

an overload. I never could understand how my colleagues could discipline themselves to read newspapers and reports, searching for significant changes in tone or content, when everyone knew it was political raving and data belonging in *Ripley's Believe It or Not*. Now the newspapers more or less offer an objective reporting of events, and the line-ups for newspapers are longer than the line-ups for food.

The new-found freedom has brought about a noticeable change in attitude, especially in the Romanians' attitude towards authority. People drive more aggressively, park anywhere, wander across streets wherever it suits them, and stage mass demonstrations in direct defiance of new laws passed by the provisional government.

Considering what the people have experienced over the past 25 years, this is not surprising behaviour, but, as yet, many have not realized that with freedom comes responsibilities. At the time of writing, many have still not returned to work, thinking this is "democracy".

Romania has a rich cultural heritage, and opera and ballet performances were frequent, as long as there were no slights against the regime, of course. From the extreme of only two hours of television per night (espousing the party line), there has been a swing to the other extreme of interviews, foreign movies, international news, and Twisted Sister rock videos. How's that for progress!

Romania has a long and challenging road to recovery ahead of her. There are still food shortages and heating problems, and some people are disillusioned with the provisional government. The economy is in a shambles and some difficult decisions will have to be taken regarding inefficient operations, which will lead to unemployment. But it is a fertile country and the people are intelligent and skilful. They say patience is a virtue, but here in Romania, at this point in their history, it is essential.

Revolution? We wouldn't have missed it for the world.

GROWING UP ABROAD

David Zini, 13 years old.

My name is David Zini and I am 13 years old. This is my second year in Warsaw and I am in grade 9 at the American School. I can't really compare my school with Canadian schools since I have never lived in Canada.

There are only nine people in grade 9. Other than the main subjects, such as, English, Math, Science and Social Studies, we also take P.E., French or Polish, art, drama, computer, choir, music and junior high magazine. Unfortunately, there is no science lab and very little equipment for experiments. Because my class is so small, we get a lot of individual attention. Most of my teachers are very friendly, however, we are restricted in some of our activities in the school yard because of the smaller children.

After school there are student council meetings where dances and other activities are organized to raise money. Students can stay after school for sports or newspaper. For two years the school has organized a skiing trip to Switzerland during the February vacation. Last year the grade 8 class went to Cracow and this year there may be a sports weekend in Bucharest. Our class may also go to England this year as part of our study of Shakespeare.

The International Church organizes youth fellowship meetings for the students in junior high.

Outside of what the school provides there are few activities in Warsaw for teenagers who don't speak Polish. I miss fast-food places like MacDonald's, nice shopping malls and being able to see newly-released movies!

David's sister, Alison, has also written to Liaison. Her article can be found in French.

