

# THE WASHINGTON Informer

Civil rights activist  
Lawrence Guyot calls  
for a campaign  
crusade



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AP Photo/ Chris Carlson

## Democrats 'Fired Up' As Potomac Primary Approaches

By **Bonnie V. Winston**  
Special from the *Richmond Free Press*

RICHMOND (NNPA) - Heading into Virginia with the wind at their back, the campaign of Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama is rolling.

"We're fired up and ready to go," said Dietra Trent, a longtime political operative, now a state official, who is volunteering with the campaign.

Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia will hold primaries next Tuesday, Feb. 12, in what has been termed, "The Potomac Primaries," which, for the first time will include primaries for voters in the nation's capitol and voters from the neighboring suburban.

Obama's Virginia team has pounded the pavement since Obama's victory in South Carolina two weeks ago.

The 46-year-old U.S. senator from Illinois gathered momentum with a big win in South Carolina. That landslide victory was followed by endorsements from Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy, JFK's brother, U.S. Sen. Edward "Ted" Kennedy of Massachusetts, and his son, Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy last week.

Over the weekend, in the final days leading up to Super Tuesday,



▲ Democratic presidential hopefuls Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., right, and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., stand together before the start of a Democratic presidential debate in Los Angeles, Thursday, Jan. 31.

## Gaylord Hires On the Spot

By **Tia Carol Jones**  
WI Staff Writer

The line for the buses at Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington was almost as long as the row of buses. People were lined up for a chance to get jobs at the Gaylord National Harbor Resort Grand Hire event.

Rashid Hatcher already has a job but saw it as a great opportunity for new employment. As he went into the Application Zone, the place where applicants put their resumes into the computers, he was confident he would get a job.

In April, Gaylord will open at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill. The 2,000-room hotel is the fourth resort and convention center in the Gaylord Hotel family. In keeping with the STARS theme of Gaylord, applicants walked a red carpet complete with music to get to the registration line.

According to the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of December 2007, 3.8 percent of Maryland's labor force was unemployed and 6.1 percent of D.C.'s labor force was unemployed.

Lydia McDaniel is also currently employed but was familiar with Gaylord Hotels because she went to the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas not far from Dallas.

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**INSIDE**  
This Week...



Dorothy Lomax Dorrah Evans turned 102-years-old on Jan. 30.



A message in observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



Great sports photos

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**Informer's  
African News Series**

There is a so-called "disconnect" among African Americans and Africans. Black Americans are not communicating effectively with continental Africans and thus are missing many opportunities to do business and support each other. Accordingly these missed opportunities are opening doors for many non-African businesses and entrepreneurs to invest and make millions of dollars in the lucrative South African economy. The *Informer's African News Series* provides the opportunity to share first hand views regarding this African American and African divide and, more importantly, to promote greater awareness among African Americans about Africa and the need to establish meaningful relationships that advance our mutual economic and social interests in the African Diaspora.

- Layfayette Barnes **WI**

# The Diaspora African Forum Reconnects Africans to the Continent

Photo courtesy of the Diaspora African Forum



▲ U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Pamela Bridgewater, (l-r) with Reverend Jesse Jackson, Dr. Erieka Bennet, and Nana, chief of Cantament join African diplomats at the Diaspora Africa Forum.

**By Claudette Perry**  
DAF/DC Desk Representative

With the 21st century came a renaissance for descendants of slaves who wish to reconnect with their homeland. Like other nations, African descendants now have a diplomatic mission facility on the Continent themed the Diaspora African Forum (DAF).

The issue of an African Diaspora initially gained momentum in 2001 at the first Civil Society Conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU,) which changed its name to the African Union (AU) at the World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa.

At those conferences, there was a huge lobbying effort to invite all diaspora Africans, including African Americans, whose ancestors were

forcibly removed from the Continent into slavery, to return to help in the redevelopment of the African Continent.

The DAF is dedicated to building sustainable cultural, human, geopolitical, global, philanthropic, and economic relations between Africans in the Diaspora and those great nations on the African continent. DAF is the culmination of these events and the beginning of the earnest integration of African descendants and their African families.

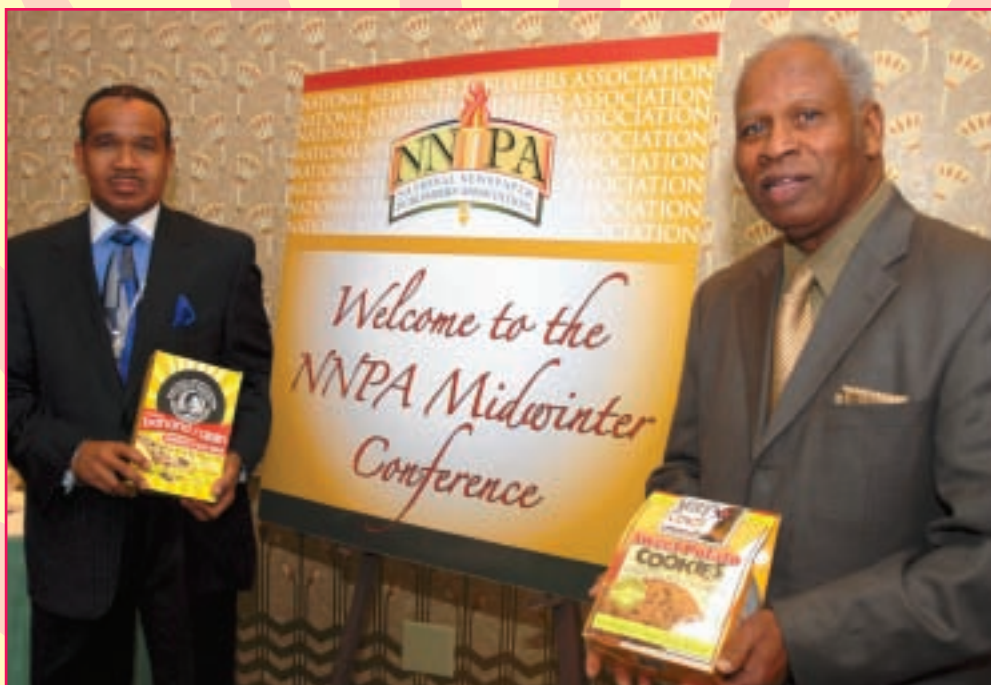
It serves as the primary vehicle for the incorporation of Diaspora ideas, resources, the exchange of information and cultural understanding between the African Diaspora and the African Union. Diplomatic status granted by President John Kufuor of Ghana opened the door for this kind of "full participation of

*Please see DIASPORA on Page 44*

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Lloyd Price Icon Food Brands, Inc. products were on display in Las Vegas at The National Newspapers Publishers Association Mid-Winter Conference. LPIFB Chief Operating Officer Bill Waller and NNPA President John Smith are shown holding some of the treats that were enjoyed by all in attendance. Lloyd Price Icon Food Brands, Inc. is the first African American owned food products company to have products sold at Wal-Mart. Products can be seen and ordered on line at [www.lawdymissclawdy.com](http://www.lawdymissclawdy.com)

# Popular Opposition Leader Shot As Fighting Intensifies

**Special to the NNPA from  
GIN**

(GIN) - An opposition lawmaker died Jan. 29, shot to death as he drove home in Nairobi. His killing has dimmed hopes for an end to the month-long standoff between supporters of Pres. Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Odinga Raila.

Mellitus Mugabe Were was one of several opposition members who won seats in the legislative vote held at the same time as the disputed presidential election. The opposition accuses President Mwai Kibaki of stealing the presidential vote.

Meanwhile, in western Kenya's Rift Valley, homes were torched and store windows smashed while police and military helicopters flew over the crowd and officers began shooting, sending people running in panic.

Kenya's unrest has taken a toll on its neighbors, the Uganda Manufacturers Association who reports losses of \$34 million in delayed goods deliveries, merchandise burnt en route, and drops in productivity due to lack

of raw materials.

Former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, launching a "dialogue process," has been joined by former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and Graca Machel, wife of Nelson Mandela.

Writing for Kenya's East African newspaper, Martin Kimani observed: "Kenya's choices are simple: life or death, penury or prosperity, a cohesive, well-governed nation that counts its diversity as strength or a suspicious, hateful one governed by the cynical and awash with the blood of its young."

"If Nelson Mandela could share power with the Nationalist Party, then it is not too much to expect President Kibaki and Raila Odinga to do the same," added Kimani, a member of Concerned African Writers.

Speaking on Nairobi's Capital FM radio, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, whose father was Kenyan, said: "Now is the time for all parties to renounce violence. Now is the time for Kenyan leaders to rise above party affiliations and past ambitions for the sake of peace."

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