

Summer in Worcester?

By Mollie Wittstein

This summer I chose to stay in Worcester as did a small number of other, perhaps a p s crazy, Clarkies. The reasons for staying here are varied. Some chose to take summer courses, others worked on and off campus. Others did special academic projects or internships. The jobs that people had included data entry, working in group homes, the mail room, and transcribing audio tapes. Many people just didn't feel like going to their hometowns. I myself had an on-campus and an off-campus job.

Clark becomes a very different place over the summer. For one thing, there is hardly anybody around. We came to enjoy the sprawling empty green (well, we could look at it anyway). Over the summer, the Atwood green was regrown, and nobody could walk on it.

This past summer was the summer of Ultimate Frisbee at Clark. Next to the UC, about ten people would gather at 5 o'clock every afternoon and play. The group included students, alumni, and Clark employees. Every day they would dream of the day when they would be allowed to use the green. Finally, a few days before the rest of the students came back, they got to play on the green.

Most students who lived at Clark this summer lived in campus-owned houses, sublet apartments, or moved into their own apartments early. Some students received free housing by staying in the dorms as conference RAs. Clark hosted an academic program for Israelis in the summer, and they lived in Dodd, Hughes, and Dana Halls.

There were a few annoying things about Clark in the summer. For one thing, the GS was hardly open. It had crazy hours this summer, and the hours varied from week to week. As much as I hate the food service, I did sometimes miss it. The Bistro was only open for lunch during the week. And the campus could get lonely sometimes. There were good things about living here, however. You never had to wait in line. The local restaurants were not very crowded. There were no clumps of people on the stairs to the mailroom to get in your way.

All in all, I found that living here this summer was a good experience. It was a chance to get to know the others who were around this summer, and to socialize without the constraint of schoolwork. This may strike some as odd, but Worcester is now more my home than any other place.

