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

PLANET OF THE APES

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

NO. 19 8p WEEK ENDING MARCH 1, 1975

NOT ONE STEP FURTHER, YOU FOOLS--

--OR THE LAWSIZER DIES!

NO! HE'S THE ONLY CHANCE HUMANS HAVE--

--BEFORE THE APES DESTROY US ALL!
Now on your TV screens every week, Planet of the Apes, with the kind of action never seen before. See Urko, Leader of the Gorilla Law Enforcers in his quest to track down the two astronauts, Burke and Virdon, who are intruders on... the Planet of The Apes! Next week another pin-up — start collecting now!

A MIGHTY MARVEL PIN-UP SERIES FEATURING PICTURES FROM THE WEEKLY TV SERIES ON INDEPENDANT TELEVISION.
GUNPOWDER JULIUS

That water can't be poisonous if the shaggy creatures are drinking it. They may be dumb but I doubt they'd commit suicide.

No kidding, Jase -- but the way we've seen them struggle against those Inheritors characters.

By the way, Lawgiver-Sir, are you aware of how those Inheritors keep the shaggy creatures as slaves...

Yes, I am, young Alex. In fact one of the reasons for my pilgrimage into the Forbidden Zone...

Right now, I suggest we wash the purple mist from our throats...

Unfortunately that our mere presence must frighten the poor creatures off extremely skittish, aren't they...

Ah, but the story may keep for a more leisurely time.

WARG!

I don't blame them, Sir. What with those many-faced Inheritors always trying to snatch them...
Well, there seems to be at least one brave fellow among the lot. Seems to be curious, doesn't he?

HMP! Water's rather bitter tasting...

...but I suppose it's safe enough to bathe my wound in.

Urg! Urg!

Lucy's it's not too deep to...

WHA-?!

The current too strong for me-

Seeing the Lawgiver swept off his feet, Jason and Alex lunge forward to his aid.

...joined for some inexplicable reason by the timid shaggy creature.

But all hopes of rescue swiftly drown in the implacable grasp of the underwater current.

Strain as they might, all four find themselves helplessly sucked forward-straight toward a submerged tunnel on the very side of one of the rivers-girding mountains...
Wild panic assails each of them. Frantically they struggle for handholds on the mossy tunnel walls... and when they realize that any resistance is futile a new panic infuses them with livid horror...

Then abruptly, they surface... and gasping, sputtering they gulp the precious air...

...For the tunnel is stuffed with madly rushing water... an irresistible vortex which sucks them ever onward, battering and scraping them against the tunnel walls, sweeping them forward through hell with some unknown force. But what force--what could possibly create this vortex--?...

But the respite is a brief one--

Hold your breath--we're going under again!!

This time the surface is nonexistent...

The question is torn from Jason's mind replaced by a shimmering stream of bubbles...

...bubbles signifying the lawgiver's loss of air.
Then, as the Lawgiver's body limply surrenders to the inexorable current, Jason glimpses a reflective surface above...

...until at last two heads pierce the surface in spray.

...and lungs bursting, he grasps the Lawgiver's robes, desperately clawing his way upward, fighting the forward vortex, every churning inch of the way...

---to greet air cool, sweet precious air.

Whew! If this tunnel hadn't widened when it did...

Never mind that, Jase...! Just swing that log over here before we get swept away again!

I don't know about our shaggy friend here, but I'm in no condition to swim another stroke...!!

Well, it looks like we finally slammed into some luck, eh Alex? As long as we've got this log I don't care how strong the current gets.

But...

 Bite my tongue, Jase -- the good news isn't quitting...!!

There's light up ahead! The tunnel's coming to an end...!!

Yeah... unless this tunnel decides to narrow again...

Urgh! Urgh! Easy on the ecstasy, Alex. I wouldn't count on the news being that good...
IN FACT, ONCE WE GET OUT OF THIS TUNNEL, I WOULDN'T EVEN COUNT ON THE RIVER...!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JASE...?

UHRRMH!

I MEAN THAT THERE'S LIGHT OUT THERE BUT NOTHING ELSE! THE RIVER JUST SEEMS TO...

A WATERFALL!!

THE MYSTERIOUS CAUSE OF THE VORTEX... A HALF-MILE TUMBLE OF RAGING TURBULENCE AND FROTH... ALSO KNOWN AS...

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS... EVER SINCE WE STARTED HEARING THAT ROAR!

HANG ON FOR YOUR WATERLOGGED LIVES...

BECAUSE WE'RE GOING DOWN!!

AND THE BOTTOM'S A LONG WAY OFF!!
Their impact is lost from view, an insignificant splash into the far greater fury of cascading torrents...

And for a moment there is nothing...nothing but gravity's violent roar of water, mercilessly pounding water...

Then they surface still clinging to the log's backwash, sputtering pieces of flotsam...

PTOOO!

UHH...

This lake. Thank the afterlife. It's calm, placid...

More than serene, the lake is a glittering sheen of bright promise...set in a lush valley of equal splendour. It is a glossy jewel in a setting of verdant life...

Weird riotous life--splashed in vivid swirls of indigorepresent purple and scarlet...a forest gone mad with the fever of radiation...a mutated forest...

But nevertheless, a forest beyond the desolate clutch of the forbidden zone...

I must say I'm glad to be here...but I don't think I'd want to make the journey again.

Yeah, sure is weird--being washed through a mountain clear out of the forbidden zone...

...but I wonder why this lake isn't bigger. You'd think it would overflow with all that water constantly gushing into it. Unless there's a drainage point somewhere....

There it is--at the far side of the lake, another river. Alex, and no way of telling where it leads...

...but since we can't go back up the waterfall. Our best bet is to build a raft and take it down the river, too bad lost that weapon in the water. It would've been handy for cutting down logs.

Well...might as well start howling while the lawgiver is catching his breath.

And the lawgiver smiles, grateful for the common peril which has sealed a bitter dichotomy between aries and human...
THERE TRACKS LEAD UP TO THE RIVER. OFFICER BRUTUS.

AND THEIR RETURN TRACKS...

NONE SIR--THE FIRST SET OF TRACKS JUST VANISHES INTO THE WATER.

VERY WELL SERGEANT. WE'LL RETURN TO THE SITE OF THE CRASH NOW.

WARKO--YOU INCOMPETENT FOOL!!

YOU WERE WITH THE FUGITIVES--WHAT WERE THEIR PLANS?

JUST TO RETURN TO OUR CITY...WITH THE L--

SILENCE! THEN, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, THEY MUST HAVE TRAVELLED UP THAT RIVER BACK TO OUR CITY.

NO--YES, BRUTUS!!

IMPOSSIBLE. THE UNDERCURRENT IS TOO STRONG TO GO UP RIVER. THEY COULD ONLY HAVE GONE DOWNSTREAM.

IS THERE A WAY TO CIRCUMVENT THE RIVER?

YES--A PASSAGE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.

AND WHERE DOES THAT LEAD, MUTANT DRONE ESS?

GOOD.

THAT IS THE ROUTE WE SHALL TAKE...

TO THE RIVER SOCIETY--IF ONE SURVIVES THE RIVER ITSELF.
WE SEEM TO BE MAKING PRETTY GOOD TIME, ALEX.
AT LEAST SINCE WE FINALLY FOUND THE LOGS FOR
THIS RAFT.

WELL, WE'VE GOT THE CURRENT HELPING US NOW—INSTEAD
OF TRYING TO MURDER US....

WHICH REMINDS
ME. HOW ARE
YOU FEELING,
LAWSIVER-SIR?

OH, JUST FINE.
YOUNG ALEX,
JUST FINE.

IT'S SO PEACEFUL
HERE THAT I CAN
ALMOST FORGET
THE IMPENDING WAR.

WAR-?!

LOOK-- A
SETTLEMENT
ON THE RIVER--

URG! URG!

YOU
SAID IT,
LAWSIVER.

...AND JUST
LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF THOSE
CANOE'S!

YES-- OF COURSE.
WHY DID YOU PRESUME
THE MUTANTS TOOK ME
CAPTIVE-- AND
INCARCERATED ME?

WELL, WE...
UH, WE JUST
ASSUMED--

WHY DID YOU THINK BRUTUS
DECEIVED ME INTO LEAVING OUR
CITY AND ENTERING THE FORBIDDEN ZONE?...

PADDLE CLOSER-- THEY
SEEM FRIENDLY
ENOUGH--

NOWDY
STRANGERS! YES, JUST IN TIME
TO SET AN' CHAW THE EVENIN'
FAT--!

SO POLE
THAT STICK
OF YOURS ON IN
HERE-- AND GET
SET TO SET!
WELL, COME ON, FOLKS—NO REASON TO BE AFRAID. WE'RE AN EASY-GOIN' BUNCH OUT HERE—NEVER SHOT NO ONE NOWHOW FOR NOTHIN' LESS THAN BEIN' CROSS-EYED!

ALSO, I DON'T SEE THE FEELING THAT THIS IS A LITTLE STRANGE...

TAESE I ALREADY LEFT THAT FEELING FAR BEHIND.

WE'LL, NOW THAT YER SATISFIED I AIN'T ABOUT TO BITE YORE EARS OFF. I'D LIKE YA TO LIEEN'T MUH NAME.

I'M GUNPOWDER JULIUS—THE MEANEST, MADDEST, ORNERIEST, TOUGHEST FIGHTIN' EST TWICE-Cussed-ON-SUNDAY BAR-GRINNIN' POLECAT AKIN. BAREHANDED TREE-CHOPPIN', RECOMM-APE-ASSLIN', SUN-OF-A-MOUNTAIN-ARE RIVERBOAT RUNNER YOU'VE EVER SEEN...

AN'T TWICE AS PURTY AS ALL OTH' DAT ROLLED UP IN ONE BIG BUNDLE!

NOW THEN, I'M RIGHT GLAD TO MAKE YORE AQUAINTANCE, BOYS!

UH... GLAD TO MEET YOU, GUNPOWDER... BUT AH, YOU SEEM TO BE CHOKIN' ME, MADVENTENITY, OF COURSE.

HUN?

STRANGERS HUN?

CHOKIN' YA?! IT'S NO WONDER—WITH YER BONES STICKIN' OUT EVERY WHICH-WAY, YOU FOLKS LOOKED SKINNY!

UH... TELL ME, MR. JULIUS—YOU SEEM TO GET ALONG HERE... HUMANS AND APES, I MEAN...

OOPS?

THE NAMES GUNPOWDER, HUNH? UNTIL YA CROSS ME LEAST-WAYS. AN' O'COURSE WE GET ALONG HERE...

WE AIN'T GON'T NOTHING AGAINST HUMANS OR APES IF WE DID WE'D BE IN TROUBLE, I PREPUCENT WE ARE HUMANS AN' APES YBEE.
WHAT DID YA SAY YORE NAME WAS, FRIEND?

UH... THE LAWGIVER.

AH... WELL, LAWGIVER WILL SUFFICE.

WELL, LAWGIVER, I WANT YA TO SANE YORE EYES OVER YONDER AND TAKE A GOOD LONG GREEN LOOK AT YOUR PRIDE AN' JOY--!

WHAT YER SEEIN' IS THE SIMIAN--THE SLICKEST DANGEROUS KEELBOAT ON THE WHOLE O' THIS HERE RIVER! A REAL BEE-YOOTY! AIN'T SHE?

BY THE BY, LAWGIVER... JUST WHO GETS THESE LAWS THAT YOU BE GIVIN' ALL THE--

WHOOAA... WAIT A MINUTE... JUST WHAT ONE DANGEROUS MINUTE HERE, BOYS...

SNZZZZ

WILL YA LOOKIEE HERE, JUST A-SETTIN' AND A-SNOOZIN'--PEACEFUL AS A RUNNY-NOSED BABE.

NOW AIN'T THAT SWEET? AIN'T THAT JUST THE SWEETEST DANGEROUS POSE YOU EVER DID SEE--!

KINDA MAKE'S YA WONDER, DON'T IT? KINDA MAKE'S YA WONDER WHAT TO HAPPEN--!

--IF N YA WAS YA TAKE THE BABE'S CRADLE AWAY!

GUNPOWDER JULUS--!

WHY YOU DIRTY SLIMY, GREASY, CHICKEN-PLUCKIN', WIVER-BRAIN, KISSIN', SPIDER-HUGGIN' SON-OF-A-MAMMY KEELHAULED--!

WHAA-?? WUNK!
DO PEEST!! SWAK!

THAT ALL YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YERSELF?

YEAH.

THEN I 'SPECT IT'S--

SWOK! --MY TURN!-

HAHAHA! HAH HAHAHYAH!

LAWGIVER, I WANT YA'MEET MY RIVERWORM. HE'S KINDA STEELY DAN. HE'S KINDA MEAN AN' MAD AN' ORNERY AS PURTY AS ME!

AN' LAWGIVER, YOU CAN INTRODUCE YOR' FRIENDS OVER SOME O' THE BEST MASHED MEAL YOU'LL FIND FROM ONE END O' THIS MIGHTY RIVER TO THE OTHER!

GUNPOWDER, YOU ORNERY FLEABITTEN RIVERWORM... THAT PUNCH O' YORES COULDA FLATTEN A MULE!

YA AIN'T NO SLOUCH YERSELF, DAN!

THUS, AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF SOMEWHAT LESS COLOURFUL INTRODUCTIONS...

NOW WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, DAN? SLEEPIN' LIKE THAT-- YOU KNOW YA WAS STOOD TO BE WATCHIN' OUR BOAT--

AW, COME ON JULIUS-- YOU KNOW DANGED WELL THAT NOBODY'D DARE STEAL OUR RIVERBOAT

HEY ALEX--LOOKS LIKE SNAGGY WANTS A DRINK.

I DON'T BLAME HIM...

I COULD SWEAR THIS WAS ALL A DREAM.
IT'S THEM, ALL RIGHT... SEATED AT A TABLE...

AND THEY SEEM TO HAVE MADE FRIENDS WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

MUTANT-DRONE ESS... ARE YOU IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH BE-ONE?

OF COURSE, OUR HEROPIECE ARE FUNCTIONAL EXTENSIONS OF BE-ONE AS WELL AS OF THE OTHER MILITARY COMMANDERS.

THEN TELL HIM TO DISPATCH THE WAR-MACHINES HE PROMISED WOULD BE PLACED AT MY DISPOSAL.

IMMEDIATELY.

THEY WILL TAKE SEVERAL HOURS TO ARRIVE.

BRUTUS...

I FULLY REALIZE THAT, DRONE ESS. I'M NOT STUPID, CONTRARY TO YOUR PAMELISS MISTAKES.

I DO NOT PLAN TO LAUNCH THE OFFENSIVE UNTIL DAWN AT WHICH TIME THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT LIGHT AND AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL STILL BE ASLEEP.
Well... on account o' no story that tall could be a tall story, I guess we better believe 'em, Dan. So here's what we're gonna do—well, take 'em home right on the simian! Whaddaya say stively Dan? We gonna try pullin' a riverboat up a waterfall before—!
Oh no...

I'll drink to that gunpowder Julius—!

BAD NEWS, BOYS—! I was chasin' a poliwhir up a tree downriver and caught an eyeful of the weirdest lookin' stuff you ever did see! Bunch o' mean-eyed gorillas too—!

BRUTUS—AND PROBABLY THE MUTANTS! BUT WHY WERE THEY TOGETHER—?

I heard 'em say they was gonna attack us at dawn!

Dan—Get everybody together, and don't go wuggin' your tail about it! Tell 'em to bring torches and shovels!

We're gonna dig us a trench that'll rival this mighty river—and we're gonna fill it with the dangdest surprise anybody ever cut on my name ain't gunpowder Julius!

We'll show 'em, eh, Alex? Ain't no man says a damned weirdos gonna attack this settlement—!

Uff!

Oh... did I doze off...?
Night passes... and shortly before dawn... a bizarre armada of war machines rumbles into Britus' temporary encampment...

WHRR-ANK!

Very well, Brutus.

Yessir, that little workout has got me hankerin' for a drink!

Y'know, for a fellow as scrawny as you, Alex, ya did some mighty hefty diggin' out there tonight!

Thanks, Steely Dan, but did you see the way that even swaggy caught on to what we were doing...

Concerned nusance! What do they want to attack us for...? Gritty skunk-eyed slitherin' sons-OF...

Eyes sharp, boys!

There's dust on the horizon!

Yef that's them all right - lesson we're about to get hit by a twister.

Think I'll really work, Julius?

Work...?? Why you just get yer unbelievin' little-tail aboard the simian and I'll show ya how it'll work...!!
YOU'D BETTER STAY HERE, LAWGIVER-SIR. FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID, THE MUTANTS WANT YOU DEAD JUST AS MUCH AS BRUTUS DOES... AND IF THEY'RE TOGETHER, YOU HAVEN'T...

STOP YOUR JAWIN' AND JUMP ABOARD, ALEX... THE SIMIANS JUST ITCHIN' TO GET HER FEET WET.

YEAH, ALEX... EVEN SHAGGY'S READY TO GO.

THUS, LESS THAN A HASTILY POLED MILE UPSTREAM...

THERE THEY ARE, JARGE... WITH A BUNCH OF WEIRD MACHINES THEY USED TO CAPTURE SHAGGY'S FRIENDS...

I SEE 'EM, ALEX.

BUT WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT, DAN...

"...CUT IT WON'T BE MUCH DAMAGED LONGER ANYWAY THEY STUMBLE DUMB-NOSED AND STUPID RIGHT INTO OUR TRENCH..."

WE KEEP QUIET...

...AND MATCH PACE WITH 'EM ALONG THE SHORE...

MUTANT-DRONES ESS AND VEE... INVESTIGATE THE DEPRESSION...
IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EXCAVATED QUITE RECENTLY... PERHAPS FOR USE AS AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

OR AN INTENDED DETERRENT TO OUR ADVANCE. WHAT OF THE BLACK SUBSTANCE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DEPRESSION...?

NO--THE DELAY IS TOO COSTLY BESIDES. THE SUBSTANCE LOOKS HARMLESS ENOUGH...

IDENTIFICATION IS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT ANALYSIS BRUTUS, DO YOU WISH ONE MADE?

YOU READY WITH THAT DANGED TORCH, JASON? READY, JULIUS.

THEN TOUCH IT TO THE RAG ON THE END OF THIS BLAMED ARROW... SO'S I CAN--

"FIRE IT!!"

HALT--!

WHRR-ANK

HALT THE TANKS!!

BUT THE DRONE'S HOARSE CRY OF WARNING SOUNDS FAR TOO LATE... FOR THE COLOSSAL FLAMING ARROW HAS ALREADY BEEN LAUNCHED FROM RIVERBOAT TO LAND... AND NOW PLUMMETS WITH DEADLY ACCURACY STRAIGHT FOR THE...
...AND THE "BLACK SUBSTANCE" WHICH FILLS IT--A SUBSTANCE OTHERWISE KNOWN AS GUNPOWDER.

DID YA EVER SEE A BULLSEYE SO ALL-FIRED, BLASTED PURY, DAN--?!
RE HARD TO RECOLLECT ONE, JULIUS...

THAT MUSTA STUCK A BIGGER CRAW IN THEIR THROATS THAN THEY'VE EVER CHOKED ON--OR MY NAME AIN'T GUNPOWDER JULIUS!!

WHOOOO--EEEEE!!

BUT AMID THE SMOKING FRAGMENTS OF RUIN...

COME ON--FORWARD!! THE TRENCH CAN'T HURT US NOW!!

WE ATTACK AS PLANNED--!!

FIGGERED THEY'D KEEP A-COMIN'...

AN' I'M WARNIN' YA, JULIUS THAT ARROW O' YOURS WAS NOTHING BUT A BABY TOOTHPICK COMPARED TO THE KEG I'M ABOUT TO TOS-- SO YA BETTER DUCK LESS 'N YA WANT A NEW PART ON THAT SWELLED-UP Hairy HEAD SPROUTIN' FROM YOKE SHOULDERS--!!

BUT WHAT ARE YOU--

CHOPPED FREE, THE CATAPULT WHIPS FORWARD... HURLING THE GUNPOWDER KEG INTO A SIZZLING ARC WHICH CUTS THE AIR...
...and literally demolishes the ground.

The battle is brief and bloodily violent, joined by reserves from the settlement. The inhabitants of the village, sorely victorious, virtually annihilate an attacking force already decimated by two explosions...

...leaving a mere handful of gorillas, Brutus is conspicuous among them...

And sighting Jason he lingers for one final shot...

A shot which misses its intended target...

And routed by superior numbers, the allied gorilla and mutant army retreat in howling panic...

Blast it that's enough of this long-distance tarnation—time to leave the simian for some honest-to-HELLRAISING IN-FIGHTIN'!!

Take this musket Jason—and do her honor or die under her! You ain't got a choice boy!
BUT SHOCKINGLY, A SHOT WHICH NEVER THE LESS SLAYS.

THAT WAS BRUTUS--!

SHOOT HIM!

BLAST HIS STINKING SKULL OPEN!

KILL HIM!

KRAK!

DAMN IT--!

KILL HIM!!

EASY JASE THERE'S NO SENSE IN

EASY NOTHING ALEX! MURDERING MY PARENTS AND

HIS OWN WIFE WAS JUST THE BEGINNING!

HE'LL GO ON MURDERING UNTIL HE'S MURDERED!

BUT NOW THIS MURDER'S THE LAST STRAW, ALEX...

HE'S KILLED SOMEONE WHO Didn'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHY

HE HAD TO DIE.

AND FOR THAT ALEX, I'M GOING TO RUB BRUTUS' NOSE

IN HIS OWN BLOOD UNTIL HE DROWNS.

SUNSET: WOUNDS HAVE BEEN CLEANED AND DRESSED

BUT THE PAIN REMAINS FILTHY AND BARE. AN

ASSAULT HAS BEEN REPELLED BUT THE ATTACK IS

REMEMBERED, AND NOW WORDS ARE SPOKEN...

-- PRAY THAT THE CREATOR OF ALL WILL SOOTHE THOSE

WHO HAVE SUFFERED AND WILL BLESS THOSE WHO

HAVE FOUND PEACE...

... ONLY IN DEATH.

AMEN.

AMEN.

SHAGGY A PAIN

OF BOTH

HE KNEW INNOCENT BLOOD

... BUT THE SILENCE SAYS IT ALL.

FIN
Dear Stan,

I saw you on Pebble Mill at One and I was amazed at all the comics behind you on the table. I have sent this letter because I want to buy some of your good comics.

Ian McLaughlin,
81 Brambling Walk, Lee Bank, Edgbaston, Bham.

Those goodies you were gazing at on your TV screen are our file copies, fan. We wouldn't, COULDN'T part with a single one of 'em. Because if we did, we'd never be able to replace it. Be reasonable. You wouldn't begrudge us hanging on to the only record we have of what we've been doing with our lives all these years, now wouldya?

Dear Stan,

No, no, no!

Don't get me wrong, Planet of The Apes is a great mag, but put the Sub-Mariner into it instead of Ka-Zar.

You keep on saying we readers are the real editors of your mags. Then why do we have to hang our heads out of one of the many strips in popular demand by the British public? X-Men, Conan, Cap, America or my choice, Sub-Mariner. Keep Gulliver Jones, but get rid of Ka-Zar and show that we Marvelites are the real editors.

Martin Clarke, R.F.O.
Bilston, Staffs.

There! Only a letter or so ago we were saying in our reply to Alex Hagen of Falkirk that he couldn't expect the whole of Marveldom to be in step with him in his warm and wholehearted approval of Ka-Zar and Gulliver Jones. Here's you stepping up to prove how right we were in that guess of ours. What say we agree to cool the situation for a while, Martin, until we get a fuller reaction from a wider slice of Marveldom? We'll settle for that if you will.

Dear Stan,

I was going to start this letter accusing you of making a big mistake in the line-up of Planet of The Apes. I was going to say that you had two open spots in your latest mag in which you could have put The Silver Surfer and the X-Men. After all, judging by demand, Ka-Zar and Warrior from Mars could have side-stepped in favour of the previous two mentioned. I was. But I'm not. Because I now see what you're doing with the mag and I think it's great! The Doctor Doom strip was great. And I realise now that by having a couple of changeable strips you can put in any short stories you wish and thus not only add more variety but also be able to introduce more characters to only recently introduced Marvelites.

And I daresay the Silvery one and the X-Men will be introduced. Excelsior!

Gary Cerner,
Harlow, Essex.

We knew we had something in mind when we put Gulliver Jones and Ka-Zar into Planet of The Apes and now, thanks to your letter, we know what that something was! Never guessed we were that tricky. Now on the subject of X-Men and Silver Surfer - Patience, sure has its reward.

Dear Mr. Lee,

This letter is of the utmost importance and must be read with extreme care. The next few sentences will be comments on your superb comics (or should I say novels?) The Marvel is good, very good. The Hulk is great. DD is great, but the Fantastic Four are brilliant!!!

SMCW is also very good. SM is brillant. Iron Man is Okay and Thor is brillipad. I do not get the Avengers or Dracula Lives so I shall say nothing about them.

And now for something completely different. WHIZZ! POP! ZAP!!! THE PLANET OF THE APES has come from far-flung worlds, nay, far-flung universes by the summon of Stan (the man) Lee! With just one touch of his Chemo-sonic pen on the ground, the path is made for THE PLANET OF THE APES. The novel starts off in a blaze of glory with the whole magazine devoted to the Apes story. Alas! The next issue for once (dare I say it?) lets us down with the bringing of The Warrior of Mars! Even Ka-Zar only pays back a little of the price of introducing The Warrior of Mars to us.

Huw Roberts,
7 Thornhurst Ave., Oswestry, Salop.

You said it, Huw! All those things we've always wanted to say and never been able to bring ourselves to say, you said 'em for us! And have you noticed the sneaky way we took Gulliver Jones out of the mag before you even complained?

Dear Stan,

I'm pleading with you (grovel, grovel). Please take Ka-zar and Gulliver Jones (Light) out of your new mag. "Planet of The Apes. I think that as they (the Apes) as so popular they deserve a full mag for their story, as in ish 1. It looks terrible when the stories are shortened. I'm sure that lots of other Marvelites will agree with me. Make today S.T.A. (Save The Apes) day.

Cornelius

PS Keep in Iron Fist. He's Fab.

Ouch! Here we go again! We're not saying you're wrong in stating that many Marvelites will agree with you. What we do say is that we reckon the best policy is to wait until the voice of Marveldom assembled has had time to make its voice heard on the subject. And that shouldn't be long!

Dear Simians,

I am writing to say congratulations on your first month-and-a-half's worth of "Planet of The Apes". All the issues so far have been well-drawn, well-written and well printed. The first 6 issues feature work by Barry Smith, who is a favourite of mine, and Gil Kane, who has a knack for drawing alien monsters etc. My one complaint is the cover art. I honestly don't understand why you bothered to plug the cover art in the Bullpen Bulletins. Mike Esposito is behind it, I notice, which accounts for the inkling looking as if it was done with a 9-inch paint brush. Also, the apes' faces on the covers look like crosses between Michael Barratt (Nation-wide) and Joe Mercer (Coventry City F.C.).

Army,
115 Ashdown Drive, Tilegate, Crawley, Sussex.

Are you sure you wanted to congratulate us, Army? You could of fooled us!
THE APES ON T.V.

Once again we return to the Apes series, with a background to the stars appearing each week on your T.V. screens. This week meet Booth Colman who stars as Dr. Zaius, the senatorial Orangutan, presiding over the governmental offices on "The Planet of the Apes".

Booth Colman's acting career started in 1945 on the New York stage, where he played in HAMLET, with the great and revered actor, Maurice Evans. Now, 30 years later, he follows in the footsteps of that much admired actor, by taking over the role of Dr. Zaius—the character that Maurice Evans created for all five of the Apes feature films. Today, Colman carries on in the same role, but in the television version of "Planet of the Apes".

A PROFILE OF BOOTH COLMAN

Educated at Washington and Michigan Universities, Booth Colman passed his exams in Oriental studies, with the ambition of becoming an archeologist.

But with the outbreak of war, he served with the army in the Japanese Language Corps, and was drawn to acting, and decided to make it his career.

Since making his debut as an actor in the mid-forties, Booth Colman has acquired much acclaim for his Shakespearean interpretations on the Broadway stage, and has played in many classical and lighter production with most of the leading names in the theatre.

Colman was called to Hollywood in 1951 by Producer-Director Howard Hawkes to make his motion picture debut in "The Big Sky" with Kirk Douglas. Since then he has appeared in nearly 50 feature films. In television, Booth Colman has guest-starred in many top series. Look out for him in "Police Story", "Kung Fu" and "McCloud".

Among Colman's closest friends for more than 20 years were the late comedian Stan Laurel and Boris Karloff. Booth Colman now lives in a modest Hollywood apartment. His most prized possession is a collection of signatures of 22 of the 37 United States Presidents.
The Man Who Sold The Planet Of The Apes!

by Gary Gerani

Movies, as is true with most media-related arts, are very complex and involve the work of a virtual regiment of dedicated artists and technicians. Even those films which critics term a "tour de force" (in which a single person writes, directs, produces and stars in the film), are still far from a one man show.

I suppose, if any one individual can be pinpointed and held responsible for the final outcome, success or failure, of a film, it would have to be the director; for, as his title implies, he gives the film its direction. He is involved in all creative aspects of his work, and—in many instances—in the business aspects, too, as well as having final
The care Arthur P. Jacobs put into the APES films is amply demonstrated here in the quality and flexibility of Maurice Evan’s make-up.
decision-making powers (after the producer).

Were this an article dealing with one particular film, we would most certainly pinpoint the director as the man responsible. But such is not the case—we are dealing with a series of films, a celluloid phenomenon, and, while the several talented directors and other people certainly made vital contributions, the real credit must indeed belong to the producer!

The series we refer to is, of course, THE PLANET OF THE APES... and the producer is none other than Arthur P. Jacobs!

While the original concept for PLANET OF THE APES began in the imaginative mind of Pierre Boulle, the now-classic film saga is definitely Jacob's baby.

Projects like this could never get off the ground without a backer, a unique combination artist/businessman/prophet who shapes and moulds an idea into a completed feature. The sensitive, interested producer is involved with his brainchild every step of the way.

Arthur P. Jacobs, like Star Trek's Gene Roddenberry, believed in the artistic possibilities of a well-made science fiction project, and was sure of the box-office returns as well—if a spectacular-enough concept came along.

"Spectacular," that was the key work. Around 1966, Arthur P. Jacobs started looking around for something special to turn into a great film. In an interview conducted recently, he admitted some half-thoughts at the time of remaking the 1933 classic, KING KONG.
But, after considering the impracticality of such a project, Jacobs decided to concentrate on something with the massive appeal of a Kong, without actually redoing that movie. After months of countless disappointments, a literary agent in Paris finally introduced him to Pierre Boulle's novel, PLANET OF THE APES. Jacobs was hooked—he had found what he was looking for!

Jacobs was more than enthused with the PLANET OF THE APES project, but few seemed to share either his interest or confidence in the feasibility of the idea as a profitable feature film. He first had several sketches of the Ape characters made up, until finally deciding upon a specific design. Then followed endless hours of cinematic salesmanship, studio-hopping and eventual rejections. Nobody seemed to understand how a scene could be intelligently made, wherein a human being converses casually with an orangutan. Admittedly, it must've sounded a bit strange at first, but any open-minded studio executive worth his weight in celluloid should have grasped the potential dynamite involved, if such a project were competently handled. And Jacobs' burning interest in the idea assured a conscientious job.

Getting nowhere, Jacobs enlisted some weight-carrying aid. Charlton Heston read the novel and became as much of an APE fanatic as Jacobs. To presumably show the studio heads that the film could indeed maintain a serious tone in the face of ape faces, Jacobs arranged a sample scene featuring Heston, as the human protagonist, confronting and conversing with an ape (played by Edward G. Robinson). The make-up was crude, the photography limited, but the effect was sensational!

After months of disappointments and rejections, PLANET OF THE APES was on its way to becoming a big-budgeted production of 20th Century-Fox Pictures. Rod Serling, who had written the biting dialogue in the sample sequence, and Franklin J. Shaffner, who directed it, were assigned to do their respective thing on the full scale project. (Edward G. Robinson was replaced by Maurice Evans in the final film.)

The rest is history. Jacobs claimed to have originated (together with director Blake Edwards) the Statue of Liberty twist ending. "In Boulle's novel they actually are on another planet, and I felt this was too predictable," Jacobs recently stated. "I sent the finished script to Boulle, and he wrote back, saying it was more inventive than his own ending, and he wished had had thought of it when he wrote the book!" Critically, the APES films have done just so-so, but Jacobs and company didn't seem to mind. "I've learned to ignore the reviewers. If people see the picture and like it, then I'm happy."

Concerning the other APES films, Jacobs was most happy with CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES pointing out the different look it had from all the rest. On the other hand, he was rather annoyed with the handling of ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES; he felt the releasing company thought it was "pre-sold" and did too little campaigning and publicity, which may or may not account for its weaker showing at the box office. He felt BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES was below par, and he also attributes some of ESCAPES's financial woes to the disappointing response to the second film. (BENEATH did excellently mone-

wise, but many fans felt cheated after they had bought their tickets!)
Three prepare to ride out into— the Forbidden Zone!

Arthur P. Jacobs has come a long way in the movie business. Born March 7, 1922 in Los Angeles, he majored in cinema at the University of Southern California, started out as a messenger at MGM, went through various movie companies’ publicity departments, and eventually went on to produce major motion pictures. His achievements include GOODBYE MR. CHIPS, DR. DOOLITTLE, THE CHAIRMAN, and PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM.

...and the statue of him from the earlier films!

Director John Huston as the Lawgiver in BATTLE...

The jury deliberates the fate of Taylor (Charlton Heston).
A family portrait of Ape leader Caesar (Roddy McDowall), his wife Lisa (Natalie Trundy) and son Cornelius (Bobby Porter). From BATTLE.
But Arthur P. Jacobs' most lasting contribution to the movie world has to be his series of PLANET OF THE APES films. As we said before, giving one man the credit for an entire film (or series of films) really isn't fair to his co-workers and collaborators—still, almost anyone connected with those films would probably agree that, to Arthur P. Jacobs, must pass the title "Father of the Planet of the Apes!"

Sadly, Arthur P. Jacobs passed away recently. His vision and love for his craft will be missed, but a part of him will always live on in his films, for millions of fans all over the world to enjoy!
Dr. Zaius, the Orangutang presiding over governmental offices on the Planet of the Apes.
Booth Colman pictured on location while making an episode for the T.V. series.