

MARVEL

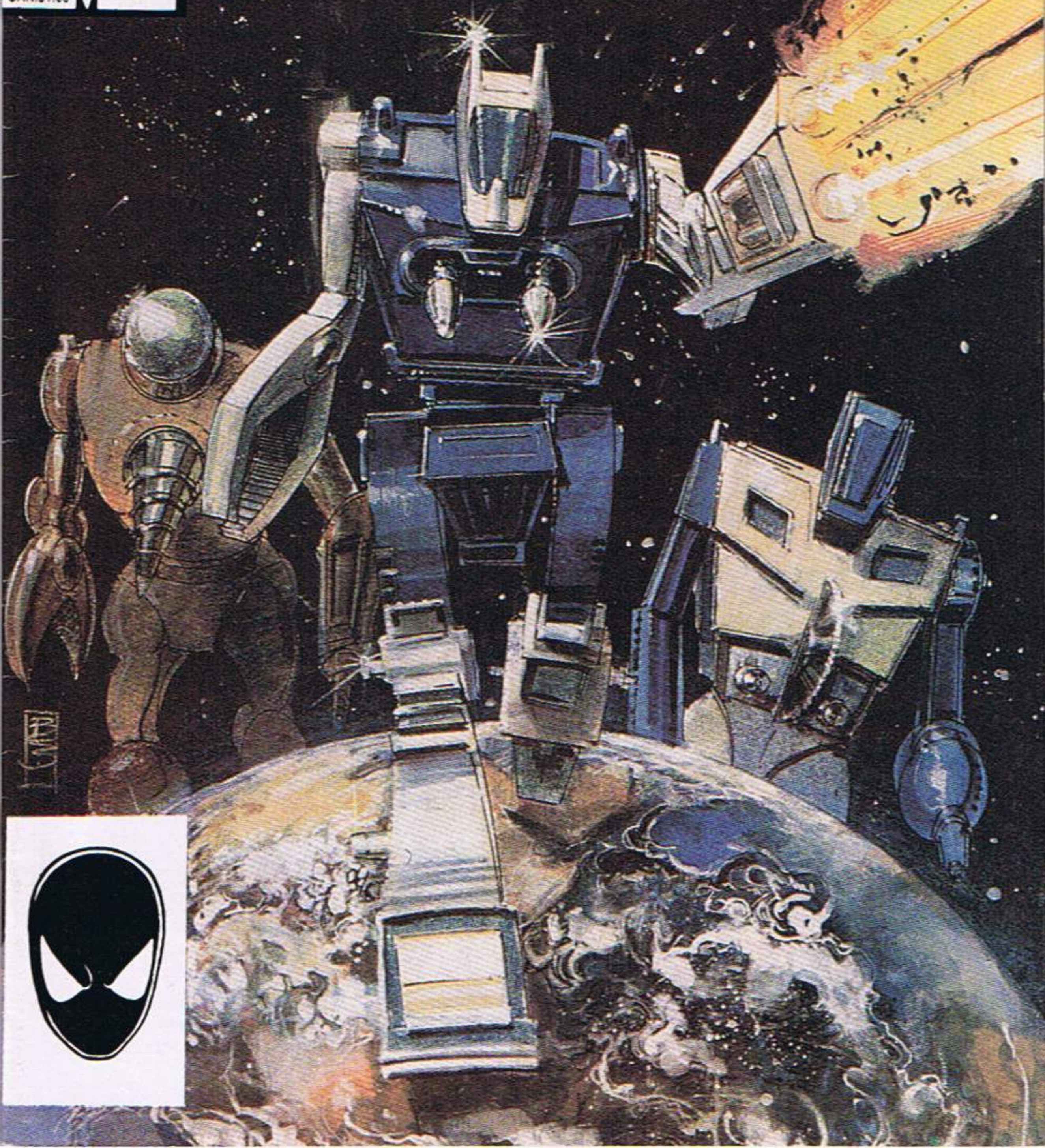
#1 IN A FOUR-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES



STARRIORS

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THEY'RE ALL COMING OUT THE PIPES!



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Stan Lee
PRESENTS!

DISCOVERY

WORK, YOU
PROTECTOR
SCUM! SLAUGHTER
STEELGRAVE HAS
ORDERED THE WALL
REPAIRED BEFORE
SUNDOWN--

--AND,
IF I HAVE
TO USE
YOUR BODIES
FOR MORTAR,
IT WILL BE!

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I'D LIKE TO
USE HIS HEAD
FOR MORTAR!

YEAH! THOSE
DESTRUCTORS'RE
ACTIN' MEANER AN'
CRAZIER--MORE LIKE
WE'RE THEIR SLAVES--
THAN EVER!

BUT DON'T WORRY,
CUT-UP! ANY DAY NOW,
MAN'S GONNA WAKE
UP AN' COME OUT OF
THE DESERT AN'
SAVE US FROM
THEM!

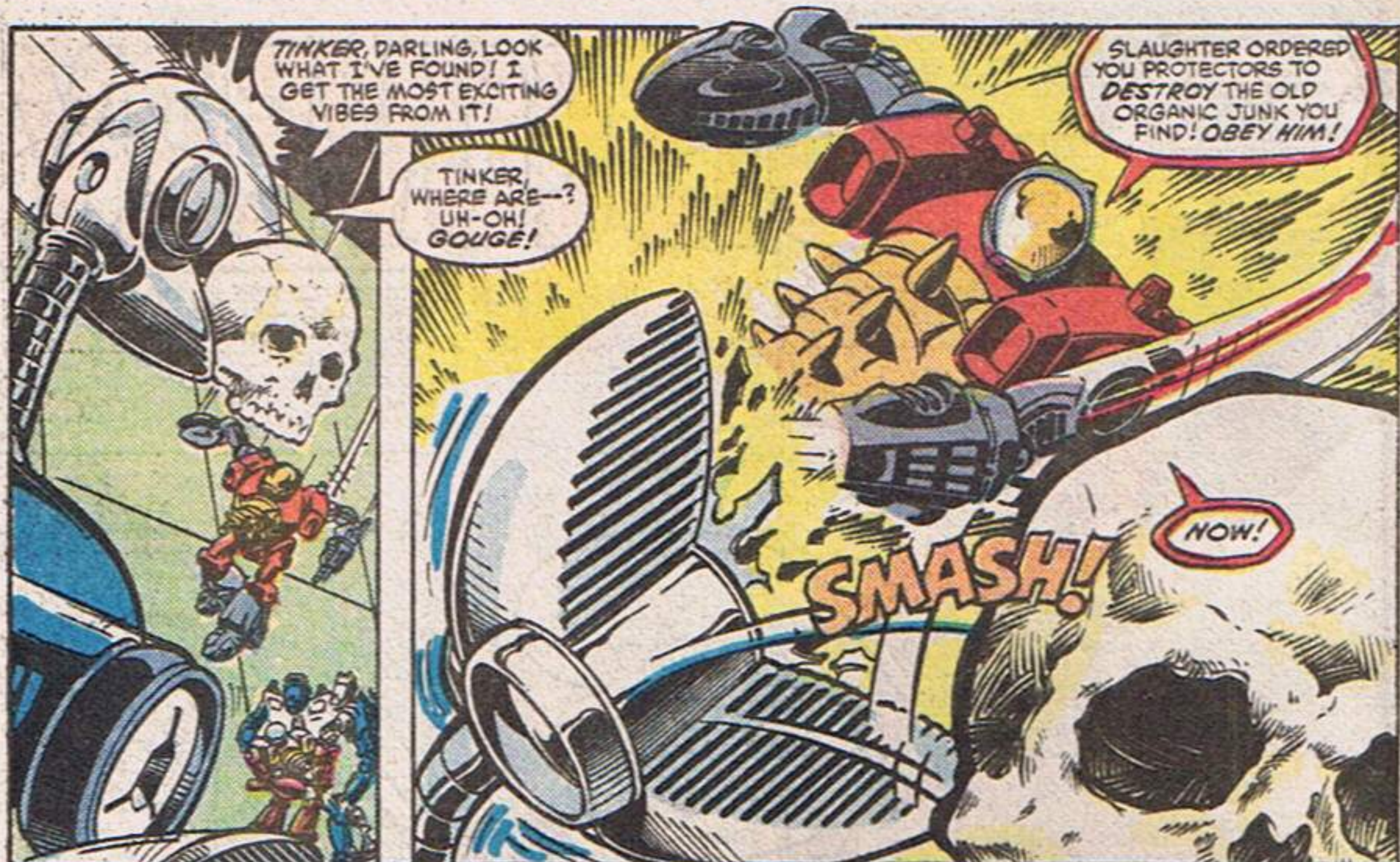
MAN NEVER
EXISTED, CRANK!
HE'S A MYTH!
SOMETIMES I
ALMOST THINK
CUT-UP'S RIGHT...

... THAT THE
ONLY THING
THAT'LL SAVE US
WILL BE IF WE
OVERRIDE OUR
PROGRAMMING
...AND BECOME
JUST LIKE
THEM!

TINKER!
TINKER,
LOOK!

MICHAEL CHEN - AIG

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TINKER, DARLING, LOOK WHAT I'VE FOUND! I GET THE MOST EXCITING VIBES FROM IT!

TINKER, WHERE ARE---? UH-OH! GOUGE!

SLAUGHTER ORDERED YOU PROTECTORS TO DESTROY THE OLD ORGANIC JUNK YOU FIND! OBEY HIM!

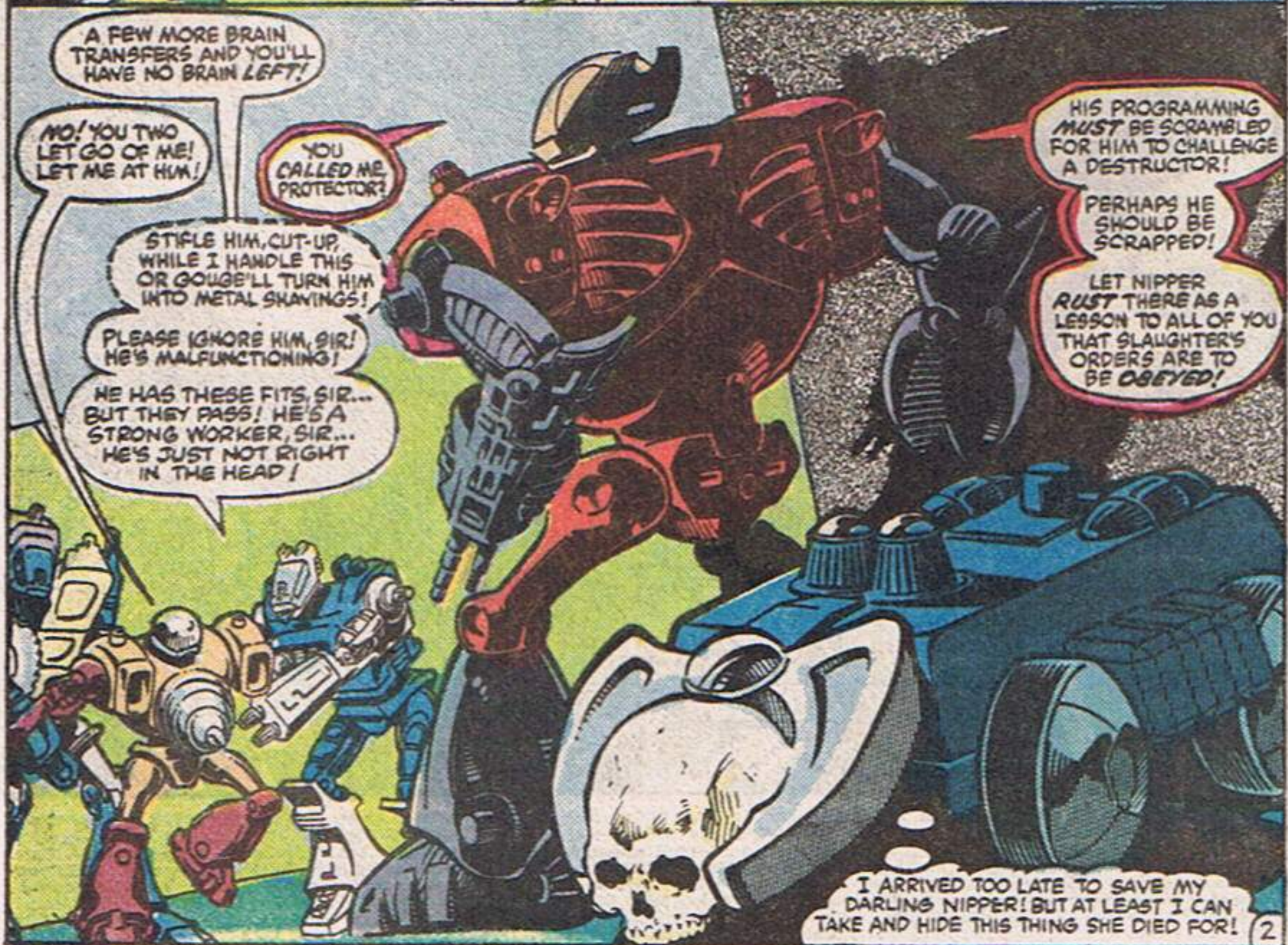
SMASH!

NOW!



GOUGE! YOU'VE DESTROYED HER!

CRANK! IT'S TOO LATE! YOU CAN'T HELP NIPPER NOW! AND YOU CAN'T RISK DRAWING HIS ANGER!



A FEW MORE BRAIN TRANSFERS AND YOU'LL HAVE NO BRAIN LEFT!

NO! YOU TWO LET GO OF ME! LET ME AT HIM!

YOU CALLED ME, PROTECTOR?

STIFLE HIM, CUT-UP, WHILE I HANDLE THIS OR GOUGE'LL TURN HIM INTO METAL SHAVINGS!

PLEASE IGNORE HIM, SIR! HE'S MALFUNCTIONING!

HE HAS THESE FITS, SIR... BUT THEY PASS! HE'S A STRONG WORKER, SIR... HE'S JUST NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD!

HIS PROGRAMMING MUST BE SCRAMBLED FOR HIM TO CHALLENGE A DESTRUCTOR!

PERHAPS HE SHOULD BE SCRAPPED!

LET NIPPER RUST THERE AS A LESSON TO ALL OF YOU THAT SLAUGHTER'S ORDERS ARE TO BE OBEYED!

I ARRIVED TOO LATE TO SAVE MY DARLING NIPPER! BUT AT LEAST I CAN TAKE AND HIDE THIS THING SHE DIED FOR!

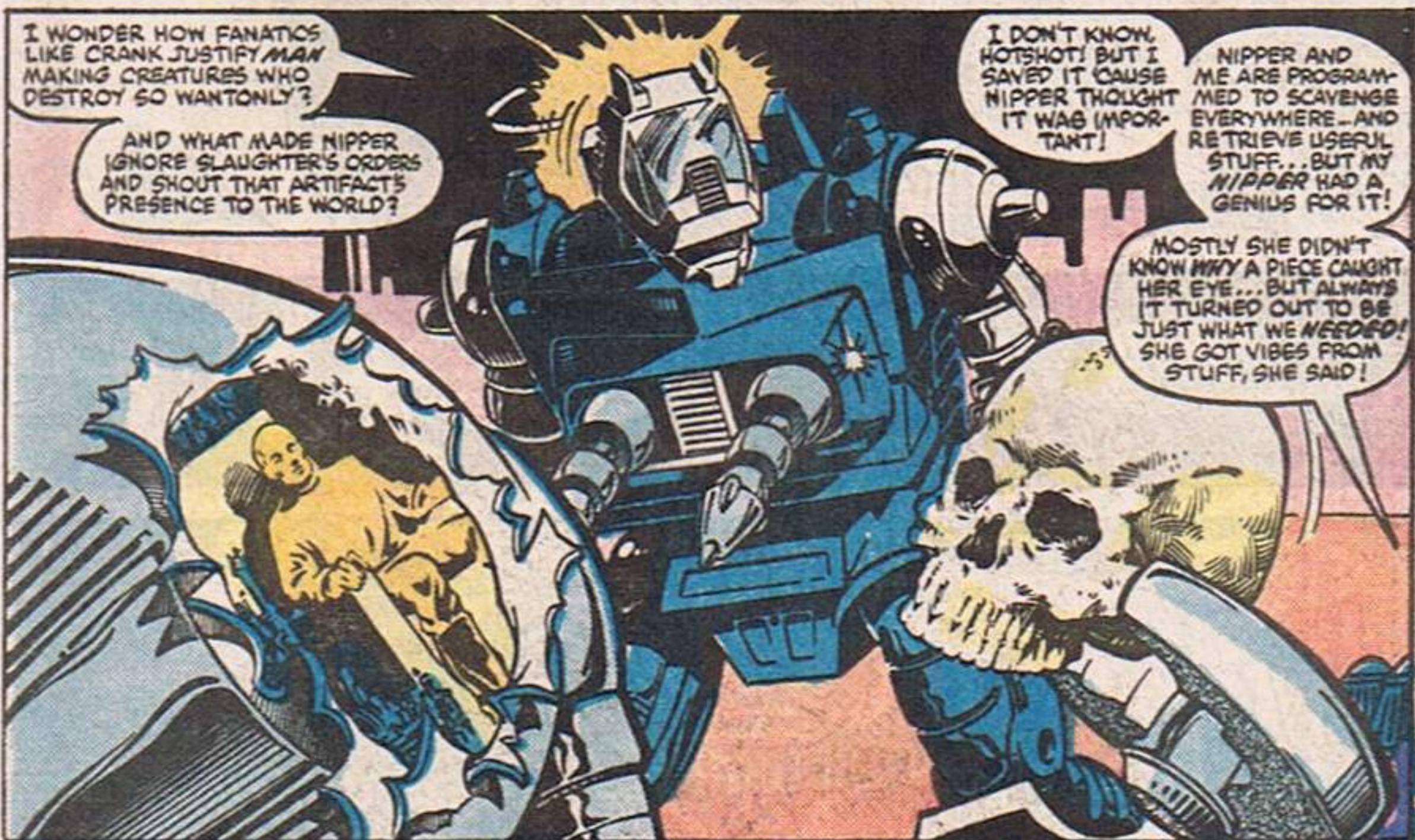


THAT NIGHT...

MY BEAUTIFUL NIPPER! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT HER ALONE, HOTSHOT! I KNEW HOW EXCITABLE SHE WAS! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!

GOUGE HIT HER SO HARD! HER WHOLE BODY'S CRACKED OPEN... DOWN TO HER CONTROL CIRCUIT!

LEGENDS SAY MAN FASHIONED THE CIRCUIT IN HIS OWN IMAGE, SO WE WOULD REMEMBER OUR MAKER... AND KNOW HIM WHEN HE RETURNED!



I WONDER HOW FANATICS LIKE CRANK JUSTIFY MAN MAKING CREATURES WHO DESTROY SO WANTONLY?

AND WHAT MADE NIPPER IGNORE SLAUGHTER'S ORDERS AND SHOUT THAT ARTIFACT'S PRESENCE TO THE WORLD?

I DON'T KNOW, HOTSHOT! BUT I SAVED IT CAUSE NIPPER THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT!

NIPPER AND ME ARE PROGRAMMED TO SCAVENGE EVERYWHERE... AND RETRIEVE USEFUL STUFF... BUT MY NIPPER HAD A GENIUS FOR IT!

MOSTLY SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHY A PIECE CAUGHT HER EYE... BUT ALWAYS IT TURNED OUT TO BE JUST WHAT WE NEEDED! SHE GOT VIBES FROM STUFF, SHE SAID!



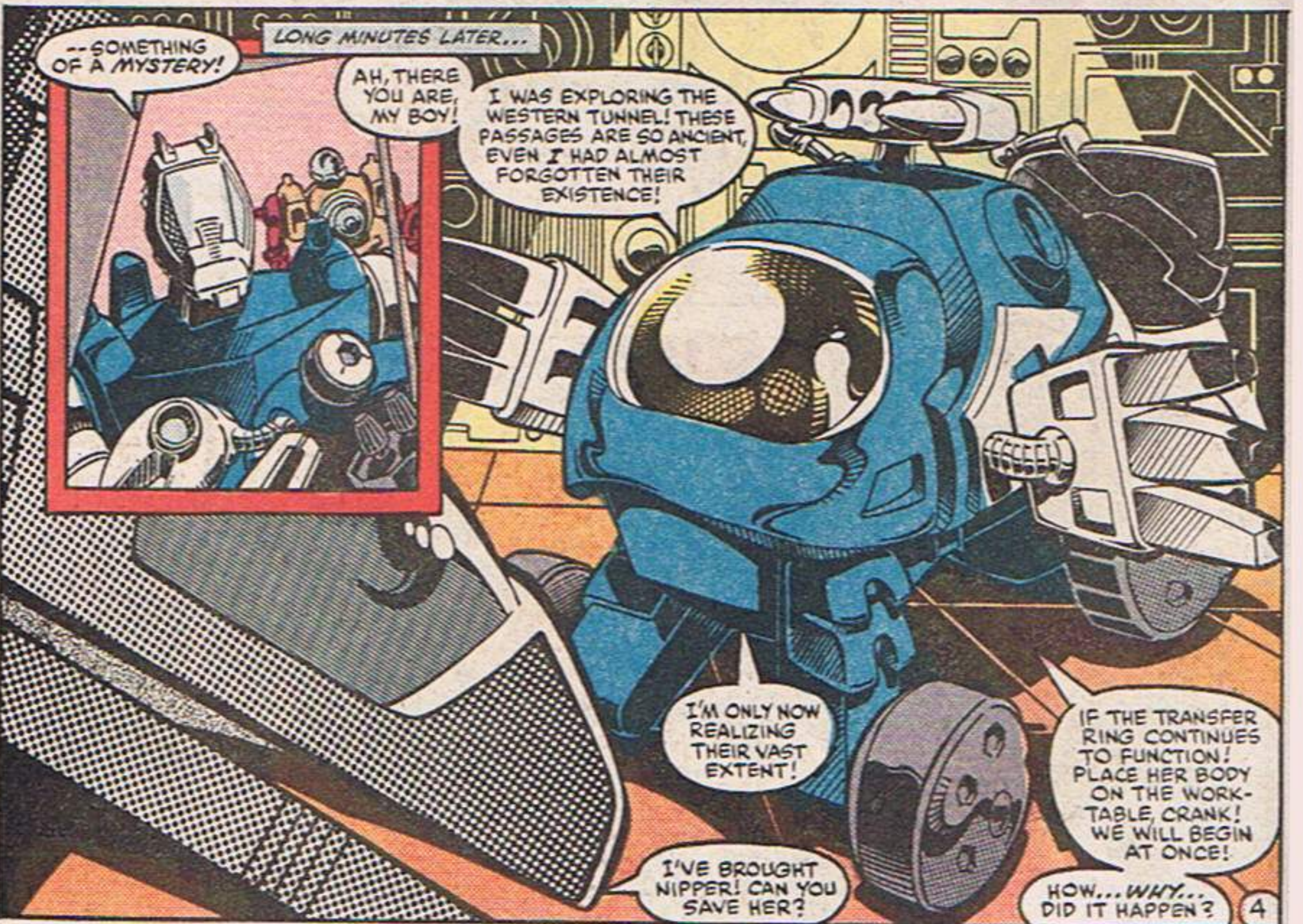
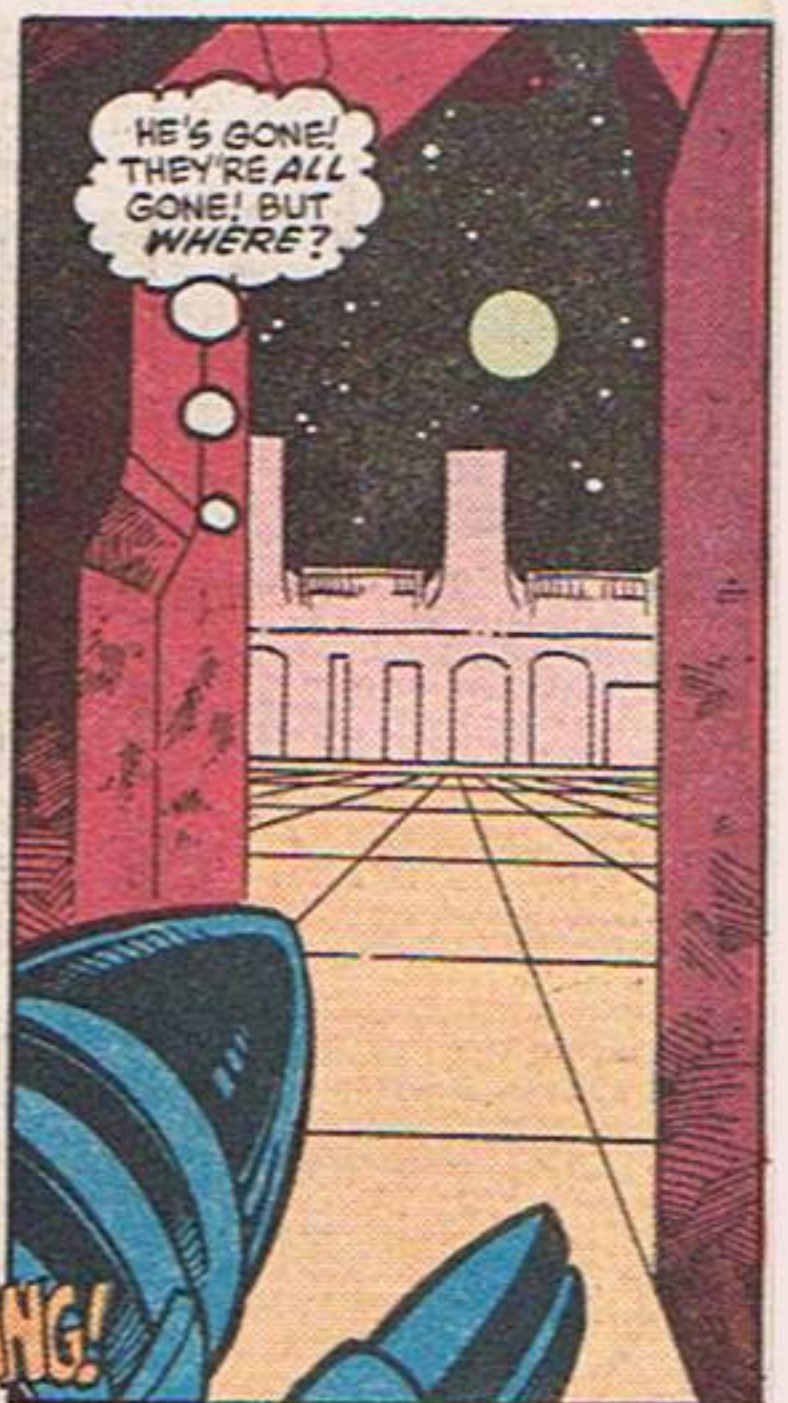
TINKER! LOOK AT THE TOP OF THE CIRCUIT--IT'S SHAPED JUST LIKE THIS!

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS WAS ONCE... MAN???



COME ON! WE'D BETTER GET NIPPER HOME TO THINKTANK AND SEE IF THAT OLD TRANSFER RING HAS ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO PUT HER INTO A NEW BODY!

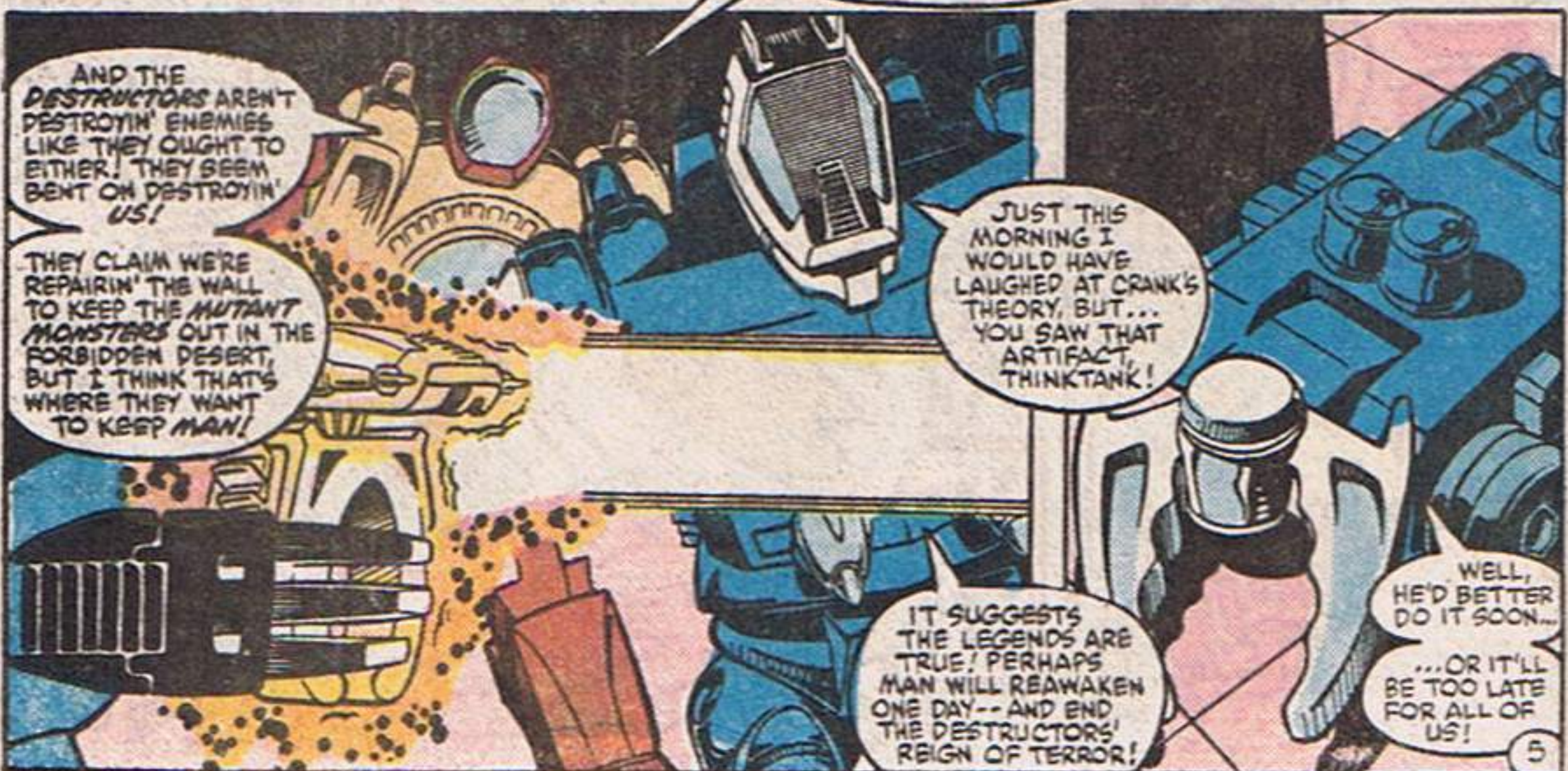
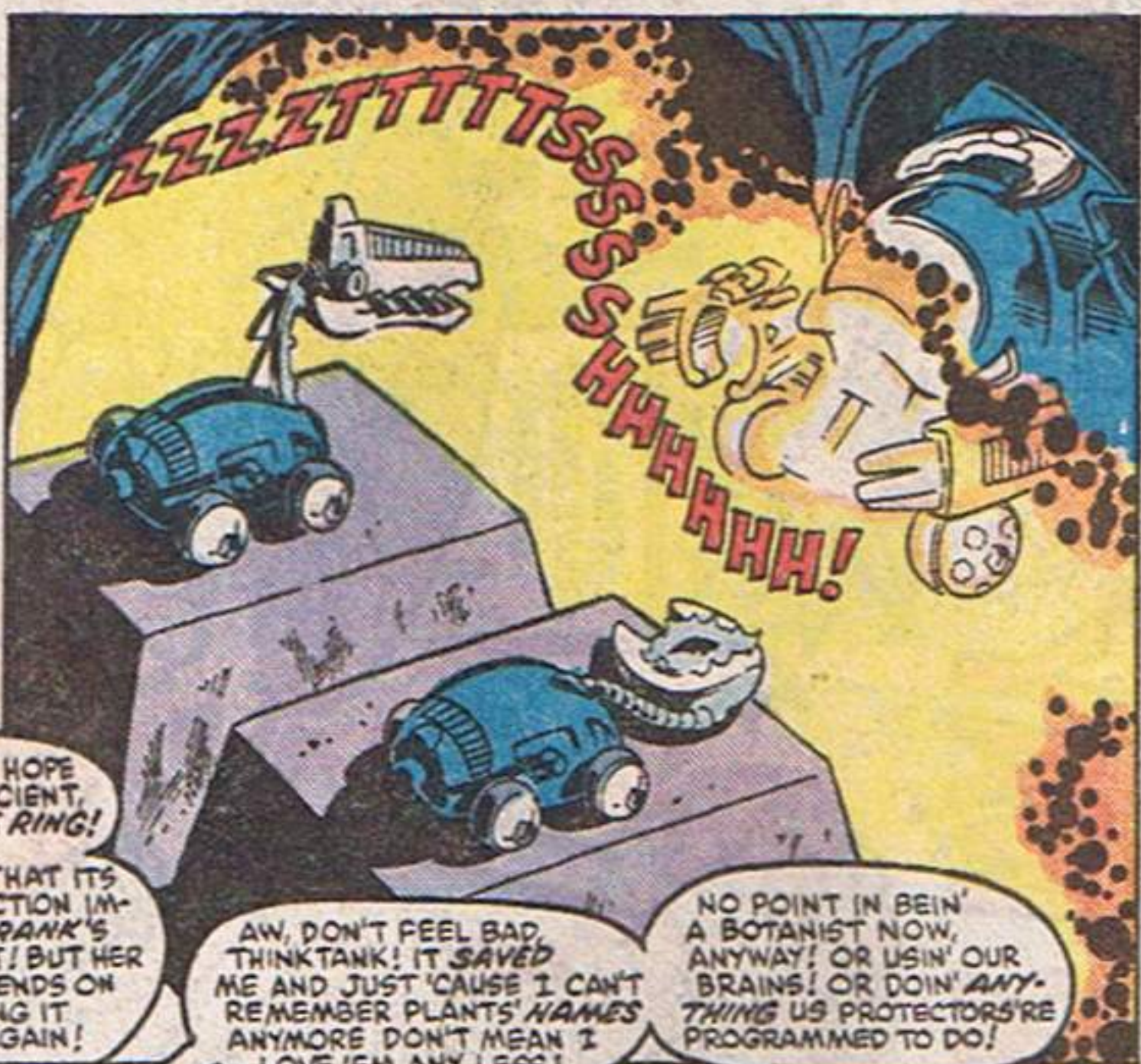
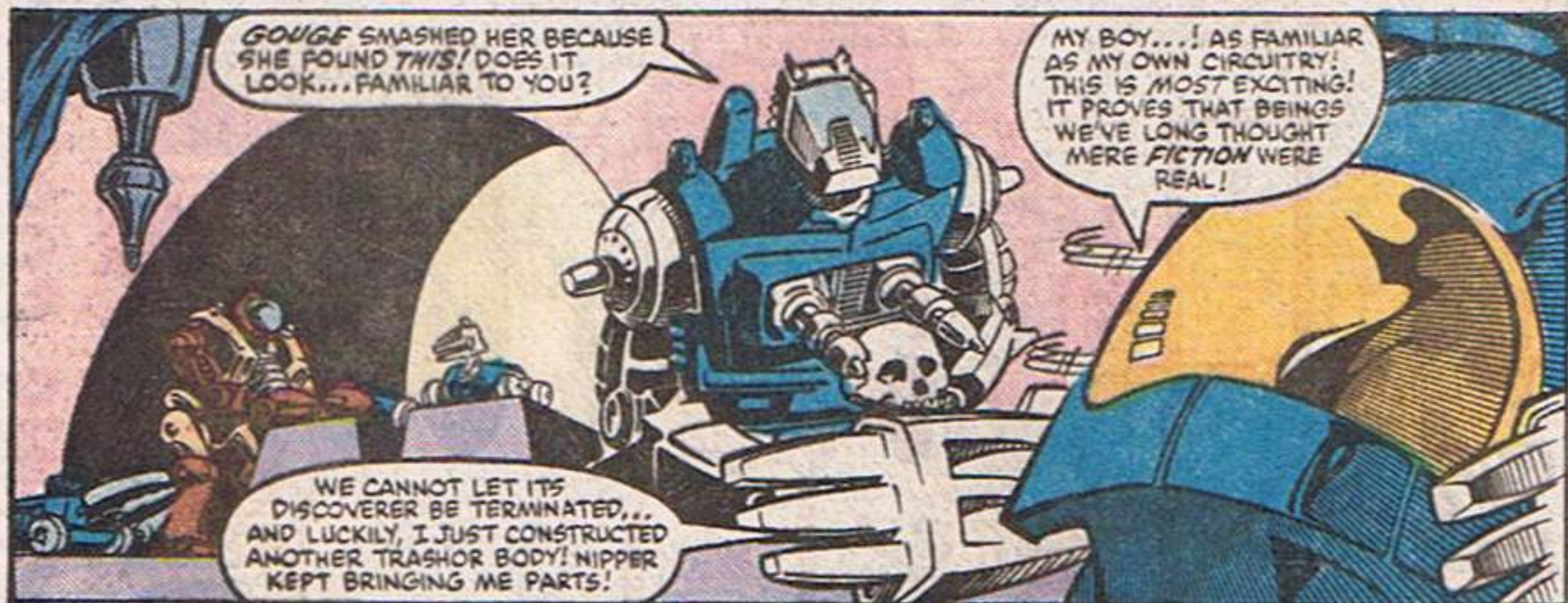
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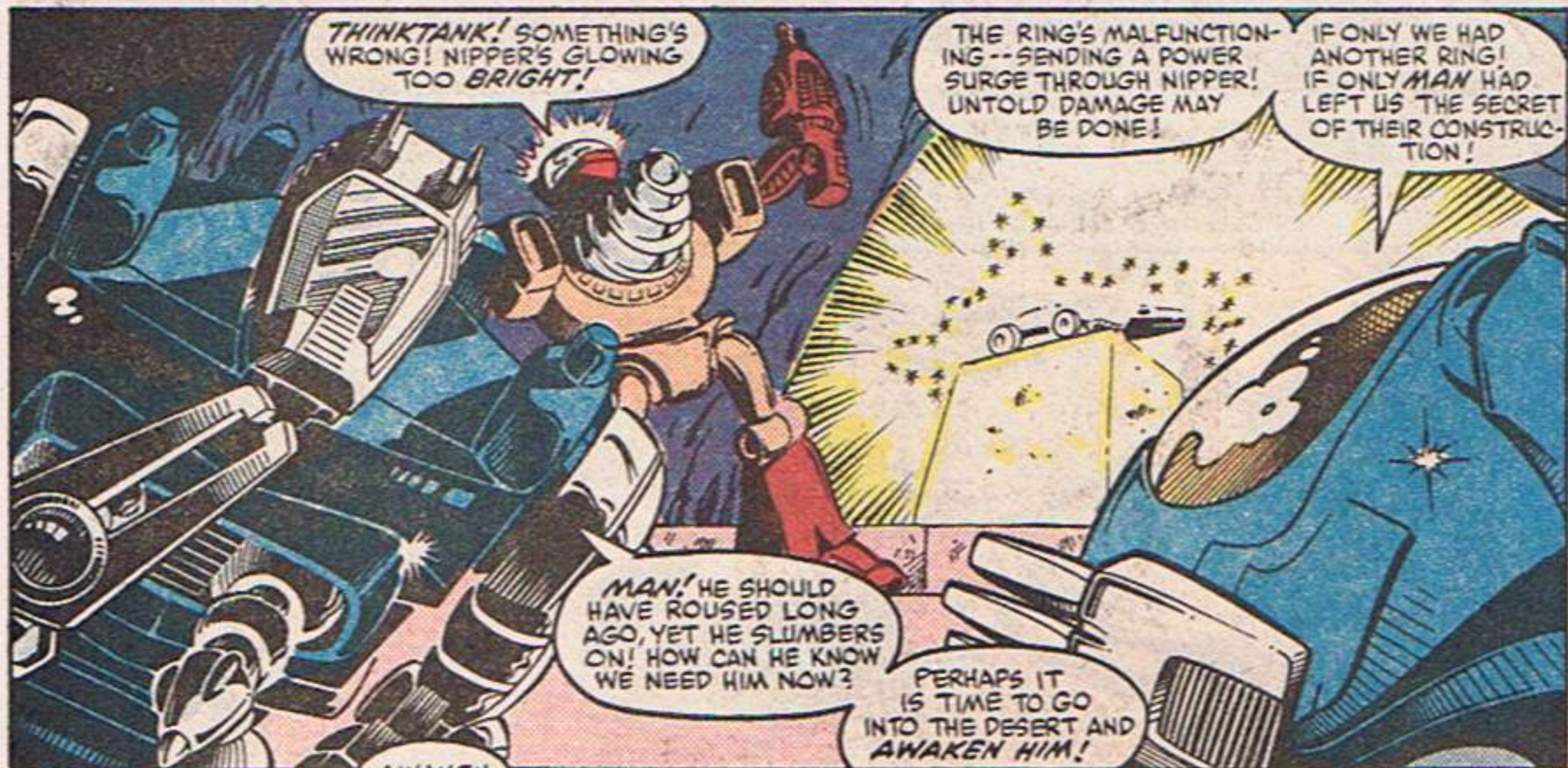
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THINKTANK! SOMETHING'S WRONG! NIPPER'S GLOWING TOO BRIGHT!

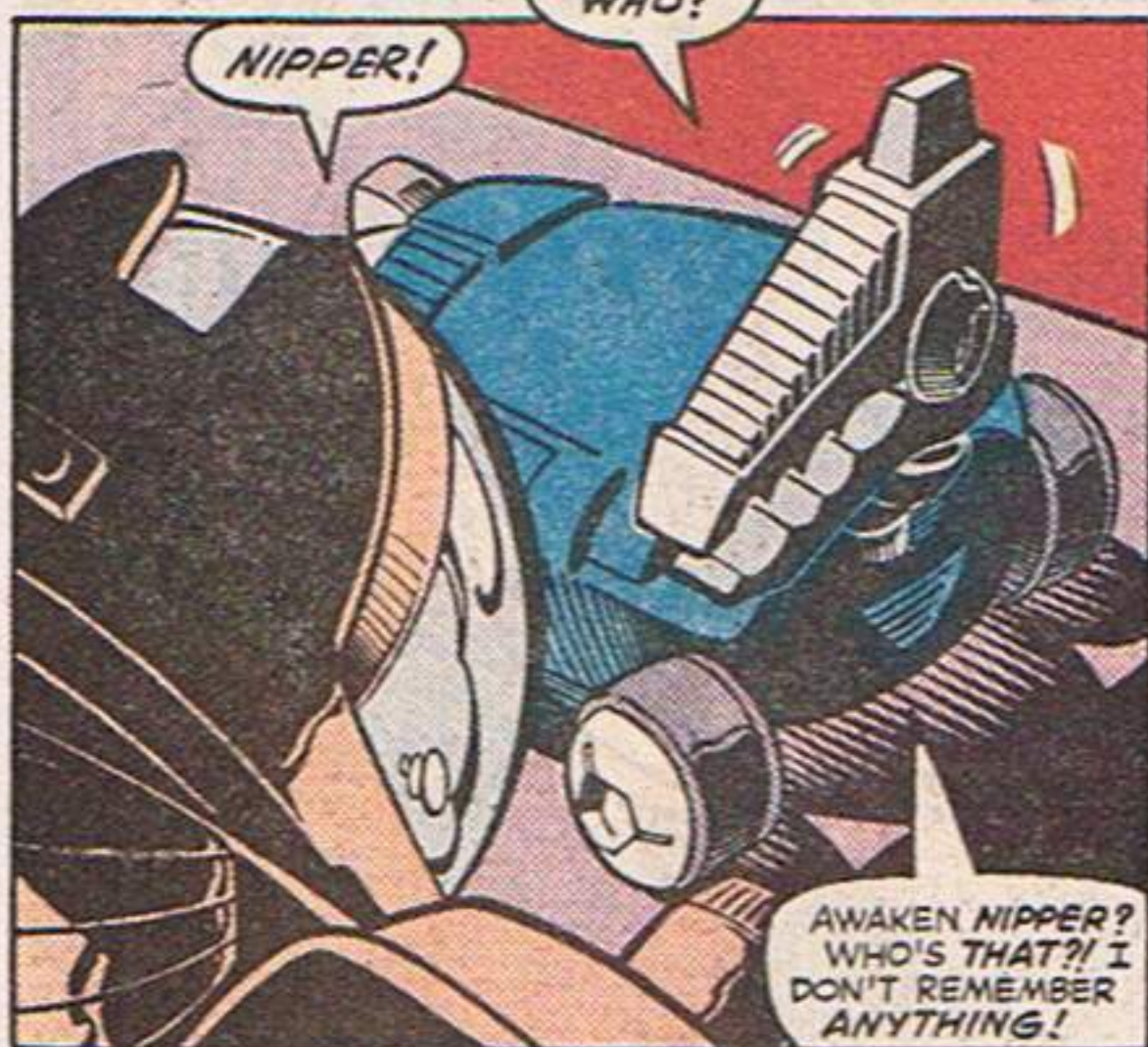
THE RING'S MALFUNCTIONING--SENDING A POWER SURGE THROUGH NIPPER! UNTOLD DAMAGE MAY BE DONE!

IF ONLY WE HAD ANOTHER RING! IF ONLY MAN HAD LEFT US THE SECRET OF THEIR CONSTRUCTION!

MAN! HE SHOULD HAVE ROUSED LONG AGO, YET HE SLUMBERS ON! HOW CAN HE KNOW WE NEED HIM NOW?

PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO GO INTO THE DESERT AND AWAKEN HIM!

AWAKEN WHO?



NIPPER!

AWAKEN NIPPER? WHO'S THAT?! I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!

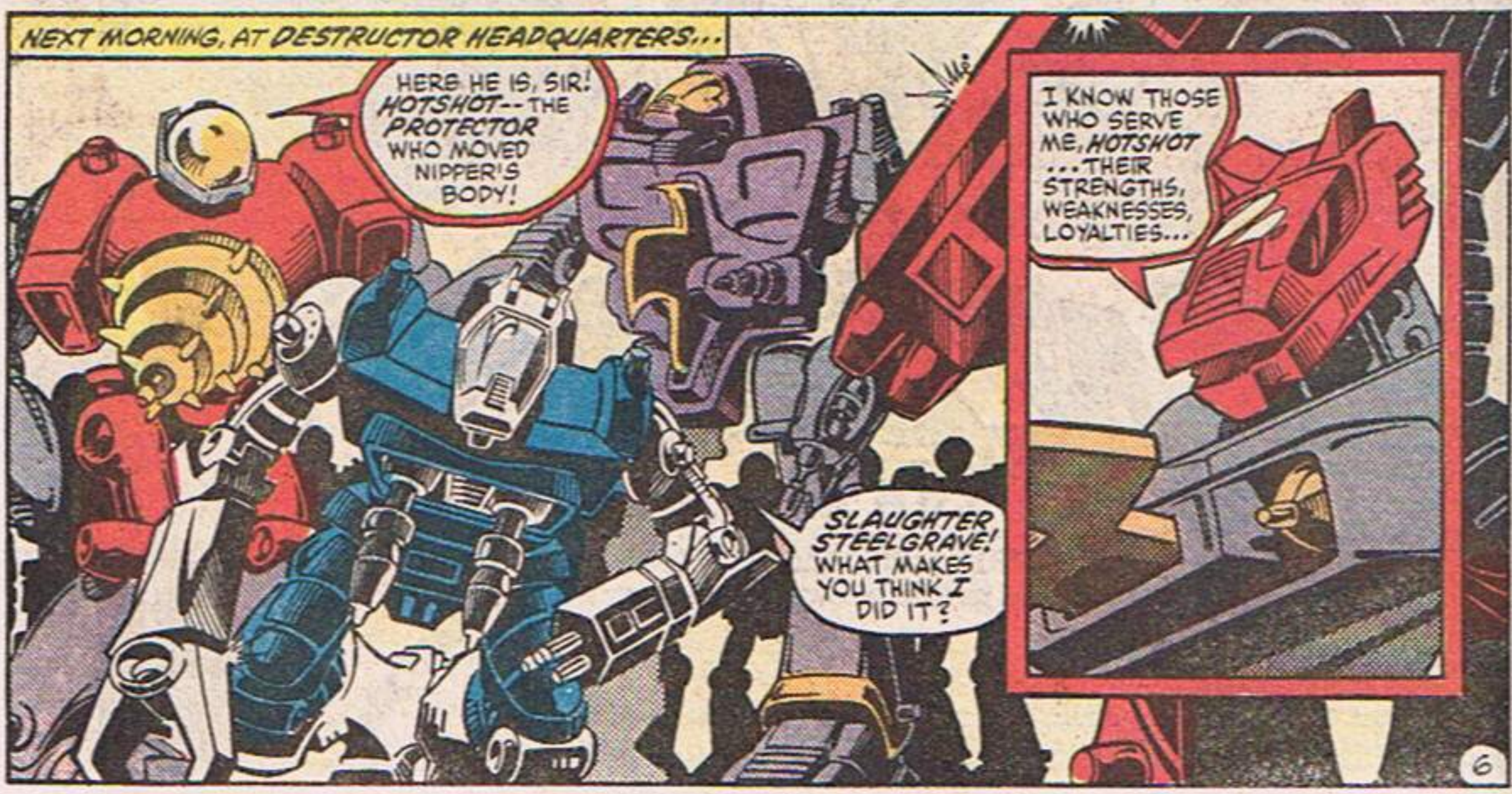


...EXCEPT THAT... I LOVE YOU! YOU HAVE WONDERFUL VIBES!

ME?!? BUT --WHAT ABOUT TINKER?!

DON'T WORRY, CRANK! AT LEAST SHE'S ALIVE! WHAT'S HER MEMORY...OR OUR LOVE...COMPARED TO THAT?

I DON'T DESERVE HER LOVE, ANYWAY! IF I'D BEEN THERE SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HURT! I SWEAR--I'LL NEVER LET ANYONE HURT HER AGAIN!



NEXT MORNING, AT DESTRUCTOR HEADQUARTERS...

HERE HE IS, SIR! HOTSHOT--THE PROTECTOR WHO MOVED NIPPER'S BODY!

I KNOW THOSE WHO SERVE ME, HOTSHOT ...THEIR STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, LOYALTIES...

SLAUGHTER STEELGRAVE! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I DID IT?



...THEIR TRANS-GRESSIONS!

YOU KNOW THAT, AT MY ORDERS, THE DESTRUCTORS HAVE CONFISCATED ALL TRANSFER RINGS! WE NOW CONTROL WHO PASSES ON TO ANOTHER BODY... AND WHO DOES NOT!

YOU SEE THE VIBRO-CHISEL THRU-MING IN MY CHEST!



ONE SLASH WOULD DESTROY YOUR FACE PLATE-- AND SMASH YOUR CONTROL CIRCUIT BEYOND HOPE OF REPAIR-- TERMINATING YOU UTTERLY!

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT ME TO DO? REVIVE IT WITHOUT A RING? I THREW IT ON THE SCRAP HEAP!

NOW TELL ME, HOTSHOT... WHAT DID YOU DO WITH NIPPER'S BODY?



HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH, SLAUGHTER! I VERIFIED HIS STORY! THIS IS HIS FIRST OFFENSE! I ASK THAT YOU BE MERCIFUL!

YOU ASK--? PERHAPS THIS WILL TEACH YOU THE VALUE OF SILENCE...



...IN MATTERS THAT DO NOT CONCERN YOU!

MY ARM!

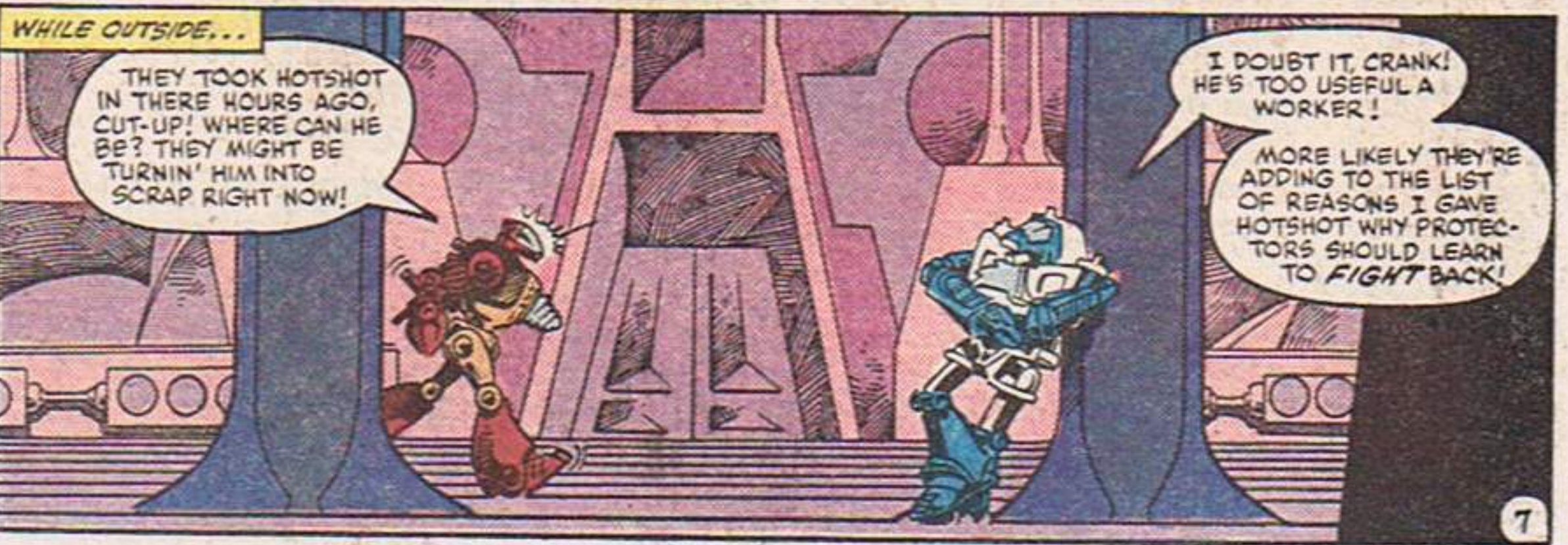
SHRAAK!



I KNOW OF YOUR PROTECTOR SYMPATHIES, SAW-TOOTH! BE GLAD THAT, AS A DESTRUCTOR, YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE RINGS... AND THE RESTORATION THAT THEY BRING!

BUT REMEMBER... SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY, SUCH SOLACE CAN BE DENIED TO YOU, AS WELL!

GOUGE! PLACE HOTSHOT ON DOUBLE WORK-SHIFT FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS! AND THROW HIM OUT!



WHILE OUTSIDE...

THEY TOOK HOTSHOT IN THERE HOURS AGO, CUT-UP! WHERE CAN HE BE? THEY MIGHT BE TURNIN' HIM INTO SCRAP RIGHT NOW!

I DOUBT IT, CRANK! HE'S TOO USEFUL A WORKER!

MORE LIKELY THEY'RE ADDING TO THE LIST OF REASONS I GAVE HOTSHOT WHY PROTECTORS SHOULD LEARN TO FIGHT BACK!

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WELL, I AIN'T WAITIN'!
I'M GOIN' IN THERE
TO HELP HIM!

COME BACK HERE!
ARE YOU CRAZY?
SLAUGHTER'LL HAVE
YOUR HEAD SMASHED!



LEGGO, OUT-UP!
I MEAN IT--
HEY!

HOTSHOT!
THEY LET YOU
GO! IN ONE
PIECE!

CRASH!



BENT UP,
DENTED, BUT
INTACT!

CRANK
EXPECTED YOU
TO BE A PILE
OF METAL
SHAVINGS
BY NOW!

YEAH! AND
I WOULD BE--
IF I HADN'T
THROWN NIPPER'S
OLD BODY ON THE
SCRAP PILE...

...AND IF THEY'D FOUND
OUT I PLANNED TO GO INTO
THE DESERT AND AWAKEN MAN!

CRANK TOLD ME! HE
THINKS IT'S A DREAM
COME TRUE! WELL, I
THINK YOU'RE CRAZY--
DANGEROUS CRAZY!
MAN'S A FANTASY...



...AND I'M NOT LETTING CRANK FOLLOW YOU INTO
THE DESERT ON SOME WILD GOOSE CHASE!

WHEN WILL YOU
REALIZE WE HAVE
TO FIGHT THE
DESTRUCTORS
DIRECTLY?

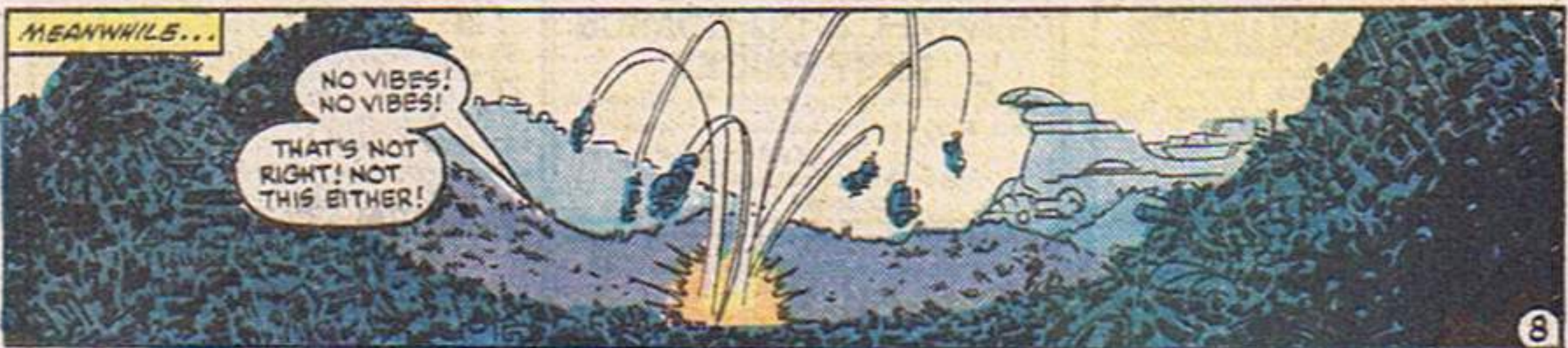
LET'S GET GOING,
CRANK! THIS PSYCHO'S OKAY NOW, AND
OUR WORK-SHIFT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!



WHAT A MORNING! WHAT MORE
COULD HAPPEN?

HOTSHOT! HAVE
YOU SEEN
NIPPER?

SHE'S WANDERED OFF AGAIN AND
I'M WORRIED SICK ABOUT HER!



MEANWHILE...

NO VIBES!
NO VIBES!

THAT'S NOT
RIGHT! NOT
THIS EITHER!

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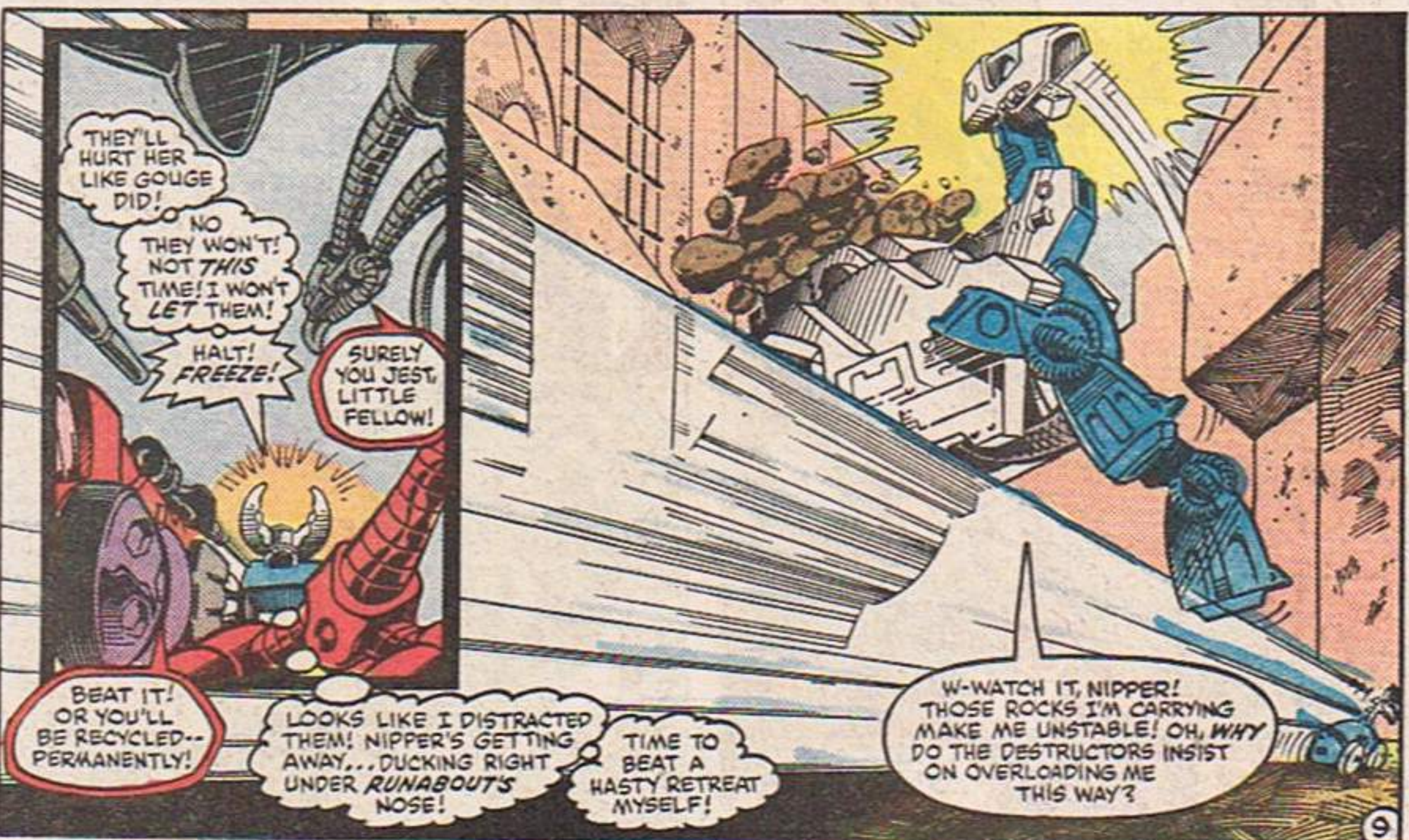
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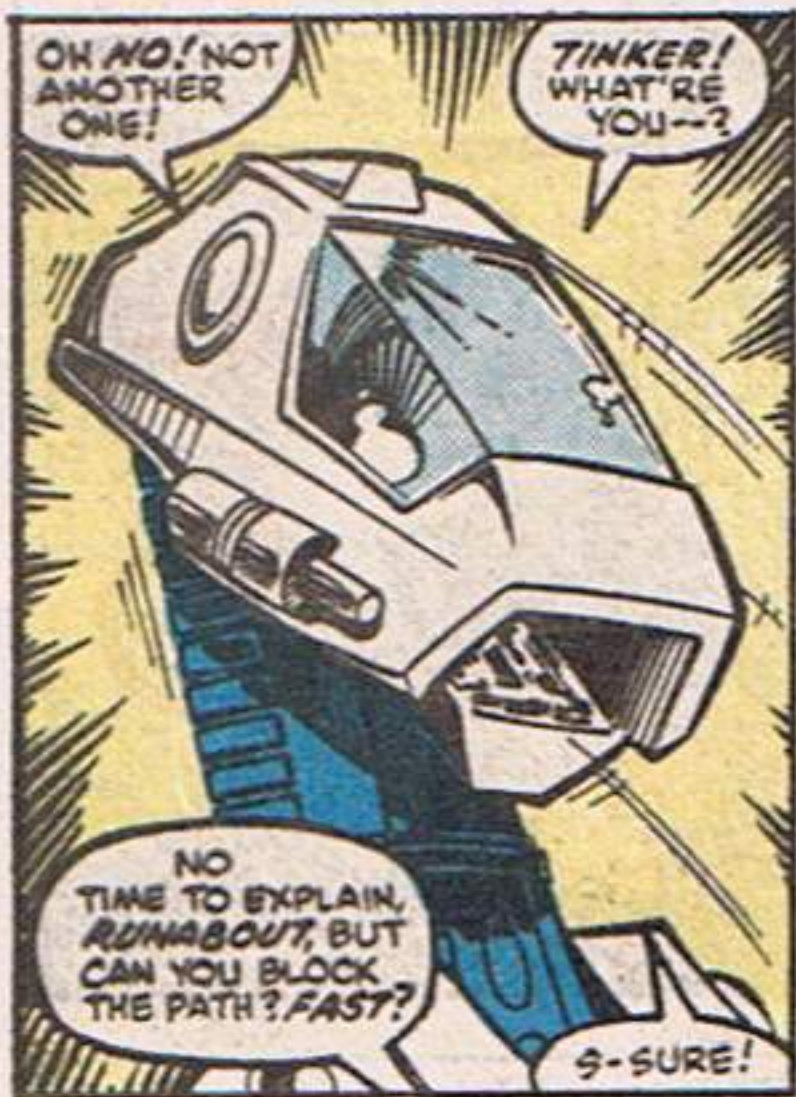
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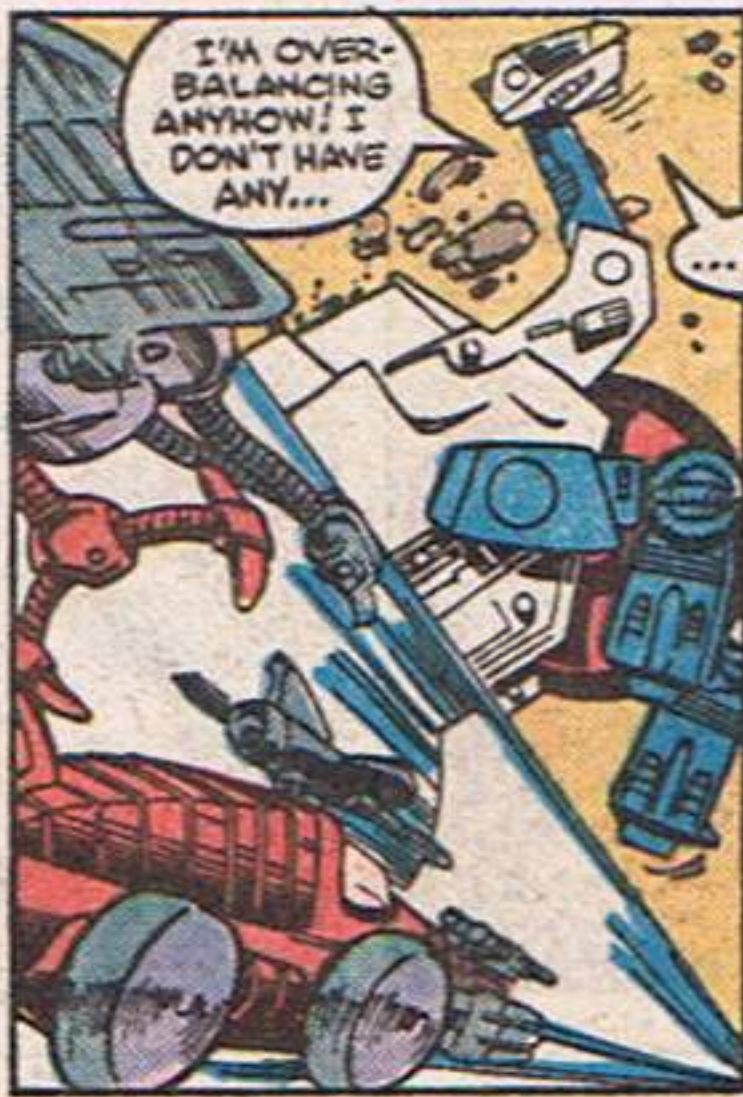


OH NO! NOT ANOTHER ONE!

TINKER! WHAT'RE YOU--?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, RUNABOUT, BUT CAN YOU BLOCK THE PATH? FAST?

S-SURE!



I'M OVER-BALANCING ANYHOW! I DON'T HAVE ANY...

...CHOICE!



CRASH!



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

THAT STUPID PROTECTOR'S BLOCKED OUR WAY!

YOUR WAY, MAYBE, AUNTIE TANK!

YOU FORGET I CAN GLIDE OVER THIS MESS!



AH HA! THERE THEY ARE!

AND THERE'RE GOUGE AND BACKFIRE!

GOUGE! RENEGADE PROTECTORS COMING! STOP THEM!

GOUGE! HE'S THE ONE WHO SMASHED YOU, NIPPER!

RUN!

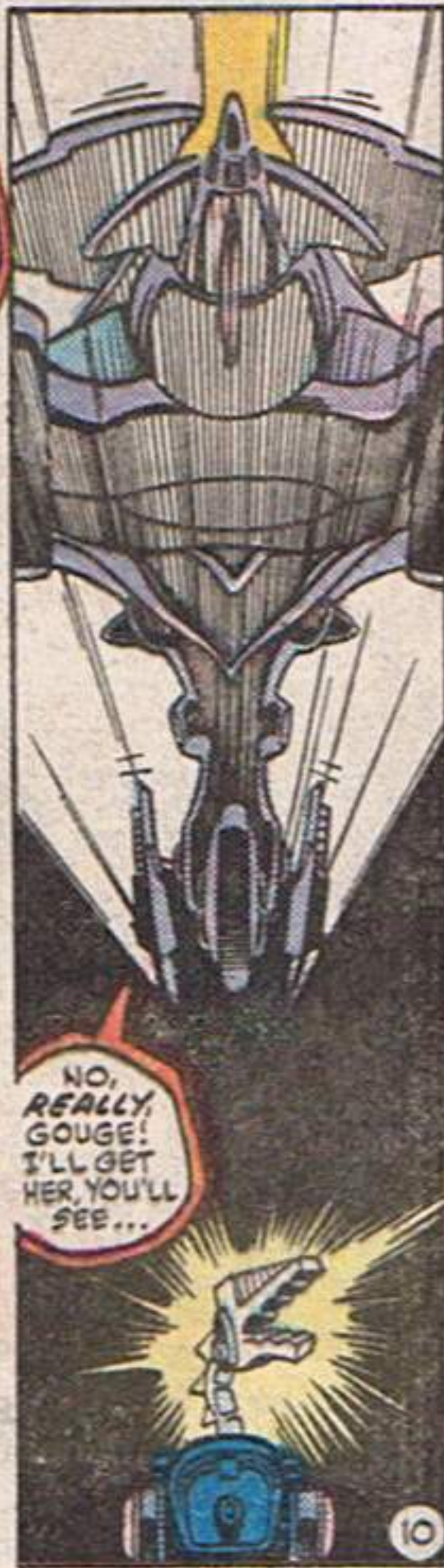
I'LL GET 'ER, GOUGE! JUST WATCH ME!



BACKFIRE! YOU COULDN'T GET ANYBODY, YOU MENACE!

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, SHRIMP?

EEP!



NO, REALLY, GOUGE! I'LL GET HER, YOU'LL SEE...

...YOU'LL BE SO PROUD OF ME!

BACKFIRE! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING! YOU'RE GOING TO--

SCREECH!

BAM!

CRASH!

SLAM!

--KNOCK US OVER--

SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

IF I HAD PROPER DESTRUCTOR LASERS LIKE AUNTIE TANK, THAT TRASHOR WOULDN'TVE HAD A CHANCE!

AGAINST LASERS, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE!

YOU'LL GET LASERS WHEN YOU PROVE YOU DESERVE THEM--BY DOING MORE DAMAGE TO THE PROTECTORS THAN TO ME!

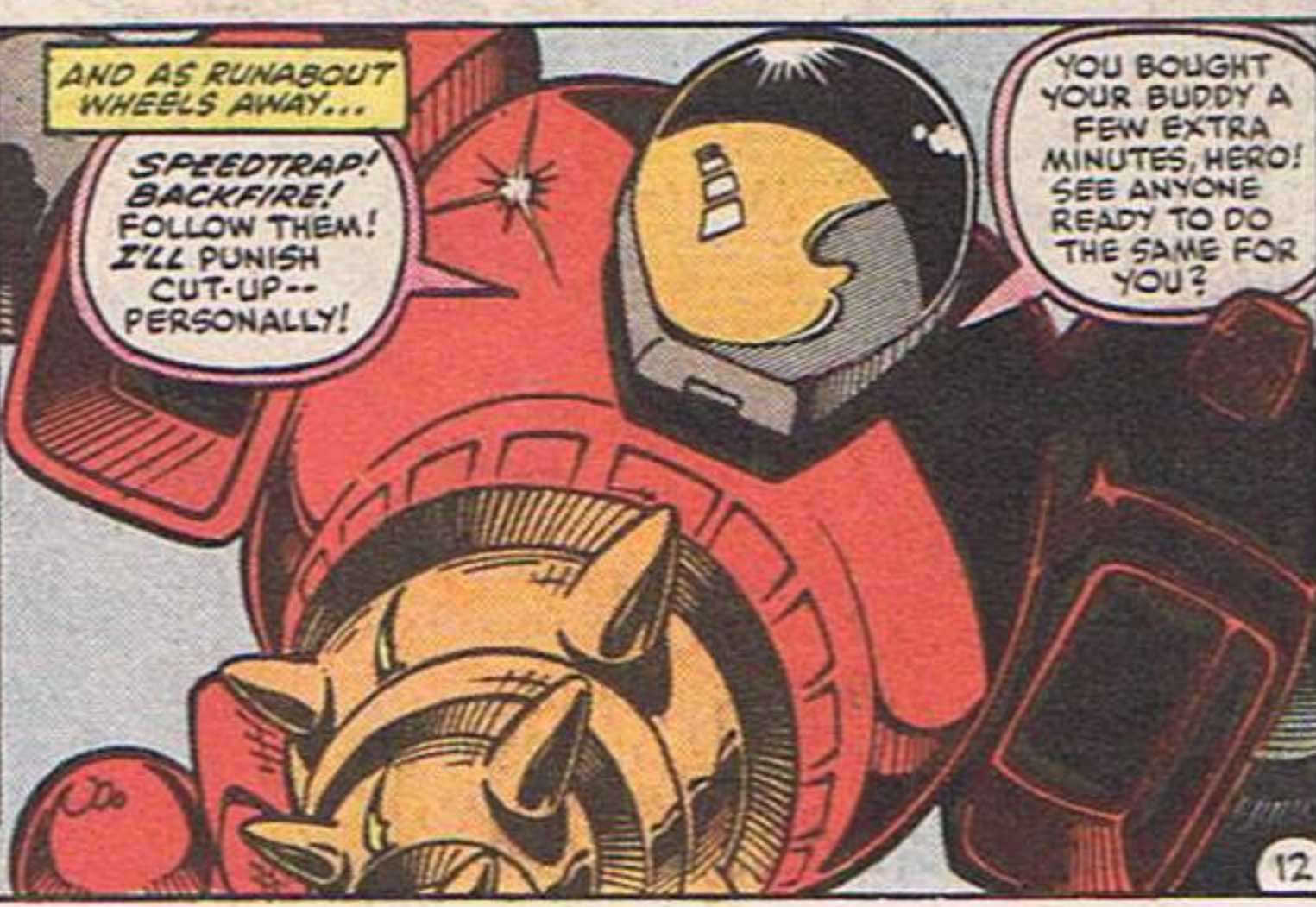
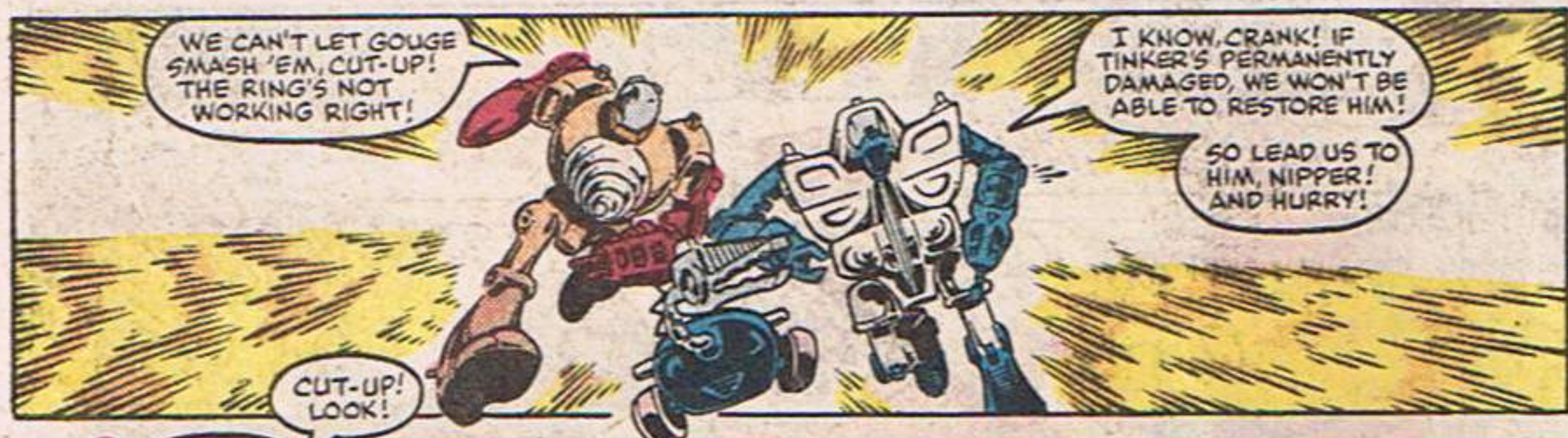
SHORTLY...

CRANK! CRANK DARLING!

OH NO! HIDE ME, CUT-UP! IT'S NIPPER! SHE THINKS SHE'S IN LOVE WI--

IT'S GOUGE AND SPEEDTRAP! THEY'VE CAPTURED TINKER!

WHAT!?!





MEANWHILE...

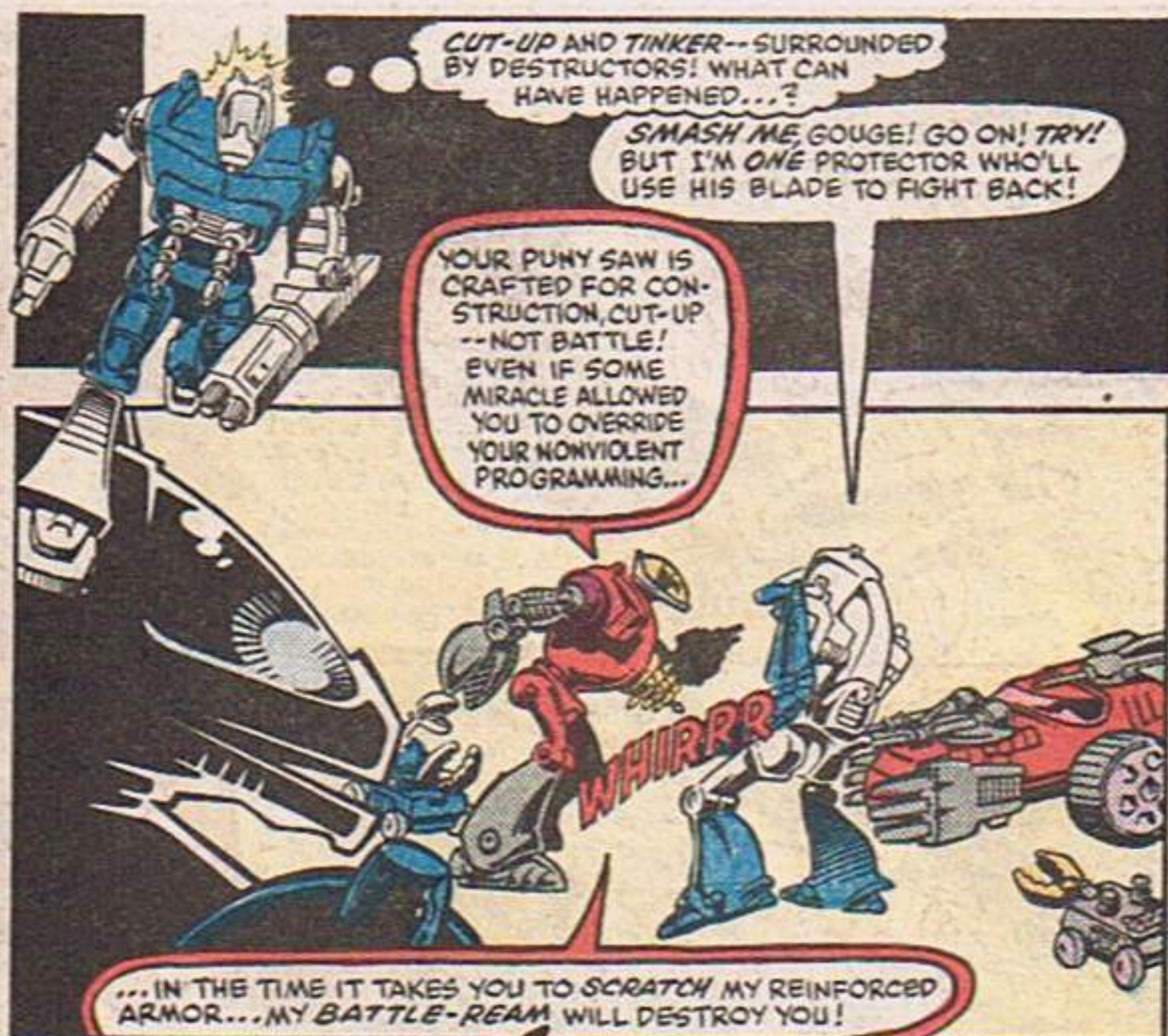
SURRENDER, RUNABOUT!

YEAH! YOU CAN'T OUTRUN US, WEIGHED DOWN LIKE THAT!

CRANK'S LIGHTER THAN THOSE ROCKS I'VE BEEN LUGGING, BACK-FIRE! HE'S NO PROBLEM, BUT I HEAR YOU'RE A DISASTER ON WHEELS!

YEAH? WELL, GOUGE HAS CUT-UP BACK AT THE SQUARE AND HE'LL CAUSE A REAL DISASTER! SO THERE!

GOUGE HAS --WHAT?! I'VE GOT TO GET THERE ...FAST!



CUT-UP AND TINKER--SURROUNDED BY DESTRUCTORS! WHAT CAN HAVE HAPPENED...?

SMASH ME, GOUGE! GO ON! TRY! BUT I'M ONE PROTECTOR WHO'LL USE HIS BLADE TO FIGHT BACK!

YOUR PUNY SAW IS CRAFTED FOR CONSTRUCTION, CUT-UP --NOT BATTLE! EVEN IF SOME MIRACLE ALLOWED YOU TO OVERRIDE YOUR NONVIOLENT PROGRAMMING...

...IN THE TIME IT TAKES YOU TO SCRATCH MY REINFORCED ARMOR...MY BATTLE-REAM WILL DESTROY YOU!



CAN'T LET GOUGE DO IT!

GOT TO STOP HIM! GOT TO--

YARGH!

SHRAKOW!

KA-WHRACK!



TURN YOUR LASERS ON HIM AND BURN HIM INTO SLAG!

HOTSHOT! YOU--FIRED ON GOUGE, DESPITE YOUR PROGRAMMING -- TO SAVE ME!

AND BY THIS ACT I'VE BETRAYED MY PURPOSE... AND MAN WHO MADE ME!

AUNTIE TANK! HOTSHOT IS MALFUNCTIONING AND DANGEROUS!





MEANWHILE...

I DON'T KNOW HOW I MANAGED TO SOUND SO BRAVE BACK THERE!

I'M SCARED, NIPPER! I WASN'T PROGRAMMED TO FIGHT!

I KNOW! YOU HAVE LOVELY, CULTURED VIBES! BUT YOU'RE FAST! THEY CAN'T KEEP UP!

ONCE WE'RE AROUND THAT CORNER, WE'LL BE OUT OF THEIR SIGHT!

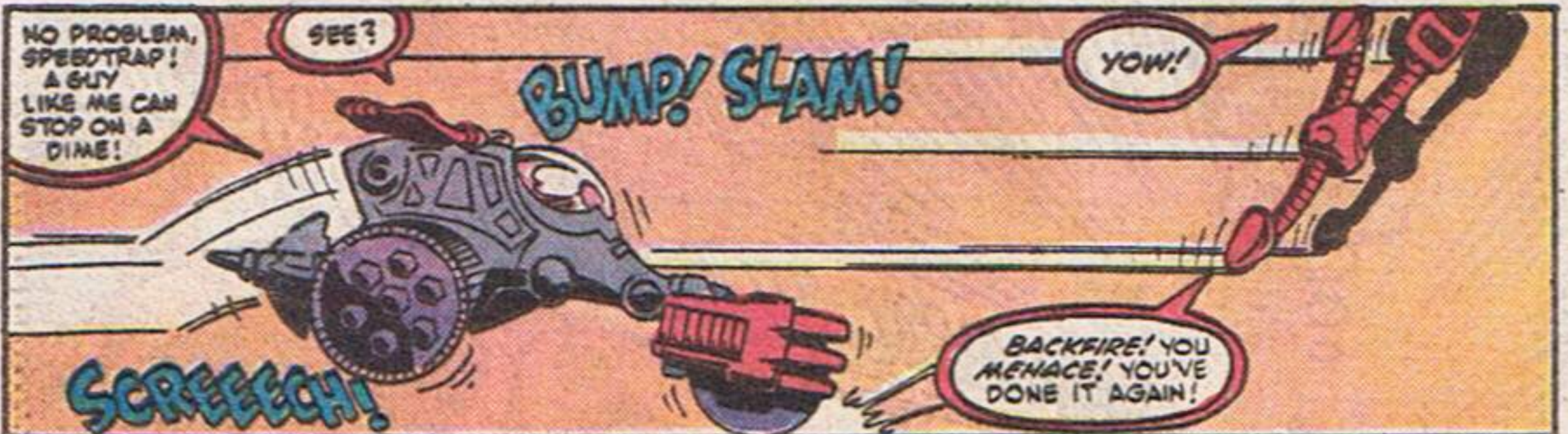
GOOD! NOW INTO THE ALLEY... THAT'S THE WAY! IT LEADS TO OUR HIDE-OUT AND THEY'LL THINK WE WENT STRAIGHT AHEAD!



WHERE ARE THEY, SPEED-TRAP? I DON'T SEE THEM!

THERE! DOWN THAT ALLEY!

RATS!



NO PROBLEM, SPEEDTRAP! A GUY LIKE ME CAN STOP ON A DIME!

SEE?

BUMP! SLAM!

YOW!

SCREEECH!

BACKFIRE! YOU MENACE! YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!



YOU SLAMMED MY FOOT! TRIPPED ME IN MID-AIR! I CAN'T MAKE THE TURN!



I...
CRA SH!



THE CHASE WAS EXQUISITE, BACKFIRE... BUT THANKS TO YOUR DESPERATE BRAVADO, IT NETTED US NOTHING!

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN OUR FAILURE TO GOUGE YOURSELF!

MEANWHILE, AUNTIE TANK OPENS FIRE ON HOTSHOT...

CAN'T DISOBBY A DIRECT ORDER...

... BUT DESTROYIN' A STRONG PROTECTOR WORKER LIKE THIS JUST ISN'T GOOD SENSE!

HOTSHOT DODGED MY BLAST! CAN'T SAY I'M SORRY! WHY IS THAT DREAMER SAWTOOTH NEVER AROUND WITH THE PEACE PATROL WHEN YOU NEED HIM?

AUNTIE TANK!
YOU'VE HIT A
PEACE OFFICER!

SKR-KOW!
SKR-KOW!

SKRA-BLAM!

WHAT IS THE MEANING
OF THIS BRAWL?

IT'S SAWTOOTH!
HE'S BEEN RESTORED!

HE'S
BACK ON
PATROL!

HURRAH!

I-I WAS
FOLLOWING
ORDERS, SIR!

MY ORDERS!
THESE RENE-
GADES WERE
CAUSING
TROUBLE...

...AND I'M NOT SURRENDERING
THEM TO ANY BLEEDING-HEART
PROTECTOR SYMPATHIZER!

INDEED, GOUGE?

AND AUNTIE?

THE LITTLE
TRASHORS WERE
HAVING A SPAT.
WE JUST JOINED
IN THE FUN! NO
HARM DONE, SIR!

HOTSHOT AND CUT-UP DIDN'T START THE
FIGHT? THEN THEY ARE FREE TO LEAVE!

AND SINCE NO HARM HAS BEEN
DONE, PERHAPS THIS INCIDENT
IS BEST FORGOTTEN!

BEST FOR YOU,
MAYBE! I CHOSE NOT
TO TELL YOU THAT HOT-
SHOT FIRED ON ME...
SO YOU WON'T
GET ALARMED!

BUT I WILL TELL
SLAUGHTER STEELGRAVE,
AND WHEN HE LEARNS
THAT YOU FREED HOTSHOT,
HE WILL BREAK YOU, AND
I WILL BECOME HIS
SECOND-IN-COMMAND!



LATER, IN THE PROTECTOR HIDE-OUT...

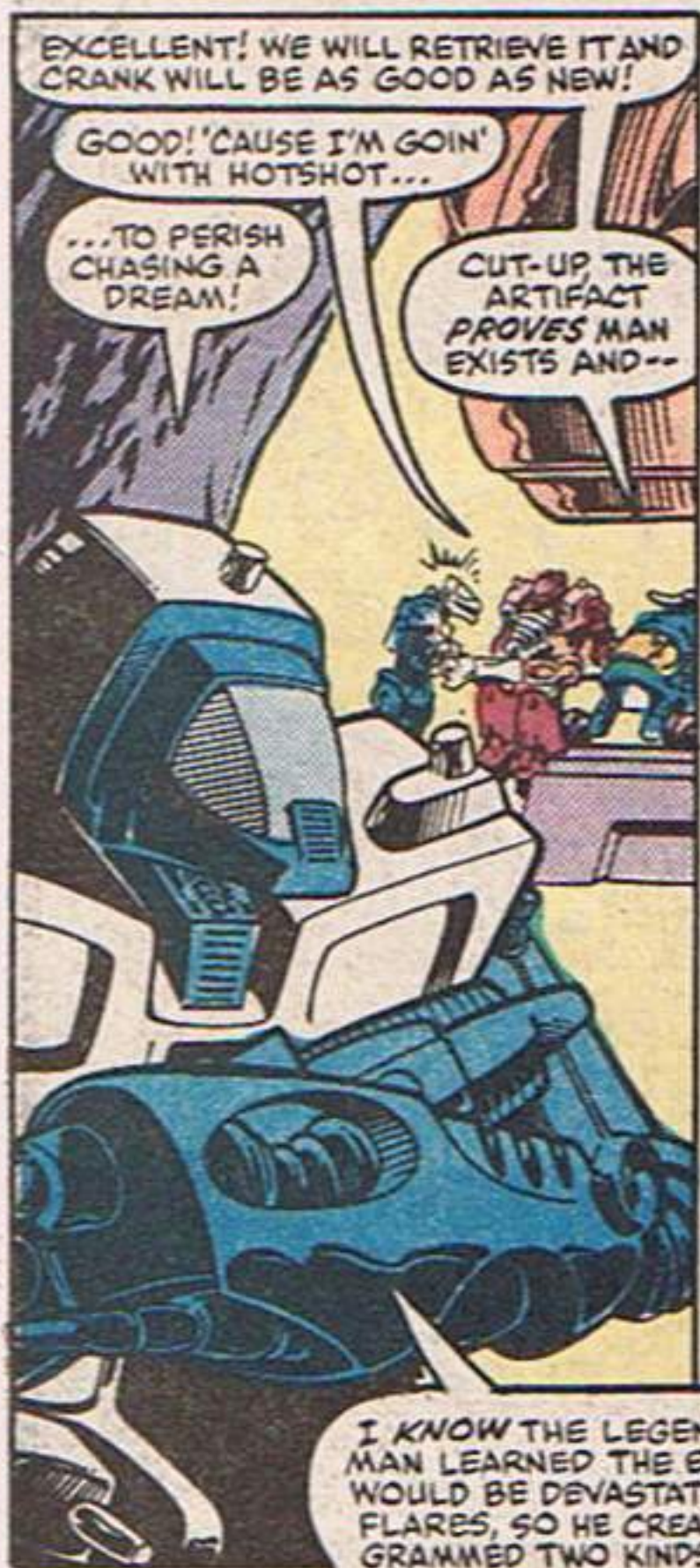
HOW'S YOUR ARM, CRANK?

IT DOESN'T BEND RIGHT! GOUGE MUST HAVE CUT THROUGH SOME CONTROLS!

THINKTANK, WOULD A CYLINDER, ABOUT SO LONG, HELP?

'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT I FOUND ON THE SCRAP PILE! IT'S WHAT STARTED THE FIGHT!

I DROPPED IT, BUT I REMEMBER WHERE!



EXCELLENT! WE WILL RETRIEVE IT AND CRANK WILL BE AS GOOD AS NEW!

GOOD! 'CAUSE I'M GOIN' WITH HOTSHOT...

...TO PERISH CHASING A DREAM!

CUT-UP, THE ARTIFACT PROVES MAN EXISTS AND--

I KNOW THE LEGENDS, THINKTANK! MAN LEARNED THE EARTH'S SURFACE WOULD BE DEVASTATED BY SOLAR FLARES, SO HE CREATED AND PROGRAMMED TWO KINDS OF STARRIORS...



...US PROTECTORS TO REVIVE THE BARREN EARTH... AND THE DESTRUCTORS TO DESTROY ALL INVADERS!

THEN HE WENT INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION BENEATH AN ARMORED BATTLESTATION, PROMISING ONE DAY TO RETURN...

BUT THAT WAS AGES AGO, THINK-TANK. NO-BODY'S FOLLOWING THEIR PROGRAMMING ANYMORE! LOOK AT SLAUGHTER! EVEN HOT-SHOT!

SO PERHAPS THE MACHINES THAT WERE TO AWAKEN MAN HAVE FAILED AS WELL...!

I SHALL CONVENE A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF ONE HUNDRED... TO DISCUSS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE!

GOOD IDEA, THINKTANK!

RUNABOUT! WHAT'S MOTORMOUTH DOING HERE?! THAT SNEAKY LITTLE BLABBER-MOUTH SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEARNED THIS PLACE EXISTS!



HE CAN'T HELP IT! HE'S A MESSENGER ROBOT! HE'S PROGRAMMED TO TELL STUFF!

I ASKED RUNABOUT TO BRING ME HERE BECAUSE I HAVE VITAL NEWS I HAD TO DELIVER TO THINKTANK HIMSELF!

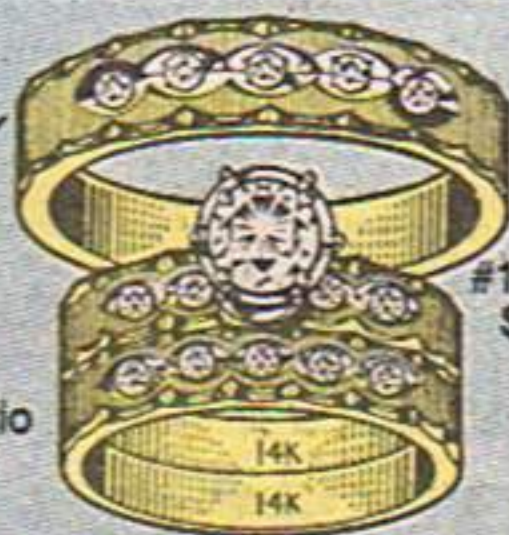
THERE'RE WARRANTS OUT FOR THE ARREST OF ALL OF YOU!



SLAUGHTER IS FURIOUS THAT YOU'VE BEEN RELEASED. HE'S BROKEN SAW-TOOTH IN RANK...

...AND HE WANTS YOU ALL FOUND AND DESTROYED AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER PROTECTORS!

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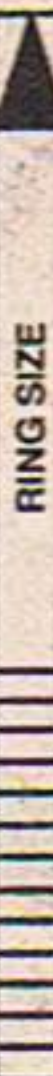
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(Stateside)

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(Stateside)

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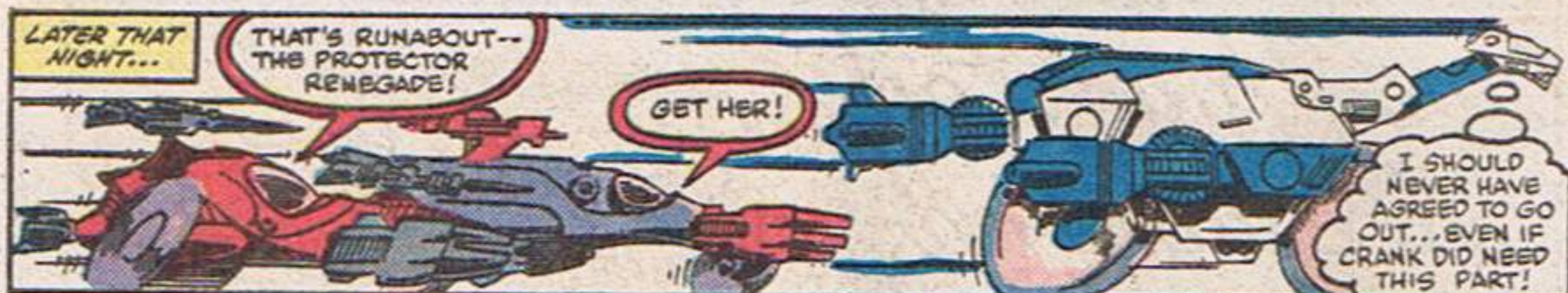
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Send Merchandise to:
 Me Sweetheart or Wife SIGNATURE _____

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY. You may contact my employer for credit purposes.



LATER THAT NIGHT...

THAT'S RUNABOUT-- THE PROTECTOR RENEGADE!

GET HER!

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE AGREED TO GO OUT... EVEN IF CRANK DID NEED THIS PART!



I'M MISSING THE BIG MEETING TO DECIDE WHO'LL GO LOOK FOR MAN-- BUT I KNOW I'M OUT.

I WAS GIVEN TOO MUCH CAUTION-- AND IMAGINATION! I'M--FACE IT! I'M PROGRAMMED TO BE A COWARD...

...TO RUN... TO HIDE! I'VE LEFT THEM BEHIND! BUT I'VE TAKEN SO MANY TURNS THAT I'M LOST!



THIS TIME THEY'RE GOING ON PAST! GOOD!

I THANK YOU, SPY, FOR THE LOCATION OF THE PROTECTOR HIDEOUT! AND FOR NEWS OF TONIGHT'S MEETING... AND ITS SUBJECT!

A QUEST FOR MAN? HOW RIDICULOUS! EVEN IF MAN WERE REAL, THE STARRIORS WOULD BE MAD TO WANT HIS RETURN.



THAT'S SLAUGHTER STEELGRAVE'S VOICE! I MUST BE BEHIND DESTRUCTOR HEADQUARTERS!



EARTH BELONGS TO THE STARRIORS NOW AND IT IS A DESTRUCTOR'S DUTY TO PROTECT IT FROM ALL INVASION-- EVEN INVASION BY MAN!

I SEE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND! NOW RETURN TO THEM! ATTEND THEIR MEETING AND LEARN ALL YOU CAN!

OH NO! THERE'S A SPY AMONG US-- BUT WHO? HE LEFT BEFORE I COULD SEE!



THE CULT OF MAN WAS HARMLESS UP TILL NOW, BUT THE DISCOVERY OF THIS ARTIFACT HAS GALVANIZED THEM!

I CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO EVEN BEGIN THEIR SEARCH FOR FEAR OF WHAT THEY WILL DISCOVER... ABOUT MAN... AND THE REASON BEHIND HIS UN-ENDING SLEEP!



GOUGE! GATHER A CRACK CADRE OF TROOPS! WE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY...

... TO BLOW THOSE PROTECTOR SCUM OFF THE MAP, INCLUDING OUR SPY... WHO KNOWS FAR TOO MUCH!



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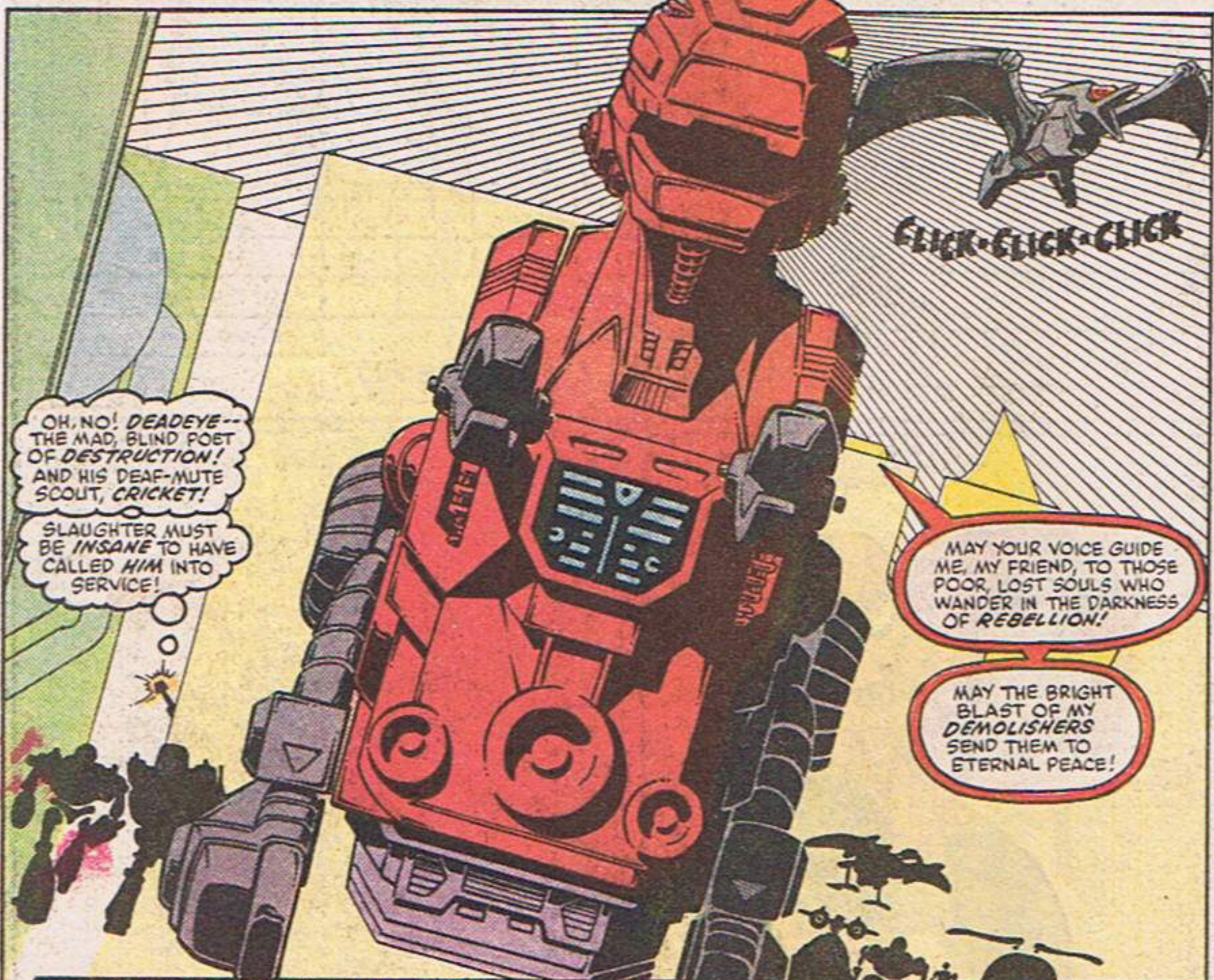


MINUTES LATER...

JUST LOOK AT THOSE DESTRUCTORS! THERE'S GOUGE! AND EVEN SAWTOOTH! WHY IS HE ALONG?

IT WILL BE EXQUISITE TORTURE FOR YOU, WILL IT NOT, SAWTOOTH? TO WITNESS THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PRECIOUS PROTECTORS!

AND TO KNOW THAT, HAD I NOT FREED THEM EARLIER, THIS WOULD NOT BE HAPPENING!



OH, NO! DEADEYE-- THE MAD, BLIND POET OF DESTRUCTION! AND HIS DEAF-MUTE SCOUT, CRICKET!

SLAUGHTER MUST BE INSANE TO HAVE CALLED HIM INTO SERVICE!

CLICK-CLICK-CLICK

MAY YOUR VOICE GUIDE ME, MY FRIEND, TO THOSE POOR, LOST SOULS WHO WANDER IN THE DARKNESS OF REBELLION!

MAY THE BRIGHT BLAST OF MY DEMOLISHERS SEND THEM TO ETERNAL PEACE!



JUST ONE OF HIS DEMOLISHERS WILL BLOW AWAY OUR HIDEOUT! AND DESTROY EVERYBODY AT THE MEETING!

I'VE GOT TO WARN THEM!

NOBODY ELSE COMING OUT OF THE ARMORY RIGHT NOW! TIME TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

WHEELS DON'T FAIL ME NOW!

ZOOOOOM 18

WHILE AT THE MEETING,
THINKTANK SPEAKS...

TODAY A SQUABBLE ERUPTED INTO A PITCHED BATTLE BETWEEN PROTECTORS AND DESTRUCTORS. THE RIFT BETWEEN US HAS GROWN TOO WIDE FOR US ALONE TO HEAL.

SOME SAY *MAN* IS OUR ONLY HOPE, AND THAT IF *MAN* WON'T COME TO US, WE SHOULD GO TO HIM!

AND I SAY THAT'S CRAZY! SO FAR, FOR ALL MY TALK, I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO TURN MY SAW-BLADE AGAINST OUR ENEMIES. BUT TODAY, *HOTSHOT* ACTUALLY FIRED ON *GOUGE*...

...PROVING OUR NONVIOLENT PROGRAMMING CAN BE OVER-RIDDEN!

I VOTE WE LEARN TO *DE-STROY* OUR ENEMIES--*NOW!* NOT LOOK FOR SOME MYTHICAL BEING TO SAVE US FROM THEM!

THAT'S A VILE IDEA!

MAKING WAR AGAINST OUR OWN KIND!

EXCEPT THE DESTRUCTORS HAVE GONE SO AGAINST THEIR PROGRAMMING! I WONDER, ARE THEY *REALLY* OUR KIND ANYMORE?

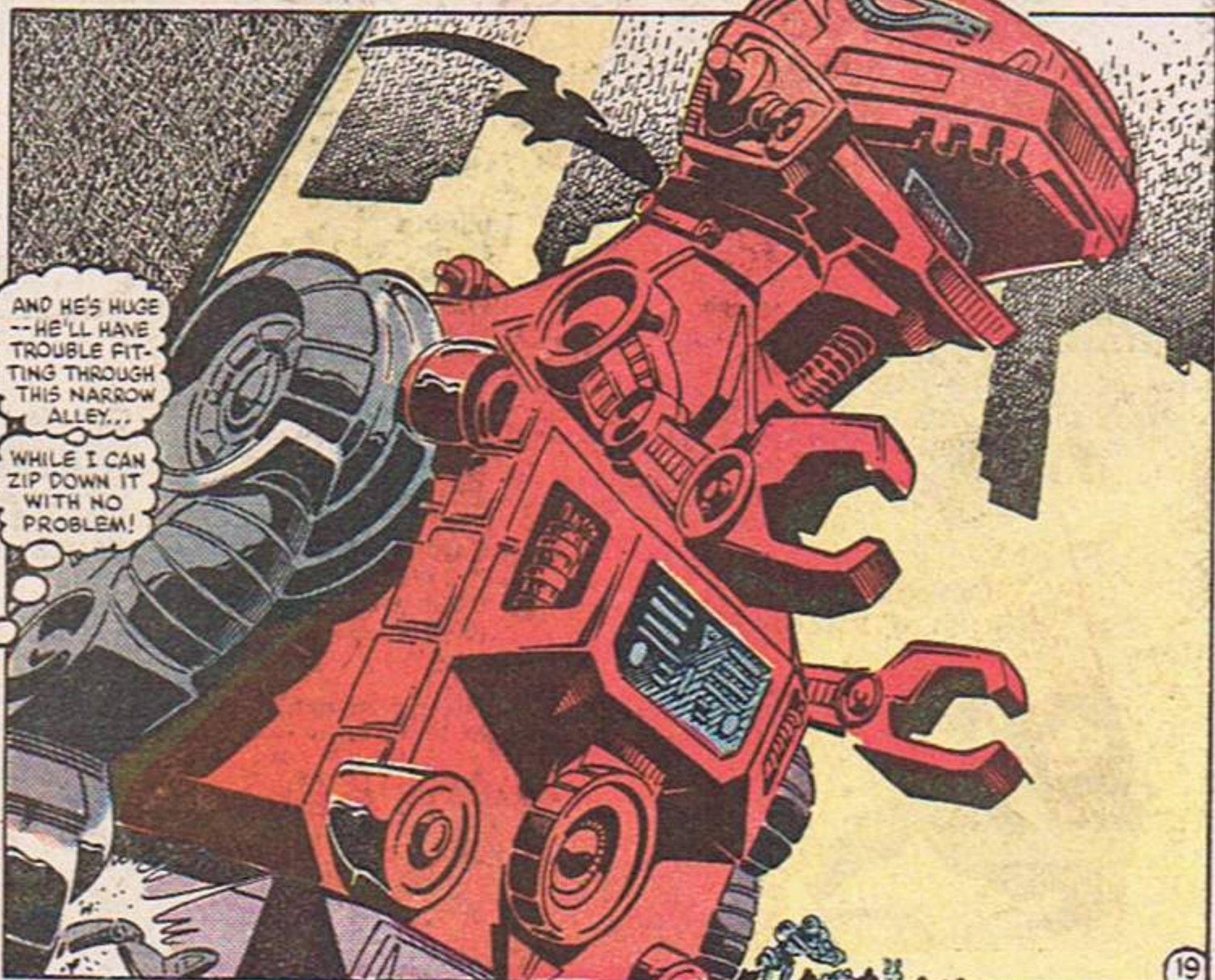


WHILE OUTSIDE...

AT LEAST *DEADEYE*'S PONDEROUS AND SLOW! EVEN STARTING OUT BEHIND AND KEEPING TO THE SHADOWS, I WAS ABLE TO OVERTAKE HIM!

AND HE'S HUGE -- HE'LL HAVE TROUBLE FITTING THROUGH THIS NARROW ALLEY...

WHILE I CAN ZIP DOWN IT WITH NO PROBLEM!



THE NEW TITANIC TWOSOME!

CAPTAIN & SPIEY FLYING
AMERICA FLYING
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**BOTH
SET OF TWO
ONLY
\$4.49**

THIS DUO IS NOW AVAILABLE AGAIN. EACH COMES COMPLETE WITH FULLY ADJUSTABLE WRIST BAND, SECRET RELEASE & SAFETY TIPPED SHOOTER. THE SET OF TWO (2) CAP. FLYING SHIELD AND SPIEY FLYING WEB ARE ONLY \$4.49.

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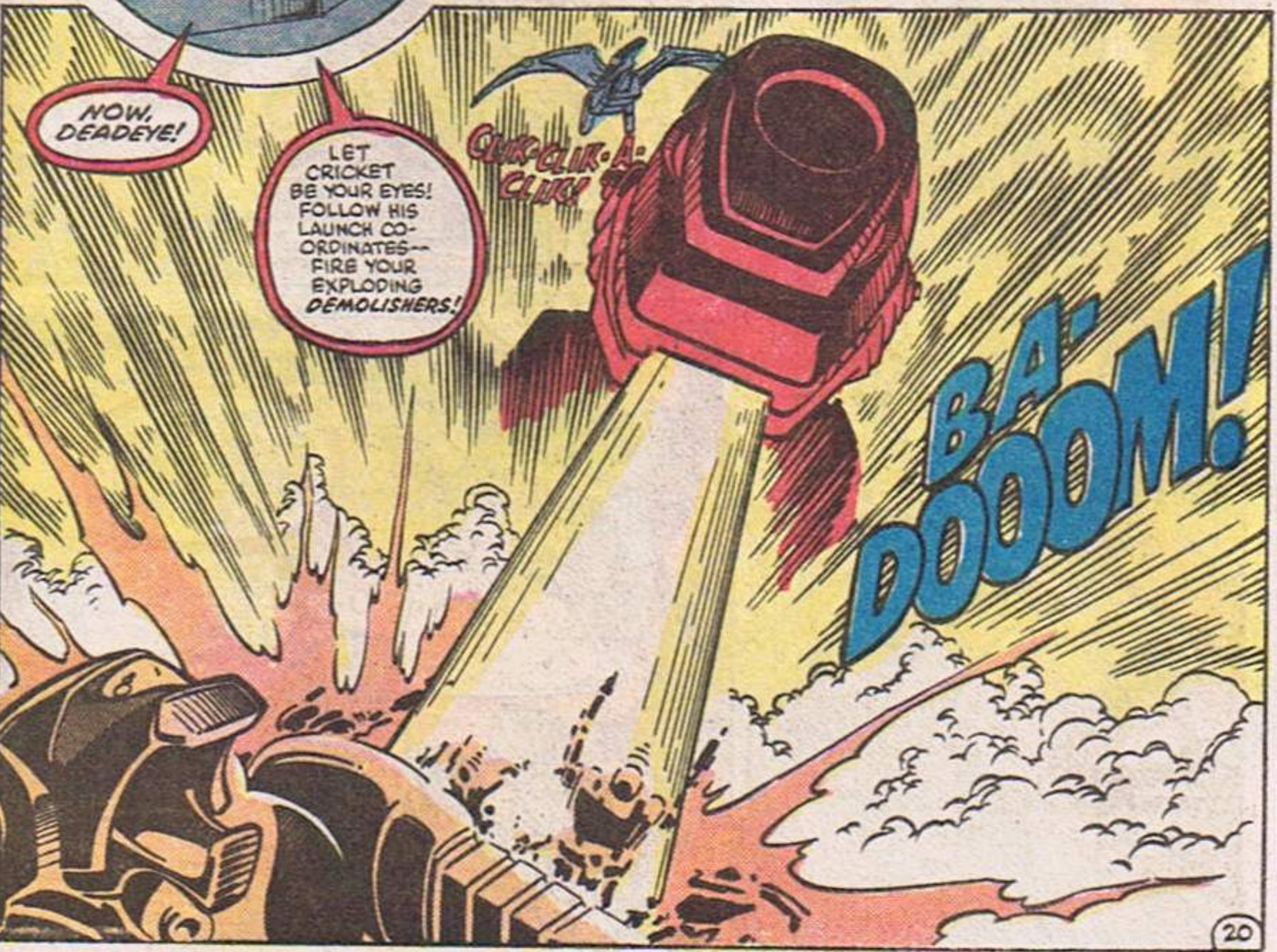
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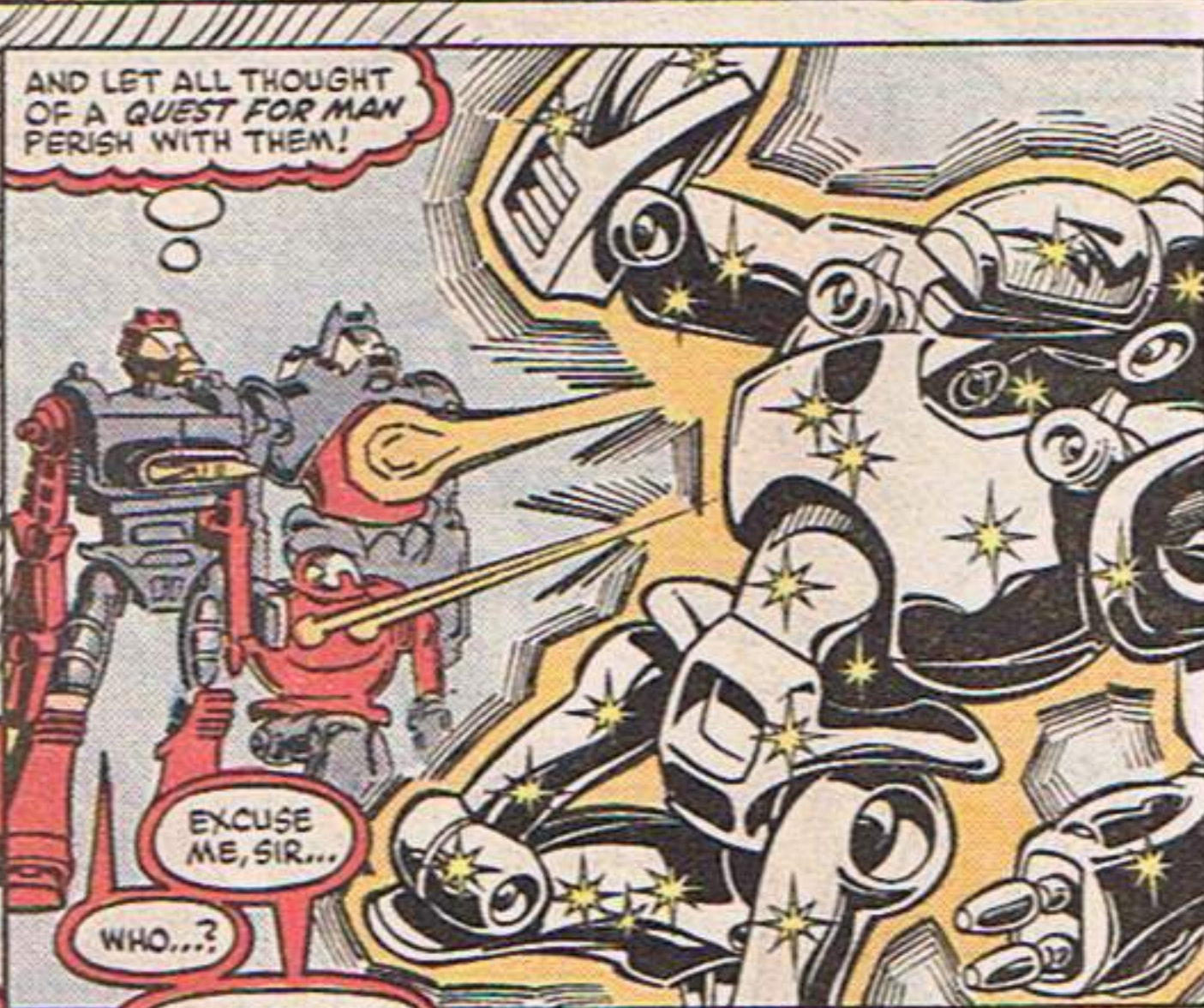
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AT DAWN, A STRAGGLING GROUP OF ALMOST THIRTY PROTECTORS STAGGERS OUT OF THE TUNNEL...



CRANK! GEO!
WE'VE MADE
IT! WE'RE
ALIVE!

WHERE
ARE WE?

CAN
WE HAVE
JOURNEYED
-- BEYOND
THE WALL!?

CORRECT,
MY BOY!
BEYOND YOU
LIES THE
FORBIDDEN
WASTELAND!

WHY,
THINKTANK?
WHY DID THEY WANT
TO DESTROY
US?

I THINK I KNOW,
TINKER! SLAUGHTER'S
SPY... TOLD HIM ABOUT
THE CAVERN... AND
OUR QUEST!



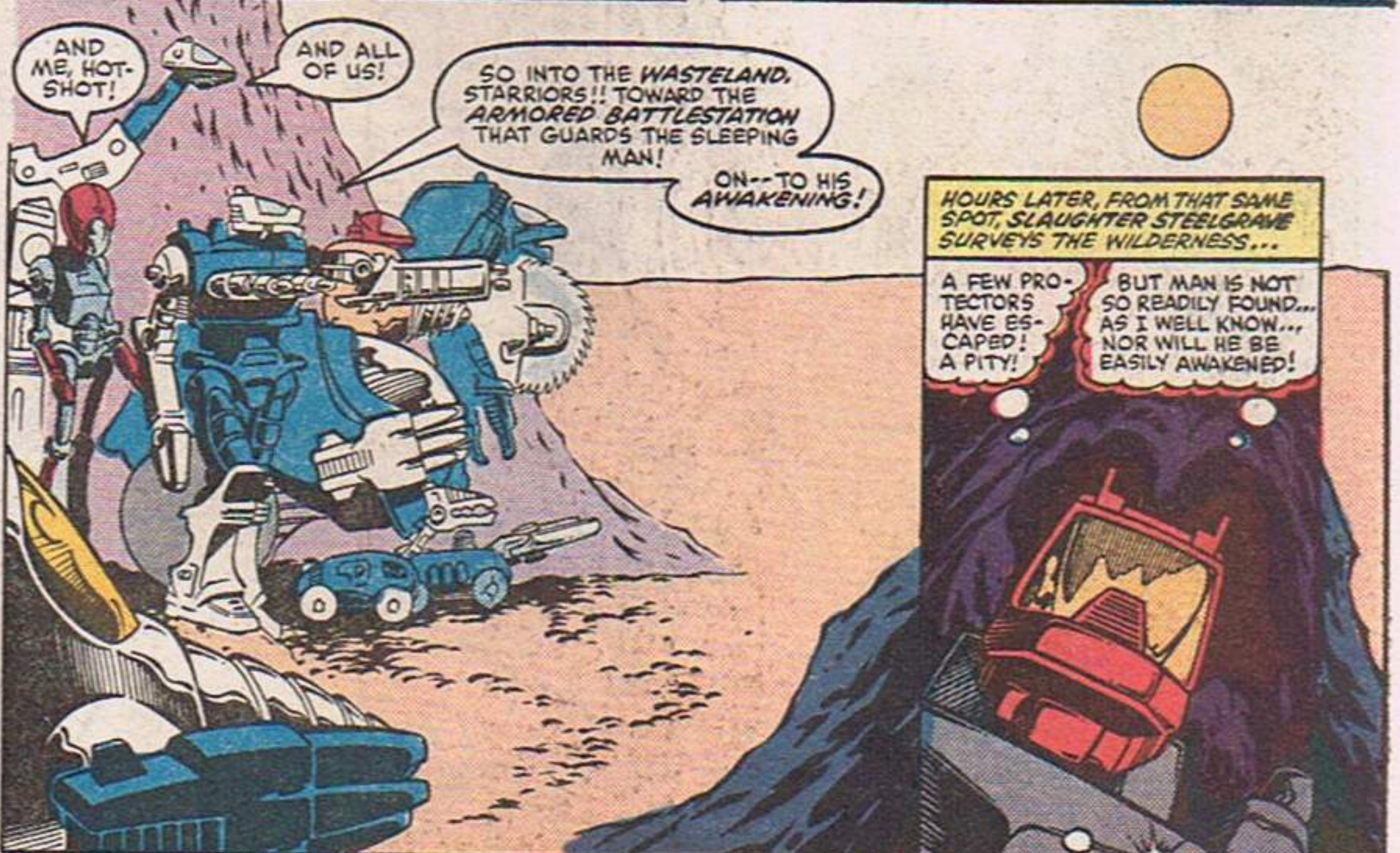
SLAUGHTER
ATTACKED
US BECAUSE
WE WERE
GOING TO
LOOK FOR
MAN!

CUT-UP ARRIVED
LATE. MAYBE HE
TOLD SLAUGHTER...
TO TRY TO GET US
TO FIGHT!

I'M NO TRAITOR,
MOTORMOUTH, BUT
I DID THINK LOOK-
ING FOR MAN WAS
FUTILE!

BUT IF SLAUGHTER
IS THAT SET AGAINST
IT, THEN THE MAN-
QUEST IS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
I GUESSED!

SO IF YOU
AND CRANK'LL
HAVE ME, HOT-
SHOT, I'D LIKE TO
COME WITH YOU!



AND
ME, HOT-
SHOT!

AND ALL
OF US!

SO INTO THE WASTELAND,
STARRIORS!! TOWARD THE
ARMORED BATTLESTATION
THAT GUARDS THE SLEEPING
MAN!

ON-- TO HIS
AWAKENING!

HOURS LATER, FROM THAT SAME
SPOT, SLAUGHTER STEELGRAVE
SURVEYS THE WILDERNESS...

A FEW PRO-
TECTORS
HAVE ES-
CAPED!
A PITY!

BUT MAN IS NOT
SO READILY FOUND...
AS I WELL KNOW...
NOR WILL HE BE
EASILY AWAKENED!

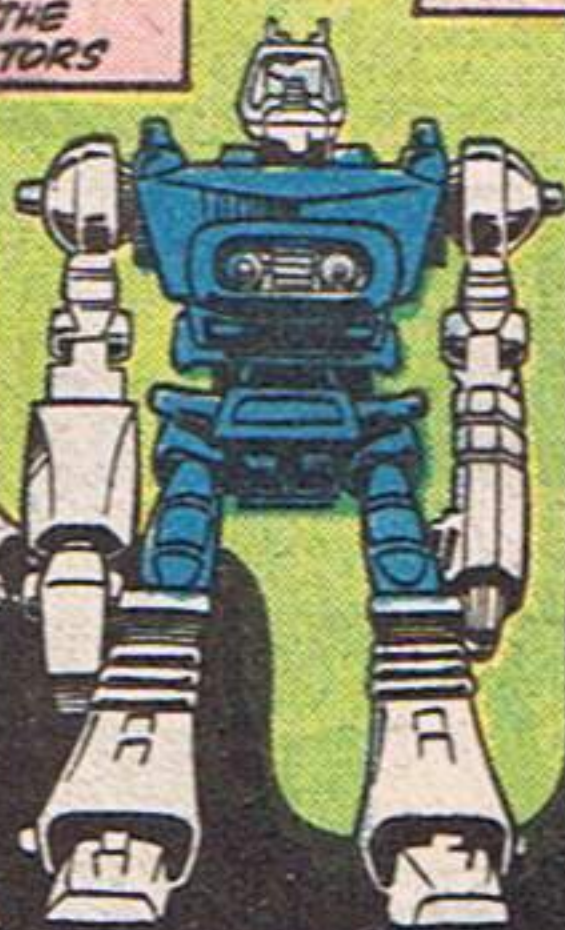
NEXT MONTH, THE QUEST CONTINUES IN...

RING-WAR!

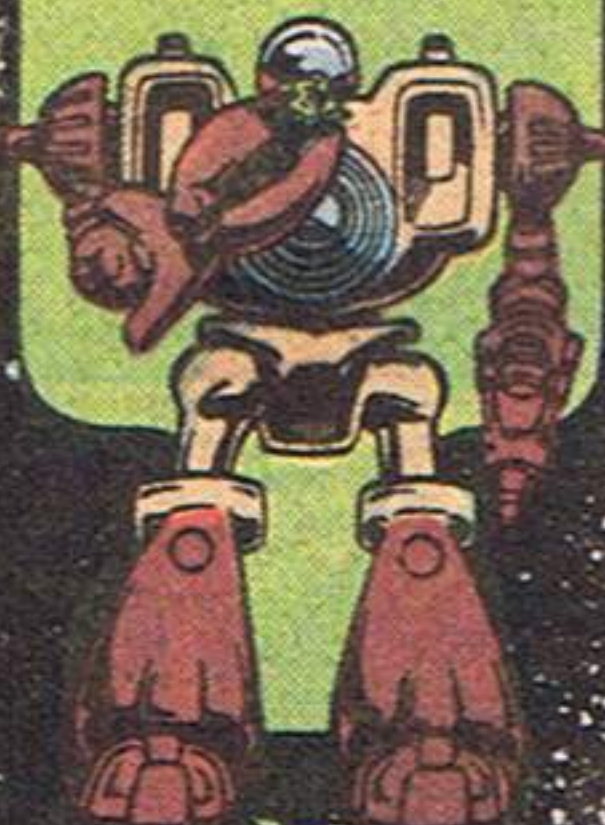
WE WILL FOLLOW! AND BEFORE
THE DAY IS OUT... WE WILL
CRUSH THESE REBELLIOUS
PROTECTORS UTTERLY!

THE PROTECTORS

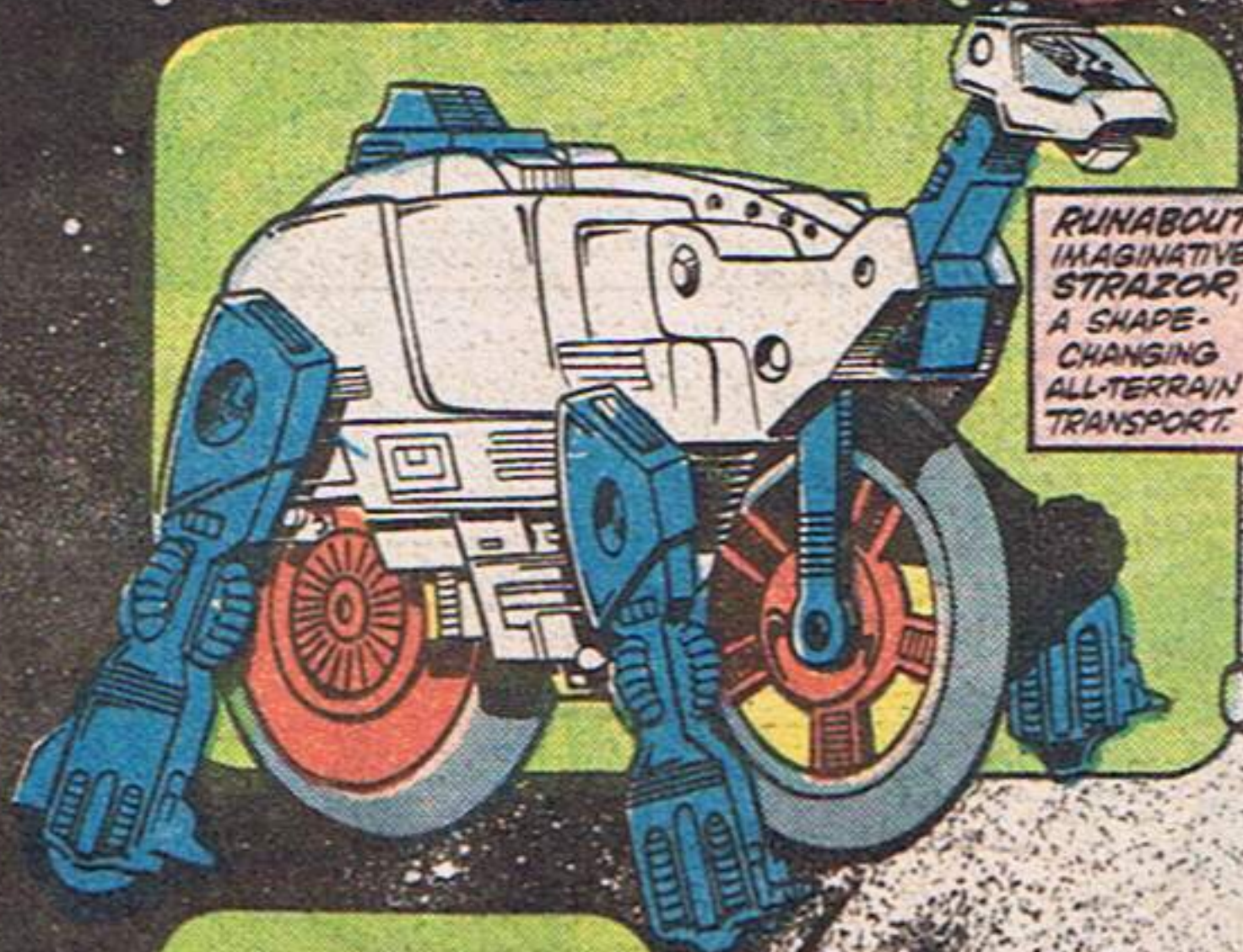
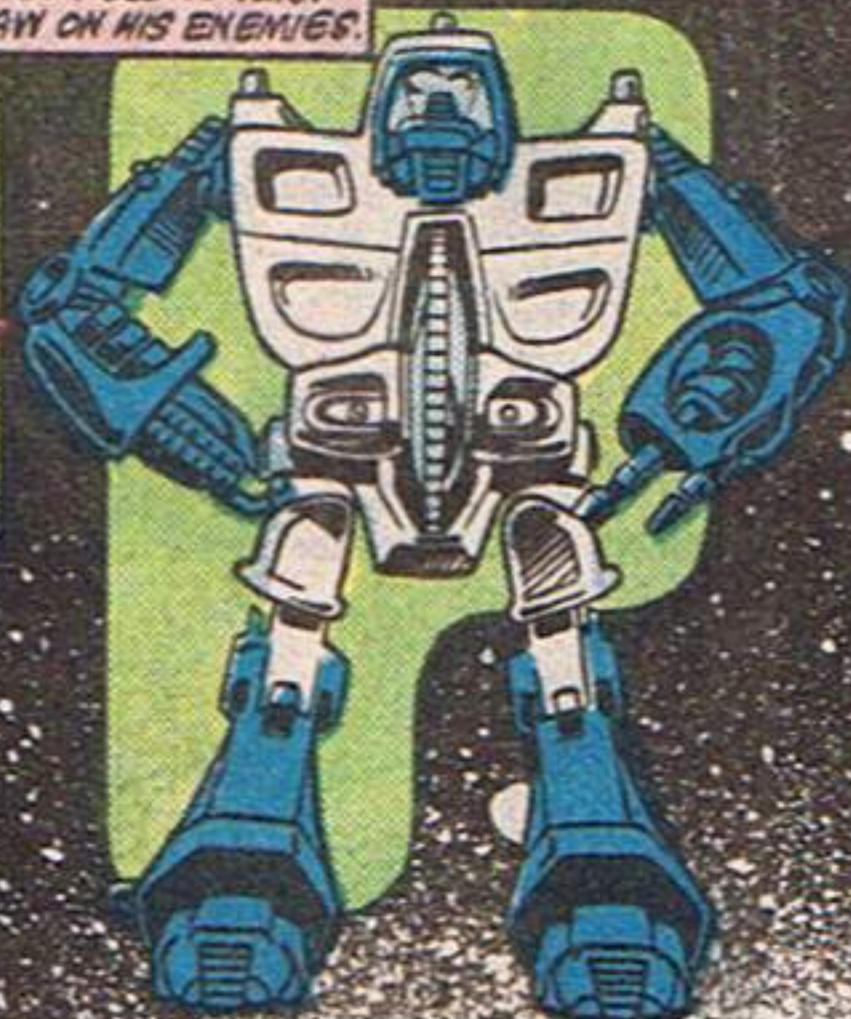
HOTSHOT:
LASER-WIELDING
WASTOR, LEADER
OF THE
PROTECTORS



CRANK: SLOW-WITTED
GENTLE WASTOR WITH A
HEART AS BIG AS HE IS.



CUT-UP: VOLATILE WASTOR
WHO WANTS TO BE ABLE TO TURN
HIS CHEST-SAW ON HIS ENEMIES.

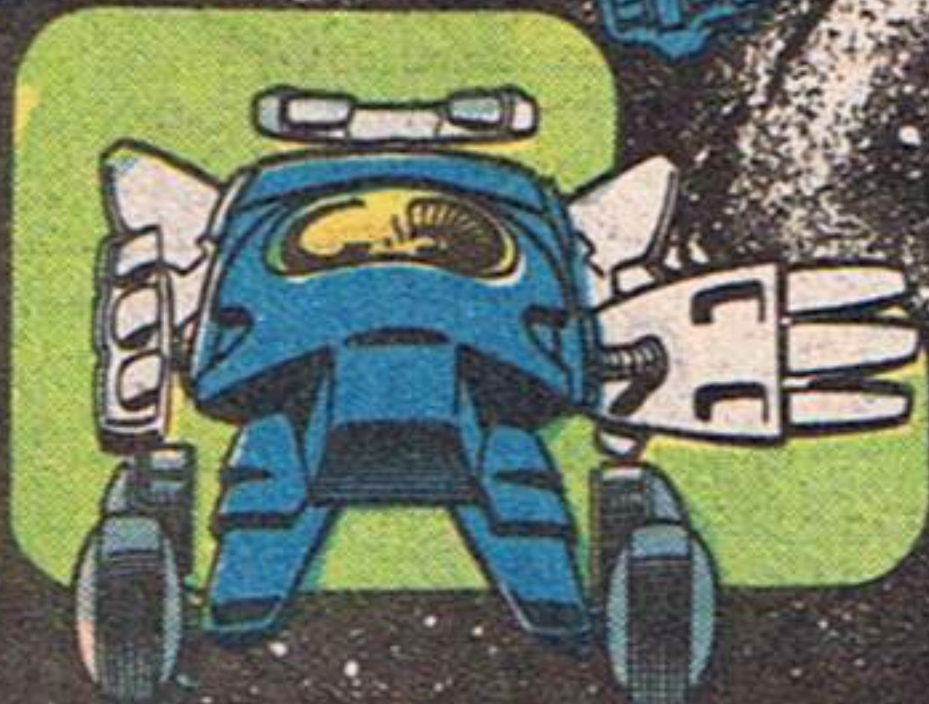


RUNABOUT:
IMAGINATIVE
STRAZOR,
A SHAPE-
CHANGING
ALL-TERRAIN
TRANSPORT.

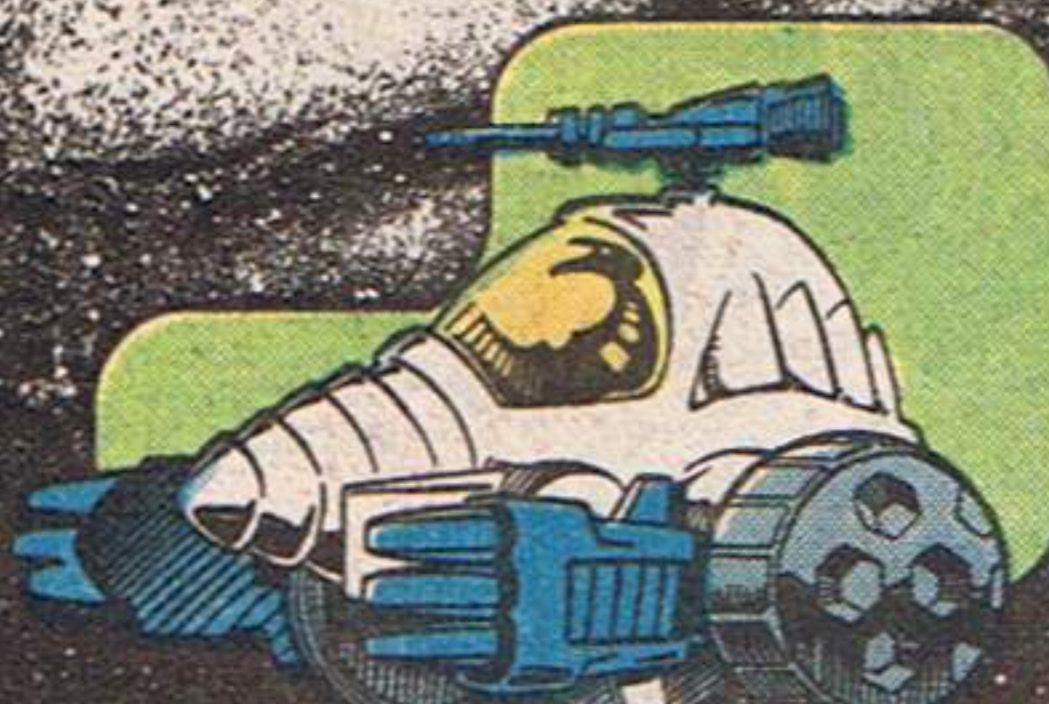
NIPPER:
ANNESIAC
TRASHOR WITH
A GENIUS FOR
SCAVENGING.



TINKER:
ENTERPRISING
TRASHOR, THE
PERFECT REPAIR
ASSISTANT.



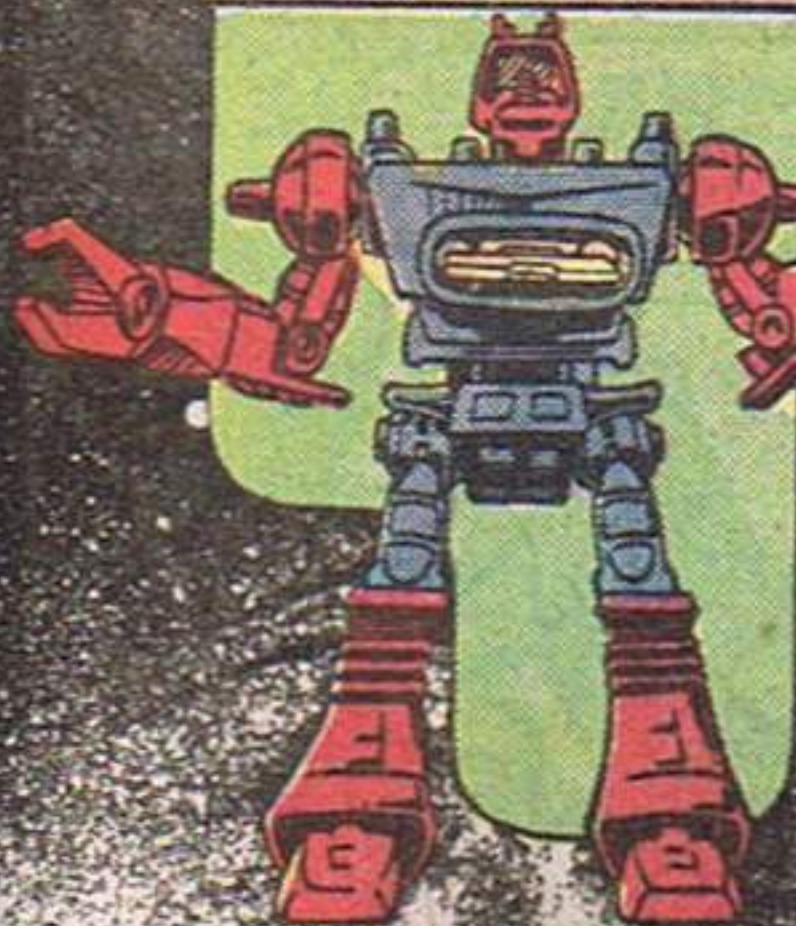
THINKTANK:
WISE AND
ANCIENT RAMMOR,
HOTSHOT'S
ADVISOR.



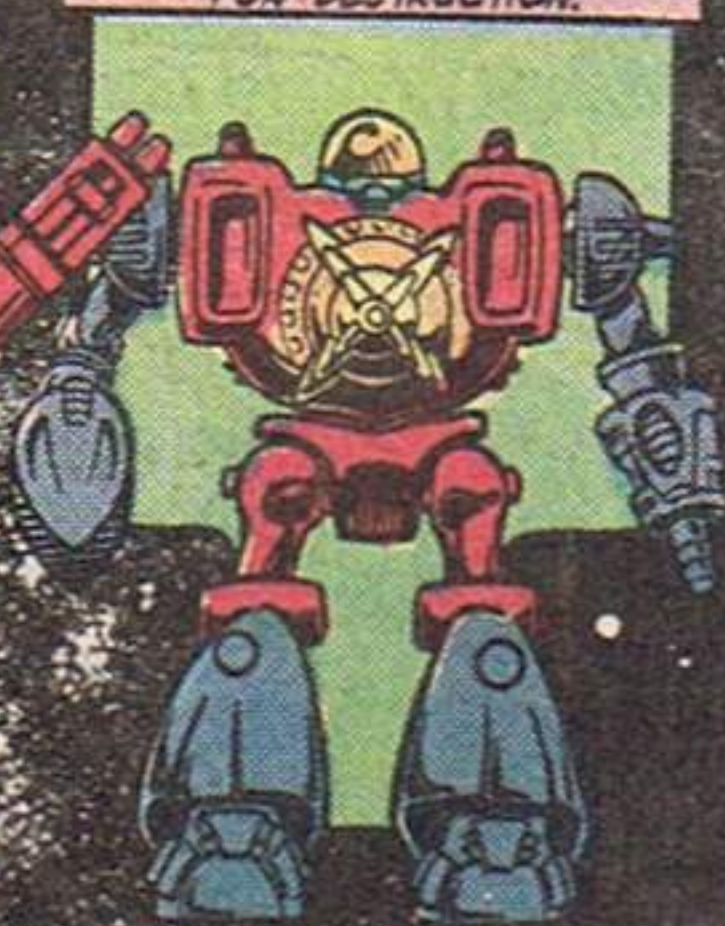
MOTORMOUTH:
MESSENGER RAMMOR
WHO TALKS FAR TOO
MUCH.

THE DESTROYERS

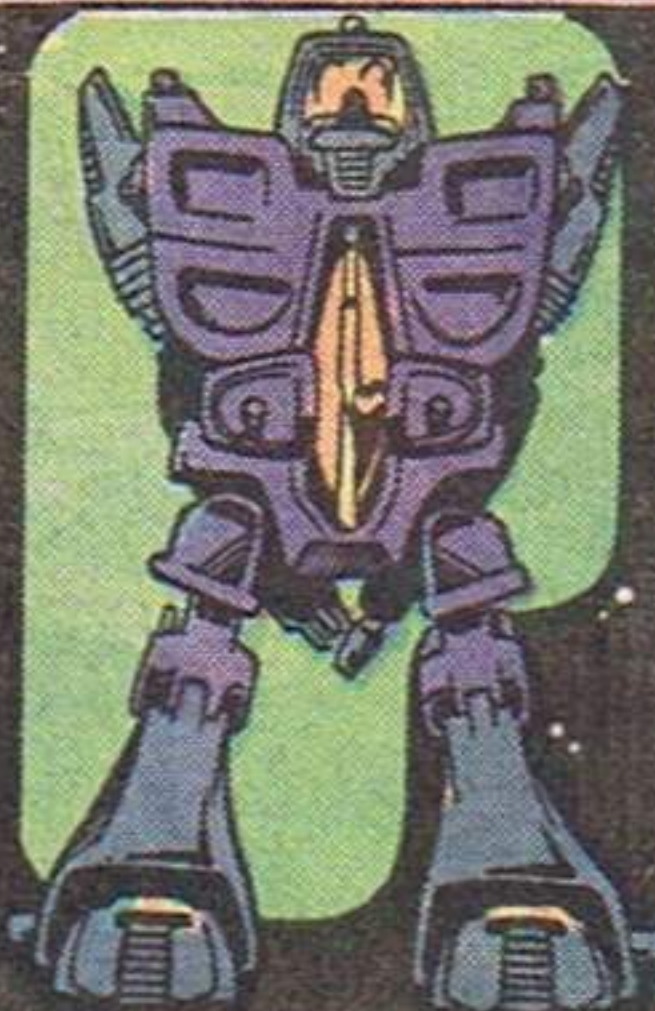
SLAUGHTER STEELGRAVE: VIBRO-CHISEL WIELDING WASTOR, LEADER OF THE DESTROYERS.



GOLGE: SADISTIC, ILL-TEMPERED WASTOR WHO USES HIS BEAM FOR DESTRUCTION.



SAWTOOTH: STOLID WASTOR WHO'S SECRETLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE PROTECTORS.



DEADEYE: BLIND COSMITTOR, THE DEMOLISHER-FIRING KILLER WITH THE SOUL OF A POET.

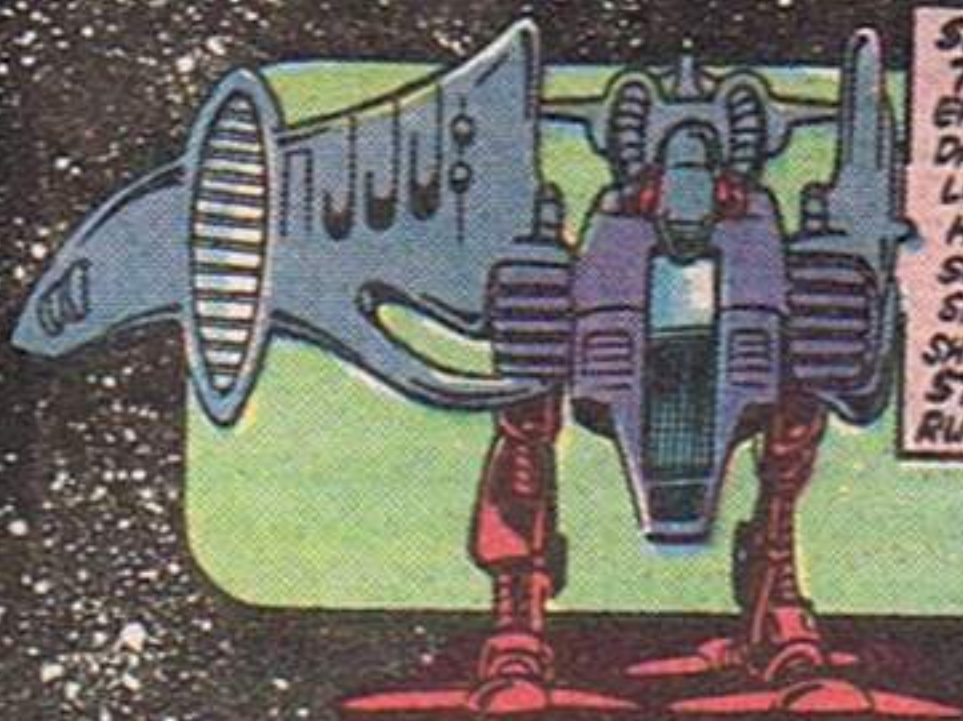


AUNTIE TANK: HEAVILY ARMORED, HIGH-SPEED SEARCH AND DESTROY RAMMOR.

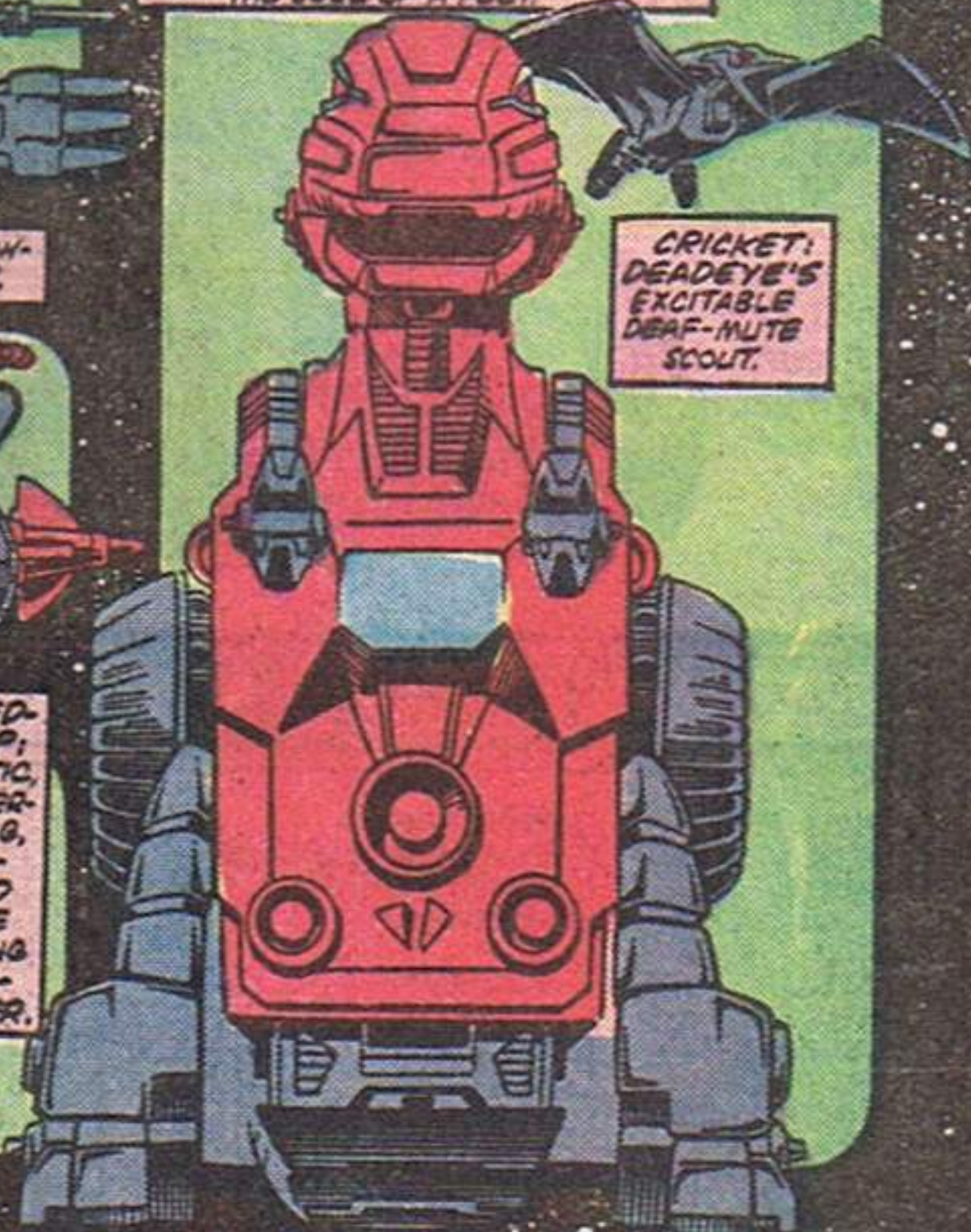
BACKFIRE: UNLUCKY RAMMOR WHOSE EFFORTS TO HELP ALWAYS... BACKFIRE.



SPEED-TRAP: ERRATIC, DANGER-LOVING, HIGH-SPEED SHAPE SHIFTING STAR-RUNNER.



CRICKET: DEADEYE'S EXCITABLE DEAF-MUTE SCOUT.

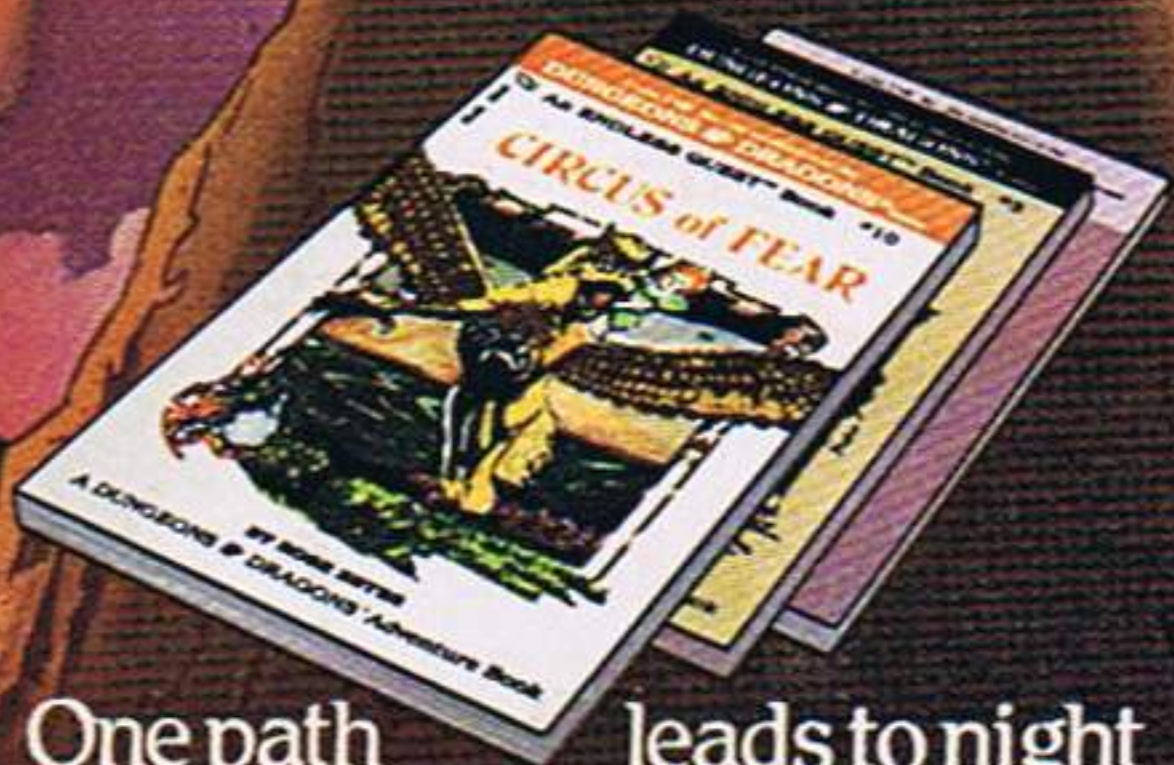


GRUB: LAZY SCAVENGING TRASHOR.



SCRAPPER: A GUNG-HO TRASHOR WHO'D RATHER FIGHT THAN WORK.





One path leads to night creatures who live to destroy. Another leads to a castle holding untold riches. But one path leads to the Wizard King, who can grant you limitless powers.

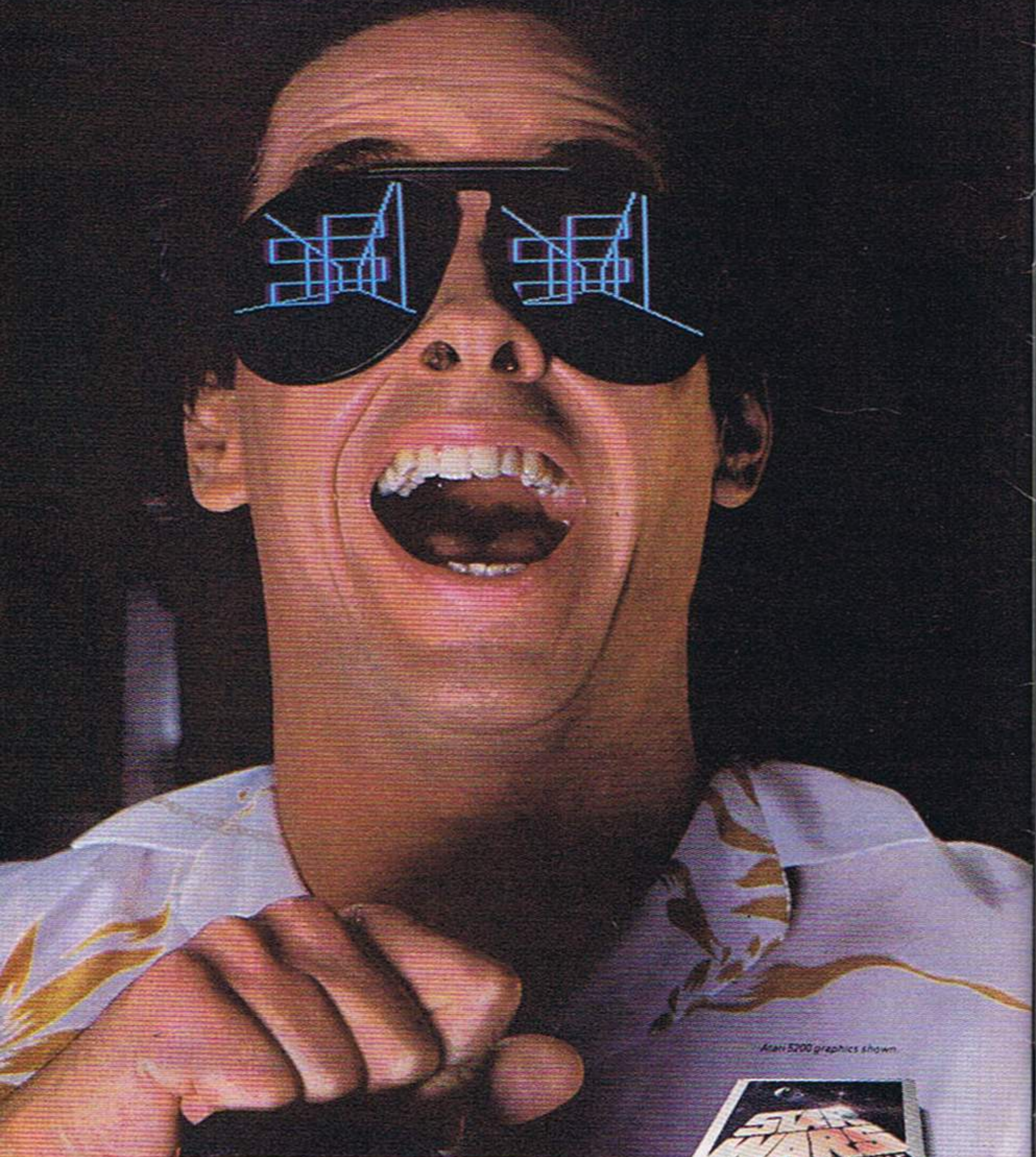
Which path to follow?
The decision is yours, but only moments to choose...

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