

Speaker: Russia sees democracy

By Stephanie Averill
Staff Reporter

Mikhail Gorbachev, Secretary of the Communist Party, is working toward many "qualitative changes," an authority on Soviet politics said Tuesday at UNL.

Theodore H. Friedgut, Ph.D, chairman of Russian and Soviet Studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said that Gorbachev has said the Soviet Union is in a state of crisis.

Gorbachev wants Soviet social programs to equal the country's production programs, Friedgut said. Gorbachev is also increasing the information and legislation available to Soviets, he said.

This increase in information has shocked many, Friedgut said. For the first time in five years, agricultural statistics have been released, and the first infant mortality rates in 12 years are available.

Prostitution and drug use in the Soviet Union is now more acknowledged, Friedgut said. Gorbachev is telling the Soviets to "stop being so smug, things aren't so good," Friedgut said.

Legislation information, including recent laws on emigration and private enterprise is available, Friedgut said. A law allowing citizens to sue officials is scheduled to be adopted by the end of March, he said.

"Gorbachev is pushing to make laws mean something," Friedgut said.

Gorbachev stirred up many Soviets

by suggesting that party officials be elected through competitive and secret elections, Friedgut said. The usual procedure is to cast a yes or no vote for one candidate.

Like all societies, as the Soviet's modernize, they take on more tasks and thus need the proper institutions to deal with problems, Friedgut said. Before Gorbachev, he said, the Soviets were clinging to obsolete modes of organization.

Soviet modernization has caused agricultural problems, an increase in infant mortality and declining male life expectancy. Gorbachev said that he is aware of these problems.

According to Friedgut, Gorbachev needs a payoff for the people to show that reform is needed. There are some Soviets who don't want change and who won't, Friedgut said.

Some Soviets are resisting change because Gorbachev is introducing a bit of democracy to them, Friedgut said. The people know that "once the snowball starts," Friedgut said, it is likely to keep growing.

Gorbachev said democracy is not just a slogan but part of our policy, according to Friedgut.

Gorbachev said "it will take generations to change" the Soviets, Friedgut said.

"And you can almost hear the choke in his voice," Friedgut said.

Friedgut will discuss the topic "Soviet Policy Toward its Jewish Minority," today at 3:30 in Oldfather 638.

Group shows students the FACTS, makes public aware of farm crisis

By Andy Jacobitz
Staff Reporter

It's time to get the "facts" straight.

On Feb. 27, Farm Action Concerns Tomorrow's Society, a student-response group to the farm crisis, will celebrate its second anniversary as an active student organization. President Barb Meister said the organization was formed because students need to be aware, educated and involved in the farm-crisis issue.

"We deal with the whole realm of the farm crisis, including social, political, environmental and cultural issues," Meister said.

Lee Wagner, FACTS program coordinator and senior agriculture major, said about 25 members have been involved with FACTS. But they don't brag about the size.

"It is definitely not quantity, it's quality," Meister said. She said the group is small because its participants are unique — they are insightful and inquisitive, and they look at the world with a larger scope than most, she said.

"Even though the group is small, we affect many people from students, to farm organizations, to student organizations on other campuses in other states," said Wagner. "We have a very large network."

"It's not an organization that just anyone joins," Meister said. In the past, the group focused on awareness and education and now is moving into active involvement, she said.

Members plan to travel to Washing-

ton, D.C., during spring break to lobby for farm policy reform. The students will supplement efforts of farm organizations already there, Meister said.

"We have a strong political voice as students," she said. "We represent the future."

Meister said FACTS has responded to a strong need for students to become involved with the farm movement. It has helped students open their minds and accept real-world challenges, she said.

"We are experiencing a revitalization of student activism," Meister said. "We've helped students to take steps to change the world rather than allowing the world to change themselves. . . . We've reached a phenomenal level and

have gained so much credibility in just two years. I think we can impose a lot of our influence in Washington, D.C."

FACTS also sponsors Ag Crisis Seminars each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union and at 4 p.m. in the East Union. The seminar uses funds from an All-University Fund Grant to attract speakers from across the country directly involved with social, legal, economic and political factors of the crisis.

Students enrolled in the seminar receive credit through independent study programs in the departments of English, political science, economics, horticulture, agronomy, agricultural economics, agricultural education and agriculture.



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Police Report

Thursday, Feb. 12

2:21 a.m. Temple Hall. Party arrested on OPS — outside police service — mark.

9:30 a.m. Area 3. Vandalism to vehicle.

12:19 p.m. Oldfather Hall. Medical emergency.

11:57 p.m. Sandoz Residence Hall. Report of arson.

Friday, Feb. 13

2:53 a.m. 1125 N. 16th St. Disturbance calls.

11:52 a.m. 19th and Vine streets. Theft of trees.

12:18 p.m. University Bookstore. Theft of bookbag.

1:28 p.m. Harper-Schramm Recreation field. Vandalism to benches.

1:31 p.m. Area 23. Vandalism to vehicle.

2:30 p.m. University Bookstore. Theft of bookbag.

4:03 p.m. Area 10. Theft from vehicle, gas.

8:40 p.m. 1425 R St. Disturbance.

Saturday, Feb. 14

12:45 p.m. Area 3. Theft of stereo from vehicle.

11:26 p.m. Schramm Residence Hall. Intoxicated party taken to detoxification center.

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LIVE VIA SATELLITE

DRUGS & ALCOHOL: WHY NOT?

Wed., Feb. 18
Union Ballroom

DRUGS: WHY NOT?

Talk to John Phillips,
Timothy Leary and others.
1:00 PM

DRUGS & ATHLETICS

Discuss the effects of drugs
with Brian Bosworth,
Spud Webb and others.
2:30 PM

POLITICS OF DRUGS

Leading politicians discuss
your questions.
3:30 PM

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