steppin' out

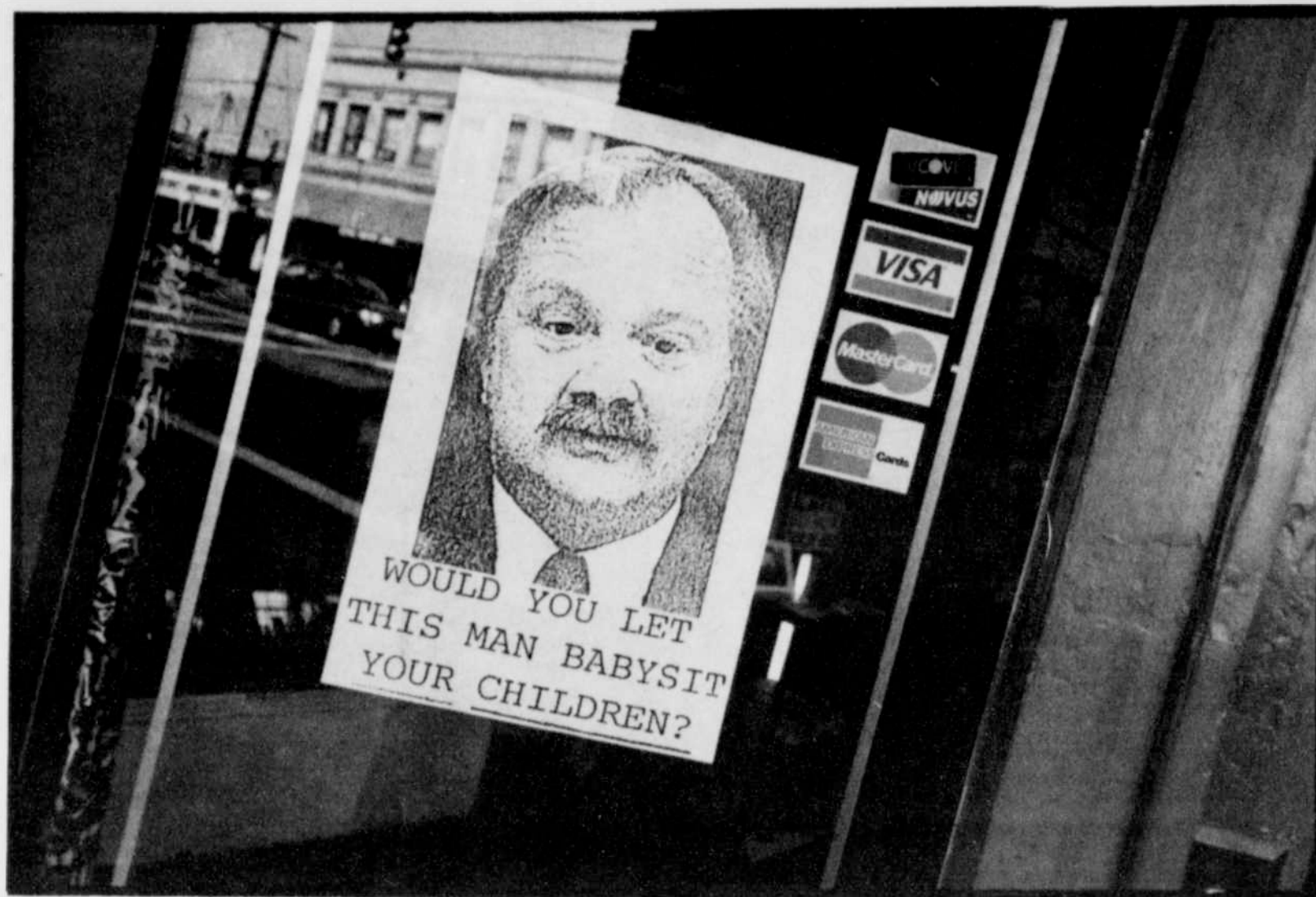WOULD YOU LET THIS MAN BABYSIT YOUR CHILDREN?

PHOTO BY LINDA KLIEWER

editorial

Vote. Vote. Vote.

The most important thing you can do to defeat Ballot Measure 13 is vote

▼

by Renée LaChance

As we go to press, there are just four days left until the election.

You've donated money to the No on 13 campaign. You had or went to a house party to raise money to defeat the Oregon Citizens Alliance. You have come out to everyone you could. You volunteered at the campaign office doing phone polling or envelope stuffing. You're planning to join 500 other people to canvass neighbor-hoods on the Saturday before the election. (See page 12 for details.)

Now it's down to the wire, and the most important thing you can do is get everyone you know—including yourself—out to vote. Every no vote you get to the polls will help. Make sure your elderly neighbor or relative gets a ride to the polls. Call friends and relatives during the day on Tuesday and make sure they remembered to vote.

For you cynics who don't want to vote because you're fed up with dirty politicking and the barrage of ballot measures, just go and vote no on 13. We need you and everyone you know to vote no on 13. Giving time and money to No on 13 means little if you don't exercise your right to vote.

★ ★ ★

It's not over until it's over. By all estimates, and because of the combined efforts put toward defeating Ballot Measure 13, Oregon will surely say no to discrimination. But the fight doesn't stop there. The Oregon Citizens Alliance has proposed two ballot initiatives which have been filed with the secretary of state, and it is prepared to launch its next effort. The OCA and the right wing's true agenda is to bankrupt the sexual minority communities—financially and emotionally—until we can't fight any more. Well, that's not going to happen in *this* decade. So after the election we must continue the coalition building, the fund raising, and the education efforts in preparation for 1996.

★ ★ ★

The silver lining. At the risk of enraging those who dis-agree, we must point out, for the sanity of our communities, that whether we win or lose Ballot Measure 13, we win.

If the majority of Oregonians agree with the OCA and vote to etch discrimination into the state Constitution, it will break our hearts and demoralize our communities, but we still win. Because then we can move the battle to the courtroom and, hopefully, put it to rest. Sure, it will take years for a court battle to reach its conclusion, and gay men, lesbians and bisexuals will have to live with state-sanctioned discrimination. Not a good situation, but neither is fighting the OCA election after election after election.

Colorado lost the fight to keep discrimination out of its Constitution. Now, two years later, its Amendment 2 has been ruled unconstitutional in every court except the U.S. Supreme Court, which is expected to decline to hear the case. Meaning Colorado is better off two years after losing than we are, two years after winning.

Go figure.

contents

VOL. 12 NO. 1 NOVEMBER 4, 1994