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# Rancho Santa Fe Suicides

[an error occurred while processing this directive] Mass suicide of 39 people in a mansion near San Diego on Mar. 26, 1997. In their reasons for suicide, the group expressed UFO beliefs regarding the Hale-Bopp comet.

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## Topics

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2. [UFO Spiritual Aspects@](#) - People and groups making religious claims related to UFOs. <#7>
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4. [End of the Millennium@](#) - Theories and Controversies <#32>
5. [Related People](#) <#33>
  - o [Art Bell@](#) - Cult's Hale-Bopp beliefs were linked to claims made on Bell's radio show. Cult's web site had link to Bell's. <#33.1>
  - o [Whitley Streiber@](#) - Made Hale-Bopp claims on Art Bell radio show. <#33.2>
  - o [Courtney Brown@](#) - Made Hale-Bopp claims on Art Bell radio show. <#33.3>
  - o [Ruth Norman@](#) - Recently deceased leader of the Unarius Society, another So. Calif. group that expects alien contact. <#33.4>
  - o [Rael@](#) - (Claude Vorilhon) Leader of Raelian religious movement that expects alien contact. <#33.5>

## Print References

Books available through our catalog

- o [UFOs and Mental Health](#): Discussion of Heaven's Gate and Solar Temple suicides, p.23-28
- o [The UFO Book: Encyclopedia of the Extraterrestrial](#): Heaven's Gate cult suicide, p.269-273

## General Links

- o [Yahoo Link Page for Cult Suicide](#) - Extensive links regarding all aspects of event. <3/27/97 #10>
- o [CNN on Suicides](#) - Many articles and links. <3/27/97 #2>

- [Other Mass Suicides in Recent Years](#) - Article <3/27/97 #2.1>
- [Mass Suicide May Have Comet Link](#) - AP News Story (9k) - Article - Published: 3/27/97 - Source: Las Vegas Sun (Newspaper) <3/27/97 #3>
- [Other things in the Hale-Bopp Comet's Tail](#) - Things we might have missed the first time around (1 pages) - Humor - By Jim Campbell - Published: 6/2/97 - Source: The San Leon EMS Page <6/7/97 #4>
- [San Diego Media](#) - TV and Newspapers. May provide more detailed reports on local developments. - Source: CityNet <3/27/97 #5>
- **Newsgroup Searches** <3/27/97 #9>
  - [Postings by "rep@heavensgate.com"](#) - Apparently a member of the group. - Search <3/27/97 #9.1>
  - [Postings by "\(watcher\)"](#) - Including many false hits. Look at Christianity-related sites. "(watcher)" may be a group member. - Search <3/27/97 #9.2>
  - [Postings by "lah@heavensgatetoo.com"](#) - Search <3/27/97 #9.3>
- [Cult UFO belief may stem from Nevada radio show](#) - Article describes possible links between suicides and claims on Art Bell's radio show. (11 para) - Article - By Matt Crenson - Published: 3/28/97 - Source: Las Vegas Sun (AP) (Newspaper) <3/28/97 #11>
- [Ambassador Merlyn Merlin II+](#) - (David Solomon) "Alien ambassador" who is preparing Nevada for alien arrival at Area 51. <3/28/97 #17>
- [Rumor May Have Spurred Cult Idea](#) - Connection to radio show. (5k) - Article - Published: 3/27/97 - Source: Las Vegas Sun (AP) (Newspaper) <3/28/97 #18>
- [Chuck Shramek+](#) - Amature astronomer; took photo of Hale-Bopp and alleged companion. <3/28/97 #19>
- [AUFORA Commentary on mass suicides](#) - Reaction to Rancho Santa Fe suicides - Article - **Dissenting** - By David Watanabe - Published: 3/29/97 - Source: [AUFORA](#) (Web Site) <3/30/97 #21>
- [San Diego Union Tribune](#) - Index of past week stories; free registration required. <3/30/97 #22>
- [Church of the Subgenius on Cult Suicides](#) - (Humor) <3/30/97 #23>
- [The Cult of the Two+](#) - A report on an appearance of the group in Dallas in 1994. They called themselves the "Overcomers" and always spoke in groups of two. (16 para) - Message - By Yellowrose - Published: 3/30/97 - Source: Area 51 (Mailing List) <3/31/97 #24>
  - [Part II+](#) - Continuation of report. - Message <4/4/97 #24.1>
- [Message from the 39](#) - Post-transference message from cult members - (caution - server sends many cookies) <4/1/97 #25>
- [Heaven's Gate Mirror Website](#) - A mirror website sponsored by Phantom Bookshop, Ventura, CA <4/6/97 #26>
- [Chicago Trib. UFO Cults on the Internet Article](#) - Article - **Dissenting** <4/7/97 #27>
- [New Age UFO Cult Suicide Results in Confusion and Conspiracy](#) - Watcher website (not related to cult) take on the whole thing, plus conspiracies and strange links: Whitley, Art, cults, thought police etc. - **Dissenting** <4/7/97 #28>
- [A Response To The Heaven's Gate Suicides](#) - A UFO Journalist talks about the religious confusion of the cult - By Sean Casteel - Source: UFO Journalist web site (Web Site) <4/8/97 #29>
- [News at ground Zero \(Clyde Lewis\)](#) - Internet Audio News report about Suicides and New strange parallels overlooked by the media - Report <4/16/97 #30>
- [UFO Conferees Getting Bad Rap](#) - Report on Ozark UFO conference - Published: 4/12/97 - Source: Las Vegas Sun (AP) <4/17/97 #31>
- [Conspiracies Regarding the Heaven's Gate UFO cult](#) - Not merely a mass suicide of 39 fanatics...speculation and conspiracies linking Heaven's Gate to Cypherpunks, Solar Temple, Theosophy, New World Order and Missoula Montana. <9/18/97 #34>
- [Heaven's Gate mass suicide in California](#) - An essay from the Indian Skeptic, plus links - Opinion - **Dissenting** <8/23/98 #35>

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# Reader Comments

Regarding "Rancho Santa Fe Suicides" - Latest First

## What kind of computers were they using? (humor)

If they were using a Mac Performa 575 they have an excuse for going crazy and killing themselves! No one has ever mentioned what computers they were using... I'd make a bet they had one just like mine!

-- Karla Thomas ([karla@mindless.com](mailto:karla@mindless.com)) 7/8/97 (#18)

## I just don't know what's goin' on!!

I just want to know what was really going through those peoples brains at the time. I believe in UFO's and Aliens, but thinking you can make yourself one, stop, think, that is why the beings are here. It's there job. (Unless they really were aliens) Oooh, Scary.

-- Nedrick the Jester 4/17/97 (#17)

## mad scientist drinks ferret urine {resulting in spastic fit}

I believe that the other members of the cult were brainwashed by intoxication of a liquid known as "pissicusferretus" which causes a spastic retarded melt down which can cause the sufferer to believe he has experienced some out of body experience or itchy teeth and bleeding bones

-- reginald ferret ([hotmail@ferretshandbag.com](mailto:hotmail@ferretshandbag.com)) 4/14/97 (#16)

## Drugs

I think when they joined the cult, they started to take some kind of mind drug causin them to believe anything they were told, and do anything without fear.

-- Ghiddo ([ghiddo@aol.com](mailto:ghiddo@aol.com)) 4/13/97 (#15)

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PO Box 81166, Las Vegas, NV 89180 Glenn Campbell, Webmaster & Moderator

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