



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...

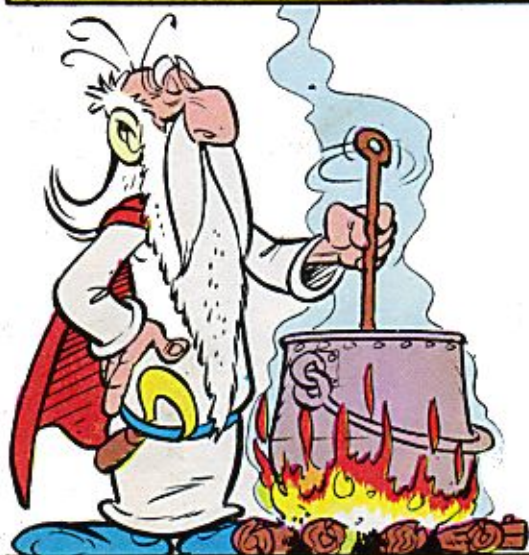


a few of the Gauls

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...

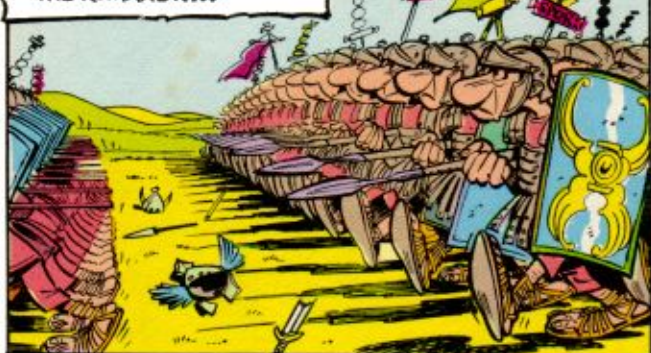


Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...



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
VERGINGETORIX HAD
TO LAY THEIR ARMS
AT CAESAR'S FEET....



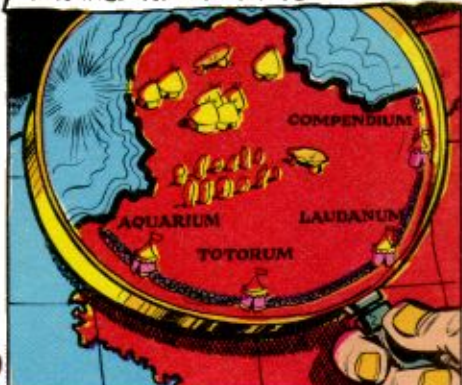
PEACE REIGNS, DISTURBED
ONLY BY OCCASIONAL
ATTACKS BY THE GERMANS,
SPEEDILY REPULSED....

So! But ve
komm 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 SUBDUE
THESE PROUD GAULS HAVE
FAILED, AND CAESAR
ASKS HIMSELF....

QUID?

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

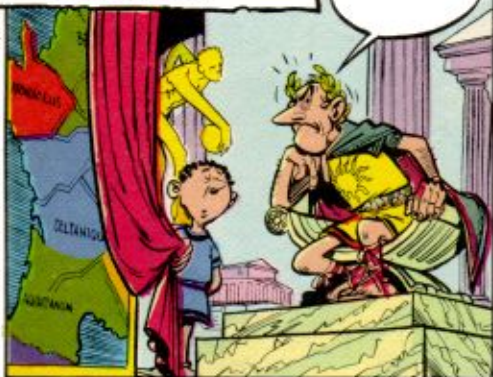
BACK SOON,
ASTERIX?
I'LL BE BACK
FOR DINNER,
OBELIX

HERE HE
COMES!

WE'LL GET
HIM

IPSO FACTO!

SIC!

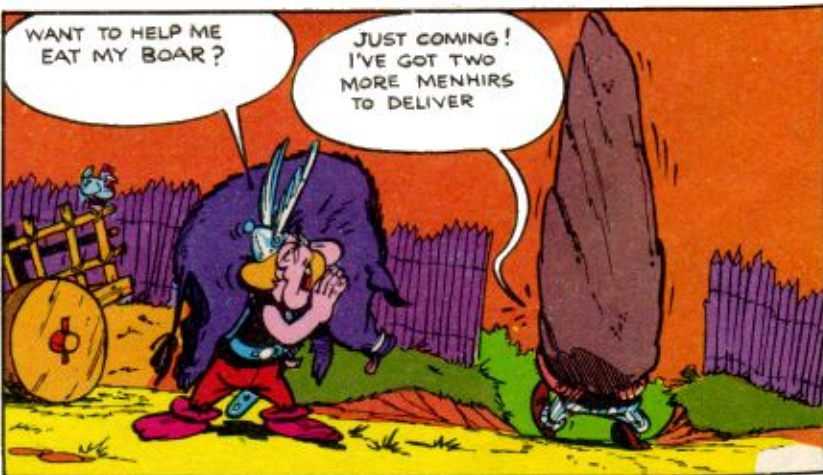
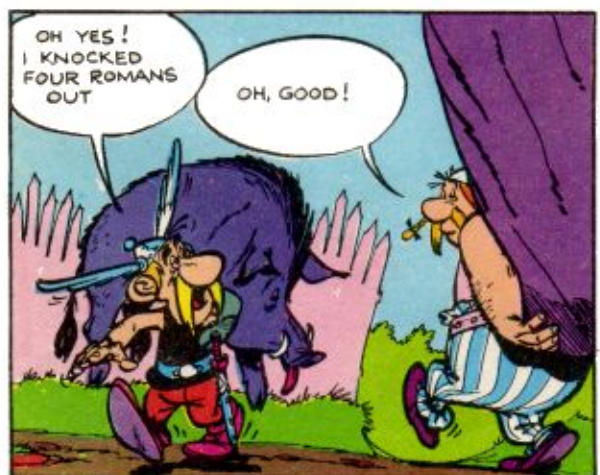


ACCIDENCE
WILL HAPPEN....

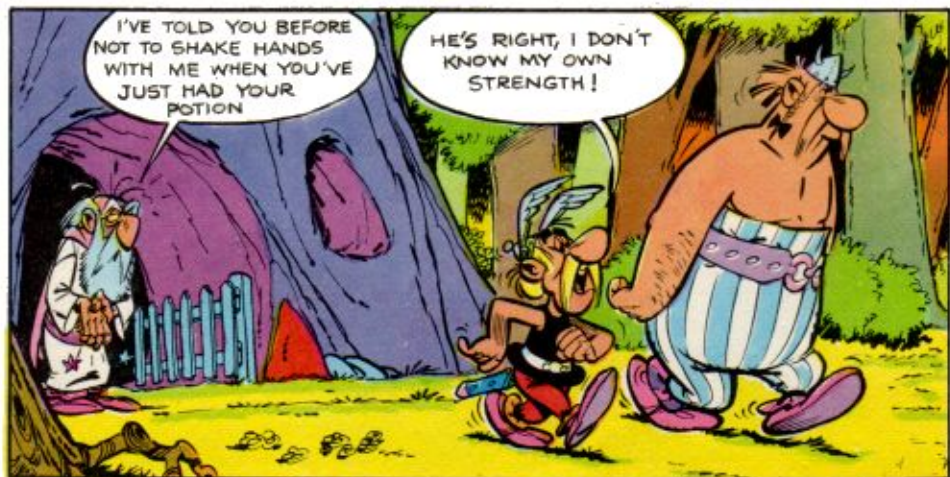
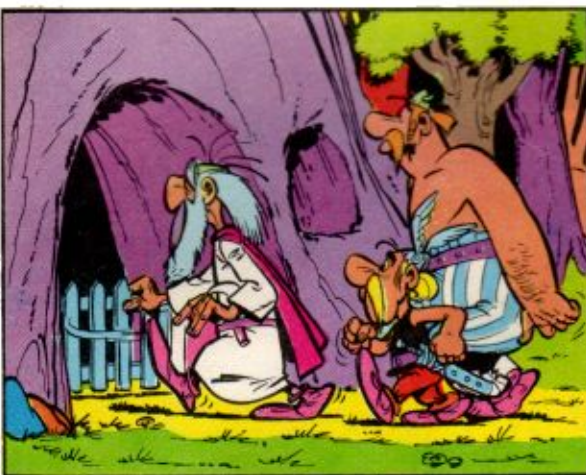
VAE VICTO
VAE VICTIS!

WE DECLINE!











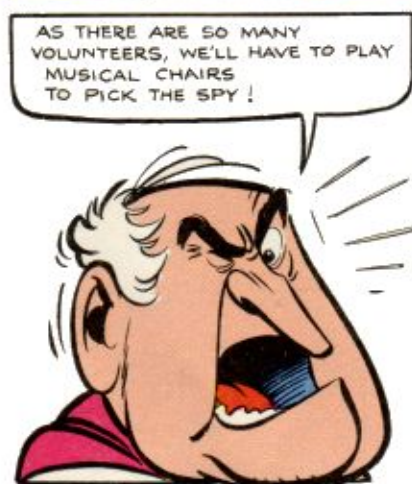
WE'VE BEEN LAYING SIEGE TO THESE GAULS FOR YEARS! THEY'VE GOT A NERVE! THIS MORNING'S PROVOCATION IS GOING TOO FAR. ONE AGAINST FOUR IS NO JOKE! THEY'RE MAKING US LOOK RIDICULOUS



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!



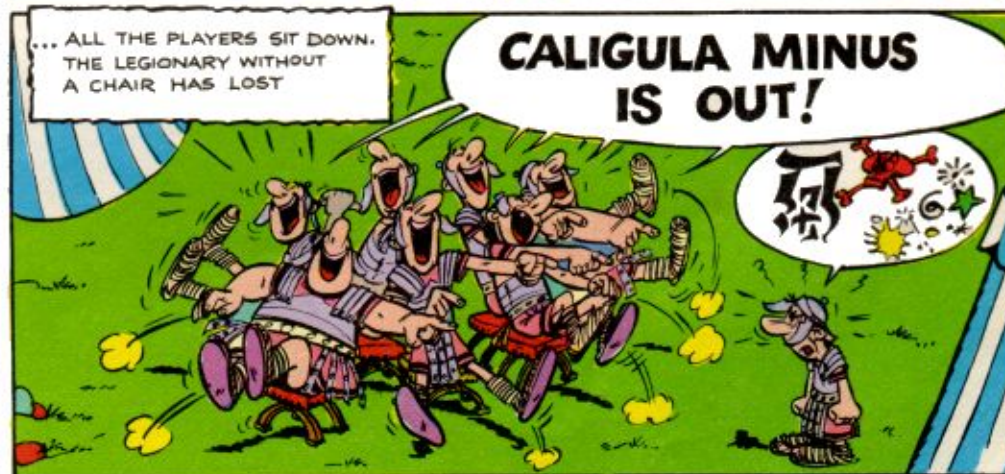
AS THERE ARE SO MANY VOLUNTEERS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS TO PICK THE SPY!



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



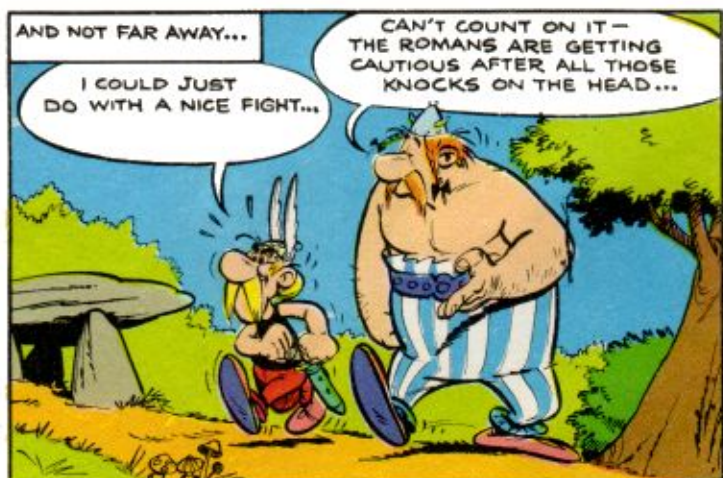
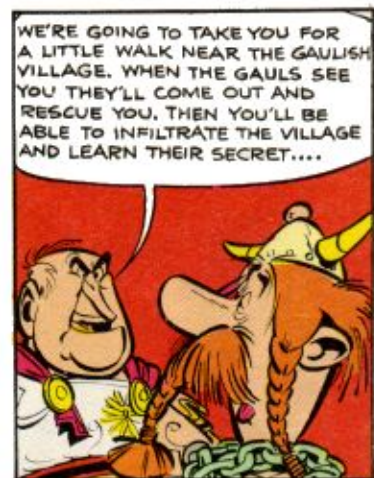
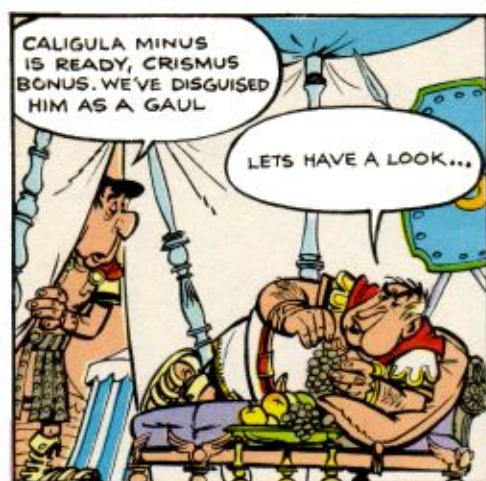
...WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS.....

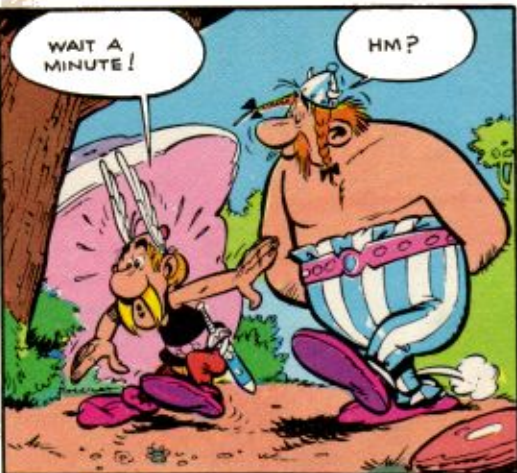


... ALL THE PLAYERS SIT DOWN. THE LEGIONARY WITHOUT A CHAIR HAS LOST

CALIGULA MINUS IS OUT!





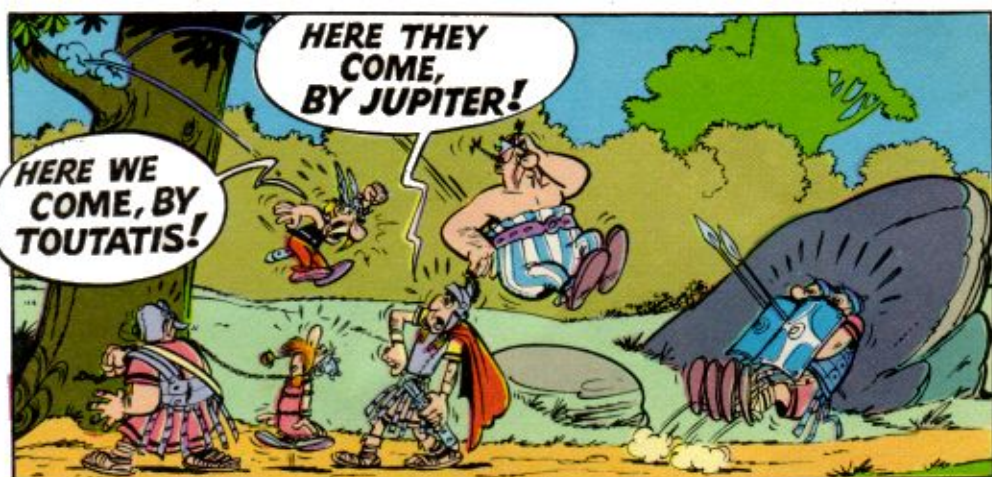


(1) SPAGHETTI WAS NOT IMPORTED FROM CHINA BY MARCO POLO UNTIL MUCH LATER.





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



HERE THEY COME, BY JUPITER!

HERE WE COME, BY TOUTATIS!



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!

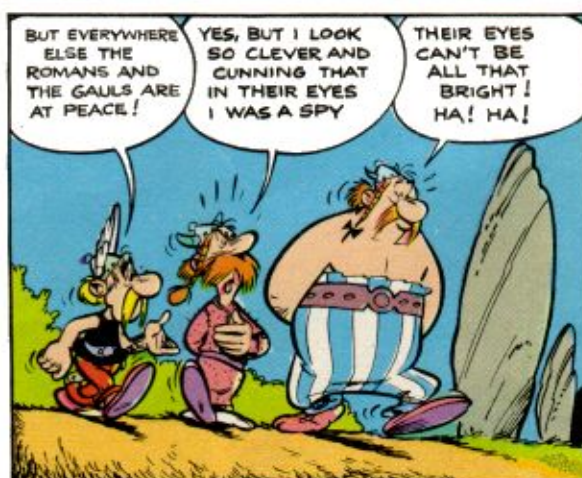
BUT YOU'LL NEED TOOLS... A HAMMER!

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....



THE GAULS CAME AND
SAW AND CONQUERED
CALIGULA
MINUS!



A GREAT
VICTORY
FOR US!

LET'S HOPE
CALIGULA MINUS
GETS BACK IN ONE
PIECE TO TELL US
WHAT HE'S SEEN!



HE'D BETTER!
IF NOT I'LL HAVE
SOMETHING TO
SAY TO HIS
ROMAN
REMAINS!

ALEA JACTA
EST!

PARDON?



MEANWHILE....

THIS IS OUR
VILLAGE,
CALIGULIMINIX.
YOU'LL BE SAFE
HERE! IT'S FULL
OF GAULS!

THAT'S A
GREAT
COMFORT



ASTERIX AND OBELIX
ARE BACK!

THEY'VE GOT
SOMETHING
WITH THEM!



SOMETHING VERY
PECULIAR,
BY BELENOS!



COME AND MEET
OUR CHIEF,
VITALSTATISTIX

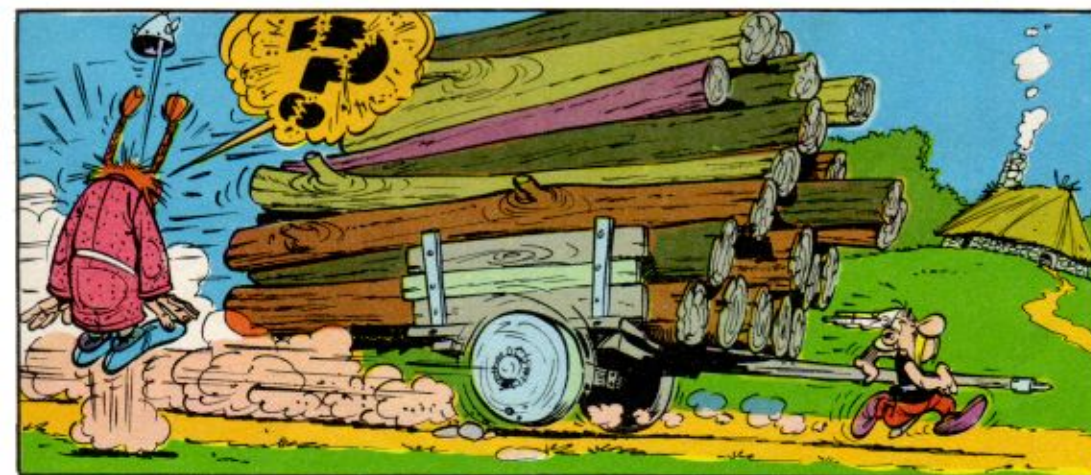
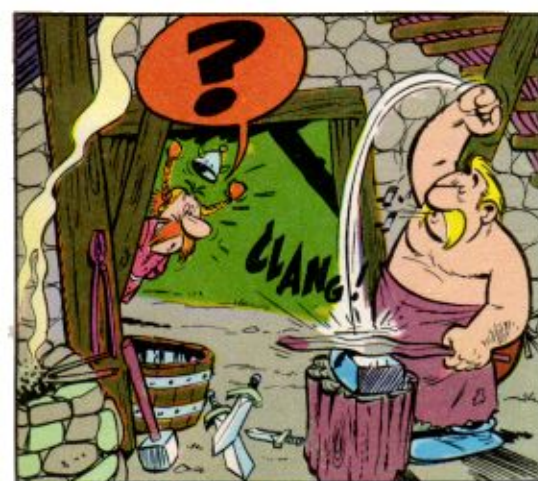
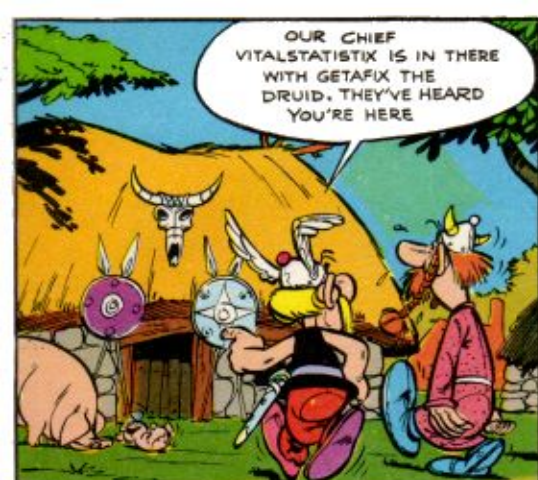


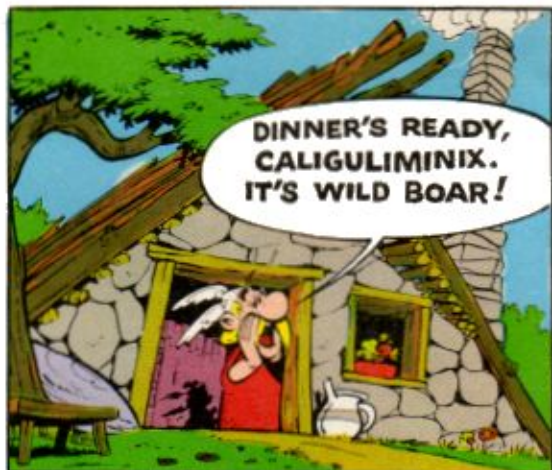
BUT- BUT THEY'RE
ALL ARMED!

YES, WE HAVE TO BE
PREPARED TO FIGHT
THE ROMANS AT THE
DROP OF A HELMET



A WISE PRECAUTION!





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

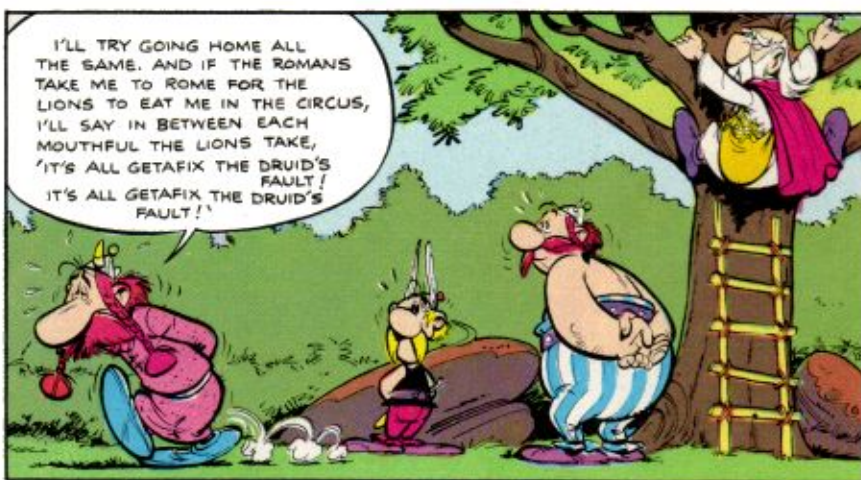
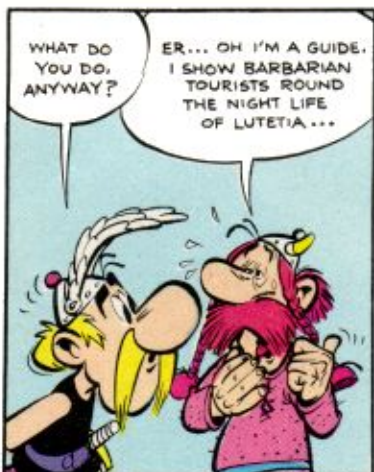
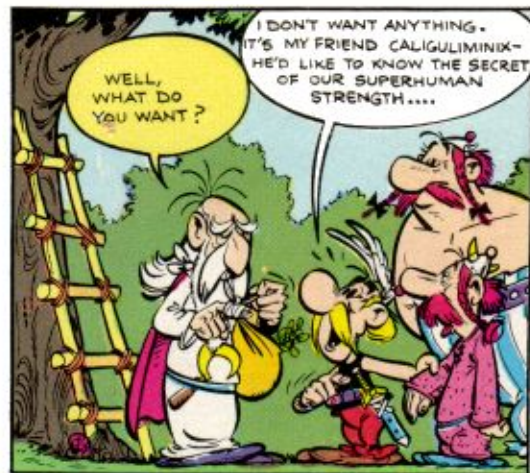


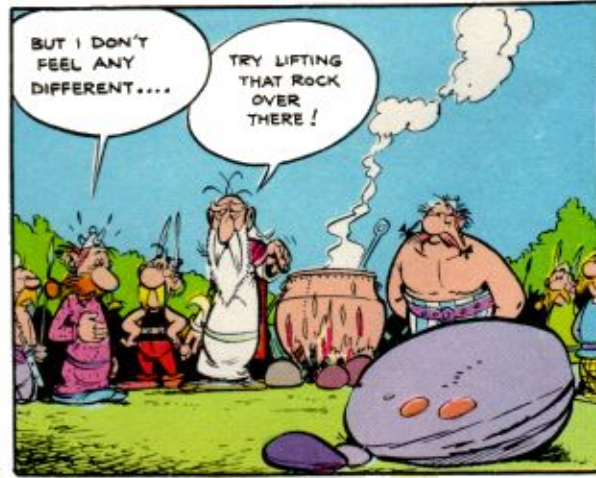
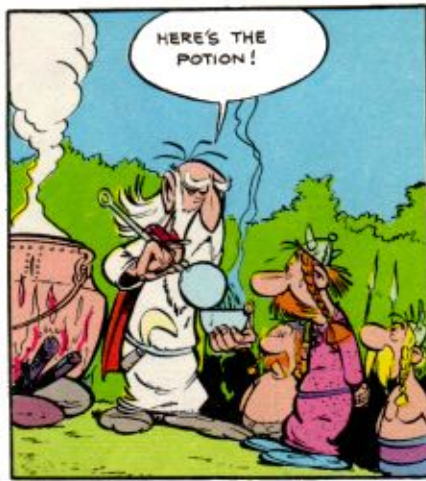
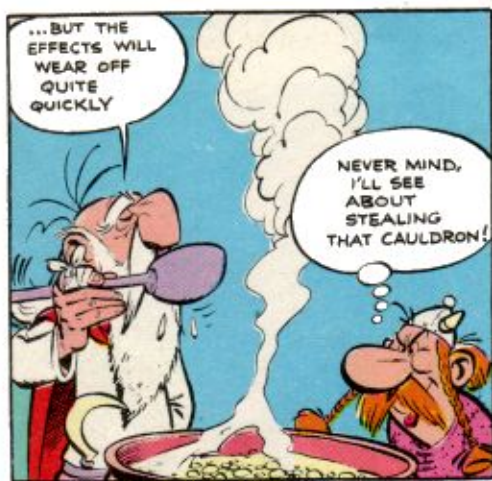
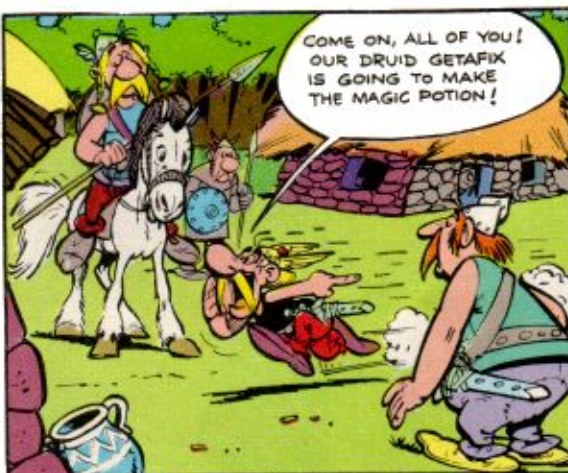
HI,
DRUID!

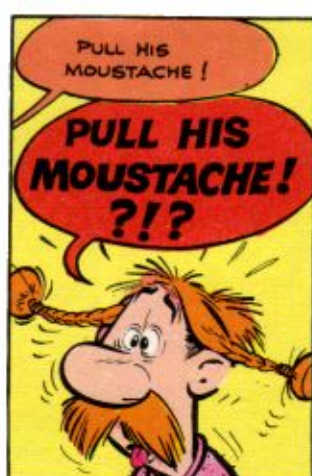
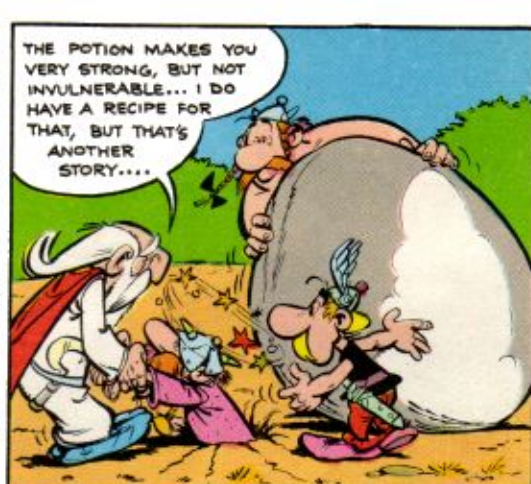
OUCH!

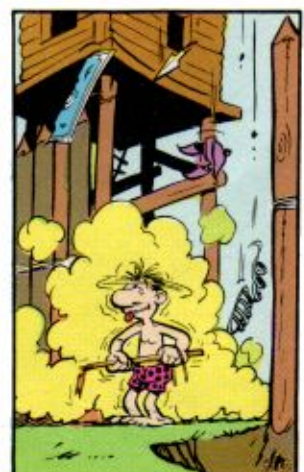
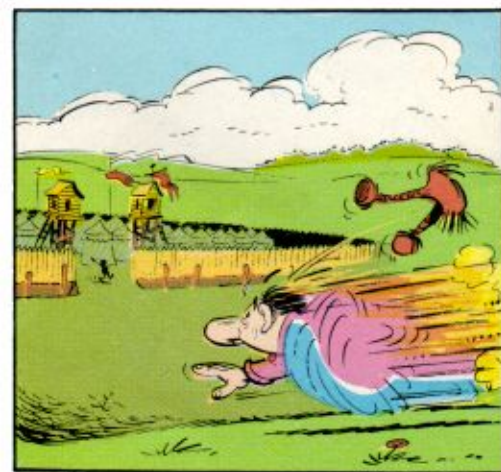
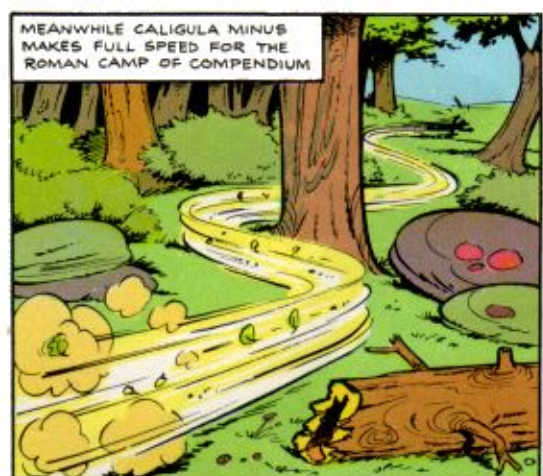
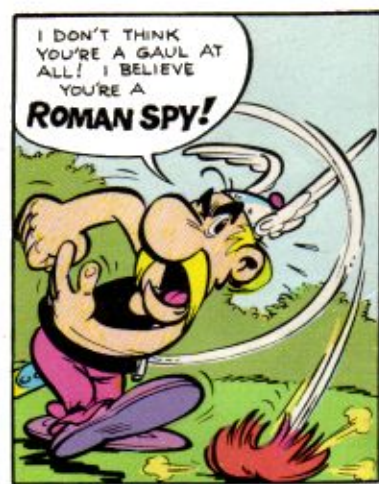
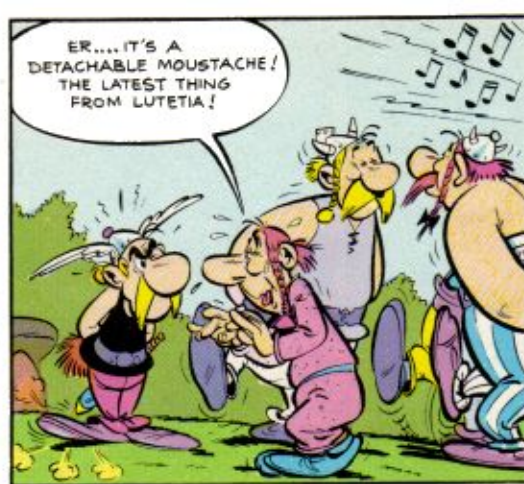
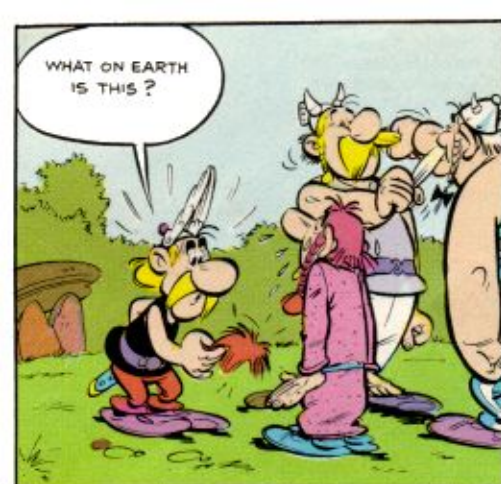


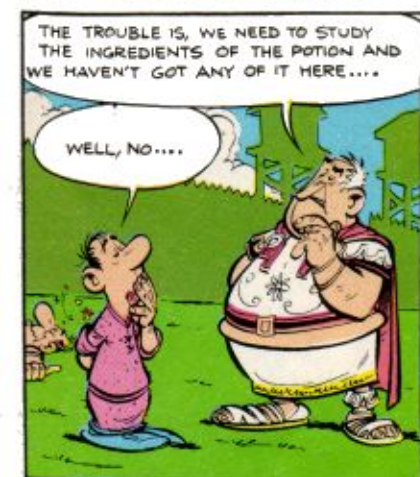
ASTERIX, I TOLD
YOU BEFORE NOT TO
MAKE ME JUMP
WHEN I'M USING
MY SICKLE !!!

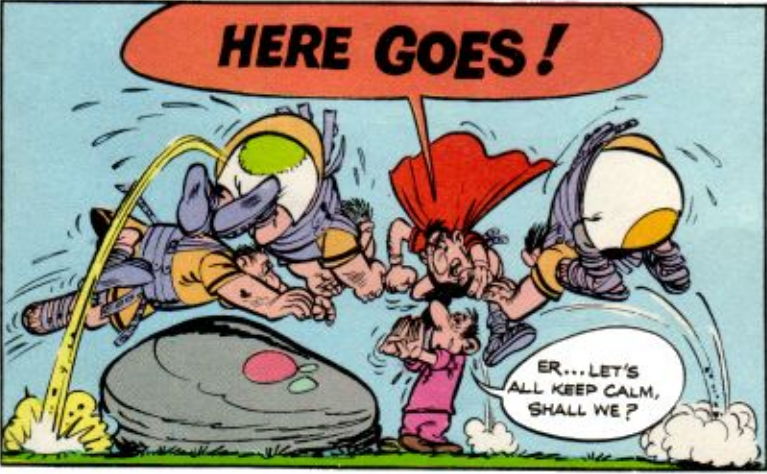
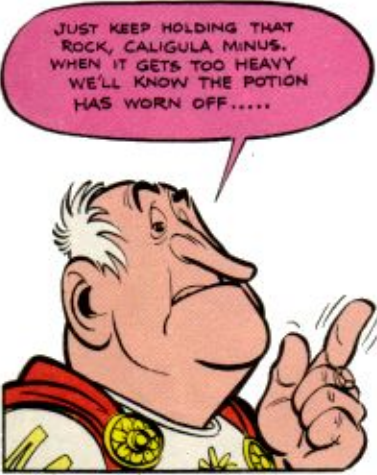












SOON AFTERWARDS
IN THE GAULISH
VILLAGE

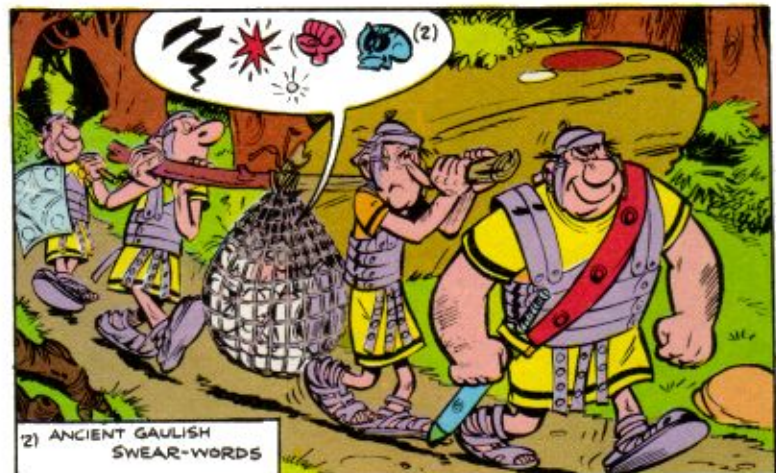
I'M JUST GOING TO PICK
SOME MISTLETOE IN THE
FOREST

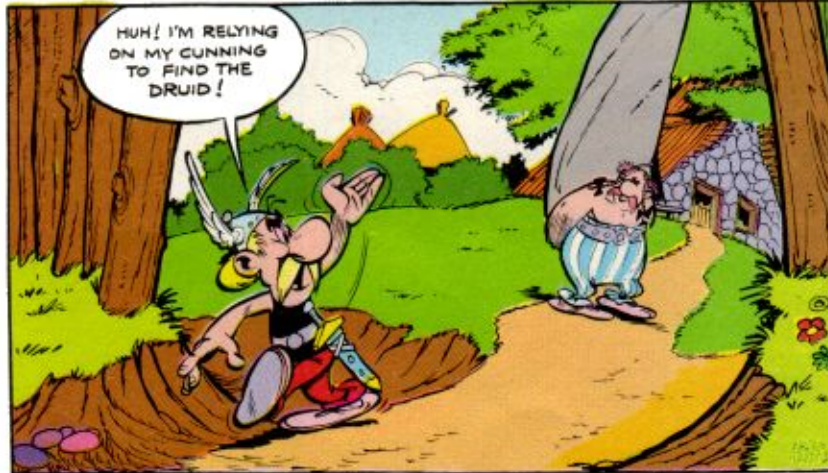
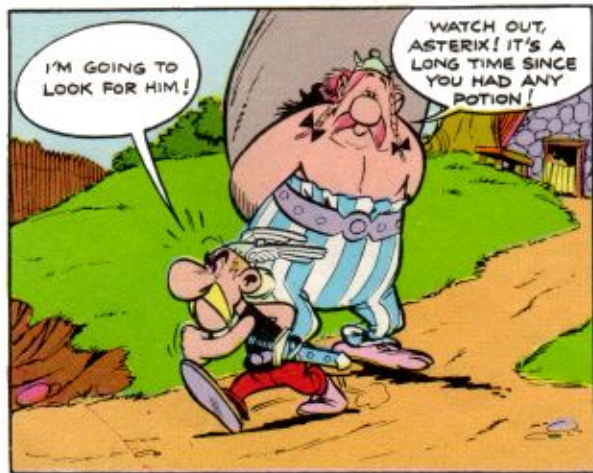
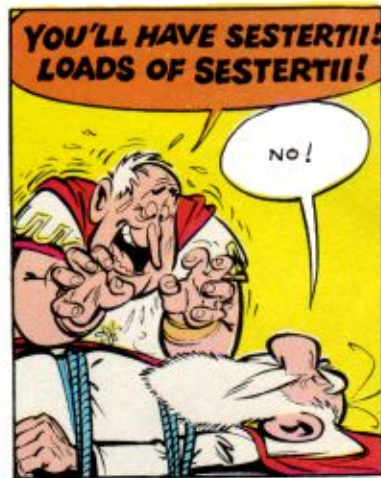
WANT ME TO
COME WITH YOU,
DRUID?

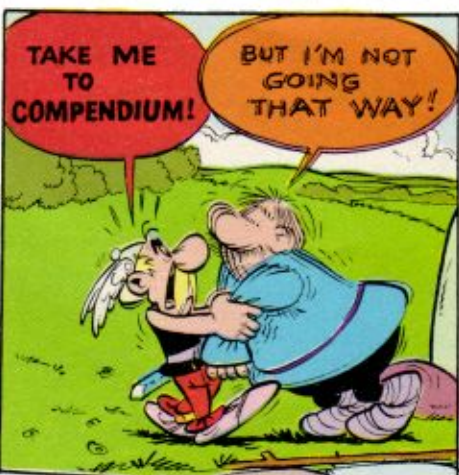
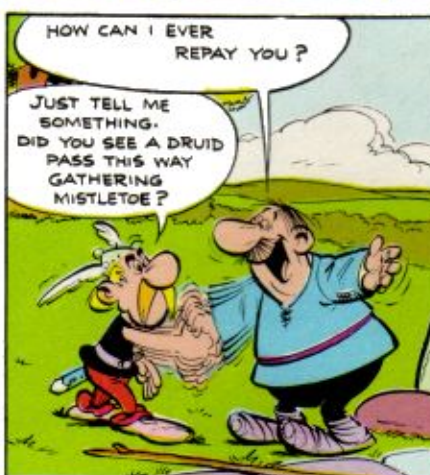
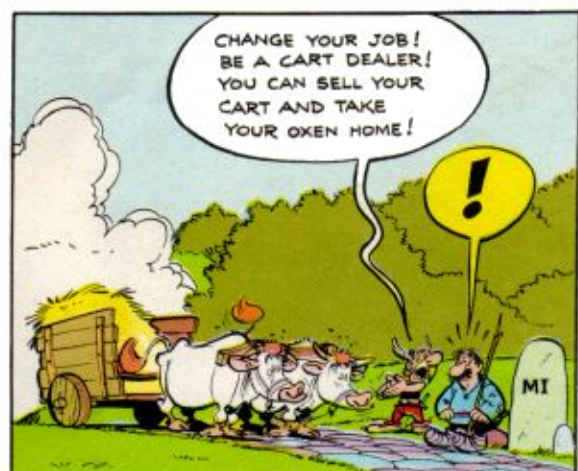
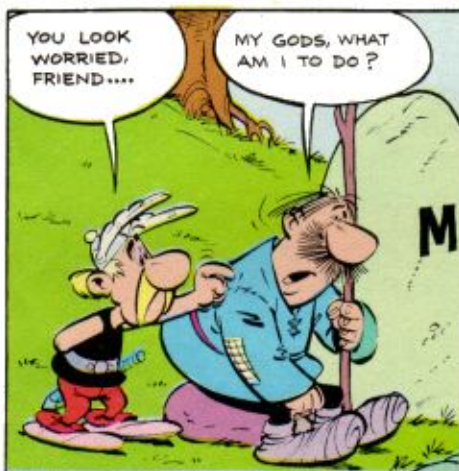
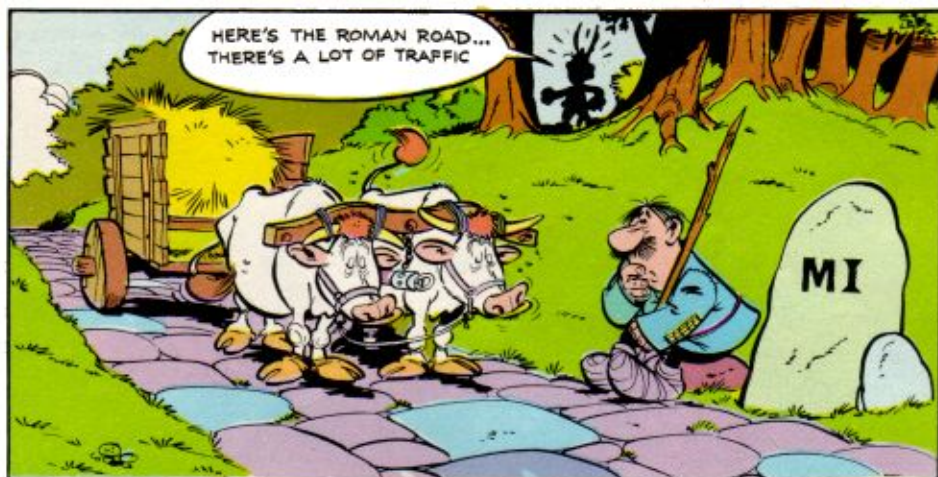
NO, ASTERIX, YOU STAY HERE
TO GUARD THE VILLAGE. YOU
GET YOUR STRENGTH FROM
MY POTION, BUT YOUR
INTELLIGENCE AND CUNNING
ARE ALL YOUR OWN...

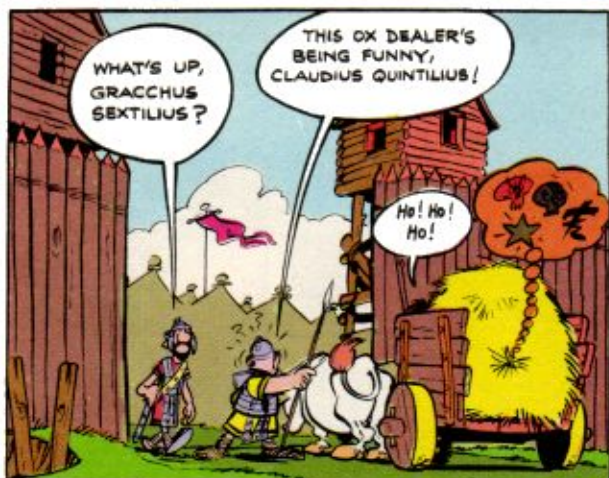
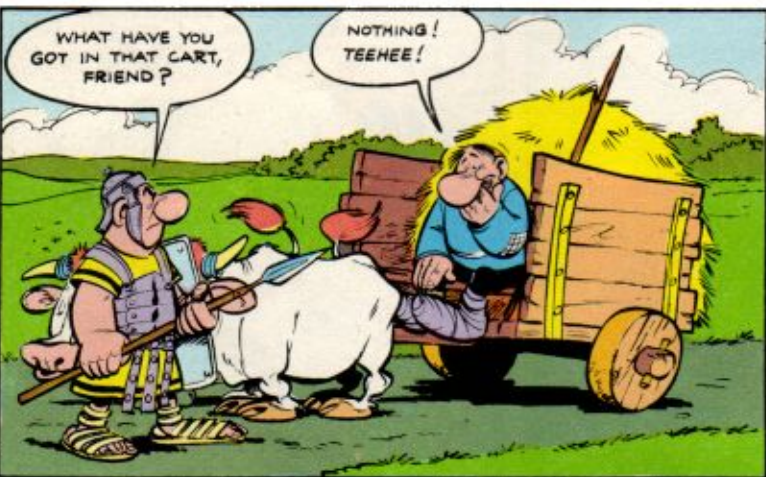
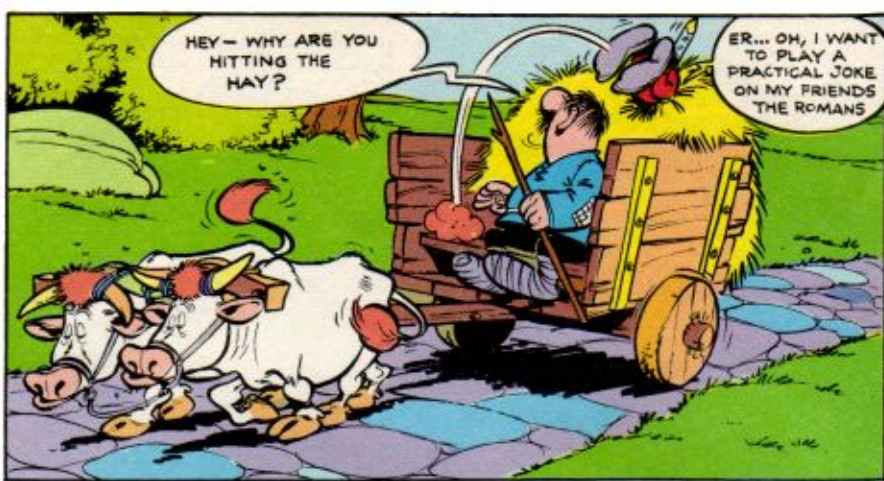
IT WOULD BE A
DISASTER FOR US TO
LOSE YOU! BESIDES,
I'LL BE BACK SOON

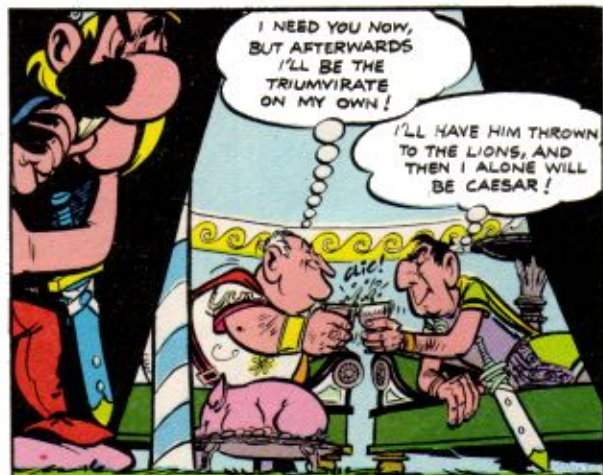
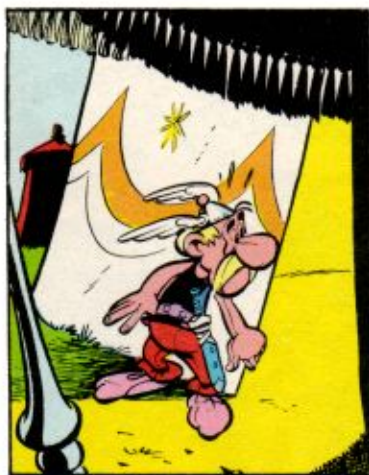
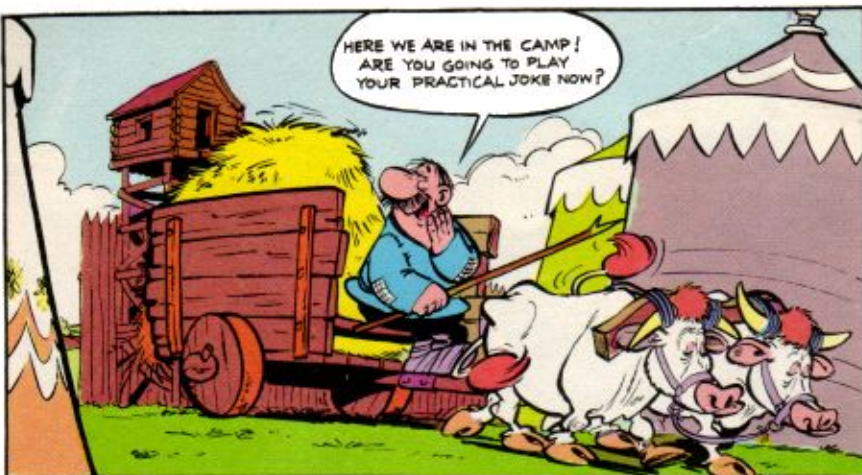
GOOD...















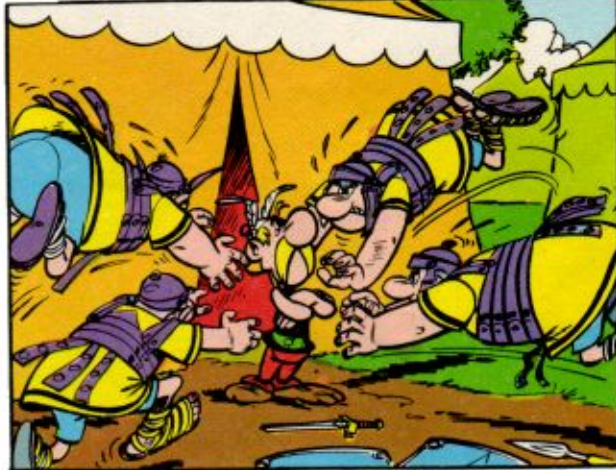
SEIZE HIM, YOU LILY-LIVERED LOT,
OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE CIRCUS
TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS!



THE CIRCUS?

THE LIONS?

OH WELL!



CLINK!
CLANK!
CLONK!
CLUNK!



WHAT'S UP?

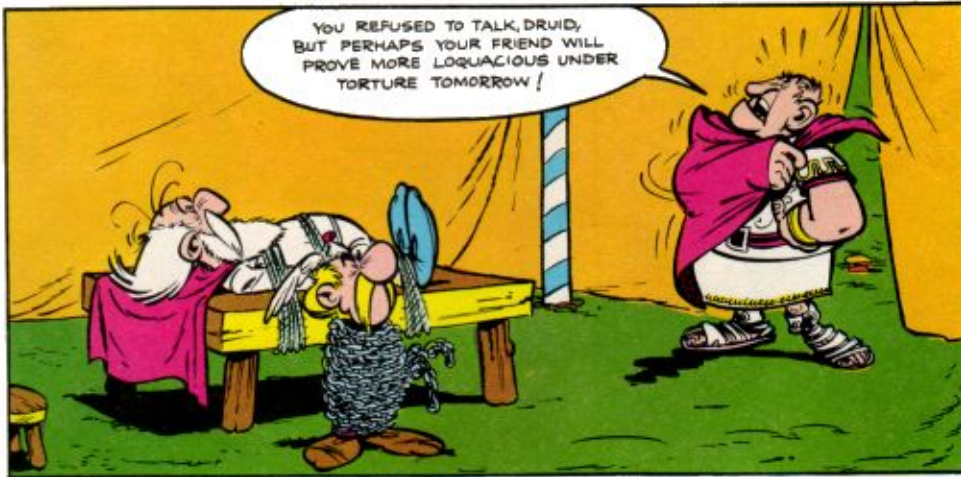
IT'S A GAUL
WHO GOT INTO
THE CAMP...

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!

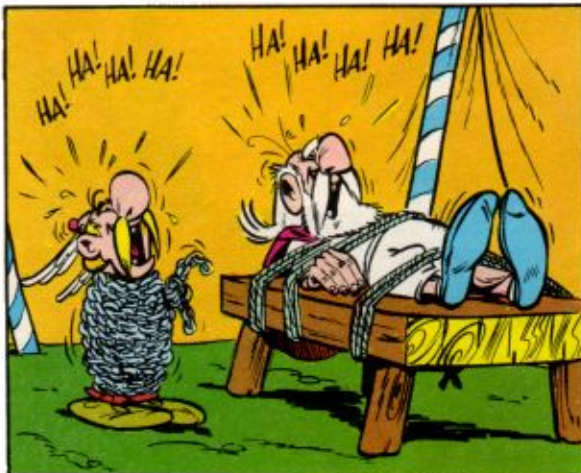


AUT CAESAR,
AUT NIHIL! (I)



(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



QUIET! SOMEONE'S COMING!



CRISMUS BONUS WANTS TO SEE YOU...



YOU, GAUL! DO YOU KNOW THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION?

ME?
NO!

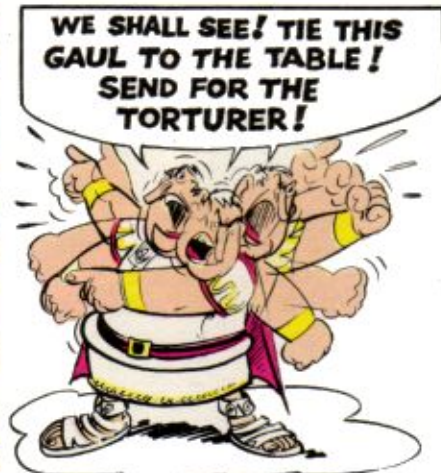


FOR THE LAST TIME, DRUID, GIVE ME THAT RECIPE OR I'LL HAVE YOUR FRIEND TORTURED!



I FEAR NO TORTURE!

I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE COURAGE OF MY FRIEND ASTERIX!



WE SHALL SEE! TIE THIS GAUL TO THE TABLE! SEND FOR THE TORTURER!



HERE I AM!
HERE I AM! EVER READY!



MERCY! MERCY!
I CAN'T STAND IT!
STOP!
MERCY!

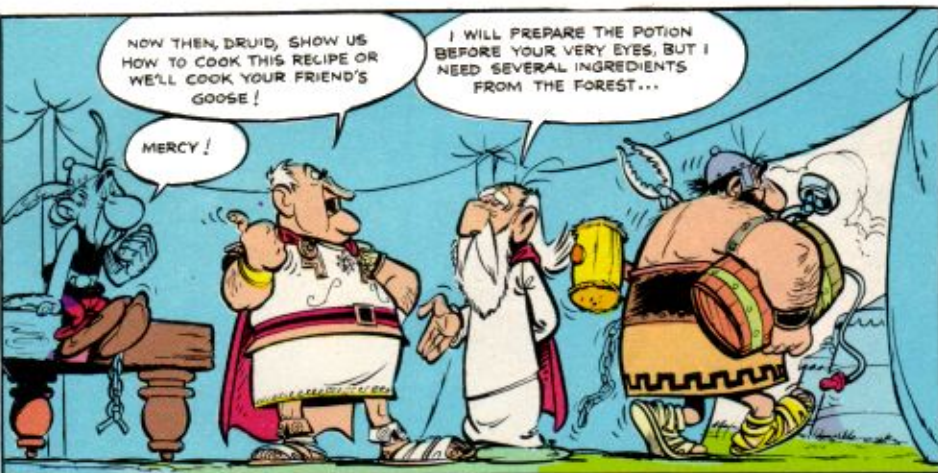
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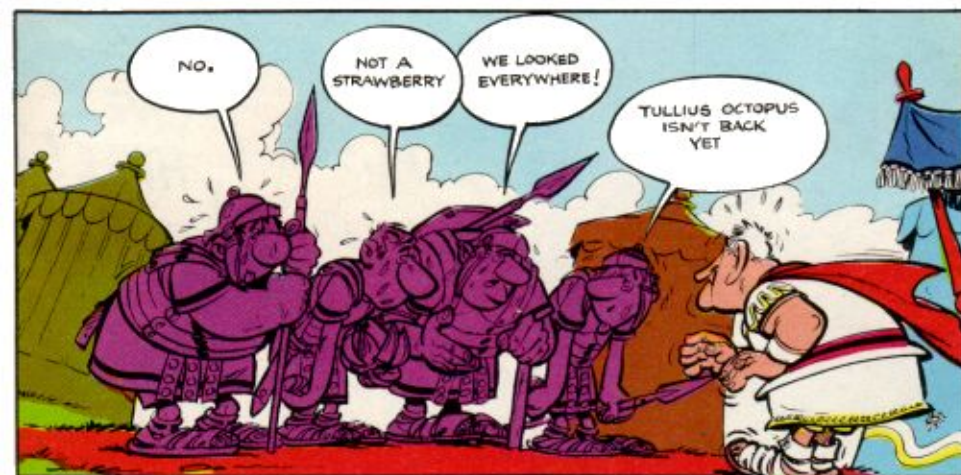
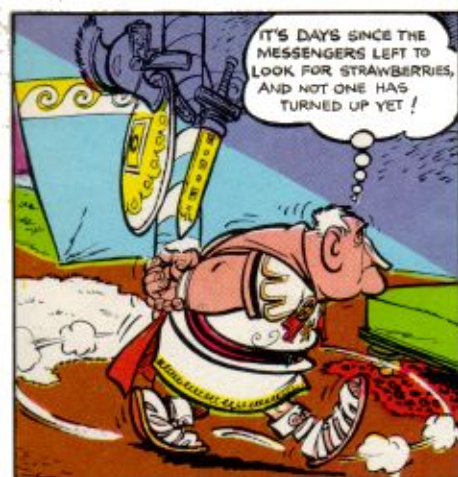
STOP, FOR THE LOVE OF TOUTATIS!
I CAN'T BEAR TO HEAR HIM!
I'LL TELL ALL!



TORTURER, STOP!

BUT I HAVEN'T STARTED YET!

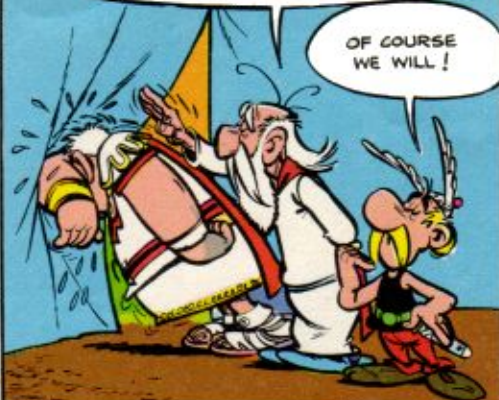




YOU'VE EATEN MY STRAWBERRIES AND NOW YOU
HAVEN'T GOT ANY STRAWBERRIES AND YOU
WANT MORE STRAWBERRIES AND IT'S NOT FAIR
AND I'VE JUST ABOUT
HAD ENOUGH!



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...

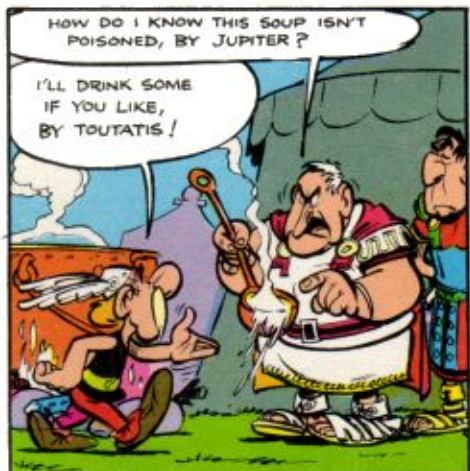


SNIFF!
SNIFF!



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!!!

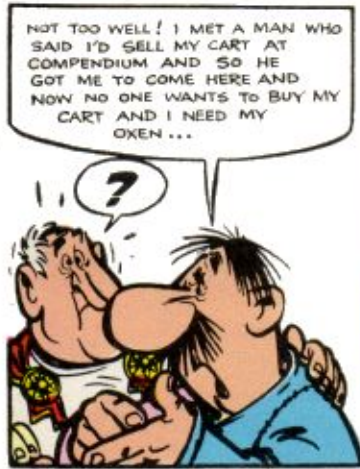
QUID NOVI?

SURSUM CORDA!

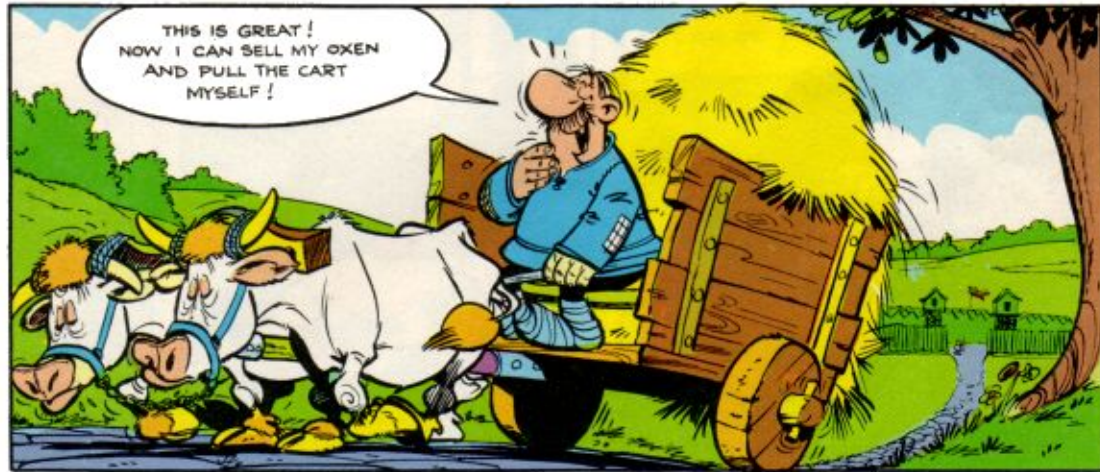
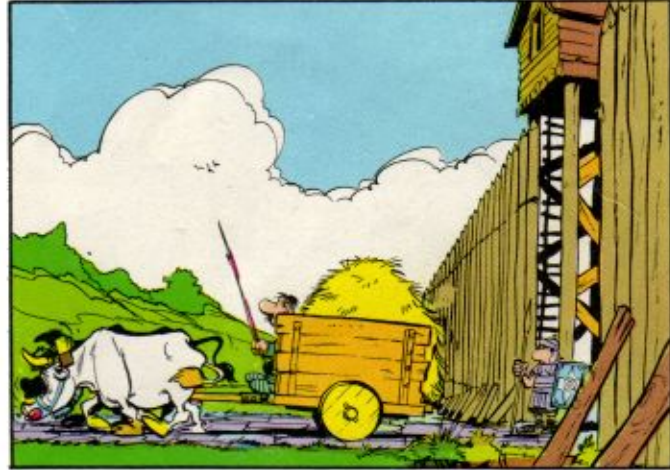
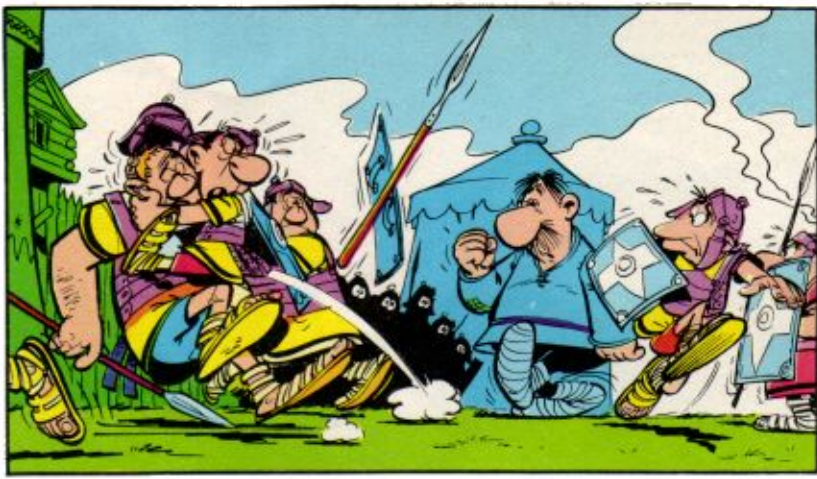
SO WHAT?



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





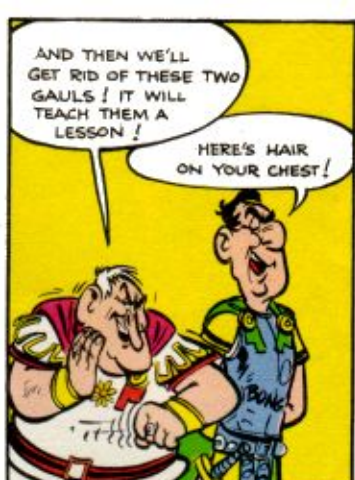




OUR ROAD TO ROME IS CLEAR, O MARCUS GINANTONICUS! CAESAR'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!



DRUID, GIVE US THAT RECIPE IN WRITING!



AND THEN WE'LL GET RID OF THESE TWO GAULS! IT WILL TEACH THEM A LESSON!

HERE'S HAIR ON YOUR CHEST!



AND NOW TO TRY OUT MY NEW STRENGTH!



NNNNNG!



HMM - SET MY SIGHTS TOO HIGH!



I'LL TRY THIS ONE!



NNNNNG!



SOMETHING SMALLER...

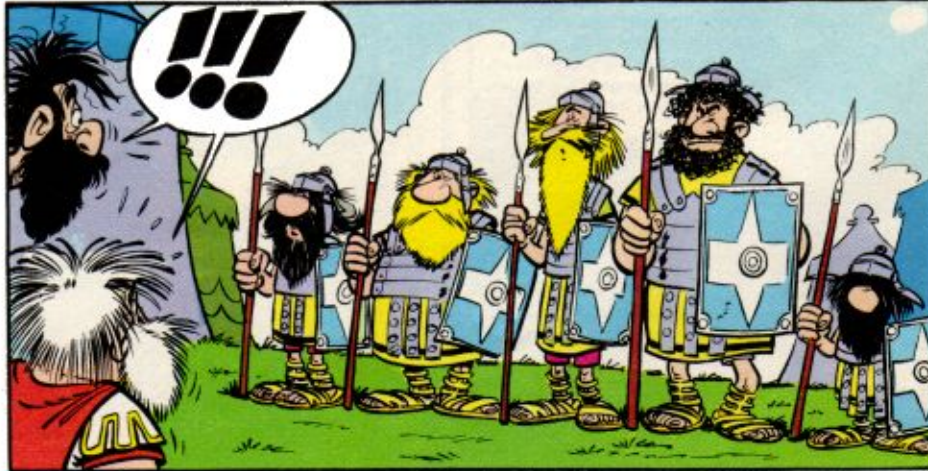


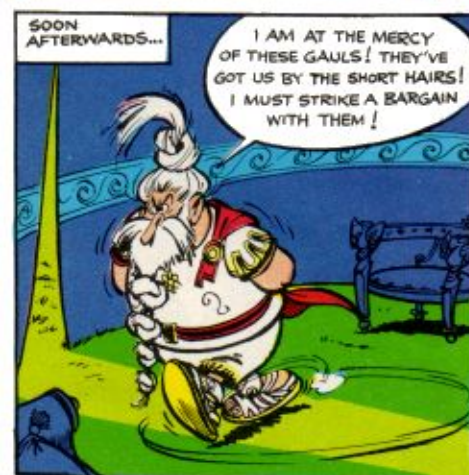
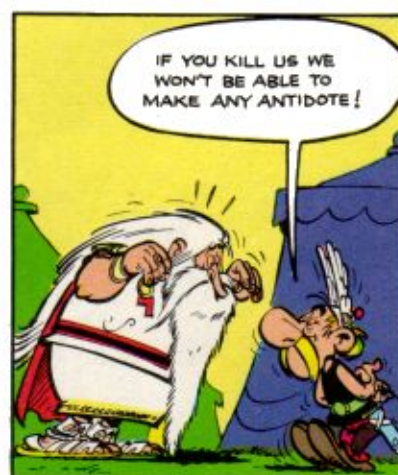
PERHAPS THIS ONE?

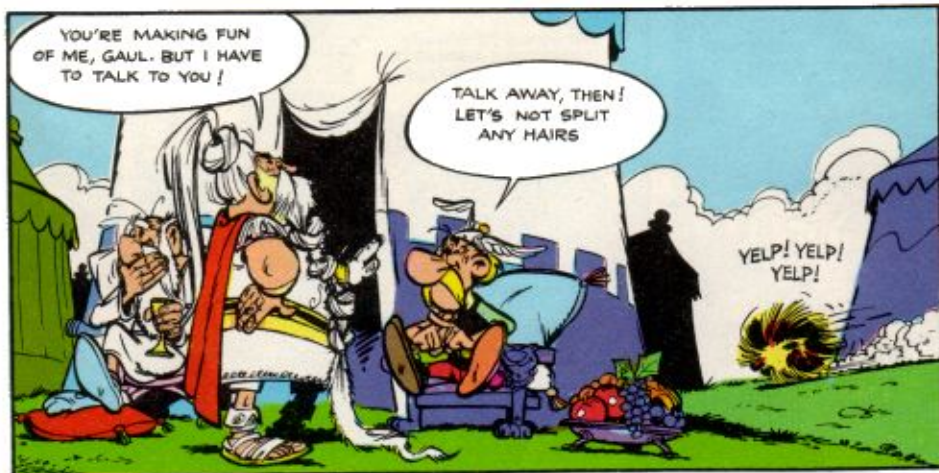


I'VE DONE IT! I'M A SUPERMAN!!!

AMAZING!







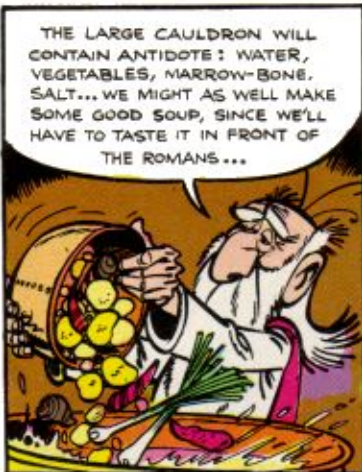




NOW, ASTERIX, THIS LITTLE CAULDRON HOLDS MAGIC POTION - WE'LL NEED PLENTY OF STRENGTH TO GET US OUT OF HERE ...



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 ...



NOW IT'S
YOUR TURN ...

AND HOW CAN I BE
SURE THIS POTION WILL STOP
MY HAIR GROWING ?

YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING,
ROMAN ! LOOK AT MY
MOUSTACHE - IT'S NOT GROWING
ANY LONGER !

SO IT ISN'T,
BY JUPITER !
LET'S HAVE SOME !

GREEDY
PIGS !

YES, AND
JUST THINK
OF ALL THOSE
HAIRS IN
THE SOUP !
UGH !

SEIZE
THEM !!!

WITH
PLEASURE !

CURLYLOCKS, ♪
CURLYLOCKS,
WILT THOU BE MINE
♪♪♪

LEGGO !

HELP !

