

# The Cornell Daily Sun

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JEREMY GALLION / SUN CONTRIBUTOR

**Seeking peace** | Rae McGrath, Nobel Peace Prize co-laureate, lectures about land mines yesterday in Goldwin Smith.

## Nobel Peace Prize Winner Lectures on Landmine Issues

By **VENUS WU**  
Sun Staff Writer

Last night, Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate Rae McGrath delivered a public lecture about indiscriminate weapons and civil society's role in prohibiting them.

"What I'm going to talk to you about relates to the experience of hundreds and thousands of people, perhaps millions of people around the world. To some extent I will be speaking on behalf of some of those people who can't speak for themselves," said McGrath at the beginning of the lecture, which was held in Goldwin Smith Hall.

According to a report released by Landmine Monitor in 2007, at least 99 countries are affected by mined areas. As of Aug. 2007, there were approximately 473,000 mine survivors in the world. Since landmines are designed to maim, rather than to kill their victims, many survivors are handicapped and require extensive rehabilitation.

Most of the casualties are civilians who live in countries that are now at peace.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which McGrath co-founded, was the driving force behind the Mines Ban Treaty. The treaty now boasts the support of 153 countries since its ratification in 1999. The United States is one of the 37 countries that have not signed the treaty.

Although the treaty focuses on antipersonnel landmines, McGrath claimed that its success goes beyond that.

"We didn't just ban antipersonnel mines, we [have also] effectively banned anti-tank mines and anti-vehicle mines. We demonized the weapon. We made it so unacceptable ... that the political cost of laying a landmine is high," said McGrath, who is also the founder of a leading landmine clearance organization, Mines Advisory Group.

McGrath also emphasized

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## N.Y. State Gov. Spitzer Leaves Office; Paterson to Take Over

By **BEN EISEN**  
Sun City Editor

Two days after Gov. Eliot Spitzer (D-N.Y.) was implicated on prostitution charges, he stood with his wife before members of the media in his Manhattan office.

"Over the course of my public life, I have insisted, I believe correctly, that people, regardless of their position or power, take responsibility for their conduct," he said. "I can and will ask no less of myself. For this reason, I am resigning from

the office of the governor."

For the last two days, the state government of New York has literally been brought to a halt in anticipation of Spitzer's resignation, which came after he was found to have spent over \$80,000 on prostitutes, according to the Associated Press. Come Monday, he said, Lieutenant Gov. David A. Paterson will take office.

Paterson followed Spitzer's resignation with a statement of his own.

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HIROKO MASUIKE / THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Harsh words** | Gov. Eliot Spitzer (D-N.Y.) announces his resignation in New York yesterday, as his wife, Silda Wall Spitzer, looks on.

## C.U. Avoids Conflicts of Interest With Acceptance of Donations

By **SAM CROSS**  
Sun Staff Writer

While American universities benefit from government endowments, business corporations and alumni contributions, college administrators are cautious not to relinquish some of their autonomy in the name of donations.

Donations that come with strings attached pose a dilemma to Cornell administrators and professors who receive funding from businesses, governments and wealthy individuals.

Through Cornell's history, the administration has accepted donations with restrictions. For example, Balch Hall, funded by Allen C. Balch who graduated in 1889, and Janet Balch, who studied at Cornell from 1886 to 88, must remain an all-female

dormitory. In addition, Willard Straight Hall, constructed in honor of Willard Dickerman Straight, who graduated in 1901, is not allowed to hold any academic classes. None of the wishes of these contributors, however, interfere with the curricula or course materials set by the school administrators.

Among the faculty, such a complex issue spurs a wide range of reactions. Prof. John Siliciano, law, a vice provost, sees the recent transactions between Marshall University and BB&T Corporation as very problematic and something Cornell would certainly avoid.

On Jan. 24, BB&T Charitable Foundation announced a \$1 million contribution to establish The BB&T Center for the Advancement of

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