

DELL
COMIC

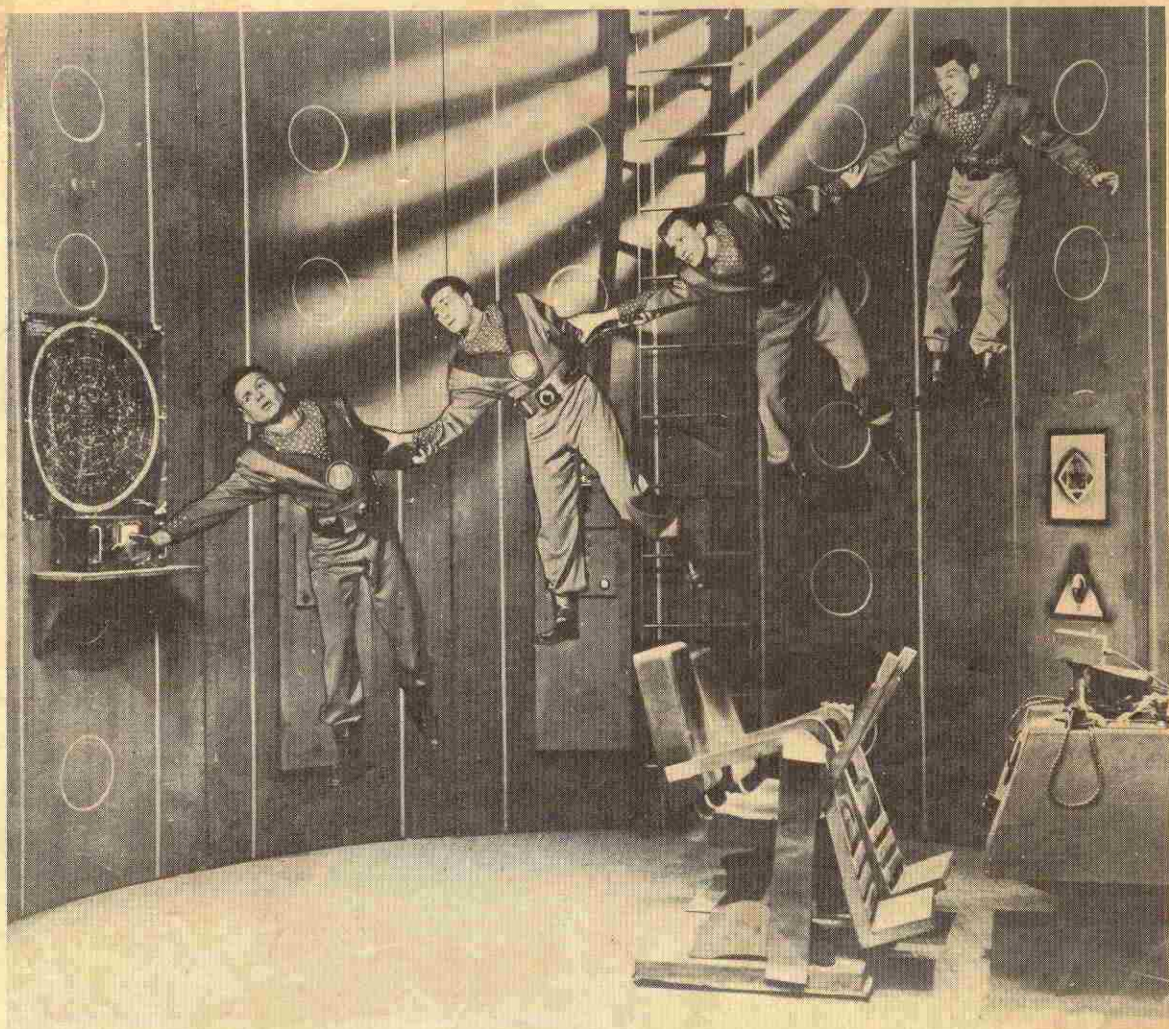
TOM CORBETT

AUG.-OCT.

10¢

SPACE CADET





SPACE ACADEMY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PLANETS

Space Cadets Tom Corbett, Astro, Roger Manning, and their commanding officer, Captain Strong study "free flight" aboard the Space Cruiser POLARIS.

Gravity is the pull of our planet, Earth, which — like a huge magnet — draws to itself everything, including people.

Out in space, far away from Earth, there is nothing to pull one down. People as well as loose objects can float about. This condition is known as "free flight."

As shown in the photograph, Space Cadets practice constantly the various tricky ways of getting around while in space and without an artificial "gravity" to pull them down.

TOM CORBETT, SPACE CADET, No. 7, Aug.-Oct., 1953. Published quarterly by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y. George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Single copies, 10 cents. Authorized edition. Copyright, 1953, by Videofeatures Company. World Rights Reserved. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Printed in U.S.A.

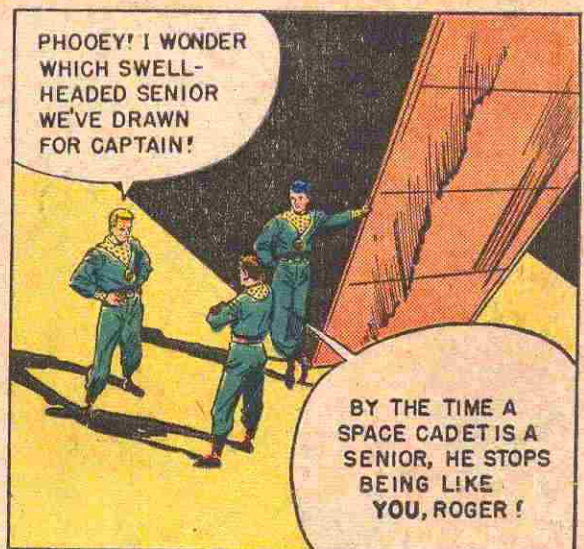
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TOM CORBETT

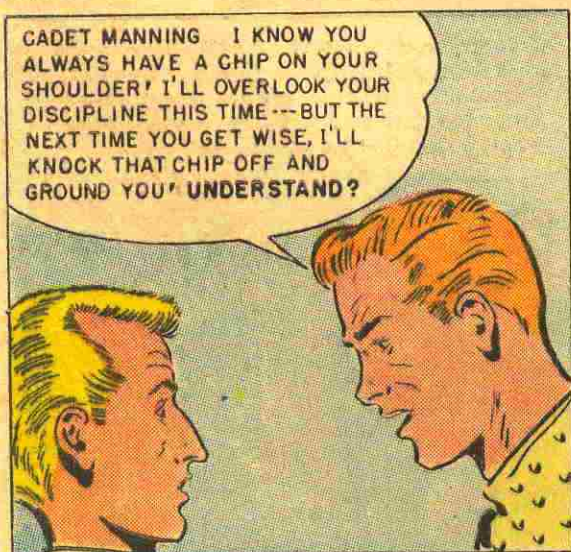
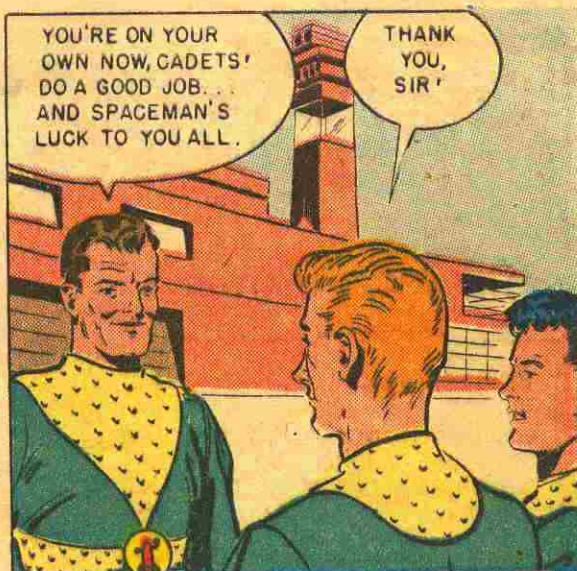
SPACE CADET

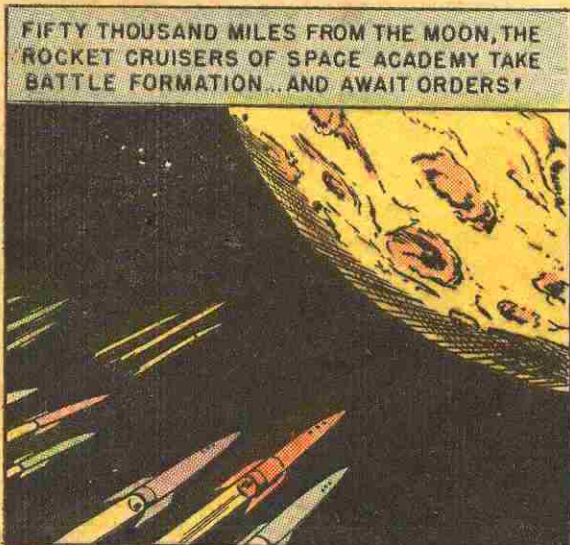
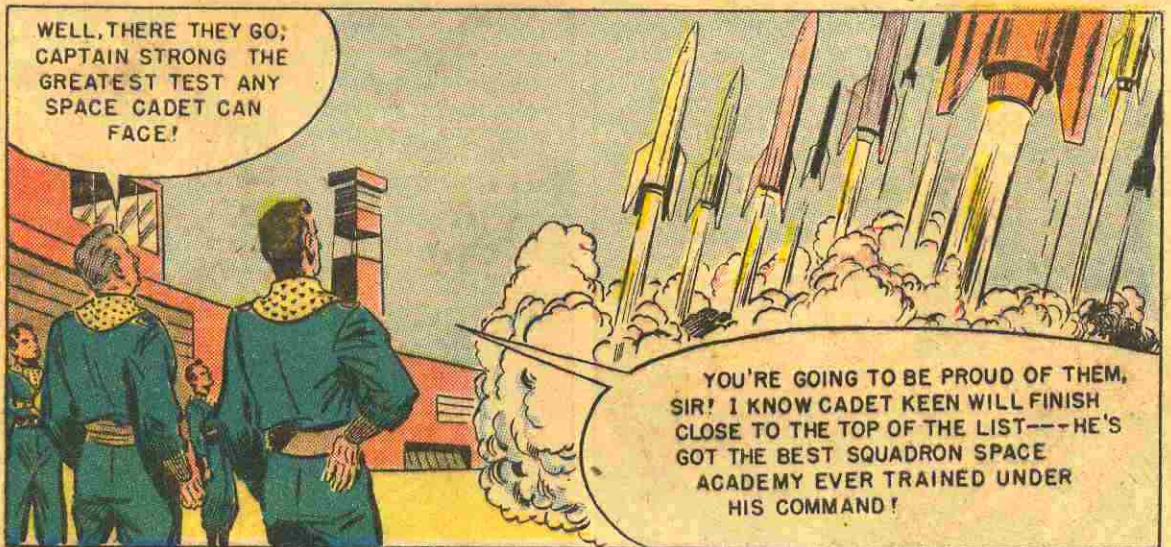
THE SPACE TRAITOR

AT SPACE ACADEMY, THE WEEK BEFORE GRADUATION IS MILITARY MANEUVERS WEEK... WHEN THE CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION TAKE COMMAND OF THE SPACE FLEET!

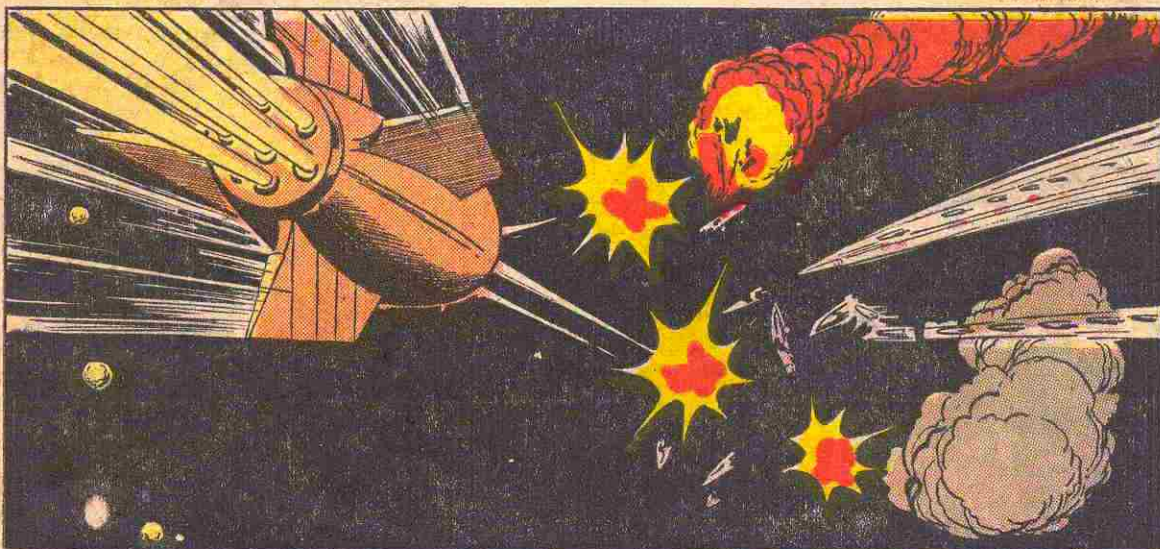
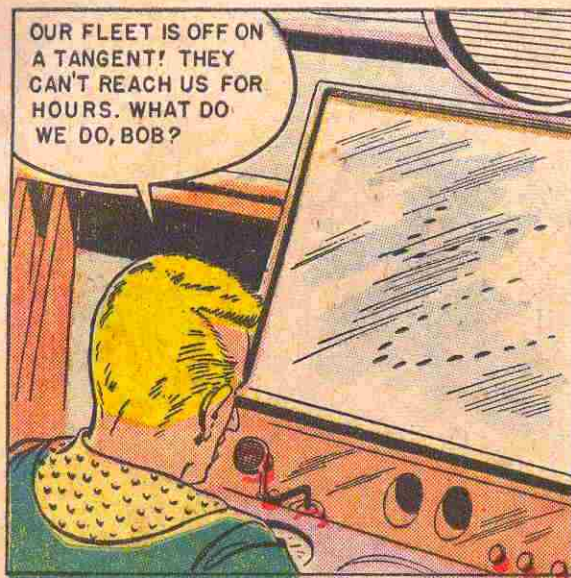
ATTENTION ALL CADET. SQUADRONS! ONE GRADUATING SPACE CADET HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO COMMAND EACH SPACE SHIP!

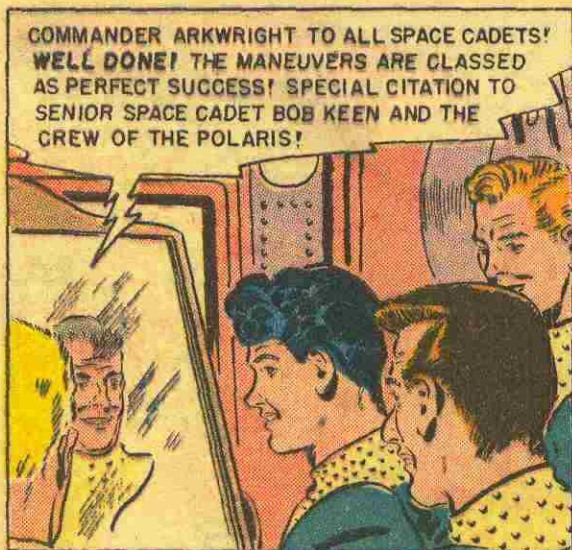
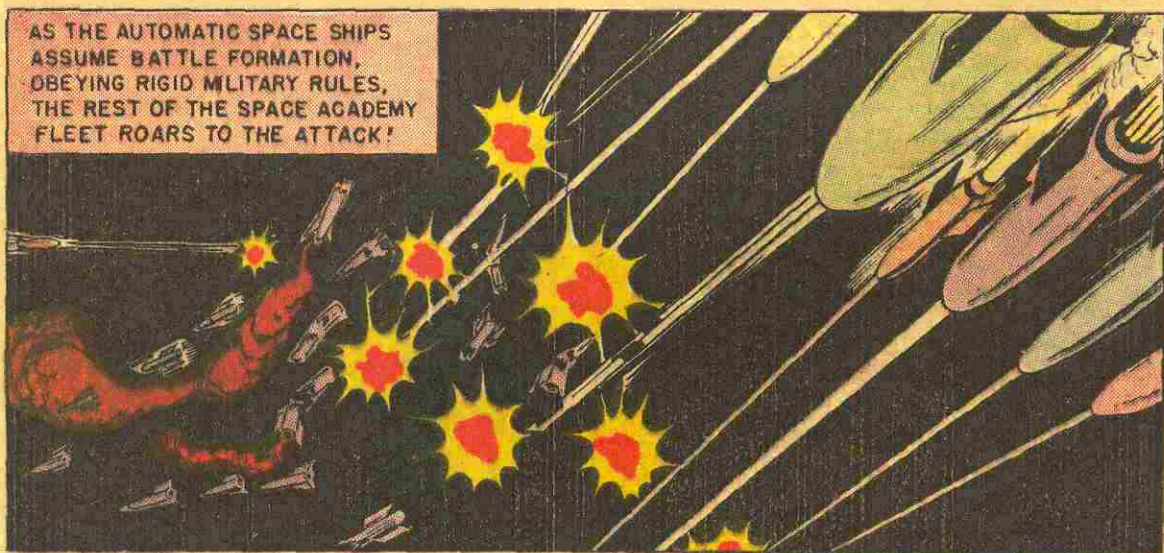


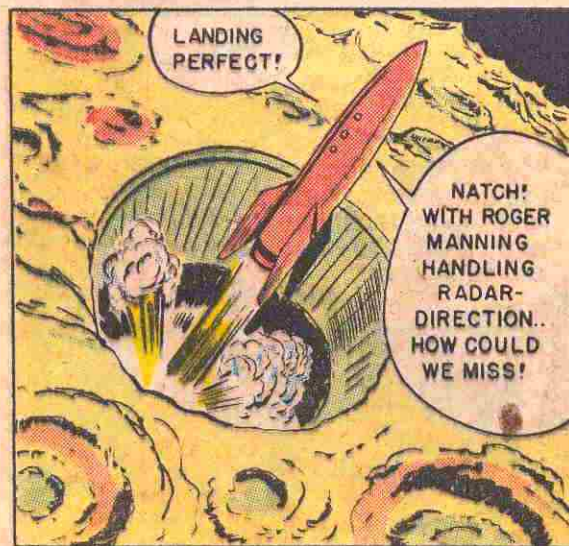
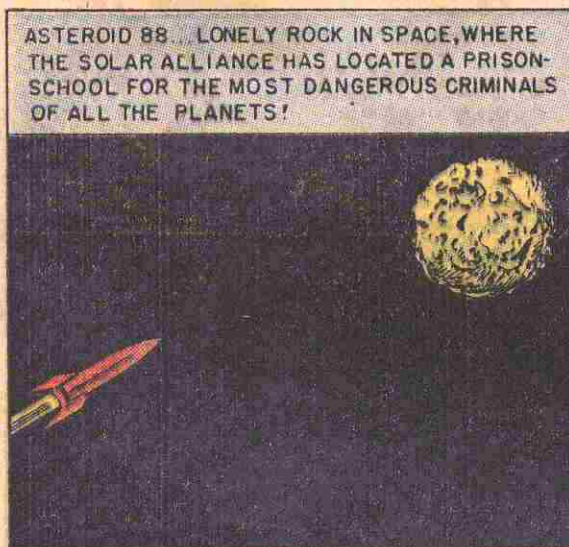




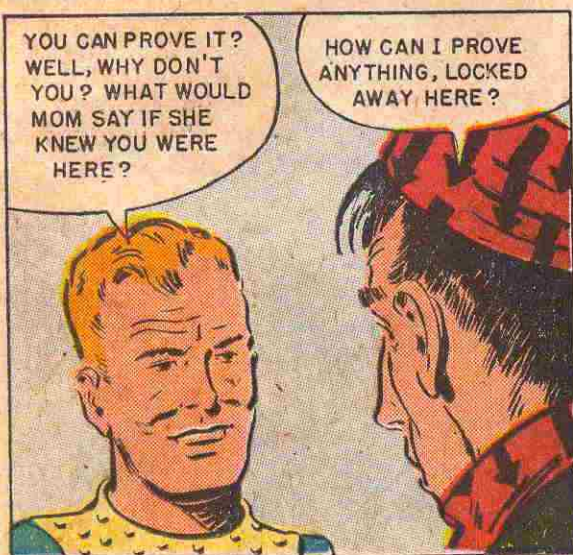
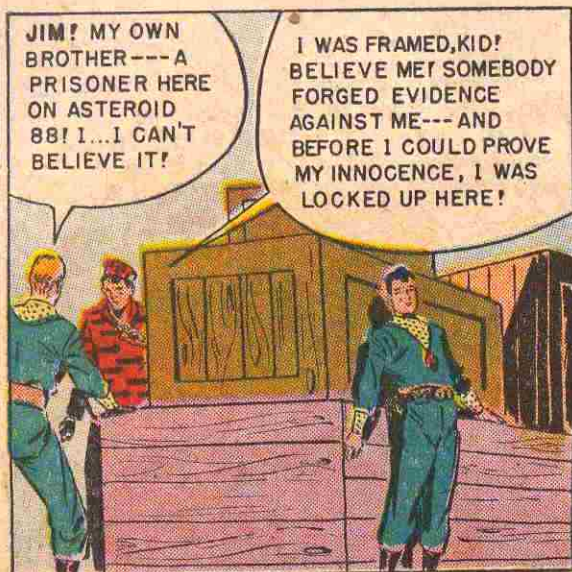


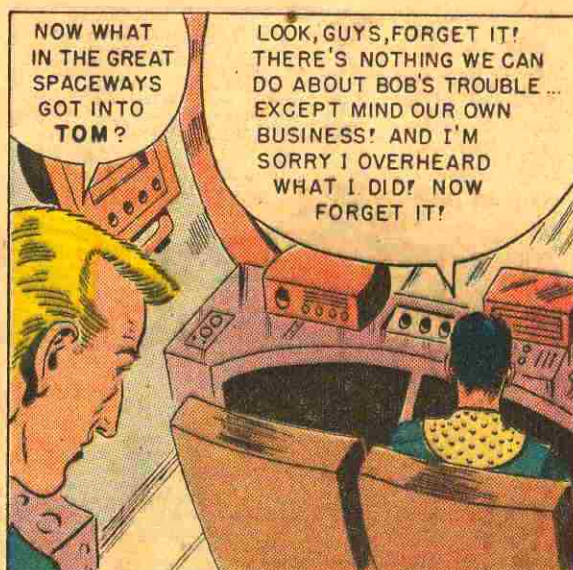


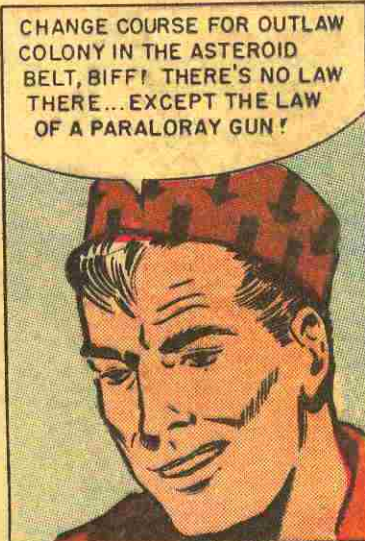
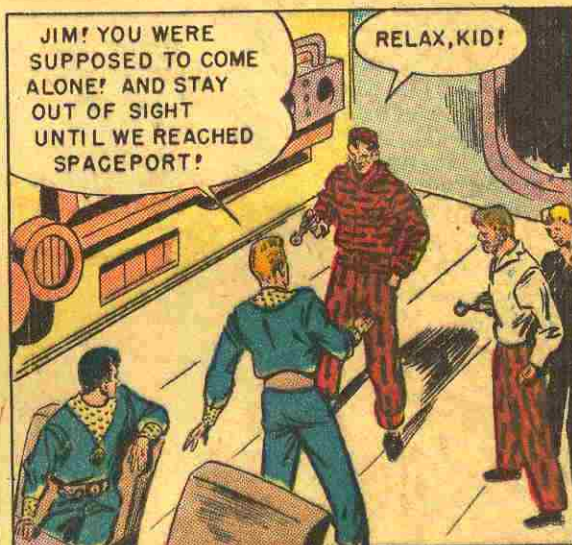
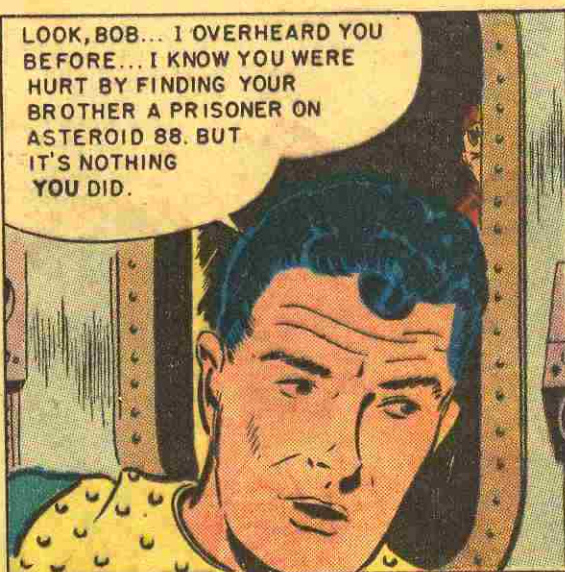


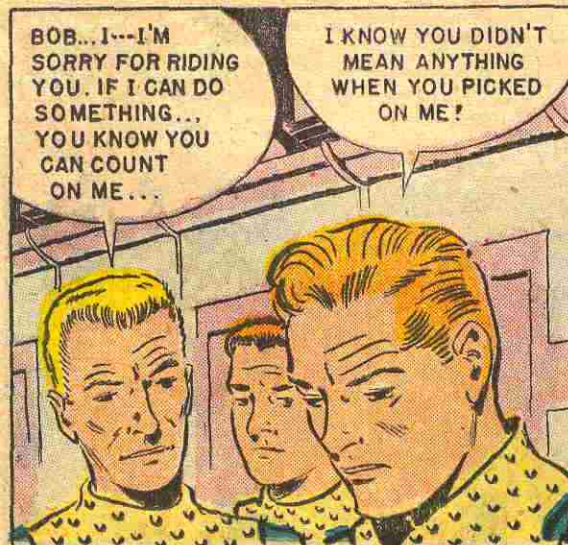
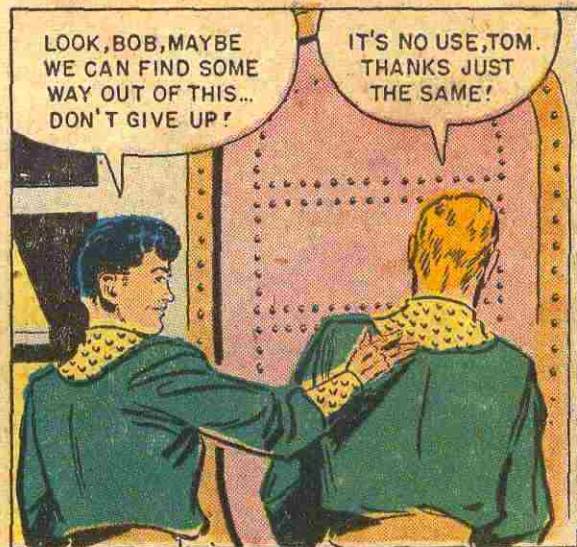
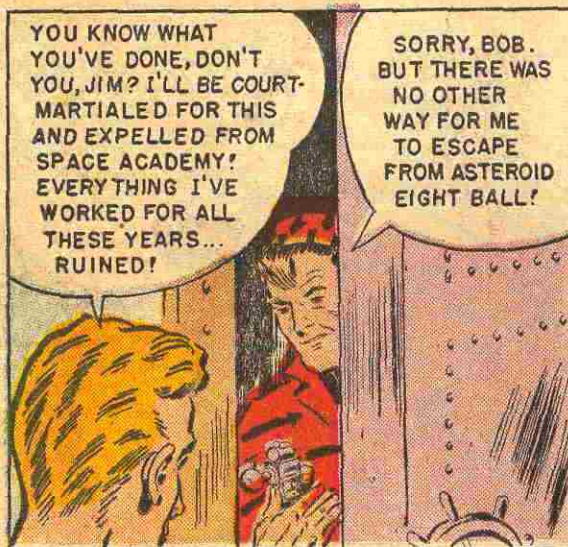


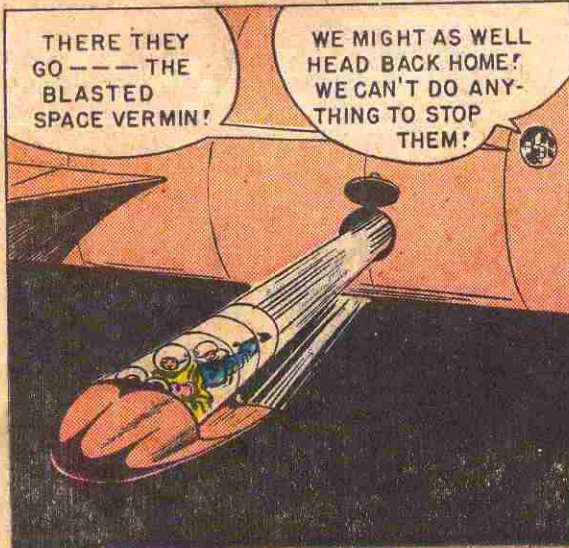


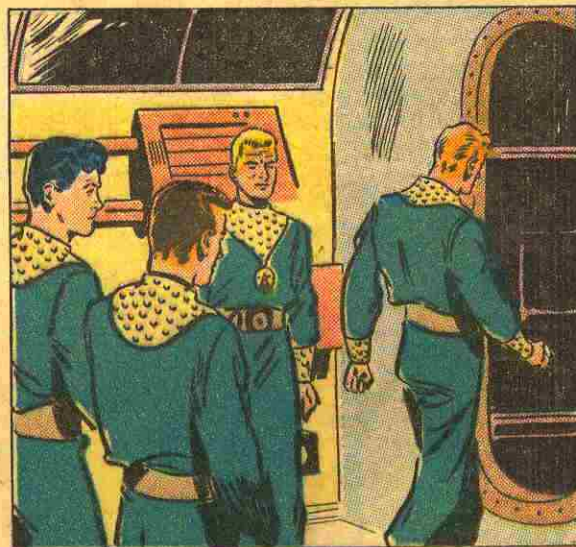
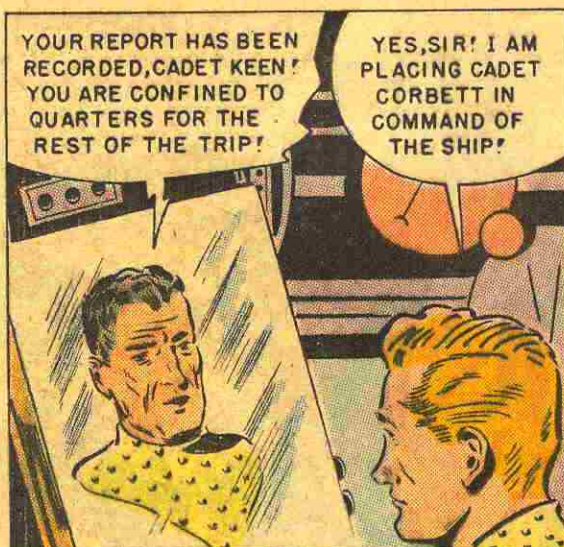




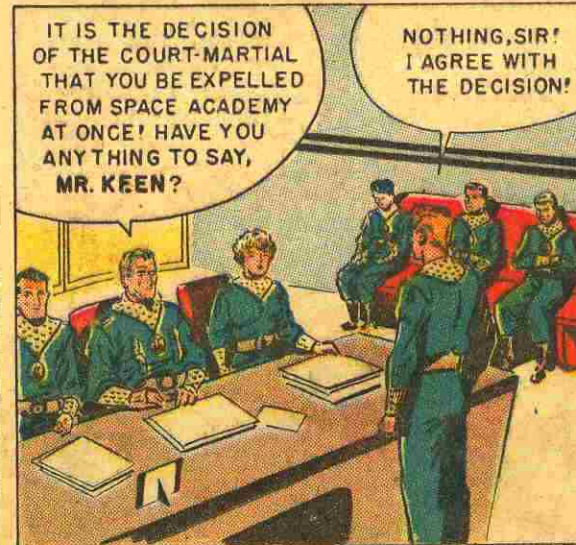


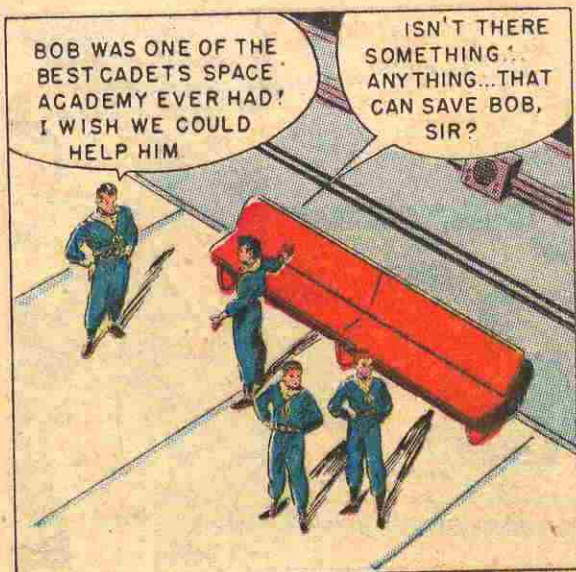






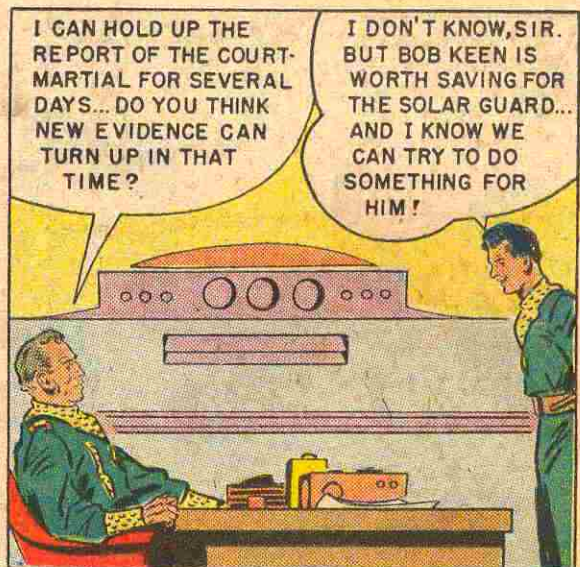
A SADHEARTED SQUADRON OF SPACE CADETS RETURNS TO SPACE ACADEMY ABOARD THE POLARIS!







JUST A MINUTE,
TOM! I CAN DO
ONE THING---

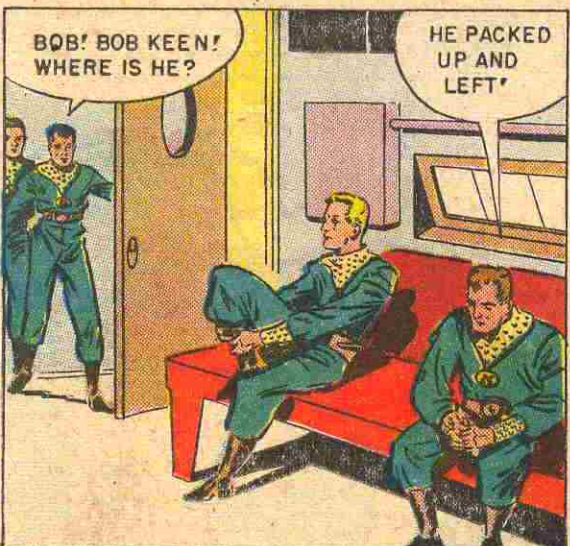


I CAN HOLD UP THE
REPORT OF THE COURT-
MARTIAL FOR SEVERAL
DAYS... DO YOU THINK
NEW EVIDENCE CAN
TURN UP IN THAT
TIME?

I DON'T KNOW, SIR.
BUT BOB KEEN IS
WORTH SAVING FOR
THE SOLAR GUARD...
AND I KNOW WE
CAN TRY TO DO
SOMETHING FOR
HIM!



GO AHEAD AND TRY, TOM
THIS REPORT IS GOING
TO BE LOST ON MY
DESK FOR ABOUT
A WEEK!



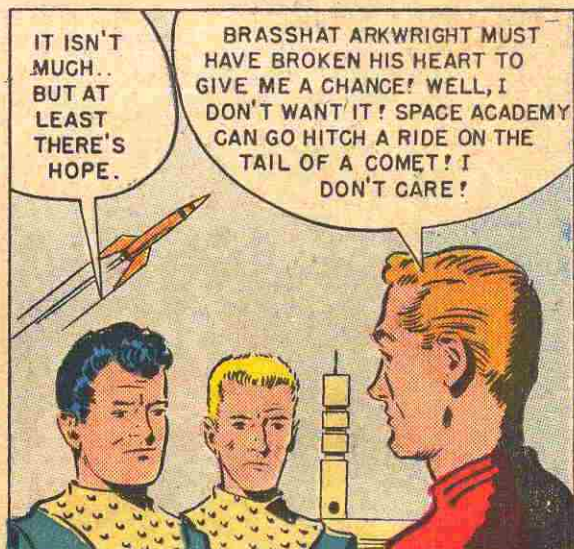
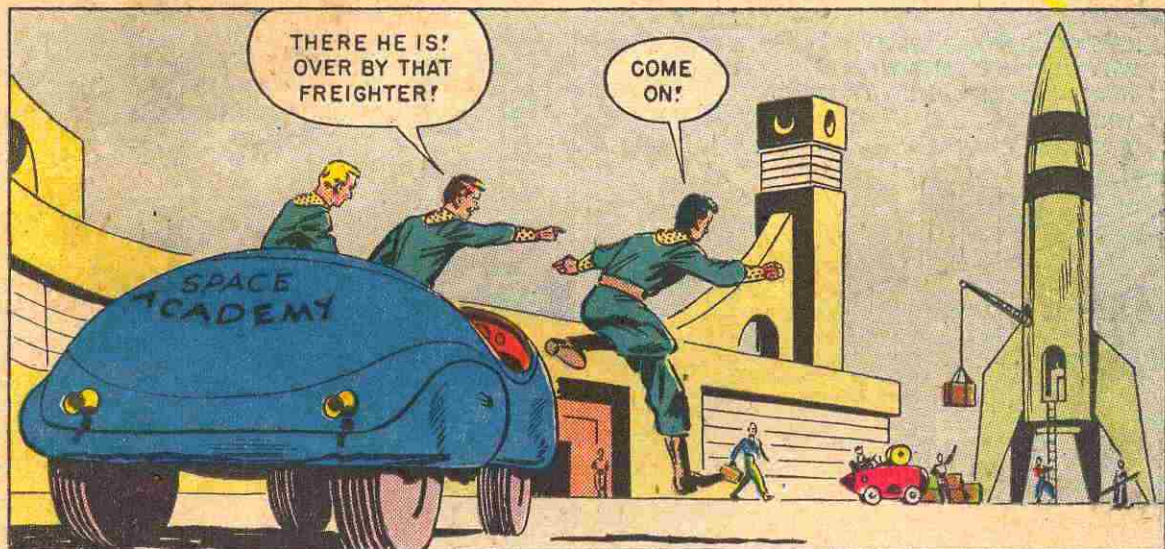
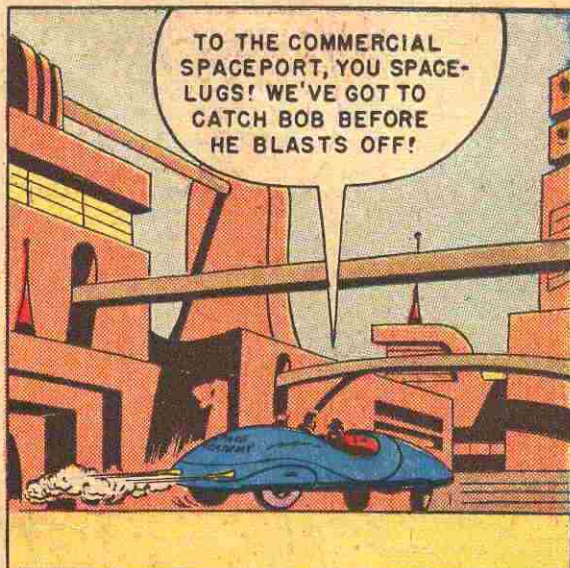
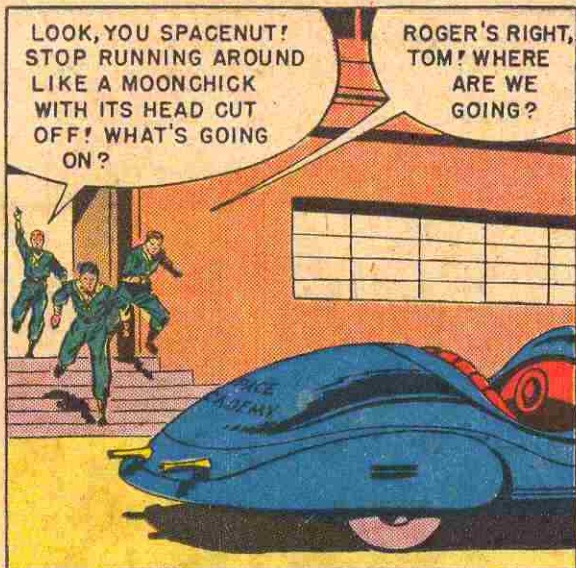
BOB! BOB KEEN!
WHERE IS HE?

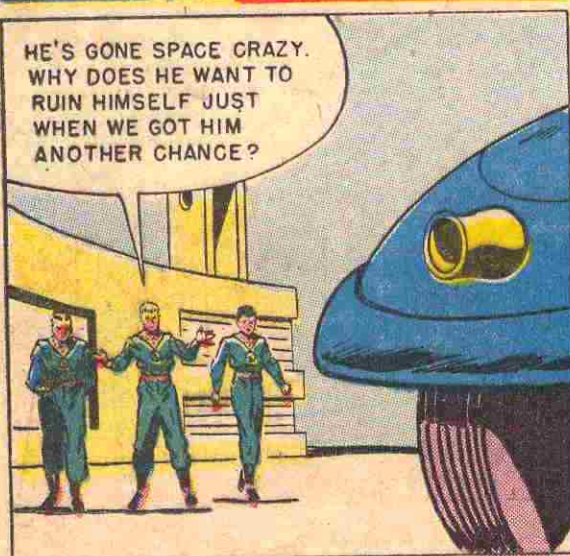
HE PACKED
UP AND
LEFT!



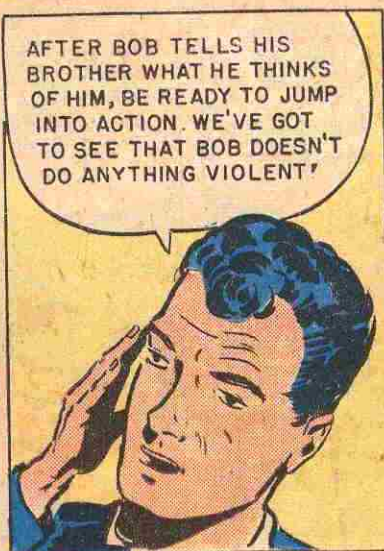
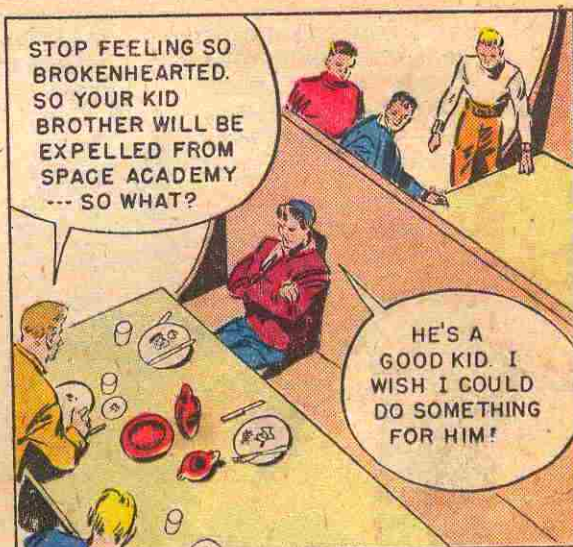
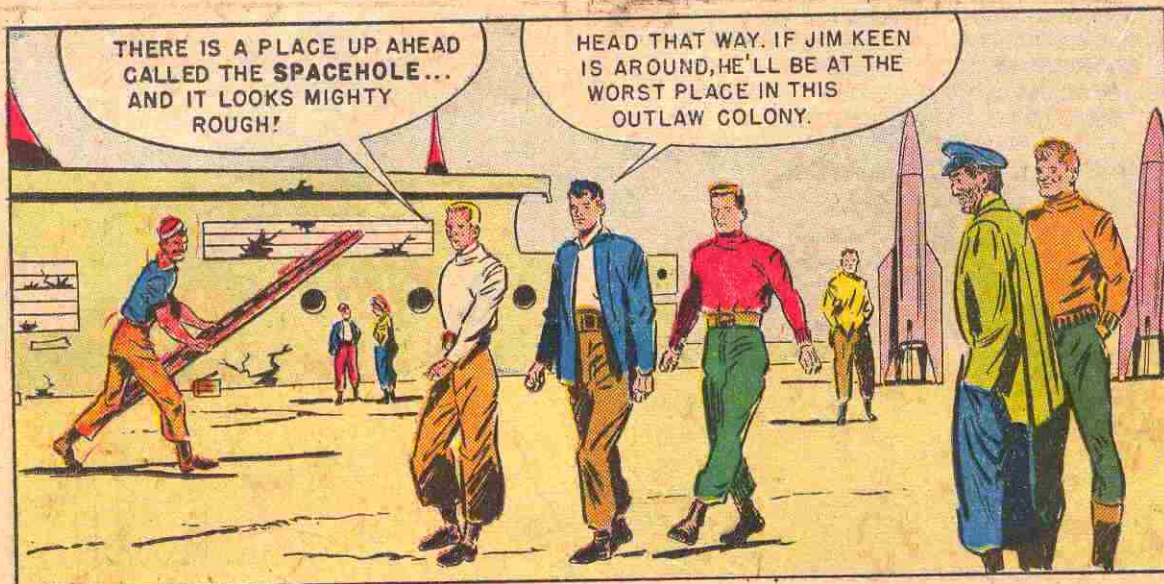
HE SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT GOING TO THE
SPACEPORT AND SHIP-
PING OUT ON SOME
TRAMP SPACE
FREIGHTER!

NOW LEAVE US
ALONE, JUNIOR! WE
FEEL BAD ENOUGH
ABOUT LOSING OUR
SPACEMATE! GO ON!
JET OUT OF HERE!









SPACE ACADEMY NEVER GAVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN---THEY JUST BOUNCED ME OUT! IF THAT'S ALL THE APPRECIATION I GET AFTER THE YEARS I WASTED AS A SPACE CADET--- I'M OUT TO GET EVEN!



WHY... THAT COSMIC LIAR! HE GOT A FAIR TRIAL AND A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN!

EASY, ROGER! DON'T GIVE US AWAY!



ALL RIGHT, BOB. WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO GET EVEN WITH THE SOLAR GUARDS!

THAT'S ALL I ASK!

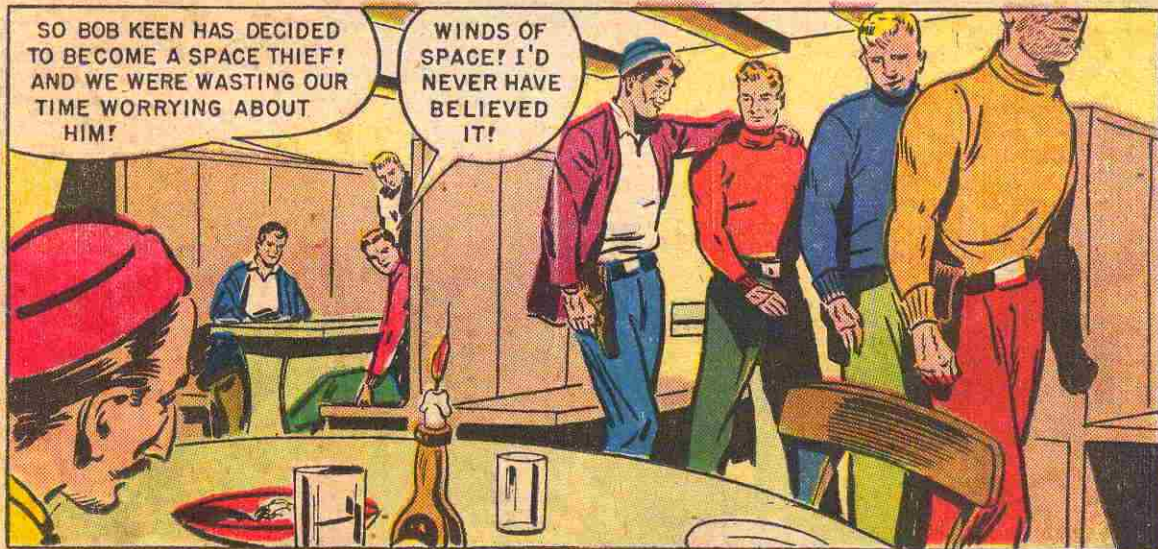


WE'RE GOING TO ROB THE **ASTRAL PRINCESS**, A SPACE EXCURSION SHIP. WE'LL BE ABOARD HER WHEN SHE BLASTS OFF WITH HER TOURIST PASSENGERS! AFTER WE HOLD UP THE SHIP--- OUR OWN ROCKET WILL PICK US UP IN SPACE!



SO BOB KEEN HAS DECIDED TO BECOME A SPACE THIEF! AND WE WERE WASTING OUR TIME WORRYING ABOUT HIM!

WINDS OF SPACE! I'D NEVER HAVE BELIEVED IT!



NO USE WASTING TIME
CRYING OVER SPILLED
MILK! WE'VE GOT TO
PREVENT THE ROBBERY
OF THE ASTRAL
PRINCESS!



ROGER, YOU GO BACK TO THE
POLARIS IN OUR SPACEBOAT.
TELL CAPTAIN STRONG ABOUT
THE PLAN TO ROB THE SHIP.
ASTRO AND I WILL BOARD
THE ASTRAL PRINCESS AND
WARN THE CAPTAIN!

RIGHT!



THERE SHE
IS, ASTRO!
LET'S GO
ABOARD!

WE'LL HAVE TO
TAKE OFF OUR
DISGUISES---
OR THE CAPTAIN
WON'T BELIEVE
US.



WE'RE NOT TAKING ON
ANY SPACE HITCHHIKERS.
YOU ASTEROID HOBOES
BETTER GET OFF THIS
SHIP FAST!

WAIT A MINUTE,
SIR. WE'RE SPACE
CADETS---NOT
SPACE HOBOES!
WE WANT TO SEE
THE CAPTAIN!

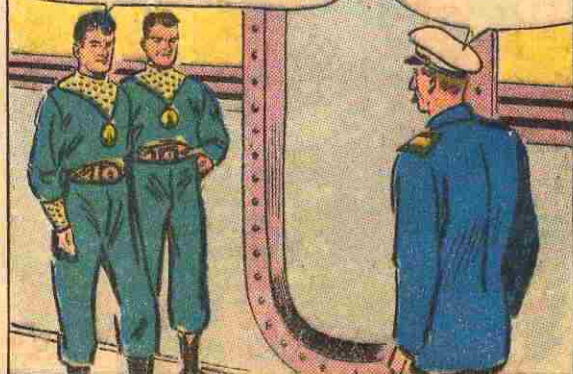


IF YOU WEREN'T SPACE
CADETS--- I'D THINK YOUR
STORY OF A PLOT TO HOLD
UP THIS SHIP WAS NOTHING
BUT A SPACE DREAM!
BUT I'LL GIVE YOU A
CHANCE TO PROVE IT.



WE'LL TAKE A GOOD
LOOK AT EVERY TOURIST
AS THEY COME ABOARD.
THE THIEVES SAID THEY
WOULD BE ABOARD
WHEN YOU BLAST OFF, SIR.

GO AHEAD,
CADET CORBETT!
EVERY PASSENGER
WILL COME
THROUGH THIS
DOOR!





ALL PASSENGERS
ACCOUNTED FOR
ON BOARD, SIR!

VERY GOOD!
PREPARE TO
BLAST OFF!



WELL, CADETS? IT
LOOKS LIKE YOUR
INFORMATION
WAS WRONG!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
IT, SIR. I'M SURE THE
CROOKS PLAN TO
BE ON BOARD!



WELL, I CAN'T
WASTE ANY MORE
TIME. YOU CADETS
BETTER GO
LANDSIDE.

PLEASE, SIR. MAY WE
STAY ON BOARD UNTIL
THE NEXT STOP? WE'LL
CONTACT OUR SHIP
TO PICK US UP
THERE!



I SEE. YOU STILL
EXPECT SOMETHING!
VERY WELL, STAY
ON BOARD!

THANK
YOU,
SIR!



MEANWHILE, PATROLLING
THE NEARBY SPACE LANES...

THERE SHE IS, SIR!
TOM AND ASTRO MUST
BE ON BOARD SINCE
THEY'D HAVE
SIGNALLED US..

WE'LL FOLLOW
THE **ASTRAL
PRINCESS** AT A
DISTANCE AND SEE
WHAT HAPPENS!



WE COULDN'T BE
MISTAKEN! THIS IS
THE ONLY EXCURSION
SHIP WITHIN MILLIONS
OF MILES! AND THE
ONLY ONE TO STOP
AT OUTLAW COLONY!

WE SAW EVERY
PASSENGER WHO
CAME ON BOARD.
WE BLUNDERED
SOMEHOW!



YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, BOB!
I'VE GOT TO ADMIT I WAS
SUSPICIOUS OF YOU! NOW,
YOU'RE MARKED AS A
SPACE THIEF ---
AND YOU'LL HAVE TO
STICK WITH US!

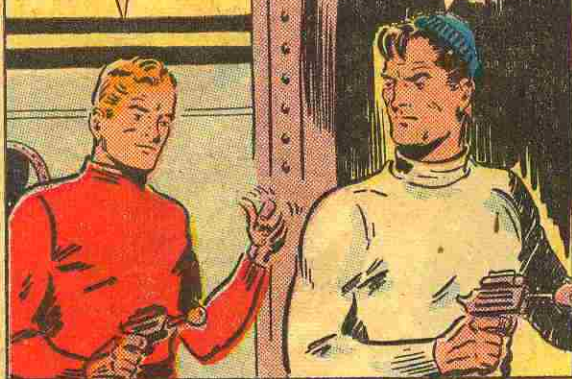


ALL RIGHT, MATES! WE'VE
CLEANED OUT THE SHIP. OUR
PICKUP BOAT WILL BE ALONG-
SIDE ANY MINUTE NOW!
LOCK THE PASSENGERS
IN AND LET'S GO!



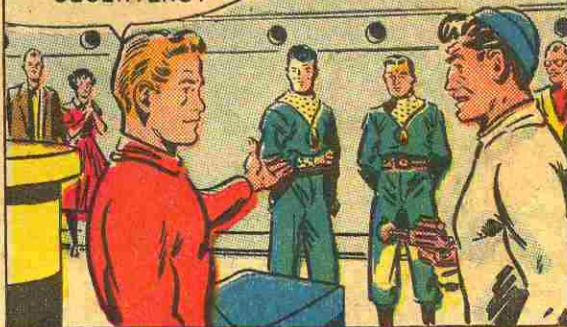
WAIT A MINUTE, JIM!
THERE ARE TWO SPACE
CADETS HERE! THEY
CAN IDENTIFY US!

HUMMM! YOU
ARE RIGHT, BOB!
WE'LL HAVE TO
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THEM!



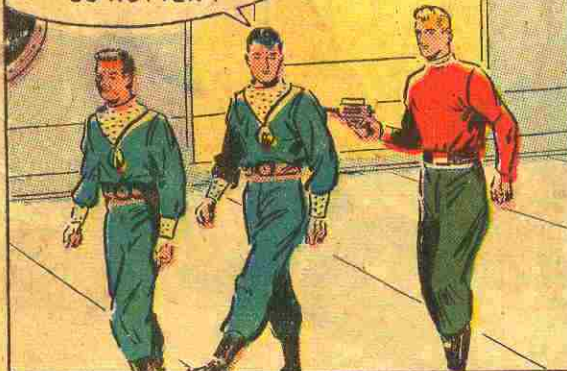
WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM
BEHIND --- THEY KNOW
TOO MUCH. LET'S TAKE
THEM ALONG. WE CAN
HOLD THEM UNTIL
SPACE ACADEMY
MARKS THEM AS
DESERTERS!

TAKE
THEM
ALONG!



YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO
THIS, BOB! YOU PURPOSELY
WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY
TO RUIN OUR CAREERS!
HOW CAN YOU TURN
SO ROTTEN?

SHUT UP
AND
MOVE!

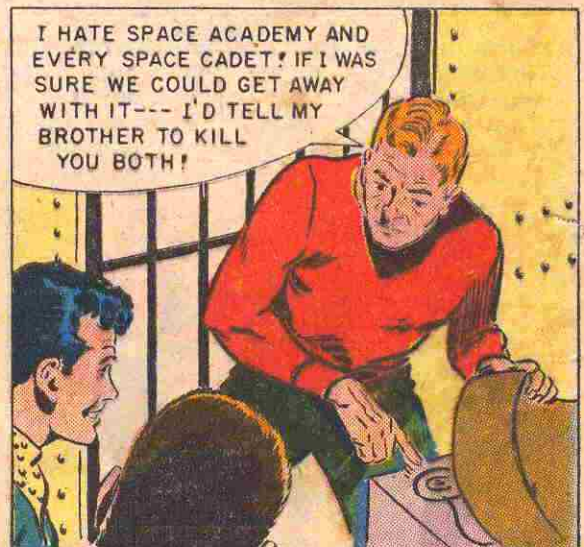
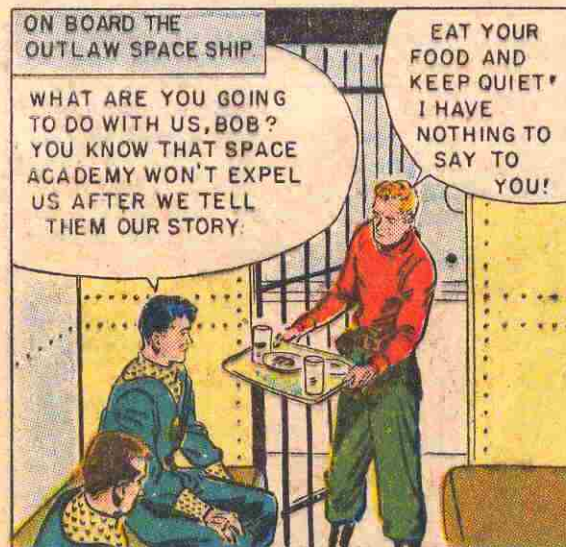


THE LOOTING OF THE **ASTRAL PRINCESS** IS
OBSERVED BY RADARSCOPE ABOARD THE
POLARIS!

LOOKS LIKE TOM AND
ASTRO COULDN'T STOP
THE ROBBERY! NOW IF
I HAD BEEN THERE---

YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE OUT
BETTER THAN
TOM AND ASTRO!
CLOSE YOUR JETS,
CADET MANNING!







MY BROTHER AND HIS MEN
WOULD HEAR EVERY WORD WE
SPOKE THROUGH THAT MICRO-
PHONE. WE CAN TALK OUT
HERE--- THEN YOU GUYS
ARE GOING BACK INTO
YOUR PRISON!

I DON'T
GET THIS,
BOB! YOU'LL
HAVE TO
EXPLAIN---
PLENTY!



I JOINED MY BROTHER'S GANG FOR ONE
REASON---TO CAPTURE THEM AND TURN
THEM OVER TO THE SOLAR GUARD. IT
WOULD UNDO SOME OF THE HARM I
CAUSED THROUGH MY MISTAKE
EVEN IF IT WOULDN'T GET ME
ANOTHER CHANCE AT SPACE
ACADEMY!



I THOUGHT YOU GUYS SPOILED MY
PLAN WHEN I FOUND YOU ON
BOARD THE **ASTRAL PRINCESS**.
THEN I REALIZED YOU COULD
HELP ME--- SO I TALKED
MY BROTHER INTO
BRINGING YOU
ALONG!



ALL RIGHT, BOB! I'M
SORRY I WAS MISTAKEN
ABOUT YOU. WHAT
DO WE DO
NEXT?

GET BACK IN
THERE AND WAIT---
I'LL FREE YOU
WHEN THERE'S
A CHANCE TO
DO SOME-
THING!



NEVER THOUGHT
BOB KEEN WOULD
TURN INTO SUCH
A HARDENED
CRIMINAL!

JUST GOES TO
SHOW YOU, TOM!
NEVER CAN TELL
HOW A SPACE CADET
WILL TURN OUT!





IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON BOB KEEN, ASTRO---I'LL BREAK HIM INTO SPACE-PEBBLES!

WELL, BOB, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR OLD SPACE-CHUMS---THE SPACE CADETS?



WHEN WE LAND AT OUTLAW COLONY--- I'D LIKE TO BE PLACED IN CHARGE OF THEM, JIM. I'LL SHOW THEM A THING OR TWO!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO OUTLAW COLONY, BOB! WE'VE GOT A HIDE-OUT ASTEROID ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR US!



THAT'S IT, BOB! WE'LL STAY HERE UNTIL ALL THE EXCITEMENT OF THE ASTRAL PRINCESS HOLDUP BLOWS OVER!



HURRY UP! YOU'RE GOING TO STAY HERE NICE AND SAFE... UNTIL MY BROTHER DECIDES WHAT TO DO WITH YOU!



AND IN SPACE, CAPTAIN STRONG AND ROGER STUDY THE CRIMINALS' ASTEROID HIDE-OUT.

THEY'VE LANDED, SIR! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

SET ORBITAL COURSE, ROGER. WE'LL WAIT FOR THEM TO CONTACT US --- BUT ONLY FOR A FEW HOURS. MEANWHILE, CONTACT SOLAR GUARD BASE AND ASK FOR IMMEDIATE REINFORCEMENTS!

THIS IS GOING TO BE YOUR HOME FOR A LONG TIME, BOYS. EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT--- IF YOU BEHAVE!



PSST! I'LL TRY TO GET THE LAY OF THE LAND HERE. YOU TWO TRY TO WORK OUT SOME PLAN!

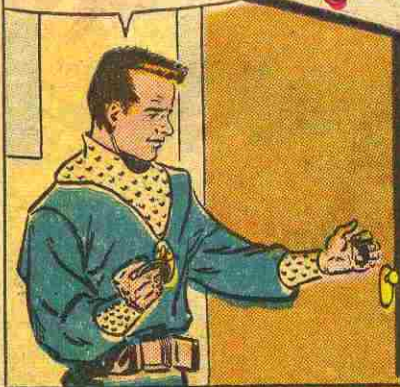


LISTEN, BOB, FIND OUT IF THERE IS ANY WAY TO GET OFF THIS PLACE EXCEPT BY THE WAY WE CAME!

IF WE COULD ONLY CONTACT CAPTAIN STRONG AND THE POLARIS BY SPACEPHONE, ASTRO. BUT THEY MUST BE WAITING FOR WORD FROM US SOMEWHERE NEAR OUTLAW COLONY.



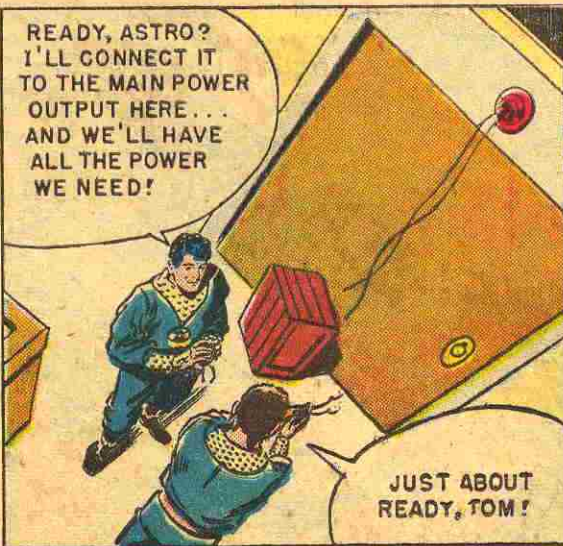
SUPPOSE I HOOK UP THE POWER OF BOTH OUR SPACEPHONES, TOM? IT MIGHT REACH THE POLARIS...



WAIT, ASTRO! THERE'S PLENTY OF POWER RIGHT IN HERE.



READY, ASTRO? I'LL CONNECT IT TO THE MAIN POWER OUTPUT HERE... AND WE'LL HAVE ALL THE POWER WE NEED!



JUST ABOUT READY, TOM!

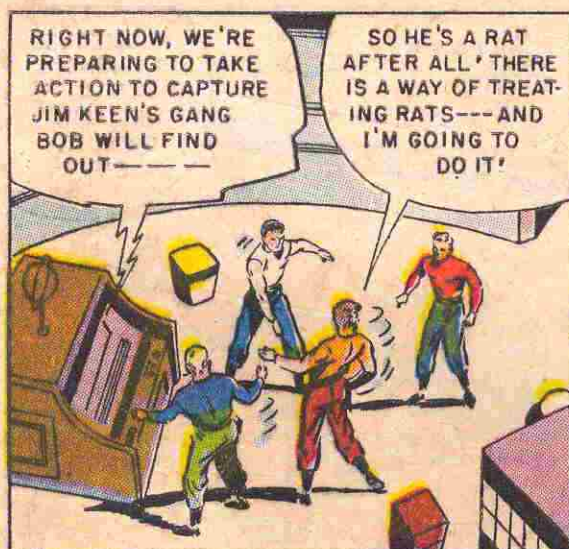
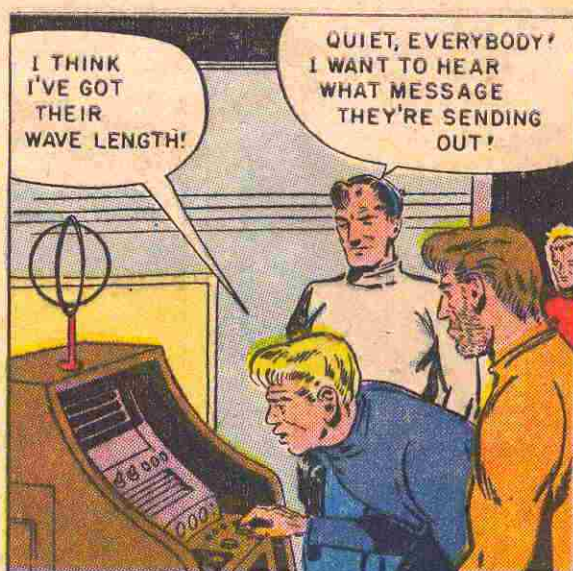
CALLING SPACE CRUISER POLARIS! CALLING POLARIS--- OR ANY SOLAR GUARD LISTENING POST! SPACE CADETS ASTRO AND CORBETT HELD PRISONER ON OUTLAW ASTEROID! PUT TRACER BEAM ON US!

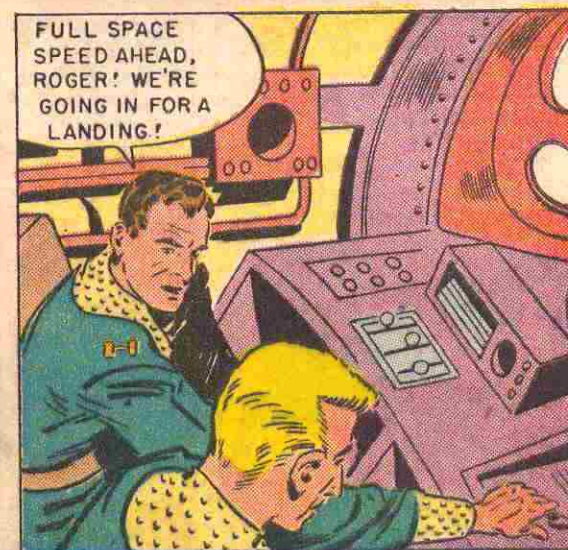


THE LIGHT'S GETTING DIM!



SOMEONE IS TAKING POWER OFF THE MAIN CIRCUIT, BIFF!





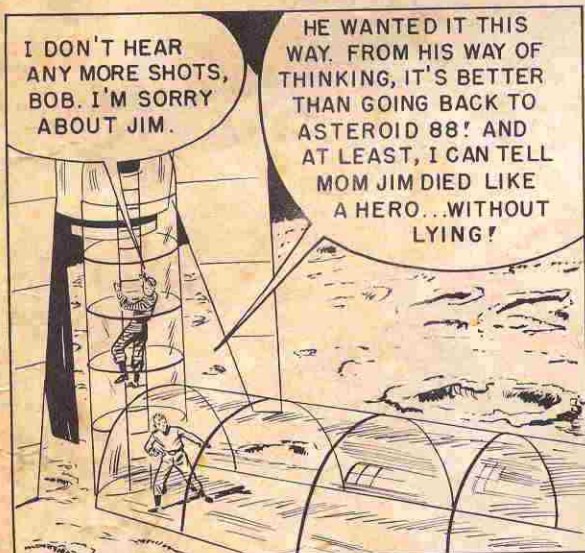




THEY'LL OUT-GUN YOU! GET TO THE SPACE-SHIP! IT'S THE ONLY WAY OFF THIS ASTEROID. I'LL HOLD BIFF BACK UNTIL YOU GET AWAY!

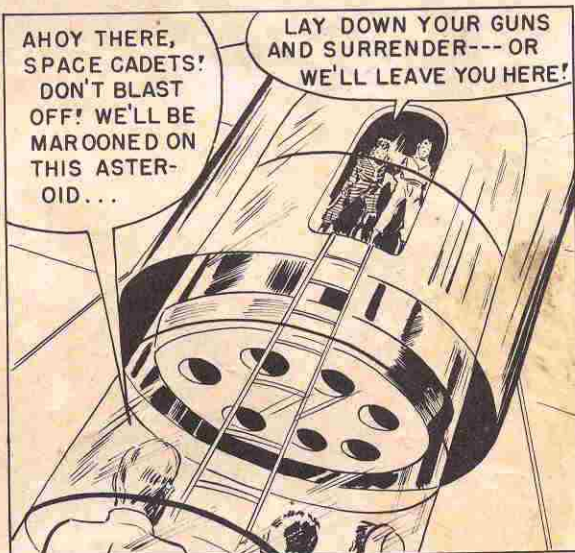


I...I GUESS IT'S BEST THIS WAY. JIM WANTS A CHANCE TO PAY FOR HIS CRIMES BY HELPING US ESCAPE!



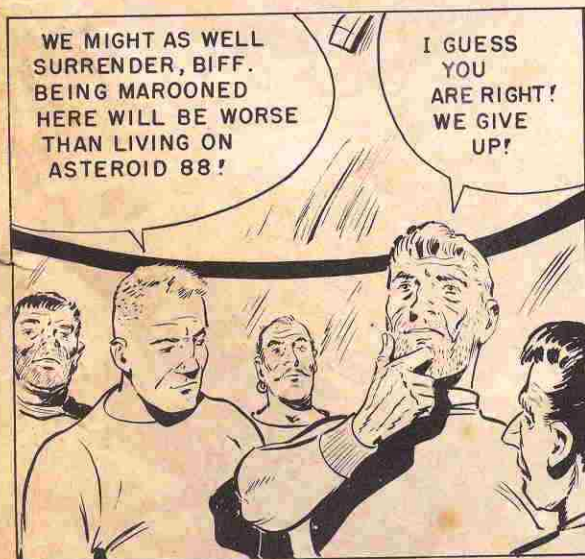
I DON'T HEAR ANY MORE SHOTS, BOB. I'M SORRY ABOUT JIM.

HE WANTED IT THIS WAY. FROM HIS WAY OF THINKING, IT'S BETTER THAN GOING BACK TO ASTEROID 88! AND AT LEAST, I CAN TELL MOM JIM DIED LIKE A HERO...WITHOUT LYING!



AHOY THERE, SPACE CADETS! DON'T BLAST OFF! WE'LL BE MAROONED ON THIS ASTEROID...

LAY DOWN YOUR GUNS AND SURRENDER--- OR WE'LL LEAVE YOU HERE!



WE MIGHT AS WELL SURRENDER, BIFF. BEING MAROONED HERE WILL BE WORSE THAN LIVING ON ASTEROID 88!

I GUESS YOU ARE RIGHT! WE GIVE UP!



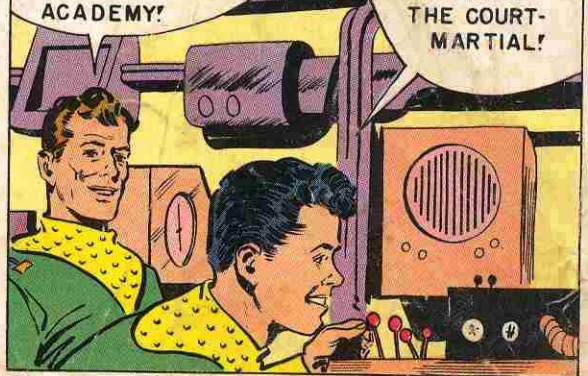
ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS! EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL. CAPTAIN STRONG AND I ARE HERE!

RELAX, ROGER! WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE GANG UP IN THE BRIG!

THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, SIR BOB KEEN WENT OUT SINGLEHANDED TO ROUND UP THE CRIMINALS WHO ESCAPED FROM ASTEROID 88. WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM US, HE SUCCEEDED! BUT THE CREDIT SHOULD BE ALL HIS, SIR!



WE'LL DELIVER THE PRISONERS TO SOLAR GUARD DETENTION STATION FOR TRIAL. THEN IT'S FULL SPACE SPEED FOR THE ACADEMY!



YES, SIR! AND I HOPE THAT COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT HASN'T YET FOUND THE REPORT OF THE COURT-MARTIAL!

SOME DAYS LATER IN THE OFFICE OF COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT.



FORTUNATELY, I HADN'T SENT IN THE COURT-MARTIAL RECORD, SPACE CADET KEEN. THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF JUDGES CAN REVIEW YOUR CASE

... AND IN VIEW OF YOUR SERVICE IN ROUNDING UP THE SPACEBANDITS, IT IS OUR DECISION THAT YOU BE REINSTATED AT SPACE ACADEMY! YOU WILL GRADUATE WITH YOUR CLASS, CADET KEEN!



AND AFTER GRADUATION...

CADET MANNING! THE NEXT TIME YOU FAIL TO SALUTE AN OFFICER OF THE SOLAR GUARD—I'LL HAVE YOU DOING EXTRA GUARD DUTY!

HI, BOB, OLD BOY!



GOSH! IMAGINE HIM PULLING RANK ON ME! AND AFTER ALL I DID FOR HIM, TOO!

