Since last we spoke to you, a great many changes have swept across our nation (although a broma might have served us better). The agony of imprisonment was but a (hermit) avoided; the agony of the Nixon regime ended; and the agony of the Ford Administration began. While it is normally not a policy in editorial such matters, such grave national importance, we would just like to express our hope that moving wars which we have endured the governmental corruption, the sorrow of fallen men, or, for that matter, the heartbreak of passion, again. Not only will we no longer have Dick Nixon to kick around anymore, but we'll be spared from reading editorial like this one.

Pressing on to more urgent affairs, we think, we've lined up a not bad bad issue of THE MONSTER TIMES for you this time around. Continuing our policy of making TMT an open forum through which various famous fiends may express their views on such life-and-death issues as life and death, we're kicking off this issue with a moving tale of one monster's way—Gammera's CONFESSIONS OF A FLYING TURTLE. We hope his tale will serve as inspiration for the readers who have experienced trials of misunderstood monsters. And, it's also hoped, by reading Gammera's teary account, we can all avoid repeating the mistakes he made—though we all can fly, too, it can be revitalized, and still be capable of devouring Tokyo.

Also featured in this issue is an exclusive TMT interview with screenwriter-director Brian Clemens, whose avowed aim is to liberate the horror film. You'll find out why he thinks he's accomplished this task in his directorial debut, CAPTAIN KRONOS: VAMPIRE HUNTER, on page 9. We were also fortunate enough to get, just prior to going to press, the latest information on the PLANET TV series which can now tell you will DEFINITELY appear this Fall on CBS. You'll find all the details about the launching of this long-awaited series inside.

Also in this issue, Jason Thomas contributes the second and concluding chapter of his report on Robots In The Cinema, concentrating this time on Androids, Android Impersonators, Amiable Automation and Phony Robots. Response to the first of John Tibbetts' college lecture series has prompted us to run Part the Second, dealing with the sinister subject of horror literature. Also on awe are The Spectre, the Killer Shaggy, Gorilla, Frankenstein and his counterpart FLESH GORDON and other characters and creations unusual in nature. Add to this a whole bunch of TMT Film Contest entries and you get what you get by far the best issue of THE MONSTER TIMES this year in the last few weeks ... and all presented with admirable modesty.

In fact, we think it's our wonderful sense of humble modesty that helps to make us so fabulous and great.

TELL IT TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

While the controversy supposedly still rages over Jess Franco's COUNT DRACULA, especially his producers have built a test one on the public, COUNT DRACULA has not yet received comparable attention. Even at 11:50 a.m. on August 1st, it was very good and held my viewing interest as few shows can. I think I will put out a fine paper and wish you success in the future.

Mike Rutner

That is a strange turn of events. Mike, and the producers should have maintained theisters of "TMT" without exploring the question of the evening on the screen was in beautifully unpretentious.

Is that how you want to be remembered?"" TMT, anyone who is not familiar with the show, it is a show about the goings on behind the scenes of the "TMT" series, and it is broadcast on the public broadcast network. The show has been broadcast since 1989 and it is still going strong.

TELL IT TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

I was just thankful that you were able to come by and see me because I never thought you would ever come. It was very nice of you to come by and see me. I hope you enjoyed your visit.

The Monster Times

The New World's First Newspaper of Horror, Sci-Fi and Fantasy


MONSTER MAIL:

More mysterious missives, monstrous messages and notes of nefariously import from TMT readers round the globe.

CONFESSIONS OF A FLYING FIEND:

Another extraordinary creature, a prehistoric flying turtle, tells in his own words the agony and the ecstasy of his life, hard times and eventual rise to glory.

THE SPECTRE STRIKES AGAIN!

Spectre scholar Frank Verzyl traces the checkered history of Comicon's Etheral Avenger and celebrates his recent resurrection in National Comics.

HORROR OF THE RETURN OF THE LIVING MONSTER!مسلب

Interview: Portion of a long-lost TMT feature, bringing you up to date on the extracurricular activities of all kinds creatures.

June 1978

BRIAN CLEMENS & CAPT. KRONOS & FRANKENSTEIN & THE MONSTER FROM HELL!

TMT reporter considers the possibilities of this fearsome foursome as he interviews Brian Clemens, director of CAPTAIN KRONOS: VAMPIRE HUNTER, a new fright film.

PREVIEW OF THE PLANET OF THE APEs:

This extraordinary preview of "Planet of the Apes" and CBS has 'em. R. Allen Leider has all the relevant info about the PLANET OF THE APES transformation into a Fall teleseies.

THE KILLER SHREWS BLUES!

That's what our TMT Editor comes down with a bad case of when he takes a less than fond look backward at one of the very worst fright films ever made.

RETURN OF THE ROBOTS OR THE ROBOTS' RETURN!

Jason Thomas brings us the second and concluding chapter of his report on Robots In The Cinema, concentrating this time on Androids, Android Impersonators, Amiable Automation and Phony Robots.

GOTHIC HORROR OR FLY, MAIDEN, FLY:

John Tibbetts reviews some of literature's and moviedom's eerier examples of Gothic grotesque in the Portion of the Second of our TMT Lecture Series of the Air.

TERRORS OF THE TELETYPE:

TMT's nefarious news pages preview upcoming and review recent items from the weird worlds of film, books and even toys.

FLASH V.S. FLESH:

TMT scribes Kane and Thomas compare and contrast FLASH Gordon of the '30s and FLESH GORDON of the '70s, two views of Alex Raymond's handsome hero.

BIRTH TERROR TOUR!

Creature correspondent Geoff Oldham escorts you on a brief but hair-raising tour of some of England's oldest locales with exclusive TMT photos, yet

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All those rumors you've been hearing...in THE MONSTER TIMES especially...about the PLANET OF THE APES becoming a television series have turned up true after all.
The show, though it won't be identical to the films, will definitely be running this Fall on Friday nights on CBS. Here with the full & complete (so far) story of the tube transformation of the PLANET OF THE APES is TMT Media Editor R. Allen Leider, who ran up huge phone bills tracking down this info (and for which we plan to deal with him later).

At long last, THE PLANET OF THE APES has become a TV series reality as CBS and Twentieth Century Fox have collaborated to bring the simian sagas to the home screen. The plot, however, has been altered to accommodate two astronaut characters, and a few other changes have also been initiated.

First, in the TV version, hero Roddy McDowall's name will be Galen, not Caesar as in the movies. Secondly, his friend are two astronauts played by Ron Harper (GARRISON'S GORILLAS) and James Naughton (PAPER CHASE).

Harper and Naughton were signed after APES' film hero James Franciscus turned down the series. Booth Colman will play Zaius, the simian philosopher-egghead. Mark Lenard, who's played everything from Rin-tin commanders to Mr. Spock's father in the STAR TREK series, will be Ursus, the gorilla general. To date, there is no female chimpanzee lead.

"GREETINGS FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES.
The publishers of The Monster Times have been persuaded by some of our soldier apes to allow me, Dr. Zaius, the opportunity to advise you: Ape-Prop is a safe new movie to watch with your Ape-kins, and increase your Ape-Know-how. So, just don't sit there like a human... DO APE!!

"APE" POSTER NEW!!!
"PLANET OF THE APES" GOES BANANAS!!!

GHASTLY GIGGLES
APES GO BANANAS

GHASTLY GIGGLES
APES GO BANANAS

FIND THE MAGIC OF THE APES "APE" POSTER
A spectacular poster painting of the scene from TMT #23. $1.00 plus 50c.

GREAT "APE" POSTER
"APE" POSTER
A DANCE OF THE APES
APES INVADE
The series will deal with the events that upset the futuristic ape society when two astronauts, displaced in time during a space flight, land in the midst of ApeTown. The show is not only entertaining and of much philosophical material and moral message, but it gives the CIBS a chance to break the audience's records. It is entirely possible that they may have learned a lesson from TAVATA and that PLANET OF THE APES may have some meat (or banana, at least) on its bones, though it's also possible that the show will be aimed at pre-teens with messages right out of the YMCA youth club manual.

As Gene Roddenberry has pointed out (SHOW Magazine, June 1973), "Message programs frighten networks because they're in the position of not wanting to offend anybody. Their main reason for existing is to sell toothpaste." (Lever Bros., sponsors most of the APES series.) "The more you deal with real ideas," Roddenberry went on, "the greater your chance of scaring off your audience and prospective toothpaste buyers. Network types really aren't bad, though, they just don't understand science-fiction. They live to sell things."

Keeping Gene Roddenberry's observations in mind, we can do little but hope that CIBS will keep the spirit and the message aspects of the APES in mind when script approval time comes up. No writers have been announced as yet. It would be a crime to see PLANET OF THE APES turn into J. FRED MUGGS MEETS THE SPACEMEN.

RODDY DONS SIMIAN GARB

If the series does survive, it will be partially due to a name--Roddy McDowall. Roddy must go to sleep counting bananas falling from a tree after his starring role in the 5 Apes. It's a great role for Roddy McDowall to take on. The APES idea excites me," McDowall says. "It's like looking at the world in a different way, and seeing things you never saw before. The way the series is being handled is good too, and a good series in a sense. I've been in some that proved to be a bit embarrassing. Acting is very hard work, long hours of learning a lot of things, and it's all I like and I've kept in there when the going gets tough.

The going gets rough for everyone when the rite to make-up comes each day. The make-ups take about three hours a piece, less time than the film make-ups, but just as uncomfortable for the actors. The pieces are laid on of fatty latex and fit the contours of the face to permit talking and almost normal movement of the facial muscles. If, however, there is even the slightest mis-alignment of the pieces, then the actor experiences more than his share of grief. The ears can become downright painful if not centered properly and a nose not in place causes great difficulty in talking. Forget eating. It's a great way to lose weight. You can only cut liquids because showing causes the make-up to crack and loosen. Hot liquids also cause make-up deterioration. Roddy McDowall already suffered from a cyst caused by a too-tight simian wig and, for that reason, has had his face insured for $100,000 for the duration of the series.

The PLANET OF THE APES series is speculated to be one of the best and possibly longest-running series in recent times. It is not up against any similar programs on competing networks in the time slot, Fridays at 8:00 P.M. EDT. The merchandising angles are already being figured by almost every toy manufacturer in the country who knows a good thing when he sees it.

TOYING WITH APES

Mego Corp. pulled some strings and obtained a license to produce PLANET OF THE APES 8-inch action figures of Zira, Cornelius, Zaius, Urrus and an astronaut. To round out the play hours, Mego has also designed an Ape Village and an Ape treehouse as settings for the figures. Accessories include cages for the astronauts, weapons and a mechanism-walking horse for the soldiers to hunt down the humans. All in all, it's quite a show.

If action dolls aren't your bag, then there are other ape delights. Try the PLANET OF THE APES game, or the PLANET OF THE APES jigsaw puzzle. What about a PLANET OF THE APES watergun for next summer? Or a PLANET OF THE APES parachutist? Just throw Cornelius into the air off the roof and watch him float to earth! There is also a motorcyclist Cornelius with an action motor.

SIMIAN INFORMATION & TRUE APE FACTS...

Since the saga of the PLANET OF THE APES series is not likely to end the fall was still developing as we went to press, we decided to add whatever info we could about the show and the new herd of ape actors which are populating it. We've here more on the simian series next time, but the following PLANET OF THE APES fact sheet should provide enough relevant info to hold us all till next we convene.

• PLANET OF THE APES will occupy the 8:00 to 9:00 time slot on Friday nights during the 1974-75 season. CBS was so confident of the series' success that they didn't bother producing a pilot film to gage audience reaction before scheduling the show.

• The basic plot of the series will be the pursuit by Ape forces of a pair of astronauts, Alan Virdon and Pete Burke, who slip through a time warp and return to an Earth 2000 years in the future, an Earth ruled by Apes.

• Humans are considered inferior to the Apes and, though some of them possess the powers of speech and reason, work as servants, laborers, lower echelons in CIBS. The Apes establishment fears that the astronauts, if caught and confined, will spread the word that humans once ruled the planet and thereby ignite a violent revolution.

• The astronauts are played by Ron Harper and Charles Naughton (Burke). Harper's previous credits include roles in the TV series DEE DEE and GILLIGAN'S ISLAND. Naughton has many films and TV shows to his credit and garnered honors on the Broadway stage playing Edmund in Eugene O'Neill's A LONG DAYS JOURNEY INTO NIGHT.

• In addition to Roddy McDowall, scientists, astronauts and Apes will be played by the other important ape roles. Colman涛is to be cast again as the Broadway stage as well as TV and films and is best remembered for his theatrical work in HM HERTZ and ANDERSONVILLE. Professor George, co-star in THE HERE COME THE BRIDES series and has also done a guest role in the recent THE SHADOW TV series, will also be a member of the cast.

• Chief makeup man on the APES series is Fred delValle, who handles the work of a team of 12 makeup technicians. The APE makeups take three hours to apply.
SF&F

SF&F is TMT’s general, all-purpose, miracle science fiction column, bringing you a variety of reports from the world of sci-fi by a crack team of experts. Books, films, comics, magazines, television, radio and even real life will be amply covered by the likes of R. Allen Leider, Ed Summer and a whole host of guest typewriter titans whose sole aim in this or any other world is to get the latest sci-fi news to you.

A LOOK AT NEW TOYS 8 INCH ACTION FIGURES

They don’t make toys like they used to, and thank goodness for that! They never had things like action figures when this toy freak was a kid. Toys have kept up with technological advances and the newest toys even go so far as to incorporate the most sophisticated electronics into their creation. However, many toy firms stick to the belief that the toy that

makes up. The Dracula bears a better resemblance to Lugosi than the Mego vampire, but the Wolfman is nondescript and bears little, if any, resemblance to Larry Talbot. The most unique item in the collection, though, is the Creature from the Black Lagoon—well-modeled and painstakingly painted. The Mummy is also well made and wrapped in bandages instead of dressed in a suit. A-H tells me they also plan to produce a King Kong figure soon.

A note on clothing: The Mego figures are dressed in knit cotton tights and two-piece outfits that fasten with snaps and stretch and bend with the figure. Azrak’s figures are dressed (except for the Creature) in coarse, cotton muslin clothes that do not bend as freely, tend to bunch up and look like they came from a Goodwill bag. The Mummy’s bandages have a tendency to slip apart and he has to be re-wrapped after prolonged periods of bending.

Azrak-Hamway also provides other monster goodies—monster waterguns, wiggle monsters to hang from the ceiling, Planet of the Apes motorcyclists, and Star Trek parachutists. They also make an unlicensed line of Ape soldier figures which in no way resemble the Planet of the Apes characters. They come dressed in military garb with boots and rifles and sell for a bit less than the Mego line.

Want more? There also is a line of Mego cartoon and comic book heroes and villains—Batman, Captain Marvel, Spiderman, Robin and others. Match them with the Joker, Penguin, Mr. Mysphlyx, Riddler and you can have hours of fun. All are well modeled with authentic knit costumes and accessories (gloves, etc.).

Azrak produces Batman and Robin cyclists and parachutists, with more on the way. Watch SF&F for more toy news in the future.