

**BOOK 17**

**GOSCINNY AND UDERZO**

# Asterix

## AND THE CAULDRON



HODDER DARGAUD





HAVE YOU COME ALL BY YOURSELF LIKE THAT?

OH, NO! HERE'S MY RETINUE.



WHAT THE... IT'S A CAULDRON!

YES, THAT'S WHY I HAD TO WALK. THERE'S NOT MUCH ROOM ON THESE SHIELDS.



YOU MEAN YOU GAVE UP YOUR SHIELD TO THIS CAULDRON? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

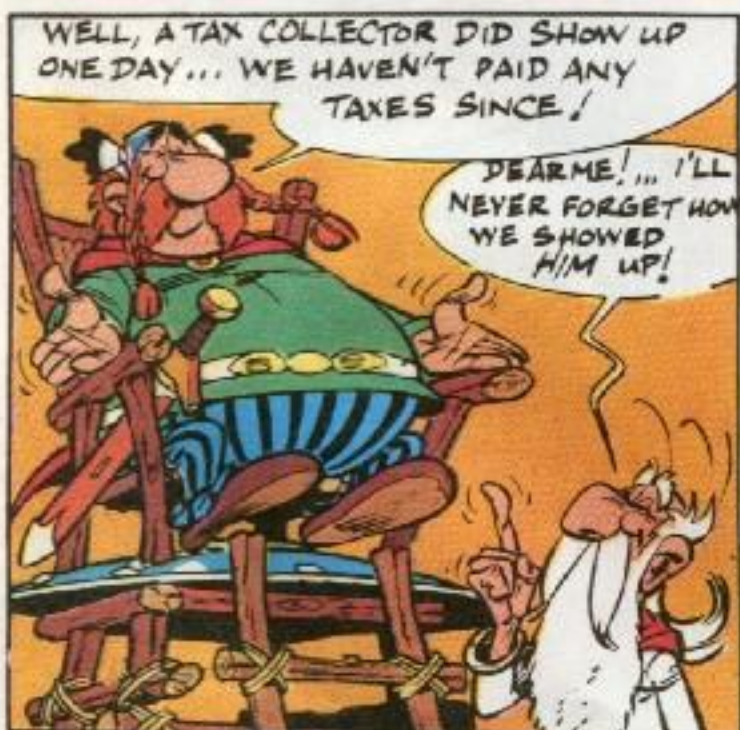
IT'S FULL OF SESTERTII, BY TOUTATIS! COME OVER HERE... I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.



JULIUS CAESAR IS IN GRAVE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. HE'S USED THE TAXES WHICH WERE GOING TO PAY HIS GARRISONS HERE IN GAUL TO EQUIP HIS ARMIES FOR NEW CAMPAIGNS...



I HEARD THAT CAESAR WAS ABOUT TO LEVY NEW TAXES, SO I PUT ALL MY PEOPLE'S SAVINGS IN THIS CAULDRON, AND I'VE BROUGHT IT TO YOU FOR SAFE KEEPING... I BELIEVE YOU DON'T PAY ANY TAXES?...



WELL, A TAX COLLECTOR DID SHOW UP ONE DAY... WE HAVEN'T PAID ANY TAXES SINCE!

DEARME!... I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW WE SHOWED HIM UP!

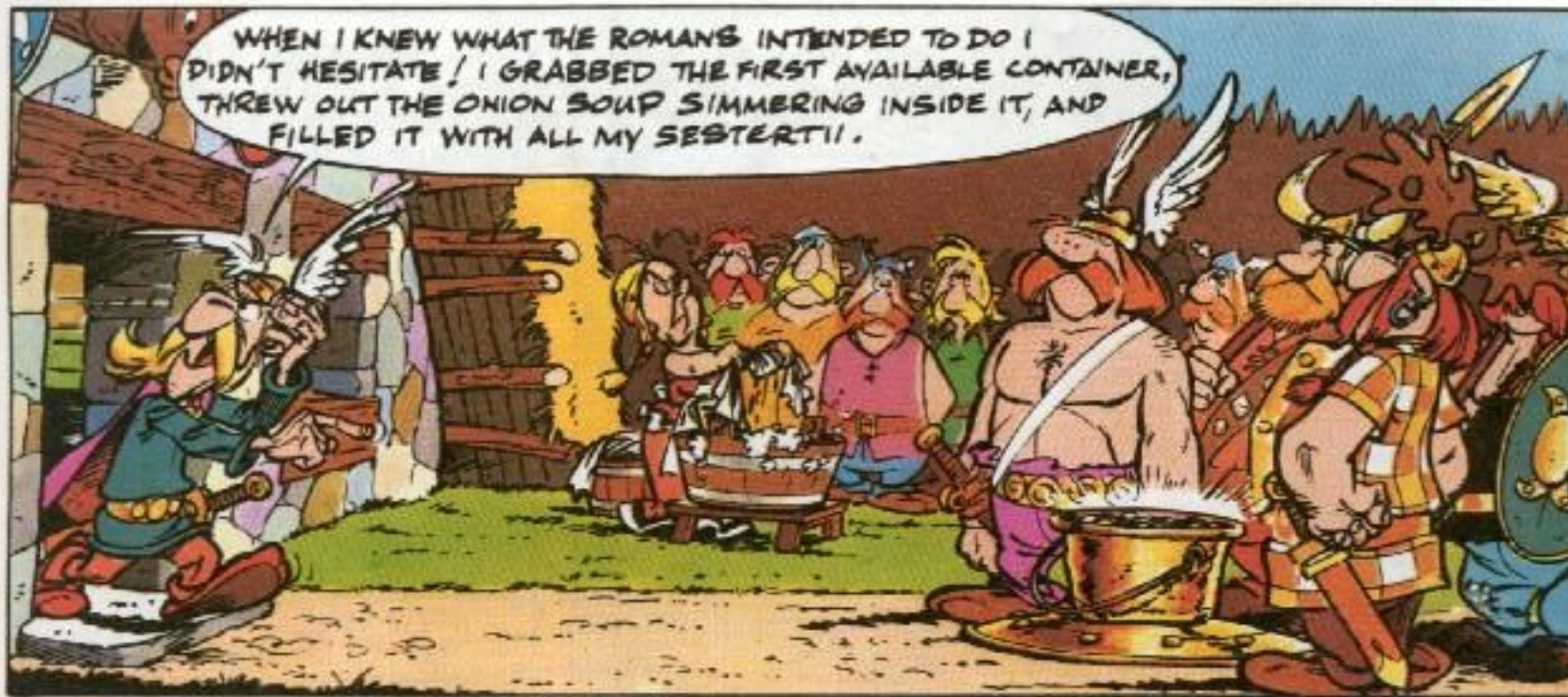


WHAT FUN WE HAD! REMEMBER WHEN...?

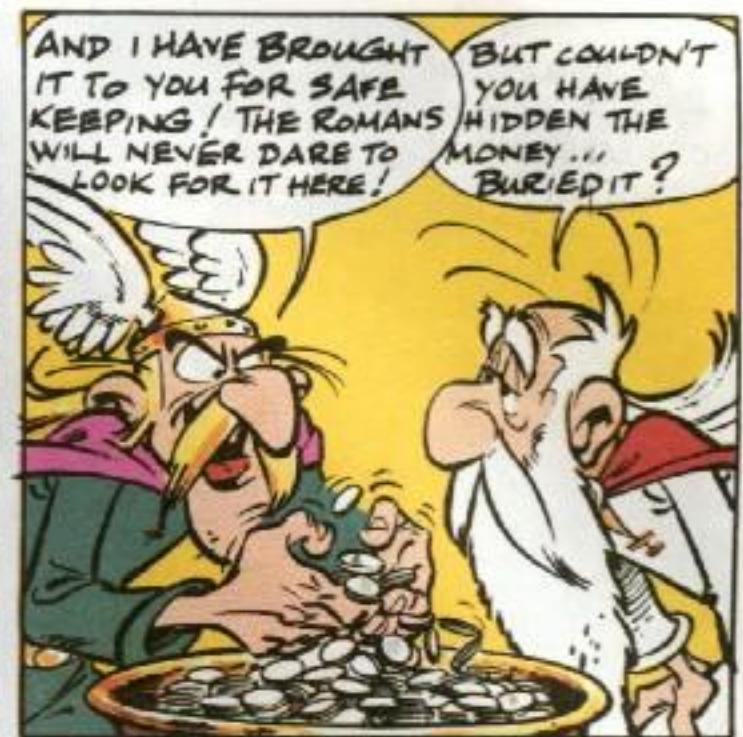
OH, DO STOP! HOHOHO!

YOU MEAN HE NEVER RETURNED?

THAT'S RIGHT. NO RETURN, NO TAX RETURN NO TAXES!



WHEN I KNEW WHAT THE ROMANS INTENDED TO DO I DIDN'T HESITATE! I GRABBED THE FIRST AVAILABLE CONTAINER, THREW OUT THE ONION SOUP SIMMERING INSIDE IT, AND FILLED IT WITH ALL MY SESTERTII!



AND I HAVE BROUGHT IT TO YOU FOR SAFE KEEPING! THE ROMANS WILL NEVER DARE TO LOOK FOR IT HERE!

BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE HIDDEN THE MONEY... BURIED IT?



NO. THE ROMANS ARE ALWAYS EXCAVATING... THERE ARE SO MANY BURIED TAXES ABOUT THEY'LL PROBABLY BE GETTING DUG UP FOR CENTURIES TO COME!



IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO PREVENT THE ROMANS GETTING THEIR HANDS ON THIS MONEY...

IT IS, ISN'T IT?



...BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THEIR GOOD TABLETS... ESPECIALLY AS THE ROMANS LIKE PEOPLE WHO PAY THEIR TAXES REGULARLY.

**WHAT?**



YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO DOUBT MY PATRIOTISM! I MAY DO BUSINESS WITH THE ROMANS...



... BUT I ALWAYS MAKE THEM PAY TWICE THE PRICE I'D HAVE CHARGED MY GAULISH CUSTOMERS!

THAT'S GOOD!

VERY GOOD!



AND DO YOU DO MUCH BUSINESS WITH GAULS?

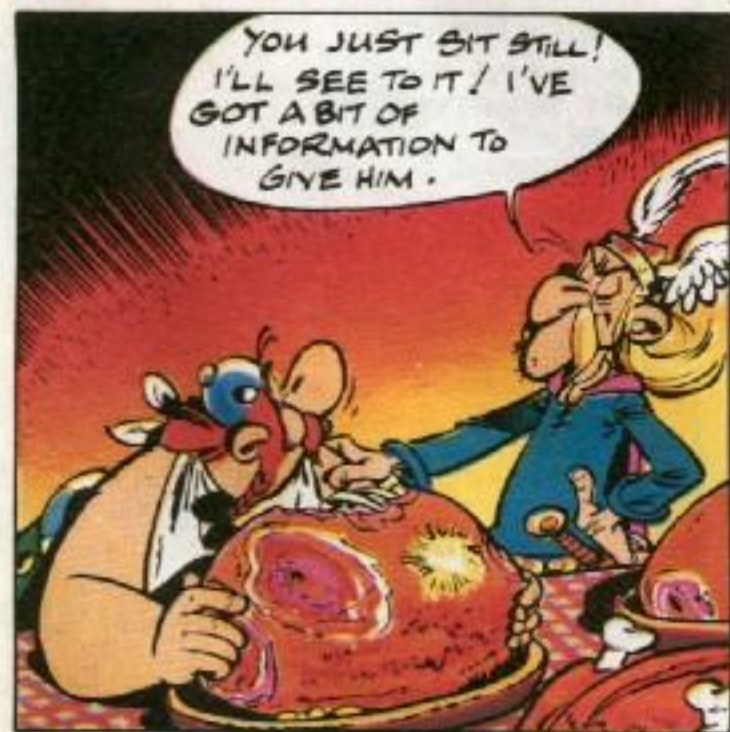
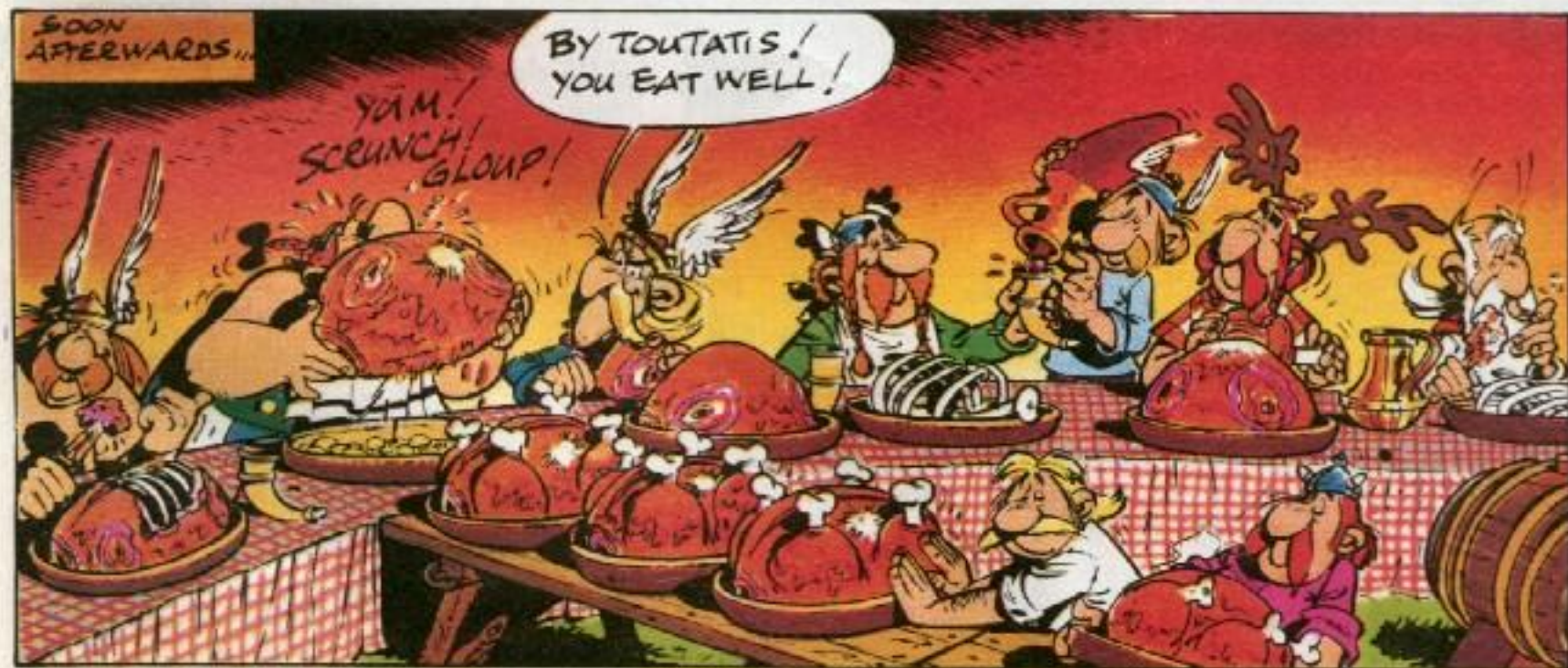
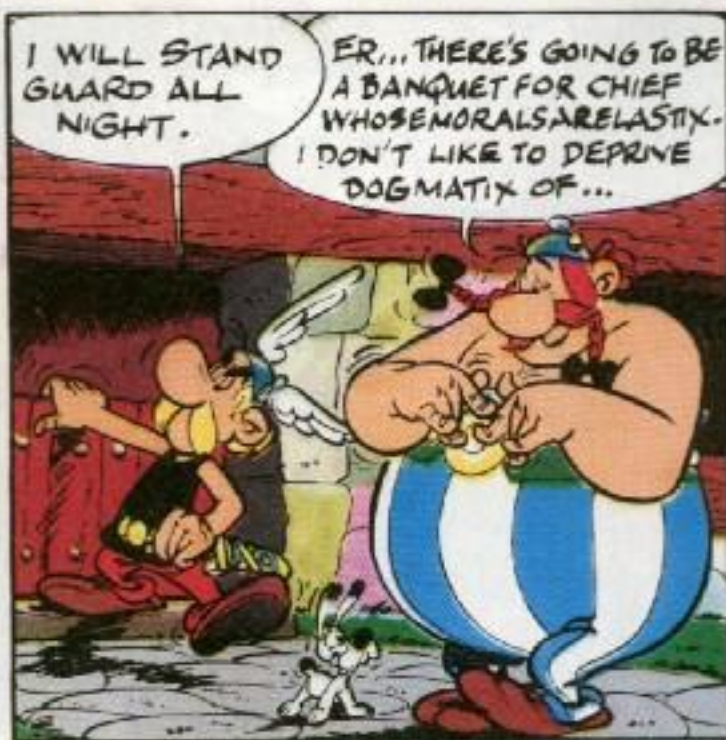
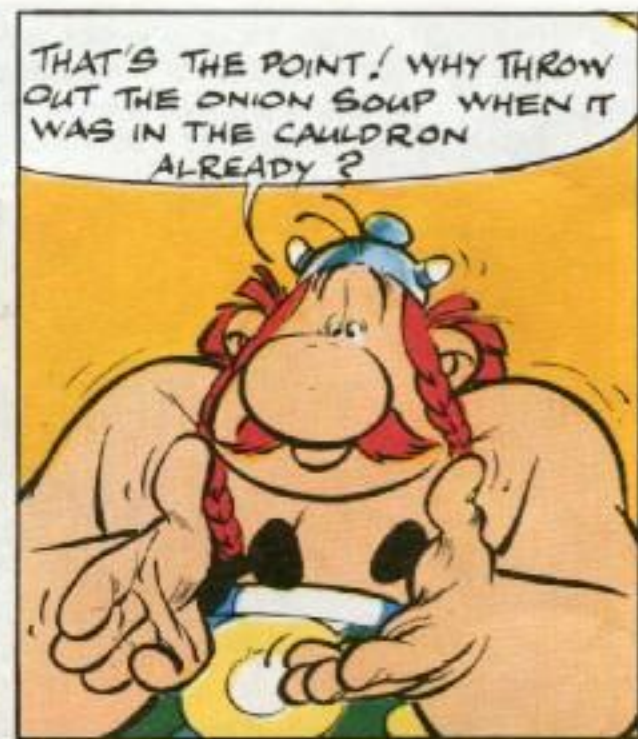
NO... THE ROMANS BUY EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO SELL!

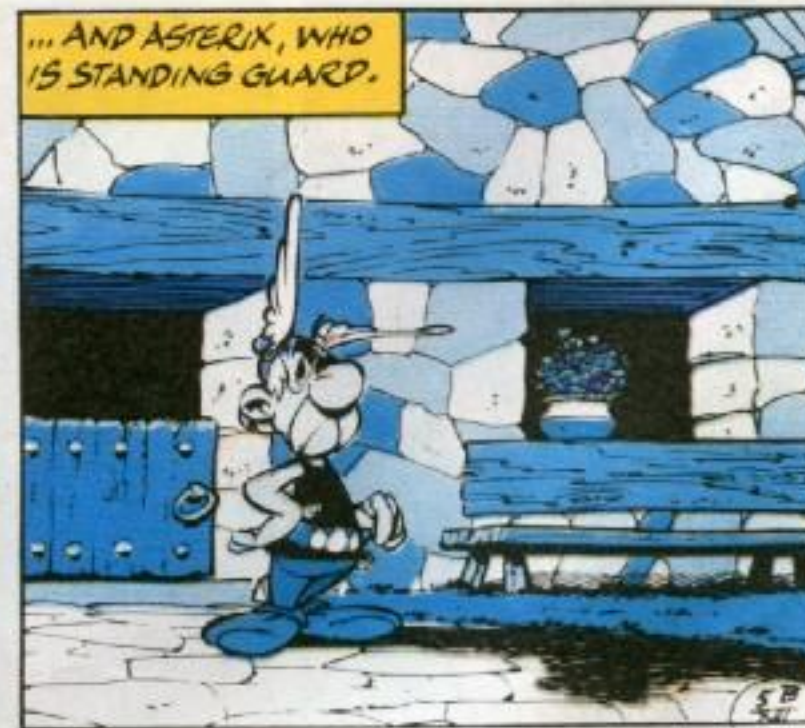


VERY WELL, WE'LL LOOK AFTER YOUR CAULDRON UNTIL THE TAX COLLECTOR HAS BEEN.

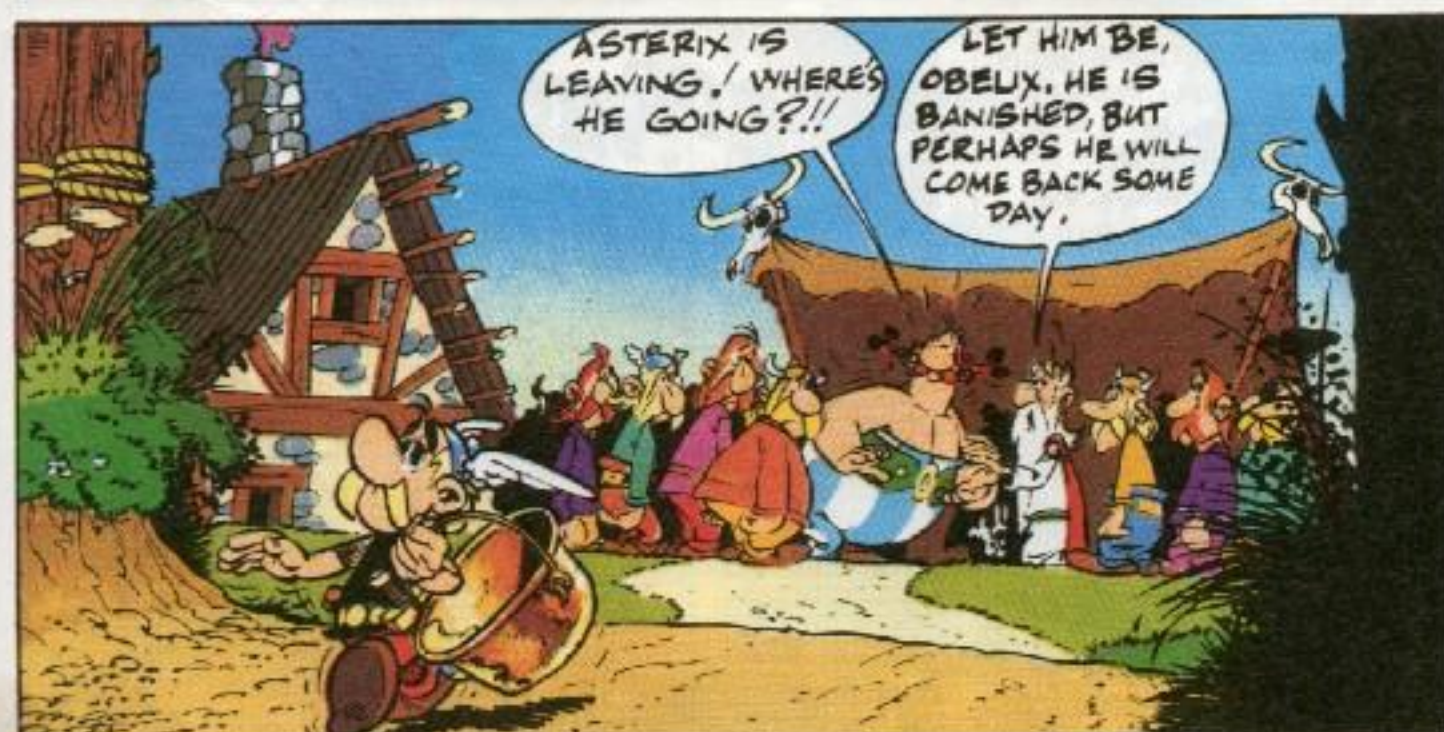
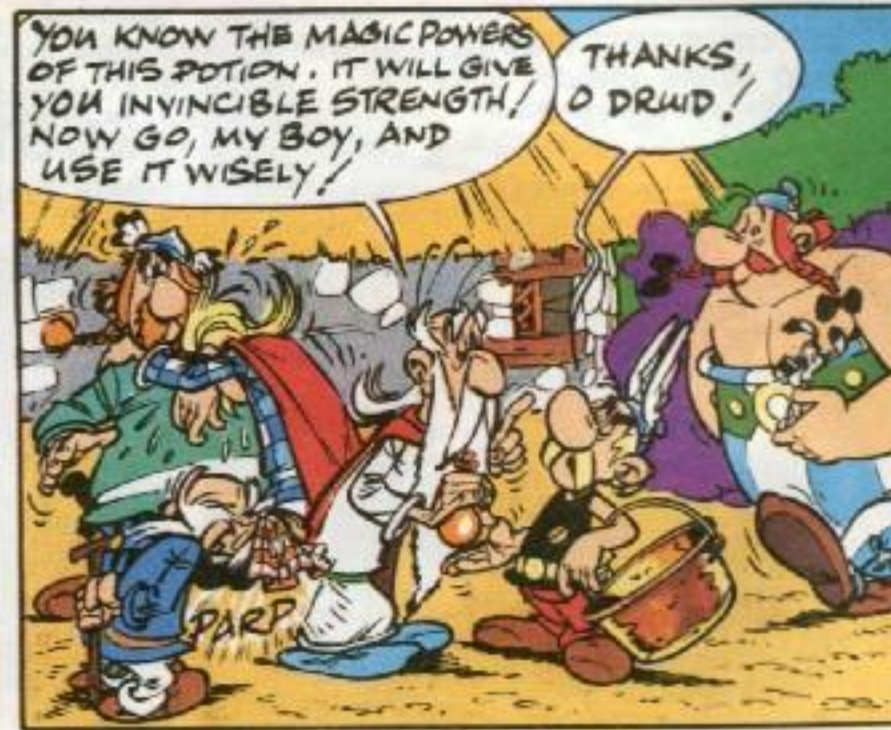
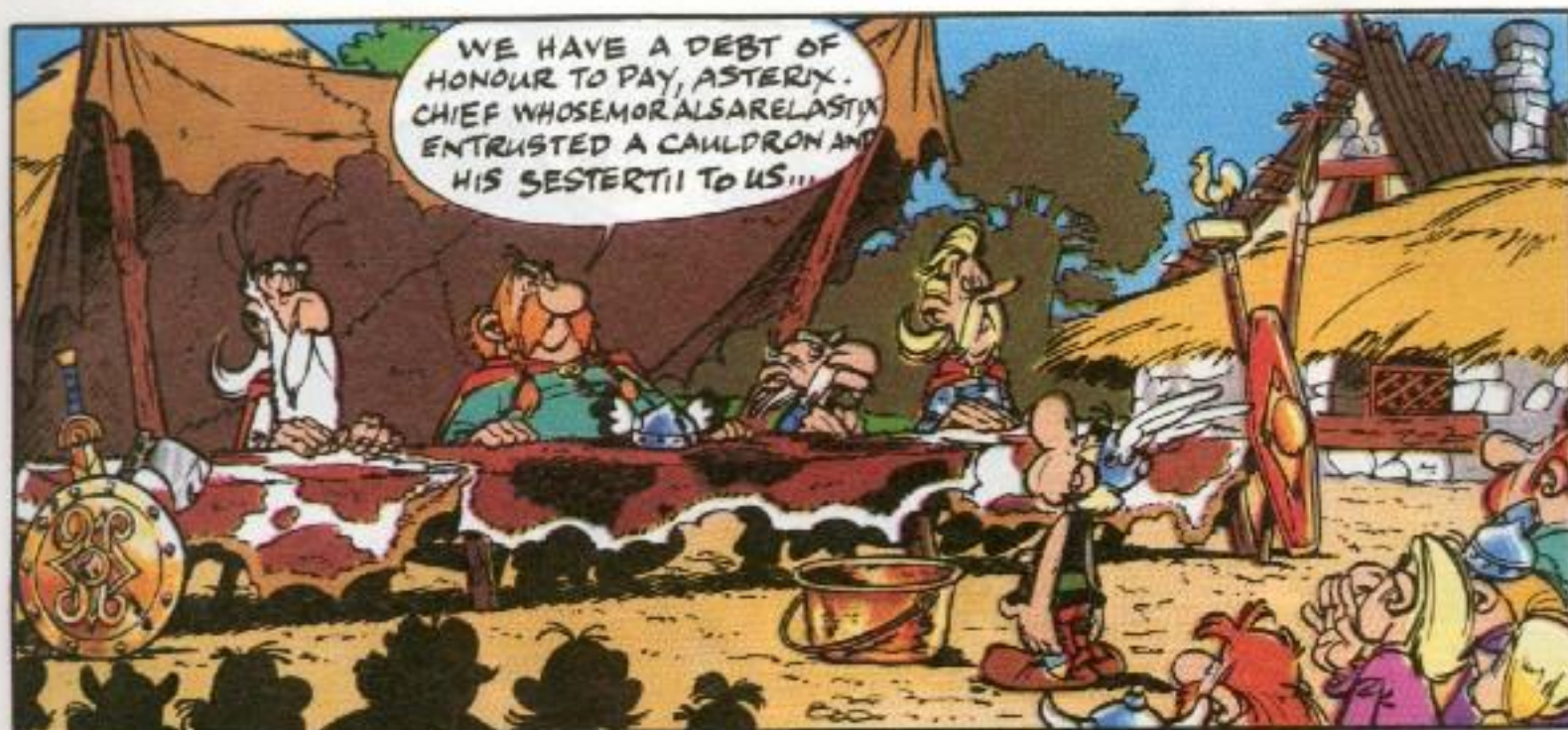


I WILL PUT IT IN THE HANDS OF MY MOST TRUSTWORTHY WARRIOR: **ASTERIX!**

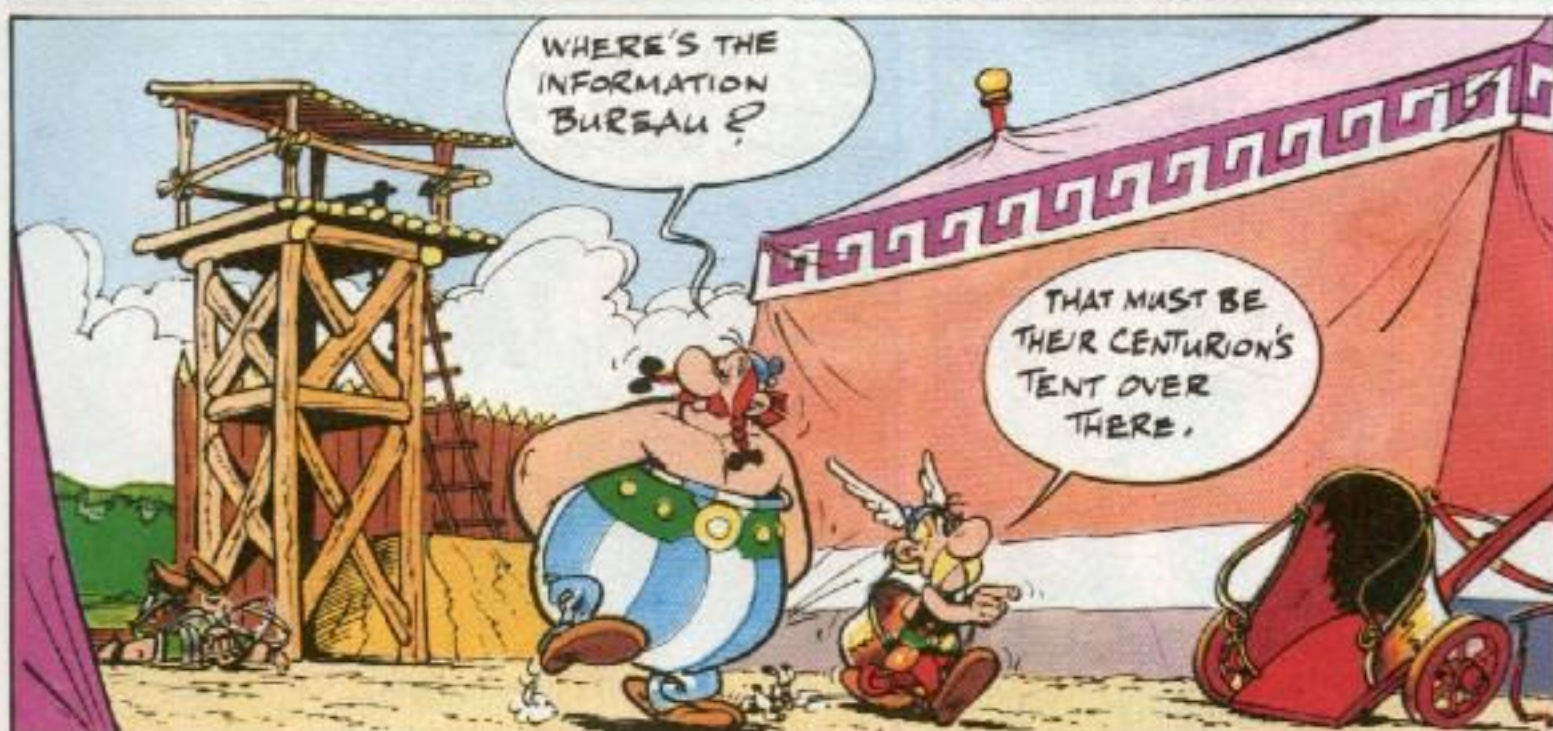


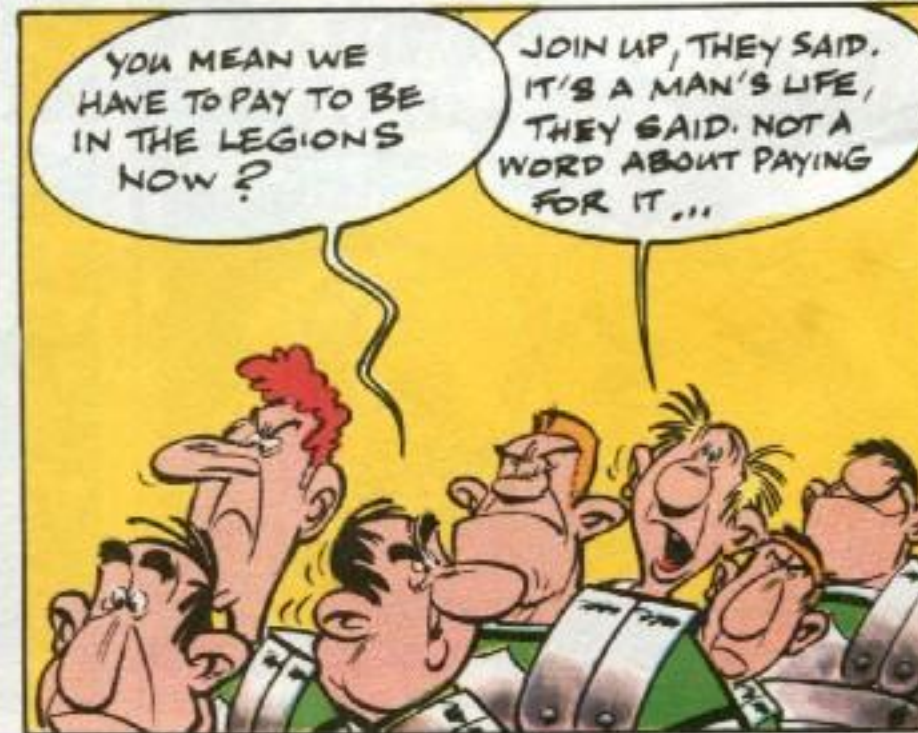
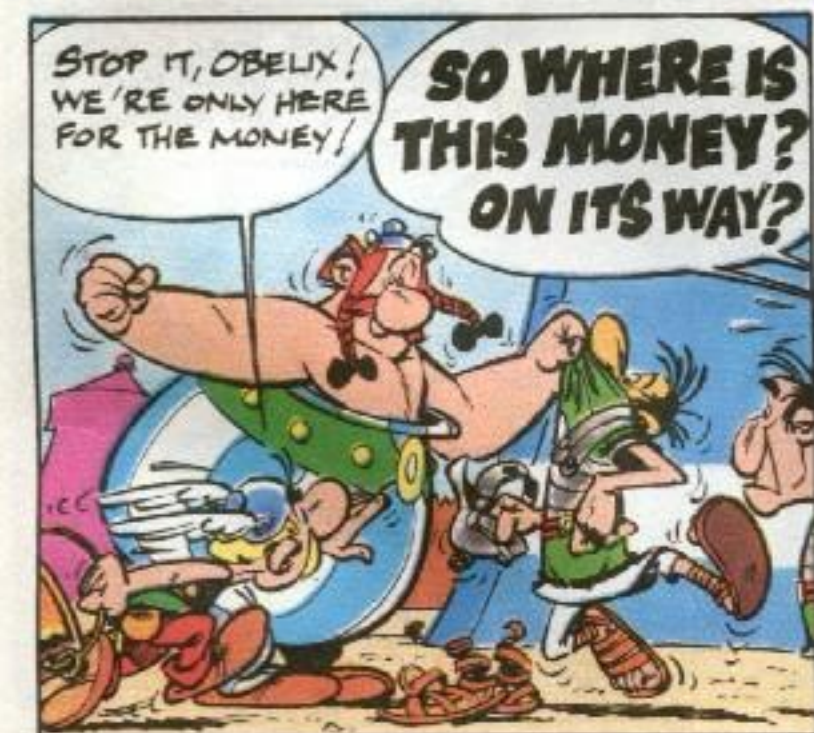




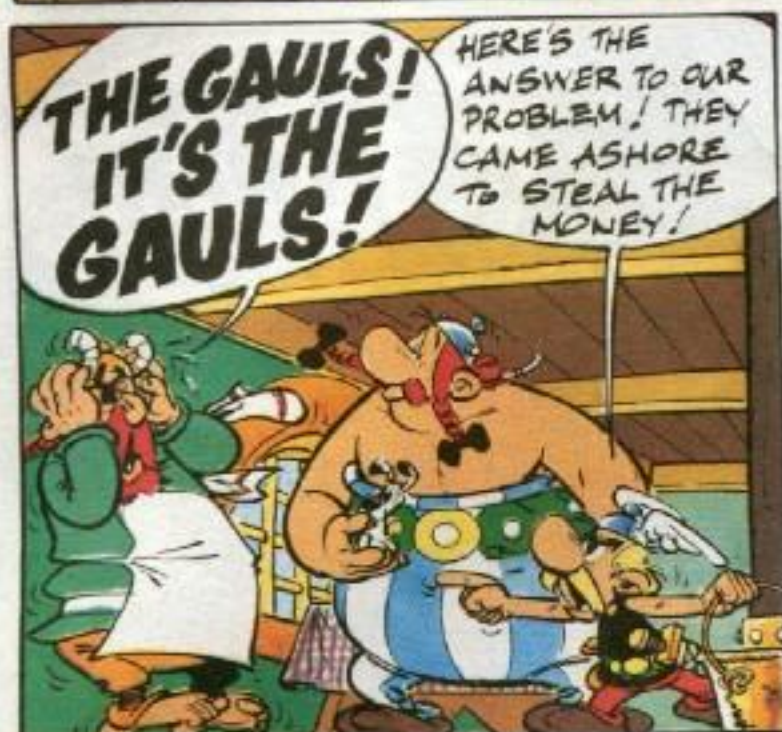


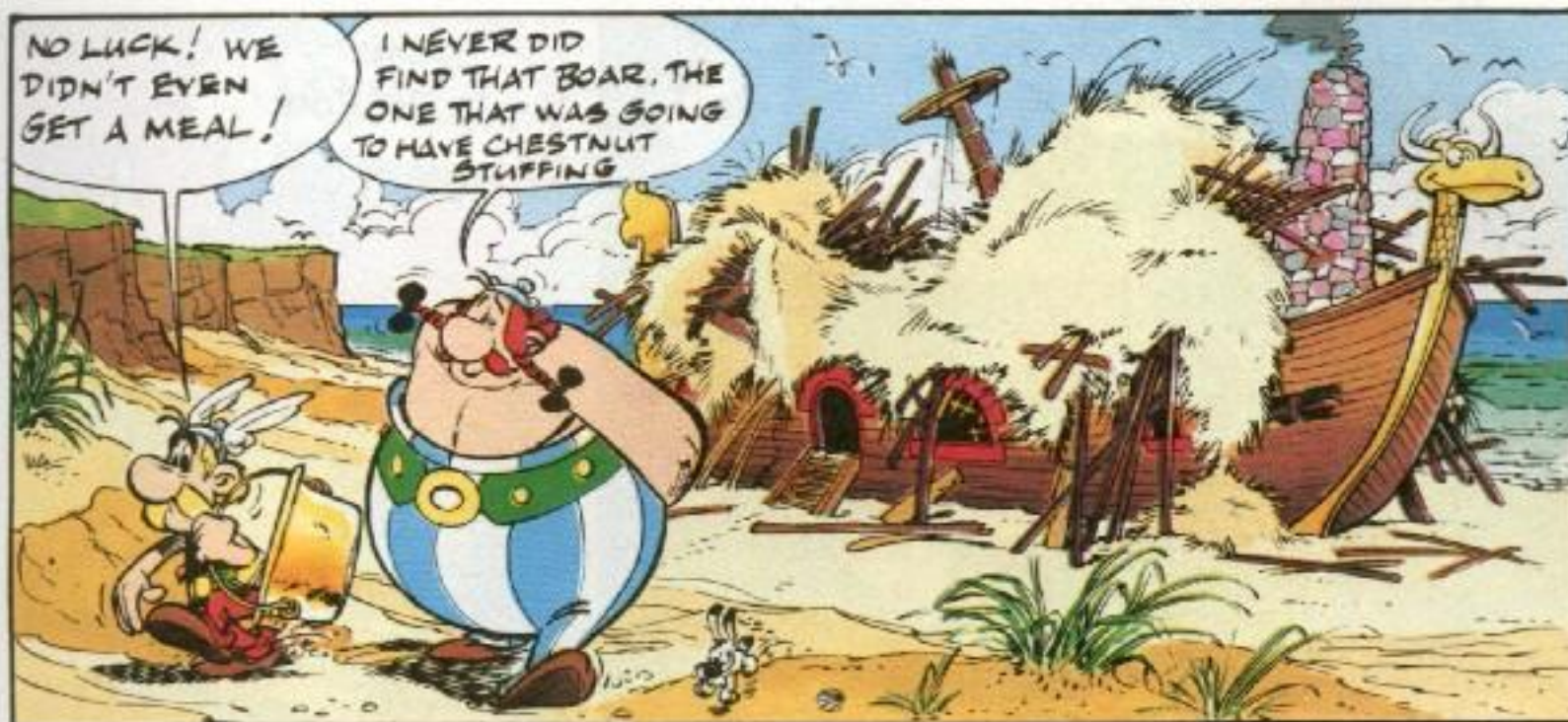


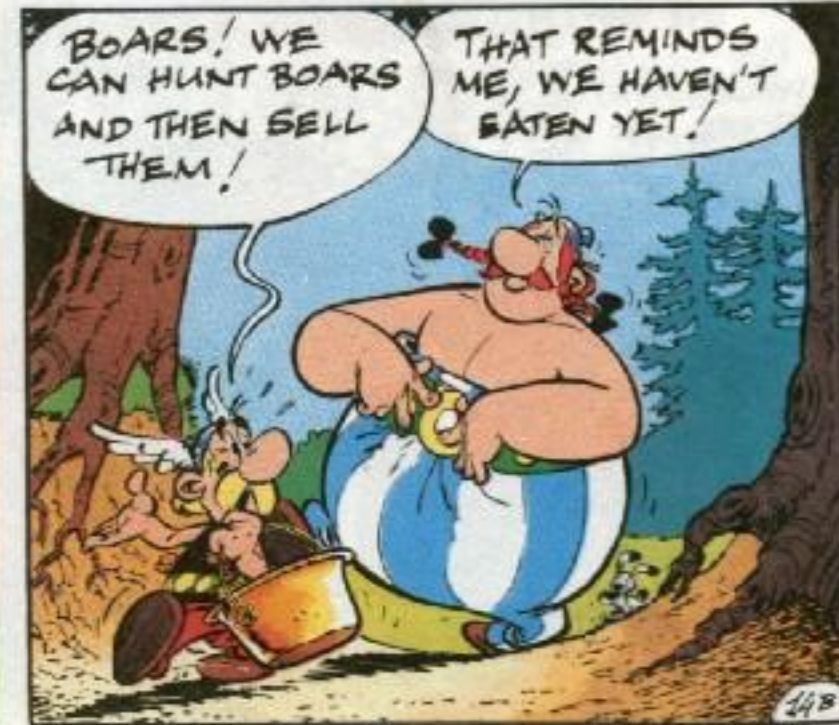
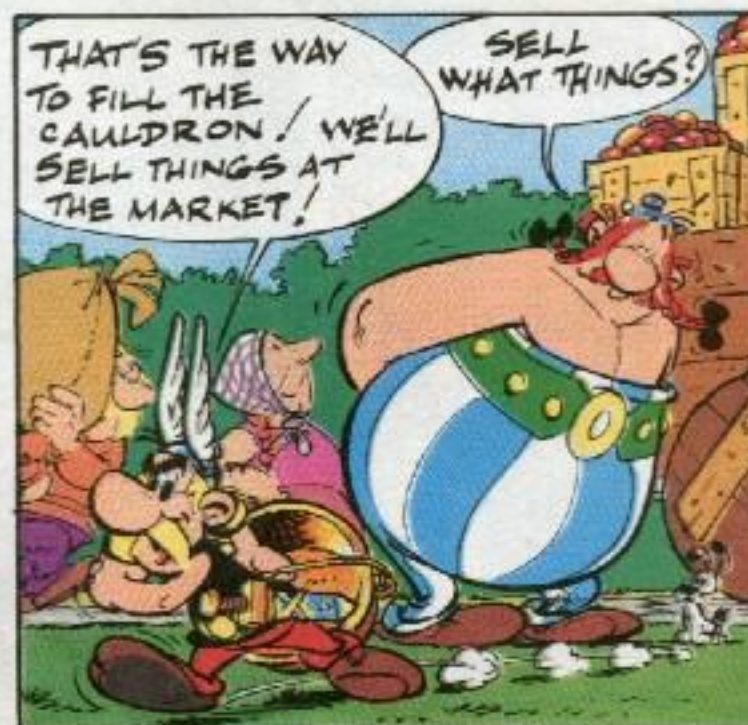
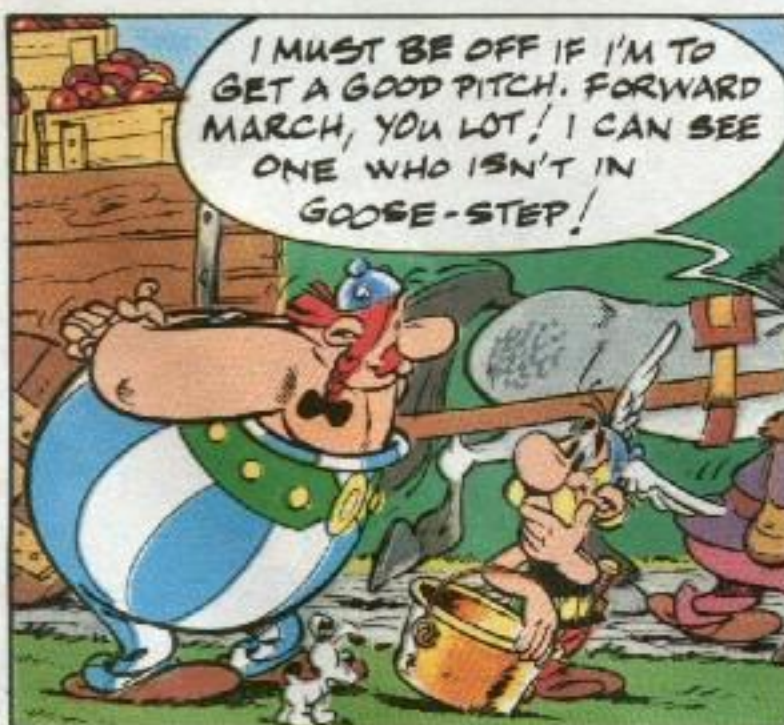
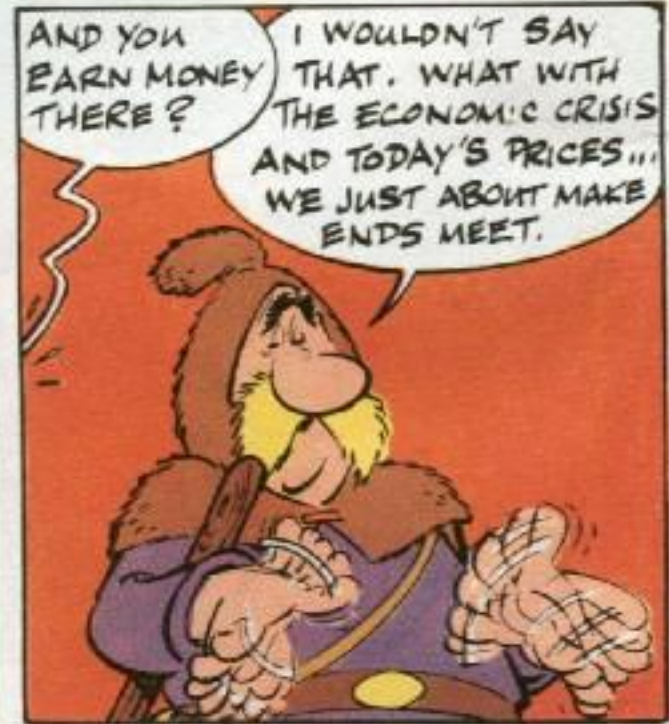




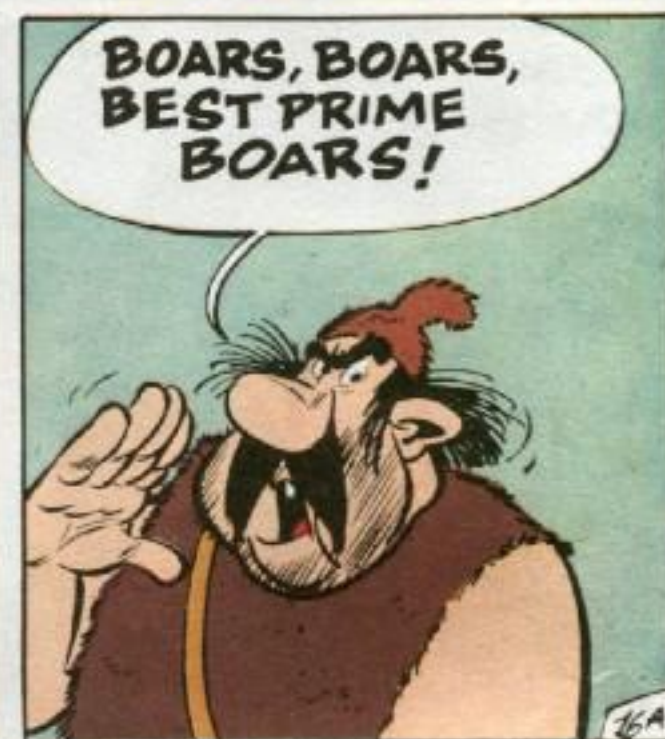
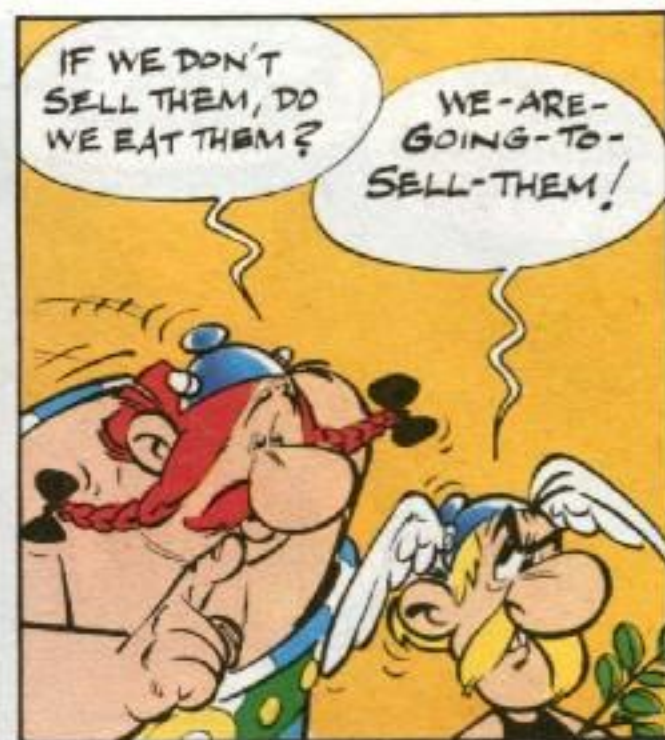


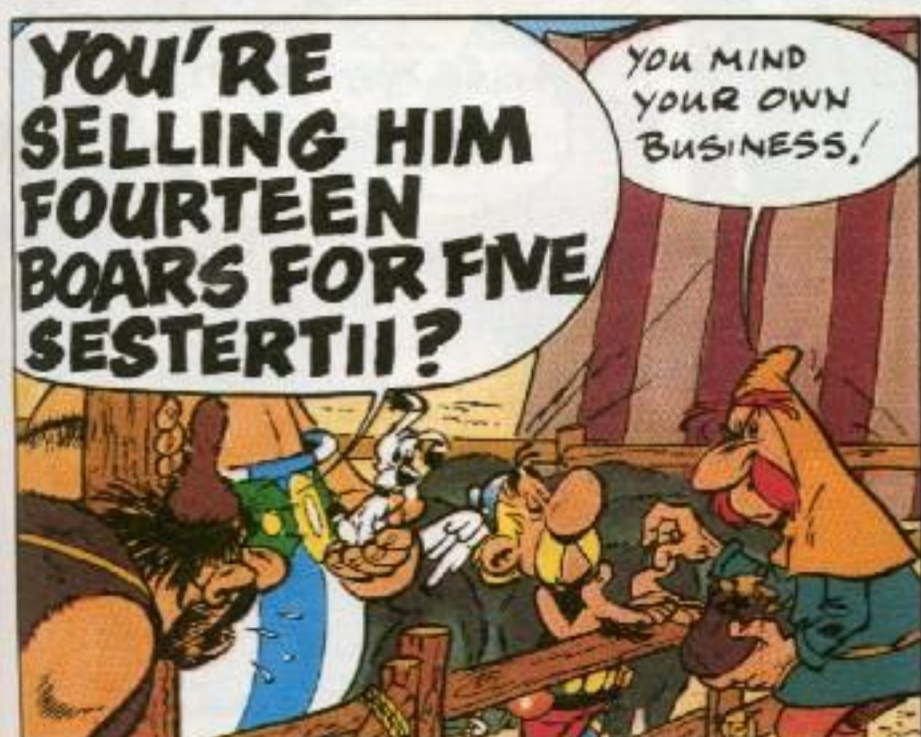












YOU'RE MAKING PRICES TUMBLE!  
IT'S DAYLIGHT ROBBERY! IT'S A CRIME!  
FOURTEEN PRIME BOARS LIKE THAT  
FOR FIVE SESTERTII! THE BOTTOM  
WILL FALL OUT OF THE MARKET!

OH, THEY WEREN'T AS  
PRIME AS ALL THAT...  
ONLY TIDDLERS. I WAS  
JUST TELLING  
ASTERIX...

IS IT YOU  
SELLING BOARS  
AT FIVE  
SESTERTII FOR  
FOURTEEN?

?!

YOU SEE? I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
PREVENTS ME  
FROM...

?

TOHAC!

I DO.

RIGHT. WHEN HE  
GETS BACK, TELL  
HIM TO KEEP A  
GROSS FOR  
ME.

A GROSS?

THAT'S  
WHAT I SAID:  
FOURTEEN  
FOURTEENS.

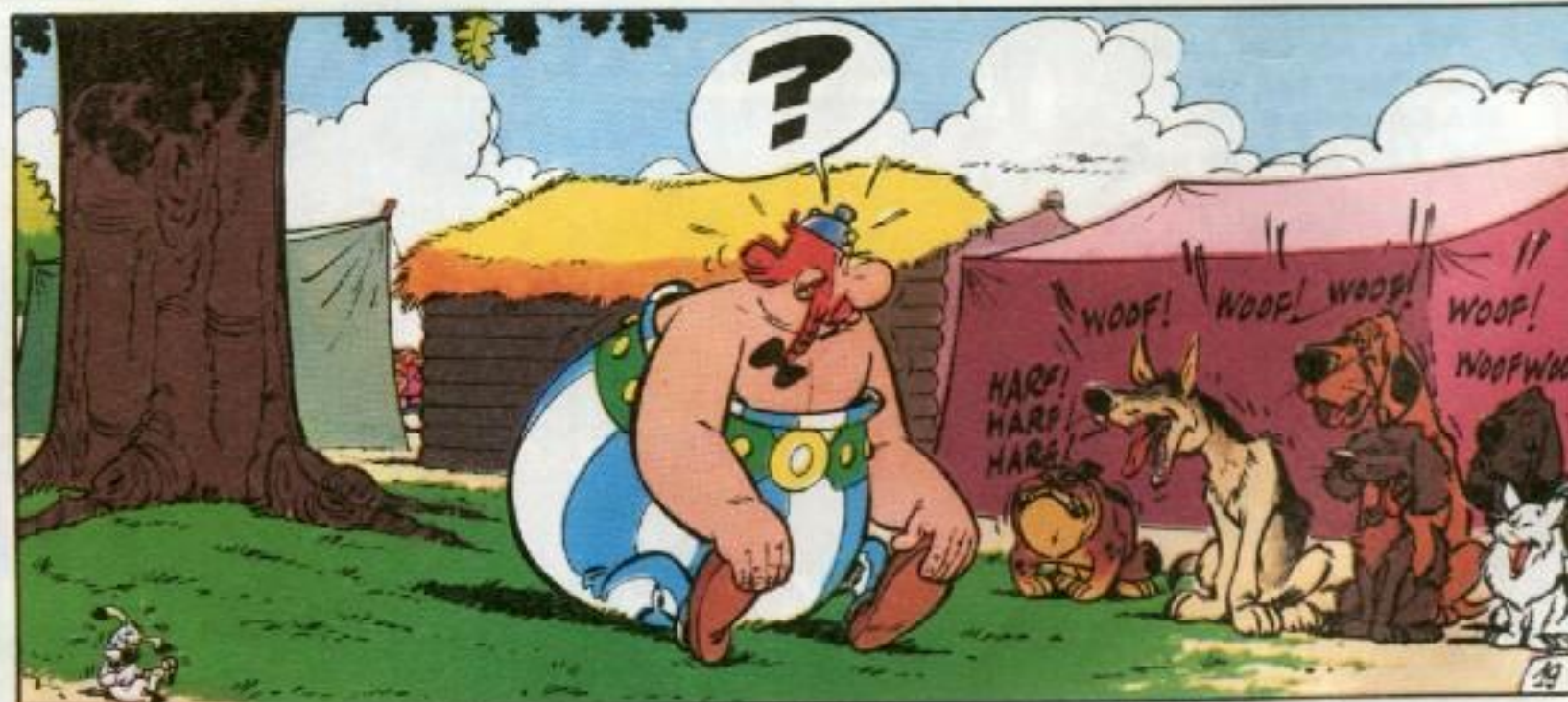
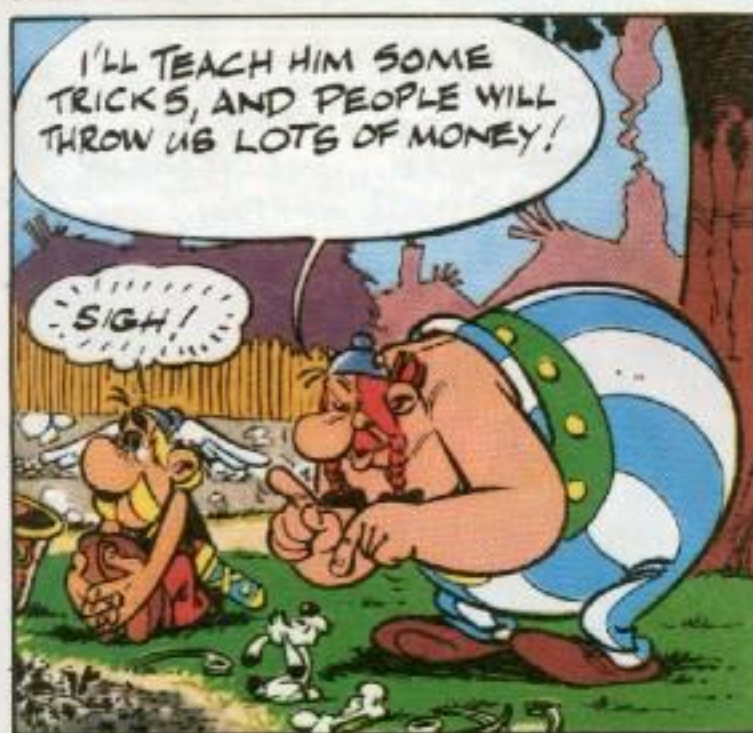
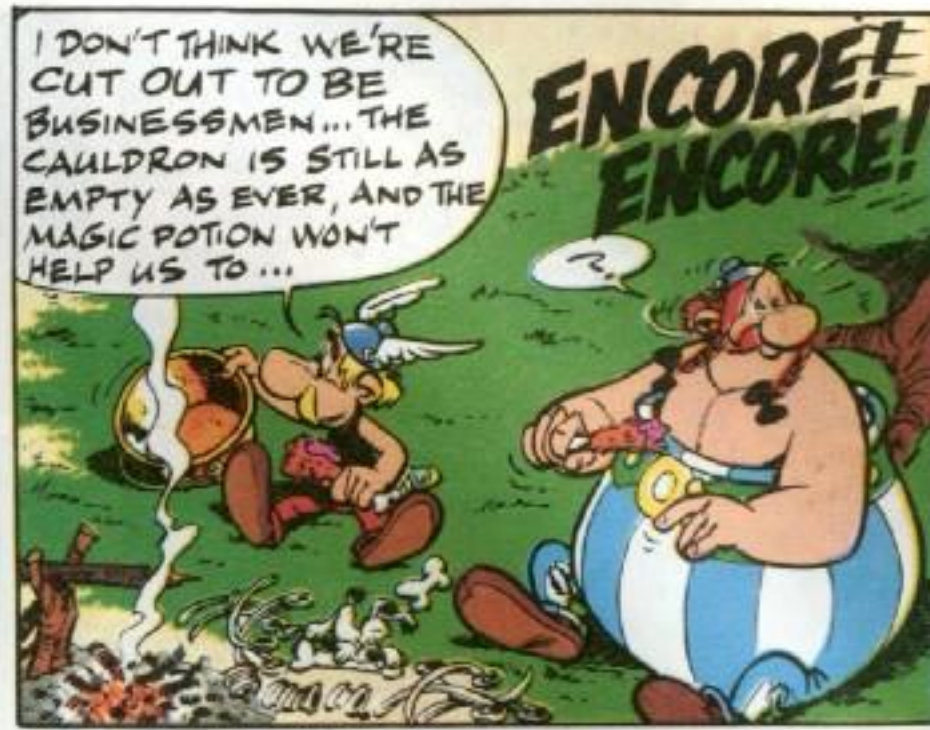
CRAASH!

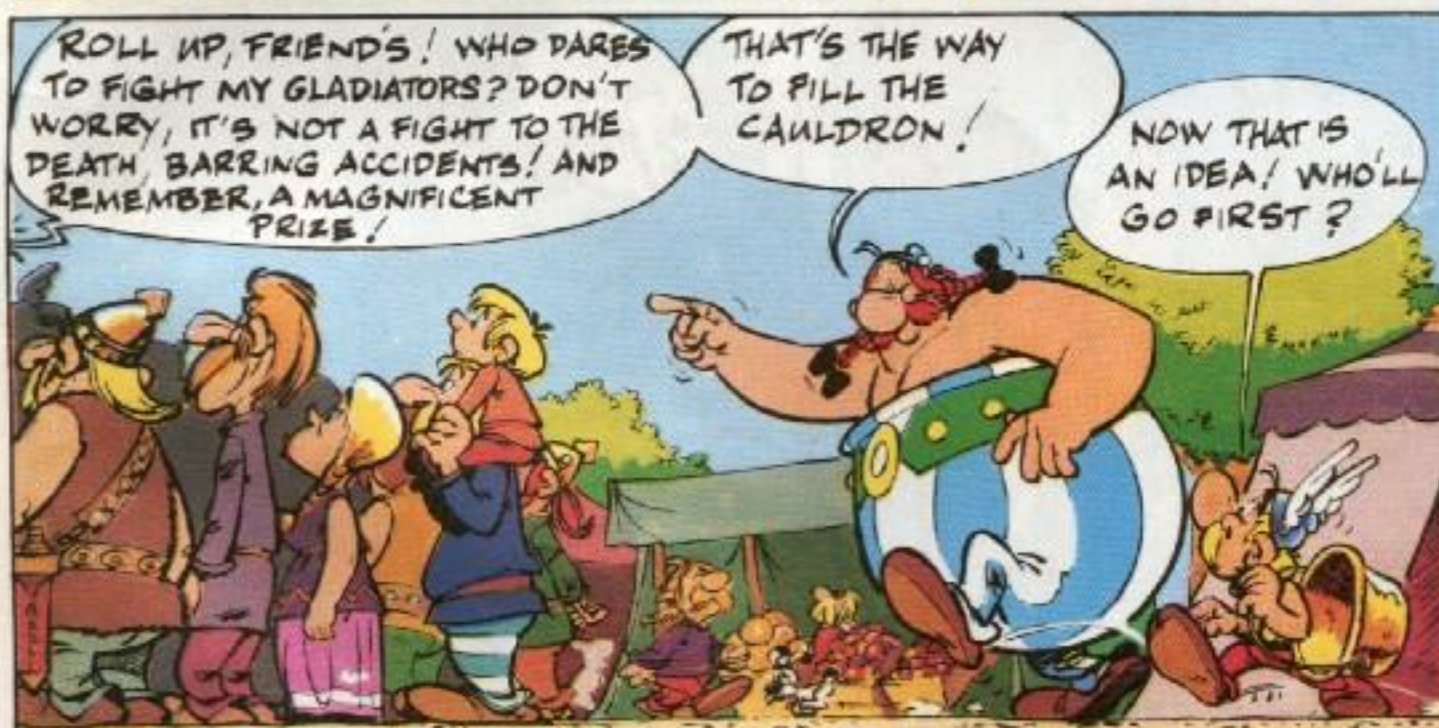
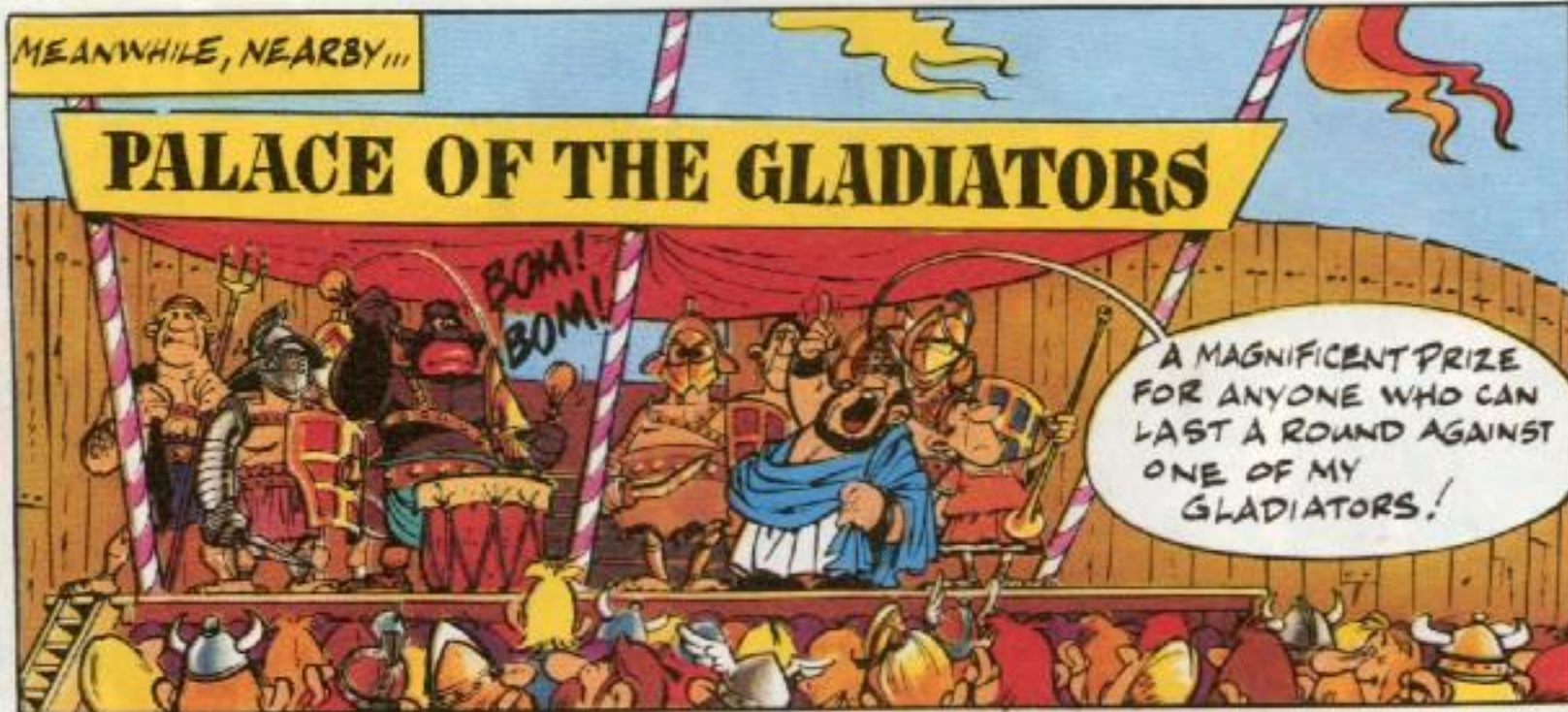
HUH!

YOU'VE RUINED ME!  
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO  
SELL MY HOUSE AND MY  
MENHIRS, ALL BECAUSE  
OF YOU...

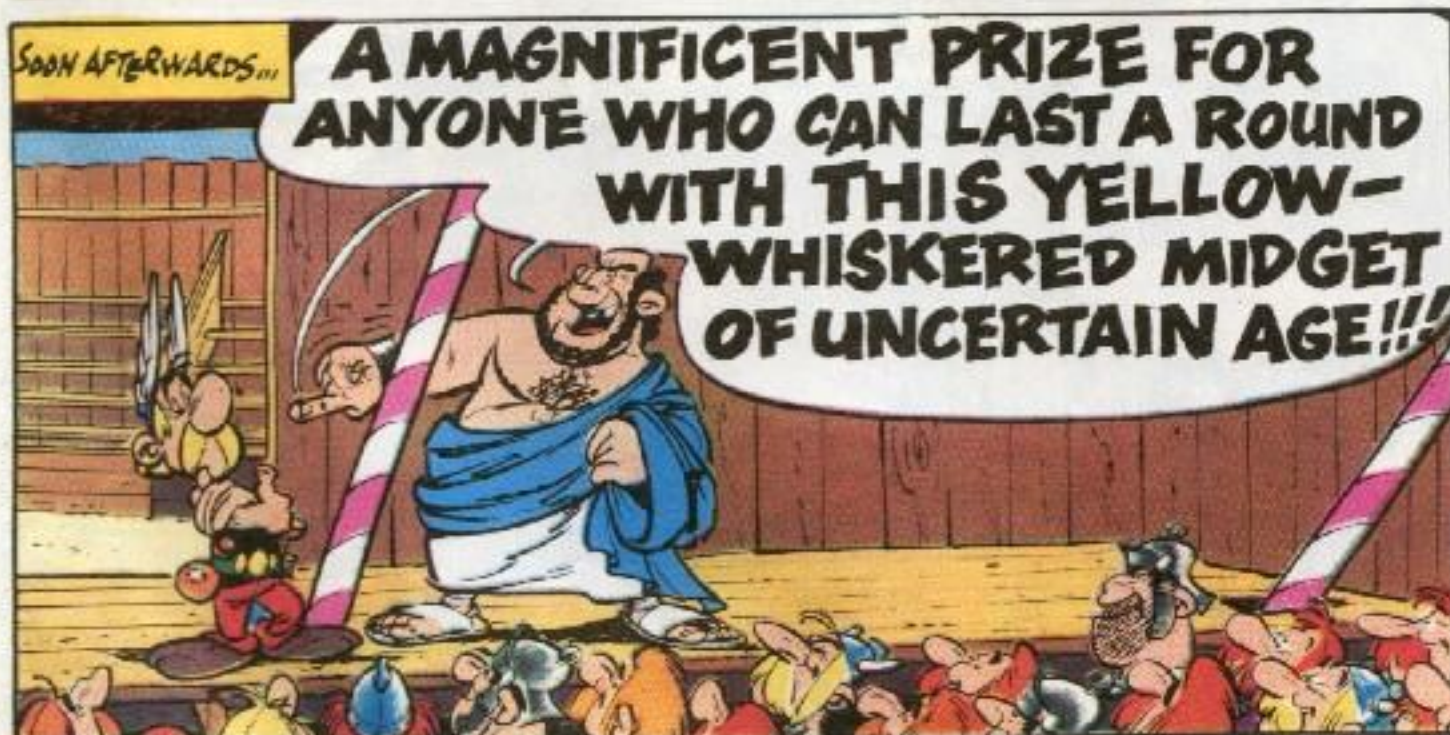
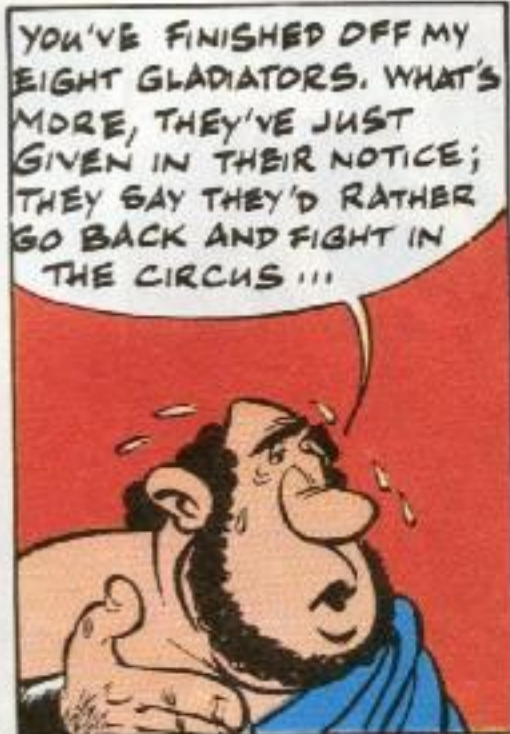
COME, COME, CALM  
DOWN... ANYWAY, WE  
HAVEN'T EATEN YET.  
HOW MUCH ARE YOUR  
BOARS?

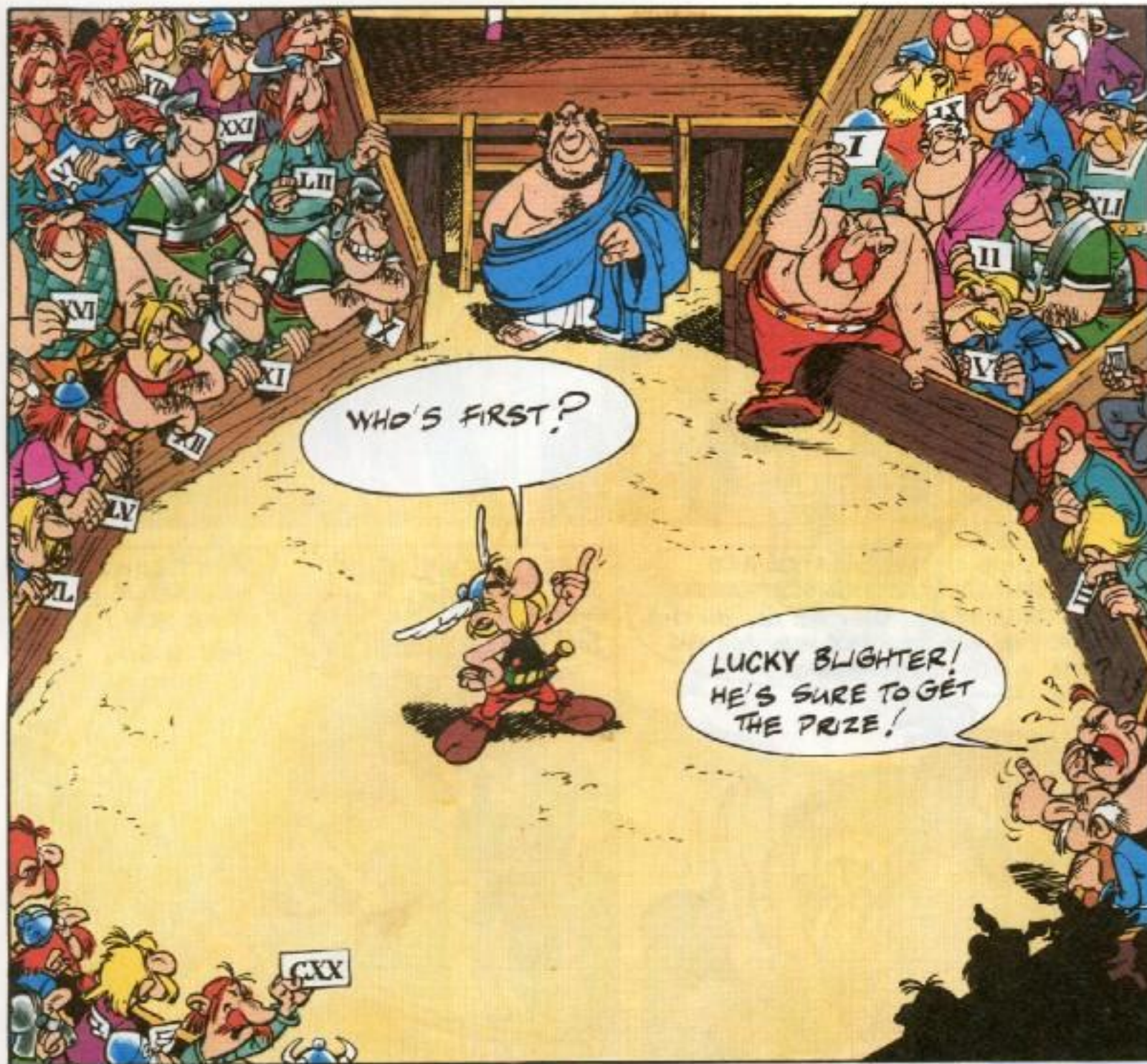
TO YOU, MY BOY,  
FIVE SESTERTII  
EACH!

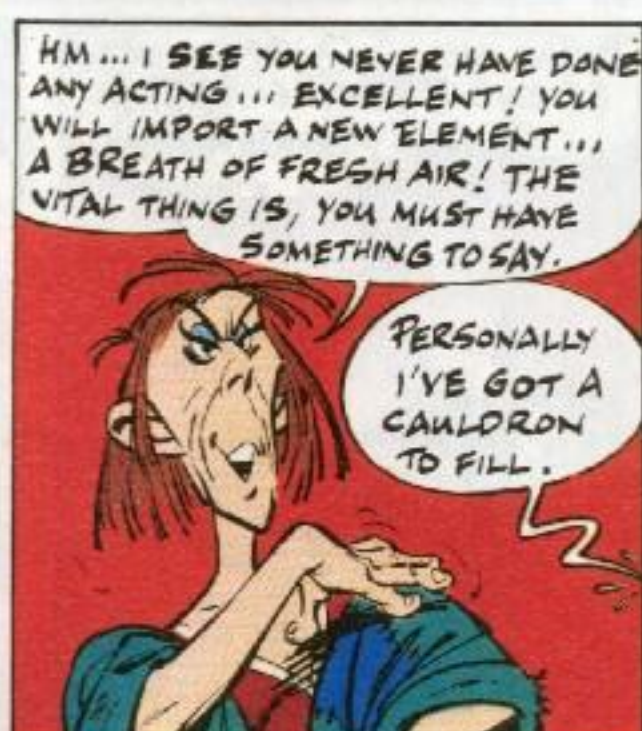
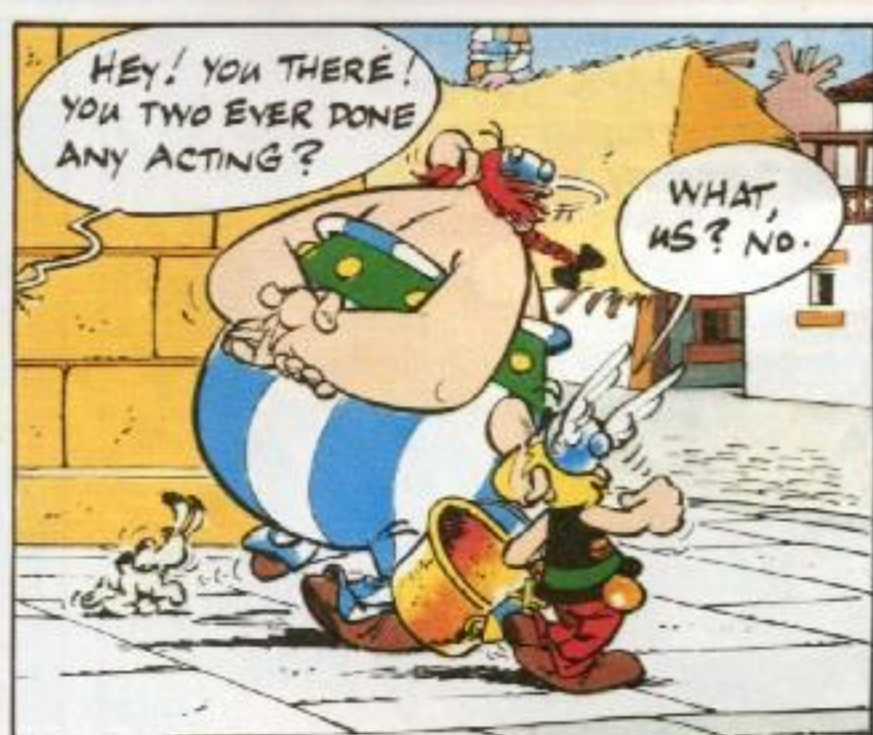
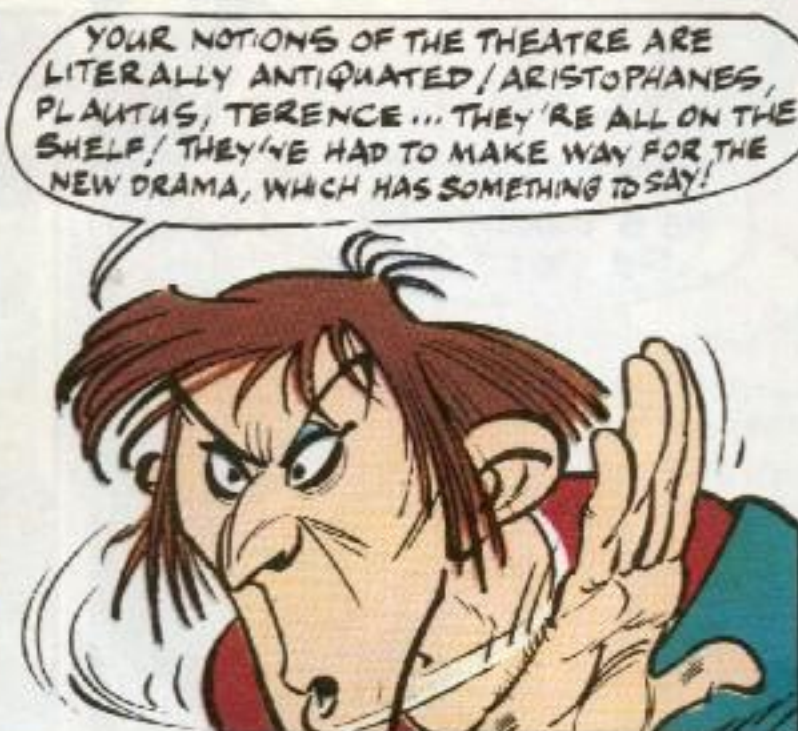
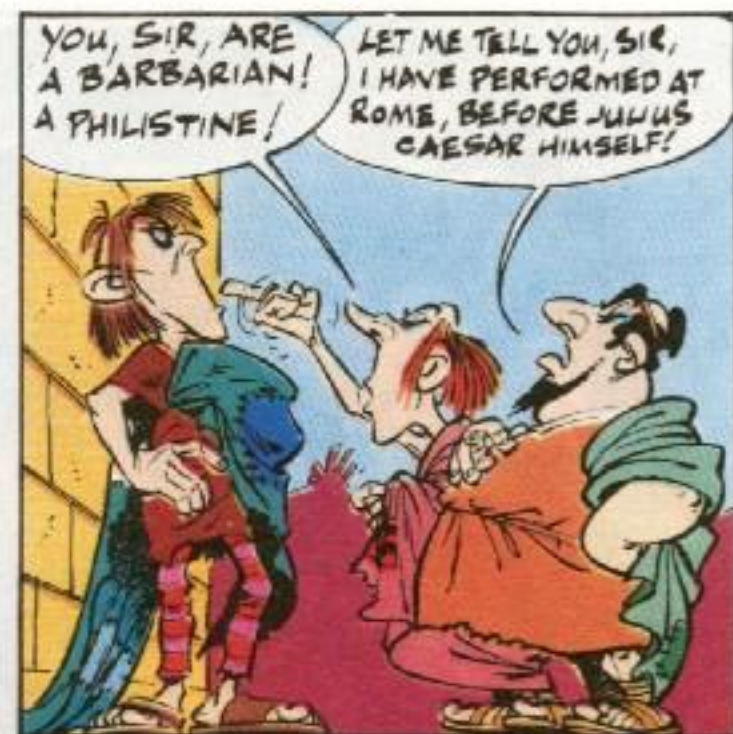
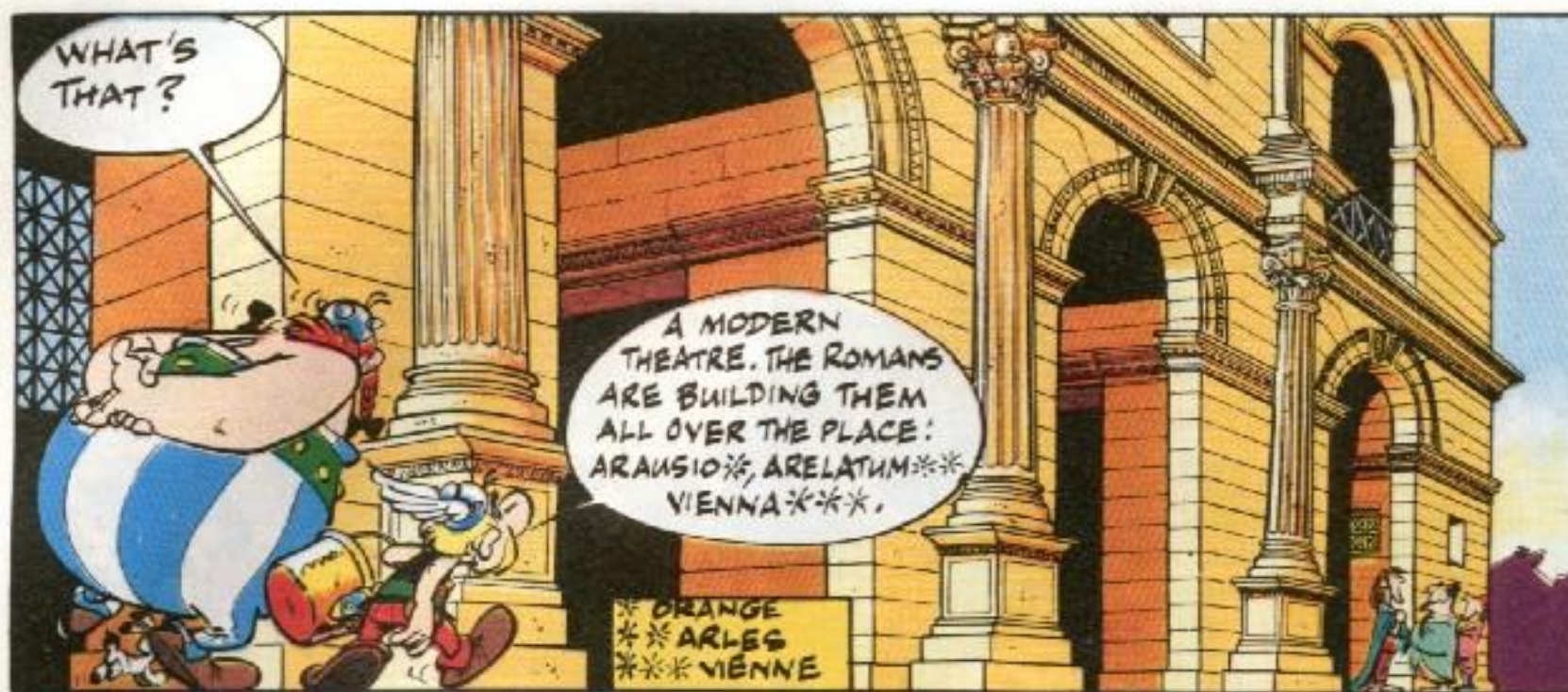


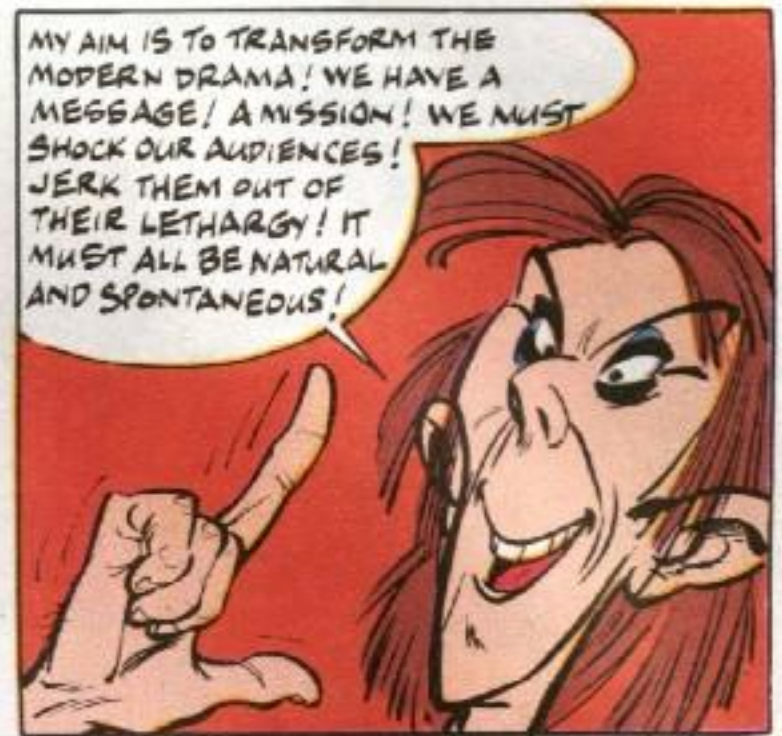
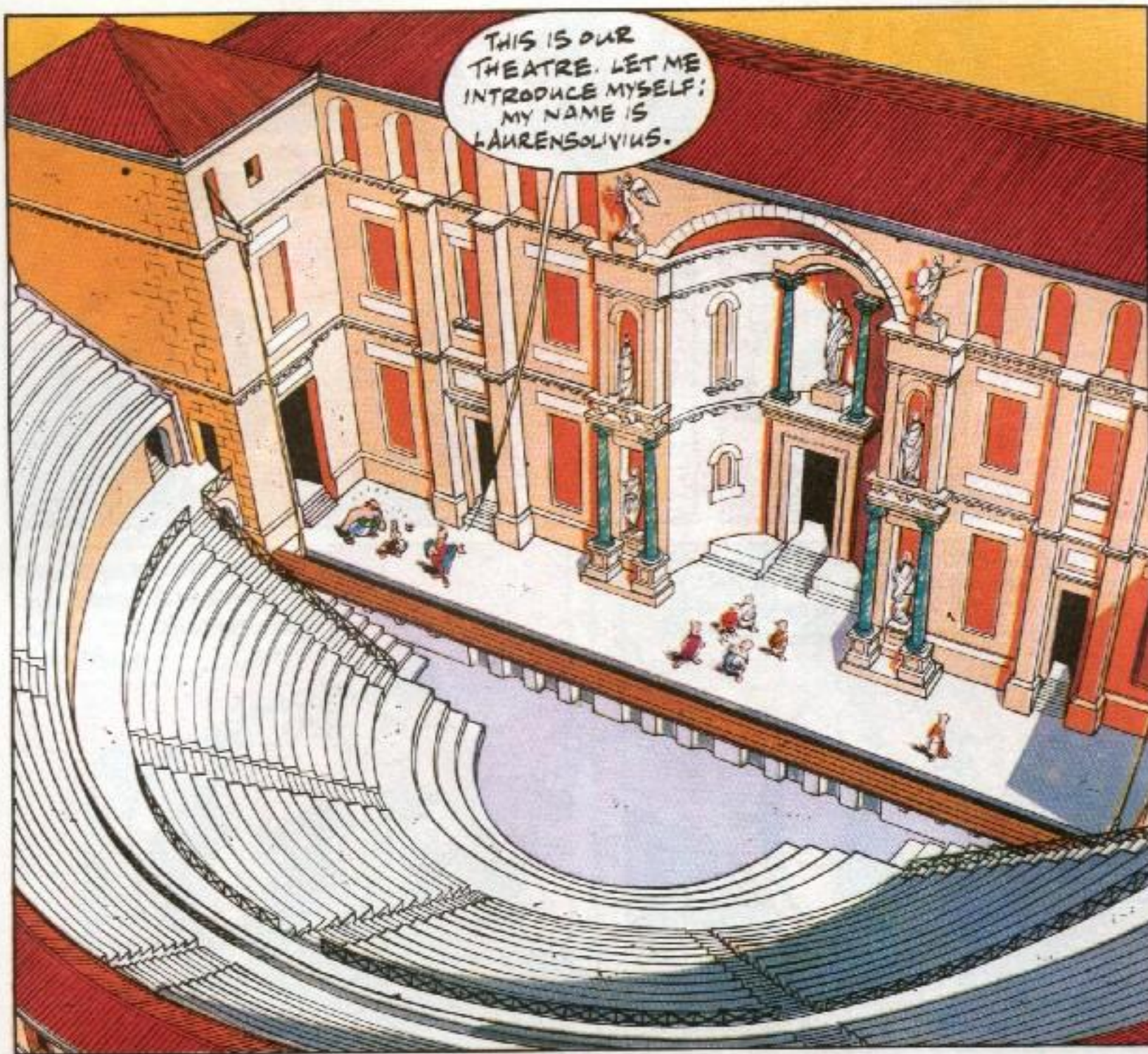












RIGHT. START AGAIN.



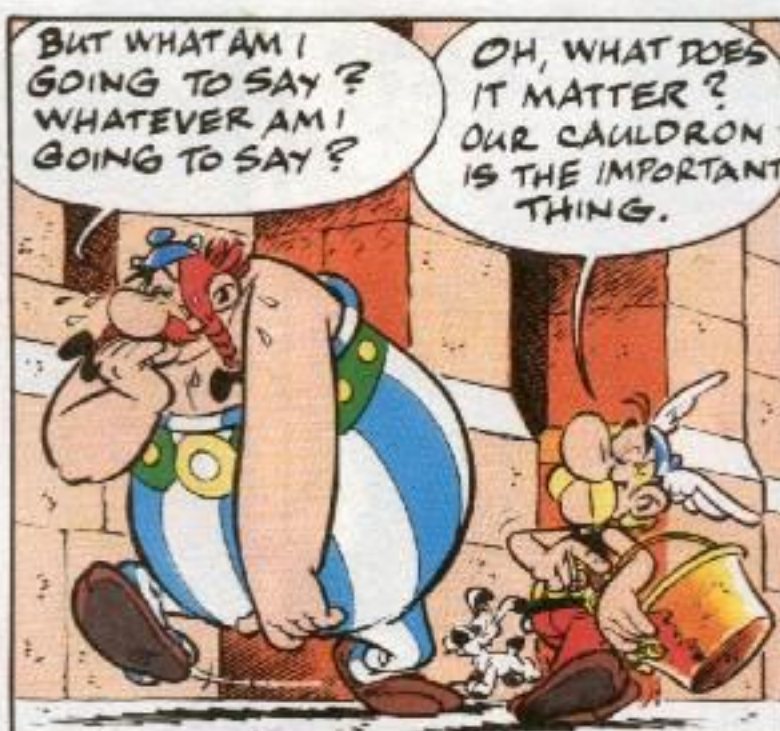
YOU FORGOT ONE "ORGIES," DUCKY!

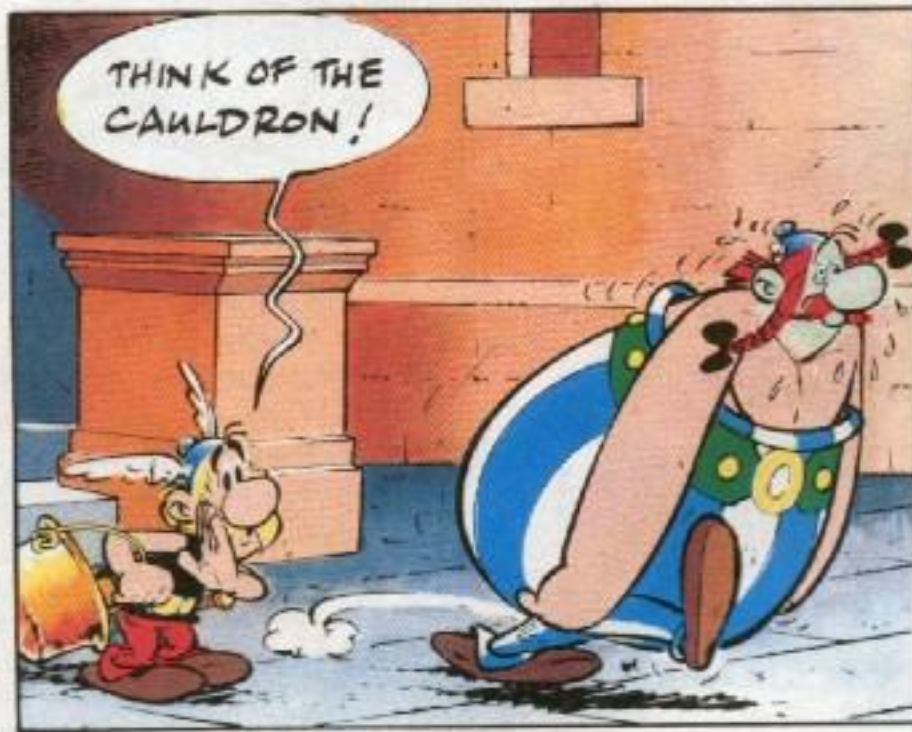
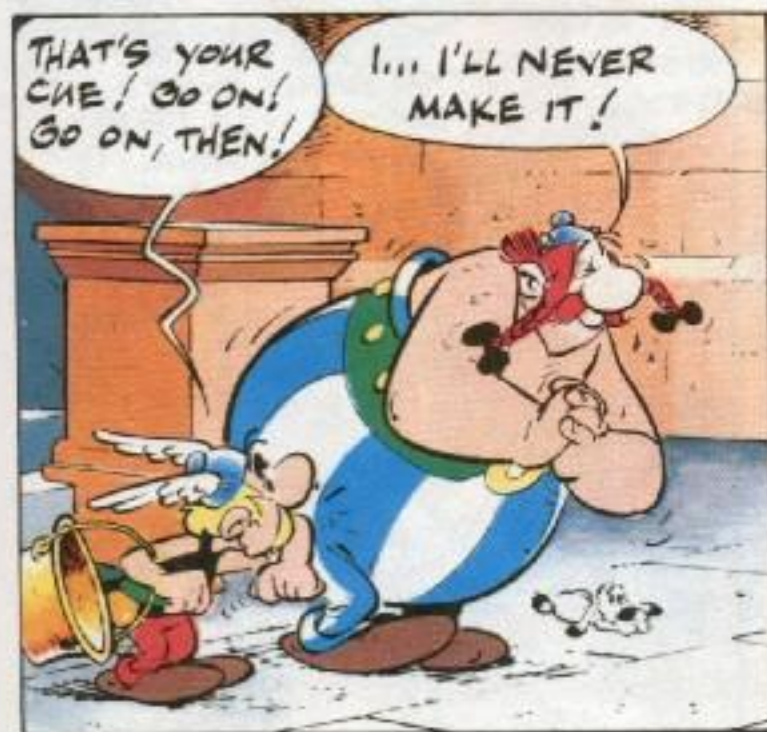
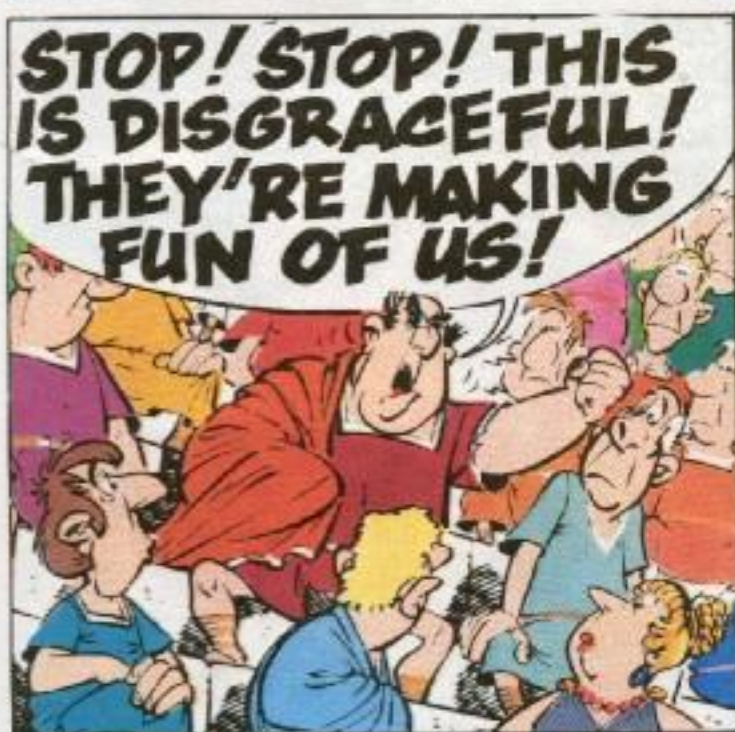
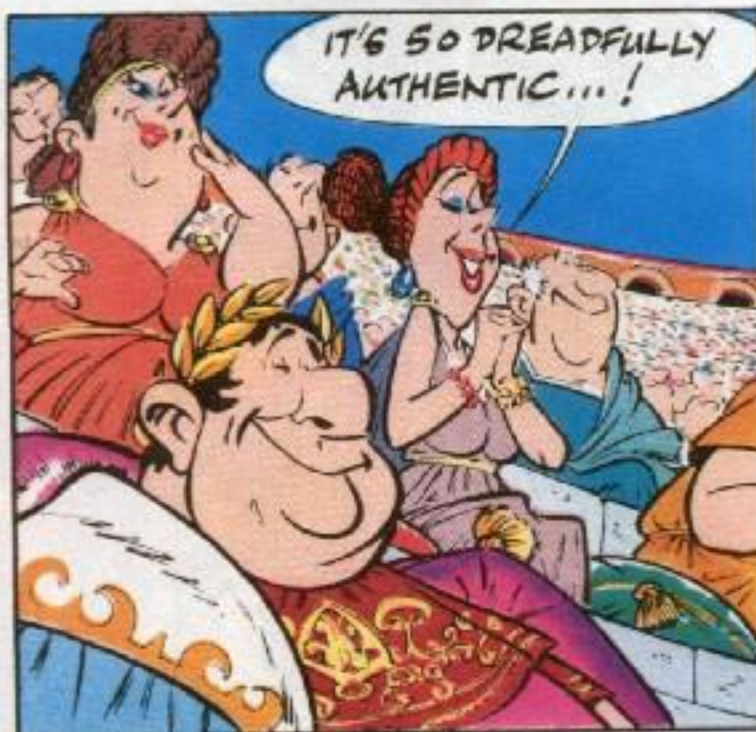


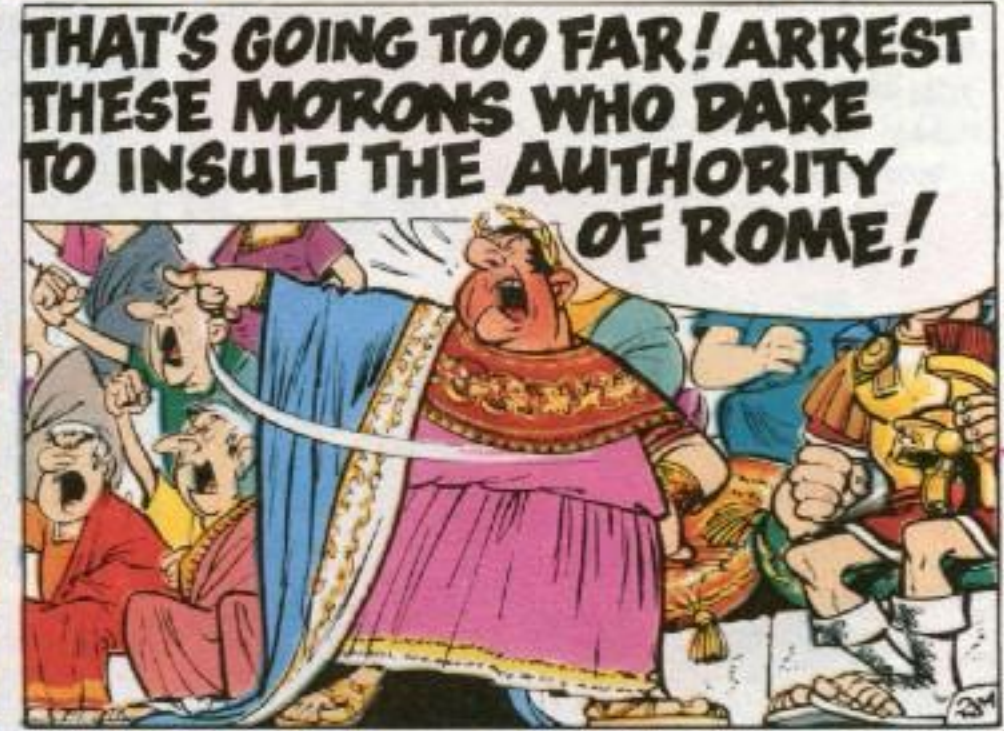
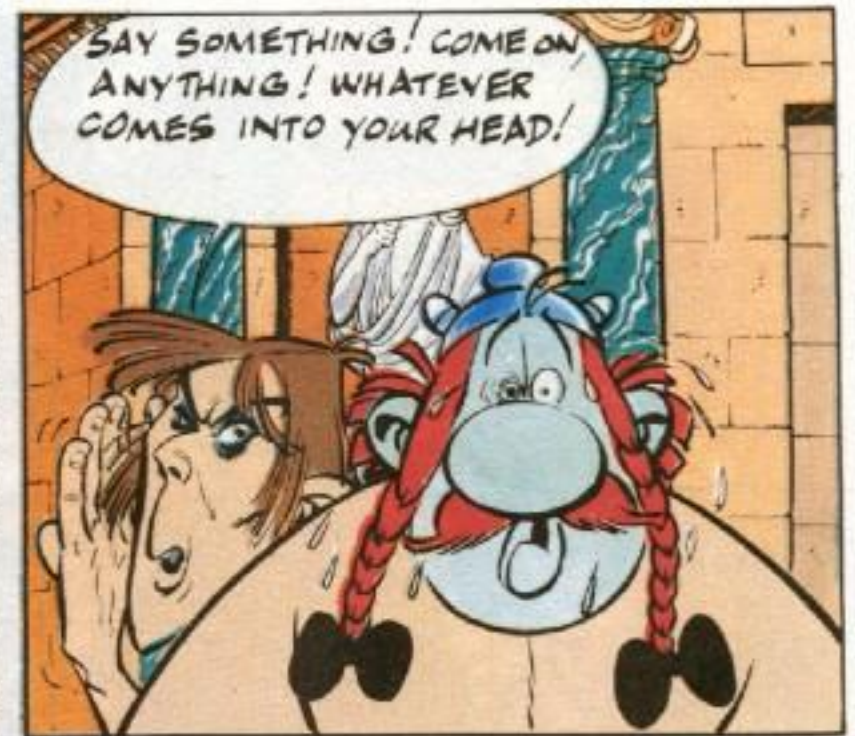
STOP! THIS IS DISGRACEFUL! THEY'RE MAKING FUN OF US!

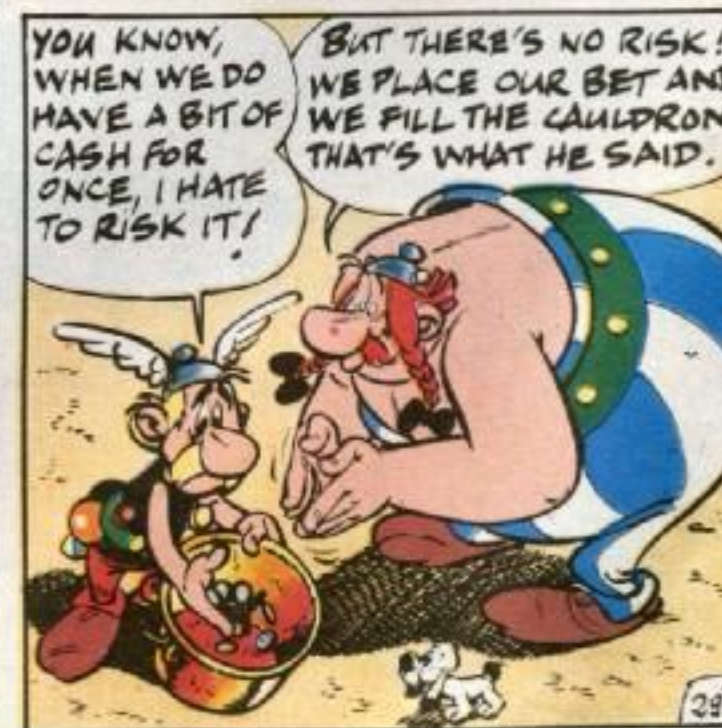
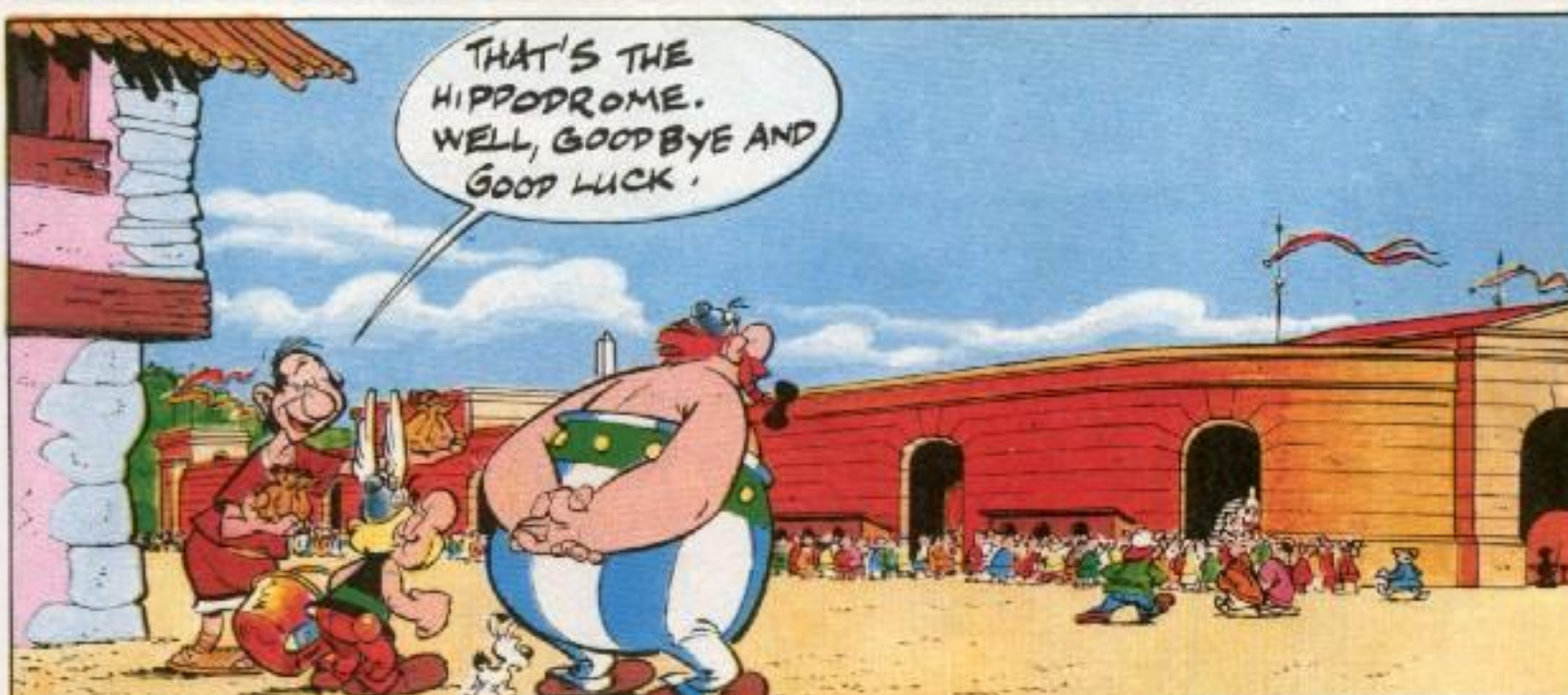
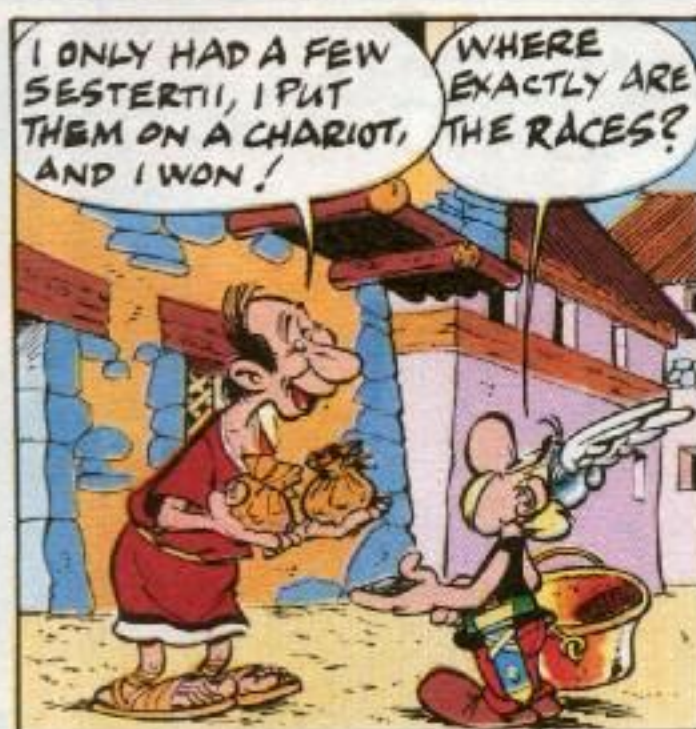
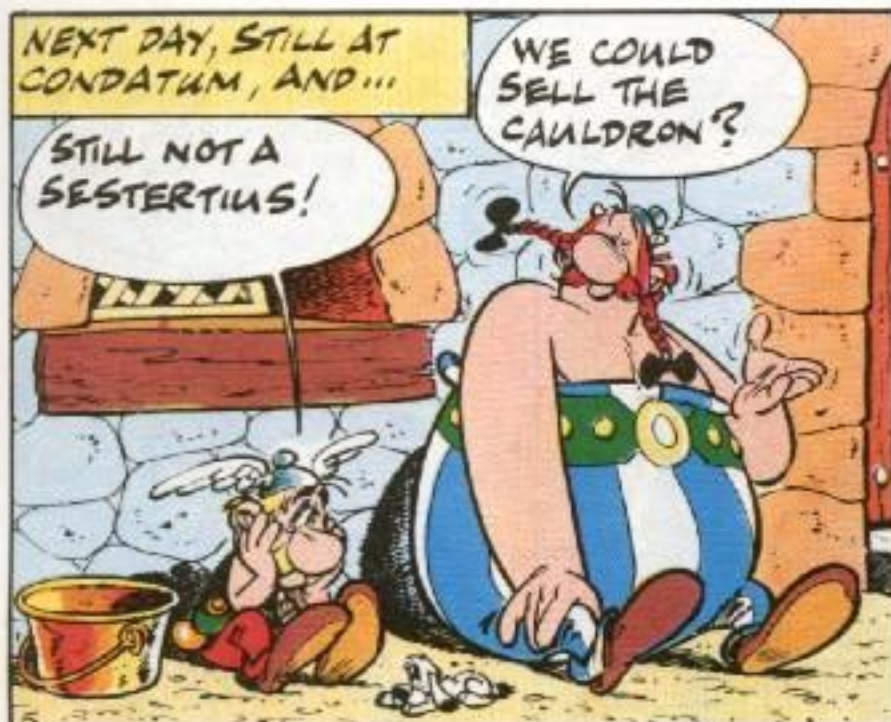


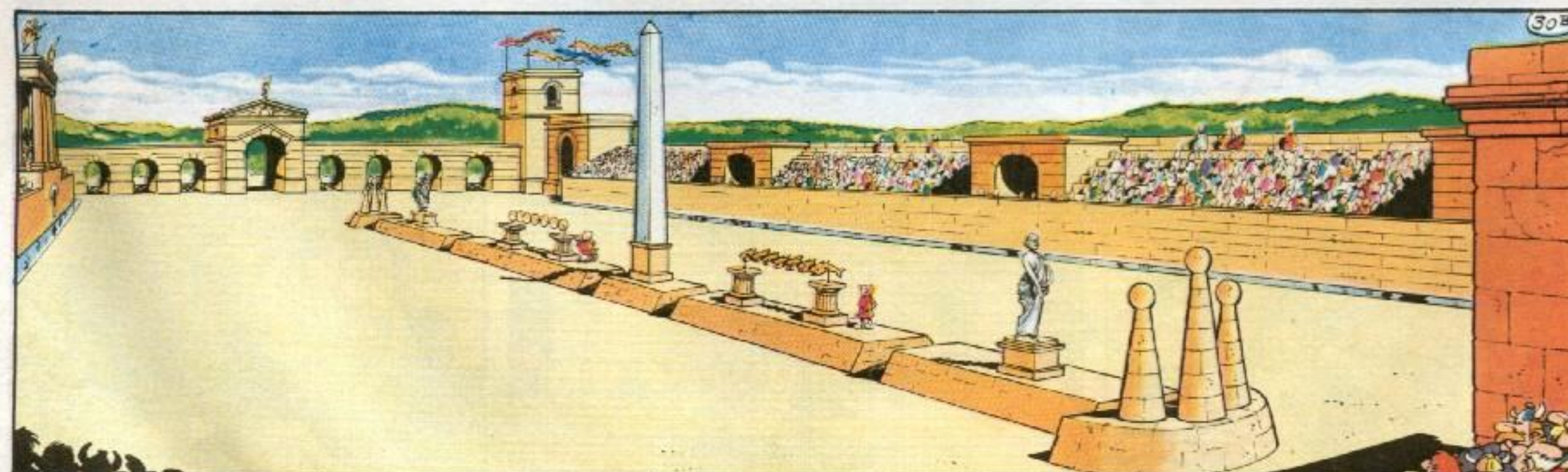
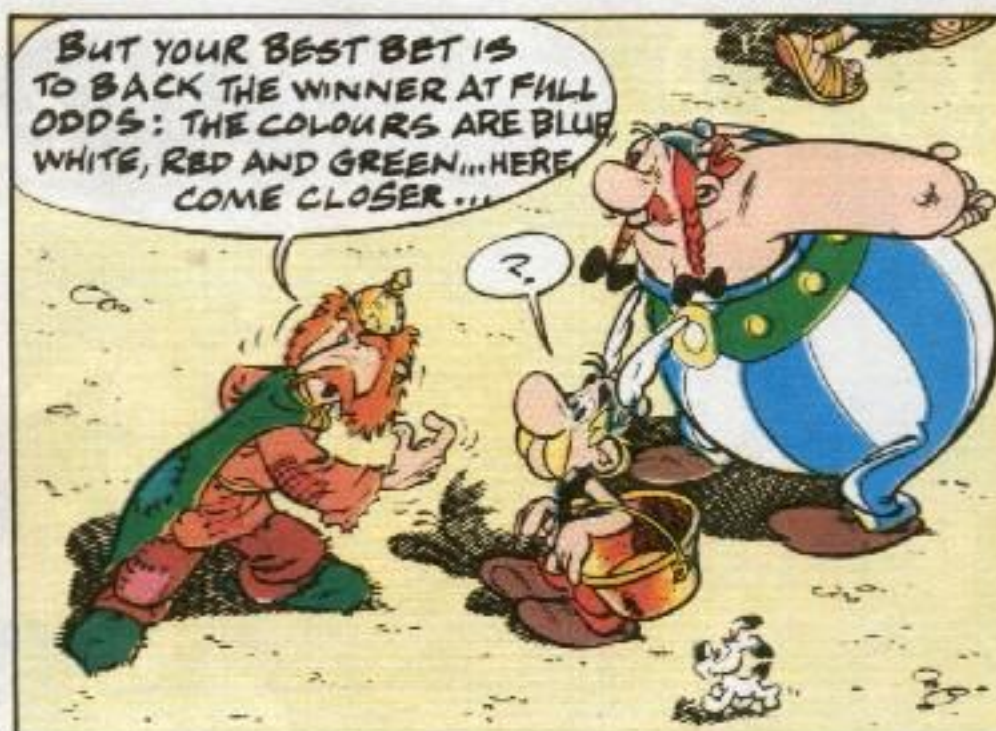
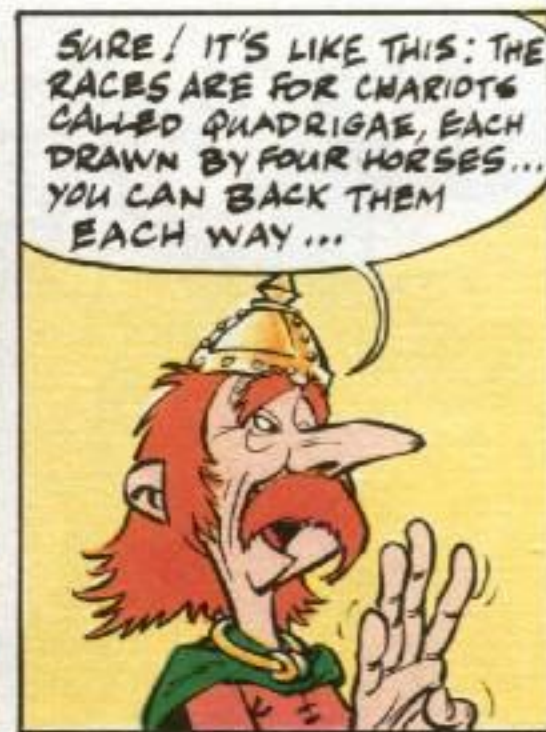
NO, IT MIGHT NOT! THAT WOULD LOOK VULGAR!

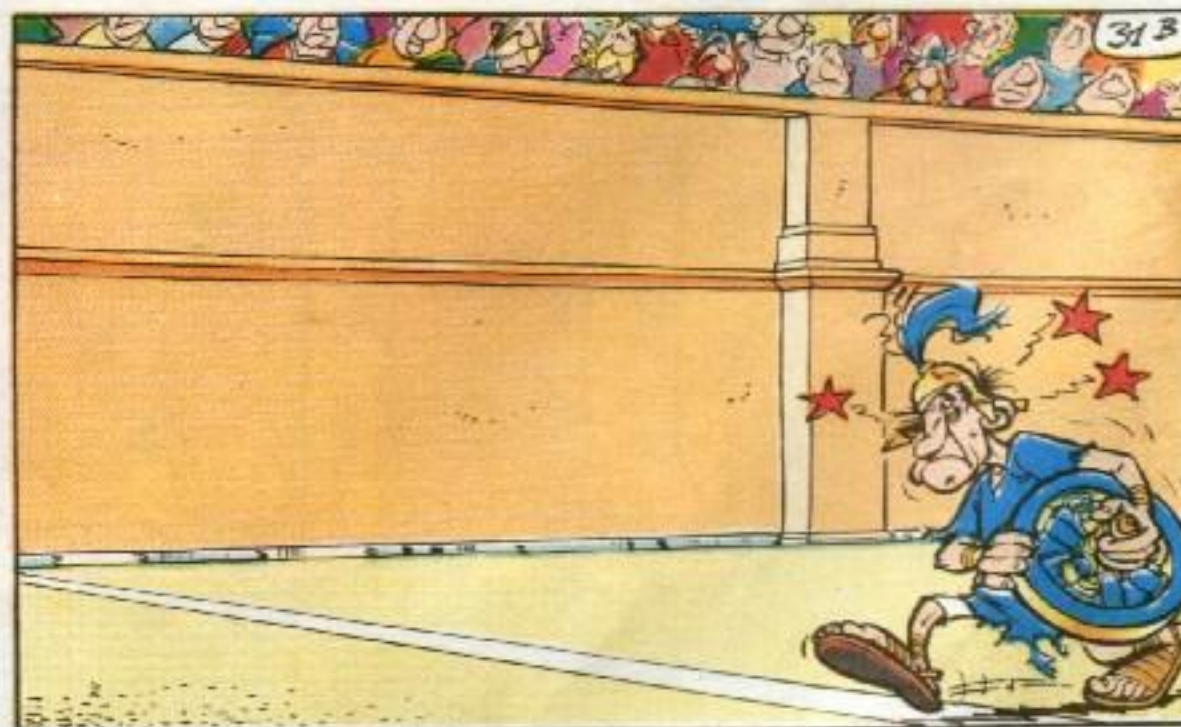
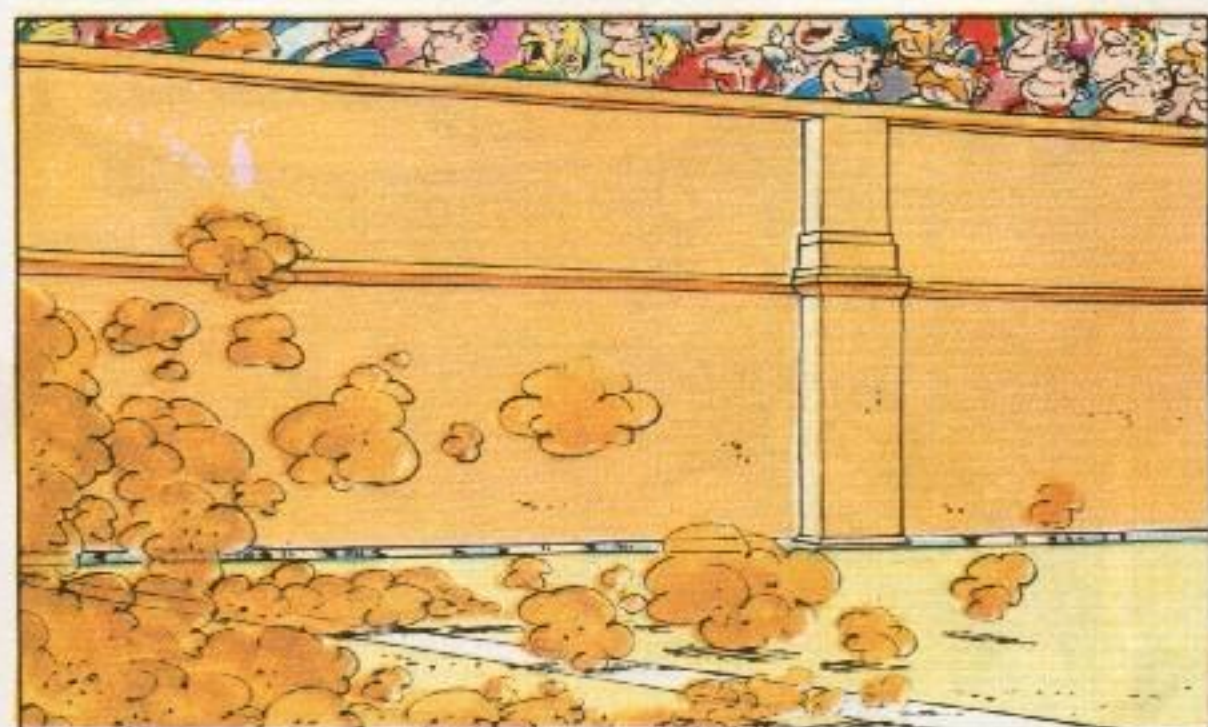
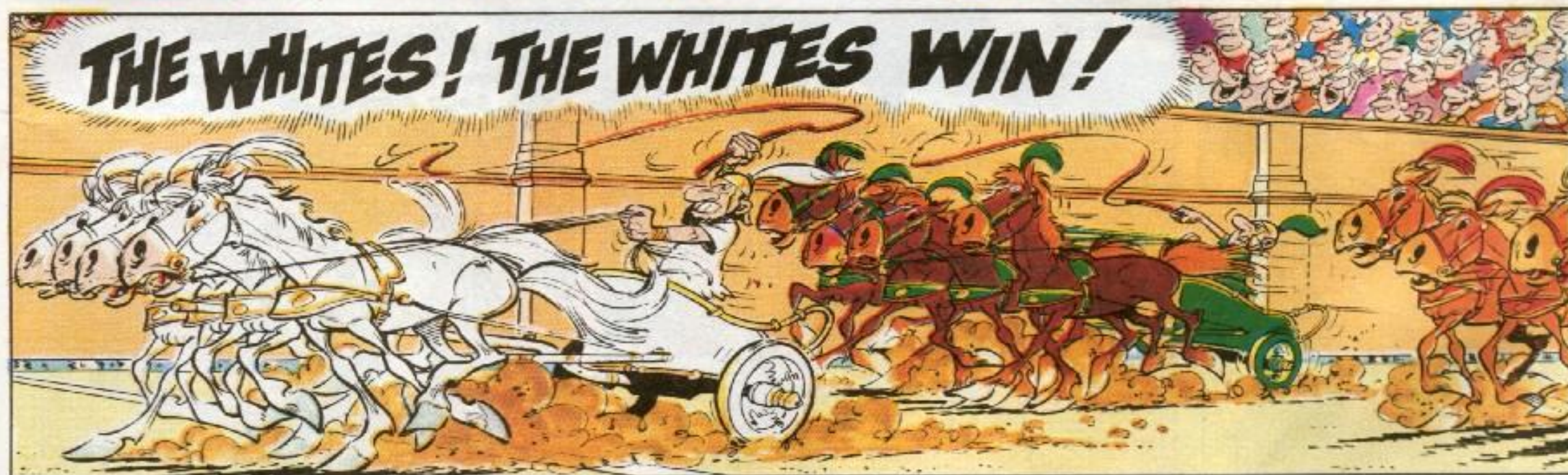


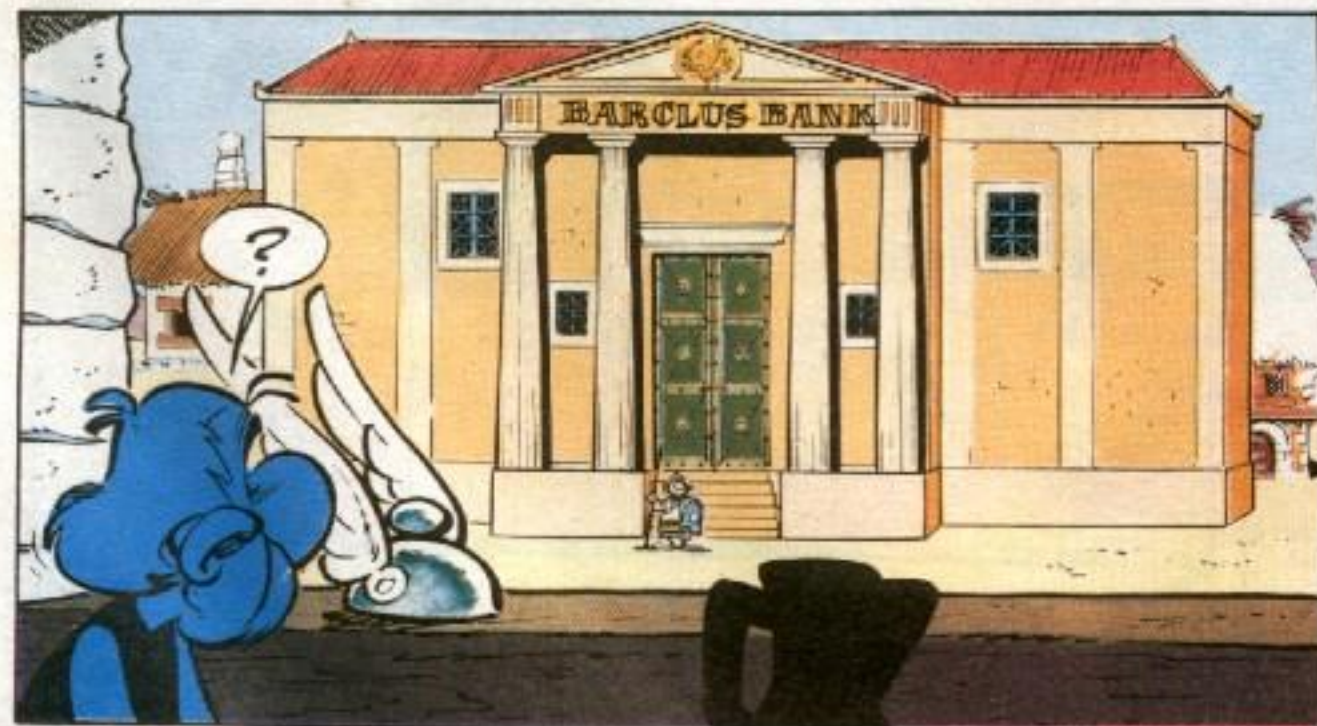
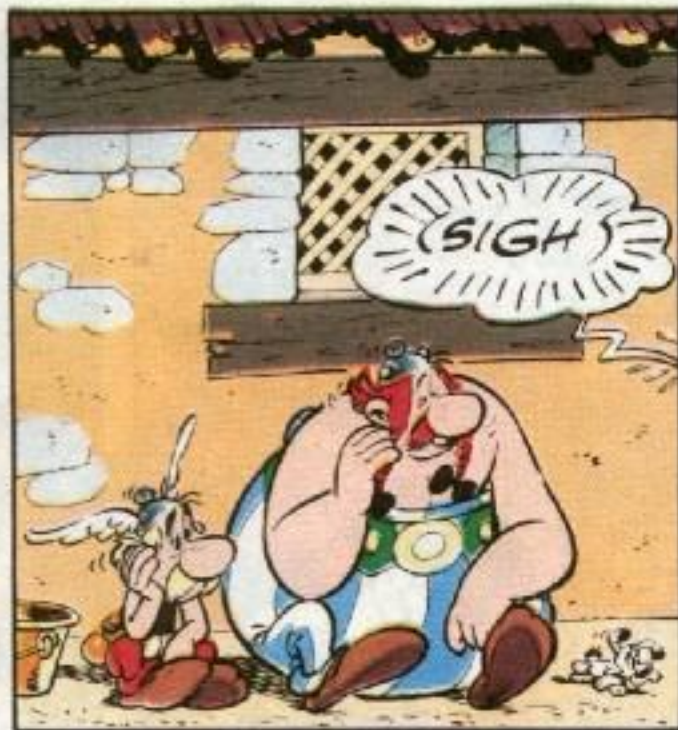


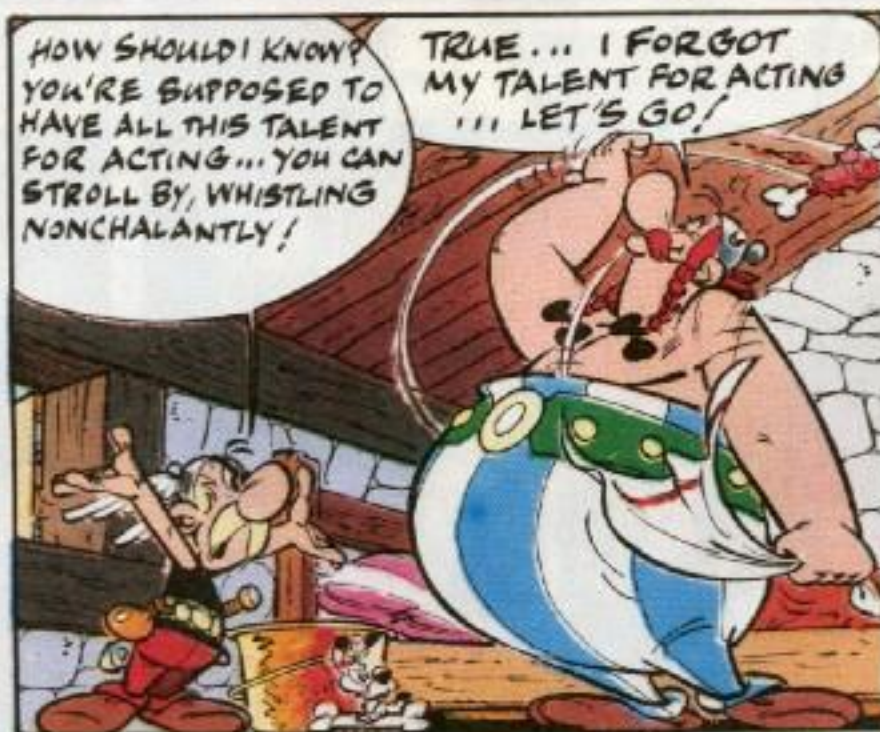
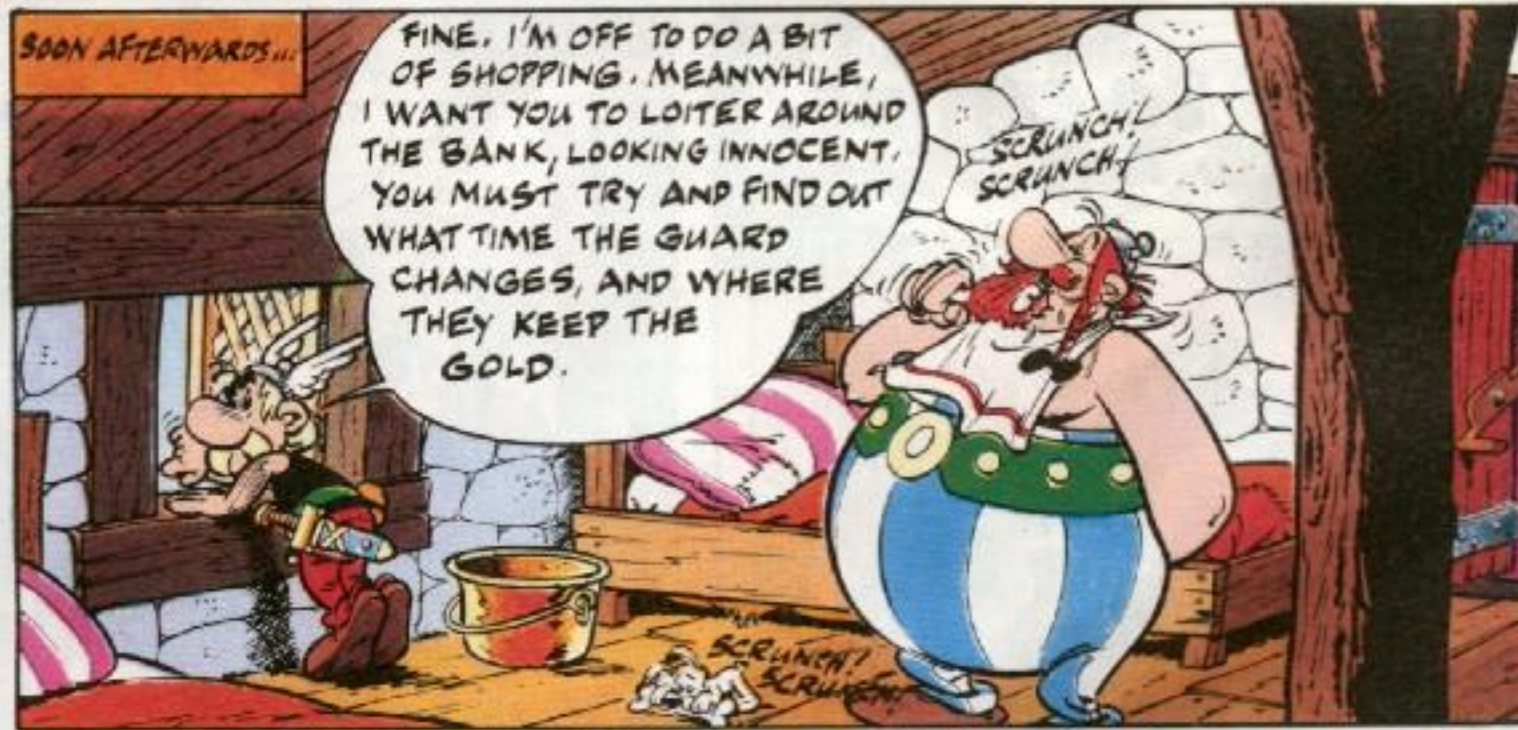
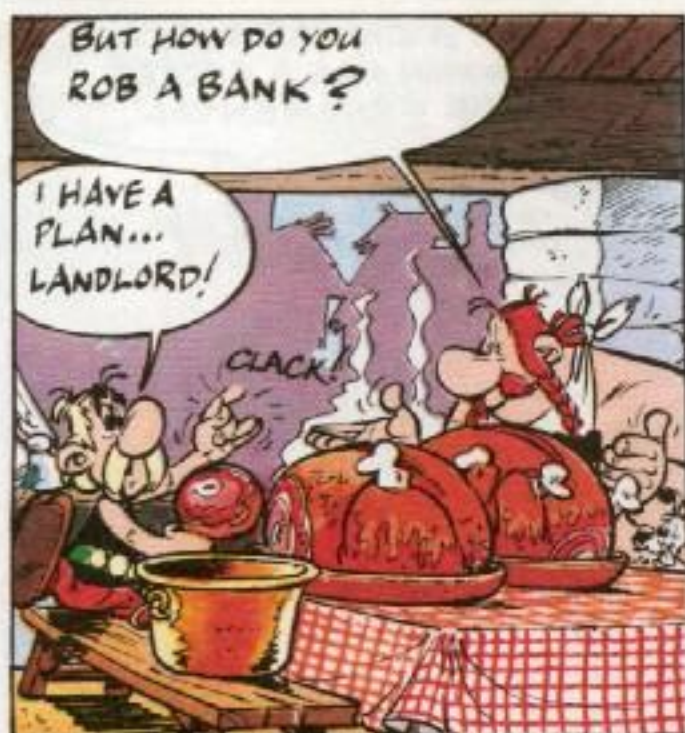
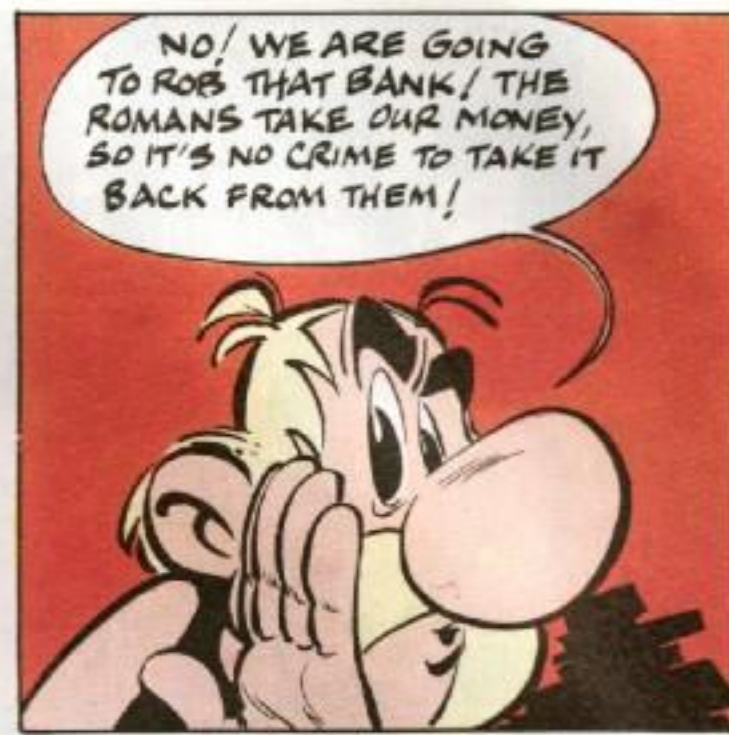
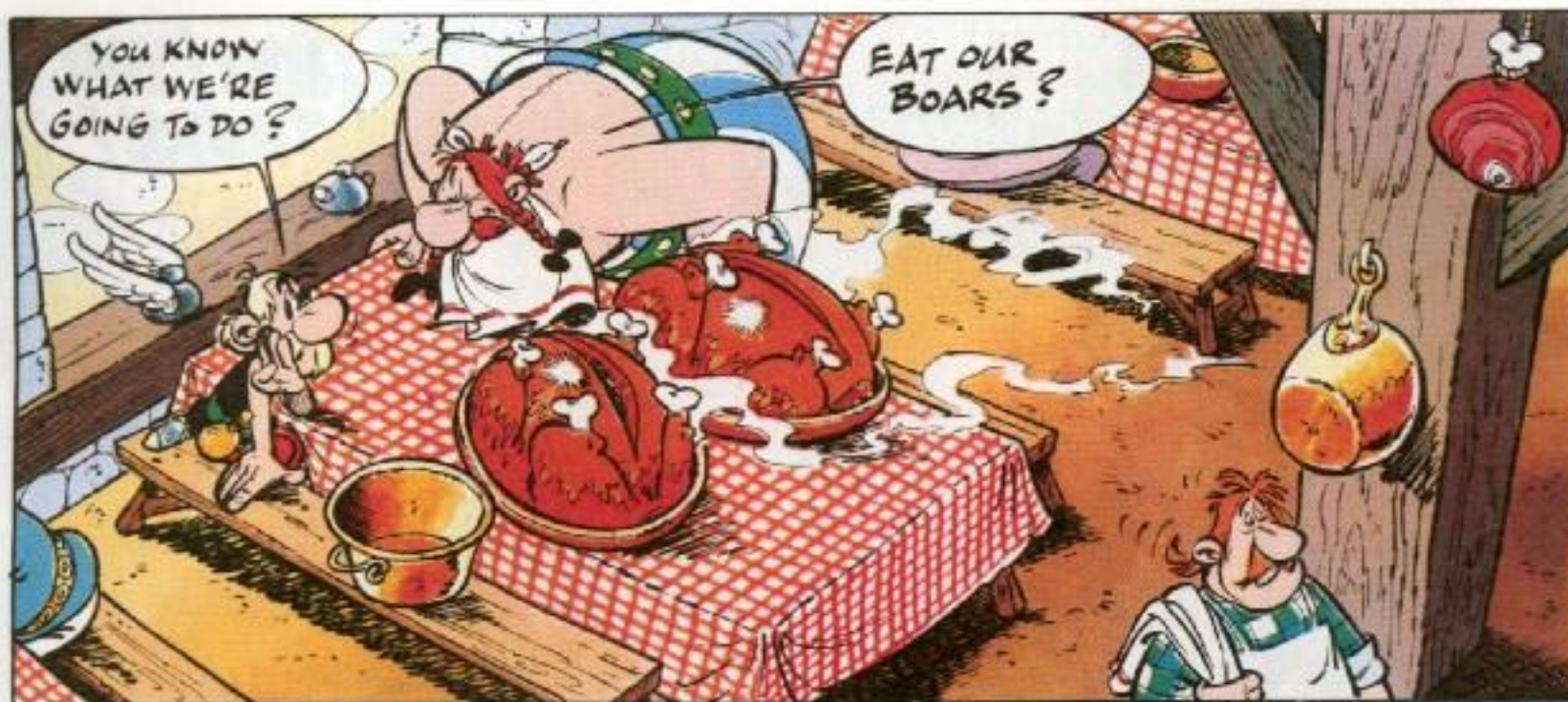


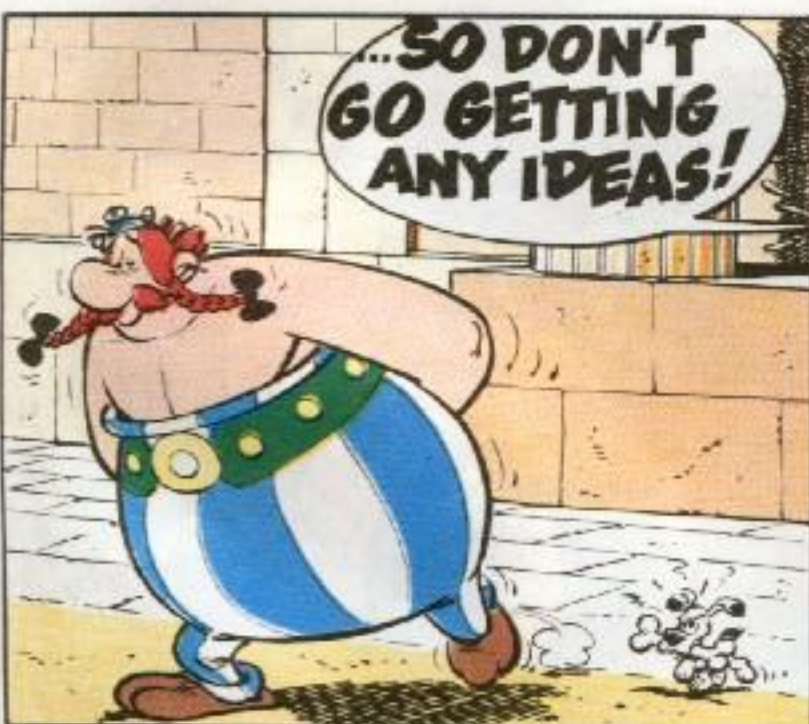
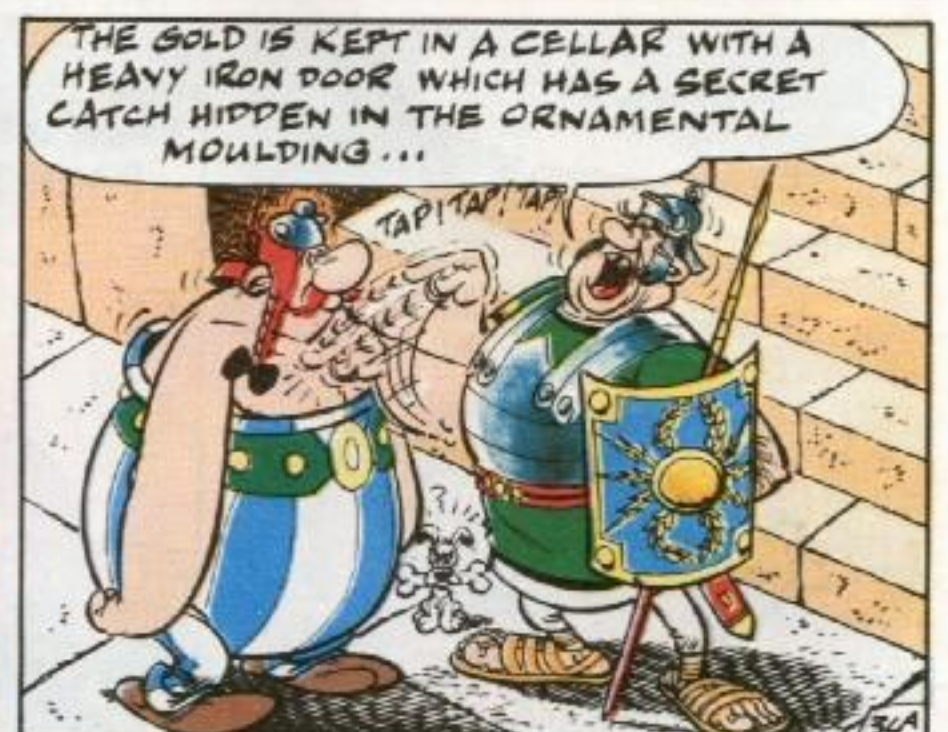
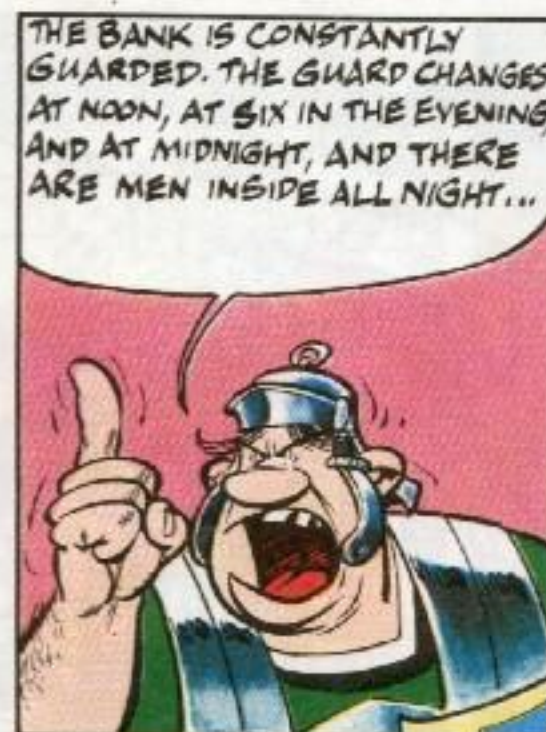
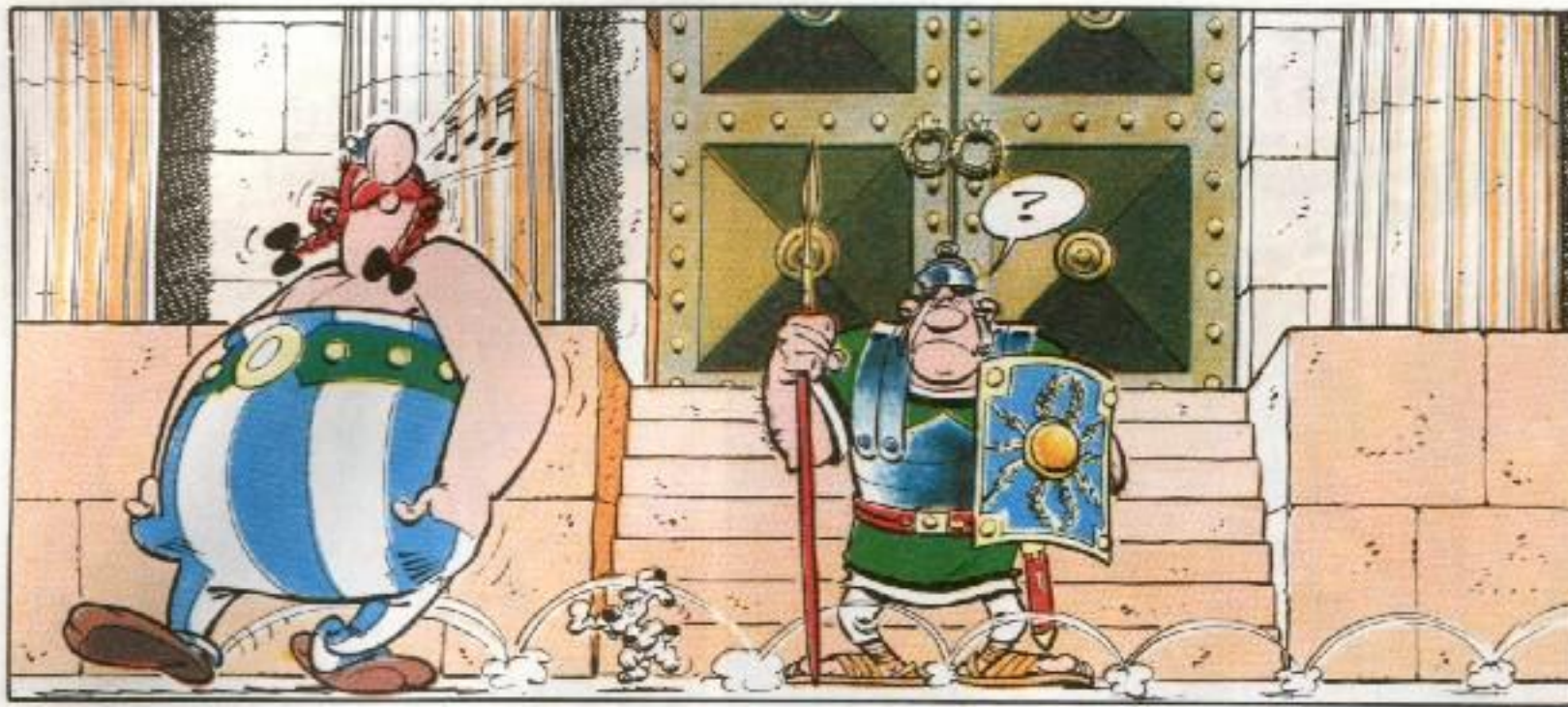


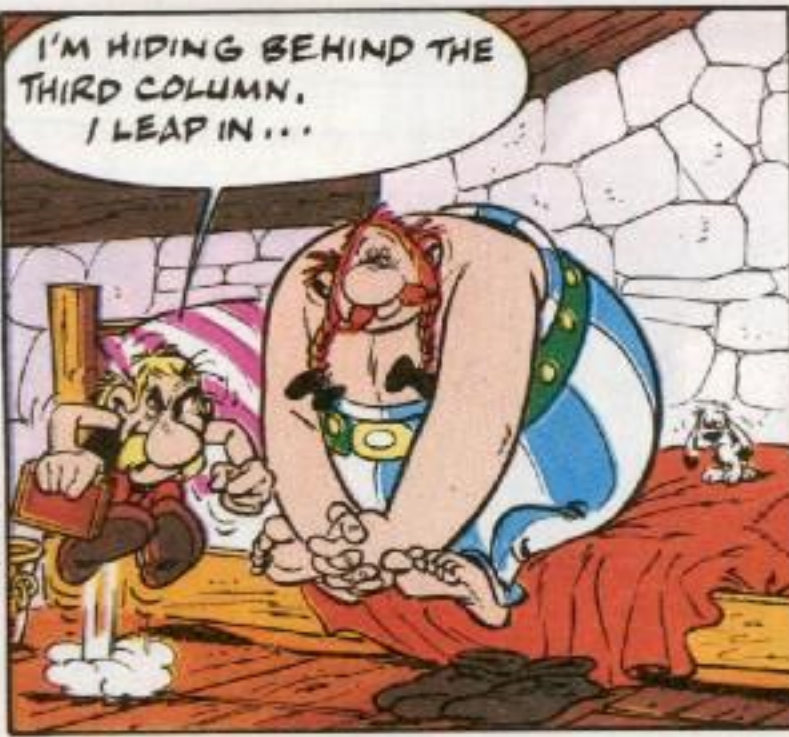
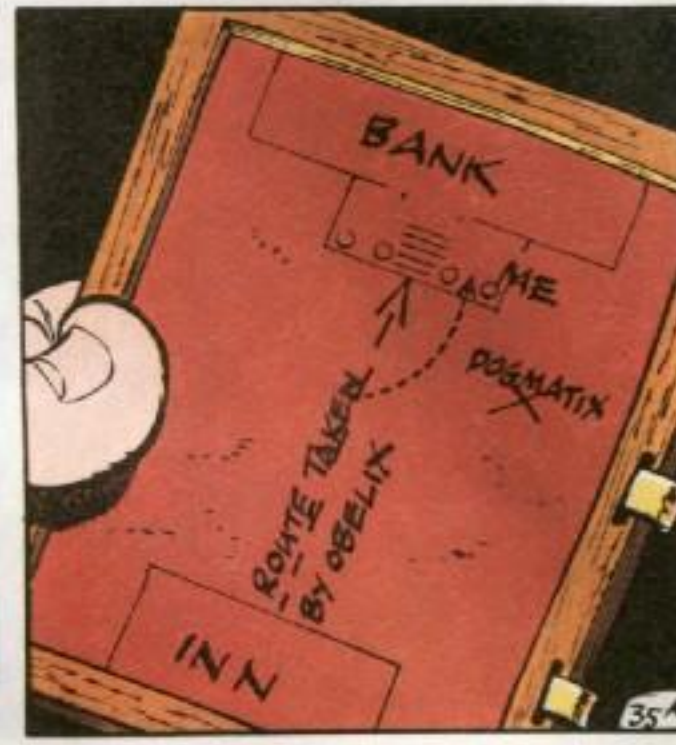
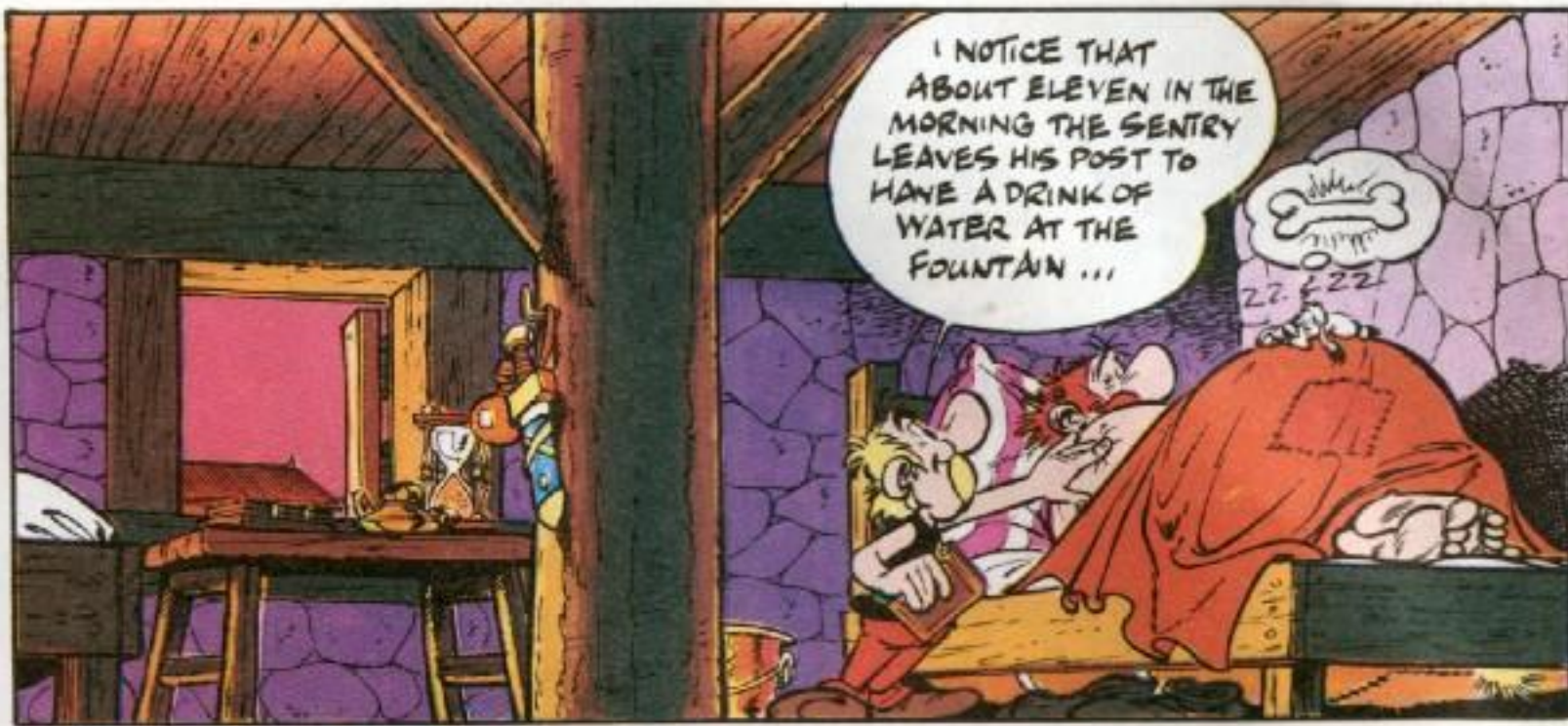


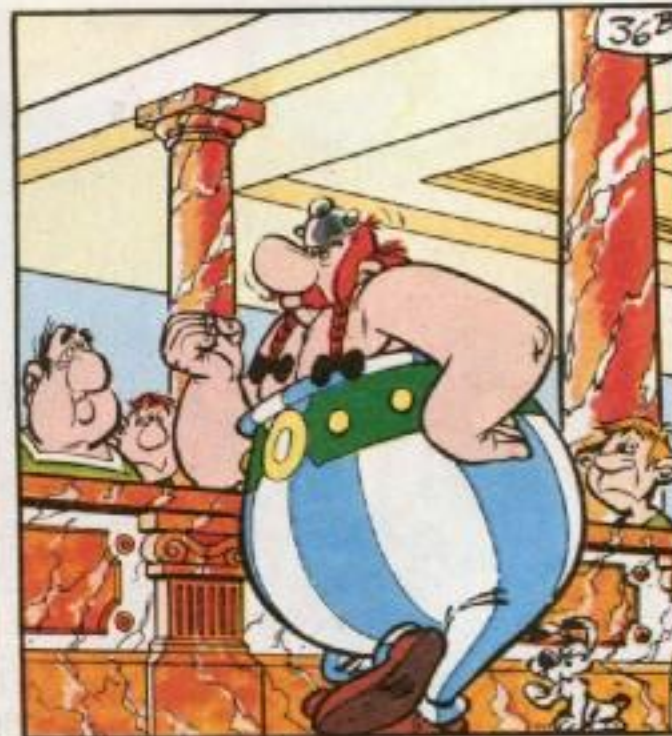
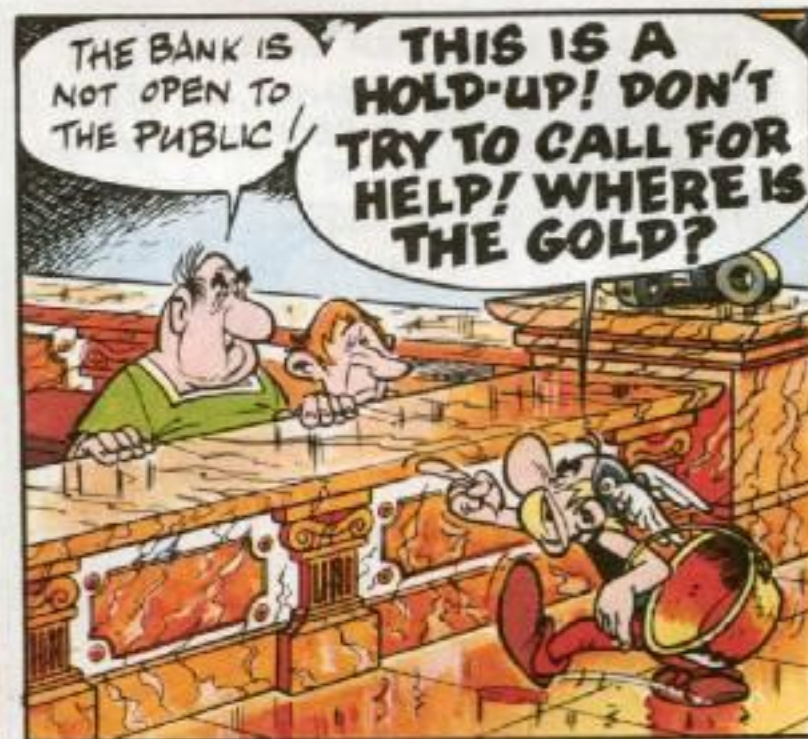
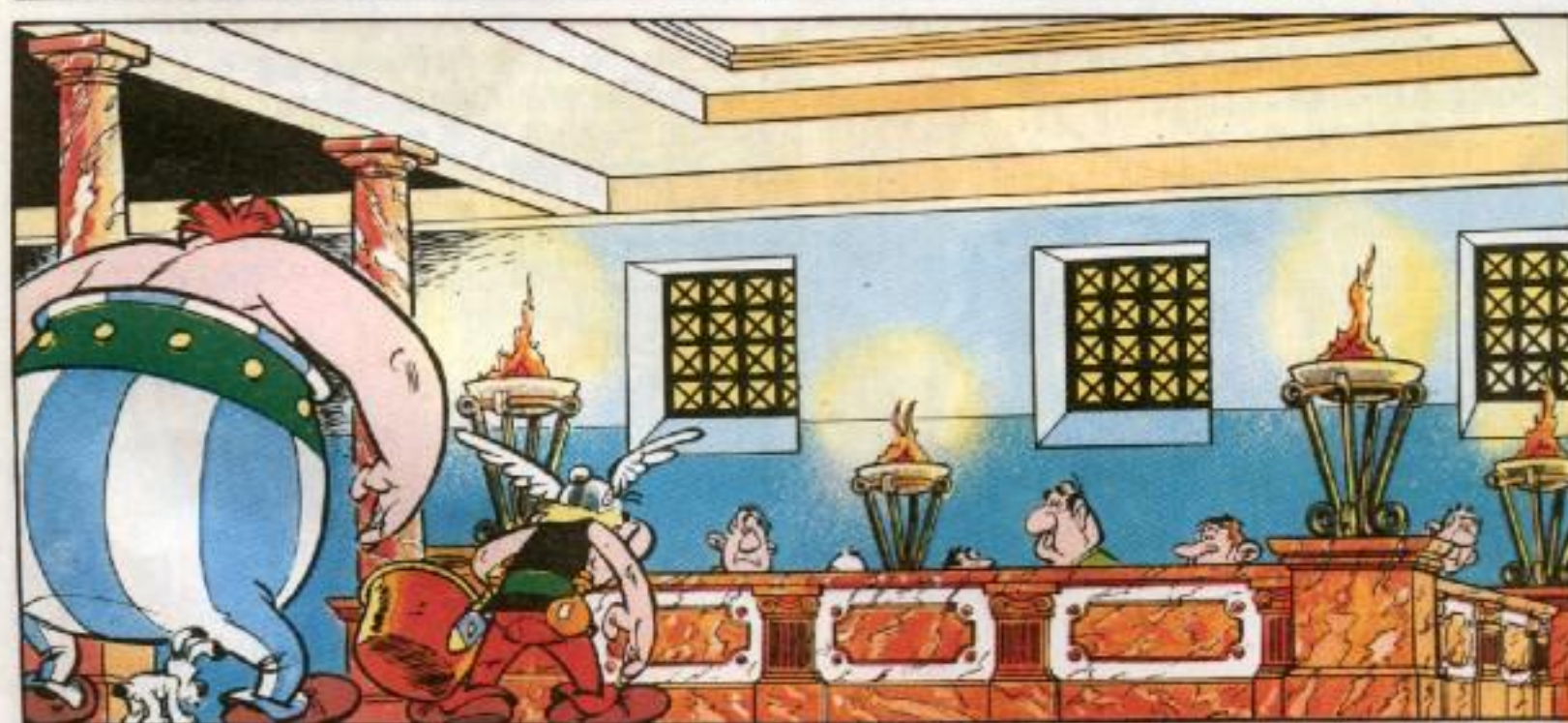
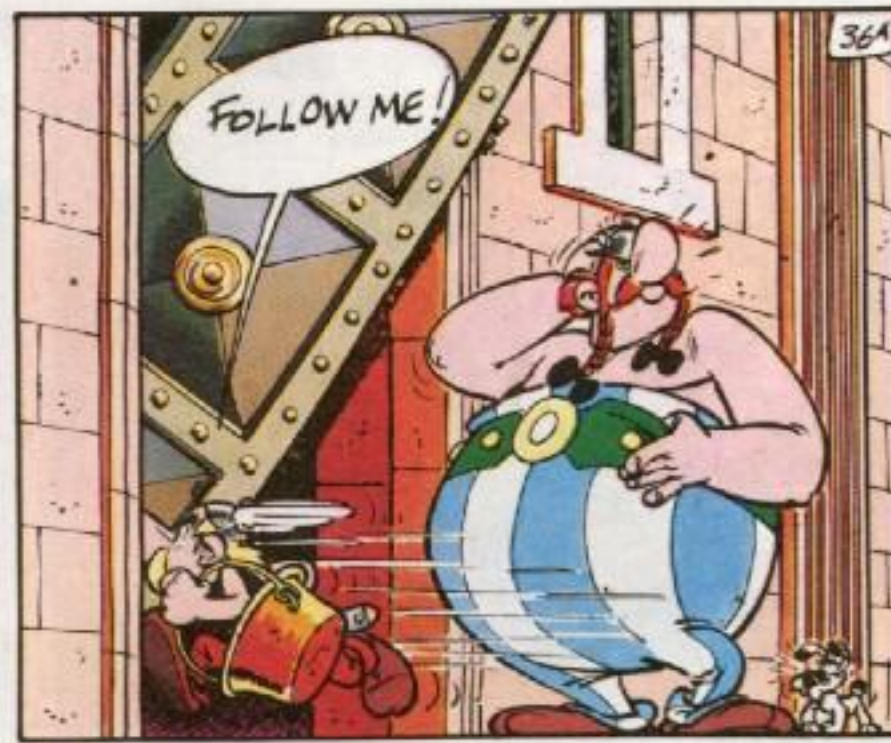
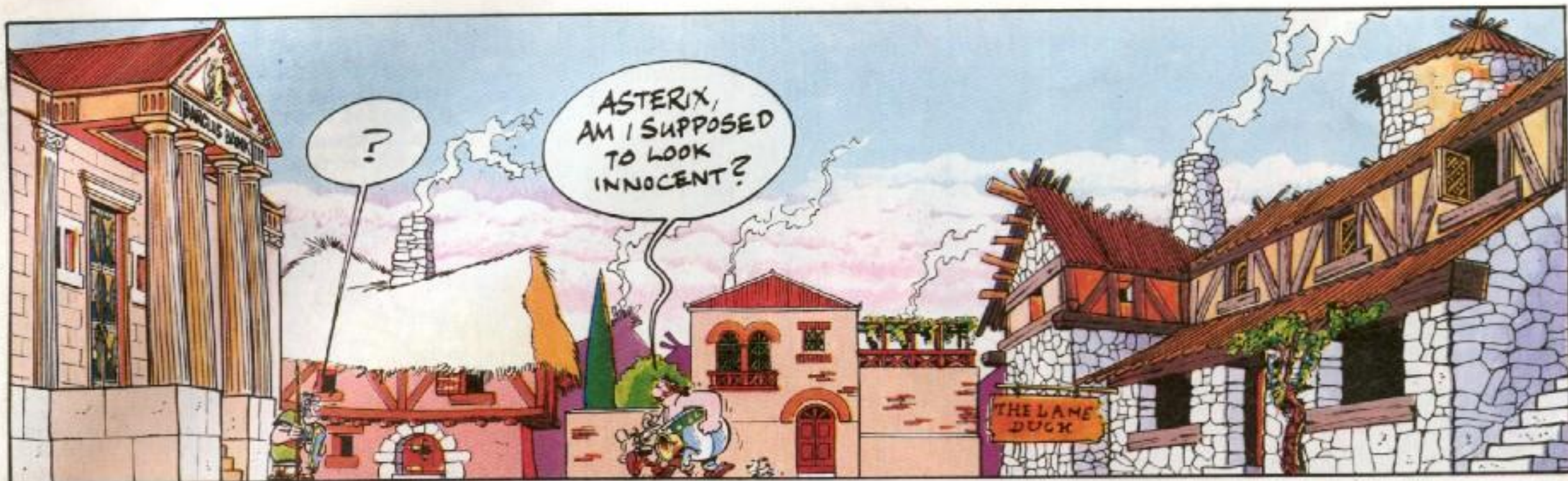


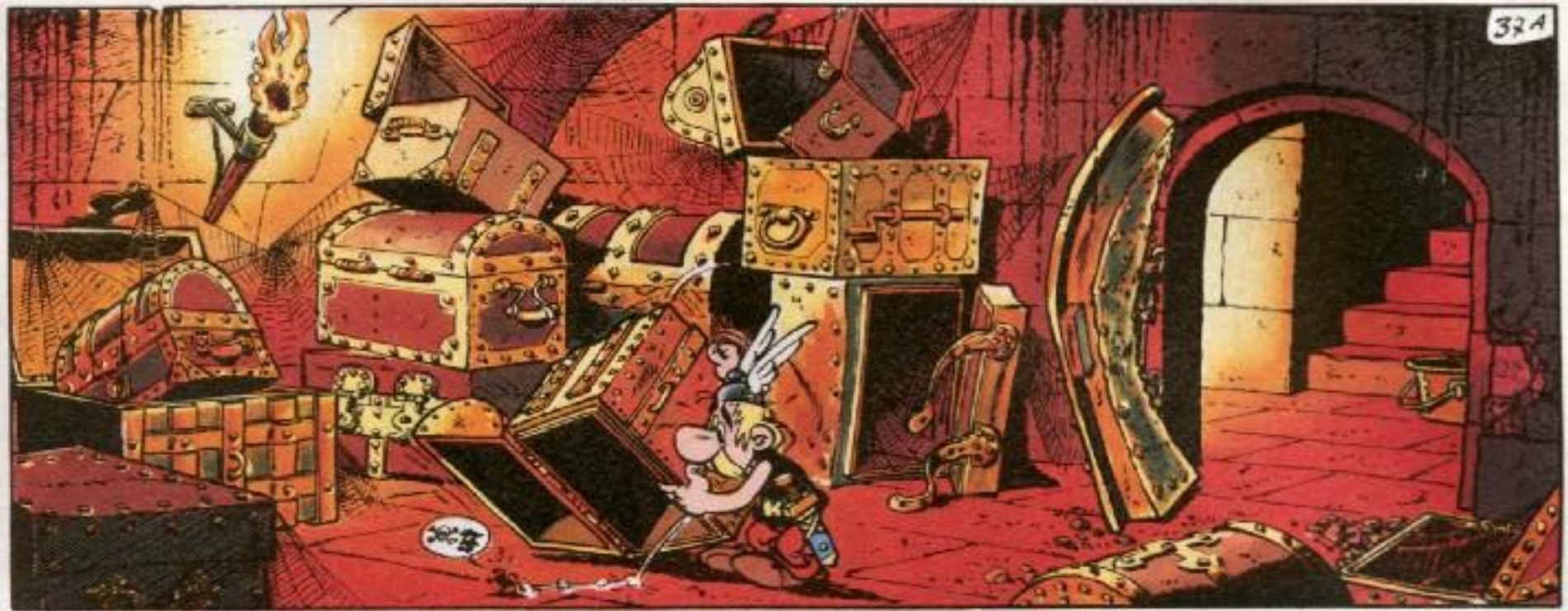
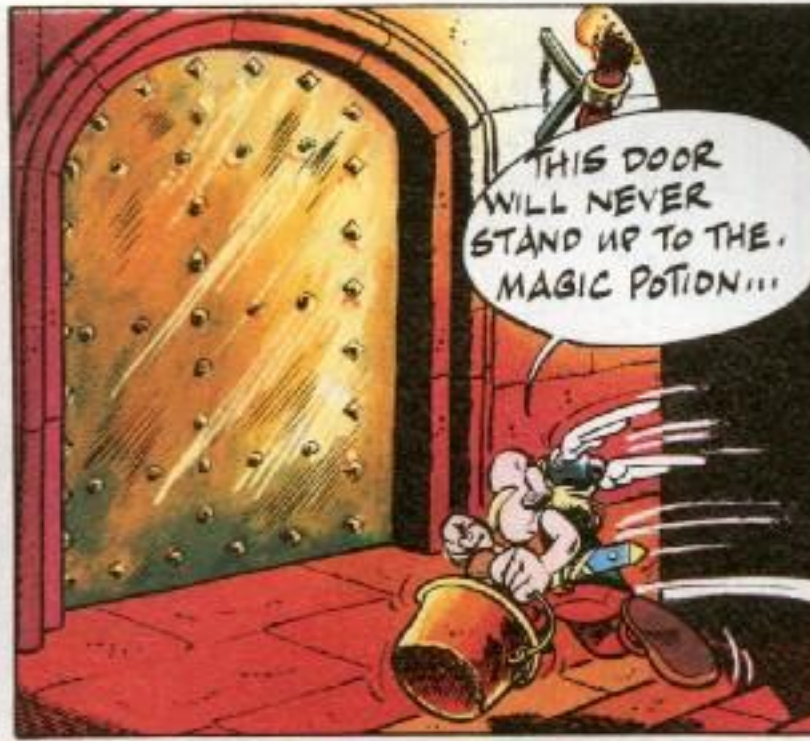
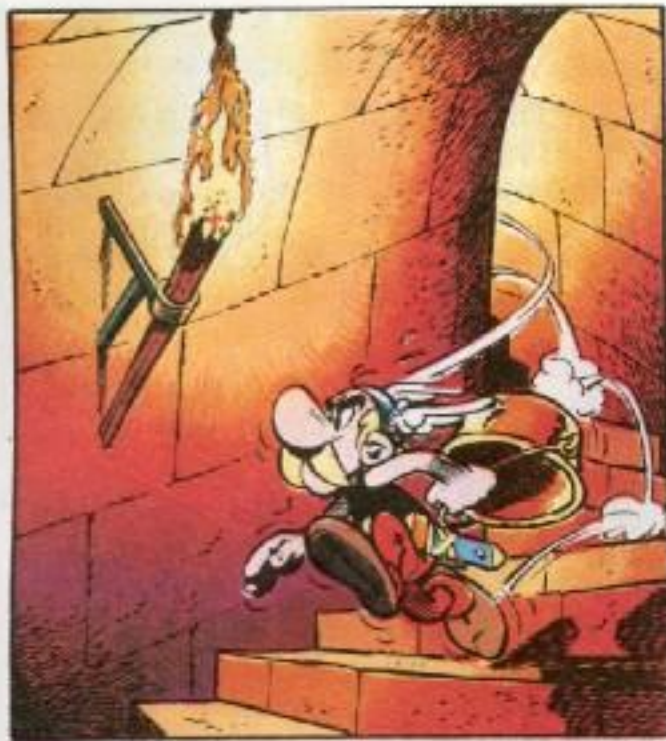


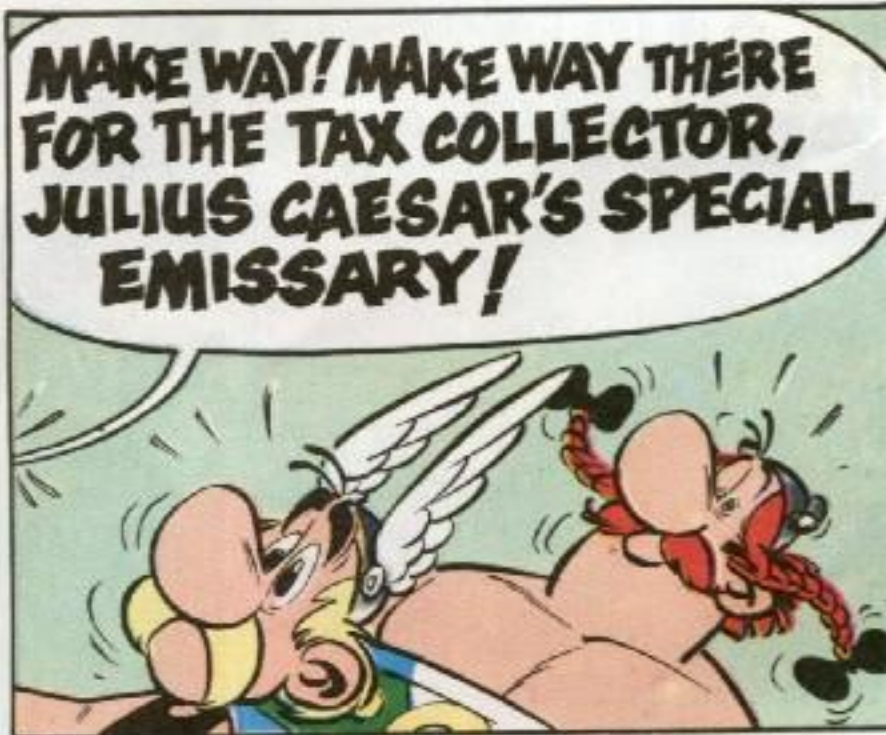
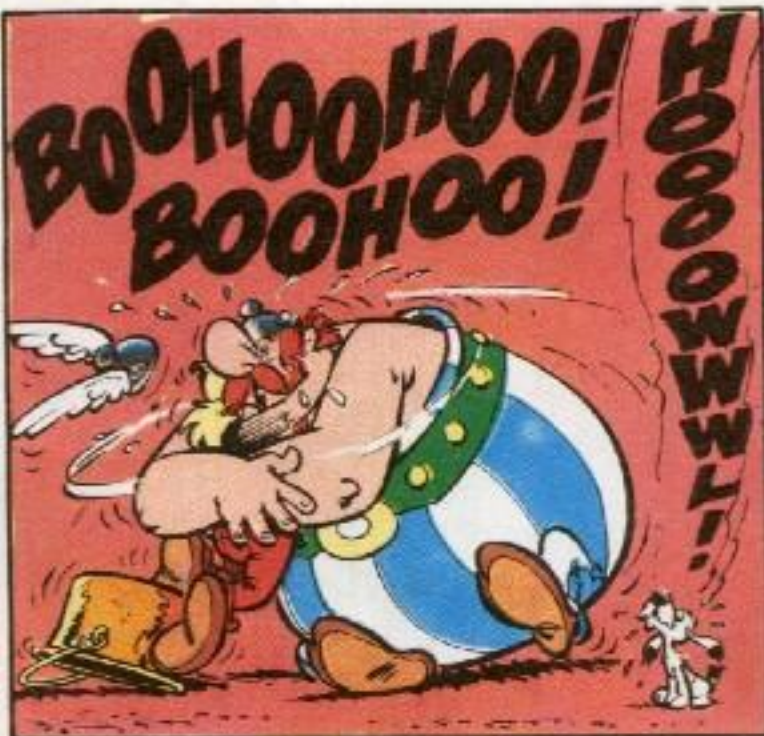
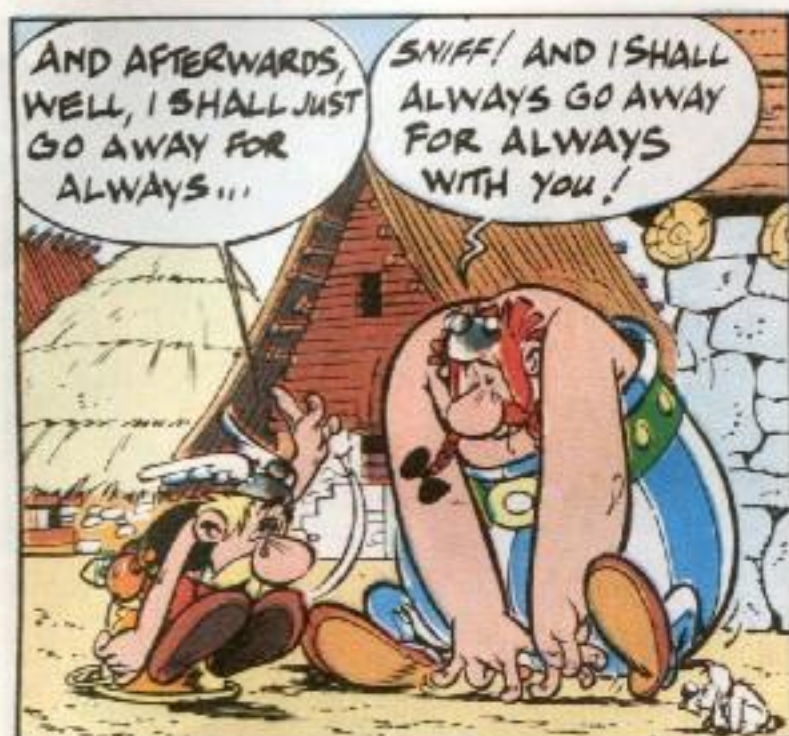
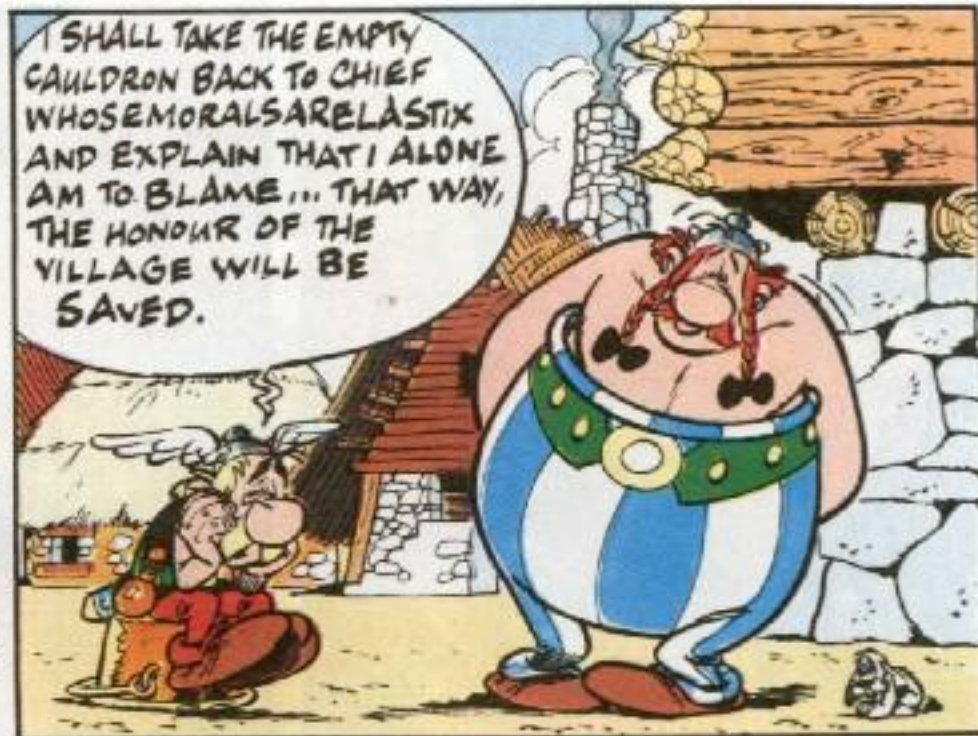
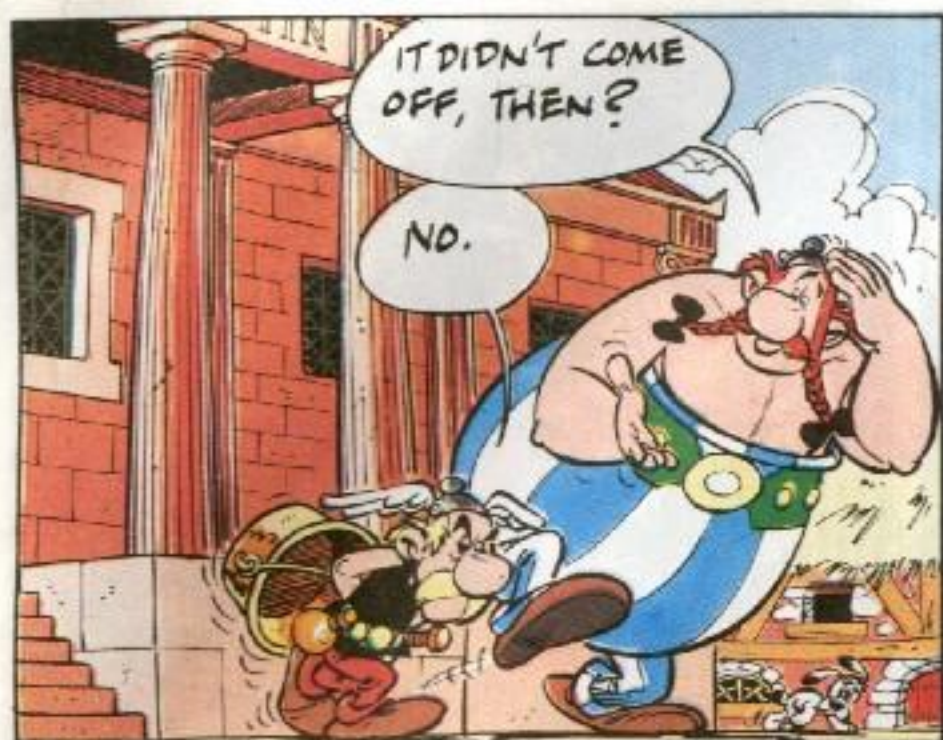


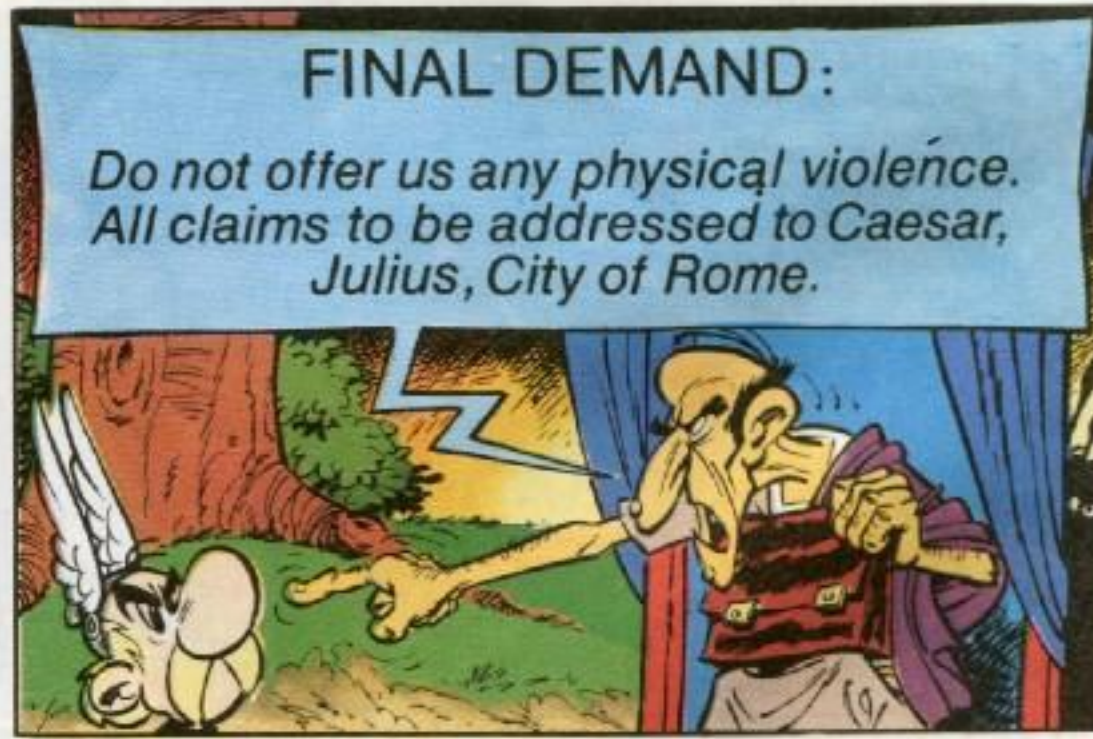
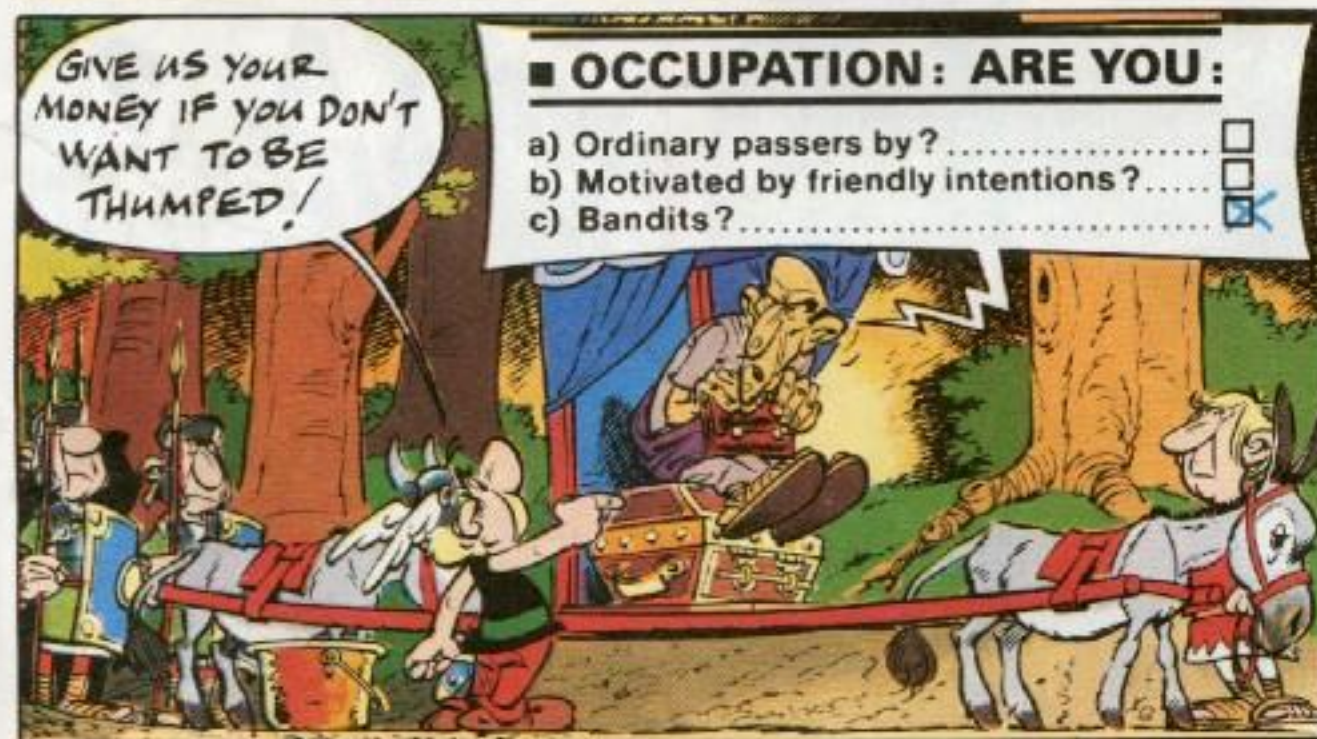
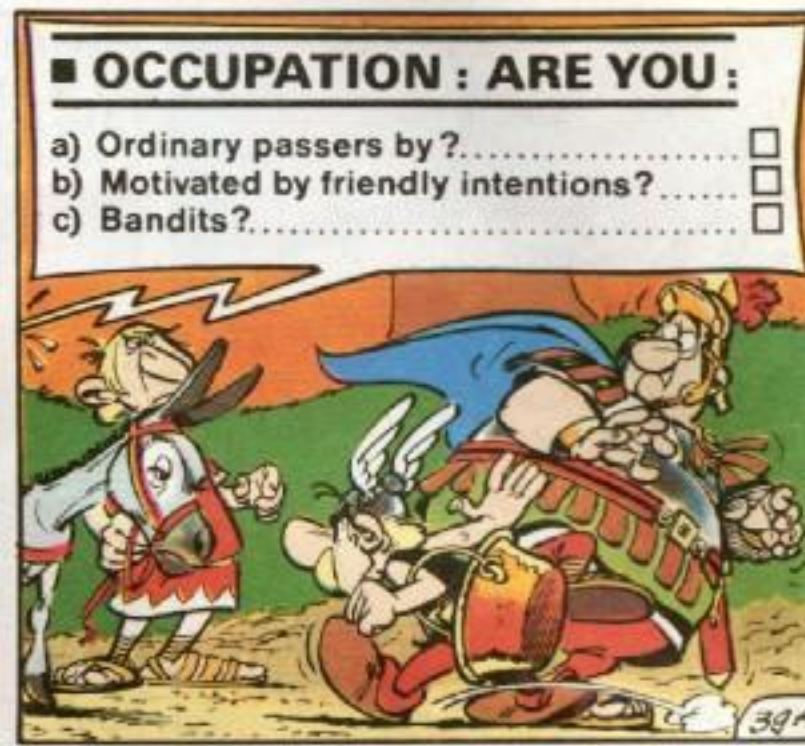
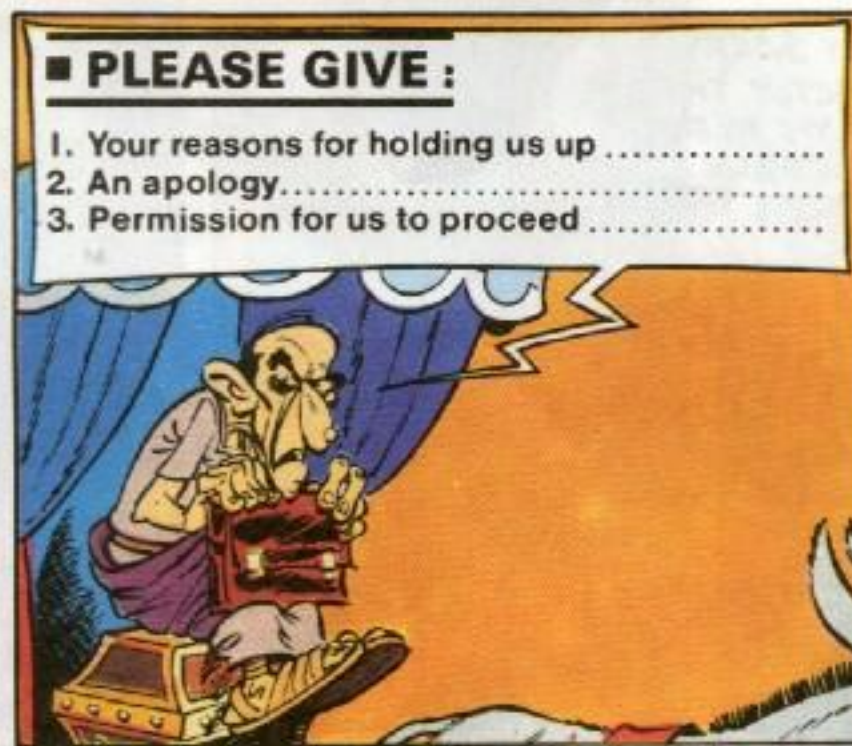
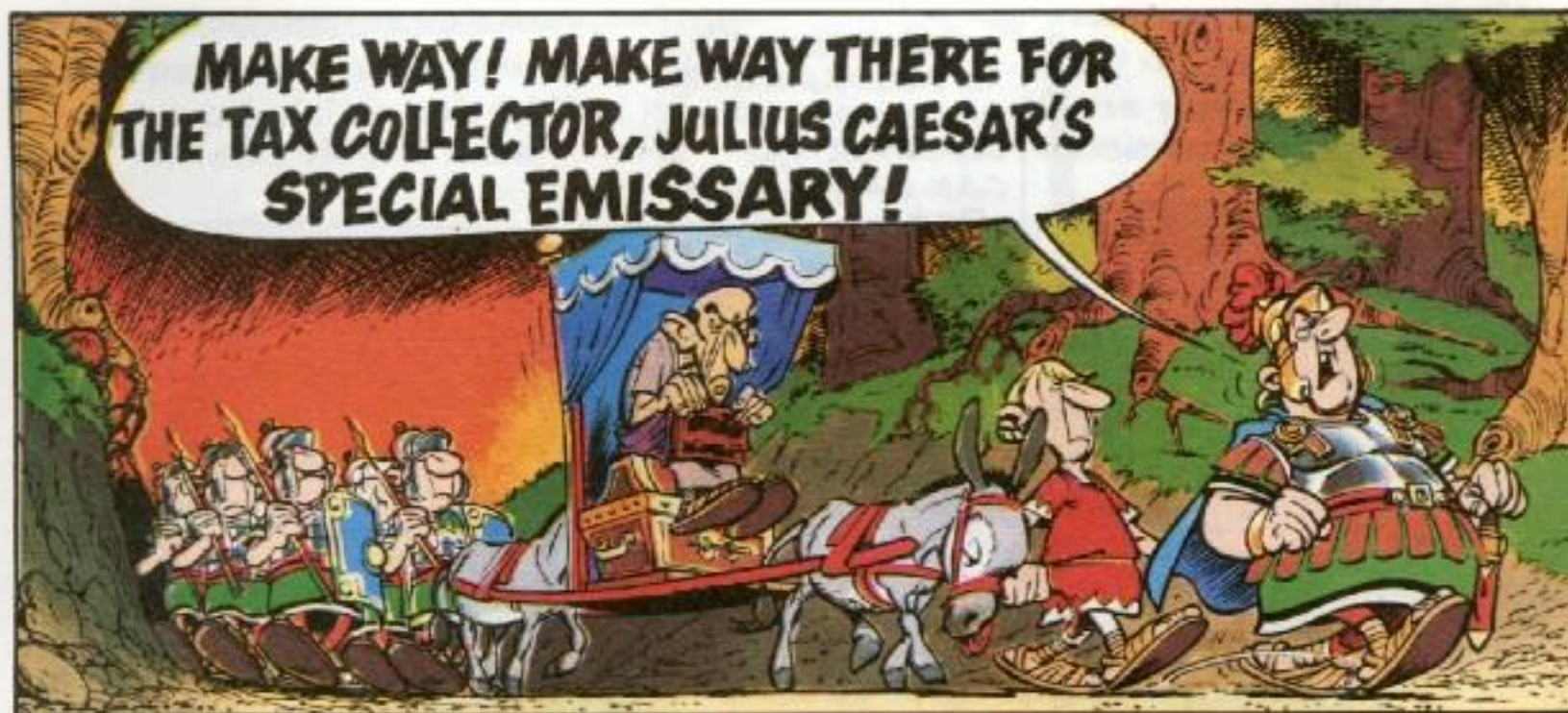


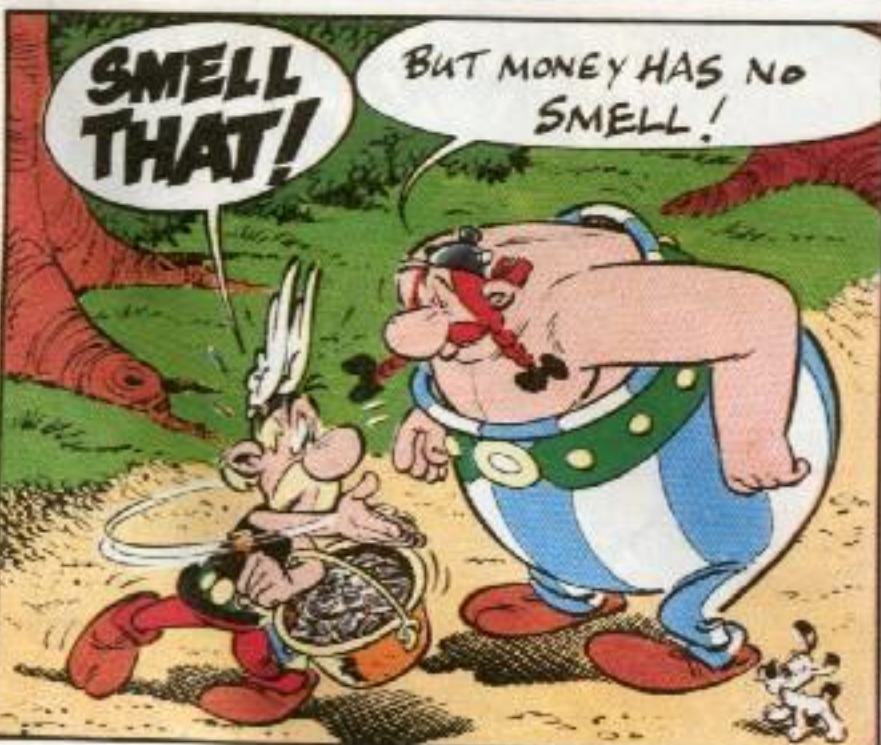
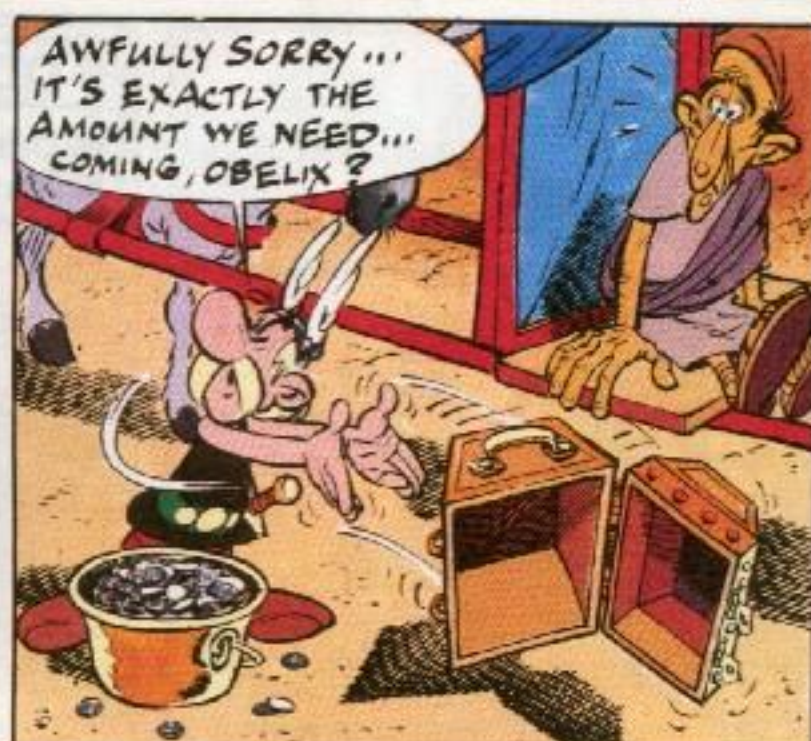


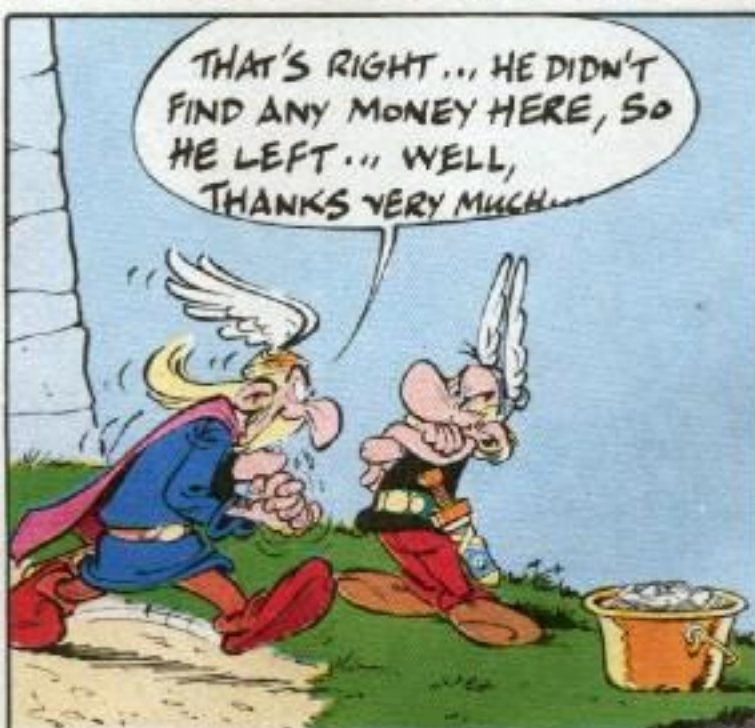
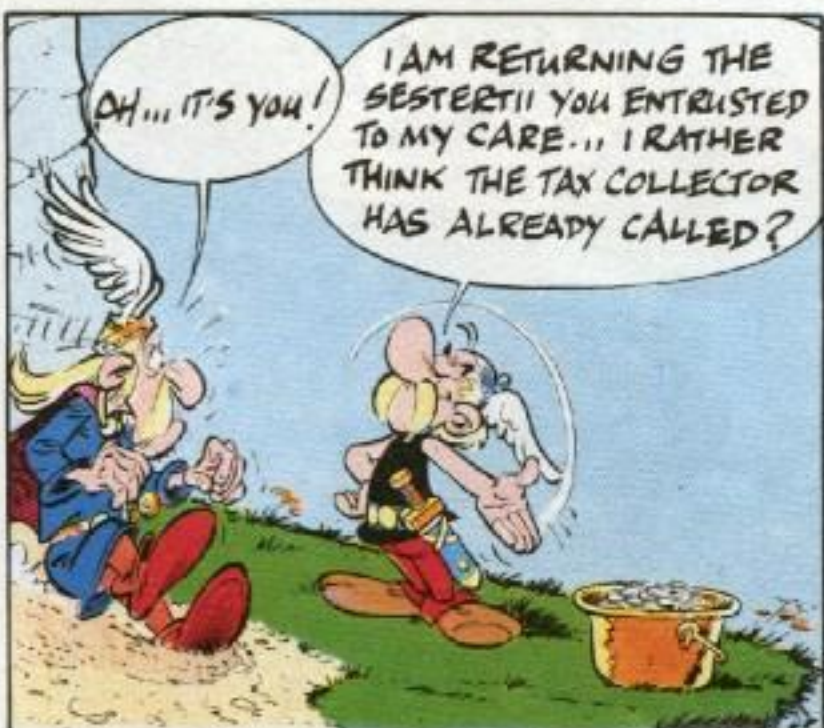
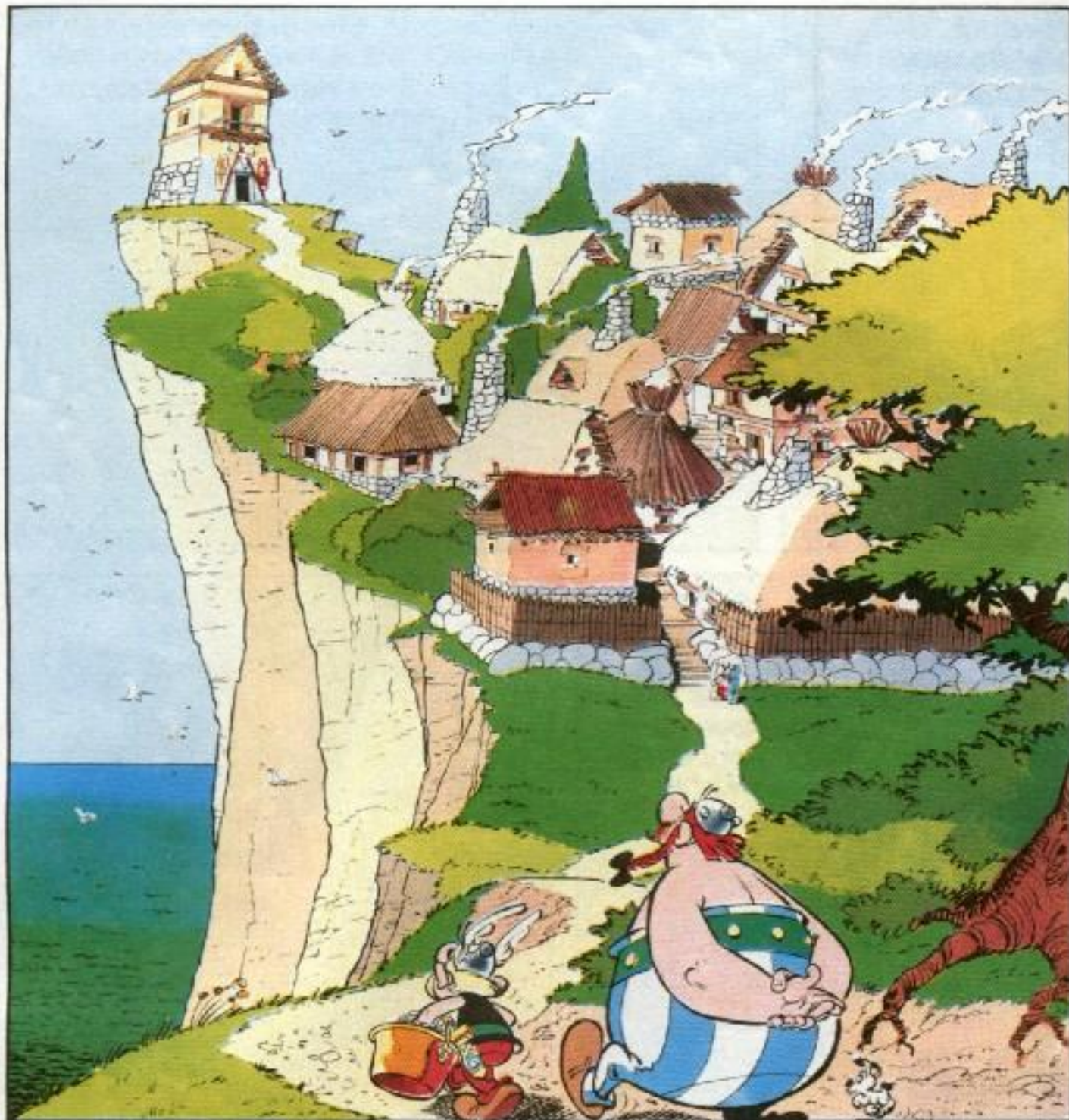


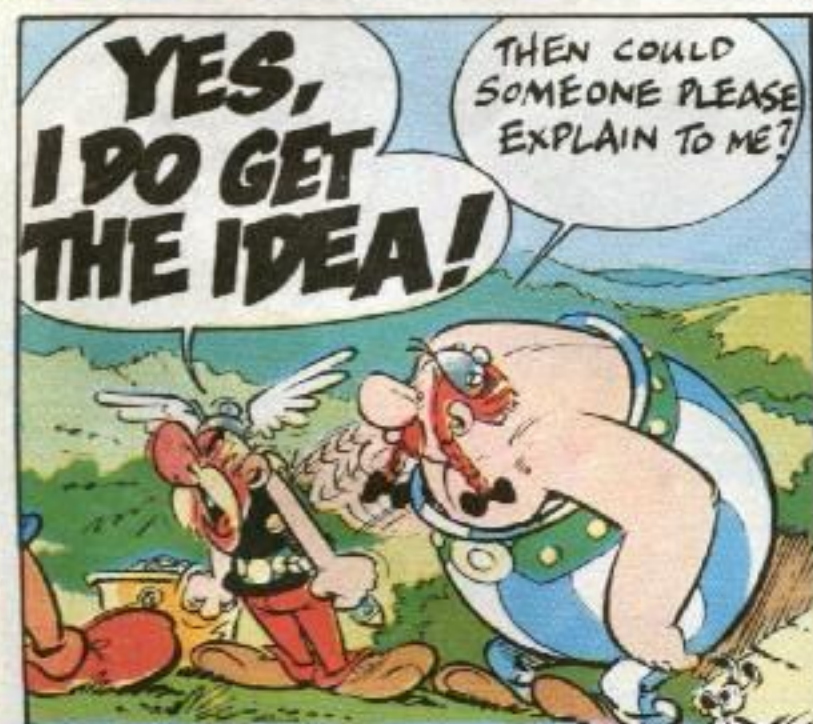
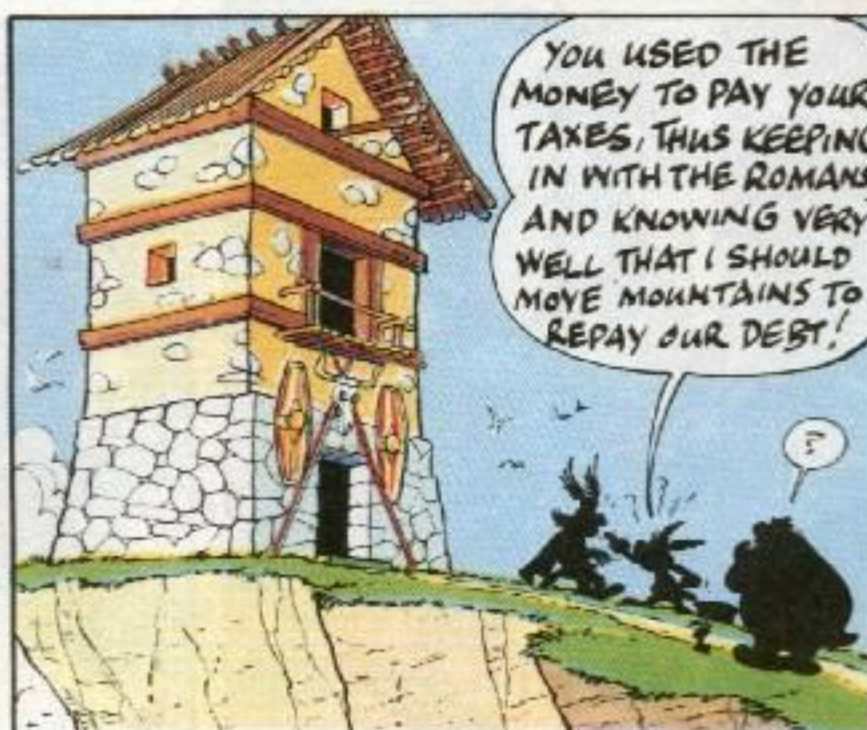
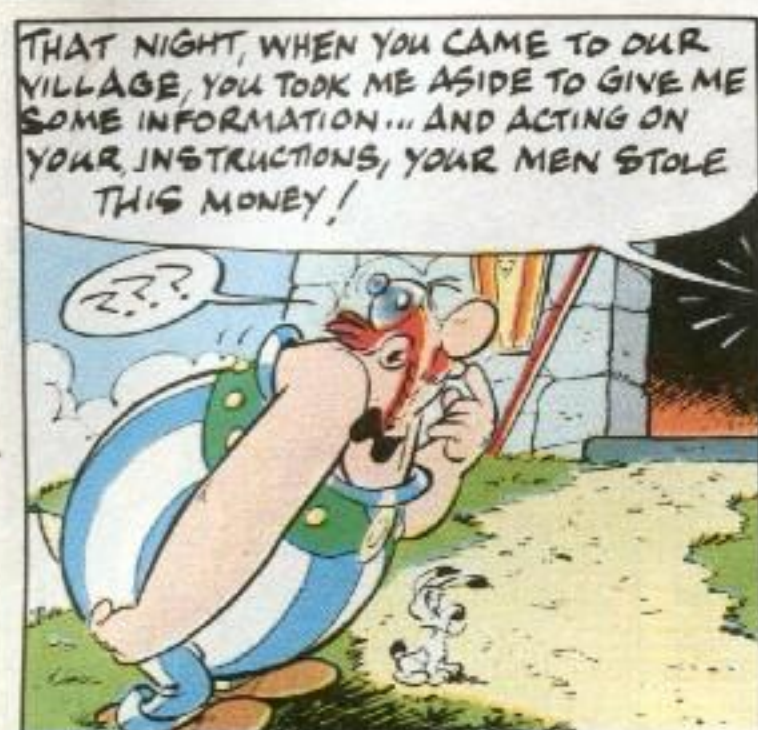


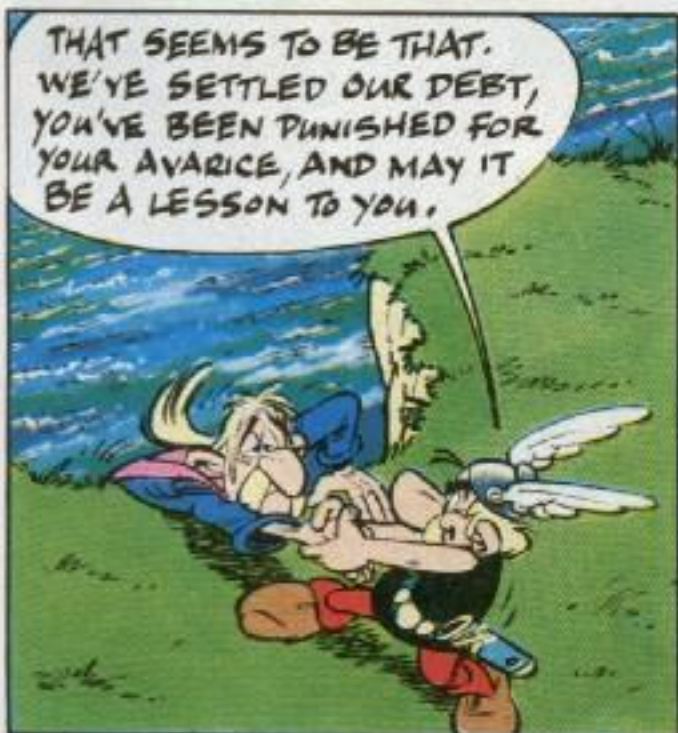
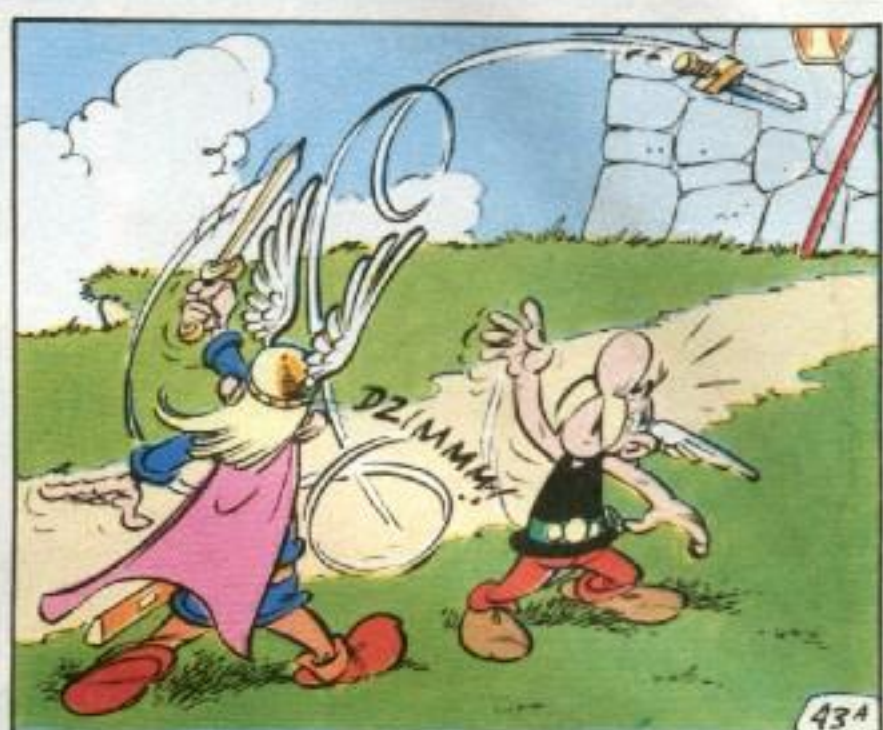




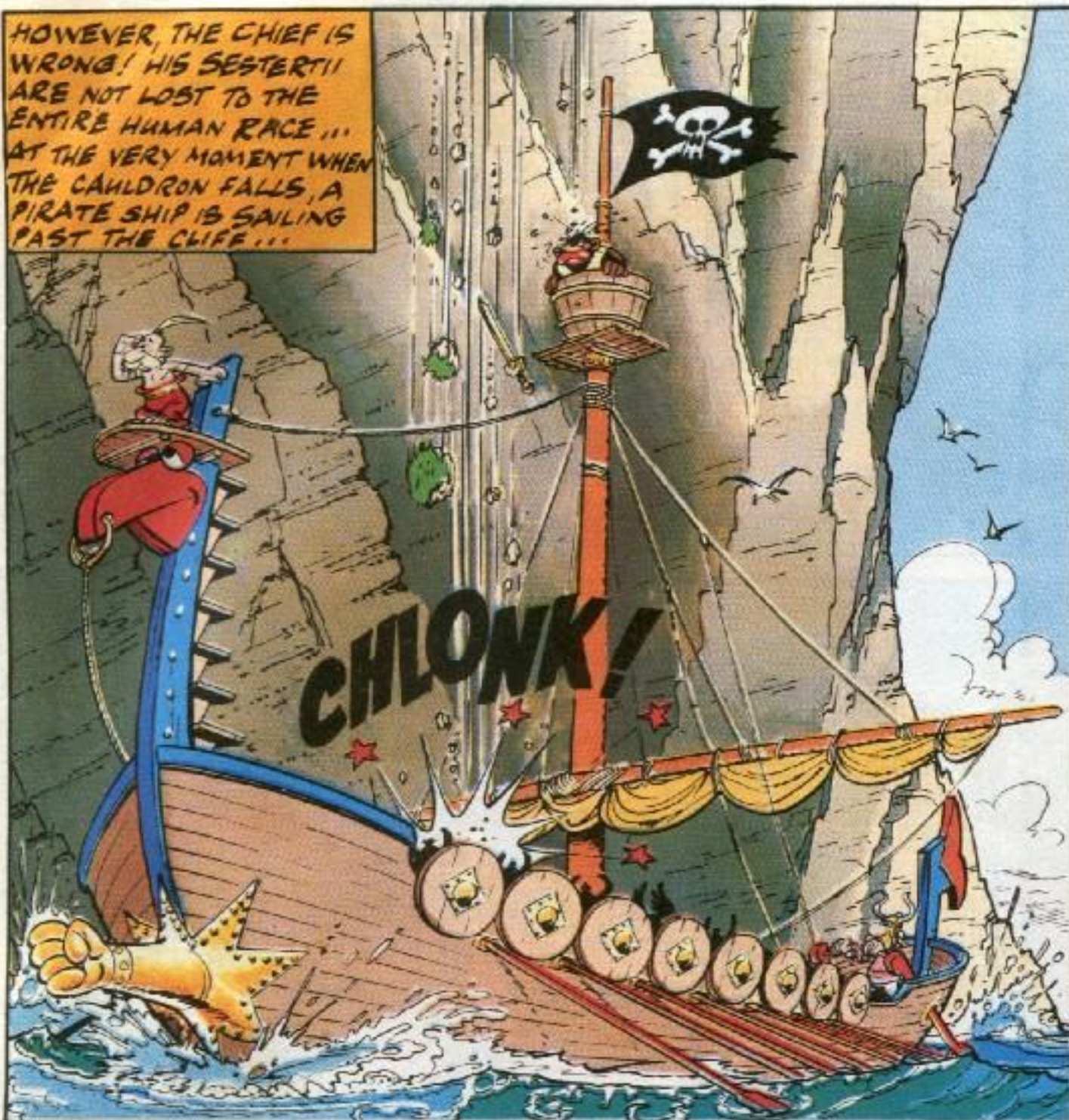








HOWEVER, THE CHIEF IS WRONG! HIS SESTERTII ARE NOT LOST TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE... AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN THE CAULDRON FALLS, A PIRATE SHIP IS SAILING PAST THE CLIFF...



**MUTINY! SUFFERING SEASERPENTS, WHO DARED CROWN ME WITH A CAULDRON!**



AND FOR ONCE, JUST FOR ONCE, THE PIRATES ARE HAPPY!



ONION-FLAVOURED, TOO! MY FAVOURITE KIND!

SESTERTII FROM OLYMPUS! THIS SHOULD KEEP OUR HEADS ABOVE WATER!

AS HAPPY AS OUR FRIENDS, THE TOAST OF THE WHOLE VILLAGE, WHICH, THANKS TO THEM, HAS PRESERVED ITS HONOUR INTACT!

BUT WHAT I NEVER DID UNDERSTAND IS WHY ANYONE WOULD PUT MONEY IN THAT CAULDRON INSTEAD OF ONION SOUP IN THE FIRST PLACE!



**THE END**

UDERZO & GOSCHNY