



Asterix and the Roman agent

by GOSCINNY and UDERZO



DARGAUD
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ASTERIX AND THE ROMAN AGENT

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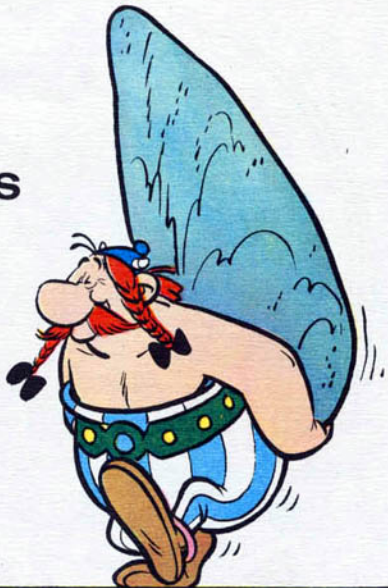


The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...



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...



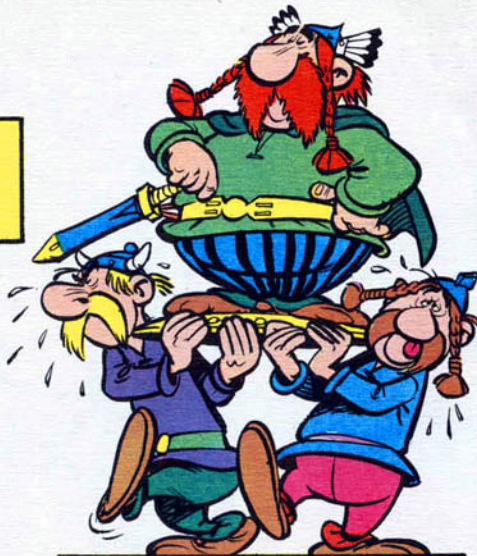
Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



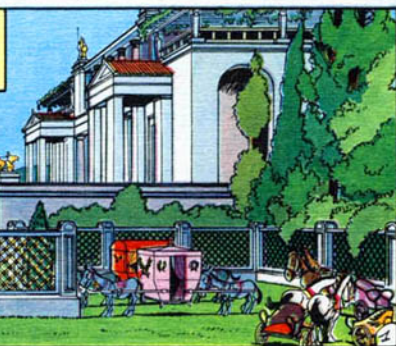
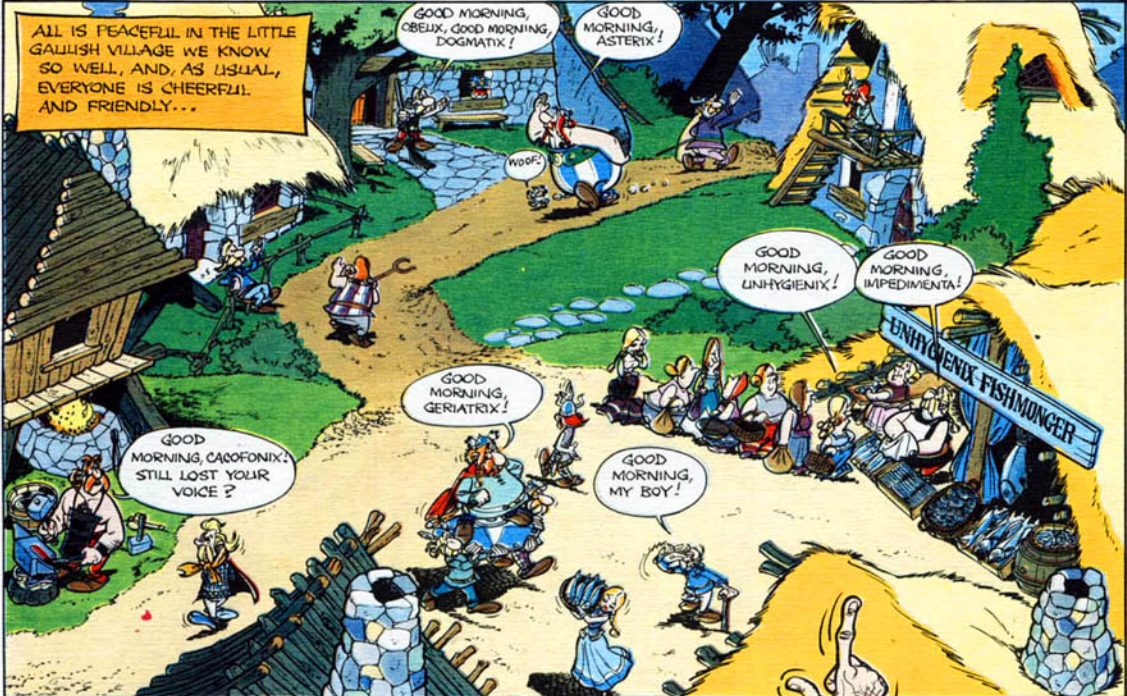
Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...



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.'



AH, THESE YOU ARE AT LAST, BRUTUS! SIT DOWN, NOW WE CAN BEGIN.

THE ROADS ARE SO BUSY AFTER THE CALENDS...

THE SENATE WANTS TO TAKE ITS REVENGE ON ME FOR CUTTING ITS POWER. I MUST SHOW THEM WHO'S THE BOSS, AND TO DO THAT I'LL HAVE TO WIPE OUT THIS WRETCHED GAULISH VILLAGE...



LET'S HAVE YOUR IDEAS... SPEAK UP

ET TU, BRUTE

I SUGGEST BRUTE FORCE!

THEY HAVE A MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES THEM INVINCIBLE. AND DO PLUT THAT DAGGER AWAY YOU IDIOT, YOU'LL DO YOURSELF AN INJURY!

STOP ME IF I'M ON THE WRONG TRACK, BUT WHAT ABOUT BUYING THEM OFF?



THESE BARBARIANS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN MONEY. IF THEY WERE, THE MAGIC POTION WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE MARKET LONG AGO!

THIS IS ONLY A SUGGESTION, BUT...



...THEIR STRENGTH SPRINGS FROM THEIR SOLIDARITY. IF WE COULD SOW A BIT OF DISCORD IN THE VILLAGE, THEY WOULD SPLIT UP AND THE POTION WOULDN'T MATTER ANY MORE...

I KNOW THE GAULS ARE FAMOUS FOR THEIR INCENSANT ARGUMENTS, BUT THIS LOT STICK TOGETHER THROUGHT THICK AND THIN

J.C. ! I'VE GOT THE VERY MAN ! HE'LL SPLIT THEM UP FOR YOU !



HE USED TO HAVE A FLAT IN AN *INSULA I OWN. HE MADE SO MUCH TROUBLE IN THE BUILDING THAT THE OTHER TENANTS MANAGED TO GET HIM THROWN INTO PRISON TO BE EATEN BY THE LIONS!

WHERE IS THIS TROUBLEMAKER OF YOURS?

HE'S STILL IN PRISON. WHEN THEY PUT HIM IN THE ARENA, THE LIONS ATE ONE ANOTHER!

HAVE HIM BROUGHT TO ME ! NOW FOR SOME FOOD. ET TU, BRUTE !

THESE CLASSICAL ALLUSIONS ARE BEGINNING TO GET ON MY NERVES ! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL...



* BLOCK OF FLATS

WHAT'S HIS NAME, YOUR TROUBLEMAKER?



TORTUOUSUS CONVULVULUS. YOU'LL SEE, J. C. HE'S A BIT OF A WEED, BUT VERY EFFECTIVE. THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER FOLLOWS HIM WHEREVER HE GOES - IT'S LIKE MAGIC!

WE NEED MAGIC TO GET RID OF THOSE GALLS...

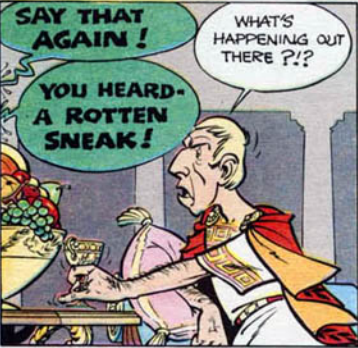
YOU'RE A ROTTEN SNEAK, BY JUPITER!



SAY THAT AGAIN!

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?!?

YOU HEARD. A ROTTEN SNEAK!



I'LL TEACH YOU TO GO ROUND SAYING I'M THE CENTURION'S PET!

IS THAT SO? AND WHO WAS IT TOLD HIM I CAME BACK TO CAMP I OVER THE VIII LAST NIGHT?



NOW THEN, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

IT WASN'T ME WHO...



AVE CAESAR! IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR ORDERS WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE PRISONER TORTUOUSUS CONVULVULUS



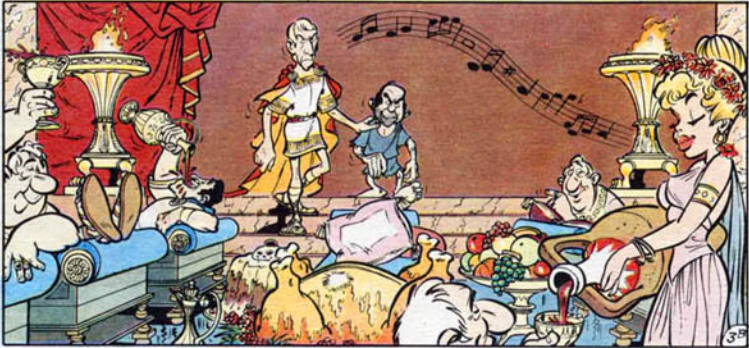
GOOD. ZINDO HIM, THEN FALL OUT



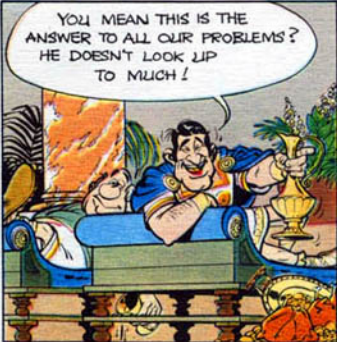
COME ALONG, TORTUOUSUS CONVULVULUS

SNEAK!

DRINKARD!



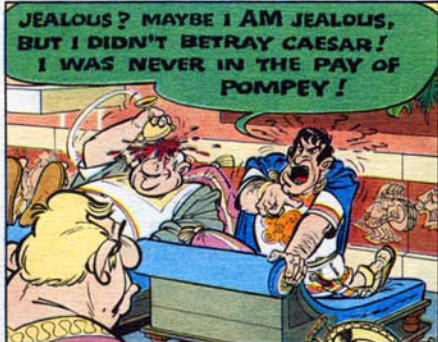
YOU MEAN THIS IS THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR PROBLEMS? HE DOESN'T LOOK UP TO MUCH!



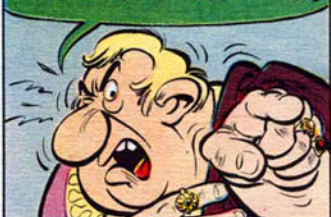
OH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT! WHEN IT'S NOT BRUTUS'S IDEA, BRUTUS IS JEALOUS!



JEALOUS? MAYBE I AM JEALOUS, BUT I DIDN'T BETRAY CAESAR! I WAS NEVER IN THE PAY OF POMPEY!



ME IN POMPEY'S PAY? HE MAY HAVE BEEN, NOT TO MENTION ANY NAMES, AND HIM, AND HIM! BUT I NEVER BETRAYED J.C.!



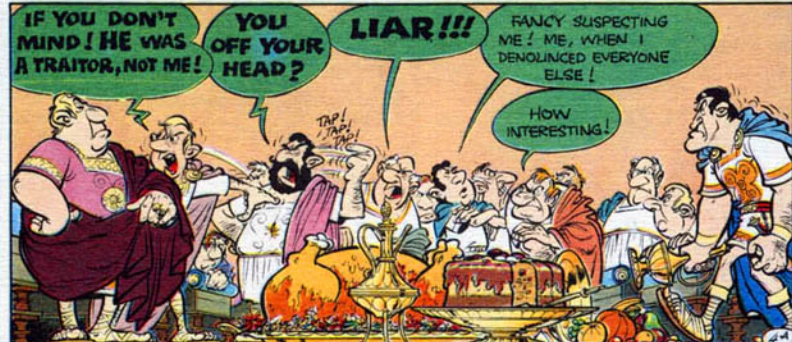
IF YOU DON'T MIND! HE WAS A TRAITOR, NOT ME!

YOU OFF YOUR HEAD?

LIAR!!!

FANCY SUSPECTING ME! ME, WHEN I DENOUNCED EVERYONE ELSE!

HOW INTERESTING!



HEE, HEE, HEE!

TRAITOR!

BARBARIAN!

DIRTY SPY!



GENTLEMEN, PLEASE! I SHOULDN'T LIKE TO BE THE CAUSE OF ANY DISAGREEMENT. IF, IN THE PAST, YOU HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF CAESAR'S GULLIBILITY...



GULLIBLE, ME ???



YOU'RE GREAT! I'M SENDING YOU ON A MISSION TO GAUL. IF YOU SUCCEED YOU'LL GET YOUR FREEDOM AND A FORTUNE

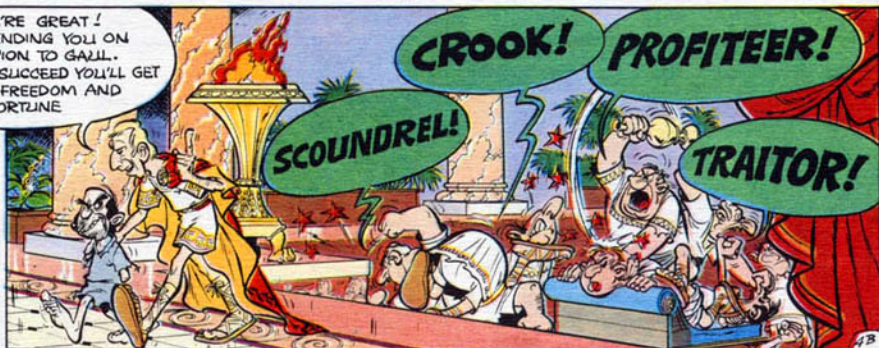


SCOUNDREL!

CROOK!

PROFITEER!

TRAITOR!



MEANWHILE, THINGS ARE MUCH THE SAME IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE...

LIFE'S GOOD, O DRUID!

TOO GOOD, AUSTER! THE ROMANS ARE BEHAVING THEMSELVES, WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY WORRIES, OUR BARD HAS LOST HIS VOICE - IT CAN'T LAST... I FEEL THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING

OUR DRUID'S CHANGED! HE'S GETTING PESSIMISTIC IN HIS OLD AGE

HOWEVER, THE DRUID'S PREMONITION IS NOT WITHOUT FOUNDATION. DANGER IS PLOUGHING ITS WAY TOWARDS GAUL ON BOARD A ROMAN GALLEY WHERE EVERYONE IS ARGUING, FROM THE CAPTAIN...

WELL NOW, ABERDEENANGUS, SO IT SEEMS I'M NOTHING BUT AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE?

I NEVER SAID THAT, CAP'N! IT WAS GIANTORTUS WHO SAID THAT!

... DOWN TO THE GALLEY SLAVES

WAS IT YOU WHO TOLD THE OTHER LADS I WASN'T PULLING MY WEIGHT?

SHUT UP AND ROW!

WELL, GIANTORTUS DID SAY THAT IT WAS YOU WHO SAID I WAS NOTHING BUT AN OLD AMPHORA OF WINE!

AND I SAY THAT IF GIANTORTUS SAID THAT, GIANTORTUS IS A LIAR!

PIRATE SHIP TO PORT!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, CAPTAIN?

NO! NO ONE'S TO LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S BEEN SENT TO COVENTRIUM!

HE DARED TO SAY THAT WHILE WE WERE AT SEA OUR WIVES WERE ALL OUT AT ORGIES!

?!?

IF THAT'S THE WAY THE LAND LIES, I SHAN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!!!

HUH! THEY'RE THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO'D SAY I ONLY GOT INTO THE NAVY BECAUSE MY WIFE IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF JULIUS CAESAR'S SECOND COUSIN TWICE REMOVED!

**ROMAN
GALLEY TO
STARBOARD!**

D'YOU SEE
ANY
GAULS?

NOT A SIGN!

RIGHT...
**GET READY TO
BOARD HER!**

THE PIRATES
ARE GOING TO
BOARD US,
CAPTAIN! WHAT
CAN WE DO?

ARE YOU EXPECTING
A DECISION FROM AN
OLD AMPHORA OF
WINE, GIANTORTUS?

**THAT'S SLANDER!
ABERDEEN ANGUS
SPENDS HIS TIME
SLANDERING
EVERYONE!**

I'VE
JUST ABOUT
HAD
ENOUGH...

**HAVE YOU LOT
DOWN THERE NEARLY
FINISHED? WOULDN'T
YOUR WIVES BE
PROUD IF THEY COULD
SEE YOU NOW!**

**THAT'S DONE IT!
COME DOWN HERE
AND JUMP TO IT!**

NO!
I PREFER TO
REMAIN ALOOF,
ALOFT!

**CUT THAT MAST
DOWN!!!**

HEY! WHAT
ABOUT US,
THEN?

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

**SHIVER ME TIMBERS!
YOU CAN GET READY
TO RECEIVE BOARDERS,
THAT'S WHAT YOU
CAN DO!**

BUT THAT'S NOT ON! WHEN I SAW HIM IN ROME, I GAVE HIM A BAG OF GOLD AND HE PROMISED NOT TO ATTACK US!

?!!?!

A TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST!

TRAITOR, ME?

**AND WHERE'S THE GOLD?
WE NEVER SAW ANY OF IT!**

**HOW DARE YOU
BLACKEN MY
NAME!**

AURI SACRA FAMES!

**AS FOR YOU,
YOU DISTINGUISHED
CLASSICAL SCHOLAR,
YOU'RE BEGINNING
TO GET ON MY...**

BOING!

HAAAAAAA!
I'VE HOLED US IN THE HOLD!
I'VE HOLED US IN THE HOLD!
BOOM! CRACK! TCHAC! TCHONK! BIFF! BONG! PAFF!

**WHAT THE... WE'RE
SINKING!!!**

NOW YOU'RE SCUPPERED!

THIS IS GREAT, BOYS!
WE DON'T NEED THE GAULS ANY MORE. WE CAN MAKE FOOLS OF OURSELVES WITHOUT THEM

IN THE LITTLE
GALLISH VILLAGE,
IN CONTRAST
TO THESE
VIOLENT
EVENTS...

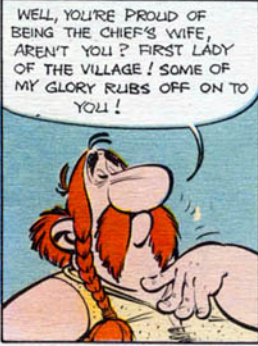
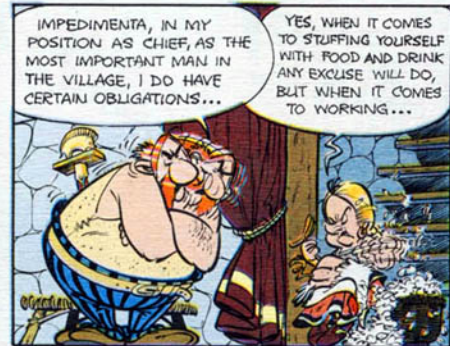
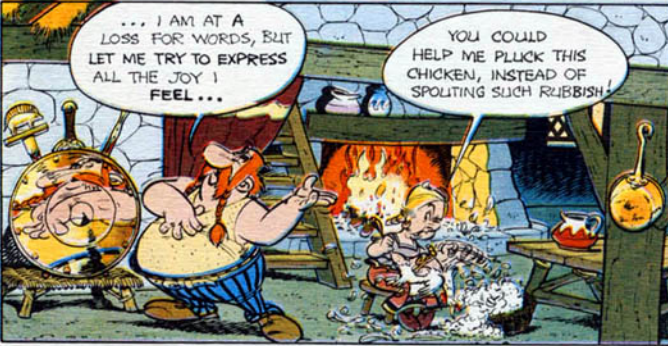
WE'RE GOING
TO GET THINGS READY
FOR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX'S
BIRTHDAY
PARTY

IT WILL BE AN OCCASION
OF GENERAL GOODWILL!

THERE'LL BE HEAPS
OF BOAR, FULL OF
BONES, DOGMATIX!

I'M GOING
TO GIVE THE CHIEF
A MENHIR. WHAT
ABOUT YOU?

A SHIELD
FOR HIS
COLLECTION!



IN THE TENT OF THE CENTURION IN COMMAND
OF THE ROMAN CAMP OF AQUARIUM...

... AND THAT POTION OF THEIRS
MUST BE STRONG STUFF - THEY'RE
FULL OF TEAM SPIRIT!

I KNOW ALL THAT,
FELIX PLATYPUS. BUT YOU
KNOW WHAT CAESAR SAID:
YOU MUST TAKE YOUR
ORDERS FROM ME!

I DON'T OBJECT TO THAT
AT ALL, CONVULVULUS.
I JUST DON'T THINK THAT YOU'LL
MANAGE TO SPLIT THEM
UP...

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME
THE NAME AND DESCRIPTION
OF EVERY ONE OF THOSE
NUT CASES. NOW, I
NEED THAT!

THAT?

IT'S JUST THAT
THIS VASE IS PART OF THE
SPOILS FROM ONE OF
MY CAMPAIGNS...

YES, YOUR JUNIOR
OFFICERS TOLD ME YOU
HAD SOME INDIVIDUAL
IDEAS ABOUT SHARING
OUT THE BOOTY

GET ALL MY
JUNIOR
OFFICERS
FALLEN IN!

SOON
AFTERWARDS...

WHAT DO YOU
WANT, ROMAN?

I HAVE
BROUGHT A
PRESENT TO THE
MOST IMPORTANT
MAN IN THE
VILLAGE!

... AND HE'S
BROUGHT A
VALUABLE VASE!

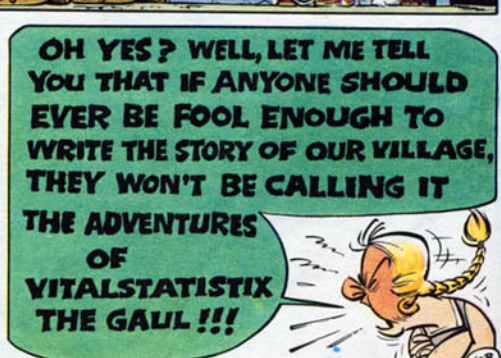
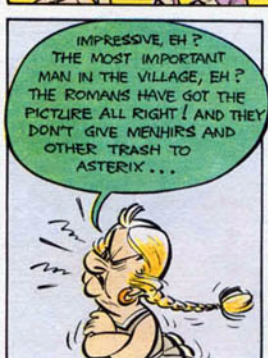
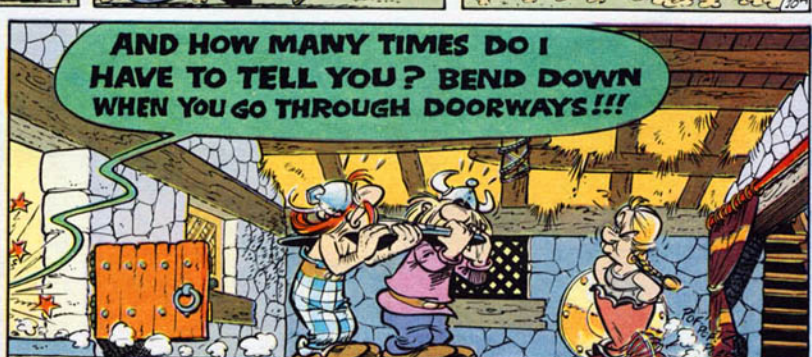
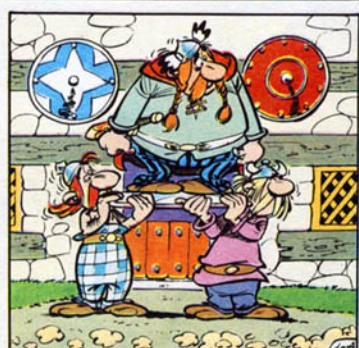
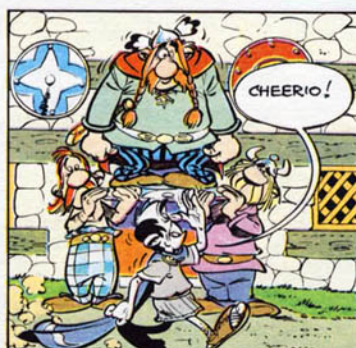
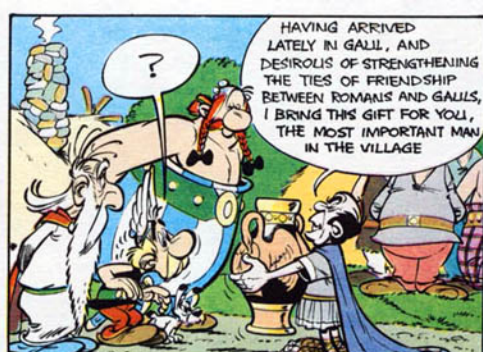
AH!

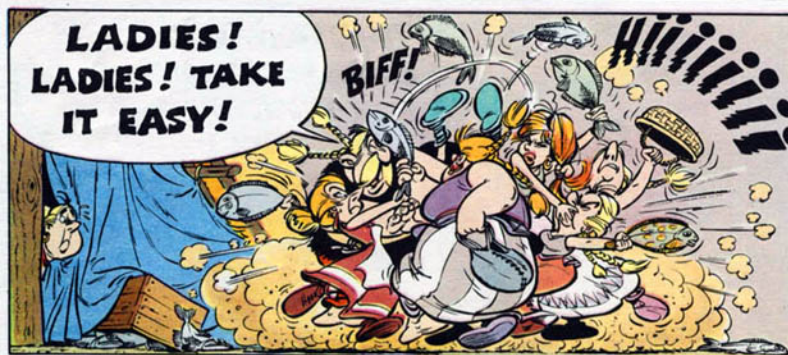
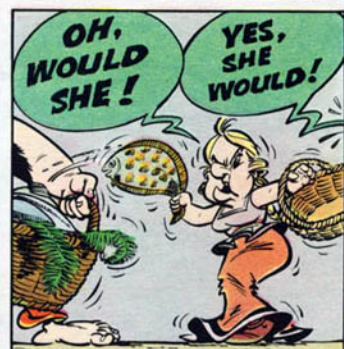
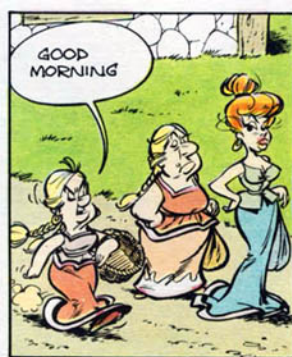
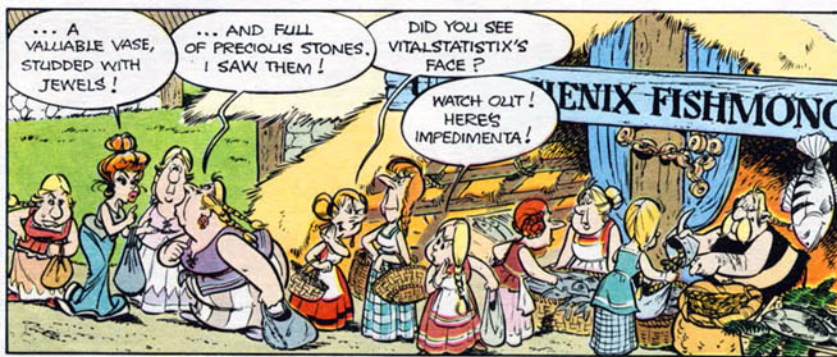
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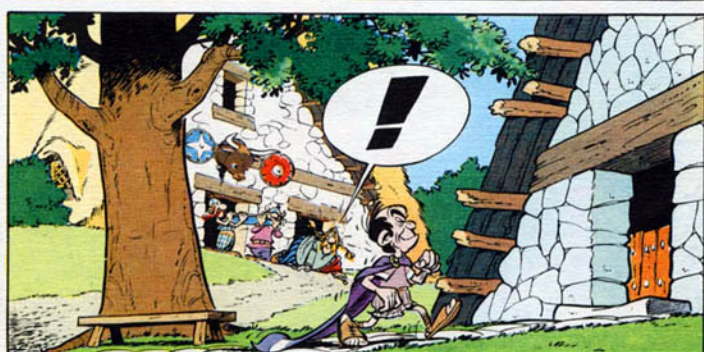
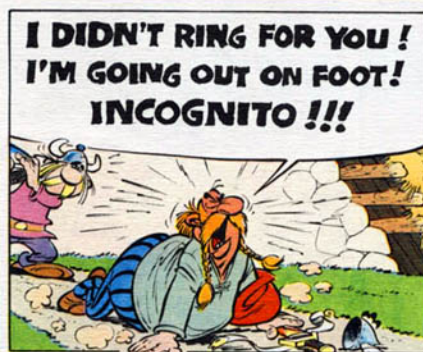
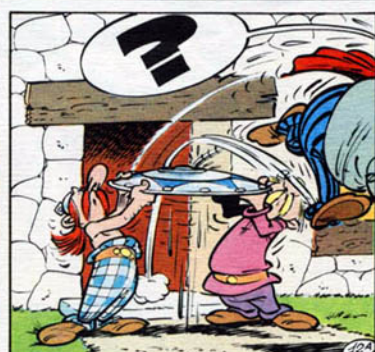
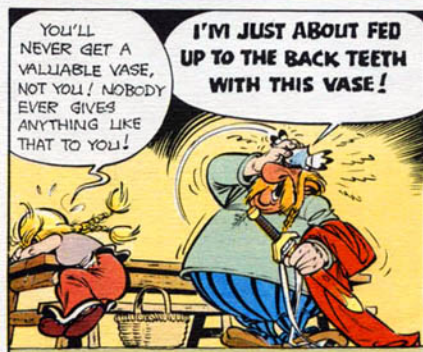
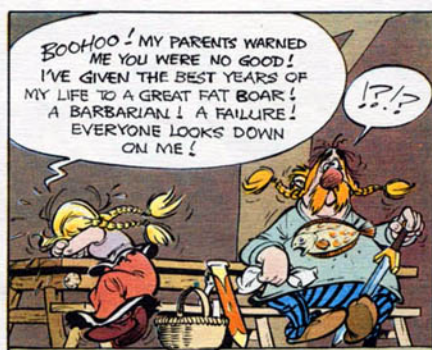
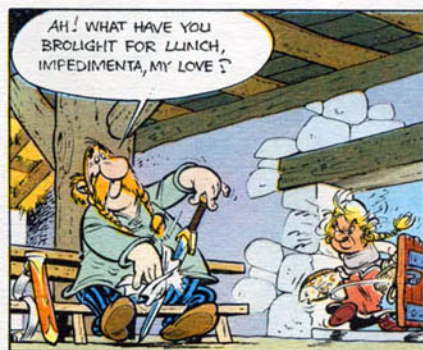
PORTERS!

CLICK!

HERE HE COMES! RIGHT,
BOYS! SHOW A BIT OF
DIGNITY! HE DON'T WANT
TO LOOK AS IF WE'RE
EXPECTING HIM!







THAT
ROMAN IS
CRAZY !

AH, ASTERIX!
SO YOU'VE BEEN HAVING
GUESTS IN TO SHARE
YOUR BOAR, HAVE YOU?

HMMF!

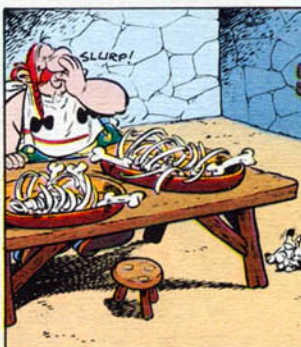
BS

NO SUCH
THING! APART FROM
OBELIX, AND HE...

THAT ROMAN
SEEMED TO APPRECIATE
YOUR BOAR, ALL
THE SAME ...

HE DIDN'T TOUCH
IT! COME AND SEE,
O CHIEF. WE HAVE
TWO BOARS AND THEY
HAVEN'T BEEN
STARTED!

DON'T YOU
EVER LET GO OF
THAT VASE ?



WHAT
THE...??!

YOU'RE FREE TO
CHOOSE YOUR OWN FRIENDS,
ASTERIX, EVEN IN THE
ENEMY CAMP, EVEN
ROMANS

COULDN'T YOU
WAIT BEFORE
GOBBLING UP THOSE
BOARS, YOU
GREEDY
PIG ?

THEY WERE
GETTING COLD,
AND WHEN YOU
WENT OUT
AFTER YOUR
FRIEND...

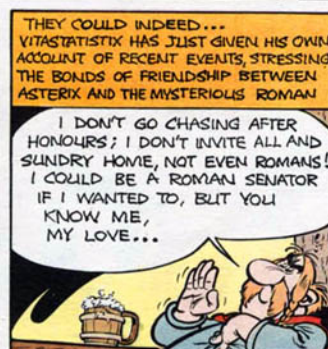
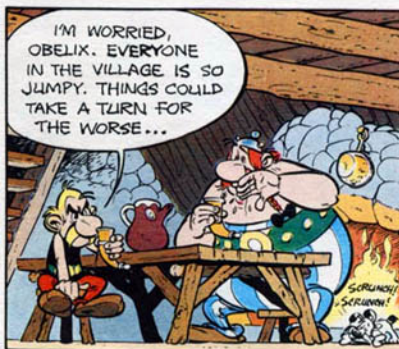
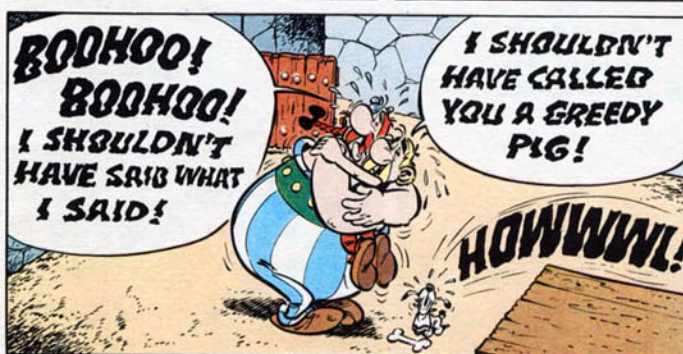
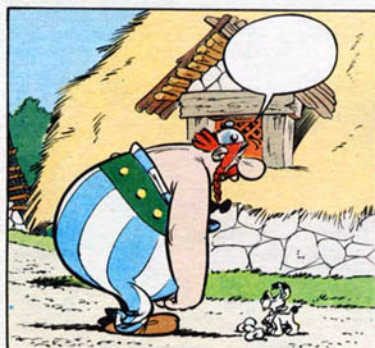
HE IS
NOT MY
FRIEND!

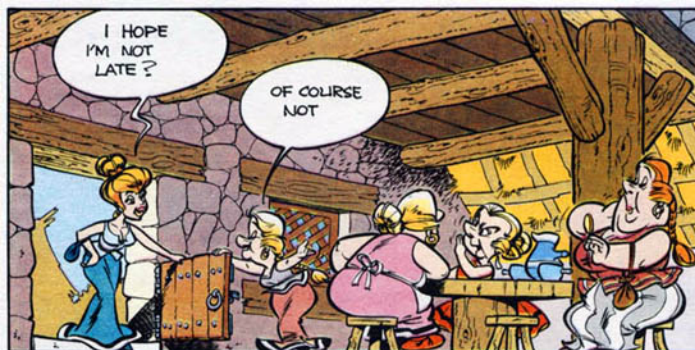
YOU'RE FREE TO
CHOOSE YOUR OWN FRIENDS,
ASTERIX, EVEN IN THE ENEMY
CAMP, EVEN ROMANS!

I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL
ABOUT CHOOSING MY
FRIENDS IN
FUTURE !

I GET THE MESSAGE.
COME ALONG, DOGMATIX.
WE'RE IN THE WAY HERE

AVE, ASTERIX!





I HOPE
I'M NOT
LATE ?

OF COURSE
NOT



NOT TOO MUCH,
JUST A LITTLE!

OH, IT'S ONLY MILK,
SUGAR, EGGS,
FLOUR AND BOAR FAT -
NOT AT ALL
FATTENING



IMPEDIMENTA,
ABOUT THIS
MORNING... IT WAS
ONLY A BIT OF FUN...
A JOKE

OF COURSE ! LET'S
TALK ABOUT MORE
IMPORTANT THINGS...



MY HUSBAND THE CHIEF-
JULIUS CAESAR NOMINATED
HIM A SENATOR, BUT
HE REFUSED, OF COURSE-
WELL, HE'S GIVING A
GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT
TO ASTERIX AND HIS
FRIENDSHIP WITH THAT ROMAN



YES, MY HUSBAND
FULLIAUTOMATIX TOLD ME
THEY WERE HAVING A GOOD
TIME. HE HEARD LAUGHTER
AND SINGING. THEY SEEMED
TO HAVE BEEN DRINKING !



HOW DREADFUL !
YOU KNOW, I'VE
ALWAYS HAD MY
DOUBTS ABOUT
ASTERIX. A MAN
OF HIS AGE,
AND STILL A
BACHELOR...

HOW OLD
IS HE
EXACTLY ?

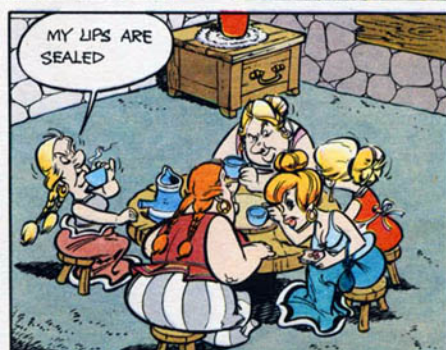
GOODNESS KNOWS !
MY HUSBAND
GERIATRIX SAYS HE'S
NOT SO YOUNG
AS HE LOOKS !

MMMM... AND HIS
FRIEND OBELIX ?
DO YOU THINK HE'S
A GOOD INFLUENCE ?
ALL THAT GREEDY PIG
THINKS OF IS HIS
FOOD !



THE TROUBLE
IS THAT ASTERIX
IS OUR DRUID
GETARX'S FAVOURITE,
AND HE KNOWS
A LOT OF
SECRETS...

THE SECRET
OF THE MAGIC POTION,
FOR EXAMPLE ?

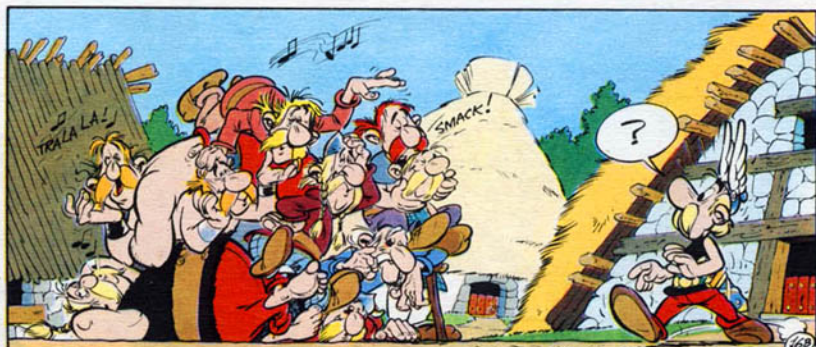
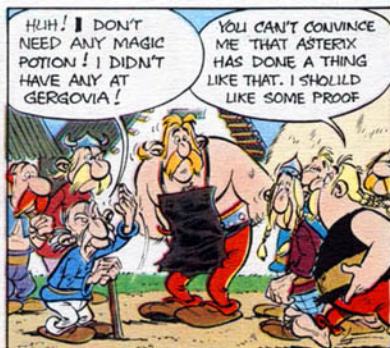
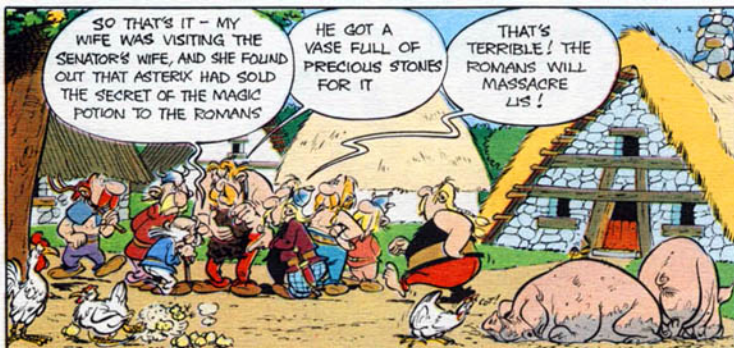


MY LIPS ARE
SEALED



AND SOON
AFTERWARDS...

... SO ASTERIX HAS
SOLD THE SECRET OF
THE MAGIC POTION TO
THE ROMANS ? THESE
YOUNG PEOPLE !
I ASK YOU !

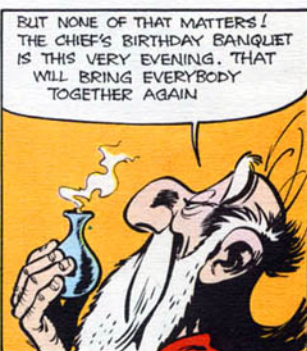


I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE VILLAGERS' ATTITUDE... SURELY THEY DON'T SUSPECT ME JUST BECAUSE OF THAT ROMAN'S VISIT!

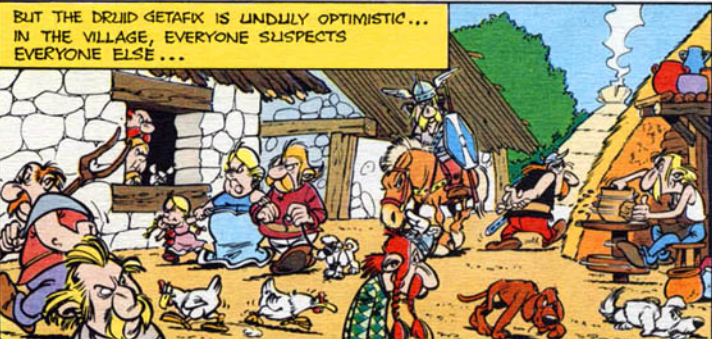


HM... SLANDER CAN BE DANGEROUS. TOUTATIS ALONE KNOWS WHAT IDEAS THEY'RE DREAMING UP!

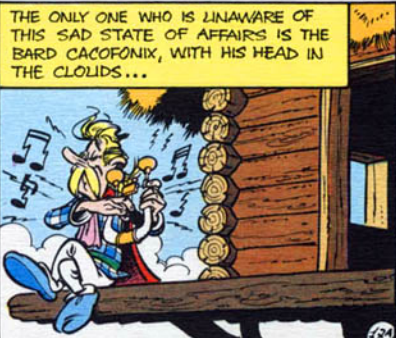
BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERS! THE CHIEF'S BIRTHDAY BANQUET IS THIS VERY EVENING. THAT WILL BRING EVERYBODY TOGETHER AGAIN



BUT THE DRUID GETAFIX IS UNDULY OPTIMISTIC... IN THE VILLAGE, EVERYONE SUSPECTS EVERYONE ELSE...



THE ONLY ONE WHO IS UNAWARE OF THIS SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS IS THE BARD CACOFONIX, WITH HIS HEAD IN THE CLOUDS...



AND THAT EVENING, DURING THE BANQUET, NO ONE IS SPEAKING TO ANYBODY ELSE...



... IN FACT, THE BARD HAS THE STRANGE IMPRESSION OF BEING ALONE AT THE TABLE. YOU MIGHT ALMOST THINK IT WAS THE END...



...THE END OF THE VILLAGE!

NEXT DAY, A ROMAN PATROL IS
SCOUTING AROUND IN THE FOREST,
TAKING NO CHANCES...

FOOTSTEPS!

LET'S HIDE IN
THAT TREE OVER
THERE!



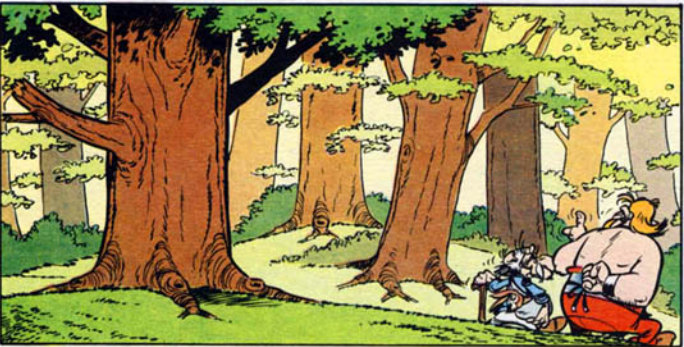
IT'S VERY KIND
OF YOU TO COME
AND HELP ME
CHECK MY SNARES,
FULLIAUTOMATIX!

I WANTED A
QUIET WORD WITH
YOU, AWAY FROM
THE OTHERS...

OUCH! SSH! OOH!

YOU'RE AN EXPERIENCED CHAP,
GERIATRIX... IF THE ROMANS DO HAVE THE
MAGIC POTION, IT'S VERY SERIOUS... MY
WIFE THINKS THE TIME HAS COME TO
LEAVE THE DISTRICT

HUH! THE ROMANS
DON'T SCARE ME WITH
THEIR MAGIC POTION. I'M
READY TO FIGHT AGAIN,
AS WE DID AT
GERGOVIA!

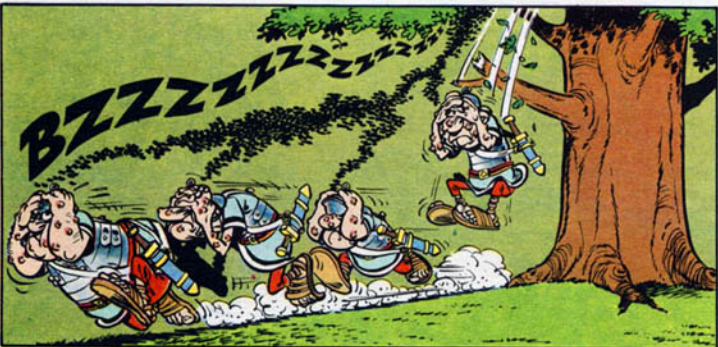


HAVE WE
GOT THE
MAGIC
POTION?

SURELY
WE'D KNOW!

BY THE WAY,
BOYS, NOW THE
GAULS HAVE GONE,
SHALL WE GET DOWN
FROM THIS TREE?

YES,
BECAUSE OF
THE WASPS!



BACK AT
AQUARIUM...

**WE'VE GOT
THE MAGIC POTION!
WE'VE GOT THE
MAGIC POTION!!**





WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BY JUPITER?

WE'VE FOUND OUT WE'VE GOT THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION...

ALL THE LADS ARE ASKING WHY YOU DON'T GIVE US ANY, INSTEAD OF LETTING US GET BASHED ABOUT BY THOSE GAULISH NUTS!



TEEHEE! YOUR MAGIC POTION IS ME!



A CAULDRON, QUICK! GET HIM STEWED!

NO THANKS! I'M NOT EATING THAT, I NEVER TOUCH IT!



SIMMER DOWN! EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!



WE'LL SPREAD IT ABOUT THAT WE DO HAVE THE MAGIC POTION, AND I PROMISE YOU THE GAULS WILL SOON SPLIT UP AND GO AWAY



WE ARE SOLDIERS! WE DON'T LIKE THE DEVIOLUS WAYS OF CIVIL SERVANTS! WE PREFER HONOURABLE BATTLES, THE CLASH OF ARMS, THE CLARION CALL OF BUCINAS...



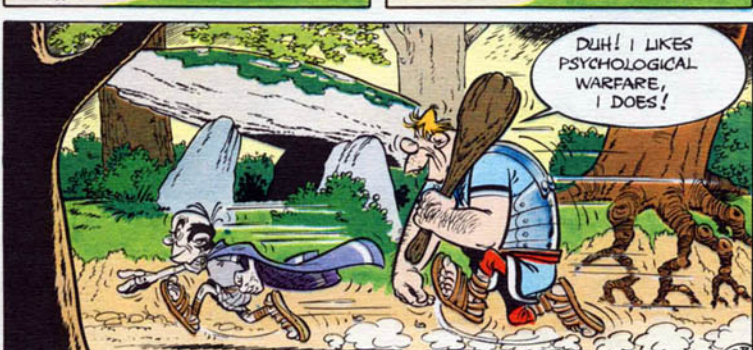
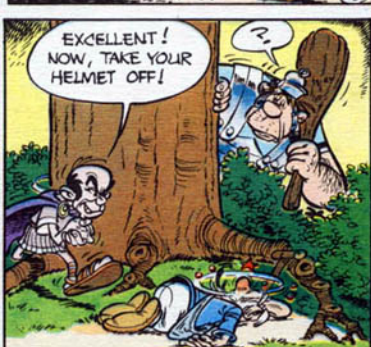
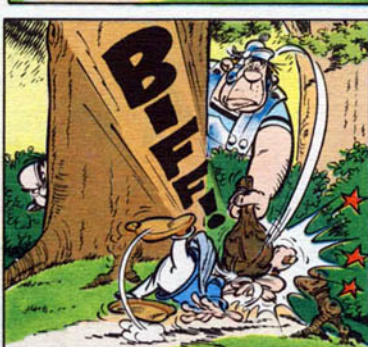
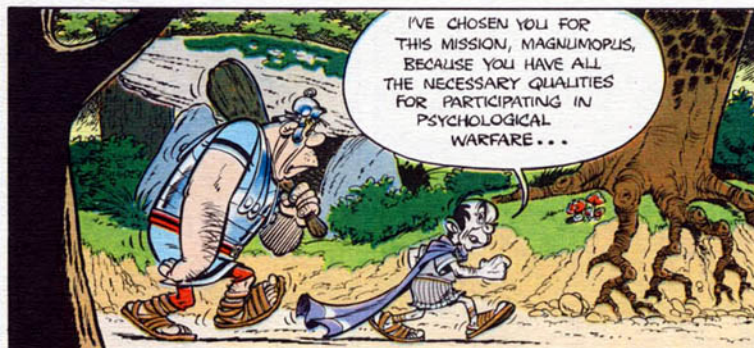
... BLOOD, TOIL, TEARS AND...

RIGHT, WHAT DO WE DO, CONVULVILLUS?



?!?

COME WITH ME. I'LL TELL YOU MY PLANS



**ALESIA!
IT'S ALESIA
ALL OVER
AGAIN!**

**THEY'VE
GOT THE
MAGIC POTION!**

THE ROMAN'S ATTACKED ME! THEY'VE
GOT SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH! I WASN'T BEATEN
EASILY, AND I MANAGED TO SNATCH THIS TROPHY.
ONLY THE MAGIC POTION COULD HAVE MADE
THEM STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERCOME ME!

THAT PROVES
IT! THEY'VE GOT
THE POTION!

OUT OF THE QUESTION!
ONLY OUR DRUID
KNOWS ITS SECRET!

HE'S NOT THE
ONLY ONE
NOW!

HAVE YOU ALL GONE MAD,
BY TOUTATIS? YOU DON'T NEED
MAGIC POTION TO KNOCK
GERIATRIX OUT!

WHAT'S
THAT?

ALL THE SAME, A ROMAN
WOULD HAVE TO BE PRETTY SURE
OF HIMSELF TO ATTACK EVEN
THIS OLD RELIC!

LOOK
HERE...

AND LOOK AT THAT TINY LITTLE HELMET!
THE LEGIONARY WHO WORE IT MUST
HAVE BEEN A PROPER TITCH! WE
ALWAYS KNEW GERIATRIX HAD SMALL
LATIN...

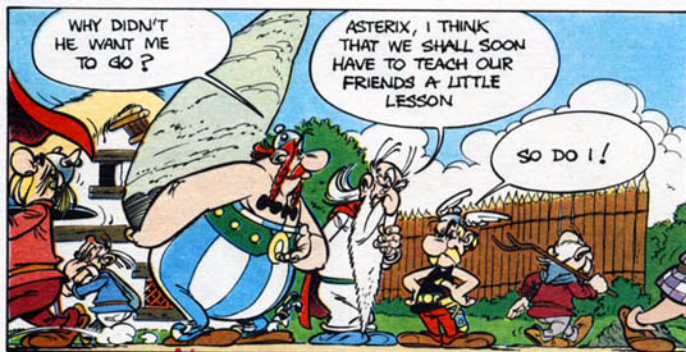
... BUT SURELY
EVEN GERIATRIX COULD
HAVE MASTERED ANY
LATIN THAT SMALL!

**AND YOU
KNOW WHAT
GERIATRIX
SAYS TO YOU
?!?**

WE MUST FIND
OUT FOR SURE WHETHER
THE ROMANS HAVE
THE MAGIC POTION

I'LL GO AND ASK THEM
IF YOU LIKE

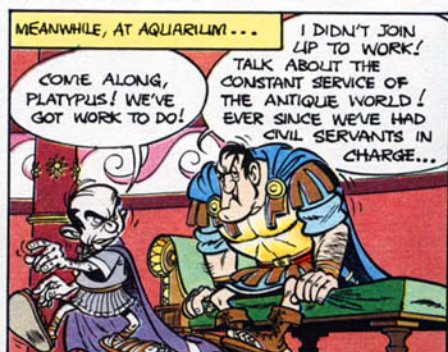
NO, NOT YOU.
UNHYGIENIX AND
FULLIAUTOMATIX,
YOU GO!



WHY DIDN'T HE WANT ME TO GO ?

ASTERIX, I THINK THAT WE SHALL SOON HAVE TO TEACH OUR FRIENDS A LITTLE LESSON

SO DO I !

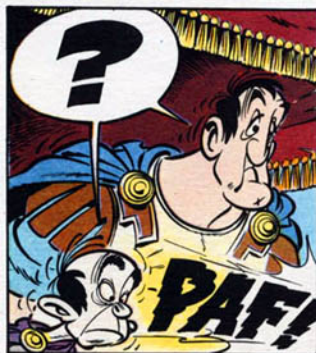


MEANWHILE, AT AQUARIUM ...

I DIDN'T JOIN UP TO WORK!

COME ALONG, PLATYPUS! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

TALK ABOUT THE CONSTANT SERVICE OF THE ANTIQUE WORLD! EVER SINCE WE'VE HAD CIVIL SERVANTS IN CHARGE...

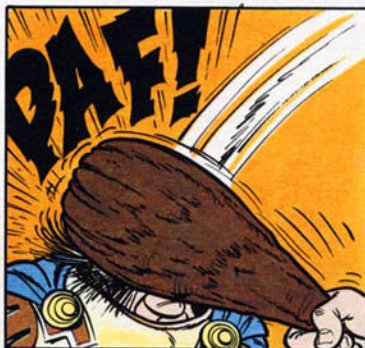
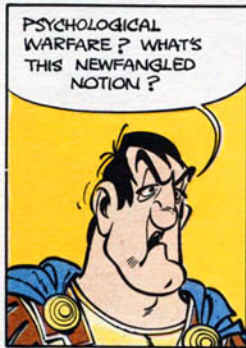


PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ? WHAT'S THIS NEWFANGLED NOTION ?

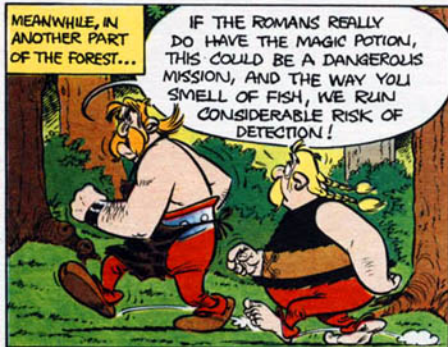


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT ?

DUIH ! I'M TELLING THEM ABOUT PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE



THIS ISN'T THE MOMENT TO FOOL ABOUT ! BRING ALL THOSE IDIOTS ROUND AND BOIL ME UP A BIG CAULDRON OF WATER!



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST...

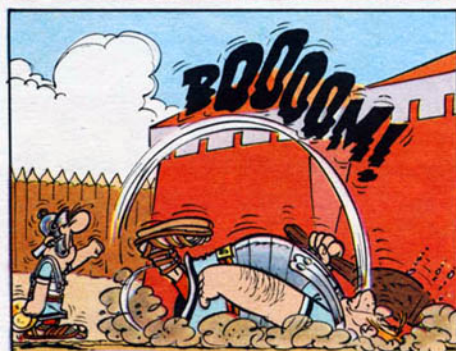
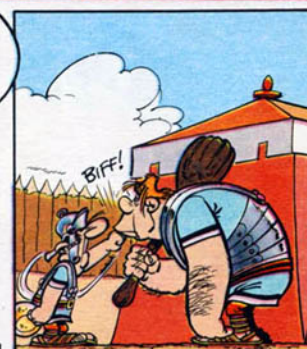
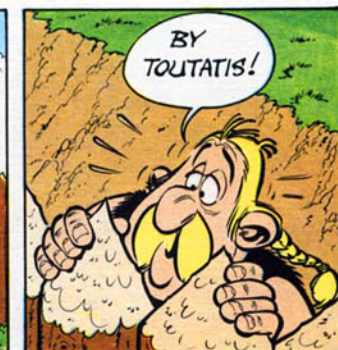
IF THE ROMANS REALLY DO HAVE THE MAGIC POTION, THIS COULD BE A DANGEROUS MISSION, AND THE WAY YOU SMELL OF FISH, WE RUN CONSIDERABLE RISK OF DETECTION!

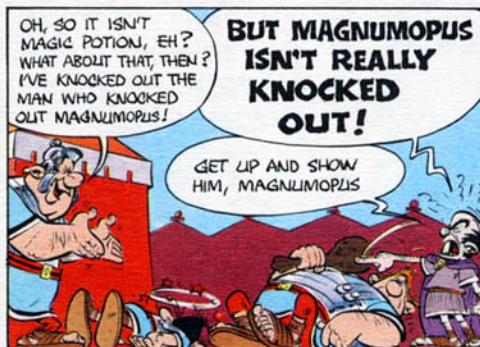
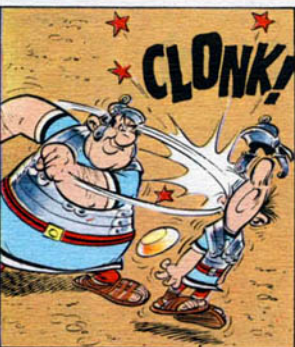


YOU'RE BEGINNING TO GET ON MY NERVES, FULLIALITOMATIX!



I WONDER WHAT'S UP CHAPS ? DO YOU THINK IT'S A RED HERRING ?





**THEY'VE
GOT IT!**

**THE ROMANS HAVE
GOT THE MAGIC
POTION! WE SAW
THEM!**

**THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
HOW COULD THEY HAVE
MANAGED TO FIND OUT
THE SECRET?**

Puff!
Puff!

WE'VE BEEN SEEING A LOT OF
ROMANS AROUND THE VILLAGE
LATELY

ARE YOU
ACCUISING ME OF
GIVING THE ROMANS
THE SECRET OF THE
MAGIC POTION?

AND HOW ABOUT
YOU, VITALSTATITIX?
ARE YOU ACCUISING
ME OF TELLING
ASTERIX THE SECRET-
THE SECRET THAT
MAY ONLY BE
HANDLED DOWN
FROM DRUID TO
DRUID, BY WORD
OF MOUTH?

ER... WELL...

ALL RIGHT..I
GET THE MESSAGE,
I'M LEAVING
THE VILLAGE

ME
TOO

WELL, THEN,
ME TOO

55A

BUT DRUID...
IF YOU WALK OUT ON US
WE WON'T HAVE ANY
MAGIC POTION!

ALL YOU HAD
TO DO WAS FALL
IN IT WHEN YOU
WERE BABIES!

SO THERE!

I WONDER IF WE MAY JUST POSSIBLY
HAVE DONE A SILLY THING, BOYS...

YOU SHOULD
HAVE STOPPED
THEM,
SENATOR

**STOP CALLING
ME SENATOR,
IDIOT! GET
OUT OF MY
SIGHT!**

I FEEL
VERY LOW...

TAP...
TAP!

25B

ALL THE SAME, IT'S A PITY WE'RE LEAVING. NOW THE ROMANS HAVE GOT THE MAGIC POTION IT'LL BE MORE FUN

THEY HAVEN'T GOT THE MAGIC POTION!

WHO HAS GOT THE MAGIC POTION, THEN?

DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, OBELIX

NO ONE EVER EXPLAINS ANYTHING TO ME! THEY JUST KEEP ME AROUND BECAUSE I'M ORNAMENTAL!

GOOD MORNING, LEGIONARY. WE COME IN PEACE. WE WANT TO SEE THAT NEW ROMAN...

CONVOLVULUS, THE CIVIL SERVANT? THIRD TENT ON THE LEFT

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT ON YOUR HEAD?

THEY'VE BEEN PRACTISING PSYCHOLOGY ON ME

YOU AND DOGMATIX WAIT FOR US HERE, OBELIX

RIGHT

HEY!

QUID?

THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO CHECK UP ON, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

CARRY ON

PLAFF!

YOU!?

YES, US. WE
COME TO TELL
YOU THAT YOU'VE
WON!

YOU'VE SUCCEEDED IN
SOWING DISCORD IN OUR
VILLAGE BY SPREADING
LIES AND SLANDER

WH... WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO TO ME?

NOTHING. WE'VE
JUST COME TO TELL YOU
WE DESPISE YOU. WE'RE NOT
INTERESTED IN YOU OR THE
VILLAGERS WHO WERE
SO READY TO BELIEVE
YOUR LIES

WE'RE LEAVING THESE
PARTS, ALONG WITH OBELIX
AND THE MAGIC POTION!

??

I CHECKED UP ON
IT! THEY HAVEN'T GOT
THE MAGIC POTION. THEY'RE
AS SOFT AS EVER

LET'S GET OUT OF
THIS CAMP

DID YOU SEE THAT, DOGMATIX?
NO ONE'S GOT THE MAGIC
POTION NOW, AND THEY'RE
LAUGHING!

WE CAN SEE EVERYTHING
THAT GOES ON IN THE
CAMP FROM OUR VANTAGE
POINT IN THIS TREE

**I'VE DONE IT! IT WORKED!
THE DRUID, THE DWARF AND
THE MONSTER HAVE LEFT
THE VILLAGE!**

EXPLAIN YOURSELF,
CONVOLVILIUS. YOU'RE
MAKING LESS SENSE
ALL THE TIME

NOW THAT THOSE THREE GAULS
HAVE GONE, THE OTHERS WILL BE
HARMLESS. NO MORE DRUID, NO
MORE MAGIC POTION!

**I GET
IT!**

**SOUND THE BUCINAS AND
TRUMPETS! TO ARMS! EVERYONE
FALL IN! ALL ABLE-BODIED
PERSONNEL TO REVIVE
THOSE WHO WERE
BRAINWASHED!**

**TANTANTARA
TARAA!**

?!?

AND WHAT,
MAY I ASK,
IS THAT?

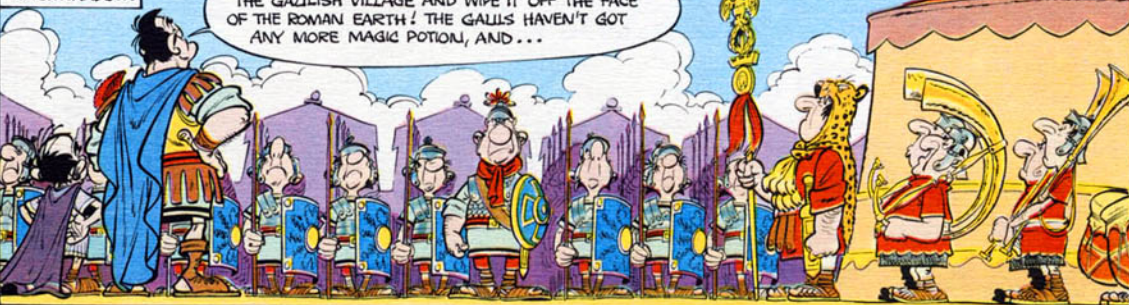
WELL, SINCE THERE
ARE SOME WHO SAY
WE HAVEN'T GOT THE
MAGIC POTION, WE
THOUGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARF...

**THAT WILL DO! YOU'RE
IN THE ROMAN ARMY
NOW!**

**STAND TO ATTENTION!
NO FALLING OUT OF LINE!
YOU WILL MASSACRE
ACCORDING TO THE RULES!
I DON'T WANT ANY
FANCY NOTIONS HERE! GO
AND GET YOUR WEAPONS!**

SOON
AFTERWARDS...

RIGHT! LEGIONARIES, WE ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK
THE GAULISH VILLAGE AND WIPE IT OFF THE FACE
OF THE ROMAN EARTH! THE GAULS HAVEN'T GOT
ANY MORE MAGIC POTION, AND ...



BUT... ER...
HAVE WE
GOT THE MAGIC
POTION,
THEN ?

YES, OF COURSE
WE HAVE !

NO, OF COURSE
WE HAVEN'T!



YES,
WE HAVE !

I TELL YOU
WE HAVEN'T!

BUT
HOMUNCULUS...

LOOK, JOKING
APART, HAVE WE
GOT IT OR HAVE
WE NOT ?

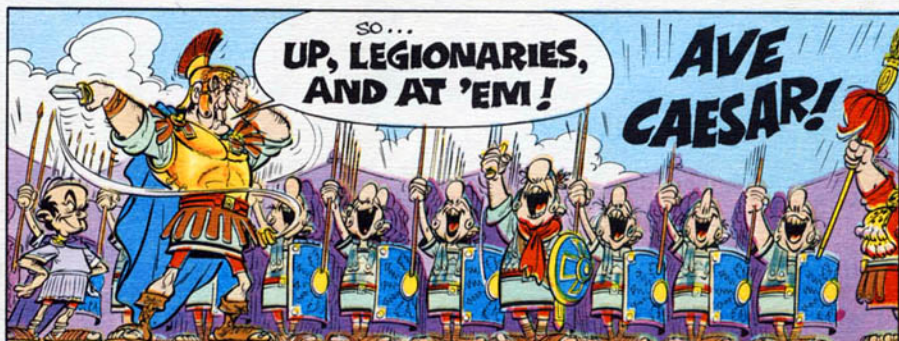


LISTEN ! NO ONE'S GOT
THE MAGIC POTION, BUT
WE OUTNUMBER THE
GAULS TWENTY TO ONE!
WE SHALL WIN EASILY,
AND CAESAR WILL
REWARD US !



SO ...
**UP, LEGIONARIES,
AND AT 'EM !**

**AVE
CAESAR!**

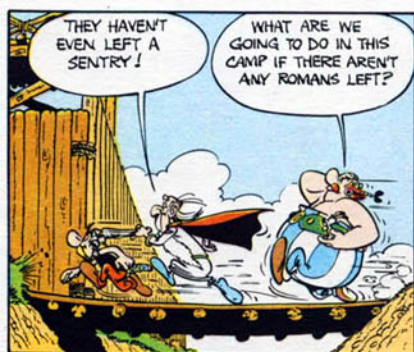


I SEE THAT MIXING WITH
US HAS MADE YOU A
CUNNING STRATEGIST!



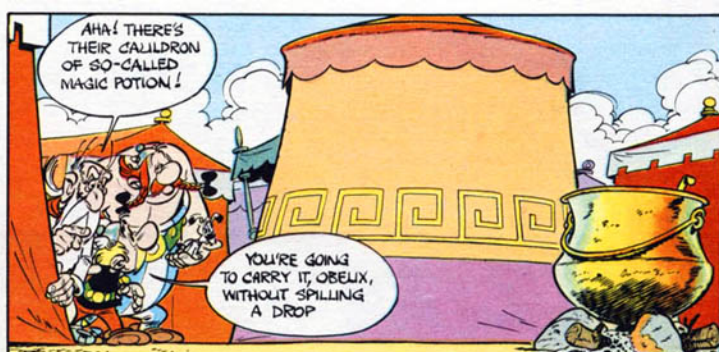
IT'S WORKING LIKE A
CHARM! THEY'VE LEFT
THE CAMP! OFF WE
GO!





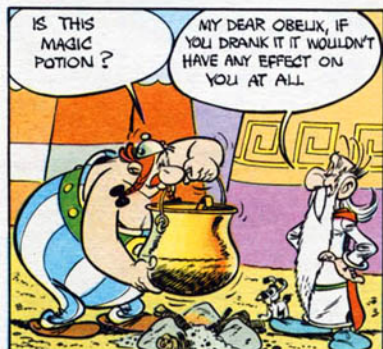
THEY HAVEN'T
EVEN LEFT A
SENTRY!

WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO IN THIS
CAMP IF THERE AREN'T
ANY ROMANS LEFT?



AHA! THERE'S
THEIR CALDRON
OF SO-CALLED
MAGIC POTION!

YOU'RE GOING
TO CARRY IT, OBELIX,
WITHOUT SPILLING
A DROP



IS THIS
MAGIC
POTION?

MY DEAR OBELIX, IF
YOU DRANK IT IT WOULDN'T
HAVE ANY EFFECT ON
YOU AT ALL.



OH, THEN IT IS MAGIC
POTION. MAGIC POTION
NEVER DOES HAVE ANY EFFECT
ON ME AT ALL.



SOMETIMES HE
MAKES ME
WONDER IF I KNOW
WHAT I MEAN
MYSELF!

LET'S NOT WASTE
TIME. WE HAVE
TO REACH THE
VILLAGE BEFORE
THE ROMANS

SURE ENOUGH, THE LEGIONARIES
ARE PASSING THROUGH THE FOREST
IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VILLAGE...



I SAY, THE LADS
WANT TO KNOW HOW
THE LOOT IS GOING TO
BE SHARED OUT THIS
TIME, BECAUSE AT
MUNDA...

WELL, WHAT
ABOUT MUNDA?
WHAT HAPPENED
AT MUNDA?



THE LOOT WAS PERFECTLY
FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED... LET'S
SEE, THERE WERE THOSE TWELVE
VALUABLE VASES...



LET'S NOT
COUNT ON
VALUABLE VASES...
YOU MIGHT GET
A NASTY
JAR!

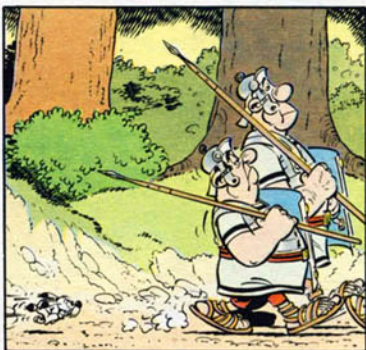
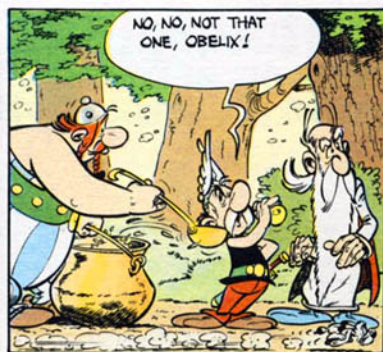
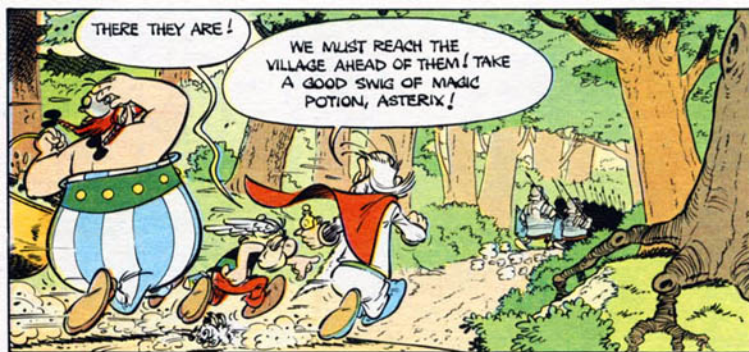


SURE ENOUGH, IN THE VILLAGE, THE GAULS ARE GETTING
READY TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE NOT BY ANY MEANS
OLD CROCKS...

**WITH OR
WITHOUT
POTION,
WE'LL SHOW
THEM WHO
WE
ARE!**



WE'D BETTER NOT
SHOW THEM HOW MANY
WE ARE, THAT'S
ALL!



ASTERIX, OBELIX AND GETAFIX ARE COMING BACK!!!

QUICK, YOU TWO! GO AND OPEN THE GATES!

RIGHT, CHIEF!

MIND THE SHIELD, WILL YOU, CHIEF?

MEANWHILE...

WHAT HAPPENED?

SHUT THE GATES!

O CENTURION PLATYPLUS, I HAVE ENDANGERED MY LIFE TO BRING YOU THIS REPORT! THE REAR WAS TREACHEROUSLY ATTACKED, AND SURRENDERED ONLY AFTER A TERRIBLE STRUGGLE!

IDIOT! OWING TO THE FAILURE OF THE REAR TO BACK US UP, THE ORDER OF MARCH HAS BEEN TURNED BACK TO FRONT! **NOW GET BACK TO THE FRONT!**

?!

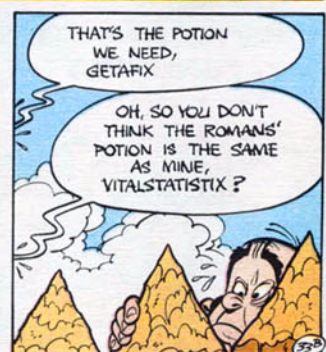
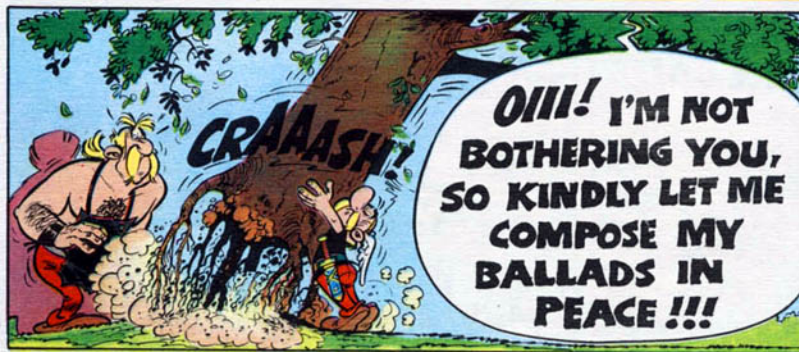
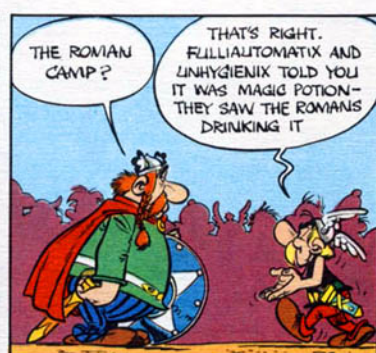
DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND ME?

WELL, TO BE HONEST...

GET ON WITH IT!!!

CALM DOWN... THINGS AREN'T TURNING OUT QUITE AS EXPECTED... THE GALLS HAVE GONE BACK TO THE VILLAGE WITH OUR MAGIC POTION...

BUT IT ISN'T THE REAL MAGIC POTION... OR IF IT IS, I'M DROPPING THE WHOLE AFFAIR ON THE GROUNDS OF TOTAL INCOMPREHENSIBILITY!



THERE'S NOT A MOMENT
TO BE LOST! THE GALLI KNOW
THAT OUR POTION IS NO GOOD.
THEIR DRUID IS GOING TO MAKE
THEM SOME OF THE REAL STUFF! WE
MUST ATTACK AT ONCE. IT'S OUR
ONLY CHANCE!

ATTA...!?

WHERE'S THAT
LOT GONE?

THE VANGUARD WENT TO HELP THE
REAR, AND I STAYED AT THE FRONT
BACK HERE, BECAUSE AFTER
ALL PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARFARE ...

**GO AND FIND ME
ALL THOSE IDIOTS,
IDIOT!**

MEANWHILE...

ALL RIGHT, SO WE BEHAVED
BADLY. WE BELIEVED THE
SLANDERS THAT ROMAN
SPREAD, AND WE WERE WRONG...
YOU WOULDN'T LET US DOWN
NOW, WOULD YOU?

**NEVER MIND! IT'LL
BE LIKE GERGOVIA!
WE DON'T NEED
ANY POTION!
LET'S GO!**

**HE'S
RIGHT!
LET'S
GO!**

**I'M
COMING
TOO!**

**I DON'T KNOW WHERE
YOU'RE GOING, BUT I'M
GOING WITH YOU!**

**WE'LL
ALL GO!**

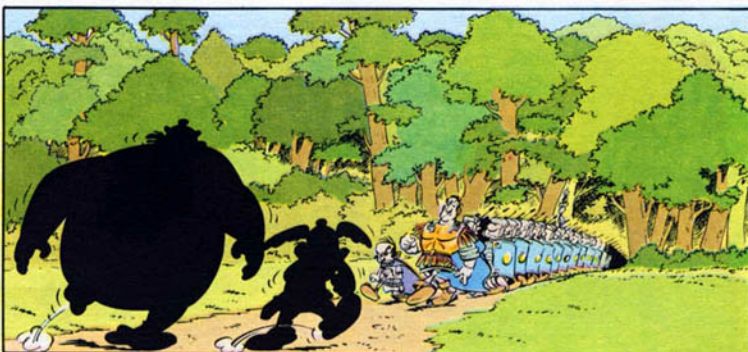
THIS IS MORE LIKE YOU!
ABSOLUTELY CRAZY,
BUT LIMITED ONCE AGAIN.
NOW I'LL MAKE YOU
SOME MAGIC POTION!
REAL MAGIC POTION!

BUT THAT
WILL TAKE TIME,
AND THE
ROMANS...

WELL, YOU AND
OBELIX HOLD THE
ROMANS OFF!

DO YOU GET IT, OBELIX? WE MUST HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL OUR DRUID HAS FINISHED MAKING THE MAGIC POTION

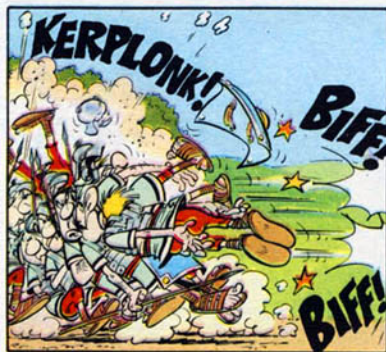
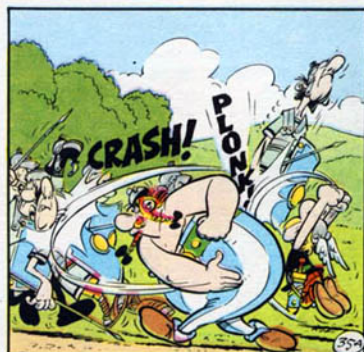
I DON'T REALLY GET ANYTHING, BUT I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!



SURRENDER GAULS!

MAY I?

BY ALL MEANS



RETIRE!



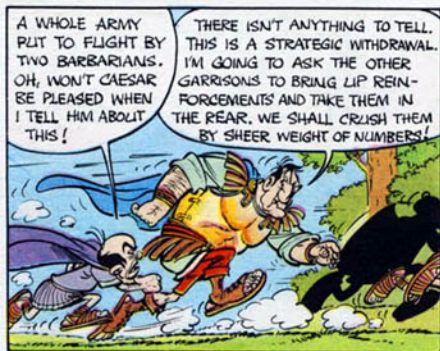
ASTERIX, WE MUST PRESS THEM TO STAY! IF THEY GO AWAY WE CAN'T HOLD THEM OFF!

NO, IT'S A PITY THE ROMAN TROOPS HAVE SUCH RETIRING DISPOSITIONS



A WHOLE ARMY PUT TO FLIGHT BY TWO BARBARIANS. OH, WON'T CAESAR BE PLEASED WHEN I TELL HIM ABOUT THIS!

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING TO TELL. THIS IS A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL. I'M GOING TO ASK THE OTHER GARRISONS TO BRING UP REINFORCEMENTS AND TAKE THEM IN THE REAR. WE SHALL CRUSH THEM BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!



OF COURSE, THERE ARE TWO OF THEM, AND WE'RE ONLY ONE GARRISON

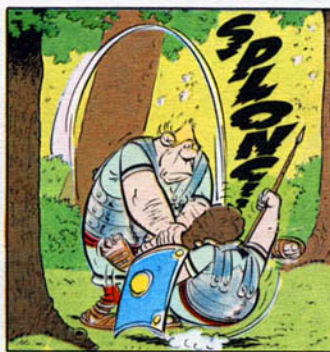
TAKE THESE MESSAGES TO LAUDANUM, TOTORLUM AND COMPENDIUM. HURRY!

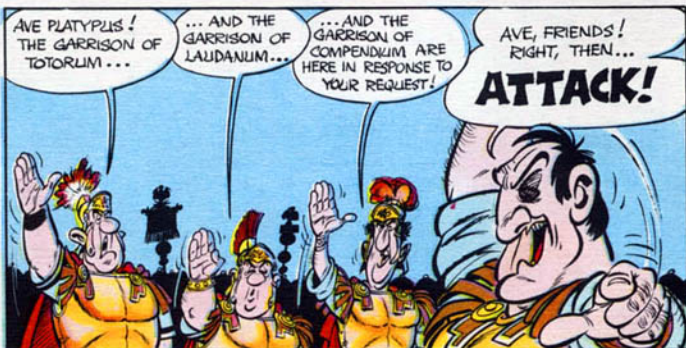
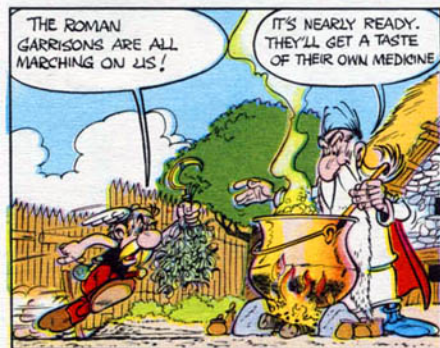
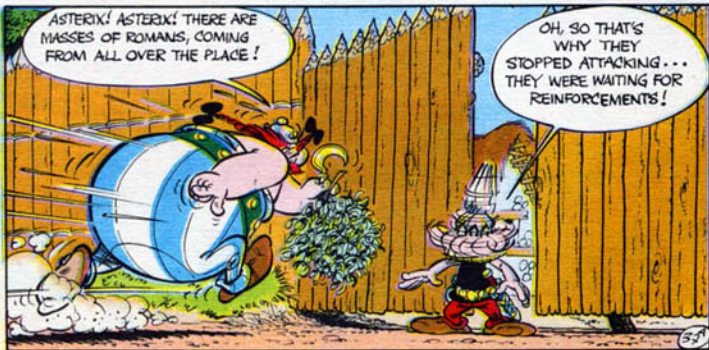
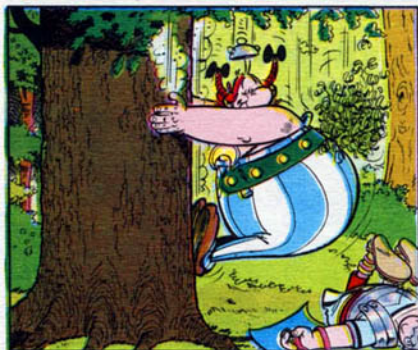
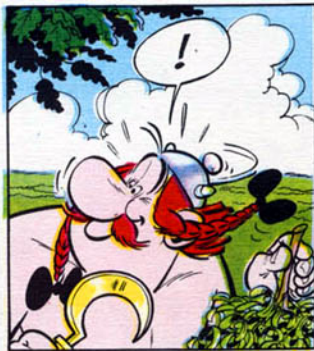


SURE ENOUGH, TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE ROMANS...

JUST LET IT SIMMER FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES...

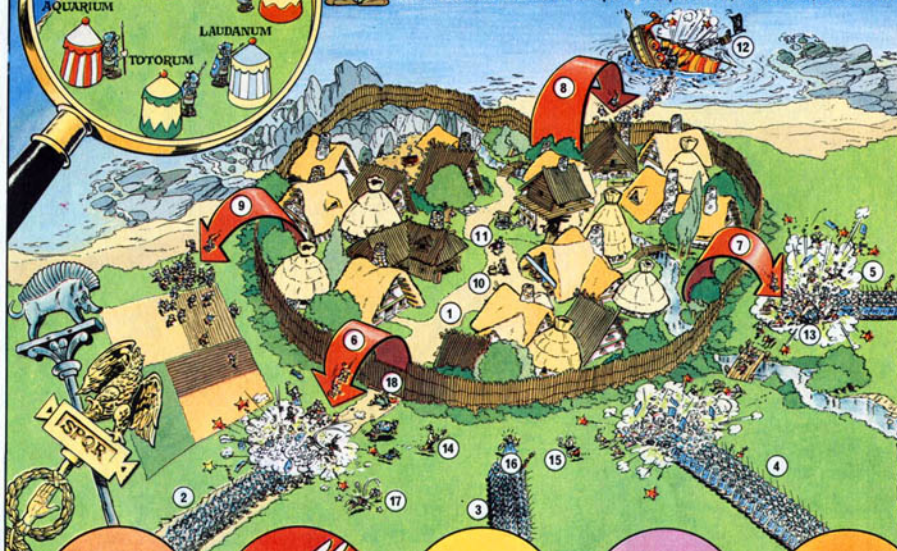
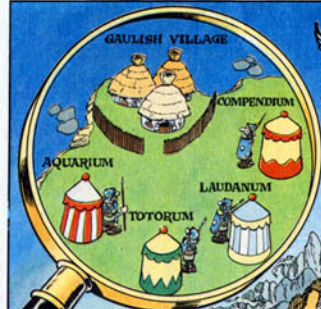






THE BATTLE OF THE VILLAGE

Only a panoramic view can do justice to the complex nature of this terrible battle, in which a small village of indomitable Gauls comes to grips with the garrisons of the fortified Roman camps of Aquarium, Totorum, Laudanum and Compendium.



- 1 Indomitable little Gaulish village.
- 2 Garrison of Aquarium (Roman camp).
- 3 Garrison of Roman camp of Totorum.
- 4 Garrison of Roman camp of Laudanum.
- 5 Garrison of Roman camp of Compendium.
- 6, 7, 8, 9 Gauls pouring out of the village any old how, without any plan of battle.
- 10 Druid Getafix awaiting the outcome of the battle beside his cauldron, now empty.
- 11 Bard Cacofonie asking the druid what it's all about, and what, might he ask, is going on?
- 12 Pirate ship sunk by Gauls pouring out at (8) full of enthusiasm, discovering on arrival at the beach that there are no Romans available, and deciding not to waste their time anyway, by Tootatis.
- 13 Obelix, menhir delivery man, trying to keep back the Gauls while explaining to them that he got there first, he didn't ring for anyone, he would like to be left alone with his own Romans and they don't want to be disturbed.
- 14 Fullastomatix, village blacksmith, catching sight of an old friend.
- 15 Unhygienix, village fishmonger, friend of the afore-mentioned.
- 16 Point of intersection of the two friends.
- 17 Geratix, village elder, engaged in single combat with Magnusopus, Roman legionary.
- 18 Vitalstatistix, chief of the Gaulish village, badly let down by his shield-bearers, who have jumped the fence without bothering to see that he kept his balance. He feels understandably downcast for a few moments.



VITALSTATISTIX
Gaulish chief



ASTERIX
Gaulish warrior



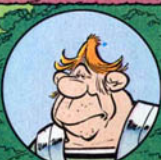
OBELIX
menhir delivery man



PLATYPUS
Roman centurion

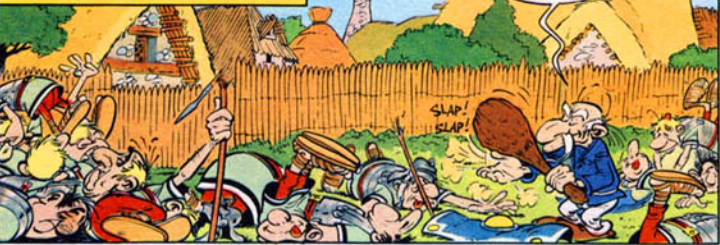


CONVOLVULUS
Roman strategist



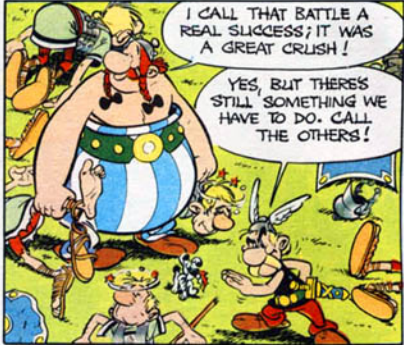
MAGNUSOPUS
Roman legionary

THE BATTLE, ALTHOUGH VIOLENT, IS OF SHORT DURATION, AND THE VICTORS ARE LEFT IN POSSESSION OF THE BATTLEFIELD, THEIR ARMS FULL OF TROPHIES...



TEEHEEHEE!

SLAP!
SLAP!



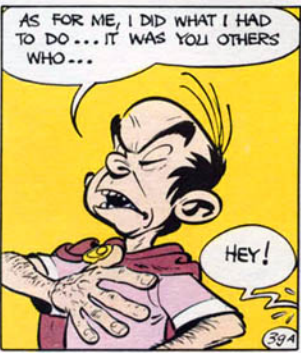
I CALL THAT BATTLE A REAL SUCCESS; IT WAS A GREAT CRUSH!

YES, BUT THERES STILL SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO. CALL THE OTHERS!

A LITTLE FARTHER AWAY...



OH, SO THERE YOU ARE. YOU AND YOUR TROUBLEMAKING! BRAVO! OH, VERY WELL DONE! WE WERE GOING ALONG QUIETLY AS USUAL, THE GAULS WERE MINDING THEIR OWN BUSINESS, AND NOW WE'VE SUFFERED A DEFEAT, THANKS TO YOU!



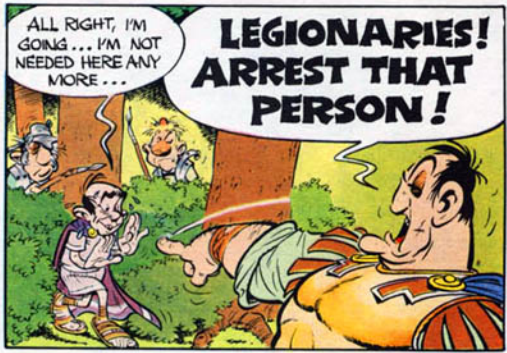
AS FOR ME, I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO... IT WAS YOU OTHERS WHO...

HEY!

39A

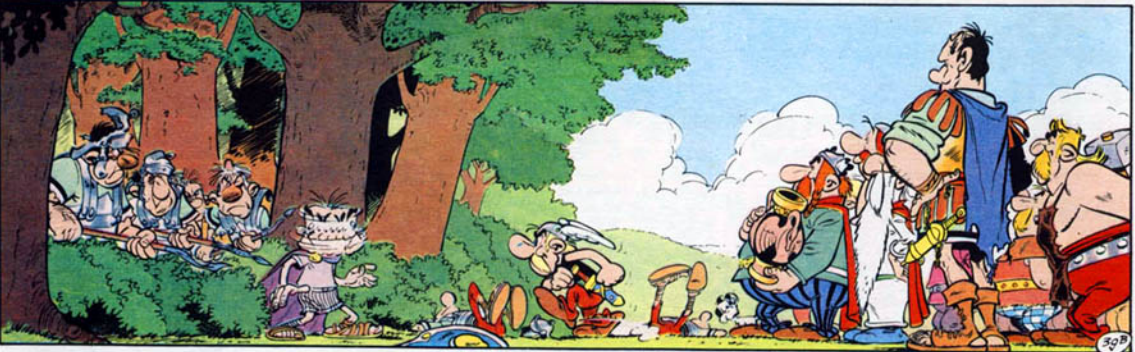


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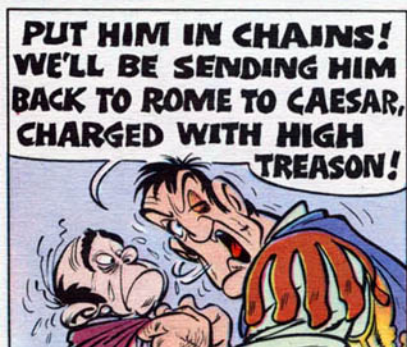
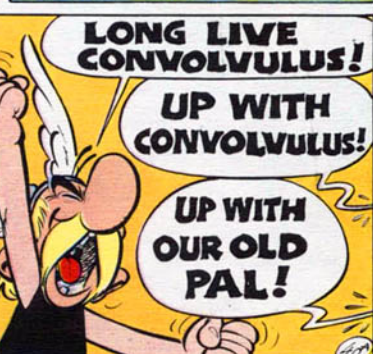
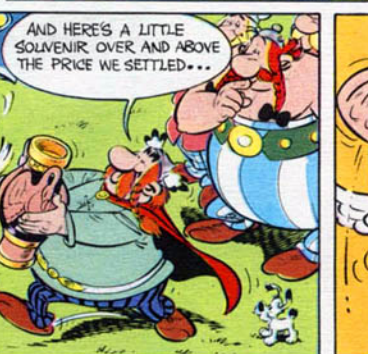
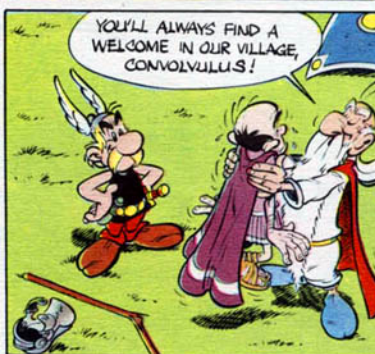
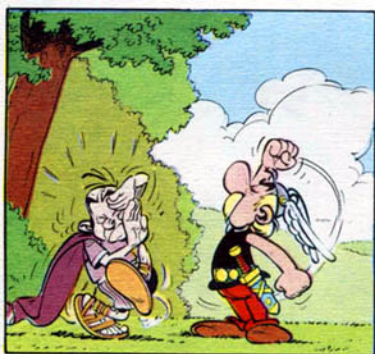


ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING... I'M NOT NEEDED HERE ANY MORE...

LEGIONARIES! ARREST THAT PERSON!

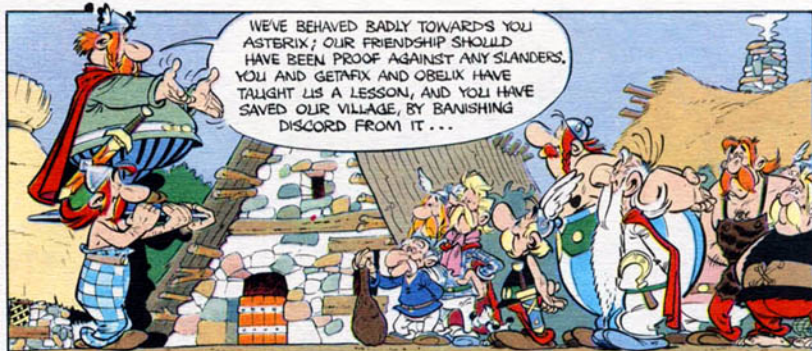


39B



BUT WE NEED NOT BE LINDLY WORRIED ABOUT THE TROUBLE-MAKER; CONVULVULUS WILL WIGGLE HIS WAY OUT OF ANYTHING, AND EVEN ON BOARD THE GALLEY WHICH IS TAKING HIM BACK TO ROME, HE DOES NOT FEEL ALONE...SLANDER, JEALOUSY AND CALUMNY HAVE EMBARKED WITH HIM!

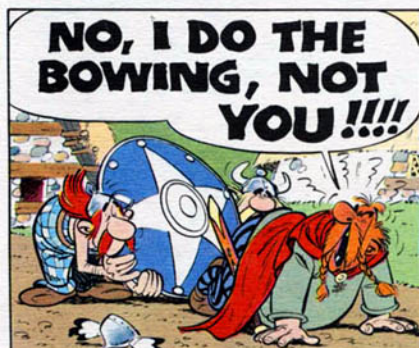




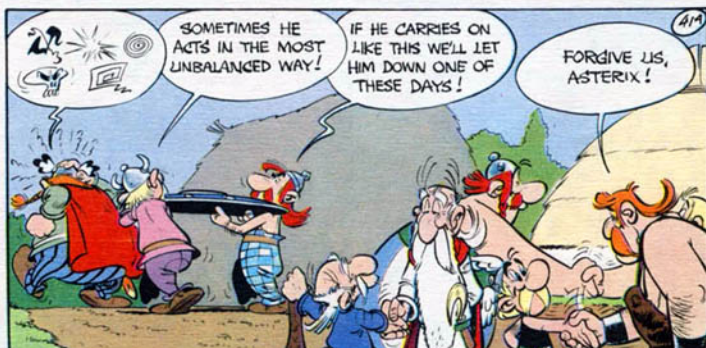
WE'VE BEHAVED BADLY TOWARDS YOU ASTERIX; OUR FRIENDSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROOF AGAINST ANY SLANDERS. YOU AND GETAFOX AND ORELIX HAVE TAUGHT US A LESSON, AND YOU HAVE SAVED OUR VILLAGE, BY BANISHING DISCORD FROM IT...



ASTERIX,
WE BOW TO
YOU!



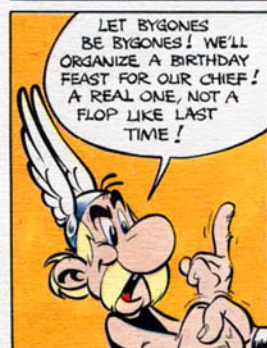
**NO, I DO THE
BOWING, NOT
YOU!!!!**



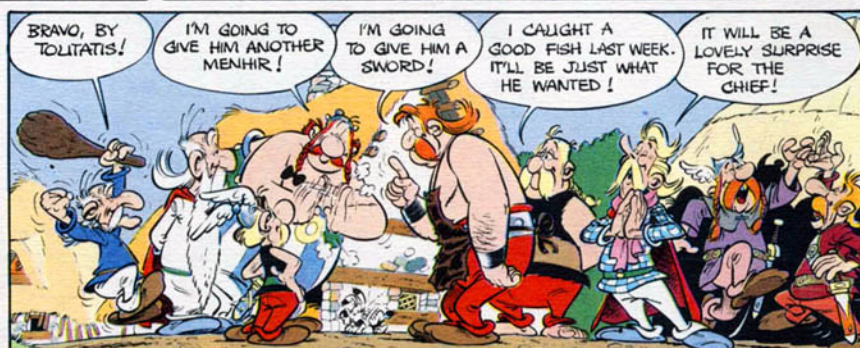
SOMETIMES HE
ACTS IN THE MOST
UNBALANCED WAY!

IF HE CARRIES ON
LIKE THIS WE'LL LET
HIM DOWN ONE OF
THESE DAYS!

419
FORGIVE US,
ASTERIX!



LET BYGONES
BE BYGONES! WE'LL
ORGANIZE A BIRTHDAY
FEAST FOR OUR CHIEF!
A REAL ONE, NOT A
FLOP LIKE LAST
TIME!



BRAVO, BY
TOUTATIS!

I'M GOING TO
GIVE HIM ANOTHER
MENHIR!

I'M GOING
TO GIVE HIM A
SWORD!

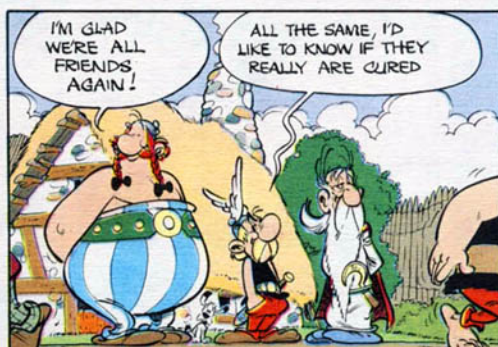
I CAUGHT A
GOOD FISH LAST WEEK.
IT'LL BE JUST WHAT
HE WANTED!

IT WILL BE A
LOVELY SURPRISE
FOR THE CHIEF!



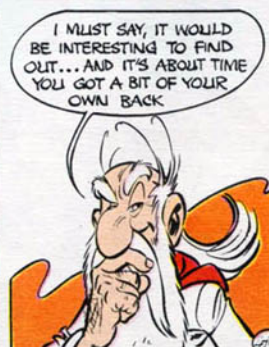
MEANWHILE...

WHAT A WONDERFUL
SURPRISE! MY DEAR
FRIENDS, I AM AT A
LOSS FOR WORDS...



I'M GLAD
WE'RE ALL
FRIENDS
AGAIN!

ALL THE SAME, I'D
LIKE TO KNOW IF THEY
REALLY ARE CURED



I MUST SAY, IT WOULD
BE INTERESTING TO FIND
OUT... AND IT'S ABOUT TIME
YOU GOT A BIT OF YOUR
OWN BACK

NEXT MORNING ...

UNHYGIENIX FISHMONGER

OH, LOOK AT THAT!

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

ONLY THE CHIEF IS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ABOUT THAT WAY

PERHAPS HE'S GOING TO REPLACE THE CHIEF?

I EXPECT VITALSTATSTIX APPOINTED HIM HIS SUCCESSOR AFTER THE BATTLE

IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A SUCCESSOR IT OUGHT TO BE MY HUSBAND, GERIATROX. AFTER ALL, HE'S GOT MORE EXPERIENCE THAN ANYONE ELSE!

GERIATROX? THAT'S NOT EXPERIENCE, THAT'S SENILITY! NOW LOOK AT FULLIAUTOMATIX—YOUNG, STRONG AND...

BACTERIA! PUT AWAY THE FISH—QUICK!

FULLIAUTOMATIX? THAT GREAT QAF? NOW MY HUSBAND HAS A GOOD HEAD FOR BUSINESS, A...

GOOD MORNING!

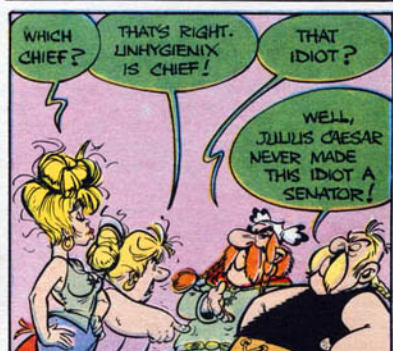
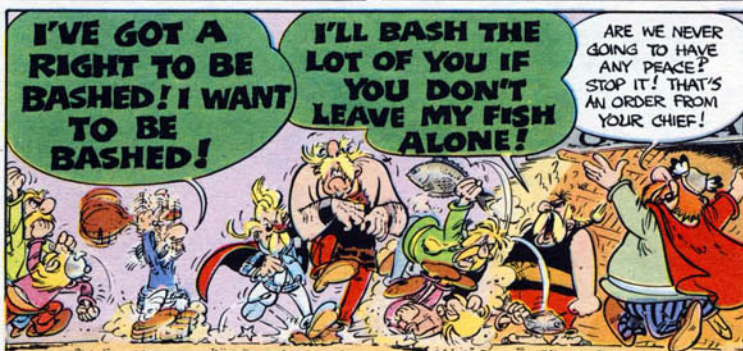
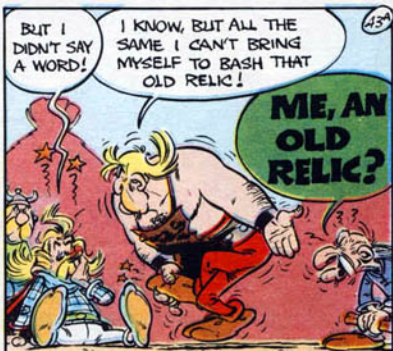
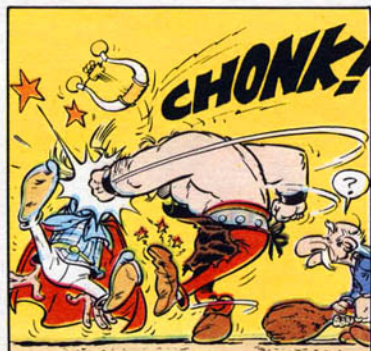
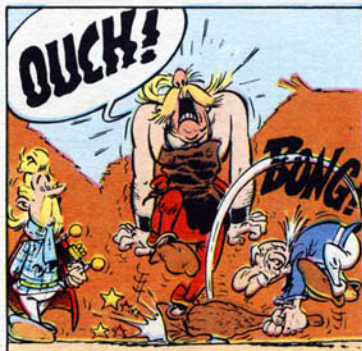
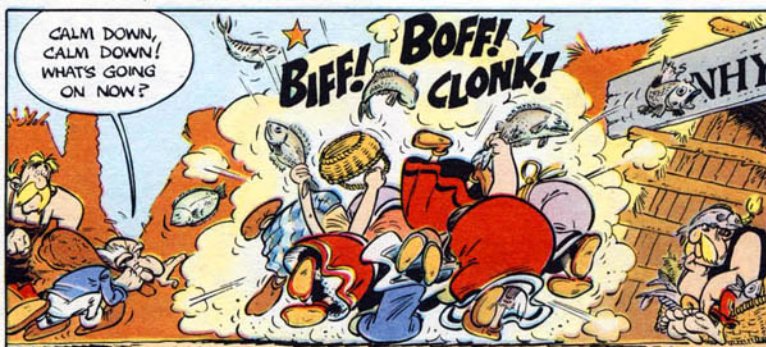
UNHYO

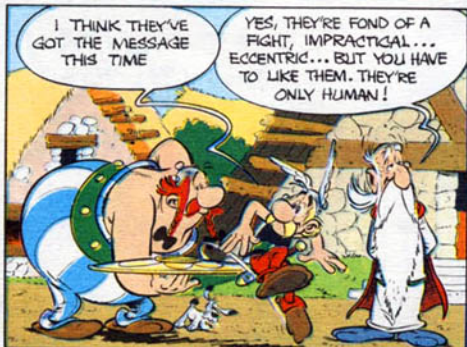
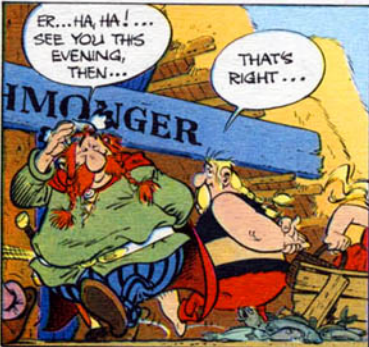
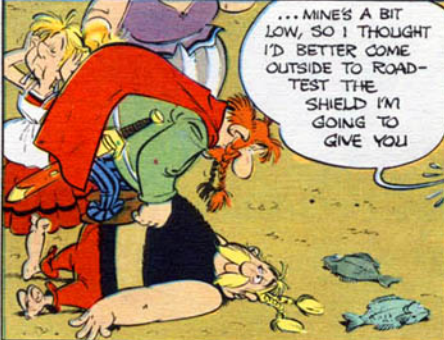
HERE! YOU STAND IN THE QUEUE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

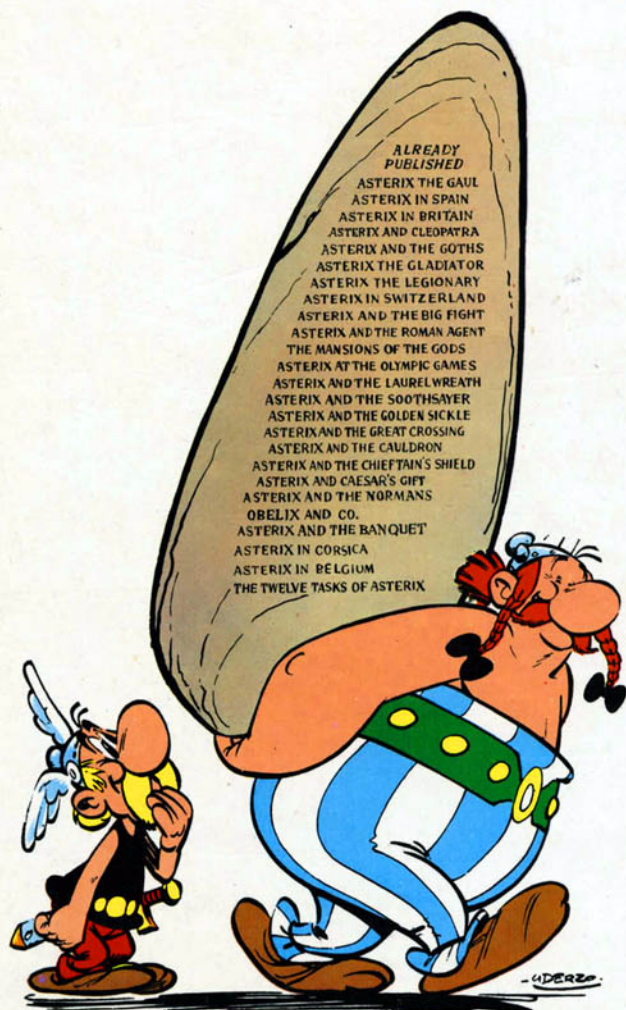
BUT I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE!

NO, I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE! SERVE ME, BACTERIA!

SPLAT!







ALREADY
PUBLISHED

ASTERIX THE GAUL
ASTERIX IN SPAIN
ASTERIX IN BRITAIN
ASTERIX AND CLEOPATRA
ASTERIX AND THE GOTHs
ASTERIX THE GLADIATOR
ASTERIX THE LEGIONARY
ASTERIX IN SWITZERLAND
ASTERIX AND THE BIG FIGHT
ASTERIX AND THE ROMAN AGENT
THE MANSIONS OF THE GODS
ASTERIX AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES
ASTERIX AND THE LAUREL WREATH
ASTERIX AND THE SOOTHSAYER
ASTERIX AND THE GOLDEN SICKLE
ASTERIX AND THE GREAT CROSSING
ASTERIX AND THE CAULDRON
ASTERIX AND THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD
ASTERIX AND CAESAR'S GIFT
ASTERIX AND THE NORMANS
OBELIX AND CO.
ASTERIX AND THE BANQUET
ASTERIX IN CORSICA
ASTERIX IN BELGIUM
THE TWELVE TASKS OF ASTERIX