

# Dynamic Leader for Justice Emerges

## Braving arrest and threats to advance cause

BY ZACHARY SENN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland activist Gregory McKelvey is no stranger to confrontations with law enforcement. A 23-year-old grappling with questions of police reform, social justice and inequitable political structures, he has been at the forefront of a community following the path of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to advance a more just America.

Thanks to his diverse background in law studies, campaign management, and public speaking, McKelvey is one of the most dynamic and versatile figures on Portland's activist scene. His recent arrest during a Nov. 21 protest march, in which he was charged for disorderly conduct, could mark a new era of non-violent civil disobedience in the Northwest and in the nation as a whole.

In the wake of the presidential election of Donald Trump, McKelvey founded a new activist

group called Portland's Resistance to give direction and leadership to local residents and members of minority groups and other organizations opposed to the policies of the pending Trump administration.

McKelvey first became interested in enacting political change at a young age. He was in high school and "super inspired" when Barack Obama first ran for president in 2008, and then the shooting death of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin by neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman in 2012 galvanized his activism.

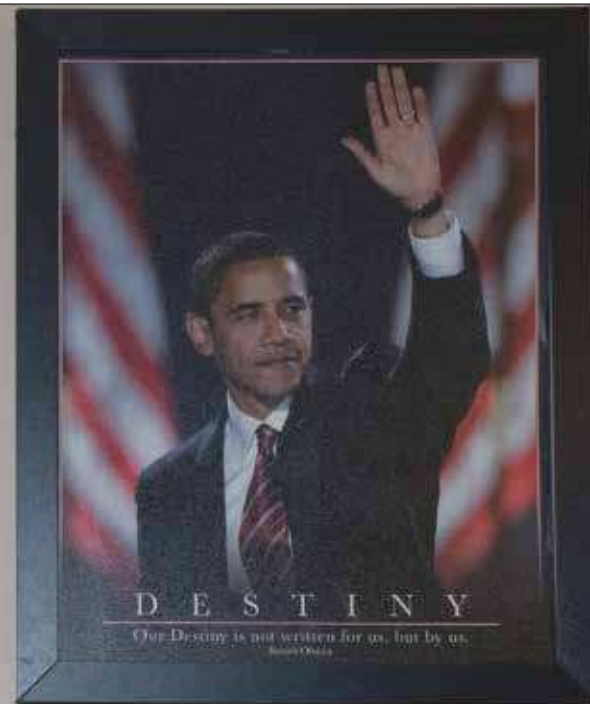
Following high-school, he decided to pursue a degree in Political Science at Oregon State University. Since his 2014 graduation, McKelvey has worked on a host of local and state-level political campaigns, most recently by serving as the campaign manager for James Ofsink's bid for state Senate.

Speaking of his campaign work, McKelvey states, "My style of running political campaigns was always to get people involved in the issues that everybody's talking

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*Gregory McKelvey is the leader of Portland's Resistance, a group dedicated to fighting policies in the incoming Trump administration that are detrimental to minorities, immigrants and other disadvantaged populations.*



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