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Provost Set to Speak to C.U. *State of Univ. address part of Martin's widening role*

By **THERESE LAHLOUH**
Sun Contributor

For the first time in Cornell's history, the provost will give a State of the University address. Provost Bidy Martin will speak about the current academic status of the University today.

Martin is the first woman to serve as provost, and, since her appointment in July 2000, her job has become increasingly important.

"This is the latest in a series of steps in recognizing the importance of the provost's role," said President David Skorton.

Dean of Faculty Charles Walcott Ph.D '59 explained what he believed to be the reason for this new address.

"This is an effort by the president to emphasize the role of the provost," Walcott said. "It makes a great deal of sense, because in terms of academics, she is the person responsible."

The provost, as the chief academic officer of the University, is well placed to give this address, according to Walcott.

"She has a perspective which few others have — of the entire University, not just one college," he said.

"It's my first year as president, and I think it's a good idea," Skorton said. He also stated that he had two main

underlying motivations behind creating this new address.

"I wanted to provide an opportunity to listen to the chief academic officer of the University, the provost, and get her perspective on the academic state of the University," Skorton said. "I have a deep respect for her vision of what the University is and could become."

The role of the provost has been considered an ambiguous one. Although it was originally created to assist the president in matters of "secondary importance" according to Morris Bishop, author of *A History of Cornell*, it has changed many times since its creation. It has evolved from a more financially centered role to its current position focusing on academia.

The role has expanded in recent years.

"As Cornell grew in size and complexity, the president found himself stretched trying to keep track of all the bits and pieces," Walcott said. "This is where the provost comes in."

"[Skorton] handles the overall strategy. He has a group of lieutenants who he works with, trusts and delegates tasks to," Walcott said.

Skorton is forthright in his respect for Martin and her

administrative role.

"I believe that the provost has a very important role in the vision and management of the University," Skorton said. "The heart and soul of the University is the academic mission of education and discovery."

The subject matter of Martin's address is nearly as ambiguous as the role itself. The only thing certain is that the academic status of the University will be discussed.

"My guess is the state of the University is good," Walcott said. "I would be astonished if anyone were to declare otherwise."

Unfortunately, Martin was unavailable for comment.

Not everyone, however, is as excited about the speech as Skorton and Walcott.

"I have no idea about any of that," Dan Butterly '08 said regarding the address.

"I have prelims coming up," said Natalie Ramirez '10. "I'm thinking about economic determinism in orthodox Marxism for my government class, not some speech the provost is giving."

Regardless, both Skorton and Walcott are looking forward to the address.

"I hope the community turns out in large numbers and that people enjoy the talk and talking about whatever points are raised afterwards," Skorton

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MARTIN



Ariel Waitz / Sun Staff

Pioneer printing. Evan Malone grad showcases the Fab@Home 3-D printer, the printer of the future.

Engineers Spread New Printing Technology

By **RYAN ANDERSON**
Sun Contributor

Researchers in mechanical and aerospace engineering have developed an easy, affordable 3-D printer that anyone can build and use.

"This technology has been around for two decades," said Prof. Hod Lipson, mechanical and aerospace engineering. "Imagine an inkjet printer, where instead of ink, you print out droplets of plastic."

If you print in the same place repeatedly, the plastic droplets build on themselves, creating three-dimensional objects.

"It takes a couple of hours, but you can make fascinating things," Lipson said, holding up a star-like cluster of five solid, unconnected but interlocking tetrahedra.

Lipson compared this rapid prototyping technology to computers in the 1970s: commercial units are large, expensive, complicated and difficult to modify.

"With commercial machines, you open it and you can't touch it. They're not hackable. They're preventing their own progress," he said.

"What broke the cycle in the

70s was the Altair 8800 computer kit."

The Altair 8800 was a simple kit with which hobbyists could build and customize computers for a reasonable price. It spurred the development of software, operating systems and user interface devices. It is regarded as the precursor of the personal computer. Lipson and several graduate students have developed an equivalent kit for rapid prototyping, called "Fab@Home."

"Fab@Home is an attempt to make multi-material rapid prototyping accessible to anyone," Lipson said.

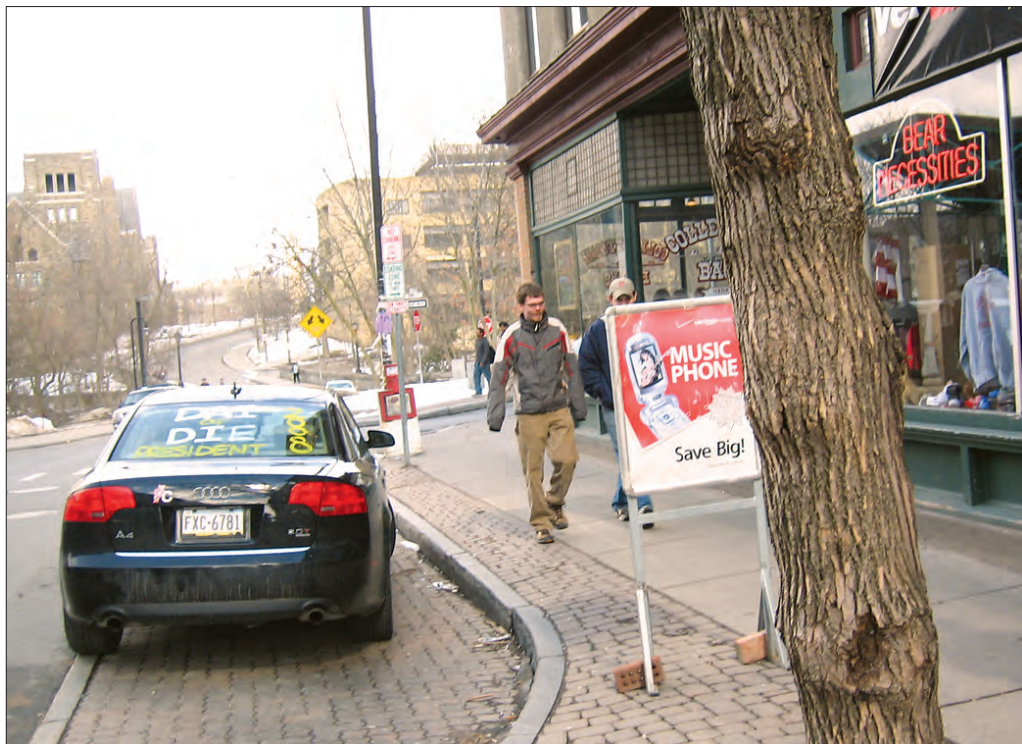
"The idea was to make the whole thing open-source, and the backbone of that is the wiki," said Dan Periard M.Eng.' 07. Lipson said that the Fab@Home site consistently gets about 20,000 hits a day.

"All the parts are off-the-shelf," Periard said. "We designed it so you can expand. We have a Google group with people just throwing ideas around."

"People are making these already," Lipson said. About a dozen people have said that they are building the kit, and there are

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Guerrilla campaigning



A car parked in a loading zone in front of Collegetown Bagels displays a slogan for a Class of 2008 Council candidate. The car was reportedly parked there for two days over the weekend.