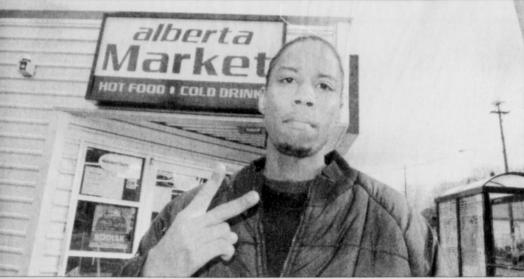
December 31, 2008

## 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 John son 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-III., earns the endorsement of Bill Richardson, the nation's only

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.

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#### **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.





#### **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.

### LOOKING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE?

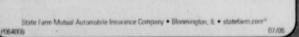
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