

AN ASTERIX
ADVENTURE

Asterix

Asterix

THE GLADIATOR



DARGAUD

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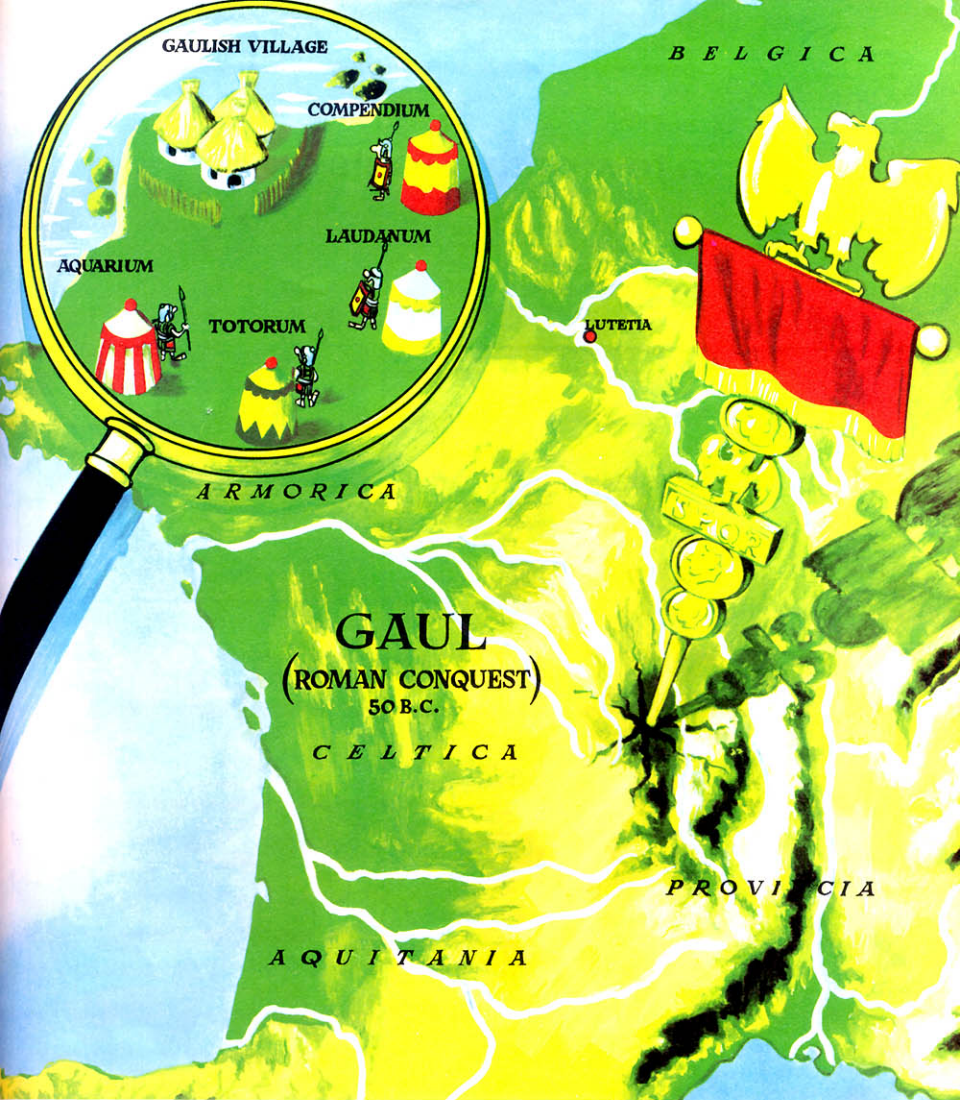
ASTERIX THE GLADIATOR

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE





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.



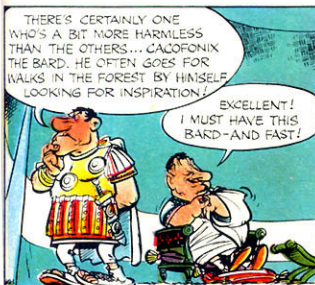
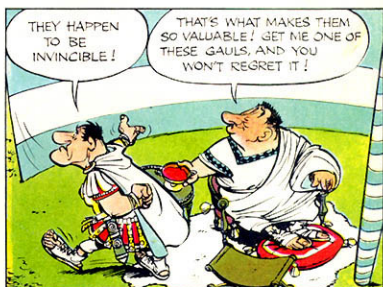
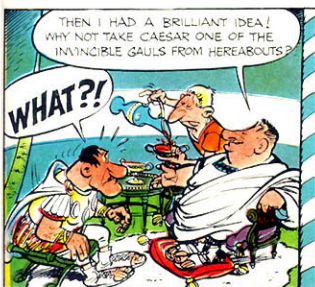
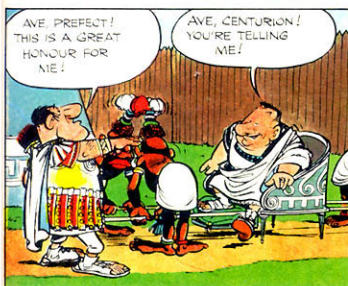
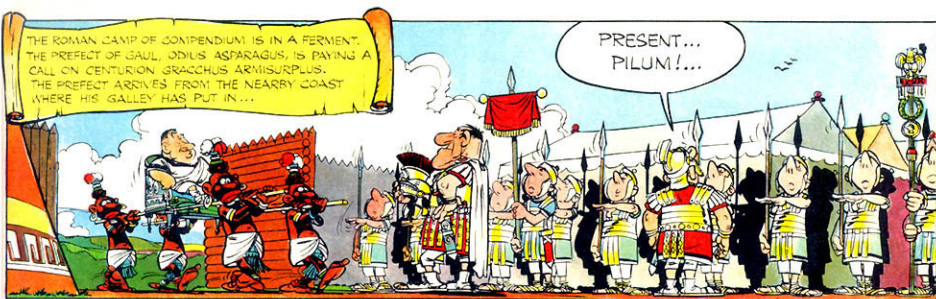
Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...



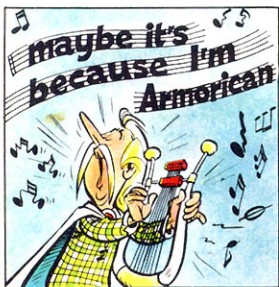
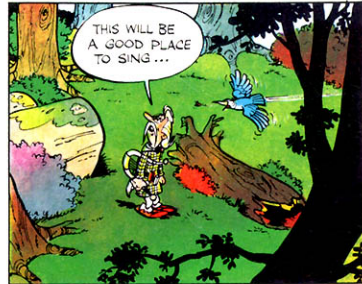
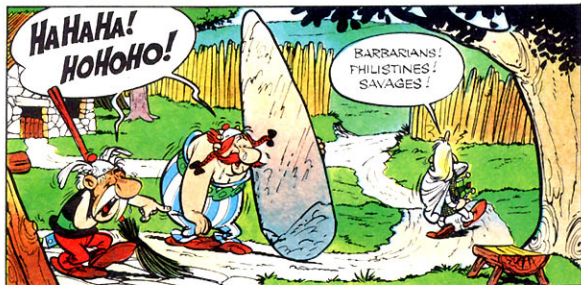
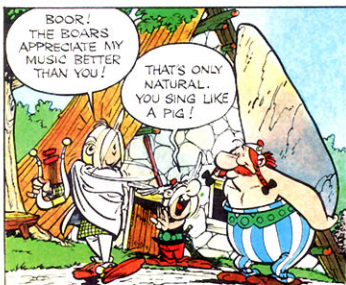
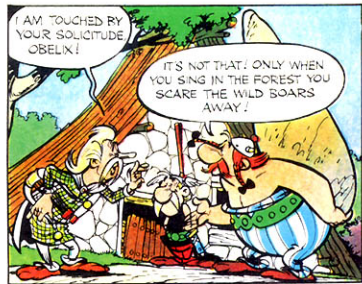
Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...

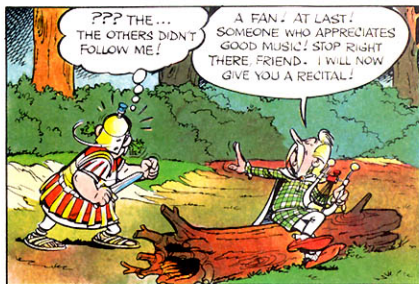
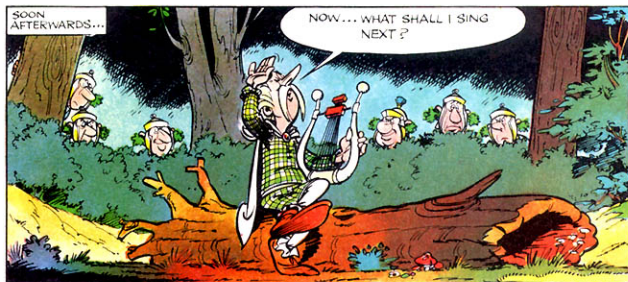


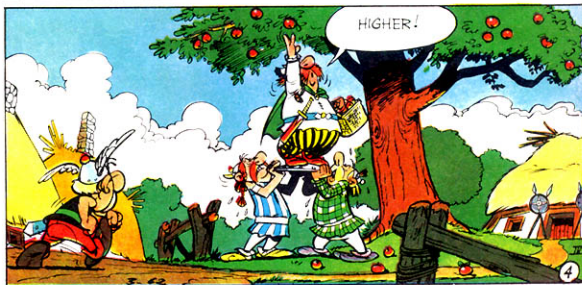
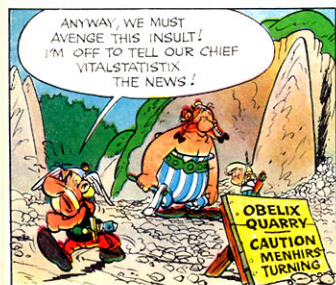
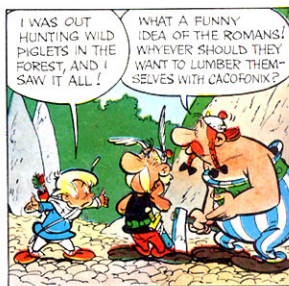
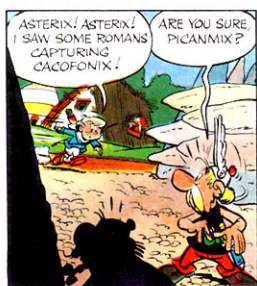
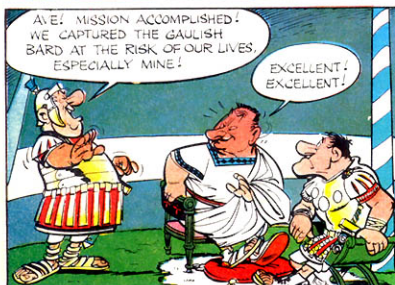
Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

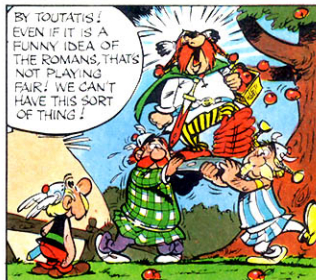
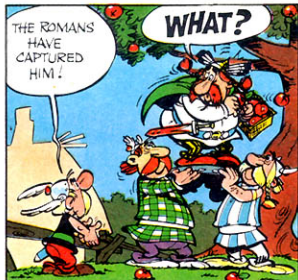


SCANNED BY SOLOMONGRUNDIFX - E PLURIBUS HACSATI!!









THIS IS THE FIRST TIME CACOFONIX HAS EVER GIVEN US ANY ENTERTAINMENT!

I SAY ASTERIX! HOW ABOUT A BET? THE ONE WHO KNOCKS OUT MOST LEGIONARIES WINS, AND WE HAVE TO COLLECT THEIR HELMETS AS PROOF!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AT COMPENDIUM...

PUT YOUR HELMETS ON!!!

THE GAU... GAULS! SOUND THE ALARM!

HELP! THEY'RE COMING!

AND INSIDE THE CAMP WE OBSERVE THE IMPRESSIVE SPECTACLE OF LEGIONARIES MANOEUVRING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAMOUS PRECISION OF THE ROMAN ARMY...

COHORTS INTO THREE LINES... FORM!

SOUND THE HORNS, TRUMPETS AND BUCINAS!

PILUM AT THE READY!

MANOEUVRE, BY JUPITER!!!

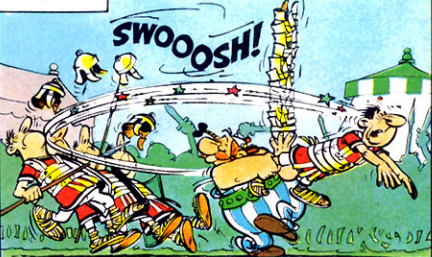
WHOOOOOSH!

WE CAN'T! THE GAULS ARE IN THE WAY!

THE BATTLE IS SHORT...



BUT SHARP...

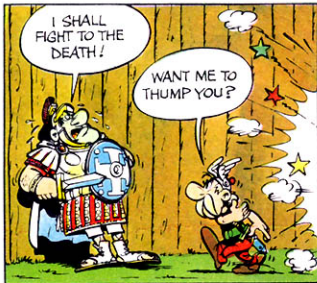


I CAN'T FIND CACOFONIX ANYWHERE... AH, THERE'S THE ROMAN COMMANDER!



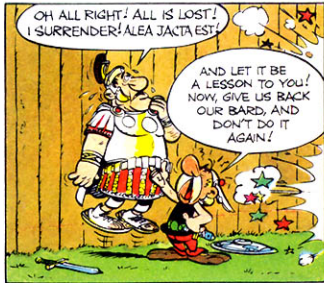
I SHALL FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

WANT ME TO THUMP YOU?



OH ALL RIGHT! ALL IS LOST! I SURRENDER! ALEA JACTA EST!

AND LET IT BE A LESSON TO YOU! NOW, GIVE US BACK OUR BARD, AND DON'T DO IT AGAIN!

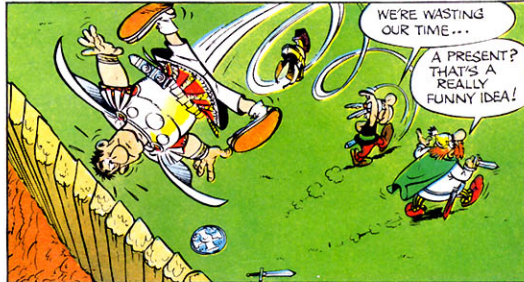


THE FACT IS... YOUR BARD ISN'T HERE ANY MORE. AT THIS MOMENT HE'S ON BOARD A GALLEY, SAILING FOR ROME TO BE GIVEN TO CAESAR AS A PRESENT...



WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME...

A PRESENT? THAT'S A REALLY FUNNY IDEA!

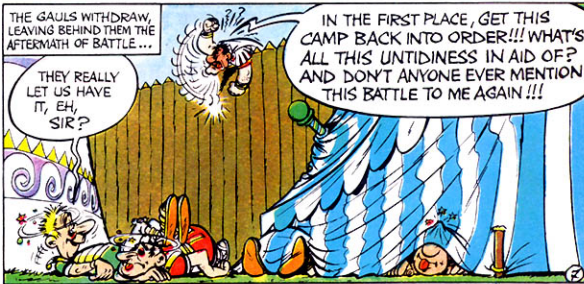


LOOK AT THIS, ASTERIX! I'M SURE I'VE WON OUR BET! AND ONE LEGIONARY WAS FIGHTING BARE-HEADED TOO. IT'S AGAINST ALL THE RULES OF WARFARE TO GO INTO BATTLE IMPROPERLY DRESSED! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO REPORT HIM!

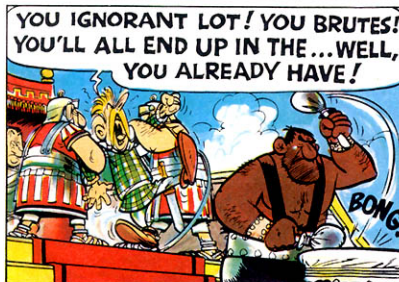
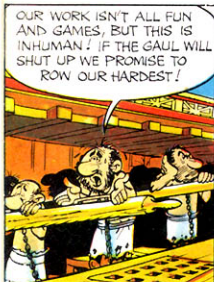
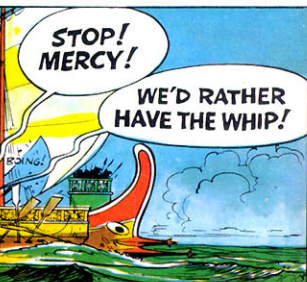
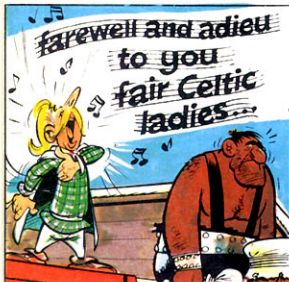
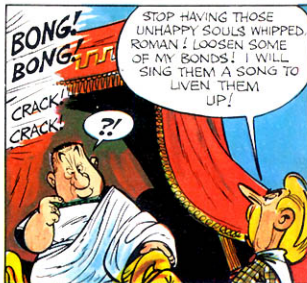
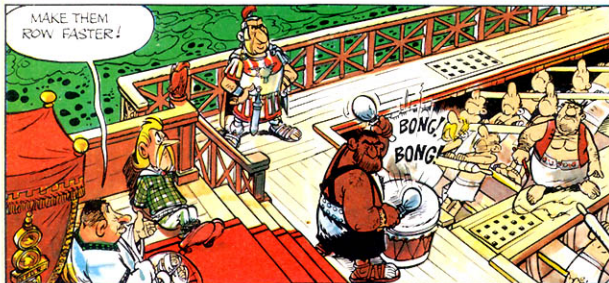
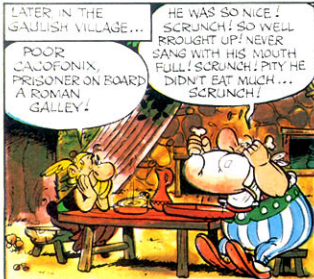


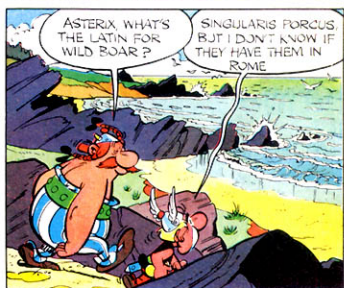
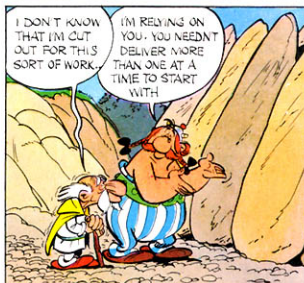
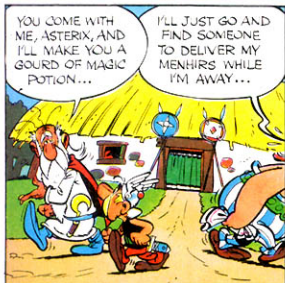
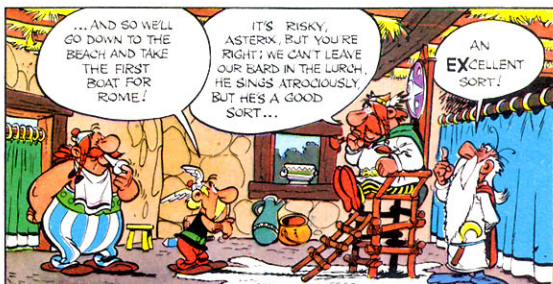
THE GAULS WITHDRAW, LEAVING BEHIND THEM THE AFTERMATH OF BATTLE...

THEY REALLY LET US HAVE IT, EH, SIR?



IN THE FIRST PLACE, GET THIS CAMP BACK INTO ORDER!!! WHAT'S ALL THIS UNTIDINESS IN AID OF? AND DON'T ANYONE EVER MENTION THIS BATTLE TO ME AGAIN!!!







NOW TO STOP
THIS SHIP
SAILING ALONG
THE COAST!

ASTERIX AND OBELIX MAKE
THE ANCIENT GAULISH SIGN INDICATING
A WISH TO BE TAKEN ON BOARD...
NOTE THE FOUR CLENCHED
FINGERS AND THE THUMB JERKED
IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION. IF YOU
WISH TO GO TO ROME THE DIRECTION
OF THE THUMB IS IMMATERIAL,
SINCE ALL ROADS LEAD THERE

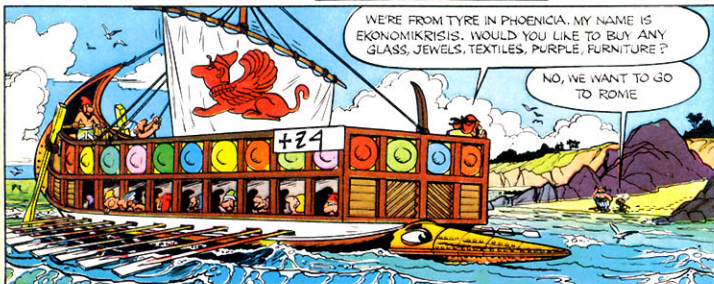


N.B. THIS GESTURE IS STILL
EMPLOYED TODAY, THOUGH NOT
OFFEN TO STOP SHIPS



IT'S A PHOENICIAN
GALLEY. THE
PHOENICIANS ARE
FAMOUS SAILORS
AND MERCHANTS.

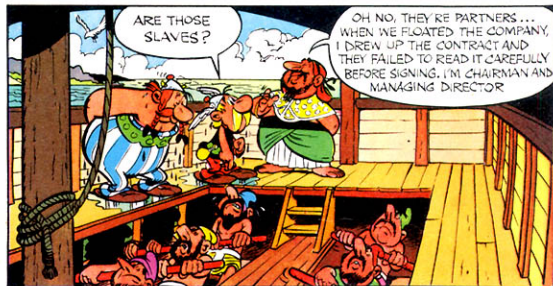
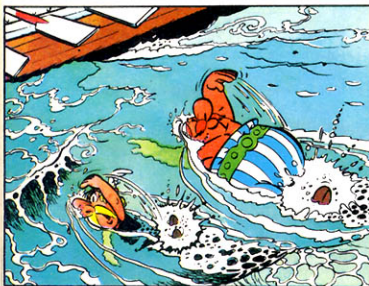
WHAT'S THE
PHOENICIAN FOR
SINGULARIS PORCUS?



WE'RE FROM TYRE IN PHOENICIA. MY NAME IS
EKONOMIKRISIS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ANY
GLASS, JEWELS, TEXTILES, PURPLE, FURNITURE?

NO, WE WANT TO GO
TO ROME

HM...ER...ALL RIGHT,
COME ON BOARD!



ARE THOSE
SLAVES?

OH NO, THEY'RE PARTNERS...
WHEN WE FLOATED THE COMPANY,
I DREW UP THE CONTRACT AND
THEY FAILED TO READ IT CAREFULLY
BEFORE SIGNING. I'M CHAIRMAN AND
MANAGING DIRECTOR

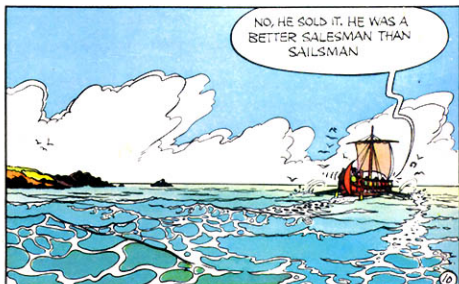


IT'S KIND OF YOU
TO TAKE US
TO ROME. I HOPE IT
DOESN'T MEAN GOING
OUT OF YOUR WAY?

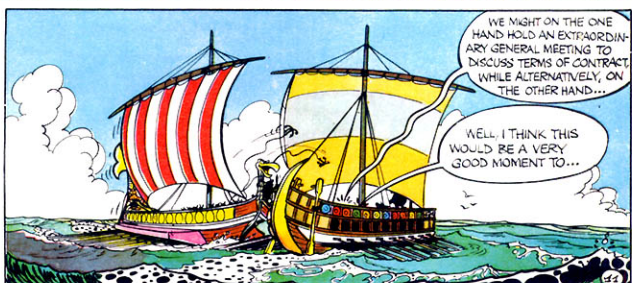
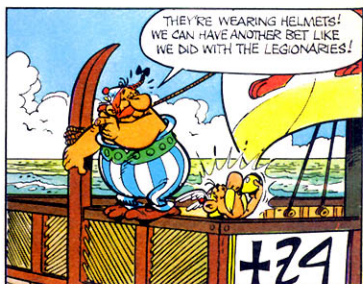
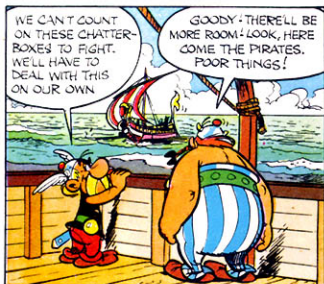
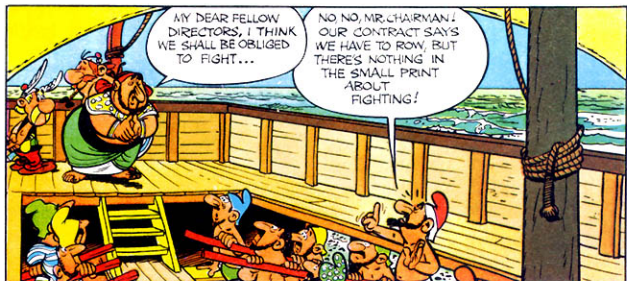
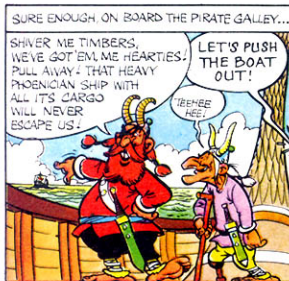
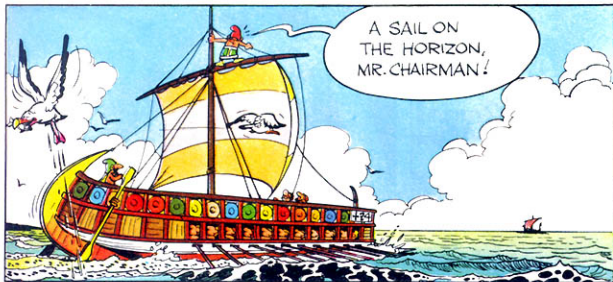
AS IT HAPPENS, WE
WERE PLANNING TO
GO TO ROME. ONE OF MY
PREDECESSORS ABANDONED
HIS SHIP THERE...

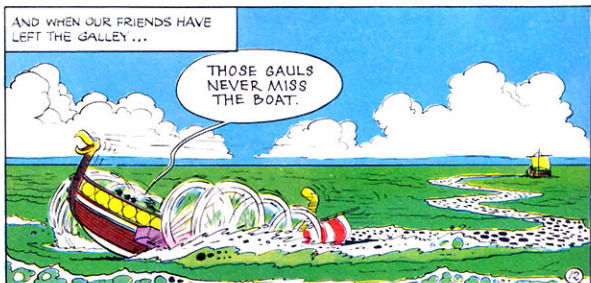
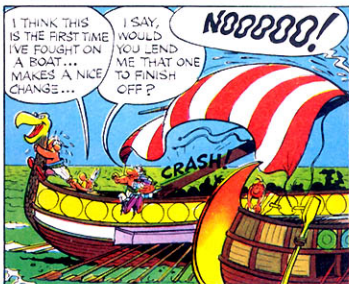
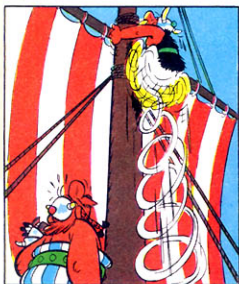
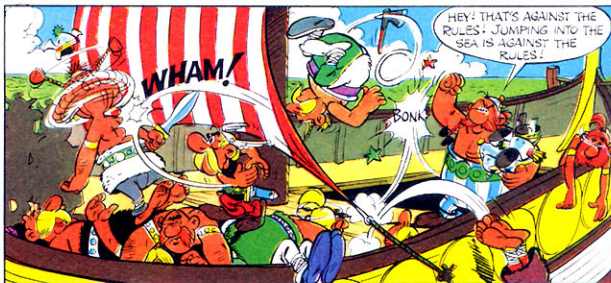
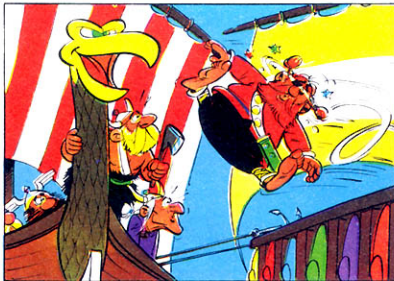
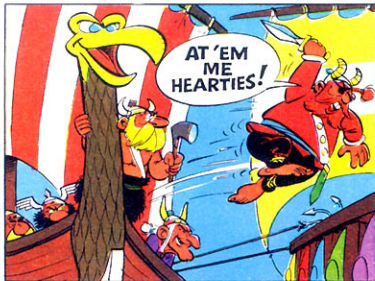


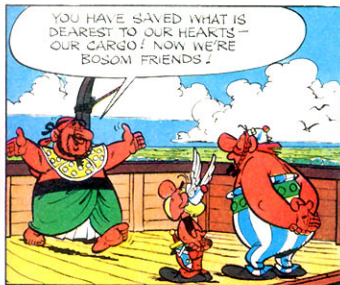
IT SANK?



NO, HE SOLD IT. HE WAS A
BETTER SALESMAN THAN
SAILSMAN



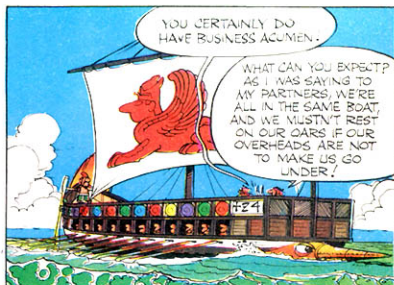




YOU HAVE SAVED WHAT IS DEAREST TO OUR HEARTS—OUR CARGO! NOW WE'RE BOSOM FRIENDS!

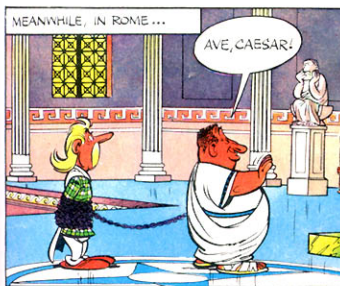


I ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO SELL YOU AS SLAVES WHEN WE CALLED AT THE NEXT PORT. BUT NOW I'LL TAKE YOU TO ROME AS AGREED



YOU CERTAINLY DO HAVE BUSINESS ACUMEN.

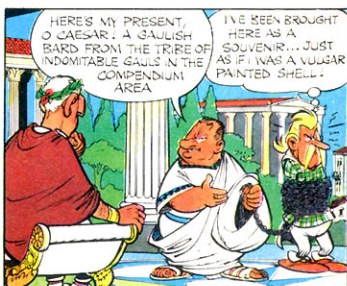
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT? AS I HAD SAID TO MY PARTNERS, WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT, AND WE MUSTN'T REST ON OUR OARS IF OUR OVERHEADS ARE NOT TO MAKE US GO UNDER!



AVE, CAESAR!

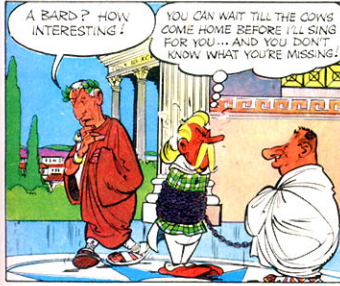


AVE, ODIUS ASPARAGUS, PREFECT OF GAUL.



HERE'S MY PRESENT, O CAESAR: A GAULISH BARD FROM THE (TREDE OF) INDOMITABLE GAULS IN THE COMPENDIUM AREA

I'VE BEEN BROUGHT HERE AS A SOUVENIR... JUST AS IF I WAS A VALUABLE PAINTED SHELL.



A BARD? HOW INTERESTING!

YOU CAN WAIT TILL THE COINS COME HOME BEFORE I'LL SING FOR YOU... AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.



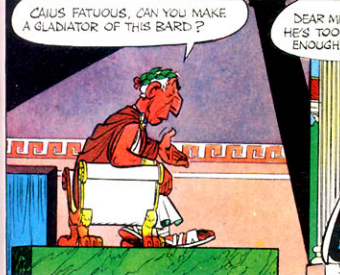
THANKS FOR THIS ORIGINAL LITTLE PRESENT, PREFECT. YOU MAY GO!



SEND FOR CAIUS FATUOUS, THE LANISTA*

SHAP!

* TRAINER OF THE GLADIATORS



CAIUS FATUOUS, CAN YOU MAKE A GLADIATOR OF THIS BARD?

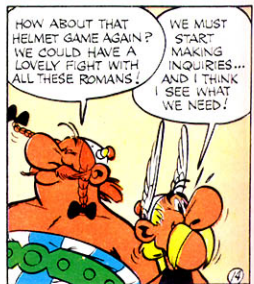
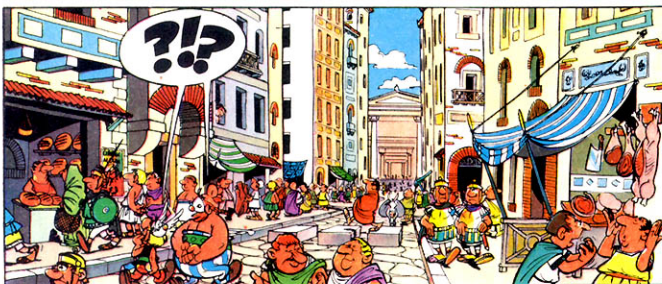
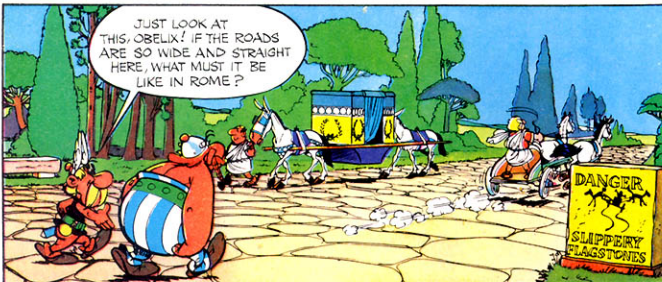
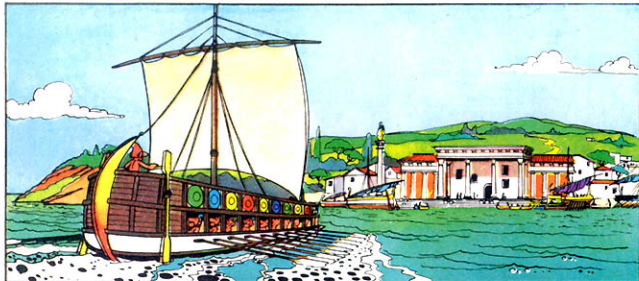


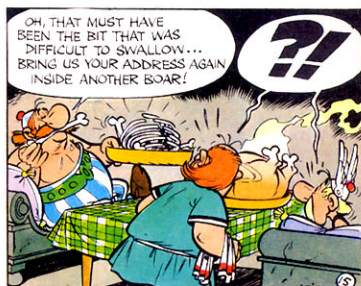
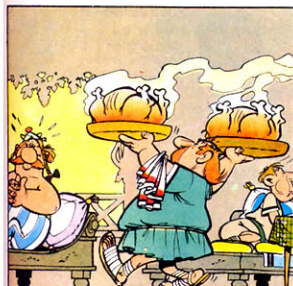
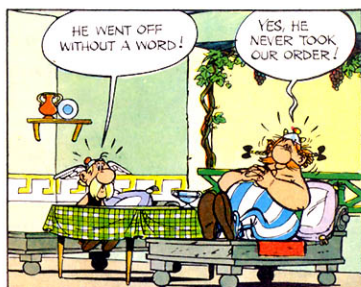
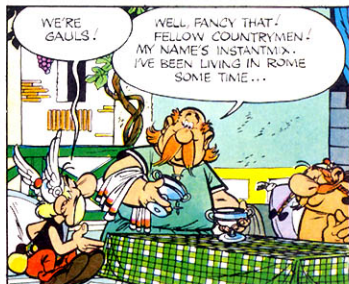
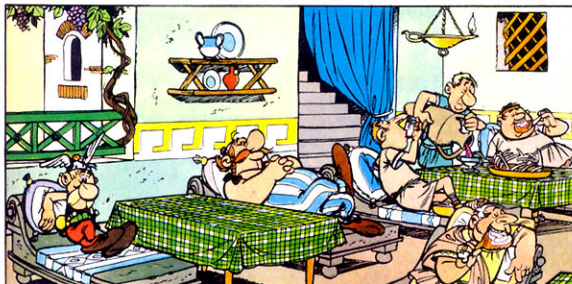
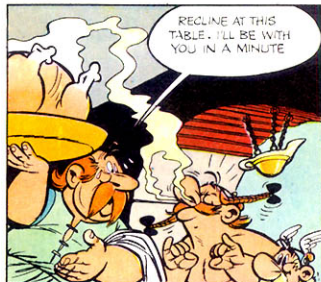
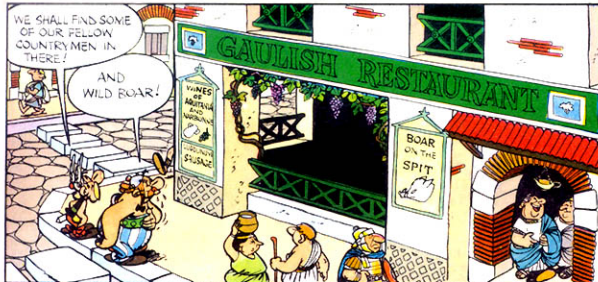
DEAR ME, NO, O CAESAR! HE'S TOO WEAK... NOT ENOUGH MEAT ON HIM!

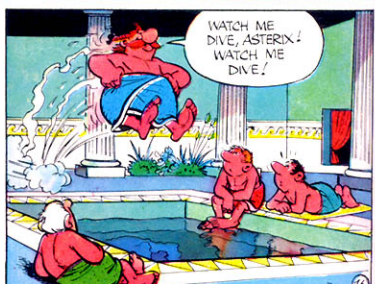
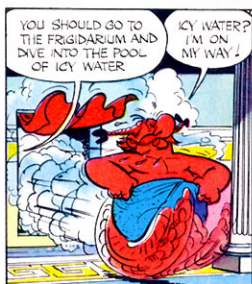
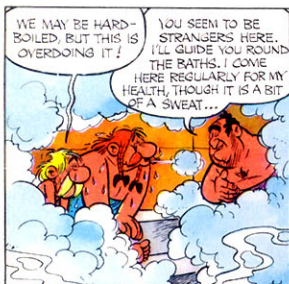
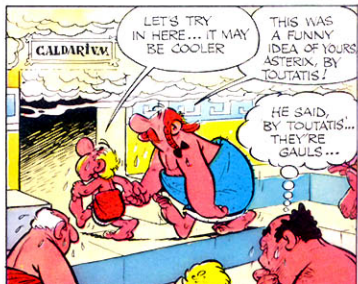
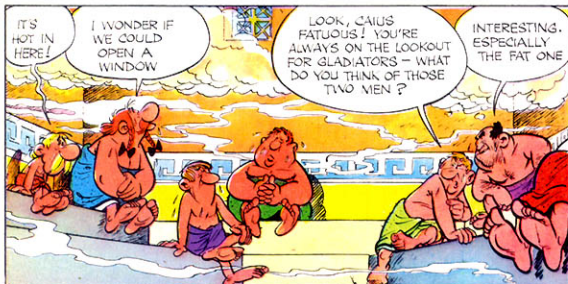
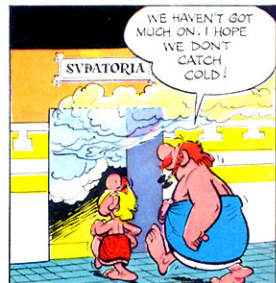
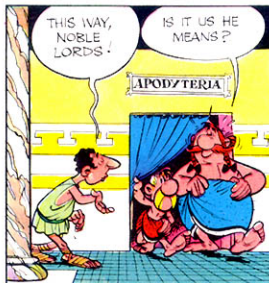
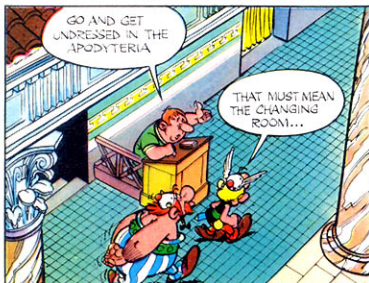
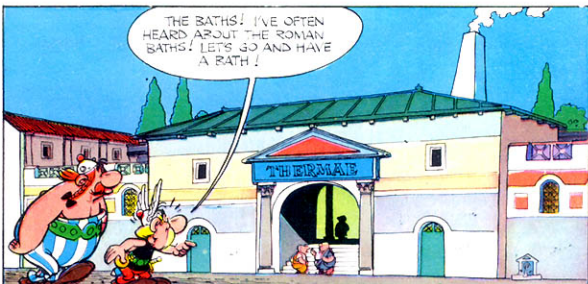
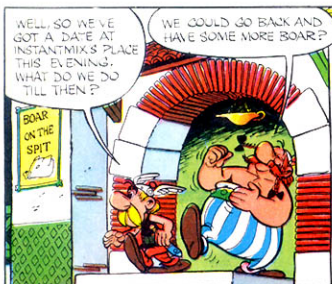
IF I WASN'T RESTRAINING MYSELF...

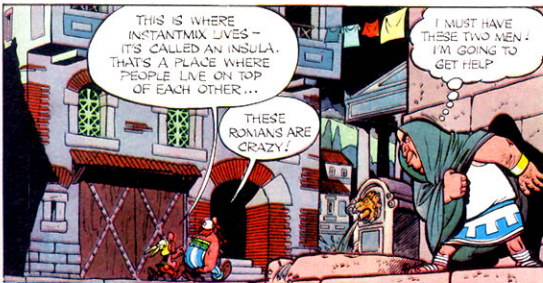
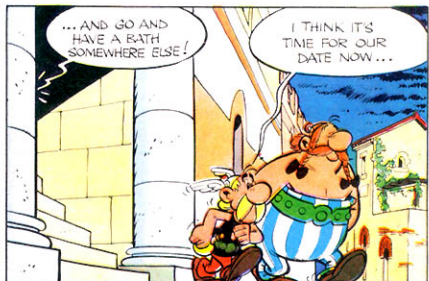
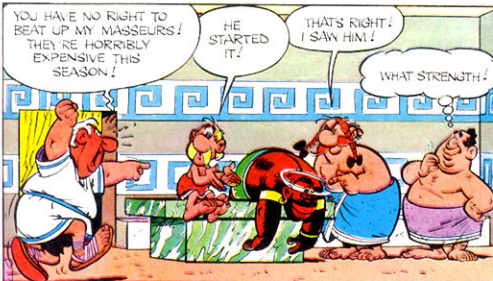
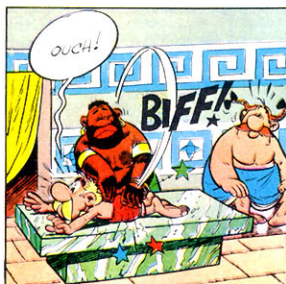


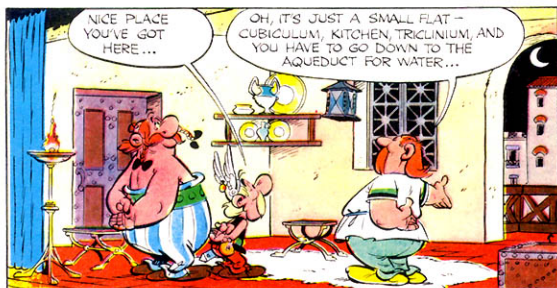
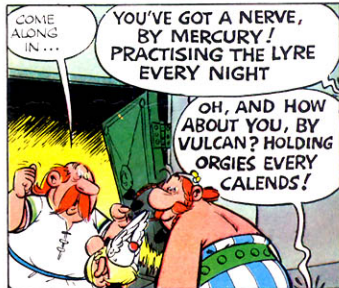
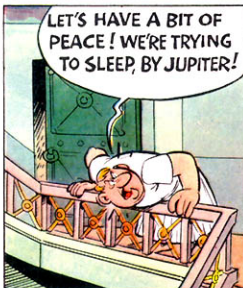
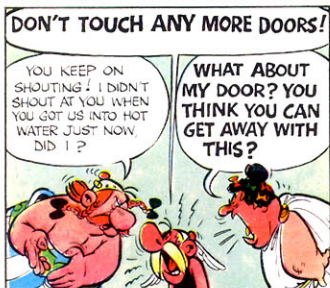
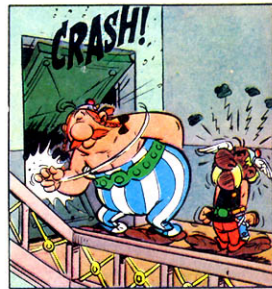
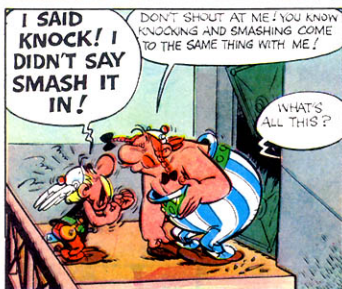
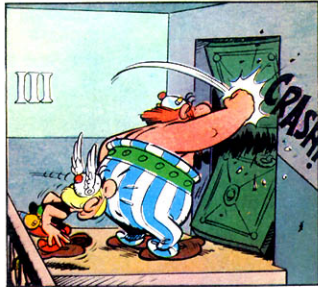
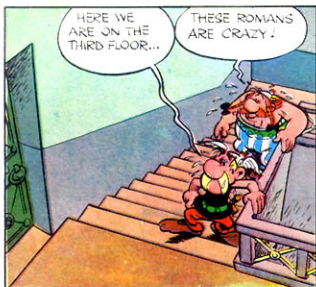
VERY WELL THEN, THROW HIM TO THE LIONS AT THE NEXT GAMES. TAKE HIM AWAY!

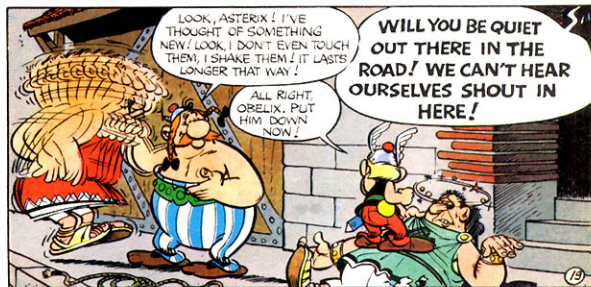
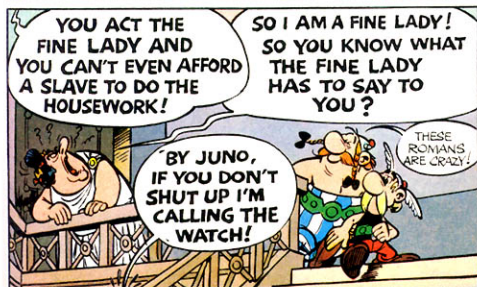
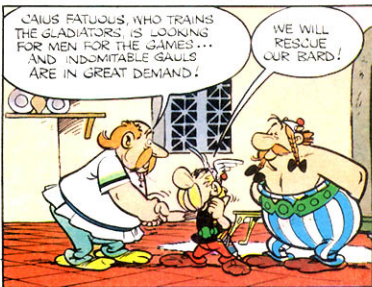
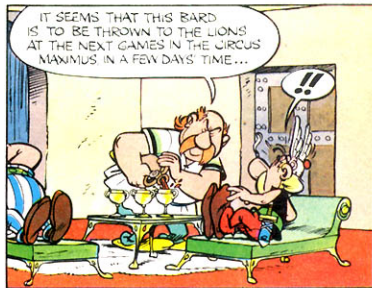


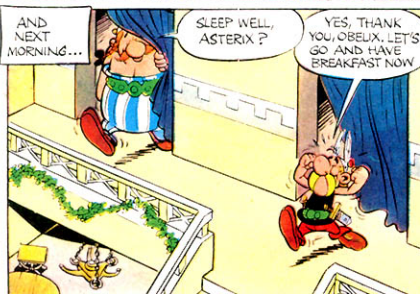
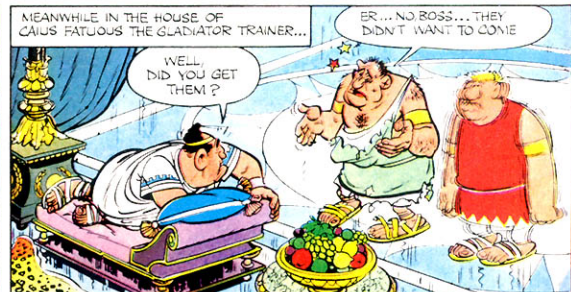
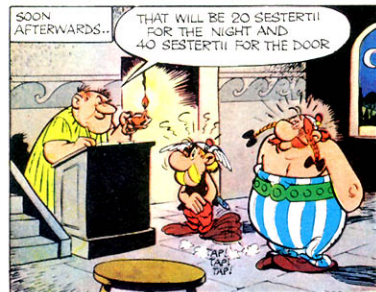
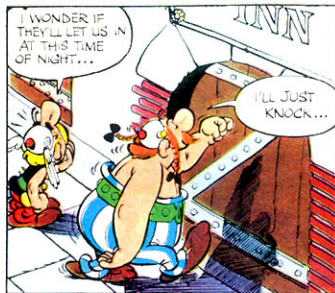
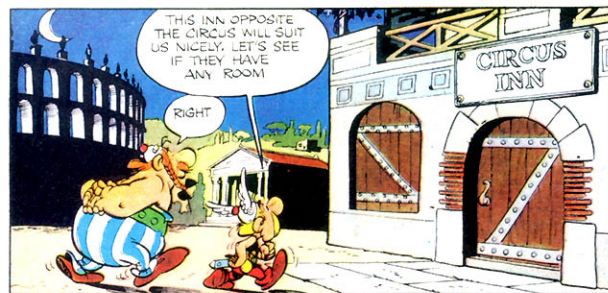


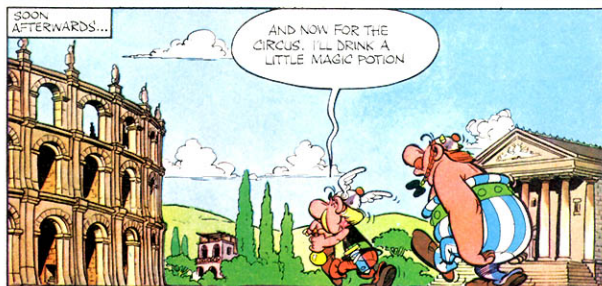
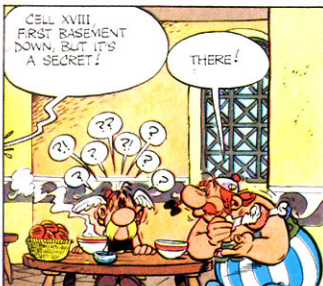
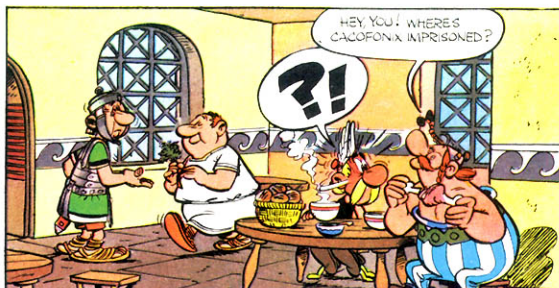
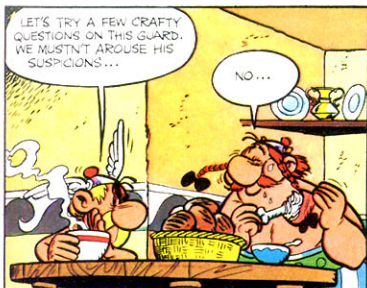


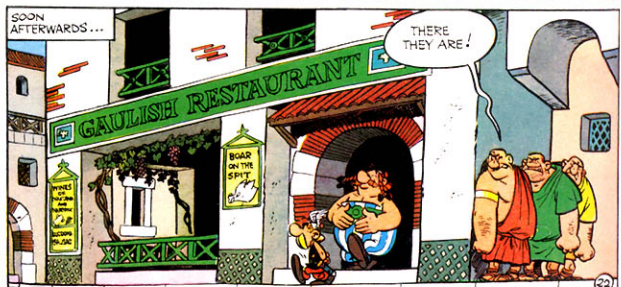
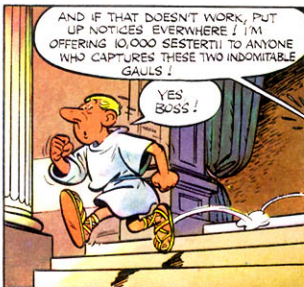
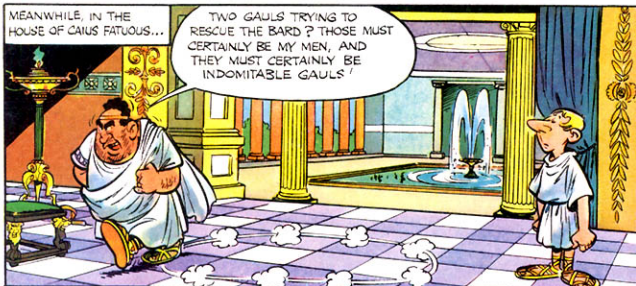
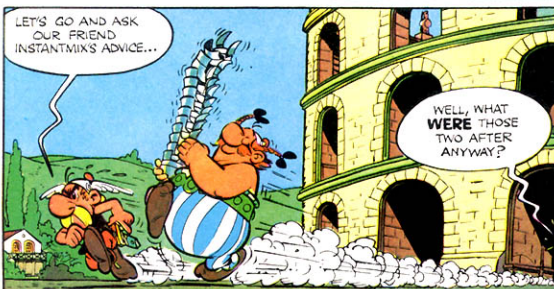
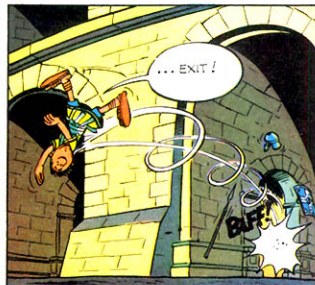
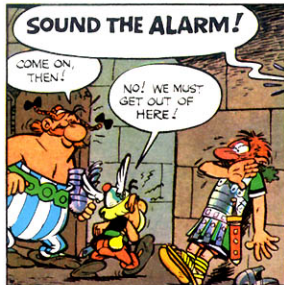
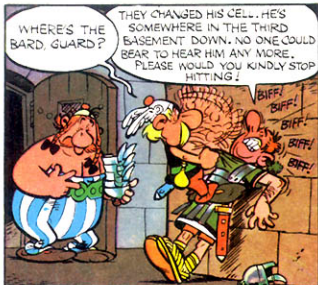


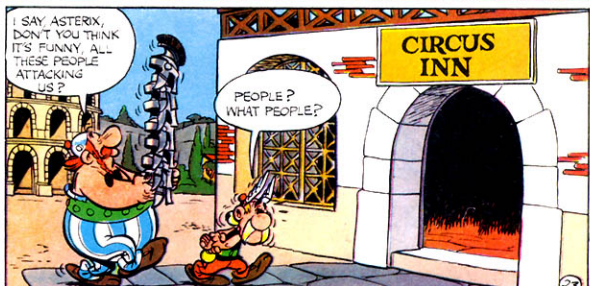
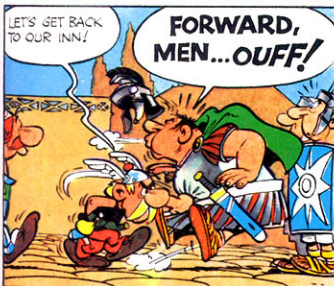
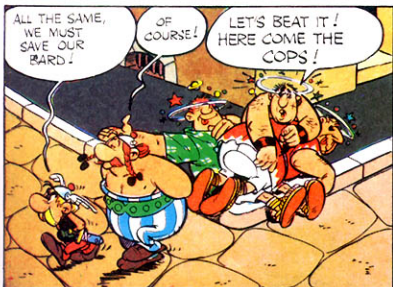
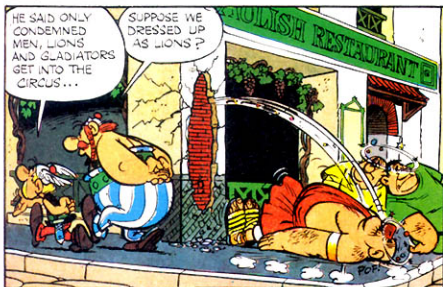
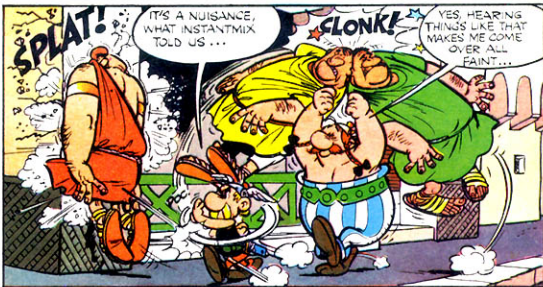
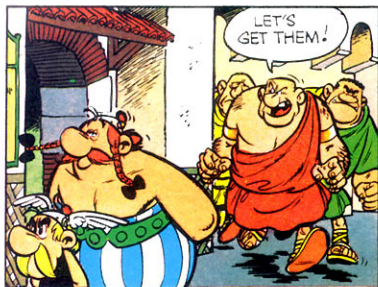


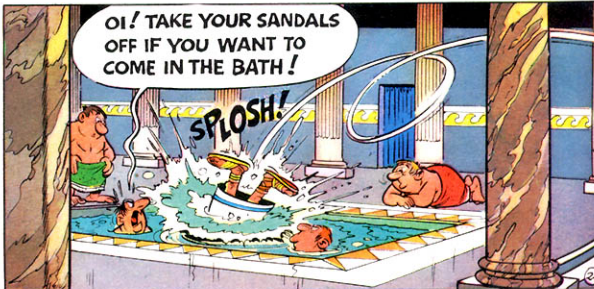
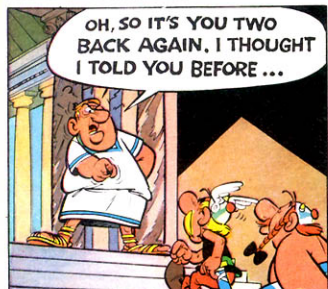
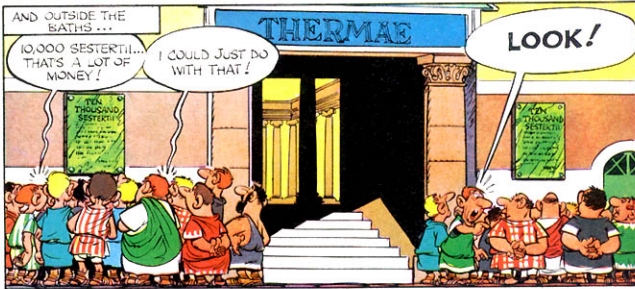
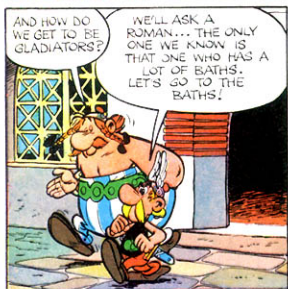


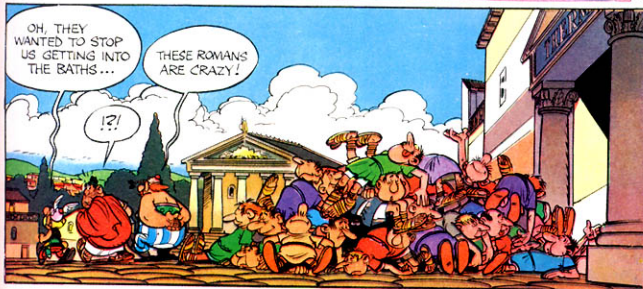
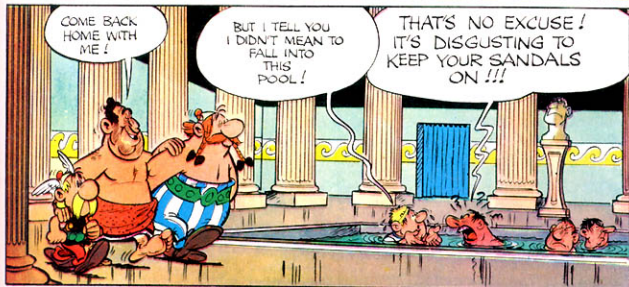
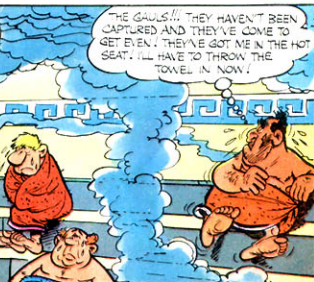
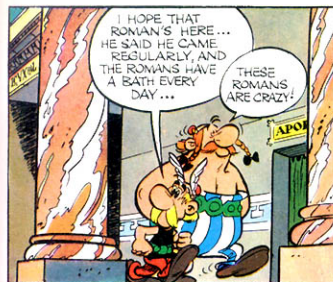


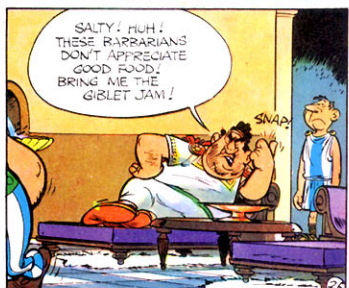
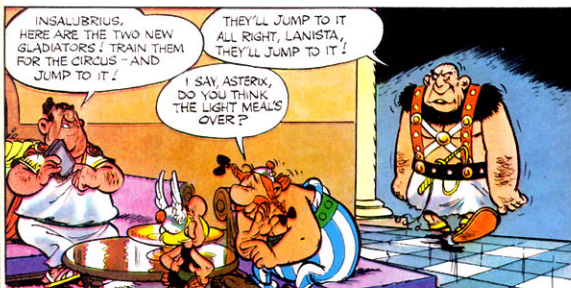
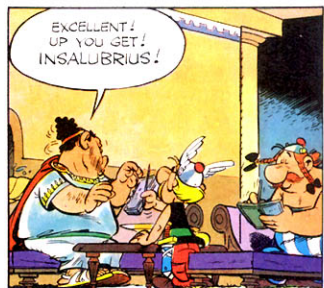
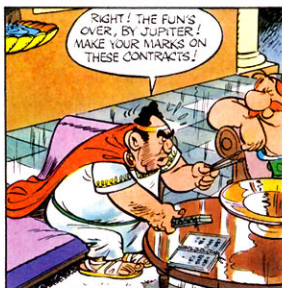
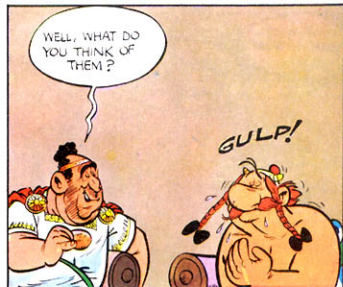
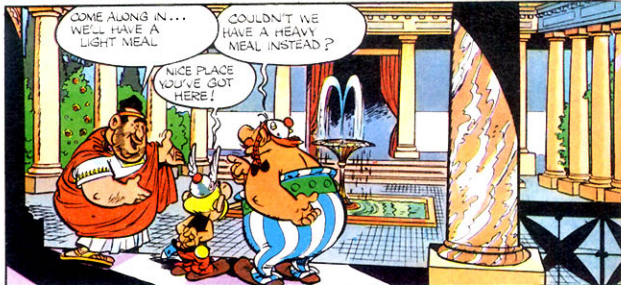


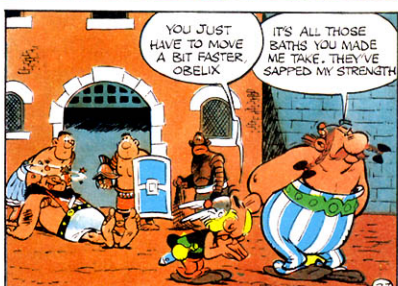
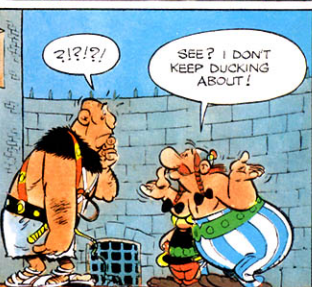
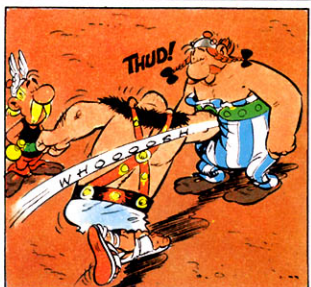
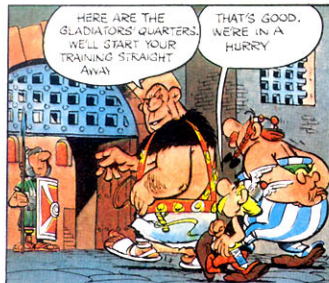


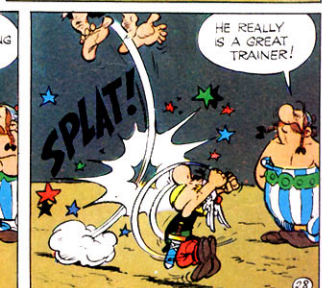
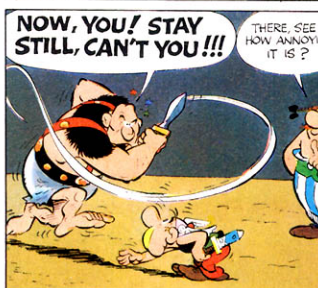
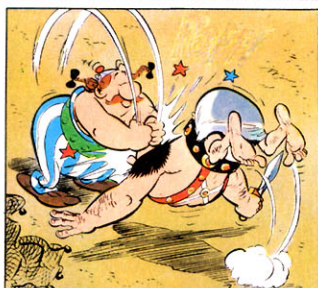
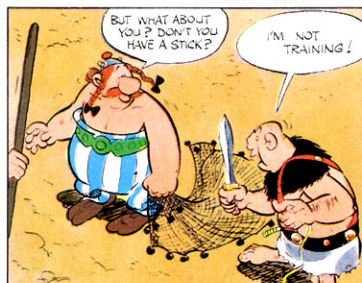
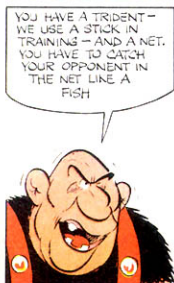
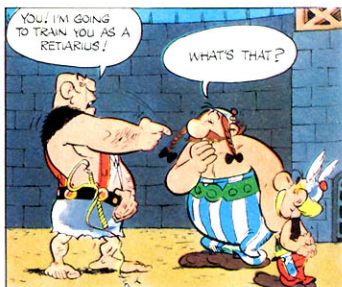
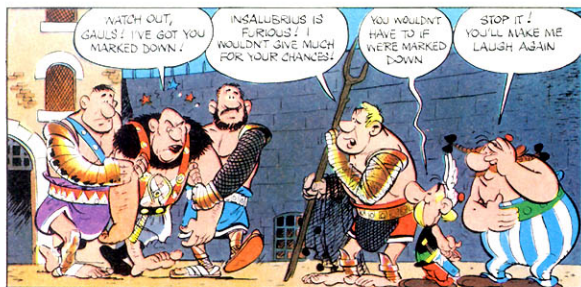


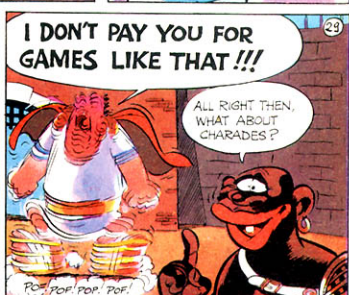
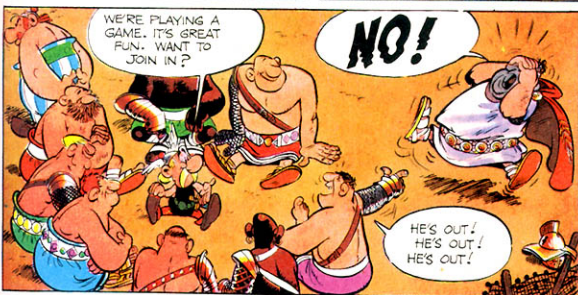
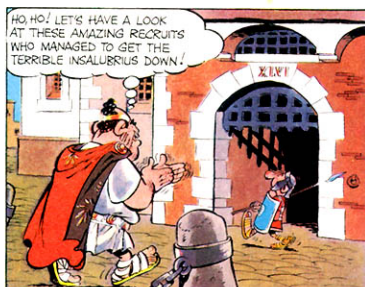
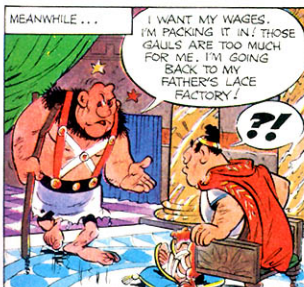
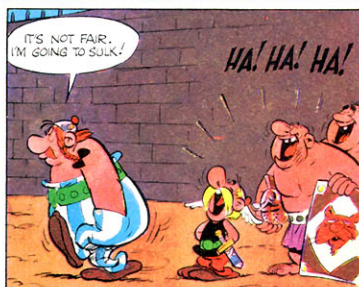
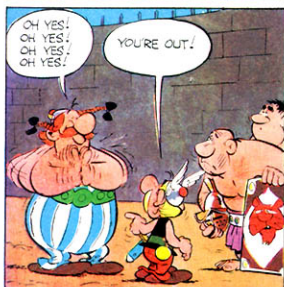
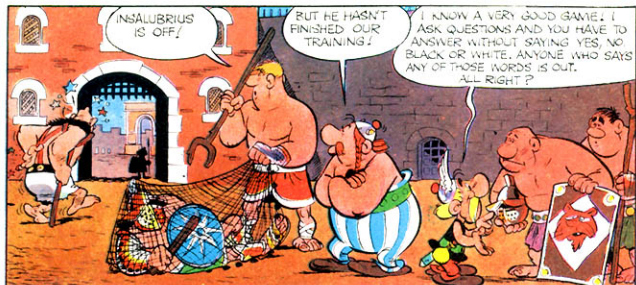
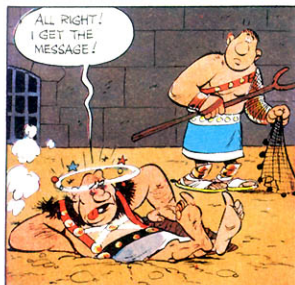


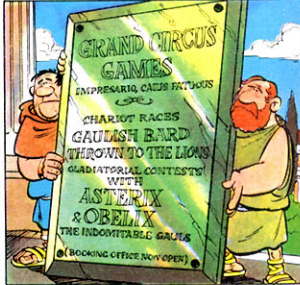
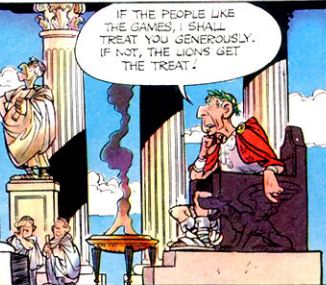
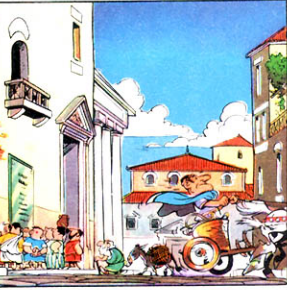
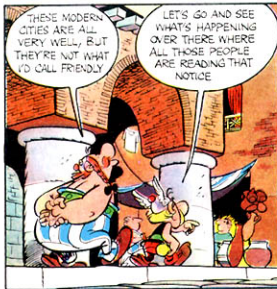
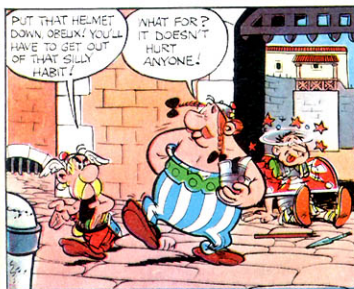
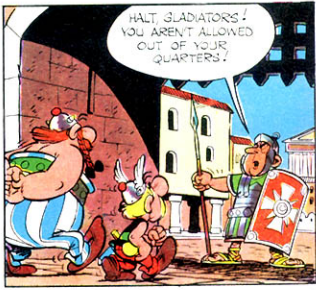
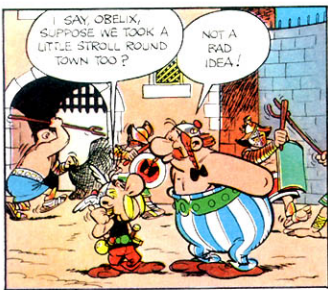












**WH... WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'VE GOT OUT??**

NOT A BAD PROGRAMME, BUT WE'LL WANT TO MAKE A FEW ALTERATIONS...

HE DOES SEEM SURPRISED TO SEE US! AND PLEASED!

YOU TURNED UP JUST AT THE RIGHT MOMENT! WE WERE LOOKING FOR A GUIDE TO SHOW US THE TOWN!

**A GUI... A GUI...
A GUIDE!**

KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP... THE MAIN THING IS NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THEM...

ALL RIGHT

PITY WE CAN'T TAKE PICTURES OF ALL THIS BACK TO GAUL WITH US...

... AND THIS IS THE FORUM

YOU SEEM VERY SURE YOU'LL GET OUT OF THE CIRCUS ALIVE!

WELL, OF COURSE!

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT US!

???

SUPPOSE I WENT CARVING MY NAME ON YOUR PYRAMIDS, EH?

NOW LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR PLACE FOR DINNER!

AND NO BORING LITTLE PASTIES THIS TIME - JUST ROARS!

DINNER IS MUCH ENJOYED BY EVERYONE - WELL, NEARLY EVERYONE...

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR THE ROMANS, THEY KNOW HOW TO ENTERTAIN! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ORELIUS?

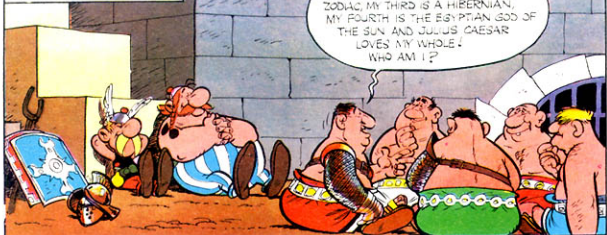
YUM! GULP!
'BRIGHT, SCRUNCH!

PATIENCE, PATIENCE! THEY'LL BE LAUGHING THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR FACES IN THE ARENA!

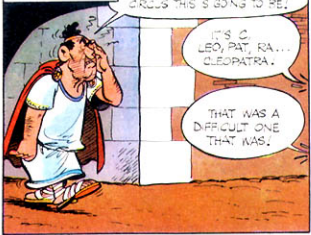
COME ALONG, IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO OUR QUARTERS! I HOPE WE HAVEN'T OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME!

I SHOULD HAVE HAD A ROAR FOR THE ROAD...

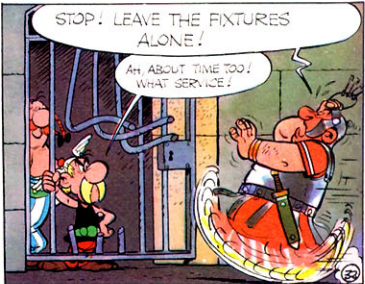
TIME PASSES BY AND THE
GLADIATORS ARE PUTTING ON
WEIGHT...

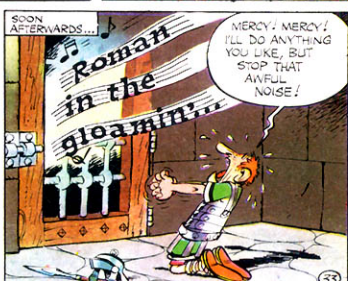
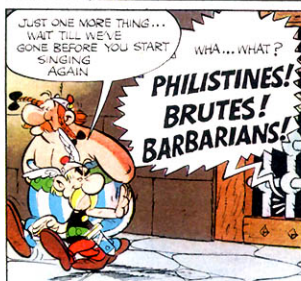
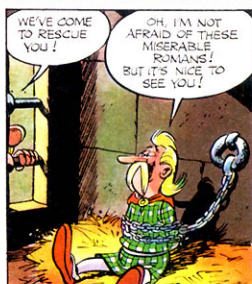
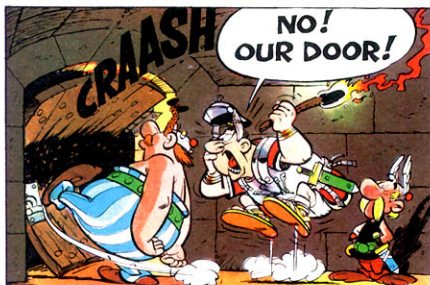
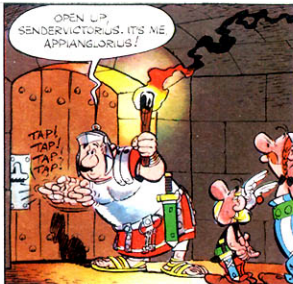


WHILE CAIUS
FALCIOUS IS
LOSING IT...



AND A VERY RELAXED GROUP OF
GLADIATORS ARRIVES AT THE CIRCUS...



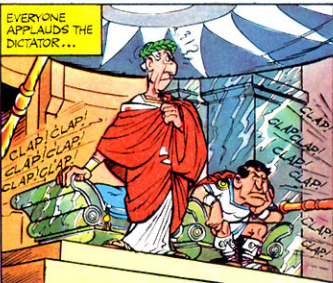
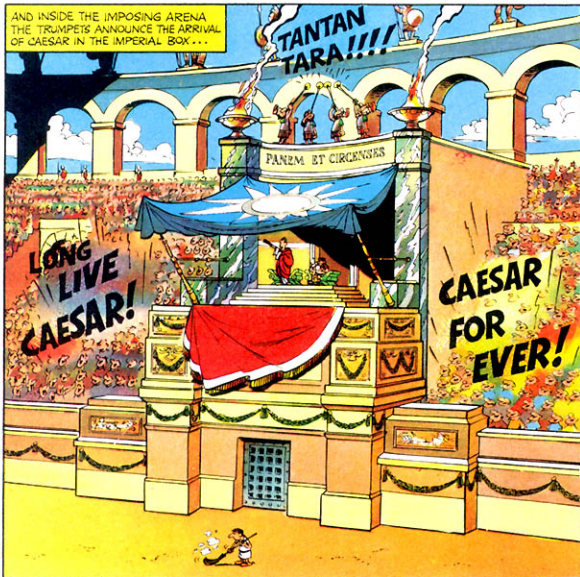


CHIPOLATAE!
CANES CALIDI!
CHIPOLATAE!



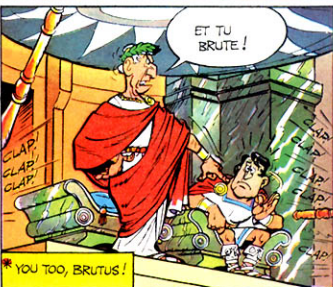
**LONG
LIVE
CAESAR!**

CAESAR FOR EVER!

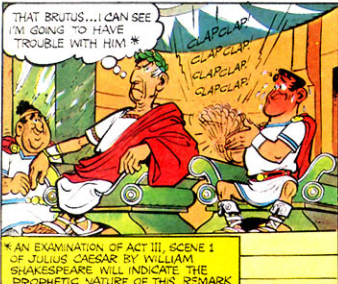


ET TU
BRUTE!

🌸 YOU TOO, BRUTUS!



CLAPCLAP
CLAPCLAP
CLAPCLAP
CLAPCLAP



I HOPE SO,
CAIUS FATUOUS.
IF NOT, YOU'LL BE
IN ON THE ACT

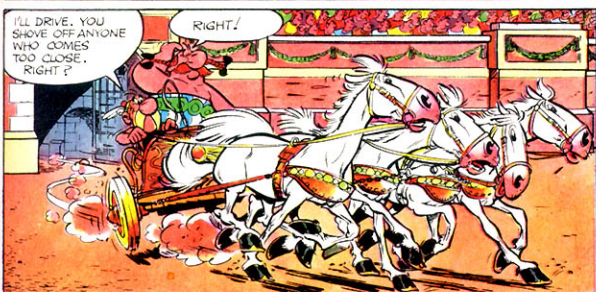
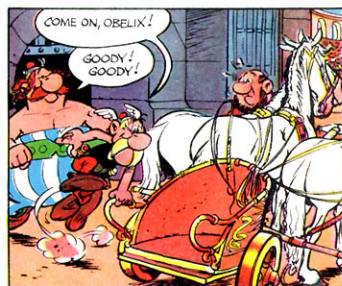
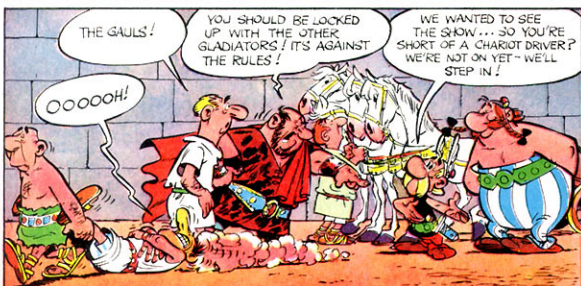
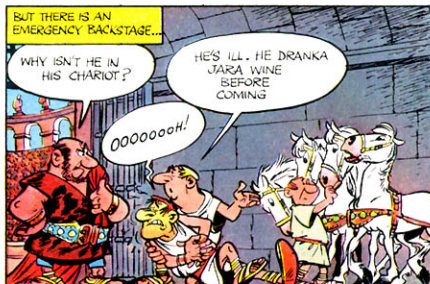


LET THE GAMES
BEGIN!

'GULP!'



* AN EXAMINATION OF ACT III, SCENE 1
OF JULIUS CAESAR BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE WILL INDICATE THE
PROPHETIC NATURE OF THIS REMARK



THE CHARIOTS
ARE OFF...

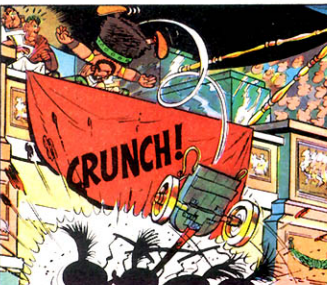
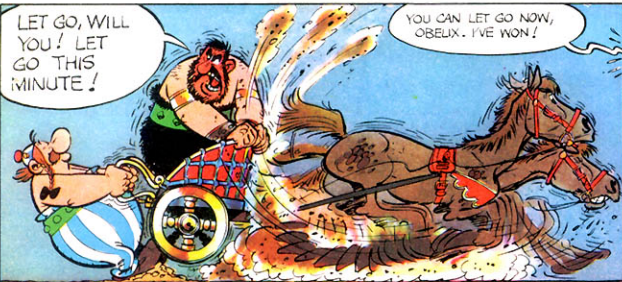
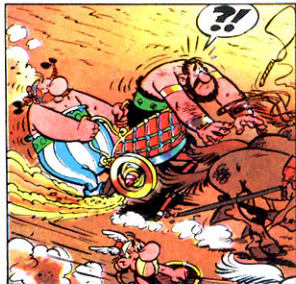
THAT ONE IN FRONT
WON'T LET US
OVERTAKE!

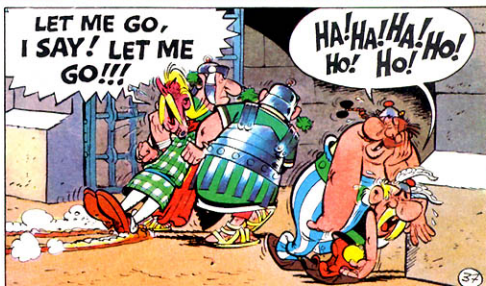
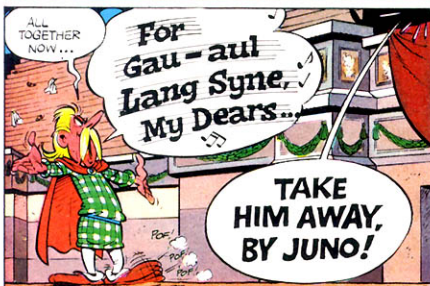
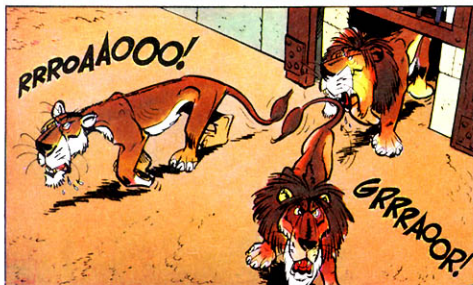
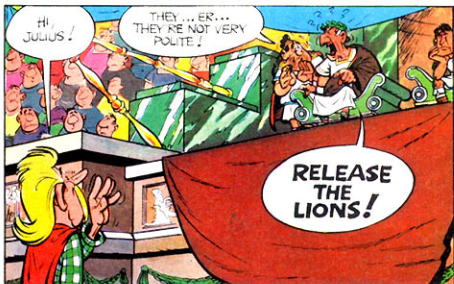
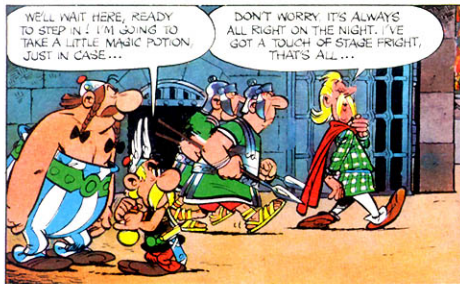
AAAAARGH!

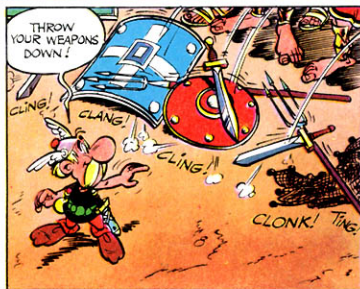
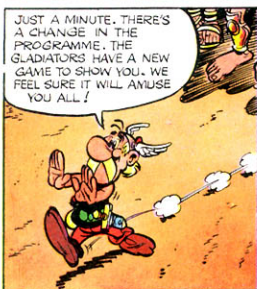
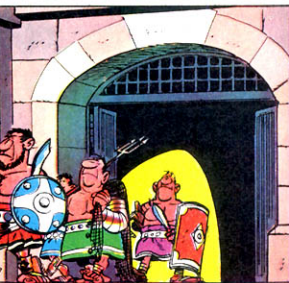
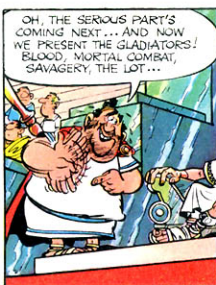
IF THOSE TWO COME NEAR
ME, BY MERCURY, THEY'LL
GET A TASTE OF MY WHIP!

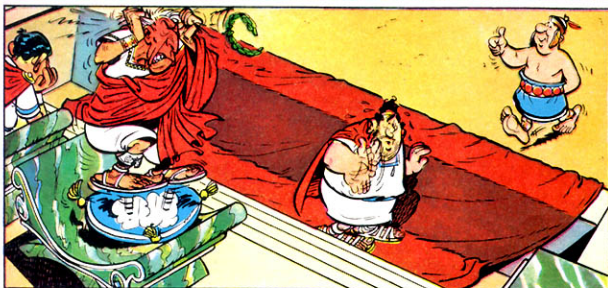
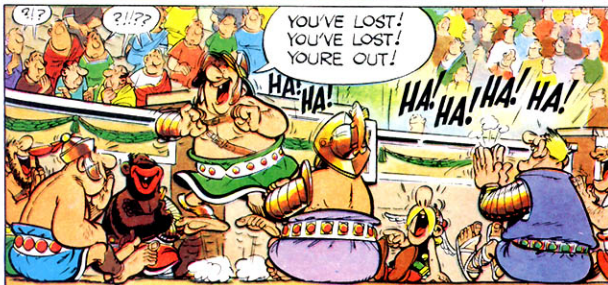
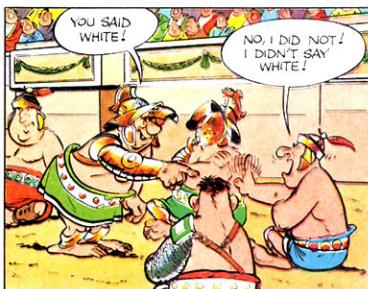
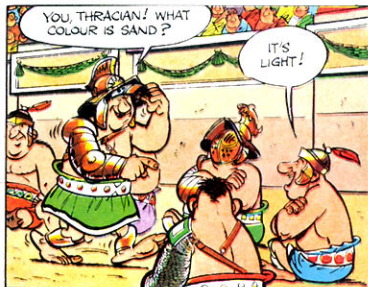


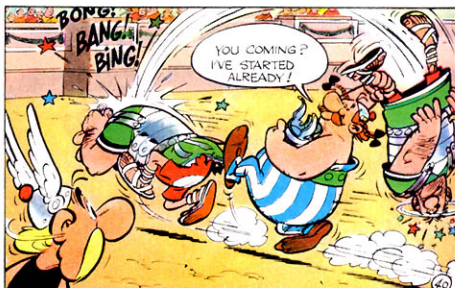
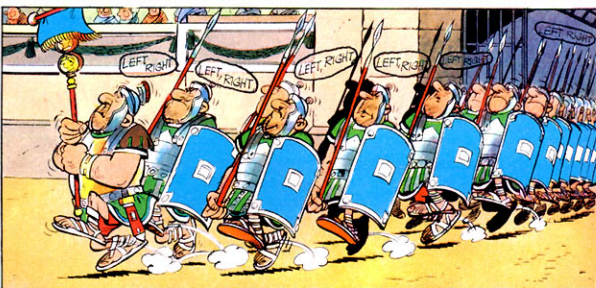
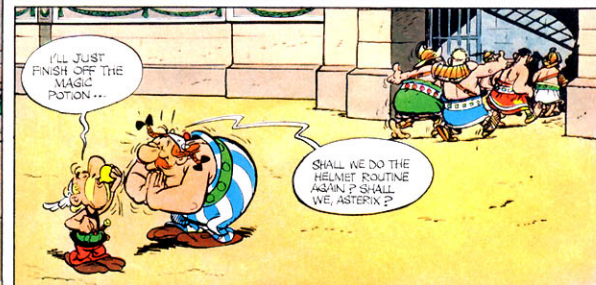
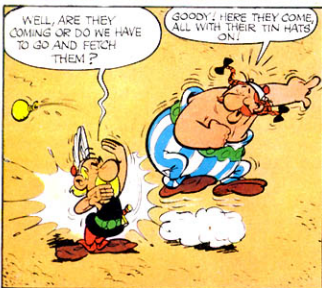
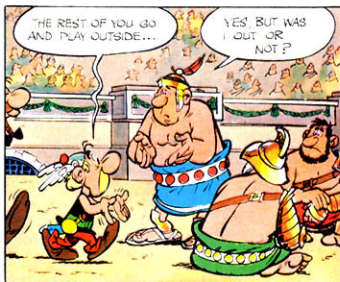
YOU GO ON-LEAVE
THIS TO ME: WE'LL
HAVE SOME FUN!

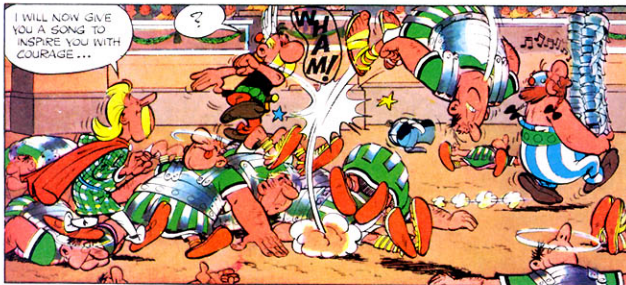
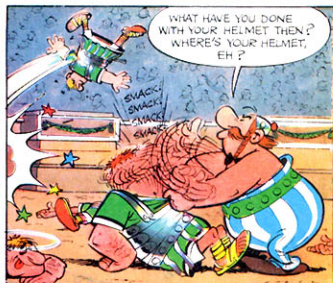




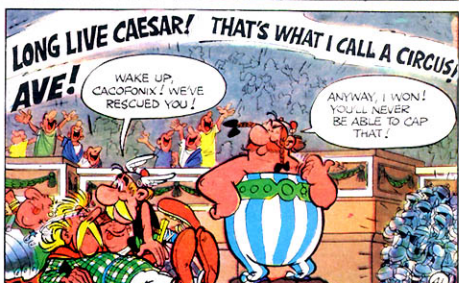


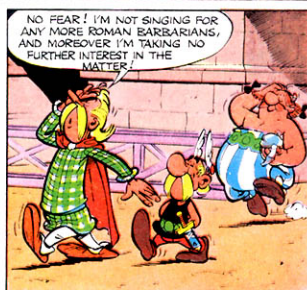
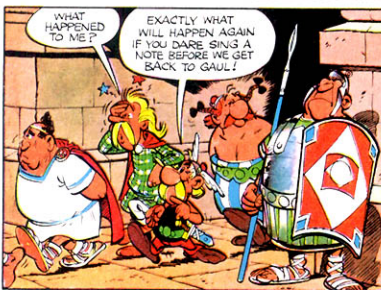
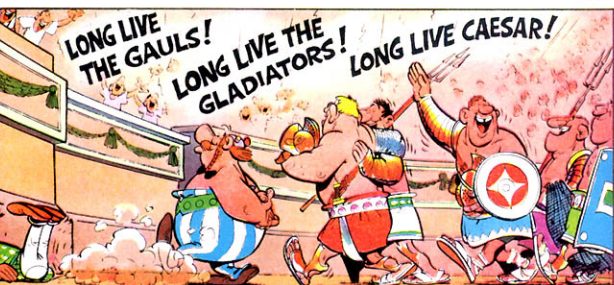
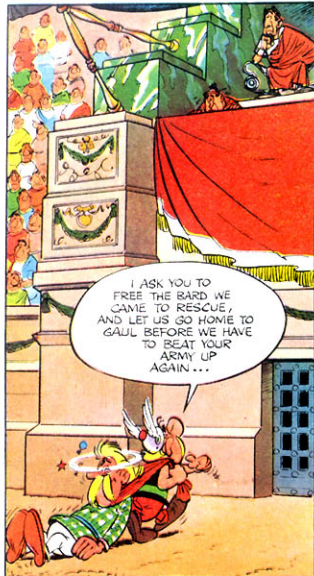






GAULS, YOU ARE BRAVE MEN, AND I SHOULD KNOW! I DECLARE YOU THE WINNERS, AND AS YOU HAVE MANAGED TO ENTERTAIN MY PEOPLE, I WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK. SUCH IS THE GENEROSITY OF CAESAR!

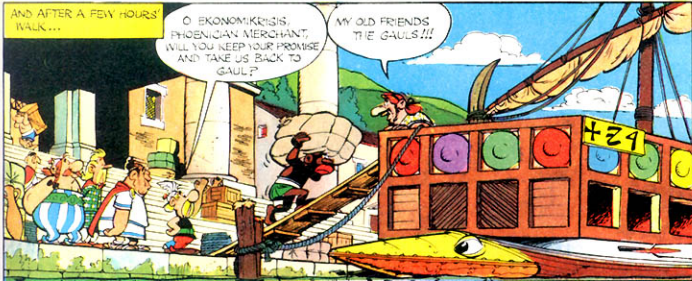




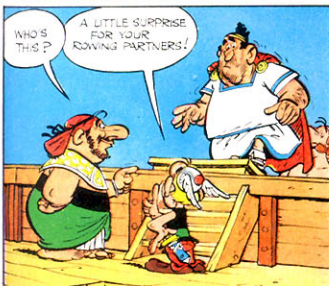
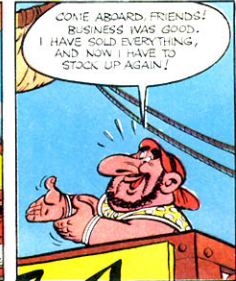
AND AFTER A FEW HOURS' WALK...

O EKONOMIKRIGHS PHOENICAN MERCHANT, WILL YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE AND TAKE US BACK TO GAUL?

MY OLD FRIENDS THE GAULS!!!

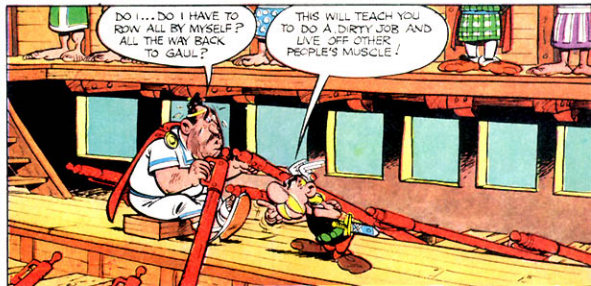


COME ABOARD FRIENDS! BUSINESS WAS GOOD. I HAVE SOLD EVERYTHING, AND NOW I HAVE TO STOCK UP AGAIN!



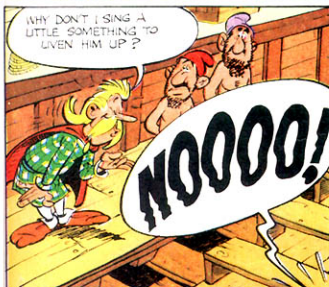
WHO'S THIS?

A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOUR ROWING PARTNERS!



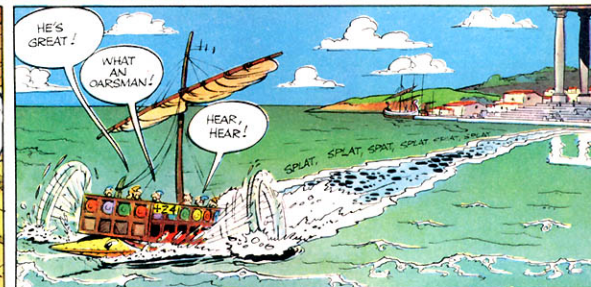
DO I... DO I HAVE TO ROW ALL BY MYSELF? ALL THE WAY BACK TO GAUL?

THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO DO A DIRTY JOB AND LIVE OFF OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSCLE!



WHY DON'T I SING A LITTLE SOMETHING TO GIVE HIM UP?

NOOOOO!



HE'S GREAT!

WHAT AN OARSMAN!

HEAR, HEAR!

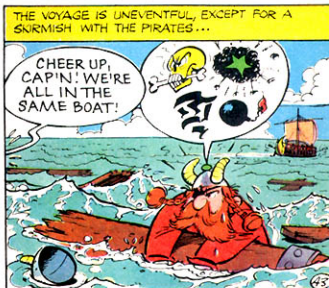
SPLAT, SPLAT, SPLAT, SPLAT, SPLAT, SPLAT



I FEEL WE MIGHT MAKE THIS ROMAN A PARTNER!

AN EXCELLENT NOTION, MR. CHARMAN!

BAH!



THE VOYAGE IS UNEVENTFUL, EXCEPT FOR A SKIRMISH WITH THE PIRATES...

CHEER UP, CAP'N! WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!

BAH!

AT LAST WE
HEAR THE LONG
AWAITED SHOUT...

GAUL!!!

**HURRAH,
BY TOUTATIS!**

RIGHT... OFF WE
GO, PARTNER! LET'S
SPEED OUR ENTERPRISE
ON ITS WAY!

THANKS FOR THE
TRIP, EKONOMIKRISIS.
PROMISE TO TAKE THE
ROMAN HOME SAFE AND
SOUND AND NOT SELL
HIM ON THE WAY.

WHAT SELL
A PARTNER?

A FRIEND?

WE'RE VERY FOND
OF CAULS FATIGOUS.
HE KEEPS US ALL
GOING!

THE GAULISH VILLAGE CELEBRATES
THE RETURN OF ITS HEROES WITH A
GREAT FEAST... AND BUT FOR THE
FACT THAT CACORONIX WAS THE
INVOLUNTARY VICTIM OF A TECHNICAL
HITCH, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE
GIVEN THEM A SONG...

the end

Uderzo
&
Safinny
44