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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

Romancing Alioto a shrewd tactic

TL vote analysis – her support vital to Newsom win

BY GEOFF LINK

THE mayoral runoff has taken so many twists that who knows what will happen next. The surprises started soon after the Nov. 4 election when a computerized poll put Matt Gonzalez even with Gavin Newsom.

Next, the mayor played the race card while pitching Gavin Newsom to black ministers.

Then Newsom offered to give Angela Alioto a say-so in matters that she cares about if she would endorse him. Since then it's turned down right nasty with charges so weird we don't even want to repeat them.

It's no wonder Newsom bid high for Alioto's political favors. She ran so strong that if even some of her supporters swing his way, Newsom will win Dec. 9, an Extra analysis of central city voting in November suggests.

Newsom took all but five of the 25 neighborhoods identified by the Department of Elections but the

department didn't break down the votes into micro hoods such as the Tenderloin and skid row, so The Extra's study is the first to examine the voting in the very heart of the inner city.

In the only section of the city that had rejected Newsom's Care Not Cash initiative, the button-down supervisor, surprisingly, solidly outpolled Gonzalez 1,281 votes to 935, winning 12 of the Tenderloin's 16 precincts, and outscored Gonzalez 590 votes to 514, while taking five of the eight SoMa precincts The Extra studied.

Alioto beat Newsom in five Tenderloin precincts and Gonzalez in nine. She also beat Gonzalez in two of the Sixth Street area precincts. She got just 132 fewer votes than Newsom in the Tenderloin, but 207 more votes than Gonzalez, though he edged her in the precincts around Sixth Street.

Newsom campaign manager Jim Ross isn't surprised his candidate did so well in the neighborhood. "I actually think our support there will

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TURK ST. REBELLION

Foes knock DPH plan

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KINDEST CUTS

Salon gives \$15,000 to TL kids

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CLICK!

See 6th St. through artists' eyes

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NEW VIEWS, UNTOLD STORIES



PHOTOS BY MARK ELLINGER

The Jones boys – Stephan and Jim Jr. – tell how they escaped the slaughter.

Jonestown redux

In confronting the tragedy, forum tries to make sense of it

BY PHIL TRACY

Editor's note: On Nov. 18, 1978, Congressman Leo Ryan and five others were murdered on a Guyana airstrip located near the Agricultural Mission of Peoples Temple, a San Francisco congregation headed by the Rev. Jim Jones. Following those killings, some 900 members of Peoples Temple, including 40 infants and nearly 300 children, died en masse in an act that was characterized as "revolutionary suicide." Slightly more than 70% of the dead were African American; the rest were white. Subsequent investigation and a tape recording of the

event uncovered the fact that some people had been shot to death because they refused to drink the cyanide-laced Kool Aid. On Nov. 19, a public forum on the Jonestown tragedy drew about 250 people to the Koret Auditorium of the Main Library.

THE event was billed as "Jonestown 25 Years Later: A Look Back" and among the panelists were both the biological and adopted sons of the notorious Jim Jones. Their comments added a poignant perspective to the remembrance.

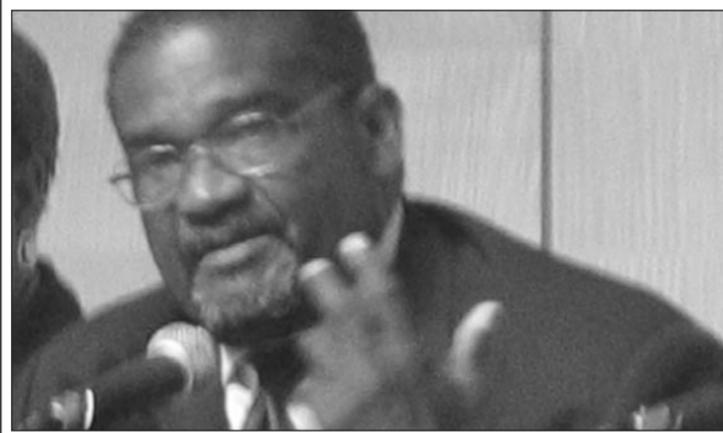
For many San Franciscans the most immediate question was "Why?" Few events in our lifetime have produced the utter revulsion engendered by the mass suicide at Jonestown.

Cynthia Selmar, director of the African American Health Initiative and a co-moderator of the panel, tried to provide an answer to that "why." "This evening we begin to address the traumas [of Jonestown]," she told an audience that was more white than black, more female than male and much younger than might have been expected, given that it all occurred so long ago. "We have to acknowledge what happened. Acknowledge that the impact of our experiences are real. Note that impact of these issues have changed our lives in a meaningful way."

Selmar acknowledged that some in the audience had not been directly affected, but she nonetheless explained that a public discussion is vital. "Dialogue is always the first step to the healing process," she told her listeners.

Sharing the role of moderator was Paul

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Rev. Arnold Townsend: Peoples Temple sapped the initiative of Western Addition activists.