

Asterix and the
SOOTHSAYER

by GOSCINNY and UDERZO



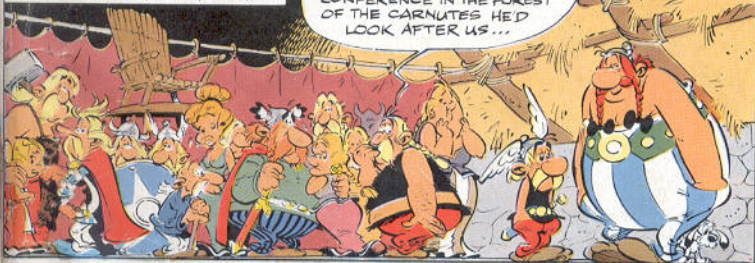
THE ONLY THING THAT THE GAULS ARE AFRAID OF IS THE SKY FALLING ON THEIR HEADS, AN EVENT WHICH SEEMS IMMINENT AS A TERRIBLE STORM BATTERS THE LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL.

BRRAOM!



ALL THE TOP PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE OF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX...

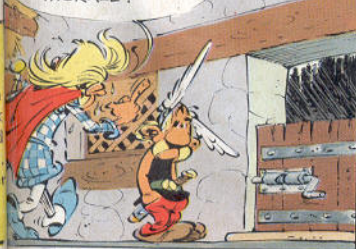
IF ONLY GETAFIX WASN'T AWAY AT THE DRUIDS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE FOREST OF THE CARNUTES HE'D LOOK AFTER US...



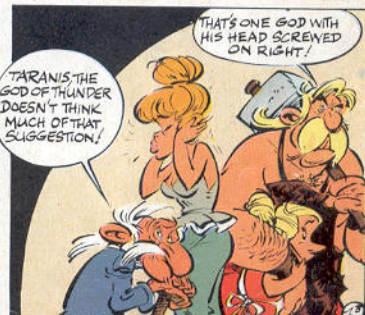
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! WE'VE HAD STORMS BEFORE. THIS IS QUITE A BAD ONE, I AGREE, BUT...



SUPPOSE I SING SOMETHING TO BOOST OUR MORALE?



BRRAOM!



THAT'S ONE GOD WITH HIS HEAD SCREWED ON RIGHT!

TARANIS, THE GOD OF THUNDER DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF THAT SUGGESTION!

HUH! OUR DRUID MAY BE AWAY, BUT TOUTATIS, THE GOD OF THE TRIBE, IS PROTECTING US.

MAYBE, BUT TARANIS, MIGHT WAKE UP SUCCELLUS, THE GOD OF THE DEAD!

BELENOS, THE GOD OF HEALING, KEEPS SUCCELLUS UNDER CONTROL.

AND DON'T FORGET THAT ESUS, THE GOD OF LIFE, WORKS HAND IN GLOVE WITH SUCCELLUS!

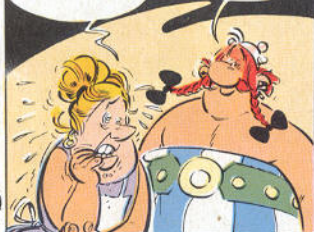
WHAT IF EPONA, THE GODDESS OF WAR, HAS MADE TROUBLE AMONG THEM?



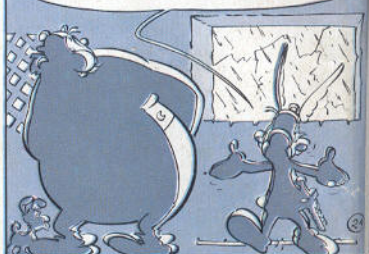
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE GAULS ARE CERTAINLY NOT SHORT OF GODS; MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED RUB SHOULDERS IN THEIR PATRIMONY. THERE ARE GODS FOR EVERYTHING: TREES, FORDS, RIVERS, IN FACT, THERE ARE SO MANY THAT WORSHIPPERS SOMETIMES ADDRESS THEM BY CODE NUMBERS TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF THEIR PRAYERS. FOR INSTANCE INTELLIGENTIA, A GODDESS WHOSE SERVICES WERE OFTEN HELD IN SECRET, MAY BE FOUND UNDER M15.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

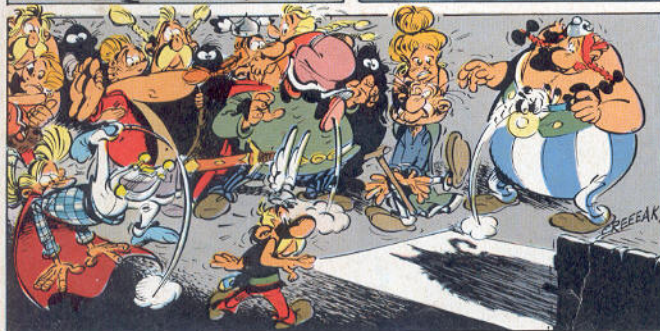
HOW ABOUT HAVING SOMETHING TO EAT?

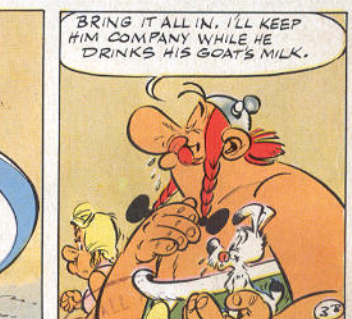
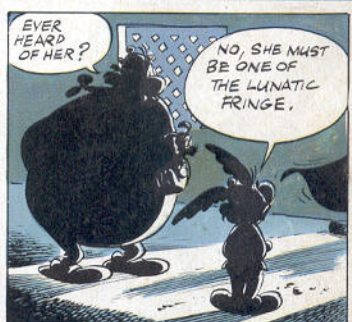
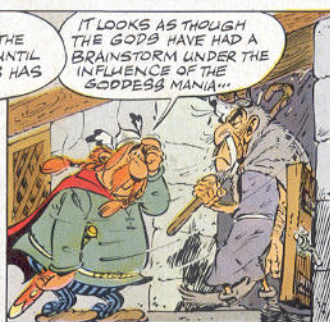
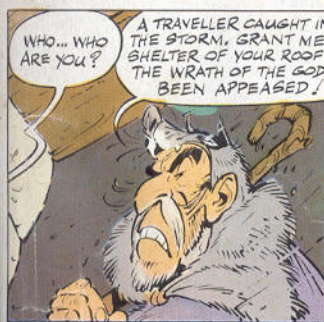
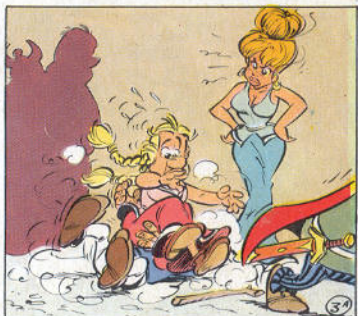


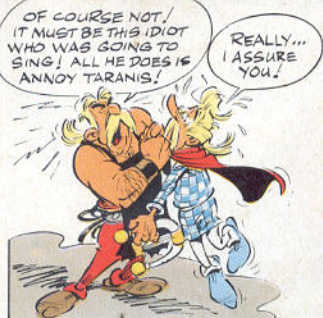
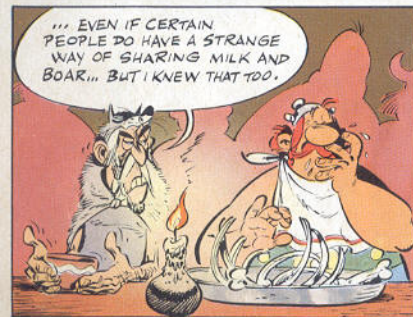
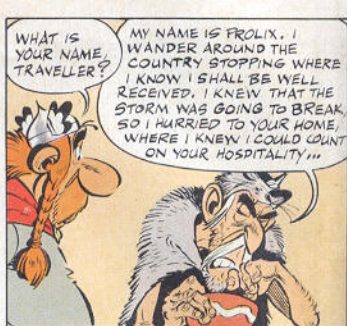
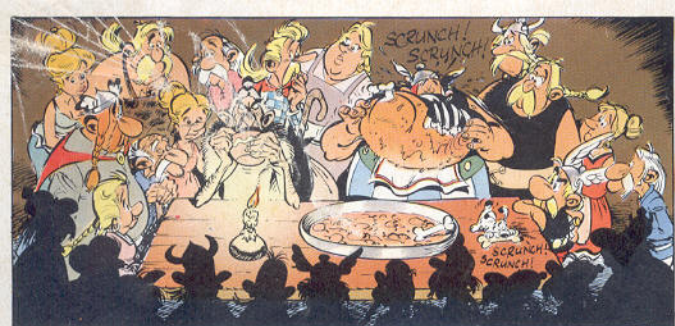
OBELIX IS RIGHT. STOP WITTERING ON AND LET'S FIND SOMETHING TO DO WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE STORM TO PASS OVER



I COULD SING YOU SOMETHING JOLLY...







ASTERIX'S SCEPTICISM HAS NO EFFECT SUBJECTED TO THE INFLUENCE OF SO MANY GODS, WHO BOTH PROTECT AND THREATEN THEM, THE NATIONS OF ANTIQUITY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THEIR WHIMS. HERE WE MUST INSERT A PARENTHESIS...

A PARENTHESIS WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF SOOTHSAVERS' ORACLES, PROPHETS, AUGURERS, HARUSPICES AND OTHER INTERPRETERS OF THE SIBYLLINE BOOKS.

O SOOTHSAVER, WILL THE GODS LOOK KINDLY ON THE HARVEST?



SOOTHSAVERS READ THE FUTURE IN THE WAY BIRDS FLY...

YES, FARMER, THE GODS WILL SEND RAIN FOR YOUR FIELDS!



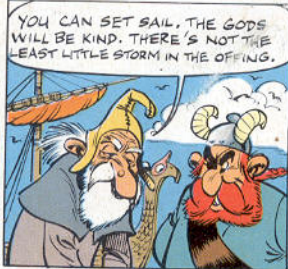
... IN THE APPETITE OF THE SACRED GEESE...

THE GOOSE LIVER PATE WILL BE GOOD THIS YEAR! THE GODS HAVE SPOKEN!



... AND ABOVE ALL IN THE ENTRAILS OF SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS.

YOU CAN SET SAIL, THE GODS WILL BE KIND. THERE'S NOT THE LEAST LITTLE STORM IN THE OFFING.



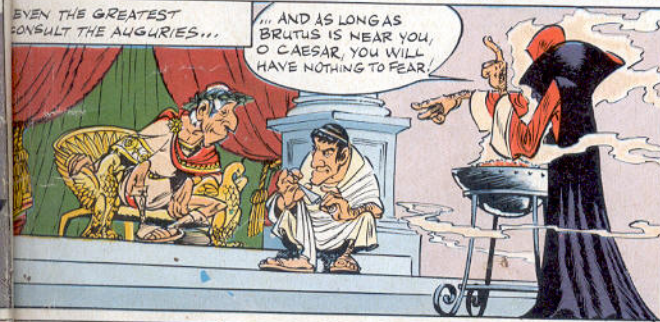
THE PREDICTIONS OF THE ENTRAILS ARE NOT ALWAYS CORRECT...

I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A LOAD OF TRIPE!

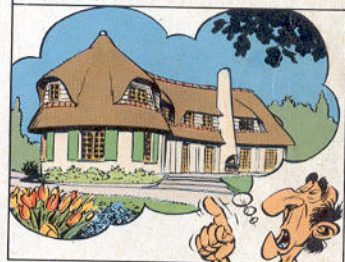


EVEN THE GREATEST CONSULT THE AUGURIES...

... AND AS LONG AS BRUTUS IS NEAR YOU, O CAESAR, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!



IF CERTAIN VISIONARIES HAVE A REASONABLE IDEA OF WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...

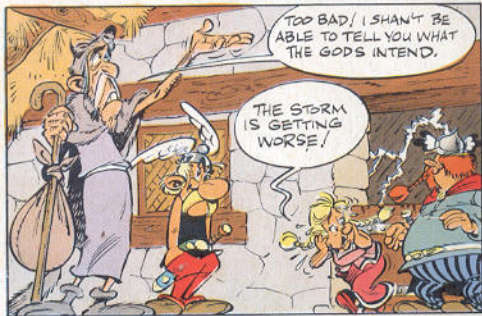
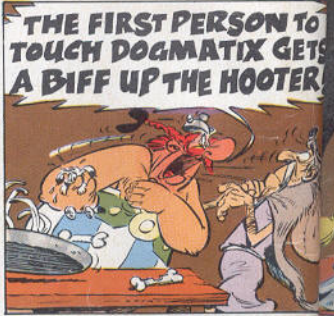
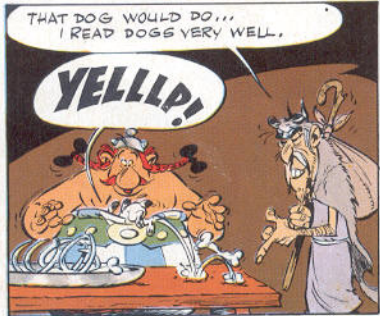
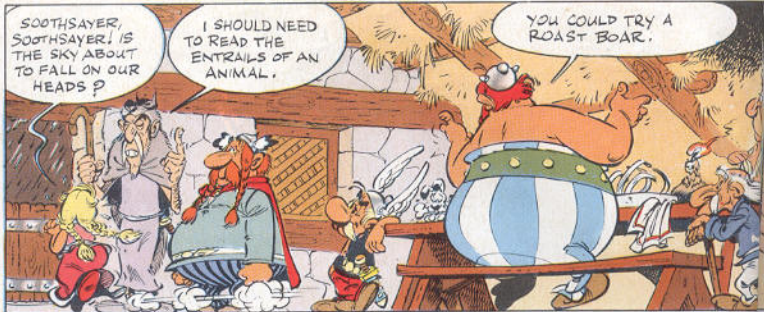


... GENERALLY THEY SAY ANY OLD THING!

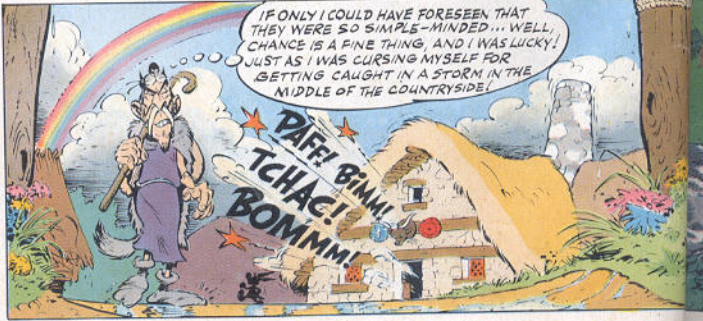
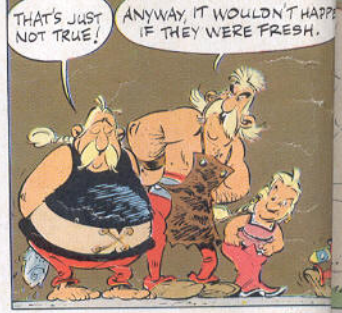
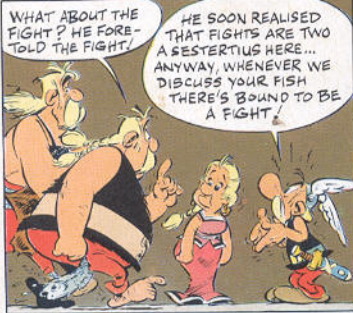
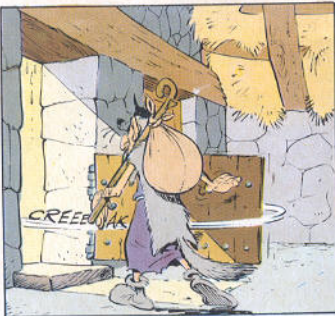


IN SHORT, THEY ARE CHARLATANS WHO THRIVE ON GREDULITY, FEAR AND HUMAN SUPERSTITION. HERE WE CLOSE THE PARENTHESIS.

PATEL HALL OF RESIDENCE
LIBRARY
BOOKS



11



**GET OUT!
EVERYBODY OUT!**

**I SAID:
EVERYBODY OUT!**

BUT,
DEAREST,
THIS IS MY
HOME...

OUT!

PHEN! SHE'S
HANDY WITH
HER BROOM!

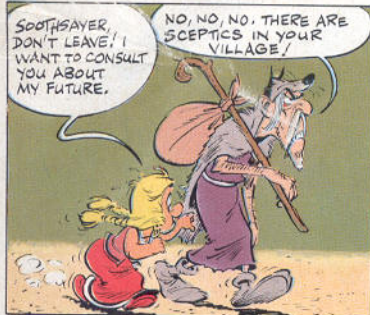
ARE WE
OUT OF THE
DOOR?

YES
CHIEF!

TOWING!

SOOTHSAYER!
SOOTHSAYER!
JUST WAIT A
MINUTE!

I MUST PLAY THIS CAREFULLY.
IN THE LAST VILLAGE, THEY
LITERALLY KICKED ME OUT...
I MUST ADMIT, THAT LOT
WEREN'T STUPID!



SOOTHSAYER, DON'T LEAVE! I WANT TO CONSULT YOU ABOUT MY FUTURE.

NO, NO, NO. THERE ARE SCEPTICS IN YOUR VILLAGE!



THAT LITTLE MAN WITH THE YELLOW Moustache, AND THE FAT MONSTER WHO WON'T LET ANYONE READ HIS DOG!...

THEY'RE JUST BARBARIANS... YOU MUSTN'T TAKE ANY NOTICE OF THEM. PLEASE STAY!



I FORESEE DIFFICULTIES WITH YOUR BARBARIANS IF I GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE. CAN'T YOU GET THOSE TWO THROWN OUT?

THROW OUT ASTERIX AND OBELIX? WE COULDN'T DO THAT!



OF COURSE, I COULD ALWAYS CAMP IN THIS CLEARING FOR THE TIME BEING...

OH, YES! AND I'LL MAKE SURE ASTERIX AND OBELIX DON'T COME INTO THE FOREST ANY MORE.



I'LL BRING EVERYTHING YOU NEED... THINGS TO EAT...

OH, NO! WE SOOTHSAYERS LEAD A LIFE OF MEDITATION...



JUST BRING ME SOMETHING TO READ: BOARS, DUCKS, CHICKENS, CAKES, BEER...



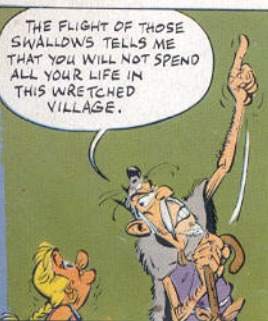
CAN YOU READ BEER TOO?

IF IT'S WELL KEPT, IT BECOMES VERY LEGIBLE.



YOU CAN HAVE ALL THAT, BUT JUST TELL ME WHAT THE GODS HAVE IN STORE FOR ME...

HMMM...

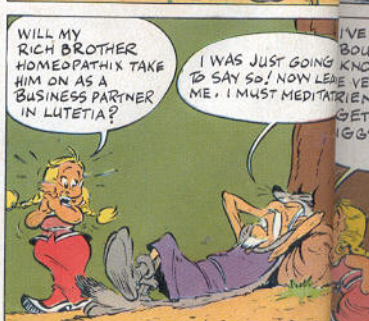


THE FLIGHT OF THOSE SWALLOWS TELLS ME THAT YOU WILL NOT SPEND ALL YOUR LIFE IN THIS WRETCHED VILLAGE.



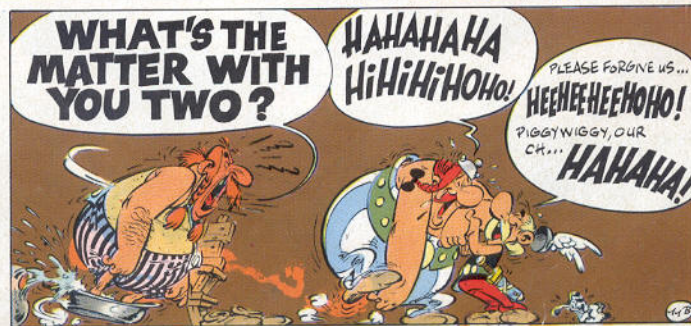
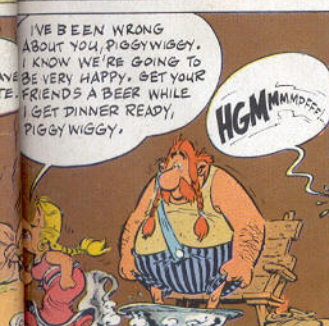
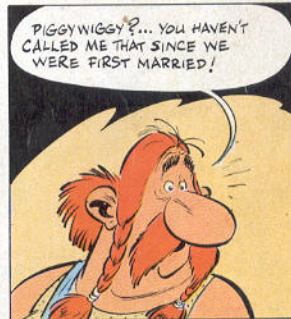
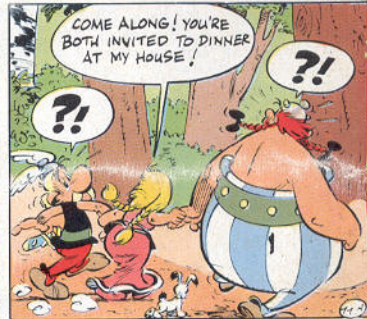
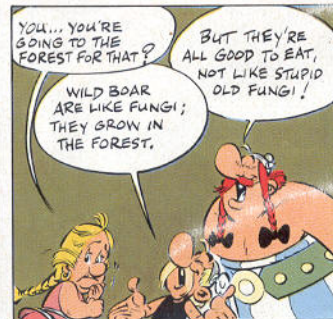
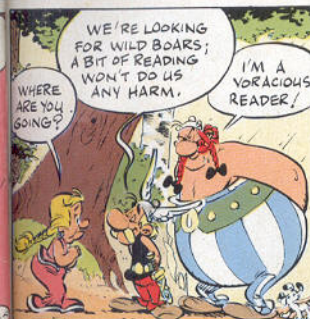
BUT MY HUSBAND IS THE CHIEF!

HE WILL BE CALLED TO HIGHER THINGS... I SHALL NEED CUSHIONS AS WELL...



WILL MY RICH BROTHER HOMEPATHIX TAKE HIM ON AS A BUSINESS PARTNER IN LUTETIA?

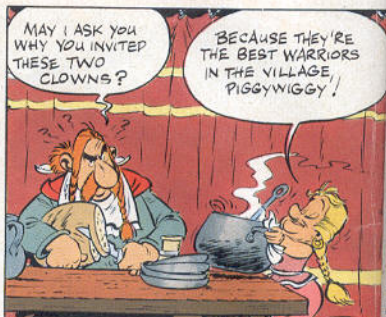
I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY SO! NOW LEAVE ME. I MUST MEDITATE! GET GIGY!





HGMPFFFF

HAVE YOU
QUITE FINISHED?



MAY I ASK YOU
WHY YOU INVITED
THESE TWO
CLOWNS?

BECAUSE THEY'RE
THE BEST WARRIORS
IN THE VILLAGE,
PIGGYWIGGY!

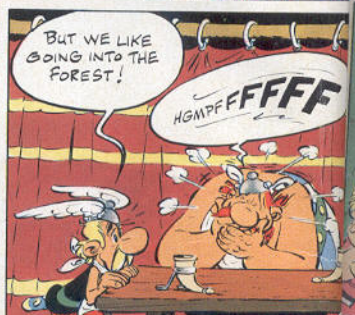


SINCE OUR DRUID, WHO MAKES
THE MAGIC POTION, IS AWAY, WE
MUST LOOK AFTER THEM...
THE ROMANS COULD ATTACK
THE VILLAGE ANY TIME,
PIGGYWIGGY...



HUH!
THE ROMANS
ARE LYING LOW
AT THE MOMENT...

YOU NEVER KNOW
WITH THEM, PIGGYWIGGY.
ASTERIX AND OBELIX
SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE
VILLAGE TO GO INTO
THE FOREST.



BUT WE LIKE
GOING INTO THE
FOREST!

HGMPFFFF



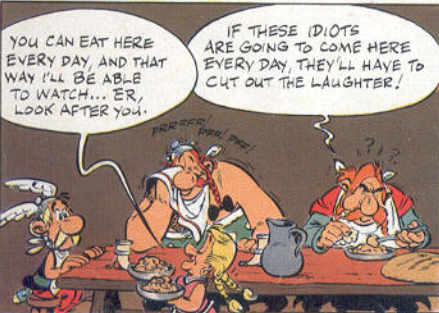
OH, SO YOU LIKE GOING INTO THE FOREST,
DO YOU? WELL, YOU CAN JUST STAY AND
GUARD THE VILLAGE! THAT'S AN ORDER!



HOUHOUHOU!

THAT'S RIGHT, PIGGYWIGGY

BANG!



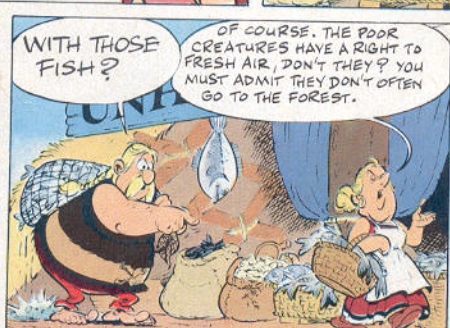
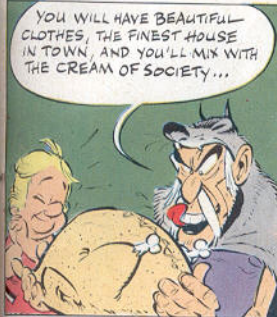
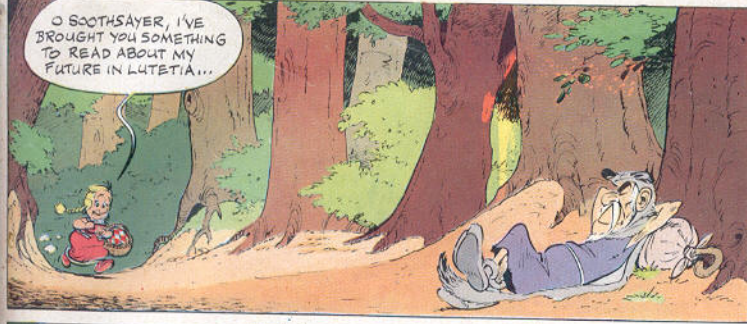
YOU CAN EAT HERE
EVERY DAY, AND THAT
WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO
WATCH... ER,
LOOK AFTER YOU.

IF THESE IDIOTS
ARE GOING TO COME HERE
EVERY DAY, THEY'LL HAVE TO
CUT OUT THE LAUGHTER!



LATER...





THE NEXT DAY...

APPARENTLY YOU
READ MY FISH AND TOLD
MY WIFE IT WOULD HAVE
A WIDE CIRCULATION.
SHALL I HAVE A CHAIN
OF FISHMONGERS
SHOPS?

THAT'S RIGHT,
FOR MORE DETAILS,
I SHALL HAVE TO
READ GOLD.

WOULD
SESTERTII DO?

YES, BUT DON'T
FORGET THE
OFFICIAL RATE OF
EXCHANGE: ONE
HUNDRED SESTERTII
TO THE AURUS*

* GOLD COIN.

HALLO! TAKING
YOUR CHICKENS
FOR A WALK?

YES...

CLUCK?

WELL, YOUR
WIFE TAKES HER
FISHES FOR A WALK.

IDIOT!

CLUCK!

ER... I'M JUST
GOING FOR A DRINK
IN THE FOREST...

THERE ARE
SOME FUNNY
GOINGS-ON
HERE...

WHAT'S GOING ON
IS THEY'RE ALL MAKING
FOR THE FOREST, AND
THEY'RE HAPPY, AND HERE'S
ME BORED TO TEARS WITH
NOTHING TO DO!

IT'S THE CLOSE SEASON FOR
MENHRS, AND DOGMATIX IS PINING
FOR SOME TREES!...

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

SOME PEOPLE TAKE THEIR FISHES
OR THEIR CHICKENS FOR A WALK, I
TAKE MY DOG, SO SUCKS TO
PIGGYWIGGY!

THIS MAKES A
NICE CHANGE FROM
THE VILLAGE, DOESN'T
IT, DOGMATIX?

WOOF!
WOOF!

LET'S LOOK FOR SOME
BOARDS. THEY MUST BE
WORRIED, NOT SEEING US
FOR SO LONG...

ATTABOY,
DOGMATIX! ATTABOY!

SMEE,
SMEE,
SMEE!

?!?

YELLP!

THERE, THERE, DON'T BE AFRAID... WHAT
DID YOU SEE OVER THERE? WE'RE THE ONES
WHO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE!

SURE ENOUGH...

?!?

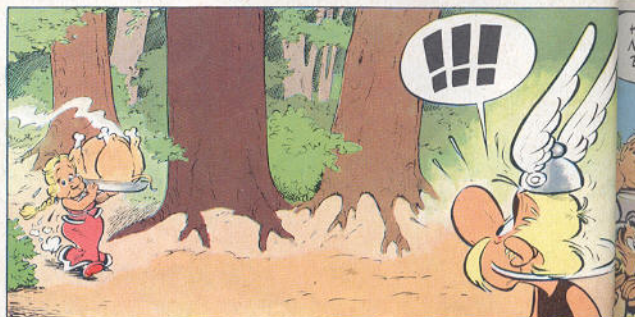
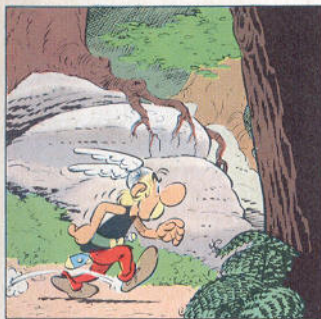
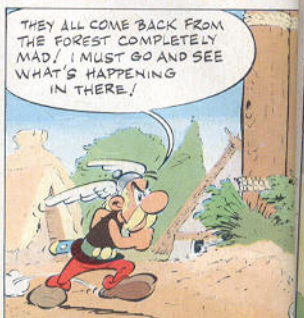
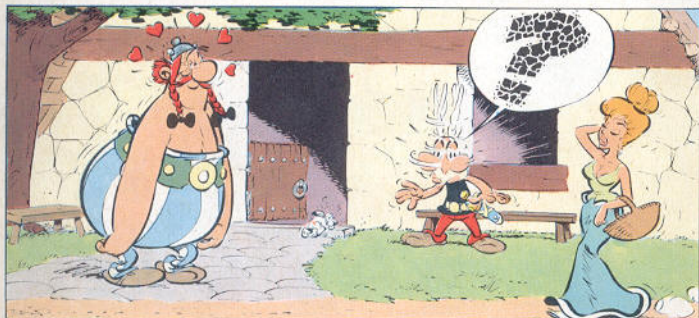
THE MONSTER!

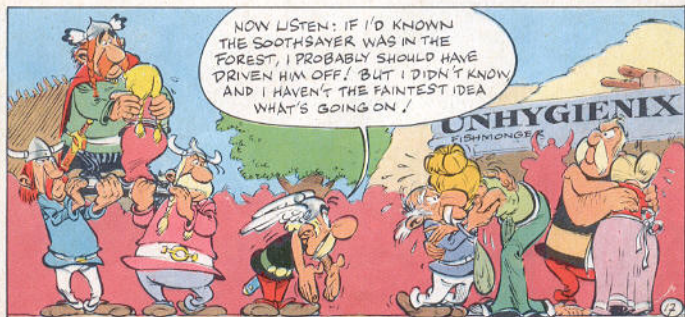
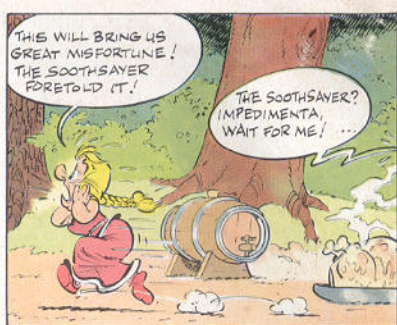
THE DOG
READER!

YOU KNOW
ASTERIX TOLD YOU
NOT TO STAY HERE!
COME DOWN, OR
I'LL PULL THE
TREE UP!

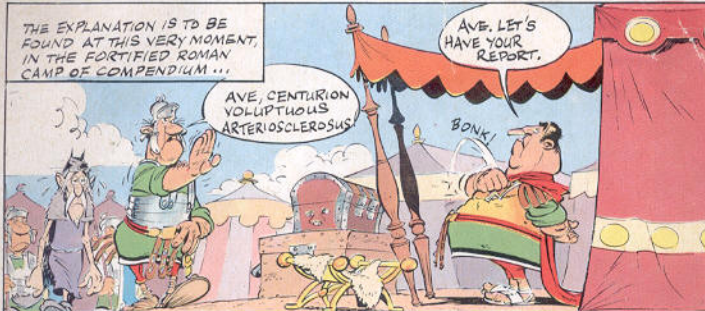
I SEE A BLONDE
GIRL... A VERY PRETTY,
YOUNG, BLONDE GIRL...
WHO LOVES GREAT
WARRIORS WITH
RED PIGTAILS...

PIGTAILS?





THE EXPLANATION IS TO BE FOUND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM...



AVE, CENTURION VOLUPTUOUS ARTERIOSCLEROSUS!

AVE, LET'S HAVE YOUR REPORT.

BONK!

ON PROCEEDING ON PATROL, FOR WHICH YOU GAVE THE ORDERS TO PROCEED WITH, WE FOUND THIS 'ERE INDIVIDUAL IN A CLEARING, AND AFTER A CAUTION HE MADE A STATEMENT WHAT WE WERE NOT VERY SATISFIED WITH.



ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE CRAZY GAULS WHO STILL HOLD OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS?

ME? OH, NO, NO! I DON'T HOLD OUT AGAINST ANYONE!



I'M JUST A SOOTHSAYER.



A SOOTHSAYER? ARE YOU A REAL GAULISH SOOTHSAYER?

OF COURSE... WAIT... I FORESEE THAT YOU WILL BE PROMOTED.



YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, SOOTHSAYER. WE'VE GOT ORDERS FROM ROME TO ARREST ALL GAULISH SOOTHSAYERS. OUR AUGURERS HAVE WARNED CAESAR THAT GAULISH SOOTHSAYERS ARE A THREAT TO SECURITY...



SO YOU'LL BE SHIPPED OFF TO A MINE IN...

NO, NO, NO! I WAS ONLY JOKING. I'M NOT A REAL SOOTHSAYER, I'M A FAKE.



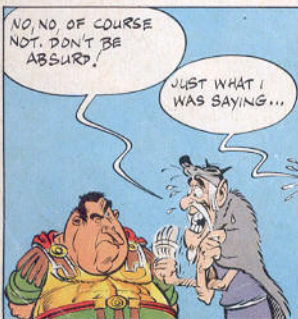
I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE'S CREDULITY TO LIVE WITHOUT WORKING...

BUT YOU JUST FORETOLD THAT I WOULD BE PROMOTED, ALL THE SAME...



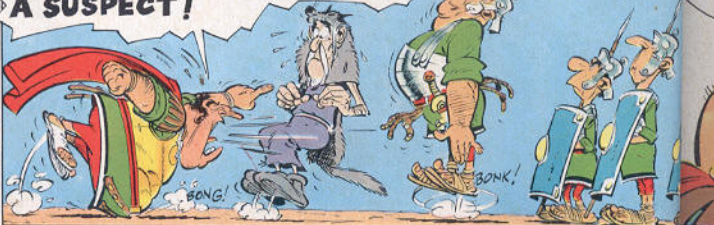
NO, NO, OF COURSE NOT. DON'T BE ABSURD!

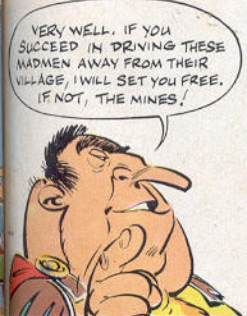
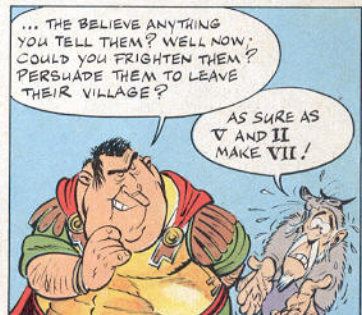
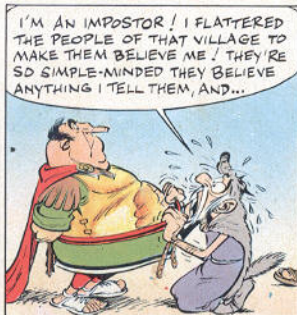
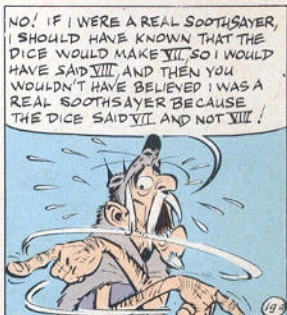
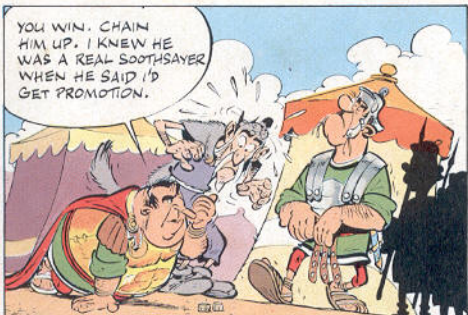
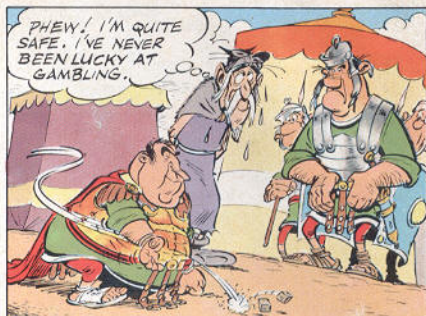
JUST WHAT I WAS SAYING...

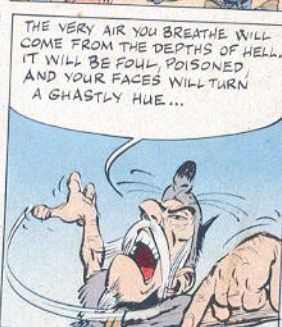
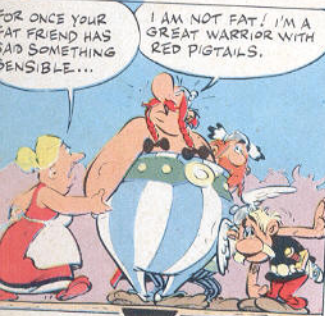
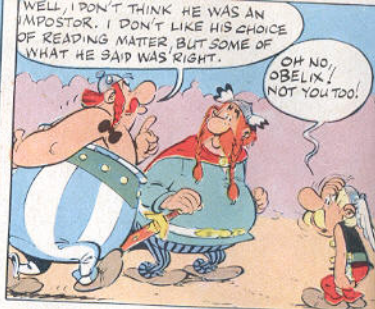
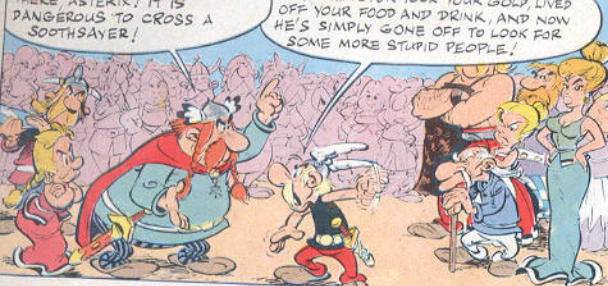


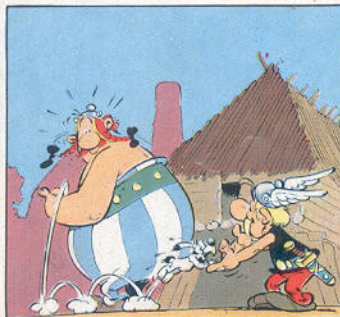
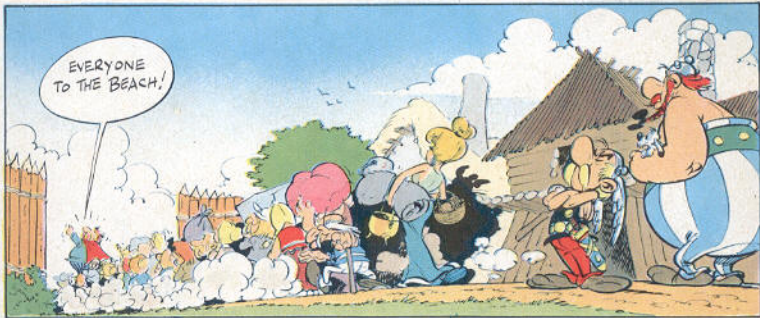
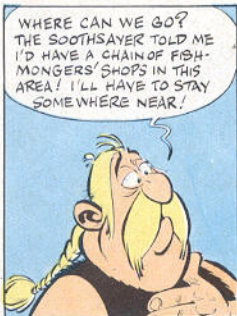
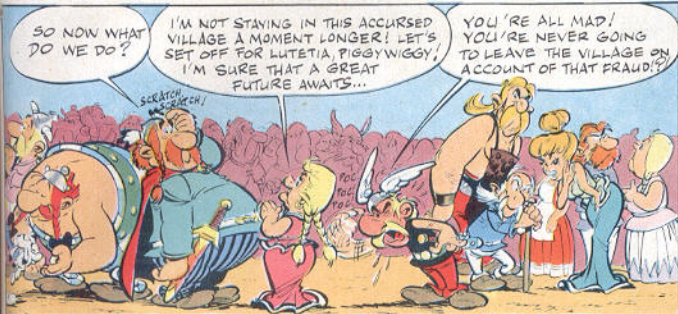
WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION I'LL ASK FOR IT, IDIOT! THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT CONVINCED ME! HE IS A SUSPECT!

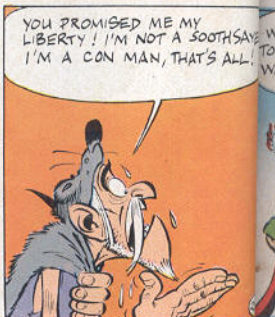
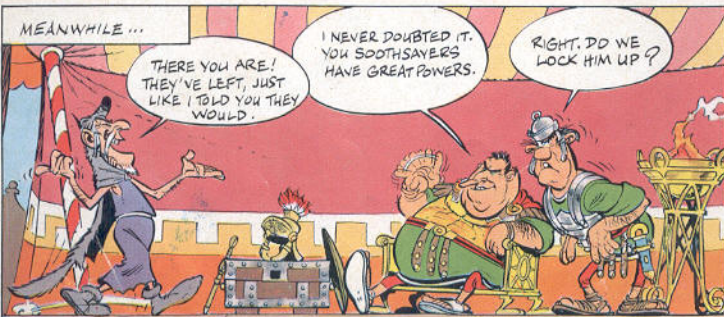
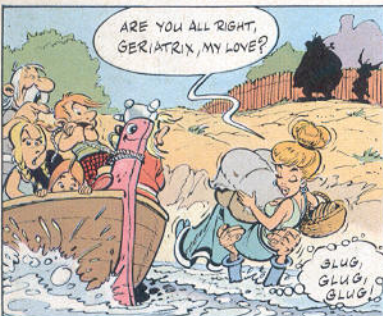
YES SIR!



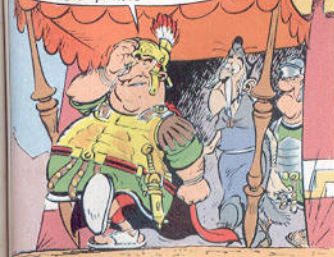








LET'S GO OFF TO THE VILLAGE AND CHECK UP ON THESE STATEMENTS OF YOURS.



...SO THEN I GOT THE IDEA OF GOING ON ABOUT THE FOUL AIR, BECAUSE, YOU SEE, I LIVE NEAR A TANNERY IN LUTETIA, SO...

OH, SO IT WASN'T A GENUINE PREDICTION?



I CAN'T MAKE ANY GENUINE PREDICTIONS! IF I COULD HAVE FORESEEN HOW THIS WAS GOING TO TURN OUT I'D HAVE STAYED AT HOME NEXT DOOR TO THAT TANNERY!



SSH... WE'RE NEAR THE VILLAGE... ALL SEEMS QUIET, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THOSE GAULS!



WE NEED A SCOUT TO GO ON AHEAD. I WANT A VOLUNTEER.

SIR!



AND YOU CAN TAKE THE SOOTHSAYER WITH YOU.

I KNEW IT.



I KNOW.

NO, YOU DON'T! NO YOU DON'T!

DO WE LOCK HIM UP, THEN?



LOOK, ASTRICK! TWO OF THEM HAVE GONE IN. WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANY ROMANS TAKE OVER OUR VILLAGE, ARE WE?

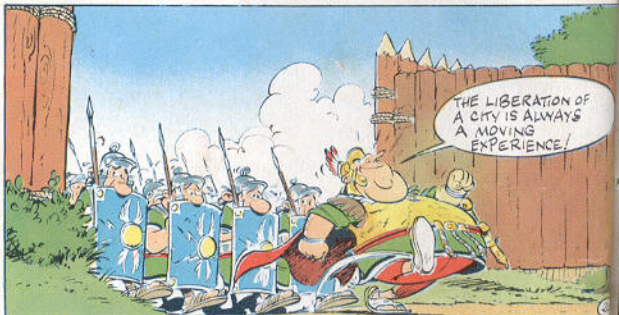
THEY'RE ONLY PASSING THROUGH. THAT'S A PROMISE OBELIX!



ALL CLEAR.

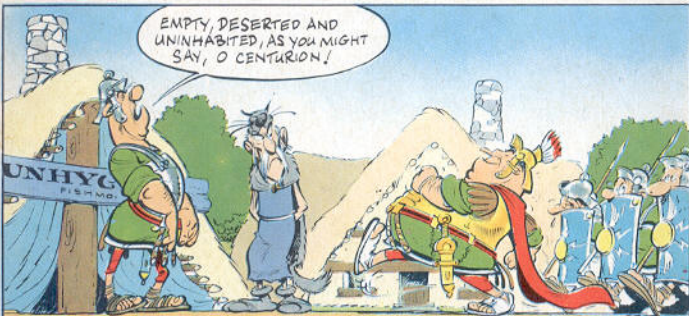
ER... CENTURION... DO YOU THINK THIS IS REALLY WISE? IT COULD BE AN AMBUSH... YOU KNOW WHAT THESE GAULS ARE LIKE...

NO, NO, MY GOOD FELLOW! SOOTHSAYERS ARE NEVER WRONG, YOU KNOW! RIGHT, FORWARD MARCH, IX ABREAST.

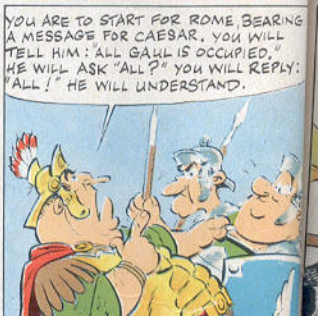


THE LIBERATION OF A CITY IS ALWAYS A MOVING EXPERIENCE!

EMPTY, DESERTED AND UNINHABITED, AS YOU MIGHT SAY, O CENTURION!



YOU ARE TO START FOR ROME BEARING A MESSAGE FOR CAESAR. YOU WILL TELL HIM: ALL GAUL IS OCCUPIED. HE WILL ASK "ALL?" YOU WILL REPLY: "ALL!" HE WILL UNDERSTAND.



YOU'LL BE SURE TO GET PROMOTION, SIR, SAME AS THIS ERE SOOTHSAYER WAS SOOTHSAYING!

OF COURSE

NO! NEVER! I NEVER SAID ANY SUCH THING!

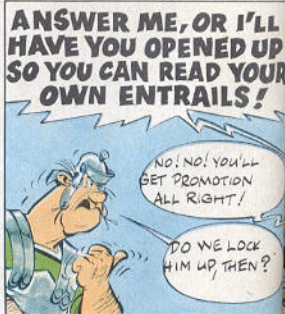


OH? AND WHY NOT? HAVE THE GODS SHOWN YOU SOMETHING NASTY IN MY FUTURE THEN?



TELL YOU, DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT!

ANSWER ME, OR I'LL HAVE YOU OPENED UP SO YOU CAN READ YOUR OWN ENTRAELS!



NO! NO! YOU'LL GET PROMOTION ALL RIGHT!

DO WE LOCK HIM UP, THEN?

WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM IN OUR VILLAGE, ASTERIX. LET'S GO GET THEM THERE, ALL THREE OF US, AND THROW THEM OUT!

NO! WE ARE GOING TO TEACH THEM ALL A LESSON: THE ROMANS, THE SOOTHSAYER, AND EVEN OUR OWN PEOPLE!

DON'T YOU WORRY, OBELIX. THERE'LL BE ANOTHER BANQUET IN OUR VILLAGE YET! YOU MARK MY WORDS!

HULLO, BOYS! HUNTING BOARS?

OUR DRUID, GETAFIX!

LOOK AT THAT, BOYS! I WON THE GOLDEN CAULDRON FOR THE DRUID OF THE YEAR AT OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN THE FOREST OF THE CARNUTES!

AND A VERY INTERESTING CONFERENCE IT WAS. THE DRUID STATISTIC HAS BEEN FIGURING OUT SOME FUTURE TRENDS IN OUR PROFESSION...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, BOYS?

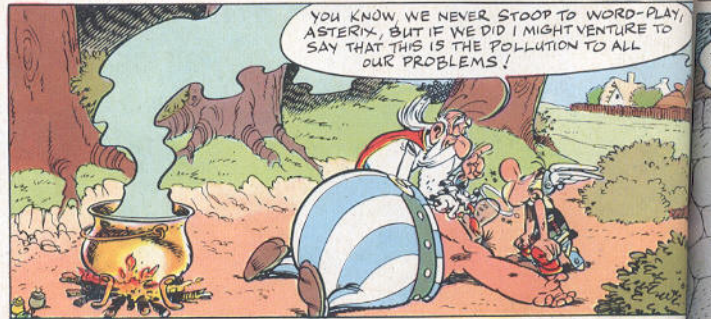
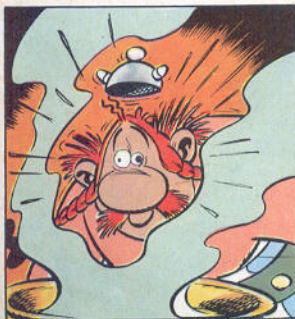
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, O DRUID...

SOON AFTERWARDS...

HMM... FOUL AIR, EH? A GHASTLY HUE, EH?

I BROUGHT A FEW RATHER UNUSUAL LITTLE INGREDIENTS ONE WITH ME... PASS ME DOWN THAT BEAUTIFUL CAULDRON...

SPLENDID, SPLENDID... THE WIND'S JUST ABOUT TO CHANGE. THERE IS NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE.



TARANIS, THE GOD OF STORMS AND THUNDER IS IN MELLOW MOOD, AND SENDS A GENTLE BREEZE, WAFTING THROUGH THE AIR A SMELL WHICH WAS STILL UNFAMILIAR IN THE YEAR 50 BC...



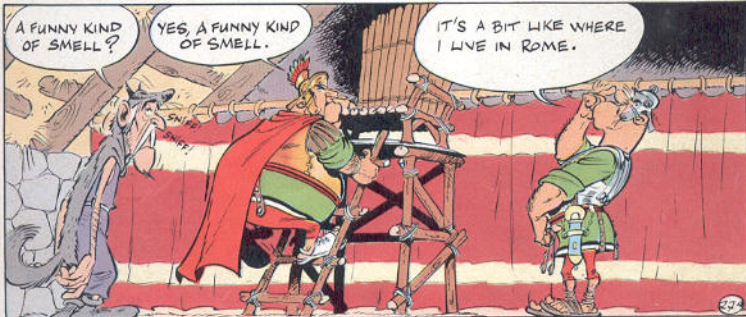
SAY, DO YOU SMELL A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL, ALL OF A SUDDEN?



A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL?

YES, A FUNNY KIND OF SMELL.

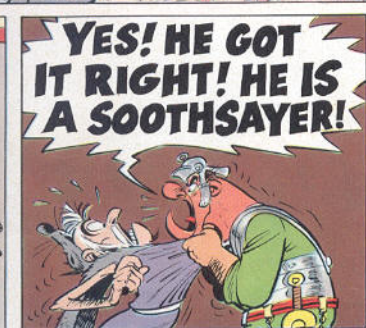
IT'S A BIT LIKE WHERE I LIVE IN ROME.



YOU LIVE NEAR A TANNERY, I SUPPOSE?



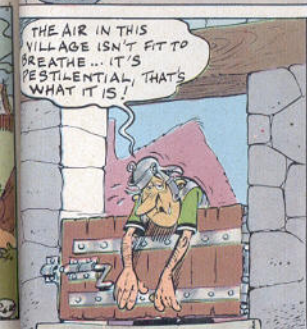
YES! HE GOT IT RIGHT! HE IS A SOOTHSAYER!



OooooH... CENTURION!



THE AIR IN THIS VILLAGE ISN'T FIT TO BREATHE... IT'S PESTILENTIAL, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

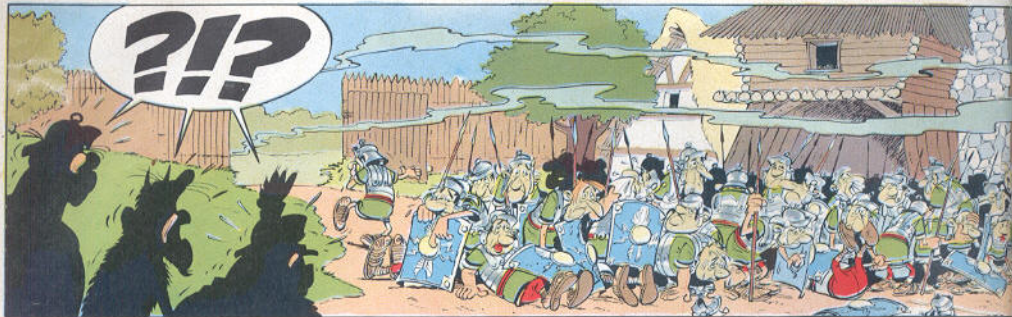


PES... PESTILENTIAL?

YOU TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. I'M A VETERAN, I AM. I'VE KNOWN PLENTY OF CAMPS AND BARRACKS, BUT I NEVER SMELT ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!



?!?

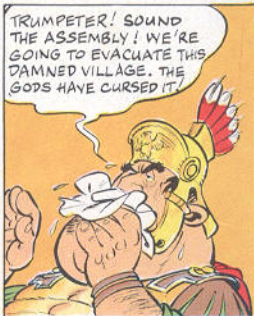


AMAZING!
IT'S LIKE MAGIC!
EVEN THE GODS
OBEY YOU!

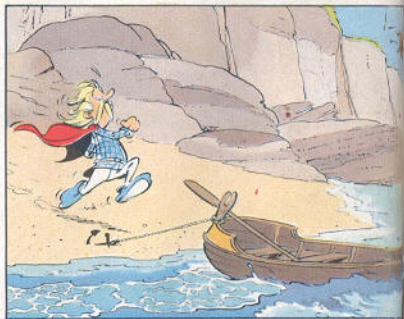
BUT IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE!! IT
JUST ISN'T
POSSIBLE!



TRUMPETER! SOUND
THE ASSEMBLY! WE'RE
GOING TO EVACUATE THIS
DAMNED VILLAGE, THE
GODS HAVE CURSED IT!



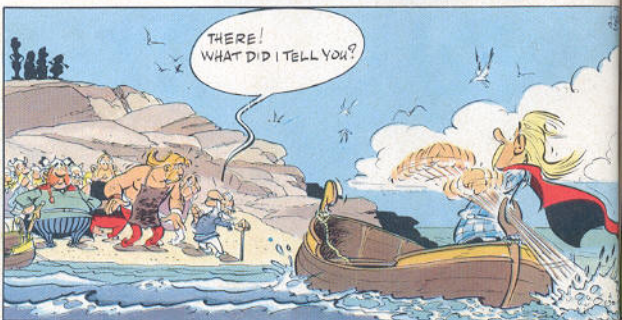
OH NO! IF I GO
BLOWING THIS SOME-
THING HORRIBLE
MIGHT HAPPEN!

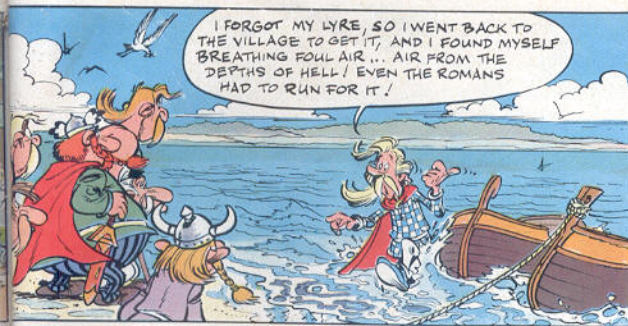


**THE PROPHECY HAS
COME TRUE! HE REALLY
IS A SOOTHSAYER!**



THERE!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?





I FORGOT MY LYRE, SO I WENT BACK TO THE VILLAGE TO GET IT, AND I FOUND MYSELF BREATHING FOUL AIR... AIR FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL! EVEN THE ROMANS HAD TO RUN FOR IT!



YOU SEE? YOU SEE? WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO LUTETIA, LIKE THE SOOTH-SAYER SAID! YOU STUPID GREAT BOAR!

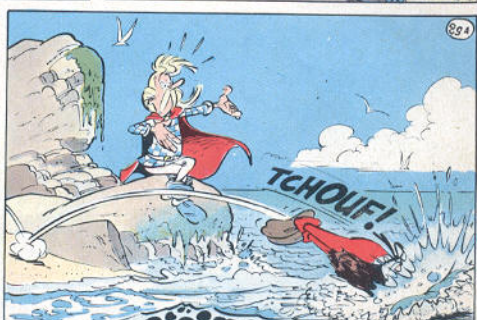
DARLING... AREN'T YOUR PIGGY NIGGY ANY MORE?



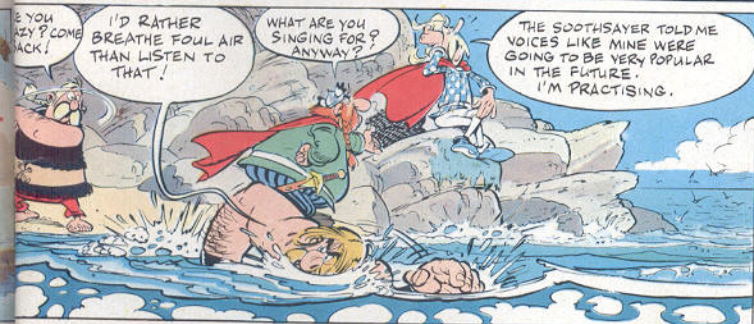
WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO WITHOUT MY LYRE.



O, I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE LITUS...



TCHOUF!



ARE YOU CRAZY? COME BACK!

I'D RATHER BREATHE FOUL AIR THAN LISTEN TO THAT!

WHAT ARE YOU SINGING FOR? ANYWAY?

THE SOOTH-SAYER TOLD ME VOICES LIKE MINE WERE GOING TO BE VERY POPULAR IN THE FUTURE. I'M PRACTISING.

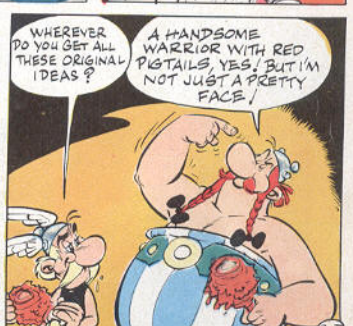


WELL, ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS WAIT FOR FRESH AIR TO DISPERSE THE BAD SMELL IN THE VILLAGE, AND THEN WE'LL GO AND LOOK FOR OUR FRIENDS...



AND AS FOR THE ROMANS, I'M COUNTING ON YOU. YOU'RE SURE TO THINK OF SOMETHING.

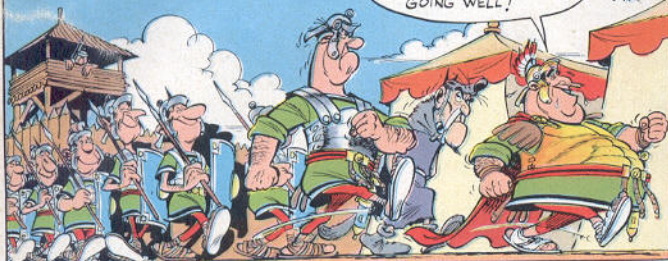
I'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ALREADY. WE GO TO THEIR CAMP AND BASH THE WHOLE PLACE UP.



WHEREVER DO YOU GET ALL THESE ORIGINAL IDEAS?

A HANDSOME WARRIOR WITH RED PIGTAILS, YES! BUT I'M NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE!

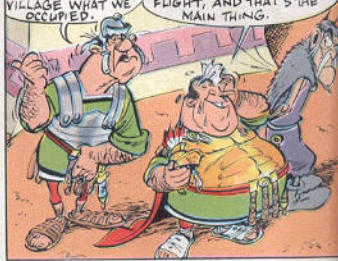
MEANWHILE ...



PHIEW! THAT'S BETTER...
IN FACT, I'D SAY ALL WAS
GOING WELL!

NOTWITHSTANDING
WHICH, WE'VE HAD TO
CLEAR OUT OF THE
VILLAGE WHAT WE
OCCUPIED.

HUH! THANKS TO THE
SOOTHSAYER, WE HAVE PUT
THE REBEL GAULS TO
FLIGHT, AND THAT'S THE
MAIN THING.

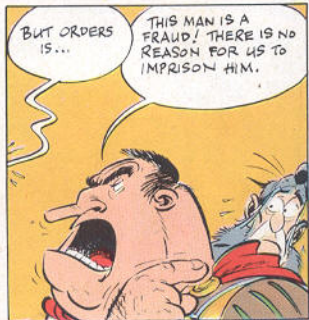


RIGHT, DO WE
LOCK HIM UP THIS
TIME, THEN?

NO!

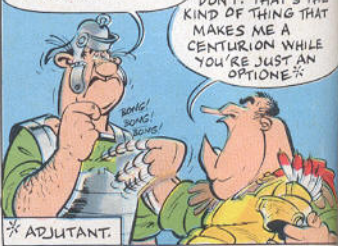
BUT ORDERS
IS...

THIS MAN IS A
FRAUD! THERE IS NO
REASON FOR US TO
IMPRISON HIM.

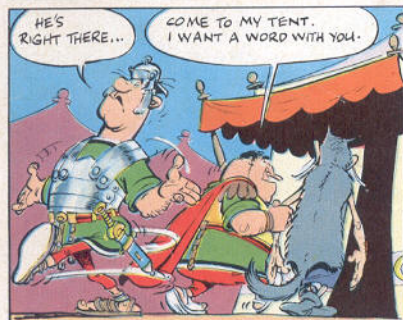


EXCUSING THE
LIBERTY, SIR, BUT I
DON'T QUITE GET YOUR
MEANING ...

OF COURSE YOU
DON'T. THAT'S THE
KIND OF THING THAT
MAKES ME A
CENTURION WHILE
YOU'RE JUST AN
OPTIONEER.



* ADJUTANT.



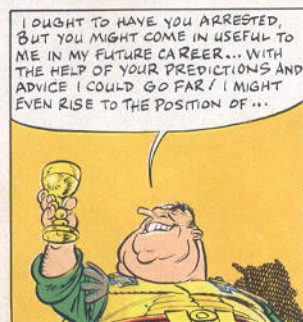
HE'S
RIGHT THERE...

COME TO MY TENT.
I WANT A WORD WITH YOU.



WELL, YOU'VE PROVED IT NOW: YOU
REALLY ARE A SOOTHSAYER. THE GODS
ARE ANGRY WITH THOSE WHO DOUBTED YOU,
AND THEY HAVE CURSED THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

WELL...
I MUST CONFESS.
I...



I OUGHT TO HAVE YOU ARRESTED,
BUT YOU MIGHT COME IN USEFUL TO
ME IN MY FUTURE CAREER... WITH
THE HELP OF YOUR PREDICTIONS AND
ADVICE I COULD GO FAR! I MIGHT
EVEN RISE TO THE POSITION OF ...



CAESAR!

AND YOU WILL NOT FIND ME UNGRATEFUL.
**BUT REMEMBER, IF
YOU ARE NOT A REAL
SOOTHSAYER, IF YOU'VE
BEEN HAVING ME ON,
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!**



I JUST CAN'T MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OF IT... HAVE I TURNED INTO A REAL SOOTHSAYER?



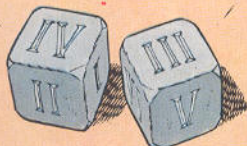
AND ANYWAY, I DO WISH THEY'D ALL GIVE UP GRABBING ME BY THE FRONT OF MY...



SAY A NUMBER FROM I TO XII!



ER...ALL RIGHT.
VIII



PSST!
?



REFUL! WE DON'T WANT ANYONE BUT ME KNOW YOU'RE A REAL SOOTHSAYER... T YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE TOO CLEVER HERE. EVEN THAT FOOL MIGHT SUSPECT SOMETHING...

I... I FEEL A BIT WEAK...



WHAT I ASK MYSELF IS, NOW WHERE AM I?

CAN I HELP YOU?



NO. YOU DON'T KNOW, EVEN LESS THAN WHAT I DO, BECAUSE I'M AN OPTIO AND YOU'RE JUST A COMMON LEGIONARY.

IDIOT!



MEAN WHILE...

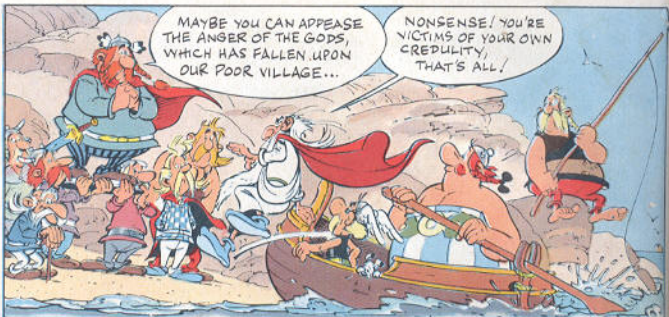


GETAFOX! YOU'RE BACK AT LAST!



MAYBE YOU CAN APPEASE THE ANGER OF THE GODS, WHICH HAS FALLEN UPON OUR POOR VILLAGE...

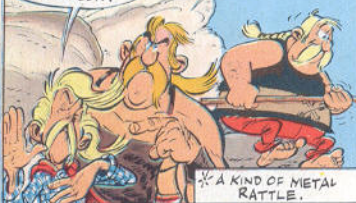
NONSENSE! YOU'RE VICTIMS OF YOUR OWN CREPULITY, THAT'S ALL!



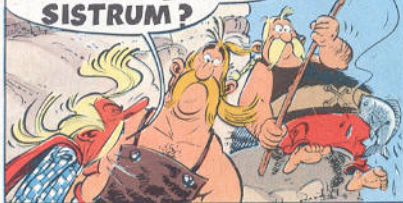
OH WAIT A MINUTE GETAFOX! I'VE SEEN THE VILLAGE! I'VE BREATHED THE FOUL AIR STRAIGHT FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL! I'VE SEEN THE ROMANS GO GREEN!

THAT'S RIGHT! OUR BARD MAY HAVE A VOICE LIKE A SISTRUM*, BUT HE DOESN'T TELL LIES.

*A KIND OF METAL RATTLE.



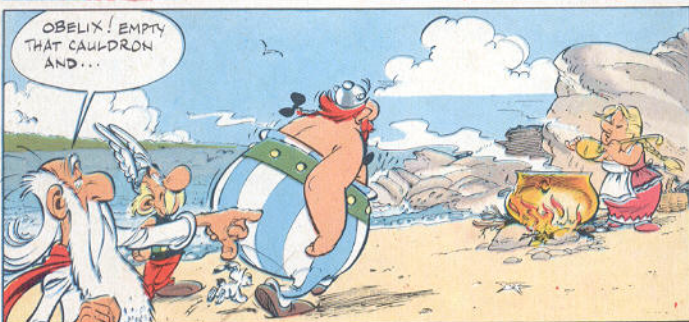
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR BARD HAS TO SAY TO YOU IN HIS VOICE LIKE A SISTRUM?



CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN! I'LL GIVE YOU A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE ANGER OF THE GODS.



OBELEX! EMPTY THAT CAULDRON AND...



...BRING IT OVER HERE.

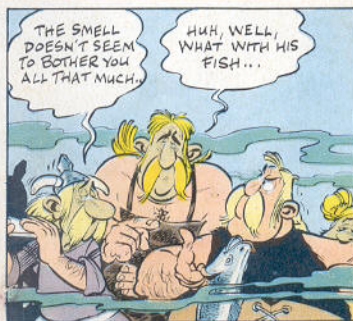
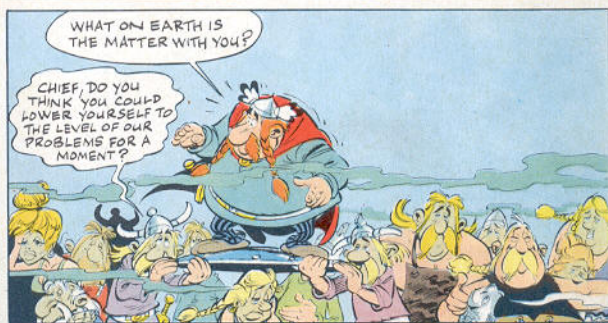
THERE YOU ARE!

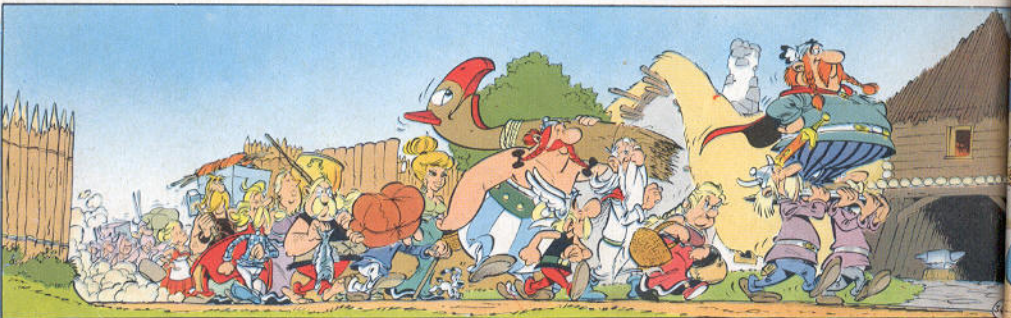
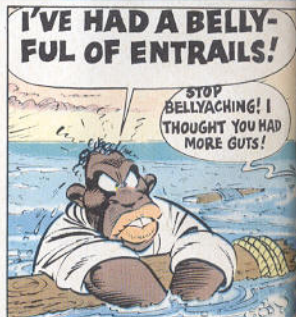
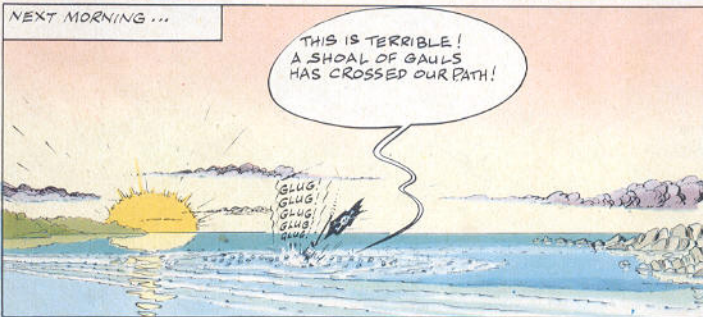
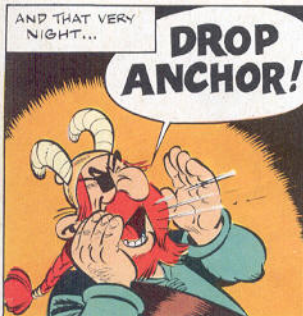
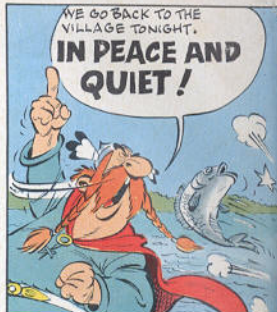


SOON AFTERWARDS...

VERY GOOD! NOW, ALL OF YOU GO OVER THERE, THE WAY THE WINDS BLOWING.







I MUST SAY, IT'S
NICE TO BE HOME!

WELL, I MUST SAY
I THINK WE'D HAVE BEEN
BETTER OFF IN LUTETIA,
LIKE THE SOOTHSAYER
SAID.

BUT HE WASN'T
REALLY A
SOOTHSAYER!

WHAT MAKES
YOU SO SURE?

I'VE BEEN TALKING TO
GERIATRIK'S WIFE AND TO
BACTERIA, AND THEY'RE NOT
CONVINCED. THAT'S WHY I
THOUGHT LUTETIA MIGHT
BE THE PLACE...

GETAFIX, THE
WOMEN AREN'T
CONVINCED THAT
HE'S A FRAUD...

OF COURSE THEY'RE NOT.
HE ONLY FORETOLD PLEASANT
THINGS FOR THEM, SUCH
AS THEIR HUSBANDS
BECOMING HANDSOME
AND INTELLIGENT...

SUPPOSE WE GAVE
THAT SOOTHSAYER
A SURPRISE?

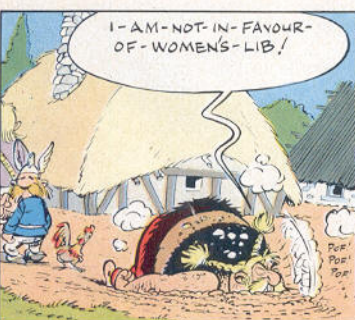
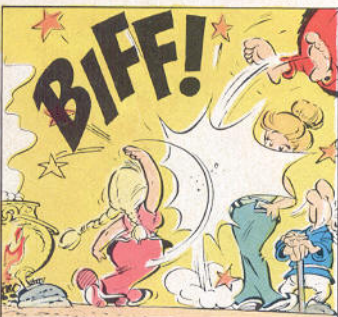
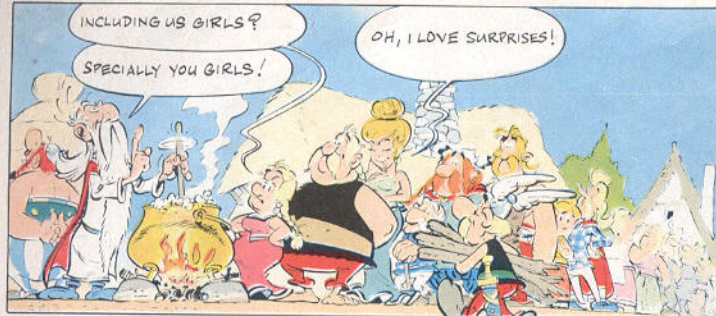
ASTERIX, I'M PROUD OF YOU! IF WE
GIVE THE SOOTHSAYER A SURPRISE
THAT WILL PROVE THAT HE'S NOT
REALLY A SOOTHSAYER!

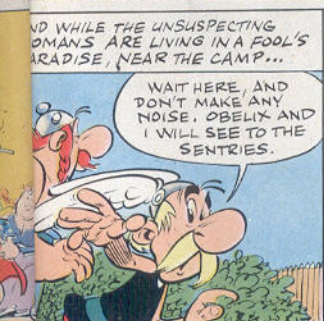
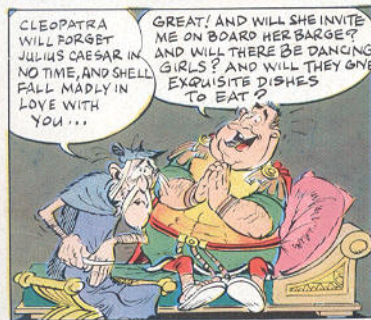
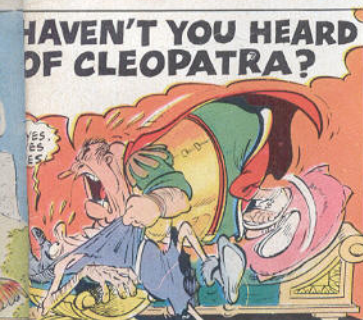
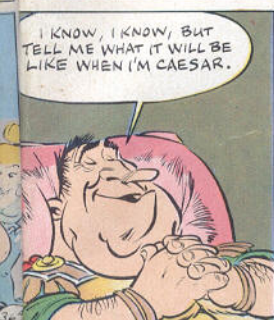
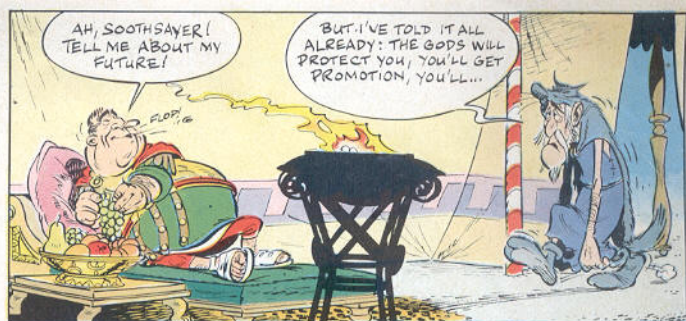
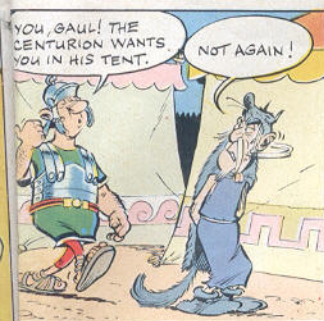
OH, SO YOU THINK I NEED
TO BECOME HANDSOME AND
INTELLIGENT, DO YOU?

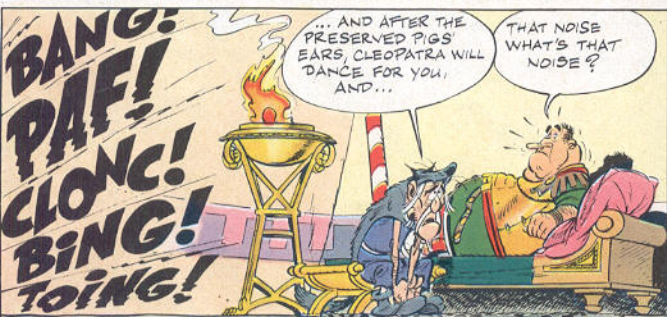
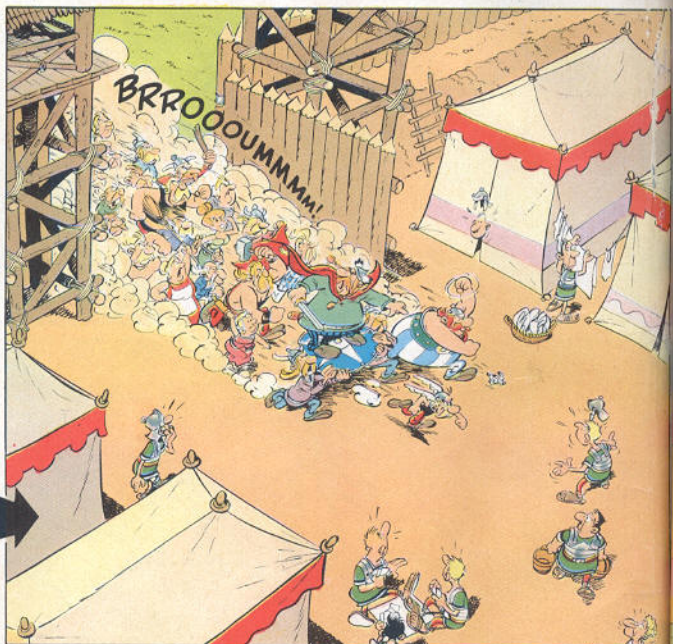
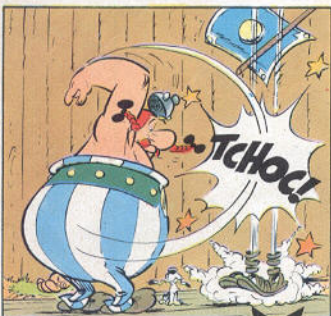
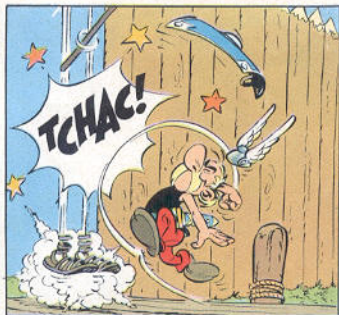
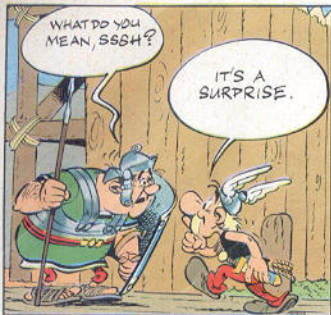
YOU ARRANGE A LITTLE
SURPRISE, ASTERIX! I'M OFF
TO MAKE SOME MAGIC
POTION!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

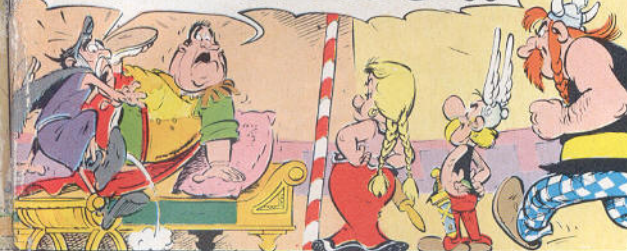
WELL, ARE WE ALL AGREED?
IF THE SOOTHSAYER DOESN'T
GUESS WHAT'S IN STORE FOR HIM
WILL YOU BELIEVE THAT HE ISN'T
A REAL SOOTHSAYER?







THE GAULS!!!

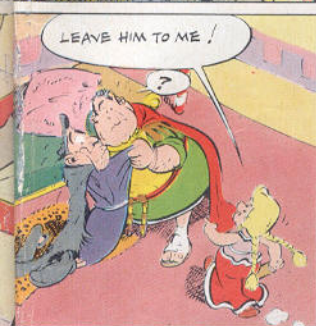


**GAULS INSIDE
THE CAMP, AND
YOU DIDN'T
WARN ME?!!**

BUT HOW
WAS I TO
KNOW?



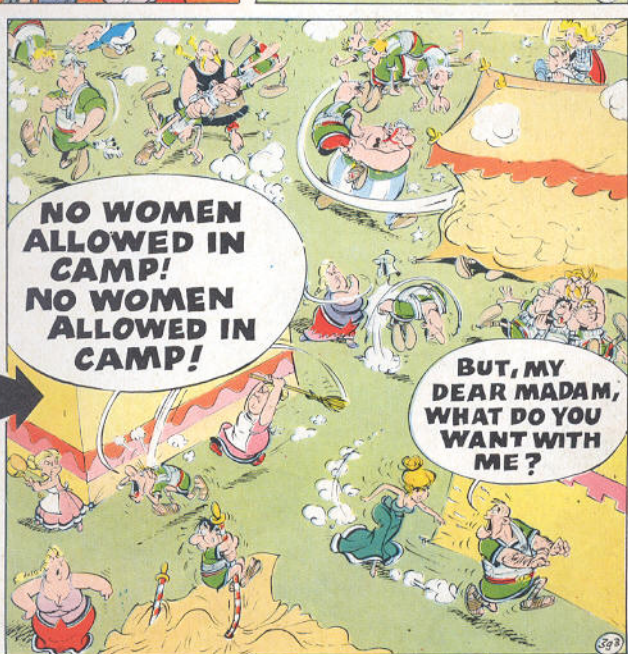
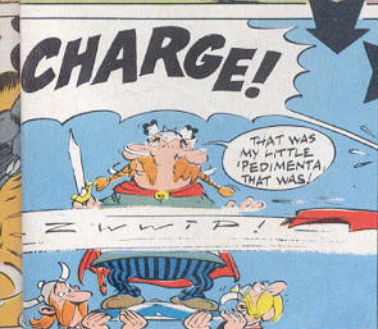
LEAVE HIM TO ME!



**HOW WERE YOU TO
KNOW? YOU MEAN TO
SAY YOU MADE UP ALL
THAT ABOUT LUTETIA,
AND PIGGYWIGGY GO-
ING INTO PARTNERSHIP
WITH MY BROTHER?**

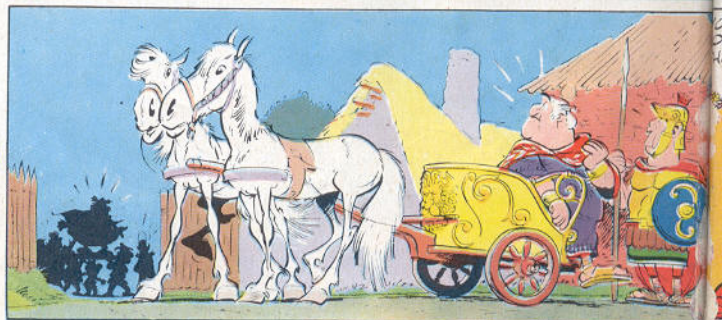
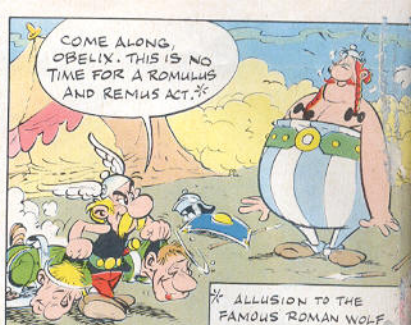


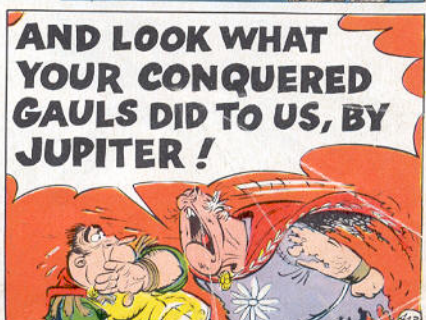
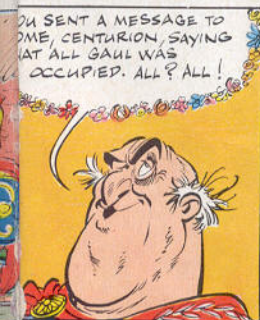
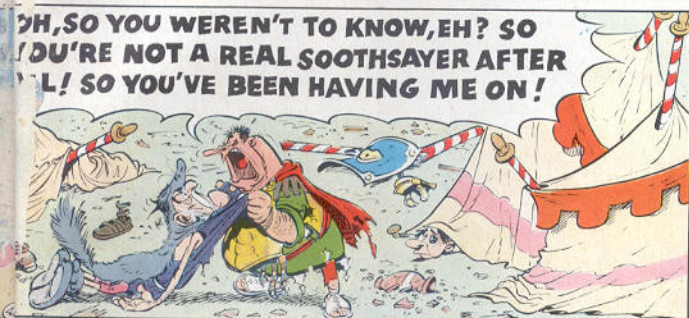
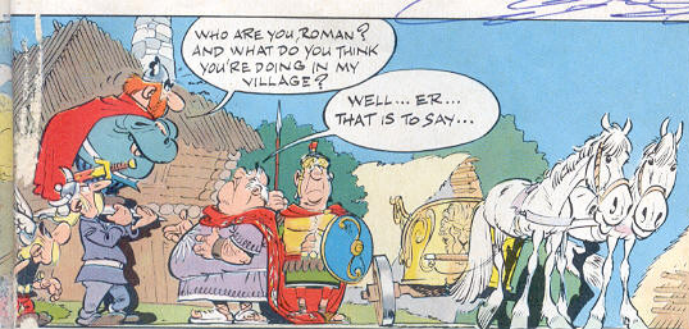
**GOOD SHOT
MADAM!**

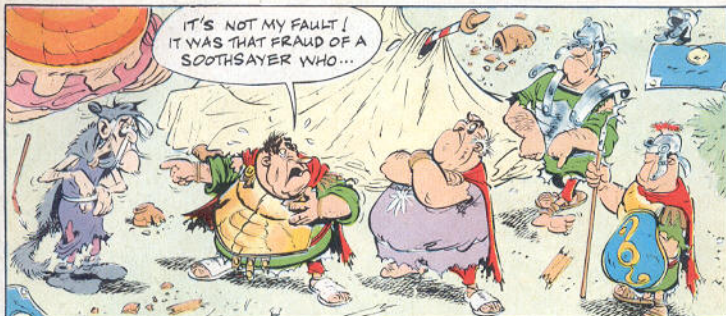


**NO WOMEN
ALLOWED IN
CAMP!
NO WOMEN
ALLOWED IN
CAMP!**

**BUT, MY
DEAR MADAM,
WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH
ME?**







IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
IT WAS THAT FRAUD OF A
SOOTHSAYER WHO...

**SILENCE! YOU'RE
DEMOTED TO
THE RANKS!**



YOU'RE NOT A CENTURION
ANY MORE, YOU'RE A
COMMON LEGIONARY, AND
EVEN THAT'S TOO GOOD
FOR YOU!

**OH, SO I'M GOING TO
GET PROMOTION, AM I?
OPTIONE,
ARREST THIS
IMPOSTOR!**



IF THIS FERE PERSON
IS NOT A SOOTHSAYER,
I GOT NO REASON TO
ARREST HIM!



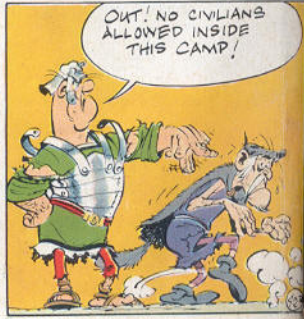
BUT OF COURSE HE'S
A SOOTHSAYER! NO
DOUBT ABOUT IT! A GREAT
GAULISH SOOTHSAYER,
PROTECTED BY THE
GODS, AND...

**I DON'T TAKE NO
ORDERS FROM A
COMMON LEGIONARY!
YOU GO AND SWEEP OUT
THE CAMP! ON YOUR OWN!
AND NO COMPLAINTS!**



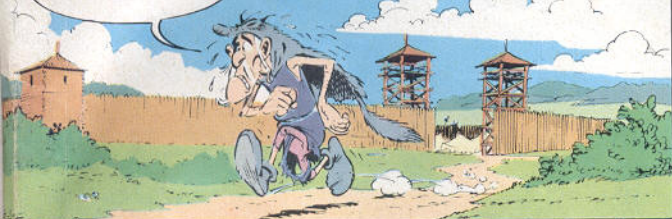
**AND JUST SPEAK PROPER
TO A SUPERIOR OFFICER!**

ER... AND... WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO WITH ME?

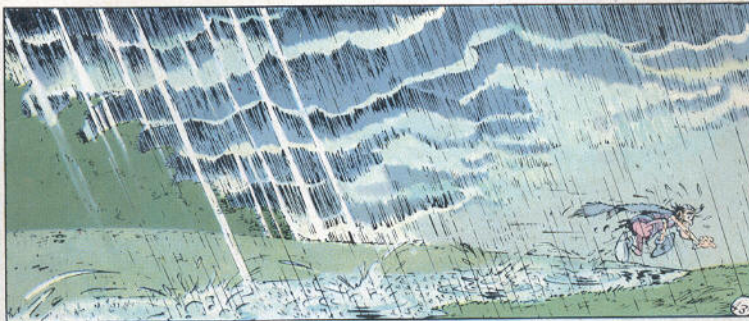


OUT! NO CIVILIANS
ALLOWED INSIDE
THIS CAMP!

THE GODS KNOW
WHAT TOMORROW MAY
BRING, BUT I'M THROUGH
WITH SOOTHSAYING!



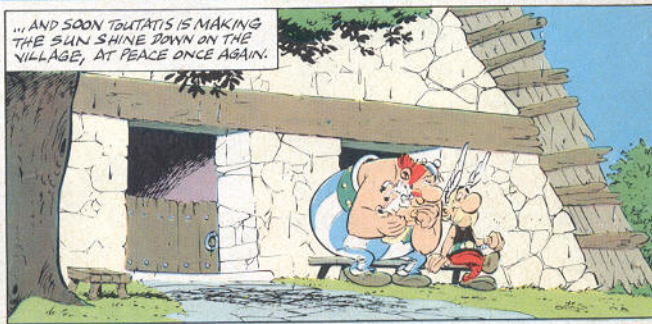
AND IF EVER I CHANGE
MY MIND, MAY TARANIS MAKE
THE SKY FALL ON MY HEAD!



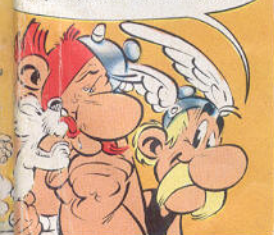
HOWEVER, THE ANGER OF
TARANIS IS SHORT-LIVED...



... AND SOON TOUTATIS IS MAKING
THE SUN SHINE DOWN ON THE
VILLAGE, AT PEACE ONCE AGAIN.

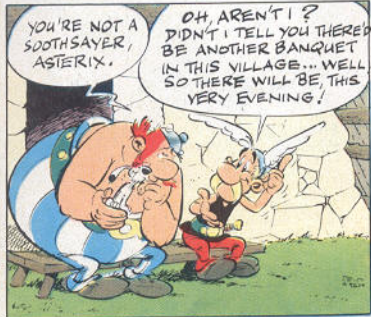


WELL, OBELIX, OLD FRIEND, I
DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOOTH-
SAYER SAID TO YOU, BUT I'M
SURE YOU'LL BE HAPPY!



YOU'RE NOT A
SOOTHSAYER,
ASTERIX.

OH, AREN'T I?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THERE'D
BE ANOTHER BANQUET
IN THIS VILLAGE... WELL
SO THERE WILL BE THIS
VERY EVENING!



**HOW RIGHT YOU
ARE! YOU DID
FORETELL IT!**



