

Harvey Milk Day Marked

On Wednesday, November 30, CGLA commemorated the tenth anniversary of the assassination of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk. Students and community members watched the documentary film, The Times of Harvey Milk, and listened to a panel on "Gays and Lesbians and the Political System." Panelists were Chapel Hill City Council Member Joe Herzenberg and Duke Professor Bruce Payne.

Herzenberg became the first openly gay elected official in North Carolina when he won his seat in 1987. He attributed his victory in part to his openness about his sexual orientation, noting that he received more votes than any candidate in the history of the City Council. In contrast to his unsuccessful bid of 1982, when he was not as open about his sexuality, his 1987 campaign benefitted from the enthusiastic support of campaign workers and voters who were gay, lesbian, or sympathetic to lesbian and gay rights.

Bruce Payne discussed his use of the Harvey Milk documentary in his course on Ethics and Public Policy. The Milk story, he said, is a case study not only of gays in the political system but of larger issues of ethics in government. The speakers observed that candidates who take risks--such as coming out, supporting lesbian and gay rights, or promoting AIDS legislation--are often admired by the electorate for their courage and have a good record of reelection.

After the panel, participants and the audience trekked to the Pit to decorate a Christmas Tree for World AIDS Day. The tree commemorates North Carolina residents who have died of AIDS.

Alan Berman, Attorney at Law

*Personal Relationships
Wills and Probate, Real
Estate, Business and
Commercial Law*

327 West Main Street
Durham, North Carolina
(919) 682-2111

10 Years Ago...

Harvey Bernard Milk was born on Long Island in 1930 and moved to San Francisco in the late 1960s. Through his involvement in community issues in the neighborhood of his camera shop, he earned the title "The Mayor of Castro Street."

Harvy Milk was elected to represent the district including Catro in San Francisco's first district election of supervisors in 1977. As the first openly gay elected official in the United States, Milk championed the rights of all people. He authored San Francisco's Gay Rights ordinance and fought for the causes of women, the elderly, and ethnic minorities.

On November 27, 1978, Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in their City Hall offices. That night there was a candlelight march of forty thousand mourners.

Dan White, a former supervisor, admitted to killing Milk and Moscone. In May of 1979 he was acquitted of first degree murder and convicted of manslaughter. White's lawyers claimed he was not completely responsible for his actions because he had been under stress and had eaten too much junk food. White served a five year prison sentence.

--Patrick Lamerson

CONGRESS PASSES AIDS LEGISLATION

In the final days of the 100th Congress, approval was given to a broad-ranging AIDS authorization bill covering research, education, health care, and testing activities of the Public Health Service. The bill, passed on October 13, did not include the confidentiality provisions that many health workers and AIDS activists consider necessary to combat the disease.

The bill passed by the House in September included strong federal confidentiality guarantees for all HIV test results, and the confidentiality provision enjoyed the support of a majority of the Senate. Senator Jesse Helms, however, was successful in having the confidentiality provisions removed by threatening to kill the bill with a filibuster if they were not.