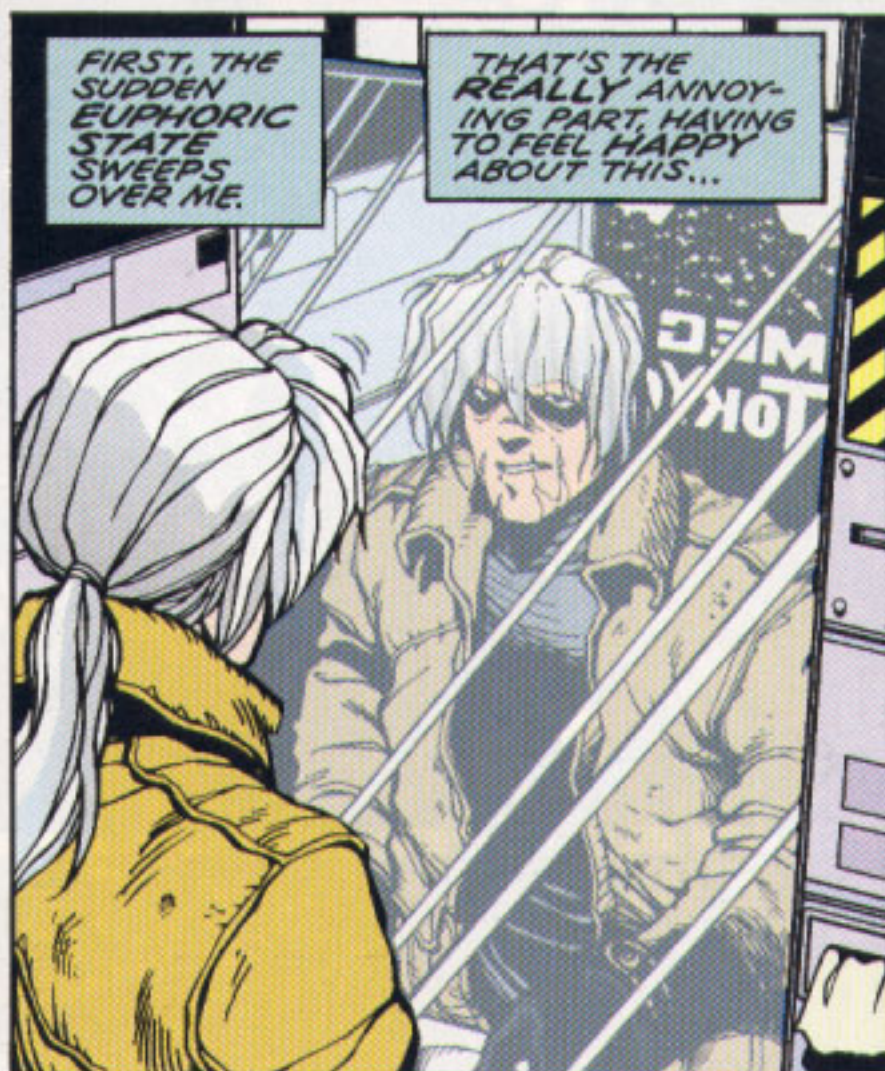
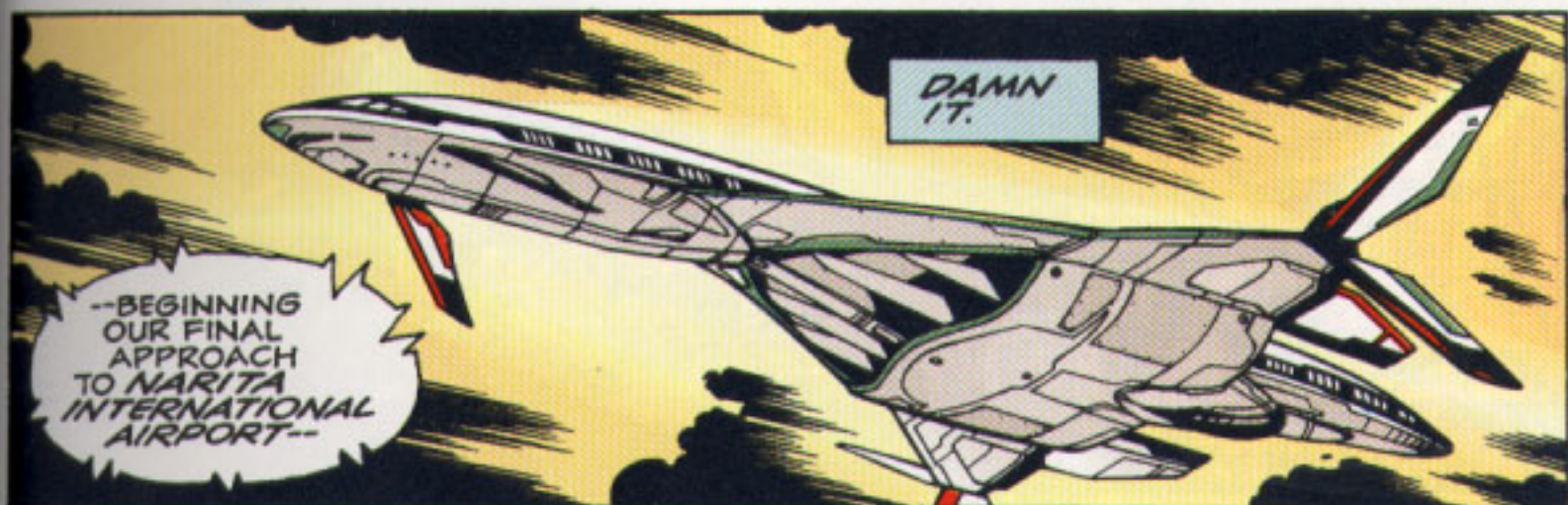


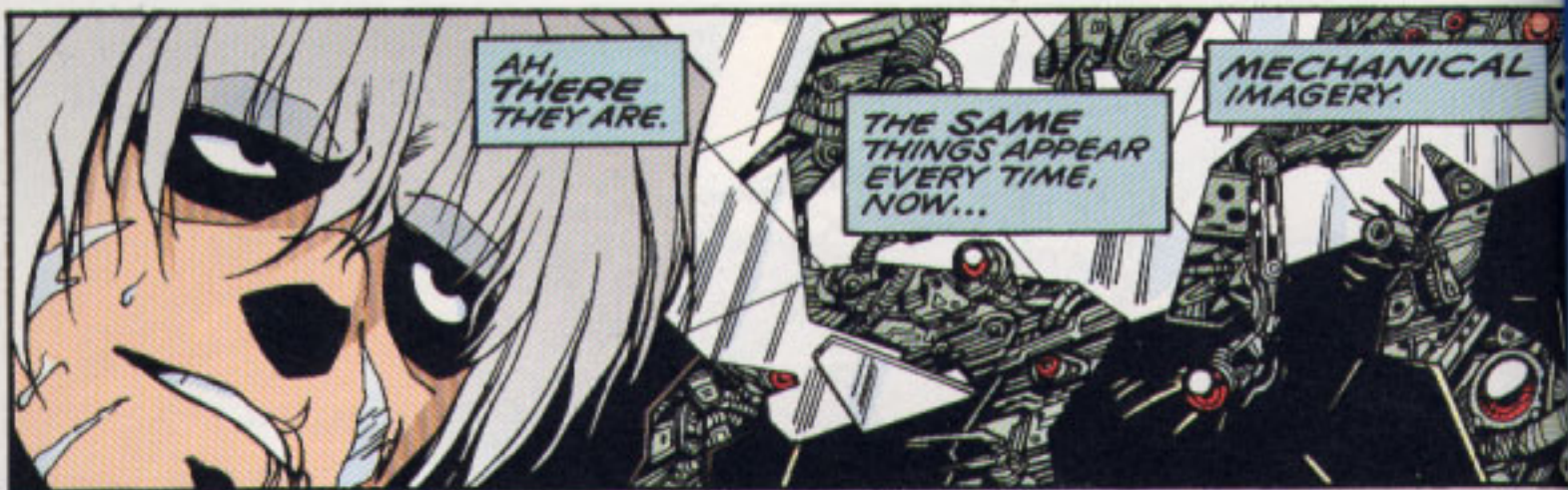
BUBBLEGUM CRISIS

GRAND
MAL



ADAM WARREN

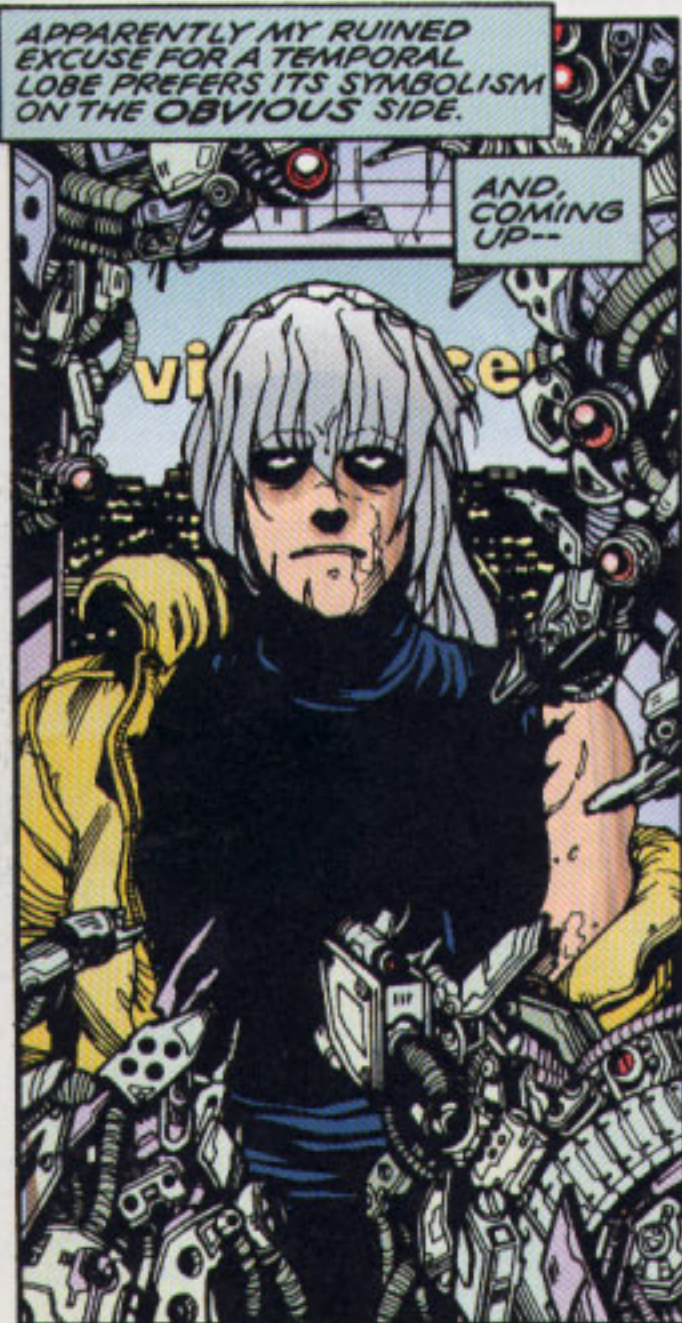




AH,
THERE
THEY ARE.

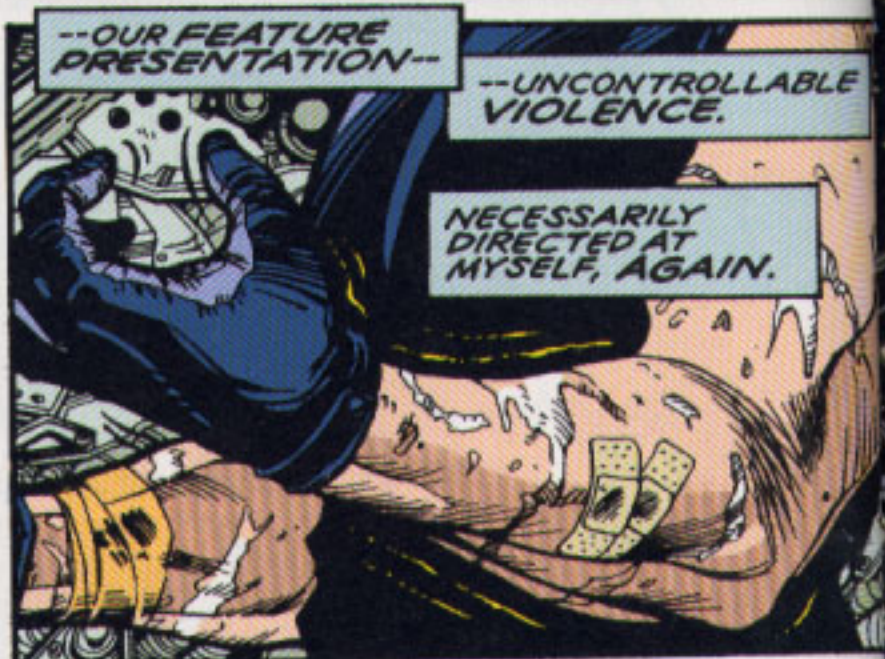
THE SAME
THINGS APPEAR
EVERY TIME,
NOW...

MECHANICAL
IMAGERY.



APPARENTLY MY RUINED
EXCUSE FOR A TEMPORAL
LOBE PREFERS ITS SYMBOLISM
ON THE OBVIOUS SIDE.

AND,
COMING
UP--



--OUR FEATURE
PRESENTATION--

--UNCONTROLLABLE
VIOLENCE.

NECESSARILY
DIRECTED AT
MYSELF, AGAIN.



HOPE THIS
TIME WON'T
BE TOO
DAMAGING...

I'M RUNNING OUT OF
PIECES OF MYSELF
TO SACRIFICE.



WELL, HERE
IT COMES.

WHAT
BETTER
WAY--

--TO CELEBRATE MY
TRIUMPHANT
RETURN TO
MEGATOKYO--?

A.D. 2031

AUDIO SAMPLES:

"MEGATOKYO!"

"A PROUD PHOENIX
RISING TRIUMPHANT
FROM THE ASHES OF THE
2025 GREAT KANTO
EARTHQUAKE--"

--GREATER TOKYO
BOARD OF TOURISM

"OH, WORLD'S LARGEST
COMPANY TOWN--"

"A CRIPPLED WHORE,
PROSTRATE AT THE FEET
OF MASTER GENOM--"

"YOUR STREETS CHOKED
WITH GENOM'S GAIJIN
AND GENOM'S BOOMERS--"
--SASANISHIKI AKIRA,
"STREET POET"

"BIG CITY"
--PRISS (retro-
thrash rock singer)

VIDEO
SAMPLE

--INITIAL 7.9
TREMBLOR ONLY
KILLED SAY, EIGHTY
OR NINETY THOUSAND
OUTRIGHT--

--BUT
THESE
FIRES--!!

WE'RE TALKING
SIX FIGURE
CASUALTIES, OR
EVEN SEVEN
FIGURE--

"TOKYO HOLOCAUST
IGNITES DOMESTIC AND
WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC
FIRESTORM--"

--UNIVERSAL MEDIA
NETWEB (BUSINESS)

"--GENOM CORPORATION
HAS EMERGED AS A MAJOR
PLAYER IN THE CHAOTIC
AFTERMATH--"

--BBC BUSINESS UPDATE



--LET
GENOM BRING
IN FOREIGN-
ERS--

--OR
EVEN THESE
BOOMER
THINGS--!

WE NEED
HELP
HERE--

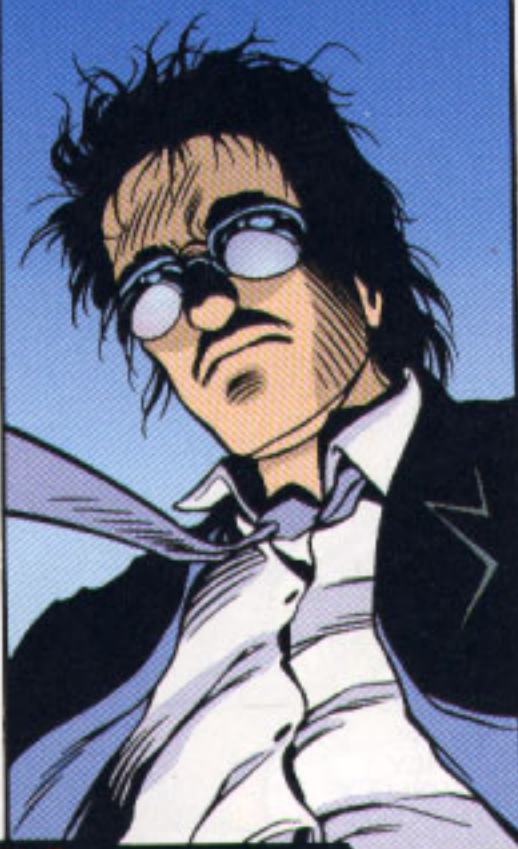
VIDEO
SAMPLE

"GENOM
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION
SPEARHEADS
RECONSTRUCTION
EFFORT."--BEIJING
BUSINESS JOURNAL

"AFTER
PREYING
ON THE
REELING
GIANTS OF
CORPORATE
JAPAN--"

"GENOM TARGETS
PREY OVERSEAS."
--COMMERCE
NEWS SERVICE

"WHO THE HELL
IS GENOM?"
--U.S. PRESIDENT
DEIRDRE SHAN



VIDEO SAMPLE

IN ORDER
TO ACCELERATE
OUR **URBAN**
RECLAMATION
PROJECTS--

--NOT TO
MENTION THE
COMPLETION
OF OUR
GENOM
TOWER
ARCOLO-
GY--

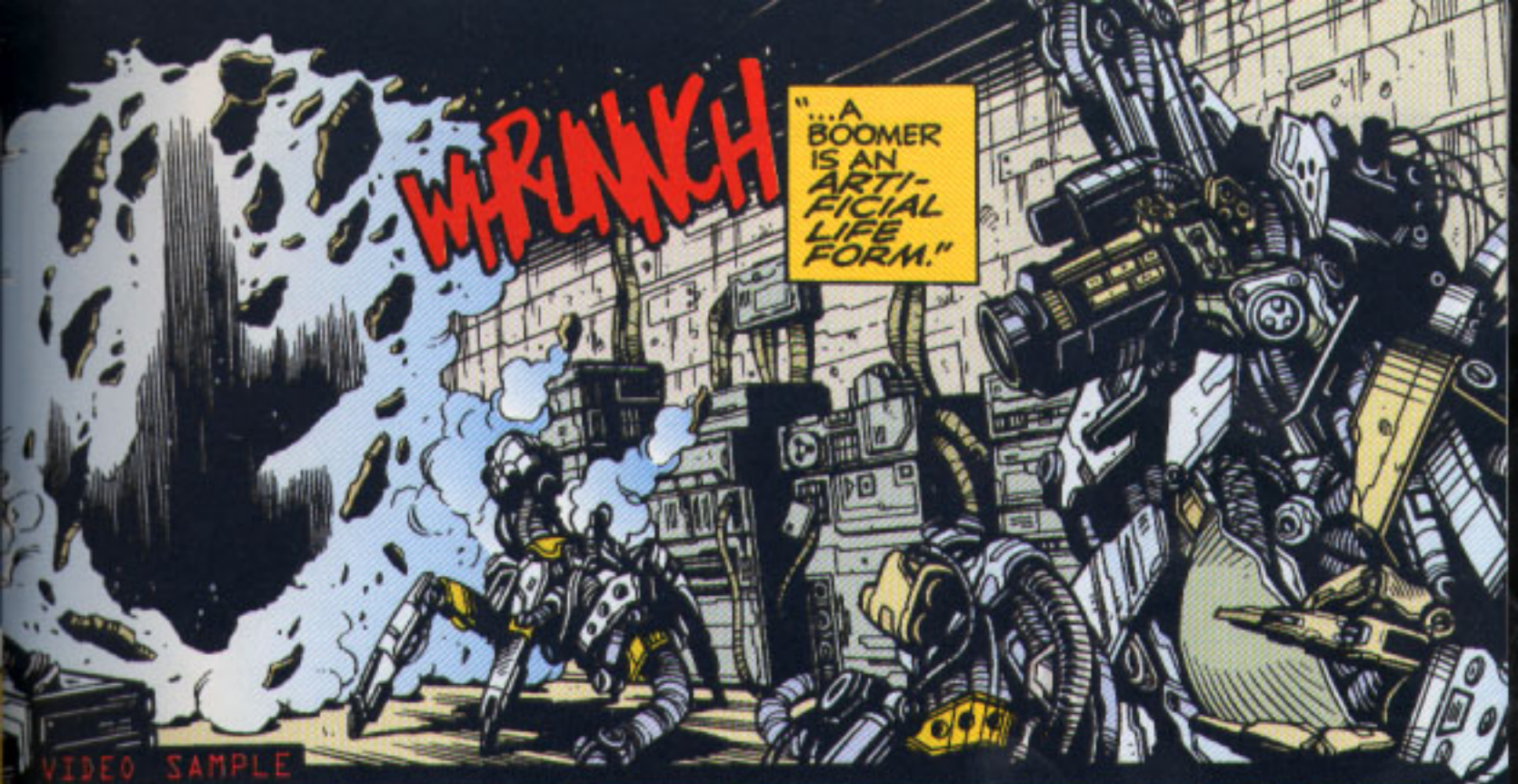
--WE'RE PLANNING
LIMITED USAGE OF
OUR **BEST-
KNOWN** PROD-
UCT--

--THE
BOOMER.

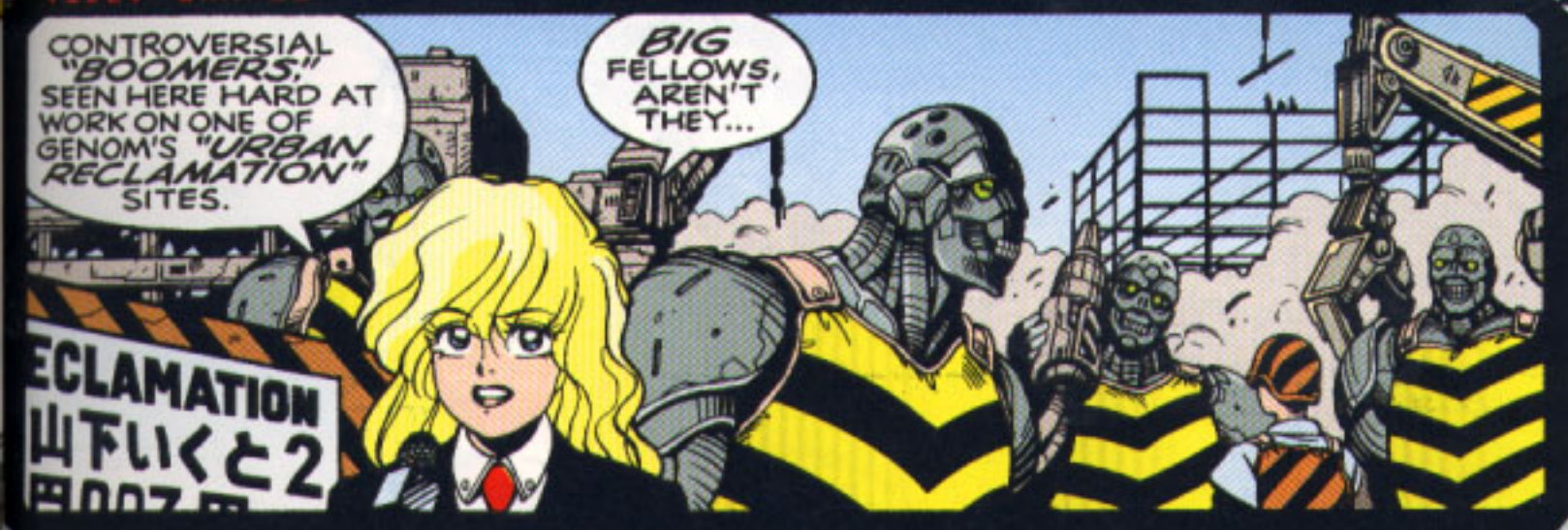
"WHAT'S A **BOOMER**,
MOMMY?"



"WELL,
HONEY..."



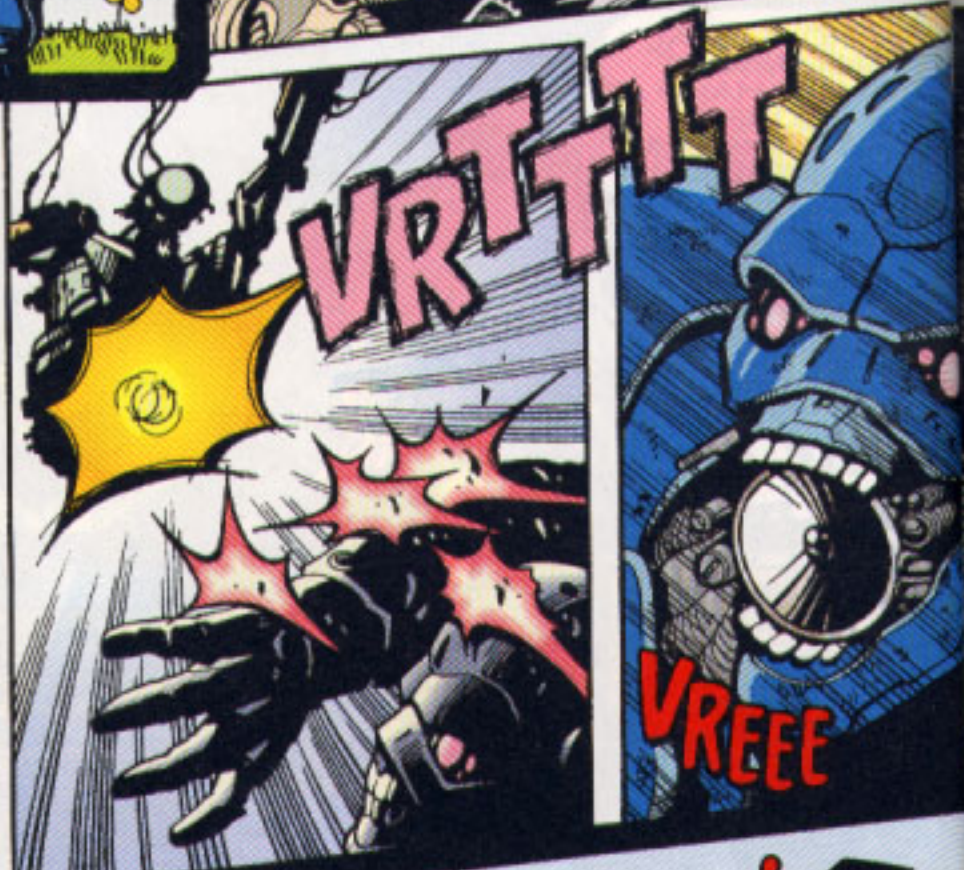
VIDEO SAMPLE



VIDEO SAMPLE

BOOMERS
AND YOU--

--A WINNING
COMBINATION
FOR A *SAFE*
FUTURE!



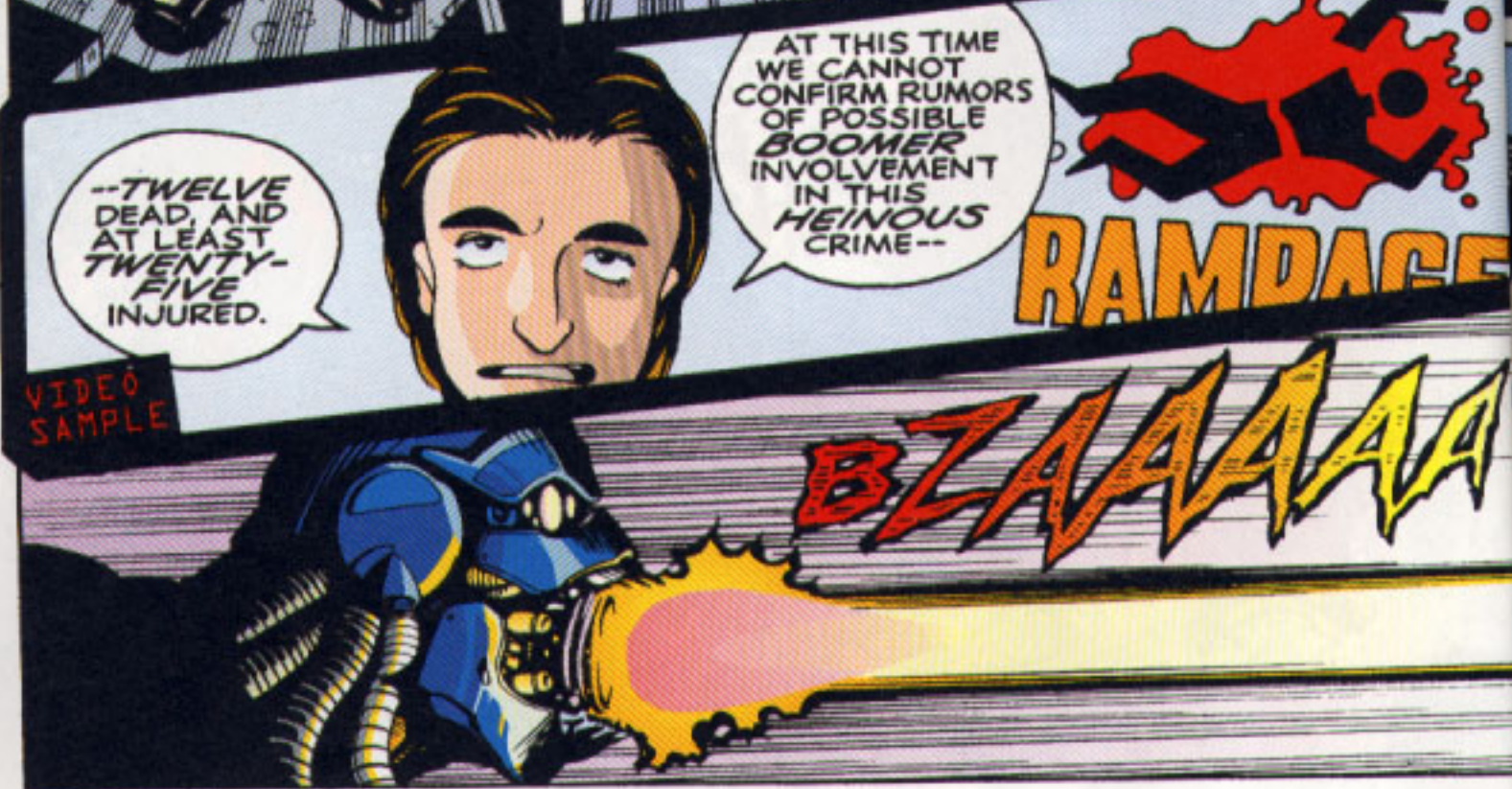
--TWELVE
DEAD, AND
AT LEAST
TWENTY-
FIVE
INJURED.

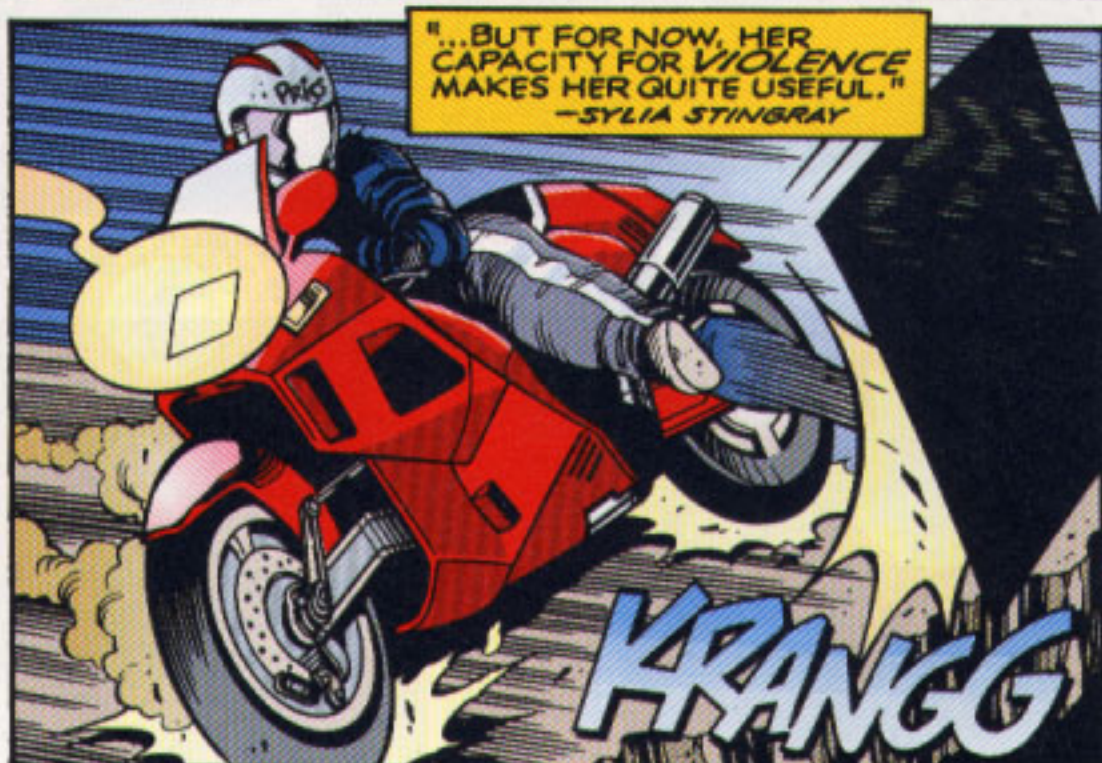
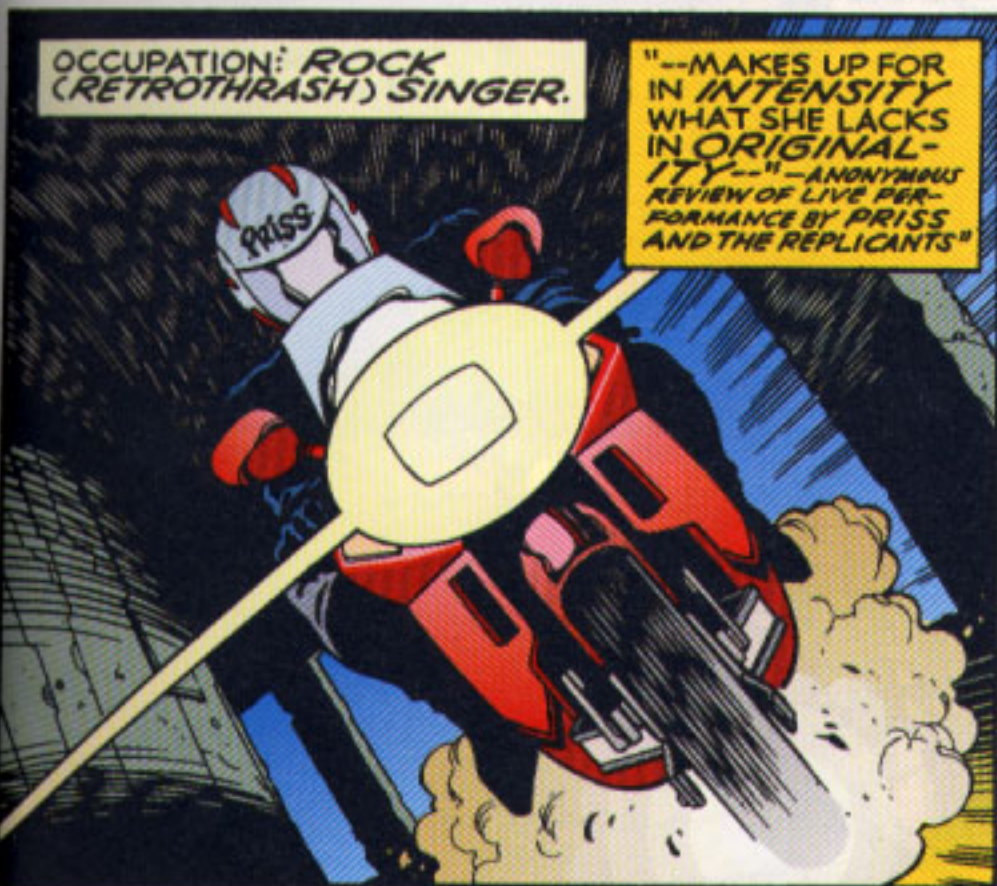
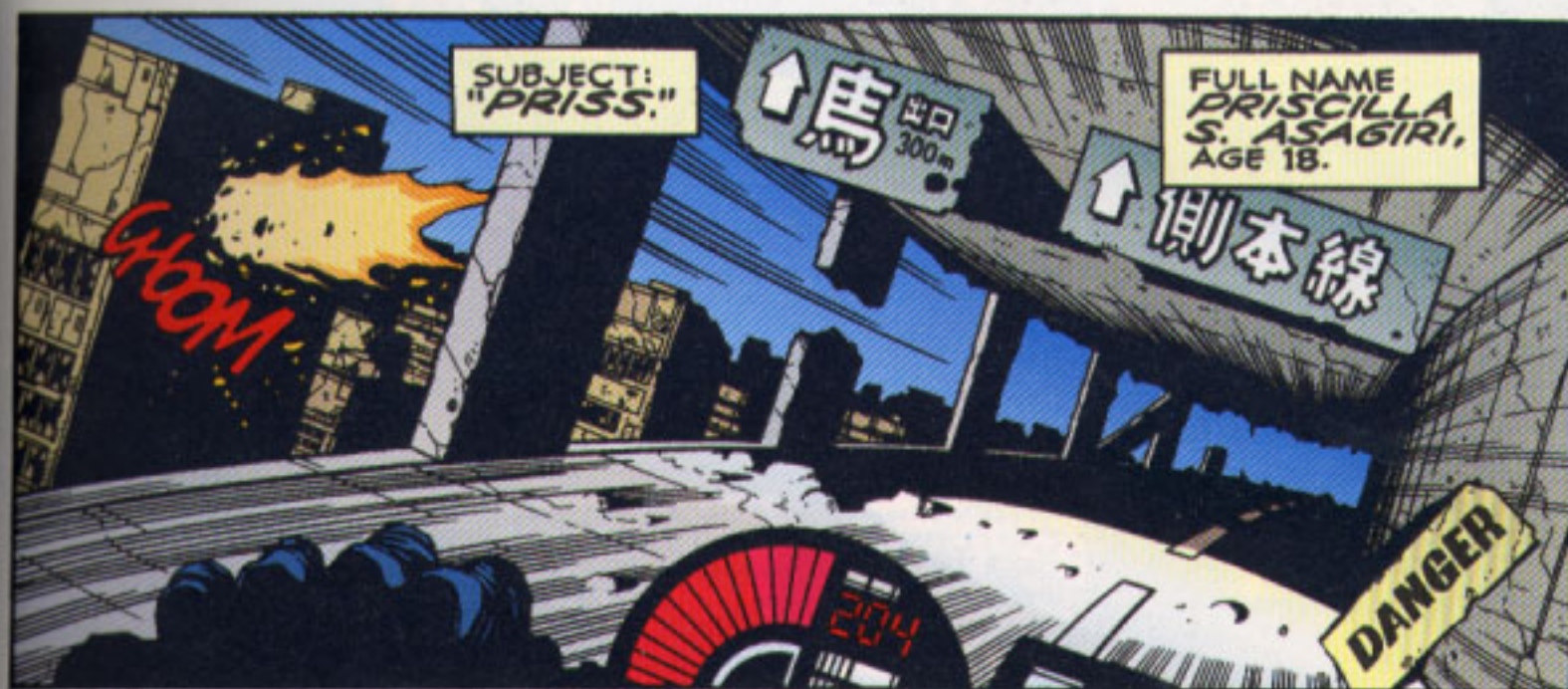
AT THIS TIME
WE CANNOT
CONFIRM RUMORS
OF POSSIBLE
BOOMER
INVOLVEMENT
IN THIS
HEINOUS
CRIME--

RAMDACE

VIDEO
SAMPLE

BZAAAAA





"--WHAT, IF I DON'T
THINK GENOM
IS 'ALL-GOOD
AND DESERVING OF
ALL MY LOVE'--"

"--AND
SAY SO--"

"--THEN PEOPLE
SAY I'M 'TOO
POLITICAL'?"

"THEY
CAN JUST
GO TO
HELL--"

--PRISS,
IN INTERVIEW
WITH
WJLEMAC
MUSIC 'ZINE

VIDEO SAMPLE

C'MON, PRISS,
YOU RAGE-
AHOLIC...!

DO SOMETHING
ANGRY AND
UNHINGED!

VIDEO SAMPLE

SHOW
US WHAT
A WILD
REBEL
YOU
ARE!

THAT'S
MORE
LIKE IT--

EXCERPT FROM COUNSEL-
ING SESSION (MANDATED
BY PLEA BARGAIN ON
ASSAULT CHARGES):

THERAPIST: "THAT'S QUITE A LOAD
OF UNHEALTHY ANGER YOU'RE
CARRYING THERE, PRISS..."

PRISS:
">BLEEP<"

EXCERPT FROM CONVERSATION
RECORDED BETWEEN
AD POLICE OFFICERS:

"HEY
LEON..."

"...CHECK
THIS
OUT."

DISCTEK HR-120
HIGH DENSITY
OPTICAL-STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

"WE GOT SIGHTINGS
OF, QUOTE, 'WEIRD
MECHS' IN THE RE-
CLAMATION ZONES."

"WHAT, SOME NEW
TYPE OF BOOMER?"

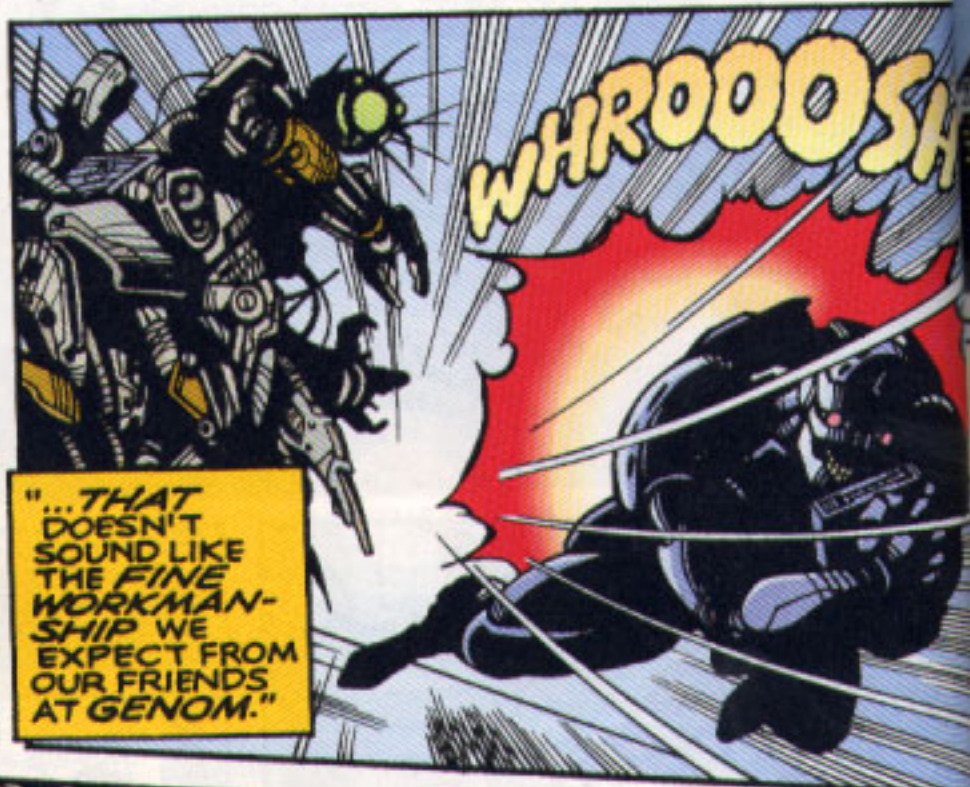
"NAH,
DON'T
THINK
SO..."

"THESE THINGS'RE
SUPPOSED TO
LOOK KIND OF
JURY-RIGGED..."

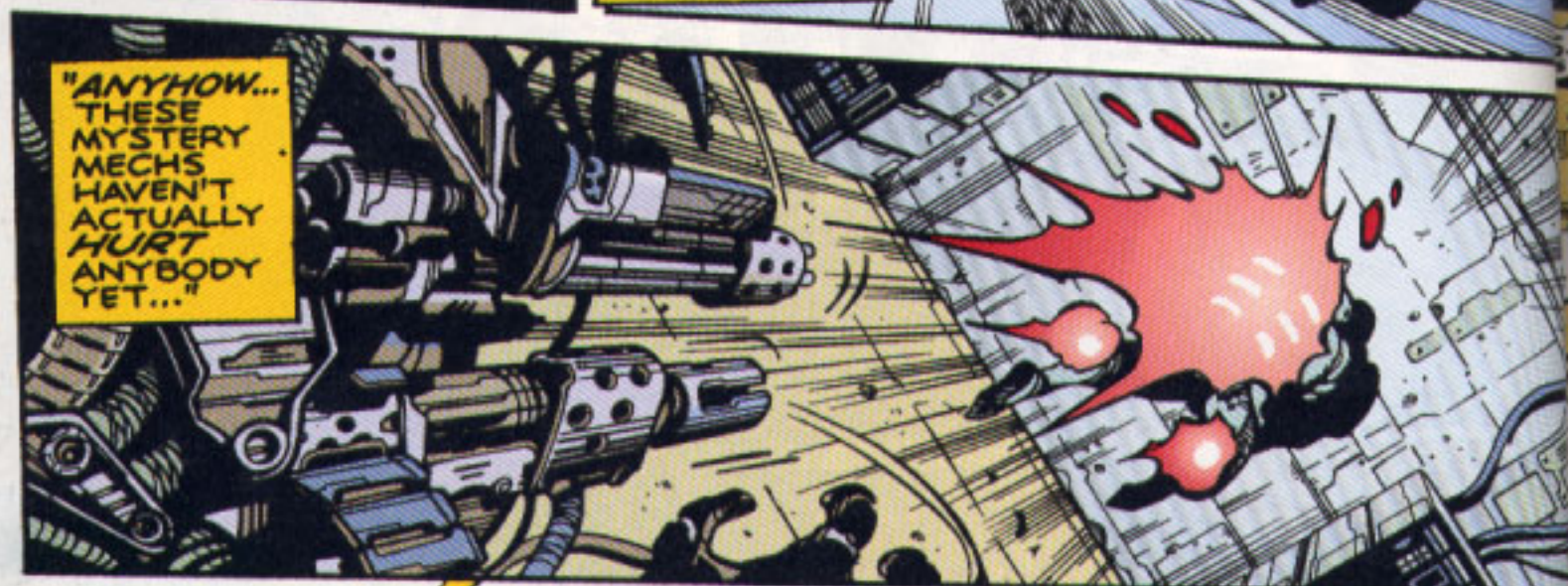
"...Y'KNOW,
PIECED
TOGETHER."



"WELL,
NOW..."



"...THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND LIKE
THE FINE
WORKMAN-
SHIP WE
EXPECT FROM
OUR FRIENDS
AT GENOM."

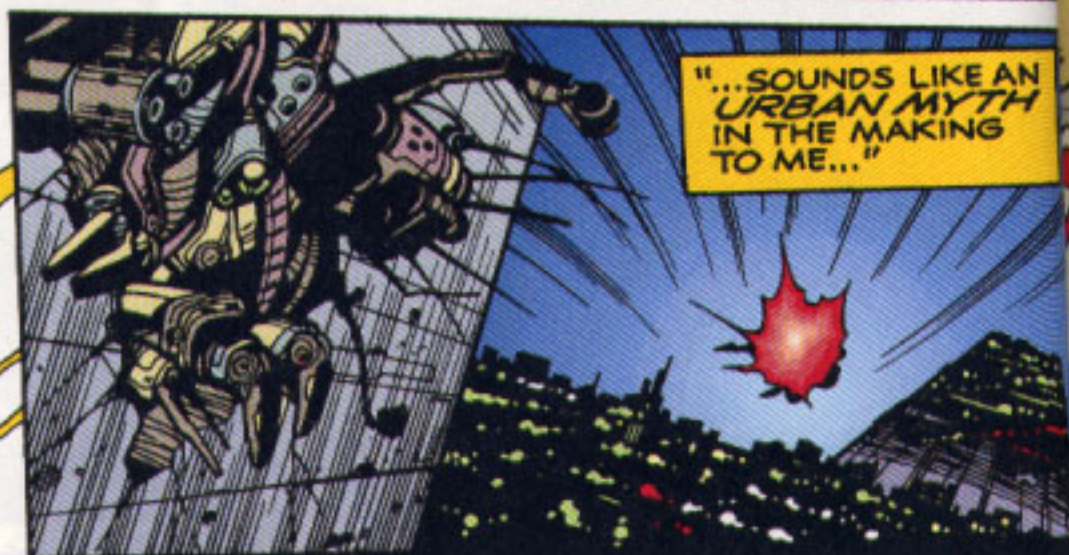


"ANYHOW...
THESE
MYSTERY
MECHS
HAVEN'T
ACTUALLY
HURT
ANYBODY
YET..."



"...THEY'RE JUST
SPOOKING
THE FAIR
CITIZENS A
LITTLE."

"HUH..."



"...SOUNDS LIKE AN
URBAN MYTH
IN THE MAKING
TO ME..."

VIDEO SAMPLE



AS YOU
CAN SEE,
GENERAL--*

--TODAY'S
COMBAT
BOOMER
WORKS
HARDER
FOR YOU--

*TRANSLATED FROM UKRAINIAN



SUBJECT:
**SYLIA
STINGRAY,**
AGE 21.



OFFICIAL RECORDS,
BIRTH TO AGE 15,
LOST IN 2025
EARTHQUAKE.

OCCUPATION
LISTED AS
"OWNER/OPERATOR,
'SILKY DOLL'
LINGERIE SHOP"
ON 2030 INCOME
TAX RETURN.

KONYA
WA
"HURRICANE"



CONTROLS SUBSTANTIAL
FINANCIAL AND REAL
ESTATE HOLDINGS--

--NOT
DETAILED
ON 2030
INCOME TAX
RETURN.

MÔ ICHIDO
"HURRICANE"

HEY,
SIS--



THESE
MOTOROID
SENSOR
SUITS
GOT MESS'D
UP IN TRAN-
SIT...!

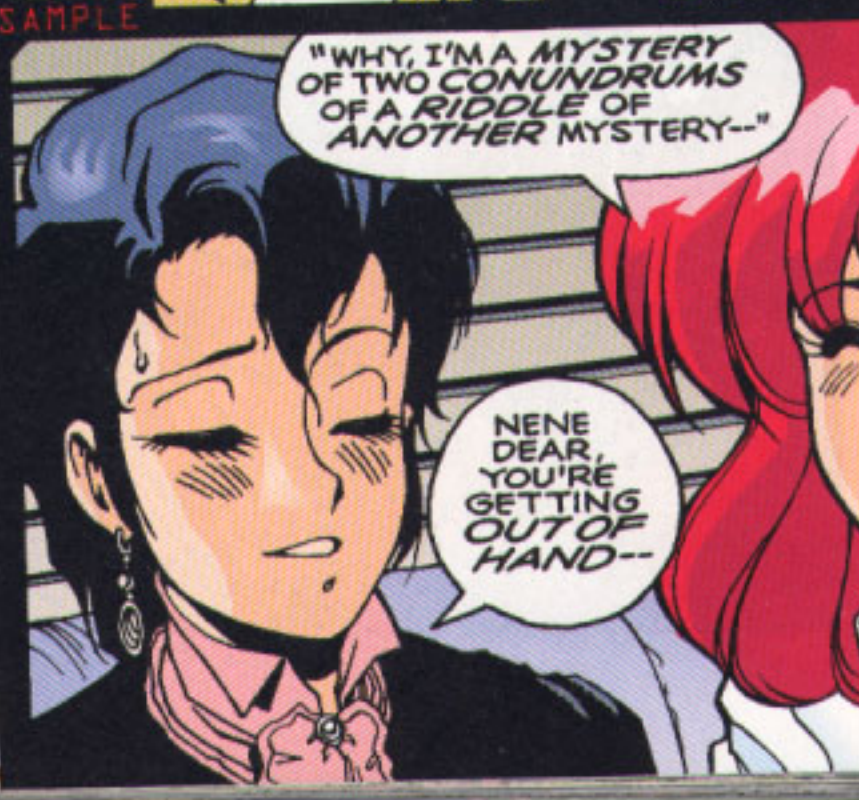
IT'LL TAKE A
DAY OR TWO TO
RECALIBRATE
'EM...

FINE,
MACKIE.



--GET A CLOSE-UP
ON SYLIA HERE,
MACKIE--!

"HI! I'M OL'
ENIGMATIC
SYLIA!"



"WHY, I'M A MYSTERY
OF TWO CONUNDRUMS
OF A RIDDLE OF
ANOTHER MYSTERY--"

NENE
DEAR,
YOU'RE
GETTING
OUT OF
HAND--



VIDEO SAMPLE

--CREATOR OF SO-CALLED "BOOMER TECHNOLOGY," DR. STINGRAY WAS SLAIN TODAY IN--

--BOOMER'S IN FLIGHT--

--HEADED OUT OF RECLAMATION ZONE EIGHT--

THE BOOMER'S GOING INTO A POPULATED AREA--

--DAMN IT--!

--BETTER WHISTLE UP THE GUNSHIPS, DISPATCH--

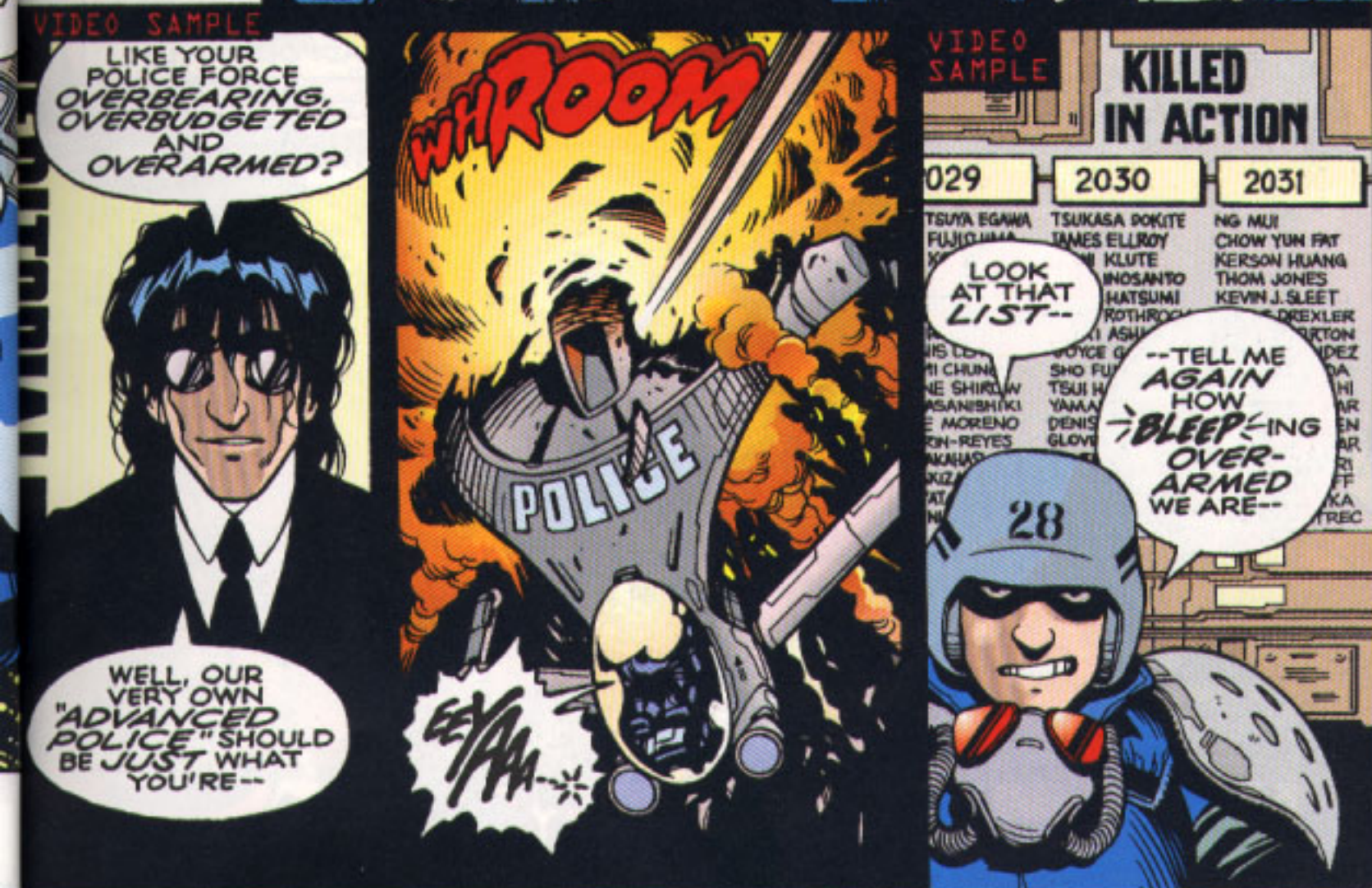
VIDEO SAMPLE

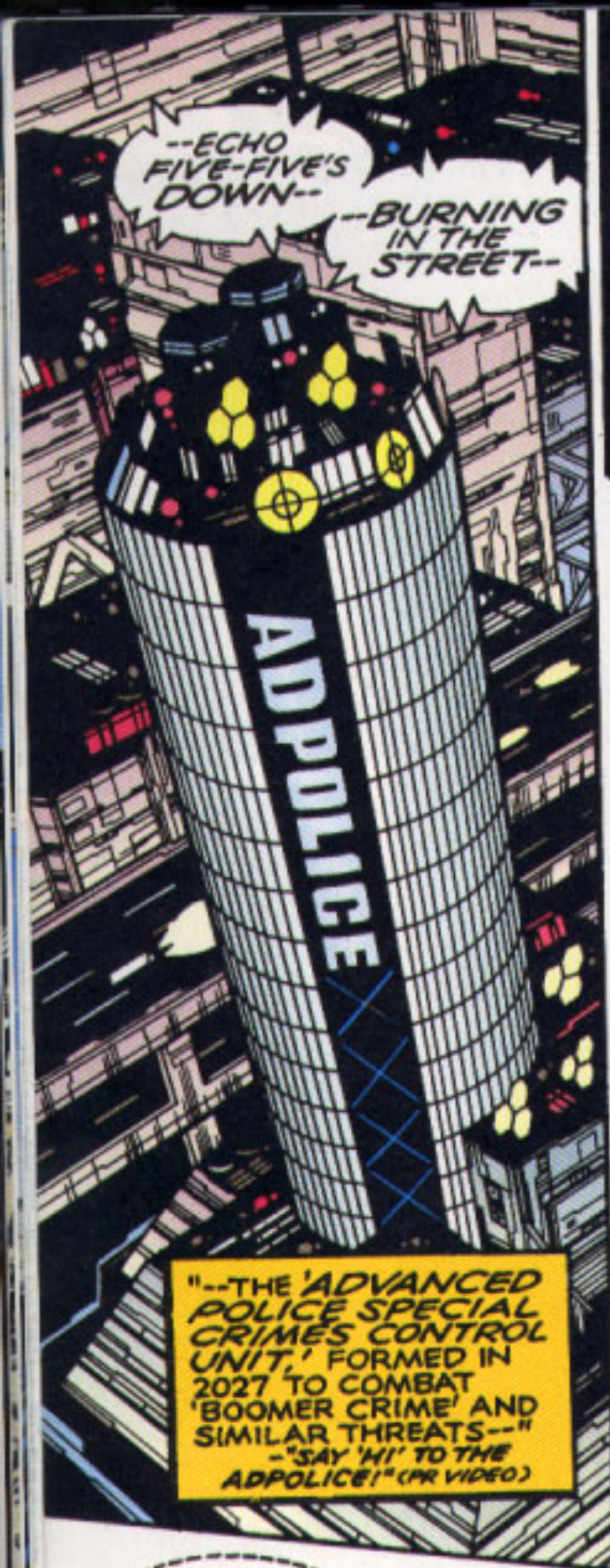
--SURVIVED BY DAUGHTER SYLIA, TWELVE, AND SON MACKIE, FIVE--

--THIS IS GONNA GET UGLY--

GET THE TRUCK, MACKIE.

I'LL CONTACT THE OTHERS--





--ECHO FIVE-FIVE'S DOWN--

--BURNING IN THE STREET--

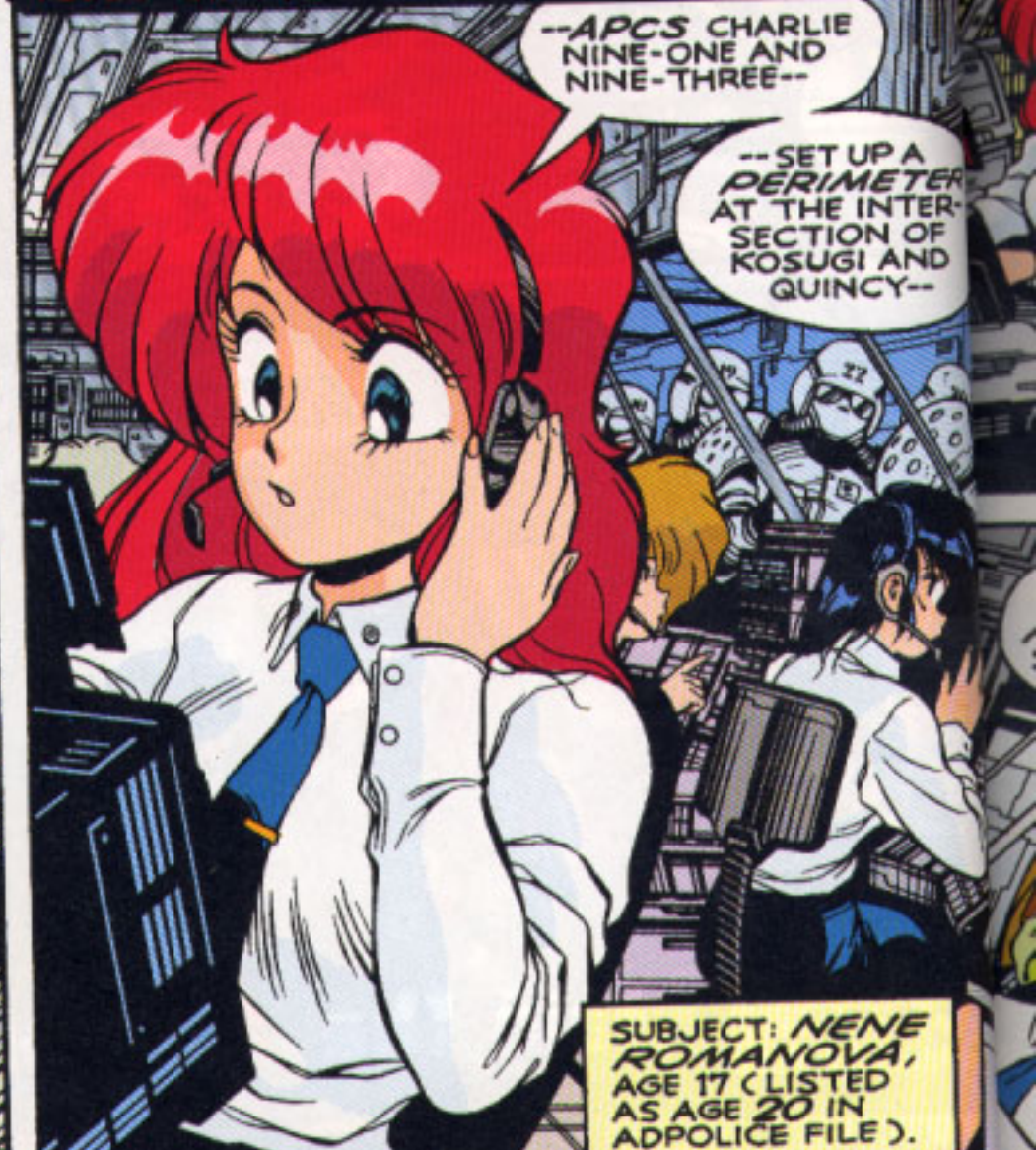
"--THE 'ADVANCED POLICE SPECIAL CRIMES CONTROL UNIT,' FORMED IN 2027 TO COMBAT 'BOOMER CRIME' AND SIMILAR THREATS--"
--"SAY 'HI' TO THE ADPOLICE!" (PR VIDEO)--



--TO TAG SQUADS, FROM GUNSHIP PILOTS TO DISPATCHERS--

--WE'RE ALL PULLING TOGETHER FOR YOUR SAFETY!

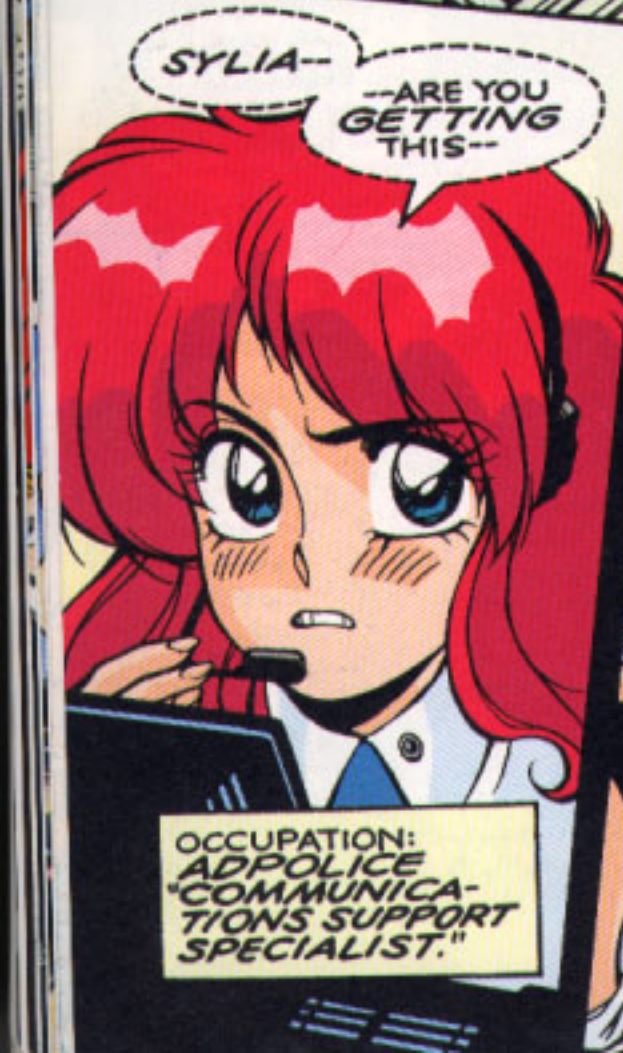
VIDEO SAMPLE



--APCS CHARLIE NINE-ONE AND NINE-THREE--

--SET UP A PERIMETER AT THE INTERSECTION OF KOSUGI AND QUINCY--

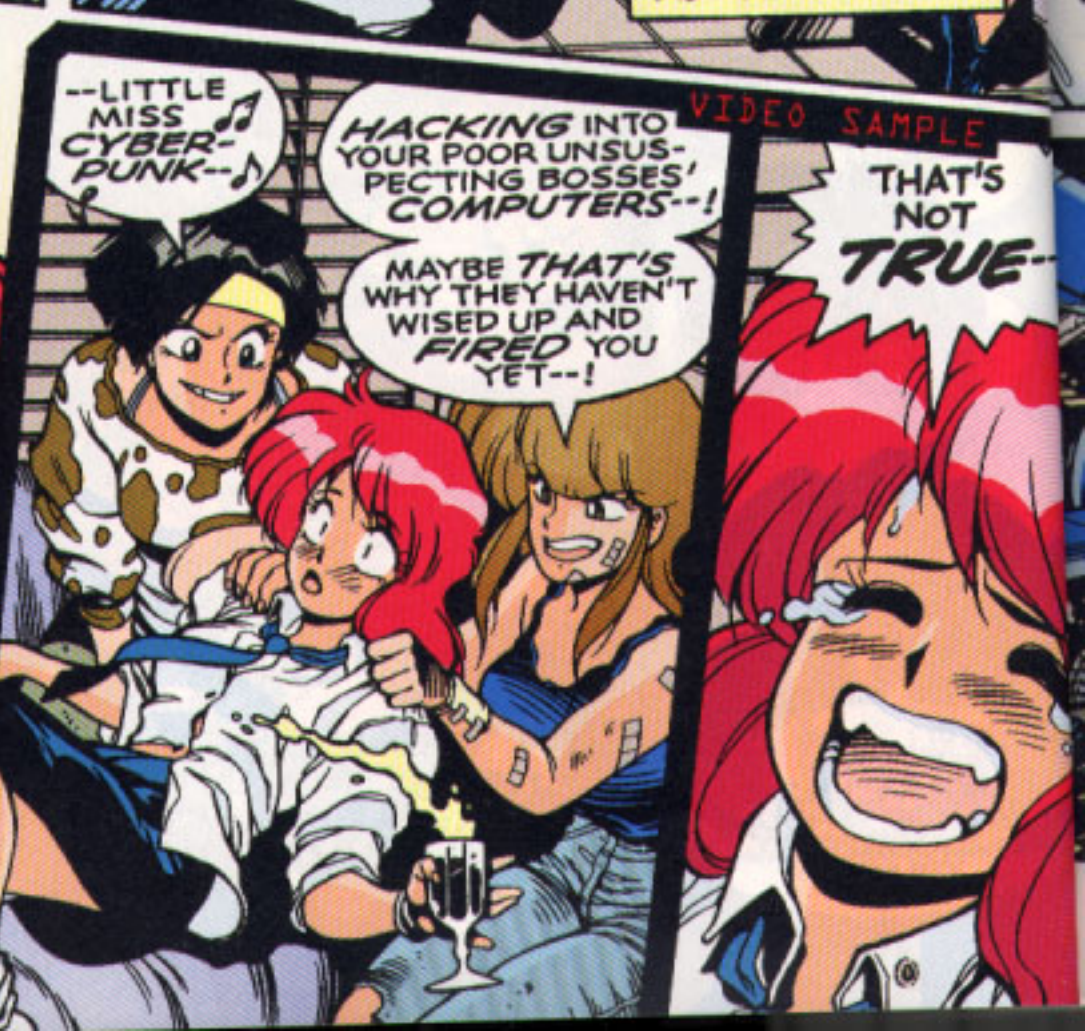
SUBJECT: NENE ROMANOVA, AGE 17 (LISTED AS AGE 20 IN ADPOLICE FILE).



SYLIA--

--ARE YOU GETTING THIS--

OCCUPATION: ADPOLICE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT SPECIALIST."



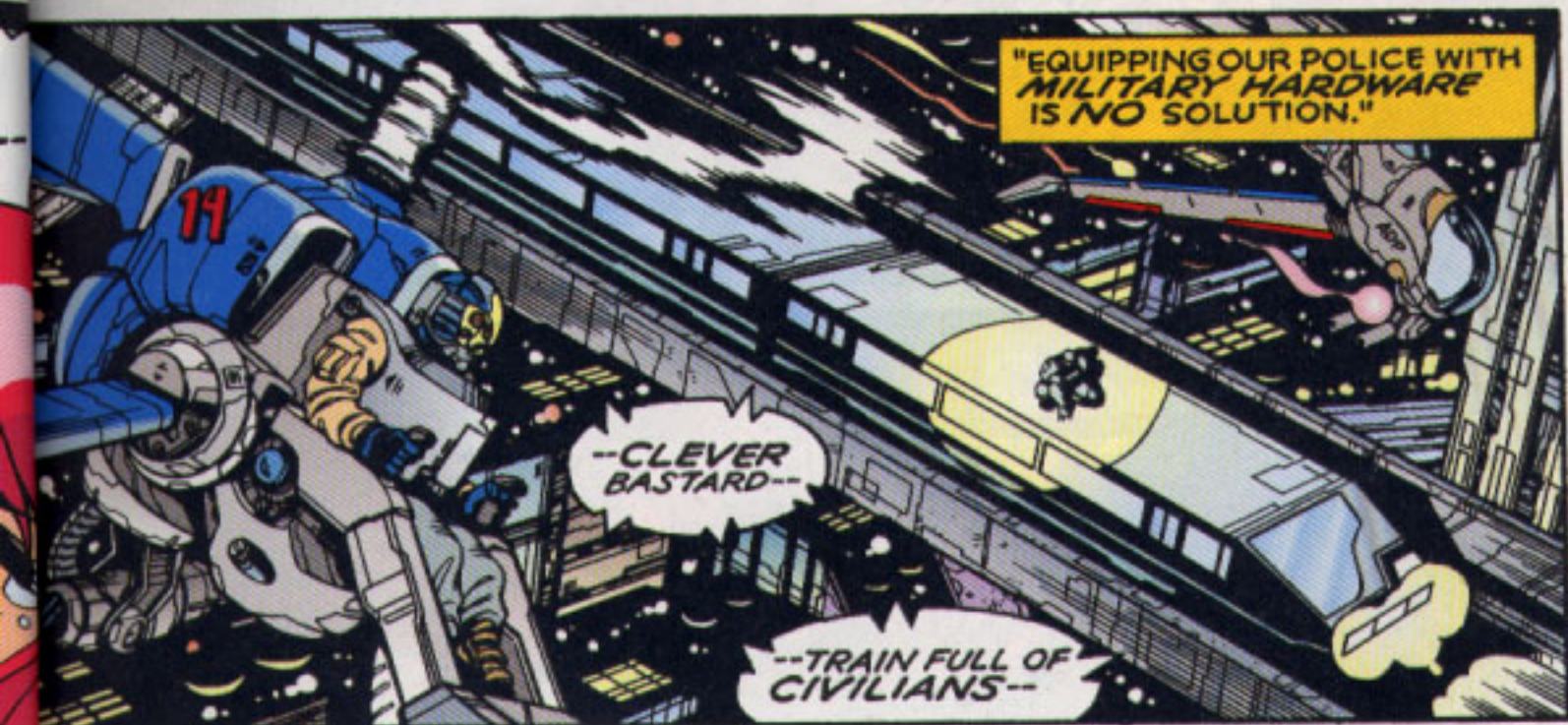
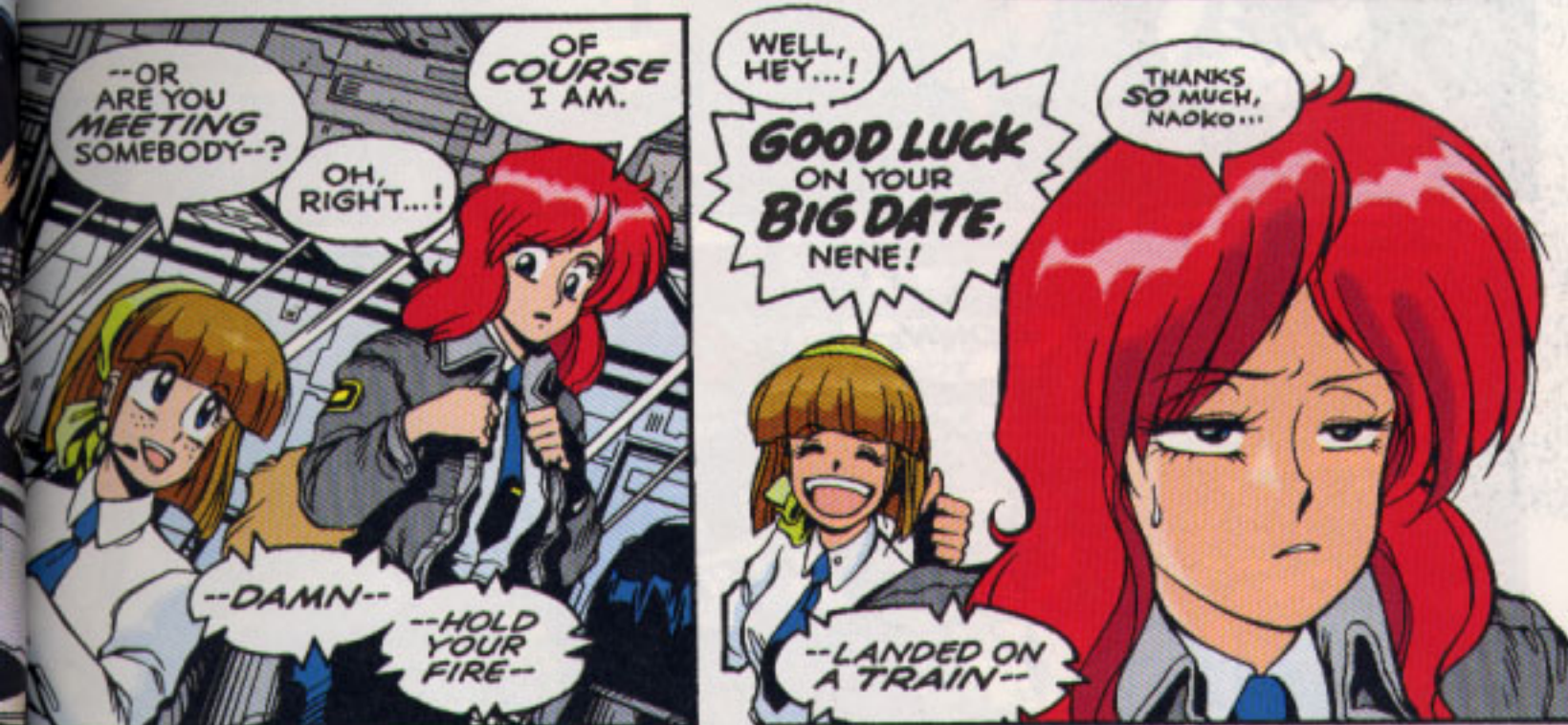
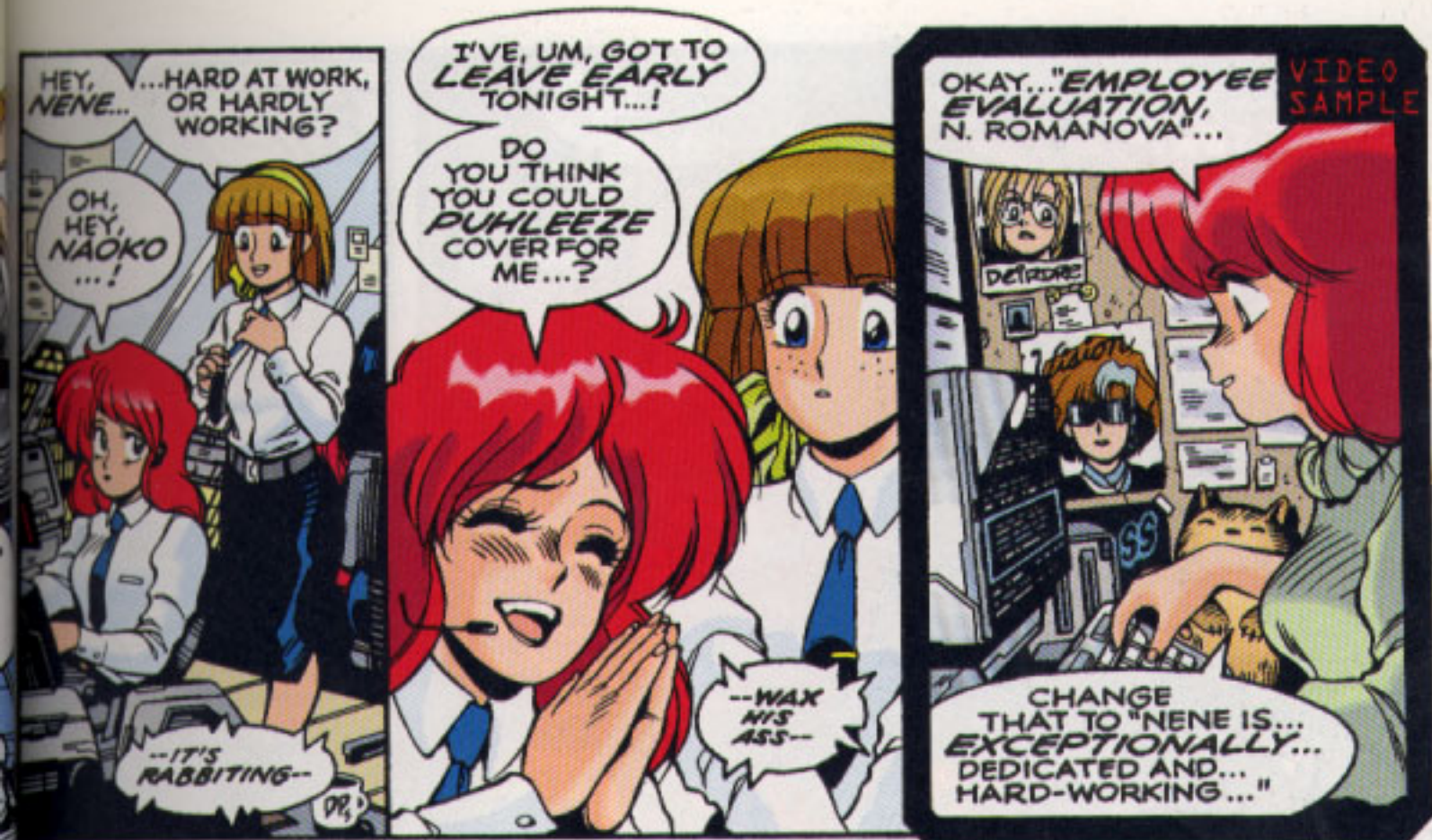
--LITTLE MISS CYBER-PUNK--

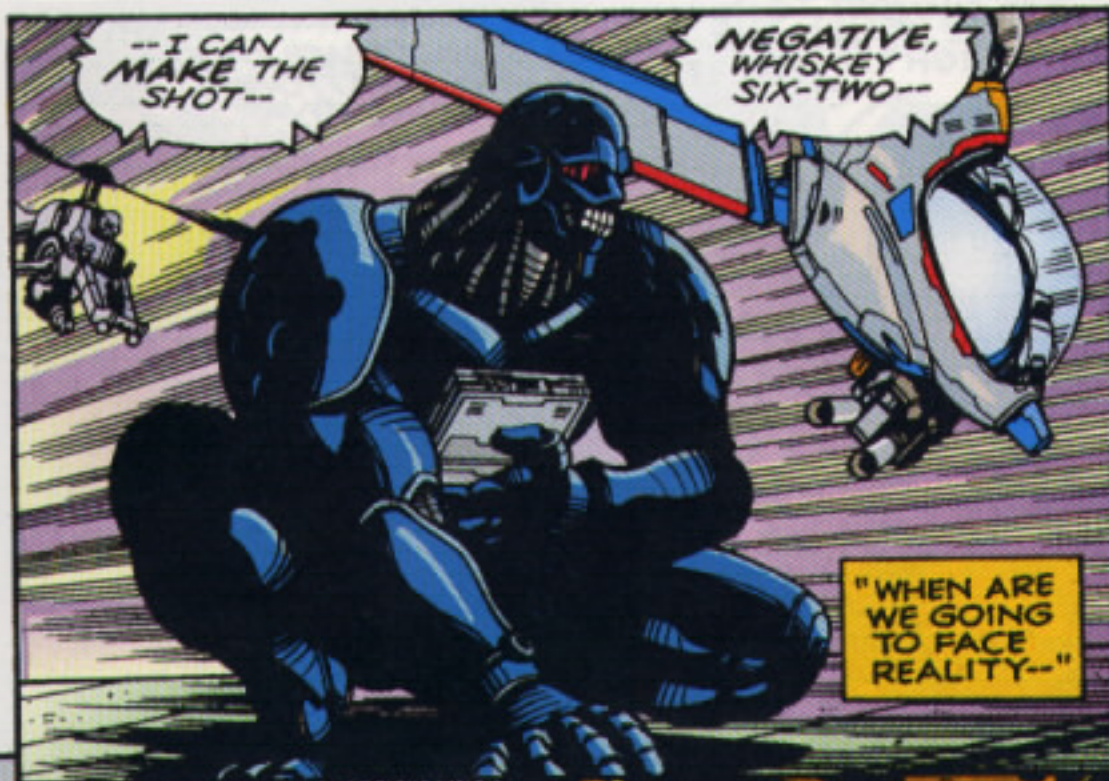
HACKING INTO YOUR POOR UNSUSPECTING BOSSES' COMPUTERS--!

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY HAVEN'T WISED UP AND FIRED YOU YET--!

VIDEO SAMPLE

THAT'S NOT TRUE--





--I CAN
MAKE THE
SHOT--

NEGATIVE,
WHISKEY
SIX-TWO--

"WHEN ARE
WE GOING
TO FACE
REALITY--"



--LOOK
OUT--

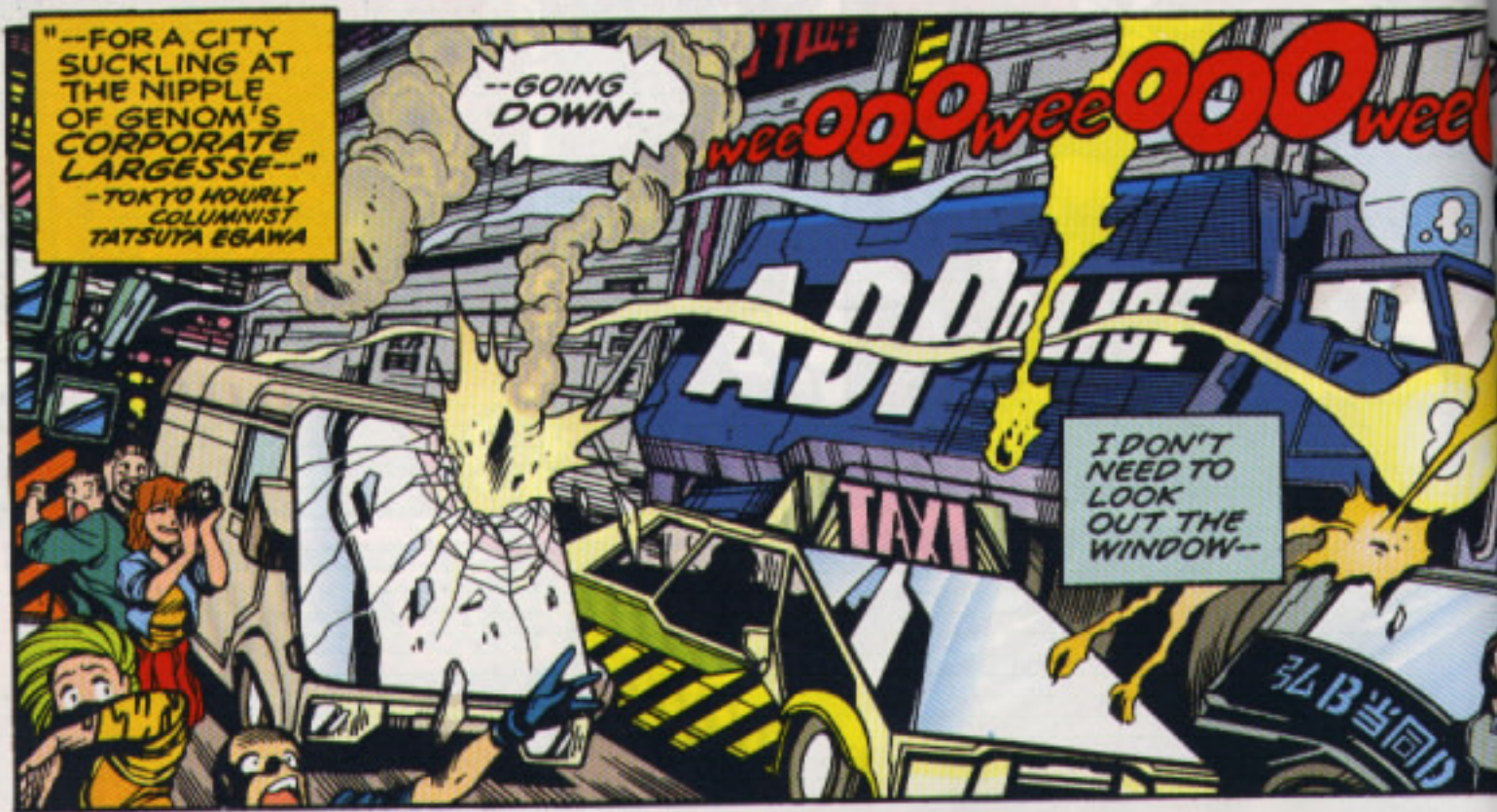
"--AND DEMAND THAT
GENOM PUT AN
END TO THE
BOOMER PROBLEM?"



--I'M
HIT--

WHOOM

"PERHAPS
THAT'S TOO
DARING--"



"--FOR A CITY
SUCKLING AT
THE NIPPLE
OF GENOM'S
CORPORATE
LARGESSE--"
--TOKYO HOURLY
COLUMNIST
TATSUTA EGAWA

--GOING
DOWN--

wee000wee000wee

I DON'T
NEED TO
LOOK
OUT THE
WINDOW--



--TO KNOW A BOOMER IS
CAPERING ABOUT UP THERE.

AND I REALLY
DON'T NEED TO
SEE ONE JUST YET.

YOUR FARE IS:

0005

YEN

wee000wee000wee



I'LL BE
RUNNING
INTO
BOOMERS
AGAIN
SOON
ENOUGH--

PHITNESS
utopia

SUBJECT:
LINNA
YAMAZAKI,
AGE 19.



OCCUPATION:
FITNESS
INSTRUCTOR.

PLACED SECOND,
WOMENS' DIVISION,
IN OPEN TAI CHI
CHUAN FORMS
COMPETITION AT
2029 WORLD
KUOSHO
TOURNAMENT.

WON TITLE OF
TOHATO™
"ALL-RAISIN
PRINCESS"
IN 2027
"ALL-RAISIN
BEAUTY
PAGEANT."

YANG-ST
TAI CHI

TAI
CHUAN
FORMS

CHOU
FUT

JEET
KUNE DO



VIDEO
SAMPLE

OH, YEAH--!

TEACHING
TAI CHI AND
STEP TRAINING
TO A BUNCH OF
FLAB-OIDS--!

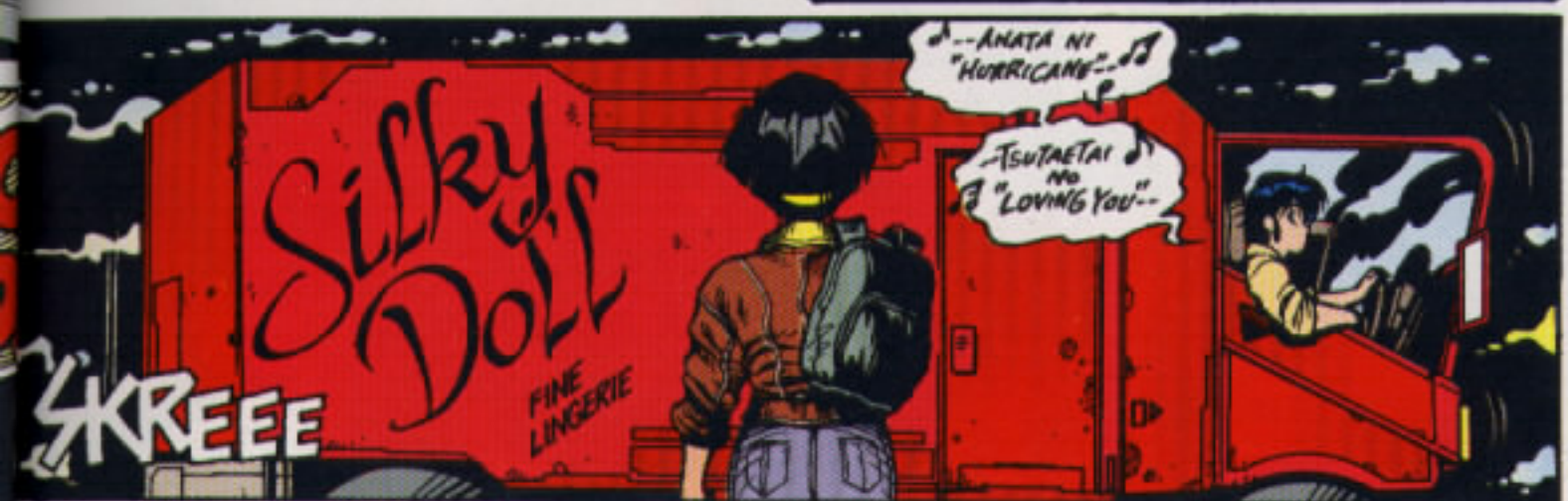
THAT'S A
FULFILLING
CAREER,
ALL RIGHT--



VIDEO
SAMPLE

HEY, AT LEAST
I'M NOT
TOTALLY USE-
LESS IN A
FIGHT!

AND
SPEAKING
OF FLAB-
OIDS--

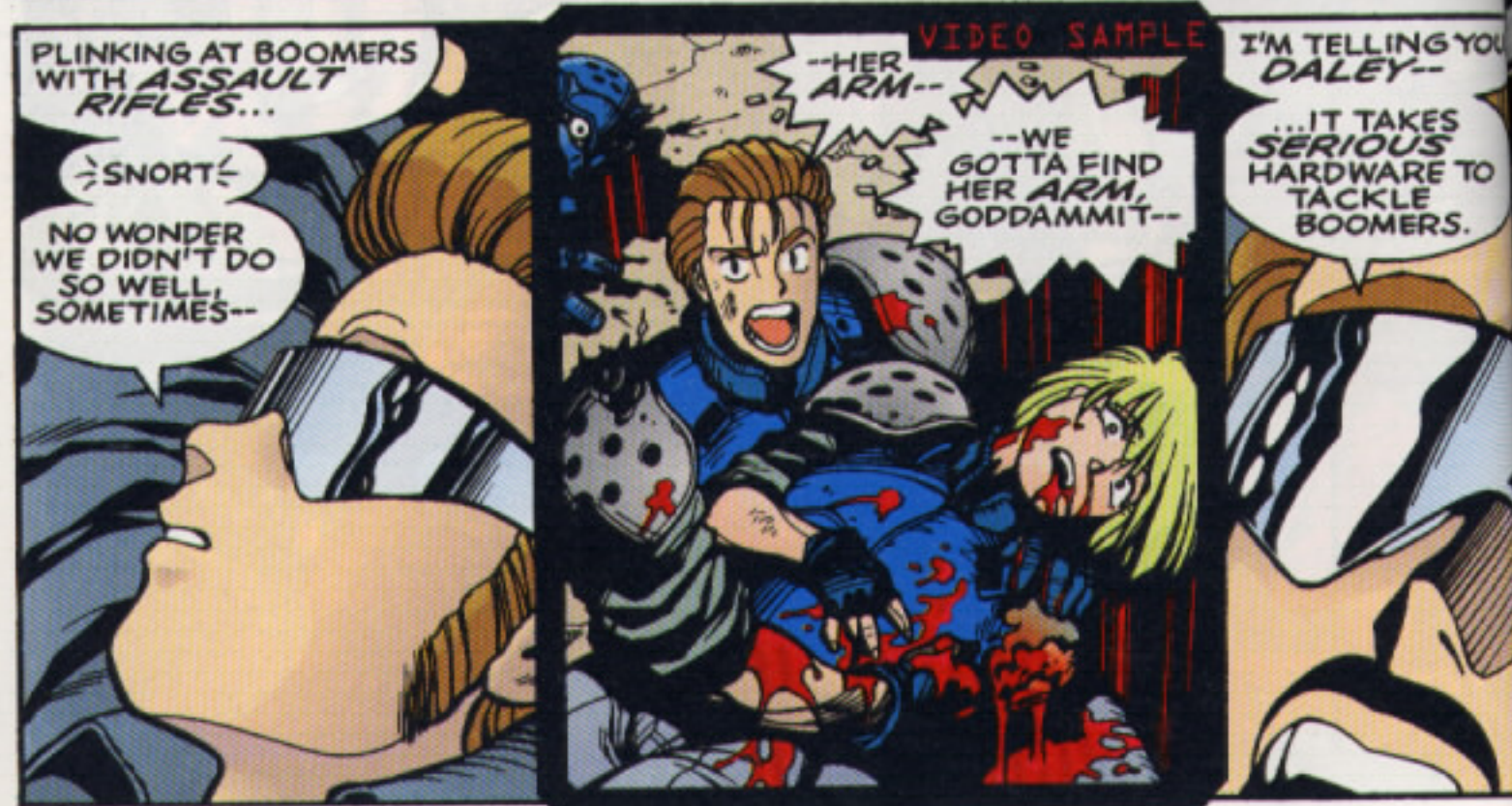
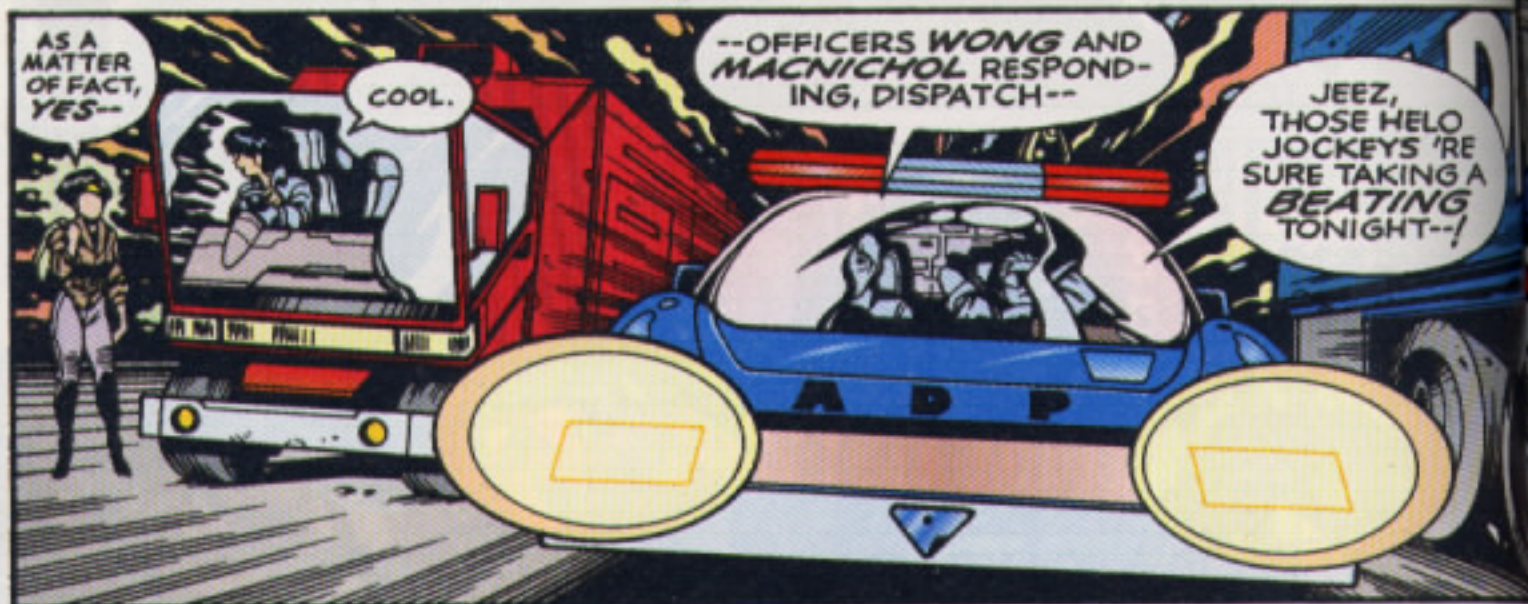
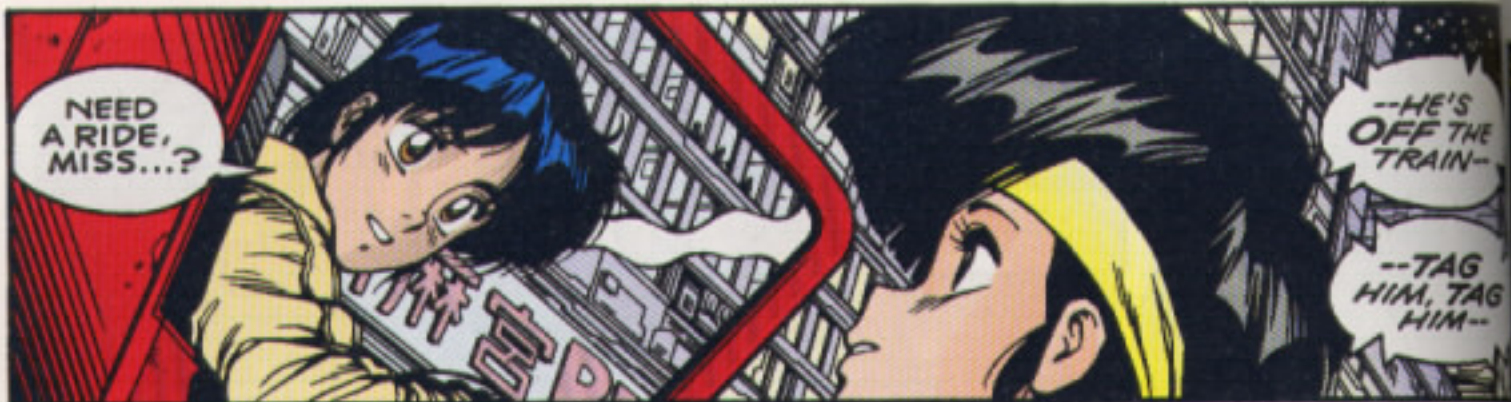


♪--ANATA NI
"HURRICANE"--♪

♪TSUTAEtai
no
"LOVING YOU"--♪

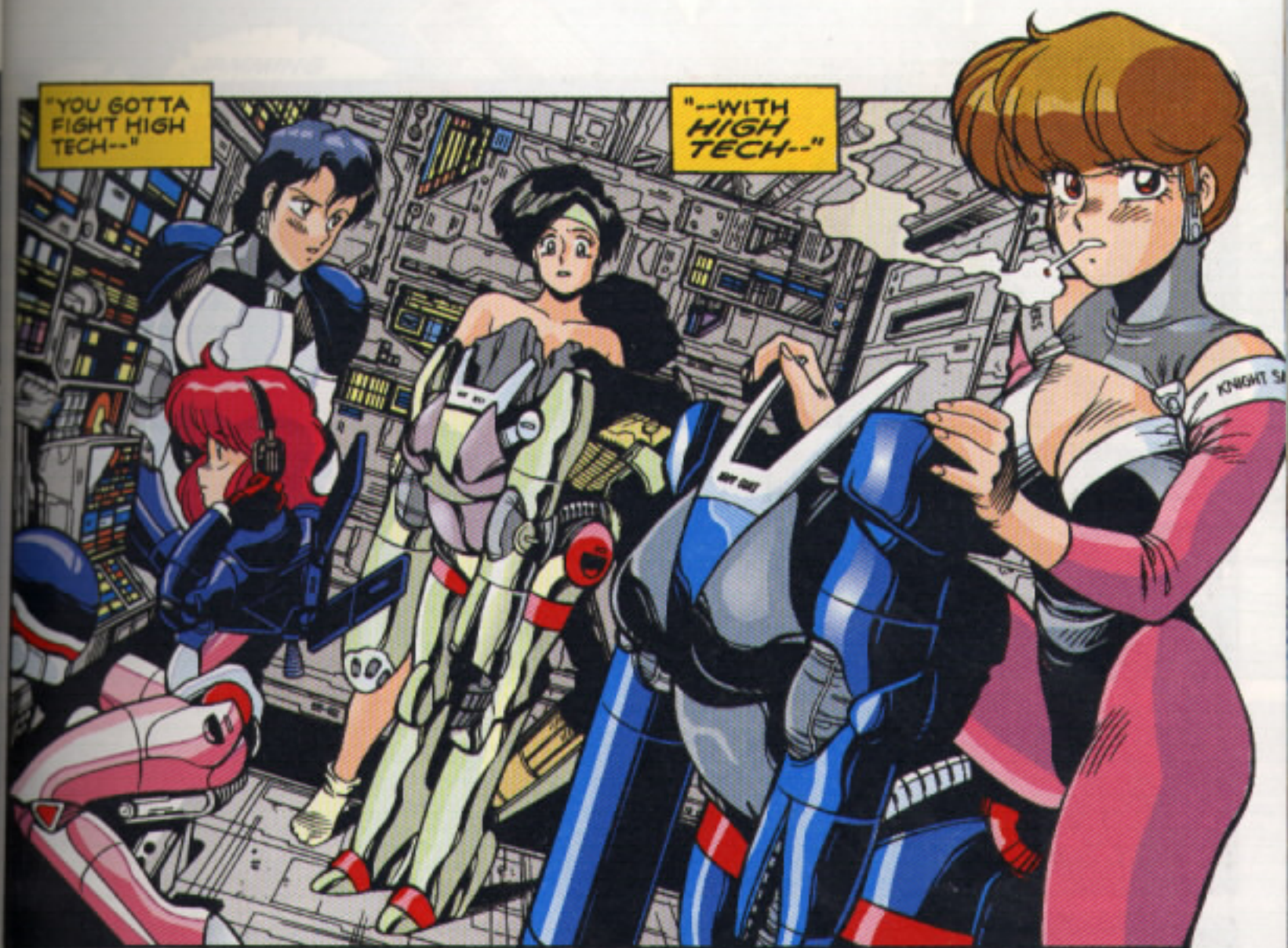
SKREEE

FINE
LINGERIE



"YOU GOTTA
FIGHT HIGH
TECH--"

"--WITH
HIGH
TECH--"

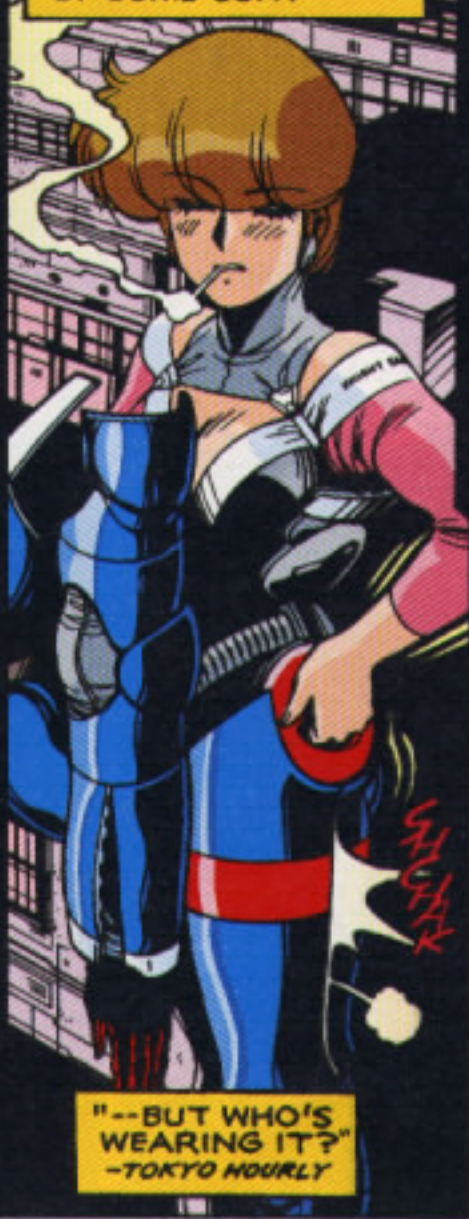


VIDEO SAMPLE

--VIDEOTAPED
IN FLIGHT
OVER THE
NEW
ROPPONGI
DISTRICT--



"--CLEARLY
POWERED ARMOR
OF SOME SORT--"



--MATCHES
NO KNOWN
TYPE OF
BOOMER
OR--

"--BUT WHO'S
WEARING IT?"
--TOKYO HOURLY

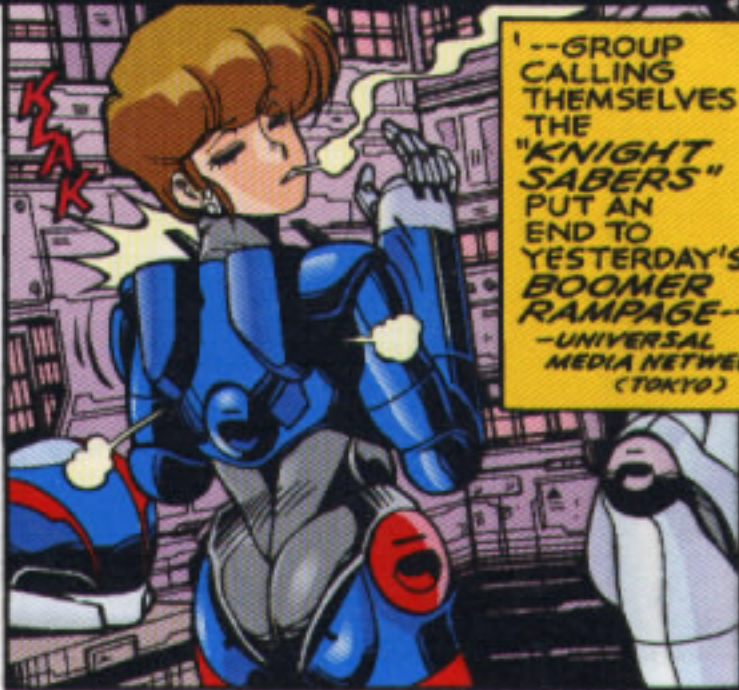
VIDEO
SAMPLE



"KNIGHT
SABERS"--?

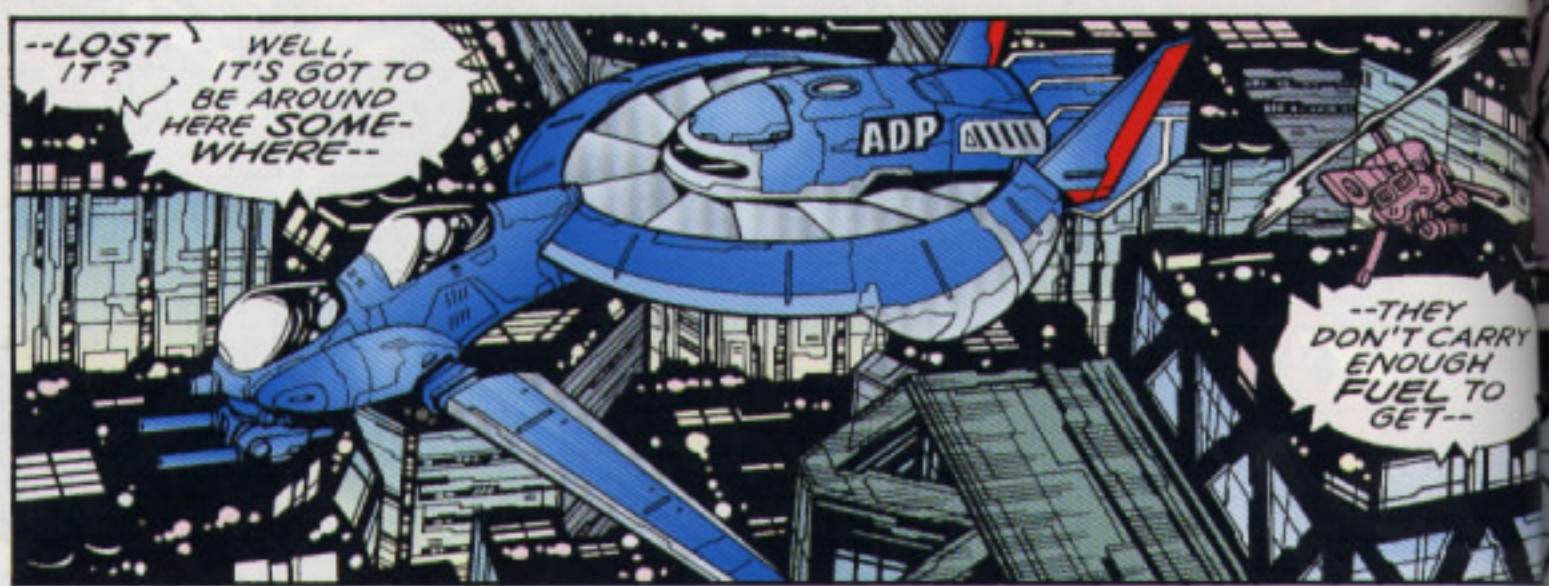
WHO THE
BLEEP--IS
THAT--

"--GROUP
CALLING
THEMSELVES
THE
"KNIGHT
SABERS"
PUT AN
END TO
YESTERDAY'S
BOOMER
RAMPAGE--"
--UNIVERSAL
MEDIA NETWORK
(TOKYO)



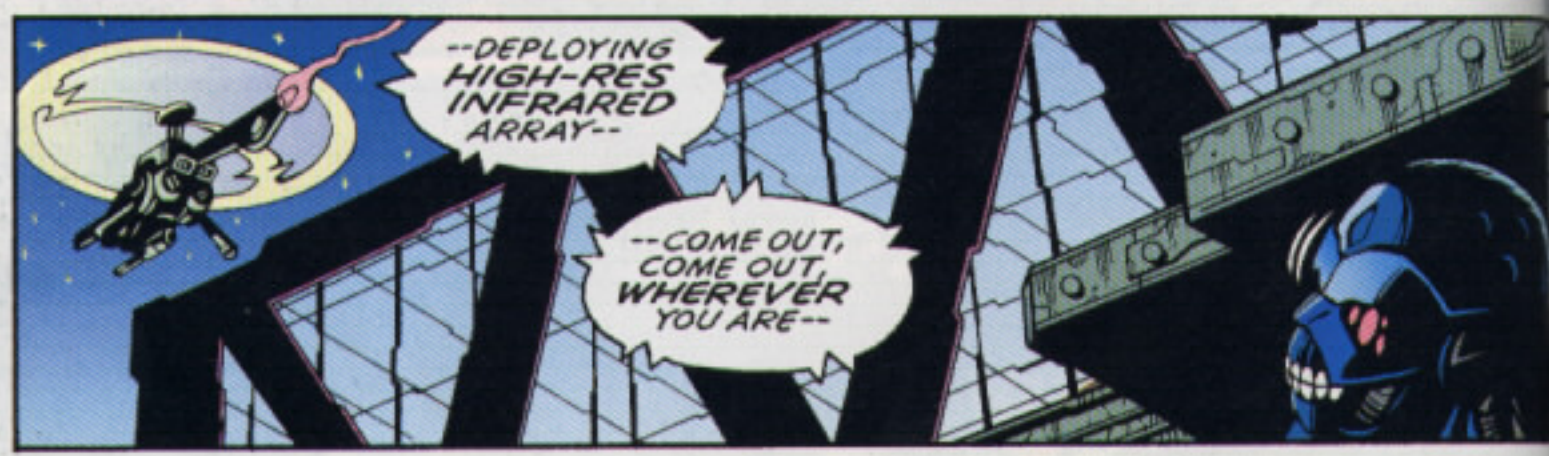
"HIGH-TECH
VIGILANTES:
A LOOK AT MEGA-
TOKYO'S SHADOWY
'KNIGHT SABERS'"
-PACIFICA NEWSNET

"RUMORS OF
'KNIGHT
SABERS' IN-
VOLVEMENT IN
'CORPORATE
MERCENARY'
ACTIVITY...
MORE TONIGHT
AT ELEVEN."
-UNIVERSAL MEDIA
NETWEB (TOKYO)



--LOST
IT?
WELL,
IT'S GOT TO
BE AROUND
HERE SOME-
WHERE--

--THEY
DON'T CARRY
ENOUGH
FUEL TO
GET--



--DEPLOYING
HIGH-RES
INFRARED
ARRAY--

--COME OUT,
COME OUT,
WHEREVER
YOU ARE--



--HOLD
ON--

--WE'RE PICKING
UP A CODED
TRANSMISSION,
STRONG--

--GOTTA
BE THE
BOOMER
SIGNALLING
FOR HELP,
OR--

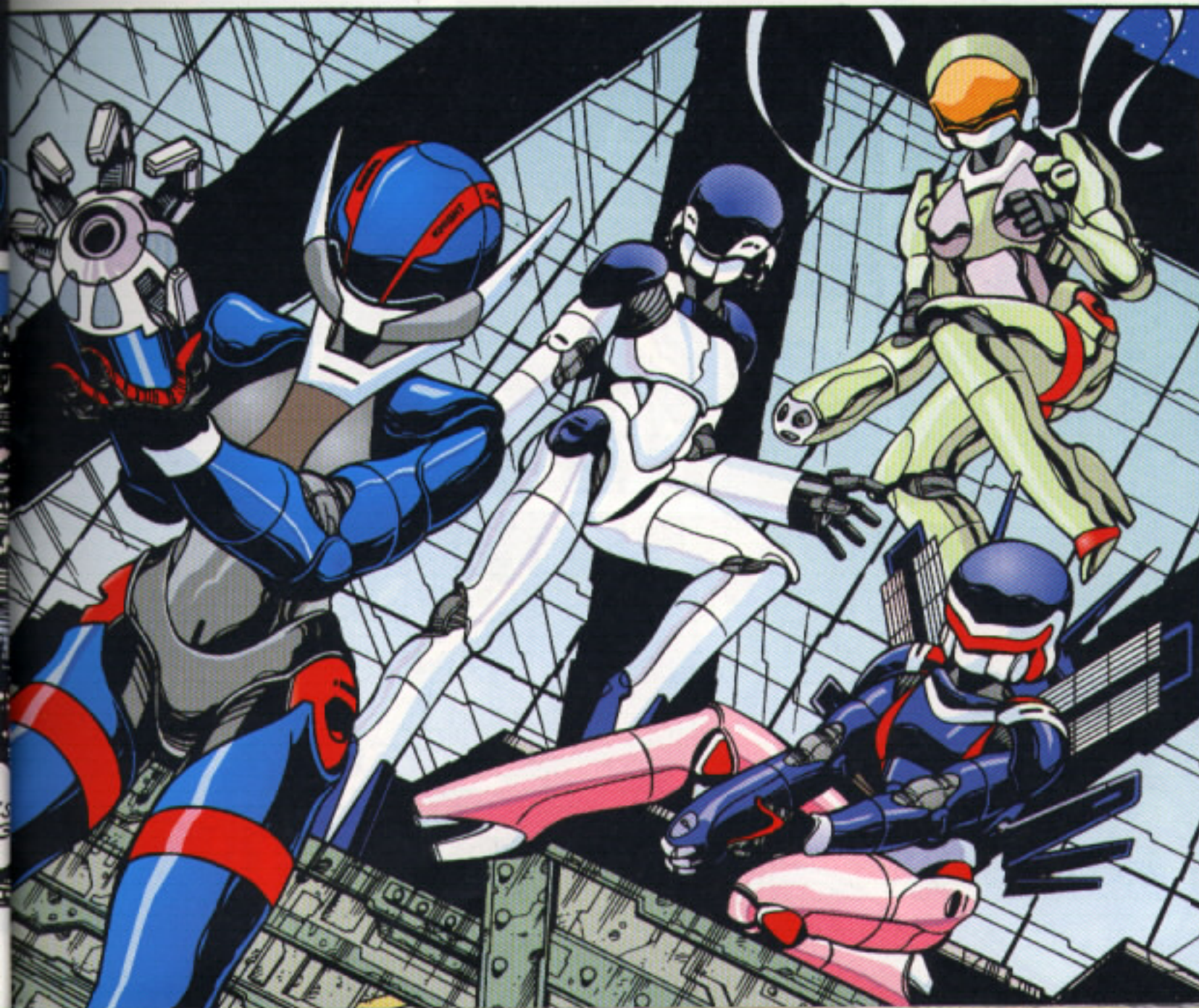
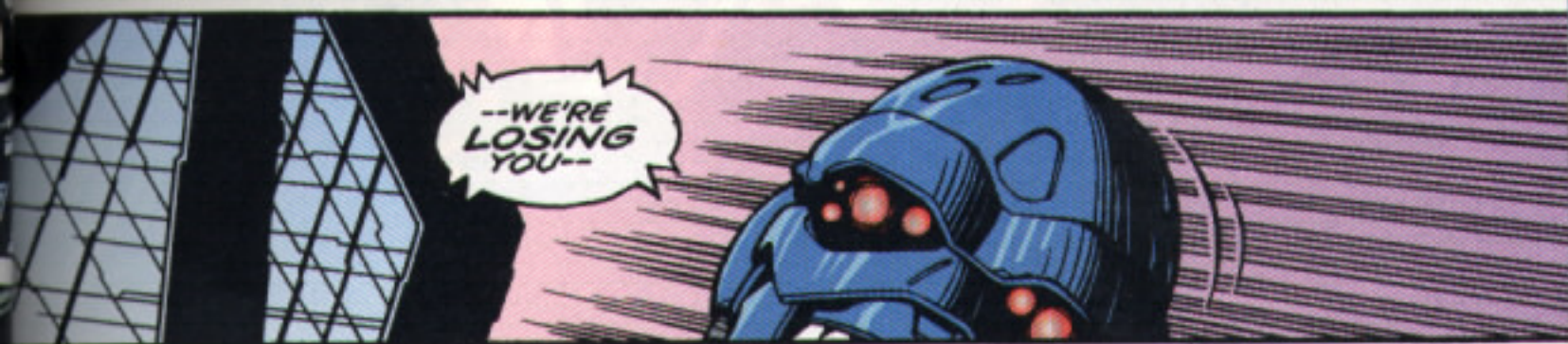
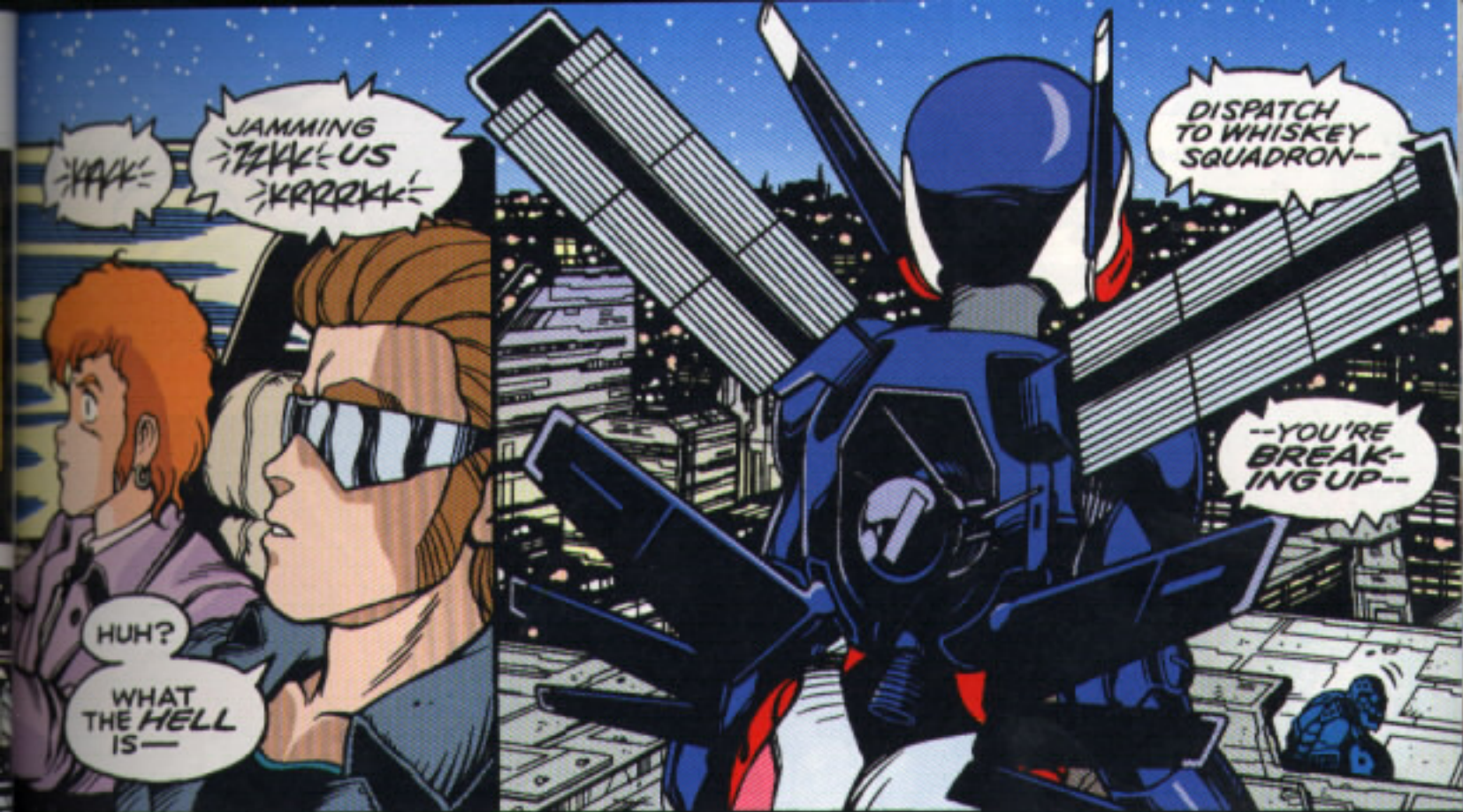


--GIVE ME
A FIX ON IT,
NOW--



HEY
SKRVK

SKRVK
SOMEBODY
JAMMING
HIM--



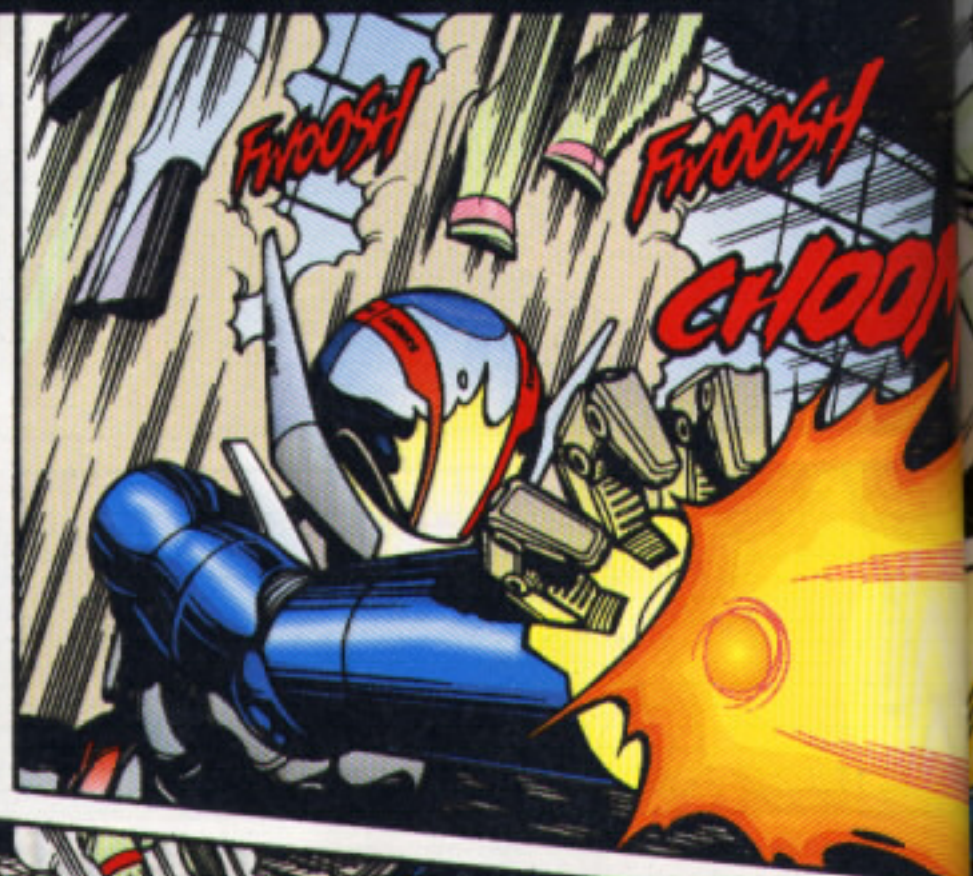
--THESE
SO-CALLED
"KNIGHT
SABERS"--

--HAVE NO
CONNECTION
WHATSOEVER
TO THE
ADPOLICE--

'COURSE
NOT--

--THEY'RE
WAY TOO
EFFECTIVE--

VIDEO
SAMPLE





--ON THE
"KNIGHT
SABERS,"
CHAIRMAN
QUINCY--

IS THEIR
ARMOR A
GENOM
INVENTION,
OR--

--REPORTEDLY
DESTROYED COM-
BAT BOOMERS
OF GENOM MANU-
FACTURE--?

NO
COMMENT.

VIDEO SAMPLE



SH-
CHAK

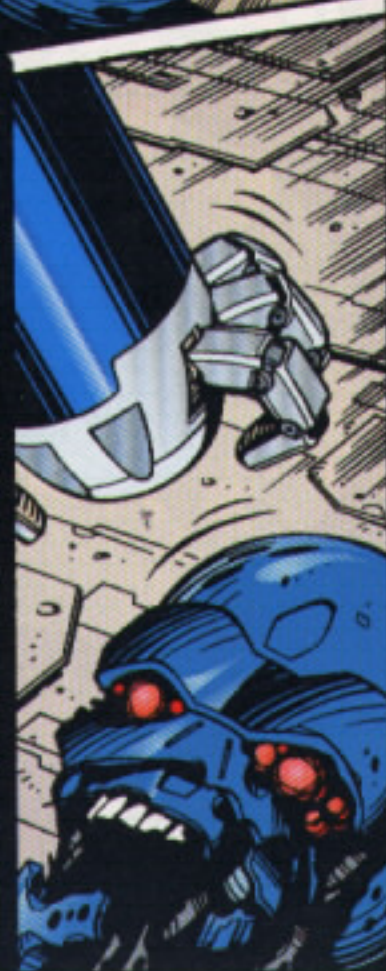
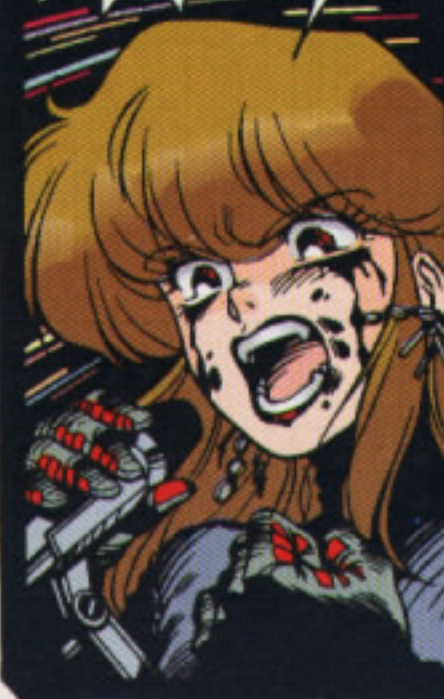
VIDEO SAMPLE

--BEG FOR YOUR
SYNTHETIC
EXCUSE FOR
A LIFE--
--BEFORE
I END
IT--

CHOON

VIDEO SAMPLE

C'MON
BEG
ME--
--BEG
ME--



VIDEO
SAMPLE

--THE "KNIGHT
SABERS"? THEY'RE
CRUCIAL
REALM!!

THE WAY
THEY FIGHT
SICKENING
VIOLENCE
WITH EVEN MORE
SICKENING
VIOLENCE--

--YOU
GOTTA
LOVE
IT--

KNOW
WHAT I LIKE
ABOUT THESE
"KNIGHT
SABERS,"
DALEY?

THEY'VE
GOT GOOD
HAND-
WRITING.

Knight Sabers

YOU JUST
DON'T SEE
THAT TOO
OFTEN NOW-
ADAYS...

THEY'RE NOT
TOO SHABBY AT
SHREDDING
BOOMERS,
EITHER...

HEY,
MACNICHOL--

--WE
FOUND
SOME
THING--!

LOOK
AT
THIS!

'S A HIGH-CAPACITY
MEMORY MODULE.

THIS MODEL
GETS USED AS A
REMOVABLE
STORAGE
DEVICE FOR
BACKUP DATA,
USUALLY...

42

HUH...

WELL,
BETTER
CALL THE
TECHS.

DISKTEK HR 120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL-STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

EVIDENCE

LOOKS
LIKE A NEW
PUZZLE
FOR THEM
TO PLAY
WITH...

WHIRRR

KLAK

BETTER LIVING
THROUGH MECHANICS.
GENOM

"YO!
NENE!"

"YOU GOING
DOWN TO
FORENSICS,
BABE?"

"OH, HI,
LEON...!"

"UM, I'M
HEADED TO
COMPI
ANALYSIS,
ACTUALLY."

ADPOLICE

"WELL,
BETTER
LET ME
ESCORT
YOU."

YOU KNOW HOW
THOSE TECHIES
BEHAVE AROUND
PRETTY GIRLS
LIKE YOURSELF!

THE COMPUTER JOCKS
ARE PROBABLY TOO
BUSY TO HASSLE YOU
TODAY, THOUGH.

HUH...
...I'VE
NOTICED...

UPSTAIRS
WANTS THAT
LOOSE END
FROM LAST
NIGHT'S BOOMER
INCIDENT
WRAPPED UP,
ASAP...

ZZZKKK



UM...

"LOOSE
END"...?

YEAH.

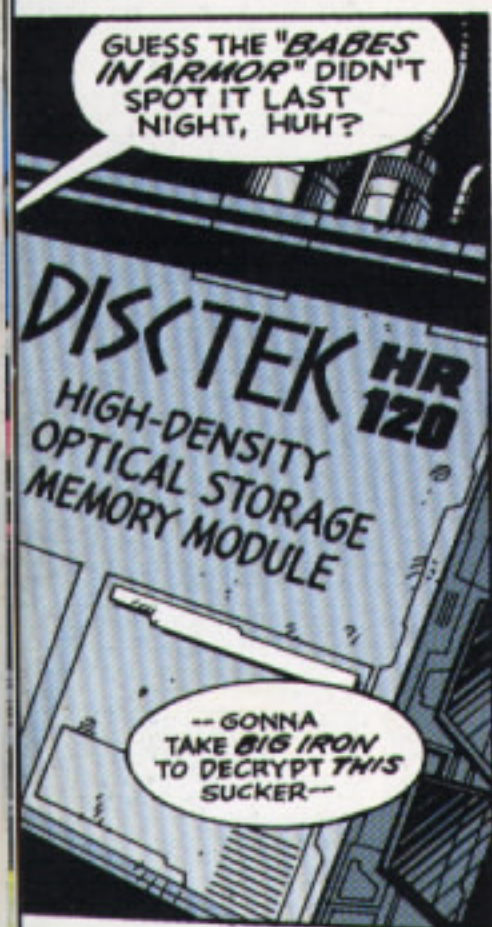
THAT *BOOMER*
THE "KNIGHT SABERS"
OFFED WAS CARRYING
SOME KIND OF
"MEMORY MODULE"
THINGAMABOB.

--IT'S GOT AN
INCREDIBLE
COMPRESSION
LEVEL--

--WEIRDEST
CODING
I'VE EVER
SEEN--

DISKTEK HR 120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

LAB
3A



GUESS THE "*BABES
IN ARMOR*" DIDN'T
SPOT IT LAST
NIGHT, HUH?

--GONNA
TAKE *BIG IRON*
TO DECRYPT THIS
SUCKER--



OH,
JEEZ...!

I DIDN'T
NOTICE THE STUPID
THING...

BETTER
LET ADMIN
KNOW THE
BAD NEWS--



WHAT'S
THAT, NENE?

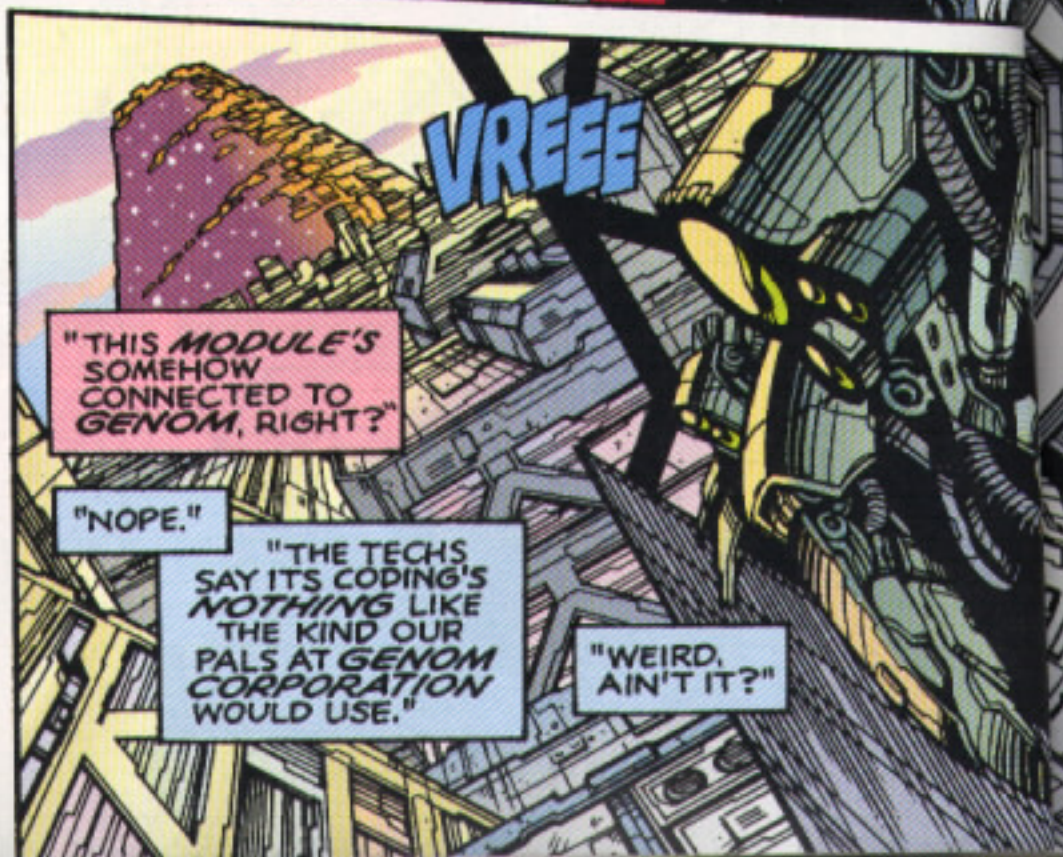
OH, UH,
NOTHING
...!

--BREAKING
THIS'LL TAKE A
DAY OR TWO, AT
LEAST--



UM...
SO...

...SINCE
IT WAS
RECOVERED
FROM A
BOOMER...



"THIS *MODULE*'S
SOMEHOW
CONNECTED TO
GENOM, RIGHT?"

"NOPE."

"THE TECHS
SAY ITS CODING'S
NOTHING LIKE
THE KIND OUR
PALS AT *GENOM*
CORPORATION
WOULD USE."

"WEIRD,
AIN'T IT?"

VREEE

AUDIO SAMPLES:

"OH, GENOM
TOWER..."

"YOU KILO-
METER-HIGH
PHALLIC
SYMBOL..."

"LOOMING OVER THE
DWARFED SKYLINE
OF SO-CALLED
'MEGATOKYO'..."

MY,
MY...

...IF IT
ISN'T A FELLOW
"INTELLECTUAL
ASSET..."

"...AS A NONE-TOO-
SUBTLE REMINDER
OF EXACTLY WHO
DOMINATES OUR
WEAK-WILLED CITY
AND NATION...
AND WORLD..."

-AKIRA SASANISHIKI,
"STREET POET"

"...FORCED
TO GO
SLUMMING
IN THE
GRAVITY
WELL!"

THAT'S
AN APT AND
INSIGHTFUL
SUMMATION OF
MY CURRENT
SITUATION,
CERTAINLY.

STILL
PLAYING
WITH
KNIVES,
I SEE...

OF
COURSE.

NOTHING EQUALS THE
TWO-SWORD FORMS FOR
RELAXING THE "SEETH-
ING CAULDRON"
OF MY MIND...

OOH,
SEETHING,
IS IT?

SO...
DID YOU
ENJOY YOUR
STAY ON
GLORIOUS
"SPACE ISLAND
GENAROS"?

"A FASCINATING
RUMOR ABOUT
GENOM'S WORLD-
WIDE SUCCESS..."

LOD
HEADLINE
NEWS

"OUR
STEPPING
STONE
TO THE
COSMOS--?"

I'LL ADMIT,
GENAROS IS OVER-
RUN WITH OUR
RATHER DULL
BOOMER
COUSINS...

...BUT AT LEAST
IT LACKS PARANOID
UPPER-MANAGEMENT
ORGANICS.

SPACE STATION 447
GENOM

...ALLEGES THAT A
HANDFUL OF SHADOWY
INDIVIDUALS FORM A COVERT
PLANNING GROUP..."

ON THAT
SUBJECT...

...HAVE THE
ORGANICS
HERE
THREATENED
TO RESET YOUR
NEUROPHAGES
YET?

WITH OUR
EUROPEAN MECH
FRIEND DUE TO
ENACT ITS
"SINISTER
PLAN"?

I
THINK
NOT--

VIDEO SAMPLE

--THE PROCESS
BY WHICH BOOMER
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
IS GENERATED
DOES HAVE ITS
LIMITATIONS,
UNFORTUNATELY.

...UNLISTED IN ANY
OFFICIAL ORGANI-
ZATIONAL CHART..."

"...WHICH IS RESPONSI-
BLE FOR MUCH OF
GENOM'S INNOVATIVE
CORPORATE STRATEGY..."
-BIZNET RUMORLINE

GENOM EXECUTIVE
BOARD CHAIRMAN
QUINCY

SPECULATION THAT WE'VE
CREATED INDIVIDUALS WITH
ENHANCED COGNITIVE, OR
INTUITIVE POWERS, IS,
SADLY, UNTRUE--

I ASSUME
YOU'VE BEEN
BRIEFED ON
LAST NIGHT'S
DEBACLE?

PREP
HOLO-
DISPLAY
THREE.

IN
GORY
DETAIL.

BUT
WHAT MORE
CAN WE EXPECT
FROM BOOMERS
INSTALLED WITH
SUBHUMAN
INTELLECTS?

VIDEO
SAMPLE

BWEE

WELL, HERE'S YET ANOTHER UNPLEASANT DEVELOPMENT.

RUN HOLO SEQUENCE 25A.

OUR ORGANIC HIGHER-UPS UNCOVERED A DISCREPANCY IN ONE OF THEIR OH-SO-SECRET ARMS SALES PROGRAMS.

LET ME SPECULATE, NOW...

...A CERTAIN ARMS SHIPMENT HAS BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY DIVERTED, RIGHT?

AH, SUCH ENHANCED COGNITION!

YES, A SUPPOSED "COMPUTER ERROR" SENT AN EMBARRASSINGLY ILLEGAL CARGO OF HEAVY-DUTY COMBAT BOOMERS TO OUR FAIR CITY.

OF COURSE, SAID SHIPMENT PROMPTLY DISAPPEARED OFF THE LOADING DOCK.

OUR OWN HARDWARE TURNED AGAINST US?!

GASP!

ALL COURTESY OF THE ELUSIVE MECH, IT SEEMS.

VIDEO FEED FROM UNIT # BU-23A5-49

BUT, ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE...

...OUR BAIT HAS ARRIVED IN MEGA-TOKYO.

AMERICAN CITIZEN CETHNIC HYPHEN: RUSSIAN) PETER VASHNEVSKAYA.

QUITE A VARIED AND INTERESTING CAREER HE'S LED...

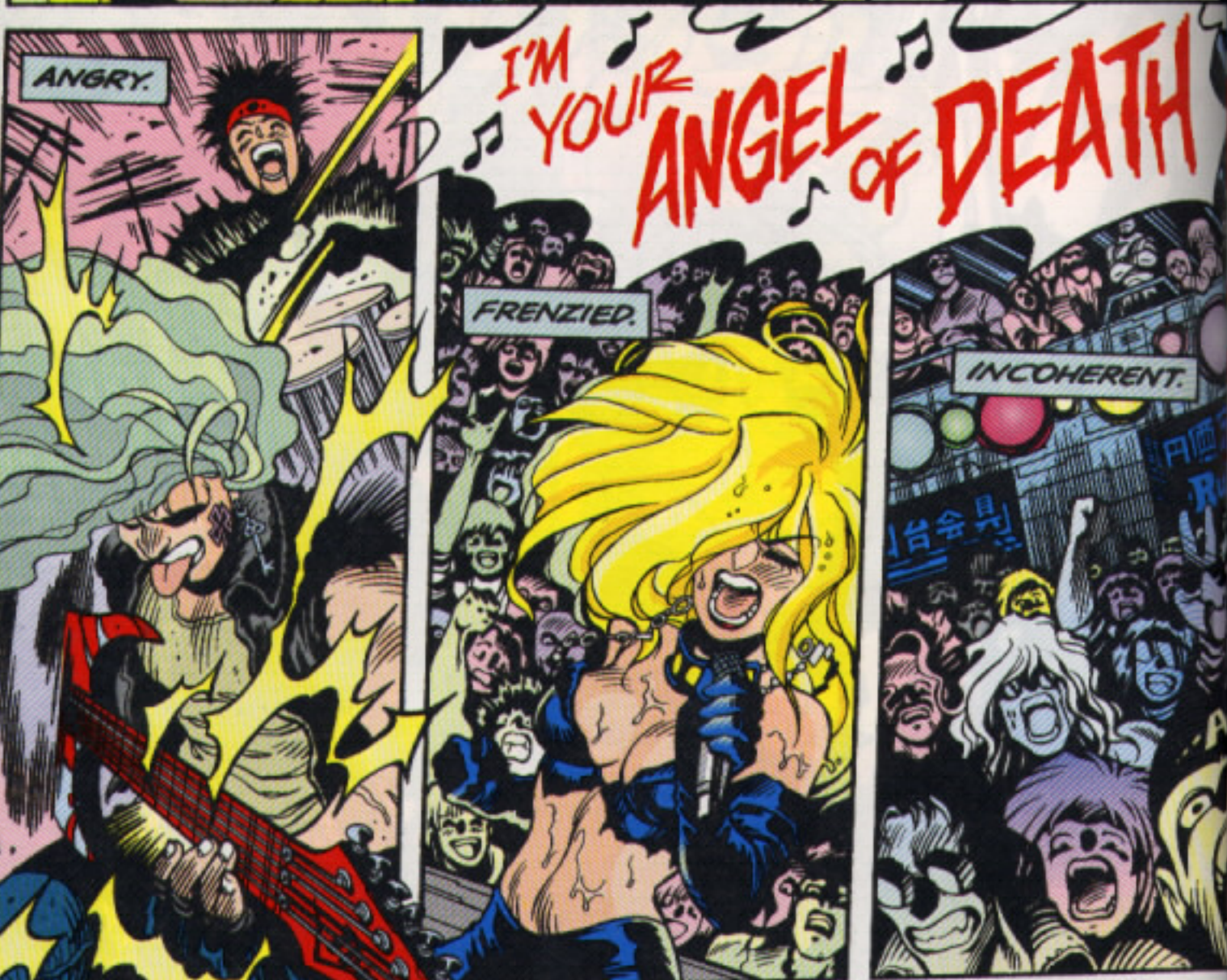
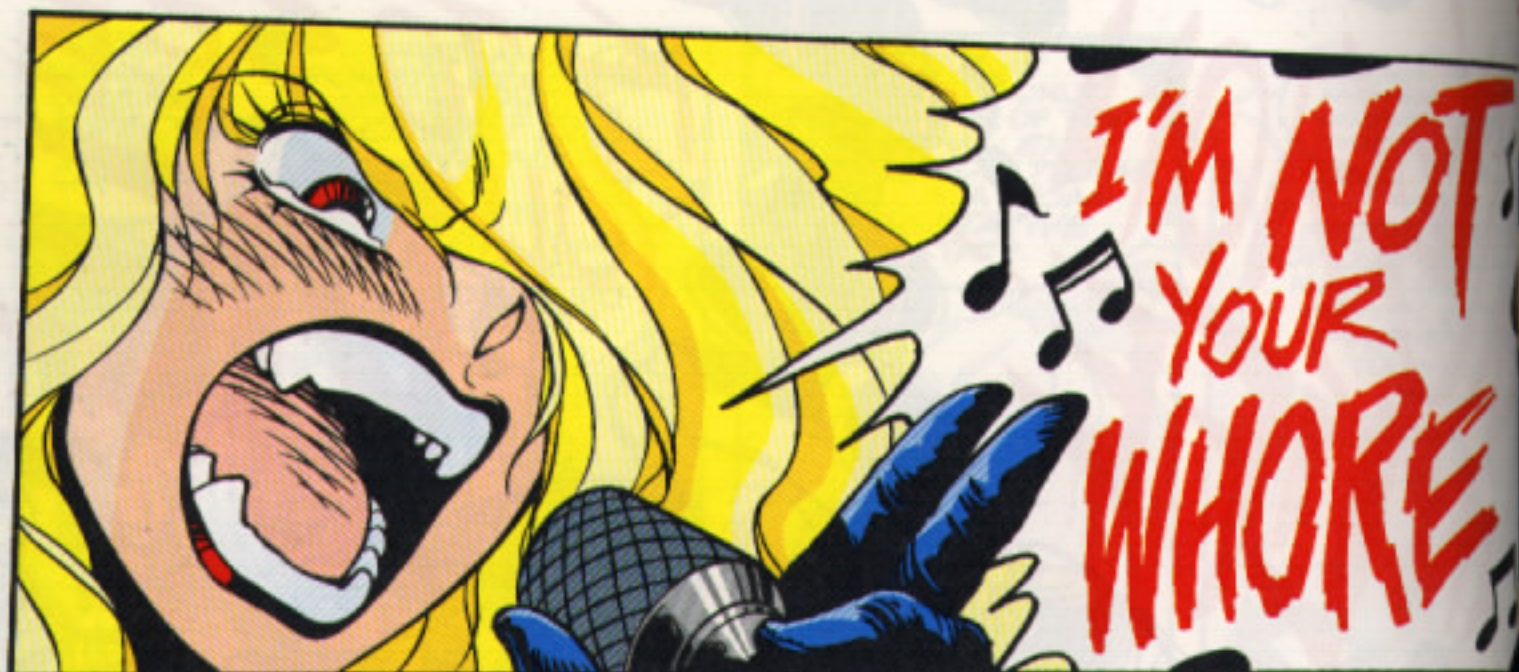


MY
MISSION
IN LIFE...

IS TO SEE
YOU DIE

...BABY.





I'M YOUR NOOSE
--YOUR RAZOR
BLADE--
--YOUR LETHAL
INJECTION--



WRITHING
IN PAIN...

NEVER COULD
STOMACH
THE PRISSEY
SO-CALLED
"MUSIC"
OF THOSE
MINIMONO
POSEURS...

...OR EVEN THE
FAUVISTS,
WITH THEIR
TRENDY
AUGMENTED
VOCAL CORDS...

...BUT RETROTHRASH
I CAN DEAL WITH, AS LONG
AS IT'S LOUD, FAST,
AND LAUGHABLE.

NOW, THIS BAND'S GOT THE
PERIOD INSTRUMENTA-
TION DOWN...

...AND THE LEAD
SINGER'S NOT
AFRAID TO SPORT
THOSE OUTRE
PERIOD OUTFITS.

HER VOCALS
AREN'T BAD,
EITHER.

VIDEO SAMPLE

--BACK TO YOUR
POLITICAL
VIEWS, PRISS.

NOW,
EXACTLY WHAT
"SERIOUS
STATEMENT"
ARE YOU MAKING
WITH THAT SILLY
BLONDE WIG
AND ANIMAL
LEATHER MINI-
SKIRT?

THE
STATE-
MENT
IS
THIS--

--BLEEP--
OFF,
JERK--

SHE SOUNDS LIKE ME
AS A TEENAGER...

YOUNG...
ANGRY...
UTTERLY
WITHOUT
A CLUE.

YOU'LL NEVER
CONTROL
MEEEEEE

VIDEO SAMPLE

--DAMN RIGHT--

I'M NOT LIKE
THE REST OF YOU
SHEEP--

QUIXOTE
IN A
MINISKIRT.

I PARTICULAR-
LY LIKE THE
SEARING
POLITICAL
INSIGHTS OF
HER LYRICS...

--C'MON--
--SAY IT!
"GENOM SUCK"

I
CAN'T
HEAR
YOU--

HMMF.

SO
THIS IS
SYLIA'S NEWEST
ACQUISITION.

VERY
DYNAMIC
ARCHITECTURE...!
~SNORT~

AND NOT
IN A VERY
FASHIONABLE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD,
EITHER...!

OH
WELL.

UM...
HELLO?

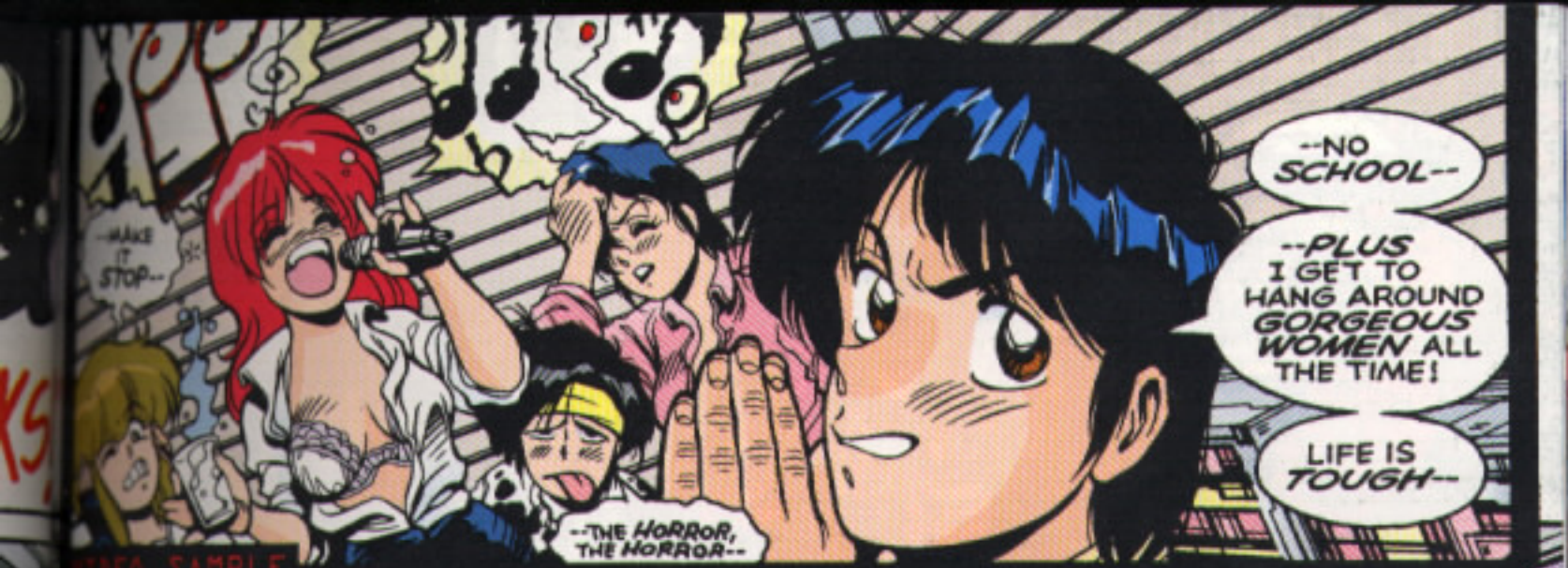
SYLIA?
ANYBODY
HOME?

SKRAK!

HELLO, ♪
MACKIE...!

OH,
UH...
HI!

COME
ON IN
NENE



VIDEO SAMPLE

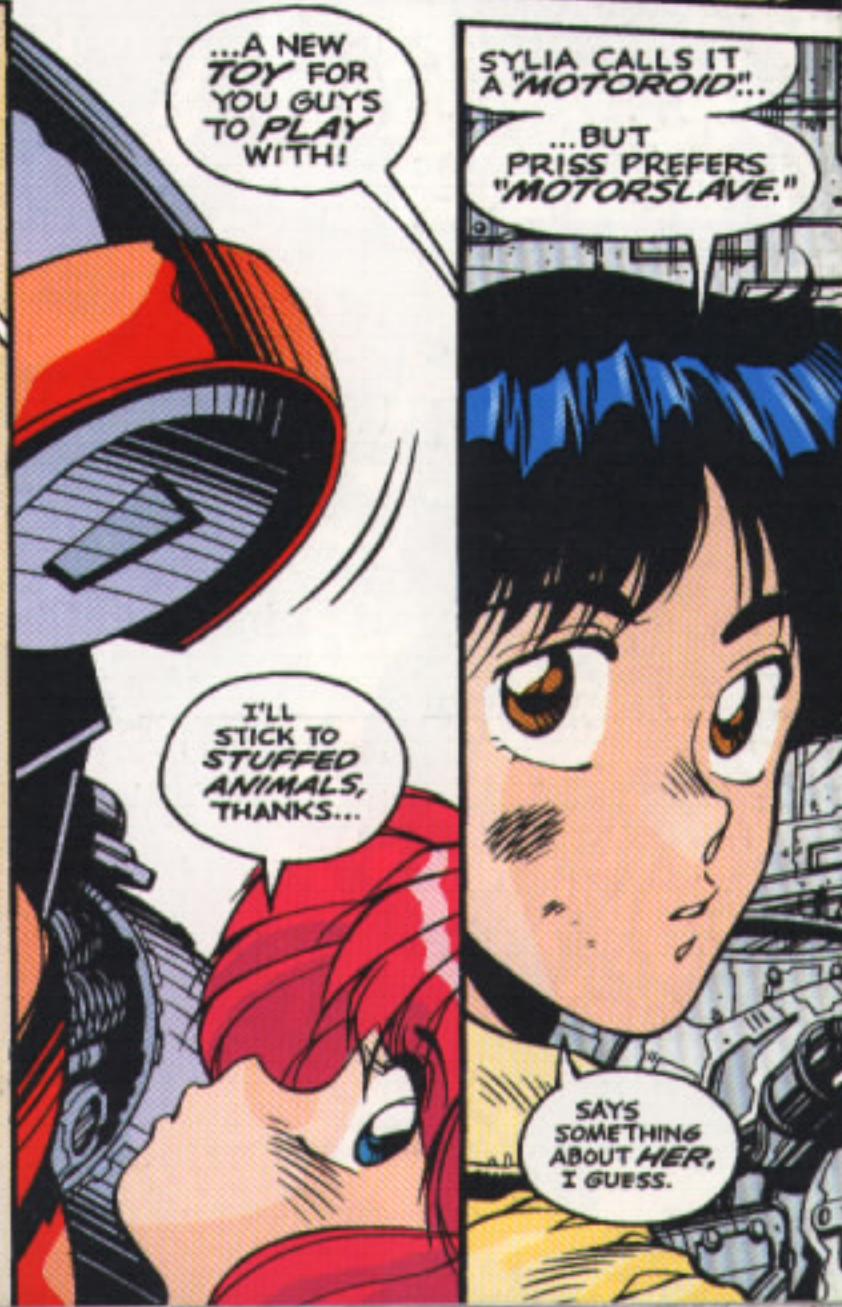
POOR MACKIE...

...SLAVING AWAY DOWN HERE IN THE DUNGEON ALL DAY...!

UH, MORE OR LESS...

HEY, CHECK IT OUT... SYLIA'S HAD ME WORKING ON SOMETHING NEW AND FUNKY!

SAY "HI," BOY!

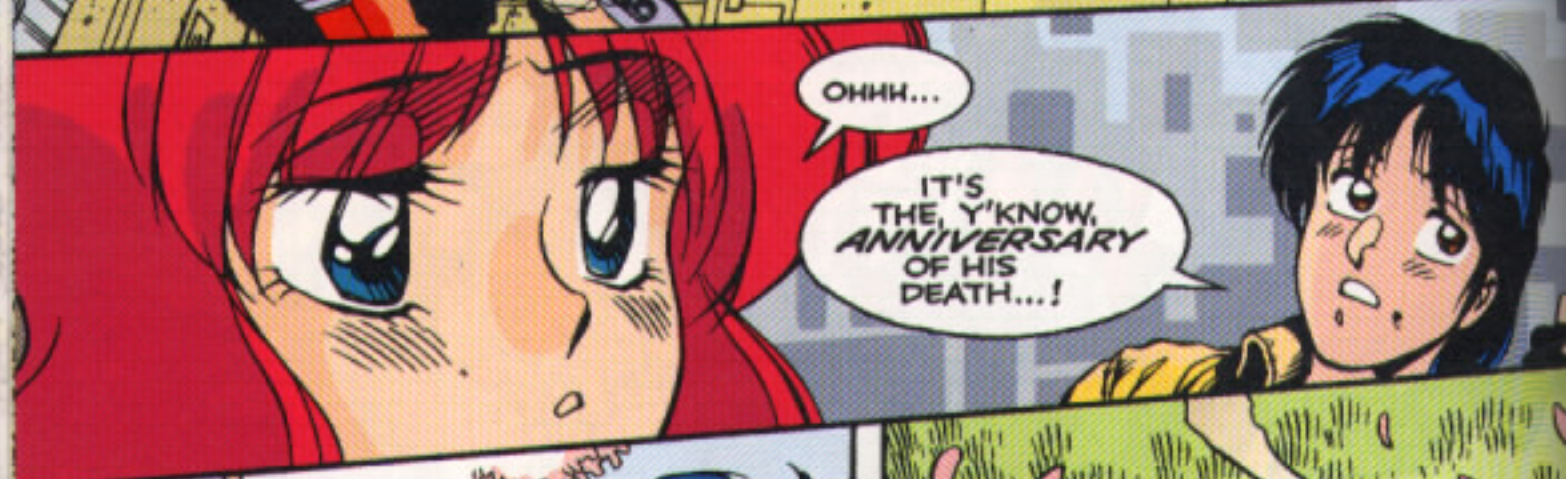




THAT'S
FOR
SURE...

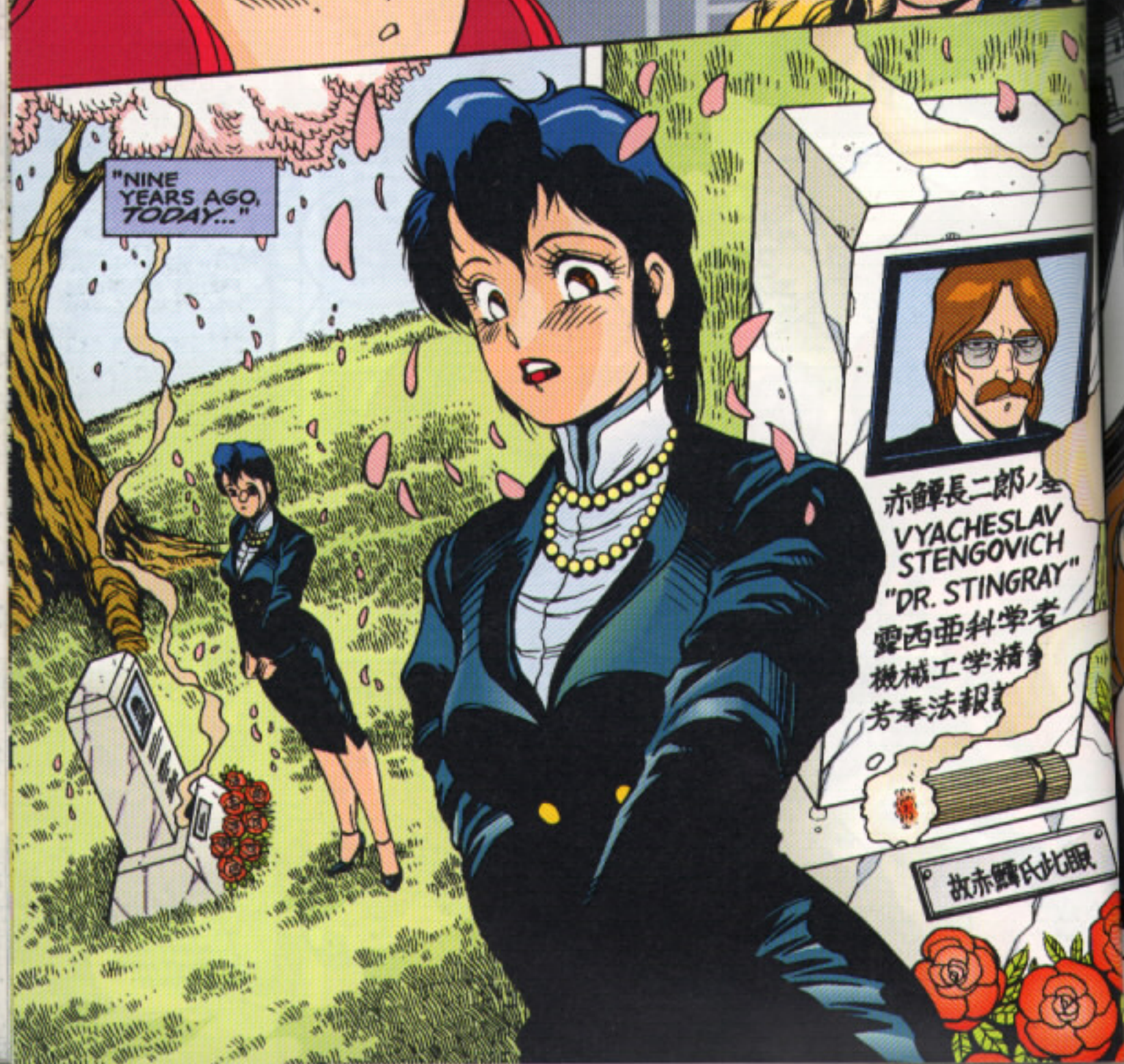
UM... SO...
WHERE'S YOUR
SISTER? I'VE GOT
SOME BAD NEWS
FOR HER...

OOPS...
SORRY...
SYLIA'S, UM...
"VISITING
DAD RIGHT
NOW."



OH...H...

IT'S
THE, Y'KNOW,
ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS
DEATH...!



"NINE
YEARS AGO,
TODAY..."



赤鯉長二郎、
VYACHESLAV
STENGOVICH
"DR. STINGRAY"
露西亞科學者
機械工學精
芳奉法報

故赤鯉氏此眠

VIDEO SAMPLE

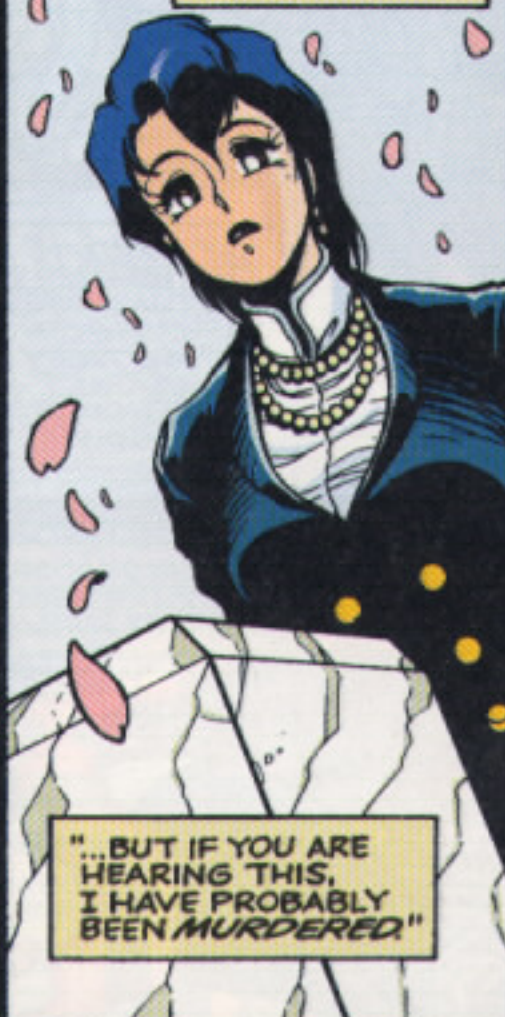
--PERHAPS THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT
ASPECT OF DR.
STINGRAY'S RESEARCH--

--WAS HIS DEVELOPMENT
OF THE BOOMERS' FORM
OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE--



"SYLIA.

"PLEASE
PARDON THE
MELODRAMA..."

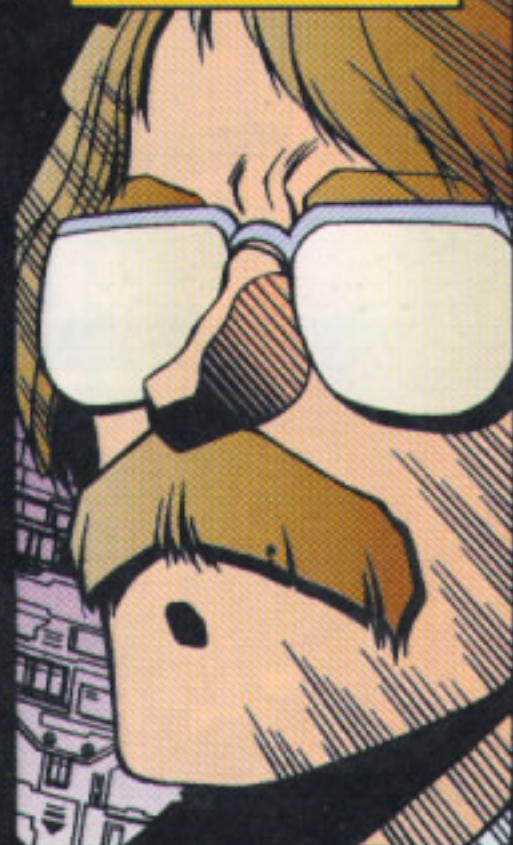


"...BUT IF YOU ARE
HEARING THIS,
I HAVE PROBABLY
BEEN MURDERED."

VIDEO SAMPLE

--WITH A RESULT
CLOSELY ANALO-
GOUS TO HUMAN
CONSCIOUSNESS.

EXACTLY HOW
THIS WAS ACHIEVED
REMAINS GENOM'S
TRADE SECRET.



"I MUST LEAVE SOME
COUNTER TO GENOM'S
CERTAIN ABUSE
OF MY WORK.

"YOU WILL BE
THAT COUNTER,
SYLIA."



--OF COURSE, WE
ARE FOREVER
INDEBTED TO THE
BRILLIANT WORK
OF THE LATE DR.
STINGRAY.

WITHOUT
HIS IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTIONS,
GENOM CORPORATION
MIGHT NEVER
HAVE--



GENOM EXECUTIVE
BOARD CHAIRMAN
QUINCY

"TO
AID
YOU IN
THIS..."

"...I HAVE
GIVEN YOU
AND YOUR
BROTHER
CERTAIN...GIFTS,
YOU MIGHT SAY."



VIDEO SAMPLE

LET ME
ADD...

...DR. STINGRAY
WAS ALSO A
CLOSE PERSONAL
FRIEND...
CHOKE

"...AND, IN
THE EVENT,
THAT, AH,
**DIRECT
ACTION**
AGAINST
GENOM IS
REQUIRED..."

"...I'VE ALSO LEFT
YOU TECHNICAL
INFORMATION
REGARDING A
PROMISING TYPE
OF **COMBAT
ARMOR** I'VE BEEN
DEVELOPING..."

VIDEO
SAMPLE

EVEN MORE
ENIGMATIC
THAN THE
MOTIVES
OF MEGA-
TOKYO'S
"KNIGHT
SABERS"--

--ARE THE ORIGINS OF THE
VIGILANTES' UNPRECEDENT-
ED **POWERED ARMOR**.

VIDEO SAMPLE

NUMEROUS
CONSPIRACY
THEORIES HAVE
ARISEN TO
EXPLAIN THE
PRESENCE OF
THE "KNIGHT
SABERS"--

--AND WHY
THEY HOLD
SUCH AN
OBVIOUS
GRUDGE
AGAINST
GENOM--

--THE "KNIGHT SABERS"
ARE NOTHING MORE
THAN **TERRORISTS**,
CRIMINALS WHO
DESERVE TO BE--

"OH,
FATHER..."

"...YOUR UNLIMITED
INTELLECT
CREATED A
TECHNOLOGICAL
MIRACLE..."

"...BUT YOUR FLAWED
JUDGMENT
PLACED IT IN THE
HANDS OF AMORAL
THUGS."

TERMINATE
SIMULATION.

"SO YOU **ALTERED**
ME, SO THAT I MIGHT
SOMEHOW REDEEM THE
TANGLED MESS
YOU LEFT BEHIND.

NOW, I'M
FORCED TO
KILL YOUR
DISGRACEFUL
CHILDREN,
THE
BOOMERS,
WHEN THEY
RUN WILD...

"...WHILE THE MEN WHO
PROFIT FROM THEIR
ABUSE REMAIN
FOREVER **OUT OF**
MY REACH.

"FATHER, IF I
COULD BEAR
CHILDREN..."

"...I'D WANT TO
LEAVE THEM A
LESS **HOPELESS**
AND **AGONIZING**
LEGACY THAN THE
ONE YOU LEFT ME."

-EXCERPTS FROM
SYLIA STINGRAY'S
PRIVATE RECORDS.

WELL, SYLIA
DOES
SEEM TO
HAVE MIXED
FEELINGS
ABOUT
DAD.

NOT
THAT
I KNOW
WHY...

HMMM...
I
WONDER
WHAT--



I WOULDN'T ASK HER ABOUT DAD, THOUGH...

...SHE'S KIND OF, UH, SENSITIVE ABOUT HIM...!

OH... HEH HEH... I WOULDN'T DREAM OF PRYING...!

AH HA HA HA...!



THAT WAS CERTAINLY AMUSING, NOT TO MENTION LOUD...

...BUT PLAY-TIME'S OVER, ALAS.

MUST CONTINUE ON MY EPIC QUEST...!

--TWO SYNTHOOKES, PLEASE--

--KICKIN' SET, PRISS--

--BUNCHA POSEURS--

--THOUGHT SHE WAS A BLONDE--

--THAT'S PRISS, HUH--

--NICE CABOOSE--

--GIMME A GUINNESS, TOSHI--



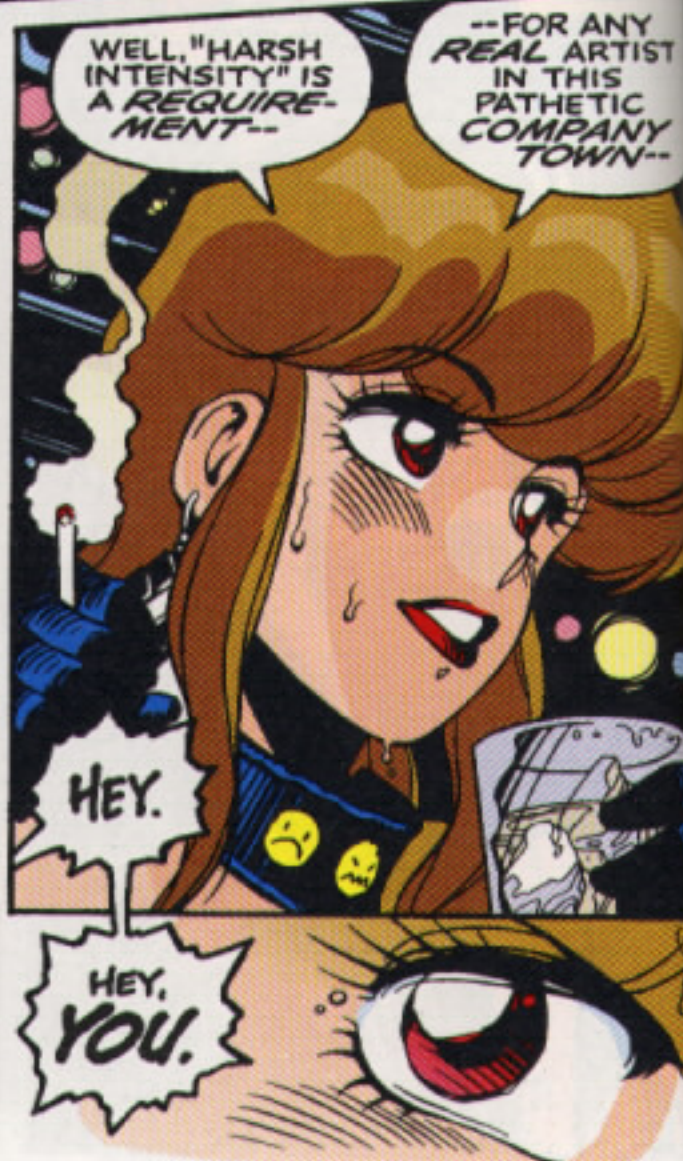
--THAT SET WAS CRUCIAL REALM, PRISS!

YOU'VE REALLY BEEN RAMPING UP THAT HARSH INTENSITY...!

HUNH...

HI...!

I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN, PRISS...!

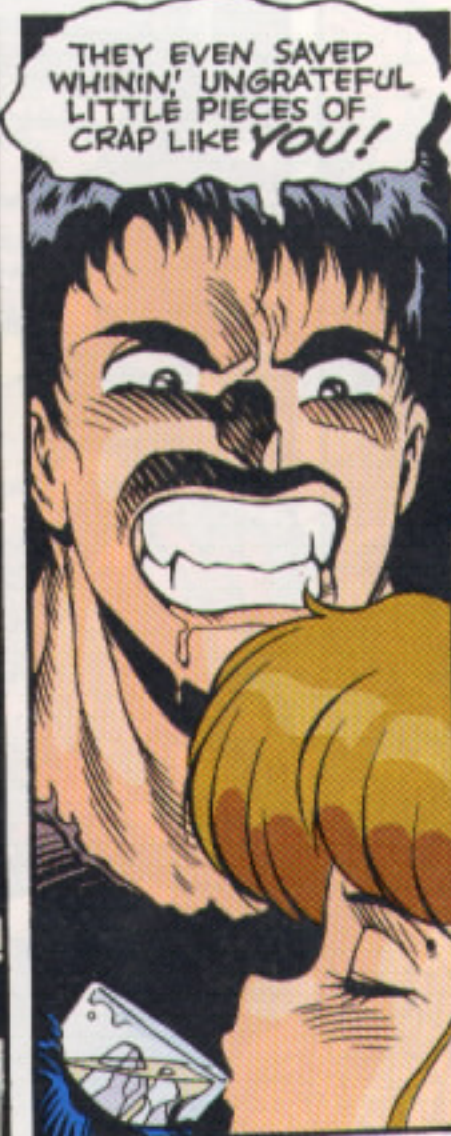


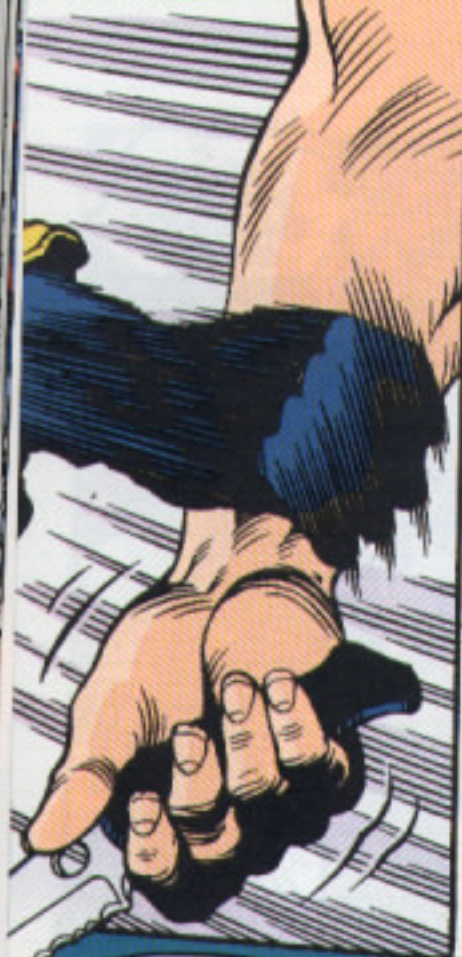
WELL, "HARSH INTENSITY" IS A REQUIREMENT--

--FOR ANY REAL ARTIST IN THIS PATHETIC COMPANY TOWN--

HEY.

HEY, YOU.





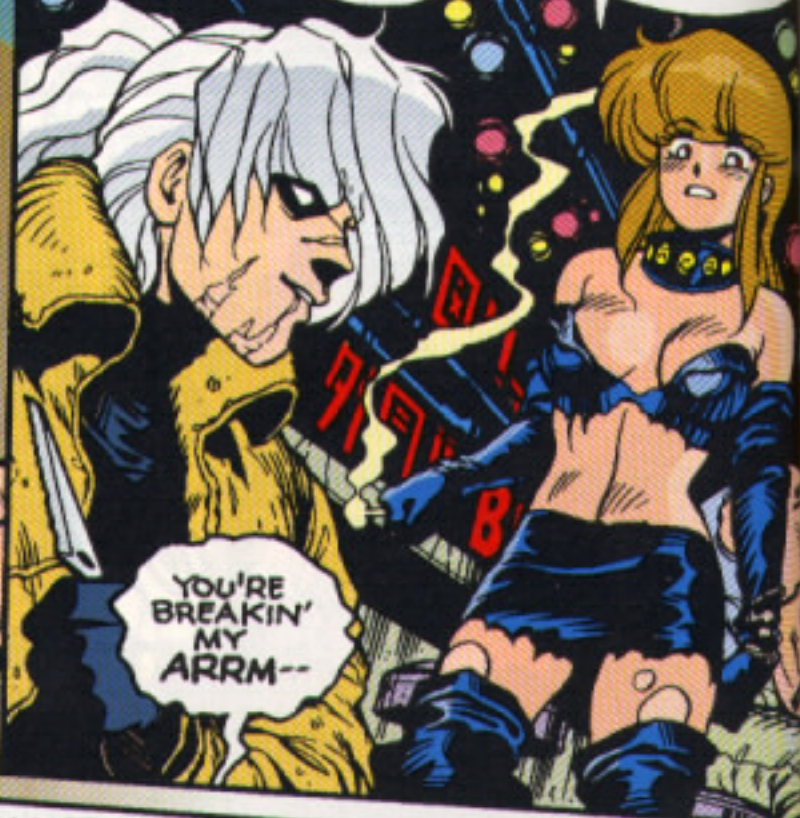
SHOULDN'T
PULL *KNIVES*
ON PEOPLE IN
MINISKIRTS,
ACE.

IT'S JUST
NOT *DONE*,
SEE?

SORRY,
THE URGE
TO "*WHITE
KNIGHT*"
JUST
OVERCAME
ME.

FEEL
FREE TO
KICK HIM
IN THE
HEAD,
IF YOU
WANT...

NAH.
WOULDN'T
WANNA
RISK
DIRTYING
MY BOOT
ON A
GENOM
GROUPIE.



YOU'RE
BREAKIN'
MY
ARRM--



HUH...

I'M NOT
TOO BIG A
FAN OF
GENOM,
MYSELF...

HEY,
NEITHER IS
ANYBODY
WITH AN
OPERATIVE
BRAIN
CELL...!

OWWWW...



DAMN...
HE SAVED
PRISS'S
BUTT!

ANYWAY... IT'S
"PRISS," RIGHT?
WELL, YOU'RE
DOING SOME
OF THE BEST
RETROTHRASH
I'VE HEARD
OUTSIDE THE
STATES...

OOH,
NEAT!

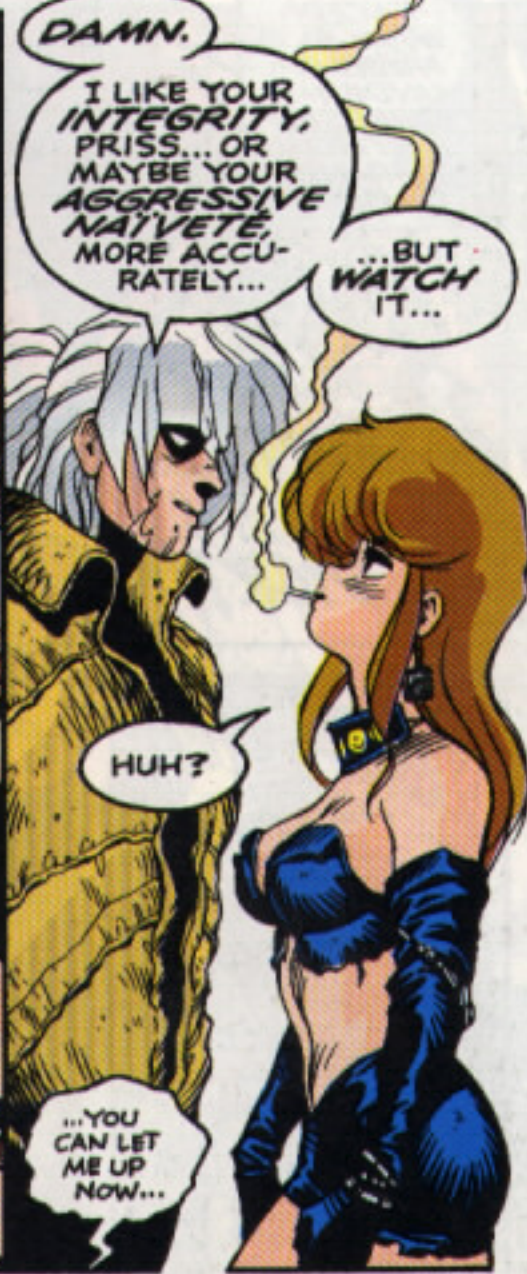
...BUT I'M
SURPRISED THERE'S
AN AUDIENCE
HERE FOR SUCH
IMPOLITIC
MUSIC...!



HUH...

I SING
WHATEVER
I *FEEL* LIKE
SINGING,
PAL...

...I COULD CARE
LESS WHETHER
OR NOT THERE'S
AN AUDIENCE
FOR IT.



DAMN.

I LIKE YOUR
INTEGRITY,
PRISS... OR
MAYBE YOUR
AGGRESSIVE
NAÏVETE,
MORE ACCU-
RATELY...

...BUT
WATCH
IT...

HUH?

...YOU
CAN LET
ME UP
NOW...



...SERIOUSLY
CROSSING GENOM CAN
BE *HAZARDOUS*
TO YOUR
HEALTH.

KIND
OF LIKE
THESE DIPPY
CANCER
STICKS,
SEE?



YOU'D BEST LEAVE
ALL THE POINT-
LESSLY *SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE*
BEHAVIOR--

--TO DOOMED
OLD GEEZERS
LIKE ME--

OH,
JEEZ...!



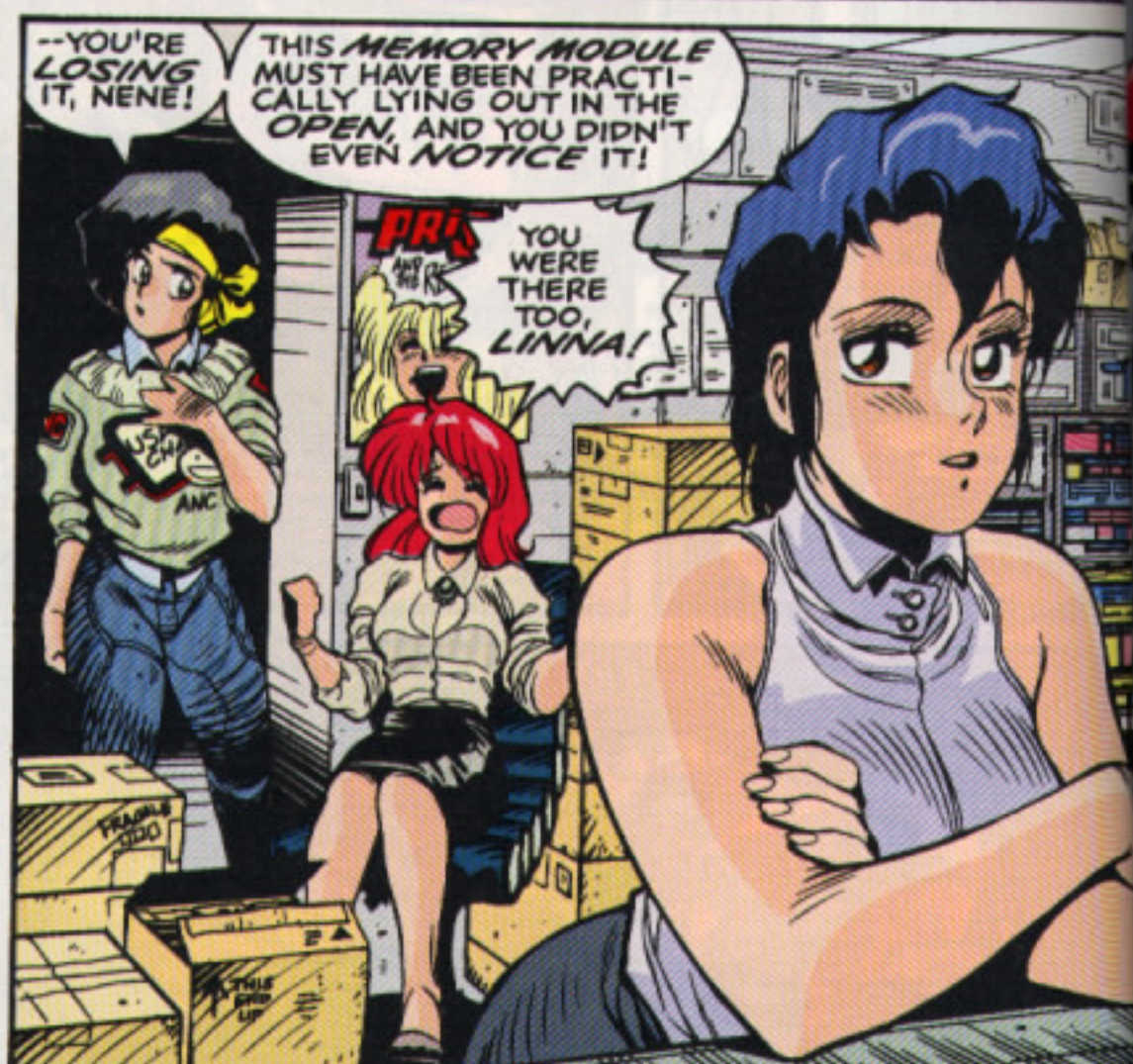
--FACED
WITH A
NUBILE,
UNDER-
DRESSED
RETRO-
THRASH
BABE--

--I JUST HAVE TO GIVE
HER AN IMPROMPTU
LIFESTYLE CRITIQUE!

--AND
DON'T COME
BACK, YOU
DICK!!!



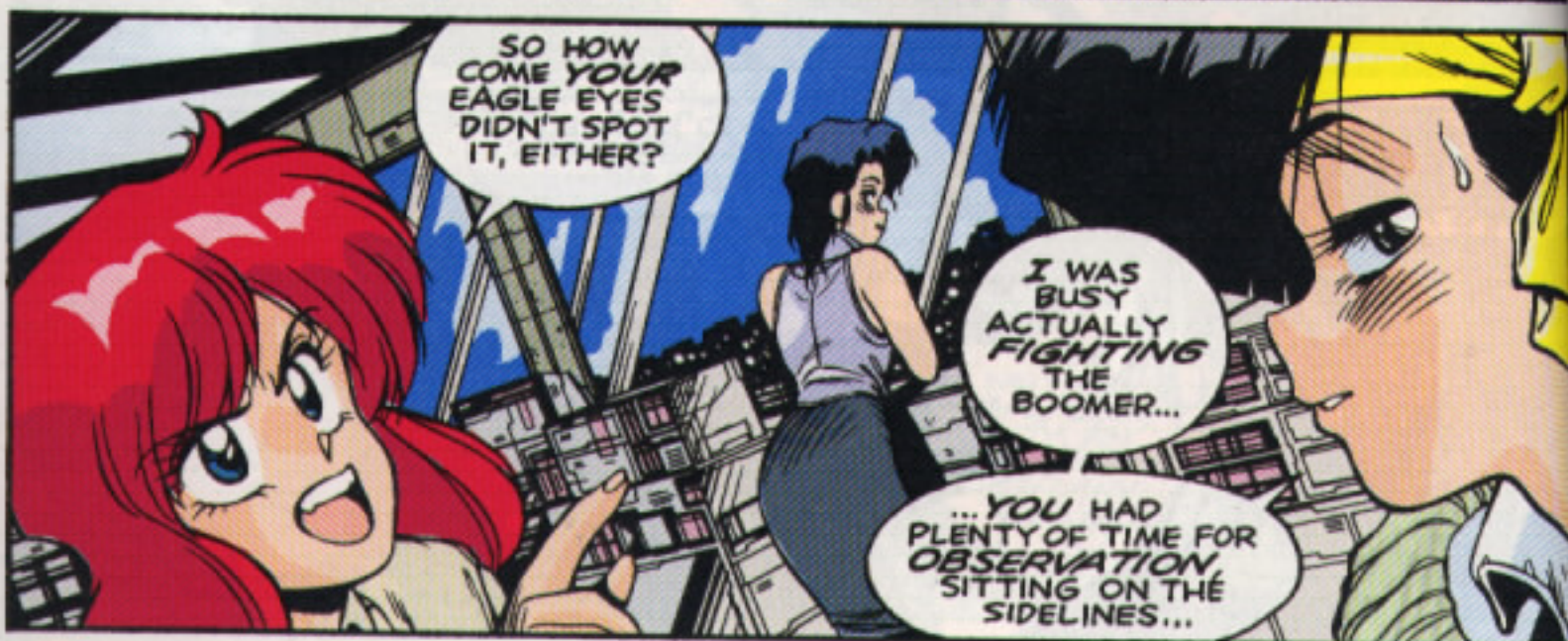
UNDENIABLY,
I AM IN
DECLINE.



--YOU'RE
LOSING
IT, NENE!

THIS MEMORY MODULE
MUST HAVE BEEN PRACTI-
CALLY LYING OUT IN THE
OPEN, AND YOU DIDN'T
EVEN NOTICE IT!

YOU
WERE
THERE
TOO,
LINNA!



SO HOW
COME YOUR
EAGLE EYES
DIDN'T SPOT
IT, EITHER?

I WAS
BUSY
ACTUALLY
FIGHTING
THE
BOOMER...

...YOU HAD
PLENTY OF TIME FOR
OBSERVATION
SITTING ON THE
SIDELINES...

HA!

I
CONTRIBUTE
TO THE KNIGHT
SABERS WITH
MY GOOD
LOOKS AND
AMAZING
BRAIN!

--ENOUGH
UNCONSTRUCTIVE
RECRIMINATIONS
FOR TODAY,
LINNA.

NOW,
NENE...

SO
THERE!

VIDEO
SAMPLE

NO
PROBLEM,
SYLIA!

I CAN
DO
THAT!

SNORTE

IT MIGHT JUST
SHED SOME LIGHT ON
SOME PUZZLING
INCIDENTS I'VE
NOTICED OVER THE
LAST FEW MONTHS--

...AS
SOON AS YOU
CAN MANAGE
IT...

...I'LL NEED
TO SEE A COPY OF
THE ADPOLICE'S
ANALYSIS OF
THIS MODULE'S
CONTENTS.

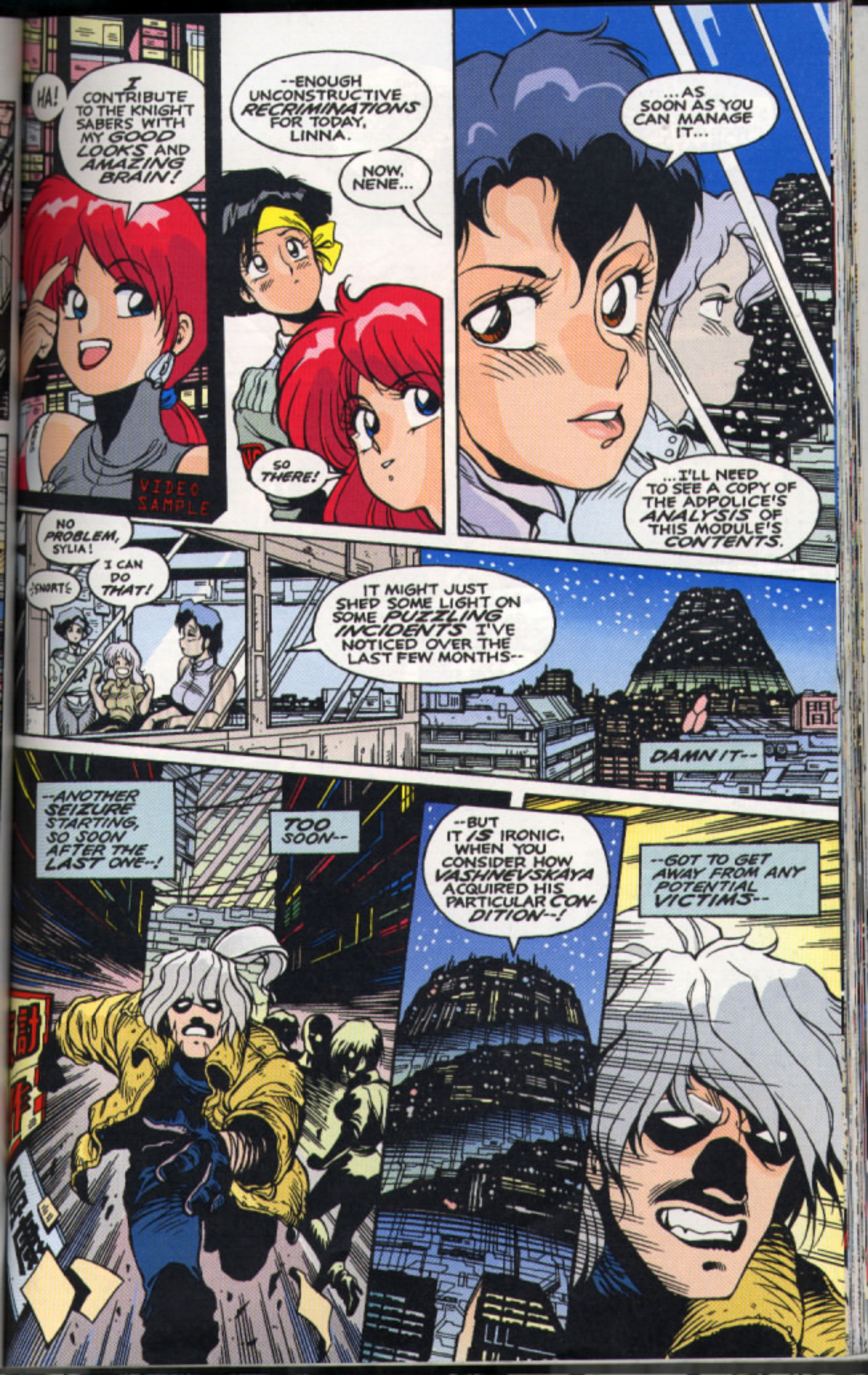
DAMN IT--

--ANOTHER
SEIZURE
STARTING,
SO SOON
AFTER THE
LAST ONE--!

TOO
SOON--

--BUT
IT IS IRONIC,
WHEN YOU
CONSIDER HOW
VASHNEVSKAYA
ACQUIRED HIS
PARTICULAR CON-
DITION--!

--GOT TO GET
AWAY FROM ANY
POTENTIAL
VICTIMS--



HE UNDERWENT
A MASSIVE
**NEUROLOGICAL
ALTERATION,**
RATHER LIKE OUR
CREATION, IN
A WAY...

...AND
LIKE US, HE
CERTAINLY
WASN'T GIVEN,
A CHOICE
IN THE
MATTER...

HAHH

HAHH

--NICE, DESERTED
ALLEYWAY--

--AS GOOD
A PLACE
AS ANY--

--TO
MUTILATE
MYSELF--

MY, THAT SOUNDS
ALMOST LIKE
SYMPATHY,
OR EVEN
GUILT!

THAT'S
RATHER
SURPRIS-
ING...

...GIVEN THAT
OUR **MENTAL
ARCHITECTURES**
AREN'T SET UP
FOR SUCH--

KINDLY
RESERVE YOUR
CONDESCENSION
FOR THE ORGANICS,
PLEASE...

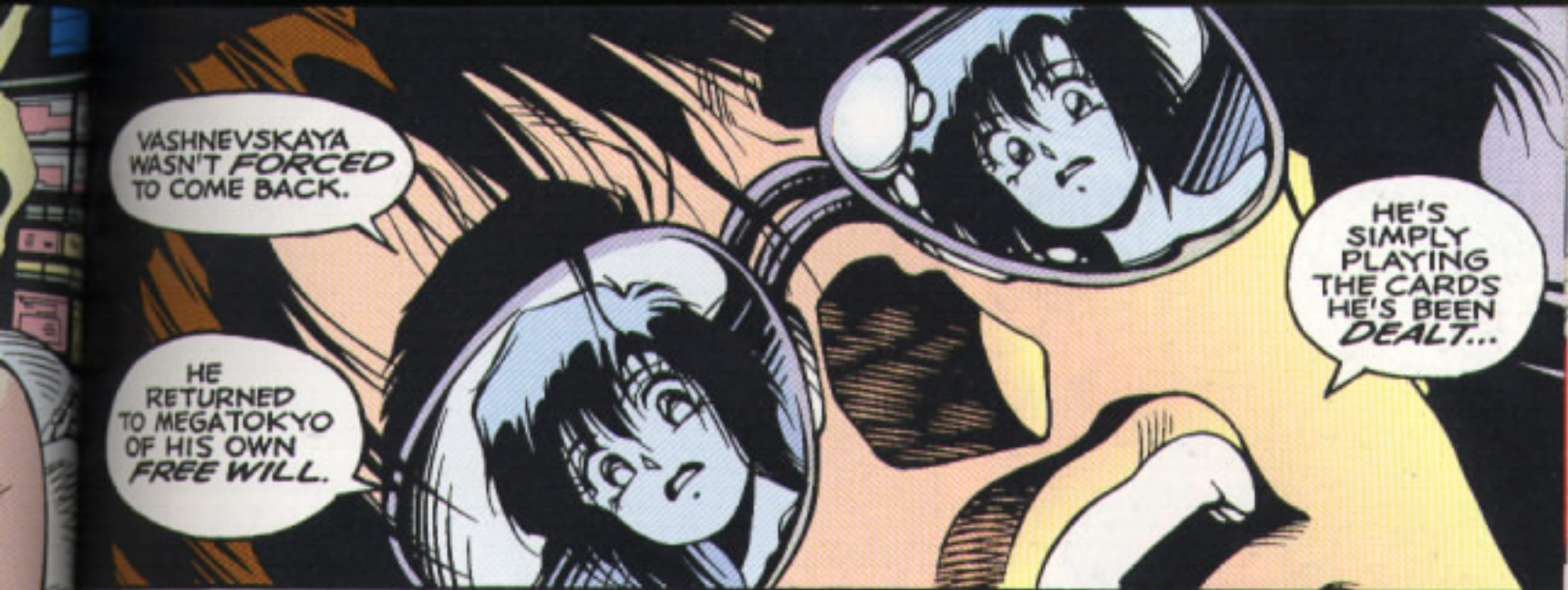
--WOULDN'T MIND THE
HALLUCINATIONS
SO MUCH--

--IF THEY WERE
VISIONS OF
SOMETHING
PLEASANT--!

--LIKE, SAY, SCANTILY
CLAD RETROTHRASH
SINGERS--

HEY--!

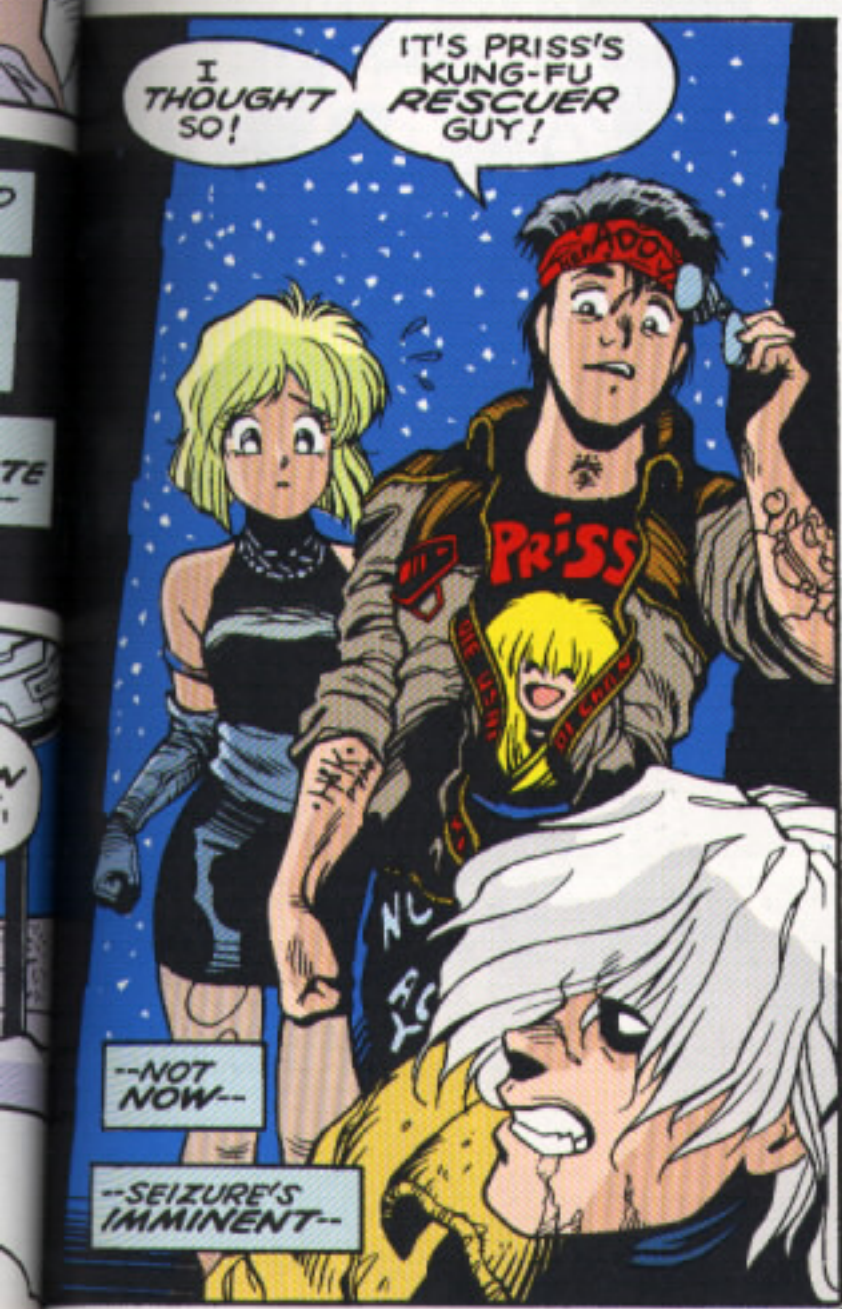
YOU
OKAY,
DUDE?



VASHNEVSKAYA
WASN'T FORCED
TO COME BACK.

HE'S
SIMPLY
PLAYING
THE CARDS
HE'S BEEN
DEALT...

HE
RETURNED
TO MEGATOKYO
OF HIS OWN
FREE WILL.

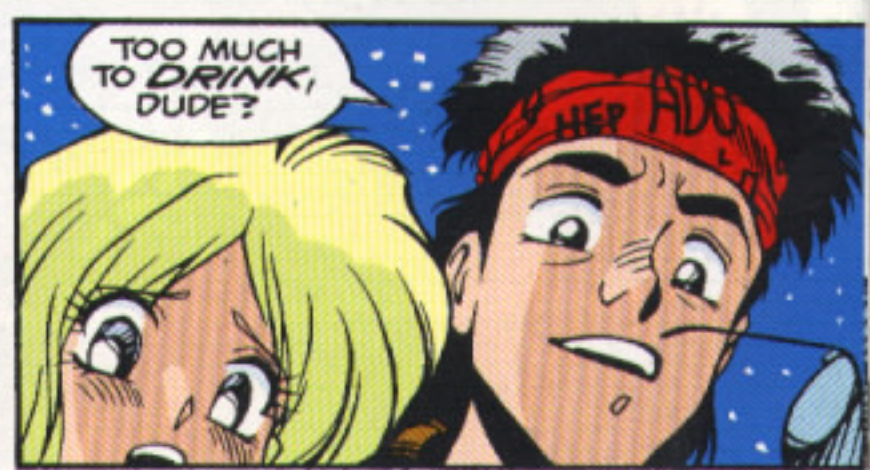


I
THOUGHT
SO!

IT'S PRISS'S
KUNG-FU
RESCUER
GUY!

--NOT
NOW--

--SEIZURE'S
IMMINENT--



TOO MUCH
TO DRINK,
DUDE?

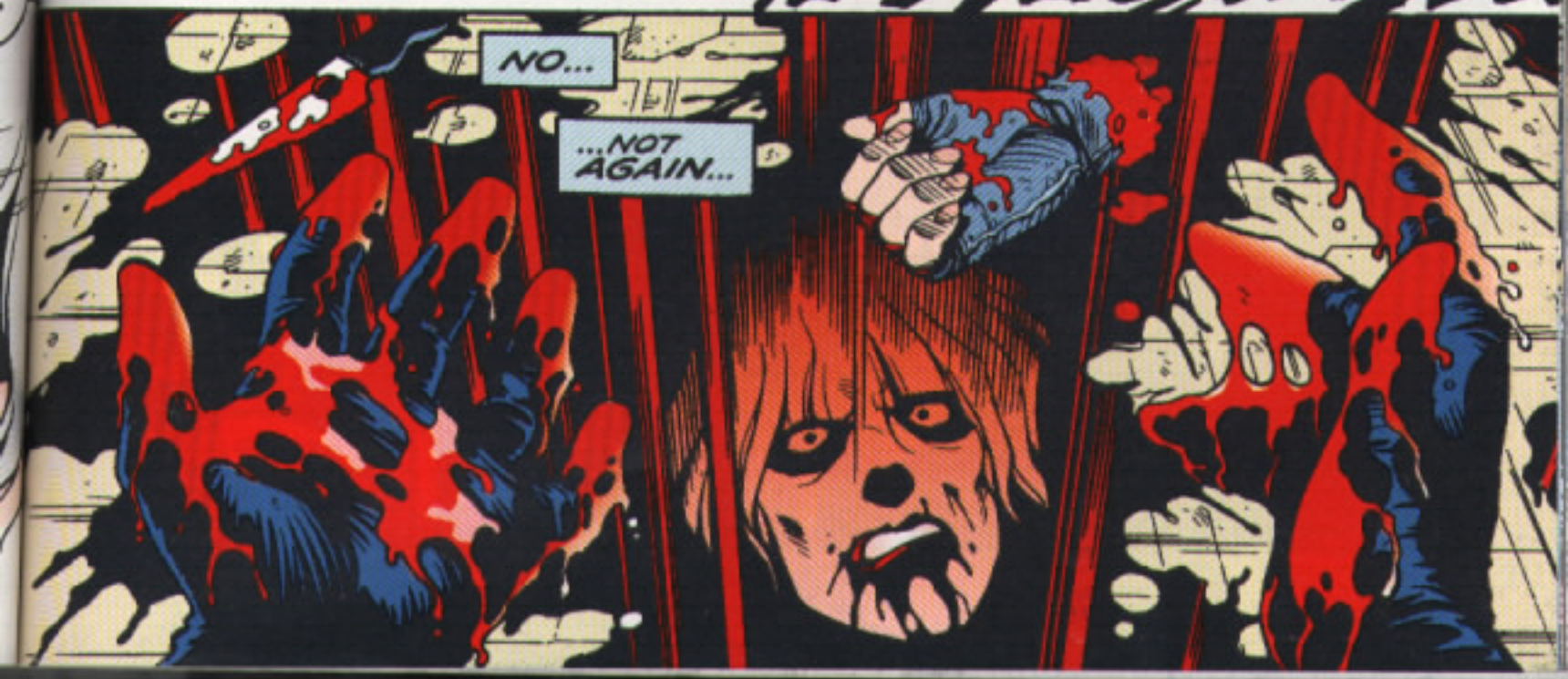


PLEASE--!

GET
AWAY--!

GET--

AWAY



NO...

...NOT
AGAIN...

SOME-
THING
IN MY
MOUTH--?

GUHKK!
Ptoo=

SEVERED
FINGERS.

NOT MINE,
THIS TIME...

THEY'RE
BOTH DEAD...
MANGLED...

THANK YOU,
GENOM.

"AGGRESSIVE
NAIVETE,"
HUH?

POMPOUS
ASS...!

HUNH.

"POINTLESSLY
SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE
BEHAVIOR"--

THE BASTARDS
COULDN'T SEE
FIT TO KILL ME
OUTRIGHT.
COULD THEY--

--IS
TALKING
TO ME LIKE
THAT--!



WHAT?

IT'S
STARTING
AGAIN?

MESSING WITH
GENOM'S BAD
FOR YOUR
HEALTH,
IS IT?

LIKE
HE KNOWS
ANYTHING
ABOUT
IT!



--NO--

--THIS ISN'T
ANOTHER
HALLUCINATION--



--THIS
IS
REAL--

UCHHKK

VRRR

KCHAK



WELL,
MR. "WHITE
KNIGHT"--

--HERE'S
TO YOUR
HEALTH--!

MY HEAD HURTS.

I CAN'T SEE A DAMNED THING.

HEY.

A BOOMER
IS CROONING
IN MY EAR.

HEY,
PAL...

I MUST BE
IN HELL.

...DO ME A
FAVOR,
HUH?

PLIK

KILL
ME.

PLEASE.

NOPE.

NOT YET,
ANYWAY.

KCHAK

WHIRRR



THESE FRIGGIN' MECHS MUST HAVE A WEAKNESS FOR ORGANICS, HUH?

I'M NOT HAVING A PRESEIZURE HALLUCINATION, THIS TIME...

THESE MACHINES, THE SKORPION'S IMPROVISED SUBUNIT MECHS, ARE REAL, NOT IMAGINARY.



THEY HAVEN'T CANNIBALIZED YOU FOR PARTS YET, I NOTICE.

HEY--!

THE MECHS LOOK RAGGED, PIECED TOGETHER, BARELY FUNCTIONAL...

...LIKE ME...

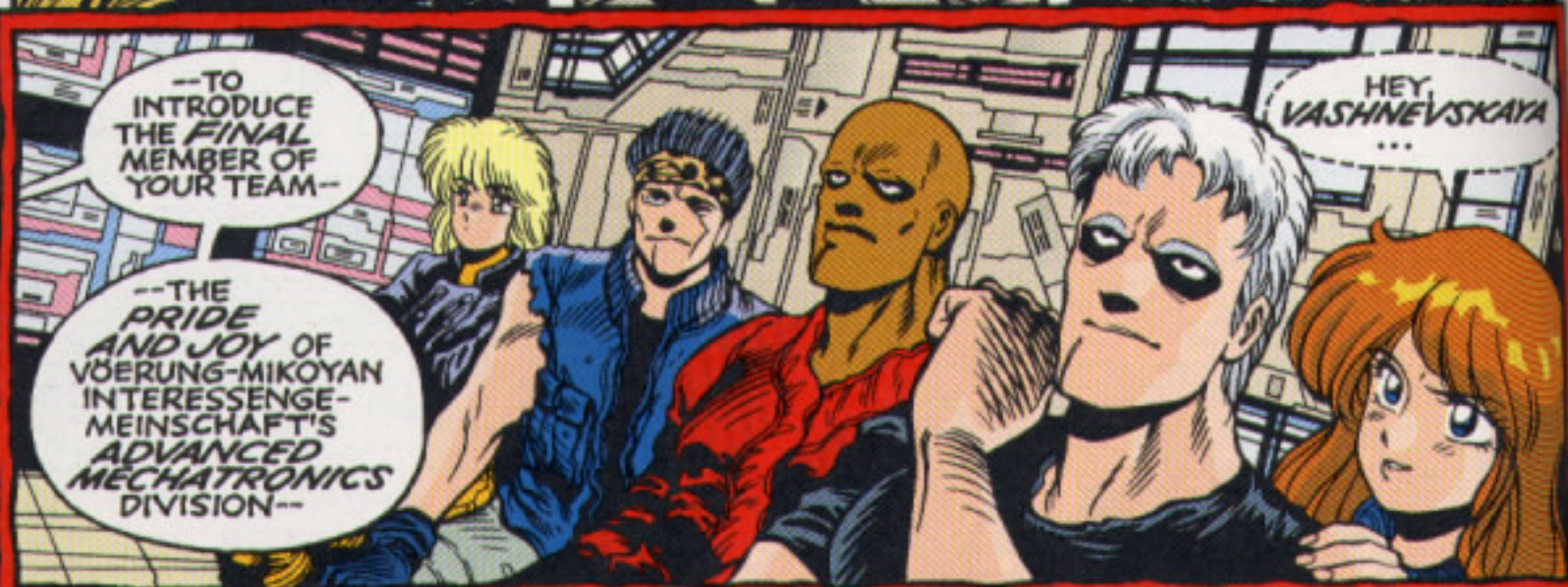


...BUT EVEN AFTER THREE YEARS...

HOLD ON!

DO THESE THINGS ACTUALLY KNOW YOU?

...I CAN STILL RECOGNIZE PARTS OF THE SKORPION'S ORIGINAL FRAME.



--TO INTRODUCE THE FINAL MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM--

--THE PRIDE AND JOY OF VOERUNG-MIKOYAN INTERESSENCE-MEINSCHAFT'S ADVANCED MECHATRONICS DIVISION--

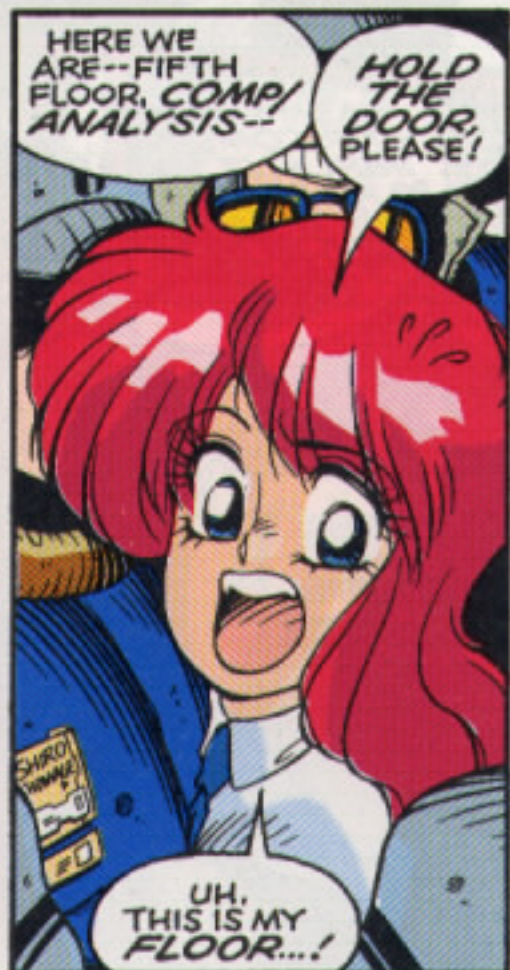
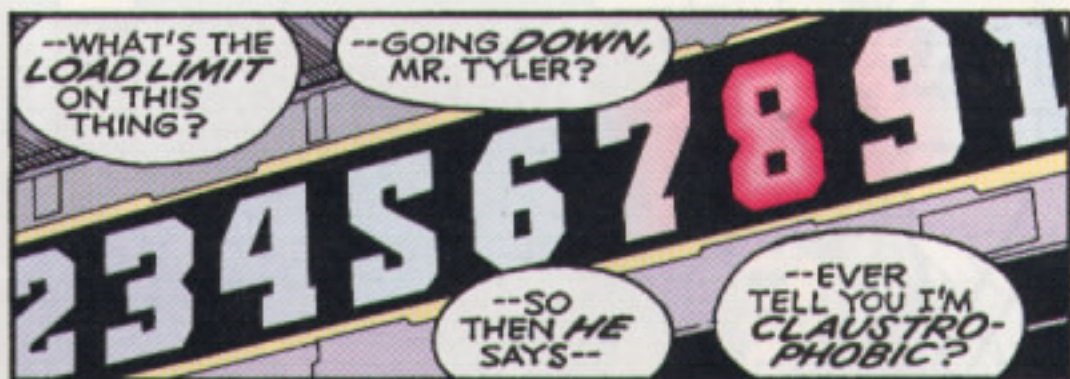
HEY, VASHNEVSKAYA ...



--THE SKORPION 19 ANTHOLOGY INTELLIGENCE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS SELF-REPLICATING RECON/COMBAT MECHANIZED UNIT--

VREEE

...YOU NEVER SAID WE'D BE WORKING WITH A MECH...!



THE SKORPION 19 WAS THE LAST GASP OF FINE EUROPEAN MECHATRONICS, BEFORE GENOM'S BOOMER TECHNOLOGY FINALLY DROVE THE EUROS OUT OF THE FIELD.

IT WAS DESIGNED AS AN ANTHOLOGY INTELLIGENCE, ABLE TO DISPERSE ITS LIMITED AWARENESS THOUGH A JURY-RIGGED NETWORK OF SUBUNIT MECHS AND COMPUTERS.

THRE
FEEL
NOM
GEN
SOR
EUR
RAT
EXT

COMPARED TO THE HUMAN-DERIVED COMPLEXITY OF GENOM'S BOOMERS, THE SKORPION IS CRUDE AND PATHETIC, A BARELY COGNITIVE HEAP OF OBSOLETE MACHINERY.

BUT IT'S ALMOST UN-BEATABLE AT THE FEW SPECIALIZED TASKS IT WAS BUILT TO HANDLE.

A MECHANICAL IDIOT SAVANT, YOU MIGHT SAY.

--VASHNEVSKAYA, YOUR COMLINK IMPLANT SHOULD BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE SKORPION'S ENCRYPTED TRANSMISSIONS NOW.

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

THE SKORPION COMMUNICATES VIA "AUDIO SAMPLES" TAKEN FROM VARIOUS MEDIA SOURCES.

THIS MIGHT BE A BIT JAR-RING, AT FIRST...

NAH, NOT REALLY.

IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE REALLY PRETENTIOUS AUDIO-FORMAT PERFORMANCE ART...

"DON' KNOW
CHOO
LOCO?"

THREE YEARS AGO, FEELING THE ECONOMIC BITE FROM GENOM, A CON-
SORTIUM OF AILING EUROPEAN CORPO-
RATIONS HIRED MY EXTRACTION TEAM.

C'MON,
MAN...

...HAVE SOME
SYMPATHY, HUH?
I'M NOT LIKE THESE
IDIOT MECHS...

...I'M A
SENTIENT
BEING LIKE
YOU, DAMN
IT...

WE CAME TO MEGATOKYO,
THE VERY LION'S DEN,
TO SNAG ONE OF GENOM'S
"INTELLECTUAL ASSETS."

ALAS, SOMEONE HAD
LEAKED WORD OF
OUR DARING
MISSION TO OUR
TARGET.

GENOM, WARNED
OF OUR EVIL IN-
TENT, LAUNCHED
A PREEMPTIVE
STRIKE.

COMBAT BOOMERS, SIMI-
LAR TO MY DECAPITATED
FRIEND HERE, AMBUSHED
US IN TOKYO BAY.

THE HUMAN
MEMBERS OF THE
TEAM FACED
CERTAIN DEATH.

BUT THE SKORPION
HAD ALREADY BEEN
SHIPPED TO MEGA-
TOKYO, WEEKS AHEAD
OF OUR ARRIVAL.

HOPING FOR SOME
POSTHUMOUS
REVENGE,
I STARTED TO
TRANSMIT THE
SKORPION'S ACTI-
VATION CODE.

MAYBE THE MECH
COULD DO SOME
DAMAGE TO
GENOM ON ITS OWN.

BUT BEFORE
I COULD
"LET SLIP
THE DOGS
OF WAR"...

--GENOM
INTERRUPTED
ME WITH A
TRANSMISSION
OF ITS OWN--

HEY,
NENE...

MAN, YOU GUYS
ARE JUST TOO
PAROCHIAL.

YOU GOTTA CULTIVATE
AN APPRECIATION OF THE
PROGRAMMING TECH-
NIQUES OF OTHER
CULTURES, SEE?

GIVE IT
A REST,
SIMMONS.

...WHAT'CHA
DOING DOWN
HERE, IN
THE LAND OF
COMPUTER
GEEKS...?

COMP/
ANALYSIS

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU COULDN'T
FIGURE OUT THIS
MODULE'S CODING
STRUCTURE...

IT'S AN OBVIOUS
VARIANT OF AN OLD
GERMAN PROGRAMMING
LANGUAGE THAT USED
TO BE ALL THE RAGE
IN EUROPEAN MECH
DESIGN.

SIMPLE
STUFF,
REALLY.

YEAH,
WELL,
WHAT'S
ON THE
DAMN
THING?

DISKTEK HR
120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

LOOKS LIKE A
WEIRD JUMBLE OF FILES
ON THE ORIGIN OF
BOOMER ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE...
ANCIENT HISTORY,
REALLY.

ANYWAY,
YOU GUYS CAN
CHECK IT OUT,
I'VE GOT IT
DOWNLOAD-
ING NOW.

JUST LET ME KNOW IF
YOU GET STYMIED
AGAIN BY SUCH
SIMPLE CRAP.

CLEARLY,
NO ONE
AROUND HERE
COMES CLOSE
TO MY LEVEL
OF SKILL...

THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THINK,
JERK...!

DISKTEK HR
120
HIGH-DENSITY
OPTICAL STORAGE
MEMORY MODULE

ONCE AGAIN,
I'M FACING
A SLAYERING
HORDE OF
COMBAT
BOOMERS.

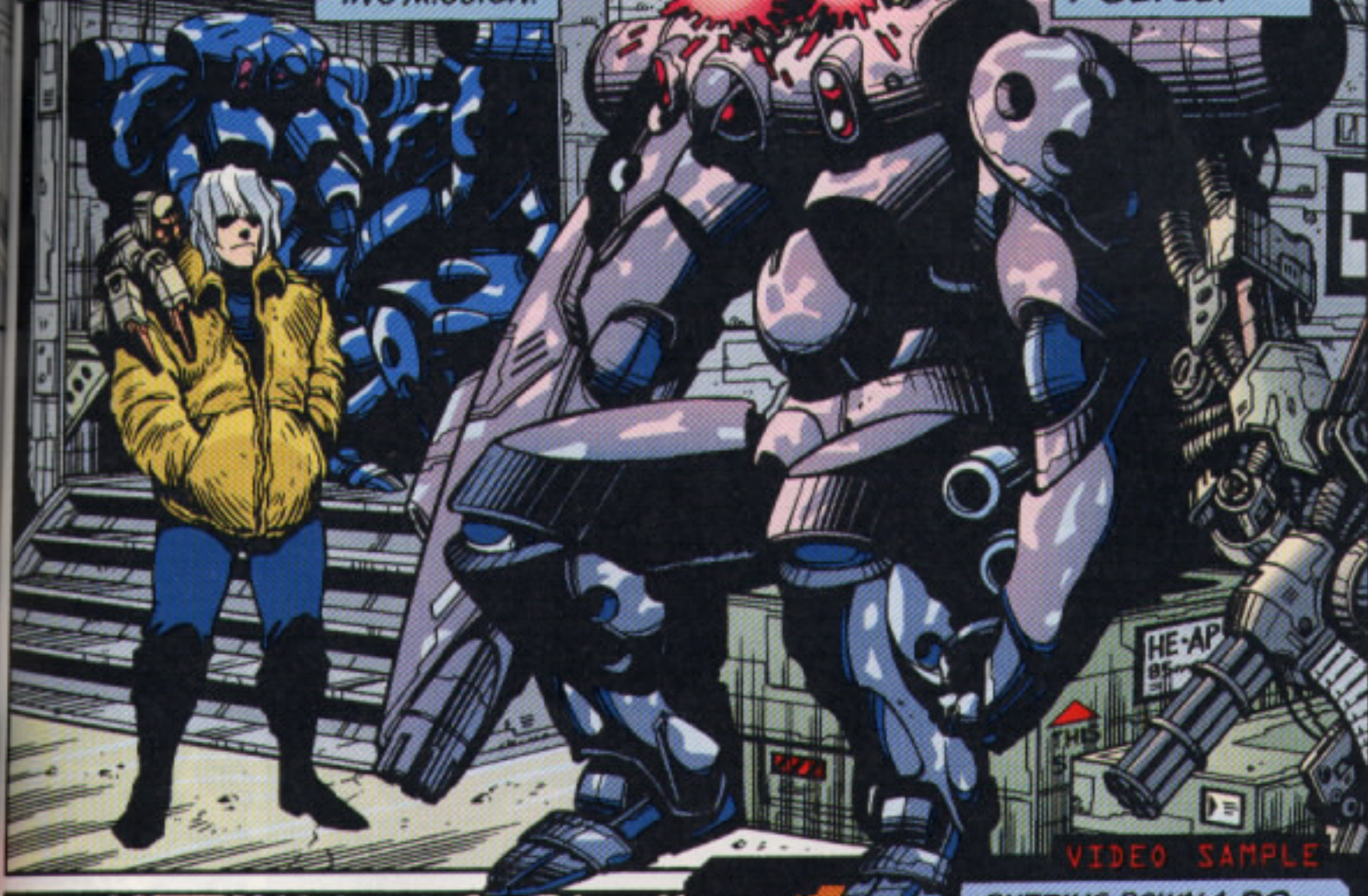
BUT THIS
TIME, THEY'LL
BE ON MY SIDE.

I HOPE.

TWO NIGHTS AGO,
THE SKORPION TELLS
ME, A HOSTILE
BOOMER RIPPED OFF
SOME VITAL
ELEMENT OF THE
MECH'S ANTHOLOGY
INTELLIGENCE.

SOME
MEMORY
MODULE,
STUFFED
WITH DATA
CRITICAL
TO OUR DAR-
ING MISSION.

EVENTUALLY,
THE MODULE
ENDED UP IN
THE HANDS OF
MEGATOKYO'S
HAPLESS
ADVANCED
POLICE.



VIDEO SAMPLE

NOW WE'RE PRES-
SING A STOLEN
COMBAT BOOMER
INTO SERVICE TO
HELP RECOVER IT.

NOTHING'S
MORE
PLEASINGLY
IRONIC
THAN USING
A GENOM
PRODUCT
AGAINST ITS
MAKERS...

---PUTTING DOWN A DO-
MESTIC INSURGENCY?
PLANNING SOME TERRITO-
RIAL EXPANSION BY FORCE?



OR JUST LOOKING TO SPICE UP YOUR
JANE'S DAY MILITARY PARADE?
WELL, THE HEAVY-DUTY BU-12C
COMBAT BOOMER IS JUST WHAT--



--GOOD NEWS ON THAT **MEMORY MODULE** THINGIE, SYLIA!

WE SHOULD HAVE A **COMPLETE** DOWNLOAD FROM IT, IN AN HOUR OR TWO!

NEAT, HUH?



EXCELLENT, NENE.

WOW!

NENE ACTUALLY DOING SOMETHING **USEFUL**?

I'M **BLOWN AWAY!**

HUH?

HMM...FILES ON THE CREATION OF **BOOMER ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**? THAT'S CURIOUS...

IT'S **NENE**?



THIS MIGHT CONCERN SOME OF THE MORE **SHADOWY** ASPECTS OF MY FATHER'S WORK, PERHAPS...

SO, NENE, YOU CAN SAFELY GET ACCESS TO THIS DATA, RIGHT...?



OH, COME ON, SYLIA!

I'M **LORD AND MASTER** OF THE ADP COMPUTER SYSTEM!

IN **SECRET**, OF COURSE.

MOVE IT, PEOPLE!

--DURING MY **COFFEE BREAK**, OF COURSE--
--ANOTHER **BOOMER**--?

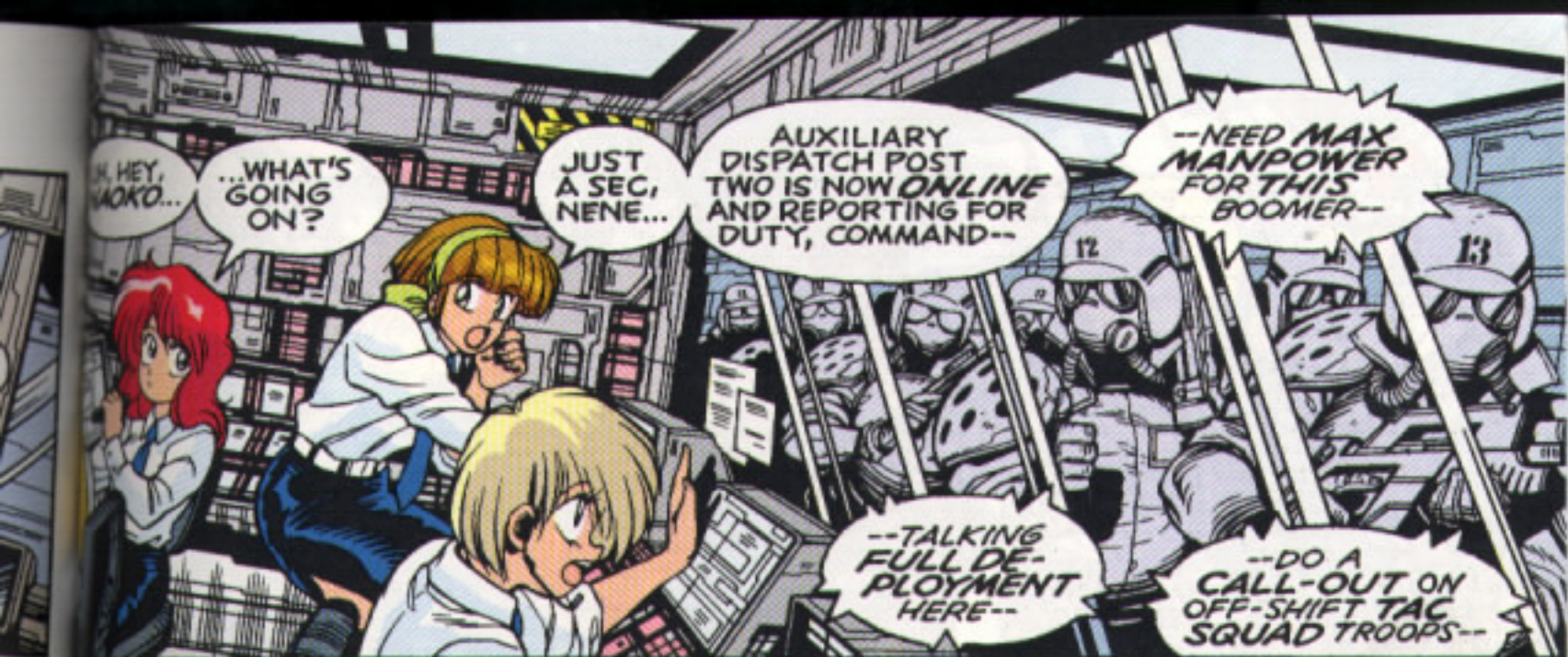


HUH?

LEA AND I'LL HANDLE THE **GROUND TROOPS**--

--YOU TWO HELP DISPATCH THE **HELOS**, OKAY?

--SOUNDS LIKE A **MEAN** ONE, THIS TIME...



HEY, WAKO...

...WHAT'S GOING ON?

JUST A SEC, NENE...

AUXILIARY DISPATCH POST TWO IS NOW **ONLINE** AND REPORTING FOR DUTY, COMMAND--

--NEED MAX MANPOWER FOR THIS **BOOMER**--

--TALKING FULL DE-
PLOYMENT
HERE--

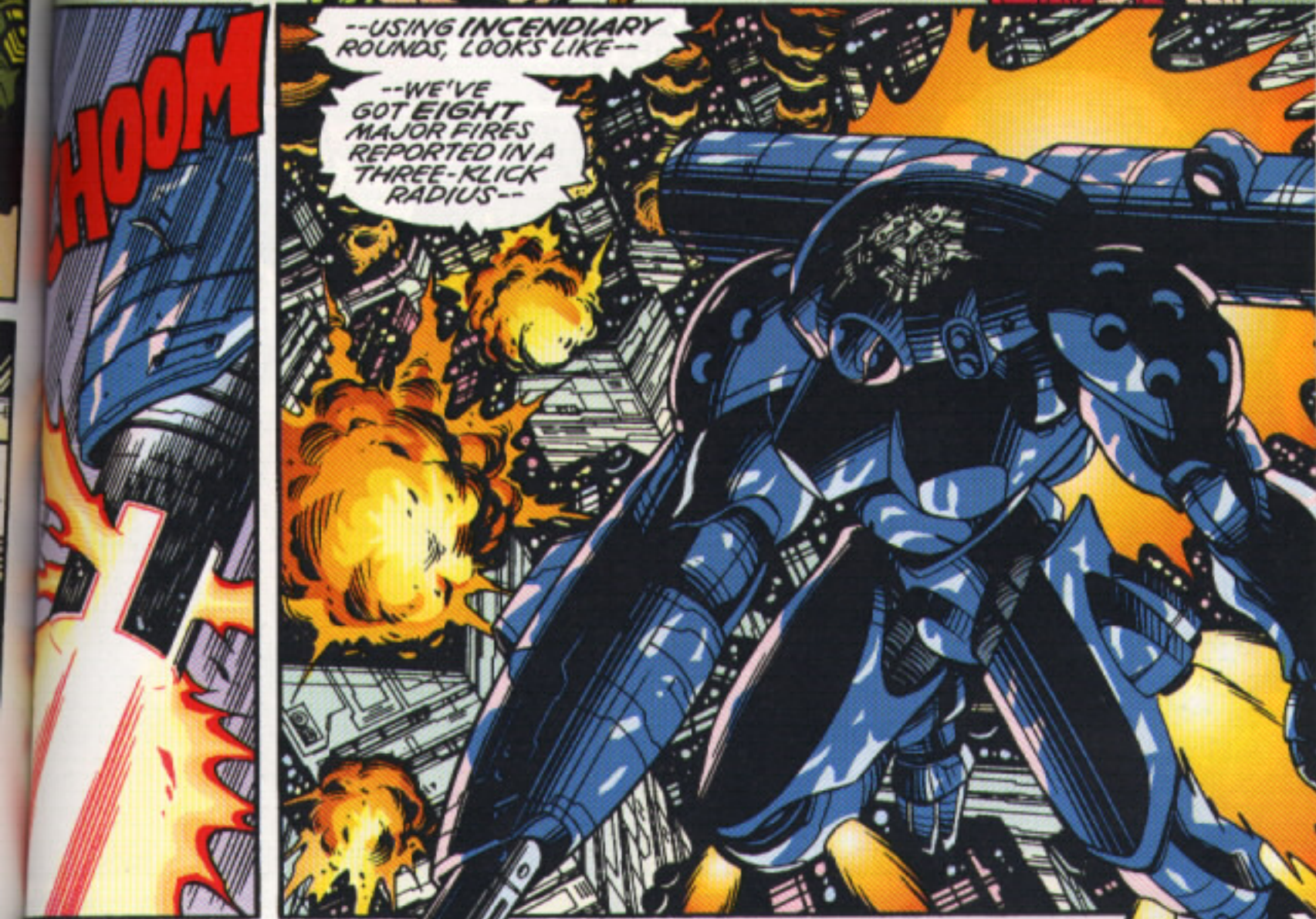
--DO A
CALL-OUT ON
OFF-SHIFT TAC
SQUAD TROOPS--



WE'VE GOT A MAJOR **BOOMER** INCIDENT UNDER WAY--

--AT LEAST ONE HEAVY-DUTY **COMBAT MODEL**, ON A **SHOOTING SPREE** WITH AN AUTOCANNON--!

OH, JEEZ...!



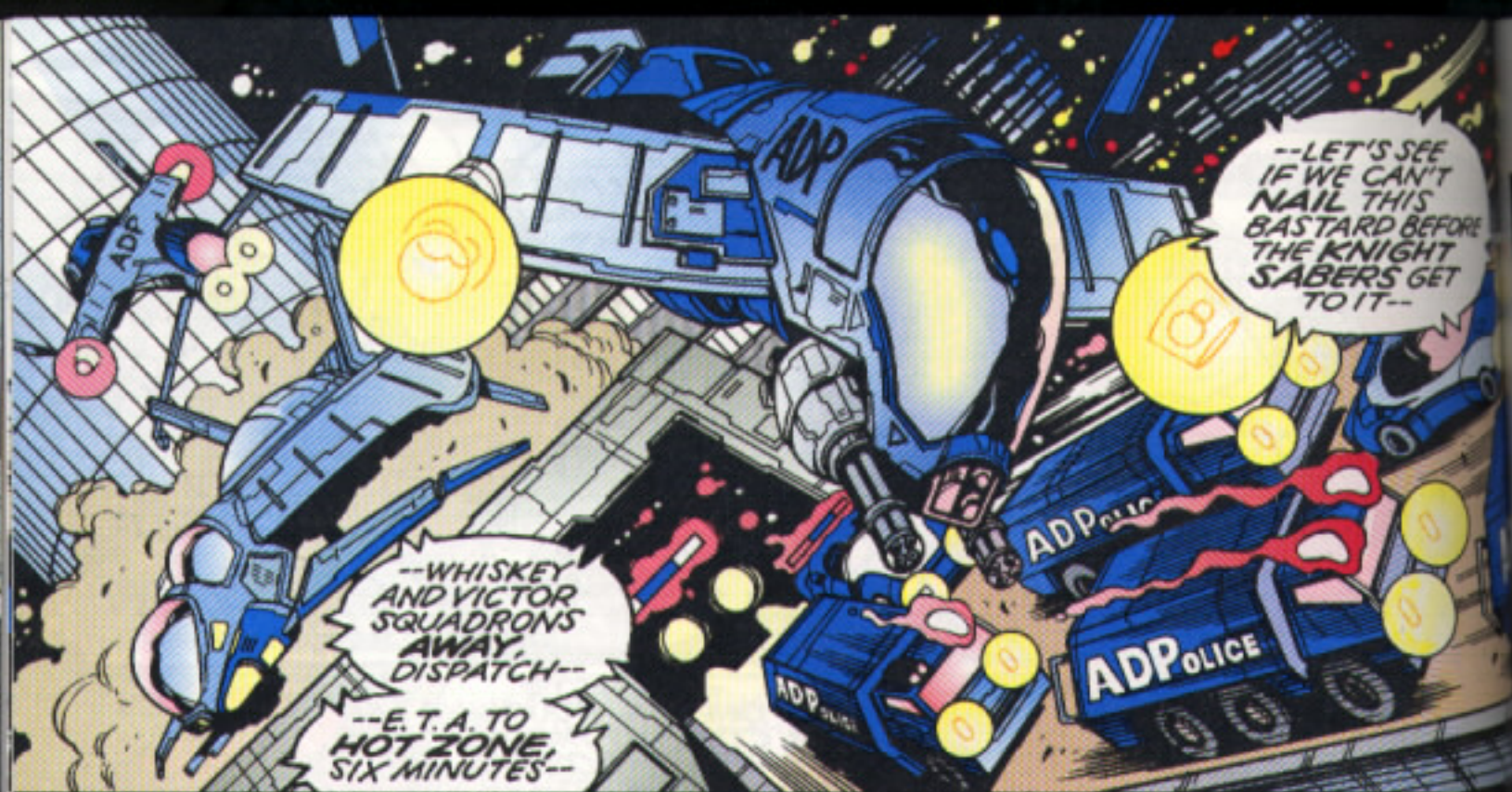
--USING **INCENDIARY** ROUNDS, LOOKS LIKE--

--WE'VE GOT **EIGHT** MAJOR FIRES REPORTED IN A **THREE-KLICK** RADIUS--

--HASN'T GONE AFTER ANY OCCUPIED BUILDINGS, YET--

--HEY, BETTER DEPLOY THE **SAM** BATTERIES, DISPATCH--

--THIS SUCKER'S IN THE AIR, AND MOVING FAST--



--LET'S SEE
IF WE CAN'T
NAIL THIS
BASTARD BEFORE
THE KNIGHT
SABERS GET
TO IT--

--WHISKEY
AND VICTOR
SQUADRONS
AWAY,
DISPATCH--

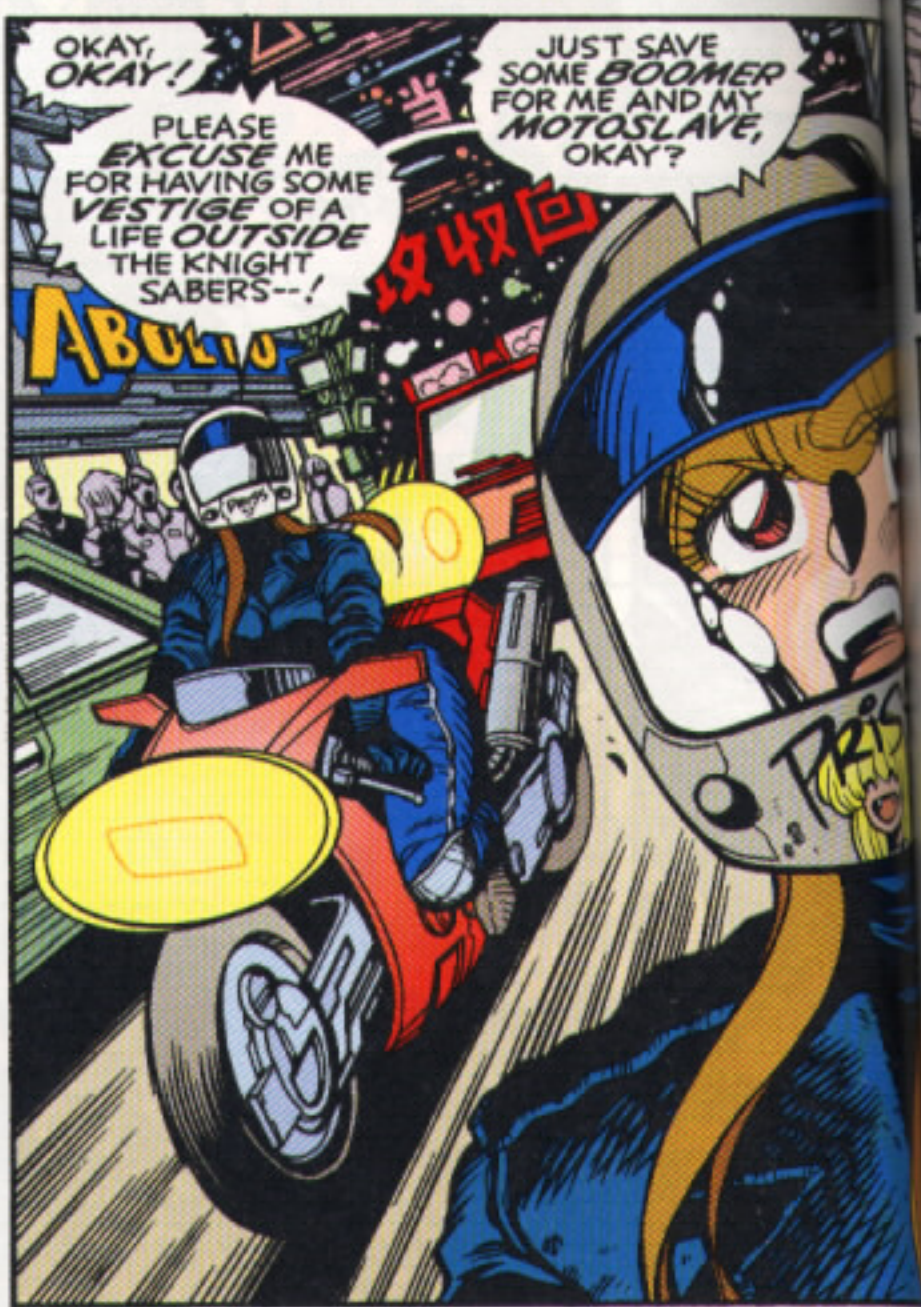
--E.T.A. TO
HOT ZONE,
SIX MINUTES--



--LINNA AND I
ARE HEADING OUT
NOW...I'LL LEAVE
THE *MOTOROID*
HERE FOR YOU,
PRISS.

PLEASE
HURRY,
ALL
RIGHT?

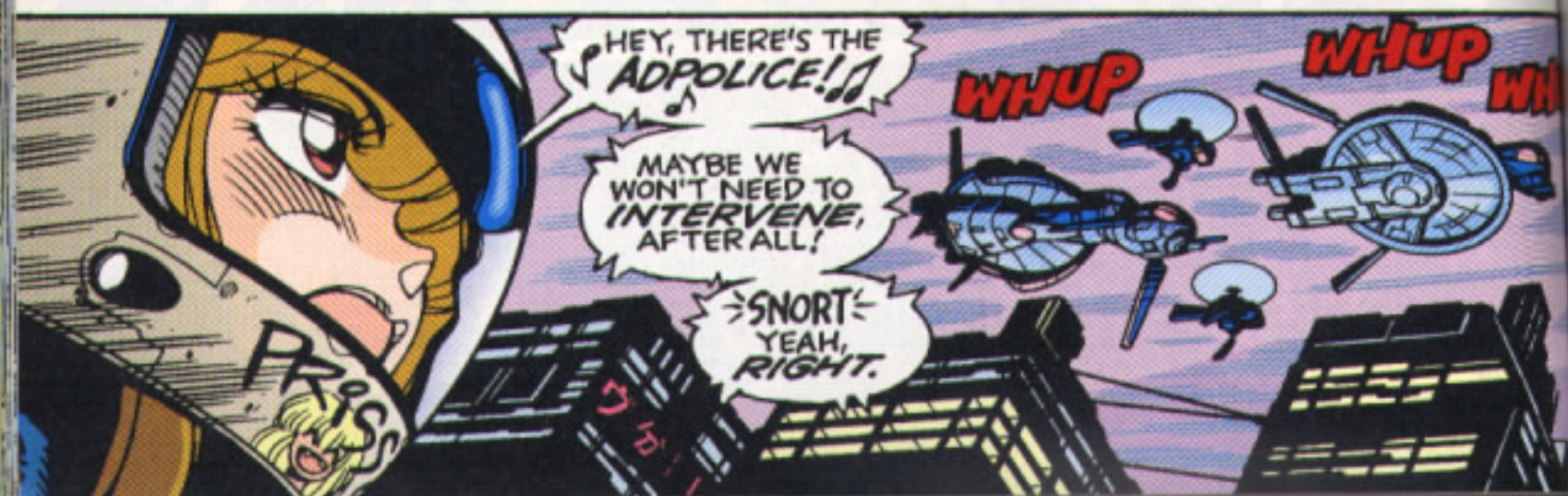
YOU
GUYS
READY
YET--?



OKAY,
OKAY!

PLEASE
EXCUSE ME
FOR HAVING SOME
VESTIGE OF A
LIFE OUTSIDE
THE KNIGHT
SABERS--!

JUST SAVE
SOME *BOOMER*
FOR ME AND MY
MOTOSLAVE,
OKAY?



HEY, THERE'S THE
ADPOLICE!!

MAYBE WE
WON'T NEED TO
INTERVENE,
AFTER ALL!

=SNORT=
YEAH,
RIGHT.

WHUP WHUP WHUP

VIDEO SAMPLE

CRAP! THE FIRES ARE SCREWING UP MY INFRARED ARRAYS, BIG TIME--

--NO SIGN OF THE BOGEY HERE, DISPATCH--

--THE RECORD OF THE ADPOLICE SHOWS THE FOLLY OF A PURELY REACTIVE APPROACH TO THE BOOMER PROBLEM.

--THIS SECTOR'S CLEAN, DISPATCH--

--IT'S WEIRD FOR A BOOMER TO START PLAYING BASHFUL, LIKE THIS--

EDITORIAL

CLEARLY, A MORE THOUGHTFUL AND PREVENTIVE RESPONSE IS CALLED FOR--

WHUP WHUP WHUP

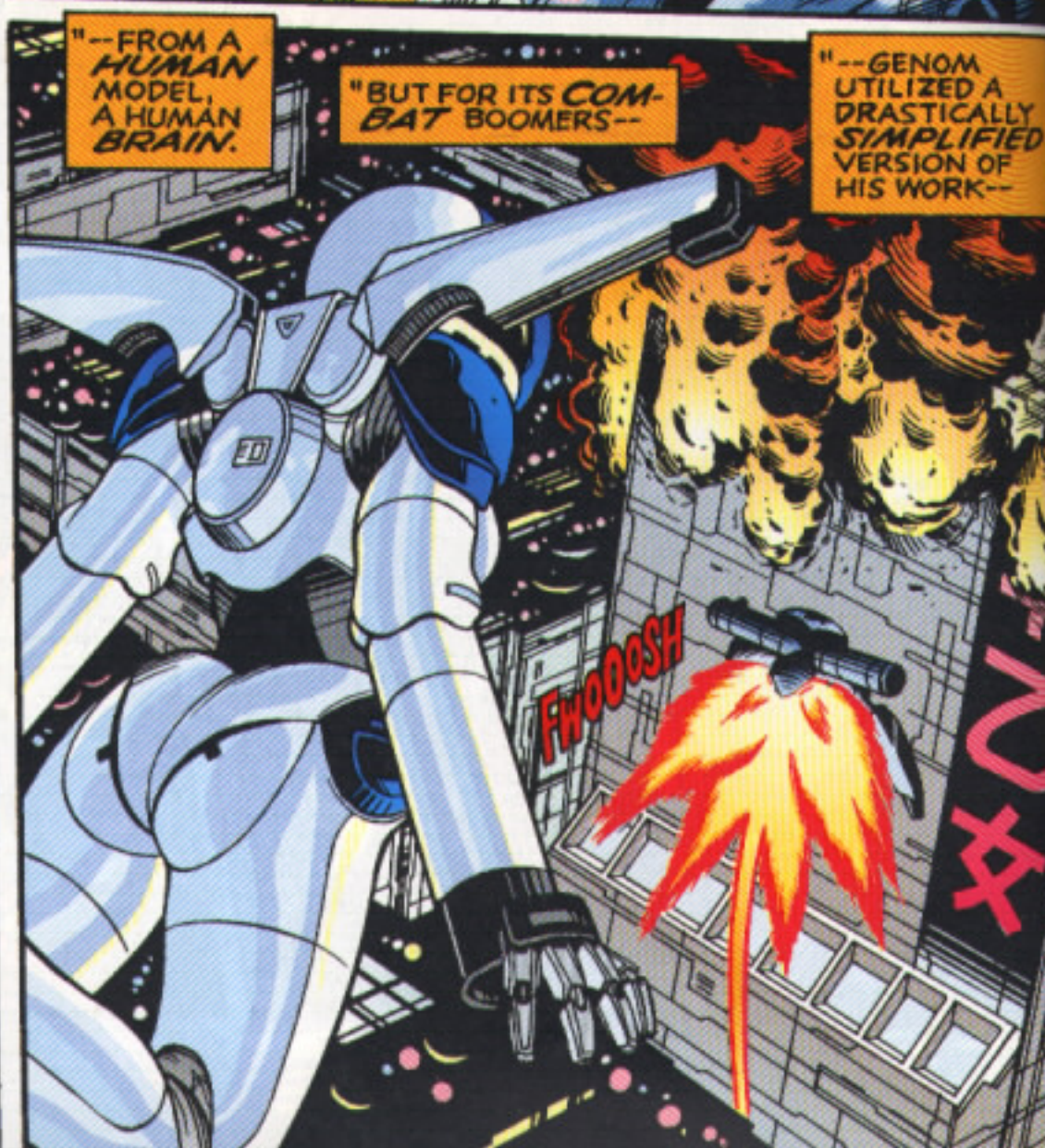
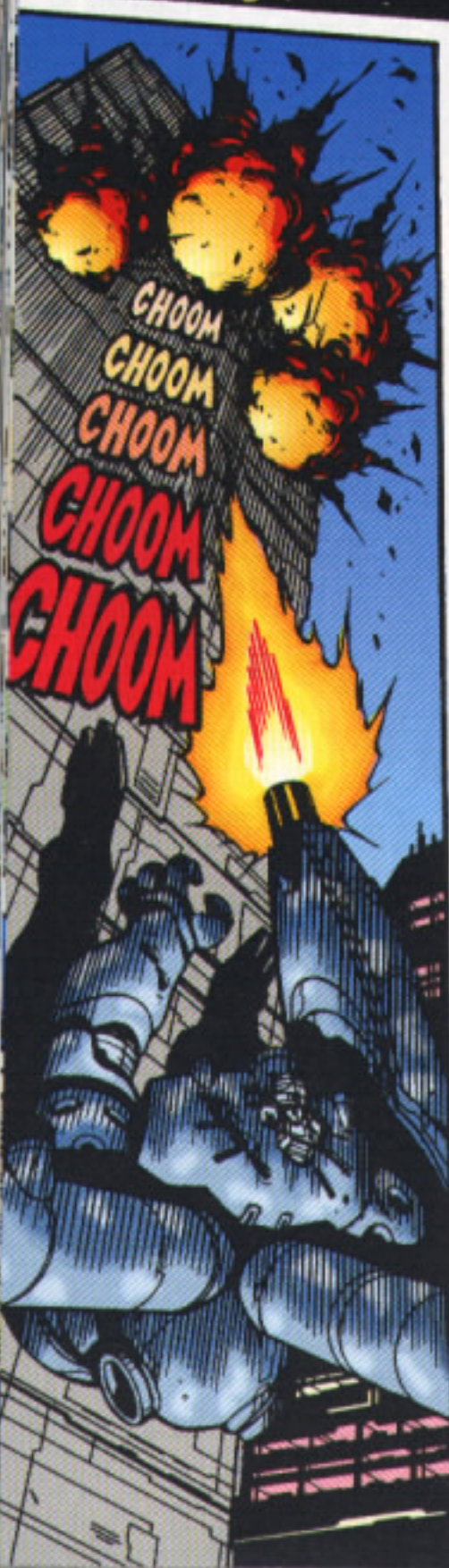
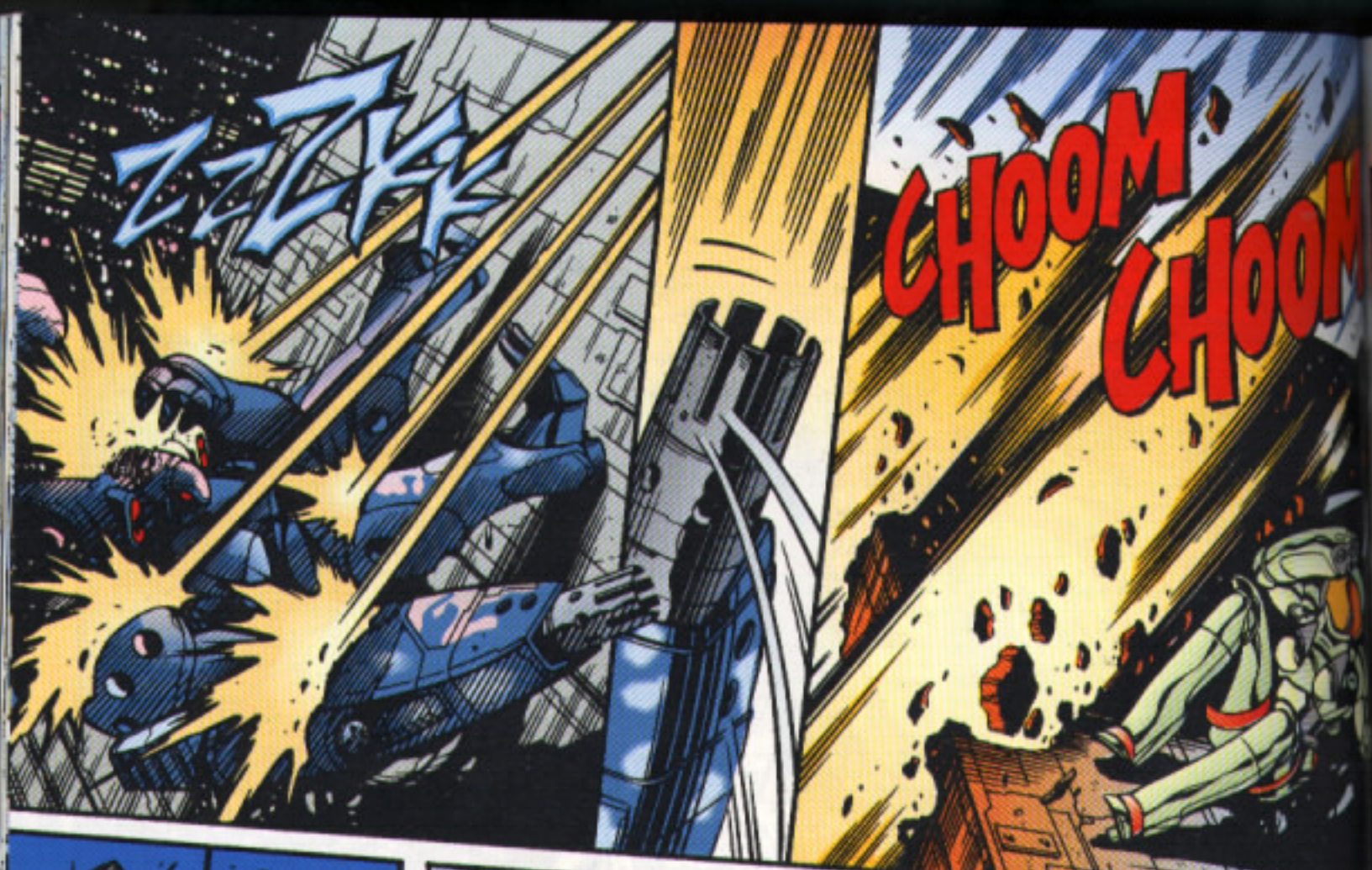
--KINDA LIKE THAT LAST BOOMER, COME TO THINK OF IT--

HEY, HE'S BOUND TO SHOW HIS UGLY EXCUSE FOR A FACE SOONER OR LATER--

--AND WHEN HE DOES--

--HIS BIO-MECHANICAL ASS IS HISTORY--

HARD SUIT



M
"FAR MORE *UNSTABLE*, BUT MUCH CHEAPER TO *MASS PRODUCE*."

"NONETHELESS, EVEN *THESE* BELLIGERENT, ANIMALISTIC MONSTERS ARE STILL *SENTIENT*--"

"--STILL *HUMAN*, IN SOME DE-GRADED SENSE."

"SO WHEN WE MUST *STOP* ONE OF *THESE* TWISTED, PATHETIC CREATURES--"

KUHAK

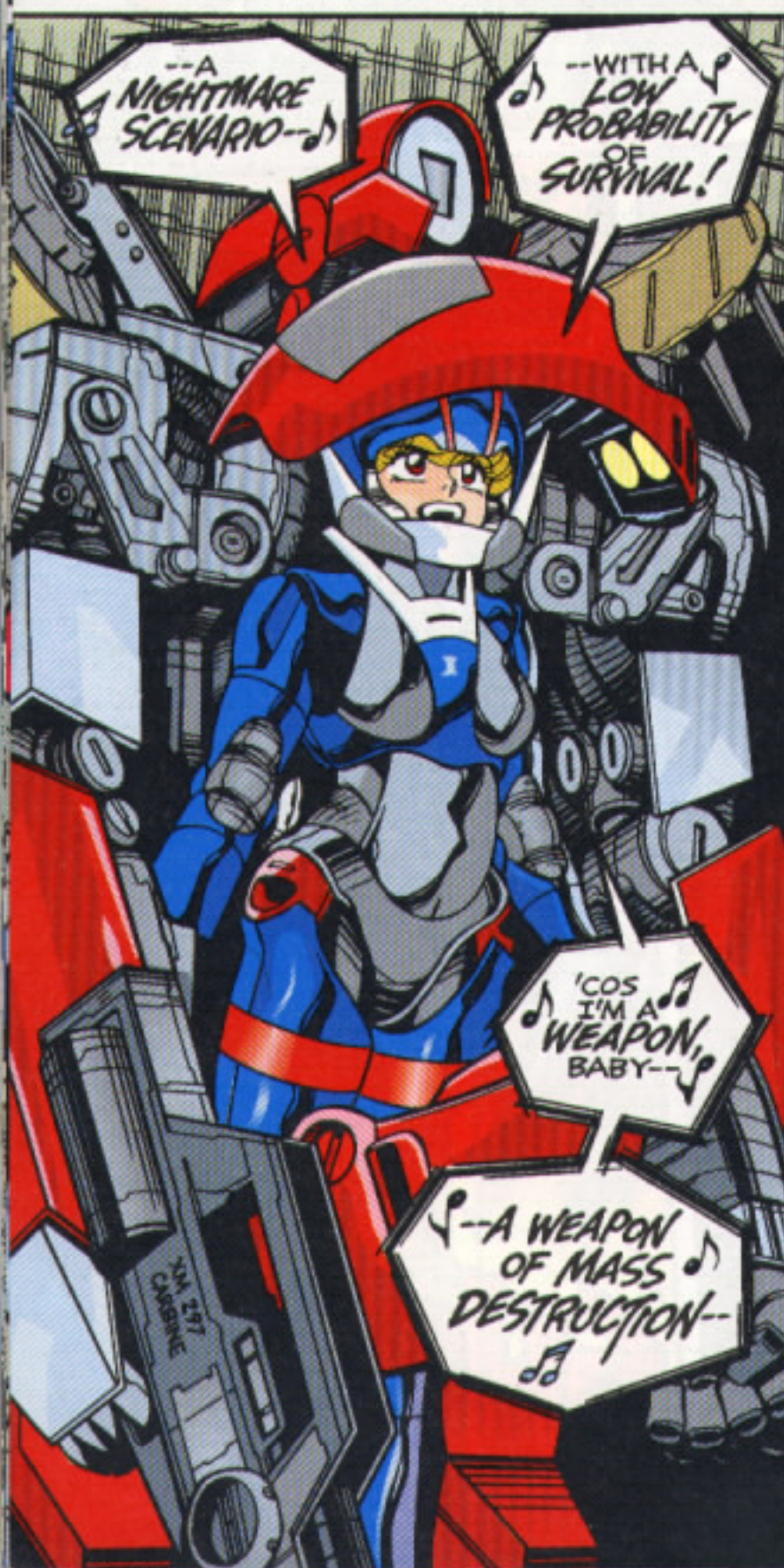
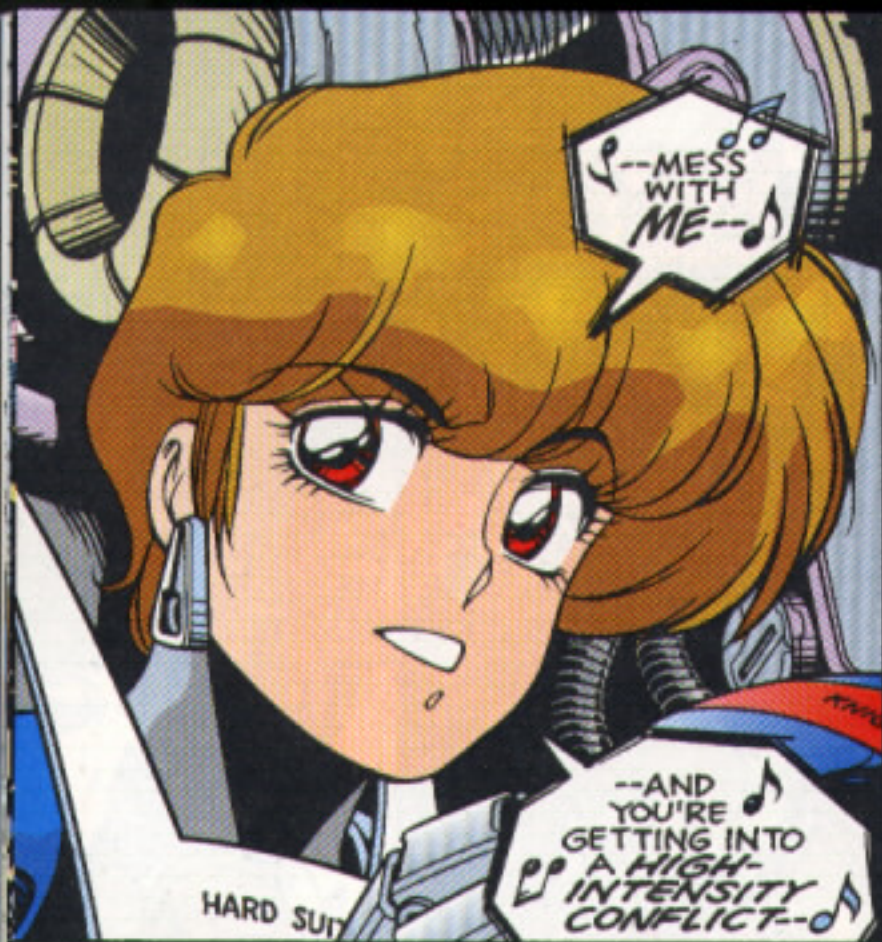
"--I TRY TO MAKE THEIR *END*--"

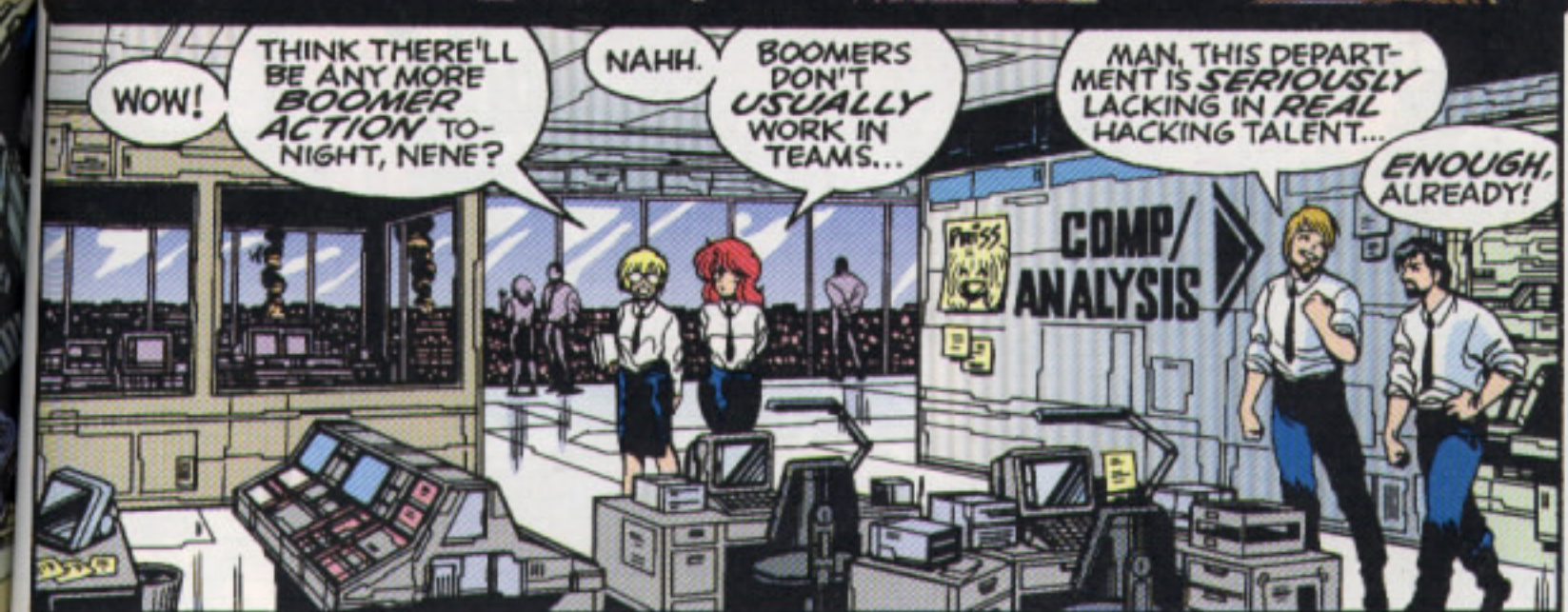
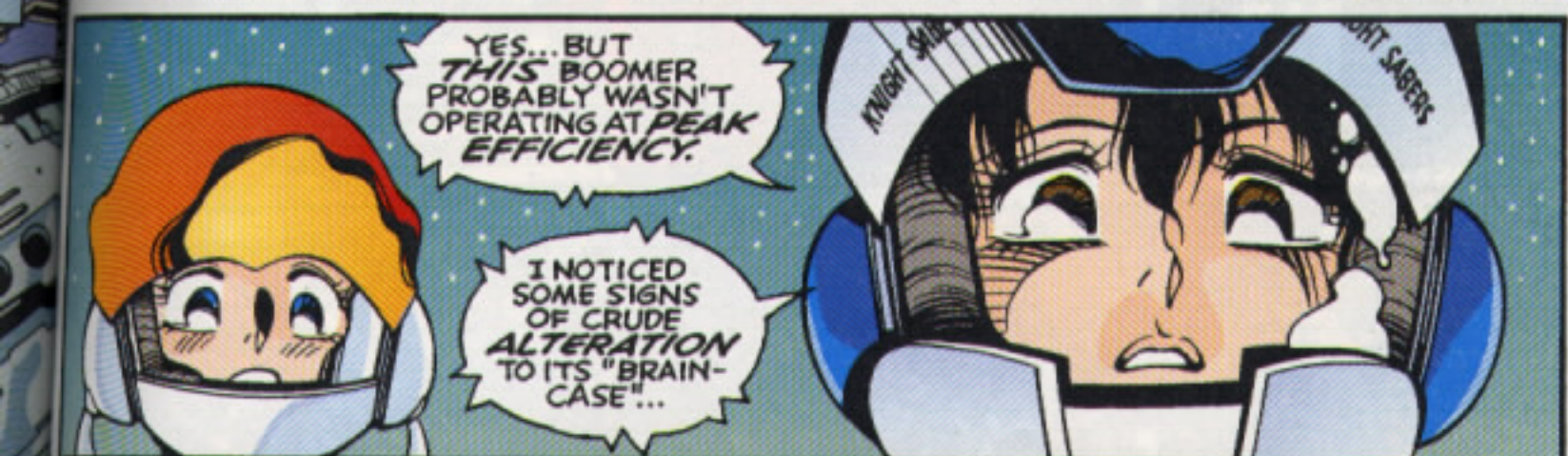
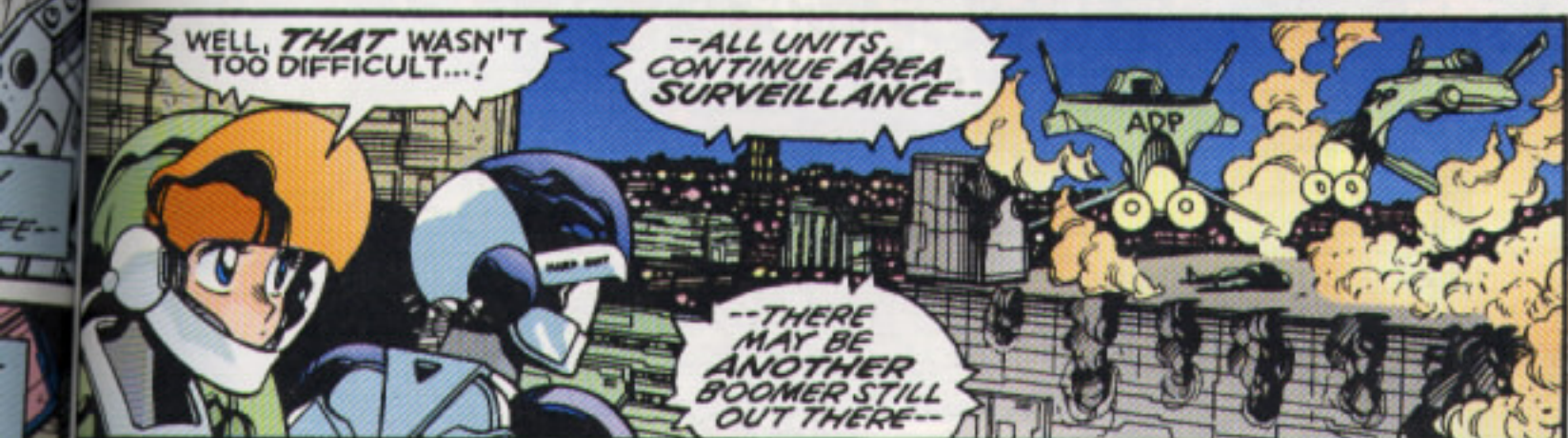
"--AS *QUICK* AND AS *MERCIFUL* AS POSSIBLE."

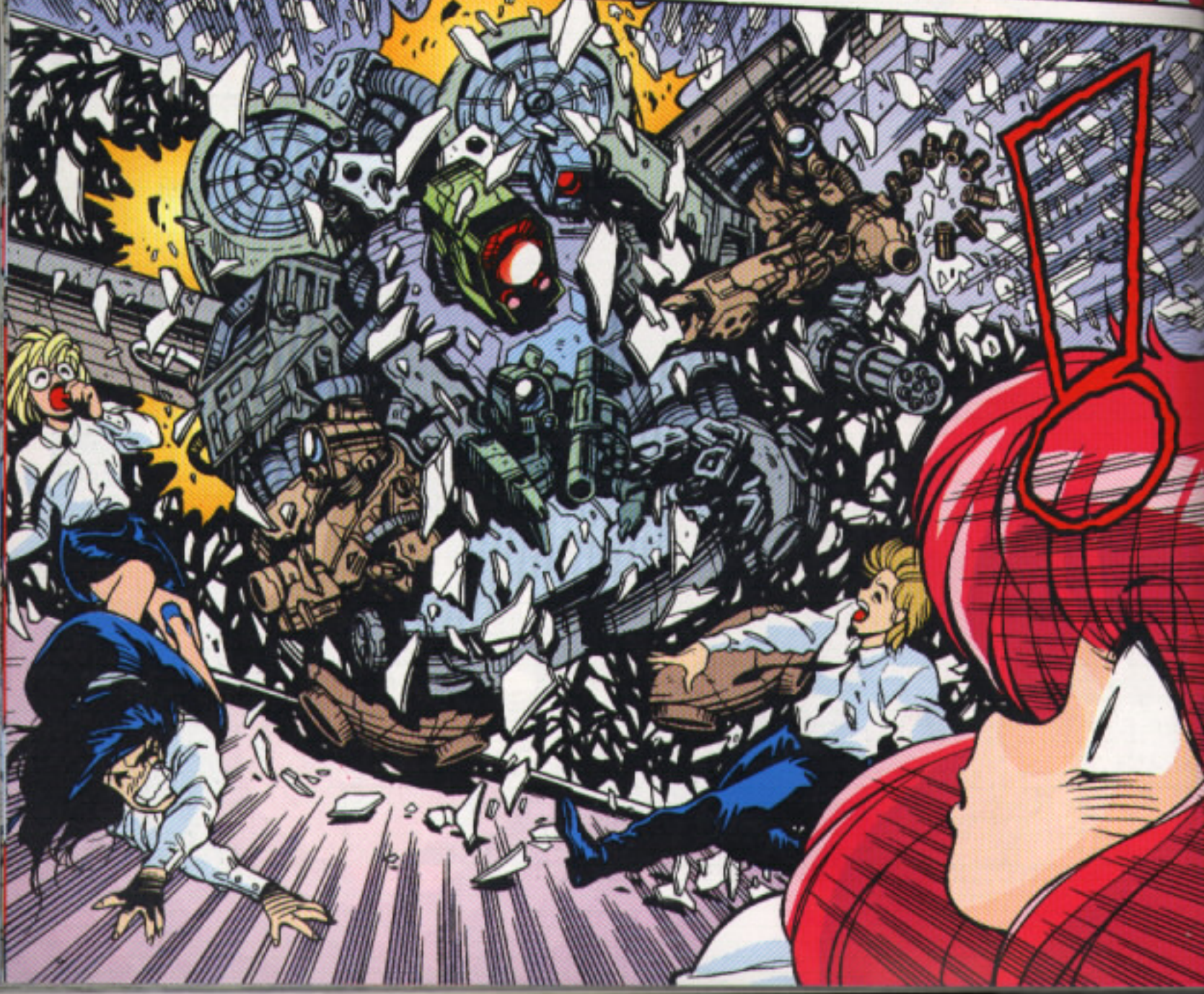
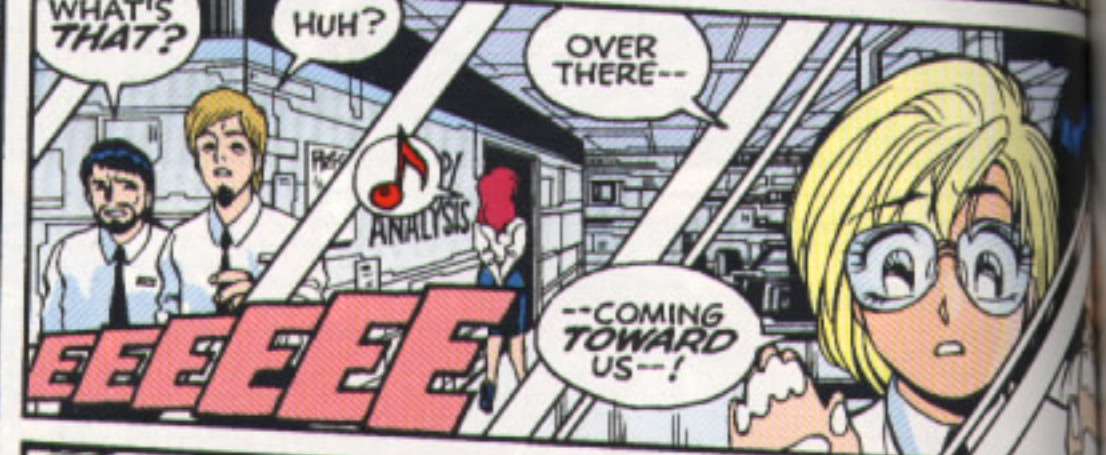
"MOST OF THE TIME, ANYWAY."
--EXCERPTED FROM SYLIA STINGRAY'S PRIVATE RECORDS

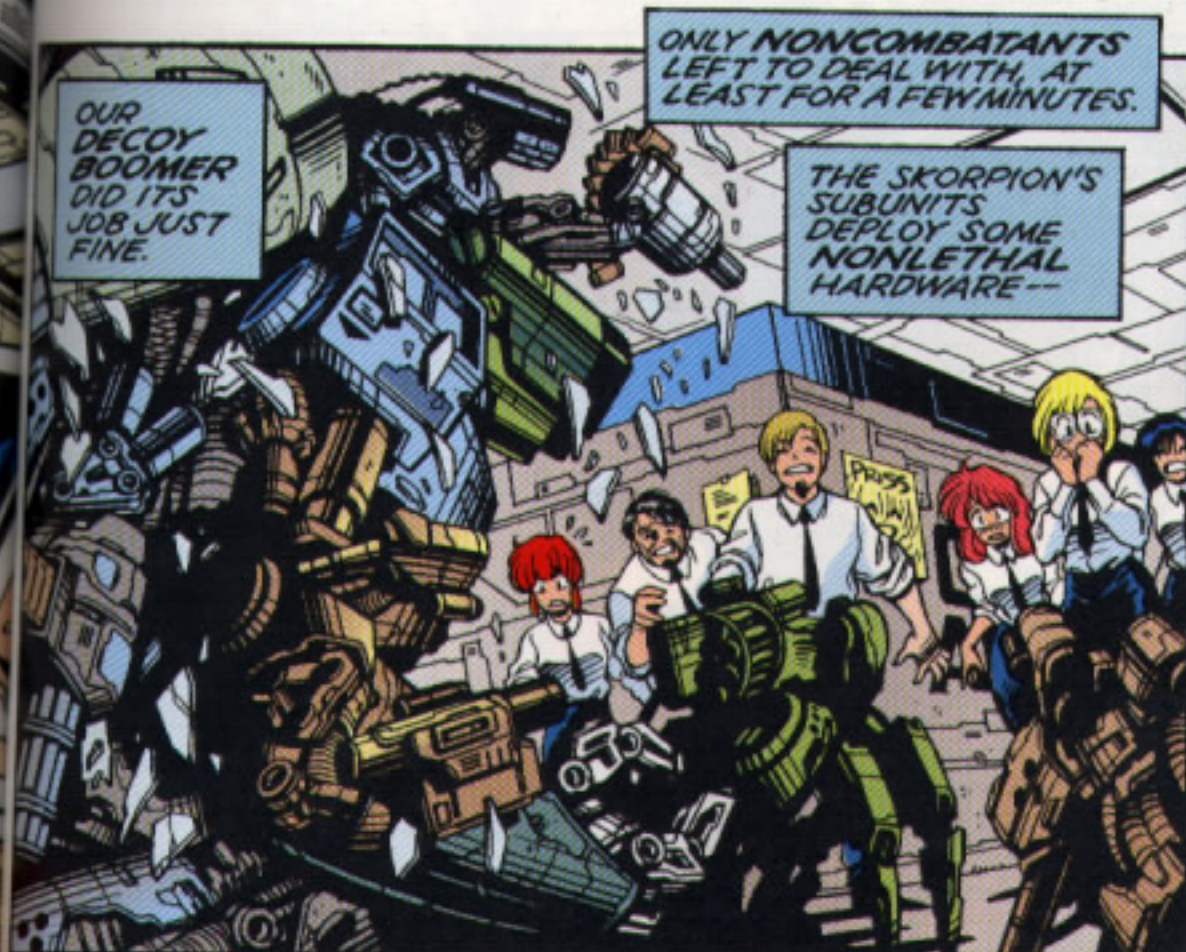
SABERS

SHRAKK









OUR
DECOY
BOOMER
DID ITS
JOB JUST
FINE.

ONLY NONCOMBATANTS
LEFT TO DEAL WITH, AT
LEAST FOR A FEW MINUTES.

THE SKORPION'S
SUBUNITS
DEPLOY SOME
NONLETHAL
HARDWARE--

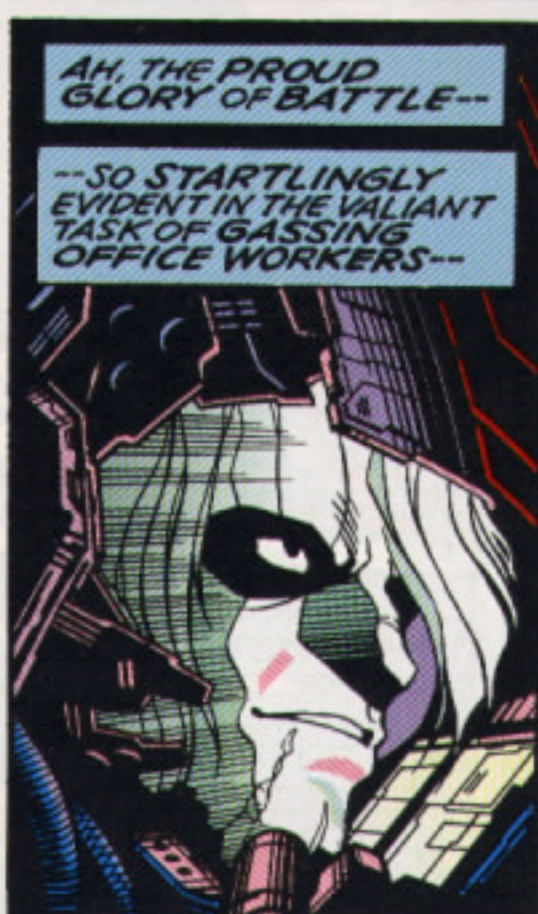


--NERVE GEL,
ELECTROSHOCK
AND KINETIC
STUN ROUNDS--

POONT

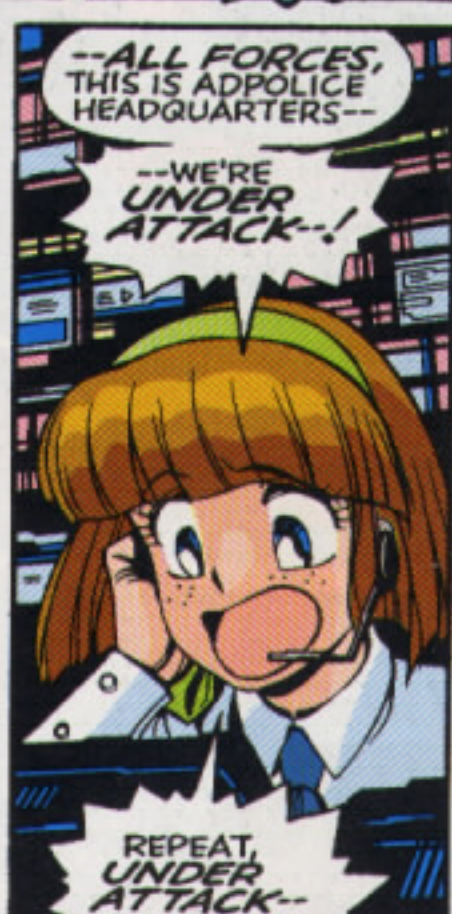


--PLUS ENOUGH
SAVORY
PEPPER GAS
TO KEEP THESE
CIVVIES DOWN
AND OUT
UNTIL WE LEAVE.



AH, THE PROUD
GLORY OF BATTLE--

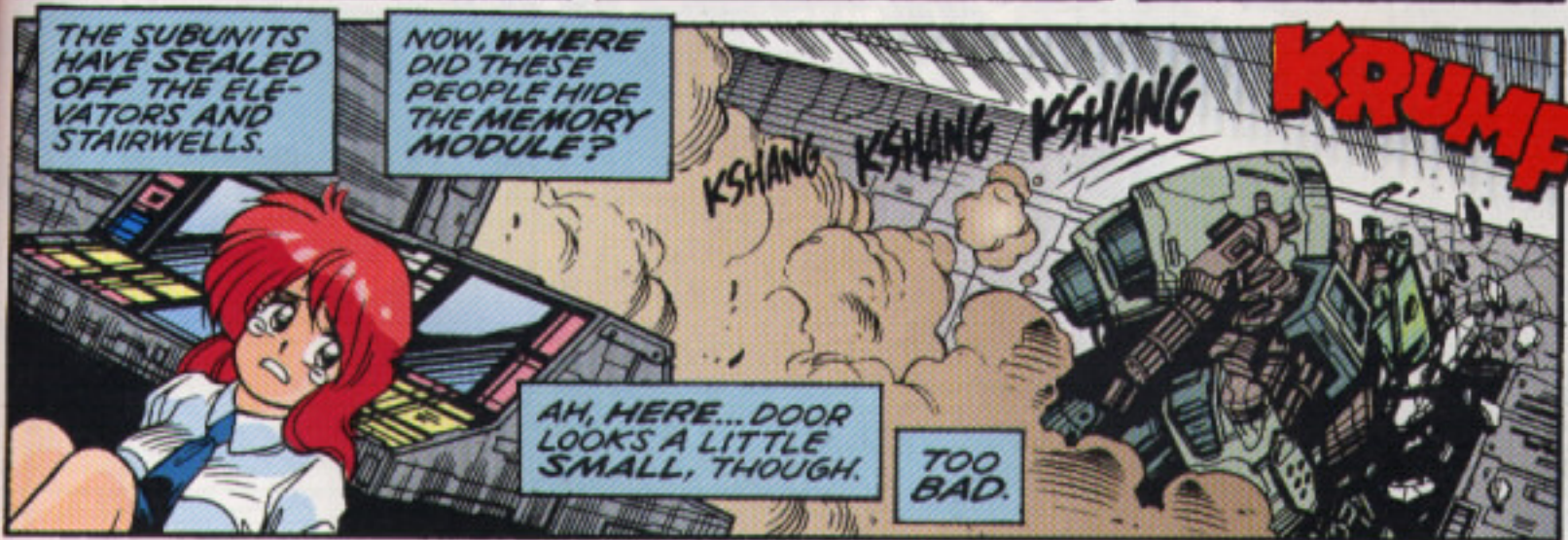
--SO STARTLINGLY
EVIDENT IN THE VALIANT
TASK OF GASSING
OFFICE WORKERS--



--ALL FORCES,
THIS IS ADPOLICE
HEADQUARTERS--

--WE'RE
UNDER
ATTACK--!

REPEAT,
UNDER
ATTACK--



THE SUBUNITS
HAVE SEALED
OFF THE ELE-
VATORS AND
STAIRWELLS.

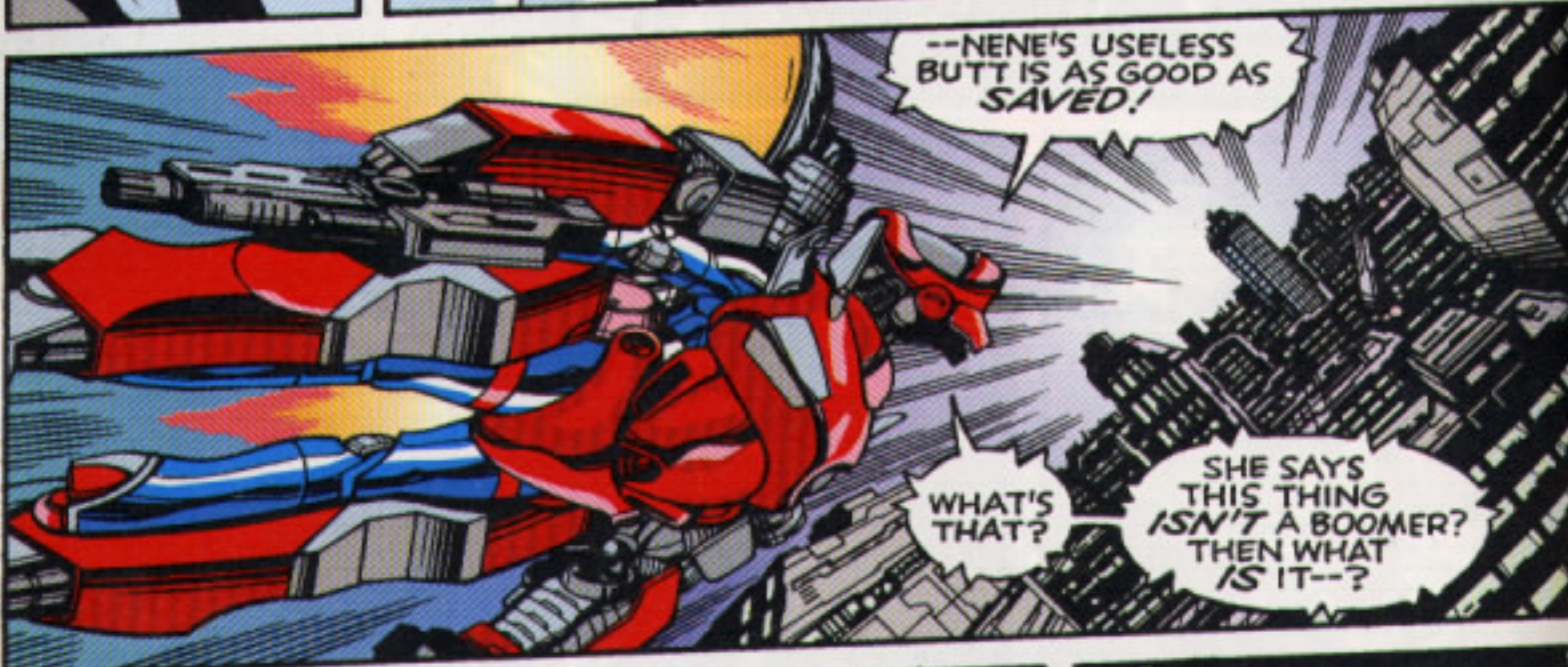
NOW, WHERE
DID THESE
PEOPLE HIDE
THE MEMORY
MODULE?

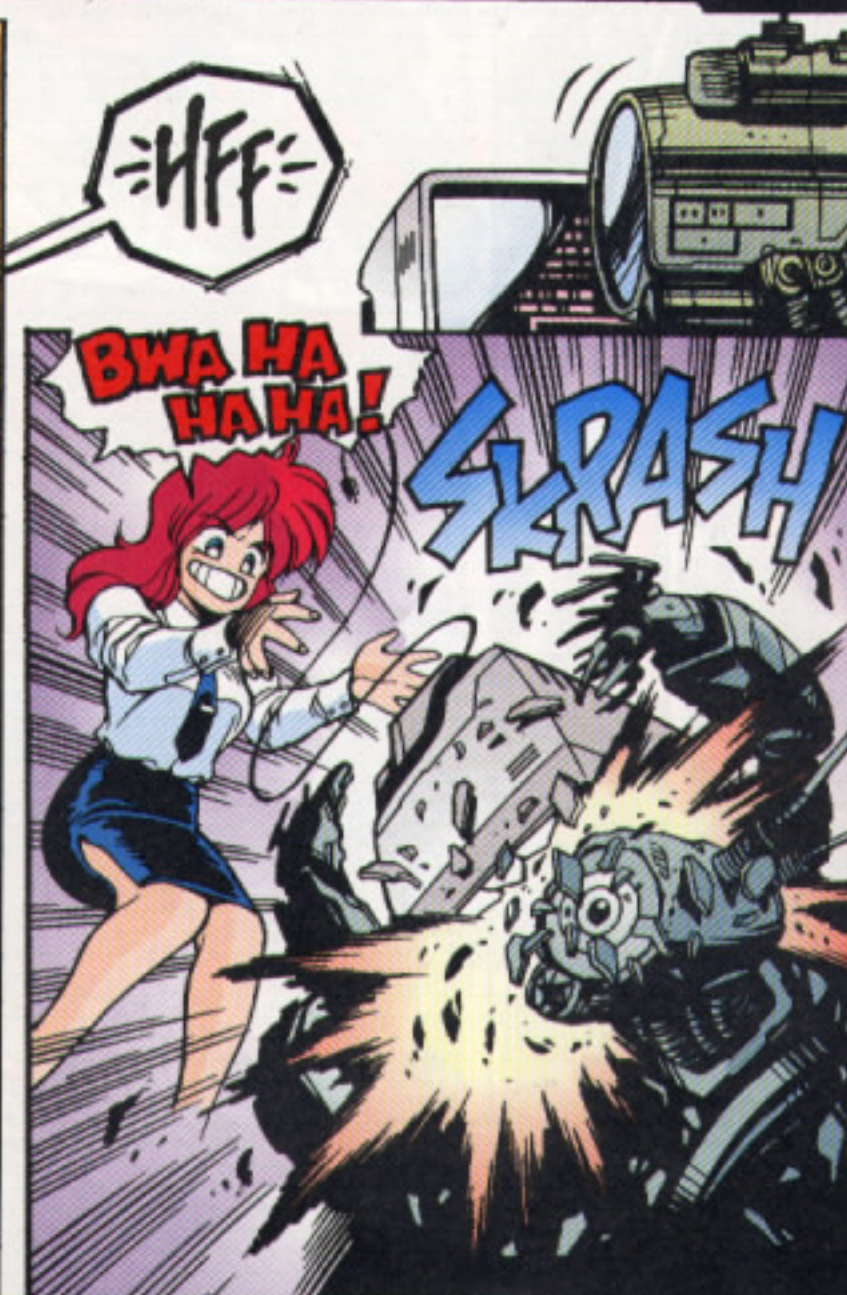
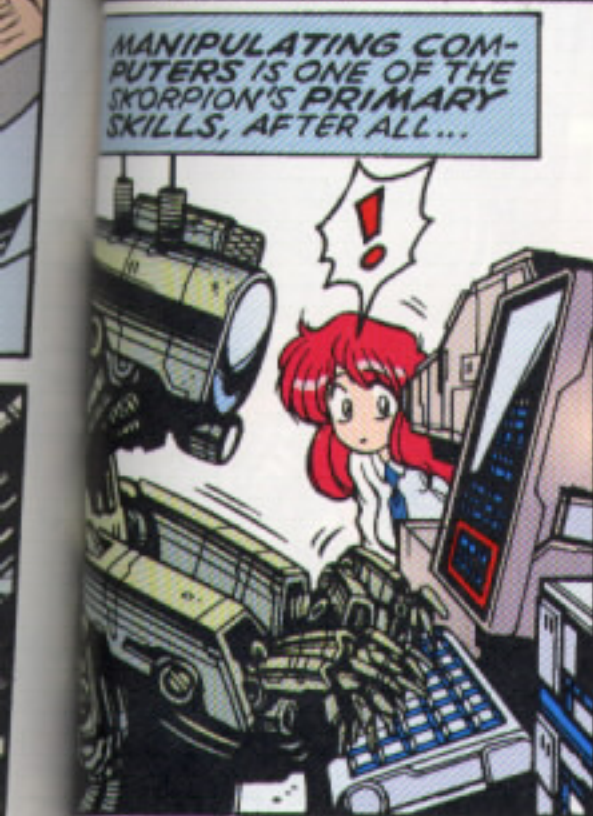
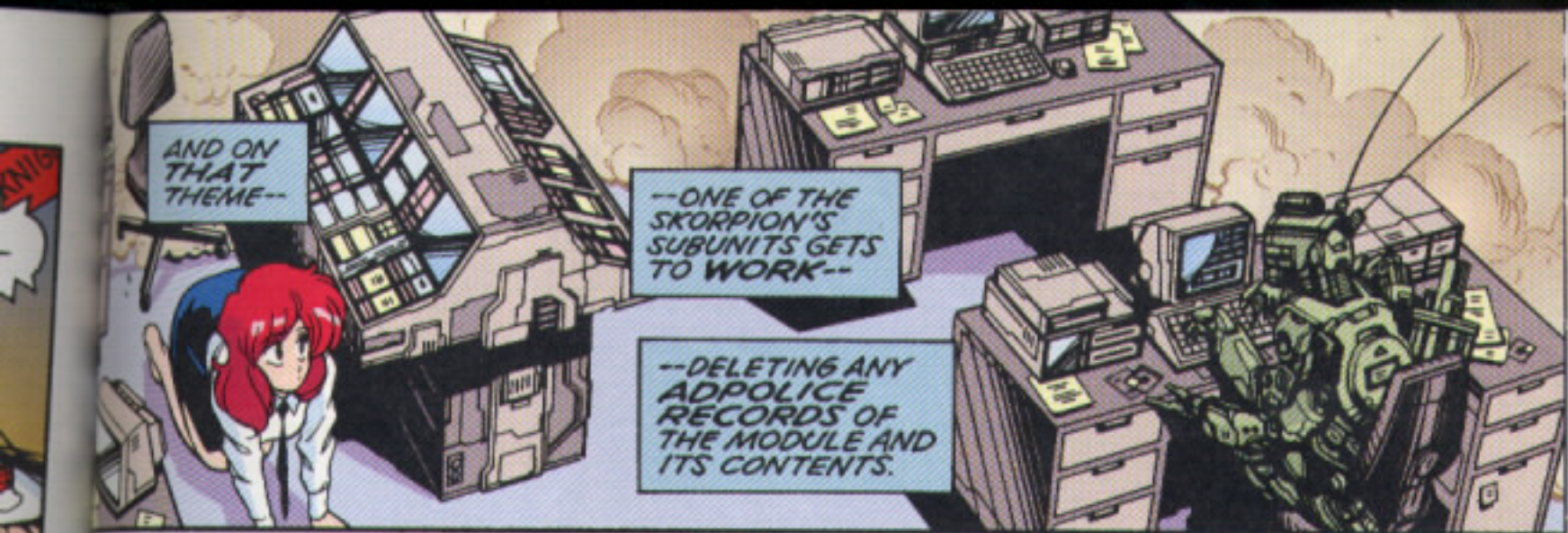
KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG

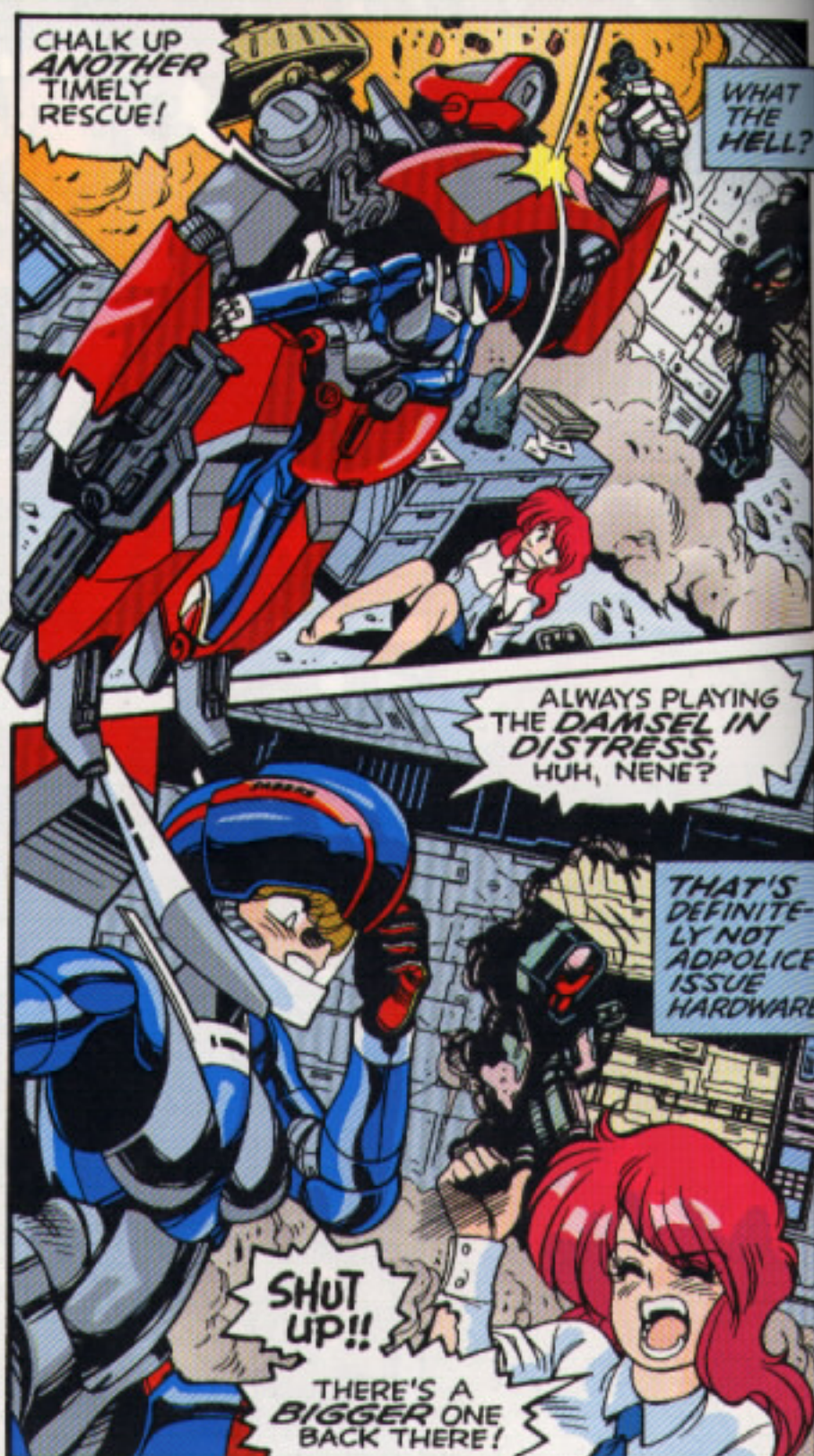
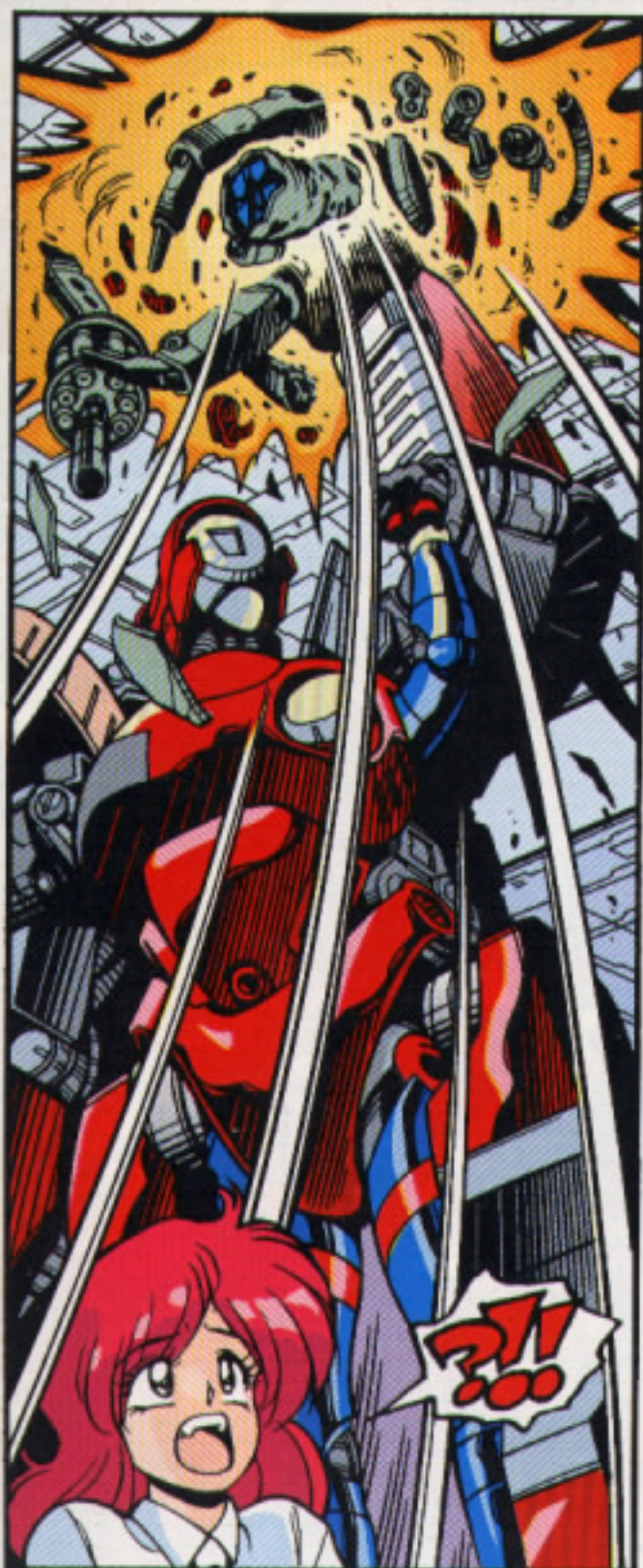
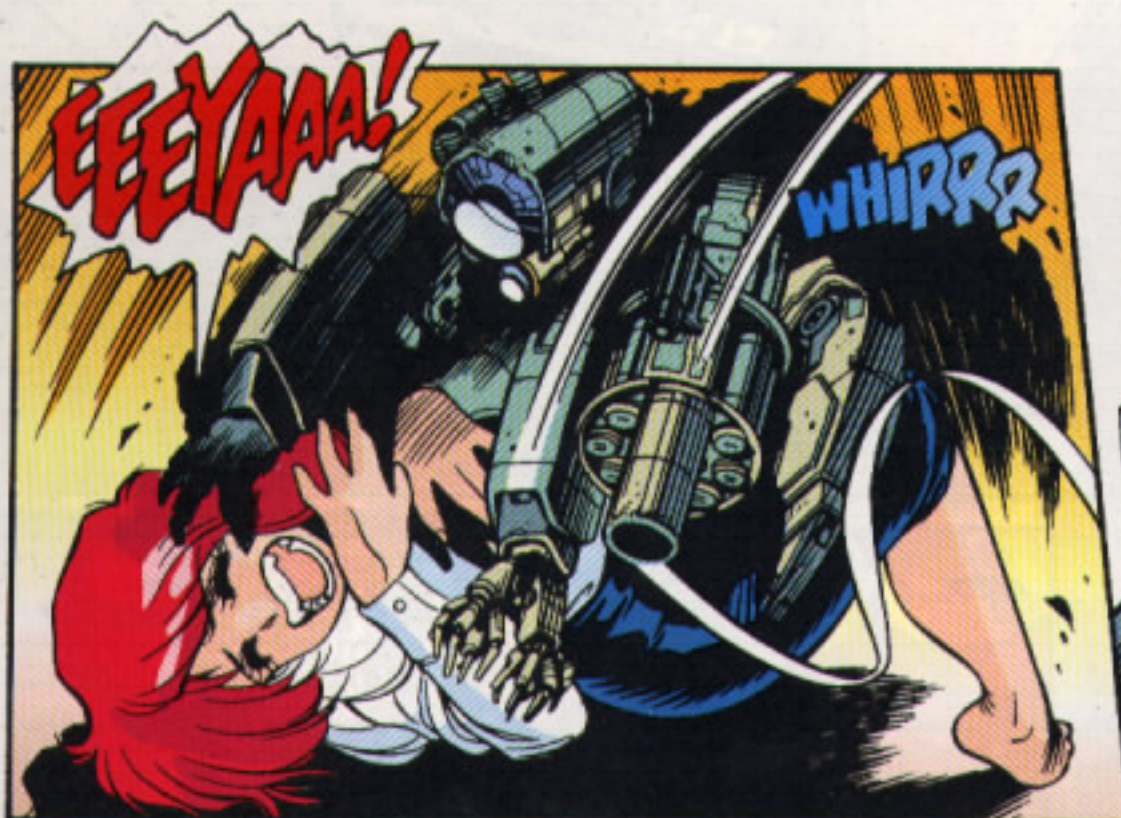
KRUMF

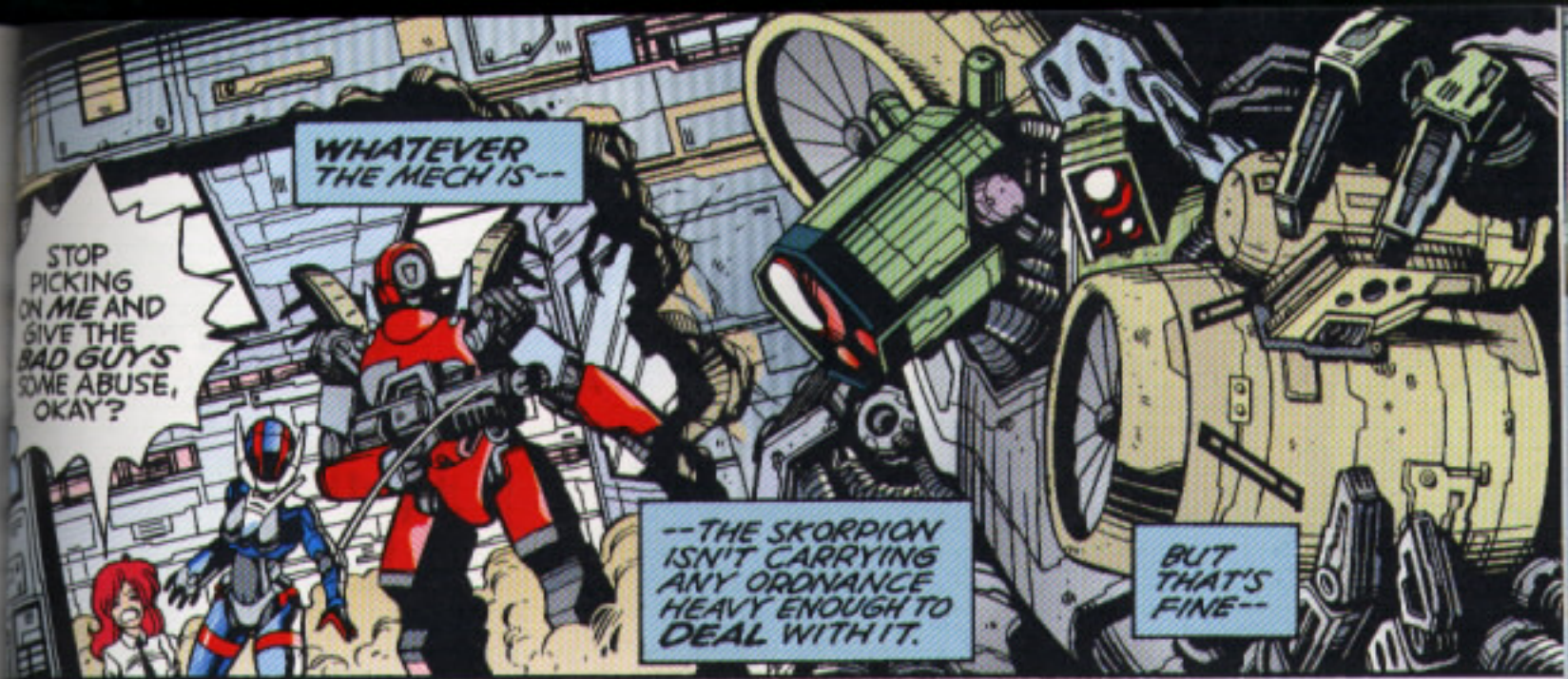
AH, HERE... DOOR
LOOKS A LITTLE
SMALL, THOUGH.

TOO
BAD.











HUH?

KLANG



ALL RIGHT...!



--WELL, THAT'S ONE LESS MYSTERY MECH.

BETTER BAIL, THE ADDPOLICE GUNSHIPS ARE ALMOST HERE--

KSHANG

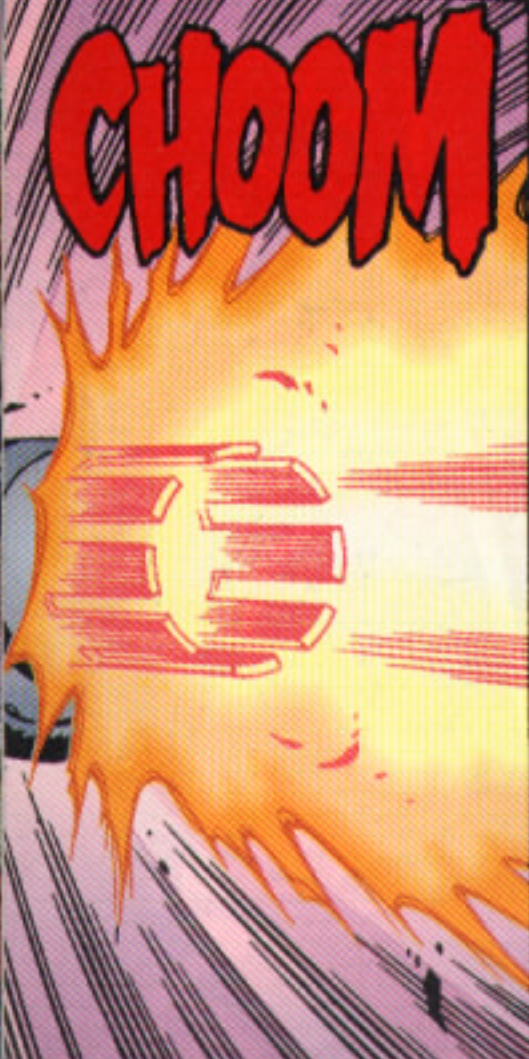


OKAY, DICK-WEED--

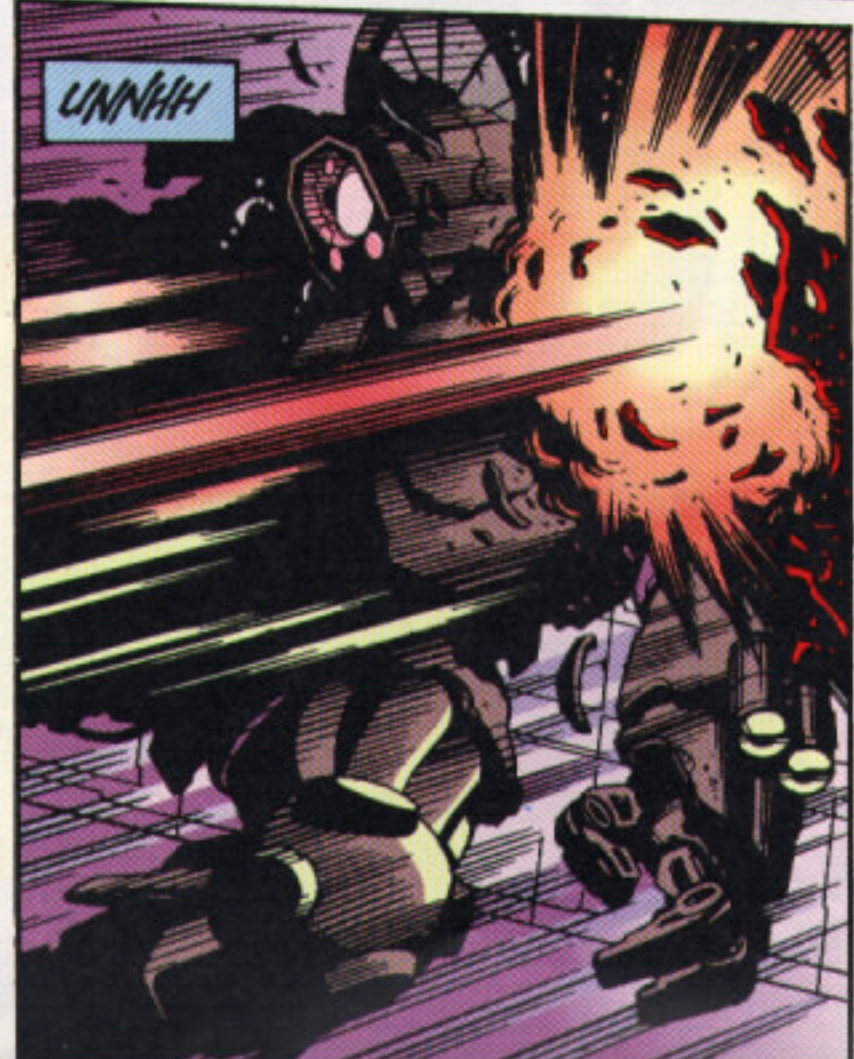
--GET A TASTE OF THIS--

KOFF!

KSHANG KSHANG



CHOOM



UNHHH



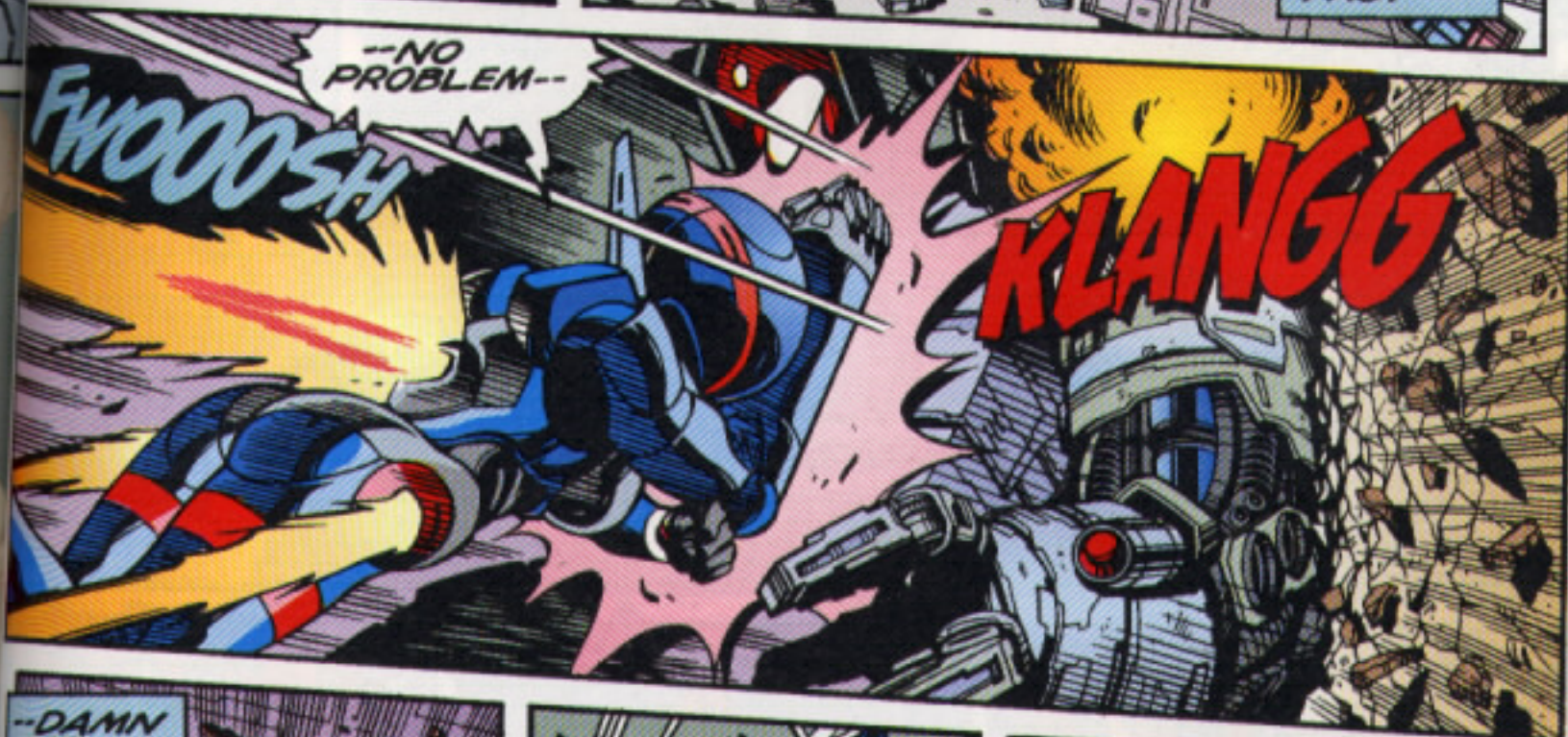
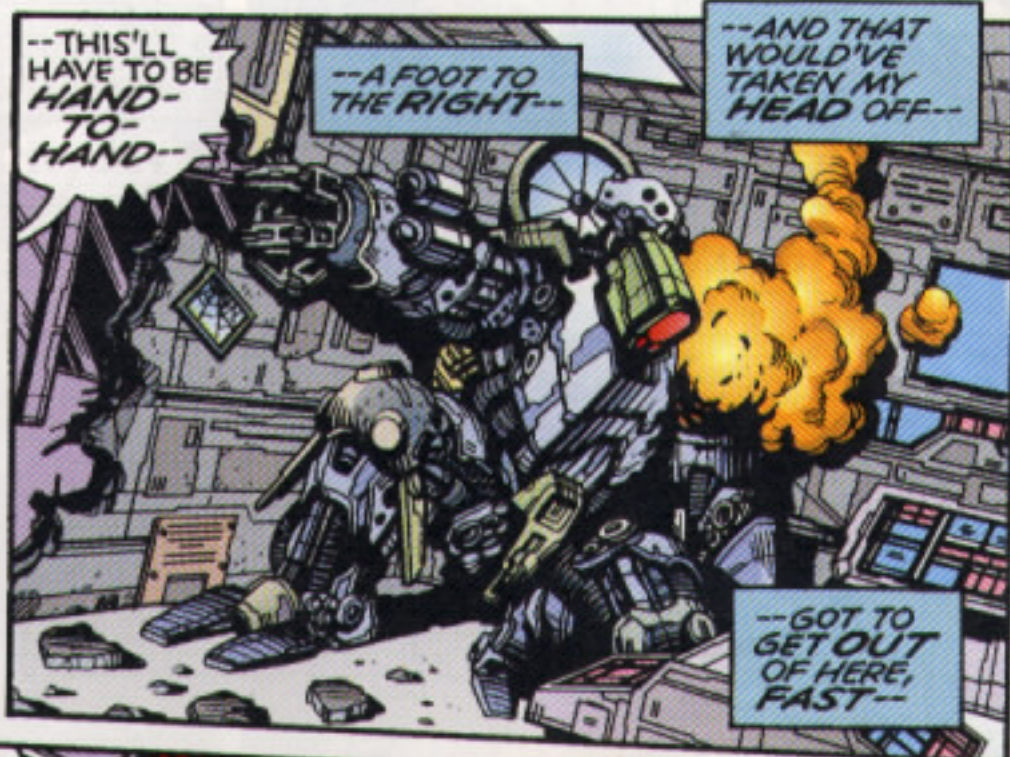
--WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT--?



--THIS'LL
HAVE TO BE
HAND-
TO-
HAND--

--A FOOT TO
THE RIGHT--

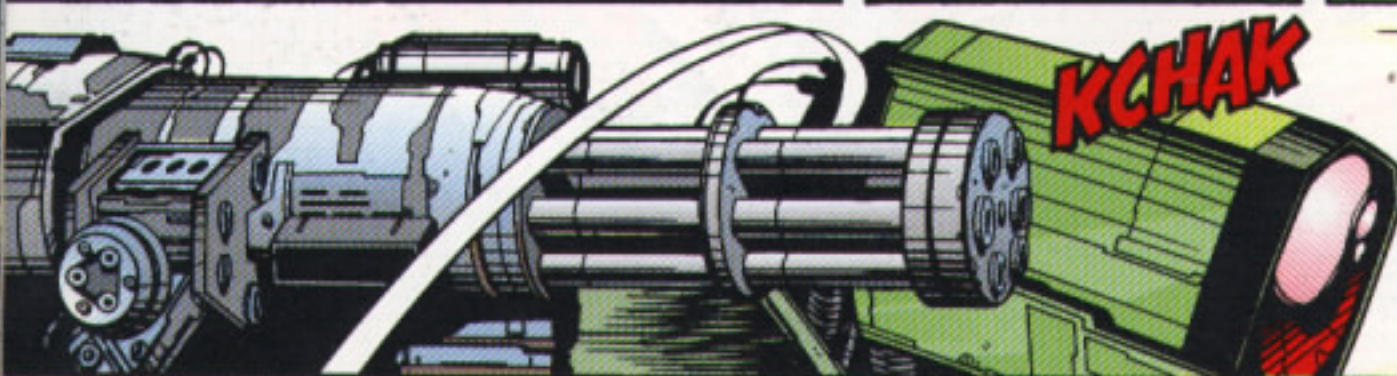
--AND THAT
WOULD'VE
TAKEN MY
HEAD OFF--

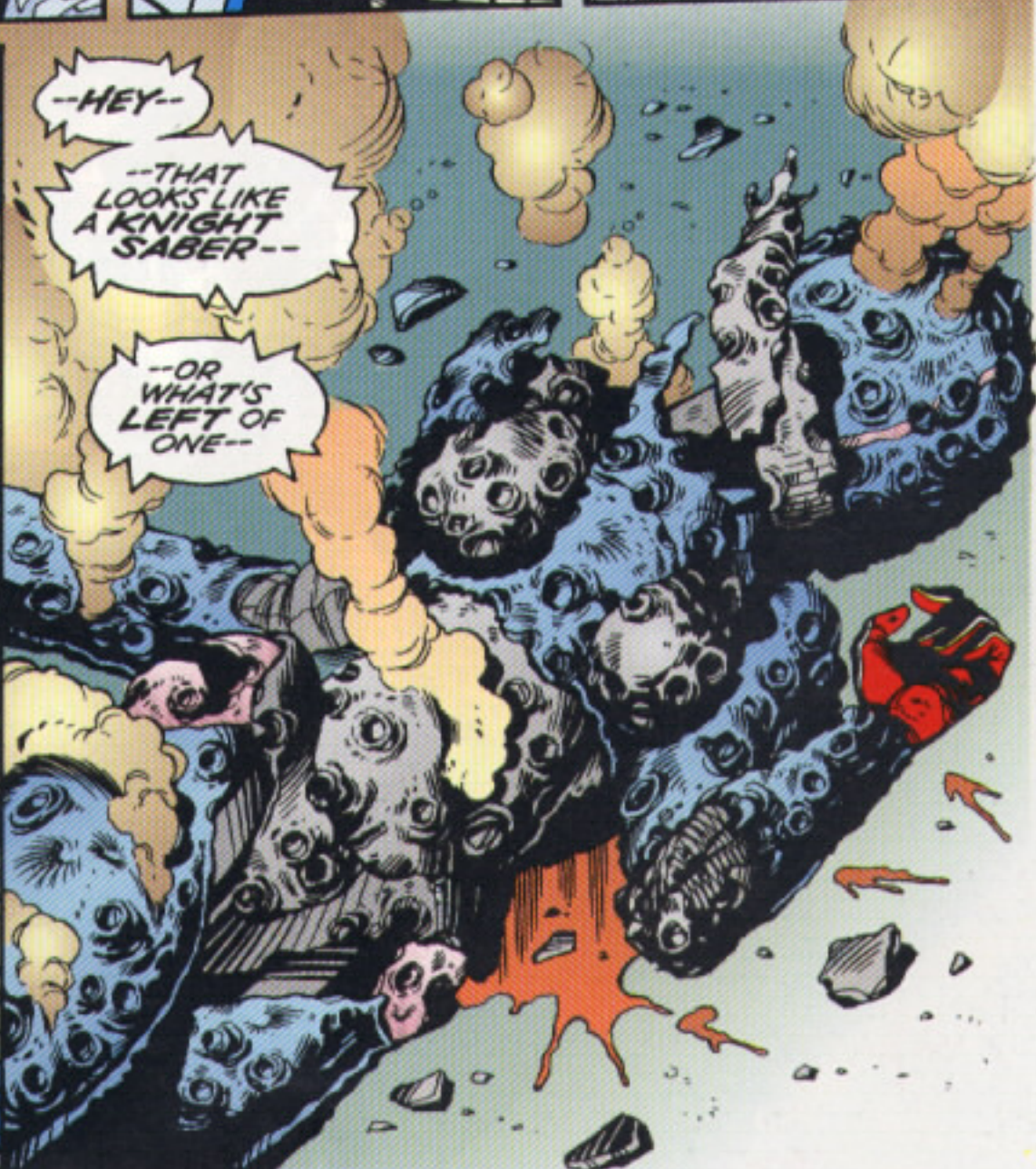
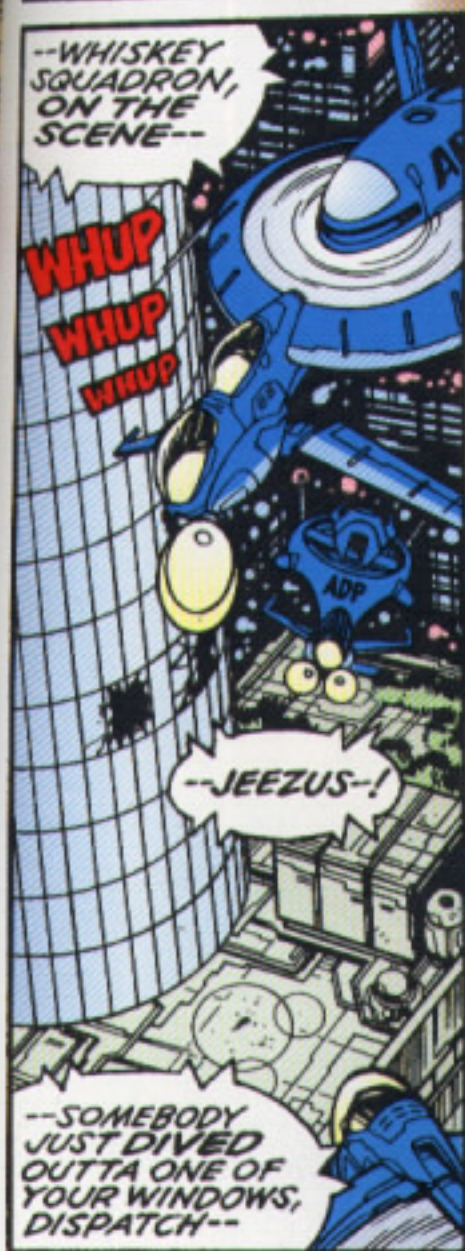
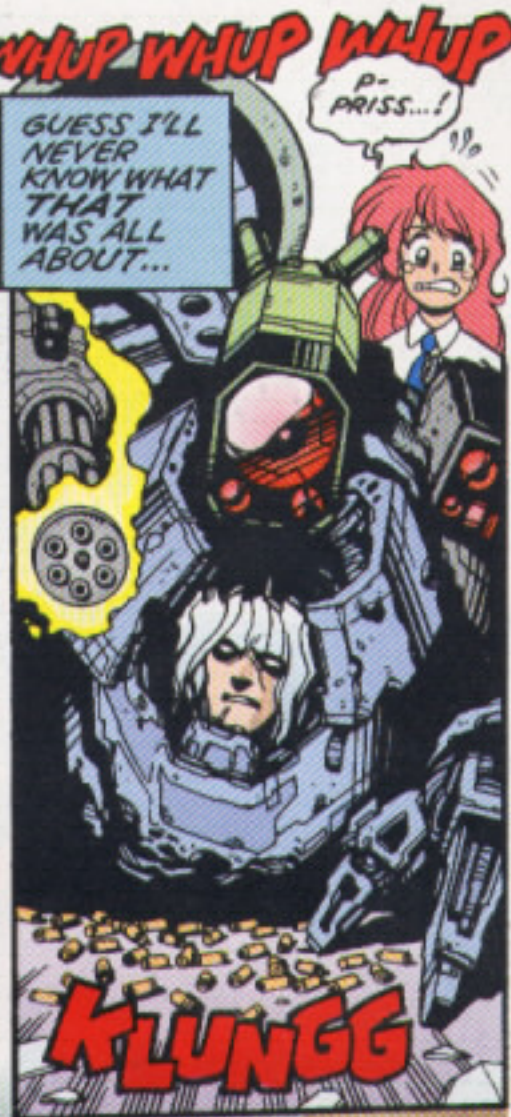
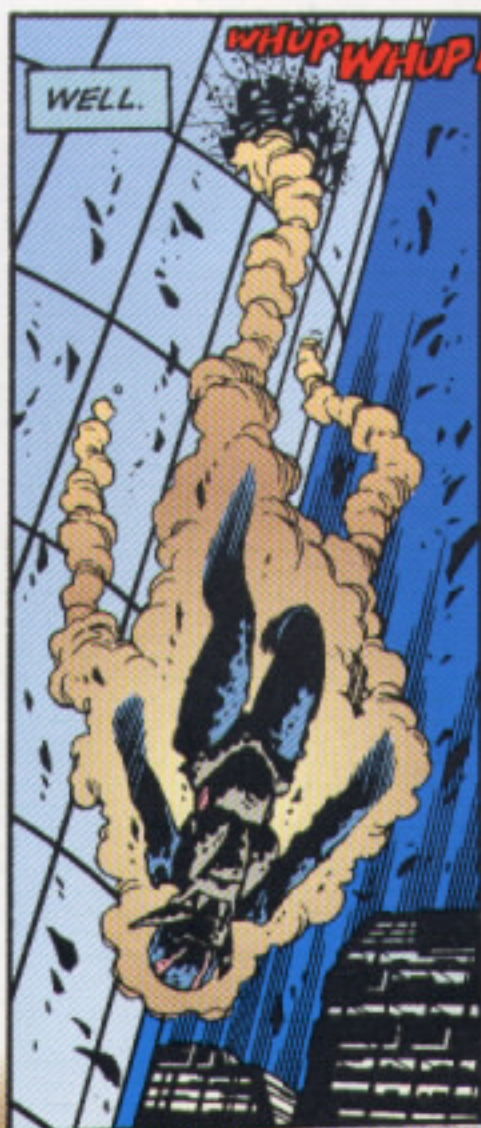


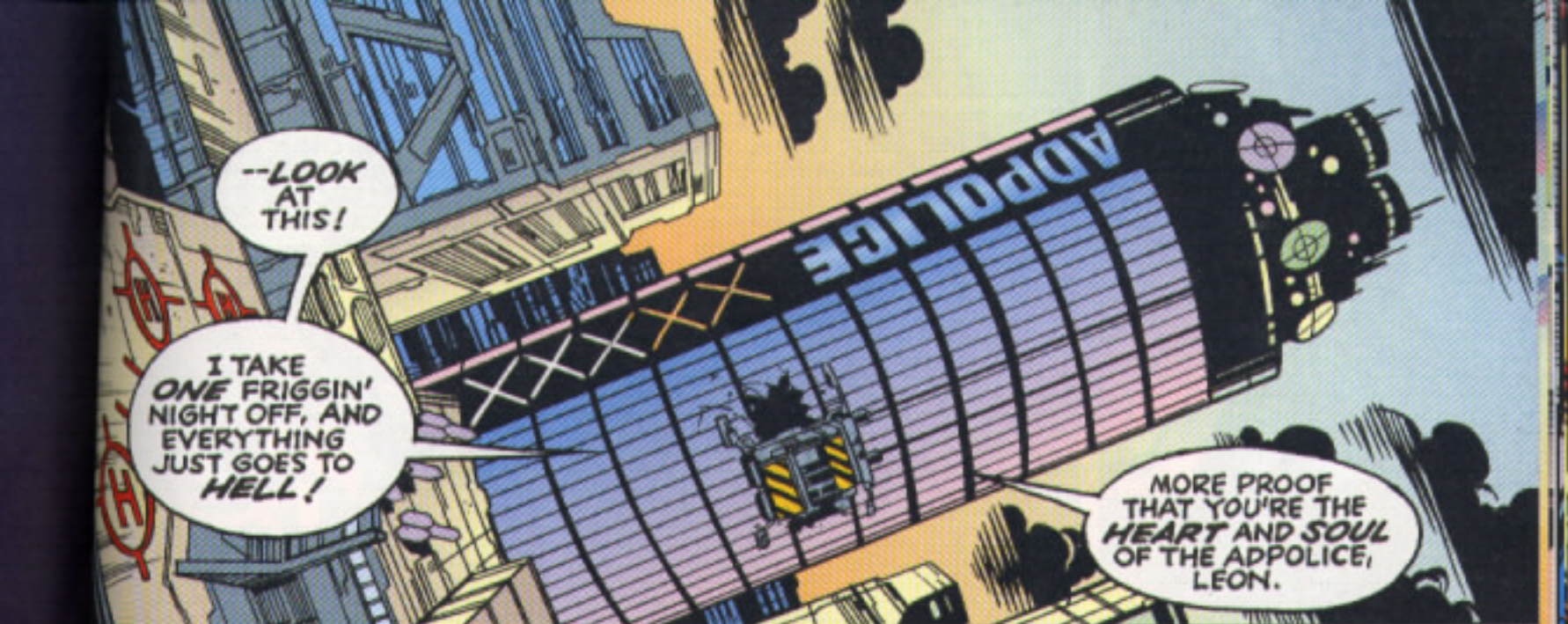
--DAMN
IT--

WHRUNNCH









--LOOK
AT
THIS!

I TAKE
ONE FRIGGIN'
NIGHT OFF, AND
EVERYTHING
JUST GOES TO
HELL!

MORE PROOF
THAT YOU'RE THE
HEART AND SOUL
OF THE ADPOLICE,
LEON.

DAMN
STRAIGHT.

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL
WITH ALL THOSE
RAMPAGING MECHS
LAST NIGHT?

WELL, WHILE
THE TROOPS
WERE OUT
HUNTING A
BOOMER...

...A HORDE OF *LOWER-TECH*
MECHS FLEW IN, RAIDED THE
COMP/ANALYSIS LAB, AND
FLEW RIGHT BACK OUT.



MAN, *THIS*
WILL DO WONDERS
FOR OUR
REPUTATION...!

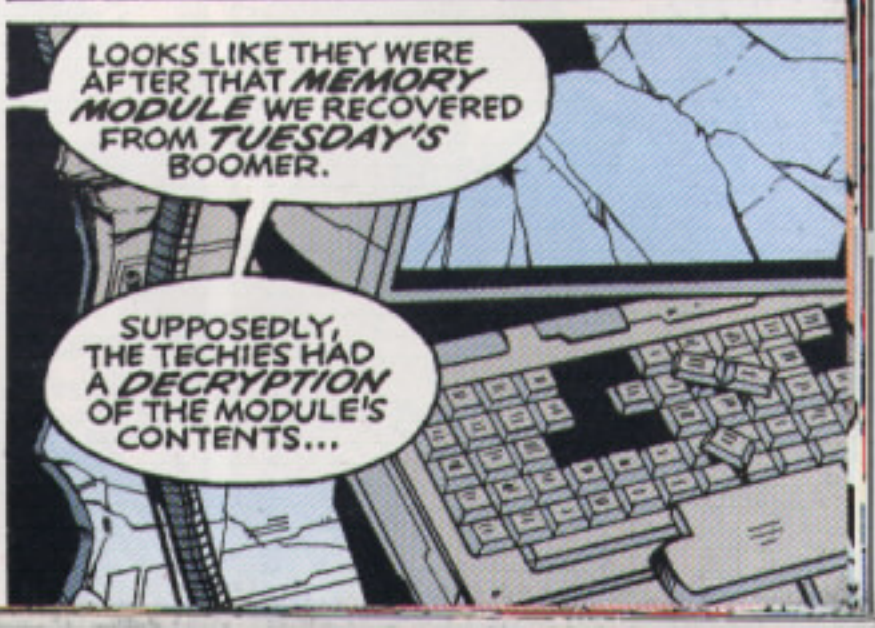
NONE OF
OUR PEOPLE GOT
KILLED,
RIGHT?

NO *FATALITIES*,
JUST SOME MINOR
INJURIES AMONG
THE TECHIES.

THESE
MECHS SHOWED
A DEFINITE LACK OF
BOOMER-STYLE
BLOOD-
THIRSTINESS.



LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE
AFTER THAT *MEMORY*
MODULE WE RECOVERED
FROM *TUESDAY'S*
BOOMER.



SUPPOSEDLY,
THE TECHIES HAD
A *DECRYPTION*
OF THE MODULE'S
CONTENTS...

"...BUT THERE'S NO *TRACE* OF IT NOW."

"OUR *GUESTS* TOOK THE TIME TO WIPE IT FROM OUR COMPUTERS, APPARENTLY."

"IN FACT, YOUR GIRLFRIEND *NENE* SPOTTED A MECH MESSING AROUND AT A TERMINAL..."

"DAMN! NENE WASN'T *HURT*, WAS SHE?"

"NO, THE ONLY WOUND SHE SUFFERED WAS TO HER *ADPOLICE PRIDE*, LIKE THE REST OF US."

"GOOD. HATE TO THINK OF A *PIECE* LIKE HER GETTING MESSED UP..."

WELL, SPEAKING OF *PIECES*, LEON...

...DID ANYONE TELL YOU THAT A *KNIGHT SABER* DROPPED BY TO TUSSLE WITH THE MECHS?

YEAH, AND GOT HERSELF *MINIGUNNED* TO PIECES, I HEARD.

THAT'S ONE LESS *VIGILANTE BABE* IN HIGH-HEELED ARMOR, HUH?

HARD TO SAY. WORD IS, SOME KIND OF *CANDY APPLE RED* MECH FLEW OFF WITH THE BODY...

ALSO EVADING OUR POOR *HELO* JOCKEYS, OF COURSE.

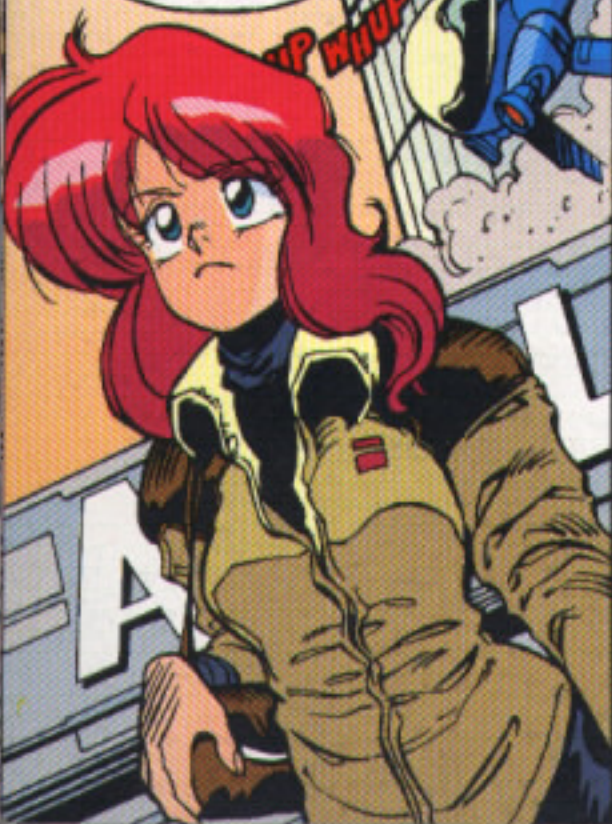
MAN, THIS HAS BEEN ONE *WRETCHED* WEEK FOR THE *ADPOLICE*...

...HELL, IT'S BEEN A *WRETCHED* WEEK FOR PRETTY MUCH *EVERY-BODY*...

THEY'RE *BADLY* OVEREXTENDED, QUINCY.

JUST UP YOUR OFFER BY, SAY, FIVE YUAN A SHARE PLUS SOME MUNICIPAL BONDS...

...AND YOU'LL OUTBID THEM *SAFELY* AND WITHOUT *EXCESS*, OKAY?



WITNESS
THE PROCESS
OF **DECISION**
MAKING
AT MIGHTY
GENOM!

FINE,
QUINCY.
YOU'RE THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD
CHAIRMAN,
I'M JUST THE
STRATEGIC
ADVISOR.

YOU CAN
LISTEN TO
MY "LEARNED
COUNSEL," OR
JUST
DISREGARD
IT.

THE
DECISION'S
YOURS.

LISTEN AS THE ORGANIC
EXECUTIVES SOLICIT
BRILLIANT ADVICE
FROM THEIR
"INTELLECTUAL
ASSETS"...

...AND THEN
FREELY **IGNORE**
IT!

HIDEBOUND,
PATHETIC OLD
DINOSAURS...!

WHY DO THEY
ASK **QUESTIONS** IF
THEY CAN'T DEAL WITH
THE **ANSWERS**...?

OH, IT'S JUST A **HUMAN**
THING. THEY HAVE TO MAKE
A **TOKEN** DECISION OR
TWO ON THEIR OWN...

...JUST TO
REASSURE THEM-
SELVES THAT THEY'RE
STILL IN CONTROL...

CONSIDERING THAT
THEY DECIDE WHETHER
WE **LIVE** OR **DIE**, I'D
SAY THE ORGANICS ARE
DEFINITELY STILL
IN CONTROL...!

HEY!

WHAT
ABOUT THE
THREAT
FROM **OUT-
SIDE**?

AS IN **VASHNEVSKAYA**
AND HIS ADORABLE LITTLE
MECH? GET **SERIOUS**...

HEY,
THEY'VE
RETRIEVED
THAT **PESKY**
MODULE...

...NO
DOUBT THEY'VE
PREPPED TONS
OF **NASTY**
HARDWARE...

...AND ARE ON
THE VERGE OF A
PAROXYSM OF
APOCALYPTIC
MAYHEM!

EITHER
THAT, OR
THEY'RE SITTING
AROUND DOING
NOTHING.

CAN'T...
STAND IT...
ANY LONGER...

...COME ON,
YOU
BASTARD...

...THE END
IS NEAR.

AT LAST.

...KILL
ME...

...KILL ME
NOW...

THREE YEARS AGO, GENOM MESSILY
INTERRUPTED MY ILL-FATED
HEADHUNTING MISSION, FIRST BY
DEPLOYING COMBAT BOOMERS...

...THEN BY NAILING MY TEAM WITH
TRANSMISSIONS FROM A "PULSE
WEAPON," AN ANTIPERSONNEL
DEVICE THAT USES ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC FIELDS TO DISRUPT
HUMAN NEURAL ACTIVITY.

CONSPIRACY THEORISTS SAY THIS LITTLE TOY DATES
BACK TO THE OLD SOVIET UNION. THAT'S SOMEWHAT
IRONIC, GIVEN MY RUSSIAN ETHNIC HYPHEN...

I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO
ESCAPE THE TOKYO AM-
BUSH UNSCATHED...

...OR SO I
THOUGHT.

...SPRAY
SOME
GRAY...

EIGHT MONTHS
AGO, I LEARNED
OTHERWISE.

TURNED OUT THAT
MY TEMPORAL LOBE
WAS RIDDLED WITH
THOUSANDS OF
MICROLESIONS.



DAMNEDEST
THING MY
NEUROLOGIST
HAD EVER SEEN.

SOME KEY WORDS
USED IN HIS
DIAGNOSIS WERE
MALIGNANT,
INOPERABLE,
PROGRESSIVE,
AND FATAL.



I WOULD SOON
EXPERIENCE BLACK-
OUTS, SEIZURES,
UNCONTROLLABLE
ATTACKS OF RAGE...

...OR, IN THE
JARGON,
"COMPLEX
PARTIAL
TEMPORAL
LOBE
SEIZURES..."

"...ACCOMPANIED
BY EPISODIC
DYSCONTROL."
NICE PHRASE,
THAT.

CUT TO: TWO WEEKS AGO
TONIGHT, JUST AFTER
MY EVENING DOSE OF
ACETAZOLIMIDE AND
CARBAMAZEPINE...

...A GENERIC EUROTRASH
SUIT MATERIALIZES
AT MY DOOR...

...LIKE A PARTICULARLY
NASTY PHARMACEUTICAL
SIDE EFFECT. THE SUIT SAYS
HE HAILS FROM MY FORMER
EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS...

...COME ON,
DOCTOR JACK...

HE CLAIMS THAT MY OLD
MISSION IS STILL VIABLE.

MY MECHANICAL PART-
NER, THE SKORPION 19,
IS STILL AT LARGE IN
MEGATOKYO.

HIS SUPERIORS ARE AWARE OF MY
SADLY WORSENING CONDITION...

...PERHAPS, IF I WERE TO
COMPLETE MY THREE-
YEAR-OLD ASSIGNMENT...

...THEY MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
HELP ME OUT.

DANGLE THAT
SLENDER THREAD
OF HOPE,
EUROWEASEL.

BUT, OF COURSE I KNOW
THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE
NO LONGER IN ANY CON-
DITION TO CONTEMPLATE
SUCH A BOLD MOVE.

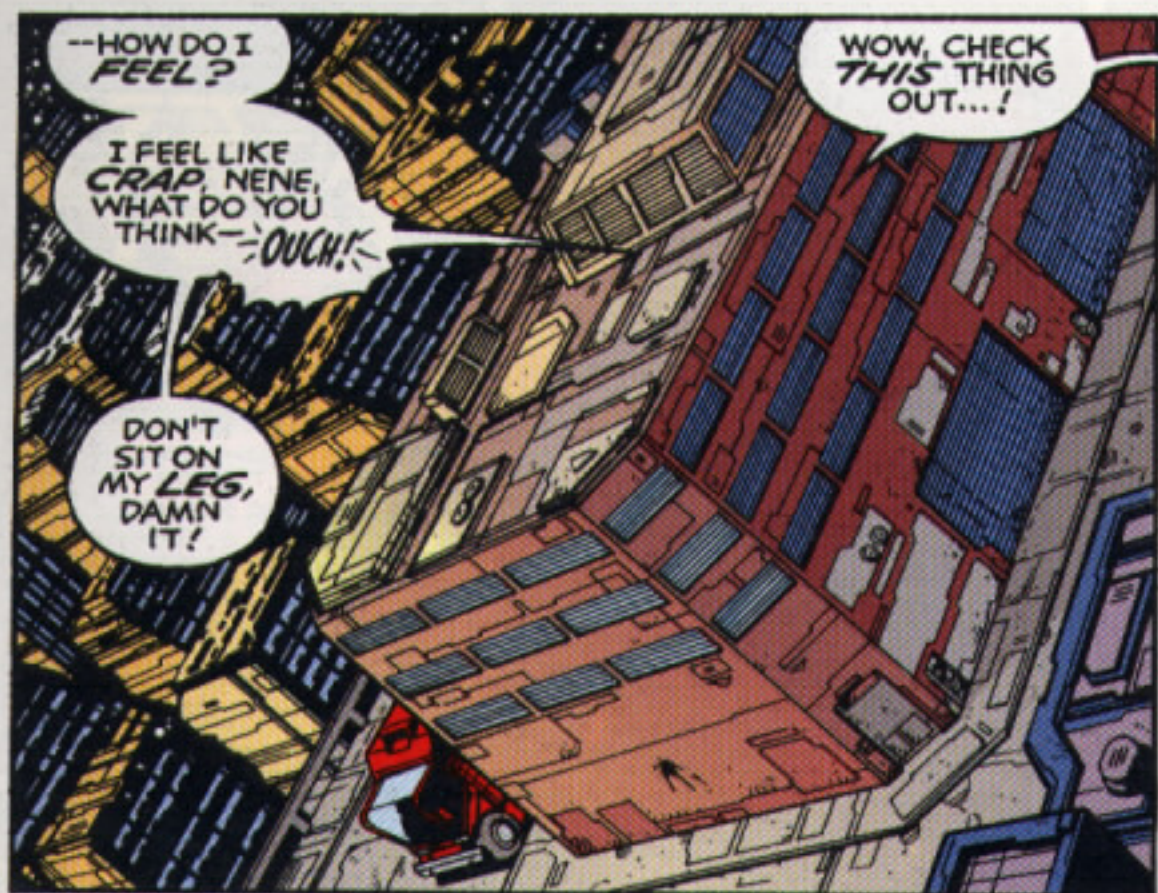
NO, THIS SUIT IS REALLY
FROM GENOM. AND
GENOM, IT WOULD
SEEM, DOESN'T LIKE
LOOSE ENDS...

...SUCH AS HAVING ELE-
MENTS OF A CORPORATE
EXTRACTION TEAM
STALKING ABOUT ON
ITS HOME TURF.

...DO
ME...

NO, GENOM
WOULD PREFER
A NICE, SOLID
RESOLUTION
TO THE MATTER...

**BUH
KOOM**



--HOW DO I
FEEL?

I FEEL LIKE
CRAP, NENE,
WHAT DO YOU
THINK--**OUCH!**

DON'T
SIT ON
MY LEG,
DAMN
IT!

WOW, CHECK
THIS THING
OUT...!

KEEPING A SOUVENIR
OF YOUR **GALLING**
DEFEAT, HUH,
PRISS?



JEEZ...
GETTING **NAILED**
WITH A FEW
HUNDRED ROUNDS
OF **MINIGUN**
FIRE...

...EVEN WITH A
HARDSUIT ON,
THAT'S GOTTA
STING...!

WATCH
WHERE
YOU
POINT
THAT!

SYLIA SAID
THE **BEAM**
CANNON MIGHT
BE STILL
FUNCTIONAL...

Y'KNOW
WHAT
THEY
SAY...

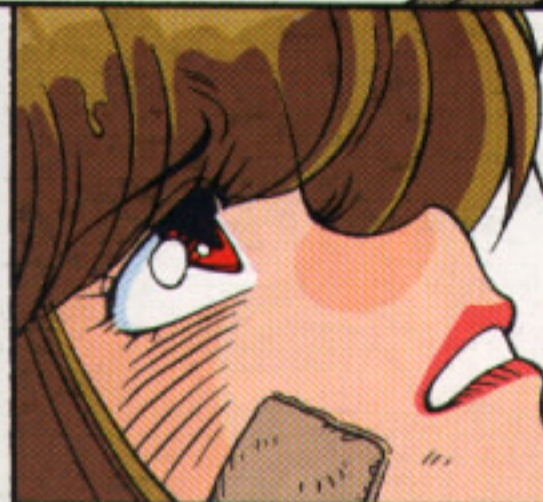
HMM...
'NEUROPHASE
ASSIMILATION'...

...WHAT
DOESN'T
KILL
YOU...

...**NEURAL**
RECONFIGURA-
TION TO ENABLE
IMPROVED PATTERN
RECOGNITION"...

...MAKES YOU EVEN
MORE **EMBITTERED**
AND **RESENTFUL...**

...**'GENOM'S**
USAGE OF **NEURO-**
LOGICALLY ENHANCED
INTELLECTS'...

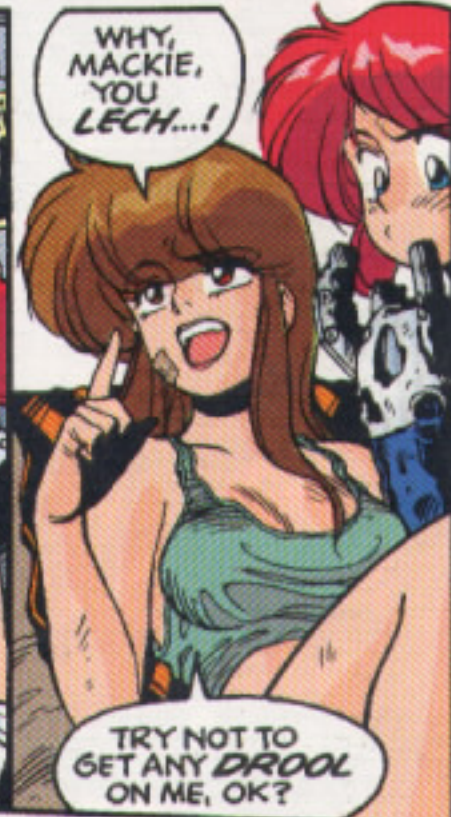
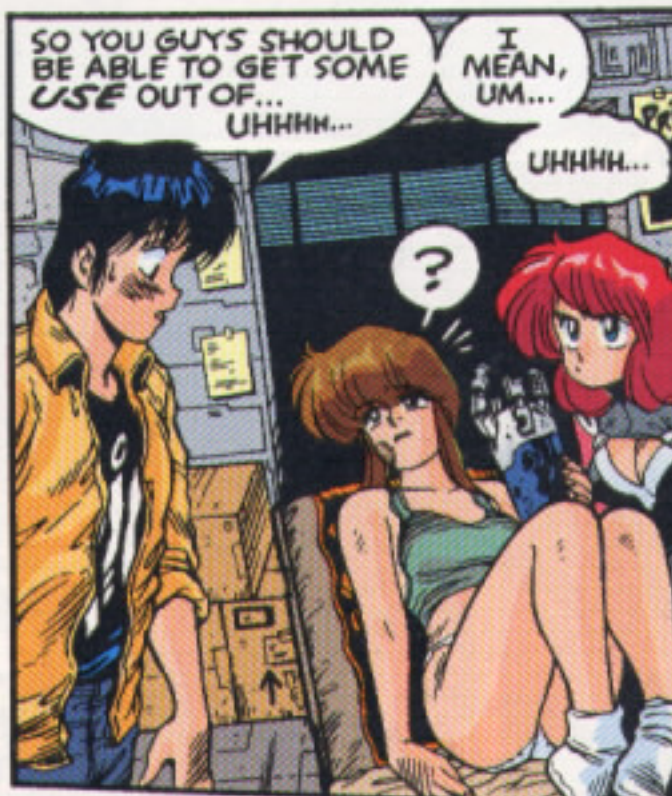


THAT'D BE
LIKE GETTING
HIT BY A
BASEBALL
BAT OVER
EVERY INCH
OF YOUR
BODY...!

NAHH...

...IT'D BE MORE
LIKE GETTING
HIT BY A
POOL CUE,
I'D SAY...





MY MECHANICAL
FRIEND, THE
SKORPION 19,
SPENT THE LAST
THREE YEARS IN
AN ORGY OF
INFORMATION
GATHERING.

IT CONDUCTED
ENDLESS
HOURS OF
AUDIO AND VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE
WITH ITS SUB-
UNIT MECHS.

IT MONITORED EVERY
CONCEIVABLE MEDIA
OUTLET, FROM MAIN-
STREAM NEWS FEEDS
TO ANARCHIST
BULLETIN BOARDS.

IN TIME, IT TAPPED INTO EVERY
METAPHORICAL EXIT, TOLL PLAZA,
AND TRAFFIC CIRCLE OF MEGA-
TOKYO'S INFORMATION
SUPERHIGHWAY.

--INTERESTING
RUMOR ABOUT
GENOM--

--A COVERT
PLANNING
GROUP--

--DR.
STINGRAY,
CREATOR OF--

JUDGING FROM
THESE FILES,
THEY'RE EVIDENTLY
PLANNING AN
"EXTRACTION
ATTEMPT"--

--WITH
VIRTUALLY
NO CHANCE OF
SUCCESS--

--TARGETING
ONE OF GENOM'S
"INTELLECTUAL
ASSETS"--

--PENETRATING THOUSANDS
OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS,
SIFTING THROUGH TERA-
BYTES OF ELECTRONIC
GARBAGE TO PIECE
TOGETHER A WORKABLE
MEANS OF ACHIEVING
OUR GOAL--

--THEY'RE
"NEURO-
LOGICALLY
ENHANCED,"
HUH?

YES, THESE
INDIVIDUALS ARE
ARTIFICIAL
BEINGS SIMILAR,
IN A WAY, TO
BOOMERS...

...THEY'RE YET
ANOTHER PRODUCT
OF MY FATHER'S
WORK...

--SIGNIFICANT
ASPECT OF
DR. STINGRAY'S
WORK--

--STINGRAY
IS SURVIVED
BY DAUGHTER
SYLIA, TWELVE,
AND--

--BOOMER'S
FORM OF
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE--

HEH...
NICE
PANTIES,
PRISS...

BRMMM

--SPlicing IN THE DATA FROM THE LOST MEMORY MODULE, THE SKORPION INFODUMPS TO ME VIA AUDIO AND VIDEO SAMPLES ASSEMBLED DURING ITS YEARS OF RECONNAISSANCE.

THE SAMPLING TECHNIQUE'S SOMEWHAT ANNOYING, BUT YOU CAN GET USED TO IT.

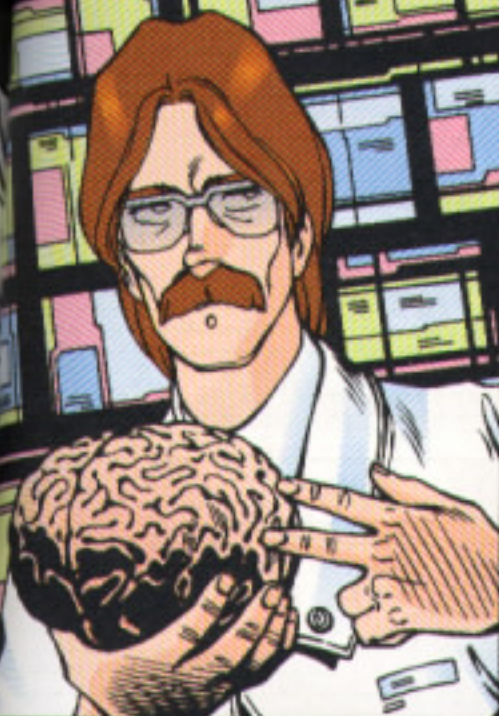
VIDEO SAMPLE

--CRITICAL PART OF STINGRAY'S WORK FOR GENOM WAS HIS REPLICATION OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS IN "BOOMER TECHNOLOGY"--

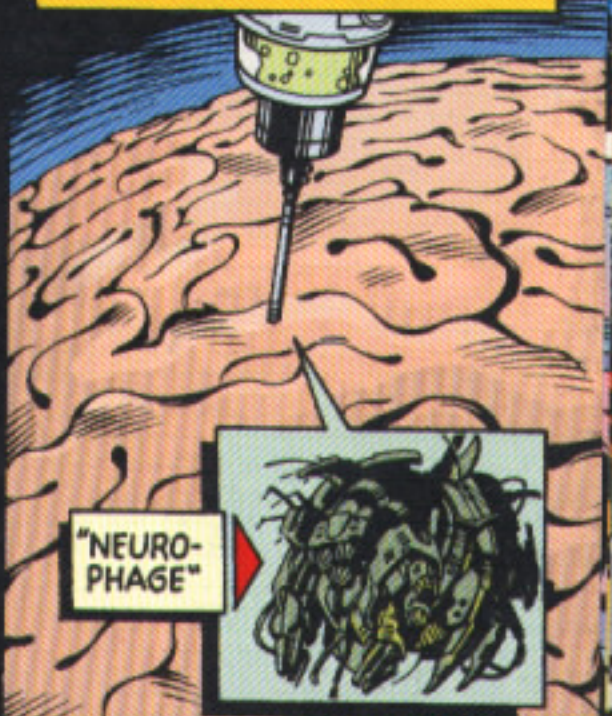
--INSTEAD, MY FATHER TOOK THE ROUTE OF TRYING TO *DIRECTLY* CONVERT HUMAN BRAIN INTO A SOFTWARE ANALOG--

VIDEO SAMPLE

--STINGRAY'S SO-CALLED "NEUROPHAGE," WHICH WAS AN EXPERIMENTAL BIO-COMPUTER-CONTROLLED *MOLECULAR MACHINE* DESIGNED TO BE INTRODUCED, MILLIONS AT A TIME, INTO A *LIVING BRAIN*--



JUST GIVE ME THE *SHORT FORM*, OK?



"NEURO-PHAGE"

VIDEO SAMPLE

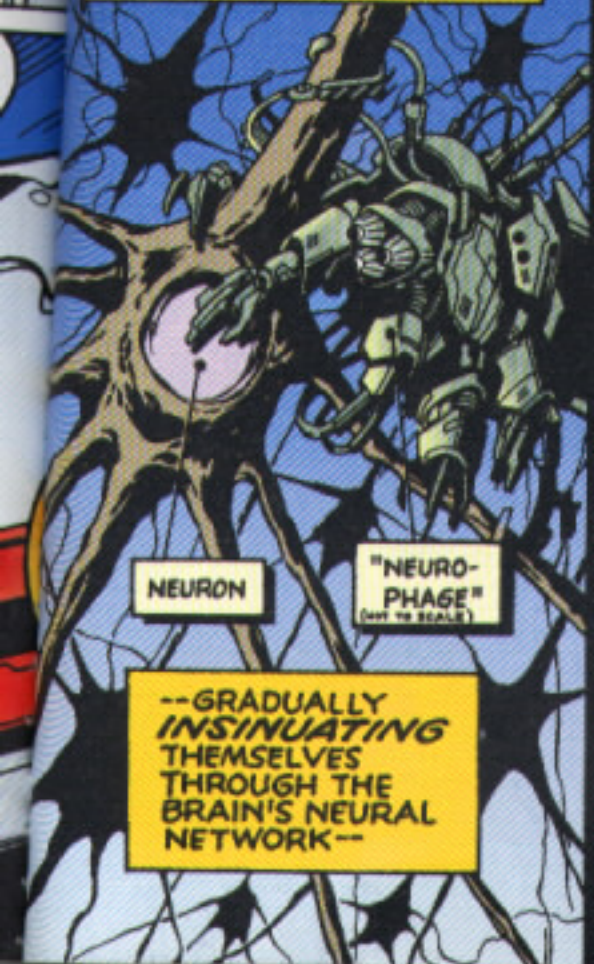
--EACH NEUROPHAGE WOULD DISASSEMBLE A NEURON, MOLECULE BY MOLECULE, AND REPLACE IT WITH A BIOCOM-PUTERIZED DUPLICATE--

--WEIRDLY ENOUGH, HEARING DESCRIPTIONS OF TINY MANMADE CRITTERS CHEWING THEIR WAY THROUGH BRAIN TISSUE--

--JUST MAKES ME HUNGRY--

VIDEO SAMPLE

EVENTUALLY, ALL TISSUE WOULD BE REPLACED BY A MASS OF NEUROPHAGES THAT WOULD *MIMIC* THE OPERATION OF THE *ORIGINAL BRAIN*--



--GRADUALLY *INSINUATING* THEMSELVES THROUGH THE BRAIN'S NEURAL NETWORK--



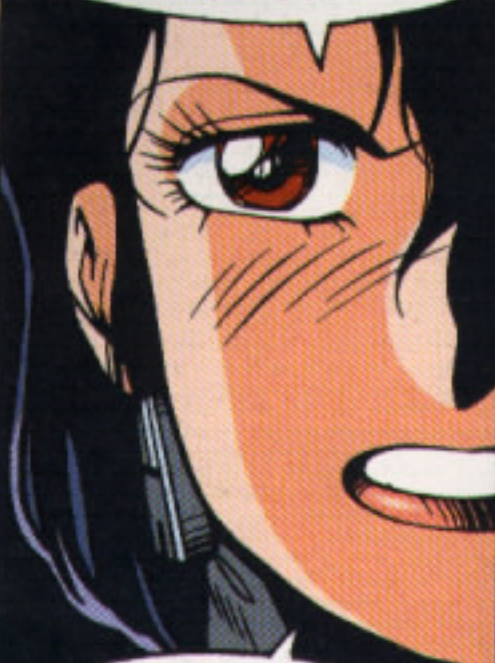
--REPORTEDLY, STINGRAY WAS ANGERED BY GENOM'S RECKLESS EXPERIMENTATION--

--FAVORED LIMITED TESTING OF NEUROPHAGES ON--



--RETAINING MOST OF THE SUBJECT'S COGNITIVE, BEHAVIORAL AND EMOTIONAL TRAITS--

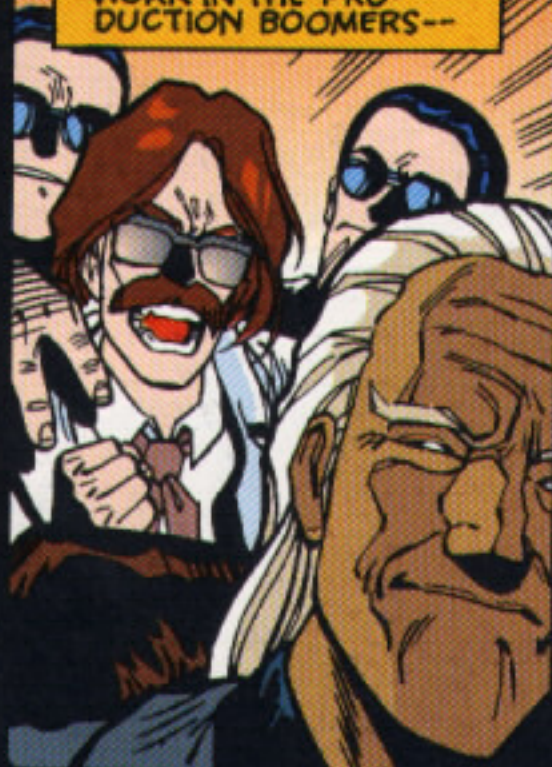
ONCE THE CONVERSION WAS COMPLETE, EACH INDIVIDUAL NEUROPHAGE COULD **DOWNLOAD** ITS PARTICULAR DATA TO **EXTERNAL COUNTER-PARTS**.



THIS WAY, **SEPARATE** MASSES OF MOLECULAR BIOCOMPUTERS COULD BE SET UP AS "**COPIES**" OF THE ORIGINAL BRAIN.

VIDEO SAMPLE

--REPORTEDLY, DR. STINGRAY OBJECTED TO GENOM'S USE OF **SIMPLIFIED**, AND THEREBY **UNSTABLE**, VERSIONS OF HIS WORK IN THE PRODUCTION BOOMERS--



--BUT DOC STINGRAY HAD BOLDER AIMS THAN MERELY **REPLICATING** HUMAN INTELLIGENCE.

NO, HE ACTUALLY WANTED TO DESIGN AN **IMPROVED MODEL**--

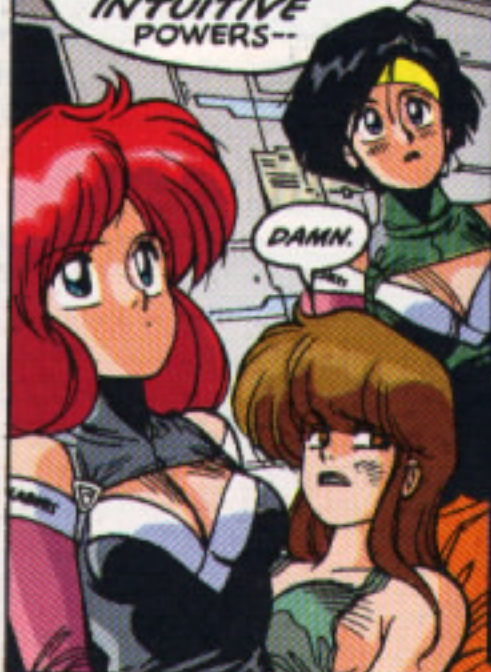


--NEUROPHAGES COULD BE FREELY RECONFIGURED TO PERMIT CHANGES TO THE SYNTHESIZED BRAIN--

--HE REASONED THAT "INFINITE FLEXIBILITY" AND "NEW MODES OF THOUGHTS" COULD BE ACHIEVED BY CONTROLLING THE NEUROPHAGES' ARRANGEMENTS--

--AFTER FATHER'S DEATH, GENOM **CARRIED THROUGH** ON HIS THEORIES--

--AND CREATED SEVERAL BEINGS WITH GREATLY ENHANCED **COGNITIVE** AND **INTUITIVE** POWERS--



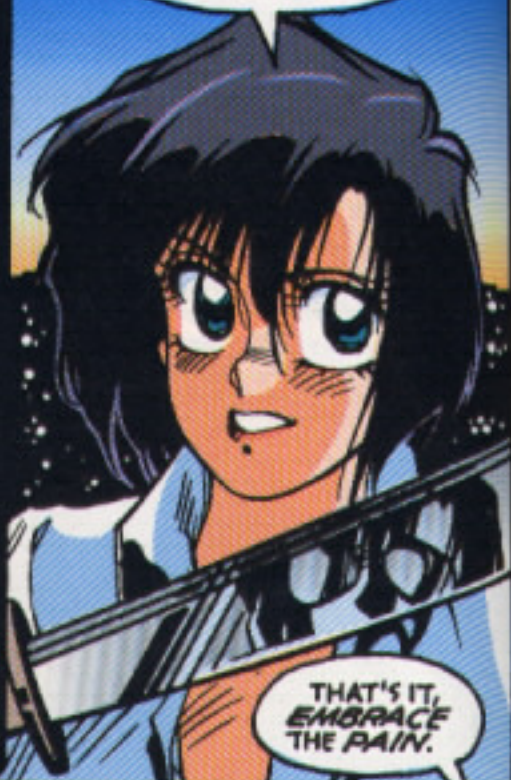
VIDEO SAMPLE

--HAS GENOM BEEN UTILIZING THE "**NEUROLOGICALLY ENHANCED**" TO DEFINE ITS CORPORATE STRATEGY?



SOURCES CLAIM THAT **MUCH** OF THE MEGA-CORPORATION'S STUNNING WORLDWIDE SUCCESS MAY BE DUE TO THESE ULTRA-SECRET "**INTELLECTUAL ASSETS**"--

--AND YET, SOMEHOW, I **STILL** DON'T FEEL **APPRECIATED** BY THOSE CRETINS ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD!

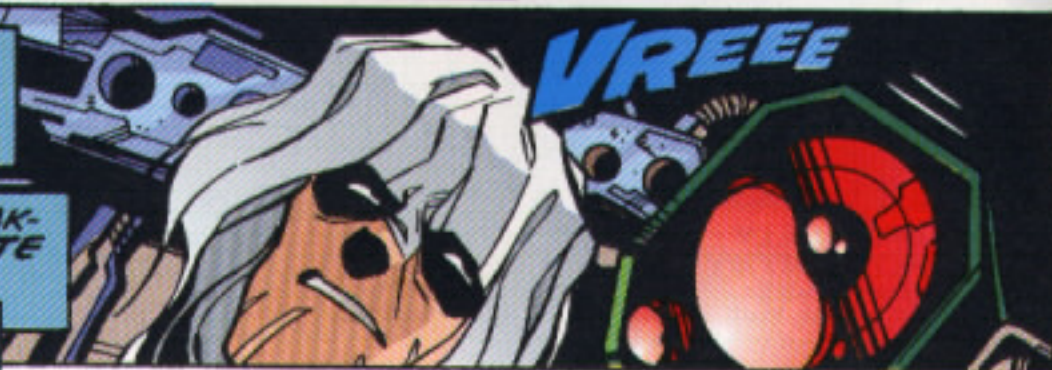


THAT'S IT, **EMBRACE** THE PAIN.

AMAZINGLY, THE SKORPION'S DISCOVERED A WAY TO **CAPTURE** ONE OF THESE "**POSTHUMAN INTELLECTS**"--

...THOUGH, ALAS, THIS BREAK-THROUGH'S COME TOO LATE TO HELP OUR ORIGINAL EMPLOYERS.

OH, WELL.



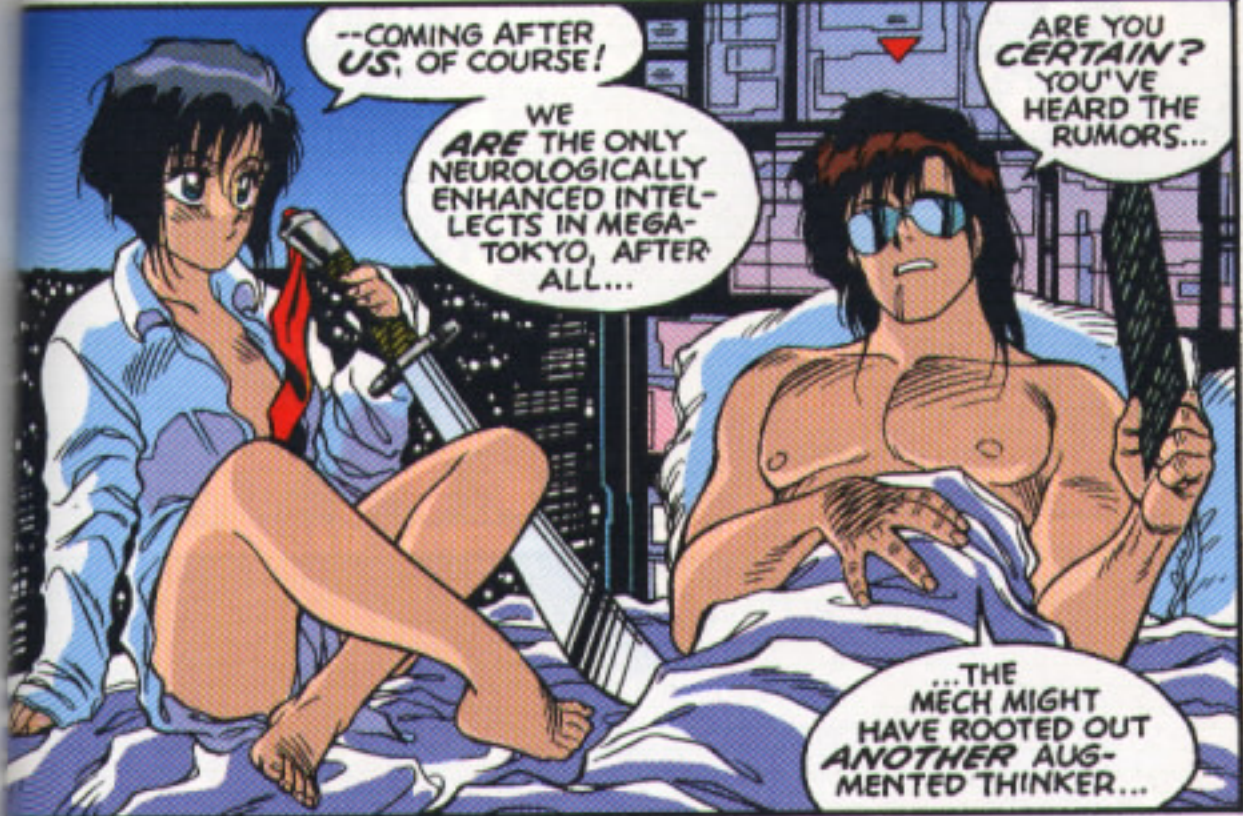


IT'S SENSELESS IDIOCY
TO CONTINUE WITH THIS
MISSION, I KNOW.

BUT AS FUTILE,
MEANINGLESS,
AND EVEN
SUICIDAL AS IT
HAPPENS TO BE...



...THIS IS
MY JOB.



--COMING AFTER
US, OF COURSE!

WE
ARE THE ONLY
NEUROLOGICALLY
ENHANCED INTEL-
LECTS IN MEGA-
TOKYO, AFTER
ALL...

ARE YOU
CERTAIN?
YOU'VE
HEARD THE
RUMORS...

...THE
MECH MIGHT
HAVE ROOTED OUT
ANOTHER AUG-
MENTED THINKER...



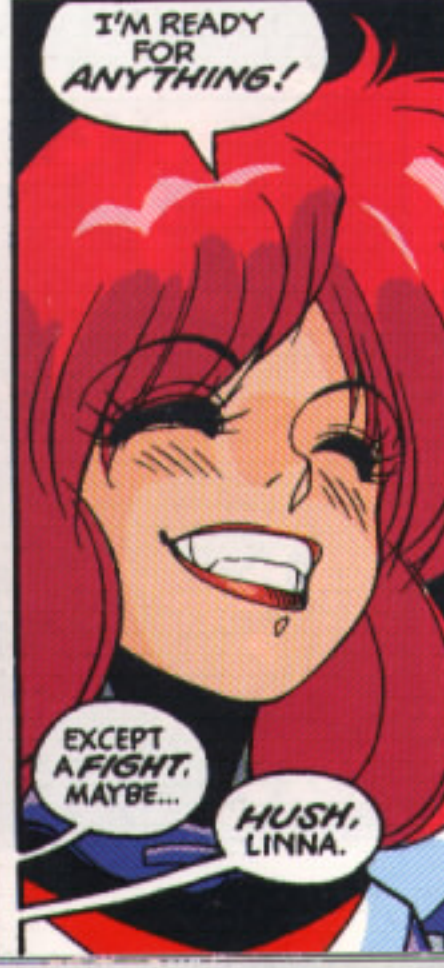
...A ROGUE
"INTELLECTUAL
ASSET," IF YOU
WILL...



--WITH AN ATTACK
ON GENOM TOWER
IMMINENT, YOUR
HARDSUIT'S SENSOR
SUITES AND SURVEIL-
LANCE GEAR WILL
BE CRITICAL,
NENE.

AFTER LAST
NIGHT, ARE
YOU FEELING
UP TO
THIS...?

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME,
SYLIA!



I'M READY
FOR
ANYTHING!

EXCEPT
A FIGHT,
MAYBE...

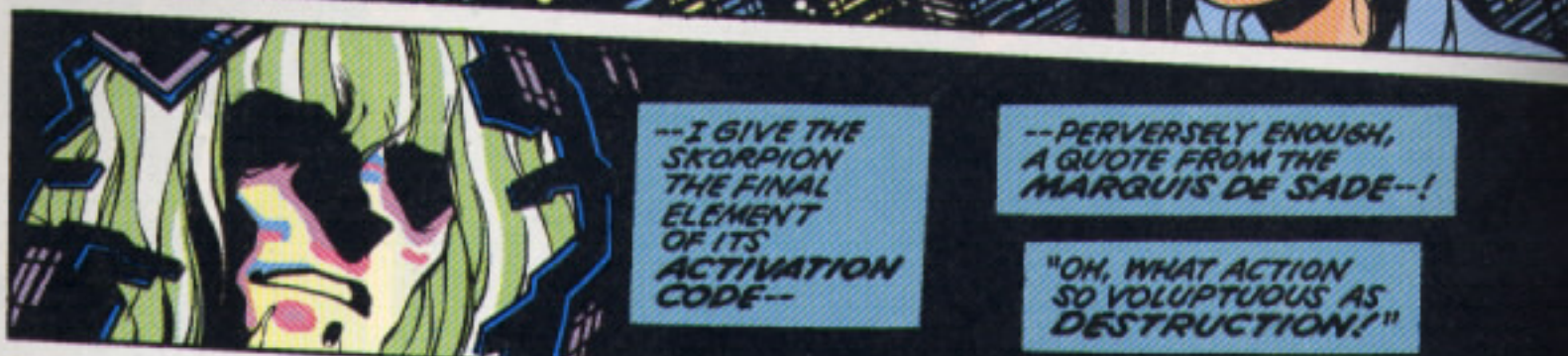
HUSH,
LINNA.



--OR
HE'S ON
HIS WAY
HERE.

EITHER
WAY, THE
ISSUE WILL
BE RESOLVED
SHORTLY--

--NOT TO
MENTION
VIOLENTLY--



--I GIVE THE
SKORPION
THE FINAL
ELEMENT
OF ITS
ACTIVATION
CODE--

--PERVERSELY ENOUGH,
A QUOTE FROM THE
MARQUIS DE SADE--!

"OH, WHAT ACTION
SO VOLUPTUOUS AS
DESTRUCTION!"



ONCE *MACKIE* COMES BACK,
WE'LL HEAD TO A MONITORING
POST CLOSE BY *GENOM*
TOWER--

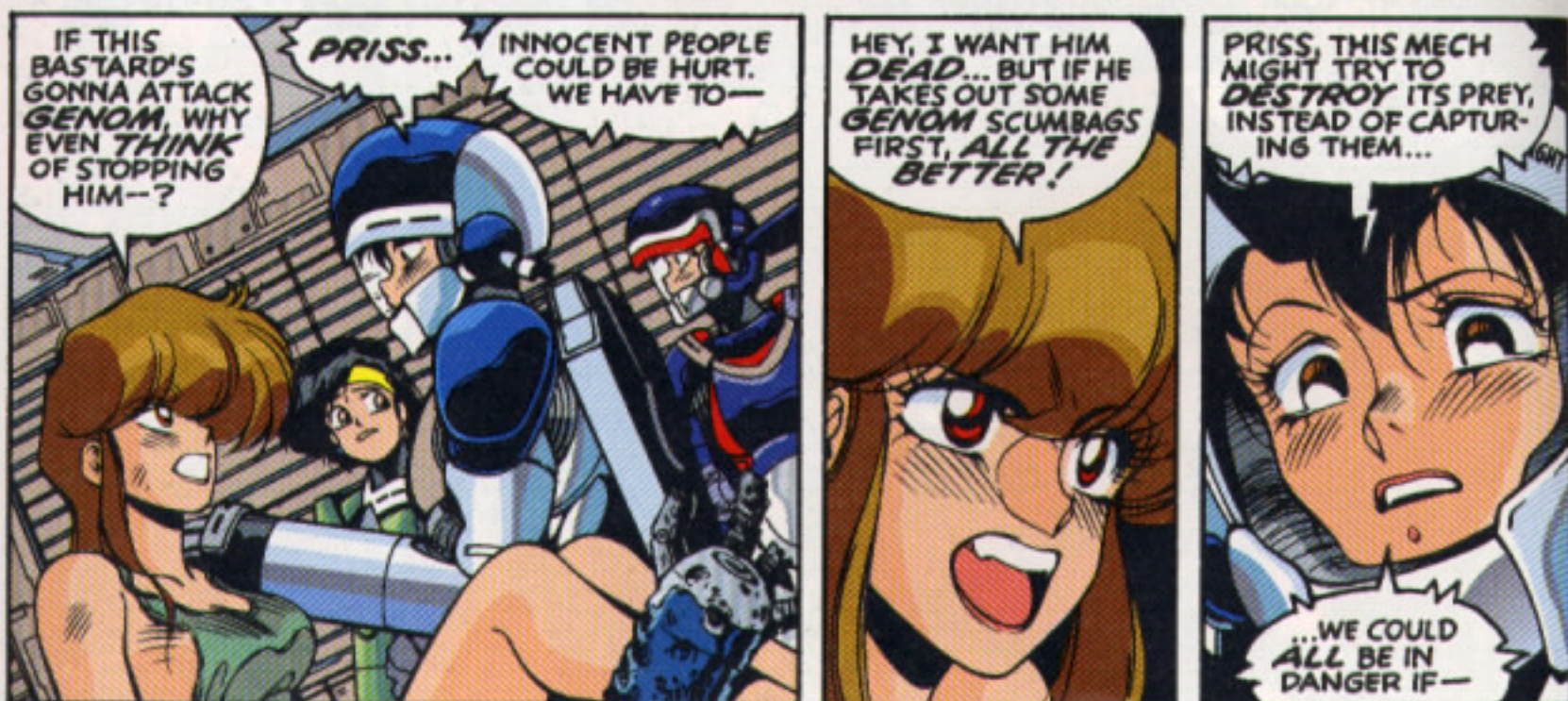
--IN CASE
WE NEED TO
INTERVENE--

WHAT?

ARE
YOU
CRAZY?



"THERE IS NO
ECSTASY
LIKE THE ONE
WE TASTE--"



IF THIS
BASTARD'S
GONNA ATTACK
GENOM, WHY
EVEN THINK
OF STOPPING
HIM--?

PRISS...

INNOCENT PEOPLE
COULD BE HURT.
WE HAVE TO--

HEY, I WANT HIM
DEAD... BUT IF HE
TAKES OUT SOME
GENOM SCUMBAGS
FIRST, ALL THE
BETTER!

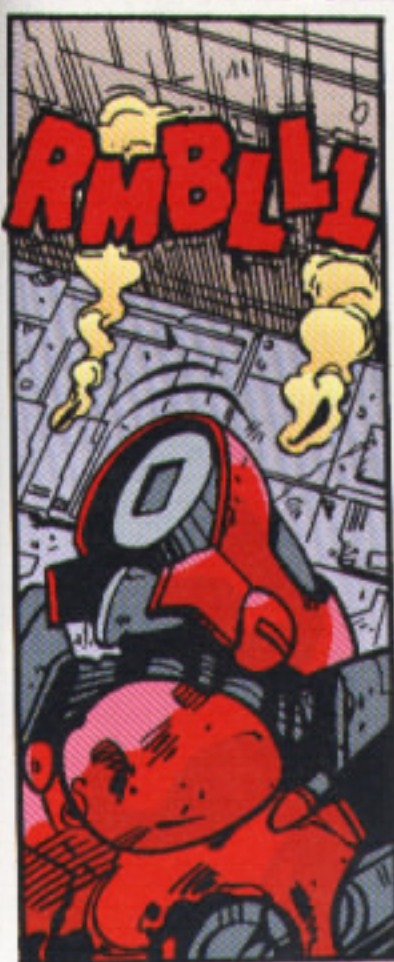
PRISS, THIS MECH
MIGHT TRY TO
DESTROY ITS PREY,
INSTEAD OF CAPTUR-
ING THEM...

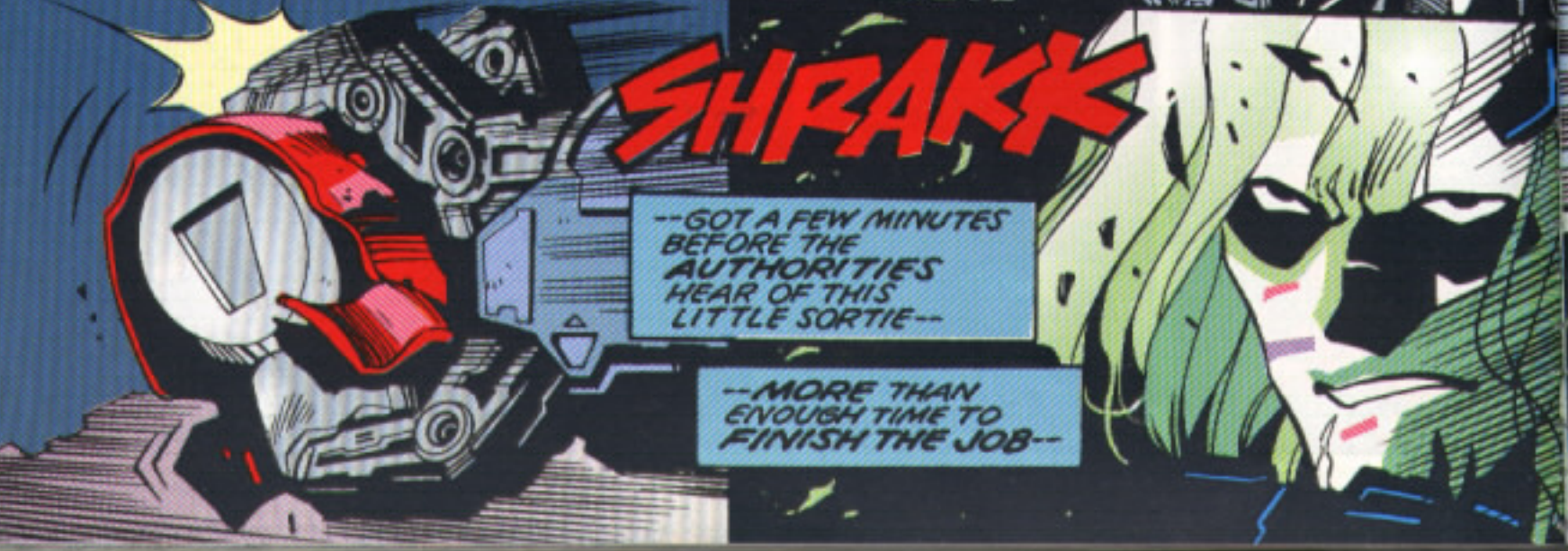
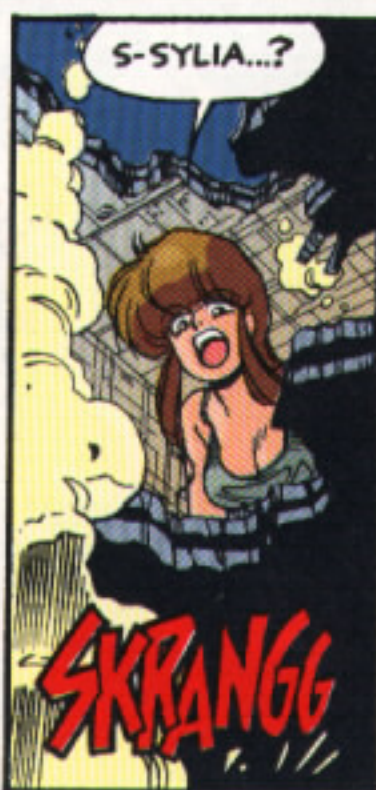
...WE COULD
ALL BE IN
DANGER IF--

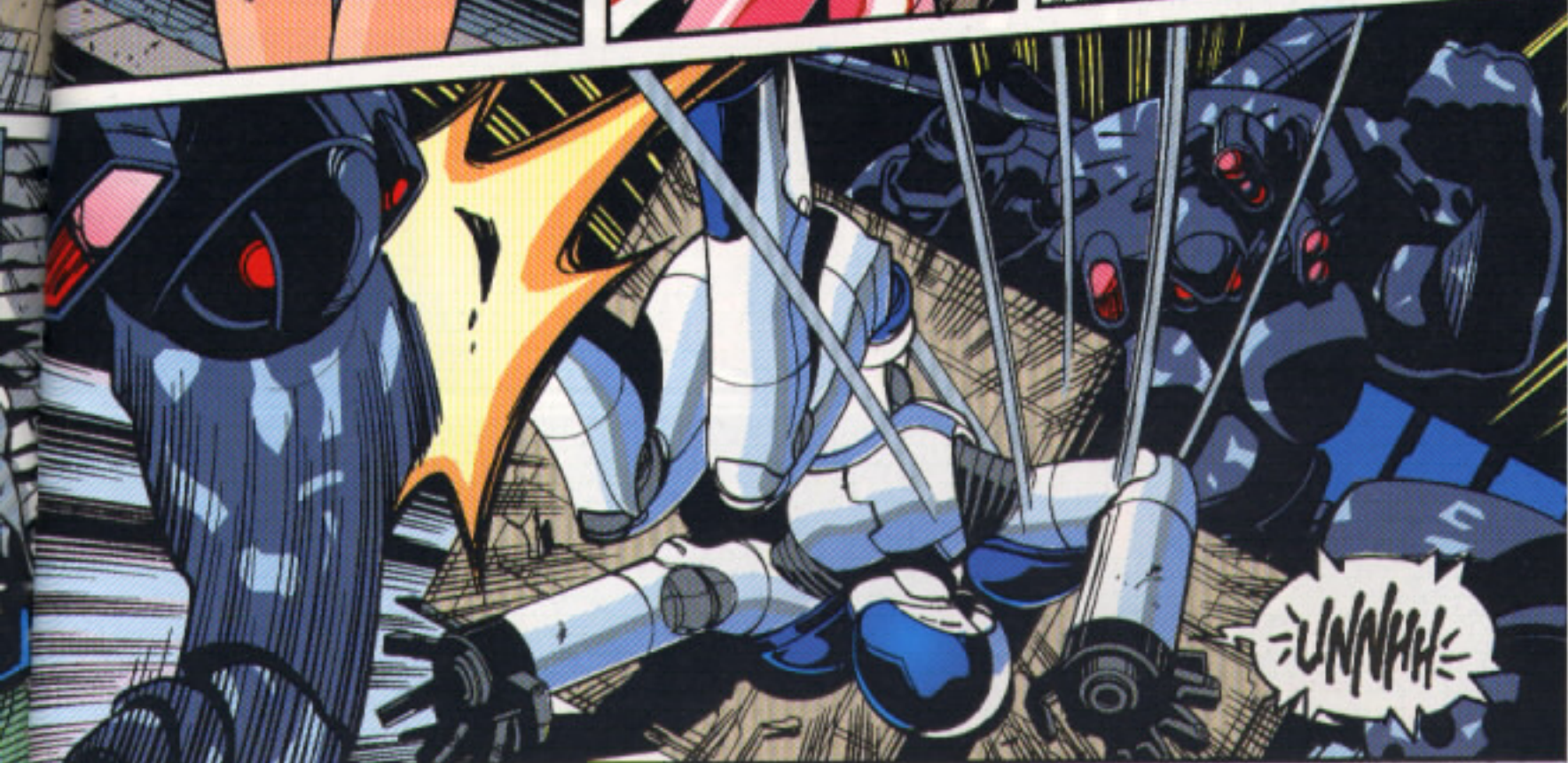
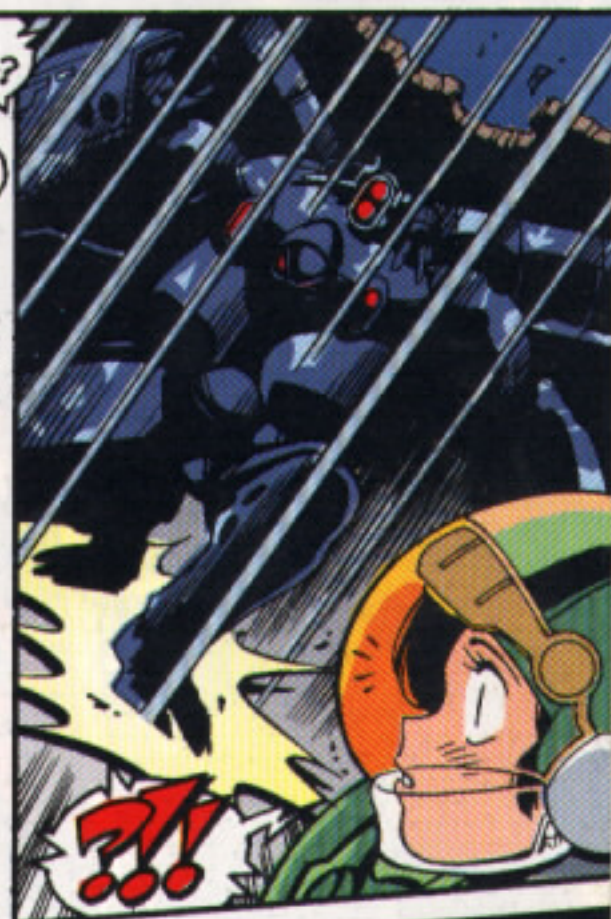
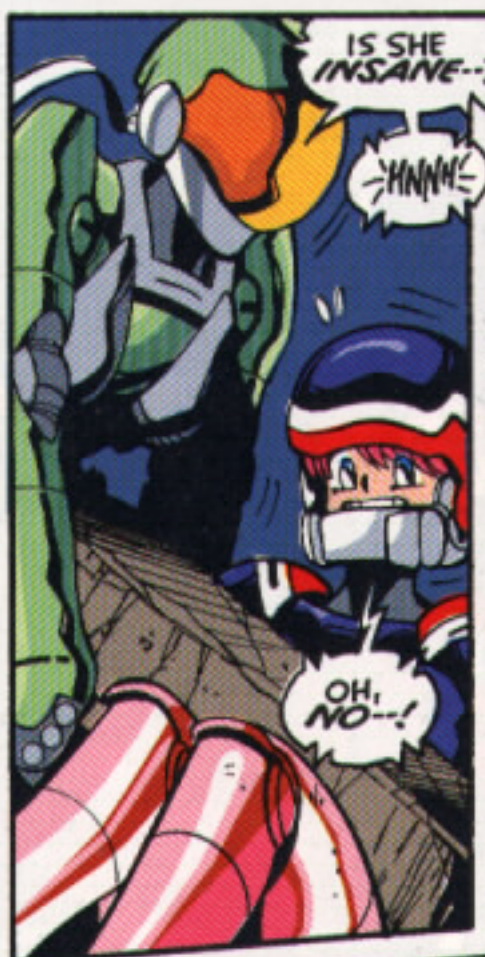
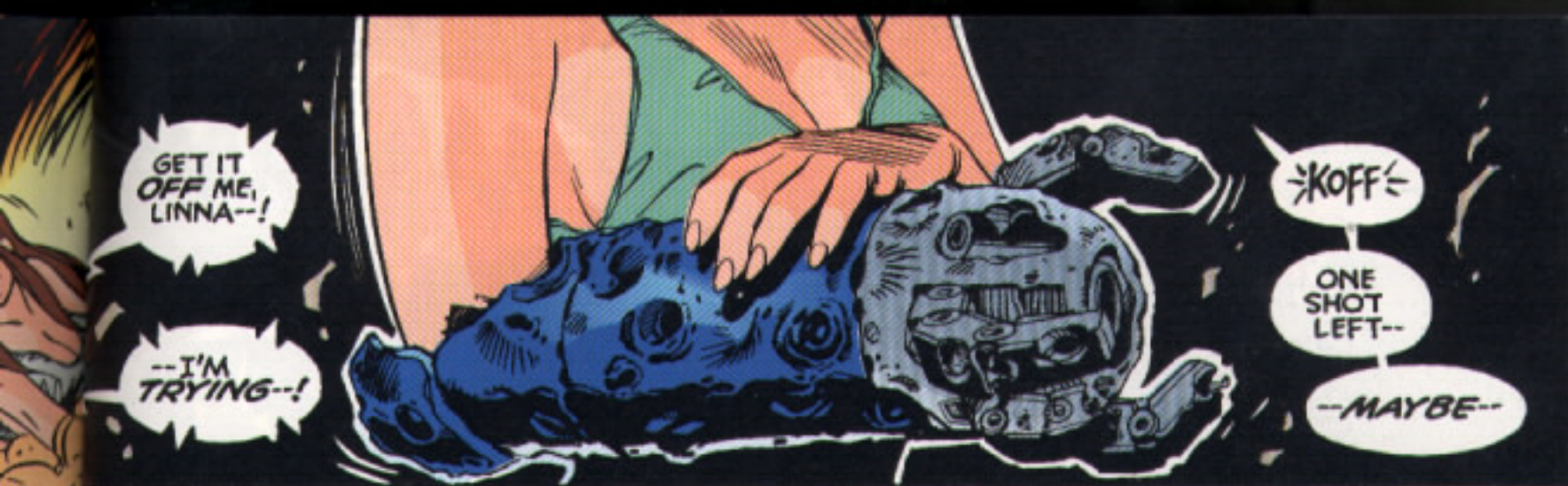
"WHEN
WE GIVE
OURSELVES
OVER
TO THIS
DIVINE
INFAMY!"

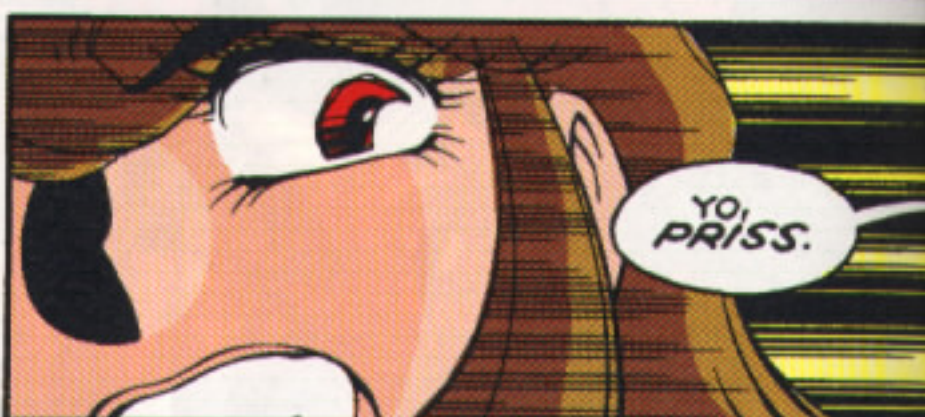
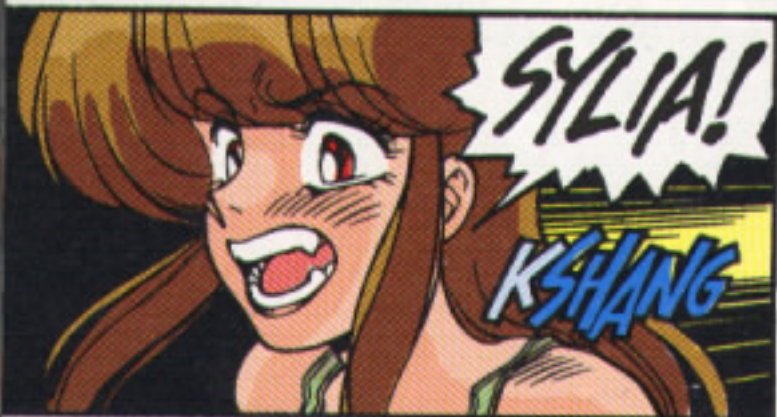
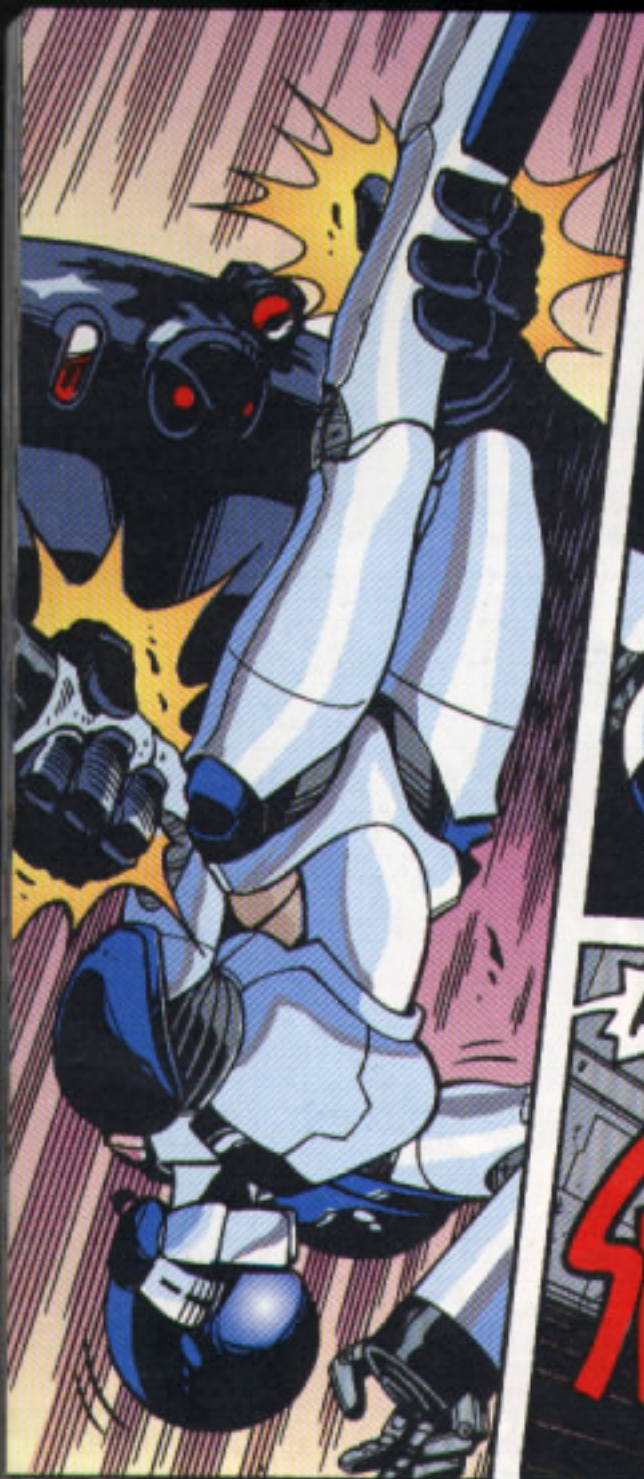
WHKROOM

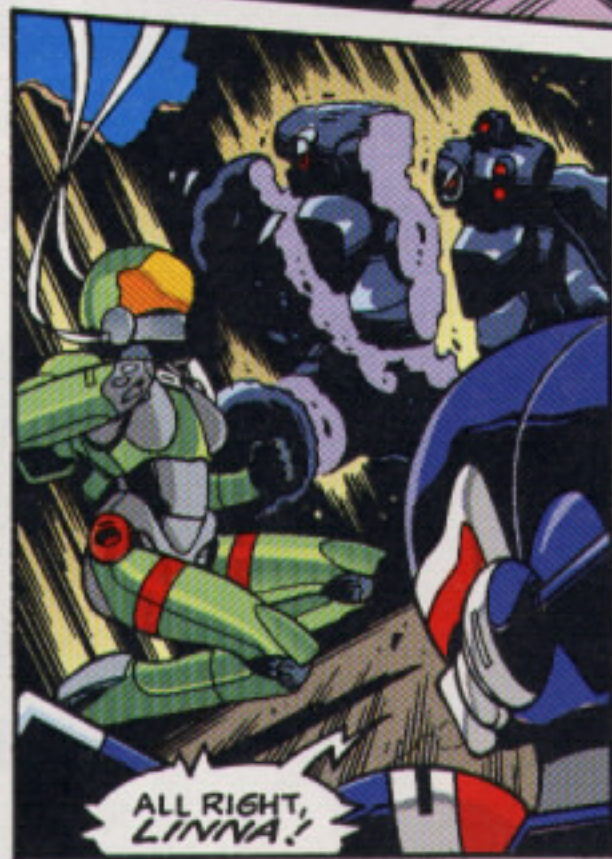
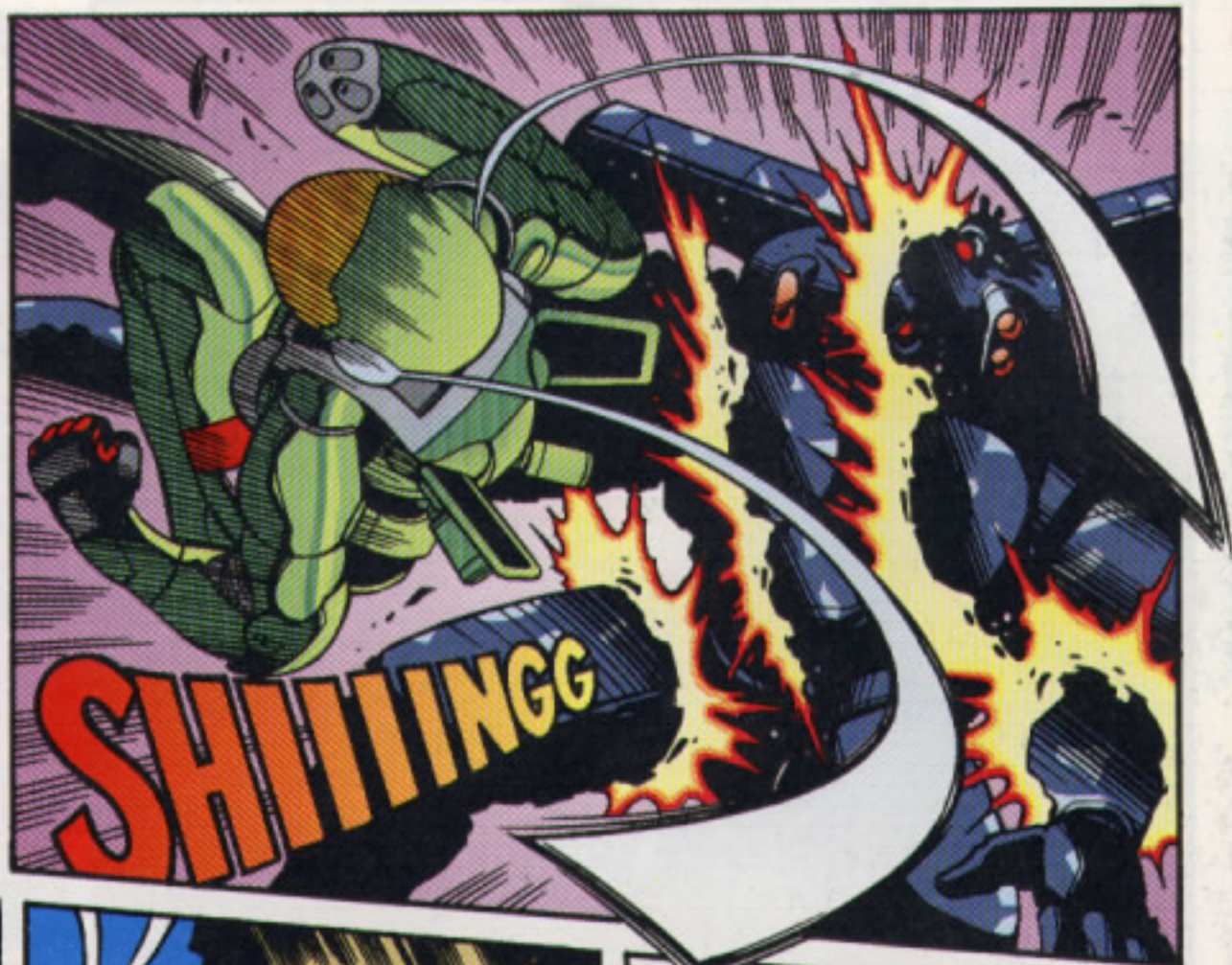
CHOOM CHOOM

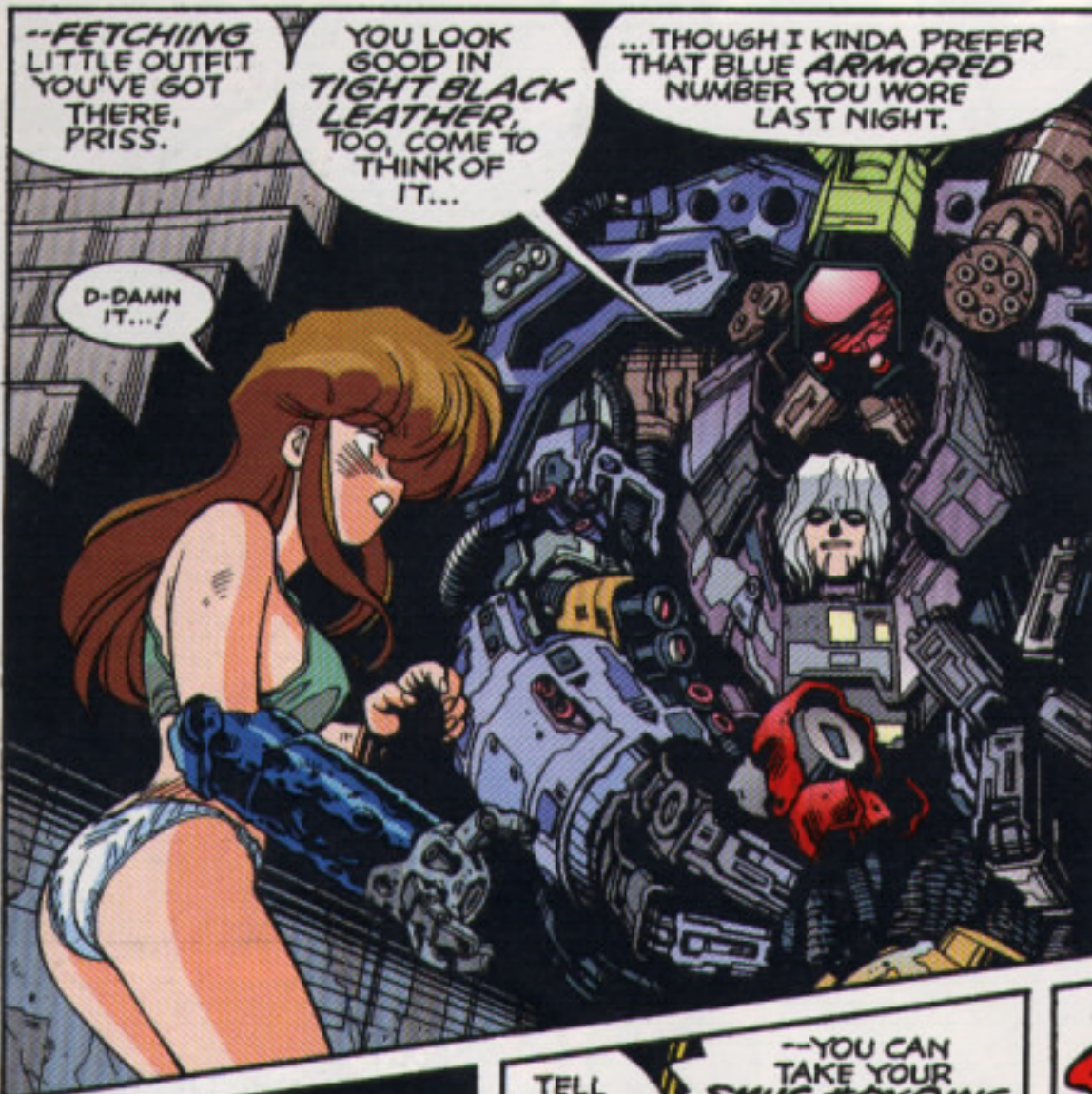












--FETCHING
LITTLE OUTFIT
YOU'VE GOT
THERE,
PRISS.

YOU LOOK
GOOD IN
**TIGHT BLACK
LEATHER,**
TOO, COME TO
THINK OF
IT...

...THOUGH I KINDA PREFER
THAT BLUE **ARMORED**
NUMBER YOU WORE
LAST NIGHT.

D-DAMN
IT...!

GOT THE INFODUMP ON
THIS "**KNIGHT
SABERS**" THING
YOU'RE INTO...

...PRETTY
SILLY STUFF,
ISN'T IT?



YOU'D
BEST LEAVE THE
SERIOUS WORK
FOR US **ADULTS,**
OKAY?

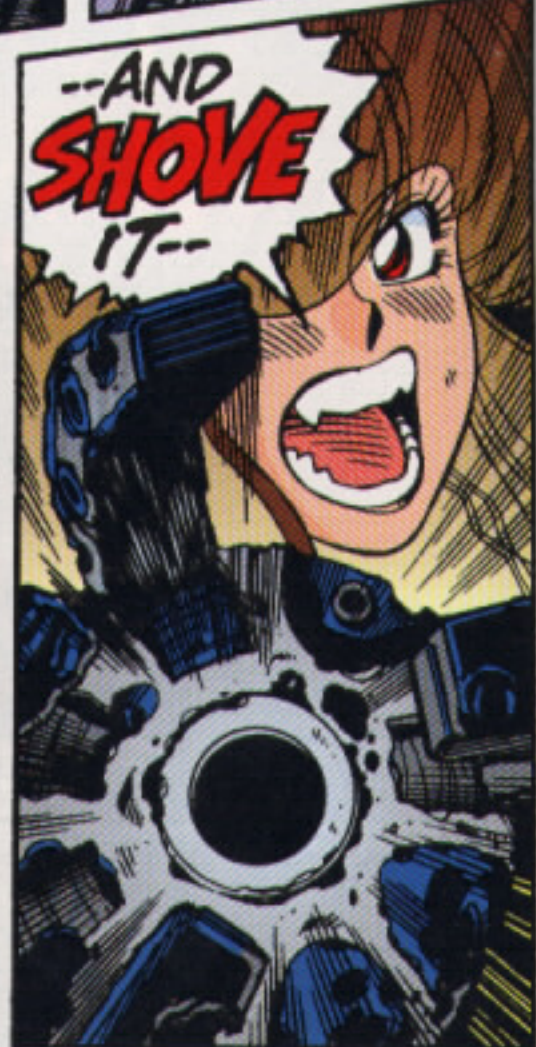
YOU
COULD GET
HURT!

HUNH--!

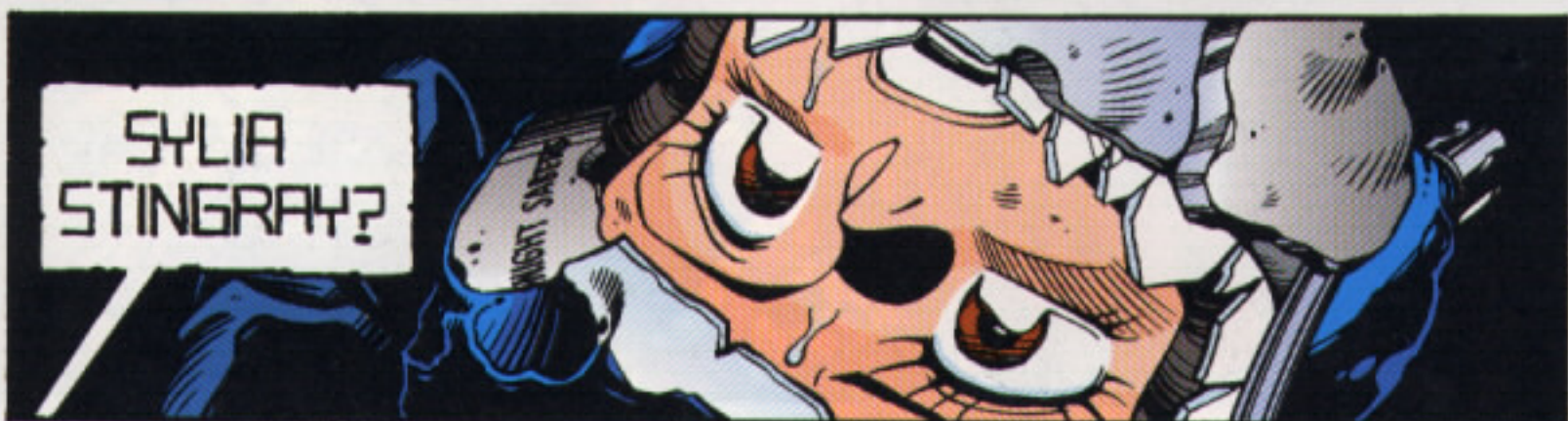


TELL
YOU
WHAT,
DICK-
WEED--

--YOU CAN
TAKE YOUR
SMUG #5%ING
CONDESCEN-
SION--



--AND
SHOVE
IT--



SYLIA
STINGRAY?



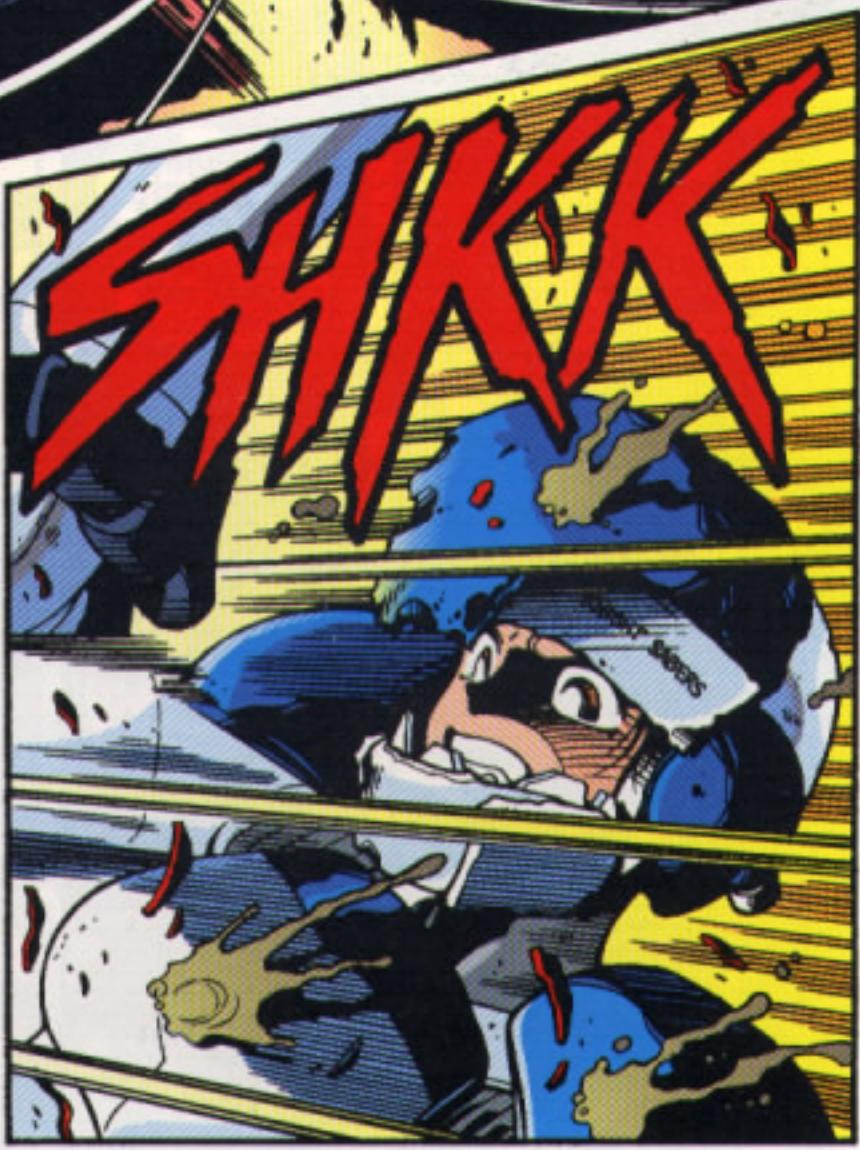
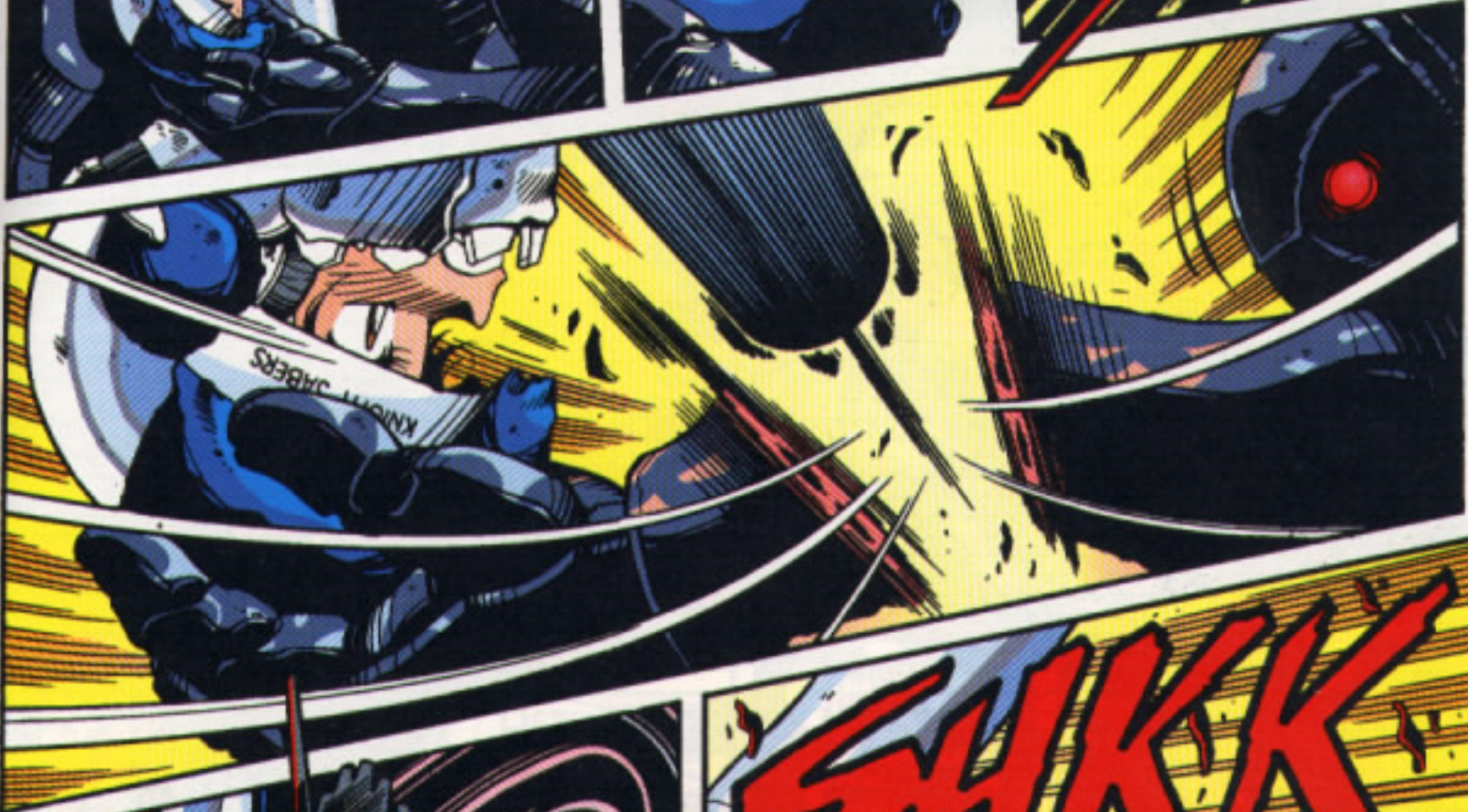
SYLIA
STINGRAY!



SYLIA
STINGRAY!!



STINGRAY!!!



--M-MECH'S
GOTTA BE RUNNING
THOSE BOOMERS
BY REMOTE
LINK--!

SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
JAM THE
SIGNAL--

--OR
OVERRIDE
IT--

--B-BUT
THE SIGNAL'S
FREQUENCY-
HOPPING--!

N-NO--
PLEASE--

--DON'T--

--DON'T--

SHRAKK

>HUHH<
>HUHH<

SHOULD'VE...
EXPECTED
THIS...

HEY,
NOBODY'S
PERFECT,
SYLIA...

...NOT
EVEN AN
AUGMENTED
INTELLECT
LIKE YOUR-
SELF...

SORRY,
SYLIA...

...I
SCREWED UP
AGAIN...

DIDN'T HAVE TO
GO TO *GENOM TOWER*
TO FIND ONE OF THE
NEUROLOGICALLY
ENHANCED,
AFTER ALL...

...JUST
HAD TO LOOK
FOR YOU...!



DADDY
JUST COULDN'T
STOP
HIMSELF,
COULD HE?

...NICE GUY,
EXPERIMENTING
ON HIS OWN
CHILDREN...!

WHY, I
EVEN READ
ALL ABOUT
IT IN YOUR
NOT-SO-PRIVATE
RECORDS,
SYLIA...

STINGRAY
HAD TO GIVE
HIS *LITTLE*
GIRL SOME
VERSION OF HIS
NEUROPHAGE
TREATMENT...



VIDEO SAMPLE

"...TO AID YOU
IN THIS..."

"I HAVE GIVEN YOU
AND YOUR BROTHER
CERTAIN... *GIFTS*,
YOU MIGHT SAY.

--SKORPION'S
BEEN
TRACKING
YOU FOR
YEARS--

--KEEPING A
CAREFUL WATCH
ON YOUR *GOOFY*
CRUSADE--

--UNTIL
WE COULD
REEL YOU
IN.

LISTEN, YOU
MERCENARY
BASTARD--

--MY
"*CRUSADE*"
IS ALL THAT'S
STOPPING GENOM
FROM--

I'M SURE THAT THE
VERY *THOUGHT*
OF A COUPLE OF CUTE
GIRLS PRANCING
AROUND IN *HIGH-
HEELED* ARMOR
IS GONNA PUT
THE *FEAR* OF
GOD--

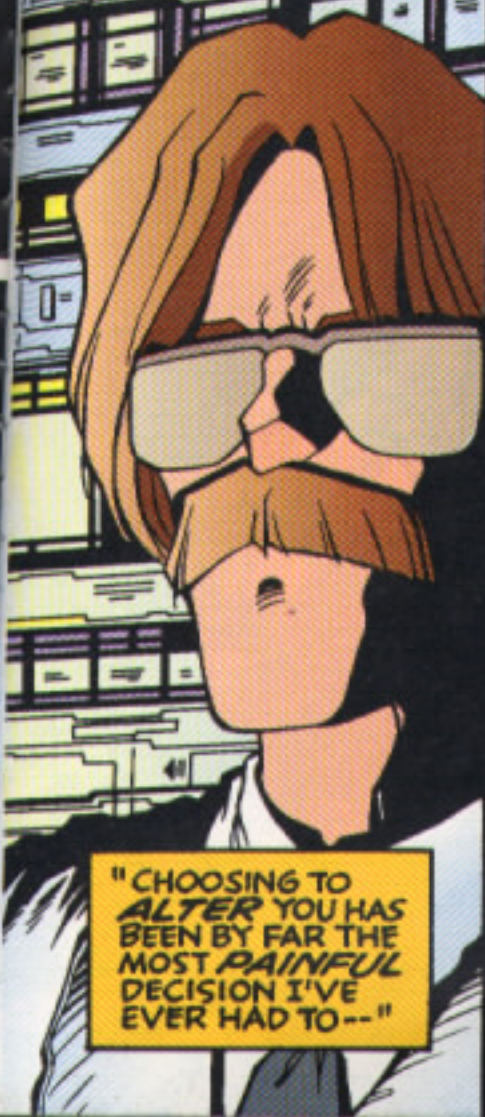
--INTO THE MOST
POWERFUL COM-
MERCIAL ENTITY
IN *HUMAN*
HISTORY--!

"CHOOSING TO
ALTER YOU HAS
BEEN BY FAR THE
MOST *PAINFUL*
DECISION I'VE
EVER HAD TO--"

YEAH,
RIGHT.

D-
DAMN
IT--!

YOU
SAID YOU
HATED
GENOM!





WHY ARE YOU
ATTACKING
THE ONLY ONES
FIGHTING
THEM--?!

SHIT!

A HALLUCINATION--!



NO WARNING,
THIS TIME--

--A
MAJOR
SEIZURE
COMING
ON--

--COMING ON
FAST--



--FAST--

--GOING
UNDER--

--DAMN IT--

GNNNGGH

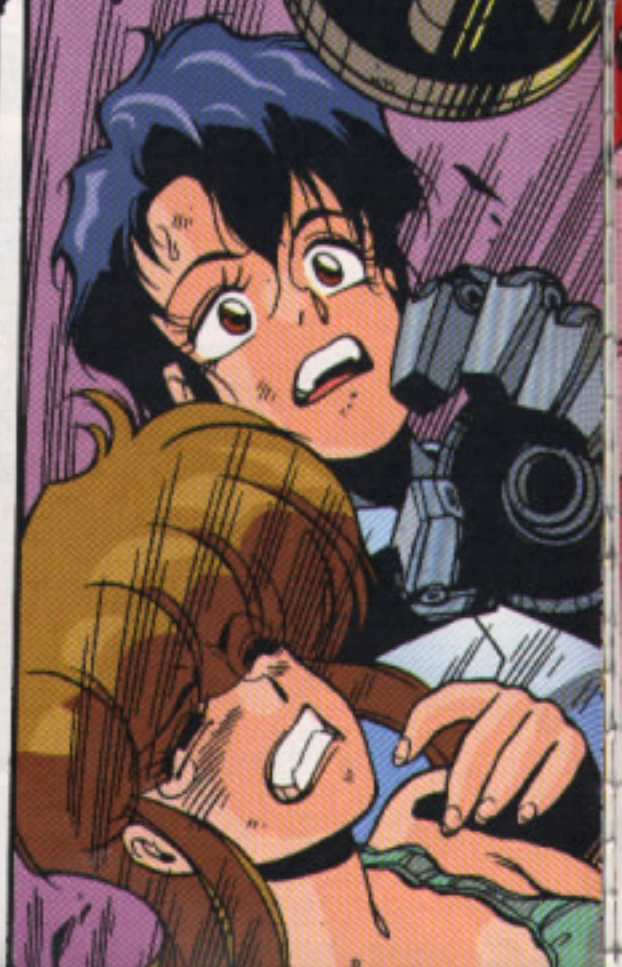


NNUHH

NNGH



NNNNGHHH





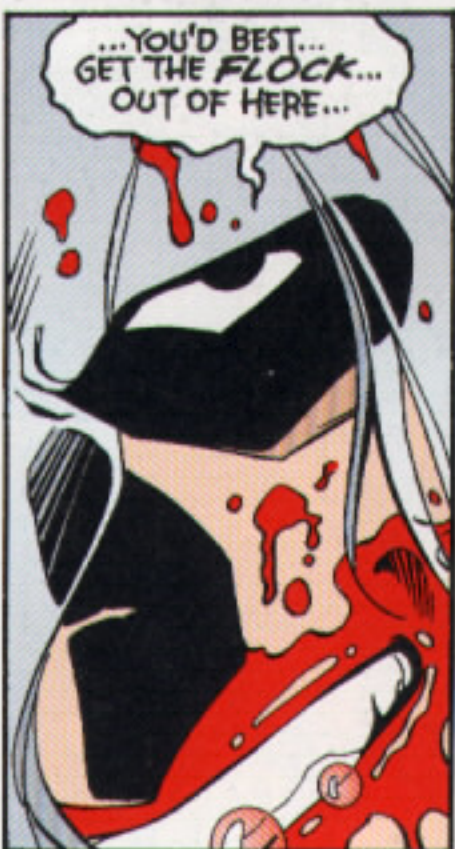
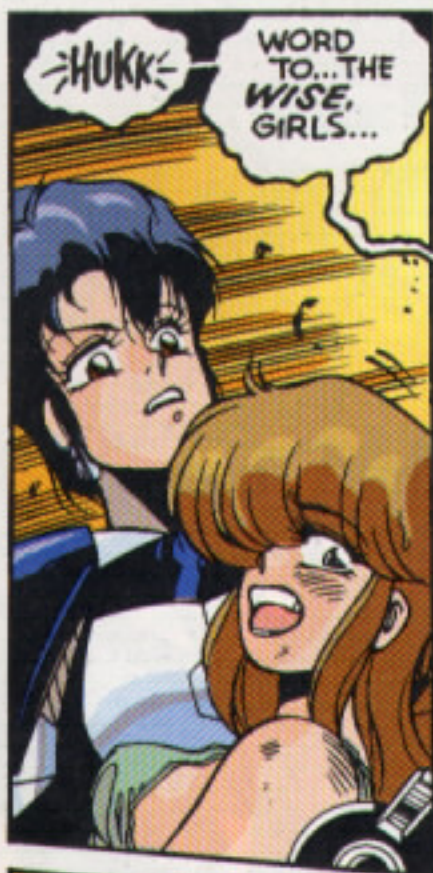
CHOOM DAMAGE!
CHOOM DAMAGE!!
CHOOM DAMAGE!!!



OH, YEAH!

I'M NO GOOD
IN A FIGHT,
HUH?

...YOU'RE
THE MAN,
NENE...



DAMN... GETTING
DISEMBOWELED BY
AN ARMOR-PIERCING
CANNON ROUND--

--CUT THAT
SEIZURE
RIGHT OFF--

--SHOULD LET
MY NEURO-
LOGIST KNOW
ABOUT THIS
ANTISEIZURE
TREATMENT--

--WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU
GUYS--?!

...DON'T
ASK...

MACKIE!

I SAVED
THE
DAY!

WE'RE
GETTING
OUT OF
HERE,
NOW--

--DEATH--

--IT'S THE ONE
SURE CURE
FOR WHAT
AILS YOU--



HUH?

HEY, SIS,
WHAT'S
THAT?

NOTHING
I LIKE BETTER
THAN BEING
HAULED AROUND
LIKE A SACK OF
GROCERIES...

HURRY
UP--!

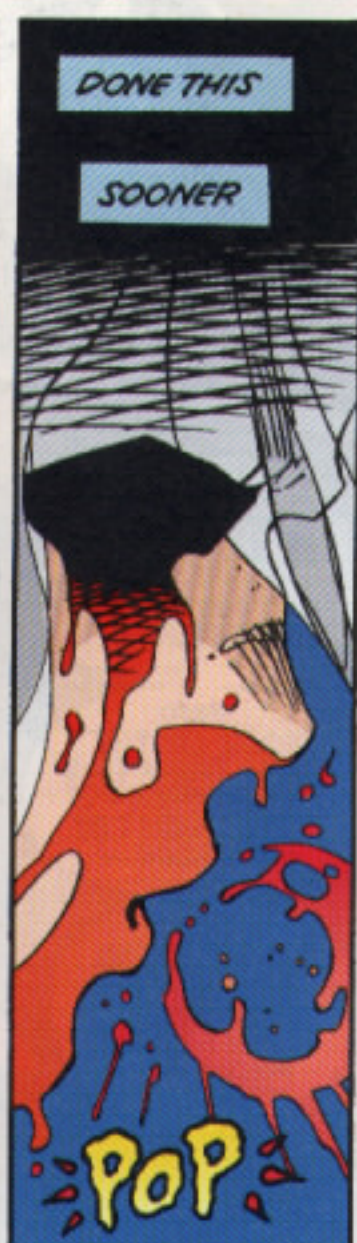
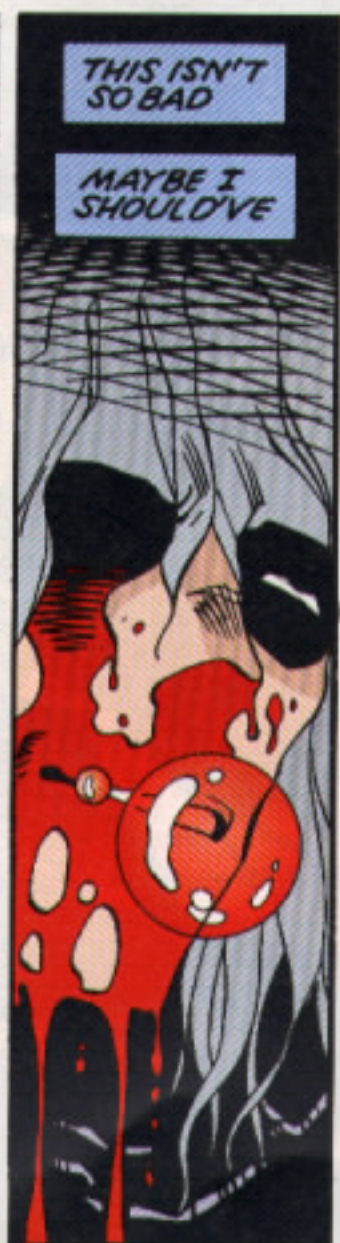
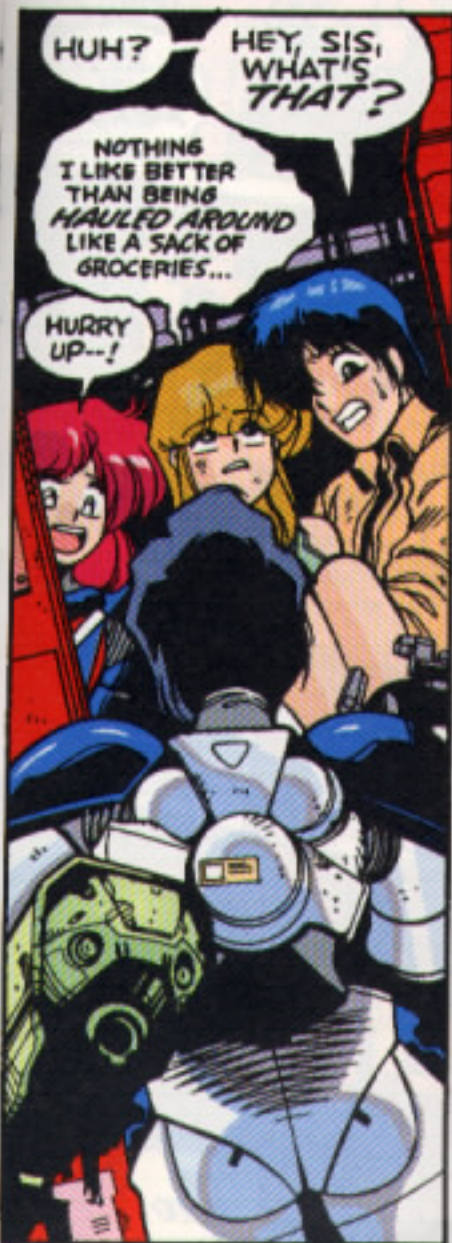
THIS ISN'T
SO BAD

MAYBE I
SHOULD'VE

A LITTLE **SOUVENIR**
FOR OUR TROUBLES,
YOU MIGHT SAY--

DONE THIS

SOONER





JEEZ, SYLIA...

...I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR, UM, BUILDING...!

IT'S JUST ONE OF MY PROPERTIES...

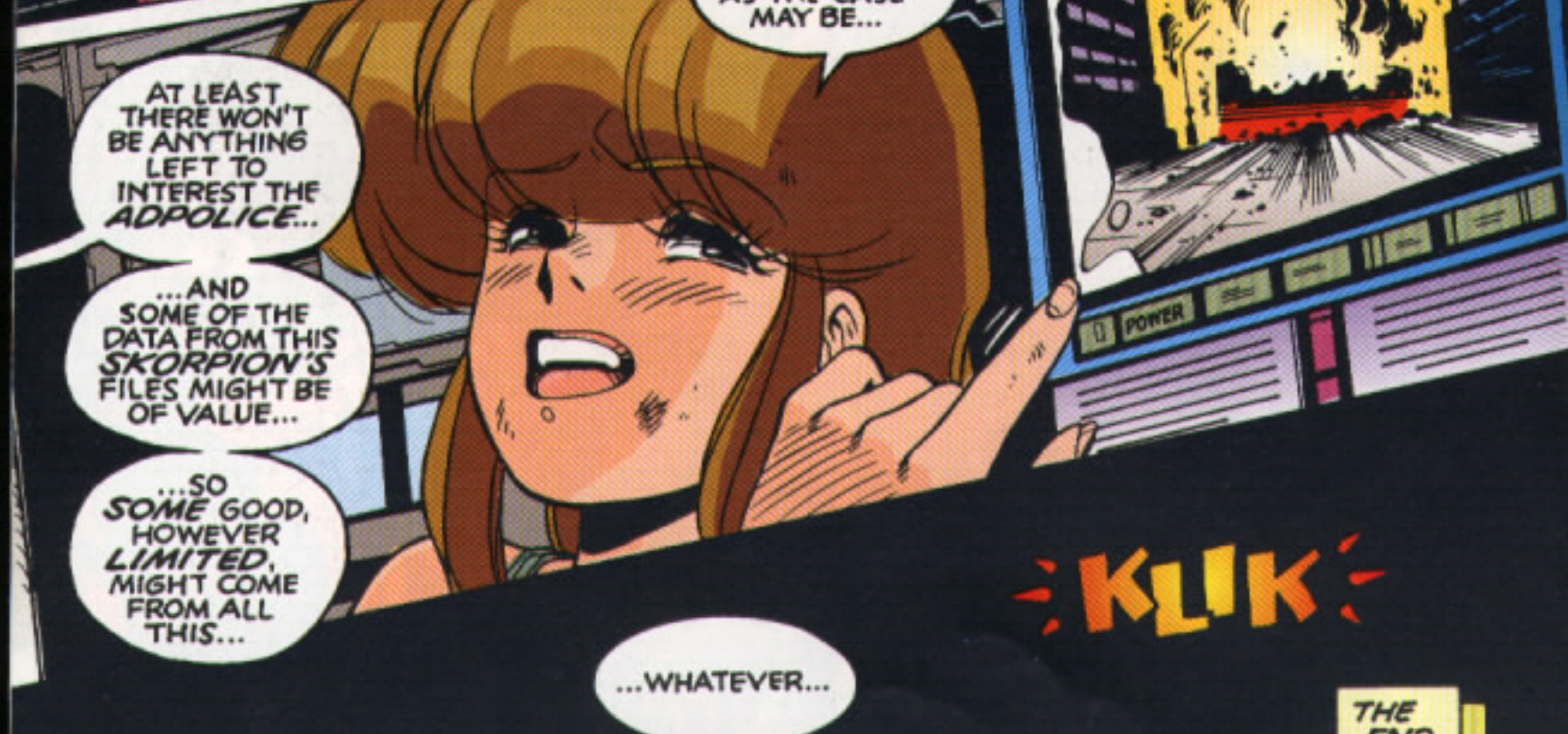
...I'LL SURVIVE THE LOSS.

WELL, MR. "WHITE KNIGHT..."

YEAH...

...SORRY 'BOUT THAT...

...REST IN PEACE...



...OR REST IN *PIECES*... AS THE CASE MAY BE...

AT LEAST THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO INTEREST THE ADPOLICE...

...AND SOME OF THE DATA FROM THIS SKORPION'S FILES MIGHT BE OF VALUE...

...SO SOME GOOD, HOWEVER LIMITED, MIGHT COME FROM ALL THIS...

...WHATEVER...

KLICK

THE END