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SPEAKERS

Ray Hill, Harvey Milk



00:01

program. Coming up next is Wildenstein 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 00:14

on the program tonight there's a two hour special on the assassination of Harvey Milk manifestations after that from the conviction and the reaction.



00:25

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 Lambert, I want to turn that macro



Ray Hill 00:38

Dave Lambert was out in San Francisco doing that sort of thing. And we're pleased 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 primitive way. It's



00:59

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 the members of the Houston media in the studio at 7pm or environmental program and brace the earth arrives live yes and important documentaries 830 will be the crystal leg with 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, quadraphonic 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 had the fourth tower 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 viernes. This has been crossroads. Have a good evening and we'll see you again next week.



02:41

met him on Monday and Monster sell to do Ron Ron Ron. Ron. Ron. Somebody told me his name was Bill to do Ron Ron Ron. Ron Ron. Yeah. Yeah. To do Ron Ron Ron. Ron. Ron knew what he was doing when he caught my eye to do Ron Ron Ron. Ron, Ron Luke, so quieted my mind to do Ron Ron Ron. Ron Ron.



03:31

Ron, Ron Ron. Ron Ron.



Ray Hill 03:35

Good evening. The name of the program is Wildenstein like Frankenstein. It is a monster. But this time it is a friendly monster of our creation. It is an opportunity for gay Houstonians and their friends to communicate with all of Houston Wildenstein name for Gertrude Stein and Oscar Wilde. To



03:56

do Ron Ron, Ron Ron to do to do Ron Ron Ron, Ron Ron.



Ray Hill 04:27

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 era. 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 experts in media, Dave Lambo 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 until the next generation of gay folks that you were almost there, because Wildenstein 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 to 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 days, 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 a 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. There are a few folks that have gone the extra mile and we think they deserve recognition. One of them is Mary's family and the crowd over at Mary's have really been supportive not only of this station, 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 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 other station Saudis and their advertisement, all we're about to sell 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. Wildenstein has traditionally brought in a very high level of support for this station, and Wilden Steiners do not contribute at the present time the way they did not very long ago, this time last year, while the Stein 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 and Houston and here's Dave.



08:34

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 there 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 Mel can white but only white has been tape now for future release, perhaps in as few as five years. George and Harvey are on tape forever.

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Harvey Milk 10:08

My first press release the first sentence this is way back. The first time I ran in 73. And I got stay in power, said something that Harvey Milk, white male, Jewish homosexual age 43. Notice his candidacy for the boy supervises.

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10:29

solemnly swear or affirm that he 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.

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11:27

Day people brought the drought to San Francisco.

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11:32

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

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the suspect

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12:02

is supervisor, Dan light,

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12:03

there were no personal problems and no more than they were telling you that 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 in my opinion, Dan was stoned out homophobe



12:20

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.



12:36

Keep in mind that it is 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 patient skilled political figures.



12:59

considers 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. The census is a conservative form of code social deviance. The Killing is not a political crime asserts the prosecutor Thomas norm.



13:27

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. The most



14:02

prominent self declared homosexual politician in America is killed by four shots, two of them fired into his head if he lives fatally wounded. The killer is a mayor's 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? It in America poisoned by psychiatry, nothing counts as a political crime. Dr. Solomon,



14:32

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



14:38

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 that kind of killer, who who kills completely as apparently out of character. Dr. Tonight has written a very A 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 resentments if he had been able to tell off and Mr. Moscone and Mr. Milk, there would have been no killing. The



15:19

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 South milk four times. To the psychiatrist, all these proofs diminished capacity to premeditate when he came



15:47

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.



16:27

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 right here. They're standing inside the city hall. It's an ugly scene right at this moment. Just a handful of people started this.



16:47

Just a handful of people tried to break down the aisle, the back of the crowd. They didn't try it. It was this this group up here.



16:53

What do you think this is going to lead to?



16:55

I think that they're just expressing their frustration over what they feel is 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?



17:10

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



17:11

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



17:14

car totally trashed. Outside of City Hall.



17:22

Cops have not made a move on the crowd. At this point. It seemed like



17:26

things were really calming down, it seemed like people were milling out. yelling and screaming, but any glass breaking, it stopped. And then the police came and charged. And that started it all off again.



17:41

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 ever.



17:54

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. 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 I 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. I



18:33

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.



19:33

I think in the Dan White Cloud. It showed that as a policy decision that cloud was tried basically as as a barroom brawl, manslaughter. And 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 towards a community that 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 They're coming back to haunt San Francisco in 1979.



20:03

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 at 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 adds 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 a 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 and German 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 Mackay 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 quothe 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 chilling 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 anti climax. 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 Dan White into a kind of hero, as our program will also try to show for many and perhaps most San Franciscans, this story has only dead heroes, but the living are left with a mixed bag of sadly ambivalent feelings.



24:20

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.



24:34

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



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



24:59

I'm still in shock. I really haven't done a lot of thinking about it. I'm thinking about



25:08

maybe 13 or 14 Different kinds of levels at the same time.



25:11

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 opinions seemed far more unanimous in its judgment about the assassin and his deeds in San

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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

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

26:28

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 1975, a race that had 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 in the everyday running of San Francisco. From

27:13

my point of view, the most lasting congressman for the 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 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. Joe, 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.



28:19

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.



28:28

The mayor tried very hard to get along with Dan White then. It was it was an arch conservative, as you know. But he was an athlete. And the mayor had been an athlete, he'd been an all state basketball player. He admired athletes. Remember, we had a softball game, the mayor's office against the supervisors. 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 him and did not support him voted the other way. The mayor had very little confidence in him. He tried very hard to help them who was a new supervisor. He had people on his staff or helping him size him. When he had problems we tried to help him. But it was not returned. And we finally decided that there's no way that



29:37

we can get along with 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 like Harvey



29:49

very much and got along with him very well. George had a lot of support in the gay communities you know Uh, there was a time when Harvey Milk was his appointee on the board of permit appeals, and then decided to run for the state assembly. And Georgia replaced him on the board of Premier appeals which cause some hard feelings at the time. And the reason was simple. It's the same thing that Mayor fans senators done with another gay member of the Board of Appeals. If you use a position in the administration, to run for public office, then it's appropriate to to 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.



31:01

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. The shock disbelief and grief was obvious in the faces and voices of many San Franciscans.



31:20

Oh, it's unbelievable to me. It's just terrible and horrible. It is. It's unbelievable. That was at a

funeral home. My pastor told us about it and just the congregation just



31:34

got quite nervous and alarmed because we must be sick inside the the nation is sick. That's always the right person to come in and do something like that. My reaction is shock and disbelief. Once they prove whoever does it, I



31:47

hope I'd like to call a switch myself.



31:51

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 as 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 two 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 embrace San Francisco's opportunities in the larger than lifestyle that 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 landlord, discusses what he feels was the motivating ambition behind Belux for races for political office



34:14

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 citywide 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 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



35:38

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 city wide, making it more difficult for a minority candidate to win. And analysis of the vote for supervisor in San Francisco's district five in 1977, reveals that Harvey Milk built his winning margin by demonstrating strength throughout the area, sometimes dubbed the city's radical district. Nelkin 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



Harvey Milk 36:36

myths about 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 in the district I represent, have a knocked on almost every door in the district and certainly been on the streets up and down. I would say that of the voters of that district in 15, maybe 70% of them 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 challengers. 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 income and so I had a lot of money. And then there had been a police and firefighters strike. And the incumbents look good on that immediate gave and 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, myself could have made it citywide this time, although



38:08

the label openly gay supervisor was affixed to milk by the media. He refused to confine himself to so narrow our political role. During 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 had

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Harvey Milk 38:26

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 going to 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 was 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 on the environment? Where do you stand on dog litter?

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39:07

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

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39:44

one morning we got up and walked out in the street and there was signs in the windows that said do not know firstly said White is right. But within three days he signs his said White is right came down to new signs came up and they said unite and fight with Dan White. And I was scratching my head and who's Dan White? Everyone's going around saying who is Dan White? We'd never heard of Dan White.

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40:09

Bob Barnes for a long time has been active in the machinists union. Barnes was a labor backed opponent of Dan White and the district eight race in 1977. Barnes charges 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.

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40:33

If I'm beginning to talk, a conspiracy or whatever you want to talk about it. There are strange websites that no one has really explored. What I talked about right now is documented.

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40:46

Dan White 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 claims 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 ran a Law and Order Type campaign, making Himself very clear on a few explosive social issues, but he



41:24

was going 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 later campaign material. Oh, he had campaign material you wouldn't believe



42:07

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



42:12

There were strange people in his campaign. Visitation Valley School one night there were Nazis and swastikas with 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 I happen to use fire safety week in this district out here to use their fire engines in full uniform, drive down the streets, knock on everybody's door, hand them a piece of paper by Fire Prevention Week, and ask if they put up a Dan White time. By this time Dan had come up with a new sign and it was a picture of him standing behind an American flag.



43:04

Smiling the man behind the smile behind the flag was Irish Catholic, raised in a large working class family and a non fashionable melting pot slice of San Francisco. Dan wise 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.



43:27

What do you have with Dan White and if you'll take some time to reflect on him? You will 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 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 guerrilla warfare



44:09

snipe Harvey was 42 or 43. And from a generation that had learned to play the rules of the game and believed in America and land of 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



44:29

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 frogmen 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 politics were colored by his opposition to the war and minification with groups who are known to happy with the police so they line



H Harvey Milk 45:03

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 was thinking about because a cop should be put away all that stuff. I think anybody with any kind of crime with a gun to get 10 years 15 years 20 years whatever lock them up I don't know any crime with a gun no if ands or buts about it, no parole no extended, mitigating circumstances you commit a crime with a gun any kind of crime into the slammer. Bang



45:34

what seemed to be his really big issue though what seemed due to early crime.



45:41

The self imposed house arrested people were business behind the gates of iron. Crime, it was crime Dan was on he wanted more policemen he wanted.



45:54

That's already talked about. 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 bear 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 Barnes 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.

47:16

To distance say they didn't want him I reiterated what I told him before that these were penguin charges against me. It

47:23

dawned on me political people in the community went down in the last night and forced George Moscone. He was bluntly told if he reappointed Dan White that they would he 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 Dan, even his own supporters came in because he had not consulted with them before his resignation. His basis supporting the Visitation Valley crumbled. That is where the move to stop him came to 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 Dan White an A but for maturity and politics. He definitely had an F and he told us while we sat there that if Dan had been politically smart, he would have went to the mayor. Quietly instead of rushing in and resigning and calling a press conference which then did while Dan

49:33

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 could now command along the great gateway waiting for Audio campaign aide to Harvey Milk explained the problem in a telephone interview tape with me just a little over an hour after milks assassination, gave him

50:08

off to 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 Good day closes on camera story because of 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 his share of trouble last year, I guess,



50:36

fighting back tears that day. Friday 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,



50:53

there are no personal problems and no more than they were. I would tell you that they were but they weren't any more than anybody else. There were certain people on the board that I would disagree with politically. And Dan certainly was one of them. He was in my opinion, and this isn't Jaime's, but in my opinion, Dan was stoned out homophobe. And I never really to get around. But there was no personal animosity between them. I know that there wasn't the only thing that I could figure out is that Harvey was was forthright and urging the mayor not to reappoint and lead the lead somewhere. There was a few of them on a break.



51:43

But she fully intended to do.



51:51

The candidate farmer who's married to me running the gay community up here. So called leaders up here, we're urging him to appoint our farmers or somebody like her, because because Dan never voted when he brought an anti gay right across the board. But as far as animosity, personally, we're not ideologically conservative, politically, but, you know, they always wrap around the office. Many times I started to try to get a job.



52:33

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.



52:54

He got off the phone and I said, here's the check for the amount we had talked about. 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 says 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 had typed part of it out. And Dan White, looked into your brain said say heart Can I see it for a minute? And hardly to me and looked at dancers Sure. And they watch 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 of the office about six feet from where he had been killed. And the door opened 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 to 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 pushed 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 get a hold of the chief's office and got gain on the phone in hand, Diane the phone by then. And then I went down the hall and I drank some water. I took a cup of Valium because I knew it was going to be really crazy.



55:13

Carl 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.



55:47

I didn't want her to talk to be honest with me, tell me why we're doing bad supervisor anything but I never counted



56:04

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. The 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 gun writing down with his aide going through a back entrance at City Hall, asking to see the mayor and having the mayor confronted 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 are roaring in his ears that kept him from following what George Moscone was telling him even the courtesy to call me tell me that



57:01

I wasn't going to be employed. scuzzy in my head. And then he said, people in your district say they don't want you and I and I reiterated when I told you before that these were people in charge charges against me. Don't give me profit



57:29

register. Now



57:33

how does it affect my family?



57:56

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



58:01

He was in his office when I came into the supervisors areas. I said RB Can I talk to you and he got up or you stand up I can't remember when he walked in the room and then I shut my door and I remember just kind of smoke testing. To bed



58:26

flushed and



58:30

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. The tape statement proved to be the emotional dynamite the defense needed at Dan White's

trial, perhaps making the jurors more receptive to the defense is diminished capacity arguments. diminished capacity, especially as it is 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 diminished capacity back in the 60s, Gary noting that the California courts have sanctioned that effect. Enzi in part to reduce the number of people likely to go to the gas chamber. Gary adding the diminished capacity is that offense designed to help poor people. And that in a way it was most suitably applied to Dan White

1:00:11

than 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 was part and parcel of the law order syndrome. 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.

1:01:03

Well, 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 society's conflicting views on the death penalty. This is