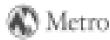
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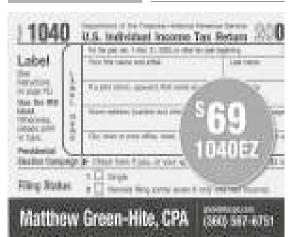
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## Viola Davis Embraces Her Sexuality

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ery week. And now, the "How To Get Away With Murder" star is opening up about her sexuality in a recent interview.

Years before landing the lead role as sexy, intense Annalise Keating in"How To Get Away With Murder," Davis attended Julliard, where she felt she had to be something she wasn't in order to land roles

white girl. Only because we did a lot of classical training and all of the ingénues in Shakespeare were very small women," she told Essence magazine. "So I tried to make my-

self small. Literally. I don't know how I did that. I was like thinking, 'Small. Light.' I would try to have a higher voice, which sounds ridiculous, right? But I felt like there's only one way to be sexy. It's almost like I felt like I had to disappear."

But now, the Screen Actors Guild award winner is thrilled to have the opportunity to embrace her sexuality on screen each week.

"It feels really good to embrace "Ialways tried to be the 90-pound exactly who I am and be my sexy or be my sexualized. To be my woman, you know?," she said. "And it's been the joy of my life. It really has and I think it found me at the right time of my life."

## Leaving Black Youth Out

continued from page 3

Parents Initiative, and six other black leaders representing social justice, civic and educational organizations., the letter called out the governor's budget for ignorblack community.

"You present the millions of dollars you intend to use to support special interest initiatives for rural youth, low-income youth, English language learners, Native American youth support, Latino youth, but no special initiative for one of the highest needs group of students in Oregon," the leaders

Copies of the letter were also sent to House Speaker Tina Kotek who represents north and northeast Portland in the Legislature, and Senate President Peter Courtney. Both responded by asking for time to speak with the ing disparities that exist in the Urban League about putting together a plan for the issues they raised

> Local activist Ron Herndon, the executive director for Albina Head Start, also signed the letter and gave voice to the frustration he has when government budgets that are supposed to help those in need seem to bypass black communities entirely.

> Last year, for example, he said \$300 million was set aside for Head Start programming in Oregon. The Albina Head Start chapter, which serves the highest percentage of black children in Oregon, was not awarded any of that money.

> "I know it was competitive funding, but we simply asked for what many other chapters were asking for - we wanted to expand our program by 60 students," says Herndon. "We were denied any of the funding, and all of it went to areas with a higher concentration of white children. The black community saw the least of that."

> Herndon said Kitzhaber should follow the lead of Portland Mayor Charlie Hales who put his office behind the Black Male Achievement project.

> I know he comes to the meetings. That's all we want, is for our officials to show concern for us. The fact that the governor has not responded while everyone else has speaks volumes on its own.'

> The Portland Observer called the governor's office for comment on the Urban League complaint but a response was not immediately available.

