

# Protest over Armed Police

Fall term opens with tensions on PSU campus

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Nearly 100 students and community members protested Portland State University's convocation ceremonies and held a rally outside on Monday as fall term gets underway because of a controversial decision made last spring to arm the university's campus security force.

The many students, staff, graduates, neighbors, and even faculty showed they will protest and fight the decision which will be implemented over the next three years at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

Alyssa Pagan, an activist and PSU student said the protesters were standing in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement against police brutality.

Olivia Pace, the student who organized the protest, accused PSU President Wim Wiewel and the school's Board of Trustees of ignoring their pleas.

"This is not over," said David Martinez, the college's student government vice president, pointing to an incoming class that is 40 percent people of color. "Portland State needs to be a campus that is safe for people, where students will not experience harassment just because they are black or



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. VAHID BROWN  
Portland State University student and activist Alyssa Pagan addresses a crowd of protesters on campus during a rally Monday protesting the arming its security force.

brown."

PSU Director of Communications Scott Gallagher said the protesters did not represent most of the students and defended a decision that came after a more than two year long process of public outreach.

"They're a vocal minority, but they don't represent the 30,000 students at Portland State," said Gallagher. "There was a taskforce made up of faculty, staff and students, and they helped make this recommendation."

Gallagher said arming campus security allows the PSU com-

munity respond more quickly to problems on campus and clarifies issues regarding jurisdiction with Portland Police. "Having our own force means we don't have to wait to respond to many of our campus issues - we can send our officers in directly and not worry about jurisdiction."

Gallagher added he supported the students' rights to voice their concerns.

The students protesting a militarized campus said they would be meeting again to decide how best to organize and continue to put pressure on the university.

## The Week in Review

### Defending Planned Parenthood

House Speaker Tina Kotek abruptly cancelled a hearing about Planned Parenthood and how it disposes of aborted fetuses Monday. The Portland Democrat accused Republicans of bringing "D.C.-style games to the Oregon House. I am a strong supporter of Planned Parenthood and have seen zero evidence to support the allegations that their opponents have drummed up in recent weeks," Kotek said.



### Homeless Camp on Notice

The Oregon Department of Transportation has given campers who have been using a public lot on North Greeley Avenue until Thursday to start clearing out. Several nonprofits have offered assistance and are trying to find a solution for the growing number of homeless people who are camping with tents and make-shift shelters, but it is unclear where the group will go next.

### Cooking Starts House Fire

Firefighters responded Saturday night to a house fire on Northeast Rodney Avenue. One 80-year-old resident was taken to Emanuel Hospital and treated for small burns and minor smoke inhalation.

The fire started in the kitchen with an oil fire and left damages estimated at \$100,000.

### Roosevelt High School Fire

Fire crews responded to a two-alarm fire at Roosevelt High School in north Portland Sunday. Authorities report that the flames were contained to a materials pile adjacent to a stage in the school's gym. There were no victims and school opened regularly Monday.

### Man's Wheelchair Stolen

A north Portland man who relies on his wheelchair to get around said Monday that he is now confined to his home after someone stole the wheelchair from his front porch. David Rinella said the chair disappeared sometime Saturday night from his home in the University Park neighborhood.

### Bicycle Commuting Record

Portlanders set a record for bike commuting in 2014, with 7.2 percent of commuters choosing to bike to work, according to new figures published by the Census Bureau. An estimated 23,347 Portlanders commuted to work by bike in 2014, an increase of 27 percent, or 5,010 commuters from the year before.

### Battle for Living Wages

A petition to bring the statewide minimum wage up to \$15 an hour secured a ballot title this week. Organizers from Oregonians for 15 and 15 Now Oregon say they need to collect to 88,000 valid signatures by July 1 in order to qualify for the November 2016 ballot.

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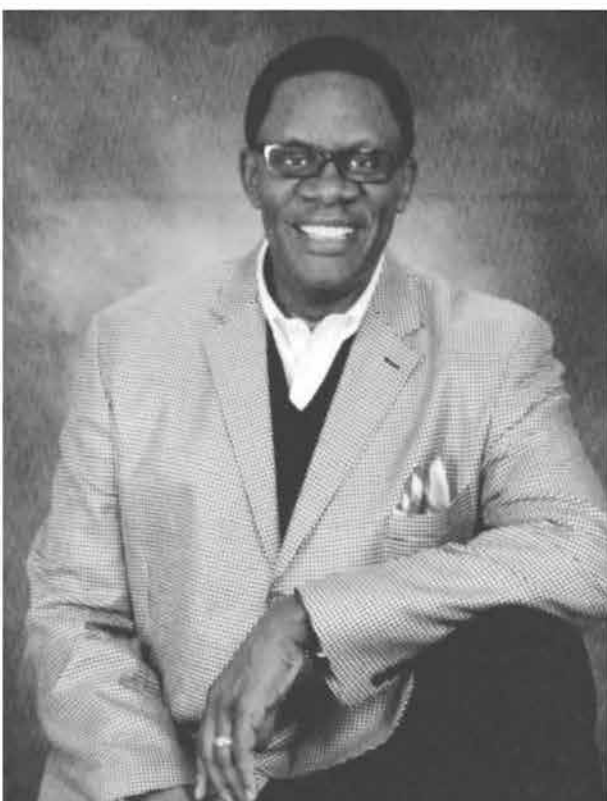
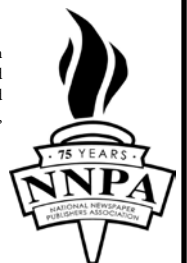
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