

ST. PAT'S DAY (I) LOSING MY RELIGION

I wonder if you have heard of St Pat's day. You **may know** that it **has something to do** with **the** Irish. It does. It is also a lot of **college** students' **favorite holiday**. **Why is that?** I'll explain that **in a little while**. First I'd like to tell you how **it all started** and how **it is celebrated** today.

The celebration **originally came from** Ireland and **pretty much** explains why **there are** no snakes in Ireland **anymore**. You see, people believe that **this** holy **guy named** Pat **drove** all the snakes **off the** island some time in the 5th century. **As a result**, every year **the Irish** celebrate the day **that** Saint Patrick **performed** that **miracle**. But do not **make the mistake of** thinking the holiday is **some kind of** religious **event**. No, it is a holiday **more like** Mardi Gras. In some **larger** cities **they** have big parades and **everyone** drinks **lots of** beer. Green beer.

There is one college town that is **famous for doing a great job of** its St. Pat's day celebration. It is **this** engineering university in Rolla, Missouri. People come **from all over the country** to **see the students party**, but **the truth is** that the celebrations aren't **as good as they used to be because of** some problems they had. I **happened to be** there **the year** they had **those** problems, so let me **tell** you **what happened**.