

THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY



the assassination of HARVEY MILK

Do you remember where you were when you heard the news that November? It was an assassination. No, not Kennedy—Harvey Milk. The gentle-spirited openly gay San Francisco City Supervisor was gunned down by his conservative political opponent Dan White twenty years ago this month.

The following spring White's attorney used the infamous "Twinkie Defense" to get his client acquitted of first degree murder. The jury bought the story that White was under the influence of excessive amounts of junk food and convicted him of the lesser charge of manslaughter.

See "What's Hot," page 13 and the Calendar, page 19, for details about *Execution of Justice*, a play about White's trial and *The Times of Harvey Milk*, the documentary about Milk's life.

"Every gay person must come out. As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family, you must tell your relatives, you must tell your friend if indeed they are your friends, you must tell your neighbors, you must tell the people you work with, you must tell the people at the stores you shop in. And once they realize that we are indeed their children, that we are indeed everywhere—every myth, every lie, every immundo will be destroyed once and for all. And once, once you do, you will feel so much better."



1930 -1978

—Milk, in a speech following the defeat of Proposition 6, which would have barred homosexuals from teaching the public schools.

"Sarah Jane Moore got life for missing Gerald Ford."

—a spectator at White's trial, in reaction to the exceptionally light sentence handed down.

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