SEARCHING FOR THE ASTRONAUT TAYLOR, LOST DURING A PREVIOUS SPACE LAUNCH AND EXPEDITION, SHIP'S MEDIC BRENT HAS INSTEAD FOUND THE CRUMBLING REMNANTS OF MADNESS...

GOD ALMIGHTY—!! THIS WAS MY HOME!!

I LIVED AND WORKED HERE ONCE—!! WHAT HAPPENED—?? DID WE FINALLY DO IT?? DID WE FINALLY REALLY DO IT??

WHAT DOES A MAN DO... WHEN HE COMES HOME... AND THERE IS NO HOME...?
A NIGHTMARE...

THIS IS A NIGHTMARE...

A DAMNED--
"NIGHTMARE!!"

THE TEMPLE IN THE CITY OF THE APES...

O GOD, WE PRAY YOU, BLESS OUR GREAT ARMY AND ITS SUPREME COMMANDER ON THE EVE OF A HOLY WAR UNDERTAKEN FOR YOUR SAKE...

...AND GRANT IN THE NAME OF YOUR PROPHET, OUR GREAT LAWGIVER--

--THAT WE, YOUR CHOSEN SERVANTS CREATED AND BORN IN YOUR DIVINE IMAGE--

--MAY ASPIRE MORE PERFECTLY TO THAT SPIRITUAL GODLINESS AND BODILY BEAUTY WHICH YOU, IN YOUR INFINITE MERCY HAVE THOUGHT FIT TO DENY TO OUR BRITISH--

--ENEMIES.

SO BE IT.
CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR THE MATTRESS.

I WONDER... ARE YOU WHAT WE WERE BEFORE WE LEARNED TO TALK AND MADE FOOLS OF OURSELVES...?

DID ANY GOOD EVER COME OF TALKING... ROUND ALL THOSE VAST TABLES...?

DID APES MAKE WAR WHEN THEY WERE STILL DUMB?

WHAT AM I...? A PHILOSOPHER ALL OF A SUDDEN...?

BUT EVEN PHILOSOPHERS ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE WEATHER. WONDER IF THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS ARE STILL INCLEMENT OUTSIDE...

-- AND I SAY THE SERGEANT'S GONE CRAZY--'NO ONE'S EVER GONE IN THERE TO COME OUT AND TELL ABOUT IT...

... AND NOW HE WANTS US TO GO INSIDE AND PUT OUR LIVES IN JEOPARDY JUST TO CHASE TWO HUMANS WHO ARE ALREADY DEAD!
NOVA-- WAKE UP. THEY MIGHT COME IN HERE AFTER US--

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING...

COME ON... DOWN YOU GO...

NOW, ALL WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS WHAT'S AT THE OTHER END OF THIS TUNNEL...

WAIT A MINUTE--! THAT FAINT HUM...

YOU HEAR IT TOO--!
COME ON-- DEEPER INTO THE TUNNEL...

IT'S GETTING LOUDER--!

YES-- WE'VE GOT TO FOLLOW IT...

WE'LL USE IT AS A THREAD-- A SONIC THREAD TO LEAD US OUT OF HERE...

... OR AT LEAST TO THE BIGGEST BUMBLEBEE ON RECORD!
REALLY GETTING LOUDER NOW...

...TURNING INTO A ROAR...

...ALMOST DEAFENING!

TUNNEL'S SLOPING UPWARD... AND THAT WIND--LIKE A VORTEX...

MAYBE WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE SURFACE, NOVA....

...IF OUR EARDRUMS DON'T SHATTER FIRST!

UP THERE--ANOTHER TUNNEL--!

AND LIGHT, NOVA--LIGHT!!

OH MY GOD--!!

AND I THOUGHT TALKING APES WERE INCREDIBLE--!!
THAT HUM’S AS LOUD AS A DYNAMO NOW... AND LOOK AT THAT VENT, NOVA... IT’S PRECISION-BUILT...

WHOEVER-- OR WHATEVER-- BUILT IT... IS GUIDING US TO THIS PLACE.

AND SINCE THE WIND IS BEING SUCKED INTO THE VENT...

... AT LEAST WE KNOW THEY BREATHE AIR ANYWAY...

SO LET’S SEE WHAT’S INSIDE THIS CRAZY...

SHOCKING SILENCE...

SILENCE.
NO. IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK AWAY, NOVA...

WE'VE GOT TO GO ON.

THERE'S A HIGH INTELLIGENCE AT WORK IN THIS PLACE--GOOD OR BAD. THAT SOUND WE HEARD WAS EITHER A WARNING--OR SOME KIND OF DIRECTIONAL DEVICE. I DON'T KNOW WHICH, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER... BECAUSE EITHER WAY--

--THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE--!

STILL DETERMINED EH...? ALL RIGHT...

... I'LL GO FIRST.

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...

IT'S EMPTY.

COME ON.
SORT OF LIKE A WHITE WONDERLAND...

... OR A SCARY STERILE HOSPITAL CORRIDOR.

CAN'T SAY THAT WHITE DOT IS EXACTLY BECKONING...

... BUT IN THIS CASE, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S ONLY ONE ROAD LEADING TO ROME...

DID I SAY ROME --?

NOVA, BITE MY TONGUE IF I FORGET TO...
...because this isn't so much a city...
...as it is a cemetery...!!
Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate you on your comics. They are most unusual and rather refreshing.

I have never read any before, but I happen to see them on a book stall and thought I'd try one. Really, I suppose they are mainly published for juveniles, but I'm afraid I've been coerced to them.

I like the art work that goes into them, and would imagine it quite hard going, thinking out something new each time. Best wishes to all concerned with Marvel. Keep up the good work.

John Boyce,
New Milton, Hants.

There's just one little error in your letter that we've got to hasten to correct, John. Marvel isn't the perogative of any particular age-group (or any other group, come to that.) It belongs to everyone who's young at heart and perceptive enough to be aware of what it's all about. So welcome to the fraternity — you're in the very best of company!

Dear Stan and Co.,

Being an ardent Apes fan I felt that I just had to comment on the letter from Pete Taylor, in Planet of The Apes 25. I've been with Marvel now for almost ten years, and as I buy all seven British Marvels each week I consider myself to be a dedicated Marvelite. But like you, I think Pete did overstate his case a little. The name of this mag is, after all, "Planet of The Apes", and as such it should feature not only the picture-strip stories, but info on all aspects of the Apes sagas.

Your present policy seems to be the best — one week an APES TV series feature, one week an APES film feature, and one week of total Marvel picture stories. That way everyone should be satisfied, whatever his or her interests. After all, everyone's entitled to their own opinions, and what may be "tawdry little TV reviews and film articles" to Pete are very interesting and informative to some of us.

Now that I've got that off my chest, onto other things. The APES stories currently being show-cased in POTA are good, but I much preferred the first APES film serialisation. I look forward in eager anticipation to the adaptations of the other four films. Whilst on the subject of the APES strips, please ease off on the Mike Ploog artistry. It's okay for Frankenstein, but his apes seem very akin to the aforementioned monster. My vote for back-up strip goes to the superb sci-fi strips which have been appearing lately, or possibly Doctor Doom.

As you'll have gathered by now, I'm a true ape-ophile, so one final request. If any fellow-Marvelite has any APE material (TV series or films) to exchange or sell, how about dropping me a line? I'm a willing buyer!

Graham Tolley,
44 Green Drive, Rossall Beach,
Cleveleys, Lancs.

Are you out there listening, Pete Taylor? If so you can't have failed to notice that that recent letter of yours really stirred up the stew-pot! Because we can reveal that Graham Tolley's letter is one of a considerable batch that have reached us (and are still reaching us!) on the same subject — and thus far there hasn't been a single Marvelite supporting your view, Pete. Feeling lonely?