Public safety
More police and reform
Re: “Police and safety, not criminals” (June 3, Opinion)
John C. Bean, Vashon
Dowlamish Tribe

“It’s time we all work for justice together.”
Re: “The Seattle Times’ new initiative to ‘Democratize the Newsroom’” (July 26, Local News)
NORTHWEST VOICES

SAVe The FRee PReSS
tiled to a $62,000 judgment for lost “Indians,” finding that we were entitled to the Duwamish and other treaty tribes in Washington,” and recognizing the “Duwamish and other treaty tribes” as a sovereign political entity. The city’s Department of Interior returned between the 1850s and 1970s repeatedly recognized our sovereignty and treaty rights. We have endured enough pain and discrimination in our history. It is time for a change. The Duwamish Tribe is in new hands. It is time for them to act. We are here.

— Celest Scott, Seattle, chair and tribal councilwoman

LGBTQ+ youth
Create more sober safe spaces
I come out as part of a 16. I found it incredibly heartbreaking and hurtful to receive the news that the Duwamish Tribe had been let go over the last four years, and to see how our community has been affected by the Duwamish Tribe’s decision. We all face challenges in life, and it is important for us to support each other.

LGBTQ+ individuals and communities are living in a vulnerable state of mind. This is exacerbated by the fact that we are living in a society where our safety and well-being are not always guaranteed.

— Audrey Chris, Seattle

Gun laws
Bringing initiatives to the ballot
In Washington state, “The news that the Duwamish Tribe had been let go over the last four years” has had a profound impact on the state’s political landscape. In June 2021, John Braun introduced a bill that would make it easier for voters to bring their own initiatives to the ballot. This bill proposes to amend the state’s initiative process by allowing voters to propose legislation that is currently only available to elected officials.

— Steve Gregg, Seattle

Abortion
Minority rule?
Re: “Abortion later in pregnancy: theoretically permissible? (June 1, National)
The story of the woman who exercised her right to choose after she was raped makes me think about more restrictive abortion laws.

The draft that the right to abortion can’t be recognized under the law because the government fears raising a “criminal moral question” of the state and federal social policies. This is a dangerous precedent that endangers our future democracy.

The combination of newsprint and gasoline prices increases in 2021 have led to significant funding cuts for local newspapers.

— Brian Faller, Olympia