



## Mass. pols deal or go bust on casino debate

Glen Johnson

It all, it appears, comes down to what you mean by the word "deal."

Did Salvatore F. DiMasi make a deal with his members, when they elected him House speaker in 2004, to exhibit leadership different from the autocratic, opaque style of his predecessor, Tom Finneran? A majority felt so.

Did DiMasi fulfill the deal he made with Gov. Deval Patrick last year when he pledged a "full and fair" debate on the governor's proposal to build three gambling casinos in Massachusetts? The governor certainly doesn't think so.

And did DiMasi consummate a deal with state Rep. Richard Ross last week before the Wrentham Republican switched his vote and decided to oppose the casino bill in a crucial committee vote, all but dooming it a day later on the House floor?

The member thinks so. The speaker thinks not.

Such is the aftermath of a contentious week on Beacon Hill, which left the casino bill in tatters, prospects for closing the state's \$1.3 billion budget surplus further in doubt and relations between the governor and the speaker in need of some tending.

That's quite a deal for just one

piece of legislation.

The truth is that this kind of show-down has been coming since Patrick ran for office in 2006 with the promise to clean up the clubby culture on Beacon Hill. That remark didn't sit well with fellow Democrats already in the State House, including DiMasi.

There's been barely a Patrick bill introduction that hasn't been greeted with words of caution from the speaker. That was particularly the case when the new governor proposed to close a series of tax loopholes benefiting corporations.

DiMasi was against them last year, but last month, he did a 180-degree turn and led the House to approve the loophole closures.

While DiMasi has supported other Patrick bills, including a \$1 billion life sciences initiative that also cleared the Senate last week, Patrick aides remain flustered. They feel the disagreements have little to do with policy and far more to do with personality — contradicting DiMasi's promises when he became speaker.

"I would like to say a world about my views on leadership," DiMasi told his members after they elected him speaker on Sept. 29, 2004. "I am open-minded and openhearted in my approach to decision-making. I will

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### ANALYSIS

*A contentious week on Beacon Hill left the casino bill in tatters, prospects for closing the state's \$1.3 billion budget surplus further in doubt and relations between the governor and the speaker in need of some tending.*



Adier Anyang is on track to earn a degree in accounting from Bunker Hill Community College this summer. Anyang is one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," a group of 3,800 Southern Sudanese

orphans brought to the U.S. in 2001 due to a civil war in the African nation that has killed 2 million people over the past quarter-century. (Daniela Caride photo)

## 'They need me'

For Lost Boys of Sudan, education is only part of the solution to help family back home

Daniela Caride

Adier Anyang had never seen an ATM machine, a bank or even a calculator when he came to America in 2001 as a Sudanese refugee. He had learned numbers by sharing with his classmates the few books available in Kakuma Refugee Camp, in Kenya, where he lived for 10 years with 86,000 other African exiles.

At night, Anyang would study under the light of a kerosene lamp until it was time for the only meal of the day: a ration of whatever grain the United Nations distributed that week. His stomach finally calmed down, he would go to sleep in the grass hut he built with his cousin on

the dusty land of the Kenyan desert.

Now Anyang is about to get his college degree in accounting and finance. He has been spending his last days at school studying economics and accounting under the neon lights of the Bunker Hill Community College library. There, he tirelessly reads several books at a time, always accompanied by his cell phone, his calculator and a cup of coffee.

"Education is my life. It's my future life," says Anyang, who will earn his degree this summer.

Anyang is one of the 3,800 "Lost Boys of Sudan" — the name given to the orphaned Southern Sudanese children brought to America, the living collateral damage of a civil

war that has killed 2 million people since 1983. Most of the Lost Boys left Kakuma believing that education would be the only way to escape extreme poverty and rebuild their lives.

**A school under a tree**

The Lost Boys spent most of their childhood attending unequipped schools in Kakuma, but they were happy to have a school. Most had never seen one before arriving in camp.

"The two-decade war that ended in January 2005 left Southern Sudan's infrastructure in tatters," said UNICEF in an April 2007 press release. "Of the 2,922 schools currently operating in Sudan, continued to page 22



"Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" — a four-hour documentary series created by Larry Ademan (left) and featuring co-executive producer Llewellyn Smith — premieres

on WGBH 2 tonight. It considers the complicated answers to a simple question: If the U.S. is the world's richest country, why is health care poor for so many? (Annette K. Beecham photo)

## GBH series to explore social link to sickness

Victoria Cheng

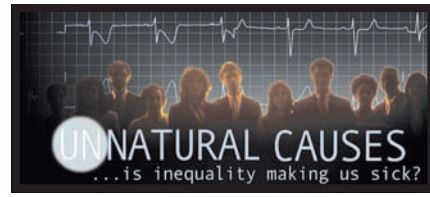
There's a hierarchy implied in the traditional toast to health, wealth and happiness. As the first item on the list, health is set up as a prerequisite for the latter two. Economic and emotional well-being cannot be attained, according to this adage, without basic physical well-being.

But in a strange reversal, the United States — the single wealthiest country in the world — suffers from an egregiously long list of poor health outcomes. It has, for starters, the highest infant mortality rate, the

highest child poverty rate, the highest teenage birth rate and the highest number of people living alone of any industrialized country.

"Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?" — a four-hour documentary series premiering tonight on WGBH — does not seek to rehash this litany of statistics. Rather, it asks another, potentially more profound question: Why?

Why do so many Americans suffer from poor health when this country spends a mind-boggling \$2 trillion a year on medical care, an investment 'Causes', continued to page 21



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