

## Text 1

**Contributor:** Matthew Gonzalez  
**Informant(s):** Lynn Douglass  
**Title:** Halloween Vodka  
**Semester/year:** Fall, 2014  
**Instructor:** John McDowell

### **Text:**

Lynn: "Hey matt, I think for Halloween weekend we should do something more festive than usual."

Me: "I agree, you have any ideas what we should do instead of our normal weekend?"

Lynn: "Maybe we could have a party and instead of having our normal Smirnoff vodka we could have a candy corn flavored vodka this weekend."

Me: "Awesome, I'll start inviting my friends from back home."

Day after the party\*

Me: "Lynn, you think that the Halloween candy corn flavored vodka was good?"

Lynn: "Hell yeah, I say we start to do this every year for Halloween!"

### **Context:**

Candy corn is a folklore tradition in and of itself. Having a party for Halloween has been a tradition that my friends and I have been doing for years and years. By combing these two aspects of folklore, we have created a new folklore tradition that I believe we will continue on for as long as we are all still friends.

### **Points of Interest:**

This was something that was spur of the moment that will now be added to the folklore of our friend group.

## Text 2

**Contributor:** Matthew Gonzalez

**Informant(s):** Holly James

**Title:** Be more creative

**Semester/year:** Fall, 2014

**Instructor:** John McDowell

### **Text:**

Holly: "It amazes me that every year Halloween is basically just a big 'slut fest' where all the girls, and even some of the guys are using the holiday to dress as skimpy as possible and act extremely inappropriate in just about every manner possible. College turned Halloween into an excuse to wear a bra and underwear in public. I wish it was like when we were children and the best costumes were the costumes that showed how creative you could be, and also showed your personal interests. Seeing a super creative and really well done costume that relates to a person's favorite movie is so much cooler than the slutty cat costumes that I see all the time now. I honestly believe that a huge contributing factor to this change towards the more slutty costumes is the alcohol that is consumed. The alcohol tends to make people much less conservative when it comes to their morals. Many of these girls that I see running around on Halloween night in their 'outfits' are normally girls that are well covered and live with high morals."

### **Context:**

College life is the life of live and let loose for a portion of the students. Often times this also means sexually. Halloween is an excuse that some college students have used to set up the folklore tradition of having themed parties. Usually these themed parties tend to be nearly naked parties because of how college life tends to make party goes believe you have to party in order to have fun.

### **Points of Interest:**

Holly wishes that the folklore traditions relating to Halloween in college would shift towards the more creative side of the Halloween aspect. She wishes that people actually cared for the meanings between Halloween instead of simply using it as an excuse. It's funny to note that she has taken a couple of folklore classes and she believes that has changed her views on some of the things that happen in the college life.

### Text 3

**Contributor:** Matthew Gonzalez

**Informant(s):** Jordan Nelson

**Title:** Candy vs Alcohol

**Semester/year:** Fall, 2014

**Instructor:** John McDowell

#### **Text:**

Jordan: "Dude, best thing about Halloween. Go!"

Me: "Getting dressed up and drinking booze to have fun with your friends?"

Jordan: "Man, get on my level. You gotta buy the Halloween candy when it goes on sale the day after Halloween! Candy is so good; getting it for 70% off makes it even better. 30 bucks of candy for like 8 bucks is wonderful, and you know it."

Me: "hahahaha, true man. I always forget about that. I'll for sure have to get a couple bags of candy when it goes on sale!"

#### **Context:**

Jordan takes the folklore tradition of candy on Halloween to the next level, with being extremely frugal about it. He told me after he actually bought the candy that he's done this every year. I thought that seeing how he always drinks with me on Halloween, that he was going to for sure say that he was super excited to get drunk and have a good time with me at my Halloween get together. As much as he was excited for that, he was also super pumped for cheap candy.

#### **Points of Interest:**

Jordan isn't a person that drinks often, so it honestly shouldn't have surprised me how excited he was about the candy being on sale. Halloween is one of the few times a year that he drinks.

## DISCUSSION

All of my texts are from conversations with different people be it at a social event of a phone call to a close friend of mine. All of these texts take on the functions of social frames presented by Bronner. These do not all fall specifically into the social frame of relieving causes of anxiety, but they are frames that can be loosely associated with anxiety in college and life in general.

Each of my three texts shows a difference in how people perceive the festival of Halloween and the relation that it now has with alcohol at our age. Lynn seemed to be all for the addition of alcohol into the Halloween festivities that were already planned, in fact she wanted to make the alcohol more festive itself. To me that simply shows her personality and how she enjoys letting loose and having a good time, even if it involves an odd flavored alcohol. On the other hand Holly does not enjoy how alcohol makes people behave on Halloween, especially in relation to their dress. She believes that the meaning and function of Halloween is to celebrate the other and how liminal of a time that Halloween is in relation to the season. Jordan also isn't a huge fan of alcohol and Halloween; he much preferred the folklore tradition in his family of purchasing candy the day after Halloween when it has gone on sale. I believe this is due to the fact that Jordan's family has never been big consumers of alcohol, but instead have always loved their sugary sweets. This lends its hand to how Jordan feels about alcohol and Halloween.

All three of my texts show different meaning to how different people feel about the incorporation of alcohol into the Halloween festival. It was extremely interesting seeing how each separate person felt about Halloween in general since the festival itself

is a huge act of folklore. The traditions that people have surrounding Halloween simply add to the festivities.