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

PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES

--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!
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!
That's hard work! Why don't we take a little --

Look...

That's been there for years. Virgil! Brack had all the corridors equipped with cameras like that...

...to forestall conspiracies as I remember!

No... it... it moved...

Up on the ceiling...

You're... sure...

Watch it... watch it carefully...

HMMMMMM

HMMMMMM

HMMMMMM

HMMMMMM

He's right! It is...

Well, that settles it. Virgil! Even if they weren't monitoring us, whoever—or whatever—did this here...

Now knows we're here too!

I'm... sorry! I thought...

WE STILL CAN'T BE CERTAIN OF THEIR LOCATION... BUT DID YOU NOTICE, MENPEZ...?
BAND NINE, CORRIDOR ANTY-ONE!

YES! WHAT SERIES WAS IT?

THAT'S IN R-8... BUT WHAT'S THERE? PERHAPS THEY'RE JUST WANDERING...

NO? THEN CUT THROUGH IT. GO AROUND IT...

LOOK WHERE THE LIGHT IS ON THE SUPERIMPOSED MAP!

YOU'RE RIGHT-- THEY DO KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING...

THE CORRIDOR IS COLLAPSED...? IS IT AN OLD CAVE-IN?

BRECK-- COME HERE!

IT WAS NO FAILURE!

SHE'S RIGHT, BRECK. WE THINK IT WAS DESTROYED!

WHAT ARE THEY \_ AFTER?

WE JUST LOST A MONITOR IN R-8 ANTY-ONE...!

DESTROYED...? R-8 ANTY-ONE, YOU SAY?

WHAT'S WORTH SUCH A RISK...?

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN EQUIPMENT FAILURES NOW...
PROCEEDINGS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON ALIEN VISITORS 1973

YES -- THAT'S GOT TO BE IT!

IS THIS IT?

COME ON, CAESAR -- YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER IN LIVING COLOR...

...BUT I WARN YOU... THE WAY THAT COMMISSION GRILLED THEM, IT WON'T BE A PRETTY SIGHT!

IT WASN'T OUR WAR! IT WAS THE GORILLA'S WAR! CHIMPANZEE ARE PASSIVE... PACIFISTS! WE STAYED BEHIND! WE NEVER SAW THE ENEMY!

NEITHER!

BUT WHICH SIDE WERE THEY ON?

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU WEREN'T THERE?
When we were in space... we saw a bright white, blinding light! We saw the rim of Earth melt! Then there was... a tornado in the sky!

Then... no wonder all mankind wanted me dead? In thirty-nine-fifty-five, five apes will cause --

Not apes, Caesar! Gorillas will cause the end of Earth...

And that it might be possible to alter the future by altering events in our present?

... and how do you know we're not chained to that future... the one Cornelius and Zira escaped from?

But that's only one future!

Some scientists believed that there is no single future... that time has many tracks, many possibilities.

I don't know! I just hope because if the astronaut Taylor does come from our past and enter the same future ape culture... Cornelius and Zira escaped from... then the world will end in that year!

And you believe Aldo's gorillas are building that future right now?

Yes! That's what I believe.

All right! If history can be changed, then we'll change it!

Yes! We must!
WELL, STOP THEM WHEN THEY DO, DO YOU HEAR ME??!!
I WANT THEM BROUGHT TO ME AT ONCE!!

WAIT A MINUTE...
DO YOU SMELL IT TOO, VIRGIL??
YES... BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME...
HUMAN... BUT NOT LIKE MACDONALD...

WHAT'S WRONG? WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE...

WAIT FOR WHAT??
FOR THE NEW OWNERS OF THOSE MONITOR CAMERAS--

--TO POUNCE ON US LIKE HELPLESS MICE??
NO THANKS! I'D RATHER GET OUT OF HERE WHILE WE STILL CAN.

NEXT ISSUE: A TASTE OF MUTANT HATE
Dear Bullpen,

I’ve just finished reading your latest ape magazine (POTA issue 96) and all I can say is: YEUK!

Man-Thing has only four pages! And to think you’d 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 shools of denials!

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 drastically merged with POTA, showed some very interesting debates and arguments, while all the Titans could must was a selection of brief rundown 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 Smail — 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 Dey Sann’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, bringing their exciting brand of correspondence, and if you, Aston (like me), are looking for entertaining arguments, debates, etc., then take a look at the WWM/AVENGERS’ lettercol, which has suddenly sprung to life.

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

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

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 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 Bulpen,

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.

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. Kalite 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, Teng, 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 had ended.

APES FANG MAIL
Marvel Comics Ltd.
Tubs Hill House, Sevenoaks, Kent.
HEAR ME, FELLOW APES--I BRING YOU NEWS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE!

NEWS WHICH WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD LIES IN OUR HANDS--OR IN THE STINKING PAWS OF FILTHY HUMANS!

MY GOD--TALKING APES! HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING!

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

DOUG MOENCH - WRITER
ALEREDO ALCALA - ARTIST
MARY WOLFMAN - EDITOR
MY GOD. THIS IS A NIGHTMARE.

WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?

GREETINGS, MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL...

I AM A SIMPLE SOLDIER.

AS A SIMPLE SOLDIER, I SEE THINGS SIMPLY...

THIS IS LUNACY. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED—OUR RE-ENTRY. A FORCE OF 15,000 AT TWENTY-THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR. IT MADE SKIFFER BLIND—AND DROVE ME MAD. EVERYTHING HERE IS A DELUSION...

...EVEN YOU, WHICH IS TOO BAD BECAUSE...

WHAT I SAW—WHEN I BECAME YOUR ARMY COMMANDER BROKE MY HEART.

I SAW OUR COUNTRY IMPRISONED BY THE SEA AND BY NAKED DESERT. AND INSIDE OUR COUNTRY, I SAW US BECOME INFECTED BY THOSE ENORMOUS PARASITES CALLED HUMANS... PARASITES WHICH DEVOURED THE FRUITS WE HAD PLANTED IN A LAND RIGHTLY OURS.
... 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 horde 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 lawmakers tell 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.

-- 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, SMIRLING DEMAGOGUE...

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

WE WILL NEVER BECOME WEAK AND HAIRLESS--!

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

HAIL URSUS--OURS OUR LEADER!! HAIL URSUS!!
THE FORBIDDEN ZONE HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR CENTURIES -- AND RIGHTLY SO! BUT WE NOW HAVE EVIDENCE THAT IT'S VAST, BARREN AREA IS INHABITED. BY WHOM OR BY WHAT, WE DO NOT KNOW...

BUT IF THEY LIVE, THEN THEY MUST EAT, AND WE MUST REPLENISH THE LAND THAT WAS RAVAGED BY THE HUMANS... REPLENISH IT WITH NEW, PRODUCTIVE FEEDING GROUNDS.

AND THESE NEW GROUNDS, WE CAN OBTAIN IN THAT ONCE-FORBIDDEN ZONE! SO, NOW IT IS OUR DUTY TO ENTER IT -- AND PUT THE MARK OF OUR FEET AND WHEELS AND GUNS AND FLAGS UPON IT --

-- TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR INVOLVABLE POWER --!

-- TO KILL OUR ENEMIES. HUMAN AND UNKNOWN, LIKE SO MANY LICE --!!!

-- AND TO INVADE -- INVADE -- INVADE!!!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE LEADING ME... BUT I'LL BET MY TICKET BACK TO EARTH THAT IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT CHIMP YOU WERE SO EXCITED TO SEE...

AND THANK GOD WE WON'T BE HEARD ABOVE ALL THAT HROWLING AND CLAPPING,

BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DOES NOT JOIN THE WILDLY HOWLING AND CLAPPING THRONGS...

HAIL, URSUS. URSUS OUR LEADER!!!

ONLY FOR MY PRINCIPLES, CORNELIUS.

ALL RIGHT, FOR YOUR PRINCIPLES, THEN -- AND MINE. ONLY STAND -- BEFORE YOU GET YOUR HEAD CRACKED OPEN --.

ZIRA --!

ZIRA, AS YOUR HUSBAND, I BEG YOU TO STAND UP --!
Zira... you'll give me grey hair before my time.

Grey hairs or not, one of these days I won't be coerced into compromising my principles.

What? Is that the house where the chimp lives...?

Guess so.

Because if we don't find friends here... don't even bother tethering the horse...

Silently, Nova leads Brent toward the adobe structure's entrance...

...and then freezes, as though hearing something...

What's wrong?
COME ON OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP--

WHO'S THERE?

--OR I'LL SHOOT TO KILL.

NEXT ISSUE: ENSLAVED!