

# The Brunswickan

Canada's oldest official student publication

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# EDITORIAL

## An Active Winter

by Kwame Dawes

This winter has been perfect for syndicated television and other news media because the world went through some genuine changes during the month of December. The drama of political change in Eastern Europe combined the sure-fire elements of human courage; the melodrama of clearly demarked good and evil figures; significant violence; and what appears to be a happy ending, to create a drama that kept us listening to the news everyday for further developments. And, even today, the media is trying to suck the sensationalism pool dry with stories about corruption in the old regimes and the presence of food on the shelves. These stories are simple to follow - free of the political intrigues of the Iran-Iraq war or the Civil strife in Cambodia, for instance, and very few people would dare to say that these changes are not good things.

Today, in these countries, the people are struggling to put their lives back in some kind of order and to cope with the tedious process that change entails. Those of us living outside of these countries are being reminded that given the right conditions (significantly repressive requires) people will react with a quality of courage that is admirable. We have also seen demonstrated the fact that repression is not the exclusive domain of communists and socialist regimes. The Panamanian invasion, a bloody and questionable act by the United States, has revealed the paradox of political allegiance. Noriega was no communist and at one time he was a great pal of the United States government. His time in office was encouraged by the US for a long time, and then they changed their minds. Noriega is now a villain and the media has fallen into the pattern of the Eastern European reporting angle by giving disproportionate and misleading attention to the "support" that the Panamanians have given to the US and to Noriega's domestic affairs. The fact is that over 200 Panamanian civilians were killed in the invasion.

Many of those who died and were left homeless were poor people. Today they are mourning their dead and seeking shelter and security. We haven't seen graphic photographs of Panamanian funerals on television, but we have been moved by the wrenching pain felt by the Romania mothers whose children were killed by the repressive secret police. Comparisons of this nature are very important for any society that is determined to maintain credibility and integrity in the eyes of the rest of the world.

Ultimately, though, we should appreciate that we are watching a world that is going through the kind of political transformation that may result in a new socio-political landscape in the next century. A crucial lesson to be learnt is that political leaders must be watched with unrelenting care and that government agencies must not be underestimated in their impact on world politics. We are being awakened to the fact that international politics are rarely pure and free of negative and diabolic activities regardless of the nations involved. The secret actions of governments do not necessarily reflect the moral fibre of a nation; however the people of the nation will become implicated by the actions of their leaders. This is why the scrutiny mentioned above, is so important in today's society.

Today, more than ever, we are challenged to question even the news that comes to us with the confidence of the gospel. At the same time, we are privileged to have the kind of wide-ranging and daring journalism that we have seen over the past half century. By

discovering more about the rest of the world and by understanding how our own countries affect other countries, we will begin to participate responsibly in an ever shrinking world politic.

### INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

will be offered in January at the following times:

WMST 3003 Wednesday 2:30 to 5:30 in K 103

or

WMST 3003E Thursday 7:00 to 10:00 (Ext) in SH 158

(please note change in time and day)

WMST is an interdisciplinary course designed to introduce some of the basic issues and concepts in the area of Women's Studies. Any student interested in studying women in an academic context is welcome to take the course. It can be taken by part-time or full time students in any year or in any faculty.

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