

Yukon College reopen to students

The school was closed for over two weeks to house athletes during the Canada Winter Games that spurred the construction of a new residence

CHLOÉ FEDIO
CUP Alberta and Northern Bureau Chief

Students from Yukon College returned from an unusually long reading break 12 March, after a partnership with the Canada Winter Games (CWG) transformed the school into the athletes' village. It was the first time the event, first held in 1967 and occurring every two years, took place north of the 60th parallel.

As a result, 650 full-time students were shut out of their school as of 4pm 21 February. In their place were 3600 athletes competing in the 2007 CWG, which ran from 23 February until 10 March.

Spence Hill, communications officer for Yukon College, said the atmosphere at the College changed as studies were put on hold to host the Games and the many athletes the event brought.

"Disruptive? Yes," Hill said of the college's two-and-a-half week closure.

"We have not heard disgruntlement, but then again we haven't debriefed as a college yet," she added.

The College's academic calendar was adjusted, with earlier start dates in August 2006 and January 2007, meaning students weren't cheated out of any class time. And since part of the Games fell during reading

week, Hill said courses weren't upset too much.

She explained that since the library was transformed into a dining hall, it was closed almost a week before the college shut its doors to students.

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SPENCE HILL,
YUKON COLLEGE

"Everything had to be moved out of the library," she said, explaining that 3000 boxes of books, 2200 shelves and 247 upright units were moved out of the space.

During the Games, students—including those living in the campus residence, which is adjacent to the main college building—didn't have access to Yukon College.

"I'm sure if you talk to the students in residence they would say it was a pain in the ass having to walk around the building, but given that the College is benefiting from the Games by acquiring a whole new residence, it's a fairly

strong trade off," Hill said.

Sunny Patch, communications officer for the 2007 Canada Winter Games, said existing residences are usually used to accommodate athletes; however, given that the residence was occupied by students for the school term, two new buildings were constructed to house the athletes.

The Yukon government invested in the new structures, which were lent to the CWG during the event. One of the buildings will be a new residence for students with families, while the other will be public housing.

Hill explained that students with families are "a dominant reality" among Yukon College students, whose average age is 32. She said that there were only 61 single-residence rooms and eight family apartments prior to the Games, but the new residence will add 24 two- and three-bedroom units.

Hill described how the college came alive as it hosted two sets of competitors from across the country—1800 athletes each week.

"To have three times the number of bodies in the college than we usually have was exciting, energizing, a little overwhelming for those of us that are used to a fairly quiet building," Hill said.

Alibi Network helps its clients create a perfect lie

LYNSEY KITCHING
The Brock Press

Ever wanted to get out of work without a hassle, escape from an awkward date, carry on an affair with no chance of being detected by your significant other, or hide from debt collectors? Now you can go ahead with your dirty deeds with the assistance of the Alibi Network, which aims to help you deceive others.

Mike Demarco, Vice-President of Marketing for the Alibi Network, said the company is like a consulting service.

"Our services vary across the board based on each client. What I can do is sit and find out about your situation, the people involved and what you are hoping to accomplish and custom tailor an alibi for you," Demarco said. "I'm in a unique industry and my market is everybody, in other words everybody has lied. Everybody is a potential client."

MIKE DEMARCO,
ALIBI NETWORK

Clients, Demarco said, are evenly split between men and women, and range in age from between 24–62 years old.

Jonah Butovsky, a sociology professor at Brock University in St Catharines, Ontario, doesn't feel that the business fosters deception.

"I don't think people lie and cheat more than they did before this service existed," he said.

However, the fact that lying has become something that can be bought or produced for the market is more of a concern.

"The only thing that would bug me is making everything a product that you can buy and sell, but that is the nature of the system that we live in," he said. "If there is a market for it then someone will produce it—it is commercializing what has already existed."

Despite questions about the morality of the Alibi Network, Demarco stands by the service.

"Everybody has told a lie," he said, noting that, despite criticism from some, there seems to be no shortage of demand.

"For every death threat and negative piece of e-mail ... we get about 17 job inquiries so I don't know what that

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEF

MCGILL STUDENT CALLS FOR NEW DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—Joan Wolforth is campaigning for a disability studies program at McGill University—but it hasn't been easy.

Wolforth, Director of the McGill Office for Students with Disabilities, has as of yet been unsuccessfully seeking a sponsor among the University's senior academics to create a curriculum on disability studies. She said that the biggest obstacle she faced over the last 18 months hasn't been a lack of interest, but a lack of awareness as to how an interdisciplinary degree might be structured.

"There is an opportunity for McGill to develop and play a community and academic role, but the group working towards this could not persuade [McGill] that it was the right direction," Wolforth said. "There are students who are interested but there is nowhere for them here."

Although the University isn't opposed to the program, there's concern about how it might strain the institutions already stretched resources, according to Deputy Provost Morton Mendelson.

"We focus where we can excel—no university can offer courses in everything," Mendelson said. "There is only so much energy and money that we can extend ... and we have to make sure that we provide the necessary services to faculty, staff and students with disabilities."

Although McGill lacks a program specifically dedicated to disability scholarship, disability issues are appearing in research and in education and psychology courses. However, Wolforth said that disability studies must be seen as an interdisciplinary degree in its own right.

"Disability studies has a very specific philosophical approach," Wolforth explained. "Just because we might be doing research in disability issues doesn't mean that we have [the requisite] sympathy, because it could be investigated from a medical rather than a social approach."

Jennifer Markowitz, the McGill Daily

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Year Established: 10/09/1999

Membership: 30

Purpose of the Group:

Our mandate is to work toward Amnesty International's vision of a world where everyone enjoys the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. We work on behalf of those suffering from grave human rights abuses.

This year our group hosted a panel discussion on business and human rights, organized a 24 Hour Write-A-Thon, supported the Friends of the Lubicon in pushing for a fair settlement for the Lubicon Cree Nation of Northern Alberta, assisted in Make Poverty History events, hosted a panel discussion on violence against Indigenous women, tabled for International Women's Day to promote women's rights, and more. "Get Up! Stand Up!" our annual benefit concert and our major fundraiser is only days away.



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