

# Comets

Some strange beliefs...

- Comets were believed to be a sign indicating that some sort of great event was to occur
  - Augustus Caesar became the emperor of Rome shortly after a comet sighting

# Heaven's Gate cult

- Founded 1975 by Marshall Applewhite and Bonnie Nettles
- Purpose: the cult's founder believed himself to be the Jesus of his day to offer people a way into heaven

# Heaven's Gate Massacre

- March 27, 1997
- Mass suicide of 39 members
- Average age 46.7
- Thought there was a UFO following the Hale-Bopp comet that would take them to the “kingdom of heaven”

# How they did it

- Coordinated suicide most likely done over the span of 3 days in order to leave for the “level above human”
- Day 1: 15 people, Day 2: 15 people, Day 3: 9 people (cleaning up after each round)
- Mixed drugs with applesauce/pudding, vodka, plastic bags