

the Front Page

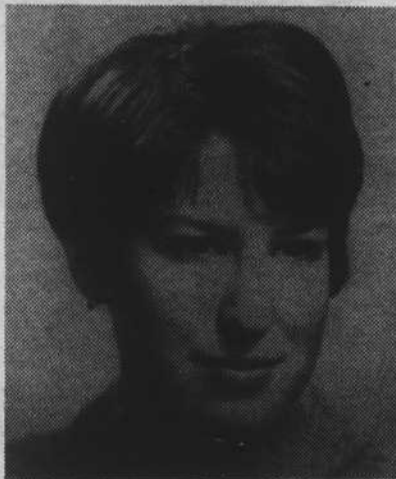
FREE!

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Memorial held for Harvey Milk

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Two separate ceremonies commemorative of the assassinations one year ago of San Francisco's Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were held at San Francisco's City Hall on Nov. 27, according to the *Gay Community News*.

A noon memorial service sponsored by the city attracted 3,000 people. Among those present was State Assemblyperson Brown, the emcee, who introduced Moscone's widow and four children and Robert Milk, brother of the murdered supervisor. Brown referred to Milk as "a brother of all oppressed people" and stated that "the struggle for one oppressed minority is the struggle for all oppressed peoples."

"Harvey Milk opened many doors for all his brothers and sisters," Brown said, "and in the spirit of Harvey I ask all the people to open all the doors to his sisters and brothers."

Supervisor Harry Britt, who was appointed to fill Milk's seat after his assassination, mournfully spoke to the crowd saying, "Harvey and George spent a lot of time with a lot of people who didn't have many expectations out of this life and gave them reason for hope."

Current San Francisco Mayor, Dianne Feinstein, claiming that this year had been "one of the most difficult" she had known, defined the memorial service as being held in a "spirit of thanksgiving."

That thanksgiving being for the fact that "George and Harvey were among us, that they shared with us their dreams and aspirations for the San Francisco of the 1980s."

Mayor Feinstein continued, "Theirs was a vision of a city dazzling in its physical beauty, but more importantly, growing with a spirit of brotherhood, of reconciliation, of unity."

Peaceful March Held At Night

Close to 40,000 people marched down San Francisco's Market Street to City Hall carrying lighted candles as a memorial for Milk.

Various singers and speakers shared their sentiments with the crowd during the peaceful march.

Cleve Jones, the master of ceremonies, spoke movingly and forcefully of the anti-gay hatred that was the basis of Dan White's murder of Harvey Milk and how ending such hatred was what Harvey Milk stood for.

Wayne Friday, a political columnist for the *Bay Area Reporter*, was the most controversial speaker, referring to Dan White's "closet," suggesting somewhat ambiguously that Dan White was either a closet homosexual who could not face his inner reality or that Dan White was in a "closet" of self-disgust that made him kill two other men to relieve his inner tensions in the same way that husbands who batter their wives or children do.

Lillian Sing, a Chinese woman not generally known to the gay community, called for gays and ethnic minorities to form a coalition and stop the bigotry that both groups suffer from. She said that since ethnic minorities comprise about 45% of the population of San Francisco and since gays comprise about 20-25%, together they could "be the majority."

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus sang several songs, and the evening closed with a surprise visit by recording star Sylvester. MC Cleve Jones commented that although Harvey Milk "lived and died an atheist," he didn't think he would mind a little "gospel according to Sylvester," who then sang "Jesus Loves Me."

Afterwards, the crowd disbursed quietly.

Dan White, Homophobic

Releasing a story on Dan White near to the time of the ceremonies, *Inquiry* magazine contributor Warren Hinckle, former editor of *Ramparts* revealed how curcial Dan White's homophobia was in his assassination of the Mayor and Supervisor.

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Gay Rights in Congress

Gay lobbyists succeeded in persuading three more members of the House of Representatives to join as co-sponsors of Gay rights legislation introduced by Representatives Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Henry Waxman (D-California), bringing to 50 the number of lawmakers who have co-sponsored the measure so far.

The three are California Democratic Representatives Leon Panetta and James Corman and Oregon Democrat Robert Duncan.

Just before the national march on Washington, California Democrat Edward Roybal also added his name.

Congressmen Pete McCloskey (R-California) and William Green (R-New York), at the urging of the Gay Rights National Lobby, have sent a 'Dear Colleague' letter to other Republican members of the House of Representatives urging support and co-sponsorship of H.R. 2074, the federal Gay Civil Rights Bill. They quoted several statements from the 1976 Republican Platform in their letter:

"The Government must protect your constitutional rights."
"Government must assure equal opportunity."
"The United States must always stand for... the rights of the individual."
"Liberty depends in great measure on the privacy that each American retains."

The letter also quotes conservative columnist William Safire: "Certainly there is danger in toleration being taken for approval, but the greater danger is the invasion of everybody's right to privacy... We can look at the gays as people with mental problems, or counter their new proselytization with some missionary work of our own, or gratify our consciences by railing at them as sinners. But when we fail to give them the equal protection of the law, then it is the law that is queer."

Steve Endean, Lobby Executive Director, said, "While Safire's statements are certainly not standard gay movement rhetoric, they seem to effectively communicate to GOP

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Gays And The Press

While the gay press, overall, seems to be growing and prospering, the attitudes towards gays in the mainstream straight press is considerably less exciting. *The Nation*, the long-standing magazine of social commentary recently published an article on the upsurge of anti-gay feeling in the United States, and pointed out the attitudes of many otherwise "liberal" publications. A recent article in *The Advocate*, on the other hand, points out the growth of gay publications across the nation.

Straight Press Rankles

In his article, "Open Season on Gays" in *The Nation*, Doug Ireland documents the virulent hostility and malign neglect the gay movement has received and continues to receive from the straight print media, often from surprising sources.

Liberal syndicated columnist Nicholas von Hoffman has consistently used his column to oppose civil rights legislation that would protect homosexuals from discrimination. Harper's editor Louis Lapham has become one of the "leading apostles of an anti-homosexual intelligensia."

New York Post columnist Murray Kempton has urged homosexuals to stay in the closet, comparing this to "the delicacy displayed by our Hispanic brothers and sisters when they conceal beer cans in brown paper bags."

The New Republic, "a bastion of editorial homophobia," recently ran a cover story which contained a vicious attack on homosexuals. According to Ireland, the story even went so far as to insist that those who say they are gay are not really homosexual at all but simply "in retreat from the battle of the sexes."

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