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Rush

Dr. Hanson

April 5, 2006

Second Cut: Dan White

Further researching the mystery of Dan White, I have realized that Mr. White attracted a lot of public hatred after his mysterious killing of the George Moscone and Harvey Milk. Harvey Milk was a gay activist and the first declared homosexual elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.¹ Both the Mayor Moscone and Milk clashed often with White, which could have been part of White's drive to kill them. Dan White, who happened to be against homosexuals, ended up killing this prominent homosexual. "Mr. White was remembered unkindly as the sole supervisor to vote against an ordinance forbidding discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation."² A great deal of turmoil was created after Dan White received a very light sentence for the killings of those individuals. The majority of the homosexual population wanted White dead after he was released from prison.³ White's sentence was seven years, but he was let out after five due to his good behavior. To get this light sentence, Dan White used the "Twinkies defense," in which his lawyer claimed that he had a diminished mental capacity caused by eating too much junk food.⁴ Fearing that someone might attempt to assassinate him, White planned to live in Los Angeles.⁵ After about a year living away, White returned and committed suicide.

¹ "Tremors of Grief in San Francisco," *New York Times* (3 December 1978): E1. Available from: Proquest, New York Times Historical Collection, Menlo School Lib. <<http://library.menloschool.org>> (accessed 27 March 2006).

² Wallace Turner, "Suspect Sought Job," *New York Times* (28 November 1978): A1. Available from: Proquest, New York Times Historical Collection, Menlo School Lib. <<http://library.menloschool.org>> (accessed 27 March 2006).

³ "Uneasy Freedom; The mayor killer is released." *Time* (16 January 1984). Available from: Gale, Student Resource Center-Gold, Menlo School Lib. <<http://library.menloschool.org>> (accessed March 27, 2006).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.