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Title: 396 Campus Folklore Collection

About the Author: I love Life!

Keywords: Slang, Proverbs, Legends, Halloween Traditions, Unofficial Saint Patrick's Day Research (USPD)

Abstract:

Mapping/landscape project:

Slang/ Folk speech project: Gregory McClendon October 2, 2008 SpComm 396 Assignment #2 [Folk Speech Assignment](#) The following slang terms/phrases are ones that me and my friends use in everyday conversation: 1. Shorty-n-small child; adolescent 2. Wasted-adj-extremely intoxicated 3. Crib-n-place of dwelling 4. Whip-n-vehicle 5. "he is a beast"-adj-describing a good athlete that can not be stopped 6. Dangler-n-male human being 7. Snitch-n-a person who tells on another; tattle-tale 8. "the potle"-n-Chipotle burrito restaurant 9. Drapes-n-long hair 10. Petro-n-gasoline 11. Bitch-n-a non-derogatory pronoun used between friends; derogatory term used to downgrade another person; female dog 12. Snaps-n-money 13. Dough-n-money 14. Healthy-adj-slightly or moderately over weight 15. Fast-assed girl-n-a female that dresses, acts, or looks like a slut 16. Chilling-v-relaxing in a person's comfort zone 17. Wilding-v-acting crazy 18. Crunk-adj-displaying a lot of energy 19. Stuffed-adj-full from eating 20. "under the weather"-adj-sick; not feeling well Folk Speech College Students "Drapes" College Campus Fall 2008 The word "drapes" is a term that my friends and me use when we refer to people with long hair. I noticed this saying while talking with male friends about females. I soon found out that girls use this term when referring to other girls with long hair. This is an example of the word used in a sentence: Seth: Man her hair is pretty and long!!! Dez: Yeah man she has drapes The term "drapes" has been accepted in my network of friends as positive term to describe long hair. I first heard this term when I got to college and found that mostly people from Chicago used this term.

The term is used in relationship to drapes that hang from windows in a home. That is why people outside my friend network can understand this term. Gregory McClendon Age 21 SpComm 396 Folk Speech College Students "Healthy" College Campus Fall 2008 The adjective "healthy" is used to describe someone that is slightly overweight but not to the point where he/she is considered fat. My friends sometimes say that a person is "thick to the limit", which has the same meaning as healthy. I knew of this term growing up in Georgia because my family members used to say it all the time. I was surprised to Illinois and see that the term is used here too. An example of how this word is used would be: Sam: Hey look at her Grant. She ain't fat but she is healthy Grant: Yeah she one M&M away from being fat. The term can be understood by others easily. Someone who is healthy is not skinny but also not obese. From my experience people outside of my family and friends use this word and it is common with people in different cultures. Gregory McClendon Age 21 SpComm 396 Folk Speech College Students "Petro" College Campus Fall 2008 The word "petro" is a word that means gasoline. The word "petro" is short for petroleum, which is a key component in gasoline fuel. The term became more popular when the price of gasoline started to rise because my friends and me began to ask "who has money for petro", because gas was becoming expensive. It is interesting how economic changes or changes in one's life period can affect the use of slang by that person as it did to my friends and me in this case. The word originated with my friends and I back home in Georgia. I have yet to hear anyone in Illinois use this term and in fact I have not used the term since I came to the university in 2005. It is also interesting how a change in friends can influence the words you use or do not use as slang. Gregory McClendon Age 21 SpComm 396

Proverb project: Gregory McClendon October 14, 2008 [Proverb Assignment](#) 1. Kill two birds with one stone. – Getting two things done using one method or tool; shortening a process. 2. Idle hands are the devil's playground or An idle mind is the devil's workshop – If you do not keep

busy with things that you “should” be doing there is more room for things that you “shouldn’t” be doing to happen; the devil will have more of an ability to tempt you if you are not doing something worthwhile. 3. Don’t put all your eggs in one basket– –Don’t put your all or everything into one person or situation because if something happens you will be left with nothing; if the basket drops all of your eggs will most likely break 4. Every bird loves to hear himself sing– –Every “bird” or person enjoys the beauty of their own talent; an arrogant connotation. 5. Every dog has his day– – In this case “dog” is in a sense negative and animalistic, meaning what goes around comes around in a sense. 6. Faith will move mountains – If you have faith and trust in yourself and what you are attempting to do or accomplish it will not be as impossible as it may seem, like moving a mountain. 7. Finders keepers; losers weepers –If someone finds something that was lost by someone else it is now his or hers to keep while the “loser” cries for the loss 8. God helps them who help themselves –God will help an individual who tries and puts effort into life and the things they want, without completely expecting others to do it. 9. Opportunity seldom knocks twice – When you get a good opportunity take it because it may be the last time the opportunity arises. 10. Robbing Peter to pay Paul – Taking money (or anything) from one individual in order to give it to another; stealing from one to pay another. 11. There is more than one way to skin a cat –There are usually multiple solutions to one problem. 12. Turn the other cheek – When someone does something to you instead of trying to get back at them turn your cheek; ignore it forget about it. 13. When the cat is away the mice will play –When the person in charge is gone those beneath him will do as they please; play. Gregory McClendon Age 21 SpComm 396 Proverbs My Family “God help those that help themselves” College Campus Fall 2008 This is a proverb that my family used to say all the time especially my mother. My family is very religious and is also quoting things from the bible. This saying has carried me through my years of schooling and has really inspired me to keep pushing through tough times. The proverb is aimed at helping people help themselves first before praying to God and asking for a miracle with no

effort to help themselves. I first heard this term as a child and I have not heard it since I been to college. I realized that many college students do not go around citing proverbs all day so it is no surprise to why I haven't heard it. Gregory McClendon Age 21 SpComm 396 Proverbs My Family "There is more than one way to skin a cat" College Campus Fall 2008 This is a saying that was said a lot by my father as I was growing up. I can still hear him saying it in the back of my head because he said it so much. This proverb is supposed to mean that if you cannot figure out how to do something keep working at it because there is more than one solution to almost every problem. I think the reason why cat is used as the direct objective is because cats are known as sly sneaky animals and that represents the problem that is tricky in this proverb. I have heard this saying once or twice since I moved up here but it was been from older people who were well into there fifties. This is an old saying that is not popular among younger people due to the fact that everyone may not have heard this proverb before.

Gregory McClendon Age 21 SpComm 396 Proverbs My Family "When the cat is away the mice will play" College Campus Fall 2008 This proverb was said to me by one of my elementary school teachers. She had left the room and as soon as she did all the students began to act up and run around the classroom. She came back and yelled at everyone to sit down. Then she said, "Just because the mouse is away doesn't mean that the mice can play. That was the first time I heard it but not the last. It began to make more sense to me, as I got older. The cat is the authority figure and the mice are its subordinates. When the authority leaves the mice can do as they please. This proverb is very true and can be applied to grown real-life situations especially on the job. I have yet to her this saying since I been in college probably because it is aimed at smaller children to make them act right when no authority is around.

Legends/legends trip Introduction
project:

Legends are popular all around the world. More specifically, legends on college campuses have and always will be very common. Not only are their legends

for individual schools, but there are also legends for attending college in general. Legends are not only used for scare tactics, but also to find an interesting way to teach a group of people an important lesson. Many individuals are drawn in by legends, good or bad, which cause universities to have a sense of importance and history attached to their name. Individuals are also enthused by urban legends; therefore they will never lose their power.

Legend

There are many legends on the University of Illinois campus, but we chose to focus on one of the most interesting ones, The Halloween Massacre. The story arose in 1998 when a psychic supposedly appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show predicting that there will be a mass murder on a Big Ten campus. It was supposed to take place at an H-shaped dorm near a cemetery on Halloween night. All Big Ten universities were alarmed and prepared thinking that this might actually take place. There are different variations of this legend, which will be discussed in this essay.

This legend was supposedly based on the Richard Speck's murder of 8 student nurses in a Chicago rooming house back in 1968. Richard Speck who had been convicted for burglary and suspected of a previous murder of three other women, planned to break in the home of the 8 nurses just for a regular routine burglary. He then decided to kill the nurses that were there. Although he killed 8 there were 9 nurses at the house, one nurse was able to hide under the bed. He stabbed the nurses and strangled and raped one. The nurse that was able to hide got away and reports the murder of her friends and gave a description of Speck's.

This legend was able to be inspired by the movie Urban Legend. In relation to the acts that were done by Richard Speck the legends that were told in the movie were somewhat similar to the murder attacks. The movie was based on a college campus in a class that talked about legends that have been told from generations to

generations. We can connect the setting of the movie and the legends that were told to the Halloween Massacre prediction of one of the big ten universities 1998. The Urban Legends movie also came out the same year of the prediction. The main legend that was told in the movie was based on a professor killing 25 students in a dormitory and it was the 25 anniversary of the day it happened.

The main thing that these legends have in common is that they are based on a man that goes around killing everyone. Most legends we hear they are based on murders of many young students some male but most of them were female. The common weapon that is used is a knife or an axe. Although the murder seems to kill everyone, there is still one witness that seems to survive to tell the story and therefore keeps the legend alive which is then passed on from generations. As these stories are being passed down it tends to get switched up. Things such as the setting or how it happened would be changed but the main plot would be the same.

10 years later the same story has rekindled at this campus. A letter was found in the undergrad library stating that someone will shoot a person on Green Street on the night of Halloween. This threat has circulated all throughout campus and has scared plenty of people. Just as the previous legends we have talked about, the weapon that would be used is a knife or some axe like object. The school took precaution by heightening the awareness to students by sending mass emails, giving students more detail on security will look for and where to go that day. More security was around campus.

Even those who were coming to the football game were warned about the incident that was going to occur. Although nothing happened that day the story will be told by many students and may be passed on just as the previous story we hear on campus now from before. We can not be too sure on why someone wrote the note or if it was a type of prank, but the story could've been based on trying to recreate the legend of on campus. This story will then be told and passed on for generations, maybe

with different plots and settings of the story.

Primary Sources

Daily Illini

On October 27, 1998 the Daily Illini published the article "*Legend fuels massacre rumors*", which was about the prophecy of mass murders occurring at Pennsylvania Residence Hall. This rumor was started when allegedly a physic predicted murders on a Big Ten Campus in an area that was described as being very similar to PAR. The article also explained all the variations of the legend. It stated that the murderer was a crazed student, an escaped convict or a maintenance worker. It went on to say that the murder would be dressed in a Lil Bo peep. According to the article the weapon of choice is said to be an axe, knife, or hatchet. The murders would take place near a landmark such as a cemetery or gym in a letter shaped building. By the language used in this article, it is easy to tell that university officials were trying to sooth the fears of PAR and FAR residents by calling the rumor a hoax and saying that that Oprah showed never aired. But officials stated that they would still "take it seriously". By taking it serious, PAR and FAR were locked down that Halloween weekend according to the article. The South Area Coordinator of University Resident Halls was quoted in the article saying that taking precautions is normal; on any high risk weekend such as Homecoming or Halloween, residence halls tighten security. The end of the article is aimed at further soothing the fears of the students in PAR and FAR. The article states how RAs of the two dorms sent out e-mails to the residents explaining the legend and how it was just a legend. The Peabody Drive Area Coordinator was quoted in the article saying that this same rumor was big at Syracuse University in the fall of 1991. He said that his biggest fear is that this rumor doesn't "give someone an idea to do something horrible". All in all many students in that time period did not fully believe that the attacks would happen. The article stated that students at PAR brushed off the threat and one student was even quoted

calling the legend ridiculous.

Secondary Sources

Essay

In 2005 Annette Lesak, wrote an essay reporting on legends here at the University of Illinois. She explained the legend just as mentioned above. However, she guided her readers to visit snopes.com for different variations of the legend. There we found many ways in which this legend was changed. There were different reports on what physic actually made the prediction. First, the physic was said to be Jeanne Dixon, then when she died the story changed to “a physic”. There was no longer a specific name added attached to the legend. Another detail that varied was the television show where the prediction was supposedly made. The shows included Oprah Winfrey, Montel Williams, Joan Rivers, David Letterman, Phil Donahue, Johnny Carson, and Geraldo Rivera. Even the person who was expected to commit the murder varied. There was a person dressed as Little Bo Peep, an escaped convict, a crazy student, professor, and a maintenance working. The article also stated that some campuses made it illegal to dress as Little Bo Peep for Halloween because of this legend. The next varied detail was the expected number of victims. There was nine, ten, twelve, and twenty all reported to be murdered. The murder weapon was always some sharp object like a knife, or an axe.

The same article also talked about the ways that different campuses, including the University of Illinois, related the massacre to their campuses personally. There was everything from a campus or school that begun with a specific letter, a dorm that was a particular shape, or named after a particular person. For example, here at the University it was said to happen in an H-shaped dorm near a cemetery. There were other locations as well. The article stated that in older versions of the legend stated that it would occur in a freshman dorm, the largest dorm on campus, an all women’s dorm, or a sorority house.

More importantly, this article talks about folklorist Simon Bronner's thoughts, in his collection of campus folklore, on where this legend may have surfaced from. He stated "the coincidence of the rumors with the darkening fall season, the mistrust of the security of institutional life". Bronner basically feels that these legends come about because they are almost believable seeing that these dorms and universities are located in these scary and isolated areas, which makes it possible that anything could happen. He also discusses how students don't feel safe and see dorms as being open for anyone to get in, which also causes these legends to be somewhat plausible.

Story

I (Sharina Dean) , found it very surprising that my mom had some knowledge on this legend. She called and asked what I was doing and I explained to her that I was working on a project. She asked me to tell her more about it and I was glad I did!

She explained what she had heard about the legend:

"I visited your school in 2000 to take your cousin on a tour. Not only was our tour guide showing us important buildings on campus, but he also told us some interesting facts and legends about the University's campus. He explained that he wanted us to especially know about the legends on campus so that the children wouldn't base their decisions on rumors or legends. The story was that a psychic went on a talk show and stated that there will be a massacre at a Big Ten school on Halloween in an H-shaped dorm. He explained to us that the killers picked an H-shaped dorm to represent the H in Halloween. He told us that everyone living in a particular dorm (PAR) was terrified because apparently they met the qualifications of where this alleged massacre would occur.

Festival diary and analysis: Gregory McClendon SpComm 396 Festival Write-Up
Halloween and What it has Become This Halloween that just passed is like no other Halloween that I have seen. I have been on this campus for four Halloweens and this

one by far was the most celebrated. One interesting thing that I noticed was the difference between how college students celebrate the holiday and how older people in the community celebrate the holiday. One thing that can be compared is how the two different groups prepare for the event. Many adults who live in Champaign (excluding college students) decorate their houses with all sorts of spooky and eerie things such as ghosts hanging from trees or scarecrows dressed as a witch whom sits in the front yard. Many of these houses also had subtler decorations such as pumpkins or just orange and black streamers around the rooftop. If u compare this to college campus, you will see much less decorations. One reason may be that students don't usually live in the same houses as working adults and are restricted to a much smaller space because of the density of people that live in campus town. However I think the main reason is the mind set that these two different groups have about how the holiday should be observed. In the Jack Santino article entitled "Homemade Holidays" he addresses the idea of Halloween decorations in working class older adults by saying that the event of putting up decorations keeps that age group feeling "young and creative." In another Santino article called "Holidays in America" he says this, "Festivals such as Mardi Gras, New Years, and Halloween, people gather in crowds and engage in normally forbidden behavior...the festival is a time of license, when the rules of society are suspended or flouted." (Santino, 11) This last saying by Santino describes how college students celebrate the event. It is seen as a time in college students eyes where they can have fun and do something crazy and out of the ordinary without fear of getting into trouble. And this does not just go for college students but also for people who make money off of college students or simply associate themselves with college students around this time. For example, I work at a campus bar as a doorman and my boss informed me that Halloween night is the only time that we are allowed to let people in the bar without shirt or shoes on. Normally these patrons would not be allowed in the bar. Although I saw little homemade decorations such as costumes or house decorations, there was one area of homemade creativity that I saw

amongst younger people not just college students that had to do with haunted houses. Haunted houses were a big thing this Halloween in my opinion. You had the big elaborate haunted houses like the one in Springfield and Rantoul but what many people may not have known about was the smaller ones that were created by average everyday people. I know of two homemade haunted houses that were in operation right here in Champaign and one was actually one block off campus in Urbana. This new element of a traditional Halloween lets me know that this holiday is becoming a more popular event every year. One thing that I think was a staple to the Halloween experience this year was the use of costumes. There were many more people wearing costumes than in any other year before. One reason I think that more people wore costumes is where the holiday fell in relation to university academic requirements. The week before and the few days before Halloween was the midterm period and many students had tests or papers during this time. When Halloween came around most people were done and happy about having a little more freedom that they decided to celebrate the holiday being that they had completed their midterms. I heard many people say that was their reason for going out and buying costumes. Another reason is because people wanted to show off their creativity by wearing the most interesting or mysterious costume they could find. For example, I heard through one of my friends that there were multiple people that were going to dress up as targets for Halloween and walk down Green Street in correlation to the shooting that was expected Halloween weekend. Stoeltje had this to say about costumes in her article entitled "Festival", "Among the most dramatic symbols associated with festival are masks and costumes. They draw upon both the familiar and the strange but distinctly transform the human inside into a message barrier— carrying information that may be supernatural, exotic, condensed, bizarre, or mysterious in nature." (Stoeltje, 270) Many masks that people wear can scare you or mesmerize you even though you know it is just a mask and that there is a human behind it. I wore a mask to work on Halloween for this reason (and also because I didn't want anyone to see how mad I was to be working on Halloween). All in

all this was a Halloween to remember whether it was the costumes, the rowdiness without fear of consequences among students, or the expected shooting on Green Street. This Halloween, in my eyes, is the beginning of a holiday that is emerging as a very popular one at a rapid pace. Having said that, I want to leave you with a quote from Stoeltje in her “Festival” article, “Festival derives from experience; thus festival emphasizes the past. Yet festival happens in the present and for the present directed toward the future. Thus the new and different are legitimate dimensions of festival, contributing to its vitality.” (Stoeltje, 268) Beverly J. Stoeltje, “Festival” in Richard Bauman, *Folklore, Cultural Performances, and Popular Entertainments* (Oxford University Press: New York, 1992), 261–271 Jack Santino, “Holidays in America,” and “Homemade Holidays,” in *All Around the Year: Holidays and Celebrations in American Life* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press) pp. 1–46.

USPD research: Gregory McClendon SpComm 396 Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day: Black Greek Letter Organizations and Their Involvement The topic that I wanted to focus on for this project is how Black Greek Letter organizations, also known as sororities and fraternities, view St. Patrick’s Day and how this view may affect their participation or lack thereof. Through personal encounters, previous documentation, and interviews I will present not only the choices many Black Greeks on the University of Illinois campus have made to refuse participation in the event, but I will also highlight the capacity to which Black Greeks that do choose to participate practice. Upon entering the University I learned of the phenomenon known as Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day, at first glance it seemed to me to be just another excuse to get drunk and hang out with friends; which I must admit was very appealing and seemed like something worth either watching or experiencing. The more I heard about the activity the more accepted it began to seem. Bars had advertisements supporting the event with drink specials, and stores made paraphernalia for the event also (even franchise stores such as Wal-Mart and Target). As I began to become enthused about the event I realized there were many who opposed the idea of such a

“holiday,” for various reasons. For example, some found the day to be counterproductive with the school day since students often ditched class, while others found it to be dangerous. An article featured on the University website states, “Unofficial, which is not supported or condoned by the UI or the cities of Champaign or Urbana, attracts participants from other communities, and in past years has resulted in drunken people disrupting classes, vandalizing Foellinger Auditorium and Lincoln Hall, harassing pedestrians, interfering with vehicular traffic, and throwing trash in campus buildings and on the streets. The March 3, 2006 “Unofficial” celebration resulted in more than 100 arrests and the death of a 22-year-old alumna who was wearing an “Unofficial” T-shirt when she fell off a motorcycle and sustained fatal head injuries at the intersection of Wright and Healey streets in Champaign. Additionally, many found it to be racist and stereotypical. Due to controversy I elected not to take part in the event. Which brings me to the next year as a member of a Black Greek organization, with a new stance on the issue due to the ideas of my peers and reports of the campus community. During February 2008 the President of the Black Greek Council expressed her personal feelings about the event through an official email on Council letterhead, requesting all organizations understand the various discrepancies and the problems that could be created. The email states: “Greetings, members of Black Greek Council. Friday February 29, 2008 is Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day. As leaders and representatives of the Black Greek community, please be mindful of your organization’s purpose and high standards. I encourage each organization to set a positive example for your peers by partaking in or hosting safe and responsible activities and events. Please be sure that your organization has a plan in place to assist and respond to members who are excessively intoxicated, engaging in at risk behavior, or otherwise compromising their or others’ safety. Please do not wear any paraphernalia that affiliates your Greek letter with alcohol. Such a display reflects poorly not only on the Greek community as a whole, but also specifically on the Black Greek community. Furthermore, inappropriate behavior may

result in your organization going before the BGC Judicial Board or individuals being referred to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution. I am proud to state that unacceptable Greek representation during Unofficial St. Patrick's Day has not historically been an issue within the Black Greek community. I expect each organization to continue to uphold the standard set before us by promoting safety and being responsible leaders on campus." – Ebonie Davis, BGC President 2008 Although Davis did not completely discourage members of BGC not to take part in Unofficial in her letter she did highlight the repercussions that it could have on reputation, safety, and organizational respect. In 2007 there was controversy with two organizations over a party they held titled "Tacos and Tequila Party," this party was supposed to be themed around Hispanics and those in attendance came dressed as what is seen as "stereotypical" Latino characters. Many minorities found this to be disrespectful, racist, and extremely offensive due to the fact that not only were Latinos portrayed in a negative and stereotypical way but many things that take place in Latino culture were made fun of; for example the Mexican flag was used as costumes and decoration, and the Mother of Mary also. This party was heavily debated among the Black Greek Community, and they went through many efforts in order to fight against these types of "racist" interactions; Unofficial St. Patrick's day has the potential to present the same type of controversy for the Irish community. This is a strong reason why Davis and many others decided to either take a stance against the day, or inform individuals of the necessity to not affiliate their organization with the festivities or beliefs. This shows the seriousness and possible offensiveness of the event and the thoughts that many have expressed about it. In interviews with various members of the Black Greek Community I got many responses and ideas that are important to the topic of Unofficial. Dominique Thomas a member of a Black Greek Sorority and N.A.A.C.P President for the University stated: " It's not a holiday, even though it is supposed to celebrate St. Patrick's Day somehow... most people don't even know what there is to celebrate for they are just using it as an excuse to get drunk and buy cheap drinks. Besides that I

know that if Irish people knew everything that goes on a lot of them would be disappointed and maybe even hurt or offended.” When I asked Thomas how she felt this day effected the safety of our campus she responded “ I mean I remember how reckless students were being just in the streets not paying attention to traffic and risking getting hit; I’m sure the police stations get a ton of calls on that day and hospitals deal with a whole lot of alcohol poisoning; it has to be pricey for the city to afford.” Thomas is not far fetched in believing the dangers of Unofficial, an article on the University website states: “During “Unofficial” 2006, calls to Champaign police increased by 42 percent, with 157 calls in 2005 and 223 in 2006; calls to Urbana police increased by 57 percent, with 21 calls for service in 2005 and 33 in 2006.

Overtime costs for UI, city and state police and firefighters during “Unofficial” 2006 were nearly \$10,000, an increase of 47 percent over 2005. Clean-up costs increased 70 percent as well, reaching \$1,530 for the 2006 event, and losses from theft or destruction of city property totaled \$750.” I also interviewed Michael Boyd, a member of a Black Greek Fraternity, and vice-president for the Central Black Student Union. When I asked Mike how he felt about Unofficial he said: “ I don’t think that students mean harm by the day I do truly believe that they are just trying to have fun, but that is never an excuse for ignorance or to possibly offend someone. I think as adults we should consider all aspects and realize just because it is fun and widely accepted doesn’t mean it is necessarily right. I have taken part in it before I will admit, however, I did not always consider how people may feel which is what made me decide to stop, and what makes me say people should at least consider how others might feel. If you are going to do something know what it is you are doing, and with that you may just decide to lessen your involvement” Although Boyd didn’t seem as against the day as many others seemed to be he too acknowledges the controversy the day creates and highlights on the various ways to which people should be involved. Lastly I interviewed Rachel Pierce another member of Black Greek sorority and facilitator for many African-American campus programs such as homecoming and Cotton

Club. Rachel told me she “ didn’t always see the problem with it,” but went on to discuss her encounters and the capacity she has decided to participate in. “ I kind of thought people were just wanting to find something else to complain about, honestly I did it freshman year and sophomore year. I thought it was funny to watch so many people drunk for no reason, I will say that being in a Black Greek Organization has made me more conscious of my decisions which in turn has made me think twice about participation… I mean I didn’t last year. And now that I think about it, as funny as it may be it is really dangerous for so many people to be drunk at once. I know that students get drunk every weekend, and sometimes weekday but I guess you kind of have to consider the idea that on Unofficial it is way more than usual all at one time, which is a recipe for disaster.”

Pierce is clearly not completely against the “holiday,” but being in a BGC organization has made her think longer about participating and even effected her decision to do it a third year. It seems she has decided to sustain from the day for a few reasons, and does understand the danger now; maybe more so because of her peers within the BGC. Unofficial has proven to be controversial and largely up for debate, one group of people that this controversy affects is the Black Greek community. BGC as a majority has decided to either refuse participation or monitor the ways and methods that they do participate in. Through my personal encounters, past documentation, and current interviews the feelings of BGC can be seen in this paper. Individuals have the right to speech and freedom to act as they please, and although Unofficial may not affect some people, one group that have chosen to take a stance and be somewhat “affected” are the members of the Black student population, more specifically the Black Greek community. Forrest, Sharita, ed. "Campus, cities poll and plan for Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day ’07." News Bureau. 15 Feb. 2007. University of Illinois. 9 Dec. 2008 .