

GREY CO.

TALES OF

# CORPORATE ESPIONAGE

1111

GRAVEL  
FICTION

10¢

#64  
APR

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

HUGH  
MANN

WORDS: 'Cat Bountry'

ART: 'The Heartsman'

COLORS: 'IF'

LETTERS: 'NassimO'

## DEATH OF A SALES-BOT!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I'VE SUNK ALMOST MY **ENTIRE FORTUNE** INTO BUILDING A ROBOT ARMY THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE **FASTER, STRONGER, AND SMARTER** THAN ANY COMBINATION OF THOSE IDIOTIC MERCINARIES.

BUT I WANT TO  
\*BEEEP\*  
LIVE  
\*BOOP\*

\*\*HEEELP  
NOOOH!!\*\*

AND NOW, ALMOST A **WHOLE YEAR** LATER, AND I'M NO CLOSER TO DEFEATING THAT INSUFFERABLE AUSTRALIAN LUMMOX.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT ALL BUT AN **EMPTY BANK ACCOUNT**!

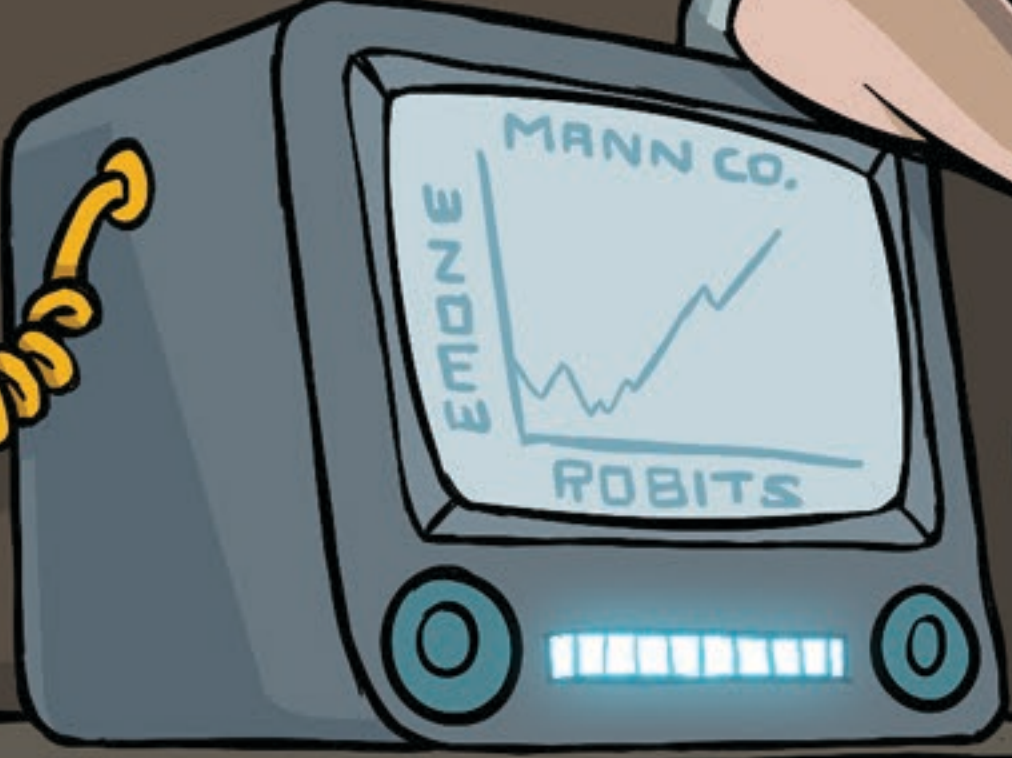
\*\*YSSSHHHH  
BBRRZZZZ\*\*

\*\*FATAL ERROR\*\*

FAIL  
FAIL  
FAIL  
FAIL  
FAIL  
FAIL  
FAIL  
FAIL  
FAIL

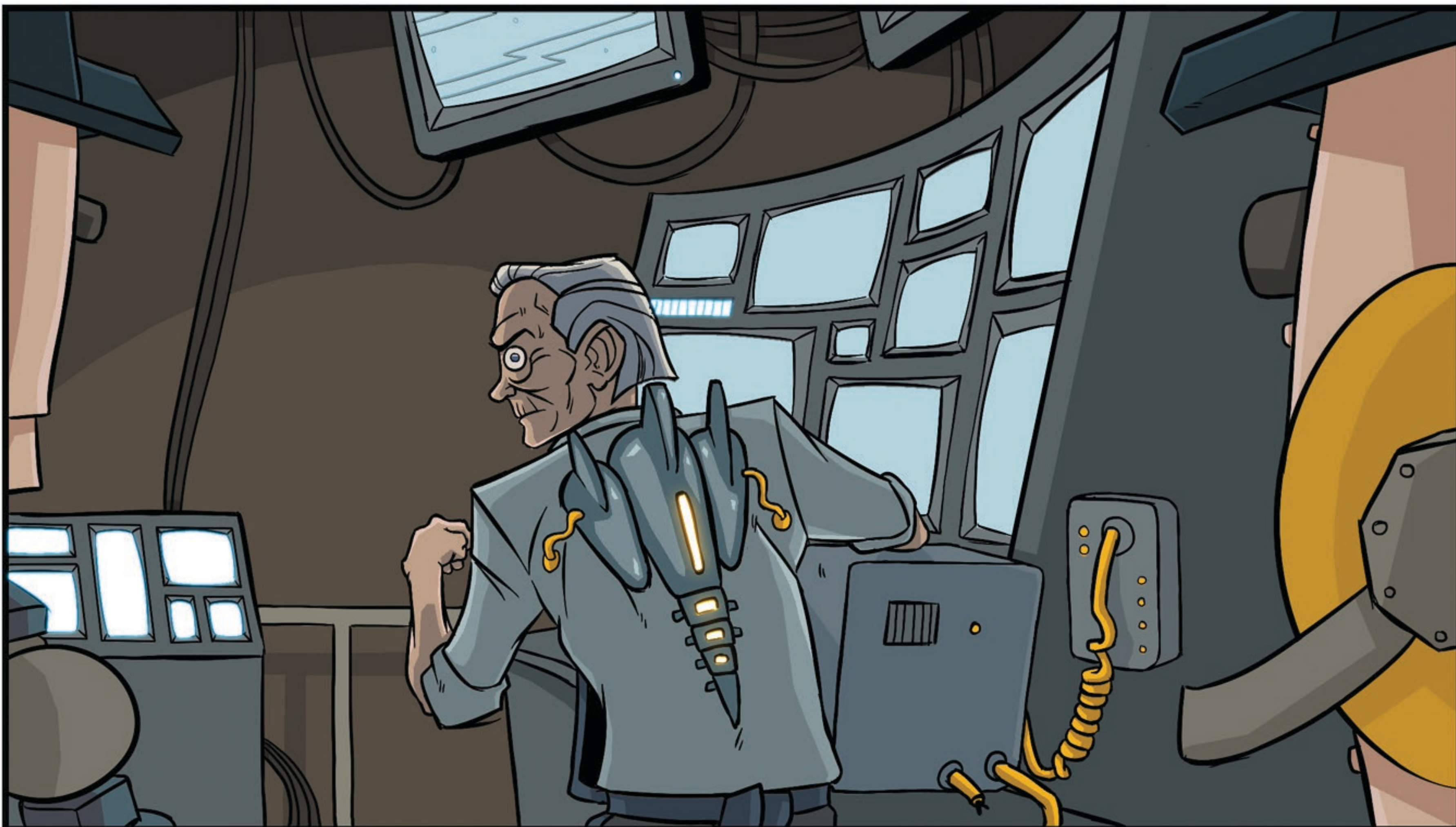
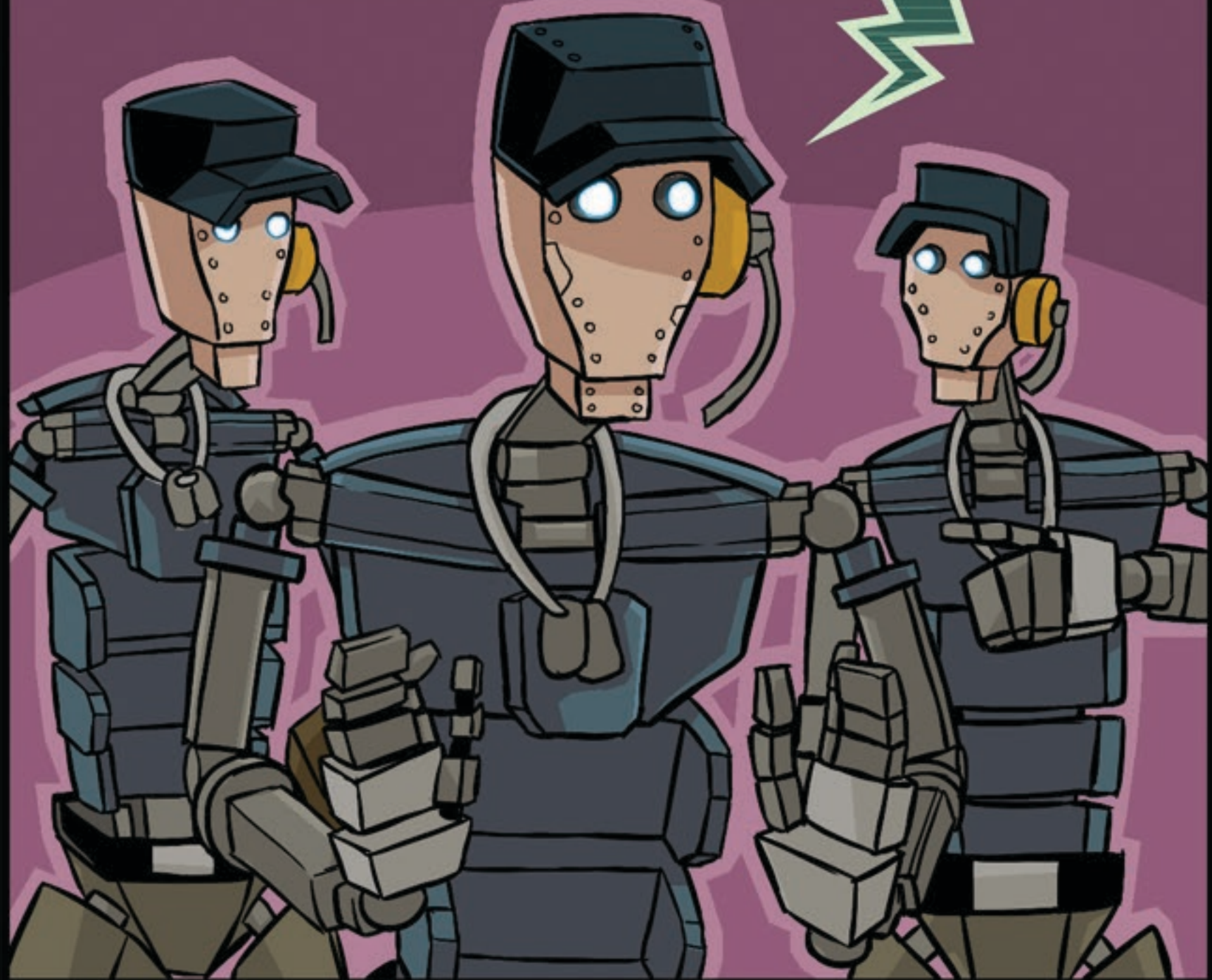
ALL THE WHILE, **MANN CO.** REPORS RECORD PROFITS SELLING WEAPON UPGRADES TO THE **VERY MEN** FIGHTING MY ROBOTS, WITH THE SAME MONEY I USE TO **POWER** THEM!

UMMM--  
BOSS?



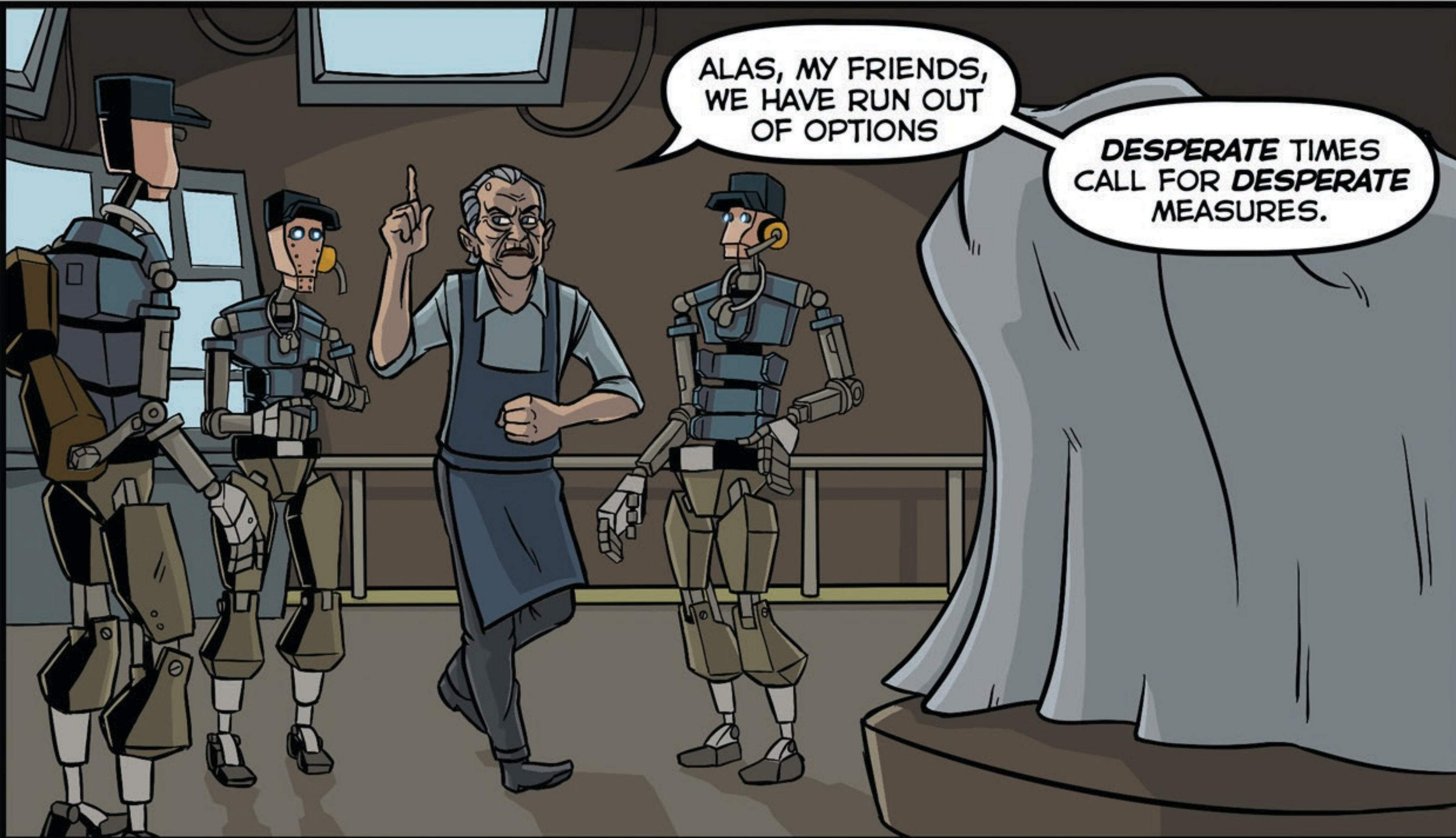


PERHAPS YOU  
COULD DESIGN SOME  
ROBOTS THAT RUN ON  
SOMETHING OTHER  
THAN MONEY?



ALAS, MY FRIENDS,  
WE HAVE RUN OUT  
OF OPTIONS

DESPERATE TIMES  
CALL FOR *DESPERATE*  
MEASURES.



*\*SHOCKING  
REVEAL\**

*\*COMPLETE  
SURPRISE\**

BEHOLD!  
OUR *PLAN B!*

WHAT...  
WHAT IS THAT THING?





TELL ME,  
SCOUT-BOT, WHAT IS  
YOUR *PRIME-DIRECTIVE*?

CHECKING OUT  
WICKED HOT FEM-BOTS?

YOUR *PRIME-DIRECTIVE*.  
DON'T MAKE ME WIPE  
YOUR HARDDRIVE AGAIN.

UH, KILL ALL  
MERCENARIES! SIR!



AND  
NOW?



\*UPDATING COMMAND LINE\*

\*COGNITIVE MATRIX EVOLVING\*  
\*PRIME DIRECTIVE RECOMPUTING\*

SELL ALL THE HATS.  
SELL. SELL. SELL.

SELL HATS TO  
MERCENARIES.

SELL HATS.







WE SPECULATE ON MANLINESS AND G... FIGHTS  
HAT-WEARING MAN  
IT'S OFFICIAL  
ROBOTS SUCK

"MY SON IS  
ADDICTED  
TO HATS"  
SCOUTS MOTHER  
REVEALS ALL  
PAGE 23

RETIRED HATS  
IN PENSION CRISIS  
PAGE 18

MAN OF THE  
YEAR  
PAGE 5


YOU HEAR THAT, HALE?  
YOU SEE WHAT **LENGTHS**  
YOU'VE DRIVEN ME TO?

LET'S SEE HOW WELL  
YOUR **PROFIT MARGINS** FARE  
WHEN MY ARMY OF SALES-BOTS CHARGE  
FORTH WITH A **VIRAL-MARKETING**  
CAMPAIGN THE LIKES OF WHICH EVEN  
**YOUR** BLOOD-SUCKING AD-MEN WOULD  
NEVER THINK POSSIBLE!





PREPARE TO  
MANN UP!



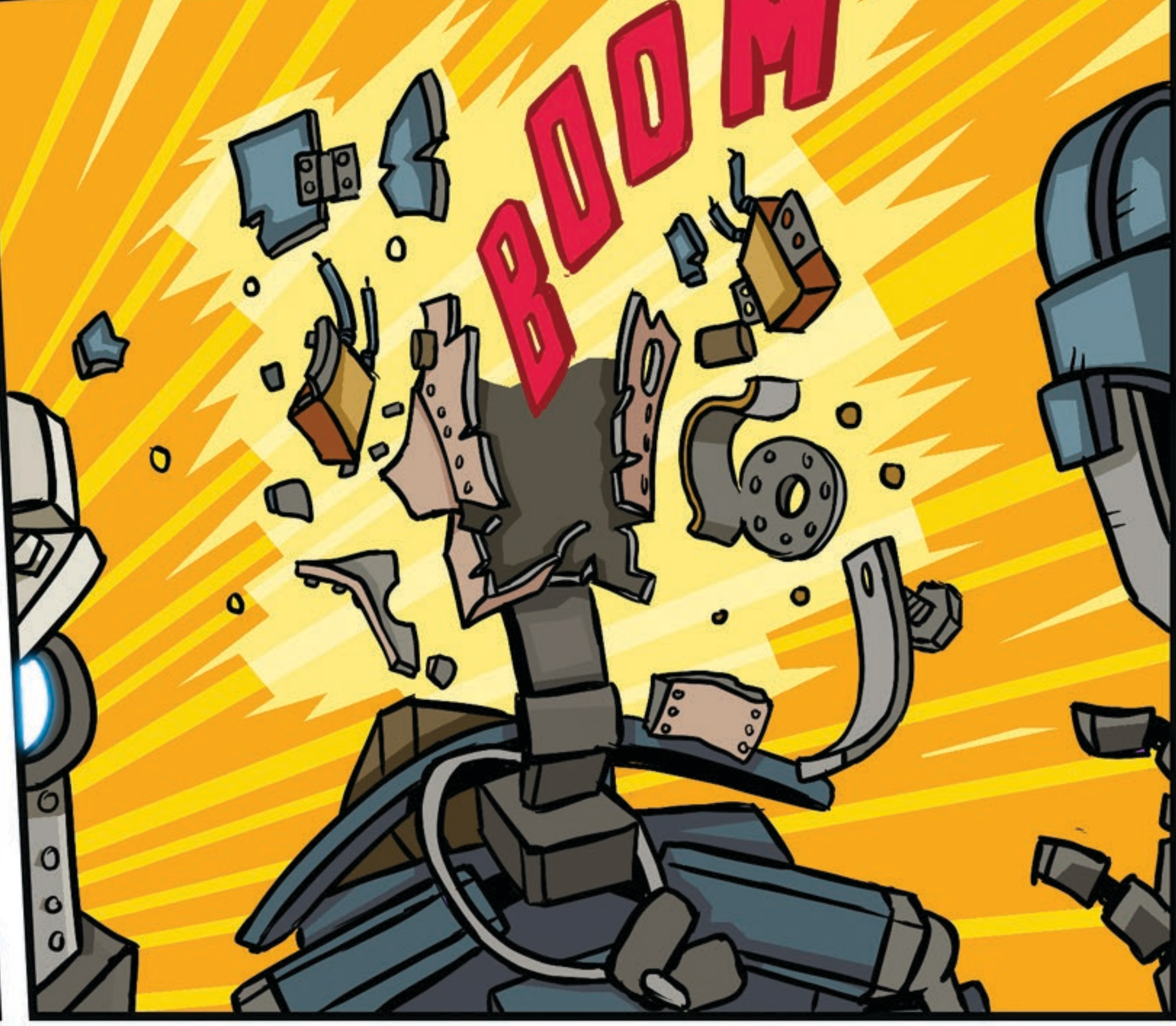
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF--  
IT'S BEEN A *WHOLE YEAR* ALREADY!  
DON'T THEY HAVE ANYTHING  
*BETTER* TO DO?!

CLUNK  
CLUNK  
CLUNK

CLUNK  
CLUNK  
CLUNK

CLUNK  
CLUNK  
CLUNK







WHAT IN  
THE--?

BUY OUR HATS,  
BUY OUR HATS,  
BUY OUR HATS.

TONK

THEY 'ANT EVEN **ATTACKING!**  
THEY'RE JUST CARRYING THESE  
WEIRD **METAL BOXES!** LIKE SOME  
KIND OF... ROBOTIC CRATES!

HOW DARE THEY  
**SURRENDER** LIKE THIS!  
THEY THINK THEY CAN JUST  
**OFFER THEMSELVES UP**  
TO BE **SLAUGHTERED?!**

I WON'T STAND  
FOR THIS! LET'S GO  
**SLAUGHTER** EVERY LAST  
ONE OF THEM!



**15 MINUTES LATER**

WELL, THAT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED.

WHADDYA THINK THEY WANTED?

WELL, HERR SCOUT, THIS IS JUST A *GUESS*, BUT I AM PRETTY SURE THEY WANTED US TO '*BUY THEIR HATS*'

BUT *WHY?*

DARNED IF I KNOW, BUT WOULD YA' JUST *LOOK* AT THESE CUTE LITTLE FELLAS?

SHOVE A KEY IN IT!

**BZRTZ--  
SPUTCHZK--  
VWORP!**

DON'T MOVE ANOTHER INCH, PARTNER!



I COME FROM THE  
FUTURE BRINGIN' A GRAVE  
WARNING, FROM THE FAR-OFF  
YEAR OF 1999!

\*TIME-TRAVEL  
SOUND\*

\*TIME-TRAVEL  
SOUND\*

\*TIME-TRAVEL  
SOUND\*







HEY, LOOK AT THAT!  
THIS **FUTURE GUY** TOTALLY  
LOOKS LIKE **YOU**!

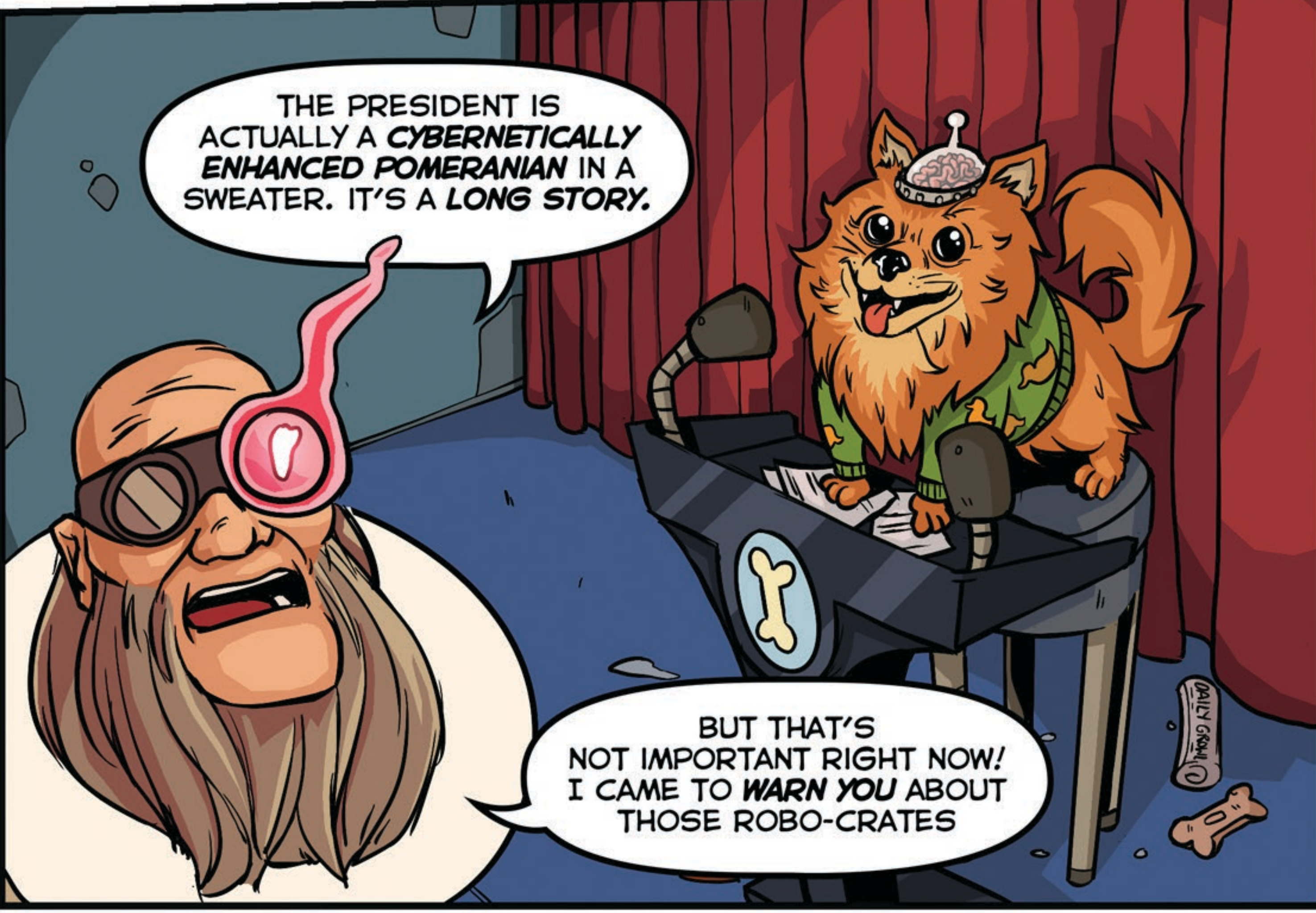
THAT'S BECAUSE  
HE **IS** ME SCOUT! NOW,  
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME,  
SO LISTEN **CAREFULLY**--



HEY, IF YOU'RE  
FROM THE **FUTURE** AND  
ALL, WHO'S THE **FUTURE**  
**PRESIDENT**?

**SCOUT!**  
SHUT UP! HE'S  
TRYIN' TO--

WELL...



THE PRESIDENT IS  
ACTUALLY A **CYBERNETICALLY**  
**ENHANCED POMERANIAN** IN A  
SWEATER. IT'S A LONG STORY.

BUT THAT'S  
NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW!  
I CAME TO **WARN YOU** ABOUT  
THOSE **ROBO-CRATES**



YES! THE CRATES!  
TELL US ABOUT THE  
CRATES!



A **DOG** IN  
A **SWEATER**? IN  
MY AMERICA? WE  
CAN'T LET THAT  
HAPPEN! HOW DO  
WE STOP THIS  
**MADNESS**?





LOOK, **KISSES VON BUTTERNUBS** WON BY POPULAR VOTE! BUT THAT AIN'T IMPORTANT--

YOU'RE THE **ONLY ONES** WHO CAN STOP THE HAT WARS OF THE 1990s, AND PREVENT THIS **DYSTOPIC FUTURE** FROM EVER HAPPENING!

DYSTOPIC, **NOTHIN'**. IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD, IF EVERYONE IN THE FUTURE'S GOT A **WICKED SWEET** ROBOT ARM!



CONSARN IT, YOU **FOOLS!** I'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME!

\*TIME-TRAVEL  
SOUND AGAIN\*



DON'T LEAVE YET! **THE CRATES!** WHAT ABOUT THE **CRATES?!**



FOR UNIVERSE' SAKE--

**DON'T OPEN THOSE DARN CRATES!**





WHAT?

I THINK HE  
SAID "OPEN  
THOSE DARN  
CRATES!"

THAT'S THE  
EXACT OPPOSITE  
OF WHAT I SAID!

YOU'VE  
DOOMED US  
ALLLLLL!



WELL, YOU  
HEARD *THE FUTURE*  
MAN, PRIVATES!



LET'S SEE WHAT'S  
INSIDE THESE LITTLE  
METAL MUNCHKINS!



FIND OUT WHAT'S  
INSIDE, IN THE--

**ROBOTIC**  
GOALS