



Representatives from Boston's City to City delegation view a model of the 2008 Olympic site in Beijing, China, complete with a replica of the 60,000-seat stadium (center). A group of Boston business leaders traveled to China last month to meet with counterparts in Beijing, Shanghai and Hang Zhou and observe how businesses operate there. (Don West photo)

Dem hopefuls setting sights on Iowa win

Nedra Pickler and Beth Fouhy

next year's convention, to be held Aug. 25-28 in Denver.

WASHINGTON — For now, the Democratic presidential campaign has become a four-letter word: Iowa.

The early states and how they stack up

The campaign's first voting state has become so vital that all the Democrats are focused on it. It's where front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton hopes to begin a no-stumbles sprint to the nomination, and it's the one place her opponents have a chance to slow her.

IOWA — Jan. 3 caucus (45 pledged delegates)

State polls show a tight race among Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards, with the rest of the field lagging behind. But polling is notoriously difficult among potential caucus participants, making the true state of play very difficult to gauge.

Most state and national polls indicate Clinton is strong, but her opponents see reason for hope in just the past couple of weeks.



Clinton had what even she acknowledged was a less-than-stellar debate performance in late October — though she fought back more effectively in the next one. She's had to contend with the embarrassing news that campaign operatives planted questions at events. And she's been on the defensive about her vote for a Senate resolution on Iran, portrayed by her rivals as an early step toward war.

Clinton's strategists believe a key source of potential strength lies with women who have never attended one of the state's 1,784 precinct caucuses. The campaign is building a "buddy system" to match experienced caucus participants with the novices, and is offering transportation and child care.

Yet if Clinton can win Iowa, she seems headed toward the nomination. She has comfortable leads in the states that follow and tens of millions of dollars to continue a vigorous fight.

The Obama campaign has a similar strategy with young voters, connecting them with veteran caucus goers. The "Barack Stars" are high school seniors supporting the Illinois senator — they can vote in caucuses if they'll turn 18 by the time of the general election Nov. 4 — and he has strong support among college students.

First she must get past Iowa, which she has called her "toughest state." A loss there could make her look vulnerable and create a competitive race for the 2,104 delegates needed to secure the nomination at

A more high-powered star, Oprah Winfrey, will join Obama again on the campaign trail in Iowa, as well as **Campaign**, continued to page 19

The new China card

Deval heads Far East to stir up business for the Bay State

Talia Whyte

Gov. Deval Patrick will depart tomorrow to lead a trade mission to the People's Republic of China with a team of Massachusetts business executives, academics and senior government officials.

ity to partner with the private sector and promote Massachusetts effectively and aggressively."

As bargaining chips, Patrick cited the Commonwealth's expertise in cutting-edge industries, such as alternative energy and life sciences, and in providing high-quality education at every level. But, Patrick explained, "we have to take bold initiative to move Massachusetts forward and compete on the international stage."

During the seven-day trip, intended to increase business between the Commonwealth and China, the delegation plans to visit business leaders in Beijing and Shanghai to discuss clean air initiatives, life sciences, education and transportation.

China has the fourth largest — and fastest growing — economy in the world, and is expected to surpass Germany for third place by early 2008, according to an Associated Press report. The U.S. Census Bureau says that between January and September of this year, the U.S. imported over \$230 million worth of Chinese products.

"In today's global economy, competition is worldwide, and so are the opportunities," Patrick said in a statement announcing the excursion. "No state can afford to sit back and wait for the benefits of foreign trade and development. We have a responsibility to partner with the private sector and promote Massachusetts effectively and aggressively."

However, according to a World

Public Opinion poll released in May, 56 percent of Americans oppose the United States entering a free trade agreement with China. The recent controversy surrounding recalls of Chinese-made toys tainted with lead paint has only fueled negative opinions among Americans. Nonetheless, this same poll shows that most Americans believe that China's economy will surpass the size of the U.S. economy eventually, and they are OK with that.

A group of 30 business leaders from Boston traveled to China last month on a similar trade mission as part of the City to City Program. Started by longtime community activist Hubie Jones, over the past decade the program has taken prominent **China**, continued to page 20

Desegregation rulings causing confusion

Allen G. Breed

Officials in Shelby County, Tenn., complain they'll have to spend millions to satisfy a federal judge's "arbitrary" desegregation order. It'll mean busing minority students up to an hour away and replacing hundreds of white teachers with black ones, they say.

moved away from using race as a factor in deciding where kids should go to school?

Didn't the high court recently put an exclamation point on that trend, ruling that two districts' heavy reliance on race in student

assignment policies violated the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection?

In Huntsville, Ala., under a similar court order, students can transfer from a school where they're in the racial majority, but not the other way around.

Yes, and yes. But there are still hundreds of districts across the country, from the Northeast to the Southwest, that operate under federal court desegregation orders — some more than four decades old.

And in the Tucson, Ariz., Unified School District, students could move from one school to another only if the change improved "the ethnic balance of the receiving school and [did] not further imbalance the ethnic makeup of the home school."

These districts are in a unique and sharply debated position with respect to the Supreme Court's rulings. They exist in what critics consider a historical Twilight Zone, where federal judges can make seemingly contradictory decisions.

"So which ruling do I violate?" asks a perplexed Bobby Webb, superintendent of schools in Shelby County, where Memphis is located. "The judge's **Rulings**, continued to page 11

What's INSIDE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT . . . 15-17
BILLBOARD 18

LISTINGS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 24
CALENDAR 25
CHURCH GUIDE 26

PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL 4
OPINION 5
ROVING CAMERA 5

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED 29-31
LEGALS 27-28
REAL ESTATE 28-29



Respected actor and longtime Latino activist Edward James Olmos visited Boston last week to deliver a lecture to Emerson College students about the continuing fight for diversity in Hollywood. For more, turn to pg. 15. (David Rosen/Emerson College photo)