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## local news



No on 13 supporters thronged Pioneer Courthouse Square, Oct. 9

### Eighteen days and counting

Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers—with 18 days before the Nov. 8 election, that is the mantra of the No on 13 Committee, the group heading up the effort to defeat Ballot Measure 13.

"The most important thing for us to do is get our vote out," says No on 13 campaign manager Julie Davis. "During Measure 9, there was an incredible 85 percent voter turnout. It will likely be a lot lower this time, and that usually favors the right wing. We need 200 people a day through the election to get on the phones and urge our supporters to get out and vote."

According to Davis, it has been relatively difficult to get the gay and lesbian community involved in the No on 13 campaign, primarily because many people remain burned out from 1992's contentious Ballot Measure 9 campaign. The No on 13 Committee tried to light a fire under its backers with a rally in Pioneer Courthouse Square on Oct. 9. An estimated 6,000 people turned out for the event which featured dozens of speakers and music; volunteer sign-up sheets circulated among the crowd.

"Like we say, it's never too late to get involved," says Davis. "In fact, these final days before the election are the most critical."

That sentiment is seconded by members of the newly formed group AGE, which stands for "A Generation for Equality." Representatives from

the organization, which represents Portland's youth, addressed the rally.

"We felt that since much of the controversy surrounding Measure 13 has to do with young people, that we should make our thoughts heard," explains AGE-member Sarah Leimert, whose father is gay. The 17-year-old attends Central Catholic, a private religious school in Portland. "The OCA is using young people as a propaganda tool. I mean, look at what Measure 13 is called—The Child Protection Act. We don't need protection from gays and lesbians, and we resent the OCA saying we do."

Eighteen-year-old Charlie Guyette, who also attends Central Catholic, agrees: "So much of the debate focuses on youth, yet we don't have any voice. Just look at the rally, we were among the last to speak."

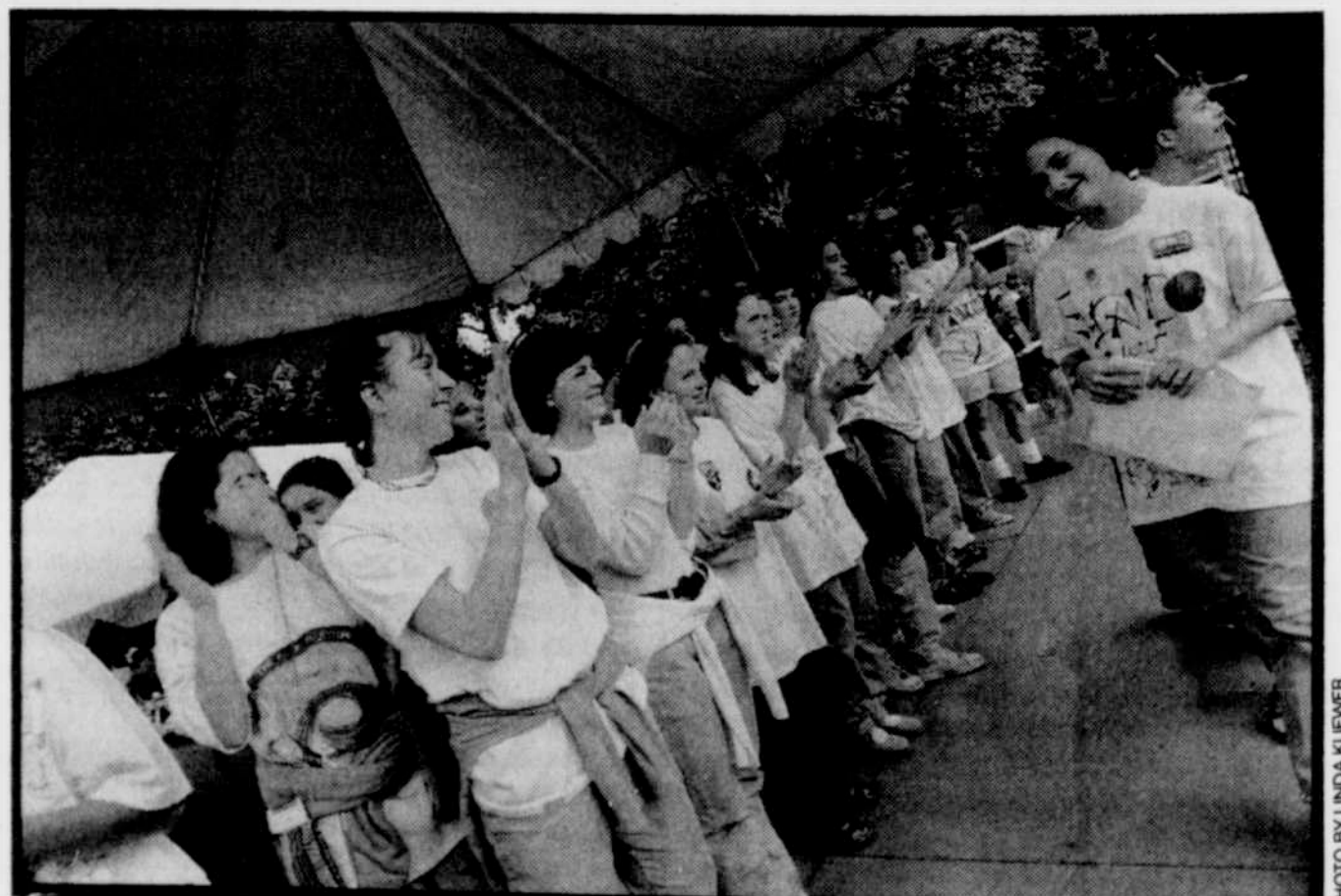
Guyette, who is gay, adds, "We want to encourage youth to speak out and be involved. Hopefully this group will help them do that."

In addition to campaigning against Ballot Measure 13, Leimert says the group is planning a fund-raiser to help striking grocery workers.

"People need to realize that today's young people do care about our society and are working to make it a better place," she says.

For further information about AGE, call (503) 249-0650; to contact No on 13, call (503) 222-6151.

Inga Sorensen



Members of AGE addressed rally-goers