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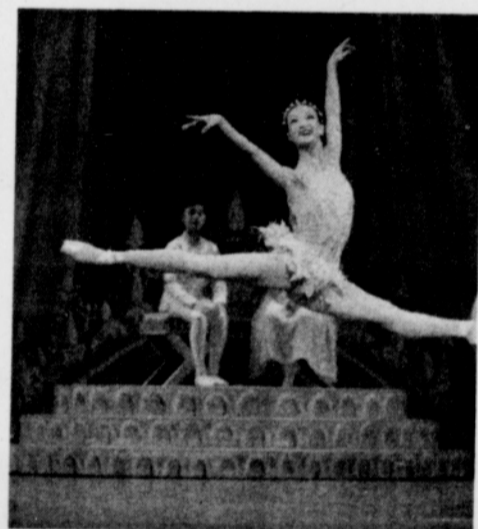
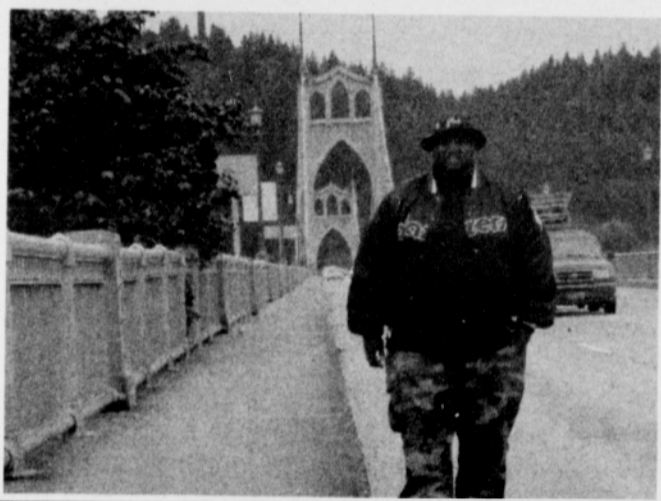
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What's on your list today?.

## LOCAL NEWS

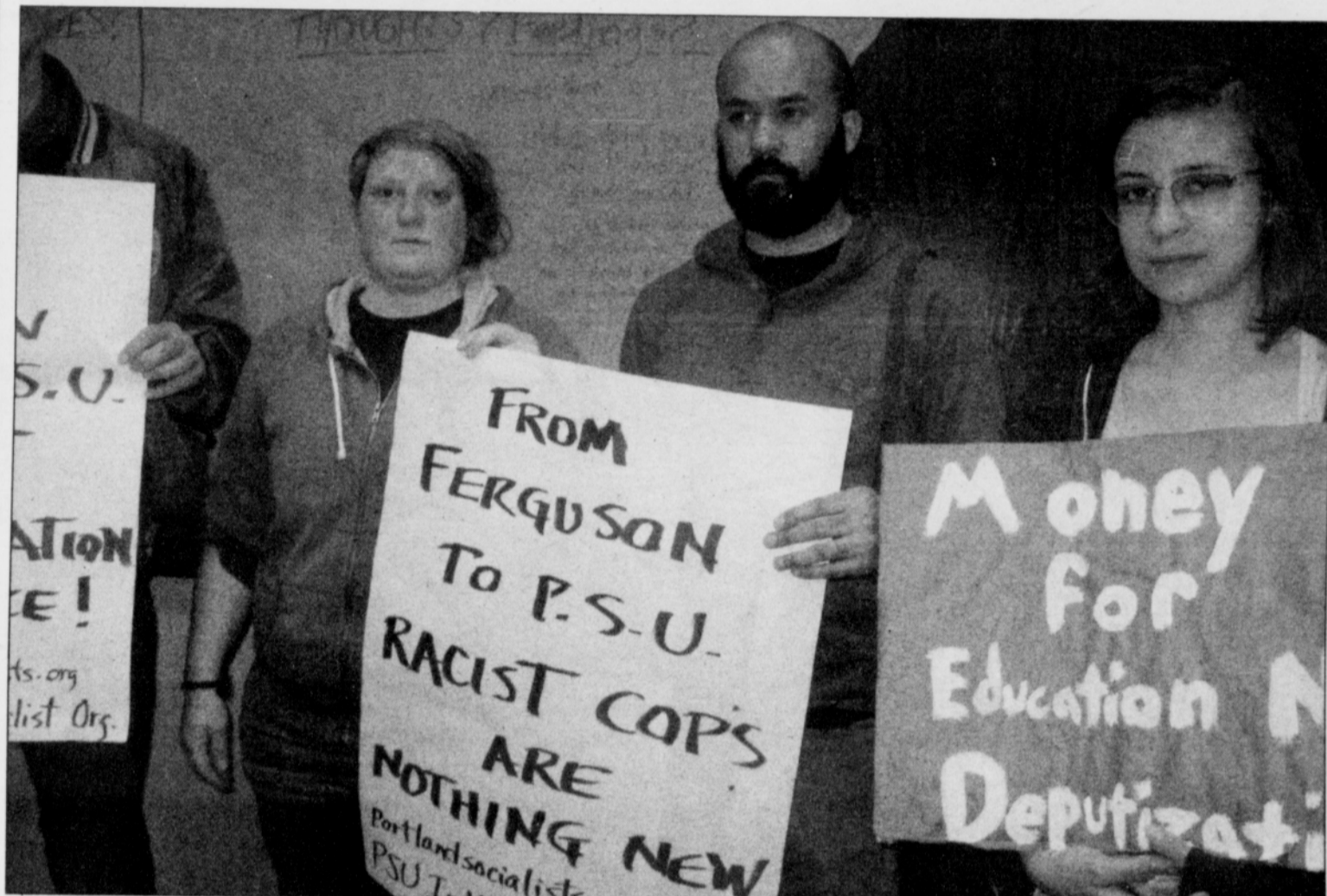


PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Student and community activists protest the arming of Portland State University campus security during a November board meeting.

### Vote for Armed Police

PSU approves plan pending guidelines

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Despite strong objections from civil rights advocates and many students and faculty, Portland State University moved forward Thursday with a plan to create an armed campus police force.

The PSU Board of Trustees voted

11 to 2 to approve the proposal. However, it will be another six months and another board vote before officers on campus start carrying guns. The time will be used by a committee made up of administration, staff and students to set guidelines for the police department to reflect the values of the campus community.

A PSU task force earlier concluded that PSU needs fully-sworn police officers, citing its growth to 29,000 students; its permeable border with the city; and the time it

takes the Portland Police Bureau to respond to dangerous incidents on campus.

The PSU Black Student Union joined Students United for Nonviolence and the PSU Student Union to oppose the action. Anti-rape activists on campus were also against the plan, including Melinda Joy, who said victims will be less likely to report their sexual assault to armed officers.

PSU Dean of Student Life

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### Officer Named Assistant Chief

Come January, Portland will have a new police chief, and soon alongside him, a new assistant chief.

Larry O'Dea, who will be sworn as the new chief with the New Year, has announced plans to add a fourth assistant chief position during his tenure in order to better address the police bureau's community engagement efforts.

O'Dea has selected Commander Kevin Modica, a black officer and long time veteran of the Portland Police Bureau, who is currently supervisor of the Transit Police division.

Modica will be the assistant chief of the new Community Services Branch, which means he will also be responsible for traffic, transit police, youth services, tactical operations, and emergency management divisions.



Kevin Modica