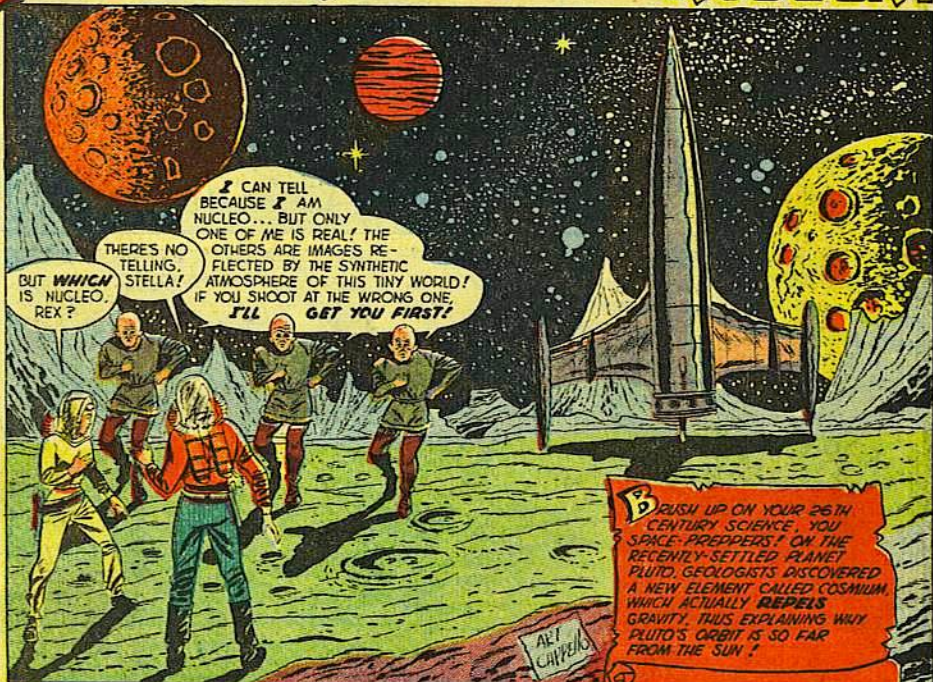


# The Great GRAVITEX ROBBERY

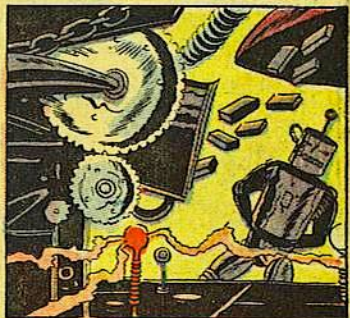
SPACE ADVENTURES



**B**RUSH UP ON YOUR 26TH CENTURY SCIENCE, YOU SPACE-PREPPERS! ON THE RECENTLY SETTLED PLANET PLUTO, GEOLOGISTS DISCOVERED A NEW ELEMENT CALLED COSMIUM, WHICH ACTUALLY REPELS GRAVITY, THUS EXPLAINING WHY PLUTO'S ORBIT IS SO FAR FROM THE SUN!

**N**OW THE COSMIUM IS MINED BY ROBOTS AND LOADED INTO SPACE BARGES WHICH ARE TOWED BILLIONS OF MILES TO THE PLANET MINERVA (FORMERLY CALLED EARTH)...

... AND THERE THE COSMIUM IS PROCESS ED AND REDUCED TO A SUBSTANCE CALLED GRAVITEX WHICH IS SO PURE THAT IT WOULD SAIL OFF INTO SPACE UNLESS HELD DOWN!





# SPACE ADVENTURES

**B**UT IN THE MONTH OF AUGRIL IN THE YEAR 2553 A.D., A CRISIS THREATENS THE MINERVA GRAVITEX REFINERY!



IN ONE MONTH, COMMISSIONER, WE'VE ADDED **FIFTY** TONS OF GRAVITEX TO OUR STOCKPILE!

BUT THE **MORE** YOU HAVE, THE **LESS** IT SHOULD WEIGH, BECAUSE IT NEUTRALIZES GRAVITY! SEND FOR REX CLIVE!



SOMEBODY SUBSTITUTED ALL THIS FAKE STUFF FOR REAL GRAVITEX, REX! HE CAN CONSTRUCT SPACE BASES BIG ENOUGH TO DESTROY ANY WORLD!

THIS IS THE WORK OF NUCLEO, THE MAD MADTIAN. I'VE HEARD HE IS AT LARGE AGAIN!



REX CLIVE IS GETTING VERY WARM, NUCLEO!

GOOD! HE'LL FIND HIMSELF IN SOMETHING HOTTER THAN A SUNSPOT!



THESE RECORDS WILL SHOW THE DATES OF THE ROBBERIES. I'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE! NUCLEO TIMED THOSE JOBS TO SHIP THE GRAVITEX ON SPACELINERS PASSING THROUGH SECTOR Q-4 OF THE ASTEROID BELT!

THE LINER **PLUTONIA** LEAVES ON THAT RUN TOMORROW. WE'D BETTER SHIP ON BOARD HER, REX!



THE NEXT DAY...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO THROUGH THE CARGO, REX, AND GRAB THE GRAVITEX?

BECAUSE I'M MORE ANXIOUS TO GRAB NUCLEO! SO GET YOURSELF A FLEET OF SCOUTCRAFT, SPEED AND HEAD FOR SECTOR Q-4. I MAY BE NEEDING YOU!



HEH! NOT ONE PERSON IN A THOUSAND WOULD TAKE ME FOR NUCLEO. BUT IF ANYONE SHOULD, IT WILL BE TOO BAD... **FOR THEM.**



# SPACE ADVENTURES

**S**O THE SPACELINER PLUTONIA ZOOMED OFF FROM MINECVA, BOUND FOR THE REMOTE SPACIAL REGIONS BEYOND THE ASTEROIDS, CARRYING BOTH THE HUNTERS AND THE HUNTED WITH THE FATES OF WORLDS AT STAKE!



WE'RE GETTING WITHIN A FEW MILLION MILES OF SECTOR Q-4 AND YOU **STILL** HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT IF NUCLEO IS ON BOARD, REX!

I'VE NARROWED THE LIST DOWN TO A DOZEN PASSENGERS AND THERE IS ONE I SPECIALLY WANT TO TEST! I'LL SHOW HIM TO YOU.



YOU MEAN AB AGOR, THE MAN IN THE WHEELCHAIR? WHY HE'S JUST A POOR EARTHIAN INVALID ON HIS WAY TO SATURN.

AS SOON AS HE'S IN HIS CABIN, WE'LL GIVE HIM THE TEST!



WHY YOU'VE REDUCED THE AIR PRESSURE IN AGOR'S CABIN TO **ONE-TENTH** THE NORMAL PRESSURE ON EARTH! HE WILL DIE!

IF HE DOES, WE'LL WITNESS HIS DEATH THROES IN THIS SUPER X-RAY MACHINE. IT'S RIGHT AGAINST HIS CABIN WALL!



HE HASN'T EVEN **NOTICED** IT, STELLA... AND ONLY A **MARTIAN** COULD SURVIVE IN SUCH RAREFIED AIR, THAT PROVES HE'S NUCLEO!



BUT HOW DID YOU SUSPECT HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE?

BECAUSE OF THE INVALID GAG. ALL MARTIANS DRAG THEIR FEET ON EARTH BECAUSE OF IT'S GREATER GRAVITY, SO NUCLEO HAD HIMSELF **WHEELED** ON BOARD SHIP TO FOOL US.



# SPACE ADVENTURES



YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT NUCLEO! HERE HE COMES NOW!

WE'LL FOLLOW HIM, STELLA!



THOSE BOXES MUST CONTAIN GRAVITEX! NUCLEO AND HIS STOOGES ARE GOING OVERBOARD WITH THEM! WHAT NOW, REX?

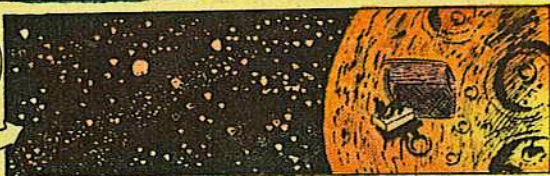
WE'LL GO AFTER THEM IN A COUPLE OF SPACE BUBBLES!

AS NUCLEO AND HIS COMPANION POP FROM THE SPACEHATCH, REX AND STELLA ROLL THEMSELVES INTO SPACE TO BEGIN ONE OF THE STRANGEST PURSUITS ON RECORD!



DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT A PAIR OF SPACESHOOPERS ARE TAGGING US!

GOOD. THEY WILL BE HAPPY TO FIND THAT THIS LITTLE WORLD HAS AN ATMOSPHERE... UNTIL I RELEASE SOME OF MY PETS!



THIS MUST BE THE ASTEROID DOBA. ITS AIR IS UNQUESTIONABLY ARTIFICIAL OR SYNTHETIC...

NEVER MIND THE STATISTICS. LOOK WHAT'S COMING AT US!



THE LAST LIVING SPECIMEN OF THE SUPPOSEDLY EXTINGUISHED LIZARDINES... NOW **TOTALLY** EXTINGUISHED!



# SPACE ADVENTURES





# SPACE ADVENTURES

AT NUCLEO'S COMMAND, THE CAVERN OPENS LIKE A GREAT DOME...



HOW DO YOU LIKE THE MIRAGE EFFECT PRODUCED BY A SUDDEN INFLUX OF DOBA'S ATMOSPHERE? HEH! YOU'LL SOON BE SEEING MORE OF ME!



DON'T WORRY, STELLA! I SAW THE OFFICERS' FLEET IN THE OFFING. NUCLEO CAN'T GET FAR!

OH, NO?

IT'S NO-USE, STELLA! NUCLEO HAS TRICKED US WITH HIS MIRROR ATMOSPHERE. WE CAN'T RISK SHOOTING AT PHANTOMS! HE MAY NOT EVEN BE THERE!

I'M HERE ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU CAN'T GUESS WHICH I AM!



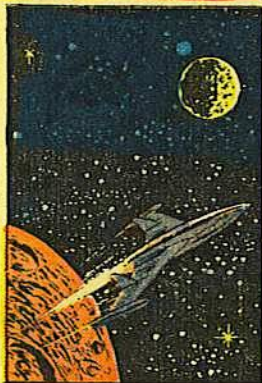
WHY DO YOU THINK I LET YOU LOAD ALL THOSE CRATES ON BOARD? BECAUSE I **PLANNED** TO LEAVE DOBA WITH MY FULL CARGO! THIS IS THE FASTEST SPACESHIP IN EXISTENCE. OPEN THE SUPER SUPERJETS, POJO, AND SHOW THEM!





# SPACE ADVENTURES

**N**UCLEO IS RIGHT! HIS SUPERSHIP TAKES OFF FASTER THAN A COMET...

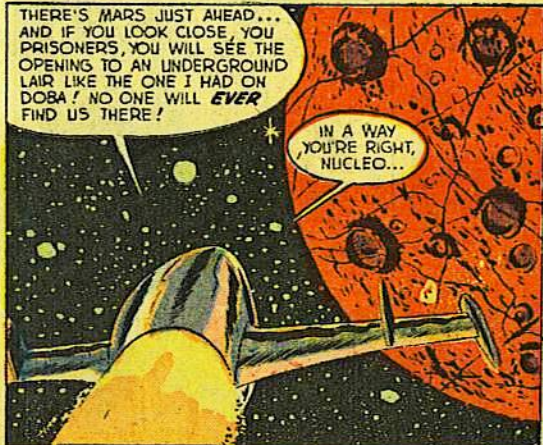


...AND SPEEDS RIGHT PAST THE OFFICERS' CONVERGING SCOUT-CRAFT AS THOUGH THEY WERE SO MUCH SPACEDRIFT!



WE'RE HEADING FOR MY HOME PLANET MARS AND WE'LL GET THERE MILLIONS OF MILES AHEAD OF YOUR SLOW SCOUT-CRAFT!

THERE'S MARS JUST AHEAD... AND IF YOU LOOK CLOSE, YOU PRISONERS, YOU WILL SEE THE OPENING TO AN UNDERGROUND LAIR LIKE THE ONE I HAD ON DOBA! NO ONE WILL **EVER** FIND US THERE!



IN A WAY, YOU'RE RIGHT, NUCLEO...

BECAUSE WE'RE NEVER GOING TO GET THERE! COME ON, STELLA... WE'RE TAKING OVER THIS SPACE-PACKET!



WHY, YOU FOOLS! WE'LL BE INSIDE MARS IN A FEW MINUTES!

KEEP HEADING RIGHT INTO MARS, POJO, YOU FOOL!



I CAN'T, NUCLEO! SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG WITH THE HELM!

HERE... YOU STRUGGLE WITH THIS CRAZY SPACE OFFICER, POJO, WHILE I GUIDE THE SHIP IN!





# SPACE ADVENTURES

IT'S NO USE, NUCLEO! YOU OVERLOOKED ONE IMPORTANT FACTOR WHICH I ANTICIPATED!



WITH ITS FULL LOAD OF GRAVITEX, THIS SHIP WILL BE REPELLED BY THE GRAVITY OF ANY FULL-FLEDGED PLANET! YOU **CAN'T** PULL INTO MARS, NUCLEO!



HERE COME THE SPACE OFFICERS TO SNAG YOU WITH THEIR MAGNETIC GRAPPERS.



...AND GRAVITEX DOESN'T HAVE ANY REPELLENT EFFECT ON THOSE!



I'D SAY THAT WHEN NUCLEO IS ON THE RECEIVING END OF A FIST, HE'S **REPELLENT** HIMSELF. WHAT DO YOU SAY, STELLA?

I'D SAY HE WAS JUST PLAIN **REPULSIVE!**

**Boop!**



HERE'S NUCLEO, SPEED. WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE'LL FIND HIMSELF BACK WHERE HE STARTED FROM! MEANWHILE, WE'LL RAID HIS HIDEOUT ON MARS!

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO FIGURE IS HOW TO GET THAT GRAVITEX BACK TO EARTH!



JUL 1968