In gasps of astonishment, the diver blurts into his transceiver pick-up...

There are people in here!

Get some tow lines out here—fast! And get on the horn to the General...
YES... THIS IS THE
COLONEL...

WHUP
WHUP
WHUP

WHAT--?
ARE YOU
CERTAIN--?

NO, I WASN'T
SPEAKING TO
YOU!

LOOK-- I
THINK THIS
MATTER
DESERVES
HIGHER
AUTHORITY...

YES, I AGREE, I'LL
PUT THROUGH AN
IMMEDIATE CALL TO--

THE PENTAGON--

HELLO! YES-- THIS IS
BROOY...

YOU WHAT--?
NO SERIAL NUMBER--?
WELL, IT MAY HAVE BEEN BURNT
OFF IN RE-ENTRY AND
NEITHER DID I!

ALL RIGHT! I'LL CHECK WITH
THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
NASA AND CALL YOU BACK!
UNTIL THEN KEEP MY
LINES CLEAR, DAMMIT!

GENERAL BROYD, IF
YOU WOULD JUST CALM
DOWN--I AM TELLING
YOU--AND I REPEAT--

WE HAVE NOT
PUT ANY
SPACECRAFT
UP!

YOU'RE TELLING ME
THAT WHAT NEVER
WENT UP CAN'T COME
DOWN AND I'M TELLING
YOU--IT JUST HAS--!

AND NOW I'M GOING
TO TELL THE VERY
SAME THING TO--

"THE PRESIDENT!"

... BUT I THINK
WE SHOULD BE ALERT
TO A MORE REMOTE
POSSIBILITY: NAMELY
THAT THE RUSSIANS
HAVE RETRIEVED ONE
OF OUR MISSING
SPACECRAFT AND
REMANAGED IT WITH
THEIR OWN ASTRONAUTS
WHO HAVE NOW
ACCIDENTALLY
SPASHED DOWN IN
OUR TERRITORIAL
WATERS!

LET US HOPE
AND PRAY THAT
YOU ARE RIGHT,
GENERAL...
IF THEY'RE ALIVE, YOU MAY INSTRUCT COLONEL WINTHROP AT EL PALOMAR TO WELCOME WITH CAUTION. BUT WHETHER THEY'RE ALIVE OR NOT, HAVE NASA GO OVER THAT SHIP WITH WHATEVER'S THE SCIENTIFIC EQUIVALENT OF A FINE-TOOTH COMB.

AND UNTIL WE KNOW MORE, I WANT A FULL SECURITY CLAMP-DOWN ON THE ENTIRE OPERATION!

YOU DO UNDERSTAND ME, GENERAL? THIS IS IMPORTANT.

WE'RE BEING PULLED...

THAT'S IT... KEEP MAULING! SHE'S MOVING NOW...

HAUL AWAY!

THEY SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE! AT LEAST THEY HAVE INTELLIGENCE!

THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD CONCEAL OUR INTELLIGENCE. OUR ONLY CHANCE MIGHT LIE IN SILENCE TO OUR CAPTORS...

HERE COMES THE COLONEL'S CHOPPER! THIS THING MUST BE PRETTY BIG TO RATE HIM...

YEAH... BUT NOT TOO BIG, I HOPE!
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, COLONEL WINTHROP! THE MEN ARE READY TO OPEN THE HATCH.

GIVE THEM THE WORD, THEN!

ALL RIGHT, MEN--FORCE IT OPEN...

WELCOME, GENTLEMEN...
I AM COLONEL WINTHROP, AND IN BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I WOULD LIKE TO --

WHA--?! THIS... THIS IS CRAZY...

THIS CAN'T BE... IT JUST--

--CAN'T BE!!

TAKE CHARGE HERE, RALSTON! I... I THINK I'D BETTER...

MAKE A PHONE CALL...

THEM ARE MONKEYS, BOY... MONKEYS...

BIGGEST DAMNED MONKEYS I'VE EVER SEEN!
DID YOU CALL THE ZOO?

YES, SIR--WE'RE IN LUCK! THEIR SICK BAY'S ALMOST CLEAR, SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO HIDE THE APES FROM THE PUBLIC! THEY'LL BE QUARANTINED IMMEDIATELY, AND IF THEY NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION IT'S AVAILABLE ON THE SPOT!

AND THE EXPERTS CAN START GIVING THEM THE ONCE-OVER FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, GENERAL BRODY! I'M VERY PLEASED!

SO AM I! CAN'T very well permit a bunch of monkeys making messes in the guardhouse!

HAVE WE RED THEM RAW STEAK OR SOMETHING...

THE ZOO TELLS ME THAT CHIMPANZEES SIR--LIKE ALL APES--ARE VEGETARIAN! THEY SUGGESTED ORANGES.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

HMP! PRETTY SNIKKEY, AREN'T THEY?

OH, EXCUSE ME--I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB--

WHAT AM I SAYING--?

UH... YOU'D BETTER SEE FOR YOURSELF, SIR...

THEY... THEY'RE PRETENDING TO DRESS THEMSELVES, SIR...

NEXT) DEATH IN THE FAMILY!
Dear Stan,

I have recently obtained 13 American magazines entitled "READ", which have articles on Marvel Super-heroes. If anybody would like to have a copy of this just drop me a line and I will be more than glad to send one. Also, I am an avid reader of "Planet of The Apes" and haven't missed an issue since No. 7. My grandmother from Aberdeen, Scotland, send them over to me. And, to inform all the ape fans over in Great Britain, the programme is produced by C.B.S. "Planet of The Apes", didn't even last 7 months. If anybody would wish to swap some British mags preferably Conan I could send over some American Planet of The Apes mags.

Keith Mackie,
973 Conestoga Drive,
Manchester, U.S.A. 63011.

And here's Keith, writing to us from the good ol' U.S.A., I mean, among one or two other things, is being the home of Marvel Comics! That's a great opportunity you're extending to British Planet fans, Keith, and we wouldn't be in the least surprised if some of 'em didn't take advantage of it. Just a few thousand or so!

Dear Stan,

I've written once before to ask if you had a back ish of "Planet of The Apes" No. 1, but as you never had one I'm writing again to ask if you have a back ish of the American No. 1, and how much it is.

By the way, "Planet of The Apes" gets better every week, and last week's cover was just fantastic, especially the statue of liberty in the background. It was the part I liked most. I also think the story "Beneath the Planet of the Apes" is great.

Paul Ward,
Plaistow, London.

Sorry, Paul, but the news hasn't improved since last year, we have no back issues of either the British Marvels of the U.S. Marvels. All that we can suggest is that you can scan the Comic Mant columns with an eagle-sharp eye. You might just be lucky.

Dear Stan,

"Planet of The Apes" is an ace comic, especially the info and pics part, they're the part I always turn to first. But after that there comes the stories. They are great, and whoever makes them up must have a great taste for action. Then comes the bad part, the other stories. When a person buys a comic, e.g. "Planet of The Apes", they expect Planet of The Apes and nothing else. I suppose everyone has different tastes though. But I still won't go off my favourite mag.

Gillian Barnes,
Heywood, Lancs.

PS. I wondered if any kind fellow Marvelites have any spare pix of Batman, Buffy, Calvin etc., for my scrap book.

Ahem! Y'KNOW, Gillian, we have this sneaky feeling that the main motive of your letter was contained in the PS! It's those photos you're after, isn't it? Come

Dear Stan and alls,

I'd like to congratulate you on your fantastic mags. A lot of people have complained lately about the way stories are divided in two. My suggestion is that you feature only two characters every week. E.g. Mighty World of Marvel, Have The Hulk story and alternate complete Daredevil and Fantastic Four stories every four weeks, so that the first week you have Hulk and a complete Daredevil story, and the next week Hulk and a complete Fantastic Four story. You could also have a full colour pull-out poster every month.

Iron Man. How DARRENOE anybody say the art is scrappy. How DARENOE anybody say the stories are boring. Iron Man is having some of the best stories in Marvel. With the Mandarin etc.

Finally, I would like to see the supposed plans of Spidey's webshooter sent in by Paul Crowe.

Cameron Christie, RFO, Motherwell, Lanarkshire.

Thanks for those helpful thoughts on Mighty World of Marvel, Cameron, but the way things are at the moment, for every letter we receive asking for only two stories per mag we get another letter pleading with us to maintain three stories per issue. So what do we do about a situation like that, apart from taking more aspirins?

apes forum MARVEL COMICS LTD Room X11
52 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON WC1V 6AZ

Since it's our business to bring joy and happiness into the deserving hearts of Marvelites then it goes without saying that your letter of unqualified approval brought sunshine into the Bullpen. It's true enough that "Planet" has had more than a share of cast-changing, but whether we'll ever take it to the degree you suggest is something different again. The present feeling (taking a quick check around the Bullpen) is that that would be pushing it a bit too far. But somehow or other we think we'll find a happy medium, there's always one lurking around somewhere.