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of Portland, do I see all kinds of questionable driving, including failure to stop at stop signs, failure to use a turn signal while driving fast and changing lanes, not to mention reckless driving consisting of weaving through freeway traffic. Yet rarely do I see police officers around these events, and if I do, I do not see them stopping someone for "failure to come to a complete stop" at a stop sign.

So exactly what does this really mean? Is it a fallback position, much like "I got my foot stuck in the door"? White privilege means I don't have to worry much about these things.

"Driving while black" (or, in this case, "riding while black") results in the tragic death of a young woman. A young woman of color who was out in a car late at night, the same activity white people take for granted, although with no thought of the risk it could entail. Maybe coming home from a long trip or a social evening out, etc.

Why in the first place did the police follow this group of young black people? Do white people worry about an officer following their car? Are they sure to keep their hands in view so the cop doesn't shoot them ("I thought he had a gun" self-defense)?

Is "they didn't stop at a stop sign" just another in a long list of self-defenses used against the black men and women who feel they have the right to be out, moving freely, without the risk of being killed? The black community puts out manuals for how to interact with police and what are your rights. Why? To save lives and prevent tragedies such as this.

Kendra James didn't sit quietly and didn't

keep still while in the presence of officers. If the police have an arrest warrant out and are purportedly looking for her—when they see that she is in an increasingly agitated state (not to mention in a vehicle, which can be a "deadly weapon")—why don't they simply back off? In her case, the ultimate price was paid during an interaction with "public servants" out to (supposedly) "keep the peace and protect the public."

Then we hear on the news: The white officer walks. And to add insult to injury, it is said, "This has nothing to do with race."

I do not understand why Portland is not on fire with the rage of the injustice of this.

LINDA KANZINGER  
Portland

### An open letter to the governor and Legislature

TO THE EDITOR:

Today in Multnomah County, scores of parents, teachers and crime survivors are breathing a collective sigh of relief with the passage of Initiative 26-48, the temporary income tax increase that directs millions of dollars to our aching schools, safe communities and strengthening our social safety net.

The citizens of Multnomah County and Beaverton voted overwhelmingly to support our schools and social services, and for good reason: The links between poverty and crime are well documented and inescapable. People living in poverty are twice as likely to be the victim of a crime. Given that inescapable truth, the voters have offered an

example of courage for the Legislature to follow—if they listen.

Of course, the temporary tax is only a moderate fix for a momentous problem. More must be done to address the factors that led to our current problem: over-reliance on incarceration as the solution to crime, lack of stable funding for education and, of course, those pernicious tax breaks that riddle Oregon's tax code.

Quite simply, the state can no longer look to social services to balance the budget in the face of a sagging economy and gloomy prospects. As crime survivors, we are standing up to say that the people have given enough. It is incumbent upon you, Gov. Kulongoski and members of the Legislature, to combine the power of your compassion with the position of your office to find more revenue for Oregon.

The voters of Multnomah County have shown a willingness to sacrifice in times of crisis. Our only hope is that our state leaders will prevail upon our wealthiest citizens, our corporate citizens, to do the same.

DAVID M. BAKER

Survivors Advocating for an Effective System

### Keen on Dean

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you, *Just Out*, for covering the recent Howard Dean visit ["Dean Beats Around the Bush in Portland," May 16].

There has never been a candidate for president with more to offer our community. We need to support him now when critical primaries are near.

It was great to see Terry Bean, Barbara

Roberts, Bill Bradbury and Serena Cruz leading the way for Dean's Oregon campaign. Visit [www.deanforamerica.com](http://www.deanforamerica.com) to learn more.

JIM MORRIS  
Portland

### Hooray for Hollywood

TO THE EDITOR:

I'd like to thank Patricia L. MacAodha for her article about our neighborhood group ["Think Globally, Act Locally," May 16]. It's important to me that queer folk be represented among those helping issues that transcend sexual orientation.

It should be noted, however, that our group is Hollywood Neighbors for Peace. Questions or comments can be sent to [Hollywood4peace@yahoo.com](mailto:Hollywood4peace@yahoo.com).

LYN SYNCLAIR  
Portland

### corrections

The May 16 article "Fixing a Hole" indicated that 75 percent of the YWCA of Greater Portland Counseling Center's clients identify as queer. The correct number is closer to 50 percent. *Just Out* regrets the error.

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The May 16 national newsbriefs misspelled the name of U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., and misidentified her as a Democrat. *Just Out* regrets the errors.

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