

Martin Luther King III (center), son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered the keynote address at a birthday celebration for his father at Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury on Tuesday morning. Twelfth Baptist was Dr. King's church while he attended Boston University for his doctorate in systematic theology. King III is flanked by Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Rev. Michael E. Haynes, pastor emeritus of Twelfth Baptist and one of Dr. King's close friends during his Boston years. For more honoring the 79th anniversary of Dr. King's birth, please see our special section inside. (Tony Irving photo)

## BU, Morehouse archives of MLK papers to hit Web

Daniela Caride

Vita Paladino remembers. She remembers watching on television as the hoses unloaded, the water hammering black bodies to the pavement amid the crowded chaos of Southern streets. She remembers watching the horrors visited upon blacks during the civil rights demonstrations of the 1960s.

She remembers being mortified. "I was just a kid and I can tell you: I knew my country was doing something wrong," says Paladino. "It was chilling to see people treated this way."

Four decades have passed, but the memories have not. Now the director of Boston University's Howard

Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Paladino is still stirred by what she saw, and she feels compelled to help keep the memory of the civil rights struggle alive for others.

That compulsion has led Paladino and the Gotlieb center to a massive undertaking, for which BU recently received \$600,000 in grants from the New York-based Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: cataloging the roughly 80,000 items in the center's extensive Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, which includes a variety of documents and objects such as the civil rights icon's office files, manuscripts, awards and letters.

"That is probably why I am so committed to this project and to collecting [materials from] other African

Americans," says Paladino. It's a commitment shared by several other major repositories of King documents.

Joining BU in the ambitious project are the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, now being cataloged by the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University, which is producing a scholarly edition of King's papers and providing scholarly records and assistance in speeding along the cataloging process.

When the extensive inventories are complete — expected to be by November 2009 — a Web site will

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## Minority voters taking center stage in election

Allen G. Breed

With nomination contests in lily-white Iowa and New Hampshire settled, minority voting power now moves into the spotlight.

Historical realities suggest that blacks and Hispanics won't play much of a role in determining the Republican Party presidential nominee. But this year's Democratic primary and caucus schedule was designed specifically to give increased influence to minorities, particularly Latinos.

Voters in both groups are energized: Blacks by the early successes of Illinois Sen. Barack Obama; Latinos by the intense, sometimes xenophobic debate over immigration.

But it's far from clear how those influences will play off each other.

This Saturday's Nevada caucuses will give an early showcase of Hispanic voting. However, observers say the true impact of Latino influence might not be felt until the general election, notably in Western states like Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada — places where George Bush's margin of victory in 2004 was razor-thin.

When South Carolina Democrats hold their primary on Jan. 26 — the state GOP contest is Saturday — the choices of substantial numbers of black voters will be tallied for the first time in this election.

Obama's stunning victory over

Hillary Clinton in the Iowa caucuses and strong second in New Hampshire's primary showed he could win white votes. But some say the South Carolina contest offers a new test of his viability: Can he energize black voters in places where their numbers could help him win in November?

Race has played a key role in American politics for as long as there have been Democrats and Republicans.

Fred Garrett, a black South Carolinian, recalls how his parent's voted Republican, the party of Lincoln, before the Great Depression. But when Franklin Delano Roosevelt offered a New Deal, they took it and shifted their loyalties to the Democrats. Most blacks who overcame social and legal barriers to voting cast their ballots the same way.

By some measurements, Garrett — an evangelical, churchgoing,

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## Patrick announces bill, order to reform CORI

Yawu Miller

Gov. Deval Patrick last week announced a bill and an executive order, both aimed at stemming what some have called excesses in the state's Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI) law.

Patrick's bill would reduce the amount of time ex-offenders would have to wait to have their records

is a smarter approach."

Many of those working for CORI reform hailed Patrick's support, but stressed that more changes are necessary to make it possible for ex-offenders to find gainful employment.

"This moves the reform process forward," said City Councilor Chuck Turner. "But it's not as much as we wanted."

As it stands, according to Wil-

sealed and remove barriers to state agencies seeking to hire job applicants with criminal records.

"CORI was never intended to turn every offense into a life sentence," said Patrick in a statement announcing the proposed reforms. "All but a handful of people incarcerated are eventually released, and they need to get back to work. These reforms require decision-makers to make an individual determination about whether an applicant is rehabilitated, rather than excluding ex-offenders categorically. If we want to reduce crime and help people re-integrate successfully, this

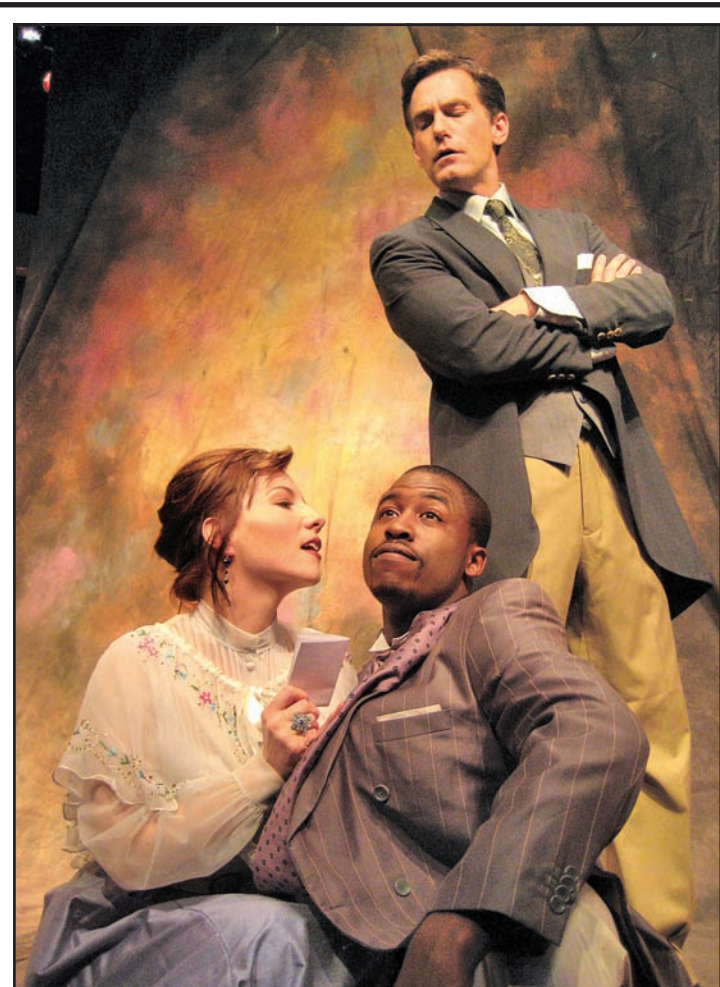
*Many of those working for CORI reform hailed Patrick's support, but stressed that more changes are necessary to make it possible for ex-offenders to find gainful employment.*

nelia Rivera, an organizer with the statewide grassroots organization Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts, CORIs are "like scarlet letters that marginalize" ex-offenders by preventing them from accessing employment and housing opportunities. Her organization says individuals who were found

innocent or against whom charges were dropped should not have CORI records.

"This is a significant step towards opening the door ... for people with CORI records, but much more work needs to be done," said Rivera in a

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Jason Bowen (center), who commanded the stage as Solo in the Company One production of John ADEkoje's "Six Rounds / Six Lessons" last summer, returns to the stage alongside Amy Russ (left) and James Lloyd Reynolds in New Repertory Theatre's production of Molière's "The Misanthrope," which opened yesterday and runs through Feb. 10. For show times and ticket information, call 617-923-8487 or visit www.newrep.org. (Photo courtesy of New Repertory Theatre)

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