

# The Cornell Daily Sun

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Ryan Dunn / Sun Senior Photographer

**Taking initiative.** President Janet Vertesi grad, Vice President Michael Walsh grad and Secretary Arnaub Chatterjee grad discuss a proposal for the Graduate Community Initiative Monday.

## GPSA Presents New Initiative to Skorton

By JULIE ZEVELOFF  
Sun Staff Writer

On Monday afternoon, the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly presented the Graduate Community Initiative to President Skorton and the Cornell community. The Initiative mirrors the University's "Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds" campaign and includes plans for a new graduate student center, a

career resource center and increased integration for graduate and professional students.

According to Janet Vertesi grad, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, the GPSA is the "official representative body for graduate and professional students." The GPSA represents over 6,000 graduate students on the Ithaca

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## Spitzer Supports LGBTQ Programs

By LEIGHA KEMMETT  
Sun Contributor

The "Ithaca 50," a group of 25 same-sex couples from Ithaca, are still awaiting a decision by New York State concerning their rights to be legally recognized as married.

Their fight began in February of 2005 with a lawsuit brought against the state, based on the principle that the right of any couple to marry is a right to privacy and a right to liberty.

Two years ago last month, the New York Supreme Court ruled that the state law prohibiting same sex marriage was unconstitutional. The decision made its way through appeals courts, and, in July 2006, that decision was overturned by the New York Court of Appeals. The court upheld that the state's mar-

riage laws were constitutional, reversing February's decision.

The courts ultimately decided that only the state legislature had the ability to legalize same-sex marriage. While New York's constitution does not specify the sex of couples marrying, it also does not compel courts to recognize same-sex marriages.

Before his election last year, Democratic Governor Eliot Spitzer told The Sun that he would "support a statute to make [same-sex marriage] statutorily acceptable" and that he believes "same-sex marriage should be constitutional and legal."

"I have said with great clarity that I think that same-sex marriage should be legal," Spitzer said in July, according to a New York Times transcript. "I will propose a

bill to permit that to be the case here in the State of New York. And I will act on that if I'm fortunate enough to be elected governor."

Many people thought that Spitzer's stance on same-sex marriage during his campaign was important, but it is more important that he follows through.

"Politicians know that they can market to minority constituencies with promises such as marriage equality," said Calvin Selth '07, the LGBTQ Representative to the Student Assembly. "When elected, it is important that they keep those campaign promises. Spitzer gained LGBT support during the election for his position on the issue of same sex marriage; now it's important that he express that support as gov-

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Rachel Thau / Sun Staff

**On autism.** Temple Grandin, Frank H.T. Rhodes Class of '56 Visiting Professor, spoke yesterday at Bailey Hall.

## Prof Gives Autism Personal Perspective

By NANDITHA  
RAMACHANDRAN  
Sun Contributor

Prof. Temple Grandin, animal science, Colorado State University, is world-renowned for her work in livestock handling and animal welfare, and as a prolific author of books on autism. She has been honored with the Frank H.T. Rhodes Class of 1956 Professorship at Cornell and last night gave a lecture titled "On Autism" to a large crowd of members of the Cornell and Ithaca communities in Bailey Hall.

"Autism is increasing. Asperger's is here. They're all

over the place, undiagnosed," said Grandin.

Grandin speaks from personal experience. Diagnosed with a mild form of Asperger's Syndrome, she is a leading advocate for the idea that early intervention and supportive teachers can direct autistic children to lead satisfying lives.

According to Grandin, people with autism have uneven skill, and it is necessary to develop the skilled areas. She strongly emphasized the need for autistic children to receive the proper amount of education, about 20 hours of intense

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## Sunny dispositions



Ariel Waitz / Sun Staff

Taking advantage of the pleasant weather, Jamie Ambrosio '08 (left) helps Nick Hoh '08 with a difficult chemistry problem, while Jenny Dionne '08 (right) looks on.