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harvey milk, white, dan, supervisor, george moscone, gay, mayor, san francisco, people, harvey, city hall, san franciscans, city, district, homosexual, verdict, political, campaign, san francisco's, mccabe

SPEAKERS

Ray Hill



00:00

The program coming up next as Wilde 'n' Stein with Ray Hill and a lot of people here exciting things are happening in your world it there you go, you should be



Ray Hill 00:13

on the program tonight is a two hour special on the assassination of Harvey Milk manifestations after that from the conviction and the reaction



00:24

that was certainly well publicized, even though it sort of faded away quickly after the strange verdict came in, but I'm sure there's a lot more information on that. And Dave Lambeau



00:36

might want to turn that microphone up



Ray Hill 00:37

And Dave Lambeau is out in San Francisco doing that sort of thing and replace that also, what happened in the conference here Houston is becoming a very important place and Pacifica KPFT specifically is becoming the kind of the foundation of dealing with gay media in a very permissive Well,



00:58

it's an aspect of community radio that helps us to learn about and better understand each other. And another reason why our listeners should support is to regular cash donations, check or money order accepted, sent to KPFT here at 419 Lovett Boulevard Houston Texas seven seven double O six it advances has been Crossroads let me tell you what's gonna be on tomorrow night and then I'll say goodbye and Wilde 'n' Stein will be here. 630 news director Steve McVicker will host space city wrap up with members of the Houston media in in the studio at 7pm our environmental program and Bracey Earth arrives live yes and important documentaries 830 will be the crystal egg with Roger roger the Dodger featuring Houston folk music post live and recorded it's a good show I enjoy it thoroughly. 10pm Doug will host the Hi Fi show a program designed to help you understand the complex world of audio electronics, live guests phone calls, quadrophonic record strict disc and digital recordings and information to help you get the most out of your stereo system which is just about the third major investment in your life I think generally. So tune in tomorrow night. And also at midnight we have the fourth tire of Inverness, followed by Art Nouveau with new wave music, rock and roll and things you never knew existed on vinyl. And that's it for this evening. Stay tuned for Wilde 'n' Stein, I'm Ted [inaudible] Southland crossroads. Have a good evening and we'll see you again next week.

R

Ray Hill 02:21

The name of the program is Wilde 'n' Stein and the function of the program is to maintain some kind of communications between the gay community and the rest of the folk in this broadcasting error area. And we also communicate with gay folk that are happened to be out there. And tonight. We've got a very special program that is set aside we've got a two hour tape created by our own expert in media, Dave Lambeau in San Francisco concerning the assassination of Harvey Milk and the manifestations and developments following that assassination. I think you will find it to be an interesting piece of gay history, probably the most significant event in the evolution of the rights of gay people in this century. And we hope that you will listen intently and have something around to tell the next generation of gay folks that you were almost there because Wilde 'n' Stein is always there in your stead. There are a few things that we need to announce in the first place. Young Gay People. That is GYP is having a meeting this coming Thursday this very coming Thursday, June the 19th. At June the 19th. July the 19th. Yeah, okay, July the 19th at Montrose activity center. This coming Thursday, July the 19th at Montrose Activity Center at seven o'clock, and gay young people JYP meet the first and the third Thursday of every month at Montrose Activity Center. 1423 Holman, at seven o'clock. If you want information, you can call and talk to Scarlett and Eric No here. Scarlett and Penny are here. And you can call and talk to Scarlett and Penny right here on the air and the number is 526 4000. But if you'd rather call it a more convenient time, if you're hiding and can't get to the telephone from where you are listening to the radio during the day, you can call Eric at 785 4901 or 923 6998. Or you can reach Scarlet and lots of folks like to reach Scarlet, especially young folks looking for connection to the gay world and that is 7216734 that Scarlett and Eric get those numbers. If you didn't get those numbers and you want them you can call and get them directly from Scarlett and Penny at five to six 4000 For the next few minutes. There's some folks that we've been thanking folks a lot for supporting Pacifica and for supporting Gay Pride Week and there are a few folks that have gone the extra mile and we think they deserve recognition. One of them is Mary's and in the crowd over at Mary's have really been supportive not Only of distinction but also of Gay Pride Week in general and making folks feel better about themselves during a time when that's what you celebrate for. Also, the folks over at Midtown spa have been very nice. That is not to say that other folks have not been as nice but we want

to especially identify those people and we left those people out last week when we were giving out various kudos and thank yous for Gay Pride Week and, and the subsequent conference. We do this because we love you. And because we can do it because there is a KPFT Pacifica radio station right here in your own beloved Houston. And the way it works is that we don't have any advertisements to sell you pimple cream and bubble gum and whatever else their station said you in their advertisement, all we've got to tell you is good broadcasting. And we expect you if you appreciate the kind of broadcasting we do to support this station, five to six 4000 is a magic number. And during this broadcast or anytime, if you wish to become a supporter of KPFT. Give us a call at that number and we'll tell you how you can do that. Wilde 'n' Stein has traditionally brought in a very high level of support for this station, and Wilde 'n' Steiners do not contribute at the present time the way they did not very long ago, this time last year, while the stand was responsible for a full one seven to this station support. That is all we wonder why are we doing the wrong kind of broadcasting if we are give us a call five to six 4000 and tell us what you want. If we're doing the right kind of broadcasting pitch in, it's your radio station, your programming that touches your life five to six 4000 KPFT in Houston and here's day.



06:35

It's a Wednesday morning in San Francisco, the morning of May 23 1979. For those whose stomachs aren't tough enough to take page one of the Chronicle there's the quick flip to page 31 and columnist herb Kane's latest three dot journalism exercise. But the man who has followed the trendy and tacky ways of the city by the bay for 42 years is this morning fresh out of one liners. Instead the moving finger column bristles with blunt brutal language, lynch mobs, assassinations, burning police cars, broken windows and broken heads. For our purposes, one Kane paragraph deserves special attention. It begins Monday night we cave dwellers walk through the familiar ritual gathering around our TV sets to observe the wall paintings of our advanced civilization. Why have it set on the screen? In video land the opposite is not dead. But the dead. George Moscone and Harvey bulk were very much they're alive and on tape, while Dan White was very much alive and will remain so. A local reporter had written a few days ago and an excess of Nadir think that three people had died on that day last November. Moscone Milk and White, but only White has been taped now for future release. Perhaps in as few as five years. George and Harvey are on tape forever.



08:09

My first press release the first sentences is way back when the first time I read in 73. And I got to stay in power, said something. Harvey Milk white, male Jewish homosexual age 43. Notice his candidacy for the board of supervisors



08:29

solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies foreign and domestic that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California that you take this obligation freely without any mental

reservation or purpose of evasion and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which you are about to enter and during such time as you hold the office of supervisor district number five.



09:28

JP was up the drought



09:30

is in the disco.



09:33

As President of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed the



09:58

last The suspect



10:02

is supervisor Dan light.



10:04

There, there were no personal problems and no more than they were ever tell you if they were but they weren't any more than anybody else. There were certain people on the board that I would disagree with. Politically, Dan certainly was one of them. In my opinion, and this isn't Harvey's, but don't don't homophobe.



10:21

And to be perfectly frank in the Dan White case, when I went to see him, I was almost sure in my own mind that I would not take this case, and that I would not see any basis of psychiatric defense, I was quite surprised.



10:37

Keep in mind that, according to the experts, one more of whom I shall quote in the moment that according to the experts, there is no such thing as a political assassination in America. In

America, only mental patients kill political figures.



11:00

Consider the following items. The mayor of one of America's greatest cities is killed by five bullets. Two of them fire into his head at close range after he is gunned down with three previous shots. The mayor is a liberal protector of the rights of sexual minorities. Their sense it is a conservative form of code social deviance. The Killing is not a political crime asserts the prosecutor Thomas normal.



11:28

Mr. White was completely different when I examined him from what I thought he was going to be, although I never would have said it publicly. on basis of reading the newspaper articles I expected a paranoid hostile super macho, latent may possibly latent homosexual, homophobic. Suspicious, individual, I have certain preconceptions, I was totally and completely wrong.



12:03

The most prominent self declared homosexual politician in America is killed by four shots, two of them fired into his head as he lies fatally wounded. The killer is a mere assassin who reloaded his gun after the first killing. That is not a political crime either, says prosecutor Thomas normal. Are you surprised? What else do you expect? In America poisoned by psychiatry, nothing counts as a political crime.



12:32

Dr. Solomon, in fact, when you saw Dan White, what kind of man did you in fact find?



12:39

I found a very troubled person who in many ways meets the criteria that have been described by a psychiatrist named Kenai ta na Ey and in Detroit, for what's called ego dystonic, killing this kind of killer, who who kills completely as apparently out of character. Dr. Tonight has written a very good book called The murderers for example. And in that he tends to describe this type of person with a rigid conscience with a inability appropriately to express resentment. If he had been able to tell off and Mr. Moscone and Mr. Milk, there would have been no killing.



13:20

The killer of Moscone and milk had been informed that his political hopes had been destroyed. The next morning, he came to city hall with a well hidden gun and 10 extra bullets. He gained entrance to the building through a window in order to avoid the metal detectors at the door. He

shot Moscone five times reloaded his gun in surf milk four times. To the psychiatrist. All these proofs diminished capacity to premeditate.



13:48

But he came out of the office after the shooting. Had I had any idea that he had killed Harvey I probably would have grabbed him right then and there and then there would have been real bloodshed. Because I'm sure I in a rage, I probably would have killed him myself. It isn't a very nice thing to say. But it isn't a very nice thing to lose the most dynamic, the most incredible individual you've ever known in your life and be about six feet away from him when he's blown away from you. executed, not just murdered but executed.



14:28

Okay, you can hear it now. There's a violent demonstration outside of the San Francisco City Hall. windows have been broken. They're attempting to kick the door down. The San Francisco tactical squad is here in full riot gear. They're standing inside the city hall. It's an ugly scene right at this moment. Just a handful of people started this just



14:49

just a handful of people tried to break down the out the back of the crowd. They didn't try it. There was this this group up here.



14:55

What do you think this is going to lead to?



14:56

I think that they're just expressing their frustration over what they feel was a very unjust verdict for a very terrible murder, two murders, and they're releasing their feelings. That's all. What more can you say?



15:11

You don't think it's gonna go beyond this?



15:12

I doubt it. Gay people are not noted for being violent police car



15:16

totally trashed.



15:20

Outside of City Hall.



15:24

Cops have not made a move on the crowd at this point.



15:27

It seems like things are really coming down. It seemed like people were milling out. yelling and screaming, but any glass breaking it stopped. And then the police came and charged. that started it all off again. I saw them hitting people that were running. I saw them hitting people who were sitting down, I saw them hitting people who were rolling over trying to protect themselves. very shocked



15:55

ever. Anybody out there might think about the verdict. And I personally think that the verdict is really wrong. There's no question that what happened last night was a riot in the streets. And no matter what anybody may think about the police action, whether at times, they were brutal, whether they acted too late. And with too much force when they did act. It's also important to remember that the people, the few people that were out in the street, and the times they didn't number more than several 100 at maybe their largest gathering, they weren't more than a few 1000 people that were out in the street last night were criminals rioting in the streets.



16:35

I don't think I fanned the flames of violence. I was on the other side of the hall. I was maybe 1015 feet away. I heard the shots, I heard the manner in which the shots were delivered. I found Harvey's body. I tried to get a pulse. Like many others, I to know what I saw. There was no intention to fan the flames of violence. There is an intention for many of us, though, who know people that are serving prison prison for a lot longer time for a lot lesser sentences. And to think that somebody that strikes down in the course of duty to public officials, is going to do less time than people that are serving lesser offenses is a very hard blow to swallow.



17:35

I think in the bad white crowd. It showed that as a policy decision that trial was tried basically as as a barroom Brawl manslaughter. What it was, was a political assassination. And Dan White

was, was the leading edge of a lot of forces of hostility in the city towards Harvey Milk and torture community and he represented now I think that was just the 60s coming back to haunt us it was the assassination of Robert Kennedy, assassination of Martin Luther King coming back to haunt San Francisco in 1979.



18:05

The story haunting San Francisco in 1979 is not an easy one to tell. A story that spans two assassinations, one full fledged riot, a score of police actions, a sexual liberation movement. It is an urban psychodrama played out against the backdrop of what used to be most everybody's favorite American city. Today, though that city is in painful transition to an uncertain future. Item Monday, April 2 1979, three weeks before the beginning of Dan White's trial for the shootings of George Moscone in Harvey Milk. San Francisco Chronicle columnist Charles McCabe and the self imposed silence on the assassinations, explaining that the story he is about to tell is ugly and inflammatory. McCabe declares that the Moscone Mel killings were intimately tied up with what he labels as the homosexual invasion of San Francisco, says columnist Charles McCabe, I accept that there are between 70 and 100,000 adult homosexuals living here, and that that is somewhere between 15 and 25% of the adult population as McCabe that's a lot. McCabe goes on to hint that the Dan White trial might well be a severe trial for San Francisco as well. But the trial might become a public forum for what could be labeled as sexual integration crisis. McCabe describes what he sees as the inner turmoil at San Francisco's old line neighborhoods. In the past six years, three district neighborhoods South of Market have gone from mainly straight to mainly gay. As the homosexuals have done over old Victorians. They have not only raised rents, but have brought their own cultural values and stores and bars into these neighborhoods, which were ones Irish enjoy. Harmon with some blacks, the streets who are still there the dead Enders, the ones who was refused to go to the suburbs when the neighborhood started to decay. They are daily watching their neighborhood being bought out from under them by homosexual real estate operators, storekeepers and politicians. At this point, Charles McCabe ventures the opinion that Dan White successful campaign for supervisor in San Francisco's district eight had been based on a four word message, keep the homosexuals out. column as McCabe concludes that Dan White was a kind of human pressure cooker with a rather low boiling point. That white since the double cross when he got wind of the fact that he wasn't going to get his job back from Mayor Moscone quoth McCabe, White's ruling obsessions took over. The man who double crossed him had offended his manhood. Moreover, the mayor was the most powerful friend the homosexuals had in the city. Moscone, was assassinated. Down the hall was Harvey Milk. The guy who was leading a movement to destroy the city he had grown up in milk was assassinated. Charles McCaleb concludes with a chili note that because of the so called homosexual invasion, a disturbing number of San Franciscans think that Dan White is a hero. To those readers who look forward with anticipation or dread to a highly politicized trial, the actual trial of Dan White may have been somewhat of an anticlimax. The maximum security courtroom on the third floor of the Hall of Justice became instead a sounding board for the jargon of psychiatrists, not politicians, diminished capacity, and not homosexual invasion became the overused catch words of the day. Our story will cover the fabric of a trial in which at times the defendant seemed to supplant the victims as the object of emotional concern. We will also cover the riotous aftermath, during which a disorderly few took violent exception to the possibility that the trial had turned down white into a kind of hero, as our program will also try to show for many and perhaps most San Franciscans, the story has only dead heroes, but the living are left with a mixed bag of sadly ambivalent feelings.



22:22

Well, I think the verdict was a very bad one. And the jury was swayed by a cynical and emotional defense. And they didn't use their heads. I feel badly about what happened last night. But basically, I



22:37

agree with



22:37

the verdicts. I think it was absolutely nothing wrong with it at all. The tourists had a very difficult decision in a determined somebody's psychological state. And I think that wasn't very easy to do. I don't envy them. And they didn't find him innocent. And I applaud their effort. And I don't agree with what the guys did at City Hall at all



22:57

who radio station in San Jose, what did you think about the verdict and also about what happened on City Hall last night?



23:03

still in shock, I really haven't done a lot of thinking about it. I'm thinking about maybe 13 or 14 Different kinds of levels. At the



23:13

same time. These men on the corner of Castro 17th and Market Streets waiting for a bus the morning after the riot reflect a shift in San Franciscan public opinion from that felt immediately after the November 1978 City Hall assassinations that I could find several men in the heart of a gay neighborhood with mixed or even favorable feelings towards the verdict shows that the Dan White defense strategy had scored some points, even on the unlikeliest precincts. At the same time, a San Francisco Chronicle telephone poll found callers split against the verdict about two to one. Back in November, the pulse of public and private opinion seemed far more unanimous in its judgment about the assassin and his deeds



23:57

in San Francisco is no different than any other you know, you know, place going and people go wrong, you know, doing untoward things you know, all the way and I don't subscribe to the fact that somehow our city you know, breeds this type of activity



24:23

you know, off the wall act by an off the wall person killing someone who is my closest friend,



24:30

the death of George Moscone moved many San Franciscans, especially his longtime political comrade and friend, San Francisco Congressman John Burton. Burton was in tears as he reacted to the terrible news from City Hall. The mayor of San Francisco was a special sort of person for many of the people who had worked closely with him. To press secretary Mel wax the career of George Moscone represented an important milestone in San Francisco's polyglot politics. Moscone had won a close race for mayor in 19 Set Indy five, a race that a divided the city along liberal and conservative lines. This liberal mayor says Mel wax made an effort to see that the representatives of under or non representative groups in the city got a chance to have their influence felt and the everyday running of San Francisco.



25:16

From my point of view, the most lasting achieved as mayor during a relatively brief tenure is that he changed the way the city does business. He gave representation to a lot of people on boards and commissions. This is really a city that's run by boards and commissions are appointed by the mayor and a set policy for various departments. He gave representation on those boards and commissions to a lot of people who were have nots under previous administrations that as they were never appointed, the practice had always been here to appoint people from one economic and social class. Primarily with a few notable exceptions and a few token appointments. George really opened it up. And that has made an enormous difference in the social and political climate of this city. And my guess is that once that door has been opened, it can never be shot again.



26:21

No wax explains that George Moscone was on correct terms with both Dan White and Harvey Milk, but that his relationship with white never really gelled.



26:30

The mayor tried very hard to get along with Dan White and it was it was an arch conservative. But he was an athlete. And the mayor had been an athlete, he'd been an all state basketball player. He admired athletes I remember we had a softball game, the mayor's office against the supervisors. And he liked the way Dan played and went all out and all that kind of thing. He was double crossed several times and boats when Dan White said he would support them and did not support him voted the other way. The mayor had very little confidence in him. He tried very

hard to help Dan Weiss, who was the new supervisor. He had people on his staff or helping advise him. When he had problems we tried to help him. But it was not returned, we finally decided that there was no way that



27:39

we can get along with him. In contrast, as Mel wax in the last few months of both of their lives. Supervisor Harvey Milk was one of the most frequent visitors to the office of Mayor George Moscone. He



27:50

liked Harvey very much, and got along with him very well. George had a lot of support in the gay community. As you know. There was a time when Harvey Milk was his appointee on the board of permanent appeals, and then decided to run for the state assembly. And Georgia replaced him on the board of permanent appeals which cause some hard feelings at the time. And the reason was simple. It's the same thing that Mayor find senators done with another gay member of the Board of Term Details. If you use a position in the administration, to run for public office, and it's appropriate that you resign the position. And Harvey had a hard time understanding that. But they made up and they became very good friends. A matter of fact, in the months before George's death, I don't think there was any supervisor who was over here in the mayor's office more frequently discussing problems or asking for help or whatever, then, then Harvey Milk.



29:03

You didn't have to probe very deep to discover how many San Franciscans bore the incredible news of the death of their Mayor George Moscone, and the city's first openly gay supervisor Harvey Milk. But shocked disbelief and grief was obvious in the faces and voices of many San Franciscans believable to me it's



29:25

just terrible and horrible. And it's unbelievable. That was at a funeral home. My pastor told us about it and just the congregation just got quite nervous and alarmed because we must be sick inside the nation is sick. That's always the right person to come in and do something like that. My reaction



29:43

is we've shot this belief. Once a prove whoever does it, I hope it gets elected Chair. I'd like to pull the switch myself.



29:52

11 29:55

Interestingly enough, Californians had only weeks before voted overwhelmingly in favor of expanding the special circumstances under which the death penalty could be applied. Although San Franciscans had his often before bucked the state trend, and voted against Proposition seven Ironically, one of the most vocal supporters of Prop seven was the then supervisor from district eight, Dan White, and a vocal opponent of legal killing district five supervisor Harvey Milk. It is now easy to forget that Harvey Milk and Dan White were both elected supervisors in the first district election in the city in 1977. Both were in their own ways political Mavericks, both ran ahead of a crowded field of political opponents. Both received far less than a majority of the vote, both to in strikingly different ways were perceived by political observers, as the representatives of distinct minority groups. Harvey Milk of San Francisco's burgeoning gay population, and Dan White of the rank and file members of the San Francisco police and fire departments. In a certain sense, it could be said that Harvey Milk's constituency and some of Dan White staunchest supporters were on a kind of inevitable collision course, a collision that would occur at City Hall, Harvey Milk and Dan White shared a few common circumstances. They were in many striking ways Worlds Apart. San Francisco was Harvey Milk's adopted hometown. It was for him as for many gay people, a place to come to in one's middle years, a place to come out in a place to stake a claim on a freer kind of life than was available to gays in most other parts of the country. Typically enough Harvey Milk and brace San Francisco's opportunities in the larger than lifestyle it was to become a trademark of his political career. That career seemed to have its roots in our desire to help gay people obtain a certain degree of control over their lives, that for many years seemed to elude them even in San Francisco. Carl Carlson was a friend and campaign aide to Harvey Milk for almost the entire five year span of milks active political life. Carlson, who was also Harvey Milk's landlord, discusses what he feels was the motivating ambition behind bedbugs for races for political office

32:15

that Harvey was outraged and decided that the city was was not taking seriously, there were no no concern whatsoever for gay people. We had city wide elections for the 11 supervisors that were in office. And gay people. Were still getting screwed real good. So he ran for office, he had his long hair and mustache and it wasn't a joke. But it was a serious attempt to get other gay people who had come out here and we're doing the bar and bar scene and whatever the drug scene was at the time. And this was the dead end for a lot of people and they just live their lives out. And that would be it. He and I think he felt in his own mind that there was more to life than just going from bar to bar drinking and carrying on. We started the voter registration campaigns, even then. The percentage of gay people voting at the time was extremely low in terms of, quote, minority and quote groups was very low. I wouldn't even want to venture to give you the figures of how many people were registered by our voter campaigns voter registration campaigns over the years. But I guess it's at least 100,000. For guessing

33:39

aside from massive gay voter registration, some other things have to be understood about Harvey Milk success in San Francisco politics. One the fact that he ran for public office four times, winning on his final try, and two that the winning race was won within the framework of San Francisco's newly created system of district elections for supervisors. Supervisors had previously been elected citywide, making it more difficult for a minority candidate to win. And analysis of the vote for supervisor in San Francisco's district five and 1977 reveals that Harvey

Milk built his winning margin by demonstrating strength throughout the area, sometimes dubbed the city's radical district. Malkin facts split the gay vote with a conservative gay candidate, backed by gay forces, which included the publisher of the advocate National Gay newspaper, David Goodstein. Harvey Milk had no illusions that a gay candidate could win even in San Francisco with merely the gay vote. There are myths about



34:37

gay people. We are child molesters, we recruit etc. There's also myths about San Francisco is that the gay population and the greatest myth is the number of gays there and the district I represent. Having knocked on almost every door in our district and certainly been on the streets up and down. I would say that of the What is it that district 15, maybe 70% of



35:08

gay. In San Francisco, the gay population is probably no more than 10 to 15% at very maximum, at the very maximum. That's based on not official police statistics or people sitting in rooms trying to figure it out. But having campaigned on the city, the 1975, whatever, in the second time, at large city wide, the six incumbents were reelected. And of the 23 of the challenges. I was the top I was the best loser. And so I came close. And I think the difference then was a I had just didn't have money. I had very little money. The incumbents all had a lot of money. And then they had been a police and firefighters strike. And the incumbents looked good on that the media gave them play, especially to those candidates who came in fifth and sixth. So if there hadn't been that strike, there would have been possibility I might have made it then I don't know. But I almost made it city wide. And I think a gay person or myself could have made it citywide this time.



36:09

Although the label openly gay supervisor was a fixed of milk by the media. He refused to confine himself to so narrow our political role. During the June 1978 visit to Dallas, Harvey Milk explained why he felt it was not enough for a gay candidate to be just a gay candidate.



36:27

I had from the very beginning since 1973, I made a very clear distinction between a gay candidate and a candidate who happened to be gay, that I was not a gay candidate, that I was in the race because of the issues because of the priorities of government because of what they were doing. And I happened to be gay. And I thought it's important that gay people be elected to, but I was there on the issues. And I've always made that distinction. And I think it's very important that as gay people enter the political races, that they don't enter as gay candidates period. Because Okay, the time has come. But where do you stand on the economy? Where do you stand in an environment? Where do you stand on dog litter?



37:08

37:33

Because enough of his constituents were having to wade through dog litter Harvey Milk indeed took a firm stand on dog litter and gotten ordinance passed, although admittedly, it did not capture the public attention in quite the same way as his gay rights ordinance on vote against the gay rights ordinance was cast by Dan White. It was a vote White could be pretty confident his district eight supporters would applaud. Unlike Harvey Milk Dan White didn't need to run several times to capture the political brass ring. A political unknown victory was nonetheless his in a crowded field of candidates the first time around one



37:45

morning we got up and walked out in the street and there was signs in the windows that said, you know, firstly said White is right, but within three days he signs it said White is right came down and new signs came up. And they said unite and fight with Dan White. And I was scratching my head and who stand white everyone's going around saying who is Dan White? We'd never heard of Dan White.



38:09

Bob Barnes for a long time has been active in the machinists union. Barnes was a labor backed opponent of Dan whites and the district eight arrays in 1977. Barnes charges uh, Dan White received but did not report many contributions of large corporations and various downtown interests. There was big downtown money back then white and they planted him in district eight.



38:33

If I'm beginning to talk, a conspiracy or whatever you want to talk about that.



38:39

There are strange websites that no one has really explored. What I talked about right now is documented then wide vigorously denied these accusations both at the time they were made and in the course of his emotional confession after the city hall assassinations, Bob Barnes claimed that the information is documented that while Dan White did not declare the corporate contributions, including billboard space, his business patrons did report their gifts to the white campaign. Barnes adding that the district attorney's office overlooked Dan White's campaign reporting errors on the grounds that he was politically naive. Bob Barnes as a Dan White Whannell Law and Order Type campaign, making Himself very clear on a few explosive social issues when he was going



39:24

to run and this was in his first piece of campaign material who was going to run the radicals and social deviants out of San Francisco. Later he retracted that to mean when he was asked who the radical he was going to fight the weathermen. And social deviants when asked if he

was talking about the gay community he was, of course not he was talking about child molesters. The second piece of material that came out in the same motif and everything those words were Not in his his his later campaign material. He had campaign material you wouldn't believe Bob



40:07

Barnes asserts that some of Dan White supporters came in an assortment of uniforms.



40:12

There were strange people in his campaign. Visitation Valley school when they were Nazis and swastikas would unite and fight with Dan White buttons on. They tried to recruit my son to join the National white people's party or something. They were out in support of Dan White. The fireman which then was happened to use fire safety week in this district out here to use their fire engine in full uniform, drive down the streets, knock on everybody's door, hand them a piece of paper by Fire Prevention Week, and ask them if they put up a Dan White time. Or this time Dan had come up with a new sign and it was a picture of him standing behind an American flag. Smiling



41:04

the man behind the smile behind the flag was Irish Catholic, raised in a large working class family. In an unfashionable melting pot slice of San Francisco. Dan White's political world seems to have been colored by his military duty in Vietnam, and his time with the San Francisco police and fire departments. Again, Bob Barnes.



41:26

What what do you have with Dan White and if you'll take some time to reflect on him? You'll find out that he always excelled. In first organized sports, which had rules and regulations that you followed and if you followed the rules, he excelled. And then again in the army, he excelled rules and regulations, fire department and police department both very regulated occupations, and again, Dan White excelled politics, no rules. No. No honors in politics. It's an open game guerilla warfare snipe



42:09

Harvey was 42 or 43. And from a generation that had learned to play the rules of the game and believed in America and landed the home and free the grave. I think it was put play the game and everybody will get the reward. But we knew it wasn't working for gay people



42:28

as his friend Carl Carlson indicates Harvey Milk was older Jewish and a transplanted New Yorker. His early career reveals stints in the Navy, the theater and the financial world. At least twice as increasingly open gay lifestyle caused him to lose positions once as a Navy frogman later as a financial analyst. If Dan White's outlook was shaped by a service in Vietnam and his background as a cop, Harvey Milk's politics were colored by his opposition to the war and identification with groups who are none too happy with the police



43:02

so they line blank period exclamation point they lie they lie through their teeth and until they stop that they can't build up the trust this this phoniness you know sure I don't think anybody could have Cox be put away well that's I think anybody with any kind of crime with a gun to get it can you 15 years 20 years whatever lock them up, I don't know a crime with a gun no if ands butts about it, no parole, no extended, mitigating circumstances you commit a crime with a gun any kind of crime into the slammer. Bang



43:34

what seemed to be his really big issue without what seemed to really



43:38

crime. The self imposed house arrested people were prisoners behind the gates of iron. Crime. It was crime Dan was he wanted more policemen he wanted. That's all he talked about.



43:54

While crime may have been his major political issue, money or the lack of it seemed increasingly to dominate Dan White's private life, while denying charges that he had accepted campaign contributions without reporting them. Dan White could not deny to himself that his personal finances were becoming more and more precarious. As an elected city official. He was required by the conflict of interest laws to resign his position with the fire department. His wife became pregnant and quit her job. Soon White and wife were faced with living off his \$9,600 supervisor salary, plus whatever they could scrape out of the potato concession stand. He had landed with Pier 39. The pressures built up and suddenly on November 10 1978, Dan White Upton quit his supervisors seat, handing in his letter of resignation to Mayor George Moscone. According to the statement, Dan White taped at the northern police station following the City Hall shootings. He soon reconsidered his resignation after getting promises of money and support from family and friends. Dan White and Bob Ahrens agree on one thing that George Moscone originally was planning on giving Dan White his job back. But the pressures mounted in district eight caused the mayor to have second thoughts about the political wisdom of such a move.



45:14

People in your district say they didn't want. And I waited what I told you before that these

People in your district say they didn't work. And I reiterated what I told you before that these charges against me,



45:22

doggedly political people in the community went down last night and forced George Moscone. To his bluntly told if he reappointed Dan White that they would see would not receive a vote out here that we would campaign, merciless against them for a week all this went on back and forth, and we started to mobilize and find out that commonly, everyone disliked them. Even his own supporters came in because he had not consulted with them before his resignation. His base of support in the Visitation Valley crumbled. That is where the move to stop him came, the stop down White came out of the people who were his original committee in the Visitation Valley, people that are associated through his campaign managers and, and volunteers and such. And they were called us other people into the meeting and asked to help. Stop this. So we got together and we demanded a meeting with the mayor. And the mayor, this meeting, again was documented I called a reporter from Channel Five who brought TV and this was recorded this last meeting with the mayor. And at that time, the mayor has stated to us that he felt and George's words were that as being a good supervisor, he would have given them white, an A, but for maturity and politics. They definitely had an F. And he told us while we sat there that if Dan had been politically smart, he would want to the mayor. Why quietly instead of rushing in and resigning and calling a press conference,



47:29

which Dan did, while Dan White's life was falling apart, Harvey Milk was having his own share of political and personal troubles. His roommate had hanged himself during the long and stressful campaign against the Briggs initiative. He had a large outstanding campaign debt, and the Castro Street camera shop in which he had established his political base was being forced out of business, in part by the higher rents that the landlords can now command along the great gateway. Wayne Friday, a campaign aide to Harvey Milk explained the problem in a telephone interview tape with me just a little over an hour after milk's assassination,



48:06

gave the business two weeks ago today, closes on camera store because we had to make a choice of running a business or being a supervisor during his time to tweet his own camera store because they were losing money. told me many times we talked about it. He said look, I knew what I was getting into when I wanted to. They really cared for trouble people had more of a share than



48:34

fighting back tears that day, finally told me that to his knowledge, there was no personal animosity between Harvey Milk and the man charged with his murder. former supervisor Dan White, although Harvey Milk had openly lobbied against whites being reappointed to the Board of Supervisors by Mayor Moscone,



48:51

so there were no personal problems and no more than they were. They were but they weren't any more than anybody else. There were certain people on the board that I would disagree with. Politically, Dan certainly was one of them. He was in my opinion, and this isn't Harvey's but in my opinion, Dan was stoned out homophobic and I never really got around. There was no personal animosity between them. I know that that wasn't the only thing that I figured out is that Harvey was forthright in making the mayor not to reappoint and lead back somewhat similar motherboard the motherboard fully intended to do. Only propose a candidate from pharma and funny parts of the game Are leaders up here with urging him to a party or somebody like her? Because because Dan never voted. We voted anti gay right across the board. But as far as animosity, firstly, we're not ideologically conservative politically, but very many times I thought the other day myself to get a job



50:31

Monday, November 27 1978, a few minutes before 11 o'clock in the morning, supervisor Harvey Milk is on the phone in his city hall office, and office he shares with his friend and aide Carl Carlson. Carlson walks in with a check that he has secured as one means of paying off Harvey Milk's large campaign debt.



50:51

He got off the phone and I said, here's the check for the amount we had talked about. And it was a sizable amount. And I said, I'm just working on a promissory note. Now why don't I go ahead and fill this out. He's just fine. So he endorsed it and put it in his pocket and was shuffling around papers. And I was sitting at the typewriter trying to figure to the blank form out with a promissory note, I typed part of it out. And Dan White, looked into it over and said, Say Harv Can I see it for a minute? And hardly to me and looked at dentists? Sure. And they walked across the hall and the door shut. And probably within 1015 seconds, the first shot went off. And the first thought that crossed my mind is Jesus November. It's too early for firecrackers. And then more shots went off. And at the time, it didn't register. It wasn't until the last of the shots went off that I realized that between the first and second I had heard Harvey scream Oh, no. And the first part of the second No, which was cut short by the second shot. And by that time, I was standing up in the doorway to the office about six feet from where he had been killed. And the door open and Dan White walked out with his coat and tie just perfectly lined up as if nothing had gone on. quite calm in a hurry, but calm. The only thing out of the ordinary was the fact that he didn't say say to me, hi Carl, because he was always very cordial to all staff aides and volunteers and all from the other supervisors went down the hall out. By that time Dianne Feinstein had come out of her office said Carl, what was all that? I said? I thought it was a backfire, but I don't I don't think it is now Diane and she looked in the door we push the door open and Harvey was facedown on the corner did. She went in and kneel down on the floor and got blood on her skirt. Reminds me of Jackie Kennedy. By then I was over at the phone, getting the police chief's office and got a hold of the chief's office and got getting on the phone on him day on the phone by then. And then I went down the hall and I drank some water to a couple guy and because I knew it was going to be really crazy. Carl



53:10

Carlson says he then proceeded as calmly as he could under the circumstances to type out a statement of what he had heard and observed for the police. Noting that the time was 1105 after shooting Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk, Dan White had driven from City Hall to a doggie diner, where he called his wife and arranged to meet at a nearby cathedral at 1205. One hour after Carl Carlson finished his written statement for the police. Dan White began to make one of the most significant tape recordings in the history of modern crime detection.



53:43

I didn't want her to talk to be honest with me, why are we doing bad supervisor anything? I never counted on for



54:00

the voice of Dan white tape at the San Francisco northern police station on November 27. Just an hour after he admitted shooting San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk. This is the tape the jury heard the tape that helped persuade seven women and five men on the jury that Dan White state of mind at the time made his acts voluntary manslaughter instead of first or second degree murder. On the tape. White says he didn't have any devised plan that day. But he simply wanted to talk to the mayor about whether Mayor Moscone was going to reappoint him to the Board of Supervisors. White explains putting on his garden riding down with his aide going through a back entrance at City Hall asking to see the mayor and having the mayor confront him with the fact that he wasn't going to get his job back. We pick up the tape at the point where Dan White describes or roaring in his ears has kept him from following what George Moscone was telling him



54:55

to call me or tell me that I wasn't going to be employed I scuzzy in my head. And then he said, Well, I think people in your district say they don't want you and I and I reiterated what I told you before that these were people that charges against me. Don't get me registered. Now, how this would affect my family



55:36

all the time.



55:52

At this point on the tape, Dan White describes what he claims was a chance encounter with Harvey Milk



55:57

in his office when I came into the supervisors areas, I said, can I talk to him? Are you scared of I can't remember when he walked in the room. I shut my door



56:15

to bed



56:21

flushed and



56:26

Dan White made his statement at the San Francisco northern police station to two police officers, one of whom just happened to be homicide inspector Frank Falzon Falzon a friend from Dan White's own days on the police department calzones smarting from criticism in the media that the statement was a setup job designed to aid his old friends defense told Jim wood of the San Francisco Examiner, but he wasn't aware of some key facts about the case when he questioned Dan White. Among those facts that Dan White had evaded the metal detector at City Hall carried extra bullets from his house and shot his victims execution style in the head. But tape statement proved to be the emotional dynamite the defense needed a Dan whites trial, perhaps making the jurors more receptive to the defense's diminished capacity arguments. diminished capacity, especially as it has evolved in California is a bit of a thorn in the side of some members of the legal and psychiatric professions. Critics charge that allowing what amounts to psychiatric standards by which the jury should determine the defendants mental state manages to both subvert the jury system and give psychiatrists an unhealthy amount of power in the legal system. We will listen to both the legal and psychiatric debate on diminished capacity. Charles Gary describes himself as a radical attorney, Gary says he was one of those who blazed the legal trail to diminish capacity back in the 60s, dairy noting that the California courts have sanctioned that offense, in part to reduce the number of people likely to go to the gas chamber. Gary adding the diminished capacity is the defense designed to help poor people and that in a way it was most suitably applied to Dan White



58:07

Van White was an ex policeman, next fireman and an ex member of the Board of Supervisors, and probably on the political spectrum of the right and who is part and parcel of the lawn order central. But remember this month, Dan White resigned from the board of supervisors because he couldn't live in his family could not live on 80 or eight or \$900 a month. He resigned because of the financial aspects of it. And he was a victim of what I consider to be poverty, the responsibilities of meeting the needs of the community. As a person who was a member of the Board of Supervisors, he just couldn't do it. And it frustrated him to a point where he didn't know what he was doing.



58:58

While Charles Gary would like to see the diminished capacity defense expanded. John Kaplan at the Stanford University Law School sees it as bad law, bad law created by the courts in order to deal with our societies