



## For Patrick, a loss in Hub, a win in N.Y.

Glen Johnson

Gov. Deval Patrick was out of state when his casino gambling plan, a cornerstone of his economic program, went down to defeat. But the mystery of his whereabouts has been solved.

The state's first black governor was in New York City, shopping an autobiography much like that of his kindred political spirit, Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama.

Obama wrote "Dreams from My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope," and shares a similar story with Patrick in that they both graduated from Harvard Law School, have Chicago ties and ended up seeking elective office on the strength of their biographies.

The deal is worth \$1.35 million and nine publishers competed for the book, currently untitled, according to agent Todd Shuster of the Zachary Shuster Harmsworth Literary Agency. Patrick will donate some of his royalties to A Better Chance, a nonprofit educational organization that helped Patrick attend Milton Academy, south of Boston.

"Drawing upon his extraordinary journey from Chicago's Wabash Avenue to the Massachusetts State House on Boston's fabled Beacon Hill, Gov. Patrick will offer in his book a series of lessons and

insights on life and leadership," according to a statement released last Friday by Broadway Books, an imprint of Random House Inc.

"Among the subjects he will address are self-truth, grace, faith, courage and compassion, as well as the importance of forgiveness, and embracing optimism and hope to make good outcomes possible."

An aide also said Patrick's absence did not affect the outcome of the House debate.

"The governor worked tirelessly up to the day of the vote to persuade House members of the merits of the economic development potential of his casino initiative and to further encourage members to debate the legislation in full on the House floor," said Joe Landolfi, Patrick's communications director.

The Associated Press made numerous inquiries about Patrick's whereabouts after he was out of the state on two workdays for what his schedule only described as "personal business" in New York. Patrick aides refused to be more forthcoming, except to say his absence was not related to a medical condition.

In subsequent conversations, the aides suggested the governor deserved private time — even during the workweek — without further elaboration to the public. Last year,

*Patrick, continued to page 10*

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Poet and novelist Maya Angelou laughs as she addresses the audience at the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America — Mobile Chapter's 30th Anniversary Celebration Program on

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006, in Mobile, Ala. The African American icon, who turns 80 tomorrow, says she feels as good as she did at age 60. (AP photo/Press-Register, John David Mercer)

## The Caged Bird still sings

At 80, Maya Angelou says life is still an adventure

Hillel Italie

NEW YORK — It takes just seconds to leave behind this muted Harlem side street and enter the parlor of Maya Angelou's brownstone, a step as bright and quick as a black and white film dissolving into Technicolor.

Plump sofas and armchairs in bursts of green, blue, red and yellow form a ring on spotless hardwood floors. Toward the rear, like a shy, well-dressed prodigy, a baby grand piano looks shined to stage perfection. By the piano, stained glass doors open to a red dining

area centered by a mahogany table as big and round as the voice of Angelou herself.

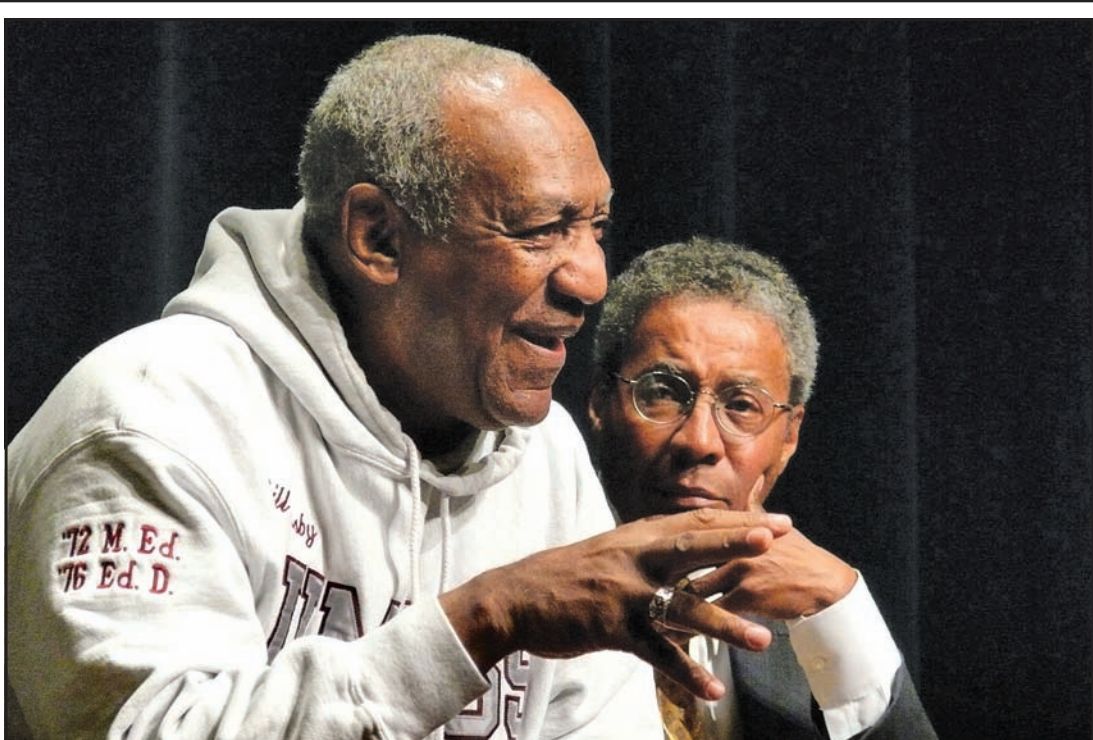
Still close to her youthful height of 6 feet, the author-poet-dancer-singer-activist is ready to celebrate her 80th birthday, feeling, she says, like she's 60, wearing a dark blouse and slacks, sipping apple juice, singing hymns, reciting Latin, whispering, laughing, crying, missing lost friends or planning to make new ones.

"I don't know how long I'm going to live, but I still see my life as an adventure," says Angelou, who divides her time between New York

and a house in Winston-Salem, N.C.

She has filled six volumes of memoirs with her wild, tragic, unstoppable story: growing up with segregation as a child and motherhood at 17; from strip clubs and brothels to nightclubs and Broadway; the assassinations of her friends Malcolm X and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; a classic memoir, Hallmark cards and the adoration of Oprah Winfrey.

Wealthy and famous beyond even her admittedly immodest dreams, she is no closer to settling *Angelou, continued to page 13*



Comedian and author Bill Cosby (left) emphasizes a point during a recent presentation as Dr. Alvin Poussaint (right) listens. The two appeared last week at a discussion and sign-

ing of their book hosted by the Museum of African American History and hosted at the Walsh Theater "Come On People: On the Path from Victims to Victors." (Don West photo)

## A call to business led to one of her own

Jin-ah Kim

It's 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and beneath the large windows in her home office, Jameel Webb-Davis is a blur.

One minute, she's closing manila folders stuffed with paper and stacking them on her wooden desk. The next minute, she's racing downstairs into the kitchen, where she hurriedly packs pineapple slices into Tupperware, grabs a banana and a container of yogurt, and hunts for her 3-year-old son Quinton's favorite red lunchbox. When the search goes south, she settles on a brown paper bag.

Snacks packed, she rushes out to the backyard, where she hops in her blue station wagon. After pick-

ing Quinton up from the child care center in their Medford neighborhood, Webb-Davis points the wagon north to Haverhill, where she is running the fourth session in her five-workshop series for high school students and their parents.

She's teaching them how to manage checking accounts and credit cards.

Forty minutes later, 15 students and their parents are sitting around two tables when Webb-Davis enters the classroom at the Haverhill YMCA. Two volunteers greet her and take Quinton to play in another room while Mommy does business.

Webb-Davis starts the two-hour "Be Smart about Credit *Business, continued to page 23*

## What's INSIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT . . . 15-17  
BILLBOARD . . . . . 17

### LISTINGS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY . . . . 24  
CALENDAR . . . . . 25  
CHURCH GUIDE . . . . . 26

### PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL . . . . . 4  
OPINION . . . . . 5  
ROVING CAMERA . . . . . 5

### CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED . . . . . 30-31  
LEGALS . . . . . 27-28  
REAL ESTATE . . . . . 28-30