

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

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JAN. 5, 1977

PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES

9p



FOR BETRAYING
YOUR FELLOW APES
TO THE HUMANS
YOU SHALL
DIE!

APE AGAINST APE IN A
TALE OF TREACHERY--
**MY BROTHER
MY ENEMY!**

PABLO MARCOS

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

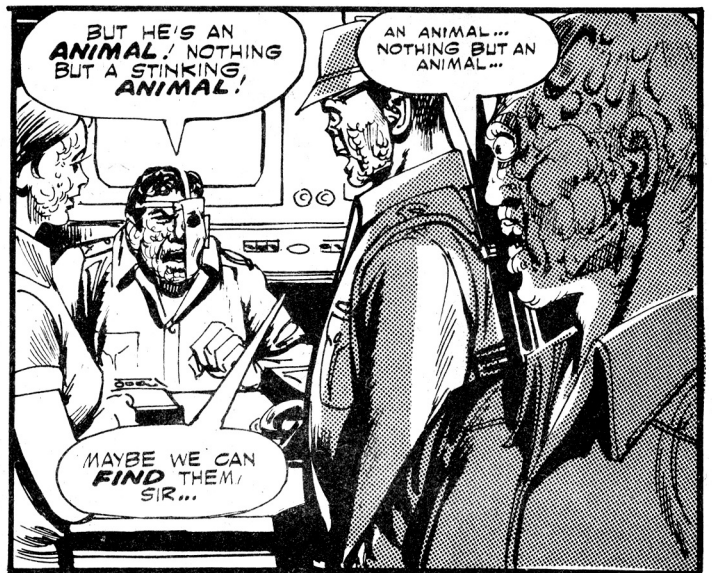
FUTURE SHOCK!

AN EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE LED BY CAESAR
HAS FOUND THEIR
DESTINATION--THE CITY!
BUT IT IS A CITY NO
LONGER. IT IS A CITY SO
RAVAGED BY NUCLEAR
HOLOCAUST THAT THE
APES HAVE THEIR OWN
NAME FOR IT-- THE
FORBIDDEN ZONE!

AND THERE CAESAR FINDS DEATH
AWAITS! FIRST IN THE FORM OF HATE-
CRAZED MUTANTS-- THEN AS
LETHAL RADIATION! IT IS A
WONDER THAT HE AND HIS BAND
HAVE ESCAPED BOTH OF THESE
PERILS--ALIVE!

DOUG MOENCH-- SCRIPT
SONNY TRINIDAD, YONG MONTANO
& DINO CASTRILLO-- ART







THE RIDGE, DIVIDING BLEAK DESERT FROM LUSH VALLEY WHERE AN OUTPOST OF GORILLA SENTRIES GUARD THE TREEHOUSE APE CITY FROM ATTACK...



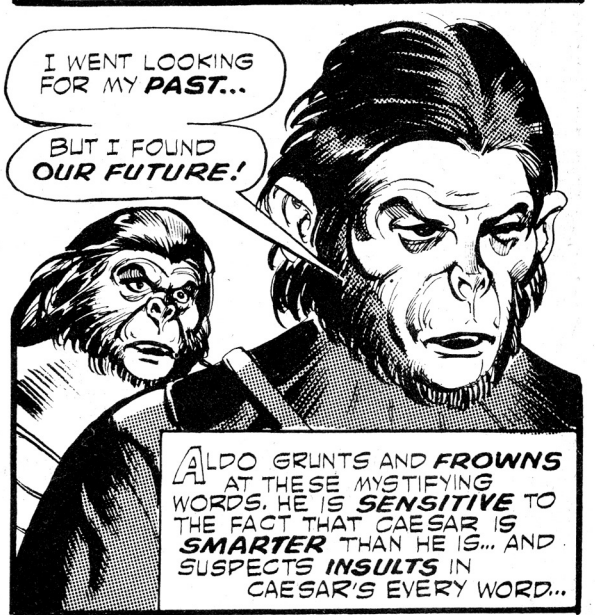
THE SPEAKER IS ALDO, HE WHO COMMANDS THE LOYALTY OF EVERY GORILLA IN THE CITY...AND THE ENMITY OF MOST HUMANS...

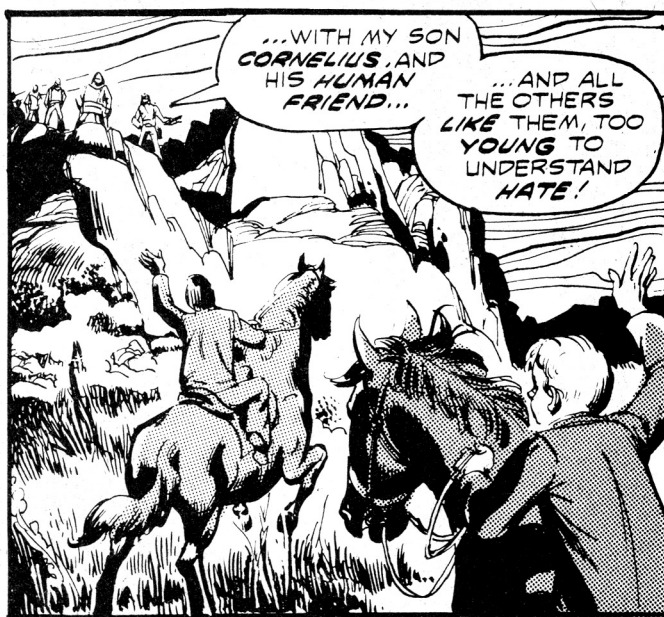
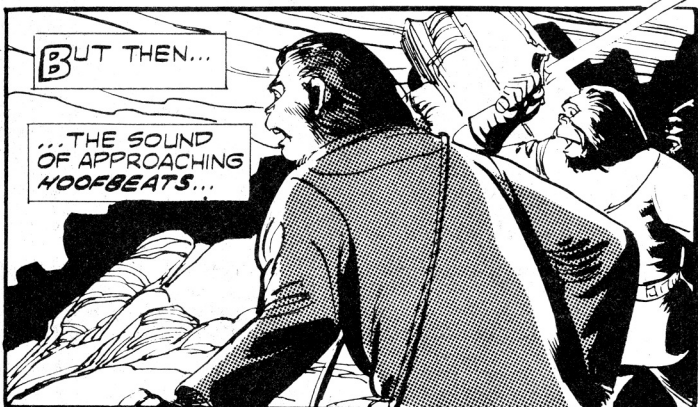


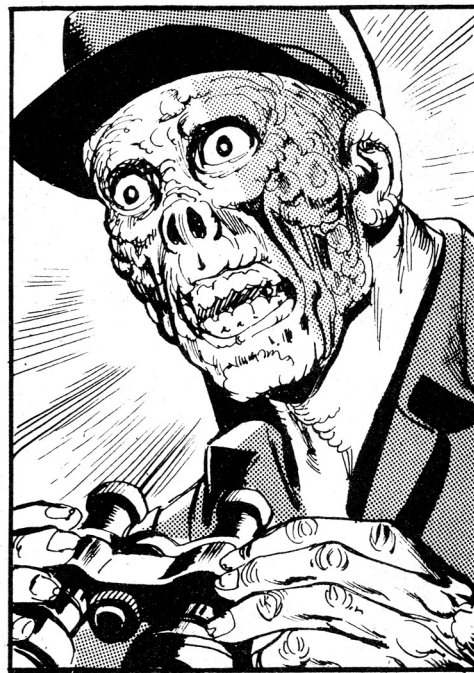
WELL, IT SURE WILL BE GOOD TO SEE THE GRASS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS RIDGE AGAIN!

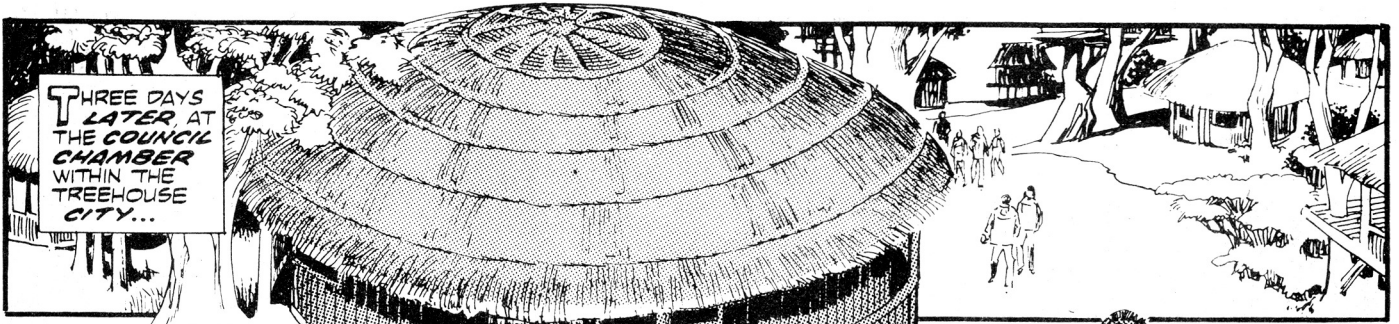
I NEVER REALIZED HOW BLEAK AND BARREN--











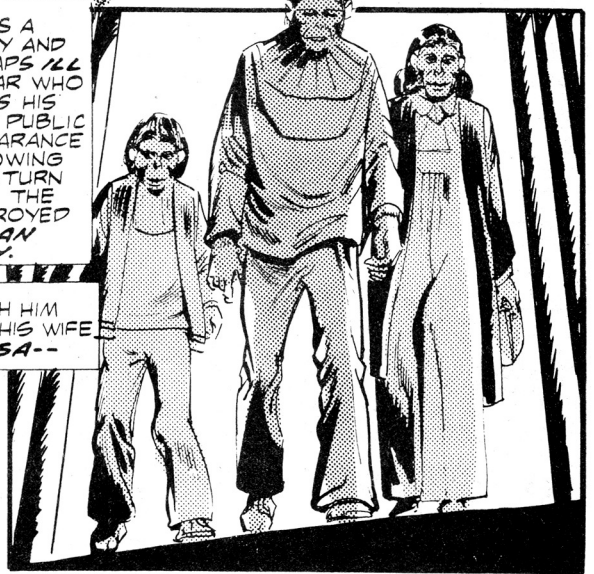
THREE DAYS LATER AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WITHIN THE TREEHOUSE CITY...



...WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH OF THE THREE APE SPECIES GATHER FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE...

...IT IS A WEARY AND PERHAPS ILL CAESAR WHO MAKES HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE DESTROYED HUMAN CITY.

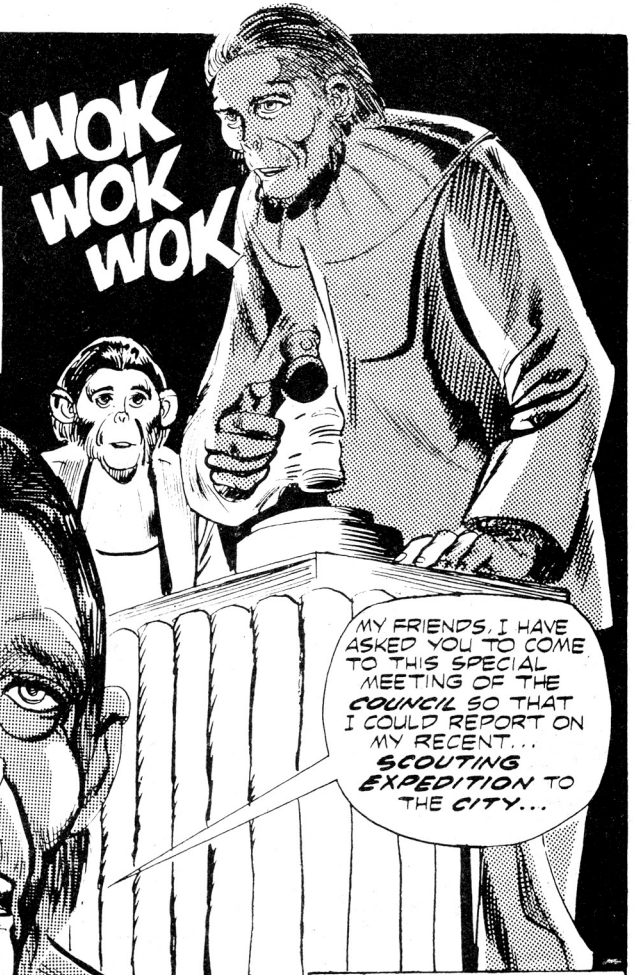
WITH HIM ARE HIS WIFE LISA--



--WHO JOINS THE AUDIENCE OF CHIMDANZEE REPRESENTATIVES--

--AND HIS SON CORNELIUS, WHO REMAINS AT HIS SIDE BEHIND THE PRESIDING DAIS.

BUT EVEN WITH SUCH SUPPORT THERE IS A CERTAIN WEAKNESS IN CAESAR'S AUTHORITY THIS DAY...



PERHAPS THE CHANGE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE VERY SUBJECT OF THIS DAY'S MEETING... AND HIS PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE CITY'S LINGERING RADIATION, WHOSE EFFECTS ALREADY MANIFEST THEMSELVES IN A CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF FACIAL HAIR...

MY FRIENDS, I HAVE ASKED YOU TO COME TO THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL SO THAT I COULD REPORT ON MY RECENT... SCOUTING EXPEDITION TO THE CITY...

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

APES MAILBAG



MERGE OPINIONS

Dear Neil, Alan and Co.,

I'll never understand why Planet of The Apes had to merge with Dracula Lives. Yes, I can see that only Drac Lives COULD adopt Apes, but did it really need to? Was it poor sales, or was it "clearing the stage" for a British mag? At any rate, we now have FIVE features in an "un-Titanised" mag. Apes space is okay, but Man-Thing has THREE pages, Ka-zar has 6, the second Apes story has seven and there's a "terrifying tale" to bring "spasms of uncontrollable fear" which only lowers the tone further. One (or two) strip(s) has got to go, and I suggest Man-Thing, which is too short to enjoy, even if the stories to come ARE near-classics.

Another point. "Apes" was Britain's only decent S-F comic. Look back on the August-October stories like "War-Toy", "Light of Other Days", "Adam and No Eve", and others like "Arena" and "Black Destroyer" which we shall probably never see again.

You are also in the ridiculous situation of calling the mag PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES, when Dracula's strip isn't even in it. The only surviving strip from "Drac" is Man-Thing, and "Apes" have the cover every issue. (Not that I mind!)

Advice? Call the mag POTA again, with the Apes strip, and an S-F short story, and alternating back-up stories like Dracula, Black Panther, Captain Marvel and Ka-zar, all of whom are catching up with their American counterparts anyway. Keep these Larkin covers coming and restore "Apes" to its former glory.

Don't worry, this letter isn't all complaints! Your latest "Psychedrome" saga is out of this world, and the Ploog/Sutton work rivals City of Nomads and Mike Ploog's charcoaled work for excellence. It's stories like

that that made (and can make again) POTA the greatest.

Paul Donnachie QNS,
Blair House, Edderton, By Tain,
Ross-shire, Scotland.

That's hard-hitting talk, Paul. Okay—let's see what we can do in the way of providing the answers. First off we'll not deny that the decision to merge POTA with Drac was partly one of economic necessity. Whether we like it or not (and by "we" we mean you, the readers, as well as us) we're in a commercial world. So, having accepted that fact, can we really be criticised for striving to keep both POTA and DRAC LIVES a part of the Marvel scene? And when two mags merge of COURSE there's gonna be difficulty in providing the amount of space that all the features deserve.

FOOM

Dear Stan,

I have always wanted to join "FOOM". Could you tell me when the next comic will be issued, so I can join?

Simon Watkins,
The Willows, Froge Hill, Peldon,
Colchester, Essex.

Sheeeesh! You've clearly never been privileged to see a copy of FOOM, Simon, or you'd never refer to it as a comic! But don't hang your head, 'cos you're forgiven. But how to become a FOOMER? Well, there's only one way. Wait until we re-open the lists by publishing a joining form in one of the British weeklies, fill it in and rush it to us by the very first post.

LATE STARTER

Dear Bullpen,

Although I'm a newcomer to your super comics, I make sure I get three of 'em every week (POTA, Super-Spidey and The Titans).

I think POTA is the best, although it's let down by "Dracula Lives". The story of the psychedrome shows how good artwork can make the story enjoyable. I never read Ka-zar. The Man Thing is okay, but the artwork—Oh dear! It's far too cluttered. The POTA story is just too good to be criticised.

The Titans is just great. Congratulations! The Howard the Duck centre-spread has done a lot to improve my bedroom walls. I find the stories about "The Thing" are the best "Thing" about this magazine.

Super Spidey is far better without Dr. Strange. Spiderman is the best thing in it, closely followed by The Mighty Thor.

Simon Fox,
The Laurels, Wroxton, Banbury, Oxon.

Welcome, newcomer! You didn't state what kindly fate it was that brought you and us together, but what matter? It happened! And although your late start means that you'll have missed a lot of what went on in the past, think what fun you'll have tracking down back issues!





JOY . . . AND SORROW

Dear Stan,

I don't know how to put my great joy and bitter sorrow into writing, but I'll have a go. Firstly my joy.

The combination of POTA and Dracula Lives was the greatest idea since Marvel.

POTA. The art done by Mike and the story done by Doug make a combination which can only be excellent!! Keep it up, you two!

MAN-THING. Once again, nice one, Mike, but I'm not too keen on the way that Steve has not put the Man-Thing as hero recently.

SFX. Nothing to say except "Great!" Tell me more.

KA-ZAR. I don't normally like this sort of idea, but you've made me think again. Ten out of ten for effort.

Now my great sorrow!

Where is the Prince of Darkness? What has happened to the noble Count? Where is the master? What's up with the Lord of the Vampires? I AM DISGUSTED.

It is a full moon as I write this letter, and if you do not print it, and if I'm not awarded with a QNS, and, most of all, if the Count is not returned to us then you may not live to see the next full moon.

Timothy O'Donnell QNS,
20 Horbury Gardens, Ellesmere Port.

Didja notice the crafty way we softened you up with that QNS? You did? Good. Well, now that you're in a

sweeter mood let's talk about Drac. It's a question of supply, Tim, nothing more complicated than that. There's a limit to the available Drac material, and until such time as we build up a new stock-pile then the Count will be off-stage. There's nothing unusual about that. Haven't you noticed how many of our characters have a "rest" from time to time?

COMIC BOOKS NOT BIBLES

Dear Guys,

I couldn't put off this letter any longer; I just had to write.

Even if I had not been mentioned in Murray Bailey's letter (POTA 98) I would have written.

Firstly, his conception of God. (A lot of people could argue here.) There is no true definition of GOOD (what is good—what is not good) and therefore no true definition of God. However, any arguments on that topic have been and will be argued properly and in the proper place. So on to point number 2.

I wouldn't classify Marvel, DC, Warren (or any other comic for that matter) with any religious books at all. (And with ANY I mean Bible, Geeta, Sanskrits etc.) I would, though, classify some Marvel, DC, Warren Etc., to go down in history, and maybe even alongside the classics and masterpieces (both literary and art-form) ever produced.

So with all its morals, I still think of Marvel as a comic book/mag. But don't get me wrong, Murray. Think! If that latter statement had been said not all that many years ago, I would have deserved to have been told off; but as a comic book stands today, a recognised art-form, then I don't think that's wrong.

Indeed, if enough people read comic books, then, perhaps they could drastically change the world. But until then I wait . . . in hope.

One last thing before I answer his two questions. I don't mix may religion with the pleasure of reading (anything), and therefore don't get "moved to sit down and meditate". I DO meditate, but nothing moves me to do so, I do it of my own account.

Yes, Marvel is working for me!

Yes, I do understand the sometimes-sophisticated morals. And love them, too!

Mykel Evangelista,
137 Hathersage Rd.,

Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester 13

Unerringly we can always recognise an occasion when the safest and wisest thing for us to do is to remain on the sidelines. And this is one of those occasions! It's all yours, fellas!



APES MAILBAG, Marvel Comics, Tubs Hill House, Sevenoaks, Kent.



STAMP COMPETITION

CAN YOU TELL US?

- 1 What country issued 'The Penny Black' in 1840?
- 2 What country NEVER puts its name on its stamps?
- 3 Have writers or poets ever appeared on British stamps?
- 4 Has TUTANKHAMUN ever appeared on British stamps?

Prizes: 12 diff. Great Britain stamps sent free for each correct answer. If all 4 answers are correct, we will send you 50 diff. GB stamps plus a fine facsimile book of 6 unused PENNY BLACKS (genuine originals would cost £1,000 or more!). Our fine New Approvals will also be sent to all entrants. Please enclose a 6½p stamp for postage. (Please tell your parents you are writing.)

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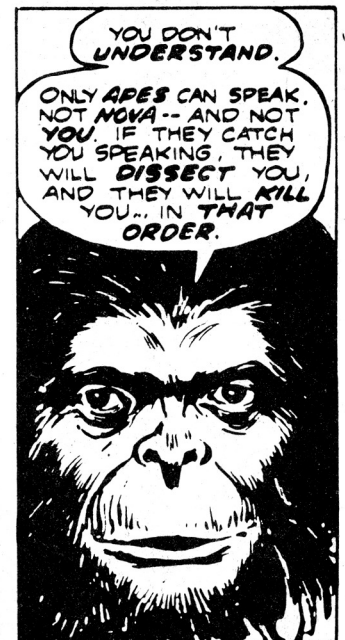
TRAPPED BY THE APES!

THE LAWGIVER BELIEVES THAT SOMEONE--OR SOME **THING**--IS THREATENING THE PEACE AND INNOCENCE OF THE APE CIVILISATION. HE HAS DECIDED TO VENTURE INTO THE UNEXPLORED REGIONS OF THE PLANET TO FIND OUT **WHAT** MAY BE THREATENING THEM. IN THE MEANTIME, HE IS LEAVING CORNELIUS AND ZIRA IN CHARGE.

I'M **RELYING** ON YOU TWO. IF I SHOULD FAIL TO RETURN, **REMEMBER** THE WHOLE **FUTURE** OF OUR WORLD WILL BE IN YOUR HANDS! USE **REASON** IN YOUR **ACTIONS**!



DOUG MOENCH-WRITER
ALFREDO ALCALA-ARTIST
ARCHIE GOODWIN-EDITOR



NOON! BRENT AND HIS MUTE COMPANION NOVA BEGIN THEIR LONG JOURNEY TOWARD THE FORGOTTEN FORBIDDEN ZONE...







