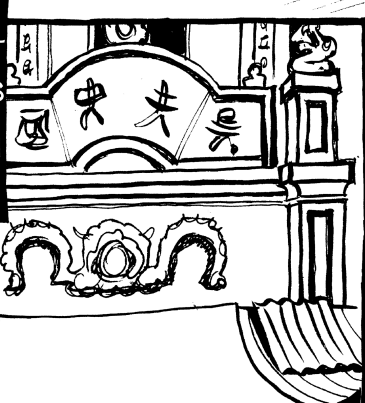


30 YEARS AFTER THE WAR, IS VIETNAM BOOMING? AT LEAST, IT IS VROOM-VROOMING. HERE, YOU CROSS THE STREET AT YOUR OWN PERIL.

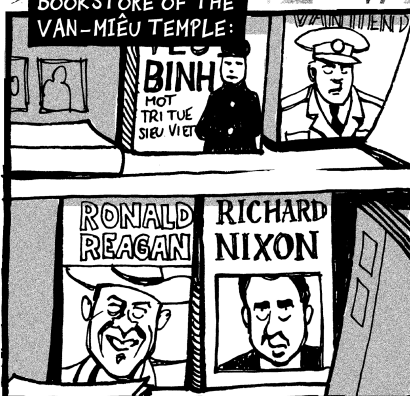
Hanoi



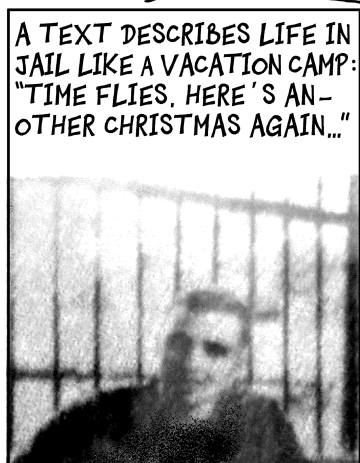
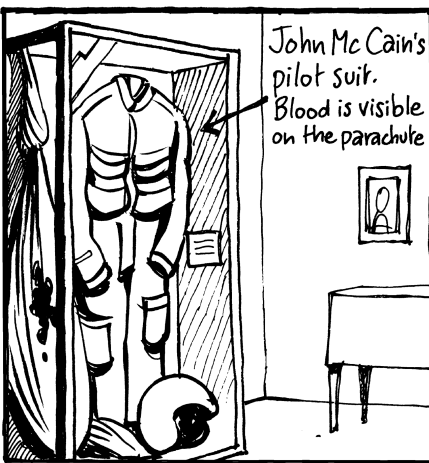
EVERYTHING IS FOR SALE, EVERYWHERE ON HANOI STREETS IT SEEMS THAT EVERY SOCIALIST CITIZEN HAS TURNED SALESMAN.



BOOKSTORE OF THE VAN-MIEU TEMPLE:



THE "HANOI HILTON", THE PRISON WHERE U.S. SOLDIERS WERE HELD, TURNED INTO A MUSEUM:



NOW FOREIGNERS ARE CHASED FOR FRIENDLY REASONS:



HIS POOR VILLAGE SENT TRAN TO HANOI UNIVERSITY, BECAUSE HE WAS THE BEST STUDENT. HE WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR. NOW HIS DREAM IS WORKING IN TOURISM.

AFTER 11 PM IT'S HARD TO FIND A PLACE TO EAT. THE POLICE ARE ON PATROL.



NIGHTLIFE STOPS EARLY, BUT WAKING UP AFTER 6 AM IN HANOI WOULD SEEM SUBVERSIVE...

I WAS INVITED HERE TO PRESENT CARTOONS AT THE FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER. THERE WAS THIS GUY TAKING NOTES AND PICTURES, A FAN!! AFTER 3 DAYS, IT BECAME CLEAR HE WAS IN FACT ON DUTY... THIS COLUMN IS DEDICATED TO HIS HARD WORK.

