

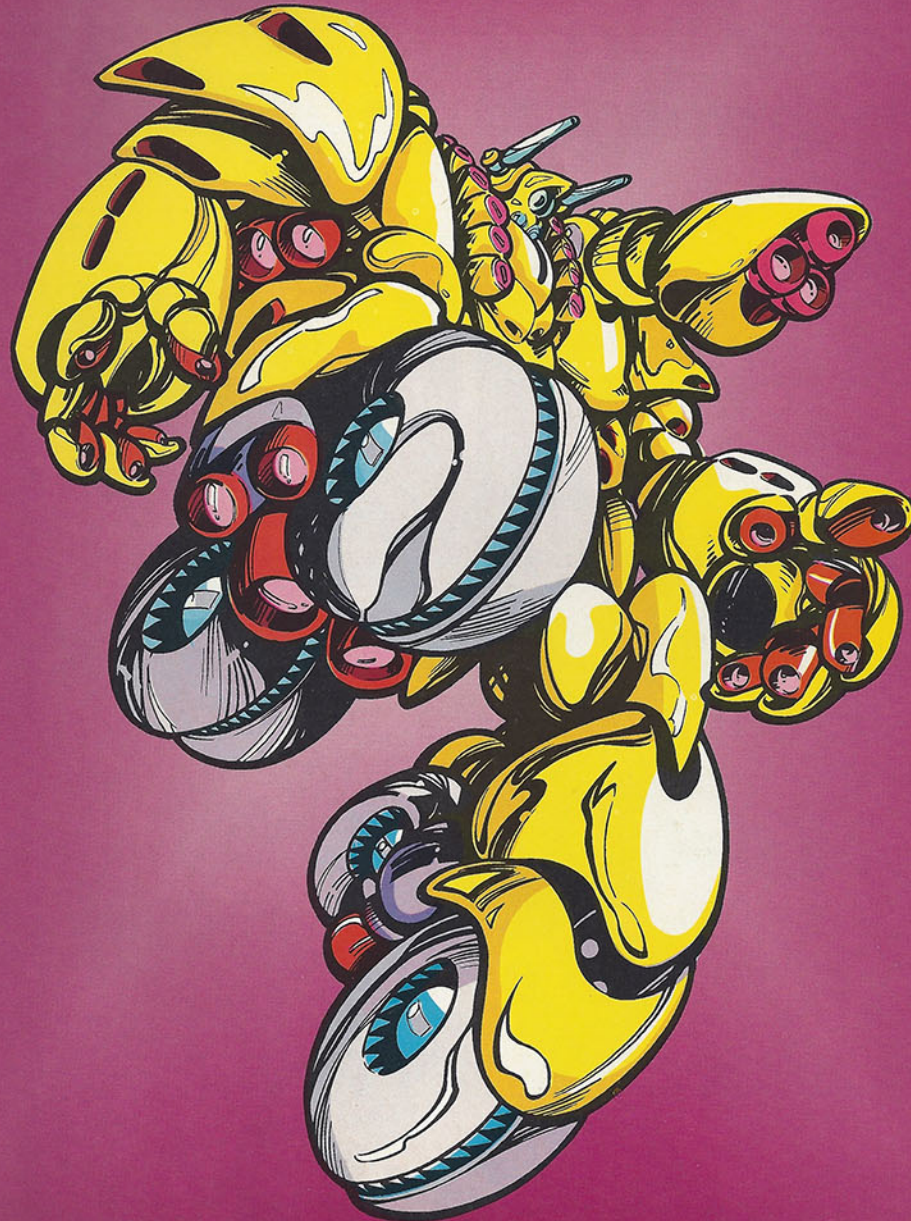


**DARK  
HORSE  
COMICS**

# MECHA

6

\$1.50 USA • \$1.90 Canada



# Breaking Contact\*

Mecha

No. 6

January, 1989

Script  
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Harrison Fong

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\*see page 25 for further details

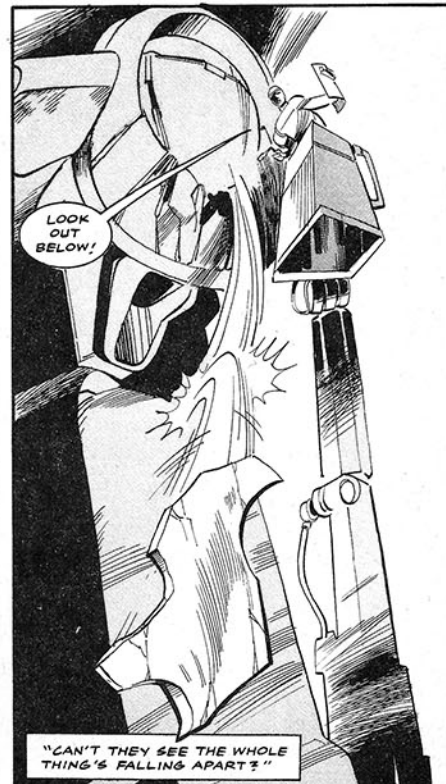
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"THEY SAY MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS SUPERFICIAL."



"THEY THINK THEY CAN PUT EVERYTHING BACK TOGETHER...LIKE NEW."



LOOK OUT BELOW!

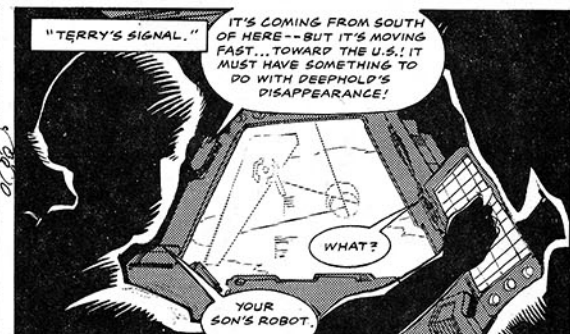
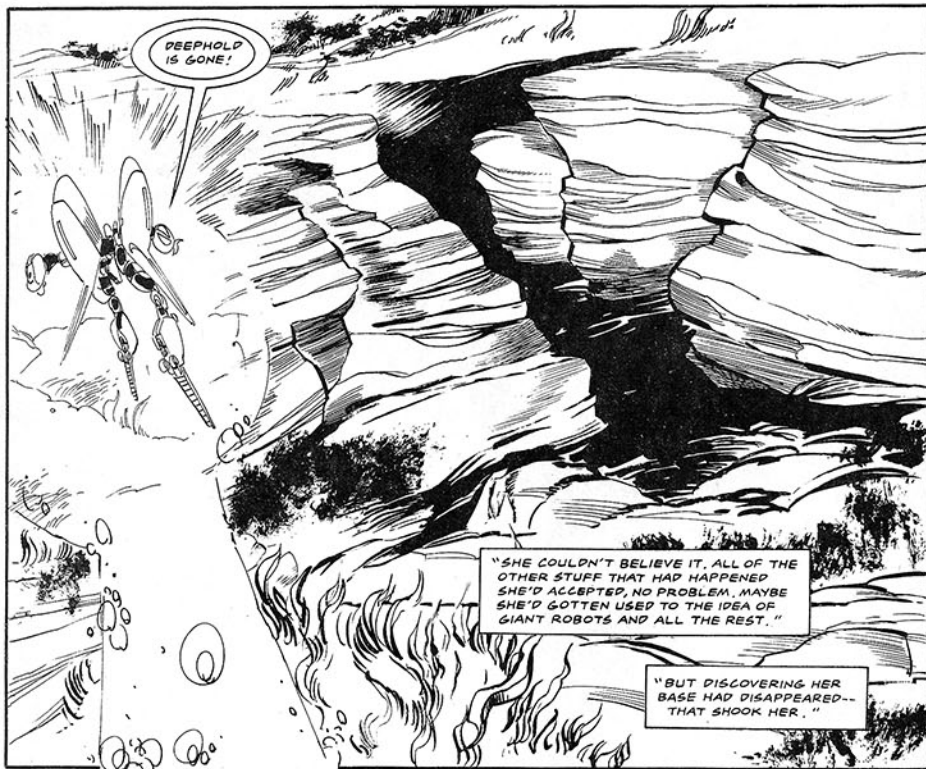
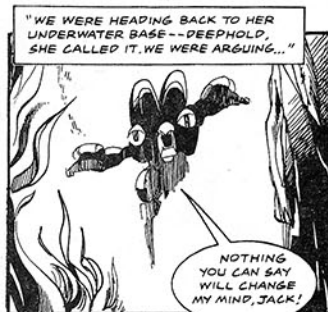
"CAN'T THEY SEE THE WHOLE THING'S FALLING APART?"



"THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED... IT'S NOT WHAT I HAD PLANNED... BUT THE CHOICE WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM ME..."



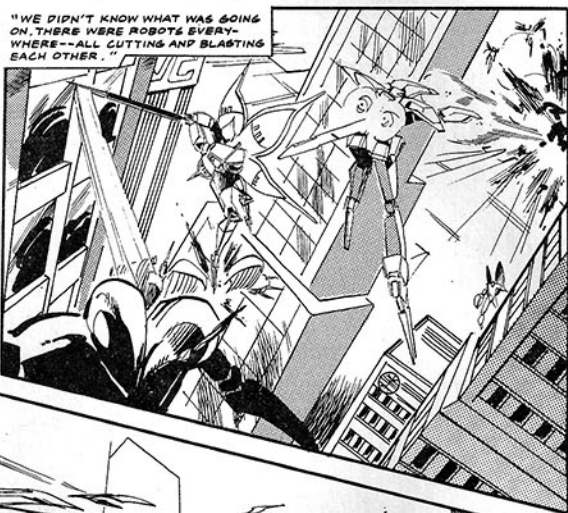
"MY HAND WAS FORCED."





"YOU KNOW EVERYTHING AFTER THAT, WE ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO JUST A FEW MINUTES AFTER TERRY'S ROBOT AND A HESS OF OTHERS."

"ALL HELL HAD BROKEN LOOSE."



"WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON, THERE WERE ROBOTS EVERYWHERE-- ALL CUTTING AND BLASTING EACH OTHER."

"THEN WE SAW TERRY, HE WAS RIGHT IN THE THICK OF THINGS."



"BUT MARTE WAS STILL AGAINST JOINING THE FIGHT."



"THAT'S TERRY! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!"



"NO! I TOLD YOU BEFORE-- I WON'T USE 'MANTA' FOR DESTRUCTIVE PURPOSES!"

"ARE YOU NUTS? THIS IS NO 'MILITARY OPERATION'! MY SON IS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE!"

"I DIDN'T KNOW WHO, OR WHAT WE WERE UP AGAINST-- ALL I KNEW WAS THAT TERRY NEEDED MY HELP..."



"DO SOMETHING, DAMMIT! FIRE A MISSILE OR SOME--"

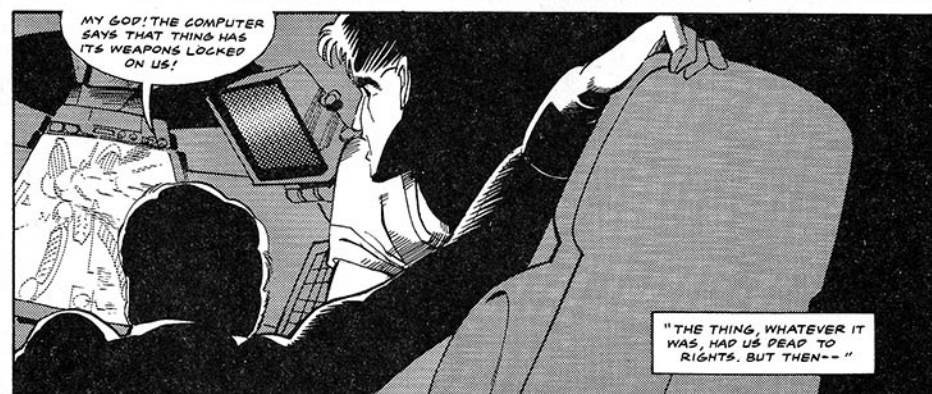
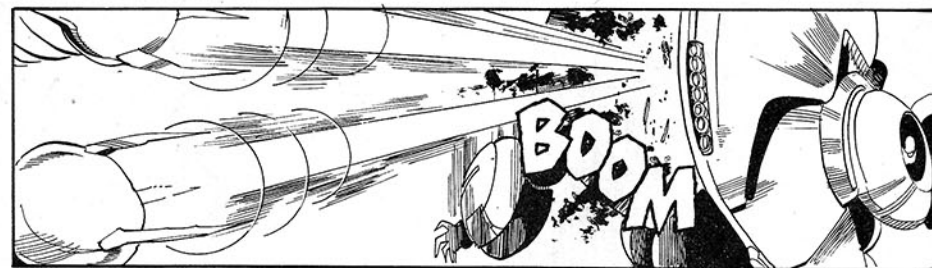
"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! I TOLD YOU THE CONTROLS WILL ONLY RESPOND TO ME--"

"SHE WAS RIGHT, I WAS READY TO THROW US BOTH INTO THE MIDDLE OF A FULL SCALE WAR--"



"I DON'T CARE! I'M NOT GOING TO SIT BY AND DO NOTHING WHILE MY SON IS IN DANGER!"

"LITTLE DID EITHER OF US REALIZE THAT THE WAR WAS ABOUT TO COME TO US."

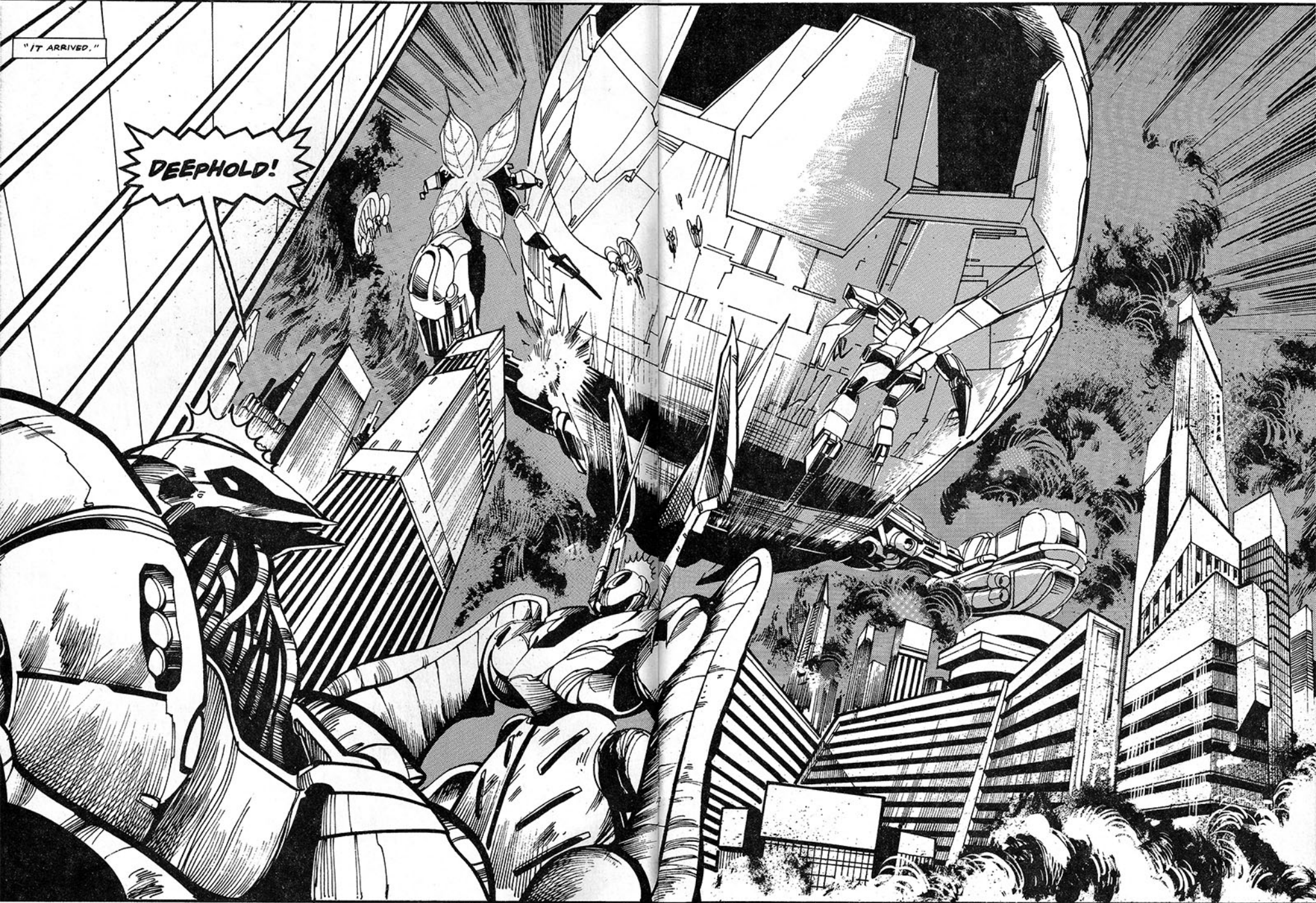


"MY GOD! THE COMPUTER SAYS THAT THING HAS ITS WEAPONS LOCKED ON US!"

"THE THING, WHATEVER IT WAS, HAD US DEAD TO RIGHTS. BUT THEN--"

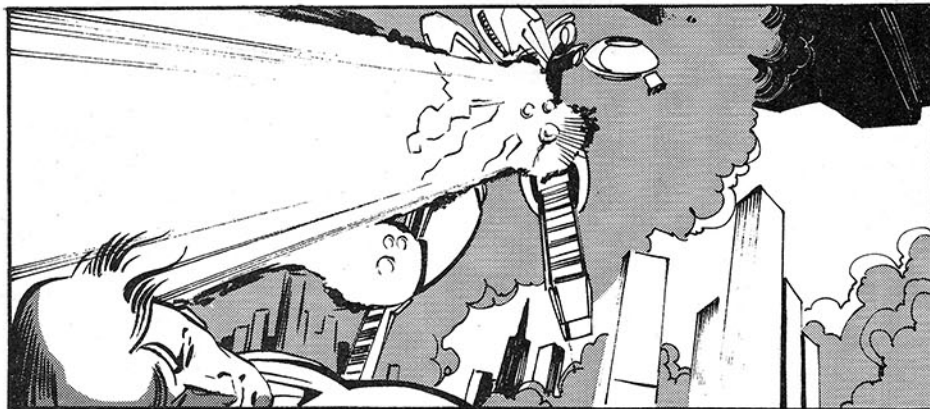
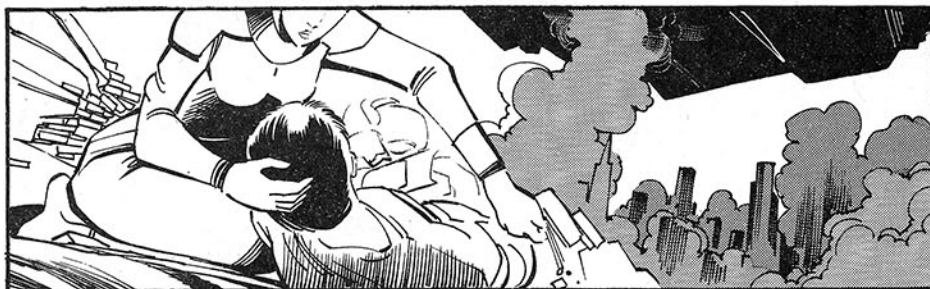
"IT ARRIVED."

DEEPHOLD!





"SOMEHOW--I DON'T KNOW HOW-- I ENDED UP OUTSIDE..."





I SWEAR, THAT'S ALL I KNOW. THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER, I WAS STUMBLING THROUGH THE SMOKE AND RUINS WHEN YOUR MEN PICKED ME UP.

PLEASE... NOW WILL YOU TELL ME WHERE TERRY IS?



DOES THIS JIBE WITH WHAT THE FIELD REPORT SAYS?

YEAH, EVEN SAYS HE VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS IDENTITY AND HIS CONNECTION WITH--



THIS IS IT-- THE RUSSIANS ARE SCRAMBLING. WE'VE GONE TO DEF-CON 2!\*

GOOD CHRIST! MEREK'S REALLY PUT HIS FOOT IN IT THIS TIME! WE SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO DR. CONOVER!



DEF-CON 2! DOES GENERAL MITCHELL KNOW?

YES, SIR. HE'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE ROUND ROOM.

HEY-- WAIT A MINUTE--



IF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO SCARE ME INTO TALKING--



HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE ME HERE!



I TOLD MEREK GOING AFTER HYER LIKE THAT WAS WRONG...

HEY! SOMEBODY GET ME OUTTA HERE! I'VE GOT RIGHTS!



YOU CAN'T HOLD ME-- UH, WHO ARE...?

YOU PIERCE?

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING. I'M AN AMERICAN CITIZEN-- I WAS A MARINE!



OKAY, "MARINE," HAVE IT YOUR WAY. BUT I'M YOUR ONLY HOPE OF GETTING OUT OF HERE--

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE YOUR SON IS.



WHA--? WHERE'S TERRY? CAN YOU TAKE ME TO HIM? IS HE HERE?



I CAN HELP YOU GET TO HIM--

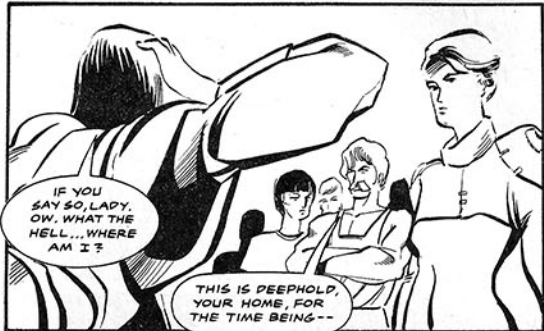
BUT HE'S NOT HERE. HE'S A LONG WAY AWAY...

\* DEFENSE CONDITION 2, OR "ATTACK IMMINENT." DEF-CON 1 IS ALL-OUT WAR. -ED.



OOH, MAN.

SO, YOU ARE ALIVE.



IF YOU SAY SO, LADY, OH, WHAT THE HELL... WHERE AM I?

THIS IS DEEPHOLD, YOUR HOME, FOR THE TIME BEING--



YOU MUST BE HYER, I AM CAPTAIN MANA REZKOVA-- I BELIEVE THE TERM IS, YOUR "OPPOSITE NUMBER," LIKE YOU, I PILOT ONE OF THE ROBOTS FOR MY COUNTRY.

THAT'S ALL PAST TENSE FOR ME. I DON'T WORK FOR THE MILITARY ANYMORE. BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT "MORE THAN SAN FRANCISCO" BEING DESTROYED?



BEFORE THE BATTLE IN SAN FRANCISCO, I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF TWO U.S. NAVAL VESSELS...

MY GOVERNMENT ASSIGNED ME TO RETRIEVE THE NEWLY DISCOVERED UNIT IN THE PACIFIC--



AT ANY COST.



UNLESS YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND YOUR WAY BACK FROM HERE...



SHIT, THEN IT WASN'T A DREAM-- I TOLD MEREK WE SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO THE KID'S STORY ABOUT THE "MONSTER."



WE REALLY DID TRASH FRISCO, DIDN'T WE?

BUT THE U.S. HAD TWO SHIPS IN THE AREA... THERE WERE CLOSE TO SEVEN HUNDRED MEN...



WHO--? THE UNIFORM'S RUSSIAN...

MORE THAN JUST SAN FRANCISCO, IF YOU BELIEVE HER.



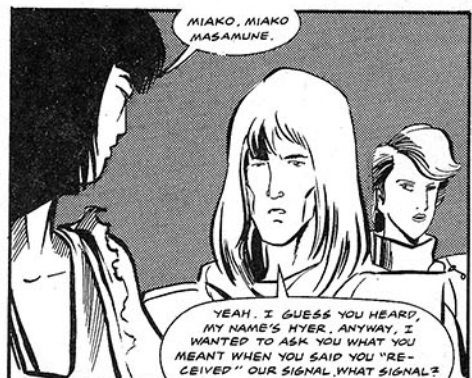
SEVEN HUNDRED...







UH, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ER, MISS--



MIAKO, MIAKO MASAMUNE.

YEAH. I GUESS YOU HEARD, MY NAME'S HYER. ANYWAY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID YOU "RECEIVED" OUR SIGNAL. WHAT SIGNAL?



THE SAME SIGNAL I RECEIVED HERE IN DEEP-HOLD AND IN MANTA. THE SIGNAL THAT'S SENT EVERY TIME THE BIG YELLOW ROBOT IS ACTIVATED--



THE ONE OPERATED BY JACK PIERLE'S SON, TERRY.



TERRY! WHERE IS HE? WHERE'S THE KID?

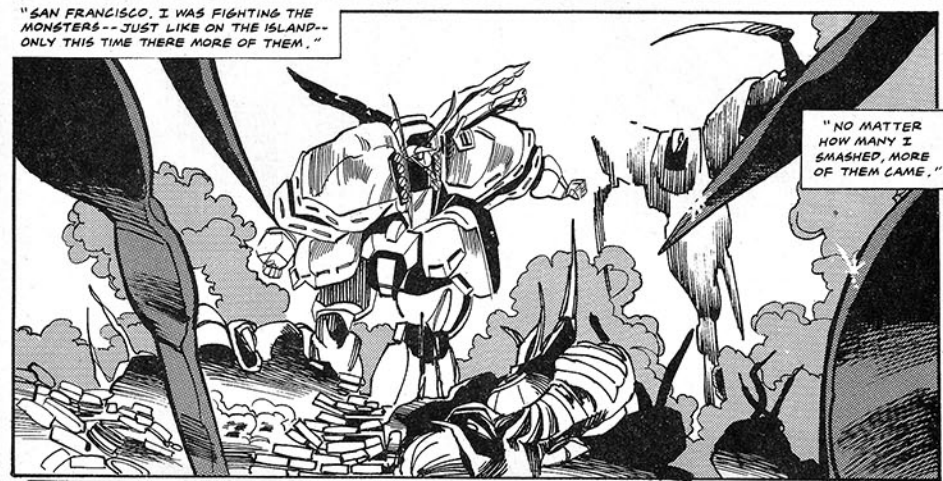
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S THE ONE HE CAME OUT OF ON THE ISLAND. I DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT IT WHEN YOU ALL CAME ON BOARD--

HE MUST STILL BE INSIDE!



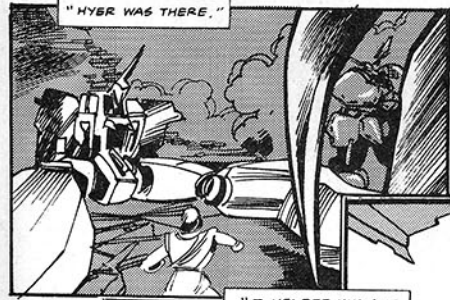
"WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?"

"THE LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS IN SAN FRANCISCO."



"SAN FRANCISCO. I WAS FIGHTING THE MONSTERS-- JUST LIKE ON THE ISLAND-- ONLY THIS TIME THERE MORE OF THEM."

"NO MATTER HOW MANY I SMASHED, MORE OF THEM CAME."



"HYER WAS THERE."

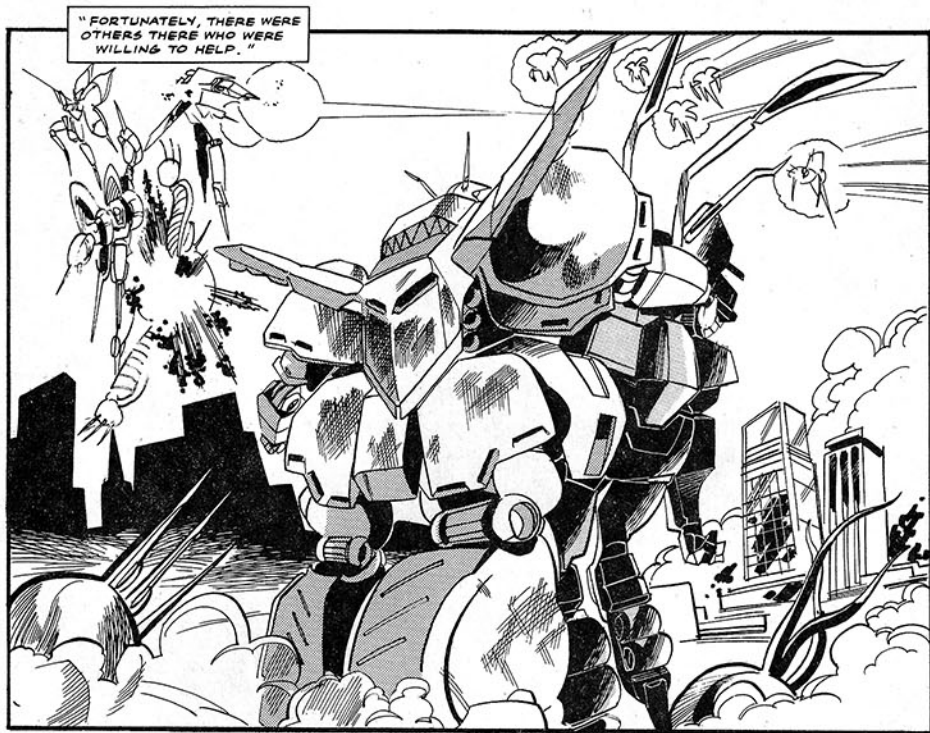


"ONLY IT DIDN'T QUITE WORK THAT WAY."

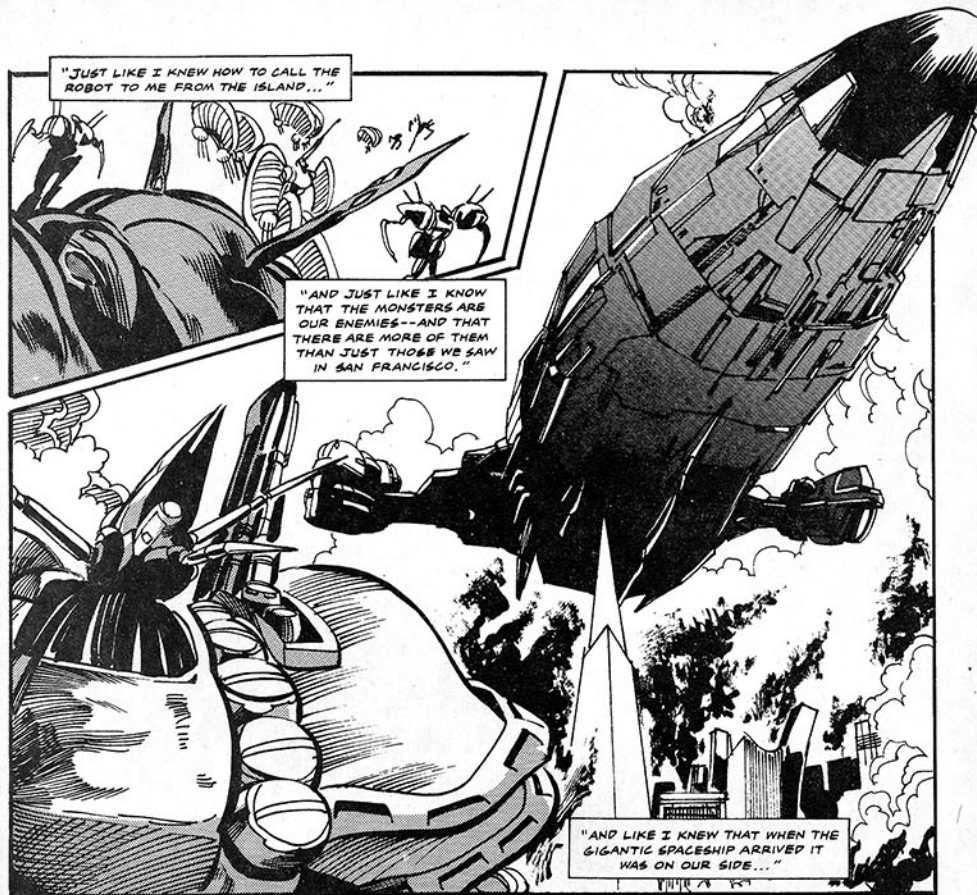
"I HELPED HIM GET TO IRON MAIDEN SO HE COULD HELP ME."



"THAT OTHER GUY-- COLONEL MERK WAS THERE, TOO. BUT HE DIDN'T HELP. HE JUST STOOD BY AND WATCHED."



"FORTUNATELY, THERE WERE OTHERS THERE WHO WERE WILLING TO HELP."



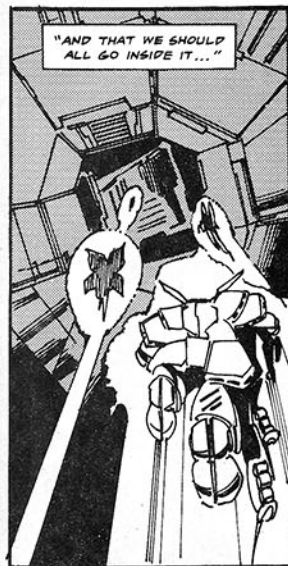
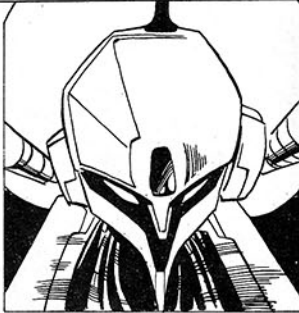
"JUST LIKE I KNEW HOW TO CALL THE ROBOT TO ME FROM THE ISLAND..."

"AND JUST LIKE I KNOW THAT THE MONSTERS ARE OUR ENEMIES--AND THAT THERE ARE MORE OF THEM THAN JUST THOSE WE SAW IN SAN FRANCISCO."

"AND LIKE I KNEW THAT WHEN THE GIGANTIC SPACESHIP ARRIVED IT WAS ON OUR SIDE..."



"MARTE BJORNSETH... HANA RESKOVA... MIAKO MASAMUNE...  
I'VE NEVER MET THEM, BUT SOMEHOW I KNOW WHO EACH OF THEM IS."



"AND THAT WE SHOULD ALL GO INSIDE IT..."



HOW? HOW DID I... HOW DO I KNOW ALL THESE THINGS?



YOU TOLD ME, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU TELL ME?



SO WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? I MEAN WHY RISK YOUR CAREER TO HELP ME?

CAREER? HAH! AFTER SAN FRANCISCO, MY CAREER IS OVER. C'MON, MOVE!



NO, IF THEY CATCH ME NOW I'LL BE MY LIFE.



THEN WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL THIS FOR ME?

BECAUSE AT THIS POINT MY LIFE'S NOT WORTH A DAMN TO ANYONE-- LEAST OF ALL ME.

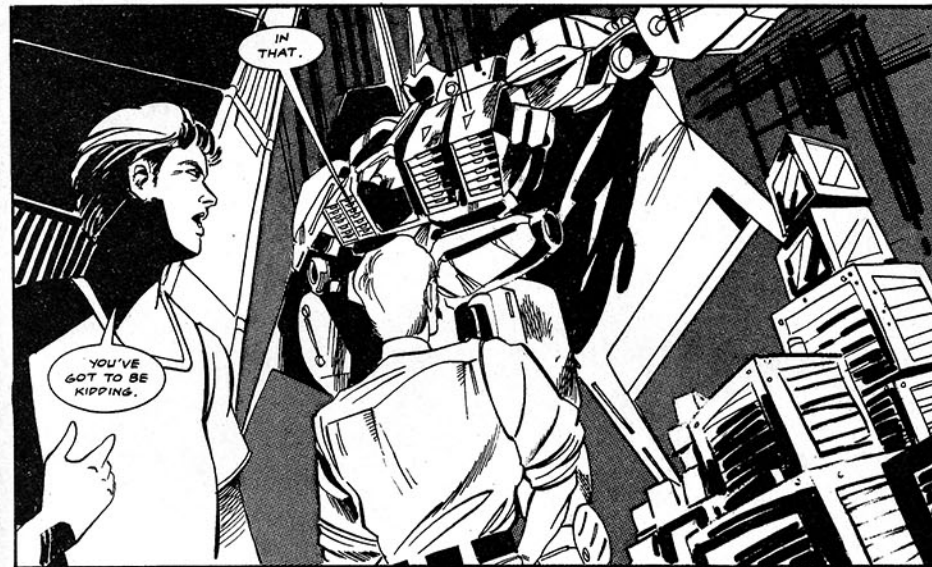


ALL RIGHT, NO MORE QUESTIONS, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

BUT YOU, YOU STILL HAVE YOUR SON, HE NEEDS YOU... AND I OWE HIM AND HYER.



GREAT, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET OUT OF HERE?



IN THAT.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.



IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE GOING TO GET OFF THIS BASE ALIVE-- AND IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN REACH YOUR SON.

I FIGURE YOU'LL RISK IT.

SAY I DO TAKE IT-- ISN'T THIS SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET WEAPONS? THEY'RE NOT GONNA JUST LET ME FLY OFF WITH IT--



GOOD GOD, MAN! WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? WE'RE AT DEF-CON TWO! THE GOVERNMENT'S BLAMING THE RUSSKIES FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC!

EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR FINGERS ON THE BUTTON, YOU'VE GOT TO GO-- NOW. THESE THINGS ARE TOUGH, BUT I DOUBT THEY'D WITHSTAND A DIRECT HIT FROM A RUSSIAN NUKE.



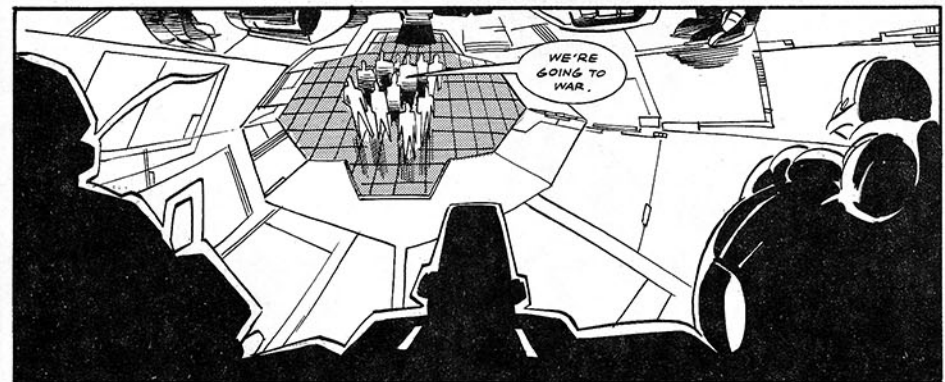
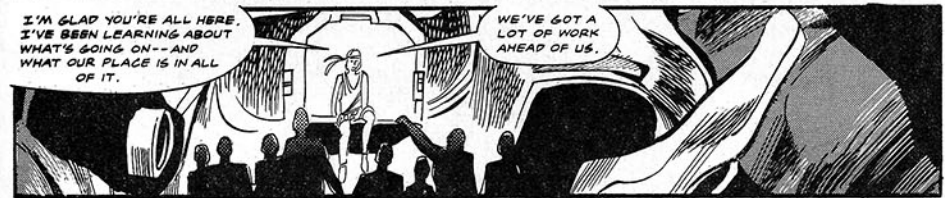
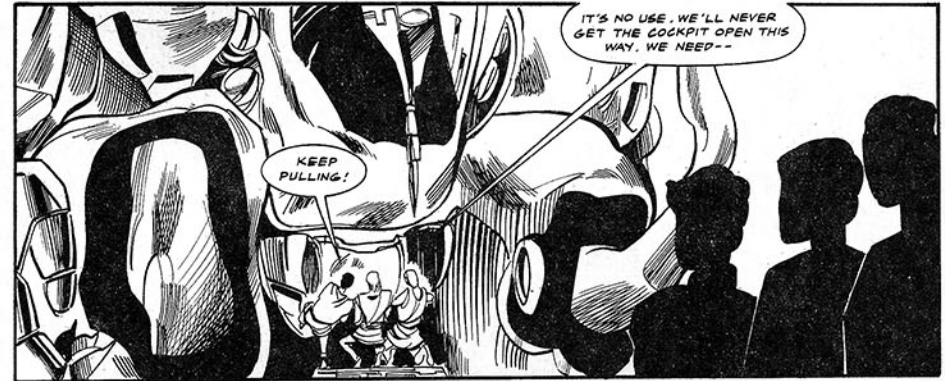
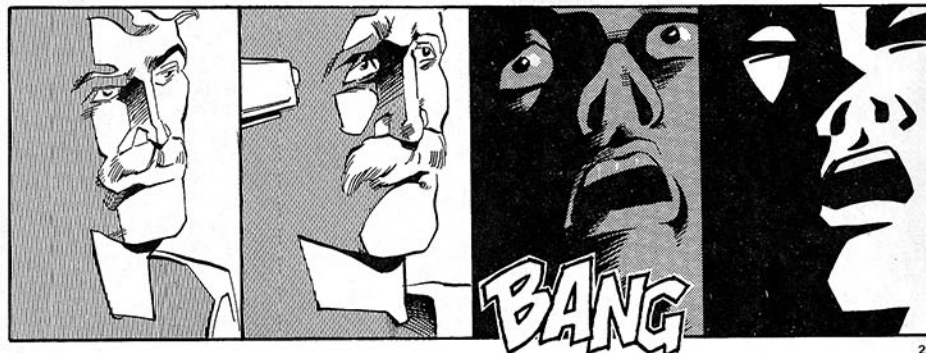
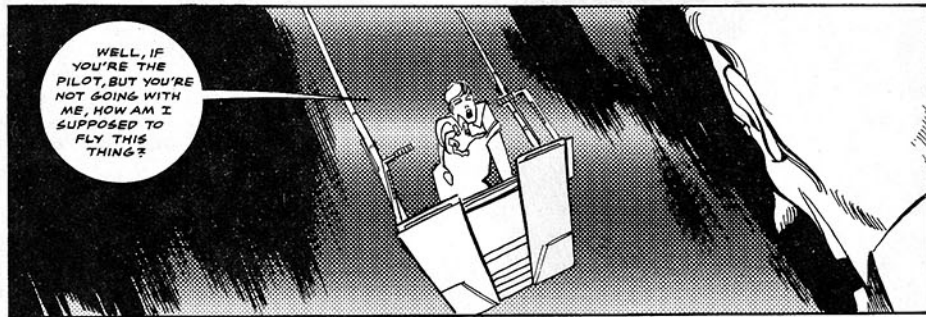
ELEVATOR DOWN.

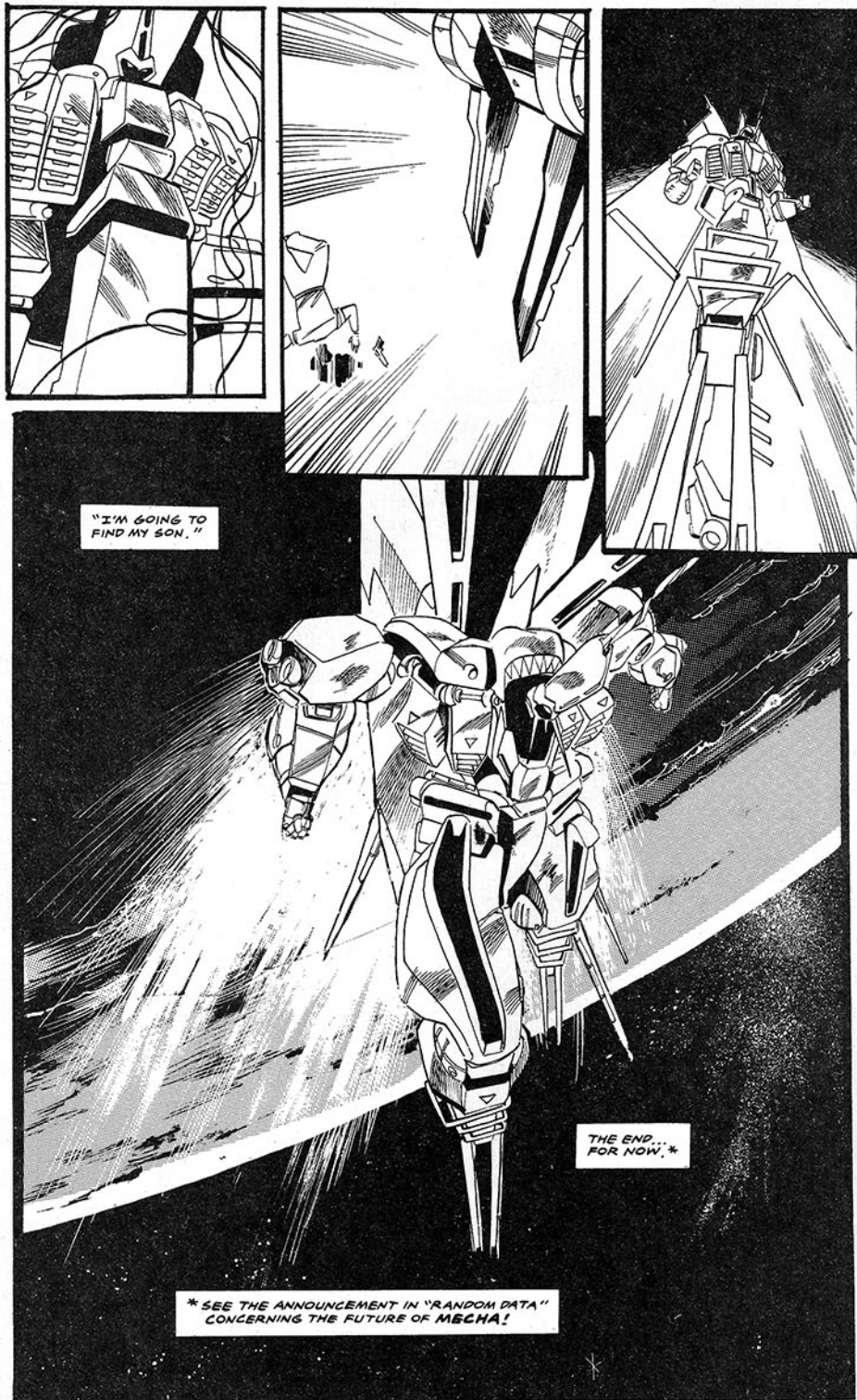
W-WELL, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, AREN'T YOU?



NOPE.

I FIGURE I'VE MESSED THINGS UP ENOUGH.





"I'M GOING TO FIND MY SON."

THE END... FOR NOW.\*

\* SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN "RANDOM DATA" CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF MECHA!

# Random Data

Send your comments c/o Dark Horse Comics, 2008 Monroe, Milwaukie, OR 97222

Okay, chins up, troops. I have bad news for you, so you may as well face it straight off: You hold in your hands the final issue of **Mecha**. That's right. We've come to a—more or less—logical stopping place in our narrative, and I've come to the realization (at long last) that, in addition to all my other duties here at Dark Horse, I simply don't have time to write this book at the speed necessary to keep full-length stories coming out on a regular basis. But shed no tears for me, I'm going to go back to plugging my fingers into the holes in the dike—which is what I was hired for in the first place. I'll still be around if you need me, or if you want to write. See ya...

Oh, before you go, I should tell you...this isn't the end of **Mecha**.

Sure, this is the "final" issue, but that doesn't mean it's the end of the story! After all, it'd be pretty cruel of us to just leave you hanging at this point, wouldn't it? Come this spring (you can wait that long, it's only a few months—trust me), Terry, Hyer, Marte, Jack and the others will be back in all new adventures! There'll be answers to some of the questions left unanswered by the current storyline, new mecha, our first look at the "bad guys," oh, yeah, and it'll be part of a brand new title! See, Chris Warner is overseeing a new...ah, but that would be telling! All I'm going to say is that come May, all of your questions will be answered. Watch the "Tip Sheet" pages in upcoming Dark Horse books for more information! Okay, let's hear from you readers:

Dear Sirs,

What happened to **Mecha**? The first two issues were great, but then it seems the series disappeared. I got the impression that this comic was doing well, but issue #3 never hit the bookstands (well, at least it never hit my bookstand).

Is this comic available and I don't know about it? Please answer, because I think **Mecha** is the best mech/hitech/SF comic going.

Sincerely,

John Bucknell  
Avon Lake, OH

P.S.—Are there back issue I don't know about? If so, can I get them through you?

Back issues? You bet there are, John. You can't get them through Dark Horse, but you can get them through The Comic Shop, the company that handles all of our back issues. They also handle mail order subscriptions (to all titles from all companies—not just Dark Horse). Look for their ad elsewhere in this issue, and thanks for writing! How about dropping us another line after you've read issues #3-#6 and let us know what you think?

Dear Randy and Harrison,

**Mecha** is superb! I've been getting it since issue #1, and I just got the last copy of #4 at my local comic store. I hope **Mecha** goes on for a long time! I don't mind that it doesn't come out every month—just as long as you guys keep the story and art as good as it is now.

I was a little disappointed when it went black-and-white, but I'll manage. Do

you think maybe Harrison could do the covers? Nothing against Mr. Warner, but I think Harrison can draw the mecha better.

Sincerely,

B.J. Serekis  
Phoenix, AZ

How have the last two covers been, B.J.? I think having Harrison's pencils inked by Chris is a pretty unbeatable combo.

As for retaining story quality, I think you'll be impressed with the new **Mecha** stories coming up, and by the new addition to our creative team... Sorry, I'm just bustin' to spill the beans on what's going on, but I've been sworn to secrecy.

Dear Friends:

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your comic. **Mecha** was introduced to me by a friend, and I've collected them ever since. I've recently read issues #3 and #4, and although they are in black-and-white, they have some of the best artwork I have ever seen. Your entire storyline intrigues me, and I congratulate you on such an excellent comic.

I have a few questions:

First, I'd like to know if Keene is dead or not. This isn't saying that he's my favorite character or anything, but I'd like to know.

Secondly, is the "Pilot," shown extensively in issue #2, a human or what?

Thank you for your excellent product.

A Great Fan,

Paul Weatherly  
Hood River, OR

Thanks for your kind words.

Paul. Support from readers like you is what makes all the hard work worthwhile, and it's what keeps us going.

As for your questions, I believe they were answered last issue, but for the record:

Yes, I'm afraid Keene is dead. Colonel Merik did him in during a moment of, er, over-zealousness. But, as you saw this issue, Merik eventually cooled down, and once he realized the seriousness of what he'd done (and the literally world-wide ramifications of his actions), he took another irreversible step, hoping he could make amends. In just six issues two of our major players have bitten the big one. What does this portend for future stories?

And, of course the "Pilot" in issue #2 is human. She is Miako Masamune, for those still in the dark. You'll learn more about her as the *Mecha* saga unfolds this spring.

Happy New Year to the Creators of *Mecha*.

Like a number of your other readers, I'm a fan of Japanese animation, but I've never been overly impressed with *Robotech* in any form (my preferences lay with the *Gundam* series—now there's a story).

I was once going to be an engineer, so, though I usually pay more attention to the character development & plot, I like good mecha designs, too. Since I am currently an exchange student living in Japan, I can buy just about all the *manga* I could want—and frequently do (much to my pocketbook's regret). My Japanese animation addiction has biased me against most U.S. comics, which tend to ruin good plots and characters. Consequently, I was highly

skeptical when, in my monthly shipment of the few American comics I follow, I found an issue of *Mecha*. After I read it, I was amazed. That someone was writing an original "mecha" story, one without rip-offs of Japanese designs, characters & plots, and was getting it published, really surprised me.

I was never a fan of comics until the "independents" started breaking ground in the industry. With series like yours, it makes me all the more dedicated to the independents and *Dark Horse*. It's wonderful that something as good and original as *Mecha* is being published back home.

Please keep up the great work. Happy New Year!

Your Fan in Japan,

Patti Duffield  
Tokyo, Japan

P.S.—I know the "casualty" in issue #4 is probably Keene, but please don't let me know!

Well, by now you do know that your guess was correct, Patti. I hope you've survived the shock...

I agree with you 100% about *Gundam*. I can't understand a word of Japanese, but I've seen the majority of the films and TV episodes, and from what I've been able to piece together (which I believe is most of the story), it definitely ranks up there with the best. Thanks for sticking with *Dark Horse*—and all of the independents!

Dear *Mecha* Maniacs.

I've noticed that you seem to get quite a bit of mail criticizing *Robotech* comics, but the writers nonetheless support *Mecha*. I, for one, am a fan of both *Mecha* and *Robotech*, as well as many other "Japanimation" type stuff.

I hope that your readers keep in mind that while *Mecha* is certainly good, it is not the only *manga* in the sea.

Like Eddie Welch, I would appreciate it if you could print my full address so that any potential pen pals out there could respond. I'm trying to learn the Japanese language, so if there are any Japanese-speaking fans out there who would like to have a pen pal...

Thank you,  
Sincerely,

Kevin Kilpatrick  
P.O. Box 10308  
Bowling Green, KY  
42102-7308

Thank you, Kevin. Certainly everyone has their own opinions about literally every comic published (one thing I learned while managing a comics store was that you can point to any comic on the stands, and it's going to be somebody's favorite!), and I just print the letters as we receive them, including yours. But your point is well taken.

Well, I'm outta here. Thanks for your support. It's been fun—and it's gonna get better!

—Randy

