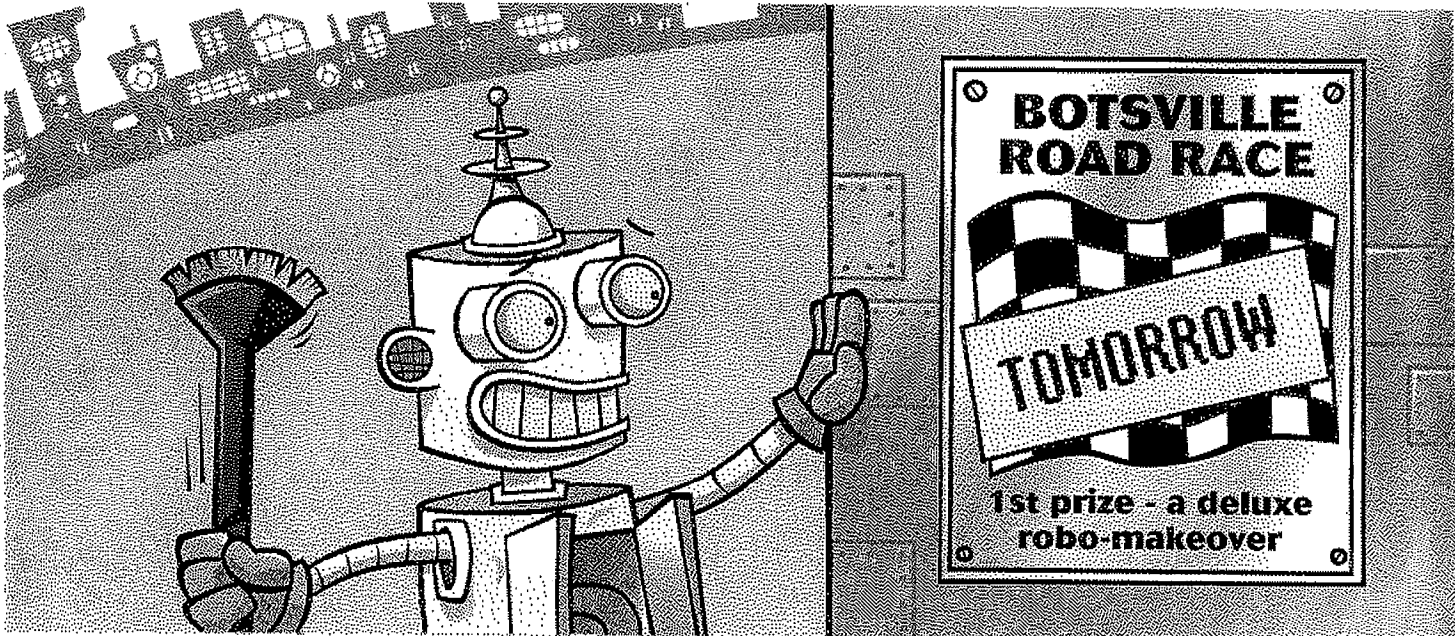
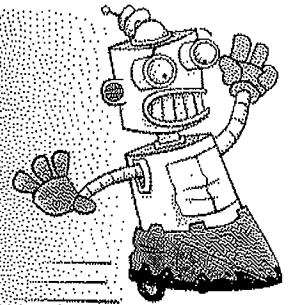


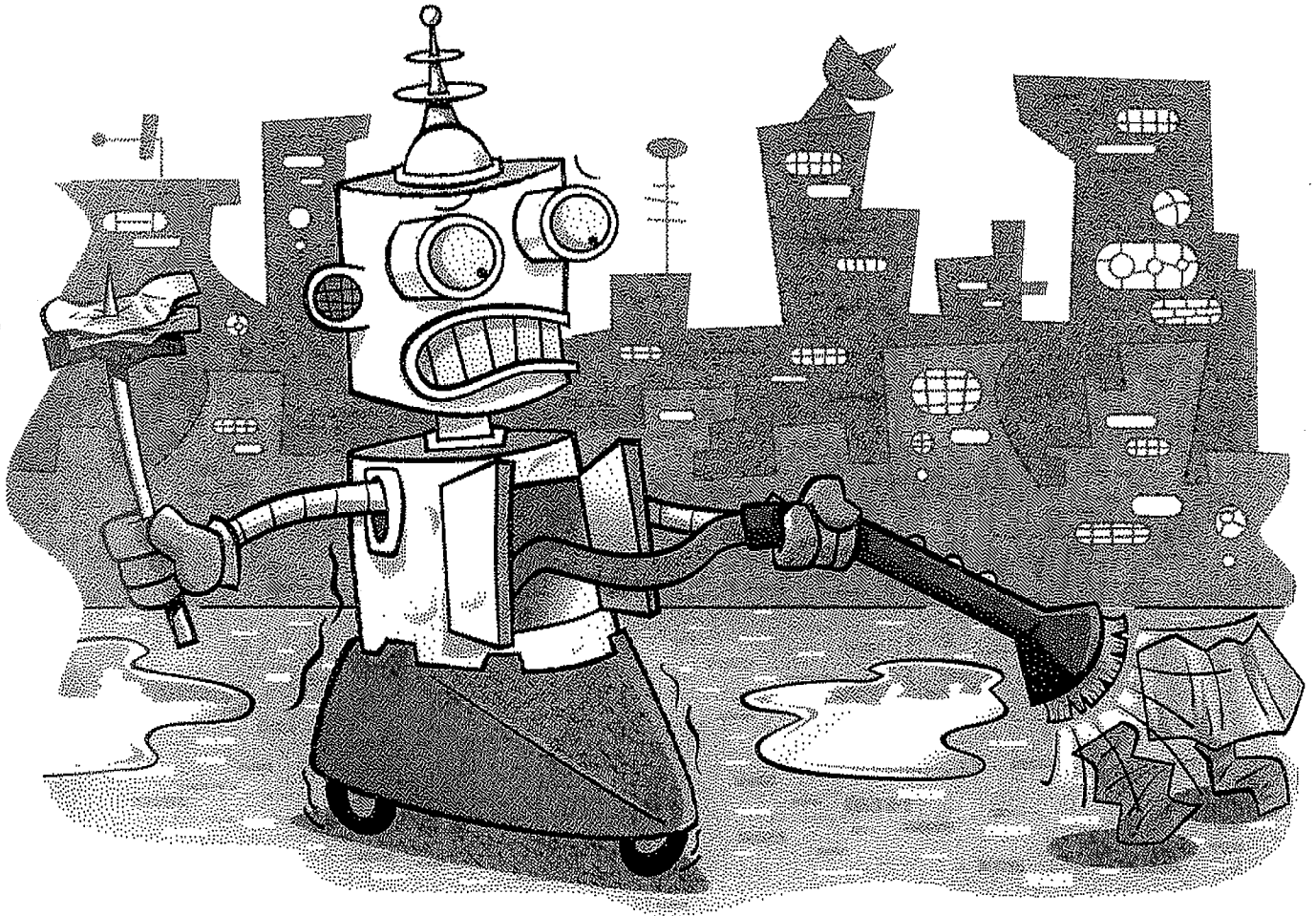
Robot racers



Squeaky the cleaning robot hated his job. He was out in all weather, sweeping streets. What he really wanted was to win the Botsville road race.

Robot racers

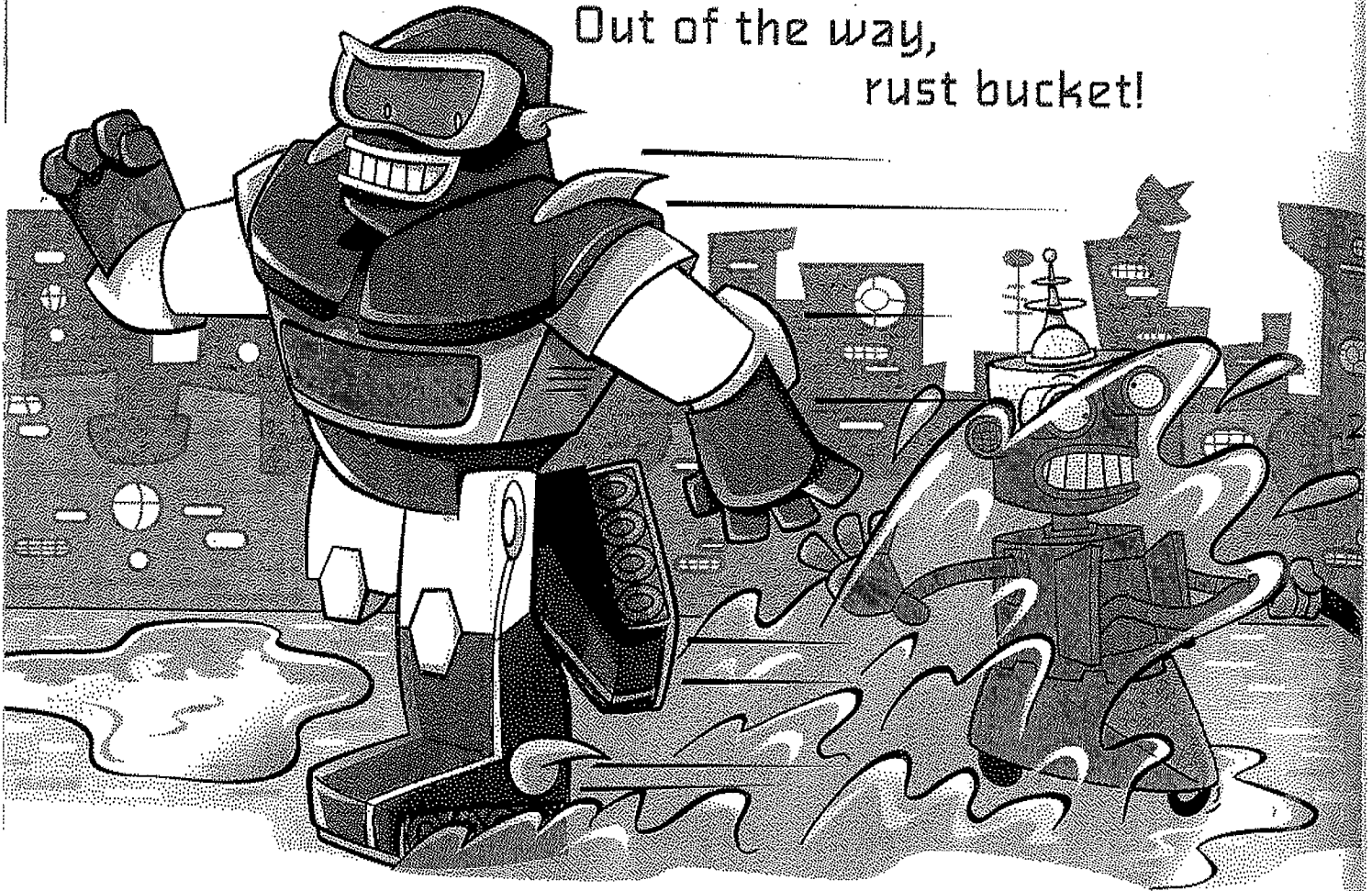
The winning robot would get a new memory chip and a head-to-wheel polish.



But Squeaky didn't dare enter. He was so rusty and clanky, he wasn't sure he could even finish the race.

He was feeling sorry for himself when a noisy robot zoomed past.

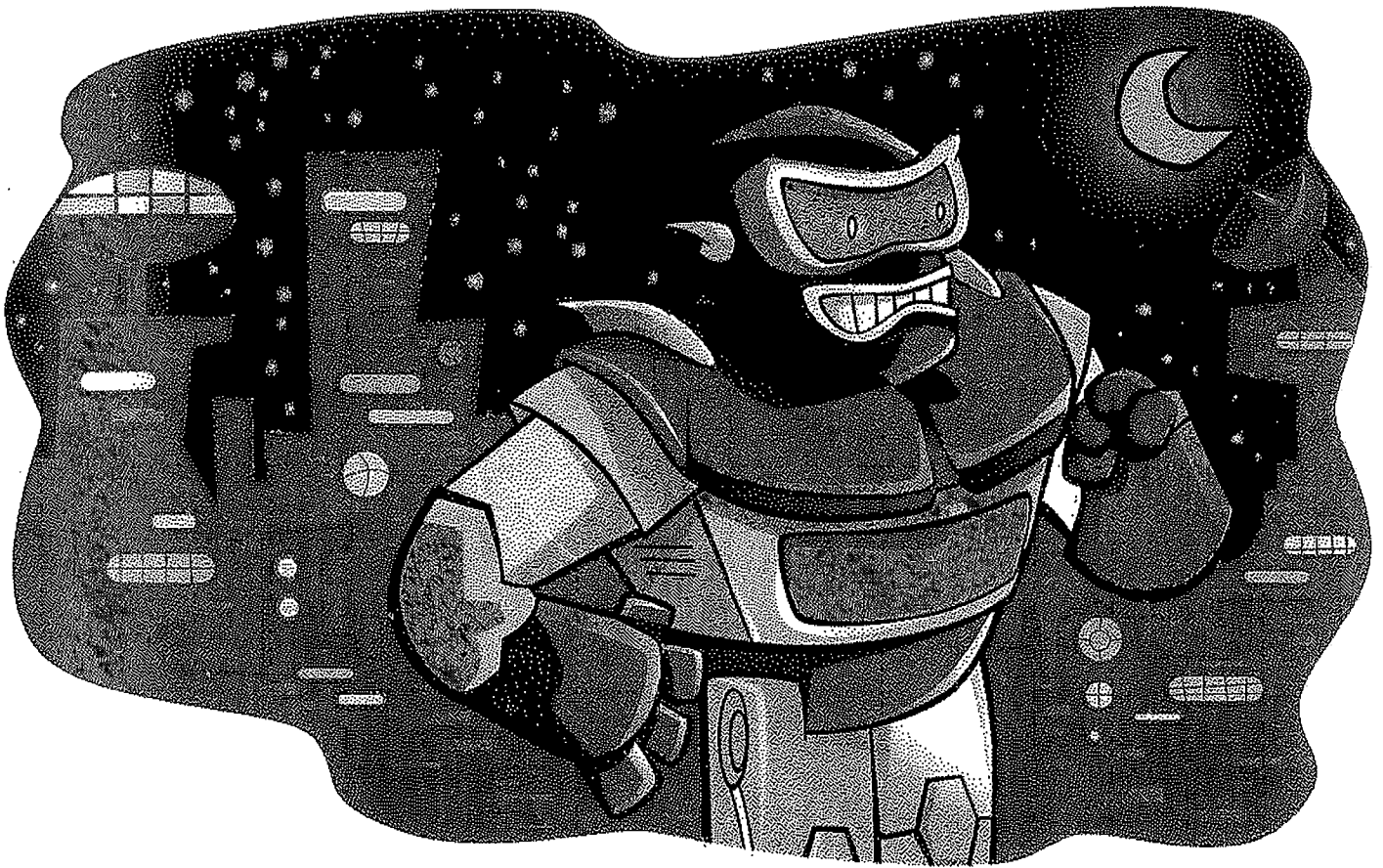
Out of the way,
rust bucket!



Tanktop was the biggest, meanest robot in town. Everyone was certain he would win tomorrow's big race.

Robot racers

Tanktop wasn't taking any chances. He had a plan to make sure none of the other racers even started.

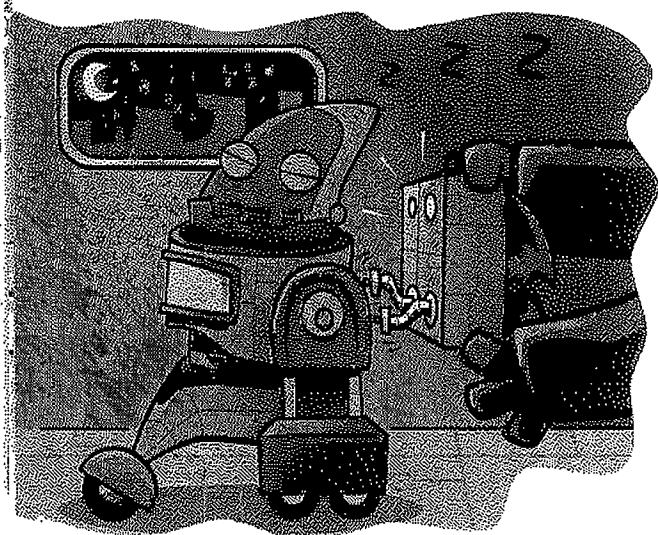
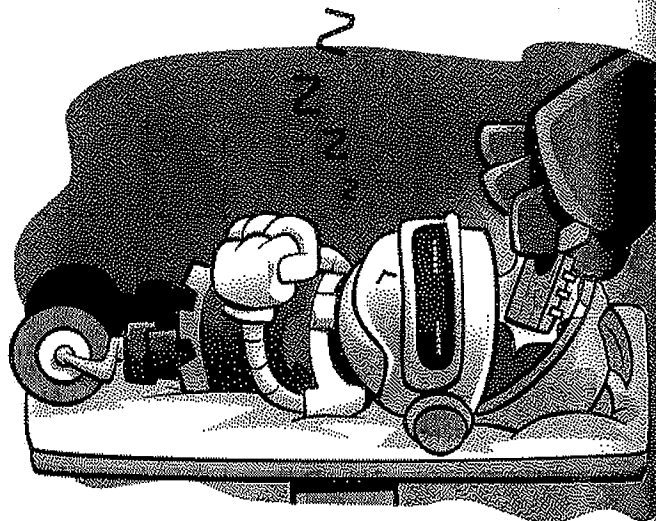


That night, as the Botsville robots recharged themselves, Tanktop visited each of his rivals in secret.



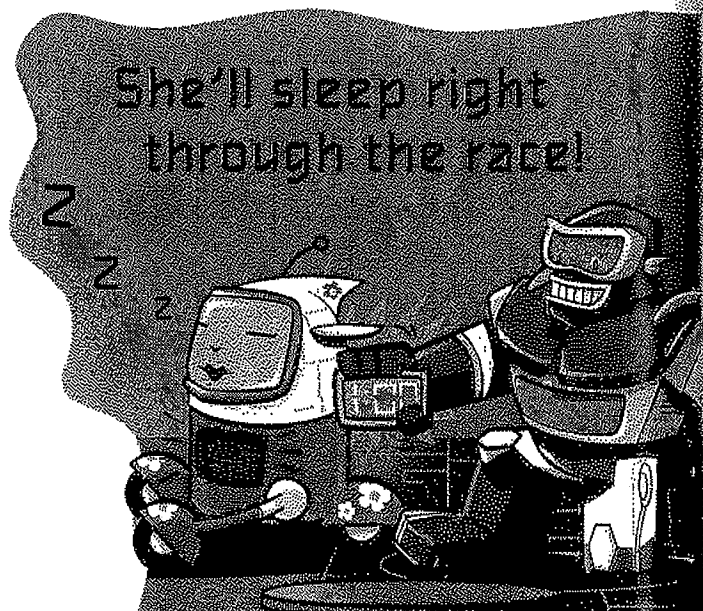
He gave Tina
Turbo a puncture...

stole Cyber Sid's
memory chip...



undid Andi Droid's
battery pack...

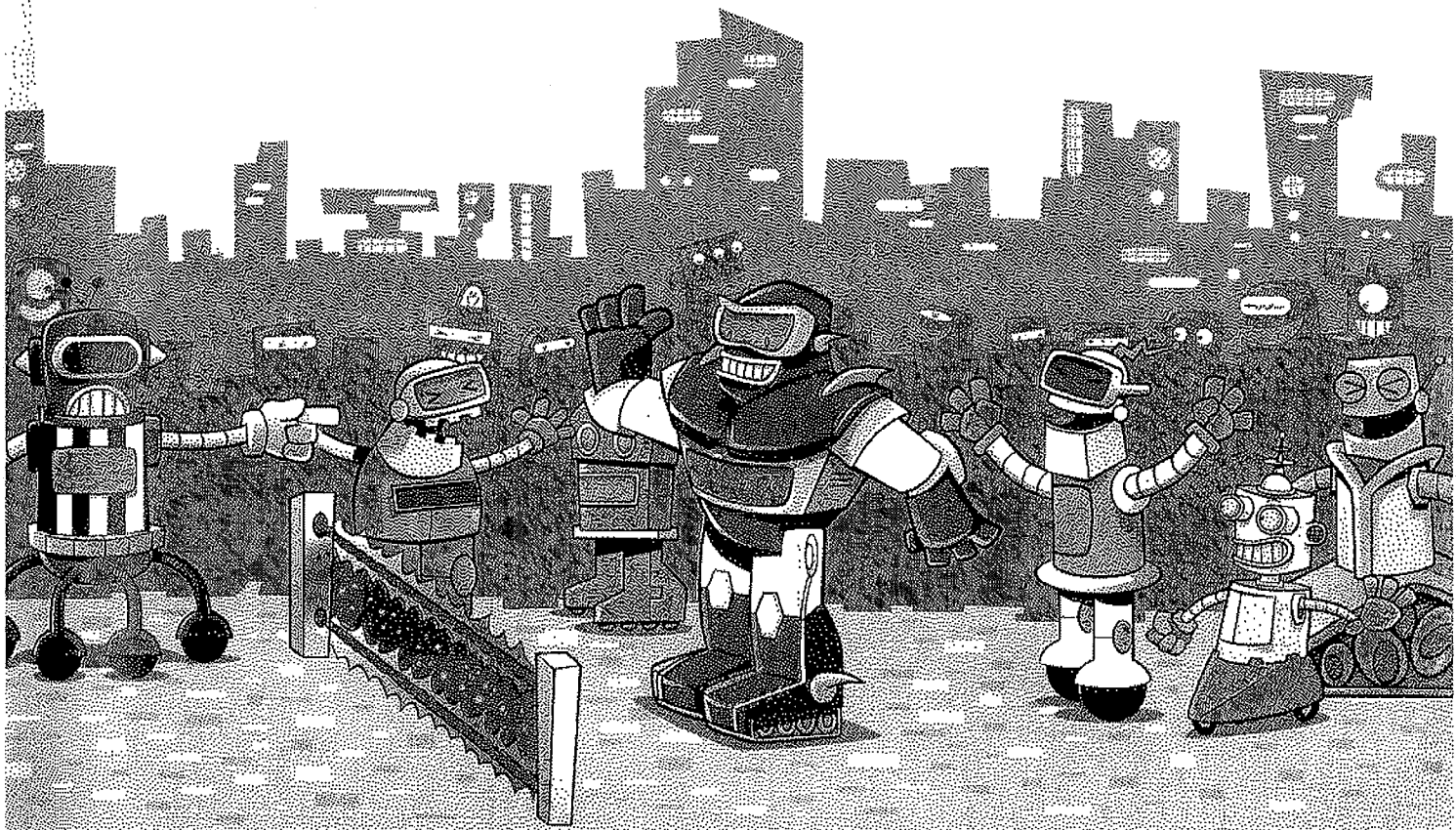
and reset Betty Byte's
built-in alarm clock.



She'll sleep right
through the race!

Robot racers

The next morning, Tanktop was the only robot at the starting line. It looked as if his plan had worked. The judge was puzzled. "Where is everyone?" he wondered.



"I'll take my prize now," smirked Tanktop. "There must be someone else willing to race," cried the judge desperately. Tanktop was making him look stupid.

Just then a tinny voice piped up. "I will!"
Everyone in the crowd turned. "Is that Squeaky?" said someone in amazement.

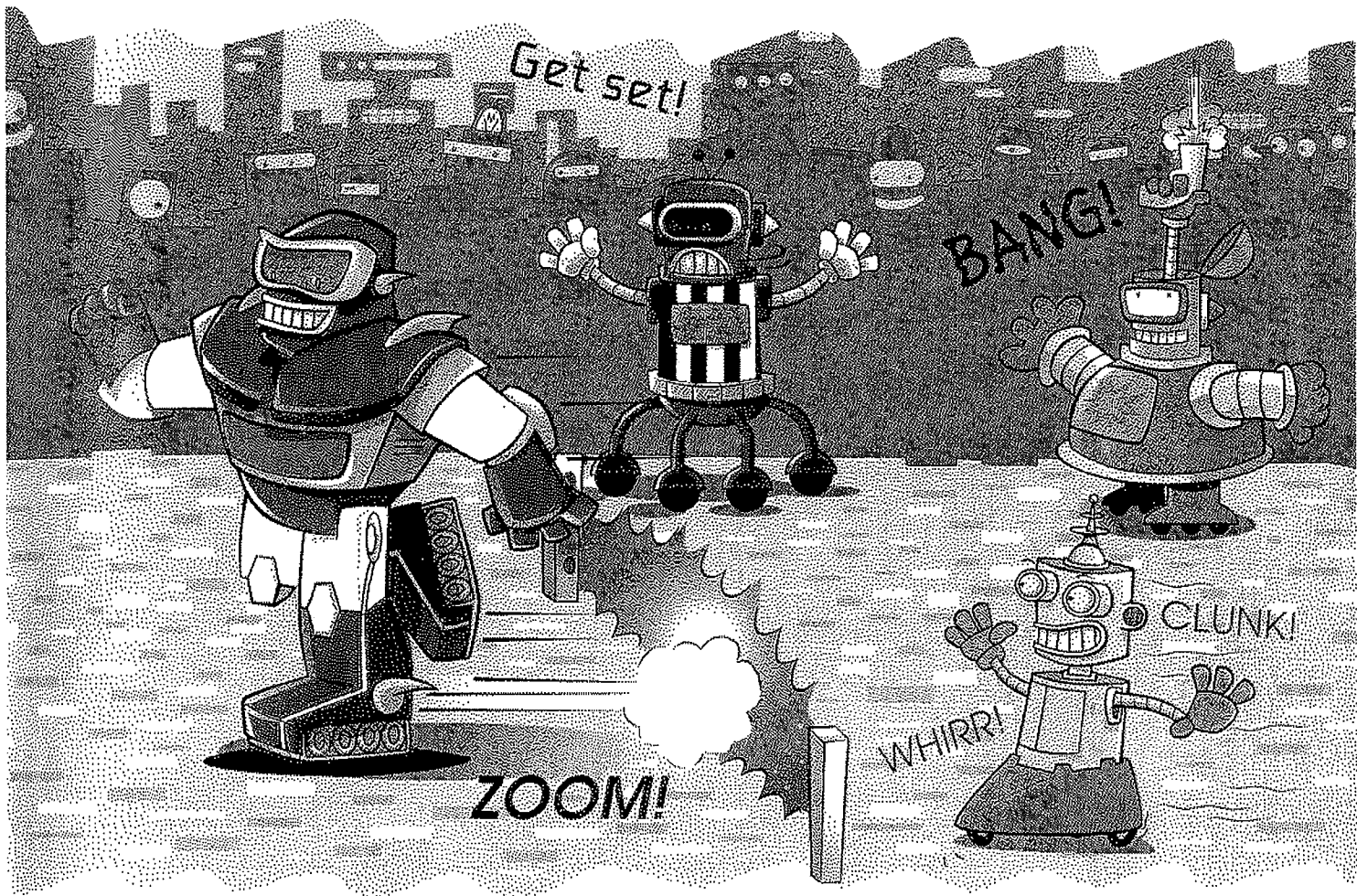


"I'd like to try," said Squeaky. His joints were feeling especially stiff today, but he couldn't miss his chance.

"Very well," said the judge, with a sigh of relief. "Robots, on your marks!"

Robot racers

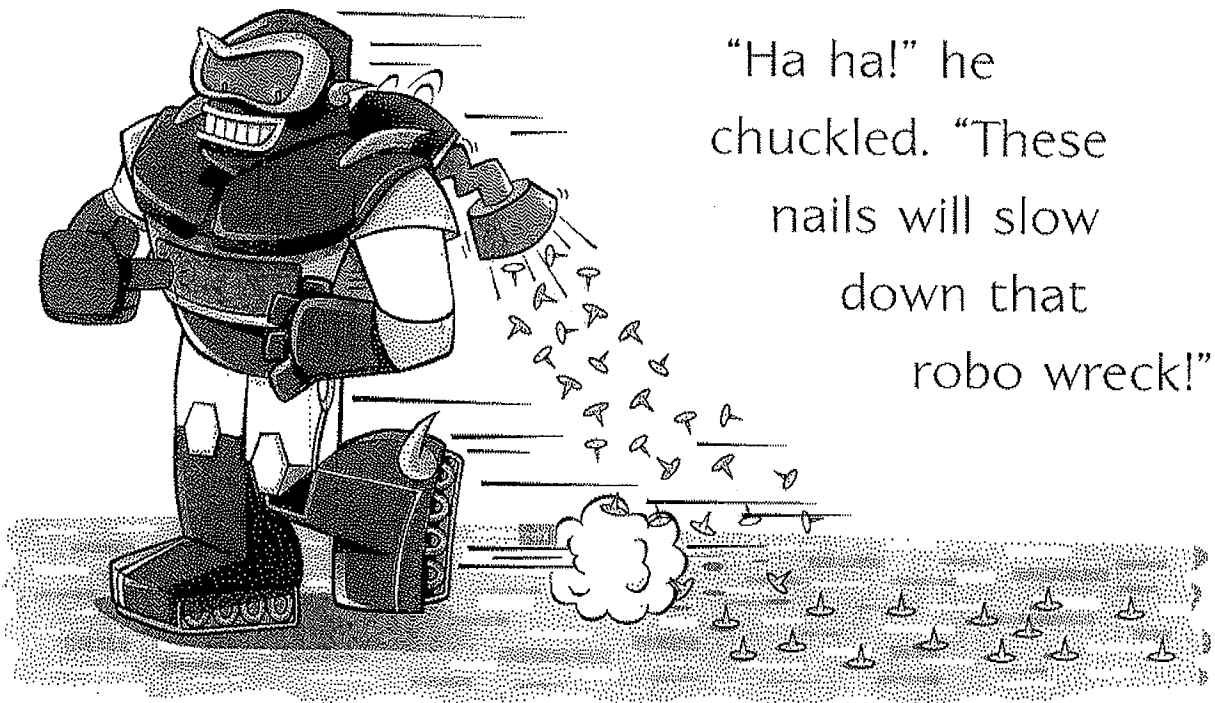
Tanktop hadn't bothered to charge up his battery that morning. But he was confident he could still beat Squeaky.



The robots set off on their lap of the town. Tanktop raced off with a roar and Squeaky clattered off in hot pursuit.

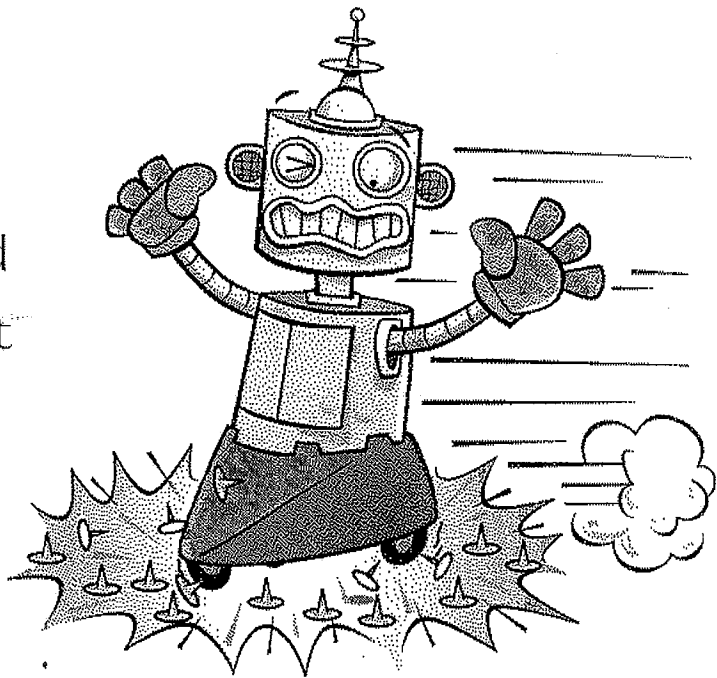
Robot racers

As soon as he was out of sight of the crowd, Tanktop opened a flap in his back.

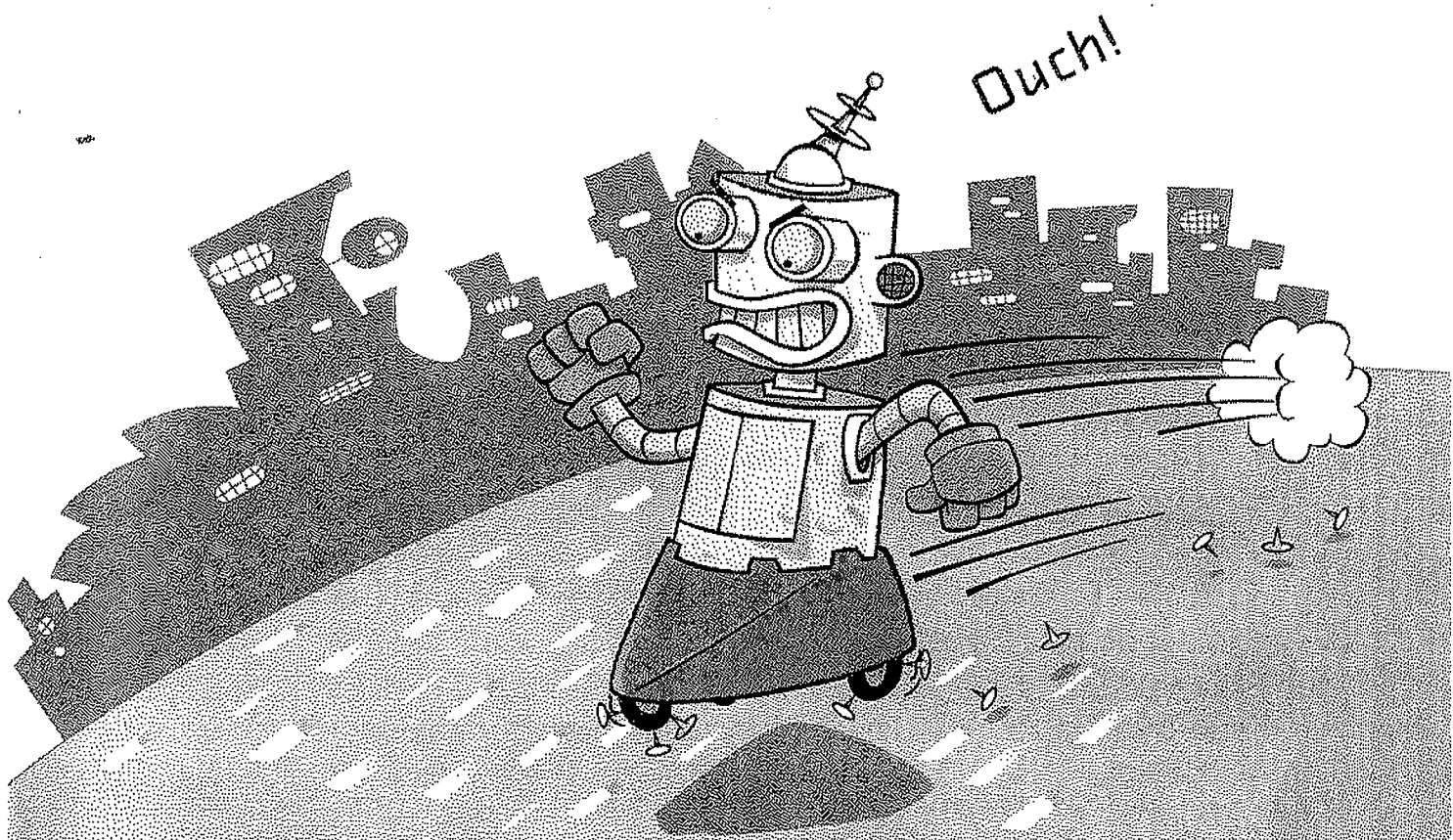


“Ha ha!” he chuckled. “These nails will slow down that robo wreck!”

By the time Squeaky spotted the spiky trap, it was too late.



Luckily, Squeaky was so old that his wheels were made of solid rubber. They didn't burst and he was still in the race.

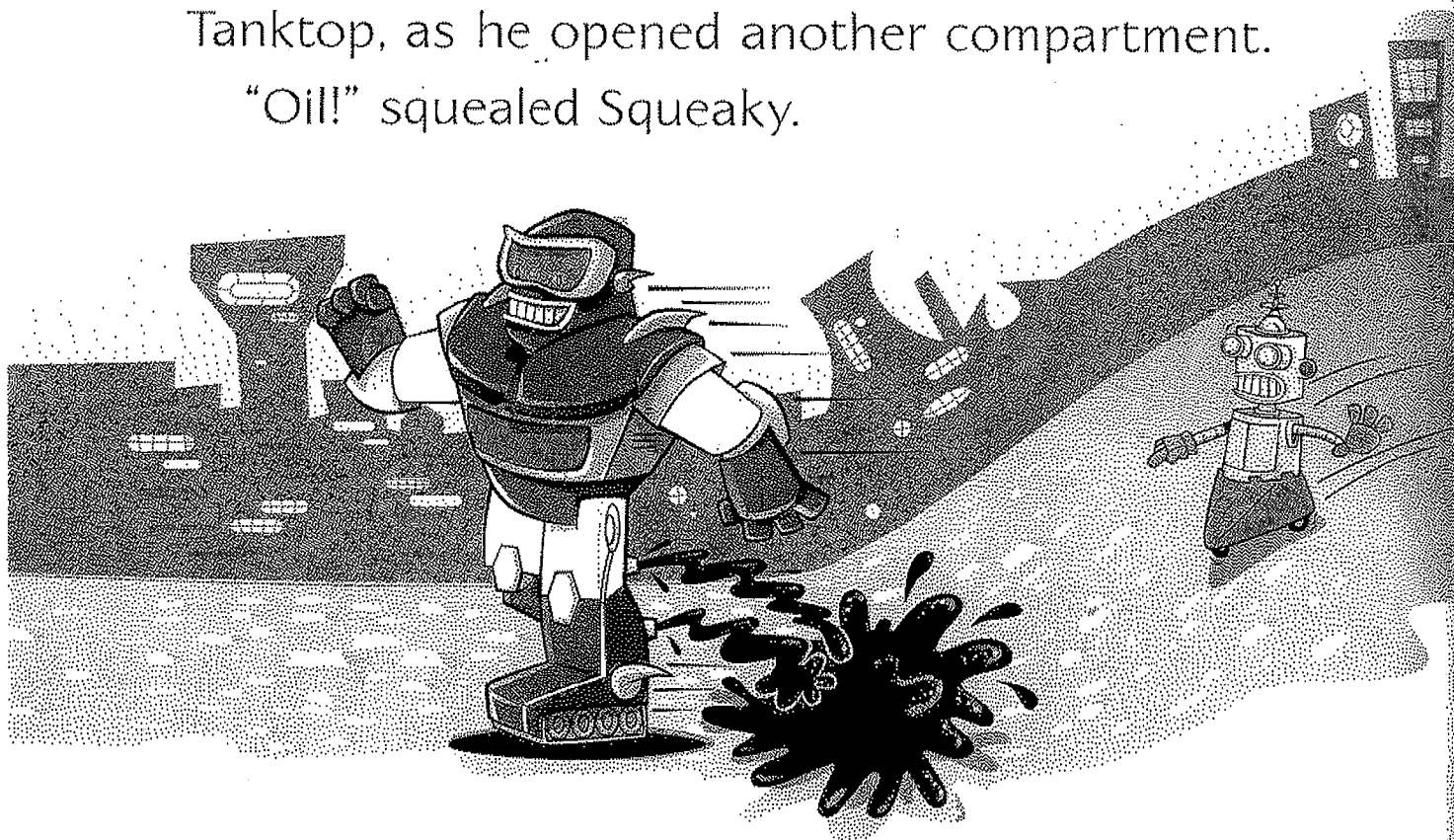


"I'll show that cheat!" thought Squeaky. He put on a burst of speed. Soon, he'd caught up with Tanktop.

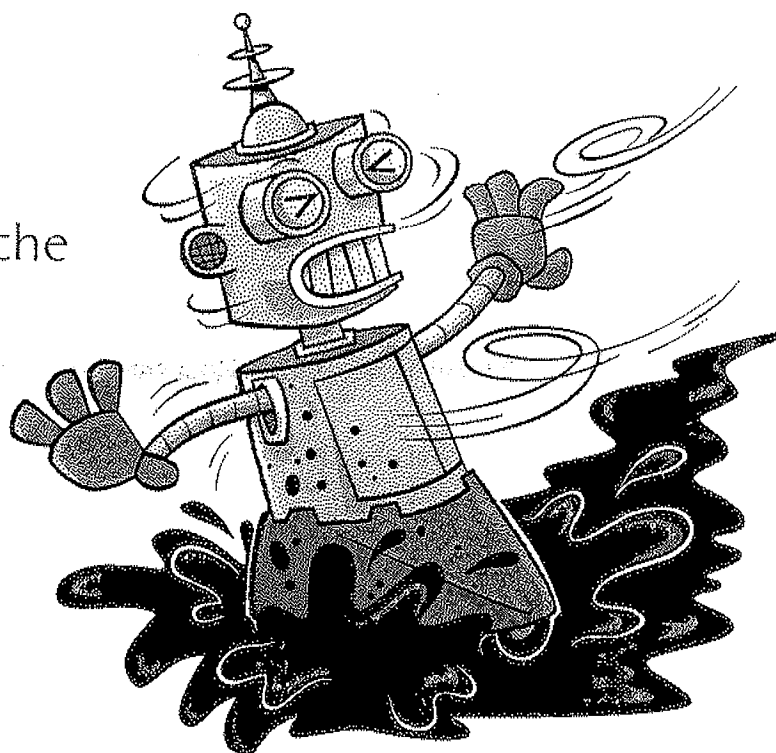
Robot racers

“Let’s see you get out of this!” boomed Tanktop, as he opened another compartment.

“Oil!” squealed Squeaky.

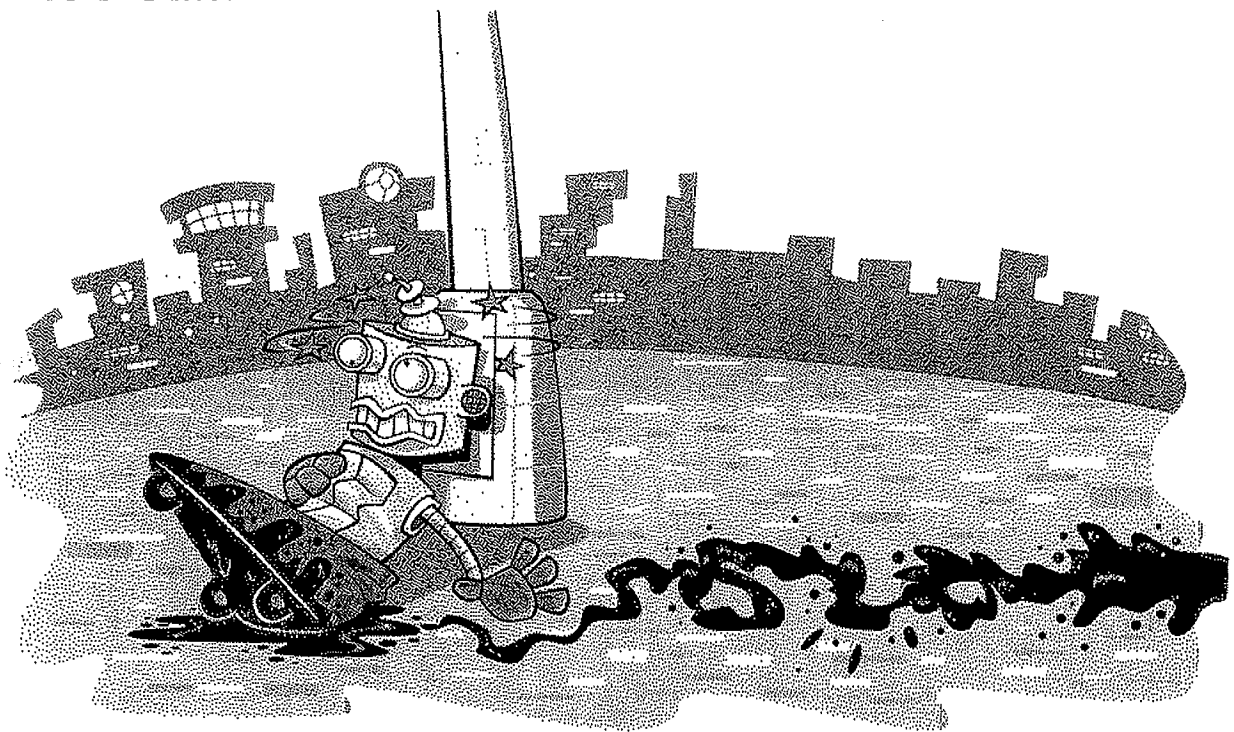


Squeaky shut his eyes and hoped for the best, as he slithered and slid all over the road.



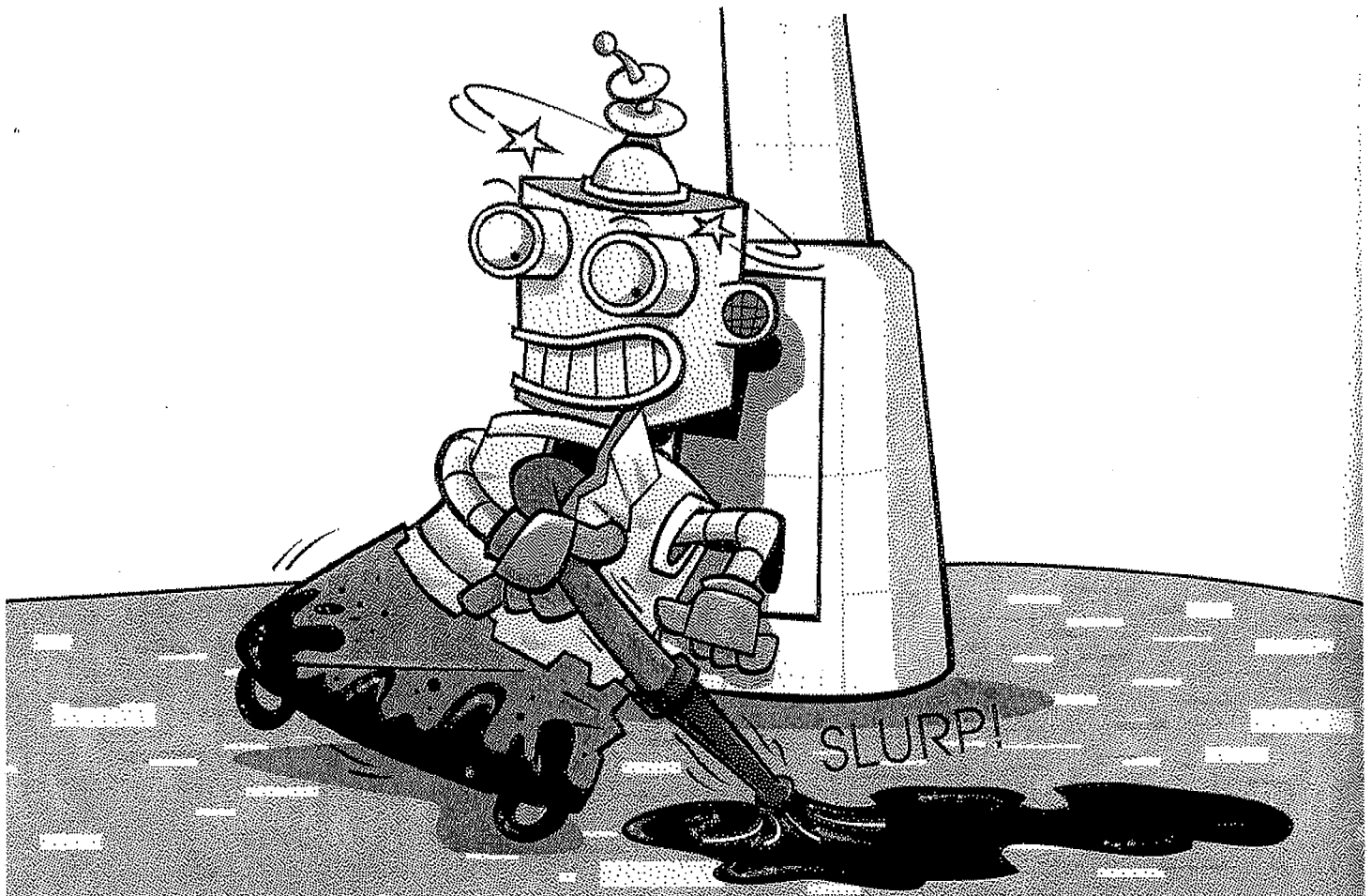


Squeaky was left battered and dented, but at least he was still in one piece. He tried to get up and found he couldn't move. His joints were too stiff.



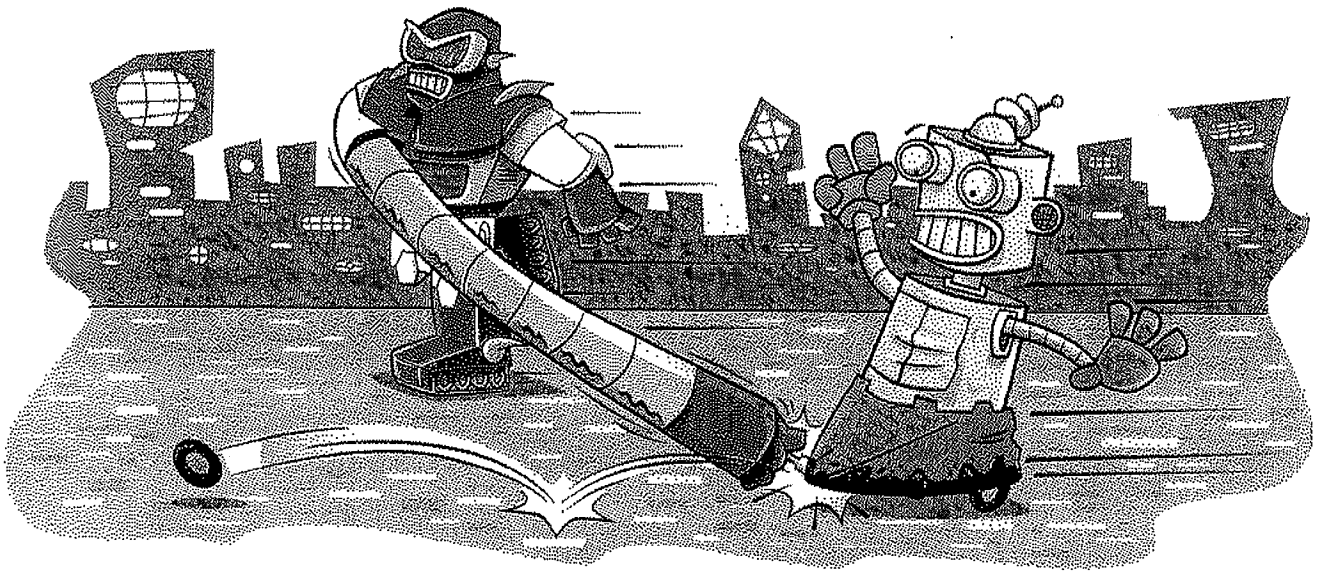
Robot racers

As he sat there, Squeaky realized what he needed was all around him. Unwinding his hose, he guzzled up every last drop of oil.

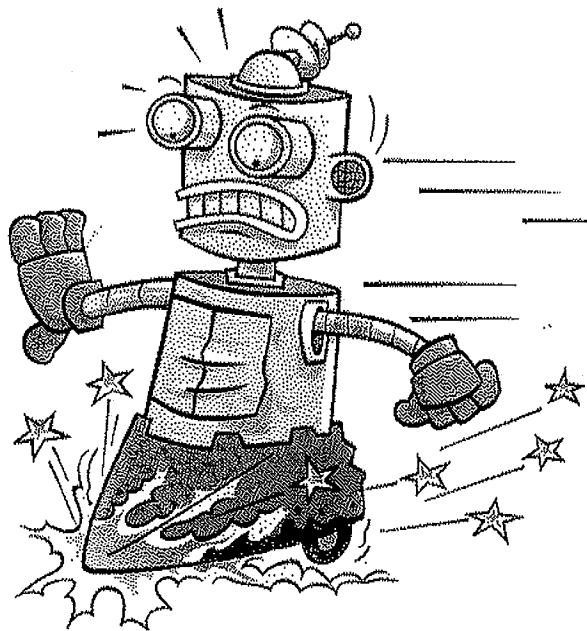


Soon, Squeaky was back on his rival's tail. Tanktop was running out of power fast.

But Tanktop still had one trick up his sleeve – his telescopic arms. He reached out to Squeaky's front wheel and undid the screw.



Sparks flew through the air as Squeaky's wheel bounced past Tanktop. In seconds, Squeaky had ground to a halt.



Robot racers

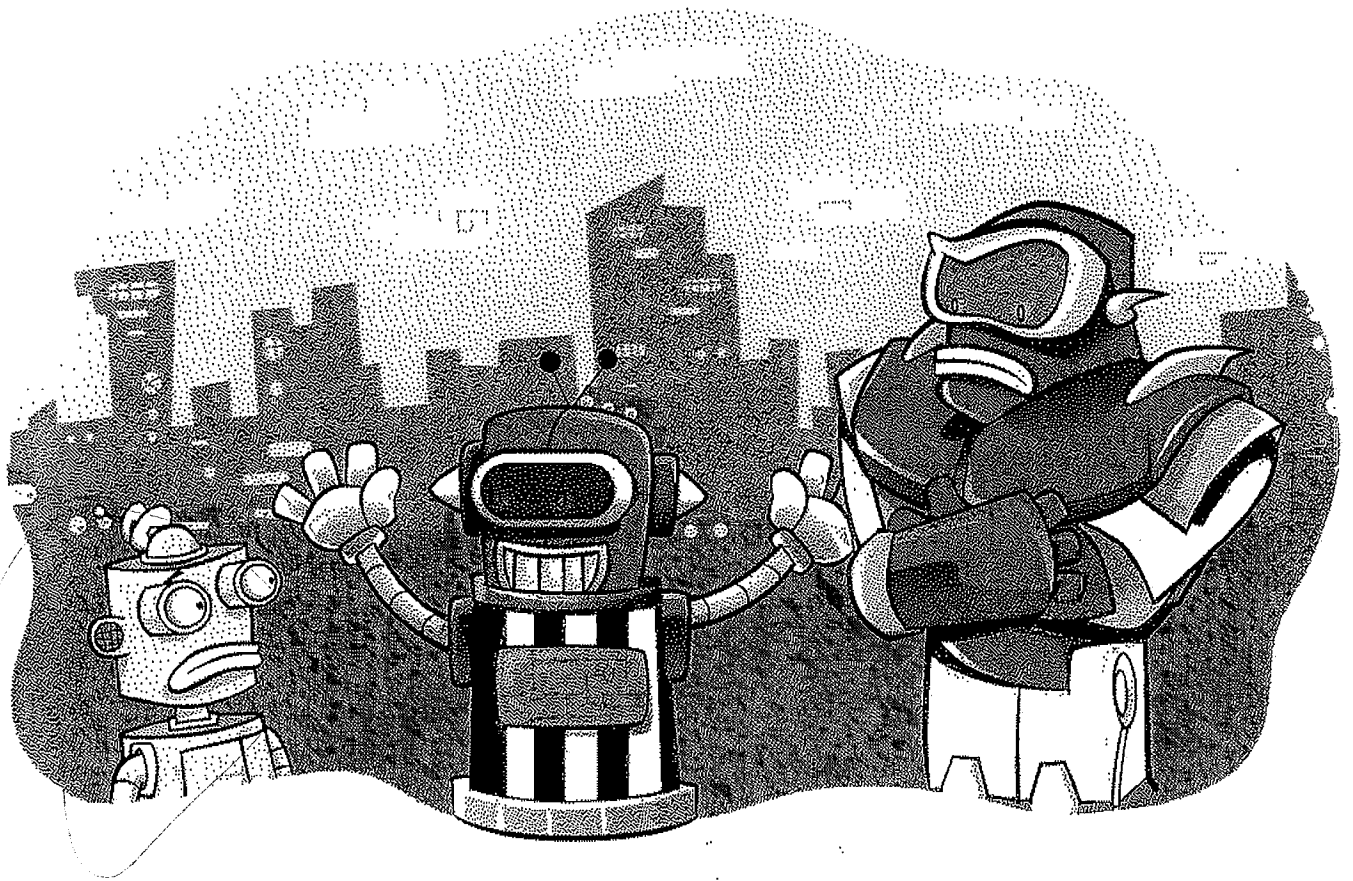
As the crowd came back into view, Tanktop used the last of his power to roar across the finishing line. "Ha ha, I've won!" he cried.



Tanktop was already boasting to the crowds as poor old Squeaky was carried across the line.

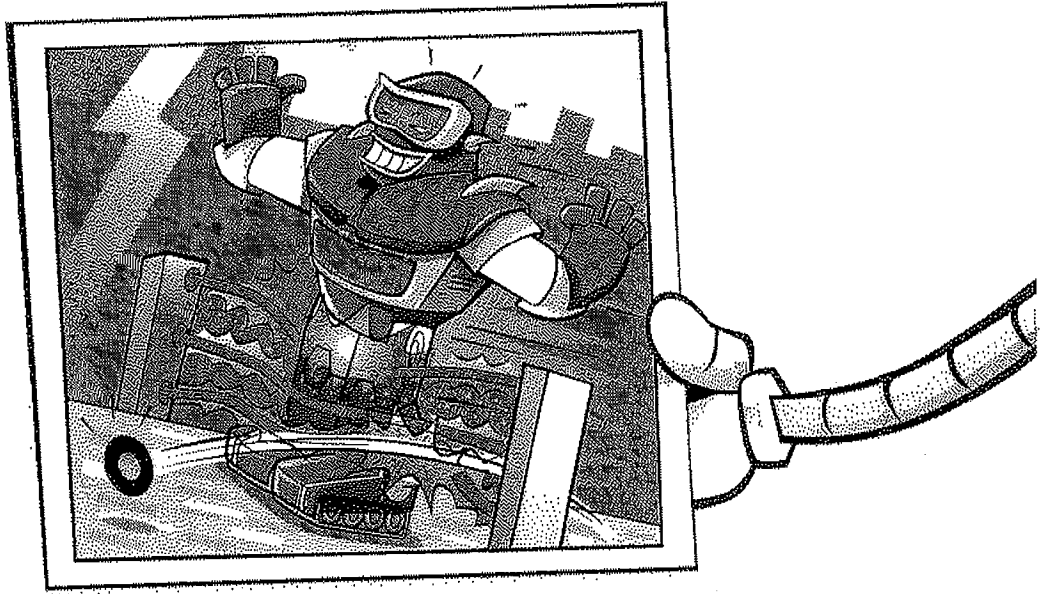
“Congratulations!” cried the judge as he shook Squeaky by the hand.

“Well, I suppose I almost won,” Squeaky sniffed, sadly.



“Not almost,” said the judge. “You **did** win. Look!”

He showed Squeaky and Tanktop the photograph taken at the finishing line.



“Your wheel crossed the line a second before Tanktop. That makes you the winner!”

Squeaky clunked with delight, the crowd cheered and Tanktop blew a fuse.

