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FORBIDDEN WORLDS

presents

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

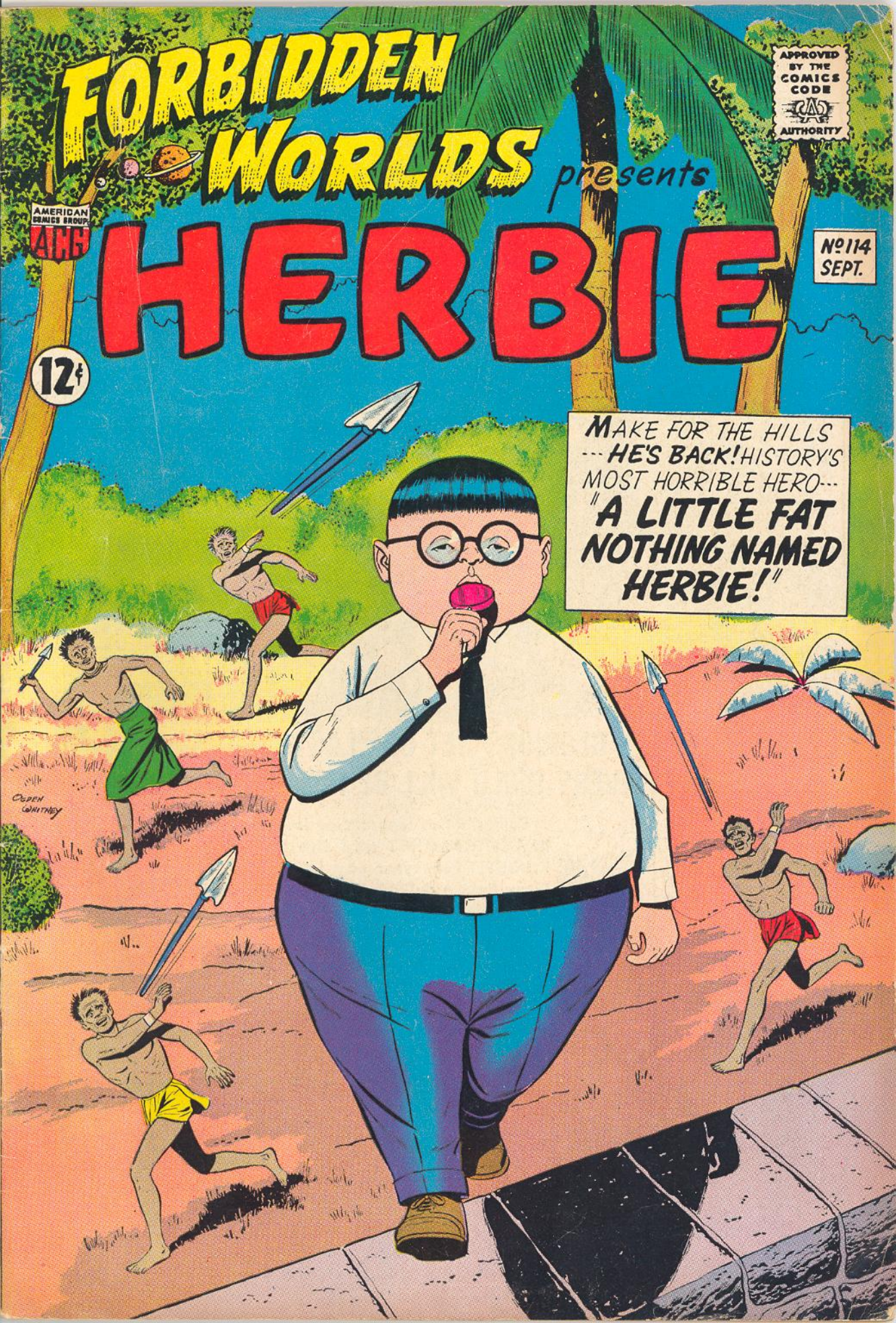
AMERICAN
COMICS GROUP
AUG

No 114
SEPT.

12¢

HERBIE

MAKE FOR THE HILLS
--- HE'S BACK! HISTORY'S
MOST HORRIBLE HERO ---
"A LITTLE FAT
NOTHING NAMED
HERBIE!"

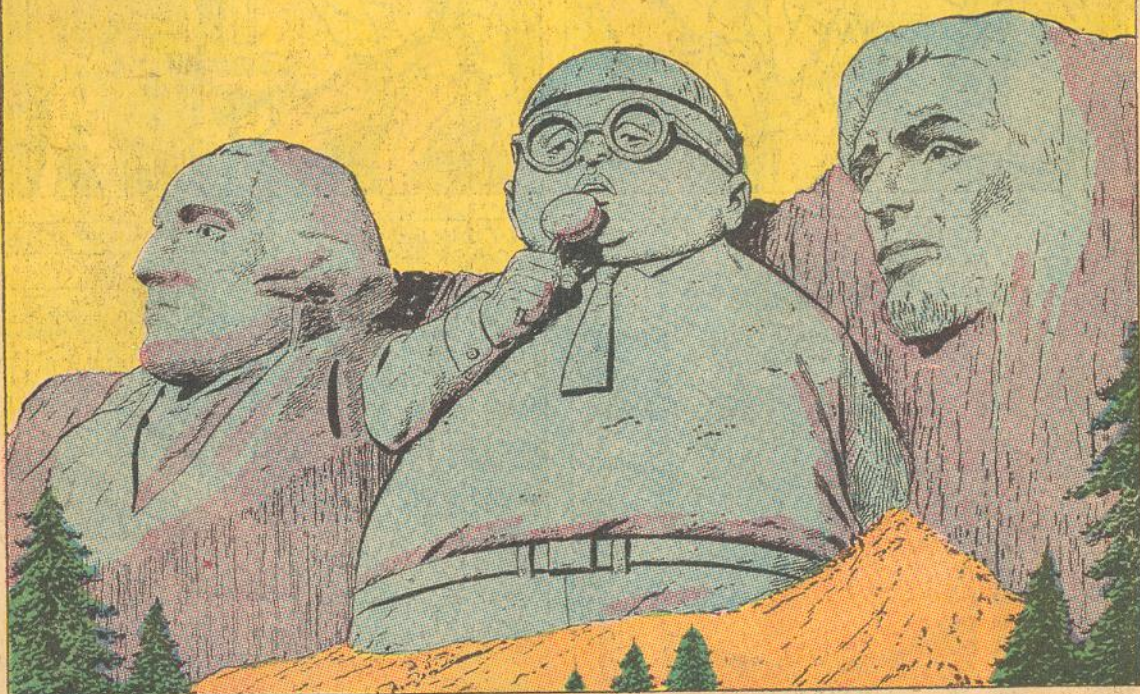


ODEN
WHITNEY

HISTORY TELLS US THAT GREAT EMERGENCIES CREATE GREAT HEROES. HERE'S THE STORY OF THE GREATEST HERO OF THEM ALL. A LITTLE DIFFERENT, MAYBE, BUT VERY GREAT. WHO? NOBODY ELSE BUT YOUR FRIEND AND MINE---

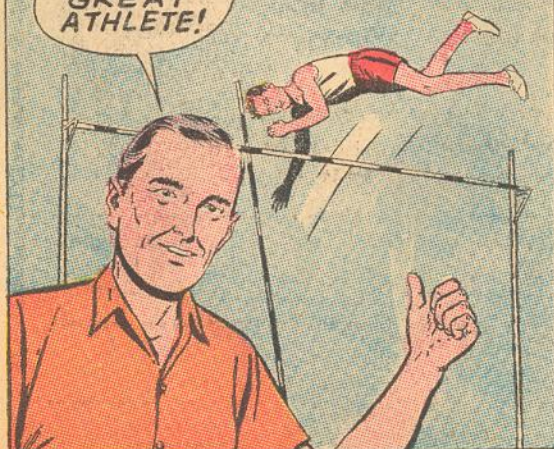
A LITTLE FAT NOTHING NAMED HERBIE!

STORY:- SHANE O'SHEA
ART:- OGDEN WHITNEY

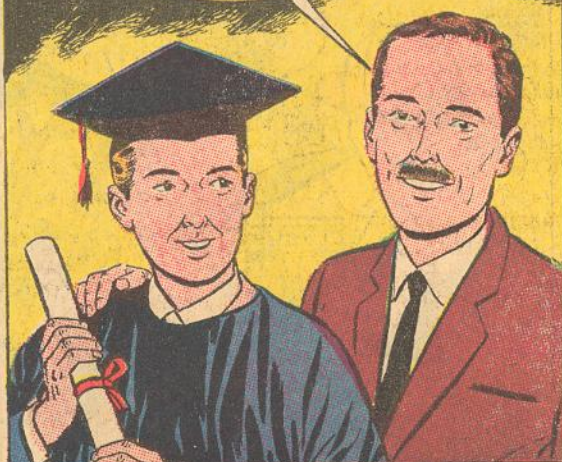


PARENTS OF AMERICA! DO YOU KNOW YOUR OFFSPRING?

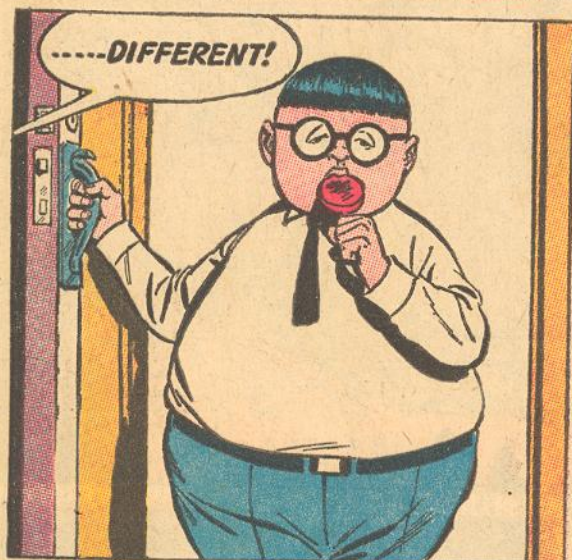
I SURE DO!
MY BOY'S A
GREAT
ATHLETE!

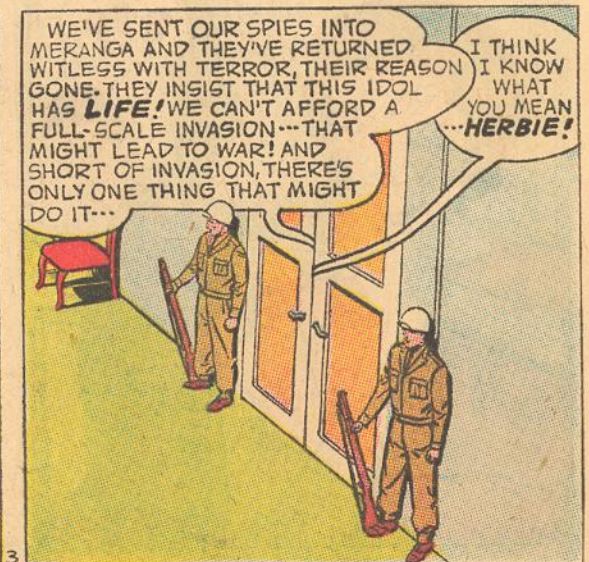
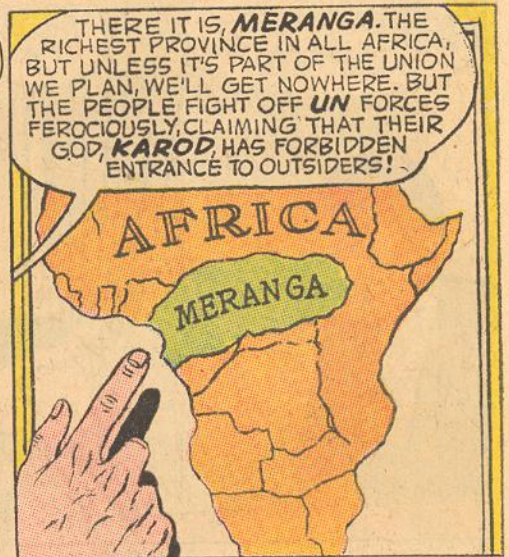
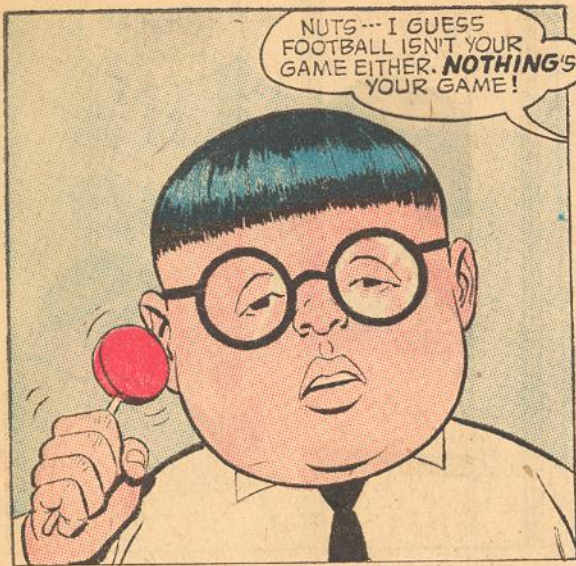


AND MY BOY'S
A GREAT
SCHOLAR!

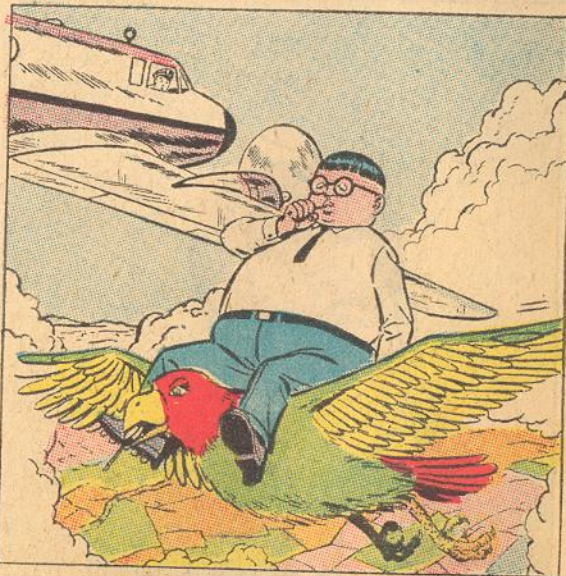
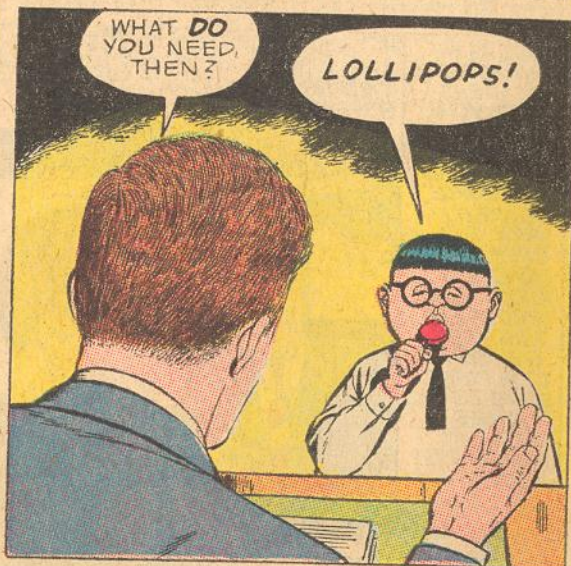
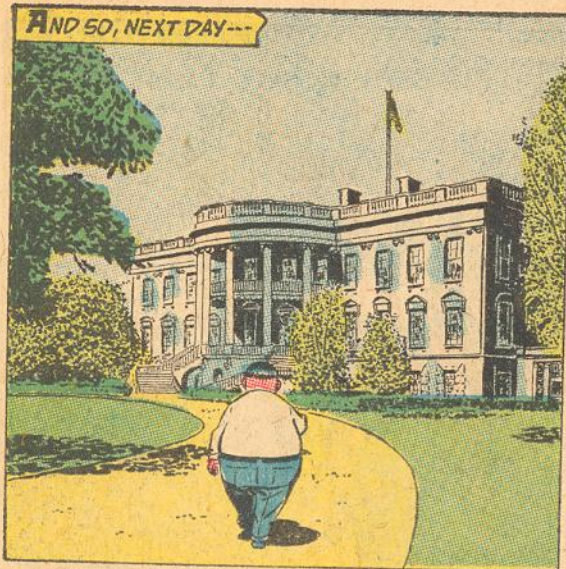


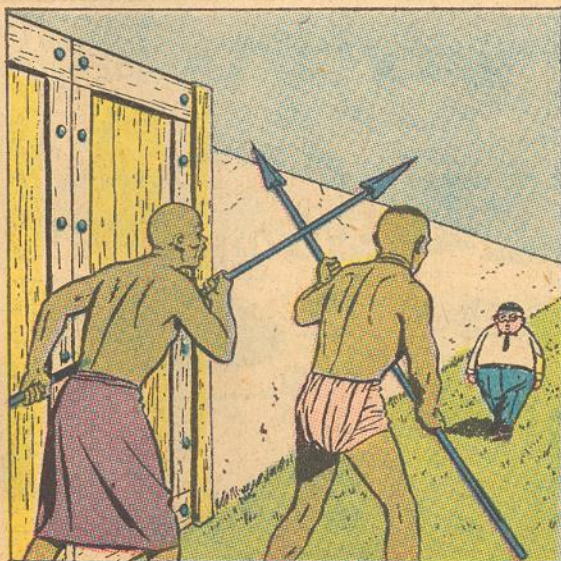
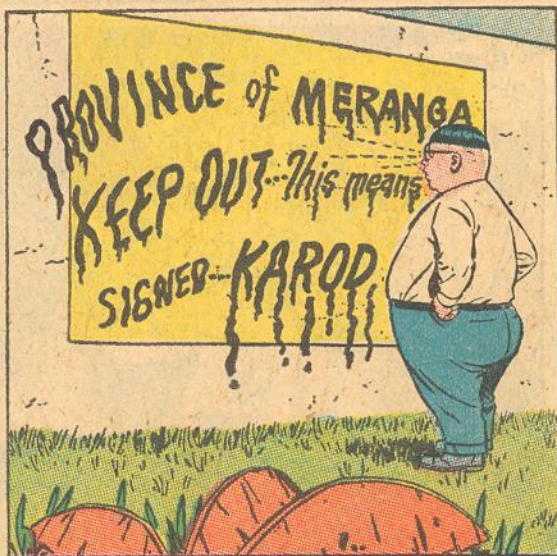
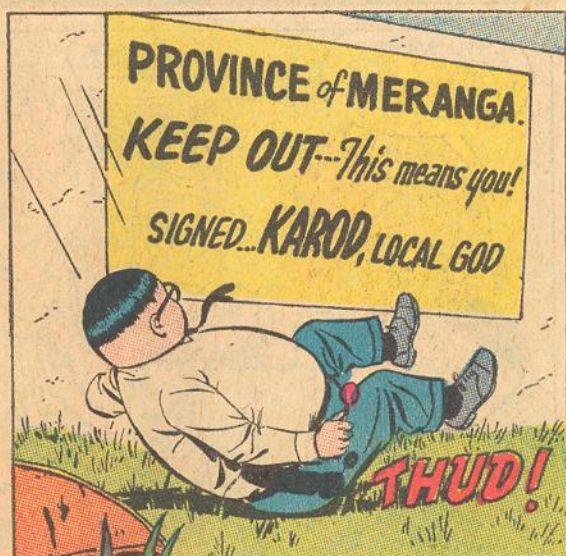
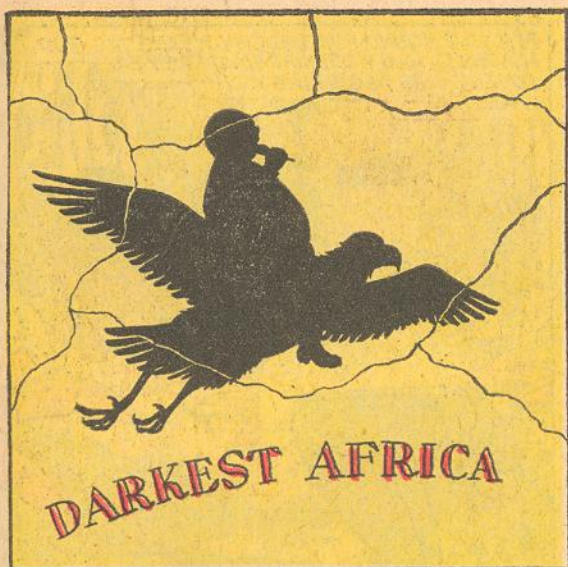
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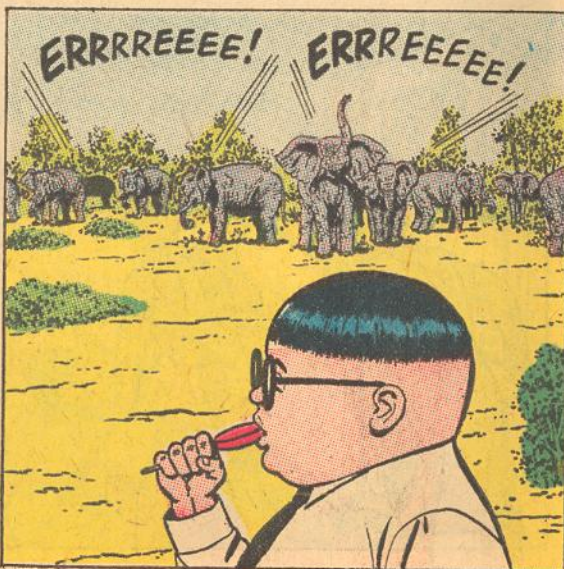


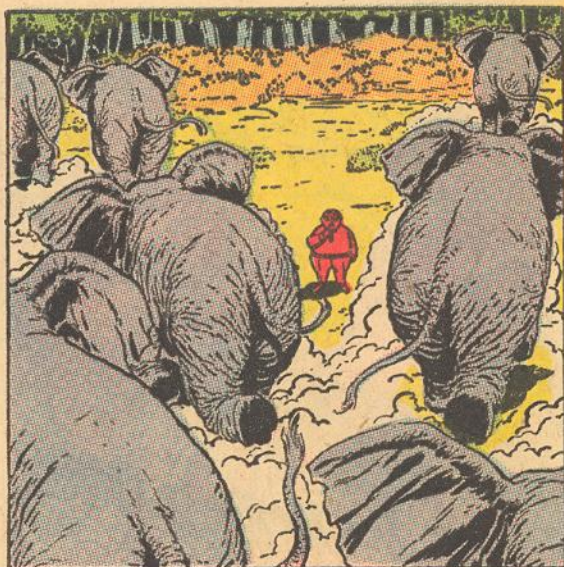


AND SO, NEXT DAY---

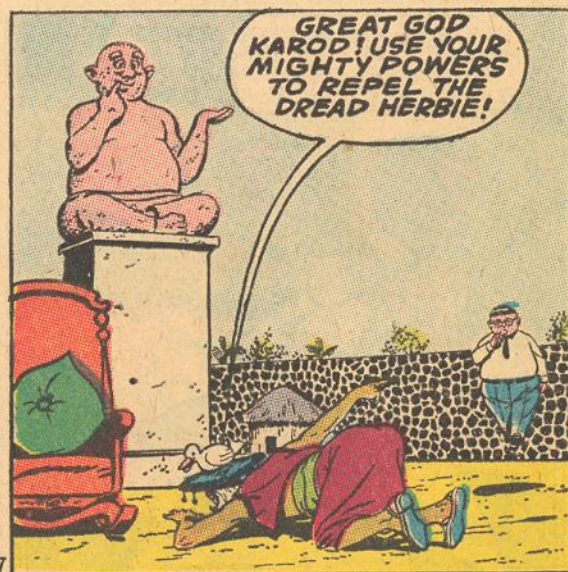
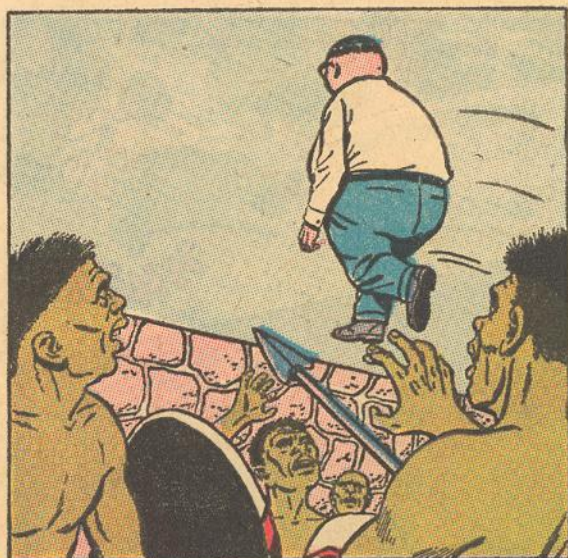


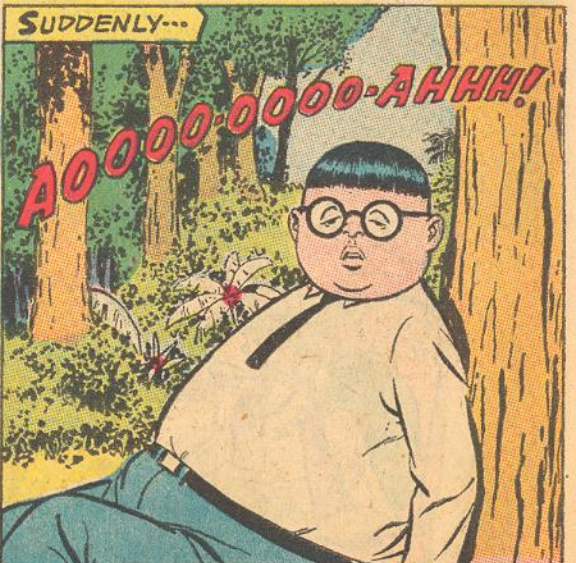
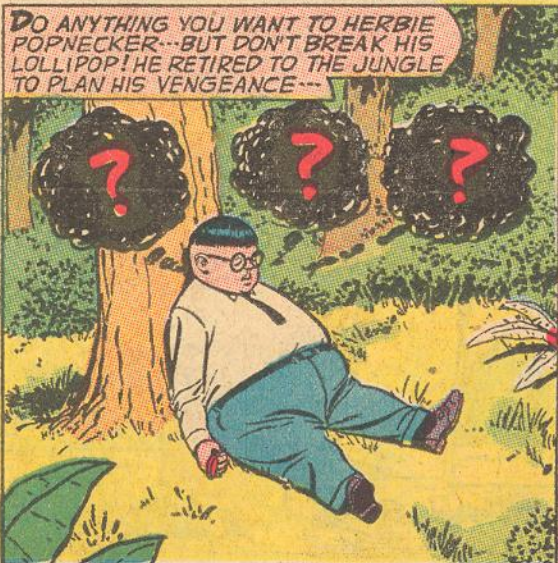
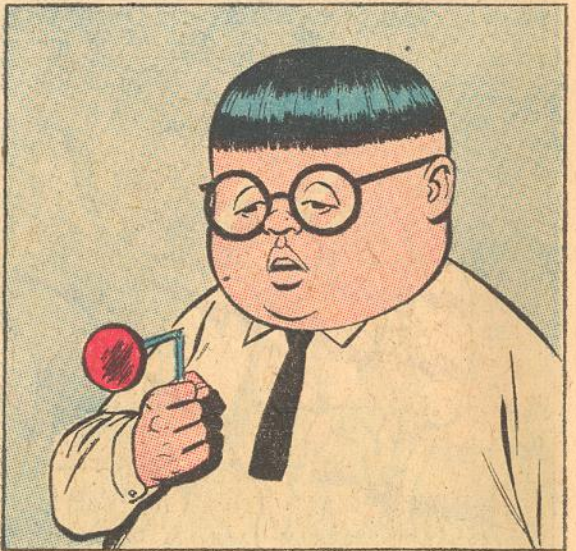
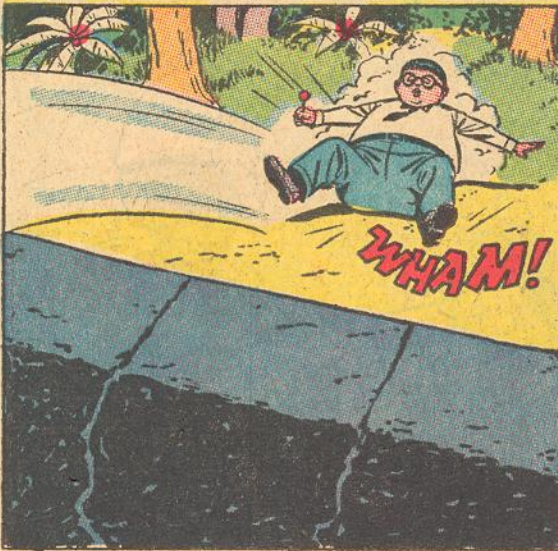
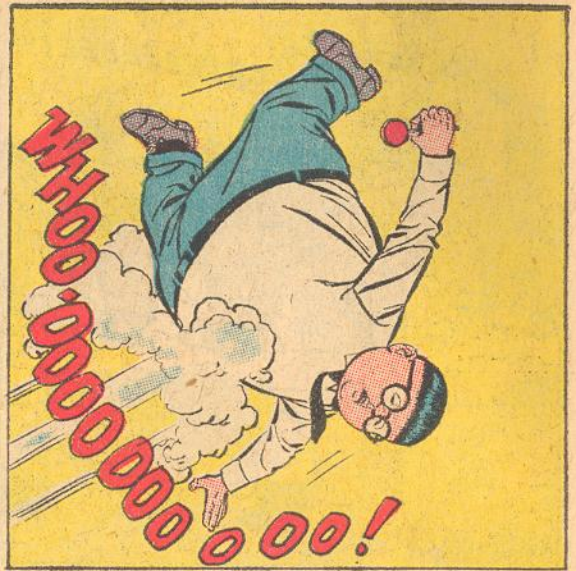
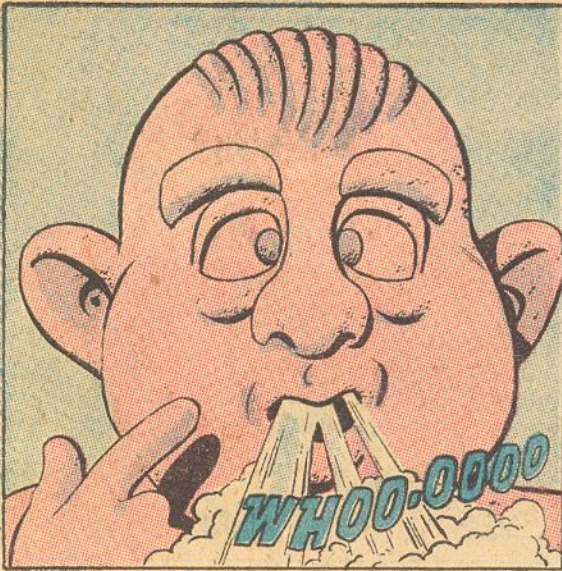




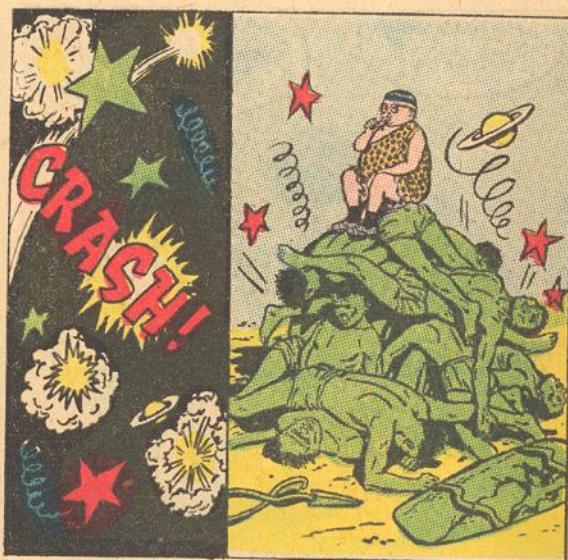
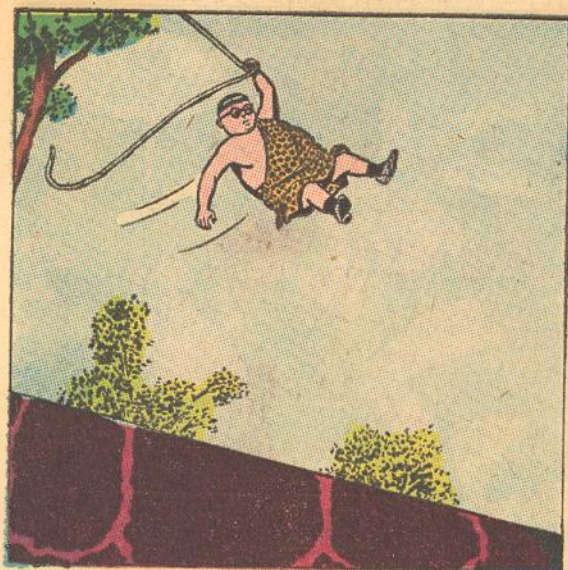


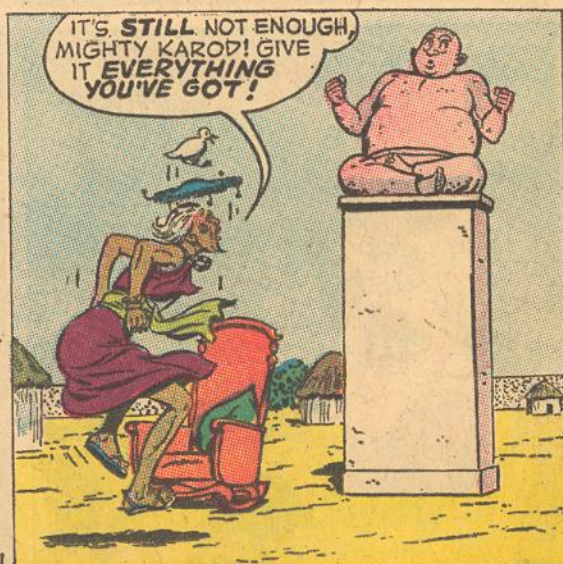
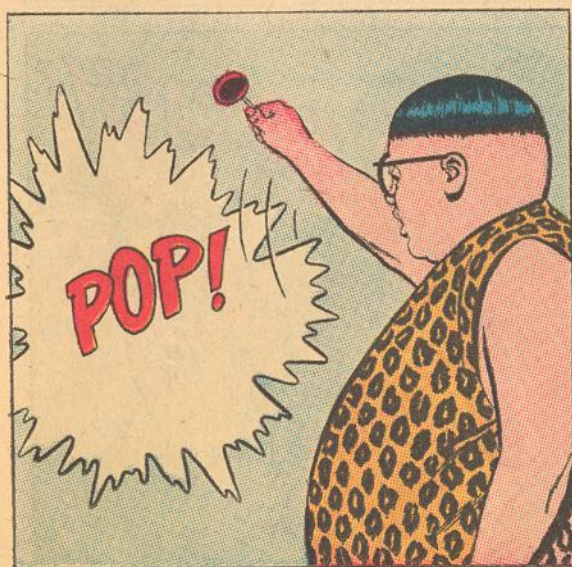
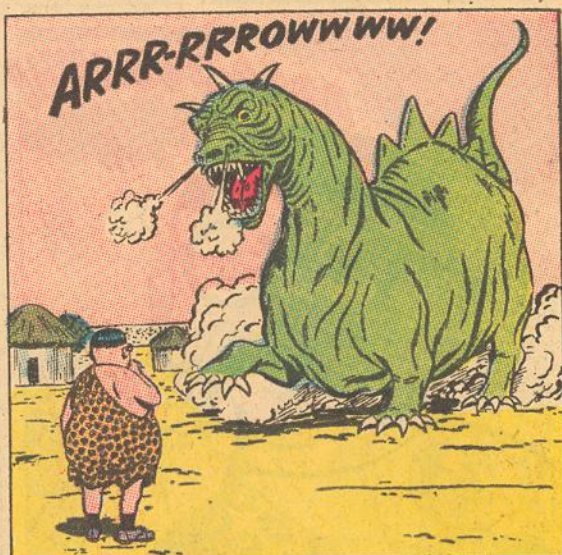
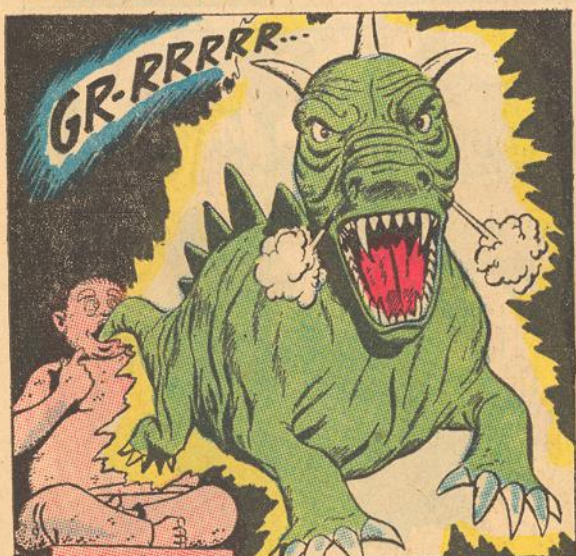
WHEN HE REACHED **KAROD'S CITY**, WORD OF HIS COMING HAD PRECEDED HIM. THE DEFENDERS WERE OUT IN FORCE---



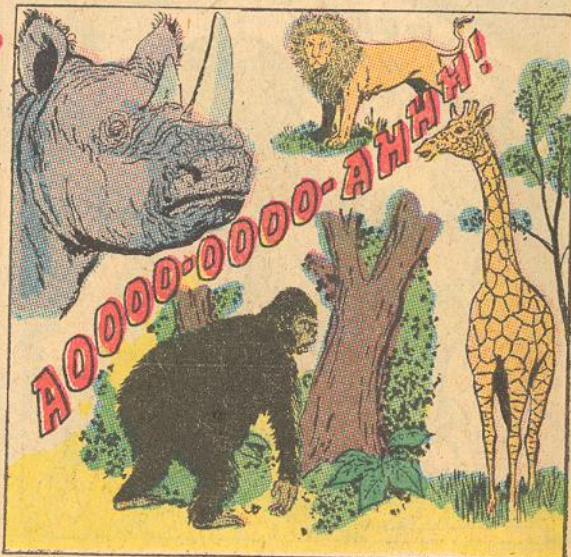
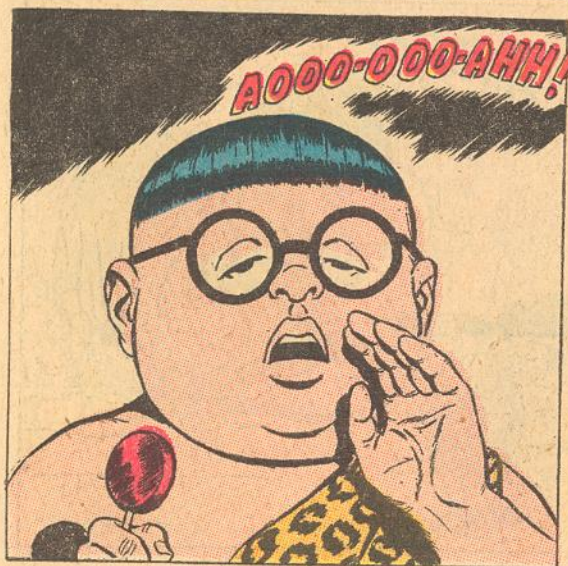








**NOW THE TERRIBLE IDOL PLAYED ITS TRUMP CARD—
A HOST OF PHANTOMS FROM THE BEYOND!**



WE'RE ALL PRETTY SCARED OF THE SUPERNATURAL---RIGHT, READERS?
BUT WITH THE ANIMALS OF THE JUNGLE, IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND---

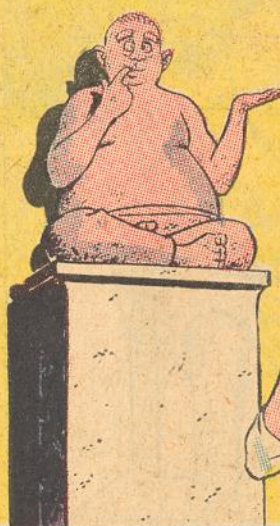


LATER---BACK IN AMERICA---

OH, IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL---
DOESN'T IT DO THINGS FOR THE EAST ROOM?
JUST LOOK AT IT!



PERHAPS AN ASH TRAY IN HIS HAND--?



I WON'T TOLERATE IT! I WON'T STAND FOR IT!

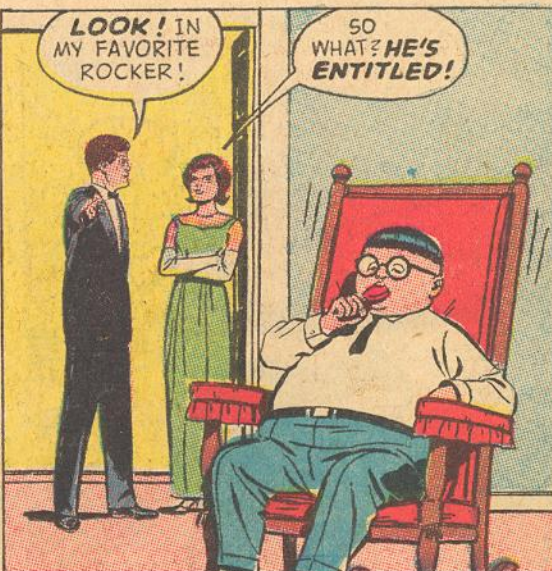
SOMETHING, PREZ?

COME WITH ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU!



LOOK! IN MY FAVORITE ROCKER!

SO WHAT? HE'S ENTITLED!



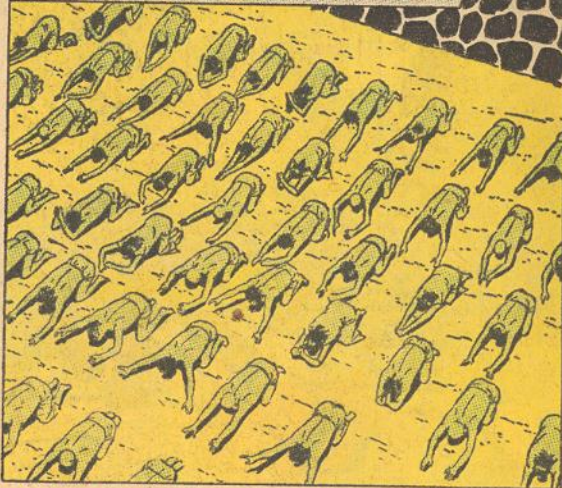
OH, WELL. SEE WHAT COMES OF HERBIE HAVING A PRIVATE LIFE?

OTHER MEN HAVE SONS THEY CAN BE PROUD OF, BOYS WHO DO SOMETHING ... BUT WHAT HAVE WE GOT? A LITTLE FAT NOTHING WHO DOES NOTHING...

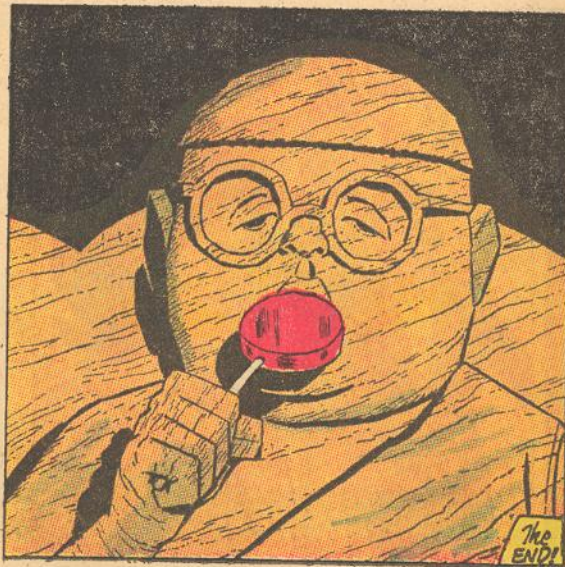
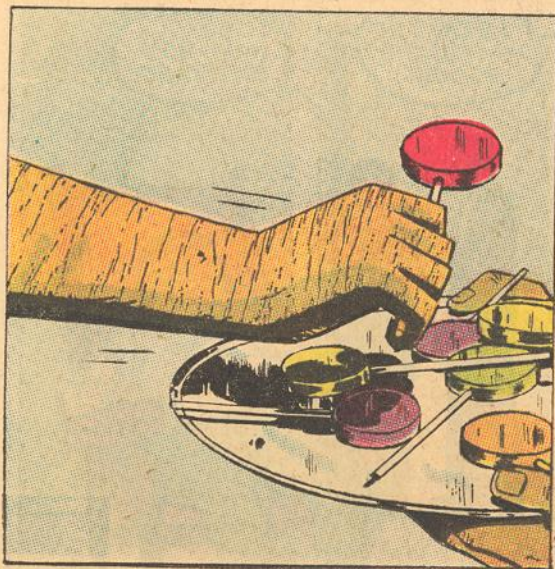
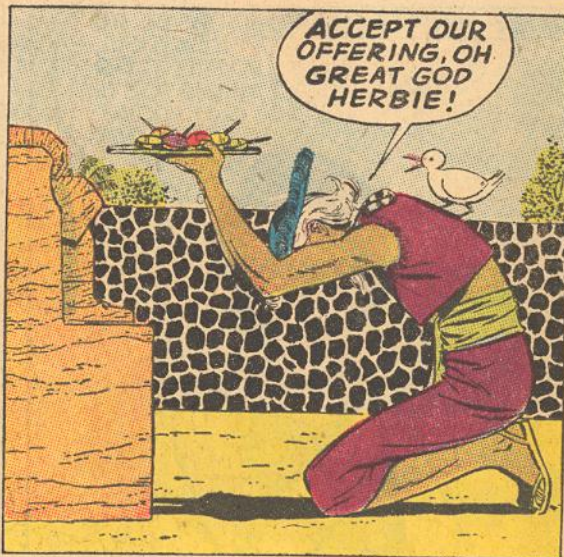
PLEASE, DAD ... YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE!



BUT IN FAROFF AFRICA, THE PEOPLE OF MERANGA ARE BUSY WORSHIPPING FOR ALL THEY'RE WORTH. BUT WHAT IDOL, NOW THAT KAROD IS GONE...?



ACCEPT OUR OFFERING, OH GREAT GOD HERBIE!



The End!

From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

What can we say, readers—except that he's in again! We refer, of course, to the one and only Herbie Popnecker, the Great Man who's taking America by storm. Actually, his presence in this issue is a surprise to us. He walked down out of the sky and into our office, brushed a bit of stardust from his lollipop and said "I'm in". We tried to point out that the issue was closed and there wasn't any room for a little fat monster. But you don't say no to Herbie—not if you value your health. So here he is again, and it begins to look as if his appearances in "Forbidden Worlds" are going to become more frequent. And you'd better be glad of it, or else run the risk of a lollipop lambasting. Are you glad of it? Let us know, please, because we're going to arrange the frequency of Herbie's appearances in our magazine to the wishes of our fans. Send your letter to The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds", 331 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N.Y. To learn the reception called forth by his last visit to us, see some of the following letters!

"Dear Editor:-

I was surprised (and delighted) to find that the super-lollipop-wielding fat little kid, Herbie Popnecker, was back in 'Forbidden Worlds'. This kid must indeed be supernatural, for he has an influence over me that is hard to explain. Since his first story, I've been a fan of his. This kind of thing embarrasses me because I usually read only respectable science fiction comics, such as 'Forbidden Worlds'—and leave us face it, Herbie is nothing but soap box opera. Not that I'm knocking Herbie, now—I get a kick out of the thought of a fat little kid that wears glasses and goes around sucking on a lollipop that can scare the dickens out of nearly everyone and put a hex on the rest. I only hope we will hear more of the indestructible Herbie. And if we do—Superman beware!

—James H. Palmer, 6518 Belcrest,
Houston 17, Texas."

James, we get exactly the same kick out of Herbie that you do. In addition, we have to confess that we're just a little bit scared of him. It wouldn't pay to incur his displeasure, so we tread lightly whenever we're near him. And by the way—we love every inch of his fat little carcass!

"Dear Editor:-

I'm writing to tell you how much I have enjoyed 'Forbidden Worlds'. And the part of it I like best is Herbie. I would like to know if you can tell me how he got started. Where does he get his fantastic powers to talk to

animals and walk high in space without being killed? How is he able to talk to demons, witches, hobgoblins and ghosts? But whatever you do, keep up with Herbie—he's a really great comic star. I wish you could have a whole comics book devoted to the little guy. Tell him for me to keep up the great work!

—Terry Byrne, 1934 Lake Avenue,
Pueblo, Col."

How did Herbie get started? Sometimes we think he was always there, because a world without Herbie is really no world at all. Our first knowledge of him came when, without so much as a by-your-leave, he walked into our pages. About the source of his fantastic powers—Terry, you just don't butt into Herbie Popnecker's private business. You ask him, we haven't got the guts. Does he ask whom you talk to or how you walk?

"Dear Editor:-

I'm writing mainly to praise Herbie Popnecker. I really enjoyed his adventures in issue No. 110 of 'Forbidden Worlds'. I really like little Herbie, and as far as your comic book goes, it is not only interesting but fascinating! My husband—yes, I'm married—enjoys it too. I'm a nut about weird and out-of-this-world comics, plus mystery stories, and I found all these in 'Forbidden Worlds'. I was sorry to read that Paul Gambaccini of Westport, Connecticut, doesn't like your magazine. He was very childish in his letter to you, but this makes no difference—you have enough fans to make up for him. Keep up the fabulous work! Before I close, I would like to say that our landlady also enjoys looking at Herbie's picture. You see, she's German and doesn't read English, but Herbie's wonderful pictures got a thorough going over. Much luck and best wishes!

—Ann McGinnis, Erlangen,
Germany."

Herbie seems to be everybody's sweetheart, Ann. You must admit that he's cute—in a repulsive sort of fashion! It was nice hearing from you.

"Dear Editor:-

Usually, I write to you and comment on each issue. But this time, I'm going to be different. Firstly, I would like to know if when 'Forbidden Worlds' and 'Adventures Into The Unknown' reach their 200th issues, they will have an all star issue like the ones they had when they reached their 100th. I know it's a long way off, but I can't help being curious. Again, I would like you to print the names of the top 20 stories ever

published in all the ACG comics, in your opinion. Just for fun, I have listed mine, to see how they would compare with yours: 'Delinquent In Outer Space', 'A Highly Localized Snowfall', 'Return To Karonia', 'Three Eyes Look Earthward', 'Heavenly Heavyweight', 'Welcome To Xenon', 'My Friend Jinks', 'There's A New Moon Tonight', 'Howee-eeee', 'Spacemen Against The Supernatural', 'So Long, Fellas', 'Come Back, Cynthia', 'The Danger From Below', 'The Train From Beyond', 'Frontier In The Stars', 'Ghost Of A Chance', 'Judas Goat'. For the last three, I have put what I think are the three best short stories ever published in ACG's line of comics—'Born To Be A Grocer', 'Out Of Nowhere', 'You'll Never Believe Me'. Sincerely—

—John Page, 5933 E. Elkport St.,
Lakewood, California

Yes, John, we'll publish special anniversary all-star issues to mark the 200th issues of both these magazines. Your list of all-time favorites is an excellent one. We agree with you on 9 out of the 20 you cite. Our list probably includes several oldies that you never had a chance to read. For what it's worth here it is: 'Heavenly Heavyweight', 'So Long, Fellas', 'Come Back, Cynthia', 'Born To Be A Grocer', 'My Friend Jinks', 'Judas Goat', 'Bravest Man In The World', 'Ghost Of A Chance', 'The Machine Named Spotty', 'Herbie And The Sneddiger's Salad Oil', 'The Many Lives Of Mark Martin', 'The Spencer Special', 'Ship Without A Helmsman', 'Pipe Dream', 'There's A New Moon Tonight', 'The Head Man', 'Herbie's Quiet Saturday Afternoon', 'Delinquent In Outer Space', 'The Train From Beyond', 'Back To Yesterday'.

"Dear Editor:—

'Forbidden Worlds' No. 110 had the best fantasy cover I've seen in some time, so naturally I looked for the name Schaffenberg written along the edge of the crystal ball. I'm still looking, with no success. By this time, I'm not even sure if Schaffenberg really drew this cover at all. Please, give the artist the credit he deserves. The artwork wasn't the only thing good about the March cover. 'He's back, folks!' was all the news I needed to know that this was going to be one good comic. Quickly passing over 'Funny Fish', where the bully-hero plot seemed to force stereotyped characterization, and 'Ghost Vessel', which was good enough if you like ghost stories, which I don't, I turned to 'Herbie And The Sneddiger's Salad Oil' and found that it lived up to my expectations in every way. It is the best Herbie story yet, the best story that FW ever published, and if you think I'm just flattering you so you won't call me a crank, I've stuck my neck out and nominated 'Herbie' as the 'Character Most Deserving More Frequent Appearance' in the Alley Awards. Shane O'Shea and Ogden Whitney are unchallenged as your best artist-writer team, but all too

often they produce stories to make you cry, which is a hard type of story to put over to a reader who constantly reads of incredible heroics and unspeakable villainy in other publications. It's nice to see Herbie stick his lollipop in every now and then and remind us that they also have a fine sense of humor. I hope that in the promised story featuring your artists and writers as characters, Herbie is the cause of it all. Other comics have put their writers into the story, but usually they play a small part, rather like Alfred Hitchcock playing bit roles in all of his movies. In your story, how about Herbie showing up and sending you guys out on errands the way he does his pet Frankenstein monster. I'd like to see Ye Ed dropped into a situation such as some of your heroes face! Since Shane O'Shea will be writing the story, he can land himself a good, ultra-heroic role, but you will just have to do what you can with whatever comes along. P.S.: It may surprise you to learn that Paul Gambaccini isn't a crank. To other editors, he writes complimentary letters. Why is it that such readers are not satisfied with your efforts? Maybe you just aren't good enough. Even so, they have no cause to be impolite about telling you so. A more likely explanation has to do with willing suspension of disbelief. In order to read science fiction, a person has to accept plots more unusual than those found in other branches of literature. If he is not willing to suspend his prejudices, he will never like the stuff. By the same token, a person who has come to like a certain type of science fiction will be dissatisfied with any other type. What makes me wonder is how a person who can't realize that both action and human interest have their place in S.F. came to be a fan of fantasy in the first place!

—Rick Wood, Bellingrath,
Southwestern Memphis 12, Tenn."

A long letter, Rick...but filled with such excellent meat that we felt impelled to publish every word of it. Let's start with the revelation that the cover on issue No. 110 wasn't done by Kurt Schaffenberg, but was an Ogden Whitney product. We admit that you were right concerning characterization in "Funny Fish"—it was on the stereotyped side. We're not apologizing for this. You see, there are certain types of plots which demand a set type of character to go with them. And since there's nothing different about the character, we have to try to make the plot and action just as good as possible to make up for it. We hope we did so in this case. About a story involving our people here as characters—we published just such an effort in our "Adventures Into The Unknown" No. 140 April-May issue which should go on sale shortly. It's called "You'll Sleep As If You Were Dead", and features Shane O'Shea in a subsidiary role and Ye Editor as hero!