

DELL COMICS
A DELL COMIC

TOM CORBETT

NO. 421

10¢

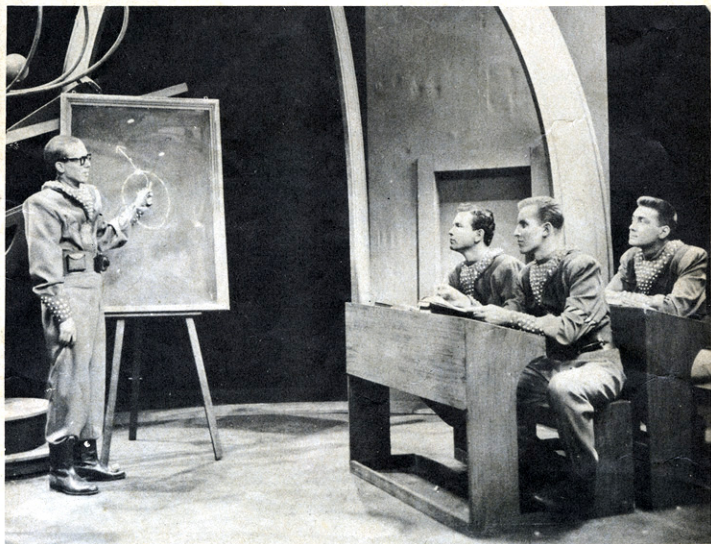
SPACE CADET

421



SPACE ACADEMY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PLANETS!



Every Space Cadet is on duty 24 hours a day. His time is divided between practicing space flights, physical training and the classroom. Here, Cadet Alfie Higgins reports on his studies on the gravitational pull on the planets. His class—Cadets Tom Corbett, Roger Manning and Astro listen carefully, quick to catch any errors. Space Cadets study together and try to help each other as much as possible.

TOM CORBETT

SPACE CADET

IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SPACE ACADEMY, COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT BRIEFS CAPTAIN STRONG AND HIS SQUAD OF SPACE CADETS...

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW LONG AND DANGEROUS A VOYAGE TO THE PLANET JUPITER IS! THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE GOING!

I WONDER WHAT WE'RE GOING TO JUPITER FOR?

CLOSE YOUR JETS, ASTRO, AND LISTEN TO COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT!

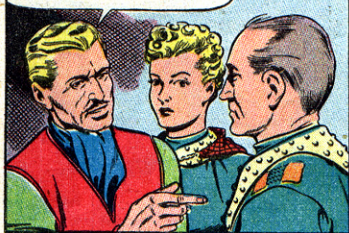
AN EXPEDITION TO SET UP A COLONY ON JUPITER'S MOON, *JO*, IS LEAVING. YOU AND YOUR SQUAD OF CADETS, CAPTAIN STRONG, ARE TO GO WITH THE COLONISTS. ANY QUESTIONS?

WHO IS IN COMMAND OF THE COLONISTS, SIR?

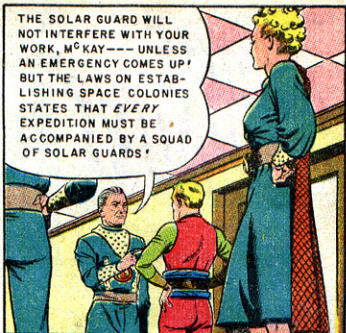
A SPACE ADVENTURER NAMED SKIP MCKAY, CAPTAIN. HIS REPUTATION IS NOT TOO GOOD. HE'S A SWASHBUCKLER AND BRAGGART—

THAT'S ME! AND YOU MIGHT ADD, COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT, THAT I DON'T LIKE HAVING SOLAR GUARD BRASS TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

I'VE JETTED AROUND IN SPACE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT TO DO! I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU TO STAY OUT OF MY BUSINESS! I'M IN COMMAND OF THIS EXPEDITION--- AND I WON'T HAVE YOU HIGH-PRESSURE BOYS MESSING AROUND WITH MY PLANS!



THE SOLAR GUARD WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK, MCKAY--- UNLESS AN EMERGENCY COMES UP! BUT THE LAWS ON ESTABLISHING SPACE COLONIES STATES THAT EVERY EXPEDITION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SQUAD OF SOLAR GUARDS!



I CAN'T STOP YOU FROM COMING ALONG, CAPTAIN, BUT I WARN YOU TO KEEP OUT OF MY WAY!

I KNOW MY DUTY, MCKAY, AND I'LL DO IT! WE'RE NOT COMING ON THIS EXPEDITION TO HURT THE COLONISTS, BUT TO HELP THEM!

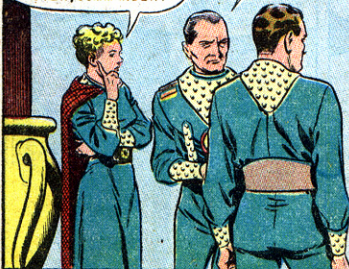


YOU CAN HELP BY MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS, STRONG, AND MAKE SURE THOSE SPACE BRATS OF YOURS STAY OUT OF MY COMMAND AREA!



I'M AFRAID THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE BEFORE THIS EXPEDITION IS OVER, COMMANDER!

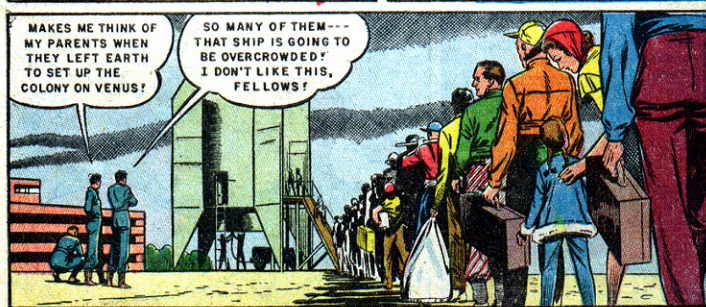
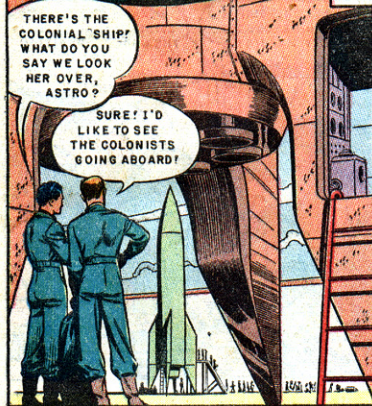
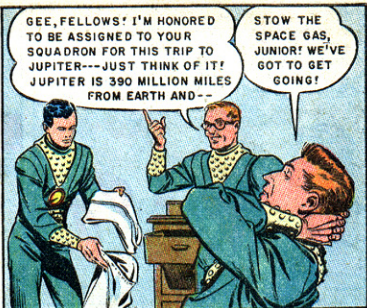
YES, I BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT, JOAN!

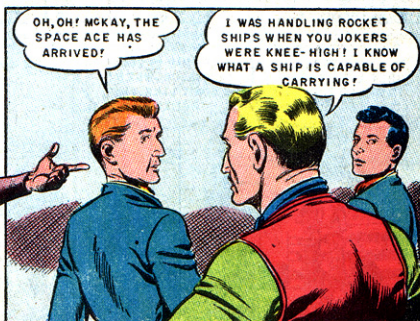
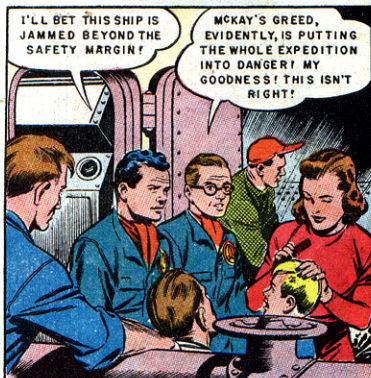
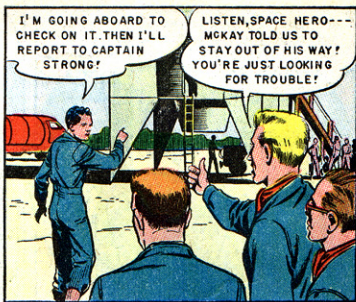


I'LL HAVE TO REINFORCE YOUR GROUP, STRONG. JOAN WILL GO ALONG... AND YOU HAD BETTER TAKE ALONG ANOTHER CADET WITH YOU!

RIGHT, SIR! I'LL TAKE CADET ALFIE HIGGINS!

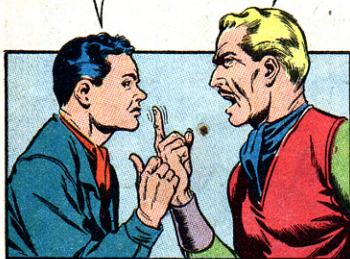






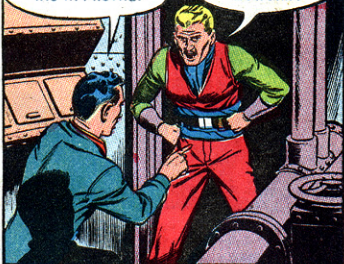
BUT, SIR--- THE SHIP IS
OVERCROWDED! YOU
CAN'T BLAST OFF IN
THIS CONDITION!

CAN'T I? WE'LL
SEE! NOW GET
OFF THE SHIP!



WE WON'T GET OFF
UNTIL COMMANDER
ARKWRIGHT INSPECTS
THE SHIP AND GIVES
HIS APPROVAL!

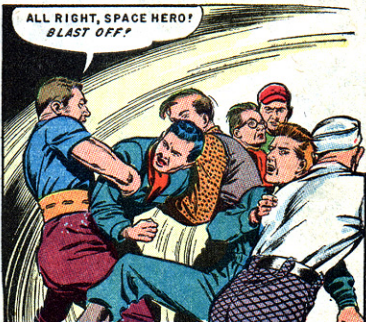
THEN I'LL HAVE TO
SHOW YOU WHO IS
IN COMMAND HERE!
*BRAZOS! KITA!
MORGAN!*



THROW THESE SPACE WORMS
OFF THE SHIP! AND DON'T BE
GENTLE ABOUT IT!



ALL RIGHT, SPACE HERO!
BLAST OFF!

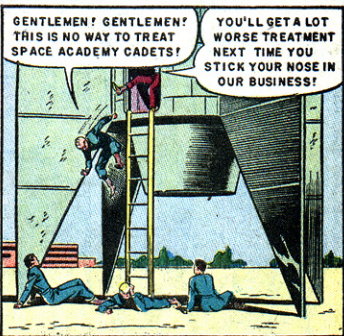


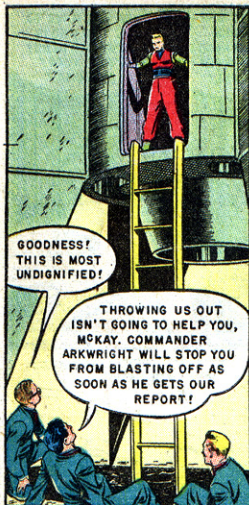
WHY, YOU SPACE RATS! I'M GONNA
KNOCK YOU INTO A MILLION PIECES
OF SPACE JUNK! LET GO MY ARMS!



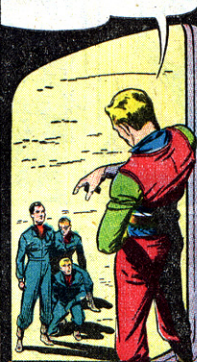
GENTLEMEN! GENTLEMEN!
THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT
SPACE ACADEMY CADETS!

YOU'LL GET A LOT
WORSE TREATMENT
NEXT TIME YOU
STICK YOUR NOSE IN
OUR BUSINESS!

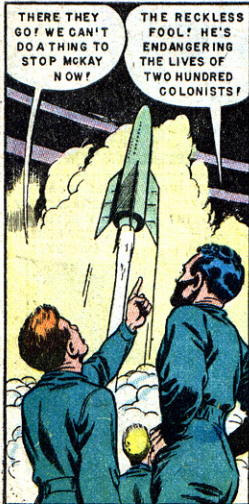
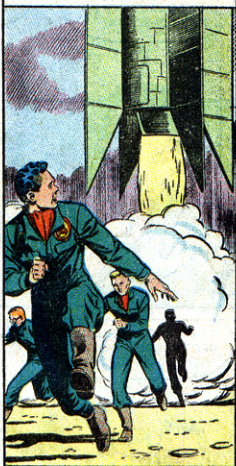




YOU BETTER START RUNNING, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN THE ROCKET BLAST! WE'RE TAKING OFF NOW! GIVE MY REGARDS TO COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT--- AND REMIND HIM THAT ONCE IN SPACE, I COMMAND MY SHIP!

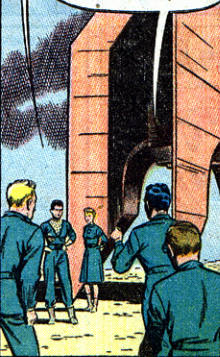


WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR, THE COLONIAL SHIP BLASTS OFF!



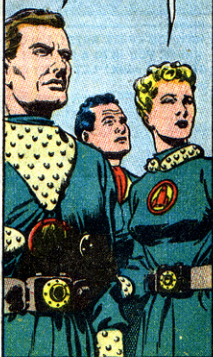
WHERE IN SPACE-BLUE BLAZES HAVE YOU CADETS BEEN? WHY ISN'T THE POLARIS READY TO BLAST OFF?

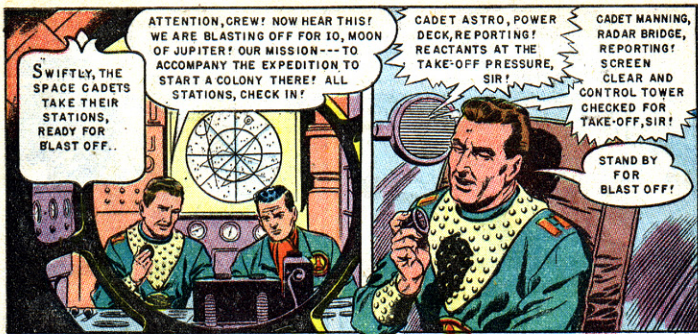
SORRY, SIR. WE WERE ABOARD THE LUNA TRADER---MCKAY'S SHIP. SHE'S OVERCROWDED AND IN DANGER, SIR!



NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW--- EXCEPT HOPE THAT SPACE MAN'S LUCK RIDES WITH THEM!

WE'LL HAVE TO STAY CLOSE TO THEM AND BE PREPARED FOR ANY EMERGENCY!





SWIFTLY, THE SPACE CADETS TAKE THEIR STATIONS, READY FOR BLAST OFF...

ATTENTION, CREW! NOW HEAR THIS! WE ARE BLASTING OFF FOR IO, MOON OF JUPITER! OUR MISSION--- TO ACCOMPANY THE EXPEDITION TO START A COLONY THERE! ALL STATIONS, CHECK IN!

CADET ASTRO, POWER DECK, REPORTING! REACTANTS AT THE TAKE-OFF PRESSURE, SIR!

CADET MANNING, RADAR BRIDGE, REPORTING! SCREEN CLEAR AND CONTROL TOWER CHECKED FOR TAKE-OFF, SIR!

STAND BY FOR BLAST OFF!

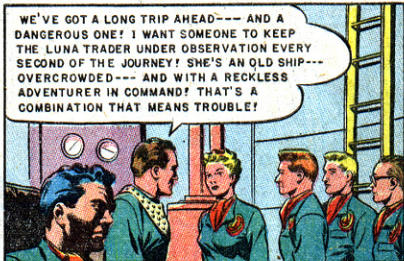


MINUTES LATER...

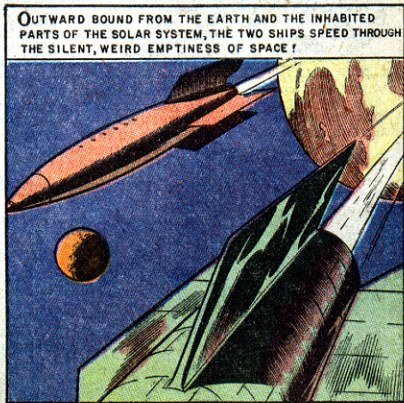
WE'RE CLEAR OF THE EARTH! TAKE OVER THE CONTROLS, TOM. STEADY AS SHE GOES!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

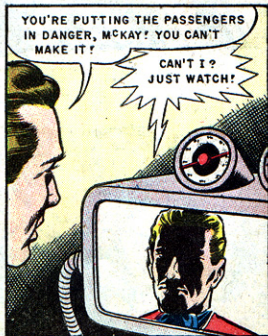
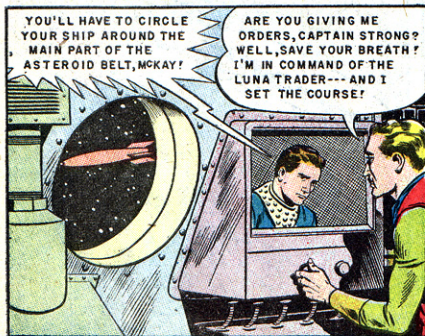
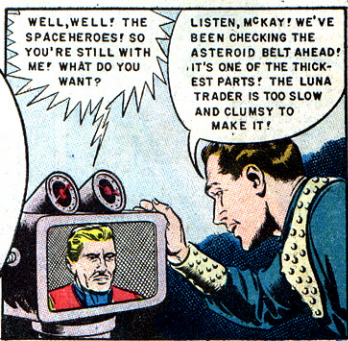
WE'LL BREAK INTO WATCHES! JOAN, ASTRO, AND ALFIE WILL TAKE THE SECOND WATCH. TOM, ROGER, AND I THE FIRST! THAT'S ALL!

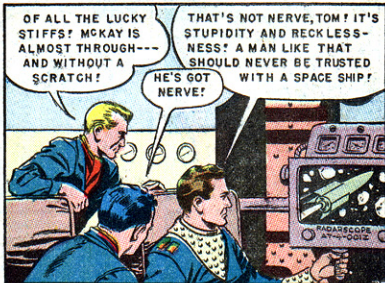
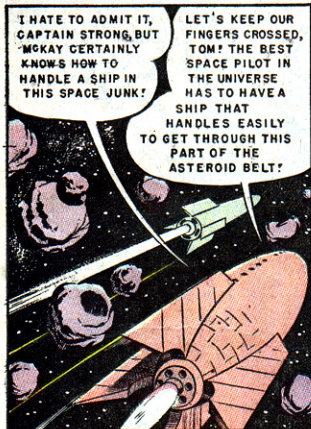
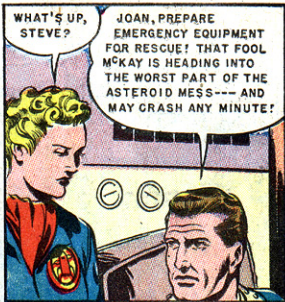
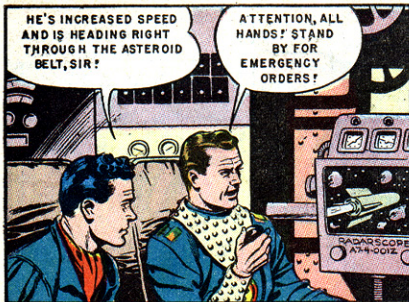


WE'VE GOT A LONG TRIP AHEAD--- AND A DANGEROUS ONE! I WANT SOMEONE TO KEEP THE LUNA TRADER UNDER OBSERVATION EVERY SECOND OF THE JOURNEY! SHE'S AN OLD SHIP--- OVERCROWDED--- AND WITH A RECKLESS ADVENTURER IN COMMAND! THAT'S A COMBINATION THAT MEANS TROUBLE!

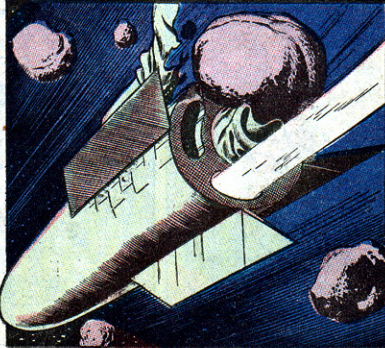
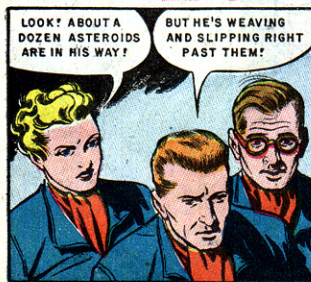


OUTWARD BOUND FROM THE EARTH AND THE INHABITED PARTS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, THE TWO SHIPS SPEED THROUGH THE SILENT, WEIRD EMPTINESS OF SPACE!





THEN... AS THE LUNA TRADER DODGES ONE ASTEROID, ANOTHER LOOMS IN HER PATH... DESPERATELY, MCKAY BLASTS THE PORT JETS, BUT THE CLUMSY SHIP WON'T TURN QUICKLY ENOUGH...



JOAN, BREAK OUT EMERGENCY
RESCUE EQUIPMENT! ---
MANNING, TAKE THE CONTROLS!
ALFIE AND TOM, INTO SPACE
SUITS! YOU'RE COMING
WITH ME!

AYE, AYE,
SIR!

MANNING--- BRING US IN
CLOSER TO THE LUNA TRADER!
SLOW AND EASY!

CLOSE ENOUGH! HOLD HER
STEADY NOW! WE'RE GOING TO
JET ACROSS TO THE LUNA
TRADER!



ALFIE, WALK AROUND THE HULL
AND TEST FOR ANY AIR LEAKS.
TOM, GO AFT AND SEE WHAT
CONDITION THE ROCKET
TUBES ARE IN! I'LL
CONTACT MCKAY!

CADET HIGGINS REPORTING,
CAPTAIN STRONG. THE HULL
APPEARS TO BE IN GOOD
CONDITION. AT ANY RATE, I
DO NOT OBSERVE ANY
INDICATION OF ---

THAT'S FINE,
ALFIE!
RETURN
HERE!

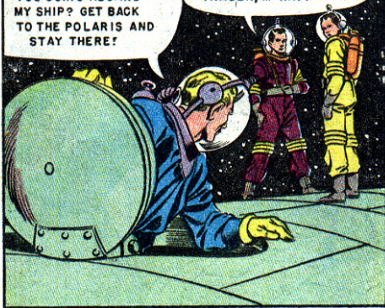
CADET CORBETT REPORTING, CAPTAIN STRONG! TUBES AND FINS COMPLETELY SMASHED. BEYOND EMERGENCY REPAIRS! SHE'LL NEVER CUT SPACE UNDER HER OWN POWER AGAIN, SIR!

RETURN
HERE,
TOM!



BY THE RINGS OF SATURN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOARD MY SHIP? GET BACK TO THE POLARIS AND STAY THERE!

YOU'RE NO LONGER IN COMMAND OF THE LUNA TRADER, MCKAY!

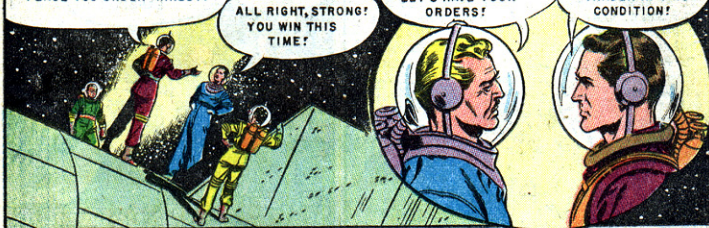


THE LUNA TRADER IS A HELPLESS WRECK, MCKAY! THE SOLAR GUARD TAKES COMMAND OF ALL SPACE DERELICTS! UNLESS YOU OBEY ORDERS—— I'LL PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST!

ALL RIGHT, STRONG!
YOU WIN THIS
TIME!

WHAT HAPPENS NOW,
SPACE HERO! YOU'RE IN
COMMAND--- SO
LET'S HAVE YOUR
ORDERS!

WE CAN'T TURN
BACK, MCKAY--- NOT
WITH THE LUNA
TRADER IN THIS
CONDITION!

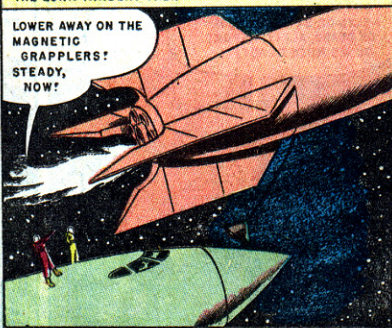


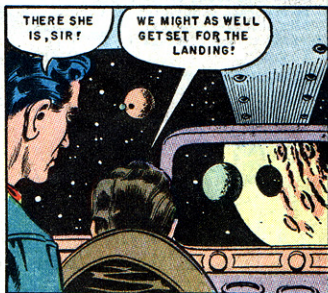
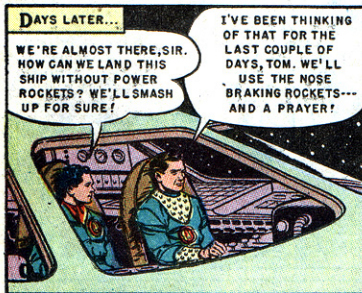
AND HOW ARE WE
GOING TO GO ON, STRONG?
I SAY WE TAKE TO THE
SPACE LIFEBOATS!

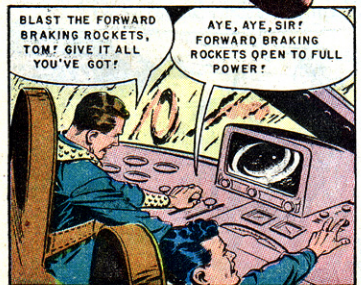
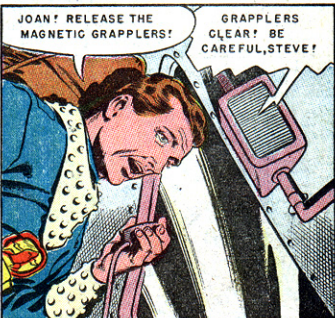
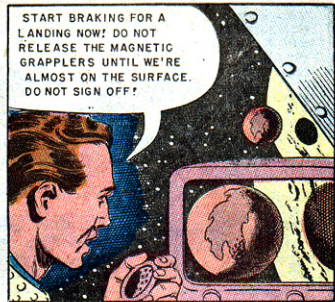
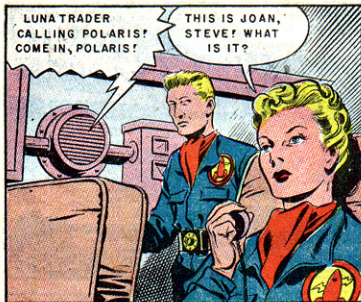
NO! THE
POLARIS IS
POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO
TOW YOU IN
THE REST
OF THE WAY
TO IO!

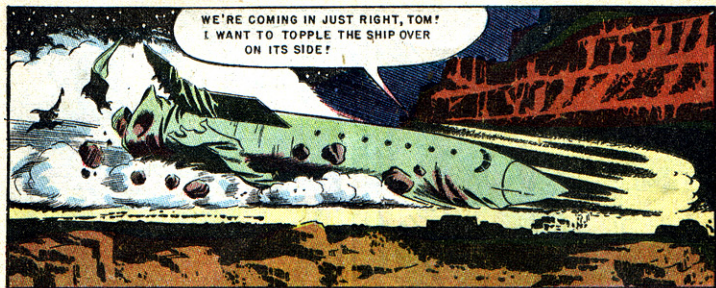
CAREFULLY, THE POLARIS IS MANEUVERED CLOSER TO THE LUNA TRADER! THEN...

LOWER AWAY ON THE
MAGNETIC
GRAPPLERS!
STEADY,
NOW!

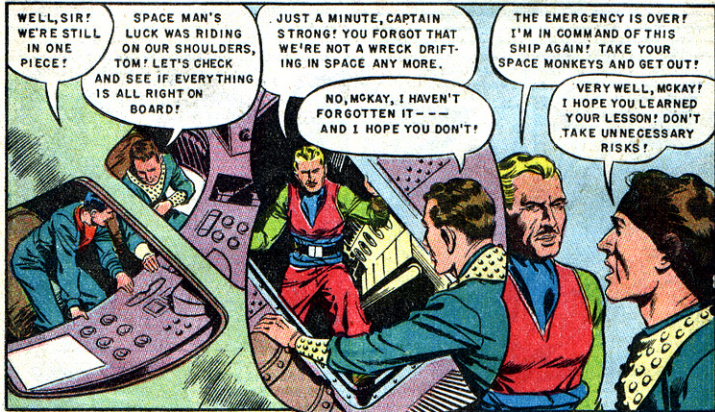








WE'RE COMING IN JUST RIGHT, TOM!
I WANT TO TOPPLE THE SHIP OVER
ON ITS SIDE!



WELL, SIR!
WE'RE STILL
IN ONE
PIECE!

SPACE MAN'S
LUCK WAS RIDING
ON OUR SHOULDERS,
TOM! LET'S CHECK
AND SEE IF EVERYTHING
IS ALL RIGHT ON
BOARD!

JUST A MINUTE, CAPTAIN
STRONG! YOU FORGOT THAT
WE'RE NOT A WRECK DRIFT-
ING IN SPACE ANY MORE.

THE EMERGENCY IS OVER!
I'M IN COMMAND OF THIS
SHIP AGAIN! TAKE YOUR
SPACE MONKEYS AND GET OUT!

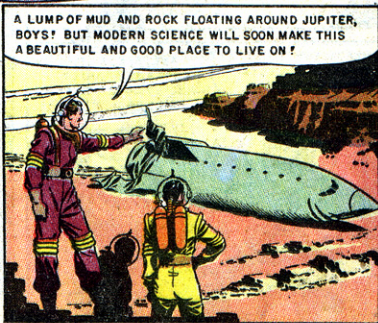
NO, MCKAY, I HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN IT ---
AND I HOPE YOU DON'T!

VERY WELL, MCKAY!
I HOPE YOU LEARNED
YOUR LESSON! DON'T
TAKE UNNECESSARY
RISKS!



IT'S A BIG JOB ---
BUILDING THIS BARE
ROCK INTO A LIVABLE
WORLD! CALL ON US IF
YOU NEED ANY HELP!

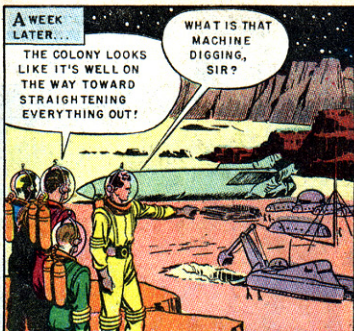
JUST DO WHAT
YOU ARE
SUPPOSED TO
DO, STRONG!
AND AFTER
THAT--- MIND
YOUR OWN
BUSINESS!



A LUMP OF MUD AND ROCK FLOATING AROUND JUPITER,
BOYS! BUT MODERN SCIENCE WILL SOON MAKE THIS
A BEAUTIFUL AND GOOD PLACE TO LIVE ON!



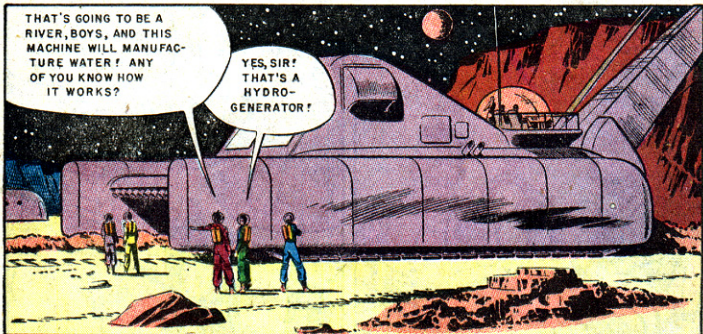
OUR JOB NOW IS TO CHECK THE CONDITIONS ON THIS COLONY--- BUT WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THE WORK! WHEN EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER, WE CAN BLAST OFF FOR HOME!



A WEEK LATER...

THE COLONY LOOKS LIKE IT'S WELL ON THE WAY TOWARD STRAIGHTENING EVERYTHING OUT!

WHAT IS THAT MACHINE DIGGING, SIR?



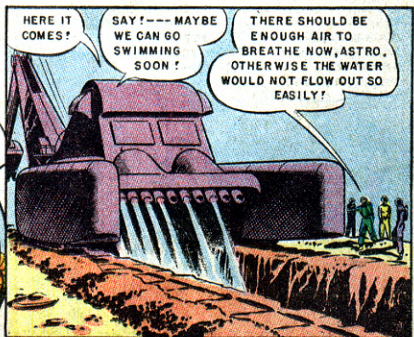
THAT'S GOING TO BE A RIVER, BOYS, AND THIS MACHINE WILL MANUFACTURE WATER! ANY OF YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS?

YES, SIR! THAT'S A HYDRO-GENERATOR!



THIS MACHINE TAKES THE ROCKS AND DIRT OF THIS PLACE--- AND CHANGES THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE, TURNING THE ATOMS INTO HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN ATOMS. THEN IT COMBINES THE TWO AND RELEASES OXYGEN WITH THE WATER...

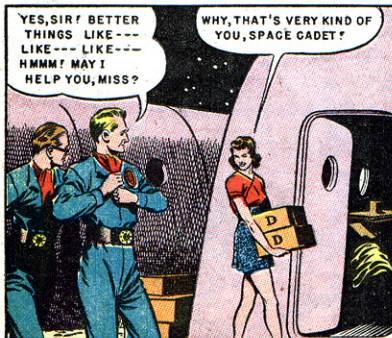
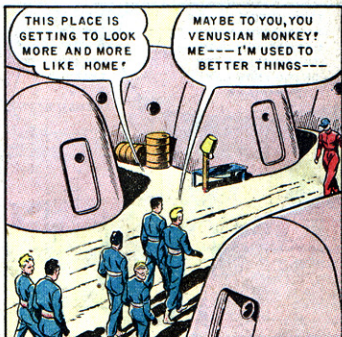
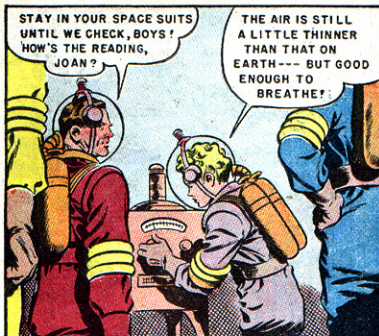
WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS? SPACE SHIPMATE TO AN ENCYCLOPEDIA!

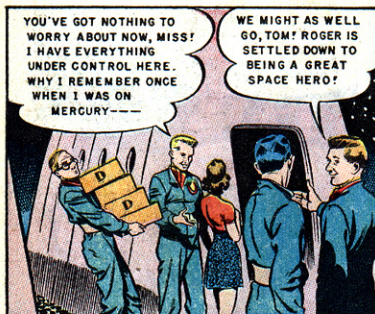


HERE IT COMES!

SAY!--- MAYBE WE CAN GO SWIMMING SOON!

THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH AIR TO BREATHE NOW, ASTRO. OTHERWISE THE WATER WOULD NOT FLOW OUT SO EASILY!





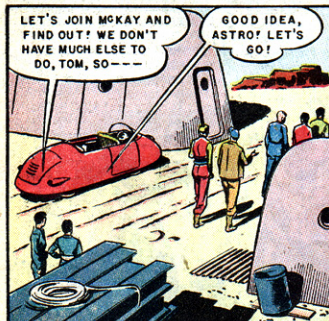
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW, MISS! I HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL HERE. WHY I REMEMBER ONCE WHEN I WAS ON MERCURY---

WE MIGHT AS WELL GO, TOM! ROGER IS SETTLED DOWN TO BEING A GREAT SPACE HERO!



OUR COLONY IS PRETTY WELL SET UP NOW. WE CAN TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO EXPLORE THE PLACE!

WHAT'S MCKAY UP TO NOW, ASTRO?



LET'S JOIN MCKAY AND FIND OUT! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH ELSE TO DO, TOM, SO---

GOOD IDEA, ASTRO! LET'S GO!



LOOK AT THAT STREAM! WE MADE IT! MAKES A MAN PROUD, DOESN'T IT, CADETS?

YES, AND SOON THERE WILL BE GRASS AND TREES!



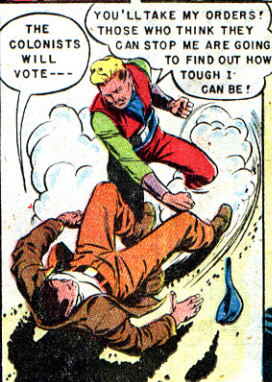
HEY, SKIPPER! LOOK WHAT I'VE FOUND!



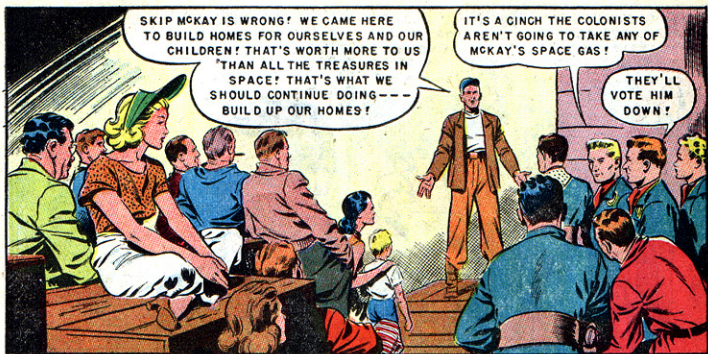
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MCKAY? URANIUM ORE?



LISTEN TO THE GEIGER COUNTER, YOU FOOL! THERE'S A FORTUNE HERE!







SKIP MCKAY IS WRONG! WE CAME HERE TO BUILD HOMES FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN! THAT'S WORTH MORE TO US THAN ALL THE TREASURES IN SPACE! THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE DOING--- BUILD UP OUR HOMES!

IT'S A CINCINCH THE COLONISTS AREN'T GOING TO TAKE ANY OF MCKAY'S SPACE GAS!

THEY'LL VOTE HIM DOWN!

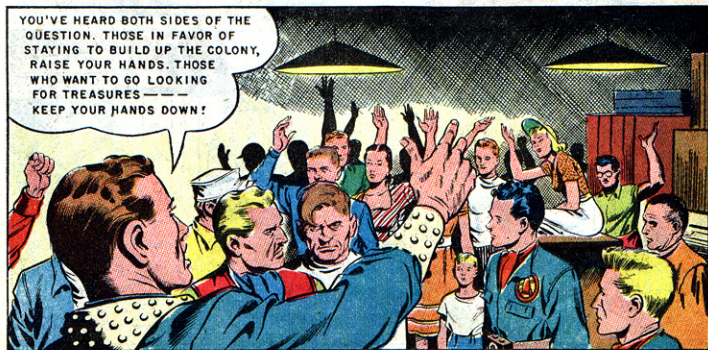


MCKAY ISN'T GOING TO ACCEPT THE MAJORITY VOTE. THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE!

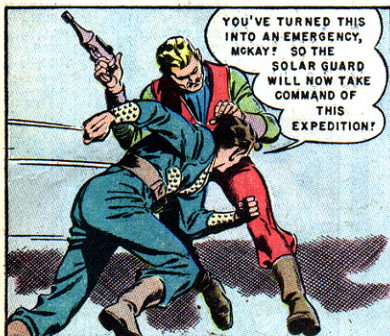
WHAT CAN WE DO?

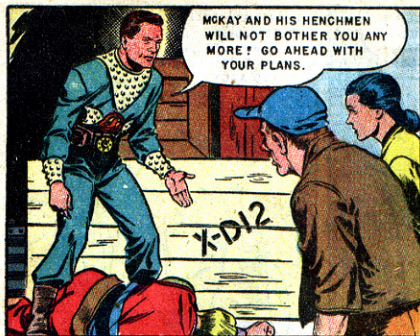


SCATTER AROUND AND GET YOUR PARALORAY GUNS READY--- JUST IN CASE!



YOU'VE HEARD BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION. THOSE IN FAVOR OF STAYING TO BUILD UP THE COLONY, RAISE YOUR HANDS. THOSE WHO WANT TO GO LOOKING FOR TREASURES--- KEEP YOUR HANDS DOWN!





MCKAY AND HIS HENCHMEN
WILL NOT BOTHER YOU ANY
MORE! GO AHEAD WITH
YOUR PLANS.



WHEN THE POLARIS BLASTS OFF
FOR HOME, WE'LL TAKE YOU OFF THIS
COLONY. UNTIL THEN, BEHAVE! I
DON'T WANT TO TAKE YOU BACK
TO EARTH AS PRISONERS!



I DON'T THINK THIS
IS THE END OF IT, STEVE.
MCKAY ISN'T THE KIND
TO FORGET A TREASURE
SO EASILY.

YOU'RE RIGHT,
JOAN! MCKAY'S
GOT SPACE
TREASURE
FEVER!



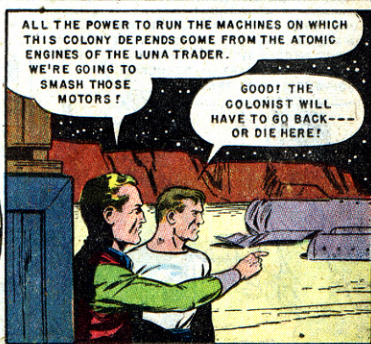
FROM NOW ON, YOU
SPACE GADGETS ARE ON
THE ALERT. TROUBLE IS
COMING FROM MCKAY!---
AND WE MUST BE
PREPARED FOR IT!

YES, SIR!
WE'LL
KEEP AN
EYE ON
HIM AND
HIS MEN---
EVERY
MINUTE!



WE'RE NOT LICKED YET!
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THE
COLONISTS GIVE UP AND
RETURN TO EARTH!

I HOPE
YOU'VE
GOT A
PLAN, SKIP!
A GOOD
ONE!



ALL THE POWER TO RUN THE MACHINES ON WHICH
THIS COLONY DEPENDS COME FROM THE ATOMIC
ENGINES OF THE LUNA TRADER.
WE'RE GOING TO
SMASH THOSE
MOTORS!

GOOD! THE
COLONIST WILL
HAVE TO GO BACK---
OR DIE HERE!

WE'LL SLIP INTO THE LUNA TRADER DURING MEALTIME--- AND DO THE JOB!

I HAVEN'T SEEN MCKAY COME IN FOR HIS MEALS, FELLOWS!

SO WHAT? THAT GUY SNEAKS AROUND LIKE A MARTIAN MOUSE! IF WE TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM, WE'D ALL GET SPACE GOOFY! FORGET HIM!

MESS HALL

ROGER'S RIGHT, TOM. WE CAN'T SPEND ALL OUR TIME FOLLOWING HIM AROUND. IF HE WANTS TO DIG URANIUM, LET HIM!

IT'S NOT THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, ASTRO. COME ON, LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO--- ANYWAY, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GUARD THIS PLACE!

HALL

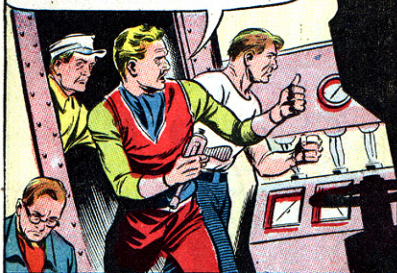
EVERYTHING'S QUIET HERE. ALMOST TOO QUIET!

ANYONE ON GUARD IN THE ENGINE ROOM?

ONE OF THE CADETS --- THE FUNNY ONE WHO THINKS HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!

HO-HUM! IT WAS VERY WISE OF CAPTAIN STRONG PLACING ME ON GUARD HERE--- FORTUNATELY, NOTHING CAN HAPPEN!

ALL RIGHT, RIP OUT ALL THE WIRING! I'LL SMASH THE POWER CONVERTERS SO THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIX THEM!



LET'S GO IN AND SEE HOW ALFIE IS DOING!

HE MUST BE LONELY WITHOUT ANYONE TO TALK TO.



SKIP! SOMEBODY'S COMING!

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE'RE SEEN!

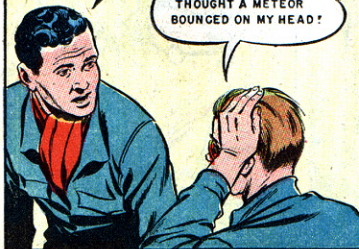


ALFIE! QUICK, ASTRO! CALL CAPTAIN STRONG!



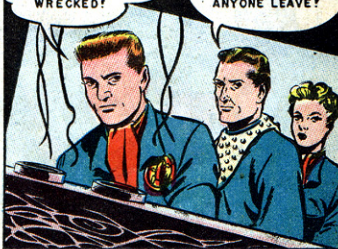
WHAT HAPPENED, ALFIE? WHO KNOCKED YOU COLD?

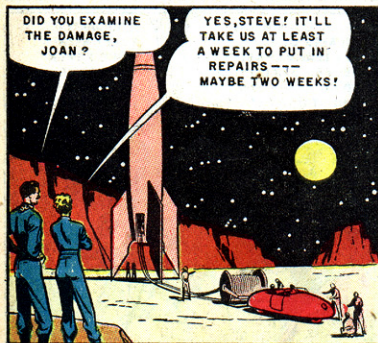
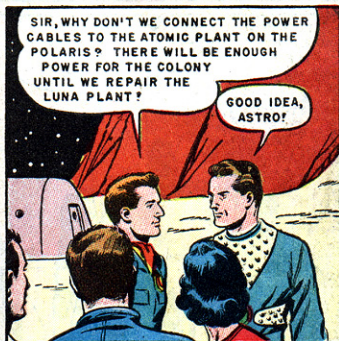
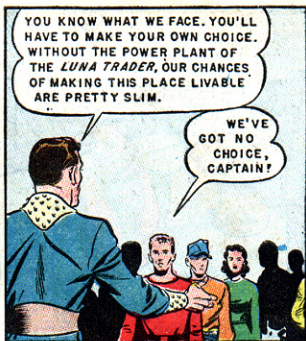
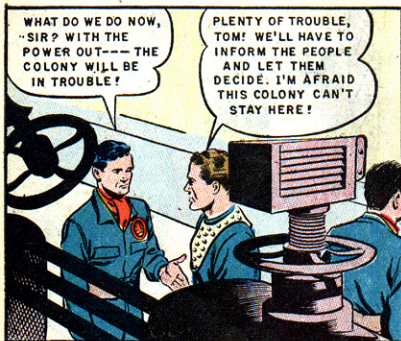
GOSH, TOM! I DON'T KNOW! ONE MINUTE EVERYTHING WAS QUIET AND PEACEFUL--- AND THE NEXT I THOUGHT A METEOR BOUNCED ON MY HEAD!



ALL THE WIRING IS RIPPED OUT! THE POWER CONVERTERS ARE DAMAGED BUT NOT COMPLETELY WRECKED!

I GUESS YOU BOYS INTERRUPTED THEM! TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE LEAVE!





IT BETTER WORK, MCKAY!
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH
URANIUM DUG AND PACKED
TO FILL A ROCKET SHIP!

GOOD! WE'LL
START NOW!

A PARALORAY GUN!
HOW'D YOU GET IT?

FROM THAT
SPACE BRAT WE
GOT IN THE ENGINE
ROOM! I DISARMED
HIM AFTER KNOCKING
HIM UNCONSCIOUS! NOW
I'M GOING TO USE IT!

STAND STILL,
MANNING! BRAZOS---
TAKE HIS GUN!

WHY YOU
SPACE SKUNK!
THIS WON'T
HELP YOU!

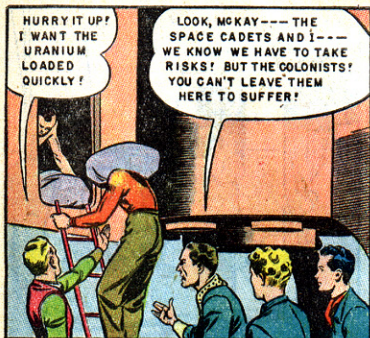
BRAZOS AND I WILL HOLD UP
THE COLONISTS AND THE REST
OF THE SPACE CADETS. YOU MEN
DISARM THEM BEFORE THEY
FIND OUT THERE ARE
ONLY TWO OF US!

RIGHT,
SKIPPER!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! GRAB
FOR THE STARS! THIS TIME
I'M NOT FOOLING!

WE'RE LOADING THE
POLARIS WITH URANIUM
AND LEAVING! SINCE THE
REST OF YOU LIKE TO
SO MUCH--- YOU
CAN STAY HERE!

YOU CAN'T DO
THAT! WE WON'T
HAVE POWER
TO RUN OUR
OXYGENATOR!
THE COLONY
WILL DIE!



HURRY IT UP!
I WANT THE
URANIUM
LOADED
QUICKLY!

LOOK, MCKAY--- THE
SPACE CADETS AND I---
WE KNOW WE HAVE TO TAKE
RISKS! BUT THE COLONISTS!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE THEM
HERE TO SUFFER!



I'M NOT A CRIMINAL, STRONG! I'LL
TAKE OFF ALL THOSE WHO ARE
READY TO GIVE UP THE IDEA OF
COLONIZING IO! I'LL EVEN
SHARE THE URANIUM TREASURE
WITH THEM!



YOU HEARD MCKAY'S OFFER TO
TAKE US OFF THIS COLONY! IF
WE DON'T TAKE IT, OUR CHANCES
OF STAYING ALIVE UNTIL THE
SUPPLY SHIP COMES AREN'T
VERY GOOD!



THERE'S ENOUGH AIR ON IO TO LAST US A
WEEK. BY THEN, WE'LL HAVE THE LUNA
TRADER'S MOTOR FIXED UP! MAYBE
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK HARDER AND
TAKE MORE CHANCES THAN WE
EXPECTED, BUT AT LEAST WE'LL BE
FIGHTING FOR OUR HOMES! **WE STAY!**



THEY'RE FOOLS, STRONG!
BUT I'LL TAKE YOU OFF---
I NEED A CO-PILOT! WHAT
DO YOU SAY? I'LL GIVE
YOU A SHARE OF THE
TREASURE---

NO! I
SPEAK FOR
MYSELF AND
MY SPACE
CADETS! OUR
DUTY IS WITH
THE COLONISTS!



YOU DON'T SPEAK FOR ME, CAPTAIN
STRONG! I'LL GO WITH MCKAY! I
DON'T WANT TO TAKE MY CHANCES
ON DYING HERE ON IO!

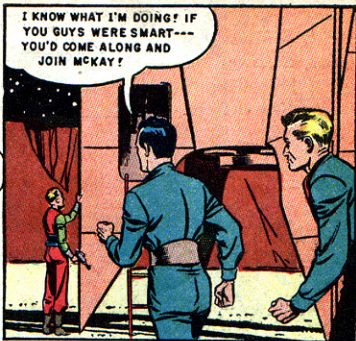
YOU DON'T
MEAN THAT,
TOM!

SO YOU'RE GOING TO
DESERT US! WELL,
WELL! TOM CORBETT---
STAR CADET OF SPACE
ACADEMY--- TURNING INTO
A COWARD!

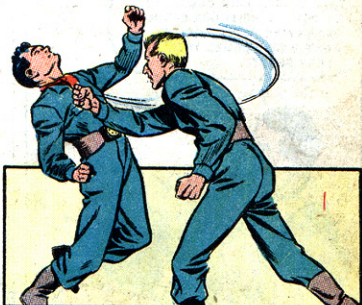
TOM, THIS
APPEARS TO
BE BEYOND
SIMPLE
EXPLANATION!---



I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! IF
YOU GUYS WERE SMART---
YOU'D COME ALONG AND
JOIN MCKAY!

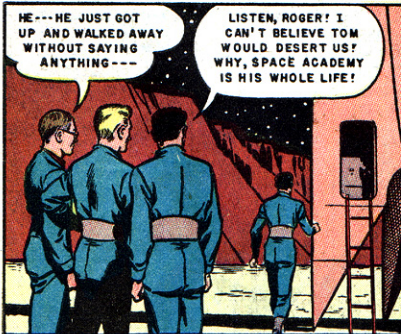


WAIT A MINUTE, CORBETT!
I'VE GOT A GOING AWAY
PRESENT FOR YOU!



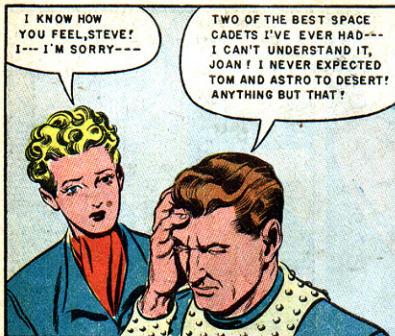
HE---HE JUST GOT
UP AND WALKED AWAY
WITHOUT SAYING
ANYTHING---

LISTEN, ROGER! I
CAN'T BELIEVE TOM
WOULD DESERT US!
WHY, SPACE ACADEMY
IS HIS WHOLE LIFE!



WAIT A MINUTE,
TOM!--- I'M
GOING WITH YOU!





I KNOW HOW
YOU FEEL, STEVE!
I--- I'M SORRY---

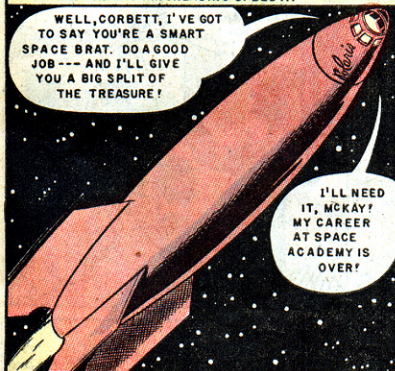
TWO OF THE BEST SPACE
CADETS I'VE EVER HAD---
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT,
JOAN! I NEVER EXPECTED
TOM AND ASTRO TO DESERT!
ANYTHING BUT THAT!



I'VE FAILED
THE SPACE
ACADEMY---
FAILED THE
BOYS!

YOU'VE GOT TO
FORGET THEM,
STEVE! NO MATTER
HOW MUCH YOU
LOVED THOSE BOYS!
COME, THERE'S WORK
TO DO HERE IF THE
COLONY IS TO
SURVIVE!

MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE POLARIS, BLASTING
SPACEWARD WITH INCREASING SPEED ...



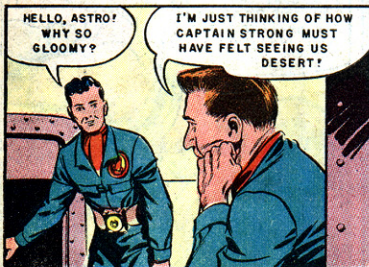
WELL, CORBETT, I'VE GOT
TO SAY YOU'RE A SMART
SPACE BRAT. DO A GOOD
JOB --- AND I'LL GIVE
YOU A BIG SPLIT OF
THE TREASURE!

I'LL NEED
IT, MCKAY!
MY CAREER
AT SPACE
ACADEMY IS
OVER!



TAKE THAT VENUSIAN PAL OF YOURS
AND HIT THE SACK! I'LL STAY AT
THE CONTROLS UNTIL WE'RE FAR
AWAY FROM IO--- JUST IN
CASE YOU CHANGE
YOUR MIND AND
WANT TO GO
BACK!

YOU DON'T
TRUST ME,
MCKAY---WELL,
IT'S ALL RIGHT
WITH ME!

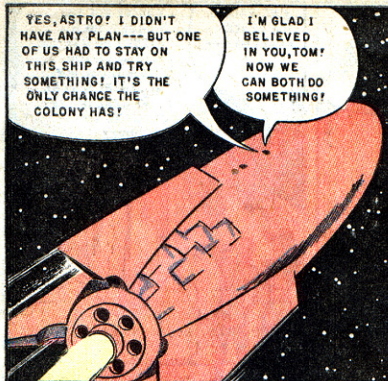


HELLO, ASTRO!
WHY SO
GLOOMY?

I'M JUST THINKING OF HOW
CAPTAIN STRONG MUST
HAVE FELT SEEING US
DESERT!

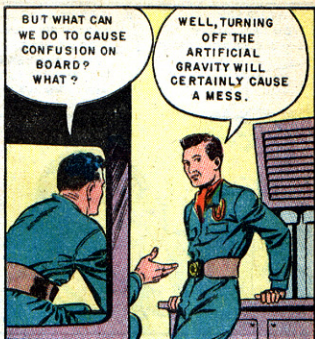


TELL ME THE
TRUTH, TOM!
YOU AREN'T
REALLY A
DESERTER?
YOU CAME
BECAUSE YOU
HAD A PLAN
IN MIND TO
SEIZE THE
SHIP AWAY
FROM MCKAY!
TELL ME,
TOM!



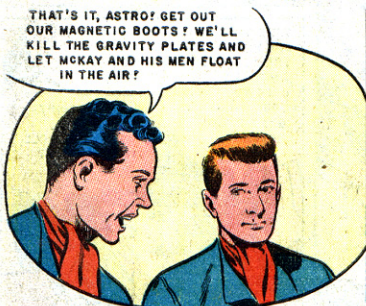
YES, ASTRO! I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLAN--- BUT ONE OF US HAD TO STAY ON THIS SHIP AND TRY SOMETHING! IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE THE COLONY HAS!

I'M GLAD I BELIEVED IN YOU, TOM! NOW WE CAN BOTH DO SOMETHING!

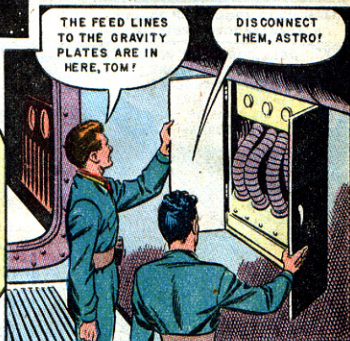


BUT WHAT CAN WE DO TO CAUSE CONFUSION ON BOARD? WHAT?

WELL, TURNING OFF THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY WILL CERTAINLY CAUSE A MESS.

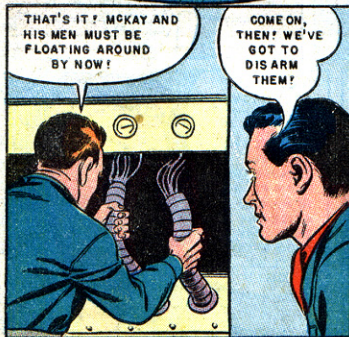


THAT'S IT, ASTRO! GET OUT OUR MAGNETIC BOOTS! WE'LL KILL THE GRAVITY PLATES AND LET MCKAY AND HIS MEN FLOAT IN THE AIR!



THE FEED LINES TO THE GRAVITY PLATES ARE IN HERE, TOM!

DISCONNECT THEM, ASTRO!



THAT'S IT! MCKAY AND HIS MEN MUST BE FLOATING AROUND BY NOW!

COME ON, THEN! WE'VE GOT TO DISARM THEM!



I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU SPACE BRATS TO COME HERE AND TAKE OVER THE CONTROLS! THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT THIS GUN READY--- TO BLAST YOU INTO LITTLE ATOMS!



YOU CAN'T FIRE THAT GUN, MCKAY! THE KICKBACK WILL SMASH YOU AGAINST THE BULKHEAD! TRY IT--- GO AHEAD!----

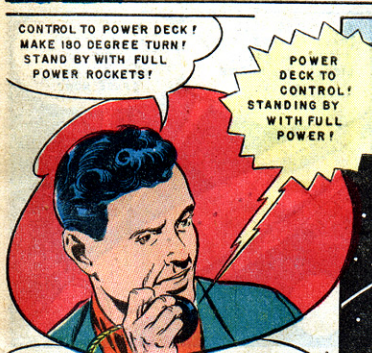
I'VE BEEN IN SPACE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU WIN!



TAKE OVER THE POWER DECK, ASTRO! WE'RE GOING BACK TO IO!

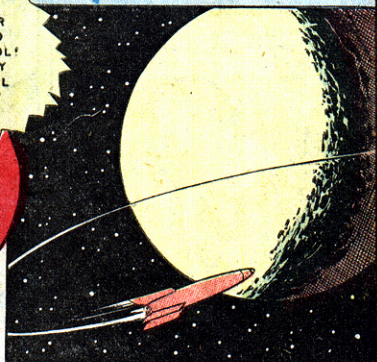
AYE, AYE! AND, OH-BOY! I'D LIKE TO SEE ROGER'S FACE WHEN HE SEES US COMING IN!

STILL TOO FAR AWAY TO BE SEEN ON JUPITER'S MOON, IO, THE POLARIS MAKES A COMPLETE TURN AND SPEEDS BACK TO THE COLONY...



CONTROL TO POWER DECK! MAKE 180 DEGREE TURN! STAND BY WITH FULL POWER ROCKETS!

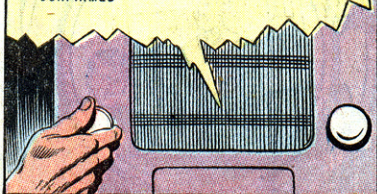
POWER DECK TO CONTROL! STANDING BY WITH FULL POWER!



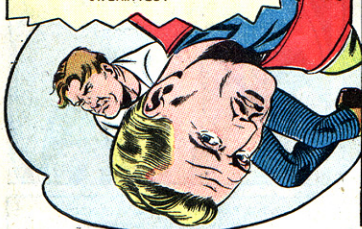
IT MUST BE BORING TO FLOAT AROUND LIKE THAT, TOM! HOW ABOUT TURNING ON A SPACE BROADCAST TO ENTERTAIN THEM?

GO AHEAD, ASTRO! SEE IF YOU CAN PICK UP THE INTER-PLANETARY NEWSCAST!

THIS IS NEWSCAST RELAY STATION ON MARS 57, SENDING YOU THE LATEST INFORMATION FROM THE SOLAR ALLIANCE. THE DISCOVERY OF SOLID URANIUM PLANETIODS IN THE CENTER OF THE ASTEROID BELT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED ----

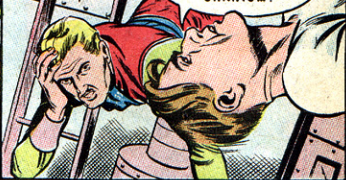


THE SOLAR ALLIANCE HAS DECLARED THAT ALL URANIUM ORES ARE NOW PUBLIC PROPERTY AND SHALL BE FREE TO ALL. THE ACTUAL PRICE OF URANIUM HAS FALLEN TO THAT OF COMMON TABLE SALT--- FOR THE SUPPLY IS UNLIMITED!



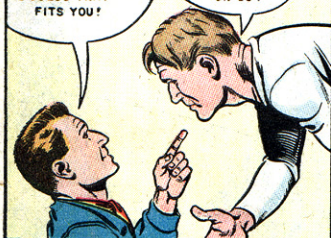
URANIUM WORTHLESS!
IMPS OF SPACE!
WE'VE GOT A SHIPLOAD
OF IT!

AND IT'S NOT
WORTH THE
TROUBLE WE
HAD DIGGING
IT UP! WE'D
HAVE BEEN A NICE
PACK OF SPACE FOOLS
ARRIVING ON EARTH
WITH WORTHLESS
URANIUM!



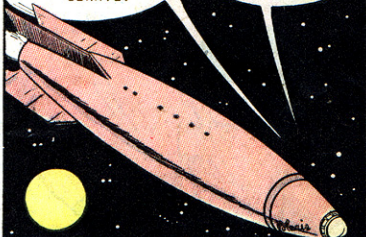
WE'VE GOT AN
OLD PROVERB
ON VENUS---
*GREED MAKES
FOOLS OF MEN!*
I GUESS THAT
FITS YOU!

YES, IT DOES!
NOW WE'VE
GOT NOTHING!---
NO TREASURE!---
NO HOME
ON IO!

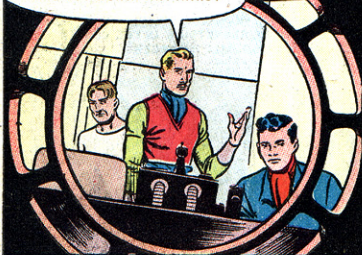


YOU CAN CONNECT THE
GRAVITY PLATES NOW,
ASTRO. MCKAY IS
LICKED AND KNOWS
IT! HE'LL
BEHAVE!

YOU'RE RIGHT,
TOM! THERE'S
NOTHING FOR ME
ON EARTH OR IN
SPACE NOW!



ALL MY LIFE I'VE ADVENTURED IN SPACE---
LOOKING FOR THE ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE
TO FIND A TREASURE THAT WOULD MAKE ME
RICH! AND WHEN I FOUND IT--- BANG!
IT'S NOT WORTH ANYTHING!



MY FOLKS WERE COLONISTS--- THEY COULD
HAVE GONE TREASURE HUNTING, TOO! BUT
THEY FOUND OUT THAT *HOMES---*
FAMILIES--- THESE WERE THE
REAL TREASURES IN LIFE!

