was a good sport and the friendships were
not shattered. In fact they were strengthened. Both teams left the field, not as winners and
losers, but as lifelong friends.\textsuperscript{dlxxvii}

That year saw the Hinman All Star Team, which was a conglomeration of the best players
from each of the Co-Rec teams, play against the CIW All Star Team. The core players for the
Hinman team came from the two best teams of the year, The Enijizzer Bunnies and the 12 Inch
Kosher Dills. During the Hinman season of Co-Rec each team had been a bitter rival, but now
they were all united and playing under the Hinman banner. The game was to be held on the CIW
Co-Rec field and almost immediately controversy began to spring up. Dim had had a personal
grudge against one of the CIW referees. Both men had been vying for the affections of the same
girl and the saying, “all’s fair in love and Co-Rec” began to take on a whole new meaning. Dim had had a reputation for being a good speaker and for rallying people. Before the game, Dim took the team aside and spoke to them, his words pumping them up like never before. The Hinman All Star Co-Rec team went into this game ready to win at any cost.

One of the biggest problems facing the Hinman team was that all of the Hinman referees were playing on the team. They needed referees from each community to make the game fair, so that no one could claim bias or favoritism. At the last minute, Eric Aboulafia, a Hinman RA, stepped in to officiate for the Hinman team. Aboulafia was there mostly for show. He did not know the rules of Co-Rec very well but he did try very hard to make good calls. The game was played on the muddy CIW Co-Rec field with over forty cheering CIW fans watching from the sidelines. Unfortunately, there were very few Hinmanites cheering on their team. During the game Eric Kurs-Lasky felt that the referees from CIW were heavily favoring the CIW team, to the extent were they were purposely making bad calls in favor of CIW. There was so much contention that the referees warned that anyone being disrespectful of them would be thrown out of the game. One Hinman fan who was shouting at the referees for making bad calls was actually forced to leave the game. The game only got dirtier from there. One of the referees called a personal foul on Dim and threw the flag (which is really a yellow bag filled with pebbles) in the direction of Dim. While the flag didn’t hit him, everyone knew that this was a malicious gesture. This brought about an uproar on the part of both teams, but they backed down. Another controversy arose when Eric scored on a “Ghost Play.” The CIW referees said that they didn’t use the “Ghost Play” and that it was illegal. Throughout the game there was pushing, shoving and roughhousing galore. Lynsay Satriano remembers this game very well. At one point during the game, Dim told her that if she sacked the quarterback he’d buy her dinner.
Dim never expected Lynsay to actually be able to sack the CIW quarterback. Never one to turn down a challenge, Lynsay went on to sack the CIW quarterback multiple times and after the game Dim took her out to dinner. Eric personally intercepted the ball twice and ran it back once for a touchdown. Towards the end of the game, which was filled with poor calls, violence, and unsportsmanlike conduct, Eric intercepted the ball again and ran the length of the field but got tackled from behind. This resulted in a huge uproar and both teams took to the field and a fist fight appeared imminent. In an effort to prevent all-out violence, the referees called the game right then and there, seeing that there were only a few seconds left on the clock anyway. The final score was 28-0 in favor of Hinman. They had won the match and brought the honor of winning the college-wide game back to Hinman, the home of Co-Rec football.

The start of 2005 saw many changes to the life of Eric Kurs-Lasky. His friend and mentor, Dimitri Bernadel, had graduated and Eric had accepted a position as an RA in Roosevelt Hall. Besides moving to a different building Eric had also taken on the mantel as the official Co-Rec guru for all of Hinman, his task was to pass on the tradition of Co-Rec to a new generation of Hinmanites. That year Eric was Co-Rec commissioner with Ashley Connor, who had accepted a position as an RA in Hughes Hall, and Lenny Hession, a resident of Smith Hall. It worked out well with Lenny handling the money, Eric scheduling most of the games, and Ashley helping out in a multitude of areas. It was during this time that Eric noticed that Co-Rec in Hinman had taken a downturn and fearing for the future, Eric wanted to preserve the spirit of Co-Rec, his beloved sport, for future generations of Hinmanites. It would be a tough challenge especially with the obstacles he now had before him.

Roosevelt Hall had not had a presence during the previous season of Co-Rec. Their team had come out to a few games and forfeited the rest. Far from being discouraged, Eric saw this as
an opportunity to build the team from the ground up. Relishing the challenge, Eric set out to establish a team for Roosevelt Hall. Besides himself, Eric recruited his former roommate and now fellow Roosevelt Hall RA, Anthony Chu, to play for the team. Anthony was a good athlete, but always was timid about getting dirty. The last few years, Eric and Dim would throw mud on Anthony before a game so that he wouldn’t be worried about getting dirty. Once he was dirty, then Anthony would really play. Unfortunately, there was a very small population of freshmen coming into the building that year, and many of the upperclassmen had other activities that they were involved in or just did not want to play Co-Rec. Eric was forced to recruit those who were willing to play. This hodgepodge of people were far from athletes. They included Samantha “Sam” Marciano, a sophomore, for the team’s quarterback, Lauren Losapio and Michelle Grossman, both senior RA’s in Roosevelt, Matt Sagat, a freshman who had played football in high school, and the very un-athletic Discovery Assistant of the building, Brent Gotsch. Early in the season the Roosevelt Hall RD, Andrea Belis, would play from time to time and late in the season after the ultimate Frisbee season was over, Roosevelt Hall resident Eric Brown would play. The name for this year’s team would be the Roosevelt Trojans. The t-shirt would be designed by Roosevelt Hall RA Yachao Zhang and the front of the t-shirt pictured a bunch of footballs with condoms over them being thrown in the air. The team also had a unique chant which went along with the condom theme: “1-2-3-Wrap it up!”

This was a very tough season in many ways. The group as a whole did not have a whole lot of talent, and in addition Eric could not make it to the first scrimmage of the season because he and his girlfriend Jessica Zomper had gone apple picking, a yearly tradition with her family. More worrisome, though, was Eric’s lack of a right arm. Late that summer, Eric had gotten into a spat of sorts with his brother, whom he punched in the arm. Eric wound up breaking his right
hand when he punched his brother and required surgery and a cast. The very first scrimmage saw the Roosevelt Trojans blown out of the water. The inexperienced team had their trial by fire and had come away battered and bruised and in desperate need of leadership. They found that leadership in the torchbearer of Hinman Co-Rec football, Eric Kurs-Lasky.

Blatantly going against doctor’s orders, Eric would play games in his cast and still dominate them. Sam Marciano would pass him the ball, which more times than not, he would catch and then juke and jive around the opposing team’s players to gain yards and score touchdowns. While each and every member of the team did play to the best of their abilities, Eric was the one carrying the day. Toward the end of the season, Eric Brown would play and they would come up with a clever play. By this time, Kurs-Lasky had gotten a reputation as a tremendous Co-Rec football player and was on his way to being perhaps the greatest player to ever play the game. Knowing this, many teams sent multiple players to cover Kurs-Lasky, who more times than not would still run circles around them. However, oftentimes the Roosevelt Trojans would use this to their advantage and have Kurs-Lasky be the diversion and Sam Marciano would throw the ball to another player, usually to Eric Brown. Many touchdowns were scored in this fashion and the Roosevelt Trojans climbed their way to the fourth seed of the playoffs.

The Roosevelt Trojans were the team that in the beginning of the year, no one thought could win a game. By the time of the semi-finals, they were one of the best in the league. This complete turnaround was in part because the individual players were getting better, but also because the effective leadership of Eric Kurs-Lasky was driving the team on toward victory after victory. The semi-final games of the 2005 season of Co-Rec football saw the match-up between two old rivals. Ashley Connor’s team, the Hughes Cocks, played the Roosevelt Trojans in the
snow and ice on a cold day at the end of the season on Sterling Field. Near the end of regulation time the score was tied 14-14. The Roosevelt Trojans still had their guy pass left and Eric devised a plan whereby he would throw the ball, even with his cast on. When the ball was snapped he was quickly handed the ball. Using his trademark moves, he maneuvered around the other players before he finally threw the ball in the direction of Eric Brown. Just as Brown was about to catch the pass and score a victory for the Trojans, the pass was intercepted. The game wound up going into four grueling overtimes, the end result being a victory for the Hughes Cocks. As depressing as the loss was, that season the team had much to be proud about. They had been a team that at first no one thought could win and had made it all the way to the semifinals and held off what was by far the best team in the league through four overtimes. The Hughes Cocks went into the Super Bowl that year and absolutely dominated their opponent. The fact that the Roosevelt Trojans, the underdogs for that year, had held their own against the Hughes Cocks was an accomplishment in and of itself.

All in all, it had been a fun season filled with a great deal of laughter and camaraderie between the players on the team. Just about every game had been followed by either a group washing of uniforms and/or a trip to the dining hall for a late breakfast or lunch. Those relationships made through Co-Rec football would last well beyond the season. Even though some of the players of the team would graduate or move off campus, those connections forged during the 2005 Hinman Co-Rec football season would be maintained well into the future. Eric left that season proud of what he and his team had accomplished and hopeful and upbeat about what the next season of Co-Rec would bring.

The 2006 season of Co-Rec looked to be as challenging as the previous one. Michelle Grossman and Lauren Losapio had graduated at the end of last year and Eric Brown had moved
off campus, so he was ineligible to play for the Roosevelt team. In fact everyone who had played on last year’s team was gone with the exception of Samantha Marciano, Matt Sagat, Brent Gotsch and of course, Eric Kurs-Lasky. Eric and the holdovers from last year knew that this would be another rebuilding effort. Luckily, this year would see many new freshmen move into Roosevelt and on opening day Eric scoped out new talent for his team. That year, as in previous years, Faculty Master Al Vos had encouraged Eric (who was the sole Co-Rec Commissioner by that time) to put on some informal seminars on how to play Co-Rec and explain to incoming freshmen what it was all about. During opening weekend, Eric was scheduled to put on a program where new students were encouraged to come out and learn about the game. That day it was pouring rain and Eric along with virtually everyone else believed that no one would show up. Surprisingly, a large number of people, many of them girls, came out to learn what Co-Rec was all about. They played in the rain and in the mud and immediately became enamored with sport. It was here that Eric met and recruited many new talented players for his team. They included freshmen, Elizabeth “Bitsi” DePetrillo, Setareh Fararooy, Ashley Schleimer, Laura Thelander, Matt Sherman, and Mike Hyman. Also joining the team that year would be sophomore Jared Gogel, and junior Liz Mansdorf, a new RA in Roosevelt that year. The name for that year’s team would be the Roosevelt Codpieces. Once again, Yachao Zhang would design the team’s t-shirt and it would feature a large, muscular football player, but hanging down from his groin would be a fish, in a large phallic shape.\\n
There was a lot of speculation on how this year’s season of Co-Rec would shape up. Ashley Connor, who along with Eric had been instrumental in continuing the legacy of Co-Rec football, had decided to concentrate on her studies in Nursing full time. Others like Jimmy Galante and Timmy Ho, who had been instrumental in the sport, were no longer as active as they
once were. Luckily the referees that year were of top caliber. They included Jeff Hoffman and sophomore Todd Agate. Eric remembers this season fondly:

> This year was a lot of fun because we had a strong group. They weren’t really athletes but everyone was really into the sport. The freshmen really enjoyed coming out, especially the girls. It was very exciting going from week to week and wondering what would happen.\textsuperscript{dlixxxvi}

What was most interesting about that year was that the fact that more than any other year, girls were really excited about coming out and playing the game, even more so than guys. Usually it was like pulling teeth trying to get girls to come out and play Co-Rec, but this year saw the exact opposite, with the Roosevelt Codpieces and many other teams struggling to find males who wanted to play. Even though only a select few of that year’s team had been involved to any extent in sports, with the leadership of the upperclassmen and most especially of Eric, the team became one of the best in the league, dominating virtually every game. Realizing that this would be his final season of Co-Rec football before he graduated that spring, Eric played like he had never played before. He completely immersed himself in the Co-Rec season, much to the detriment of his classes and to his other obligations. That year, Eric Kurs-Lasky lived and breathed Hinman Co-Rec football. It got so bad that even his longtime girlfriend, Jess Zomper, became concerned for his physical and mental well-being. Eric would have nothing of it though. This year he was determined to win the Robert F. Giomi Plaque one more time.\textsuperscript{dlixxxvii}

Tragedy nearly struck the Roosevelt Codpieces and Eric Kurs-Lasky. Four weeks into the season, the Roosevelt Codpieces were scheduled to play a game. That team never showed up and forfeited the game. However, while they were waiting, Todd Agate’s team, the Cleveland Steamers, showed up for their game which was scheduled next. While they were waiting for the next game to start, Eric and Todd decided that they would scrimmage each other just for the fun of it. The game was fun and exciting. Even by this stage of the season, it was clear that the
Cleveland Steamers and the Roosevelt Codpieces were the two powerhouse teams of that season. In fact, the Cleveland Steamers would be the only team that the Roosevelt Codpieces would lose against during the regular season. Towards the end of the scrimmage, Eric fell on the group and his teammate Mike Hyman accidentally stepped on Eric’s right hand. Excruciating pain shot through his hand. While the pain dulled over time, Eric began to realize that something was seriously wrong with his hand. He was having difficulty moving one of his fingers and it was slightly swollen. Fearing the worst, Eric held off on getting it looked at, much to the great distress of Jess who feared for her beau’s health. Eric went to Wal-Mart and purchased a brace for his hand, but the pain was still great. Later on, Eric was to find out that his hand was in fact broken yet again. Eric knew that a cast would only get in his way, and disobeying doctor’s orders and all common sense, he refused to have a cast put on and played through the pain, determined to see the season through to its conclusion.

The Cleveland Steamers was the only team that beat the Roosevelt Codpieces that year. During their one game of the regular season, they Steamers rolled over the Codpieces, completely removing whatever arrogance the undefeated team had up until that point. During the playoffs it soon became clear that both the Steamers and the Codpieces would meet again in the Super Bowl. Eric, his hand still throbbing with pain, realized that this game would be his last chance at fortune and glory on the Co-Rec field. This last game of Co-Rec would be all about pride.

The day of the Super Bowl was a cold and blustery early December day. Both teams came bundled up against the elements and prepared to take to the gridiron of Sterling Field to vie for the title of Hinman Co-Rec champions. Everyone involved knew what the stakes were for this game. For some it was simply the chance to be crowned the kings and queens of Hinman
Co-Rec football. For senior Eric Kurs-Lasky, it meant the culmination of four long years of hard work devoted to the sport that had meant so much to him and to which he was about to make a lasting legacy. That day, Eric walked onto Sterling Field, tightened his brace, and put on his cleats one last time for a shot at glory and Co-Rec immortality.

The 2006 Super Bowl was heated even though it was wickedly cold. The play was very competitive, though not unsportsmanlike. At a crucial point in the game, Eric decided to use the team’s sole “Guy Pass” and threw left handed. That pass connected with a Codpiece player who scored a touchdown. By this stage of the game, the score was 13-6 in favor of the Roosevelt Codpieces. Shortly thereafter, the Steamers scored two consecutive touchdowns bringing the score up to 19-13 in favor of the Cleveland Hall team. With just under a minute and forty-five seconds on the clock, the Roosevelt team drove down the field. Sam Marciano threw the ball to Eric, who even with his bad hand, caught the ball and scored a touchdown. The score was now tied 19-19. With precious seconds left in the game, the Codpieces tried to score the single extra point that would have won them the game and the championship, but the Steamers’ defense held firm and prevented them from crossing their one yard line. Regulation time ended and the 2006 championship game was about to go into overtime.

During that brief interlude before overtime began, Eric, in the manner and style of his Co-Rec mentor Dimitri Bernadel, spoke grandiloquently and rallied his weary troops for one final push toward victory. The troops from both sides then took to the field. Overtime was a huge defensive struggle. Since his freshman year, Eric had been on one of the only teams in Hinman Co-Rec that consistently used a zone style of defense. Most of the other teams relied on man-to-man defense. Over the years Eric had perfected the zone defense which kept the
opposing team’s offense at bay. During this game, Eric had been running plays\textsuperscript{28} to the left side of the field to avoid Mike Levy, one of the best players on the Cleveland Steamers. During this game, Eric would place one player on the right side and two on the left. When the game entered into its fourth overtime, Eric decided to reverse this arrangement and use himself as a diversion.

On the second play of the fourth overtime, Eric ran to the middle of the field and then quickly broke to the corner of the end zone. Seeing this opening, Sam Marciano threw with all her might and hurled the pass deep toward Eric. For a moment it seemed as though everything was going in slow motion. The ball almost seemed to hover in the air, the spiral going agonizing slow as it arced smoothly toward Eric’s open arms. Eric caught the ball in the end zone scoring the game’s final touchdown and bringing victory to Roosevelt Hall.\textsuperscript{dxcii}

After the miraculous catch, the team rushed the field and swarmed their beloved captain with backslaps and hi-fives all around. It was during this time that Jessica Zomper rushed over to her longtime boyfriend. The two locked in a passionate yet tender embrace, quietly whispering the words, “I love you,” to one another. The two teams lined up and shook hands. Both had played a hard game, but it was clean play, free of the violence and hyper-competitiveness of previous seasons and both teams left the field in good spirits. Before they left the field, the usually stoic Eric Kurs-Lasky, tears of joy beginning to form in his eyes, addressed his team one last time. He congratulated them on a job well done and on a well played season and for all their hard work both on and off the field. They gathered into a circle one last time for their team’s chant. Everyone placed their hand into the circle and shouted the Roosevelt Codpiece mantra: “We’re the fish! You can’t touch this!”\textsuperscript{dxcii} Eric took one last look around the field and with Jess at his side stepped off Sterling Field not only a winner, but a legend in the

\textsuperscript{28} Eric Kurs-Lasky is famous for showing his teammates the plays on his hand. Eric would hold out his bare hand (which would act like the field) and with the other hand show each player on his team where to go. As humorous as this may have appeared to the outside observer, Eric used this with devastating effectiveness each and every game.
annals of Co-Rec football. The team brushed themselves off and went to a victory lunch at the local IHOP. Victory never tasted as sweet, or as syrupy, as it did that day.

The 2006 season of Co-Rec football was a great year, not only for Eric Kurs-Lasky and the rest of Roosevelt Hall, but for all of Hinman Co-Rec. The Roosevelt Codpieces were a team that truly understood the meaning of the game. Not only were they all friends on and off the field, but they had fun playing the sport and included everyone. For Eric Kurs-Lasky this season may have been his last, but his legend would be forever ingrained in the turf of Sterling Field. Eric had taken a sport, which for over two decades had been suffering from the aftershocks of a controversial and overly competitive 1983 season and had turned it around. Eric, along with many others, had introduced the sport to a new generation of Hinmanite who would have the same passion for the game as he would. Whether he knew it or not, Eric would be the individual most responsible for getting Hinman Co-Rec football back on track.

The story of Co-Rec football is not the story of one man or one woman or even one team. Every year since the beginning of the sport, individual players and teams have stood out. Yet it is Eric Kurs-Lasky, perhaps more so than any other, who stands out as a giant of the sport. His skill at the game that is uniquely Hinman far overshadows that of any other player. His talents both on and off the field have made him a testament to the enduring legacy of Co-Rec football.

The Legacy of Co-Rec Football

In 1971, Bob Giomi set out to make a game that would include both men and women on an equal playing field and satisfy the desire for an athletic recreational activity that would bring the community together. Over thirty years later, that sport, known as Co-Rec football, continues to go strong not only in its birthplace of Hinman College, but in the rest of the residential
colleges of Binghamton University and on college and university campuses across the country. That, in and of itself, is truly an astonishing accomplishment.

In 2007, Eric Kurs-Lasky gave this as the legacy of Co-Rec football:

"It satisfies the competitiveness that people are looking for. Yet it also has an element of fun and of community. You play with the people you live with…you play the game with your friends. You go back to the building all dirty together…that’s what creates bonds between people. There’s a certain level of competitiveness to it, but in the end it brings people together."

dxciii

In the end that is what Co-Rec is all about. At first glance it is a sport that appears to be about nothing except winning over one’s opponent. However, when one looks at the meaning behind Co-Rec and the history of the game, one quickly realizes that it is not about this at all. Co-Rec is a sport not about divisiveness, but about bringing people together to play a game where in the end it doesn’t really matter who wins and who loses, but that everyone had fun.

Even thirty years later, alumni still cling to their torn and faded Co-Rec shirts as mementos from the time they caught that game-winning pass, or blocked the extra point, or threw the game-saving pass to the wide-open receiver. For some it was the only time in their life that they played competitive sports and for others the Hinman Super Bowl was the closest that they ever got to the real Super Bowl. In the end that is what Co-Rec is about. It’s about dreams. Not just the dreams of gridiron glory, but the dreams of bonding upon the fields of friendly strife, and the lifelong friendships that they forge.

Today Hinman Co-Rec continues on as one of the most revered and time-honored of the Hinman institutions. There may no longer be four or five teams per building (some only have one) and there may no longer be the large, elaborate floats in the Hinman Quad during Co-Rec Weekends, but the spirit of those days lives on every time a Hinmanite laces up and steps onto the sacred earth of Sterling Field. Some places may have bigger, more involved Co-Rec seasons,
but Hinman is still the place where Co-Rec was born. As long as there are students living in Hinman College, the sport of Co-Rec will continue to be played.

The purpose behind Co-Rec was to bring young men and young women together and create a better community by playing a sport that included everyone. While this original mission may have been overlooked during some seasons, it has never been forgotten for long. Like every institution in Hinman history, Co-Rec may have had its ups and downs but it has continually had a positive presence in the community. More so than anything else, Co-Rec is Hinman’s claim to fame and the sport has provided much-needed recreation to quite literally thousands of Hinmanites over its nearly forty-year history. It doesn’t matter whose name is engraved on the Robert F. Giomi Plaque. That in the long run does not matter. The people who played and took pride in the game are true testaments to Bob Giomi’s original vision of the sport and of the spirit of Hinman College.

The author would like to thank Stan Goldberg, Steve Young, Lynsay Satriano and Eric Kurs-Lasky for their invaluable contributions to this and other chapters and a very special thanks to Bob Giomi for creating a sport that has developed community like no other activity in Hinman and for being a towering figure in the history of Hinman College.

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No Business Like Show Business: The Evolution of Community-Based Theater in Hinman

“Upstate New York in the middle of October. You can’t get more beautiful than that.”

“Once in a while you get a moment of clarity-an inspiration-and they don’t come frequently.”

“I was having the best time of my life.”

-Paul Reiser
Class of 1977

Prologue

With perhaps the exception of Hinman College Council or Co-Rec football there is no more venerable an institution in Hinman College than the Hinman Production Company (HPC). Since nearly the very beginning of the Hinman experience, students and residents within this little community’s borders have been entertained by a determined, tireless, and selfless group of individuals whose sole purpose is to provide for the enjoyment of themselves and their peers. Something happened along the way though. These brash, rebellious students, dissatisfied with the university’s theater department decided to create a theater without that department’s strict rules. All they wanted was to have the opportunity to act, most importantly to have fun, and maybe, just maybe entertain the audience. What started off with these ambitions in mind accomplished those goals-and so much more. It became not only a group full of fun and rowdy students, but an organization dedicated to its cause that would create lifelong friendships and priceless memories. It is an association that has lasted for well over three decades, with no end in sight.

The Hinman Little Theater

The story of the little theater that could began as most things do, with simple, humble origins. In the Fall of 1971 Stan Goldberg, a freshman accounting major, had an idea. In high
school Stan had been very active in theater and wanted to continue with his acting. However, he was unable to actively participate within the university’s theater department because he was an accounting major. More importantly, he, and many others like him, felt that the Binghamton theater department was too strict and sucked all the fun out of acting. Stan had a vision to change all that. Instead of being doomed to whatever the stuffy theater department wanted to do with a production, why not make a little theater within his own residence community. With this thought in mind Stan approached Bob Giomi, the Director of Academic Services for Hinman College, Head Resident of Lehman Hall, and one of the most influential people in early Hinman history. After speaking with Bob, Stan was given permission to form a community-based theater operation within Hinman where the actors and technical crew would all be Hinman residents. The Hinman Little Theater (HLT) was born.

News quickly spread of the creation of HLT. One of the earliest and most active members of HLT was Steve Young. Like Stan, Steve had been involved in theater in high school and thought that the theater department at Binghamton was too serious. Like Stan, he wanted to do something fun. Years later, Steve would say “our philosophy was that the play was for the people in the cast rather than the people in the audience.” It wasn’t so much that they didn’t care about the audience or their enjoyment. They were simply non-theater majors lashing out at the theater department for stifling something which they enjoyed so much.

As with any new institution there were many obstacles to overcome. One of the first was finding a suitable place to practice and perform their plays. At this time, the only viable location to hold their rehearsals and their performances was in the Hinman Dining Hall. The Hinman Dining Hall at this time was very different than it is today. It was before the 2002-2003 renovation, and spatially it was very different from something a current Hinman resident would
recognize. For starters there were three partitions that could be used to separate the different sections of the Dining Hall. During performances, these partitions were taken down to make room for the actors. There was no stage; lights were borrowed from the theater department. Cramped conditions made both viewing the production and acting in it all the more difficult. They were lucky that the Hinman Dining Hall allowed them to borrow a room underneath the Dining Hall, a room known as the Bumblebee Room, as a space where they could store their props.\footnote{\textit{dxcvii}}

Any good actor will tell you that no matter the circumstances, the show must go on, and on it went. The very first production that HLT performed was a play entitled \textit{You Know I Can’t Hear You When the Water is Running}. With the success of this play, the following semester saw the performance of \textit{You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown}. Despite its challenges, HLT survived and thrived and eventually moved on to a better location.\footnote{\textit{dxcviii}}. The Hinman Commons were the next place that HLT would call home. This time, lights were installed specially for them, and now they had an adequate area for a stage and reasonable for an audience. With these improvements HLT began a rise that would make it one of the most popular pastimes in Hinman and even eclipse the university’s own theater department.

In the Fall of 1972 production began on Neil Simon’s \textit{Plaza Suite}, the story of three sets of occupants of a suite in the Plaza Hotel. Unlike the professional play or the film version, HLT decided that the performances would feature three different leads. The play starred Stan Goldberg opposite Jill Slater as a couple who is experiencing fears and trepidations over the prospect of marriage. Roy Abbot directed and Steve Young was in charge of the overall production. It would be the first play to be performed in the Hinman Commons. There was such
a large turnout that not everyone who auditioned could be given a part in the play.\textsuperscript{dxcix}

Anticipations ran high as the debut neared. It appeared that HLT was on top of its game.

*Plaza Suite*, like its predecessors, was very successful. However HLT was not without its problems. Since the very beginning, HLT was about allowing amateur actors outside the theater department an opportunity to act. The main goal of HLT was to allow as many Hinmanites as possible a chance to participate in and experience theater. The production of *Plaza Suite*, however, did not accomplish that. As reported in an article in the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter on February 7, 1973, the executives of HLT apologized for not allowing more participation in HLT. “...as the term progressed, our priorities switched to presenting a successful production. Due to total commitment to the play, all else was unfortunately pushed aside and our goal of involving as many Hinmanites as possible in various activities was lost. We sincerely apologize to those who felt lost in the shuffle.”\textsuperscript{dc} To remedy this situation HLT offered a theater workshop where amateur actors could hone their skill and encouraged those interested to not be discouraged and to contact HLT to get involved. Also in an effort to get more Hinmanite participation, the first annual Hinman Follies were announced. The Hinman Follies, though not as long lasting as HLT, would still leave a lasting impact on Hinman and a very memorable legacy for those involved in them.\textsuperscript{dc}\textsuperscript{i}

Riding high off its success and believing that it could keep its commitment for more resident participation, HLT announced two new productions to occur in the Spring of 1973. There would be *Celebration*, a musical with four lead roles and chorus for ten people, and *Happy Birthday, Wanda Jane*, a black comedy by Kurt Vonnegut with roles for nine people.\textsuperscript{dc}\textsuperscript{ii} It appeared that HLT was on top of its game with the ambitious production of two plays simultaneously. Unfortunately this ambition would not come to fruition.
A few short weeks later, HLT would cancel both productions of *Celebration* and *Happy Birthday, Wanda Jane*. It cited two major reasons for this abrupt cancellation. A lack of sufficient response to tryouts, coupled with a desire to give HLT a new direction, caused the cancellation of these two shows. HLT was still having trouble living up to its promise of including more residents in its productions. With interest in the plays dwindling, HLT decided to take the semester to improve and expand upon its permanent scenery stock, to hold more acting workshops, and to devote themselves entirely to Hinman Follies. At the same time a plan to produce a series of one-act plays was put into the works. This was done in an effort to allow for increased participation in HLT and to have at least some traditional theatrical performance that semester.

eventually five one-act plays were placed into production. HLT would produce *Separate People* written and directed by current Hinman student Allen Lowe. Also to be produced would be *Hello Out There* directed by Steve Hershkowitz, *Adaptation* directed by Stan Goldberg, *Next* directed by Roy Abbot, and *The American Dream* to be directed by Jon Ostrove.\(^{\text{dciv}}\)

Previously, HLT had a difficult time drawing talented actors, especially since they were limited only to residents of Hinman College. Unfortunately, many who wanted to perform had absolutely no acting experience and their raw talent was not up to the level of what HLT was looking for. However, HLT had a secret weapon to combat this problem though. They found it in Hinman’s very own Faculty Master, C.P. Gruber. Gruber was an English professor with an intense interest in theater and volunteered to run acting workshops to improve the raw, untried talent of the would-be actors. With the help of Gruber, HLT was able to adequately train untried actors and to hone the skills of those already experienced in past theatrical productions.\(^{\text{dcv}}\)
Concurrently with the one-act plays, HLT was also spearheading a brand new endeavor, Hinman Follies. Hinman Follies was pitched as a competition between the various halls of Hinman, each of which would basically put on a skit. The best one would win. Stan Goldberg came up with the idea much as he had in HLT. As a high school student in his hometown of Lindbrook, Long Island, Stan had what was called a class night, when the different classes performed musical skits and competed against one another. Taking the idea to Bob Giomi, Stan was given permission to pitch the idea of Hinman Follies to the halls, and with the help of the tireless Giomi, four of the residence halls competed. In the Follies, a theme would be given, lyrics of popular songs would be adapted, and musical numbers usually, with elaborate dancing and choreography, would be arranged. All of the participants—and there were many from each hall—worked tirelessly to make Follies a possibility. Years later Stan Goldberg would reflect, “It was amazing. People took time out of school to rehearse. They gave up all of their time. They didn’t do it because they had to do it, they did it out of love.”

The day of the event, a truck was borrowed and numerous trips had to be made to bring props from the halls down to the Women’s Gym, which current Binghamton students would recognize as the East Gym. It was truly a tremendous undertaking, surpassing even the highly complex and organized rehearsals of HLT.

The theme of the first annual Hinman Follies was “Hinman at the Movies,” with a notice that all “Hinman Activities, procedures, staff, resident assistants and services are comically and musically attacked.” The various halls announced their movie parody skits as follows:

- Smith Hall  “Wizard of Ours”
- Lehman Hall  “West Side Suny”
- Cleveland Hall  “Hinderella”
- Hughes Hall  “R*A*S*H”
Roosevelt Hall was strangely absent from the first annual Hinman Follies. This is probably because the building now known as the Hinman Library and Commons was still under construction and many of the area administrative offices such as the Area Coordinator’s office and the Faculty Master’s office were located in Roosevelt. Hinman Follies was slated to begin at 8:00 PM on Sunday, April 8, 1973 at the Women’s Gym.

Hinman Follies was a resounding success. The night of April 8 saw the Women’s Gym packed with Hinman residents and students from across campus to view the musical parodies that the individual halls had created. It was a riot. Nothing was held sacred in Follies as the students lampooned everyone and everything, including the beloved Hinmanite Bob Giomi. Following the performances an unofficial string of awards were given out known as “the Grubies,” in honor of Hinman Faculty Master C.P. Gruber: Best Original Character, Best Choreography, Best Impersonation, and Best Musical Number and many more. A special recognition was given to Bob Giomi for his tireless efforts in making Hinman Follies a possibility. The first annual Hinman Follies was even commemorated in a poem by the Follies chairmen Stan Goldberg and Steve Young.

Sung to “The Yellow Rose of Texas”

Oh, thank you all the chairmen
To you we tip our hats
And thank you Gary Brennan
For helping fix the flats.

And thank you Pete Lorenzi
For doing all the sound
And thank you Johnny Sutton
For driving us around.

Yes, thank you Mrs. Rogers
Whose typing was not slow
And gee thanks Hinman Council
For giving us the dough.
But thanks most Bob Giomi
You really are the top
Without you Hinman Follies
Would have been a flop.\textsuperscript{dcxi}

Hinman Follies was a resounding success and would continue on for a few more years, always with great success. In many ways its success revitalized a stagnating theater group who, after initial successes, began to lose focus on what they really wanted, which was to include as many people as possible in a creative undertaking that would be fun not only for the audience but also for the participants. In that way, Hinman Follies was an enormous, immeasurable success. Hinman Follies was one event of just a few that was part of what was then called Hinman Weekend. For those who were around at the time, Hinman Weekend with the Hinman Follies as the capstone was something unique to Hinman, something that the other residential communities could not say they possessed. None other than Faculty Master C.P. Gruber said it best when he stated, “‘Hinman weekend was one of the happiest weekends of my life as Master.’”\textsuperscript{dcxii}

With Hinman Follies over, Stan, Steve and the rest of the HLT crew could concentrate on their theater work. Although Follies had been a huge success, HLT simply did not have the resources to produce both Follies and all the one-act plays that they were planning on performing. The productions of Next and Separate People were canceled. Productions of Adaptation, The American Dream, and Hello, Out There! would continue. The plays were scheduled to appear on May 3, 4, and 5 with all three plays being presented in one grand show on the final day.\textsuperscript{dcxiii} No review exists for these three one-act plays. However, it is known that they were performed to nearly sold out crowds. HLT had done the impossible. Not only had they lived up to their promise of greater student involvement, as seen by Hinman Follies, but they also stayed with their original mission and had completed a regular theatrical production in
the midst of all this the chaos surrounding Follies. By May of 1973, HLT had survived its first two years of existence and looked eagerly to another year of fun-filled theatrical antics.

By the Fall of 1973 HLT was in its third year of production as a “completely student run alternative to the highly structured Theater department.” Unwilling to fall into stagnation, the members of HLT decided to up the ante and stage a musical production for the fall semester. In the year’s very first issue of the Hinman Halitosis, HLT solicited help on their plans for an upcoming musical and even began preparing for the spring semester’s Hinman Follies.

It was announced on Oct. 25, 1973, that that semester’s production would be the musical *Guys and Dolls*. That issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* found HLT pleading for students to audition for roles in that musical production. One of the major problems of this production, and nearly every production that came before and followed thereafter, was finding talented people willing to act in the plays. HLT lost a great asset that semester when one of its founding members, Steve Young, studied in Washington, D.C. that semester. Steve’s leadership along with that of the rest of his dedicated E-board was what kept HLT afloat even through all of its problems that it suffered through for the previous two years. With Steve gone, leadership vested on the shoulders of other HLT veterans like Stan Goldberg. However, there was now a role in the production of *Guys and Dolls* that needed to be filled. That role was filled by a young freshman music major who would later become not only Hinman’s most famous graduate, but also Binghamton University’s most famous and successful graduate. That man was Paul Reiser.

Paul Reiser would eventually become an incredibly successful comedian, actor and writer, appearing in such diverse and varied films as *Diner, Aliens, Beverly Hills Cop I and II,* and *Bye, Bye Love,* to name just a few. He would later go on to pen his first original screenplay for the 2005 critically acclaimed film *The Thing About My Folks,* where he would star alongside
Peter Falk, Olympia Dukakis, and Elizabeth Perkins. He would also write the *New York Times* bestsellers *Couplehood* and *Babyhood*. However, he is probably best known for starring opposite Helen Hunt in the hit NBC sit-com *Mad About You*, which at its peak was one of most popular television shows in the country. *Mad About You* would garner him Emmy, Golden Globe, American Comedy Award and Screen Actors Guild nominations for Best Actor in a Comedy Series. He would also compose the theme song for *Mad About You* entitled “The Final Frontier.” However, in 1973 this was all yet to come. For now Paul was simply a student living in Hinman, believing that he would enter the workplace as a writer of corporate jingles (a practical use for his degree in Music), with only a passing interest in acting and theater. That was about to change with his involvement in HLT.

Like every semester before, there were many obstacles to overcome in order to put on such a large production as *Guys and Dolls*. HLT, like its successor HPC, and virtually every other student group on campus, was working with a limited budget. Thus, HLT foresaw that it would be financially impossible for them to either create or make all the appropriate costumes for the play. They solicited people to loan them any 1940’s-era style clothes, including 1940’s-era hats, pinstripe or wide lapel jackets, ‘40’s style dresses and skirts, ladies accessories such as pearl necklaces, button earrings, chokers, clutch pocketbooks, white gloves, and cigarette holders. They also asked to borrow any 1940’s-era type props that could add atmosphere to the play. Even as late as December HLT was still looking for props, costumes and even someone to play the drums for a musical number. As a result of all these pressures, recognizing that the show would not be ready before the semester was out, the directors decided to postpone the show until the beginning of the spring semester.
Following the winter break, HLT saw a newly appointed director for the production in Steve Hershkowitz, with Ronna Bernstein taking care of the musical numbers, and Gary Brennan and Gerri Miller also taking on difficult production roles. The cast featured Vincent Pantuso as Nathan Detroit, Marcy Mashioff as Adelaide, Gary Levine as Sky Masterson, Sue Glass as Sarah Brown, Steve Fialkoff as Rusty Charlie, and Stan Goldberg as Benny Southstreet. Also in the cast as the piano player for the production and as the character Big Julie was Paul Reiser in his very first acting role.

There was a huge build-up to the show. It seemed as though the whole of Hinman was poised on the edge of their seats in anticipation for the very first musical to grace the Hinman Commons stage under a newly installed lighting system, a system that would sustain HLT until the emergence of HPC in the early 1980’s. As the day of the show neared the cast and crew worked even harder and more ferociously to perfect their parts and get their lines down pat. Late nights and long afternoon rehearsals promised to blossom into another entertaining show, the biggest that had ever been seen to date in Hinman. The weekend performances sold out less than ten minutes after tickets were first offered, forcing HLT to offer another show the following week. This would be another first for HLT: the possibility of six-full house performances. It seemed as though everyone was waiting for the show to begin. Students made their trek to the Hinman Commons clutching their tickets. Expectations ran high for HLT’s rendition of *Guys and Dolls*. All the hard work and intense preparation led up to this. Only one question remained: could HLT pull it off?

The answer to that question was a resounding yes! *Guys and Dolls* played to packed houses and won critical acclaim from nearly everyone who attended a showing. Even though the flats were changed at the last minute, they still appeared to be constructed in a professional
manner by technical crewmembers Garry Brennan and his assistants Randi Jenkins, Vicky Robinson, and Leon Borden among others. The performances of Gary Levine, Stan Goldberg, and Steve Hershkowitz (who acted in and directed the play) were praised. Levine should be given extra credit for during the last show he came down with laryngitis and had to virtually whisper all his lines and the musical numbers. Guys and Dolls would be Levine’s second acting role in HLT (he had played Charlie Brown in You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown). It was his first chance to act with Paul Reiser. Above all others, Levin and Reiser would be consistently noted as tremendous talents in an acting troupe of incredibly talented amateur actors.

Like Reiser, Levine would also go into show business, first in theater and then in television production (helping produce such popular and critically acclaimed shows as “Twin Peaks” and “The West Wing”), eventually becoming a producer for the Showtime move network. Sue Glass was praised for her performance as Sarah Brown and Stan Goldberg’s performance was described as “nothing short of fantastic. Goldberg’s mimics had the audience rolling on the floor.” Most praised of all those was the climactic musical number “Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat” where Steve Sammond in his role of Nicely Nicely Johnson rocked the audience with his performance. Even Bob Giomi had a small role as a newspaper boy. Also, in what may be his very first acting review, Paul Reiser was given an excellent rating in his role as Big Julie. Peter Lorenzi, Halitosis editor, wrote, “Paul Reiser played this humorous role very well and set the tone for the rest of the delightful gamblers.” Even though Paul was a newcomer to both Hinman College and HLT who initially had little interest in acting, it was he who outshone and upstaged the cast. In his role as Big Julie, Paul lammed it up at every available moment. One night he would pull Twinkies out of his guitar case, another night it would be a sandwich and a container of milk. He made the small, humorous role hilarious
and completely upstaged the veteran HLT performers. In short, the young, wet-behind-the-ears freshman music major stole the show of the biggest most ambitious HLT production to date. Years later, looking back on the whole production, Steve Young noted that “Guys and Dolls was what made Paul Reiser want to get into acting.”

However, as great as the production was, there were problems in its aftermath. In the course of producing the show, the Hinman Executive Committee (the forerunner of the HCC E-board) allowed HLT use of the Student Government Room. The room, designated for the use of student government, became a place for HLT to store some of their props and costumes. It also appeared that some members of HLT had abused their privilege by leaving empty cups, plates, and hair on the room’s floor, while coffee and soda stained and coated the floor. Empty bags were stuffed in desks, and hair clips, bills, memos and vouchers were strewn around the whole room with absolutely no attempt to clean up and organize the space. What really pushed the student government over the edge, however, was not the sloppiness of some HLT members, but HLT’s complete carelessness with security. One member of HLT had placed numerous notes around the room reminding the student government representatives who used the room to lock it after they were done. Yet when one member of the Executive Committee came to the room, he found the door wide open with no one inside. Eventually an HLT member returned to the room, but from outside the building and over five minutes later. Left unattended in the room was $545 collected from ticket sales to a Joni Mitchell concert, along with $10 of petty cash, as well as costumes worth over $250, a typewriter, ditto and mimeo machines, chairs and other furniture. What added insult to injury was that one HLT member had placed tape over the lock, much in the fashion of the Watergate burglars, thereby making it impossible to lock the door. In a nasty letter to the editor of the Hinman Halitosis, the Hinman Executive Committee wrote out their
grievances against HLT and ended by stating, “It is conceivable to understand the last week hassle of putting on such a performance, but this does not justify certain Little Theater members’ behavior. It is only a few that this letter is directed at, maybe only two or three, but it is the few that spoil it for the many. The ability is there, the brains are not.”

Rushing to the defense of HLT was none other than Bob Giomi, who published a letter in the following issue of *Halitosis*. He stated, “I’m not particularly concerned with the individual performances or the off-stage problems. What interests me is the fact that a Little Theater group, with only one declared theater major, no faculty assistance or guidance, and a lot of technical and physical problems, managed to produce successfully a major musical that provided enjoyment to over 700 students, faculty, and staff.” Giomi went on to link HLT to the rest of Hinman’s groundbreaking traditions, including Co-Rec football, *Halitosis*, Bus Stop, the liberal pet policy, the cooking dorm (Roosevelt Hall), Hinman Follies and many others. He went on to praise Gary Brennan for his efforts on the production end and Steve Hershkowitz, who “took a cast with low morale and boosted them in ten days to deliver the fine performance that each one achieved.” Giomi ended his passionate defense of HLT by saying:

> Not only was the performance quite an accomplishment, but the entire company proved to be truly a Hinman theater group. When tickets became scarce, the entire case voted to do two shows on Saturday night to accommodate an extra 120 people, quite a strenuous ordeal. Not everyone voted in favor of the additional show, but everyone did both shows putting in 100% effort in their performance. This unselfishness proved to me that these people were professionals. I personally would like to express my appreciation to those truly talented wonderful people for a tremendous job well done.

Also in an interesting twist, Hinman President Stan Rushkowski wrote a letter in praise of HLT. He stated, “I have yet to see such a group put so much of themselves into a production; everyone seemed to be emotionally psyched for Sunday night’s performance that you literally brought the house down. You were all fantastic, and I’m really proud to know that you’re all
part of Hinman College. Even Prof. Micheal Starzak of the Chemistry Department and Hinman Faculty Fellow noted in a letter that he and his wife attended a performance and found it to be thoroughly enjoyable and noted how pleased he was to be affiliated with Hinman after seeing the performance. Faculty Master Vito Sinisi, the successor of recently retired Faculty Master Pete Gruber, noted that *Guys and Dolls* was “one of the most enjoyable nights my family and I have had on this campus. If I were a bell, I’d be ringing…The Little Theater and the Follies are contributing to a style and spirit which is uniquely Hinman’s.” With the support of the Faculty Master, the Director of College Programs, a Faculty Fellow, the Hinman College president, and the vast majority of Hinman residents, it appeared that HLT had weathered the storm.

The firestorm of controversy surrounding HLT, along with its tireless efforts to produce the play led an anonymous author to pen this poem in tribute to “The Guys and Dolls of Hinman College”:

Runyan Land, the first great scene
Was performed as well as slapstick
on the screen.
We knew our loves had come along
When Sarah and Sky sang their song.

As Uncle Arvide gradually aged,
Miss Adelaide could not bear still
being engaged.
At the mission, Benny got in his kickings,
While on the farm, the cows and chickens
went to the dickens.
Good ‘ole Nathan, with his auto-made-up face,
Had “plenty trouble fellas,” trying to
finda place.
Let us not omit those behind the scene,
Whose workmanship was proven to be dynamically
Keen.
All of you guys and dolls, you know who you are,
Each of you were born a “natural star.”
The first order of business for HLT following the open-door scandal was to return all its borrowed props and costumes. It solicited help once again from *Halitosis* readers by placing an ad in the newsletter requesting anyone who was driving to the New York City area for the weekend to drop off rented costumes that came from Mineola, Long Island. The driver’s gas would be reimbursed for their trouble. This request would be repeated for some time since there were many, many props and costumes that were borrowed or rented for the production.

In typical HLT fashion, the actors and stage crew members moved on to their next challenge, seemingly unfazed by all the unscripted drama that had recently occurred. That challenge was to be the Second Annual Hinman Follies. That year’s theme was announced as “Hinman In Literature.” Follies chairmen Stan Goldberg and Dave Florin announced the theme as well as the budget, which would total $400, with each hall receiving $40 to help pay for the expenses incurred by producing Follies. The remainder of the budget would go to renting the gym space and other Follies-related expenses.

Running concurrently with Hinman Follies were the new productions being considered by HLT. On March 13, 1974, HLT announced plans for “‘A Night of Sex and Love in Hinman in Three Separate Acts’” to be produced and directed by Gary Levine, the only theater major in HLT. The plays being considered were *Madly in Love* by Paul Abelman, *The Love Company* by A.R. Gurney, Jr. and *Where Are You Going, Hollis Jay?* Each of these plays were one-act plays based on real experiences involving relationships. Once again, there was an open casting call for the plays.

Hinman Follies for 1974 would be held once again in the Women’s Gym. The individual halls skits were as follows:

Smith Hall “The Exorsmith”
Cleveland Hall  “Hinmalian”
Roosevelt Hall  “Catch 2.0”
Hughes Hall  “The Hinman Heritage”
Lehman Hall  “Rob ‘n Shtup”

Once again Hinman Follies was a resounding success, garnering many different “Grubie” Awards. Peter Lorenzi remembers one of the hit songs of the evening came from the Roosevelt Hall team. The lyrics went “Go tell Cheryl Eller/I’m a happy feller/I’m a Roosevelt dweller.” Cheryl Eller was then the Head Resident of Roosevelt Hall and at the time was married to Al Eller, also a Head Resident of Roosevelt and would eventually become Coordinator of all of Hinman. Stan Goldberg did a show-stopping number as he impersonated beloved Hinmanite Bob Giomi. Once again, Hinman Follies proved to be an entertaining evening for all involved.

Following up on Hinman Follies, HLT showcased their one-act plays as “A Night of Lascivious Entertainment…in Three Separate Acts,” opening on May 10, 1974. The plays would be directed by Gary Levine and would include Where Are You Going, Hollis Jay? which starred Paul Reiser and Rita Rigano as his love interest, and examined the differences between a young man’s thoughts and actions when confronted by a member of the opposite sex. Also included in the line-up that evening was the play The Love Course, starring Debbie Vines and Martin Zeichner as two literature professors whose fanatical intercourse deeply affects their students, played by Janet Krulick and Steve Fialkoff. Not to be forgotten was the play Madly in Love, a comedy where a sexually deprived poet played by Steve Hershkowitz visits a girl, played by Ellen Murray, who is suffering from an extreme obedience complex and he masquerades as her psychiatrist, played by Rich Maggio. Lacking the name recognition that Guys and Dolls had, the plays themselves were much more difficult delving into character studies and the deep emotional nature arising out of difficulty forming relationships. Although not as popular as Guys
and Dolls or as big and extravagant, the “Night of Lascivious Entertainment” gave a welcome break to the all those involved in HLT, worn out by their exertions on *Guys and Dolls* and Hinman Follies. It may not have had the audience appeal, but the cast certainly had fun performing these little known, but genuinely interesting plays.

The Fall of 1974 saw a new start for the men and women of HLT. Janet Krulick had taken over the responsibility of managing the day-to-day activities of HLT. It was the senior year for both Stan Goldberg and Steve Young, the founding members of HLT, and even though both men had given so much to their creation, both realized that they were members of the old guard and had to make way for a new generation to take the reins of the little theater that could. Thus, a call was put out to anyone interested in joining the ranks of HLT. Each and everyone of the old guard hoped and prayed for a response so that what they had invested so much into could continue on.

The response came, but too late to put on a show for the fall semester. Realizing that this would be their last year as students at the university and their last year in Hinman, Stan Goldberg, Steve Young, and the rest of the HLT old guard decided to go out with a bang. Like the previous year, the cast and crew of HLT decided to produce a large musical show that would rival the scope and success of *Guys and Dolls*. The musical that was decided upon was the popular Broadway musical *Kiss Me Kate*, a play based on Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*. The play would be directed by Debroah Vines and produced by Janet Krulick. In keeping with the founder’s promise of student involvement set down four years earlier, over sixty cast and crew members would be involved in the production of the play—the largest undertaking in HLT history.
As described in the promotional material, *Kiss Me Kate* would have a repertoire of talented cast members, both old and new. Members like Stan Goldberg, Steve Young (who played the gangsters) and Steve Fialkoff (as Fred Graham) all had previous experience and many were battle-hardened veterans who honed their trade during the strenuous days of *Guys and Dolls*. There were new cast members. Laurie Kieffer was given a leading role, and Ann McGough was the supporting female lead. Bob Levine would also prove his worth in a supporting male role. The director, Debbie Vines, had experience in one of HLT’s one-act plays but this was her first attempt at directing. Janet Krulick, HLT’s chairperson that year, had appeared in three previous HLT productions and was now trying her hand at producing the show. The now infamous Stephen Sammond, who made the crowds leap to their feet in rounds of applause for his rendition of “Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat” during *Guys and Dolls*, was now in the role of assistant director. Danny Frieberg, another HLT regular, arranged and conducted the now famous Cole Porter musical scores for the play, along with the musical director Holly Skinner. Marcy Mashioff, who charmed the audiences as Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, now directed the choreography.\textsuperscript{dcxlvii}

True to HLT form, the play was another resounding success. Months of hard work, determination and a never-give-up attitude allowed the members of HLT to put on their best and most ambitious show to date. *Guys and Dolls* astounded the audience with its professionalism and spectacular performances by theater amateurs, but *Kiss Me Kate* blew all of that out of the way. Once again the Hinman Commons played to sold-out audiences, as students, faculty and staff rushed to obtain the coveted tickets and enjoy a night of pure golden entertainment. The review following the show noted the fine performances by Laurie Kieffer and Steve Fialkoff. The two freshman performers, Bob Levine and Ann McGough, also were given sweet praise,
especially Ann for her charming rendition of “Always True To You In My Fashion.” Also praised were the musical and choreographic abilities of Marcy Mashioff, Holly Skinner and Danny Friedberg, as were the numerous minor supporting roles and the highly professional technical crew. Also involved in the production was a man named Jim Matthews. Jim was a particularly talented HLT member and an unsung talent of the group. During the play there was a number where people came onto the stage singing the song “Package for Ms. Lois Lane.” The Lois Lane in Kiss Me Kate has nothing to do with the strikingly more famous Lois Lane of Superman fame. However, Jim Matthews took it upon himself to get creative one night and came out on stage wearing a Superman costume much to the delight of the audience and the horror of his fellow thespians. Still, the play was a huge success for the little theater that could. Faculty Master Vito Sinisi heaped praise upon the cast and crew, calling them “Wunderbar!!” and reiterated that HLT was a beautiful and unique institution to Hinman.

Though much praise was given to the above-mentioned individuals, the finest accolade was given to two men who played relatively minor roles in this play, but whose presence had been a part of HLT tradition since the very beginning. Stan Goldberg and Steve Young were described as being what “the Little Theater is all about…they are the epitome of it.”

The very moment these two stalwarts walked on the stage the audiences burst into applause. Agreed, both have great theatrical talents as displayed in their thoroughly entertaining number, “Brush Up Your Shakespeare,” but it’s really more than that. Stan and Steve are the embodiment of the Little Theater ideal of producing shows involving those dedicated to its function of bringing together actors and crew in a completely enjoyable atmosphere where characters come to life off stage as well as on. Although it’s only January, we are already aware of Hinman’s loss when these two and other HLT veterans graduate. We will ever be indebted to their perseverance and faith which put Little Theater on its road to success...

Through all the years of hard work, set-backs, no money, props or costumes, grueling hours, and countless other hassles not including their required academic work, Stan and Steve
were finally recognized as the true student leaders and tireless individuals which they were. Above all other members of HLT, these two embodied the spirit of the Little Theater that could. With no reward other than the enjoyment that they gained from putting together a quality show for an audience of students, both men, along with the entire Hinman community, began to see that the end of what can only be said was a golden age of community theater was in sight. *Kiss Me Kate* was the culmination of so many things for both founding members of HLT. It finally achieved what back in the Fall of 1971 had been said to be impossible. They had found a way that a completely student-run theater group with no budget, inadequate lighting and stage area, and without the “true” talent of the theater department could produce and perform not only simple one-act plays, but also elaborate musicals with huge sets and complicated choreographic scenes. The sense of fulfillment and coming full circle could not have been lost on these two towering figures of HLT. Over thirty years later, looking back on his times in HLT and in particular on his performance in *Kiss Me Kate*, Steve Young would say, “It was a really good time… *Kiss Me Kate* was one of the greatest moments in my life.” Steve would not be alone in his beliefs. Hinman community-based theater would have profound and lasting effects on many students for years to come.

It wasn’t over yet though. With the realization that the end was near, Stan, Steve, and the rest of the HLT seniors hastily began preparation for one last hurrah! Auditions for a new production of the popular Woody Allen story *Play It Again Sam* was announced. It appeared that HLT, a student-run organization that was still very young, but already with a rich and varied tradition, was about to go out with nothing less than a show stopping bang!

As the weeks all too quickly progressed, The *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter decided to do its absolute best to document one final piece of history in the making: the production of *Play It
*Again Sam*, a play by Woody Allen which centers around the character Allan Felix, a zany neurotic and insecure man who seems to have horrible luck with women. The main narrative of the play focuses on his attempts to seduce members of the opposite sex with the help of the great Humphrey Bogart (who appears only to Allan) who guides him along like a lover’s muse in an attempt to overcome his debilitating inferiority complex. Of course, hilarity ensues. Rounding out the cast of *Play It Again Sam* were Stan Goldberg as Allan Felix, Debbie Vines as Linda Christie, Paul Reiser as Dick Christie, Fran Rotfus as Nancy, Cliff Gardner as Humphrey Bogart, Laurie Greenwald as Sharon, Ellen Murray as Dream Sharon, Holly Glick as Barbara, Janet Krulick as Intelligent Girl, Judy Schoolman as Gina, and Sue Glass as Vanessa. Once again, a well-rounded cast of newcomers and veterans promised to make *Play It Again Sam* a truly special performance.  

As with every other HLT production of the past, the budget was limited, so in an effort to cut costs, the producers sent out an appeal to Hinman residents to lend any old magazines that they might have. Of special interest were the magazines *Film Quarterly*, but also *The New Yorker, Saturday Review, Cue, Esquire*, and *Playboy*, the last of which the producers assured would only be used for its articles. Also requested was a set of four coffee mugs and a set of small bowls, large plastic or throw pillows for the couch, taper candles and candle holders, a toy gun and dagger, a water pitcher, frozen TV dinner trays, and a plastic or stuffed animal, especially a skunk, which anyone who has ever seen *Play It Again Sam* realizes is crucial to the plot. Another problem faced during production involved the antiquated lights. Steve Fialkoff, who helped with the lights during the show, remembers getting in a cherry picker to hang the lights up in the Commons. During the play, one scene was a dream sequence and required a blue gel insert for the light to give the desired effect. There was no money for the
insert so someone “borrowed” an insert from the theater department. Whether the gel was returned to its proper owner is unknown. During the night of one of the performances, Fialkoff missed his bus and called Bob Giomi in a panic. Bob then sent fellow Hinman staffer Gabe Yankowitz to pick Fialkoff up. Fialkoff and Yankowitz got back to Hinman just in the nick of time before the show began.

dclvii

Standing behind its promise of more in-depth coverage of the behind-the-scenes action going on, Halitosis provided some rather funny articles about the process of producing a play under the time, budget and talent constraints that HLT was under. Unfortunately, many of the cast members had poor eyesight and wore corrective lenses. Paul Reiser was, but Bob Giomi believed that in order for the character of Dick Christie to truly shine through, Reiser had to remove them. Reiser himself stated that he was not so much afraid of bumping into a wall he couldn’t see; rather he was terrified of “kissing the wrong person.”

dclviii Stan Goldberg wanted to wear a style of glasses that looked more like the pair that Woody Allen himself wore but didn’t have the money in the budget to afford them. Debbie Vines absolutely refused to wear her glasses onstage, but could not wear her contact lenses because she needed a new prescription.

dclix

Eyeglasses and improper vision weren’t the only problems that struck the cast and crew of HLT. There was no room in the budget to purchase costumes, so many of the actors planned on using clothes from their own wardrobe. Problems arose, however, when Laurie Greenwald, who played Sharon, Allan Felix’s first date after his break-up with his wife, made Stan “look like a leprechaun” because she only had one pair of heels, which caused her to tower over Stan. More problematic, though, the raincoat that Bogart was famous for wearing in nearly all of his movies would have to be substituted for the closest thing in Cliff Gardner’s (the actor who would
True to HLT form, though, none of these setbacks would break the spirit of the Little Theater that could.

The following issue of Halitosis saw interviews with the cast and crew. Cliff Gardner was asked how he felt about playing the role of the matinee idol Humphrey Bogart. Gardner replied, “I would always have loved to be Bogart; he’s one of my idols. It’d be great to be as cool as he is.” When asked, if today’s modern woman would still fall for a “Bogart approach like a slap in the face or a slug from a .45,” Gardner replied unequivocally, “Sure they will. Dames are simple.” Stan Goldberg, who played the bumbling hero of the play, Allan Felix, when asked if his real-life mirrors that of the unlucky in love Felix retorted, “Everyone sees me that way or pretends to see me that way already, but the fact is, I’m not. To confuse me with Allan Felix would be like confusing Fialkoff with Petruchio (of Kiss Me Kate fame). We all know what a stud Petruchio was.” All these anecdotes only helped to build more demand and suspense over the upcoming play.

Although the cast and crew worked hard and diligently, Play It Again Sam was rushed somewhat so that it would not interfere with the upcoming Hinman Follies, and unfortunately it showed. Critics argued that at times the flow of dialogue seemed unnatural and that it dragged at certain stages. Also in attempt to make Cliff Gardner look more like his alter ego, Humphrey Bogart, too much make-up, which “could not do justice to the bride of Frankenstein,” was applied, distracting the viewer from an otherwise fine performance. None of these shortcomings, though, could detract from an otherwise outstanding performance on the part of the cast. The set design was described as exquisite and the dead-on performance of Stan Goldberg as Allan Felix made everyone wonder who was better in the role: the original played by Woody Allen himself, or Hinman’s very own Stan Goldberg. Bob Giomi was also given great compliments in his role.
as producer-director. Though perhaps not as grand or as great as *Kiss Me Kate*, HLT’s production of *Play It Again Sam* was still a sight to behold and a final triumph for the veteran cast members of HLT.

Not to be forgotten was that year’s Hinman Follies, whose theme was “Hinman in the World of Cartoons and Comics.” As with all other previous Follies, the individual halls worked tirelessly day and night to produce a comical and entertaining show. The particular halls picked these themes:

- Roosevelt: “Superman”
- Smith: “Archie and his Pals”
- Hughes: “Star Trek”
- Cleveland: “Rocky and Bullwinkle & Fractured Fairy Tales”
- Lehman: “Top Cat”

Like all the previous Hinman Follies, this one too was a success. Both the beloved Bob Giomi and Faculty Master Vito Sinisi were lampooned, all in good fun of course, during the course of the evening. Various areas of Hinman life were mocked as well such as the ever popular Co-Rec football. What should be noted, though, was that it was not done out of spite or hate or even dissatisfaction with life in Hinman, but because the student body as a whole loved Hinman and all its institutions. Even though Hinman may have been a young community at that time, it had already proven itself to be something special in the eyes of those who had lived there.

With the end of the semester approaching rapidly, some members of HLT moved quickly to throw together one last play. They chose Agatha Christie’s *The Mousetrap*, a popular and familiar play to theatergoers and to mystery novel fans alike. Many new members of HLT participated in his endeavor, though there were veteran cast members such as Steve Young (playing Mr. Paravicini) to help with guidance. Al Eller, a Head Resident (a title now known as
Resident Director) at the time, even took time out of his schedule to act and to help build the sets. *The Mousetrap*, though small and hastily put together, was still a successful and entertaining play. Bob Giomi would praise the direction of Steve Sammond and entire cast for putting together an excellent play on such short notice.

The semester was now virtually over, and basic end-of-the-year housekeeping tasks were in need of completion. Realizing that the proverbial torch needed to be passed onto a new generation, an appeal was sent out through the *Halitosis* newsletter to anyone interested in becoming the next year’s chairperson for HLT. The only two requirements were that the person had to be involved in at least one HLT production and that they really cared about the Little Theater and everything it stood for.

For veteran cast members like Stan Goldberg, the individual responsible for starting HLT, and Steve Young, the other person most responsible for the success of HLT, it was a bittersweet moment. It was the end of their college careers, and the end of an era for HLT. The organization to which they had devoted so much of themselves for four long, happy years was now being placed in new hands. Memories of their time in HLT would stay with them long into the future, and the leadership roles and the responsibility of running HLT had taken two young men and molded them into adults. Now, it was time to move on and allow a new generation to take the reins of the institution that they created. HLT would continue on for a few more years, eventually morphing into a new organization with a slightly different set of rules, but the legacy of both Stan Goldberg and Steve Young would continue to echo down through the years every time a play was performed in that special and sacred space called the Hinman Commons.

Even with the loss of many veteran performers, including two founding members, HLT was far from over. The following year started off with a new generation of HLT members
gearing up for the play You Can’t Take It With You, the story of young woman from an eccentric family who becomes involved with young man from a conservative wealthy family. In the cast of HLT, and now one of its more influential and leading members with the departure of Stan Goldberg and Steve Young the previous semester, was the fledgling student actor and future celebrity, Paul Reiser. In a promotional advertisement for the play from Hinman Halitosis, Sharon Schwarzwald had a sort of mock interview with Mr. Sycamore, the character that Paul played in the play. The following is part of a transcription of the mock interview:

Me (Sharon Schwarzwald): Mr. Sycamore, would you be surprised to know that here in 1975 kids often sleep together after the first date?
Him: (Paul/Mr. Sycamore): I find that disgusting, crude, and could you tell me where I can meet them?

You Can’t Take It With You debuted in early December and was met with mixed reviews. The comedy was not lacking for laughs; however, the story itself was not as entertaining as many would have hoped. Director Lori Greenwald was commended for doing an excellent job with sub-par material. HLT members such as Al Eller, Steve Ault, Geoff Magee, and in particular Paul Reiser were commended for the work that they did on the play. Newcomer Steve Cohen was given special attention for stealing the show as the Russian dance teacher Kolonkhov. Although perhaps not as popular as previous HLT shows, You Can’t Take It With You proved to audiences, and most importantly to the new members of HLT, that even without the paternal guidance of Stan Goldberg and Steve Young, they could put on a play and have it be successful.

The spring semester of 1976 saw a return to the thing that made HLT famous, the musical. This time HLT would tackle the smash Broadway hit Bye, Bye Birdie. This was a play centering around a rock ‘n roll singer Conrad Birdie (a character similar to Elvis Presley) who is
drafted into the army. His manager then devises a plan to have Birdie say farewell by giving one lucky American teenage girl a kiss while singing a song that will, given the unusual circumstances, make everyone involved filthy rich. Mike Baumgarten would direct with assistance from Elli Barasch and the very important musical numbers would be credited to the talent of Holly Glick. Even though the veteran talent was no longer there, the same burning desire to produce a good show was. *Bye, Bye Birdie* was poised to put HLT back on track.\textsuperscript{dclxx}

Like the previous musical fares of HLT performances past, *Bye, Bye Birdie* soared into the hearts of the audience. Bob Levine, in the role of Albert Peterson, the manager who plans to get rich off Conrad Biridie’s (Steve Aspros) conscription, put in a strong and memorable performance, as did newcomers Carolyn Dow and Irene Siegel. But the true star of the show was Steve Aspros, who brought the role of Birdie to life. Holly Glick’s choreography and the musical direction of Rich Ossias were also excellent additions to a highly professional musical adaptation of the popular Broadway musical by HLT. Steve Fialkoff played one small part in *Bye, Bye Birdie*, that of a janitor, a part that had no lines. However, he did get to dance in the musical number “Talk To Me,” alongside Robert Levine (Gary Levine’s little brother) and Bruce Benny. Remember what he learned from Gary Levine and especially from Paul Reiser, Fialkoff decided to take a risk and take some poetic license with his part. In one of his most memorable moments of his time in HLT, Fialkoff took the mop that he had been holding and turned it around so that the end with the absorbent yarn was close to his head. He then proceeded to dance with the mop like it was a partner and stroked the yarn like it was a girl’s hair. That night, in the fashion of his HLT idols, Paul Reiser and Gary Levine, Steve Fialkoff upstaged everyone else that evening and stole the show.\textsuperscript{dclxxi} *Bye, Bye Birdie* proved once and for all that HLT was
not some has-been organization. It was here to stay and thrive within the Hinman student community.\footnote{dclxxii}

Like *Guys and Dolls* before it, *Bye, Bye Birdie* was not without its controversies. Towards the end of the show’s run, many of the cast members took to adlibbing their parts. While a little bit of improvisation was a good thing, too much of it distracted from the show. The final show was especially bad, with some cast members taking it upon themselves to try and outshine everyone else. Many audience members of this final show saw this and were frustrated. Their opinion was that they had paid good money to see a production of *Bye, Bye Birdie* and that the excessive improvisation throughout the show made it almost into a completely different play. That and the fact that it distracted audience members from the rest of the show only added to the disenfranchisement with this particular HLT play. Another issue to arise out of the production was the issue of scalping tickets. HLT had become so popular that unscrupulous students had taken it upon themselves to buy many tickets when they first came out and then to sell them at higher prices. Although most shows were sold out, there were numerous empty seats. This was partly because some people decided not to go at the last minute, but also because some people were cheated out of a ticket because of the scalpers. Many Hinmanites complained that HLT had not done a good enough job advertising ticket sales and that regardless they should set aside a certain number of tickets to be sold at the door.\footnote{dclxxiii}

Jim Matthews, the Publicity Manager for the show shot back at this detractor’s with his own editorial. Although he agreed that the adlibbing was done to excess in many instances, he did not believe that it detracted from the overall enjoyment of the show. His letter read in part:

…I also have been hearing that the cast “owed it” to Hinman College to perform the show straight with no ad-libbing. Well, Hinman College owes a lot more to the cast. These people, many of whom were sick with the flu during the second week of the show, could have cancelled the last 4 shows due to illness. But instead they went on and did it,
Matthews also defended the organization against any scalping of tickets, vehemently denying any HLT involvement in scalping. He also went on to say that extra tickets were printed and distributed in the dining hall to prevent any problems arising from ticket sales. Although not nearly as bad as the flak it had received during the open-door scandal, HLT had dodged another bullet and come out reasonably unscathed. Controversy aside, *Bye, Bye Birdie* was an excellent play that entertained many Hinmanites and was an outstanding success for HLT.

Not to be forgotten, though, was Hinman Follies. The 1976 Hinman Follies theme was announced in the March 6, 1976, issue of Hinman Halitosis. The theme for that year would be Hinman Through History. This broad theme would allow for the maximization of creative talent. The inside jokes, the bad impersonations, and the lampooning of all things Hinman were poised to be exceptional for that year.

A short time later the individual buildings announced their themes for Follies. Smith Hall would lampoon Prohibition, Lehman would focus on the Civil War, Cleveland would tell a new tale of the origins of the world by focusing on Creation, Hughes would give Hinman an offer it couldn’t refuse by portraying the Mafia in the 1940s, and Roosevelt would give a Tribute to Our Bicentennial, which would occur on July 4th later that year. Smith Hall’s era of Prohibition would take a humorous slant on what would happen if Hinman banned beer. Cleveland Hall would take the audience back to the story of Genesis in “The Garden of Hinman.” Roosevelt Hall would take a humorous look at uber-patriotism in America’s past and present in its tribute to the Bicentennial. Hughes Hall’s story would center around an illegal pizzeria called Giomio’s, which dominates the Hinman scene. This would clash with the new
racket in town headed by Gabe Yankowitz, who creates “Pizza de Action” and ruins the monopoly. A turf war ensues with hilarious effects. Lehman’s show told the story of what would happen if Lehman Hall seceded from Hinman. As always, Hinman Follies was a success with the 4th Annual Grubie Awards being doled out to many members, including Paul Reiser, who received an award for best original character.

Running concurrently with Follies was HLT’s presentation of Story Theater, a collection of eleven skits based upon popular fairy tales and directed by Steve Fialkoff, who also played guitar and sang in-between the skits. All but two of the skits were comedies and many HLT performers strutted their stuff and showed off their acting abilities in these short but enjoyable skits. There was no scenery and very few props, but the small cast, each of whom had multiple roles, produced a show that conveyed both humor and warmth. Steve Fialkoff remembers the problems with producing Story Theater and the shoestring budget that they had to work with. He only had $15 to spend on the entire production and in an effort to save money four 12 foot tall black flats were created as backdrops. Those four flats ate up all of their budget. Cheryl and Allan Eller also were involved in the production of the play. Cheryl made all the costumes for the actors in a further effort to save money. Steve remembers that they were scheduled to do a Saturday morning show. As start time approached, it became apparent to everyone that nobody was going to show up. Cheryl then quickly went around to the other Head Residents on campus who had children and got them to send their kids over to see the show. A small group of about six children got an exclusive showing of Story Theater that Saturday morning.

Following up on Story Theater was the production of Sanford Wilson’s Hot L Baltimore, the story of an old Baltimore hotel about to be torn down. The Hot L refers to the broken neon sign lacking the ‘e.’ Still the old hotel is inhabited by an assortment of oddball characters
including hookers, cranky old men, and a retired waitress. *Hot L Baltimore* received good reviews, with older HLT members like Holly Glick and Stew Cohen getting special accolades for their performance. Also involved were numerous new faces including Howie Popowitz, Laura Schnall, Audrey Danker and many others. Also making an appearance were Faculty Master Vito Sinisi who played Lou Illiano. Bob Giomi, no newcomer to HLT performances, played a bit part as one of the prostitute’s unsatisfied johns. The set designs were fantastic, completely recreating what the interior of a decaying inner city hotel would look like, and the direction of Stew Ault assisted by Stacy Lidell was impeccable. *Hot L Baltimore* was an excellent play, adding another notch to the HLT belt.\footnote{dclxxi}

The Fall semester of 1976 saw HLT return to its roots by restaging their very first play, *You Know I Can’t Hear You When the Water Is Running*. However, for reasons unclear it never went into production. In fact, HLT did not produce a single show that semester. This disappointment rippled through the entire Hinman community. Never before had HLT produced nothing, let alone seemingly made little or no effort to produce a show. This unfortunately was the first of what would become a long, slow downward spiral for HLT; it nearly sounded the death knell for Hinman community-based theater.\footnote{dclxxii}

Shortly after the student body returned from winter break, HLT put the past behind them and announced the latest upcoming production, *Anything Goes*. *Anything Goes* is a musical comedy, the bread and butter of HLT, which is set aboard a ship and features the zany romantic frolics of the crew. It promised to involve plenty of singing (to classic Cole Porter tunes), dancing, romance and fun. The play presented an opportunity for hungry newcomers to shine, including Audrey Danker who played the singing, dancing nightclub star Reno Sweeny. Bruce Barney played the English gentleman, Sir Evelyn Oakleigh. Young Hope Harcourt was played
by Debbie Suchoff and her mother was portrayed by veteran HLT player Fran Rotfus. Iris Sokolow played Bonnie and Billy the Scamp was played by Tony Salese. Gabe Yankowitz, one of Hinman’s finest staff members, played public enemy #13, Moon Face Martin. Among the popular songs to be performed were the hits “Anything Goes,” “I Get a Kick Out of You” and “You’re the Tops.” The show was sold out after only a single day of ticket sales, so the cast decided to add another show to accommodate the huge interest in the production.

None of the problems that seemed to have bogged down HLT in the fall semester seemed to be present in Anything Goes. The acting, set design, choreography, music and everything else blended together to create a grand success on the scale of earlier HLT musicals such as Guys and Dolls, Kiss Me Kate, and Bye, Bye Birdie. The performances of Bruce Barney, Iris Sokolow, Tony Salese and even Gabe Yankowitz were hailed. The song and dance routines were magnificently done and the crowd pleasers “Heaven Hop,” “Anything Goes,” and “Blow Gabriel Blow” were thoroughly entertaining and rich. Special thanks were dolled out to Phil Hershkowitz and Alecia Lane for assisting with the direction. Kudos were also given also to Holly Glick and Pam Brown who organized the dancers, Tom Raff the technical director, and the six-piece orchestra consisting of Dan Benscher, Eric Schwartz, Irene Knapp, Josh Weitman, Charlie Shapiro, and Rich Ossias. Anything Goes certainly was a tremendous undertaking, and considering all the problems associated with it, it is surprising that such a classy and professional production could have been pulled off.

Following the success of Anything Goes, HLT decided to stick with tried and true territory by staying in the musical genre. They picked the popular musical Grease, which a year later would be made into a soon to become classic starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. Difficulties arose when two of the cast members, Jay Worona and Neal Lerner sustained
knee and heel injuries while practicing the show’s elaborate choreography, forcing them to use canes to get around. This did not prevent the show from going on. Both actors toughed out their injuries and the director Sue Glass assured everyone that the leads Tony Salese and Debbie Suchoff were fine. Rich Oassis, music director for the show, wrote one song and composed additional music for the show along with the five-piece band featured in the performance. Like previous musicals before it, ticket sales were enormous, so big in fact that those who had purchased tickets and had later decided not to go were asked to return their tickets to the Hinman Office so someone else could see the show. Anticipations ran high for the 1950’s nostalgia trip that *Grease* would offer to so many people that would come before and after.\textsuperscript{dclxxxv}

*Grease* did not disappoint. What ensued was a “fine collection of energy and exuberance contributing to a vibrant evening of entertainment.”\textsuperscript{dclxxxvi} The most fantastic part of the performance was undoubtedly the musical numbers. The audience cheered to hear the renditions of “Greased Lightnin’” and “Beauty School Dropout.” Musical director Rich Ossias received well-deserved acclaim for his hard work. Debbie Suchoff was amazing as Sandy treating the audiences with the great musical number “Look At Me, I’m Sandra Dee.” Yet it was Tony Salese’s portrayal of Danny Zuko who typified the “half-cool, half-love crossed Danny to a tee.”\textsuperscript{dclxxxvii} It appeared as though *Grease* had exorcised any remaining demons from the previous semester and as one reviewer stated, “From start to finish, the show exuded only solid performances and excellent staging; what else could a theater frequenter desire?”\textsuperscript{dclxxxviii} Sadly, as the coming months would show, *Grease* would be the swan song of HLT, never again living up to the reputation that it had won for itself so many years ago.

The 1977 Hinman Follies were announced in the same issue of *Halitosis* as the review of *Grease*. The theme for that year was “Hinman Through Television.” Smith Hall would lampoon
the popular television show *Welcome Back, Kotter* with their own “Welcome Back Taft.” Hughes Hall would take a humorous slant on the still popular children’s show *Sesame Street* with the wise cracking “Sinisi Street.” Roosevelt Hall would take on the world of soap operas with “All My Students” and Lehman Hall would strike up controversy with their “Jappy Days” a Jewish themed take-off of *Happy Days*. Cleveland would keep up a more wholesome image by using “The Waltons” as their theme. Interesting, the article also stressed that there after Follies there would be a gala at the on-campus pub named the Other Place or the O.P. as it was usually called with drinks starting at 60 cents and pitchers of beer at $1.50. As one might expect, with that bit of advertising genius, the turnout for Hinman Follies was enormous.  

That year saw the loss of many experienced cast members, including Paul Reiser, who would go on to fame and fortune greater than that of any other HLT member, Hinman College resident, or Binghamton University student in history. What was left of HLT dutifully carried on the traditions that were laid down by their forefathers and foremothers. In October of 1977, well into the fall semester, HLT announced auditions for the musical *Once Upon A Mattress*, the musical retelling of the classic “Princess and the Pea” fairy tale. It became clear that there were internal problems with HLT when weeks later parts for the play were still being called for as well as stage and technical crew. All that was written about the play was a small review by the Associate Vice President for Student Life and the Director of Campus Activities and University Union, very unusual reviewers for a Hinman play. In their letter they stated that they enjoyed the play tremendously and that the “show was lively and entertaining and it was obvious that a great deal of time and effort had gone into the entire production.” Oddly though, there was not much interest on the part of either the *Halitosis* staff or by the members of HLT. Apathy is never a good sign, and this was one of the first harbingers of things to come.
Hinman Follies ’78 was announced in early February and the theme for that year would return to the show’s very first: Hinman at the Movies. Once again, anyone or anything associated with Hinman could be mocked and lampooned without fear of reprisal. Although HLT may have been apathetic in the play arena, Hinman Follies appeared to be as popular as ever before.\textsuperscript{dxciii}

The skits of the individual halls were as unique and interesting as previous years. Cleveland Hall would put on “Damn Yankowitz” in honor of former head resident Gabe Yankowitz. Hughes Hall would present “All the Residents Men” mocking All The President’s Men. Lehman Hall would call their skit “That’s Entertainment” and Roosevelt would call theirs “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” Smith Hall would take-off The Invisible Man and call their skit “Invisible Follies.” It was also announced that a happy hour would take place immediately after Follies, making it all the more appealing to a wider audience.\textsuperscript{dcxciv} However, the fact that they needed alcohol to entice people to participate began to show the chinks in the armor of the once mighty and ever popular Hinman Follies.

During this time HLT moved to create two new productions. The first would be the play Godspell. HLT asked for assistance with lighting, props, costumes, make-up and all other technical aspect of production.\textsuperscript{dcxcv} It also announced the production of the comedy The Impossible Years, written by Arthur Marx, the son of Groucho Marx of Marx Brothers fame. The play was about growing up in the mid-1960’s and was set for release during the weekend of April 15.\textsuperscript{dcxcvi} The cast of The Impossible Years would include Mitch Kessler, Irene Siegal, Ron Wisla, and Allen (Alvo) Meglin, who had previous experience in HLT. Newcomers would include Mike Broderick, James Greenlees, Kathy Hughes, Howie Magliff, Pat Meinhold, Jodi Nussbaum, Frank Robbins, Mark Reisman, Jeff Schlossberg and Heidi Stern. There would also
be a guest appearance by the beloved Bob Giomi. With two productions simultaneously in the works, the ambition and unending drive of HLT appeared to have manifested itself in a new generation.

Regrettably this was not to be the case. *Godspell* hit a snag when its producer Helayne Lobman suddenly resigned. Citing other responsibilities, she felt that she could not devote the amount of time necessary to make *Godspell* a success. HLT promised that this would not halt production of the show and continued to reiterate that the show would open in early May. The members of HLT quickly scrambled to find a new producer for the show before it was too late.

The author of this history could find no review of either *The Impossible Years* or of *Godspell*. Whether HLT ever found a producer to replace Helayne Lobman is unknown or even if the show ever went back into production. In fact there is no extant record of whether either show was performed or even if they were successful or not. In fact in *Halitosis* there is only one mention of HLT in the entire 1978-1979 school year. That was a brief announcement in the spring semester that HLT was producing Jules Feiffer’s *Little Murders*, a dark comedy set in New York City circa 1965. Also, there was a brief review of Hinman Follies in the very same issue. Not even the theme of Hinman Follies was mentioned though it can be assumed that it had something to do with different eras in history, citing that the article described Smith Hall as representing the 1950’s and Lehman Hall performed a skit set in the 1920’s. That is all that is mentioned.

This was a far cry from the detailed accounts and all the behind the scenes coverage that had been a part of virtually every *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter of previous years. In fact when one goes through the archives it becomes abundantly clear that each year less and less is written
about HLT or Follies. This could be for a number of reasons. First, there could be a problem with the Halitosis staff. As in any organization, people devoted to the cause come and go, and are few and far between. In the summer of 1978, Bob Giomi, the true leader and managing editor of *Hinman Halitosis*, left Binghamton. The lack of coverage of many issues including HLT and Hinman Follies could be a result of this. However, what is more likely, as will be seen shortly as the narrative continues, is that there was a deeper problem within HLT itself. What could be seen as early as the fall semester of 1976, the semester after the departure of the Stan Goldberg and Steve Young, was a slow decline into lackadaisical apathy within HLT and among many other campus organizations for that matter. Apathy alone does not kill an organization, especially one with so rich a tradition and history as HLT, but it certainly became less of a Hinman institution than what it was when Stan Goldberg organized it way back in 1971. The lack of enthusiasm as seen on the part of those involved in HLT in those years of the late 1970’s would continue on to the following year. The Fall of 1979 was no different. What would become abundantly clear was that in order for HLT to survive, it needed to adapt and evolve. If it did not, then HLT would go the way of the dinosaur and the dodo, as would the rest of community-based theater in Hinman College. For whatever reason, acting in HLT was just not popular anymore in Hinman. The magic that HLT had brought to the Hinman Commons for the better part of a decade had worn off, as magic does sometimes.

The Fall of 1979 saw the complete decay of HLT. In earlier years, a large spread in *Halitosis* would call for new members to join the ranks of HLT. Instead, the October 4, 1979 issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* devotes only a single sentence on the very last page to informing readers that there would be interviews from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. on October 8. Only two people showed up to that meeting. To the casual observer of the era, it would appear that HLT was
dead, and in many ways it was and would forever remain so. Yet no amount of apathy or
disgruntlement could stop what was the most popular pastime in Hinman next to Co-Rec
football. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, HLT would be reborn—into something different
perhaps, but with a mission not dissimilar from the previous organization. It was the end of one
era and the beginning of a new one

The Hinman Production Company

That new era dawned the evening of October 8, 1979. Al Eller, Hinman College staff
member and proponent of HLT, hosted an organizational meeting to try to drum up interest for
HLT. Only two people showed up for this meeting. One was a senior, Heidi Stern who had been
involved in previous HLT productions and had experienced its golden age. The other was a
newcomer, a freshman named Patrick Misciagna. At the meeting, the downtrodden Al Eller
lamented the demise of HLT and the struggle he had in generating interest for it. Heidi was also
sullen, for she had known of the glory of HLT’s past. Patrick, on the other hand, was a
firebrand. Seizing the opportunity before him, he took control of the last vestiges of HLT and
made them his own.

Like Stan Goldberg before him, Patrick had a vision. Patrick had been involved in
community theater productions since the age of 10 and had been extensively involved in theater
during his days as a high school student. Knowing that he would not be a theater major in
Binghamton, he still wanted to be involved in some way with theater. Like Hinman community
theater members before and since, he viewed the theater department as snobbish and taking all
the joy out of acting. Patrick wanted to make theater something that was fun and which
everyone who wanted to could participate in.
Patrick tells the story of how he breathed new life into a dying organization in this way.

“In the fall of 1979, Heidi Stern and I were the only two people who showed up for the organizational meeting of the Hinman Little Theater. We looked at each other and decided that Heidi would be the producer and I would be the director (real simple!).” It may have sounded simple, but it was really far from that. The first thing Patrick decided to do was to change the name from the Hinman Little Theater to the Hinman Production Company (HPC). “I did this in an effort to start fresh,” Patrick would say twenty-five years later, “I wanted to give it a more grandiose name, something that would make people think that it was big and could do big things.” And do big things it would.

Part I: 1979-1983

Patrick and Heidi came to the agreement that the newly formed HPC would do no shows that semester. Instead they agreed that they should take the semester to reorganize the group, solicit talent for their shows, and prepare for the production of a show in the spring. Both Patrick and Heidi looked over scripts, scratching their heads over what show to produce for the 1980 spring semester. The spring of 1980 would be a new decade and a new start for Hinman theater, this time in the form of HPC. Patrick, throwing all caution to the wind, decided to make HPC’s inaugural show something huge and spectacular, surpassing even the HLT heyday shows of Guys and Dolls, Kiss Me Kate, and Bye, Bye Birdie. Patrick and Heidi decided that they would undertake the awesome challenge of producing the play Pippin. This new play and new year would signal the complete transference of the old to the new and be the start of nothing short of a theatrical dynasty in community-based theater.
*Pippin* was a musical comedy about the life of the real historical figure Pippin, the son of the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne. Both Patrick and Heidi read the script, liked what they saw, and decided to put the play into production. The first problem they went up against was to secure funding from the Hinman College Council (HCC). HCC was reluctant to give HPC any money for an assortment of reasons. The first was simply that they were a new and untried organization. Few members had known the glory days of HLT, and those that did felt some resentment toward Patrick for changing what to them was a beloved Hinman institution. Also, an issue that would come up time and time again during the early days of HPC was that its predecessor, HLT, was strictly a Hinman community group with actors and crew drawn only from Hinman residents. Patrick, though taking as many Hinman residents into his production as he could, was unwilling to sacrifice talent for the sake of including Hinman residents, which they had trouble recruiting anyway, so he opened up HPC to the entire campus. Now anyone could act in any HPC show. Many members of the council saw this as going against the very nature of the original charter, which stated it wanted to include as many Hinman residents as possible, and heated verbal arguments broke out during HCC meetings regarding whether to fund the new HPC or not. HPC probably would have died then and there in those early days if it had not been for the staunch support of Faculty Master Vito Sinisi, who pushed hard for the new organization to be funded. Sinisi, who had acted in HLT performances, loved the idea of Hinman community-based theater and saw that the lesser evil was letting others from different communities come to act rather than seeing the organization die outright. This would be an issue that would confront HPC time and time again, but for now, with funding secured, all efforts were put into putting on the best show possible, showing HCC, and residents of Hinman and even the university theater department that HPC was here to stay.
With funding secured, albeit temporarily, Patrick set about recruiting the best cast that he possibly could. While the vast majority of the cast and crew were Hinmanites, two of the leads, Danny Sager, who would play Pippin, and David Perez, who would play the role of the Leading Player, were from outside of Hinman. They were from College-in-the-Woods and Dickinson respectively. Though wanting to include as many Hinmanites as possible, Patrick rationalized it this way: “We wanted to include as many people from Hinman as possible, and Heidi and I were in agreement on this…we said that if it came down to two people of equal talent and one of them was from Hinman, we’d take the one from Hinman. But under no circumstances would we sacrifice talent simply for the sake of including people from Hinman. We wanted the best people for the part.”

With the cast finally secure, Patrick now set about to design the sets for the play and organize the props and costumes needed for the large, elaborate production. The first challenge regarding scenery was to create curtains for the show. Patrick and his crew would dye sixty yards of muslin black to create a true stage and to provide for a background. These curtains would not go to waste, though, and would be used in numerous other HPC productions to come. Patrick was also not against desecrating university property. He drilled holes in the wall and strung aircraft cables from one wall to another so the curtains could be hung.

That was not the only scenery challenge that faced HPC. Risers were created to raise the part of the audience to improve their line of sight in the Commons. Patrick, never the one to quit, was able to convince the head of Physical Facilities, a gentleman by the name of Jack Martin, to lend him approximately forty cinder blocks to help steady and raise the flats.

With the risers complete, the costumes had to be provided to the cast. Most of the performers would wear black leotards. This was a blessing as they were relatively inexpensive.
However, going along with the medieval theme of the play, Patrick and the crew spent hours creating breastplate armor out of papier-mâché. In some ways, the papier-mâché armor looked silly, but it did have some advantages to it. During the scene, which includes the song “Morning Glow” Pippin decides to kill his father by stabbing him. Instead of trying to find a dummy knife, one of the HPC members informed Patrick that he had in possession a real buck knife. After examining the knife, Patrick agreed that it would be perfect for the scene in which Pippin stabs his father to death. However, this knife was real, and not a dummy knife used by theater types. In order to prevent Danny Sager from killing the actor who played his father, Patrick ordered that two inches of Styrofoam be strapped to the back of William Ralbovsky, the actor who played Charlemagne and a piece of plywood be placed next to his skin to prevent the blade from piercing the actor’s flesh. One can only imagine how Ralbovsky must have felt when he realized that a real knife was going to be stuck into his back. Besides the added realism of sticking a real knife into the actor, the sound of the blade entering the Styrofoam made a sound that one could say would be similar to a real knife entering a person’s chest. This got the attention of the audience who viewed Pippin, many of whom at first thought that the actor had really been stabbed. 

This was not the most amazing part of the show, however. That fell to the grand finale of the show, in which one of the actors was supposed to be set on fire. This presented a challenge to Patrick and the rest of HPC. How were they supposed light a fire in the Hinman Commons without burning the entire structure to the ground? Many in HPC said that it couldn’t be done. Patrick had other ideas though. For the grand finale scene, a box was built and it was lined with aluminum foil. A dummy person was created and the leotard was stuffed with newspapers to add to the flammability. Patrick then went to a theater supply store in Manhattan and bought
liberal amounts of flash powder and flash paper. The scene called for a torch to be lit to set the “actor” on fire. They soaked a torch full of alcohol, which burned well and also created a nice blue flame, which looked aesthetically pleasing. This was used in an effort to create a sense of realism. Before the show began, Jack, the head of Physical Facilities who besides helping with the set construction was also keeping a watchful eye on HPC, saw what was going on and warned them that all this barely controlled pyrotechnics would set off the building’s fire alarm system. Patrick and his crew “tested” this out by lighting the torch and experimenting with some flash powder and determined that they would not set off the fire alarms. Jack, the wise old Physical Facilities director, shook his head, believing that HPC was crazy for thinking they could pull this off. The night of the show everything went off without a hitch, except for one small snafu. When the actor who was to set the dummy on fire set the torch to the box, the flash of light from the exploding flash powder was so intense that it temporarily blinded the actor. The audience thought this was amazing and were seated in awe of what they saw.

For this newborn community-based theater organization the wait for the review of their performance caused much trepidation and anxiety. If outside reviewers did not like their performance, then how would they be able to gain recognition from their own community? Their fears proved to be groundless. The opening lines of the review said it all:

If Watters’ Theater forms the hub of your theatrical experience at SUNY Binghamton, look out, or rather, look further, because the campus is sprouting several cultural diversions that lie outside the Fine Arts Building. Start with the fringes. Most notably, in Hinman College, a loosely organized troupe is presenting the musical comedy, *Pippin,* and has captured all the steam that appears to have escaped *The Water [sic] Engine.*

David Perez won praise for his role as the Leading Player as did Daniel Sager for his portrayal of the title character Pippin. “Pippin’s whirlwind resolve is captured completely by Sager, whose proud exultation and soft lament combine to make him thoroughly engaging.”
The duo of Sager and Perez were also acclaimed for their show stealing number “On The Right Track.” Although Sager and Perez were acclaimed for their roles, many of the supporting cast members were not. Truth be told, most of the rest of the cast was criticized for their less than stellar performances. Still, the reviewer of the play stated, “By no means are the bulk of the actors performing in the show experienced or polished. Yet the group as an ensemble lends much excitement, warmth, and enthusiasm to the show’s score.” While perhaps not the best review in the world, this showed to the cast and crew of HPC that they, much like the characters Pippin and the Leading Player, were “On The Right Track” and that the future for HPC looked as bright as a “Morning Glow.”

By all accounts Pippin was an amazing success, such a success that the theater department, who would perform Pippin a few years later, would openly combat HPC. HPC would have numerous problems trying to find qualified actors, props and creating good scenery. These are the problems which any theatrical production must face. However, HPC was up against numerous other problems that HLT never once had to deal with. Securing funding was still an uphill battle. Even with the success of Pippin, HCC was still ambivalent about HPC, the sticking point being that not all of the members of HPC were Hinmanites. Also, the SUNY Binghamton theater department now combated HPC. While the theater department had never exactly been friendly with HLT, it now viewed HPC as a threat, pulling actors that could otherwise be involved in their productions into the little community theater located in the Hinman Commons. They were especially upset that David Perez was pulled away from their productions. Although never stated as official dictum, it was now essentially forbidden for a theater department professor or student to assist HPC. Nonetheless this would not stop theater majors from auditioning for roles, acting in HPC productions, or even serving as technical crew
members. They wanted to gain as much experience as possible in the realms of lighting, sound and set construction, and so offered their services to HPC. Besides from offering real world experience, such as putting on classy, professional shows on a shoestring budget, many of these students from the theater department wanted the same thing that non-theater majors wanted from HPC. They wanted an opportunity to act, to entertain, and most importantly, to have fun. The theater department may have offered valuable skills to future actors and stage crew personnel, but it was HPC which offered them the opportunity to experience the joy of the theater, something which they felt the department had lost somewhere along the way. This cold war between the theater department and HPC would soften on and off over the years. For example, Susan Price, a dance professor in the theater department would help HPC with a scene in Company. Another theater department professor would help design the lighting for some HPC plays and taught the crew a lot about cues, calling a production, and other behind-the-scenes aspects of a theatrical production.

The success of Pippin proved to the Hinman community that community-based theater in Hinman was not dead, that there was still a chance for its survival. More importantly it proved to Patrick and the rest of HPC that HPC was an organization with a great deal of potential and that no problem, regardless of how big it might appear, would hamper their goals of putting on the best show they possibly could. Still, never before in the history of Hinman community theater had so many enemies been lined up against so small and seemingly powerless an organization. HPC had the theater department as an external enemy, but the real enemy, one that they would have to combat for some time to come, would be the internal enemy, which would manifest itself in the budgetary constraints placed on HPC by the Hinman College Council.
The Fall of 1980 was a year full of continuing challenges for HPC. HPC called an organizational meeting for the night of September 9 in order to get as prepared as possible for the coming semester. There would be no more waiting till the last minute to put on shows. It was also announced that the play for this semester would be a straight play, as opposed to a musical or a comedy such as *Pippin*. HPC appeared to be off to a healthy start to the new year.

Problems would soon strike though. On Monday, September 15, 1980, the first HCC meeting of the year took place. The very first piece of new business that evening was a proposal by Patrick Misciagna to officially open up HPC to the entire campus. His reasoning was two-fold. First, a greater pool of talent could be drawn upon for HPC shows, and second, with HCC being very persnickety with doling out funds to HPC in the previous year, this would provide him an opportunity to solicit funds from other communities across campus. This proposal stirred up a hornet’s nest of controversy in the usually mellow HCC. The same problems as in previous years emerged, chiefly that HPC was a Hinman organization and as such parts should go only to Hinman residents. There were still a few upperclassmen who had been familiar with HLT and believed that HPC should abide by the rules governing HLT’s charter. Patrick argued that HLT as an organization was completely dissolved and that HPC was the successor organization to HLT and as such could amend the rules as they saw necessary. Faculty Master Vito Sinisi, a strong supporter of HPC, was forced to state, though, that HPC was not a chartered organization under the Hinman constitution and therefore did not legally exist. HPC would have to be brought up before the charter committee and be accepted before it could solicit more funds from Hinman. The issue would remain unresolved that night.

The following week HCC seemed to refuse to acknowledge the existence of HPC, still calling it HLT in the brief Hinman Council section of the Hinman Halitosis newsletter.
brought to the council a new charter which first of all would change the name from Hinman Little Theater to Hinman Production Company once and for all. More importantly, though, it would be responsible for all theater shows in Hinman, trying to put on one straight show and one musical a year and that they would all be held in the Hinman Commons. They also wished to run Hinman Follies. A board that would consist of both Hinman and non-Hinman students would choose the director and producer of the show, the actual show itself, and any other important aspect related to the production of the show. In an effort to appease HCC it was stated in the charter that all leads would go to Hinman people; however, all chorus, technical and orchestra parts would be open to anyone on campus. HCC agreed to all measures of the new HPC charter with the exception of the proposal that non-Hinman people should be a part of the board and that HPC would be in charge of Hinman Follies. It was stated that a separate budget was set aside for Hinman Follies and that it was now being run by the social committee. The following week a new charter was finally issued to HPC, making it a fully legal organization within Hinman. HPC would agree to put on at least two shows per year and that it would not sponsor Hinman Follies. It also promised that all major roles would go to Hinmanites (a rule that would be loosely enforced and broken many times in the coming years) and that the board of directors would all be from Hinman. Minor roles, tech positions and backstage work could go to either Hinman or non-Hinman residents. HPC may not have gotten exactly what it wanted, but it had gotten enough. Now the newly legal organization was ready to start a new semester of productions that would prove to be entertaining and challenging at the same time.

The next production of HPC would be a play that had been done not that long ago by its predecessor organization. It was decided that the fall semester’s straight play would be Landford Wilson’s *Hot L Baltimore*. Armed with a budget between $1,000 and $1,500, HPC was ready to
stage another great show. The first order of business, and expensive business it turned out to be, would be to replace the lighting system that had existed in the Commons since the old HLT days. With a small grant from HCC and larger grant from ACE food corp., the company in charge of dining services on campus, HPC was able to install a brand new lighting system in the Hinman Commons, a lighting system that would sustain HPC till the present day. Entering into the picture now was Jody Sandler. Jody was a CIW resident who was drawn into HPC because his roommate had acted in *Pippin*. Jody, like many other HPCers, had done theater in high school and even though he knew that acting would not be his chosen profession, he was still drawn to the stage, especially the behind-the-scenes work. Jody would be instrumental in helping out with the lighting. He would responsible for operating an old and troublesome lighting board which was far too small to handle the number of lights that was required of it. Jody would improvise and unplug certain lights at specific times in order to create the desired lighting effect. This was done because the lighting board lacked an ample dimmer. The lighting system was so antiquated that following the production of *Hot L Baltimore*, Jody would contact his uncle who worked for ABC in New York City. Jody’s uncle would acquire some lights and a new board that ABC was throwing out and donate them to HPC. They were not the best in the world, but they were an improvement over what was originally there. Besides lighting, Jody would be responsible for much of the set design and construction for *Hot L Baltimore* and for every other HPC play in the future. He would also be responsible for the HPC budget and would add to the ever-mounting controversy of Hinman outsiders participating in a Hinman institution.

The biggest problem with *Hot L Baltimore* was the set design. Set in a dilapidated old hotel in Baltimore, the scenery had to fit the play in order for the realism to show through. Patrick, ever the perfectionist, insisted on only the best possible set that they could afford. The
reality was that they really couldn’t afford that type of scenery, but the expenses incurred in designing the set would be offset as long as the spring musical was inexpensive. To cut down costs, an old switchboard was borrowed from an antiques store, but a huge hit was taken when a very elaborate staircase was built. Overall, the entire set was very elaborate and costly, but it was better than the scenery of *Pippin* in many ways and brought a great deal of realism to the production. In fact, a review of *Hot L Baltimore* stated, “The scenery, designed to represent the lobby of a hotel, was authentic. The front desk complete with a register, switchboard and slotted mail box conveyed the actual design of a hotel lobby.”

The scenery was not the only thing to gain accolades. One reviewer stated, “The play is raucous and bawdy, but has a thought behind it. The characters in the play may be crazy but they have their dreams. These people have faith in themselves and their goals…” One of these raucous and bawdy characters who has dreams was April Green played by Lovette George, who won praise for her performance as a prostitute living in the old hotel. George would go on to accomplish the goal that nearly all HPCers had—to act in a Broadway play. She would make her Broadway debut in 1986 in the play *Uptown…It’s Hot!* In addition, she would act in the Broadway productions of *Carousel* and *Marie Christine*. She would also perform in many off-Broadway productions including *Eating Raoul*, *The Green Heart*, *A New Brain*, and *Requiem for William*. She would be nominated for a 2004 Drama Desk Award for her efforts in the off-Broadway musical cleverly entitled *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical!* Unfortunately, she would pass away on September 6, 2006 of ovarian cancer. Like Paul Reiser before her, Lovette would achieve fame and success in the performing arts and she got her start in HPC.

Other notable actors in the play included Michael Cohen in his role as Mr. Morse which won him acclaim for his portrayal as the grouchy old man who does nothing but complain.
Margo Buchanan, who would later serve as a leader in HPC, also won praise as the foil to the grumpy Mr. Morse. Gary Stein, who played the character Paul Granger III, a young man in search of his missing grandfather, also did an excellent job in symbolizing the generational differences between the characters of the play. Even the *Hinman Halitosis*, which seemed to have written off HPC long ago, had mostly favorable reviews of the show and reiterated the other reviews lauding Lovette George and Michael Cohen and sending out kudos to Hinman College mainstays Steve “Pudge” Meyer who would play Mr. Katz and Faculty Master Vito Sinisi in the role of the pizza delivery boy. Patrick fondly remembers Vito’s participation in this play stating, “Vito loved this simple role. Every night he would mumble new and interesting Italian curses, many of which only me and my parents understood.”

Tony Toluba, a long time Hinman resident was also in the play. Tony, who had been involved in many areas of Hinman life would play a small role in *Hot L Baltimore*. Tony was unique in that at the time of the play he was a graduate student, but he had been given permission to continue to live in Hinman. Tony, who played the part of the cab driver, would only have a few lines, but Patrick had given him permission to adlib portions of his lines so he would try something new and different each time, making each show genuinely unique.

*Hot L Baltimore* was a success, helping to solidify the standing of HPC as the unit that would forever produce the exceptional shows for Hinman. The acting itself was great, as was the scenery. The leadership and direction of Patrick Misciagna helped pull the play through from start to finish. It was so popular in fact, that it was the first play for which HPC required people to reserve tickets. Like the characters from *Hot L Baltimore*, the men and women of HPC may have been crazy, but they had faith in their dreams, dreams that would propel them into the next semester with another ambitious production.
The spring semester of 1981 saw the announcement of the production of the Steven Sondheim musical *Company*. To cut down on the costs of the play, the same black curtains used for *Pippin* were reused for *Company*. Like in the previous plays, Patrick would direct but this time he would select HPC member Margo Buchanan to be his assistant director. Though Patrick loved to direct, he and others in HPC realized that there needed to more diverse involvement in the group. Years later Patrick would say, “We began to realize that if we wanted HPC to be around after us, we needed to show the new people how to do things. We needed to involve as many people as possible and give them an opportunity to direct, produce and to lead. That would be the only way for HPC to survive after we were gone.”

*Company* would provide that opportunity to allow for newcomers to HPC to hone their skills and be able to pass them on to a new generation when the time came.

In an effort to preserve seating for *Company* and prevent people from getting tickets and not showing up, HPC charged fifty cents for tickets, something which they never had done before. Prior to the debut of *Company* one of the lighting technicians commented to the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter “I hope tonight goes well.” Words of this nature do not bode well, especially for those involved in a theatrical production which is about to have its dress rehearsal. Director Patrick Misciagna and producer Jeffrey Moore nervously awaited how the dress rehearsal would turn out. The props appeared to be somewhat makeshift, though the set itself was effective in its simplicity. With most of their money going to the set design of last semester’s *Hot L Baltimore*, HPC had to save money by designing a limited set for *Company*. Still the set was able to adequately mimic the New York City skyline, the city in which the play is set. The dress rehearsal of the song “Side by Side by Side” showed promise, as did other musical numbers. However, it seemed HPC hit some snags during the “Lady’s Who Lunch”
number when the contortions of secondary characters were too distracting. Of more concern was the introduction to the Barcelona Bedroom scene where early on in production it was decided to use taped music for the dance scene instead of using HPC’s own orchestra conducted by Jeri Burns. This would perhaps be the harshest criticism leveled at this particular HPC show and rightfully so. But it was too late for HPC to change anything, and they decided to go ahead with the show as it was.

In the audience that night for the opening show of Company, besides the usual reviewers for the Hinman Halitosis and Pipe Dream, was a reporter for the local Binghamton paper The Evening Press, Gene Grey. Grey had done an article earlier about the upcoming HPC production and had quoted producer Jeffrey Moore and director Patrick Misciagna. Grey’s review would be an important milestone in HPC history. Also present was Pipe Dream reporter Barbara Jorgenson. She noted that “some of the best moments [of the play] occur when the whole company gets together in a very Vaudvillian [sic] act in “Side by Side by Side.” She, as many others would, praised the performance of Gary Lambert, who played the role of Bobby, the perpetual bachelor who gets caught up in the affairs of the couples around him and sees the complicated world of relationships and of marriage from many different angles. Susan Radner (Sarah), Steve Meyer (Harry), Nancy May (Susan), Brian McCormick (Peter), Karen Vance (Jenny), and Marc Kesten (David) all were given good reviews for their performances. Margo Buchanan, besides being the assistant director, also played the part of Amy, a neurotic woman who lives with Paul, played by David Holz. Erica Zlotnic and Craig Zlotnic played Joanne and Larry respectively. Greatly praised were Patrick and Jeffrey for managing “a setting that was versatile and well-adapted to the play. The use of slides to set the scene of New York City was well done and carried throughout the play.’
dance scene in the second act and the shift from dialogue to the recording, though she did note that the choreography was good despite the small space offered by the Hinman Commons.

The review that mattered most came from Gene Grey. Grey would write in The Evening Press a review that, short and sweet as it was, meant a great deal for the players of HPC. In his review Grey noted that HPC “bit off a very large chew when they decided to do Steven Sondheim’s Company.” He noted his surprise that a twenty-member cast and an eleven-piece orchestra handled the complex score and difficult lyrics of the musical. He observed that some of the actors’ voices simply were not in the range for the musical work that needed to be done and that some of the technical work was “on the shaky side,” though he did take into consideration the fact that the Hinman Commons did not offer much room in which to work. He went on to say, however, that “…the Hinman Production Company has a lot of verve, no little amount of style and some good individual talent.” He noted the greatness of the full-cast number “Side by Side by Side” and cited Gary Lambert’s portrayal of Bobby, who had an “easy stage presence and a nice comic touch” even though he had been experiencing voice problems. Grey would also give kudos to Lovette George, Valerie Widman, and Halli [no surname found in review of playbill] who did a humorous rendition of “You Could Drive a Person Crazy,” and gave special accolades to Margo Buchanan and her triumphant work on the tongue twisting “I’m Not Getting Married Today.” He also cited Erica Zlotnick for her performance of “Ladies Who Lunch.” His most rewarding remark came at the end of the review when he said, “the Hinman performers had fun, the audience enjoyed it and as for me, Company is my all-time favorite musical, and they didn’t mess it up [emphasis added].”

Over twenty-five years later Patrick Misciagna would say that the review that Gene Grey gave them “was the greatest review I have ever been given.” Although the review on the surface seems
somewhat critical, the reality is that HPC, given all the problems and forces arrayed against them over the previous year, had not blown the show. Maybe certain things could have been done better, given more money or more time, but under the circumstances, HPC performed the show exceptionally well. *Company* was a milestone for the troop known as HPC. It proved that even with a pittance for a budget, lack of trained actors, and minimal scenery, they could still put on a show and have it turn out all right. Although HPC would continue to have battles with HCC and the theater department for a long time to come, *Company* proved beyond a reasonable doubt that HPC as a Hinman institution was here to stay.

The 1981 academic year started out well with the announcement of a new HPC production of the classic comedy *Arsenic and Old Lace*, the story of two seemingly sweet elderly women with the unusual hobby of poisoning lonely old men with a homemade Elderberry wine. HPC approached HCC with the belief that after the successes of *Pippin, Hot L Baltimore*, and *Company* that HCC would be more than willing to dole out the funds to support HPC this year. Their assumptions were dead wrong. The Oct. 12 meeting of HCC saw the largest and most vigorous debate yet over the financial standing of HPC. To be fair, HCC was going through a budgetary crisis with Smith, Hughes and Roosevelt halls rejecting the proposed 1981-1982 budget entirely, and the last thing HCC needed was the perpetual thorn in their side Patrick Misciagna browbeating them for more funding. It was not that Patrick liked causing trouble for HCC. Far from it, he approached HCC as much as he did simply because he desperately needed more money in order to put on a quality performance. Many council members believed that HPC was getting too large a slice (a $2,200 slice) of the budget especially with revenue coming into HPC from ticket sales and a grant from ACE. Patrick defended HPC’s position, stating that most of the money would go toward buying a desperately needed new
lighting system for the Hinman Commons and that the money generated from ticket sales was variable and HPC could not expect a set dollar amount to come from ticket sales. Opponents of HPC stated that the $500 increase that HPC was requesting was unreasonable, given the budget cuts to HCC, and that the money should be given out to organizations who had their budgets slashed by the ever tightening financial noose of cross-campus financial cutbacks. Ultimately HPC would receive $2,000 of the original $2,200 budget that they were allocated by the Hinman Council. With the lion’s share of the allocation, HPC set about to produce its fall semester show.

The biggest problem facing the production of Arsenic and Old Lace was designing the set. Like Hot L Baltimore before it, Arsenic and Old Lace required an elaborate and elegant set. Patrick, ever the perfectionist, required only the best of the best scenery for his play. The play has scenes that take place in an old Victorian style home. It required construction of a basement set and a large elaborate staircase running between the lower portions of the house and the upstairs bedrooms where much of the action would take place. HPC and its dedicated team of technical crew laboriously spent hours hacking and sawing, designing and constructing the flats to make the building seem as real as possible in such a limited area as the Hinman Commons offered. Instrumental in this area was HPC regular David Holtz, who contributed greatly to the set construction and design. To add to the realism of the house, antiques were borrowed from local antique stores to lend additional atmosphere to the play. All this hard work paid off. All in all, eight shows of Arsenic and Old Lace were sold out with tickets running at the stupendous price of fifteen cents a pop. More gratifying to those who designed the set pieces was that as soon as the lights went on and illuminated the elaborate and beautiful set, the
audience erupted in thunderous applause. This is something that would not occur again till the HPC production of *The Mousetrap*, which was still years away.\textsuperscript{dcxlv}

Another memorable and humorous moment occurred during one of the performances of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Here technical difficulties made what was supposed to be a straight scene inadvertently hilarious. Patrick Miscaigna remembers: “Gary Lambert was trying to help his Aunts by hiding a body in the window seat. The dead man (played by Mike Mantione) was, literally, dead weight and Gary always struggled getting him in the box. One night, the hinges on the seat broke and the cover would not stay up. In a rather elongated scene, Gary really struggled to keep the top opened while pulling Mike, who refused to break character, into the box. He succeeded and the audience, who realized what had occurred, gave Gary a round of applause! This was the only technical glitch I can remember in my 4 years!\textsuperscript{dcxlvi} Not everything ran perfectly in HPC, but as this episode illustrates, the cast still kept their cool and professional manner, and the forgiving audience loved every minute of it, vicariously relishing the turmoil going through Gary Lambert’s head as he struggled to keep character and go on with the scene. The audience loved the snafu and it became one of many memorable moments in the history of HPC.

Tony Toluba would have many memorable moments from *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In the play he would play the part of Officer Brophy. This part required him to learn an Irish accent. Luckily for Tony, the RD of Cleveland at the time was from Ireland, so he took accent lessons from her. As good as her lessons were they were still lacking in certain areas. During one scene of the play, Tony had to pick up the phone and say “Brophy here, get me Mac.”\textsuperscript{dcxlvii} The clearly fake Irish accent caused everyone, cast and crew alike, to fall over each other in fits of laughter. Also, the director of the play, Margo Buchanan, forced Tony to take up smoking.
Tony was reluctant to do so at first, but eventually relished this attribute which allowed him to
strut up and down the stage with a cigarette in his hand just like all the classic film noir movie
stars from the 1930’s, ‘40’s, and ‘50’s. Tony was also in charge of the props for *Arsenic and Old
Lace*. He designed the billy clubs for the play with plastic tubes and thick twine. This allowed
the actors to actually use the billy clubs to hit the other actors without harming them. Tony
would reminisce mischievously, “The idea was that you could actually hit ‘Jonathon Brewster’
[the character in the play] on the head without actually hurting John Zuroski [the actor].

After graduating from SUNY Binghamton, Tony would go on to do community theater with the
Blackfriars in Rochester, NY. The first play he performed with that group was *Arsenic and Old
Lace* and he would play the part of Officer Klein. Years later Tony would later remark, “One of
my goals is to one day play all four of the policeman roles in that show.”

*Arsenic and Old Lace* was truly a remarkable achievement for everyone in HPC and the
reviews of the performance proved it. The most admired part of the production was of course the
set.

Despite the limited space and small stage, Patrick Misciagna’s rendition of an old antique
furnished house in Brooklyn, sets the mood crucial to the play’s success. One of the most
impressive aspects of the realistic set was the flight of stairs leading up to the second floor
of the Brewster abode, and the cellar beneath which one dozen bodies are buried. Lighted
candles, a coffin-like window seat, and even lace doilies covering the antique furniture
are successful in enhancing the innocent yet morbid aura of the parlour [sic]. The
lighting, designed by Paul Palazzo, is used effectively when the lights from the cemetery
outside the house reflect upon the actors in an otherwise totally dark room.

The best performance of the play was by Robin Lynn Gralnick who played Martha
Brewster, one of the murderous aunts. “With genuine authenticity, she assumed the character of
a sweet sympathetic old lady with ease. Not only did she make the audience laugh, but her
speech, mannerisms, and expressions were flawless.” Marianne Haydon who played Abby
Brewster, the other half of the murdering aunts also rendered a fine performance. Gary Lambert
who played Mortimer Brewster, one of Brewster nephews put on a fine performance as well as Nancy May who plays his fiancée. John C. Zuroski who played the fiendish Jonathan Brewster was also given credit for his performance as was the character Dr. Einstein played by Mark Bader complete with a realistic German accent. Stealing the show would be Eric M. Prescott who would play the completely insane Brewster nephew, Teddy. What was unique about the character of Teddy is that he believes that he is Teddy Roosevelt. He believes this so much that he wears a military uniform and gallops around the house blowing his bugle and shouting such well-known Theodore Roosevelt phrases such as “bully, bully.” As the character of Mortimer Brewster tells his distraught fiancée, “Insanity runs in my family…in fact it gallops.” The only real criticism of the play came from HPC’s attempt to update the play and make it more modern than the 1940’s setting that it is usually staged in. Otherwise the whole play including the direction of Margo Buchanan was given accolades. With the success of this show, HPC was poised to make an even bigger splash in the spring.

The spring semester ushered in a new year and a new production for HPC. This time it would be Godspell by Stephen Schwartz. By this point in time, one would think that HCC would finally come to terms with HPC, an organization that had decidedly put Hinman back on the map and had entertained hundreds with its well acted plays. However, this was not to be the case. The highlight of the March 1, 1982 HCC meeting was the appearance of Patrick Misciagna, Jeff Moore, and Pam Kanner, the triumvirate of HPC. HCC President Dean Hartman invited the top HPC brass to the meeting to discuss the continuing concern over HPC’s use of non-Hinmanites in its plays. What would follow during the course of that night would be nothing short of an epic clash of the titans between HCC and HPC, two juggernaut organizations of Hinman College. As HCC saw it, HPC accounted for 15% of the annual Hinman budget and
that was the only source of funding of HPC. Yet at the same time, only 30% of the cast of *Godspell* were from Hinman. Of the seven leads none of them were from Hinman and only four of the six chorus parts were held by Hinmanites. The age-old debate continued: that if HCC was to foot the bill for the existence of HPC, then only Hinmanites should be allowed to be involved. Patrick, Jeff and Pam fought back with the usual HPC fervor. They argued that HPC, in order to ensure a quality production, needed to recruit the best performers possible, even if they lived outside of Hinman. They also argued that in the case where two actors of equal ability tried out, the part would always go the Hinmanite. HPC even brought up its charter, which was approved by HCC two years previously in the last great battle to legitimize HPC. The charter read in part:

> At present, this is a closed company. Therefore, Hinman College students should be cast in all roles whenever possible. (This basically means that the leads should be from Hinman). Chorus people, tech people, orchestras, etc. may be non-Hinman residents. Every effort should be made to find the people needed from Hinman but should this not happen, by all means do not jeopardize the show or the Company; get who you need, from wherever they may be. [emphasis added]

Essentially what HPC did was to throw back into HCC’s face the charter that HCC approved two years ago. This charter gave legitimacy to HPC and basically every decision it had made over the years, especially those concerning student involvement outside of Hinman.

The debate raged on, though, with the diehard HPC haters in HCC unwilling to let the fight die. They argued that HPC was still not following the mission of their charter by actively recruiting as many people from Hinman as they possibly could. Patrick explained that

> “Auditioning is a very long process. There are a lot of people with talent and some with less talent. When we cast a show, we try to cast with Hinman people. We feel that we have been acting in accordance with the charter. But we don’t want to compromise quality, we are forced to cast people outside of Hinman.”

Jeff Moore backed Patrick up by saying that in casting every play, every effort is made to cast Hinman students. President Dean Hartman, listening to
the debate as it raged around him, stated that he did not see it as being a big deal that all of the chorus parts did not go to Hinmanites, but noted that the quality vs. Hinman representation issue was open to varying "degrees of opinion." Ex-HCC President Diane Fischer was also present at the meeting to offer context for the newer participants who were not fully aware of the scuttle-bug between HCC and HPC. As the debate neared its conclusion she warned HPC to "exercise constraint" but added that during her tenure as president she had seen "Nothing…in violation of the charter." The long and drawn-out debate ended with an impassioned plea by Patrick, saying that the "Council must show us the benefit of the doubt. Give us the opportunity to exercise our abilities. Trust our opinions." HCC asked about other concessions that HPC gave to Hinmanites and HPC responded by noting that ticket sales occurred in Hinman at least one week prior to them being offered elsewhere. HCC suggested that HPC sell Hinmanites tickets at a reduced price. HPC said they would consider it, but stated that it may cause complications. Closed auditions for Hinman residents were also suggested, but shot down by HPC, which cited that they had been done in the past without much effect. "The evening ended when HPC and [the] Council saw each other’s views a little more clearly. Many felt that this confrontation could have been avoided by better communication between the two groups." In many ways this statement was true. Many of the issues that had plagued both HCC and HPC over the years had been a lack of communication. Now with the proper dialogue opened up between the two groups, decisions affecting both could be arrived at amicably. Though both organizations would continue to have their differences, it now became clear that HCC had finally accepted HPC as one of its own, as a true Hinman organization. HPC had finally won the spiritual legitimacy of a true-blue Hinman organization. The individual halls reiterated this statement, with the general consensus that HPC should strive for quality productions over
With these issues taken care of, HPC was ready to devote itself entirely to producing *Godspell*.

*Godspell* was a musical based on the Gospel of Saint Matthew and told of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. However, instead of being set in the Holy Land during the historical time of Christ, the play resets the action on the streets of modern New York City. To add to the authenticity of the play, a scaffolding was rented for the construction scene, adding much needed realism to the play. Demand to see the play was so great that tickets had been sold out by late March. In an ironic twist of events, HCC, once the top nemesis of HPC, requested that a number of tickets be set aside so that members of HCC could see one of the performances.

Many actors were excellent in their performances, but Edward Shapiro, who would play Jesus stood out in particular. Shapiro was able to portray a wide range of emotions and entertained the audience with his first-rate singing and dancing abilities. His performance was so outstanding that he was able to make the audience feel the agony of crucifixion. Garrett Lambert, who would play Judas also performed excellently allowing the audience to identify with the remorse that Judas felt after having betrayed Jesus. The play was also praised for its use of outrageous and colorful costumes including a pair of Mickey Mouse ears. The lighting of the play was highly acclaimed for it adding to the great emotion of the play. “Red lights are used to create the illusion of hell and are manipulated to evoke the torment of the actions as Jesus dies.”

*Godspell* would prove to be a truly powerful play. Even though on the surface it had the atmosphere of being a rollicking musical like previous plays that HPC had performed, the subject matter of the life and death of Christ has, as generations upon generations of Christians
will say, deeply affected and moved the people who hear his word. One scene in particular had a profound affect on Patrick Misciagna. “In one of the most powerful scenes we ever did, at the end of the play when Jesus is crucified, the silence from the audience was deafening, only to be broken by sniffles. Several of the cast members themselves were moved to tears as well. In complete contrast to the applause, the silence was a great tribute to the cast and the emotions they evoked from successfully pulling off a powerful scene.”

HPC had been garnering a reputation for producing well-made, professional, albeit mostly lighthearted musical comedies. With the production of *Godspell*, HPC proved that it could produce serious thought-provoking fare just as well as it did its bread and butter staple, the musical comedy. The success of *Godspell* showed that HPC could tackle any genre and make a quality production.

The Fall 1982 show would be Thorton Wilder’s *Our Town*, the story of the interconnectedness of human life and relationships in a small New Hampshire town around the turn of the century. The play would be directed by Roseanne Tedesco, produced by Garret Lambert with Alyssa D. Marko acting in the role of stage manager. Patrick and his cohorts, Jody Sandler and Jeff Moore, would still act in executive and supervisory roles, but wanted to give these relatively inexperienced HPCers a chance to try their hand at producing the show. This was done in an effort to train a future generation of HPCers in all aspects of making a play come alive.

The cast of the play would consist of many newcomers to HPC. Edwin Wintle would play the Stage Manager, Bruce Burg would play Dr. Gibbs, George Harkin would play Howie Newsome, and Danna Davis and Devra Suzette Cohen would play Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Webb respectively. George and Rebecca Gibbs would be portrayed by Michael Fix and Laurie Klein respectively, Wally Webb would be played by Howard M. Tollin, Emily Webb would be played
by Leslie Ann Gould and Professor Willard would be played by Bill Magaliff. Rounding out the cast of *Our Town* would be Simon Stimson played by Mark Bader, Mr. Webb played by Adam Brown, Mrs. Soames played by Francine Berk, Sam Craig played by Jody Sandler, and Doug McClemont would play Joe Stoddard.

Even more so than *Godspell*, *Our Town* was not a simple feel-good play but rather was serious thought provoking fare. The reviews of the play were mostly positive, especially those relating to the acting of Leslie Ann Gould and Michael Fix. Their awkward but innocent romance was one in which nearly everyone who has experienced young love can identify with. The mostly serious play was broken with moments of comic relief provided by Mark Bader who played Simson, the drunken choir master and Francine Berk who played Mrs. Soames. The true purpose of this play was not so much for entertainment as it was the moral message that it contained. The interconnectedness and circle of life were explored in this play as was nature’s way of disposing of the old to make way for the new. The play ends on a somber note.

…Wilder’s play climaxes in a philosophical discussion on human lack of appreciation for life and death. The death scene, with a blue light focused on the motley dead, is wonderfully staged. The stiff-backed dead are terrifyingly comic as they uncompassionately [sic] stare through the broken figures of the living while being “weaned away” from life.

Not much is remembered about *Our Town* even among those who participated in it. In fact, of all the early HPC plays, *Our Town* seems to be all but forgotten even though the play would feature many repeat performers and HPC regulars. Perhaps one of the reasons why *Our Town* was forgotten was because of the lackluster sets. The sets were mostly bare and there were only two mostly plain platforms. Everything else was supposed to be imagined by the audience. This was a far cry from the elaborate sets of *Hot L Baltimore* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. This was done mostly as an effort to save money. It could also have been the simple fact that *Our
Town was a very somber and cerebral play. No one can doubt that it was a great play, but for the typical audience of young college students and the actors who performed in the play, the large questions of the meaning of life and death perhaps were not on their minds at this stage of their development. Our Town did prove however, that HPC was capable of putting on very complicated and philosophical plays and not just the musical comedies that they were known for. Whatever was lacking in Our Town would soon be forgotten with the announcement of the next HPC production.

What would happen next, though, would be a gigantic success, both professionally and personally for all of HPC. On April 15, 1983, it was not income tax returns that were on everyone’s mind. Instead for the whole of Hinman College, and especially for the men and women of HPC, it was their newest play, the musical comedy that had entertained hundreds during the Stan Goldberg/Steve Young/Paul Reiser era. The play that HPC chose to produce for the spring semester of 1983 was Guys and Dolls. Almost immediately an almost religious-like fervor seemed to envelop all of Hinman and the surrounding community. This was partly due to the increased advertisement for the production, but mostly because this was a popular play and something that had been hugely successful in the past.

Patrick, realizing that this would be his final show before graduating that year, decided to pull out all the stops and make the HPC version of Guys and Dolls the best show to date. Nothing would get in the way of making Guys and Dolls an unrivaled HPC success. The first problem faced by the producers of the show was casting male actors who could sing and dance. So few qualified male actors were available that Patrick, who normally liked to do behind the scenes activities (he would direct and create the sets for Guys and Dolls for instance), was forced to play a small part as the character Brandy Bottle Bates. Patrick’s talents on the stage were not
as great as those behind it. In an awkward moment during the opening night of the show, he would forget the dance routine and try to adlib as best he could. Luckily, the only two who saw this was Patrick himself and Peter Morelli and he worked with Patrick to correct the routine for the rest of the show.

HPC’s biggest challenge during the production was designing the sets for *Guys and Dolls*. The play required two distinct stage settings. Unfortunately for HPC, the Hinman Commons is such a small space that there was barely enough room to have one set, let alone two. Furthermore, there would not be enough time to change the stages in-between scenes. Patrick, to whom no set design challenge was too much, devised a scheme in which the flats for the play would rotate and pivot on the floor of the Hinman Commons. He would use shower curtain rods mounted to the set. This jerry-rigged contraption actually prevented the large flats from moving anywhere on their own and allowed them to rotate in place to become double-sided flats used in different scenes. Overly elaborate as it may have been, it allowed for a greater flexibility in presenting the scenes of the play, adding an additional element of authenticity to the production.

In an effort to save time and money, the same black curtains that had been used for *Pippin* and virtually every other HPC show that had gone before were used for *Guys and Dolls*. Disappointingly, these curtains would not be enough to sustain the production. In particular a more heavy-duty curtain rod was needed to support the additional curtains required by the play. Undaunted by this challenge, Patrick, who had been interning at WSKG, the local public television station, was given permission to borrow one of their curtain rods for the production. What would happen next would go down in the annals of HPC history as an example of what dedicated HPCers would do in order to ensure a quality production. Patrick took the extremely large and heavy curtain rod, and unable to fit it inside his cramped green Chevrolet, tied it
precariously to the roof of his car and drove it all the way from the WSKG station to the Binghamton University campus. Jody Sandler would have a slightly different version of these events. In Jody’s dramatic account of what happened, both he and Patrick would sneak somewhat clandestinely into WSKG studios and “borrow” the curtain rod that they needed. The 200-pound curtain rod would then be precariously tied down to the roof of Jody’s rusty old Ford Granada, both ends hanging perilously close to the bumper on either end of the car. The duo then haphazardly wove through traffic and the busy streets of Binghamton, with the giant curtain rod nearly falling off the roof on numerous occasions until they finally returned to campus.

One can only imagine the fright and ultimate humor of the situation watching these two mount a 200-pound curtain rod to the roof a rusty, unreliable jalopy and then driving it through the busy streets of the city of Binghamton. And they did it all for the love of theater.

Regardless of which version of events is the correct one, upon arriving on campus, Patrick, Jody, and their equally dedicated tech crew mounted the rod and hung the curtains from lines that were fastened to screws that were illegally drilled into the walls of the Hinman Commons. Jody Sandler would have an unfortunate accident during the set-up for this play. As he was wiring the plugs the hot and neutral plugs become crossed. Upon touching one of the wires and the roof Jody became ground and got a horrible shock. Luckily there was no lasting damage to either Jody or the lighting system. Still, the lights were strung and the curtains were hung and the Commons began to take the shape for the play that was about to be performed. These actions were most certainly against university policy and probably were a fire hazard. Still, this allowed HPC to create more intricate scenes for the play, adding to the realism and making it seem that the Hinman Commons was really a street lifted out of New York City in the 1950’s.
Set design and construction would not be the only problem to plague this particular HPC production. As in the original HLT production of *Guys and Dolls*, finding period costumes was something of a challenge for HPC. Luckily, HPC was allotted a significant portion of the Hinman budget to produce their shows. This allowed them go beyond loans and donations as a way to acquire costumes. In fact, a local Binghamton area seamstress was commissioned to create all the female costumes for the Hot Box Girls characters in the play. However, when HPC received the costumes, they were all way too small. With the show swiftly approaching, one of the female cast members, Patricia Burns, redid all of the costumes so that the girls could fit into the overly petite outfits. After the last minute tailoring, the costumes were a deep blue color with a white stripe across it. To the casual observer it appeared that the stripe should have been there all along when in reality it was added after the fact to make the costumes larger. They were sewn so well that no one in the audience noticed that the costumes were hastily redone.\textsuperscript{dcclxxvi}

The cast of *Guys and Dolls* included veterans such as Garret Lambert as Nicely-Nicely Johnson, Jody Sandler as Rusty Charlie, and Jeff Moore as Arvide Abernathy. Newcomers such as Mark O’Byrne played Benny Southstreet, Danna Davis played Sarah Brown, and Meryl S. Sachs would play Agatha. Harry the Horse would be played by Edwin Wintle, Lt. Brannigan by Danny Ceballos, Nathan Detroit by John Thompson, Sky Masterson by Mike Radner, Angie the Ox by Todd Weintraub, Miss Adelaide by Madeline Brennan, Joey Baltimore by Joe Slattery, and Mimi by Eileen Bowman. Rounding out the case would be Jeanne Ragonese who would portray Gen. Matilda B. Cartwright, Peter J. Morelli, who would play Liver Lips Louie, Noel Olmut as a Police Officer, and the rather reluctant Patrick Misciagna as Brandy Bottle Bates. Laura A. Hummel, Laurie Klein, and Meryl S. Sachs would play the Mission Band and Eileen Bowman, Andrea Branciforte, Susan DiVita, Dena Kellerman, and Gail Leicht would be the Hot
Box Girls. Credit should also be given to MaryBeth Argast and Pat Byrne as Night Club Patrons, and William M. Marvin would play the piano. Adam Brown, who would later go on to carry the torch of HPC to a new generation of Hinman theater goers, would reprise the role that made Paul Reiser a star in HLT, that of the gangster Big Julie. The cast was set, the crew was ready for anything, but the question was: could HPC make such a big and lavish production a success?

The reviews of *Guys and Dolls* reflected both the strengths and the weaknesses of this production. “Though the gritty suavity and hard-boiled punch was missing from many of the male performances, the acting was quite professional. The voices were all excellent.” Both John Thompson and Mike Radner were given praise for their singing voices and performances as Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson respectively, as was Garret Lambert for his performance as Nicely-Nicely Johnson. Jeff Moore “delivered a solo smoothly and sensitively.” Madeline Brennan in her role as Miss Adelaide gave an outstanding performance, especially during her rendition of “Adelaide’s Lament.” Danna Davis and her portrayal of Sarah Brown was also praised, especially her solo performance of “If I Were a Bell” and her romantic duet with Mike Radner “I’ve Never Been in Love Before.” The reviewer cited two scenes which were audience favorites. One scene was where a letter from Adelaide’s mother is read aloud and it becomes clear that the mother believes that Adelaide is already married to Nathan Detroit and is the mother of his six children. The other scene was when both of the female leads imagined what their lovers would be like if they were domesticated husbands. This scene involved the spotlight focusing on Radner and Thompson raking leaves and washing dishes, which sent the audience howling in their seats with sidesplitting laughter. Besides the acting, Linda Nutter in her role as the show’s choreographer, was given accolades, as was
director Patrick Misciagna for his directorial abilities. One reviewer ended her article by saying, “If you’re into shooting the cubes, lay your money on *Guys and Dolls*. For top entertainment, it’s a sure thing.”

Like HLT before it, *Guys and Dolls* was an astounding success for HPC. It was also a personal success for the creator of HPC, Patrick Misciagna. This would be Patrick’s final show, and even though he would come back to help on the HPC production of *The Mousetrap*, never again would he wear the mantle of reigning king of HPC. Like Stan Goldberg before him, Patrick had created an organization nearly from scratch and had made it widely successful and popular. All the long hours working behind the scenes, designing and constructing the sets, auditioning and rehearsing the actors, would pay off with eight quality, professional productions and innumerable priceless memories and friendships that would last for years. Patrick, whether he knew it or not, had revitalized a legacy that had been started nearly fifteen years earlier and made it lasting. He had carried HPC through some of its most trying moments. From recruiting quality people to its ranks to winning the organization both funding and acceptance from HCC and the rest of the Hinman College, Patrick had firmly cemented a foundation which the coming generations could build upon. Patrick had kept the infant organization alive and protected it during its most turbulent years when a single misstep could have killed it and Hinman community-based theater for good. Without him and his leadership, the Hinman Production Company never would have existed. Now it was time to leave the fledgling organization to new people so that it could continue to grow and mature. The torch of Hinman community-based theater would be passed on to a new generation to carry.

**Part II: 1983-1989**
Following the graduation of Patrick Misciagna, the leadership of community-based theater in Hinman fell to a young Roosevelt Hall resident, Adam Brown. Adam had grown up in Queens, NY and attended Hillcrest High School. Like so many other HPC members, Adam had participated in theater during his high school days and had fallen in love with the performing arts. Adam had also been very active in sports while in high school. So when it came time to pick a college to attend, Adam wanted a school that offered both theater and sports. Nearly twenty-five years later, Adam remembers that moment of decision:

I really wanted a school that offered both sports and theater because that’s what I loved to do in high school. When I was looking at pamphlets and brochures about Binghamton, they had one about Hinman College and in the pamphlet they pitched this theater group called the Hinman Production Company and this thing they called Co-Rec football. I saw that and along with it being a reputable school, and a state school, I decided that this was where I wanted to be. So I guess I could say that I applied to Binghamton with Hinman in mind. I was lucky that I actually got placed in Hinman.

Most freshmen spend their initial days adjusting to their new dorm, their strange roommate, and the dining hall food. After classes they barely have any time to even think about extracurricular activities. This was not the case with Adam. Almost as soon as he had moved into Roosevelt Hall (to this day Adam is a proud survivor of Roosevelt’s ground floor affectionately known as “The Pitts”) he began to seek out HPC. In the Fall of 1982, Adam went to one of HPC’s general interest meetings. There he met Patrick Misciagna and Roseanne Todesco. Even at this very first general interest meeting, Adam had a feeling that this was something special. The entire meeting was filled with laughter and genuine love of theater. This was a group that was committed to their love of theater and their community. That, Adam knew since an early age, was what theater was all about. Instantly he knew that this was an organization that he wanted to be involved in.
Adam’s first brushes with HPC were his involvement in the plays *Our Town*, where he played Mr. Webb, and *Guys and Dolls*, where he reprised the role that made a young Paul Reiser want to become a star—the out-of-town gangster Big Julie. During both these plays, but especially with *Guys and Dolls*, Adam was absolutely amazed with what they could do with the limited space that the Hinman Commons offered. The fact that they could put on a musical of that proportion in such a small space bewildered the young HPCer and made him realize what just a little bit of enthusiasm and dedication could do. More importantly, though, he saw the camaraderie that developed among that cast and crew of HPC and how even seasoned veterans and seniors treated the young freshman with respect. This was not the stuffy theater department filled with non-stop drills and egos. This was a group dedicated to the fun and the love of the stage. Just as it made Paul Reiser realize that he wanted to pursue a career in acting, *Guys and Dolls* made Adam Brown realize that HPC really was for him. His first year in HPC had turned out to be something special, and his second year was shaping up to be special too.

The Fall of 1983 saw one of many transitions for HPC. With men like Patrick Misciagna and Jody Sandler gone, much of the burden fell upon the shoulders of the younger crowd of HPC. There were still a few older folks around who had rubbed elbows with Patrick, who as the Executive Director of HPC, Pamela Kanner, Executive Producer Nancy May and others like Roseanne Todesco and Susan Kabat. They were forced to pick up leadership roles. The supporting roles for HPC fell to younger cast members like the sophomore Adam Brown. The production on docket for this semester was the play based on the beloved “Peanuts” comic strip characters by Charles Schulz, *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Even at that young age, Adam had been pegged to direct the play. However, at the last minute they were in need of a qualified actor to play the key role of Snoopy. Although he felt odd about
playing the role (he had had his heart set on directing) Adam fell in love with the world-famous beagle. Also important in this show was the introduction of Mark Solkoff to the HPC crowd. Mark had gone to high school with Adam and had been accepted into New York University. One weekend during their freshman year, Mark came up to Binghamton to visit Adam and had seen his involvement in HPC. Mark had fallen in love so much just from what he had seen in HPC that he transferred from NYU to SUNY Binghamton, just so he could participate in HPC. Mark was unable to act in You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown because the theater department (of which he was a major) required him to do tech work for their play You Never Can Tell. Still, Mark was very influential in designing the lighting for the play and for helping with the lighting for virtually every other HPC production thereafter. Since he was a transfer student he was unable to get on-campus housing and was forced to live nine miles away in Endicott right across the street from the IBM building. Alyssa Marko, who was the stage manager for the play, drove him home every night so he could still be involved. Mark also donated the security blanket that Linus would use during the play. Mysteriously, it disappeared after the show’s run, another sacrifice for the love of theater.

By all accounts You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown was a resounding success for HPC. All of the actors performed well, receiving rave reviews from critics and audiences alike. The small size of the Hinman Commons, far from being restricting, actually created a more intimate setting which allowed the audience to more firmly connect with the characters on the stage. Far from being sparse it had an almost airy feel to it. Although each and every performer was praised, the highest praise was saved for the young sophomore who, besides stealing the show, would go on to become HPC’s longest serving and perhaps most influential leader. “Adam Brown got his chance to charm the audience as his role of the famous dog Snoopy.
During his number, *Suppertime*, Brown displayed his competence as a dancer and stole the audience’s hearts with his adorable bark. He even got a chance to crawl right into the audience and play. The choreography and the singing were superb and the level of commitment was clear on the part of the cast, their enthusiasm even spreading to the audience members who continued to hum the show’s final number, *Happiness*, as they left the Hinman Commons and long after the show had ended. What perhaps was most important part of the play was the symbolic underlying message that it contained. “The show began in a black out with various voices systematically reciting brief statements. Presented in segments, each scene conveyed a message about growing up. These messages showed how our dreams, insecurities, and needs, no matter how insignificant, play an important role in the process of maturing.” While this quotation was made in reference to the play, this theme would transgress the borders of that theme and into the very heart of HPC itself. HPC at this time was a theater group full of dreams, needs and insecurities. That semester had been the first semester without the valuable leadership that had not only started HPC, but had carried them through all the trials and tribulations of set design, rehearsals, and conflict between the theater department and HCC. However, as *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* would prove, the new members of HPC would be able to carry on with new leadership, and their insecurities and the mistakes they had made were only part of maturing into true adults and leaders. It confirmed once and for all that their dreams were bigger than any of their insecurities.

Following up on the success of *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, the spring play for that academic year was Agatha Christie’s *The Mousetrap*. In this play, Adam finally realized his dream of directing an HPC production. The cast and crew of HPC were lucky in that an old familiar face returned to help them with this very intricate production. Patrick Misciagna, who
was attending graduate school at the time, took time out of this schedule to help HPC build and design the sets for the play. In typical Patrick style, no detail was too small and for the run of the play the Hinman Commons looked exactly like an English manor house complete with windows that showed a beautiful winter view. They were so authentic that if the play had not been in the Hinman Commons, it would seem that you were actually sitting inside an old English country estate on a cold winter’s evening. Besides *Arsenic and Old Lace*, this was the only HPC play to receive a standing ovation as soon as the curtains were drawn and the lights illuminated the stage for the first time. The sets for the play almost didn’t look that good, though. Dan Specter, who would play the role of Major Metcalf, besides having a full beard that made him look forty years old, was also prone to accidents. Purely by accident, Dan knocked down an entire wall of the set during a rehearsal. From there on out, Adam and the rest of the crew made sure that all their sets were “Specter Proof.” A key point about this production of *The Mousetrap* was in the diverse grade levels of its cast and crew. When Adam had starred in *Our Town* the year before, most of the cast and crew were juniors and seniors. The same was true for *Guys and Dolls*. Many different grade levels were involved in the production of *The Mousetrap* and it was an awesome experience for all involved.

Many of the characters in the show were smokers and to stay as true to their characters as possible, the actors took up smoking for the play as well. In an effort to save money, non-brand generic cigarettes were used during the rehearsals. While this may have saved money, the smell of the smoke was horrendous. Mark likes to joke that Adam would go out after a typical Binghamton rain storm to collect worms to roll into cigarettes for the show’s rehearsals.

By far the most striking aspect of the entire production was the superbly designed set by Patrick. One reviewer of the play would state, “From the time the audience first takes their
seats, they are surrounded by a set which is wonderfully done and which lacks no small detail. Even before the show begins, while the audience sits, and through the murmurs of campus hum-dum, a series of 1950’s commercials are heard, seemingly out of an authentic 1950 radio, which gives the audience a marvelous sense of time and atmosphere. An adherence to technical detail is apparent throughout the production, from the window with a beautiful winter view to the radio sounds to character makeup. Both Danna Davis and John Winter were praised for their performances of Mollie Ralston and Christopher Wren, respectively, but other cast members did not fare so well. Dawn Frances Meza was harshly criticized for her bland portrayal of Miss Caswell and Judith Zirin was also criticized for her depiction of Mrs. Boyle which was too harsh and foul even for a character which the audience was supposed to dislike. Daniel Ceballos was also criticized for speeding through his performance of Detective-Sergeant Trotter, making the climax of the play disappointing. All in all, though, the play was a hit for HPC, especially in regard to the technical detail of the production. The show was an overall success. More importantly, it was a transition for HPC and its performers. This would be the final HPC production that Patrick Misciagna would work on, and the last to see his leadership and guidance. With the remnants of the old guard gone at the end of this semester, the new year would force a new generation of HPCers, represented by their budding leader, Adam Brown, to take the reins of an organization that had started so many years ago and continue its tradition of fun, friendship, and the love of theater.

The Fall of 1984 saw HPC bring the play Anything Goes to the Hinman Commons. It would also see the beginnings of what would be a nearly endless contention between HPC and the Hinman Office. Adam, along with his friends Mark Solkoff and Alyssa Marko, were part of the HPC executive board and effectively in charge of HPC. This new triumvirate of HPC
decided that putting on a quality show was of paramount concern; SUNY Binghamton fire codes were secondary. In order to turn the Hinman Commons into the cruise ship *SS American*, HPC’s tech crew had to drill holes into the walls of the Commons so that the twelve foot flats would be sturdy and in place. John Winter, who would also play the lead character Billy Crocker, was instrumental in designing the sets. The set for *Anything Goes* was huge, unlike anything that this current crop of HPCers had ever done before. The play was also the beginning of a lifestyle that was uniquely HPC. During the day, the cast and crew would go to class and do their necessary studies. During the evenings they would attend rehearsals and then proceed to stay up all night to build and design the sets. All this time together would make this decidedly younger group bond like they never had before.

All the hard work, blood, sweat and tears that HPC poured into this production proved to be worth it. *Anything Goes* became their biggest success to date. The audience fell in love with the story of the down-on-his-luck stock broker, Billy Crocker, played brilliantly by John Winter, and his stowing away aboard the *SS American* in an effort to win the heart of the girl he loves, Hope Harcourt, played majestically by Jill Ackerman. “John’s performance is the connecting thread of understanding throughout the show, and he performs with earnest boyish appeal.” The audience cheered for Billy as he tried to convince his sweetheart to ditch the English gentleman, Sir Evelyn (played by Mark O’Byrne), and marry him instead. Humorous touches permeated this romping musical, such as Ira Dym’s portrayal of Moonface Martin, public enemy #13. Little did Ira know, but he was walking in the footsteps of Gabe Yankowitz, who had played that very same show-stealing role back in 1977 during the glory days of HLT. At first Ira, a sophomore, felt bad about getting the part because he felt that older, more experienced actors should have gotten the part over him. These feelings quickly disappeared
when he was reassured by others that he was the best man for the part. This was just one example of the all inclusiveness of the organization, which was and forever will be a hallmark of HPC. Adam Brown and Thomas Beyer also, in a completely politically incorrect role, played the Chinese passengers Ling and Ching, respectively who socialize throughout the play, muttering nearly unintelligible grunts of supposed Chinese speech. As derogatory as it may have been, it did add to the humor of the play and was done all in good fun. Yet perhaps the best praise for the show was reserved for Jeanne Ragonese who played Reno Sweeny, the nightclub singer who tries to help Billy win the affections of Hope. “Jeanne Ragonese shines vocally in several of these numbers, her voice both clear and strong. As Reno, she is both straightforward and sexy, with a snappy comic timing that makes her character irresistible…” The play, permeated with classic Cole Porter hits including “You’re the Top,” “It’s DeLovely,” “Friendship,” “I Get a Kick Out of You,” and the title song “Anything Goes,” made for a highly enjoyable musical where virtually everyone in the audience knew all the words. Even the confines of the Hinman Commons could not contain the energy of the cast. As one reviewer stated, “A Hinman Production Company performance holds a special kind of intimacy rarely found in regulation theatre. It is a unique kind of giving that emerges, from the actors as people performing to people rather than simply actors to an audience. Due in part to the small stage area in the Hinman Commons that allows close proximity to actors, the shows exude a kind of charged energetic communication with the audience. Anything Goes was an ‘on key’ performance, created with a blend of dedication, personality and charm.

Besides its knockout performance, Anything Goes only reinforced the burgeoning friendships of this young and energetic crowd of HPCers. This play was the play where some of the truest and longest lasting friendships would start among the members of this tiny community.
theater group. It began the tradition were Mark would buy a giant cookie, called a cakey, from the Oakdale Mall as a way to help celebrate during the cast parties. The long hours both in front of and behind the scenes, involving long evenings of rehearsals and the even longer nights of set construction, paid off not only in selling out every show and earning HPC over $2,300 in revenue from ticket sales, but more importantly it led to strong and dedicated relationships with their fellow HPCers. Every year after that, Adam, Susan Kabat, Margaret (Meg) Stave and others from HPC would spend virtually every New Year’s Eve together. Adam himself would say, “The friendships made in HPC were lifelong.”

With HPC riding high off the success of *Anything Goes*, old troubles began to simmer beneath the surface, and an old enemy in the shape of the SUNY Binghamton theater department began to resurface. It all began with the best of intentions. One *Pipe Dream* reporter, Dave DePugh, wrote an entire spread on HPC called “The Call of the Stage” for the November 16, 1984 issue of the newspaper. In the full-page article, DePugh wrote, “The HPC provides an alternative to the SUNY theater department for those students who feel the ‘call of the stage.’” Throughout the article, DePugh would interview the major players in HPC including Susan Kabot, John Winter, Mark Solkoff, Meg Stave, and Adam Brown. The group would go on to tell about the numerous difficulties that HPC faced that other more traditional theater groups, like the main stage theater department, would typically not have to worry about. John Winter would say, “There are feelings of competition with the SUNY theater department, so we strive for perfection.” Susan Kabot would state, “We’re all students, so we’re all on the same level in that respect. It also creates a more relaxed atmosphere.” Throughout the article, numerous HPCers would articulate how much fun they had working with HPC and the challenges they faced—challenges such as financial cuts in the HCC budget, which dropped
$600 that was supposed to go to HPC. Financial difficulties were never much of a problem for main stage theater productions, nor was attaining the highest quality props and costumes. For HPC, most of the actors had to either borrow or buy their own props and costumes. Making the best of what they had, and putting forth quality productions each time were always a part of HPC. This trait was one of only many qualities that this little community theater possessed and was something that made it unique and special not just in Hinman College, but in the entire panoply of student groups in SUNY Binghamton and within small, community-based theater groups in general.

The close-knit community, the can-do attitude that everyone seemingly possessed, and the love of each other and the love of theater was what made HPC different from the large and cold structure that was the theater department. Ira Dym would remark on the closeness of the HPCers. “The close friendships have been the most valuable gain for me…Coming in as a freshman is a scary thing, so the strong sense of belonging you get is very important. Everyone’s friendly; there aren’t any cliques.” Jeanne Ragonese would say it best when she said, “Everyone is supportive of everyone else…it’s not cutthroat.” HPC president Adam Brown would sum up the entire HPC experience with his declaration that, “The group is always a learning experience…and it is very special to new people as well as old. We’re a group of people who want to have fun doing theater.” The article certainly sang the praises of HPC, and while the HPCers had no intention of offending members of the theater department, their remarks, misconstrued and taken out of context, were interpreted as slander against the high and mighty theater department. This seemingly benign article would be the spark that relit an old and seemingly timeless feud between the underdogs of community-based theater and the goliath of the SUNY Binghamton theater department.
The wrath of the theater department came in the form of theater major Julia A. Carr. In the following edition of *Pipe Dream* she would write a letter to the editor virtually condemning HPC. Her scathing editorial reproached HPC, saying in part, “I feel the company members of Hinman Productions have misrepresented me in their quotes about the theater department…to think that I now, as a theater major, have become ‘clique’-ish and ‘cutthroat’ must be an oversight.” She would go on to support the values of the theater department and the unique student-run shows presented by it. In an effort to claim the moral high ground against HPC, Carr would write, “I commend the HPC members for their work, but disregarding and demeaning the student directors, actors, dancers and technical theatre students’ ‘call for the stage’ in the Theatre Dept. is unnecessary. I cannot account for the HPC’s feeling of ‘competition’, but competitiveness is in the mind of the individual. Let each do his own work.”

Carr’s inflammatory statements called for HPC to jump in and defend themselves against the theater department. Adam Brown and Mark Solkoff would write their own letter to the editor in response to Carr. In it, both of these diehard HPCers defended HPC saying, Carr’s representation of the facts was taken out of context. For example, they clarified that the text about being ‘cutthroat’ was meant to be in reference to the supportive and familial atmosphere of HPC, not anything against the theater department or its faculty and students. They would also say that HPC did not dismiss the theater department’s student efforts, that the writer of the article was merely trying to compare the completely student-run HPC with the mostly faculty-led theater department. Brown and Solkoff called Carr’s remarks about the competition between the theater department and HPC unfair, and reiterated their support of the theater department and their productions. They would end their defense by saying, “We are all dedicated to something we all love very dearly and that is theatre. All of us that are involved in theatre should support
and respect one another for their hard work and achievements as we all (The SUNY Theatre Department, Hinman Production Company, and all who are involved in theatre) respond to ‘the call of the stage.’ This call for unity and brotherhood for all who loved the theater effectively diffused a potentially harmful situation. For now the eternal feud between HPC and the theater department was put aside, allowing both parties to work on their respective projects.

The spring semester would see HPC produce Neil Simon’s *Barefoot in the Park*. This play was the realization of one of Adam’s personal goals to make HPC bigger and better with each passing production. It was also a personal test of loyalty for Adam Brown, who by now had clearly distinguished himself as the leader of HPC. Adam was one of the few HPCers who was actually a theater major. The theater department at that time offered him a part in one of their spring semester plays. Although torn by the decision, Adam knew where his heart was and decided to turn down the theater department and stick with HPC. This would not be the last time that Adam would turn down a coveted role offered by the SUNY Binghamton theater department. They all said he was crazy for doing so, but Adam stuck to his guns and his first love which was HPC.

Adam started off this semester with a team-building exercise common to many summer camps: trust falls. He had everyone involved with HPC go into the Hinman Commons and stand on the piano and fall into the arms of their fellow cast and crew members. The people did this without incident with the exception of Jennifer Courtney, who would later go on to play Corie Bratter in the play. Jennifer, who was a diver for the swim team, instead of gently falling into the arms of her waiting companions, dove off of the piano, forcing her compatriots to literally run and catch her before she could hit the floor. Already HPC was off to a great start.
The play, set in a New York City brownstone apartment, required some difficult set design to make it look realistic. This required more drilling, only adding to the now numerous holes within the Hinman Commons left over from the previous semester’s production. Adam and his dedicated tech crew worked night and day to make the Commons appear to be a brownstone apartment. They created a remarkably good-looking set complete with a skylight and a working refrigerator. Years later, Adam himself would say, “It looked really, really cool.” Adam would have made his predecessor, Patrick Misciagna, the king of set design and construction, proud. During that semester, both Mark Solkoff and Alyssa Marko studied aboard in Israel. As much as they both enjoyed it, they longed to return to Binghamton so they could participate in HPC. During his spring break, Mark went home to visit his family for a few days and then, desperately needing an HPC fix, drove up to Binghamton to visit his old pals. Much to his delight, he helped hang some lights for the play and returned to Israel feeling much better.

The hard work paid off for Adam and company. *Barefoot in the Park* won rave reviews. Although being criticized as being somewhat outdated, the performance of the actors was praised by all. Jennifer Courtney’s performance of the immature Corie, as well as Daniel Ceballos’s performance as her sensible husband Paul, was commended. Stealing the show, though, was Dawn Frances Meza in her role as Ethel, Corie’s mother. “It is said that the two hardest acting jobs are those in which an actor or actress must portray someone older or younger than him/herself. Meza overcame this difficulty with ease. It was hard to believe that she was really a college student under the wig and makeup.” A show stopping number occurred in the beginning of Act II where Corie arranges a blind date for her mother. The audience howled with laughter as they watched a frantic Ethel rush about the apartment before her date. Set
designer David Kim was given kudos for his work, as was Adam’s direction of the cast. “It was a charming play that left the audience feeling ‘all is right with the world.”

Some resentment began to crop up, though. It became clear during the production of *Barefoot in the Park* that a small group of incredibly dedicated HPCers was beginning to emerge. Cast and crew members like Adam Brown, Susan Kabat and a few select others took to calling themselves “The Inner Circle.” Although it was meant mostly as an affectionate joke for those who dedicated nearly their whole lives to HPC, other HPCers felt that this designation was elitist, especially after ‘The Inner Circle’ was given recognition on the play’s program. In an effort to curtail bad blood between HPCers and to prevent infighting and power struggles between them, Adam realized that the designation “The Inner Circle” had to be disbanded. The entire point of HPC was to allow involvement of anyone at any level to participate in productions for the love of theater. Giving special billing to a select few, even though they may have done the lion’s share of the work, went against every principle set forth by the founding fathers of HPC. It was during this time that Adam and other HPCers sat down and wrote a constitution for the company. When the constitution was complete and ratified it clearly stated the goals and objectives and the process of governing HPC. The organization became more democratic. In the past, leadership positions in HPC were assumed. Now all leadership positions were elected positions. This allowed for a wider variety of people to assume the leadership mantel and allowed for more people than ever before to get involved. During this time Adam was elected the first HPC President and would lead the group through a myriad of challenges in the coming years. Most significant of all, though, was that the goal and meaning of HPC was written down for all to see. Everyone who had ever been involved in HPC knew this almost instinctually, but...
now anyone could look at the HPC constitution and know what the group was all about: “Fun, Friendship and the Love of theatre.”

With a new constitution, democratically elected leadership, and a clear statement of goals, HPC entered the new year more ready than they ever were before. It was the fall of 1985, the middle of the decade of Reaganomics, punk rock, and rampant materialism. Within these turbulent times many ordinary people were ready for a little nostalgia from a simpler time. HPC was no different. The play they chose would invite audiences back to a simpler time and place and hopefully allow them to revel in happier memories. This play had been done before with much success by HLT eight years earlier, but this new HPC production would blow that one clear out of the water. In the history of Hinman community-based theater many plays stand out, such as HLT’s production of *Guys and Dolls*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, not to mention HPC’s *Pippin*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and their own production of *Guys and Dolls*. This new production, besides pushing each and every member of HPC to the breaking point, would also prove that absolutely nothing was impossible when it came to putting on a show. That show would go down in the annals of HPC history as one of if not the greatest show ever produced by this completely student-run organization. It would also enter into the chronicle of Hinman College that is still spoken of today, immortalizing nearly all who were associated with it. That show was *Grease*.

The 1985-1986 academic year was the first year that Adam Brown was outside of his beloved Roosevelt Hall because he had accepted a job offer as an RA in Smith Hall. Little did he know, that he would not be gone long from Roosevelt, but that is a story for a later time. For now, senior and four-year Hinman resident Adam Brown was a humble RA and the first official president of HPC. Before he had taken the RA position, Adam was roommates with a gentleman
by the name of Mike Radner. Even though Adam had moved to the adjacent building at the top of the hill, the two had still remained close. One day, Adam mentioned to Mike his desire to actually get a real car for the “Greased Lighting” scene of the play. Mike mocked Adam, saying that first there was no way that a car could ever fit into the Hinman Commons, and even if they found a way for it to fit, the Hinman Office never would have allowed it. Never one to turn down a challenge, Adam bet Mike $100 that he would get a real car into the Hinman Commons for the play. The wager was set and history was about to be made.

Shortly thereafter, Adam and fellow HPCer John Winter began searching for a 1950’s style car. They found what they were looking for in a seedy junkyard in the nearby municipality of Endicott. What they discovered was a 1959 Fiat convertible. The car itself had obviously seen better days, but the body of the automobile itself was not too bad. Adam and John discussed the matter and decided that this vehicle, besides fitting the time period of the play perfectly, had a great deal of potential. Adam reasoned that a few fresh coats of paint and a little elbow grease (no pun intended) would make the twenty-five-year-old car look as good as new. Adam and John approached the owner of the junkyard about borrowing the car and the owner agreed as long as Adam and John would pay an obligatory $25 shipping fee to cover the cost of transporting the car from Endicott to the SUNY Binghamton campus in Vestal. Adam and John eagerly agreed. The two had found their car.

The first obstacle had been overcome with relative ease, but many more harrowing challenges awaited the dedicated HPCers. Adam and the rest of HPC had to be covert about bringing the car onto the Hinman College grounds. This year had seen many changes to Hinman. Nick Sterling, who had been faculty master from 1980-1985 had left that summer. Nick had been a huge champion of HPC since the very beginning and had defended them during
harrowing HCC meetings and during days when the crew blatantly blew off the fire codes and drilled holes into the walls of the Hinman Commons. A new faculty master, Biology professor Al Haber, had replaced Nick. Al soon proved to be an even greater champion of HPC than Nick was and supported them in virtually everything they did. However, at this time the Area Coordinator for Hinman was a man by the name of Rene Coderre. Rene ran his residential community completely by the book, enforcing every policy and procedure. This would earn Rene the nickname “Darth Reneader” after the villain Darth Vader of the Star Wars film franchise. He would hold this odious title until he transferred to CIW, where he earned the equally unflattering moniker “The Dean of Mean.”

Rene, while certainly not against HPC, was a stickler for the rules and occasionally butted heads with Adam and others in HPC for the illegal drilling, wiring, and other things that they did in the Commons. Luckily for HPC, Faculty Master Al Haber acted as a sort of buffer against Rene and allowed HPC to work relatively unmolested by higher Residential Life authorities.

In a clandestine and secretive move, Adam and John Winter made up an excuse to their racquetball instructor in order to get out of class which was held early in the morning. They did this in order to meet the truck driver at the front of campus at 7:00 a.m. the only time that he could meet them. As luck would have it, as the two met surreptitiously with the truck driver, their instructor happened to be passing by and saw all of them. Adam and John were busted by their instructor, but they had their car. The duo then had the truck driver drive all the way up to Hinman and drop the car off on the grassy area behind the Hinman Commons. As slyly and covertly as they did this, it did not take long for officials in the Hinman Office to notice that something was amiss on their lawn behind the Hinman Commons building. “Rene was not happy,” Adam would snicker twenty-one years after the deed.

Why Rene did not fire this
RA then and there is unknown, but it is safe to assume that Adam and the rest of HPC had a
guardian angel looking over them, an angel in the form of Al Haber. Now the question was, how
do you get the car into the Commons?

While Adam desperately devised a plan to get the car into the building, the rest of the
dedicated HPC crew went to work on the car itself. A senior, Stuart Miller, and a guy by the
name of Wes Wagner, who was called a thirty-year old freshman (in reality he was only 22),
painted the rusting 1959 Fiat and made it into a beautiful hot red convertible. Meanwhile, other
crew members were, in true HPC fashion, staying up all night, losing sleep, skipping classes,
having no social life beyond HPC, in order to create the rest of the scenery for the play. This
was not to mention the hours upon hours of rehearsals that the actors of the play had to go
through to learn their lines, to train their voices to meet the correct pitch of the songs they were
supposed to sing, and to learn the choreography to the musical numbers such as the famous
number “Born to Hand Jive.” Grease was shaping up to be one huge and extensive
production.

Finally, Adam figured out a way to get the car into the Hinman Commons. Completely
going against protocol, Adam and his crew took the doors off the Hinman Commons in order to
squeeze it into the space. “We took the windshield off, the wheels off, and turned the car on its
side. We rigged a sliding mechanism out of wood and with the help of 25-30 HPCers we carried
the car on its side into the commons through a regular sized doorway.” Once inside, the
dedicated crew reassembled the car and even rigged it so that the car could roll onto the stage
from the wings where it would be hidden from view till its made its appearance during the
“Greased Lightning” musical number.
Mark Solkoff was able to convince John Winter, who besides being the lead actor for the play was also the chief set designer that his pink on black backdrop that said “Grease” in big bubble letters would look better lit up. John painfully watched Mark drill holes into his set and watched as he strung Christmas lights behind the letters to make a very cool special effect. Mark remembers one painful scene that involved the car to this very day.

There was a "Domino's Pizza" scene change (you know—you can order a pepperoni pizza and it would arrive before the lights would come back up) before Greased Lightnin' in order to get the car on stage. My job during that scene change was to move a large step-unit out of the way so the car could come on stage. I would later jump off of that step-unit during the song. For some reason, another actor decided to move the step-unit I had just moved. This would have caused me to jump on top of the car. Since my eyes had become adjusted to the darkness during the "Domino's Pizza" scene change, I jumped off a high platform to go back and fix the step-unit. Unfortunately, I landed on my ankle instead of my foot. I heard a large gasp from the production staff as I limped back stage. The lights came up and the number was awesome as it had been throughout rehearsals. The scene was over and the lights went down. Everyone assumed I was fine. I limped off stage and noticed a grapefruit sized bump growing out of my left ankle. The campus ambulance, Harpur's Ferry was called and I was taken to Binghamton General Hospital! Since the show must go on, and opening night was the next night, for 7 performances, I hobbled down to the West Gym where every night I had my ankle taped so I could perform. Physical therapy started the next week! As I say to my students "theatre is a dangerous sport!"

The play was becoming not only logistically difficult to do but dangerous as well. The long hours, the tireless efforts during rehearsals, all the important and difficult behind-the-scenes work was beginning to come together. The stage was set, the cast was ready, but would all the time, energy, and effort beyond what any other HPC group had done before pay off?

*Grease* would go on to sell out five of their seven shows, and the others would nearly be full. As one reviewer put it, “Performing that many shows often makes actors’ and actresses’ lines seem a chore rather than a challenge. However, this was not the case for the Hinman Production Company. Each of the performers was enthusiastic about this role, making the performance a lively one.” Carolyn Denton would reprise the role that made Olivia
Newton-John a star in the motion picture *Grease* by playing Sandy Dumbrowski and John Winter would play the too-cool-for-school love interest Danny Zuko, made famous by John Travolta in the film version. These two and the rest of the cast would be praised by their rendition of the now famous tune “Summer Nights.” Steven M. Salzinger who played the Teen Angel would be given extensive applause for his reprisal of the famous “Beauty School Drop-Out” number which he sang to a confused and frustrated Frenchy, played by Cathie Lucas.

“Another highlight was the Prom scene which featured another cleverly choreographed dance to the funky “Born to Hand Jive” led by Johnny Casino, gloriously played by Adam Brown. Most of the audience found it difficult to sit still, while watching the cast enjoy themselves so much.” The most praised highlight of the show of course featured the “Greased Lightning” scene and the car which brought the cast and crew so much trouble. As soon as the car on its rigging “drove” up on stage, the audience leapt to their feet and cheered. Never before had something of this scale been done before and everyone who saw the show was astounded that HPC could have pulled this off. The entire adventure of getting the car into the Commons and all the other obstacles related to the production had been nothing short of a small miracle. Looking back on this time, Adam remembers, “It was a very special moment.”

After the run of the show ended, the car was returned to the junkyard, but the memories of the magic that had occurred within the small confines of the Hinman Commons would stay with that generation of HPCers for the rest of their lives. A new motto emerged from that play. “Never say never, anything is possible,” became the new rallying cry of this new little theater that could. Not only would Adam and John never get charged for the delivery and pick-up fee for the car, but Adam also won his $100 from Mike Radner. So many memories of that and other plays would stay with them forever. *Grease* would prove to be a high point for HPC, and
for Adam it was a bit melancholy, for he believed that he would have only one more semester in Hinman. While that would be far from the case, the cast and crew settled down for a well-deserved break and began to plan for the next semester’s show. Looking back on *Grease* and the rest of his experience with HPC, Adam would write, “The Hinman Production Company was a magical place for us...It was a family of friends who loved to put on quality productions...I am proud of what we accomplished and the lifelong friends I have made...I am proud of all of us for dedicating ourselves to fun, friendship, and the love of theatre.”

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The spring saw HPC revisiting another old HLT production. The members of HPC decided to produce the play *You Can’t Take It With You*. This play would be the start of what would become an HPC tradition while Adam Brown helmed the organization. This would be the first play to witness set-building camp. If the motto “necessity is the mother of invention” is true, then set-building camp proves it completely. For some reason, there was a conflict where the Hinman Commons had to be used for some other purpose during the time when HPC would traditionally begin building their sets. This forced HPC to build their sets after Spring Break. Adam, realizing that this would not be enough time to build an adequate set for the play, took matters into his own hands, and, as in the case of *Grease*, broke every rule in the book to accomplish his task.

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At the time Adam was an RA in Smith Hall and during that time he was granted permission to stay in the building over the break. It is important to note that only Adam himself was given permission to stay in the building during the course of Spring Break. Under the noses of his RD and Rene, Adam snuck in most of the HPC cast and crew and they stayed with him in his suite during the course of the break. Far from partying and wrecking the building, the dedicated HPCers spent virtually all of their time building the sets for the play. Looking back on
those days, Adam likes to joke that the first set-building camp was like the creation story in Genesis. Adam would joke that, “We built the set in six days, and rested on the seventh.”

By the time they were discovered it was already time for the rest of the student body to come back. Adam and his followers had dodged that bullet for now. Another obstacle to overcome in creating the play was making the commons look like the 1930’s, the time period in which the play was set. HPC accomplished this goal by going to an antiques store and buying for next to nothing 150 roles of old wallpaper that looked like it had been left over from the Great Depression. When it was all done, the set was beautifully designed not only with their authentic 1930’s wall paper but also with a beautiful window seat.

During this time the ugly specter of the rivalry between the theater department and HPC arose yet again. Unlike in the past, over the years more and more theater majors had been joining HPC for a variety of reasons. This led to some conflict of interest in that sometimes the theater department cast its members in main stage productions. Susan Peters, who was a musical director for the theater department, cast a large number of HPCers in the theater department’s production of *My Fair Lady*. If the theater majors wanted credit for that semester and to eventually graduate, they had to act in the play. HPC lost a huge slew of talent that semester forcing those HPCers that remained to scramble to cast the show. Scott-Robert Shenkman, who was the props coordinator for the show, remembers desperately trying to find the appropriate props for the show. Two of the most difficult items to find were a grammar phone (which he was eventually able to locate) and a human skull. As luck would have it, the School of Nursing happened to have a real human skull that they let him borrow for the play.

Although no review of the play exists, *You Can’t Take It With You* was undoubtedly a success. What began as a melancholy moment for the senior Adam Brown, soon turned into near
jubilant hysteria. Adam at this time was considering going to graduate school and as luck would have it, a position as Resident Director for Roosevelt Hall was open for the following fall. This was back in the days before the strict guidelines calling for professional staff to fill open positions. Adam jumped at this chance. Not only would this allow him to get his master’s degree in education and continue to be involved in Hinman College but also he would be residing in his beloved undergraduate home away from home, Roosevelt Hall. This miraculous twist of fate would also allow Adam to continue to lead HPC for the next three years.

The fall of 1986 saw the dedicated members of HPC bring Ira Levin’s *Deathtrap* to Hinman. The biggest problem facing HPC this time was a lack of money. Although they had been successful in ticket sales in previous years, their chief source of funding, HCC, had slashed their budget as they had with nearly all the other student groups. This forced HPC to cover the same distance with less than their usual resources. In order to keep costs down as much as possible, they modeled the entire set in cardboard first to get an idea of what they needed to do before they began purchasing wood and other supplies.

With a firm idea of what they needed to design for the set, Resident Director Adam Brown along with some of his faithful HPCers took a trip to a home improvement store to gauge prices. It was there among the aisles of hardware and lumber and other home improvement items that Adam had an epiphany. Instead of buying heavy, bulky and expensive lumber to construct the sets, why not use Styrofoam. With a two by eight foot sheet going for approximately $4, there was nothing to lose. Adam brought the Styrofoam back to the Commons and there he and his crew built a gorgeous set that looked like an authentic rustic farmhouse complete with French doors and stairs. The best part was that the Styrofoam was easily molded, and once stained looked almost exactly like wood. They were also able to design
weapons used in the play such as a realistic looking log club made completely out of Styrofoam. This cost cutting effort not only would save HPC loads of money in the future. It would also allow them to design some beautiful sets that they otherwise would not have been able to create. Their experiments with Styrofoam during the making of Deathtrap would lead Adam to proclaim that “Styrofoam is God’s gift to the world.”

Even with all the money saved by using the Styrofoam, the play still needed props. However, HPC had a secret weapon in their leader Adam Brown. During his undergraduate days, Adam had been given a set of keys to the theater department’s prop room which he had never returned. Perhaps out of spite to the theater department, a department which HPC seemed to be eternally feuding with, Adam used his key to the prop room and “borrowed” numerous props for the play. With the essential props secure and the Styrofoam in place, Adam and his crew began to do their semesterly drilling ritual to hang the curtains and position the flats. Years later, Adam would assure this author that they tried to use the same holes each time and that most of them were already there from Patrick Misciagna’s days.

Deathtrap proved to be a near perfect thriller. The greatest praise for the play of course went to the set design and construction. One reviewer cited the excellent utilization of the small space offered in the Hinman Commons. The realistic interiors of the farmhouse (made almost completely out of Styrofoam) were perfect in their authenticity. The weapons collection (also predominantly made out of Styrofoam) added to the thrilling and suspenseful nature of the play including a cross bow and a garrote that squirted blood. As the reviewer stated, “Set design and construction are two areas which I found highly praiseworthy. Under the direction of Adam Brown, the production staff did a fine job in creating a set that seemed truly…‘authentic colonial.”
The acting of Stephen McMillian who played the middle-aged and increasingly psychotic playwright, Sidney Bruhl, also was given tremendous accolades. McMillian was highly convincing in his role as the aging and increasingly unpopular playwright. He was able to master not only a Connecticut accent but also was able to realistically conduct a one-way phone conversation powerfully. He credibly showed the descent of his character into a dark and menacing madness. Cathie Lucas in the role of his wife, Myra Bruhl, also did an excellent job. Adding energy to the play was freshman Anthony Zepf, who played the young and overly enthusiastic aspiring playwright Clifford Anderson. Robin O’Leary was also skillful in her role as the psychic Helga Ten Dorp by mastering an impeccable Dutch accent and offering much needed comic relief to this dark and foreboding play. John Winter was also commended for his role as the elderly lawyer Porter Milgrim. The reviewer also cited director Mark Solkoff and assistant director Marguerite Price for their work in putting on such a fine and suspenseful performance. As the reviewer noted, “Deathtrap epitomizes the peripatetic technique and invokes the excitement of a rollercoaster ride.”

In Deathtrap, the homicidal character Sidney Bruhl states, “Nothing recedes like success.” This may have been true for that character, but it was most certainly not true for HPC. Up until this point, HPC had what amounted to a seemingly unending stream of successes. Granted some shows were better than others, but none of them were flops, and with the dastardly words of Sidney Bruhl ringing in their ears it would seem as though HPC was due for a failure. In the future, HPC would have their fair share of bad shows, but that would not happen yet. Success would continue with HPC in the Spring of 1987 with their production of the musical How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying.
Although the playbill denotes him strictly as technical director under the heading of production staff, Adam would assist Meg Stave in directing this complicated musical about climbing the corporate ladder. HPC was lucky in that they were able to get the Westinghouse Elevator Company to donate a real elevator plate for the show, adding authenticity to the set and making the stage appear to be a corporate office and not the Commons that everyone was used to. Also, it was during the production of this play that the first real set-building camp occurred, this time on legal grounds. During their Spring Break, Adam and twelve other HPCers stayed in Adam’s apartment in Roosevelt Hall to design and construct the set. The stay in Adam’s cramped apartment would result in flared tempers from the overworked and overtired cast and crew members. During their time in set-building camp Meg, who was an RA by this time, and Adam, the RD, were fighting. Although the two were close friends and equals before, now that Adam was in a position of authority over her, tensions between the two reached a fever pitch. The reality was that the two were not fighting as bitter enemies; rather it was more like sibling rivalry. To the other HPCers in the set-building camp, it did not quite appear this way. Eventually Meg and Adam made up, and though the details of the stay in set-building camp are confidential, Adam himself would remember those days as being more than “…a little kinky.”

One of the problems to be overcome came in the form of costuming. William Kahn, who would help out with the lighting and costuming for the play remembers the problems they had with the “Paris Original” tube dresses. “The costumer found the ribbing that you’d use for cuffs on sweatshirts in the most horrible teal color; it came in a long tube that we cut to the proper length for each of the girls. The ends were scalloped, and then we cut arm holes and
attached purple sequined straps. They were awful and wonderful at the same time. I've got no idea how that scene would have worked without them.

Scott-Robert Shenkman, who was assistant director for the show, remembers another obstacle that had to be overcome during the production. The play called for an extremely large cast of both men and women. Call backs for the play lasted until 1:00 a.m. and the HPC E-Board didn’t finish casting the play until 5:00 a.m. Another problem was that they only had two men for the chorus. They helped alleviate this problem by talking some male RA’s into singing. Overall, the show was very hard to do because it had a number of large, complicated song and dance numbers. In the end it all came out very well in large part due to the tireless efforts of director Meg Stave.

Pipe Dream reviewer Marguerite Price said it best when she wrote in her review of the play, “There may have been a time when the Hinman Production Company could have been considered a bunch of kids putting on a show, but today HPC is much more than that. A company of actors, directors and technicians of varying theatrical ability have one important thing in common: their desire and ability to create good theatre.” The play is the story of a man named J. Pierrepont Finch, played by Steve Files, who navigates the confusing and stressful corporate world with the help of his how-to manual How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. The only major criticism of the play was that the subject matter was somewhat outdated and borderline chauvinist. But that was where the criticism ended and the praise began. Director Meg Stave and Musical Director Steve Semmel were praised for their work in keeping the over three-hour-long musical interesting and upbeat. Steve Files and Robin O’Leary, who played Steve’s character’s love interest Rosemary, were given high praise for their performances, winning over the audience with their musical numbers. It was the large supporting cast and their
larger-than-life personalities which stole the show. Ira Dym was excellent in his presentation of Bud Frump, the back-stabbing nephew of the company president who mastered the comedic timing of his character so well it verged on the hysterical. Also noteworthy was Jane Bertsch, who played Rosemary’s friend Smitty. Her musical number with Files and O’Leary, “Been a Long Day,” provided one of the best musical numbers of the show. Adam Brown and Anthony Zepf would put their theatrical talents to the test by playing multiple roles throughout the entire play. Adam Brown and John Winter were given exceptional honors for their hard work in turning the seemingly limited space in the Commons into what appeared to be a real office complete with a main office, smaller side offices, a bathroom, a hallway and even an elevator. Price would write, “A lot of credit is due HPC for never being limited by small space in which they rehearse, build and perform.”

How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying was a large and complicated play which put to the test the abilities of HPC. By the time it was all over the tired cast and crew settled in for a well deserved summer vacation.

Following the summer hiatus, it was decided that Neil Simon’s California Suite would be the fall play for that semester. This play saw the emergence of a new crop of young and energetic HPCers more than willing to step up into leadership positions. There was intense competition to direct the play. That honor was eventually given to Scott-Robert Shenkman. Distressingly, though, the university theater department almost dragged Adam away from this production. That semester the theater department was staging Jesus Christ Superstar and he had been offered a role in the play. Although he was tempted, Adam, like Jesus Christ before him, turned down the offer made by the devil and decided to put his energies into HPC’s production of California Suite.
The play takes place in rooms 203 and 204 of the Beverly Hills Hotel. This required two separate rooms to be built in the Commons to serve as the two different apartments. Oddly enough, the biggest challenge facing the design aspect of this set was finding enough furniture to make the rooms look like real apartments and not just an empty space on the stage. With nowhere to go to find inexpensive furniture, Adam and his crew moved virtually all of his RD apartment’s furniture into the Commons to be used for the play. For about a whole week Adam had no furniture in his apartment.\textsuperscript{dcccvi}

With the exception of the furniture, there were few other set design and construction problems. Most of the problems surrounding the play centered on rehearsing the mostly inexperienced actors and supporting the novice production crew. In fact, with the exception of Adam, who would play Sidney Nichols, and Anthony Zepf, who would play William Warren, almost all of the other actors in the play were new to HPC. The demanding job of directing the show fell to Scott-Robert Shenkman who did an excellent job of directing the mostly novice actors. This was also the first show which would involve Kim Usas who was one of the stage managers. Kim and Adam would become close and would joke around behind the scenes. One day, she would even chase Adam around the set with a large leftover piece of Styrofoam, a substance which had become a part of HPC almost as much as the Hinman Commons itself. Kim would remain active in HPC for the remainder of her years at SUNY Binghamton, eventually becoming a lawyer working for future New York State Governor George Pataki. Kim added a great deal of energy to the show and made it a happy and fun experience for all involved.\textsuperscript{dcclvii} The play also saw the involvement of not one, not two, but three of the Courtney sisters. Anastasia Courtney would be an assistant director for the show. Stacy Courtney would help with set construction and Stephanie Courtney would also be involved.\textsuperscript{dclxix}
During the scene changes for *California Suite*, the stage crew came onto the stage and changed the scenery in full lighting and acted like the cleaning staff of the hotel. William Kahn would be one of these stage hands and remembers a particular humorous moment at the end of the second act. At the end of that act the “body” of the girl who played the prostitute had to be removed from the stage, her body becoming just another prop. One night, Kahn slipped on a bottle cap and fell to onto the linoleum floor of the Commons. Astoundingly, he never dropped her and she never flinched, staying completely in character the entire time.

Another humorous moment that occurred during the play involved Adam Brown. During one of the scenes of the show, Ellen Houghton, who played Diana Nichols, the wife of Sidney Nichols (played by Adam Brown) is supposed to call her husband who is offstage and he is then supposed to enter after a short time. During this one show, however, when Houghton’s character called for her husband, Adam never showed. In an inadvertent snafu, one of the stage managers had forgotten to tell Adam that his scene was coming up and Adam himself had completely forgotten as well. Houghton’s character was forced to adlib in order to buy time for the crew to find Adam, who was eventually found and in the end the audience barely noticed the slight slipup. Overall the show did very well and sold out every single night of its run.

Although no review for the play exists, a letter was written to Faculty Master Al Haber and Coordinator Rene Coderre by Acting Associate Dean for Administration David Cingranelli. In his letter, Cingranelli wrote:

Dear Al and Rene,

On Saturday, November 14, my wife and I attended the Hinman Production Company’s performance of *California Suite*. We were impressed by both the professionalism of that performance and the civility of the predominantly student audience. Although I saw you about fifteen yards away, Al, I didn’t come over to say hello, because I wasn’t nimble enough to leave my seat.
Please convey my congratulations to the Hinman Production Company and to the other students in Hinman College.

It was obvious from this letter that HPC was attracting the attention of higher administration types, and for all the right reasons. *California Suite*, while perhaps not as flashy or as elaborate as other plays that HPC had done, was a proven success. It offered novice actors and crew members the chance to hone their skills and begin their development into the future leaders of the community-based theater organization.

The Spring of 1988 saw HPC bring the demanding musical *Cabaret* to Hinman. The play would be directed by Mark Solkoff, who at this time was a second year graduate student living in the graduate dorms or “College in the Parking Lot” as it was un-affectionately called. The dedicated HPCers had their work cut out for them, but were able to turn the Commons into the Kit Kat Klub, the flashy and licentious Berlin nightclub where most of the play is set. The play would be a first for Adam, who wound up dressing in drag in order to play the part of one of the women who sings a number with the club’s emcee.

After nearly two long months of seemingly unending rehearsals the play finally hit the stage. Following the opening night of the performance, one reviewer stated, “I’ve tried and tried, but I just can’t make myself say it… I can’t make myself say that Hinman Production Company’s opening night of the musical *Cabaret* was good. I can’t say it because it wasn’t good; it was fantastic!” The most entertaining performance of the night had to go to William B. Kahn, the actor cast in the role of the club’s emcee, winning the admiration of the audience from the very beginning with the opening number “Wilkomen.” “Solkoff could not have found a better person for the role of Emcee than Kahn. He didn’t just play the part on the stage; he brought it to life. Kahn was witty, charming, dazzling, and sometimes almost scary, but only because of the messages his words sent across to us.” Kahn’s performance was so good that a girl who
lived in his dorm couldn’t come near him for weeks because his performance had scared her so much.  

The show would also star veteran actor John Winter as Clifford Bradshaw, an American writer who comes to Berlin to write his first novel. Also starring in the play would be another HPC veteran, Anthony Zepf, who would play Ernst Ludwig, a German businessman who is returning home from a trip to Paris. Bradshaw eventually finds a room in Fraulein Schneider’s (Jordana Lee Slomovitz) boarding house. Cathie Lucas, another experienced HPCer, played Sally Bowles, a lonely English showgirl who works at the Kit Kat Klub and eventually she and Bradshaw begin falling in love.

The play’s musical numbers were large and elaborate with heavily choreographed movements that the actors seemed to pull off flawlessly. Slomovitz gave a fine performance and conveyed a unique tenderness not usually seen in the strictly-business persona of Fraulein Schneider. Cathie Lucas was also praised for her efforts as the naïve showgirl Sally Bowles. “She had a provocative air about her that made it simple to see why the young sailor’s [sic] hearts always went pitter-patter whenever she was near.” The Kit Kat girls, played by Deborah S. Bulman, Nicole E. Corron, Courtney E. Farber, Jennifer L. Hiller, and Robin O’Leary were full of energy and always entertaining. HPC veteran Ira Dym would play the delightful role of an old Jewish man who ran a fruit store. Both John Winter and Ano thy Zepf brought to the forefront the ideological struggle between these two main characters, who initially started off as friends. The moral climax of the play was reached when Bradshaw and Ludwig confront one another on their differing belief systems. Adding to the moral message that the play offered, the play was debuted on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The play is set in the 1930’s just before Hitler and the Nazi Party’s rise to power. That coupled with the
play’s debut date was intended to send a strong message to the audience about the power of hate and the need for society to be vigilant against prejudicial groups.

Solkoff would praise his hard-working cast. All of the cast and crew members took times out of their busy and demanding schedules to work on the production. All of them had exams to take, classes to attend, and papers to write, and the fact that they could do all these necessary student functions and still put on a fine performance was nothing short of spectacular. *Cabaret* was a physically and emotionally intense performance, but the dedicated cast and crew of HPC pulled it off flawlessly.

The following academic year would bring Arthur Miller’s famous play *The Crucible* to the Hinman Commons. *The Crucible* takes place in Massachusetts in the year 1692 and centers around the now infamous Salem witch trials. This would be Adam’s penultimate semester, and he along with the rest of HPC wanted the play to look as real as possible and spent a lot of money to accomplish this goal. In an effort to make the set look like the rustic late 17th Century Puritan dwellings, the crew of HPC used a combination of real wood and Styrofoam to make the sets look as authentic as they possibly could. The technical crew installed wooden panels on the flats to add to the realism. It took what seemed like an eternity to stain all of the wood and Styrofoam, but the end result was worth it. The Commons had been transformed into a Puritan dwelling and added much-needed ambiance and atmosphere to the play. The play itself is full of somber and tragic moments, but a real-life tragedy occurred when actor Brian Polhill, who played John Proctor in the play, informed the cast that his father was one of many Americans who had been taken hostage in Lebanon, which at the time was going through a bloody and violent civil war. During the entire run of the show, every cast and crew member would wear a bracelet in a show of solidarity with their fellow HPCer.
Perhaps the only positive thing to come out of the all too real tragedy playing out before HPC’s eyes was that the dark and somber overtones hanging over the play made their way into the actors’ performances and made the play, which was supposed to be dark and foreboding, even more so than it otherwise would have been. The cast was made up of a mixture of battle-hardened HPC veterans and newcomers, some of whom had never been involved in theater before. The opening night sold out the 110 person audience almost immediately. “Stirred by the brew of synthesizer sounds mixed by music composer Steve Semmel, the inescapable and foreboding sense of the opening sequence made way for convincing instances of drama-upon the part of every player-that followed.” From the very beginning of the play, the darkness and the sense of impending doom was easily conveyed by the actors. From the opening scene with four young girls in the woods dancing around an iron kettle filled with lentils, beans and chicken blood, to the dramatic climax of the courtroom scenes and subsequent executions of the supposed witches, the play offered a dark look into the experience of religious fanaticism and mass hysteria. The sets of the film were praised for their detail and workmanship including little details probably passed over my most viewers. The number four made consistent appearances throughout the play. There were four acts in the play, four entrances and exits, four steps that led to the stage’s second level, four chairs around the kitchen table, a four-post bed, and a four-paned window. The attention to detail on the set was surpassed only by the outstanding abilities of the company’s actors.

As awesome as the sets were, the real praise for the evening was saved for the fine dramatic performances done by the actors and actresses of HPC. Sophomore Michael Klein did an excellent job portraying Reverend Samuel Parris, the distraught father of the supposedly demonically possessed Betty Parris, played by Jill Zavlick. Freshman Jennifer Fahys would play
Abigail Williams, the handmaid to the John and Elizabeth Procter, played by Brian Polhill and Stephanie Courtney respectively. The source of much of the play’s drama would unfold as a guilt-ridden John Procter confesses to his wife that he has had an adulterous affair with Abigail. In an effort to keep John all to herself, Abigail plots to incriminate Elizabeth as a sorceress and an agent of Satan himself. Fahys would expertly portray the character of the spiteful Abigail, who leads a cohort of vicious young women claiming to be enchanted by the work of Elizabeth and other townspeople whom they claim to be in league with the Devil. Robert Flynn, although an old hand at theater, was a newcomer to HPC and put out an exceptional performance as Deputy-Governor Danforth, a satanic figure who condemns the wrongly accused townspeople like John Procter to death for the crime of witchcraft. Also exceptional in the play was practiced HPC diehard William Kahn, who played Reverend John Hale, the foil to the Flynn’s evil character. “Twists and maneuvers of rhetoric featured nearly every line of dialogue, especially—and unsurprisingly-those exchanges which transpired in court, making this production an intriguing and thought-challenging drama.”

The emotional climax was realized when the innocent townspeople, including John Procter, played magnificently by Brian Polhill, were hanged for their supposed crimes.

*The Crucible* was a test of virtually every player in HPC. This was most especially true for Brian Polhill, who was unquestionably going through more emotional turmoil than any other HPCer. Still, he was able to devote himself to his performance and pulled off a remarkable achievement. Also, true to HPC form, the experience of the members of HPC ran the gamut of tried and tested veterans all the way down to inexperienced novices. The play included freshman and graduate students and every level in between. That test of cooperating together with people from different backgrounds and skill levels was accomplished and showed that HPC was in good
hands with a new generation of eager performers and technicians ready to take the reins of the now legendary Hinman institution. This play was the beginning of what would be a melancholy moment for Adam Brown, who played Giles Corey in the play. There were many new faces in HPC that year. Old timers like Meg Stave, who had followed in Adam’s footsteps and became an RD in Dickinson Community, and Mark Solkoff, a graduate student in history and education who, like Adam, was nearing the end of his graduate coursework, were beginning to either graduate or move on. Adam and the rest of the old guard realized that it was approaching the time for a new generation of HPCers to take over the organization that he loved so dearly.

Newer additions to HPC like Mary Saravia, who was an assistant director of The Crucible, and Kim Usas, who was the Stage Manager, would be charged with continuing the tradition and legacy of the little theater that could.

It was at this time that Adam himself realized that the Spring of 1989 would be his final semester as a student at SUNY Binghamton, his final semester as an RD in Hinman, and his final semester as the charismatic leader of HPC. The Crucible was Adam’s penultimate play with HPC, and he along with the rest of the cast and crew knew that the last show that their beloved leader would have with them had to be bigger and better than any other show they had ever done before. It had to have larger and more intricately designed sets, more musical numbers, and more time invested in it than even the overwhelming time commitment made to Grease, their greatest and most intense show to date. The play that would be all these things, plus bring Adam and his dedicated crew of players full circle in their HPC experience, would be the beloved musical Fiddler on the Roof.

The spring of 1989 saw the now highly professional and dedicated cast and crew of HPC work tirelessly around the clock in order to make Fiddler on the Roof a success. The
technical crew pulled out all the stops and used every trick of the trade that Adam had taught them to make the Hinman Commons look like the eastern European town of Anatevka, the primary setting of the play. Blatantly ignoring all the rules laid down to them by Coordinator Rene Coderre, the crew drilled and re-drilled holes in the walls, suspended curtains well above where they should have, wired the lighting system to the point where it nearly shorted out, cut and drilled wood to create the flats, and molded and stained tons of Styrofoam in order to add much needed realism and authenticity to the play. Reusing some of the same set pieces that they had used for *The Crucible*, the crew’s labors made for glorious results. Upon entering the Hinman Commons, one would think that they had been transported out of 1980’s America and into a pre-revolutionary Russian village.  

Just as in *The Crucible* before it, *Fiddler on the Roof* saw numerous levels of involvement from inexperienced freshmen all the way up to graduate students and everyone in-between. Mary Saravia would direct the play, assisted by Kim Usas. Graduating senior Jordana Lee Slomovitz would play the role of Golde, Tevye’s wife. Graduate student Jill Zavlick, another soon to be graduate, would play Chava. Scott-Robert Shenkman, yet another graduating member of HPC, would play the Rabbi. This play would also be the last show for HPC veterans like Mark Solkoff, who along with supervising the crew and being the point person for lighting in virtually every HPC play since he enrolled at SUNY Binghamton, would play the role of the butcher, Lazar Wolf, and Susan Kabat who would play the part of Fruma Sarah. The most important and coveted role of all, that of the main protagonist, the dairyman Tevye, would of course go to Adam Brown.  

This was a special moment for Adam. It would be his final production with HPC and his final semester in Hinman. Moreover, when Adam was a freshman, he had a part in the theater department’s main stage production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and this
was now his chance to play the beloved character Tevye. As the debut of the show neared, the cast and crew of HPC anticipated not only another glamorous and successful show, but also an emotional finale for perhaps the one man who had influenced and guided HPC through what can only be described as its most formative years.

That final show on which so many members of HPC had pinned their hopes almost didn’t happen. Shortly after the show was set to debut, a measles outbreak occurred on campus. Apparently, an off-campus student had contracted measles while he was vacationing in Florida and had returned to campus infected with the deadly virus. As a result, the administration cancelled all extracurricular campus events, excluding classes, for a two-week period in an effort to contain the outbreak. Although the biggest outcry against this cancellation was by the Physical Education Department and the university’s athletic teams, this cessation of events would force HPC to cancel their show as well. For the men and women of HPC, too much was riding on this show to cancel it now. The cast and crew rushed out to get their vaccinations, and in staying true to the show business mantra “the show must go on,” on their production went, albeit to a smaller than usual crowd and for a significantly shorter run.

Measles might not have been able to stop HPC, but Adam Brown’s lack of facial hair almost did. Wishing to get into the character of Tevye as much as possible, Adam decided that he would grow a beard to look the part. It took Adam approximately five months to grow a beard adequate enough to satisfy him, and it grew in just in the nick of time for the debut of the show. As the show’s debut approached, Adam Brown, the father of HPC for seven long years, entered the Hinman Commons to face his last audience and take his final bow.

Despite all the ensuing chaos surrounding them due to the measles outbreak, *Fiddler on the Roof* proved to be a success. Although all aspects of the play were highly praised, the most
accolades were given of course to Adam Brown and his portrayal of the struggling milk man, Tevye. One reviewer would state unequivocally, “Playing the part of Tevye with the sadness and determination this complex character expresses, Roosevelt Hall’s Resident Director Adam Brown stood up [sic] well to the natural comparison one would make to Zero Mostel, the man who made the part famous.”

From the opening scene, where when the entrance of Tevye is accompanied by the music of the fiddler, played by Fran Hoffman, the audience was pulled into this lost world of traditional Jewish life in a culture under attack by outside forces and changes from within. The opening rendition of the play’s most famous musical number, “Tradition,” set the stage and tone for the rest of the play.

The major plot involving Tevye’s desire to marry off his three daughters to spouses that he chooses for them in a traditional arranged marriage is not well received by his three daughters who appeal to Yente, the village’s matchmaker, played wonderfully by Evelyn R. Behrend, and they sing their rendition of the classic tune “Matchmaker.” Lisa Itkin played Tzeitel, Tevye’s oldest daughter, who is able to persuade her father to break with tradition and allow her to marry her love Motel, the tailor, played by Howard Goldberg. This leads into another classic Fiddler on the Roof tune, “Miracle of Miracles,” which Goldberg sang fabulously. Tevye is completely distressed by the gross break in tradition when another one of his daughters, Hodel, played by Barri Sperber, arranges her own marriage to Perchik, the student, played by Gary S. Gordon. Tevye’s final defeat, though, comes when his remaining daughter, Chava, falls in love with a Cossack. “He [Tevye] turns his back on Chava, played well by Jill Zavlick, and mournfully tries to forget her, making for one of the more poignant scenes of the play.”

The nearly three-hour play kept the audience in rapt attention with its beautifully designed sets and excellent use of the small space that the Hinman Commons offered. The cast
and audience alike seemed to draw upon the nearly indefatigable vigor and spirit of Adam Brown, who belted out his rendition of “If I Was a Rich Man” with such enthusiasm it became more contagious than the measles and infected the audience and cast alike with a seemingly unending amount of energy. This was shown in the wonderfully harmonic “Sabbath Prayer” done by the entire company. “This kind of quality acting is again seen as Tevye mourns the loss of his daughter to a forbidden marriage. “Chavelah,” the reflective song about the little girl he once knew, struck a particular note of pathos that was only strengthened when his tearful daughter joined him on stage to beg for his blessing.” Jason Goldblatt in his role as the innkeeper Mordacha was also praised for his role, especially in the musical number “To Life,” where he performs a traditional Russian folkdance with ease and perfection. Fran Hoffman was also praised for her small yet important role of the fiddler. “Her haunting music accompanied many of the important scenes and often lent the necessary air of sadness or joy.”

The play was not without its criticisms of course. The high ceilings of the Commons played havoc with the acoustics of the room and cheapened some of the otherwise beautifully and thoroughly well rehearsed musical numbers. However, director Mary Saravia was praised for her exceptional job in blocking the scenes and making a good usage of the tight and near claustrophobic space of the Commons. Sue Iannone, the musical director of the play, was also congratulated for her exceptional work with the orchestra. Despite a few technical flaws that could not have been corrected anyway, HPC’s production of this time-honored play accomplished its goals and made what on the surface appeared to be a play solely about Jewish culture in eastern Europe before the dual agonies of the Russian Revolution and the Holocaust into a story that transcended these bounds and became a tale of a universal human experience.
The final emotional scene of the play, where all the inhabitants of Anatevka are forced to leave their village and their homes, not only sums up the message in the play itself, but also the experience of HPC. “The play comes to an end as the villagers are forced out of the town they love. The company joins hands for the final song, “Anatevka” and then all go their separate ways. As the final statement, Golde…declares that she must sweep the floor one last time because she ‘can’t leave a dirty house.’ They all embrace and generations of memories are left behind as they turn to leave. The Fiddler bids them farewell.”

The Fiddler in the play may have been bidding the inhabitants of the Anatevka farewell, but in the world of Hinman community-based theater, it was Adam Brown who was bidding HPC farewell. Just as Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof was the father figure, Adam for seven long years had been the father figure to the men and women of HPC. As the final curtain fell and the crowd applauded, Adam took his last tear-filled bow, saying goodbye to the community and the stage that he loved so much. Everyone who was involved in HPC could not contain themselves. Each and every cast and crew member had tears in their eyes as Adam bid his final farewell. Looking back on that time Adam would reminisce, “It was a great way to go out. The play was about family, and that’s what we were…we were all family.” From Mark Solkoff to Meg Stave to everyone in-between that was part of that HPC family, the experience of HPC and the memories of their time in it would last a lifetime. Some may have been prodigal sons and daughters, and fighting and bickering between them did occur, as it does in every family, but the ties that bound them were indestructible. What had started off as a loose association developed into friendship which in turn evolved into a family full of warmth, camaraderie and love. Even though none of them were related by blood, they had all become family united under the banner of community-based theater.
Adam Brown had come full circle since he first entered Hinman College and ultimately HPC. Once an insecure freshman playing a role in *Our Town*, Adam had taken the reins of leadership and overcome seemingly insurmountable odds in *Grease*, to his last curtain call in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Adam had lived, breathed, and exuded HPC and the spirit of Hinman. He had been the first real president of HPC, taking what was a benevolent dictatorship under Patrick Misciagna and turning it into all-inclusive democracy complete with a constitution. Adam Brown was Mr. HPC in every way possible during his seven years in Hinman, and now, like Tevye, he was leaving home.

The story of HPC is not the story of one man or one woman. It is the story of a group of dedicated souls who commit themselves, as Adam so aptly put it while writing the HPC constitution, to “Fun, Friendship, and the Love of Theatre.” HPC then, as it is now, is truly the story of a team effort, of a completely student-run community-based theater operation overcoming numerous obstacles each and every semester. However, certain individuals stand out in the story of HPC. Stan Goldberg, the creator of HLT and ultimately the godfather of HPC, is one such example, as was his right-hand man, Steve Young. Patrick Misciagna, the creator of HPC, who single handedly took a dying organization and breathed new life into it also deserves mention for that and for leading it through a gauntlet of obstacles that nearly killed the fledgling organization. It is Adam Brown, though, who deserves the most mention. Of all the people in HPC who came before and since, it was he who took what to the outside observer appeared to be a ragtag group of students putting on renegade theater and made them into a professional organization that staged quality productions no matter what stood in their way. Adam led HPC through its formative middle years and created a formula that allowed each successive generation of HPC to excel not only on the stage of the Hinman Commons, or even within the greater
Hinman College experience, but in life itself. Each and every generation of HPCer that has come after has been, even if for a short time, imbued with the same energy, enthusiasm, and spirit that Adam and his contemporaries brought to HPC in the 1980’s. The relationships that Adam forged within HPC would last a lifetime, as would the legacy that he left behind. To that, every successive generation of HPC owes a debt of gratitude to Adam Brown and all the rest who brought HPC to where it is today, making it a monument not only to the possibilities of what can be accomplished through hard-work, dedication and perseverance, but as a living legacy to the Hinman spirit.

Part III: HPC in the 1990’s

Even though there was still one more semester left in the 1980’s decade, for the purposes of this chapter, the decade was over. The 1980’s was the decade of Patrick Misciagna and Adam Brown. Both of those individuals were gone and the responsibilities of carrying HPC into a new decade fell to a new generation of thespians. A few individuals carried over from the previous guard including Kim Usas, who was now President of HPC.

Early on in the semester, Pipe Dream did a spread on HPC and its rich and varied history. Here, Usas and others involved with HPC reiterated their stance as being unaffiliated with the theater department and offering roles to students who would otherwise not be able to act while in college. Usas also stated her hope that more students, particularly Hinman students would get involved with the organization. Although in many ways nothing new about HPC can be gleaned from this article, its importance can be summed up succinctly. HPC was all about fun, friendship, and the love of theater. Although this mantra had be beat into the skulls of every HPCers since the early days of Adam Brown’s leadership in the company, it did not hurt to
have it be repeated. As would soon be seen, the lessons learned in the long 1980’s would have to be relearned in the even longer 1990’s.

Unfortunately, there is no oral history available for much of the 1990’s and many of the behind-the-scenes escapades which are so important to the understanding of HPC are lost. Only if alumni of that organization come forward will the full story of the organization be known. Luckily, there are written reviews of just about every HPC play produced in the 1990’s, so at the very least that vital bit of information is available to the general public.

The play to be produced for the Fall of 1989 was Neil Simon’s *Fools*. This would be the first play that HPC would produce without the guidance and support of Adam Brown. However, the men and women of HPC were up to the challenge. Veteran HPCer William Kahn was set to direct *Fools*. The story of *Fools* centers around a remote Russian village of Kulyenchikov. Unlike *Fiddler on the Roof*, which contained many memorable and beloved characters (like Tevye), *Fools* is a tale populated with characters who are nothing short of complete idiots. The story is that about two hundred years earlier a scorned father cursed the village and so now everyone who lives there is to be hopelessly ignorant. Mitch Hoffman plays Leon Tolchinsky, the schoolmaster who is determined to educate the residents of the town. The basic premise of the plot is that Hoffman’s character goes from person to person and hopelessly tries to enlighten the villagers. Barri Sperber played Snetsky, the shepherd who is constantly losing her sheep, and the ditsy Dr. Zubritsky and his wife Lenya Zubritsky was played by J. Scott Sanpietro and Sharon Elyse Getlen respectively. Tolchinsky is just about to give up when he meets Dr. Zubritsky’s beautiful daughter Sophia, who has just mastered the art of sitting down. Another honorable mention should be the evil Count Gregor Youskovitch, played by David Rossmann, who is responsible for the town’s curse.
The reviews for this play were mixed. Director William Kahn was praised for his abilities directing what amounted to verbal slapstick humor. However, that was where the praise ended and the criticism began. The actors were criticized for being “stiff” and “lacking enthusiasm” in the first half of the play. Most of the criticism was leveled at writer Neil Simon for writing what is considered a very sub-par play. The best way to summarize the review is this: “Hinman Production Company’s presentation of Neil Simon’s *Fools*, was neither funny nor did it exhibit many of the imaginative qualities that mark a good fairytale. The directing and acting can not be faulted, the play was simply a poor choice.”

The Spring semester saw the cast and crew of HPC bounce back with a hit. This time it was the drama *Talk Radio*. This play is a dark and depressive drama set entirely in Studio B of the radio station WTLK of Cleveland, Ohio. Martin Anderson played Barry Champlain, the main focus of the story. Champlain is the caustic host of a talk radio show. During his show, Champlain takes various callers, who offer up their opinions on everything from nuclear power plants to *I Love Lucy*. Champlain’s character is stubborn and opinionated and filled with biting sarcasm. He has on problem hanging up on callers he tires of and berates those whose opinions he thinks are wrong. His audience adores him for this and his ratings continue to climb. Anderson was highly praised for his role as Champlain, easily blending both the dark portions of his character’s soul with the more comedic portions. On the outside, Champlain’s character appears to be the cocky host of a popular radio show, but deep down he is a very sad individual who has addictions to both cigarettes and alcohol. Also praised for their roles in the play were Martin Krain, who played Kent, a character who is obsessed with meeting Champlain, whom he considers his idol. Daniel R. Barkley was also praised for his role of Dan Woodruff, Champlain’s manipulative boss. The many minor characters were also given accolades,
especially the cast members who simply acted as callers for the show. The many callers were all unique with differing accents and provided a great deal of believability to the play. The set design for *Talk Radio* was also praised. Although perhaps not as elaborate as other earlier HPC shows, the set for *Talk Radio* still conveyed the realism of a radio station complete with computers, coffee tables and even an “On Air” sign. Overall, *Talk Radio* was highly praised for both its production aspects and its acting. The only criticism was that it was not publicized as well as *Fools* was, and that this play was the obvious superior of the two. HPC ended the 1989-1990 academic year with both a miss and a hit. So far, the mostly novice cast and crew of HPC was living up the high standards set for them by the heroes of its storied past.

In the Fall of 1990 it was decided that the play for that semester would be *Nuts*. The three-act play centers around Claudia Faith Draper (played by Kimberly Green), an innocent all American girl who by great misfortune winds up working as a prostitute in uptown Manhattan. The action in the play begins when Claudia is accused of murdering one of her clients. Claudia is deemed unfit to stand trial and is sent to the psychiatric wing of Bellevue Hospital for observation and treatment. The main action of the play is her fight to gain a fair trial. The set design was very realistic and the absence of a raised stage made it feel like one was watching actual courtroom proceedings. The standout performance of the show was by Marc “Duke” Harber, who played Dr. Herbert Rosenthal, the psychiatrist who believes that Claudia should remain in his care at the hospital, even though he acts as though he is afraid of her. Harber’s character offered some moments of comic relief in the otherwise dark play. “…Rosenthal was humorous because he made the audience believe that he took every word seriously.” Kimberly Green’s portrayal of Claudia Faith Draper also was exceptional. Her excellent acting
abilities made the audience wonder if Draper was innocent or really insane. Overall, it was a successful and popular play for HPC.

In the Spring of 1991, the dedicated group of HPCers decided to take a risk and put on the play *Into The Woods*. This ambitious musical would try the mostly untested HPCers. *Into The Woods* would also be the first musical that the group would perform since *Fiddler on the Roof*. The major story of the play centers around the Baker and his wife played by Michael Giommetti and Elizabeth Saunders respectively. These two characters are unable to conceive a child because the wicked witch (played by Heater Kayson) has put a spell on them. They go into the woods in order to gather the ingredients for an elixir so that their wish for a child will come true. Along the way they come across numerous fairy tale characters such as Jack of Jack and the Beanstalk fame (played by Nicholas M.S. Potenzieri), Cinderella (played by Sarah Unell), Little Red Riding Hood (played by Jennifer L. Weston), Rapunzel (Tammy Schottler), Snow White (Caryn Schecter) and Sleeping Beauty (Susan Iannone) among many others. The play was praised for its fine acting and for its nice use of sets. The crew actually went into the Binghamton University Nature Preserve to find tree branches to make the Hinman Commons seem more like the forest that the characters inhabit. The crew used only dead branches and assured the audience that no live trees were harmed in the making of this particular production. Overall the play was well received and got good reviews.

In the Fall of 1991, HPC decided once again to take a risk. This time they put into production a very dark and serious play called *The Diviners*. The story takes place in the small, rural Indiana town of Zion, Indiana at the start of the Great Depression. Its focus is the introduction of a former preacher who comes into town, which is struggling through a drought, and befriends a teenage boy who is afraid of water but who nonetheless can predict the
The subject matter of *The Diviners* was very serious and many in HPC believed that the play would tank. Like the earlier production of *Our Town*, this play dealt with serious and sometimes dark subject matter that many HPCers thought would drive away a usually youthful and optimistic college crowd. Celia O’Donnell, who would play Jennie Mae Layman, told one *Pipe Dream* reporter, “‘It is a mature step for HPC to tackle a mature drama,’” and fellow HPCer Ann Beirne added, “‘It’s a play for an audience who is open for it. It’s not a feel good show, but it will make people think.’” As opening night approached, many in HPC believed the show would tank. Even though they had put in long hours of hard work to make the play good, most believed that it simply would not appeal to a college audience.

HPC’s production of *The Diviners* was, to avoid the pun, heavenly. Michael Knopf did an excellent job in his portrayal of Buddy Layman, the emotional disturbed boy, as was Brett Krichiver, who played C.C. Showers, the ex-preacher from Kentucky who comes to town and befriends Buddy. Accolades were bestowed on Celia O’Donnell for her wonderful portrayal of Jennie Mae, Buddy’s loving and sensitive older sister. The most praise was handed out to the play’s director, R.J. Tolan and Assistant Director Erin Rodat. “They did a great job with a play that is of this serious a nature. It was their vision that enabled the conversion of a dry script into a believable drama that college students would enjoy.”

Even though, in the words of Director R.J. Tolan, the subject matter of the play was something that you’d see your parents rent from a video store, the opening night was nearly sold out and the following Saturday night performance was completely sold out. Once again, HPC had accomplished the impossible. They had taken a play which no one thought could entertain college students and not only made it accessible to them, but also made them think about the content of the very serious play.
Riding high of their success with *The Diviners*, HPC decided to stage two plays the following semester. The first play would be a straight show called *Betrayal*. *Betrayal* centered around the lives of three characters, Jerry, played by Chris Nacinovich, and the husband and wife Robert and Emma, played by Rick Brody and Denise Duclaux respectively. Joel Simon plays a minor character as a nameless waiter/barman and offers moments of comic relief throughout the play. The play spans nine years and deals with the affair that Emma and Jerry carry on behind Robert’s back. Unlike *The Diviners*, whose philosophically deep subject matter turned off many college-aged students, *Betrayal* was ripe with lies, sex, deceit and infidelity.

Alice Brod was a member of HPC during the production of *Betrayal*. Brod and the others members of HPC stayed late on many nights to finish constructing the sets for the play. One night, the crew decided to take a break from the set construction to see a movie sponsored by the SA in Lecture Hall 1. The movie that evening was called *Dead Again*, a thriller involving scissors. After watching the movie, the dedicated crew returned to the laborious task of building the set. However, for the rest of the night they would sneak up on one another and “threaten” each other with scissors. This bit of comic relief helped make the hard and often dull work of building the set easier and more enjoyable for all.

The play was well received, with Rick Brody accumulating most of the praise for his wry and often comic delivery of his lines. Nacinovich was also applauded for his performance as Jerry, Robert’s best friend and the person whom his wife is having an affair with. He was criticized somewhat for his performance. Where Robert is supposed to be very stoic and dispassionate, Jerry is supposed to be more emotional and active. Unfortunately, this did not come across very well in his performance. In fact, many times there seemed to be little difference between the two male lead characters, which would call into question why Emma
would have an affair with someone exactly like her husband. Much of the negative criticism of the play, however, was leveled at Duclaux for her performance of Emma. In the words of one reviewer, “Duclaux was unconvincing as a woman searching for happiness outside her marriage. She gave little or no indication as to what made Emma ‘tick.’” Despite its flaws, Betrayal was an accomplishment for HPC. Sadly, the success would be short lived. What would happen next during that very same semester would not only tarnish HPC’s reputation, but bring the once mighty community-theater based organization to its knees.

After Betrayal, HPC decided to stage the musical Hair. The plot of Hair takes place in the 1960’s and centers around a group of young hippies called The Tribe. The Tribe decides to abandon their parent’s conservative ways and take on the more liberal and free spirited attitude shared by the various counter culture movements of that era. Besides a soundtrack featuring many 1960’s rock ‘n roll staples, the play also tackles many controversial issues of that era such as the war in Vietnam, Civil Rights, free love and recreational drug use. That last theme almost got HPC into hot water. During one of the play’s dress rehearsals, a tour group stopped by outside the Hinman Commons. As the tour guide was speaking about Hinman College, a mischievous group of cast members, in full 1960’s hippie dress, decided to go outside and pretend to smoke some of the fake joints that they used in the play. Both the tour guide and the parents alike stood wild-eyed as these “hippies” openly smoked what they thought was marijuana right in front of them.

Although the 1960’s had been over for well over two decades, some of the issues that are brought up in the play continue to be controversial. Cast member Giovanni Mastracchio said, “I don’t [know] if it will shock the audience but I didn’t invite my parents to see it.”
Similarly, Director Brian Crotty called the play, “an unpredictable visual spectacle combined
with great singing and great drama.”

There was much anticipation for the play as students from across campus crammed into
the Hinman Commons to view the controversial play. The play itself was of top quality and the
audience, made up of mostly college students, did not take offense at the liberal and suggestive
subject matter. All was going well and everyone was having a good time reveling in the
nostalgia of the 1960’s. That is, until an American flag was burned on stage. Although flag
burning was a common practice during the anti-war movement and other protest movements
during the 1960’s, many students took the view that flag burning had no place on campus in the
1990’s.

Following one of the shows, an editorial written by Larry Wissink was printed in the
campus newspaper, Pipe Dream, condemning the play and all of HPC for putting on an anti-
American production.

This last Saturday, I saw Hinman Production Company’s brilliant production of the
musical “Hair.” Every aspect of the production, from the costumes to the music
brought to life the generation of free love in 1968. Every aspect, that is, except one.

Towards the end of the first act, three of the characters sing a flippant song about
patriotism, while holding an American flag upside down. The irreverence of the song
made it mildly amusing. What they did next was neither amusing nor appropriate.
From somewhere inside their costumes they pulled out three small flags, and
proceeded to burn them for all to see.

I sat there stunned in disbelief. I rose to leave in protest, but decided against it because
several of my friends are involved in the production. Unfortunately, for me, the
performance was ruined. In that single act, I had lost all sympathy for the characters.
The burning of the flag was an act of violence and hatred in direct opposition to the
musical’s theme of universal love.

Truly, much of the material of the musical is meant to be shocking and offensive.
However, a distinction can be made between the offensiveness and raunchy sexual
behavior, and the offensiveness of an act of hatred.
The former may or may not be shocking but the offense is not directed toward anyone. Outrageous sexual acts are a form of perverted love, but are still acts of love. As such they are far above any act of hate.

The latter, includes such things as slander, racial or religious slurs, and all expressions of contempt and malice. Burning the Stars and Stripes was an expression of contempt and malice which I felt very dearly, since I hold the flag as a symbol of our nation. It was offensive to me as if they put a crucifix in a jar of urine. Any reasonable person will agree that acts of hatred are not appropriate for our theater companies.

If overall, the musical had somehow disapproved of the flag burning, I might have been mollified. Then it could have been compared to a bigot who is added to a novel to be ridiculed for others as a form of social satire.

But that was not the case in this musical, which clearly approved of the flag burning. Such acts of hate, whether they are national, ethnic, or religious should not be supported by our community theaters.

Because of this, I contend that the musical would not be harmed by the elimination of this singular act. Indeed, it would be greatly improved, since as I said earlier, the burning of the flag was contrary to the overall theme of universal love, which is so appealing to many of us. I suggest that in future productions of “Hair” by HPC or any other community, the flag burning be left out.

Finally, since there are indeed actors portraying given roles, I find no fault in them in following their instructions. Although it certainly would have been admirable if they had refused on moral grounds, whether personal or for the sake of more sensitive people, such as myself. But the director and producer are responsible for the material of the performance and should reconsider whether this act was appropriate.

Lastly, in the words of Margaret Mead, “Kids, be free…do whatever you want to as long as you don’t hurt anybody.” Unfortunately, flag burning is a form of hatred that hurts as much as any ethnic, racial or religious hatred.

Wissink was not alone. Many on campus felt that there was no place for flag burning in this era, where patriotism was more fashionable than it was in the counter-culture movements of the 1960’s.

Not all agreed with this stance. In a later issue of Pipe Dream, a number of people rushed to HPC’s aide and offered this perspective on the flag burning issue.

The Hinman Production Company’s production of “Hair” has spread a great deal of controversy, the focus of which is a song that included the burning of American flags.
A perspective by Larry Wissink (printed in the April 10 issue of Pipe Dream) seemed to represent the opinion of many, judging by the lack of audience response following the song.

I feel compelled to respond to this article not so much as the assistant producer though Mr. Wissink holds the director and producer “responsible for the material of the performance” but as an average viewer of the play, which is the point of view I am taking—especially since the producer does not have a say in what is presented on stage.

It appears Mr. Wissink has misinterpreted part of the play. He refers to the song of American flags as “an act of violence and hatred [which is] in direct opposition to the musical’s principle of universal love.”

It is hard to believe that in a society where rape, murder and other violent crimes are not even news anymore, there is such a tremendous outcry against the burning of a flag. Although it is a symbol of the nation, let’s keep in mind the flag is a piece of cloth. Burning it, as opposed to killing, doesn’t actually harm anyone. It is difficult to see how it can be compared to an act of violence. Burning the flag is simply an act of protest against the policies and actions of the government. There is no connection between that and violence. As a matter of fact, the significance is just the opposite.

The focuses of the play was on the Vietnam War. The U.S. government had thousands of young men fight for a cause many Americans didn’t believe in. They sent them there, as George Berger, (one of the play’s characters) puts it, to “rape, loot and murder”—as well as to die.

Then there’s the violence: over 50,000 Americans dead. Doesn’t that bother anyone. Well it certainly bothered some people who burned flags to demonstrate this. I believe their actions were completely certified. If we view the “Stars and Stripes” as a symbol of our nation, specifically a government and its policies, one which seems to completely disregard human life?

One of the most chilling lines of the play is delivered by a typical father of the 60’s. In addressing the protesting hippies he said, “In two months my son is gong to be in Vietnam and be killed…and I’m proud of him.” Doesn’t that offend anyone? How can so many people be outraged by the burning of a piece of cloth yet not be affected by the deaths of thousands of innocent people, both American servicemen and Vietnamese civilians?

Don’t get me wrong. America has some very special and unique qualities, but it is quite far from the beautiful land of equality and opportunity that many people make it out to be. We are certainly not “one nation…indivisible with liberty and justice for all.” There are a lot of things wrong with our nation and society as a whole. Everyone is not given the same opportunity and treated with the equality that the flag is supposed to symbolize. And our government, you know the one which is of the people, by the
people, and for the people, often uses its power to satisfy its own desire, disregarding those of the people they are, or at least should be, serving.

It is here where we see another principle, if not main theme of the show. It is every citizen’s role in society to stand up for what they believe in and, if government assumes too much power, they should make their voice heard, and attempt to change what they perceive to be wrong. Burning the flag furthered this theme and was in one way in opposition of the theme peace and love—as a matter of fact, that’s exactly the reason that the flag burners were protesting.

If you love and respect your country that’s wonderful. Everyone should be proud of where they live, but it is just as important to make sure that the ideals and goals our country strives for are something we can all be proud of. While we should respect our leaders we must also keep them in check and be weary of the policies they institute. We must be prepared to speak up if the need arises and not stifle those who are willing to do so. Anyone who loves America so much that they will so blindly accept the policies of the government and ignore the wrongs of this country, should open their eyes—and let the sunshine in!

Brody was not alone in his defense of HPC. Others quickly rushed to the beleaguered theater company’s aide with their own letters of defense. One letter read:

I was extremely shocked and surprised at the perspective by Larry Wissink and its incredible misstatements and immense lack of understanding. Although his offense to the event in HPC’s production of “Hair” may be justified, his comprehension of the situation is severely incomplete.

One of the biggest problems with putting on a 1992 production of “Hair” is that the play itself is a period piece, reflecting various social conditions of the late 1960’s, and unfortunately the subject matter of the show is quite outdated.

Contrary to what some may want to believe, flag burning was a very common and popular event; it was one of the many forms of anti-establishment expression of the time period.

In Mr. Wissink’s article, flag burning was described six times as an act of hate, and it was also described as an act of violence, an expression of contempt and malice.

Unfortunately, it was never any of these things during the late sixties. Rather, flag burning was an act of honest protest against a government who was sending the nation’s friends and family members off to war to fight for a cause they didn’t believe in.
More importantly, such acts weren’t carried out by blindly country-hating, lower-class people, but by the upper middle class and intelligencia who demanded an active change in the nation’s politics.

If the “flagburners” [sic] of the generation had hated their country, they would never have cared enough to protest by burning the flag. Instead of getting uptight and offended, Mr. Wissink should be proud to know that he lives in a country where people won’t be arrested or executed for their political expression, but rather can make demands on the government. This is what burning the American flag represents.

To state that the event in “Hair” was unappropriate [sic] is totally false. The production was written in order to show the social conditions and events of the sixties, of which flag burning was an important part. To ask that it be omitted from the show is the equivalent of trying to pretend that it never existed in history.

This was not the only letter to come the defense of HPC. Michael Knopf wrote a similar letter in the very same issue of Pipe Dream defending HPC.

This is in response to the perspective written by Larry Wissink one week ago. It seems to me that the author of this piece simply did not understand the intent of the flag-burning that took place within HPC’s recent production of “Hair.”

While he has every right to be offended by the company’s decision to perform the act, it should be made clear that within the play’s context, it was as relevant as any other part.

The characters’ friends were being sent to fight and die in a war which they did not support. Their actions were to be a message to the political leaders to their time, announcing their disapproval of the “meat grinder” which was about to take one of their friends, a member of their “tribe.”

These were not self-hating Americans as Mr. Wissink seems to feel they are.

I cannot understand how he views an anti-war protest as an act of violence. Flag burning did occur, and as expressed in HPC’s production, was not in any way of a violent nature.

As a part of a theatrical production, especially to present a message as strong as “Hair” does, I totally support that which my fellow student condemns. The legality of actions such as this one is what makes this country what it is.

May this right never be taken away from us by those who view harmless anti-war protests as violent.
In time the furor over the flag burning died down and HPC was able to weather the storm. In fact, the controversy of the play almost helped them. HPC got so much exposure from the scandal that subsequent shows sold out and the show’s run was extended for a third week. Besides the issue of flag burning, the play was also considered a very well-done and professional production. When the run of *Hair* finally ended, HPC had much to be proud of. Still, there were lingering issues that had to be dealt with.

While *Hair* was undeniably a success, the resulting scandal rocked HPC to its very foundation. Not since the early day’s of HLT and the “open-door” scandal of 1974 had the future of community-based theater in Hinman been tested as much as it did during this current scandal involving the burning of the American flag. HPC survived this scandal but the organization took a hit. It is important to note that not that many people came to the defense of HPC. Rather most of the letters were supporting the opinion that flag burning was a form of free speech protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution. A relative few people actually defended HPC. This is perhaps one of the earliest examples of what would become a downward trend for HPC in the 1990’s decade. The little theater that could do no wrong was beginning to fray at the edges and chinks in its once invincible armor began to appear.

For the Fall of 1992, HPC decided to go back to an old favorite performed well by both HLT and an earlier generation of HPC. That Fall *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown* returned to the Hinman Commons. Playing the role of Charlie Brown would be Steve Munch. Munch gave an excellent rendition of the song “The Kite” and “…with his knee-high tubes [sic] socks, woeful expressions, and well-articulated feelings of frustration, he was very much the part and played it well.” Other notable performances that evening came from Dee Scheidman who played Peppermint Patty, Kevin Laub who played Schroeder, and Elissa Miller who played
Lucy. The standout performance of the evening though came from Jonathan Valuckas who played the beloved beagle Snoopy and brought down the house with his musical number “Suppertime.” *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown* was an audience favorite and HPC did not disappoint.

HPC also showed Neil Simon’s *Rumors: A Farce*. Unfortunately, no review of the play exists. What is known is that dedicated HPCers like Debbie Jaffe, Stephen Loch, Sharon Chalson, Adam Scally, Rick Brody, Gayle Jaffe, Michael Cavanaugh, Heather Kuhn, Michael Morgan, Caitlin Stedman, and Ingrid Gherson starred in this farcical play. Alice Brod also remembers that this play presented unique challenges to the crew designing the set. After working long hours, they were finally able to build an elaborate living room with a stairway leading to a second story.\(^{\text{cmxi}}\)

In the Spring of 1993, HPC decided to take on some more dramatic fare with the murder mystery *Dangerous Corner*. The play is set in the living room of the head of an English publishing firm where the characters try to find out the truth behind the supposed suicide of the publishing head’s brother. HPC veteran performers Brian Crotty, Rick Brody and Jonathan Valuckas were the stand-out performers of the play.\(^{\text{cmxii}}\)

Although the play was a success for HPC, it is important to note at this juncture that the last few plays had been relatively lackluster. For reasons unknown, HPC was unwilling to take the risks that it once did. Perhaps following the scandal of *Hair*, the cast and crew of HPC felt that they needed to play it safe for a while. This is seen in their selection of the uncontroversial plays *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown, Rumors*, and *Dangerous Corner*. It’s not to say that these productions were bad, from what the record shows they were all quality performances. However, some of the magic that had seemed so prevalent in the early days of HLT and
throughout the 1980’s had worn off. HPC would need to start taking some risks if it was to achieve the same caliber of performances that the earlier generations had shown.

In the Fall of 1993, HPC decided to stage the play Chess. Chess is a musical set during the Cold War and its underlying themes deal with the ideological struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States, communism and capitalism, East and West. Thomas C. Kouo played the arrogant American chess player Freddie Trumper and performed a powerful rendition of the song “Pity the Child.” James R. Fowler played his Russian counterpart Anatoly Sergievsky who, with the exception of an erratic Russian accent, played the calm and conservative character very well. Ann Beirne played the female lead Florence Vassy. Although her acting was lukewarm throughout the first act, by the second act she showed just how incredible her talents were with her beautiful and emotional rendition of “Heaven Help My Heart.” She further highlighted her outstanding abilities during her duet with Thea McCartan (who played Svetlana Sergievsky) when they sang “I Know Him So Well.” Some secondary characters also brought much life to the play. Robert Scott Deluca and Kevin Laub as Molokov and Walter respectively did a wonderfully humorous duet “Let’s Work Together.” The play was not without its criticisms. “One Night in Bangkok,” which was one of the most anticipated and popular songs of the play, was a big let-down. “The choreography was sloppy and the energy was not at the level it could have been.” Moreover, the ensemble cast did not mesh well. Their singing and dancing were out of sync and distracted from the show. Furthermore, the frequent set changes and backstage noise detracted from the show’s quality. However, the actual set design was excellent. Despite all its problems, the cast and crew of HPC should be given accolades for their willingness to take on such an ambitious production.
The Spring of 1994 saw HPC take on another similarly ambitious play with very timely and complex themes. This time it was Brian Friel’s play *Freedom of the City*. The play is a tragedy that centers around the deaths of three people caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. The play takes place in Northern Ireland, where the British Army had just broken up a mass demonstration. Caught in the shuffle of this demonstration are three characters who seek refuge in the Guildhall, where the mayor of Derry lives. Adam C. Scally played Adrian “Skinner” Fitzgerald Casimer, a man who has no home, family, or job and believes in nothing but himself. Diane Susan Weinberger played Lily Doherty, an ignorant mother of eleven children who knows nothing except being a homemaker and caring for her husband and children. Brian Fitzgerald played Michael Joseph Hegarty, a young and naïve idealist who sincerely believes that the Irish can achieve their independence through non-violent, peaceful demonstrations. The three main actors did an excellent job in their particular roles. Scally had the standout performance of the evening, showcasing the most lifelike and engaging of the three characters. Weinberger adequately performed the role of Lily. Her acting abilities truly shone through in the instances when her character realizes that most of her life has been a waste. Brian Fitzgerald “is a nerdy killjoy [who] fails to understand what it means to be poor and outcast like Skinner and Lily.” Although the review calls Fitzgerald’s performance a disappointment, from the description of his character it seems as though Fitzgerald did an excellent job portraying a character that is supposed to be nerdy and a killjoy. Director Bre Braat did an excellent job directing the ambitious production and focusing the action on the development of the three main characters. The supporting cast was not nearly as good. The reviewer criticized Robyn Gemeiner in her role as the American sociologist Susan Dobbs, and Fiona Brett as the loudmouthed Irish newscaster Deirdre O’Kelly. Joseph M. Moniaci was also criticized for his
role as the English judge Maurice Copeland. Luis Lendesbort was also criticized for his overacting and over-accenting of the Italian priest Father Pietro Brioni. Despite its flaws, Freedom of the City was an ambitious play that dealt with the serious issues of death and the suffering that war brings to the lives of innocent people.\textsuperscript{c} It would seem that HPC had finally gotten out of its funk. Despite their flaws, they had successfully taken on two ambitious productions and had succeeded. Everyone was looking forward to an exciting new year of ambitious and quality HPC productions. Regrettably, that was not to be.

In the Fall of 1994, HPC decided to stage the children’s musical Free To Be You and Me. Conceived during the Women’s Liberation Movement, the play is written for a young audience, but touts the ideology of many feminist thinkers of the time, chiefly that girls can compete with boys, boys shouldn’t be afraid to show their feelings, and generally just breaking down tradition gender roles. While the content of the play was lightly controversial in the mid 1990’s, this was not the concern of those who viewed this production. Their concern was that virtually the whole play, from beginning to end, was just plain bad. Seth Blum and Patty Corwin played the main characters, a little boy and girl named William and Janet. Micha Liberman played another little boy Richard, and Tricia Alexandro played the little girl Vickie. These made up the four principal characters of the play. They along with their supporting cast performed well in their rendition of the rap song “No One Else.” However, this is perhaps the only good part of the entire production. The transitions between songs and skits were criticized as being awkward. Blum and Corwin sang well, but they completely drowned out the rest of the ensemble. While the four principal characters were usually front and center on the stage, the rest of the cast was positioned statically upstage on risers. The set design was so problematic that community theater producer Kelly Ann Scanlon noted that HPC had poorly designed the set. Micha Liberman was,
deservedly or undeservedly, criticized for his performance. One reviewer stated, “His arms and legs moved stiffly, as if he had spent the night before on a bed of nails tipped with Novocain.” The choreography was also criticized for being reminiscent of a cheesy vaudeville act. Perhaps the harshest criticisms came when one reviewer stated:

The production was not just bad high school theater, it was bad high school theater done by college students, an even worse sin. The talent gap among the cast members was glaring…

…There was no reason to stage this show. Eric Arlin’s static direction would get ripped apart by any theater professional. Stage space was used ineffectually: risers came forward unnaturally, and pushed the principles center front and into the audience members’ personal space. The rest of the cast was just a backdrop that occasionally circled to the front or ran around a little, but did little else. The chorus couldn’t even make a circle at one point because of Arlin’s strange use of stage space.

Mercifully, *Free To Be You and Me* ran only an hour (and even that was too long). It was at best amateurish and certainly not worth the $4.50.

This highly critical review was published in *Pipe Dream* and circulated across campus.

Although nothing the reviewer said was categorically untrue, the editorial staff of *Pipe Dream* printed a small, semi-apology letter/award to the cast and crew of HPC. The letter/award read:

Victims of Undue Clobbering: To the cast of Hinman Production Company’s *Free To Be You and Me*, for enduring the most negative theater review in *Pipe Dream* history. Despite the fact that anyone over the age of 10 has no business putting on this show, HPC’s production was entertaining and fun, and was neither “thoroughly mediocre” nor “ill-fated.”

The cast and crew of HPC had hit rock bottom. The downward spiral of events that had begun after the departure of Adam Brown and the rest of the “old guard” in the Spring of 1989 and had accelerated with the scandal of *Hair* had finally come to its conclusion with the devastating production of *Free To Be You and Me*. HPC, which had once been one of the crown jewels of Hinman College, known for consistently going against all the odds and breaking all the rules to put on professional shows, was now seen as nothing more than a second-rate community
theater troupe. Gone were the days of Stan Goldberg and Steve Young constantly rehearsing the numbers to *Kiss Me Kate*. Gone were the days of Patrick Misciagna and Jody Sandler tying a curtain rod to their car and driving it through the busy streets of Binghamton so they could use it in their production of *Guys and Dolls*. Gone were the days when Adam Brown brought HPC to the edge of what they could do by bringing a car into the Hinman Commons for what is perhaps HPC’s greatest and most famous play, *Grease*. To the outside observer, it appeared as though HPC was finished as an innovative and passionate community-based theater organization. The magic that seemed to have resided inside the seemingly invincible group that could do no wrong was gone. It seemed as though they went from being “little theater that could” to “the little theater that could not” almost overnight. HPC, at this stage in its existence, was a shell of its former glory. However, this spurt of bad luck would not last forever. HPC was down, but it was most certainly not out.

In the Spring of 1995, HPC decided to return to the tried and tested genre of the murder mystery. The play that was selected that semester was Agatha Christie’s perennial favorite *Ten Little Indians*. There were many challenges associated with this show. Besides coming off the rebound of perhaps the worst HPC show ever produced, the story of *Ten Little Indians*, while being popular, is also very well-known. Legions of Agatha Christie followers knew the story by heart and would not be surprised at all by the once surprise ending. David Gran, the director of the show, knew that he needed more than just the play’s plot and suspense to entertain the audience. What he needed was a lot of talented actors ready to bring something new to the table and give a new feeling to this classic play. Joe Vaugh, who played Anthony Marston commented that the script was plot heavy and that “‘it remains amusing and suspenseful; something is always being discovered or looked at in a new light.’” Doreen Bond, who
would play the part of Mrs. Rogers, reminded everyone that there were a lot of humorous lines in
the play and that by emphasizing that humor a new light could be shone on the play. Mike
Malavet, who played William Blore, stated, “‘Everybody in the cast brought something different
to the show and now that it’s together, the show’s going to be great.’” Also enticing the
audience would be a new surprise ending that was different from the original version. Besides
the enthusiastic cast, the eager crew prepared a minimalist, yet extraordinary set that brought to
the life the elegance of an English study in the claustrophobic space of the Hinman Commons.
The excellence of the set is credited to Art Director Carlo Pastore, who explained, “‘I wanted the
feeling of contentment to prevail within the realms of the set. I wanted the audience to be
deceived by the peacefulness of the study, thus adding even more shock when they realize the
events that take place there,’” In the days leading up the debut of the play, the cast and crew
of HPC held their breath. HPC desperately needed a hit. If *Ten Little Indians* was a flop, the
reputation of HPC could have possibly been forever tarnished.

The members of HPC did not need to wait long to see if their production was viewed
favorably. Joseph Moniaci was given accolades for his portrayal of Dr. Armstrong. “‘From his
affected nervous mannerisms to his near flawless dialect, Moniaci’s performance was
undoubtedly among the best of the cast.” Tarra Christoff was also praised for her
performance as Vera Claythorne. “‘…Christoff played the role with a balance of slickness and
naiveté that gave her character an undeniable charm. Among a cast of such comically
exaggerated characters, she deserves recognition for pulling off such a relatively ‘straight’
role.” Joe Vaughn, Sarah Klein and Eric Arlin also were given kudos for their respective
roles. The only source of criticism in the play came from the ambiguity of the accents that some
of the characters possessed. It seemed that some of the actors had trouble maintaining an
English accent and those who still had American accents read dialogue that was clearly written for English actors and seemed out of place coming from an American. Otherwise the play was considered a quality performance of popular mystery.\textsuperscript{cmxxiv}

*Ten Little Indians* was a success. While perhaps not being as innovative as some past HPC productions (like *The Diviners*) or being as artistically beautiful as other English murder mysteries (like *The Mousetrap*), the success of *Ten Little Indians* gave a welcome and needed boost to cast and crew’s morale and a needed shot in the arm for the organization’s reputation. The question on everyone’s mind at the end of the 1994-1995 academic year was could HPC keep up their success and continue with a quality performances the next year?

HPC (probably unbeknownst to any members at the time) decided to stage a play that had been successful for HLT twenty years previous. The show that was scheduled for the Fall of 1995 would be Woody Allen’s *Play It Again, Sam*. Although the dedicated cast and crew of HPC worked hard to put on a quality performance, the reviews of *Play It Again, Sam* make it clear that HPC fell short of this goal. Shachar Link played the main character, Allen Felix, a deeply neurotic character who is based on Woody Allen himself. While years of theater and movie going audiences have fallen in love with this nerdy and neurosis-stricken man, Link fell short of the grand expectation that fell to him. Link was not the only cast member to be criticized. Many of the actors who portrayed secondary characters in the play were also criticized for failing to fully realize their characters. Only Brendan Galivan who played Humphrey Bogart was given much positive mention. Galivan was praised for his ability to accurately capture the mannerisms and demeanor of one of cinema’s most famous leading men. Perhaps one reviewer explained the play best when she wrote, “During the show, Felix explains
his reason for buying Linda a small plastic skunk for her birthday. ‘It doesn’t function really, it exists,’ he tenderly says. Perhaps what he is really talking about is this production.

The Spring of 1996 saw HPC bring an ambitious musical production to the floors of the Hinman Commons. The show for this semester would be the campy theatrical version of the classic B-grade science fiction film, *The Little Shop of Horrors*. In this production, Shachar Link played the protagonist, Seymour, a nerdy apprentice in a florist shop who has a crush on one of the shop’s assistants, Audrey (played by Beth Ehrenberg). Perhaps what makes his play so unique is the character of the alien life form in the shape of a gigantic Venus flytrap, a creature which Seymour takes upon himself to raise and nurture and names Audrey II. Whatever problems Link faced with his acting in *Play It Again, Sam* were quickly dissolved in this production. Link was praised for his performance as Seymour, a role which he gave just the proper amount of charm too and allowed the audience to fasten on to him and sympathize with him even while he fed innocent people to Audrey II. Beth Ehrenberg as Audrey was also praised for her exceptional singing ability and her natural charm. Many of the play’s humorous moments came during her scenes and she provided just the right about of black humor to make this dark comedy highly enjoyable. The play was also notable for its use of a 1950’s style doowop chorus called the Ronnettes, who provide many of the catchy musical numbers of the play, and who follow the main characters around. Rennica Johnson, Tanika Angrum, and Mary Faughnan were praised for their singing prowess. Kevin Cohen, who played Audrey’s abusive and sadistic dentist boyfriend, stole the show with his wit and marvelous black humor. The play was not without its problems and criticisms. Audrey II, the man-eating alien plant, was described as never becoming more than a puppet with a disembodied voice. The actor who voiced Audrey II and the puppeteer were never able to adequately sync their performances which
distracted the audience and detracted from the overall quality of the performance. The out of sync voice and puppetry got so bad at times that one reviewer stated that, “...at its worst moments it seemed like we were viewing a badly dubbed kung fu movie.”cmxxvi Besides the poor puppetry, the play’s other short-fallings fell mostly to the issues that surface in every B-movie or theatrical production—they’re campy and ultimately there is little material that one can work with on them. This final shortcoming was absolutely no fault of the cast and crew of HPC; in fact they did much to help make what is really a cheesy black comedy into something enjoyable and special to a wide variety of audience members. One reviewer even went so far as to say, “Hinman’s production goes a long way to erase the problems inherent in the play, and for the most part they succeed.”cmxxvii HPC’s The Little Shop of Horrors, despite its campy reputation, was overall a success for the beleaguered organization. Following up on the success of this play, HPC sought to bring another exciting production to the Hinman Commons.

In the Fall of 1996, HPC staged Neil Simon’s Brighton Beach Memoirs. The play tells the story of a Jewish family living in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn in 1937 and its struggle to deal with not only the Great Depression but also one another. Although the play is set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, the play is full of wisecracks and barbs directed at the feuding family members each with their own set of problems. Jeff Weber plays Eugene Jerome, the teenage son who is the embodiment of any young teenager, concerned mostly with flirting with members of the opposite sex and defying his parents any chance he gets. “Weber seemed to be made for the role, and if he wasn’t then he molded into it perfectly. The young face, knee-highs and Brooklyn accent added to the effect. Neil Simon himself could not have found a better actor for the part.”cmxxviii Accolades were also given out to the rest of the cast including Doreen Bond who played Aunt Blanch and Maddy Polsky and Roslyn Shoenbrun who played her daughters
Laurie and Nora respectively. Austin Basis played Stanley plays Eugene’s ne’er-do-well brother, Stanley and George Ford played the Jerome family patriarch Jack, who besides from recovering from a heart attack also had to deal with the loss of his job. Rounding out the cast was Julianna Blunt who played Kate, Eugene’s guilt-trip inducing mother. The play centers around family dysfunction and economic distress, all prime topics for high and lowbrow humor. Numerous hysterical scenes and one-liners abound when the extended family sits down at the dinner table and can’t help but insult one another and lament their problems. The play is not afraid to tackle serious issues either. Each character begins to learn that all of their problems are miniscule in comparison to family members who still live in Europe in the grip of the Nazis and at the dawn of the Holocaust. One reviewer went on to write,

I tried long and hard to think of something wrong with the acting, but all I saw were flawless performances. Polsky transformed herself to look ten years younger in playing the allegedly helpless younger sister. Schoenbrun’s performance as the rebellious teenager was superb. Basis and Bond were outstanding. Blunt had an unmatchable accent which nicely complemented her acting. Ford brought a newfound admiration for the patriarchal position.

* Brighton Beach Memoirs* was undoubtedly a hit for HPC. The acting was flawless and memorable. This is exactly what HPC needed at this time. For the past few years, with few exceptions, HPC had been putting out mostly flops or mediocre plays at the very best. *Brighton Beach Memoirs* was a complete smash hit for HPC and exactly what they needed to boost morale and the reputation of the company.

In the spring of 1997, HPC revisited another successful play that had been done in the past—the musical comedy *Company*. Unfortunately, there is no review or oral history available about the production or outcome of the play besides a playbill. In the following fall, HPC decided to stage another favorite that had been done with much success nearly ten years earlier—the bawdy play *Cabaret*. This version of *Cabaret* was just as much a hit as the 1980’s
production. The crew of HPC did an astounding job transforming the Hinman Commons into the Berlin nightspot, the Kit Kat Club. Director Robbie Rozelle, played to the strengths of HPC, speaking to the audience right before the play and setting the mood for the performance. The mostly veteran HPCers meshed well and their chemistry was perfect. One reviewer was so pleased by the performance that she wrote, “The players looked as though they were having a great time, and they really put their all into it. It made me realize how much hidden talent there is at Binghamton University.”

The Spring of 1998 offered mixed results for HPC. That semester, HPC decided to stage two plays. The first would be another play that had been done with much success in the late 1980’s—Neil Simon’s Plaza Suite. Unfortunately, this particular protection showcased the many flaws still inherent in HPC. One scathingly critical review began by saying, “Although it [HPC’s Plaza Suite] wasn’t a complete waste of time, I might think twice before attending another HPC performance.” With this opening statement, things did not bode well for the production. Both Maggie Durham and Kevin Dedes who play Karen and Sam Nash respectively, were criticized for their still performances and their seeming inability to get into character. They, along with many of the other actors in the play, were criticized for stammering, mumbling, and sometimes completely forgetting their lines. The second act of the play was fairly humorous with Austin Basis (who played Jesse Kiplinger) being praised for his performance. Rachael Freedman, who played Jesse’s old high schools sweetheart, Muriel Tate, was also praised. Their comedic duo sparked much laughter and was very entertaining. Unfortunately, the third act was criticized as being poorly performed. The actors in the third act, like in the first, were criticized for being stiff and dull in their performances and for seeming to forget a number of their lines. Only George Ford escaped the harsh criticism somewhat, though even he seemed to suffer from
momentarily forgetting his lines. The reviewer ended her criticism by saying, “There were worse things I could have done this weekend instead of seeing HPC’s Plaza Suite. What I really hope is that HPC can get their act together in time to pull off A Chorus Line, or else I know one that won’t be a ‘singular sensation.’ Plaza Suite was a disappointment for HPC. In order to regain their momentum, their next play, A Chorus Line, would have to be a hit.

A Chorus Line is a musical about a group of performers auditioning for a part in a musical. The play is famous for its intricate and grand choreography and its numerous solos. There were a number of bright spots in HPC’s A Chorus Line. The choreography of the show was praised for its jaw-dropping intricacy and it was obvious that the cast spent a lot of time practicing the show’s numerous dance numbers. Christine Verzosa, who played Connie, and David Shildkret, who played Paul, were praised for their great singing and dancing abilities. Shildkret in particular was praised for his passionate and heartfelt monologue at the end of the show. Regrettably, this is where the praise of HPC ended and the harsh criticism began.

A Chorus Line is not so much a story as it is a platform to showcase the musical talents of the actors. However, many of the actors had difficulty with their solos and with singing in general. Many of the actors and actresses of HPC had difficulty hitting their notes and remembering the lyrics to the songs, which distracted from the show. It got so bad that during one of the performer’s solos, the line “No, I really couldn’t sing…” is sung. Immediately following that, someone in the audience responded, “Don’t worry honey, neither can the rest of the cast.” It appeared that HPC had rehearsed nothing but the dance routines (which everyone considered to be excellent) but spent no time on the musical numbers. One reviewer said it best when she wrote,

…this was a show that needed an intermission. It’s a tough show for the actors, and at times, for the audience too. Both groups looked exhausted by the end of the night. The
actors from staying on their feet and the audience for having to listen to them sing. The choreography was impressive, but it looked like the cast was picked primarily on their ability to twirl, instead of carry a tune. In the end, *A Chorus Line* was a huge disappointment for HPC. The cast and crew desperately needed a hit and they all thought they had found it in this particular musical. While the actors obviously had talent, it was not enough to save this particular show. Both shows of the spring of 1998 were disappointments. With the successes of *Ten Little Indians, The Little Shop of Horrors*, and especially with *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, it seemed that HPC had gotten out of its funk and was back on track. The failures of *Plaza Suite* and *A Chorus Line* showed that HPC still had a long way to go if it was to reach the same level of quality that it once was famous for.

HPC was able to redeem itself somewhat in the Fall of 1998 when it staged Wendy Wasserstein’s comedy-drama *Isn’t It Romantic?* The play takes place in 1980 and centers around the lives of two women, Janie Blumberg and Harriet Cornwall, played by Kerry Bayowitz and Rachele Colantuono respectively. The play focuses on these two women and their attempts to find love and happiness in modern times. Bayowitz was praised for believably showing the character of Janie, a woman who is rocked by uncertainty about her goals in life. Colantuono also did an excellent job portraying Harriet as a Janie’s polar opposite—a fiercely independent woman who nonetheless has a vulnerability which everyone sympathizes with. The supporting cast was also praised for their roles. Debbie Goodman and Jordan Schlang were given accolades for their roles as Janie’s parents, Tasha and Simon Blumberg. Likewise, Ceren Arslanbas was praised for her role as Lillian Cornwall, Harriet’s mother. One standout performance was given by David Berkowitz, who played Marty Sterling, the Jewish doctor who captures the heart of Janie. “David Berkowitz was engaging, sympathetic and sweet.” The play was also given kudos for its exceptional use of realistic and believable sets and their often
hilarious costumes. Scott Eckers, who was in charge of lighting, was given kudos for his excellent use and placements of light to show the passage of time and to highlight certain features. Director Marlo Beth Schettino Lancia was also praised for putting the whole production together and tying it up nicely. In the end the play was described as, “…a surprising, enjoyable, and cute production with tender and bittersweet moments. There is absolutely no reason why anyone should find much wrong with this sweet confection of a show.”

Although perhaps not as well known as Plaza Suite or A Chorus Line, HPC’s production of Isn’t It Romantic? was a desperately needed success for the struggling organization fraught with the stress of trying to find a new identity during the long 1990’s. As the new millennium approached, HPC was also presented with the challenge of what it would do to define itself them.

In the Spring of 1999 and the Fall of 1999, HPC staged the plays Gypsy and Sweet Charity, respectively. During the year 2000 the plays Steel Magnolias, Godspell and a play called Love Letters were produced. During 2001 the play Once Upon A Mattress is the only recorded production that year. In 2002 the plays The Shape of Things and Picasso at the Lapin Agile were produced by HPC. The years between 1999 and 2002 are a sort of dark ages for HPC. There is no written record for these plays (with the exception of Picasso at the Lapin Agile) and the oral history is sparse. The only way for the details surrounding these plays to be known is if those who worked and acted in those plays come forward and tell their stories. Otherwise what went on behind the scenes and on the stage will forever be lost to history. The written record would continue to remain sparse in the following early years of the 21st Century. Luckily, the oral history would pick up the slack left by written records and the story of HPC would continue to be known.
As one reads over the written records and the countless reviews, and listens to the oral histories, one thing becomes abundantly clear: that community-based theater in Hinman becomes defined by the decade. The 1970’s were marked by experimentation and innovation through HLT. Similarly, the 1980’s saw what can only be called the perfection of community-based theater in the form of HPC. Though it may sound harsh, the 1990’s were a decade that saw a downturn in the quality of HPC productions. That is not to say that the dedication on the part of the casts and crews of HPC during that time diminished. Rather for whatever reason, HPC and community-based theater in Hinman took a downturn during that decade. HPC was plagued by problems in all but a few productions during the 1990’s and as a result the reputation of quality and professionalism that HPC possessed for the better part of two decades had long since vanished. Just as the future of community-based theater in Hinman was in doubt in the late 1970’s, so to was it in the late 1990’s and the early part of the new millennium. However, there was still a sprinkling of magic in the organization. There was something special about it that kept it alive through all the dark and turbulent times even if nearly everyone had written HPC off as a lost cause and a shell of its former glory. Just as it took a few dedicated individuals to turn Hinman community-based theater around in the late 1970’s, it would be a select few individuals in the 21st Century that would revive the little theater that could and return it not only to its former position of prestige and glory, but bring it to new heights of achievement and success.

Part IV: HPC in the 21st Century
The new millennium began with the once mighty HPC floundering. Much headway had been made since some of the dark days of the mid-1990’s when the organization’s death or at the very least marginalization in Hinman appeared to take place. Even at the dawn of the 21st Century, HPC was an organization on the fringes of Hinman culture, not front and center as it had been in earlier times. That was all about to change.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, the Fall of 2001 saw many changes in the lives of Hinmanites and of Americans in general. This event left indelible imprints on every American man, woman and child, and Hinmanites were not immune. In fact, they may have been affected even more. Since the beginnings of Binghamton University, many of its students have come from the New York metropolitan area, and the attacks and the vast destruction and loss of life that they caused hit particularly close to home. With all the grief, fear, and anxiety following the attacks, Hinmanites were looking for a diversion, something to take their minds off the turmoil encompassing their lives and the lives of every American citizen. They would come to find that diversion in one of Hinman’s most enduring institutions—HPC and its new brand of leadership.

The Fall of 2001 was also the first semester for a young freshman named Sharon Kowlasky. Sharon came from New Jersey and decided to go out of state to attend Binghamton University for a variety of reasons. The first reason was that she received a small scholarship to Binghamton which actually made it even cheaper to attend than Rutgers. Also, she was drawn to Hinman College in particular because it offered suite-style living, one of the amenities that she was looking for in a residential college. Most important of all, when she read up on each of the residential colleges, she noticed that Hinman was famous for having its own theater organization
called the Hinman Production Company. Sharon loved theater and knew that she still wanted to participate in it while she went to college. cmxxxviii

Sharon did not get involved in HPC her first semester. That was soon to change. At the time she was a resident of Roosevelt Hall and on her floor was another freshman names Liza Adelman. In the Spring of 2002, Liza encouraged Sharon to come to an HPC audition with her. At the time Sharon was recovering from a bad case of pneumonia and the absolute last thing she wanted to do was audition for a play. Still, she relented and went to the audition anyway. There she met James Fox, who would soon became the President of HPC. James had transferred the second semester of his freshman year to Binghamton and lived in Champlain Hall in Dickinson and then the Hayes Apartment Community. In fact he never officially lived in Hinman at all during his time with HPC, but nonetheless spent almost all of his time in Hinman, either in the Commons or in Roosevelt hanging out with Sharon and Liza. At first, not being a Hinmanite was difficult for him because he had friends in both HPC and the Dickinson Community Players and at the time there was a rivalry between the two groups. James had done theater in high school and wanted to continue to do that in college, but knew that he would be unable to be involved in Binghamton University Main Stage productions. James and Sharon (even though she was ill) auditioned for two HPC shows: a new production of Hair, and a play called The Shape of Things. Because of her illness she did not get any parts, but she, James, and Liza became fast friends and would eventually form a triumvirate of HPC leadership for the coming years. cmxxxix

James, on the other hand, was cast in The Shape of Things. The play was directed by Megan Wilen who was the President of HPC at the time. James quickly learned that everything in HPC was a labor of love and that to be successful in the organization they would have to
devote a large amount of time to the organization. James also was involved in the production of *Hair* where once again controversy arose out of this play. Ten years earlier, HPC had received a lot of flak over burning an American flag. The producers decided that they would not burn a flag in this production, but they did decide to go ahead with something which many found even more controversial than the burning of a flag, something the producers of the 1992 version had purposely left out of their production. The original play calls for there to be a nude scene and the producers of HPC’s *Hair* decided to keep that scene. For a while, everyone was worried that the university would try to stop the play for public nudity. Bracing for the worst, they decided to go ahead with the scene anyway. Word made its way around the community that there would be a nude scene in *Hair* and as the show’s debut approached, the cast and crew worried what the consequences for their radical step would be. Some even half expected University Police to burst into the Commons and arrest everyone for public nudity. Luckily, the show ran its course without incident. At the end of that academic year James attended his very first E-Board meeting and during that time was elected President of HPC. Realizing the awesome responsibility he now had, James prepared to led HPC and begin the Herculean effort of turning the organization around.

In the Fall of 2002, two shows went into production for HPC. One was a tried and true classic for HPC—Steven Sondheim’s *Company*. Unfortunately, no review of this play exists. Another play went into production that semester as well. This would be a new play for HPC called *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. James Fox would direct this play and Sharon Kowalsky became the props mistress. The play is set in the Lapin Agile (French for “Nimble Rabbit”), a bar in Paris at the turn of the century. In this setting many oddball characters come into play, but the true comedic moments shine when Pablo Picasso meets Albert Einstein and the world’s
greatest artist and the world’s greatest scientist duke it out in a battle of wits covering every conceivable topic under the sun. The comedy written by Steve Martin was full of wit and intelligent banter and that was perhaps the greatest criticism—not that any part of the play’s production was bad, but rather that the subject matter probably was over the heads of ordinary college students. Still the performance of the actors was praised, especially that of Will Green and Matt Levy who played Picasso and Einstein respectively. The biggest praise for the play went to the production team and those working diligently behind-the-scenes.

…kudos to production team-members Director James Fox, Stage Manager Rachel Marcus, and Costume/Prop Girl Sharon Kowlasky. Fox successfully translated Martin’s winning script onto the Hinman stage. If an audience doesn’t notice the minutiae of a stage direction, then the production has wildly succeeded as it has here.

The success of Steve Martin’s *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* was a somewhat surprising hit for HPC. It also showed the rest of the Hinman community just what HPC and its leadership could do. So, James decided that it was time to take HPC in a new direction. He and many others in the group knew that HPC, though still putting on quality shows, was a fractured organization and not living up to its full potential. After examining the way they produced shows, James realized that all too often all of the responsibility would fall to the individual director of the show. HPC would try to produce two shows a semester and there rarely was any crossover between the casts of each show. In essence there were two HPCs each semester and when one was done with the Commons, the other would move in and there would be little interaction between the two. James and many others wanted HPC to be a more open organization and wanted as many people as possible to be involved. They decided the best way to reform HPC was through revising its constitution. Though the constitution had gone through many changes over the years and would continually be revised, it had essentially remained the same since Adam Brown and his E-Board had worked on it back in the mid-1980’s. To reflect
the changing times, James knew they had to amend the constitution. One of the big changes to come out of this reformation was the assistant director position. Although the assistant director position was not new, its role changed. In previous years directors with little or no experience in directing (or sometimes even with HPC) would be given the challenging job of directing a show. Now it was written into the constitution that before anyone could direct an HPC show, they had to have served as an assistant director. In essence, the less experienced assistant director would become an apprentice to the director. This stopped the all too common practice of those with little or no stake or commitment in HPC to direct its shows. It also helped bring more people into the organization and gave up-and-coming leaders a chance to hone their skills.

In the Spring of 2003, there was an unexpected opening in the HPC E-Board. Jumping at the chance to gain more leadership positions in HPC, Sharon volunteered and was elected as Secretary of HPC. Also during that time an unprecedented three plays went into production for HPC: a new play called *Line* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. *Line* would be directed by Aaron Ricco. Ricco was very much into experimenting and doing unusual work. Although many had their doubts, *Line* was a success and a great show. Unfortunately, this version of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, which had been so successful in the past, fell short of its expectations. Very often in the play lines were missed, though the actors did a great job of ad libing and rolling with the punches thrown at them. One example of this involved the actor Matt Levy, one of the stars of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. During one of the performances of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, Levy was accidentally left completely alone on the stage when he wasn’t supposed to be alone. The set for the play was designed using tables that were available in the Hinman Commons. The crew had built a second story of the house that most of the play takes place in. The construction was rather unstable and the actors were schooled on exactly where they could and could not step
when they went to the second story of the set. Throwing caution to the wind, Levy scaled to the second story, pulled out his diary, and began writing, giving a long monologue that kept the audience in attention until the next character entered. This quick thinking on Levy’s part saved the show.\textsuperscript{cxlili} The third play would see HPC return its very first play ever, and the one which forever put it on the map—that play which had Patrick Misciagna break nearly all the rules back in 1980, \textit{Pippin}.

Sharon would once again be in charge of all the props for \textit{Brighton Beach Memoirs} and \textit{Line}. She, Liza, and James were also all cast to star in \textit{Brighton Beach Memoirs}. Most importantly, she and James would co-direct \textit{Pippin}. Though no review of any of these plays exists in the written record, a \textit{Pipe Dream} reporter did attend one of the rehearsals for \textit{Pippin}. This behind-the-scenes account captured all the magic and fun that this community-based theater organization brought to its members. Along with serious rehearsing, there was much joking around and playful banter amongst the cast and crew, all of whom were friends. For those who don’t know, \textit{Pippin} is a play that at times can be somewhat racy. There is even a choreographed orgy scene which calls for some of the male cast members to fondle their female counterparts. Most if not all of the cast members were a little shy and naturally inhibited regarding this scene, which prompted Director James Fox to quip to the reporter, “I feel like we have a problem with this cast. They don’t know how to flirt or dance or have sex. I feel like they must have the most boring weekends ever.”\textsuperscript{cxmliv} This led not only to an impromptu seminar on the proper way to grope a breast but also a friendly bashing of cast member Scott Eckers, who played the title character. Eckers was unable to attend that rehearsal and a good natured ribbing of Eckers at his expense occurred. It was not meant maliciously. It was all in good fun and helped the cast to bond. Fox and Kowlasky were also noted for their effective leadership of that motley crew of
student actors during the rehearsal of a battle scene. “Battle practice was a mixed bag. Fox managed the stage fighting while Kowlasky choreographed a dance number. The two split responsibility and made a dynamic team, accomplishing a lot without arguing or stepping on each other.” Even with all the raucous roughhousing and friendly insults thrown at one another, the cast and crew of HPC was a tight-knit group of individuals dedicated to its mantra of fun, friendship and the love of theater. Unfortunately, no review of the play is available, but the oral history states that the plays were all successful. It appeared that HPC was coming out its funk, and beginning to climb the ladder of success and the ascent to the top of community-based theater in Binghamton. As the *Pipe Dream* reporter stated, “With a group as crazy as H.P.C. you can tell there’s a lot of fun in store.”

James Fox remembers this production of *Pippin* fondly. The cast was large and nearly everyone who auditioned got called back. Also the cast for this group was close-knit and worked very well together, making it an overall enjoyable experience. One of his favorite memories of his time in HPC involves the now infamous orgy scenes of the play. In most productions of *Pippin* the orgy scenes involve rather strange movements, set to Caribbean music. James never liked this interpretation of the orgy scenes and instead decided to go all out on them. He encouraged the cast to dress up in whatever crazy outfits they wanted to go onstage and act sexy. It was during this time that he invented the now infamous Ketchup-Mustard rule. Because the play had an odd male to female ratio there would have to be some male-on-male and female-on-female orgy action in the scene. To decide who would play the homosexual roles James would line all the male cast members up and have them reach into a bag filled with individual ketchup or mustard packets; the kind offered at most fast food restaurants. Whoever picked a mustard packet would have to take on a homosexual role in the orgy scene for that show. This humorous
way of picking who would play the heterosexual and homosexual roles in the scene occurred throughout the running of the show. Once during the orgy scene Scott Eckers (who played the title character Pippin) was kissing a number of the female cast members, when one of the men who had picked a mustard packet earlier went right up to Eckers and planted a big sloppy kiss on him, much to Eckers’s bewildered surprise. As a shocked Eckers pulled away, the male cast member simply said to him, “I got the mustard.” Another funny moment to happen during the production of Pippin happened on the opening night of the show. Right before the show was about to begin a fuse blew, plunging them into darkness. James scrambled about desperately searching for anyone who had a set of keys to the fuse box to trip the switch so that they could bring up their lighting board. Luckily, he was able to track down a custodian and they flipped the switch mere moments before the play was about to begin.

The long days and nights spent working on Pippin are forever seared into the mind of Sharon Kowlasky. Years later she would reminisce,

I think my favorite memory is actually sitting in the Hinman Night Owl (where the mailboxes are now located) with the cast of Pippin. We were all very good friends and at the end of the night, just as we'd be finishing up rehearsal, John, the Night Owl manager, would give us all the extra food they made that no one bought and they'd just be throwing out anyway. Usually, we all ended up hanging out and laughing and talking with the Night Owl staff.

Pippin was a great success for HPC and especially for James Fox. James had devoted almost all of his time to HPC. Although he never once lived in Hinman, he spent more time there than he ever did in either Dickinson or his off campus apartment. He had been president only for a year, but in that time he made the organization his baby and was devoted to it completely. At this time he stepped down and allowed a new E-Board to take control. He did this in part because he was graduating a semester early and could not be with the organization for the full year but also because he knew that in order for HPC to be successful he would have to
pass it off to effective new leadership. During his time, James had taken the organization which was still suffering from a number of lingering troubles and had revitalized it.

One of his major accomplishments was ending of the rivalry between HPC and the Dickinson Community Players. For a number of years HPC and the DC Players had been feuding over who was the better community-based theater organization. James put an end to all that, making the cast and crew of HPC go to watch DC Player productions. As soon as they did this, the DC Players and came and watched their productions. Shortly thereafter, the two groups began exchanging props and set pieces and even actors and crew members when they needed to. With the feud now over, both HPC and the DC Players could concentrate on making quality productions. In some respects this almost seemed like fate. To the some it would seem that having a HPC president from Dickinson of all places would be blasphemous. Even though back in the early 1980’s HPC had been opened to anyone on campus, there still was a lingering mistrust of anyone who wasn’t a Hinmanite. Not only did James break down this wall once and for all, but he also helped bridge the gap between his own community (Dickinson) and his adopted community (Hinman), uniting the two like never before. In that sense it was a blessing that James had been placed in Dickinson and not in Hinman as a freshman, because only then could he perform this type of service. Not only that, but he was also responsible for taking the last bit of exclusivity out of HPC and really opening up to everyone who wanted to be involved. James would continue to help out and advise for the next semester, but he knew that he, like the great leaders of HPC before, would be passing the torch to a new generation.

At the end of her sophomore year, Sharon left Roosevelt Hall to move off campus, but she would not leave HPC. With James leaving office, she was elected President of HPC and given the awesome task of leading the little theater that could into the next stage of its
development. As proud as Sharon and the rest of HPC were feeling about its accomplishments so far, a problem arose that nearly killed HPC off for good. HPC had had many enemies over the years. The continuing rivalry with the theater department was currently dormant but it had never gone away. HPC had fought residential life administration, student apathy, and even its very own community for funding and its right to exist. However, there remained one thing that threatened to shut down the theater for good—the lighting in the Hinman Commons. Although the lighting and its wiring were continually being modified and upgraded as needed for each play, overall most of the lighting system was antiquated and in ill repair. The lighting system and its wiring were a fire hazard almost from the very beginning of HLT/HPC’s existence, but through a series of jerry-rigged modifications, deliberate obfuscation, and a little help from friends in high places, HPC had been able to ward off anyone threatening to shut them down over their wiring. That all changed in the summer of 2003 when Sharon received word from the Binghamton University fire marshal that the lights in the Hinman Commons were out of date and a fire hazard and that they would have to be replaced. Knowing that there was no way that they could afford such an expensive upgrade of their lighting system, Sharon agonized that summer over what they were going to do about the lighting system.

The Fall of 2003 saw HPC face a number of challenges besides the lighting system. In an effort to help save on the cost of purchasing the rights to plays, Sharon and the rest of HPC decided to go for a cheaper play. The play that they wanted to produce for that semester was another Steve Martin play titled *The Underpants*. Sharon went before the SA to ask for additional funding to help offset the costs for buying the rights to play and for money to update their lighting system. The SA initially did not give them any funding because HPC’s charter was
only through Hinman and not the SA. Eventually, after a hard-fought battle, the SA did give
HPC some money to put towards updating their lighting system. cmlii

Meanwhile, trouble struck on another front. With cash in hand to pay for the lights and
for the rights to produce the play, HPC received word that Steve Martin was attempting to get the
rights back to his play. Martin, in an attempt to revive his floundering career, wanted to bring
his play to Broadway. When the play was in production on Broadway it could not be produced
legally anywhere else. Also, an internal snafu by the HPC treasurer basically prevented them
from acquiring the rights earlier. They learned that they would have to wait until February to see
if Martin would go ahead with the production of his play. It soon became apparent that even if
Steve Martin decided not to produce his own play, there would not be enough time for HPC to
stage a show that semester. Anger and resentment over what became known as “the show that
never was” brewed within the normally placid HPC surroundings and animosities between
members grew thick. In a move reminiscent of the early experimental days of HLT, Sharon
decided that HPC should take the semester off and concentrate on staging a show in the Spring.
In the meantime they could update their constitution and inventory, and take stock of what HPC
currently had. A number of members did not like this. They had signed on with HPC to act or
produce, not to do inventories or to rewrite the constitutions. The fallout of “the show that never
was” was devastating for HPC. Many members quit in anger and with all the other problems
swirling around the organization, its future looked dark and stormy. cmliii

Two cast members who did not quit were freshmen Melanie Feltmate and Florencia
“Flo” Varela. Both Melanie and Flo lived in Cleveland Hall and became fast friends. Like so
many HPCers that had come before them, they had been involved in theater in high school and
wanted to continue that in college. Also, they were caught by the interesting advertising scheme
that HPC presented. At that time and in previous years, the Binghamton University fire marshals had been especially strict with the fire codes of each building. Recently, they had mandated that no paper could be posted anywhere in the building with the exception of bulletin boards. Staying true to their character, HPC flaunted the rules and taped posters advertising the organization on walls, windows and doors, going completely against the fire codes. This highly illegal practice caught the eyes of these two eager young freshmen which compelled them to join HPC at the most opportunistic moment. With HPC desperate for members and constantly on the lookout for new leaders, Melanie and Flo, whether they knew it or not, were about to join the long line of leaders in HLT/HPC history that included such notables as Stan Golderg, Steve Young, Patrick Misciagna, Adam Brown and so many, many others. For E-Board elections that semester, the only people who showed up were the ones to be elected. Melanie was elected Treasurer and liaison between HPC and HCC and Flo was elected Technical director.

In the Spring of 2004, the remaining members of HPC soon realized that there was absolutely no chance that they could produce *The Underpants*. In a near Herculean effort, the cast and crew of HPC threw together the play *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* in nearly two weeks. The group was able to scrape enough people together to put on the show, though Sharon went back to her old forte of being in charge of the props and costumes. Following this show, greater efforts were made to enlist people for behind-the-scenes work, as they were desperately in need to people for that show. Although the play was utterly thrown together at the last minute, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* was a hit for HPC.

That semester also saw two student written plays come to the Hinman Commons. The first was a play called *Collaboration*. The second was a play written by Binghamton student
William Duffy called *Acceptable Sacrifices*. This dark play centered around a number of characters living in a small town and how they manipulate one another for their own purposes. Sharon would play Constance, a successful doctor in the small town while Joe Petrolawicz played her husband Harvey, a macho, tough-guy police officer. Rounding out the cast was Brandon Ashinoff and Rachel Kornhauser, who played their next door neighbors Bob and Sara. Unfortunately, the play was criticized for having characters who did not leave a lasting impression with the audience. One reviewer stated, “If this play had been anything other than a student production, it might have disappointed, for once the audience walks away from the game board, there is nothing left to think about.”

Not everything was critical about the play. The reviewer praised the actors for fitting their roles well and for the technical aspects of the play. *Acceptable Sacrifices* was not a complete loss for HPC. Given the fiasco surrounding *The Underpants* and the ever looming issue of the lighting system, the fact that HPC could stage three shows that semester was truly a miraculous event. HPC had hit a snag on its climb back to the top, but it would not be held down for long.

The Summer of 2004 offered no relief to HPC. The fire marshal once again got on HPC’s case, this time about where it stored its equipment. Besides the HPC office located in the Hinman Commons, HPC had been storing most of their stage equipment in a room in the basement of Roosevelt Hall called Paradise. The rest of their props, costumes, etc. were strewn either in the central HPC office or in Paradise. The fire marshal claimed that it was a fire hazard to house all their property in these two relatively small spaces and forced HPC to find a new place to house their equipment. Luck appeared to be on the side of HPC at this stage. There is another large room in the basement of Roosevelt Hall that had up until that point been used as a luggage storage room for Hinman residents. That year it was decided that there was no longer a
need for a luggage storage space in Hinman and so that room was given over to HPC for their use. HPC quickly made use of their new space and filled this new room with their props and costumes. Keeping with the Dante theme, they dubbed this new room Inferno. To this day, Paradise contains all of HPC’s flats, wood, furniture, and set-building items. Inferno has their props, costumes and various other knick-knacks. The main HPC office holds the lights, paint, extra building supplies, and other expensive equipment along with extra scripts and other general information including the HPC archives. With space issue now settled, HPC could concentrate on bringing two more plays to the Hinman Commons in the fall.

By the Fall of 2004, HPC was ready to stage two more plays. The first play to be produced would be Edward Albee’s provocative *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* *The Goat* was a controversial play because it dealt with the taboo topic of bestiality. In the play Aaron Riccio played Martin, a seemingly normal, average, middle-class man with a seemingly normal all-American family. However, everything comes crumbling down when Martin revels to his family that he has been having an affair and not just any affair. He has been cheating on his wife with a goat named Sylvia. Opposite Riccio would be a newcomer to HPC, Maria Racioppo. Maria was a freshman and completely new to Hinman who got involved with HPC because Melanie Feltmate, who had become a DA in Hughes Hall that year, encouraged her to try out. Maria would play Stevie, Martin’s emotionally distraught wife. Racioppo’s character was supposed to fly into a rage during one scene and destroy a large portion of the set. Maria got so into character that they had to construct a small partition between the stage and the audience to keep the audience from being hurt from flying debris. One particularly humorous moment came during a Saturday matinee of the show. There was a scene where Maria was supposed to take a bowl full of M&M’s and drop the bowl. The bowl was supposed to shatter and spill the candy.
However, during this presentation of the show, whenever Maria dropped the bowl it would not break, it would just fall to the floor and roll around. Staying in character, Maria tried to break the bowl twice before she finally gave up and continued on with the scene as though it was all supposed to happen.

The reviews for *The Goat* were mixed. Aaron Riccio was praised for his performance of Martin and his psychological torment of coming to grips with the undeniable truth that he loves his family and Sylvia the goat. However, many of the other cast members were criticized for their flat performances and overacting. One reviewer ended by saying,

> Intriguing in structure, but lacking a strong overall cast, the play ends up being a thought-provoking commentary on the aspects of the culture that we follow blindly. Perhaps, if the subject material were less taboo, it would have been easier for the actors to bond over it.

While *The Goat* may not have been a hit, it was a success for HPC. It gave the mostly novice cast and crew a chance to hone their skill at producing quality and thought-provoking theater. HPC should also be lauded for experimenting with such taboo subject material as was presented in the play. Whatever shortcomings in *The Goat* were all about to be cleared away with the next HPC play, a play that had entertained hundreds of Hinmanites in the past, had made HPC history for two successive generations of HPCers and was about to do it again.

The second play for the Fall of 2003, set to debut on December 9 in the Hinman Commons, was none other than what has been described as the perfect musical—*Guys and Dolls*. Liza Adelman took on the awesome responsibility of directing this, perhaps the most holy of all plays performed in Hinman. She didn’t do it alone. She had a lot of help from her good friend, Sharon Kowlasky, who was the show’s choreographer and also did a bit of acting, performing as the supporting character Mimi. Joseph R. Petrolawicz would play Nathan Detroit, Kara Scott
would play Miss Adelaide, Tim Ryan played Sky Masterson, Melanie Kwiatkowski played Miss Sarah Brown, Ira Kantor played Nicely Nicely Johnson, and Steve Major played Benny Southstreet. Arvida Abernathy was performed by Kim McCombs, Harry the Horse by Rachel Schwalbe, with Melanie Feltmate acting as the M.C. at the Hot Box. Lt. Brannigan was played by Dan Lyons, General Cartwright was played by Christine Lyons, Agatha by Nicole Murphey, and Joey Baltimore by Dan Lyons. Taking on the show-stealing role of Big Julie which both Paul Reiser and Adam Brown made famous, was Charles Berman. Berman, who was also deeply involved in the theater department, would later go on to write his own play for HPC.

As in every previous production, the preparation and buildup to *Guys and Dolls* was enormous. Flo Varela remembers the flats in particular were difficult to do. This was the first time that this generation of HPCers attempted to use moving sets. The flats had wheels on them so that they could be moved around easier. The multiple scene changes in the play necessitated this type of flat. However, the breaks on the flats were not reliable and often the flats would not stay where they were placed forcing the crew to try and jerry-rig them as best they could. Another problem posed by the flats was a scene where the gangsters were supposed to run out of the mission and jump through a doorway and over a flat. They were supposed to look graceful. The reality was they were anything but graceful. Another scene that was of particular difficulty for Melanie Feltmate was a scene involving the hot-box girls. In the scene there was a sign that Melanie had to flip over with a broom. Melanie, who was the shortest person in the cast, had great difficulty flipping the sign over. When she finally did get it to flip over the audience applauded in recognition of her efforts. Another problem faced during the show centered around the number “Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat.” The scene takes place in a church amid
church pews where the singing and dancing are supposed to take place. However, the pews were not weighted correctly and they constantly were falling down.

Even with all of the obstacles that had to be overcome, this most recent presentation of *Guys and Dolls* was a smash hit. Every single show was sold out. Reflecting back on this experience, both Melanie and Flo considered this to be one of the high points of their careers in HPC. Even though many things in the play were thrown together at the last minute, HPC was still able to put on a quality, professional show that entertained quite literally hundreds of people. More importantly, and probably unbeknownst to the participants of HPC, the success of this show was important for two reasons. The first reason was that it was a needed victory for the organization that was still trying to redefine itself in the new millennium and gave a much needed boost to morale. The second, more important reason is that the success of this generation’s production of *Guys and Dolls* proved to themselves that they too could rise to the level of their forbearers and put on a classy and professional production with limited resources and under the greatest of stress. Throughout it all, they persevered and came out winners and showed the entire community just what HPC had to offer. More than that, it seems altogether fitting that this of all plays was the one that was to be successful for the group. In the opinion of this author, it seems as though there’s something special about that play whenever HPC performs it, as though a higher power, in some unknown but grand scheme, constructs a labyrinth of obstacles that need to be overcome, but then, almost miraculously, makes it all come together in one beautiful shining package. At the risk of jinxing all future productions of the play, it seems as though whenever HPC decides to stage *Guys and Dolls*, magic happens.

After the success of *Guys and Dolls*, work was not over for the dedicated men and women of HPC. While Sharon had acquired Inferno in the summer of 2004, the first opportunity
they had to move all of their stuff into new room was at the very end of the Fall of 2004 after *Guys and Dolls*. HPC moved all the flats, wood and other large bulky items to Paradise from the central HPC office and from a few smaller storage areas in the Hinman Dining Hall. They also relocated all the props and costumes to the newly acquired Inferno. During what became known as the Great Office Cleanout of 2004, Mel’n Flo (as they became known because they were nearly always together) quickly began to show themselves as the future leaders of HPC. They also acquired new nicknames. Flo became known as Chaos, and Melanie became known as Ruckus. The reason they got these new nicknames was because during the office cleanup they used to horse around with each other and the rest of HPC causing both a ruckus and chaos. After the office clean-up, the cast and crew of HPC settled down for a much deserved winter break and prepared for another semester of fun, friendship and the love of theater.

The Spring of 2005 started off on a high note for HPC. They started off the 2004-2005 academic year with a $700 budget. Melanie and Flo were friendly with Frankie Seeman and Ryan Schoeffield, the President and Financial Vice President of HCC, respectively. They were able to bump up the money they allotted to HPC to $1000 for the remainder of the semester and were able to have $1000 budget allotted to HPC for the next academic year. This was a much needed financial boost for HPC.

With the extra cash in hand, HPC set about producing its next show, *Murder at Rutherford House*. *Murder at Rutherford House* is a murder-mystery in the dinner theater style. Dinner would actually be served to the audience during the play. During the course of the dinner, the audience members would be given cards and at the end of the play they had to write down who they thought was the murderer and why. Prizes were awarded to the most accurate answer and the one with most creative answer. This novel concept had never been tackled by
HPC and presented some interesting logistical problems. Instead of risers and rows of chairs, tables needed to be set up so the audience could eat during the show. Anyone who has been in the Hinman Commons can tell you that it is a small space to begin with and even smaller when half of it is cordoned off for audience space during a regular performance, sans tables. With the extra space needed for the tables, it made the stage area incredibly small and difficult to work in. To complicate matters, it was written into the script what food was to be served to the audience and when. Melanie and others would arrive two hours before every show to chop fruit and help to prepare meals. Before one of the shows, Sharon had left a large portion of it in her apartment in Hillside. She wound up missing half the show ferrying it from her apartment down to the Hinman Commons. Some members of the tech crew were assigned to distribute the food. They had to be convinced to dress up as waiters or waitresses so they could be better able to play their part. The technical crew was not the only ones enlisted to help with the play. Adam Bonet, who was the RD of Hughes Hall at the time, helped by loaning HPC his refrigerator so that they could fill it with food for the show. For cast and crew of HPC, and especially for Sharon, Melanie, and Flo, the play was a logistical nightmare of the highest proportions. Still, in the end, the cast was great and the play went off without a hitch and the audience loved it. _Murder at Rutherford House_ was complete hit for the group.\textsuperscript{cmlxii}

Where _Murder at Rutherford House_ was a fun and entertaining play, the next play that HPC would perform that semester would be one its darkest and most tragic plays ever, and because of the subject matter it would push almost everyone in the cast to the emotional breaking point. That play would be _The Laramie Project_, which is the story about the death of Matthew Shepherd, a student at the University of Wyoming who in October of 1998 was savagely beaten to death near Laramie, Wyoming, because he was gay. This savage hate-crime sparked a media
frenzy at the time and opened up a national dialogue on hate crimes, homosexuality, and homophobia. The play, which is told in a series of monologues, deals with Shepherd’s death and the controversy surrounding preconceived ideas about homosexuals. The play, which was co-sponsored by the Binghamton University Rainbow Pride Union, was full of sensitive and controversial subject matter and the announcement of its production created a stir.

Rehearsals for the play were very hard emotionally. Flo remembers this draining experience. “I cried at every rehearsal and the actual play…it’s a very emotional play.” Almost every cast member played six different parts apiece. Lines were difficult to learn as the play was mostly long monologues by each of the characters. The sets were very minimal. They had simple flats painted green with chairs of all different colors placed around the stage and even in the area where the audience normally sits. At first glance it appeared as though the chairs were placed randomly in the room, but there was a reason to it. The few props and costumes that they had were placed on the chairs and as each cast member sat in the chair, they would pick up the costumes and props that they needed to become their next character.

The play is by its very nature supposed to be somber and depressing, though there were a few lighthearted moments. During one of the shows, one of cast members, Kyle Owen, was sitting in one of the chairs when one of his contact lenses fell out. At that point he began tearing up and jerking around in an attempt to find his missing contact. Everyone who was present thought that it was the emotion of the play that was getting to him and they too began to grow emotional. After the fact, everyone had a good laugh at this snafu.

During the rehearsals for the play, Ary Benmayor, who was cast to play the Reverend Phelps, had a difficult time getting into the part. Benmayor was an excellent actor, but for whatever reason he was struggling to truly understand this particular character and perform him
realistically. In an attempt to help Benmayor better understand the psychology of his character
and to better betray him, Sharon moved the rehearsal outside onto the Hinman Patio and told
Benmayor to rehearse his lines there. Benmayor was reluctant to do so because the Reverend
Phelps dialogue contains a lot of hate speech directed mostly towards homosexuals and he was
uncomfortable rehearsing these derogatory lines in public. Sharon encouraged Benmayor to try
and he did, standing just above the stairs leading up to the Hinman Patio and preaching one of
Reverend Phelps’ anti-gay sermons. To the casual passerby (and there were many) they must
have thought that Benmayor was a violent homophobe. Although this incident was slightly
embarrassing to Benmayor, this innovative rehearsal allowed him to better understand his
character and he nailed the part every time thereafter.

Difficult lines and saddening material were not the only problems associated with the
play. Reverend Fred Phelps, who is one of the characters in the play, is also a real-life person.
Reverend Phelps is an evangelical Christian who at the time of Matthew Shepherd’s death
commented that Shepherd got exactly what he deserved and that all gays deserve to die because
their sexuality is an affront to God. After Shepherd’s death and the trial of his killers, Phelps
began touring the country protesting at every place where the play was performed and
advocating his violent hatred towards homosexuals and preaching anti-gay sermons. At the time
that HPC was producing *The Laramie Project*, Phelps was in Nyack, New York, and there was a
very real possibility that he would come to Binghamton to protest the play. No one in HPC
knew exactly what would happen if Phelps and his supporters came and picketed the play. Not
only was Phelps’s brand of hatred and bigotry not wanted, the cast and crew of HPC was
concerned that a riot between Phelps supporters and those who were against him would spark.
Luckily, Phelps never came and the play went on without incident.
The reviews for *The Laramie Project* were mostly positive; however, it was not without its criticisms. One of the major criticisms of the play was that it moved too slow. All too often it seemed as though the monologues were forced, and were dragged out longer than they needed to be. Also, the fact that each actor played at least six different characters added to the confusion. Also the performances were not consistent. For instance, Ary Benmayor was praised for his excellent portrayal of the Reverend Phelps but not for some of his other characters. This seemed to be a problem with many of the male actors. The actresses seemed to fare somewhat better, though they too suffered from many of the same inconsistencies. The play’s major strengths seemed to occur during scenes that were quicker and more animated. One reviewer cited Kowlasky’s experience with comedies and musicals (which are usually quicker paced) as the reason why this was so. However, Sharon was also praised for the scenes that did work well, especially in Acts II and III. One reviewer stated:

> ...the moments when everything comes together are striking, and with a little more time (and in some cases, talent) HPC could have yielded a far more substantial product. It comes so close. The “Amazing Grace” scene is flawlessly directed...When so many individual pieces work together to make a unified whole, we understand the power (and necessity) of a community theater.

Although these were not glowing reviews, *The Laramie Project* was a surprise hit for HPC, and even if it wasn’t, it would still be ranked as one their greatest accomplishments. *The Laramie Project* was by far the most controversial and thought-provoking play HPC had ever done up until that point, and even with the threat of violent protest, they still performed the play. It is also definitely the most professional play ever produced by HPC in that regard. HPC had a lot to be proud of. The play was also a success for more humble reasons. *The Laramie Project* would be the last HPC play that Sharon Kowlasky would participate in. That semester she would graduate and leave Hinman and HPC behind, though, not before making sure that her
successors were adequately trained and prepared for the awesome challenges and responsibilities that lay before them. By graduation time, Sharon Kowlaksy had much to be proud of. Not only had her involvement in the company led her to grow and become a prominent figure in Hinman College, but it also allowed her to pursue her passionate love of theater. Moreover, Sharon had built upon the great foundation that James Fox had left her and moved HPC into the beginnings of what can only be described as a new golden age of community-based theater for the company and for Hinman. Under her presidency, HPC grew to ten times the size that it was when she was a freshman. In 2007, Sharon would describe her feelings for HPC. “It was a lot of hard work, a lot of patience and organization, and a lot of perseverance over all the little things that popped up. It was more than a full-time job; it was my life and became the most important thing to me at college.”

Sharon may have been leaving HPC behind, but the memories and friendships that she had made would last a lifetime. As emotional as the final goodbyes were, she took solace in the knowledge that her mentees would continue on the traditions and legacies of the little theater that could.

In the Fall of 2005, the leadership of HPC fell upon the shoulders of Sharon’s disciples, Melanie Feltmate and Flo Varela, the new co-Presidents of HPC. This dynamic duo of HPC quickly realized that they’d have to expend all their efforts to continue to make HPC a successful community-based theater organization. They quickly set about to perform two plays for that semester. The first play to be performed was a comedy called Office Hours. The play is a series of vignettes told from the perspectives of different characters. Technically speaking, it was a fairly easy play to put together and there were no real problems with it. Office Hours was not a particularly memorable play for many, but it was very successful and professionally done and a hit for HPC.
The next play to be performed that semester would be a musical called *The Boys From Syracuse*, which was a play based off of William Shakespeare’s *Comedy of Errors*. As fate would have it, *The Boys From Syracuse* turned into a real life comedy of errors. The cast for this play was huge, but thankfully they all bonded quickly and became very close-knit. In some theater troupes, rivalries and spats can occur among the cast members. While this had certainly happened to HPC in the past (and will undoubtedly happen again in the future) the cast for *The Boys From Syracuse* were all helpful towards each other worked exquisitely well with directors Kimberly McCombs and Dorian Dodd. This was a good thing because it seemed that everything that could possibly go wrong with the play did. During rehearsals, many cast members fell and injured themselves (none seriously). The play, which takes place in Ancient Greece, calls for the actors to wear traditional Greek garb. However, the costumes looked nothing like traditional Greek attire and it initially appeared as though the actors were wearing bed sheets for costumes. With a little bit of work, the costumes turned out ok. Also, there was a problem with one of the main cast members. Sam Nathanson, who would become an HPC mainstay, had difficulty singing. Try as hard as he might, Sam just was not able to sing up to the caliber that the directors were looking for, which was bad because in one scene he was supposed to sing a duet with another cast member. During the actual show he did the best that he could and his efforts were greatly appreciated by all. The show did very well and was sold out every single night. *The Boys From Syracuse*, despite all of its comedic errors during rehearsals, was an outstanding hit for HPC, which had returned to its bread and butter staple, the musical comedy after experimenting with different genres. The success of the play showed all involved that HPC was back on track as a hit-producing machine and more importantly the cast, which had bonded so well during play, all came back time and time again. Not since the late 1980’s had HPC seen
such a close-knit and dedicated troupe as it had at this time. This facet would become vitally important in the semesters to come.\textsuperscript{cmlxxii}

In the Spring of 2006, both Melanie and Flo were going to study abroad, Melanie to Perth, Australia and Flo to London. Although they trusted those who they had left in power in their stead, they still worried about the future of their company to which they had dedicated so much of their lives. Before they left for their respective destinations, they left the remaining members of the E-Board with a calendar of everything they had to do for the semester. Mel’n Flo were leaving nothing to chance. That semester saw only one play go into production. The play was called \textit{Jackson! A Musical Thriller} and was written by a student named Charles Berman. One of the biggest problems facing this play was that no one could decide on a set. They wound up using simple black curtains as the background with a US flag hanging up. That was the only place produced that semester. When Mel’n Flo returned from study abroad they settled down for a nice, relaxing summer off, but with big plans for what they would do for the fall semester.

When Mel’n Flo returned to Hinman in the Fall of 2006 they came with the realization that this would be their penultimate semester at Binghamton and their last semester as presidents of HPC. Therefore their mission was twofold. The first and most important thing was that they had to make sure that the leadership for the company was left in good hands and that the next generation of HPCers were adequately trained and could rise to the challenge. The second thing on their minds was that this was their last opportunity to do a show which they all wanted to do. For a long time Melanie had had a show kicking around in her head that she had wanted to bring to the Hinman Commons. When Melanie was in eighth grade, at the tender age of thirteen, she first saw the cult classic \textit{The Rocky Horror Picture Show}. A year later she saw the live stage
version and fell in love with the story ever since. When Melanie met Flo in 2003, she introduced her to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and they would be frequent attendees at the Vestal Violators, which periodically had midnight showings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. As time went by in their HPC careers, Mel’n Flo continually discussed producing *The Rocky Horror Show* (the title of the stage version). The play, famous for its audience participation, would be an interesting and challenging play to put on, especially in the small confines of the Hinman Commons. Still, the dynamic duo of HPC were up to the challenge and pitched the idea to the rest of HPC, who eagerly accepted. Everyone involved knew that *The Rocky Horror Show* would be a difficult show to produce, requiring long hours, extensive sets, and lots of money. Luckily for HPC, they were able to have the wiring in the Hinman Commons redone which had brought them up to fire code, so the fire marshal was off their backs for the time being. HCC also increased their budget for the year which helped with the efforts. Still, they knew that the other show would have to be simple and as inexpensive as possible. They then came across a series of one-act Woody Allen plays collectively called *Writer’s Block*. The plays are typical Woody Allen, but most importantly they had rather minimal sets which would allow them to devote more time and resources to *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Although the show was supposed to be relatively easy to do it came together rather late in the process. Most distressing of all, though, was that the first show had to be cancelled because of massive flooding in the Binghamton area. Although the campus itself did not flood, many of the cast and crew members (who lived off campus) were flooded in. The anticipation for the show was high and the forced cancellation was a big hit for the morale of the group. Flooding was not the end of their problems. Due to a miscommunication, the programs for the play were not printed in time for the first showing, and had to be printed during the intermission so the
audience could get one of the playbills. However, all the fears and trepidations were cast away as soon as the show debuted the following day on November 16, 2006.

HPC decided to stage two one-act plays from Woody Allen’s *Writer’s Block*. The first was a play called “Central Park West.” This story is full of the stuff that made Woody Allen famous: adultery, envious spouses, and neurotic characters all around. Maria Racioppo played Phyllis, a conceited psychoanalyst in whose apartment the play is entirely set. Freshman Ipsita Ghose made her HPC debut as Carol, Phyllis’s friend. The conflict of the play comes in when Phyllis discovers that Carol has been having an affair with her husband Sam (played by Johnny Bradigan). Cassidy Hark makes an appearance as Juliet, Sam’s most recent mistress and one of Phyllis’s former patients. She plays the delightfully ditsy Juliet excellently. Completely stealing the show is Eric West who plays Howard, Carol’s cuckolded husband. West in this role was a walking, talking mirror image of Woody Allen himself and played the hysterical part fabulously, completely upstaging everyone else on the set and winning the hearts of the audience with his interpretations of signature Woody Allen neurotic antics. This particular one-act play is laced with marital infidelity and numerous laugh-out-loud moments, such as when Phyllis rips apart reams of her philandering husband’s papers and when Howard, completely distraught over learning of his wife’s infidelities, tries to kill himself with a World War I era German Luger. The excellent and very comedic play reaches a climax when each of the characters gets what they deserve. The theme of the problems and repercussions of marital infidelity are made clear in numerous laugh-out-loud moments and the audience was reminded that the center of the universe was most definitely not Central Park West.

The next one-act play to be successfully performed was entitled “Old Saybrook.” The story takes place entirely within a country home in rural New Jersey (if there is such a thing). At
first all seems well as the audience is introduced to two happy couples, Sheila and Norman, played by Anna Masliakova and Travis Howard respectively, and their friends David and Jenny, performed by Johnny Bradigan and Beth DuBon. The couples’ quiet evening is interrupted by two strangers, another married couple, Hal and Sandy played by Joseph Coppola and Navah Fuchs. We soon learn that Hal and Sandy used to own the house and were driving by and decided to stop in and say hello and see if the man who they sold it too still lived there. At first the three couples get along well, until Hal tells them about a secret compartment hidden in the fireplace. Upon opening the secret compartment, the characters find a diary that details all the extra-martial sexual encounters between Jenny and Norman. Upon learning of this, Jenny’s husband, David, takes out a shotgun and threatens to kill everyone. Much of the humor in the play centers around the character’s efforts to calm the emotionally distraught and homicidal David down. During these heated conversations we soon learn that both Hal and Sandy have been cheating on each other. With this knowledge the entire house goes into an uproar as all the philanders prepare to meet their fates at the end of a double-barrel shotgun. Making his appearance at this time is the quirky Max (played by Michael Serpe), the man who bought the house from Hal and Sandy. Max enters the room bound and gagged to a chair. Upon releasing him, we find out that Sheila, Norman, David and Jenny are all characters in an unfinished play that Max was writing and that those four characters came to life in an attempt to get Max to finish his play. Everyone argues and bickers on how the play should end, but eventually agree that the best way to end it is with forgiveness. The touching final scene, when Max and his two artificial couples race off to finish the play leaving the two real people, Hal and Sandy, to confront their demons and to ultimately forgive each other is a tender moment showing that love conquers all, even the most heart-wrenching of infidelities.
In both one-act plays, HPC made excellent use of the simple décor used in for both settings. Even though the stage was fairly minimalist, the crew managed to make use of the same furniture and still give the impression that the action took place in two different settings. Kudos go to both Tom Sutch, who made his directorial debut with *Writer’s Block*, and to Sam Yaggy, a co-director and a veteran of HPC, playing Sergeant in *The Boys From Syracuse*. Freshman Laura Thelander helped assistant direct the show. Laura was inspired to join HPC by an acquaintance from her hometown in Orange County, New York. That acquaintance was none other than former HPC President James Fox. *Writer’s Block* was a success for HPC. Although the show may not have sold out every night like other plays, there still was a sizeable audience, and the quality of the acting and the production was absolutely first rate. With *Writer’s Block* firmly squared away, HPC could now throw all its resources behind its most ambitious project in years—*The Rocky Horror Show*.

For those unfamiliar with *The Rocky Horror Show* or the film version, it is the story of two naïve young people, Brad Majors and his fiancée Janet Weiss, and their misadventures in the castle of the evil transvestite mad scientist Dr. Frank-n-furter, an alien from the planet Transsexual, in the galaxy Transylvania. Both the film and the play were filled with sexual references and most of the subject matter touched many taboo subjects and bizarre sexuality. Not for the faint of heart, *The Rocky Horror Show* broke all the rules regarding common ideals about sex and sexuality and set it all to music. Bringing everything together to make this ambitious musical work was perhaps the most challenging thing that Mel’n Flo ever did and is perhaps one of the most complex shows that HPC has ever produced.

One of the first problems that HPC had to overcome was casting the show. Luckily, many HPC veterans jumped at the chance to participate in the show, including many people who
had been involved in *The Boys From Syracuse*. In the end, Jillian Maxwell would play Janet Weiss, John Svitek would play Brad Majors, and HPC veteran Kyle Owens would play Frank-n-furter. Nicholas Roach would play Frank-n-furter’s Igor-like henchman Riff Raff, Ava Rosenblatt would play Columbia, and Andrea Shapiro would play Magenta. Vance Valerio would play Frank-n-furter’s version of Frankenstein’s monster, Rocky, Sam Nathanson would voice the Narrator, and Hanniel Choi would play the dual roles of the rival scientist Dr. Everett Scott and Scott’s nephew, Eddie. Alexandra Gordon, Max Eisenstat, Whitney-Mae Faison, Brittany Jennings, and Tracey Gordon rounded out the cast as Phantoms, more minions of Frank-n-furter who also doubled as crew devoted to changing the sets as needed. Auditions for the show were very interesting to say the least. Usually when a producer and/or director casts a show they have actors read lines or do a brief scene. Along with this, Mel’n Flo also asked each of the cast members if they were comfortable wearing nothing but their underwear in front of people. While this may have seemed like a strange and unusual question to the outside observer it was a very legitimate question. Most of the cast would be performing in costumes that were little more than their undergarments, leaving very little to the imagination. The play also calls for many of the cast to perform very risqué scenes. To get the cast used to this, Melanie would put on proactive music and give out lap dances. Rehearsals occurred at a near breakneck pace. They were seven days a week every single week and went on for hours each night, leaving the cast and crew precious little time for any other pursuits including academics. Unfortunately, for a long while the Hinman Commons was not available because the Physical Facilities decided to remove the asbestos from the Commons at that most inconvenient of moments. To compensate for a lack of rehearsal space, the cast rehearsed in dorm rooms, floor and main lounges and just about any space that was available to them. Oftentimes they would rehearse in full costume
(which regularly wasn’t much of a costume at all). Both Melanie and Flo remembered humorous
moments when innocent residents of the building would walk by and see all these strange people
wearing next to nothing and parading around in strange choreographed movements, humored and
scared to death at the same time. Humorous moments occurred on a regular basis during
rehearsals for the show. The cast would often hurl good-natured barbs and insults at one another.
One rehearsal in particular stands out in everyone’s mind. In the middle of rehearsing one scene,
someone broke wind rather loudly which caused everyone to break down in hysterical laughter.
Rehearsal had to recess for twenty minutes because the cast could not stop laughing. None of it
could have worked if the cast had not been tight. Many of the same relationships that they had
forged during previous HPC shows helped with the bonding of the cast, so they were
comfortable dealing with each other in rather delicate positions (pun intended). For example,
John Svitek, a first-semester freshman, was a little anxious about playing his role. Melanie and
the rest of the cast created games that were meant as team building exercises, but fixed them so
that he would have to do some of the more outrageous and raunchy exercises. Kyle Owens, who
played Frank-n-furter, began wearing an “I love [heart symbol in place of word love] Brad” pin
to encourage Svitek. A play as outrageous as this would oftentimes make actors squeamish and
unwilling to do certain parts. However, there was none of this in this particular cast. Each and
everyone of them embraced their role whole heartedly. Not only did they get into their
characters completely but they also immersed themselves completely in the underground culture
that is *The Rocky Horror Show.*

The cast members were not the only ones to be challenged. Set design and construction
was also a problem that had to be solved. The sets were huge, the largest sets in recent memory
and perhaps some of the largest sets in all of HPC history. The slab that was used for Rocky to
lay on when he was “born” was absolutely gigantic. The crew built the slab in the Commons and when everything was all over they could not get it out. During one of the scenes, a television monitor is supposed to show Dr. Scott wheeling down a hallway in his wheelchair. Not only did they have to pre-tape this segment so that it could be used during the actual performance but during one of the shows, one of the cast members hit the wrong button and instead of Dr. Scott in his wheelchair all they say was static. Melanie had to stealthily sneak onto the stage to fix this and save the scene. Another technical detail that had to overcome was what to do about the scene where Eddie tries to escape. The script has Eddie bursting out of a soda machine before he is killed. HPC was unable to either get a soda machine or to build one themselves that looked real enough. To solve this problem ice was substituted for the soda machine and they surrounded Eddie in foam to have him burst out of the “ice.”

One of the most integral parts of this play was its music. The music is important for any musical but this is especially true for *The Rocky Horror Show*. It was agreed early on that they needed as full a band as possible to make the music sound good. Luckily for HPC, there was a lot of support from musicians who wanted to play for the show. They did have trouble finding a person who could play saxophone in the band. For weeks on end both Mel’n Flo searched for anyone who could play saxophone, even appealing to HCC in hopes that there might be a musically inclined member who knew how to play the sax. Just when all hope was lost on finding a saxophone player, they happened to stumble across an acquaintance of theirs at a party. This person happened to know how to play the sax and agreed to play for the band. At almost the very last minute the band was complete and ready to rock out for *Rocky Horror*.

Most versions of the play encourage audience participation. Veteran *Rocky Horror* fans know exactly when to shout out insults at the cast and make fun of their lines. Goodie bags are
also distributed with various items that can be thrown at the cast members. Seeing a production of *The Rocky Horror Show* is an experience, to say the least, what with all the scantily clad people milling about, audience members hurling insults at the actors, and flying objects during the production. It is also an extra special night for *Rocky Horror* virgins, or those who have never been to a live show before, because they get a large “V” painted on their forehead so that everyone knows that they are “virgins”. The show was scheduled for November 30 at 8 p.m., December 1 at midnight, and December 2 at 2PM and 8 p.m. The midnight showing of *Rocky Horror* is usually the time when all the diehard fans come out to witness and partake in the spectacle. Everyone knew that the show was going to be popular so they added extra seating which brought them well above the number allowed by fire code. Almost all of the shows were sold out and the midnight show was incredibly popular. For that show so many people kept coming that there was standing room only. The Hinman Commons was packed as it never was before. At the door they sold tickets and goodie bags one by one. The stage was set, the cast was pumped, but would *The Rocky Horror Show* live up to all the hype that it had generated?

The answer to that question was a resounding yes! HPC rocked the house with its performance and brought the audience to its feet on numerous occasions. Each and every cast member performed well above all expectations. There were a few snafus. During one show a flat that was being used as a background for Frank-n-furter’s lab fell down. Luckily, no one was hurt. In another scene Kyle Owens is supposed to come onto stage with a chainsaw. During one of the shows it took Kyle a very long time to come out. Finally he came out not with a chainsaw, but with a cucumber. After the show it was learned that the prop chainsaw had been misplaced and the only thing he could find was a cucumber. Still the scene went on, albeit to a somewhat
confused audience. Sam Nathanson, who played the Narrator, also had the unfortunate tendency
to forget some of his lines. Luckily for everyone, he was great at improvising and no one in the
audience was the wiser. The band was amazing and the musical numbers were superb,
especially the show’s signature number “Let’s Do The Time Warp Again.” At the end of every
show audience members were invited up to dance with the cast and “do the time warp again.”
Every show was special, but the most special of them all was the midnight showing. There it
seemed as though all the diehard Rocky Horror fans from miles around converged on the
Hinman Commons, many of them dressed (or is it undressed) for the occasion. Even the Vestal
Violators came and afterwards the manager approached Mel’n Flo and said that it was the best
production of the show that he had ever seen. No official reviews exist for HPC’s version of The
Rocky Horror Show, but that comment was the greatest praise that anyone in the cast and crew of
HPC could have received.

Sunday December 3, the day after the last show, everyone in HPC took a much needed
rest. Mel’n Flo slept over twenty-four hours to compensate for the sleep deprivation they had
been accumulating since rehearsal for the play started. Still, the next week the cast, crew and
even the band begged Mel’n Flo to schedule rehearsals because they missed seeing each other so
much. All told, the play was a monumental success for HPC. Through sales of tickets and
goodie bags HPC raised over $2,000. More than that, though, The Rocky Horror Show was
exactly what HPC needed.

The play was the lifetime achievement moment for both Mel’n Flo during their time in
college. These two dynamic personalities and faithful leaders had, whether they knew it or not,
taken a Hinman organization that had been beleaguered by many issues over the previous decade
and turned it around to the winning organization that it had once been. Under their leadership
they had seen the budget grow from $500 to double that amount. They were able to have new wiring installed in the Hinman Commons, bringing the lighting system up to code and even had many brand new lights installed. They saw membership skyrocket as more people than ever before got involved, and with the exception of the Spring of 2006, every semester had at least two productions. They hadn’t done it alone. Foundations had been laid by earlier HPC greats like James Fox and Sharon Kowlasky and countless other devoted HPCers. Still the efforts they had made would set the example for what the leaders of HPC should be. HPC had had its ups and downs, and even on its most recent upward climb there had been setbacks, just as undoubtedly there will be setbacks well into the future. The success of *The Rocky Horror Show* would be for this generation of HPC the equivalent of the success of HLT’s *Guys and Dolls* or an earlier generation of HPC’s production of *Grease*. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, for HPC success was not final, and failure was not fatal. Every member of this theater organization had the courage to continue, and that’s what counted. The Spring of 2007 will see HPC stage an old timeless classic. *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown* will make another appearance in the Hinman Commons, the fourth time it will have done so. The end of this year will also see Melanie Feltmate and Flo Varela graduate and leave Hinman and HPC behind, but the legacy that they and the rest of HPC leave behind will last for years to come. James Fox, Sharon Kowlasky, Melanie Feltmate, and Flo Varela had joined the ranks of the great leaders of HPC: Stan Goldberg, Steve Young, Patrick Misciagna, and Adam Brown. Their blood, sweat and tears were all pooled into that little community-based organization dedicated to the singular purpose of fun, friendship and the love of theatre.
Part V: The Traditions and Legacy of HLT and HPC

Every long running organization has traditions. HPC is no exception. One of the longest standing traditions that HPC has had has been the procedure that they have used to pick each of the plays. This procedure is truly a community effort involving everyone in this community-based theater organization. At the end of each semester the general body of HPC sits down and decides what play to perform for the following semester. This meeting is called a Pitch Meeting because each of the members can pitch an idea to the rest of the group concerning what play they should perform. An individual will the pitch the show, give a brief description of what the show is all about. It helps if either that individual or someone else in HPC is willing to direct the show. After that the HPC treasurer looks up the costs associated with the rights and the royalties of the show. At the beginning of the next semester the group returns and has a voting meeting. In this meeting another discussion occurs, this time focusing on the pros and cons of the plays that were suggested in the Pitch Meeting. After the discussion is over the group votes on which play they would like to see produced. The one with the majority of the votes wins. In the past few years, HPC has offered a student playwriting contest in which a current student will write a play and submit it to HPC for the chance to have it performed by the group. Usually held in the spring semester, the E-Board members read over the submitted plays and pick the best one of the bunch to be performed. Though they are completely unknown shows, there are no royalties or rights to be purchased. Also, some very good and original performances have come out of the student writing competition.

Other traditions include some of the interesting behind-the-scenes traditions that HPC uses. One of the more interesting ones involves Schlomo. Schlomo is a stick made out of
broomsticks, duck tape and a hook. This makeshift device has been used to help the crew hang the curtains for years and has become an original HPC staple for the production. Another tradition includes the team-building song “Gerry.” “Gerry” is a song that is played before every performance to warm the actors up. They dance around like fools and expend nervous energy. “Gerry” is very popular and everyone gets involved. One year, one of the directors was dead set against performing “Gerry,” which led to a huge outcry from the rest of the group. Now it has been officially mandated that everyone rocks out to “Gerry” (cast, crew, directors and even the E-Board) before every performance. Other memories include the customary trip to Denny’s after the first performance of the show to go over what went well, what went wrong, and to consume inferior quality food late at night. Perhaps the best and most time-honored tradition is one that dates back to the first time that HLT began using the Hinman Commons as their stage area.

Melanie Feltmate captures this rite of passage for everyone involved in the group:

I love every year when we bring the freshmen in for our first GIM [General Interest Meeting] of the year and show them the Commons and say “Okay, here’s your stage.” They all look like they’re about to say, “You’ve got to be kidding,” but then comes the end of the semester and they see the transformation the Commons can have and it’s really nice to see that.

It’s these traditions that add to the legacy of an organization now it its 36th year of existence. Of all the great Hinman institutions, HPC is definitely the one filled with the most drama, comedy, farce, and romance. Very little of that actually comes from the plays performed. It comes not from the fictional realm that Hinman community-based theater operates in, but from the personal interactions among the members of this tight-knit yet inclusive organization. It is the institution that has the most passionate members. This author can personally attest that even close to forty years after the organization began, people who were involved in it still talk time and time again about being members of either HLT or HPC at some point in their lives.
Stan Goldberg, the founding father most responsible for the creation of HLT, would marvel at the fact that the organization is still around (albeit with a new name and a slightly different set of rules) all these years after he tended the helm. “The whole thing was great.” Stan would say, “There was no budget and no charge. It was just for fun. It was all just for fun. Amazing that people took as much time out of their schedules as they did to participate.”

Over thirty years after he graduated from Binghamton, Steve Young, one of the original members of HLT, would proclaim that HLT (and by extension HPC) fulfilled the creative needs of the people of Hinman. Twenty-five years after reinventing HLT and creating the new organization, HPC, Patrick Misciagna had this to say, “It was the nights of standing ovations. That was the best pay you could get. I don’t know how we did it but we pulled off miracles. The applause was what kept us going.”

Likewise, Jody Sandler, Patrick’s right hand man during their years in HPC, stated, “[HPC was the] entryway for people who think ‘wouldn’t it be nice to be a movie star.’ It gave people an opportunity to be in the arts and theater.”

Adam Brown, perhaps HPC’s most stalwart and influential leader who led the organization through what can only be called its golden age, had this to say upon reflecting about the meaning of HPC: “During *Fiddler on the Roof* there was a moment on the stage that dealt with ‘leaving home.’ HPC represented home. I talked to [Faculty Master] Al Haber a lot about what home is. That play allowed me to reflect over the past seven years of my time in Hinman. It was a very special moment...really wonderful.”

Four years after the end of his involvement in HPC, James Fox would say, “[HPC] helped me realize a lot about myself. Helped me to figure out how to handle people and to help actors emerge and entertain an audience. It teaches you how to be passionate.”

In 2006, in the penultimate semester of her senior year and the last time
she would be involved as HPC co-President, Melanie Feltmate wrote this about what the
meaning of HPC was all about.

We are a true low-budget community theater—it doesn’t sound glamorous, but that’s our
legacy. We find the most innovative costumes and sets you can imagine, because we
HAVE to. And in the end it always looks great, and we always pull through. I kind of
like the name Hinman Little Theater more because it makes us sound like the little engine
that could. Based on our space and restrictions to the Commons and budget you’d think
we’d never be able to produce a show, but we always pull it off.\textsuperscript{cmixxviii}

In a way none of these words truly sum up what the Hinman Little Theater or the Hinman
Production Company experience is all about. How can you put into words an organization that
has meant so much to so many people over a nearly forty-year existence? The answer to that
question is that it is almost impossible. This “little theater that could” has done the impossible
and pulled off miracles on countless occasions in its storied past. It has also created bonds of
fellowship and family among the members regardless of when they served. Anyone who has
been involved in either HLT or HPC can meet someone from any era of that organization’s
history and they will be in complete understanding of what it means to be in a Hinman
community-based theater organization. Adam Brown once said that HPC was all about fun,
friendship and the love of theater, but it’s more than that. It’s about the bonds of community, of
overcoming insurmountable odds and looking back on the finished product and realizing that the
many hours of hard-work, tribulations and stress were more than worth it. It does not matter if
the young men and women involved in the group go on to have successful acting careers like
HLT alum Paul Reiser. What matters is that they had the chance to contribute to the ongoing
story of an organization that has entertained thousands of people over the course nearly four
decades and built the personal characters of everyone involved in the group. In this sense the
legacy of HLT and HPC is centered not in the plays performed but in the people who were in
them, all of whom are radiating beacons of the Hinman Spirit.
The author would like to extend his gratitude to Stan Goldberg, Steve Young, Pete Lorenzi, Steve Fialkoff, Gary Levine, Tony Toluba, Patrick Misciagna, Jody Sandler, Rene Coderre, Adam Brown, Mark Sokoff, William Kahn, Scott-Robert Shenkman, Alice Brod, James Fox, Sharon Kowlasky, Melanie Feltmate, Flo Varela, Maria Racioppo and the members of HPC for their contributions to this chapter and for their efforts in one of the finest Hinman institutions and for creating, by far, the VERY BEST theater organization on campus.
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We Didn’t Start The Fire: The Lehman Hall Fire and Other Fires in Hinman History

We didn’t start the fire
It was always burning
Since the world’s been turning
We didn’t start the fire
No we didn’t light it
But we tried to fight it.

-Billy Joel
“We Didn’t Start The Fire”

It has been the great luck of this residential community that very few fires have occurred here. Unfortunately for Hinman, the greatest blaze in the history of not only Hinman College but all of Binghamton University occurred in the fall of 1978 within Lehman Hall. This inferno would cause large amounts of damage, but hurt no one seriously or permanently. It would forever be a textbook case for Binghamton students on why they should take every fire alarm seriously and always shut their door before they leave their room. More than that, it would be forever seared into the memories of those who lived through it. The people who lived in Lehman Hall, and every Hinmanite of that era, would forever remember where they were and what they were during at the time of Lehman Hall fire.

As early as 1970 Hinman had been having problems with fires and the fire alarm systems in the buildings. In the December 8, 1970, issue of The West Harpur Other, a series of false fire alarms were reported in Hinman. Apparently, it was becoming a popular prank for people to pull the fire alarm when there was no fire. The large number of these false alarms occurring led to complacency on the part of residents, many of whom did not even bother to leave the buildings. Around this time a Christmas tree in Cleveland Hall caught fire, but when the alarm went off, not a single person left the building. Luckily, the fire was quickly contained and no one was hurt. This is an early example of the complacency and the “it can’t happen to me” attitude that many residents of Hinman possessed concerning fires. While for the next eight years there
would be only small fires that were contained with little if any damage, this early report was a dark harbinger of things to come in the Fall of 1978.

October 20, 1978, started off like any typical Friday night. Most residents of Lehman Hall were either preparing for a night out on the town or had gone out already. Those that did not were planning on a quiet, relaxing evening in. Absolutely no one planned on what would happen next.

At 9:51 p.m. fire broke out in Lehman’s first floor lounge on the north or A-side of the building and an alarm was sounded. Moments later campus security responded and discovered a quickly growing blaze in the first-floor lounge. One of the first responders that evening was Gary Brown, a patrol officer with University Law Enforcement (the precursor to University Police). At the time of the Lehman Hall fire, Gary L. Brown was a young patrolman with the University Law Enforcement Division (ULED). At the time of the writing of this chapter, Brown had achieved the rank of Lieutenant in the Binghamton division of the New York State University Police Department (UPD).

At the time of the Lehman Hall fire, Gary L. Brown was a young patrolman with the University Law Enforcement Division (ULED). His career would see many changes in university law enforcement including the issuing of firearms to officers (a contentious issue at the time). That night Brown had been in the Fine Arts Building on a special assignment. Over his radio, he heard news of a fire alarm going off in Lehman Hall. After monitoring his radio for a time he soon realized that the fire was rapidly getting out of control and he responded on foot from the Fine Arts Building to Lehman Hall as quickly as he could. Upon arriving at the scene, he saw heavy smoke coming out of the first floor windows. He quickly realized that this was not going to be an ordinary night.

The fire department was called and some of the campus security officers heroically entered the building searching for people who may have been incapacitated by the thick smoke. About twenty minutes later, units from the Binghamton, Johnson City and Vestal Fire

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29 At the time of the writing of this chapter, Brown had achieved the rank of Lieutenant in the Binghamton division of the New York State University Police Department (UPD).
Departments responded and courageous firefighters strapped on their oxygen tanks and dove into the fire to search for people who might not have been able to evacuate quickly enough.

As the fire trucks rolled up in front of Lehman Hall so too did Harpur’s Ferry, the campus ambulance service, preparing to treat the victims. Luckily, the worst injuries were relatively minor smoke inhalation. Fifteen minutes later the Red Cross arrived on the scene to administer aid. “Over thirty qualified first aid workers were present before the ambulance arrived, but no-one was seriously injured.”

Shortly after the fire broke out and the emergency had vehicles arrived at the scene, on- and off-campus media flocked to document the inferno. WHRW, the campus radio station, temporarily suspended regular programming to bring live coverage of the fire to listeners. Steve Wertheim was broadcasting from Lehman Hall within minutes after fire broke out. Wertheim and his fellow WHRW news staff found out later that every radio station in Binghamton was listening in to WHRW for updates on the fire. Almost immediately after the fire was suppressed, allegations from both students and firefighters arose that Wertheim’s coverage of the fire was far too sensational. Matthew Beck, WHRW’s program director, defended his reporter by saying that they were constantly reminding listeners that the authorities had everything under control. In addition the WHRW station was flooded with calls from people offering food, clothing and other forms of assistance to the residents of Lehman Hall, who were increasingly being referred to as refugees.

Many residents of Lehman had no idea what was going on until it was nearly too late. Barrie Hirsch and Meredith Savitt were hanging out in Hirsch’s first floor suite when the fire broke out. Neither was aware that anything was going on until an alarm sounded and they opened the suite door to be confronted by a choking wall of thick smoke. Hirsch and Savitt were
able to grope their way through the blinding smoke to the side exit and they made their way out of the building and onto the Hinman Quad, where they saw other first-floor Lehman residents breaking windows in their suites so that they could escape the licking flames. Jack Davidoff was a third-floor Lehman resident as well as an equipment coordinator for Harpur’s Ferry. Davidoff, like virtually every other resident in the hall initially believed it to be just another drill, so he lingered a moment in his suite. By the time he opened his door, thick smoke had already enveloped even the third floor of the hall. The smoke billowed out of the elevator shaft and the vents and made its way up the building’s stairwells. Davidoff, like many others, felt his way down the stairs through the blinding and choking smoke to safety.

Keith Balter was on the second floor at the time of the fire. He reported that there was smoke long before any alarm was triggered and no alarm went off until he and an RA went downstairs to investigate and discovered the blaze. Balter evacuated the building at first, then joined with some of the campus security police and reentered the building to search for residents who may have been trapped by the fire. As they approached the first floor they were blocked by a wall of smoke. They then decided to try to circle around the fire by crossing through the basement. They were stopped this time by the extreme heat, a heat so intense that walls around them began to drip and melt. This forced them to leave the building and wait for the firefighters.

Susan Love, who was the President of Lehman Hall at the time, recalled shortly after the fire that when many of the students heard the alarm they refused to leave. Many of them groaned at the prospect of another fire drill and said that they simply could not be bothered by the tiresome practice. A very short time later, though, someone smelled smoke and Love and the
others realized that this time there was no drill. Love led a group of others around to many of the
suites shouting that the fire was real and that everyone needed to evacuate immediately.\textsuperscript{cmxcvi}

Even though most of the residents in the building were out that evening, people still had
to be evacuated, including two female residents who were trapped on the third floor of the
building. A ladder was raised by Vestal firefighters who quickly rescued the two women before
they could be overcome by the thickening smoke. Neither one was seriously hurt. They were
given oxygen, but did not have to go to the hospital for additional treatment.\textsuperscript{cmxcvii}

Frightening and chaotic though the fire was, the management of the emergency by the
Hinman resident assistants, professional staff, and its hall and area government helped make the
situation better. Allan Eller, the Coordinator of Hinman, remembered the fire vividly. That
night a fraternity was hosting a stag film in Lecture Hall One, so he and some of his friends
decided to go see the movie. While they were watching the film someone came into the Lecture
Hall and announced that one of the dorms was on fire. Allan asked which dorm was on fire. The
messenger replied that it was one of the dorms right across the street, meaning Hinman.
Immediately, Allan leapt from his seat and sprinted back to Hinman to survey the situation and
to decide what to do next to help the beleaguered residents.\textsuperscript{cmxcviii} Shortly thereafter, the Lecture
Hall would have to be evacuated because of a fire set in the classroom wing.

Eric Pomerantz, a senior and three-year resident of Lehman as well as President of HCC,
remembers the fire vividly. The night that the fire broke out he was studying for the LSAT exam
in the Hinman Commons, of which he was also a night manager. While he was studying
someone came in and told him that the building was on fire. Eric lived on the third floor of the
A-wing, the same side that the fire was on. At the time he had no idea exactly where the fire had
started or how bad it would be. Eric would help the RA’s move the Lehman Hall evacuees
toward Cleveland and safer ground and helped perform a head count to see if everyone had
gotten out safely. This was very difficult to do because so many people had gone out that Friday
night. Jim Greenlees also was on shift that night as a manager at the Hinman Commons.
He remembers seeing a light and upon going out to investigate saw that the building was on fire.
He saw the flames shooting out of the first floor lounge window and licking over the roof.

The fire burned intensely hot and spread rapidly. It reached its hottest point in the
northwest corner of the first-floor lounge. The fire was estimated to reach temperatures between
800 and 1100 degrees Fahrenheit. It was so hot that it melted the metal fixtures in the lounge
and the hall. By the time the fire trucks arrived, flames were already leaping out from the floor
toward the ceiling of the first floor. Thick, billowing smoke was beginning to encompass not
only the first floor but also the second and third floors of that side of the building. Luckily, the
fire was extinguished about two minutes after the hoses were turned on and water was applied to
the flames.

At first it seemed that tragedy had been narrowly averted and that everyone could begin
to calm down. For the residents and staff of Hinman College as well as for the firefighters and
officers of campus security that was not to be the case. Within a half hour of the blaze in
Lehman hall, small fires broke out on bulletin boards in Smith and Roosevelt Halls as well as in
the Fine Arts Building and the Lecture Hall. These were quickly contained and no major
damage was sustained. Yet shortly after midnight, firefighters were called to combat blazes in
two dumpsters at the Holiday Inn-Arena. This was approximately at the same time that some of
the displaced residents of Lehman Hall decided to go to the Holiday Inn for the evening. Many
students were disturbed and greatly upset that they had left the scene of one fire and had entered
into another one. The fire in Lehman Hall appeared suspicious enough, but the subsequent fires
around the rest of campus along with the fire in downtown Binghamton led authorities to their worst possible fear: that there was an arsonist on the loose.iii

At midnight, university administrators including President Clifford Clark and Vice President for Student Services Dudley “Doug” Woodard met with the Vestal Police Department and campus security to discuss what would occur during the rest of the weekend. It was agreed that given the severity of the fire in Lehman along with the numerous smaller fires that occurred both on campus and at the Holiday Inn, a 24-hour watch would be commenced until a thorough investigation into the fire could be done.iii While mattresses and blankets were being gathered in Smith and Roosevelt Halls, a state of fear began to grip the student body following the rumors that arson was to blame for the fire. Several residents hastily packed small bags with some valued possessions and others slept fully clothed ready to evacuate their buildings at a moment’s notice. RA’s made sure that doors and windows were locked and that dorm patrols were organized to report and deter suspicious activity.iv

Outside, residents of Lehman Hall still milled about as Hinman staff members desperately tried to perform an accurate head count. In the Hinman Dining Hall an information booth was setup to keep the residents informed of what was going on. At 11:30 p.m. it was announced that around 1 a.m. students would in small groups be allowed to return and retrieve essentials, though the first floor would have to wait till 4:30 a.m. to give the fire marshals time to complete their investigation. Once the fire was extinguished and the initial traumas had subsided, boredom began to set in. Some students intently watched as fire crews shoveled away some of the debris while others swapped crude jokes about whether the fire would be charged to their housing damage deposits. It was not until 1:30 a.m. that they were notified that students would be allowed back in for a few minutes so they could collect some essential or valuable items from
their rooms. Upon reentering the building some students noticed that their belongings and their rooms, aside from having a heavy odor of smoke, were not damaged severely. They had shut their room and suite doors before they had left, and this had been just enough to prevent the flames from entering into their rooms and destroying their property. Others who had left their doors open lost near everything they owned to the inferno.

Inside everything was covered in so much black soot that it was difficult to tell what had been the door and what has been the wall. The extreme heat blistered both paint and wallpaper and metal exit signs and fixtures in the tub room had been bent and melted. Most of the carpeting had been consumed by the flames right down to the concrete. Where the doors had been left opened the smoke and soot ruined clothes and melted refrigerators, typewriters, bottles and dishes. The smoke level had been just an inch off the floor because bright new paint (the floor had been repainted just a few days previous) could be seen exactly one inch from the floor.

The first order of business following the blaze was to figure out a temporary housing solution for the displaced Lehman residents. After meeting with university administration, Allan Eller gave the roughly 62 displaced residents of the second and third floor three options. First, they could stay in Hinman and move into other suites and receive a per week refund for being in a tripled room. Second, they could go off campus and be sent a weekly pro-rated refund. Third, they could be asked to be placed in doubles with resident assistants or resident directors with no refund. This was the short-term solution for the displaced residents of the second and third floors who were expected to be able to return to Lehman Hall within 10 and 14 days. The long-term solution for the residents of the first floor where the fire started would be more complicated. They were told that they would be placed in the nearby Colonial Inn and that their refunds would
be spent to cover the cost of housing them there. The Colonial Inn had rates that were usually higher than the student housing fee, but the proprietors of the Inn agreed that they would house the students for the reduced rate and suffer a loss. After a closed-door session all of the residents of the first floor, with the exception of one, agreed to be relocated to the Colonial Inn. While the students who were tripled or moved off campus were supposed to get refunds, some reports state that students received no compensation from the university and were stuck footing the bill for living off campus or were crammed into triples at the regular housing rate.

In the aftermath of the fire many questions emerged. First was the practical question for those who had lost property in the fire: would the university cover the cost of their burned property? The answer to that was no. While the university fire insurance covered the damage sustained to the building, it did not cover students’ personal property. Some of the students were covered by their parents’ homeowners’ insurance, but some were not and were completely wiped out.

The other question that filtered up out of the ashes of the fire was of course the question on everyone’s mind: how did the fire start? Since the very beginning, with all of the fires that had occurred around campus that evening, arson was immediately suspected. However, the identity of the arsonist was up in the air. One theory centered around Vincent Bugliosi. Bugliosi was the prosecuting attorney in the Charles Manson case and was giving a lecture on campus the evening that the fire broke out. Some theorized that supporters of Manson were trying to either get at Bugliosi or at the very least make a statement about the case itself. That rumor was quickly quashed as new information surrounding the Lehman Hall fire arose.

The police investigating the case were tight-lipped to the media about what they knew about the fire. The investigation went on for weeks. In the dumpster behind Lehman, a can of
flammable charcoal lighter fluid was found. This and other evidence suggested a certain individual who became the prime suspect in the fire. This suspect was known on campus and in particular in Hinman College. University Law enforcement had many dealings with him in the past. The suspect was very eccentric bordering on delusional. However, the suspect was never charged with any crime and because of potential legal ramifications this author feels that the details surrounding the case should remain undisclosed. The one fact that can be known, though, is that there was a prime suspect and after this suspect left campus the strange fires that had been occurring off and on for some time immediately stopped.

University maintenance and work crews worked long hours to repair the damage to the hall so at least the residents of the second and third floors could return to their rooms. Under the supervision of Physical Facilities Director Eugene A. Gilliland, the second and third floors were repainted, a new fire alarm system had been installed, and all electrical, heating, and water systems were restored in under seven days, a full week ahead of schedule. Residents of the second and third floors of the A-side of the building were allowed to move back into Lehman late in the afternoon on October 26.

Since many students had lost everything they had in the fire, and because the University insurance did not cover their lost or damaged property, many charity organizations jumped into help provide relief for students who suffered from the fire. David Klarman, the treasurer of Fly-By-Night (FBN), worked with both the Hinman Office and the Financial Aid office to insure that $1,017 of Carnival funds that had been saved from the previous year could be given to students who suffered material losses in the fire. “Klarman said, ‘The most important thing is to get clothing and books for those students that need it.’”
While the residents of the first floor were beginning to get settled into their new rooms at the Colonial Inn and the residents of the second and third floors slowly trickled back to their suites, tensions still remained high within the offices of the university administration. A suspicious fire broke out in Chenango Hall in Newing College but was confined to a tablecloth and did not appear to be connected to the fire at Lehman Hall.\textsuperscript{mxiv} Two fires also were reported in Seneca Hall in College-in-the-Woods. The damage was very limited and campus security assured worried CIW residents that the fire was completely unrelated to the Lehman Hall fire.\textsuperscript{mxv}

The university, while not locked in a state of fear, was certainly on edge. Both students and administrators were concerned about the undeniable outbreak of supposed arson all over campus in the previous week and were concerned about the safety of their students. Vice President Woodard ordered that campus security be beefed up and that they operate on 12 hour shifts instead of the usual 8 hour shift. He also ordered that additional night guards be placed at every residence hall to add to security. Associate Vice President for Student Life Mary Richardson also suggested to the professional staff of the colleges that they should consider postponing or canceling Halloween festivities and reiterated the university policy that it was unlawful to set off false fire alarms or to discharge fire extinguishers without reason. The penalties for such actions ranged from judicial board action, suspension from residence hall housing, to arrest. No one, not campus security, not the local police, nor the university administration was playing around anymore. Playing with fire on campus at this time would get you burned in more ways than one.\textsuperscript{mxvi}

The blaze in Lehman Hall sparked many lectures and programs for students in Hinman and around campus on fire safety and the importance of both shutting your door before leaving the building and exiting quickly when you hear an alarm go off. Eric Rubin, a resident of Smith
Hall, remembers the numerous programs on fire safety and the seriousness of the situation in the aftermath of the fire. He also recalls seeing the gutted floor of Lehman and remembers it as being “very spooky” to look at. Likewise, Eric Pomerantz also remembers the spooky look of the floor hollowed out by fire. He was amazed that the doors that had been shut saved all of the items inside the rooms while the doors that had been left open saw items completely destroyed. In some of the rooms where the doors had been left open clothes that were hanging in closets appeared fine but when they were touched they crumbled into dust.

Following the investigation, numerous reports compiled by the university fire marshals and other campus safety officials showed the importance of taking fire drills seriously and the need for the residential colleges to make it clear to their residents that fire safety was no laughing matter. One report in particular stated that at the very beginning of the year the residents should learn the importance of closing their doors and making sure that the hallways are clear of obstructions. It was suggested that the RA appoint one to two people from the floor to assist in evacuations should a fire arise and that the Resident Director be responsible for giving these individuals the necessary training at the beginning of each term. It was also stated that while each resident should leave the building via the closest exit there should be drills following a scenario in which one or more exits were blocked by fire. The report went on to state that both residence hall staff and campus security officers should not endanger themselves during a fire and that they should attempt to fight only small manageable blazes and if at any time the fire appeared to be getting out of control they should evacuate and wait for professionally trained firefighters to arrive. The idea of creating a student-run university fire department was even pitched. However, the biggest call was for a detailed contingency plan to be developed to respond to potential fires in the future. Detailed evacuation plans, a central location to assemble
the evacuated residents, a plan to roll call the residents in the assembly area were written in
detail, as were arrangements for both short-term and long-term housing for displaced students. It
also suggested that counseling and other services be provided for displaced students. The report
ends by stating, “It is fervently to be hoped that such contingency measures need never to be
utilized. As noted above, the Lehman fire and its aftermath were handled fairly well without any
such plan. There were many times, however, when having established guidelines would have
helped a great deal, it is foolish, after such an experience, not to establish them.” This report
would be one of many initial documents that would develop in the coming years as both the
university and society at large placed a greater emphasis on security and emergency
management.

In the days and weeks after the fire it began to be recognized that certain individuals
stood out as true heroes during the crisis. Obviously, the most heroic people were members of
the various fire and police companies that responded to the scene as well as campus security who
risked life and limb to enter the burning building to search for trapped students. The front page
of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter also thanks the Hinman Head Resident staff as well as
Coordinator Allan Eller for all their efforts in providing for the students needs. The RA staffs of
Hinman were also praised for their quick thinking in handling the stressful situation and keeping
their residents calm during the crisis. They were also thanked for going well above and beyond
the call of duty by rushing to the pub, the Lecture Hall, the University Union, the gym, and many
other places where students had gathered for the evening to get the word out. The RA’s also had
been participating in around-the-clock dorm patrols in an effort to deter further acts of arson and
had opened their doors and shared space in their single rooms with displaced students. The
greater campus community was also thanked. Every other residential college on campus as well
as Off Campus College generously offered assistance to Hinman in the aftermath of the crisis.

The article ended by saying:

The greatest thanks, however, goes to the residents of Hinman College. For a group of people that have the reputation of apathy, we did all right for ourselves. The offers of help from Hinman College students was nothing short of amazing. Blankets, clothing, even money was given in aid. We showed that Hinman does act as a community of very friendly and sensitive people.

For that alone we should be proud.\textsuperscript{mxx}

Hinman College was not without its criticisms, though. In the very same issue of *Halitosis*, two Hinman residents wrote a letter expressing their disapproval that the night watch patrols (almost all of whom were students) were getting paid for their work. The letter basically stated that they were concerned that the money could be spent elsewhere, since the vast majority of those who signed up for the night watch were volunteers who would do it for free. The money should be used to compensate the residents of Lehman’s first floor who lost virtually everything that they owned.\textsuperscript{mxxi} The editor responded by stating that while it was true that there were no problems filling the schedule, there were concerned that these volunteers would dissipate after the initial shock of the fire gradually wore off and that the money would be needed to entice them to stay in service. It was also clarified that the money was not part of the Hinman budget and that it came from an outside source. It ended by stating, “…it should be remembered that R.A.’s, Head Residents and other administrators are paid for their work: there is no reason why those undertaking the tedious, boring, and absolutely necessary responsibility of night guards should not be paid as well.”\textsuperscript{mxxii}

A more critical letter to the editor was written by a first-semester freshman stating another view of the fire. The author of the letter, while mostly writing of his concerns about
general student apathy and his belief that Hinman College and SUNY Binghamton was too large and impersonal an institution, also stated clearly his views on the fire.

Here in Hinman, it took a quasi-disaster to bring out the people in people; the sense of humanity in us. For the moment of the fire, Hinman became a unit; people working in cooperation with one another. Given the cause, this grouping of “islands” became network, proving that an innate sense of comraderie [sic] does indeed exist here. The atmosphere was that of genuine altruism; the people of Hinman College united in an almost transcendent concern of their fellow neighbors.

I now pose the obvious question: Do the students living in an imposed type of family situation, require a disaster to bring out their basic human tendencies?\textsuperscript{mxxiii}

While many believed that this view was out of line concerning the incident, there perhaps was some truth in his statement. The residents of Hinman College, like the residents of the other residential colleges at this time (and even to the present day), had been accused of apathy and neglect in many areas, including involvement in their community. The author of this statement, while perhaps being a little harsh in his assessment of the fire and its aftermath, did have a point. It took a crisis to bring people together, something that should have been going on regardless.

Just as intensely passionate student involvement has been the hallmark of Hinman College since the very beginning, so too has student apathy. The problems that grew from student apathy were nothing new and have yet to be (and probably never will be) solved. However, this counterpoint to the general feeling that Hinman was a tight-knit community before the fire and even closer after the fire is an important one to consider.

There were differing opinions and perspectives on the fire. Yet perhaps the view of the vast majority of the residents of Hinman College was expressed in a letter written by Faculty Master Vito Sinisi. It was first published in the November 2 issue of \textit{Hinman Halitosis} and later in the \textit{FYI: For Your Information} weekly newsletter published by the university for faculty, staff and graduate students. The letter stated:
As Master of Hinman College, I wish to express my deep appreciation to all those who helped in coping with the fire and its aftermath.

The exemplary actions of Hinman students have shown that Hinman College is a real community of people ready to help each of us. The Resident Assistants and Resident Directors have performed extraordinary work with little sleep and rest. The patience and forbearance of the students residing in the north wing of Lehman Hall, especially those living on the first floor, have been commendable. The firemen and Security officers prevented, through their prompt and efficient work, a disaster from becoming a tragedy. The hard work and long hours of the maintenance staff restored the second and third floors of the wing so that we were able to occupy them at 3:25 p.m. on Thursday, less than a week after the fire. The advice, counsel, and assistance received from the Administration were promptly and generously given. Faculty members have given sympathetic consideration to students directly affected by the fire.

I am especially grateful to Al Eller, Coordinator of Hinman College, and Tom Truesdell, Assistant Coordinator. Often with incipient confusion, their calm and prudent actions quickly brought order and discipline. Sue Cohen, the Resident Assistant of the devastated first floor, devoted herself completely to caring for the students of her floor. Her stamina and affectionate warm concern for the students have sustained them immediately in meeting and dealing with a major crisis, and have been moving to witness.

Ironically, though the fire was serious for the students who were affected by it, laughter is the best possible medicine. Saturday October 28, 1978, was Hinman’s annual Co-Rec Weekend which celebrated the end of the Co-Rec football season in Hinman and was grand celebration for every player of Hinman’s most popular pastime and for the general Hinman resident as well. That Saturday saw the playoff game between the top two teams, and the right to be called Hinman Co-Rec champions was duked out in the mud of the quad. The event, as usual, was huge, featuring a parade complete with floats that represented each building in Hinman. Everything was proceeding normally until Lehman Hall’s float pulled away from the rest of the floats and rolled into the middle of the quad. The RA of the devastated first floor, Sue Cohen, then came running to the float with a flaming torch in her hands. The huge gathering of Hinmanites watched stunned, as Cohen touched the torch to the head of a human-like figure on the float. The head, which had earlier been soaked in lighter fluid, immediately burst into
flames. Four Lehman Hall residents then rushed out with buckets of water to extinguish the blaze before it got out of control. Realizing that it was all a joke, the crowd erupted into laughter and applause.\textsuperscript{mxxv} For the record, the Smith team “Slippery When Wet” beat their rival “Atomic Waste” in a very close and competitive match, the final score being 13-12.\textsuperscript{mxxvi}

The first floor would remain closed for the remainder of the semester and the students would not be able to return until the following semester. The trauma of the devastated first floor would take a long time to heal in the minds of not only the residents of Lehman Hall but all of Hinman College. Today, the physical scars are mostly healed. If one were to walk through the affected area of Lehman Hall today it would hard to believe that a towering inferno once raged down its corridors. The Lehman Hall fire would be the constant example for decades to come of the reasons why fire safety and prevention should be taken very seriously.

While Lehman Hall would be the largest and most devastating fire in the history of Hinman College and of the university as a whole, it would not be the only fire to sweep through Hinman. Just over twenty years later another fire, thankfully not as devastating, started in Roosevelt Hall. It was early one morning in the middle of the Spring Semester of 1999. It was like any typical cool spring morning in Binghamton except that the bulletin boards in the lobby and Main Lounge had caught fire. Scott Bennett was the Resident Director of Roosevelt at the time and remembers the incident. The building evacuated quickly and the fire was put out. Even though there was fair amount of damage, none of it was serious or lasting. The odd thing about this particular fire was that the arsonist who set the fire was there at the scene of the crime. As the students evacuated the building he began to brag in front of Scott and many other residents that he had been the one to set the fire. The police questioned him, but he was not brought up on charges. The arsonist did not live in Hinman and was probably not even enrolled at the
university. Luckily, no one got hurt, though the fire upset a lot of people partly because of the grandstanding nature of the arsonist. What is interesting to note is that at this time in Roosevelt Hall and in virtually all of the other halls in Hinman a very light blue carpet covered all of the walls in the building. This comparatively small fire in Roosevelt Hall launched the removal process of this carpet from not only Roosevelt but all of the other residence halls that had it.\textsuperscript{mxxvii}

In the fall of 2006, Cleveland Hall also suffered a small fire. Early one evening, around the time when most residents were heading to the dining hall for dinner, fire alarms went off in Cleveland. Upon investigation it was discovered that the kitchen area in the basement had caught on fire. It was later discovered that a resident of the building had left a pan on the stove. This resident then left the room and forgot about the pan, which overheated and started the fire. Jimmy Galante, a senior resident assistant at the time, who had ambitions of becoming a firefighter himself, leapt into action and went through a number of fire extinguishers in an attempt to knock out the blaze. Units from the Vestal Fire Department responded and ultimately put out the blaze. Without the heroic and quick action of RA Jimmy Galante, the fire would have been much worse. As news of the Cleveland Hall fire spread, Jimmy became a Hinman hero of sorts and stories about his actions began to grow and compound much like the proverbial fish story. One story had Jimmy rescuing two girls, an old lady, and a litter of puppies while single handedly fighting off the fire with a squirt gun. Quite obviously these stories are grossly exaggerated, but the courageous deeds of Jimmy Galante can not be denied and he has earned himself a place in Hinman history as the hero of the Cleveland Hall fire. Shortly after the fire, the Cleveland Hall E-board, seeing the commercial opportunity that the fire offered, began selling hooded sweatshirts as a hall fundraiser with the words, “We Didn’t Start the Fire”
stenciled across the front. Needless to say, these hoodies were one of the more successful fundraisers in Cleveland Hall history.

The Lehman Hall fire would not be the first fire in Hinman history nor would it be the last. In all probability the 2006 fire in Cleveland Hall will not be the last fire to blaze through Hinman. The Lehman Hall fire is an important chapter in the overall history of Hinman College because it shows a number of things. One is that it became the constant example used by fire marshals when explaining the importance of fire safety. More importantly, though, it showed the community of Hinman coming together like never before in a time of crisis. Not only were the students of Hinman very cooperative during the fire, but in its aftermath both the residents and professional staff of Hinman came together like never before. The fire made everyone in Hinman realize not only how fragile life is, but also to not take anything or anyone for granted. No lives were lost, but that possibility was forever engrained into the minds of those who lived and worked in Hinman.

Just as the newly renovated first floor of Lehman rose out of the ashes of devastation to be reborn as a place to live and learn and build community, so too, in an abstract way, did the rest of greater Hinman. The end of the 1970’s decade was approaching and that decade’s style of thinking and feeling were beginning to fade was well. For better or for worse, the Lehman Hall fire symbolically cleansed Hinman of some of the student radicalism and activism in areas as rich and varied as social regulations and community development and programming that had been hallmarks of Hinman’s early years. What was rebuilt in its place was a new Hinman with a few new faces and some new attitudes and perspectives. The one thing that fire could not burn up, though, was the feeling of community and the involvement of not only the college’s staff but
of its residents as well. No fire, regardless of how hot or how large it becomes, can burn away the indomitable Hinman spirit.

The author would like to thank Lieutenant Gary Brown, Eric Pomerantz, Jim Greenlees, Eric Rubin, and Scott Bennett for their valuable contributions to this chapter and for epitomizing the incombustible spirit of Hinman.

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IBILITY I. Ibid.

"They thought it was a fire drill and didn’t want to be bothered,” *Pipe Dream*, Vol. XVII, No. 14, October 24, 1978.


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


Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


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


Ibid.


Ibid.


Ibid.


Report on Lehman Hall fire, on file in the Hinman Archives.
...Having become specters with long memories and a strong sense of compassion, they communicate without speaking; their presence says more than words could say.

- Professor Libby Tucker, Binghamton University, Department of English
  “Spectral Indians, Desecrated Burial Grounds”

Ghost stories have been around for ages and every institution seems to have them in some form or another. Hinman College is no exception. However, stories of strange and supernatural happenings within the boundaries of Hinman seem to be a relatively recent phenomenon with most of the stories originating around the year 2000 or thereabouts. While to the casual observer, most of the stories seem as though they can be explained away as either overactive imaginations of college students or by simple natural phenomena, to those who experienced these events first hand, they are all too real and oftentimes very frightening.

One event of a paranormal nature occurred in Smith Hall in August 2005. Suzy Chhim, an RA on the 3rd floor of the “A” side of the building, was up late at night working on her door tags like any good RA would do during the latter stages of summer RA training. Suzy had been quite busy, going all day long with training and staff development exercises, and this was the only time she had available to create her door tags before new residents moved into the building. Seemingly nothing was out of the ordinary, and it appeared that this would be just like any other night. That assumption was completely wrong.

Any RA will tell you that during the weeks of summer RA training before residents return to the building, the halls have a somewhat creepy atmosphere about them. It is a very disconcerting feeling to be inside a building that houses approximately two hundred people and to be one of only eight people residing within it. This is compounded by the fact that during this time you are the only one on your floor, creating feelings of loneliness and isolation. This author, having lived through this period himself as both a DA and an RA, can certainly relate and
acknowledge that the building, which during the rest of the year is a bustling place full of sound, 
people and activity, is eerily quiet and every little creak of the aging structure has the potential to 
send chills down one’s spine. If it were not for the daily training sessions and the presence of a 
few other people inside, there would not be much separating this experience from that of the 
characters in Stephen King’s *The Shining*, the isolated and haunted Overlook Hotel replaced by a 
Hinman residence hall. Granted nothing nearly as malign is associated with the residence halls 
and they certainly are not the settings of gothic horror stories. Still, the pervading atmosphere at 
this time of year can certainly put one ill at ease, even within a familiar and normally welcoming 
and comfortable environment. Perhaps it is this duality which makes that time of year so strange 
for the returning staff.

However, that is all a digression. We now must return to the story of Suzy Chhim and 
her paranormal experience on the third floor of Smith Hall. Suzy had been working on her door 
tags late into the night. The time was approximately 1:00 a.m. and she was multitasking, 
speaking on the phone with her boyfriend David and finishing up her door tags. It is important 
to note that at this time all the suite doors on her floor were shut and locked. Upon finishing her 
door tags, Suzy began to tape them up on the doors. Nothing was out of the ordinary until she 
attached the tags to suite 310. Then strange things began to happen. As soon as she applied the 
tags, a loud creaking sound was heard from within the suite. While it is not unusual for a few 
creaks to be heard throughout the nearly forty-year-old building, this was abnormal in that it was 
rather loud and seemed to continue. Suzy, ever the practical RA, was intrigued but not curious 
足够的 to enter the room, dismissing the sounds as natural to the building and/or figments of her 
imagination. Suddenly, a loud noise erupted from the suite. It sounded as though someone, or 
something, was inside banging around and slamming furniture within the suite. Suzy became
frightened and ran downstairs to get Ryan Schoeffield, a fellow RA in the building. Moments later, Suzy and Ryan returned to her floor, but the strange noises had ended.

The story does not end there. After the residents of the building had returned, strange happenings continued within suite 310. Strange noises, while not as severe as those experienced by Suzy, continued to be heard. Also, the girls who lived in that suite continually smelled a strange perfume-like smell that, no matter how hard they cleaned or what they did, never seemed to go away. Furthermore, none of the girls in that room wore a perfume that contained a scent anything like what they constantly smelled. For a time they blamed the exotic odor on the people who lived downstairs from them, but they too wore no perfume or possessed any scents that were anything at all like the unfamiliar odor that they were all smelling. With all the strange goings-on, from the scary noises to the unidentified odors, Suzy began to worry so much that she even asked the girls who inhabited the suite if they wanted their room to be blessed. The girls discussed it but decided against that course of action. The strange odor continued in the room for a time thereafter, but after a few months it eventually went away, just as mysteriously as it had come. For many, this tale would be unbelievable if it were not for the numerous students who smelled strange and unusual odors within the confines of their suite. “…A smell’s truth is difficult to deny. If you smell something yourself, how can you say the smell does not exist? When the sense of smell becomes linked to a legend, that legend may become more persuasive.” This story from Smith Hall has become legend in part because of the fantastic nature of sounds and smells, but also because of the repeated tellings of the story has elevated it to near mythic proportions.

Another tale of the paranormal to come out of Hinman occurred in the Fall of 2005, this time in the basement of Hughes Hall. It was late one evening, and Andrew Rubino, a senior RA
in Hughes at the time, had been up late at night doing his laundry. When he had gone down initially to do his laundry he noticed that the exit sign was flickering strangely. He made a mental note to put in a work order to get it fixed but thought nothing of it. Later on in the evening, as he was finishing his laundry he heard a strange noise. He exited the laundry room and looked out into the hallway between the staircase and the actual laundry room. Out of the corner of his eye he thought he saw the image of a young woman dressed in a pink dress with long blonde hair. When he went to approach the young woman she dematerialized into thin air. As one might imagine this left Andrew very nervous and frightened and ever since he has became reluctant to enter the basement of Hughes alone ever since.

This would not be the last time that a ghostly apparition would appear in the basement of Hughes Hall. The ghost, who would eventually be dubbed Charlene, would be seen in other areas of Hughes. Sightings of Charlene would occur mostly in the laundry room but also in the study lounge, in particular near the stove. Most of the times her coming and departure would be heralded by a flickering exit sign. A sort of mythology has arisen around the ghost known only as Charlene. Speculation is that she was a resident of Hughes Hall sometime in the 1970’s, that she had been a popular student who had met an unfortunate end within the residence hall itself, and that her hobbies included studying, cooking, and doing her laundry, as evidenced by her appearing mostly around the laundry room, kitchen, and study lounge areas. However, there is no known record of a young woman named Charlene living in Hughes during the 1970’s era. Many who have become interested in the case of the Hughes Hall haunting have speculated that no specter exists and that the ghost is merely a sort of pop culture reference that has perpetuated itself through Hughes hall tradition, much like stories of the Loch Ness Monster or Bigfoot. In fact, the only confirmed and believable sighting of Charlene was the initial story told by Andrew
Rubino. Most of the other stories centering around Charlene have been called into question and
do not hold water. The popular conclusion that has been drawn is that besides from the initial
story, most of the other stories are either fabrications or grossly embellished to the point where
they are completely unbelievable. Whether or not a ghost of a young woman haunts the
basement of Hughes Hall is yet to be determined. What is for certain, though, is that the ghost of
Charlene has entered into the imaginations of many Hughes Hall residents and will almost
certainly remain there as long as the stories about her supposed sightings continue to be
spread.\textsuperscript{mxxxiv}

As compelling as either of these stories may be, perhaps the most famous ghost story and
the one most prominent in Hinman history, is the story of the Cleveland Hall ghost. The story of
the haunting of Cleveland Hall begins in the relatively recent past. In the year 2000, Mary Ann
Gleockner, then the RD of Cleveland, began to experience some strange phenomenon inside the
walls of Cleveland Hall. The first sign of strange and mysterious happenings was a series of
strange noises that she heard one summer when she was completely alone in the building. While
she tried to explain away the noises as figments of an overactive imagination, she could not deny
physical evidence of unearthly happenings. One example of this physical evidence was that the
elevators in the building would move from floor to floor with absolutely no one either inside of
them or pressing the button on the other floors. It seemed as though the elevators had a life of
their own. Furthermore, the lights in random rooms in the building would turn on absolutely by
themselves.\textsuperscript{mxxv}

The strange noises and goings on continued with another highly unusual occurrence.
Virtually every resident in the building, and across Hinman for that matter, had had the
experience of being in their room and hearing the unmistakable sound of marbles hitting their
ceiling. While this could be easily explained away as the residents living above you playing a
game of marbles, this certainly could not be the case if you lived on the top floor with only the
roof over your head. The sounds of the marbles hitting the ceilings began in 2001 and continue
intermittently in each residence hall to this very day.\textsuperscript{mxxxvi}

These bizarre occurrences continued for several years. It was in 2004, though, that an
actual specter decided to make an appearance. On the third floor of the “B” side of the building
in suite 325 strange and terrifying things began to happen. A group of residents living in that
suite were just hanging out and taking a well-deserved rest from a strenuous day of coursework.
The extraordinary episode that happened next was amazingly caught all on tape by then suite 325
resident Jing Jing Hu. One of the female residents, Kayleigh George, began to imitate an Ashley
Simpson music video by jumping up and down near her bed. In the video Kayleigh is facing
away from the suite window. The camera records her jumps and the laughter of those in the
suite. For a moment it pans away from the girl to catch the expressions of the laughing friends to
the side. As the camera pans back she finishes her Ashley Simpson impersonation and steps off
of the bed. During that time though, in the window is the distinct reflection of a little girl, a girl
who was far too young to be a college-aged student and furthermore there was no one, girl, child
or otherwise, who looked like the reflection in the window.\textsuperscript{mxxxvii}

This episode was experienced first hand by four-year Cleveland Hall resident and current
senior sociology major Peggy Ma. At the time of the video, Peggy was a sophomore and lived
down the hall in suite 322. She was in the room at the time of the apparition in the window and
remembers clearly seeing a number of strange things that night. While Kayleigh was jumping up
and down near the bed, out of the corner of her eye, Peggy noticed what she thought to be a
person sitting in one of the roommate’s chairs. Although her memory is somewhat fuzzy, Peggy
remembers there being something like a black blur seated in the chair, however, she thought nothing of it, and neither did any of the other residents in the room. They merely assumed that it was the roommate seated in the chair. After the reviewing the videotape and seeing the childish figure in the window, they realized that the roommate was not there. The roommate returned hours later. She had been working at her job the entire time and had not been in the suite during the recording of the ghost on film. It has never been determined who or what was occupying her chair during the filming of the video. mxxxviii

The story of the Cleveland ghost spread like wildfire throughout Hinman and in Cleveland Hall especially. For a time it seemed like every amateur ghost buster across campus was interested in making contact with the child spirit. Many would try to contact this spirit but the ghost would only make herself known on her own terms. The ghost, who would later be called Lilly for unknown reasons, would make numerous appearances in Cleveland, especially in the “B” side stairwell near the end of the hallway, occasional in the basement of the building, but mostly in suite 325. The appearances of Lilly were marked usually by a strange, uncomfortable feeling overcoming the people in her general vicinity, followed either by quick appearances by the ghost or more commonly by the sounds of a young girl giggling gleefully, almost as though she were taking mischievous delight in spooking the residents of Cleveland Hall. Occasionally more dramatic signs of her comings and goings would occur, such as a report when a poster of Sarah Jessica Parker in suite 325 momentarily morphed into the visage of Lilly. mxxix Also there was more substantial physical evidence like a set of unidentified footprints appearing mysteriously in the suite with no explanation. The footprints belonged to no one living in the suite. In fact, the tiny footprints looked as though they would belong to a child. mxl
By all accounts, Lilly was not a malign spirit. For all intents and purposes Lilly appeared to be just a mischievous little girl who took delight in spooking the residents of Cleveland Hall by quickly appearing then dematerializing into thin air or by simply making strange noises and sounds in suite 325 or in the adjacent stairwell. That was all about to change. Libby Tucker, a Binghamton University English professor with an intense interest in folklore and in particular campus ghost stories, made investigating the Cleveland Hall ghost an assignment for one of her folklore classes. A group of students in her class investigating the story of the ghost entered Cleveland hall armed with a video camera and an Ouija board. They attempted to use the Ouija board to contact the spirit of Lilly, but without success. Finally they approached suite 325 to do an interview with Jing, the camera operator during the time of the filming of the ghost. During her interview, Peggy now a junior who had given numerous other interviews regarding the ghost before and since, entered the room to help shed some light on the situation for the researching students. However, during the course of the interview, Peggy’s lips suddenly turned blue and she passed out. The group making the video was able to revive her, but she passed out again almost immediately. Peggy regained complete consciousness only after she had been helped out of suite 325 and back to her own room, 322B just down the hall.

Later during her interview with this author, Peggy spoke about her experience during the blackout. “It was really strange. I hadn’t eaten all day and I was stressed because I had been studying for a big test, but I had done that before…gone all day without eating and never passed out once. I’ve done it since and its never happened to me.” Peggy would go on to describe her feelings just before she passed out. She started sweating profusely and she had a ringing in her ears and a strange indescribable feeling came over her and made her feel very uncomfortable. Yet as soon as she got back to her room and lay on her bed for a few moments, all of the
symptoms inexplicably vanished. She described coming to from this episode as similar to “waking from a scary dream.” This strange and upsetting event caused Peggy to think twice before she would tell the story about her experience with the ghost again, though she would do many more interviews with no harsh results. She also considered moving permanently out of Cleveland Hall and into an apartment in Susquehanna with some of her friends. She would decide against this, explaining that Cleveland was her home, that she liked its location and the atmosphere of having lots of people always around. Peggy still lives in suite 322, and even though for a time she was apprehensive about entering suite 325, she has since spent time in there without any ill effects. Peggy still to this day feels uncomfortable from time to time, experiencing weird feelings and what she calls bad vibrations (undoubtedly the opposite of the Beach Boys’ *Good Vibrations*) and does not even like to walk down to the basement by herself if she can help it. Once again, she does this routinely without ill effects.

Jing, the person who had supposedly caught Lilly on film, also experienced some strange events. One foggy night, Jing was taking pictures out of her suite window in the suite’s common area, enamored with the fog and hoping to get a good shot. During this time, she felt a presence and turned around to see the figure of a little girl standing just outside her doorway. Just as Jing was about to do a double take, the little girl was gone.

Jing would have many other supposed sightings of Lilly. One night she was up late studying in Cleveland’s study lounge. It was 2:00 a.m. and absolutely no one was in the study lounge area. During this time, Jing got a strange feeling, and suddenly no longer felt comfortable or safe in the study lounge. Knowing full well that these feelings were unreasonable, she still decided to stop studying and return to her room for the night. She stepped into the elevator, and just as the doors were about to close, a shadowy, black form dashed past
the elevator doors. Jing would eventually move out of Cleveland. Not because she was afraid of the ghosts, but because she and some of her friends wanted to get an apartment in Susquehanna and have their own rooms for their senior year. Still, the unearthly events that she experienced with the Cleveland Hall phantom would forever remain in her memory.

By the end of the Spring semester of 2006 the sightings of Lilly and the strange noises and feelings associated with her had mostly stopped. Even though the haunting may have stopped, the question remained: why did they start in the first place and who was Lilly? There were no good answers to any of these questions. There was no good reason why the haunting should have begun in the first place. There was no story about a little girl named Lilly passing away in Cleveland Hall. There was a middle-aged male janitor who had passed away unexpectedly in the basement of Cleveland Hall sometime during the early 1990’s, but no ghost of a janitor had ever made an appearance, though some claimed that his death contributed to haunting in the building. Like Charlene, the ghost of Hughes Hall, a popular mythology seemed to develop around Lilly. The story that evolved stated that she was the daughter of some pioneering settlers into the area and that she had met an unfortunate end on the spot where Cleveland Hall would later be constructed. Some would say she died as a result of an Indian attack on her settlement, others say that she was burned alive in a fire. None of these stories can be verified. The former RD of Cleveland, Mary Ann Gleockner, stated that she believed that the building was haunted because the site of Cleveland Hall had once been a place where local Native Americans had practiced religious rituals. Once again, this report could not be proven.

There has been a long-believed rumor that Binghamton University was built over the site of an Indian burial ground. This report has been discounted, though the land that the University
now occupies was once tribal land used by local Native Americans who passed through the area regularly. In fact, many of the reports of ghostly activity in Hinman and the rest of campus occurred during a period where an actual Native American site near Nichols, New York was being excavated. Some have argued that this disturbed the spirits of Native Americans which made them more prevalent on campus, which was once their native land. Others have argued that this event triggered a sort of psychological guilt among the people on campus, especially those of European descent, for the tragedies and atrocities heaped on the Native American populations during the time of westward expansion and manifest destiny. This guilt manifested itself in visions of ghosts and other paranormal phenomenon. In some ways this is considered a lesson to the current student body to never forget the painful past and lost world of the native inhabitants of America.\textsuperscript{mxlix}

It seems as though personal experiences drive the ghost stories. Whether it is the horrible noises and smells permeating from Smith Hall’s suite 310, Charlene haunting the laundry room of Hughes Hall, the ghostly Lilly of Cleveland Hall or even the near universal experience of hearing marbles dropping from the ceilings of virtually everyone room in Hinman, all are perpetuated by students telling each other stories about their personal experience with the phantoms from the other side. Their stories grow upon one another to the point where the original tale seems to have become so embellished as to be unrecognizable. Granted, some of these cases are unique only to Hinman, but not all.

In the case of the marbles, there appears to be a worldwide phenomenon of ghosts causing marble-dropping sounds. There is a story from Southeast Asia where workers constructing a new dormitory for college students, believing that the site they were building on was haunted, placed marbles within the floors to appease the ghosts. The idea was that if the
ghosts played with the marbles, they would see no need to haunt the living. Hearing the sound of marbles dropping is a global phenomenon, especially on college campuses. Oddly enough, the sound marbles dropping accelerated after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Some link hearing the sound of marbles with tragedy and other stressors in the lives of individuals, especially college freshmen who trying to adapt to a new environment with new people and to excel in academics all at the same time. Others see it as nothing more than a metaphor for losing one’s mind, as in the slang term “losing your marbles.” Whatever the explanation for the sound of falling marbles in Hinman or elsewhere in the world, it is certain that it feeds off of popular stories told and retold countless times to students in the room next door, in the building across the quad, or to the friend in the university in another city or another country. These stories have a way of perpetuating themselves and driving deeply into the popular consciousness of a student body, and result in everyone hearing the sound and having their own story of marble falling.

The ghosts of Hinman, like the ghosts who may haunt anything from an old house to a centuries old graveyard, signify something that we as a society need to talk about. The ghost of the little girl Lilly may or may not be an actual poltergeist. Lilly may represent the need for us to identify with the child within us all and the need to retain some of that childlike innocent. All too often as people age and mature, they lose some of that virtue that seems to be found naturally in all children. Maybe Lilly is a message to all the students living in Hinman warning them not to grow up too fast, to always keep some of that childlike wonder about them no matter how old you get or where life takes you. The same could be true of any of the other tales of paranormal phenomenon in Hinman.
The question then should not be whether these tales of the supernatural are real or imagined, rather it should be about what all these paranormal happenings mean to those who are certainly alive and well. The answer to this question is hard to come by. The spectral apparitions could be metaphors for topics that need to be broached or they could be something else entirely. What is important is the need for a dialogue to start, to have real discussions about the issues that these ethereal visitors raise. Maybe that is the answer then. The appearance of these ghosts in the residence halls of Hinman is not so much about the dead but about drawing the living together. If that is the case, there is really nothing to be frightened about, for then these specters will be nothing more than visitors from another plane of existence that for whatever reason have come back to the world of the living to communicate, strangely or silently perhaps, with the people still here in order to create a new understanding between the lives of the living and the lives of the dead. Proof positive does not need to exist. It is in the stories told and retold to a new generation of freshmen each year that these ghosts will continue to live on in the only known immortality: that of human memory.

The author would like to extend his thanks to Suzy Chhim, Megan McDermott, Ashley Connor, Peggy Ma, Jing Jing Hu, and Professor Elizabeth Tucker for their invaluable contributions to this chapter.

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mxxxi Ibid.
mxxxiii Megan McDermott and Ashley Connor, interview by author, October 31, 2006.
mxxxiiv Ibid.
mxxxi Jing Jing Hu, interview by author, November 5, 2006.
mxxxi Elizabeth Tucker (Binghamton University Professor of English), interview by author, October 30, 2006.
mxxxiw Ibid.
mxxxiwii Peggy Ma, interview with author, November 3, 2006.
xm J.Jing Jing Hu, interview by author, November 5, 2006.
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Peggy Ma, interview by author, November 3, 2006

Ibid.


Elizabeth Tucker, (Binghamton University Professor of English), interview by author, October 30, 2006.
Music To My Ears: Hinman Arts and Leisure

They teach you there’s a boundary line to music. But man, there’s no boundary line to art.

-Charlie Parker

Prologue

Since the very beginning of its long and storied past, Hinman College has been an epicenter of the arts at Binghamton. There have been a host of activities that have entertained Hinmanites for the past forty years. The two biggest entertainment venues of Hinman are of course Co-Rec Football and the plays of the Hinman Production Company, but there have been many other activities where Hinmanites have found amusement. This chapter touches on just a few of these activities and does not go into great detail on any single one of them. Although events like Bus Stop, Rockefeller Room, and Bandemonium were longtime staples of Hinman and saw the involvement of hundreds if not thousands of students over the years, it would take more than a simple history like this cover any one of them in great detail. Therefore, the purpose of this chapter will be to touch on some of the more important of these events in Hinman history, a brief description of their growth and development, and their eventual disappearance from Hinman life. This is not to say that these events were not as important as Co-Rec or Hinman community-based theater. They are very important facets of the history, and to the people who participated in them they were welcome sources of relief from the daily grind of academics.

Hinman Follies

Hinman Follies was the brainchild of many figures in early Hinman history. During his days in high school, Stan Goldberg was involved in an event called Class Night where the different classes performed musical skits and competed against one another. Also during this time, Janet Krulick and Marcy Mashioff had a similar event at their high school, Martin Van
Buren High School in Queens, called the Sing. Combining all the elements from all of these events and adding a little bit of Bob Giomi magic (and permission), and the Hinman Follies were created.

The basic concept of Hinman Follies was to create comedic skits set to music and following a designated theme. Each of the buildings would compete against each other for the bragging rights. They would practice for months, build props and rudimentary sets, and then on the night of the performance, cart all of those items down to the Women’s Gym (now the East Gym) where the performance would be held. The skits were typically elaborate, with lots of song and dance numbers and intricate choreography. They would also poke fun at many Hinman institutions and popular figures in Hinman. Vito Sinisi and Bob Giomi were popular figures of impersonation and satire.

For nearly a decade, Hinman Follies entertained audiences from Hinman and beyond. It was a welcome activity that was a great sense of pride for all those who participated in this unique Hinman event. Although Hinman Follies would not last beyond the early 1980’s (for reasons unclear), it was the inspiration for many subsequent Hinman traditions like Bus Stop, Rockefeller Room, Dorm Wars and Hysteria. Although Hinman Follies may no longer exist as it did during its heyday, its legacy lives on whenever there are songs and skits performed live during other great Hinman events.30

**Hinman College Chamber Music Society**

In 1974, Vito Sinisi, Master of Hinman College, had an idea: “wouldn’t it be nice to have music on Sunday afternoons that students could come down and listen to for free.” With this dream in mind, Vito approached SUNY Binghamton President Clifford Clark and requested

30 For more detailed information on Hinman Follies, see the chapter on Hinman Community-based Theater.
funding for a quartet to play chamber music in the Hinman Commons. Clark allocated funds so that four graduate assistantship positions were created to specifically play the chamber music. Vito then went down to the Music Department and was able to recruit four quartets made up of graduate students and faculty to play in the Hinman Commons.

The society’s musical director was Peter Marsh, first violinist of the Lenox Quartet and a Fellow of Hinman College. The Lenox Quartet sponsored four quartets in the Young Artists Program and Chamber Music Society. The function of the Young Artists Program and Chamber Music Society was to encourage young professionals dedicated to a career in chamber music. The program helped bring young musicians to SUNY Binghamton to study music, chamber music in particular. This could not have been a more perfect arrangement. Hinman offered these budding young musicians a place to perform and practice, and they in turn offered free entertainment and cultural sophistication to Hinmanites.

Surprisingly, the chamber music in the Hinman Commons was wildly successful. Many thought that college students during this time would be more interested in listening to rock ‘n roll and other more hip forms of music as opposed to the more classical music that the quartets played. However, students came out in droves to hear the quartets fill the Hinman Commons with the sweet melodies of classical music. The quartets played on Sunday evenings, usually around 7:00 p.m. to large crowds made up of both students and faculty. There was relatively little advertising. A few small pamphlets and brochures, along with announcements in the Hinman Halitosis newsletter, constituted the advertising for the Chamber Music Society.

Sadly, chamber music in the Hinman Commons lasted only until the end of the decade. One reason it did not last was because, as many observers predicted all along, college students just weren’t that interested in classical music and preferred listening to more youthful,
contemporary bands. While it was surprisingly popular for a time, Hinmanites and the rest of the campus student body were drawn more to the upbeat, contemporary songs of their generation. Also, though it is not explicitly stated, during this time the entire State of New York as well as the SUNY system was going through perhaps its most severe financial crisis in its history and budget cutbacks were the norm. Money allotted for chamber music at a very small venue was probably seen by the university’s bean counters as an unnecessary expenditure. That is probably the real reason why chamber music did not last in Hinman. Still, while it lasted, the Chamber Music Society provided a welcome break to students as well as an exposure and appreciation for classical music that they probably would not have had if Vito Sinisi had not gone to the lengths that he did to create this innovative program. Thirty years after he created the chamber music program in SUNY Binghamton, Vito Sinisi would say with a chuckle, “Anything is possible if you make a pest of yourself. I was the master of that.”

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 snitzel
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.

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.

The Hinman Deli

For most of its existence, one of the most popular hangouts in Hinman was the Hinman Deli. The Hinman Deli was located in the Hinman Commons across from the main room (the true commons) where the HLT/HPC plays were performed. For more recent Hinmanites, it was located where the mailboxes are presently located. The Hinman Deli was an alternative source of food for those who didn’t like the selection at the dining hall. The deli served mostly fast food staples: burgers, fries, sandwiches, soda and other assorted snacks from 9:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. The Hinman Deli was not just a source of food. It also provided a good social atmosphere to get together with old friends and to meet new ones. During the early 1970’s it was a place to talk about the issues of the day and to develop social activism. Great philosophical debates occurred there, some would say more than in any philosophy class at
Binghamton. The Deli provided a place for students to come and just be themselves. It gave them the opportunity to get out of their rooms and share their thoughts and feelings on every conceivable topic under the sun, all over a soda and French fries. For the better part of three decades, the Hinman Deli offered this service to Hinmanites and generation after generation still sings its praises, drawing on their memories of the late nights either hanging out at the deli or picking up some of its greasy food to satisfy their grumbling stomachs.

The Hinman Deli would not last as it was. Like the transformation of HLT into HPC, the Hinman Deli would be reborn, albeit with a slightly different name and location. When the Hinman Dining Hall was renovated in the spring of 2003, the mailboxes, which had been located in the dining hall, essentially swapped places with the deli. The area where the deli once stood now houses the Hinman mail room with student mail boxes. In the lower part of the Hinman Dining Hall a new deli was constructed, offering much of the same menu items and even an expanded selection of food and non-food items to purchase. The name was changed from the Hinman Deli to The Hinman Café, though most students call it simply the Nite Owl, which is what most of the other late night delis/cafes on campus are called. Sodexho, the company that runs campus dining services at Binghamton, also calls the Hinman Café a “C-Store” which is short for convenience store. Where the old Hinman Deli basically only offered a few short order food items, the Hinman Café or “C-Store” offers everything from candy, water, bread, milk, cereal, sushi, ice cream, chips, dips and even some non-food items like over-the-counter medications such as aspirin. This new Hinman Deli is more of a mini-mart than an actual deli. Regardless, of its location, or if they call it the Hinman Deli, Café, or Nite Owl, students from Hinman and elsewhere still flock to this most necessary of services. The lasting legacy of the Hinman Deli is that it and its successors gave literally thousands of Hinmanites from three
different decades a forum to meet, eat and have fun with their friends in a relaxed atmosphere away from their rooms and the general stresses of college student life.

**Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room**

Bus Stop was a spring event popular in Hinman beginning in the mid-1970’s. Held in the Hinman Commons, it was essentially a talent show for anyone on or off campus who wanted to showcase their musical, artistic or other creative talents. In the early years of Bus Stop, the entertainers were local Binghamton area folk singers or other mellow musicians hoping to get greater exposure. As time passed, however, Bus Stop began to change from a venue for off campus musicians into a solely Hinman-based talent competition. Everything from folk music to popular songs were sung. Humorous skits with elaborate choreography were performed. Musical instruments were played. Magic, juggling, pantomime, almost every conceivable talent that you can think of was exhibited at Bus Stop.

Coming after Bus Stop was what would become its sister program: Rockefeller Room. Rockefeller Room was essentially a fall version of Bus Stop. There was one major difference between these two talent competitions. Where as Bus Stop essentially had an “anything goes” attitude and allowed a multitude of talents, Rockefeller Room was a more formal, classy (some might say old-fashioned) talent competition. Contestants in Rockefeller Room would typically dress up nicely in shirts and ties or evening gowns and perform their talents, which usually involved lounge or easy-listening type music along the lines of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett or Harry Connick, Jr. Even with these restrictions, Rockefeller Room became just as popular if not more so than Bus Stop. Rene Coderre, who was the Coordinator of Hinman during the heyday
of Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room remembers having to turn people away from the programs because there just was not enough space in the Hinman Commons.

Sadly, popular though Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room proved to be, they would last only until the late 1990’s. For reasons unclear, both of these hugely popular Hinman programs faded from the scene and disappeared completely by the start of the new millennium. There are a variety of theories as to why these incredibly popular Hinman events seemed to have disappeared from the landscape. One theory is that student apathy caused their downfall, that students were no longer willing to put in the time or the energy to organize or even compete in the event. Others theorize that popular television shows like “American Idol,” which is similar to the premise of both Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room, killed these two programs. Perhaps students were more interested in watching this national, interactive television show, which allowed the audience to vote for their favorite performer. This was a similar to the format of judging for Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room. Hinmanites, like most Americans, were caught up in the growth of pop culture that was offered through the medium of television, and lost their desire to venture away from their TV sets to the Hinman Commons to see their peers perform. Even though they may no longer exist as annual Hinman events, the legacy of both Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room continues today whenever a talent show or open-mic competition occurs within the bounds of Hinman College.

**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.” 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\(^{31}\) 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 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.\(^{\text{mki}}\) 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

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\(^{31}\) Hysteria Events Day is traditionally held on a Saturday.
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.

Open Mic Night

Bandemonium’s loss, along with the loss of both Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room (which disappeared around the same time), left a huge vacuum in Hinman College with regards to social events and programming. However, filling this void would be a much smaller and low-scale, but no less popular musical/creative event: Open Mic Night. The concept of Open Mic Night was simple: on Sunday nights set up a microphone and speakers in the Hinman Commons (if the weather was bad) or outside on the Hinman Patio and allow singers/songwriters or performers of any kind the opportunity to perform in front of an audience. In many ways Open Mic Night was getting back to the roots of the original Bus Stop. Instead of the sometimes wild and “anything goes” type of entertaining of later Bus Stops, Open Mic Night performances were generally low-key, relaxed affairs in a coffee-house type atmosphere with a more folksy genre of music being performed in the vein of performers like John Mayer, who was popular at the time. Far from the huge, arena rock-style performances of Bandemonium, Open Mic Night was a simple, informal affair playing to a relatively small audience in a casual setting and atmosphere. At the height of its popularity, groups from all over campus and even off campus (like the group “One Who Stayed”) came to Hinman to perform in front of an audience. Sadly, even Open Mic Night would not last long. Around 2004-2005 Open Mic Night would disappear from the Hinman radar screen. This was in large part because the people who were really instrumental in setting it up graduated and there was no new generation of music enthusiasts who were willing to take it up.
A few Open Mic Nights are still held each year, but they are a shadow of what they once were. Still, the legacy of Open Mic Night continues to this day whenever there is an event where performers can pick up their instruments and play to a crowd, all for the love of music.

**Conclusion**

Hinman College has had a long tradition of entertaining events throughout its history. From classical music to modern-day rock concerts, from large and elaborate songs and skits to talent shows, Oktoberfests to delis, Hinman has tried to provide its residents not only with entertainment but outlets for their musical and artistic creativity. While many residential colleges may have borrowed these ideas, it is Hinman College who first pioneered them and set the example which all others would follow.

The question that does arise through all of this is: “If these events were so popular, why do they no longer exist?” For some, like Oktoberfest, the answer is easy. The drinking age changed. But for others the answer is not so clear cut. Each of these events came about because they were needed in the community. Whether to satisfy some urge or desire, to experiment with a new and novel concept, or simply to alleviate boredom, during the time they were here in Hinman, they were needed. These events died off for a variety of reasons.

Technological change certainly contributed to their demise. In 1980 few people had radios in their rooms let alone TVs, and personal computers did not become essential to college life until the mid to late 1990’s. The DVD and MP3 player, iPods, video games and the Internet all contributed to the downfall of these Hinman programs. Why leave your room when all the entertainment you could ask for is right at your very fingertips? The increase in technology is partly at fault for dwindling student involvement and the exponential rise in student apathy.
But technology can not be completely to blame for the disintegration of these programs. The loss of many of these Hinman events coincided with a centralization of entertainment on campus. Late Night Binghamton came into being around this time. Late Night Binghamton provides various activities including bowling, billiards and other events on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Late Night also has a café in the underground portion of the Student Union where free food is provided and different musical guests are invited to perform. This event takes away much of what Bus Stop, Rockefeller Room and Bandemonium had to offer. The Student Association at Binghamton now sponsors Spring Fling, an annual event usually held toward the end of the Spring Semester. Spring Fling typically features carnival rides, games, free food and popular musical guests which are sometimes nationally known. The bands Brand New and Reel Big Fish are two examples of the type of musical guests that perform at Spring Fling. Homecoming at Binghamton has also grown in size. Before, the only parade that Binghamton had was held on the Hinman Quad during Co-Rec weekend. Now the “Brain Train” parade, complete with floats, circles the roadway known as the Brain and provides entertainment to students and returning alumni. The late 1990’s saw the centralization of entertainment on campus, much like residential life and collegiate structure had been centralized in earlier years. There really was no way for these comparatively smaller Hinman events to compete against the large university sponsored events.

However, competition from other areas is not the only reason why these Hinman events failed. As was mentioned earlier, these programs filled a need that the community had, and part of the reason behind their disappearance was that the need that they filled was no longer there. The reason why Hinman Follies, Bandemonium, and all the other events were so successful was because the community supported them. They went away when people no longer felt the desire
to participate or continue with them. In short, the community no longer needed the service that they offered. For these and many more reasons, the great arts and leisure events of Hinman’s past rose and eventually fell.

In the end it doesn’t really matter whether or not any or all of these events still exist as annual programs in Hinman. What matters is that they exist in memory and that their legacy continues to this day, albeit in a somewhat more subdued and subconscious form. Maybe someday an enterprising young Hinmanite may want to bring back Bandemonium, Rockefeller Room or Bus Stop. They may find that not only is there a desire, but that there’s a need for Hinman Follies. It may be discovered that Hinmanites can not live without chamber music serenading the Hinman Commons. All it takes is a little bit of drive, no small amount of passion, and the support of just a few similarly dedicated individuals in the community, and all of these events can reclaim their role in Hinman. Even if that day never comes, the lingering presence of all of these events speaks to a greater truth, and that truth can only be found in the Spirit of Hinman.

The author would like to thank Janet Krulick, Joel Horowitz, Rene Coderre, and Joshua Kittenplan for their contributions to this and other chapters and for their efforts in preserving the arts and other creative endeavors of Hinman College.

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Keeping The Faith: Hinman Traditions

*It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.*

-Henry James

Prologue

Tradition: it is the force that binds nations, communities, and families together. Almost every community with a little bit of history has traditions, and Hinman College is no exception. From Dorm Wars and Hysteria to the annual Hinman Semi-Formal, one thing that makes Hinman unique among all the other residential colleges at Binghamton is its tireless devotion to tradition. Some might even say that tradition is perhaps the most sacred part of Hinman, that it is at the heart of Hinman’s character. Anyone who ignores tradition will rouse the indignation of the majority of those involved in Hinman life. Even to think about breaking tradition is almost sacrilege. Yes, some might say that Hinman is so bound by tradition that it is unwilling to accept anything new, that it is not open to experimenting with new and novel ideas and concepts. Change comes to Hinman slowly, when it comes at all, but in many respects that is not a bad thing. In fact, Hinman’s faithful devotion to its traditions is what makes this community so successful and so unique. It is the carrying out of traditions that date back almost to the very beginnings of its existence that make Hinman College so unique among the other residential colleges. More than that, the traditions bridge the generations of Hinmanites, each having participated in the same events over the years. Tradition contributes to the carrying on of a style and character that is uniquely Hinman.

Dorm Wars

The very first Dorm Wars occurred in Hinman in the Fall of 1978. It was created by John and Heidi Kowalchyk, the RD’s of Roosevelt Hall at the time. Their idea was simple: create a
color wars competition among the five buildings of Hinman centered around a theme which would change each year. Each building was assigned a different color and they had shirts to match. Over the years, the themes have been very diverse, (centering around everything from popular movies, television, sports, music and almost every other conceivable topic under the sun). The first Dorm Wars theme was Star Wars partly because it was so similar to the name Dorm Wars but also because the year before the film *Star Wars* hit the theaters and became one of the highest-grossing most popular films of all time. Other notable themes have included “Hinman Through the Ages” (2003), Medieval Hinman (2004), Hinman Gets Dirty (2005), and the fairy tale themed “And Hinman Lived Happily Ever After” (2006). These are just a few of the many examples of Dorm Wars themes throughout the years. The Kowalchyk’s goal was to create a fun weekend early in the fall to help build community and to bring residents of each building closer together. Many of the events that occurred during that first Dorm Wars still continue to this day. Halls made banners and had events on the Hinman Quad. Many of the events continue to this day including things like bat spin, egg toss, sneaker relay, tug-of-war and various other relay races that are the staples of Dorm Wars. Today there is typically an alma mater (a parody song) sung by the students of each building and a lip sync which caps off the event.

One very popular event that has been discontinued involved a beer chugging contest. Participants in the beer chugging contest would run down to a station and be handed a cup of beer. They would then chug that beer as quickly as possible and then proceed to run back to their original starting position. They would repeat this a number of times. As one might imagine after running this circuit a few times, the participants began to feel the effects of the alcohol on their system. This wildly popular event (for both the participants and the spectators) would
eventually be discontinued for a number of reasons. One reason was because all too often, the participants in the beer chugging contest would become ill from drinking too much alcohol too quickly. The other reason, the reason why it was completely killed off, was because the drinking age changed from 18 to 21. With the vast majority of the potential participants underage, any sort of alcohol-related activity would be all but impossible.

Nonetheless, Dorm Wars is a popular event which almost everyone who has lived in Hinman since 1978 has participated in. The tradition continues each fall when one Saturday is set aside for an afternoon of fun events that introduce new residents to the traditions of Hinman and give everyone, both new and old, a chance to bond and get to know one another.

**Hysteria**

Similar to Dorm Wars, Hinman Hysteria is a week-long event in the spring where each of the buildings compete against the other in events that challenge athletic, intellectual, and artistic prowess, centered around a predetermined theme. In many ways it is a kind of extended Dorm Wars. Dorm Wars is limited to one Saturday in the fall, whereas Hysteria is a weeklong series of events typically starting on a Sunday and ending on Saturday. During the course of that week many sporting events occur, the most popular ones being games of kickball, dodgeball, basketball, volleyball, and Co-Rec football. Usually there is also a trivia competition and/or other tests of intellectual prowess. Hysteria is also usually host to a Miss Hinman competition, a drag show featuring a male contestant from each building who has to answer a series of questions and perform a talent routine. The Faculty Master, Assistant Director and Hinman Fellows act as judges for this and the other events. One difference between Hysteria and Dorm Wars is that Hysteria is coordinated by a group of student volunteers which form HCC’s
Hysteria Committee. The Hysteria Committee coordinates the events and acts as judges and referees. The HCC E-Board has this responsibility during Dorm Wars.

Events Day is much like the Events Day of Dorm Wars. Banners must be hung in the Hinman Quad to be judged, and relay races, egg toss, sneaker relay, tug-of-war, and other field events take place. This typically takes most of the afternoon. When the field events are all over, a scavenger hunt occurs where each building must find as many items as possible on a list developed by the Hysteria Committee. The first building to bring all the items on the list to a central location (usually the lower Hinman Dining Hall) wins this contest. In the event that not all of the items are found, the first building to bring the most items on the list wins. The capstone of Hysteria centers around three of the most popular events of the entire competition. The first event is usually the alma mater, which is a parody of a popular song, or a song rewritten to fit the theme. This is sometimes combined with a skit which each of the buildings performs. The skit, like the alma mater, has to fit the theme and usually features good-natured ribbing of the other buildings and the personalities who live in them. This is followed by the ever popular lip sync competition where a group of students from each building lip sync to a random group of songs. The group with the best “performance” and choreography wins the competition. The winners of Hysteria have as a reward not only the bragging rights of being Hysteria champs, but also the right to house the Hysteria Trophy in their respective building until the next year.

Hysteria was developed in 1987, nearly ten years after Dorm Wars. The reason why Hysteria was introduced as an event in Hinman is multifaceted. First, Hysteria was designed was as a sort of companion event to Dorm Wars. Dorm Wars was a popular event and quickly became the biggest Hinman activity of the Fall semester. However, there had been nothing comparable in the Spring. Hysteria was developed to fill the vacuum.
The other reason why Hysteria was created was because of the drinking age change. Up until 1984, most states in the United States had minimum drinking ages set at age 18. However, the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 was passed by Congress on July 17, 1984. This increased the drinking age to 21. The reasons the drinking age was increased to 21 are many, though one of the big reasons was that Congress thought that increasing the drinking age would reduce the cases of alcohol abuse on college campuses and reduce the rates of drinking and driving. Although alcohol abuse had been a problem on college campuses for many years previous to this and one of the big concerns of many college administrators was that raising the drinking age would only send drinking on college campuses underground. Previously, if college students became intoxicated severely, the only concern of college officials was to help that student get the help that he or she needed. While this was still the chief concern after the increase in age, now underage drinking was a crime. It was found that many students turned to unhealthy binge drinking when the age was changed. Colleges and universities across the country were faced with the problem of how to curtail underage drinking at this time and Binghamton was no exception. One key fact that was discovered was that many students claimed that they drank because they had nothing else to do. With this in mind, the residential life officials in Hinman College at this time decided to give the students something to do and as a result Hinman Hysteria was born. In other words one can say that Hysteria was created to keep underage students from drinking.

Though Hysteria probably did little or nothing to curtail student drinking, like Dorm Wars it quickly became a popular event and the biggest Hinman activity in the Spring Semester. Eventually it would even eclipse Dorm Wars and become the biggest most anticipated event of the entire year. Like Dorm Wars, Hysteria is a milestone annual Hinman event which brings out
members of the entire community. Hysteria is a vehicle for residents in each building to form truly lasting bonds with one another. Anyone who has stayed up all night working on a banner, coming up with a skit and song, and who has played in sporting events every night of the week, can truly attest that you bond with the people are on your team and even the people whom you compete against.

Almost everyone who has competed in Dorm Wars and Hysteria will attest that some of their fondest memories of their days in Hinman center around these two events. Moreover, like Co-Rec, almost every alum keeps their shirts. Though they may become faded over the years, and though alums may no longer fit into their shirts, they still represent priceless mementos from the days of their youth and the time that they spent in Hinman. For both Dorm Wars and Hysteria, by far the two biggest and most important events during the academic year in Hinman, that is their lasting legacy—bringing people together for days filled with sometimes goofy but nevertheless fun and enjoyable events and creating memories that last a lifetime.

**Hinman Semi-Formal**

One of the most perennially popular events in Hinman history is the annual Hinman Semi-Formal. The first ever Semi-Formal was held in April of 1974 in the Hinman Dining Hall. The idea was a development of the HCC Social Activities Committee and almost undoubtedly Bob Giomi. The Semi-Formal is a dinner and a dance that is held annually where attendees come dressed in semi-formal dress. Although the definition of Semi-Formal attire has never been clear, it usually means that gentlemen wear their suit jackets and ties and ladies can wear formal evening gowns or party dresses. The Semi-Formal typically has a catered dinner followed up by music and dancing. The event has been extremely popular since it first began in
1974, so popular in fact that during some years of Hinman history there were multiple Semi-Formals held during the year.

Like Dorm Wars, Hysteria and other Hinman traditions, the Semi-Formal is not completely immune from change. The first and perhaps most striking change to the Semi-Formal is that today there is a complete lack of alcohol. When the drinking age rose to 21, consumption and distribution of alcohol during the Semi-Formal was prohibited. In the earlier years often beer and sometimes in even mixed drinks would be served to attendees. That practice has completely ceased with the change in the drinking law. Another change has been the change of venue. For many years the Hinman Semi-Formal was held in the Hinman Dining Hall and had food catered by whatever company was running campus dining services at the time (ACE until the early 1980’s, then Marriott until the late 1990’s, then Sodexho). Today the Semi-Formal is held in an off-campus location with food served not by campus dining services but by a private catering company. Though some might say this takes away from the charm and tradition of the Semi-Formal (which before this was held completely in Hinman) it does serve to make the event extra special—a night out on the town without the all too unappetizing dining hall food.

Although the Semi-Formal may not be as popular today as it has been in the past, it still continues to rank as one of the highlights of the Spring Semester in Hinman and is recognized as one of Hinman’s finest traditions. As long as there are Hinmanites who are willing to dress up and dance the night away, there will always be a place in Hinman for the Semi-Formal.
Student-Faculty Potluck Dinner

One fairly recent event that seems to be on its way to becoming a strong Hinman tradition is the Student-Faculty Potluck Dinner. In the Fall of 2004, it was announced that the month of October would be Student-Faculty Connect Month at Binghamton University. The idea was that during this month interaction between students and faculty outside of the classroom would be greatly encouraged. Each residential college was charged with hosting programs and events that would encourage this interaction. Many of the residential colleges, including Hinman, decided to host a potluck dinner where students would invite their favorite faculty or staff member to the dinner. Everyone was encouraged to cook a dish and share it with the group.

This event in Hinman quickly became popular and over the few short years of its existence it has grown rapidly. The first two years it was held in the Hinman Commons. It soon became apparent that this space was too small to hold the ever increasing numbers of students, faculty and their families who would attend the event. In Fall 2006 the event was moved into the Hinman Library where tables and chairs and a long buffet table was setup. Anyone who has been in the Hinman Library will remember that there is not a lot of open space to have this sort of event. Though being far from ideal, the setup was still better than the Hinman Commons, and the event was a huge success. If the event continues to grow as it has, perhaps in the coming years it may have to move to the Hinman Dining Hall. For now, though, the Hinman Student-Faculty Potluck Dinner continues in the tradition of Table Talk and the Hinman Fellows program, where students in Hinman are encouraged to interact and get to know their professor outside of an academic setting and in a more personal, casual atmosphere.

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32 An event hosted by Faculty Master Pete Gruber which, like the potluck, encouraged student-faculty interaction outside of the classroom.
Hinman Fellows’ Lunch

Since the days of Nick Sterling, Hinman College has hosted a Friday lunch for all Hinman Fellows. Whether they are faculty, students, alumni, or fellows, all are encouraged to congregate at noon in the Hinman Dining Hall to meet with one another to socialize and to go over the recent events and happenings in Hinman College. Fellows’ Lunches, as they are called, have been especially popular with the numerous Hinman Fellows and continue to serve a most needed function in the Hinman community.

Although Fellows’ Lunches did not happen regularly until the 1990’s during Nick Sterling’s second tour of duty as Faculty Master of Hinman, similar events had been going on since the very beginning to Hinman College. The very first Faculty Master of Hinman, Pete Gruber, started Table Talk, a dinner where students were invited to speak with Hinman Faculty Fellows to discuss a wide array of topics. Though these dinners were not held every week, they started the precedent of having students and fellows sit down together during a meal.

Ever since then, every Faculty Master of Hinman has been known to show up in the Hinman Dining Hall at regular intervals to eat with students and interact with them in a casual and relaxed setting outside of a formal classroom. It was Nick Sterling, however, who really took this concept to heart and made it a Hinman tradition. From 1990-1998, almost every student who has been involved in Hinman has eaten a Friday lunch with Nick Sterling. The lunches were informal and casual, and Hinman Fellows were invited to join. The lunches soon became notorious for their length and the number of topics covered. Sometimes these lunches would become marathon sessions that would last well into the afternoon. Oftentimes, even after Nick left, students and some of the Fellows would remain, engrossed in their conversation and in each other’s company. Where Pete Gruber’s Table Talk followed a rather formal course of
discussion on prearranged topics, usually of an academic nature, Nick Sterling’s Friday lunches covered every conceivable topic under the sun. Students were so comfortable at the lunches that they did not hesitate to complain about their classes, their families, their relationships and anything else that was on their mind. Although one can never be sure, this is perhaps one of the many reasons why Nick Sterling was such a beloved Master of Hinman. These Friday lunches were a safe environment where anyone could let their opinions and concerns be known without fear of being judged or ridiculed.

In 1998, Al Vos became the new Faculty Master of Hinman and continued with this tradition. Every Friday at Noon, the Hinman Fellows’ Lunch occurs. Like Nick Sterling’s lunches, this lunch invites all Hinman Fellows and current Hinmanites to join to discuss the topics of the day. Although student participation in the Fellows Lunches has fallen in recent years, the lunches provide a much needed outlet for Hinman Fellows to keep abreast of what is going on in their residential college.

Regardless of how long they run or their attendance, there will always be a place for Hinman lunches. The lunches provide the necessary setting for casual conversation between fellows, staff, and students to occur. It is also unique in that there are very few places where these three groups can congregate and talk about any subject that comes to their mind. It also gives the opportunity to Faculty/Staff Fellows and Student Fellows (current Binghamton students who no longer live in Hinman) to hear about what is going on in Hinman. In an interview in 2004 for the Binghamton Alumni Journal, David Berkowitz (Class of 2000) had this to say about Hinman and the Fellows’ Lunches, “You’re not a ‘former’ Hinmanite. People identify with Hinman for many decades after they graduate, so even if you don’t live there, you’re still a
Hinmanite at heart. That is the essence of these lunches. They are a tradition that Hinmanites who are no longer living in Hinman can still partake in.

**Other Traditions**

Dorm Wars, Hysteria, the Semi-Formal, and the Student-Faculty Potluck dinner are not the only traditions that Hinman celebrates. There are also other minor celebrations that have occurred on an off again throughout Hinman history. These events may come and go and rise and fall in popularity but they can still be considered minor traditions in the realm of Hinman history.

One tradition that has been around for many years is the date auction, which has been going on since at least the 1970’s, though it is unclear exactly when it began. Date auctions have been used for a variety of reasons, though usually they are used to raise funds for individual buildings, the community, or a charitable organization. The date auction features volunteers who agree to have themselves auctioned off as dates to the highest bidder. More often than not, dates do not actually take place, it’s merely for show.

Although almost every building at some point in time has had their own date auction, in recent years Lehman Hall has held a highly successful date auction to raise money for charitable causes. Each year for the past few years, the Lehman Hall main lounge is transformed into an area with speakers, a projector and a catwalk for the volunteers to strut their stuff. This program has been incredibly successful and popular, and has grown each year of its existence. It has also raised large sums of money for charity.

Another tradition that has been very popular in Hinman over the years has been trivia competitions. Since the 1970’s, students have participated in quiz bowl, a competitive trivia
event much like the television show Jeopardy! Though most of the trivia programs have been closely related to campus-wide events rather than Hinman-specific trivia programming, in recent years that has changed. At around the same time that Lehman Hall began its annual Date Auction, Smith Hall began to stage a team trivia competition in the lower dining hall. This trivia competition was in the style of many popular team trivia competitions held in bars and cafes across the country. A team, usually consisting of about 6-10 people, will form and then be asked a series of questions. Each team gets an allotted amount of time to answer each question correctly, usually about the length of a song that is played while the team discusses their answer. The number of questions asked and the number of rounds varies, but the team with the most correct answers at the end of the game wins. Smith Hall’s annual trivia competition has grown in size and popularity each year that it has been occurring and, like the Lehman Hall Date Auction, is well on its way to becoming another Hinman tradition.

Lehman and Smith Halls are not the only buildings with traditions in Hinman. Cleveland Hall for many years had a popular event called Cleve-edge. Cleve-edge was a program that hosted a number of entertainers from around campus like musical groups, acappella groups, comedians and other entertainers. All the proceeds from this event would be donated to charity. Cleve-edge was a popular and well-attended event that entertained many and raised funds for good causes. However, in recent years Cleve-edge has fallen in popularity and now no longer exists as a Hinman tradition. The last Cleve-edge to occur was in the fall of 2004. For whatever reason, Cleve-edge just was no longer successful and unfortunately no longer ranks as a Hinman tradition. However, its legacy of fundraising for good and charitable causes can still be seen in any program of that nature that occurs within the bounds of Hinman College.
Conclusion

Hinman College is chock full of traditions. The traditions mentioned in this chapter are just a few of the many traditions that Hinman celebrates. Dorm Wars, Hysteria and the Hinman Semi-Formal are perhaps the biggest and most enduring of all of Hinman traditions, but they are by no means the only ones. Many other Hinman activities can be considered traditions (HCC, HPC, Co-Rec etc.), but for the purposes of this history they are given space in other chapters. The most important thing to take away from these traditions is the concept of bridge building and filling the gaps between the generations. Every generation of Hinmanites has participated in a Dorm Wars even since 1978 and everyone has been involved in Hinman Hysteria since 1987. Almost every Hinmanite has been to at least one Semi-Formal during their time here. Others have cooked for the Student-Faculty Potluck dinner, auctioned themselves off in the Date Auction, played a round of team trivia, or been entertained by Cleve-edge. Traditions are what binds the past to the present, and though Henry James may have said that “an endless amount of history is needed to make even a little tradition,” within its relatively short forty year history, Hinman College has accumulated traditions both large and small. Traditions keep the past alive, give strength and guidance to the present, and provide hope for the future. Hinman is certainly not the only residential community with traditions, but it is the one which holds them the most dear. It is tradition which helps to define the time-honored Spirit of Hinman.

The author would wish to thank John and Heidi Kowlacyk, Tony Toluba, and Jarrod Bagatell for their contributions to this chapter and for keeping alive the traditions of Hinman College.

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mlxii Tony Toluba, e-mail message to author, March 10, 2007.
mlxiv Ibid.
mlxv Ibid.
All The News That’s Fit To Print: Hinman Publications

A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself.
-Arthur Miller

Prologue

From the very beginning, Binghamton University has been blessed with a large number of student publications. The largest and longest running of course is the campus newspaper *Pipe Dream* (formerly known as *The Colonial News*). However, what is unique about each of the residential colleges at Binghamton is that each of them at some point in their history has had its own newspaper to keep residents informed of events, programs and community gossip. Of all the residential colleges, the most informative and successful of these community newspapers have been in Hinman and the most successful of them has been the *Hinman Halitosis*. From 1970 to today, Hinman publications have been informing Hinman residents of the news that is essential to their lives in college.

The West Harpur Other

In 1968, before the existence of Co-Rec Football, and the Hinman Little Theater, and before the rise to prominence of the Hinman College Council, Hinman began experimenting with print media publications. This first foray into the news services was called *The West Harpur Other*. For unknown reasons, this paper seems to have failed, but a new publication almost immediately took its place. This new newsletter was called *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* and was written almost completely by then Faculty Master Pete Gruber. Like its predecessor, this newsletter did not last long and was ultimately replaced by a new Hinman magazine with a rather confusing name change. This new magazine was officially called *W.H.O.: The Other Other*. However, on its masthead it still referred to itself as *The West Harpur Other*, with the
The third issue of this new publication has this to say about the importance of the newsletter:

This is the beginning of what is expected to be a great step in the development of Hinman College. No community can exist without a reliable means of communication. The larger the community, the more mass produced the medium (and coincidentally, the more sophisticated the method of reproduction). This is a relatively small community, less than 1/3 of the total university, so this newsletter will be unsophisticated: no illustrations, especially photographs, for a while; no super glossy paper with heavy black ink, no nationwide syndicated columnists. But, with the resources available, we will strive to bring to the residents of Hinman a readable newsletter with editorials, articles, and chronicles of events of interest to West Harpur.

Furthermore, that very same first issue, had this to say about the issue of its name:

Lest some be struck by the originality and ingenuity of the staff preparing this newsletter, a word on its name seems appropriate. The West Harpur Other [sic] was founded a year and a half ago by a student interested in producing a creative magazine for the then just emerging Hinman College, and was takeoff on the East Village Other. The original West Harpur Other was an assemblage of creative efforts by students who wanted to write, and anything that was written was printed. This was the tragic flaw of WHO, for the fifth in a series of sporadically produced issues was deemed too “dirty” by the off-campus printer and the interruption proved too great an obstacle to overcome. But the spirit of WHO lives on, and—with the necessity of a newsletter bearing down on us—is revived, even if in and [sic] adulterated form, with this: West Harpur Other, the Other Other.

*The West Harpur Other, Who Too, The Other Other,* or whatever you’d like to call it had humble origins. Their first office was located in Smith Hall suite 226 C and its editorial board consisted of two people, Bruce Laubacher and Sandy Lazar. Others contributed to some of its articles, but for the most part, this small community newsletter was held together by only a few individuals.

Within the pages of *The West Harpur Other,* one can see the beginnings of a true community newsletter. The writers for the newsletter kept their readers abreast of the goings on (or lack therefore as the case often was) with HCC. They announced programs and campus activities. They reported the current events both in Hinman and the greater campus community.
While each issue was no more than a few pages long, it still served its purpose and fulfilled its mission statement that it announced in its very first issue. This paper would last until at least 1970. What exactly happened to *The West Harpur Other* is unclear, though it appears to have been replaced by another publication that will be spoken about later in this chapter. While *The West Harpur Other* may have lasted only a few years it laid the foundation for all future Hinman publications that were to follow. When it all looked bleak it also offered the inspiration for other Hinman publishers to continue. As an inspirational message, this newsletter’s first Assistant Editor, Sandy Lazar, wrote this as an inspiration to all current and future newsletter publishers in Hinman and the Hinman community at large:

> As an individual in the college community, you have the opportunity to determine the kind of academic and social life that you want or sit back and let others do it for you. That choice is yours.

You may choose to become involved; or you may choose to be a spectator.

You may choose to commit yourself to your goals; or you may choose to sit in frustration over your failure to reach them.

You may choose to work constructively to promote your ideas and ideals; or you may continue to despair of the world around you.

You may choose to help to redefine the goals of the college, the student, and society; or you may accept the outmoded clichés so often accepted.

In short, you will choose to be a spectator or a participant, an individual who shapes his college life, or one who lets it shape you.

But before you become committed to one of these alternatives, look at them all carefully. Don’t rely on someone else’s view of the situation, for many have stopped looking.

The challenge to create a new college community lies with you.\textsuperscript{mlixix}

In those early days of Hinman College, everything was an experiment, everything was new and groundbreaking. Everyone, from the lowliest of students to the professional staff members, to the Master of Hinman College himself, everyone was involved in redefining what a
residential college was all about. For *The West Harpur Other* and those who worked on it, they more than anyone else in those early days, were contributing to a new and challenging experiment called Hinman College.

**Soliloquy**

The exact origins of *Soliloquy* are unknown, though the first issue on file in the Hinman archives is dated October 15, 1970. That first issue has this to say about the mission of *Soliloquy*:

*Soliloquy*, the new Hinman College magazine, will come out every third Thursday, and will hopefully be eight pages long. It will include: poetry, short stories, articles, photographs, drawings, cartoons and anything else that is either creative or pertaining to Hinman College. If we are lucky, *Soliloquy* will be a community effort. Anyone interested in participating in our effort should either call us or come to our first meeting, Monday, October 19th at 8:00 p.m. in suite 313 in Roosevelt Hall.

It is unknown whether *Soliloquy* was created as a companion magazine for *The West Harpur Other* or if it was that newsletter’s replacement. Only a few issues of *Soliloquy* survive, and it appears that the magazine was not much more than a magazine for budding poets. A number of people contributed to it, including Hinman College secretary Helen Rogers. The editor of the magazine was Tom Bondy and the Associate Editors were Allan Monasch and Paul Hennessey. It is unknown exactly how many issues of *Soliloquy* were printed or exactly when the magazine ceased to exist, though it is safe to assume that it stopped being printed by 1971, the year that the *Hinman Halitosis* was first established.

*Soliloquy* was mostly a forum for creative efforts such as poetry and short stories, though its ambitions as stated in its mission statement were never fully fulfilled. Still, the importance of *Soliloquy* is that it was not a newsletter in the traditional sense like *The West Harpur Other*. Furthermore, *Soliloquy* helped to lay the foundation for creative writing efforts in Hinman
publications. Although the run of *Soliloquy* would be less than that of *The West Harpur Other*, the next publication to come to Hinman would combine elements of both of these previous publications and be not only the longest running but the most influential publication in Hinman history and at times even surpassing that of the campus-wide newspaper.

**The Hinman Halitosis**

By far, the most successful newspaper ever to grace the scene of Hinman College, and undoubtedly the most active and informative residential college newsletter campus-wide, was the *Hinman Halitosis*. Like Co-Rec Football, all of the credit for the creation of *Hinman Halitosis* goes to Bob Giomi. In many ways it was almost inevitable that Bob would create this, the most important and influential of all the Hinman newsletters.

The story of how Bob created the *Hinman Halitosis* is almost inextricably linked with how he came to Hinman. As an undergraduate at Ohio State University, Bob had majored in Journalism. For the next nine months after graduation he looked unsuccessfully for a job. Then he came across an unexpected opportunity. The wife of one of his fraternity brothers had gotten a job at SUNY Binghamton as a Head Resident (later to be called Resident Director). She informed Bob that Binghamton was desperately in need of people to fill those positions on campus and would take just about anyone. Bob knew that he would be the most unqualified person ever to hold that position. The Head Resident/Resident Director position requires one to not only supervise a staff of resident assistants but also to handle any problems that may arise in the building and to perform day-to-day administrative functions necessary to keep the residence hall in tip top shape. Bob himself had never lived in a dormitory before and had only a vague knowledge of the challenges that were to await him. His parents wanted him to stay at home in
New Jersey to be closer to them, but Bob wanted to experience a challenge. He applied and got the job and was placed in Roosevelt Hall where he would live from 1970 until 1972. The 1973-1974 academic year Roosevelt Hall was actually closed because there were not enough students to fill it, a far cry from later years when housing crunches tripled students and put them up in study lounges. At first it was Cleveland Hall, not Roosevelt that was supposed to be closed, but students voted to close Roosevelt instead. As a result, many of the students who had been living in Roosevelt moved to Lehman (which at the time, for reasons unknown, attracted a large proportion of upperclassmen) and Bob was moved there as well. He would remain in Lehman Hall until he finally left Binghamton in the summer of 1978. Besides being a Head Resident he was also Hinman’s Academic Advisor and Director of Social Programming.

In 1970, with both The West Harpur Other and Soliloquy off the scene, the demand for a new newsletter for Hinmanites grew. Bob was placed in charge of developing this newsletter. He was excited about this task. For the first time since he had graduated from college he would actually have the opportunity to put his major to work for him. One of the first problems associated with the newspaper was what to call it. Newing College had a successful newspaper called the Lake Lieberman Gazette, named after the man-made lake which is situated adjacent to Newing College. Unfortunately, Hinman had no such natural wonders to provide a name, and for a long while no one could come up with a good name. They wanted to have the word “Hinman” somewhere in the title, but what was to come after that was difficult to decide. One day, all of the professional staff members were sitting around the office in Hinman when Gabe Yankowitz, a Hinman RA who would later go on to be Head Resident of Cleveland Hall, came in and overhead Bob and the others debating about what they should call the newspaper. Gabe
jokingly suggested that they call it the *Hinman Halitosis*. The humor of the title was lost on no one in that room and though it was meant as a joke, the title quickly caught on and the *Hinman Halitosis* was born.

For the first few years of its existence, Bob Giomi essentially wrote the entire newspaper himself with a little help from Hinman’s secretary, Helen Rogers. He would work late into the evenings to make sure that all the columns were aligned and that all the articles advertising Hinman programming and campus events were clear. They articles would have to be typed onto the paper using a good old-fashioned typewriter and then copies were made using a mimeograph machine. Although its distribution was wide, it was still a fairly simple operation. The newsletter was typically only about three to five pages in length and was on colored paper to give it some pizzazz. Bob would perform this difficult and laborious task every Wednesday night so that the newsletter would be available on Thursday by dinner time. Bob would do all of this work himself until he realized that there was a great opportunity for students interested in journalism to get involved and gain experience in journalism and newspaper publishing. Bob would soon recruit Pete Lorenzi, who would rise to the position of Editor-in-Chief of the *Hinman Halitosis*, though Bob himself would continue to hold the title of Publisher and Managing Editor.

With the introduction of Pete Lorenzi as the Editor-in-Chief of the paper and of other student contributors, the *Hinman Halitosis* quickly grew in size. During his time in Hinman, Pete Lorenzi was very involved in Hinman life. However, he had gotten the reputation of being something of a “bad boy” and as a result he did not get accepted as an RA. By the time he was a junior in 1972, Pete wanted a job doing something for Hinman. The Coordinator of Hinman at the time was a man named Ed O’Connor who would later go on to become the head of all of Residential Life at Binghamton. Ed offered Pete the job of administrative assistant in the

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33 Halitosis is defined as the condition of having offensive or foul-smelling breath.
Hinman Office on the condition that he pass a typing test, which was very important for stenographers back in those days before word processors. Pete was a very diligent typist and passed the test and became Hinman’s new administrative assistant. One of his tasks as administrative assistant was to help out with publishing the *Hinman Halitosis*.\textsuperscript{mlxxiii}

One of Pete’s tasks as part of the editorial staff was to draw the *Halitosis* masthead for every issue. Unlike the rest of the paper which was typed, the masthead was hand drawn by Pete himself. He also drew the lips and tongue that appear on many of the early issues of the *Hinman Halitosis*. Pete decided to add in the lips and tongue for a number of reasons. The first reason was that it fit with the name *Halitosis*, and the second reason was that the band, The Rolling Stones, were very popular at the time and their symbol was exactly like that. Pete and the rest of the editorial staff (which included two other work-study students) typed *Halitosis* on Wednesday nights on an IBM electric typewriter. It usually took between two and three hours to type and mimeograph the five hundred copies of the paper that were printed. There were typically fourteen issues a semester. Pete remembers there being almost no supervision for the students. Once Bob showed them all how to put the paper together, he left them to their own devices, forcing them to sink or swim. Even with this apparent lack of supervision, the dedicated students who worked on the newsletter continually put it out week after week, keeping the students of Hinman informed about what was going on in their community.\textsuperscript{mlxxiv}

The beauty of *Halitosis*, Pete remembers, was that any student could submit an article for publication. It could have been a review of an HLT play, the highlights of an HCC meeting, coverage of a Co-Rec game, personals, opinion pieces, short stories, anything would be accepted and printed for the rest of the community to see. It was a very informal process and there was usually nothing too political printed in the paper. The purpose of the *Hinman Halitosis* was not
to create controversy; it was to keep Hinmanites informed of what was happening in their community. But more than that, the *Hinman Halitosis* was all about having fun. It was about entertaining and informing the reader and, for those who worked on the paper, it was one of the best experiences of their college careers. Pete really enjoyed his college experience, and especially his time working on the *Hinman Halitosis*. He would even stay a fifth year mostly because he just loved being in Hinman so much.\textsuperscript{\textit{mlxxv}}

In the first issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* for the 1973-1974 academic year, Pete, as editor-in-chief wrote this about the purpose behind *Halitosis*:

…Of all the many unexpected things you’ll find each week in Hinman, after this first issue, the *Hinman Halitosis* will be a regular sight in the dining hall on Thursday nights. No matter what happens, we always seem to manage to put out some new *Halitosis* each week.

The *Halitosis* is the local newsletter (though despite its form I prefer to call it a ‘paper,’ if not a newspaper [emphasis in original]) put out by students in Hinman College. Started by our present publisher, Robert F. Giomi, in November of 1970, the *Halitosis* has grown from very austere beginnings, when it was two simple pages, when it was written and edited by Bob himself and Helen Rogers, to a student-run operation usually running six to eight pages in length. With all the news we can muster for the benefit of Hinman students without getting too high schoolish (like our Newing counterpart), we try our best each week to let you know what has happened, what will happen and what he hope will happen in Hinman, along with a collection of editorials and semi-regular columns. Above all, we encourage all students to participate in writing and adding opinions to our paper. We gladly accept poems, opinions, letters to the editor, etc., and we are always happy to add to our regular staff.

Each week we also publish our personals section, containing just that: personal items, including messages, lost and found, ride requests and so on. It’s the want ads of Hinman. And to help you plan your weekend, we publish a capsule edition of popular events both on and off campus for the coming weekend. You’ll find this section extremely useful for getting involved with the social aspects of Hinman, SUNY-Binghamton and the local community.

Anything you want printed in the *Halitosis* (within reason, of course) can be easily left in the Hinman College Office (which your counselor [RA] will point out to you if you can’t locate it yet) and if you’re interested in staff work, see Bob Giomi in the same office or contact me. The office is open 3:30 a.m. [sic] to5:00 p.m. and the *Halitosis*
deadline is Wednesday at NOON [emphasis in original] although we will accept very special articles any time before we go to print that night.

_Halitosis_ is your paper and it will be as good or as useful as you make it. I invite your participation and comments—at any time. And good luck in the coming year (even if you don’t read us).mlxxvi

The _Hinman Halitosis_ was a paper with a mission, and the dedicated staff who worked tirelessly on it intended to fulfill that mission.

Following Bob Giomi, Pete Lorenzi was perhaps the most influential of the editorial staff in the history of the _Hinman Halitosis_. Under his guidance, the readership of _Halitosis_ grew, and it became known as the paper that everyone who lived in Hinman had to read. Although Pete had been a Hinman mainstay for many years, even he too had to graduate and move on. Pete Lorenzi, the “bad boy” of Hinman College, eventually went to get his PhD from Penn State and currently teaches business at Loyola College in Maryland.

The responsibility of managing the day-to-day operations of the _Hinman Halitosis_ following the departure of Pete Lorenzi fell to onto the shoulders of Barbara Shrager, who became the new editor-in-chief. Barbara continued in the tradition of Pete Lorenzi, organizing the paper and laying it out every Wednesday night and spending hours breathing in the sweet fumes of the mimeograph machine every week. Under her leadership, contributions to the paper increased, as did the size of the regular staff. Barbara, a Political Science major, had been interested in journalism ever since she had taken a class in it while at Binghamton. She went on to do two internships with the _Sun Bulletin_ (the forerunner to the _Press and Sun Bulletin_). That, and the fact that she lived in Hinman, made it only natural for her to join up with the staff of the _Hinman Halitosis_. For the next few years Barbara would manage the _Halitosis_ and watch it grow and mature into the quality newspaper that it was. Her work on the _Hinman Halitosis_ not only inspired her to pursue a career in journalism but also gave her valuable experience into what
it takes to manage a newspaper. In June of 1977, Barbara took a job with The Saratogian, a newspaper that serves the city of Saratoga Springs, NY and the surrounding communities. She has been with that paper ever since and has been its managing editor for twenty years. Halitosis

Halitosis under the guidance of Pete Lorenzi and Barbara Shrager helped to lay the foundation for the newspaper that Halitosis was to become. For the next few years, Halitosis grew by leaps and bounds, eventually running eight pages or more. Besides the regular announcements about upcoming programming, Co-Rec coverage, and HCC minutes, there were also special interest pieces and works of original fiction. Tony Toluba was instrumental in starting this trend. Tony wrote serialized short stories that were humorous in nature and appeared weekly in the Hinman Halitosis. One of these stories was called “Escape from SUNY B” which was a parody of the John Carpenter movie Escape From New York. Another story entitled “The 4.0 Murder” and was a humorous story whose main premise was the campus urban legend that if your roommate died you would automatically get a 4.0 GPA for the semester. Perhaps Tony’s most popular serialized story was a piece called “Star Trek: The Satire.” At the time (circa 1980) the syndicated television program Star Trek was shown every weekday in the late afternoon. Having your own television at the time was a rarity and many students clustered in the building lounges to watch TV. Star Trek just happened to be one of the more popular shows that residents would tune into. Tony was a resident of Roosevelt Hall at the time and remembers watching the show with many of the building’s residents, who often identified with specific characters of the show. The show was so popular with the residents of Roosevelt Hall that Tony was inspired to write a satirical piece where the crew of the USS Enterprise would travel back in time and visit SUNY Binghamton. One of Tony’s most clever pieces of writing had the crew of the starship Enterprise scan SUNY Binghamton for signs of intelligent life.
There were four residential colleges at the time and the crew found that one college was hidden away in the woods as if their residents were ashamed to be there (CIW). One had life but no intelligence (Newing). And the other had intelligence but no life (Dickinson—which at this time was graduate student housing). Hinman was the only residential college that seemed to have everything (community pride, life, and intelligence), and the crew of the Enterprise chose this place to visit. Tony’s last foray into serialized fiction writing was a takeoff of the cult television show *Get Smart.* However, he was censured by the professional staff that oversaw the publication of *Halitosis,* and Tony decided to quit writing if his work was going to be censured. His work was never published, though a rough draft can be found in the Editor’s notebook of *The Hinman Halitosis* located in the HCC Office. Censorship of articles by professional staff members in Hinman would be a divisive issue that would come to a head in the coming years.

While Tony’s serials were popular, perhaps the most popular serial ever to run in the *Hinman Halitosis* was “The Adventures of Cat Masterson” by Steven “Pudge” Meyer. In 1978-1979, spanning two academic years, the *Hinman Halitosis* ran serialized stories chronicling the adventures of Cat Masterson, a detective/security night guard at SUNY Binghamton, and his quest to take down his arch nemesis, the diabolical Nicki Moto and his gang. Throughout its run, Cat Masterson would be aided by a host of secondary characters who were not so cleverly disguised anagrams or composite characters of real life Binghamton and Hinman personalities. One of Cat Masterson’s most important informants was a mysterious man named Ell Aller (almost certainly after Hinman Coordinator Al Eller). Another popular character was President Clark Click (a reference to then SUNY Binghamton President Clifford Clark). Along the way many popular Hinman personalities made guest appearances in the serial and got caught up in
Cat’s adventures. Although it did not last beyond 1979, “The Adventures of Cat Masterson” was a popular and entertaining serial that would forever be imbedded in the minds of those who read the serial. In fact, besides Herm the Wurmm, Cat Masterson can be considered the most popular and important mascot that *Halitosis* and Hinman College has ever had.

Herm the Wurmm (also known as Herm the Worm) was a popular cartoon character who appeared regularly in issues of *Halitosis* throughout the early 1980’s. The creation of Herm the Worm is an interesting story in and of itself. In December of 1981, Jim Bachman, an ex-editor, winner of the 1981 Den of Distinction, and a recent alum who had graduated just that past May, returned to Binghamton to pay a visit. One of the places that he made sure to visit was the old *Hinman Halitosis* office, a place where he had spent so much time as an editor. While he was waiting in the office he took out a piece of scrap paper and began doodling. The doodles were of a worm-like figure that he dubbed Herm the Wurmm. From these drawings, Herm the Wurmm quickly became the new mascot for the *Hinman Halitosis* and for years graced its masthead and appeared in comic strips drawn by various *Halitosis* staffers. Herm was the perennial hero of *Halitosis* and as an extension, Hinman College. For years, Hinman College had no real mascot. Newing College had the Lake Lieberman Monster, a creature in the same vein as the Loch Ness Monster. Early in the history of Hinman College, an effort was made to make Hinman’s mascot a mutant tuna fish as a sort of foil to Newing’s Lake Lieberman Monster. A series of spoof articles written between Faculty Master Pete Gruber and his counterpart in Newing College helped to make the Hinman tuna popular for a short while, but the idea never really caught on. For the next ten years, Hinman had no discernible mascot. That all changed with the introduction of Herm the Wurmm. Herm the Wurmm quickly grew a fan base in

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34 The original drawings of Herm the Wurmm by Jim Bachman can still be found in the binder called “Editor’s Handbook” located in the Halitosis Archives in the HCC Office.
Hinman, and for a time became Hinman’s most popular celebrity, better known than his real-life counterparts. Sadly, though, Herm the Wurmm’s popularity would not last out the decade and he slowly faded from sight. This can be seen as one of the many signs of the decline of the *Hinman Halitosis*. In the late 1990’s, HCC President Josh Kittenplan, upon shuffling through the old *Halitosis* archives rediscovered Herm and brought him back to life. For a brief period of time, Herm the Wurmm once again graced the cover of *Halitosis* and became Hinman’s unofficial mascot.\textsuperscript{mlixix} However, Herm’s comeback was short-lived and once again he quickly faded from sight. Still, like Cat Masterson, Herm’s memory lives on and perhaps someday he will return to his rightful place as the mascot of Hinman College.

Following the foundation-laying efforts of Bob Giomi, Pete Lorenzi, and Barbara Shrager, the *Halitosis* continued to grow and became the newspaper to read in Hinman. However, things began to turn south in the late 1970’s. By the Fall semester of 1978, the *Hinman Halitosis* was struggling. For reasons unclear there was just not a whole lot of student support. That summer, Bob Giomi left Binghamton. He had been the Managing and Publishing editor and the professional staff member who oversaw the production of this important student newspaper. As with other areas of Hinman life, Bob had been the driving force behind them, and his absence left a vacuum that was difficult for any one individual to fill. The new Managing and Publishing editor was Tom Truesdell, the Resident Director of Smith Hall. Although the written record does not seem to indicate this, apparently it was a struggle to get students to contribute to *Halitosis*, and it was becoming ever more difficult to put out an issue each week. Finally, late in the Autumn of 1978, Al Eller and Vito Sinisi approached sophomore Hinmanite Steven “Pudge” Meyer and basically told him that for all intents and purposes the *Hinman Halitosis* was going to shut down and cease to exist as a student newspaper unless he took over
as Editor-in-Chief of the paper. Even though he was still relatively young, this sophomore student would go on to prove himself and become one the most popular and influential of Hinmanites during that era. Before he graduated in 1981, Pudge Meyer would serve on the Hinman College Council Executive Board as Secretary, would act in the HPC production of Hot L. Baltimore, serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the Hinman Halitosis, and have one of the most popular and well-known nicknames in Hinman College history. For all his efforts, Pudge Meyer would have the honor or winning a Den of Distinction Award for his contributions and enthusiasm for Hinman College. That, however, would be a few years away. For now the task laid before sophomore Hinmanite Pudge Meyer was to save Hinman Halitosis.

Pudge would have complete editorial freedom. No on the professional staff interfered with his work or suggested that he print or not print something. During that time there were still a few regular features but mostly Halitosis became a vehicle for Pudge’s personal style of humor. Pudge would have minimal faculty guidance on the paper, and except for the help of Al Hecht, who drew the artwork, and Carol Bardenhagen, who helped with some of the typing, Pudge was basically on his own. Like Bob Giomi in those early years of Halitosis history, Pudge would stay up until the wee hours of the morning on Wednesday typing, copying and stapling, getting the paper ready for distribution at dinner time on Thursday. Sometimes if he needed extra help he would bribe his friends in the cooking dorm to help him make copies and staple in exchange for him cooking them dinner or buying them food. Although the entire process was time consuming and a Herculean effort for one individual, one aspect of putting out the paper remains seared in Pudge’s mind.

You have to understand—the machine that we used was old even then. Before that, I had seen it growing up, but didn't even know it had a name: Gestetner Machine. Ever hear of that? They used it in my elementary school. First, you type or write on the perforated, double layer layered paper (you can't fix mistakes, because it goes through). Then
you tear off the top sheet. Go to the machine, raise a lever and stick the top of the paper in a slot; close the lever. Make sure that the paper is now lying completely flat over the cylinder. The thing then turns round and round. I think the ink was inside the cylinder, splashing through onto the copy paper.\textsuperscript{mlxxxi}

Pudge would continue to put out the paper week after week for the remainder of the year, ensuring that Hinmanites got the news from their community that they deserved to hear. In the Spring of 1979, tragedy struck when Pudge broke his hand on a toboggan run at a resort in the Catskill Mountains where he worked when he was off from school in the summer and the winter. That semester he had to get a lot of people to help out especially with typing, stapling and making copies.\textsuperscript{mlxxxi} Still, undaunted by the broken hand, Pudge continued to put out the \emph{Halitosis} and it continued to be read and was probably the most anticipated thing that every Hinmanite waited for during Thursday dinners.

Finally, in late March of 1979, Pudge had had enough. Despite minimal support and despite having a broken hand, Pudge had, quite literally, single-handedly run the Hinman College student newspaper. By this point in time, he decided that enough was enough, that it was time for someone else to take on the responsibility of running the \emph{Halitosis}. In his final issue as Editor-in-Chief, Pudge wrote this farewell address to the reading public of Hinman College.

Yes, I admit it; all those lies are true—This is my last issue of the Halitosis. If that pleases you, your time has come; I’m sorry I made you wait this long to rejoice. If you are grieving heavily, let us wallow in the memories of Nicki Moto, Story Consultants, and the truth—I speak the truth at all times. If you do not read the Halitosis and don’t care either way that this is my last issue, you won’t be reading this now, so I’m glad I brought it up in the first place.

I have had one helluva \textit{[sic]} time writing this paper for the last bunch of weeks, even if I didn’t have much help. Hopefully you enjoyed it half as much as I did. If you didn’t, shame on you for not speaking up, helping out or making a suggestion. Naturally there were no research articles or reporting, because there was nobody to do it. I take no blame. Nor am I leaving the Halitosis in anger; I calmly and quietly just do not have the time. If someone out there is ready to take my place, you have any of my support and
writing help that you care to enlist. If you want to change the format of this paper and give it a new image, or was just generally unhappy with the issues that you have been reading, blame not me but yourself for not pointing it out; we could have made the change. But if I don’t know what you want, I can merely do what I want, and that was to try and put out a paper that was half-way entertaining. I’m sorry if I did not meet your standards.

So as of today there will be no Halitosis next week. And that bothers me for a couple of reasons. The first is number one, the second is number two; that’s what it means to be a number. The Halitosis has been around for all five years that Brendan Sullivan has gone to school here, and even before then…

Though the article is supposed to continue on the next page, it is cut short here. Whether the rest of the farewell address was never printed or if it is simply missing from this part of the archives is unclear. What is clear is that, as Pudge Meyer predicted, the next issue of *Halitosis* did not come out until almost a month later, on April 18, 1979. There in that edition, the new editors of the paper, Jakki Williams, Mike Salort, and Chase Ferguson wrote an opening article on the importance of the *Hinman Halitosis* and the unsung efforts of Pudge Meyer.

A few weeks ago, Pudge Meyer, the previous dedicated editor of this paper, turned in this typewriter so that he could purse his career as a tennis pro. He wrote his farewell issue declaring that he had done his bit for the paper and if it was to continue, it would have to continue without him. You may say, “Couldn’t the staff of the paper appoint a new editor and simply keep the presses rolling?” Well, no. For the most part, Pudge **was** the staff. The paper, this term, has been written mainly by Pudge and a few intermittent writers. To keep the paper going would require a new editor and staff; the staff Pudge never had.

Many of you probably didn’t even notice that the *Halitosis* didn’t come out last week. For those of you who did notice, we would like to say “tough.” No one felt strongly enough to do something about it. So again, the *Halitosis* will be written, typed, collated, stapled, and distributed by a few dedicated agents of the media. If you would like to see a Hinman newspaper appearing with any regularity, it is going to take some input…no, we don’t mean any more personals. In fact, if we had more articles, there might be fewer personals. For those of you who are ardent fans of our personal column, fear not. We really don’t anticipate such an incredible influx of articles that we will remove personals from the paper. Personals, too, have a purpose. Where else can you brag about your sexual prowess, your iron liver, or your latest disease to a readership of 1000 for free?
The New Halitosis would like your help. Artists, writers, typists, and people who are adept with a stapler are all invited to help out.

Many of you are probably more than willing to see this paper disappear. Hopefully there are some people out there who would like to see a Hinman newspaper in spite of its shortcomings. Even if you want a paper for your gerbil’s sake we are going to need some help. The Hinman paper is necessary. Believe if or not, this paper is useful; it keeps you informed of Hinman happenings such as Co-Rec, Hinman Little Theatre, library hours, etc. The paper also has the potential to be enjoyable and interesting if only the burden were distributed among a few more people.

As of today, the Halitosis is alive and we are not quite ready to turn in the typewriter.

-The Editors of The New Halitosis

The problems surfacing within the Hinman Halitosis at this time were only one of the many symptoms of trouble within Hinman College. At this time, Co-Rec football was beginning to become hyper-competitive, bordering on violent, and the once mighty Hinman Little Theater was sick and would eventually die. However, all hope was not lost yet for any of these great Hinman institutions. In the Spring of 1980, Pudge Meyer studied abroad in Spain, but when he returned he continued to submit articles, and even resumed “The Adventures of Cat Masterson” for a time. Hinman Halitosis limped along and continued to be published weekly, though it lacked much of the freshness and vigor of previous years.

Although to the outside observer, it may have seemed as though Halitosis was on its last legs, this could not have been further from the truth. Halitosis would survive well into the late 1980’s and continue to be a presence in Hinman College for years after that. However, as much trouble as Halitosis was suffering at this juncture, it was about to face its greatest challenge.

As mentioned earlier, since the very beginning of the paper’s existence, Halitosis was an almost completely student run newspaper. There was professional staff guidance, minimal to be sure, but it was still there. The guidance that the professional staff gave to the students was mostly a matter of censorship—that is to say, they did not want Halitosis to become profane,
pornographic, or libelous. For the most part, this system worked relatively well up until the late 1970’s. At this time, the professional staff began to censor more and more stories and articles in the paper and began to crack down on what the students were writing. This can be seen as early as 1978, with the censoring of Tony Toluba’s short fiction works in *Halitosis*.

At this time a movement began where the students running the paper decided to make an appeal to remove professional staff oversight from the paper and make it a completely independent student-run newspaper. In the Spring of 1980, this issue came to a head when the staff of the *Hinman Halitosis* came before the Hinman College Council and asked that the professional staff member, known as the Managing and Publishing Editor (MAPE), be completely removed from the paper and that students be allowed to handle all editorial issues associated with the paper. In a forty-five minute discussion, proponents of having the MAPE stated that this system has worked for years and that removing it would hurt student and non-student professional staff relations. The staff of the *Halitosis* argued that they believed it would not hurt relations and that other papers on campus, such as the *Lake Lieberman Gazette*, had no professional staff guidance and they did just fine. In the end HCC voted 10 to 4 with 7 abstentions to keep the present system.

The issue became large and heated with coverage in other residential college newspapers and even the campus-wide newspaper *Pipe Dream*. Jane Warren, the Assistant Coordinator of Hinman and the *Halitosis* MAPE, defended herself by saying that she felt that she did nothing to limit their freedom of the press and that she acted mostly in an advisement role, using her power to censor only when she absolutely needed to. The student Editor-in-Chief of the paper, Jim Bachman, stated while he agreed with Warren and did not harbor any ill will toward her, he felt that soon if not at the present moment, *Halitosis* should be allowed to be completely free of all
professional staff supervision. Furthermore, Bachman stated that many of the staff who worked on the paper threatened to quit when they heard that HCC had ruled against them, but had decided to stay on, believing that the greater evil would not be to publish the paper.  

By the beginning of the next semester, senior Editor-in-Chief Jim Bachman again made an appeal to make the paper fully independent of professional staff supervision. In an article that he wrote for publication in the *Lake Lieberman Gazette*, Bachman had this to say about the subject.

The issue of student versus non-student administrative control of a college newspaper as in the case of the Hinman Halitosis as reported in the April 15th edition of Pipe Dram, is most assuredly a complex one. Granted, as Master of Hinman College Vito Sinisi said in that same article, the story behind the issue is long. However, although Sinisi thinks the story should be put off for consideration on some later, indefinite date, the meaning behind the outcome of the vote to retain administrative control cannot be ignored.

Students comprise a voting majority on the Hinman Council to which such matters as changing the charter under which the Halitosis operates, must be brought. As members of the Council, these students serve as representatives of the Hinman community as a whole. In the vote in favor of maintaining the status quo in respect to the paper, i.e., denying the Halitosis staff’s requests for a change in the charter, it was the vote of those students with positions to which they were elected, who proved to be the deciding factor in the issue. Without a doubt, this is how it should have been, in this, as well as any other decision concerning students. However, before continuing with an interpretation of their vote, one thing should be pointed out: only one person on the newspaper staff could vote in this matter and that person was not the student Editor-in-Chief but a person who had been elected to the Council as a Hinman representative to ACE and who had only this semester elected to write a weekly article for the Halitosis as well. Incidentally, this ACE rep was one of those voting in favor of the change.

The outcome of the vote itself might be interpreted in one of three ways. In the first, the decision to maintain administrative control over the paper can be seen as a gear of changing from an old system which seems to have been understood to a new one which might not. However, this is unlikely since the position of the staff members and their proposals for the creation of a new system were presented clearly enough. The second interpretation is that the voting outcome was the result of petty, internal quarrels which manifested themselves in the decision against the proposal to change. As seen in the discussion before the call to vote, that antagonisms did exist cannot be refuted and thus, that the voting was affected accordingly seems likely. However, because those on the

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35 The article never made it to publication. The only surviving copy is a rough draft located in the “Editor’s Handbook” binder in the Halitosis archives.
Council are supposed to be representing the interests of Hinman College as a whole, such suspicions would be difficult to verify. Thus we are left with the last interpretation as being the only one that we can rightfully make; the decision of the students on the Hinman Council before the Spring Break reflected the fears of the Hinman students population to give themselves i.e., students, absolute control of the paper and to accept responsibility for what goes in and for dealing with any problems which might arise over printed matter themselves. I stated in Pipe Dream that perhaps the Halitosis is in a state of growth. If this is true, then Hinman College, which was ironically in the past considered as a residential community for more mature, upperclassmen, must be considered as not fully developed or ready to accept the responsibilities which come from reaching maturity. Although unacceptable to me, it is this conclusion which I am forced to make concerning the decision.

Although never reaching print, this article is *Hinman Halitosis* Editor-in-Chief Jim Bachman’s impassioned plea for Hinmanites to realize that they are mature enough to accept complete editorial responsibility for themselves and that they no longer need oversight from a higher residential life authority looking over their shoulder. Although there is little documentation showing the exact sequence of events, early in the Fall of 1980, another vote was taken at HCC and this time it was found in favor of eliminating professional staff oversight of the paper. At this time, Patti Koval, who was the MAPE of *Halitosis*, ceased to hold that position, and Jim Bachman, then Editor-in-Chief and the highest ranking student on the paper, claimed the title of MAPE for himself. The dream of Bachman and the rest of the *Halitosis* staff had finally come true. Complete editorial responsibility was now in their domain.

This was a great victory not only for the entire staff of the *Hinman Halitosis* but for its dedicated Editor-in-Chief and first student MAPE, Jim Bachman. Jim would continue to serve as Editor-in-Chief and MAPE until December of 1980. In that year he would relinquish control of the paper that he had dedicated so much of his life to Bruce Kearnan. Before he left in December of 1980, he organized an “Editor’s Handbook” describing the essentials of how to operate the paper. Though much of the advice he gives seems dated to a modern audience (in today’s world of desktop publishing, no one worries about typewriter ribbons, mimeograph
machines, or shadowing of the text too much) it still served as a valuable resource to many future editors of *Halitosis*.mlxxxix

From January of 1981 to May of 1982, Bruce Kearnan was the MAPE of the *Hinman Halitosis*. In early February of 1982, the campus-wide newspaper wrote an article on the residential college newspapers, *Woodworld* (College-in-the-Woods), *Poor Dick* (Dickinson), *The Lake Lieberman Gazette* (Newing) and of course the *Hinman Halitosis*. In the article, *Pipe Dream* reporters interviewed Bruce Kearnan and asked him why anyone in their right mind would want to go to so much effort to put out a weekly newspaper covering only their residential college. Bruce replied that it was important for Hinman to have its own newspaper and that if he and his small, dedicated staff did not put it out, then no one else would. He then summed up in what would become the motto of the *Hinman Halitosis*: “Bad breath is better than no breath at all.”mxc Bruce went on to say that if *Pipe Dream* could cover Hinman events as well as *Halitosis* did then there would be no need for *Halitosis* to exist. The fact that *Halitosis* did exist showed that *Pipe Dream* was not measuring up to its claim of being the one-stop source for any news that occurred on campus.

Around that same time, the staff of the *Hinman Halitosis* put out a joke issue of *Pipe Dream* called *Pub Dreams*. Almost every April Fool’s day, *Pipe Dream* put out a joke issue called *Pipe Bomb* that lampooned events on campus and poked fun at large campus personalities (the SA President and the President of the University have been perennially popular targets for ridicule in *Pipe Bomb*). However, no one had ever published a joke issue of *Pipe Dream* for the sake of making fun of the paper. Although many in the greater campus community and almost everyone in Hinman though that *Halitosis’s Pub Dreams* was hysterically funny, there were some on the staff of *Pipe Dream* that did no find the joke issue so funny. *Pipe Dream* Associate
News Editor Cathy Bowman wrote an angry letter to the staff of the *Hinman Halitosis* decrying their joke issue and what she considered their tabloid reporting.

**Dear Halitosis Staff:**

Your joke issue was most amusing. But as you can see by the enclosure, we scooped you once again. However, attempts at humor are always appreciated here. Please feel free to continue corresponding with us. We will be glad to accept application from your staff if they ever get tired of working on a glorified gossip sheet and want to work for a real newspaper.

P.S. When are you guys going to change your name?*

This did not bode well for the staff of the *Hinman Halitosis*. From the sound of Bowman’s letter it appeared as though *Pipe Dream*, the largest student newspaper on campus, had declared war on the *Hinman Halitosis*. As dedicated as the staff of the *Halitosis* was, there would be no way for them to survive an all out war against *Pipe Dream*. Luckily, the situation quickly diffused when the Editor-in-Chief of *Pipe Dream*, Joanne Fuchs, sent this letter to the staff of the *Hinman Halitosis*.

**Dear Hinman Halitosis staff:**

The staff here at Pipe Dream greatly enjoyed your spoof, Pub Dreams. We like to make fun of ourselves, and enjoy it even more when other groups on campus notice us enough to make fun of us.

Please take Cathy Bowman’s letter with a grain of salt. It was not meant to insult you, just as I am sure you did not mean to insult us. If, as I had mentioned to your editor, any of you are interested in working for Pipe Dream, please do get involved. Just like you, we need all the help we can get.

I wish you all the luck with your newspaper.*

The situation with *Pipe Dream* was diffused, for the moment, but undoubtedly lingering feelings were left within members of both parties. Still, *Halitosis* had weathered this storm and continued printing just as it had before, being the one and only source of information for predominantly Hinman news.
In May of 1982, Bruce Kearnan stepped down as MAPE of the *Hinman Halitosis*. Just as his friend and former MAPE Jim Bachman had done the previous year, Kearnan wrote an Editor’s note to help future editor’s of *Halitosis* along. Like Bachman’s note, Kearnan’s probably seems a little bit dated to a modern audience (mimeograph machines are now considered obsolete) though for any paper, then as now, it is important to order your paper early and often, so as to not run out. Also, he made it clear once and for all, that both staplers in the office used regular staples and not heavy duty staples.

In his last issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* that he would ever edit, Kearnan wrote this as his farewell address:

This will be my last issue as Editor of the Halitosis. If you have ever read the staff box carefully, you’ll will [sic] recognize the name of my successor, Terri Daly. Terri was chosen by the Hinman Council two weeks ago and will be fully in charge when school resumes in the fall.

I have worked on the Halitosis for over three years now and I take pride in both the paper and the work that has been done in the last few years. I could talk about how quality has improved and about building a reputation and a whole bunch of other stuff, but some people would disagree with me and those things are really secondary. The most important thing the Halitosis should do is provide a service and do it on a regular basis. This was Bob Giomi’s original intention 12 years ago, it is still the fundamental principle of the Halitosis today…

…There are four people who form the core of the paper, without them, this paper simply does not print. They are Liz DiBlazio, Mike Ditkowsky (see I spelled it correct), Carol Swallow and Lisa Zavlick. All of them plan to return and work again next year. At times, like last night at 2 am, you have to wonder why they’d want to do that! I just know that the Halitosis is being left in good hands.

Finally I must mention Terri Daly again. There have been several occasions when Terri ran the paper in my absence. Her hardwork [sic], dedication and support have been priceless at all times. Thanks, TD.

And now I must finish this paper and study for my final finals.mxciii

For years Bruce Kearnan has taken the *Halitosis* and made it into the quality journalistic source that it was. Now he would join the ranks of previous editors like Pete Lorenzi, Barbara
Shrager, and Jim Bachman. Bruce’s time writing for the *Halitosis* was over and the hope for the future was that the remaining staff would continue in their same vein of quality Hinman journalism.

For the 1982-1983 academic year, Terri Daly lived up to Bruce Kearnan’s expectations. The *Hinman Halitosis* continued to grow and provided the latest in news and quality journalism for the readers of Hinman College. It seemed as though all the concerns about turning all the editorial responsibilities over to students had been for nothing. Ever since the *Halitosis* became completely student run, it had reached new heights of achievement and prosperity. By the end of the year, in the same vein as her predecessors, Terri Daly wrote an emotional farewell to the readers of the *Hinman Halitosis*.

…I don’t know what will happen to the paper next year: I know there are a lot of areas it can improve in though. Hopefully the new electrostencil machine will bring art back to the pages, and maybe things will start to get funny again. (It will have to with the faces of the new editorial staff around for everybody to look at! Only kidding).

I urge everybody to get involved in this paper next year, in one way or another. It can only survive with your interest & participation. And hell, you meet some the Gumbiest [sic] people down here in this closet.

I hope the paper will continue to grow, and never become the Gazette or Pipe Dream (that’s not it’s purpose!) but I hope we can get some of the mental weirdness of Poor Dick’s back.

Again, I want to thank Mike, Lisa & especially Liz (for putting up with me 4 yrs [sic]). And wish everyone good luck on finals, a warm dry summer and a happy life before I go off into the blue yonder. I leave you with this final thought:

“Life is a banquet and most poor sons-of-bitches are starving to death.”

-Auntie Mame

It doesn’t have to be that way.

Good luck & Good Life & Goodbye,

Terri Daly, ex-editor.

mxciv
Daly’s emotional plea would be answered the following academic year with a new staff and the start of a *Halitosis* editorial dynasty. Taking over the helm as editor of the *Hinman Halitosis* would be Robin Shrager, the younger sister of Barbara Shrager. Like her sister before, Robin Shrager took it upon herself to continue the *Hinman Halitosis* and make it the best of all the residential college newspapers. Besides the usual job of formatting, typing, copying and editing, Robin took it upon herself to regularly write columns in the *Halitosis* covering a wide variety of subject matter, though usually they focused on the ever problematic issue of student apathy. Robin’s columns became a regular feature in *Halitosis*, just as much as Co-Rec football news, HCC minutes, floor news, and the every popular personals section. On particular column shows just how much Robin loved the Hinman newspaper that had been such a large part of her life.

I know, I know,—you didn’t know that there was going to be a Halitosis this week, so not many floors put news in and there aren’t too many personals. Yes, I know, you thought there would be one before vacation, but there wasn’t, and we canned all old news.

To tell you the truth, I didn’t think there would be an issue this week either. See, I wasn’t sure if I was even coming back to school after Spring Break. It’s like this…[sic]

I was there on the beach in the BAHAMA [emphasis in original], soaking in the sun, sipping a pina colada, watching the wind breeze through the palm trees…and I thought to myself as I pulled my new straw hat down over my eyes, “Gee, this is an awfully nice place—wouldn’t it be great to live here year round.”

I pondered over the idea for a while, running my toes through the powdery white sand, looking out to the ocean with its clear blue water. I thought only a short while before realizing that Paradise Island would make an excellent home—the beach, sailing, fishing by day, and the casinos, fine restaurants, and discos by night.

I was all set to wire home for my belongings and some extra cash, when I remembered THE HALITOSIS. What would become of the *Hinman Halitosis* should I not return? Who would make sure the paper was put out? What would happen to the paper I ordered from Central Stores? What would my staff say if I deserted them?
No, I could not abandon my responsibility to put out the paper. I made the commitment last Spring, and I could not go back on my word. I would not let the paper die just to satisfy my own personal desires.

And so, I returned to Binghamton with my suitmates. I returned to cold, rainy, cloudy, dreary, palm-treeless Binghamton just to serve my readers. That’s dedication for you.

That’s right—my tan may fade, but the Halitosis remains forever.

Although this particular article was written somewhat tongue-in-cheek, the fact remained that Robin Shrager and the rest of the Halitosis staff viewed the Hinman Halitosis as something unique and special and that it needed to be kept going. In the view of Robin and others, the Halitosis was just a small part of larger Hinman College community and it was important that it be preserved for future generations. Another column written in the spring of 1985 has Robin take on the pervasive issue of student involvement (or lack thereof) and apathy.

Living is more than accomplishing the basic bodily functions. Sure, most of us can breathe and our heart’s are beating, but are we really living?

Living is doing, seeing, creating, learning, taking risks,…[sic] getting involved!

Don’t just sit around and complain things aren’t right…[sic] Do something! Make yourself a part of the decision makers in Hinman College.

There are many ways to get your point heard and/or become involved in Hinman life. One way is to become a leader, and your opportunity to do this is open now, for elections are coming up for the Hinman College Council. You don’t have to be an expert in politics to run for a position on Council. You just need to enthusiastic, have a sense of desire to meet people and have a sense of dedication for the job.

Another way of getting involved and getting your messages heard is through this very newspaper. And what better a way to make sure your things are printed than to become EDITOR [emphasis in original]. If you’re interested in being Editor of the Hinman Halitosis then submit a letter of intent for this position, also due Sunday the 21st.

Even if you don’t want to take one of these positions, at least vote when the Council elections come out. It could make a difference between an active Hinman College, a united Hinman College, and an informed Hinman College—or one that is filled with waste products.
Make sure that Hinman is filled with ACTIVE people. Remember, college is what YOU put into it...[sic] So, put something in...[sic] and get a lot out of your college life.\textsuperscript{mxvi}

In this way, probably unbeknownst to Robin, she was writing in the same vein as previous editors of the \textit{Hinman Halitosis} who railed against student apathy. This particular article also parallels an article with a similar theme written in \textit{The West Harpur Other} by Sandy Lazar back in 1969. Sixteen years later, Hinman College was still suffering from some of the same problems that it had been afflicting it since its infancy. Unfortunately, no one person or even one newspaper (even one as influential as the \textit{Hinman Halitosis}) could prevent the horrible disease of student apathy and disinterest. As time would soon tell, the \textit{Hinman Halitosis}, and some might argue the rest of Hinman College, entered into a period of decline across the board in many areas that had once been shown to have large amounts of involvement.

However, as great a year as the 1984-1985 academic year had been for Robin Shrager and the \textit{Hinman Halitosis}, that too had to come to an end. Like previous editors before her, Robin wrote this as her farewell address in the last issue of the \textit{Hinman Halitosis} for the year.

My first love, hobby, and favorite means of sorting out my feelings is writing. I have written essays, stories, songs, letters, lists-of-things-to-do, and poems for as long as I can remember. One of my great masterpieces is still hanging on the refrigerator—a poem entitled Poekets [sic], which I wrote way back when I was able to figure our rhymes, but not logic.

In any event, it only seemed natural that after being Features Editor of my high school paper, Editor of my youth group paper, and aspiring to be the next Erma Bombeck, I should come to college and assume the role of \textit{Hinman Halitosis} editor...[sic]

My year as Editor has been a most memorable experience. I have had my share of crazy moments...[sic] when my hand got caught in the machine, when the mimeograph machine ate every other piece of paper. When my academic and personal life occasionally interfered with the paper’s time schedule. And I also have had moments of pride—when people eagerly reached for their copy as I strolled through the dorms delivering issues, and when people told me they enjoyed reading the paper. The combination of these hectic and happy times made it all worthwhile.
Yet I was not the only one working to put out the Halitosis week after week. In the beginning it was just me and a few old friends and a few new friends churning out the first paper and only ending up with 6 per floor. Later complete strangers volunteered their time to put out bigger and better issues. The staff grew and grew, until one day it was so large that it stopped growing. Not only that, but it started getting smaller. Smaller, but never non-existent, for there always remained a core of loyal staff members, for all their help…

…this thank you is for YOU, the readers, the dorm news writers, and the people who send personals. You are the reason WE put out a paper each week. That’s right—without You there would have been no “Bad Breath.”

It was fun, neato, tiring, educational, and I had the greatest time being Editor. Have the best summer…[sic] and ace those finals!™

The Hinman Halitosis would continue after Robin Shrager, but it most assuredly would not be the same. The following academic year saw the beginning of what can only be called a slow decline leading to the ultimate death of the newspaper that had entertained and informed thousands of Hinmanites. The available records make it clear that fewer and fewer articles began appearing in Halitosis. Coverage of Co-Rec games and HCC meeting minutes all but disappeared, as did reviews of HPC plays. Weekly articles and announcements of upcoming events and programming also became less and less as the 1980’s decade wore on. By the late 1980’s the Hinman Halitosis was really nothing more than a few sheets of colored paper with personals and the occasional dorm news feature.

Halitosis experienced a brief revival during the 1992-1993 academic year when George Kinzel and Linda DiLonardo became editors of the paper. During this time Kinzel and DiLonardo published the paper less frequently than it had been in the past (only a few issues came out each semester) but they made it up with longer papers with much more in-depth articles covering numerous topics including a feature where they interviewed a number of popular Hinman RA’s. Unfortunately, this brief renaissance for the Halitosis would not last. After the 1992-1993 academic year, no more physical copies remain in the Halitosis archives. It is
unknown whether the Hinman Halitosis died after this academic year or if it continued to be printed in some form. What is known is that at some point in the mid to late 1990’s, the Hinman Halitosis ceased to exist as a paper and was no longer published regularly as it once had. Halitosis fell into the hands of HCC where a committee was formed to try and publish it on a fairly regular basis. So far this has failed to be accomplished. Every year a few issues of Halitosis are published in order to save face, but it is no longer the newspaper that it once was.

Why exactly the Hinman Halitosis failed as a newspaper after fifteen years of blinding success is unclear. Perhaps the first reason why the paper died was simply student apathy. If no one was interested in working on the paper than it certainly would not be published. Halitosis was not the only residential college paper to fail. Woodsworld, Poor Dick, and The Lake Lieberman Gazette all ultimately failed as newspapers. One theory is that the better funded and more visible campus-wide newspaper Pipe Dream attracted most of the talented writers and aspiring journalists from the residential colleges. This can only be part of the reason though. Another theory is that the decline of the Hinman Halitosis and the rest of the residential college newspapers came at a time where centralization made individual residential college identity less important. Students used to view themselves as belonging to Hinman College or whatever residential college they lived in. Now they view themselves as students of larger institution—Binghamton University. Technological change and progress also undoubtedly had something to do with the decline in the Hinman Halitosis. Halitosis, like many other staples of Hinman College life, were started to alleviate boredom among Hinman residents. Cable TV, the rise of the personal computer, and the Internet all were new sources of news and entertainment that were easily accessible and something that you did not have to work at. Why pick up a copy of Halitosis to read “The Adventures of Cat Masterson” when you could flick on the TV set in your
room and watch repeats of *Friends*? Why read an issue of *Halitosis* when you had CNN and other 24-hour news networks first broadcast on television, then online? *Halitosis* was also a form of communication by students in Hinman College. The personals section, a staple of the *Hinman Halitosis* from its very beginnings all the way up to its very end, were a form of sly clever communication between people in the community. Steve Fialkoff compared the printed personals of his generation to the Instant Messages of the present generation of Hinmanite. In many ways that is an apt comparison. People read *Halitosis* because it was one of the only means of communicating with fellow Hinmanites. Now with the rise of e-mail, cell phones, Facebook, MySpace and instant messaging, students no longer need *Halitosis* to fulfill that need.

Although the *Hinman Halitosis* may no longer exist as an institution in Hinman College, its memory still lingers on. With luck, at some point in the future, a dedicated Hinmanite and aspiring journalist may make the effort and start the paper again. They won’t be using typewriters and mimeographs this time, but the same dedication and responsibility will have to be there. In the meantime, however, Hinman has continued with some other publications that keep residents informed of what is going on in Hinman.

The Quickie and The Grip

With the demise of the *Hinman Halitosis*, Hinman College sought to find new ways to keep its residents informed of what was going on in the greater Hinman community. One large difference that The Quickie and The Grip have over the *Hinman Halitosis* was that while the *Halitosis* was completely student-run, both The Quickie and its successor The Grip are published completely by the Hinman College professional staff. Student involvement is encouraged; however, there has been very little of that. The Quickie was established as a sort of brochure that
would alert Hinman residents of upcoming programming and other events. It was published in the early 21st Century circa 2005-2006. It was relatively short and sweet and only a few pages long. The extent of its readership is unknown, but it is presumable that it was not widely read. Following up on The Quickie was The Grip. The Grip is essentially the same as The Quickie but with an added twist. In an attempt to get up with the times, it was decided to publish The Grip online, the idea being that most students in this day and age are technologically savvy and would rather read articles online than in an old-fashioned print version. Once again, it is unknowable how widely read The Grip is, but it does not have a wide circulation.

**Dynamo**

One Hinman publication that is still going strong today is *Dynamo*, Hinman College’s very own yearbook. *Dynamo* was started in the mid-1970’s by Bob Giomi who wanted to create a special yearbook only for Hinman. The campus-wide yearbook often overlooked a lot of events that were unique to the individual residential colleges and Bob saw *Dynamo* as a way to chronicle Hinman events in detail and give special honor to the residents of Hinman. *Dynamo* was named after the wooden Dynamo Monument located adjacent to the Hinman Commons building. Since at least 1975, *Dynamo* has documented every major event in Hinman, from Co-Rec, to HLT/HPC plays, to the Hinman College Council. It has captured in time Dorm Wars, Hysteria, Bus Stop and Rockefeller Room, Bandemonium and Open Mic. It has also captured candid photos of the more leisurely moments in the individual buildings and the floor pictures are constant reminders to everyone of the friends and the memories that they have made over course of the year. More than that, *Dynamo*, like the *Hinman Halitosis*, is an important historical document that chronicles the life of students in Hinman College. *Halitosis* is important for
getting the nitty gritty details of life in Hinman, but as the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and the photographs in *Dynamo* are everlasting memorials to the students, staff and faculty of Hinman College throughout the years.

Conclusion

Throughout its long history, Hinman College has been blessed with a large amount of student newspapers and publications. From *The West Harpur Other* to *Soliloquy* to the *Hinman Halitosis*, to *Dynamo*, each and every one of them has been an important part of Hinman history. During the course of their run, they informed and entertained legions of Hinmanites. For the dedicated few staff who worked on them, it provided them a close-knit social community of friends and peers matched perhaps only by the players of HPC. These dedicated editors, writers, typists and copies all played an important role in the history of Hinman College. Without their efforts it would be all but impossible to chronicle the events of the past forty years and furthermore each and every one of them gives a small amount of insight into the mindset of the students body of that era. Reading the back issues of the *Hinman Halitosis* especially gives one this insight. Reading these documents of the past, one can peer into minds of not only the movers and shakers, the big men and women in Hinman, but also the average student, the one who may not be mentioned by name, but who nonetheless serves an important part in the overall Hinman community. It also gives one an appreciation for the efforts that each person put into each of these weekly features and gives a greater understanding to the motto: “Bad breath is better than no breath at all.” Hinman publications have seen many changes over the years. Paper and ink may give way to digital media, but the spirit of the document remains the same.
No matter what issue is in your hands, no matter what year it is from, if you carefully read
between the lines, you might just be able to catch a glimpse of the Spirit of Hinman.

The author would like to extend his thanks to Bob Giomi, Pete Lorenzi, Barbara Lombardo, Tony
Toluba, Steven “Pudge” Meyer, and Steve Fialkoff for their assistance with this and other
chapters and for keeping Hinman’s presses rolling.
Animal House: A Selection of Funny Stories and Pranks Throughout Hinman History

Doug Neidermeyer (Mark Metcalf): And most recently of all, a “Roman Toga Party” was held from which we have received more than two dozen reports of individual acts of perversion so profound and disgusting that decorum prohibits listing them here.

-Scene from the film National Lampoon’s Animal House (1978)

Prologue

College and university campuses are full of young people who often find themselves with too much free time on their hands. College students have always been notorious for their pranks and hijinks. Though definitely not having the same reputation as the other residential colleges at Binghamton for fraternity pranks and general student mischief, Hinman residents have been known to pull off some rather humorous jokes and pranks. The following stories are but a small example of some of the more interesting and humorous stories that have come to light in Hinman history. Doubtless, there are many, many more stories of Hinmanites run amok, but these are the stories that were available at the time of publication. Also, every Hinmanite has had at least one practical joke played on them at some point in time, and others have been the instigators of these jokes. Some have been big, others have been small, some have been at the expense of others, some have just been for the fun of it, some were intentional and others still were purely by happenstance. Whatever the reasons for these zany activities they have left an indelible imprint in the minds of those who were involved and have contributed to one of the more lighthearted and fun chapters in Hinman College history.
Co-Rec and Kegs: A Memory of Helene Johnson

Reprinted from the original in *Stories of Hinman College*

Co-Rec is Hinman is definitely more intense than it is anywhere else on campus. I got hurt while playing co-rec in Hinman. I mean I had a guy hit me and I went flying eighteen feet and hit back; and co-rec is supposed to be two-hand touch...I was living in Hughes pitts [sic] at the time. This big huge guy came up to me and said, “We need a girl. You’re playing.” I said like “Okay, I don’t know how to play.” So they gave me some girl with a logo on her back and said, “You see her? Hit her.” And on my co-rec team, I became known as Sic ‘Em because I didn’t know the rules but they told me who to cover. That’s forever been my nickname. Now I think I have a little bit more of a clue, but not much more.

I have to say that the most memorable event that I saw was the year of the campus-wide keg parties. I think that it was the year that they did the lockdown and in order to protest the lockdown and something else, Rene Coderre was still coordinator over there [Hinman], and they just rolled out these kegs on the quad. Nobody expected it. Crews of people started getting outside. It was insane. And then they did something highly illegal. Enough people weren’t outside, so they went around and pulled the fire alarms on all the buildings within five seconds of one another. So everybody had to be outside. It was illegal not to be outside. And everybody came outside and saw kegs on the quad and because there were kegs on the quad, everybody stayed outside. They couldn’t go back in the buildings because the fire alarms were going off. Because public safety was dealing with the kegs, it took them a while to turn off the alarms. I’ve never seen such a turnout at a Hinman event in my life. Rene went out to the kegs to get the people tapping them in trouble and they dumped beer all over him. And then, from what I heard,
that became the standard thing, if somebody saw Rene coming they would dump beer down his back.

The Great Smith Hall Keg Caper: A Memory of Michael “Kipp” Lombardi, RD Smith Hall

Reprinted from the original in Stories of Hinman College

One Saturday night the snow started piling. The boys on Smith Hall 2B decided, they have gotten a keg almost every night that semester, and nobody caught them because they were able to sneak it in. They had snuck kegs in T.V. boxes, hockey equipment bags, snuck them in windows, rolled up a sleeping bag, and they had Public Safety chasing them with a keg between them, and they had to come up with a way to get a keg because the RA was going to be on the floor the entire night. So, because of the snowstorm, there was no keg to be bought because everything was closed. Even Wegmans was closed. However, someone on their floor told them that Portobello delivered it, but no they came up with a more creative way because their goal was to get that keg and bring it into the building.

They took a toboggan, went overland, through the Grad Community, down the hill, to Bunn Hill Road, until they landed at Portobello where they discovered that they were fifteen dollars short. So they had to walk all the way back up the hill to Smith Hall to get the other fifteen dollars. And then they went back down to Portobello, purchased two kegs, put them on the toboggan, and started to pull the toboggan up the hill. All of a sudden a white plow that belonged to Binghamton University was cleaning the roads and discovered that they had two kegs. The maintenance person called Public Safety and told them that there was a keg. So, what they did was dig a hole in the snow and they put the keg there. When Public Safety came around, they were innocently playing on the sled and said, “…but officer, we were just playing
on the sled. We have no idea why someone thought that we have kegs.” The officer looked around and didn’t see any kegs. So he went away. So they unburied the kegs, and put them back on the sled and brought them back up to Smith Hall. They were unaware, however, that their RA was on duty in her room. They snuck them into the building. Their RA was in her room with the door open but by coincidence, her boyfriend who was studying abroad in Brazil called her and kept her on the phone for over two hours. And while she was on the phone, they took their hockey equipment bag and went down three flights of stairs put one keg in the hockey bag and carried it up one flight of stairs and put it in their room. They did this twice. And there they consumed the entire quantity of beer. I could never prove it at the time but found out the next semester. I like telling this story because it is funny that people would go to such great lengths for beer, and because of the creativity in their ability not to get caught. The fact that I was not able to stop them and didn’t find out the story until the next year was frustrating but I was able to laugh at it. With the different stereotypes about the communities, Hinman is not known for its wild keg stories.

Adventures in RD-ing: Memories of Adam Brown, RD Roosevelt Hall

One year while Adam was an RD in Roosevelt, Ira Dym was one of his RA’s. He had a suite of guys who constantly partied and consistently caused problems. No matter what he did, they still broke policy and were all around complete jerks. Nothing they could do to them would stick, so in a sort of vigilante justice RA-style, Adam and Ira took matters into their own hands. During one of the breaks when the building closed down and all the students had to leave, Adam and Ira went into their room to check for closing policy violations (something that is done in every room in the building). They then proceeded to open up the refrigerators in that suite and
found all of the hidden vodka that had been stockpiled. Adam and Ira then dumped all of the vodka out and refilled the bottles with water. There was no way that the residents of that suite would report that their vodka had been tampered with because they were all underage. Revenge is a dish best served cold, though sometimes it is a drink best served non-alcoholic.\textsuperscript{mci}

Another time at Halloween, Adam and two of his RA’s, Ira Dym and John Winter, were dressed up for the holiday as characters from the comic strip “Peanuts.” Adam was dressed as Snoopy, Ira was Charlie Brown, and John was Schroeder. They happened to notice a bunch of kids vandalizing property by throwing eggs. The three of them then, in full costume, chased this group of kids through Hinman and into Smith Hall where they finally cornered them. The scoundrels were brought to justice.\textsuperscript{mcii}

While he was an RD, Adam drove a four-speed 1980 Datsun. The ignition was finicky and the clutch had been acting up. Needless to say, it was something of a jalopy. Late one night, Adam was walking back to his apartment and passed by his designated RD parking space. There he saw two guys trying to take off his license plate. Later on he found out that one of the fraternities, as part of their pledging/hazing ritual, had ordered their pledges to steal license plates off of cars. Adam approached the two men and identified himself as a police officer. Remember, this was late at night and it was very dark and Adam had no idea who either of these two men were. The pledges were very frightened because they thought they were going to get arrested. Adam, however, was even more scared than they were. After questioning them for a few minutes “Officer Brown” let them off with a warning.\textsuperscript{mciii}

Adam, who attended Binghamton for seven years (four as an undergraduate and three as a graduate student) and lived in Hinman for all seven of those years, really became attached to his residential college. His last year as an RD (and his last year in Hinman) he decided that he
wanted to go out with a bang. On the Vestal Parkway at the time there was a popular steakhouse called simply The Vestal Steakhouse and on the roof of this building there was this huge steer. For years Adam had passed by this restaurant and had thought “wouldn’t it be funny if someone put a big tie around the neck of that steer.” Nothing ever became of it until his final year at Hinman. That year he organized a group of residents from his hall and together they snuck onto Vestal Steakhouse property, climbed onto the roof, and hung a huge polka dotted necktie around the neck of the steer. The next morning, steakhouse employees and commuters passing by stopped and marveled at this gaudy, yet hysterical, prank.

The World’s Longest Shower: The Story of Lisa D’Amato

From 5:20 p.m. on Thursday, November 5 until 6:21 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 1981, the Guinness Book of World Records record for the longest continuous shower was set in Smith Hall in suite 226. It was set by Lisa D’Amato, a resident of Smith Hall who also happened to be the daughter of then Senator Alfonse D’Amato (R-NY). Before she could do that, though, she had to secure the permission of her father, the university and alert judges from Guinness Book. She also had to have a complete physical and medical check-up to make sure she was fit to perform this feat. While one of her goals was to simply set a world record, she also got sponsorship for her efforts and would donate all the proceeds to the American Cancer Society (talk about Relay for Life!). The biggest concern for her safety was that many feared after a few hours she would begin to suffer from hypothermia. Also, after a few hours in the water, the body becomes permeable and water can penetrate right through it which could pose a potential health hazard. Other fears included exhaustion and, somewhat surprisingly, dehydration. Undaunted by these challenges, Lisa entered into her shower on November 5, 1981
and with Harpur’s Ferry and judges from the *Guinness Book of World Records* standing by, she began the ordeal that would make her go down in not only Hinman history, but world record history as well. The judges’ shifts lasted two to four hours, though some had six-hour shifts during the night. During the nights she would have to be woken every few hours so that she could turn over and have the water hit other areas of her body. She was allowed to come out of the shower for five minutes of every hour to eat and use the bathroom. On November 10, 1981, she tied the old record and stayed in for an extra hour. All told she was in the shower for one hundred twenty-one hours and one minute. When she finally came out not only was she now officially a world record holder but she also had raised over $2,000 for the American Cancer Society. When asked what her plans were to celebrate she said, “I’m going to dry my hair for the first time in five days. Then I’m going to bundle up, jump into a dry bed for three or four hours, wake up and do a little studying and jump right back into bed again. Terrific way to celebrate, right?” Not only did she do that but she even went to track practice the next day.

D’Amato would not only forever put Smith Hall on the map as the site of a record in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, but she also was source of pride for all of Hinman College. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that something like this will happen ever again. Insurance premiums and liability, being what they are nowadays, would probably prevent it from happening. Nick Sterling, the Faculty Master at the time, was instrumental in convincing the university to allow it. Without him and his assurance, it probably never would have happened. Still, it was an interesting event that showed just what Hinman residents could do if they put their minds to it.
Adventures in Coordinating: Memories from Rene Coderre

During his tenure as Coordinator of Hinman College, Rene Coderre received a reputation for being a stickler for the rules and a harsh disciplinarian. His nickname was “Darth Reneader,” which changed only when he moved to be Coordinator of CIW, where he became known as “The Dean of Mean.” Upon meeting with Rene you’d never know this, since he’s such a personable and friendly gentleman, and an NHL fan to boot. However, during his years in Hinman a number of interesting stories have centered around him. One year during the Co-Rec championship game, the first floor of Cleveland Hall, which was supposed to play in the game, was banned because of discipline problems. After some careful consideration, Rene, even though he didn’t have to, allowed the team to play in the Co-Rec game. During this time a popular NFL quarterback wore headbands during his games. During the championship Co-Rec game, the Cleveland Hall team, showing their appreciation for what Rene did for them, wore head bands and wrote nasty comments about Rene on them. Three or four years later, Rene was sitting in his office and a New York State Trooper walks in. Rene recognized him as the captain of the Cleveland Hall Co-Rec team who had given him the most problems. The trooper sat down with Rene and the two caught up, as the trooper told Rene that he never finished school and that he was currently finishing his degree and working at the same time. He had stopped in after all that time to apologize to Rene and to thank him for letting his team play in the championship game.\textsuperscript{mcvii}

Rene’s reputation was not limited to Hinman. Darth Reneader had a presence all across campus—such a large and infamous presence that one year in the Pipe Bomb (the April Fool’s Day edition of Pipe Dream) a full page article was written by a student in Hinman going through
the judicial process who stated that Rene had written up his own wife (who is fifteen years his junior) for violating alcohol policy. mcviii

Students were not the only ones whom Rene had difficulties with. Even some of his own RD’s gave him mischievous trouble. Adam Brown, who was the RD of Roosevelt Hall was also the driving force in the Hinman Production Company (HPC) during most of Rene’s tenure. Adam was not afraid of running illegal wiring and drilling holes in the Hinman Commons to make the HPC plays work, even though Rene and he were constantly at odds over this and other issues. However, Rene took a page out of Adam’s book when one day he decided to move a clunky and loud old dot matrix printer into the closet so it wouldn’t bother the secretaries working in the office. He drilled holes in the ceiling and ran wires through the holes. Over twenty years later when asked about the hypocritical aspect of this action and whether it was fair to castigate Adam for doing just that, Rene would reply with a grin, “Where do you think I got the idea from?” As much as the two butted heads at times, both Rene and Adam were close and continue to stay in touch. mcix

This image of the by-the-book attitude is actually an unfair representation of the man who was such a force in Hinman College at the time and who did so much for the students of Hinman. It was Rene who made sure that the tennis and basketball courts were repaved and even helped start a roller hockey league in Hinman. He even made the Hinman Office what it is today, building the shelves, cabinets, and even the mailboxes that are there today. More than a tough administrator, he also knew how to have fun. In 1989, the mother of the RD in Hughes Hall got cancer and eventually succumbed to the disease. The RD requested time off and it was granted, which left an opening for an RD in Hughes Hall for the second half of the semester. Instead of making the other RD’s pick up the slack or hiring a new RD so close to the end of the year, Rene
himself (who had once been an RD in SUNY Potsdam) moved into Hughes and became their RD for the rest of the semester. During this time Rene would hang out in the RA office with his RAs and play what for many years was a popular pastime for RAs across campus: RA poker. The way RA poker works is that different types of people are worth a certain number of points. For instance, a regular resident of the building would be worth one point, a student council member would be worth five points, an RA, ten points, an RD, 20 points, Assistant Coordinator, 30 points, a full Coordinator, 40 points, an Assistant Director of Residential Life, 75 points and the Director of Residential Life 100 points. The actual number of points varied, as did the positions (which included Faculty Masters, professors and almost every other type of position on campus). To get points, a person actually had to be in the RA office at the time. For example, the only way you could get points for having an RD is if an RD were actually in the RA office with you. What RAs would do is when a person would walk into the RA Office they would call other RAs on duty in other buildings and say, “RA poker, what’cha got?” or something to that effect. Scores would be tallied on papers in each office. The game obviously relied on the buddy system and was never really all that serious, but it helped to eliminate some of the tedium that many RAs then and now feel sitting duty in the RA office. Rene, an RD and a Coordinator, racked up numerous points for Hughes during his time there. Rene was also a friend to the RA’s. He was instrumental in reducing the amount of hours an RA had to sit on duty at night by one hour. Before his time as Coordinator, RAs were on duty from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. Rene changed the hours to end at midnight.

Hinman has had a reputation for having the best Faculty Masters of all of Binghamton’s residential colleges. However, many of the unsung heroes of residential life and collegiate structure at Binghamton have been the Area Coordinators (now called Assistant Directors).
Many of them have been just as active in the realm of student life for Hinman College residents as the Faculty Masters have been. Rene Coderre is just one example of the many, many exemplarily Coordinators/Assistant Directors in the long history of Hinman College.

Streaking—The Right Way: A Memory of Pete Lorenzi

Throughout the 1960’s and into the 1970’s, the act of streaking swept the nation, and nowhere was it more prevalent than on college campuses. SUNY Binghamton and Hinman College were no exception to this fad. Pete Lorenzi, perhaps best known as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Hinman Halitosis*, remembers one of his experiences with streaking. It was a warm spring day in 1973 when he and his friend and fellow Hinmanite Steve Fialkoff decided to go to the pub. They did this around 4:00 p.m. with the intention of having a few drinks, going to the dining hall to get dinner, then to go back out again. Steve lived in Roosevelt Hall at the time and on their way back to the building their conversation turned to streaking. Both Pete and Steve agreed that people didn’t streak right. Streaking occurred often on campus, but it would usually be late at night and rarely was it ever fully in public. Both Steve and Pete came to the agreement that if you were going to go streaking you had to do it right—that is, in broad daylight in front of a large group of people. It was then and there, on the doorstep of Roosevelt Hall that Pete and Steve decided that they were going to go streaking and that they were going to do it right. Both Pete and Steve stripped down so that they were wearing nothing but tennis shoes and took off into Hinman College. They ran down the hill into the Hinman Dining Hall at peak dinner hours through all three sections and then back up the hill into Roosevelt Hall. When they got back to Roosevelt they put their clothes back on and then proceeded to return to the dining hall to get dinner. As soon as they walked into the dining hall people stood up and clapped for them, many
offering them high fives. Of the many memories of his time in Hinman, Pete Lorenzi (the so-called “bad boy” of Hinman) recalls this as his favorite.\textsuperscript{mcxi}

\textbf{Over the River and Through the Woods: A Memory of Steve Fialkoff}

During his time in Hinman in the mid-1970’s, Steve Fialkoff, a resident of Roosevelt Hall, remembers a sleigh ride that is forever burned into his consciousness. Roosevelt Hall and the other buildings in Hinman had a toboggan that it would lend out to students to use for recreational purposes. One night it snowed heavily and on top of the snow was an inch and a half of ice. That night, Steve and his friend Alan decided to borrow the toboggan to use it for sleigh riding. The two decided to be adventurous and took it up to the Nature Preserve right behind Hinman. They hiked deep into the Nature Preserve, all the way to the top of steep hill. It was a moonlit night and only 20 degrees Fahrenheit. When Steve and Alan reached the top of the hill Alan made the comment that there were a lot of trees in their way and it could be treacherous riding down. Steve told him that if they banked the sled at just the right angles they would avoid the trees. He even went so far as to say that they would make it back out to the road. Alan said that it couldn’t be done and that it would be suicidal to try. With a little coaxing, Steve convinced Alan to give it a try. The two men got onto the toboggan, pushed off, and down the hill they went. Steve doesn’t remember exactly how long the ride took, but it seemed like it took an eternity. They rushed down the hill, the thick top layer of ice preventing them from braking. They narrowly averted trees and other hazards. Both men clung to the toboggan for dear life. As astounding as it sounds, not only did they miss every single obstacle in their path, but they made it all the way back to the road, just as Steve said they would. Wanting to relive the thrill, both men trudged back up the hill to do it again. Unfortunately, they were never able
to replicate exactly how they had done it before; they either got stuck or tangled up in some obstacle in their path. Although they were only able to do it once, that memory of nearly averted death still sticks with Steve Fialkoff and is his favorite of all his Hinman memories.\textsuperscript{mexii}

Up In Smoke: Memories of Stan Goldberg

Stan Goldberg, the founder of the Hinman Little Theater and an RA in Smith Hall, remembers his days in Hinman as some of the best years of his life. Stan first became interested in SUNY Binghamton because one of his father’s friend’s daughters went there and she raved about the school and the quality of the education. For Stan it was very important that he attend college because he would be the first one in his family who would graduate with a college degree. In 1970, when Stan went to visit Binghamton, the school was very much into the drug/hippie counter culture that was in vogue at the time. In March of 1970, Stan and a friend visited the school. As luck would have it a friend of theirs happened to live in Smith Hall of Hinman College. When they had known this friend in high school, he had been the patriotic all-American boy. He was tall and clean-cut, with a closely cropped haircut, and an Eagle Scout to boot. When they arrived in Hinman they were astounded to discover that this same person that they had known in high school had done a complete 180 degree turn. He had grown his hair long, didn’t bother with grooming all the much, and completely embraced the philosophy and lifestyle of the hippie. He also made a living buying and selling drugs. He let Stan and his friend stay in his suite that night and it soon became apparent that their friend was not the only one dealing drugs. Even the RA on their floor was a drug dealer. They slept in the common area of their friend’s suite. This was nearly impossible because all throughout the night someone would knock on the door trying to buy drugs. That morning the RA walked into their suite with
a brick of hash in each hand and asked if they wanted to go to breakfast. Not knowing what else
to do, they agreed and had breakfast with him in the Student Union. While some may have been
turned off by this experience, Stan knew right then and there that this was the place for him. Not
because of its drug culture, but because it so outrageous with so many different things going on
that he knew he had to experience it. This inspired him to apply to SUNY Binghamton and to
ask to be placed in Hinman College.

This was not the only outrageous thing Stan ever did. One night Stan led a group of
people on a streak. He announced at a Hinman sponsored dance that he would be leading a
streak and that everyone interested should meet by his room. Approximately ten people met Stan
and at the stroke of midnight on a cold and rainy evening, Stan Goldberg led one of many streaks
through Hinman College.

Stan also had the experience of having practical jokes played on him. When he became
an RA in Smith Hall, he came back to his room one evening after dinner to see all his residents,
many of them members of the “Rowdy Townies” Co-Rec team, sitting out in the floor lounge
with big smiles on their faces. Suspecting that they were up to no good, Stan asked them what
they were up to. No one would tell him so Stan returned to his room. As he opened the door he
realized that his residents had been in his room and had stripped his room clean. All of his
belongings had been removed from his room. He eventually got all of his furniture and the rest
of his property back, but the joke stays with him to this very day. mcxiii

Interior Lawn Darts: A Memory of Eric Rubin

From 1978-1980, Eric Rubin lived in Smith Hall. While he was there he created a game
that would become a sort of national pastime for his floor. The game was fairly simple. It
involved two players with each player getting three darts. Each player would throw one of their darts anywhere that they wanted. Once you threw your first dart, you had to remain standing in the same place without moving. Then you had to use your remaining two darts to get as close to your opponent’s first dart as possible. The player whose darts landed closest to their opponent’s first dart won.

The game was simple and fun to play, and most likely against the rules. Eric and his friends would play it in their floor lounge and the darts would leave holes wherever they stuck. By the end of the year the entire floor lounge was covered in little holes where the darts had stuck. Luckily for Eric, his RA never caught on that it was him who was creating the little holes all over the floor lounge.

Eric and his friends would play this game for countless hours, but one game in particular sticks out in his mind. During this game, Eric’s first dart landed right between his opponent’s legs. The opposing player, not to be outdone, then tried to mimic this move and threw his dart. Instead of landing between Eric’s legs, it instead became stuck in Eric’s thigh. Most people at this point would have stopped the game, but neither of these two young men was willing to concede defeat. Now they were stuck in a sticky situation. Eric’s opponent had to carefully throw his darts so as to not lodge them in his groin. Eric basically had to stab himself. After the game was over both men agreed never to throw their darts at one another again. Who could have known that a game of darts could be so dangerous? mcxiv

The Roosevelt Hall Indoor Golf Tournament: A Memory of Tony Toluba

During his tenure as President of Roosevelt Hall, Tony Toluba, and his co-President Bob Sanscrainte, and decided to try a fun and interesting program. Their idea was to have an indoor
golf tournament with all of Roosevelt Hall being the links. There were 18 holes with 9 holes on each wing. The “fairways” went into elevators and down stairwells, which meant that you had to be extra careful to see how far your ball went. They used real golf clubs and plastic whiffle balls. There was a $3 entrance fee and all the beer you could drink (a possibility in the days when the drinking age was 18). There were also prizes that were handed out. They gave a trophy to the winning low score and a prize (a horse’s rear) to the losing high score. The indoor golf tournament was very popular and people from all over Hinman came to Roosevelt Hall to compete in the event. The winner of the tournament was a guy from Cleveland Hall who brought his own golf clubs and the loser of the tournament was Roosevelt Hall resident Mark Riffle who would later be one of Tony’s off campus housemates. Although being a rather cheesy idea for a program, the Roosevelt Hall indoor golf was a surprisingly popular and successful event and ranks as one of Tony’s fondest memories of his time in Hinman.

Greasy Buns: A Memory of Valerie Potopsingh

Valerie Potopsingh (Class of 2004) had been involved in Hinman since her sophomore year, when she was elected Public Affairs Vice President of HCC. During her time in HCC she became involved in the Dining Hall Committee. The task of the Dining Hall Committee was to meet with the management of the dining hall to address student concerns pertaining to dining on campus. One of the major complaints concerning the dining hall at this time was that the hamburger buns were usually prepared with a heavy grease which many students found distasteful. At first it was a weekly joke in HCC about the dining hall’s “greasy buns,” but soon it became clear that a large number of students didn’t want the greasy buns anymore. Valerie quickly spearheaded an effort to eliminate the “greasy buns” from the dining hall. After much
effort, the dining hall management relented and stopped serving the greasy buns. Forever afterward, Valerie was famous for “greasy buns.”

The Ginsu Wall and Columbo-Binghamton Style: Memories of John and Heidi Kowalchyk

In the late 1970’s both John and Heidi Kowalchyk were Head Residents of Roosevelt Hall. As any Head Resident or Resident Director can tell you, when you live around college students long enough, funny things are bound to occur.

During this time, Roosevelt Hall had a talent night in their Main Lounge, similar to what would become Bus Stop. While most students sang and danced, one student who was relatively quiet came up and said that he was going to demonstrate the Ginsu wall (a parody of the popular Ginsu knives of late-night television infomercial fame). The student laid down a sheet and produced a tomato which, unbeknownst to John or anyone else, the student had precut. The student then threw the tomato against the wall and it exploded into a billion pieces. Where most Head Residents/Resident Directors would be infuriated at this huge mess, John thought it was the funniest thing he had ever seen and broke down laughing hysterically. Seeing this the student then produced a cabbage, also precut, and did the same thing with equal results. The student continued with a number of fruits and vegetables and had the entire lounge doubling over in laughter. After it was all over, the student stayed extra late to cleanup the mess, and John and others helped with too. It was one of the funniest memories of his time in Hinman.

Gabe Yankowitz, Head Resident of Cleveland Hall at the time, remembers one ULED officer in particular. This officer was very friendly and nice, but looked exactly like Columbo, the homicide detective from the popular television series. He dressed like Columbo, his build and body looked like him, he ever sounded like the fictional detective. Years later, Gabe
happened to be in the Syracuse Airport when he stumbled upon a familiar looking man working security there. It turned out to be this very same individual. The two sat down and caught up and joked about the old days at Binghamton.\textsuperscript{mexvii}

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\textbf{Cannabis sativa or Solanum lycopersicum? A Memory of Vito Sinisi}

One day in the early 1970’s, near the beginning to Vito Sinisi’s tenure as Faculty Master of Hinman College, a professional staff member rushed into the Hinman office completely out of breath and in shock. He alerted Vito and everyone else in the room that he had passed by Smith Hall, had looked up in the window, and has seen a marijuana plant sitting right there on the window sill in plain sight. Knowing the implications, Vito quickly sprung into action. In those days, the university liked to discourage the use of outside law enforcement on campus as much as possible and tried to solve all violations of law internally if possible. The less police presence on campus in those days of radical student activism, the better. Vito then called all of the Head Residents and told them to alert their RA’s and that they had to remove the marijuana plant as quickly as possible before more people saw it and alerted the police. The Head Residents and their army of RA’s rushed into Smith Hall ready to confiscate the plant. A short while later the Head Residents and a number of the RA’s returned to Vito’s office holding their sides trying to contain their laughter. It turned out that the plant was in fact nothing more than a simple tomato plant. Vito Sinisi, ever the proud Italian, turned as bright as a tomato when he heard the somewhat embarrassing news that he and the rest of his staff had confused tomatoes with marijuana.
Water, Water Everywhere: A Memory of Brent Gotsch

This is a personal story of my one (and only) experience with pulling off a good practical joke. It was the spring of 2005, and the second semester of my sophomore year. I was living in suite 126 of Roosevelt Hall. I lived in this same suite, in the same room, with pretty much the same arrangement, for three out of my four years in Hinman. The suite that year was pretty close. Myself and my roommate, Hu Huang, were good friends, and we remain close to this day. We lived in the “A” room of the suite. Our friend and fellow suitemate Brian Forster lived in the “B” room (Brian was a junior, one year older than the rest of the suite), and in the “C” room lived our equally good friends Kevin Clark and Eric Mazurkewitz. Although we were all good friends, it quite obvious who the “cool” kids, of the suite were and who the “nerds” were. Kevin and Eric were definitely the “cool” kids and Hu, Brian, and myself were the “nerds.” Eric and Kevin would always give us some good natured-ribbing and good-natured jokes and insults were thrown at each other all year long. One day (probably a Friday or a Saturday night, typical for nerd plotting) Hu, Brian and myself were just sitting around our suite’s common area and one of us said, “Hey, wouldn’t it be great to pull of an April Fool’s Day joke on those guys.” We started talking about it and then I remembered a practical joke had been played on one of my friends from high school at his college. Eric was a member of the acapella group The Binghamtonics and their semester show was going to be performed right around April Fool’s Day. This was the scheme we hatched. While Eric and Kevin were at the show, we would quickly gather up a large number of cups, tape them together into large pallets, then fill them to the brim with water. When the two returned to their room, their would be no easy way to get the water out of the room.
In preceding weeks, Hu, Brian and myself gathered bags upon bags of large plastic cups and dozens of scotch tape dispensers, and we set about making the pallets. We worked late into the evenings, and whenever we had free time. We stored the partially completed pallets under our beds. We even enlisted the help of Lauren Losapio, the RA on our floor, who made a special trip to Wal-Mart for us and bought us desperately needed cups. We wound up buying way too many cups and to this day, programs in Roosevelt Hall that require cups still use the same packages that we bought over two years ago. We almost got found out when Michelle Grossman, one of the RAs in the building who also happened to be a tour guide, brought a tour through our room. She brought tours by our room because we were usually neat and clean in comparison to the other rooms. On the night of the concert, everyone left early except for Hu, Brian and myself. We quickly brought out the pallets and brought them into Kevin and Eric’s room, which they usually left unlocked. It soon became apparent that it would take a lot longer to put this together than we originally expected, so after a while Hu volunteered to stay behind and fill up all the taped-together cups with water. By the time it was over, their entire floor was covered with cups taped together and filled with water. Brian and I went to the Binghamtonics show and saw Eric perform. He was and still is an excellent performer and would eventually go on to become the group’s Music Director. After the show, we immediately called Hu and the three of us bolted out of the building to avoid the inevitable fallout. Before we left, however, we taped a sign to their room door and closed it. The sign read, “For all the times you made us laugh, cry and everything in between, this drink’s on us.” On the floor directly below the sign was a single plastic cup of water. The three of us then met up with a mutual friend, Don Barnes, a former Hinmanite who had taken a job as an RA in Delaware Hall of Newing College. When we met up with Don we joked that we never thought we’d see the day when we said that we’d
feel safe as long as we got to Newing. After a while Kevin called us in laughter saying that this was the greatest practical joke that he had ever seen. The one mistake we made that night was that we didn’t return quickly to help them clean up, which led to a little bit of animosity between us before it blew over quickly. The four of us returned to Roosevelt Hall as heroes and reveled in our fifteen minutes of residence hall fame. Of the many memories of my time in Hinman and in Roosevelt Hall, this is for one of my most cherished memories.

Conclusion

Pranks and practical jokes have been a part of every college experience. While the jokes that have been played in Hinman College by Hinmanites mostly on Hinmanites may not have been groundbreaking or original as some other ones have been, they still resonate with those who performed the jokes and those who suffered them. With all the studying, ever-increasing workloads, and stress inherent in modern college life, it is important to sometimes take a step back and laugh at the little humorous moments that bring a chuckle to our lips and perhaps tears of joy to our eyes. While practical jokes may not be scholastic or constructive in the traditional sense, those who did them form bonds with each other that no one else can come close to realizing. These lighthearted and mischievous moments form bonds of friendship that no other type of activity can duplicate. Having a sense of humor is vital to the overall well-being of an individual and it is the glue that binds everyone together in a common moment of laughter. Laughter is what gives joy to life and makes it worth living. Laughter is also an important element in the humorous, often witty and always comical moments that give us an impression of the Spirit of Hinman.
The author would like to extend a special thanks to Adam Brown, Rene Coderre, Pete Lorenzi, Steve Fialkoff, Stan Goldberg, Eric Rubin, Tony Toluba, Valerie Potopsingh, and Gabe Yankowitz for their assistance with this and other chapters and for contributing to the humorous Spirit of Hinman.

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mciii Ibid.
mciv Ibid.
mcvii Rene Coderre, interview with author, October 10, 2006.
mcviii Ibid.
mcix Ibid.
mcx Ibid.
mcxv Tony Toluba, e-mail message to author, May 1, 2007.
Faculty Masters of Hinman College

What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.

-Albert Pine

Prologue

In its forty year history, Hinman College has been blessed with having some of the best Faculty Masters of all the residential colleges of Binghamton University. From Pete Gruber to Vito Sinisi to Nick Sterling to Al Haber to Nick Sterling (again) to Al Vos, each of these men has contributed more than they could possibly imagine to this residential college. Every alumnus believes that the Faculty Master who was in charge of Hinman College during their time as a student in Hinman is the best. However, it doesn’t matter which Faculty Master is the best. What does matter, and what becomes crystal clear during the research and writing of this history, is that each and every one of these five men has done important things in Hinman and have made it a better place to live and learn for the students which inhabit the five buildings of Hinman. Each one has also been an authority on the subject that they taught. Whether it has been English, Philosophy, Mathematics, or Biology, all of the Masters has exuded a passionate love for the subjects that they teach, a passion that is second only to their love of Hinman College and its students. Each Master, whether they realized it or not, has also had a profound impact on at least a few, though usually far more, of the students who have been involved in Hinman. Even thirty years or more after they have graduated, alumni still speak about how the Faculty Masters who they have known have mentored them and helped them discover the path to success. All of the faculty and staff who are involved in Hinman are important, but it is the Faculty Masters who are the most important for they, since 1967, have been the lifeblood and the soul of Hinman College.
Christian Paul Gruber
October 21, 1920-August 31, 2003
Years as Faculty Master: 1967-1973

Christian Gruber, the first Faculty Master of Hinman College, was born in October of 1920. He grew up in Canton, Ohio. He was one of four children and had three older sisters. As a result of being the only boy in the family, he was somewhat spoiled (in a good way). When he became older and entered into his professional career, he signed most of his documents C. P. Gruber, though he liked to be called “Pete.” The “Pete” came about when one of his sisters suggested to him that “Pete” sounded better than either Christian or his middle name, Paul. Ever since then he liked to be referred to simply as Pete.\textsuperscript{mcxviii}

He received his undergraduate education at the College of Wooster in Ohio, graduating in 1942. It was there that he met his future wife, Marilyn. The two of them would be married in July of 1946 and they would have two children, a son, Christian Jr., and a daughter, Ilse Lynn Gruber. Both of their children would go on to graduate from Harpur College. In 1953, after a long battle writing his thesis, he received his PhD in English from Princeton University. Gruber had always loved theater, but he did not believe that he would be able to gain adequate employment with a PhD in theater, and that really was not an option at Princeton at that time anyway. He took his first job at Grinnell College in Iowa where he taught English. However, as much as he liked teaching, his heart was still into theater. While he was at Grinnell, he was offered a Ford Grant to study theater at the Yale Drama School. Unable to pass up this opportunity, he left his job at Grinnell and moved to New Haven, Connecticut, to study theater. While he was at Yale, he happened to go to an MLA convention in New York City where he ran into some old friends from Princeton, including Bernard Huppe (the man whom which the Bartle Library Special Collections Room is named after). While he was socializing with these old
chums he learned about a small, liberal arts school in the Southern Tier of upstate New York called Harpur College that was in desperate need of instructors—theater instructors at that. Pete Gruber came to Binghamton to teach at Harpur College and in particular to teach theater. At the time, Harpur College was still a small liberal arts institution and the administration did not want a large theater department. They thought that if they did not hire a person with professional experience in theater, the department would remain small. They saw Pete Gruber as the perfect person to work in the Theater Department. He had a passion for theater but he was not a professional. Pete Gruber is essentially responsible for starting the Theater Department at Binghamton University. Even though he was officially located in the English Department, he crossed boundaries and was head of both departments for a period of time. As time went on and Harpur College expanded and eventually became part of the SUNY system and became known as SUNY Binghamton, Gruber knew that the Theater Department had to expand too. He realized that professional theater people would have to take over the department and that managing two departments that were growing rapidly was becoming impossible for one man to handle.

Around this same time, the Colville Report had been released and the move toward collegiate structure and residential colleges at SUNY Binghamton began to happen. Gruber was a huge proponent of the idea. He saw the residential colleges as a way to keep the university small for students and to keep it more personal. Although exactly how he became Faculty Master is unclear, it is known that he was an enthusiastic supporter of the new idea of collegiate structure.

Gruber loved his time as Master of Hinman College. During this time he not only wrote and read the opening speech at the Hinman College inaugural dinner, but also laid the
groundwork for many of Hinman College’s traditions. Gruber was the man responsible for hiring Bob Giomi and gave Bob his enthusiastic support when he developed Co-Rec Football, the *Hinman Halitosis*, and the Hinman Little Theater (HLT). Bob would always hold Gruber in high regard and insisted on calling him Dr. Gruber.\textsuperscript{mcxxii} Gruber helped the infant HLT members hone their stagecraft and made sure that resources were made available to them. Gruber attended every meeting of the newly formed Hinman College Council (HCC) and gave a report, even if the room was relatively empty. Gruber encouraged faculty-student interaction and sought out dedicated Faculty Fellows for the Hinman Fellows Program and started “Table Talk,” an informal discussion between students and faculty over dinner—a tradition that would continue with every other Hinman Faculty Master, though usually these talks would be had over lunch. Gruber was also responsible for helping to spearhead many of Hinman’s pioneering efforts including Self-Regulation, Apartment-style living, and a liberal pet policy. Gruber was also sympathetic to many of the radical students and their views during the 1960’s. Instead of using violence or disruptive protest, Gruber encouraged these students to seek out other ways to get their views across and even lent them the Hinman copying equipment and mimeograph machines so they could distribute their literature.

Although at times Gruber, like many of his peers at SUNY Binghamton, got the reputation of being a stodgy professor and bookish-academic type, he did know how to have fun. A series of joke letters sent between him and Kenneth W. Anderson, the Faculty Master of Newing College, shows exactly how fun and funny Gruber could be. The following letter, printed in the newly created *Hinman Halitosis*, was sent from Anderson to Gruber.

From time to time, the Lake Lieberman Gazette has reported sightings of an unidentified creature from the Hinman swamp\textsuperscript{36} cavorting in the waters of Lake Lieberman and fraternizing with our Loch Lieberness monster. These reports have not alarmed us until

\textsuperscript{36} Today the “swamp” is called the Bingham University Nature Preserve.
recently when we learned from highly reliable sources that the swamp creature is, in fact, a huge and undoubtedly tainted, tuna. Its continued presence thus threatens to contaminate the pure waters of the lake and to sully the character of our monster.

We, therefore, feel compelled to insist that Hinman College make arrangements to confine its mercuric and unholy mackerel to the borders of the Hinman swamp. For its part, Newing College is prepared to take all appropriate measures to preserve the integrity of its territorial waters, and prevent further encroachments by your aggressive and tainted tuna. These measures could include a call-up of the Newing Navy, in which enlistments are at an all-time peak, and an appeal to our environmental specialists, Drs. Battin, Cooper and McDuffie. It is our fervent hope that you will heed our demand, so that such further drastic measures will not be necessary.

Gruber followed up with this response to his Newing counterpart’s claim:

This is truly an outrageous and unjust claim. Due to the fact that we house our tuna in a swamp untouched by the hands of industry, there is no possible way our tuna could be contaminated with mercury. Our pure tuna, we are confident, would undergo any physical examination by Drs. Battin, Cooper and McDuffie, and pass with flying colors. Furthermore, it is this editorial staff’s opinion, that the Loch Lieberness monster is in fact luring our beauty to his already polluted lake to try to place the blame of pollution on an innocent body. It has been brought to our attention that because of the unclean and unhealthy practices of the horrible monster, he has not only polluted the Newing Lake, but his bad breath has also polluted the air—and on a windy day we at Hinman are suffering the consequences as we cough our way from building to building.

If anyone has any ideas of retaliation to this Monster-Tuna-Rumor, please contact Dr. Gruber, Mr. Giomi, or your Council Reps of the “Tuna.”

Not to miss out on the fun, University President Bruce Dearing sent in his own letter with his views on the Monster-Tuna controversy.

Dear Ken and Pete:

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37 Newing Navy is Newing’s version of Dorm Wars.
38 At the time Newing College had pioneered a course in environmental studies and had faculty associated with the program linked to the college. Hinman had done the same thing with a popular program in urban studies.
39 Bruce McDuffie was a Chemistry professor at SUNY Binghamton at the time. In 1970, he gained world-wide fame for his discovery of mercury in canned tuna fish and his work led the FDA and other health and environmental organizations to radically change the recommended amounts of fish and other seafood people should consume. The Halitosis article is good-naturedly poking fun not just at Hinman and Newing Colleges, but also at Dr. McDuffie who helped to put SUNY Binghamton on the map.
I am writing to express the increasingly anxious concern I have felt in following the developing controversy attendant upon presumed fraternization between tainted tuna from Hinman Swamp and the Loch Lieberness monster.

Not only do I quail at the prospect of mobilization of the vast forces represented by the Newing Navy, but as one who participated actively in earlier alarums and excursions in Hinman Swamp, I should greatly regret to hear it echo to the tread of resolute marchers. Further, I am sure you can appreciate the fellow feeling any administrative officer must perforce exhibit toward other monsters of the deep and denizens of the fens.

However, I must confess to some ambivalence. Surely one cannot contemplate with equanimity a blighted romance between these two doubtless lonely and withdrawn creatures, if they are genuinely attracted to one another. I beg you to recall our common commitment to self-actualization and self-fulfillment, as well as to collegeia [sic] solutions I preference to recourse to outside authority.

Should this controversy continue to escalate, be assured that full resources are available to assist in its resolution. I can supply either a large oblong table or a small round table for appropriate negotiations, should the need arise.\textsuperscript{mcxxv}

The Controversy of the Hinman Tuna- Newing Monster fraternizations continued. Even the Newing Faculty Fellows got involved in the controversy.

In our capacity as a triumvirate of environmental specialties affiliated with Newing College, we are becoming increasingly concerned about the cavortions [sic] of the Hinman Swamp Tuna in the majestic placidity of Lake Lieberman. This problem is compounded by our wish to preserve the Victorian chastity of the odd but still endemic Loch Lieberness Monster. To this end we are examining the feasibility of various alternatives to achieve, if not copulatory [sic], at least reproductive isolation between these organisms.

The initiation of this examination would not be possible, had it not been for recent observations by reliable sources pertaining to the mechanism by which the Tuna transports itself to Lake Lieberman. Fin prints have been noticed around the periphery of the swamp for some time, but, recently, the Tuna was observed climbing to the top of a nearby hill, exuding droplets of mercury from its ventral side, and rolling downhill on quicksilver ball bearings to the lake basin. There are several possibilities by which this behavior might be controlled:

1. Grease the periphery of the swamp so the Tuna can’t climb out of it.
2. Grease the downhill route to Lake Lieberman in hopes that the Tuna will crash into a tree.
3. Place a low-level radiation source along the downhill path of the Tuna in hopes of reproductive sterilization.
It has been a mystery for some time as to how the Tuna returns to the swamp after its evening of fun and frolic in Lake Lieberman. However, the recent information indicates that it uses the shuttle bus service (when available). If this information is substantiated and verified, corrective actions will have to be directed within the Lake itself (since the Tuna might at times utilize the mechanism to get to the Lake as from it!) Various possibilities include:

1. Periodic spraying of the lake with spermicidal gels.
2. Placing a chastity belt on the Loch Lieberness Monster.
4. The purchase of heavy-duty fishing tackle for use by campus security.

If any of these alternatives proves to be feasible, financing should be undertaken by the College in the Woods, since this whole situation has undoubtedly been provoked by their draining of a goodly portion of the swamp.\textsuperscript{mcxxvi}

The controversy of the affair between the Hinman Tainted Tuna and the Loch Lieberness Monster continued unabated until Hinman Master Gruber decided to end it once and for all. Ever since the master of Newing College broke open the case of the “tainted” tuna, University Presidents, ecologists, chemists, biologists, and hordes of gossip mongers have busied themselves with the relationship of the Lake Liberman Monster and the Hinman Tuna.

I have not wanted to enter this public debate, for I consider it an outrageous invasion (the word is not too strong) of their privacy. A tender, loving inter-mural relationship has been distorted into libidinous “cavortions” [sic]. The whole panoply of all-out war, including nuclear devices to induce sterilization, and offers of negotiation tables of various shapes and sizes have been introduced and now pollute the atmosphere of our hitherto peaceful valley. All this to end an innocent couple’s coupling.

However, it is not important what I want or what they think should be done. Anderson, Dearing, Cooper, Battin, and McDuffie: their feelings are no more relevant to the life style and relationship of Manny and Tina (for so they call each other) than what Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith think about Richard and Elizabeth, Antony and Cleopatra, or David and Julie, for that matter.

The tragic consequences of asserting a misplaced sense of relevance by word and deed has often been recorded. We are, alas, perilously close to transposing the masters of Newing and Hinman into old Capulet and Montague, President Dearing into a minor renaissance prince, and poor Manny and Tina into lovers, star-crossed and cut off in their prime.

So I beg all of you, before some angry Tybalt corties [sic] out from the Broome Closet on his way to the Pub and accosts a long-haired Lehmanite Mercutio dashing up the
stairs to the reserve desk, to permit this odd but attractive couple to work out their own
destiny. Let us not interfere. Let these lovers leap to their hearts’ delight under the
smooth waters of Lake Lieberman or the swamp. Let us not muddy their waters. If their
amorous exertions do so, let us quietly turn our eyes away to the rolling, muddy ripples
of the Susquehanna and meditate on the universal presence of muddy waters.

Peace

Christian P. Gruber
Master of Hinman College and
late Chairman of the Friar
Lawrence Fan Club

This humorous interlude is just one example of Gruber’s sense of humor. Although
never having quite the same reputation of being a fun-loving, easy-going sort like future Faculty
Masters would, he did know how to have fun, and he absolutely loved it when the residents of
his residential college got excited in some good-natured controversy like the Tainted Tuna-Loch
Lieberness Monster story illustrates. Gruber was constantly dedicated to his students, and
especially encouraged them to laugh.

Between the 1971 and 1972 academic year, Gruber took a sabbatical leave and Richard
Dekmejian became acting Faculty Master of Hinman College for the year. When Gruber
returned from sabbatical, he was offered a job as in the SUNY Binghamton administration as
Assistant to the President. For the rest of his career at Binghamton, Gruber was the assistant to
President Clifford Clark. He never forgot his ties to Hinman however, and would occasionally
return to see how the college was doing. Gruber finally retired in 1983 after a thirty-year career
at Binghamton. For the next twenty years, he and his wife Marilynn would enjoy the benefits
and luxuries of retirement. He passed away in 2003 at the age of 83. In honor of all that
he did for the Binghamton University Theater Department, one of the studio theaters in the Fine
Arts Building is now called the Gruber Theater in his honor.
Along with Bob Giomi, Christian Paul Gruber stands out as perhaps the most influential person in the early history of Hinman College. Not only did he spearhead the pioneering efforts and innovations for which Hinman College is famous, but he also helped to establish the traditions that Hinman is most famous for. The Hinman College Council, Co-Rec Football, and the Hinman Little Theater (and by extension the Hinman Production Company), the trifecta of Hinman College, all owe their existence to Pete Gruber. While he was most certainly soft-spoken and perhaps not as visible with students as future Faculty Masters, Pete Gruber deserves a place of honor among the early figures of Hinman history for all of his efforts and for laying a solid foundation for all future generations to build upon.

In May of 1971, the portrait of Harvey D. Hinman that now graces the Hinman College Faculty Master’s office was presented to Hinman by George Hinman, Harvey’s son. At a large dedication ceremony George Hinman spoke about his father and his vision for what Harpur College and by extension, SUNY Binghamton and Hinman College could offer to the young student. In the May 6, 1971, issue of the *Hinman Halitosis*, Gruber wrote a long essay on the dinner and gave some biographical information on Harvey D. Hinman. He ended his essay with this all-important paragraph on the history of the Mastership of Hinman College:

The portrait photograph, which was displayed in the Western bay of the Hinman Dining Hall, was taken of Mr. Hinman when he was in his mid-eighties. The twinkle in his eye reflects a strong vitality. As I said at the conclusion of the Convocation, when I look up from my desk and exchange glances with Mr. Hinman, I seem always to get the feeling that he’s just said, “Well, Master of Hinman College, what the hell are you doing to make this college a better place to live and learn?”

If there ever was a truer, more lasting legacy that Christian P. Gruber left to Hinman College, that is it. Every Faculty Master since those early days has asked themselves that very same question and has striven to make Hinman College a better place to live and learn, first by their words, but gradually by their deeds.
Vito F. Sinisi was born in Los Angeles in 1924. During World War II he served with the U.S. Army in Germany. During the war he learned the Japanese language. Among other languages he was fluent in English, Italian, Polish and read French and some German. After the war he attended Harvard University on the G.I. Bill where he received his BA in 1950. He went on to receive his master’s degree from the University of California Berkeley in 1954 and his PhD in Philosophy in 1959, also from Berkley. He came to Binghamton in 1966 where he would teach until his retirement in 2004, focusing mostly on mathematical and social logic. He would go on to chair the department on two separate occasions, the first time between 1968 and 1971 and the second time between the years 1989 and 1990. He was the author of the book *Applied Logic*, and the editor of *The Heritage of Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz*, both which focused on a special type of logic developed in Poland, which would cause him to be the butt of many politically incorrect jokes throughout his time teaching the subject. Throughout his time at Binghamton, Sinisi would teach both logic and social philosophy courses. He was married to Jeanette Sinisi and they had one daughter, Rosaria.

Between the years 1973 and 1981, when he was Faculty Master of Hinman College, Vito made his most profound impact upon students. In the Spring of 1973, when outgoing Faculty Master Pete Gruber decided to leave the Mastership to pursue a position as assistant to the President, many candidates were interviewed by a panel of students and professional staff. One of the people interviewing candidates was Bob Giomi. Bob was hired by Pete Gruber and had a very close relationship with him. At the time of interviewing him, Bob felt that Sinisi was not the best candidate for the position. As a result he was a little apprehensive when he found out
that Sinisi had been selected as Gruber’s successor. However, those fears soon vanished when Bob saw just how amazing Vito was with the students of Hinman. Though both Bob and Sinisi were hot-blooded Italian-Americans and sparred on occasion, they had a great deal of respect for one another and even grew to love another with as much affection as a father may have for a son. Though Bob would leave Hinman College in 1978 to pursue a job at Whittier College in California and eventually take a position with UC Berkley (Sinisi’s alma mater) the two of them would remain close for years afterwards.

Perhaps Sinisi’s most significant contribution to Hinman College and all of the residential colleges at SUNY Binghamton was his efforts to preserve collegiate structure. Sinisi would chair the Task Force for the Academic Development of the Collegiate Units which would battle a university administration that wanted to centralize all of the residential colleges at Binghamton. His tenacious fighting spirit earned him the nickname “Don Vito,” after Don Corleone of *The Godfather* films. Although in the end the colleges would be centralized under a central Residential Life department and would have to answer to the Director of Residential Life (as opposed to the individual Masters as it was before), his efforts still helped to preserve some autonomy among the individual residential colleges.

Although fighting to preserve collegiate structure was perhaps Sinisi’s most tangible contribution, he played such a significant role in the lives of so many students. Sinisi was a huge fan and supporter of the Hinman Little Theater (HLT). When HLT staged *Play It Again, Sam* Bob Giomi and Gabe Yankowitz wrote in a four line part for him. In a scene that took place at a disco, Sinisi played the part of a waiter. Across the front of his shirt it read, “Vito’s Pizzeria.” Although he only had a few short lines he would rehearse them for hours on end before the start of the play to make sure he got them right. During the play when he entered the scene and

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40 For more information on this subject see the chapter on preserving collegiate structure.
uttered his now famous line, “That is some spicy pizza,” it brought the house down. Even though future television and movie star Paul Reiser would act in the play, it was Vito Sinisi who stole the show and the hearts of everyone who saw it.\textsuperscript{mcxxxii}

Vito Sinisi would also have a profound impact upon many students in Hinman College. Eric Pomerantz, an active Hinmanite who would be HCC President from 1977-1979, remembers Vito fondly. Over twenty-five years after having been mentored by Vito, Eric would remember him this way:

He was such a wonderful guy…He was devoted to his students in Hinman. You could go into his office anytime and talk to him. He was my advisor when I was on the E-Board and talked about a lot. I remember talking to him about the quota system for minorities that was getting a lot of attention at that time and its implications for higher education. He came to all the activities in Hinman both on the weekdays and on the weekends. I got tremendous enjoyment from him being Master. He even later went on to write me a recommendation…I’ll always remember Hinman Commencement. It was in the Fine Arts building and Vito was there and he shook my hand. Hundreds of people came to Hinman Commencement. It was very important to them and having Vito there was a big part of that.\textsuperscript{mcxxxiii}

Once President of Smith Hall, Fred Silverman also has fond memories of Vito Sinisi. At that time the food in the dining hall had a reputation for being almost inedible. However, there was a Chinese man, the proprietor of a local Chinese restaurant, who would come to campus and sell some of his wares in the residence halls. He would go around from room to room and sell his food to hungry Hinmanites who were fed up with the selections offered in the dining hall. However, when ACE, the company in charge of campus dining services, caught wind of this, they banned him from selling his products in the residence halls. They claimed that he was undercutting their profits. Fred and others met with ACE and fought to allow the man to continue coming into the residence halls to sell his food. Vito was present during one of these meetings.
I remember when we were meeting with ACE to go over the situation and Vito was there. I was amazed that he actually backed us up. He wasn’t your typical college professor. He was a really nice guy and very low-key. He had such a curiosity about students and wanted to know more about them, their hopes, dreams, and concerns. He was very involved, more than any other professor that I knew. I’ll never forget him backing us up on the Chinese food issue.²⁴⁴

Jim Greenlees, President of HCC from 1980-1981, also has fond memories of his time with Vito Sinisi.

Vito was one of the nicest, gentlest people I’ve ever met. I never took a philosophy class with him, but worked with him for 3 1/2 years. Vito was always available to talk, give advice, etc. He attended all the major events (Follies, Co-Rec playoffs, etc.) Where the graduate dorms now stand (behind Hinman, between the commuter lot and the Nature Preserve) used to be called (I believe unofficially) Sinisi Park, in his honor. I remember my sophomore year, there was talk of replacing him, as he'd been Master for close to 10 years. My RA, Bob Mancini, started a campaign to keep Vito on. If you have access to the 1978-1979 Hinman Dynamo, there's a picture of Bob with "Save Vito" signs pasted all over his jacket.²⁴⁵

Vito was a popular Faculty Master. Sinisi Park would become akin to Hinman what Lake Lieberman was to Newing. Sinisi Park was a place where students could go and play sports, have picnics and basically just do anything fun out in the sun. Although the area was never officially sanctioned as Sinisi Park by the university, to this day whenever a student needs to rent out the fire pit in that area, they have to fill out a permit which designates that the area as Sinisi Park, so there is some official recognition. Unfortunately, most of Sinisi Park is now a parking lot, but the memory of it still remains in the minds of many Hinmanites from that era.

Steven “Pudge” Meyer also remembers his time with Vito Sinisi fondly and the mentor-mentee relationship that they had. It was Vito who encouraged Pudge to run for HCC. Pudge followed his advice and became HCC Secretary (a position now known as Public Affairs Vice President) from 1979-1980. The relationship they would have would be profound and continue long after Pudge’s tenure on the HCC E-Board. Pudge would single-handedly write the Hinman Halitosis, mostly because Vito asked him to. The two of them would also co-star in minor roles
in the HPC production of *Hot L Baltimore*. Here these two Hinman mainstays would steal the show and completely bring down the house around them. Over twenty-five years later Pudge would write, “Like everyone else says, Vito’s walk-on was a classic. Since I had known him as well as I did, it only reinforced for me that he took the most joy from being surrounded by students. Vito was not a young man; he wore hats that my dad wore. But he had a vitality that was even more apparent when he was connecting with students.” When it came time for Hinman graduation in 1981 there was a lot of competition for Den of Distinction Awards and the Harvey D. Hinman Award, Hinman College’s highest honor. When the awards were handed out Jim Greenlees won the Harvey D. Hinman Award and Pudge would receive a Den of Distinction Award. However, Vito handed out the last Den of Distinction Award, the final award to be given out that evening, to Pudge and spoke highly and kindly of him and of his passionate involvement in Hinman. To this day Pudge Meyer still remembers that moment at Hinman Commencement. Though he did not win the highest award, Vito saved him for last.

Diane Castiglione (Fischer) was HCC President after Jim Greenlees and was also highly inspired by Vito Sinisi. Working with her on a daily basis, Vito Sinisi inspired her to always question authority and never be afraid to ask questions and to challenge the status quo. He taught her speak her mind and to always voice her opinion, regardless of what others may think. Diane Castiglione would say herself, “He [Vito] helped me find my path. I came into my own at SUNY Binghamton and Hinman and lot of that was influenced by Vito. He treated us with respect and treated us like peers. Our [HCC] E-board meetings were fun and casual and we got a lot done.” Twenty-five years after she had graduated from Binghamton, earning her master’s degree and working for the US State Department, she still remembers what Vito Sinisi taught and inspired her. Although it is hard to put into written words, this author can honestly
say, simply from the tone of her voice and her descriptions of her day-to-day encounters with Vito Sinisi, that he was more than just an ordinary college professor for her, that he was nothing less than a father figure.

Vito would step down from the Faculty Master position in the Spring of 1981 and Nick Sterling would begin the first of his two nonconsecutive terms as Master of Hinman College. However, no one could replace Vito and his legacy. Vito would continue to teach at Binghamton until 2004 when he finally retired. His career as an educator would last for a total of thirty-eight years. On December 27, 2005, he died from multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cell at the age of 81. mcxxxviii

Vito Sinisi left a long-lasting legacy at SUNY Binghamton and especially in Hinman College. From listening to others speak about him and reading what others remember of him, it is quite apparent that he had a tremendous positive influence over a generation of Hinmanites. Although he may not have been as influential in pioneering areas of Hinman College as his predecessor Pete Gruber was, Vito had his own contributions. From fighting to preserve collegiate structure at SUNY Binghamton to mentoring and inspiring countless students, Vito Sinisi left a lasting legacy in Hinman that deserves more than just a simple park named after him. Vito Sinisi set the precedent for Faculty Master involvement and mentorship that would be followed by every other Hinman College Faculty Master that would come after him. Although Vito was passionate about the subject he taught, it is apparent that the thing that he was most passionate about was Hinman College and the students who lived within its bounds. At the time of his death, his daughter, Rosaria Sinisi is quoted as saying, “He just tried to spend as much time with students as he could.” mcxxxix To the members of the Task Force for the Academic Development of the Collegiate Units who saw him as the cunning “Don Vito,” to the students
who saw him not as a mafia Godfather, but as a kind and caring father-figure with no mob connections, to fellow Italian-American Bob Giomi, who saw him as a friend, Vito Sinisi was and continues to be one of the most admired and loved Faculty Masters in Hinman history.
Alan Howard Haber was born in Chicago in 1930. He was an only child. Since a very early age his parents recognized that he was exceptionally intelligent and pushed him to get a good education and make a better life for himself. When the time came to go away to college, Al jumped at the chance and left home to pursue his passions.

He did his undergraduate work at the California Institute of Technology. While at Caltech he was surrounded by many brilliant scientists and was inspired to pursue a career path as a scientist. Although he studied physics at Caltech he was deeply interested in biology and for the rest of his life his work and experiments as a scientist would cross the boundaries of both the world of biology and of physics. He was awarded his bachelor’s degree in Physics in 1953.

Following his undergraduate education he pursued graduate work at the University of Wisconsin at Madison where he was awarded his PhD in Plant Physiology in 1956. Here he was mentored by Professor Folke Skoog, with whom he had a very close relationship. It was also at this time that he would meet his future wife, Joyce. They were married in 1956. Together he and Joyce would have four children, Lisa, David, Jean and Julie. The Habers were a very close family and Al and Joyce loved their children tremendously.

Following his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, Al, encouraged by his mentor Dr. Skoog, move with his family to Oak Ridge, Tennessee where he was employed by the US Government at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Oak Ridge was where the theory behind the atomic bomb was developed and ever since had been a lab for cutting-edge research involving radiation. While at Oak Ridge, Al was in charge of scientific experimentation with a focus on the effects of radiation on plants. He quickly became a manager of a team of scientists
pursuing this research. While at Oak Ridge he did teach at the University of Tennessee. This gave him some of his first teaching experiences and he soon came to realize that he enjoyed teaching more than he did scientific experimentation. Years later his son David would joke that the only reason that his father taught at the University of Tennessee was because the lab was right next to the football stadium. Football was a sport that his father enjoyed tremendously. One of the greatest words of wisdom that Al Haber passed down to his son when he was very young was to never bet against Notre Dame or Alabama. Many years later as an adult, David Haber was living in Tucson, Arizona. In desperate need of money, David placed a very large bet with some shady bookies. However, David remembered his father’s advice and put his money on Notre Dame and Alabama. Sure enough, both teams won their games. 

Al would work at Oak Ridge for seventeen years in what many would consider a great and prestigious career, and working on some of the most cutting-edge areas of modern science. However, Al, ever the family man, was concerned about the education of his children, who were nearing high school age. Al and Joyce began researching places that had good high schools for their children and other options for their own employment. Besides the education of his children, Al learned through his teaching experiences at the University of Tennessee that he loved teaching and the interaction with students. It was during this time that he discovered a relatively small state university in upstate New York called SUNY Binghamton. Al inquired to see what job possibilities were available with SUNY Binghamton and shortly thereafter not only was he offered a job but also the chair of the entire Biology Department. In 1973 the Habers moved to Binghamton and Al began teaching Biology at the university.

Al Haber soon learned that he loved teaching and interacting with students far more than he liked running experiments and doing research. He also came to realize that many students
came to him for advice on a whole variety of topics not including simple classroom topics related
to the subject that he taught. Al liked giving advice when it was asked of him and really wanted
to find a way to become more involved in the lives of students. He was encouraged by Augie
Mueller, a fellow Biology Professor and the Master of Newing College, to look into a position as
Faculty Master. When Nick Sterling left the position, of Master of Hinman in 1985, Al Haber
jumped at the chance to take the position seeing it as a way to become more involved with
students. During the time leading up to assuming the Mastership of Hinman, he told his wife
that he would dream of being a Master at Cambridge University. His wife remembers him just
loving the concept of being a Master and of being so intimately connected to students in a small
institution. In many ways it seemed as though his whole life’s ambition was to have this
job.\[mexl\]

Al was passionate about his work and considered it a great honor to be selected as
Faculty Master. His son, David Haber, remembers that though his father never went into great
detail on what he did as Master of Hinman, he always remembers how proud his father was of
the position that he held and how much joy it brought to him. While the position brought Al
Haber a great deal of joy, his presence as Master brought even greater amounts of joy to the
people who surrounded him.

It is all too appropriate that Al Haber was born on April Fool’s Day. Everyone who knew
him attests that one of his greatest characteristics was his sense of humor. Rene Coderre, who
was the Coordinator of Hinman College at the same time that Al Haber was Faculty Master,
remembers Haber and his clever use of puns. Rene remembers the first day that Al moved into
the Hinman Faculty Master’s office he came in with a broken off handle of a tea cup and began
tapping everything in the office. All of the office staff including Rene stared at Haber for a long
while in wonder of what he was doing. After a moment Haber looked up and with a smirk and
said, “Don’t mind me, I’m just trying to get a handle on the office.”

Al Haber was undoubtedly the master of puns. Adam Brown, who was a student and a
grad RD during Al Haber’s tenure as Faculty Master, remembers the close relationship that he
and Al had. Adam remembers a time when Al took him and another Hinmanite, Jarrod Bagatell,
out for Chinese food. The three of them were waiting in line at a Chinese restaurant and having
a normal conversation like anyone else when suddenly Al blurted out the question, “Why did the
Chinese lose the war?” Both Adam and Jarrod were confused and replied that they did not know
why. Al replied with the response, “General Tso’s chicken.” After the punch line finally
dawned on them both Adam and Jarrod began to laugh at the absurdity of the joke. Adam also
remembers that Al had a reputation for speeding. As a result of all the speeding tickets that he
got, his wife Joyce made him tape a piece of paper with the words “Go 55” to his steering wheel,
to remind him to slow down.

Although he had a great sense of humor, Al was also not afraid to stand up for what he
believed in. In the October 23, 1986 issue of the Hinman Halitosis, an editorial published by a
writer with the pen name Scooter Junior had this to say about the quality of professors on
campus.

Good Evening [sic]. I have decided to write again to prove that I am not dead. And you
thought the Mets were down and out. Well, look silly Boston fans, go back to Beantown
because the Mets are in control and coming back!

Now on to business. Did you ever get the impression that some of the professors and
administrators think we are here for them and not the other way around? As of late, I
seem to have this feeling that I am paying to go to school for the teachers’ sake and not
for the sake of getting an education.

Last spring, the school released a professor who cared about the students because he
didn’t publish on time. Meantime, we do have some professors who publish, but have
little or no regard for the students. Not all our professors are like this. To those I do
sincerely apologize. We are fortunate to have some professional teachers here and I take my hat off the [sic] them. Is SUNY B. trying to build a reputation at the expense of the students?

If you have any opinion on this subject, even if it disagrees with mine, drop it off in the Halitosis envelope in your dorm. Please address it to: Scooter Jr. m cvi

A few days later Al Haber responded with this letter published in the following week’s Hinman Halitosis.

Dear Scooter Junior,
c/o Hinman Halitosis

You ask, “Did you ever get the impression that some of the professors and administrators think we are here for them and not the other way around?” This question, of course, was addressed to your fellow students. Even though I’m a professor, may I respond? (I can tell from the temperate tone of your writing that you’re agreeable, so here goes…)

If your question requires only a true-false answer, I would say “true”. If it is an essay-question, I would say—

Yes, some professors and some administrators often do seem more interested in matters other than your education. But I’ve noticed that some students also seem more interested in matters other than their own education (as distinct from grades). Let’s consider some of the factors that keep professors, administrators, and students from doing their best to further your education—practical concerns for one’s future (salary and security for faculty and administrators, grades for students), family or interpersonal problems, and lack of sufficient time and energy to do everything that’s required for practical success and personal happiness. With these considerations, I hope you’ll agree with me that the faculty and administrators are more or less just like you. We are all human. But you are different in one important way—you’re more likely to be upset with compromise, especially when what’s compromised is the education for which you and your family pay tuition and taxes. (I also feel I don’t get my money’s worth for my taxes.) When you are older (like me) you’ll still see and, I hope, struggle with life’s compromises. But you’ll also see that the struggle is everywhere and inevitable. (If you don’t believe me, ask your parents or older brothers and sisters out there in the “real world”.)

The Mets (to whom you refer in your column) could not win without individual effort, teamwork, and understanding the Red Sox. Likewise, students won’t be able to help themselves in their education without individual effort, teamwork (both with themselves and with faculty and administrators), and understanding the system.
You and I have something in common—during my last two years as an undergraduate (before you were born), I wrote a column on undergraduate life. Then also, student morale was assaulted by defective teaching, overemphasis on grades at the expense of learning, bad food (and I mean really bad) in the dining hall, and even climate (in this case, the climate of southern California which also, believe it or not, is far from perfect).

Everyone is coming from somewhere, so let me tell you where I’m now coming from. Like all faculty, administrators, and students, I’ve made compromises. Professors do three things here—teaching (your greatest concern), research and administration. In 1973 I was invited to come to SUNY-B because of my experience in research (in a non-university research institute) and administration. I accepted because I wanted to teach. Since I’ve been here, I’ve tried to juggle many things: teaching, research, administration, family and private life. This is not the place for an accounting of how well I’ve managed. Needless to say, I couldn’t do it all—any more than I imagine you have been able to do all you hoped you could here. I’m not disappointed here with my over-all status, which was determined almost entirely by factors other than my teaching. Consider, however, the pressures on an untenured resident professor. At any university (and this is a university) his or her advancement, salary, and job security depend more upon research than any other factor. And on academic administrator’s advancement, salary, and job security depend more upon things running smoothly than upon anything else. (I’m just “telling it like it is”.)

We all know there is more knowledge (not to mention life) than what you get in the classroom. Your professor’s research doesn’t always make him (or her) a worse teacher, it often makes him (or her) better—more knowledgeable and more interested, and therefore more interesting. As a student, I was directed to what was, for me, a good graduate program by my undergraduate professors’ research knowledge and connections.

I’m sure the many professors who try to give you the best education they can would appreciate your taking your “hat off to them.” I am impressed with my many colleagues who give so much to the quality of your education—even though (as you suggest) some have done so at their own peril. Without in any way disagreeing with what you wrote, I have the impression that things are considerably better here than in most universities.

Now let’s get down to business, Mr./Ms. Scooter Jr! What can I do to help you understand the system? Please come talk to me. (I won’t divulge your identity without your permission. I would come to you, but I don’t know who you are.) If we can get a few of your friends together for dinner in the Hinman dining hall some evening, I’ll guarantee to bring (a) a professor who agrees with you, (b) another professor who believes at this time in its development SUNY-B should emphasize research and graduate education even at the possible expense of undergraduate teaching, and (c) an administrator with yet another point of view. We can then have an informal discussion in your residence hall lounge. I’ll bet the students would find it very interesting. I know I would.
As Woody Allen said (in “Take the Money and Run” as he was released from jail)…”Keep in touch.”mcxlvii

As evidence by this letter, Al Haber was not trying to put down this concerned student. Far from it, he was offering to go out of his way to help educate not only the author of the original letter but also the many students of Hinman College and of the whole SUNY Binghamton campus who undoubtedly had similar views on the quality of the undergraduate education. Whether this meeting between Scooter Junior and Al Haber took place is unknown, however, this is a perfect example of Al Haber standing up for what he believed in and also for his philosophy of always trying to turn a situation into a positive learning experience for students. It has also been speculated that Scooter Junior was in fact Al Haber and that he planted the letter in the Halitosis under the pen name Scooter Junior so he could write the response and get his view across. The final line of the letter is also vintage Al Haber. Al loved all comedy and especially Woody Allen. He even kept a small picture of Woody Allen in his office.mcxlviii

Like every other Hinman Faculty Master that came before and after him, Al Haber left a positive and lasting impact on each of the students that he mentored. Adam Brown lived in Hinman College for a record seven years, first as an undergraduate student in Roosevelt and an RA in Smith Hall, then as the RD of Roosevelt from 1986 until 1989. Adam remembers the relationship that he had will Al Haber, his mentor, confidant and friend during his years in Hinman. Traditionally, each of the residential colleges has an RA Day Away where all the RA’s and the professional staff of a residential college go away for a day during summer training to perform team building exercises, to play games outside, and to simply have fun and get to know one another. It was during one of these RA Days Away that the entire Hinman staff had a day away near a very picturesque lake on a beautiful sunny day. During this Day Away, a pickup game of softball occurred and Al Haber brought his old leather baseball glove. His glove was in
an old fashioned 1940’s style with just the leather fingers and no real mitt. Later, when Adam was in graduate school at Binghamton, he was cast in a play where he needed a baseball glove to fit that era. Al Haber lent him his glove for the play. After the play was over Al told Adam to hold on to the glove for the time being. On a number of occasions, Adam tried to return the glove to Al, but Al kept telling Adam to hold on to the glove. Finally, before Adam was to graduate with his Master’s Degree in 1989 and leave Binghamton and Hinman for good he went back to Al Haber one last time to try and return the glove. Al took the glove in his hands and looked it over, handed it back to Adam and said to him that the glove was very special, but that he wanted Adam to have it. Adam still has that glove to this very day. 

Jarrod Bagatell also fondly remembers Al Haber as his friend and mentor while he was in Hinman. When Jarrod first met Al he just could not believe what a wonderful human being he was. 

There was this person who was this brilliant scientist but yet he was so down to earth. The first time I met him was in August of 1985 when he, Rene Coderre and a bunch of us were at a meeting in one of the main lounges. Al just made everyone feel at ease. He knew what it was like for the freshmen and how difficult the transition from high school to college could be. I’ll always remember the first day when freshmen moved in he would come around to every floor and let everyone know that “Uncle Al” was always there to talk if they needed anything.

During another one of the RA Days Away both Jarrod and Al rowed out into the middle of a lake in a boat. On a whim, Jarrod decided to moon all of the other people on the shore. Al fell into a fit of hysterical laughter which ended with him saying, “I would’ve done it too if I weren’t Master.” When Jarrod applied to medical school Al wrote his letter of recommendation to Upstate Medical School. Today Jarrod is a doctor practicing family medicine in Syracuse, NY. These are just two of many Hinmanites whose lives were touched and made better because of Al Haber.
Unfortunately Al’s time in Hinman would be all too brief. He left the Mastership of Hinman in 1990 because he became very ill. For years many doctors tried to find out exactly what was making him ill. Finally, he was diagnosed with lymphoma. Throughout his life Al had led a very healthy lifestyle. He did not smoke and did not drink alcohol. It has been speculated that it is possible that he contracted the cancer from his time spent studying the effects of radiation on plants while he was at Oak Ridge. However, there is no way of knowing exactly how he contracted the cancer. Even though the prognosis was not good, Al kept his spirits up and, believing in the philosophy that laughter is the best medicine, continued to have a sense of humor about it. During some of the most painful and agonizing days of his treatment, Al would rent some of his favorite Woody Allen movies to get his mind off the unpleasantness of his disease. In many ways Al laughed himself well. He had a bone marrow transplant which worked and he lived for another fifteen years. Throughout it all he continued to teach when he could, even from a wheelchair, which was very difficult for him because he was so athletic for most of his life. He survived the cancer but would die of a sudden heart attack in 2005.

Even in death Al would still have a presence. At Al’s memorial service in the Fine Arts Building on the Binghamton University campus, Jarrod Bagatell would sit next to a colleague of Al’s from his time at Oak Ridge. This particular man had flown from his home in North Carolina to Philadelphia where his flight was delayed. Wanting to make the memorial service on time, he rented a car and drove the rest of the way to Binghamton. During the service this man got up to help eulogize Al and said, “Al always promised if I said something at his memorial service that he’d say something at mine.” Shortly after he finished speaking he sat back down next to Jarrod, fell backwards and stopped breathing. Dr. Jarrod Bagatell quickly jumped into action and ripped off the man’s shirt and saw a surgical scar that suggested he had once had heart
bypass surgery. Joyce Haber, who knew the man, confirmed that he had a heart condition.

Jarrod and a student who knew first aide then performed CPR for five minutes while they waited for Harpur’s Ferry to arrive. When Harpur’s Ferry arrived they brought out a defibrillator.

Jarrod gave the man one shock with the defibrillator. Immediately the man’s pulse returned, and though he was vomiting and shaking violently, he was ok. All you could hear after that was an automated recording in a very electronic computer generated voice on the defibrillator that said “low battery” over and over again in an almost comical way. The memorial service was held on a cold winter day and the intense cold had caused the battery to nearly run dead. The ambulance took the man away for further treatment at Wilson Memorial Hospital. Later on, after the memorial service, Jarrod learned from the doctors that treated the man that he should have died then and there. Jarrod to this day claims that this incident, which is nothing short of a miracle, was Al Haber speaking just as he had promised. The story is not over yet. When Jarrod returned to the memorial service, after cleaning up a bit, to give his eulogy of Al Haber, he soon realized that he had left his prepared speech on the gurney that was now en route to the hospital. He then proceeded to give a five minute extemporaneous speech. Though he was not prepared for this speech, it was from the heart, something that Al would have appreciated. To this day Jarrod believes that this was Al Haber’s last good-hearted joke that he played on Jarrod and that his spirit and presence was there on that cold February day.

In both life and death Al Haber made a difference and a lasting impression upon his students. From his time at Oak Ridge and the University of Tennessee to the Chairmanship of the SUNY Binghamton Biology Department to what he considered his proudest achievement and position, the Mastership of Hinman College, Al Haber made a huge impact on these positions and the people that he came in contact with.
His son David would say this about his father:

He was a guy who cared about his family. He was a simple guy. He cared about his students and the world…I didn’t see my dad a lot after I moved out West but I talked to him all the time. He never really told me exactly what he did as Faculty Master but that’s all he would ever talk about whenever I spoke to him. He was very proud to be Master of Hinman.

Two years after the death of her husband, Joyce Haber had this to say about his legacy:

The love of his life was the kids. He dropped the entire research aspect of his life to be with the kids…He just loved rubbing shoulders with the kids and paying attention to them. He loved to play sports and he loved HPC. He was always available to the students if they needed him. It was fun, not work for him. He absolutely loved his job. It was the relationships with the students that he loved the most.

Perhaps that is Al Haber’s most treasured and lasting legacy. Though he was a brilliant scientist who pursued research on the cutting edge of modern science and made many contributions to his field, the most profound and important part of Al Haber’s life was the advice and mentoring that he gave to his students and especially to the students of Hinman. His discoveries and scientific experiments may be lost in the pages of science journals and the backrooms of libraries, but the personal touch, sense of humor, and genuine warmth and affection is what will make “Uncle Al” immortal not only in the annals of Hinman College but in the hearts and minds of everyone whom he inspired to achieve greatness.
Nick Sterling  
November 7, 1934-  

Nicholas Jason Sterling was born and raised in Cooperstown, New York. He had one younger sister. He attended Williams College in Massachusetts where he received his BA in Mathematics and did his graduate work at Syracuse University where he received his PhD in Mathematics. At the time there were not that many opportunities for mathematicians and the reason that he came to Binghamton was because they offered him a job. Nick came to Harpur College in 1966 and began teaching calculus.\textsuperscript{mcvi}

Nick’s first foray into Hinman College began in 1969. This was at the height of the Vietnam War, and student unrest and activism were at their highest at colleges and universities around the country. SUNY Binghamton was no exception. For approximately three days in 1969, the college completely shut down. Nick happened to be in Hinman at this time and remembers sitting down with the students during the shutdown and talking with them about all kinds of issues from politics, to the university, to just life in general. This incident always stuck with Nick and was the basis for wanting to become involved with Hinman College later on.\textsuperscript{mcvii}

In 1981 two Faculty Master positions opened up on the SUNY Binghamton campus. One position was available to replace the outgoing Master of Newing, Bob Pompi, and the other was to replace the outgoing Master of Hinman, Vito Sinisi. Nick wanted to become a Faculty Master and interviewed for both positions. The search committee for a new Faculty Master for Newing College decided that Nick Sterling would not be a good fit for Newing. Shortly thereafter, Nick was offered the job in Hinman. “Nick just related to people and to students in particular. He was passionate about students and that was why,” Bob Pompi theorizes, “that’s why Nick Sterling was so successful as Faculty Master.”\textsuperscript{mcviii}
Nick Sterling can be considered the Grover Cleveland of Hinman College. Like the U.S. President (for which Cleveland Hall in Hinman is named), Nick served two nonconsecutive terms as Faculty Master. The first took place in the early 1980’s from 1981 until 1985. For four years, Nick Sterling administered Hinman College and continued to teach calculus classes. Nick stepped down from this position 1985. He stepped down at this time because his children were high school seniors and he wanted to spend more time with them. Nick was succeeded by Al Haber in the fall of 1985. However, when Al Haber fell ill, Nick stepped back up to the position of Master in 1990 and stayed in this position for the next eight years. Nick Sterling currently holds the record for the longest serving Faculty Master. He was Master for a total of twelve years.

One of Nick’s fondest memories of his time as Master occurred in 1982 when Lisa D’Amato wanted to break the world record for the longest shower. Nick had to pull some strings with the administration to allow it to happen. For days, D’Amato’s shower was huge news not only in Hinman but in the local Binghamton community as well. Today it would be almost impossible, liability insurance being what it is, to have something like happen again. However, it was ultimately Nick Sterling who made this event possible and put not only Lisa D’Amato but Hinman College in the record books.

Perhaps Nick Sterling’s biggest claim to fame was the lunches that he would have with Hinmanites. Almost everyday, Nick would eat lunch in the Hinman Dining Hall and he would always be surrounded by a cluster of students who were eager to share how their day was and what was going on in their lives. Nick would always come to the table with a huge plate of salad and relished listening to the students tell him about what was going on in their lives. These lunches soon reached a level of infamy for their length. Typically the lunches started at noon
and it would not be unusual for them to run at least two hours or more. It was during this time that Nick and many Hinman students bonded and learned a lot about each other. Nick was always a sympathetic ear and a shoulder to cry on no matter what the issue was. These lunches and the other informal times that he spent with students is just one of the many reasons why Nick Sterling was loved by so many Hinmanites. Nick would have no idea just how important these lunches were to students until years later when many of them would come up to him and tell him that some of their best memories of their time in Hinman and of their whole college experience was these informal lunches.

Having served as Faculty Master for two nonconsecutive terms Nick had the benefit of seeing different generations of students and professional staff pass through Hinman College. Maria Carra, the Assistant Coordinator of Hinman in the early 1980’s, says that her favorite memories of her time in Hinman involved Nick. Though Nick was rather quiet and low-key, he was really a wonderful when you got to know him. She loved the fact that he took extra efforts to know each student who passed his way and to try and mentor them if he could.

Nick’s tenure of Faculty Master saw the important 25th Anniversary Celebration of Hinman College in 1992. Jeff Horowitz, who was Financial Vice President of Hinman College at the time of the 25th Anniversary, remembers all of the rigmarole and the mountains of paperwork they had to fill out in order to bring fireworks to campus. All their efforts were not lost, however, and the Hinman College 25th Anniversary was the first event ever on the Binghamton University campus to have a fireworks display. The 25th Anniversary also saw the dedication of a time capsule which is supposedly located somewhere in the Hinman Library and is to be opened on the 50th Anniversary of Hinman College in 2017. Jeff was a Math major, and though he never took a course with Nick Sterling, Nick did act as his advisor. What Jeff loved
about Nick was the way he interacted with students. Nick also had some peculiarities that made him loveable. Nick always came to HCC meetings (which then, as now, are known for being very long) with his own chair so he wouldn’t have to sit on the floor. Nick also had an amazing memory. He remembered almost everyone’s name that he met. Nick also invited many Hinmanites over to his house for dinner on multiple occasions. Kristin Graffagino remembers her time in Hinman and her interactions with Nick Sterling very fondly. She too remembers fondly the marathon lunches that Nick would have in the dining hall. Years later she would reminisce,

Nick was the greatest. He was like one of the kids. I’ll always remember the massive lunches which would sometimes run between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Hinman Dining Hall. Nick would always be there, eating with the rest of the students. He was present at every HCC meeting and was just an all around great guy. He was passionate about his work. I’ll always remember how he would pull me aside to talk to me and he was my advisor and mentor during my time in Binghamton. Brent Landau also fondly remembers his interactions with Nick Sterling. He remembers specifically making sure his class schedule was free between noon and 2 p.m. so that he could have lunch with Nick. He also remembers Nick’s intense interest in students and his involvement with them and their activities. When Nick finally retired in 1998, a large surprise retirement party/dinner was held in his honor in the Hinman Dining Hall. Brent along with Brian Haggerty would film this event for posterity. The video is still on file in the Hinman archives and is an amazing testament to the persona of Nick Sterling and the mark that he left on Hinman. For well over two hours, a parade of individuals came forward to speak about how much Nick had meant to them and how he touched their lives. This video is truly a testament to how universally loved and admired Nick Sterling was. Nick Sterling truly believed in mentoring students and giving them the resources that they needed to succeed. It was Nick Sterling who assured the university administration that Lisa
D’Amato could break the world record for the longest shower and that it would not be too risky for the university. Nick Sterling was also responsible for helping to create Binghamton University’s most successful acapella groups. One day in 1983, Nick and the Coordinator of Hinman College at the time were walking by the Hinman Quad and overheard two young men talking about starting an acapella group. All they needed was a little encouragement, and Nick encouraged them to do so. These men went on to form the Binghamton Crosbys, who would win the International A Capella Championship in 2003. Over the course of their career they would go to the finals a total of four times, a record for the International Championship of College A Capella. Years later Nick Sterling would remember that first moment meeting those two young men and say, “That was really the kind of thing that could happen. It was kind of serendipitous. There was so much talent and creativity amongst students that there was always that kind of opportunity. That’s part of your role [as Faculty Master] — to encourage it.”

Shortly after he retired from the Mastership of Hinman College, Nick Sterling was interviewed for an article in Inside BU and there he spoke about what it means to be a Faculty Master at Binghamton University. He said,

> I think the main thing is that you are an advocate for the students. You are partly a role model, you’re also a leader, you’re a person who is there for them and who is there to mediate between them and other forces of the University. I think you are there to encourage the creativity that the students naturally have. And that’s a big part of the position as well as working with the student government and the RA staff and the RD staff and with the assistant director in those kinds of activities.

In the 1997-1998 Dynamo, Nick wrote one a farewell address to Hinman College, the place where he spent so much of his time while in Binghamton. He wrote:

> It’s hard to believe that I’ve been Faculty Master of Hinman for 12 years, over a third of my tenure at Binghamton. It has been an extraordinarily rich adventure. I am grateful and honored to have been able to share your lives and those of the generations of students who have preceded you. Hinman is the greatest, and you’re the ones who make it so!
Enthusiasm, dedication, creativity, tenacity, and great sense of community make this a very special place.

Some folks at Binghamton complain about the lack of “spirit” and the apathy at BU. I invite them to come to Hinman and see what true spirit is: a college council which has 8% of our population as active, engaged members; our Co-Rec teams; Dorm Wars and Hysteria; Rockefeller Room and Bus Stop; our Semi-Formal; HPC; our volunteer and carnival rides; Bandemonium; our great RA and RD staffs and E-Boards; Tamara [Clark]; the office staff; RLA’s; Fellows and Student Fellows. And on and on. What makes it all come together to make the sum greater than its parts is the willingness of all the constituencies of Hinman to work together as a true community.

For this project Nick Sterling would comment on his time in Hinman and some of his favorite memories of his time in Hinman.

It’s hard to pick out any one memory. Everything was just so interesting. It was outstanding to get out of the Lecture Hall and into the community. It was a different life experience. There I could be friends with the students. In the Lecture Hall I was always Professor Sterling, but in Hinman I was Nick. I treasured that kind of experience. It’s a very warm relationship that you have in the residence halls.

These brief quotations from the people who interacted with him scarcely do the man justice. Nick Sterling was a tremendous presence in Hinman College, a presence that spanned two different decades. He was also a man who cared very deeply and affectionately about his students and especially about Hinmanites. Of all the Faculty Masters of Hinman College, it is Nick Sterling who holds an extra special and significant place of honor. While he may not have pioneered areas as previous Masters or offered many innovations to the position, the mentoring relationship that he had with his students has stood the test of time and is truly the definition by which all other Faculty Masters, regardless of which residential college they are in, judge themselves by.
Al Vos  
August 13, 1943-  
Years as Faculty Master: 1998-  

Alvin Paul Vos was born in 1943 in the small farming community of Pella, Iowa, where he lived with his parents. He had two brothers and a sister. There Al grew up on the classic Iowa farm. His family grew corn, soybeans, hay, oats and raised cows, hogs, sheep and chickens along with other crops and livestock. It was a very diversified farm. One of Al’s fondest memories from his childhood involves a team of plow horses that his father owned. At this time, agriculture in American was becoming more and more mechanized and tractors were rapidly replacing horses. Still, his father kept on a small team of plow horses which, even as a small child, Al would drive, though he likes to joke that the horses drove him more than he drove them. Today, the Vos family farm is a century farm, meaning that it has been in his family for a hundred years.\textsuperscript{mclxx}  

Al’s upbringing was deeply rooted in the farming community lifestyle and agriculture. To this day, Al still enjoys gardening and plants of all kinds. Al’s interest in agriculture almost prompted him to enroll in Iowa State University, which was predominantly an agricultural and tech school. However, Al wanted something more and became interested in Calvin College, a small liberal arts college in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Al was drawn to Calvin College because he had a cousin who went there who liked it. It was also a religious affiliated school which matched his denomination, but most importantly, it offered him a liberal arts education which he was more interested in than the more technical education he would have received at Iowa State University. While at Calvin College he took an English course with Stanley Wiersma, professor of English. This would be one of many English courses that Al would take with Wiersma, the man who is responsible for inspiring him to pursue a major in English. Also at Calvin College
Al began dating the woman who would be his future wife, Joyce. Al and Joyce’s mothers were friends and had known each other long before either one of them were born. Al and Joyce also went to the same high school, where they were something of academic rivals. They were members of the same graduating class, and Al would be valedictorian while Joyce would be salutatorian. Both of them wound up going to Calvin College and the two would marry in 1967 and have two daughters, Miriam and Sarah.\\n
Al graduated from Calvin College with his BA in English and went straight to graduate school at the University of Chicago. He was inspired to do doctoral level work by his old mentor at Calvin College, Stanley Wiersma. Al was awarded his PhD in English in 1971. After receiving his doctorate he began a nation-wide job search for a teaching position. He found that position in relatively young and almost unknown university at the time called SUNY Binghamton.\\n
While at Binghamton Al taught courses in Shakespeare, but he began to understand his real passion when he became the Undergraduate Director in the English Department. He held this post for about twelve years and he began to learn that he really enjoyed interacting with students at a personal level. He discovered that there was so much more to a student’s education than just what they learned in the classroom. Here he discovered that most of a student’s life was spent outside the classroom and that their experiences beyond typical academic instruction were just as important as regular classroom instruction.\\n
When a Faculty Master position opened up he saw this as the perfect next step in his goal of becoming more student-oriented. At the time, both the Mastership positions of Newing and Hinman Colleges were open. Al chose to pursue the position in Hinman College partly because he saw it as a better fit, but also because he knew Nick Sterling, who encouraged him to apply
for the position. Al became the fifth Faculty Master of Hinman in the Fall of 1998 after the retirement of Nick Sterling in the spring of that year.\textsuperscript{mclxxiv}

Al has seen many accomplishments during his time in Hinman. Early on in his tenure as Master, Al, with the help of Donna Denoncourt (the AD of Hinman at the time), reorganized the office space of Hinman. At the time, the HCC offices were located on the second floor of the Hinman Commons building. Al and Donna moved them to their present location in the Hinman Library. This was all part of an effort to create what they liked to call a “Hinman Hub.” The idea behind the Hinman Hub was to centralize all of Hinman’s vital services into one easily accessible area. At the time the Discovery Program (which created Discovery Assistants) was relatively new, so the Hinman Library became the Hinman Library and Discovery Center, an area where Hinman students could seek out resources on academics and career options and speak with a Discovery Assistant if they had any questions related to topics in those areas. Also in this area would be the central Hinman Office and the Faculty Master’s office. The hope was that by combining all these areas together within the collegiate center it would create a magnet area for all of Hinman and not just a place but a center of activity. This action on his part helped to strengthen the Hinman collegiate center. Al was also Master when the annual Co-Rec in the Park event began. Every summer Hinman alumni from all eras journey to Central Park to socialize and to play Co-Rec football. Co-Rec in the Park started in 2001 and has been going strong every since.\textsuperscript{mclxxv}

One of Al’s proudest achievements of his career in Hinman has been his role in the development of the Area-Based Courses (ABC Courses). Al was responsible for developing this idea. In ABC Courses students from the same residential college take the same class together in a small setting. For example, Hinman ABC Courses are only available to Hinman students. The
classes are also kept small and each class only has about 25-30 students in it. The ABC Courses have all the benefits of a small class and have the extra advantage of having the students live in close proximity to each other. For the past seven years, Al has taught the “Literacies of Power” course to Hinman College freshmen. Here Al hopes not only to give first semester freshmen a good, solid foundation to build their college careers on, but also to initiate them into Hinman College.\textsuperscript{mclxxvi}

Al’s time in Hinman also saw the establishment of a new Hinman tradition: the founding of what can only be called Hinman’s Community Anthem. It all began in the Spring of 1998. Al was the Faculty Master-designate of Hinman College and was observing and helping out with that year’s Hysteria. Unfortunately, the weather for that year was miserable. It was raining buckets and the Hinman Quad had turned into a wet, muddy mess. Events that were supposed to occur were canceled and tempers were beginning to flair. Quibbling over even the smallest of things was beginning to occur and everyone was in a generally foul mood. Eric Landau was in charge of Hysteria that year and was also the disc jockey. In an attempt to brighten everyone’s spirits and salvage what little he could of Hinman Hysteria, Eric, in a stroke of brilliance, played Billy Joel’s “Piano Man” over the speakers. For reasons that can only be called miraculous, everyone’s mood almost immediately changed and everyone ran out into the quad and began sliding in the mud like in a baseball game. This was just what that year’s Hysteria needed. It broke the tension and released some of the frustrations that everyone was feeling. It helped to alleviate some of the ill-will that had been simmering beneath the surface in each of the participants. The symbolism of the moment was not lost on Al. The time that this occurred was nearing the evening and the lyrics to the chorus, “Sing us a song, you’re the piano man/sing us a song tonight/well we’re all in the mood for a melody/And you’re got us feeling alright” reflected
exactly what everyone needed that day. This would not be the only time that “Piano Man”
would be a part of a Hinman College activity. In the Fall of 2003, because of construction on the
Hinman Quad, Dorm Wars was held up on Sterling Field. As it neared the evening and as
everyone was milling around waiting for the judges to tally their scores and to announce who had
won that year, Al took the time to tell everyone present the story of Hysteria 1998 and the
significance of the song “Piano Man.” In what can only be called a perfect, picturesque Hinman
moment, “Piano Man” was once again played over the speakers and everyone present formed a
big circle, linked arms, sang the lyrics to the song, and swayed with the music. This author was
present for that moment and recalls it as being nothing sort of a magical moment which
represents exactly what the Spirit of Hinman is all about. What makes it even more amazing is
that earlier in the day, Al had scampered down the steep embankment of the hill and had torn his
Achilles tendon. He left Dorm Wars for a time, but returned and gave his oration in considerable
pain. He even had to get crutches afterwards. This is just one of many moments which show
exactly how dedicated Al has been to Hinman College. Ever since that windy, rainy and
miserable day in 1998, “Piano Man” has been a staple at many Hinman functions, from Pre-
services, to Dorm Wars and Hysterias, to Semi-Formals, to Hinman Commencement, almost
every Hinmanite has heard that song and knows it to be Hinman College’s Community
Anthem. mclxxvii

However, like all Hinman Faculty Masters that have come before him, perhaps Al’s most
long-lasting legacy is the impact that he has made upon his students. Valerie Potopsingh vividly
remembers her first encounter with Al. Valerie had been elected to the position of HCC Public
Affairs Vice President at the end of her freshman year and when she assumed the position Al
came right up to her and hugged her, even though the two barely knew one another. Even three
years after she graduated, Valerie had this to say about Al. “I still talk to him about every two
weeks. He’s so involved in all of Hinman’s events, not just Dorm Wars and Hysteria. Al is Mr.
Hinman.”
mclxxviii

Donna Lazarus also remembers the effect that Al had upon her. While she was in school,
er and a friend started a mock trial club and wound up competing in New York City and in
Kentucky. Al was instrumental in helping form the club and get funding from HCC for it. When
they went to Kentucky to compete, they arrived at the hotel and found a package waiting there
for them. It was from Al and Donna Denoncourt. That simple gesture reminded her just how
much Al and the rest of Hinman cared about them.
mclxxix

Michelle Grossman also recollects the profound impact that Al had on her. “Al was my
mentor, especially my senior year when I really felt I could open up to him. He’ll give you
honest advice…Can’t imagine Hinman without Al.” mclxxx Similarly, Jordan Peck also has fond
memories of Al, including the times when he was on the HCC E-Board and Al invited everyone
over to his house where he served up some of his world-famous spiedies and pumpkin
cheesecake. Jordan also remembers later on when he was President of the Student Association,
the big controversial issue at the time was moving the add/drop deadline up. This would mean
that students would have to add/drop a course much earlier in the semester than they previously
had to. Most of the faculty were for the move and argued that it would make it easier for them,
that courses would be more stable without students constantly adding or dropping the course up
until midterms. Jordan sat down with Al, who like the rest of the faculty, was in favor of moving
the add/drop deadline. However, instead of taking the attitude that students should just accept it
for their own good, Al actually took the time to explain to Jordan why he thought it would be
This is just one of many examples showing that Al has always had the best interest of the student at heart.

Eric Kurs-Lasky remembers one of his first college classes, the “Literacies of Power” course taught by Al Vos. He was immediately struck by the innovative approach Al took to teaching including holding classes outside, taking them on hikes to the Nature Preserve, and encouraging volunteer and community service work. He also remembers Al coming to the dining hall and having lunch with his students, something that no other professor has done. At first he was embarrassed, eating a greasy slice of pizza in front of one of his professors. Soon, however, his embarrassment faded and he became comfortable around Al. That night he excitedly called his parents and told them about this amazing professor that he had who ate lunch with his students. Eric credits Al with inspiring him to get involved in HCC and to become an RA.

Joshua Kittenplan has this as his favorite memory of Al:

My favorite Al Vos memory is that he and Joyce came to my wedding, as both my wife (a Smith Hall resident from 1993-1995, and a Binghamton graduate in 1997) and I maintain contact with him (he was her faculty advisor). Al is an eternal friend, a man I admire more than most anyone I have ever met because of his passion and his ability to make so many students over these years feel as though they are his personal friend. I am honored to have been among those who welcomed him as Faculty Master, even if he was an active faculty fellow in the years before. He is also my vital connection back to Binghamton and Hinman. If Al is at an HCC meeting, it’s like nothing has changed.

Similarly, Sharon Kowalsky has this to say about the impact that Al Vos has had on her:

When I was a pre-frosh and I was at orientation, I took a tour of Hinman because I knew that was where I was going to live. I also knew that I was going to be an English major, so when Al, who was part of the tour, mentioned that he was an English Department adviser, I sought him out to ask him questions about both Hinman and Binghamton. There was a line to talk to him, so I stood in the back and sort of listened to other people for a while before asking my question: in his experience, did a lot of people have trouble adjusting? He said that it depends on the person and that no one is comfortable at first, but after a while, Hinman starts to feel like home and college feels like a well-worn pair
of shoes.

Al was always the go-to person when it came to working out problems with HPC in relation to Hinman or even as a general adviser to problems we needed to work out within the company. As a small organization, we tried to hold fast to the rules of our constitution, even if it meant kicking out members who didn't comply with our constitution. He was always a great person to talk to when you needed advice on anything.\textsuperscript{mclxxxiv}

Tara Stevens also has many wonderful memories of her time with Al. One of her fondest memories of her time in Hinman was when the Hinman Fellows planned a “Snow Day” program one winter. Although the turnout was relatively small, Al was present and she’ll always remember him sledding down the hill by Mountainview College and of him rolling up snow to make a snowman. She also had this to say about the relationship they had:

If I had to choose one mentor from my college years, it would undoubtedly be Al Vos. There is not enough anyone can say to capture what Al means to both Hinman and the students he takes under his wing. He seems to have boundless energy and compassion for Hinmanites and I can't adequately express his significance to my growth as a student and as a person. Al is still the first person I email when I need advice. In a world where we leave home and our parents for the first time, he is a grounding force and a constant for students who may otherwise be adrift.

Al helped me through difficult times at school; let's just say I was not always the model resident and, although I always meant well, I think I may have caused a few headaches in residential life (what do you do with a DA who gets written up before she even starts?). He helps me now as I try to determine what my life path should be and I am so grateful for his steady guidance and support. Al opens his life to his students and he makes it so easy for us to reciprocate.\textsuperscript{mclxxv}

These are just a few of the many, many students over the years who have been inspired and mentored by Al Vos. Al has continued the tradition of all the previous Faculty Masters and has mentored and encouraged many of Hinman’s students to get involved in Hinman but also to strive to reach their goals and their ambitions. This author can say that beyond a doubt that of all the faculty members that are on this campus, Al Vos is the most dedicated and passionate about his work.
Students are not the only ones who have been inspired by Al. Some of his colleagues also cite their appreciation for him. Dr. Francis Newman had this to say about Al Vos.

Al comes from a very spiritual, Midwestern background. He loves being Master. He’d be a minister if he weren’t a Master. He does it [the Master position] because he believes in it. Every year we ask him if he’d like to go and be a chaperone with the English Department’s Semester in London Program and every year he gives an excuse about why he can’t go. The real reason he doesn’t do the program is because he likes being Master so much.mclxxxvi

Al’s predecessor as Faculty Master of Hinman, Nick Sterling, also commented on Al’s commitment to students and to Hinmanites.

Al has brought more academics into the residential colleges. Al was instrumental in establishing the Discovery Program at Binghamton and I think that’s just a wonderful idea. I think it’s great that there’s more academics in the colleges because it’s something that students need and Al was the driving force behind all that.mclxxxvii

As has been seen, Al has touched the lives of more people than he possibly could imagine. However, he has this to say about his experiences as Faculty Master of Hinman College.

Being Faculty Master has made me a heretic. What I mean by that is this: professors are supposed to believe that classroom experiences are the most important experiences a student will have while in college. Since I’ve become Master, I’ve been converted to the doctrine that more is learned outside of the classroom. So you could say that now I’m a happy heretic.mclxxxviii

Heretic or not, Al has contributed more than he could possibly imagine to Hinman College. Not only has he continued the great traditions passed down to him by past Faculty Masters, but he also has pioneered new and innovative ideas to bring Hinman into the New Millennium and ensure that it remains a great and vibrant community well into the future.
Conclusion

To become a Faculty Master at Binghamton University, you must first be a tenured faculty member (which typically means having taught at the university for at least six years). However, it takes far more than that to be a true Faculty Master, one who exhibits all the qualities and characteristics that help to inspire students to achieve and to succeed both inside and outside of the classroom. Being Faculty Master also means having to make sacrifices. No other professors on campus commit as much time to their students as the Masters do. No other professors go to community programs with such frequency as Masters do or eat in the dining halls as regularly as the Masters. No other professors stay up for hours on end to be present and give reports at area government meetings and it is almost assured that no other professors have as close a relationship to their students as the Faculty Masters do. Though many of the other residential colleges have had great Faculty Masters, it seems as though Hinman College has been blessed with having some of the very best in its forty year history. The five men who have had the title of Master of Hinman have built up a legacy that has withstood the test of time and has inspired countless numbers of their students to go on and do great things with their lives both during and after their college careers.

In 2007, Nick Sterling had this to say when asked what the definition of being Faculty Master of Hinman College was.

Being a Master is being a friend, a confidant and an advisor to students. You help bridge the gaps between academics and the residence halls. That was the essence of my job. It’s also helping student government and student groups. It’s about passing on advice and experience to students.\textsuperscript{mclxxxix}

Also in 2007, Al Vos had this to say on what he considered to be the definition of Hinman College Faculty Master,
Increasingly people have seen me as a father figure of Hinman. I see myself as a figure nurturing Hinman leaders and talent. I see myself as a talent-scout and a community builder. My whole time here I try to cultivate and preserve Hinman Community, Hinman Spirit, Hinman Family, Hinman Pride, and Hinman Tradition. Being a Faculty Master is about creating and developing those five things.

All of these are appropriate definitions of what it means to be a Faculty Master. However, perhaps the position is best described in this way. The 1998-1999 Roosevelt Hall staff made Al Vos a poster for his very first Faculty Master Appreciation Day. On that poster they wrote all the things that Al had brought to Hinman. They were: Friendliness, Advice, (being a) Role Model, (always having) An Open Door, Ideas, Knowledge, and Spirit. Although this poster was given to Al Vos to represent what he brought to Hinman, all these things have been characteristics of each of the Faculty Masters of Hinman.

The Faculty Master position at Binghamton has changed a great deal since it was introduced in the 1960’s. Originally, Masters handled almost everything in the residential colleges including hiring staff, setting budgets, and disciplining students. However, starting in the mid-1970’s with the centralization of Residential Life at SUNY Binghamton and continuing into the late 1980’s, the Masters lost much of their power with regard to those aspects of their job. However, one thing that has not changed and has been constant throughout is their willingness and their passion to mentor and to be positive role models and influences on their students. To be a Faculty Master at Binghamton is make the ultimate commitment to students and no where else is this more evident than in Hinman College. These men have truly gone above and beyond the call of duty and have made profound and lasting impacts. From Pete Gruber’s pioneering and foundation-laying efforts, to Vito Sinisi’s efforts to protect collegiate structure and establish time-tested traditions, to Al Haber’s sense of humor and mentoring effects, to Nick Sterling’s relationship building and social activities, and Al Vos’s continuation
of traditions and commitment to innovation, each and every one of them deserves a place of
honor in the history of Hinman College for their undying love for their jobs, their students, and
the Hinman Spirit.

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What Hinman Means to Me: Voices of the Past, Present and Future

"You may forget but
Let me tell you
this: someone in
some future time
will think of us.

-Sappho (Ancient Greek poet, 630-570 BC)

“It was an experiential kind of thing. It is a collection of students living together in five residence halls. It’s the experience of watching these young people develop and watching their talent grow. It’s watching them go off into the world and be successful and to see that over and over again. It’s separate from the academic side of things. It’s a living experience.”

-Nick Sterling
Faculty Master of Hinman College

“I got into Residential Life late in life. Hinman was my introduction to real Residential Life and how it works. It made me realize that this was the career for me. Hinman has been and always will be my introduction to Residential Life, not dorm life. It showed me that I can be an educator without having to be in the classroom. It taught me social skills. It showed me that I could be an educator, but a different kind.”

-Rene Coderre
Coordinator of Hinman College
1985-1990

“Hinman was a place where I felt comfortable. It was a new environment. People wanted to stay there and grow up together.”

-Jeff Horowitz
Class of 1994

“When I think of Hinman I think of the conversations I used to have with [Faculty Master] Al Haber. I used to ask him the question, “What is home?” I found that the answer was that Hinman was home. When you go away to college or another place you leave home. When I went away [to Binghamton] my mom went to Florida so I really couldn’t go home. I spent seven years of my life here. I stayed and I’m very glad that I stayed. Hinman was my home. Where else can you live with the people that you love for four years?”

-Adam Brown
Class of 1986 (BA)
Class of 1989 (MA)
RD Roosevelt Hall 1986-1989
“Hinman gave me a chance. It was the foundation of my professional career. It allowed me to explore and be creative. I felt that my accomplishments brought something to the college—that I made the students’ four years of college better. I learned a lot from my time there. A lot of it I still use today. Personally and professionally it was very important. Hinman took a chance on me and I just hope that I was able to give something back.”

-Robert F. Giomi  
Director of Social Services  
Director of Academic Services  
Head Resident of Lehman Hall  
Creator of Co-Rec Football  
Creator of HLT and Hinman Follies  
Creator of the Hinman Halitosis  
Creator of the Dynamo Yearbook  
Involved in Hinman from 1970-1978

“Hinman is community. It’s given me opportunity even as a freshman.”

-Sara Pressberg  
Class of 2010

“I think I would say that Hinman was a community, that a lot of my great memories of college are associated with it. It was due to the people who lived there. It’s more than just a place to live.”

-Brent Landau  
Class of 1998

“Hinman to me is like a second family. Whether it’s eating at the dining hall, walking around the quad, or just walking up into my room there is always somebody around to speak to and catch up with. I don't think the other communities have people with those kinds of relationships, which make Hinman a very special place.”

-Matt Sagat  
Class of 2009

“Hinman was a fun place to live. It was a whole lot better than living off campus.”

-Eric Rubin  
Class of 1980

“Hinman was a home away from home. I think about family when I think about Hinman.”

-Valerie Potopsingh  
Class of 2004
“I started off in Hinman. I learned a lot in Hinman. It was my first professional job.”

-Maria Carra (Brasacchio)  
Assistant Coordinator of Hinman  
Resident Director of Lehman Hall  
1981-1985

“Hinman still remains the happiest place on earth. It’s more than just buildings, it’s a magical place.”

-Donna K. Lazarus  
Class of 2003

“Hinman was my home for five years. Still is to this very day. I still dream about trying to open my mailbox in the dining hall.”

-Scott-Robert Shenkman  
Class of 1989

“Hinman is a community that works. It’s large and offers a lot, but still small enough to be intimate. It works better than the other colleges at Binghamton. The suites, lounges, all of it contributed to that. You get to know your floormates. It’s very easy to meet the people around you.”

-Eric Pomerantz  
Class of 1979

“Hinman means a place where I can go and be surrounded by friends and people who support me.”

-Jill Bernstein  
Class of 2010

“People and memories are associated with the events that occurred in Hinman. It feels empty when I return because I don’t recognize anyone. It was the people who I was with at the time that made it a special place.”

-Peter Lorenzi  
Class of 1974

“Hinman is a huge family but a very tight family. It’s almost like it has the whole ‘I got your back’ notion to it. Whether it’s a current student or an alum you have that tie of family.”

-Scott Bennett  
RD Roosevelt Hall (1999-2001)
“Hinman will always be home. I became attached to it, to its people. It was an amazing time in my life. College in general and Hinman in particular creates a great opportunity to do whatever you want in your life.”

-Kristen Graffagino
Class of 1998

“It’s family, plain and simple.”

-Melanie Feltmate
Class of 2007

“Everything I’ve done in college somehow or another goes back to Hinman. We [Flo and Melanie] live off campus and we still come back.”

-Flo Varela
Class of 2007

“Hinman means Binghamton. It was the best thing that ever happened to me. Most of my memories of college are associated with Hinman. They’re associated with the people. I feel associated with Hinman, not my class. Academically it was wonderful. It allowed for personal growth, the life experiences I got, being able to explore and get leadership roles. It allowed you to do things with your peers. It gave me the chance to interact with students, faculty, and even the administration. President Clark knew me by name, because of my position in Hinman. It was the center of my college activity. Hinman means my whole college experience.”

-Diane Castiglione (Fischer)
Class of 1982

“Hinman to me is a home away from home. My friends here are as close as family. As a community Hinman is a building block for the rest of my college career. I couldn’t imagine what my first year would be like without the tradition, opportunity and fun that Hinman has to offer.”

-Jennifer Ward
Class of 2010

“College is a time when you have total freedom. This was Hinman in the ’70’s. There was lots of support. People enjoyed each other in Hinman. It had a nice feel, a real laid back time full of warmth and tolerance. I really enjoyed my time in Hinman.”

-Gary Levine
Class of 1974
“It was my first time away from home. It had a family atmosphere. When I moved off campus I wanted to come back. It had a certain camaraderie to it. HLT, Follies, Co-Rec, meeting in the Commons, all of it was just a great time.”

-Steve Fialkoff
Class of 1976

“Hinman epitomizes my college career. I’m very excited when I get to go back to Binghamton but I’m even more excited because I get to come back to Hinman. It was the part of college that I loved the most.”

-Michelle Grossman
Class of 2006

“Hinman is your home away from home. All your friends are here. You get to know everyone. I don’t mind not going home. I dread every second that I get closer to graduation. The time we have here is special. I’ll never forget what it meant to me. Hinman is home. I commuted my freshman year. I could have done that all four years and been pretty much debt free. When I decided to move on campus and got placed in Hinman I loved being involved and knew that I just wanted to stay no matter what the cost. I can’t say enough how precious the time we have here is. You can’t put a value on it. I’ve had to work three to four jobs just to make ends meet and it’s going to make it harder to start my own life, but it was all worth it to be in Hinman.”

-Josh Delmage
Class of 2007

“Binghamton University has about 14,000 students in it. At first you’re just trying to meet other students and find your place. Hinman was a place where I found all that. When I first came I thought that Hinman would just be a place to live while I got my degree. What I earned was a family and a fiancé.”

-Vicki Wargo
Class of 2007

“Hinman was the greatest four years in my life. It was the one time in life I was able to pursue the things I really loved. It was my last chance to do theater. It was the last time I was able to play sports on a regular basis. I was the only person who loved the dining hall food. To this day Bob Giomi and the other people I was with in Hinman are ingrained into my memory. I haven’t spoken to many of them in years but I still remember them. To this day whenever someone says that they graduated from Binghamton, I ask if they were from Hinman.”

-Stan Goldberg
Class of 1975

“Hinman was a home away from home. It made a big university a little bit smaller. Hinman has everything that a family should have including the fights and the controversies. I’m always able
to compare Hinman to other colleges. It was the best because all the students were smart and spirited. HCC had the best turnout. It had great traditions and great innovation. Hinman people are still at the core of the Hinman experience which is that element of family.”

-Jordan Peck  
Class of 2006

“Hinman meant a lot to me. It meant meeting my future wife and my friends. It meant growing up. It meant education. It meant so much.”

-Reuben Labendz  
Class of 1990

“I have really enjoyed my first year of college. I attribute a lot of that to Hinman. It means more than just a three minute walk to class. The people I have met here and the experiences I have had, have really made Hinman a home away from home.

-Darlene Roygulchareon  
Class of 2010

“To me Hinman is like being in the mafia. Ever since I’ve been President of HCC, the RA’s let me get away with murder. People treat me with respect and ask for advice. But that’s anyone who has had a leadership role in Hinman. You get to have that sort of respect by being involved in Hinman. Being HCC President is like being the Godfather of Hinman.”

-Frankie Seeman  
Class of 2007

“We’re like an extended family. In 1995 when we all got back together it was like twenty years of being apart never happened. We talk to each other almost every week. The people that you met…that’s what was special about Hinman. You got more than a good education. That’s something I don’t think you really appreciate until years later.”

-Gary Rosen  
Class of 1976

“At our last reunion we toured Smith Hall. This guy from the administration came down to give us the tour. He was really polite and all dressed up in a suit and tie. When we asked him why he of all people was giving the tour he said that they [the administration] wanted to know why we kept coming back year after year. We really didn’t have a good answer for him. I said that it was the confluence of fortuitous circumstances. That wasn’t the answer he was hoping for but that was the truth. We weren’t the coolest people when we were in Hinman, that’s for sure, but everyone was really nice. Your college years are your formative years. You’re away from home but don’t have all the responsibility of an adult yet, so I guess you could say that you can have your cake and eat it too. That was our time in Hinman.”
“Hinman itself has taken on a personality all its own. HCC, Dorm Wars, Hysteria, are all part of that personality. I think of core groups with each of those activities. When I think of community I think of Hinman. Hinman has made Binghamton University smaller and we can make an impact on others. When I think of Hinman I think of all the friendships I’ve made along the way. In high school you can remove yourself and be completely anonymous. In college you unite with people around you and they see you at your best and worst and you see them at their best and worst. The people you live with are the people you learn with and play with. It gets people in their most raw moments. That’s where the passion and emotion come from. Hinman is like that summer camp where you do the same silly games every year and you complain about to no end…but yet you just keep coming back.”

Eric Kurs-Lasky
Class of 2007

“I love Hinman because it was a home. I could go to the Hinman Commons and Al, Peggy or Kristin would be there. Dim [Bernadel] was offered the senior speaker position at Hinman Commencement. He worked on that speech up until the very last minute. When he was done speaking I was hysterically crying because it was the culmination of all four years of college. Hinman is all about family. Everyone cares about you. Everyone loves Hinman because they’re involved in it.”

-Lynsay Satriano
Class of 2005

“A great experience overall. I do remember very clearly the first few times we had 75+ at a Council meeting. I’ll never forget how energized I felt watching more and more people engage in this process. I met a lot of great people at Binghamton, most in or through Hinman College. For me, it is the place where no matter what your interests were, you naturally made close associations with people, and developed the kind of relationships that you'll have for a lifetime.”

-Jonathan Capp
Class of 1992

“It’s hard to put that into words. I guess when I think of my overall experience at Binghamton, from living and working in Dickinson, to being off-campus, to living and working in Hinman, the latter stands out the most as the place that was my “home.” Can't say exactly why, but when I remember Binghamton, my first thought is Hinman.”

-Gabe Yankowitz
Class of 1971
Head Resident Cleveland Hall
1974-1977
“I really can't say what my favorite Hinman memory was. Not because I can't recall one, but because there are so many. There was a reason I lived there all four years, and applied (unsuccessfully) for an RD position to stay there while in grad school. It was my favorite place on campus. I found myself while living there. I went back regularly to visit friends still living there after moving off campus for graduate school. Whenever I went back to Binghamton to visit friends, I always drove on-campus and walked around Hinman. It's possible that alums of the other residential colleges feel the same way about their areas, but I wouldn't have lived anywhere else for anything. Just have to say that Hinman was four of the best years I can remember. I wouldn't have moved to one of the other colleges (Animal House-like Newing, preppy CITW, granola-eating Dickinson) for anything.”

-Jim Greenlees
Class of 1981

“My time in Hinman was a defining moment in my life. I met some of the best friends I have ever had there and many I am in touch with till this day. It was also essential in developing me as a person. I am not so sure if I lived in CIW, I would be who I am today because those experiences wouldn't have been available to me. I got involved in HCC because of being pushed through my RA, though other communities don't value public service the way Hinman does. I enjoyed HCC meetings, and the sense of camaraderie. When I was president and I would go through my file cabinets in my office and read about the years gone by, I knew I was part of something larger than myself, but it was comforting to know that what we did at that time was the same as what was done before us and that those who came after us would do the same. I also felt a responsibility to make sure all those traditions remained intact as my year was a big transition year because of Nick Sterling and Tamara Clark's departure in the same year.”

-Joshua Kittenplan
Class of 2000

“Even though I’m a freshman, Hinman has helped me grow so much as a person. As the incoming HCC President I hold new responsibility and hope to carry on the many wonderful traditions Hinman is built on.”

-Polina Yeliseyev
Class of 2010

“I know this is corny but I don't know if I can pick out just one favorite memory from Hinman; but I know without a doubt that my favorite memory of Binghamton is Hinman. It's the place where I made my best friends, felt like part of a family and grew into the person that I am today. It was my home away from home for four years and I have so many memories from Hinman that I will carry with me for a lifetime.”

-Lauren Losapio
Class of 2006
“Hinman and HPC specifically, were how I defined myself for the four years of college. If you ask Liza [Adelman], she will tell you that everyone began to know me by face and name because of my position with the company. James had laid a great foundation, and under my presidency, the organization grew to 10 times its original size that it was my freshmen year. It was a lot of hard work, a lot of patience and organization, and a lot of perseverance over all the little things that popped up. It was more than a full-time job; it was my life and became the most important thing to me at college. My senior year, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and Hinman became my safe-haven. The people (students, administration, even the office) were supportive and understanding. I don't know if I can really express what Hinman means to me, other than it was my family when I was away from my real family.”

- Sharon Kowalsky
Class of 2005

“When I say “Hinman,” my mind races to Vito Sinisi. It races to people like John and Heidi Kowalcyk. There were others. I can’t measure what I learned from them; I can only know how significant it was, and know how grateful I am.

When I say “Hinman” I see a muddy quad, my muddy sneakers, and a pair of jeans that were so stiff from dried mud that they almost cracked in half. Tackle football in the mud was great because no one could move fast enough for anyone to get hurt. Too slippery.

My mind sees the hill and the nature preserve, quiet, just out the window, a place where I walked many times alone.

My ears hear Brendan Sullivan calling me “Moto,” which came from the serial I had been writing in the Halitosis about the Moto Clan. I hear me calling out “Mr. Sullivan” the way Charles Laughton yelled out “Mr. Christian” in the movie, Mutiny on the Bounty.

I appreciated the diversity of the half of Roosevelt Hall known as the cooking dorm. Only there could anyone hear Claudette, who was from Jamaica, try to imitate the Three Stooges.

In high school, friends are seldom more than one year younger or older, Hinman made me realize that as young adults we were not merely thrown in with older kids in these dorms; we could be respected by them, and be friends. Hinman over the course of years was a revolving place. Upper classmen would move off-campus. Seniors graduated. Each passing semester brought new people, people who I had fun with, became close with. For two years after I left, I came back to visit. I really didn’t want to leave.

Hinman—all five buildings—brought meaningful people into my life. Because of the help I received from upper classmen, I have always tried to help those coming up behind me.

Hinman is the place where I grew up. It didn’t change me; it improved me.”

- Steven “Pudge” Meyer
Class of 1981
“I can't possibly pick a favorite Hinman memory. My fondest memories of college fall within Hinman territory. Whether it was piling into a dangerously overcrowded taxi to head to Cheers my freshman year, the competition of Co-Rec (which I played every semester) or just the hours spent idling in the dining hall, my minutes in Hinman were precious and far too few. Looking back as a recent grad, it is bittersweet to think of the life I led there. I was simply happy. Hinman means many things to me. Like a birthplace, Hinman will always be a kind of hometown. It's where the adult in me was formed and took shape. Hinman means community and more than that, it means family. It's comfortable and warm. Hinman also means responsibility; it is the first place I became a guiding force to others. Hinman is Co-Rec and Al, Dorm Wars and Hysteria. It is HCC and Hinman graduation and Halitosis. It is blood drives and study abroad fairs. It is painting the windows of Cleveland and proudly hanging our banner on events day. It is snippets of joy, memories that will last a lifetime. It is Donna and Kristin, Linda and Peggy, Mary Ann, and all the HCC E-Boards. It is Miss Cleveland competitions and snacks from the Nite Owl. I know I am sentimental, but Hinman was the heart of Binghamton for me. It was a refuge in tough times, and the core of my family away from home. I am proud to be from Hinman.”

-Tara Stevens
Class of 2006

“Hinman helped me form some lasting memories, and friendships that will stay with me forever.”

-William Khan
Class of 1991

“Hinman is more than a community. It’s a place where friends, traditions, and opportunity come together and many memories are created.”

-Amelia Simonson
Class of 2010

“I tell folks that what I loved about SUNY-B were the residential colleges. It meant that while you had the resources of the entire campus (library, computer center, gym, etc.) nearby, you had a "small college" feel within the residential college. Of the four available then, Hinman was the one which appealed to me most, so I'm glad I had the opportunity to live there! In my "Star Trek" story when the Enterprise was orbiting above SUNY-B they scanned all the residential colleges. One seemed to be hidden away in the woods as if the residents were ashamed to be there (CIW). One had life but no intelligence (Newing); another intelligence but no life (Dickinson). That's how the Enterprise crew chose Hinman.”

-Tony Toluba
Class of 1979 (BA)
Class of 1981 (MA)
“I think Hinman is synonymous with “involvement.” There is something about the community that attracts students who genuinely want to take an active part in their college life. I’ve had some residents that could care less about being involved, but the large majority of my residents did care. I’d see it out on the quad during Dorm Wars and Hysteria. My first week in Hinman there was a program in the Commons—I can’t quite remember what it was, some kind of a social or dance, but EVERY RA that was there came up to me and introduced themselves, as well as HCC members. I felt very welcome I think that had a lot to do with the kind of community it was and still is.”

-Jason Bajor
Class of 2001

“Hinman means ‘college’ to me. Yes, I worked hard at my courses, and started my career in Art History and museum work, but it was all the activities in Hinman that left its mark. It was the people, some who I still stay in touch and will always love (even the ones I have lost touch with) that are everything. If I could snap my fingers and have one day back on stage or on the football field in ‘74-‘75 with all those people I would do it in a heartbeat.”

-Janet Krulick
Class of 1975

“Hinman is the place where I realized it's OK to be me, the place where I found myself, the place where I met the girls that will be bridesmaids at my wedding. When I went away to school, I was so determined that college would never be my home; but I was wrong. Roosevelt, and Hinman, was my home, and I miss it dearly.”

-Amy Forgacs
Class of 2003 (BA)
Class of 2005 (MPA)

“To me Hinman means five things. It means Hinman Community, Hinman Spirit, Hinman Family, Hinman Pride, and Hinman Traditions. I see myself as a talent scout and a community builder and nothing makes me happier than seeing my students (especially those from my Literacies of Power course) take leadership positions in Hinman.”

-Al Vos
Faculty Master of Hinman College
1998-Present

After speaking with me for close to two hours, with him dominating almost the entire conversation, Jarrod Bagatell (Class of 1989) one of the most influential Hinman RA’s of his era and as fine a gentleman as ever I have spoken with, had, in the opinion of this author, the best answer to the question “What does Hinman mean to you?”
(After a long pause) “Wow...I'm speechless. (Another long pause) Nothing has ever done that to me before.”

-Jarrod Bagatell
Class of 1989
Epilogue

The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.

-Mitch Albom

April 30, 2007 was a Monday, and Monday night means trivia night. Everyone who knows me will tell you that I’m a trivia fanatic. My lifelong ambition for as long as I can remember (we’re talking about since age 5, maybe even younger) has been to appear as a contestant on Jeopardy! Every Monday night, I and a small group of friends go to Cyber Café West, a local watering hole on Main Street in Binghamton to play team trivia. For the better part of two years, this small group of friends, which includes my roommate from my freshman and sophomore years, Hu Huang, and a former suitemate, Eric Brown, compete against other teams in one of the most challenging weekly trivia competitions that I have ever known. Both Eric and Hu were two-year residents of Hinman. We all lived in suite 126 of Roosevelt Hall and that’s how we all met. This night in particular most of the regulars who come to play trivia with us couldn’t make it. That night only myself, Eric and our mutual friend Molly Ariotti were the ones playing trivia. Molly is a denizen of College-in-the-Woods. Early on in the year I had mentioned to Molly that I had been writing the history of Hinman College. Over the course of the year she would ask about my progress and I would keep her informed. This night she happened to ask me what page I was up to. At this point in time I had lost track of how many pages I had written, but the rough estimate was close to 700 double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins on Microsoft Word. Molly was flabbergasted when I told her my estimate for the page count and was even more astonished when I told her that I wasn’t quite done yet, that I still had a few more chapters to finalize before the project would be complete. Molly then proceeded to flash me one of her trademark smiles and went on to say, “Come on,
Brent. There honestly can’t be that much to say about Hinman. And besides, why would you want to write all that?” I replied with the answer that after spending hours in the library and the archives researching the history, and after communicating by phone and email with alumni that I felt that I owed it to them to make sure the story was told right. An indescribable twinkle sparkled in her eyes, and once again Molly smiled then scoffed, “Ok, but seriously, I’ve lived in CIW my entire time here and I don’t feel that way about it. I like living in CIW, but I’d never want to commit the amount of time that you have to writing the history of it.” We didn’t win trivia that night, though we did alright, coming back from a large deficit and getting the final answer right. In my mind, the night was a victory for our team, “The Vegan Drapes.” The origins of our team trivia name would take a chapter in and of itself to explain, though anyone who has ever played competitive team trivia can tell you that the team trivia names rival Co-Rec team names for raunchiness and sexual innuendo.

For a long while after that I began thinking a lot about what Molly said to me that night. Had what I’d been doing for my entire senior year been worthwhile? Was Hinman really that important to write over 700 pages about? In the process of writing this history, had I missed out on my college experience? These questions haunted me for a great deal of time afterwards. I began to ponder my situation. While I had been writing Hinman history, others that I had known were off creating their own. While I had been dutifully jotting down the exploits of others, I had been accumulating few if any of my own. I came to the conclusion that Hinman College is a cruel mistress. Like the Old Testament interpretations of the divine spirit, Hinman giveth and Hinman can taketh away. Had it all been worth it, I asked myself late at night, wracked with insomnia? Had what I been doing for the past nine months been meaningful in the least?
The more I thought about it the more I began to despise my situation and the more I began to resent Hinman College for what it had done to me. How dare these five buildings of brick and mortar take up so much of my life. How did it all happen? One day I came in like any other college student, carefree and full of freedom, and seemingly overnight I had more responsibility than I could handle thrust upon me and my liberty greatly restricted. I saw my friends go out on Friday and Saturday nights when I was stuck in the building with weekend RA duties. I saw them playing catch out in the sun while I was stuck in the archives. I saw people growing up, living, loving, while I was hacking away at my keyboard until the wee small hours of the morning. Yes, Roosevelt Hall may have won Hinman Hysteria for an unprecedented three years in a row, but the only tangible reward I had gotten out of it was a nasty sinus infection (most likely from the late nights working on the banner, the early mornings preparing for the song and skit, the numerous afternoons spent out in the elements playing the various sports, and all the stress and heartache of trying to get everyone out and involved). The more I examined the situation I began to think that Hinman had done very little for me. Here I was a graduating senior with no job, no girlfriend, no future prospects, a scrap of paper with Binghamton University insignia on it designating that I was getting my BA in History, and a gigantic stack of papers telling stories that I began to wonder if anyone would want to read, documenting the history of a place that few if any would care about. It was at this point in time that anger and resentment overtook me. I came to the conclusion that I hated Hinman College.

I hated this college with a passion. For four years it had denied me everything that I had wanted. If I were a regular college student I would have moved off campus at some point in time or another and I wouldn’t have had to deal with all the hassles and stress of living in a residence hall. I wouldn’t have had to sit through grossly inefficient and interminably long HCC meetings.
I wouldn’t have had to play a foolish sport where only girls are allowed to throw the football. I wouldn’t have had to waste precious time reviewing HPC plays because I knew that no one else would do it. I wouldn’t have had to spend innumerable hours in the Hinman Library/Discovery Center filling up that godforsaken printer with paper every time it ran out (even after I ceased being a Discovery Assistant I still have to perform this function from time to time). I wouldn’t have had to stay up late at night helping my residents prepare for HCC sweeps, or help them figure out their classes for the next semester, or help them with roommate conflicts, girlfriend/boyfriend problems, family squabbles, drug and alcohol problems, and a host of other issues, the only reward of which was my own room, which I would have gotten anyway if I had moved off campus. I began to hate every single alum with whom I had spoken, for telling me that this was the best four years of their lives, that by the simple fact of living within what I now viewed as nothing more than forty-year old tenements their lives had been better off. What did those old fogies know anyway? For a while I felt this way. For a while I had lost my faith and began to wonder if these past four years had been just a cruel joke, if they had been nothing more than a terrible miscalculation on my part, and if I had squandered what should have been the best years of my life.

Then I began to stop and reflect, and only what I can describe as a religious epiphany and a reaffirmation of my beliefs took place took place within me. For a brief moment the past four years of my life flashed before my eyes. I remembered the day when I first came to Hinman, when I first checked into Roosevelt Hall and met Hu, my roommate and the person who I consider to be one of the best friends that I have ever had. I remembered meeting my suitemate Kevin Clark, the man who gave me my nickname “Gooch.” To this day if you walk about Hinman and ask people if they know who Brent Gotsch is, most will shrug their shoulders and
not know who you’re talking about. If you ask them if they know Gooch, then everyone, from fifth year seniors all the way down to freshmen know precisely who you’re referring to.

I remembered the late night conversations I would have with Eric Mazurkewitz, Brian Forster, and Steve Ni, my suite and floormates in Roosevelt and the times that we belted out Clay Aiken’s “Invisible” just for the fun of it. I remembered Valerie Potopsingh, my RA my freshman year, introducing me (as Gooch) to Al Vos at lunch one day, a meeting that would change my life forever. I remembered Amy Forgacs, another RA from freshman year, who had lived in Roosevelt for five consecutive years, more than anyone else in Hinman history, taking me under her wing and helping me through more difficult times in my life than I can count.

I remembered when I applied to be the Discovery Assistant in Roosevelt Hall my sophomore year and having Lauren Losapio (my RA at the time and future staff member) say to me after I asked her for a recommendation, “Gooch, I want you on my staff.” She didn’t say “go ahead, give it a shot,” or even “sure, I think you’d make a good candidate.” She said, “I want you on my staff.” To this day that statement and simple action on her part has meant so much to me not only because it got me where I am today but also because of the genuineness of the way she said it. I owe her more than I could ever possibly repay.

I remembered meeting Eric Kurs-Lasky for the first time, complete with broken hand but far more of an athlete than I ever would dream of being and the person who would inspire me to reach goals I never thought possible. I remembered when he let me borrow his shoes for the date auction. I remembered all the times we would hang out in his suite playing Taboo with residents in the building. I remembered when with another broken hand he led the Co-Rec team to a championship victory, continuing the legacy that Bob Giomi started in 1971. I remembered all the conversations we’d have about the future and our places in it, the end result being that I
always felt better about myself. This past year especially, when I started working on this project and opened up a Pandora’s Box, Eric gave me hope, something that has sustained me when I was wracked with confusion and self-doubt.

I remembered Michelle Grossman practicing tap dancing in the hallways of Roosevelt and sitting with her friend Jody at the high tables in the Hinman Dining Hall for hours on end, but always stopping you to say hello as you passed by. I remembered her bringing her tours into my room each and every weekend and each of us each finding a new way to mess with the prospective students. I remembered her dressing me up to perform in the 2006 Miss Roosevelt Competition and teaching me all the moves to the song and dance routine from “Saved by the Bell.” She gave me the gift of laughter, something which warms my heart to this very day.

I remembered soft-spoken Yachao Zhang dropping everything including studying for her MCAT exam so we could go collect cans for the canned food drive (we came in first place in that event). I remembered staying up all night with her to help finish the banners for Dorm Wars and Hysteria. I remembered helping her set up for the “Lunar New Year” program, by far the best program that we’ve ever had in Roosevelt and one of the best I’ve ever seen in all of Hinman. Her simplicity, courage and strength has been a model that I will always try to emulate.

I remembered jumping out of the “Books for Africa” box when all of us were bored one night and scaring the living daylights out unsuspecting residents. I remembered the long nights in the RA office with my staff members shooting the breeze, talking about every conceivable topic under the sun and never, ever getting sick of one another’s company. I remembered when two of my freshman E-Board members got elected as officers in HCC, when one was selected as a DA, and when three of my residents became Hinman RA’s (one of which is following in my footsteps as Roosevelt Hall RA) and made me the proudest senior Hinman RA in the world.
I remembered the Co-Rec games, every Dorm Wars and Hysteria, every HCC meeting, every trip to the dining hall, every late night run to Wal-Mart, every excursion to the Nite Owl, every moment of bonding and camaraderie. I remembered all of it. I remembered the good times and the bad, and there were bad times, a fair number of them in fact. But I then began to realize that the good far outweighed the bad.

I began to realize that though the story of my time here in Hinman may not be as exciting or even as important as some of the others that have passed before me, it is a story nonetheless. I also realized that the story of Hinman does not end with the writing that I have jotted down upon these pages, that it truly is a never-ending story, always changing, always evolving, always entering a new chapter, but always interconnected. Everyone who has ever lived in Hinman has been a part of this story of Hinman College and we all have a role to play in it, a responsibility to it to make sure that the past is honored and that the future of this place is secure. And that’s what it had all been about. My story had been the act of writing down these words, to tell the stories so that they may be preserved for future generations. That was my task, and that was the destiny that had been laid out for me.

Destiny has a funny way of working things out. Never in a million years would I have thought that I would become this involved and this invested in a residential college. But it seemed as though from day one here fate had tipped its hand and had maneuvered me into this position. I had taken a class with Allan Eller (long before I knew his involvement in Hinman) and decided to take another class with him because I liked his teaching style. Tragically, that was right before his horseback riding accident. However, his replacement was Dr. Francis Newman, one of the men chiefly responsible for the Colville Report and bringing collegiate structure to SUNY Binghamton. If I had never taken that class with Allan Eller I never would
have taken a class with Francis Newman and that part of the history to this day may never have been known. This was not the only example of destiny playing a part in my life. Chris Cullinane, a former RD of Hughes Hall, current Associate Director of Residential Life, and a Hinman Fellow, told me to speak with his fellow Residential Life staffer, Rene Coderre, who led me to Adam Brown who led me to Jarrod Bagatell, the man who would lead me to the family of Al Haber. If it wasn’t for those connections I may never have been able to write that section on Al Haber in the chapter on Faculty Masters. The loads of paper in the archives, all the meticulously filed back issues of the *Hinman Halitosis* and *Dynamo* were laid out there for me, as though someone, in some past time, knew that they were important and that it was only a matter of time before they saw the light of day. These are but a few examples of destiny showing its hand, a new faith that I now totally and whole heartedly believe in.

Throughout this whole document I have been trying to understand what the meaning of Hinman is all about, to understand its unique spirit and why it has meant so much to so many people over the course of its forty year history. It took 700 pages and countless hours of research and writing and I still am unable to figure out what the Spirit of Hinman is all about. I don’t think that I will ever be able to define the Hinman Spirit but I can answer the question of what Hinman means to me. In a nutshell, what Hinman means to me is everything.

Without Hinman I never would have gotten involved, I never would have become a presence in the community, and I never would have grown as an individual. If I never had become involved in Hinman, I would have been just another face in the crowd of Binghamton University. They say that it’s the premier public university of the northeast, and that may be true, but in my mind the real premier institution is Hinman College. Hinman has meant so very much to me. It has meant my growth and development and it has meant me finding the people.
whom I consider to be my best friends that I have ever had and whom I love with all my heart. Maybe that’s what it’s all about. It’s about the relationships, the passions, everything associated with humanity at its absolute best is what the meaning of Hinman is all about.

So, you may ask the question of me now, “Was it all worth it?” I’ll try to answer it this way. The reason that Molly isn’t writing a history of CIW isn’t because she has no passion. She’s a sophomore with enough credits to be considered a senior, she’s double-majoring in Geography and Political Science with a minor in French, she writes for *Pipe Dream*, is a member of the Ultimate Frisbee team, possesses a natural grace and intelligence that I have rarely seen in any one individual, and plays the violin in the orchestra on top of all that. No, I’d say Molly Ariotti has passion, especially when it comes to her music and performing in the orchestra. On a side note, Dr. Timothy Perry, the head of the Music Department and orchestra and his wife, Ute, are both Hinman Fellows. Just had to throw that in there. The reason Molly’s not writing a history of CIW is because her connection to that community is not as strong as mine is to Hinman. It’s not to say that CIW is not a fine residential college. It almost certainly is. What I’ve discovered though is that there is a reason why no one has written a history of CIW or Dickinson or Newing or Mountainview (which is really too young to have a history). The reason is that when you ask the people who live there, they say they like it but they don’t have that same passion. When you talk to people who live in Hinman they have something that the others don’t have: they have passion. Whether or not that is the reason why this community is considered so special and so unique by generations of students is unclear, but I think it is a big reason behind it. Hinmanites are special people. They keep coming back even years later. You don’t see that with people from other residential colleges. The reason Hinmanites keep coming back is passion.
My time in Hinman has ended. I’ll come back, no doubt, like many others before me, and walk along the quad. I’ll stop in the dining hall and sample some of its cuisine. I’ll meander into the Hinman Commons to catch the latest HPC play, to the Hinman Library to say hello to the office staff. I’ll stroll up to Sterling Field to take in a Co-Rec game, and of course I’ll return to Roosevelt Hall and commune with the spirits who still inhabit it. If those walls could only talk, what stories they’d tell. But the time that I’ve had here will never come again, not like it did when I was a student. The past is in the past. The awesome responsibility of Time will be left to someone else to take up, someone who comes after me to document the next forty years.

And perhaps, upon my return journey to Hinman, I’ll even run into some old faces who can say that they too now understand what the meaning of Hinman is all about—that they’ve discovered what I’ve discovered, that Hinman means different things to different people, but in the end it’s something unique and special. Maybe I’ll even see Molly, and though she may never be able to completely comprehend the Spirit of Hinman, I’ll know that I do, and in the end, that’s all that really matters.

Brent Gotsch
A.K.A. “Gooch”
Roosevelt Hall, Hinman College
May 2007