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Toni Morrison MFA '55 Inspires C.U. Community

Nobel laureate returns to read new book, A Mercy

By **BRENDAN DOYLE**
Sun Senior Writer

Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison MFA '55 had a joyous homecoming yesterday in a packed Bailey Hall, which welcomed the renowned writer with a standing ovation. Morrison, who graduated from Cornell 54 years ago, read from her most recent offering to the literary world, *A Mercy*, published last year.

"My memories are strong about this place," Morrison said. "The two times I've been here for sustained periods of time

were extraordinary."

Morrison comes to Cornell as part of the Program of Creative Writing's Centennial Plus Five celebration, which features a year-long reading series to commemorate 105 years of creative writing at Cornell. The author was preceded by an animated welcome address from Prof. Kenneth McClane, English, and a brief introduction from President David Skorton.

"We need to see those who have argued

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ALEX SILVER / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Read my lips | Nobel-prize winning American author, editor and professor, Toni Morrison speaks in Bailey Hall yesterday.



AMY AUBRECHT / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sizing it up | President David Skorton updates staff members on the University's financial situation yesterday in the Biotechnology Building.

Skorton, Fuchs 'Reimagine' University's Decision-Making With New Guidelines

By **BEN GITLIN**
Sun Senior Writer



CORNELL AT A CROSSROADS

The University announced yesterday that it has plans to save \$90 million through administrative streamlining. President David Skorton and Provost Kent Fuchs also unveiled at a staff "Reimagining Cornell" forum a new set of cost-cutting guidelines that would, among other things, promote University-wide savings at the expense of colleges' autonomous decision-making.

About 75 staff members attended the presentation in Biotech G10 yesterday, which was the fourth installment in a series of forums aimed at informing the community about strategic planning initiatives. This event was

the first that directly addressed the concerns of the University's administrative staff.

"I know that many other areas of the University have reduced their expenditures based on [administrative] layoffs ..." Skorton said. "We will do it in a

"We will do it in a way that will reduce expenditures that have no effect on personnel actions ..."

David Skorton

way that will reduce expenditures that have no effect on personnel actions or in ways that will have an effect on personnel decisions, but in a more focused and direct way."

Skorton introduced the staff to

a newly-created set of guidelines that he plans to consult before making any major changes to the organization of the administration within the University. The five-point guideline emphasized that any modification to Cornell's structure should be with the aim of "enhancing academic excellence, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of functions and reducing expenditures." The guidelines call for cuts across all departments of the University, reductions in administrative operations and the consultation of the most knowledgeable employees in each individual unit before any type of reorganization takes place.

These new guidelines appear to break dramatically from the University's past philosophy. Whereas in the past, individual colleges and academic concentra-

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Tompkins Library Appoints Director Amid Controversy Over Ethics

By **EVAN PREMINGER**
Sun Staff Writer

Yesterday the Tompkins County Public Library's Board of Trustees confirmed Susan Currie as the new library director, despite objections of the UAW Local 2300, the union representing the library staff. Currie, who served for the past year as a member of the library's Board of Trustees, generated a strong backlash from

the union, who felt that her position on the board of trustees while they were considering her for the directorship tainted the nomination process.

"[Currie] may be a great person and may make a super director. Several staff who know her say she seems pretty nice," stated a letter sent from the UAW to the Tompkins County legislators on Sept. 15. "However, the fact that she did not resign from the library

board before she applied to be its employee does once again raise concerns about trust and transparency at the library."

Pursuant to the board's accountability statement of March 2008, trustees must disqualify themselves whenever a conflict exists or could appear to exist. According to their letter, the union felt that, as a sitting member of the finance and personnel committee, the committee that sets the

benefits for the director, Currie was required to resign her position to eliminate any ethically questionable situations.

Currie was one of the final two candidates for the director's position, which was vacated by the retirement announcement of Janet Steiner in March. Currie and Roland Shaw, the Lewiston Library director who was the other



CURRIE

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Cody Gault '11 critiques the shallow mis-characterization of President Obama's policies. | 9



ARTS: Blood and Sorority Girls

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WEATHER:



HIGH: 58°
LOW: 37°