

BOOK 18

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

*and the
Chieftain's Shield*



HODDER DARGAUD

VERCINGETORIX, DEFEATED AT THE SIEGE OF ALESIA, THROWS HIS ARMS AT CAESAR'S FEET... AND OFFICIALLY, ALL GAUL IS CONQUERED...

OUCH!



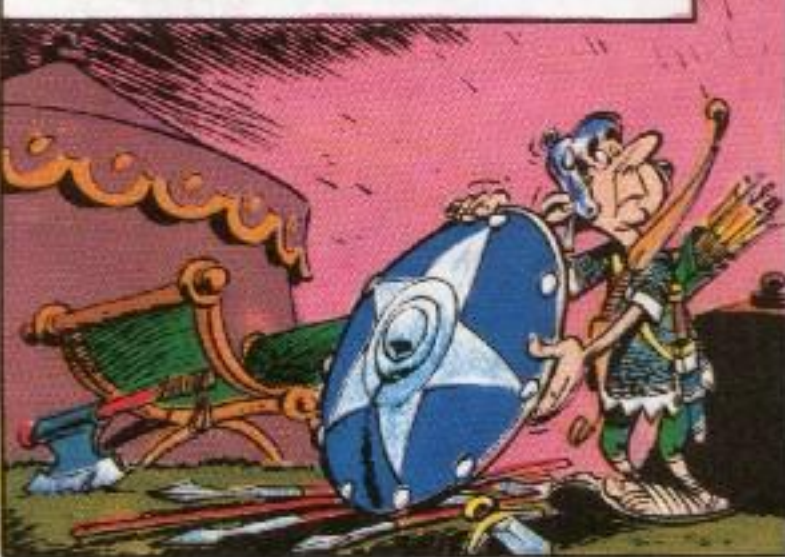
AFTER THIS MELANCHOLY CEREMONY, CAESAR SETS OFF IN SEARCH OF FRESH CONQUESTS...



...AND THE ARMS OF THE ARVERNIAN CHIEFTAIN LIE WHERE THEY HAVE FALLEN. NO ONE DARES TOUCH THEM...



... UNTIL SUNSET, WHEN A ROMAN ARCHER SUCCEUMBS TO TEMPTATION AND MAKES OFF WITH A MAGNIFICENT SHIELD...



HEY, HOW ABOUT A GAME OF RUBER ET NIGER?



... WHICH HE LOSES AT ONCE IN A GAME OF CHANCE.



DIEM PERDIDI!

YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT TOO!

THE WINNER, A LEGIONARY OUT WITHOUT A PASS, FINDS THE PRESENT TENSE WHEN TRYING TO SNEAK INTO CAMP, HE IS PICKED UP BY A CENTURION WITH AN ACTIVE VOICE...



HEY, YOU THERE! QUO VADIS, LADDIE?

... AND IN AN IMPERATIVE MOOD, WHO CONFISCATES THE SHIELD IN RETURN FOR HIS SILENCE.



O TEMPORA! O MORES!

THE CENTURION, HAVING SPENT ALL HIS PAY, SWOPS THE PRECIOUS SHIELD FOR AN AMPHORA OF WINE AT A WINE AND CHARCOAL MERCHANTS...



... AND THE SHOPKEEPER SUBSEQUENTLY AGREES TO HAND IT OVER TO A GAULISH WARRIOR WHO HAS ESCAPED FROM ALESIA...



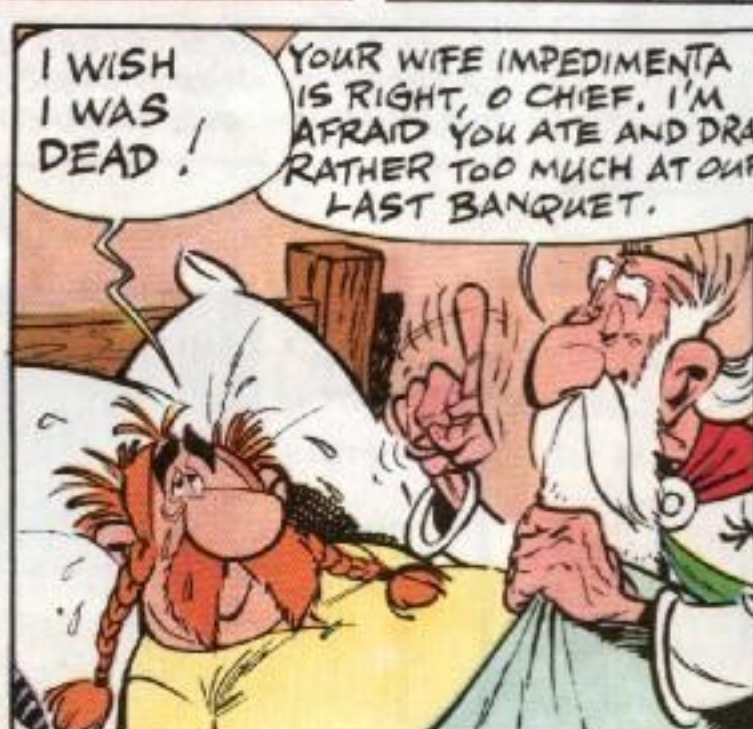
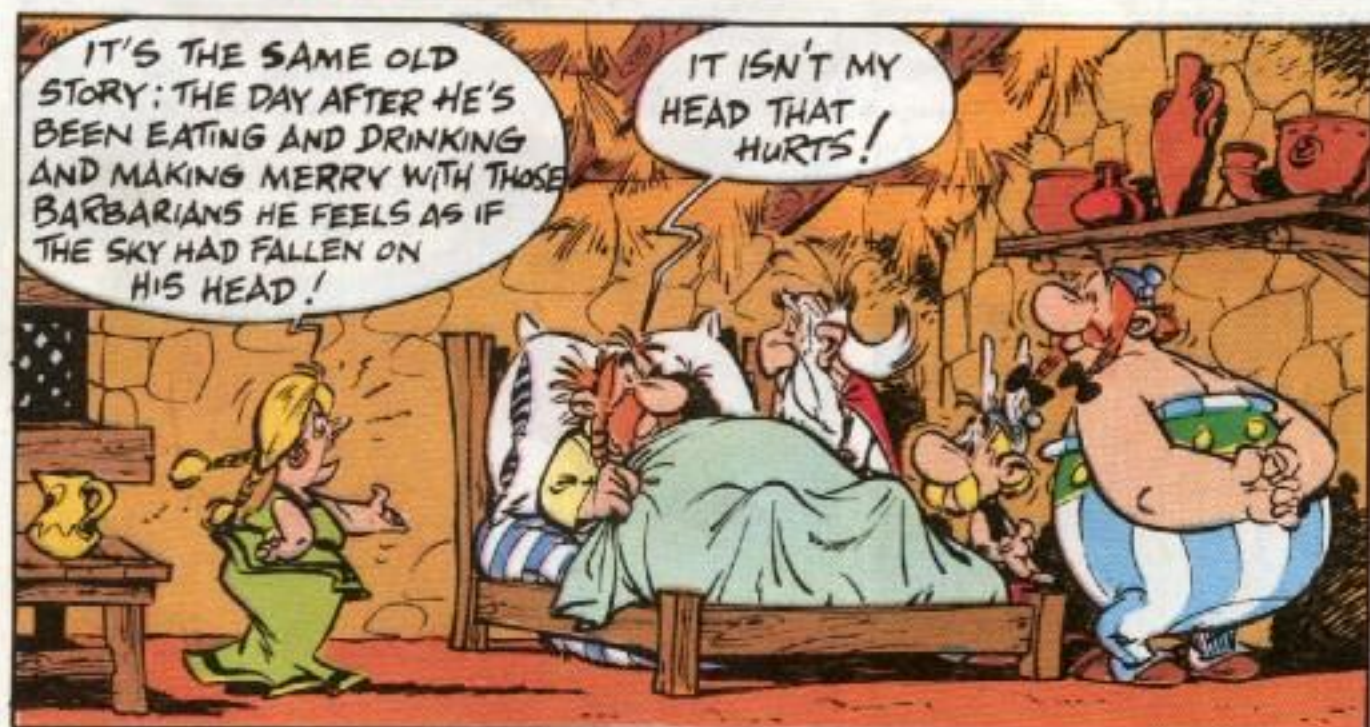
WELL, IF IT GIVES YOU ANY SATISFACTION...

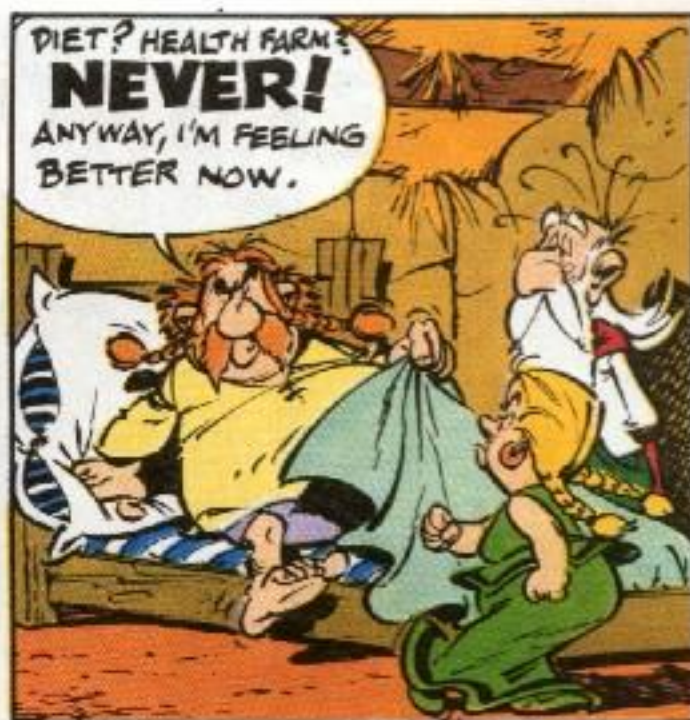
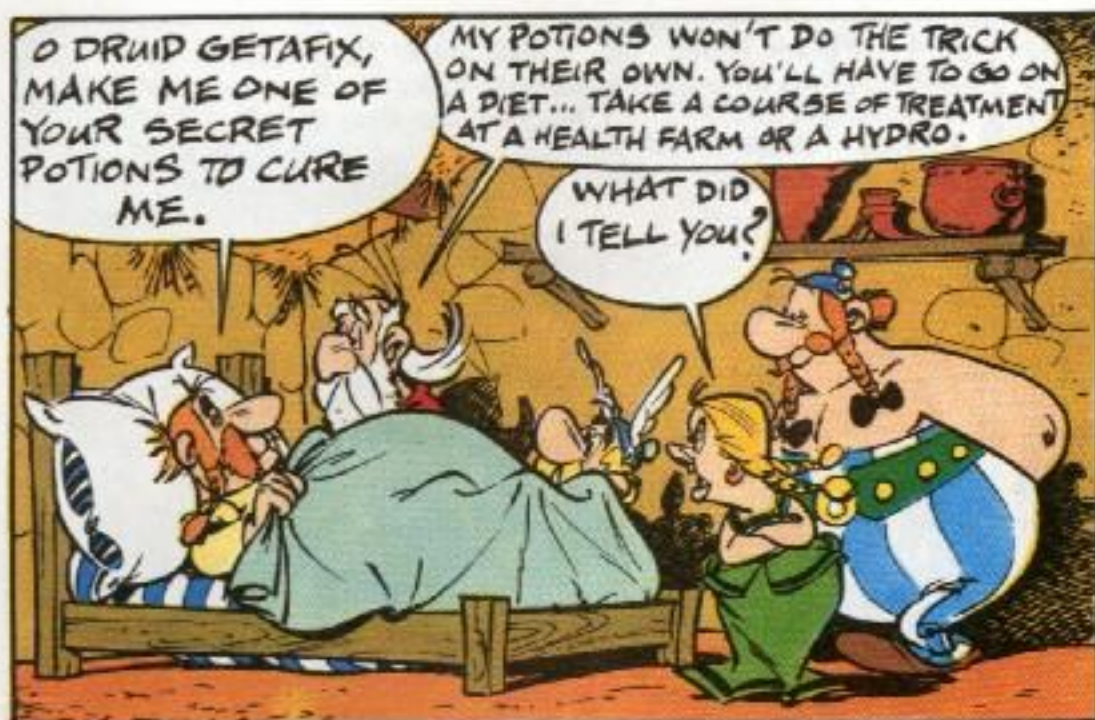
... AND IS TRYING TO DROWN HIS SORROWS IN DRINK...

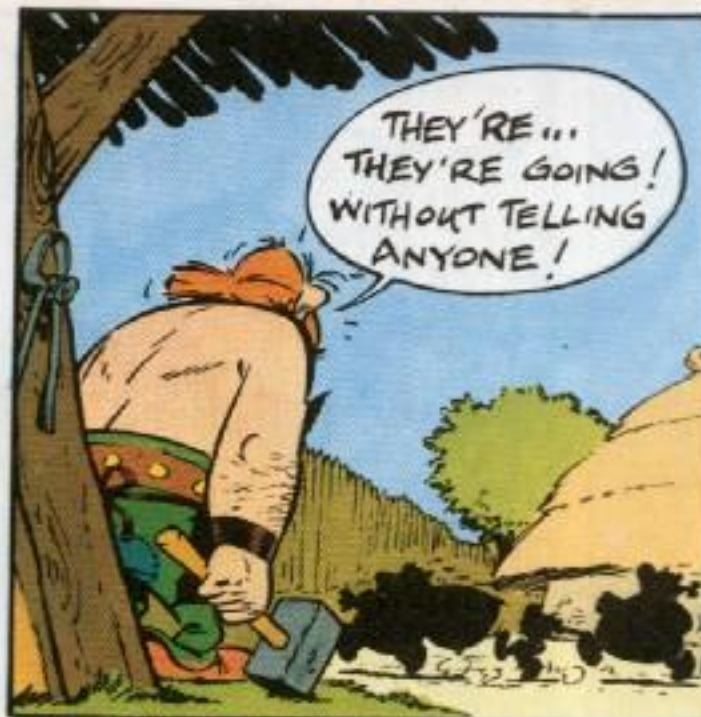
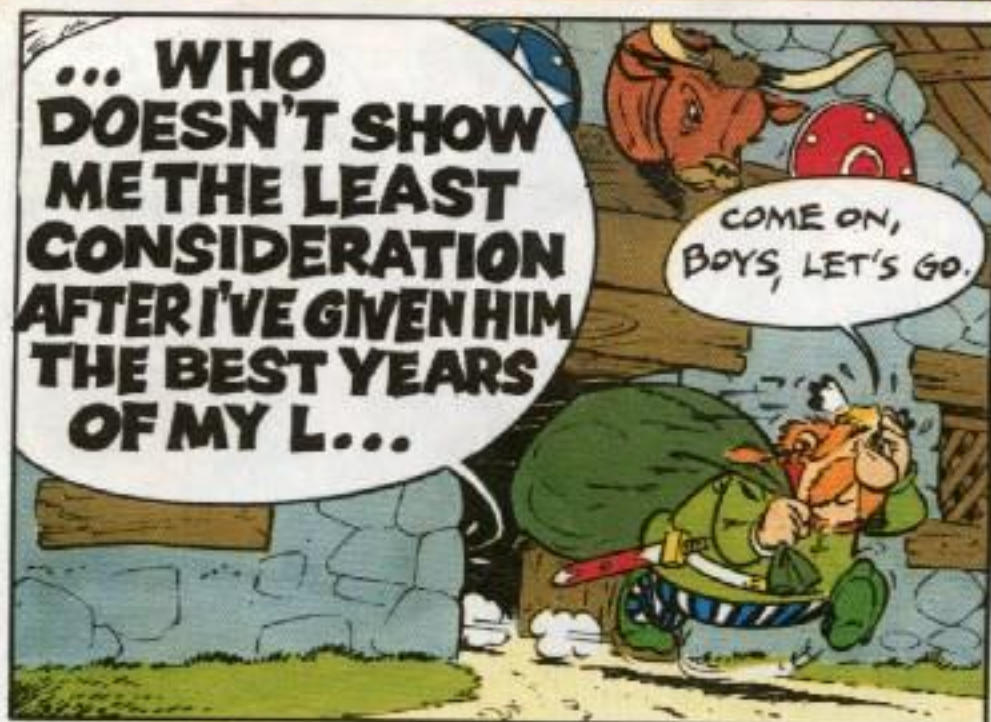


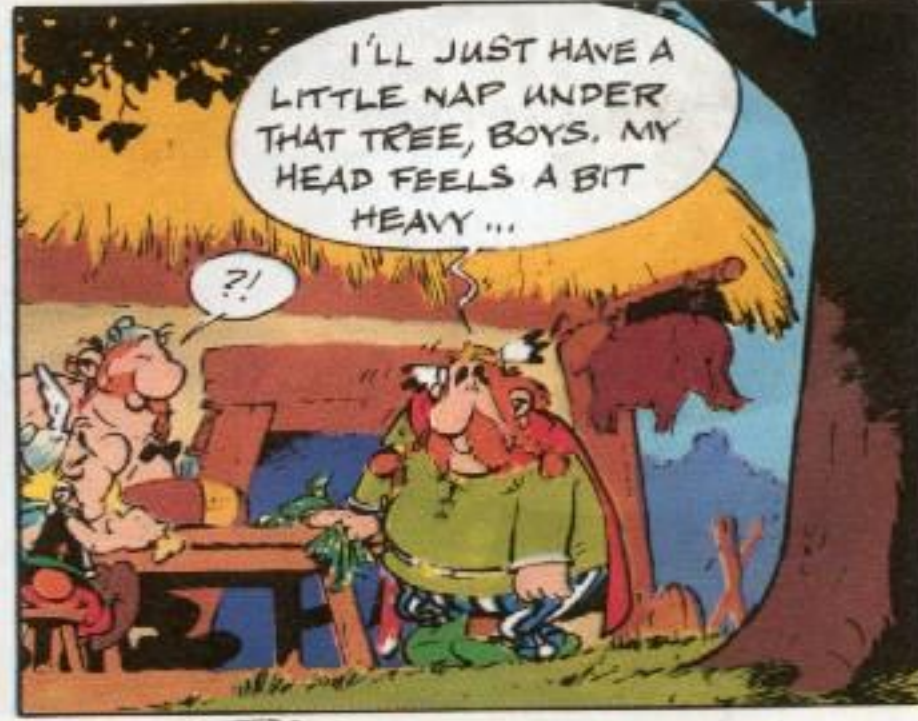
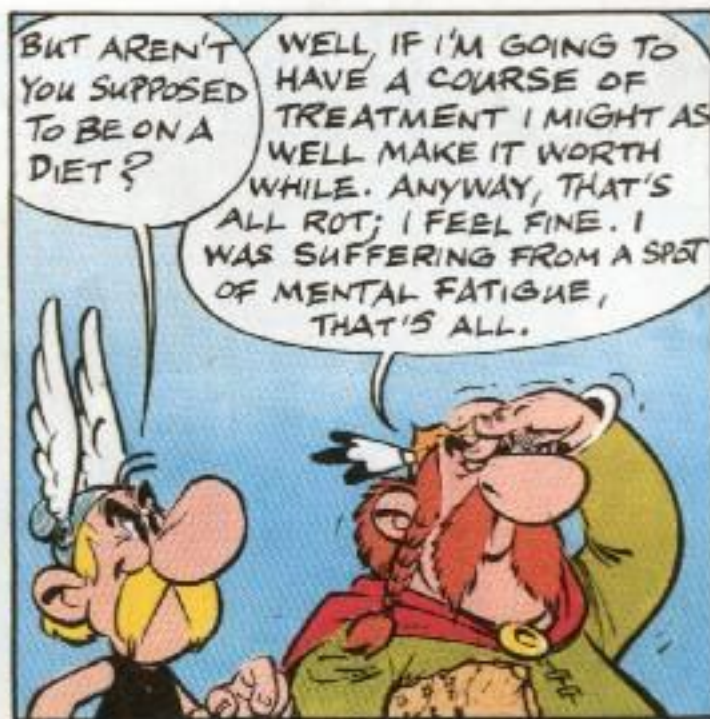
HIC!

SO ALL GAUL IS OCCUPIED.
ALL? NO! ONE LITTLE GAULISH
VILLAGE IS STILL HOLDING OUT
AGAINST THE INVADERS. A
LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW VERY
WELL, WHERE MORALE IS HIGH, AND
ANY EXCUSE WILL DO TO HOLD A
BANQUET WITH LOTS TO EAT AND
DRINK. AS IT HAPPENS, THE LAST
SUCH BANQUET HAS HAD SOME
UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES !!!









AND SO OUR FRIENDS ENTER THE TOWN OF AQUAE CALIDAE, FAMOUS AMONG BOTH GAULS AND ROMANS FOR ITS HOT SPRINGS AND MINERAL WATERS.

BOOOOOH!
I WISH I WAS DEAD!



DIAGNOSTIX THE DRUID?
THAT WAY, TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR CONDITION: WHATEVER SPRINGS TO MIND. I'VE GOT TO MIND THE SPRINGS.



SOON AFTERWARDS...

OUR DRUID GETAFIX HAS SENT US. IT'S ABOUT YOUR COURSE OF TREATMENT.

AH, EXCELLENT! AND WHICH OF YOU IS THE INVALID?



FOR THE ANSWER, PRESS HERE...

EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD! I WILL EXAMINE THE PATIENT.

NO!



**NOOOOOO!
DON'T TOUCH ME! DON'T LOOK AT ME! IT HURTS!**

HMM... A VERY SEVERE CASE. DIET N°1



AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'M FINE.



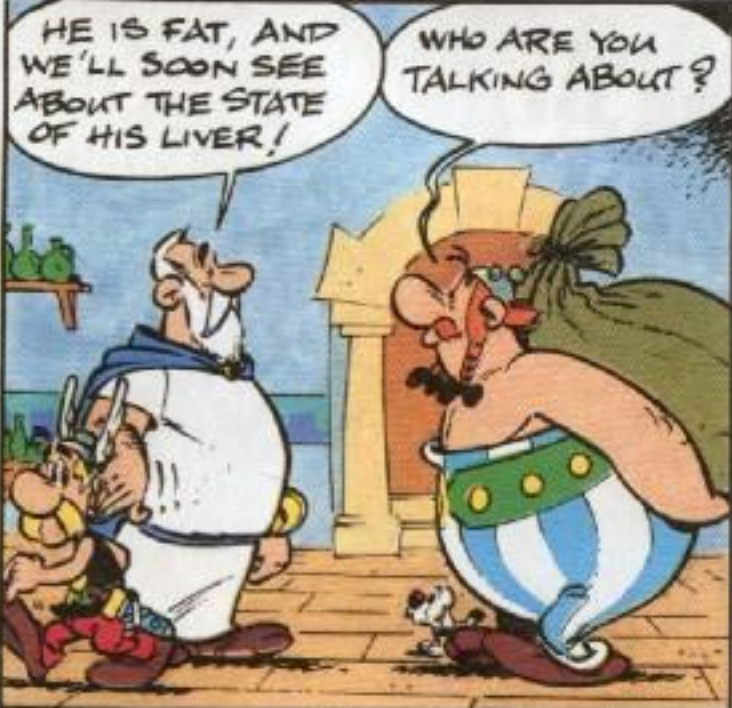
YOUR FAT FRIEND HERE OBVIOUSLY OVEREATS; I DOUBT IF HIS LIVER IS IN A HEALTHY STATE.

HE ISN'T FAT AND HIS LIVER IS IN A VERY GOOD STATE!



HE IS FAT, AND WE'LL SOON SEE ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS LIVER!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



BOOOOOOH!



DRUID, QUICK! OUR CHIEF HAS FAINTED!

???



VITALSTATISTIX STARTS HIS TREATMENT. HE DRINKS THE WATER OF THE SPRINGS AT REGULAR INTERVALS...



... USES THE SOPHISTICATED MODERN SHOWER SYSTEM...



... AND STICKS TO A STRICT DIET BASED ON BOILED VEGETABLES.



AND THIS IS WHERE THE TROUBLE BEGINS, SINCE ASTERIX AND OBELIX, AS THE CHIEF'S ESCORT, HAVE PERMISSION TO SHARE HIS TABLE AT MEAL TIMES...



SOME OF THE OTHER PATIENTS BEGIN TO CRACK UP...



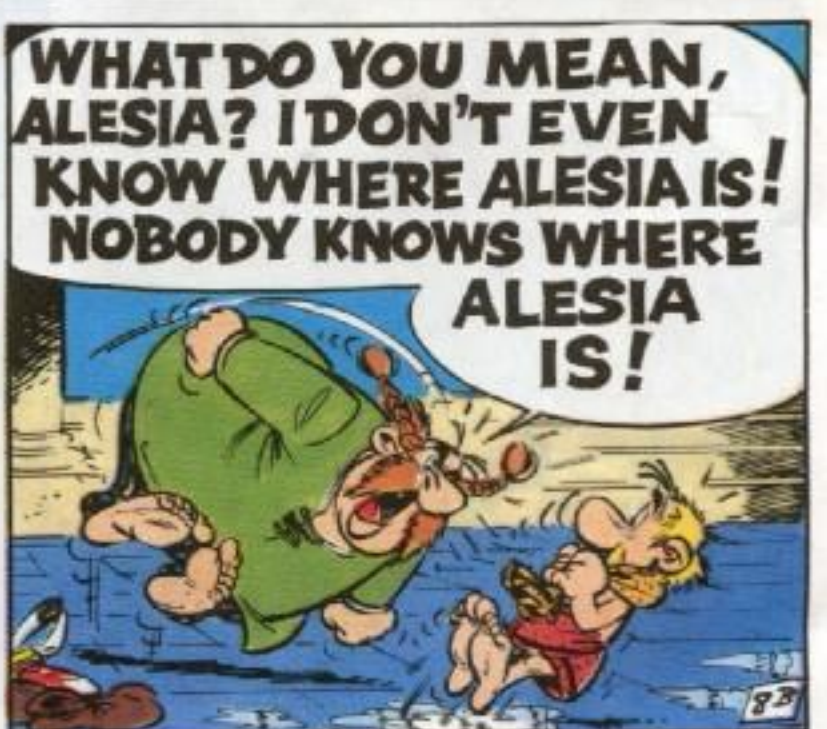
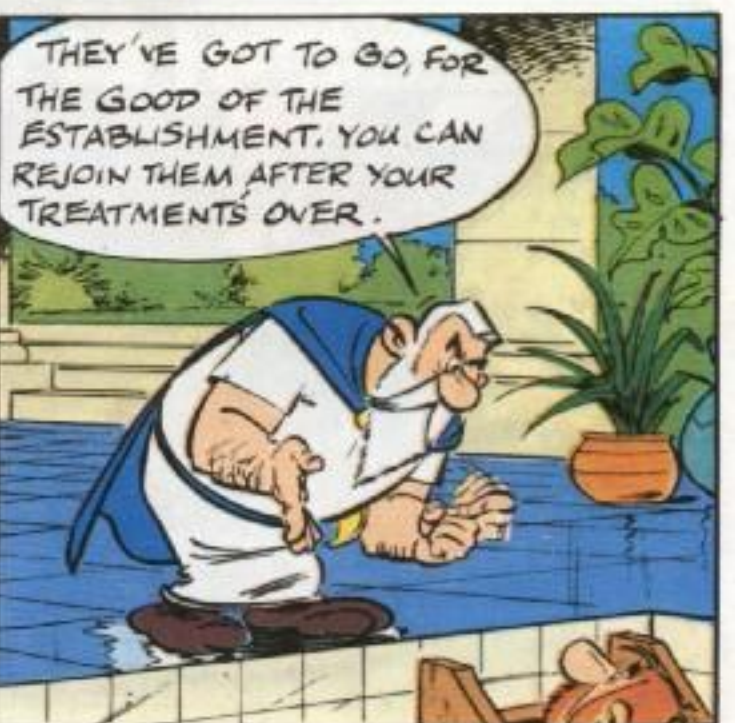
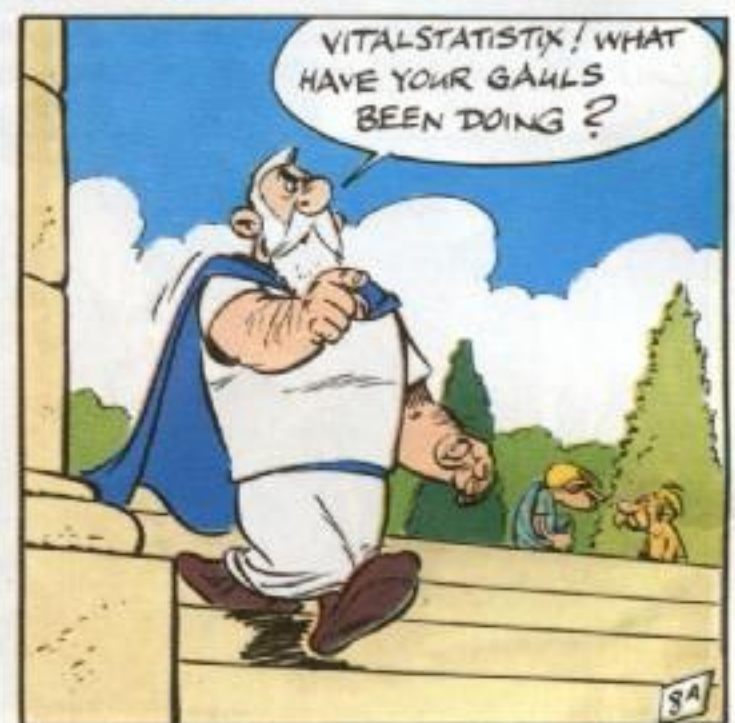
AND SERIOUS INCIDENTS ARE ONLY JUST AVERTED.

IF YOU GO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIM TO STEAL HIS BONE BECAUSE HE'S SO SMALL I SHALL POKE YOU IN THE LIVER WITH MY FINGER!



THE TREATMENT INCLUDES BATHING IN WATER FROM THE HOT SPRINGS.







WE'VE COME TO SAY
GOODBYE, CHIEF
VITALSTATISTIX.

WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE A
NICE HOLIDAY!



WELL, WE'RE OFF, O CHIEF.
LOOK AFTER YOURSELF!
WE'LL SEE YOU IN GERGOVIA
WHEN YOUR TREATMENTS
OVER.

AND DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT
US. WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE
THE COUNTRYSIDE. I HEAR THE
ARVERNIANS HAVE SOME GOOD
LOCAL SPECIALTIES... WILD
BOAR IN WINE...



AND
VEGETABLE
SOUP!

AND
SAUSAGES!



GET OUT!

...AND THERE'S
ARVERNIAN
BLUE CHEESE...

COME ON,
OBELIX. I THINK
WE'D BETTER
GET GOING!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE
KITCHENS OF THE HYDRO...

FANNY...
THE PATIENTS
SEEM RATHER
QUIET!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
COME OVER THEM! WHEN
I TOOK THE BOILED VEGETABLES
IN THEY STARTED ACTING LIKE
MADMEN! TWO OR THREE
OF THEM EVEN BIT ME!



MEANWHILE OUR FRIENDS
ARE STROLLING THROUGH
THE BEAUTIFUL ARVERNIAN
COUNTRYSIDE...

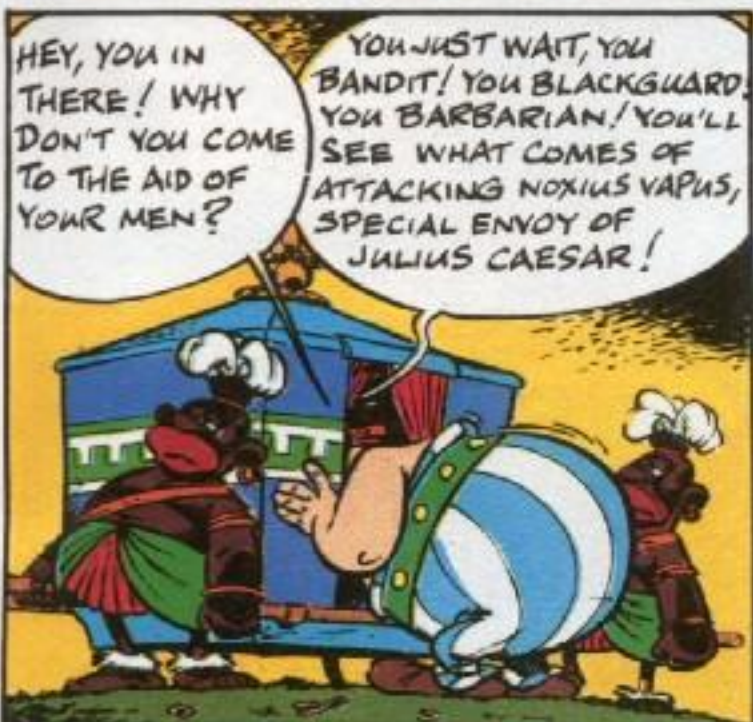
MARVELLOUS
AIR UP HERE,
OBELIX!

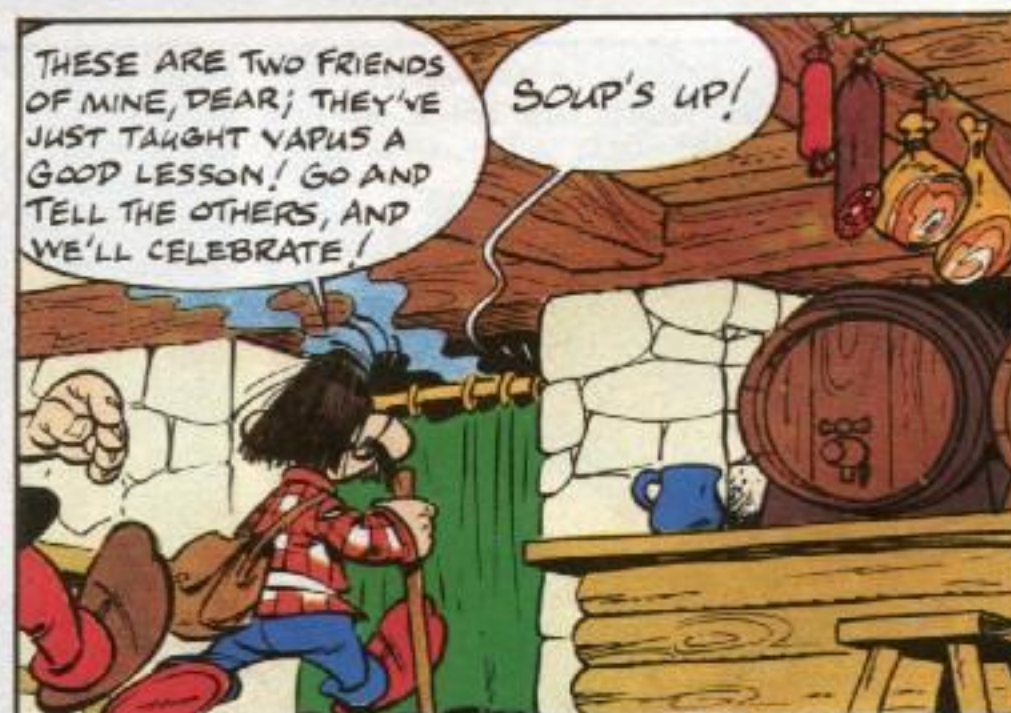
YES, BUT THERE'S ONE THING
MISSING... WE HAVEN'T SEEN
MANY ROMAN LEGIONARIES
LATELY.

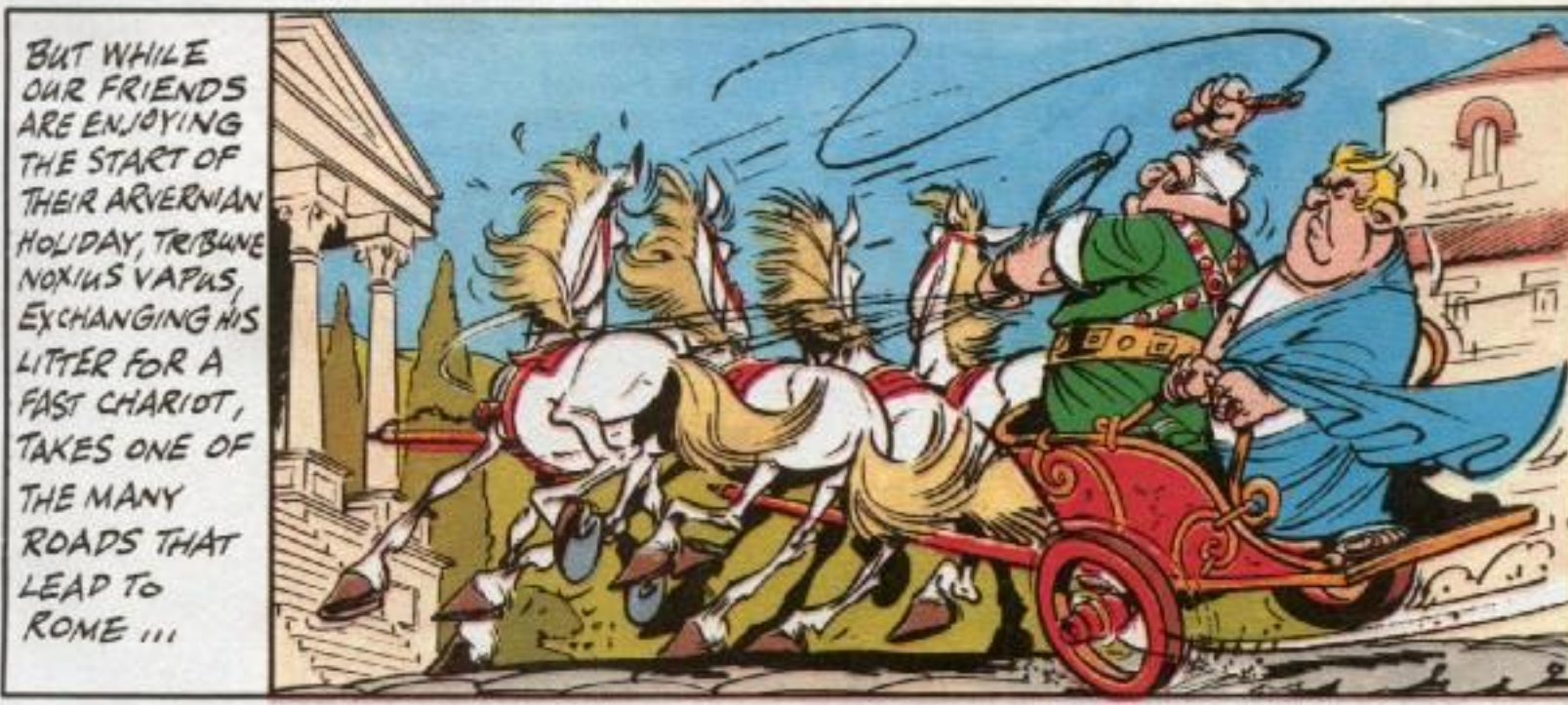
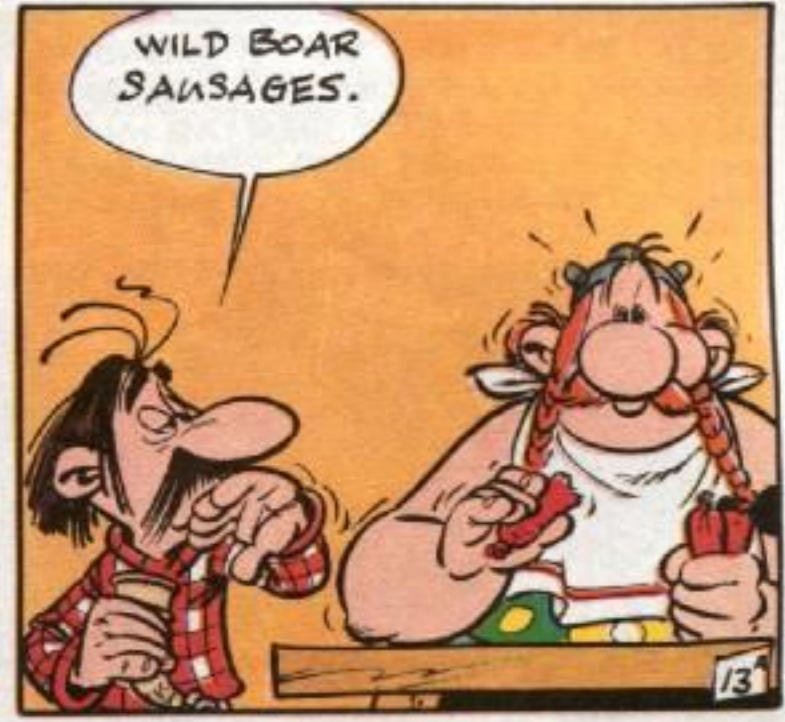
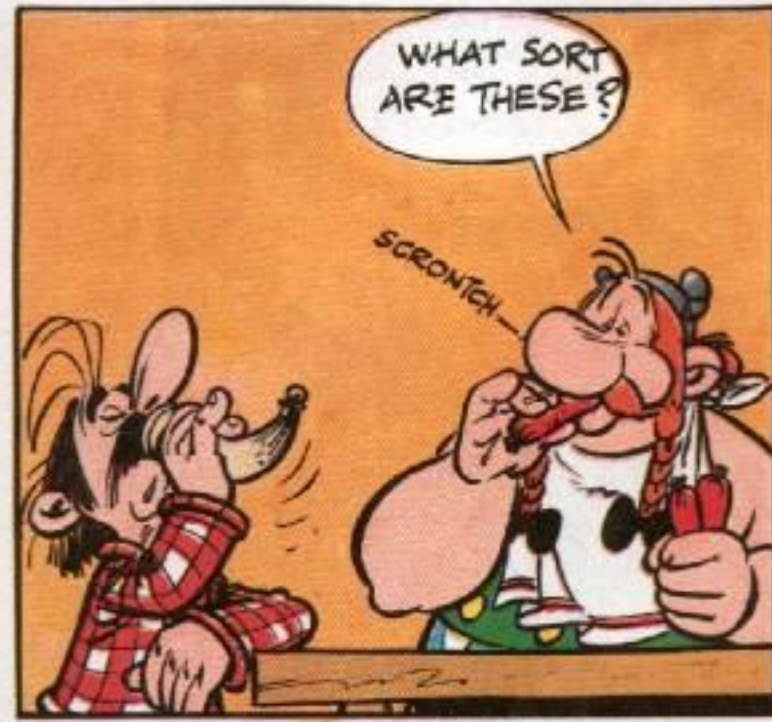
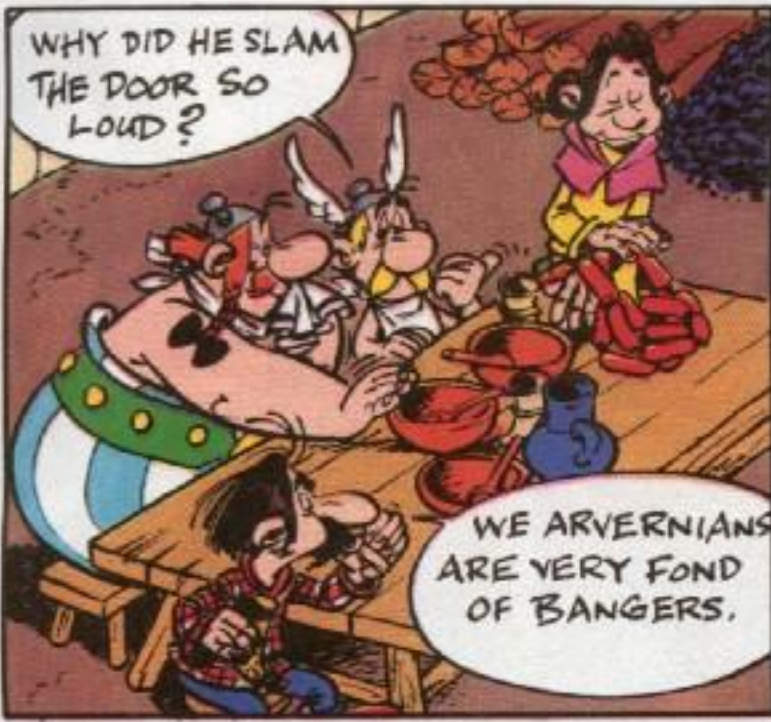
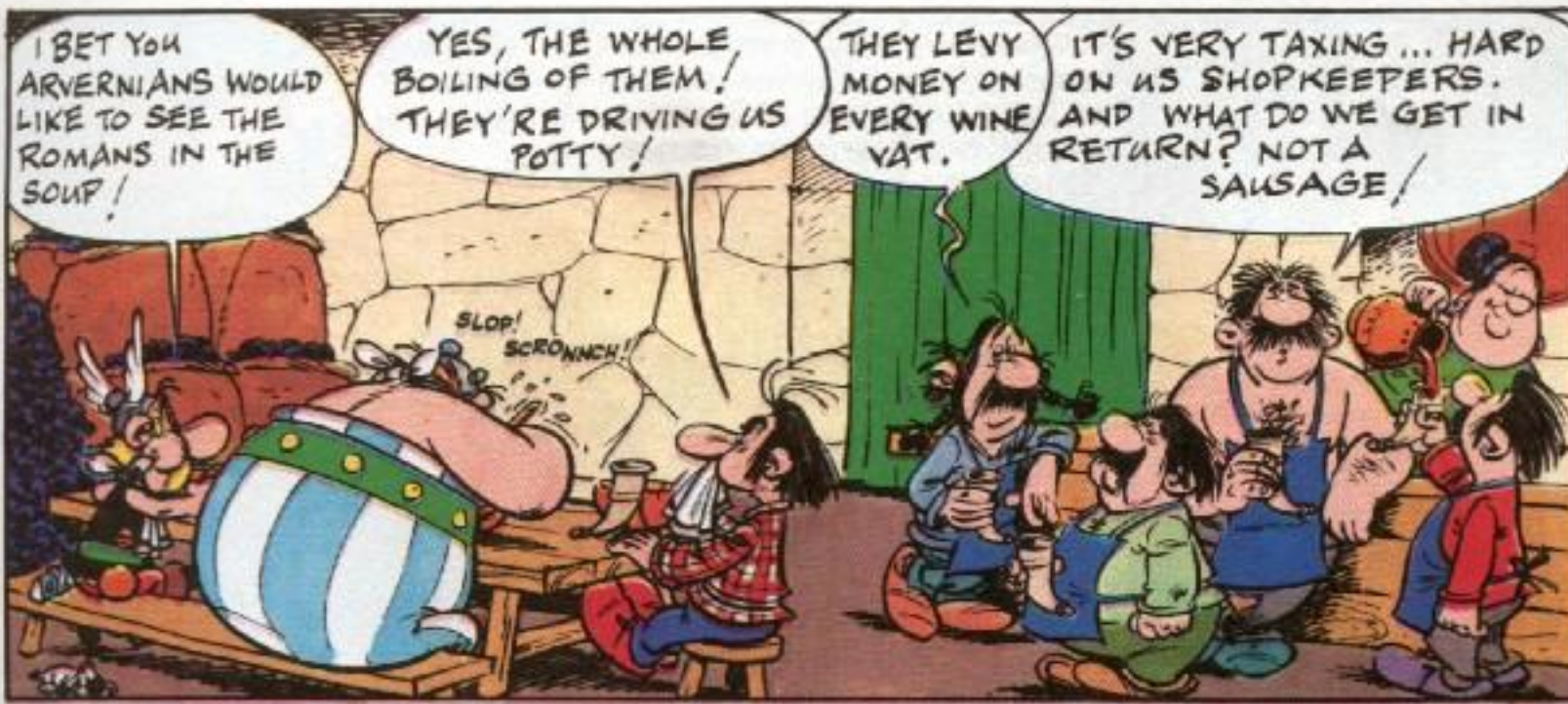


MOVE ASIDE THERE, GAULS!
MAKE WAY FOR TRIBUNE NOXIUS
VAPUS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF
JULIUS CAESAR!

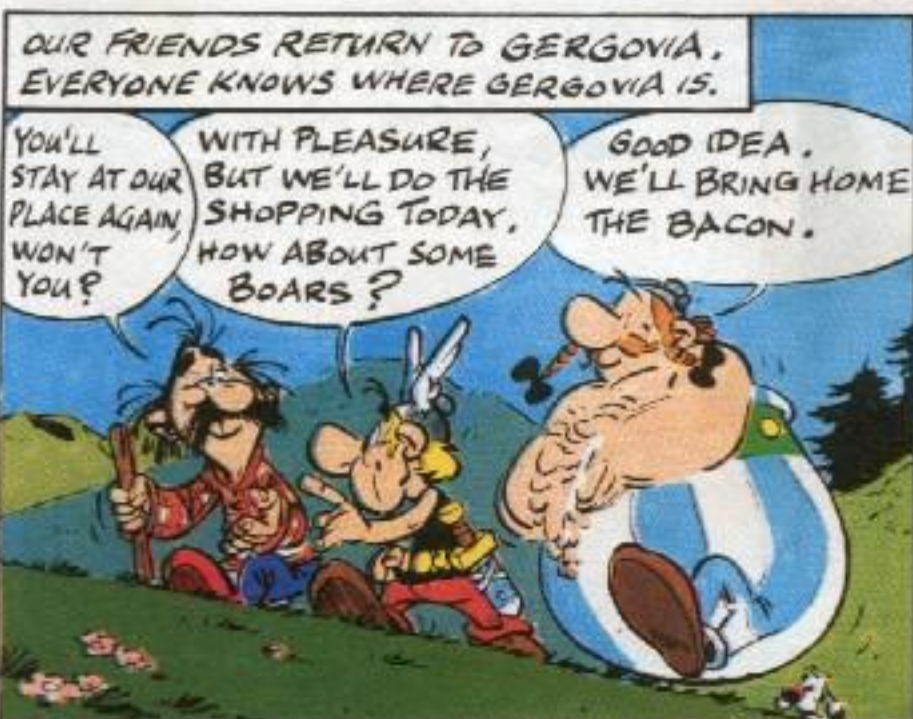
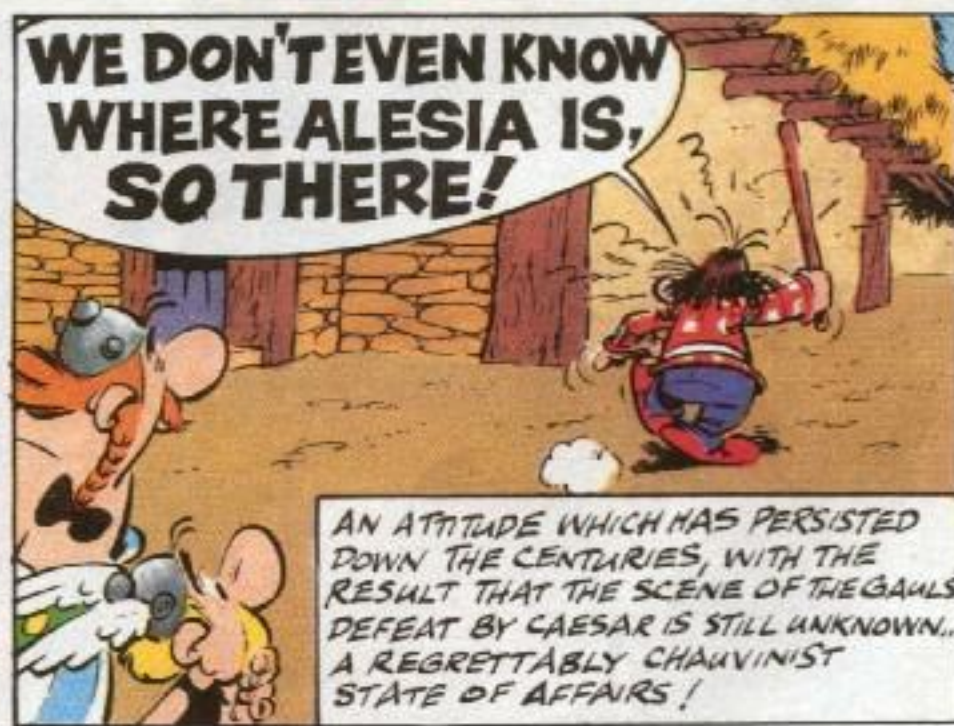
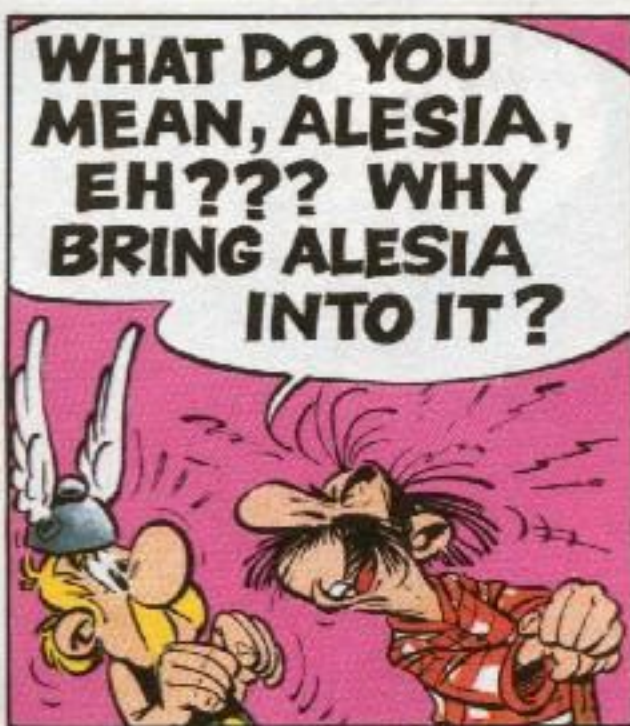
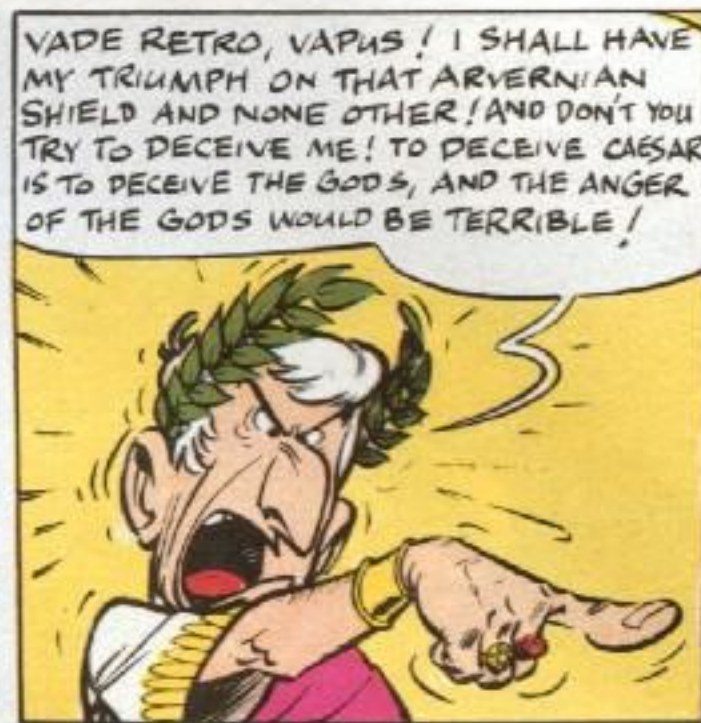


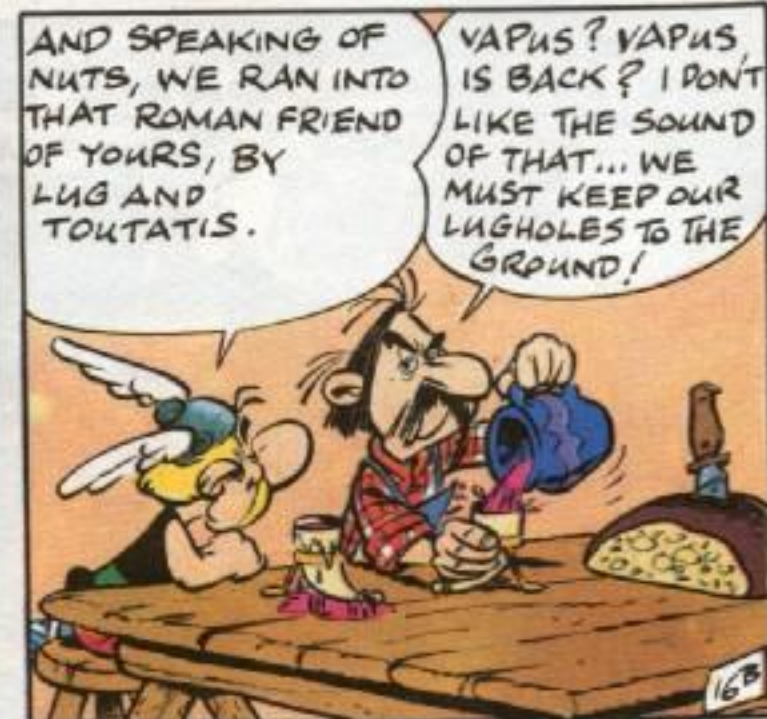
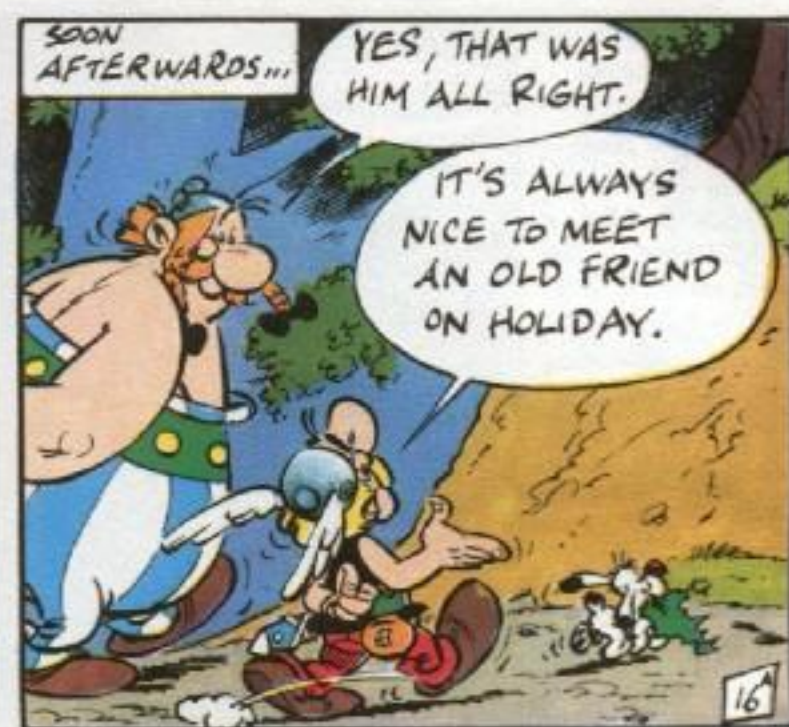
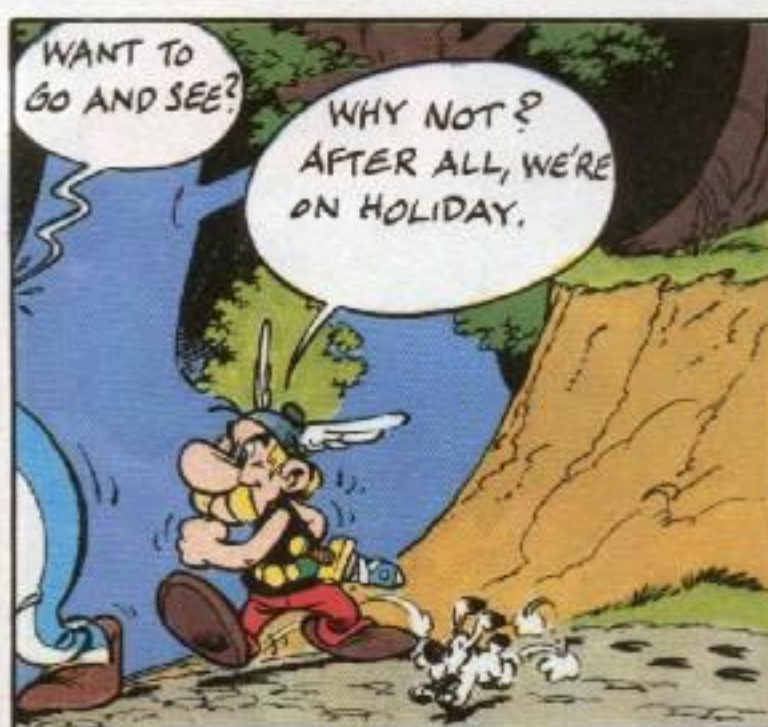
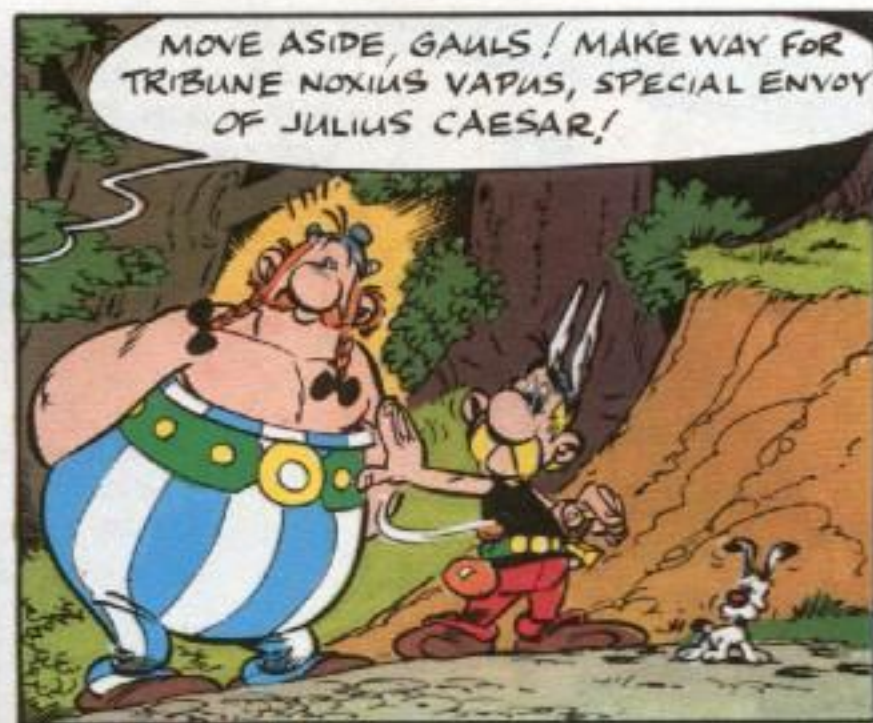












VAPUS IS NOTORIOUS IN THESE PARTS. CAESAR SENDS HIM TO KEEP US DOWN. IF HE'S BACK, WE'RE IN FOR A BAD TIME!



OH, DON'T LET'S BOTHER ABOUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT!



IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO COOK FOR A MAN WHO ENJOYS HIS FOOD!

OH, I SAY!



MEANWHILE, TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPUS ARRIVES AT THE PREFECT'S PALACE...



AVE, NOXIUS VAPUS! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON...ER...DID YOU HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY?



SUMMON ALL THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL GARRISONS AT ONCE. ALL LEAVE IS CANCELLED!



HEAR THAT? JOIN UP, THEY SAID. IT'S A MAN'S LIFE, THEY SAID...



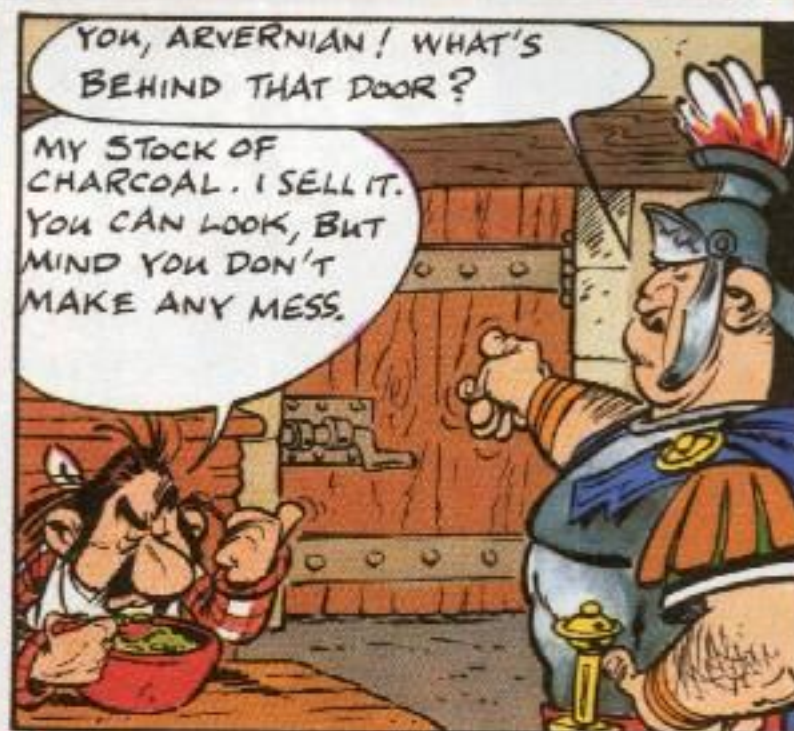
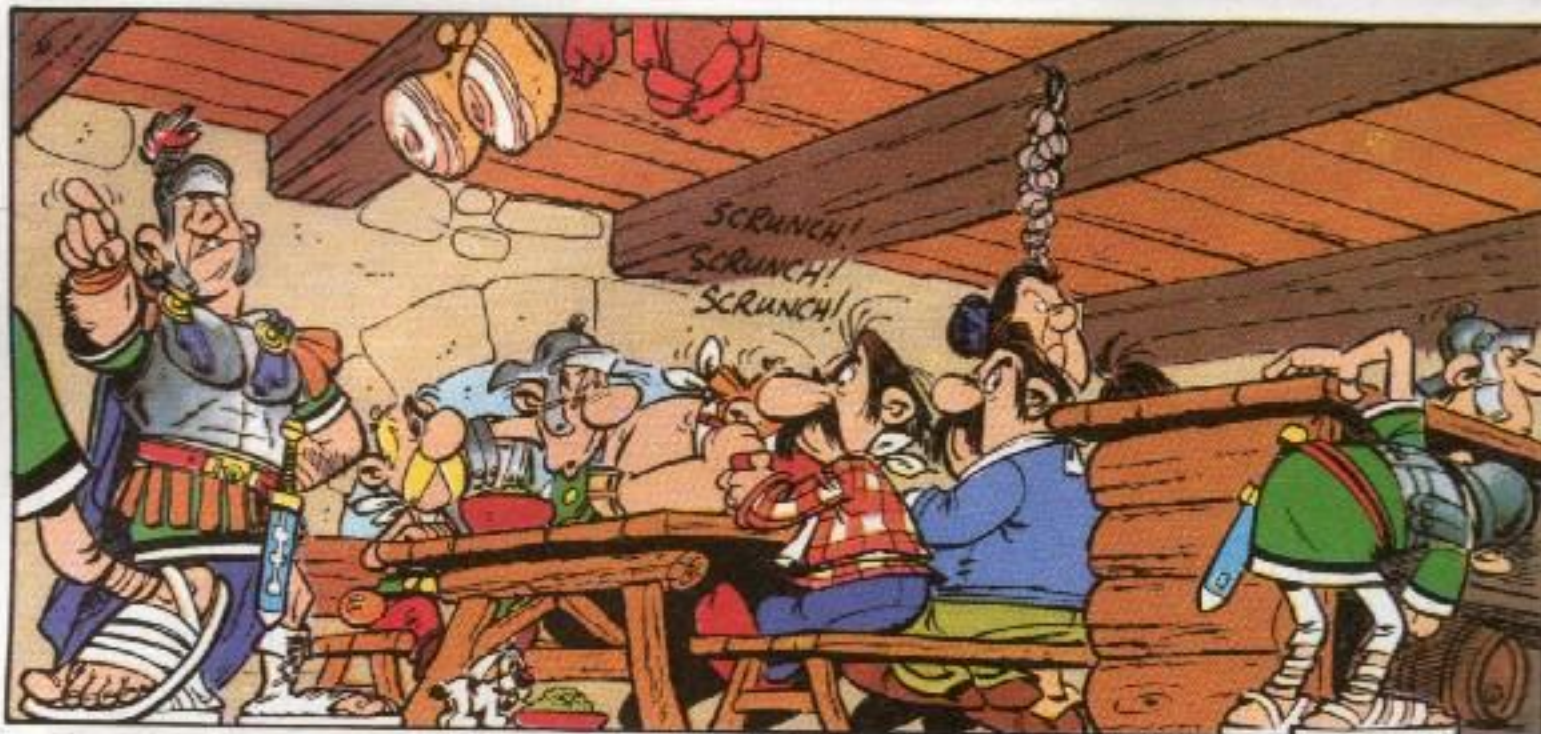
SOON AFTERWARDS...

WELL, THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS: FIND THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD SO THAT CAESAR CAN HOLD HIS TRIUMPH IN GERGOVIA!



A LOT OF ALESIAIS CAME TO LIVE IN GERGOVIA AFTER THEIR DEFEAT. THAT GIVES US A GOOD OPENING. SEARCH EVERY HOUSE! AND GET MOVING, BY JUPITER!







THEY DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING. TALK ABOUT DIRTY LOOKS!

HAHAHA
HAHA!



I MAY NOT HAVE FOUND ANYTHING, BUT I'VE GOT MY EYE ON YOU!

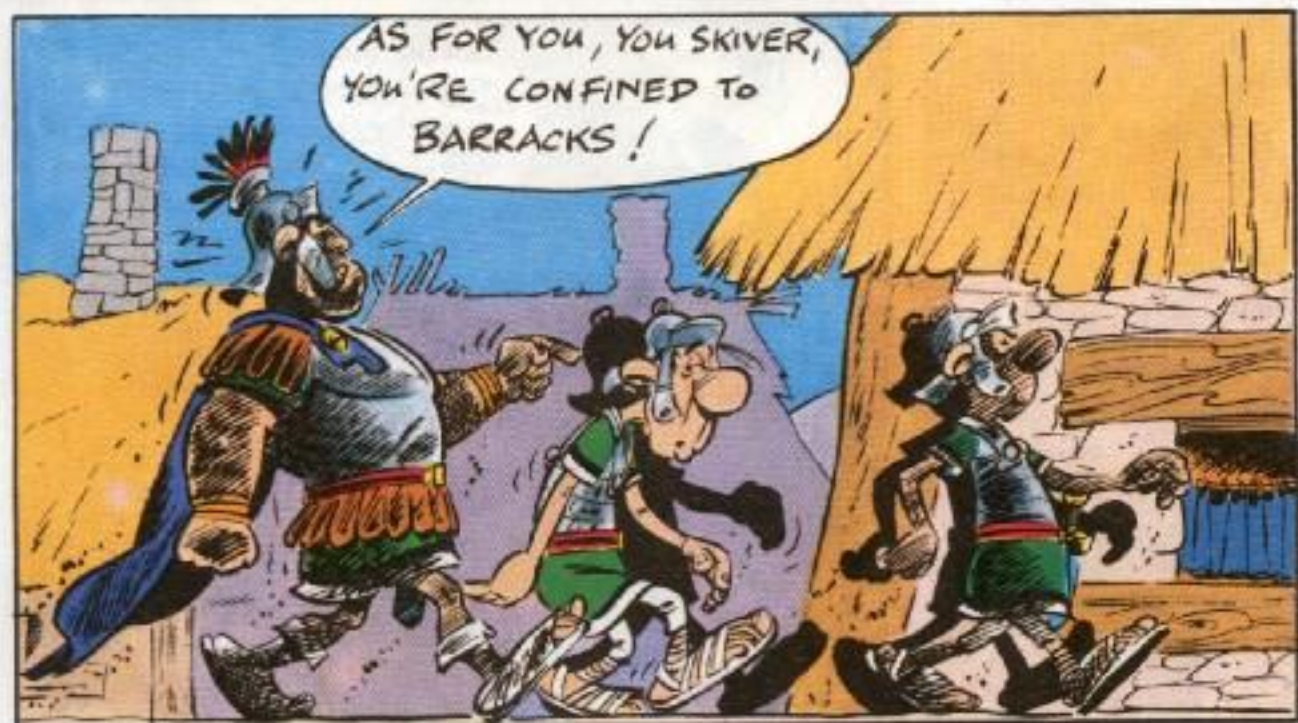
HAHAHA
HAHA!



DIRTY LOOKS!
HOHOHO!

SHALL WE BLACK HIS EYE?

NO, BETTER NOT; YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THESE BARBARIAN BLACKGUARDS. HE LOOKS HARMLESS, BUT HE COULD BE A DARK HORSE.



AS FOR YOU, YOU SKIVER, YOU'RE CONFINED TO BARRACKS!



I WONDER WHO CAN HAVE TOLD ON ME?



A LITTLE LATER, IN THE PREFECT'S PALACE...

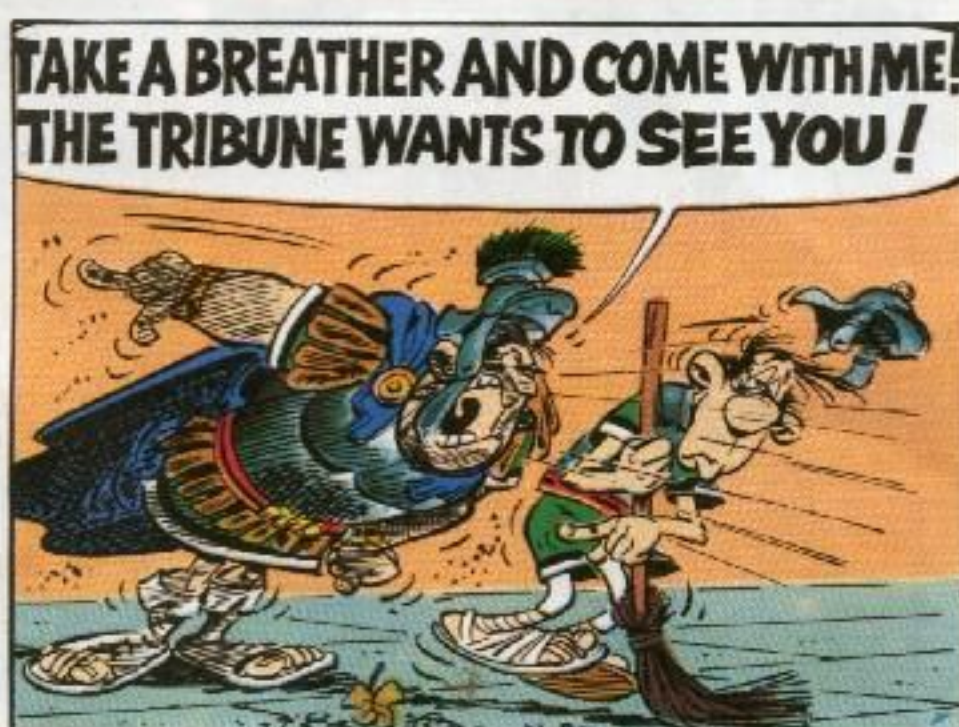
AVE, NOXIUS VAPUS! PATROL LEADERS REPORTING. TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAST OF IT...

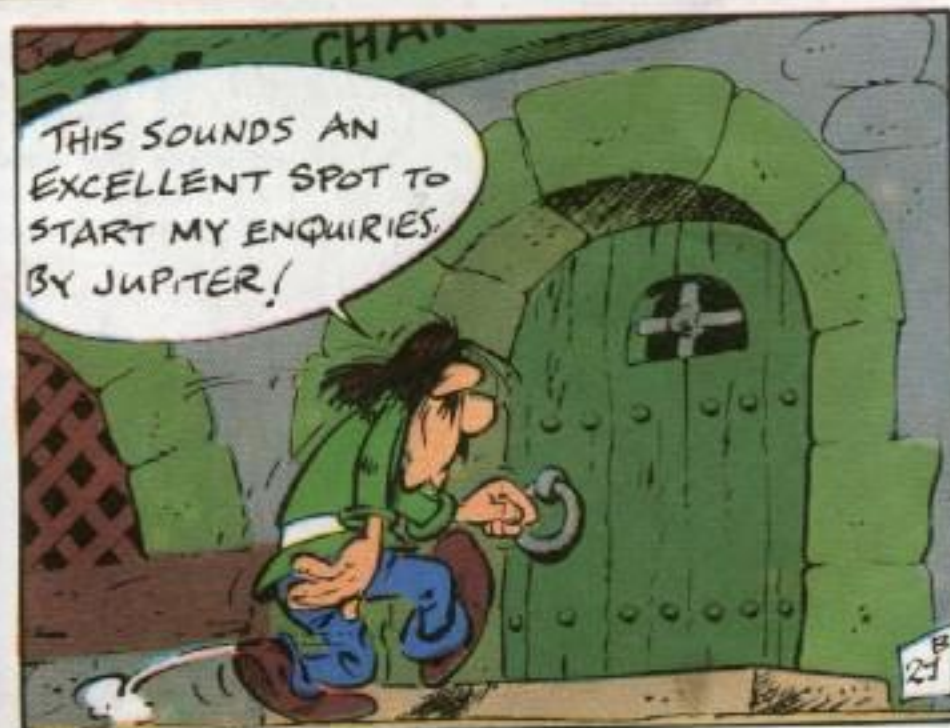
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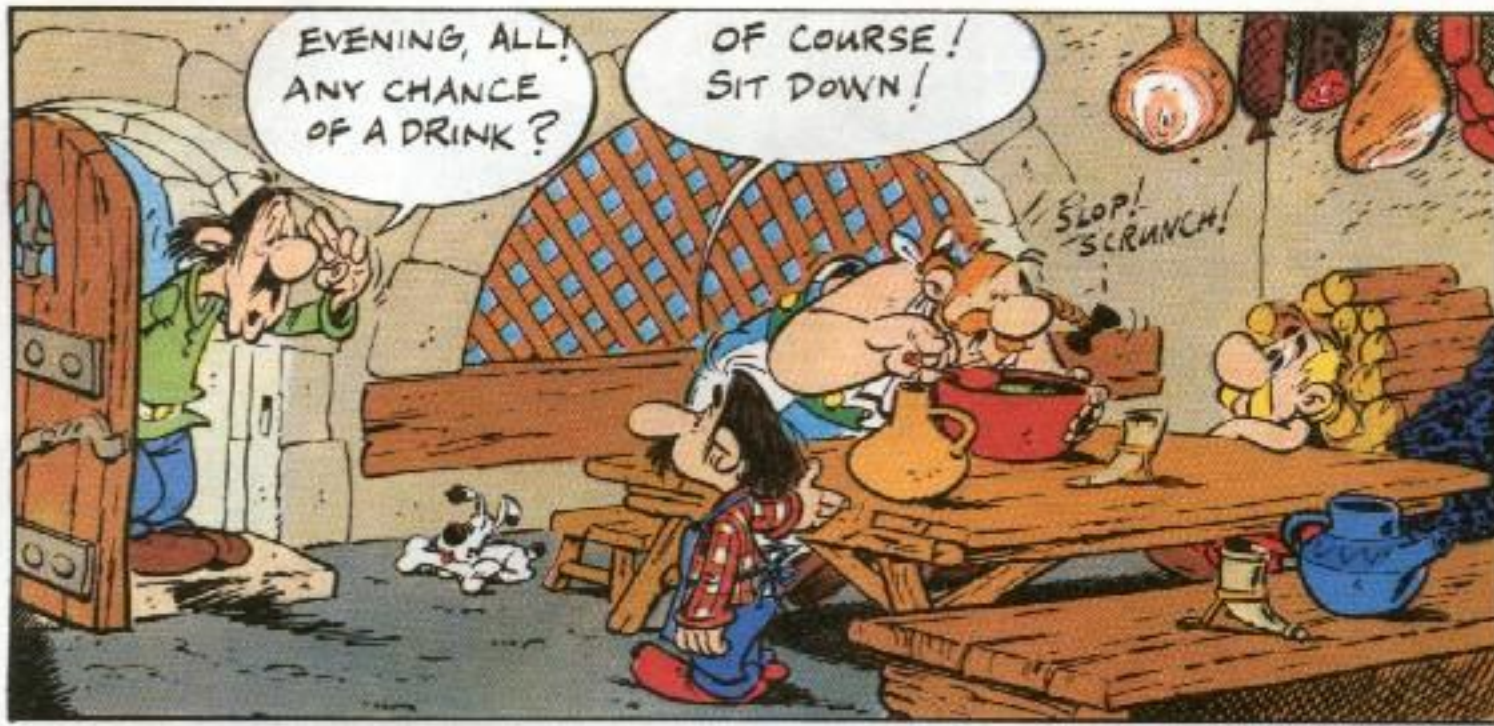


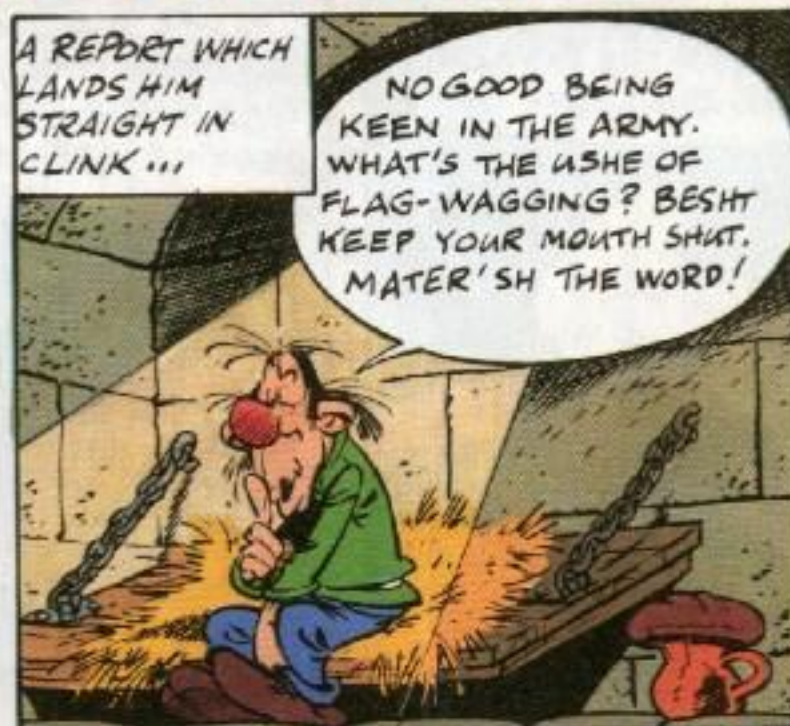
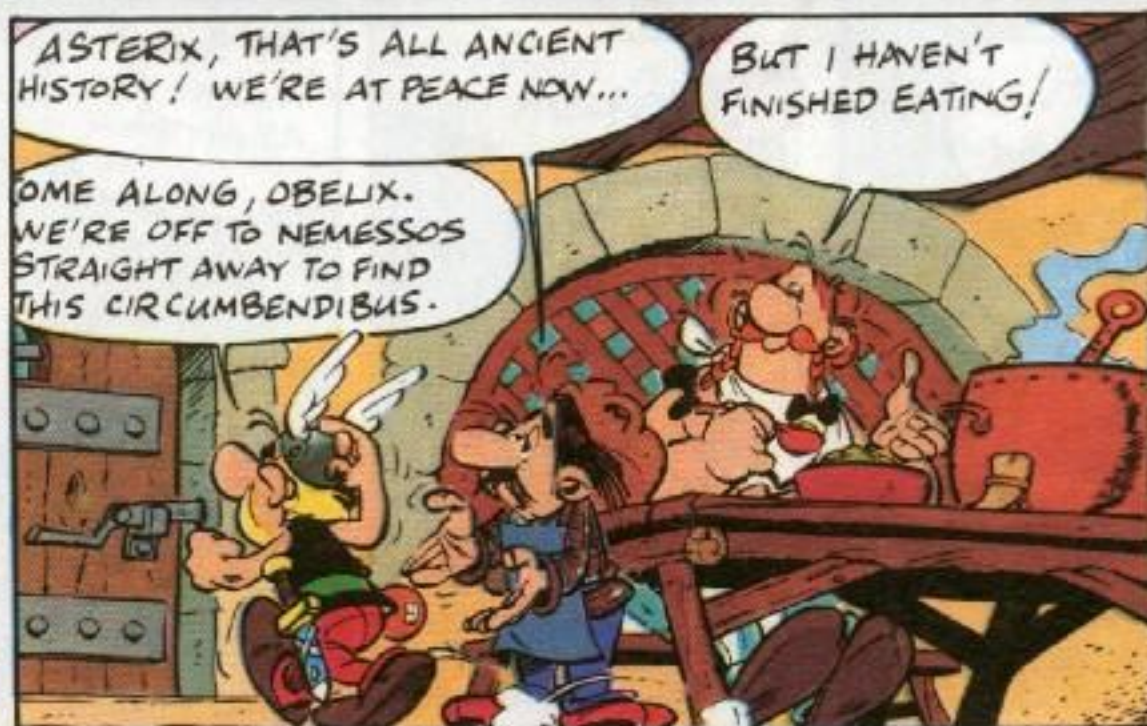
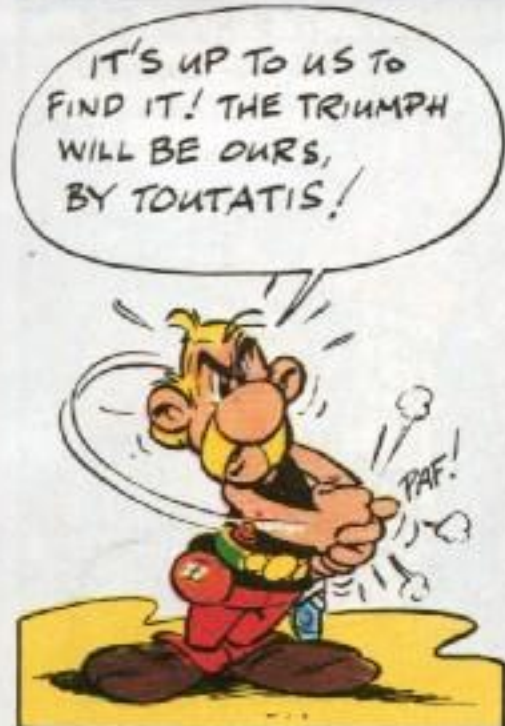
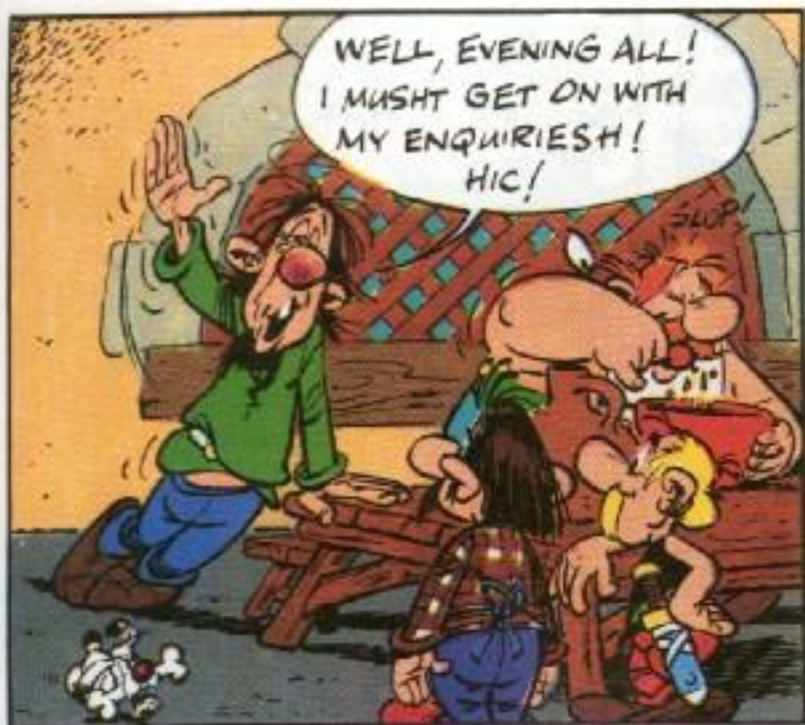
WELL?

WE GOT A DUSTY ANSWER.









MEANWHILE, OUR FRIENDS
HAVE ARRIVED AT THE
LARGE ARVERNIAN TOWN
OF NEMESSOS...



*CLERMONT-FERRAND

BUT HOW DO WE SET
ABOUT FINDING
CIRCUMBENDIBUS,
ASTERIX?

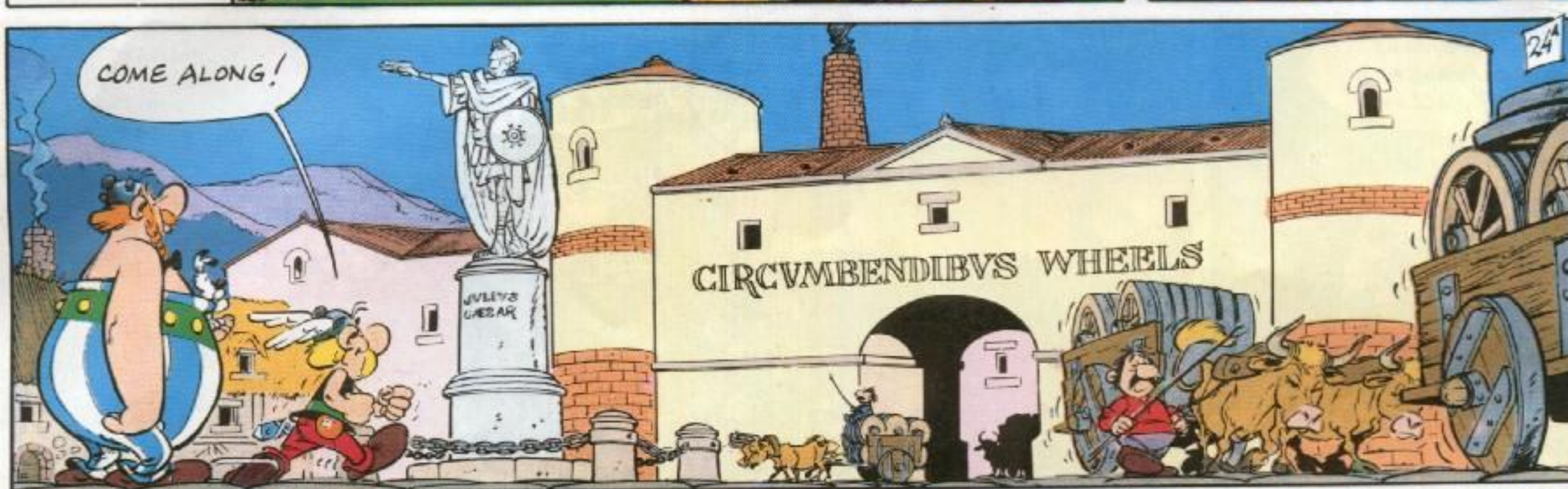
HE MAKES WHEELS...
IT SHOULD BE EASY TO
SPOT A WHEEL
FACTORY...



THERE, LOOK! THE
OTHER SIDE OF THAT
SQUARE WITH THE
STATUE OF JULIUS
CAESAR!



COME ALONG!



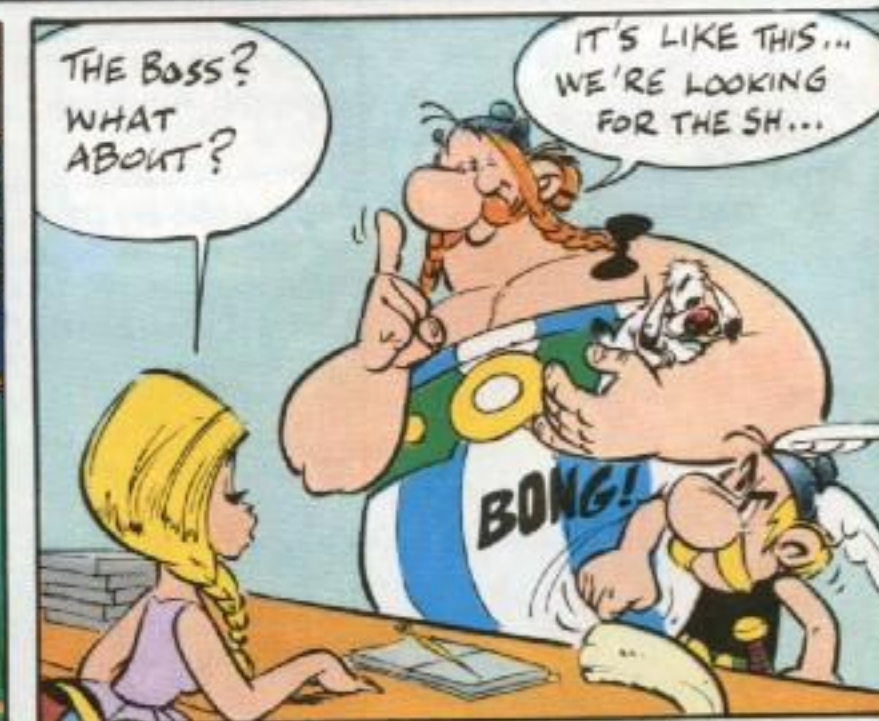
CAN I
HELP YOU?

WE WANT
TO SEE
CIRCUMBENDIBUS.



THE BOSS?
WHAT
ABOUT?

IT'S LIKE THIS...
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR THE SH...



PRIVATE
BUSINESS.
OUR NAMES ARE
ASTERIX AND
OBELIX.

AND
DOGMATIX.

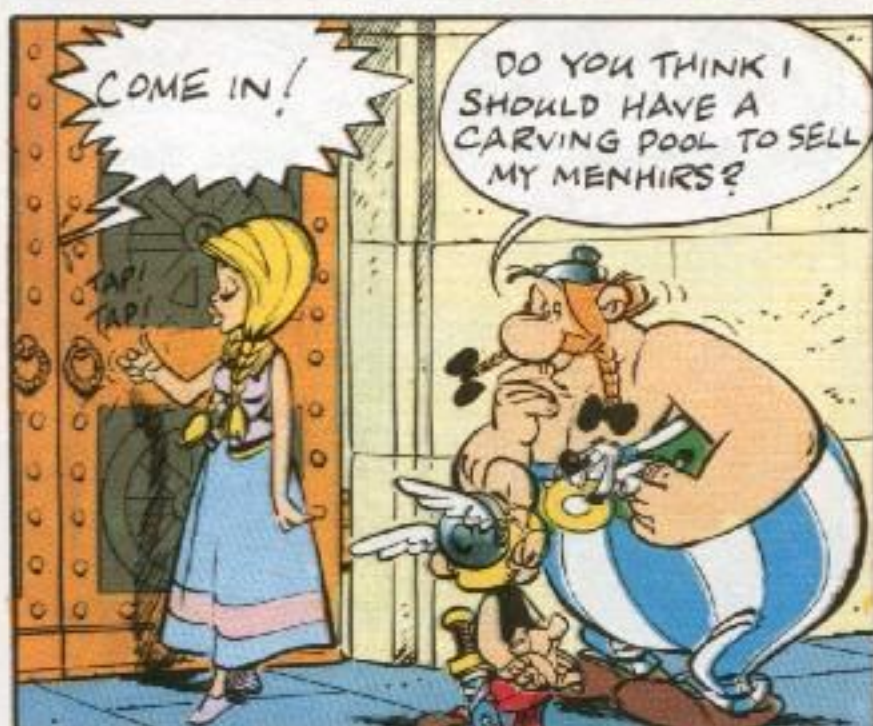
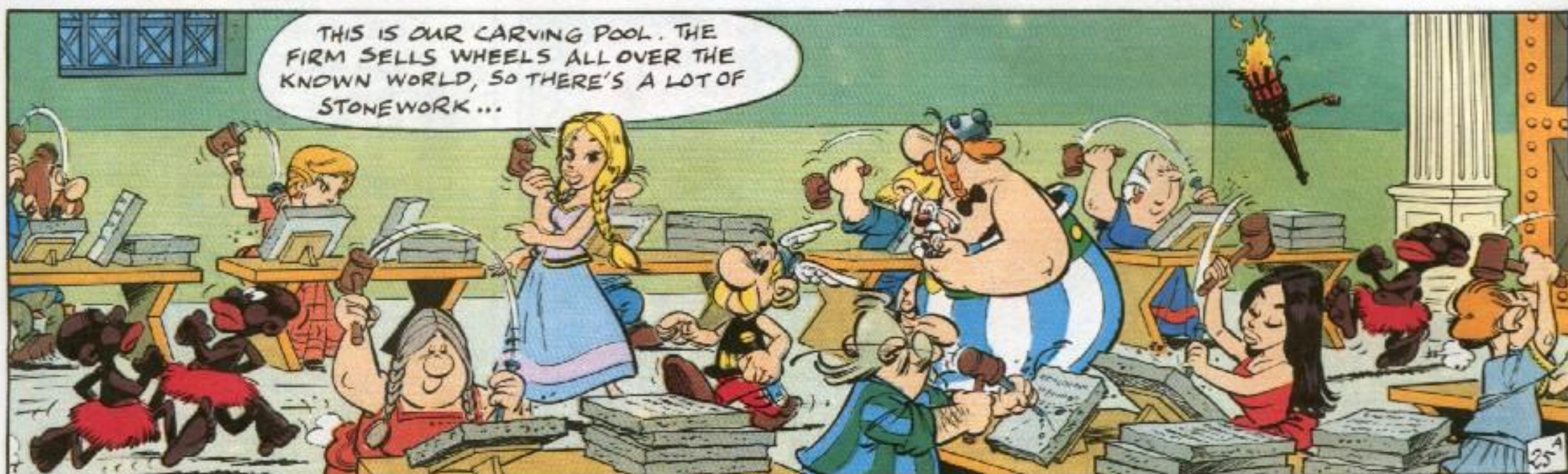


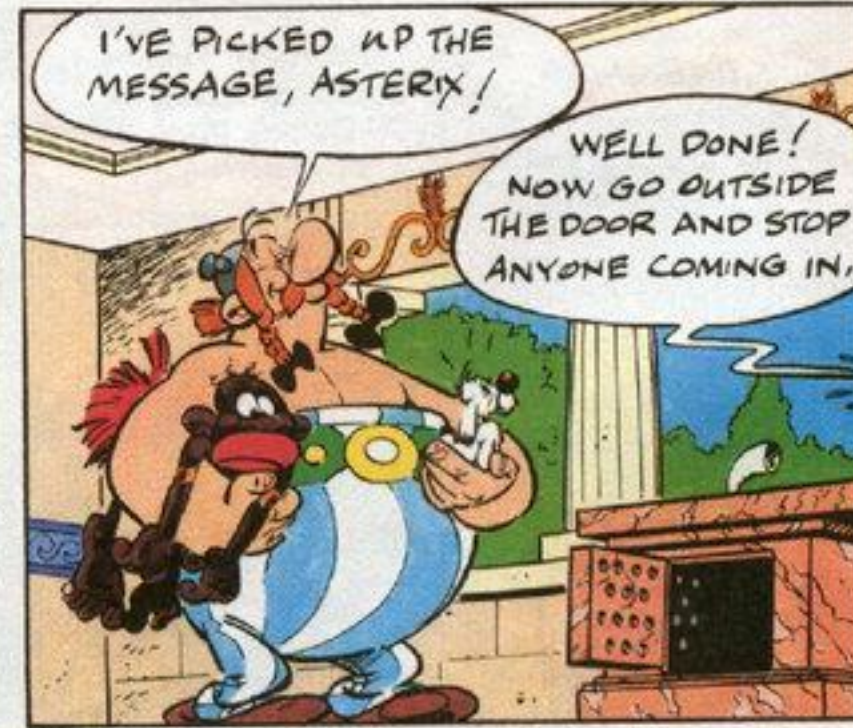
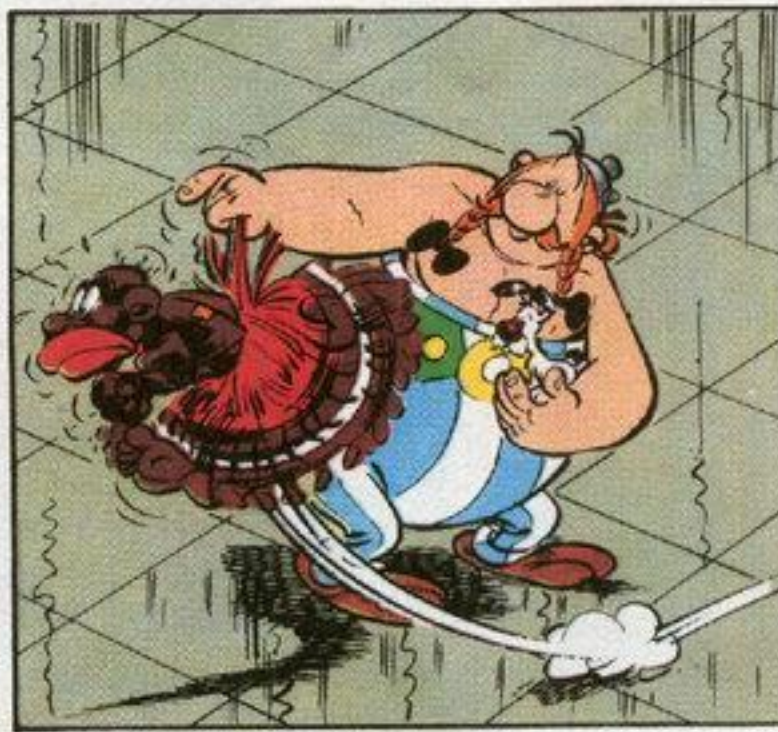
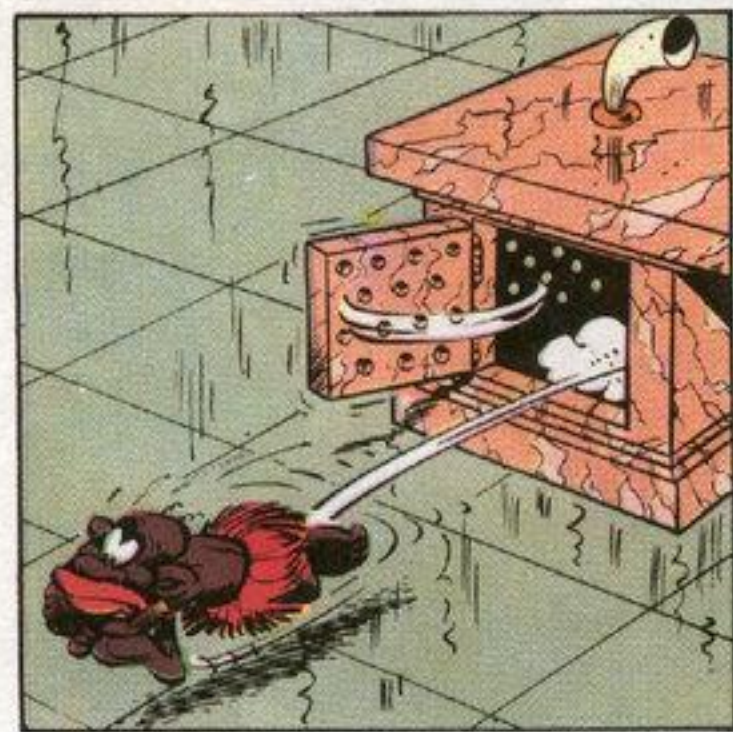
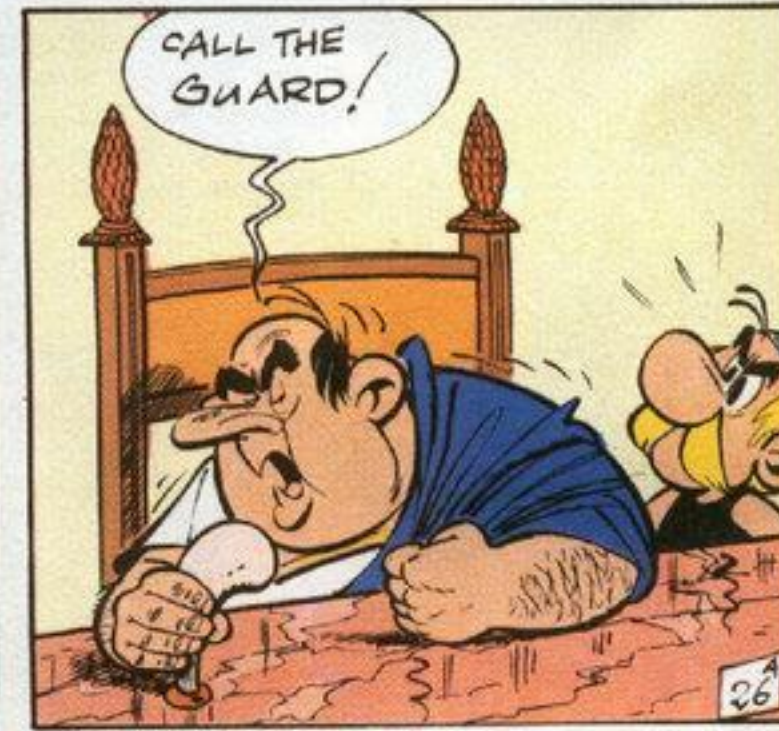
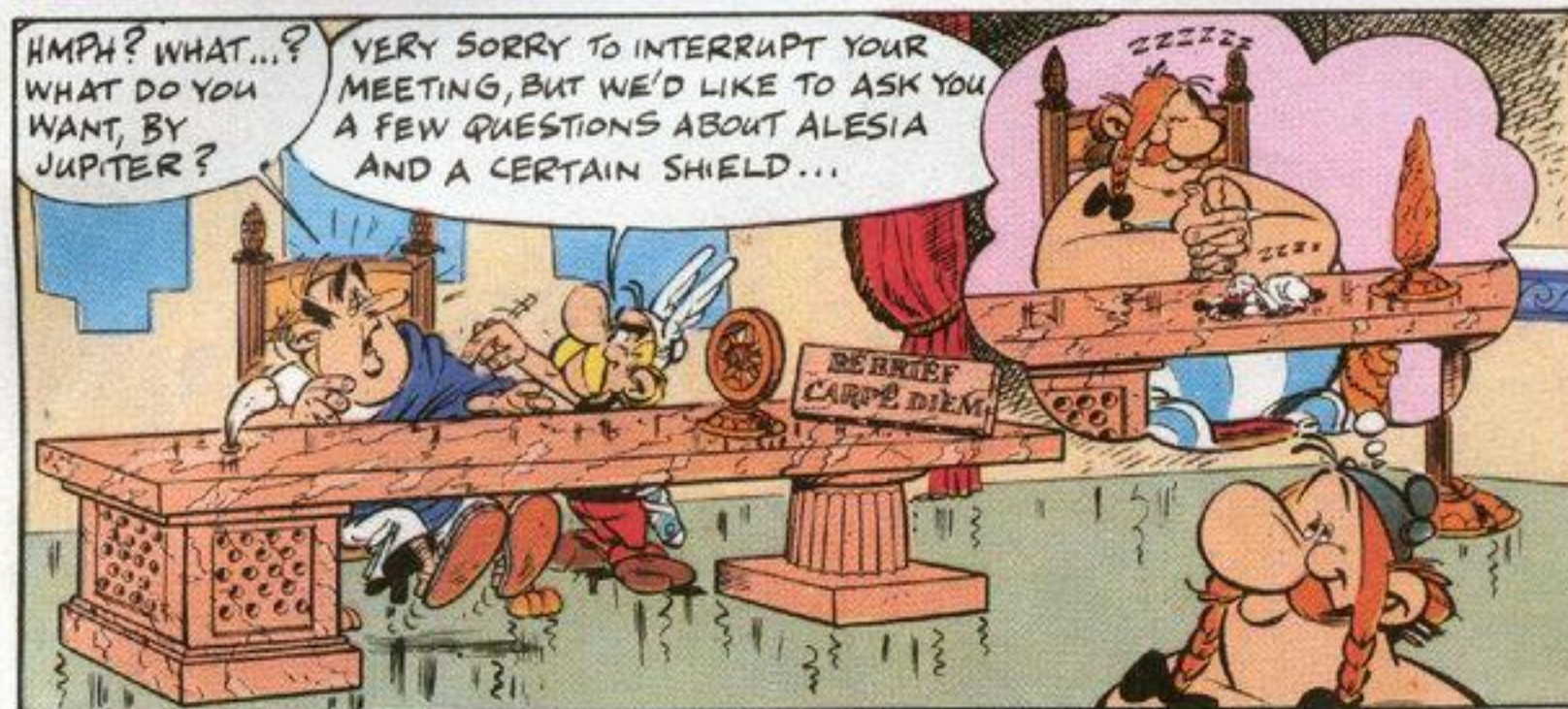
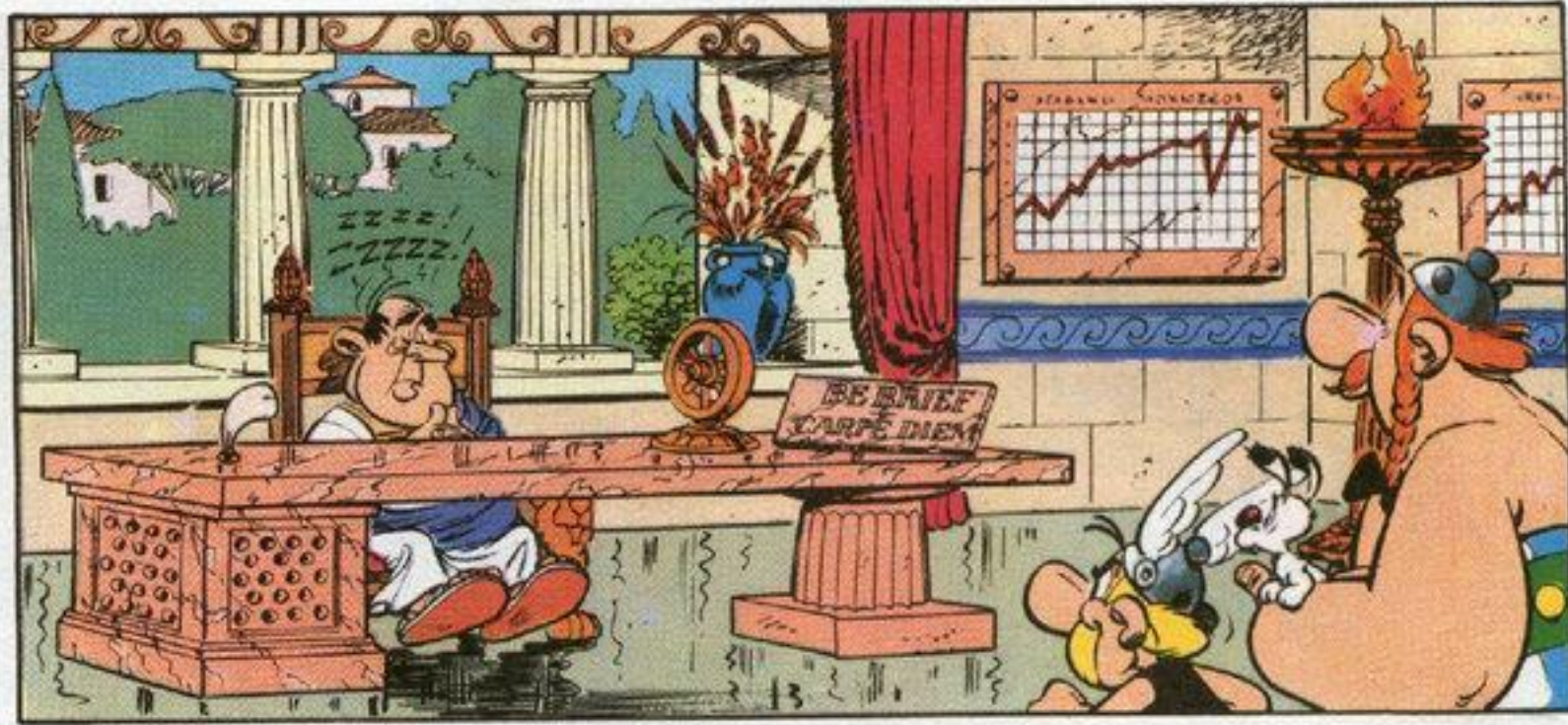
ASTERIX AND OBELIX WOULD
LIKE TO SEE THE BOSS ON
PRIVATE BUSINESS.

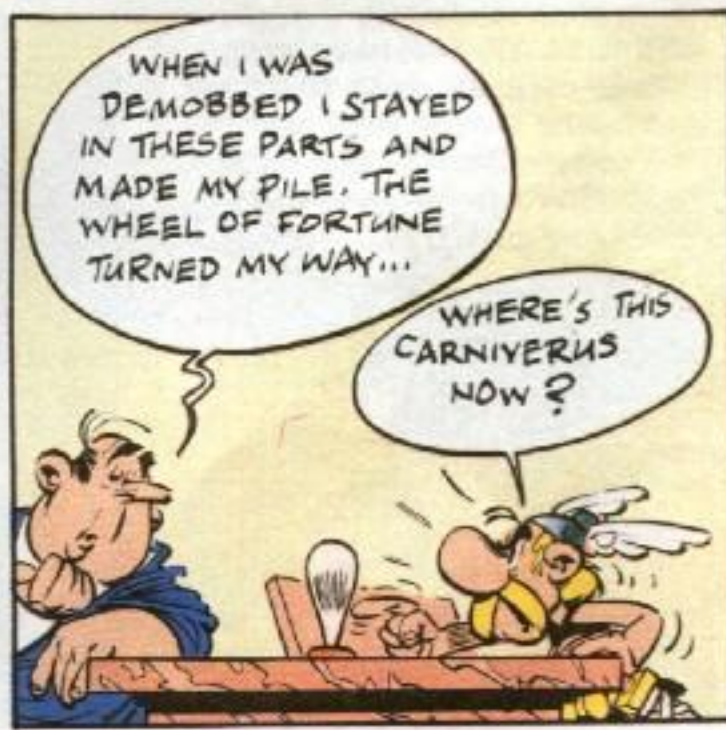
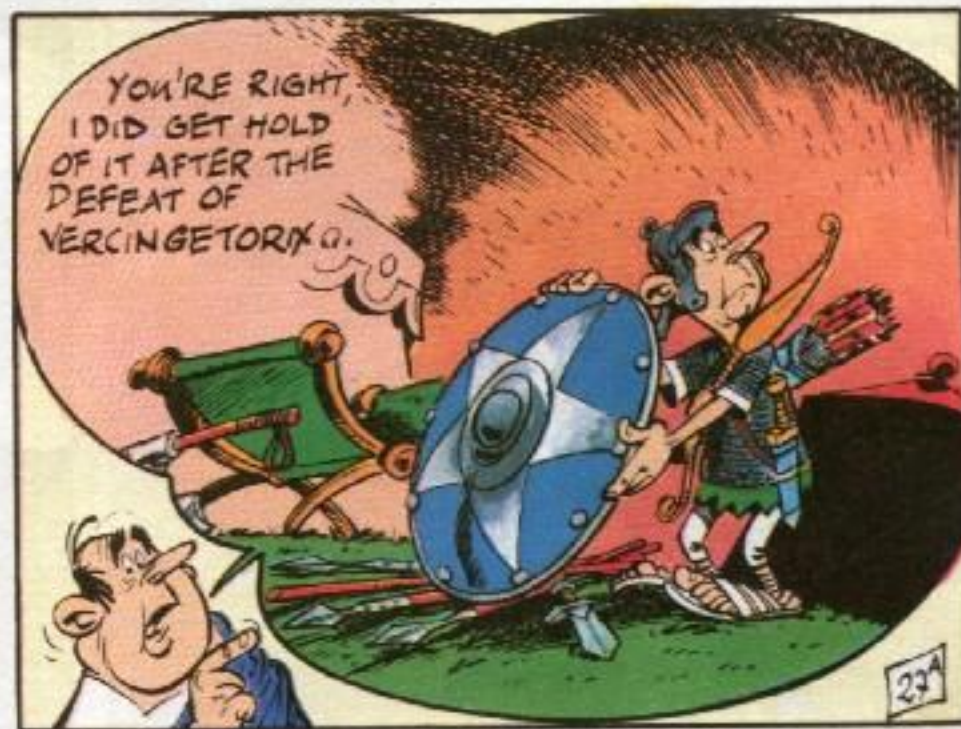
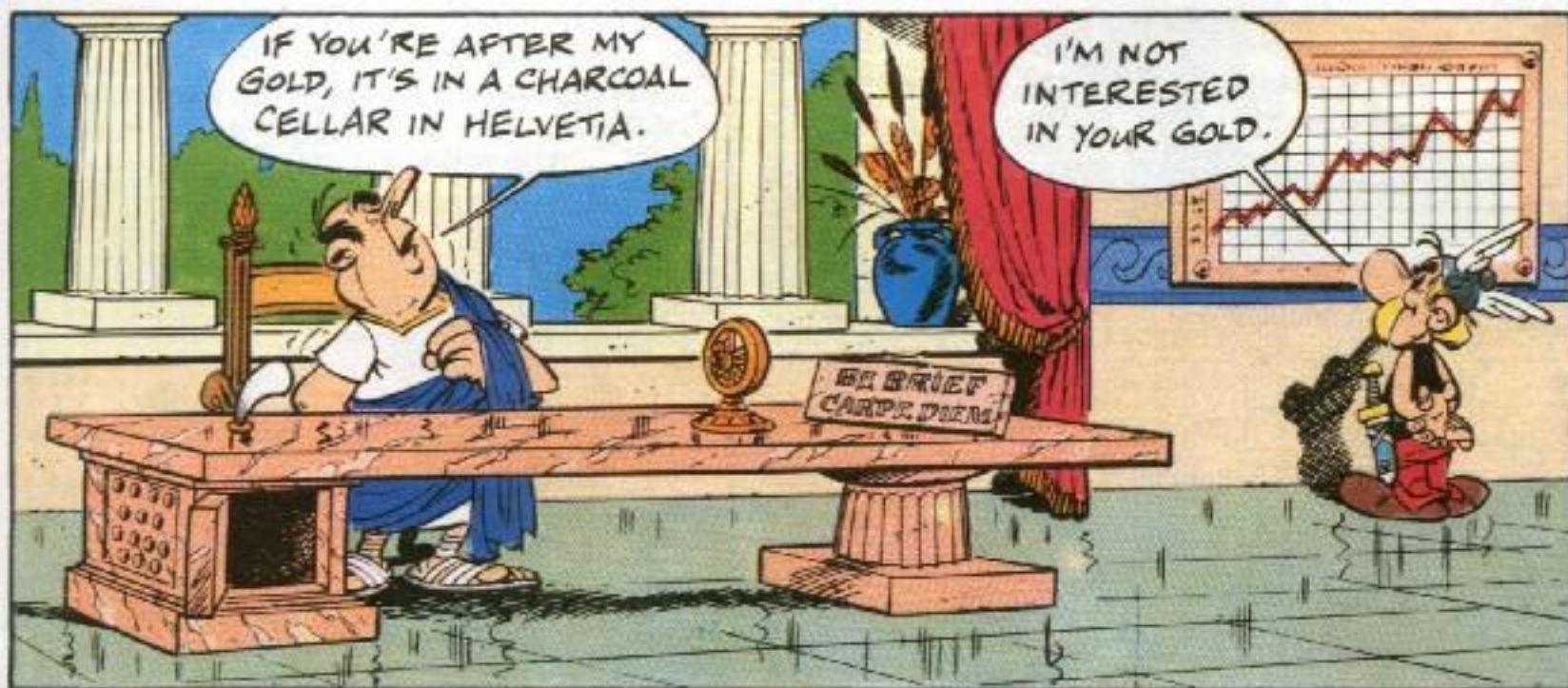


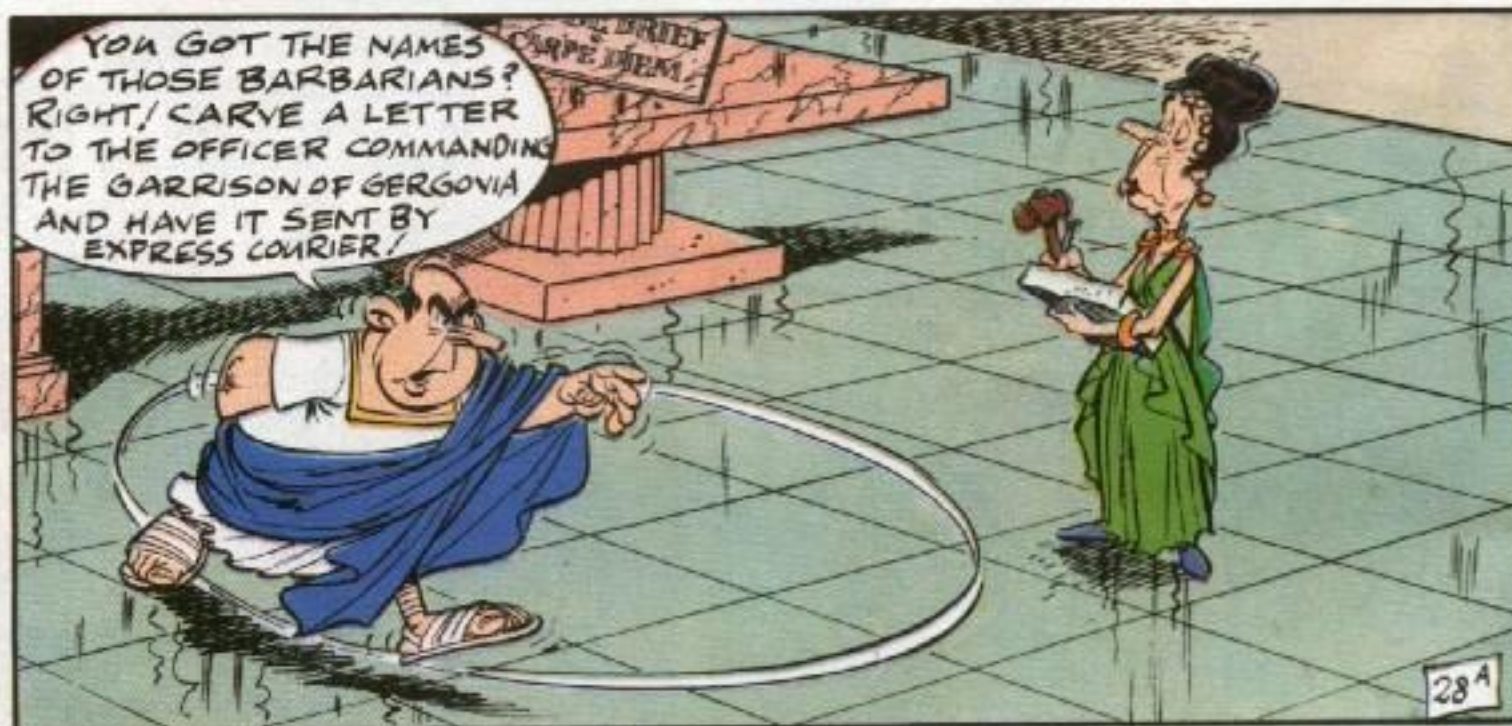
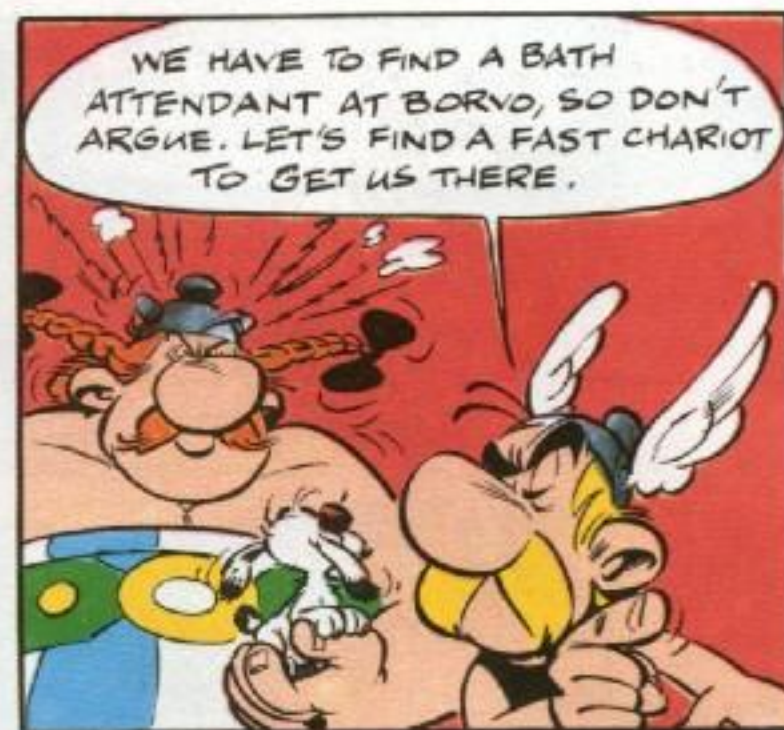
THAT'S OUR INTERCOM
SYSTEM... NOW, IF YOU'D
LIKE TO GO INTO THE
WAITING ATRIUM...

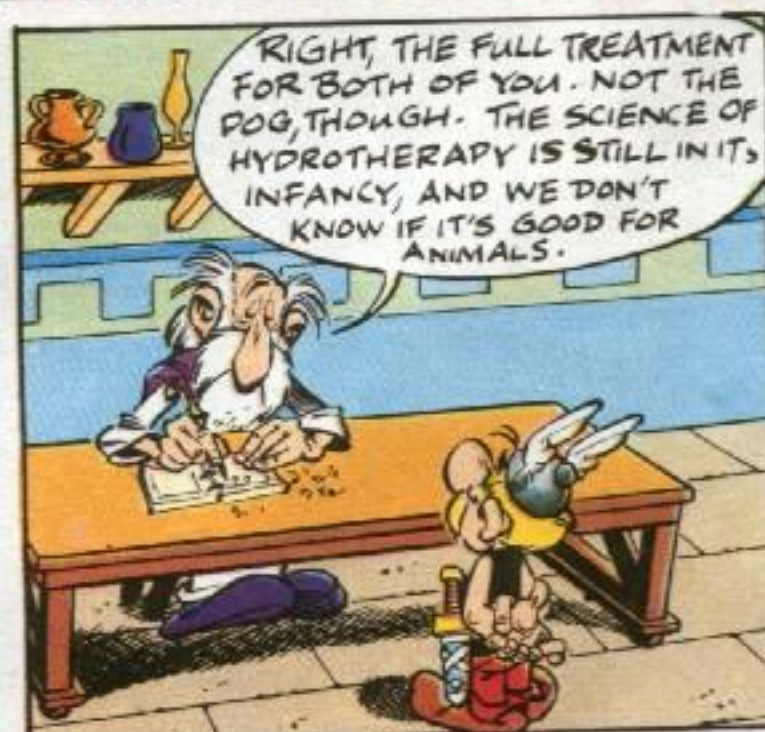
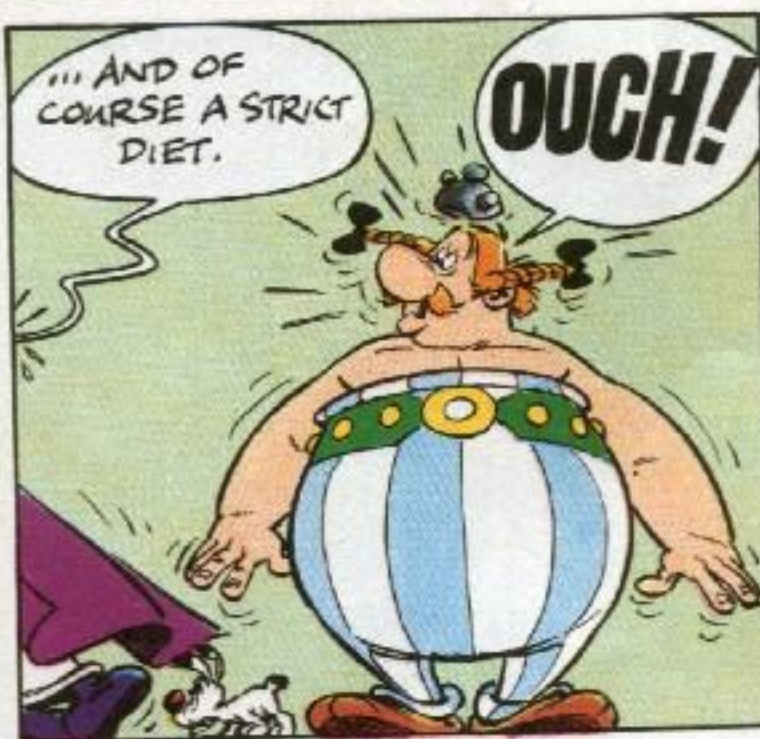
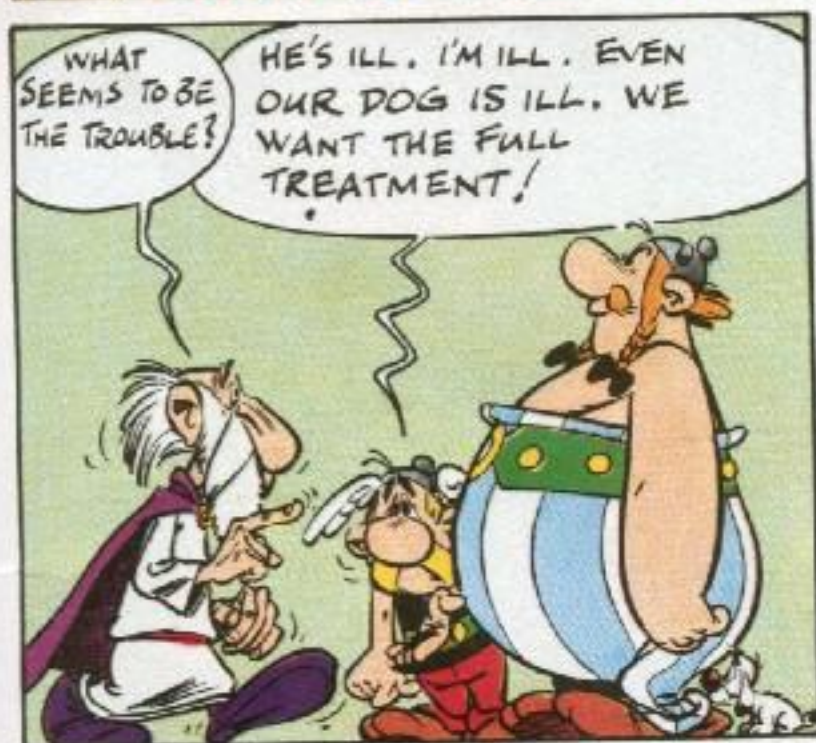






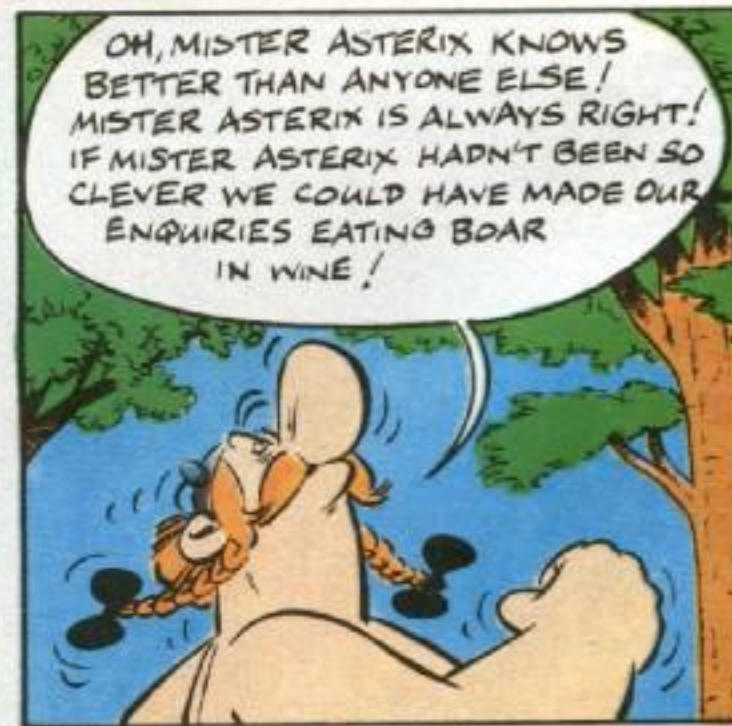
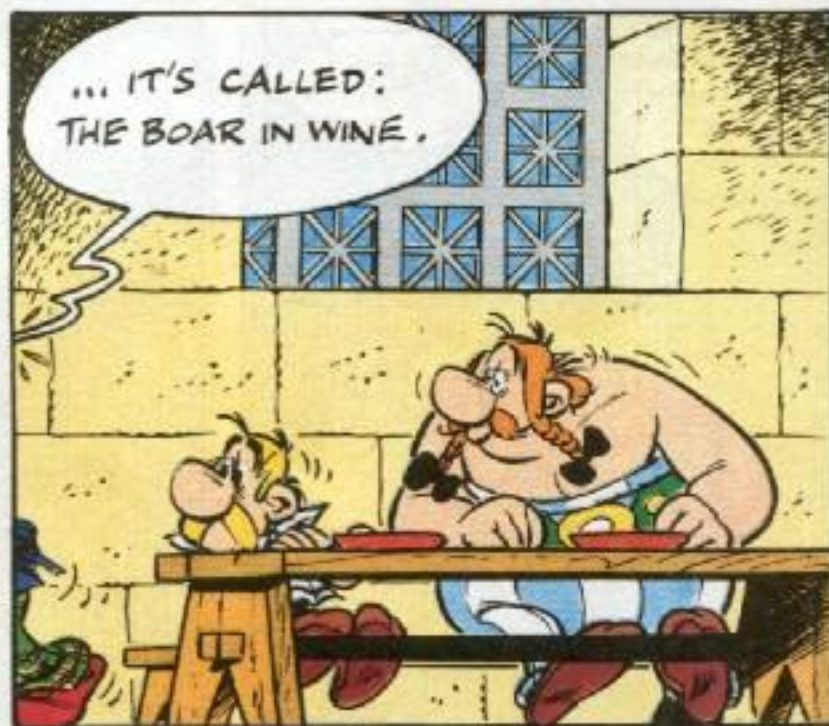
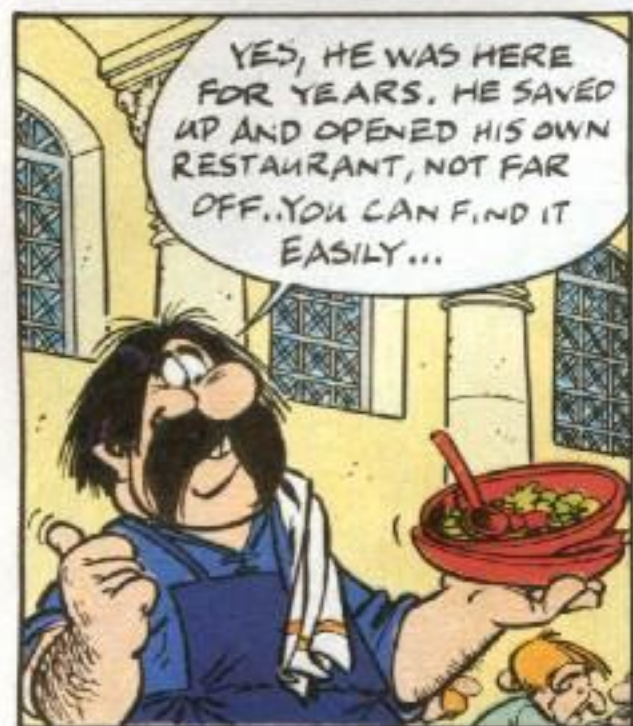
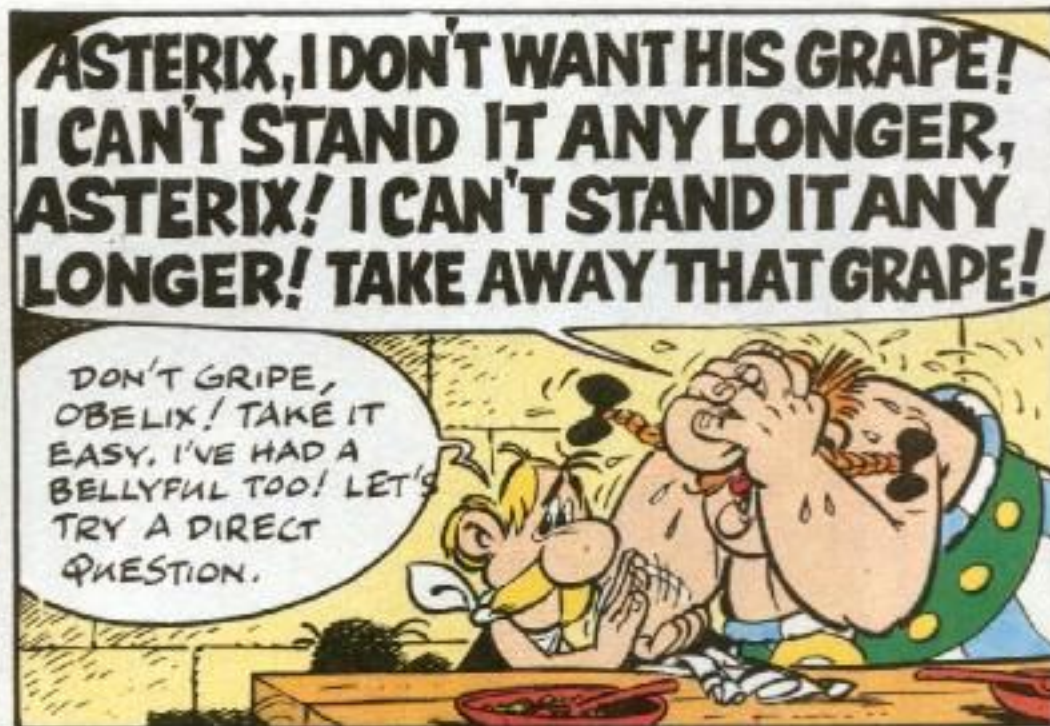
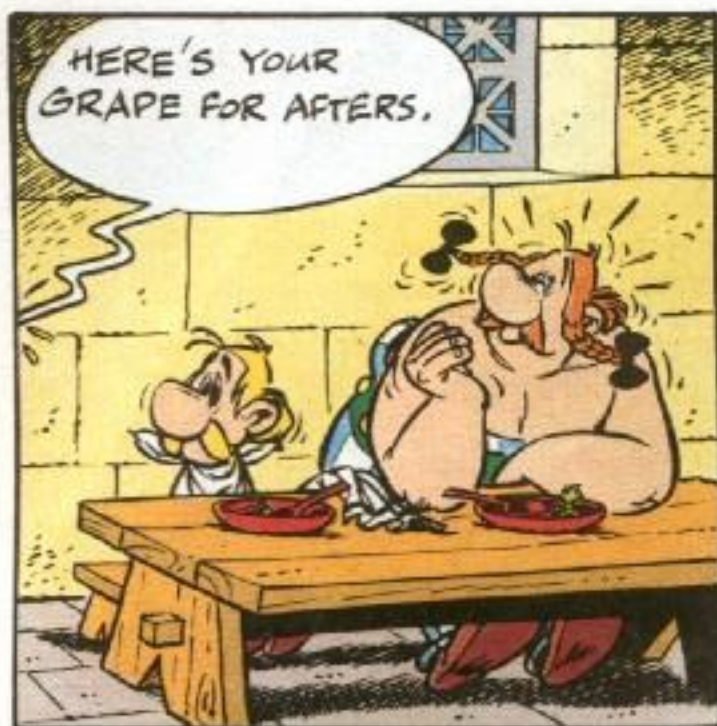


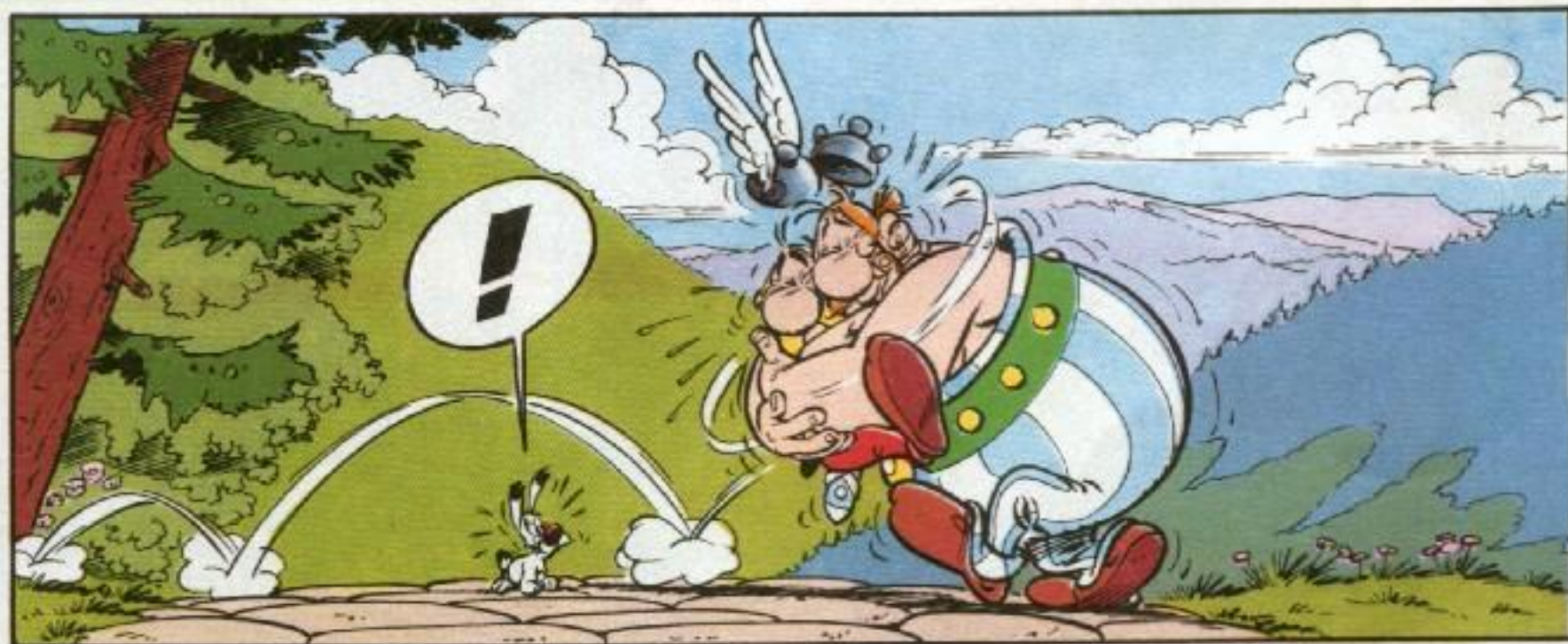


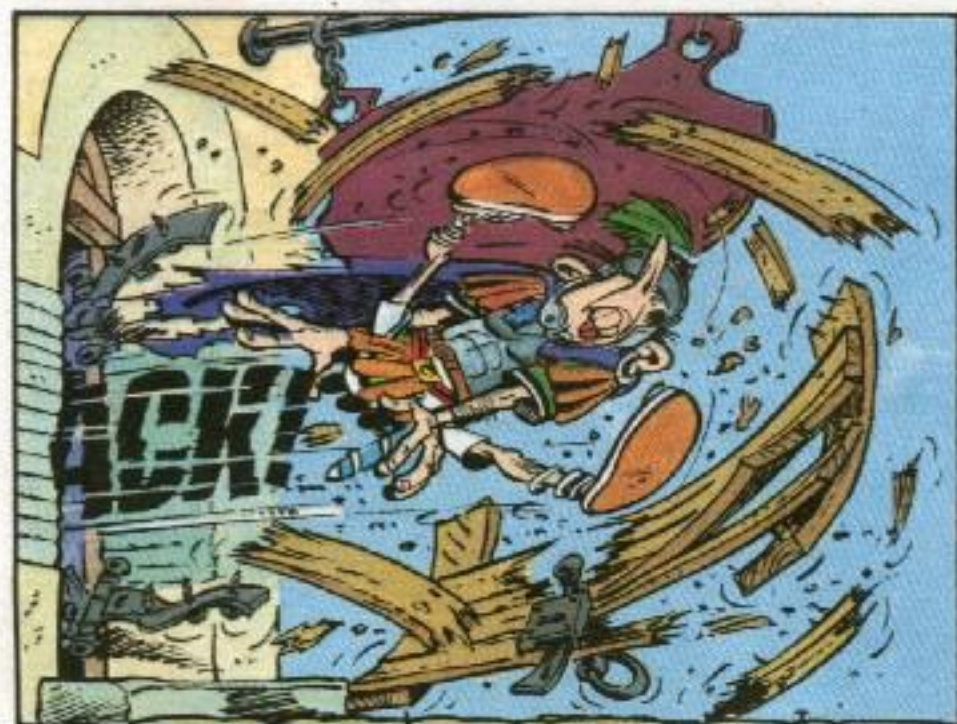
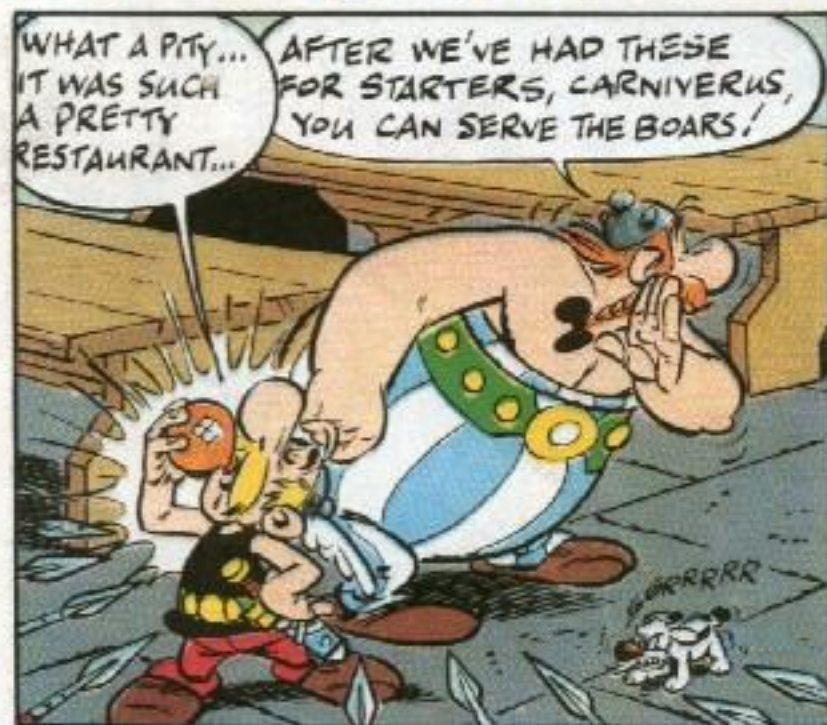
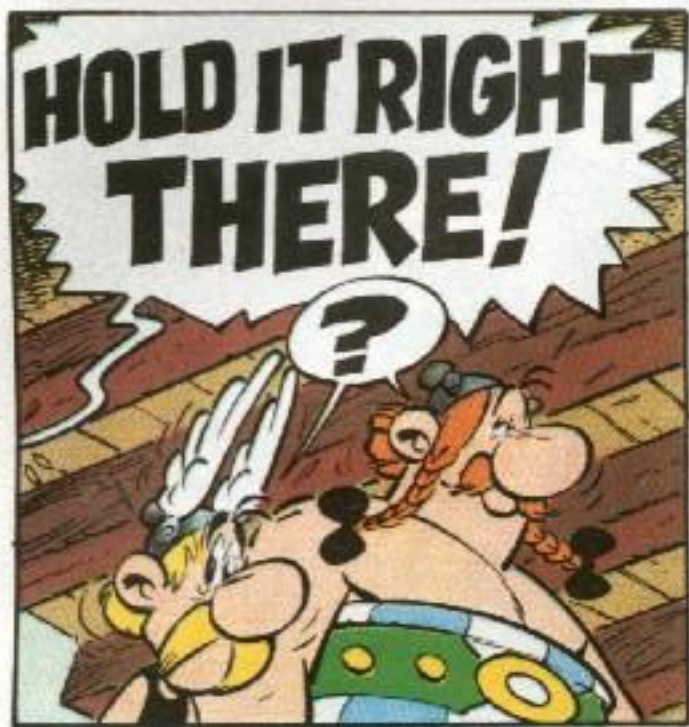


AND SO, IN THE COURSE OF TREATMENT, OUR FRIENDS ARE ABLE TO MAKE DISCREET ENQUIRIES...





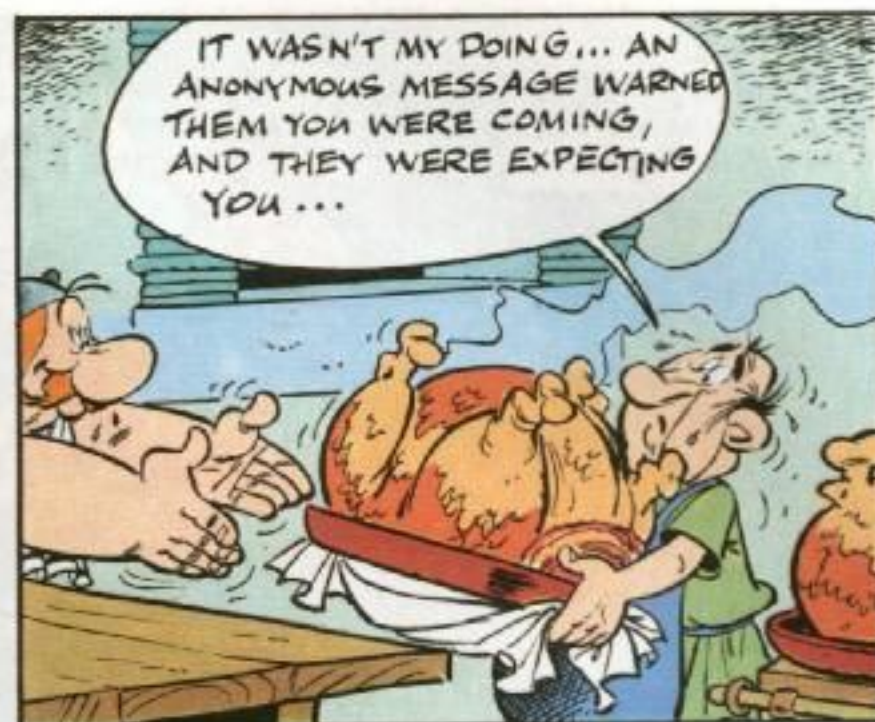




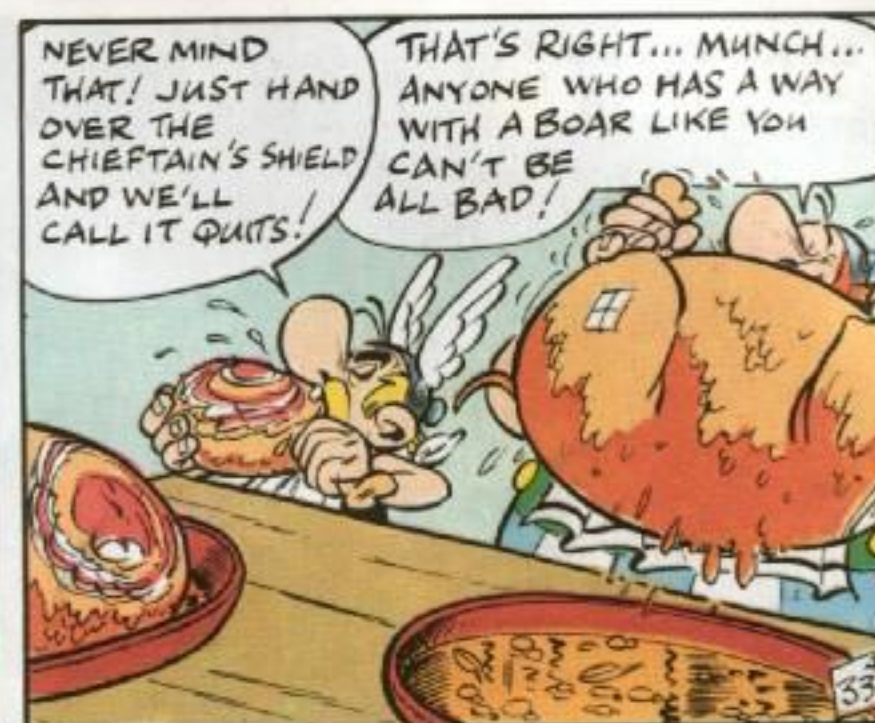


AH! AND ABOUT TIME TOO! WE'RE THE LAST TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO US!

GOOD! COME AND JOIN US, CARNIVERUS, OLD CHAP.



IT WASN'T MY DOING... AN ANONYMOUS MESSAGE WARNED THEM YOU WERE COMING, AND THEY WERE EXPECTING YOU...



NEVER MIND THAT! JUST HAND OVER THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD AND WE'LL CALL IT QUITS!

THAT'S RIGHT... MUNCH... ANYONE WHO HAS A WAY WITH A BOAR LIKE YOU CAN'T BE ALL BAD!

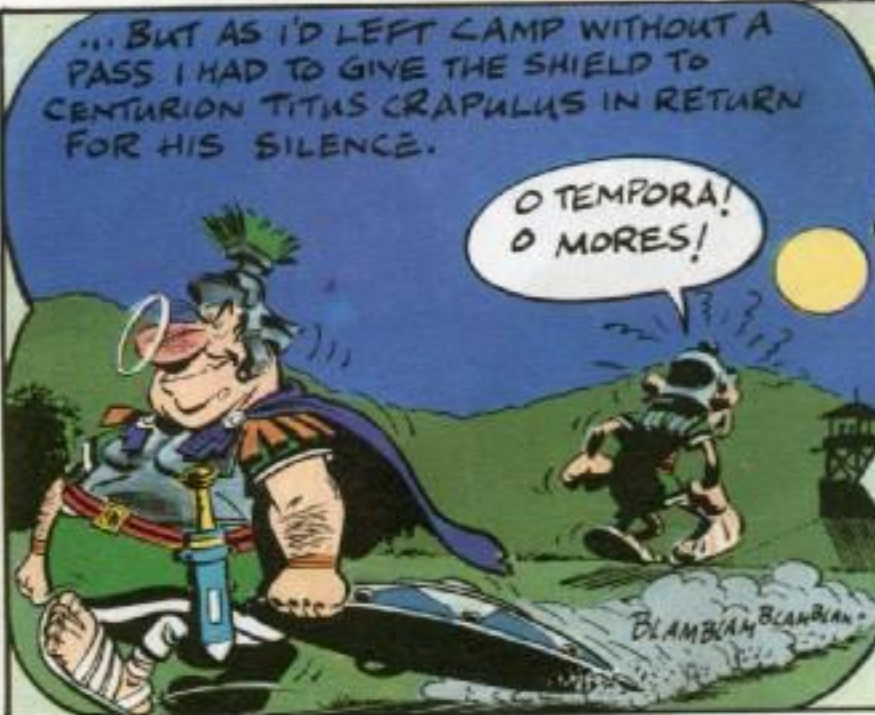


BUT I HAVEN'T GOT THE SHIELD ANY MORE... I ALREADY TOLD THEM...



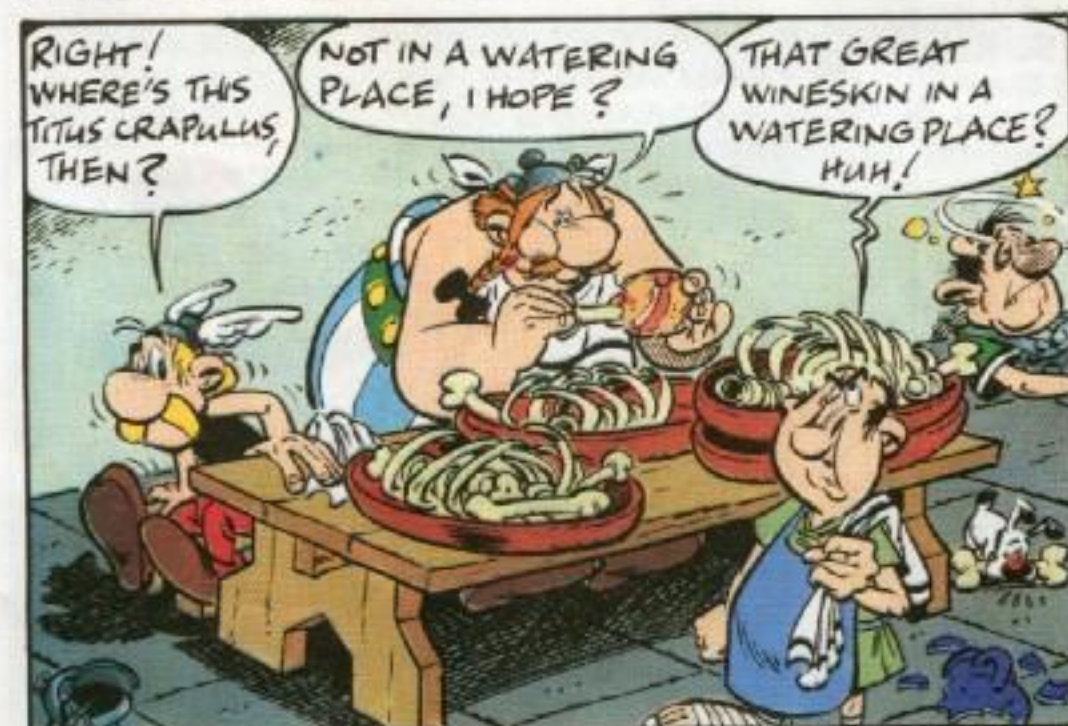
... YOU'RE RIGHT, I DID WIN IT IN A GAME OF CHANCE WHEN I WAS A LEGIONARY...

HEY! YOU THERE! QAO VADIS, LADDIE?



... BUT AS I'D LEFT CAMP WITHOUT A PASS I HAD TO GIVE THE SHIELD TO CENTURION TITUS CRAPULUS IN RETURN FOR HIS SILENCE.

O TEMPORA! O MORES!



RIGHT! WHERE'S THIS TITUS CRAPULUS, THEN?

NOT IN A WATERING PLACE, I HOPE?

THAT GREAT WINESKIN IN A WATERING PLACE? HUH!

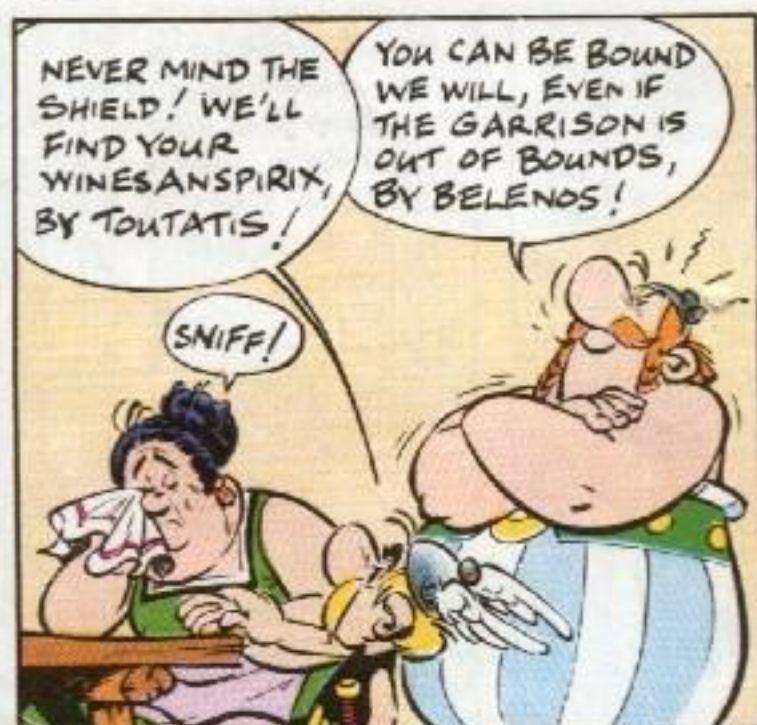
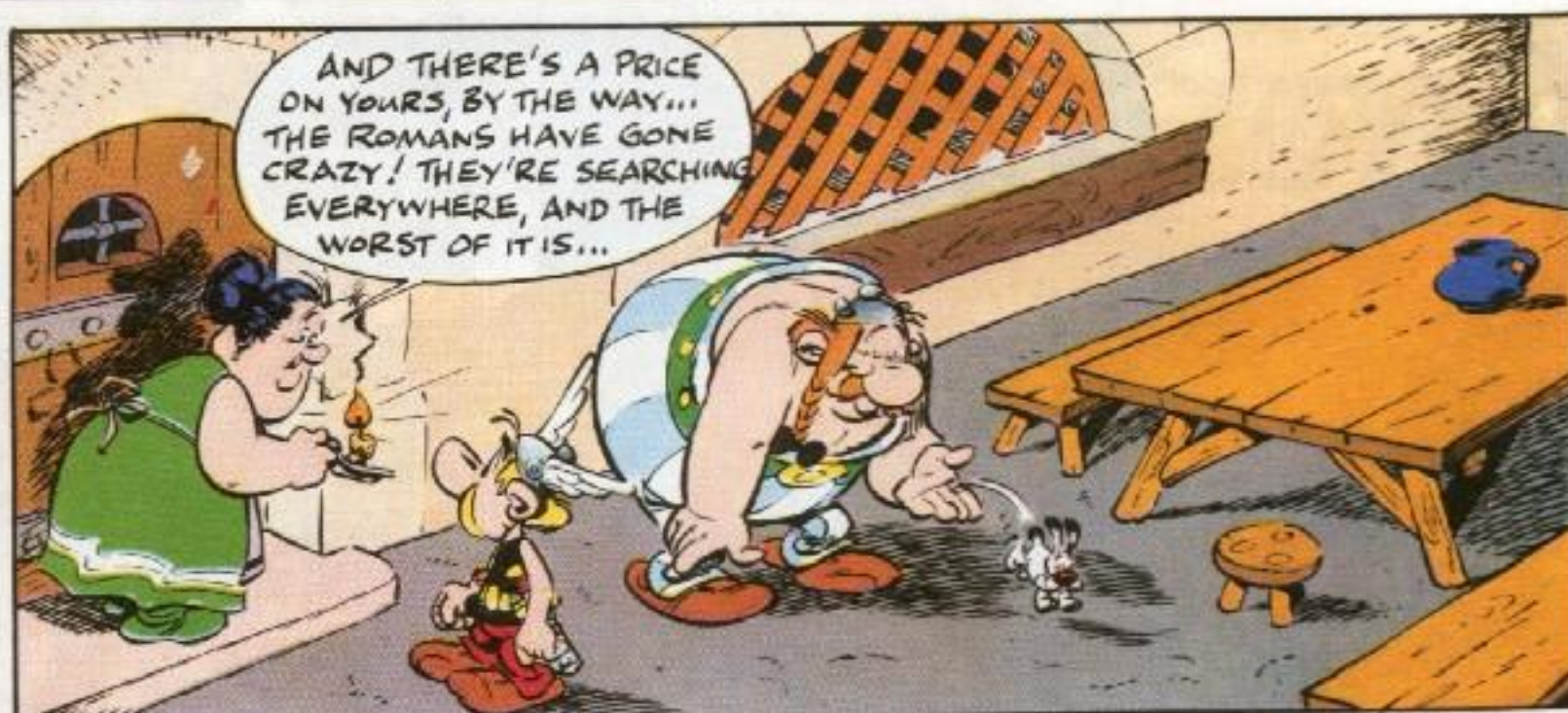
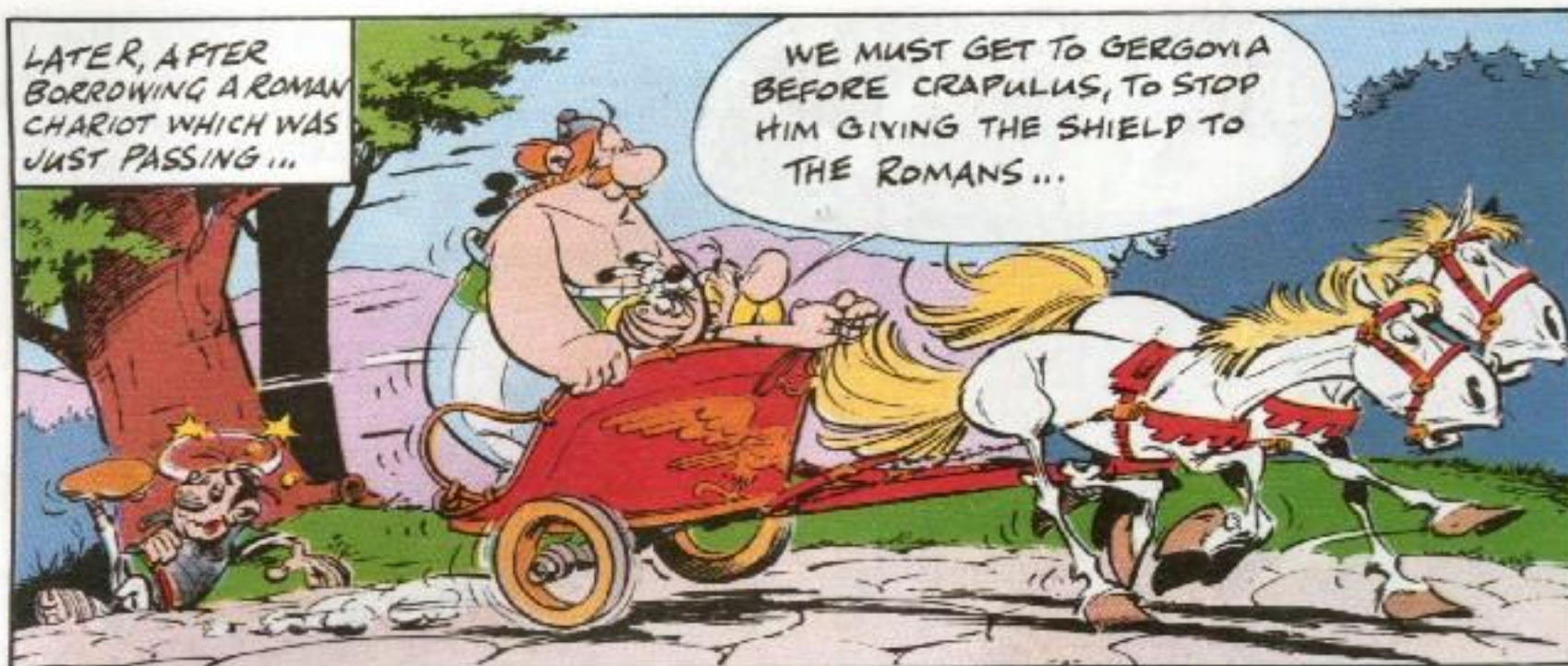


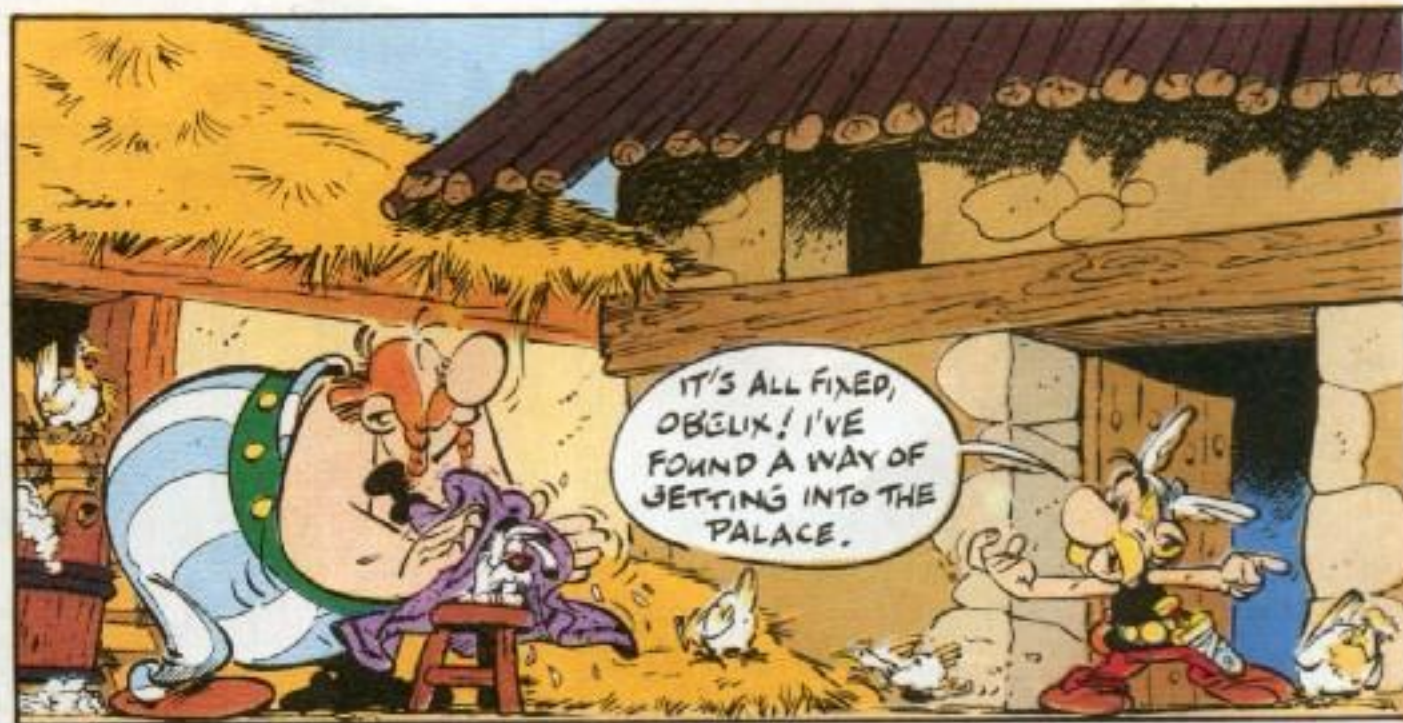
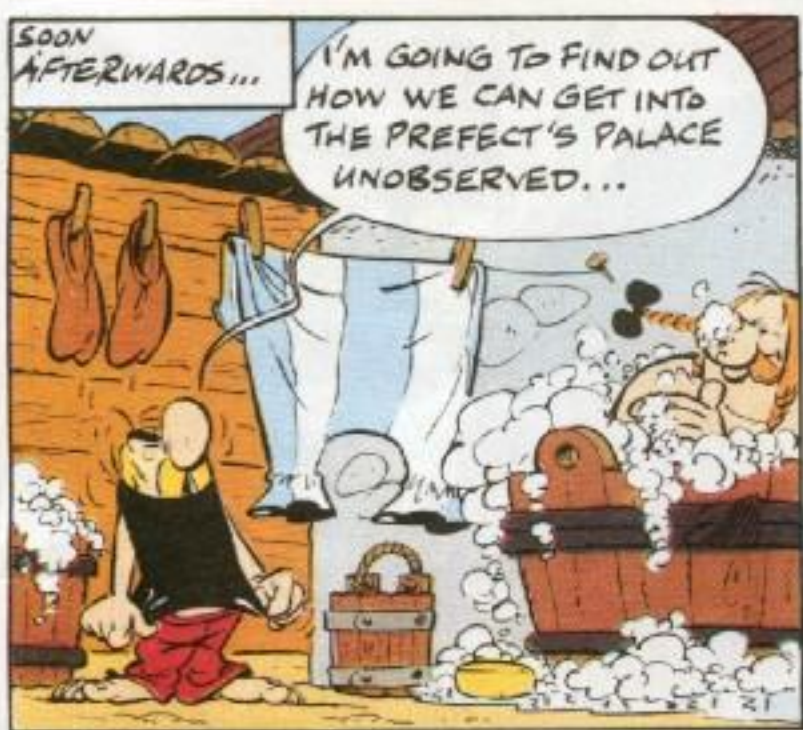
NO, HE STAYED IN THE ARMY. THE OTHERS WILL FIND HIM EASILY WHEN THEY CONSULT THE ARMY LISTS; I GAVE THEM HIS NAME.

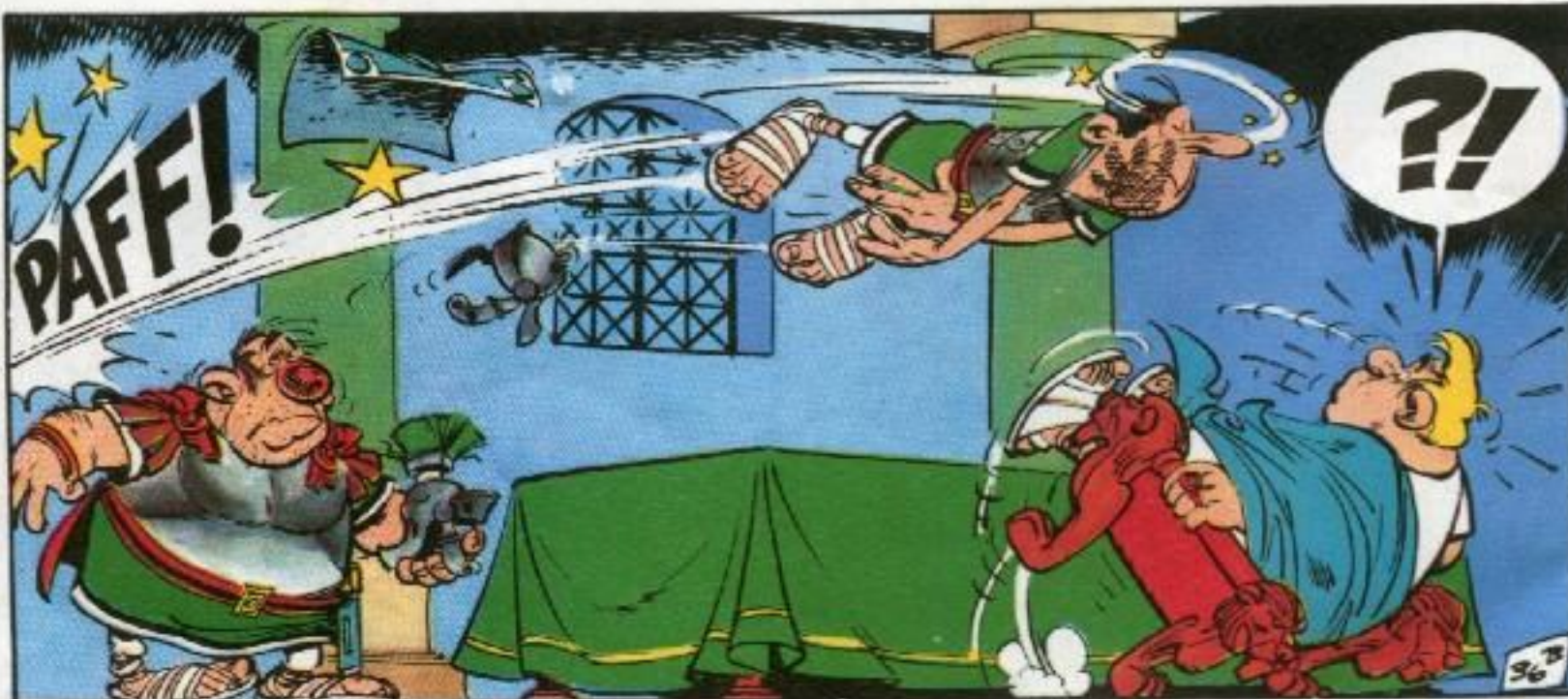
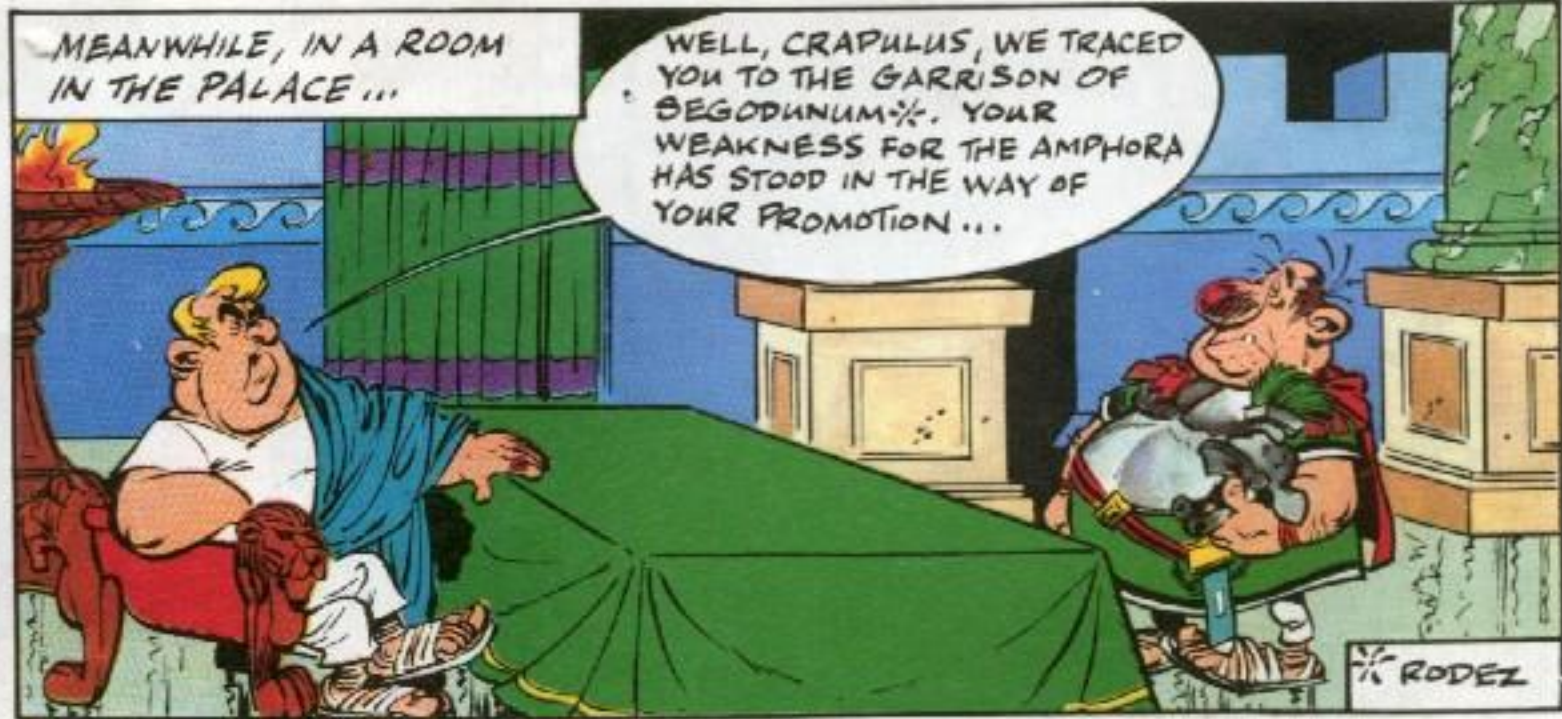


HOW MUCH DO WE OWE YOU?

12 SESTERTII FOR THE BOARS. THE RESTAURANT'S ON ME. JUST PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER COME BACK.









WH... **WHO ARE YOU ???**



WE'RE LOOKING FOR WINESANSPIRIX.



WINESANSPIRIX!

THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE NAME OF THE WINE MERCHANT WHO HAD THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD FROM ME!

?!?



WINESANSPIRIX!
I WANT THIS WINESANSPIRIX!



NO, WE WANT WINESANSPIRIX!



WINESANSPIRIX!
YOOHOO!
WINESANSPIRIX!

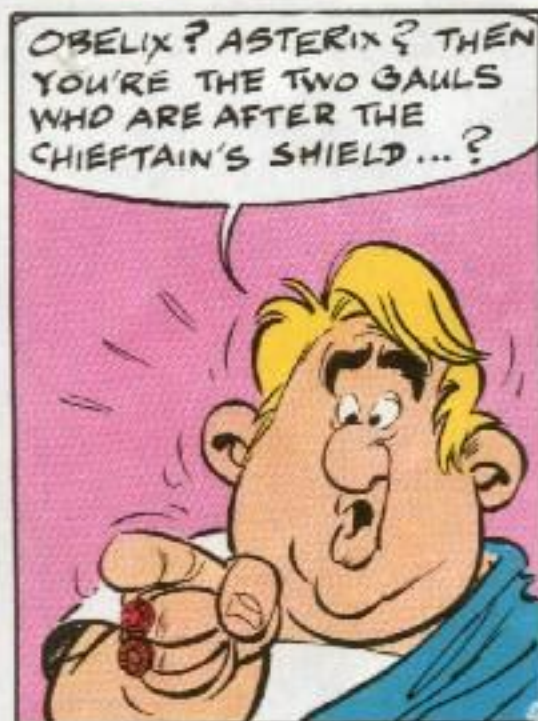


I WAS THE ONE WHO REMEMBERED THE NAME! DON'T FORGET MY PROMOTION!



COME IN, OBELIX. WINESANSPIRIX DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN HERE. LET'S GO AND LOOK FOR HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

ALL RIGHT, ASTERIX.



OBELIX? ASTERIX? THEN YOU'RE THE TWO GAULS WHO ARE AFTER THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD ... ?



CALL OUT THE GUAR...

COMING, OBELIX?

YES.



HEY, WHAT ABOUT MY PROMOTION, THEN?



THOSE MEN... STOP THOSE MEN!

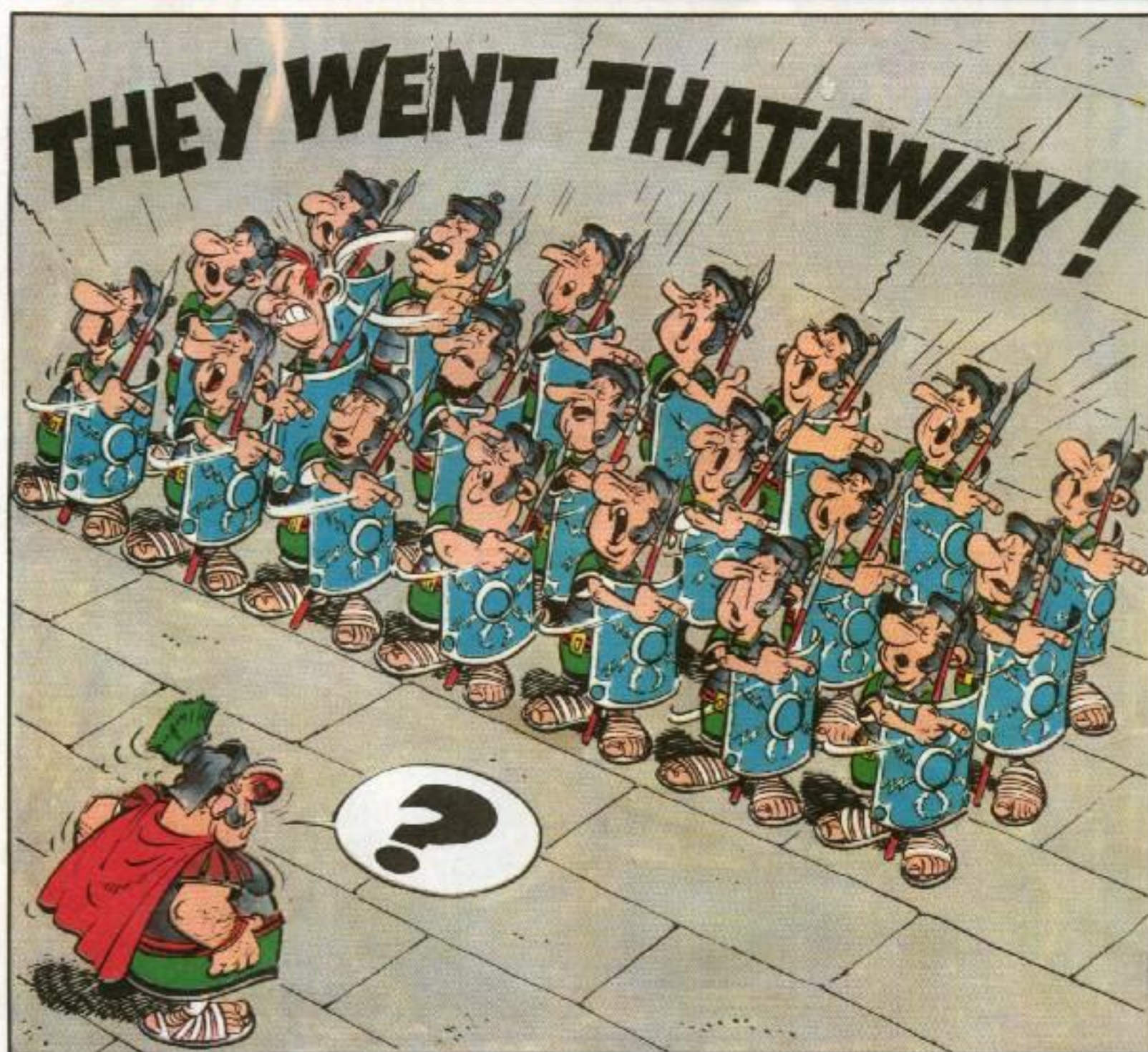
LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL SEE TO IT! I'LL FALL EVERYONE IN!

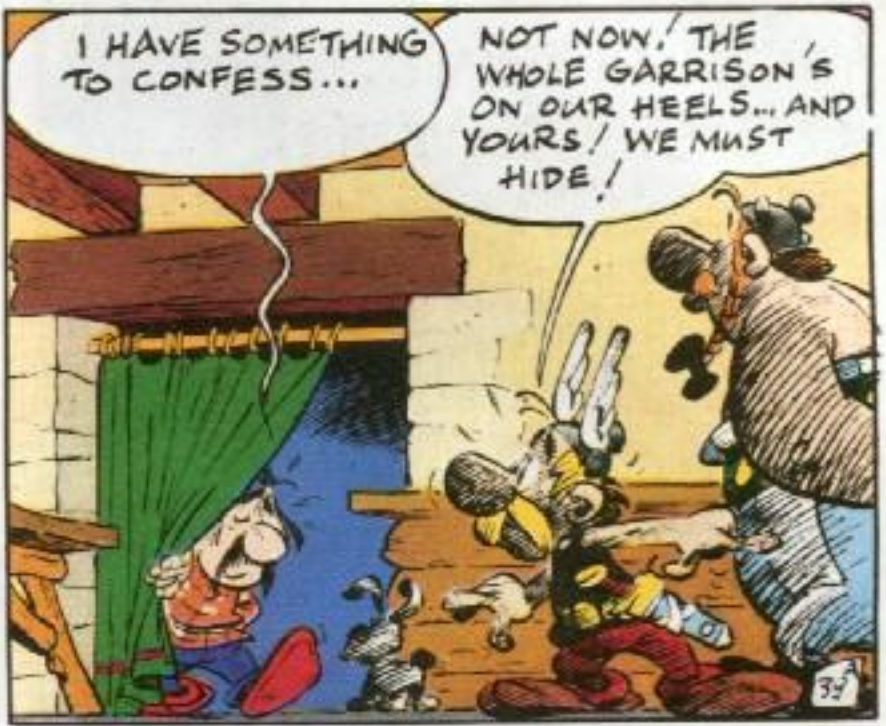
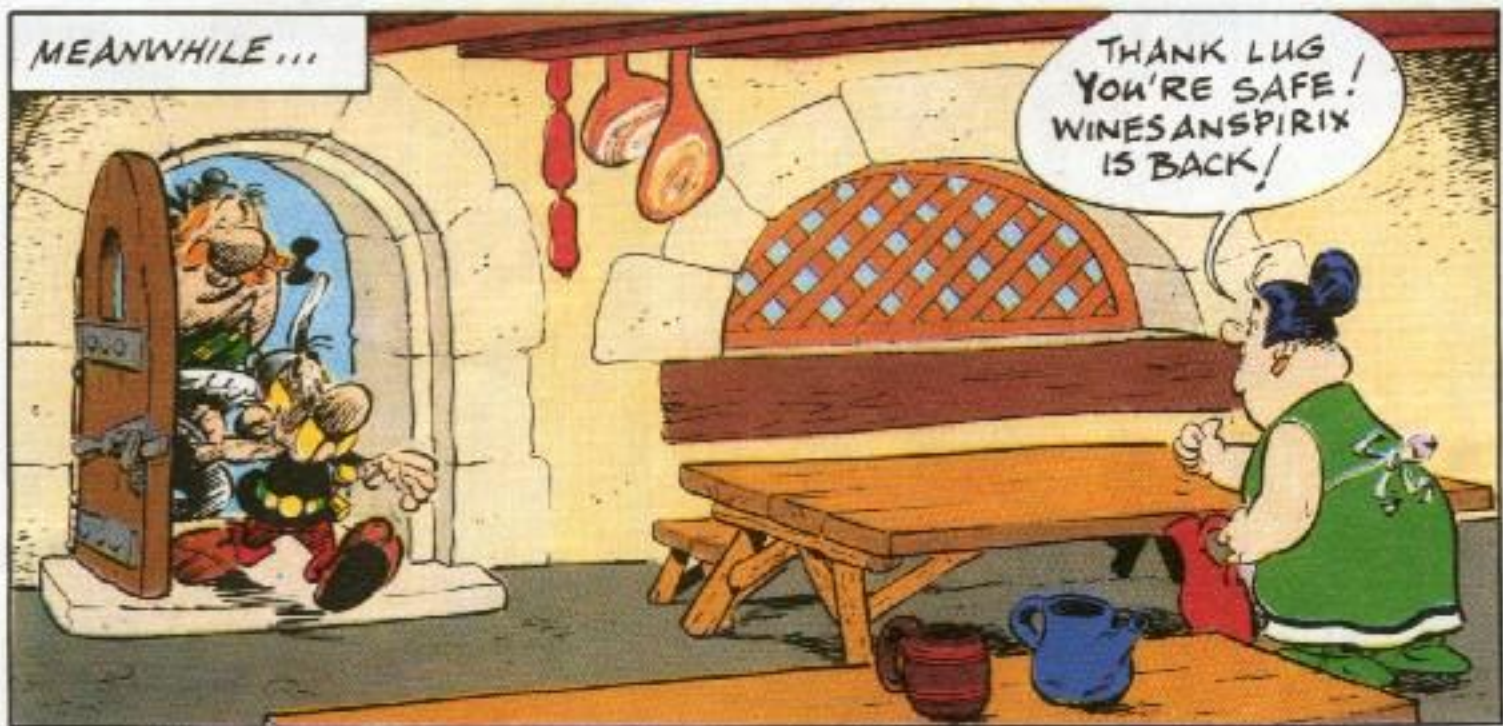
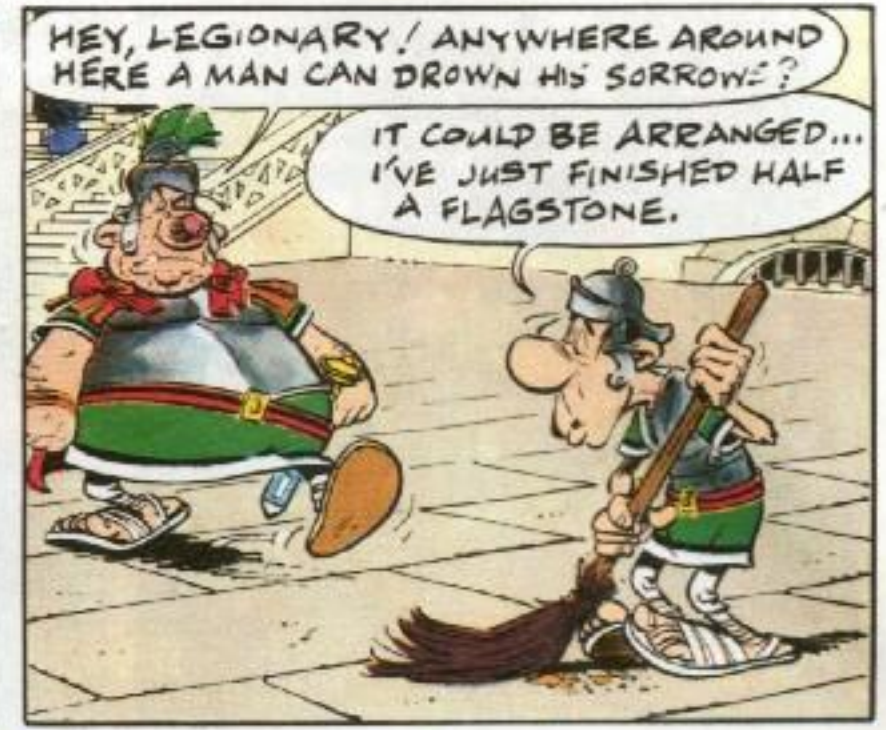


SURE ENOUGH, CRAPULUS DOES SEE TO IT ...

THAT'S FUNNY. THE SENTRIES ARE LEAVING THEIR POSTS ...

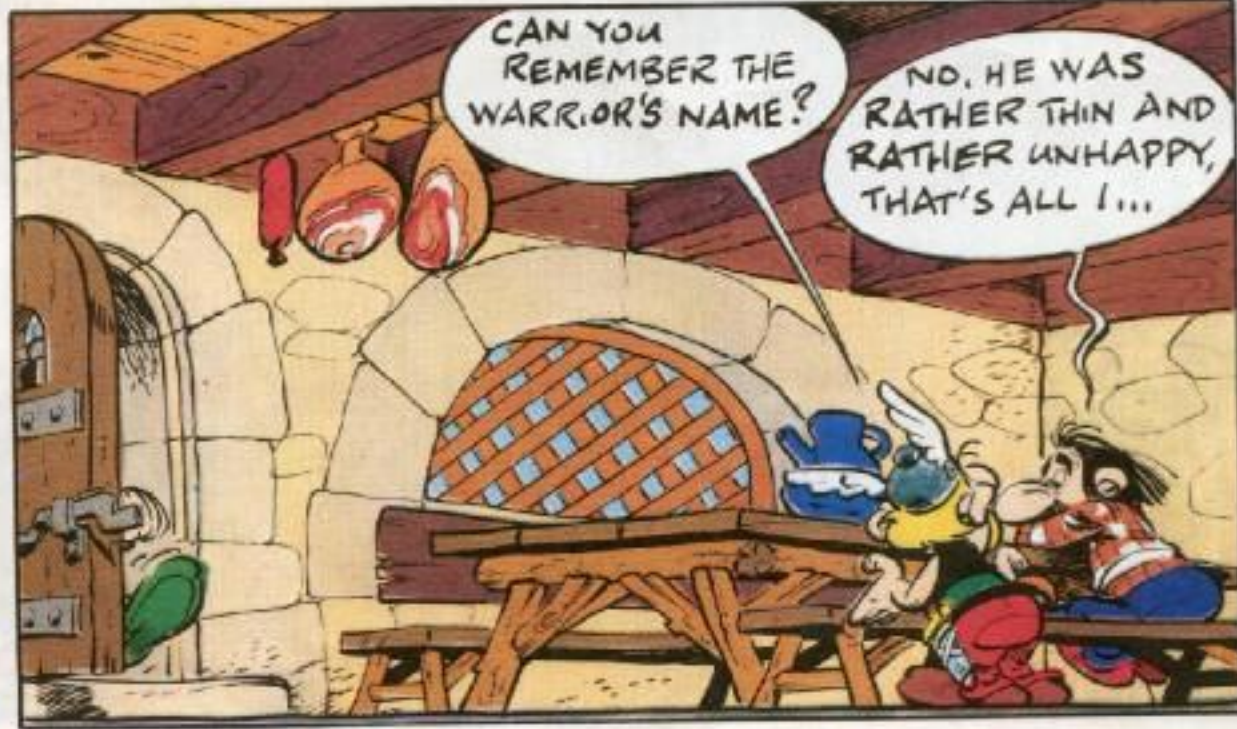
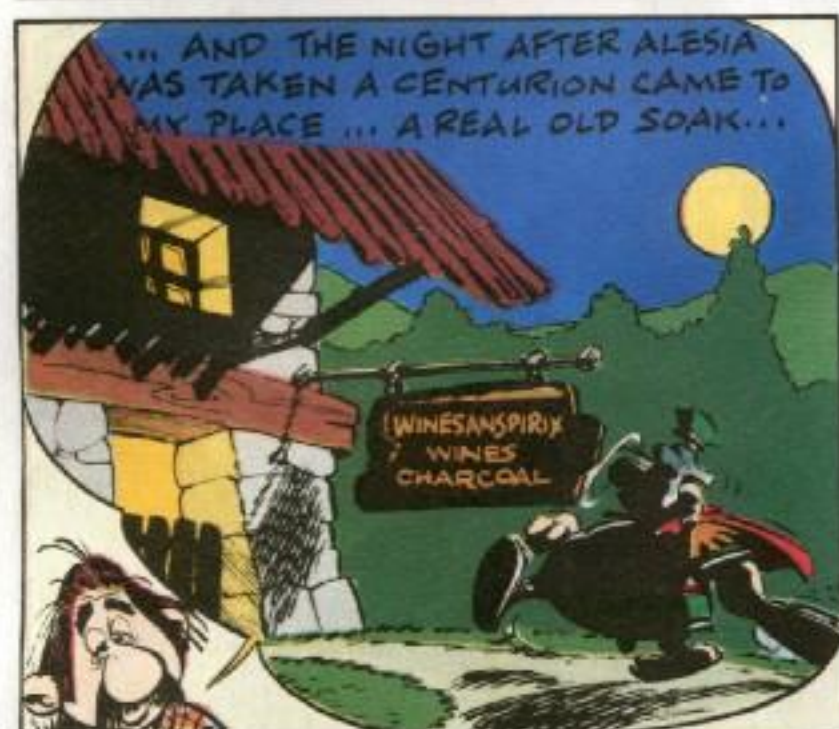
THAT SUITS US!

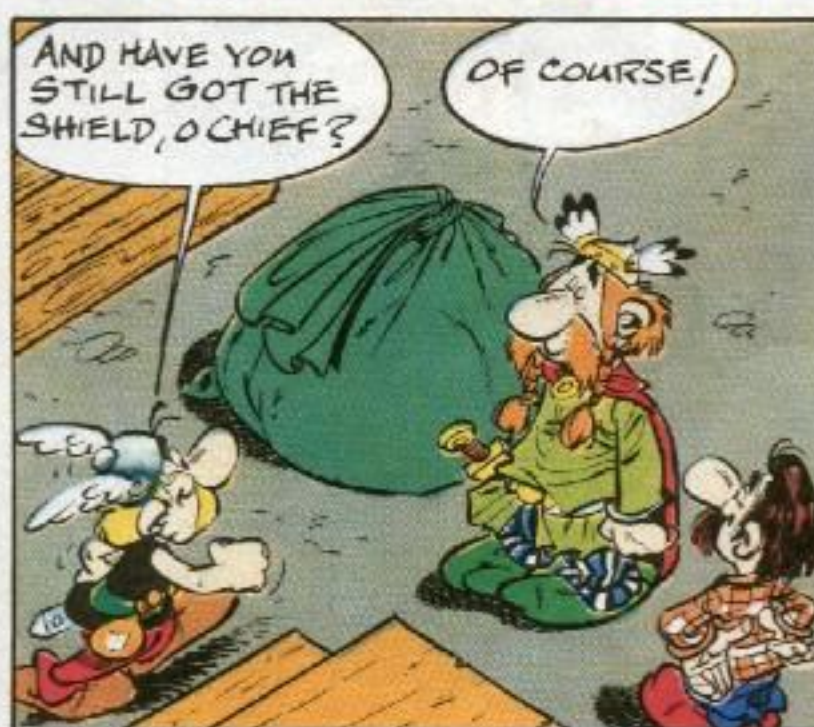
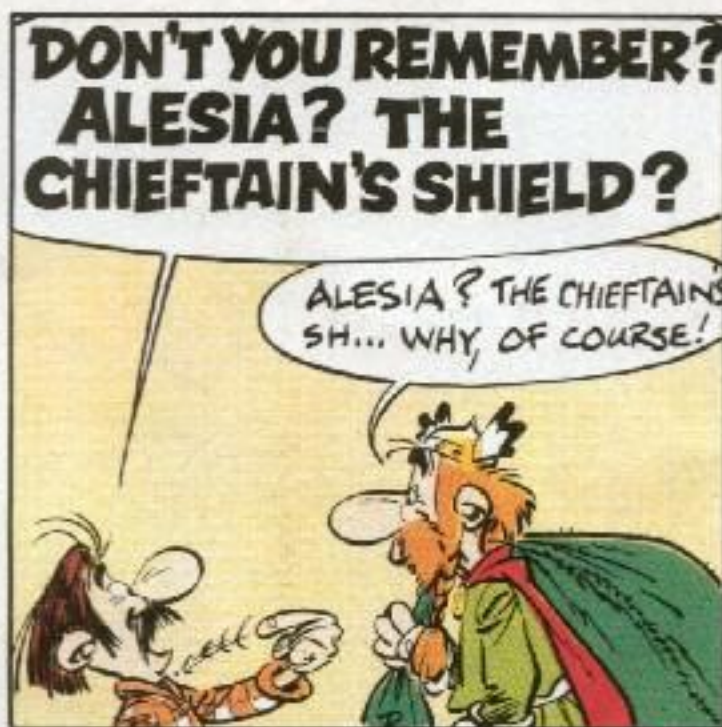
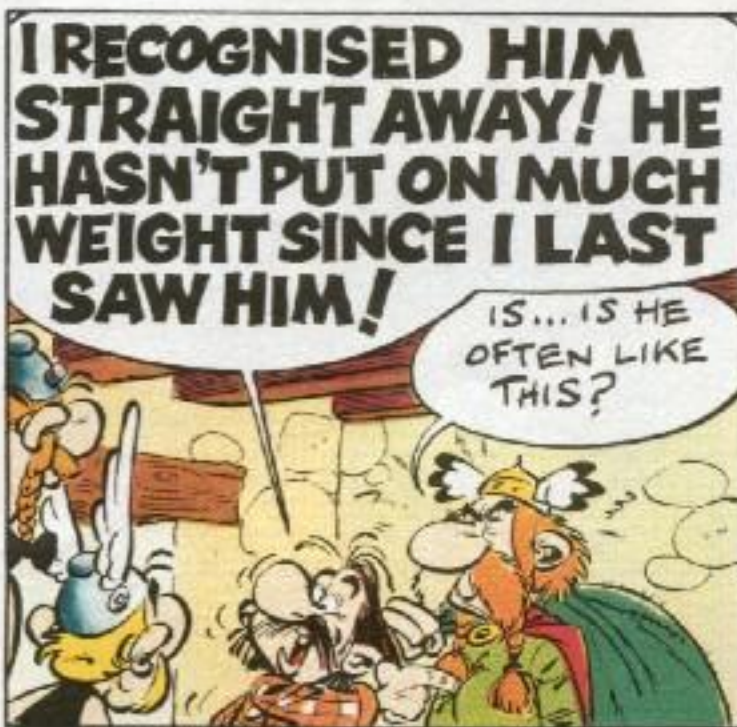
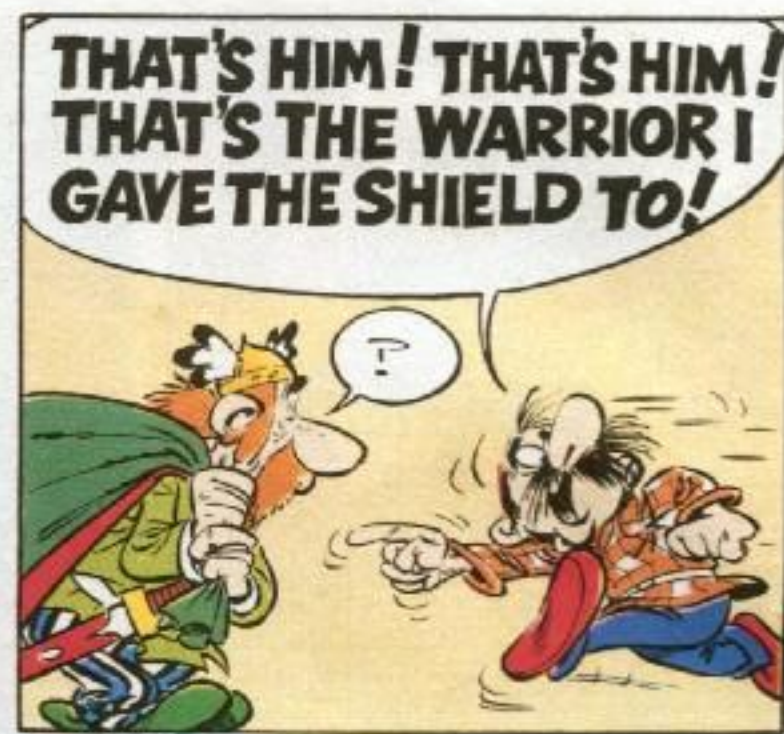
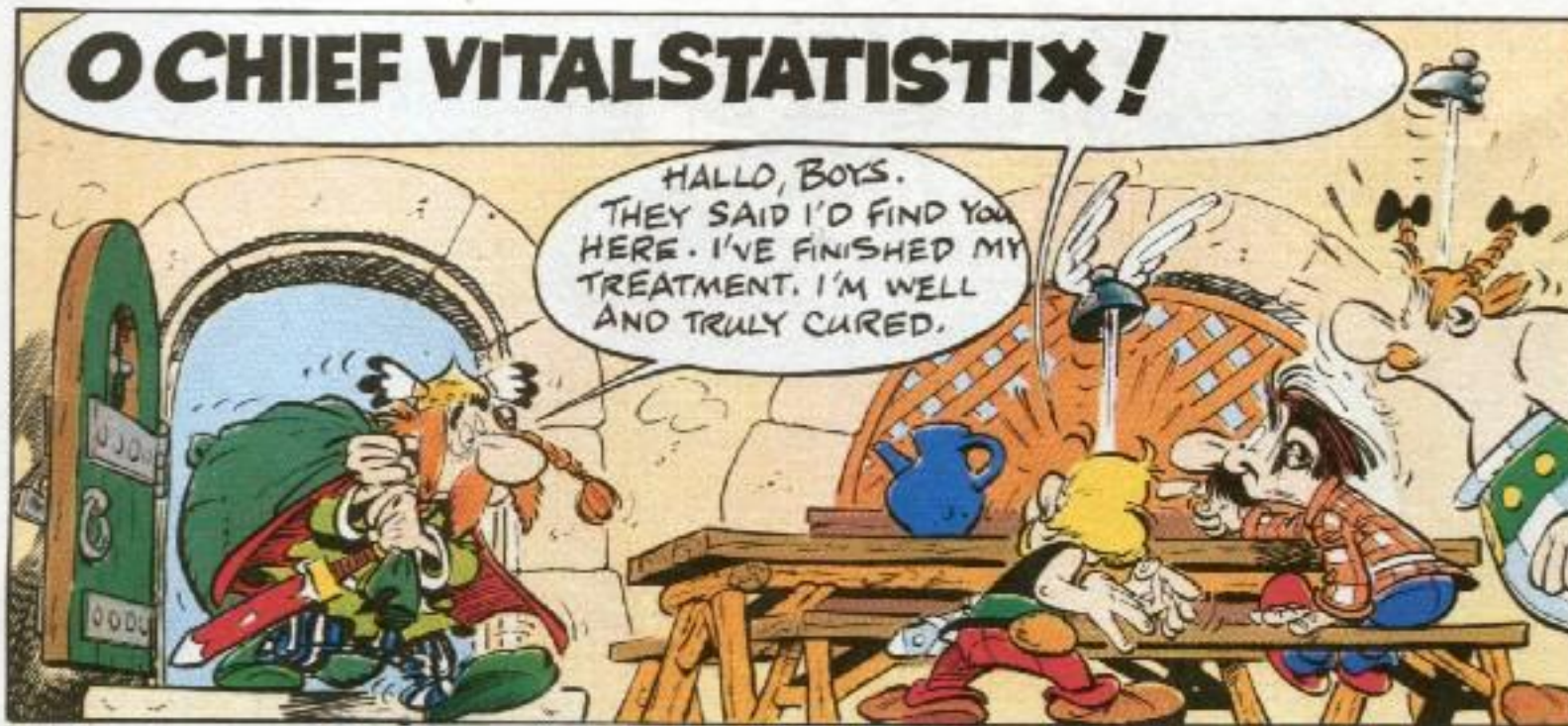




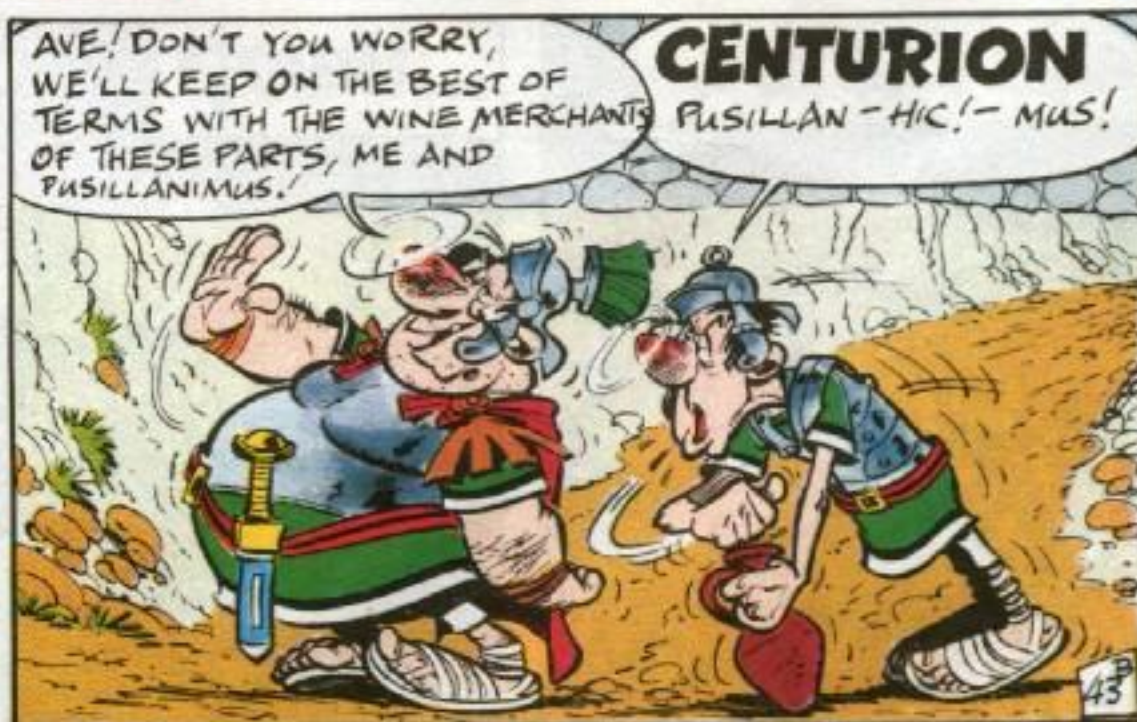


LATER, AFTER A QUICK WASH AND BRUSH UP...





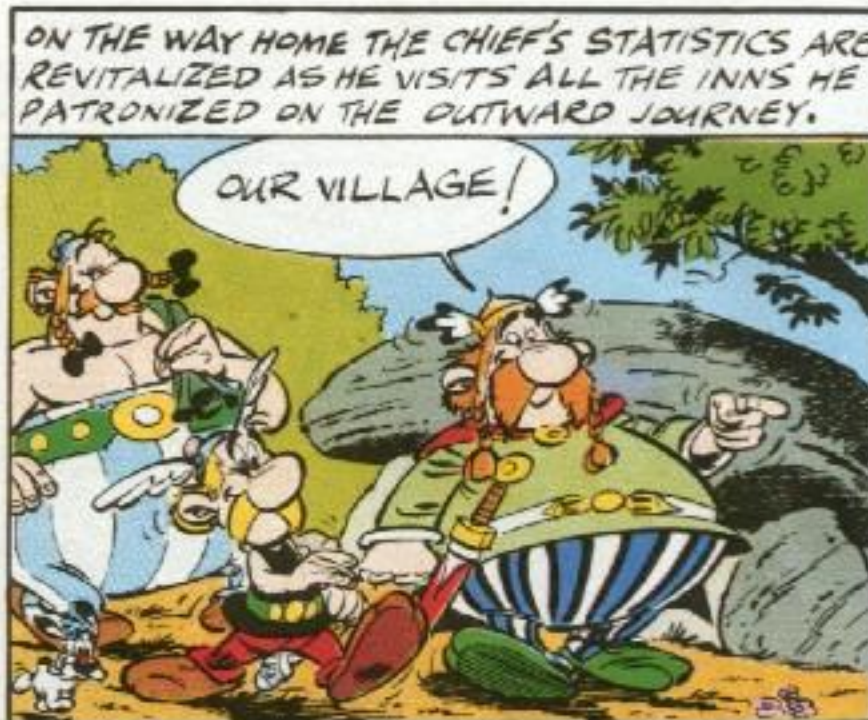




OUR FRIENDS ARE QUITE SORRY TO LEAVE GERGOVIA AFTER THEIR MEMORABLE TRIUMPH...



ON THE WAY HOME THE CHIEF'S STATISTICS ARE REVITALIZED AS HE VISITS ALL THE INNS HE PATRONIZED ON THE OUTWARD JOURNEY.



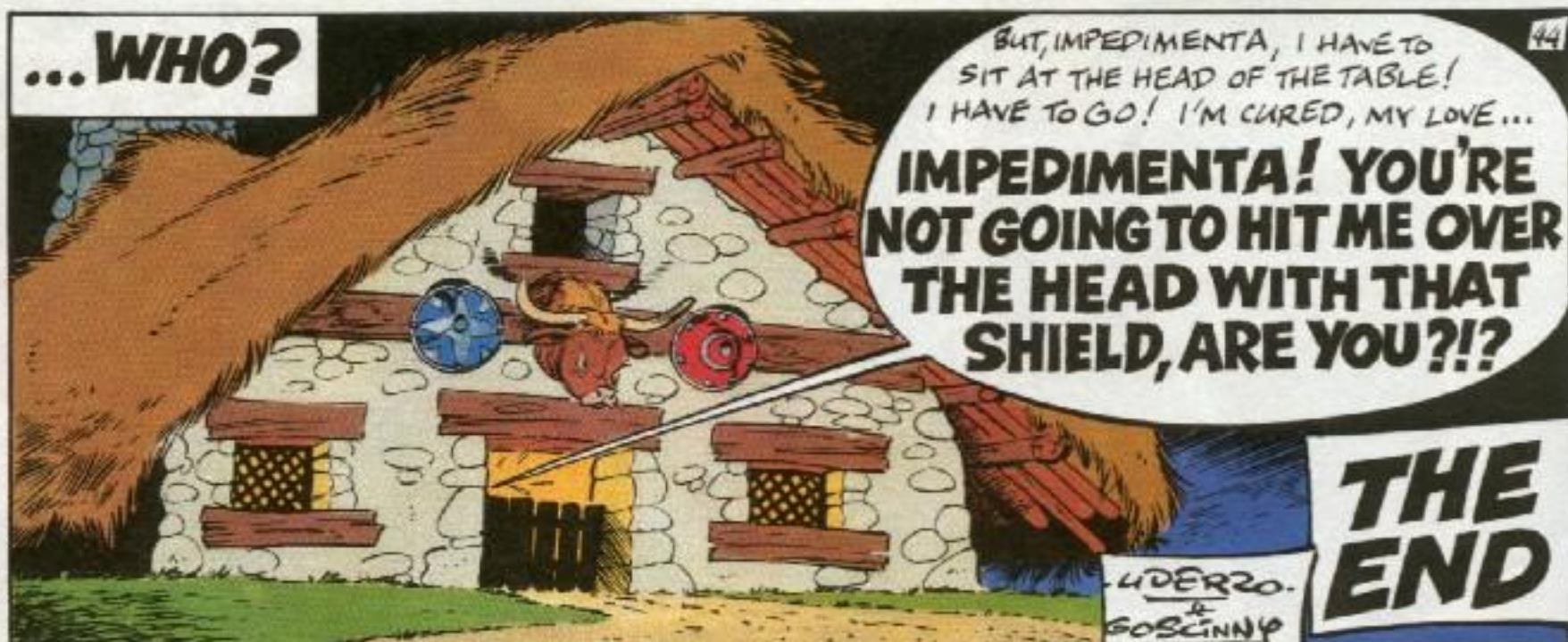
AND ONCE AGAIN OUR STORY ENDS WITH A BANQUET... EVERYONE IS THERE. EVERYONE? NO, SOMEONE IS MISSING... WHO CAN IT BE?



NOT HIM; HE'S THERE ALL RIGHT. SO WHO CAN IT BE, THEN?



...WHO?



BUT, IMPEDIMENTA, I HAVE TO SIT AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE! I HAVE TO GO! I'M CURED, MY LOVE...
IMPEDIMENTA! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HIT ME OVER THE HEAD WITH THAT SHIELD, ARE YOU?!?

THE END

UDERZO & GOSCINNY