

BOOK 26

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

and the
GREAT DIVIDE

Asterix



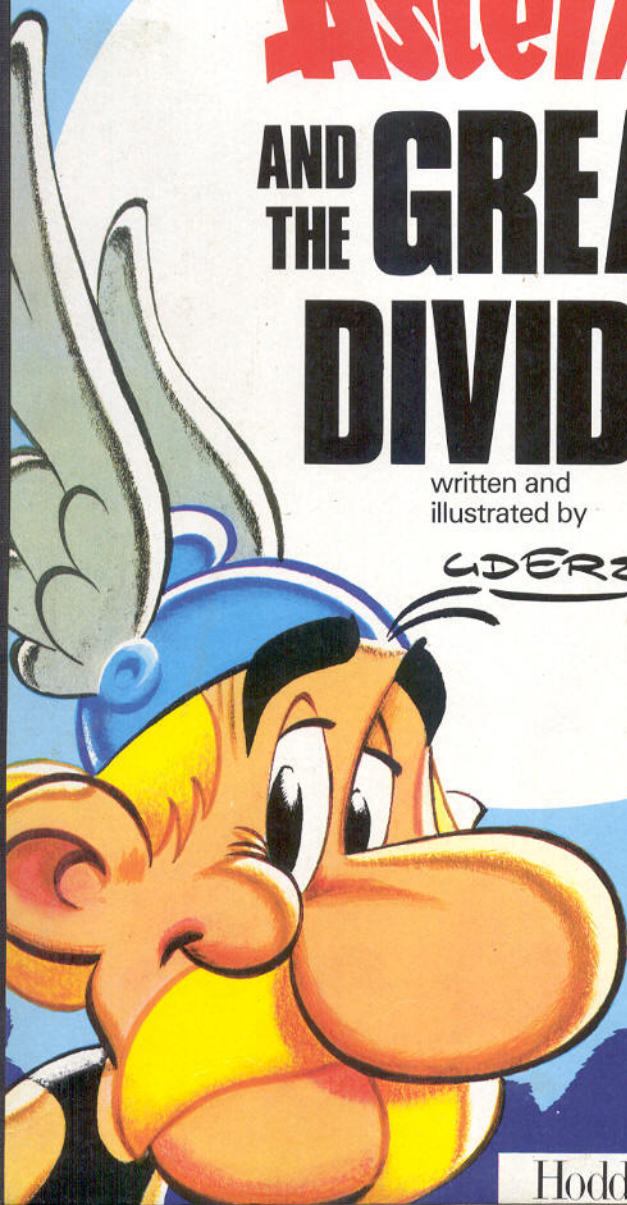
R. GOSCINNY - A. UDERZO

Asterix

AND
THE **GREAT
DIVIDE**

written and
illustrated by

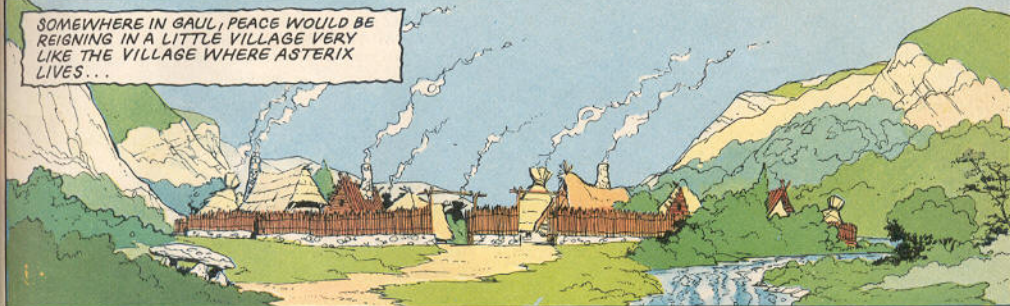
UDERZO



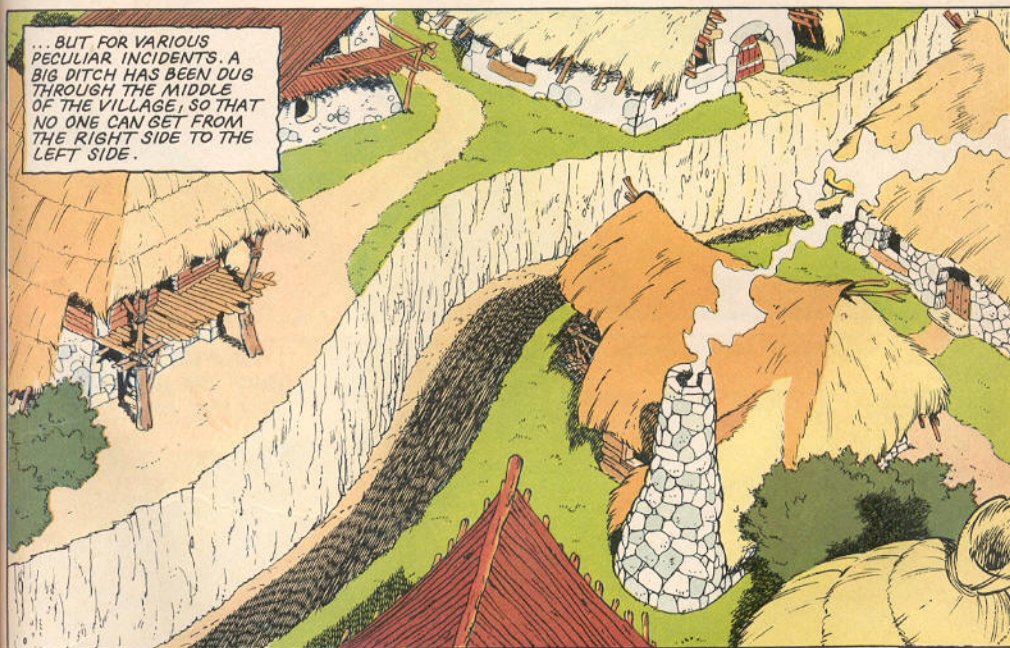
Hodder & Stoughton



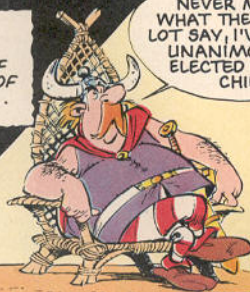
SOMEWHERE IN GAUL, PEACE WOULD BE
REIGNING IN A LITTLE VILLAGE VERY
LIKE THE VILLAGE WHERE ASTERIX
LIVES...



... BUT FOR VARIOUS
PECULIAR INCIDENTS, A
BIG DITCH HAS BEEN DUG
THROUGH THE MIDDLE
OF THE VILLAGE, SO THAT
NO ONE CAN GET FROM
THE RIGHT SIDE TO THE
LEFT SIDE.



CLEVERDIX
HAS BEEN
ELECTED CHIEF
BY THE LEFT OF
THE VILLAGE...



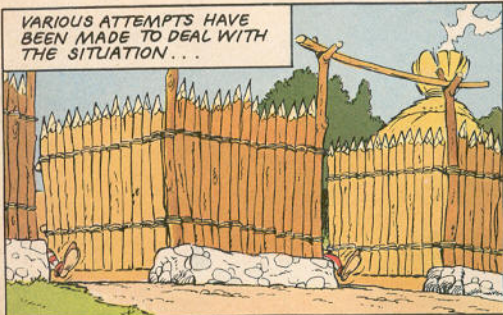
NEVER MIND
WHAT THE OTHER
LOT SAY, I'VE BEEN
UNANIMOUSLY
ELECTED VILLAGE
CHIEF!

MAJESTIX HAS
BEEN ELECTED CHIEF
BY THE RIGHT OF THE
VILLAGE... MONARCH
OF HALF HE SURVEYS.



BY
DIVINE
RIGHT!

VARIOUS ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION...



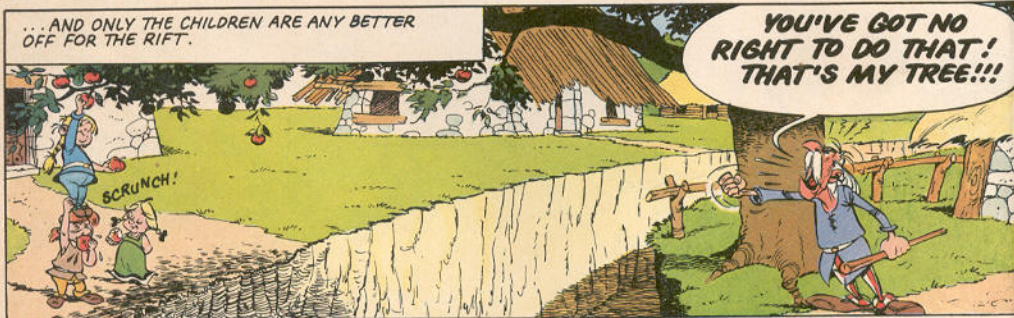
AND THE VILLAGERS OF THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ARE EVER READY TO EXPRESS THEIR MUTUAL ANTAGONISM.



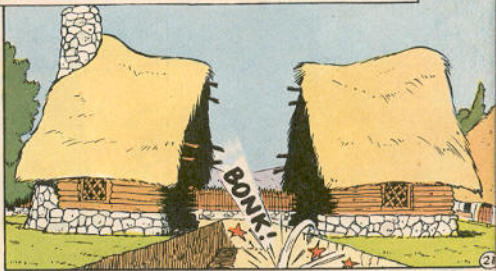
BUT IT WOULD TAKE POSITIVELY SINISTER DEXTERITY TO SOLVE CERTAIN VITAL PROBLEMS...



... AND ONLY THE CHILDREN ARE ANY BETTER OFF FOR THE RIFT.



SOME OF THE VILLAGERS, HAVING OPTED FOR NEUTRALITY, FIND THAT IT HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES.



IN CHIEF
CLEVERDIX'S
HUT...

LOOK HERE, FATHER, THIS CAN'T GO
ON! THAT DITCH DIVIDING US IS A
DISGRACE TO THE VILLAGE!

IS THAT MY
FAULT, HISTRIONIX,
MY BOY? THAT
TRAITOR MAJESTIX
SANK TO BRIBING
SOME OF THE
VOTERS!

HE AND HIS
HENCHMAN, THE
UNSPEAKABLE CODFIX,
HAD THE NERVE TO
GET VOTES FROM
VILLAGERS WHO WERE
ONLY BABES IN ARMS!

WELL, AT THIS RATE
FUTURE GENERATIONS
OF GAULS AREN'T
GOING TO THINK
MUCH OF THEIR
ANCESTORS!

CAN
YOU SUGGEST
ANYTHING,
FATHER?

YES, MY BOY,
I CAN. I'VE
DECIDED TO MAKE A
SPEECH TO THE VILLAGERS
OPPOSITE. THAT'LL BRIDGE
THE GAP. THEY'LL SOON
SEE HOW WRONG
THEY WERE TO
DITCH ME!

AND IN CHIEF
MAJESTIX'S
HUT...

OH, FATHER, DO YOU
REMEMBER HOW HAPPY
THE VILLAGE WAS
WHEN WE ONLY
HAD ONE CHIEF,
ALTRUISTIX?

YES, I DO! THE OLD
50-AND-50 TOOK
AFTER HIS COUSIN
ALCAPONIX... MAKING
OFF WITH ALL THE
VILLAGE'S TAXES!

THIS IS ALL THAT FOOL
CLEVERDIX'S FAULT! HE
STOLE VOTES WHICH WERE
MINE BY RIGHT.

HE EVEN PROMISED TO
BRING DOWN INFLATION, AND
THOSE IDIOTS FELL FOR IT!
THAT WAS WHEN THE
BALLOON WENT UP!

MELODRAMA IS RIGHT!
WE NEED A SINGLE CHIEF
TO LEAD THE VILLAGE. YOU
LET THEM KNOW OVER
ON THE LEFT THAT YOU'RE
THE RIGHTFUL CHIEF!

CODFIX,
YOUR ADVICE
ISN'T ALWAYS
COWSWALLOP!
YES, I'LL
ADDRESS
THEM!

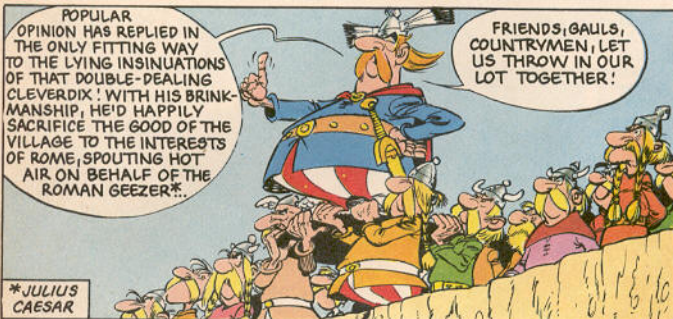
AND SOON
AFTERWARDS...

BROTHERS, WE ARE OVER-
HANGING ON THE BRINK OF VILLAGE
DISASTER! BUT THE PARTY OF THE
LEFT OFFERS FULL EMPLOY-
MENT... MAXIMUM PRO-
DUCTIVE POTENTIAL FOR
ALL WORKERS...



... SHIELD-
BEARERS INCLUDED.
DON'T YOU LISTEN TO
MAJESTIX! HE'D PLUCK THE
VERY WINGS FROM YOUR
HELMETS! WORKERS OF
THE VILLAGE, UNITE!

POPULAR
OPINION HAS REPLIED IN
THE ONLY FITTING WAY
TO THE LYING INSINUATIONS
OF THAT DOUBLE-DEALING
CLEVERDIX! WITH HIS BRINK-
MANSHIP, HE'D HAPPILY
SACRIFICE THE GOOD OF THE
VILLAGE TO THE INTERESTS
OF ROME, SPOUTING HOT
AIR ON BEHALF OF THE
ROMAN GEEZER.



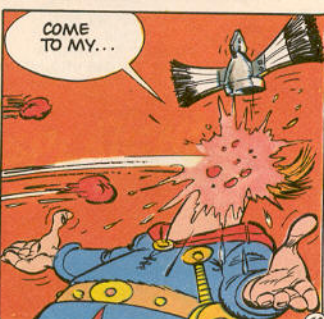
FRIENDS, GAULS,
COUNTRYMEN, LET
US THROW IN OUR
LOT TOGETHER!

*JULIUS
CAESAR

CROSS THE
GREAT DIVIDE!

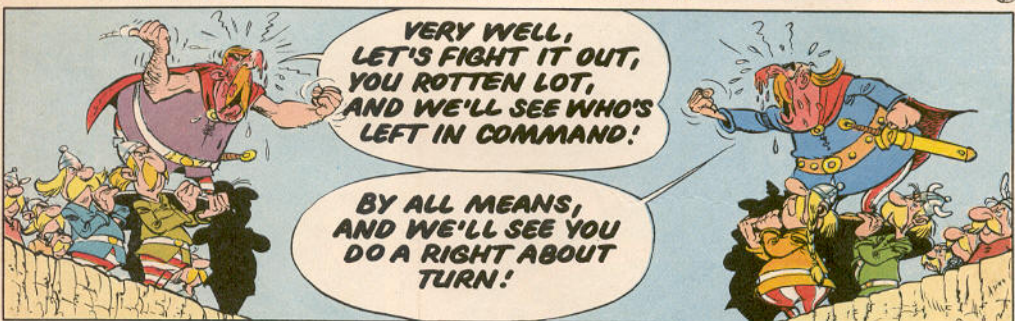


COME
TO MY...

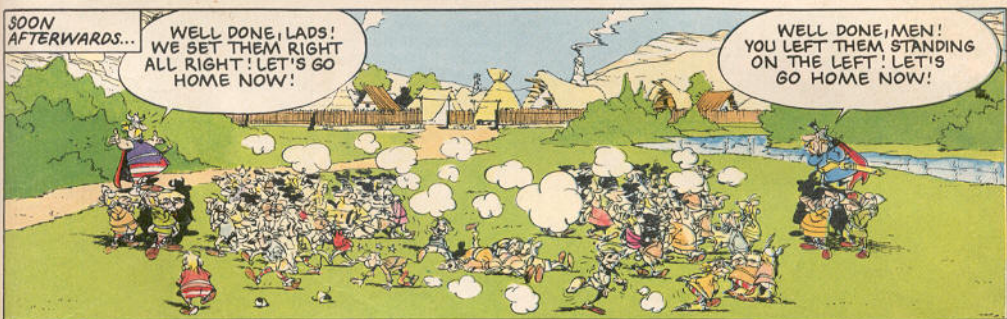


VERY WELL,
LET'S FIGHT IT OUT,
YOU ROTTEN LOT,
AND WE'LL SEE WHO'S
LEFT IN COMMAND!

BY ALL MEANS,
AND WE'LL SEE YOU
DO A RIGHT ABOUT
TURN!



RSRRRR!
RSRRRR!

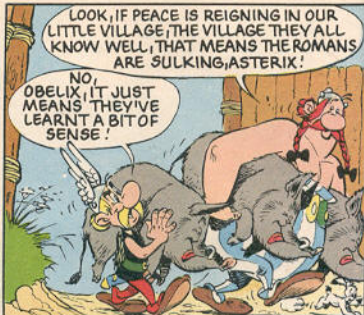


ELSEWHERE, PEACE IS REIGNING IN ANOTHER LITTLE VILLAGE, A VILLAGE WE ALL KNOW WELL...



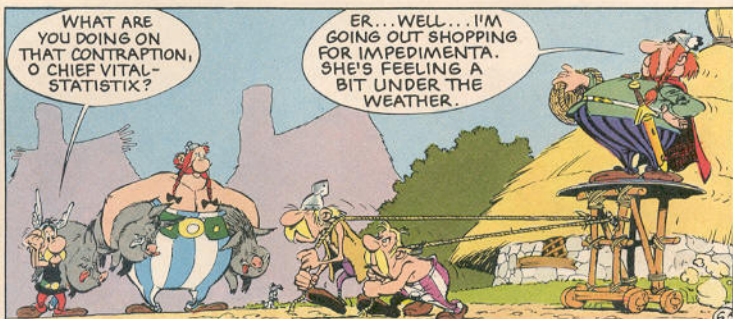
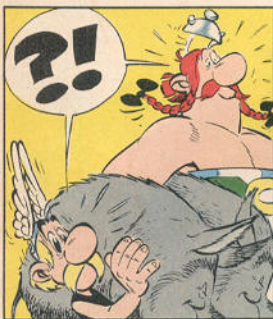
LOOK, IF PEACE IS REIGNING IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE, THE VILLAGE THEY ALL KNOW WELL, THAT MEANS THE ROMANS ARE SULKING, ASTERIX!

NO, OBELIX, IT JUST MEANS THEY'VE LEARN'T A BIT OF SENSE!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THAT CONTRAPTION, O CHIEF VITAL-STATISTIX?

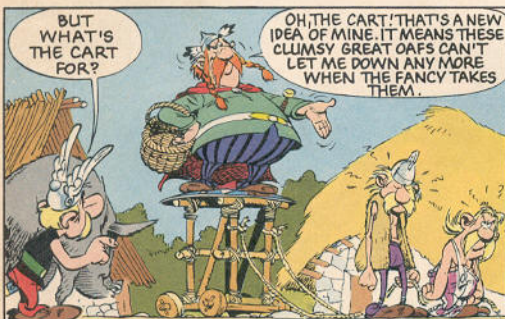
ER... WELL... I'M GOING OUT SHOPPING FOR IMPEDIMENTA. SHE'S FEELING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER.



BUT WHAT'S THE CART FOR?

OH, THE CART! THAT'S A NEW IDEA OF MINE. IT MEANS THESE CLUMSY GREAT OAFS CAN'T LET ME DOWN ANY MORE WHEN THE FANCY TAKES THEM.

RIGHT, YOU TWO! WHATEVER YOU DO NOW, I STAND FIRM ON MY TRUSTY SHIELD! SO OFF WE GO SHOPPING!

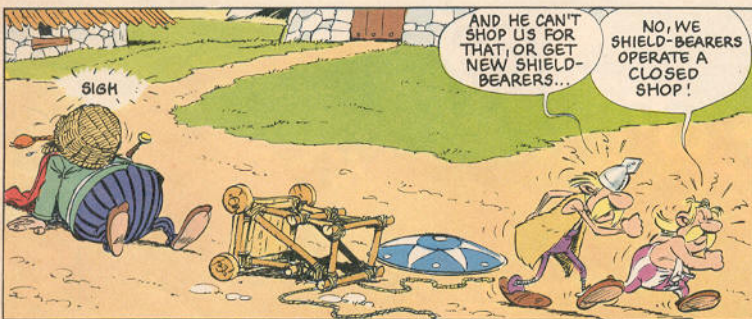


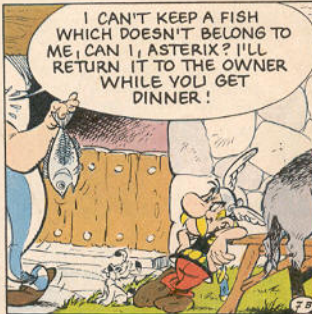
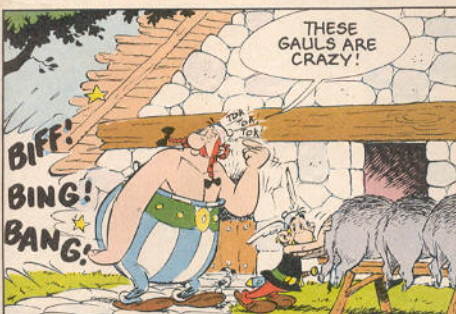
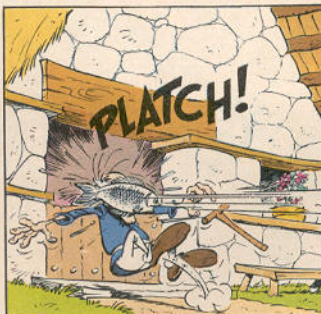
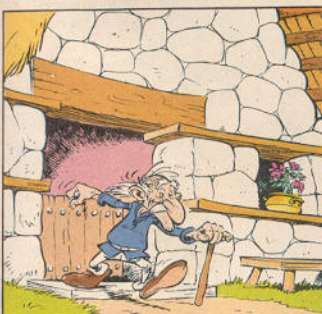
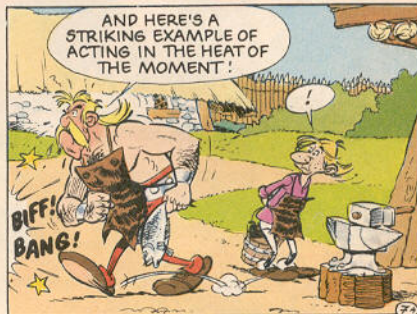
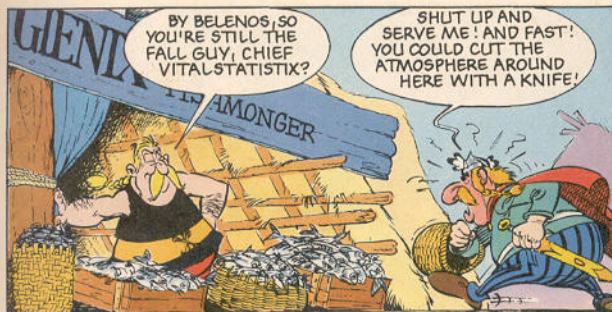
SIGH

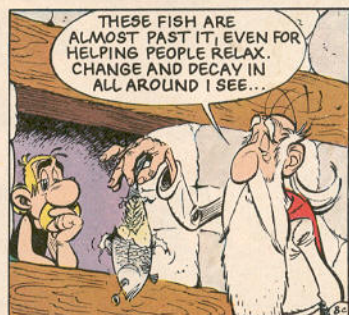
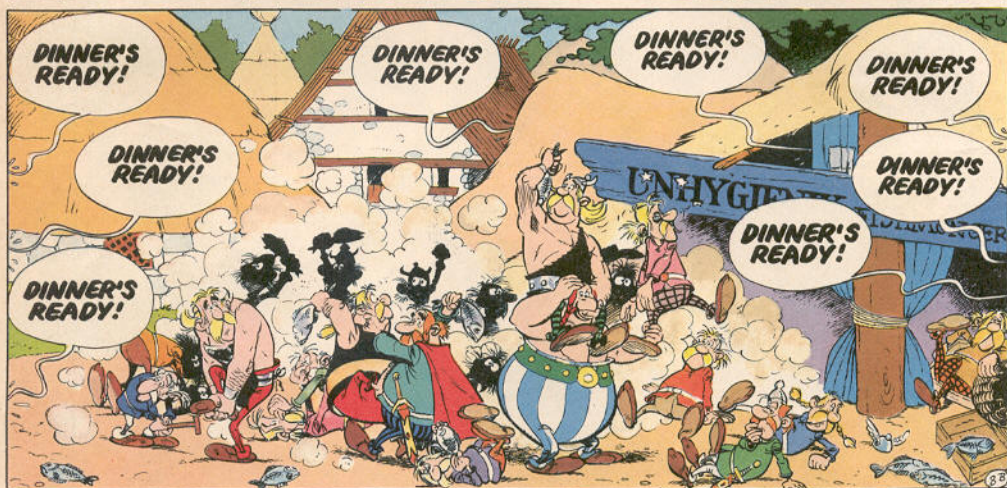
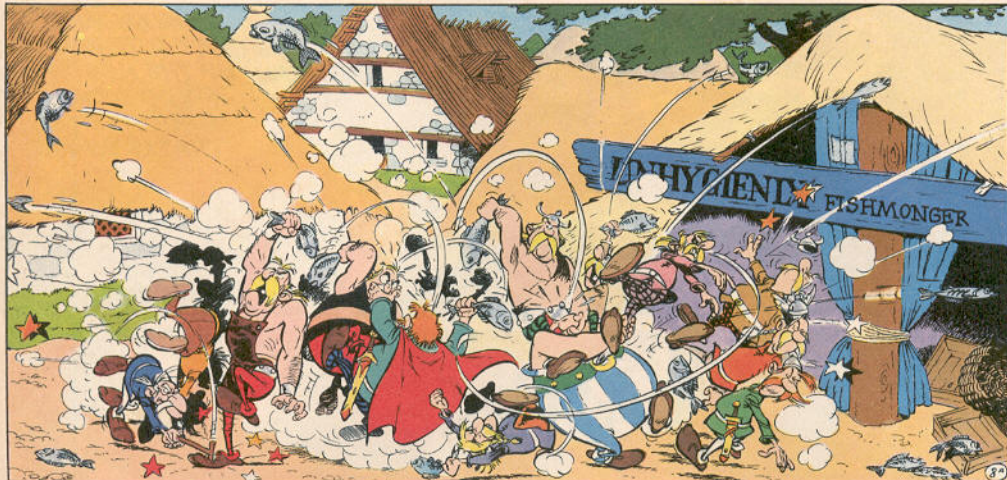
AND HE CAN'T SHOP US FOR THAT, OR GET NEW SHIELD-BEARERS...

NO, WE SHIELD-BEARERS OPERATE A CLOSED SHOP!

DOWNCAST AGAIN, PIGGYWIGGY? THINKING YOURSELF SO CLEVER... HUH! PIGS MIGHT FLY!









MEAN-
WHILE...

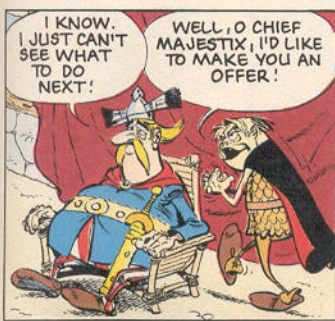
AND JUST WHAT GOOD DID
THAT PUNCH-UP DO YOU?
ABSOLUTELY NONE! IT ONLY
WIDENED THE RIFT BETWEEN
THE PEOPLE OF OUR
VILLAGE!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE FIRST THING ABOUT
POLITICS AND THE ART OF
WARFARE, MY GIRL! GO UP
TO YOUR ROOM AND
LEAVE US ALONE!

HEAR THAT?
SHE'LL SOON BE
JOINING CLASSICAL
WOMEN'S LIB!
SPEAKING TO
THEM OFF-THE
CUFF*!

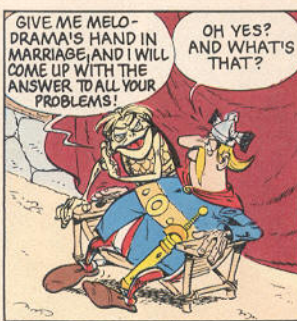
ALL THE SAME, YOU
HAVE TO ADMIT THAT
TODAY'S LITTLE
CONFRONTATION DIDN'T
GET US ANYWHERE.

*LATIN:
AD LIB



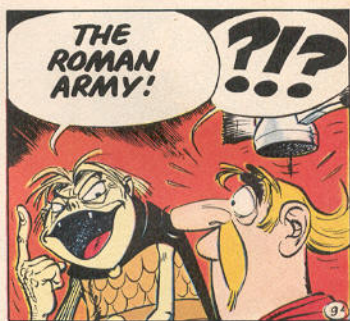
I KNOW.
I JUST CAN'T
SEE WHAT
TO DO
NEXT!

WELL, O CHIEF
MAJESTIX, I'D LIKE
TO MAKE YOU AN
OFFER!



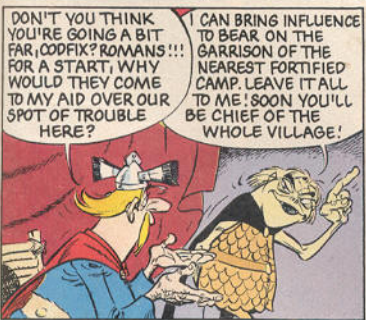
GIVE ME MELO-
DRAMA'S HAND IN
MARRIAGE, AND I WILL
COME UP WITH THE
ANSWER TO ALL YOUR
PROBLEMS!

OH YES?
AND WHAT'S
THAT?



**THE
ROMAN
ARMY!**

?!?



DON'T YOU THINK
YOU'RE GOING A BIT
FAR, CODDIX? ROMANS!!!
FOR A START, WHY
WOULD THEY COME
TO MY AID OVER OUR
SPOT OF TROUBLE
HERE?

I CAN BRING INFLUENCE
TO BEAR ON THE
GARRISON OF THE
NEAREST FORTIFIED
CAMP. LEAVE IT ALL
TO ME! SOON YOU'LL
BE CHIEF OF THE
WHOLE VILLAGE!



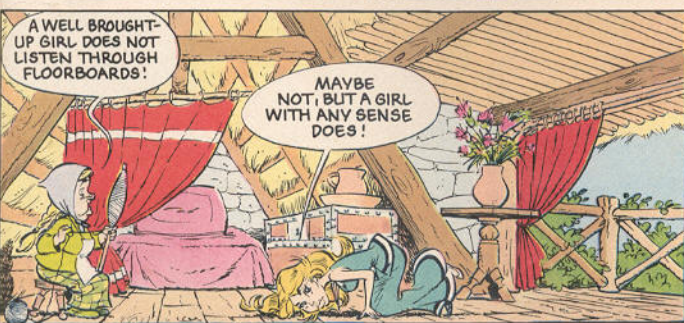
I'M STILL NOT
KEEN ON HAVING
FOREIGNERS MIXED
UP IN OUR AFFAIRS.
ESPECIALLY ROMANS.
PAX ROMANA OR NO
PAX ROMANA, THEY'RE
OUR ENEMIES!

HAVE NO FEAR!
AS SOON AS
THE TROUBLES
CLEARED UP,
THEY'LL GO
PEACEFULLY
BACK TO THEIR
OWN CAMP!



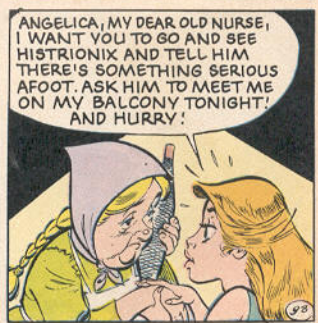
RIGHT! IT'S A DEAL,
CODDIX! I PUT MYSELF IN
YOUR HANDS, BUT YOU'RE
NOT MARRYING MELODRAMA
UNTIL I'M THE ONLY CHIEF
IN THE VILLAGE... CHIEF
OF THE LEFT AS WELL
AS THE RIGHT!

CONSIDER
YOURSELF
CHIEF, DAD,
AND CONSIDER
ME MR RIGHT!



A WELL BROUGHT-
UP GIRL DOES NOT
LISTEN THROUGH
FLOORBOARDS!

MAYBE
NOT, BUT A GIRL
WITH ANY SENSE
DOES!



ANGELICA, MY DEAR OLD NURSE,
I WANT YOU TO GO AND SEE
HISTRIONIX AND TELL HIM
THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUS
AFOOT. ASK HIM TO MEET ME
ON MY BALCONY TONIGHT!
AND HURRY!

NIGHT HAS FALLEN, AND ALL IS CALM AGAIN IN THE VILLAGE.

TIME FOR
BED, SCHIZO-
PHRENIX!

COMING,
DARLING!

BONG!

CODFIX IS GOING
TO ASK THE ROMANS TO
HELP MAKE MY FATHER
CHIEF OF THE WHOLE
VILLAGE... AND IN RETURN
MY FATHER HAS PROMISED
HIM MY HAND IN
MARRIAGE!

HOW DARE HE?!
BUT I'M FROM THE
OPPOSITE CAMP,
MELODRAMA... WHY
ARE YOU TELLING
ME ALL THIS?

BECAUSE
YOU'RE THE ONLY
PERSON WITH ANY
SENSE IN THIS CRAZY
VILLAGE, AND I DON'T
WANT TO MARRY COD-
FIX! O HISTRIONIX,
HISTRIONIX! WHERE-
FORE ART THOU
HISTRIONIX?

?

!?!

RAISE
THE
ALARM!

BONK!

ARE
YOU HURT,
HISTRIONIX?

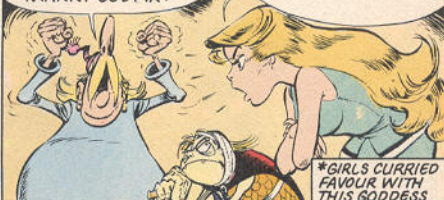
NO, I'M
ALL RIGHT... I FANCY
A PASSING SHOAL OF
FISH BROKE MY
FALL!

MY OWN DAUGHTER
IN LEAGUE WITH THE
ENEMY! TREACHERY UNDER
MY OWN ROOF!



AND MY OWN FATHER
ISN'T ASHAMED TO ASK THE
ROMANS FOR HELP IN
FIGHTING OUR OWN FRIENDS
AND RELATIONS!

SHUT UP, YOU
UNGRATEFUL CHILD!
I'M GOING TO LOCK YOU
IN YOUR ROOM, AND
YOU DON'T COME OUT
UNTIL THE PAY YOU
MARRY CODFIX!



I NEVER WILL!
I'D RATHER BE A
VIRGIN SERVING VESTA*
ALL MY LIFE!

*GIRLS CURRIED
FAVOUR WITH
THIS GODDESS

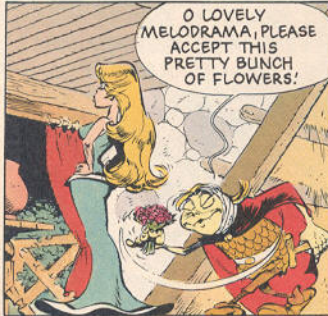
DON'T LET'S RUSH
THIS MAJESTIX! TIME
AND PATIENCE WILL
ACHIEVE MORE THAN
RAGE AND VIOLENCE
EVER COULD!



SOMETIMES
I WONDER HOW
I THINK THESE
THINGS UP...



O LOVELY
MELODRAMA, PLEASE
ACCEPT THIS
PRETTY BUNCH
OF FLOWERS!



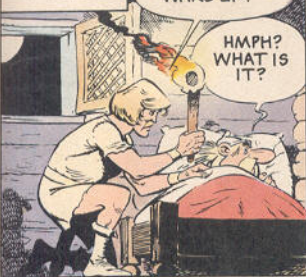
WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK YOU'RE A SMASH
HIT WITH ME?



MEANWHILE...

FATHER,
WAKE UP!

HMPH?
WHAT IS
IT?



MAJESTIX AND HIS
HENCHMAN CODFIX
ARE PLANNING TO ASK
THE ROMANS TO HELP
THEM CONQUER THE
WHOLE VILLAGE!



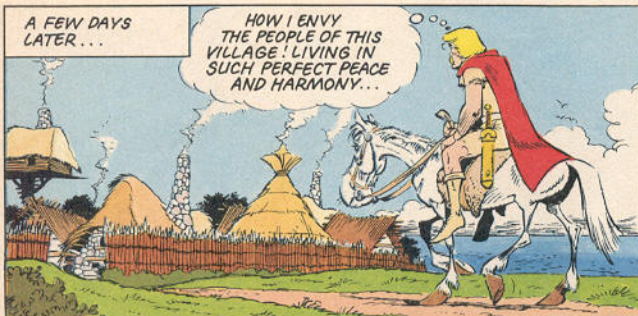
OH, ARE THEY?
WELL, SON, I WANT
YOU TO GO IN SEARCH OF
MY OLD COMRADE-IN-
ARMS VITALSTATISTIX.
HE AND I FOUGHT
TOGETHER AT
GERGOVIA...

HE'S CHIEF OF A ARMORICAN
VILLAGE A FEW DAYS' JOURNEY
AWAY. THANKS TO THE DRUID
GETAFIX'S MAGIC POTION,
HE HAS KEPT THE WHOLE
MIGHT OF CAESAR'S LEGIONS
AT BAY! EXPLAIN IT ALL
TO HIM, AND TELL HIM
I NEED HIS HELP!



A FEW DAYS
LATER...

HOW I ENVY
THE PEOPLE OF THIS
VILLAGE! LIVING IN
SUCH PERFECT PEACE
AND HARMONY...



YOU STUPID IGNORANT
LOT! I'M NOT SELLING
ANY MORE OF MY FISH
TO THOSE WHO DON'T
APPRECIATE ITS
TRUE WORTH!

GOOD!!! THOSE WHO APPRECIATE
ITS TRUE WORTH WILL TURN IT INTO
GLUE, AND IT WON'T SMELL
SO BAD!!!

?!



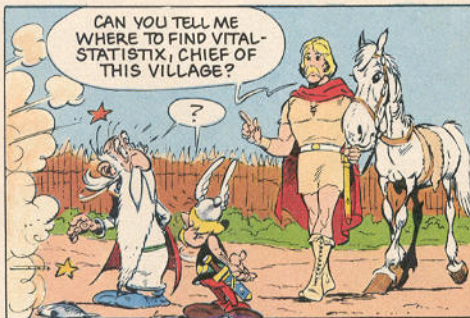
IF THIS CARRIES
ON MUCH LONGER,
ASTERIX, THEY'LL BE
DISCOVERING NUCLEAR
FISSION!

AHEM!



CAN YOU TELL ME
WHERE TO FIND VITAL-
STATISTIX, CHIEF OF
THIS VILLAGE?

?



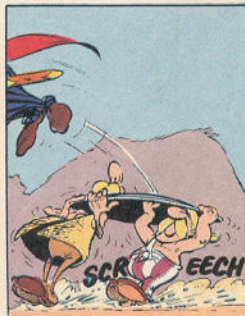
VITALSTATISTIX?
HE'S ON HIS
WAY!



STOP! AND
THAT'S AN
ORDER!



SCREECH



I'M
GOING TO CRACK
UP... I CAN FEEL IT
COMING ON! YES...
I'M GOING TO
CRACK UP.



THIS
IS IT! I'M
CRACKING
UP!



... AND THAT, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIK, IS THE SAD STORY OF OUR VILLAGE. ONLY YOUR DRUID GETAFIX'S MAGIC POTION AND THE WISDOM OF YOUR EXPERIENCED WARRIORS CAN SAVE US!

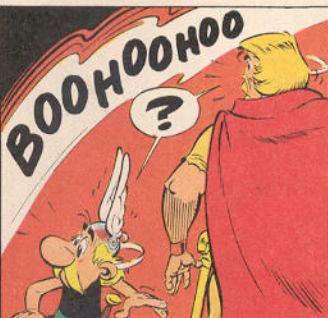


HMPH, YES. SPEAKING OF THE WISDOM OF MY EXPERIENCED WARRIORS, I SOMEHOW FEEL I SHOULD BE PUTTING MY OWN HOUSE IN ORDER FIRST...

... BUT SINCE THE ROMANS LOOK LIKE GETTING MIXED UP IN YOUR AFFAIRS, I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULDN'T LEND MY OLD COMRADE-IN-ARMS CLEVERDIX A HAND!



THANK YOU... AND ON MY OWN BEHALF TOO! UNLESS WE FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, MELODRAMA AND I CAN NEVER HOPE TO BE UNITED!



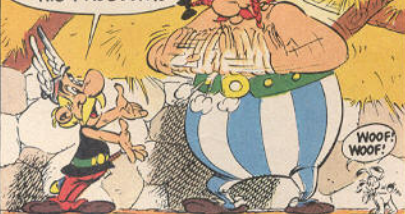
WHAT'S THE MATTER, OBELIX?

SNIFF! I GET ALL UPSET BY LOVE STORIES WITH UNHAPPY ENDINGS! SNIFF!



BUT THIS STORY'S ONLY JUST BEGINNING, AND IF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIK WILL LET US, WE'RE GOING TO HELP HISTORIONIX SOLVE HIS PROBLEMS!

OOH, YES, LET'S! GOODY, GOODY, GOODY!

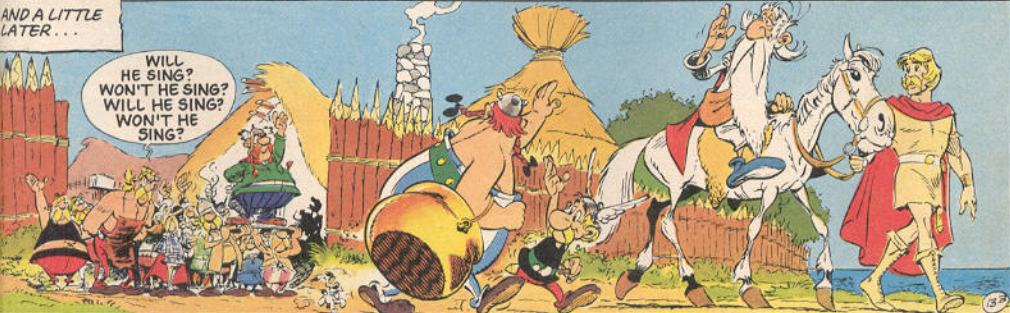


THE ROMANS AROUND HERE ARE KEEPING VERY QUIET JUST NOW, SO I THINK I CAN JOIN THE EXPEDITION MYSELF! THE PEOPLE OF YOUR VILLAGE MAY NEED ME TO HELP THEM BRIDGE THE GREAT DIVIDE!



AND A LITTLE LATER...

WILL HE SING? WON'T HE SING? WILL HE SING? WON'T HE SING?



IN THE ROMAN CAMP
NEAR THE DIVIDED
VILLAGE...

HEY,
SOURPUS,
I'LL SWAP YOU
TWO SENTRY
DUTIES FOR
ONE LAUNDRY
FATIGUE!

NOTHING
DOING! YOU ALREADY
OWE ME THREE COOK-
HOUSE FATIGUES AND
TWO LATRINE
FATIGUES!

BACK AT THE
RECRUITMENT OFFICE,
THEY TOLD US WE'D
GET BEAUTIFUL SLAVE-
GIRLS FROM THE
COUNTRIES WE CON-
QUERED...

BACK IN ROME, CAESAR
SAID HE WAS COUNTING
ON US TO CLEAN UP THE
BARBARIANS... WHAT
A WASH-OUT!

LOOT, THEY SAID.
THE CARROT FOR
THE DONKEY!

IT'S A MAN'S
LIFE IN THE ARMY.
THEY SAID...

ALL RIGHT,
WE KNOW
WE KNOW

DECURION INFECTIUS
VIRUS, THIS TENT IS A PIGSTY,
AND THE COOKING IN THE CAMP
IS GOING FROM BAD TO
WORSE!

I KNOW. THE COOKHOUSE IS RE-
VOLTING, O CENTURION UMBRAGEOUS
CUMULONIMBUS. THERE'S A MOOD
OF GENERAL UNREST. THE MEN WANT
SLAVES TO DO THE DIRTY WORK, BUT
CAESAR SAID WE WEREN'T TO
TAKE SLAVES DURING THE
ROMAN PEACE!

WISH I'D BROUGHT
MY SLAVEGIRL FROM
HOME... NICE LITTLE
ROMAN PIECE*,
SHE IS!

*PAX
ROMANA

CENTURION,
I HAVE THE ANSWER
TO ALL YOUR
PROBLEMS!

WHO LET
YOU INTO
THIS CAMP,
GAUL?

THE MAN ON DUTY
AT THE GATE. HE WAS QUITE
HAPPY WHEN I OFFERED
HIM A SLAVE IN
EXCHANGE!

WHO ARE
YOU, ANYWAY?
HOW DARE YOU
CORRUPT MY
LEGIONARIES?

I'M FROM
MAJESTIX, RIGHT-
FUL CHIEF OF THE
RIGHT SIDE OF OUR
VILLAGE. I'M HIS
ALTER EGO AND RIGHT HAND!

AND THIS
IS MY LEFT FOOT!
BE OFF, OR I'LL
ALTER YOUR EGO!

CHIEF
MAJESTIX WANTS
YOU TO HELP HIM PUT
DOWN A REBELLION
LED BY
CLEVERDIX!

THAT'S NONE OF MY
BUSINESS! THIS IS YOUR NUNC
DIMITTIS... GET OUT, OR YOU'LL BE
SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE. A
FUNERAL DIRGE FROM
HYMNS ANCIENT*

*HYMNS MODERN
AS YET UNWRITTEN

HOLD ON A MOMENT, CENTURION! YOU HELP MY CHIEF, CLEVERDIX AND HIS MEN WILL BE CONQUERED... SO YOU CAN MAKE THEM YOUR **SLAVES**! YOUR LEGIONARIES ARE VERY KEEN ON HAVING SLAVES!



AND WHAT ABOUT CAESAR'S ORDERS, EH, GAUL?



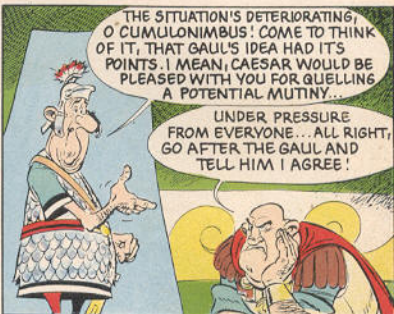
NEVER MIND THAT, ROMAN! JUST THINK: HALF THE VILLAGE FIGHTING FOR YOU, THE OTHER HALF SERVING YOU AS SLAVES!

THAT'S ALL A LOAD OF COD! I'VE GOT OTHER FISH TO FRY. GET MOVING BEFORE I PUT YOU ON FATIGUES YOURSELF!



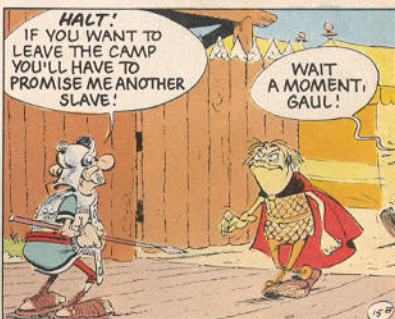
THE SITUATION'S DETERIORATING, O CUMULONIMBUS! COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT GAUL'S IDEA HAD ITS POINTS. I MEAN, CAESAR WOULD BE PLEASED WITH YOU FOR QUELLING A POTENTIAL MUTINY...

UNDER PRESSURE FROM EVERYONE... ALL RIGHT, GO AFTER THE GAUL AND TELL HIM I AGREE!



HALT! IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE CAMP YOU'LL HAVE TO PROMISE ME ANOTHER SLAVE!

WAIT A MOMENT, GAUL!



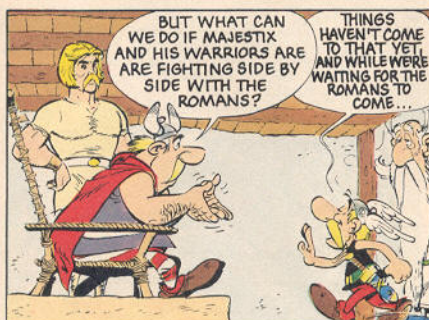
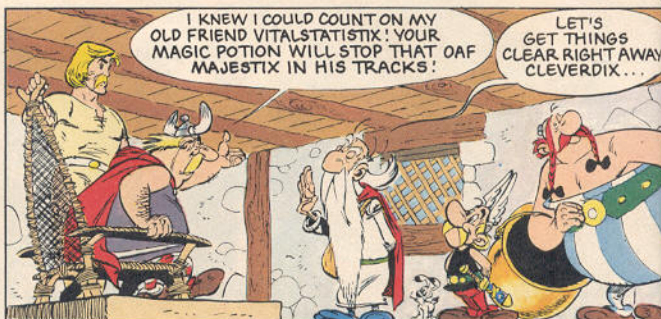
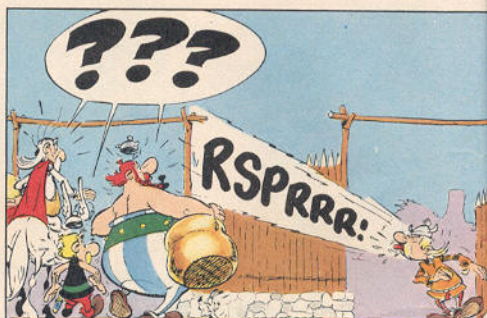
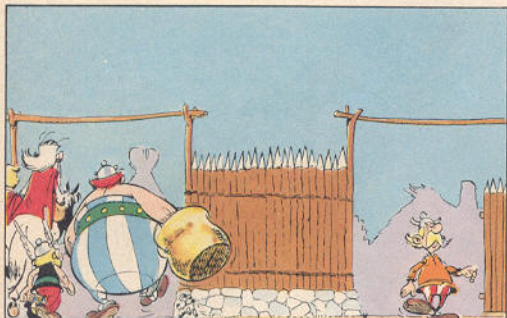
GO AND TELL YOUR CHIEF THAT WE'LL GIVE HIM THE HELP HE WANTS. JUST LET US HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO OUR LEGIONARIES!

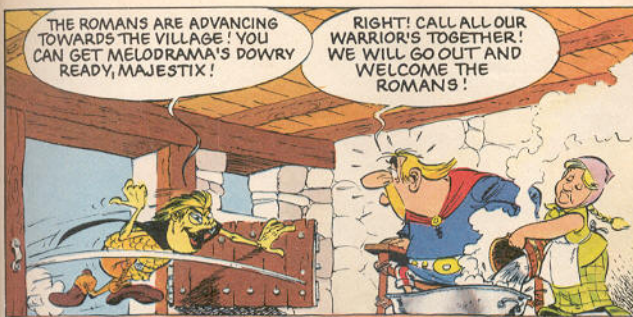


HO, HO! MY VILLAINY KNOWS NO BOUNDS! AND I'M NOT THROUGH YET, BECAUSE WHEN I'VE MARRIED THE BEAUTIFUL MELODRAMA, IT WILL BE EASY ENOUGH FOR ME TO DEPOSE THAT FOOL MAJESTIX AND BECOME CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE MYSELF!



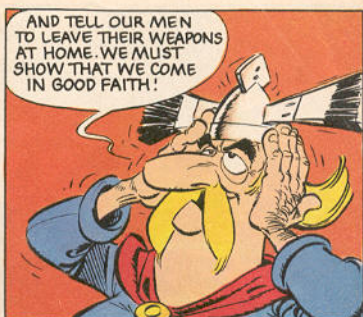
FUNNY, I COULD HAVE SWORN I SMELT SOMETHING FISHY!



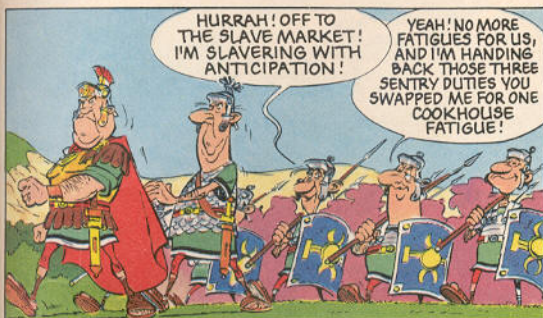


THE ROMANS ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS THE VILLAGE! YOU CAN GET MELODRAMA'S DOWRY READY, MAJESTIX!

RIGHT! CALL ALL OUR WARRIOR'S TOGETHER! WE WILL GO OUT AND WELCOME THE ROMANS!

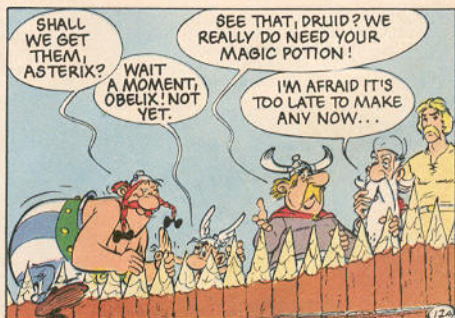


AND TELL OUR MEN TO LEAVE THEIR WEAPONS AT HOME. WE MUST SHOW THAT WE COME IN GOOD FAITH!



HURRAH! OFF TO THE SLAVE MARKET! I'M SLAVERING WITH ANTICIPATION!

YEAH! NO MORE FATIGUES FOR US, AND I'M HANDING BACK THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES YOU SWAPPED ME FOR ONE COOKHOUSE FATIGUE!



SHALL WE GET THEM, ASTERIX?

WAIT A MOMENT, OBELIX! NOT YET.

SEE THAT, DRUID? WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR MAGIC POTION!

I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LATE TO MAKE ANY NOW...



WELCOME, O ROMAN! OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR VALUABLE ASSISTANCE KNOWS NO BOUNDS, AND...

CUT THE CACKLE! WHERE ARE THE SLAVES?



SLAVES? WHAT SLAVES!!!

THE SLAVES YOUR FISH-FACED FRIEND PROMISED IN THE SMALL PRINT OF THE CONTRACT!

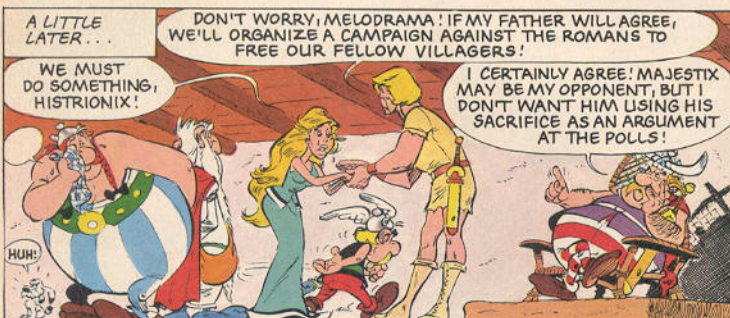


GAULS NEVER, NEVER, NEVER WILL BE SLAVES! I SHALL BE CHIEF OF EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WITHOUT EXCEPTION, AND WITHOUT SLAVES!

YOU DON'T GO CALLING OUT THE ROMAN ARMY FOR NOTHING! MEN, GRAB HOLD OF THIS LOT! THEY CAN BE OUR SLAVES THEMSELVES!



HELP! THAT FOOL MAJESTIX HAS RUINED EVERYTHING!



IN THE ROMAN CAMP...

WE WILL NEVER BE YOUR SLAVES, ROMAN!

DO YOU KNOW THE PENALTIES FOR A SLAVES' REVOLT? YOU'D BETTER STOP AND THINK, UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS AT ROME A SQUARE MEAL!

AND WHILE THEY'RE THINKING, CHAIN THEM ALL UP WELL!!!



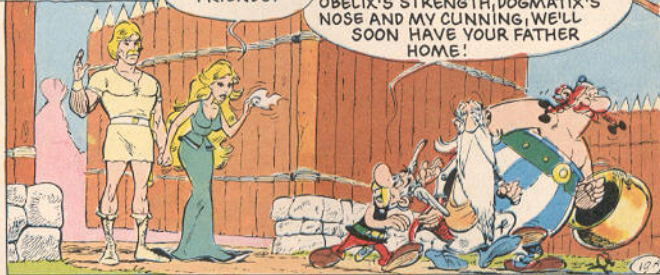
CAN I HAVE THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES BACK? THE ONES YOU SWAPPED FOR MY COOKHOUSE FATIGUE!

PRICES HAVE RISEN... IT'LL BE FOUR SENTRY DUTIES NOW!

MEANWHILE...

GOOD LUCK, FRIENDS!

DON'T WORRY, MELODRAMA! THANKS TO GETAFIX'S KNOW-HOW, OBELIX'S STRENGTH, DOGMATIX'S NOSE AND MY CUNNING, WE'LL SOON HAVE YOUR FATHER HOME!

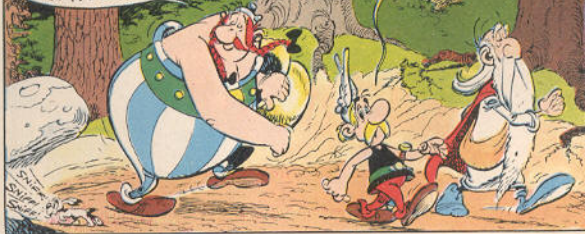


FUNNY HOW SURE OF THEMSELVES CLEVERIX'S ALLIES SEEM: I'LL FOLLOW THE AT A SAFE DISTANCE!



DOGMATIX HAS BEEN SNIFFING ABOUT EVER SINCE WE LEFT: I THINK HE'S PICKED UP THE SCENT OF A BOAR!

NO, NO, IT'S JUST A RED HERRING.

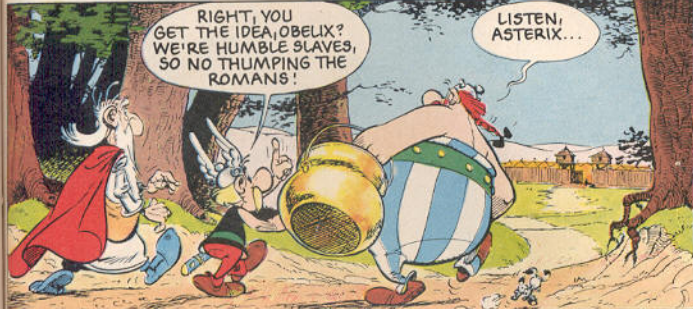


IF SO, IT'S BEEN TAKING CODLIVER OIL!



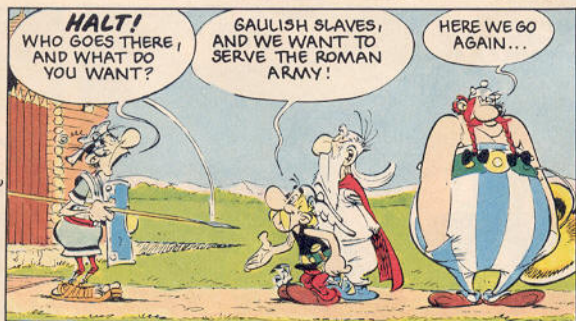
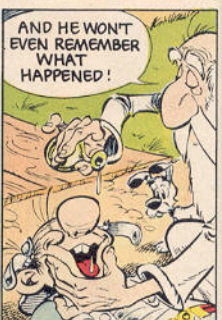
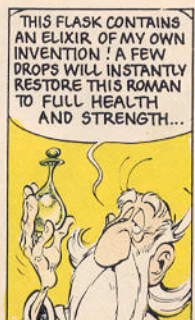
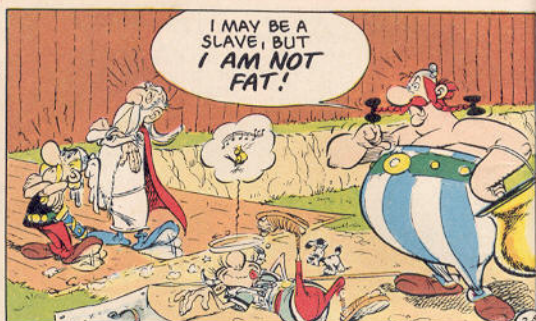
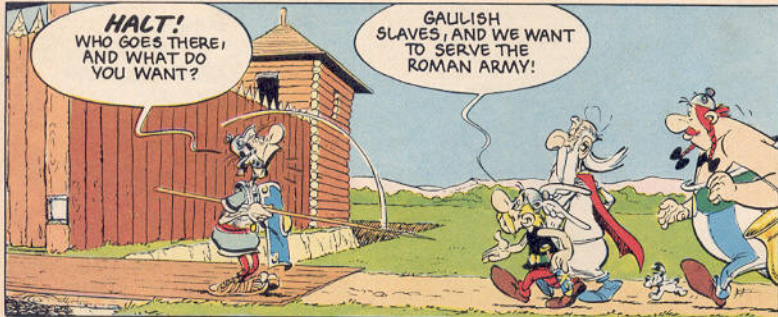
RIGHT, YOU GET THE IDEA, OBELIX? WE'RE HUMBLE SLAVES, SO NO THUMPING THE ROMANS!

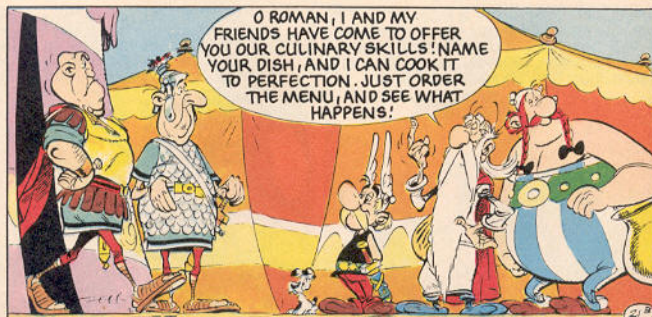
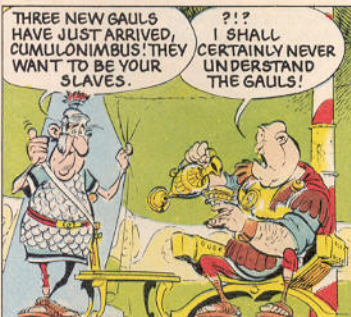
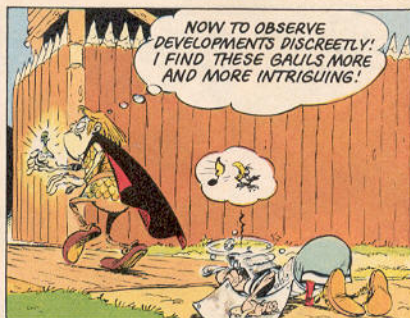
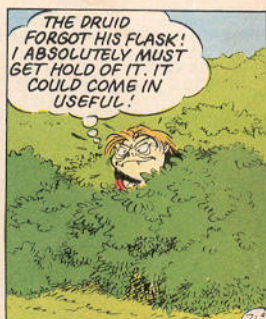
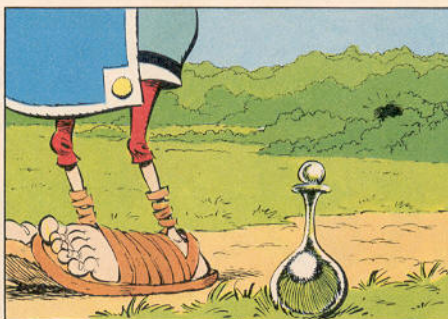
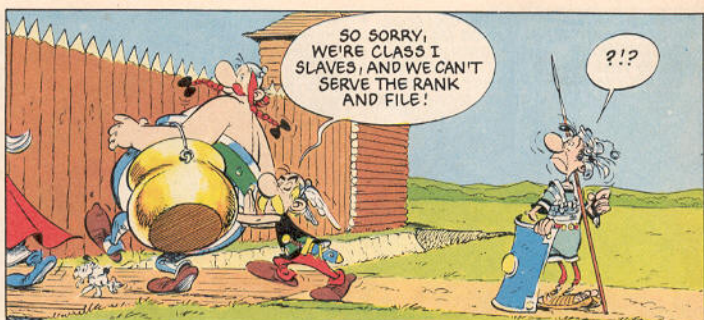
LISTEN, ASTERIX...



...IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A SLAVE-DOG?







THE GODS MUST HAVE SENT YOU, GAUL! A SPOT OF GOOD COOKING WILL CERTAINLY MAKE A CHANGE FROM THE USUAL MESS!

OH, WE CAN COOK A GOOD MEAL FOR ALL YOUR MEN, CENTURION! THE FEAST OF THE CENTURY, AS YOU MIGHT SAY!

FOR STARTERS, A FORTIFYING SOUP. THE MEAT COURSE... A REALLY NICE CUT! SAY CHUMP CHOP, STEWED IN YOUR... I MEAN, IN ITS OWN JUICE. AND WE WON'T MAKE A HASH OF IT. IF YOU FANCY POUSSY, WE CAN COOK YOUR GOOSE FOR YOU! GAME FOR ANYTHING? THEN GROUSE AND QUAIL. AFTER THAT, YOU GET YOUR DESSERTS: A FOOL, WELL BEATEN, PERHAPS SOME INSTANT WHIP, AND A FEW RASPBERRIES. ALL WASHED DOWN WITH THE GAULISH BEER WE CALL WALLOP... IT PACKS QUITE A PUNCH!

THAT'LL DO FINE! GET ON WITH IT... I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

WE SHAN'T TAKE LONG!

LOOK HERE, GETAFIX, WHY DON'T WE ADD A FEW NICE ROAST BOARS?

?!? WHY NOT GO AND CHOP UP SOME KINDLING FOR THE FIRE, OBELIX?

WELL, I ONLY THOUGHT HE'D GONE AND FORGOTTEN THE BOARS...

CHOP!
CHOP!
CHOP!
CHOP!

AMAZING! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE CHOP WOOD LIKE THAT BEFORE!

OH, THAT'S NOTHING! I COULD CUT A WHOLE TREE DOWN THAT WAY, ONLY DOGMATIX WOULDN'T LIKE IT!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

READY IN A MOMENT!

I'M A BIT WORRIED, CENTURION! A COUSIN OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS, AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

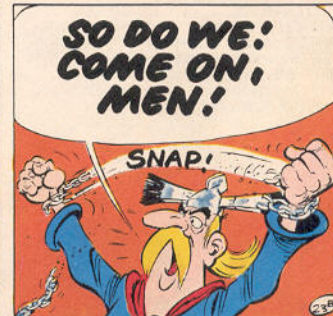
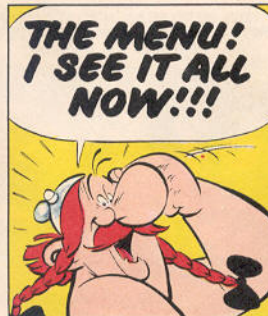
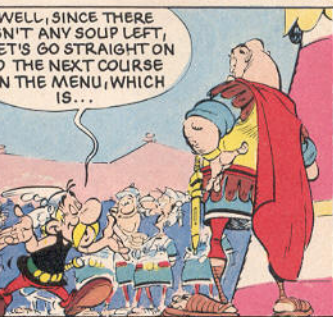
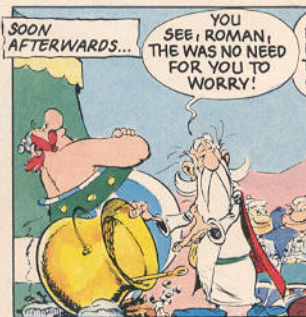
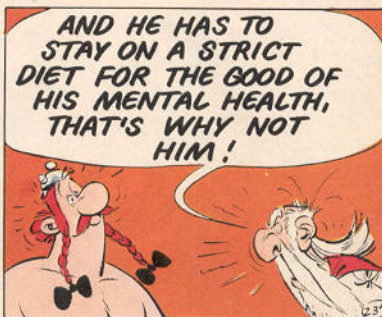
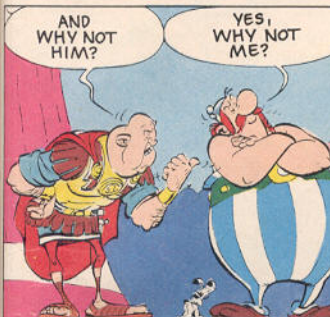
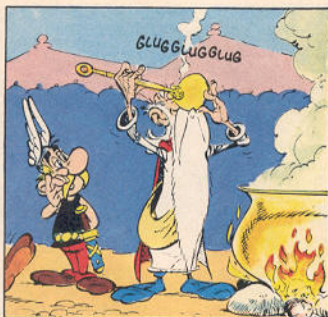
YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIUS VIRUS. WE MUST BE CAREFUL!

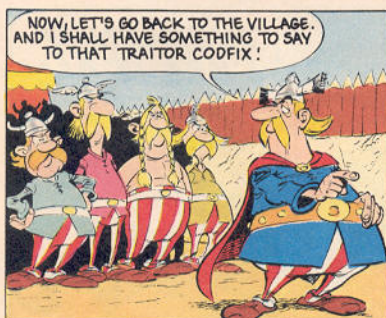
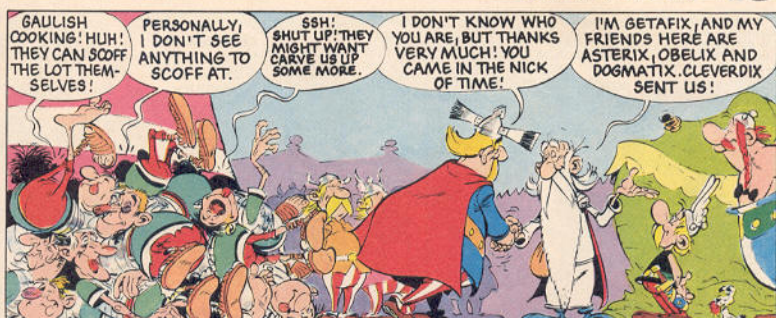
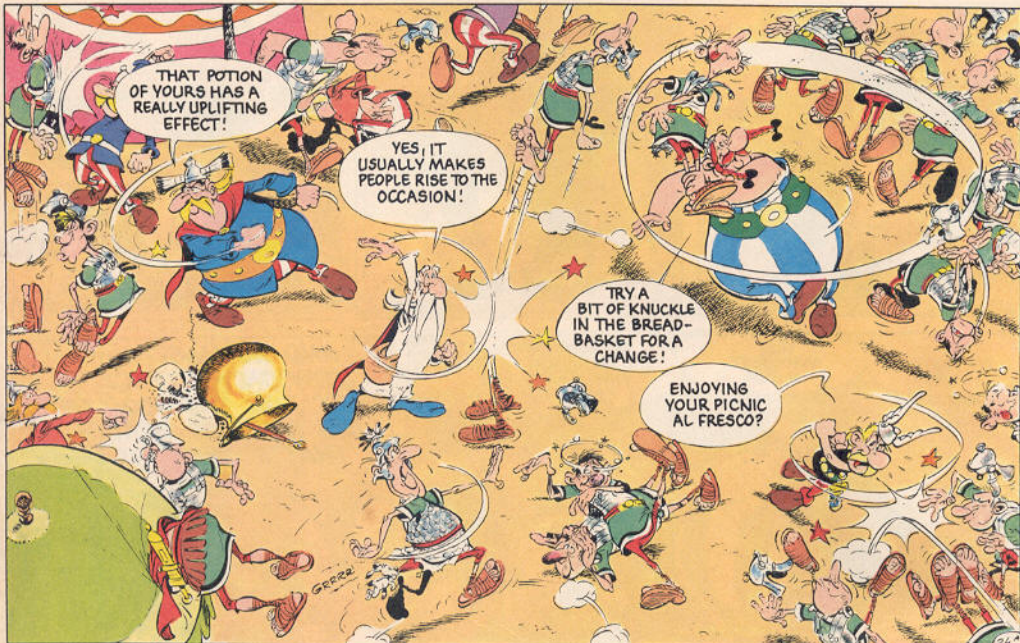
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TASTE THE SOUP FOR SEASONING, CENTURION?

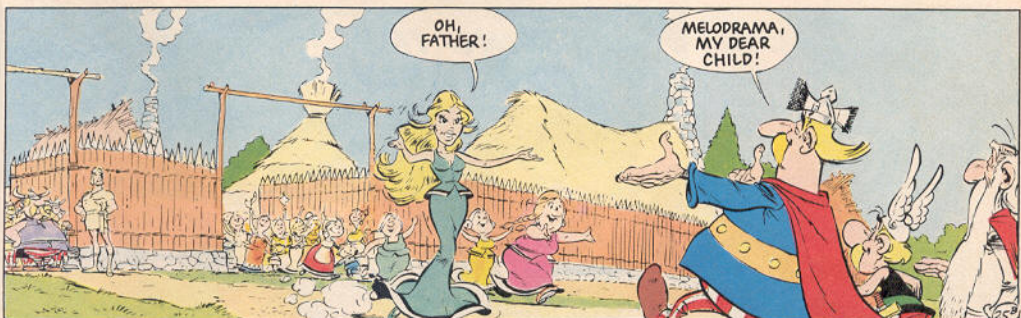
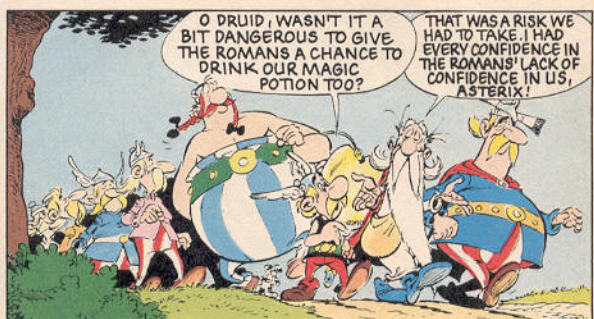
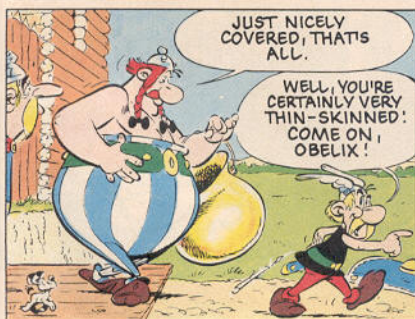
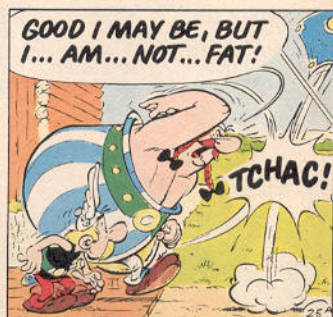
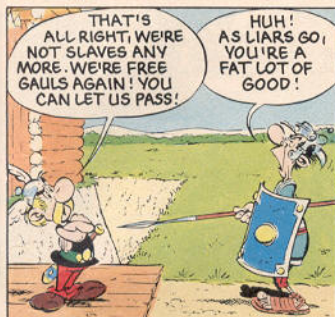
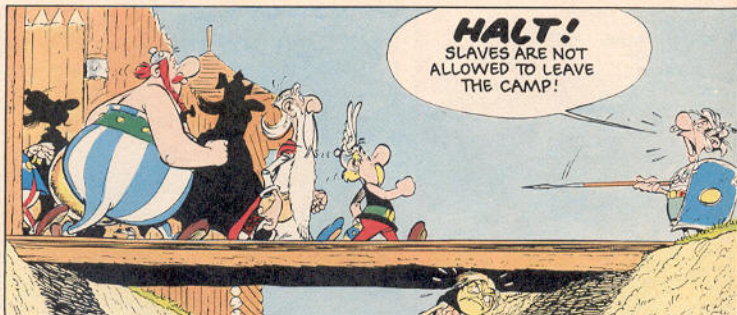
JUST A MOMENT, GAUL! HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO POISON THE GARRISON, SO AS TO SET THE PRISONERS FREE?

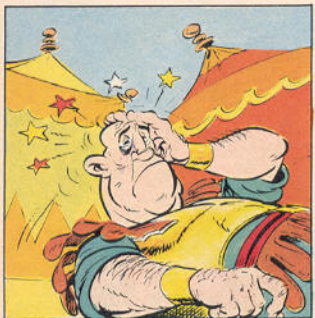
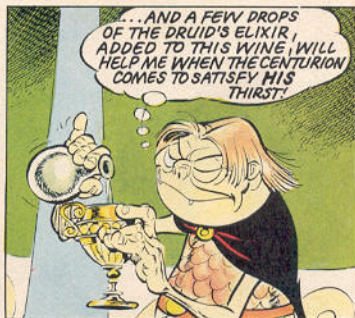
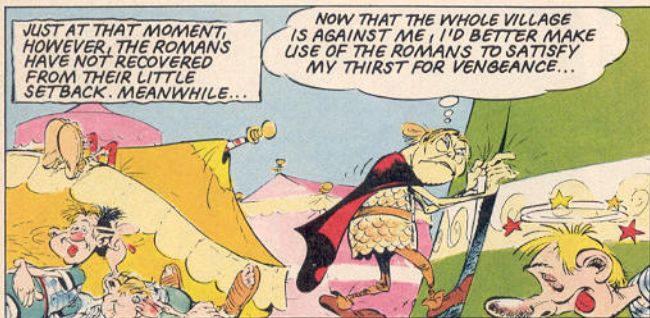
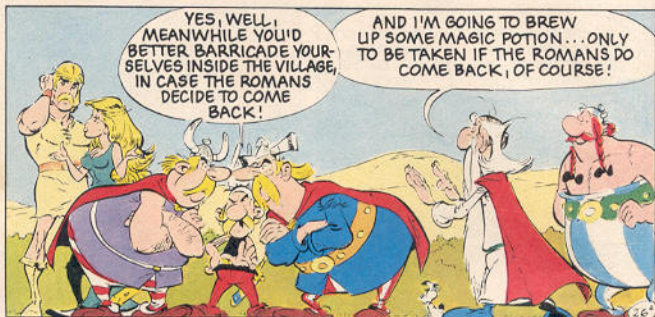
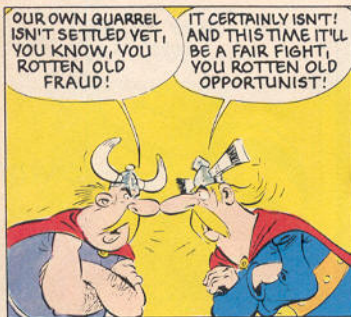
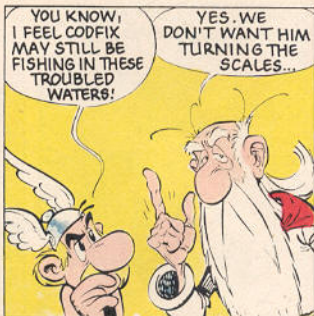
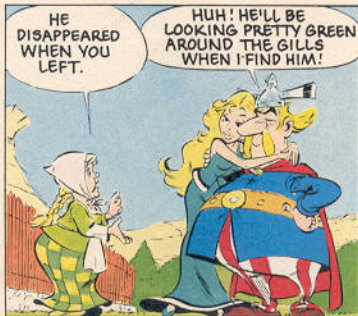
I QUITE UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS. YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND YOURSELF IN THE SOUP. SO WE'LL DRINK SOME OURSELVES, TO SHOW IT'S ALL RIGHT!

AND TO PROVE IT EVEN MORE CONCLUSIVELY, WE'LL GIVE SOME TO THE PRISONERS TOO!









RIGHT! WE SHALL NOW FORGET THIS WHOLE UNFORTUNATE EPISODE AND CLEAR UP THE MESS! I WANT THE GARRISON ALL SPRUCED UP AND LOOKING LIKE A CENA CANIS! DISMISS!

***LATIN: DOG'S DINNER**

WHAT'S CENA CANIS?

DOG LATIN, YOU IDIOT!

AH, A NICE GOBLET OF WINE WILL HELP ME FORGET MY TROUBLES!

GLUG!
GLUG!
GLUG!

AAAH! BY JUPITER, I'M FEELING ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

?!? WHO ARE YOU, GAUL, AND WHO LET YOU INTO THIS CAMP?

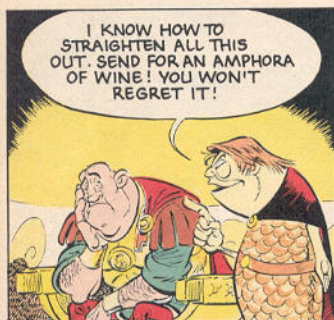
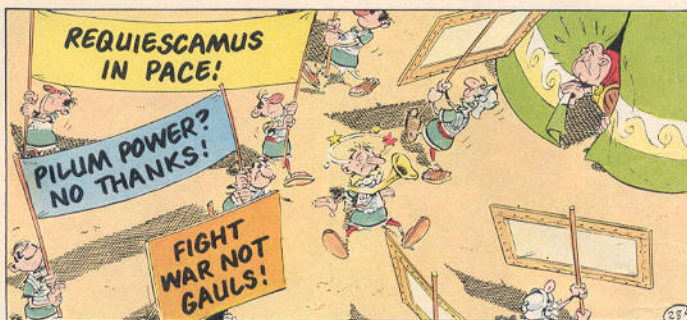
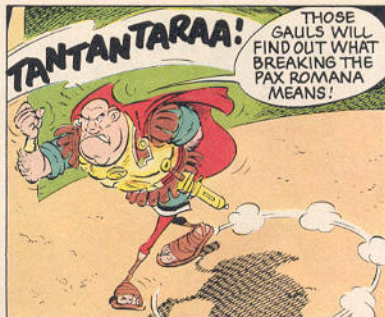
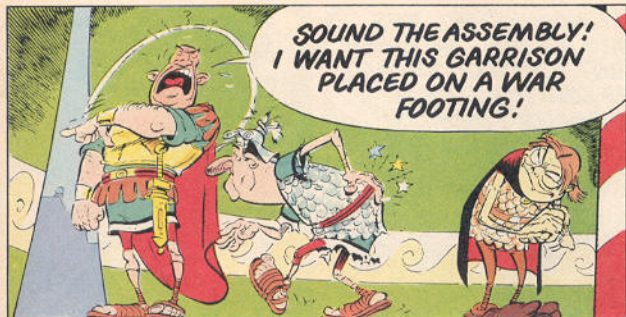
IT'S WORKING!

I'VE COME TO WARN YOU, O CENTURION! THE GAULS OF THE NEARBY VILLAGE HAVE BROKEN THE PAX ROMANA! THEY'VE BASHED UP YOUR LEGIONARIES AND RANSACKED YOUR CAMP!

IMPOSSIBLE! OR ARE YOU GIVING ME SOME INSIDE DOPE?

O CUMULONIMBUS, THE MEN DON'T WANT TO CLEAR UP THE MESS! THEY'RE ALL REPORTING SICK!

SICK BAY



AND LATER...

I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE, GAUL, BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME UNGRATEFUL FOR SERVICES RENDERED!

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER, ONCE YOU'VE DONE FOR THE VILLAGE AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS.

BUT WATCH OUT! THERE'S A DRUID WITH THEM, AND HE HAS A POTION WHICH MAKES ANYONE WHO DRINKS IT INVINCIBLE!

CENTURIUM, A COUSIN OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID THERE WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS, AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIUS VIRUS! WE MUST BE CAREFUL!

MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

THE MAGIC POTION'S READY. WE'D BETTER PUT IT SAFE ON NEUTRAL GROUND SOMEWHERE WHILE WE WAIT TO SEE IF THE ROMANS ARE COMING BACK!

SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS NEUTRAL GROUND. IT'S BANG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE.

YES, LET'S PUT IT THERE. THAT FOOL SCHIZOPHRENIX HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE HE'S ON!

DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK OF PUTTING FLOOR-BOARDS DOWN OVER THE GAP?

THAT'S FLOORED HIM! WE'LL DO IT NOW.

AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...

I'LL WATCH OVER THE CAULDRON TONIGHT, TO MAKE DOUBLY SURE!

THEN YOU'D BETTER HAVE THIS GOURD OF MAGIC POTION, ASTERIX. YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU MIGHT NEED A BOOSTER DOSE, IN SPITE OF THE POTION IN THE CAULDRON.

28

29

AND THAT NIGHT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE WOOD NEAR THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

I DON'T TRUST THAT DRUID AND HIS SECRET WEAPONS! I THINK I'D BETTER GO SCOUTING AHEAD BEFORE WE ATTACK!

AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MOVE TILL I GET BACK!

RIGHT, BUT HURRY UP! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY REVENGE ON THOSE GAULS!



THE GODS OF THE UNDERWORLD ARE ON MY SIDE! IT'S THAT FOOL CONGENITAL IDIOTIX ON SENTRY DUTY! I'LL SOON DEAL WITH HIM!

HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

IT'S ME, CODFIX.

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN FROM THE SMELL! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO ASK CHIEF MAJESTIX TO FORGIVE ME!

YOU CAN COME IN, BUT IF I WERE YOU I'D KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM MAJESTIX!

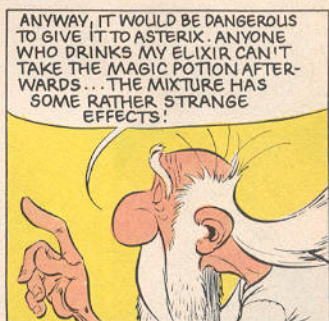
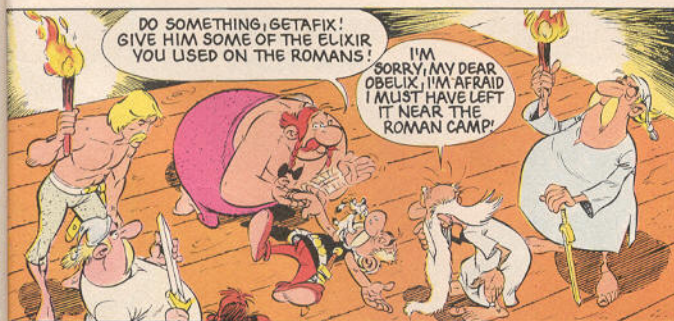
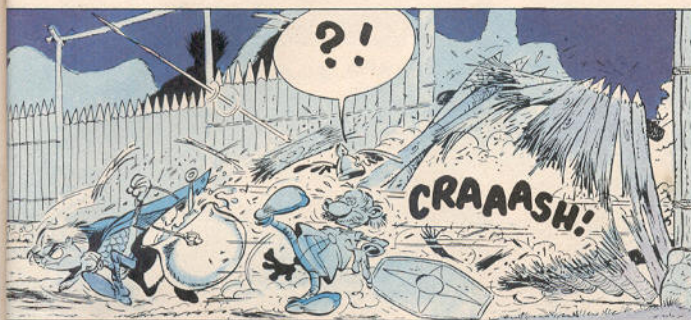
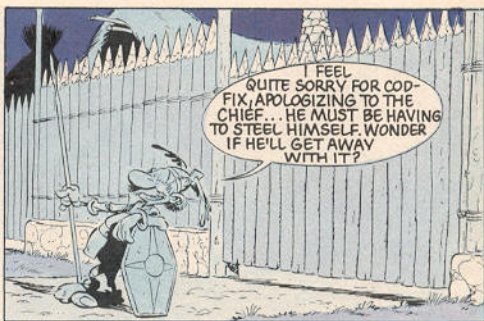
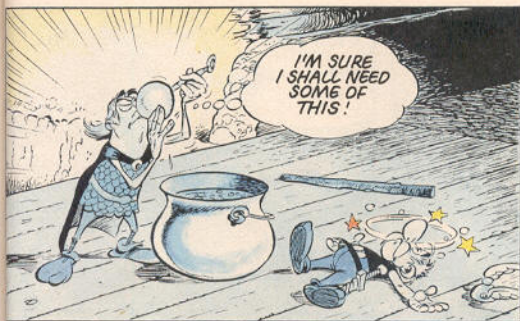
WHY ARE YOU MOUNTING GUARD LIKE THIS? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

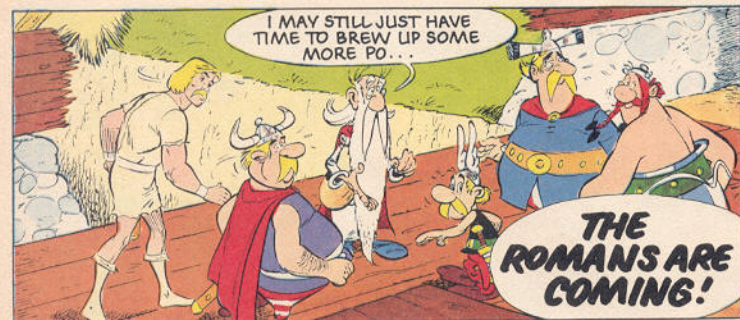
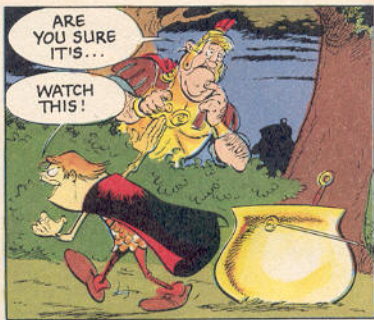
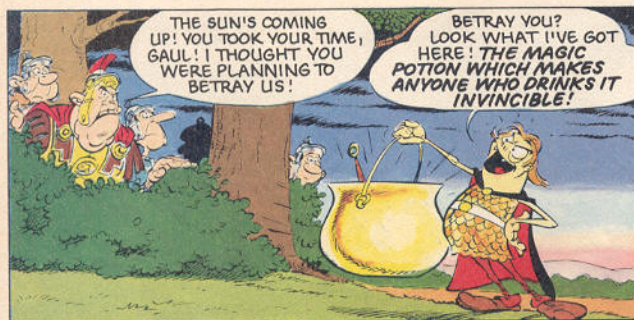
WE'RE AFRAID THE ROMANS MAY COME BACK. BUT LUCKILY GETAFIX THE DRUID HAS MADE US SOME OF HIS MAGIC POTION. IT'S SAFE IN SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT!

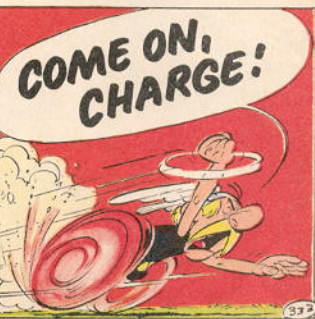
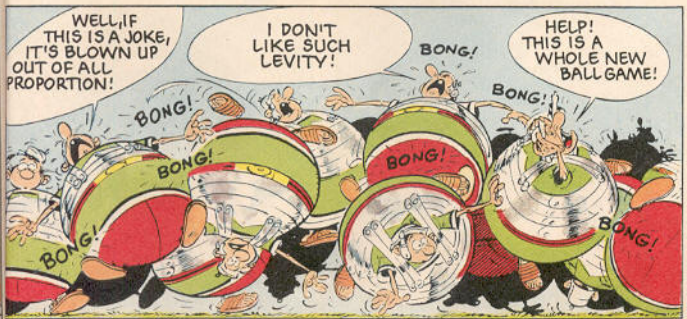
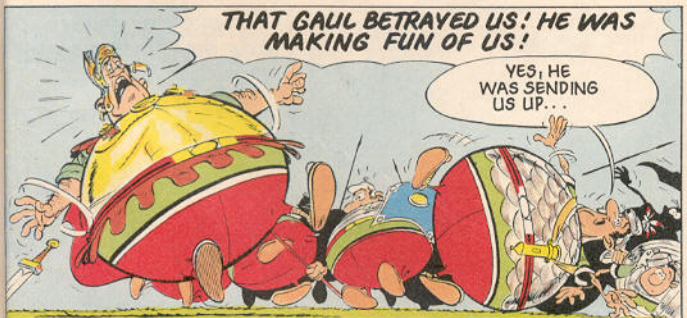
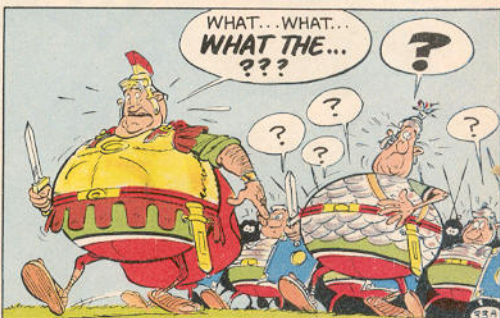
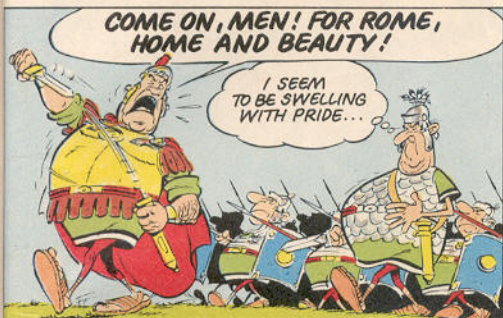
TEEHEE!

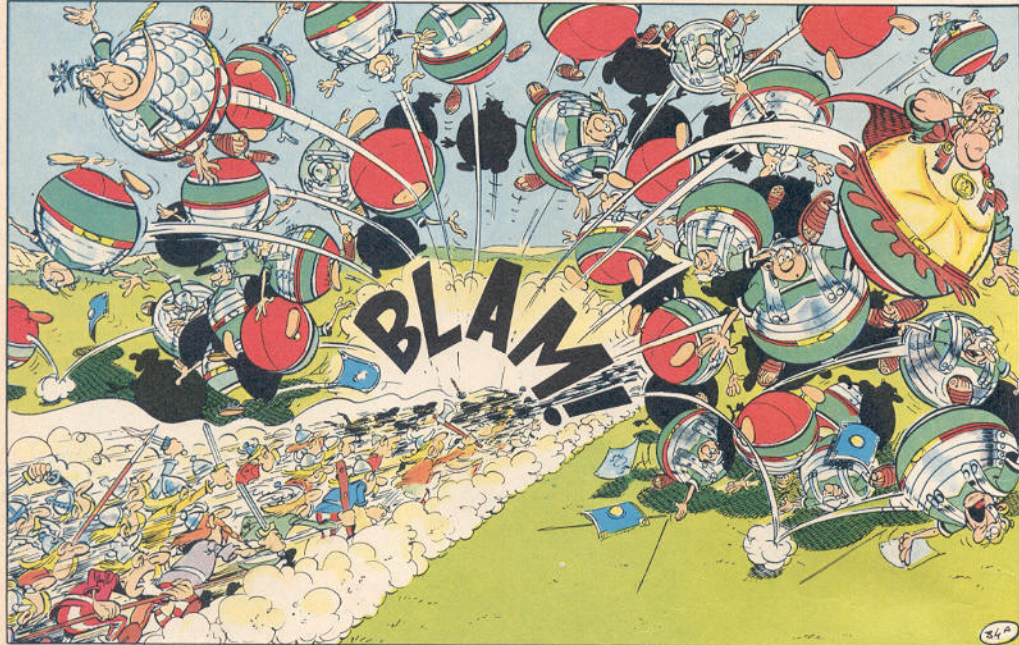
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE STARS INSIDE A HUT BEFORE!



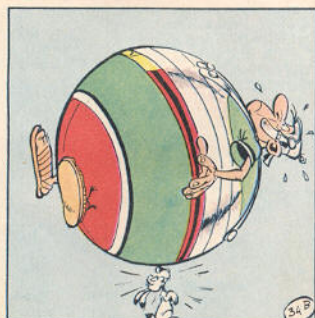
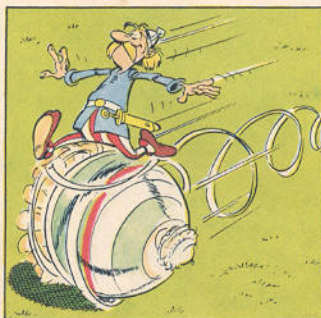
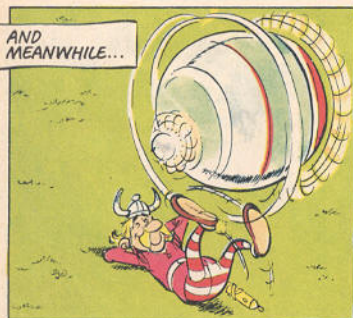
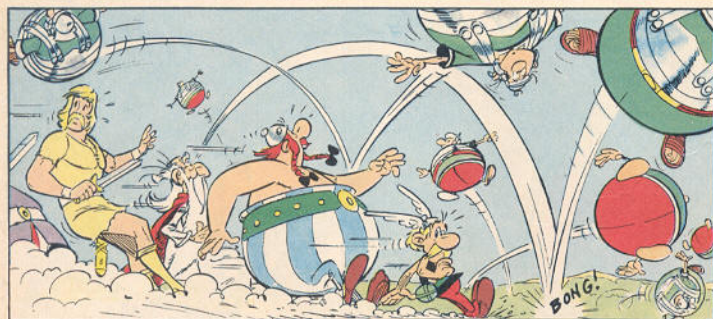




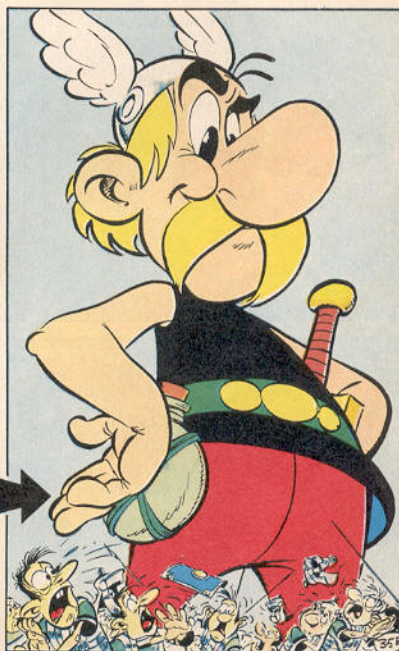
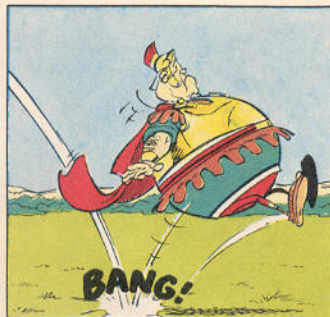
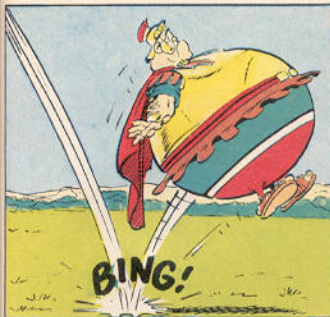


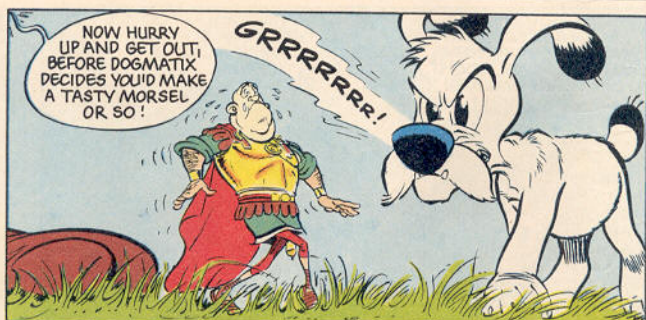
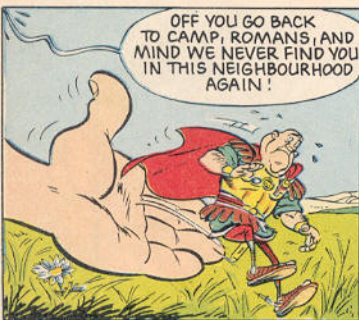
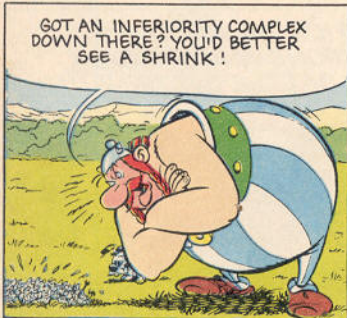
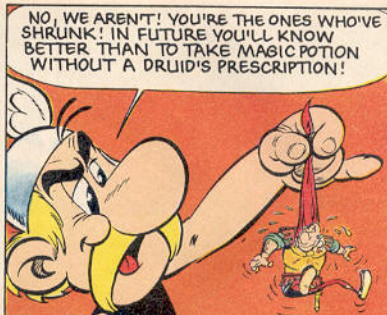
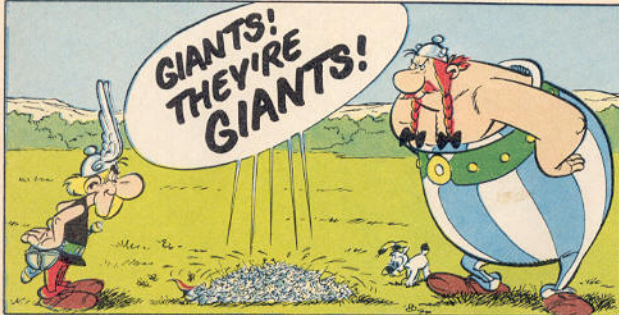


34



35





WELL, MY DEAR OBELIX, YOU STARTED QUITE A TRAIN OF EVENTS WITH THAT PUNCH YOU GAVE THE SENTRY OUTSIDE THE ROMAN CAMP... AND THE ENEMY LOST OUT!

YOU MEAN I DID IT?

ER... MAJESTIX, NOW WE'VE DEALT WITH THE ROMANS, I... THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU...

JUST A MOMENT, MY BOY! DON'T FORGET YOUR FATHER AND I STILL HAVE TO SETTLE OUR ARGUMENT, AND...

**MAJESTIX!
MAJESTIX!**

?!

CODFIX HAS KIDNAPPED MELODRAMA! HE LEFT THIS ROLL OF PARCHMENT ADDRESSED TO YOU!

THE DOUBLE-DEALING TRAITOR!

IF YOU WANT TO SEE MELODRAMA AGAIN, LEAVE 100 POUNDS IN GOLD NEAR THE DOLMEN BY THE SPRING BEFORE SUNSET.
Codfix

THE VILLAIN! I'M REALLY IN A JAM NOW, AND SO IS MELODRAMA... IT'S ALL VERY WELL FOR CODFIX, BUT WHERE DO I GET THAT KIND OF MONEY BY SUNSET?

I SHALL LEAVE AT ONCE IN SEARCH OF CODFIX, AND BY TOUTATIS, I SWEAR TO BRING MELODRAMA BACK SAFE AND SOUND!

*** HENCE: MONEY FOR JAM.**

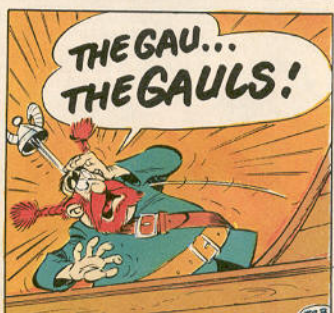
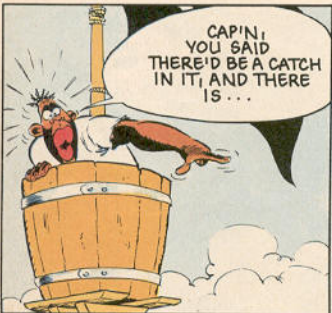
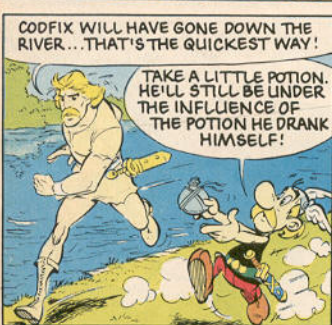
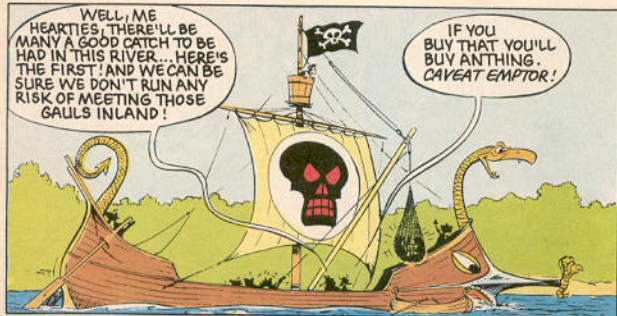
OBELIX AND I WILL GO WITH YOU...

SO WILL DOGMATIX! LOOK, HE'S ALREADY PICKED UP THE SCENT! HE'S MAKING STRAIGHT FOR THE RIVER!

SURE ENOUGH...

HO, HO! NOT THE BEST TIME AND PLACE FOR A ROMANTIC ROE, MY DEAR, BUT MULLET OVER, AND YOU'LL FIND, ONCE YOU'RE USED TO ME, I'M THE LIFE AND SOLE OF THE PARTY!

?

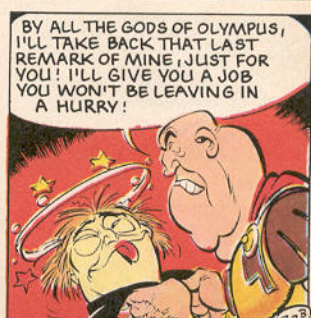
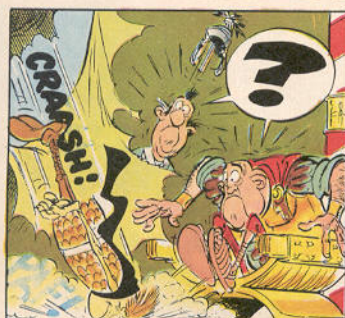
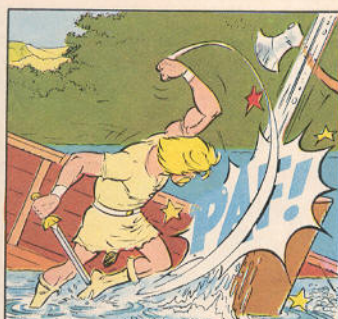




YES, HE'S GOT CODFIX HOOK, LINE AND SINKER!



AND A LITTLE LATER...



MEANWHILE...

SUNK IN SALT WATER...
SUNK IN FRESH WATER...
ALL THE WATER I EVER
WANT AGAIN IS A NIP OF
AGUA VITAE!

YOU'RE
GETTING THE
LINGO NICELY...YES,
IT'S TERRA FIRMA
FOR ME, TOO.

QUICK, LET'S GO AND
SET MAJESTIX'S MIND
AT REST!

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE SUCH
AS THIS, IT IS ONLY RIGHT TO
FORGET OUR DIFFERENCES, AND
I FEEL FOR YOU, MAJESTIX!

THEY'RE
BACK, WITH
MELODRAMA!

OH, FATHER,
HISTRIONIX ACTED
LIKE A TRUE
CHIEF!

I'M EXTREMELY
GRATEFUL TO
HISTRIONIX FOR HIS
BRAVE ACTION, BUT
THAT'S GOING A BIT
TOO FAR, MY
DEAR!

OH NO, IT ISN'T.
AFTER ALL, HIS-
TRIONIX IS THE
SON OF A
CHIEF!

SON OF A
CHIEF MY FOOT!!!
I'M THE ONLY
REAL CHIEF
AROUND
HERE!

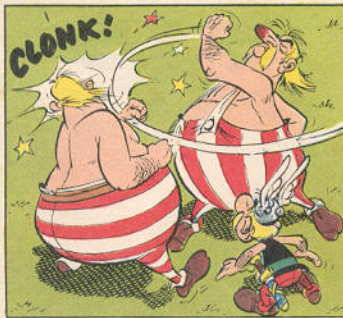
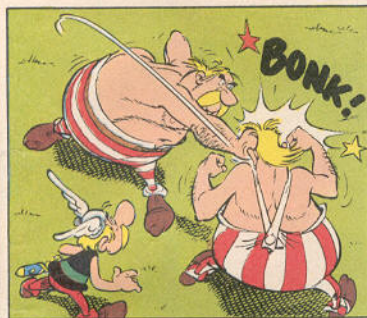
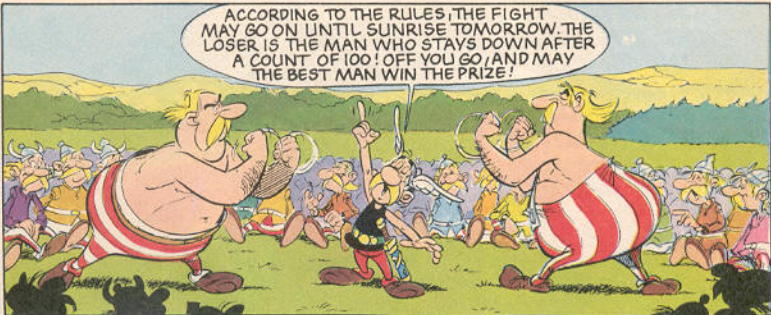
OH, FOR GOODNESS'S SAKE, WE'VE
HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! IF YOU MUST
FIGHT FOR THE CHIEFTAINSHIP, KEEP
IT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU!!!

MELODRAMA IS QUITE
RIGHT! FIGHT IF YOU
MUST, BUT LEAVE THE
OTHER VILLAGERS OUT
OF IT. THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH
OF YOUR QUARRELS!

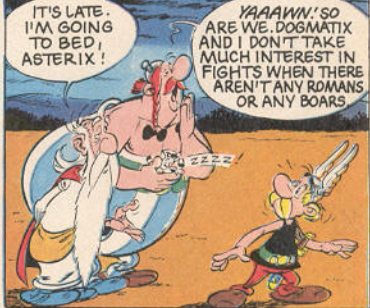
AND SOON
AFTER-
WARDS...

NOW, YOU SENILE OLD
DOTARD, I'LL SHOW YOU
WHAT A REAL CHIEF CAN
DO, AND WITH MY
BARE HANDS!

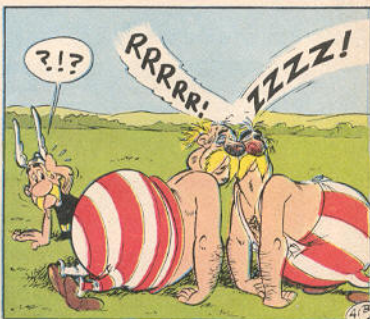
YOU
DYSPEPTIC OLD
FOGY! YOU'RE
IN FOR A
SHOCK!



AS EVENING COMES ON, MANY OF THE AUDIENCE, TIRING OF THE SHOW, LEAVE THE RING.



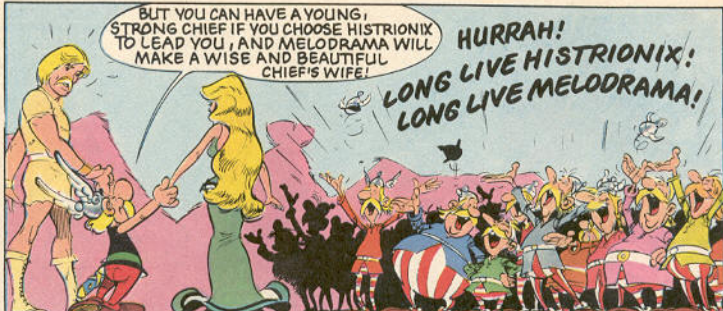
EVEN ASTERIX IS UNABLE TO KEEP HIS EYES OPEN. ALL ALONE, IN THE MOONLIGHT, THE TWO CHIEFS ARE STILL EQUALLY MATCHED.



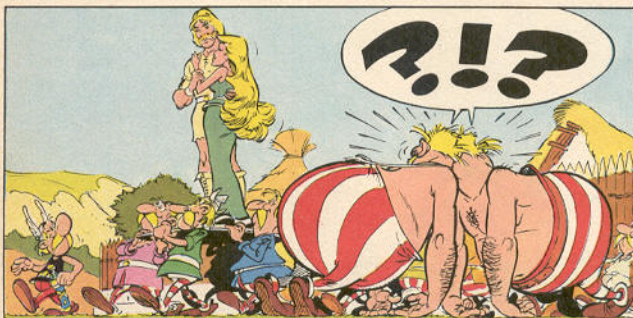
FRIENDS, FATE HAS DECIDED THE RESULT OF THE SINGLE COMBAT... NO ONE HAS WON AND NO ONE HAS LOST!



BUT YOU CAN HAVE A YOUNG, STRONG CHIEF IF YOU CHOOSE HISTRIONIX TO LEAD YOU, AND MELODRAMA WILL MAKE A WISE AND BEAUTIFUL CHIEF'S WIFE!

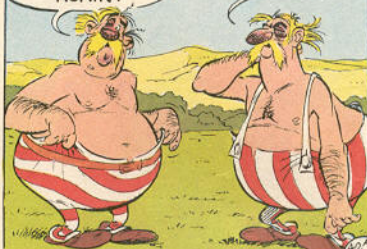


**HURRAH!
LONG LIVE HISTRIONIX!
LONG LIVE MELODRAMA!**

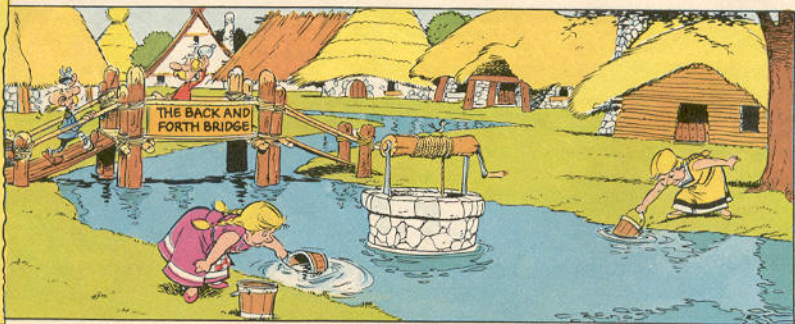


OH, WELL, I RATHER THINK ALL WE CAN DO IS GET DRESSED AGAIN!

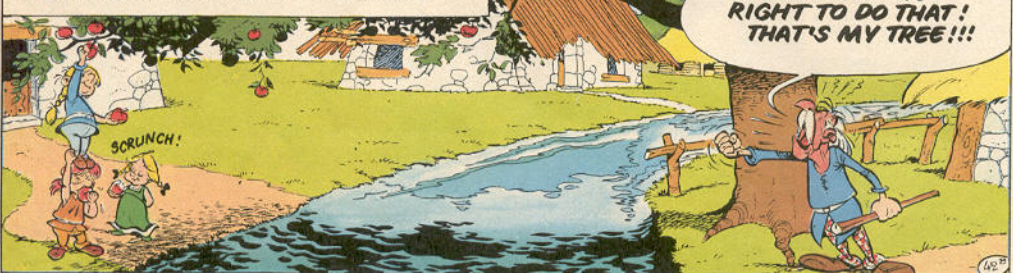
YOU SAID IT, FAT-FACE!



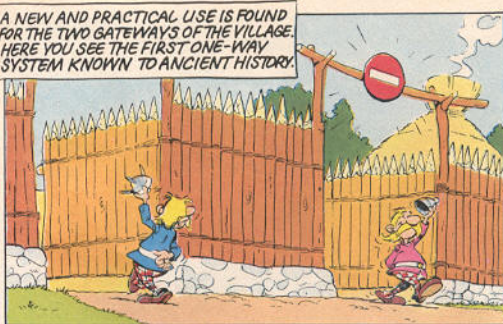
REUNITED AT LAST, UNDER THE RULE OF THEIR NEW CHIEF HISTRIONIX, THE GAULS OF THE VILLAGE DIVERT PART OF THE NEARBY RIVER INTO THE DITCH, WHICH NO LONGER SERVES ANY USEFUL PURPOSE. AND NOW THERE IS NO PARTY OF THE RIGHT OR PARTY OF THE LEFT, ONLY A RIGHT BANK AND A LEFT BANK, RUNNING WATER ON EVERYONE'S DOORSTEP, AND FREEDOM FOR ALL THE VILLAGERS TO GO TO AND FRO.



THE CHILDREN CAN STILL GATHER THE FRUITS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LABOURS WITH IMPUNITY...



A NEW AND PRACTICAL USE IS FOUND FOR THE TWO GATEWAYS OF THE VILLAGE. HERE YOU SEE THE FIRST ONE-WAY SYSTEM KNOWN TO ANCIENT HISTORY!



AND SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS REBUILT AT LAST... THOUGH THE ARCHITECTS DID SLIP UP HERE AND THERE IN THEIR PLANS.



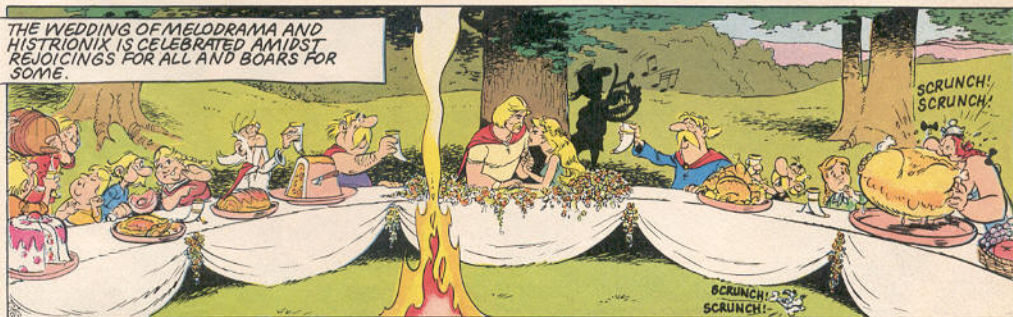
SURE ENOUGH, IN THE ROMAN CAMP.

WELL, SLAVE, HAVE YOU DONE THOSE VEGETABLES YET?

AND THE LAUNDRY? AND DON'T FORGET THE IRONING!



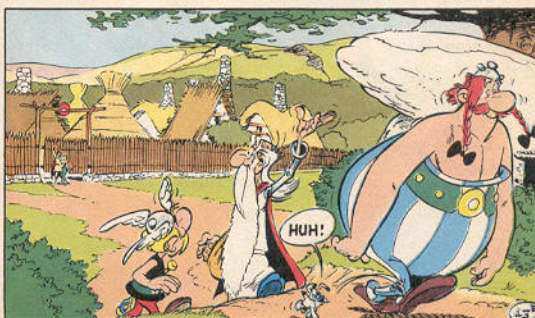
THE WEDDING OF MELODRAMA AND HISTRIONIX IS CELEBRATED AMIDST REJOICINGS FOR ALL AND BOARS FOR SOME.

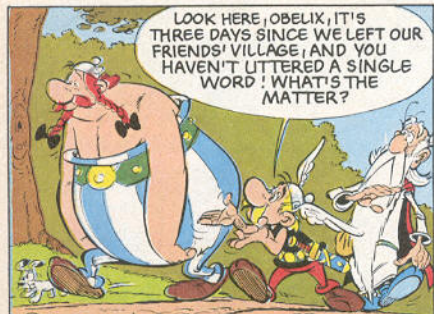


THE TIME COMES TO SAY GOOD-BYE.

HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU FOR ALL WE OWE YOU?

YOU'RE HAPPY, AND THAT'S ALL THE THANKS WE NEED!





HOWEVER, THE PLEASURES OF HOME-COMING OVER-SHADOW ALL OTHER EMOTIONS.

