Coms 133

The Times of Harvey Milk

Credits & Questions

Directed by Rob Epstein

Narration Writing Judith Coburn and Carter Wilson

Cinematography Frances Reid

Editors Rob Epstein and Deborah Hoffmann

Music Mark Isham

Release 1985

Country USA

Running Time 1:30

1. Dan White’s humanity is not passed over, according to many critics of the film,

and in general, there seems to be an attempt to portray the various characters in

the story roundly, with both gifts and flaws. But one group of characters - the

police - never really receive any praise. Do you think that is warranted in this

case?

2. Harvey speculated that Dan White was “one of us.” A bisexual man? A closeted

gay man? What do you think? Is such speculation warranted? If so, why?

3. Harvey was always confronted with threats to his life- written threats, implied

threats, and innuendos. This is clear throughout the film. Dan White said that he

felt threatened, too. What do you think was most threatening to him?

4. Harvey wanted EVERYONE to come “out of the closet,” that is, say who they are

aloud to everyone important in their lives. He felt that knowing someone who is

gay or lesbian would make all the difference in transforming our culture into a

more welcoming one. Do you think that is true? Do you think coming “out of the

closet” is enough to transform our culture? In the film, Harvey pressures one of

his deputies to come out to his own father right there on the phone. Do you think

that was the right thing to do? If so, why?

5. Anita Bryant and John Briggs brought a religious slant to their anti-gay

campaigns. The film outlines their language clearly. Does your faith or beliefs call you to speak out and act out in support of love and civil rights for gay people or not? Why or why not?