

## 'GORBACHEV'

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began—an arsenal that “would have been enough to exterminate all life on the earth,” Gorbachev said.

According to Gorbachev, a recent poll in Russia found that about half of the people believed that *perestroika* was necessary, where just 10 years ago, when the Soviet Union collapsed, 45 percent of the people opposed it.

In Moscow, a young reporter asked Gorbachev if *perestroika* was a success or a failure.

“I said to her, it is my strong conviction that *perestroika* triumphed, but it was interrupted,” Gorbachev said. “*Perestroika* did the most important thing: it brought people to the point where they could begin turning back the clock.”

But Russia has been slowly transitioning towards democracy since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev remains confident it will be successful.

“You built your democratic system over 200 years and you want us to build it into a democracy in 200 days,” Gorbachev said. “Well, that cannot be done—only God can create in seven days.”

According to Frank Rusciano, professor of political science at Rider University, when Gorbachev started *perestroika* and *glasnost* [political openness], he didn't do so assuming the USSR would collapse.

“What happened is that when it opened up, the Soviets' hold on nations in the eastern bloc started to disappear,” Rusciano said.

When Boris Yeltsin became president, he replaced reform with what Gorbachev refers to as “shock therapy.”

“When I speak in Europe, I say ‘cowboy methods,’” Gorbachev said. “But then I understand that in America, one has to be more cautious because cowboys are good people.”

Although he didn't identify President Bush directly, the criticism of Bush, who has a reputation as a foreign policy “cowboy,” seemed to be implied.

“The question is, will it be leadership through domination, through hegemony, through imposing your will on other nations?” Gorbachev asked the audience. “Or will it be leadership through partnership?”

Gorbachev said too often we solve things by force, that world leaders too often adopt a “might makes right” policy.

“They underestimate the

powers of persuasion; they underestimate the society, the whole world—including many people in this country and around the world who protest the war in Iraq,” Gorbachev said. “There is a lot of talk of humanitarian intervention. You should not equate humanitarian intervention and use of force.”

Senior Yekaterina Mayants, met Gorbachev after the presentation.

In Russian, she yelled, “Thank you, you are the reason why I am here!” He turned and said, “This is why I feel good about *perestroika*.”

According to Mayants, Gorbachev's longtime translator translated criticisms incorrectly.

When Gorbachev said, “Your president keeps butting with the same problem,” he actually said: “Your president keeps stepping on a rake and hitting himself in the head—from the impact, he forgets what happened and does the same thing again.”

In response to the people nodding off during the presentation, which lasted longer than scheduled, Mayants said it's very disrespectful to a Russian man.

“This man may have saved the world from a nuclear war and you have the nerve to fall asleep as he is speak-



Photo provided by Alpha Xi Delta

## Fun for Homefront

A member of Alpha Xi Delta paints the arm of a child from Homefront as part of an activity in a carnival held on Sunday, April 17 for underprivileged children in the area.

ing?” Mayants said. “Only in America.”

Mayants has a unique respect for Gorbachev, since his *perestroika* opened the doors for her to come to America and gave her a new lease on life, since the Chernobyl nuclear disaster happened only 45 miles from her city in Russia.

“I feared getting sick, like most of my friends,” Mayants said. “To see the man who practically gave me a second chance; who gave me a chance at a full, healthy life, a college education and endless opportunities—it was very emotional.”

Gorbachev ended the luncheon with closing remarks about the agenda of the cur-

rent president of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, who has begun recentralizing power in the former superpower.

“I hope the second term of Putin will be used to start a broad-based movement to spread technology and raise the standard of living in Russia, to apply and implement Information-Technologies,” Gorbachev said.

Similarly, Rusciano warned of Putin:

“Putin is starting to move backwards,” Rusciano said. “He's a former KGB officer—I don't think he's changed much since then—he's someone to be watched.”

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## 'WORKERS'

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Her employer, Gilbane, may be best known as the builder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and new National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

At Rider, many of the craftsmen (and they are men—only two or three have been women) have worked on New York skyscrapers and Atlantic City casinos, as well as on universities throughout the area. How do they keep going when

the weather is really tough?

“Have to,” said Smith. “Our wallet is our guide.”

Students can be grateful. Harshadaden Patel, an inspector on the site, noted that the buildings have to be built correctly.

“They hired me to watch everything go right,” he said. “Because, see, what happens is, if they mess up something, the building's going to fall down.”

*This story was compiled by a COM 316 Feature Writing class.*

## 'MONEY'

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and made the time process for the students to get paid just a slight bit longer than it had to be,” she said. “This is the time that we need to make this change.”

The office of Student Financial Services has been fully supportive of the change, said Farris.

“They were part of the team that determined this change,” she said. “They're very much on board.”

Since it began, the new plan has given disbursements a chance to get ahead of the game to ensure that students are paid on time. According to Farris, the office has already processed

“a host of contracts” for the fall.

“If students know that they are coming back to the same position in the fall, there's nothing to say that they can't come and fill out their contracts now so that, when they arrive back in the fall their timesheets are waiting for them,” she said.

Despite the amendments to the process, students will still have to take it upon themselves to make sure they have filled out all of their federal working papers, said O'Hara.

“We're clearing up our responsibilities, but the student responsibility is still that I-9 form,” he said. “There's no way we can get around that. Making sure that students fill that out is so critical to the overall process.”