

WHERE MAN ONCE STOOD SUPREME--NOW RULE THE APES!

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MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

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PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES

9P

--WHERE
ARE THE
MUTANT
MONSTERS? WE
MUST SLAY THEM
BEFORE THEY
CONQUER OUR
WORLD!

SEE THE IMPOSSIBLE HAPPEN! SEE MAN
AND APE FIGHT SIDE-BY-SIDE AGAINST
THE DOOMSDAY CREATURES!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

PLANET OF THE APES!™

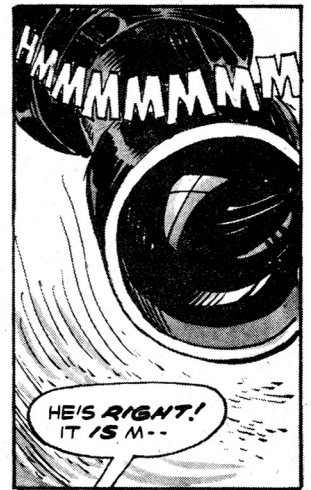
DOUG MOENCH
WRITER
ALFREDO ALCALA
ARTIST

PUSH! WE'LL
GET THROUGH--
ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER!

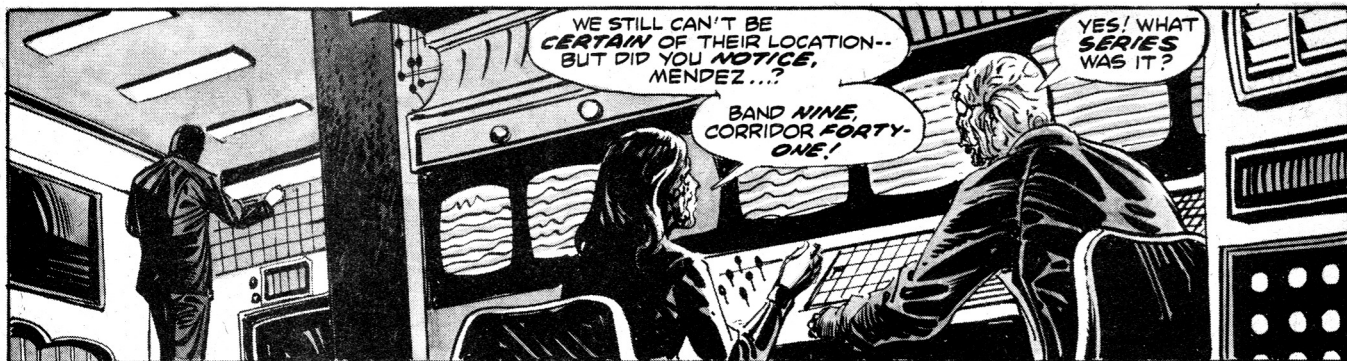
SECRETS OF THE FORBIDDEN ZONE!

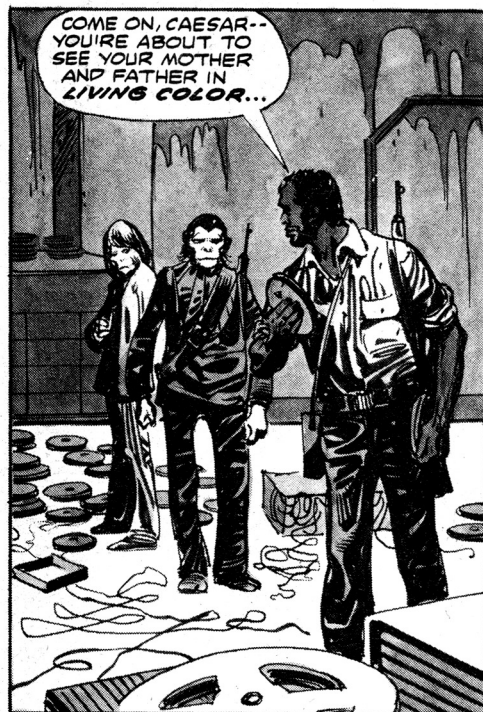
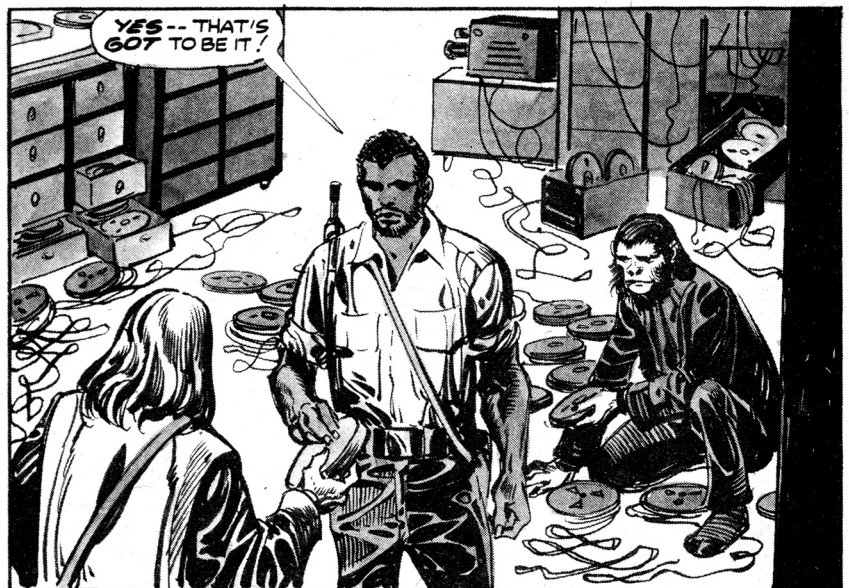
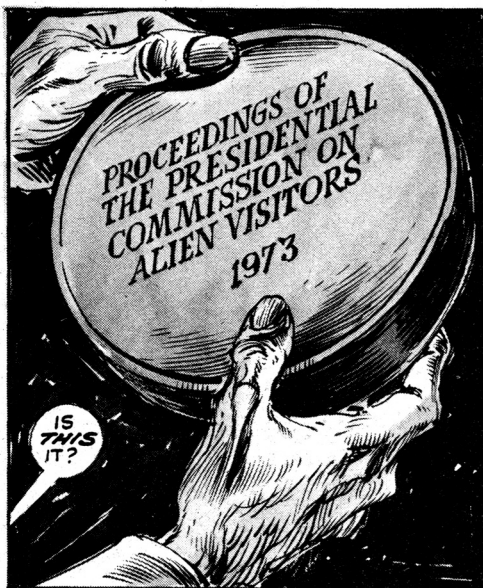


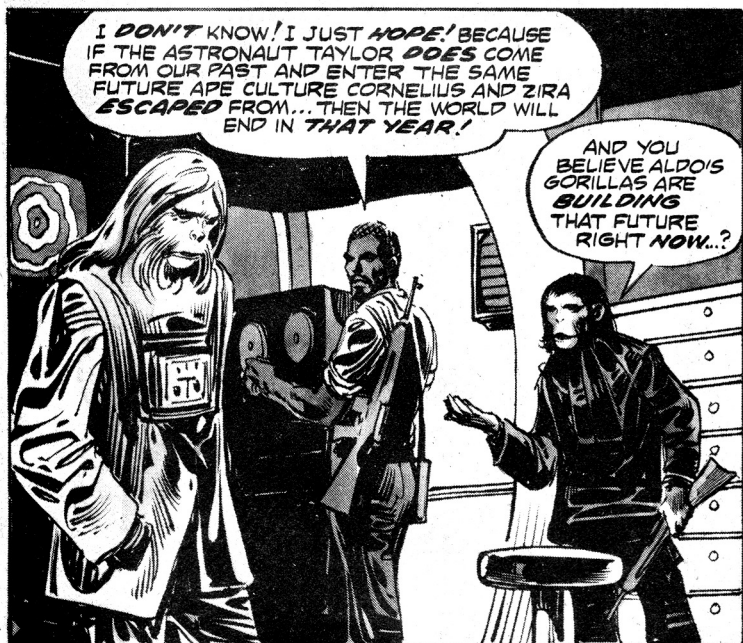
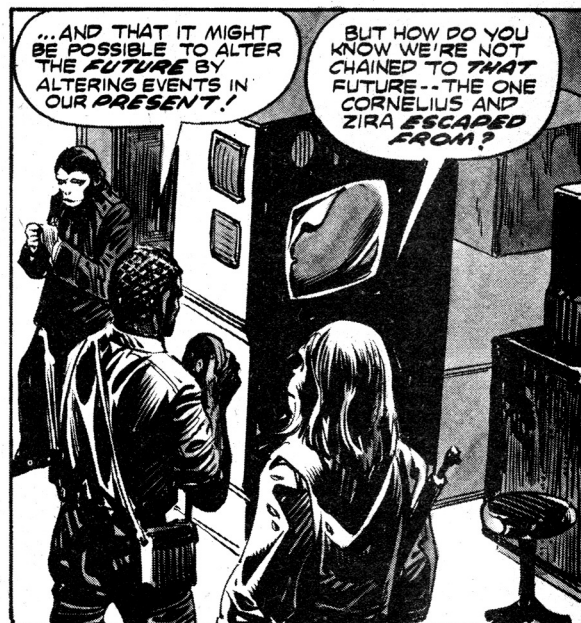
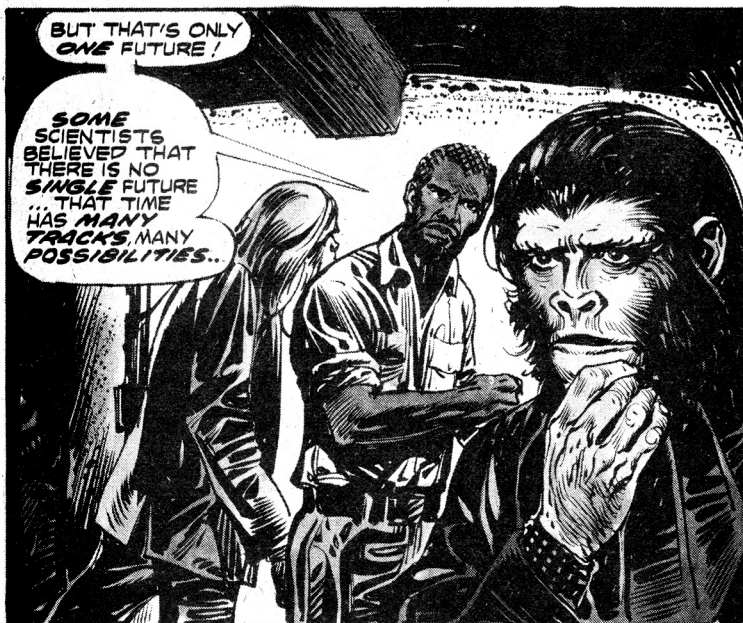
TRAVELLERS--TWO APES AND ONE HUMAN--HAVE ENTERED THE FORBIDDEN ZONE--HOME OF THEIR COMMON ENEMIES, THE MUTANTS. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR, EXACTLY--BUT THERE ARE SOME ANSWERS IN THIS GOD-FORSAKEN LAND TO MANY OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE APES--AND THEY MUST BE FOUND. EVEN IF IT MEANS BREAKING DOWN DOORS--DOORS WHICH MAY CONCEAL THEIR DOOM!









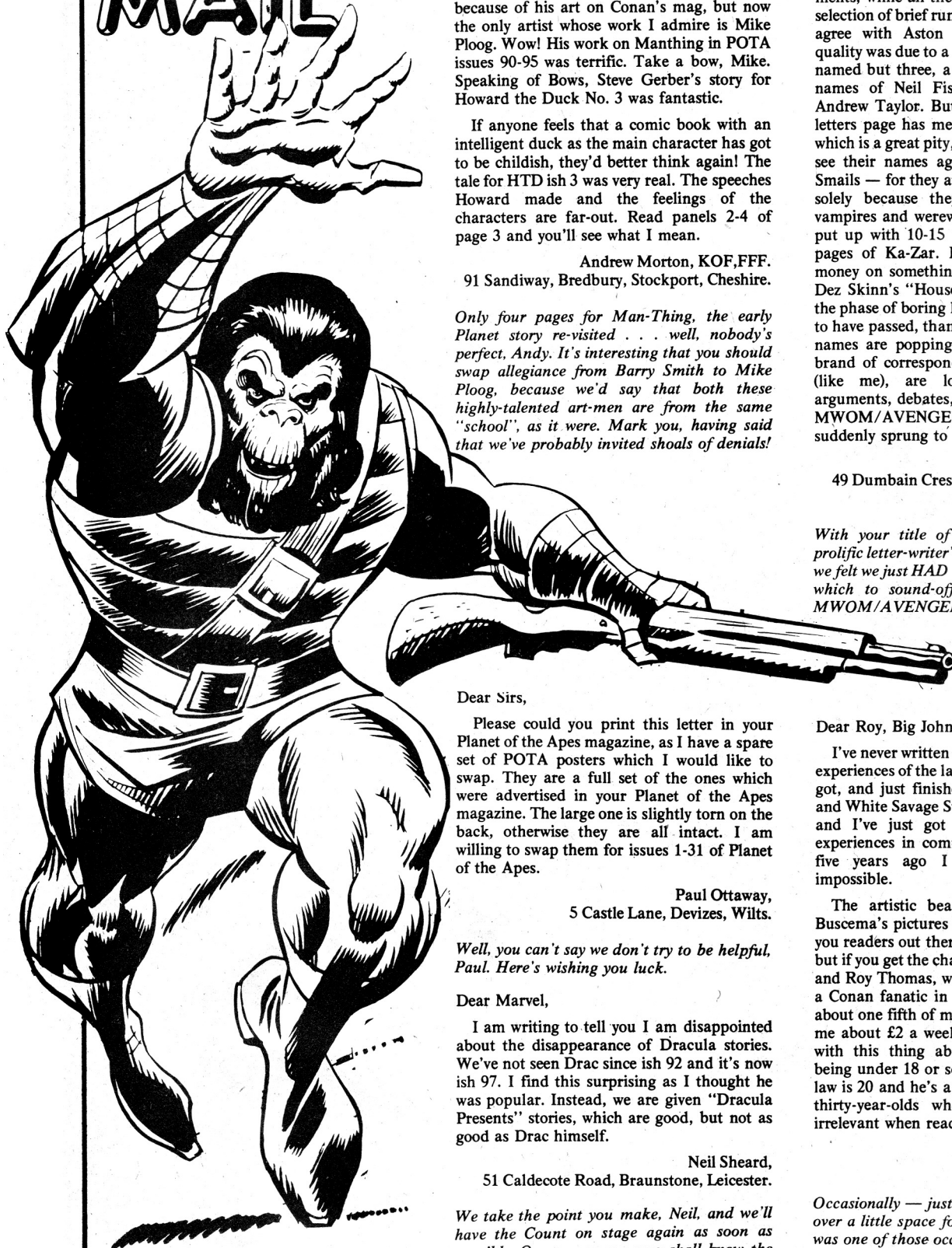






NEXT ISSUE: A TASTE OF MUTANT HATE

APES FANG MAIL



Dear Bullpen,

I've just finished reading your lates apes mag (POTA ish 96) and all I can say is: YEUK!

Man-Thing has only four pages! And to top your cruelty you go and reprint that reprint from POTA No. 1. If you carry on like this I'm gonna stop buying your super mags.

My fave artist used to be Barry Smith, because of his art on Conan's mag, but now the only artist whose work I admire is Mike Ploog. Wow! His work on Manthing in POTA issues 90-95 was terrific. Take a bow, Mike. Speaking of Bows, Steve Gerber's story for Howard the Duck No. 3 was fantastic.

If anyone feels that a comic book with an intelligent duck as the main character has got to be childish, they'd better think again! The tale for HTD ish 3 was very real. The speeches Howard made and the feelings of the characters are far-out. Read panels 2-4 of page 3 and you'll see what I mean.

Andrew Morton, KOF,FFF.
91 Sandiway, Bredbury, Stockport, Cheshire.

Only four pages for Man-Thing, the early Planet story re-visited . . . well, nobody's perfect, Andy. It's interesting that you should swap allegiance from Barry Smith to Mike Ploog, because we'd say that both these highly-talented art-men are from the same "school", as it were. Mark you, having said that we've probably invited shoals of denials!

Dear Sirs,

Please could you print this letter in your Planet of the Apes magazine, as I have a spare set of POTA posters which I would like to swap. They are a full set of the ones which were advertised in your Planet of the Apes magazine. The large one is slightly torn on the back, otherwise they are all intact. I am willing to swap them for issues 1-31 of Planet of the Apes.

Paul Ottaway,
5 Castle Lane, Devizes, Wilts.

Well, you can't say we don't try to be helpful, Paul. Here's wishing you luck.

Dear Marvel,

I am writing to tell you I am disappointed about the disappearance of Dracula stories. We've not seen Drac since ish 92 and it's now ish 97. I find this surprising as I thought he was popular. Instead, we are given "Dracula Presents" stories, which are good, but not as good as Drac himself.

Neil Sheard,
51 Caldecote Road, Braunstone, Leicester.

We take the point you make, Neil, and we'll have the Count on stage again as soon as possible. Once more our mag shall know the rustle of dry wings at midnight . . .

Dear Neil,

In Titans 44, Aston Kaye brought up the point that he thought the Dracula Lives letter col contained much more 'interesting' letters than Titan's mailbag, and I have to write in and agree with him. Dracula Lives, before it was tragically merged with POTA, showcased some very entertaining debates and arguments, while all the Titans could must was a selection of brief rundowns on the five strips. I agree with Aston that this superiority in quality was due to a "hardcore" of writers. He named but three, a list to which I'll add the names of Neil Fisher, Kevin Conlan and Andrew Taylor. But now (sigh) that magical letters page has merged with that of POTA, which is a great pity, and I wonder if we'll ever see their names again — in particular Ian Smalls — for they apparently bought the mag solely because they were freaked out on vampires and werewolves. I doubt if Ian will put up with 10-15 pages of Apes plus 5-10 pages of Ka-Zar. He'll probably spend his money on something more to his liking, like Dez Skinn's "House of Hammer". However, the phase of boring letters in the Titans seems to have passed, thankfully, and some familiar names are popping up, bring their exciting brand of correspondence, and if you, Aston (like me), are looking for entertaining arguments, debates, etc., then take a look at MWOM/AVENGERS' lettercol, which has suddenly sprung to life.

Ivor Davis,
49 Dumbain Crescent, Balloch, Alexandria,
Dunbartonshire.

With your title of "British Marvel's most prolific letter-writer" still firmly in place, Ivor, we felt we just HAD to give you a little space in which to sound-off. See you sometime in MWOM/AVENGERS maybe . . . ?

Dear Roy, Big John,

I've never written before, but I feel, after my experiences of the last three years, I must. I've got, and just finished reading, all the Black and White Savage Sword of Conan's available, and I've just got to say 'thank you' for experiences in comic/magazine reading that five years ago I would have said was impossible.

The artistic beauty and power of John Buscema's pictures are unbelievable (most of you readers out there may not have read any, but if you get the chance, please don't miss it), and Roy Thomas, well the guy's a genius. I'm a Conan fanatic in particular, but Marvel is about one fifth of my life at present and costs me about £2 a week. By the way, I don't go with this thing about British Marvel fans being under 18 or so. I'm 20, my brother-in-law is 20 and he's a fanatic, and I even know thirty-year-olds who buy Marvel. Age is irrelevant when reading Marvel.

Martin Jones,
Huddersfield.

Occasionally — just occasionally — we hand over a little space for U.S. matters. And this was one of those occasions. (Truth is, we just couldn't resist publishing you, Martin!)

Dear Stan,

I get POTA and DL every week. POTA is fab. The artwork in "Terror" was great. Keep it up, it is worth the 8p I pay. I liked the Black Panther and Ka-Zar. Day of the Triffids was great, so was Warlock. I wish you'd bring Warlock back.

The only thing I disliked in POTA was Man Gods from Beyond the Stars.

Dracula was great and Werewolf fab. The Living Mummy was good, but I disliked the art.

Charles Patterson,
Linthwaite, Huddersfield, Yorks.

No-one could ever accuse you of not keeping to the point, Charles! Not a wasted word anywhere . . .

Dear Bullpen,

I have been a Marvelite for almost two years and until now I could not pluck up enough courage to write to you. But now, here I am.

Firstly I would like to comment on the recent mergers among your mags. As it was POTA which first introduced me to Marvel, I was not very happy to see Dracula Lives join it. I was going to write a letter of complaint to you, but I decided to wait for a few issues to see how things would turn out. Am I glad I did! After reading Dracula and Man-Thing I was immediately converted and I can assure you that you have my complete support.

Next, MWOM and the Avengers. I don't know how others feel about this, but the merger allowed me to buy all your British weeklies for just 34p. (Where else can you get such value for money?)

Super-Spidey escaped my notice until I bought it for the Quadra-Poster. (Great idea, how about another?) I was hooked. The blend of characters is great, and I like the new character, the Moon Knight. But don't keep The Thing out, like you did in ish 180. I noticed that the Doc Strange story in issue 178 was taken from the issue 12 of the Doc Strange monthly. I don't mind this, as it gives those unable to get monthlies the chance to read the stories.

Your fourth mag, The Titans, has proved pleasing to me. I was in favour of the format because it gave more superheroes than in the other mags. This opinion has remained with me. The decisions concerning this mag are all correct except for the timing of the X-Men/FF swap.

Robert Rhead, RFO.
25 Kelvin Street, May Bank, Newcastle,
Staffs.

For two years you couldn't find the COURAGE to write to us? We just checked ourselves over in the men's room mirror and we didn't seem to be all that forbidding! But you'll find that now you've faced us once it'll get easier each time you do it!

Dear Miracle Workers,

I am compelled to write in praise of the Mighty Marvel Merger of POTA and DL. Since they have become one mighty mag, nothing but action has come out.

I especially liked the cover on issue 94. Could it have been Mike Ploog who touched

paper with artistic hand?

So far the stories in POTA have been great, and the art excellent. I really enjoyed 'Demons of the Psyche Drome' and the excellent features on special effects on the Planet of the Apes, which have become informative sections in your mag.

I have been reading Marvel publications since MWOM one came out, opening a new phase in the Mighty Marvel World. I get three of your mags every week, namely POTA, MWOM and Super Spiderman. I am fascinated at the art and story background, and I, like F. Kalise who wrote to you recently, would like to become a Marvel artist. I enjoy drawing and spend most of my leisure time at it. I find hardly any reason to complain about your mags, and as a dedicated follower, I have already introduced two of my friends to your fabulous weeklies. I also enjoyed "Son of Satan" which appeared in issues 93 and 94. I would like to see it return in the future in one of your mags.

Gerard Hill, RFO, KOF.
125 Mulvey Park, Dundrum Road,
Dublin 14, Eire.

We're more than delighted to have your seal of approval upon our recent efforts, Gerry. And that ish 94 cover — award yourself points, because Merry Mike Ploog played a part in the production of it. And keep drawing and hoping — it's the way all the greats began.

Dear All,

Merging PLANET OF THE APES and DRACULA LIVES . . . I don't know. Both, in my opinion, were doing fine, although I think you did the wrong thing with POTA by bringing in Ka-Zar and Black Panther. Both



these characters are good (brilliant, in fact, in their own fields), but putting them into Planet? This magazine would be doing better if kept in the realms of Sci-Fi the way it seemed it would go after about the first forty issues with the brilliant adaptations. Dracula Lives was really going . . . The Living Mummy and then the Man-Thing.

Man Thing. Gerber's stories are nothing short of brilliant . . . works of sheet unbeatable genius. Especially "A Question of Survival" (Drac 77 & 78). To be quite honest, this is one of the best stories ever to be done by Marvel. It had everything: the cast superb . . . Mary Brown, Jim Arsdak, Holden Crane, Kevin Kennerman and Ralph Sorrell. Five survivors. The person who made the story was Holden Crane and his outview of life. It's what happens today — Sorrell thinking himself a patriot for killing Crane. It's what happens today. It's the doom of humanity.

It's what happens today. Young people are blasted by the old for long hair, for listening to rock 'n' roll etc., etc. Yet is it the young who got this country into the state it's in? Panel five on page 31 of ish 78 summed it all up. "See? What did I tell you? The lives he took mean nothing to him! Fifty people dead . . . and he's worried about his car . . . his money!" It's greed that has got this country into what it is. The older generation grabbing everything, yet blaming it on the young. They ask "What sort of generation is growing up?" What sort of generation has gone before us would be nearer the point.

Steve Gerber summed it all up in this story. Gerber is due more credit than what he is often given. Let's see more . . . more . . . more Steve.

Calum I. Maciver,
8 Morrison Terrace, Tong, Isle of Lewis,
Scotland.

H'mmm. We most certainly find your words thought-provoking, hero. But whilst we can understand your philosophy, our own philosophy doesn't run parallel with it. Once started on this particular subject we could go on and fill a few magazines without even trying, so we'll have to keep it short. Briefly then, you know (or should know by now) that Marvel believes that people are people, and we're against slotting them into groups on account of colour, creed etc. Well, offhand, we can't think of a more fatuous way of grouping people than doing it by age. This generation thing . . . well, to listen to some you'd think there was one group of people PERMANENTLY middle-aged (born that way, even!) and another group PERMANENTLY young. Let's all remember this. If middle-age is some sort of a "club", then it's a club that all of us (if we live long enough) are going to have to join. So a generation 'fight' is, to a large extent, a war against ourselves. Oh, if only we could expand the theme, but there just isn't the space. Let's try to make one last point. There's a widespread conception that when a man dies the man that died is the man as he was on his death-bed or wherever. But in our opinion it is a WHOLE LIFE that has ended — every facet of it, every year of it, every happening that occurred in it.

APES FANG MAIL
Marvel Comics Ltd.
Tubs Hill House, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **PLANET OF THE APES!**™



NOVA DOES NOT ANSWER--FOR ON THE PLANET OF THE APES, HUMANS ARE UNABLE TO SPEAK!

**DOUG MOENCH • WRITER
ALEREDO ALCALA • ARTIST
MARV WOLFMAN • EDITOR**



... PARASITES WHICH **FLATTENED** OUR ONCE FERTILE **FIELDS**, AND **POLLUTED** OUR PRECIOUS **LAKES** AND **RIVERS** WITH THEIR FOUL **EXCREMENT**-- WHICH CONTINUED TO **BREED** IN OUR VERY MIDST LIKE **MAGGOTS** IN A ONCE HEALTHY **BODY**.

WHAT SHOULD WE **DO** ABOUT SUCH PARASITES? HOW SHOULD WE **ACT**--?!

AS A **SOLDIER**, I KNOW WHAT **EVERY** SOLDIER KNOWS-- THE ONLY THING THAT COUNTS IN THE END IS **POWER**! **NAKED, MERCILESS FORCE**!

AND I COME HERE TODAY TO ANNOUNCE THAT I HAVE **USED** THAT **FORCE**-- TO FLUSH **EVERY** **LAST** **ONE** OF THE BESTIAL HUMAN HORDES FROM OUR **LAND**! THE ONLY HUMANS NOT ALREADY **DEAD** ARE IN OUR **CAGES**-- CONDEMNED TO **DIE**!

A RUSH OF **APPLAUSE** FOLLOWS THE FIERY ORATOR'S WORDS, AND AFTER HE HAS RAISED HIS HANDS TO **STILL** THAT **APPLAUSE**...

I DO NOT SAY THAT ALL HUMANS ARE **EVIL** SIMPLY BECAUSE THEIR SKIN IS **HAIRLESS**. BUT OUR **LAWGIVER** TELLS US THAT NEVER WILL THEY HAVE THE APE'S DIVINE FACULTY FOR **DISTINGUISHING** BETWEEN **EVIL** AND **GOOD**...

THEIR **EYES** ARE **ANIMAL**. THEIR **SMELL** IS THE SMELL OF THE DEAD FLESH THEY **EAT**. HAD THEY BEEN ALLOWED TO LIVE AND BREED **UNCHECKED**, THEY WOULD HAVE **OVERWHELMED** US-- AND THE CONCEPT OF **APE POWER** WOULD HAVE BEEN **RAVAGED** ALONG WITH OUR **SPLENDID CULTURE**!

I'VE GOT TO GET **OUT** OF HERE. I DON'T KNOW **HOW** OR WITH **WHAT**-- BUT I CAN'T STAY **HERE**--!

-- BECAUSE THE ONLY **GOOD** HUMAN IS A **DEAD** HUMAN!!

THUNDEROUS **APPLAUSE** EXPLODES FROM THE CONGREGATED APE AUDIENCE...

... AND WHEN IT FINALLY **DIES**...

AND THOSE HUMANS LUCKY ENOUGH TO REMAIN **ALIVE** WILL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING... **USED**...

...BY OUR REVERED MINISTER OF SCIENCE **DR. ZAIUS**...

THE CREATOR BLESS **DR. ZAIUS**--!



ZAIUS-- OUR ONLY HOPE FOR SANITY IN THE MIDST OF MILITARY MADNESS...



ZIRA-- STOP IT! URSUS' POLICE ARE MOVING IN-- YOU'RE IN DANGER--!

SO IS THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE, CORNELIUS-- IF THAT RABBLE-ROUSER CONTINUES TO FOMENT A SENSELESS MILITARY ADVENTURE.



WHAT'S THE MATTER...? YOU'RE POINTING AT TAYLOR'S IDENTITY TAG-- AND THAT... THAT CHIMPANZEE...?

THEY'RE CONNECTED SOMEHOW...?



I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR THAT UNSEEMLY OUTBURST FROM A DEFIANT MINORITY IN THE CONGREGATION. I BELIEVE IT IS NOW UNDER CONTROL...



THAT SMUG, SMIRKING DEMAGOGUE...

...AND I REITERATE TO YOU: WE WILL NEVER LOSE OUR SENSE OF PURPOSE! WE WILL NEVER DEGENERATE!

WE WILL NEVER BECOME WEAK AND HAIR-LESS--!



BECAUSE WE KNOW HOW TO PURIFY OUR OWN PEOPLE-- WITH BLOOD!



HAIL, URSUS-- URSUS OUR LEADER!! HAIL URSUS!!



