

# Editorial

## Gorbachev interview a new perspective

Monday night NBC aired an interview between anchorman Tom Brokaw and Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of the Soviet Union. The interview was the first of its kind and comes seven days before Gorbachev visits the United States to sign an arms control agreement.

This interview emphasizes how Gorbachev is beating President Ronald Reagan at his own media game by using the press to present his views and show himself in a positive light.

Throughout the discussion Gorbachev explained his policies on the Strategic Defense Initiative and the Soviet Union's involvement in Afghanistan from his ideology — not an American interpretation. This offered viewers a unique opportunity to comprehend the reasons behind some Soviet actions and ultimately to begin to understand the country.

Since he became the leader of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev has been trying to improve policies within his country and relations with the United States. His policy of glasnost, or openness, has allowed journalists and others into the country to view and report on Soviet life.

This opportunity gives Americans the chance to understand a country stereotypically portrayed as cold and evil. The media has played an important and vital role in overcoming these stereotypes. Gorbachev knows how the American media operates and has used it to open the Soviet Union to different points of view as well as explain the history of the Soviet Union. Gorbachev said this was a necessary first step towards understanding his country.

By permitting an interview with a major American network, Gorbachev is continuing his glasnost policy. He was able to promote his country's views to millions of Americans because the discussion was shown during prime time.

There has been some criticism about Soviet officials' reasons for choosing NBC, however. Some say ABC was not selected because of its miniseries "Amerika" and CBS was not selected because the Kremlin did not approve of Dan Rather.

Brokaw may be the softest of the three network anchors, but Gorbachev has the power to select his medium just as Reagan can select his for a press conference. He is using the same tool American politicians do.

Because the interview was only one hour, Brokaw's questions covered a wide range of topics. Lack of time also limited the depth of discussion on issues.

Nonetheless, the interview is an important step toward understanding the Soviet Union and promoting the upcoming arms control agreement.

Unfortunately some are not as enthusiastic about arms control agreement or Gorbachev's visit to the United States. Republican senators threatened to walk out if Gorbachev was allowed to speak before them. Consequently, he will not speak in the Senate.

This is our congressmen's loss as they could gain a better understanding of the Soviet Union before making foreign policy decisions. Without Gorbachev's viewpoint, they miss out on the perspective of another world leader.

Gorbachev has demonstrated his ability to manipulate the media and promote his views. This gives Americans the opportunity to learn about the Soviet Union and a better ability to work toward future agreements. This interview was a part of this understanding and should not be taken as propaganda.



## Letters

### Responsibility

With regard to the "Scarlet Letter" editorial (ODE, Nov. 17), perhaps it would be embarrassing for Bateman to have friends over who would be greeted at his door with a handshake and a glimpse into his personal life, via the sign. However, parts of the issue were apparently edited out of the editorial.

For instance, Bateman does not drive — his license was suspended for drunk driving. So much for signs on his car.

The "unusual condition" of the parole is, after all, for an unusual person. Richard Bateman likes to have sex with small children. He's already been to prison for his unusual tastes; the therapy he received there obviously didn't help.

While signs may not solve

"Bateman's problem," it will save his future victims the tragedy of being exposed to "cruel and unusual" punishment which Bateman claims to be "victim" of.

The editorial says Bateman will be judged by his community "without the benefit of an explanation." I don't believe he could produce an explanation that would justify forcing sex on 5-year-old boys and girls.

The editorial also states that it is a "desperate action" when society must face the "burden of trial and judgment." Lawyers, judges and juries are all parts of society. We are guaranteed trial by peers. Society includes peers, too.

Most of society does not sexually abuse children, and won't face this punishment. Bateman has proved to society that he is incapable of controlling himself and has forced us to take responsibility for him.

writing, like poetry and other forms of creative writing utilizes many literary devices such as satire, sarcasm and irony to make a point.

Lyrics may merely tell a story which may or may not be as real as life truly is. It is true there are men that do go home and beat their wives and children, (as well as wives that beat their children and husbands), but because a band sings about this (even in the first person) does not absolutely indicate the band's members support and encourage it. Nor does it make them victimizers of women.

So please do not take one line of a song out of context to condemn several individuals representing a band as wife and child abusers, or even supporters of this inhumane practice.

Don't get me wrong, as I too abhor pornography that is degrading and violent toward women, but I truly believe this has nothing to do with the lyrical aspect of the Guardians.

Perhaps their posters are tasteless, but that is where it should end.

Scott Janzen  
English

### Lyrics

I am writing in response to a letter by Rush Abrams and Bonnie Plant that appeared in the Emerald Nov. 16.

They directed some harsh criticism toward The Guardians of American Morality and the band's poster-making tactics, as well as its lyrical content. I agree that the posters were not in good taste, but I believe condemning members of the Guardians as songwriters is not the thing to do.

Because one writes the lyric, "go home and beat the wife and children," it does not mean one advocates violence against women and children. Lyric

Adem Tepedelen  
Journalism

### Problem solved

How gratifying to find that the University has finally solved the perennial problem of the marching band's practices on the field disturbing those studying in the library.

The solution is admirable in its novelty as well as its effectiveness: They have simply eliminated all study space in the library!

Hiawatha  
Graduate, music

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