

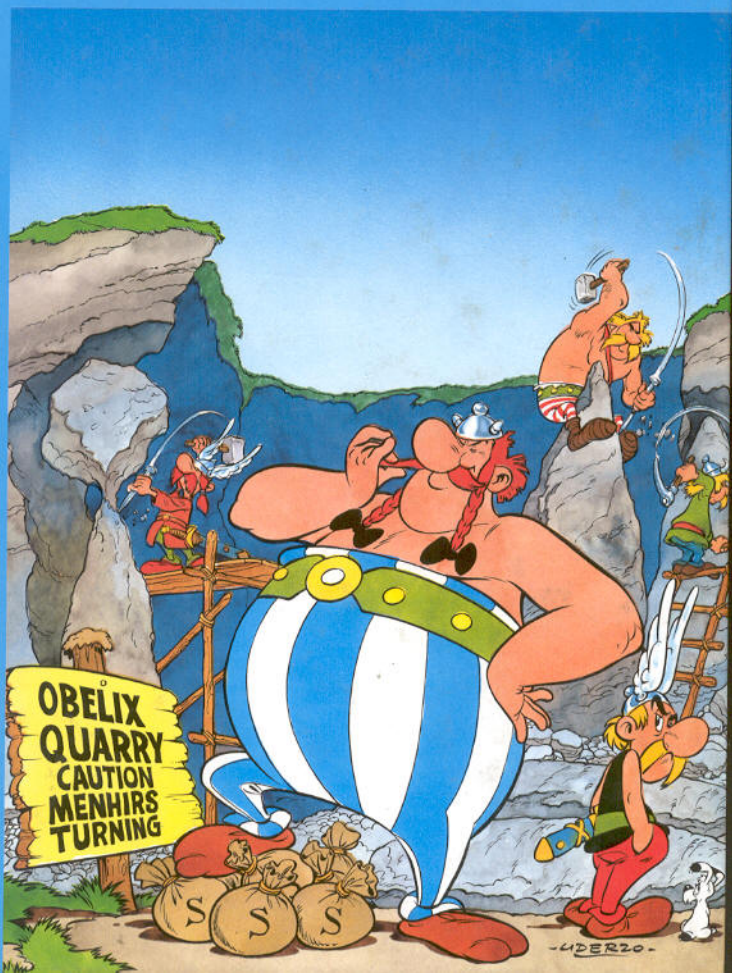
BOOK 22

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

OBELIX

and Co.



A cartoon illustration of a man with wild, grey hair, wearing a red cape and a yellow belt with a gold buckle. He is shouting with his mouth wide open, and his hands are raised in a gesture of triumph or relief. He is holding a blue book with a yellow sun on the cover. The background shows a wooden fence and a blue sky with a yellow sun. A speech bubble above him contains the text: "IT'S OUR RELIEF, BOYS! IT'S OUR RELIEF!".

OPEN THE GATES! OPEN THE GATES!

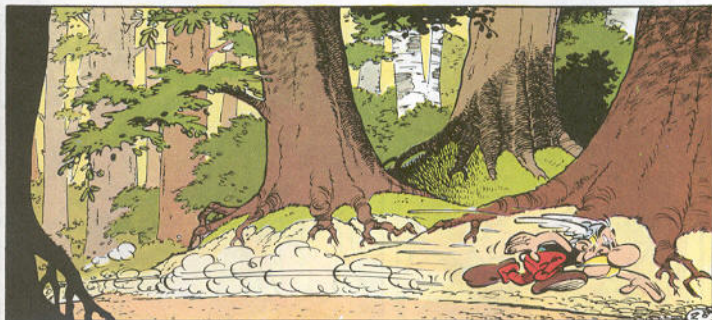
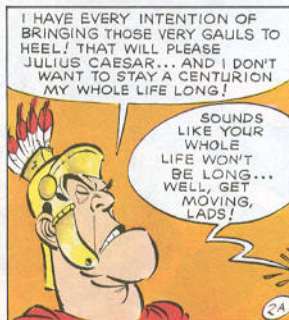
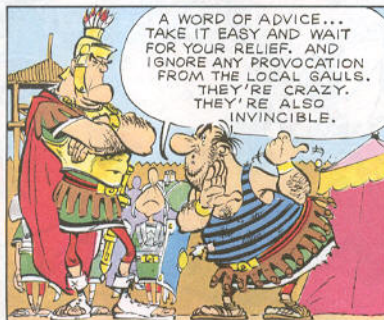
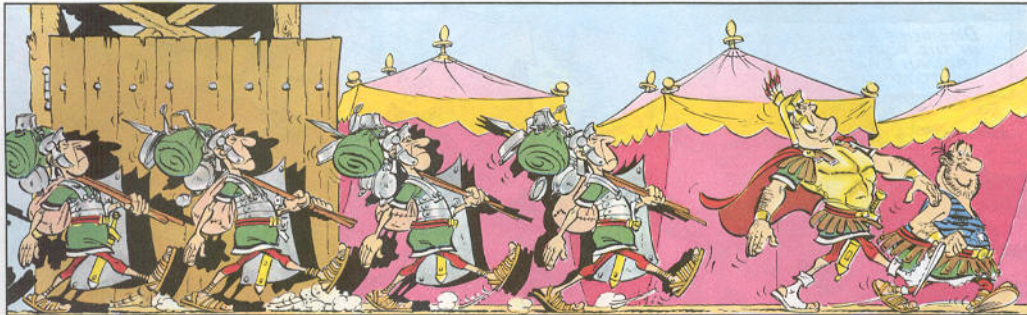
HEY, CENTURION SCROFULUS!
IT'S THEM ALL RIGHT!

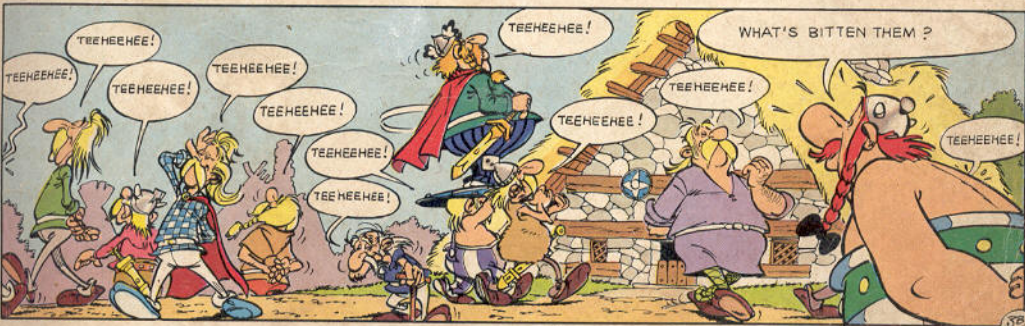
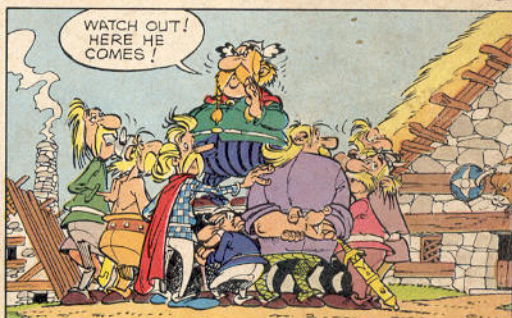
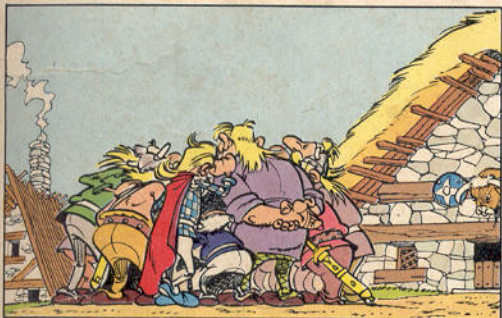
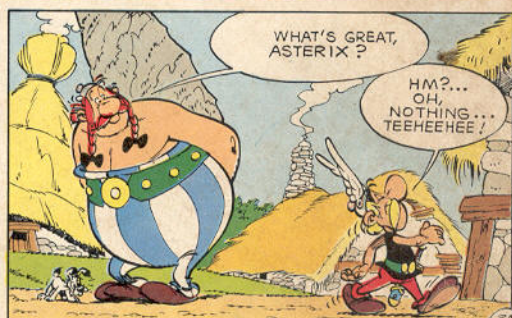
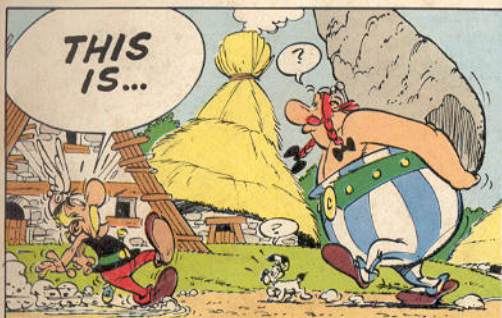
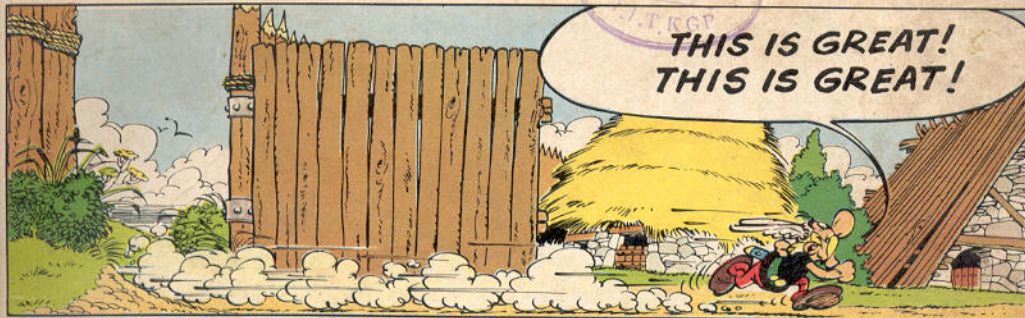
I AM CENTURION IGNORAMUS! AVE!

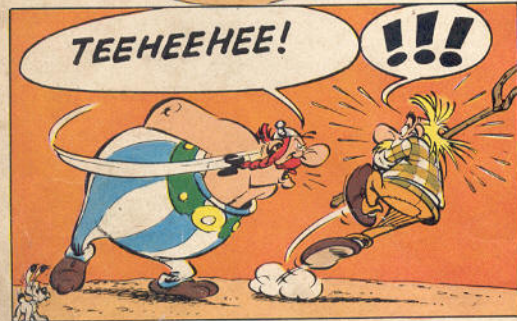
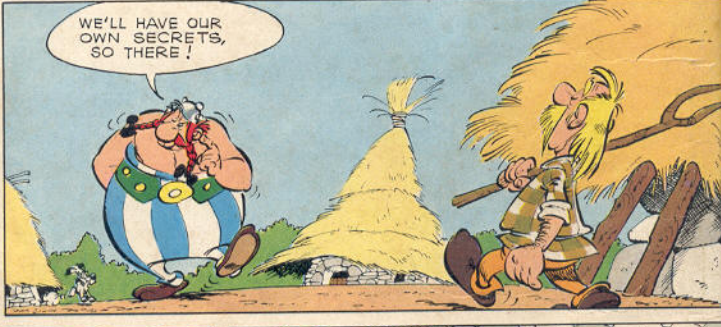
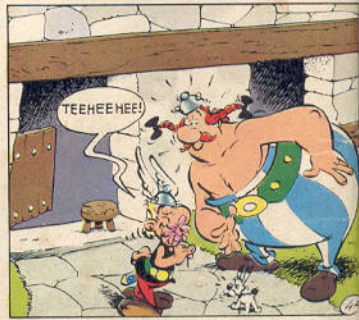
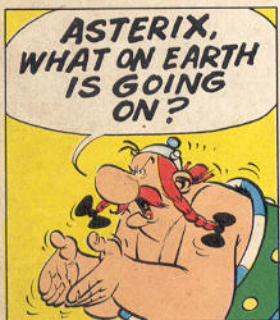
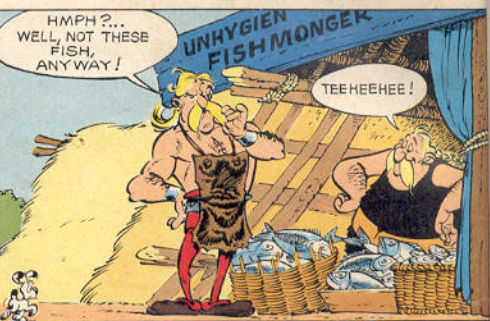
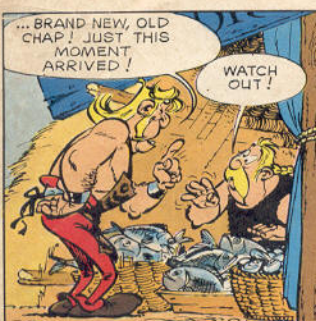
HI! I'M CENTURION SCROFULUS ... AVE! WHAT A RELIEF!

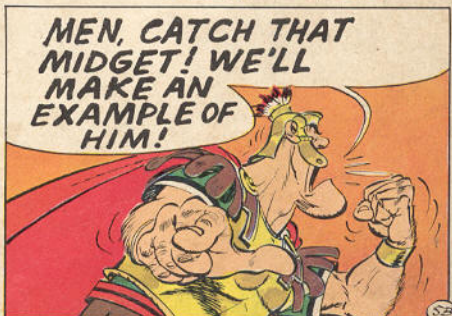
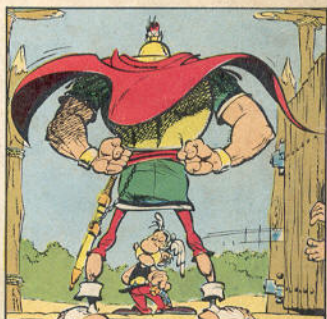
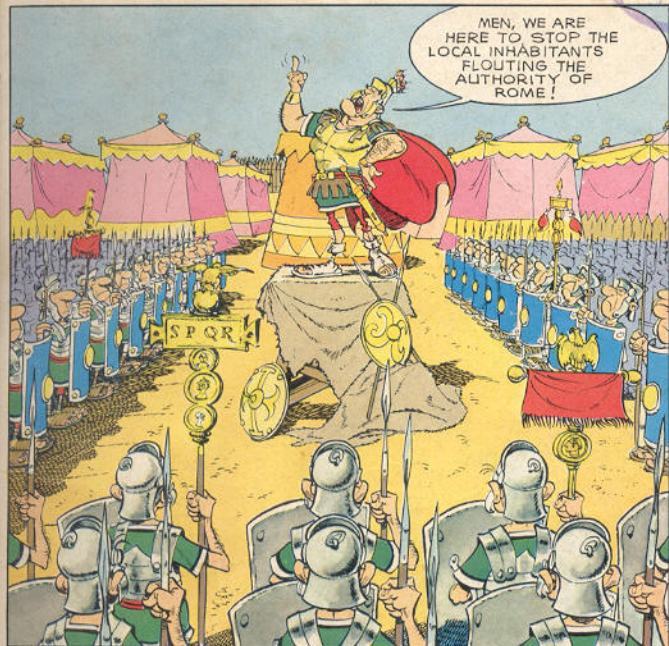
I AM CENTURION IGNORAMUS! AVE!

HI! I'M CENTURION SCROFULUS ... AVE! WHAT A RELIEF!

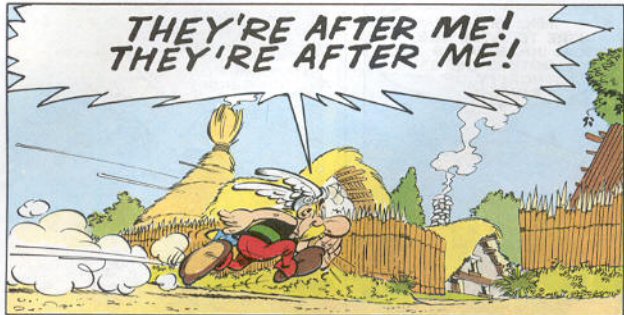








**THEY'RE AFTER ME!
THEY'RE AFTER ME!**

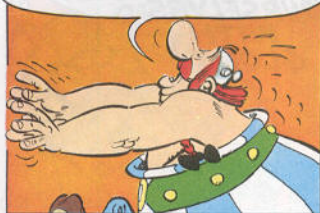


WHO'S
AFTER
HIM?

ROMANS. BRAND
NEW ROMANS,
JUST THIS MOMENT
ARRIVED.



**ROM...? LEAVE THEM
TO ME! LEAVE
THEM TO ME!**



YES, YES,
WE WILL!
THEY'RE ALL
FOR YOU!

ALL FOR ME?

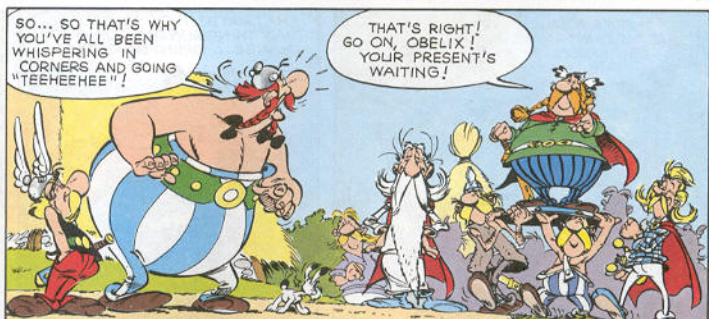


OF COURSE, YOU
GREAT GOOF!
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.
WE'RE GIVING
YOU THE NEW
ROMANS FOR A
PRESENT!



SO... SO THAT'S WHY
YOU'VE ALL BEEN
WHISPERING IN
CORNERS AND GOING
"TEEEHEEHEE"!

THAT'S RIGHT!
GO ON, OBELIX!
YOUR PRESENT'S
WAITING!



**MEN, WE SHALL
RAZE THE VILLAGE OF
THESE INSOLENT GAULS
TO THE GROUND! CHARGE!
THERE AREN'T MANY OF
THEM...IT'S A GIFT!**

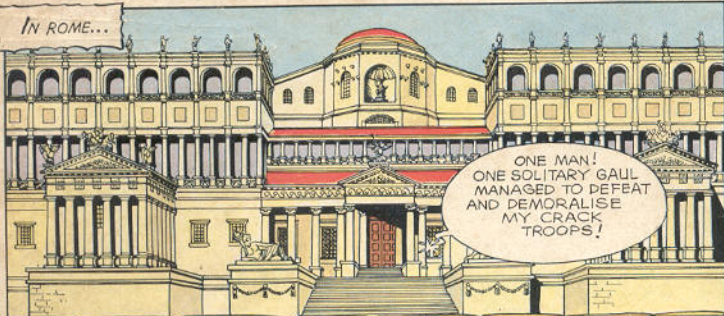


**COME ON,
DOGMATIX!**





IN ROME...



THIS IS TOO MUCH! THESE GAULS
MAKE ME LOOK RIDICULOUS. WE
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, BY
JUPITER! WELL? I'M WAITING
FOR SUGGESTIONS!



WE COULD SEND
THE ENTIRE
ARMY...

YES,
BUT WE
MUSTN'T LEAVE
OUR FRONTIERS
UN-
GUARDED.

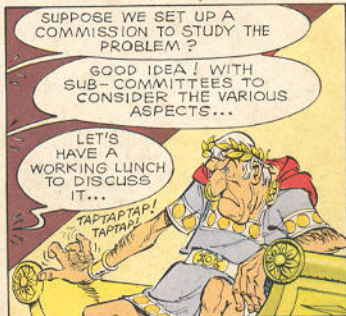


SUPPOSE WE SET UP A
COMMISSION TO STUDY THE
PROBLEM?

GOOD IDEA! WITH
SUB-COMMITTEES TO
CONSIDER THE VARIOUS
ASPECTS...

LET'S
HAVE A
WORKING LUNCH
TO DISCUSS
IT...

TAPTAPTAP!
TAPTAPTAP!



THEY ARE STRONG, SO
WE MUST WEAKEN THEM. THEY
HAVE NOTHING TO DO BUT
FIGHT, SO WE MUST KEEP
THEM BUSY SOME OTHER
WAY...

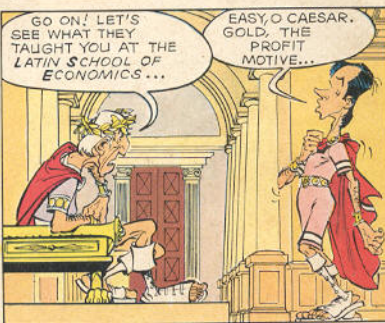


COME HERE, CAIUS
PREPOSTERUS, JUST HOW
WOULD YOU SET ABOUT WEAKENING
THE GAULS, WITH THEIR
MAGICAL STRENGTH?



GO ON! LET'S
SEE WHAT THEY
TAUGHT YOU AT THE
LATIN SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS...

EASY, O CAESAR.
GOLD, THE
PROFIT
MOTIVE...



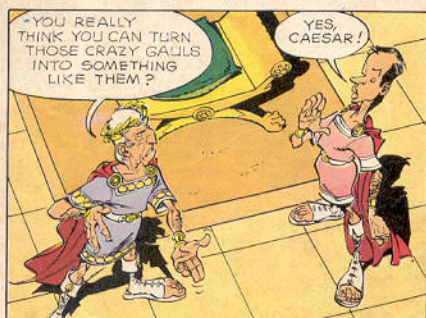
... WILL ENFEEBLE
THEM AND KEEP THEM
BUSY. WE MUST
CORRUPT
THEM.

YOU THINK
THAT WILL
DO THE
TRICK?

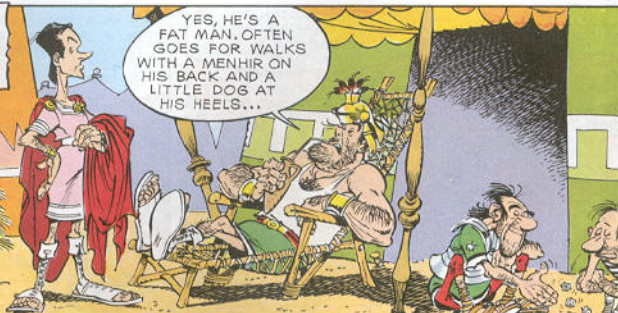


LOOK
AROUND
YOU, O
CAESAR!





SEVERAL
DAYS LATER,
IN THE
CAMP OF
TOTORUM...



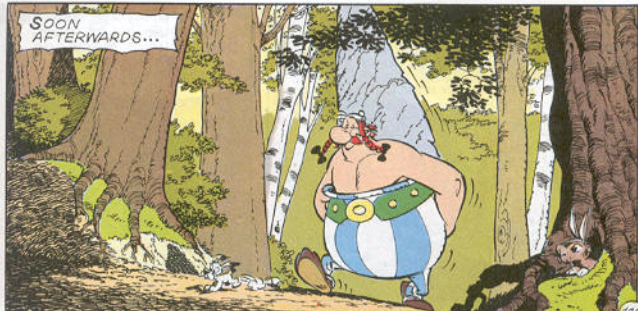
YOU MIGHT WELL RUN INTO HIM
IN THE FOREST... SO WATCH
OUT! EVEN THE LITTLE
DOG IS DANGEROUS.



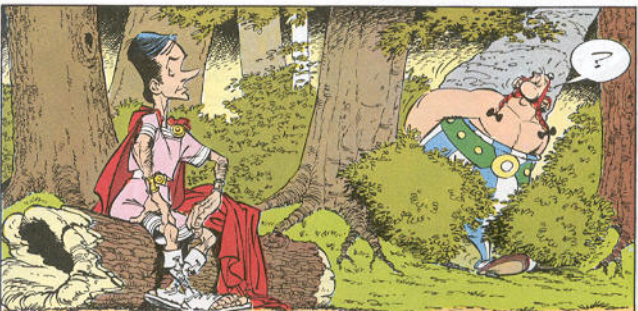
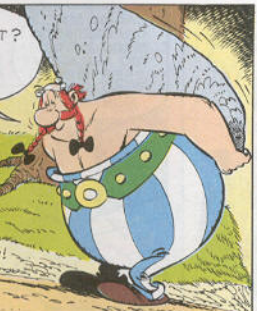
I'M OFF,
YOU MEN,
DON'T
LEAVE
CAMP.



SOON
AFTERWARDS...



PICKED
UP A SCENT?
LET'S
HAVE A
LOOK...



OH, HOW
BEAUTIFUL!
JUST LOOK
WHAT'S BEHIND
YOU!

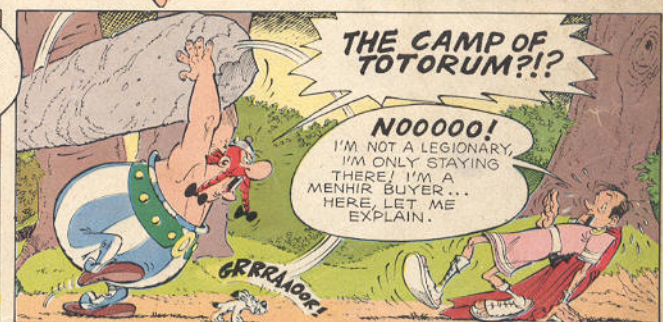
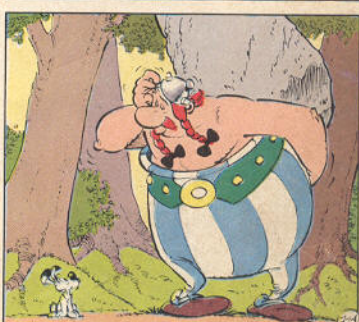
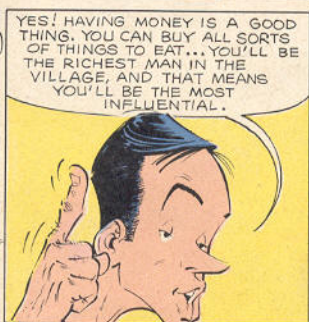
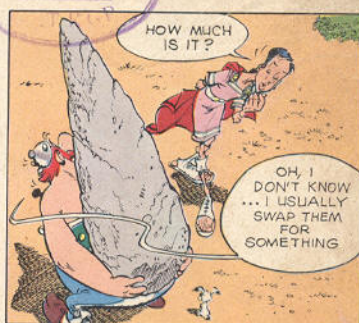
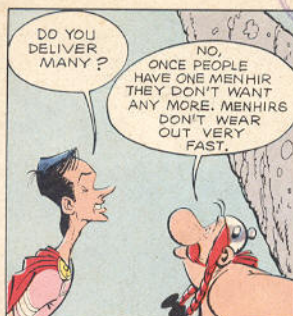


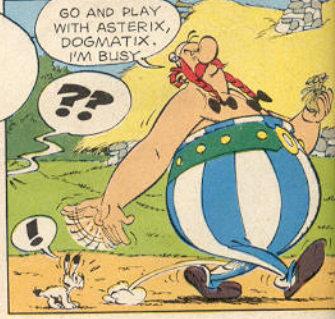
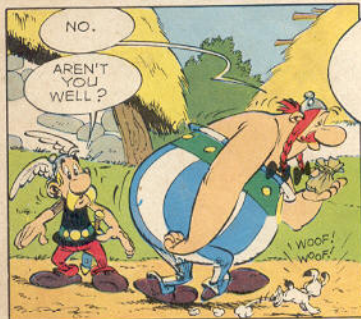
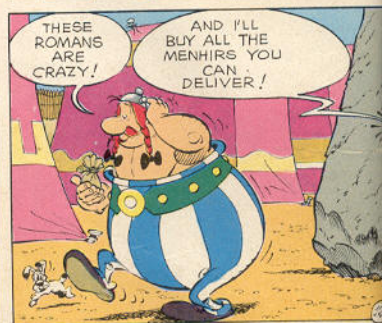
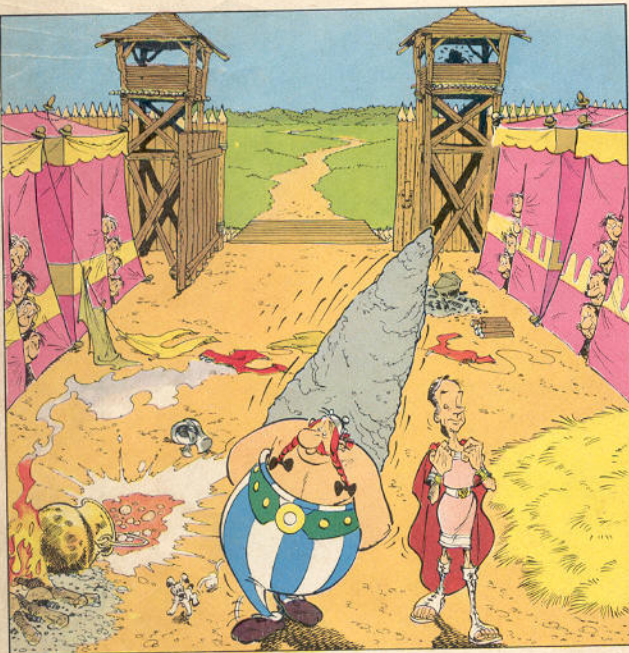
BUT THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING BEHIND
ME!



OH YES, I FORGOT...
IT'S ONLY A MENHIR.







NEXT DAY...

LOOK AT THAT!

THE RELIEF?

NO! THE BIG! FAT BRUTE!

TAKE COVER, ALL!

ISN'T THERE EVER ANYONE HERE?

WHAT A BEAUTY! IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN THE FIRST ONE!

HERE'S FOUR HUNDRED SESTERTII.

NO. TWO HUNDRED.

PRICES ARE GOING UP.

WHERE TO?

NO, NO... IT'S BECAUSE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND... THE STATE OF THE MARKET... WELL, IT'S ALL RATHER COMPLICATED, BUT IT LEADS TO GALLOPING INFLATION.

AND DON'T FORGET, I'LL BUY ALL THE MENHIRS YOU CAN MAKE.

SNIFF! SNIFF!

ASTERIX!

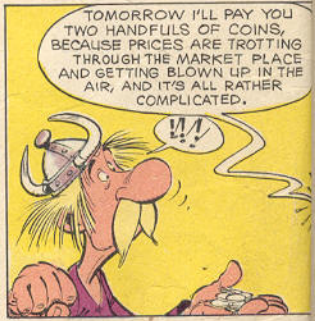
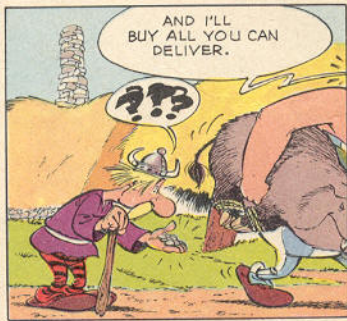
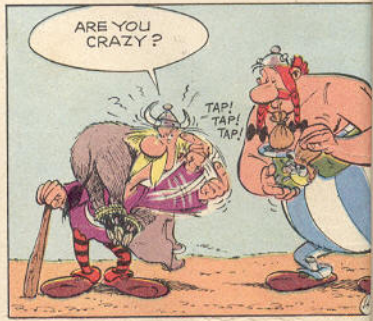
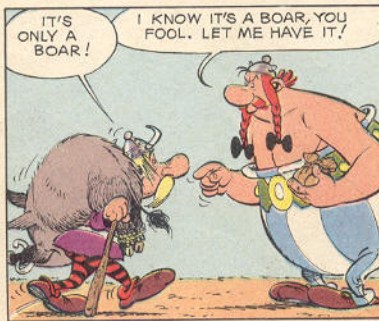
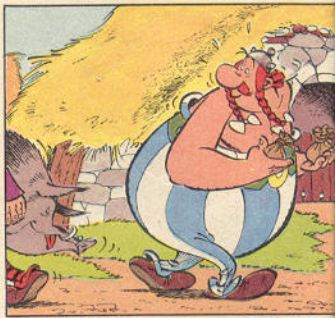
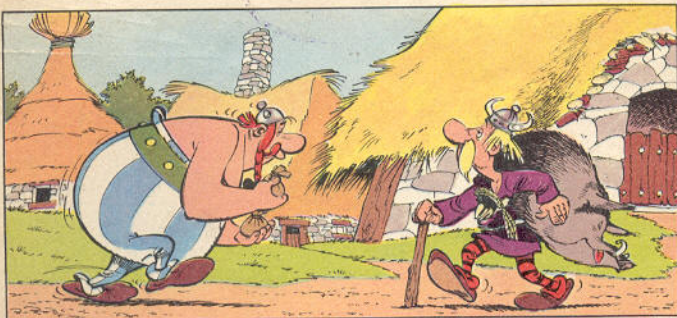
YES?

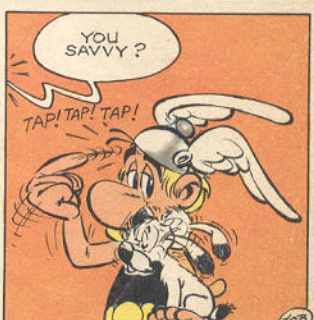
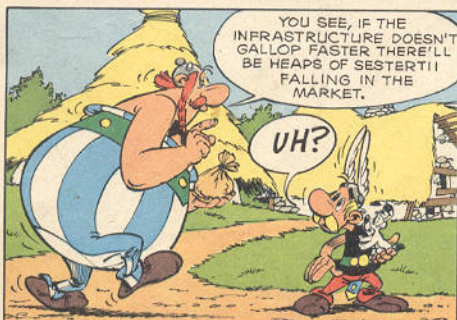
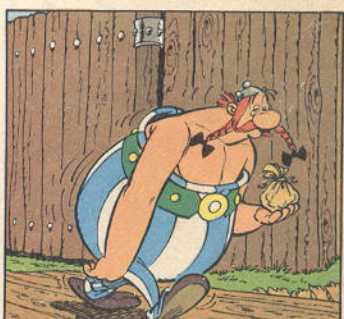
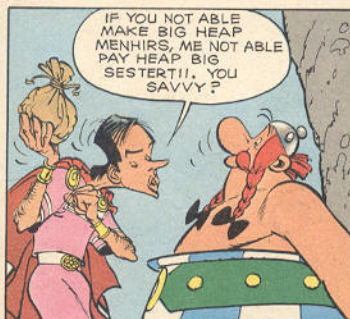
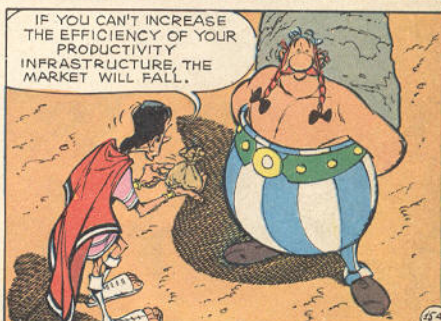
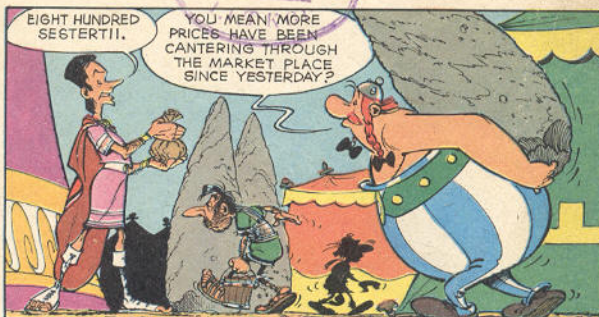
I'M HUNGRY. DO YOU THINK...

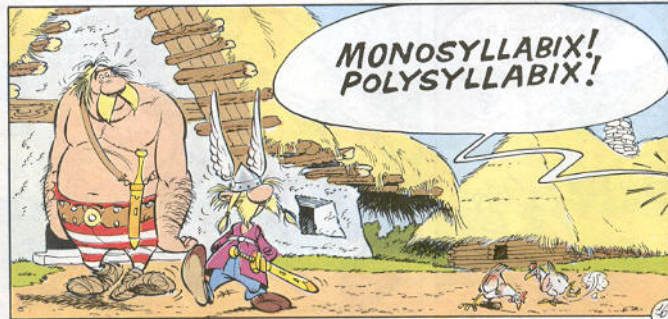
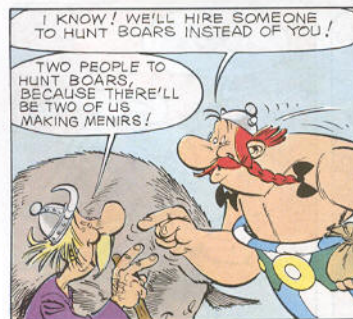
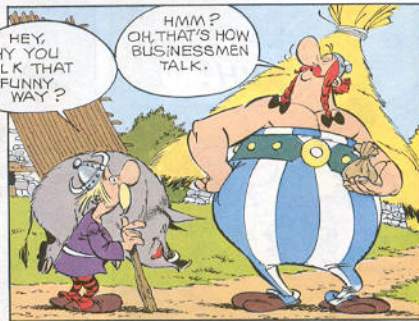
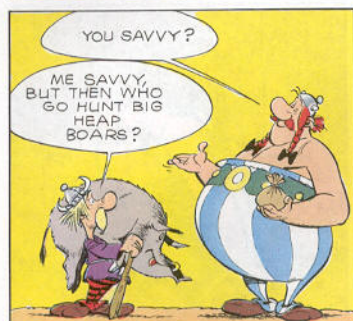
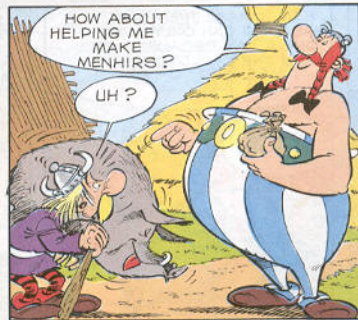
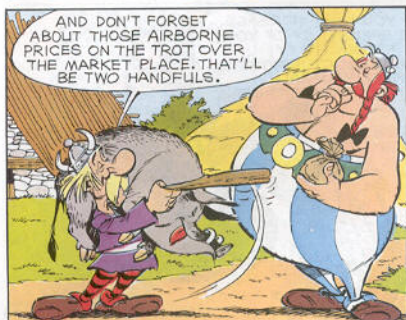
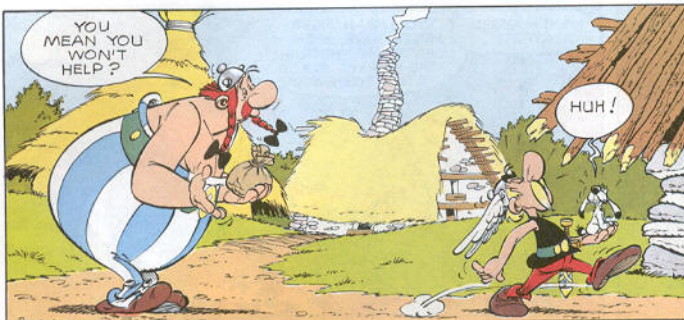
WHEN YOU'RE NOT SO BUSY YOU CAN GO HUNTING BOAR AGAIN. THE FOREST'S FULL OF THEM.

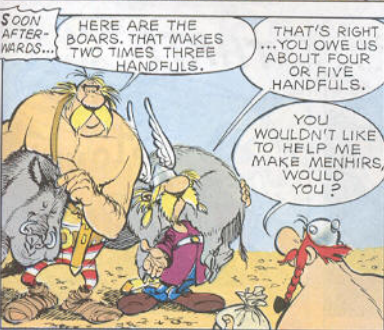
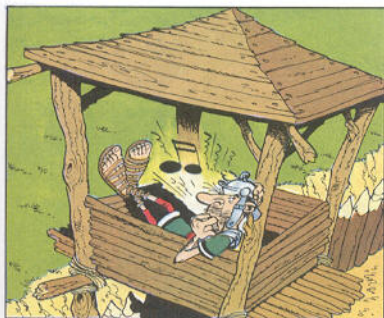
CRUNCH!

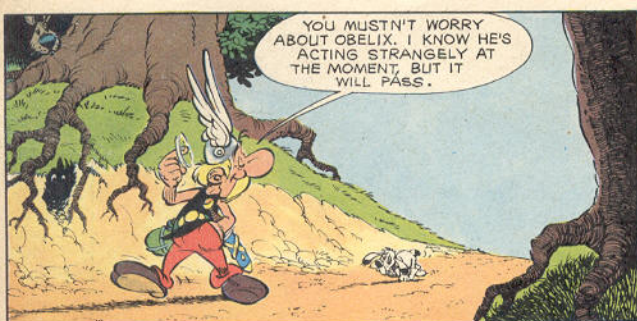
GRRRR!



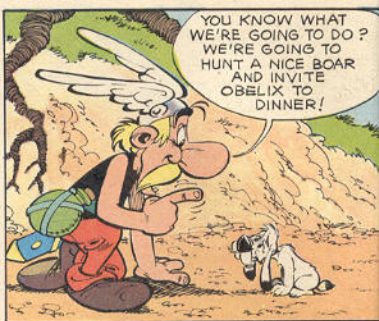








YOU MUSTN'T WORRY ABOUT OBELIX. I KNOW HE'S ACTING STRANGELY AT THE MOMENT, BUT IT WILL PASS.



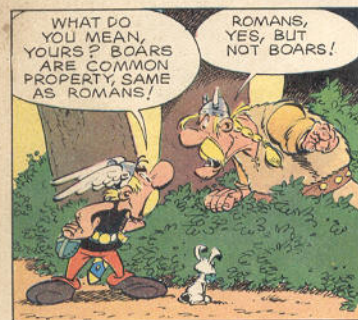
YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO? WE'RE GOING TO HUNT A NICE BOAR AND INVITE OBELIX TO DINNER!



AND HERE'S THE VERY THING! COME ON!

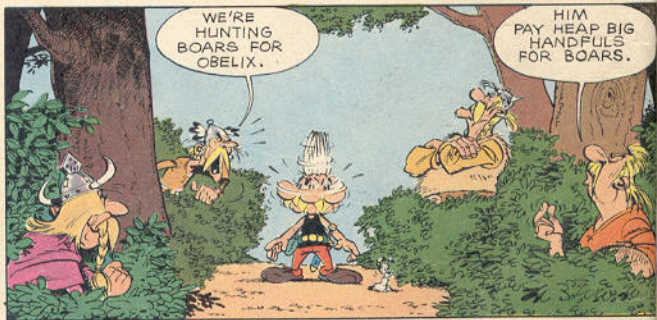


HANDS OFF! THAT'S MINE!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOURS? BOARS ARE COMMON PROPERTY, SAME AS ROMANS!

ROMANS, YES, BUT NOT BOARS!

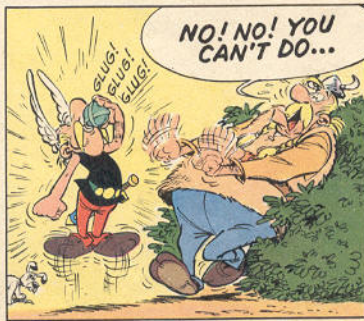


WE'RE HUNTING BOARS FOR OBELIX.

HIM PAY HEAP BIG HANDFULS FOR BOARS.

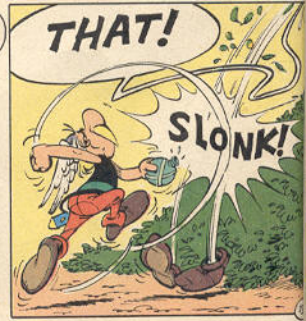


THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE WORKING, AND YOU'RE DISTURBING US... SO GET LOST!



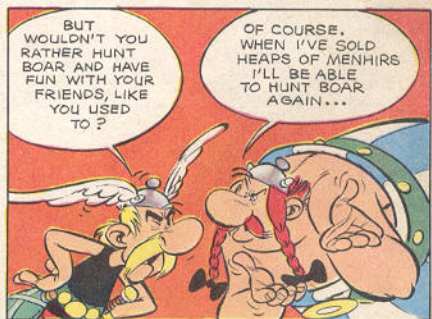
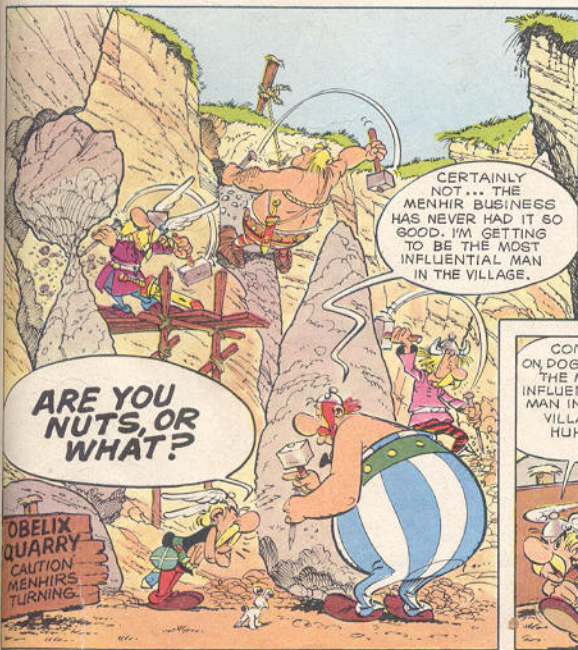
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T DO...

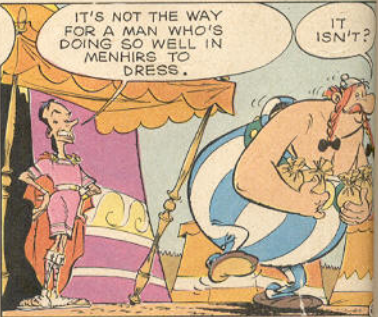
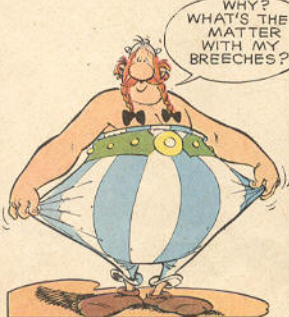
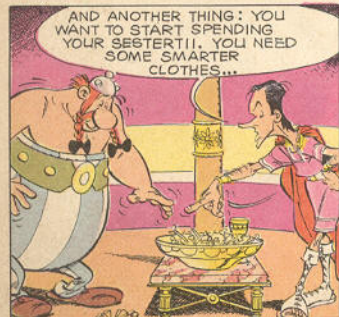
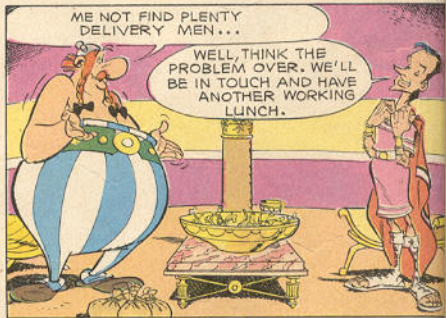
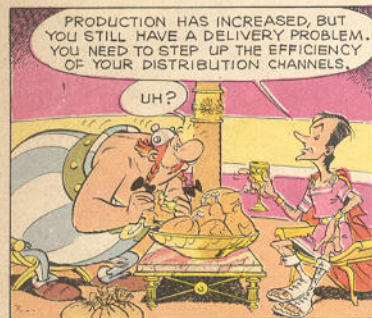
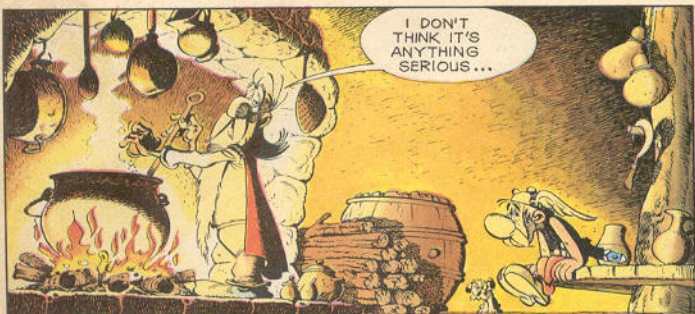
GUG! GUG! GUG!

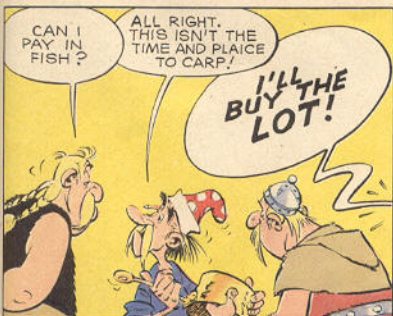
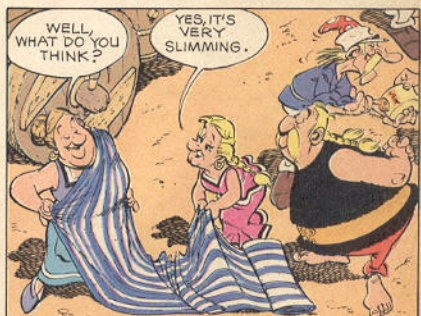
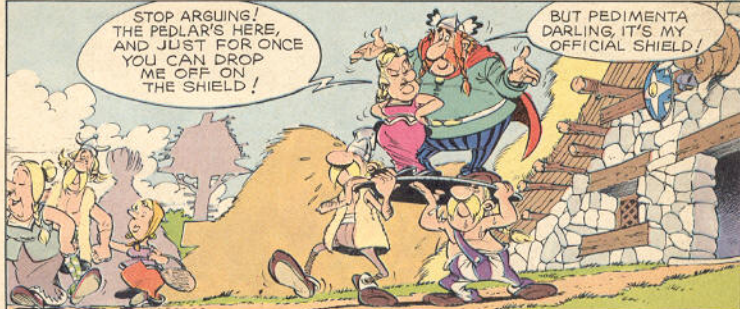


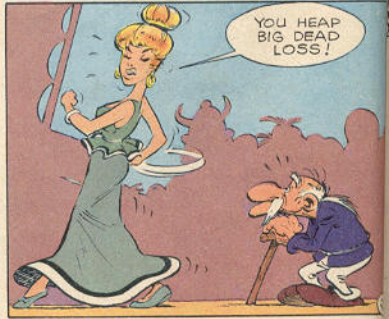
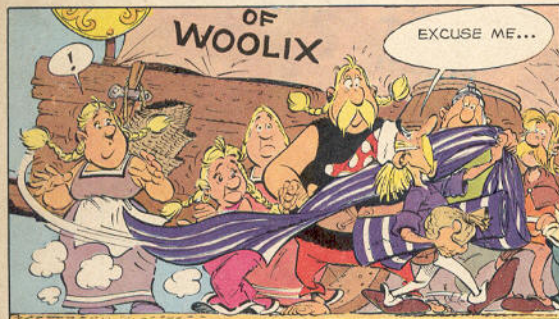
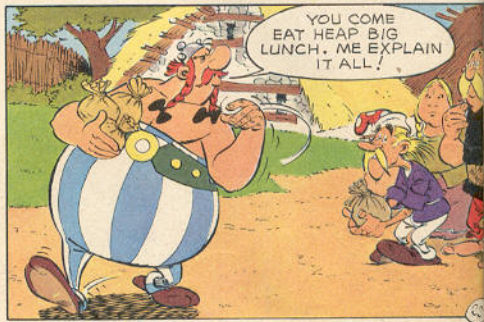
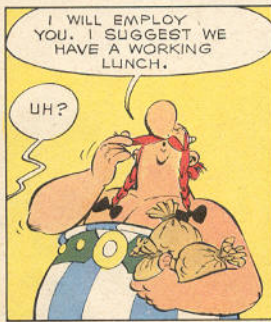
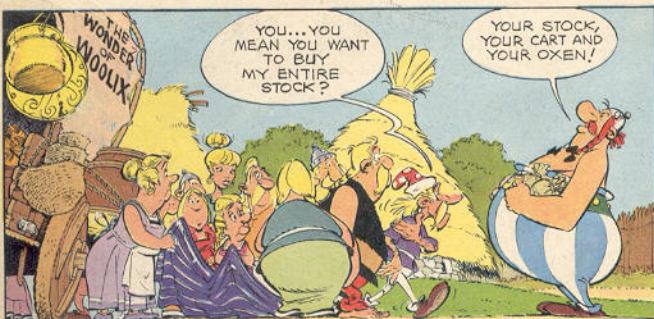
THAT!

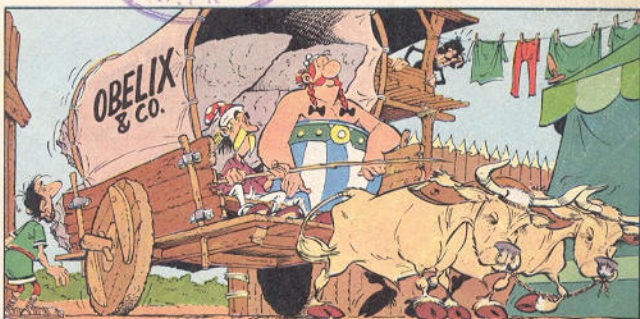
SLONK!







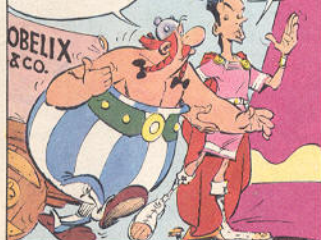




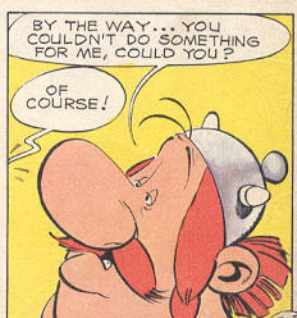
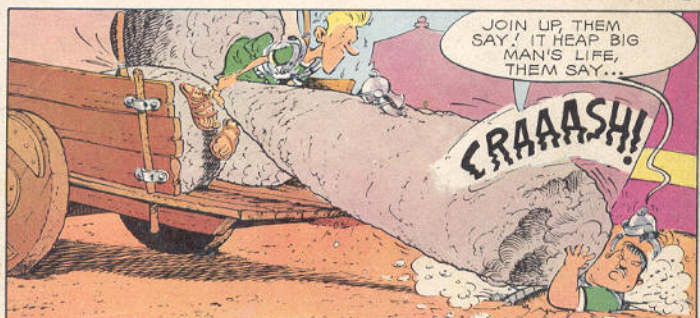
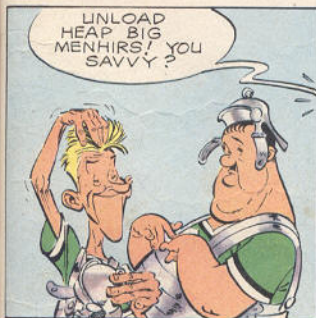
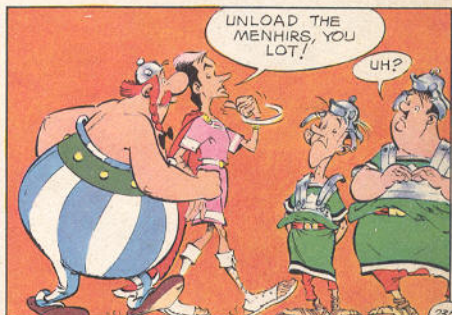
SPLENDID! WELL DONE!
COME INTO MY TENT
AND WE'LL GET DOWN
TO BUSINESS. MENHIRS
ARE GOING UP AGAIN.

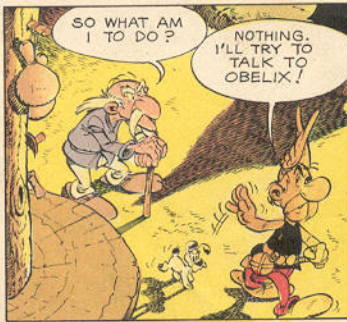
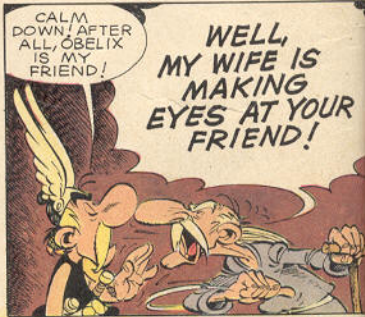
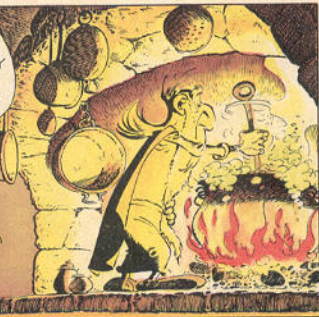
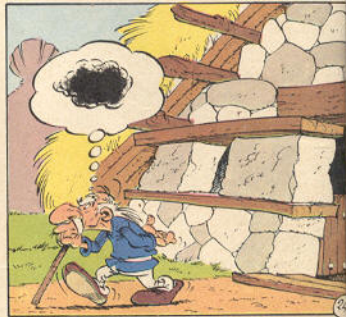
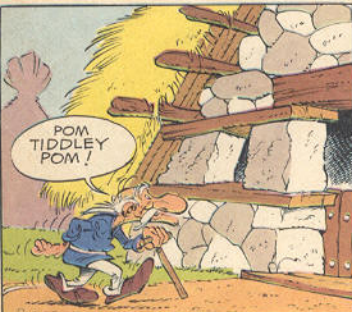


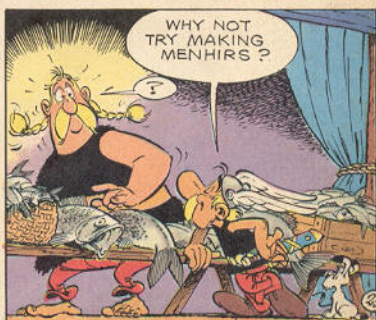
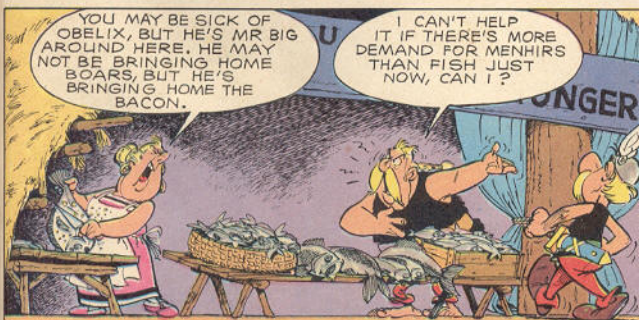
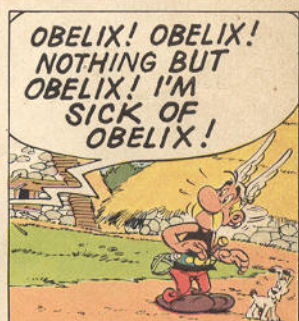
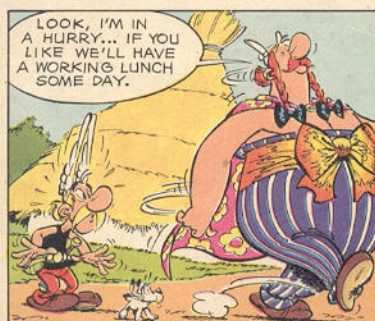
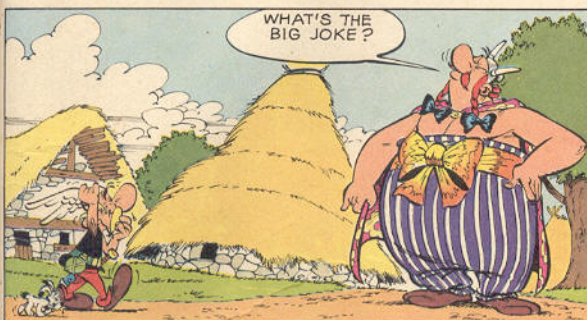
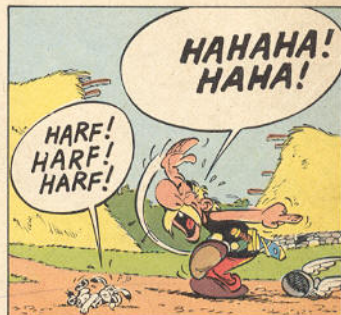
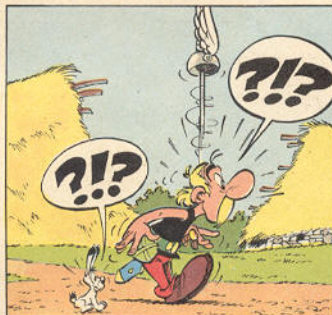
BUT I
HAVE TO
UNLOAD MY
MENHIRS...

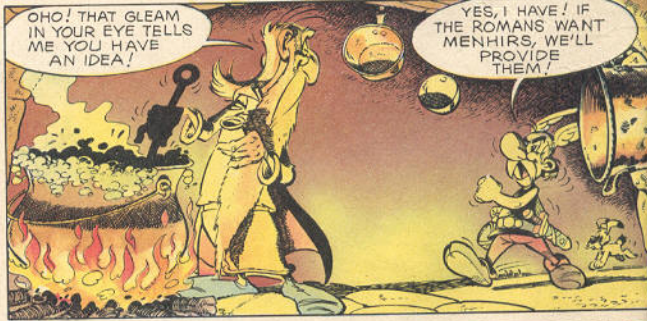
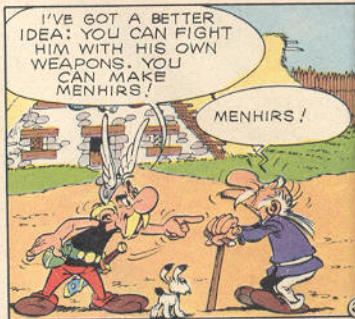
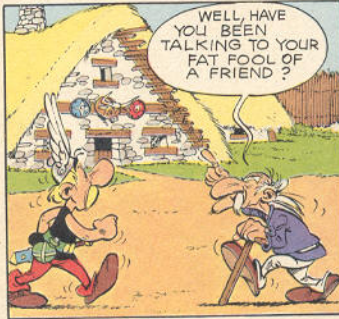
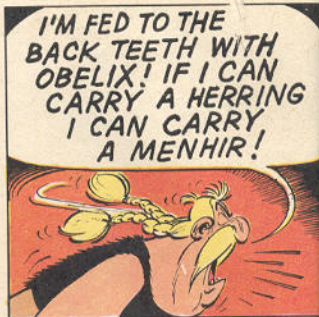


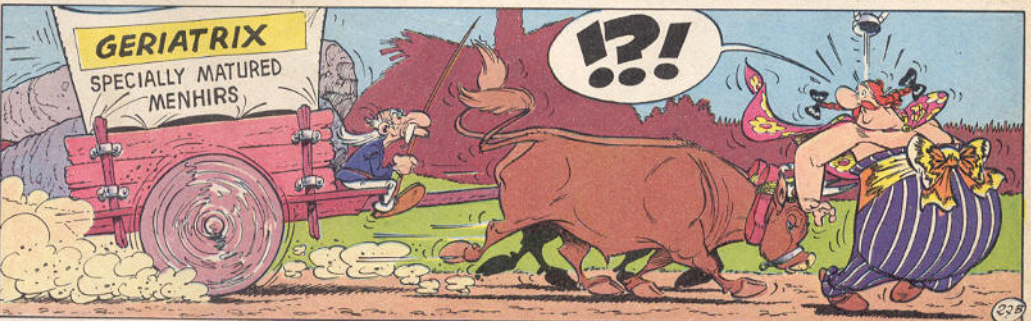
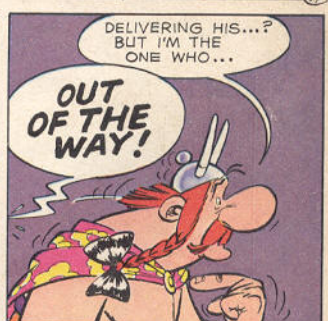
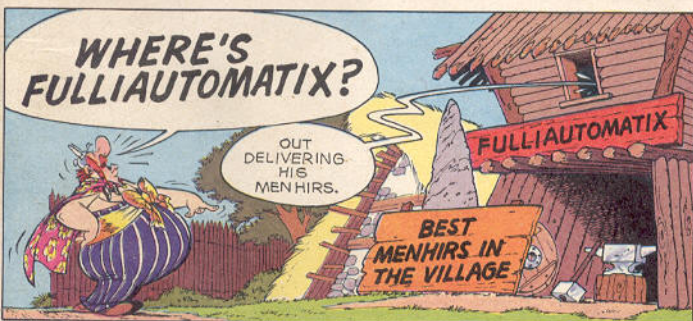
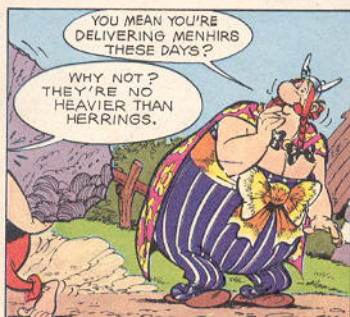
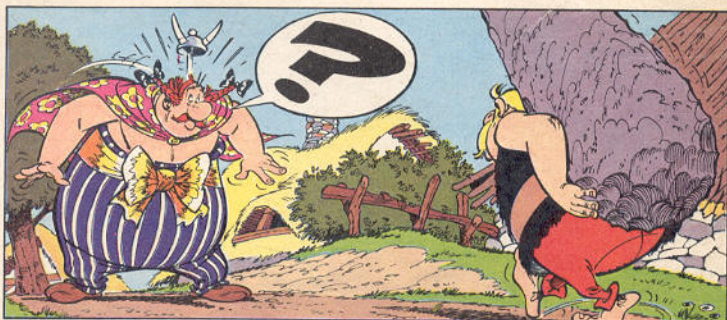
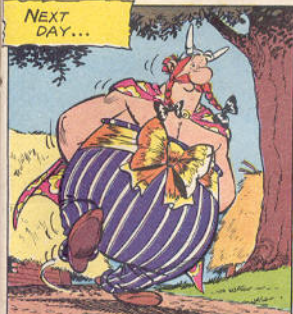
NO, NO! THAT'S NO
JOB FOR A CAPTAIN
OF INDUSTRY.

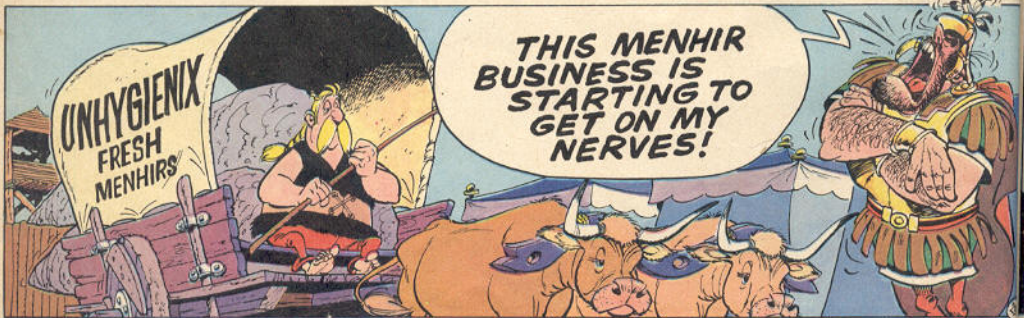
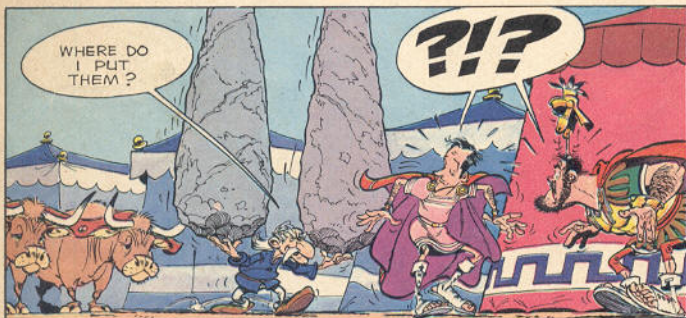
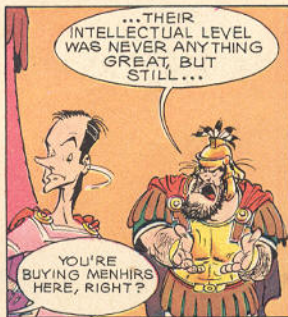


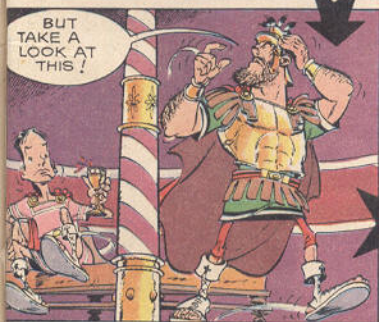
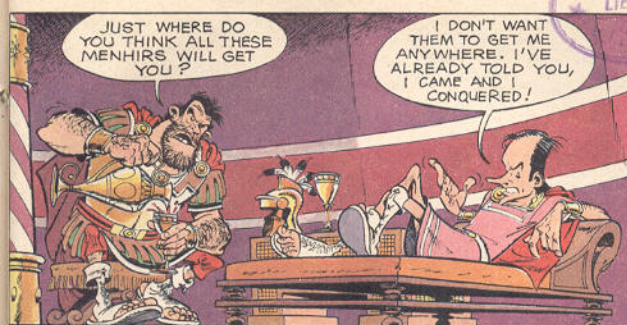


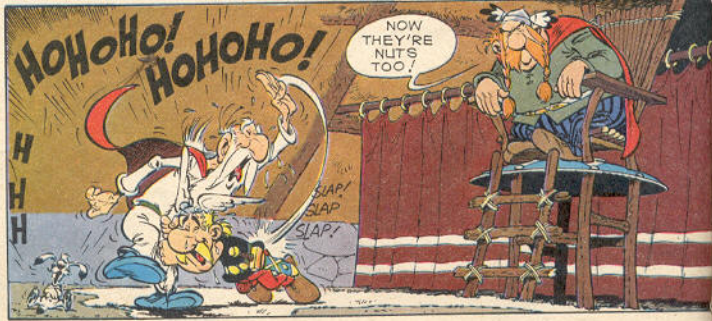
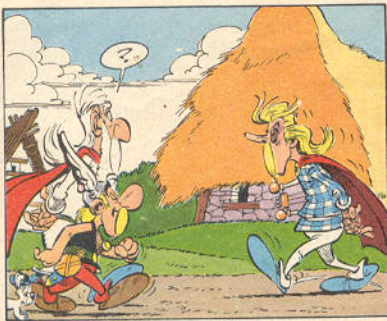












IN JULIUS CAESAR'S
PALACE IN
ROME...

AND
JUST WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED TO
DO WITH ALL
THESE
MENHIRS?

BUT CAESAR, THOSE
MENHIRS ARE THE
PROOF OF MY SUCCESS!
THE GAULS ARE
TOO BUSY MAKING
MENHIRS TO
FIGHT, SO...

MAYBE, BUT
YOU'RE DRAINING
MY TREASURY
TO KEEP A
FEW MADMEN
BUSY!

PEACE IS BEYOND
ALL PRICE...
SI VIS
PACEM...

YOUNG MAN, I MAKE THE
CLASSICAL REMARKS AROUND
HERE, ALEA JACTA EST AND ALL
THAT, AND WHAT'S MORE, YOU HAVEN'T
ANSWERED MY QUESTION: WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH
ALL THESE MENHIRS?

SELL THEM
O CAESAR.

SELL THEM?

THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT WAY, YOU
NOT ONLY RECOVER
YOUR EXPENSES,
YOU MAKE
A PROFIT
TOO.

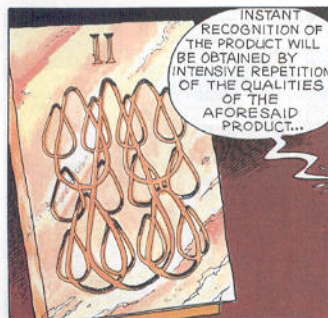
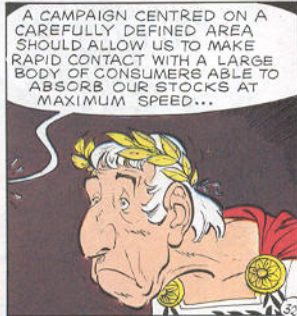
BUT
WHO'D WANT
MENHIRS?
THEY'RE NO
GOOD FOR
ANYTHING!

PRECISELY! WE MUST DRAW
UP A PLAN OF CAMPAIGN, DECIDE
ON OUR STRATEGY, SET OUR
SIGHTS ON THE RIGHT
TARGET!

CAMPAIGN? STRATEGY? TARGET?
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING I
LIKE TO HEAR! I'LL GIVE ORDERS
FOR THE LEGIONS
TO PREPARE FOR
BATTLE!

NO, NO!
LET ME
EXPLAIN...

THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE OF YOU UNACQUAINTED WITH THE ANCIENT BUSINESS WORLD TO UNDERSTAND, ESPECIALLY AS, THESE DAYS, SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS COULD NEVER EXIST, SINCE NO ONE WOULD DREAM OF TRYING TO SELL SOMETHING UTTERLY USELESS...



A FEW DAYS LATER,
ON EVERY WALL
IN ROME...

YOUR DEAREST WISH...



A MENHIR

IT'S BIG, IT'S
BEAUTIFUL,
IT'S A
MENHIR



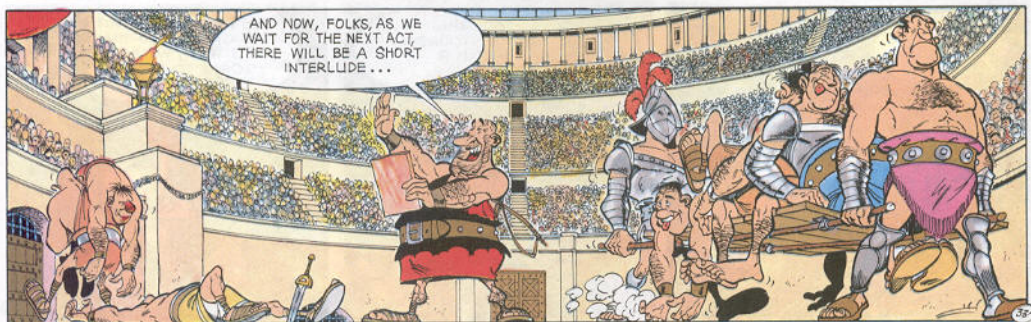
ON SALE IN ALL THE BEST
TEMPLES, BATHS AND FORUMS

YOU OWN A VILLA, A
CHARIOT, SLAVES...
BUT...

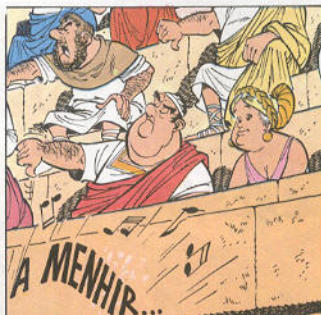


DO YOU OWN A MENHIR?

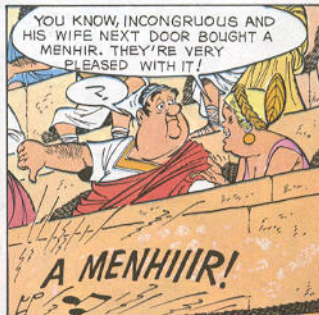
AND NOW, FOLKS, AS WE
WAIT FOR THE NEXT ACT,
THERE WILL BE A SHORT
INTERLUDE...



IT'S THE RIGHT ONE,
IT'S NOT THE LIGHT ONE,
IT'S A MENHIR...



A MENHIR...

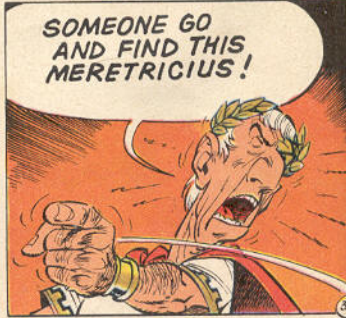
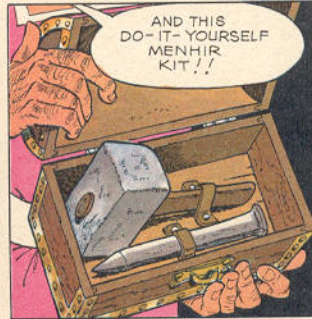
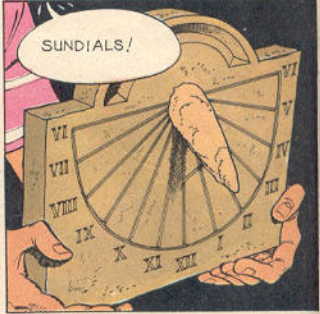


A MENHIIR!

AND THE RESULTS OF THE
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ARE
NOT LONG COMING IN...



IT'S A KNOCKOUT!
MENHIRS ARE
SELLING LIKE
HOT CAKES!



SOON
AFTERWARDS...

WHAT'S THE BIG
IDEA, MERETRICIUS?
SINCE WHEN
HAVE ROMANS
BEEN
MANUFACTURING
MENHIRS?

SINCE PEOPLE
STARTED BUYING
THEM, O CAESAR.

WELL, I
FORBID YOU TO
SELL ANY
MORE
MENHIRS!

I REPRESENT THE ENTIRE ROMAN
MENHIR INDUSTRY, AND I CANNOT
COUNTERMANCE AN EDICT
WHICH ENDANGERS THE JOBS
OF SO MANY WORKERS!

BUT THE
WORKERS
ARE
SLAVES!

EXACTLY! THE RIGHT
TO WORK IS THE ONLY
RIGHT A SLAVE
HAS. HE MUST
NOT BE DEPRIVED
OF IT!

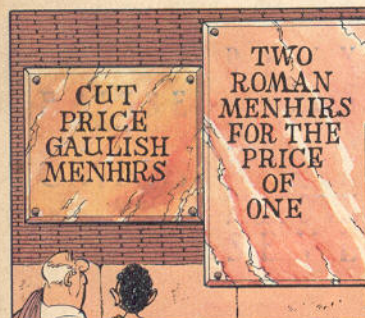
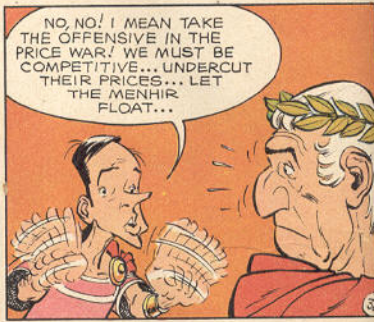
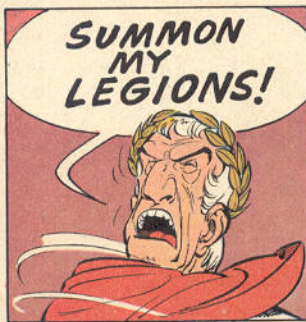
IF YOU GO
ON CIRCULATING
MENHIRS
YOU'LL FIND
YOURSELF IN
THE CIRCUS!

RIGHT. YOU
LEAVE ME NO
ALTERNATIVE.

NEXT DAY, ON
THE APPIAN
WAY...

JOBS FOR
THE
SLAVES

BAN THE GAULISH MENHIR



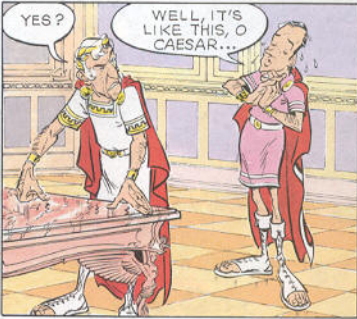
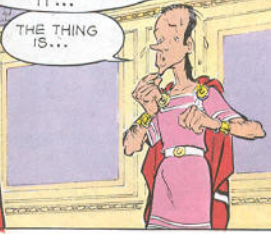
IN ROME, THE BOTTOM IS DROPPING OUT OF THE MENHIR MARKET.

FREE GIFT OF 11 BLUE SHIELD MENHIRS WITH EVERY SLAVE PURCHASED



PEOPLE DON'T EVEN WANT THEM AS A GIFT... WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD! I'VE LOST A FORTUNE, BUT LET'S FORGET IT...

THE THING IS...



YES?

WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS, O CAESAR...

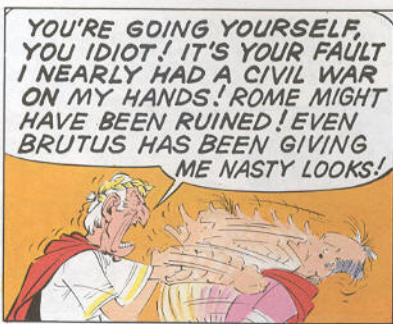
I WANTED TO KEEP THE PEACE IN GAUL, SO BEFORE I LEFT I GAVE ORDERS FOR THEM TO GO ON BUYING MENHIRS... AND RAISING THE PRICE.



WHAT? YOU KNOW THE STATE OF MY FINANCES? AND YOU SAID WE'D MAKE A KILLING! GET BACK TO GAUL AND STOP IT!!!



ER... YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEND SOMEONE ELSE, WOULD YOU? I HAVE A FRIEND WHO WAS AT BUSINESS SCHOOL WITH ME. HE...

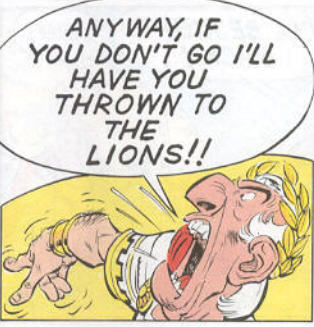


YOU'RE GOING YOURSELF, YOU IDIOT! IT'S YOUR FAULT I NEARLY HAD A CIVIL WAR ON MY HANDS! ROME MIGHT HAVE BEEN RUINED! EVEN BRUTUS HAS BEEN GIVING ME NASTY LOOKS!

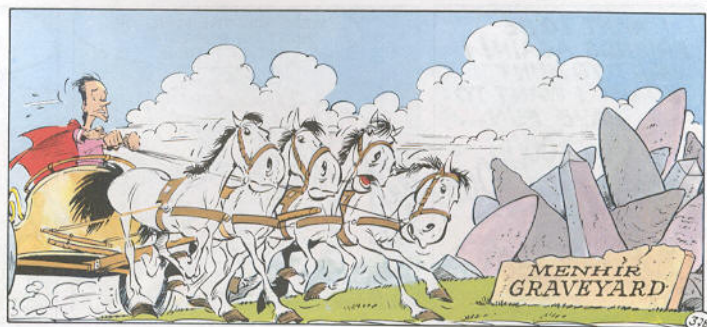


BUT... BUT THEY'LL KILL ME!

THAT PARTICULAR KILLING WOULDN'T WORRY ME!

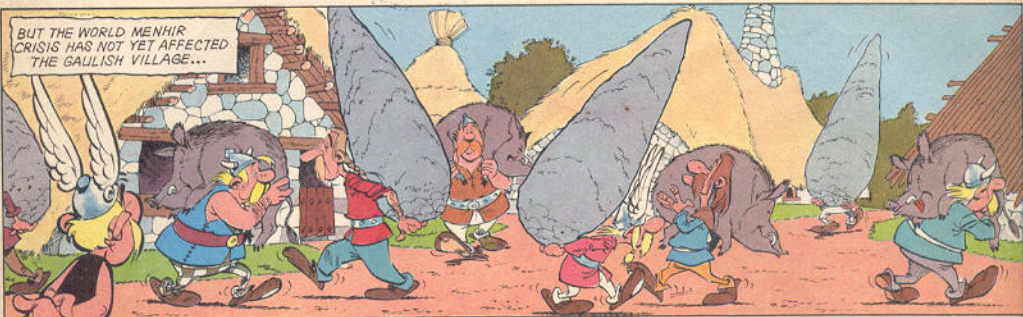


ANYWAY, IF YOU DON'T GO I'LL HAVE YOU THROWN TO THE LIONS!!



MENHIR GRAVEYARD

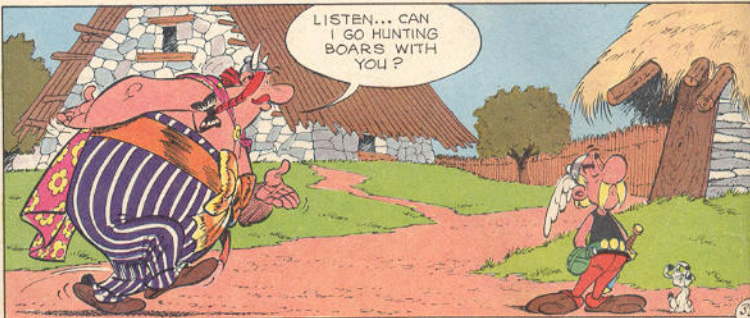
BUT THE WORLD MENHIR
CRISIS HAS NOT YET AFFECTED
THE GAULISH VILLAGE...



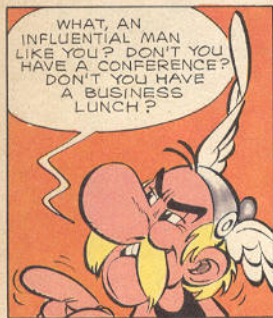
ASTERIX!
DOGMATIX!



LISTEN... CAN
I GO HUNTING
BOARS WITH
YOU?



WHAT, AN
INFLUENTIAL MAN
LIKE YOU? DON'T YOU
HAVE A CONFERENCE?
DON'T YOU HAVE
A BUSINESS
LUNCH?



PLEASE DON'T LAUGH AT ME.
I KNOW I'VE BEEN SILLY. I'M BORED, AND
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! EVERYONE HAS LOTS
OF SESTERTII NOW! EVERYONE'S THE
MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN IN
THE VILLAGE!

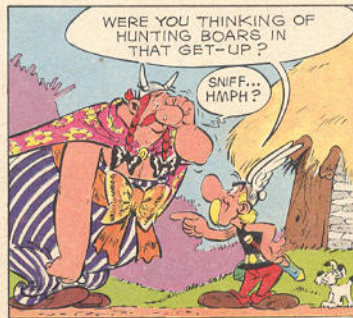


I WANT TO BE
FRIENDS AGAIN! I
WANT TO HUNT
BOAR! I WANT TO
HAVE FUN...
BOOOHOOO!



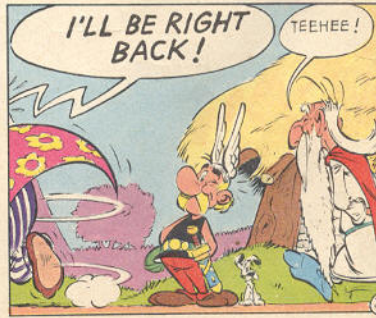
WERE YOU THINKING OF
HUNTING BOARS IN
THAT GET-UP?

SNIFF...
HAMPH?



I'LL BE RIGHT
BACK!

TEEHEE!



THE CAMP OF
TOTORUM...

HEY, WHAT
DO YOU KNOW?
OLD
PREPOSTERUS IS
BACK!

AVE, PREPOSTERUS! I CARRIED
OUT YOUR ORDERS; WE HAVE
VAST STOCKS OF MENHIRS...

AND I HOPE YOU'VE BROUGHT
PLENTY OF SESTERTII,
BECAUSE...

WATCH OUT,
YOU LOT, HERE
COMES
ANOTHER
CLOWN!

UNHYGIENK
FRESH
MENHIRS

HERE ARE
SOME MORE MENHIRS.
YOUR
LEGIONARIES CAN
UNLOAD
THEM.

NO, TAKE
THEM
AWAY!

WHAT?

I'M NOT
BUYING
ANY MORE
MENHIRS.

BUT WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO WITH
THEM...? SUPPOSE
I LET YOU HAVE
THEM CHEAP?

NOOOO!

NO MORE MENHIRS!
GET OUT!

WELL,
HONESTLY!

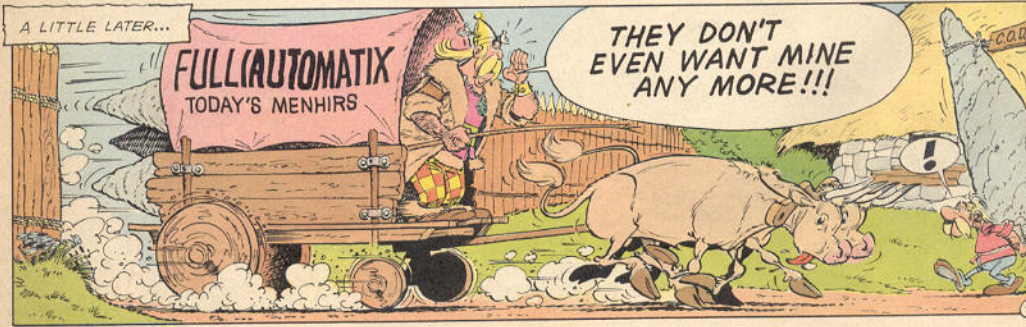
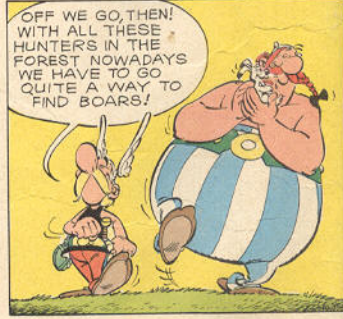
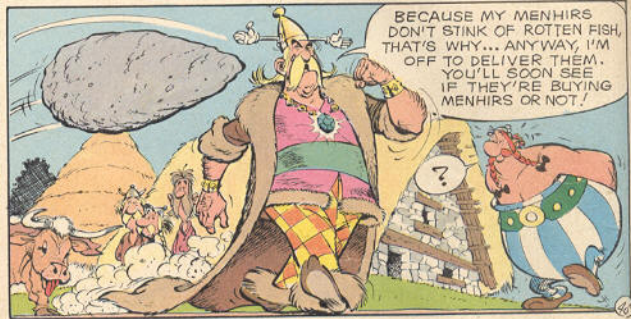
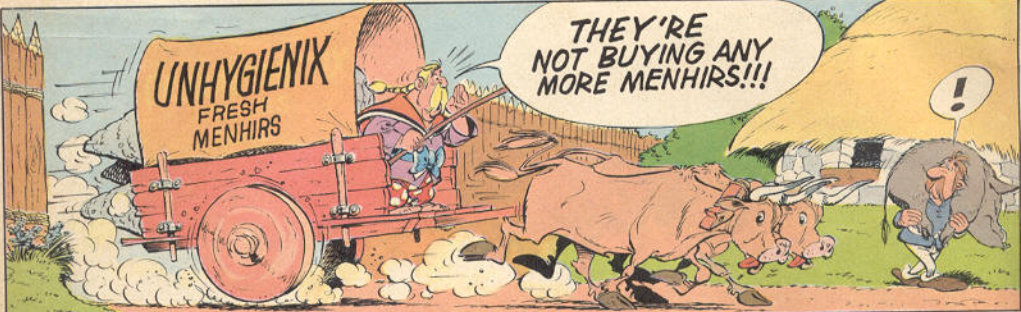
I DON'T KNOW
THAT I UNDER-
STAND YOUR
NEW STRATEGY...

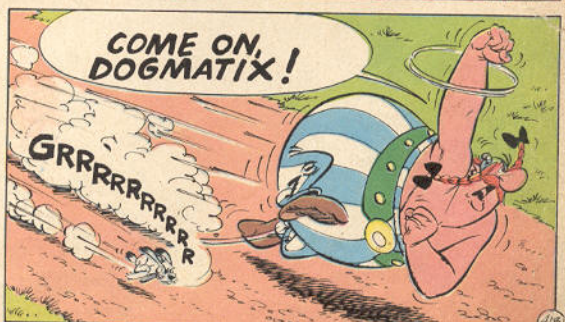
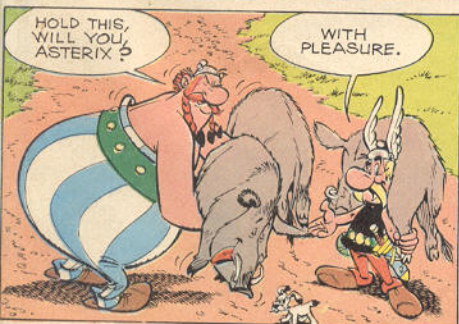
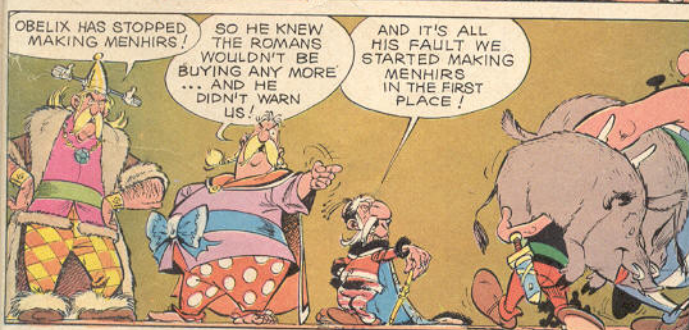
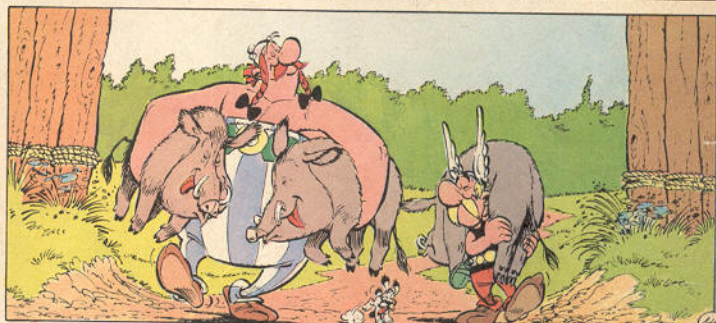
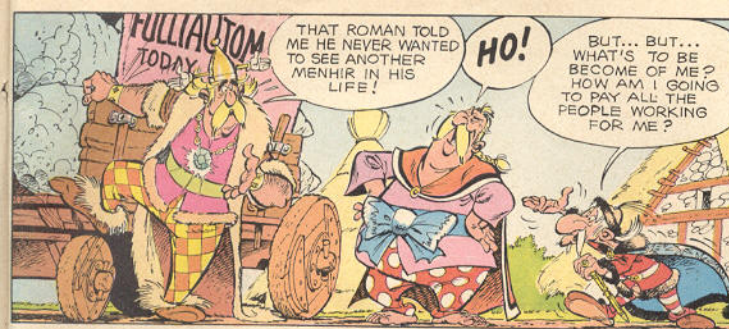
THERE ISN'T
ANY STRATEGY.
WE'RE NOT
BUYING ANY
MORE MENHIRS,
THAT'S
ALL!

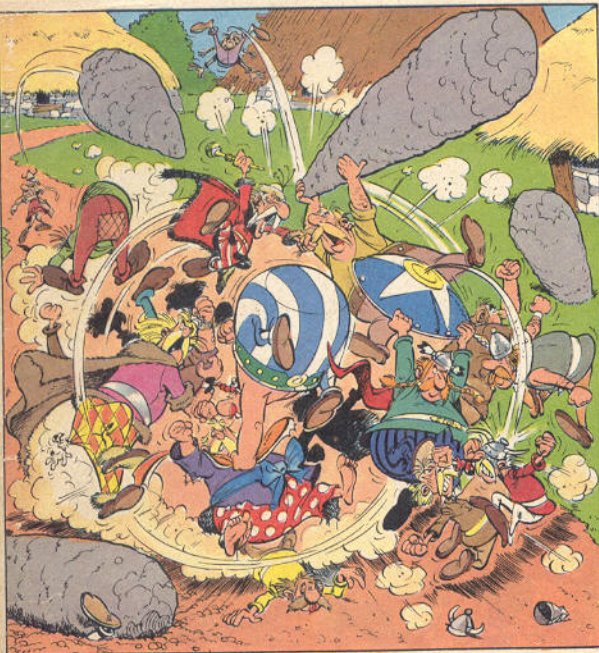
RIGHT!
I'LL BE
OFF, AVE!

?!

OH NO, YOU WON'T! YOU'RE STAYING
HERE UNTIL I FULLY UNDERSTAND
THE SITUATION!

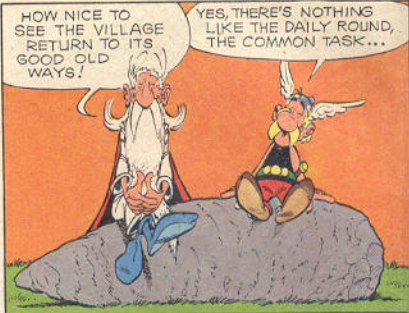






HOW NICE TO SEE THE VILLAGE RETURN TO ITS GOOD OLD DAYS!

YES, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE DAILY ROUND, THE COMMON TASK...



YOU DID VERY WELL. I'M PLEASED WITH YOU.

WAIT A MINUTE. LET'S TIE ALL THIS UP!



STOP, EVERYBODY! LISTEN TO ME!



SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, BUT WHY DON'T WE PAY A LITTLE CALL ON THE ROMANS INSTEAD OF FIGHTING EACH OTHER? AFTER ALL, THEY STARTED THE WHOLE THING!



YEAH!

HE'S RIGHT!

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVELY BIRTHDAY PRESENT, SO THIS TIME THE ROMANS ARE ON ME!



HOW ABOUT IT, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX?



LET'S GET THEM, BY TOUTATIS!





