1. Collector: Lily O’Brien

Informants: Erika Roth and Megan McFarland

Handle: How Do You Fratlap?

Text: (Dialogue)

L-“How do you use the fratlap and why?”

M-“I love running or walking a frat lap. I know exactly how far I’m going and it’s a safe easy route to take.”

L-“Why do you think it got started?”

M-“I think the frat lap got started so people could see what everyone was up to. Plus, it’s a great way to show off your fitness”

L-“How do you use the fratlap and why?”

E-“I have a Jeep Wrangler with a detachable top. Packing it, blaring music and going around campus is a really fun quick thing to do to get your mind off of your worries. Sometimes you just need to get out of the house and relax and sing songs

L-“How do you think this got started?”

E-“I don’t know why it started, probably so everyone could see each other and see all of the houses”

Discussion

This piece of folklore was very interesting because it served so many purposes under different contexts. One of the contexts it can be used in is if someone is stressed out due to school anxieties they can take a short easy drive to calm themselves and relieve the stress. Another way is if someone wants a consistent and safe running path. It falls under the umbrella of ritual and tradition because it is just a path that people know to take via word of mouth. There were many different ideas as to how this path came about, but the main consensus was that the students wanted to see all of the different Greek Houses were up to and created the path and called it the Frat Lap.

2. Collector: Lily O’Brien

Informants: Sorority women of Kappa Alpha Theta

Handle: Circle Couch Rules

Context: 8-11pm on Thursday nights

Discussion: This is a ritual that began a few years ago when the tv shows Grey’s Anatomy and Scandal were back to back Thursday night shows. People will rather to the biggest couch in the house called the Circle Couch. People generally start coming to claim
spots around 7:45pm. Some people will bring snacks and camp out for the night. Even though this is a ritual that began by a group of girls common interest in a show there are some strict rules. These rules consist of no interruptions to the shows at all. This means no talking, no loud chewing. If anyone breaks these rules people shush them. Once commercials come on people chat but strict silence when the show is on. This is a coveted tradition and brings people together on a Thursday night.

3. Collector: Lily O’Brien

Informants: Sorority women of Kappa Alpha Theta

Handle: Drinking Songs

Context: parties

Text: “Take a shot! Take a shot! Take a goddamn shot!
If you can’t take a shot like a Theta can
then you shouldn’t have a shot in your motherf*cking hand
Take a shot! Take a shot! Take a goddamn shot!”

Discussion: A fun tradition amongst Thetas is a chant we sing at parties. This is something we pass onto our freshman so that they can pass it down to pledge classes to come. We have no idea where it started but it almost always gets sung when more than 10 of us are at a party. This is an oral narrative tradition that everyone loves to take part in. There aren’t very many rules with this except that it’s tradition for a senior to kick off. Its definitely one of the more fun traditions we have that really bring everyone together.