

# Portland Observer Year in Review

## Looking back at some the top local stories from 2008



### Perceptions Collide on Alberta

Feb. 6 - A Portland State University study shows wide popularity for Northeast Alberta Street, but also a strong desire to make the street safer and more inviting to various types of people, especially African Americans. The sentiments echoed by James King, 31, who supports non-alcoholic activities geared to younger generations.



### Portland's Dreamgirls

Jan. 2 - Lava Lapai, Julianne Johnson and Joann Coleman begin dress rehearsals for the Portland production of 'Dreamgirls,' based on the Tony Award winning play



### Obama Visit Brings Endorsement

March 26 - Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., earns the endorsement of Bill Richardson, the nation's only Hispanic governor, at a rally of more than 12,000 people in Portland's Memorial Coliseum, ahead of Oregon's May 20 Primary.

### Verdicts Bring Closure

March 5 - The family and friends of murder victim Asia Bell James await the guilty verdicts of two men charged in her 2004 drive-by shooting in north Portland. Perlia Bell the mother of the 23-year-old victim and an activist against senseless violence forgives the killers.



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### Emerging from Crisis Mode

Feb. 20 - Just passing her 100th day as superintendent, Carole Smith guides Portland Public Schools into a position of calm not seen since the 1980s. The homegrown leader is overseeing a district that has emerged from crisis mode and more than a decade of budget cuts.



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