

U. S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

ALL INFORMATION CO
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/16/92 BY 111
#284258 #2

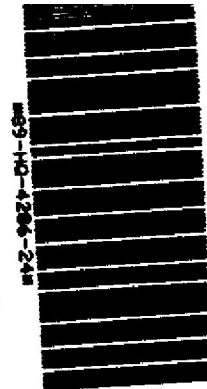
FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call 3421



SERIALS 1681 ONLY

89-1HQ-4286

SECTION 24

SECTION 24
SERIALS 1681 ONLY
20179
C. S. 20179

REVOLUTIONARY SUICIDE

by Martin Smith.

REFERENCES

Axthelm, P. (1978) 'The Cult of Death'. Newsweek, 4/12/78.

Block, M. (2003) 'Remembering Jonestown'. NPR News Radio: All Things Considered, 17/12/03.

FBI Records: The Vault. 'Jonestown' [Online]. Available at: <http://vault.fbi.gov/jonestown>

'Guyana Tragedy: The Story of Jim Jones' (1980) Directed by William A. Graham [Film]. California: CBS.

'Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple' (2006) Directed by Stanley Nelson [Film]. New York: Firelight Media.

Kilduff, M. and Tracy, P. (1977) 'Inside Peoples Temple'. New West Magazine, 1/8/77.

Neff, D. (1978) 'Nightmare in Jonestown'. Time Magazine, 1/12/78.

The Jonestown Institute [Online]. Available at: <http://jonestown.sdsu.edu>



35 years ago, in a town built with their own hands far away from the country of their birth, 909 people died in what was then the biggest loss of American civilian life in recorded history.

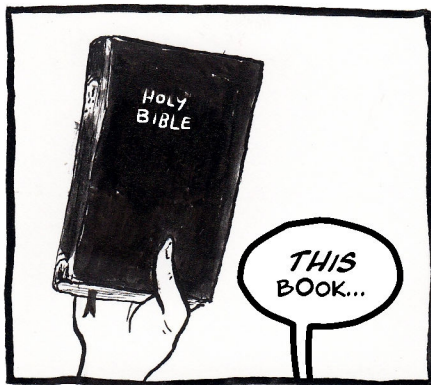
They belonged to PEOPLES TEMPLE.

The deaths, all but two caused by cyanide poisoning, were reported as a mass suicide. Peoples Temple became known as the CULT OF DEATH. Why they killed themselves has been the subject of much debate ever since.

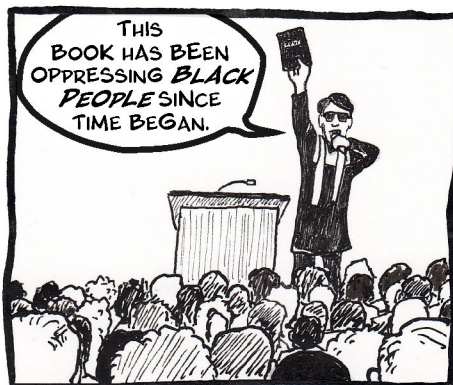
JIM JONES, their leader, heard in a recording of the community's final moments, said it was an act of REVOLUTIONARY SUICIDE.

It was not revolutionary.

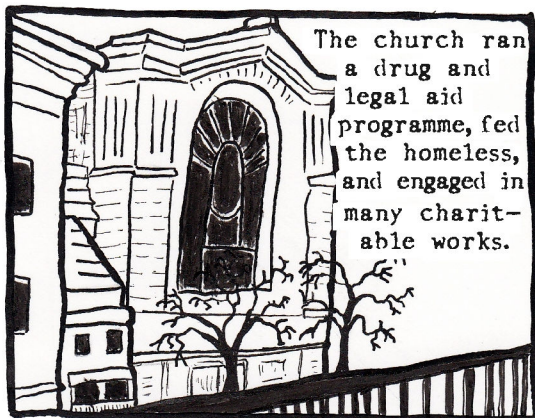
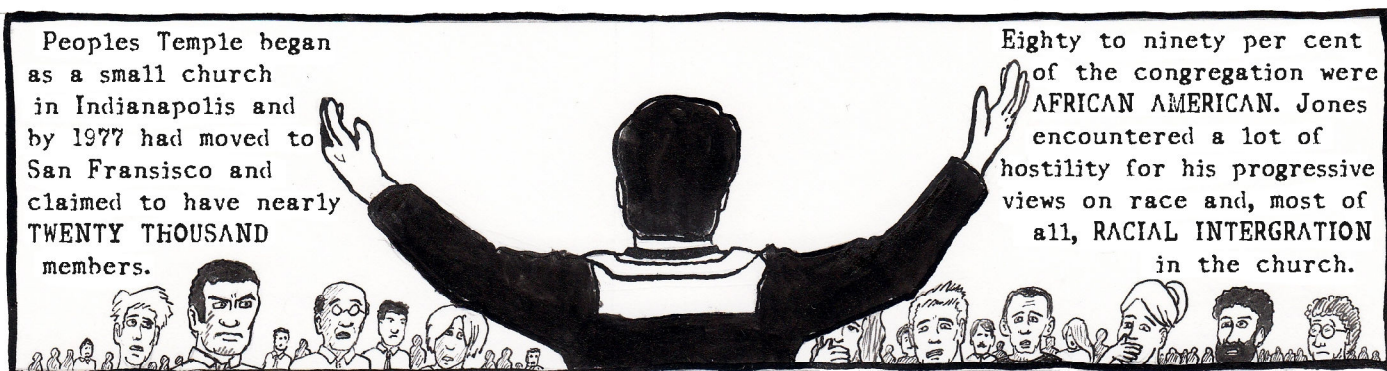
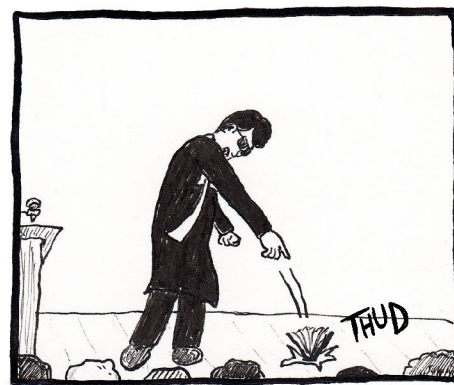
It was not suicide.



THIS BOOK...



THIS BOOK HAS BEEN OPPRESSING **BLACK PEOPLE** SINCE TIME BEGAN.



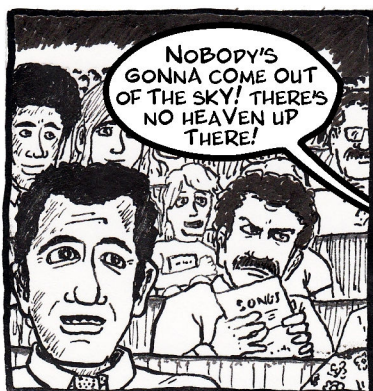
The church ran a drug and legal aid programme, fed the homeless, and engaged in many charitable works.



NOW, DID YOU SEE ANY **LIGHTNING** HIT ME?

NO.

YOU'RE GONNA HELP **YOURSELVES** OR YOU'LL GET NO HELP.



NOBODY'S GONNA COME OUT OF THE SKY! THERE'S NO HEAVEN UP THERE!



WE'LL HAVE TO **MAKE HEAVEN** DOWN HERE!



WHAT YOU NEED TO BELIEVE IN IS WHAT YOU SEE.



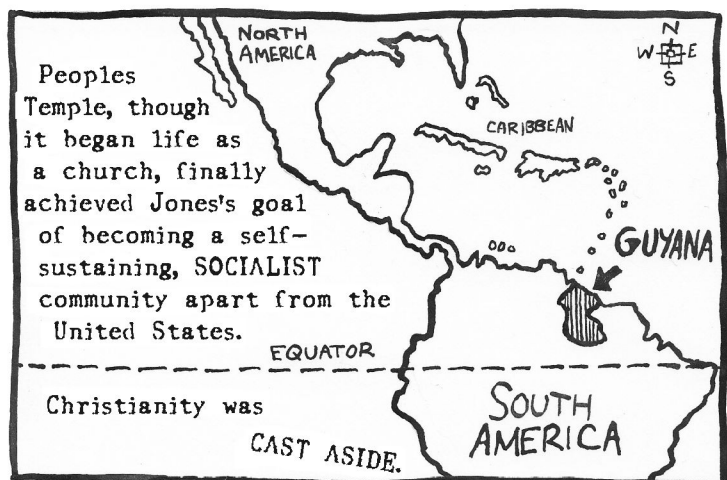
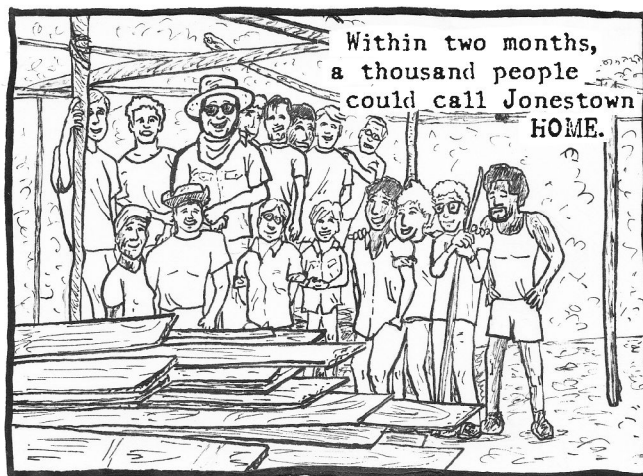
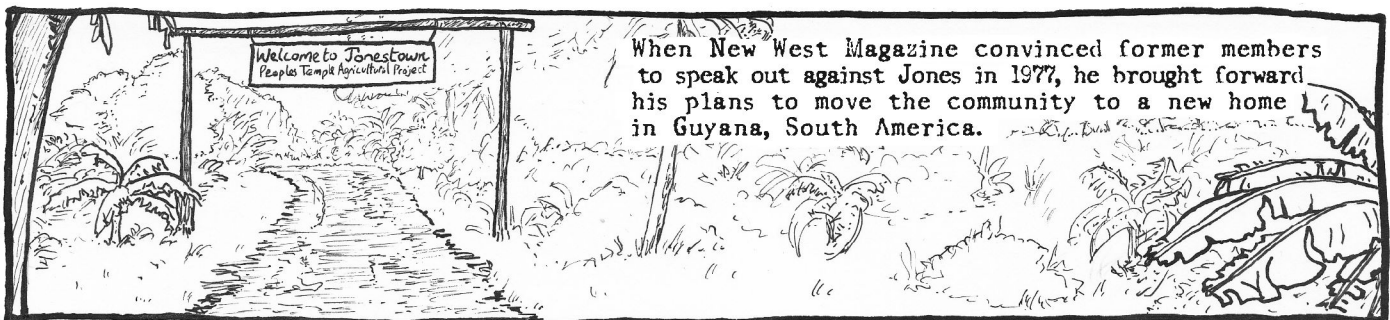
IF YOU SEE ME AS YOUR **FRIEND**, I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND.

IF YOU SEE ME AS YOUR **FATHER**, I'LL BE YOUR FATHER.

IF YOU SEE ME AS YOUR **GOD**... I'LL BE YOUR GOD.

Services were held two to four nights a week, often going on until dawn. Members were encouraged to sell their possessions, even their homes, and give **EVERYTHING** to the church.

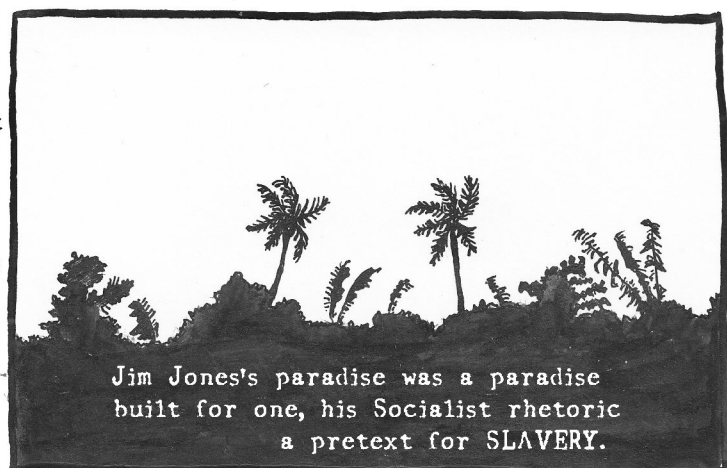
Ritual **HUMILIATIONS** and **BEATINGS** became commonplace and Jones, increasingly dependent on mood-altering drugs, became more and more pre-occupied with the idea that **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES** were conspiring to infiltrate and **DESTROY** Peoples Temple.



When CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN recieved reports of human rights violations from relatives of people at Jonestown, he began an official **INVESTIGATION** despite the Department of State's efforts to prevent it.

Congressman Ryan decided to inspect Jonestown himself, ignoring **LEGAL THREATS** and **PETITIONS** from Peoples Temple. He, along with journalists and concerned relatives, flew to Guyana and there interviewed Jones and his followers.

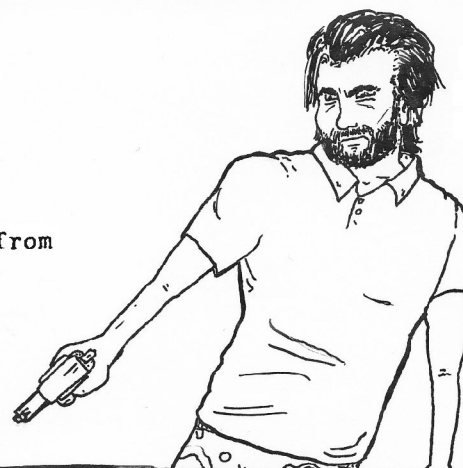
When a significant number of people begged for help to **ESCAPE**, the situation became clear...



Deprived of **FOOD**, **SLEEP**, **PRIVACY**, and means of **ESCAPE**, having given all of their worldly possessions to Peoples Temple, the people always did as they were told.

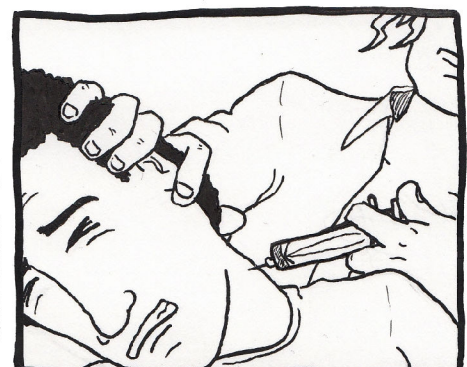
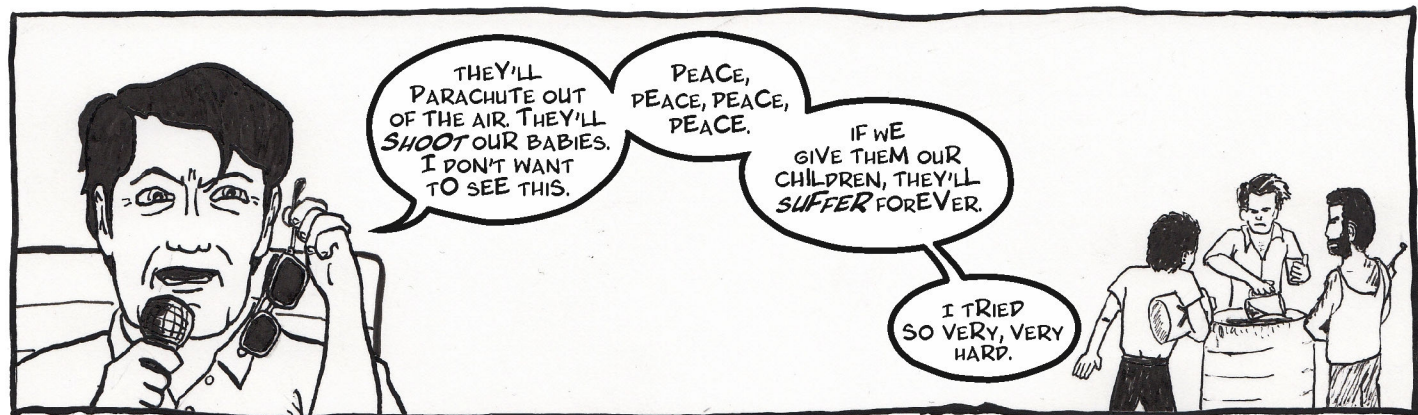
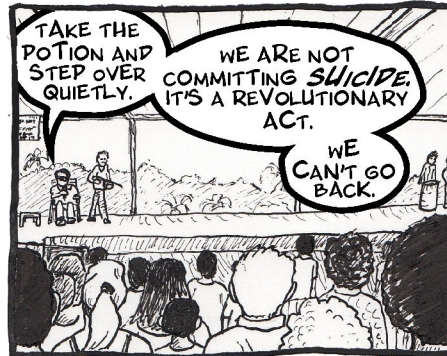
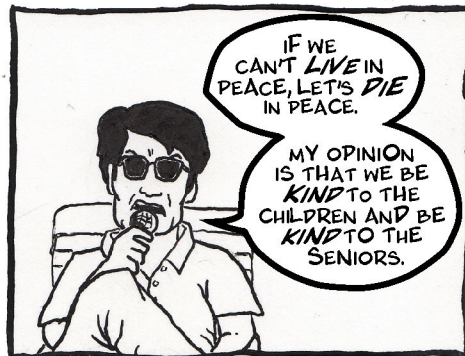
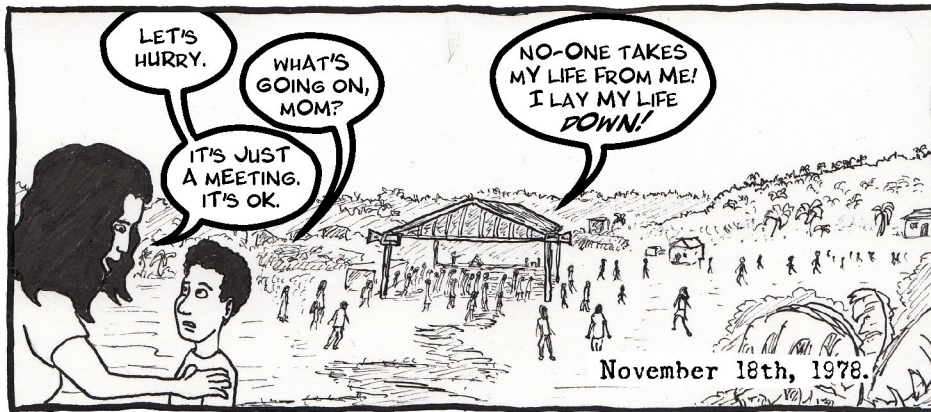
They had discommunicated themselves from their **FAMILIES** as they were told.

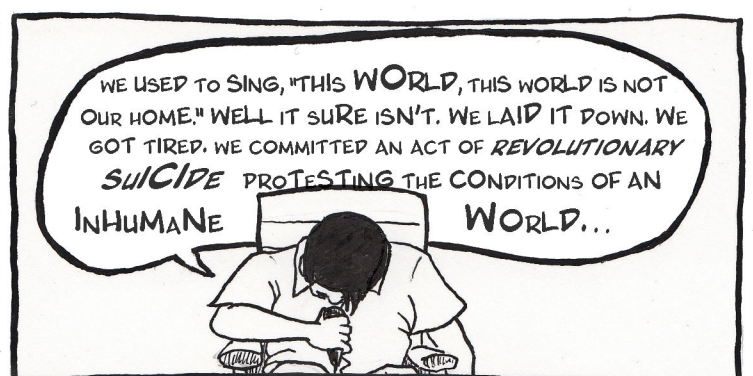
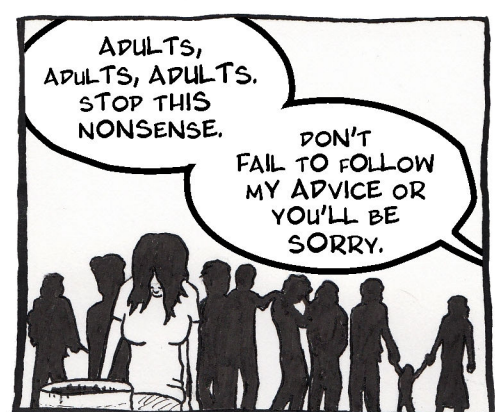
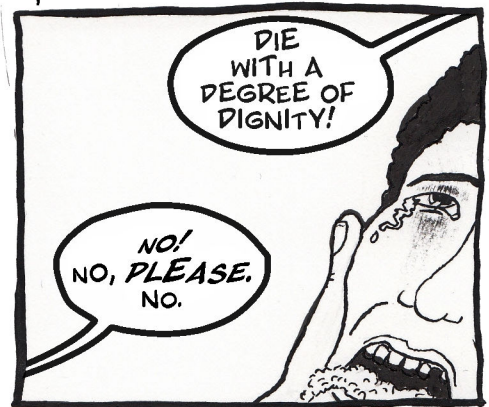
They had rehearsed **RITUAL SUICIDE** as they were told.



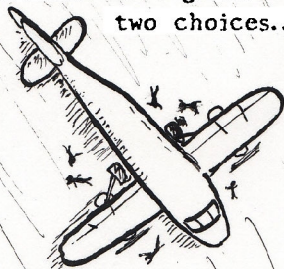
And on November 18th, 1978, a few members **MURDERED** the congressman and four others

AS **THEY WERE TOLD.**





Surrounded by armed guards, the people of Jonestown were given two choices...



They would drink the cyanide or they would be forced to. **SUICIDE** or **DEATH**. More of a choice than the defectors and Leo Ryan were given at the airstrip.

909 PEOPLE died in Jonestown that day. Only two, Jones and his personal nurse, who took a bullet to the head each, did not die from cyanide poisoning.

How do we know that the 907 others did not simply **DECIDE TO DIE?**

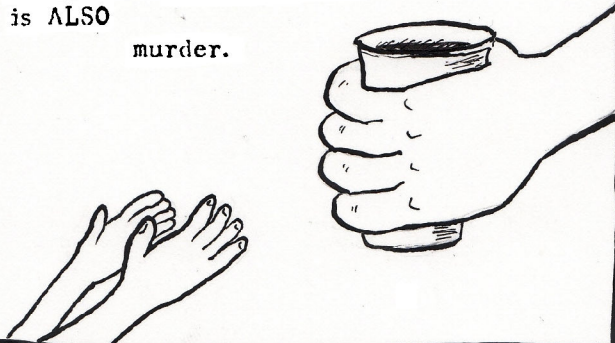


304 of these people were **CHILDREN**.

150 of the children were under the age of **TEN**.



Children do not decide to kill themselves. They do as they're told or they're **MURDERED**. Telling a child to drink something that will kill them is **ALSO** murder.



Were the adults at any more of an advantage? They were **SEVERELY** sleep deprived, malnourished, and had suffered extreme physical and mental **ABUSE**.



DRINK.

And their only source of **INFORMATION**



was the man who wanted all of them to die with him.

Jones had been secretly **stock-piling** poison for months...



WAITING for a moment such as this.

More effectively than lies or threats, Jones used the children.

They were murdered **FIRST**. Jones knew that many parents would lose the will to fight, to **LIVE**, after

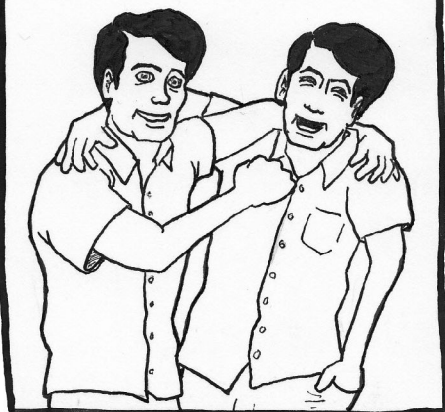


that.

Of course, this is not the full story of what happened at Jonestown. There are more questions than answers. The crime scene was mishandled, the bodies were left to rot in the sun, the autopsies were botched, death tolls varied wildly in the first reports, there are mysteries surrounding Jones's past, and U.S. intelligence officers were involved where they shouldn't have been.

Nothing should be taken at face value.

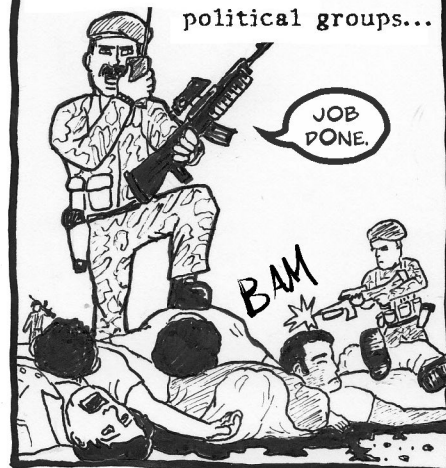
But whether Jim Jones had a BODY DOUBLE who died in his place at Jonestown. . .



Whether Jones was a C.I.A. operative continuing the now-public M.K. Ultra MIND CONTROL experiments. . .

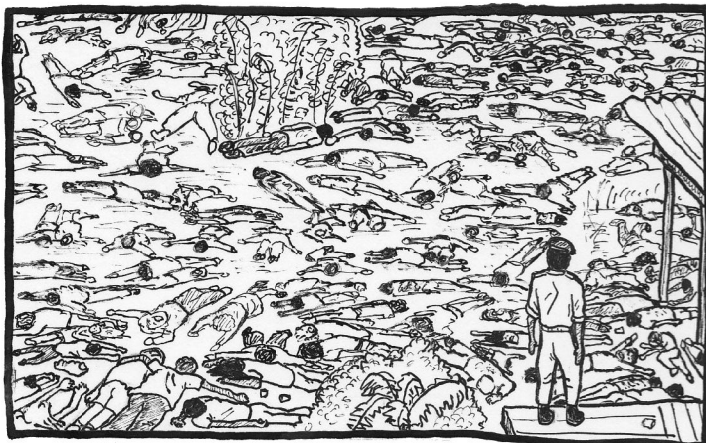
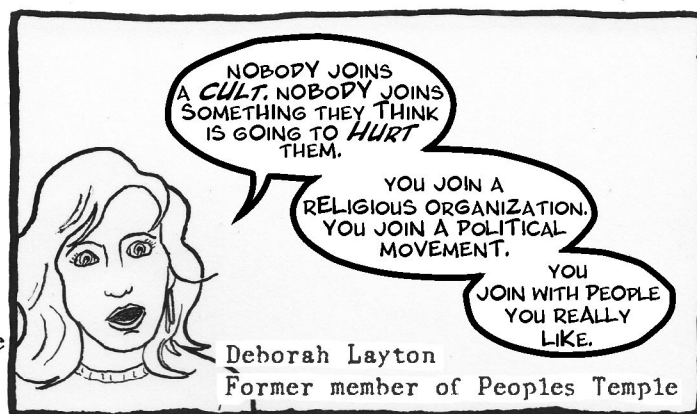


Or whether the U.S. government slaughtered Peoples Temple as part of their well-known efforts to ELIMINATE subversive political groups...

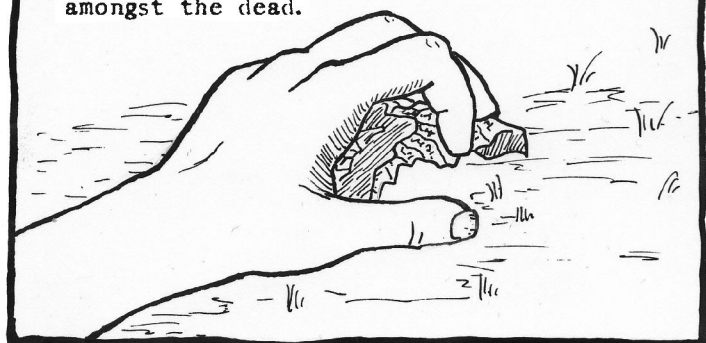


35 years have passed and this is likely all the evidence we will ever get. The government is happy with the answer they already have and the mass media CANNOT be trusted to look for another, more damaging one. It is unlikely reports of the day were entirely informed, entirely honest, or entirely well-intentioned, but there is NOTHING more to go on.

One thing that cannot be disputed, though, is the intentions of the innocent victims. They joined Peoples Temple to do something about the injustice they saw in the world. A Jonestown WITHOUT Jim Jones would have been a very different place with a very different result.



A letter, since attributed to Richard Tropp, one of the victims, was found amongst the dead.



TO WHOMEVER FINDS THIS NOTE
This is the last day of our lives.
Please try to understand. See
what we have tried to do.
This was a movement to life. ~~the~~
To the renewal of the human spirit,
broken by capitalism, by a system
of exploitation and injustice. We
DID NOT WANT this kind of
ending — we wanted to LIVE,
to SHINE, to bring light to a
world that is dying for a little
bit of LOVE.

These are a beautiful people. A brave
people. Not afraid.

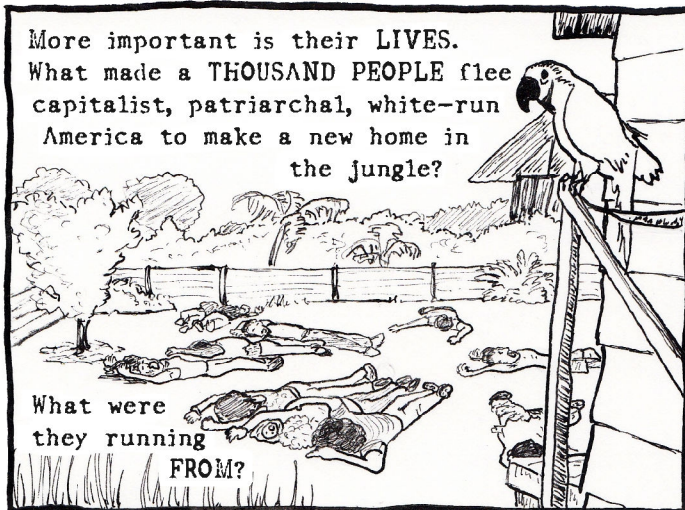
Laughing + kissing + tears + silence +
joy in a long line.



Why they DIED has been the subject of much debate ever since.

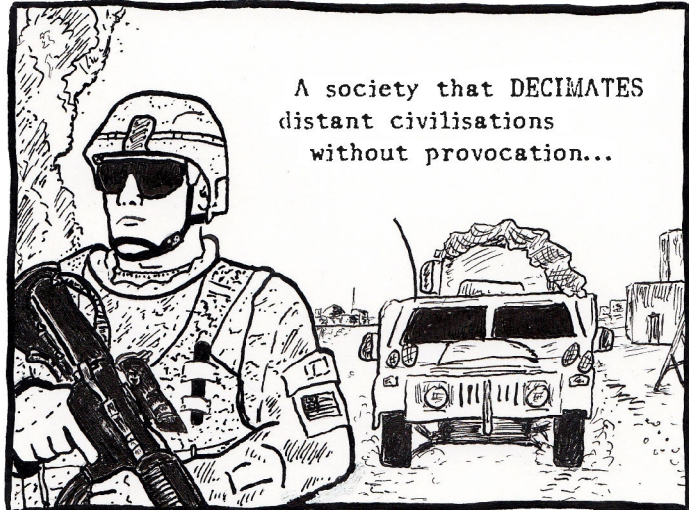
These people were misled, abused, and MURDERED.

They are dead and their deaths can tell us nothing more.

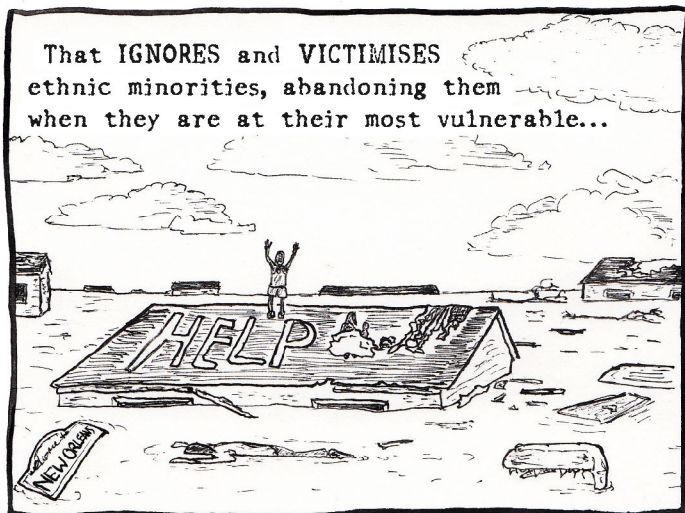


More important is their LIVES.
What made a THOUSAND PEOPLE flee
capitalist, patriarchal, white-run
America to make a new home in
the jungle?

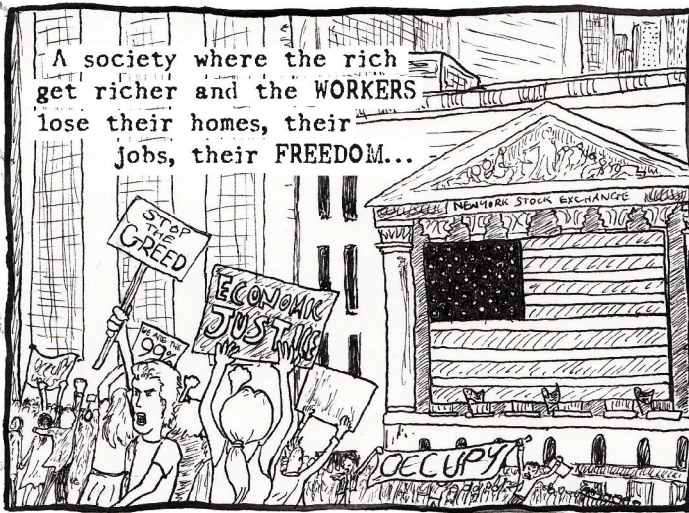
What were
they running
FROM?



A society that DECIMATES
distant civilisations
without provocation...

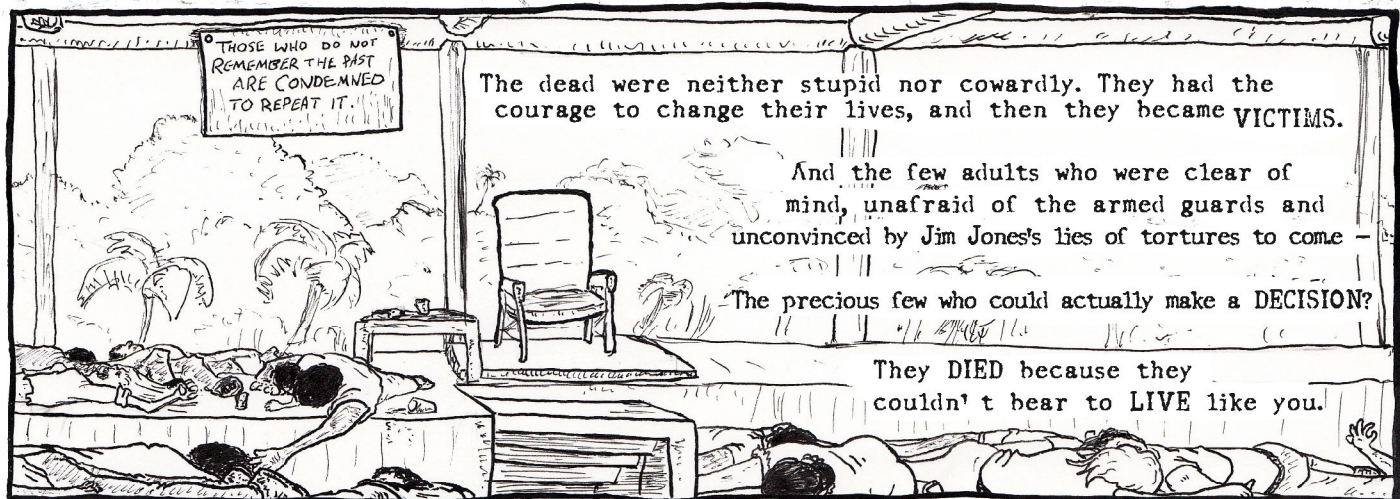


That IGNORES and VICTIMISES
ethnic minorities, abandoning them
when they are at their most vulnerable...



A society where the rich
get richer and the WORKERS
lose their homes, their
jobs, their FREEDOM...

These one thousand people hated their society so much they couldn't bear to be a part of it. Hundreds were murdered. Hundreds killed themselves because they thought they would be slaughtered if they didn't. Hundreds followed their murdered children into death. The rest did it because they understood that their new life in the jungle, their new independence, was at an end.



The dead were neither stupid nor cowardly. They had the
courage to change their lives, and then they became VICTIMS.

And the few adults who were clear of
mind, unafraid of the armed guards and
unconvinced by Jim Jones's lies of tortures to come -

The precious few who could actually make a DECISION?

They DIED because they
couldn't bear to LIVE like you.

THE END.

subject: RYMUR
file number: HQ 89-4286
section number: 24
serial(s): _____

