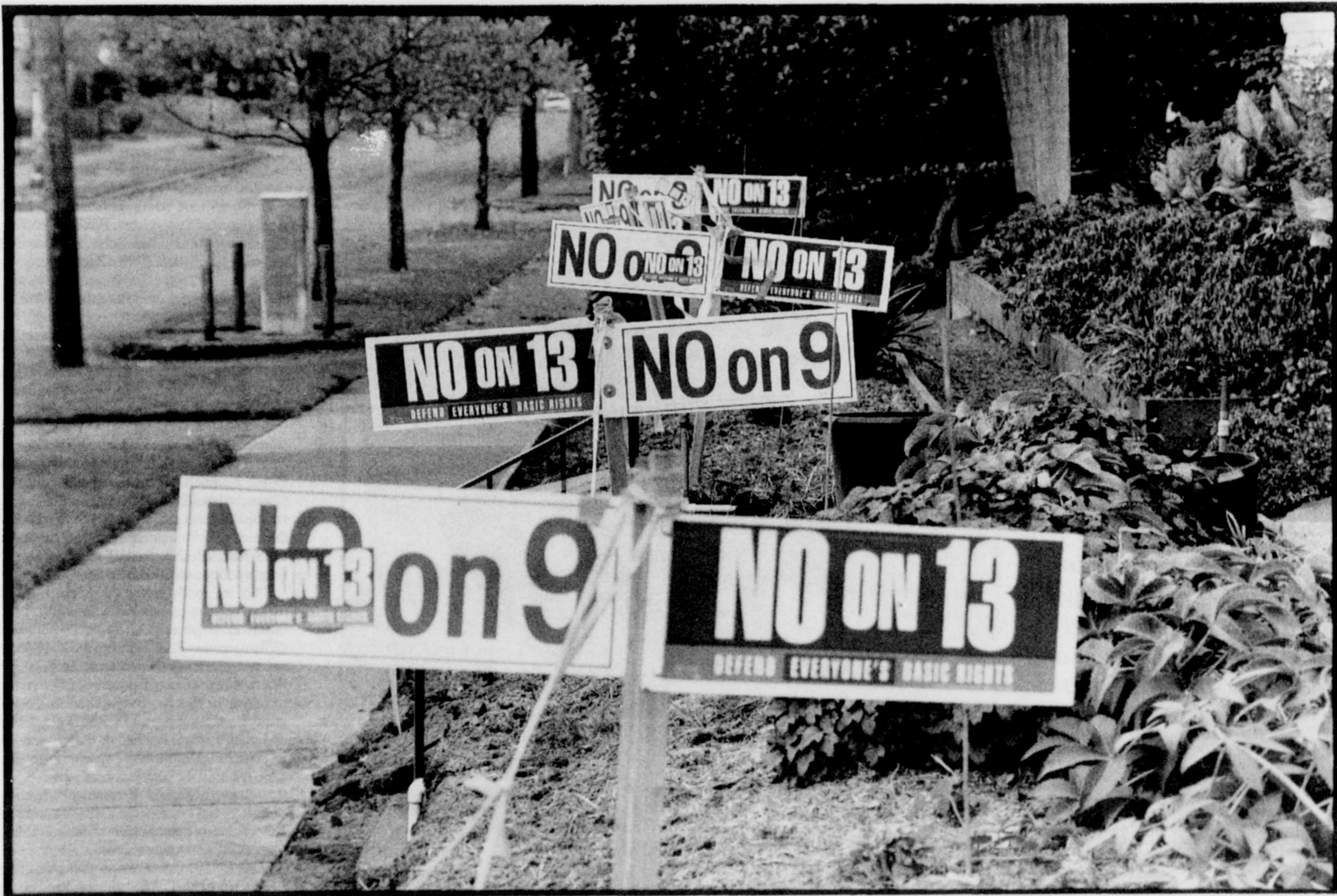


ELECTION

'94 *A brief overview of the good, the bad and the ugly*



BY
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PHOTOS BY LINDA KLIEWER

The Democratic Party may be bemoaning its significant losses during mid-term elections, but representatives from national gay and lesbian rights organizations are claiming victory.

"Everywhere that gay rights was a prominent campaign issue we won," says Douglas Hattaway, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian and gay rights organization. "Anti-gay ballot initiatives went down in Oregon and Idaho, despite the fact that the Christian Coalition dumped hundreds of thousands of its voters' guides throughout that region—650,000 voters' pamphlets were dropped in Oregon urging

voters to back Measure 13 and it still failed. This has not gone unnoticed by the national media or lawmakers."

According to Hattaway, the gay and lesbian community also mobilized to defeat Republican candidate Oliver North, a favorite among many conservatives, who lost to U.S. Sen. Charles Robb, the Democratic incumbent from Virginia. "HRCF pulled together a few hundred volunteers who contacted thousands of Virginia voters, telling them to vote against North," says Hattaway. "Chuck Robb knows the gay and lesbian community played a key role in his re-election, and he even thanked HRCF in his victory speech."

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