

LaShanda Saxton
HOME VS. COLLEGE
Folk Studies
MWF 10:30

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The way teenagers and young people have fun these days has changed a lot since 50 years ago. The way people enjoy themselves also differs from region to region and culture to culture. From personal experience, I know that my partying habits have changed drastically since I came to college. At college you have much more freedom and you don't have to worry about things like curfews.

I live in a small town and there really is not much for young people to do on the weekends. I have to give some credit to my hometown because they do have at least one party every weekend. When a party does come around, everyone and their mamma is there. The parties usually cost either \$2 or \$3 depending on the occasion. If something big like Christmas or New Years is the reason for the party, it usually costs \$5 because there will be free food and drinks. These parties take place at a building known as "the club" to Mayfieldians, even though it's nowhere near the size and decoration of a night club. If it's at someone's house we call it a "house party." The same thing generally goes on at both places. At first everyone comes in and sits down. They will conversate with one another and when the party starts to get boring someone will get up and start dancing. This encourages everyone else to get on the dance floor too. This is when we "get the party started right." Everyone is enjoying themselves now. Even though we live in a dry county and minors are at these parties, some as young as 12 years old, liquor is always available. If there was no liquor, no one would

come to the parties. They would call it "weak." Other activities occur at these parties also. The older teenagers will go outside and smoke marijuana or shoot craps. Shooting craps is typically a game played among the drug dealers. I wouldn't even call it a game because money is involved and your not happy leaving after you have lost all of your money. In craps, the object of the game is to get a total of 7 or 11. If you get 7 on the first roll and 11 on the second, then you win whatever amount of money was bet. At these parties guys and girls also "hook-up" or "creep". At a house party they would go into one of the rooms and talk or do other things. Parties in Mayfield usually go okay, but before the party is over with someone always gets to fighting. If they didn't fight, it wouldn't be a Mayfield party. These parties end whenever everyone goes home or if the police come and break it up.

On weekends when a party is not going on, young people go riding around in their cars or go sit on a street corner. If it's cold outside we go to someone's house and just "chill". We either listen to music, watch TV, or play Sega. On these nights we usually go home early because there is nothing to do.

In Mayfield, there is no such thing as staying out late on a school night. Most of the teenagers are usually in the house by 10:00, unless they are at work.

When I came to college, I knew it would be different, but I didn't know how different. My first semester I would study all week, then party on the weekends. My second semester is the opposite. I usually study on Saturdays and Sundays because I

have been out the whole week. My partying starts on Thursdays and doesn't end sometimes until Sunday. On campus when there is a party going on that night we get prepared. This is a typical Thursday night for me.

At around 5:00 my friends and I will go to someone's room for a set. A set is when a lot of friends get together and have a mini-party in a dorm room. These sets are usually open to only the friends of the person who is having it. We get there and the music is blasting and you can hardly hear the person beside you speaking. The guys are usually playing football or basketball on a Sega Genesis and the girls are sitting around watching. A card game is also going on. The only game African Americans play on campus is Spades. By 6:00 everyone who is going to be there is there and the room is crowded. I am usually playing Spades and my other girl friends watch because they don't know how to play. The guys are still playing Sega and whoever's not doing one of these two things is just spectating. At around 8:00 it is time to have a "smokeout". This is when the guys start smoking marijuana. There are two types of weed smoked on campus. There is a joint which is marijuana or weed rolled into cigarette papers. Then there is a blunt. A blunt is marijuana rolled into a cigar that has been cut and the tobacco has been removed from it. Both of these get you high, but the blunt supposedly gets you higher.

At 8:30 the marijuana is rolled and it's time to smoke. Whoever rolled the weed gets the first "hit". After they hit it a couple of times they pass it to the next person, in a clockwise

rotation. If someone doesn't want to hit they just pass it to the next person. By the way, girls smoke the weed too. This cycle continues until the joint or blunt is gone. Another one is lit up and the process is started all over again. Sometimes when we are smoking weed certain things are done to get you higher. One thing that we do is take an empty paper towel roll and cover one end of it with layers of tissue. When you hit the joint or blunt you blow the smoke into the roll out the end where the tissue is. Whoever is in front of you inhales it through their mouth or their nose and gets high. Another thing we do is take a baseball cap, put it over our face, and let someone blow smoke into the opening. You are supposed to inhale it through your mouth as long as you can, then blow it back out through your nose. Sometimes when people are high, they say that the weed talks to them.

At 10:00 we usually start drinking because we don't want our buzz to be gone before we get to the party. Since Bowling Green is a wet county, liquor is easily available to us. The main thing my friends and I drink on campus is gin. We drink the gin in the same way that we smoke the marijuana. We either take one big swallow of it and pass it down, or we use shot glasses. The shot glasses are only used if we are playing the card games, Gin Rummy or Tunk.

By 11:30 we are ready to go to Nite Class. Nite Class is the club on campus that attracts African Americans only on Thursday nights. It opens at around 8:00 or 9:00, but we don't get there till 11:30 or 12:00 because that's when everyone else

comes. It ends at 1:00 so we go there for an hour and dance and act crazy because by that time we are "high as a kite" or "drunk as a skunk". When it is over with at 1:00 everyone stands outside for an hour or so, then goes to someone else's room. They may go to their own room and go to sleep, because we still have class the next morning.

That is a typical Thursday for my friends and me. Don't get me wrong. We are not alcoholics or drug addicts, but we drink and smoke on occasion. This is what we usually do on Friday and Saturday nights too, even when it's not a party going on. The times and days that I gave for everything taking place is not a constant thing either. Sometimes people will drink as soon as they get out of class on a weekday and sometimes they will smoke the night before a class. Some people go so far as to drink during class or smoke before going to class.

As you can see my lifestyle is different up here than from at home. I believe that the passing of the alcohol and the weed, especially, has some significance to contemporary African American folklore. I couldn't find any sources related to it, though. It is true when they say alcohol and drugs is very prevalent on college campuses.