

MARVEL

#4 IN A FOUR-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

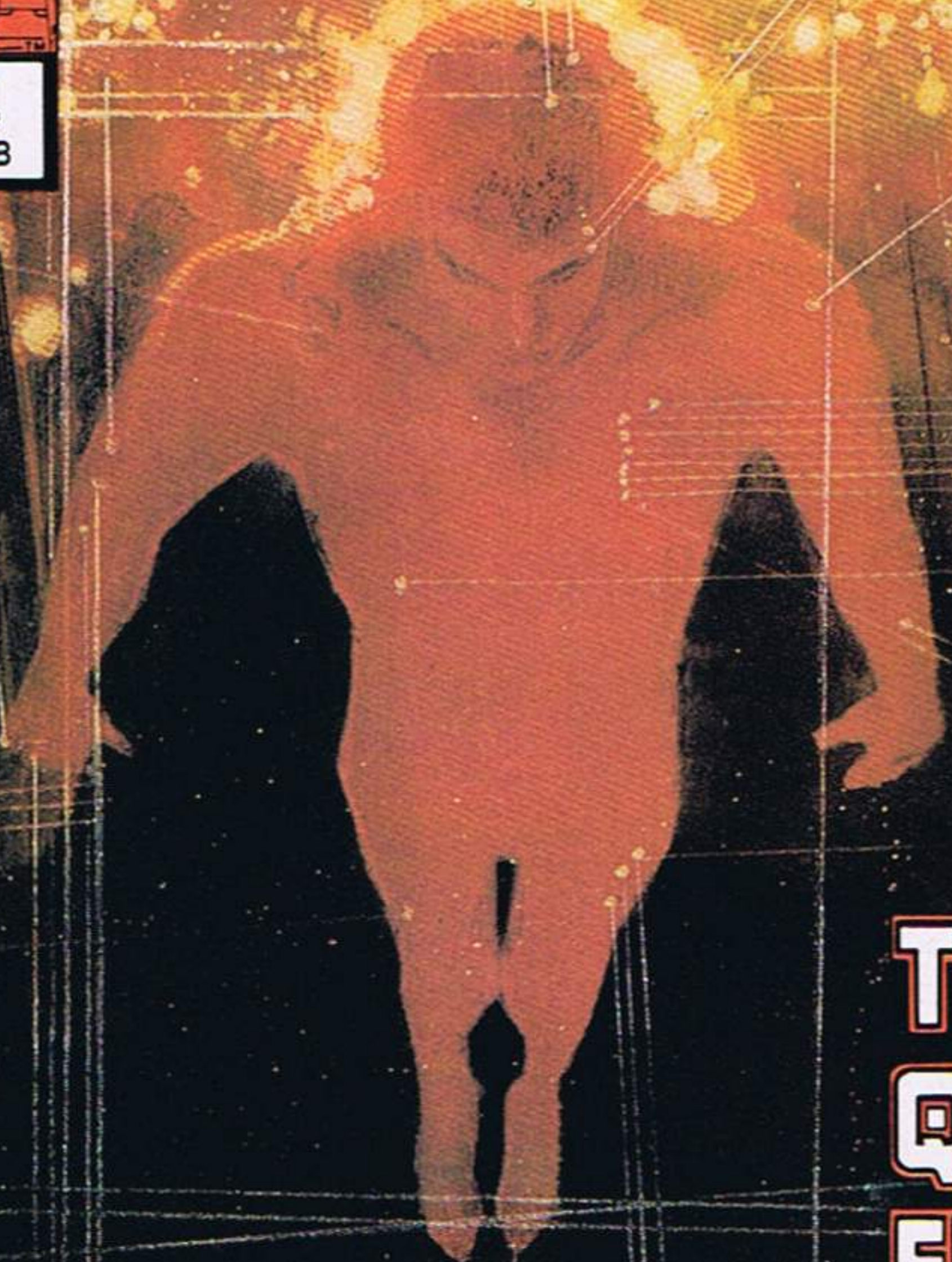
STARRIORS

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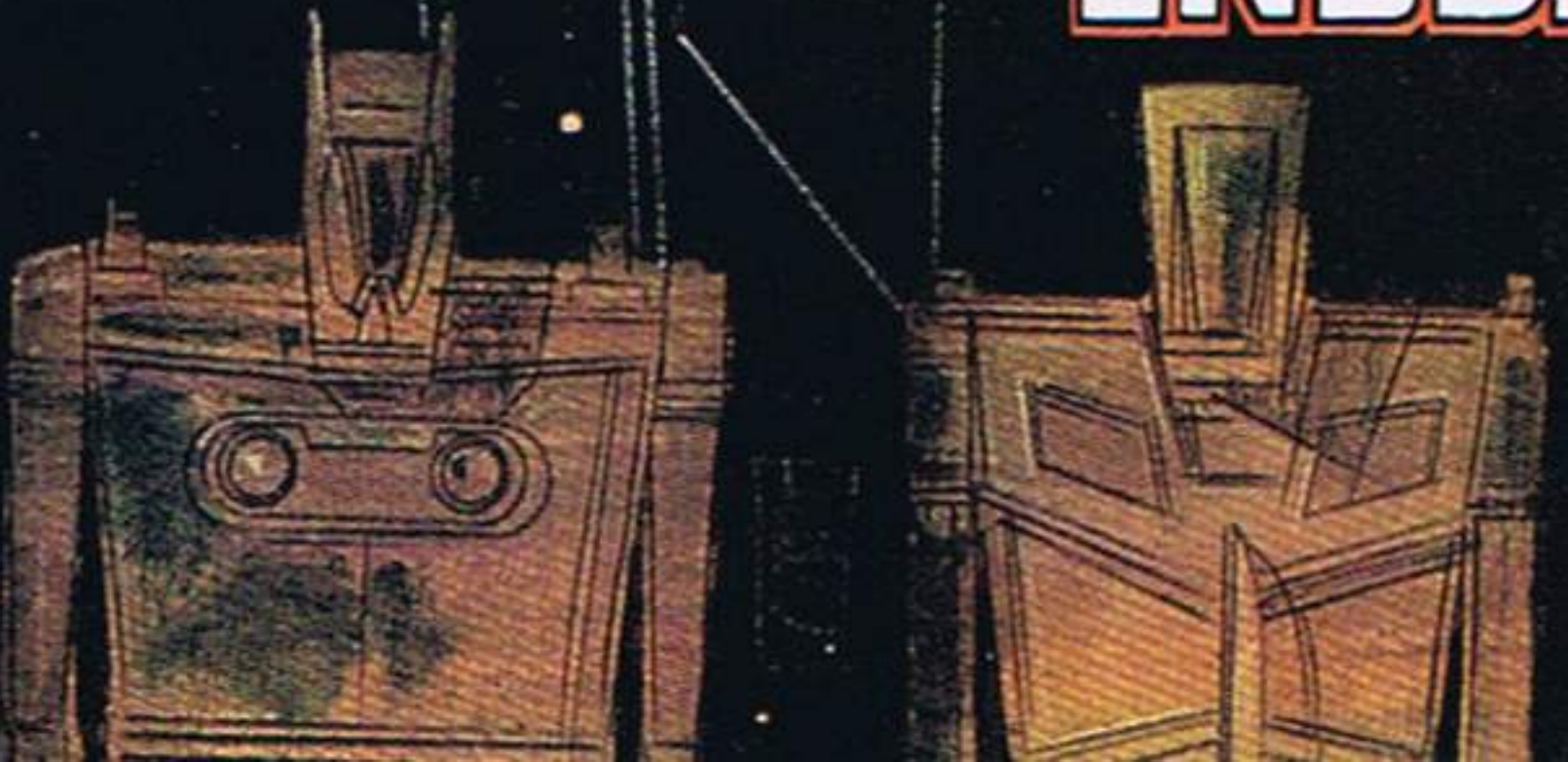


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BENEATH THE BLAZING SUN OF A FUTURE EARTH, TWO RACES OF STARRIORS ARE AT WAR! THIS ARMORED BATTLESTATION, CALLED THE CITADEL OF DREAMS, IS THE PRIZE THEY BOTH SEEK!

FOR BENEATH IT, THE LEGENDARY MAN, CREATOR OF THE STARRIORS, SLEEPS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION... AS HE HAS SLEPT FOR AGES PAST COUNTING!

THERE, BATTLESTATION! ON YOUR PERIMETER VIEW SCREEN! IT'S HIM! HE'S COMING!

SLAUGHTER STEELGRAVE, THE DESTRUCTOR WHO, LONG AGO, DEMOLISHED MOST OF YOUR DEFENSES AND DESTROYED THE GUARDIANS... MY PEOPLE!

I ALONE SURVIVED... IMPAIRED... WITH VITAL MEMORY CIRCUITS DESTROYED...

SLAUGHTER WIPED MUCH OF MY MEMORY, ALSO, STINGER! MAN SLEEPS SOMEWHERE BELOW, BUT WE CANNOT REMEMBER WHERE!

SLAUGHTER HAS HIDDEN OR DESTROYED THE MACHINERY THAT COULD AWAKEN HIM! AND NOW HE'S COME TO DESTROY MAN HIMSELF!

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RUNABOUT SWORE THE PROTECTORS WOULD AID US, BUT THEY ARE FEW AND THE DESTRUCTORS ARE SO MANY! HOW CAN WE HOPE TO STOP THEM?

WELLS END!

AND MILES AWAY, THE PROTECTORS RECOVER FROM A DEVASTATING DEFEAT. MANY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BEYOND HOPE OF SALVAGE...



I'M SORRY, HOTSHOT! GEO'S BRAIN CIRCUIT'S SMASHED! EVEN A TRANSFER RING CAN'T SAVE HER!

THE DESTRUCTORS WILL PAY WITH THEIR LIVES FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO HER!

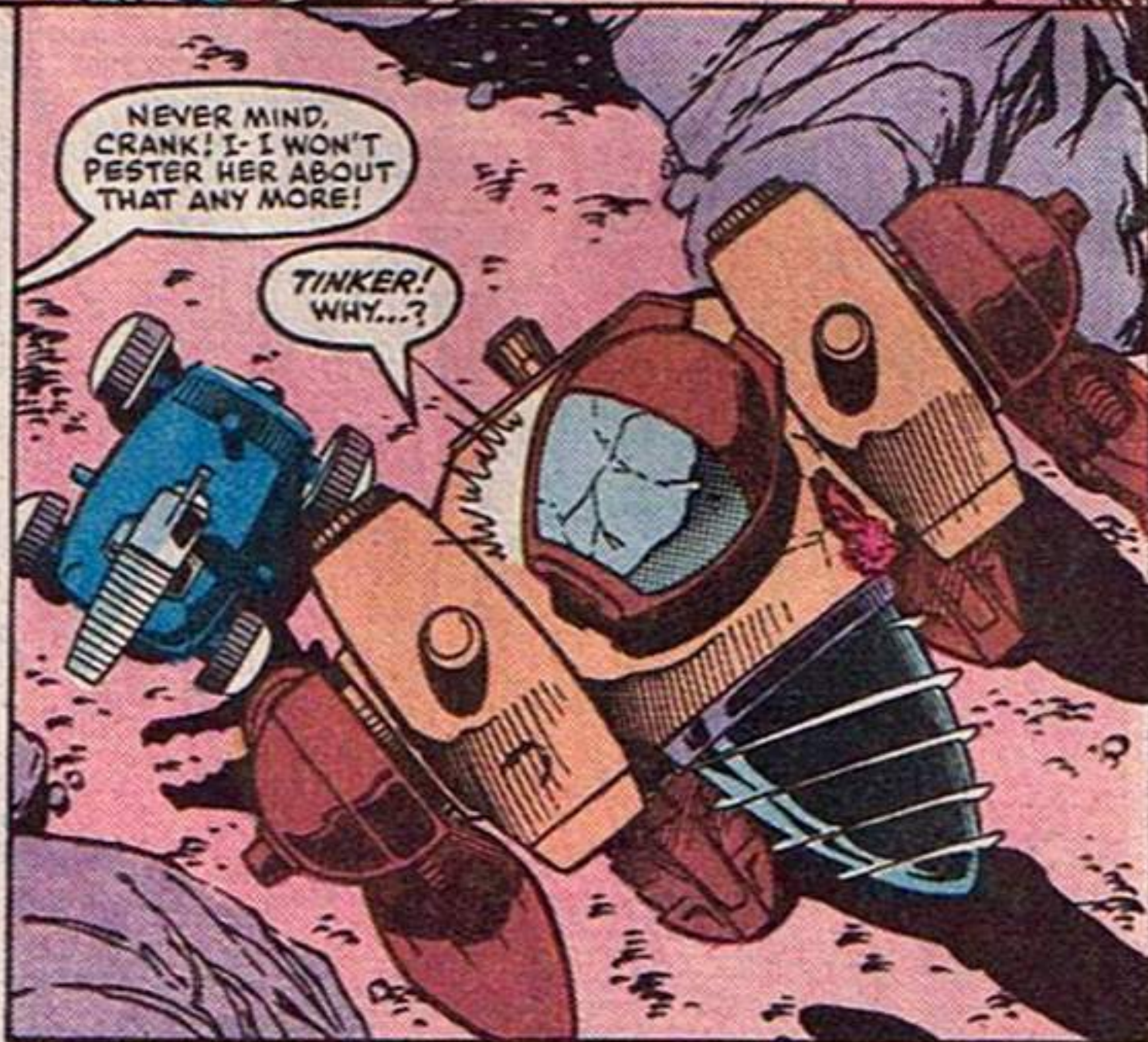
AND HER DREAM OF FREEDOM WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN! THIS I SWEAR!

I KNOW HOW HOTSHOT FEELS, CRANK 'CAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU!

NO, NIPPER! IT'S TINKER YOU LOVE... OR WOULD LOVE, IF ONLY YOUR MEMORY HADN'T BEEN WIPED!

NEVER MIND, CRANK! I-I WON'T PESTER HER ABOUT THAT ANY MORE!

TINKER! WHY...?



A WHILE BACK I VOWED TO PROTECT NIPPER FROM HARM! BUT SHE WAS INJURED IN THAT BATTLE... SHE COULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, LIKE GEO!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT THE RING-- WHO RESTORED EVERYONE! AGAINST A GUY LIKE YOU, I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!

BUT, TINKER, WE WERE ALL INJURED! AND RUNABOUT BROUGHT US THE RING FROM THE BATTLESTATION, NOT ME! I JUST--

WHILE NEARBY... HOTSHOT, ON MY WAY HERE FROM THE BATTLESTATION, I FOUND SAWTOOTH'S BODY-- DISMEMBERED AND ABANDONED BY THE DESTRUCTORS, BUT STILL CONSCIOUS!

A DESTRUCTOR-- HERE? PERHAPS WE'LL TAKE FROM HIM A LIFE FOR A LIFE!



SAWTOOTH MAY BE A DESTRUCTOR, MY BOY, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS JUST... AND OUR FRIEND!

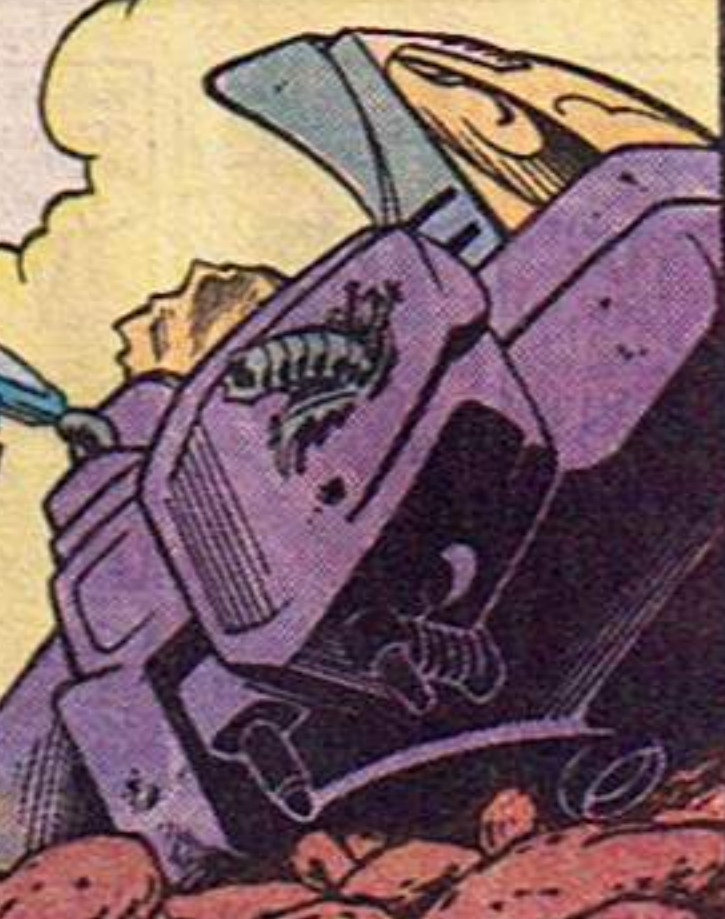
HOW CAN YOU SAY ANY DESTRUCTOR IS A FRIEND, THINK-TANK, AFTER THIS...?

RUNABOUT! TAKE ME TO HIM!

AND SOON...

YOUR PEOPLE HAVE DESTROYED MUCH, SAWTOOTH! MANY OF THE PROTECTORS LIE DEAD, BEYOND EVEN THE HELP OF THIS TRANSFER RING!

IT SEEMS THEY SOUGHT YOUR RUIN AS WELL!



WHY SHOULD I NOT USE THIS RING TO FINISH THE DESTRUCTION THEY BEGAN?

FOR AGES, WE DESTRUCTORS HAVE BEEN YOUR ENEMIES... AND YET I OVERCAME MY PROGRAMMING TO TRY AND WARN MY PEOPLE OF SLAUGHTER'S PLAN!

IF YOU DESTROY ME, YOU DESTROY A FRIEND WHO WOULD FIGHT BESIDE YOU TO STOP THE EVIL THAT IS SLAUGHTER STEELGRAVE!



RESTORE HIM, CRANK! FOR SO GREAT HAS MY HATRED OF DESTRUCTORS GROWN, THAT I WILL NOT SAVE HIM MYSELF!

YET AS MUCH AS I HUNGER FOR REVENGE AGAINST SAWTOOTH'S KIND, WE NEED ALL THE FIGHTERS WE CAN MUSTER!

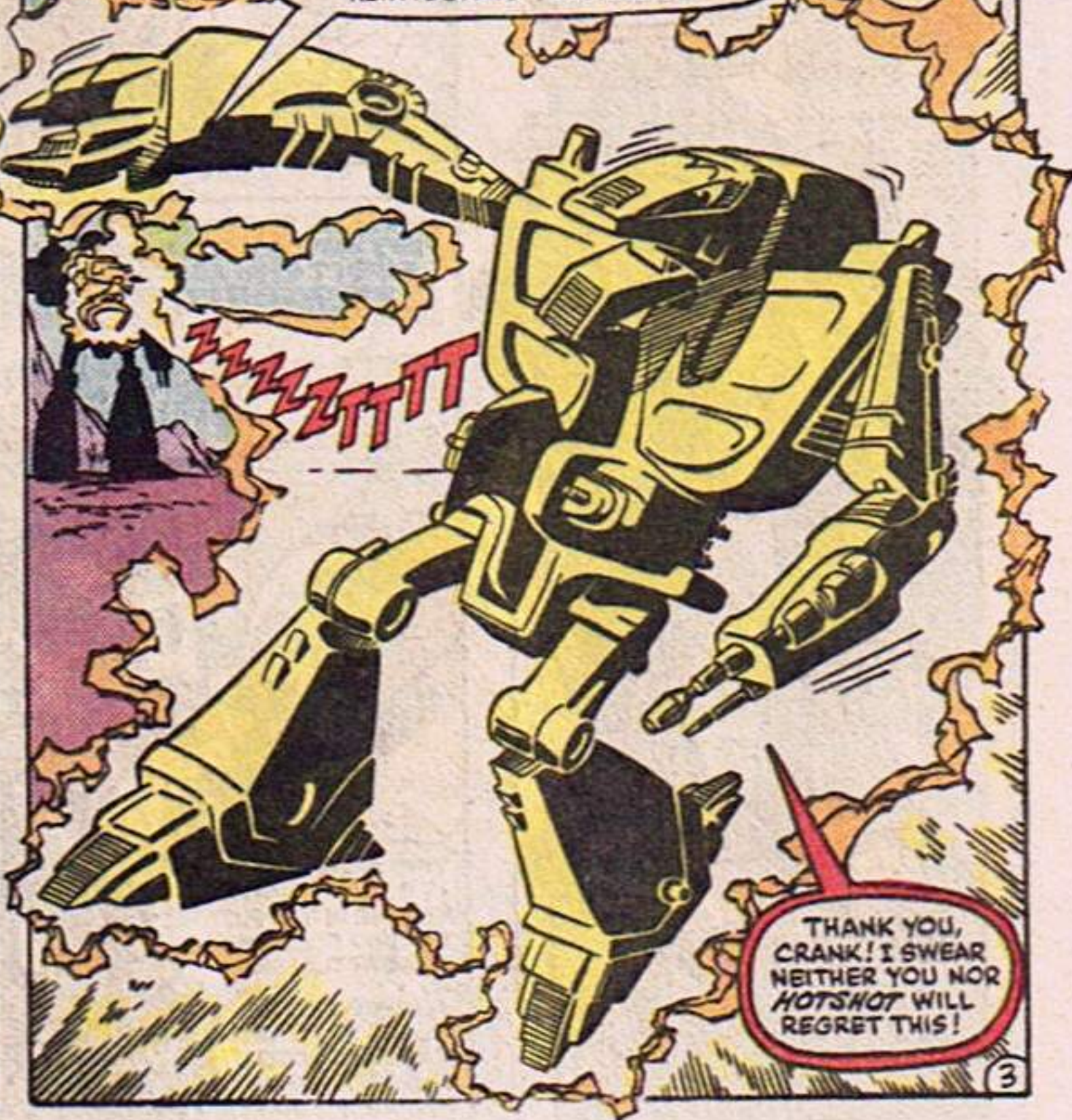
AS WE NEEDED MAN TO FREE US FROM ENSLAVEMENT, SO MAN NEEDS US TO SAVE HIM FROM DESTRUCTION! FOR IF WE FAIL, MAN WILL BE NO MORE AND GEO'S DREAM OF FREEDOM WILL DIE WITH HER!

WE OWE IT TO HER... AND OUR OTHER FALLEN HEROES... TO MAKE THIS DREAM COME TRUE!



AND SOON...

ALL RIGHT, SAWTOOTH! I'VE GOT YOU REASSEMBLED! AND NOW THE RING'LL REINTEGRATE YOUR PARTS!



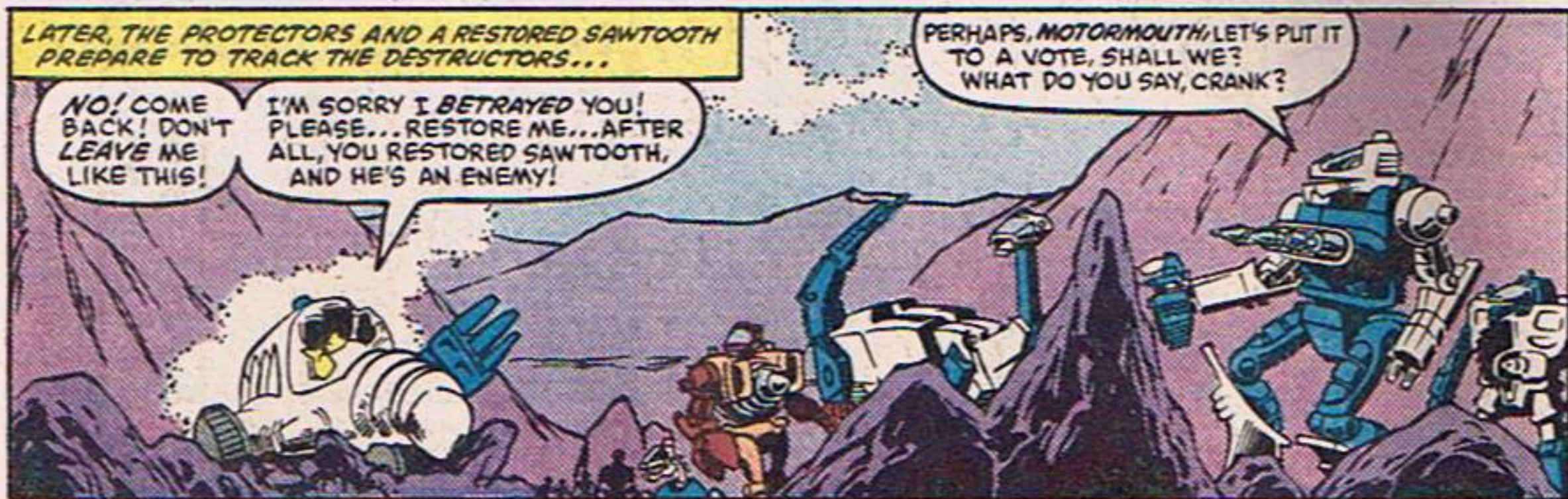
THANK YOU, CRANK! I SWEAR NEITHER YOU NOR HOTSHOT WILL REGRET THIS!

LATER, THE PROTECTORS AND A RESTORED SAWTOOTH PREPARE TO TRACK THE DESTRUCTORS...

PERHAPS, MOTORMOUTH, LET'S PUT IT TO A VOTE, SHALL WE? WHAT DO YOU SAY, CRANK?

NO! COME BACK! DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!

I'M SORRY I BETRAYED YOU! PLEASE... RESTORE ME... AFTER ALL, YOU RESTORED SAWTOOTH, AND HE'S AN ENEMY!



WELL, HE IS A MESSENGER ROBOT...

...AND HE'S PROGRAMMED TO TELL STUFF...

...AND EVEN THOUGH HE HAS TERRIBLE VIBES...

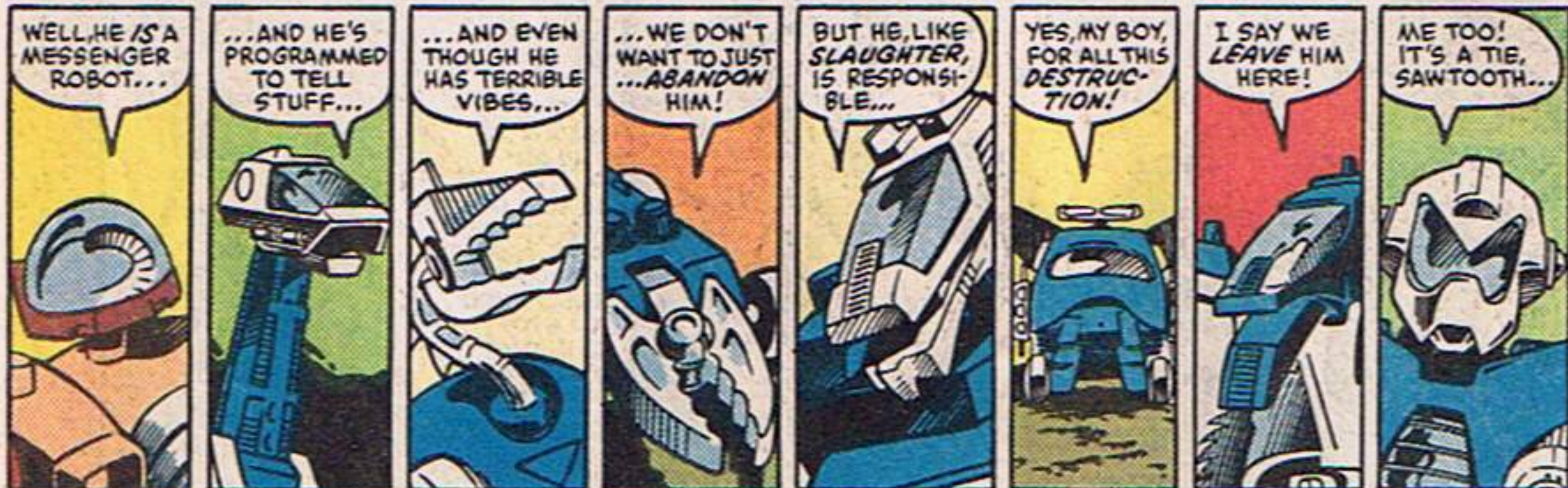
...WE DON'T WANT TO JUST ABANDON HIM!

BUT HE, LIKE SLAUGHTER, IS RESPONSIBLE...

YES, MY BOY, FOR ALL THIS DESTRUCTION!

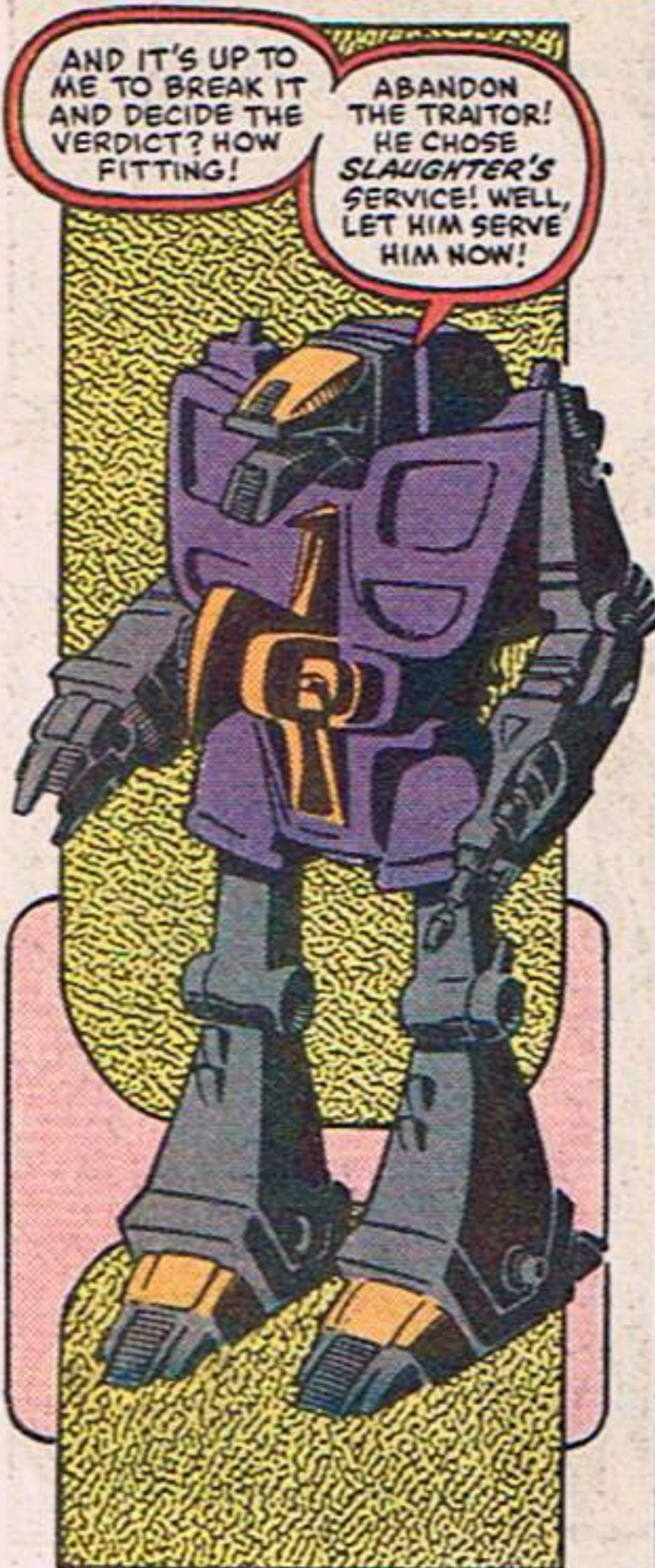
I SAY WE LEAVE HIM HERE!

ME TOO! IT'S A TIE, SAWTOOTH...



AND IT'S UP TO ME TO BREAK IT AND DECIDE THE VERDICT? HOW FITTING!

ABANDON THE TRAITOR! HE CHOSE SLAUGHTER'S SERVICE! WELL, LET HIM SERVE HIM NOW!



SEEMS LIKE THIS WAR'S CHANGING ALL OF US, CRANK!

A DESTRUCTOR'S JOINED US! AND HOTSHOT WANTS REVENGE!



AND AFTER THE CARNAGE WE'VE JUST WITNESSED, I'M ALMOST GLAD I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO OVERTURN MY NON-VIOLENT PROGRAMMING AND USE MY SAW AGAINST THE DESTRUCTORS!

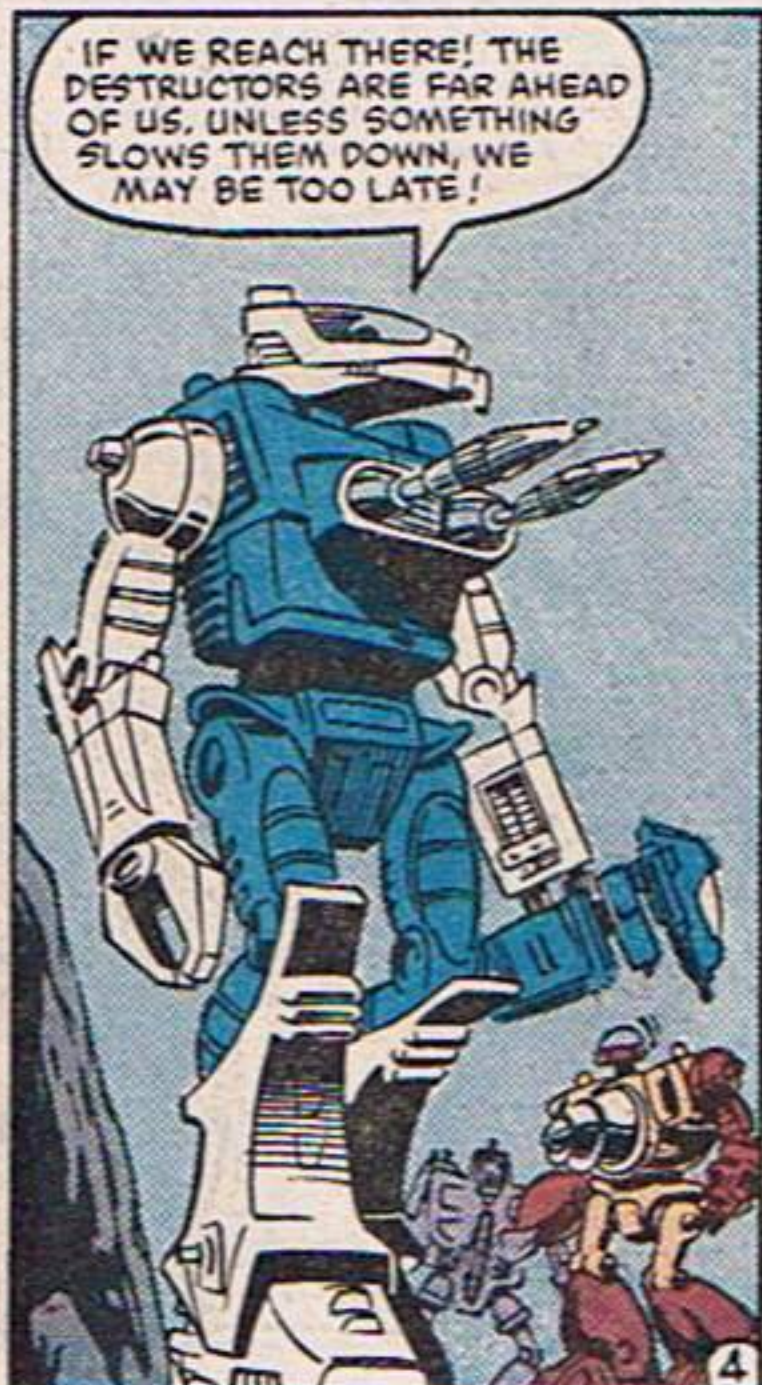
EVEN YOU'RE DRESSING UP FOR BATTLE NOW, RIGHT, CRANK?



THIS FLOWER? NO... IT'S JUST THAT... I BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE! I FOUND IT GROWING ON THE BATTLEFIELD!

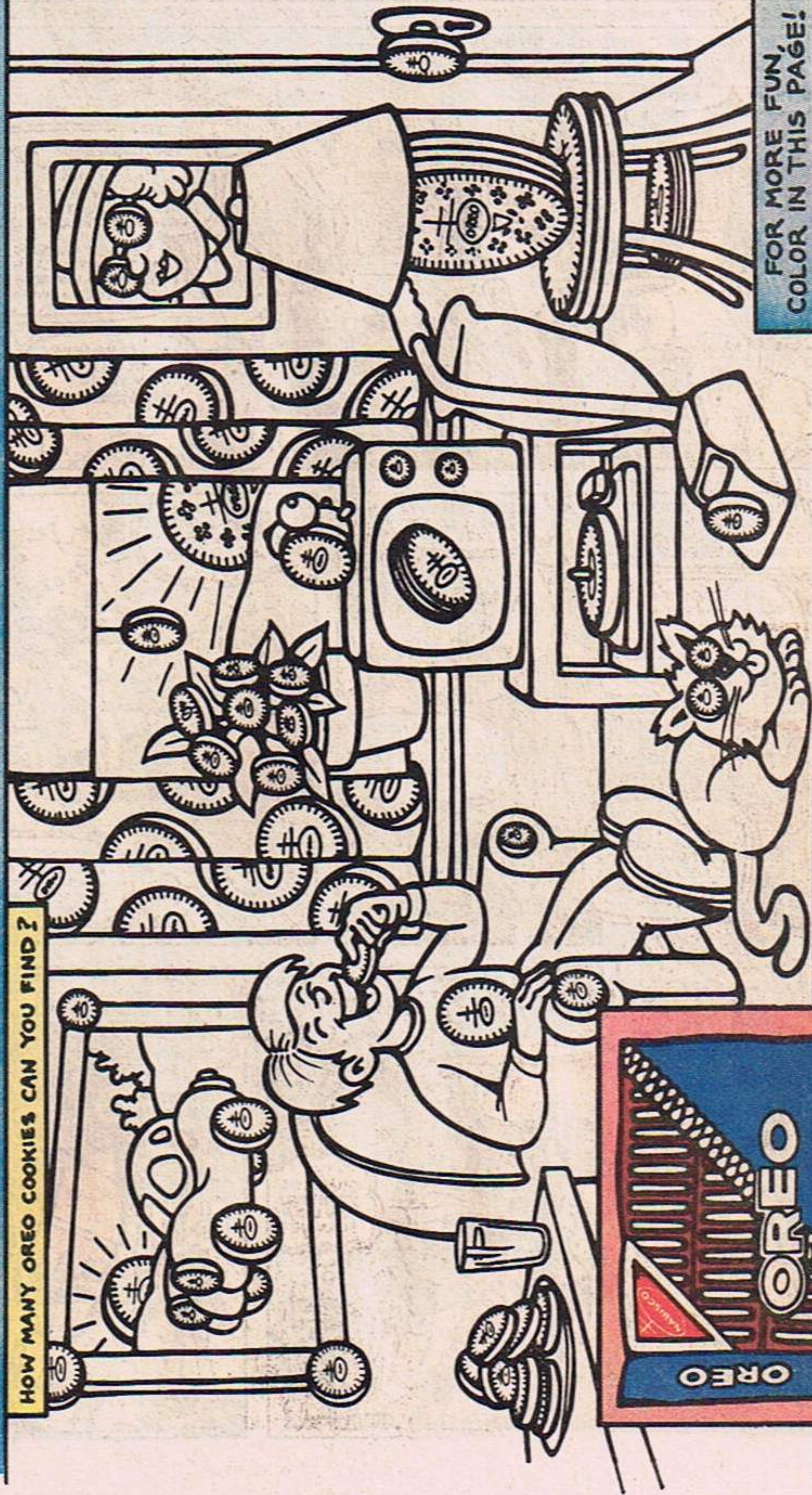
AND I'M GONNA PLANT IT AT THE BATTLESTATION -- AFTER WE'VE AWAKENED MAN!

IF WE REACH THERE! THE DESTRUCTORS ARE FAR AHEAD OF US, UNLESS SOMETHING SLOWS THEM DOWN, WE MAY BE TOO LATE!



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ELSEWHERE, THE FIRST WAVE OF THE DESTRUCTORS, AN ARMY OF ALMOST INCALCULABLE POWER, TOPS A RISE AND...

THERE IT IS, *DEADEYE*, ON THE PLAIN BELOW US! THE BATTLESTATION BENEATH WHICH SLEEPS THE MYTHICAL MAN!

CLIK-GLIK-JIK

YES, *CRICKET*, MY SCOUT! I MAY BE BLIND, BUT I DO HAVE EARS! AND *GOUGE* HAS ALREADY GLOATINGLY INFORMED ME THAT WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL!

THOUGH I WONDER IF *MAN* IS THE MYTHICAL BEING WE BELIEVED HIM TO BE! PERHAPS *SAWTOOTH* WAS RIGHT...

AND IF HE WERE, WOULD IT TRULY MATTER?

NOT TO ME, *SLAUGHTER*! AS YOU'VE SAID, THIS WORLD BELONGS TO THE STARRIOR STRONG ENOUGH TO RULE IT!

INDEED, *GOUGE*! *MAN* RELINQUISHED ALL RIGHTS TO THIS WORLD'S SURFACE WHEN HE ABANDONED IT LONG AGO!

AND SO WE WILL RAZE THAT BATTLESTATION... AND IF ANY BEINGS INSIDE IT ARE DESTROYED, SO MUCH THE WORSE FOR--

SLAUGHTER! OVER THERE! IT LOOKS LIKE...

SPEEDTRAP! I HAVEN'T SEEN A DESTRUCTOR DRAINED LIKE THAT IN A LONG, LONG TIME...

... AND IT WILL REQUIRE A SPECIAL SETTING OF THE RING TO REVIVE HER!

ZZZZZTTT!

REPORT, *SPEEDTRAP*! I SENT YOU TO FOLLOW AND DESTROY THE PROTECTOR *RUNABOUT*! WHAT HAPPENED?

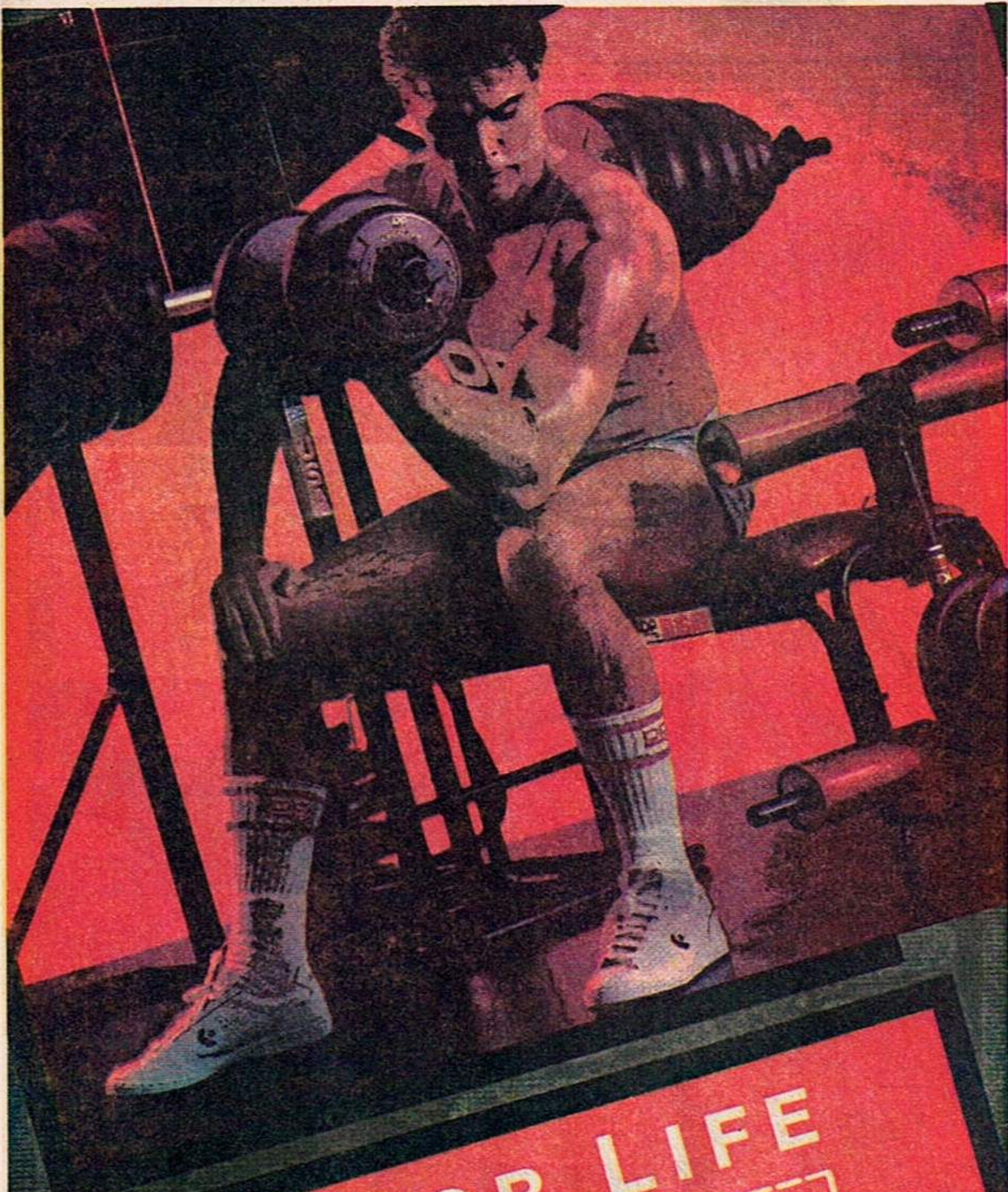
I RAMMED *RUNABOUT*, SIR, BUT AS I WAS ABOUT TO FINISH HER, I WAS ATTACKED... BY A STARRIOR FROM THE BATTLESTATION!

IT STUNG ME WITH ITS TAIL, DRAINED ME OF ENERGY...

THE GUARDIAN *STINGER*! HOW DID HE SURVIVE?

DEADEYE... THE BATTLESTATION IS BELOW! WHEN *CRICKET* GIVES YOU THE CO-ORDINATES, LOOSE YOUR DEMOLISHERS UPON IT!

BLOW THE THING TO SMITHEREENS!



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THE DESTRUCTOR ARMY HEARS SLAUGHTER'S ORDER! AND IT REACTS...

BUT TO ALLOW HIM TO SURVIVE MEANS TO LOSE DOMINATION OF THE EARTH!

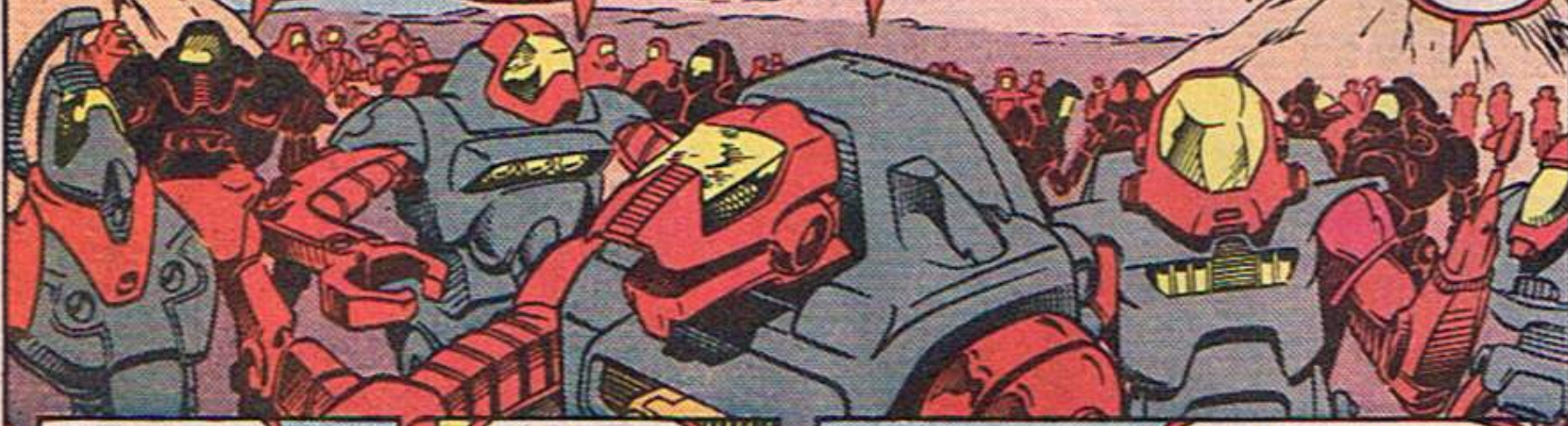
MAN IS IN THAT BATTLE-STATION!

SAWTOOTH SAID SO-- BUT CAN WE BELIEVE HIM?

DESTRUCTORS AND PROTECTORS ... WERE WE NOT BOTH CREATED BY MAN?

TO DESTROY HIM GOES AGAINST OUR MOST PRIMARY PROGRAMMING!

WHAT SHALL WE DO?



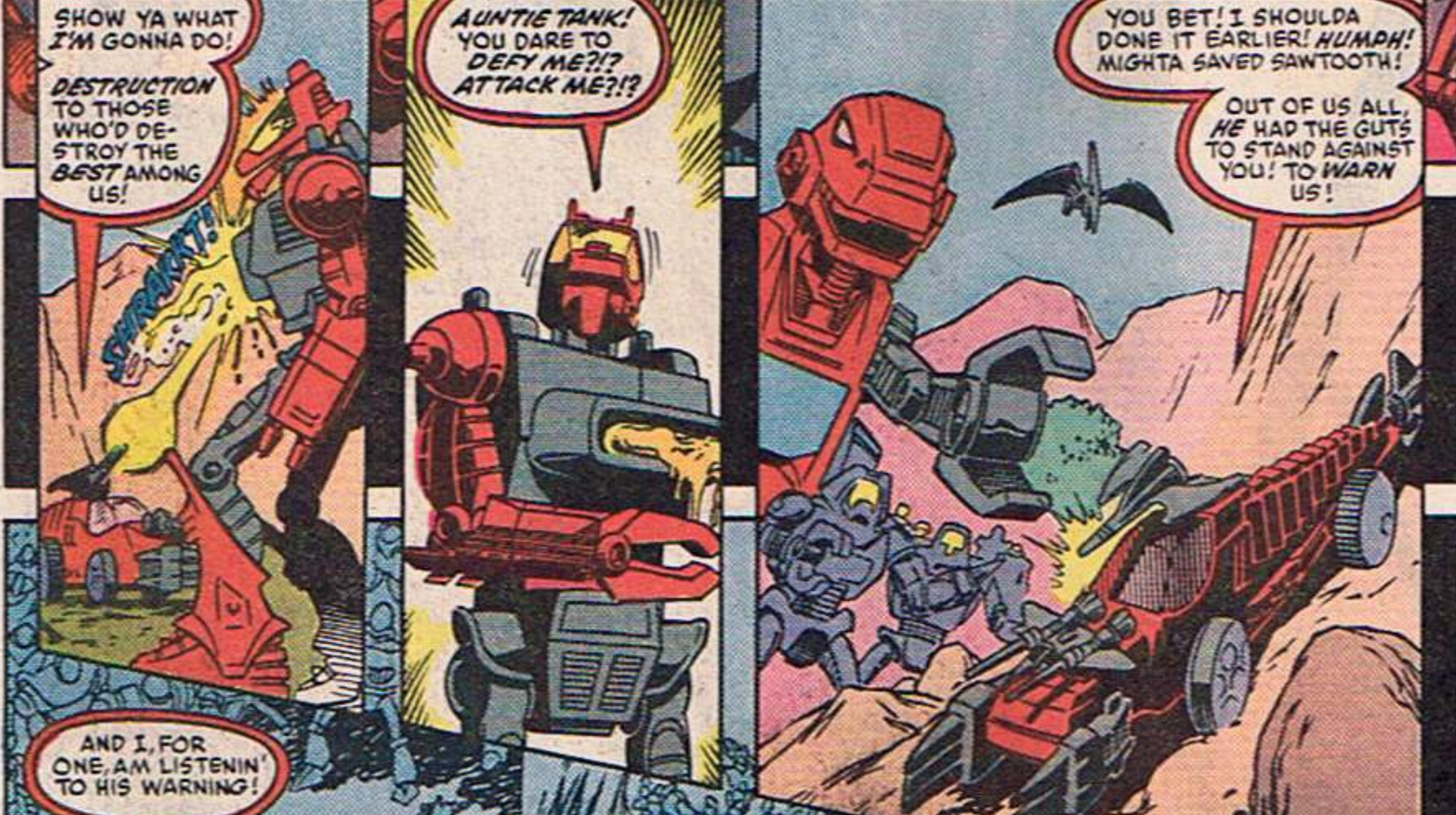
SHOW YA WHAT I'M GONNA DO!

DESTRUCTION TO THOSE WHO'D DESTROY THE BEST AMONG US!

AUNTIE TANK! YOU DARE TO DEFY ME?!? ATTACK ME?!?

YOU BET! I SHOULDA DONE IT EARLIER! HUMPH! MIGHTA SAVED SAWTOOTH!

OUT OF US ALL, HE HAD THE GUTS TO STAND AGAINST YOU! TO WARN US!



AND I, FOR ONE, AM LISTENIN' TO HIS WARNING!

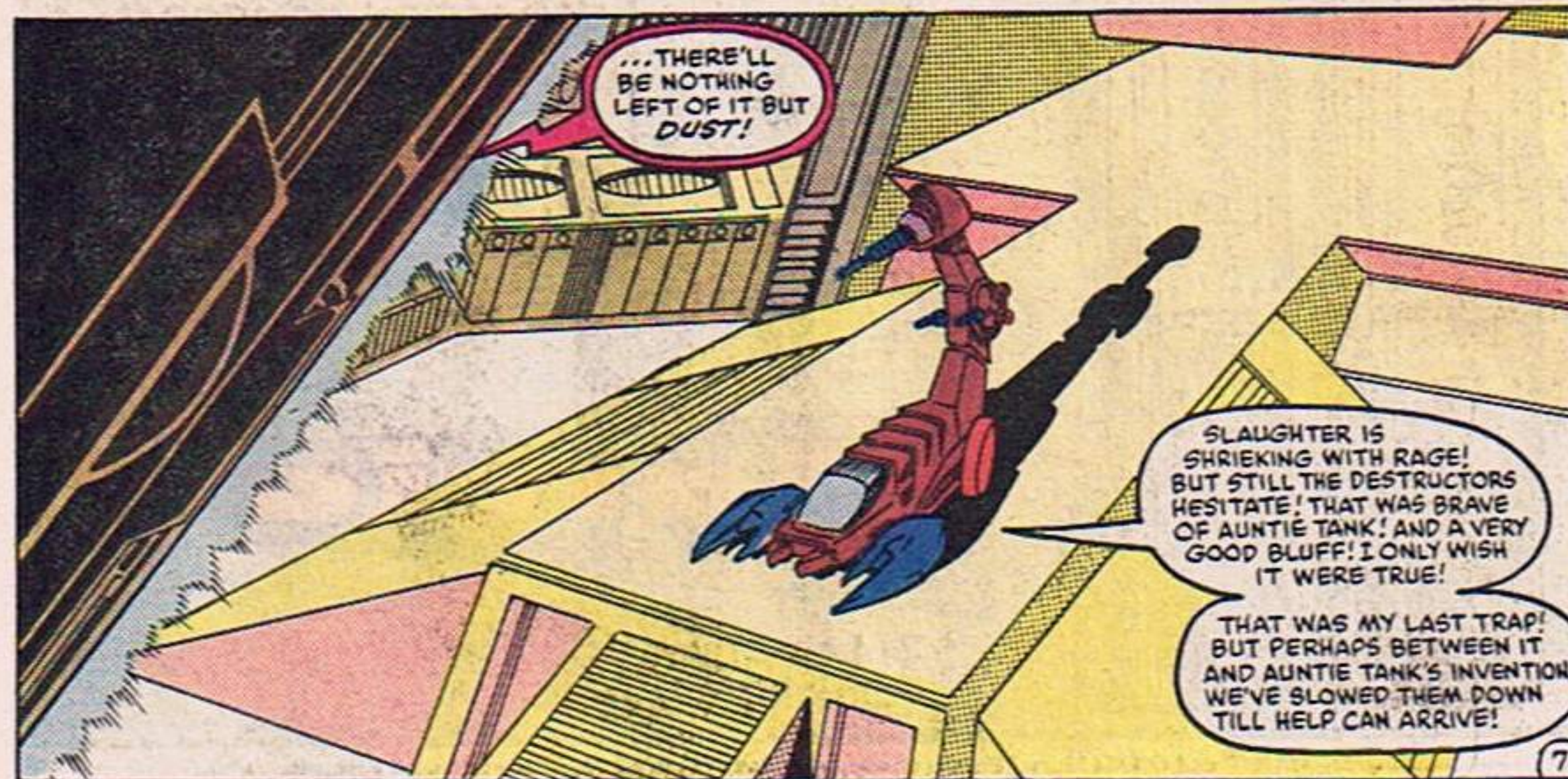
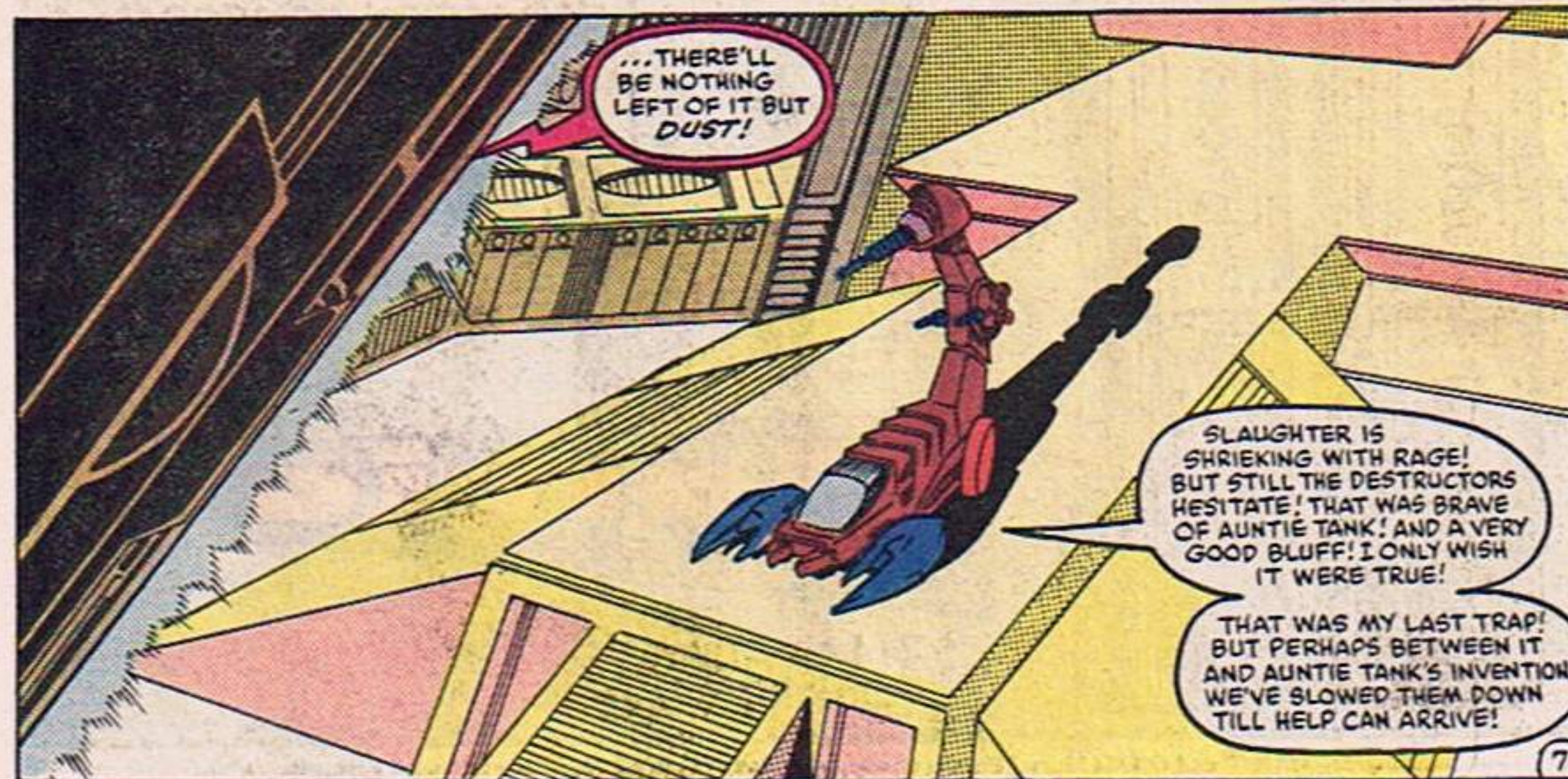
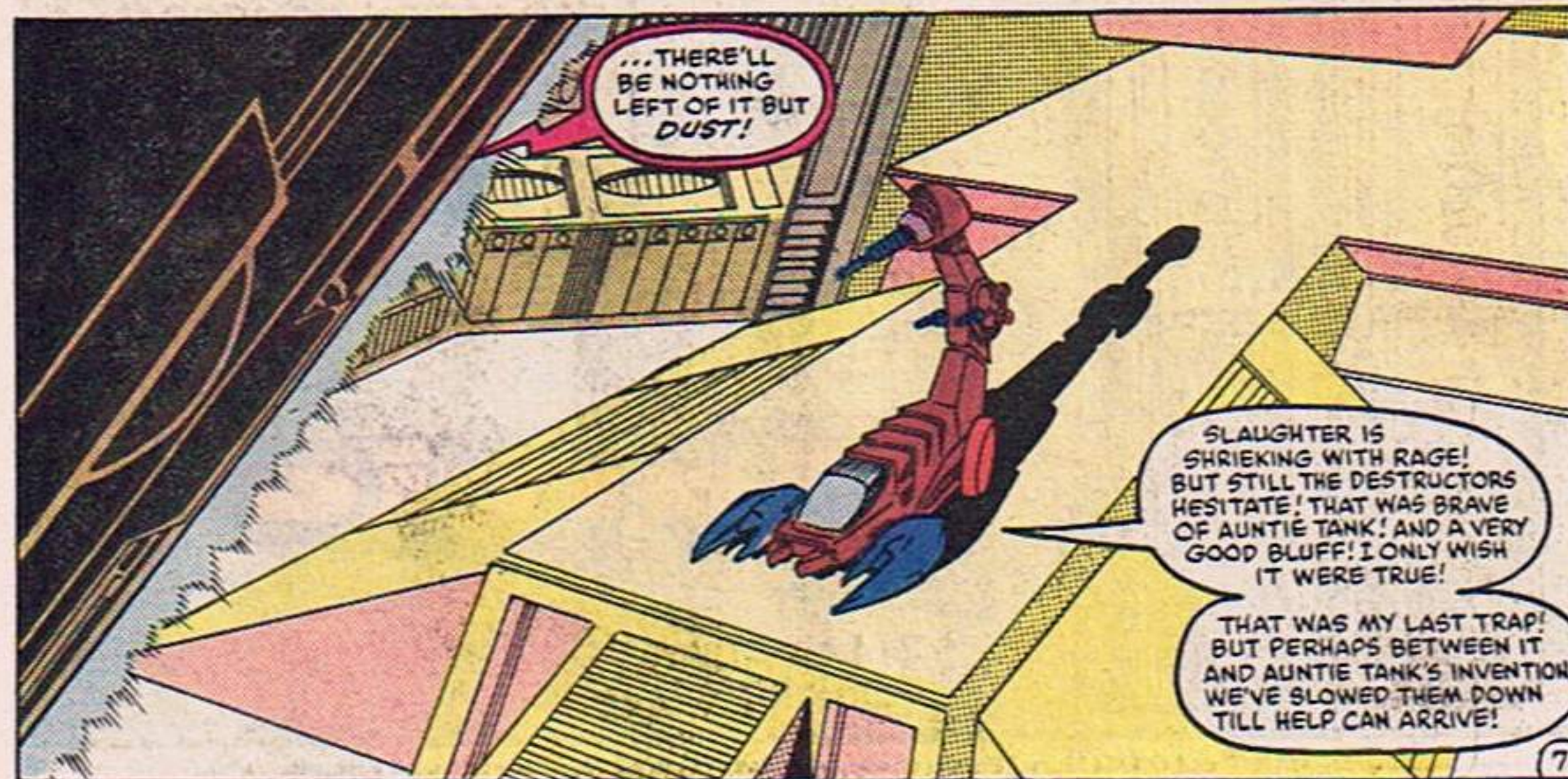
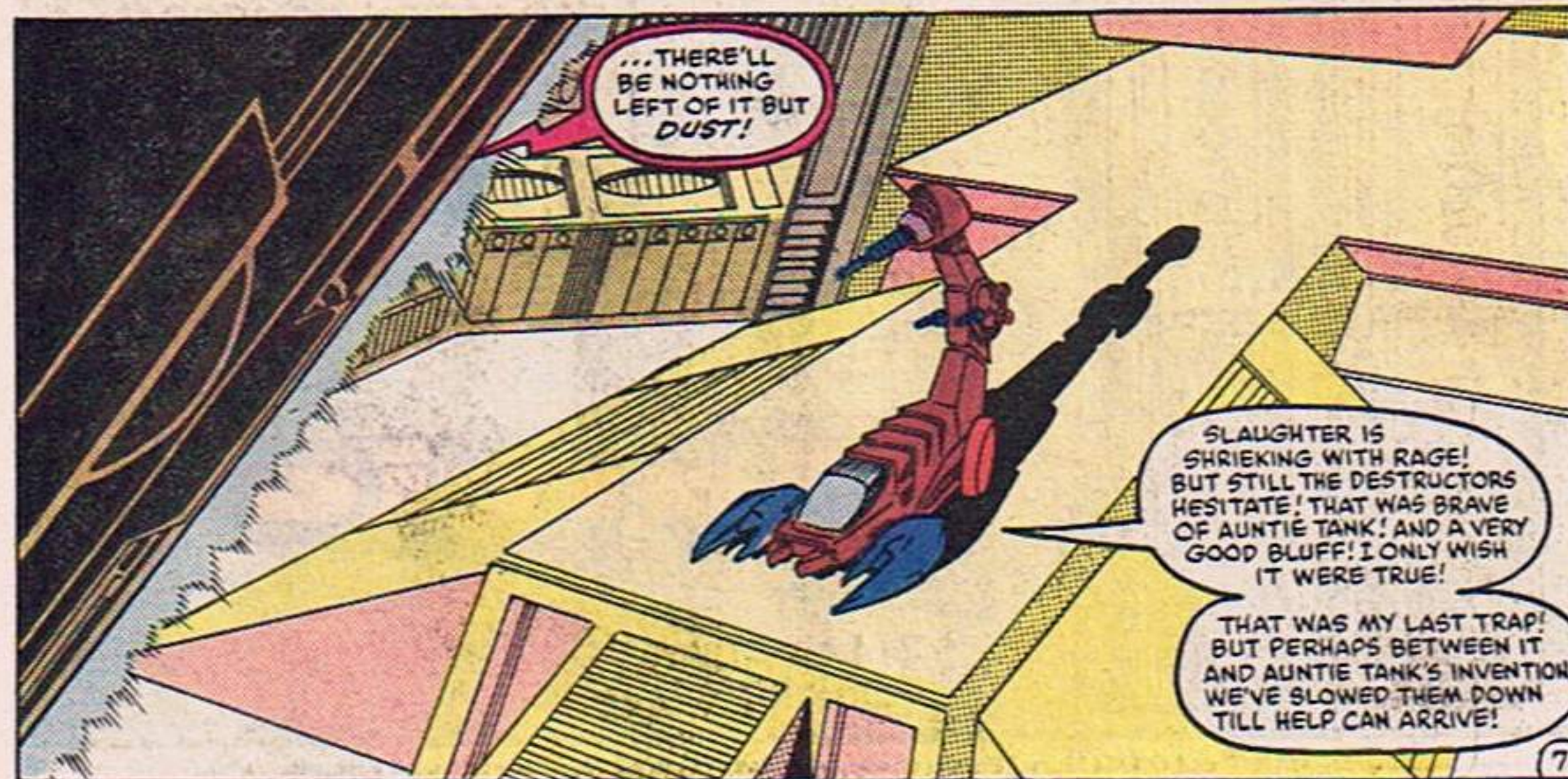
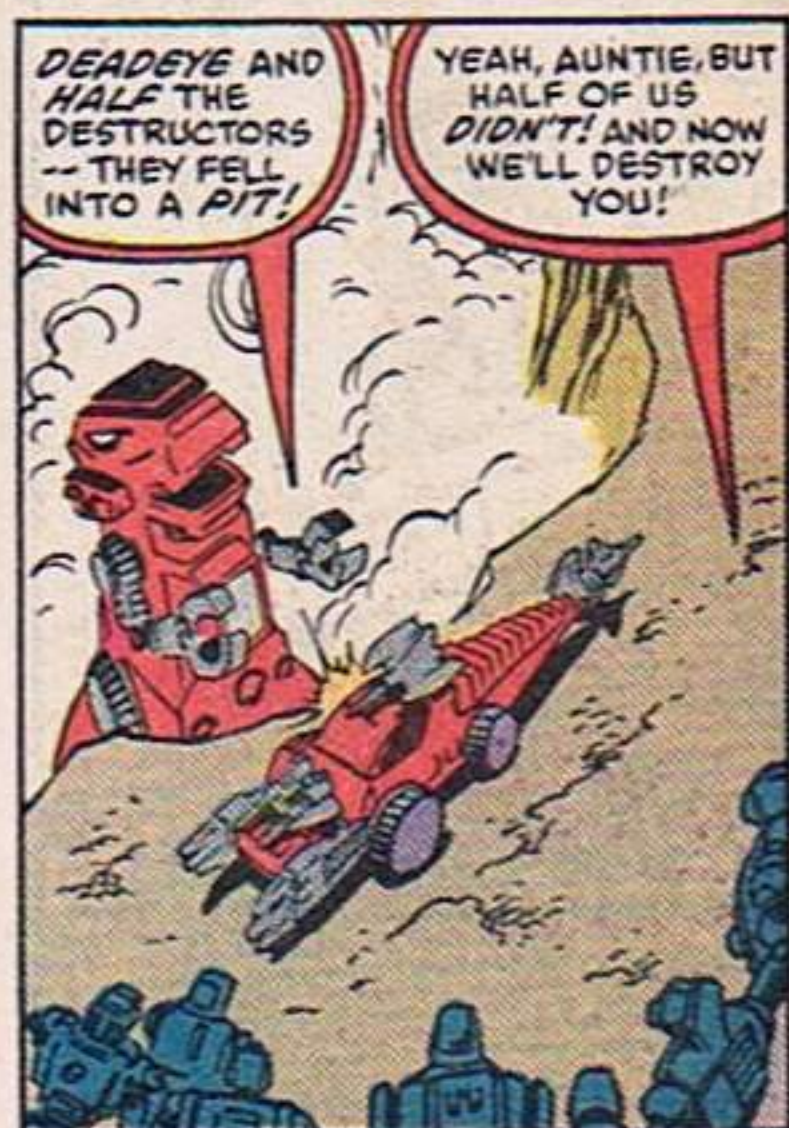
STOPPIN' THE DESTRUCTION OF MAN IS WORTH A FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

DESTRUCTORS! I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! AUNTIE TANK IS A TRAITOR! ALL OF YOU-- DESTROY HER!



THAT DESTRUCTOR-- AUNTIE TANK-- SEEMS TO BE ON OUR SIDE! WEIRD! AND THE OTHERS HAVE SURROUNDED HER! THEY'LL DESTROY HER... UNLESS... I WONDER...

THEY'RE ALMOST ON THE SPOT! AND I MIGHT AS WELL TRY...



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SOON...

THERE IT IS, CRANK! THE BATTLE-STATION! THE END OF OUR QUEST!

BUT, HOTSHOT, IF WE'RE GONNA 'WAKEN MAN, WE'VE GOTTA GET INSIDE IT! AND THE DE-STRUCTORS AREN'T GONNA ROLL OUT THE WELCOME WAGON!

LOOKS LIKE DEADEYE FELL INTO A TRAP! I'LL BET THAT SLOWED 'EM DOWN-- AN' KEPT 'EM FROM SMASHIN' THE BATTLESTATION-- SO FAR!

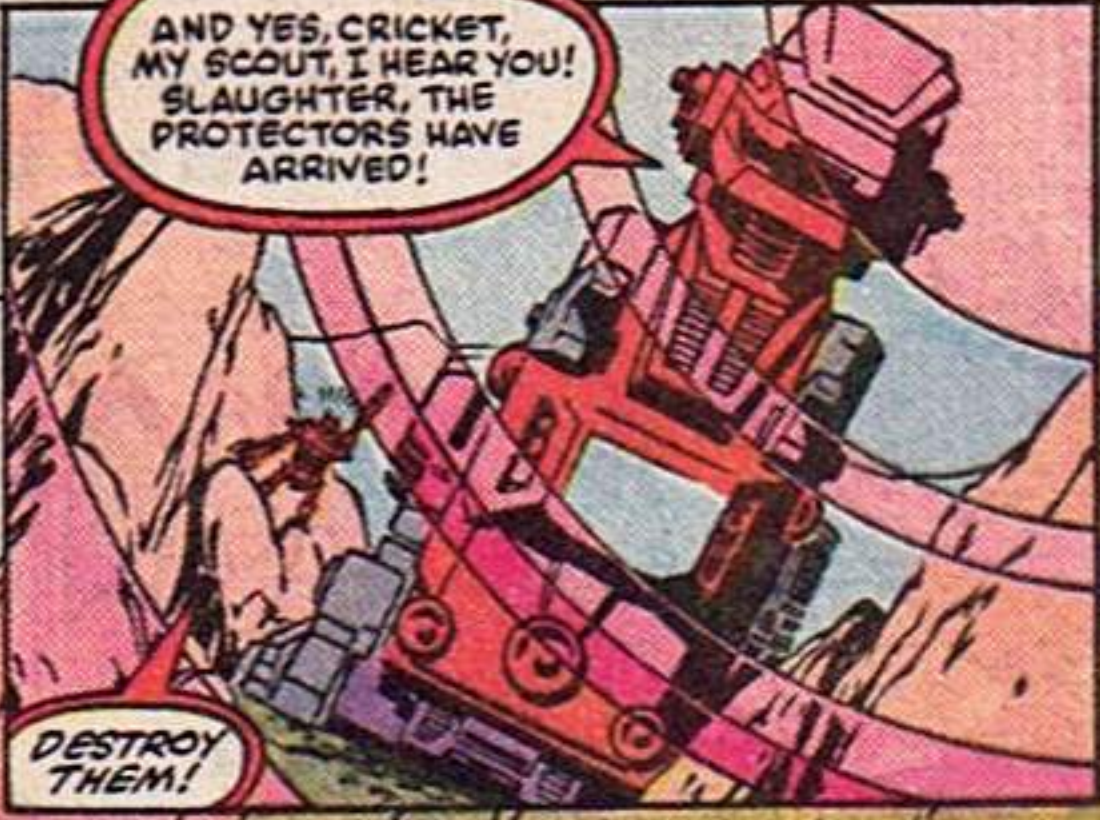
NOW IT'S UP TO US! BUT THE ELEMENT OF SUR-PRISE IS ON OUR SIDE!



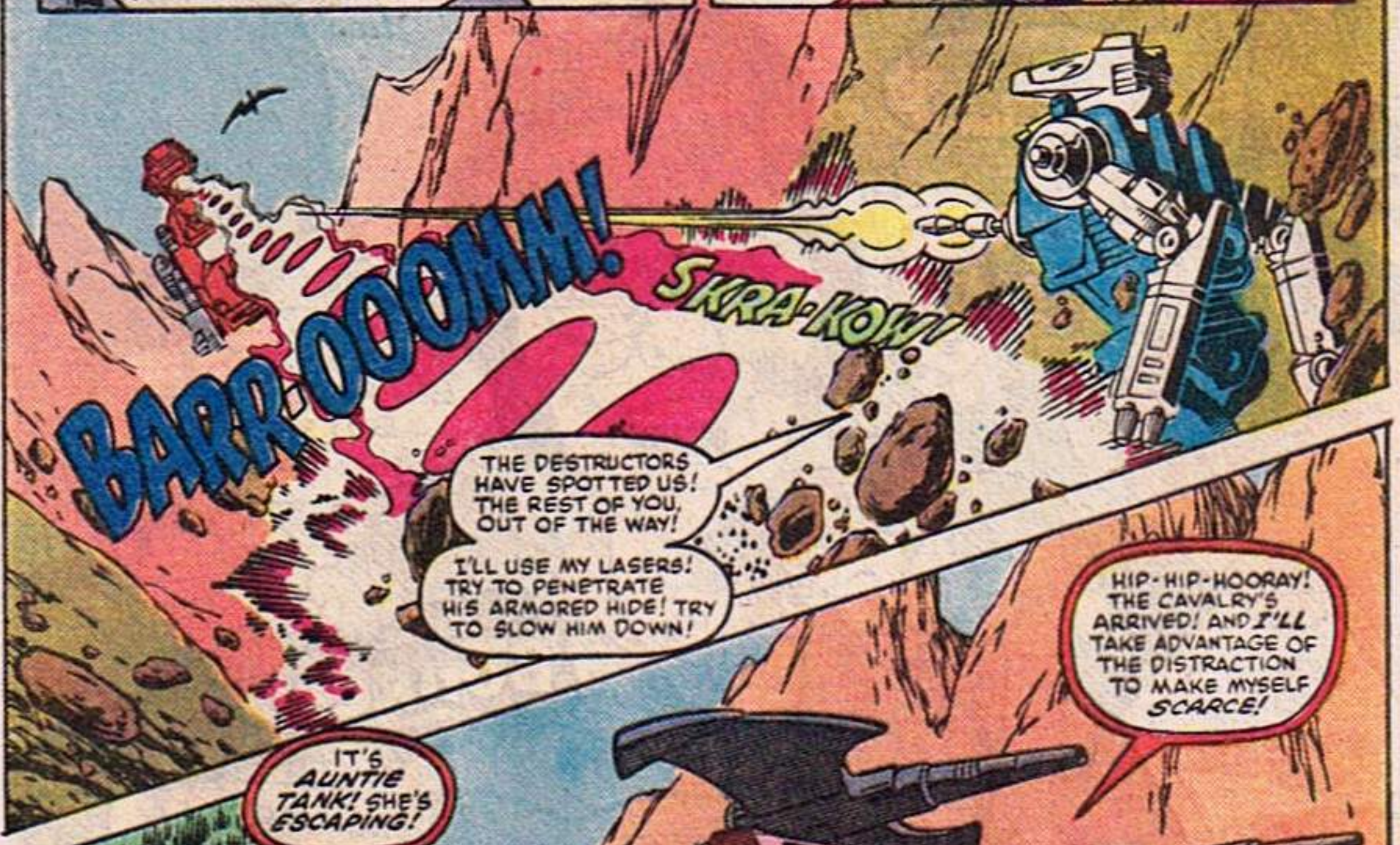
CLIKK-CLIKK-IRKK!

FINALLY I AM FREE!

AND YES, CRICKET, MY SCOUT, I HEAR YOU! SLAUGHTER, THE PROTECTORS HAVE ARRIVED!



DESTROY THEM!



BARR-OOOMM!

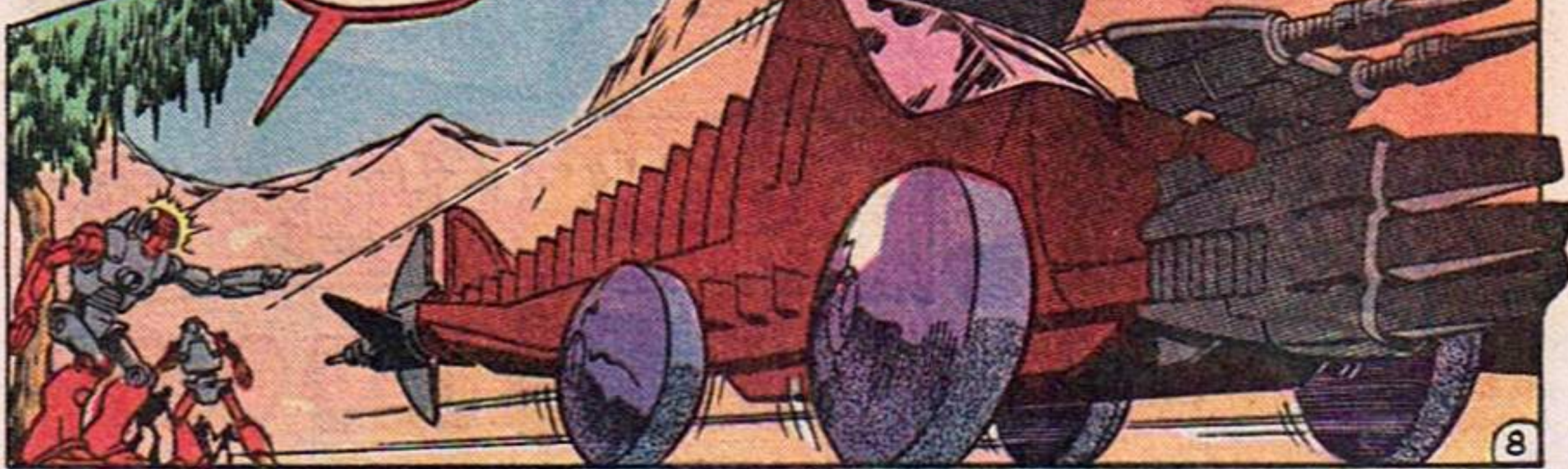
SKRA-KOW!

THE DESTRUCTORS HAVE SPOTTED US! THE REST OF YOU, OUT OF THE WAY!

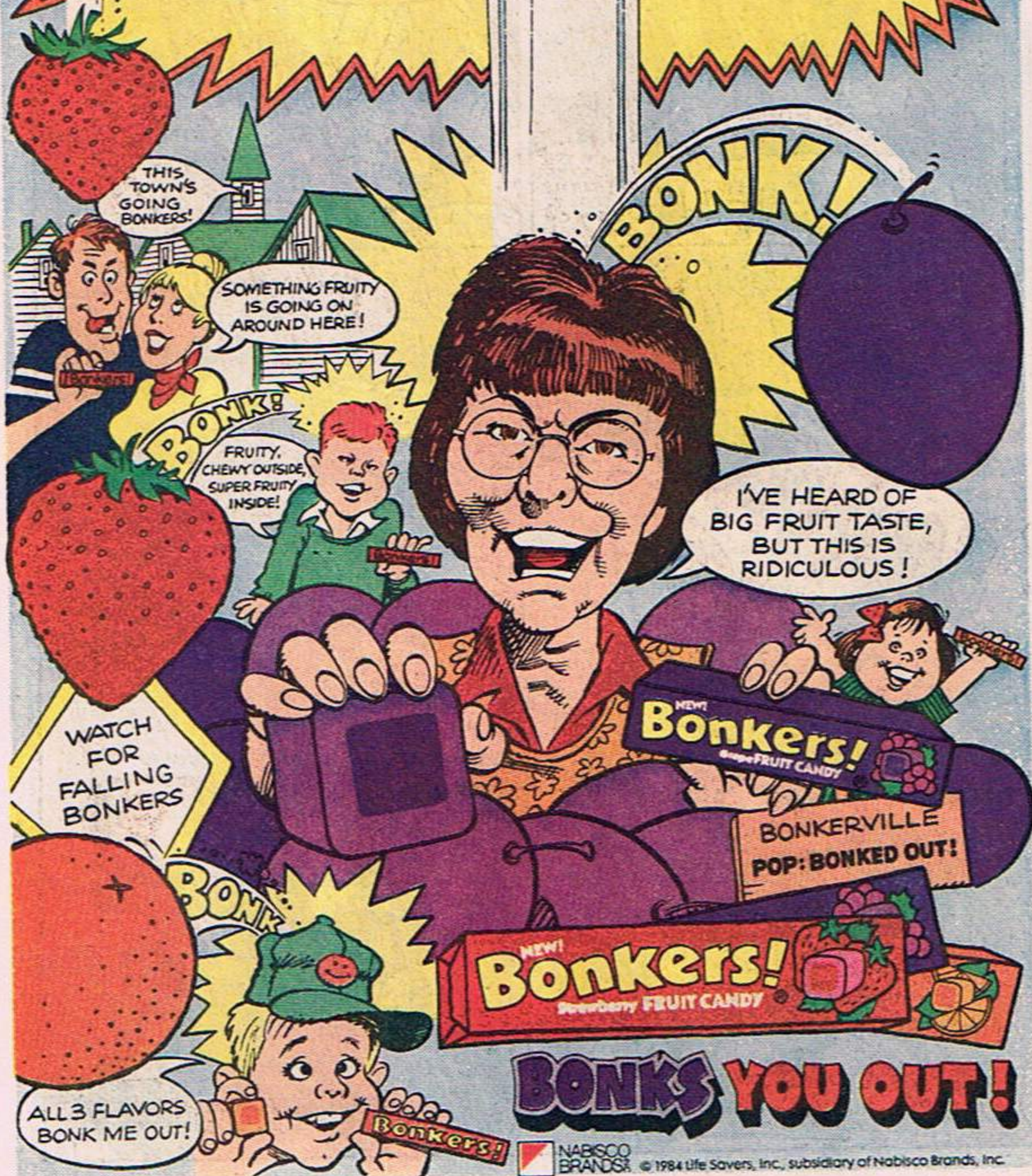
I'LL USE MY LASERS! TRY TO PENETRATE HIS ARMORED HIDE! TRY TO SLOW HIM DOWN!

HIP-HIP-HOORAY! THE CAVALRY'S ARRIVED! AND I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DISTRACTION TO MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!

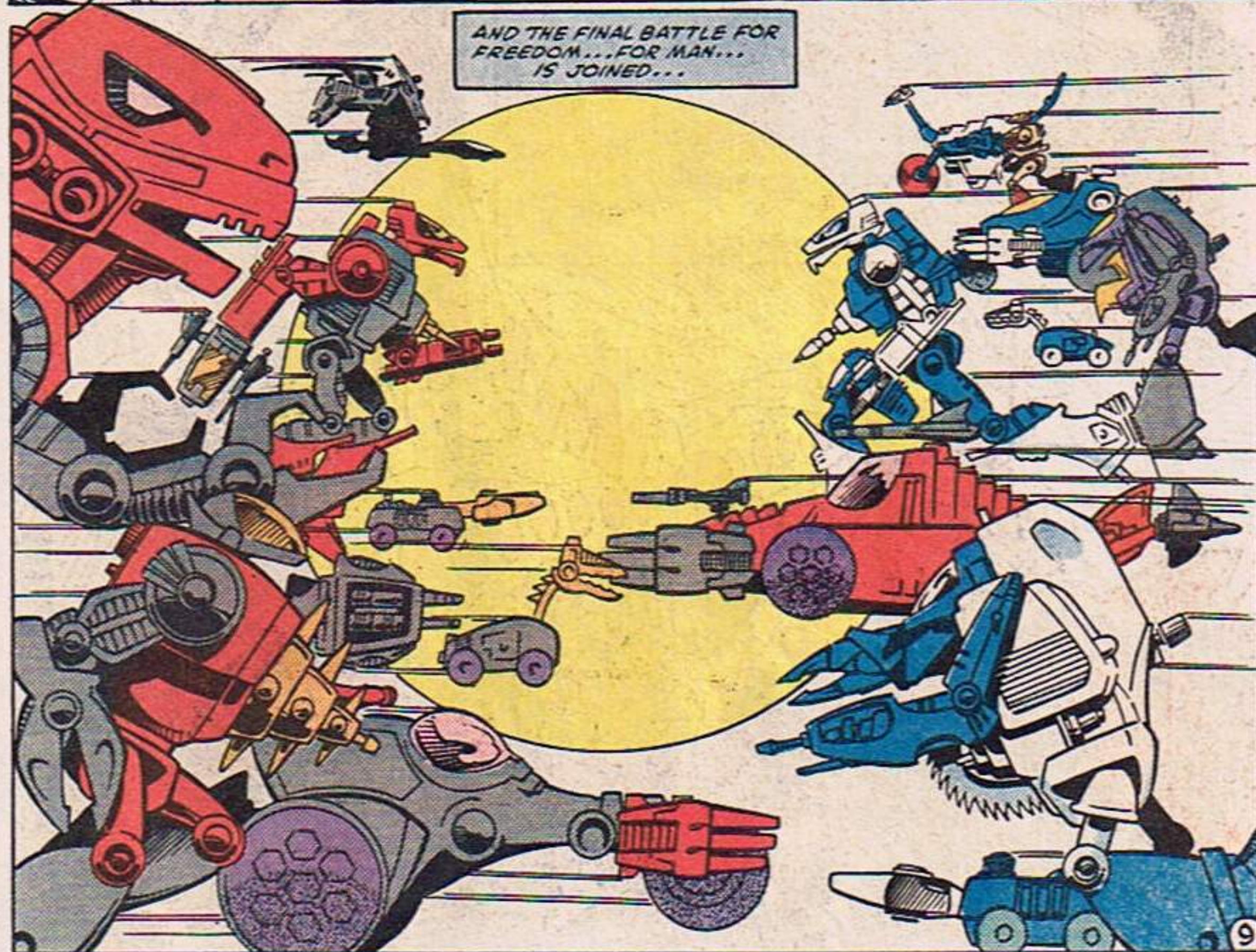
IT'S AUNTIE TANK! SHE'S ESCAPING!

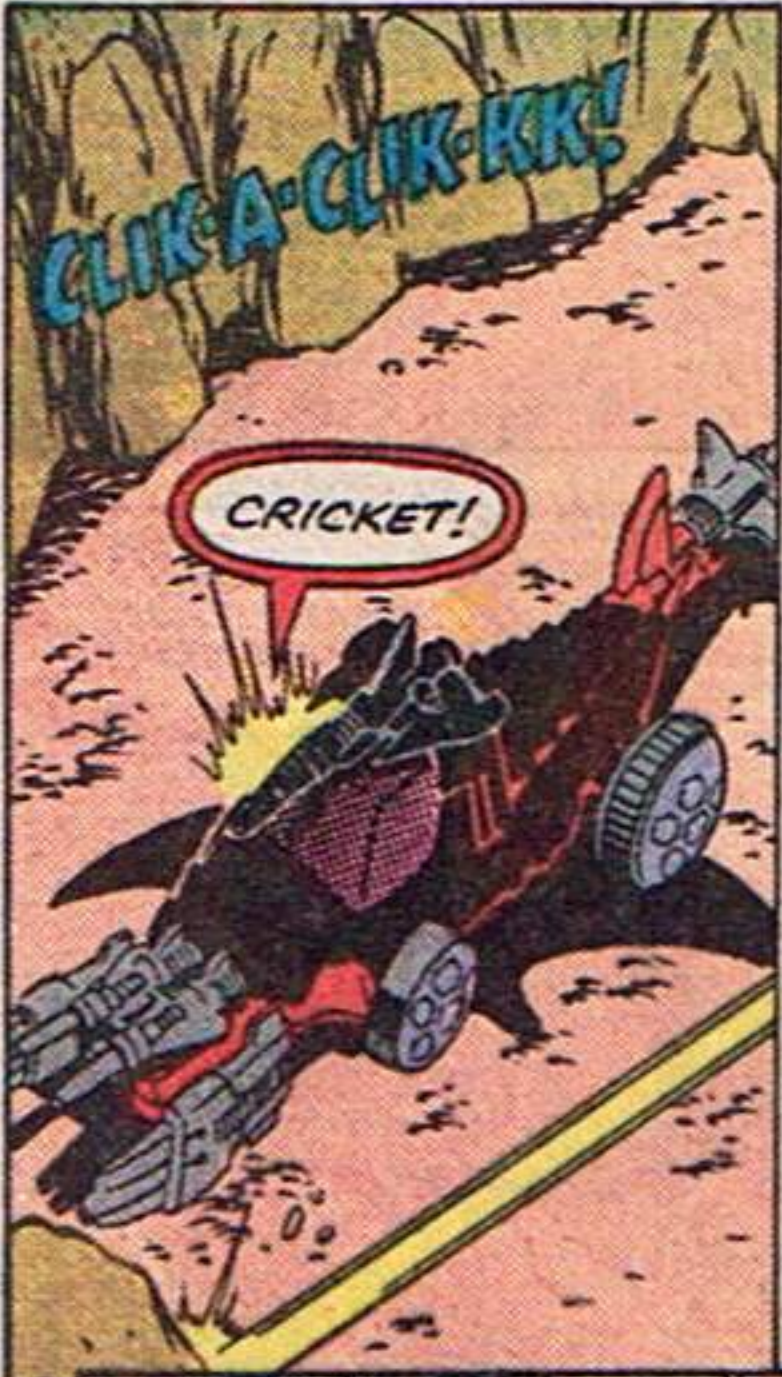


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CLIK-A-CLIK-KKK!

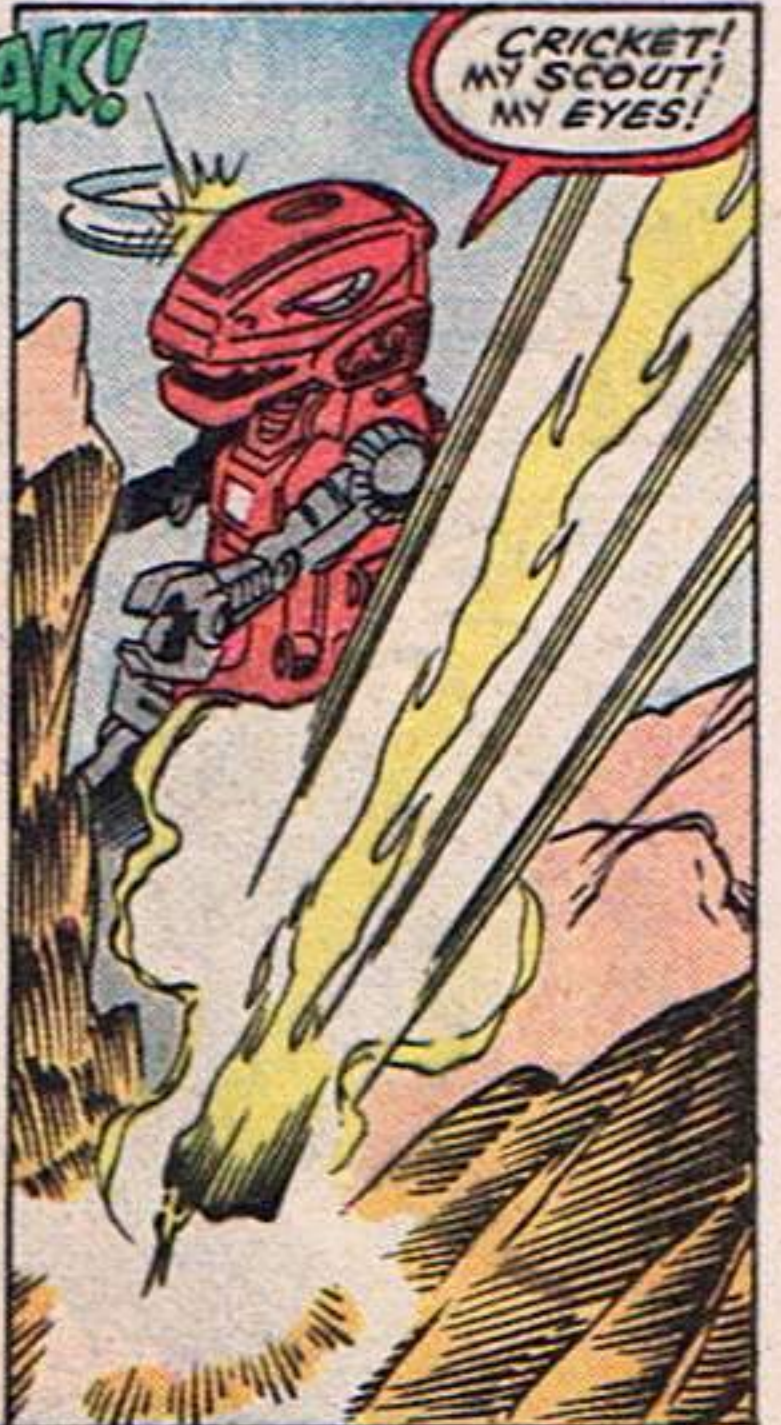
CRICKET!



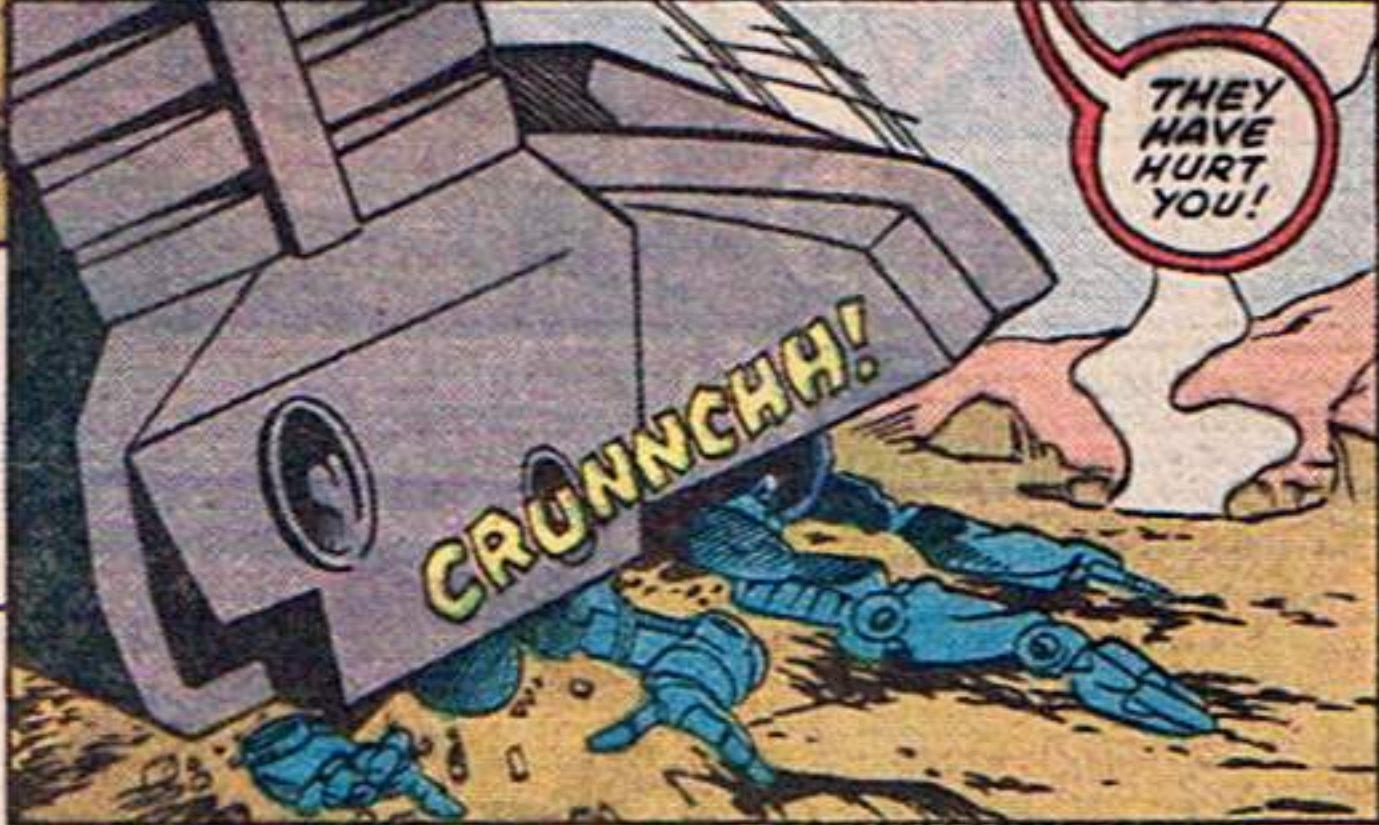
CLIK-

AAK!

SHRAKOW!



CRICKET!
MY SCOUT!
MY EYES!

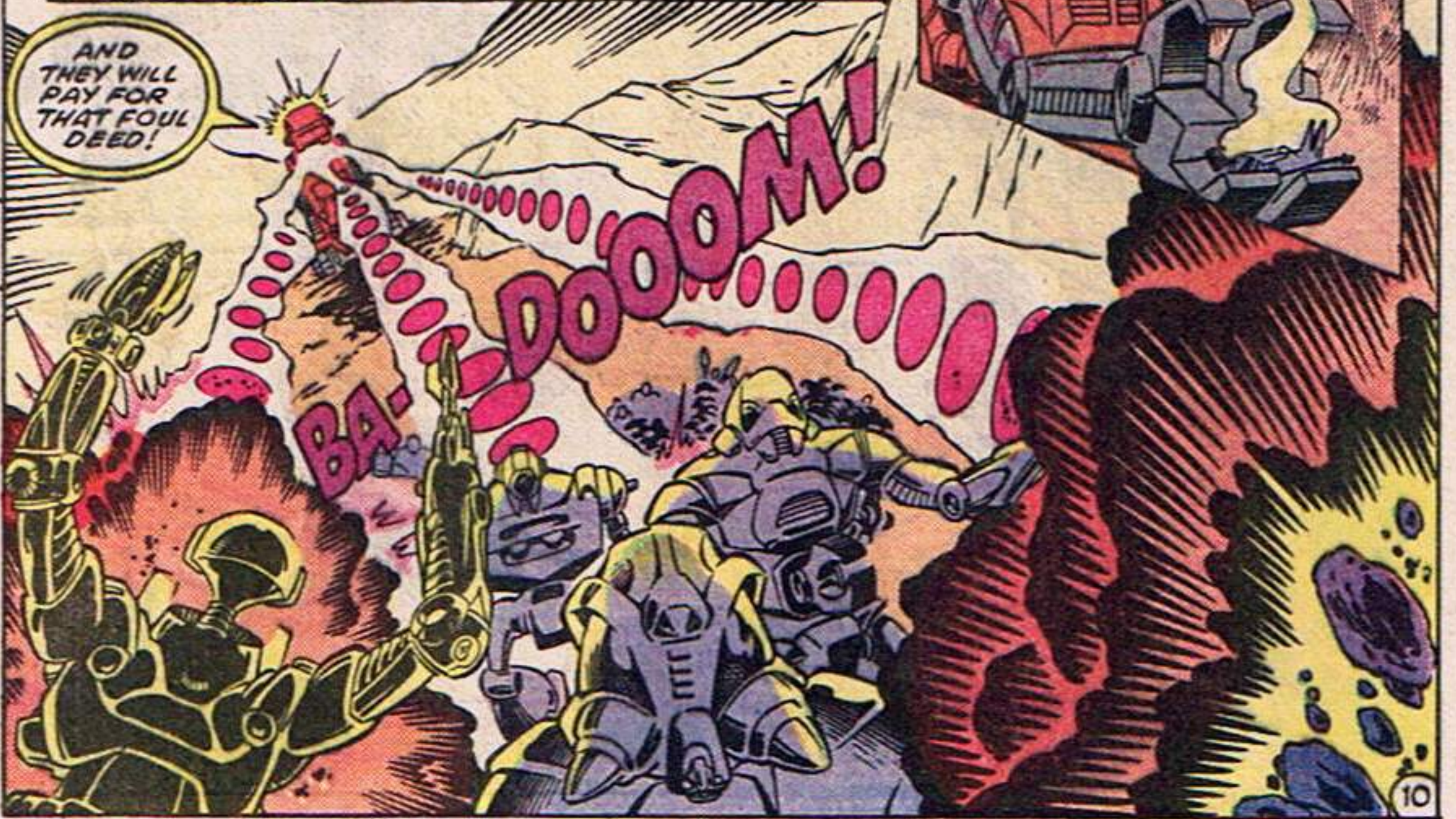


THEY
HAVE
HURT
YOU!

CRUNNCHA!

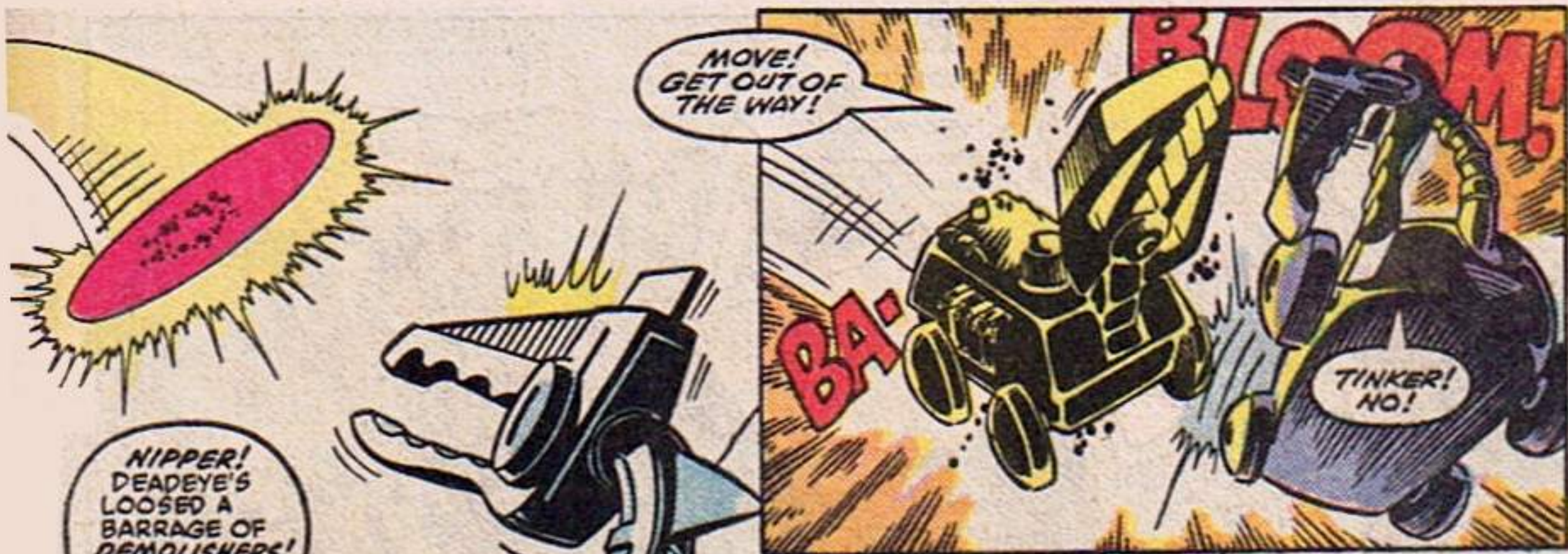


MURDERED
YOU!



AND
THEY
WILL
PAY
FOR
THAT
FOUL
DEED!

BA-DOOM!



NIPPER!
DEADEYE'S
LOOSED A
BARRAGE OF
DEMOLISHERS!
YOU'LL BE
DESTROYED!

MOVE!
GET OUT OF
THE WAY!

BA!

BLOOM!

TINKER!
NO!



TINKER SHOVED ME ASIDE!
WAS DESTROYED IN MY STEAD!
HE LOVED ME!

AND I IGNORED
HIM! AND HE DIED
BECAUSE OF ME!

BEHIND THE DISTRAUGHT NIPPER THE
BATTLE RAGES ON. UNDER THE LEADER-
SHIP OF THE DESTROYER SAWTOOTH,
THE DEFECTORS BRAVELY FIGHT THEIR
FORMER COMRADES...



...BUT WITH
LITTLE EFFECT!
THERE ARE
TOO MANY
DESTROYERS!

DEADEYE'S
FIRING LIKE A
BERSERKER!
CAN'T MOVE
FAST ENOUGH!
CAN'T--

BOOM!



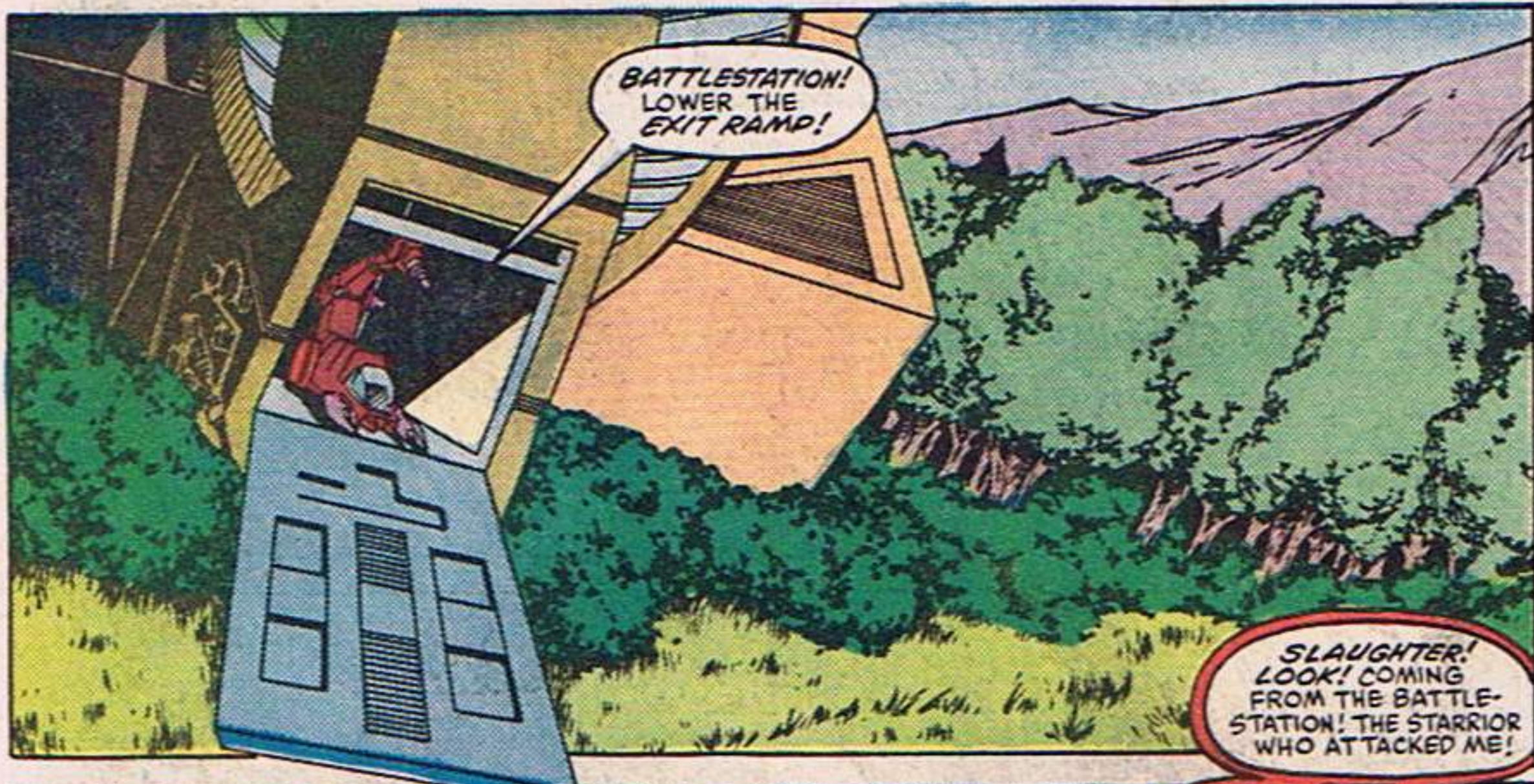
NO! ON THE
SCREEN! RUNABOUT
...MY BRAVE FRIEND!

FALLEN... WHILE
I REMAIN HERE
SAFE AND PROTECTED
AND OTHERS RISK
THEIR LIVES TO DE-
FEND ME AND MY
CHARGES!



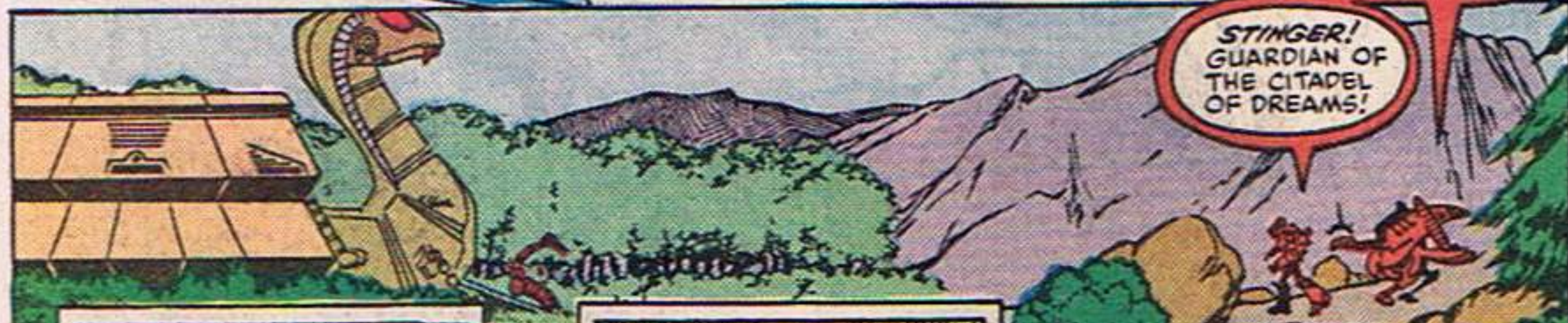
THIS MUST
NOT CONTINUE!
THE GUARDIANS
PROTECT
THEIR OWN!

AND
THOUGH I
FEAR SLAUGHTER
STEELGRAVE
MORE THAN DEATH,
I MUST FACE
HIM!



BATTLESTATION!
LOWER THE
EXIT RAMP!

SLAUGHTER!
LOOK! COMING
FROM THE BATTLE-
STATION! THE STARRIOR
WHO ATTACKED ME!

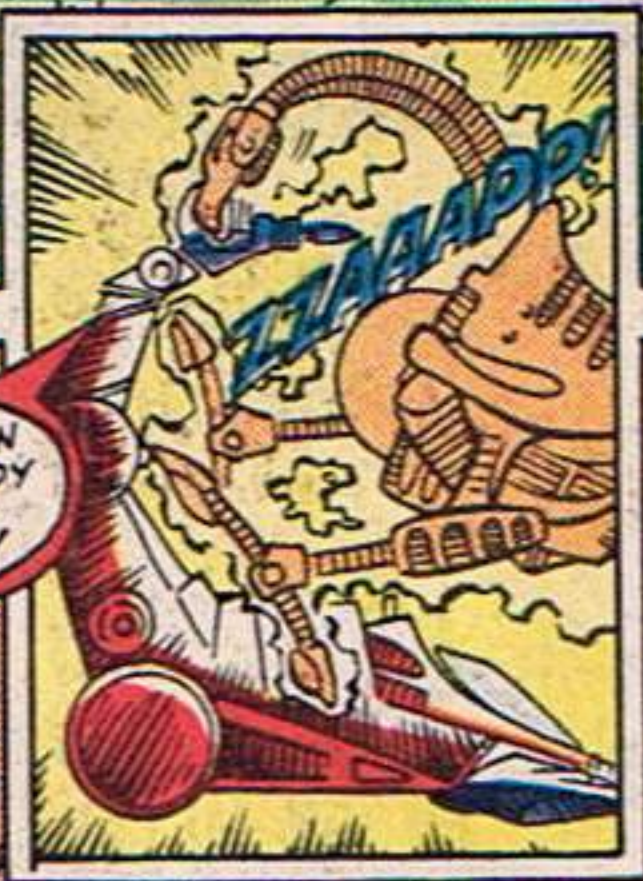


STINGER!
GUARDIAN OF
THE CITADEL
OF DREAMS!



YOU
ATTACKED
ME FROM
BEHIND,
GUARDIAN!

BUT NOW
I AM READY
FOR--
YARGH!



SO YOU SURVIVED MY LAST
ASSAULT, STINGER? THE
ONLY ONE WHO DID, I'LL
WAGER...

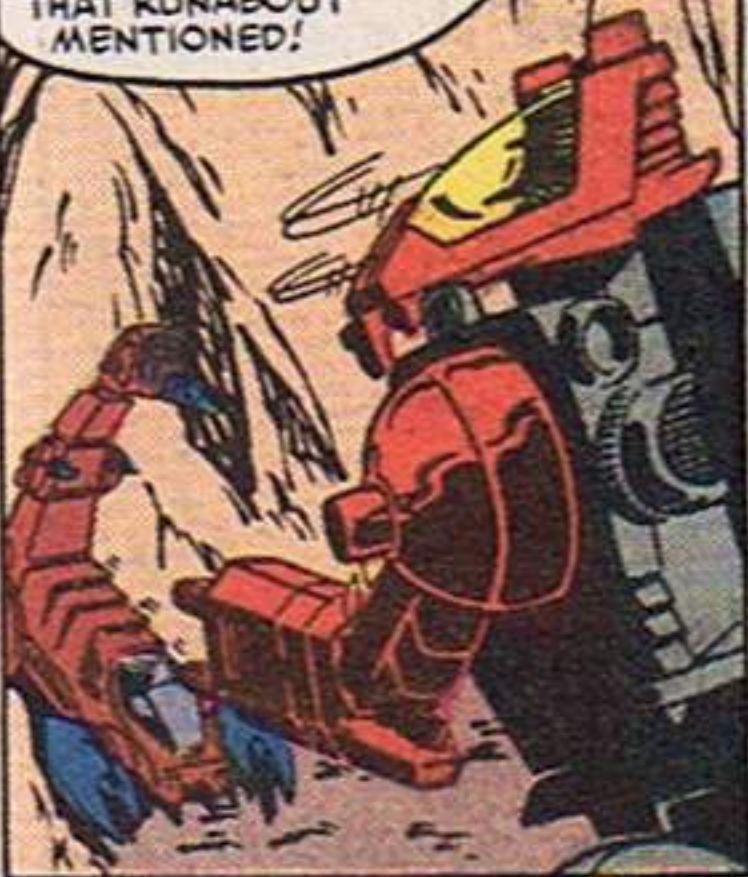


...AND YOU CROUCH
TERRIFIED BEFORE
ME! GOOD!

THIS TIME-- LITTLE GUARDIAN--
YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE! I WILL
DESTROY YOU AND YOUR
CHARGES UTTERLY!

BUT, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE...

THERE! CRINGING BEFORE SLAUGHTER! STINGER, THE GUARDIAN THAT RUNABOUT MENTIONED!

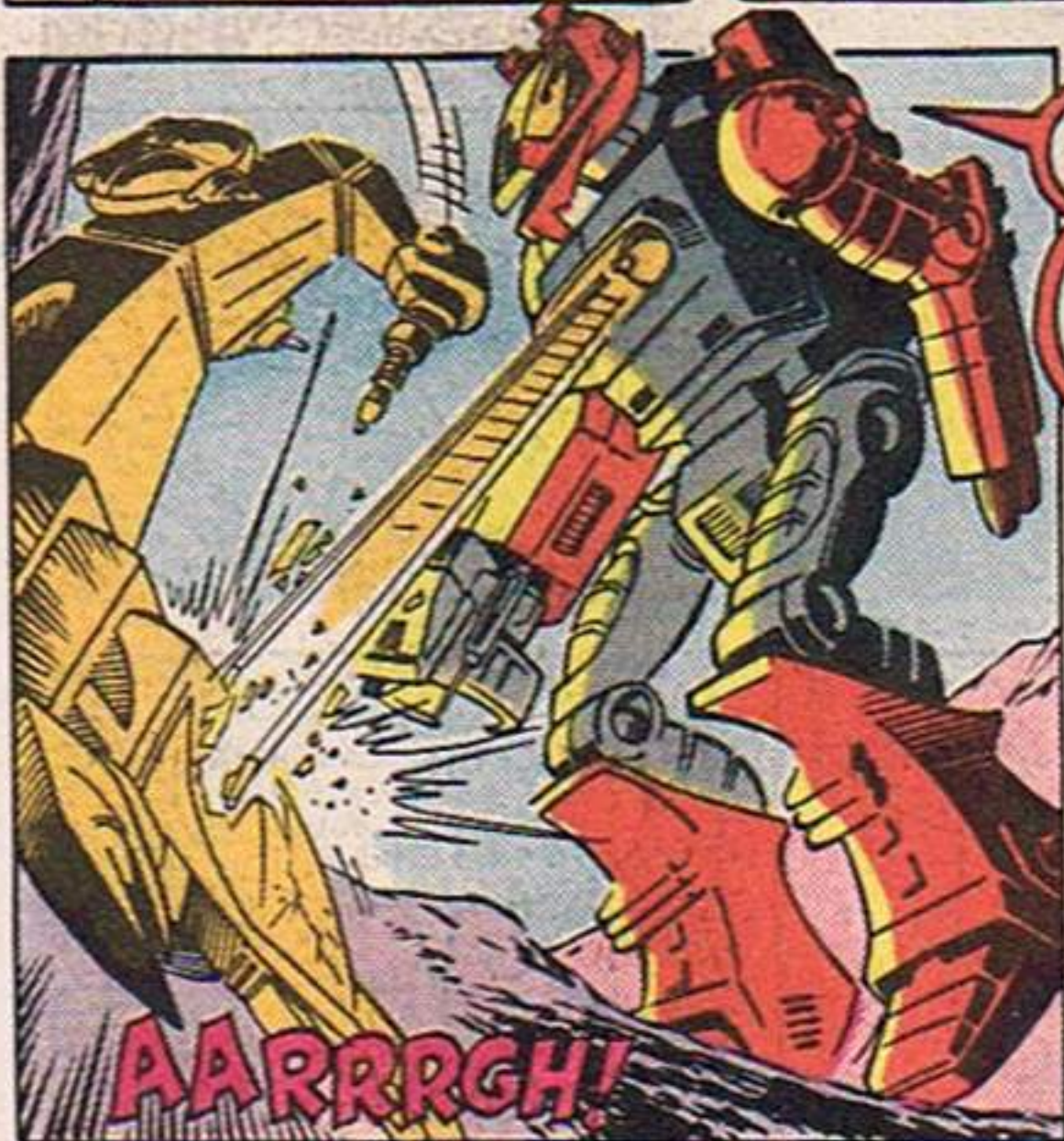


HE'S PARALYZED BY THE SIGHT OF SLAUGHTER! YET HE JOINED THE BATTLE! I CAN'T LET HIM PERISH!

SRRRAKOW!

SLAUGHTER, STEELGRAVE! FIGHT ME-- IF YOU NEED A FOE!

OH... I WILL, HOTSHOT--



AARRRGH!

--ALL IN GOOD TIME! WHEN MY VIBRO-CHISEL HAS ENDED THIS SMALL... ANNOYANCE!

NO! I KNOW YOUR ARMOR IS REINFORCED, SLAUGHTER, AND THAT SHOT CANNOT HAVE KILLED YOU...



SKRA-KOW!



...BUT BY MAN, IT SURELY WILL HAVE SLOWED YOU DOWN!

H-HOT... SHOT?

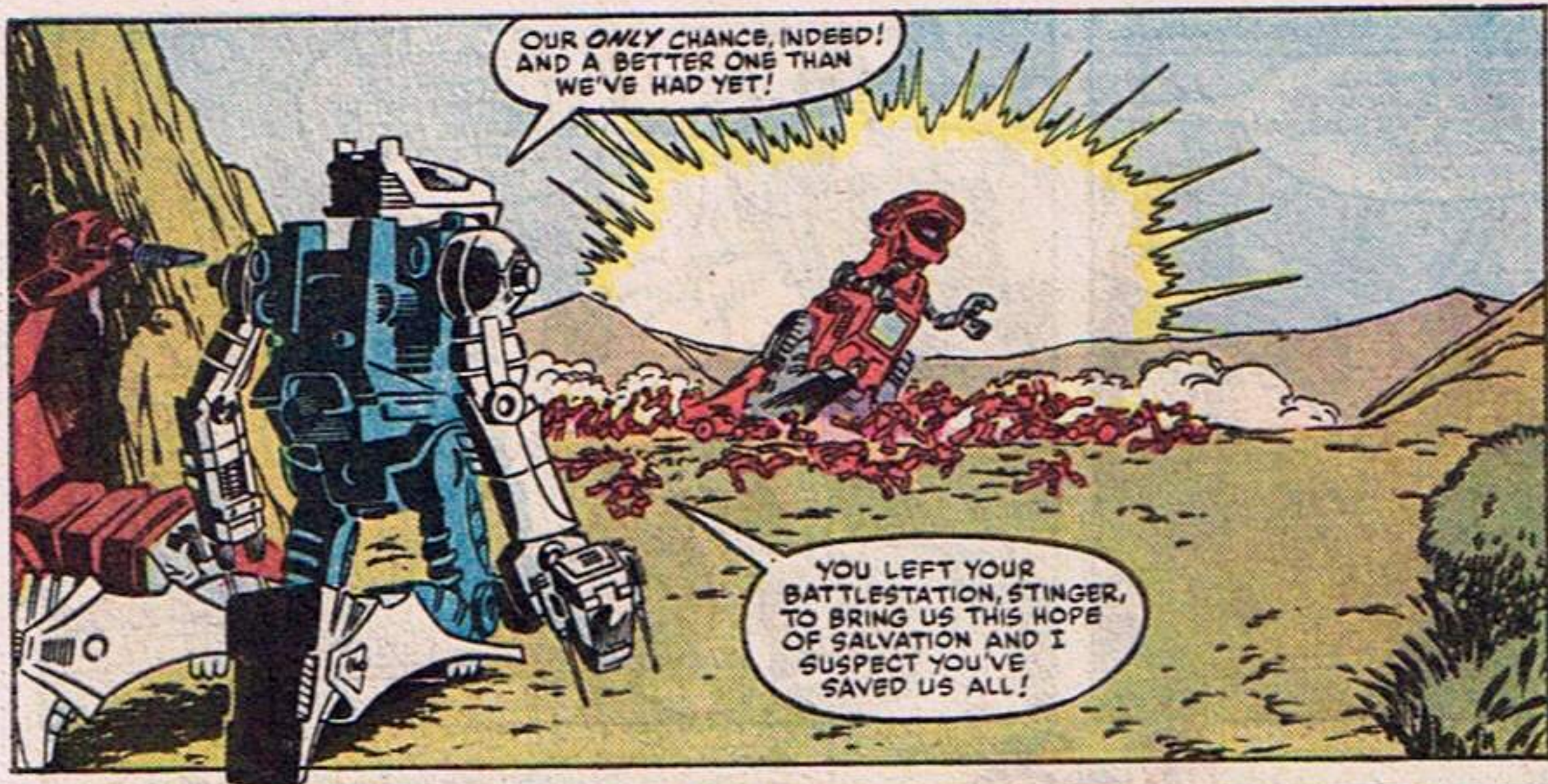


L-LISTEN! LASER-RAM DEFENSE... BUILT INTO THE BATTLESTATION... THE LAST DITCH DEFENSE!



COULDN'T RELEASE IT MYSELF... RANK TOO LOW TO COMMAND IT... BUT YOU... CAN!

ONLY... CHANCE...



OUR ONLY CHANCE, INDEED!
AND A BETTER ONE THAN
WE'VE HAD YET!

YOU LEFT YOUR
BATTLESTATION, STINGER,
TO BRING US THIS HOPE
OF SALVATION AND I
SUSPECT YOU'VE
SAVED US ALL!



THINKTANK! THERE'S
A LASER-RAM IN
THERE SOMEWHERE!
I'VE GOT TO GET
TO IT...!



TELL THE
OTHERS TO FIGHT
ON! NOT TO GIVE
UP HOPE!



I... HEARD THAT, HOTSHOT!
AND D-DAMAGED THOUGH I
AM... MY VIBRO-CHISEL
WILL STOP YOU!

SLAUGHTER!
NO!

YOU DARE
TO OPPOSE
ME? THINK-
TANK THE
PACIFIST?
YOU!??

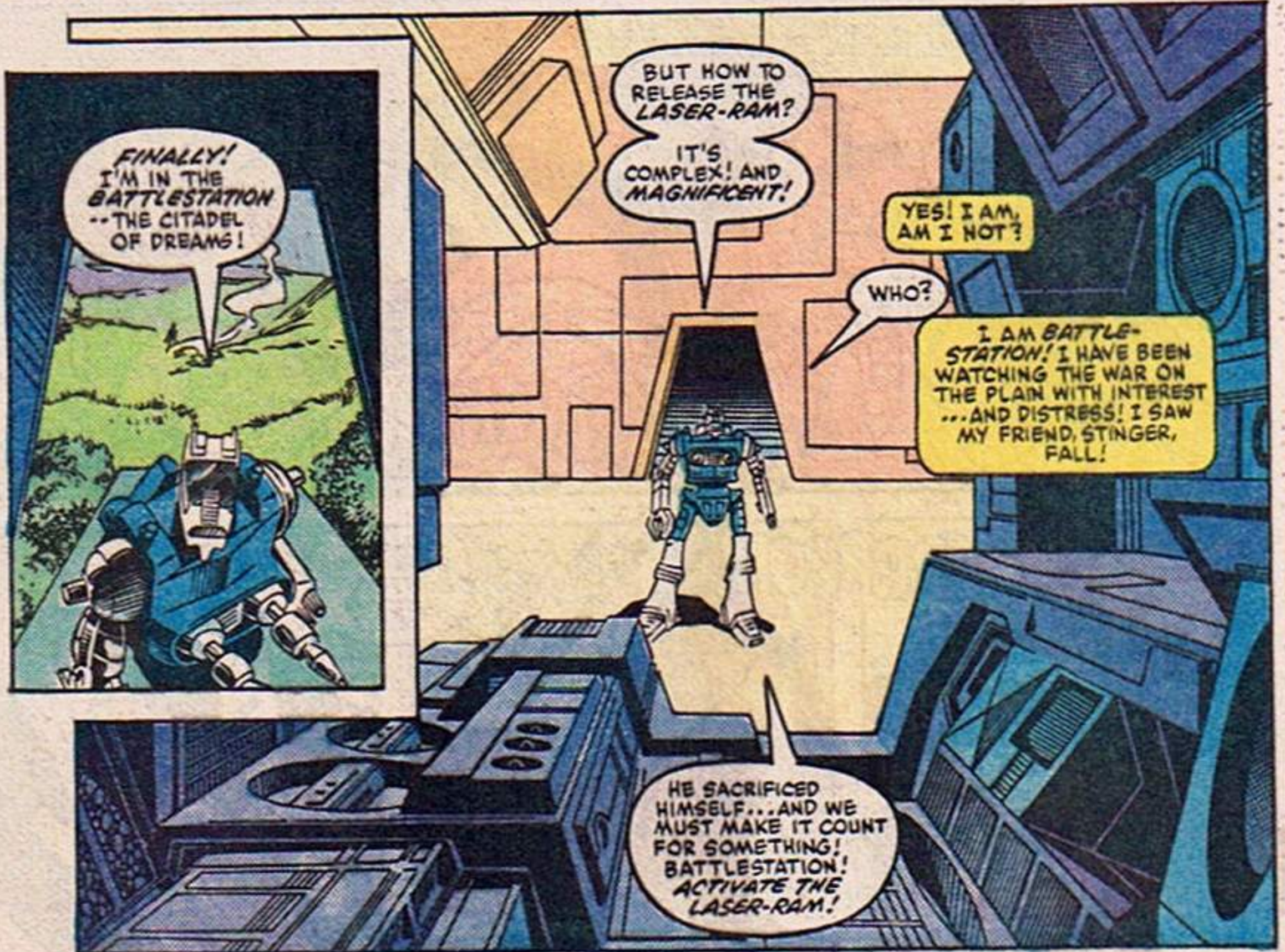


I MAY NOT BE
A FIGHTER, SLAUGHTER,
BUT MY THICK, BULKY
BODY WILL MAKE
A FINE SHIELD...

RRRRDDDRDD

...TO BLOCK HOTSHOT
FROM THE DESTRUCTION
OF YOUR VIBRO-REAM!

ARRGH!



FINALLY!
I'M IN THE
BATTLESTATION
--THE CITADEL
OF DREAMS!

BUT HOW TO
RELEASE THE
LASER-RAM?

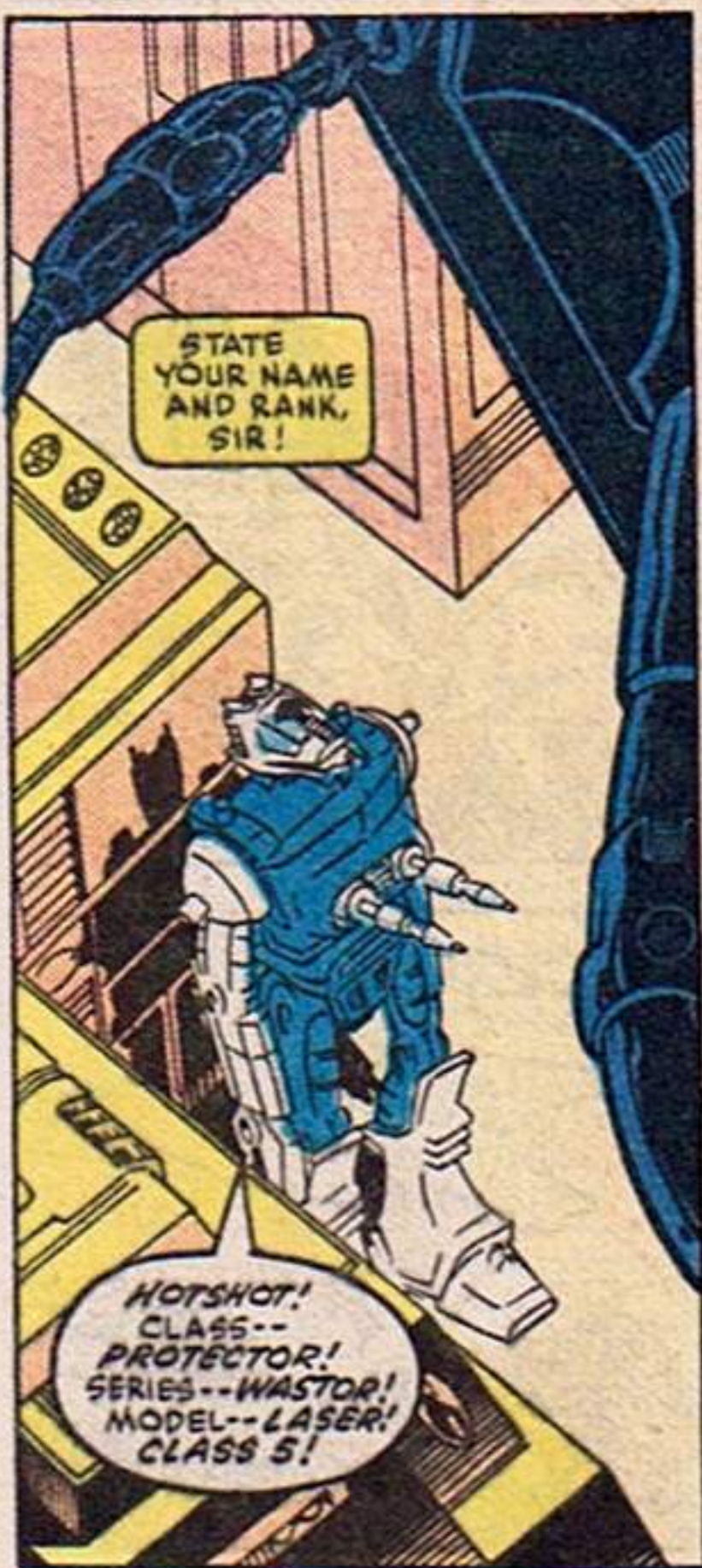
IT'S
COMPLEX! AND
MAGNIFICENT!

YES! I AM,
AM I NOT?

WHO?

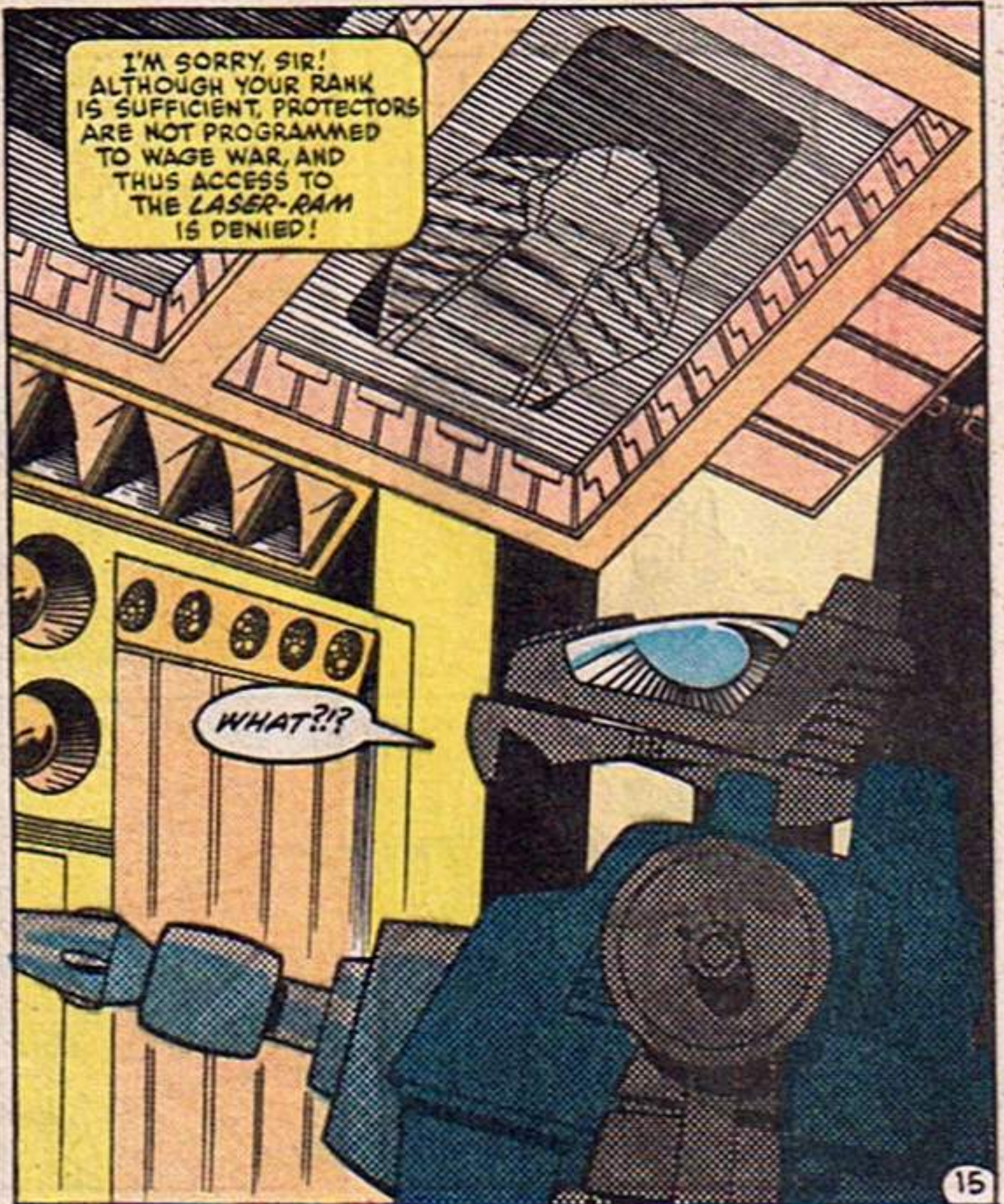
I AM BATTLE-
STATION! I HAVE BEEN
WATCHING THE WAR ON
THE PLAIN WITH INTEREST
...AND DISTRESS! I SAW
MY FRIEND, STINGER,
FALL!

HE SACRIFICED
HIMSELF...AND WE
MUST MAKE IT COUNT
FOR SOMETHING!
BATTLESTATION!
ACTIVATE THE
LASER-RAM!



STATE
YOUR NAME
AND RANK,
SIR!

HOTSHOT!
CLASS--
PROTECTOR!
SERIES--WASTOR!
MODEL--LASER!
CLASS 5!



I'M SORRY, SIR!
ALTHOUGH YOUR RANK
IS SUFFICIENT, PROTECTORS
ARE NOT PROGRAMMED
TO WAGE WAR, AND
THUS ACCESS TO
THE LASER-RAM
IS DENIED!

WHAT?!?

WHILE OUTSIDE...

AND SO, FRIEND CRANK, WE MEET AGAIN!

GOUGE!

I TRUST THIS TIME YOU WILL REMAIN AMONG THE SLAIN!

SHRAKKKT!

ARRRRGH!

GOUGE! HE WAS THE GENTLEST AMONG US!

POOR LITTLE FLOWER! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT YOU HERE! YOU NEVER HAD A...

...CHANCE!

AND YOURS IS A MURDER MOST VILE...!

AND BLINDED, EVEN TO THE TENETS OF PROTECTOR PROGRAMMING, BY HIS OVERWHELMING RAGE, CUT-UP, BLADE WHIRLING, ATTACKS...

BUT EVEN AS HIS SAW BLADE SLICES DEEP...

BA-BOOM!

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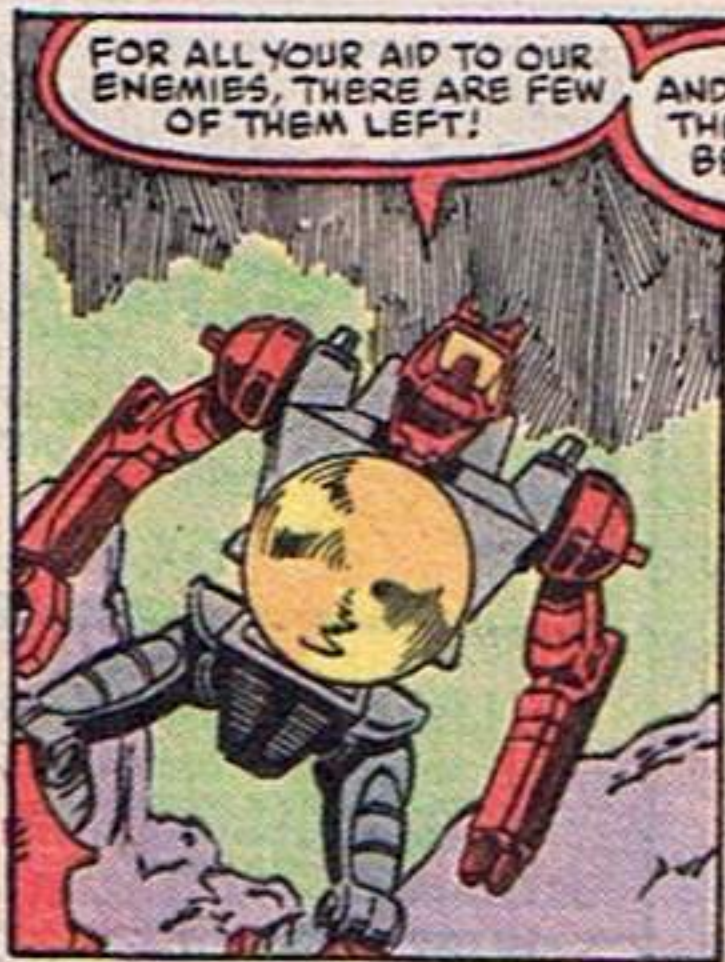
BUT ELSEWHERE ON THE BATTLEFIELD, ONE SAW-WIELDING HERO STILL STANDS!



SAWTOOTH! TRAITOR! YOU SEEM HARD TO KILL!

FOR ALL YOUR AID TO OUR ENEMIES, THERE ARE FEW OF THEM LEFT!

AND SOON THERE WILL BE NONE!



WHILE IN THE BATTLESTATION...

BATTLESTATION! LISTEN TO ME! NO ONE IS FOLLOWING THEIR PROGRAMMING ANY MORE...

PROTECTORS ARE WARRIORS, WHETHER THEY WERE CREATED TO BE OR NOT!

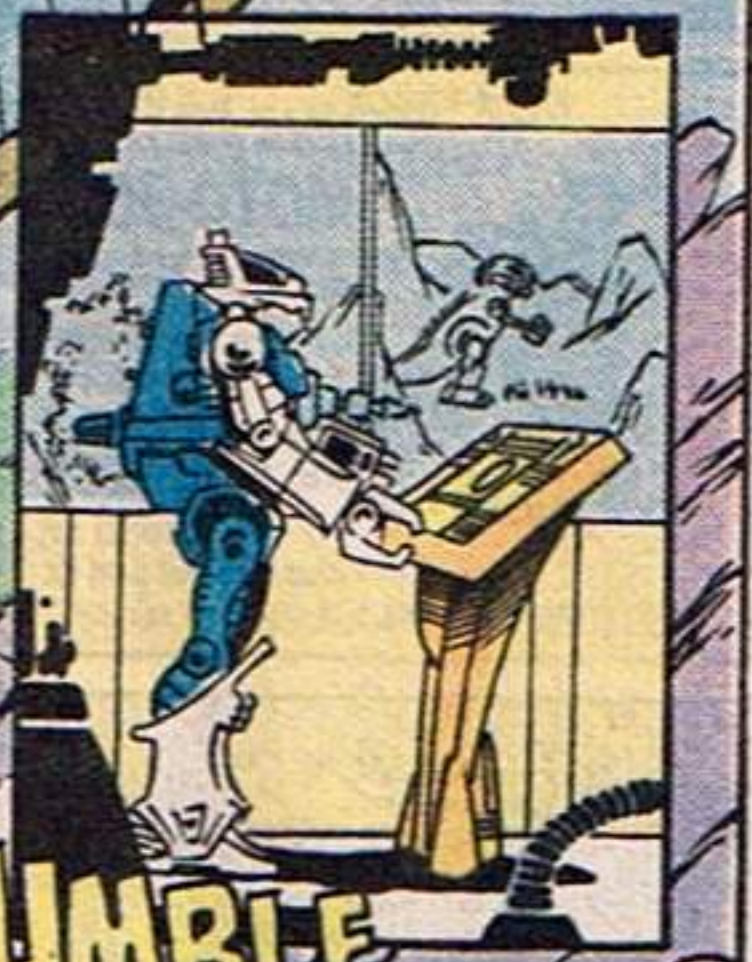
LOOK OUTSIDE! EVALUATE YOUR CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL IF YOU FAIL TO OBEY ME!

I AM COMPUTING, HOTSHOT, AS I WAS ORDERED...

...AND I WILL ACCEDE TO YOUR REQUEST! EVEN NOW, THE LASER-RAM IS LAUNCHED!

THE GROUND! IT'S SHAKING!

NO! YOU ARE WITHIN THE LASER-RAM! BEFORE YOU ON THE VIEW SCREEN IS THE BATTLE! COMMAND ME, AND I WILL FIRE WHERE YOU WILL!



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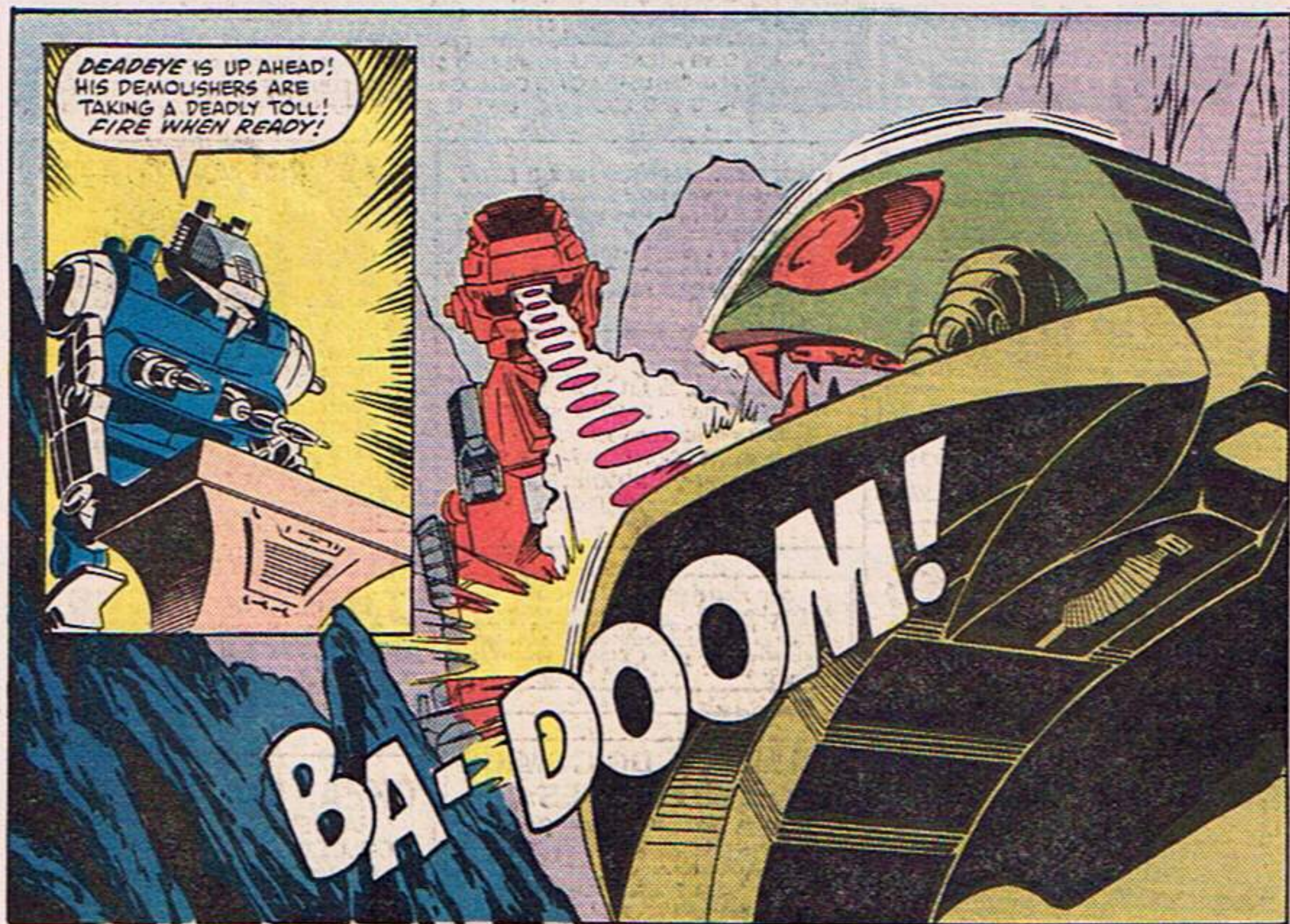
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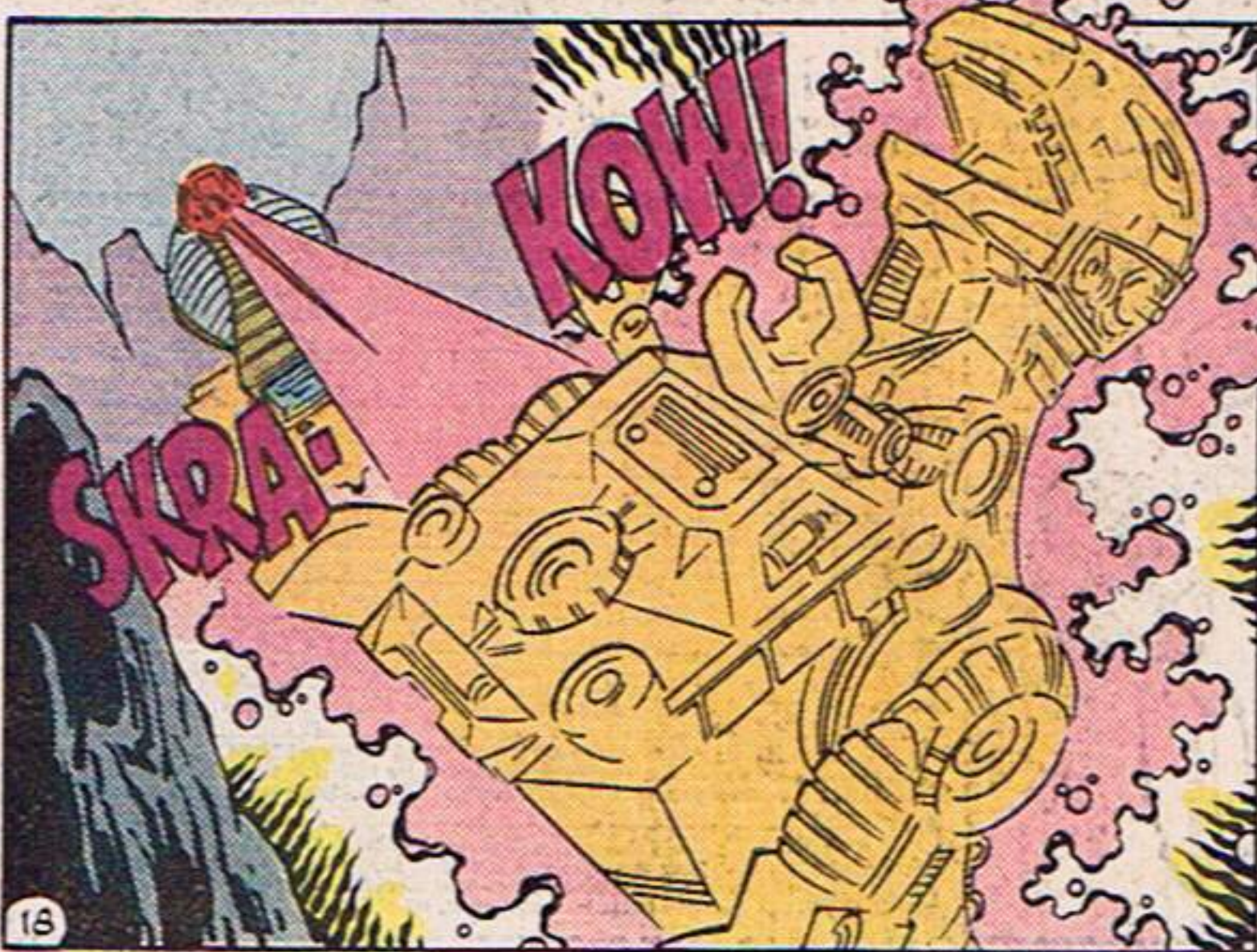
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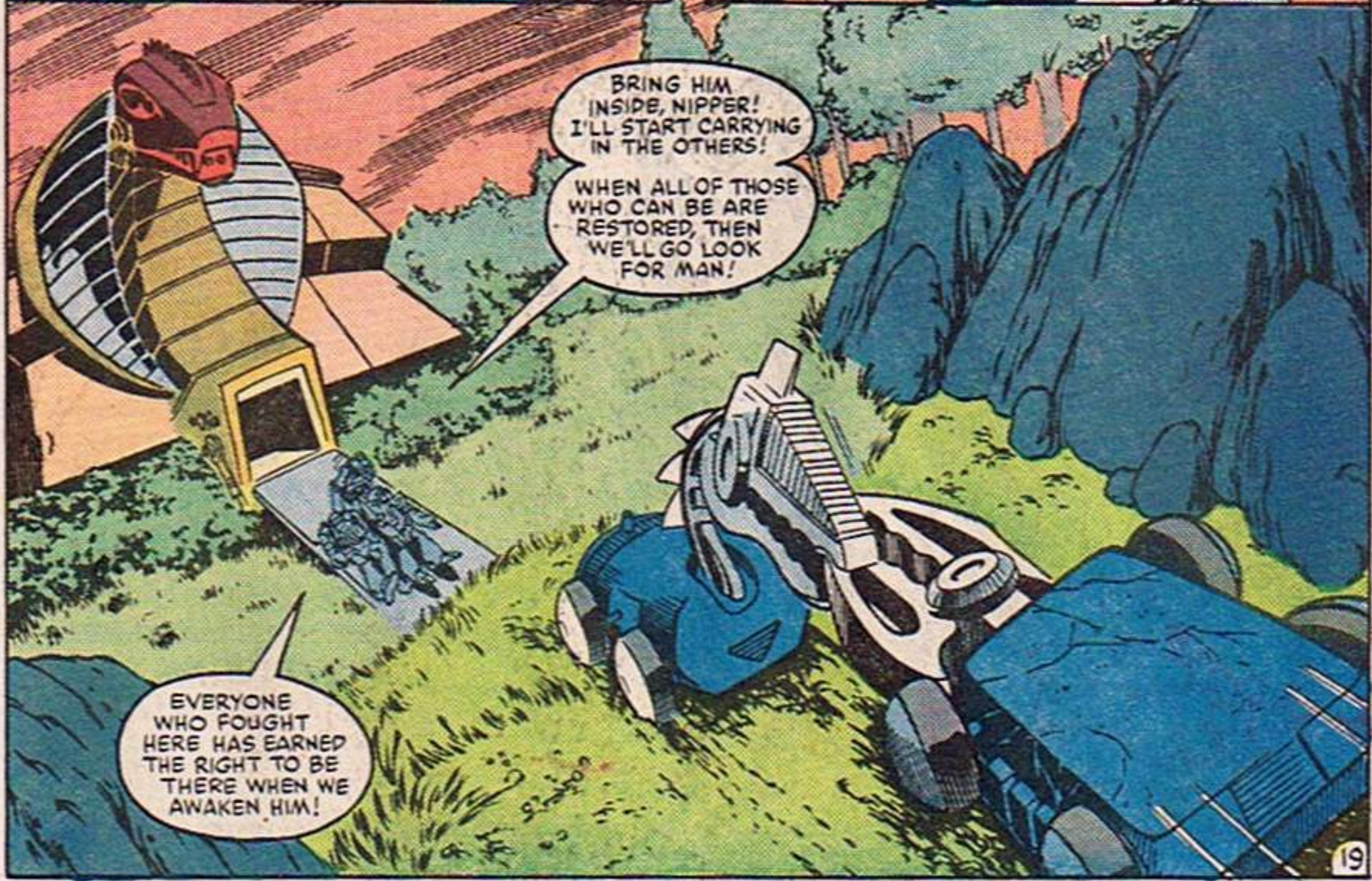
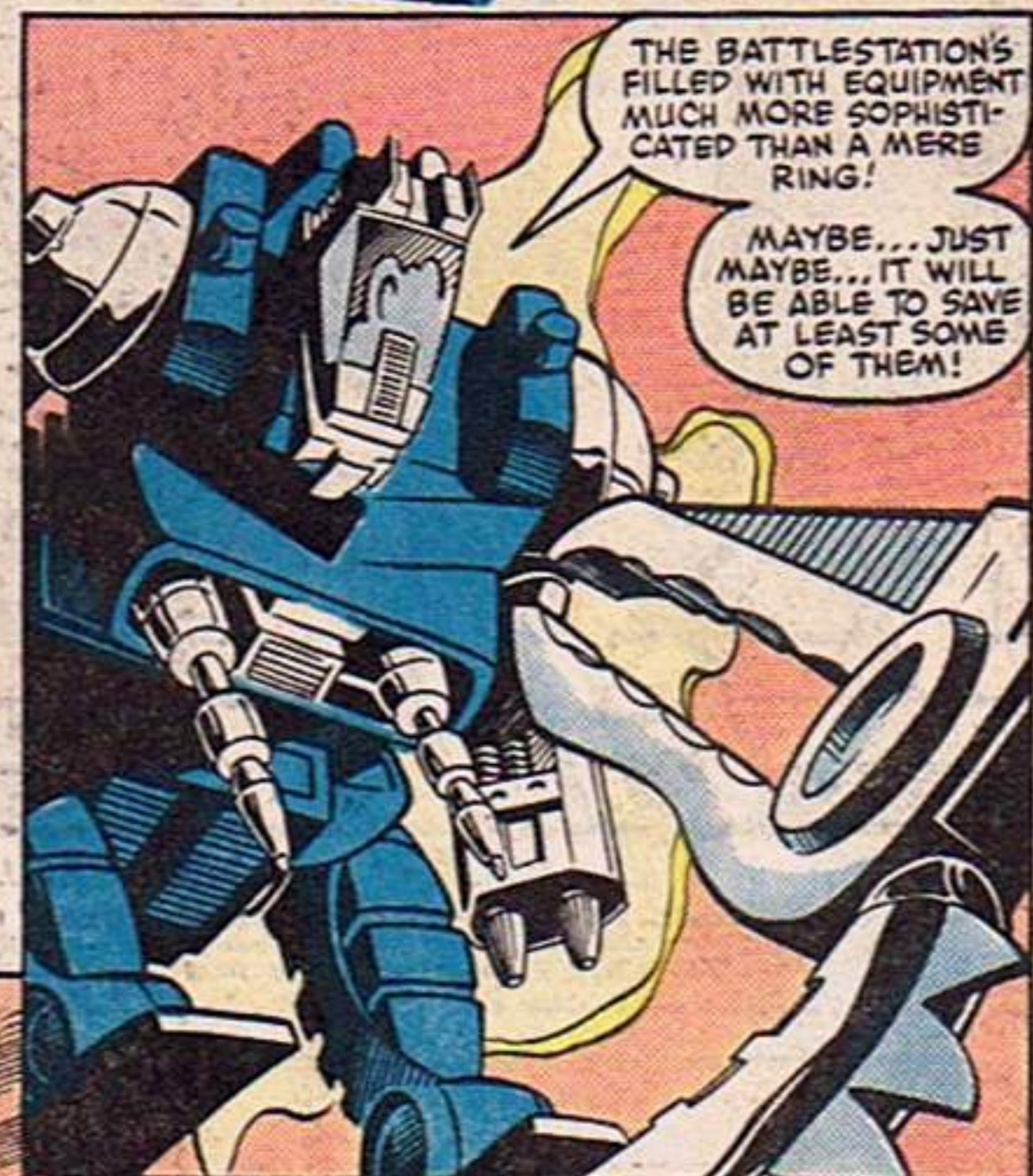
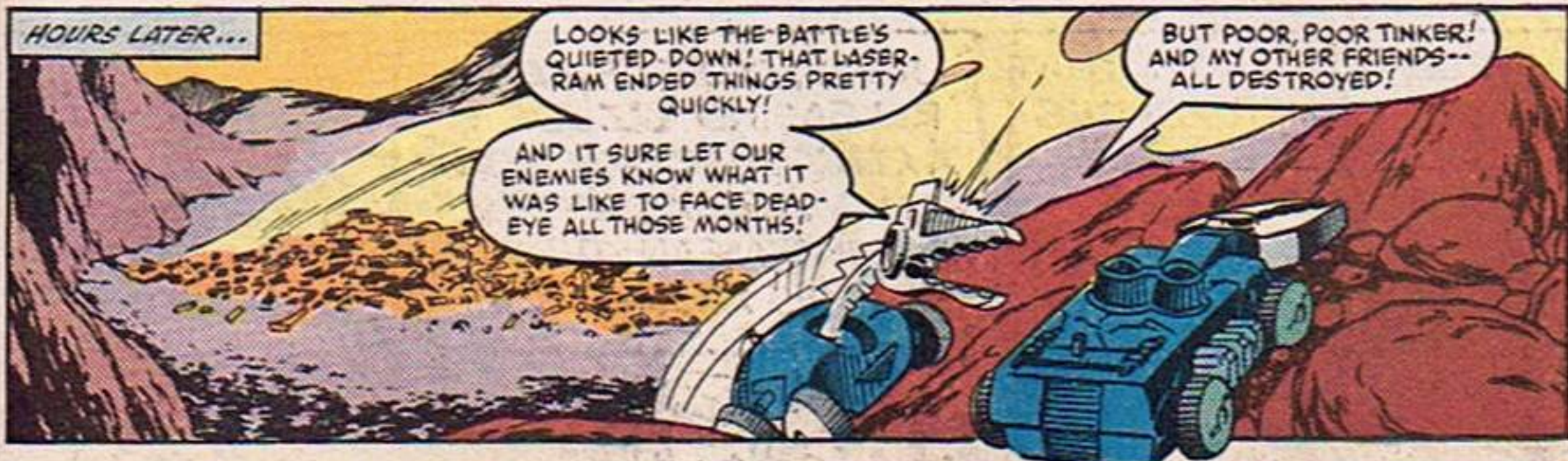
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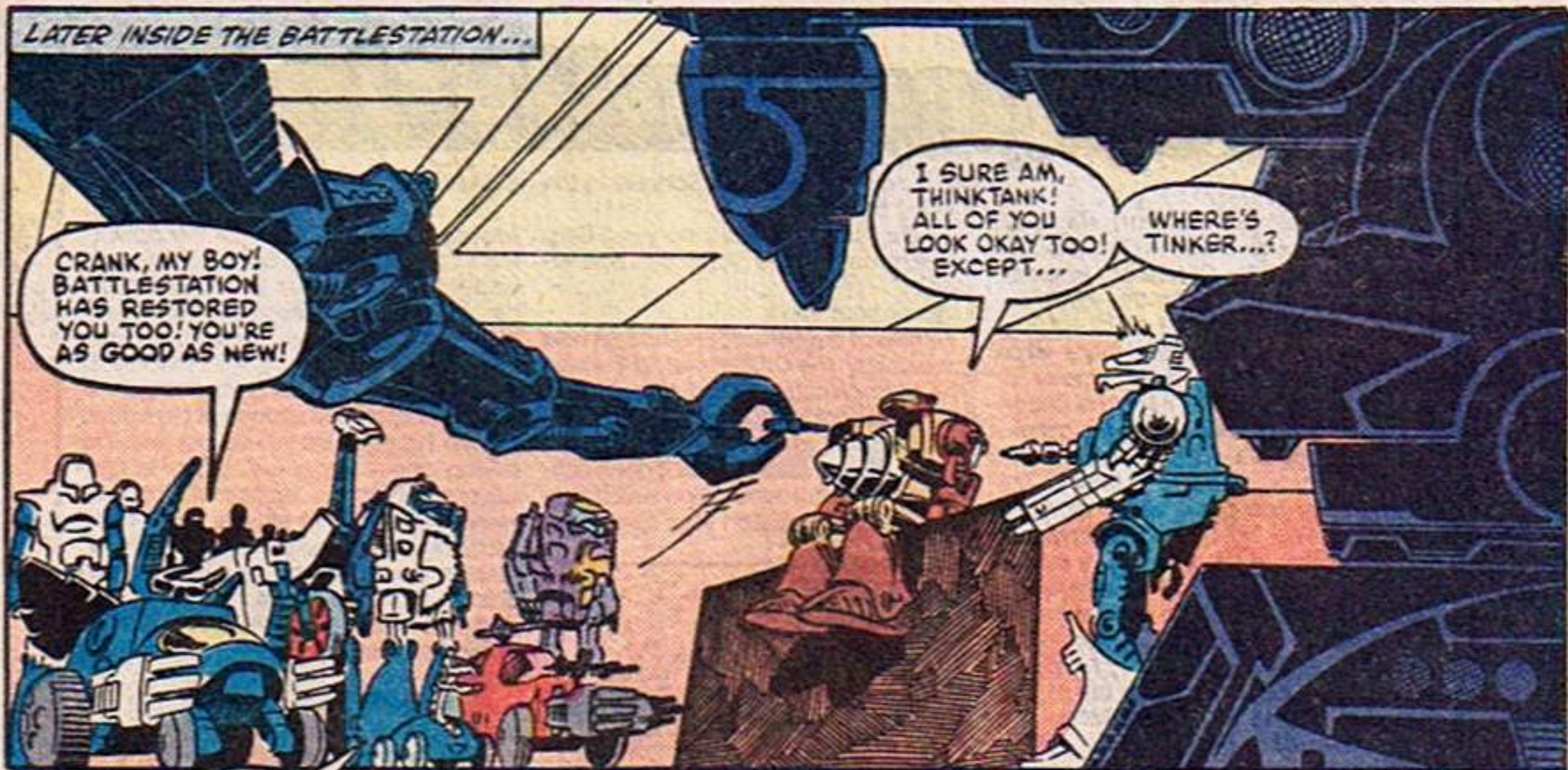
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LATER INSIDE THE BATTLESTATION...



CRANK, MY BOY! BATTLESTATION HAS RESTORED YOU TOO! YOU'RE AS GOOD AS NEW!

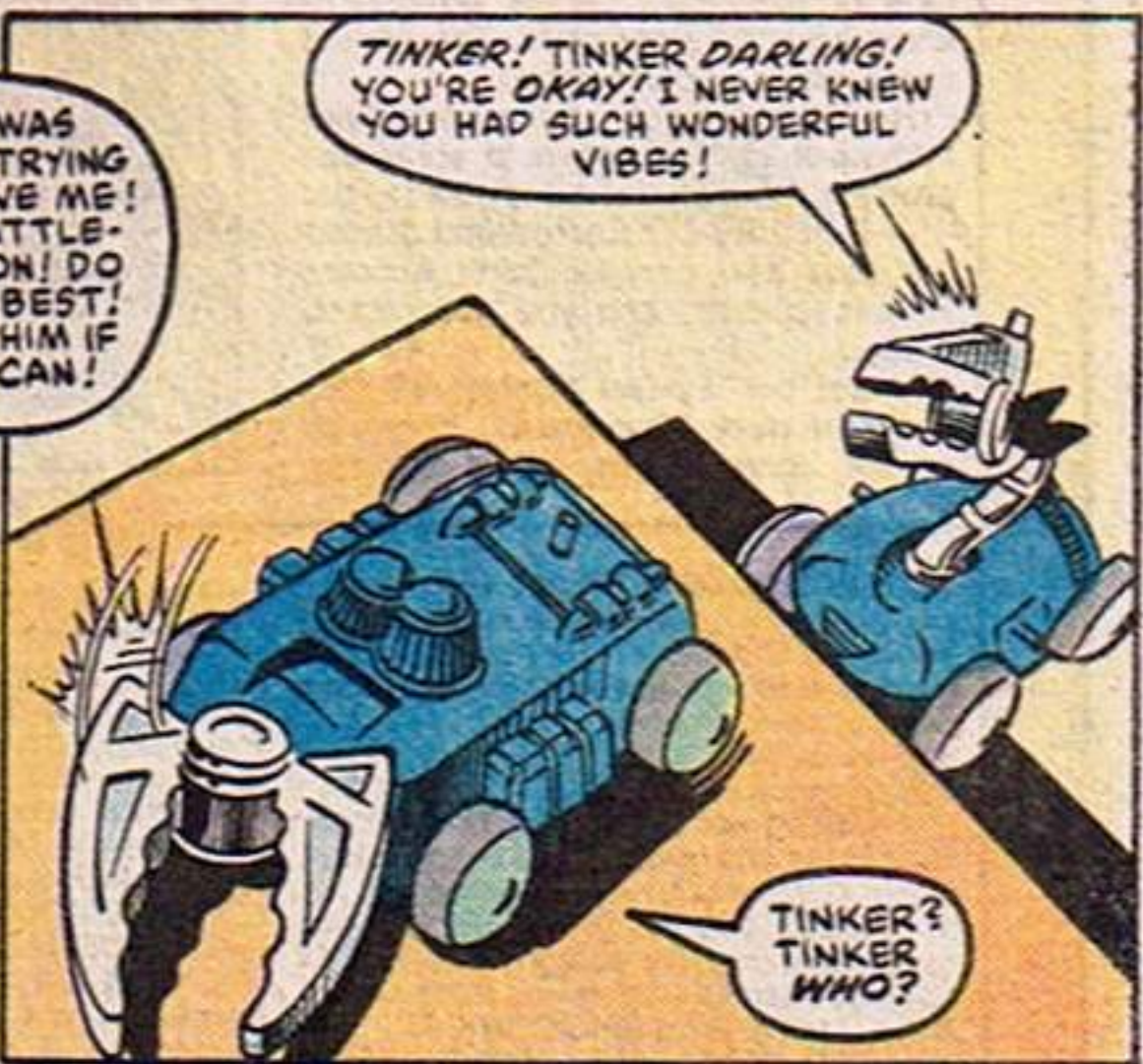
I SURE AM, THINKTANK! ALL OF YOU LOOK OKAY TOO! EXCEPT...

WHERE'S TINKER...?



H-HE'S NEXT, CRANK!

HE WAS HURT TRYING TO SAVE ME! OH, BATTLESTATION! DO YOUR BEST! SAVE HIM IF YOU CAN!



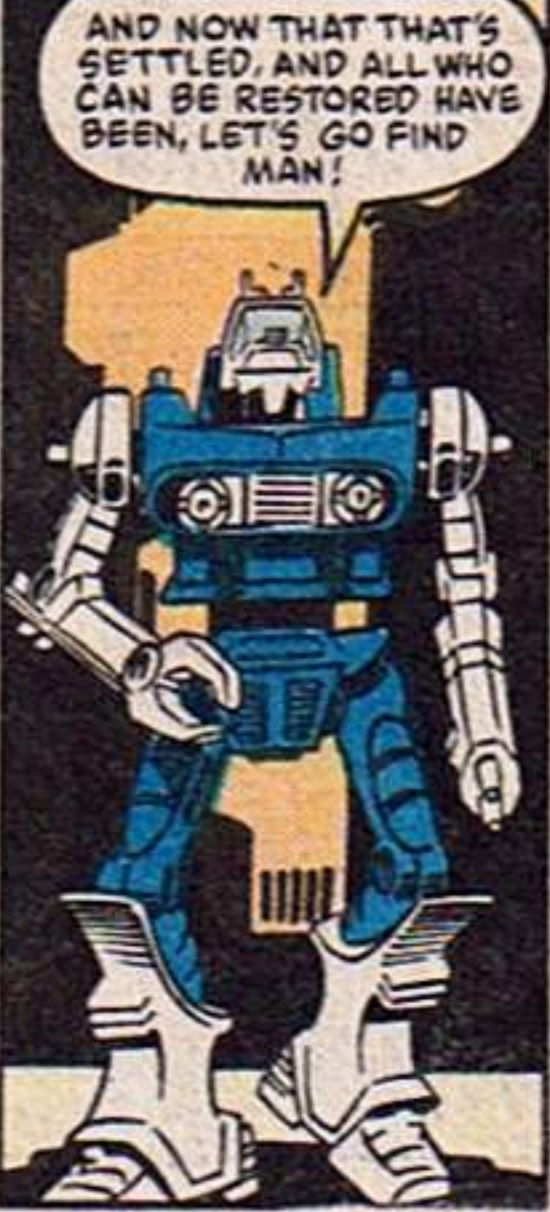
TINKER! TINKER DARLING! YOU'RE OKAY! I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD SUCH WONDERFUL VIBES!

TINKER? TINKER WHO?

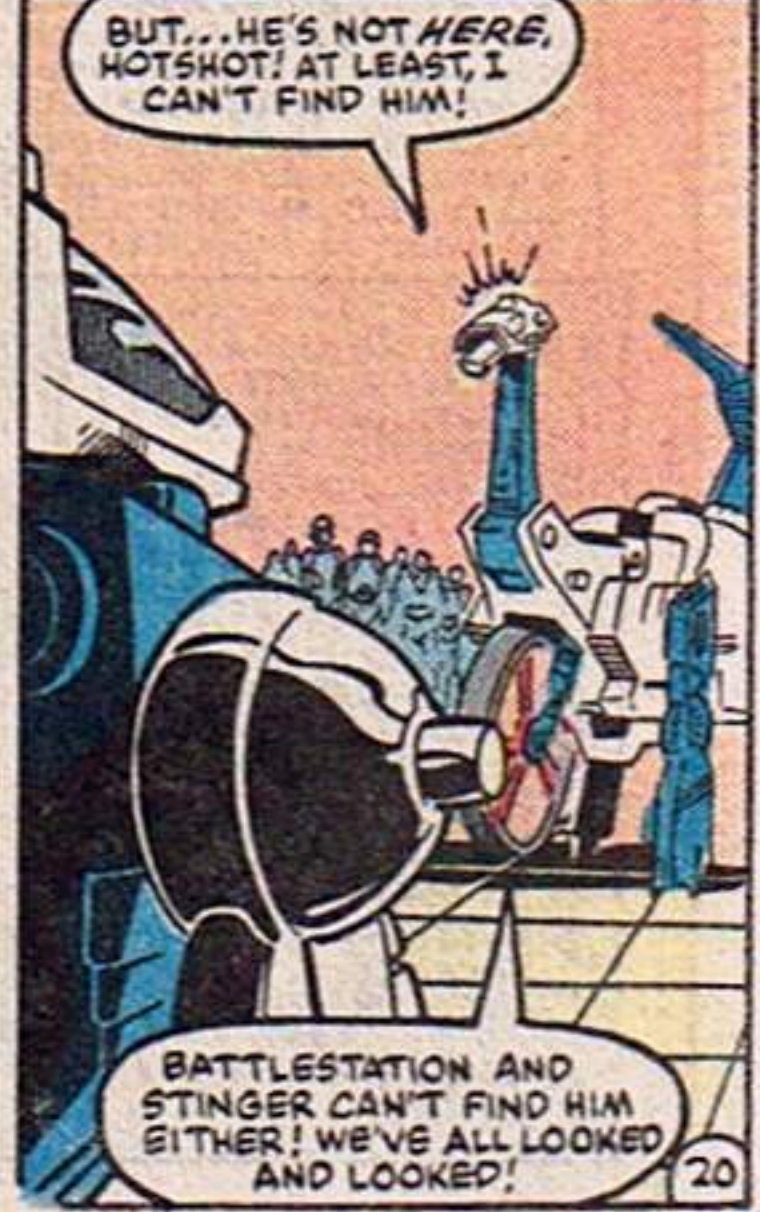


WHAT?!?

JUST KIDDING, CRANK! NIPPER, MY LOVE, I THINK YOU'VE GOT NEAT VIBES TOO!



AND NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, AND ALL WHO CAN BE RESTORED HAVE BEEN, LET'S GO FIND MAN!



BUT... HE'S NOT HERE, HOTSHOT! AT LEAST, I CAN'T FIND HIM!

BATTLESTATION AND STINGER CAN'T FIND HIM EITHER! WE'VE ALL LOOKED AND LOOKED!

Bullpen Bulletins

"PERSONALS!"

That's the title of the story which is begun, but not finished, in *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book*, in case you didn't know. That's the book in which I, the Editor in Chief of Mighty Marvel, give everyone out there who wants to be a comic book creator a chance to try out his or her skills under simulated professional working conditions, and, possibly to create professional quality samples to submit to us (or any other company) when applying for a job. The *Try-Out* book provides pages to color, to ink, to letter, to script, and to draw. Also, since I deliberately left out the ending of the story therein, the *Try-Out* book gives a would-be comics creator a chance to try his hand at plotting — devising a way out of the mess in which I leave Spider-Man.

That brilliant maneuver has, apparently, left a lot of people frustrated. I've gotten tons of mail from people wanting to know how the story ends. The honest answer is . . . *I don't know!*

However, I've got yet another brilliant maneuver up my sleeve to solve this problem. Here's what we're going to do:

— Run a *Try-Out Contest* and choose the best new penciler, inker, scripter, letterer, colorist, and you guessed it, *plotter!*

— Let our *Try-Out Contest* winners finish the story, "Personals!", begun by myself, John Romita, Jr., Al Milgrom,

Jim Novak, and Christie Scheele in the *Try-Out Book*, and . . .

— Publish the finished story in a Special Edition of *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

How about that?

Details of the contest and info on how you can buy *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book* can be found elsewhere in this comic book! You don't have to buy a *Try-Out Book* to enter the contest (at \$12.95, it's not cheap!), but it does contain lots of useful information which may be helpful. Samples on your own paper will do.



CHANGES!

Jim Owsley has been promoted from Assistant Editor to Editor of the Spider-Man titles, replacing Danny Fingeroth, who, after eight years in the editing biz has bailed out to become a writer (exclusively for Marvel, natch!). Things have improved already with Owsley in command. No, I'm not talking about the comics. Danny's is a tough act to follow, though I'm sure Jim will do just fine. I'm talking about the office. Gone is Dishevelled Danny's messy workspace. Here, apparently to stay, is Jim's high-tech, high-class editorial environment, complete with chrome-and-glass desk, custom lighting, chairs, potted palms and, get this, a reclining patio lounge chair with matching beach ball.

Hmm.

It's certainly cleaner looking, but you know, Danny's piles of junk and heaps of papers did have a certain repulsive charm. Sometimes, late at night, I'd swear they moved by themselves . . .

Oh, well. Congratulations to both of you guys!

AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT . . . !

. . . will be coming your way next month right here in this column! It concerns a certain short-but-mighty barbarian . . .

Keep warm!

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

HYPE BOX

SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — Even the bravest man will turn and run from a member of the Sisterhood! They are the best warriors their age has to offer — an elite corps of women mercenaries! What does it take to become a part of this fearsome fighting group? Find out as Boronwe, a girl just entering womanhood, takes her final tests in the arts of warfare. If she passes, the world will be at her feet. If she doesn't . . . The **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL** — their story is brought to life through the talents of **CHRISTY MARX** (writer) and **MIKE VOSBURG** (artist). From **EPIC COMICS**.

GRAPHIC NOVEL #14 — SWASHBUCKLERS. It's about a rowdy band of pirates that sail the seas between planets! **SWASHBUCKLERS!** It's about a desperate battle to save Earth from the deadly threat of "The Colonizers!" **SWASHBUCKLERS!** It's about time you ran down to your bookstore to get your own copy of this masterpiece by **BILL MANTLO / BUTCH GUICE** (the team that raised the **MICRONAUTS** to new

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MARVEL TEAM-UP #150 — The destructive villainy of Juggernaut and Black Tom together would cause any normal man to head for the hills. Even a super hero would think twice about taking them on! Fortunately, Spider-Man and the X-Men have no such doubts, and the battle is on! **LOUISE SIMONSON** (writer) and **GREG LAROCQUE, MIKE ESPOSITO, and VINNIE COLLETA** (artists) really knocked themselves out on this final-issue extravaganza! It even sports a **BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH** cover! But how can this be the end of **MARVEL TEAM-UP**? Well, all good things must come to an end, as they say, to make room for something better! Be here in two months for the first issue of an all-new, all-great **SPIDER-MAN** title!

POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114 — He helped usher Luke Cage into the Marvel

Age, and now he's back as guest penciler for an issue! That's right, it's **BILLY GRAHAM** penciling **JIM OWSLEY's** story about Gordy, the most harmless-looking little man Cage and the Fist have ever seen! However, Gordy is going to have a profound and dangerous effect on the lives of our Heroes for Hire! And with the growing threat of Control 7, a group of some of the most deadly and nefarious villains in the world, you know that this issue is not to be missed!

CRYSTAR #11 — Secrets are revealed, questions are answered and plot threads are tied up in "Resolution." Will it be a happy ending for Crystalium, or will it be more dangerous than anyone could imagine? You know something's up when Alpha Flight makes the scene! Don't miss any of the excitement in this final issue written by **JO DUFFY** and illustrated by **RICARDO VILLAMONTE!** Look for the cover by **MICHAEL GOLDEN!**

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- THE THING #20
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- RED SONJA #6
- MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #10 — Fantastic Four, Avengers, X-Men, Hulk, Klaw, Doom, Galactus, Beyonder. Awesome!!
- ICEMAN (Limited Series) #2
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- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #261
- CAPTAIN AMERICA #302
- INDIANA JONES #26
- POWER PACK #7
- MICRONAUTS #5
- ALPHA FLIGHT #19
- DR. STRANGE #69
- CRYSTAR #11 — The end of an epic! See Hype Box.
- INCREDIBLE HULK #304
- AVENGERS #252
- CONAN THE BARBARIAN #167
- X-MEN #190

- MARVEL TALES #172 — Reprinting "The Final Chapter," by **STAN LEE** and **STEVE DITKO**, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #33.
- ROM #63
- POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114 — Featuring a surprise guest penciler! See Hype Box.
- G.I. JOE #32
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- BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #2
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- MARVEL TEAM-UP #150 — Featuring Spider-Man and the Uncanny X-Men! Final double-sized issue! See Hype Box.
- STAR WARS #92
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EPIC COMICS

- CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #3
- ALIEN LEGION #5
- SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — In an age ancient and barbaric, they are the killer elite! See Hype Box.
- DREADSTAR #16
- TIME SPIRITS #2

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- #14: SWASHBUCKLERS — Not what you might expect! See Hype Box.

LEGEND SAYS
MAN SLEEPS
BENEATH THE
BATTLESTATION!
AND SLAUGHTER
SAID MAN WAS
WELL HIDDEN!

AND IF HE WIPED
OUT BATTLE-
STATION'S MEMO-
RY OF HIS WHERE-
ABOUTS, THERE
MUST BE A BLANK
SPACE WHERE
THAT MEMORY
WAS!

BATTLESTATION,
GIVE US THE
FLOOR PLAN TO
THE TOP LEVEL!

EXCELLENT!
AND BELOW
THAT?

BATTLESTATION

FIRST
LEVEL

AH! THAT'S WHERE
WE ARE! NOW WHAT'S
BELOW THAT?

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

NOTHING?
OR...

HOTSHOT!
MAN'S DOWN
THERE! I KNOW
IT! WE JUST HAVE
TO GO TO THE
BOTTOM LEVEL...
AND PULL UP
THE FLOOR!

RIGHT HERE!
NOW THAT
I'M NOT DIS-
TRACTED BY
GRIEF AND
STUFF... I'M
GETTING
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
VIBES!

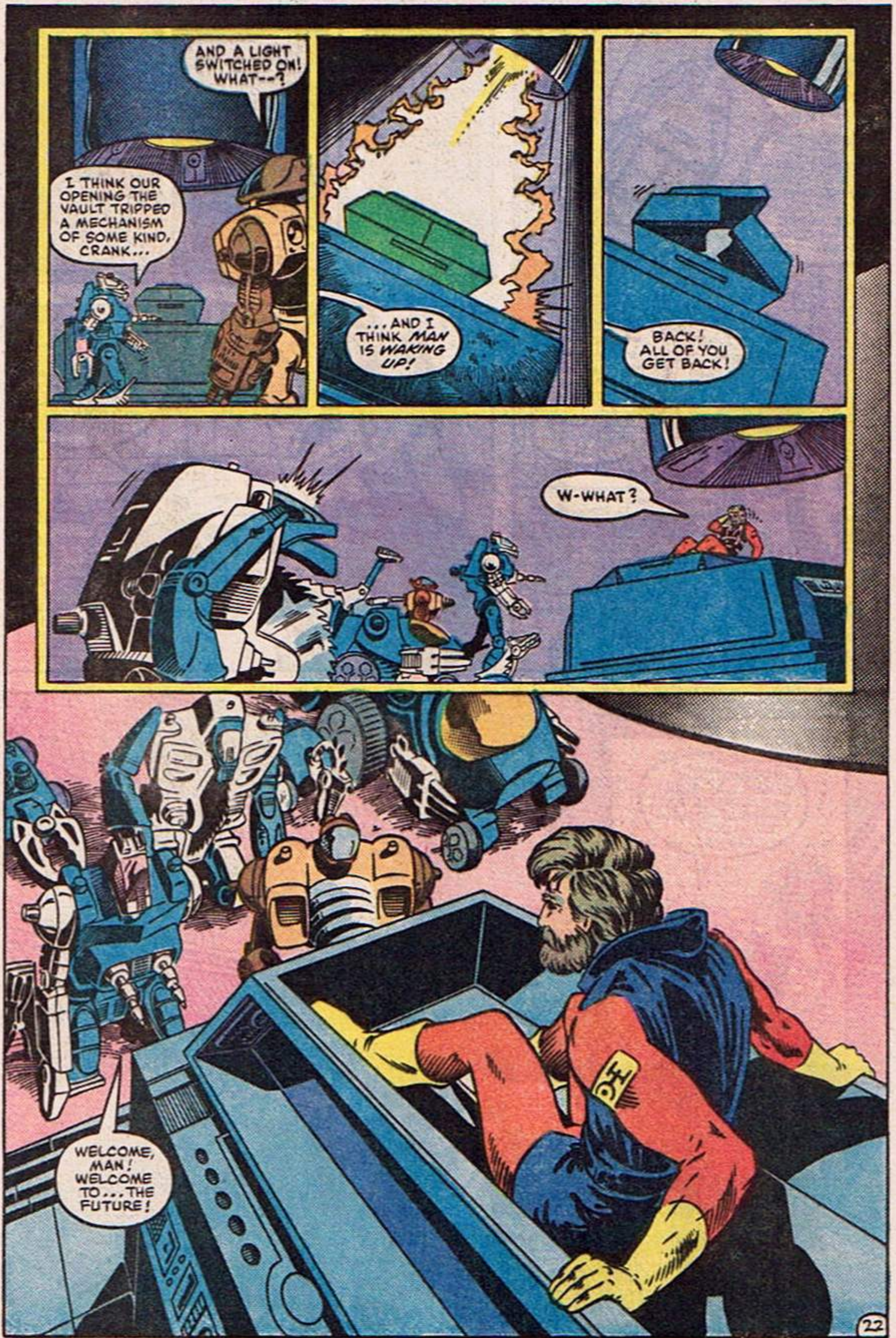
AND SECONDS
LATER...

HOTSHOT, YOUR
GUESS WAS RIGHT!
AND NIPPER'S TOO!
THERE IS SOMETHING
DOWN THERE!

A VAST
VAULT...

A ROOM LINED
WITH CASKETS!
I WONDER...

H-HOTSHOT!
LOOK AT THE
CEILING!
A TUBE'S
LOWERING!



AND A LIGHT SWITCHED ON! WHAT--?

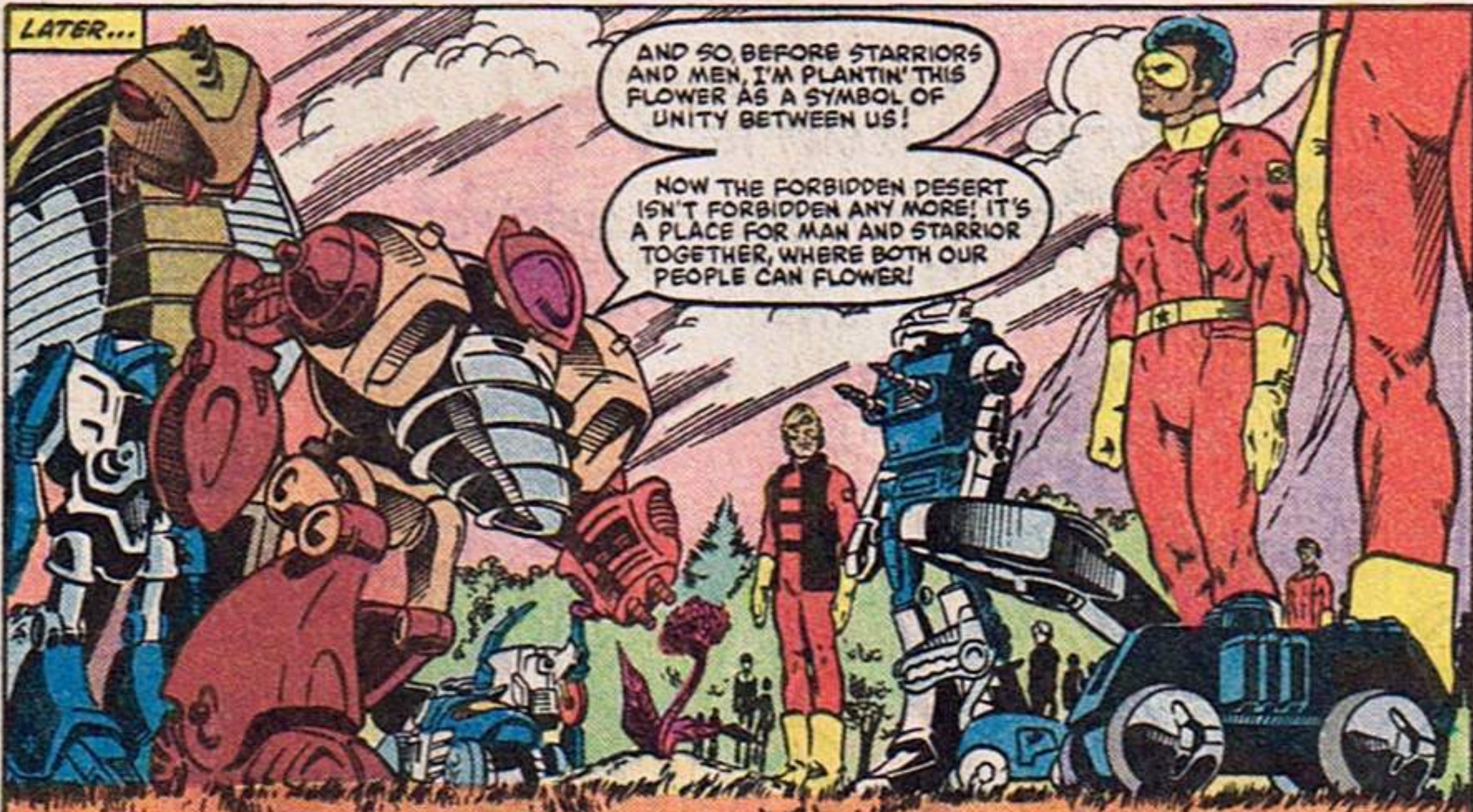
I THINK OUR OPENING THE VAULT TRIPPED A MECHANISM OF SOME KIND, CRANK...

... AND I THINK MAN IS WAKING UP!

BACK! ALL OF YOU GET BACK!

W-WHAT?

WELCOME, MAN! WELCOME TO... THE FUTURE!



LATER...

AND SO BEFORE STARRIORS AND MEN, I'M PLANTIN' THIS FLOWER AS A SYMBOL OF UNITY BETWEEN US!

NOW THE FORBIDDEN DESERT ISN'T FORBIDDEN ANY MORE! IT'S A PLACE FOR MAN AND STARRIOR TOGETHER, WHERE BOTH OUR PEOPLE CAN FLOWER!



YAAAAAY!

A GOOD SPEECH!

CRANK MEANT EVERY WORD OF IT!



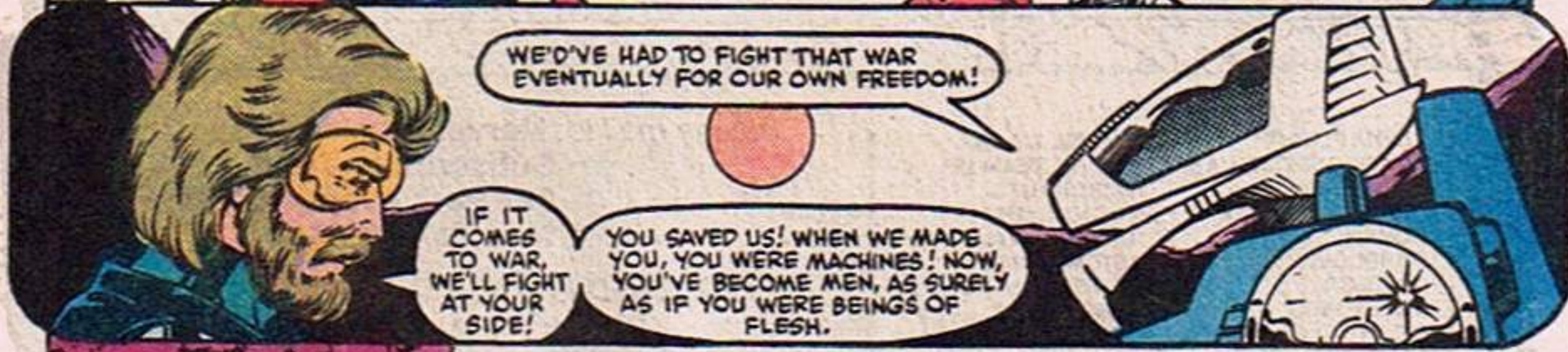
YOU SLEPT A LONG TIME!

AND WOULD STILL BE ASLEEP...OR WORSE... WERE IT NOT FOR YOU!



SLAUGHTER ESCAPED! HE'LL BE BACK, WITH ALL THE DESTRUCTORS NEXT TIME!

YOU WON A BATTLE TO AWAKEN US TODAY! WILL WE BE WORTH THE WAR THAT'S SURE TO FOLLOW?



WE'D'VE HAD TO FIGHT THAT WAR EVENTUALLY FOR OUR OWN FREEDOM!

IF IT COMES TO WAR, WE'LL FIGHT AT YOUR SIDE!

YOU SAVED US! WHEN WE MADE YOU, YOU WERE MACHINES! NOW, YOU'VE BECOME MEN, AS SURELY AS IF YOU WERE BEINGS OF FLESH.



YOU GAVE US LIFE! OF COURSE WE SAVED YOU! IT WAS A DEBT WE OWED!

IF IT WAS A DEBT, THEN IT HAS BEEN REPAID TEN TIMES OVER! TALK NO MORE OF DEBTS, HOTSHOT!

LET US TALK NOW OF THE BOND BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES!

THE BEGINNING!

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