 Dargaud presents

*Gaul was divided
into three parts*

No, four parts
for one small
village of
indomitable
Gauls still held
out against the
Roman invaders...

Asterix

THE GAUL



by
GOSCINNY
and
UDERZO

ASTERIX THE GAUL

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE



HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND TORONTO



The year is 50 B.C. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...

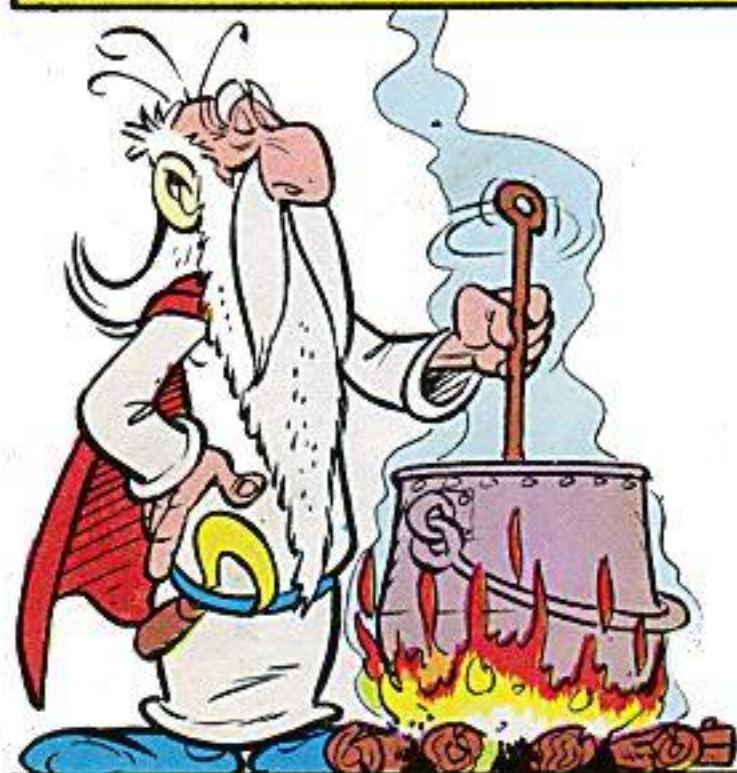


a few of the Gauls

Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...

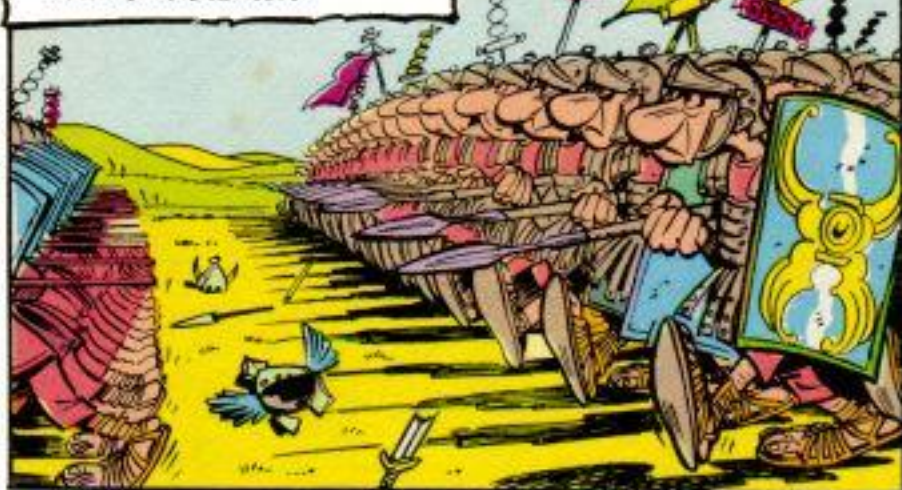


Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...



Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

IN THE YEAR 50 BC,
AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE,
THE ANCIENT GAULS HAD
BEEN CONQUERED BY
THE ROMANS.....



CHIEFS LIKE
VERCINGETORIX HAD
TO LAY THEIR ARMS
AT CAESAR'S FEET....



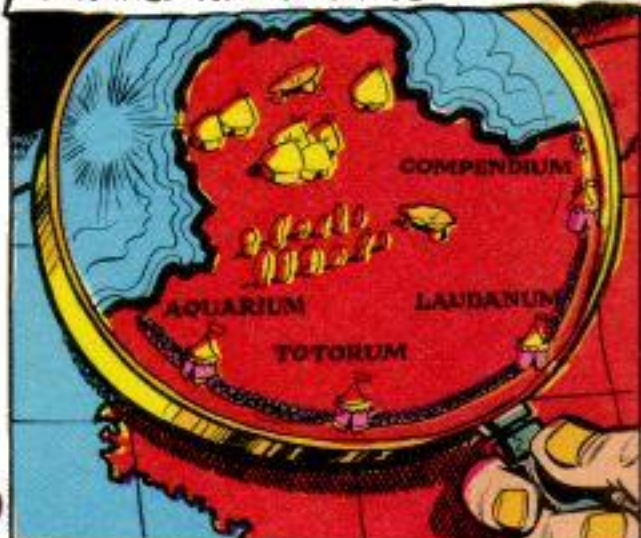
PEACE REIGNS, DISTURBED
ONLY BY OCCASIONAL
ATTACKS BY THE GERMAN,
SPEEDILY REPULSED....

So! But ve
konn back!

ALL GAUL
IS OCCUPIED....

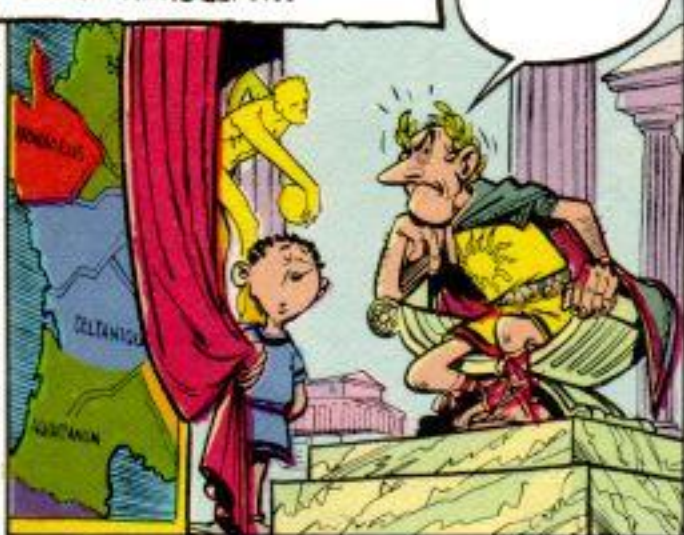
ALL ? NO-ONE VILLAGE STILL HOLDS OUT
STUBBORNLY AGAINST THE INVADERS.
ONE SMALL VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY
FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMPS....

Gut! Ve go!



ALL EFFORTS TO SUBDUCE
THESE PROUD GAULS HAVE
FAILED, AND CAESAR
ASKS HIMSELF....

QUID ?



AND NOW WE MEET OUR HERO,
THE WARRIOR ASTERIX,
JUST OFF HUNTING
AS USUAL

BACK SOON,
ASTERIX ?

I'LL BE BACK
FOR DINNER,
OBELIX



HERE HE
COMES!

WE'LL GET
HIM

IPSO FACTO!

SIC!

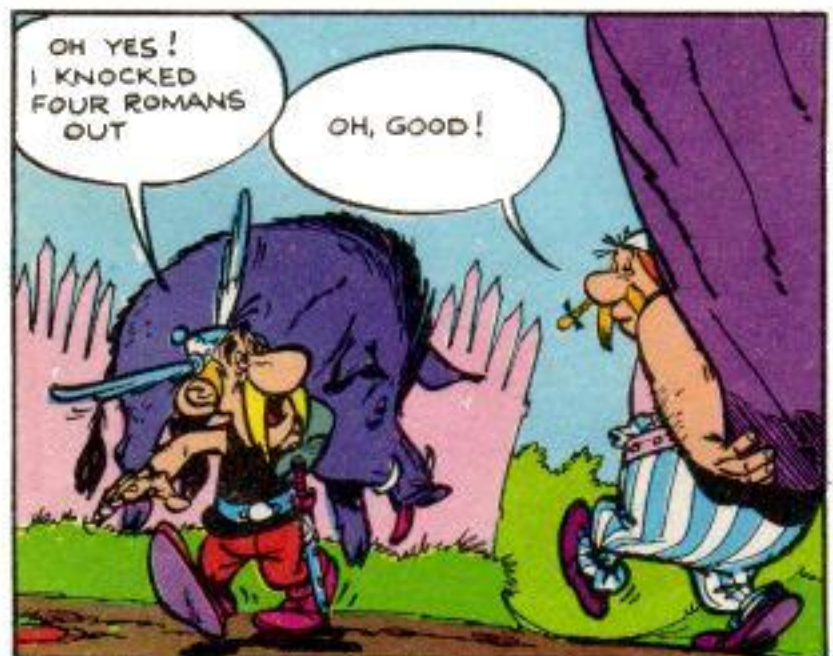
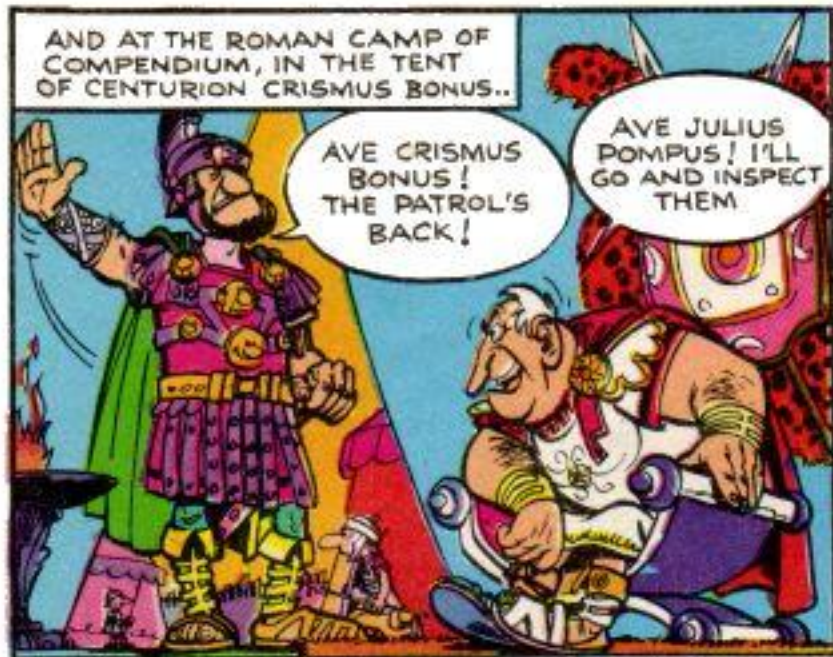


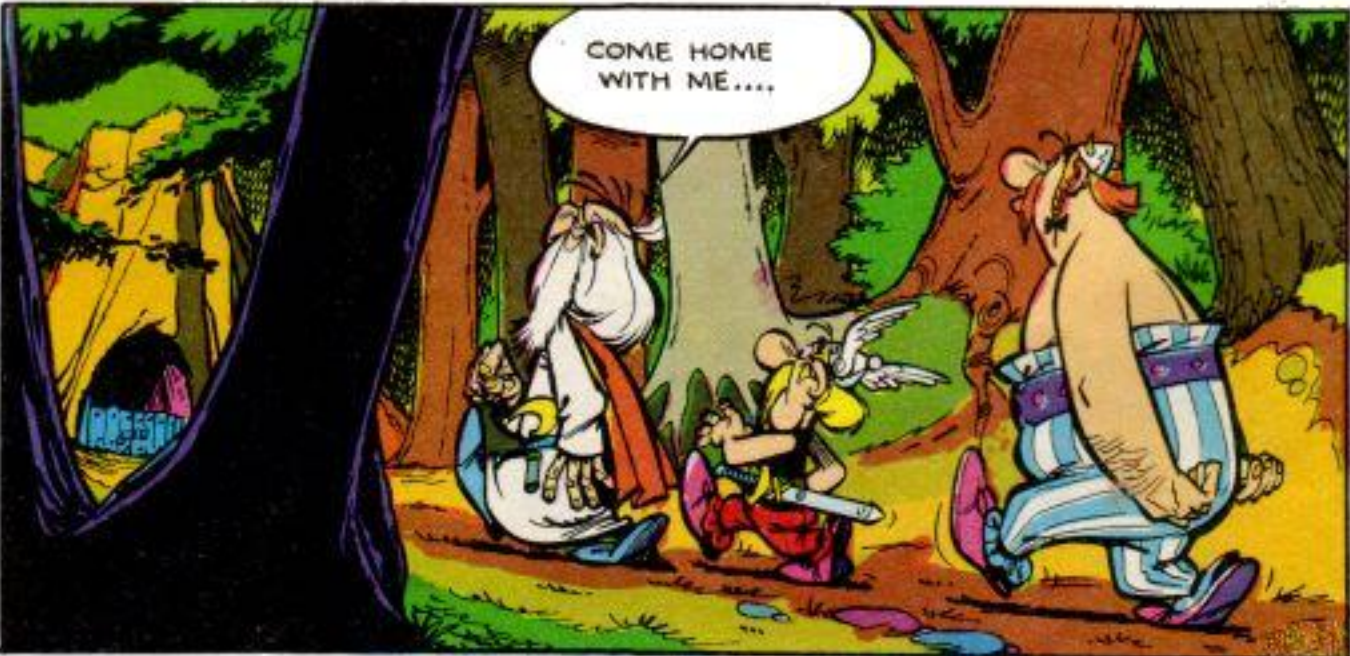
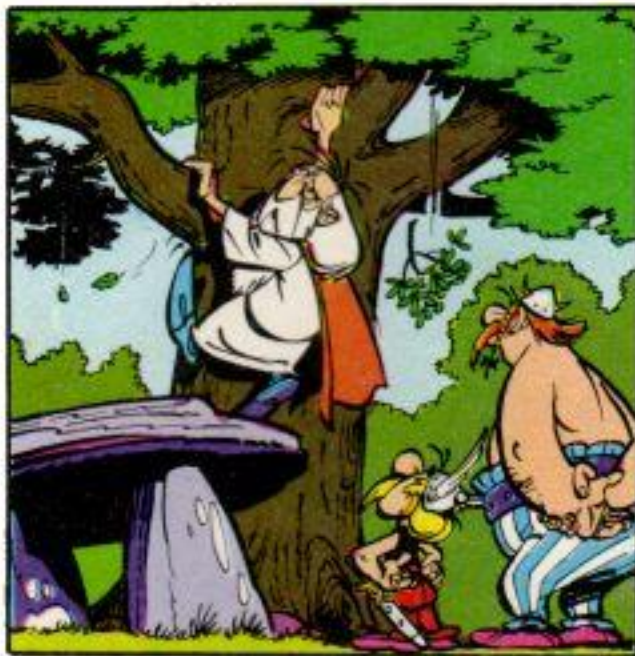
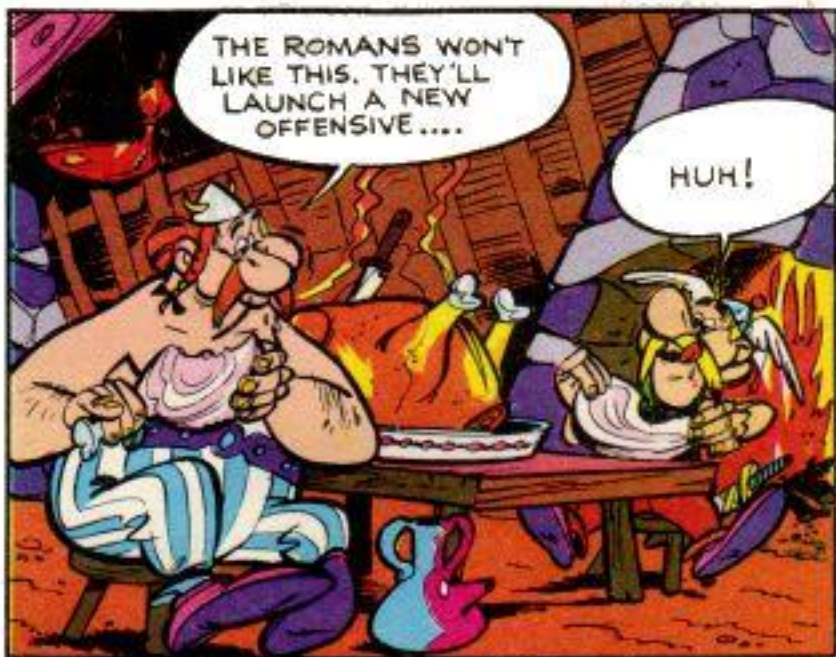
ACCIDENCE
WILL HAPPEN....

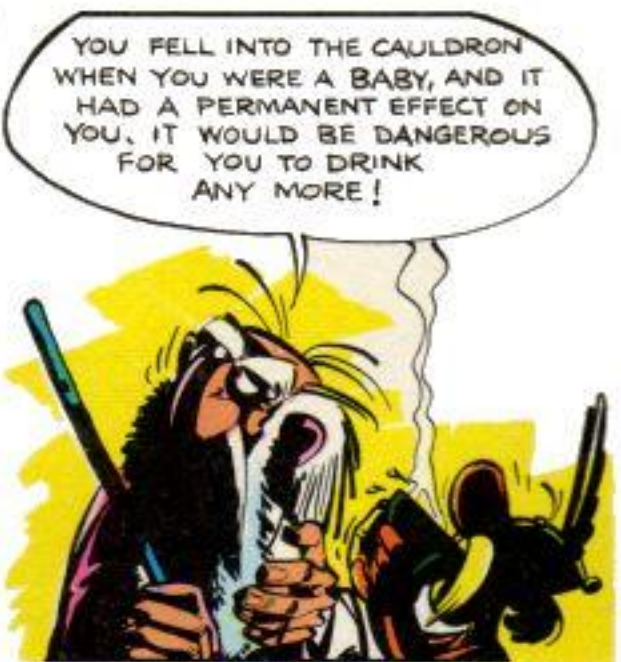
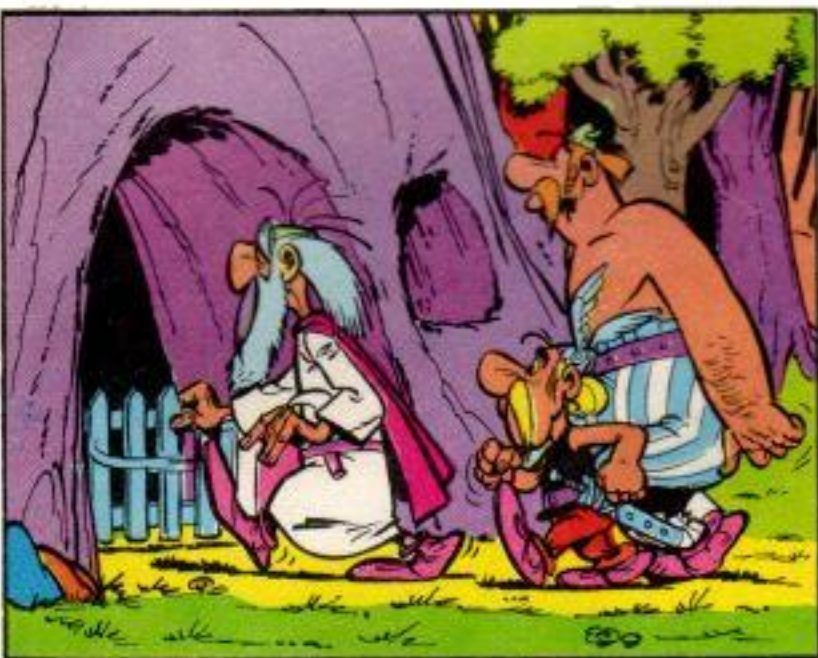
VAE VICTO
VAE VICTIS !

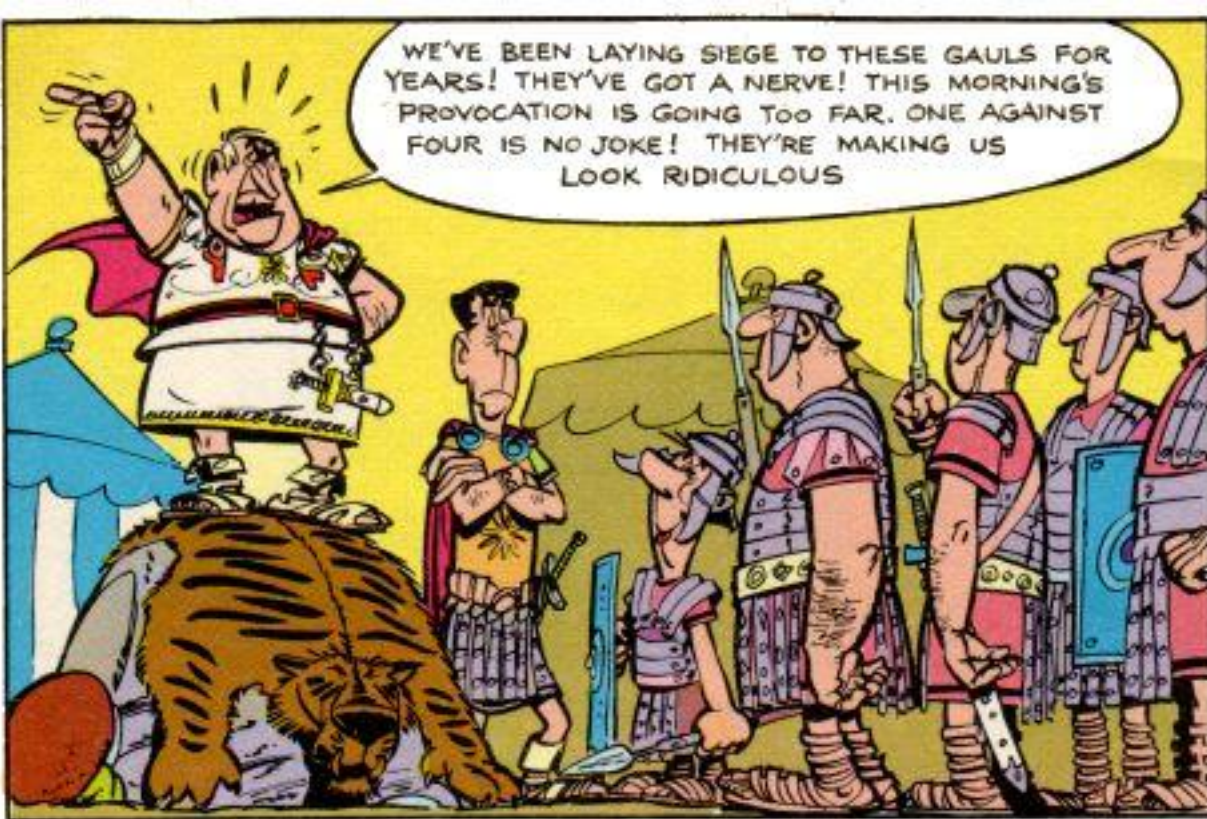
WE DECLINE !











WE'VE BEEN LAYING SIEGE TO THESE GAULS FOR YEARS! THEY'VE GOT A NERVE! THIS MORNING'S PROVOCATION IS GOING TOO FAR. ONE AGAINST FOUR IS NO JOKE! THEY'RE MAKING US LOOK RIDICULOUS



THERE'S SOME MYSTERY BEHIND THE STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS. WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET



YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCUS GINANTONICUS! WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET, AND FAST! CAESAR HAS INDICATED HIS DISPLEASURE ALL THE WAY FROM ROME. WE NEED A SPY IN THE GAULS' VILLAGE. I WANT A VOLUNTEER!



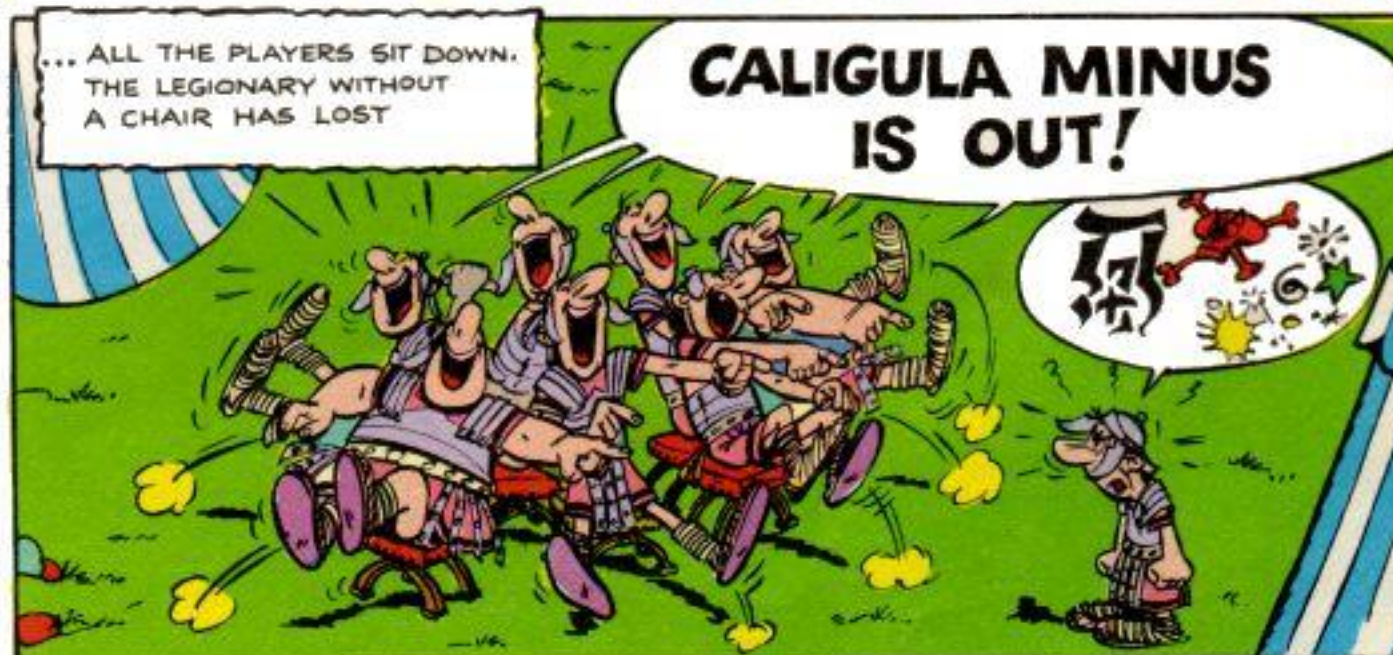
AS THERE ARE SO MANY VOLUNTEERS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS TO PICK THE SPY!



THIS ANCIENT ROMAN GAME IS PLAYED WITH ONE LESS CHAIR THAN THERE ARE LEGIONARIES.....

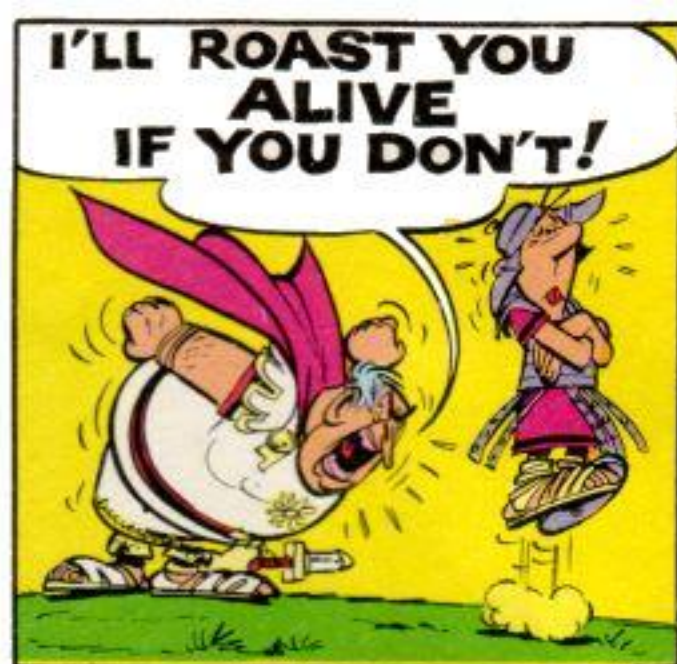
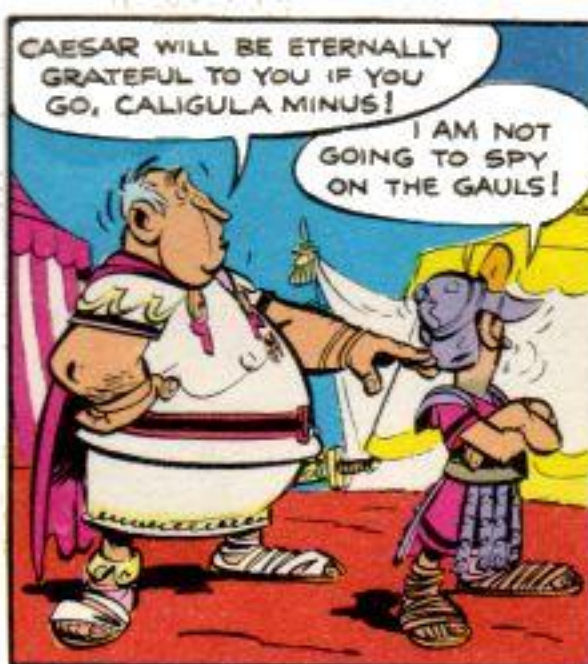


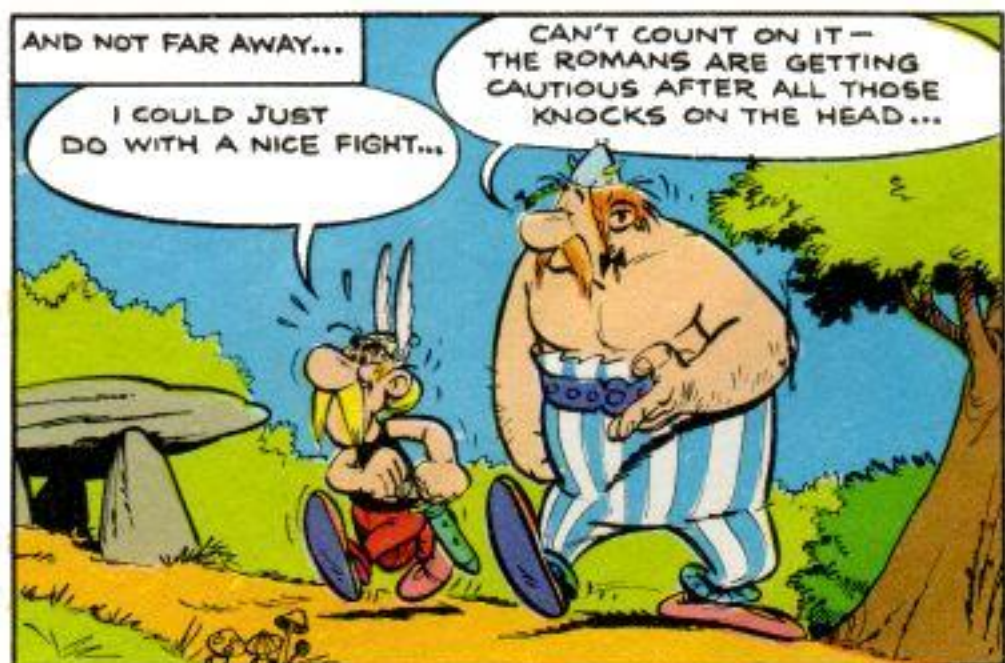
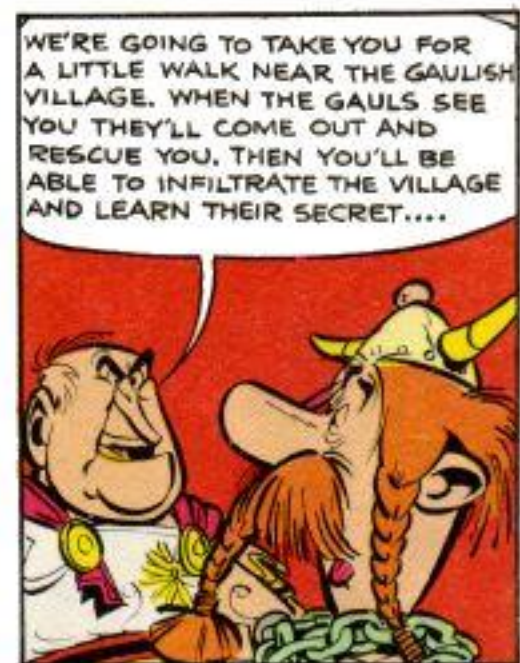
...WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS.....

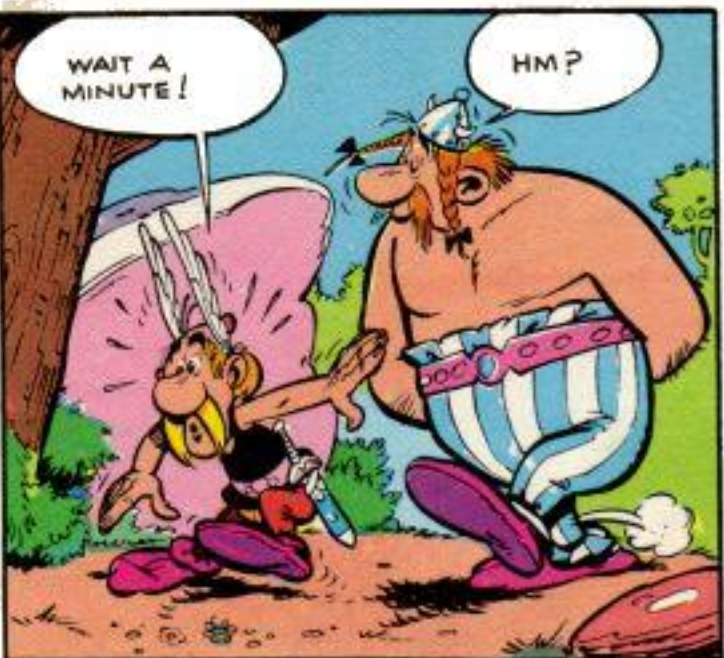


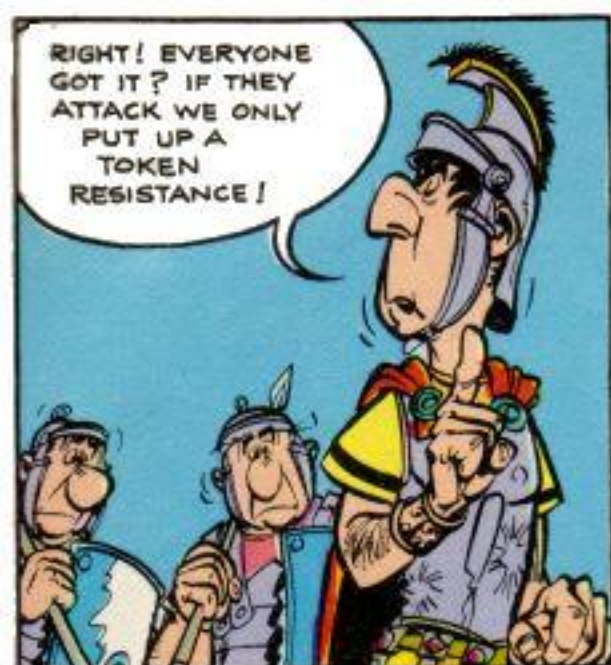
... ALL THE PLAYERS SIT DOWN. THE LEGIONARY WITHOUT A CHAIR HAS LOST

CALIGULA MINUS IS OUT!









RIGHT! EVERYONE GOT IT? IF THEY ATTACK WE ONLY PUT UP A TOKEN RESISTANCE!



HERE WE COME, BY TOUTATIS!

HERE THEY COME, BY JUPITER!



THEY'RE A BIT SOFT TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?

YES, THEY'RE OFF FORM. THEY SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES - EAT A WELL BALANCED DIET



THAT'S THE LOT...

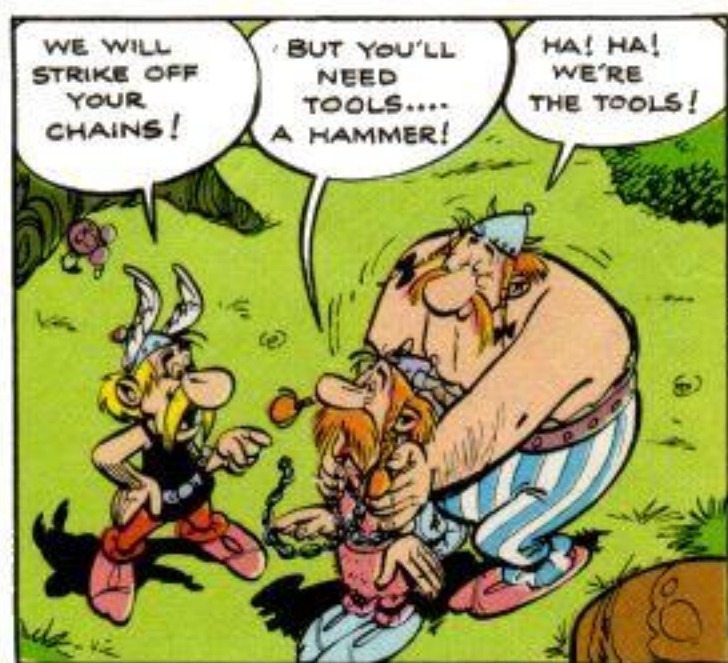
COULDN'T WE BRING THEM ROUND AND START AGAIN?



NO, COME ON! IT'S GETTING LATE



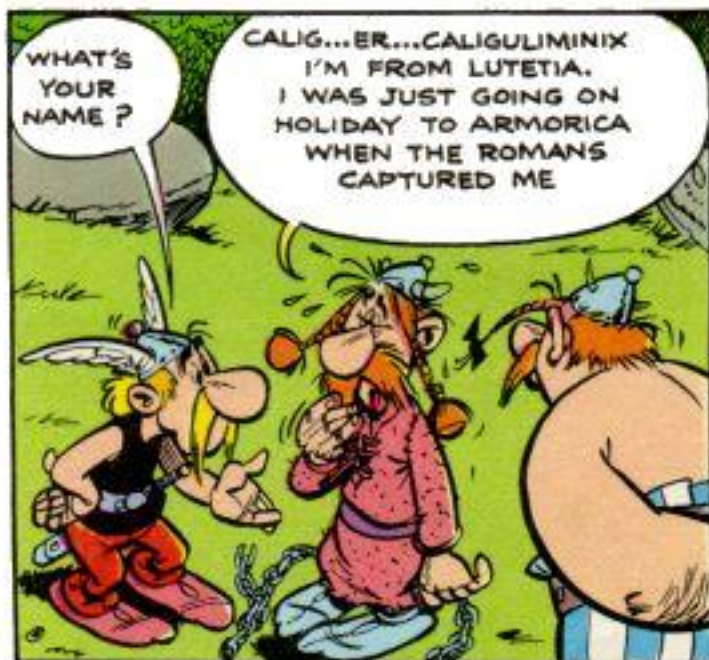
MI - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



WE WILL STRIKE OFF YOUR CHAINS!

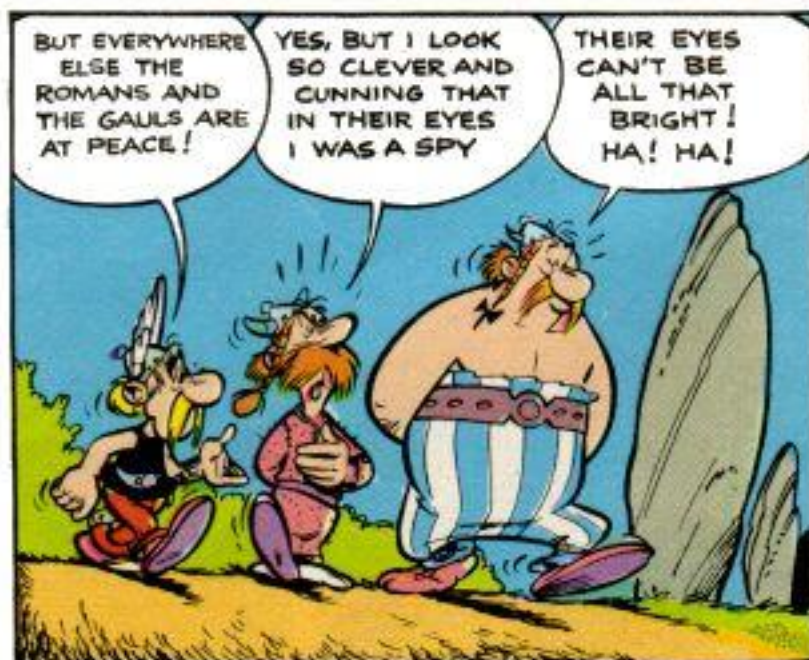
BUT YOU'LL NEED TOOLS... A HAMMER!

HA! HA! WE'RE THE TOOLS!



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

CALIG...ER...CALIGULIMINIX I'M FROM LUTETIA. I WAS JUST GOING ON HOLIDAY TO ARMORICA WHEN THE ROMANS CAPTURED ME

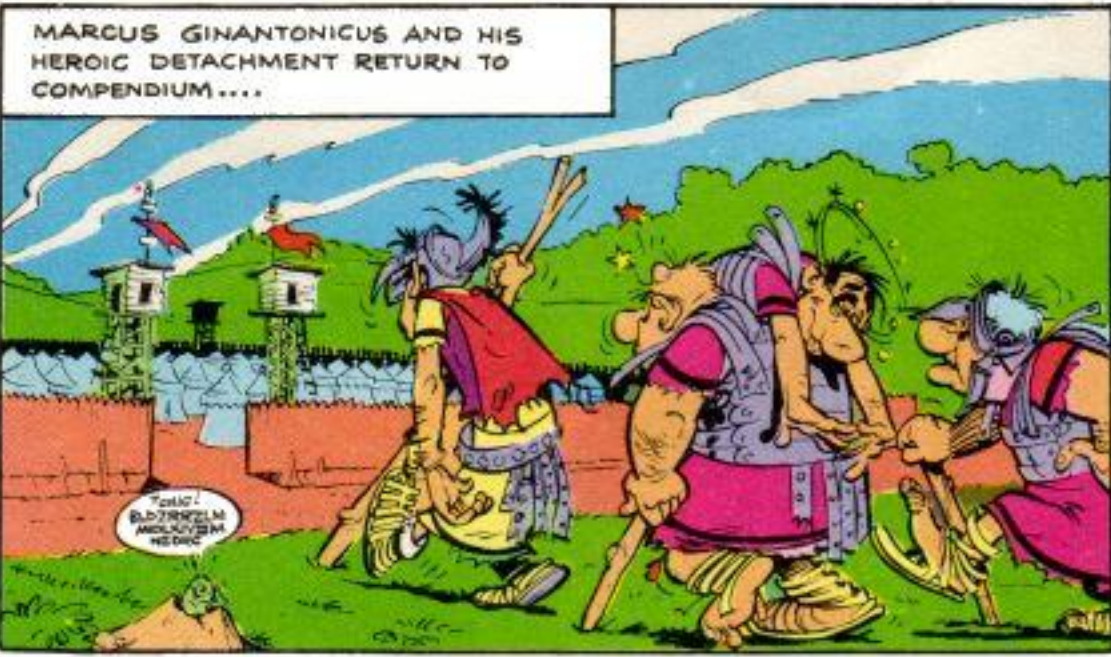


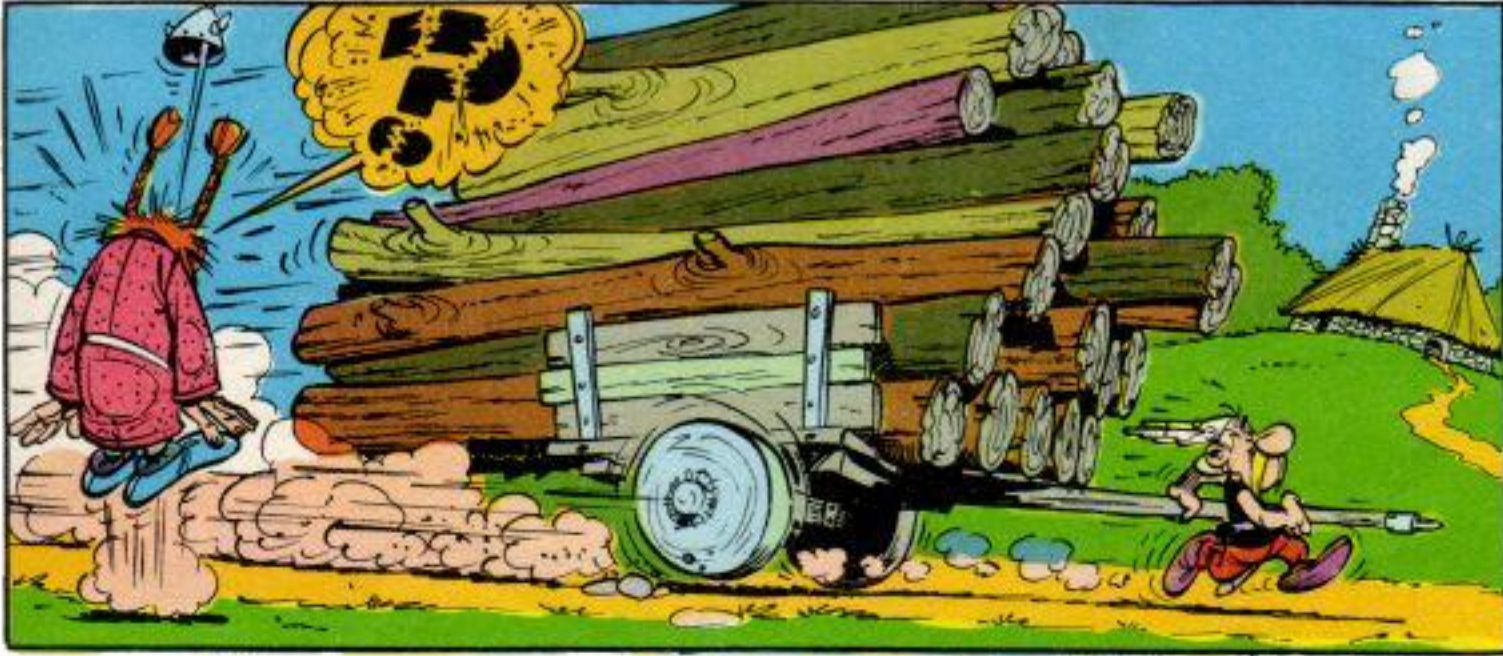
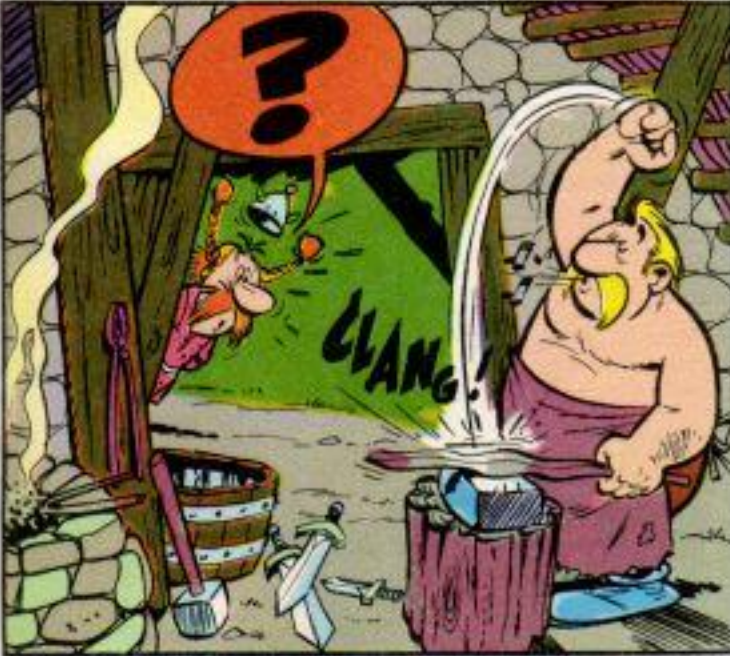
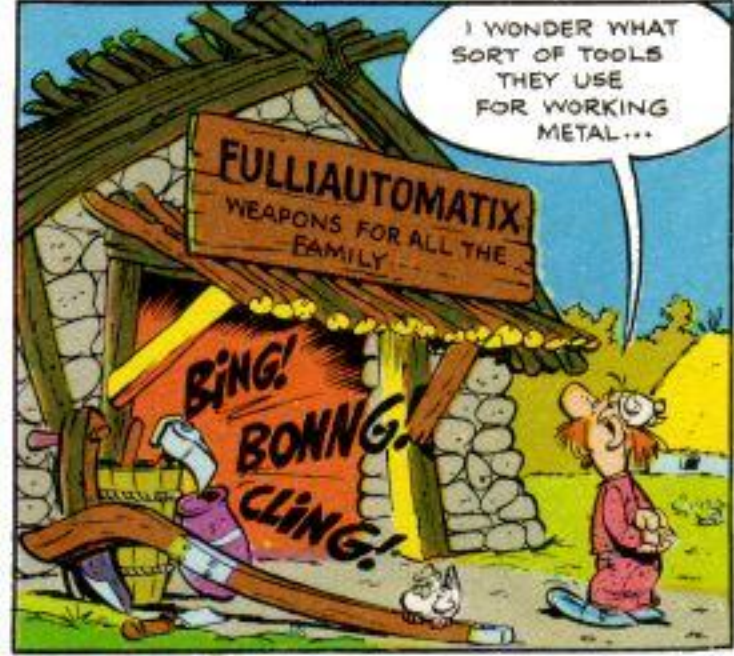
BUT EVERYWHERE ELSE THE ROMANS AND THE GAULS ARE AT PEACE!

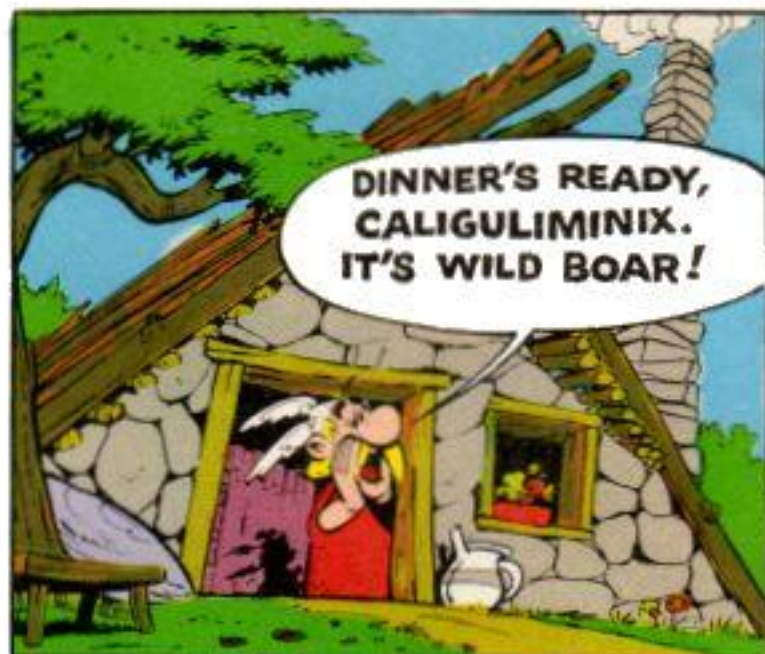
YES, BUT I LOOK SO CLEVER AND CUNNING THAT IN THEIR EYES I WAS A SPY

THEIR EYES CAN'T BE ALL THAT BRIGHT! HA! HA!

MARCUS GINANTONICUS AND HIS
HEROIC DETACHMENT RETURN TO
COMPENDIUM....







DINNER'S READY,
CALIGULIMINIX.
IT'S WILD BOAR!



IS THERE SOME SECRET BEHIND
YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH?

YUM! YUM!
YES BUT WE CAN'T
REVEAL IT!
SCRUNCH!

EAT UP YOUR BOAR,
IT'S GETTING COLD



WHY CAN'T YOU REVEAL
YOUR SECRET?

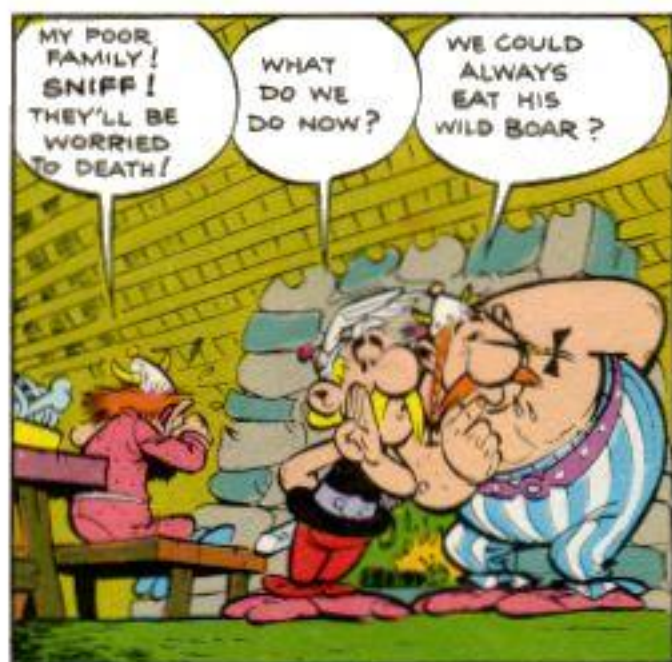
BECAUSE
IT'S A
SECRET!



THAT'S NOT FAIR!
WHAT ARE THINGS COMING
TO IF ONE GAUL CAN'T
TRUST ANOTHER?



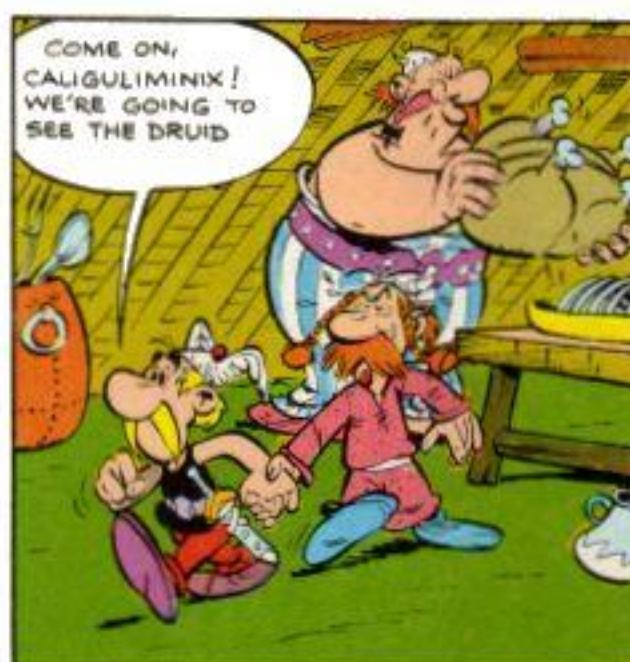
IF I WAS AS STRONG
AS YOU I COULD GET THROUGH
THE ROMAN LINES AND
GO HOME
TO LUTETIA!



MY POOR
FAMILY!
SNIFF!
THEY'LL BE
WORRIED
TO DEATH!

WHAT
DO WE
DO NOW?

WE COULD
ALWAYS
EAT HIS
WILD BOAR?



COME ON,
CALIGULIMINIX!
WE'RE GOING TO
SEE THE DRUID

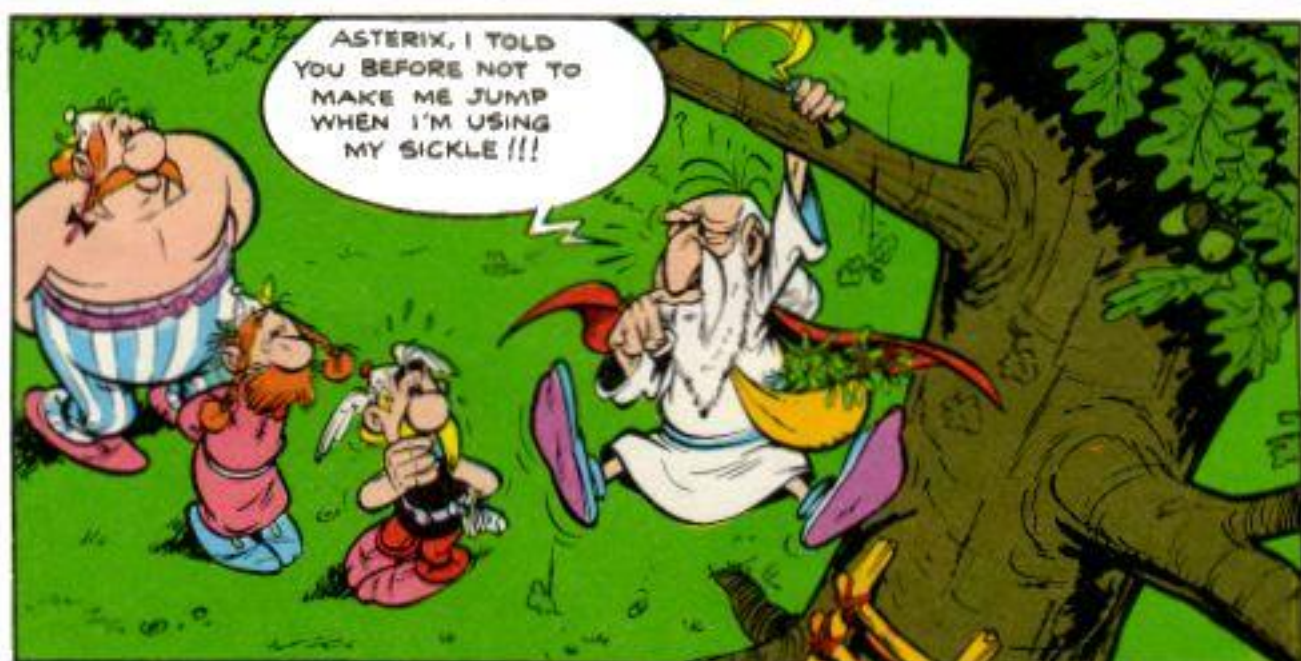


HE'LL BE UP AN
OAK TREE. IT'S THE
SIXTH DAY OF THE NEW
MOON, AND MISTLETOE
CUT THEN IS A
POWERFUL ANTIDOTE
TO POISON

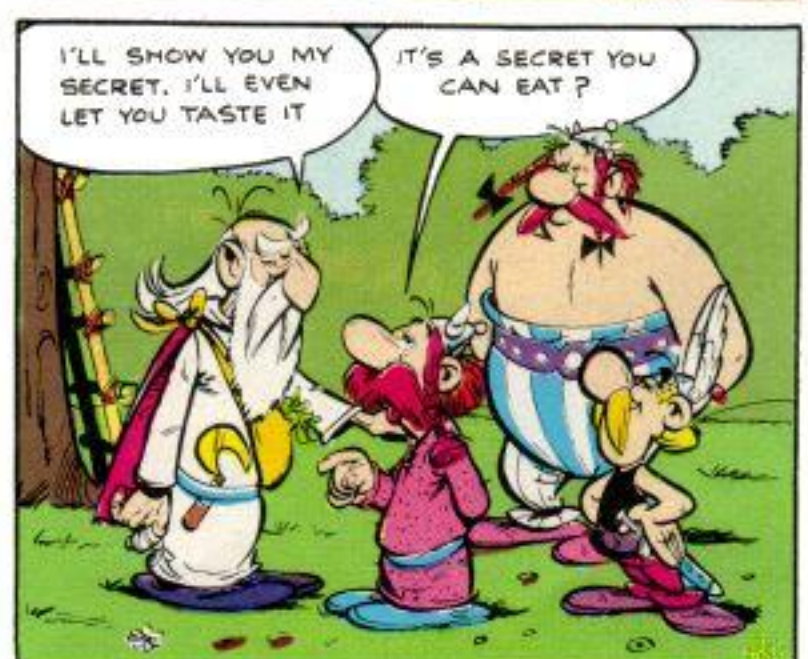
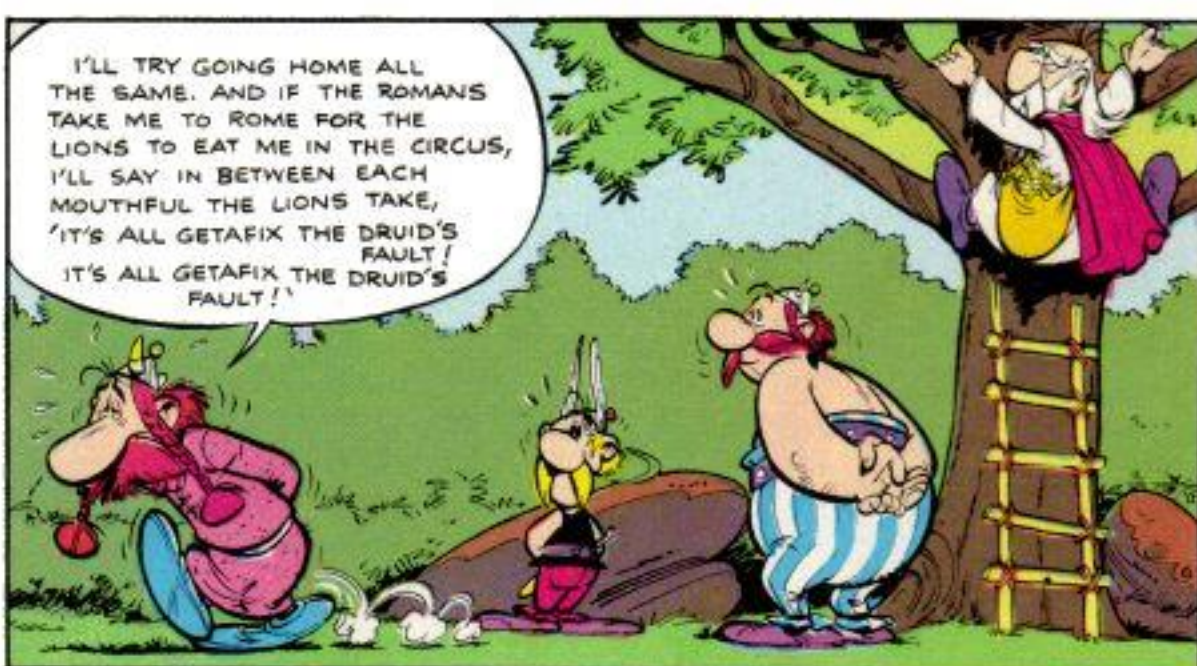
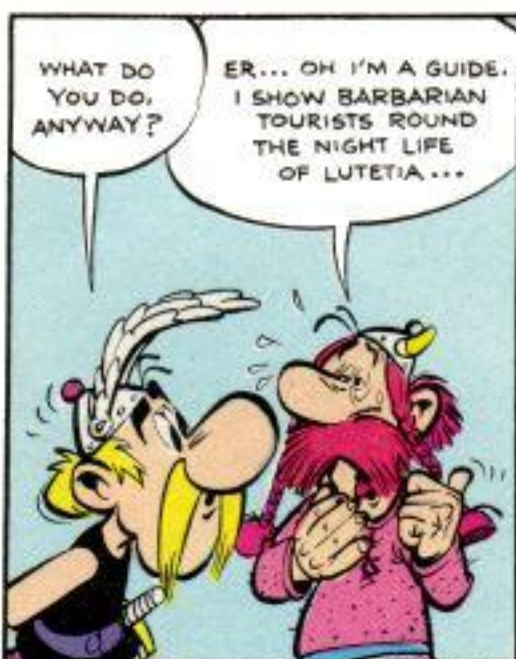
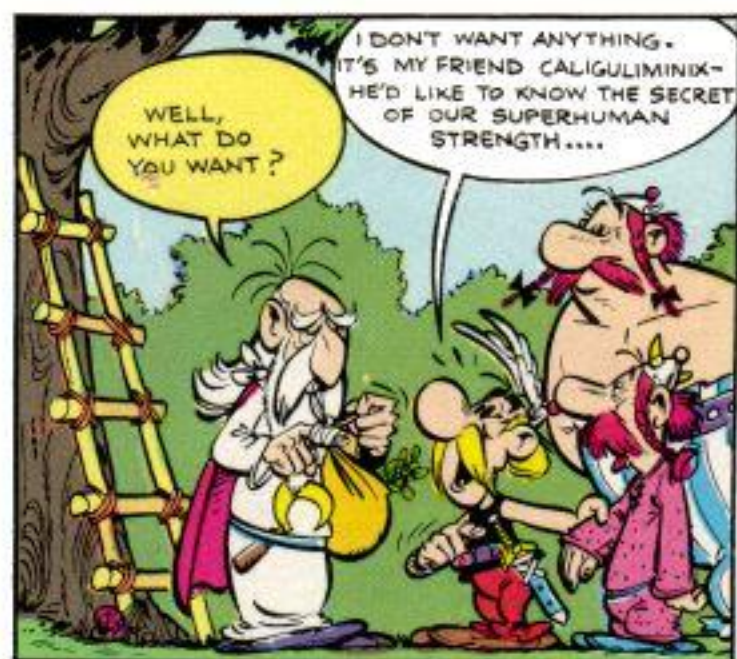


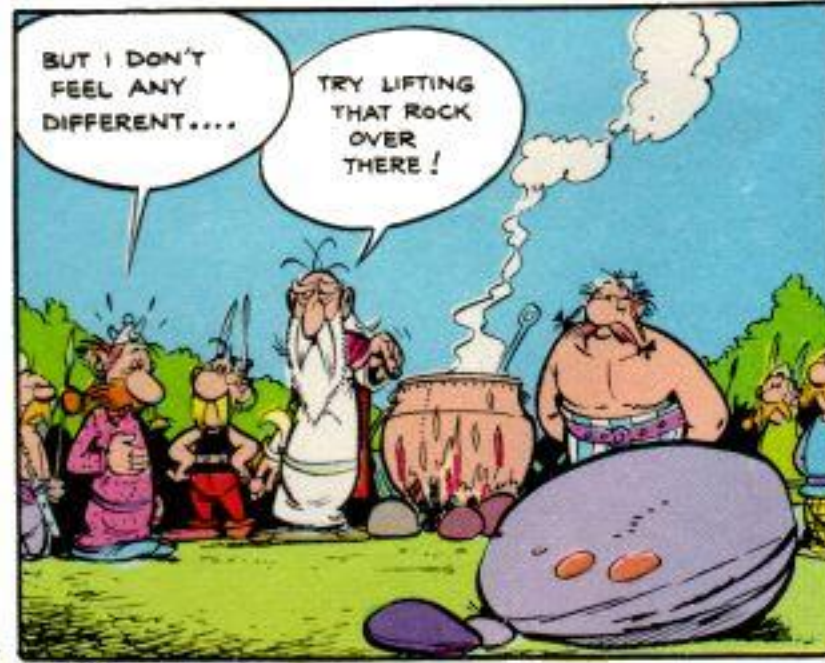
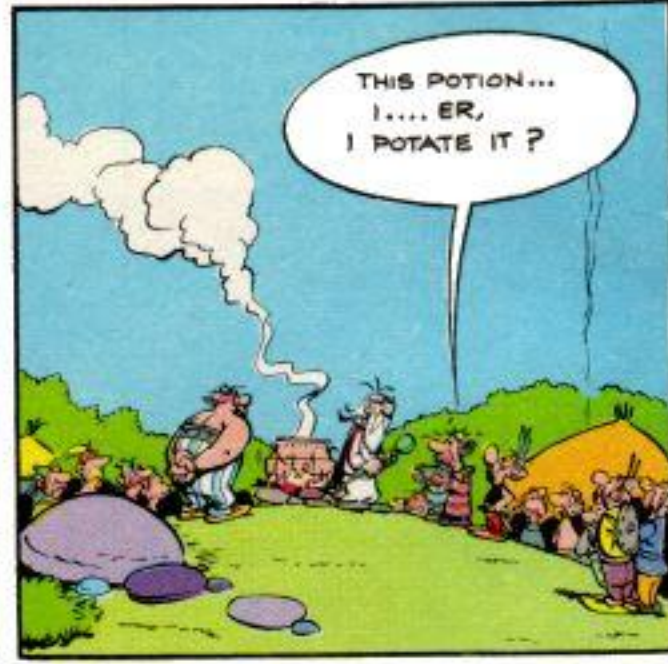
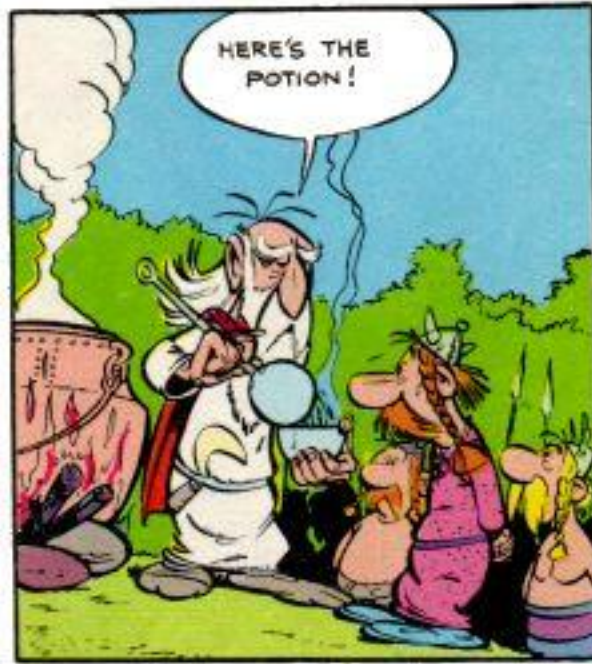
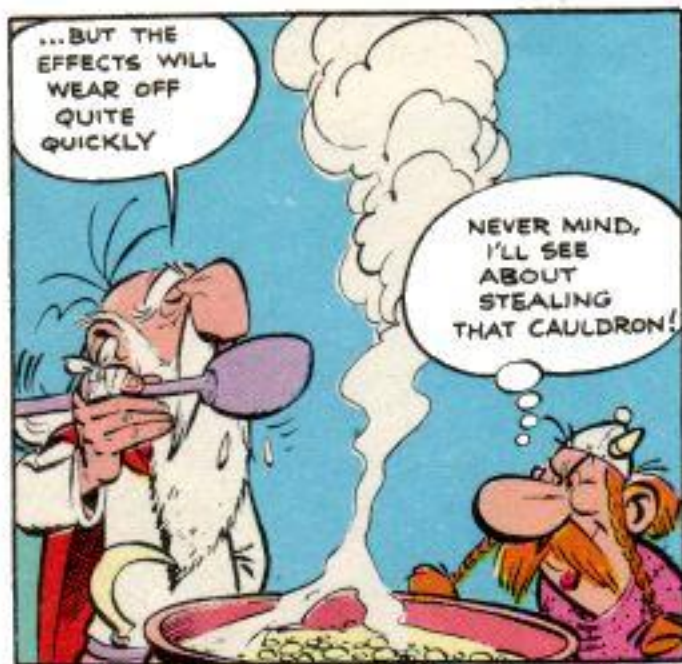
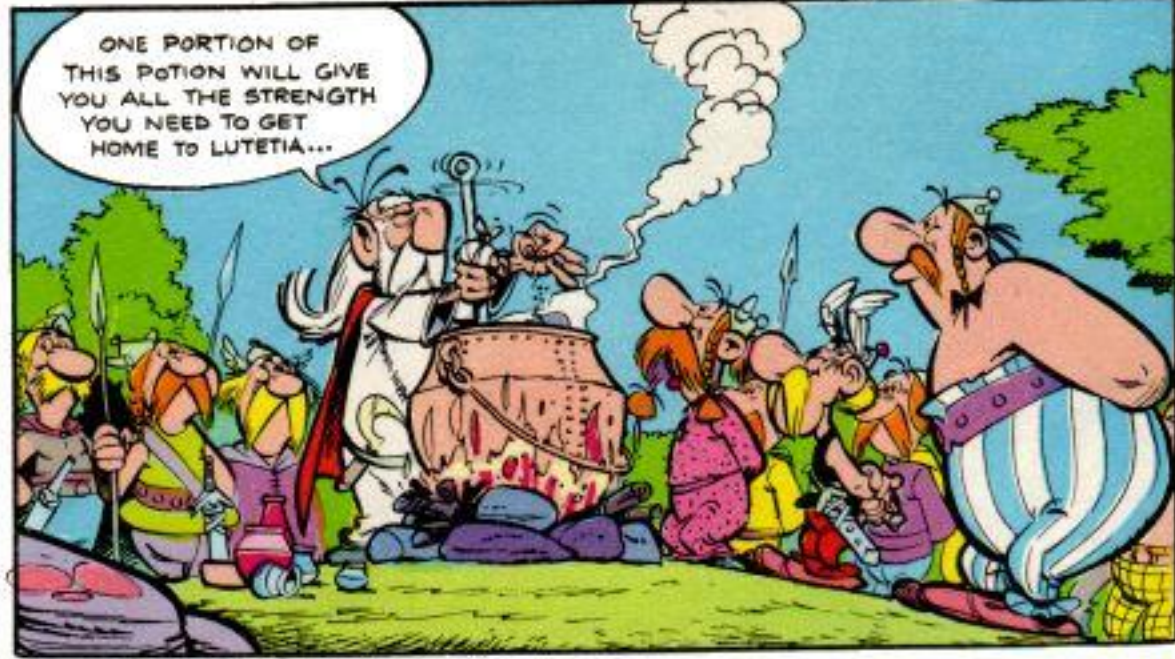
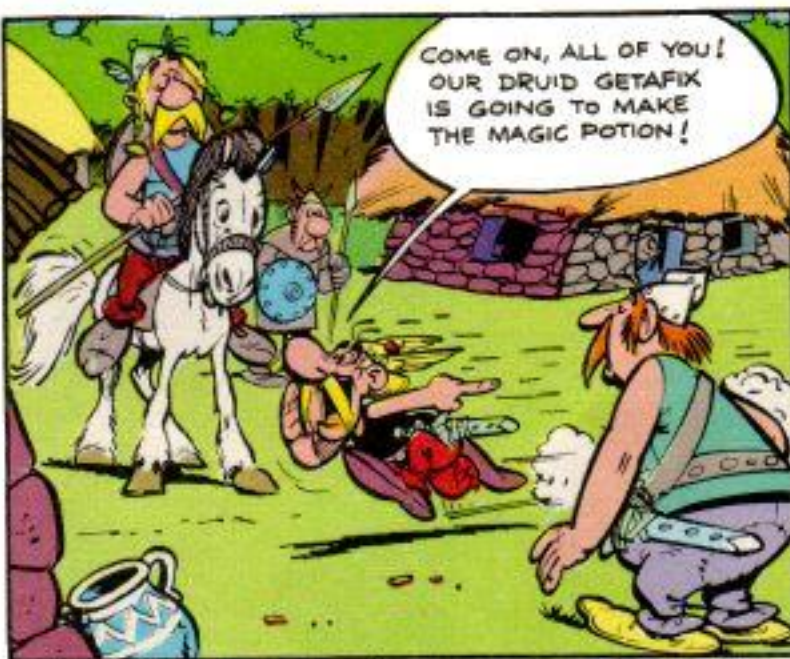
HI,
DRUID!

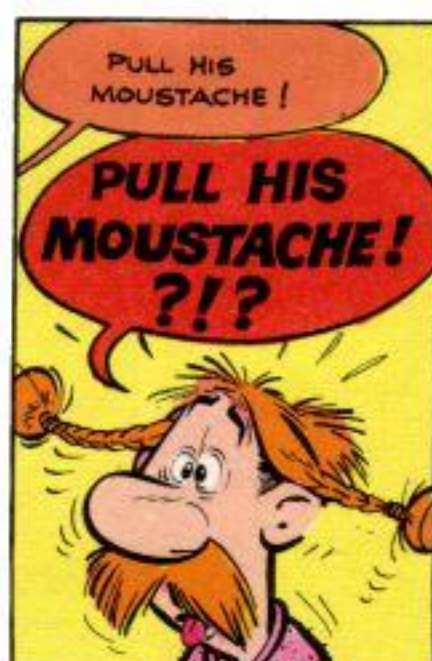
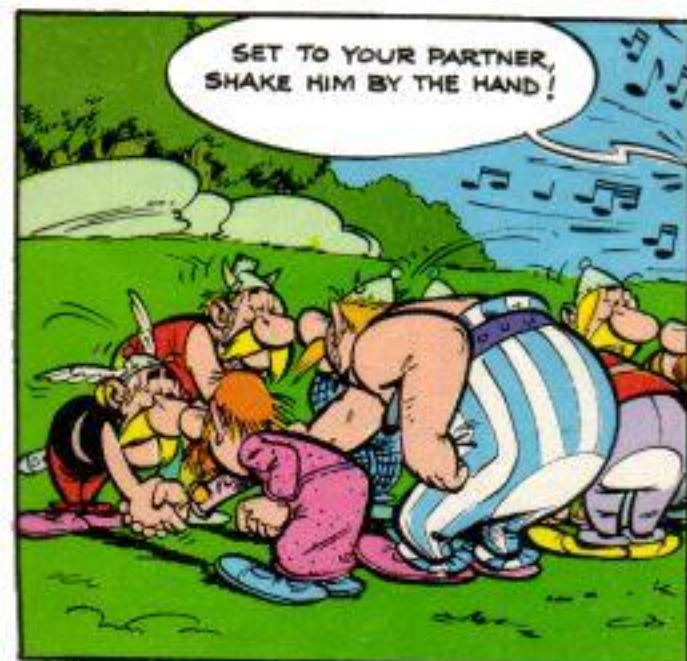
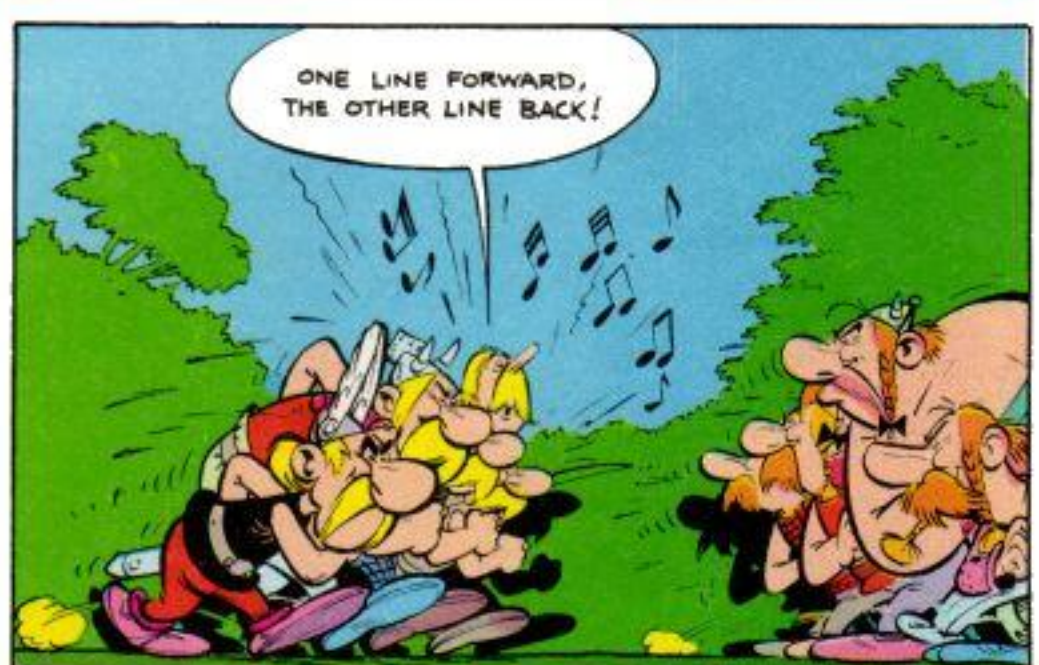
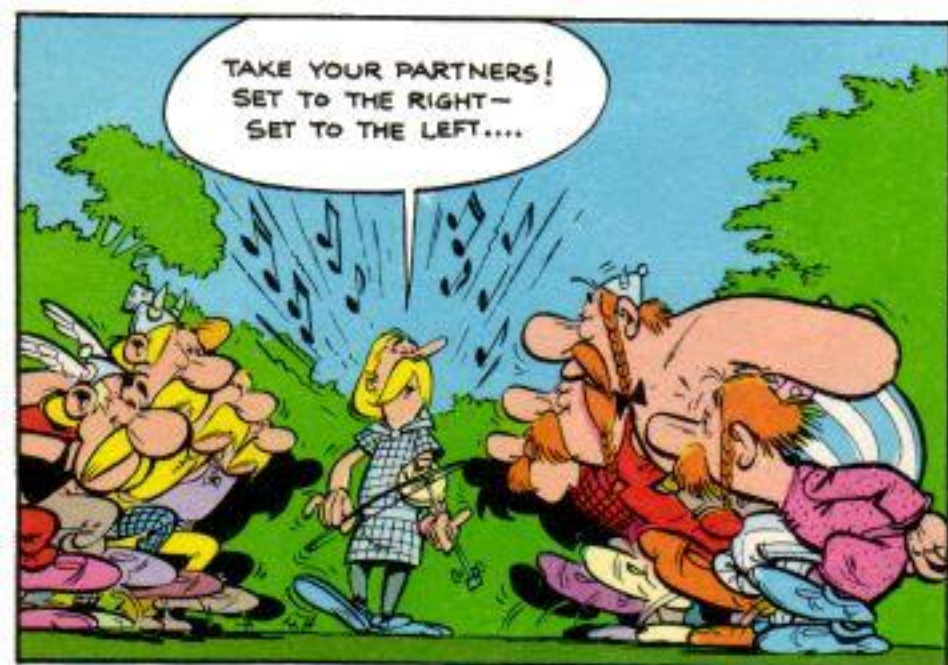
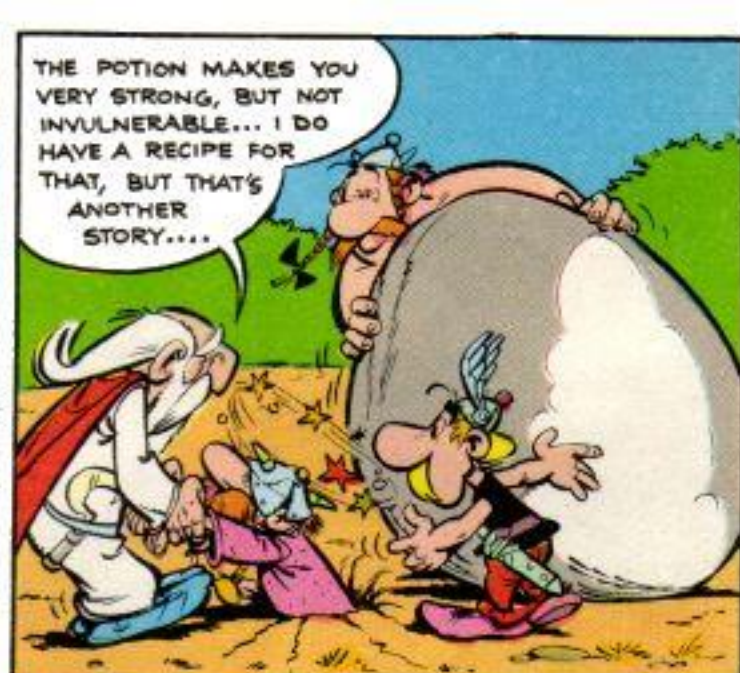
OUCH!

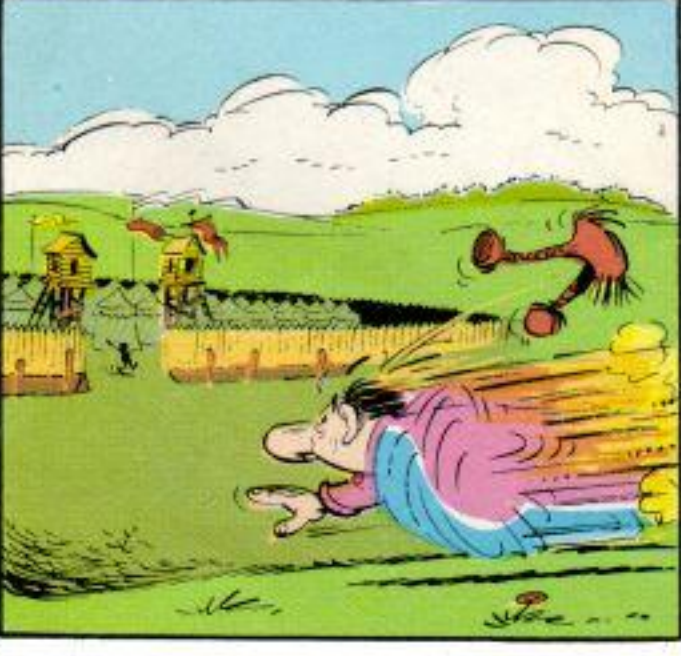
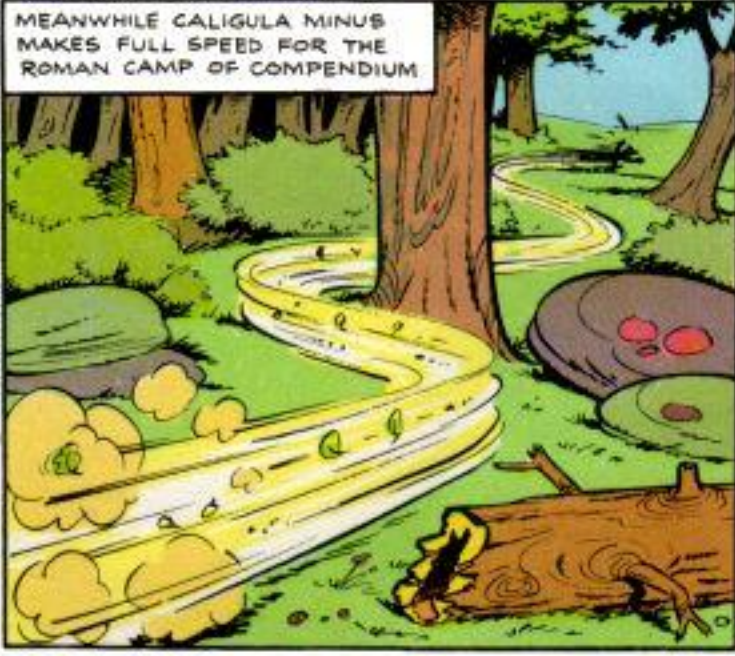
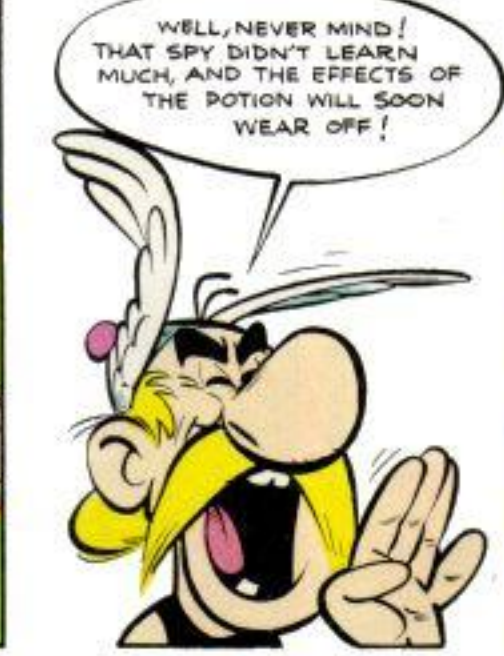
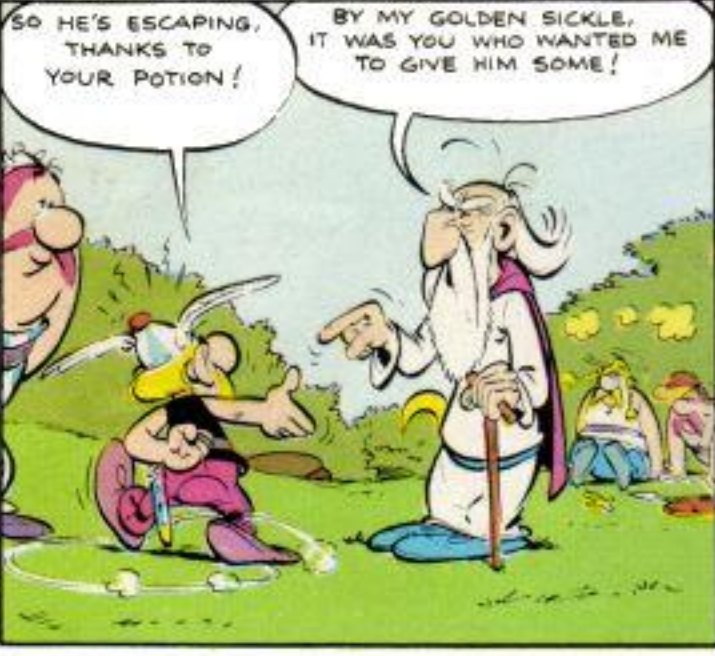
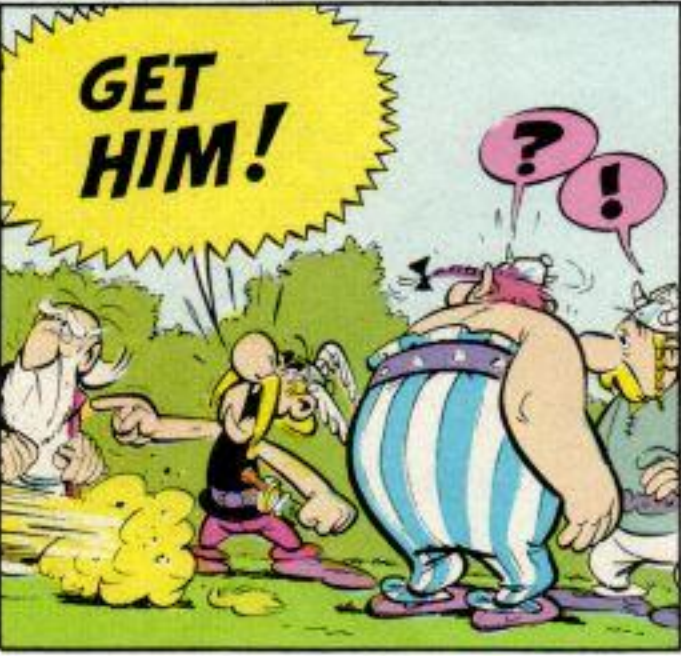
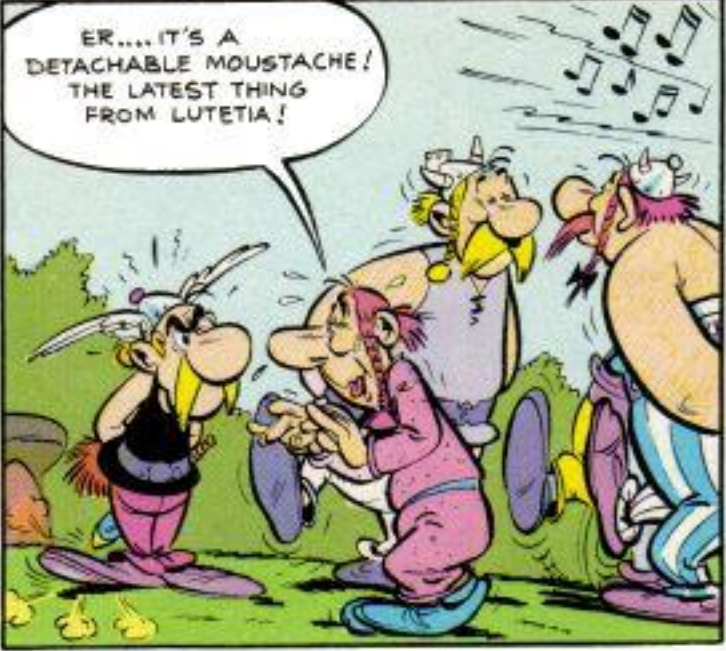
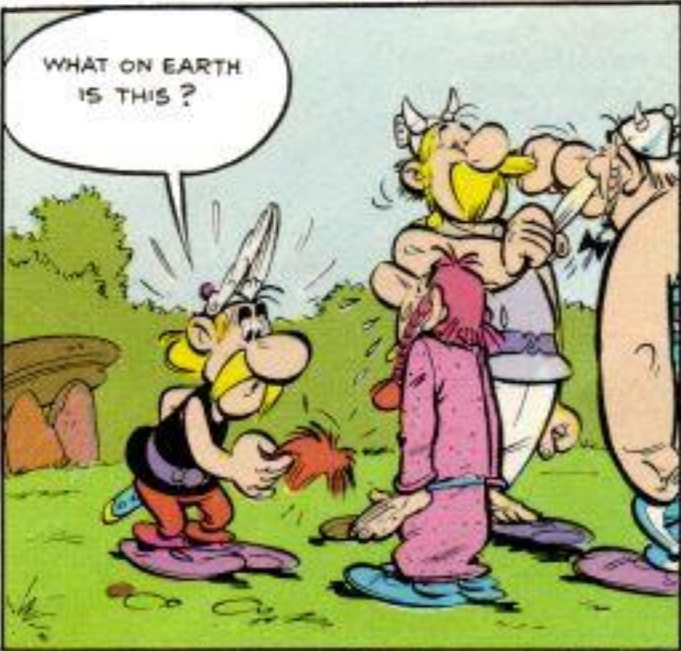


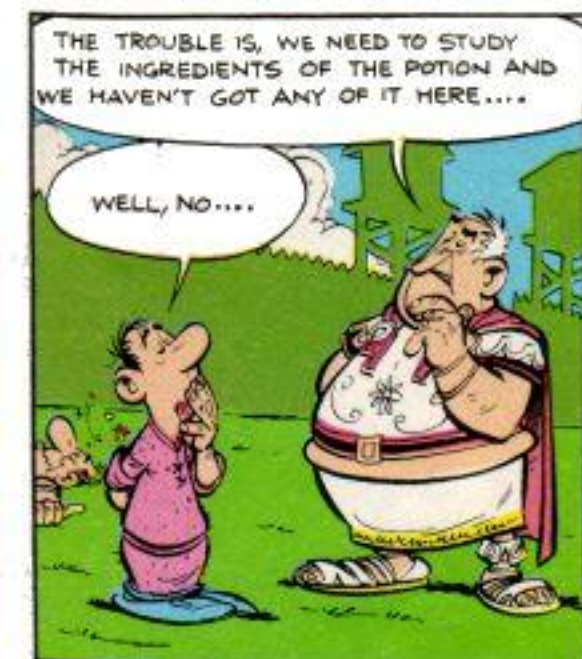
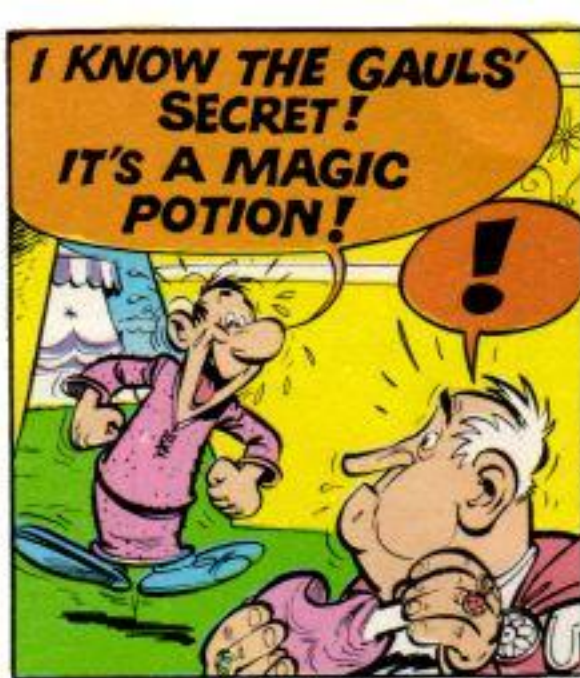
ASTERIX, I TOLD
YOU BEFORE NOT TO
MAKE ME JUMP
WHEN I'M USING
MY SICKLE!!!

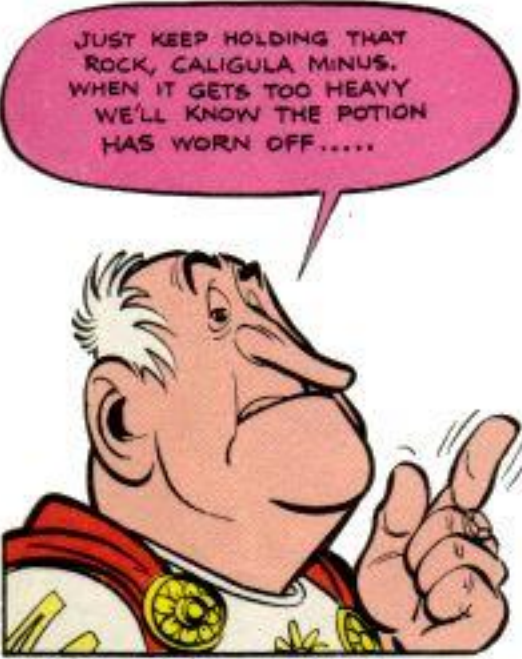












SOON AFTERWARDS
IN THE GAULISH
VILLAGE

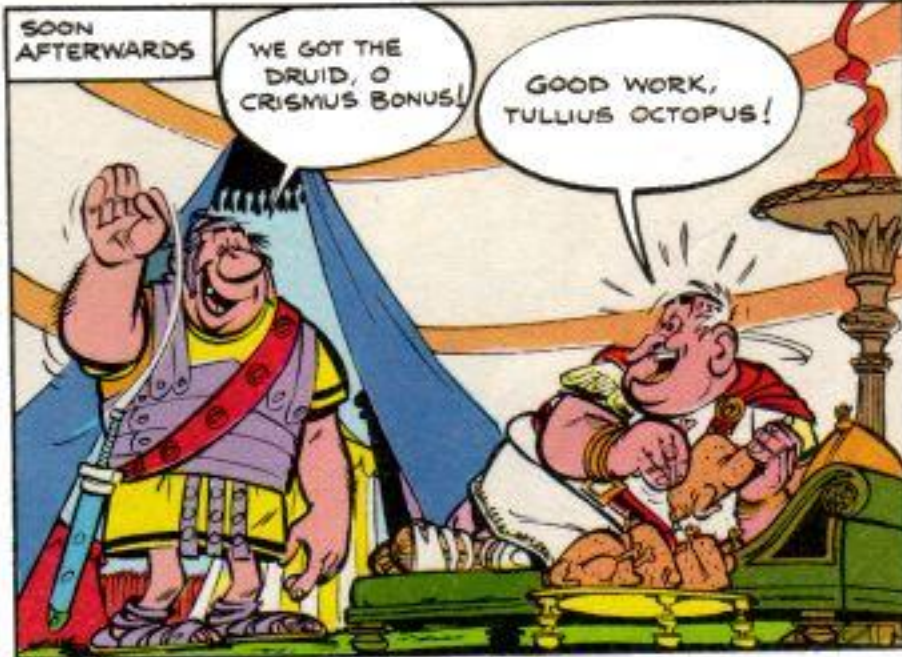
I'M JUST GOING TO PICK
SOME MISTLETOE IN THE
FOREST

WANT ME TO
COME WITH YOU,
DRUID?

NO, ASTERIX, YOU STAY HERE
TO GUARD THE VILLAGE. YOU
GET YOUR STRENGTH FROM
MY POTION, BUT YOUR
INTELLIGENCE AND CUNNING
ARE ALL YOUR OWN...

IT WOULD BE A
DISASTER FOR US TO
LOSE YOU! BESIDES,
I'LL BE BACK SOON

GOOD...





WE'LL TORTURE THE DRUID. THEN HE'LL TALK ALL RIGHT!



WELL, ARE YOU TALKING?

NO, YOU ARE!



MUCH LATER...

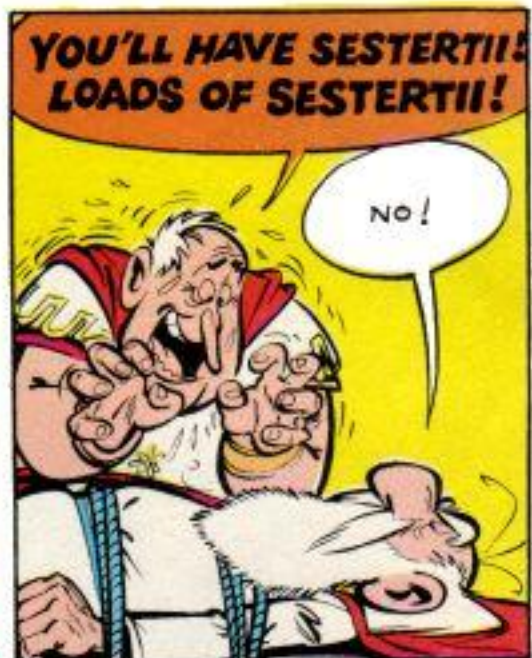
LOOK HERE, DRUID, THIS ISN'T FUNNY! WE'VE BEEN TORTURING YOU FOR HOURS, AND IT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO HURT, THIS WON'T HELP YOU!

OH YES, IT WILL; IT'LL HELP TO PASS THE TIME



DRUID, IF YOU TALK I CAN MAKE YOU RICH AND POWERFUL!

NO!



YOU'LL HAVE SESTERTII! LOADS OF SESTERTII!

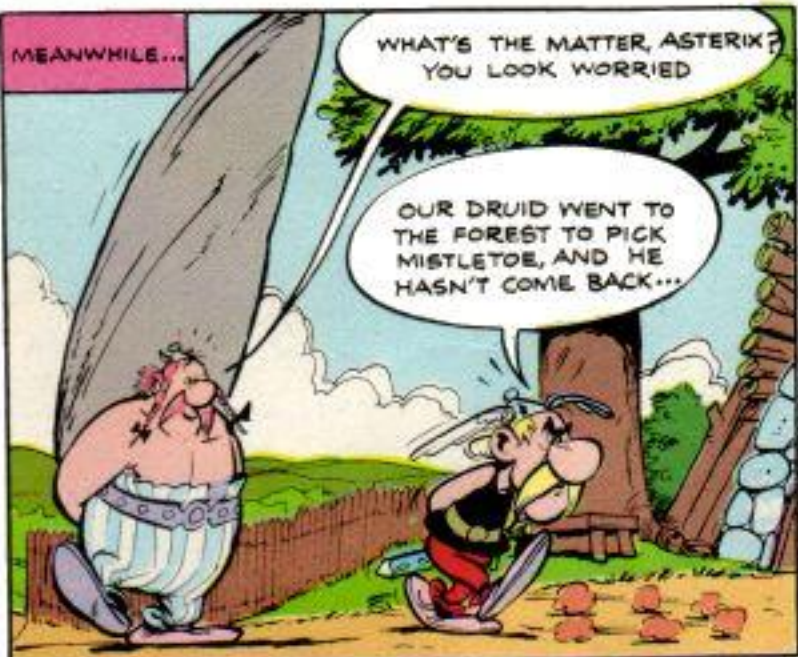
NO!



IS THIS TORTURE GOING ON MUCH LONGER? I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO!



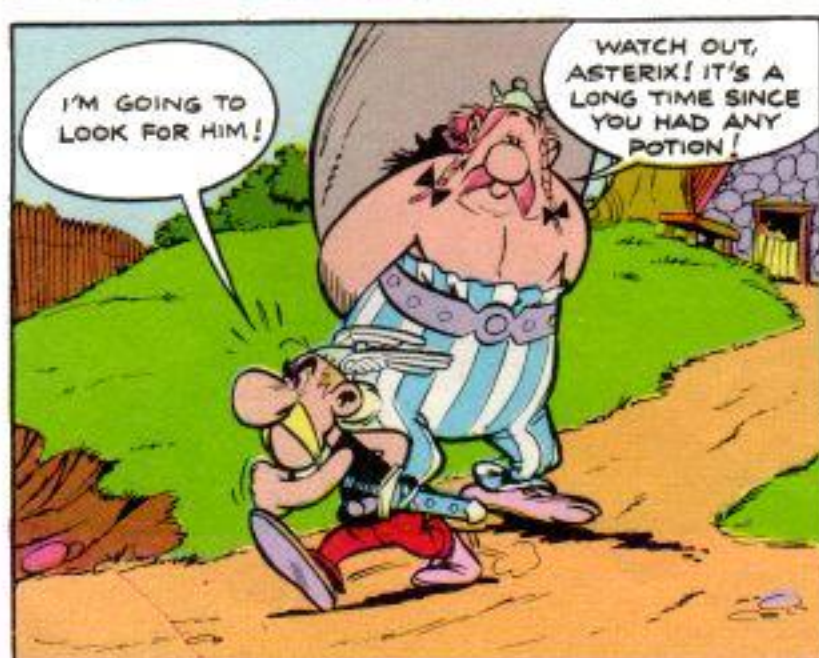
THIS DRUID'S MAGIC POWERS ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME - AND IS HE PIGHEADED!



MEANWHILE...

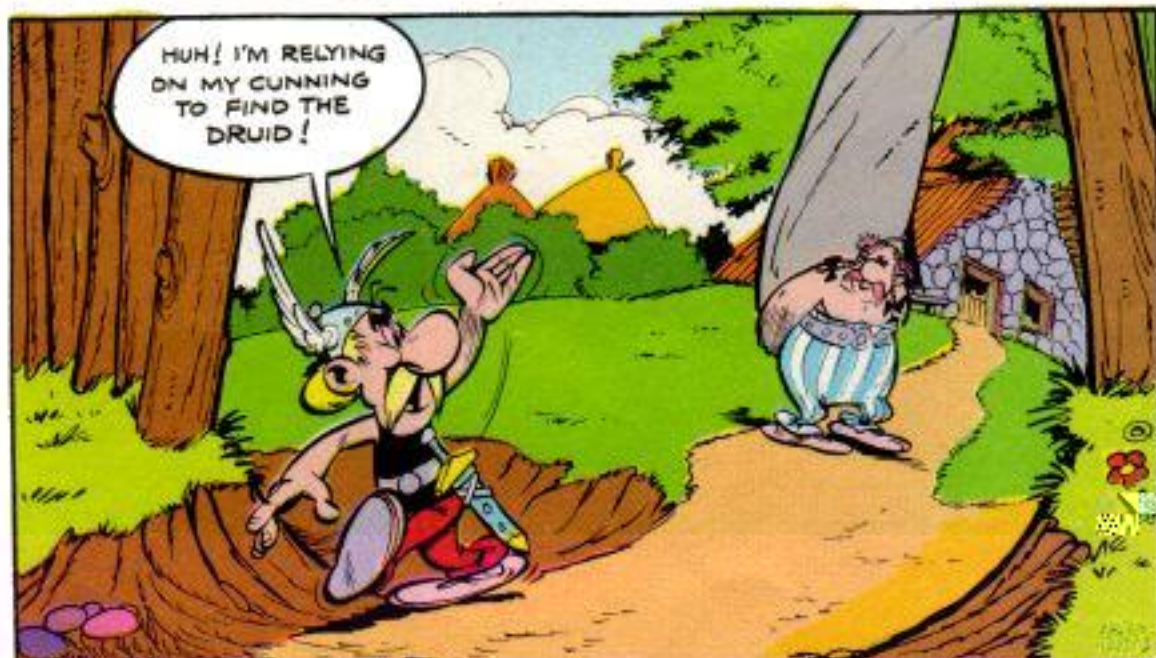
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ASTERIX? YOU LOOK WORRIED

OUR DRUID WENT TO THE FOREST TO PICK MISTLETOE, AND HE HASN'T COME BACK...

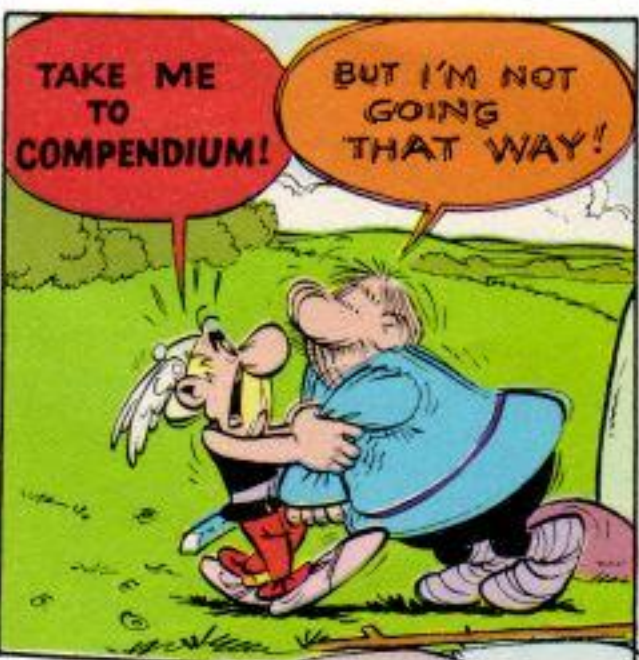
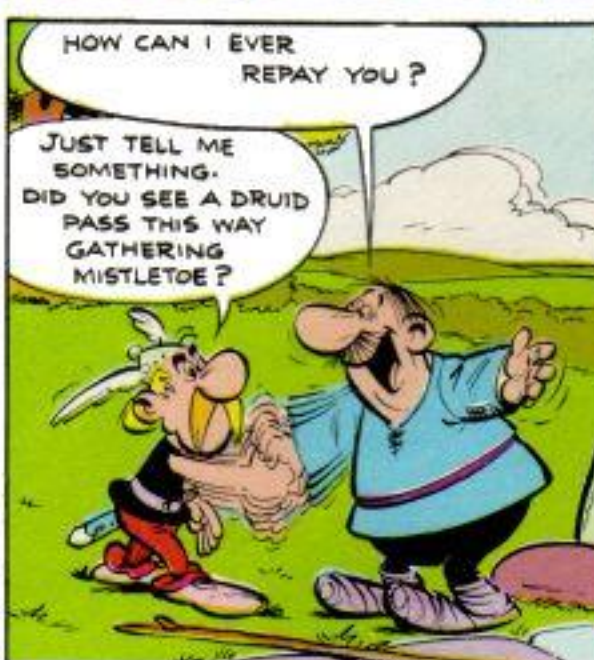
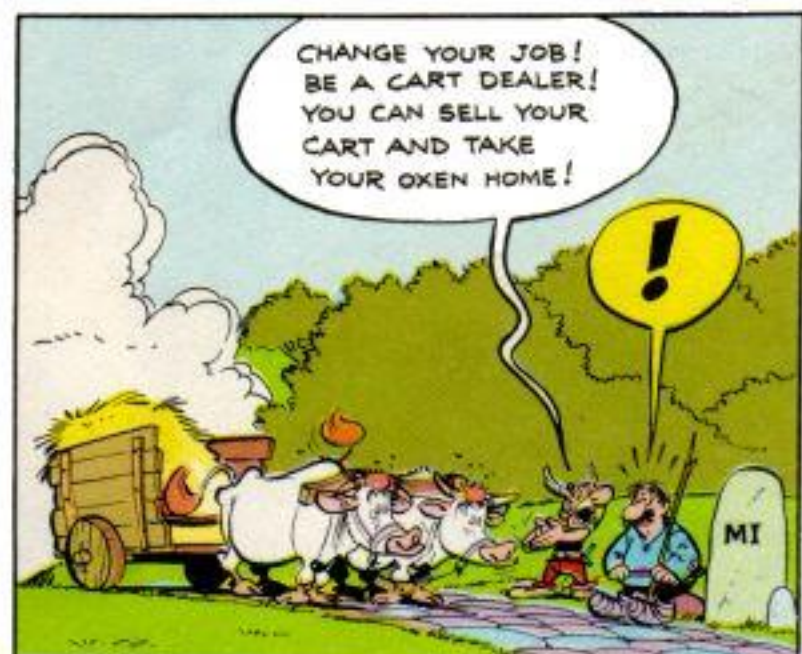
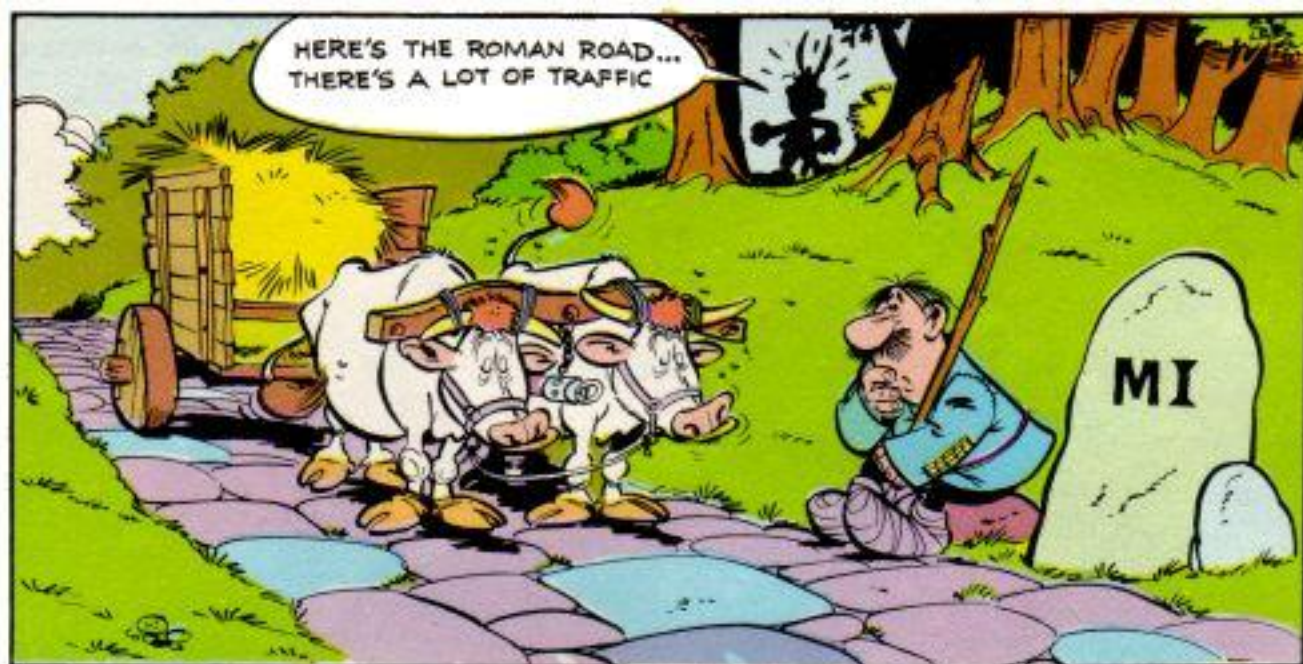
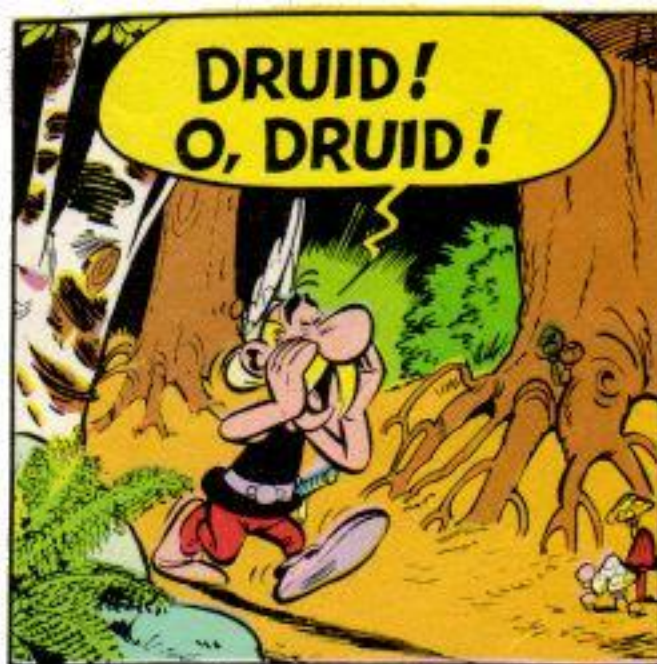


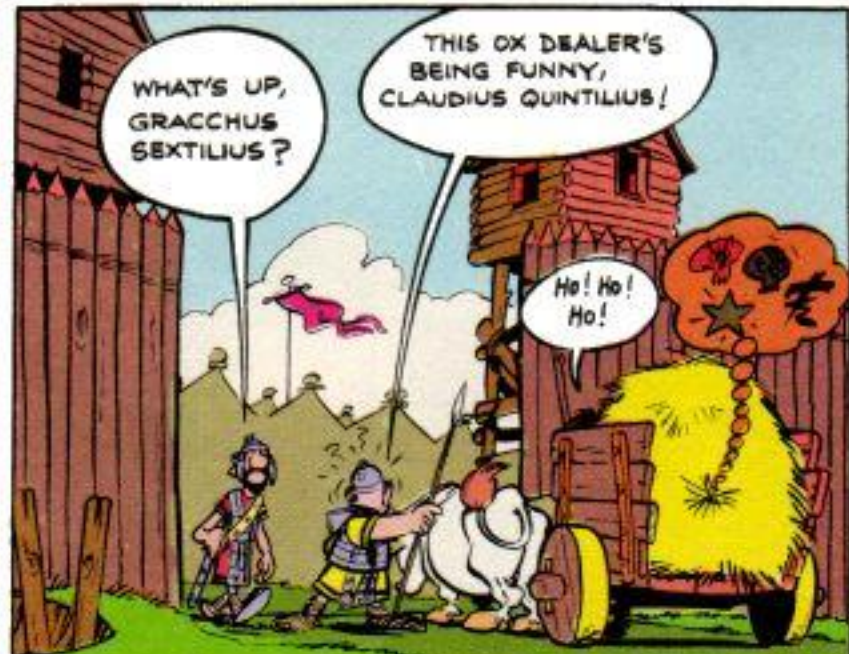
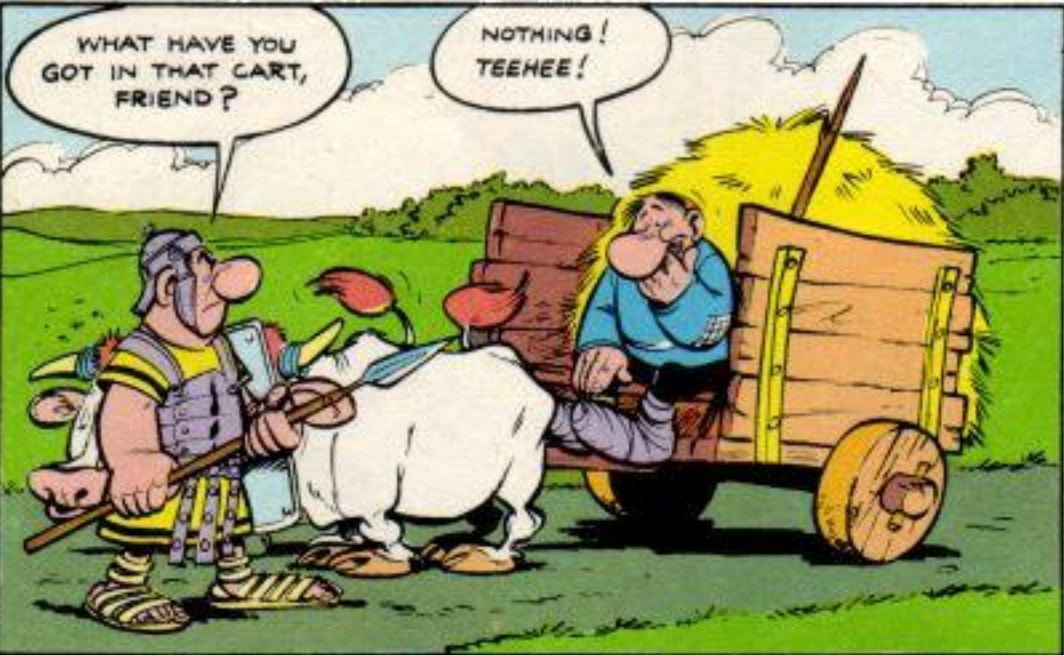
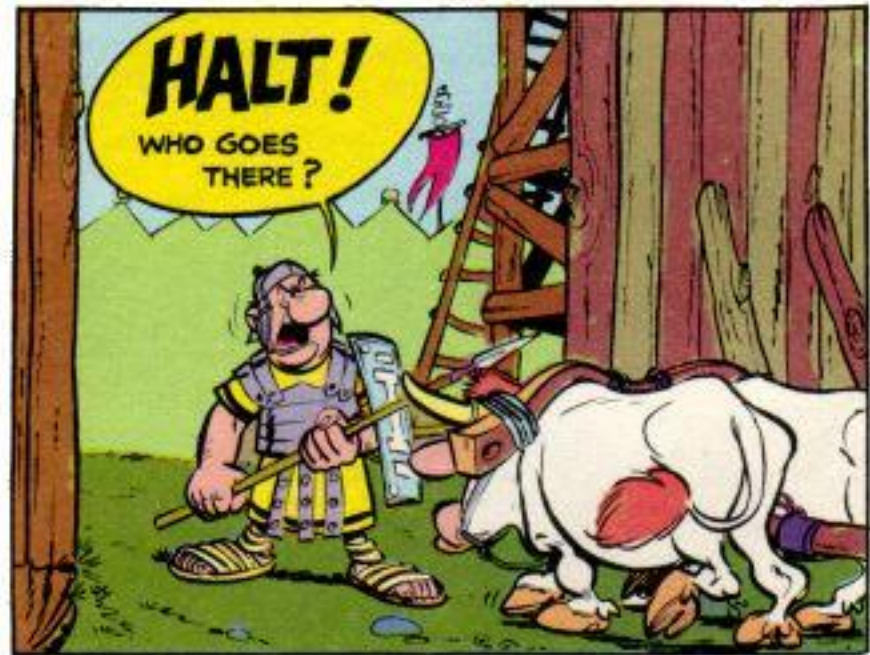
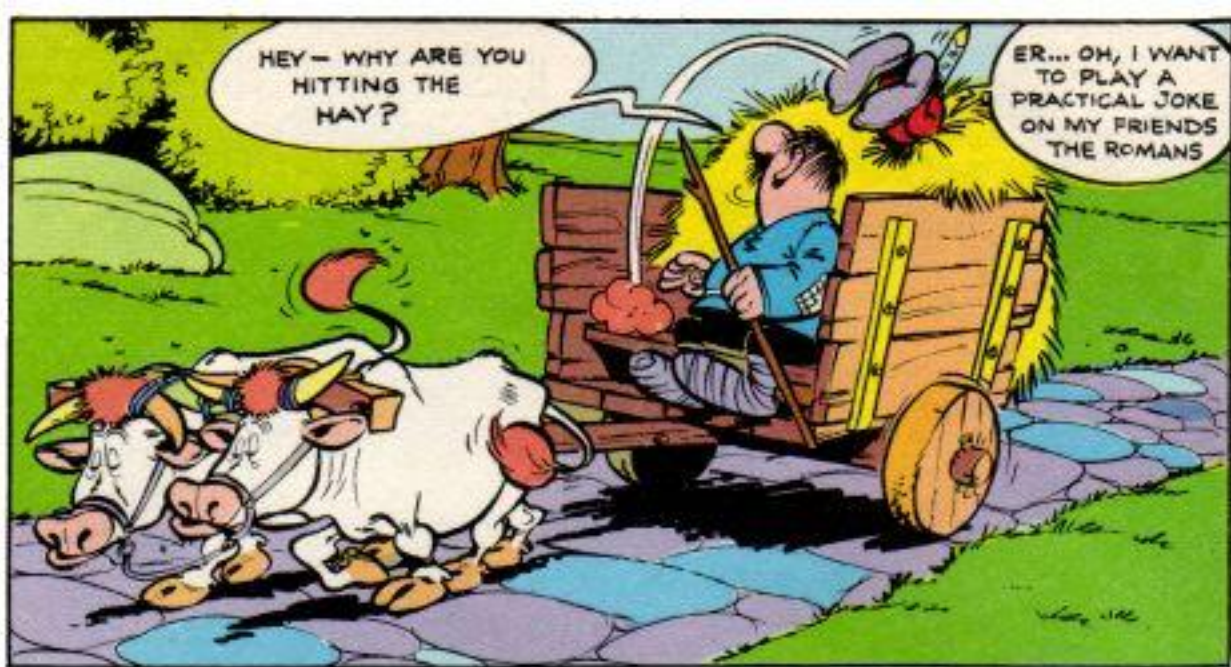
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM!

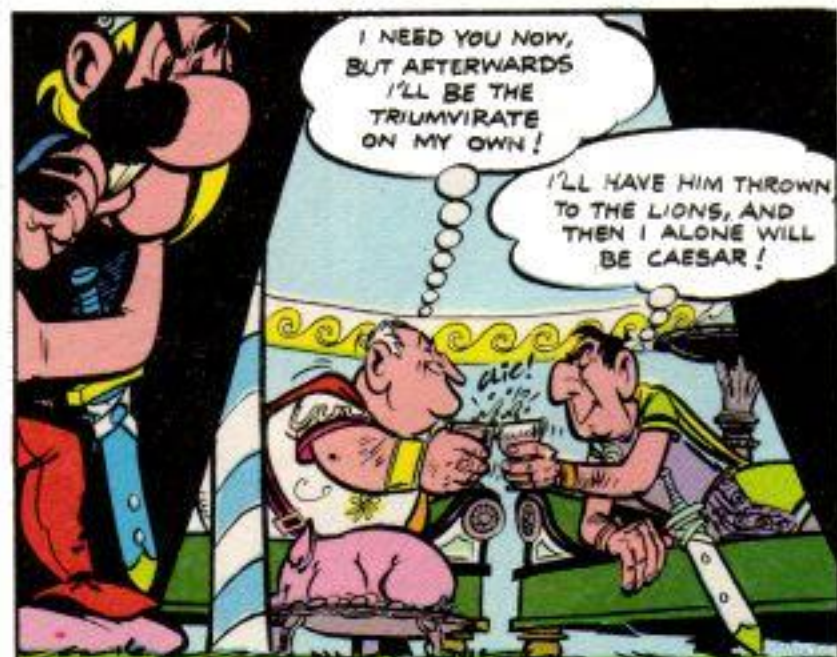
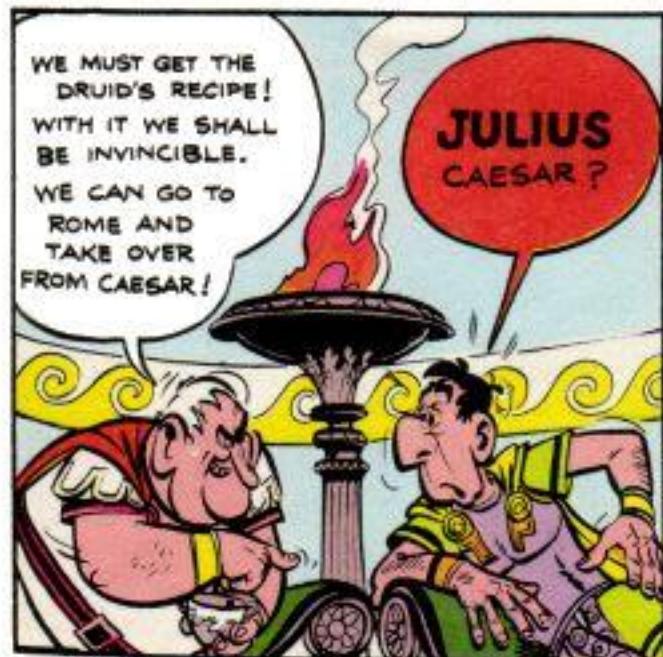
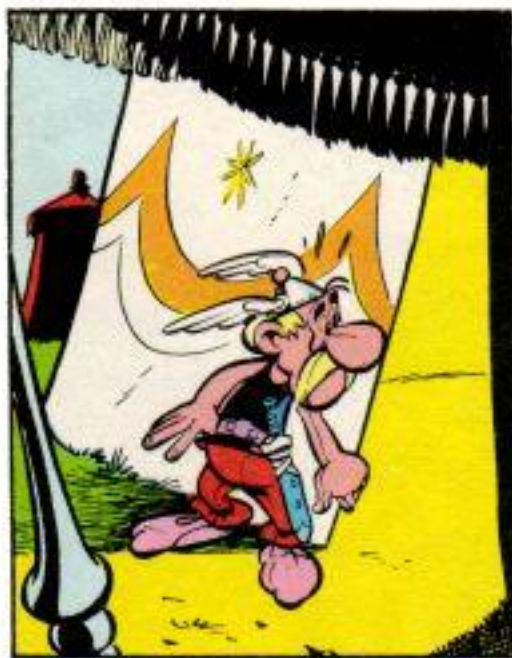
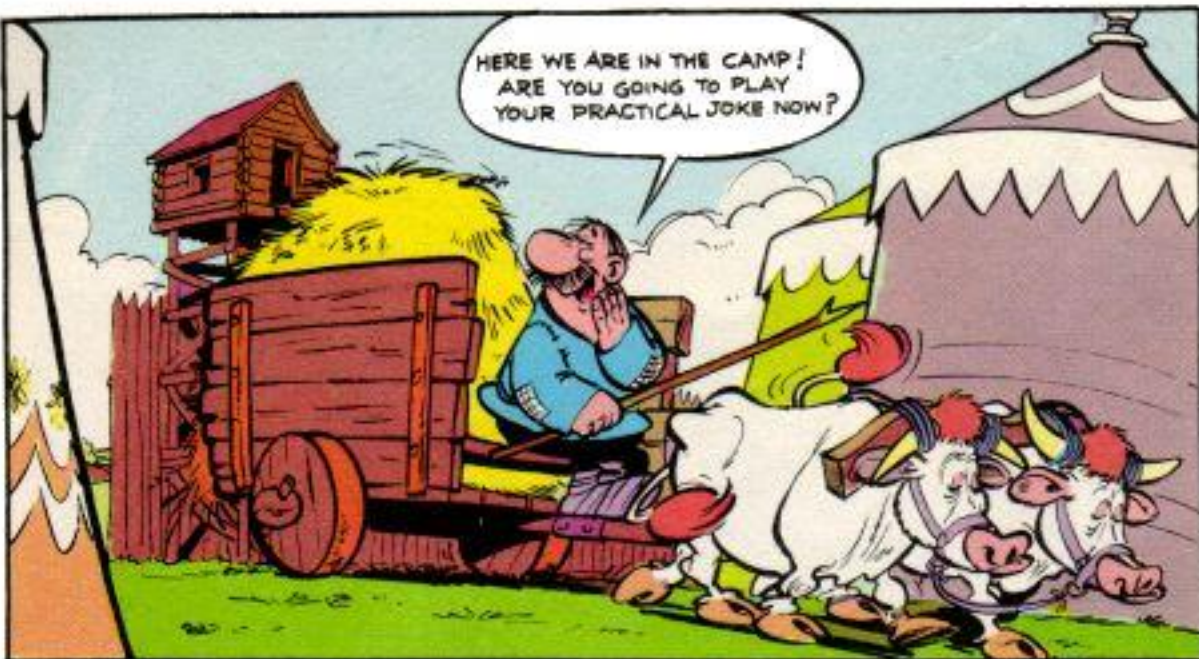
WATCH OUT, ASTERIX! IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE YOU HAD ANY POTION!

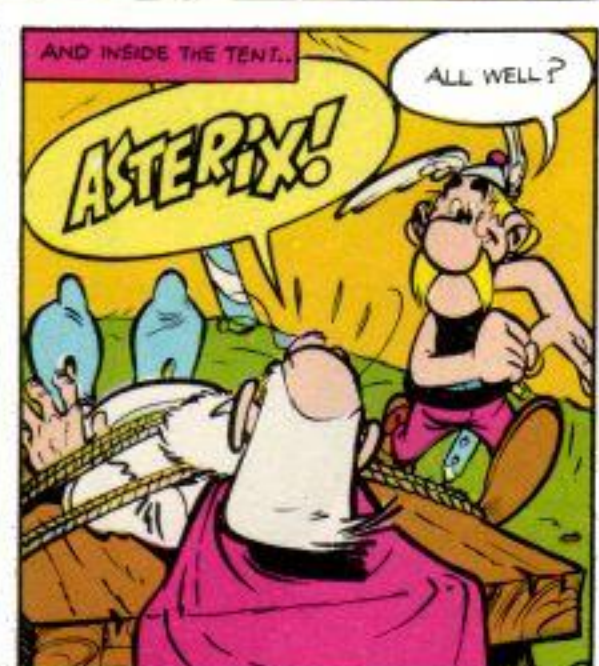
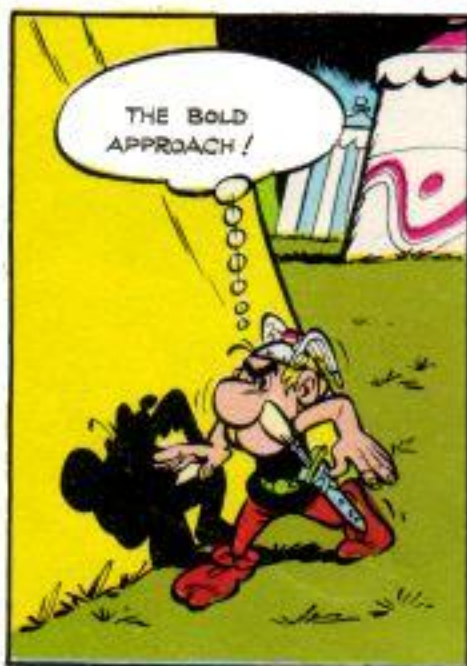


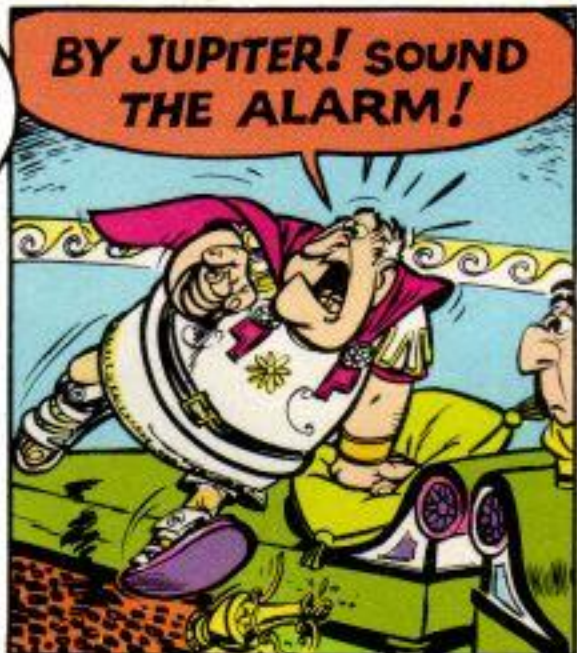
HUH! I'M RELYING ON MY CUNNING TO FIND THE DRUID!













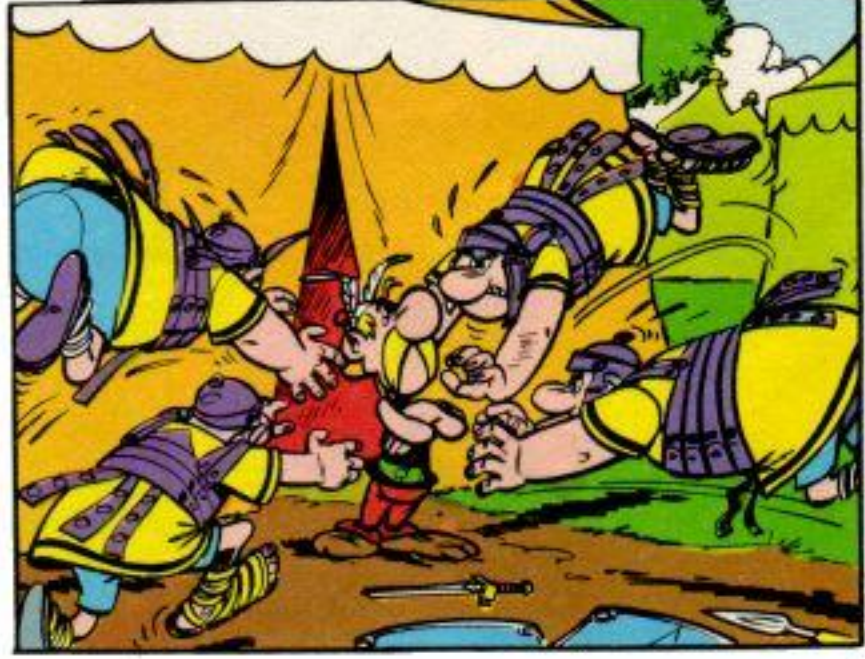
SEIZE HIM, YOU LILY-LIVERED LOT, OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE CIRCUS TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS!



THE CIRCUS?

THE LIONS?

OH WELL!



CLINK!
CLANK!
CLONK!
CLUNK!



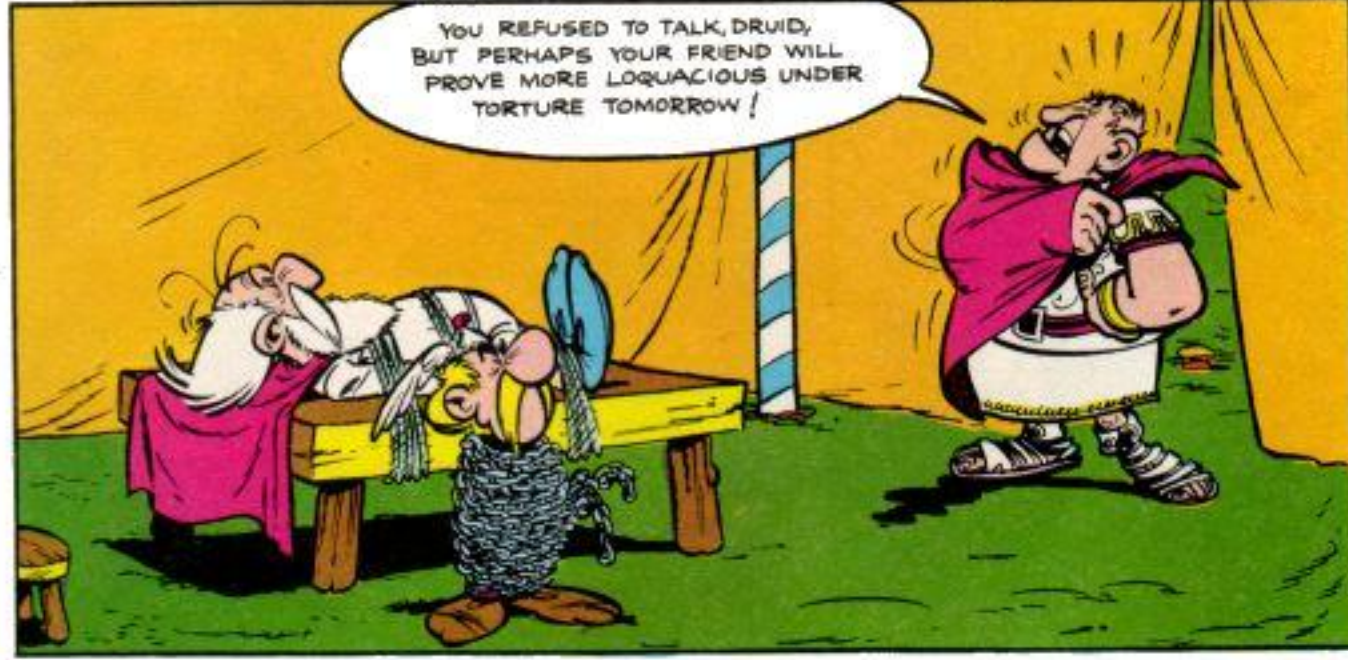
WHAT'S UP?

IT'S A GAUL WHO GOT INTO THE CAMP...



IT'S NOT FAIR! HE DIDN'T WAIT FOR ME TO WAKE UP TO PLAY HIS PRACTICAL JOKE! IT'S NOT FAIR!

?

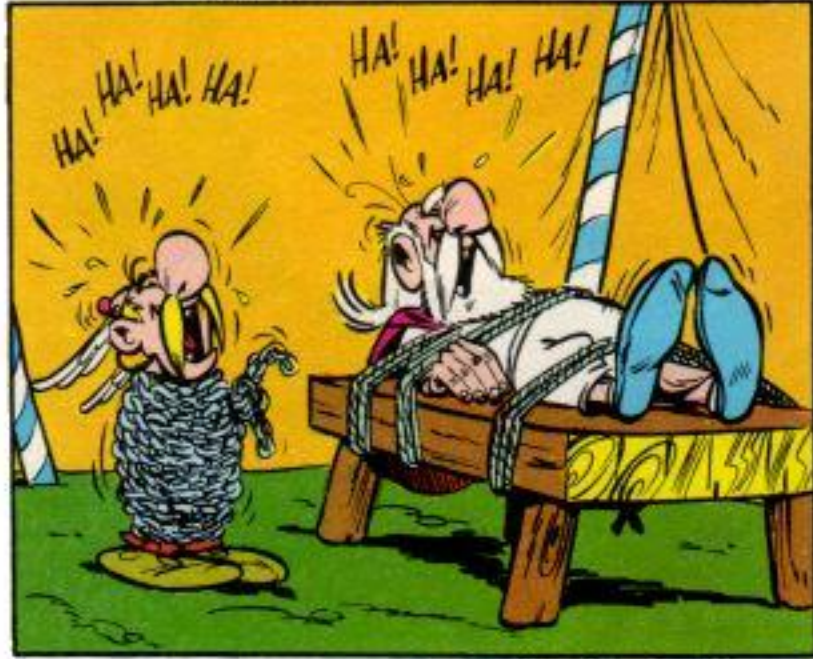


YOU REFUSED TO TALK, DRUID, BUT PERHAPS YOUR FRIEND WILL PROVE MORE LOQUACIOUS UNDER TORTURE TOMORROW!



AUT CAESAR, AUT NIHIL! (I)

(I) THIS IS LATIN GRAMMAR

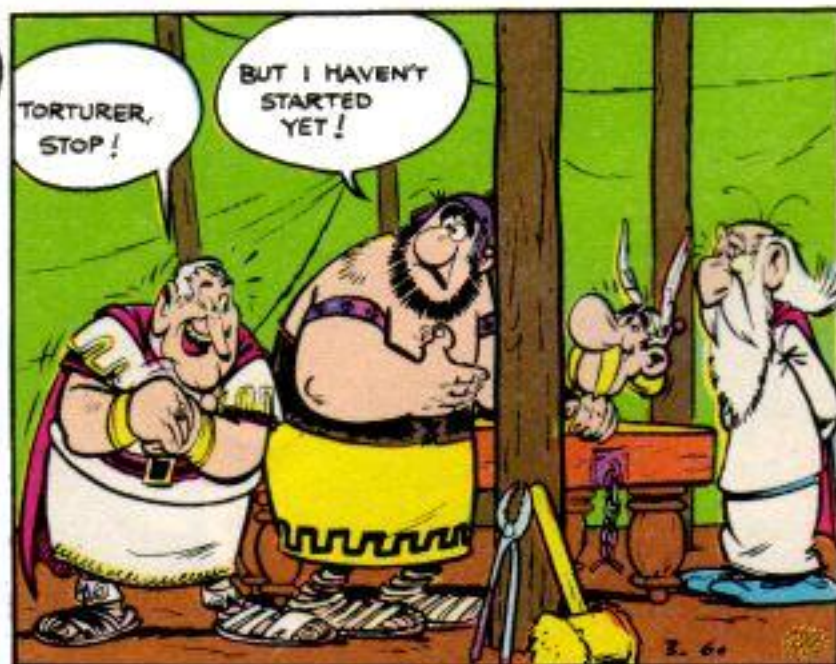
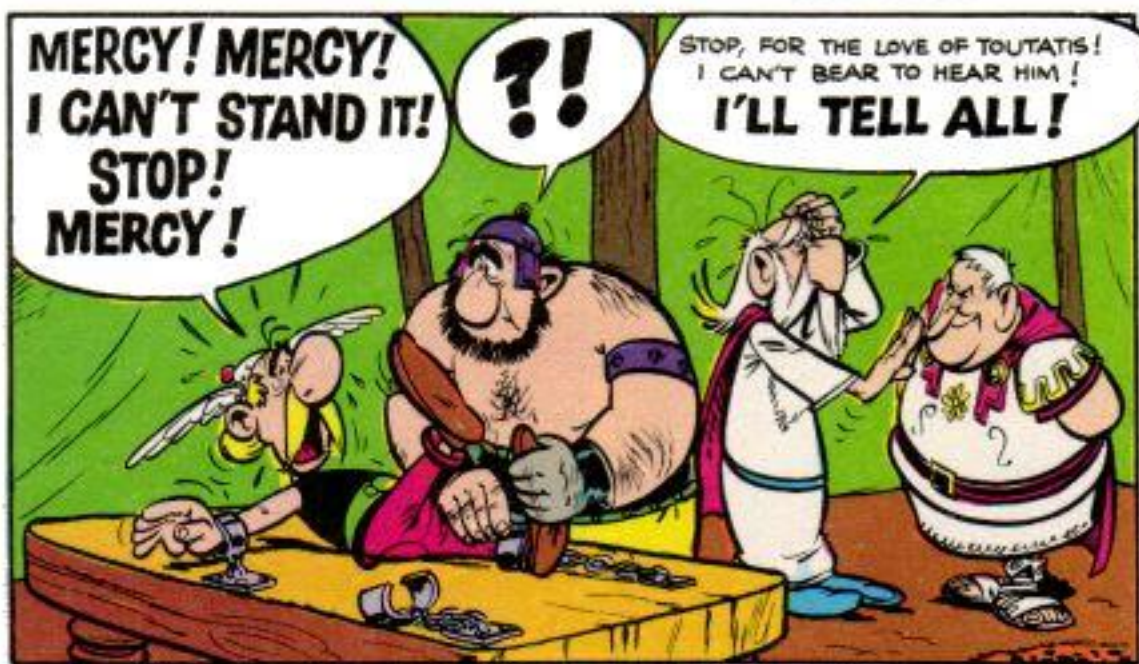
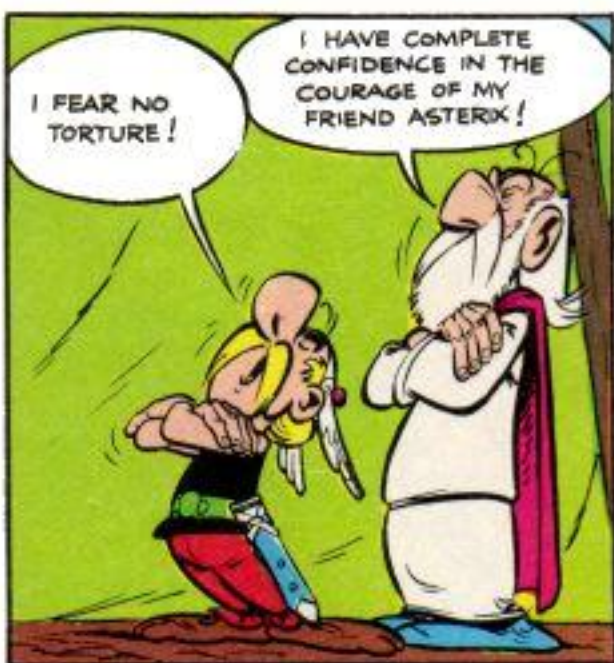
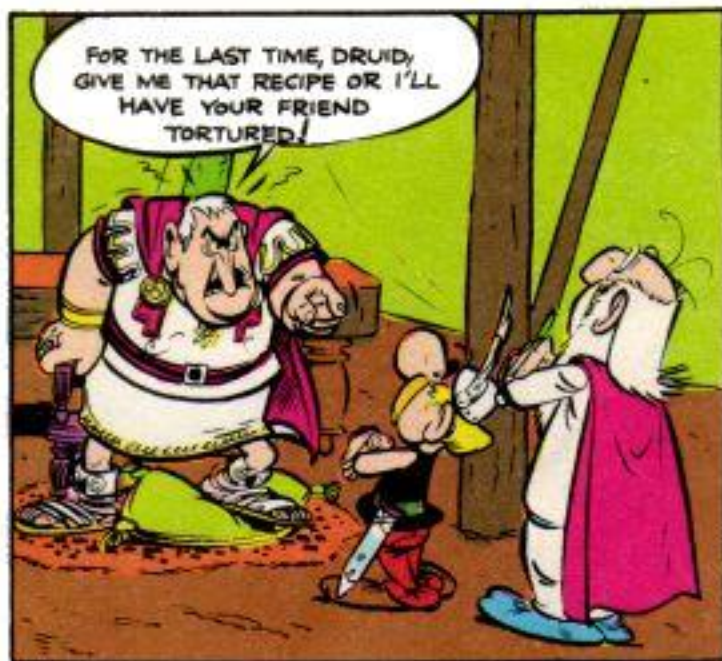


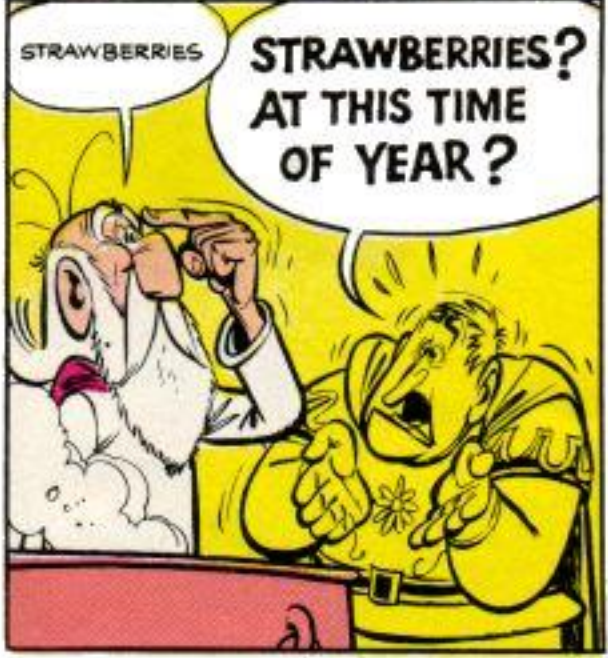
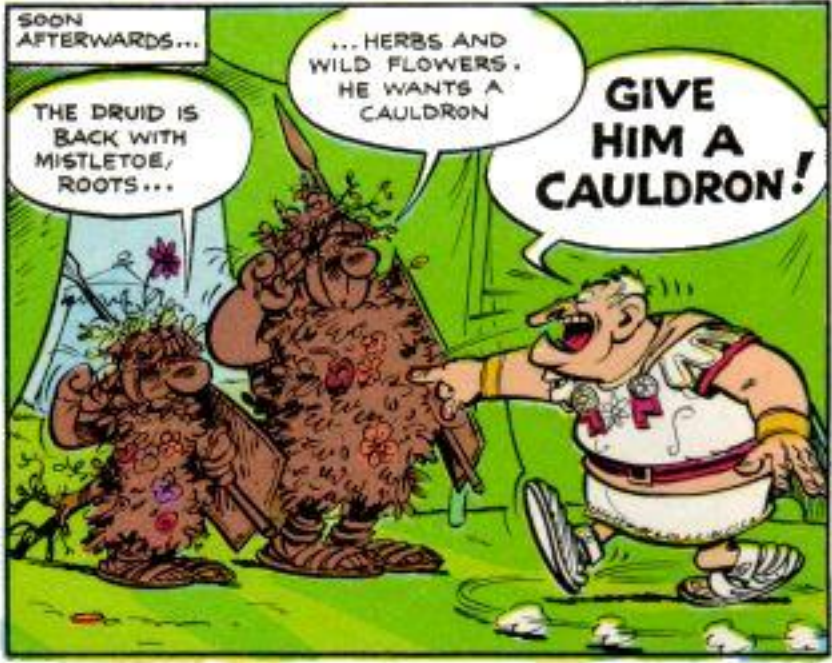
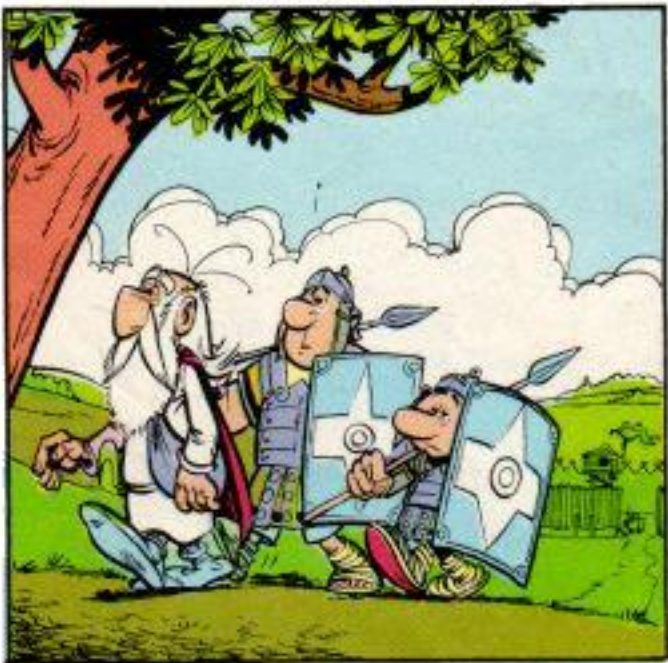
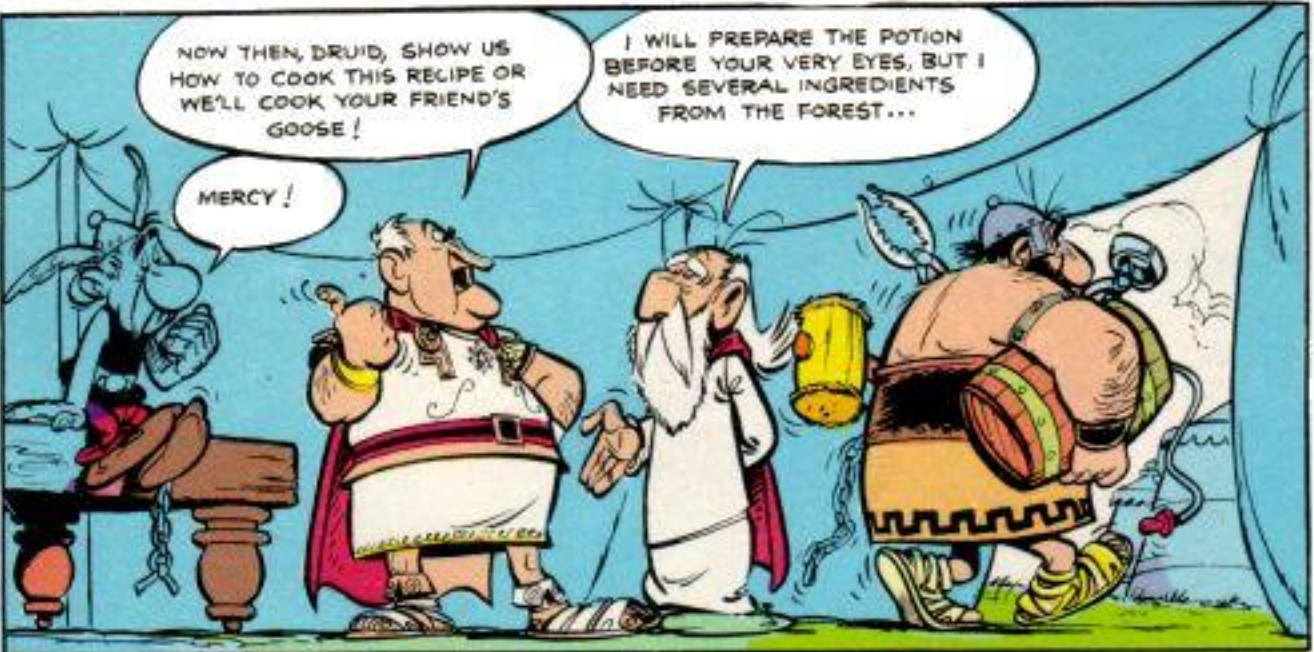
HA! HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA! HA! HA!



I'LL BE LOQUACIOUS ALL RIGHT! I'LL LOQUACE LIKE NO ONE EVER LOQUACED BEFORE! (I)

(I) THIS IS BAD GRAMMAR







IT'S DAYS SINCE THE MESSENGERS LEFT TO LOOK FOR STRAWBERRIES, AND NOT ONE HAS TURNED UP YET!



THE MESSENGERS ARE BACK, O CRISMUS BONUS!

ABOUT TIME!



AVE CRISMUS BONUS!

AVE, AVE, BOYS! THE STRAWBERRIES—DID YOU GET THEM?



NO.

NOT A STRAWBERRY

WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!

TULLIUS OCTOPUS ISN'T BACK YET



HERE I AM, O CRISMUS BONUS!



I FOUND STRAWBERRIES, O CRISMUS BONUS! I BOUGHT THEM FOR A VAST SUM FROM A GREEK MERCHANT I HAPPENED TO MEET!

GIVE THEM HERE!



THIS TIME I REALLY MEAN IT! AS A REWARD YOU CAN GO HOME ON LEAVE TO SEE ALL THE FUN OF THE CIRCUS!

I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS! I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS!



DRUID! HERE ARE THE STRAWBERRIES YOU ORDERED FOR THE MAGIC POTION!



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM, ASTERIX?

NOT UP TO MUCH!



NOT BAD...

HM...



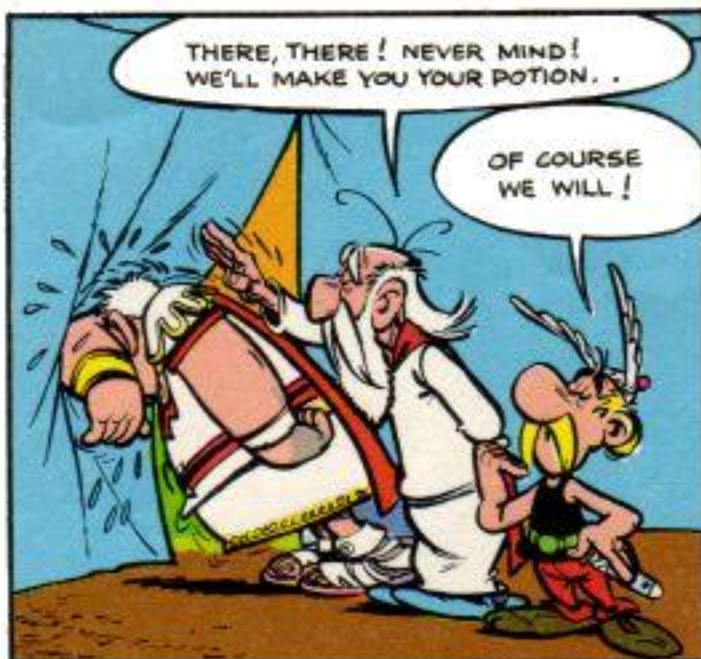
COME TO THINK OF IT, THOSE WERE EXCELLENT STRAWBERRIES!

YES, JUST THE SORT I NEED. GO AND GET ME SOME MORE

YOU'VE EATEN MY STRAWBERRIES AND NOW YOU
HAVEN'T GOT ANY STRAWBERRIES AND YOU
WANT MORE STRAWBERRIES AND IT'S NOT FAIR
AND I'VE JUST ABOUT
HAD ENOUGH!



THERE, THERE! NEVER MIND!
WE'LL MAKE YOU YOUR POTION. .



OF COURSE
WE WILL!

WE CAN ALWAYS
MAKE THE POTION
WITHOUT STRAWBERRIES,
ONLY IT WON'T BE
THE SAME...

THE STRAWBERRIES
DO LEAVE A
TASTE IN THE
MOUTH...

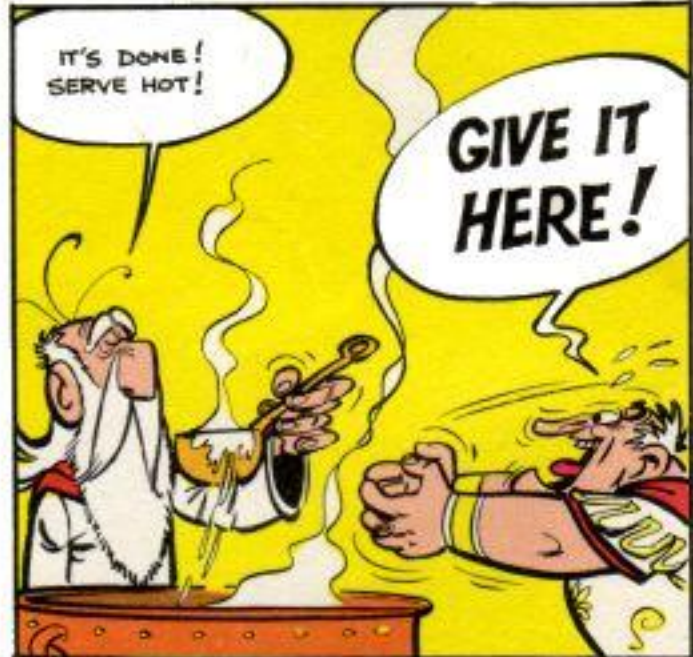


SNIFF!
SNIFF!



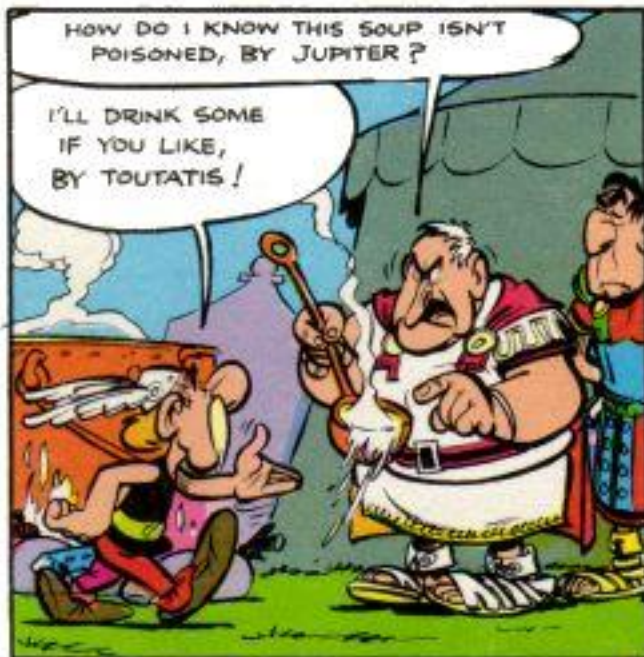
IT'S DONE!
SERVE HOT!

GIVE IT
HERE!



HOW DO I KNOW THIS SOUP ISN'T
POISONED, BY JUPITER?

I'LL DRINK SOME
IF YOU LIKE,
BY TOUTATIS!



NO! IF THIS IS THE REAL STUFF,
YOUR STRENGTH WILL INCREASE
TENFOLD! YOU'LL BE INVINCIBLE!
I NEED A VOLUNTEER!



I SAID: I NEED
A VOLUNTEER!!!

QUID NOVI?

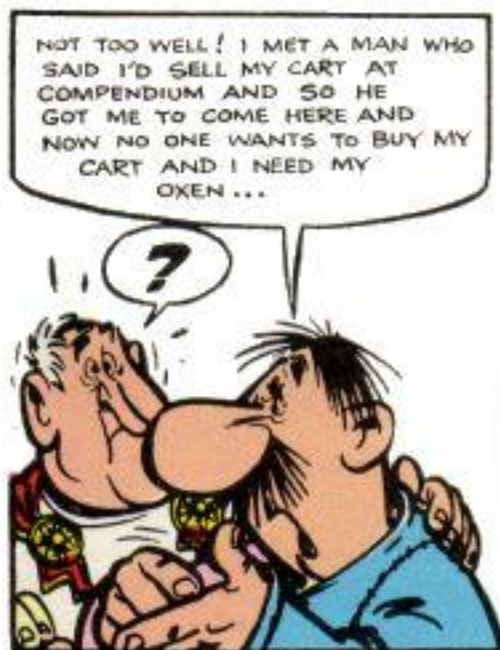
SURSUM CORDA!

SO WHAT?



O CRISMUS BONUS, WE
DON'T WANT TO RISK A
LEGIONARY'S LIFE. WE OUGHT
TO EXPERIMENT ON SOME
HARMLESS NATIVE...







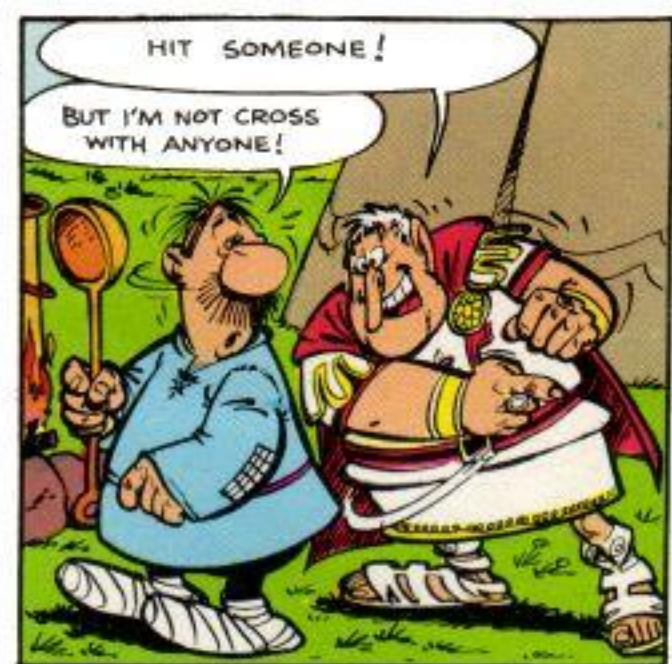
AFTER DRINKING THAT POTION YOU'RE THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

I AM?



HO! HO! THAT'S A JOKE! HE'S A GREAT JOKER, HE IS! HA! HA!

WELL, WE SHALL NOW FIND OUT!



HIT SOMEONE!

BUT I'M NOT CROSS WITH ANYONE!



A VOLUNTEER FOR A PUNCH ON THE JAW!

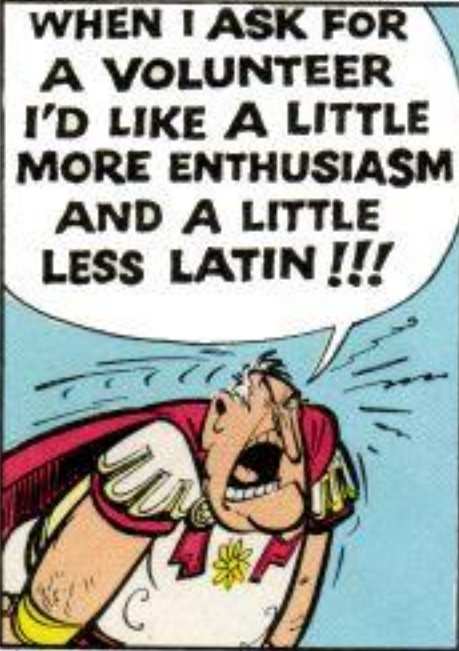


VANITAS VANITATUM ET OMNIA VANITAS...

DE FACTO...

QUOMODO VALES?

VERY WELL, THANK YOU!



WHEN I ASK FOR A VOLUNTEER I'D LIKE A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSIASM AND A LITTLE LESS LATIN!!!



I VOLUNTEER!

AN EXCELLENT NOTION!



GO ON, HIT ME!

GO ON, HIT HIM!

WELL, HIT HIM THEN!

GO ON, 'IT 'IM!



BIFF!



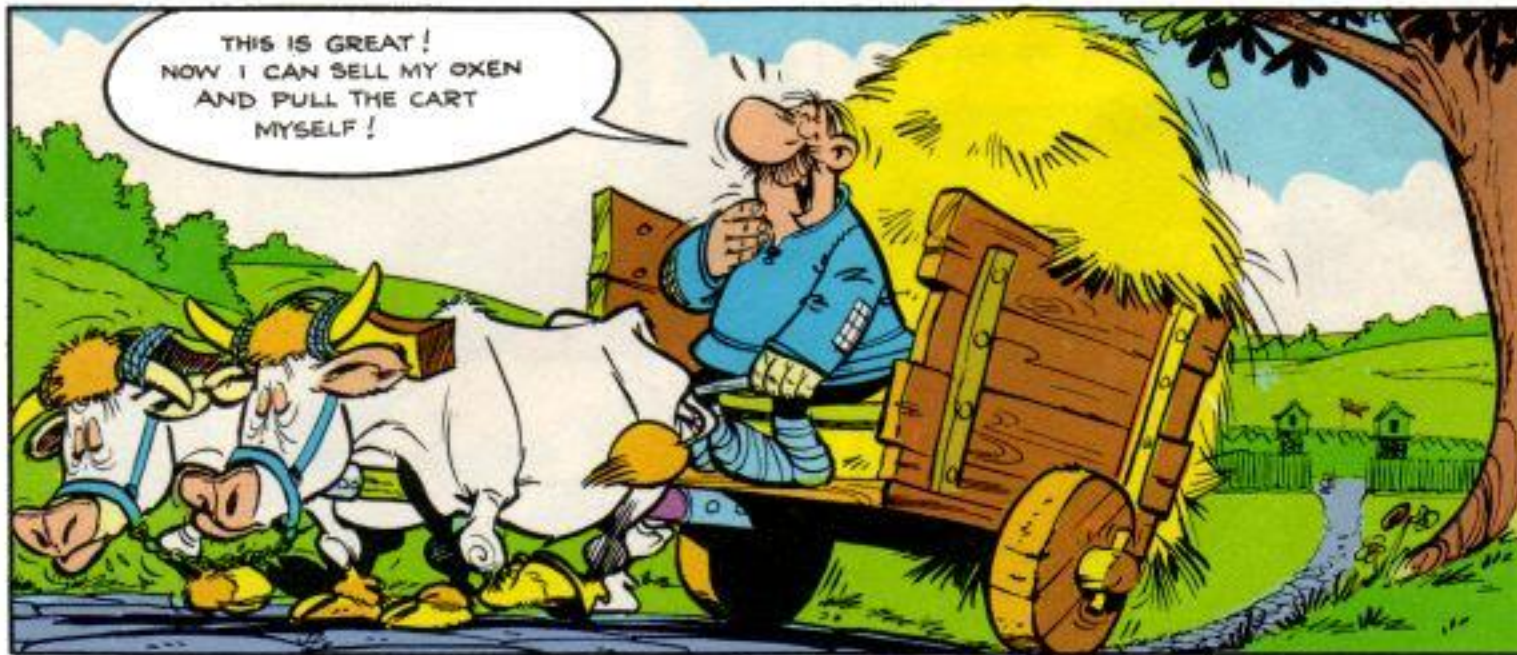
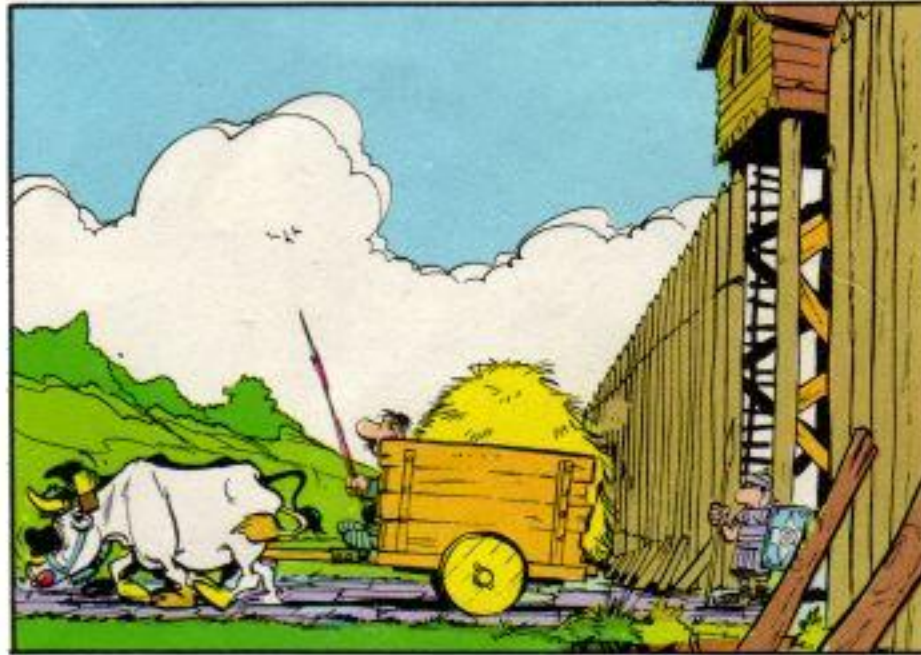
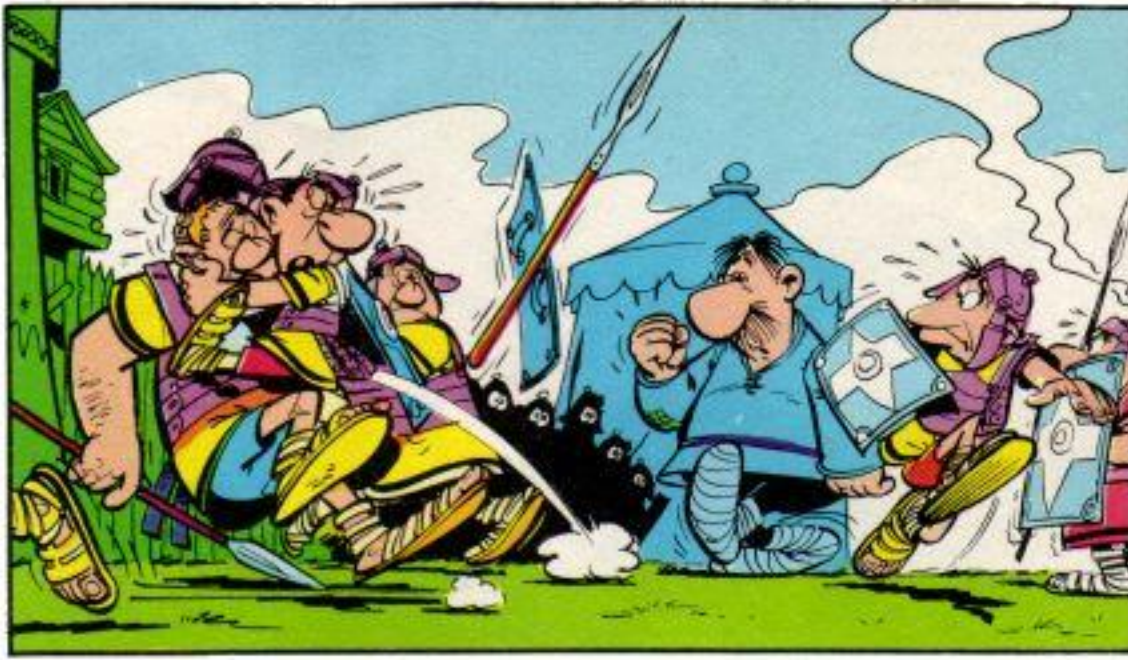
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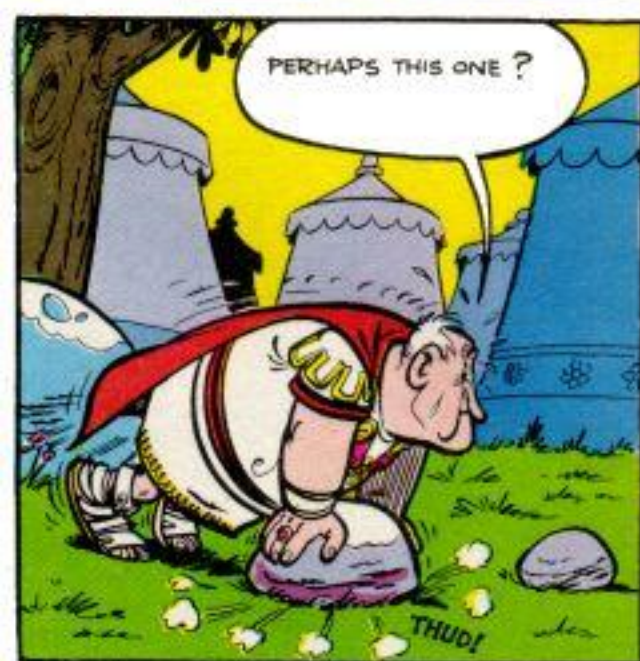
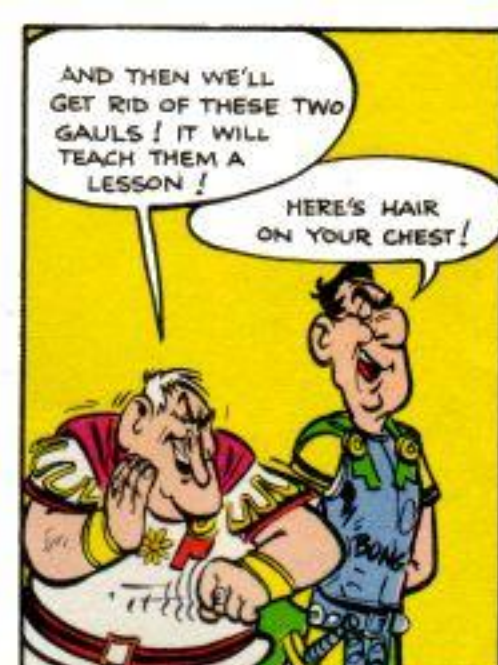
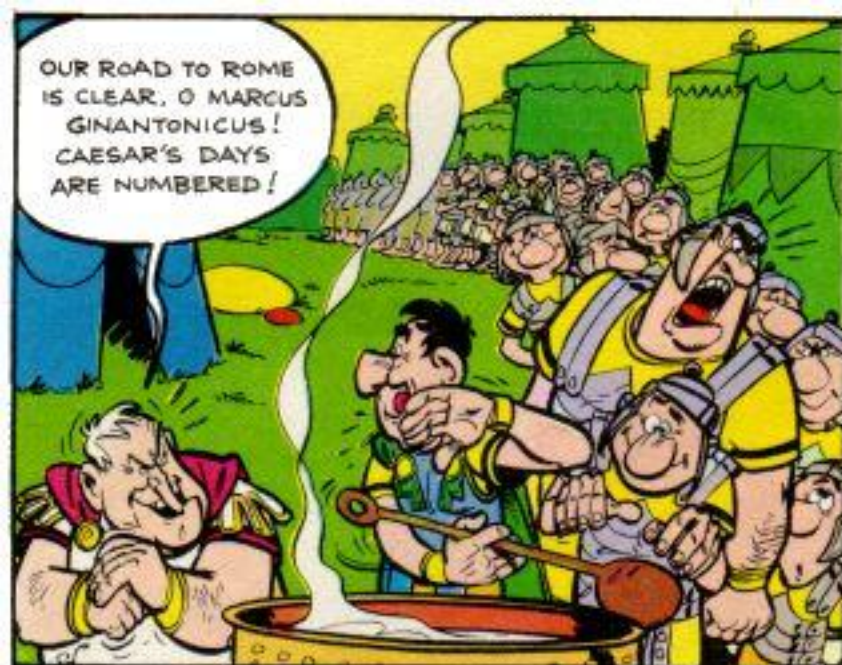


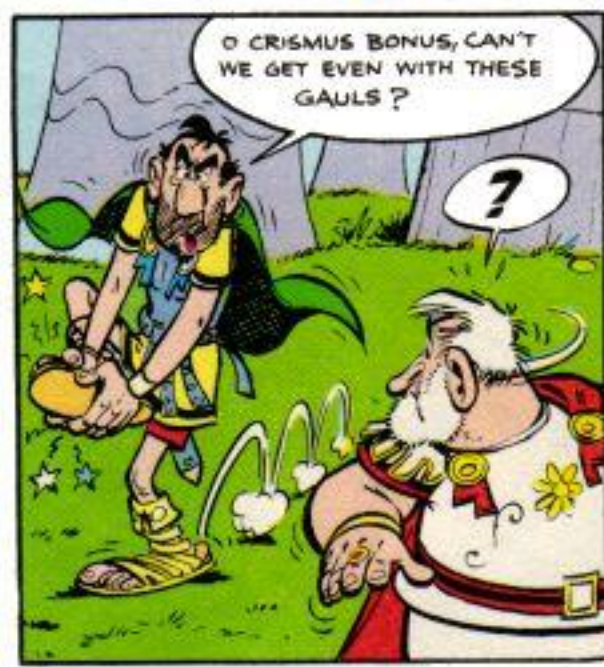
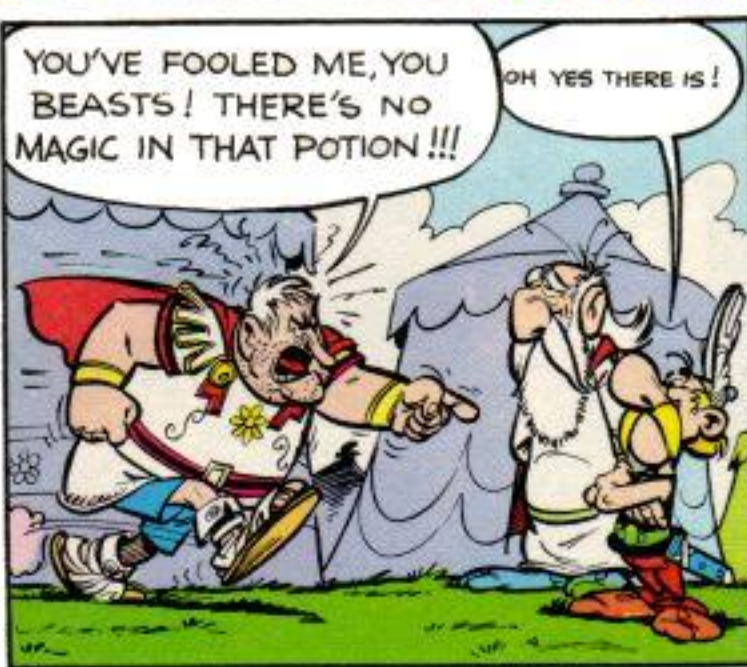
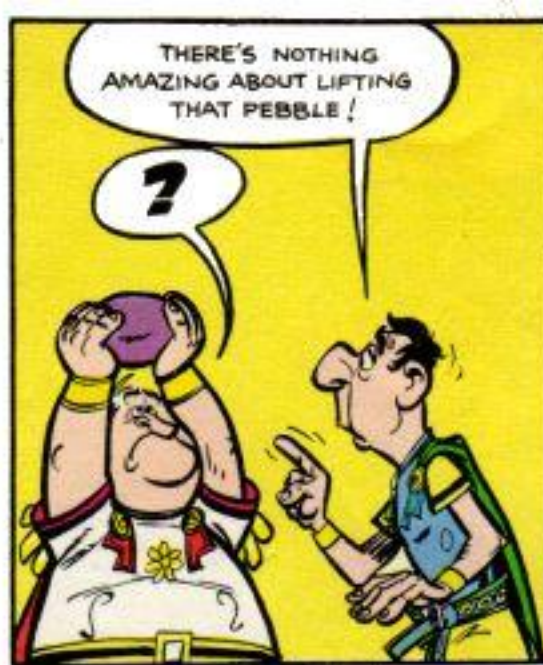
DID IT HURT?

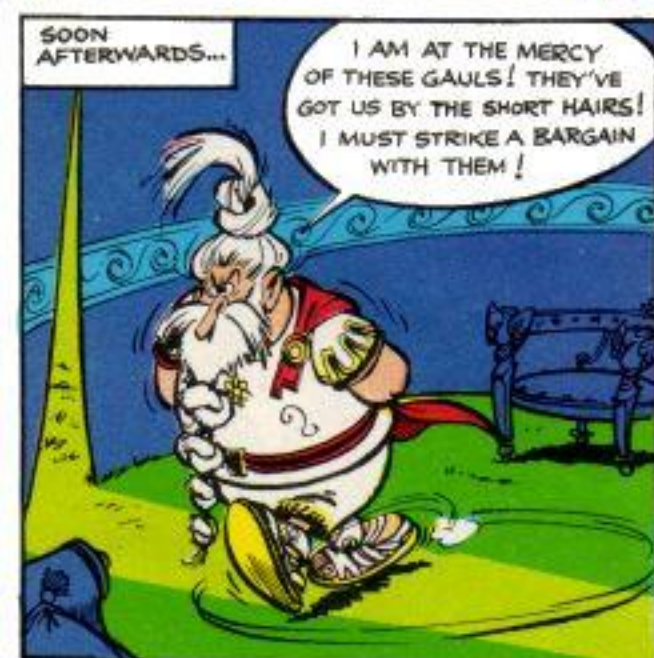
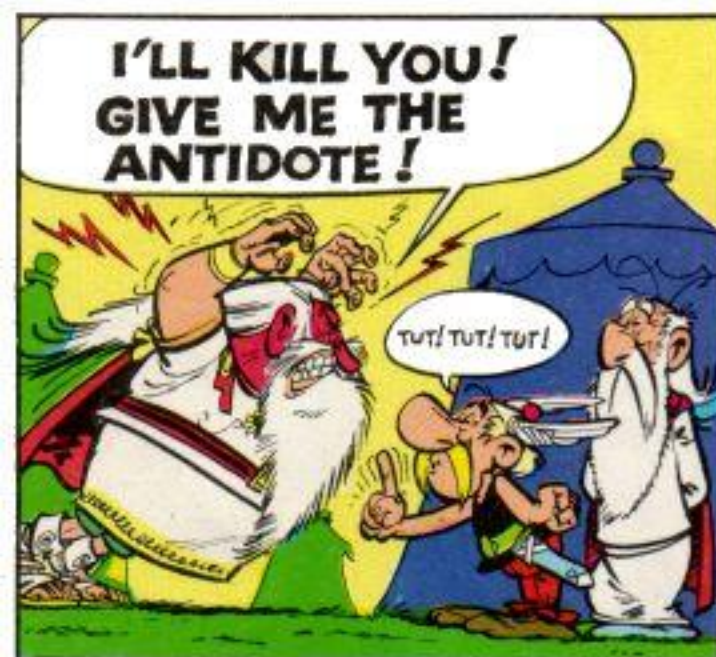
I THOUGHT THE SKY HAD FALLEN ON MY HEAD!

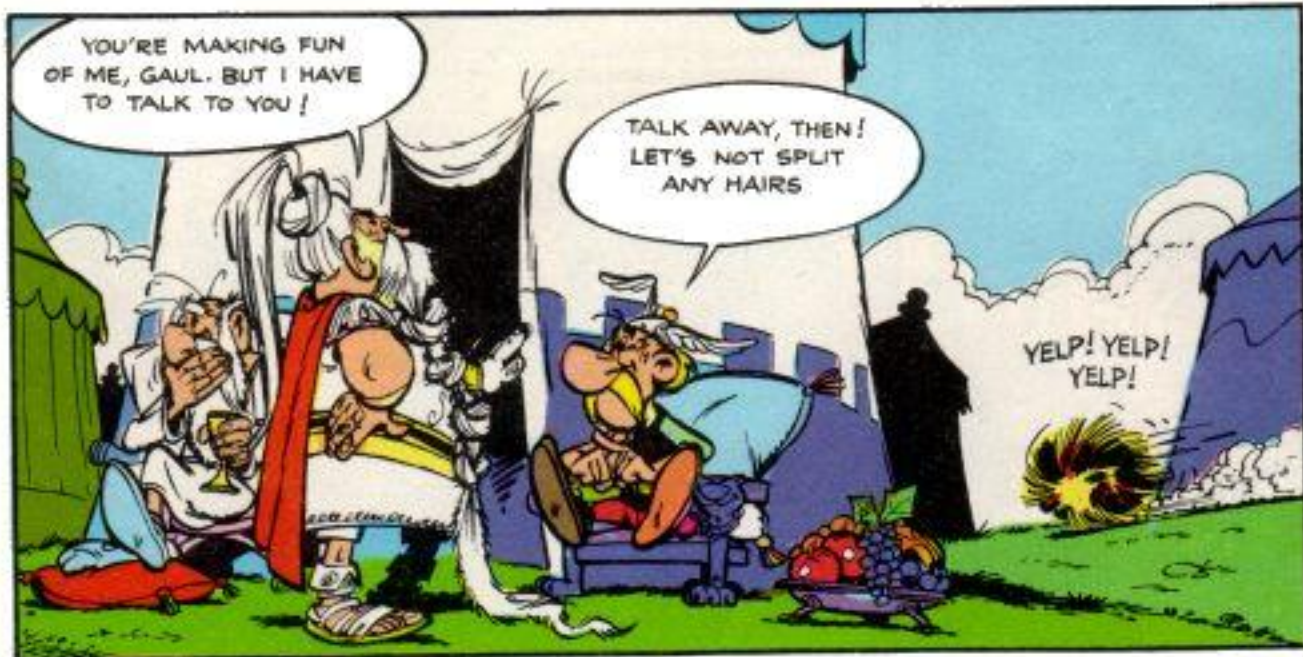
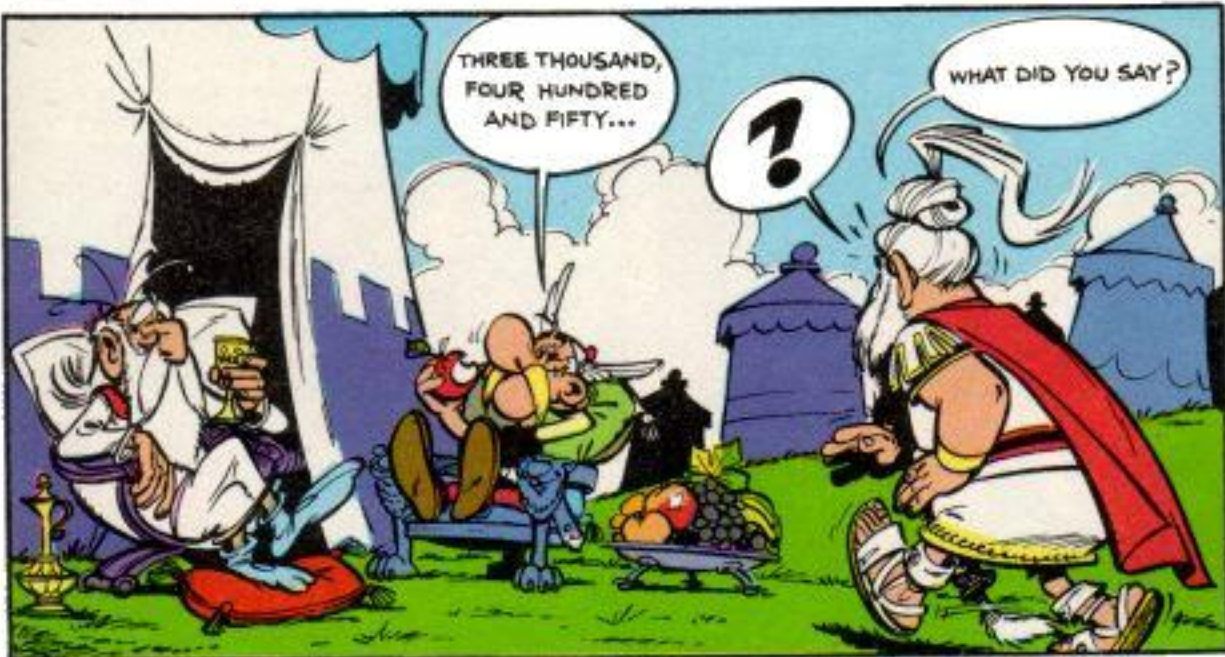
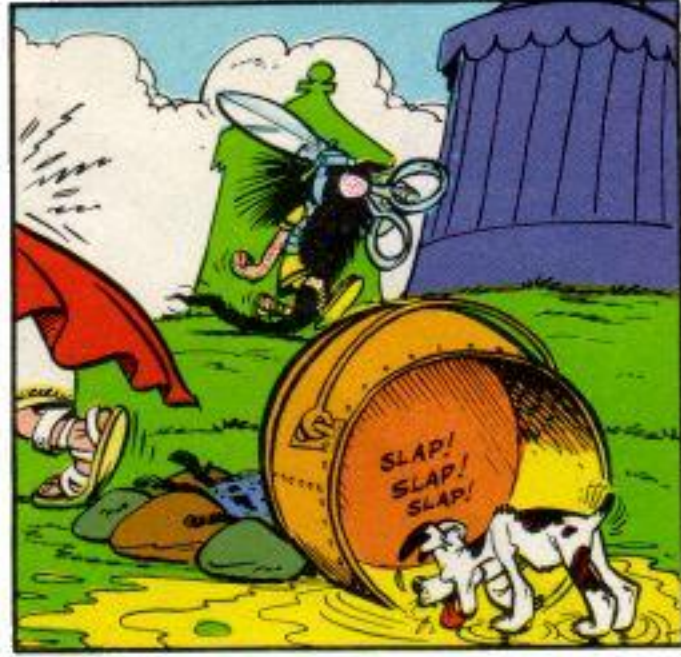
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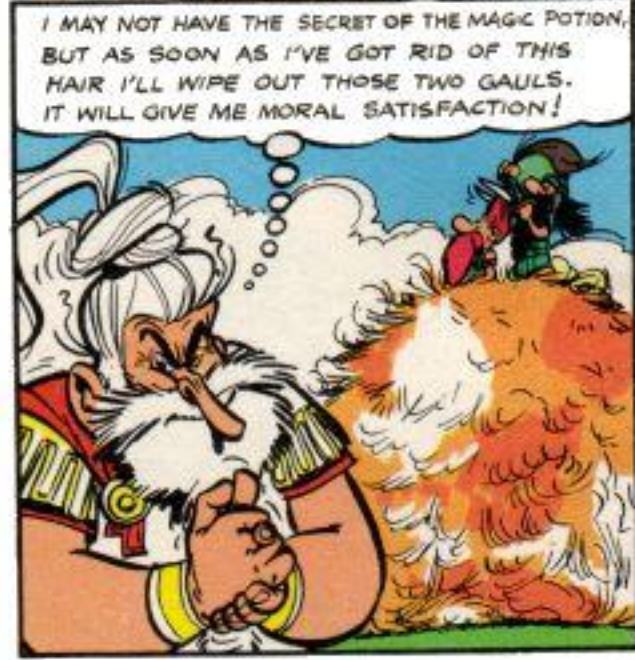
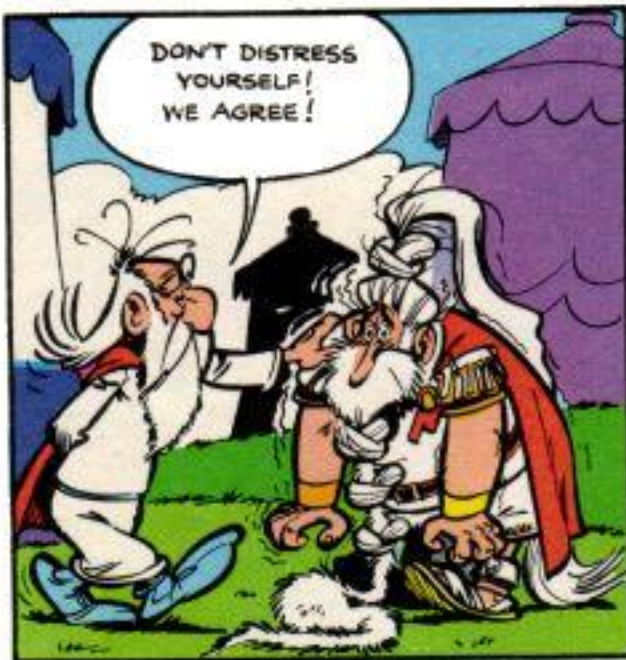










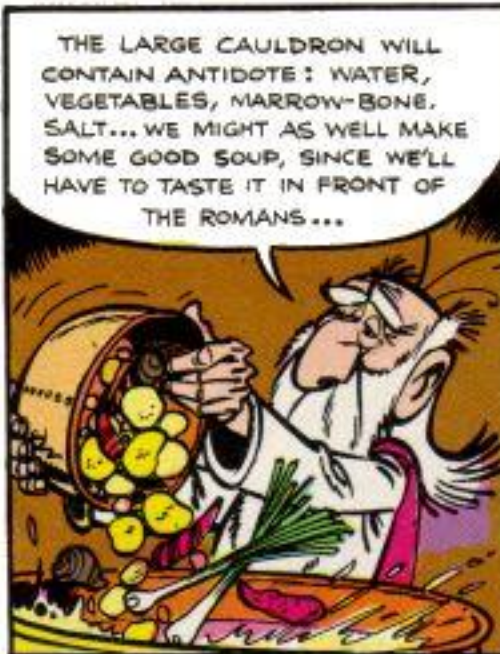




NOW, ASTERIX, THIS LITTLE CAULDRON HOLDS MAGIC POTION - WE'LL NEED PLENTY OF STRENGTH TO GET US OUT OF HERE...



THE LARGE CAULDRON WILL CONTAIN ANTIDOTE: WATER, VEGETABLES, MARROW-BONE, SALT... WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE SOME GOOD SOUP, SINCE WE'LL HAVE TO TASTE IT IN FRONT OF THE ROMANS...



SOON AFTERWARDS...

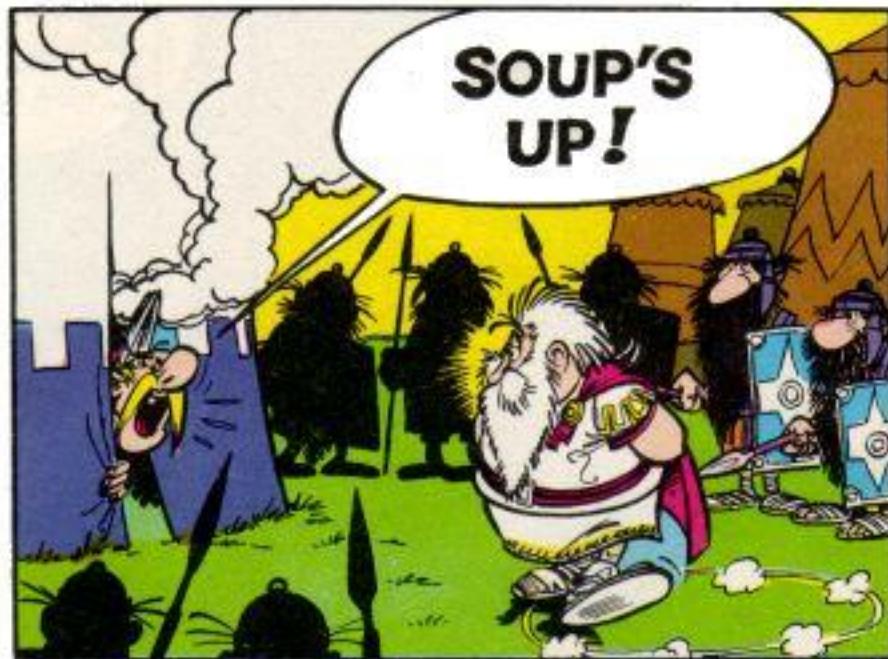
THE MAGIC POTION IS READY! TAKE A GOOD SWIG!



YOU CAN CALL THE OTHERS NOW...



SOUP'S UP!



BRING THE CAULDRON HERE!



COMING! COMING!



YOU HAVE SOME FIRST!



WHAT'S IT LIKE?



VERY GOOD... A FEW CROUTONS MIGHT IMPROVE IT...



