

Nightly News at Nine with Phil and Sherry  
Episode 2 - Robots!

By

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INT. NEWS DESK

SHERRY TILES

Good evening. I'm Sherry Tiles.

PHIL BRICKLEY

And I'm Phil Brickley. Our top story tonight - Space robots have invaded Figuria.

SHERRY TILES

The invasion began early this morning when--

ROBERT VYLAN walks on screen and interrupts

ROBERT VYLAN

Excuse me, what's going on here?

PHIL BRICKLEY

Who the block are you?

SHERRY TILES

This is Robert Vylan, our new sportscaster. You insisted we hire him yesterday.

PHIL BRICKLEY

Yesterday? You expect me to remember something I did yesterday? I don't even remember what we're talking about.

SHERRY sighs like she always does at PHIL. Then she turns to ROBERT.

SHERRY TILES

What do you want Robert?

ROBERT VYLAN

I want to know why you aren't reporting on Mailifos.

PHIL BRICKLEY

Malifi-who?

SHERRY TILES

Well Robert, we try to report on current events and since Malifios hasn't done anything newsworthy since his escape yesterday, we simply had to find something else to fill the time. Isn't that right Phil?

(CONTINUED)

PHIL BRICKLEY  
I agree with whatever Sherry said.

ROBERT VYLAN  
Well maybe Malifios has been too  
busy trying to get his bricking  
hostage to explain those  
unfathomable rituals called Sports!

SHERRY TILES  
And he'll have plenty of time to  
rant about it during his segment.

ROBERT VYLAN  
Yes ma'am

ROBERT walks quickly off screen

PHIL BRICKLEY  
Did I miss something?

SHERRY TILES  
Everything darling. Everything.

(beat)

SHERRY TILES  
The Pinchbot invasion fleet arrived  
early this morning

Picture of giant robot in downtown New Block City, people  
run in terror

SHERRY TILES  
in spaceships that looked like  
larger robots.

Picture of tiny robots streaming out of the giant robot

PHIL BRICKLEY  
Due to their small size, the robots  
posed no serious threat.

Picture of a Figurian standing next to a tiny robot,  
pointing and laughing.

PHIL BRICKLEY  
Most of them were destroyed by  
children and dogs.

Pictures of that

SHERRY TILES

However, the remaining robots regrouped and began attacking in swarms, pinching everything in their path.

Picture of robot swarm pinching Figurians

PHIL BRICKLEY

There were a few reports of arms and legs pinched off-

Picture of disarmed Figurian and his arm lying next to him

PHIL BRICKLEY

-but no serious injuries.

Picture of someone popping his arm back on for him)

SHERRY TILES

One of the robot swarms held up traffic at an intersection downtown this afternoon-

Picture of robots holding up traffic with the pinched arm of police crossing guards)

SHERRY TILES

-while Phil and I were out for lunch.

Picture of Phil and Sherry sitting in their car looking unhappily at the backed up traffic

PHIL BRICKLEY

We went to investigate the traffic jam-

Phil and Sherry abandon their car and walk to the front of the traffic jam

PHIL BRICKLEY

-when a roaming troupe of Castlantian adventurers showed up.

Phil and Sherry watch the robots from behind a parked car. Then Spider Mage, Christmas Witch, a Samurai and an Amazonian show up

SHERRY TILES

The adventurers engaged the robots using the traditional turn-based combat of Castlantis.

(CONTINUED)

Adventurers fight the robots like they're in an RPG

PHIL BRICKLEY

In addition to gaining valuable combat experience the team also found some gold and a magical potion among the robots' remains.

SHERRY TILES

Which, I still maintain, makes absolutely no sense.

PHIL BRICKLEY

They also found a piece of armor, but even the Spider Mage agreed it was too flamboyant to equip.

SHERRY TILES

Then the team bid us farewell, saying they were off to find slightly larger robots.

PHIL BRICKLEY

But one question still remains: Where did these robots come from? Why did they invade Figuria? And why didn't they have a better plan?

SHERRY TILES

That's three questions.

PHIL considers this for a minute

PHIL BRICKLEY

Three questions still remain--

SHERRY TILES

To find the answers to these and other questions the fearless Report-O-Bot-Ophelia has journeyed to the Pinchbot mothership to interview their leader.

INT. PINCHBOT MOTHERSHIP

ROBOPHELIA fights her way through the tiny robots.

ROBOPHELIA

That's right Sherry! Unfortunately my attempt at espionage failed-

Picture of Robophelia wearing broken bits of a Pinchbot

(CONTINUED)

ROBOPHELIA  
-and so I've had to get information  
the hard way.

ROBOPHELIA grabs a nearby Pinchbot

ROBOPHELIA  
Where is your leader-bot?

The Pinchbot points to the right. ROBOPHELIA discards the  
Pinchbot and moves offscreen. She passes through an empty  
hallway with corrugated doors (ala mega man) on either side.

ROBOPHELIA  
Something tells me the pinchbot  
leader is right on the other side  
of this door.

ROBOPHELIA enters GRABBOR's lair

GRABBOR  
(in unison with ROBOPHELIA) Who are  
you and why have you come here?

ROBOPHELIA  
(in unison with GRABBOR) I am--

GRABBOR  
(in unison with ROBOPHELIA) I'm  
here to--

ROBOPHELIA  
(in unison with GRABBOR) Our  
programs keep being in sync!

They laugh their robotic laughs

GRABBOR  
We'll Nut-Bolt-Washer for it.

They play a game like Rock Paper Scissors. ROBOPHELIA wins.

ROBOPHELIA  
You first.

GRABBOR  
I am Grabbor, leader of the  
Pinchbots. We have come to  
terrorize Figuria.

ROBOPHELIA  
I am Report-O-Bot Ophelia. I come  
to question you on half of the  
Figurians.

GRABBOR

You are allied with the  
fleshblocks? Are you not a robot?

ROBOPHELIA

I was built to protect, not invade.

GRABBOR

Then you were built wrong.

ROBOPHELIA

I have one last question: Are you  
prepared to be destroyed?

A fight ensues. ROBOPHELIA defeats GRABBOR.

GRABBOR

(with dying battery) You- do not-  
compute.

ROBOPHELIA takes GRABBOR's arm and attaches it to her body.  
She turns to the camera triumphant.

ROBOPHELIA

I think we settled that question.  
Back to you Phil!

INT. NEWS DESK

PHIL BRICKLEY

Thanks ROBOPhelia. Now it's time  
for sports with Steve Flatwise.

Picture of Steve Flatwise in sports garb with the word  
"Sports" in large print

SHERRY TILES

No Phil, Steve was kidnapped  
yesterday.

PHIL BRICKLEY

I see... It's time for Hostage  
Report with Steve Flatwise.

Picture of Steve Flatwise chained to a wall with the words  
"Hostage Report" in large print

SHERRY TILES

Try again honey.

(CONTINUED)

PHIL BRICKLEY  
Hostage Hoe-down?

Same picture, but now Steve has a cowboy hat on. Sherry shakes her head and sighs.

SHERRY TILES  
No Phil, now it's time for Sports with our new Sportscaster, Robert Vylan.

PHIL BRICKLEY  
Vylan? Is he the legshark?

Fade to black.

ROBERT VYLAN  
Sports. Since time immemorial they have vexed and baffled the greatest minds and bewitched and ensnared the weakest.

As ROBERT delivers the previous line a slowly rotating soccer ball gradually comes into view.

ROBERT VYLAN  
The history of Figuria is a history of brilliance foiled and besmirched by these crass and odious displays of superlative futility.

Pictures of Malifios's overly-complicated plots being accidentally foiled by nearby sports games

INT. SPORTS DESK

ROBERT VYLAN  
For too long we have been plagued by a never-ending proliferation of pointless games and names. Bloccer, blockball, brickball, basebrick, basketblock, brickeyblock, blockity brick, brickity-blockity-blue-ball! But that is all about to change, a new era is dawning. An era where the shimmering aura of reason will-

The seal of the Figurian Government appears on screen.

GOVERNMENT  
We interrupt your regularly scheduled rant for this emergency  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GOVERNMENT (cont'd)  
address from the Toymaster General  
of Figuria

INT. PRESS ROOM

TOYMASTER GENERAL stands at a podium addressing a throng of reporters

TOYMASTER GENERAL  
My fellow Figurians, today our  
great land was hostilely invaded by  
tiny robots. Tomorrow our toy  
stores will be invaded by tinier  
robots.

He holds up a mini Pinchbot

TOYMASTER GENERAL  
You can get your very own Mini  
Pinchbot for the low low price of  
ten gold! In response I have  
changed the Toy Threat Level from  
Fad to Craze.

Points at a color coded chart: Craze > Fad > Trend > Flop >  
Recall

TOYMASTER GENERAL  
Go line up at your local toy store  
now! And bring your riot gear,  
there will be stampedes.

GOVERNMENT  
We now return to your regularly  
scheduled rant, still in progress.

INT. SPORTS DESK

ROBERT VYLAN is now standing on top of the Sports desk,  
gesturing frantically.

ROBERT VYLAN  
---no longer shall we be bound by  
the manacles of absurdity that have  
for so long chained us to the wall  
of despair. As the newly appointed  
Sportsmaster of Figuria, I hereby  
nullify all currently existing  
sports. However, I have devised a  
number of new sports, both logical  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT VYLAN (cont'd)  
and useful, to replace the old  
ones.

As ROBERT explains the game, a series of instructional  
pictures are displayed.

ROBERT VYLAN  
Number one: Breakdown. This game is  
as simple as its name. All you need  
to play is a tall building or a  
similarly well constructed object.  
The goal is to take the object  
apart as fast as possible. You can  
play alone or competitively. It is  
best played in a large metropolitan  
area such as New Block City. What  
are you waiting for? Start playing  
Breakdown now! Seriously. Go.  
Number two: Ice Blockey--

SHERRY walks on screen and interrupts.

SHERRY TILES  
What do you think you're doing?

ROBERT VYLAN  
Why hello Sherry. I was just  
outlining some new Sports to  
replace the ones I annulled.

SHERRY TILES  
Yes, I can see that. You do realize  
that you don't have the authority  
to do that, right?

ROBERT VYLAN  
I don't? But I'm the Sportsmaster!

SHERRY TILES  
No, you're the sportscaster.  
There's no such thing as a  
sportsmaster. You're supposed to  
report on existing sports, not  
invent new ones.

ROBERT VYLAN  
But, that's so... mundane.

SHERRY TILES  
It's your job, and you'll do it  
right or you won't do it at all.  
Now get down off that desk and sit  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHERRY TILES (cont'd)  
quietly while we finish the rest of  
the show.

ROBERT sits in frightened awe of Sherry as she walks off  
screen.

INT. NEWS DESK

SHERRY walks back from the News Desk and finds PHIL amidst a  
pile of rubble.

SHERRY TILES  
Phil, what happened to our desk?

PHIL BRICKLEY  
Breakdown!

SHERRY TILES  
Oh for the love of brick!

PHIL BRICKLEY  
Come on, let's play Breakdown with  
our backdrops, we can race!

PHIL heads to the wall and starts banging on it.

SHERRY TILES  
Someone cut to commercial! Phil,  
no!

SHERRY runs toward PHIL as the scene fades out.

TV ANNOUNCER  
Next Bluesday on Police Show:

Police Show title flashes on screen  
Chuck Malarkey is a tough as brick  
cop who doesn't always play by the  
rules.

Action shots of Malarkey, a scruffy, surly cop

POLICE CHIEF  
Malarkeeeey!

TV ANNOUNCER  
But when Malarkey's city is invaded  
by a gang of Space robots, he'll  
have to team up with a cop who's  
even crazier than him.

(CONTINUED)

POLICE CHIEF

Malarkey, meet your new partner.

K-0P-3R

Greetings, I am K-0-P-3-R, cyborg law enforcement agent. I am skilled in over six million forms of torture.

MALARKEY

Now look, robot. I don't like you and you don't like me-

K-0P-3R

Negative. Your antics excite my amusement circuits. AH-HA-HA-HA!

They tussle with one of the evil robots.

K-0P-3R

Where is your leader bot?

MALARKEY

And don't give us no Malarkey

TV ANNOUNCER

Will Malarkey and his new partner be able to save the city? Or will this be his final case? Tune in next Bluesday, only on Town TV.

INT. NEWS DESK

SHERRY is rebuilding the news desk - Phil is handing her the pieces.

PHIL BRICKLEY

Sherry, did you notice anything strange about that commercial?

SHERRY TILES

No Phil, I was too busy rebuilding our desk to pay much attention. Now hand me that two by three.

Phil holds the 2x3 in his hand, but does not give it to her. He is lost in thought.

PHIL BRICKLEY

That robo-cop was just like ROBOPhelia.

(CONTINUED)

SHERRY gets impatient and walks over to take the brick from Phil herself.

SHERRY TILES

All the TV serials reuse our material. My father even made a saying about it: "nothing sells lies like the guise of truth."

As Sherry talks she is still holding the brick and gesturing with it. She turns to place it on the desk.

PHIL BRICKLEY

(distracted) Yeah, truth-wise, I know. Something just feels wrong.

SHERRY comes up and puts her hand on Phil

SHERRY TILES

Well if it will make you feel better you can have ROBOfelia investigate. But only between regular NNN stuff. Okay?

Phil instantly perks up.

PHIL BRICKLEY

Great! I'll go tell Reporto!

Phil runs off screen excitedly.

SHERRY TILES

Only between other stories!

Sherry sighs and turns to the camera.

SHERRY TILES

Zundar? Isn't it about time for your forecast?

Split Screen with Zundar

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE

Indubitably Sherry! My apologies for the delay, I've just been having a few... fun-plications with my new assistant.

SHERRY TILES

Oh yes, sorry for sticking you with the legshark today. I don't think he's quite ready to be left to his own devices and I have my hands

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHERRY TILES (cont'd)  
 full with Phil and Robert.  
 ROBOfhelia can take him tomorrow.

As Sherry talks, Zundar is motioning off screen frantically and saying things like "That is not for eating!" "Now sit!" "Good boy"

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE  
 No worries Sherry. Everything's  
 wonderful, magical, lovely.

End Split screen

EXT. PUMPKIN PATCH

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE  
 Well that is of course, unless you  
 are one of the poor souls on the  
 planets Verdigro, Citrusia, or  
 Emerill, in which case you are  
 probably dead or in horrible agony.  
 Yes, the war between Orange and  
 Green rages on, even fiercer than  
 yesterday. In fact the conflict has  
 become so intense that it is  
 beginning to have some unexpected  
 side effects. (Fiercely to Leggs)  
 We don't bite the camera crew!  
 Can't you keep your mouth closed  
 for even one minute?! (composes  
 himself) My apologies for that  
 outburst, my lovelies. I have had  
 trouble controlling my temper  
 today, an unfortunate consequence  
 of the continuing battle between  
 Green and Orange. In addition to  
 both colors using their bricks to  
 wage violent physical combat,  
 anyone wearing clothing of those  
 colors is prone to erratic and  
 aggressive behavior.

Images of people in orange and green being violent

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE  
 I would highly discourage wearing  
 clothing of either color until they  
 settle their differences. In fact,  
 I would even avoid wearing any  
 closely related colors like lime  
 and tangerine. Unfortunately some

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE (cont'd)  
of us are not able to change our color so easily. I myself have had an irresistible urge to munch on carrots all day. I just want to feel their succulent conical bodies snap in my jaws. Rrrr. Oh my, excuse me for slipping away there. I have brought our legshark correspondent to this pumpkin patch to help me demonstrate the effects of green clothing.

Wider shot showing both Zundar and Leggs

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE  
You see, it is widely believed that a legshark will eat anything they can get their jaws around. While it's true that they eat a number of things that any other creature would find repulsive or downright inedible, legsharks can actually be incredibly picky eaters. Their favorite food in the whole world is the head melon.

Zundar holds up a head melon and Leggs goes wild trying to eat it. Zundar gives it to him.

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE  
They will also eat practically anything else that is shaped like a head melon: crystal balls, baby cacti, dodgeballs, Figurian heads, and lightbulbs.

As Zundar lists these things he feeds them one by one to Leggs who devours them greedily.

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE  
Try to feed them a pumpkin though-

Zundar tries to push one into Leggs' mouth but the legshark shuts his jaws firmly.

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE  
-and they steadfastly refuse. No matter how you dress it up, they will not be fooled into eating a pumpkin, so forceful is their aversion to them. However, if we put this green hat on his fin...

(CONTINUED)

Zundar puts a green wizard hat on Leggs' fin and Leggs immediately starts devouring the pumpkins in the pumpkin patch.

ZUNDAR SILVERSPINE

Look at him go! He can't resist those plump... delicious... **orange**... pumpkins. Crush them good Leggsly! Destroy those foolish orange spheres! No one makes a fool of Green! Death to Orange and all its followers! Let's find something bigger and oranger to destroy!

Zundar and Leggs stomp off screen.

INT. NEWS DESK

Sherry's half of the desk has been rebuilt, but Phil is being forced to sit on a chair with nothing in front of him.

PHIL BRICKLEY

Sherry, don't make me do the rest of the show this way. I feel so... exposed.

SHERRY TILES

Maybe you should have thought of that before you tore the desk apart.

PHIL BRICKLEY

It's not my fault, I was just doing what Robert said.

SHERRY TILES

So you finally remembered his name?

PHIL BRICKLEY

Whose name?

SHERRY TILES

(sigh) Tune in again tomorrow for the latest news, weather and sports. Only on the Nightly News at Nine with Phil and Sherry.

PHIL BRICKLEY

Bringing you the stories that matter to us.