

BOOK 19

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

and
Caesar's Gift



OUR STORY OPENS MELODIOUSLY IN A BAR IN A DISREPUTABLE PART OF ROME. AS THEY USED TO SAY IN THE COLLOQUIAL IDIOM OF THE TIME, 'VINUM ET MUSICA LAETIFICANT COR' ...

♪ AND WHEN I'M DEAD DON'T BURY ME AT ALL, ♪ JUST PICKLE MY BONES IN ALCOHOL, ♪ AN AMPHORA OF WINE AT MY HEAD AND FEET, ♪ AND THEN I'M SURE MY BONES WILL KEEP....

HIC!... DE MORTUIS NIL NISI BONUM!



KISS ME GOODNIGHT, CENTURION
...CENTURION, BE A MATER TO ME...

SHUT UP, TREMENSDELIRIOUS, YOU'LL BRING THE PATROL DOWN ON US!

PATROL? HUH!
WHAT'SH THE PATROL MATTER? WE'RE FINISHED WITH PATROLSH!

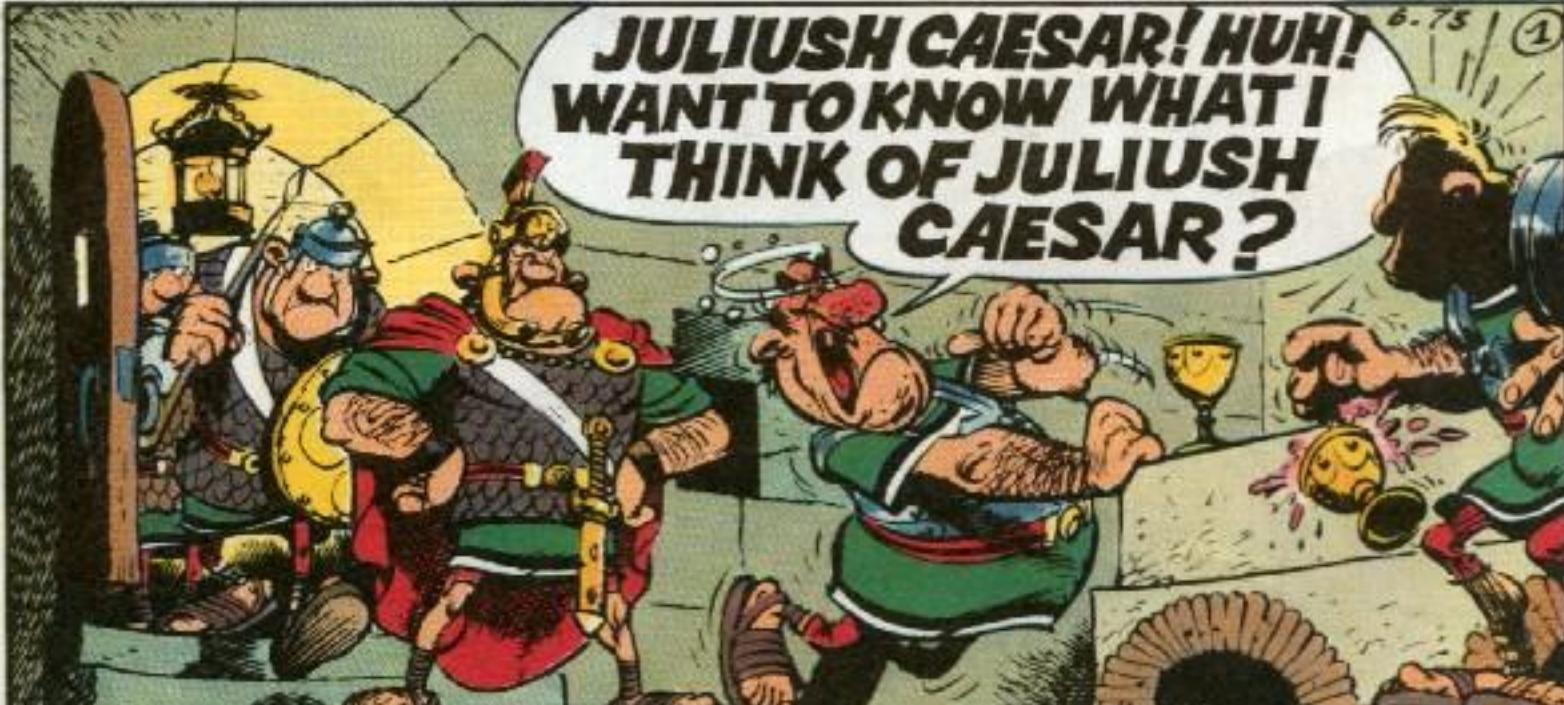
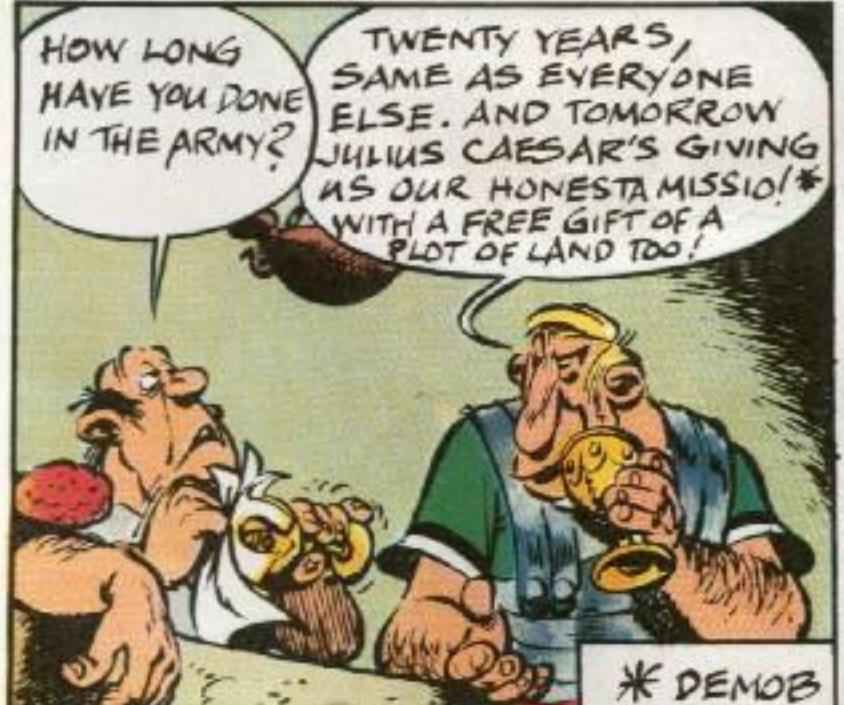
NOT QUITE,
WEAREN'T, SO CALM DOWN!



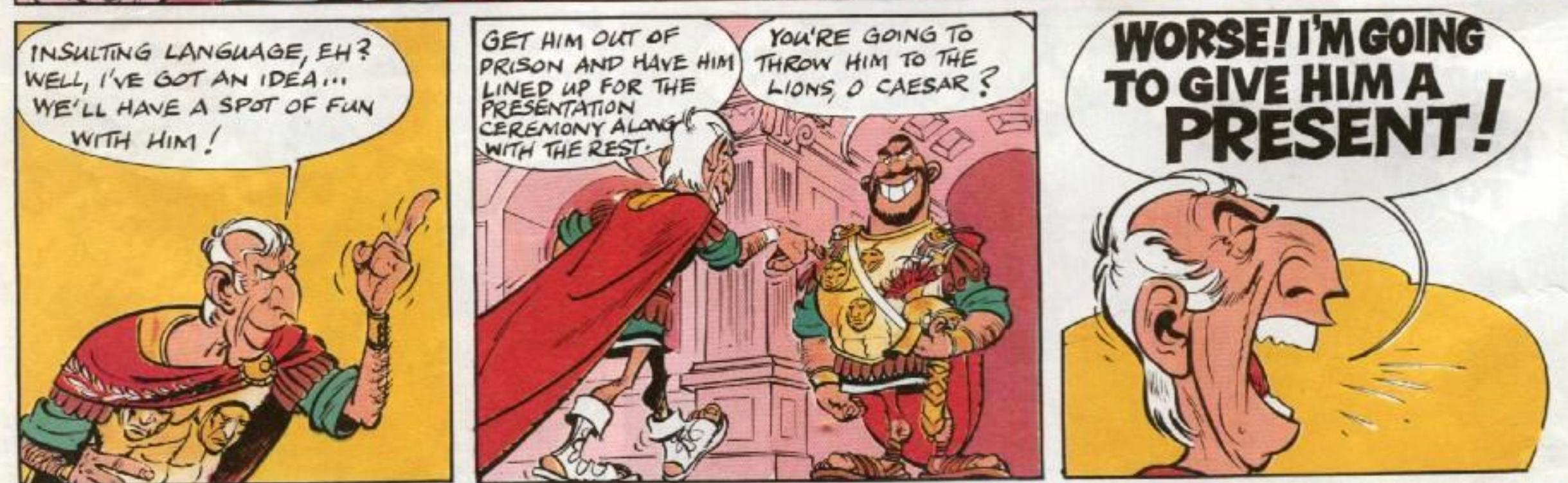
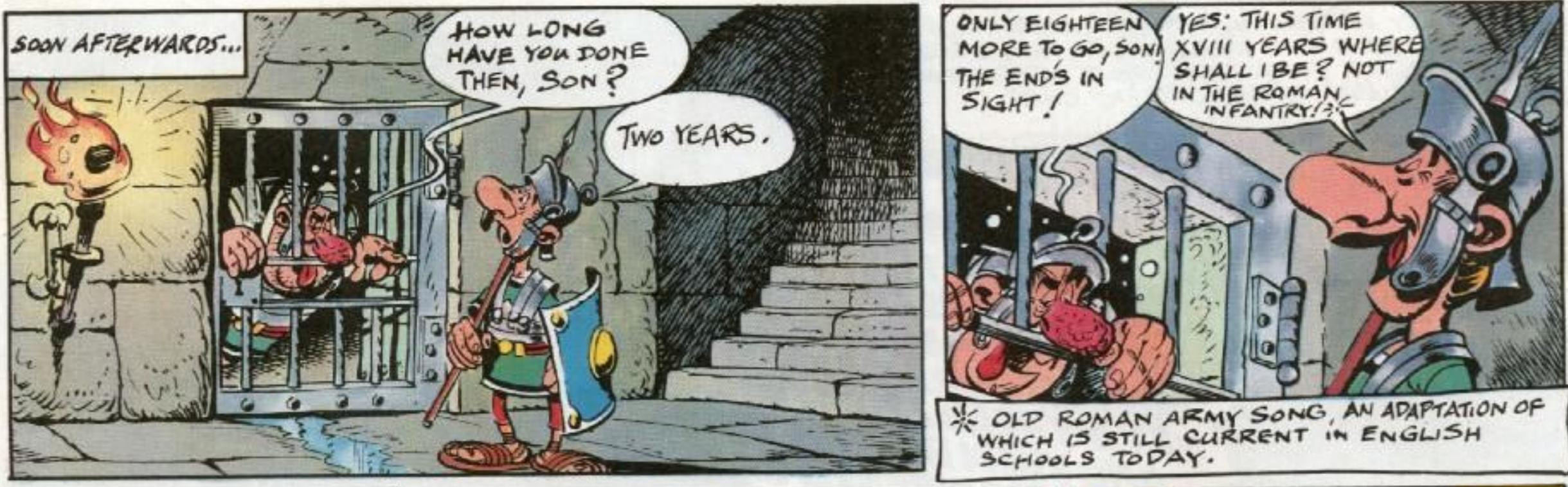
HOW LONG HAVE YOU DONE IN THE ARMY?

TWENTY YEARS, SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE. AND TOMORROW JULIUS CAESAR'S GIVING US OUR HONESTA MISSIO!* WITH A FREE GIFT OF A PLOT OF LAND TOO!

* DEMOB



JULIUSH CAESAR! HUH!
WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK OF JULIUSH CAESAR?



LEGIO EXPEDITA!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

HMM?

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

HEY, YOU!
LEGIO EXPEDITA!

OH...RIGHT...

LEGIONARIES, YOU
HAVE COMPLETED YOUR
TWENTY YEARS' MILITARY
SERVICE. WITH THIS LITTLE
FORMALITY BEHIND YOU, YOUR
WHOLE LIFE LIES
BEFORE YOU...

YOU HAVE SERVED
ROME WELL, AND I AM
GOING TO REWARD YOU BY
GIVING YOU PLOTS OF LAND
IN OUR COLONIES...

HERE ARE YOUR
TITLE DEEDS TO
LAND AT
NEMANUS*

AND IT'S
AQUAE SEXTIAE*
FOR YOU...

* NIMES

* ARLES

* AIX

THIS IS
THE MAN.

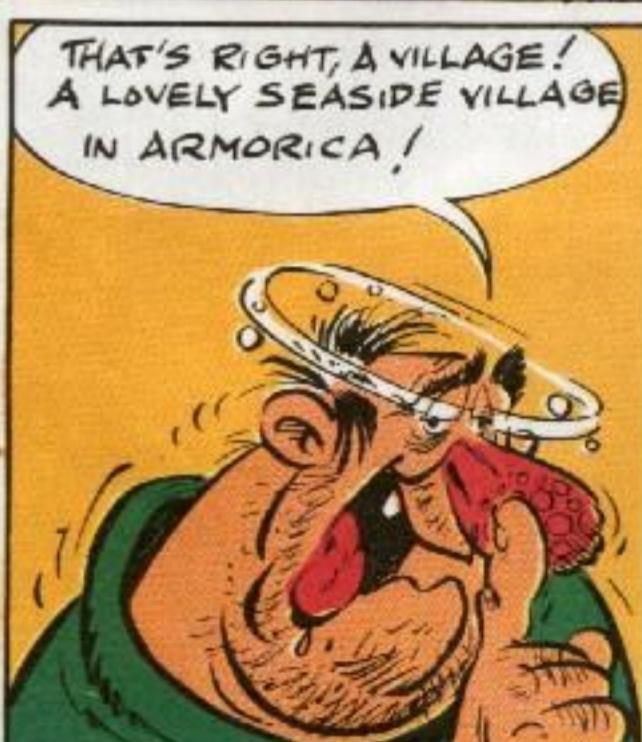
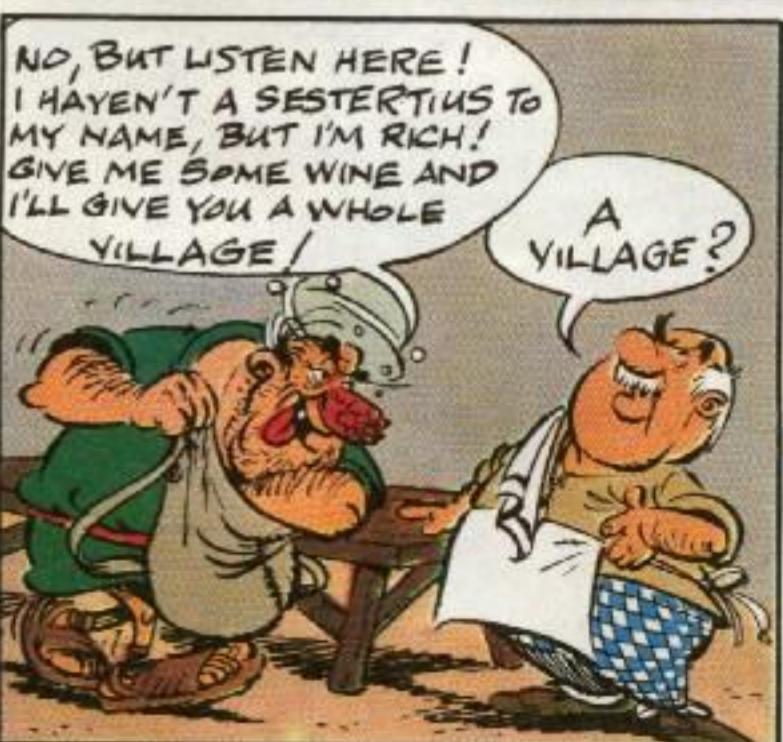
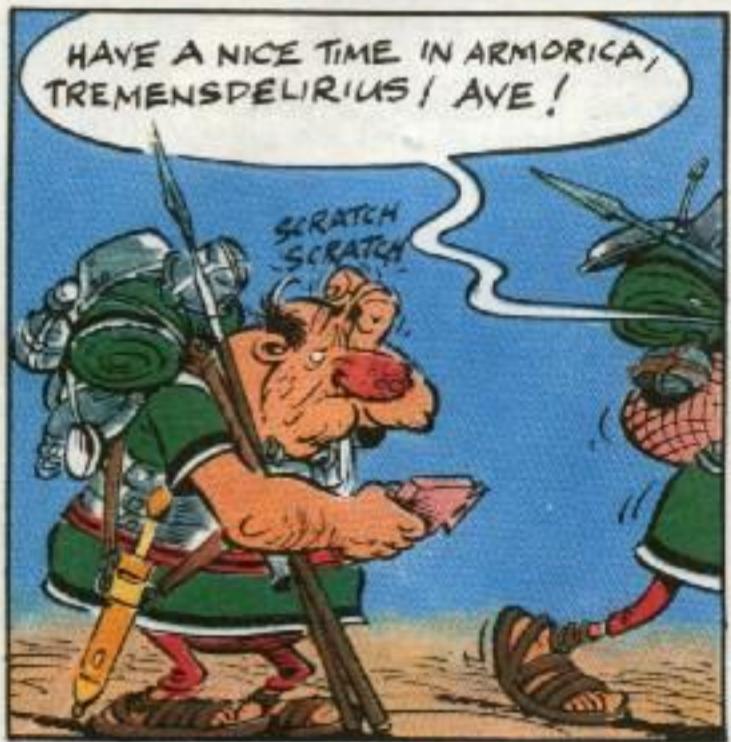
I'D NEVER
HAVE GUESSED!

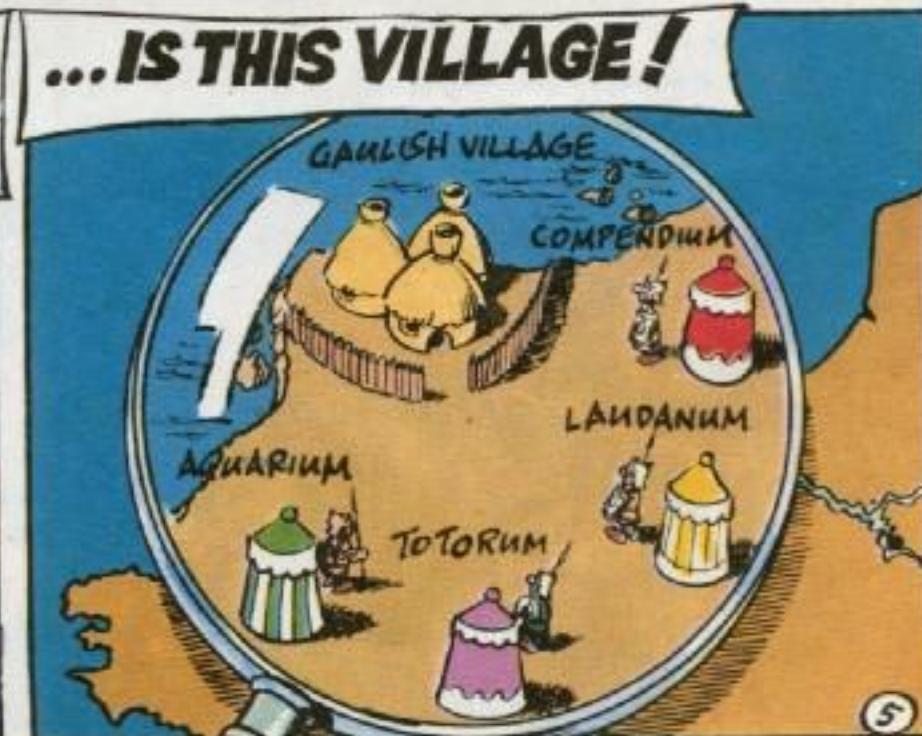
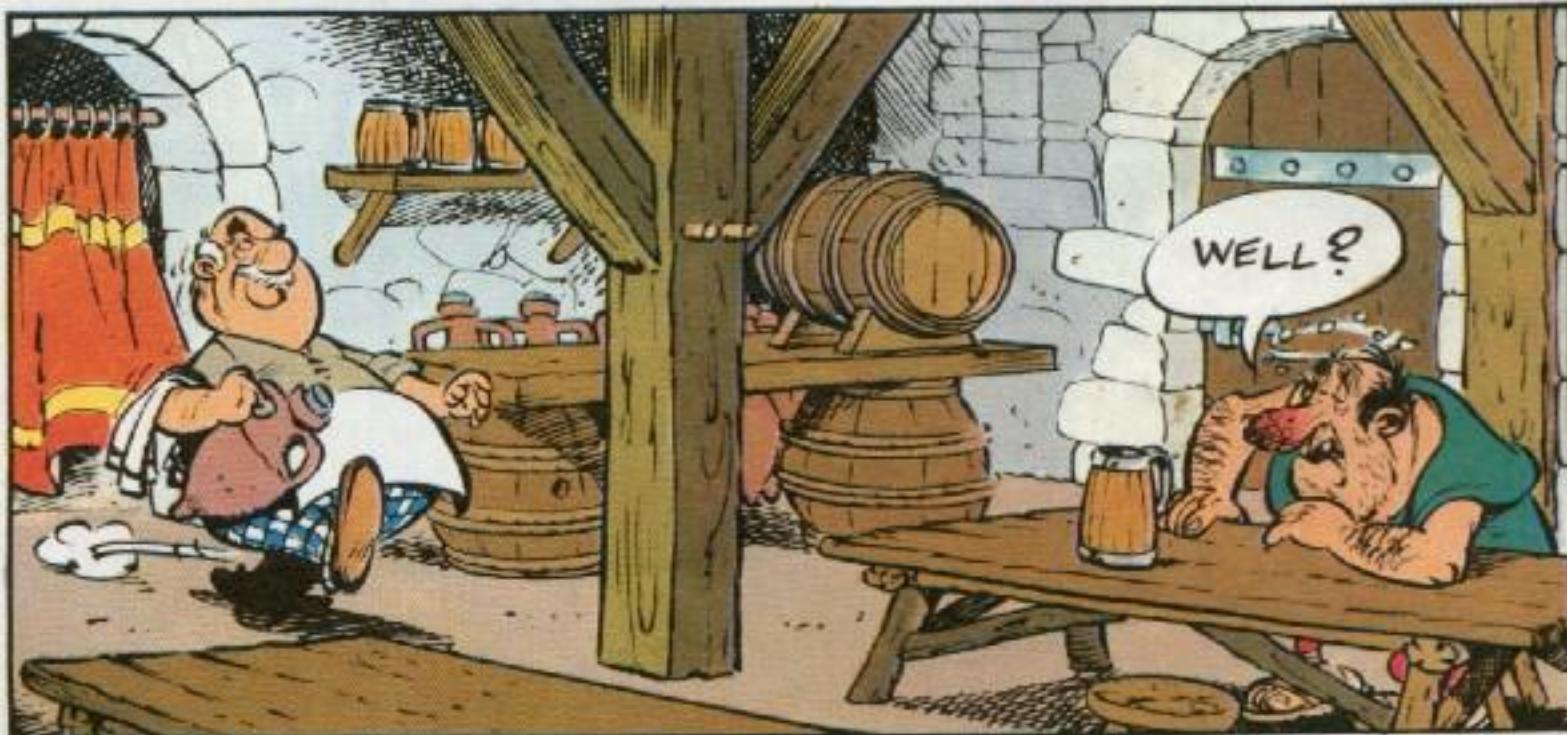
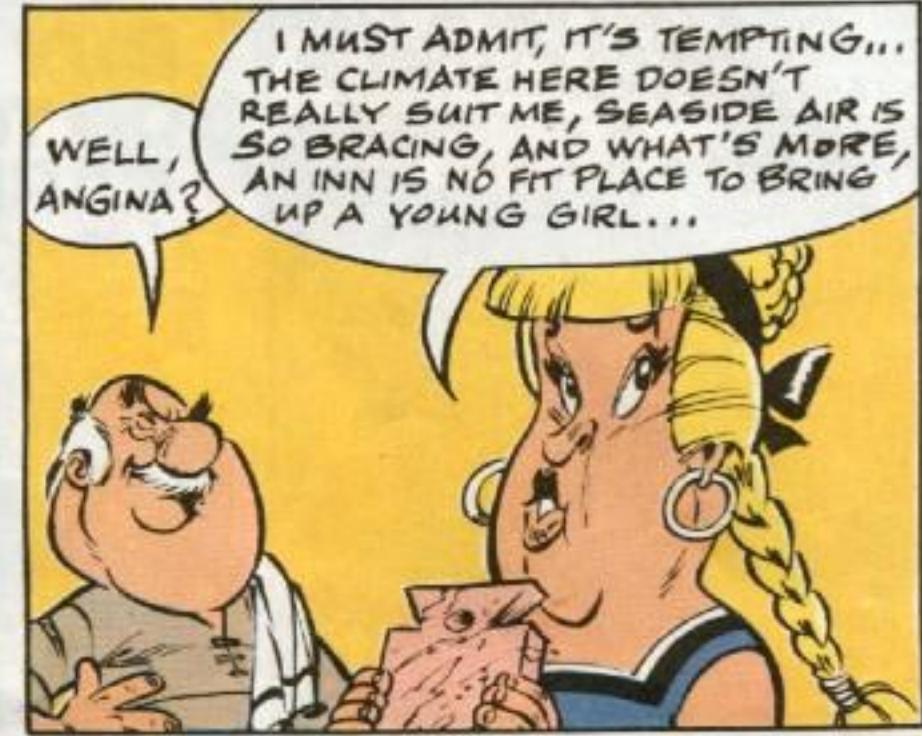
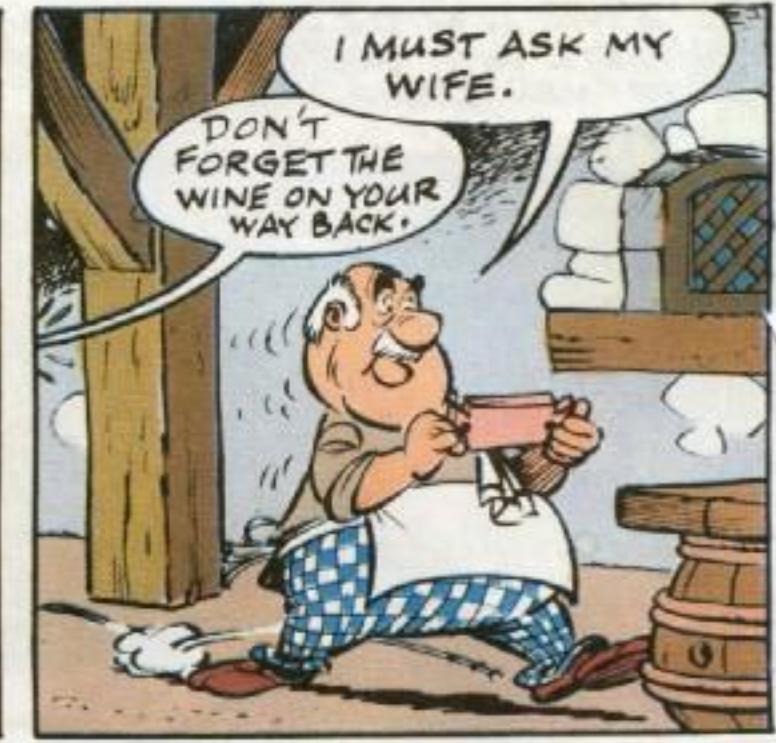
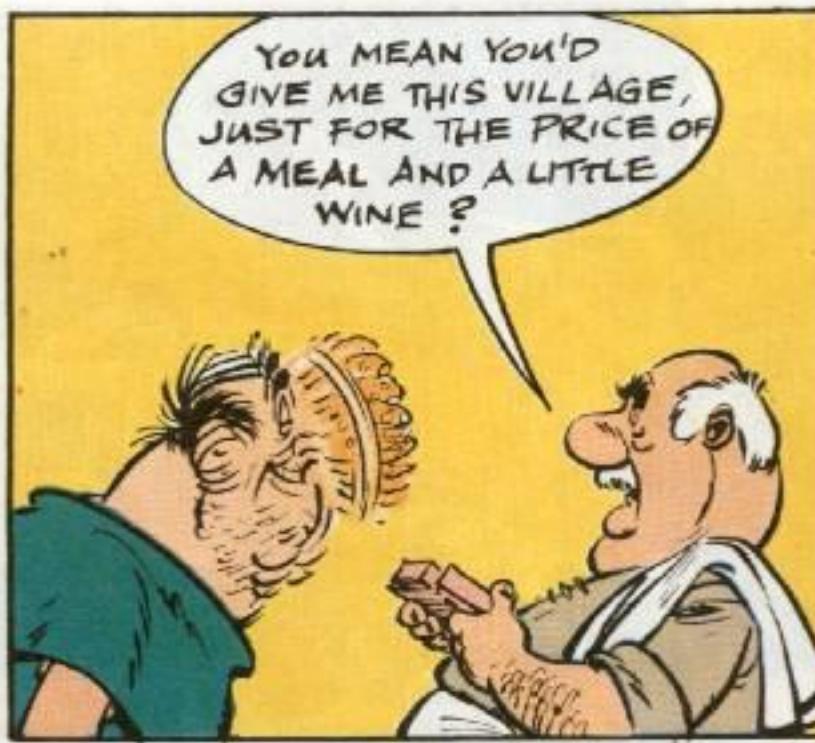
I'VE GOT SOMETHING
SPECIAL FOR YOU... I'M
GIVING YOU A LITTLE
VILLAGE BY THE SEASIDE
IN ARMORICA...

YOU ARE?

... A LITTLE
GAULISH VILLAGE
SURROUNDED BY
FORTIFIED
ROMAN CAMPS.

3





YES, A TYPICAL LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE,
COMPLETE WITH WARRIOR, CRAFTSMEN,
TRADESMEN, DRUID AND BARD...



... AND A CHIEF WHO IS EASY-GOING, THOUGH INCLINED TO STAND ON CEREMONY...

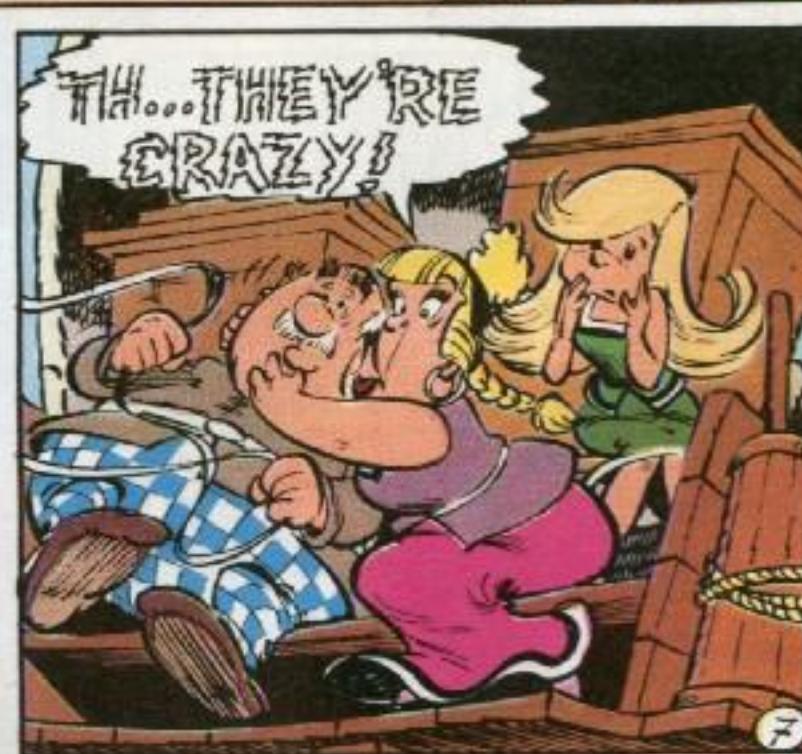
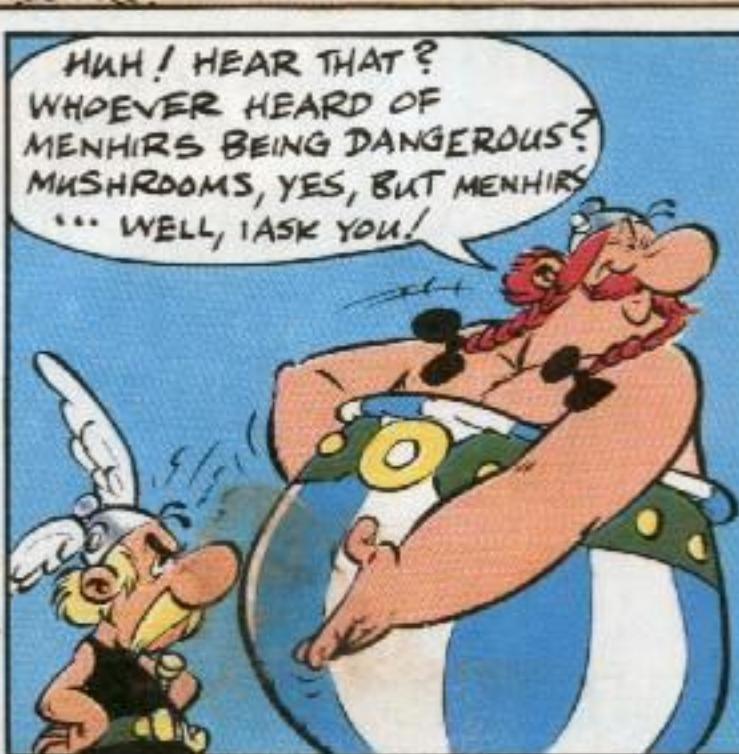
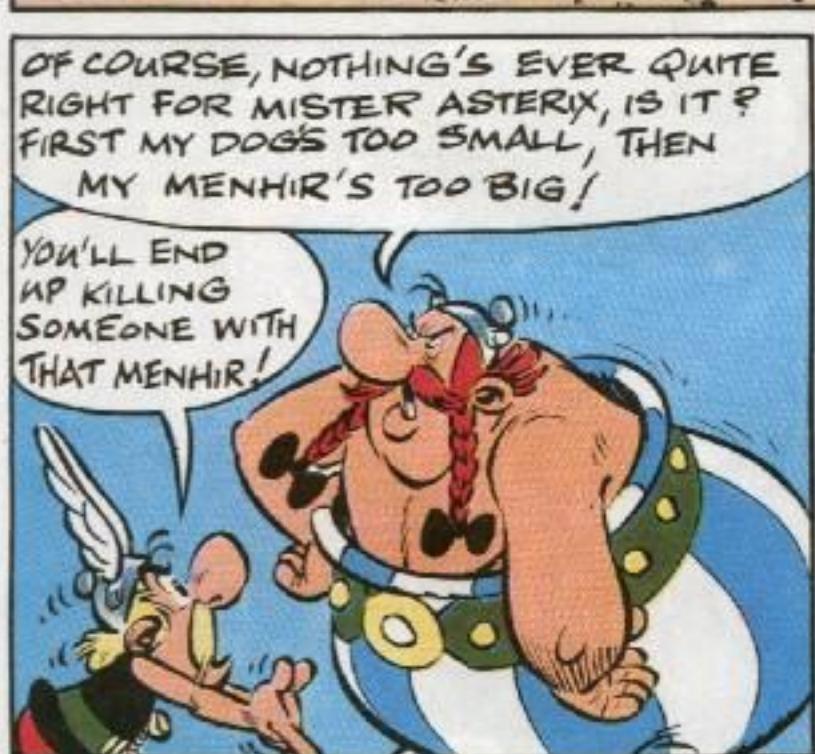
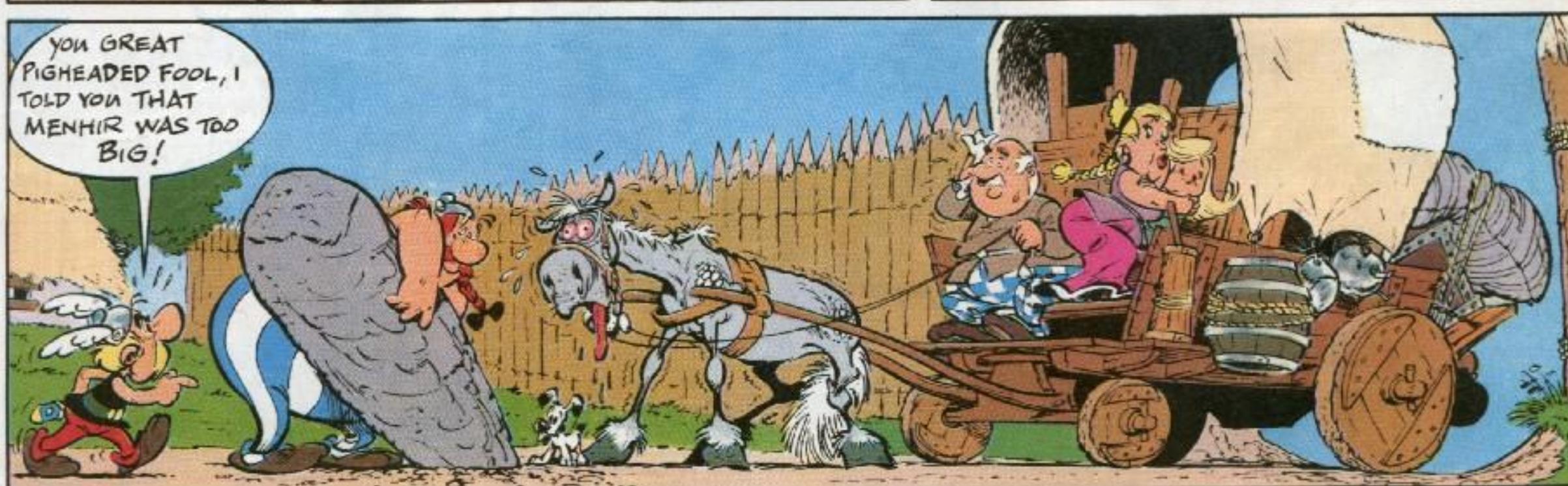
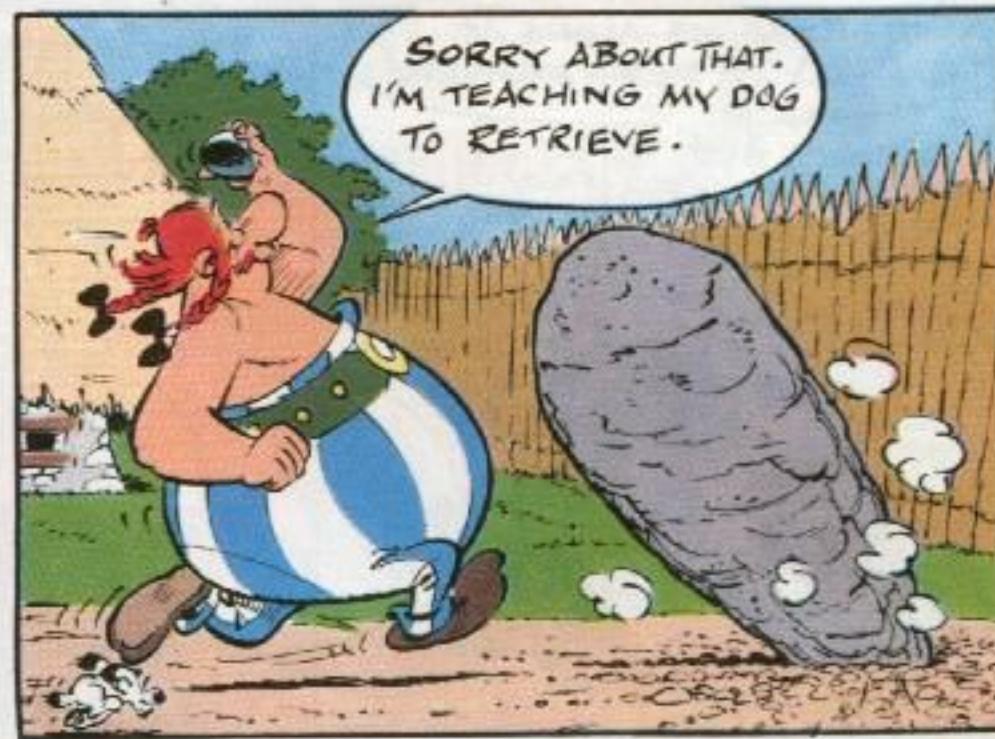
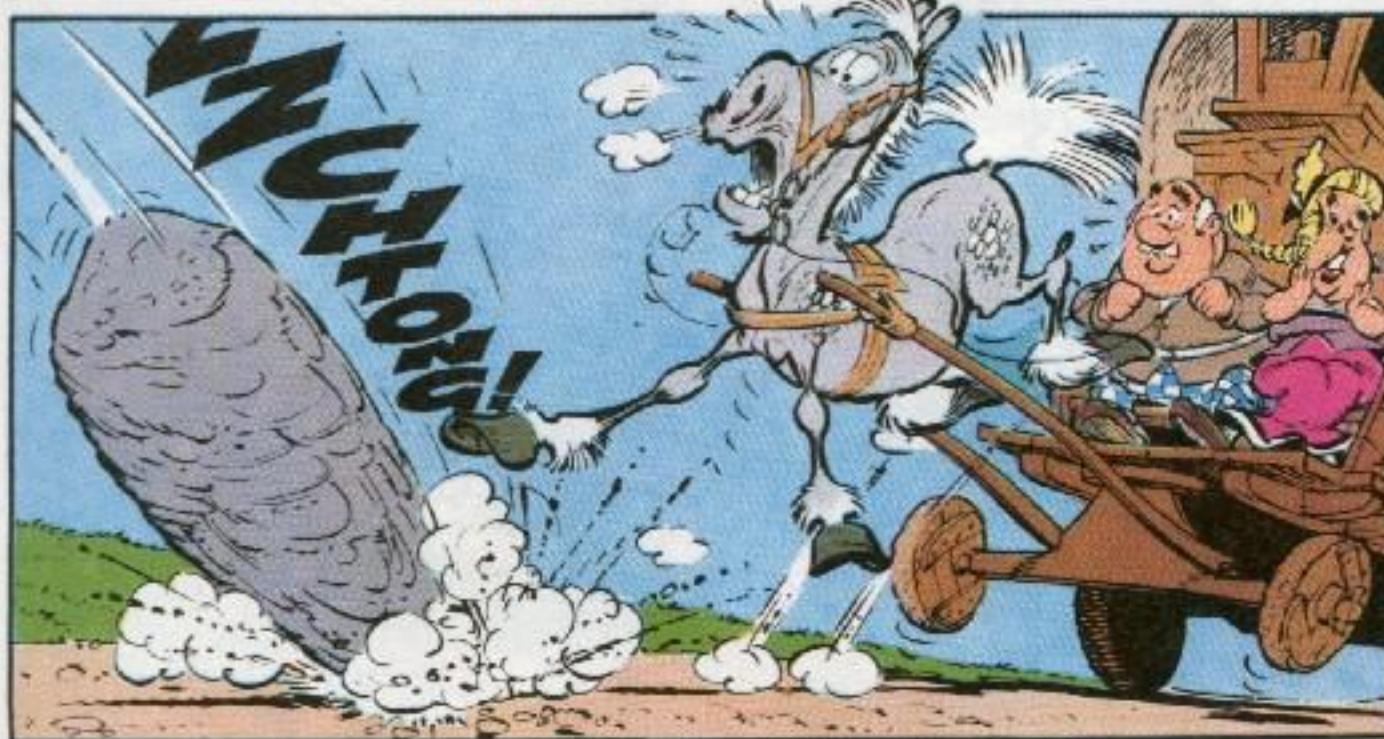
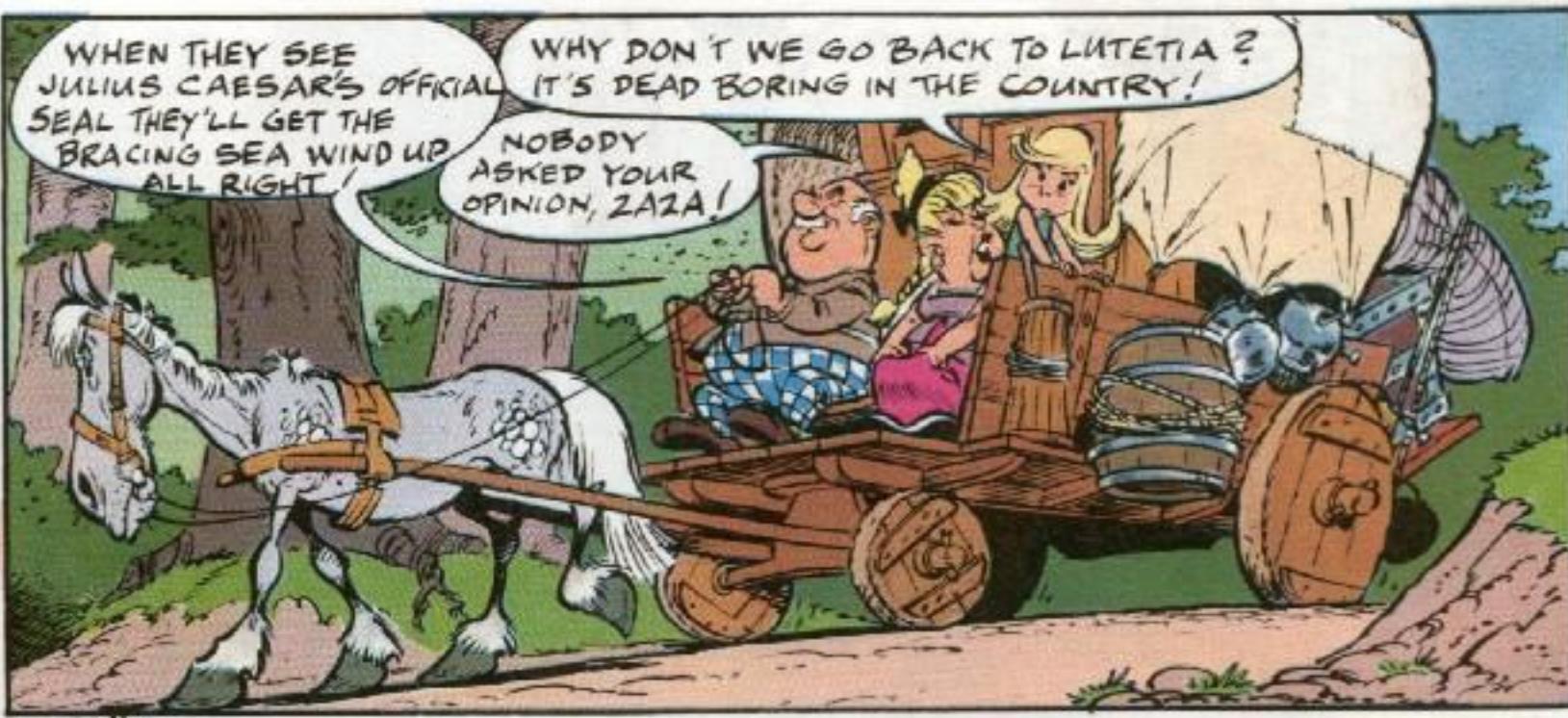
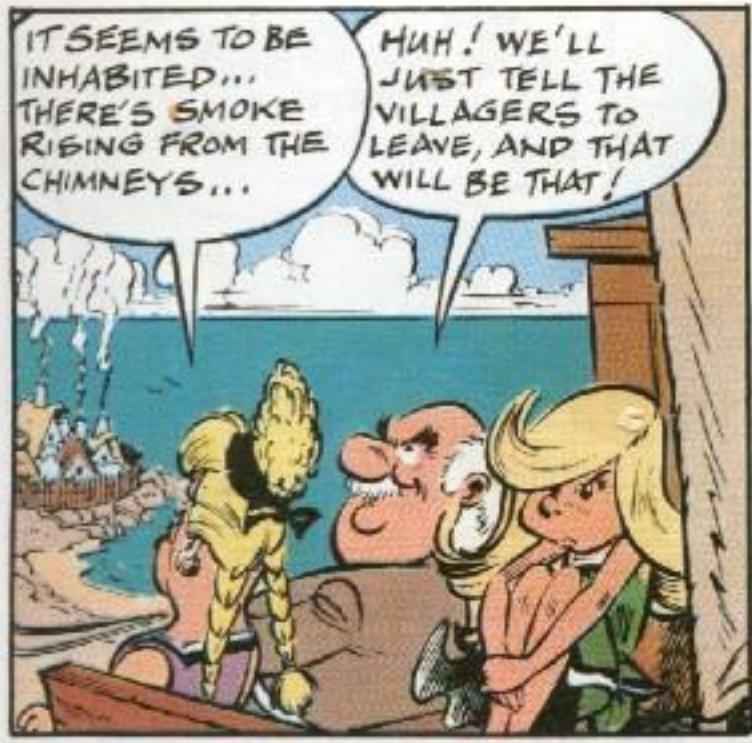


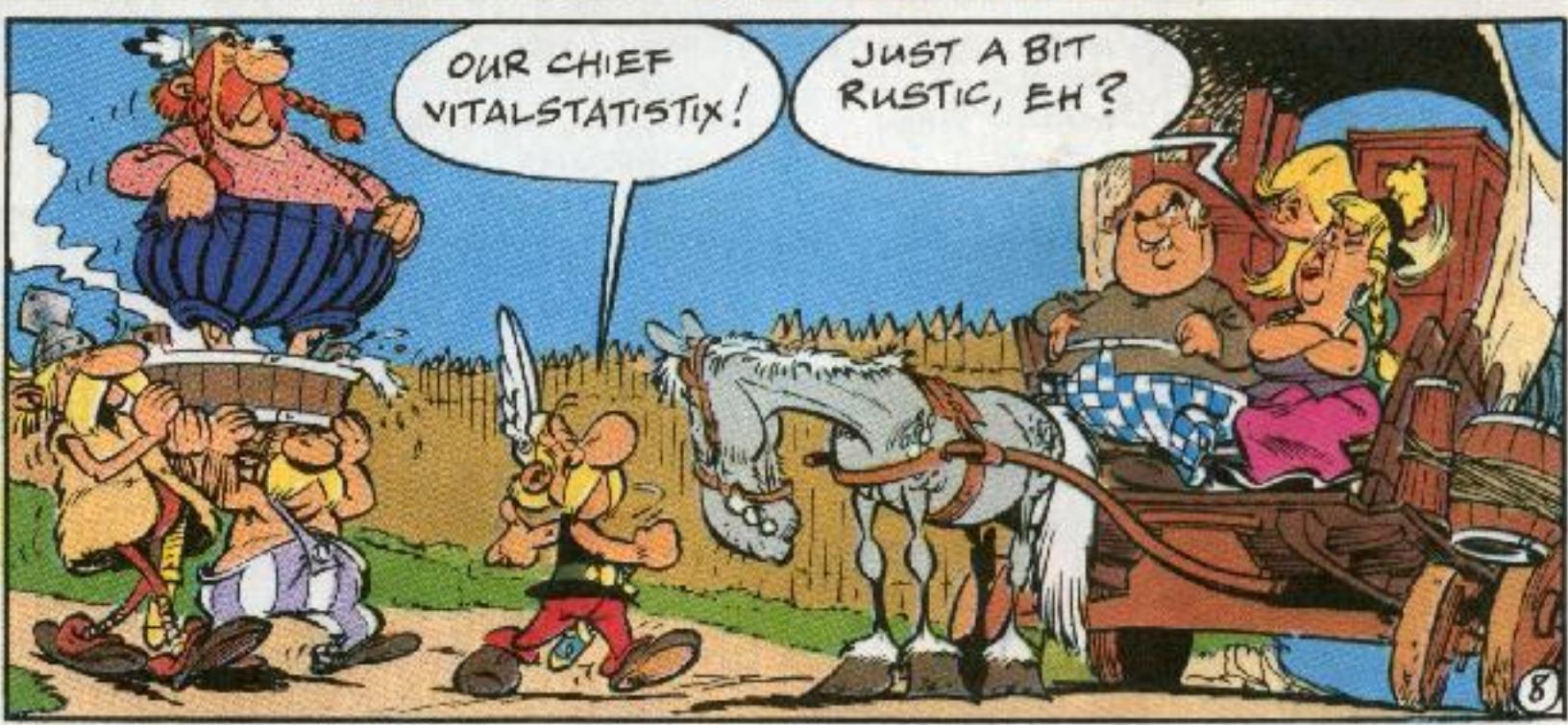
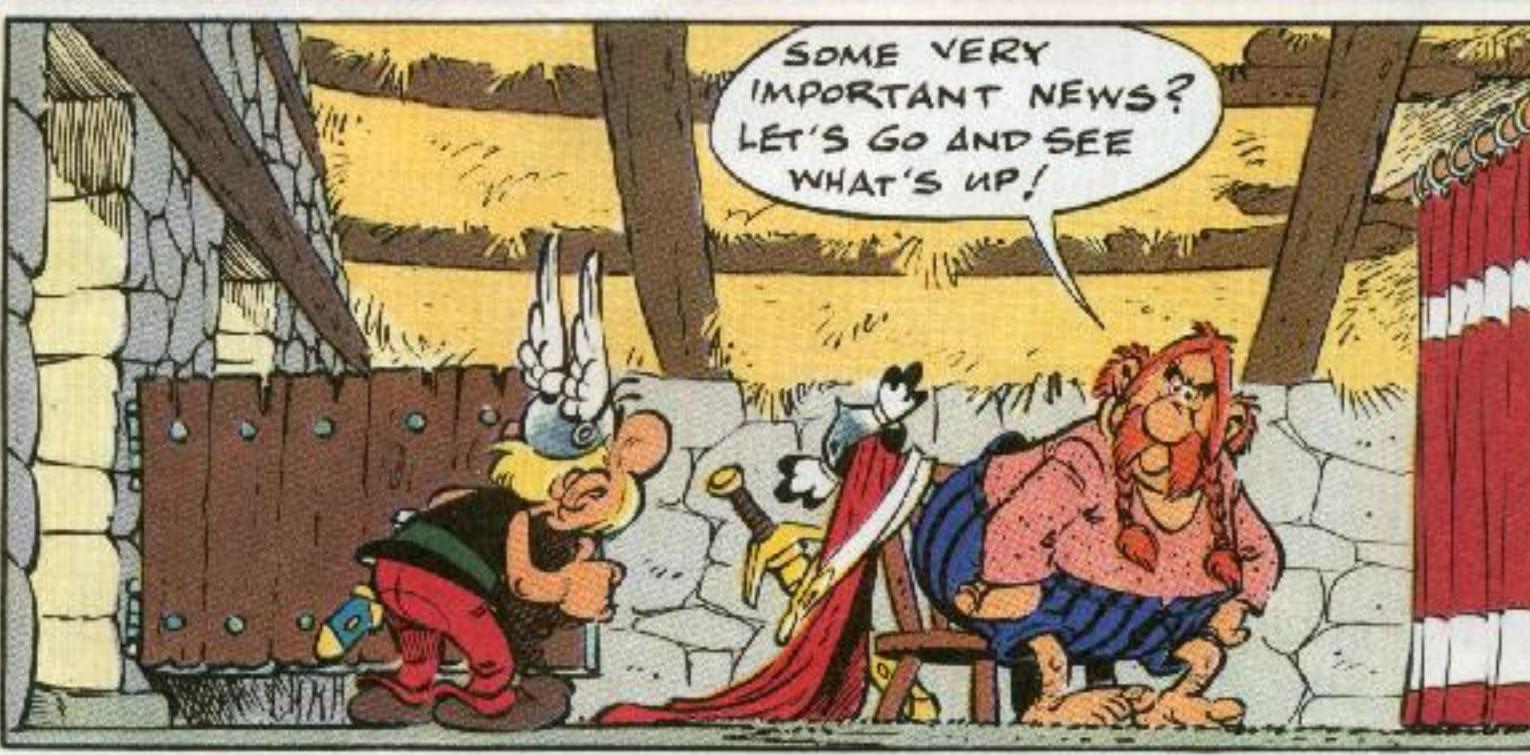
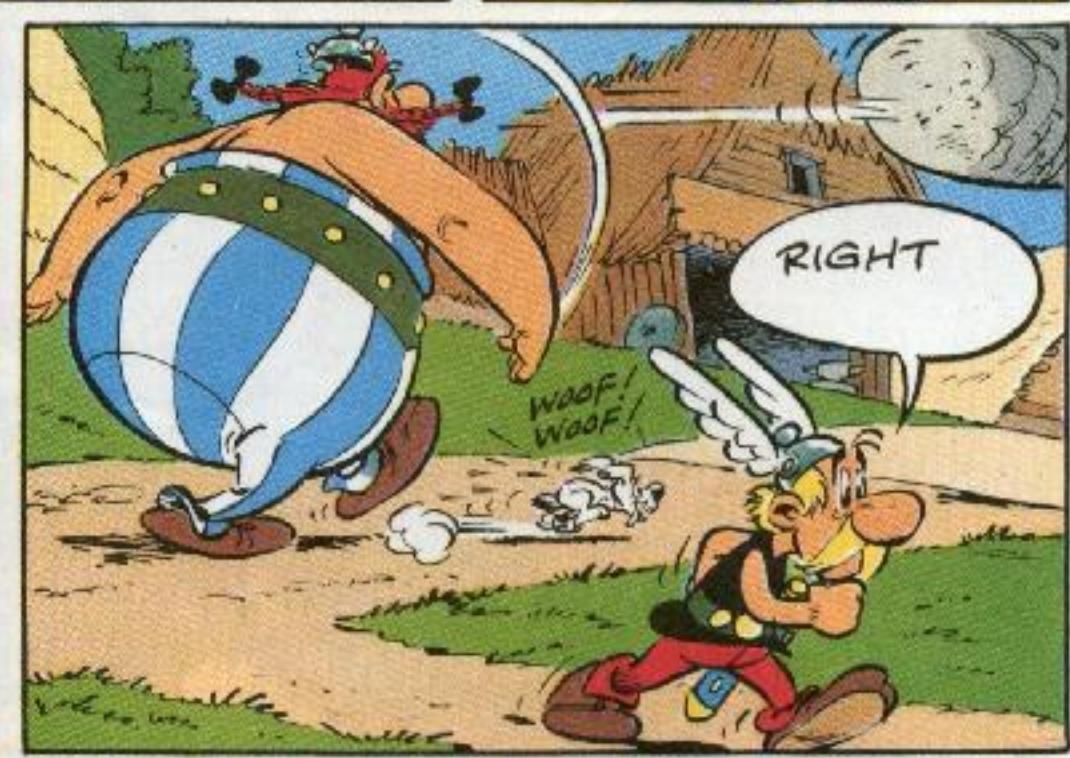
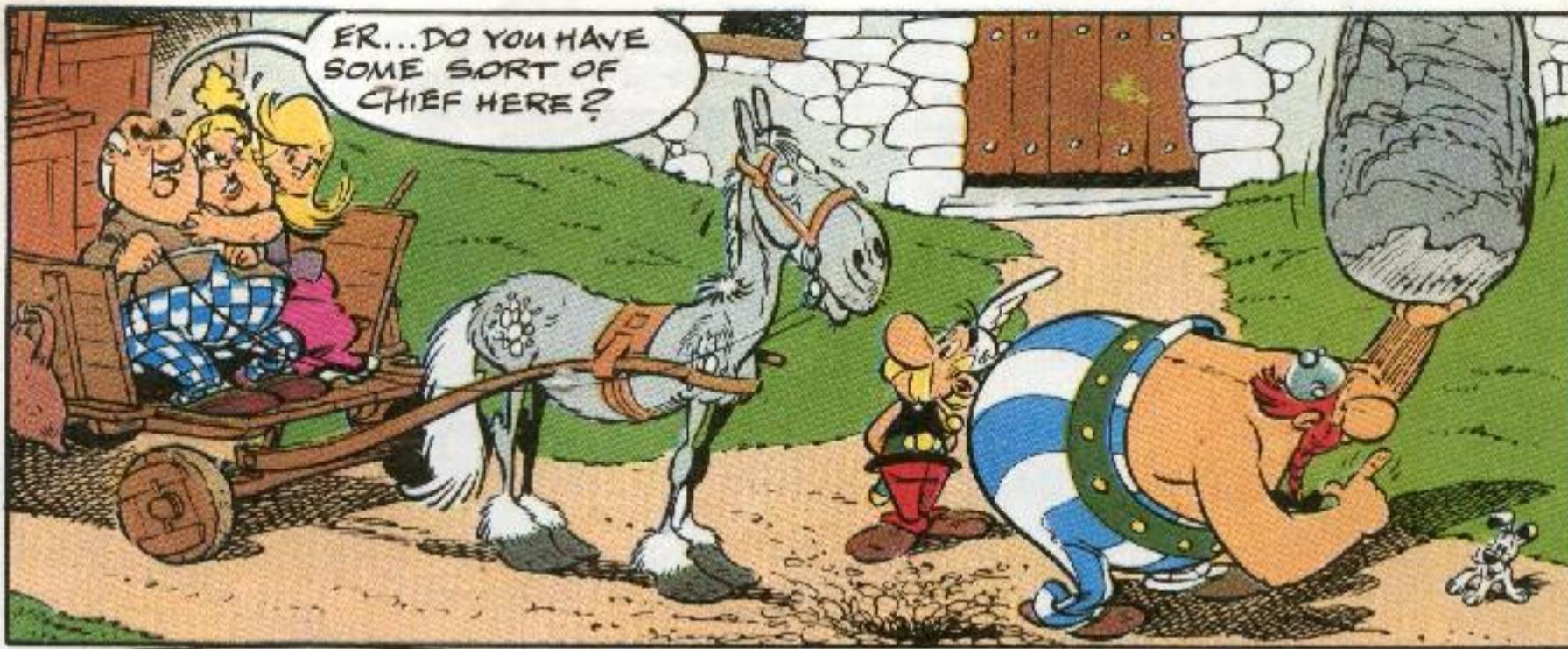
BUT DIDN'T I FORBID YOU TO SNEEZE WHEN CARRYING ME?

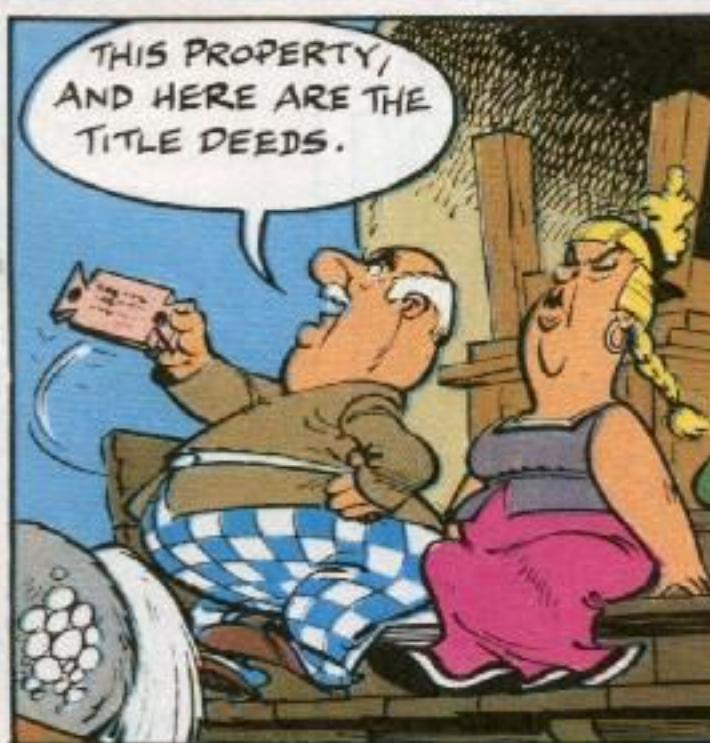
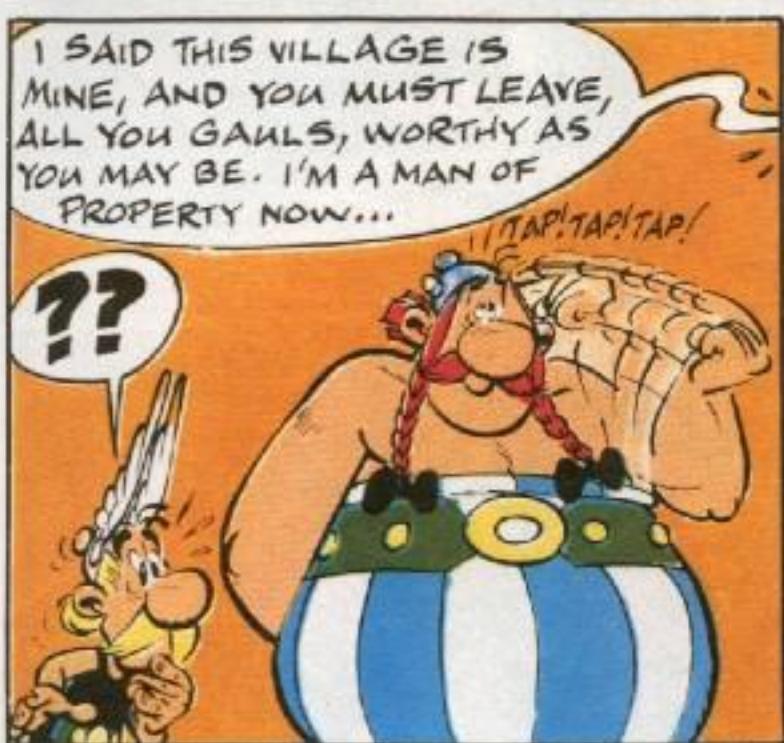
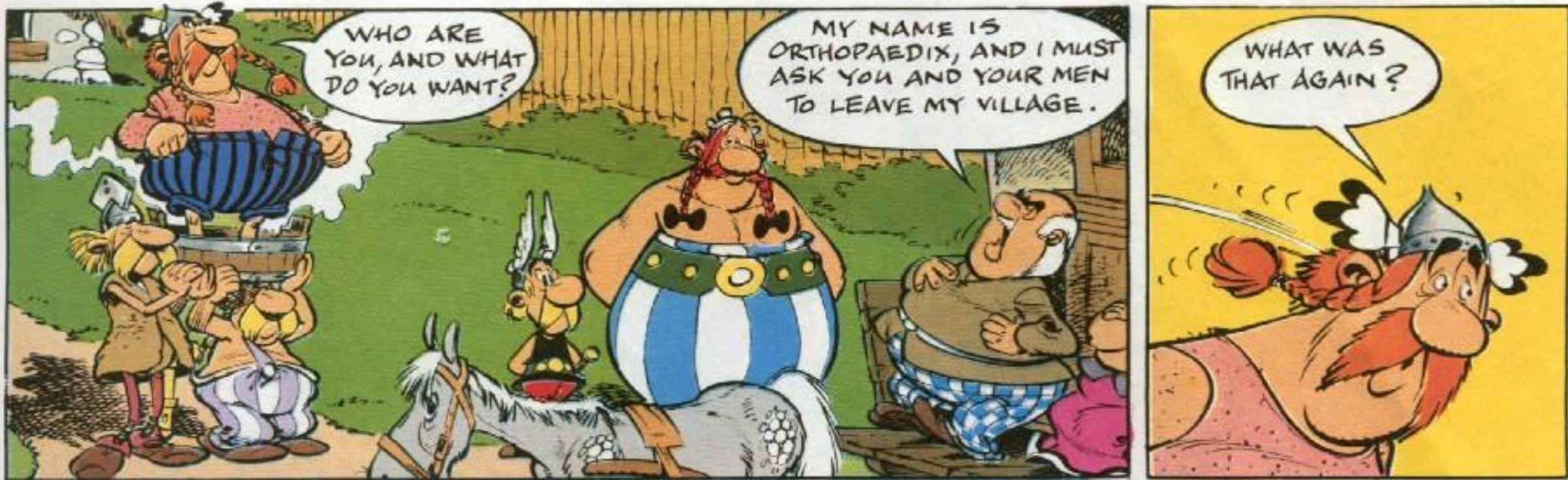


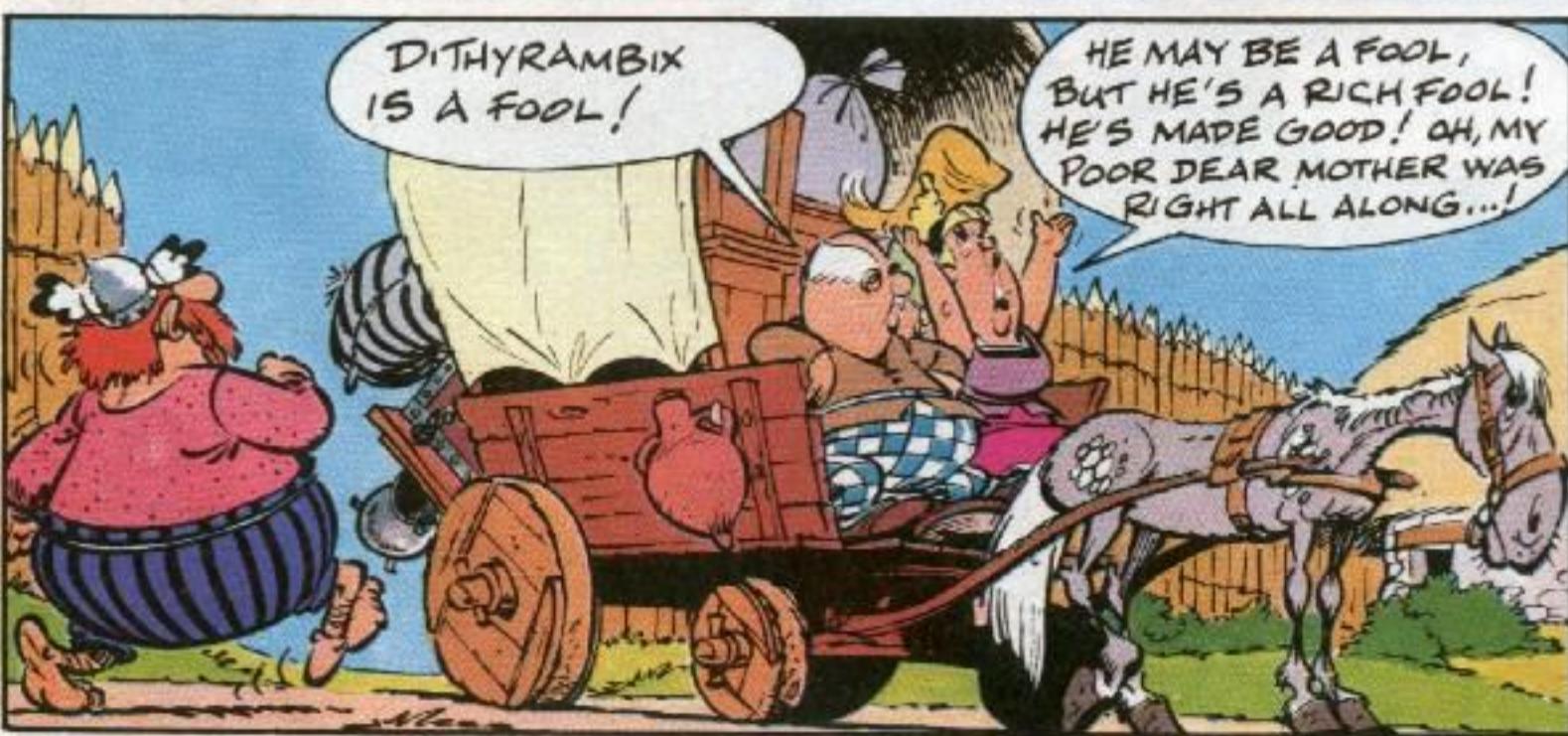
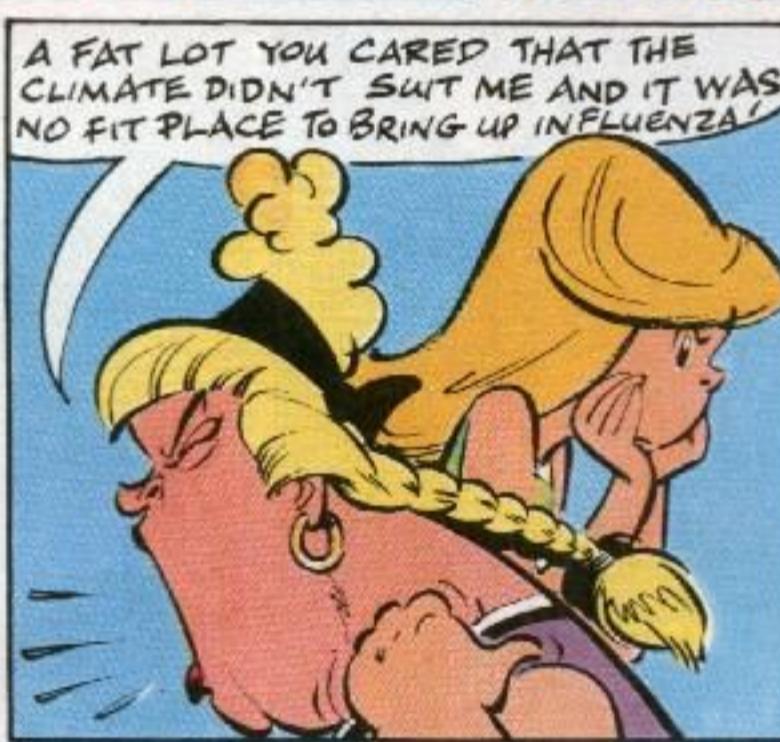
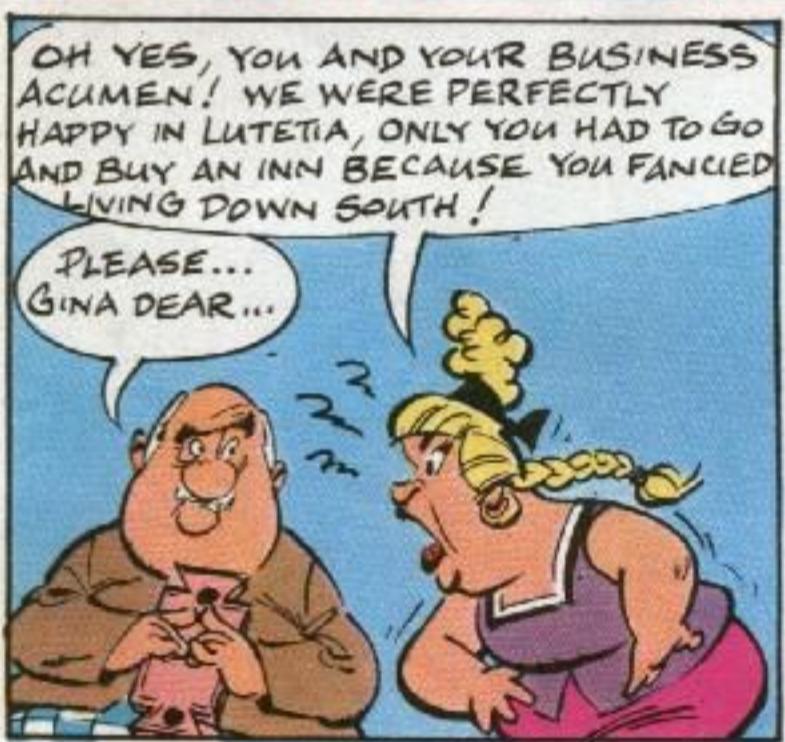
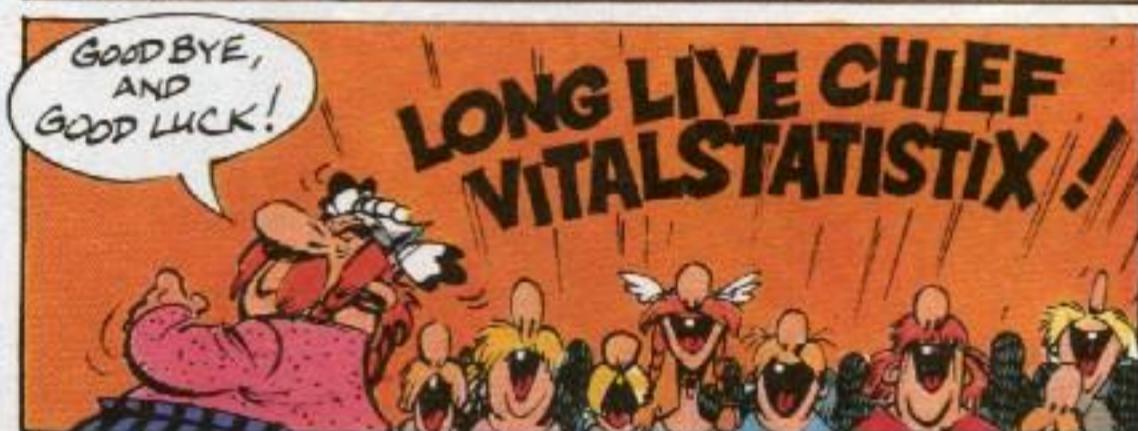
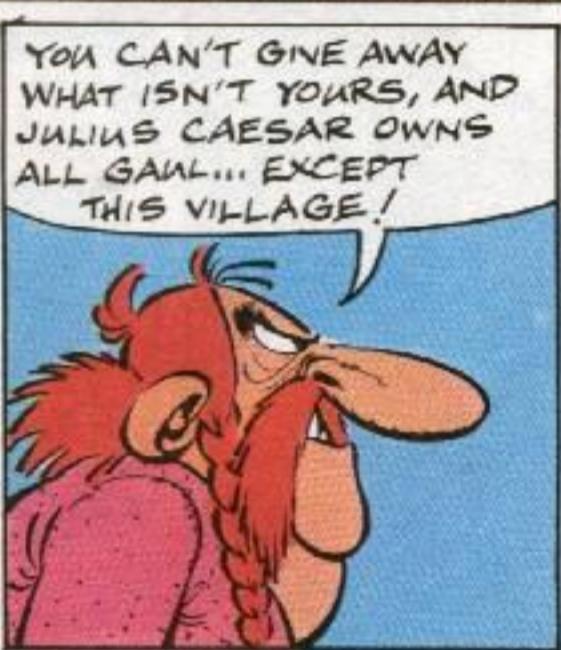
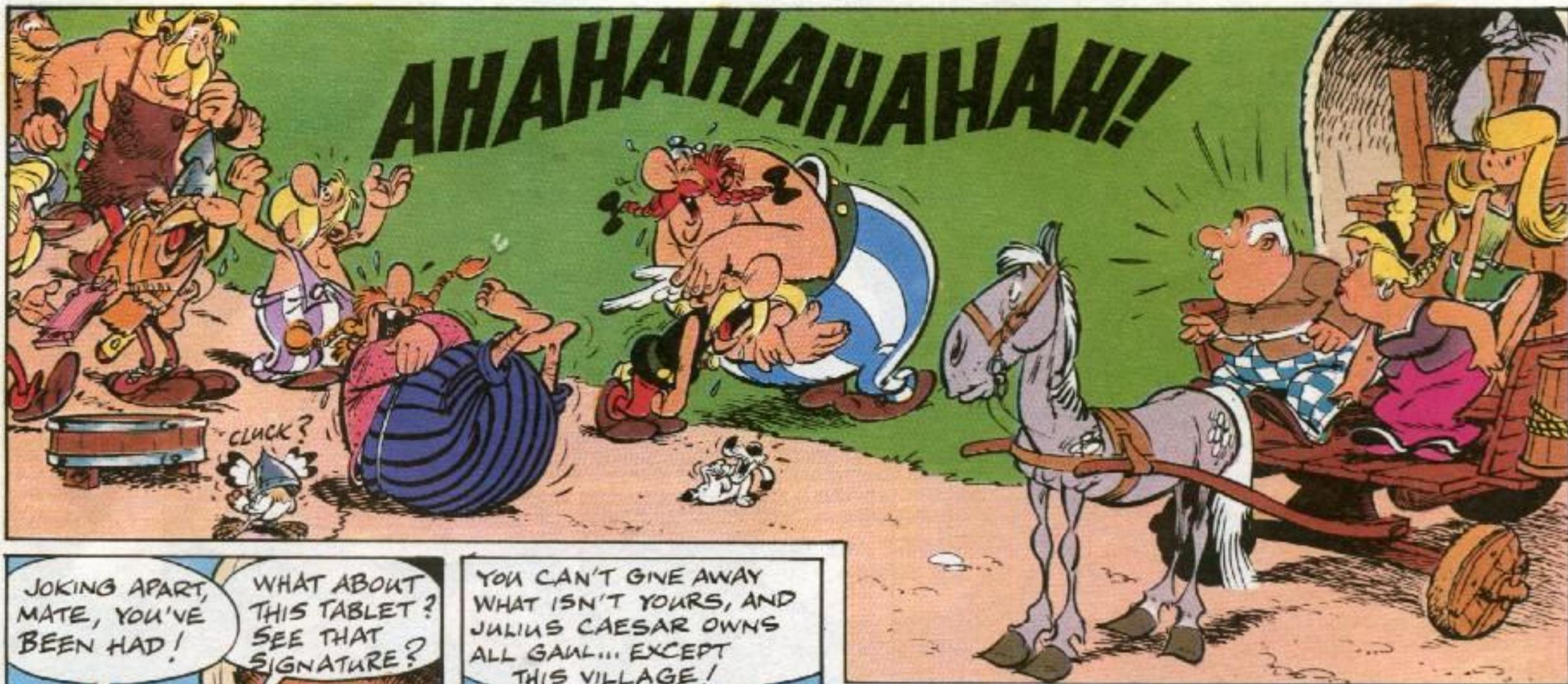
HERE'S OUR VILLAGE!

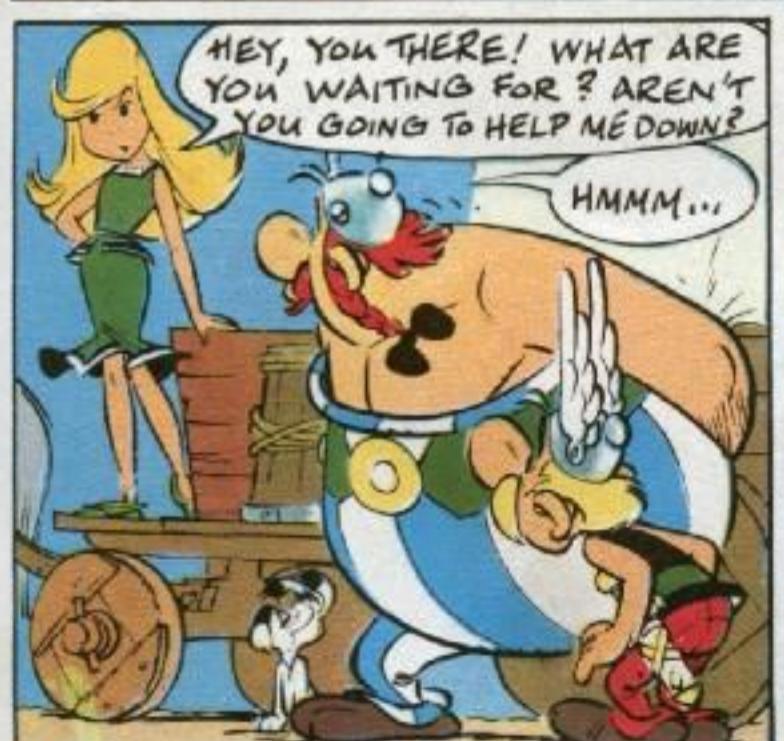
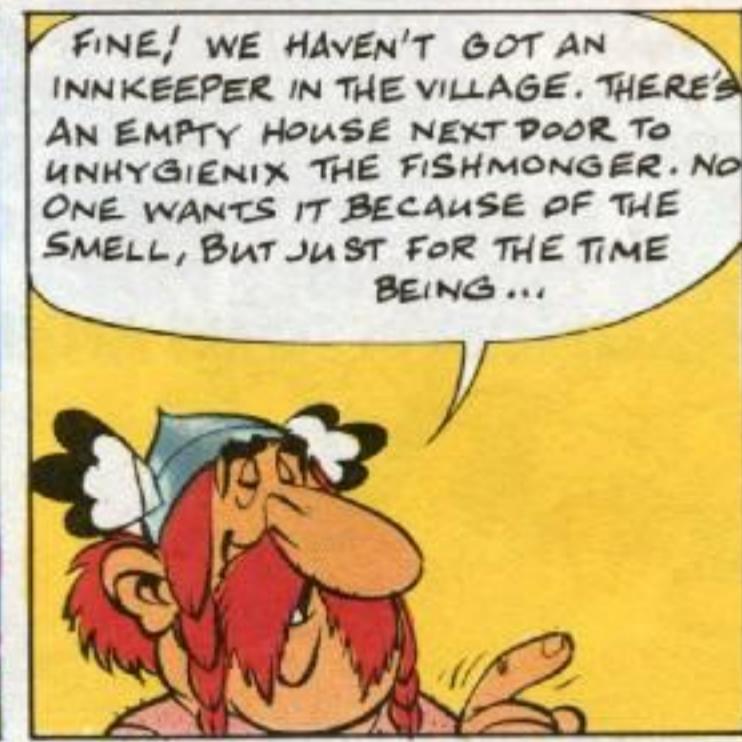
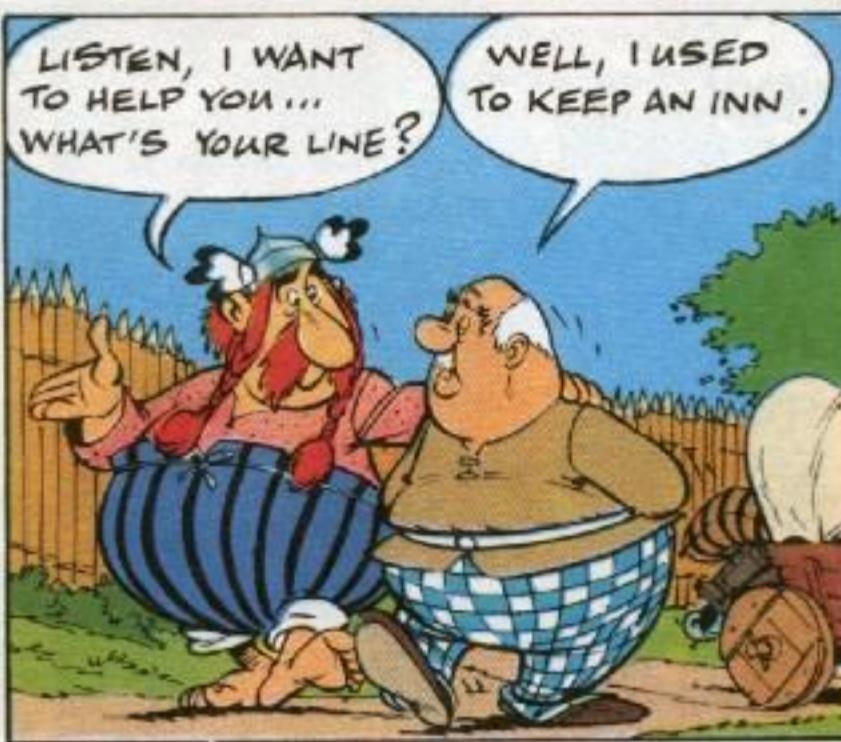
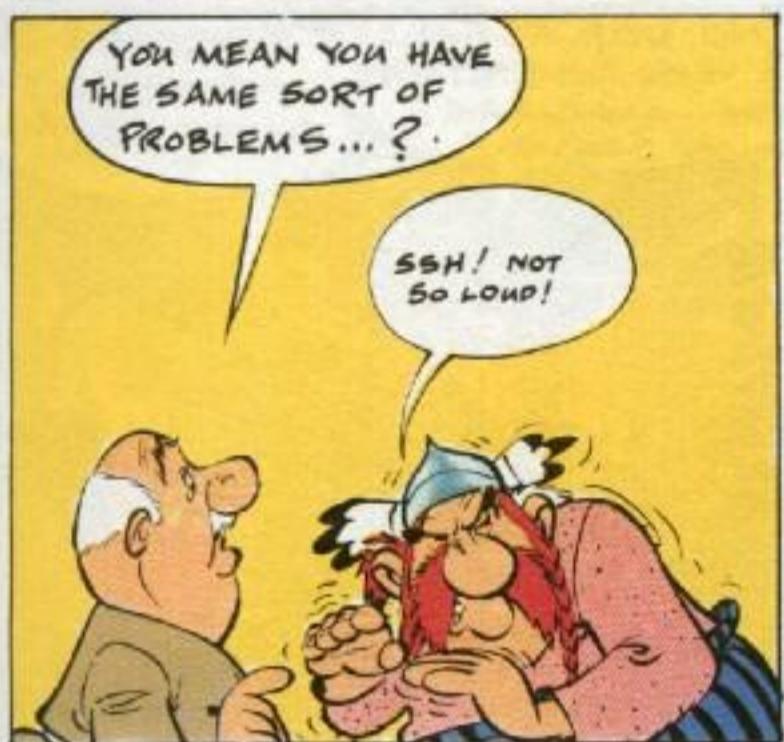
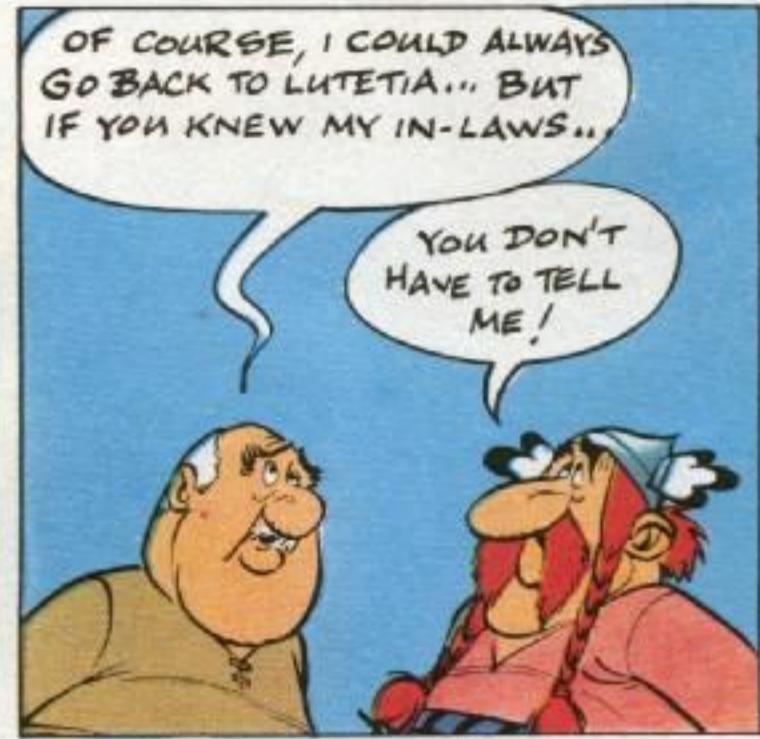














WHAT? YOU MEAN WE'VE LEFT OUR NICE INN AT ARAUSIO JUST TO OPEN ANOTHER IN THIS WRETCHED VILLAGE, WHEN THE WHOLE PLACE BELONGS TO US ANYWAY?

BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO GIVE US THE VILLAGE!

OH, LET'S GO BACK TO UNCLE DITHYRAMBIX IN LUTETIA!

NO. NO! WE SHALL BE VERY COMFORTABLE HERE... AND THE AIR'S SO BRACING!

BRACING? IT STINKS OF ROTTEN FISH!

WE'LL AIR THE HOUSE OUT... ANYWAY, THAT'S THE SMELL OF THE SEA!

IT'S SOME TIME SINCE ANY FISH SMELLING LIKE THAT SAW THE SEA!

IT'S FUN HAVING NEW PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE, ISN'T IT, GETAFIX?

WELL, I HAVE A NOTION WE SHAN'T BE BORED. EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THEM, ANYWAY

SHE'S ALMOST AS LIGHT AS YOU, DOGMATIX!

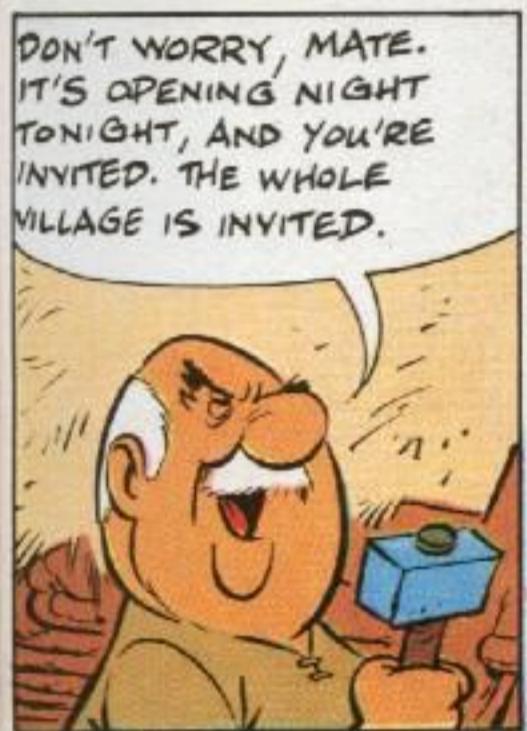
GRRRRR!

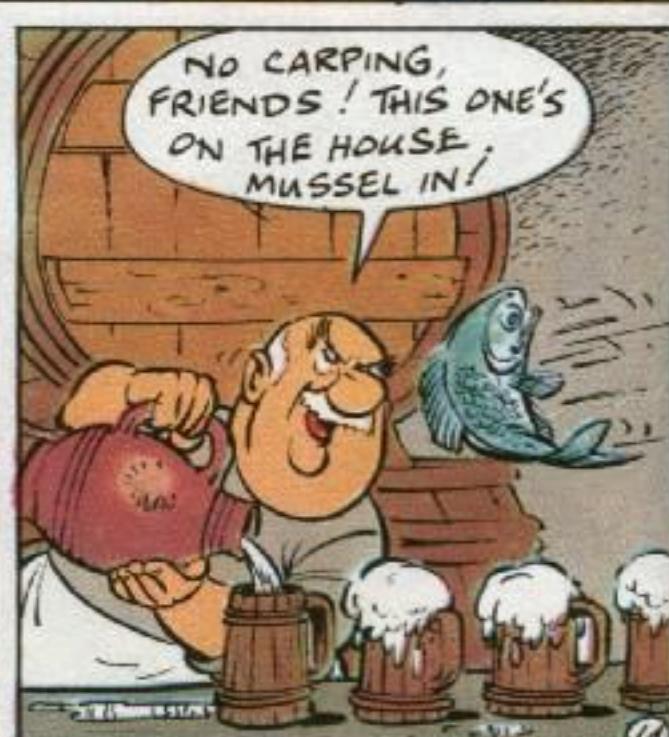
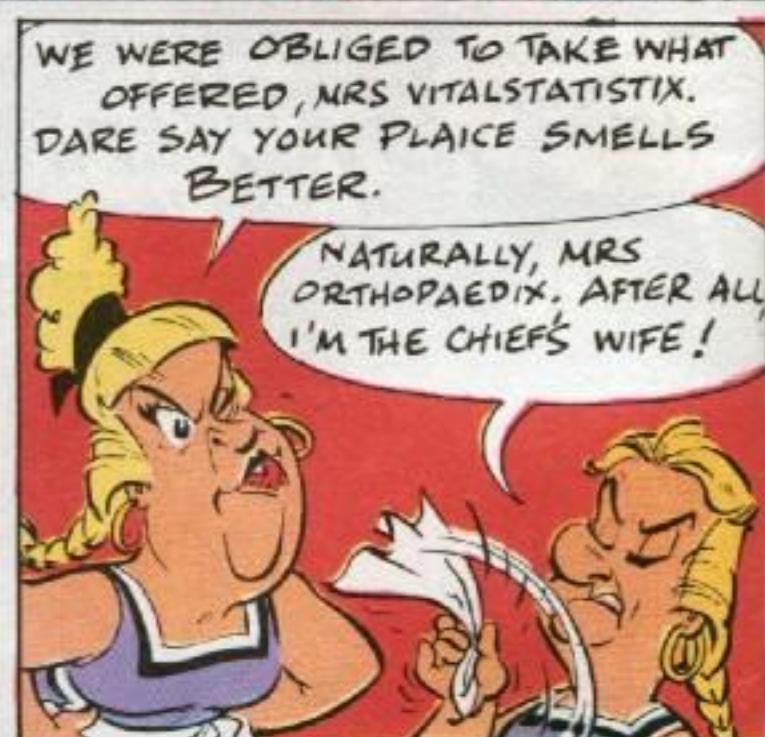
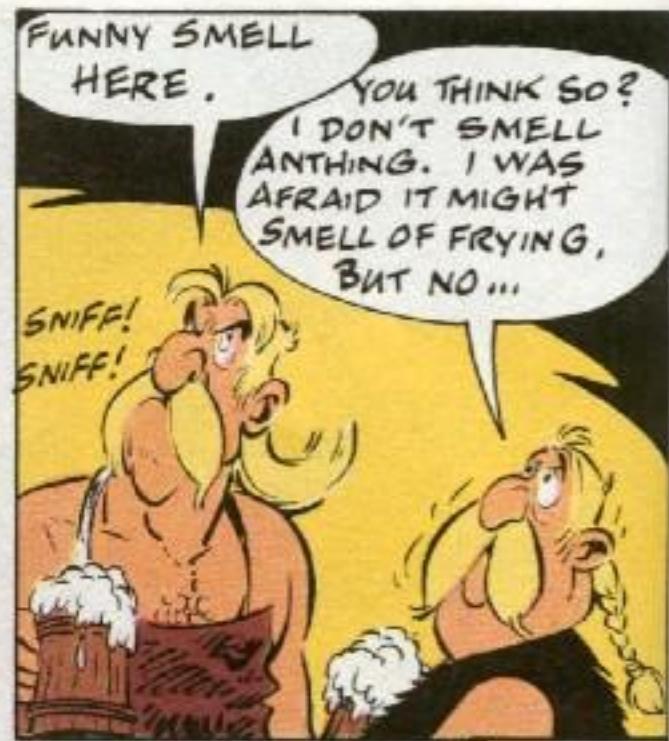
OBELIX QUARRY

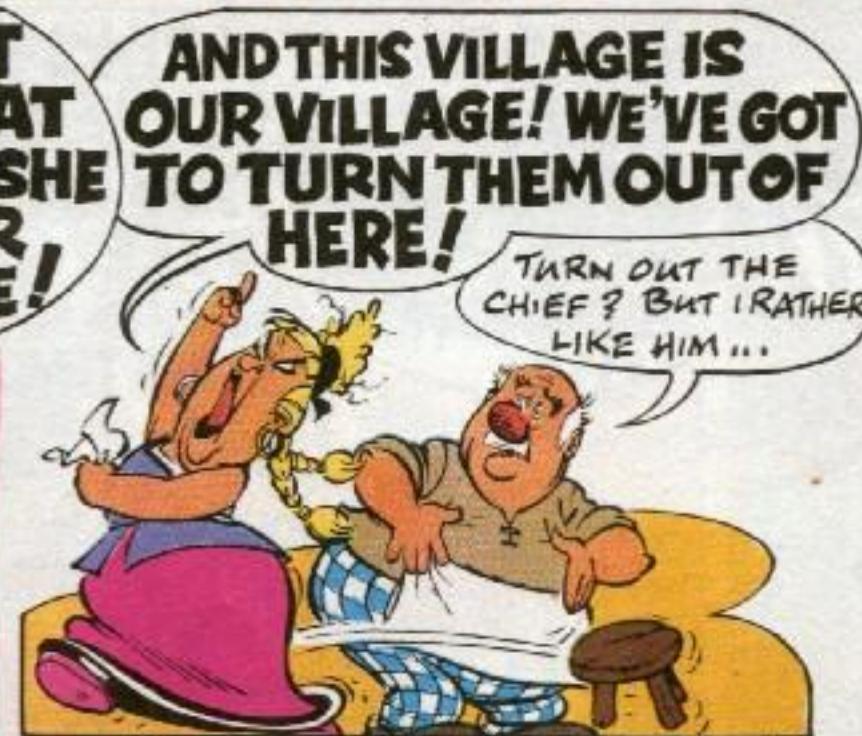
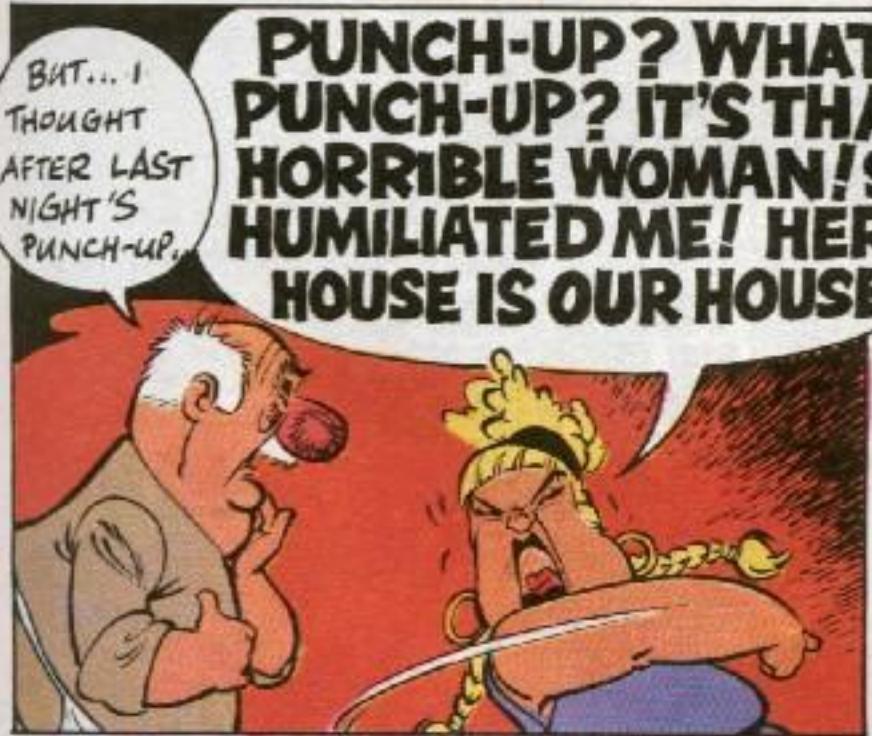
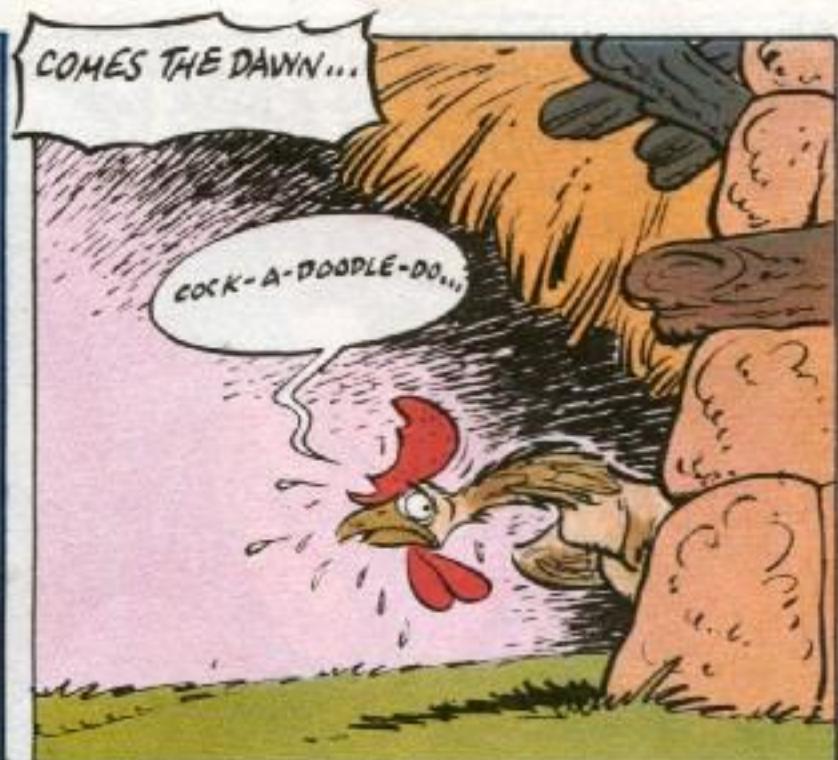
NEW PEOPLE? WHAT NEW PEOPLE?

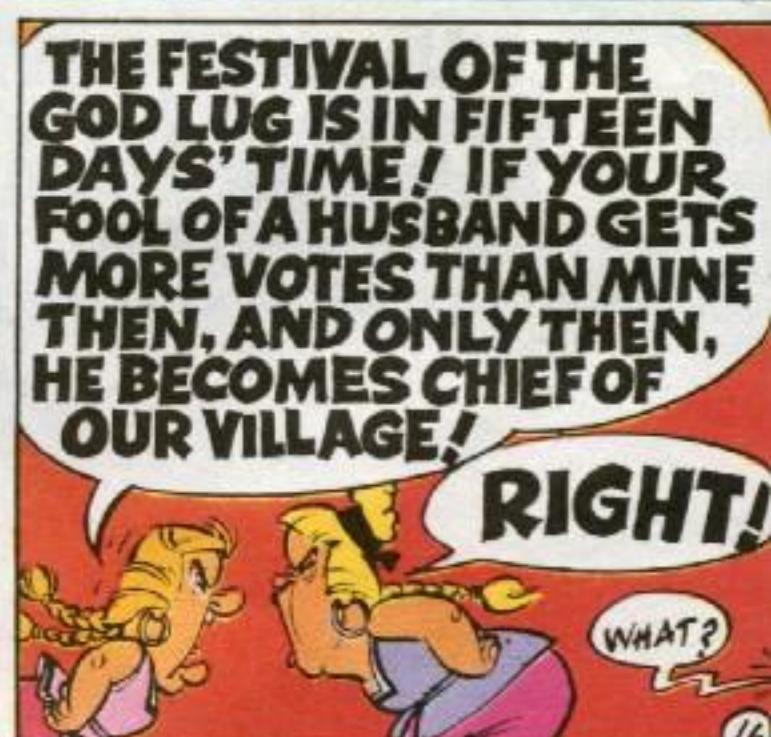
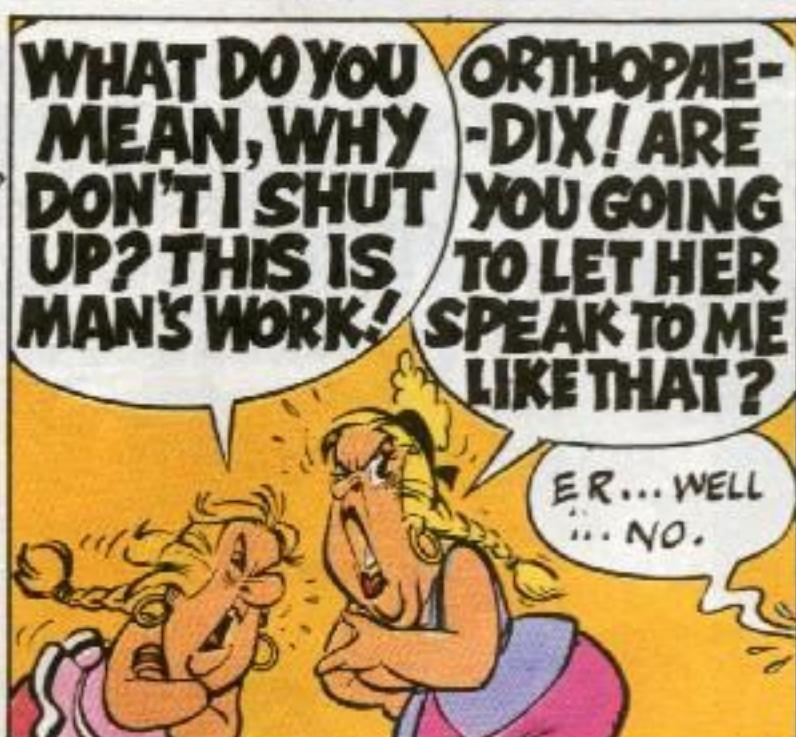
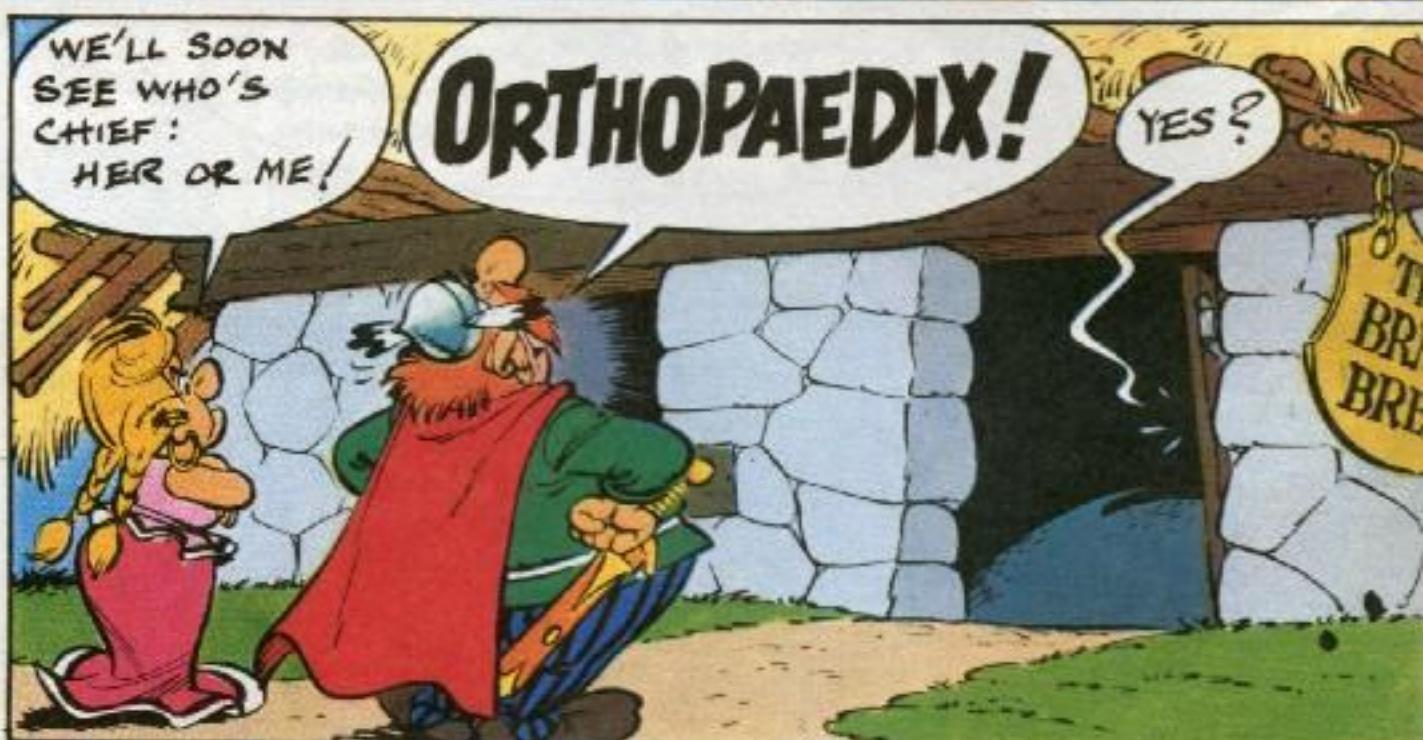
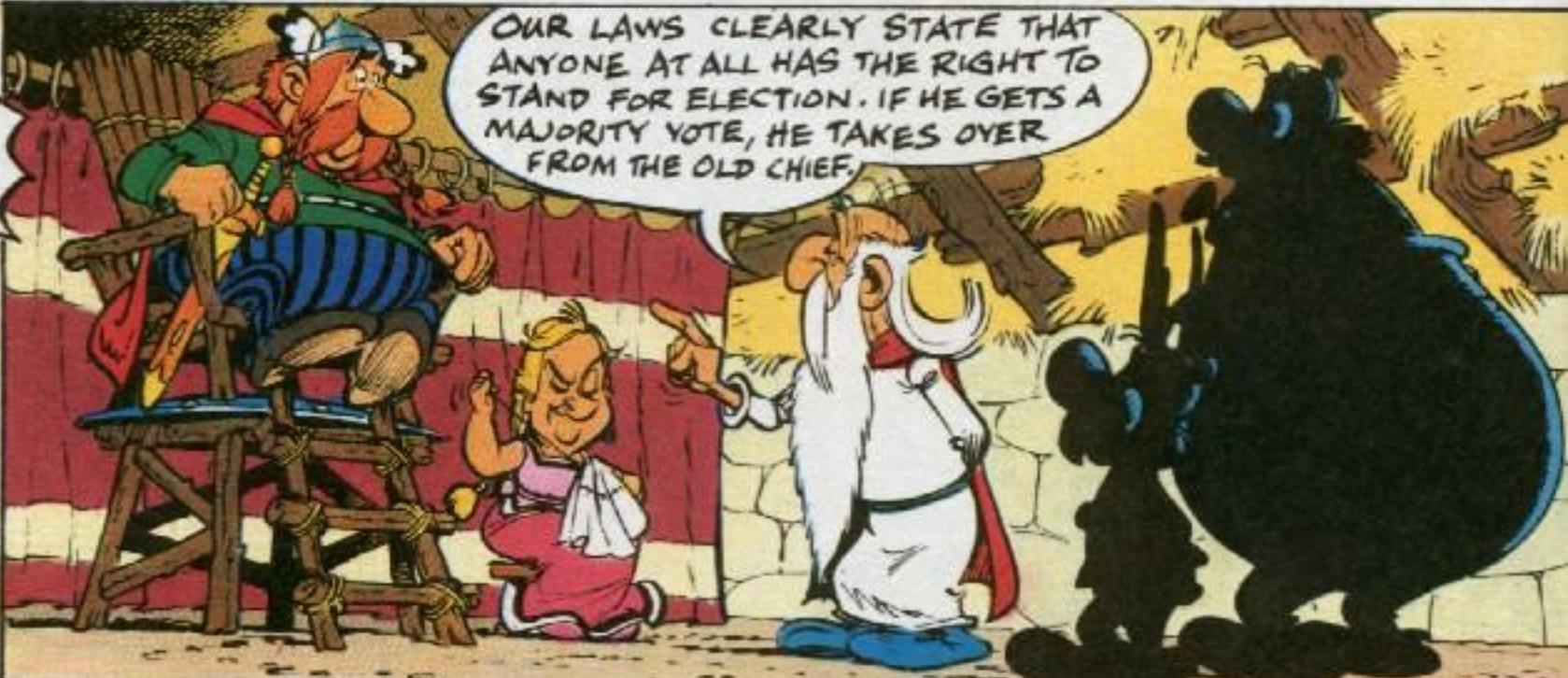
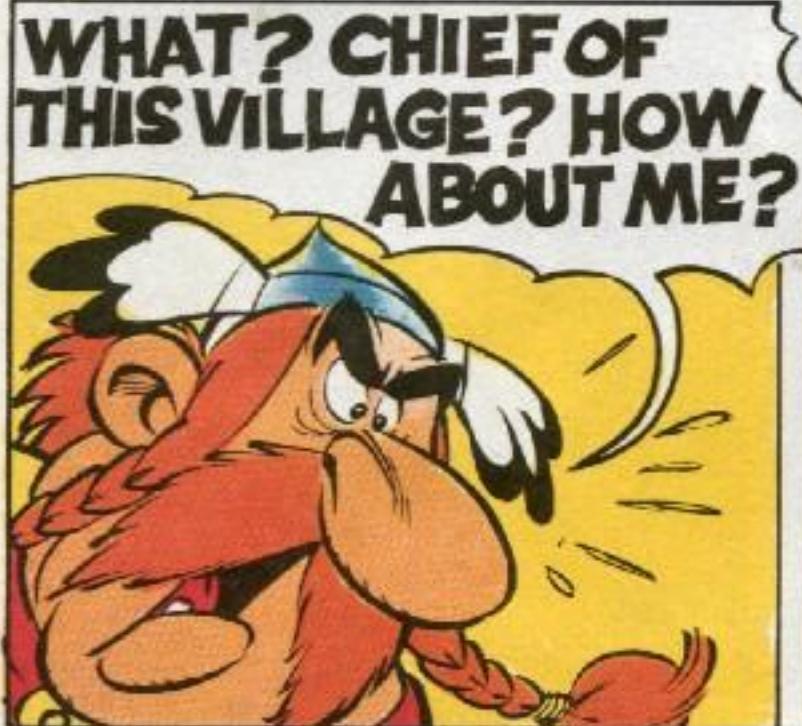
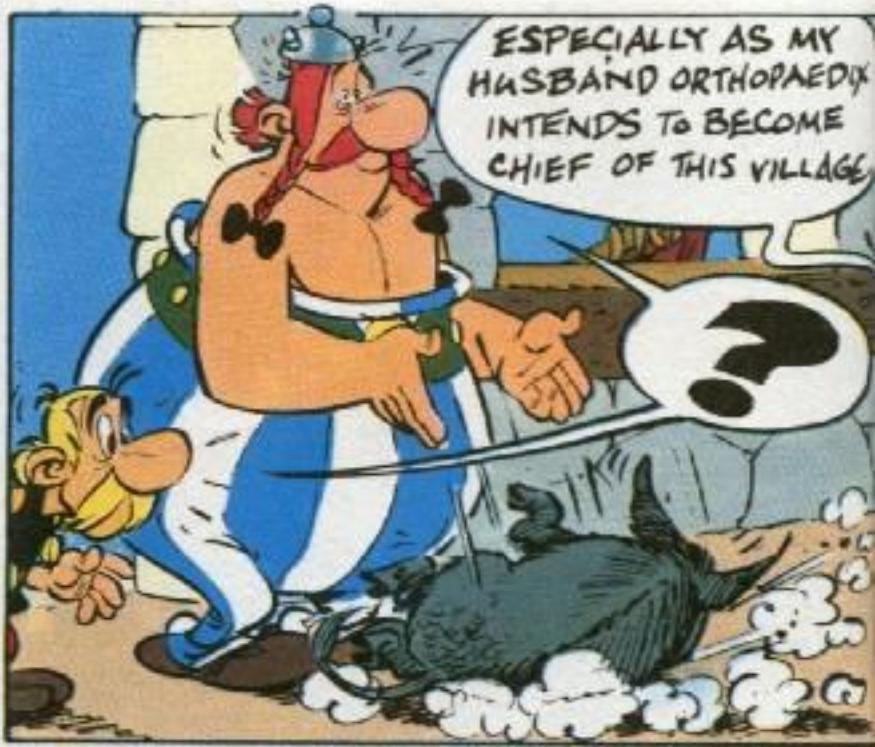
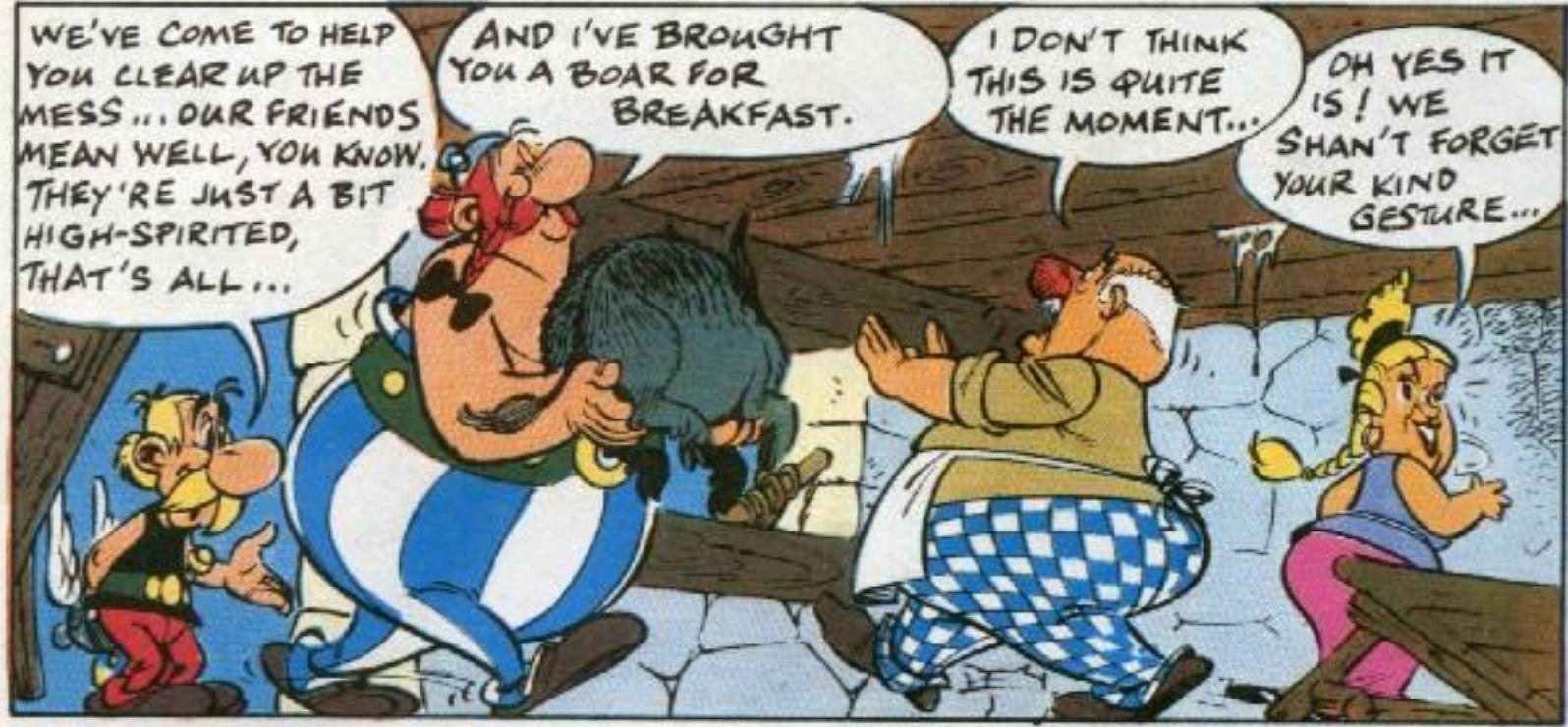
YOU KNOW ME, I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST FOREIGNERS, SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE FOREIGNERS, BUT THESE PARTICULAR FOREIGNERS AREN'T FROM THIS VILLAGE!

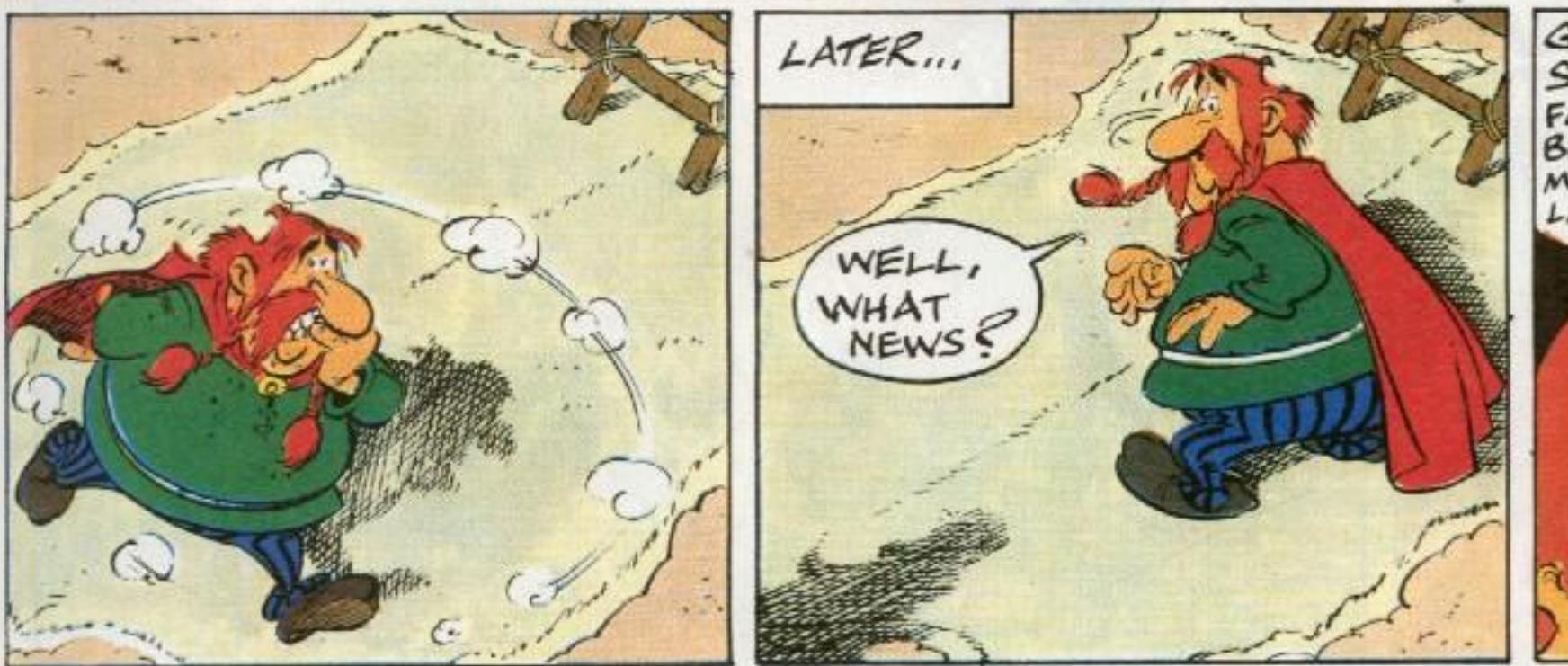
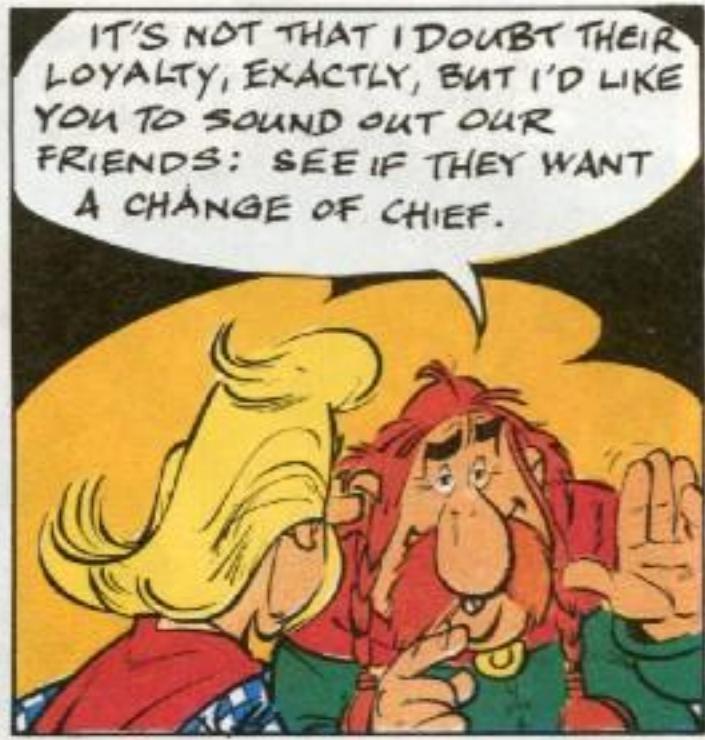
AS FOR THAT GIRL, SHE HAS THE MOST APPALLING TASTE!

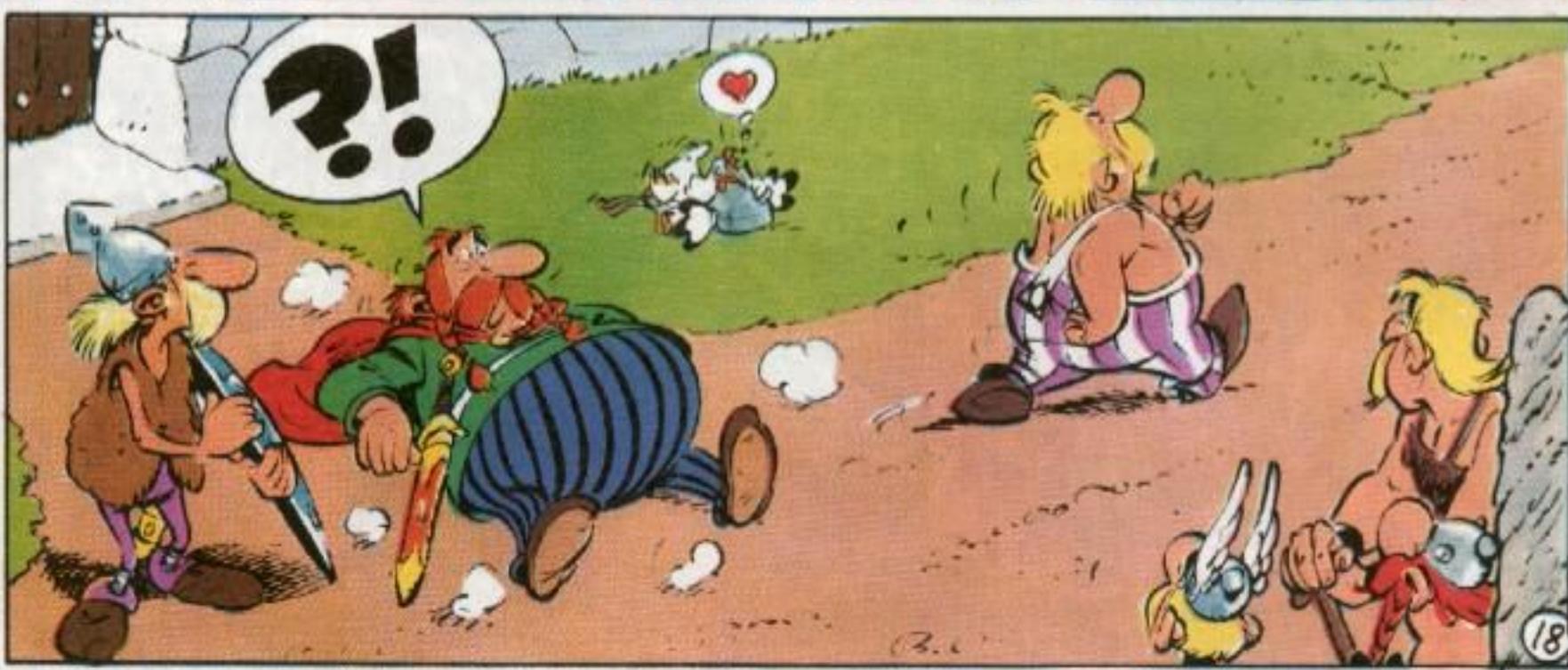
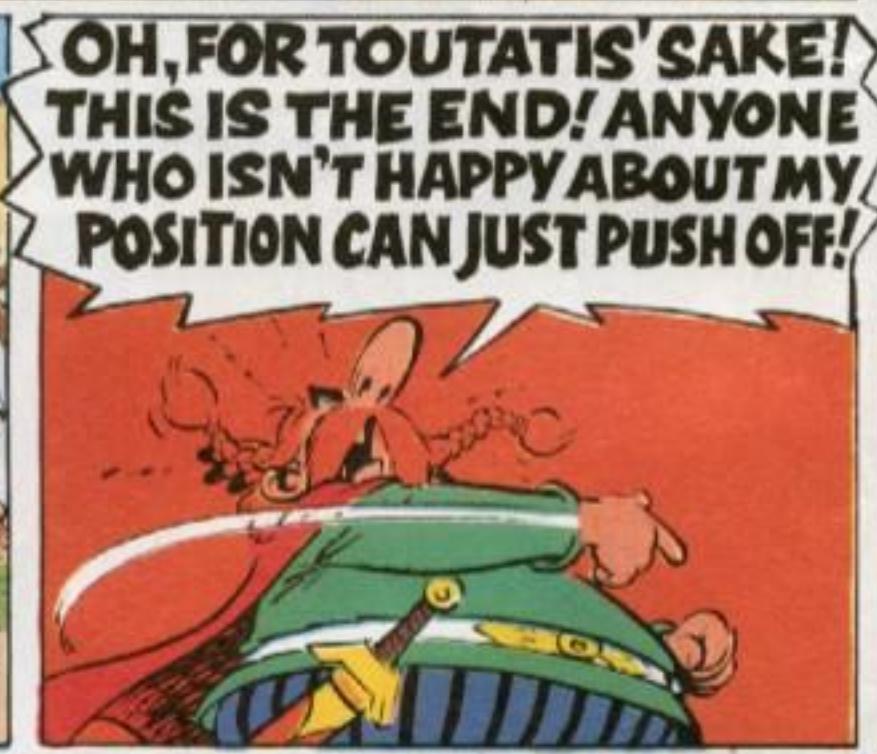
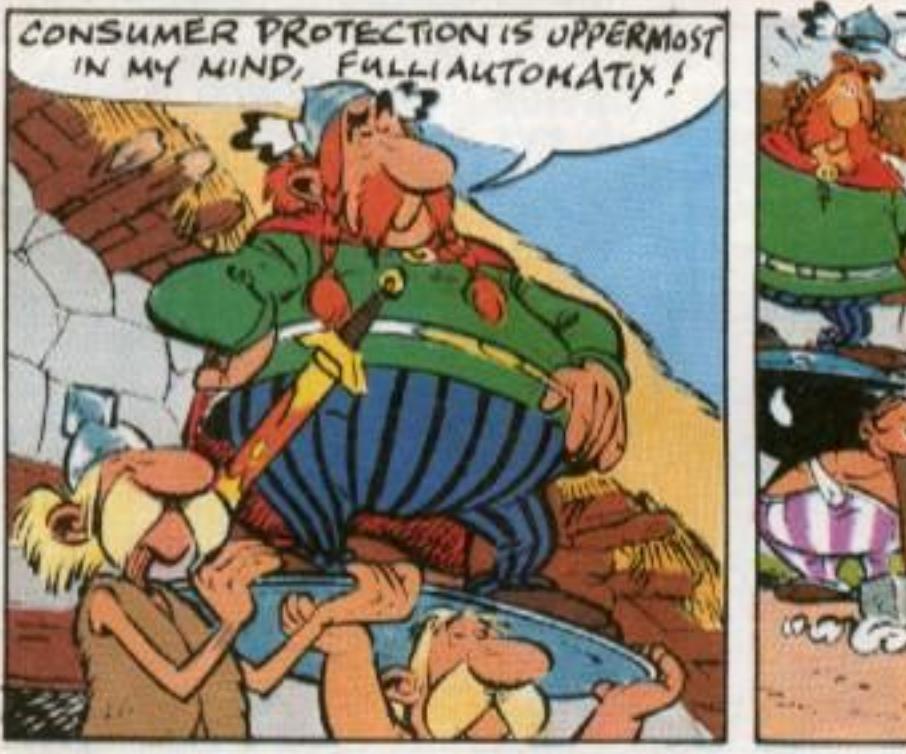
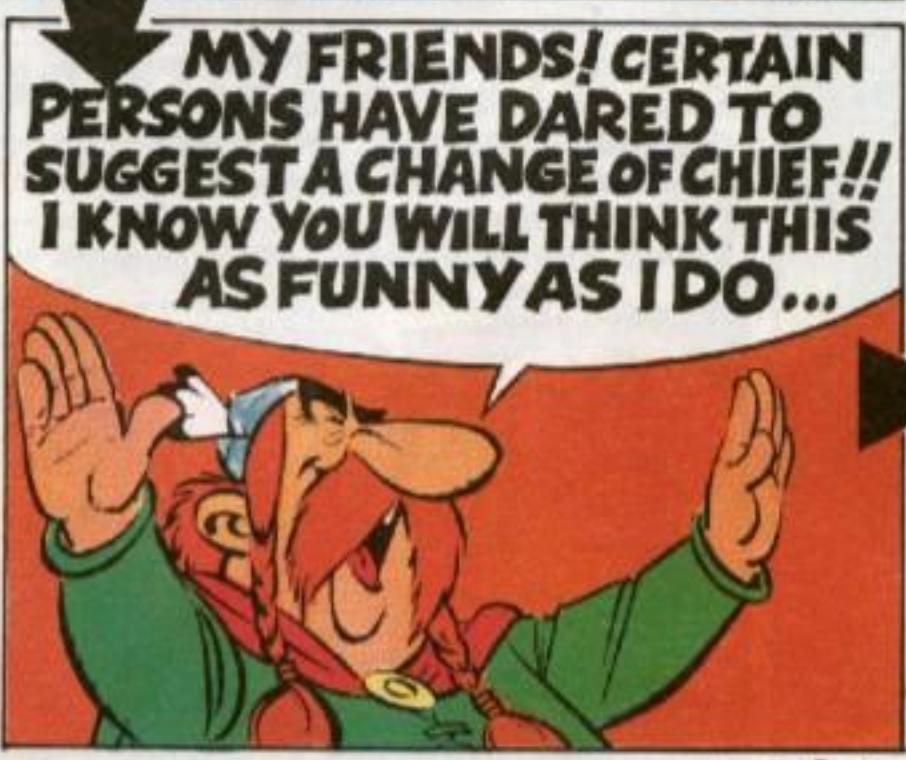


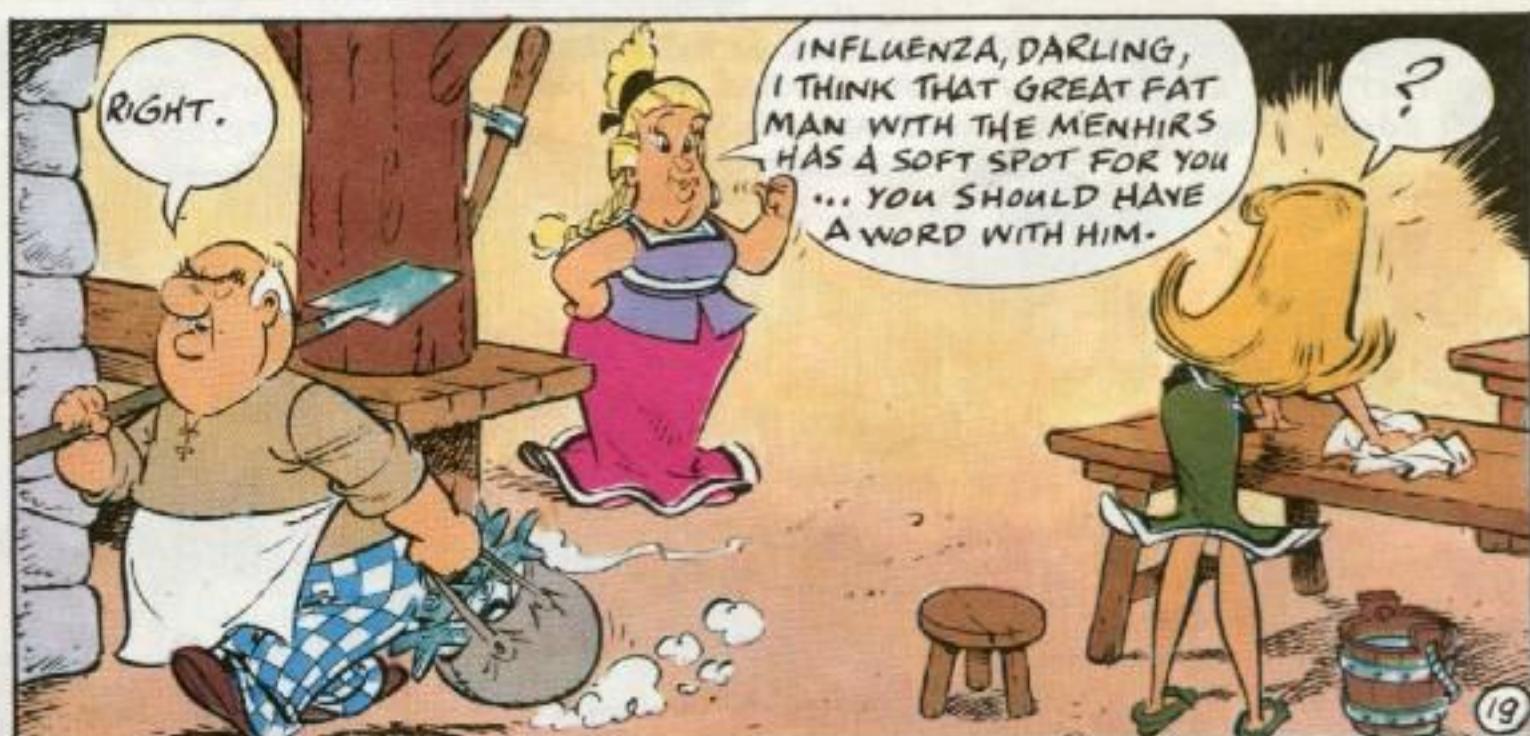
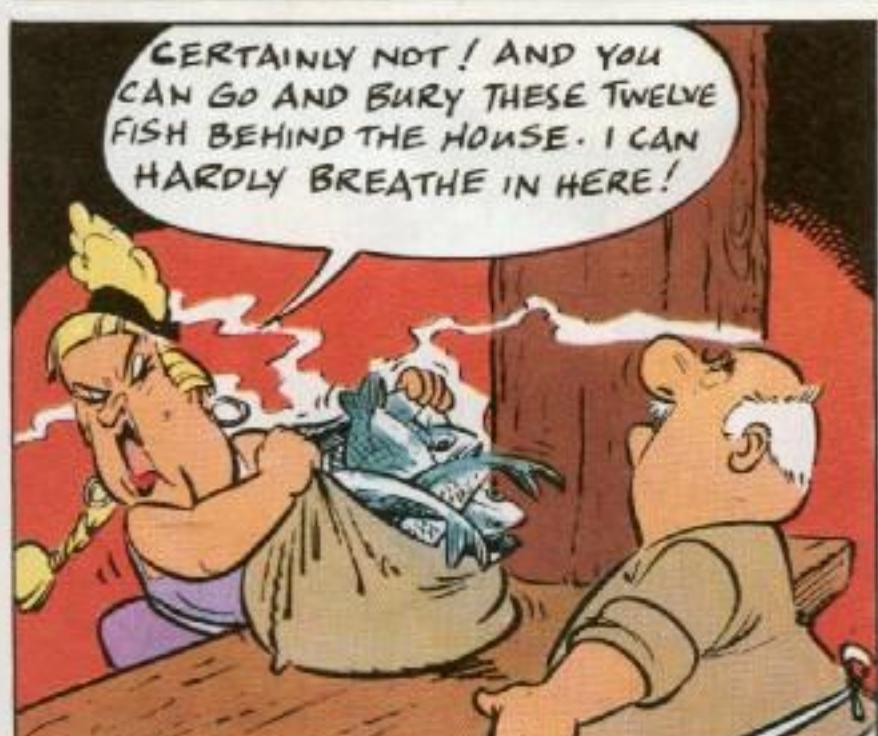
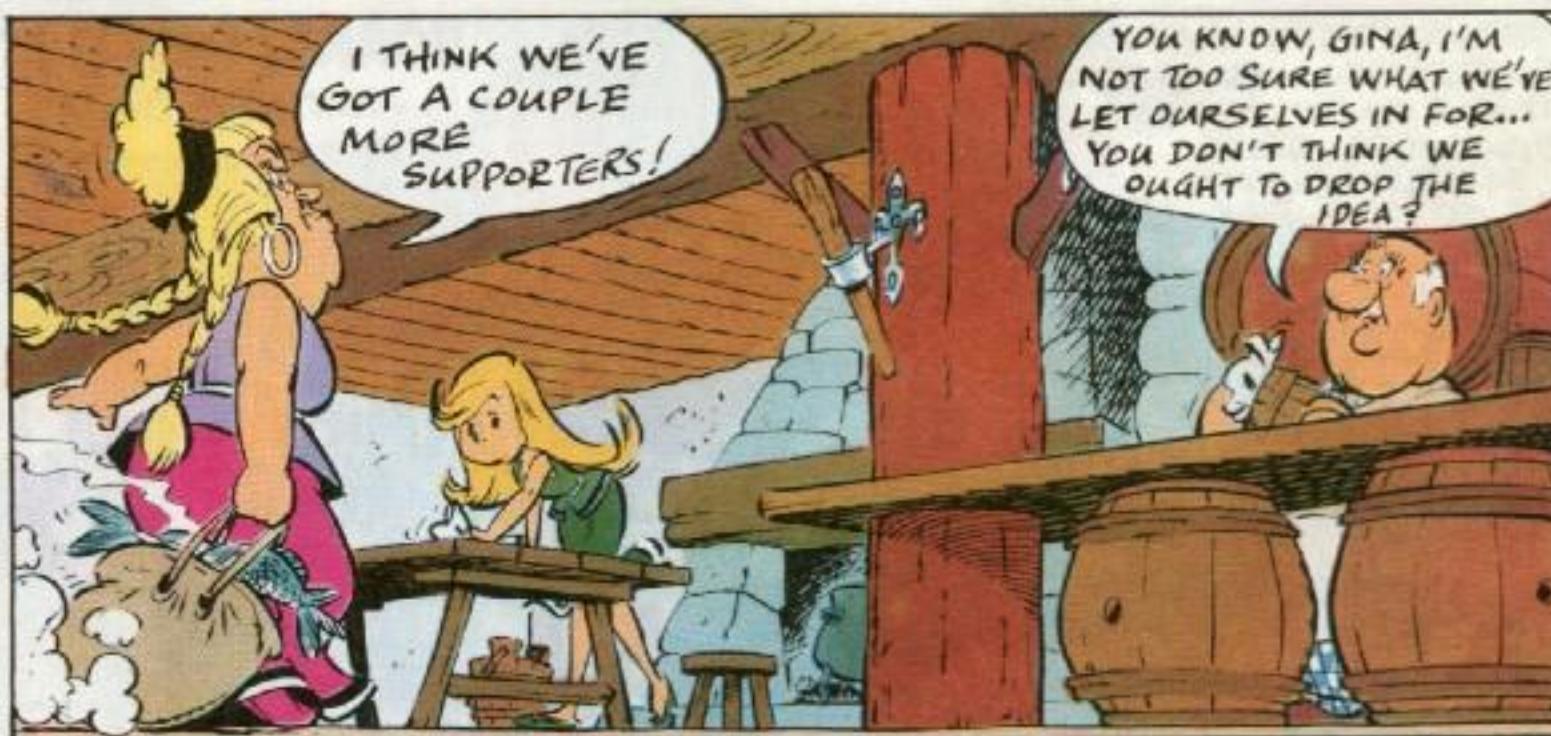
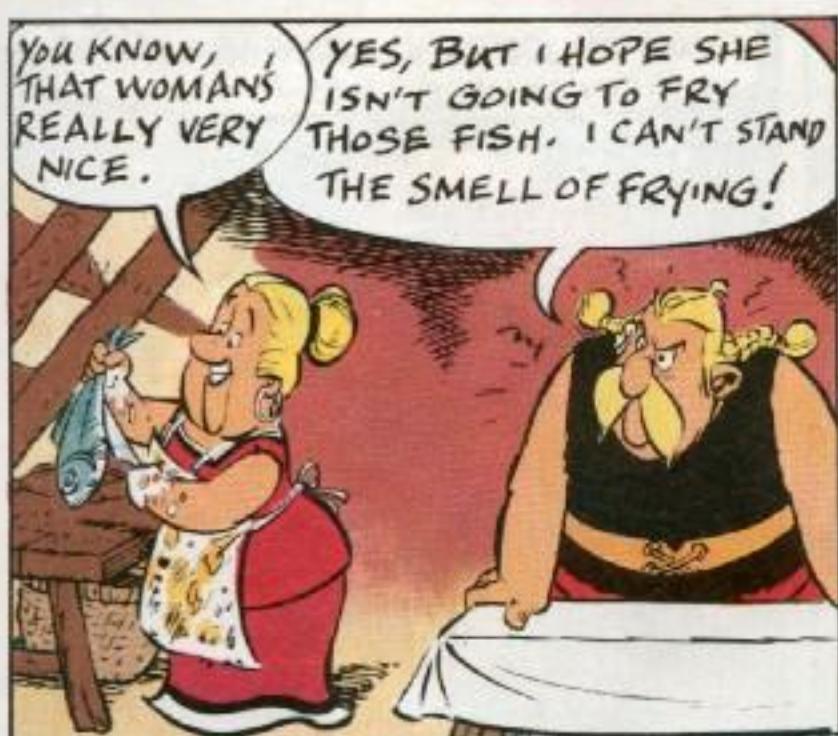
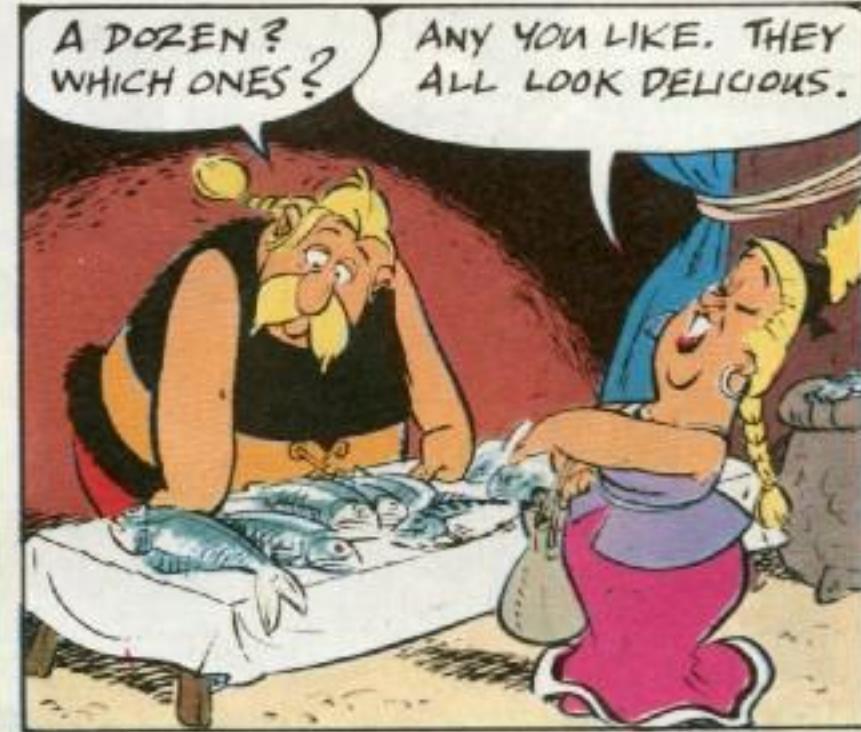
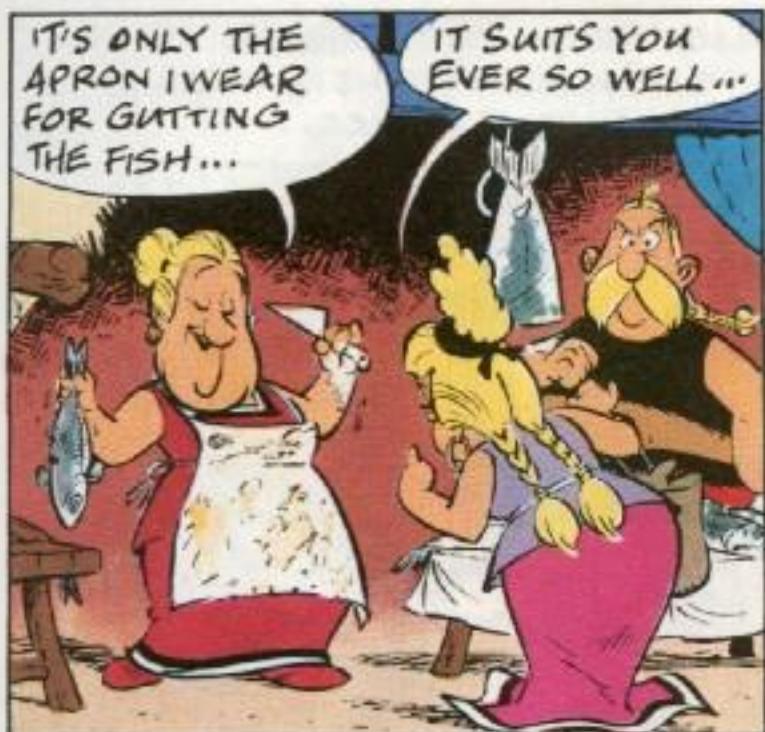
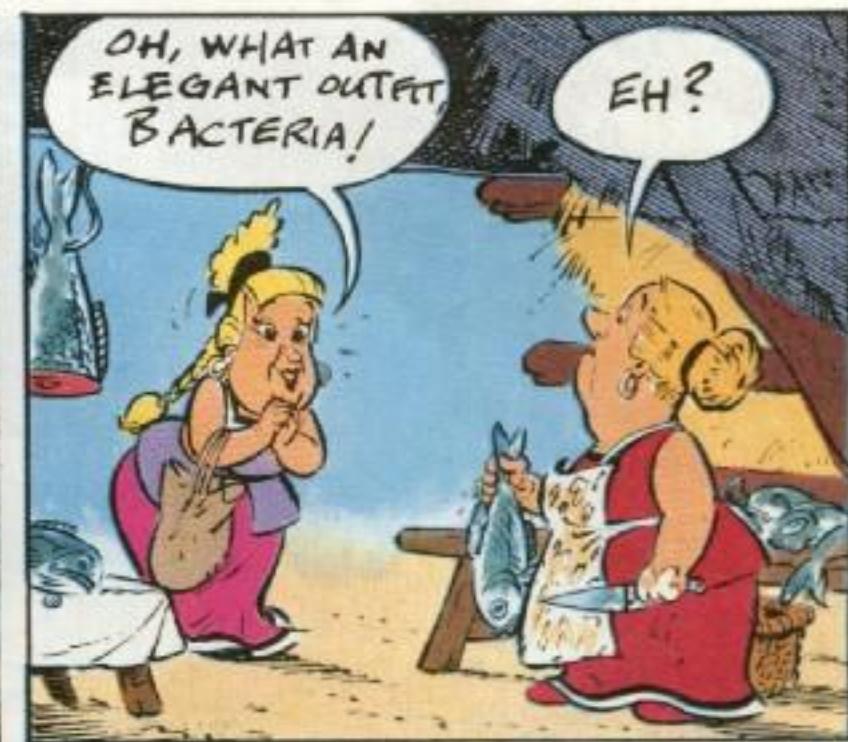
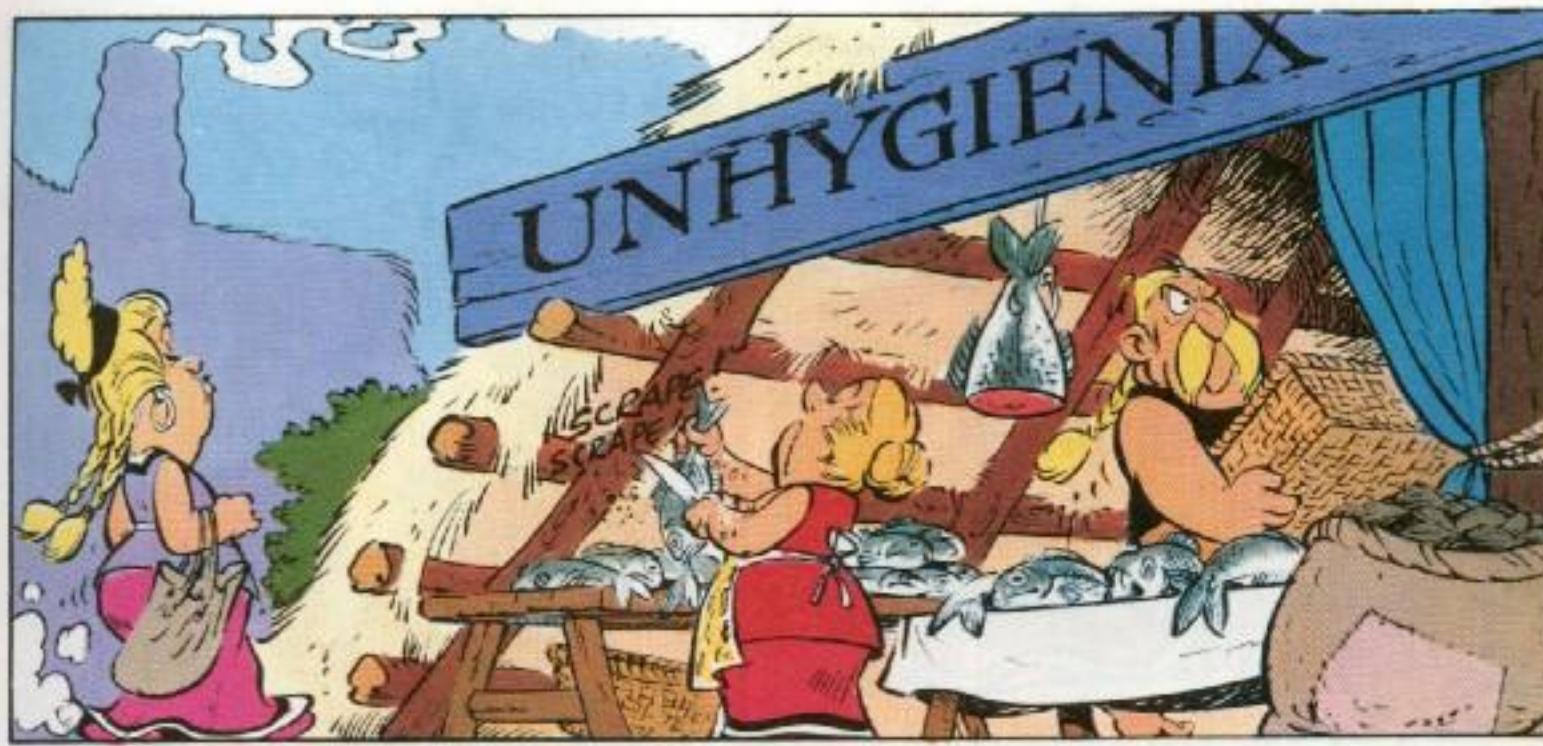


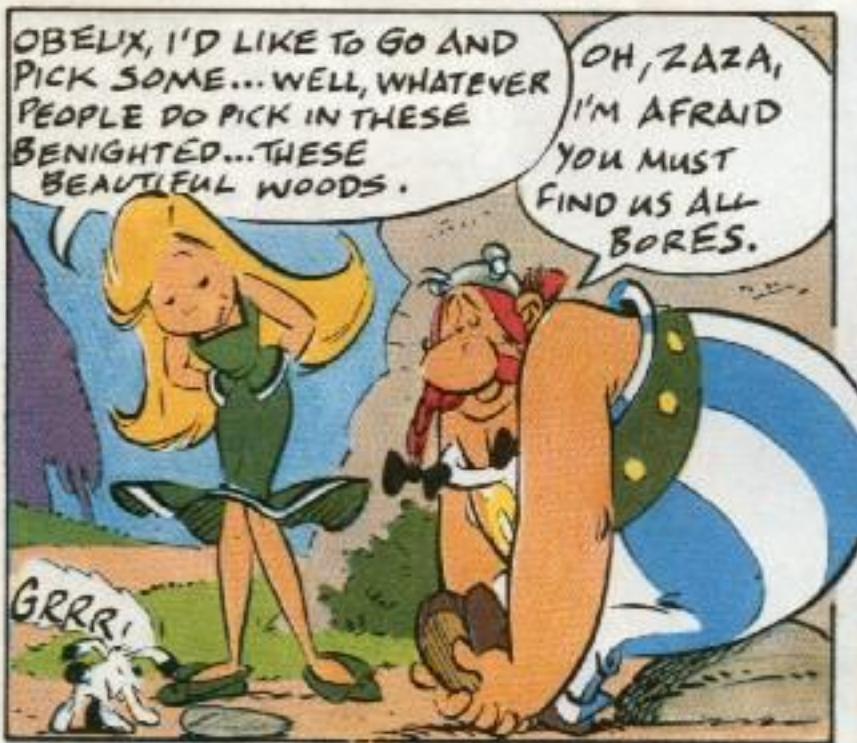
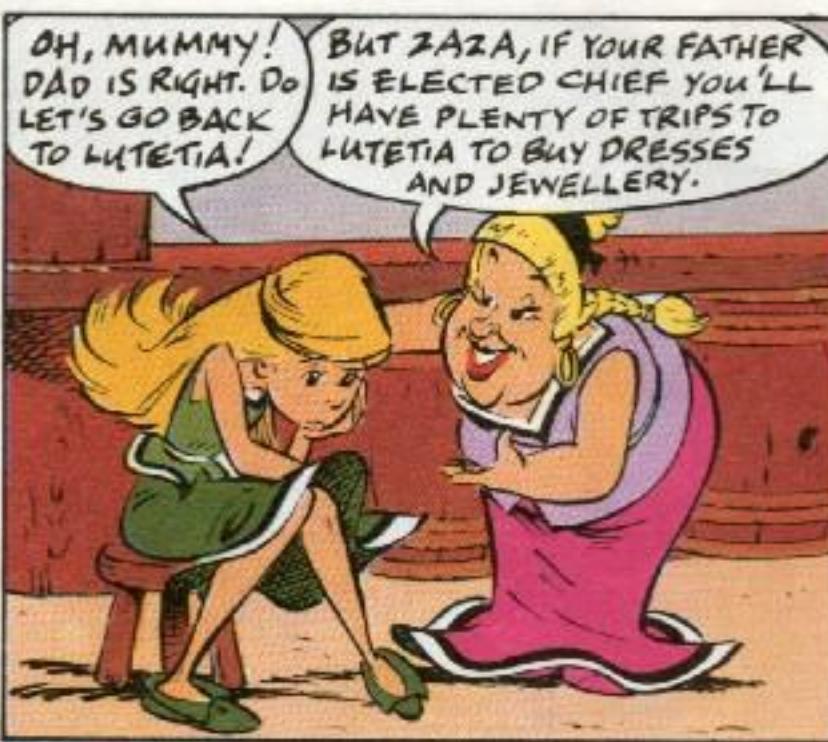
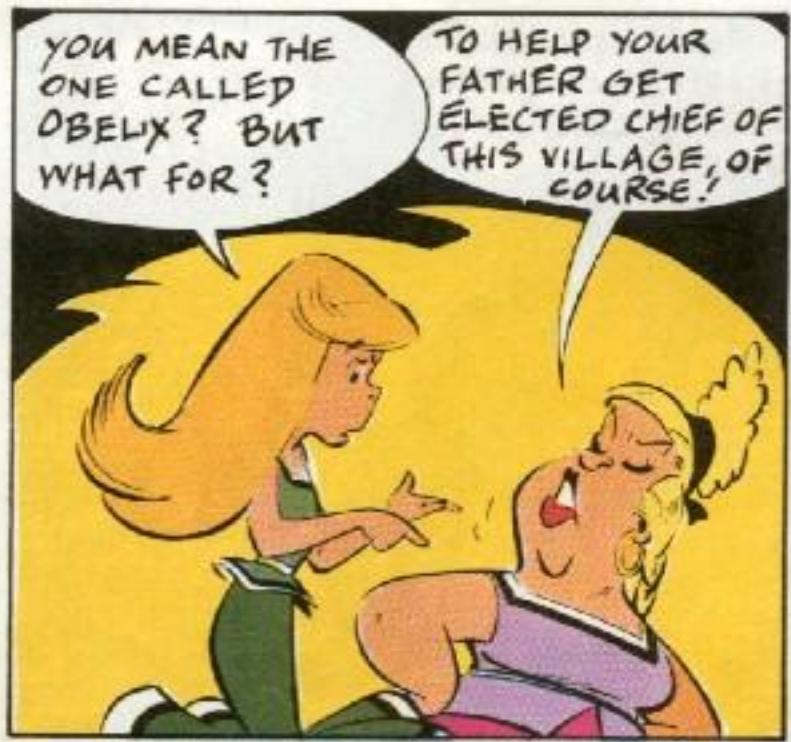


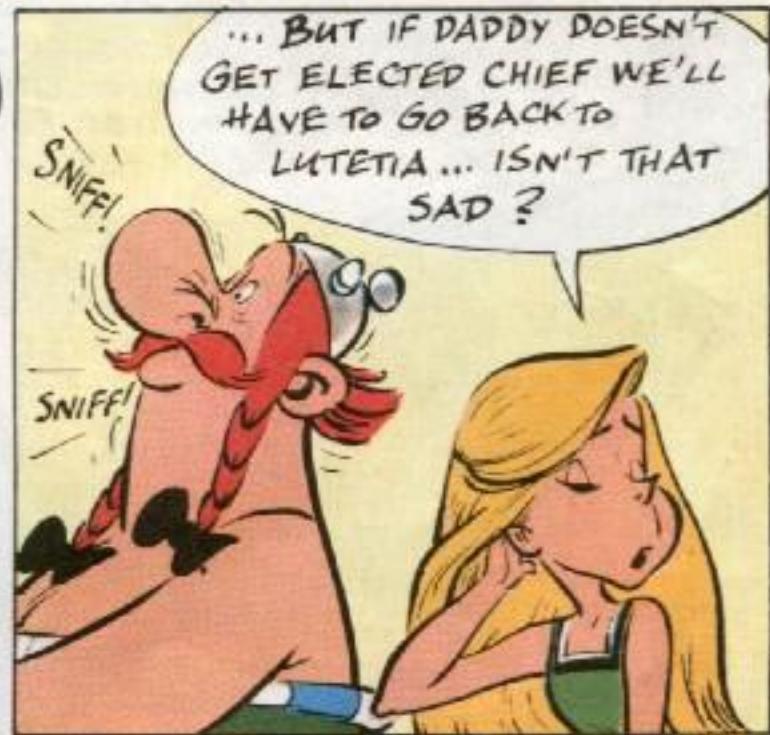
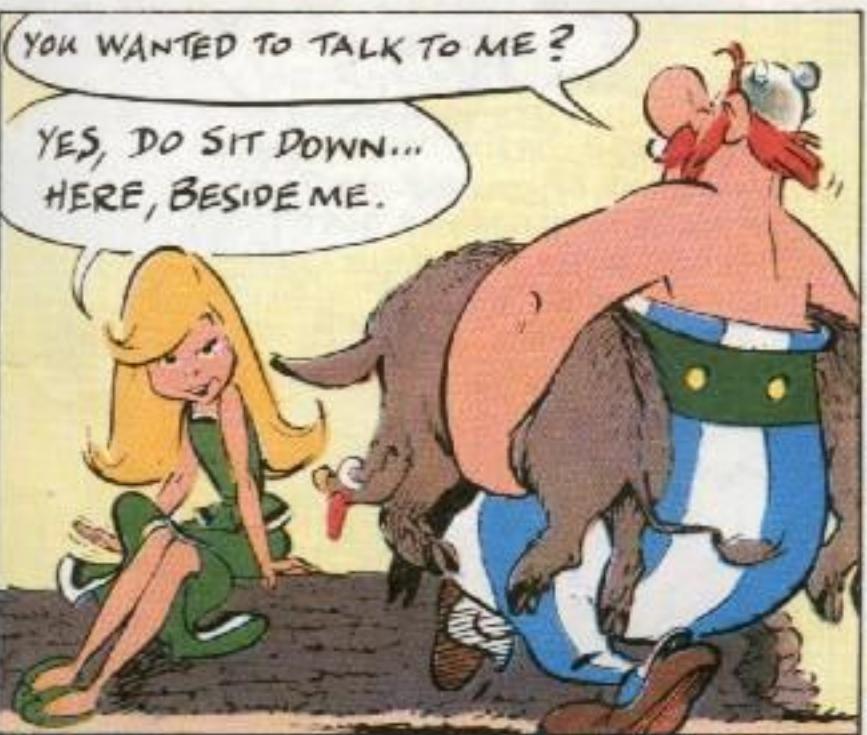
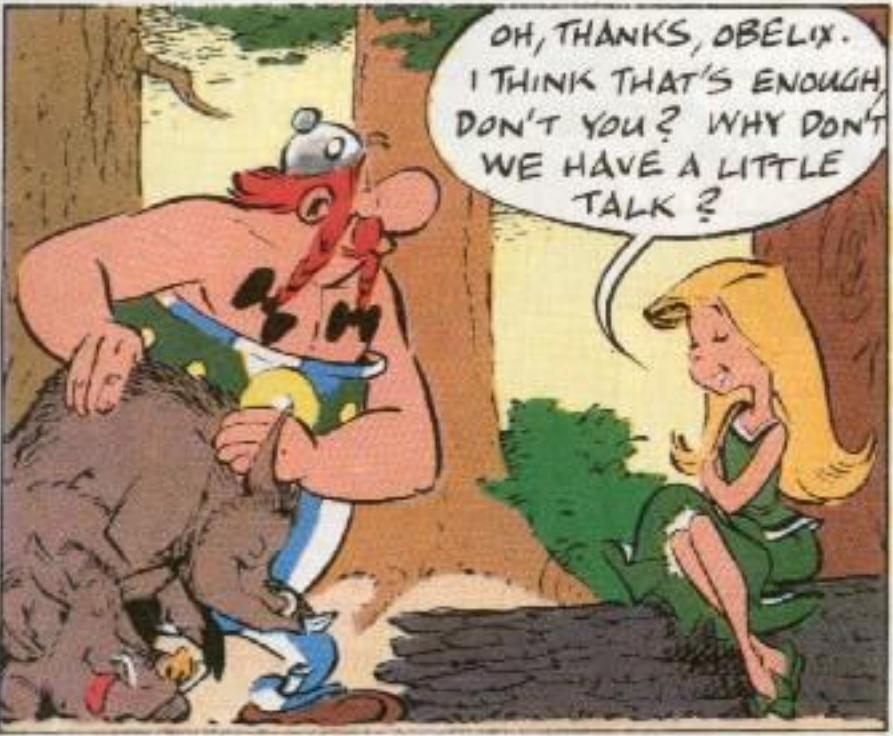
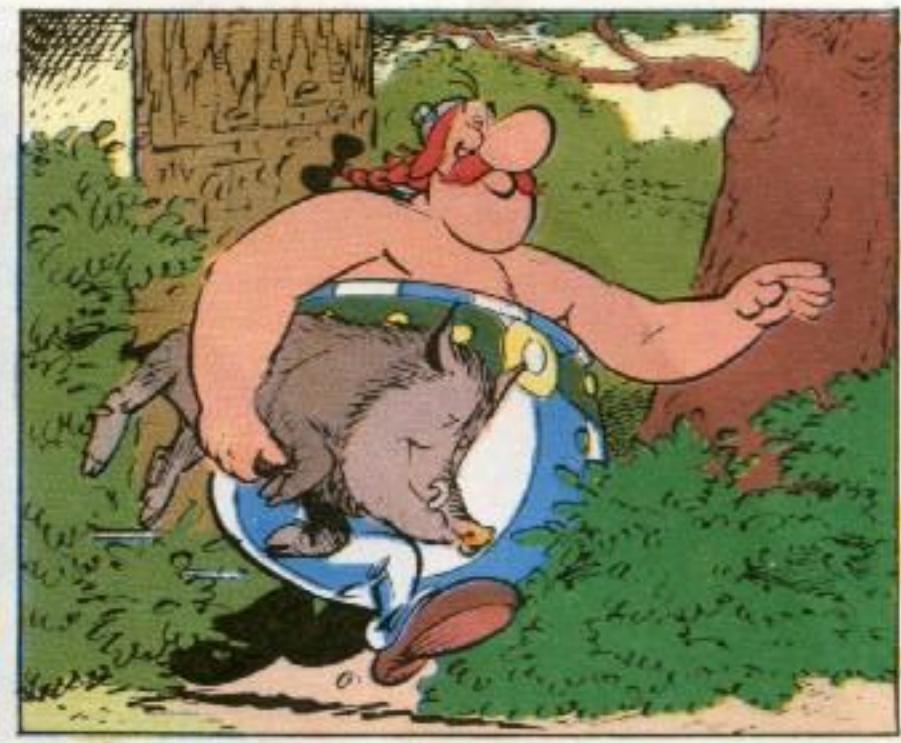
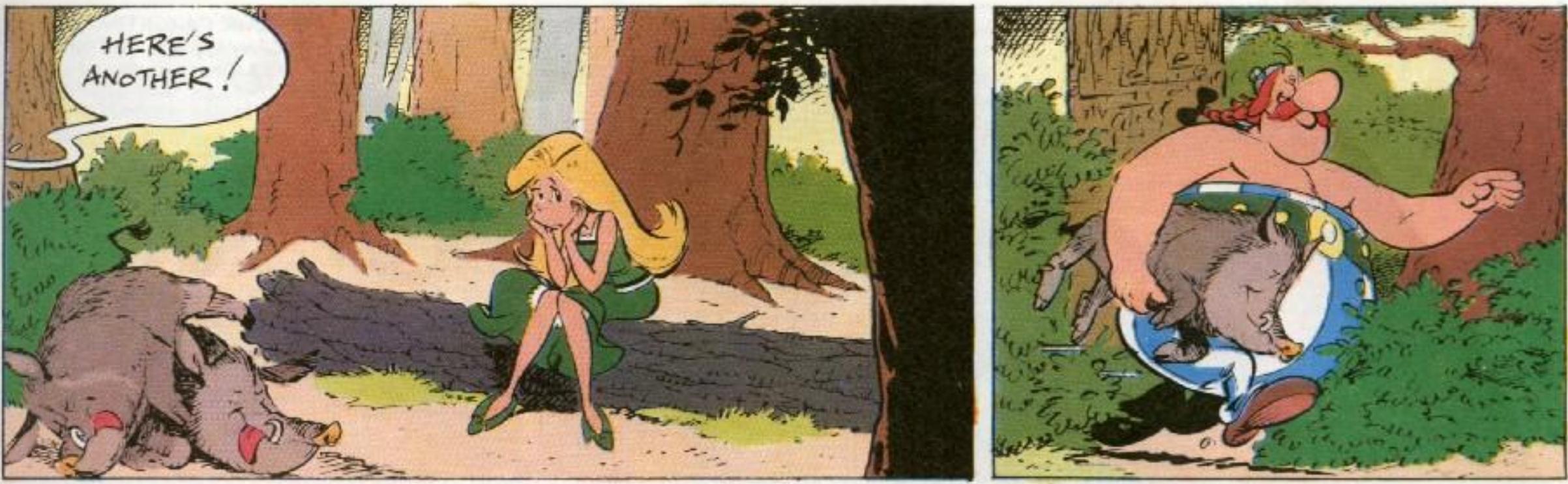


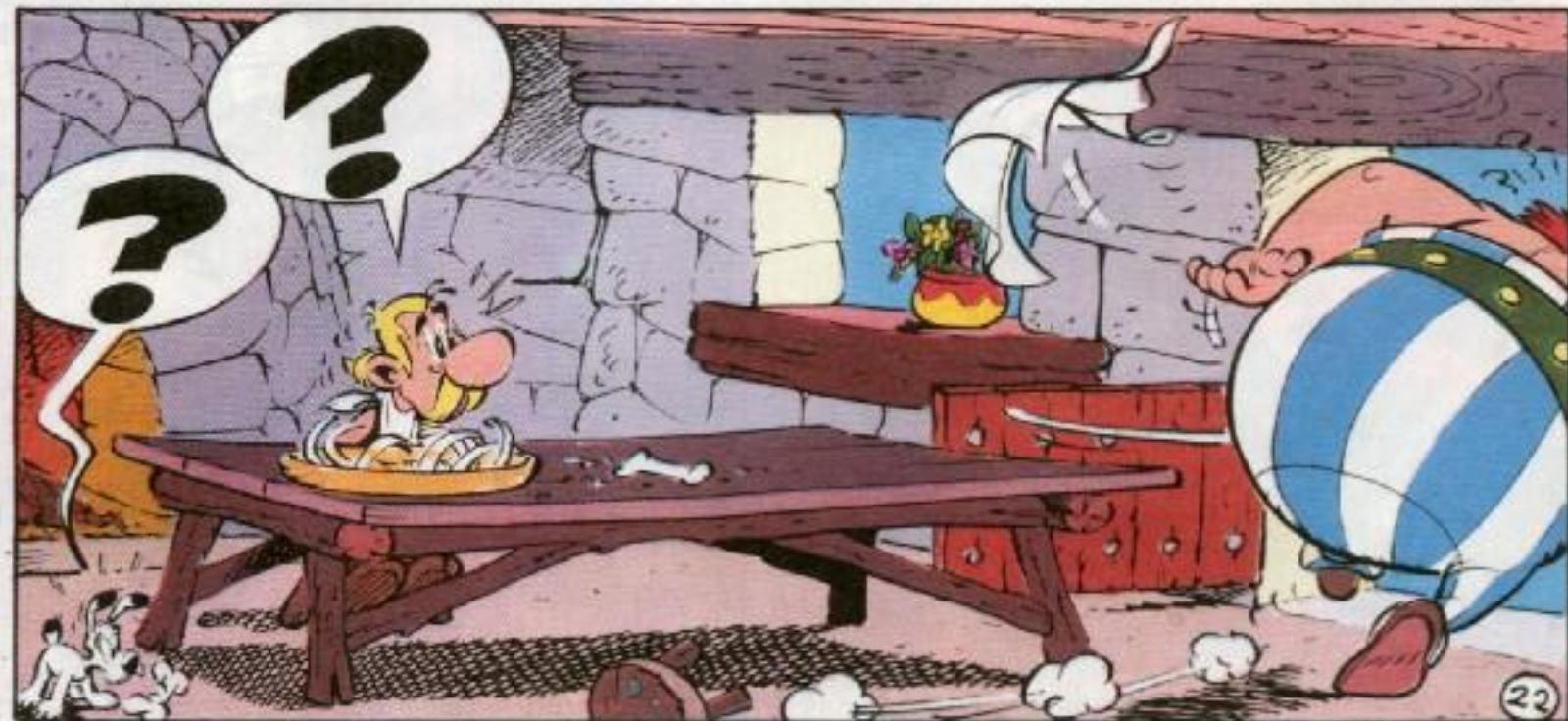
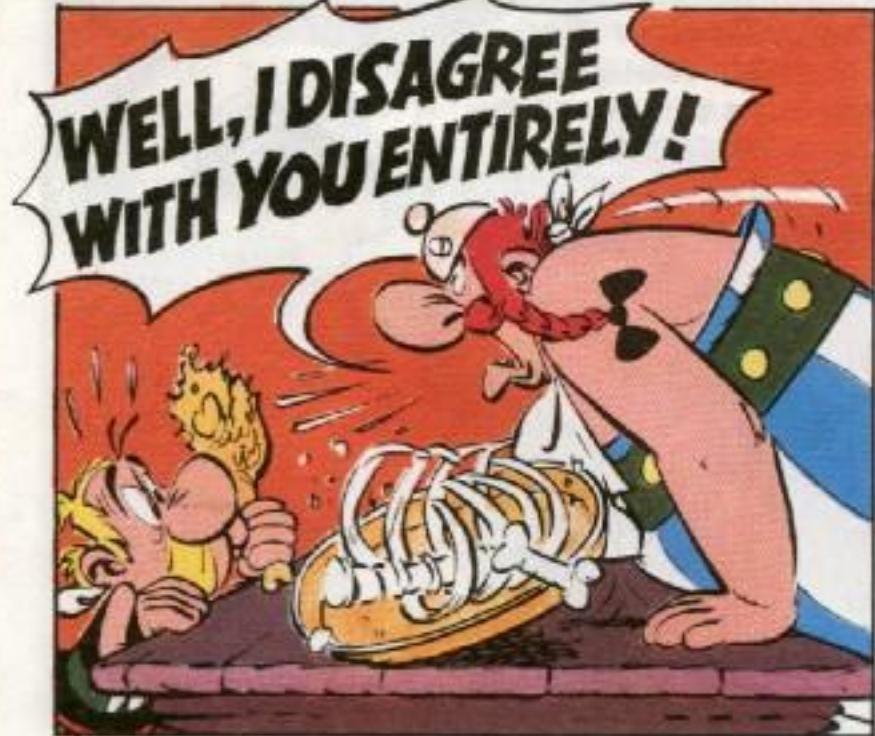
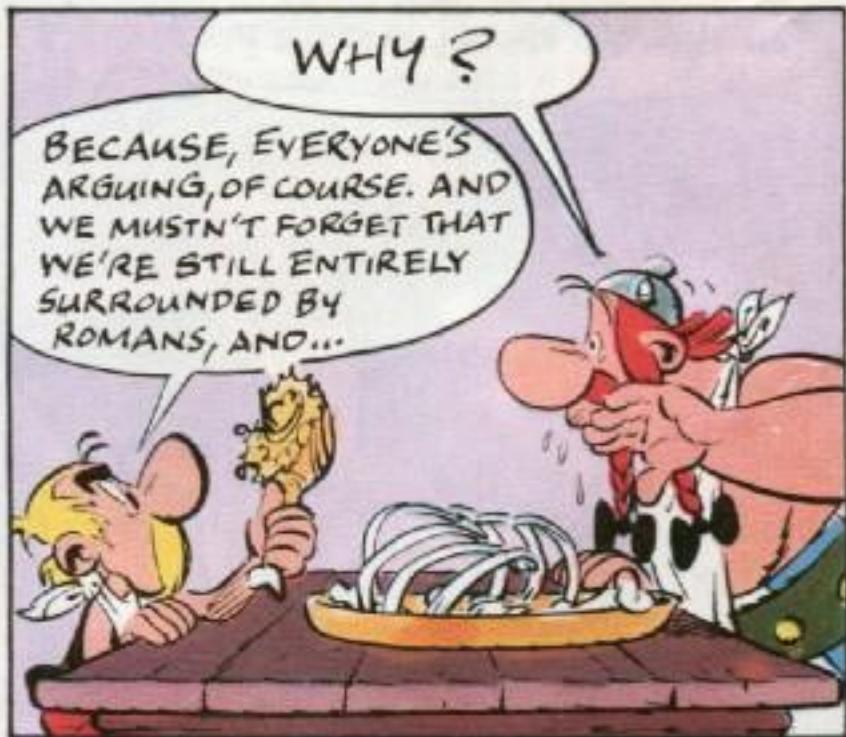
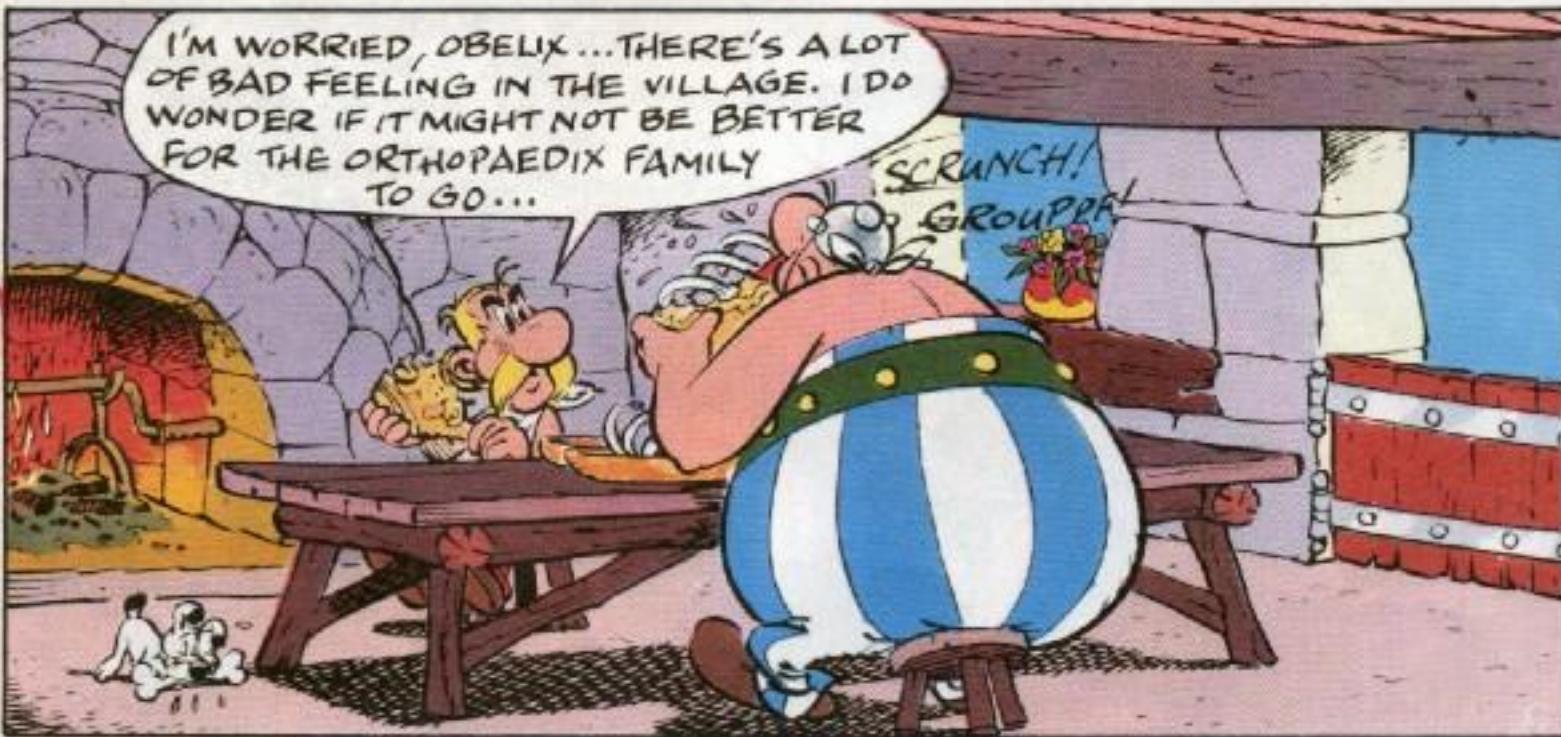
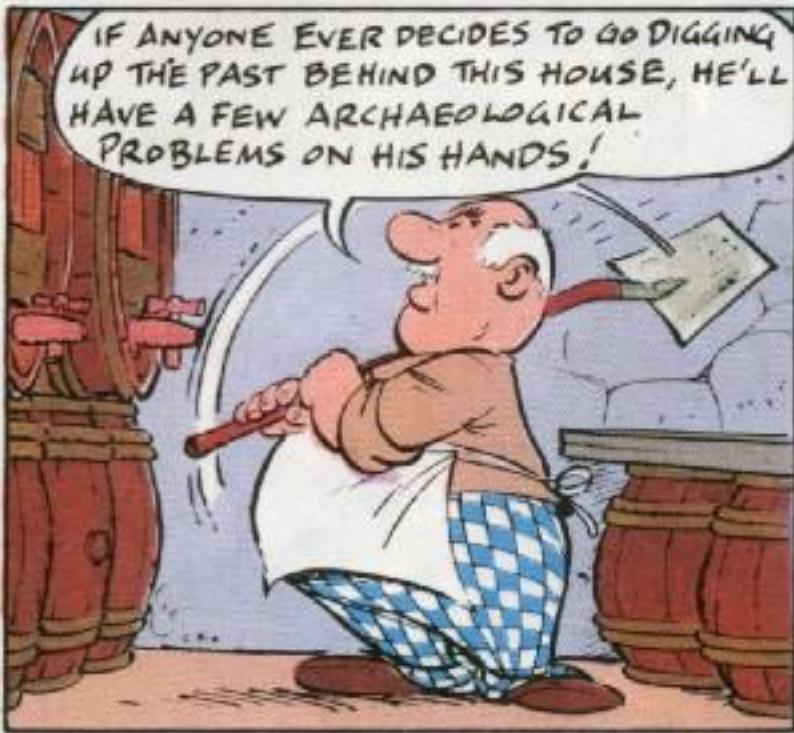
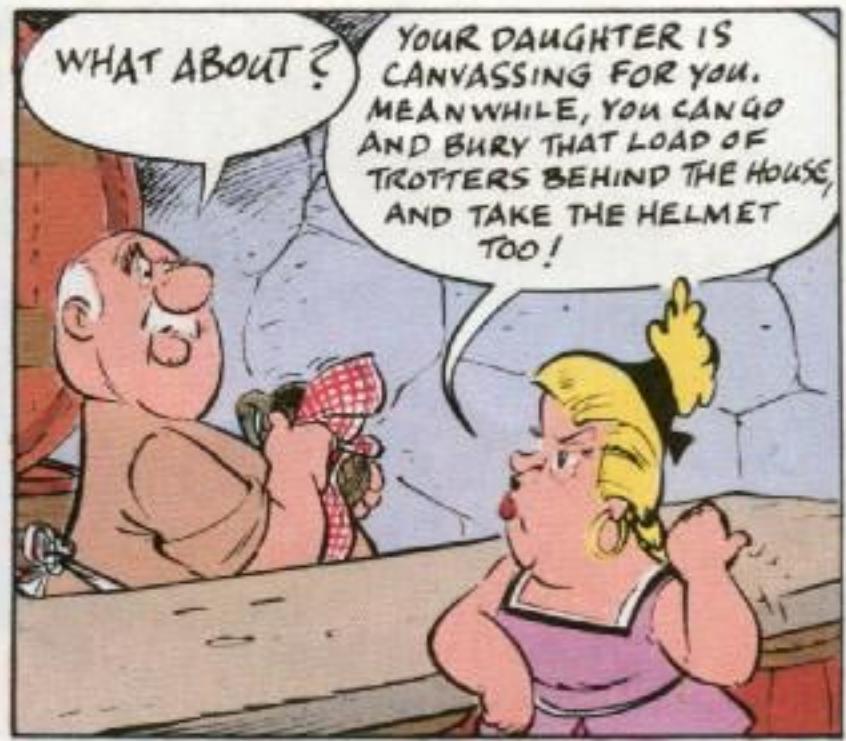
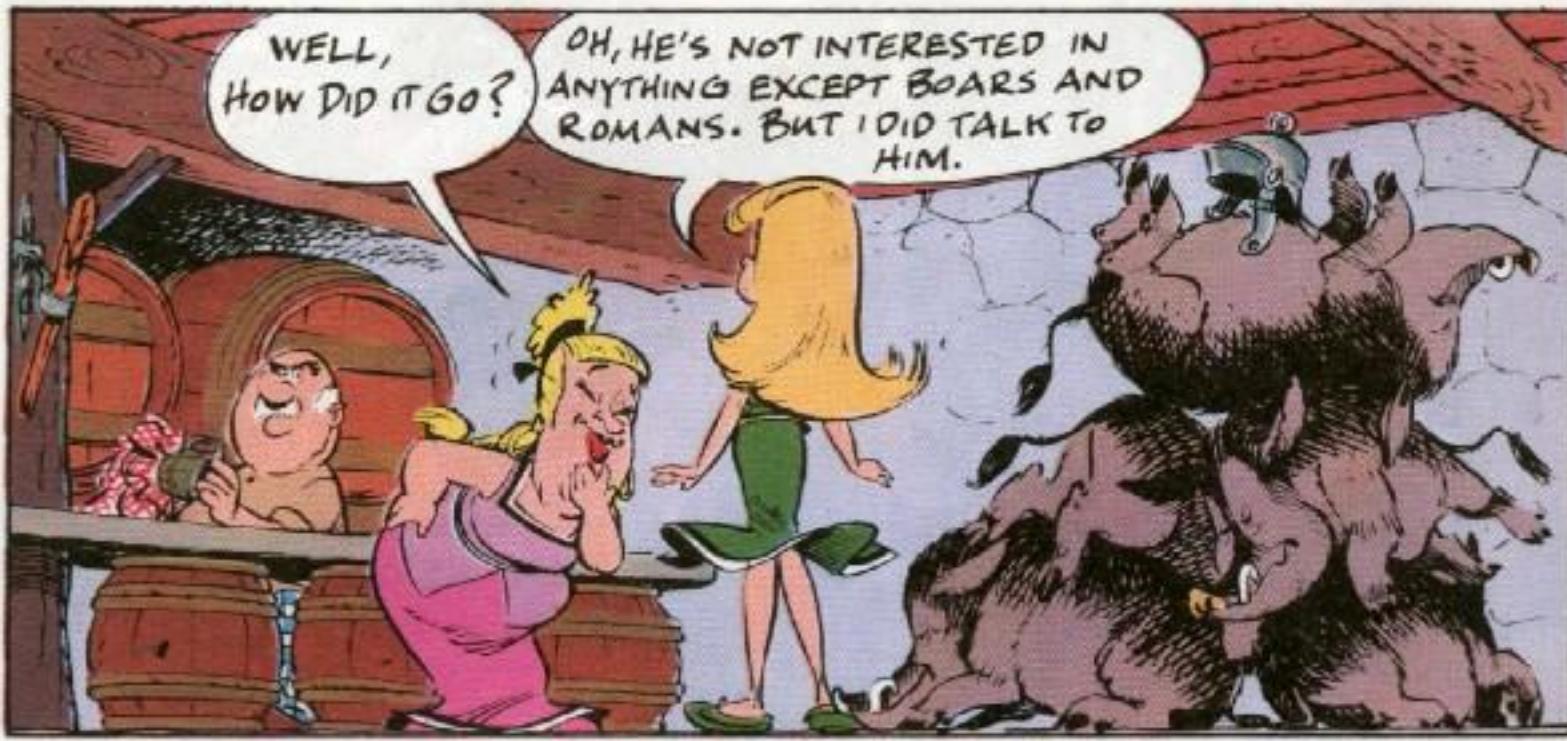


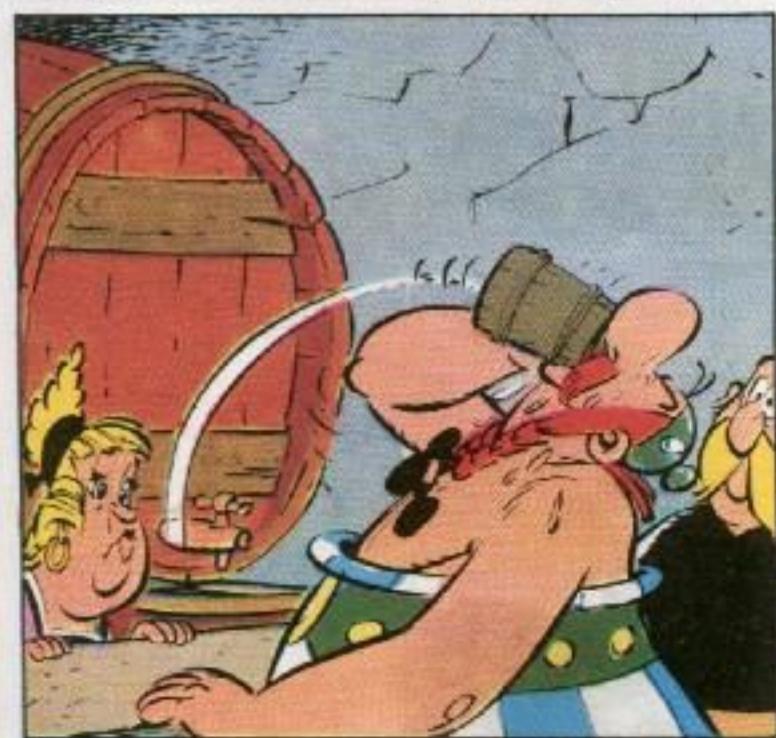
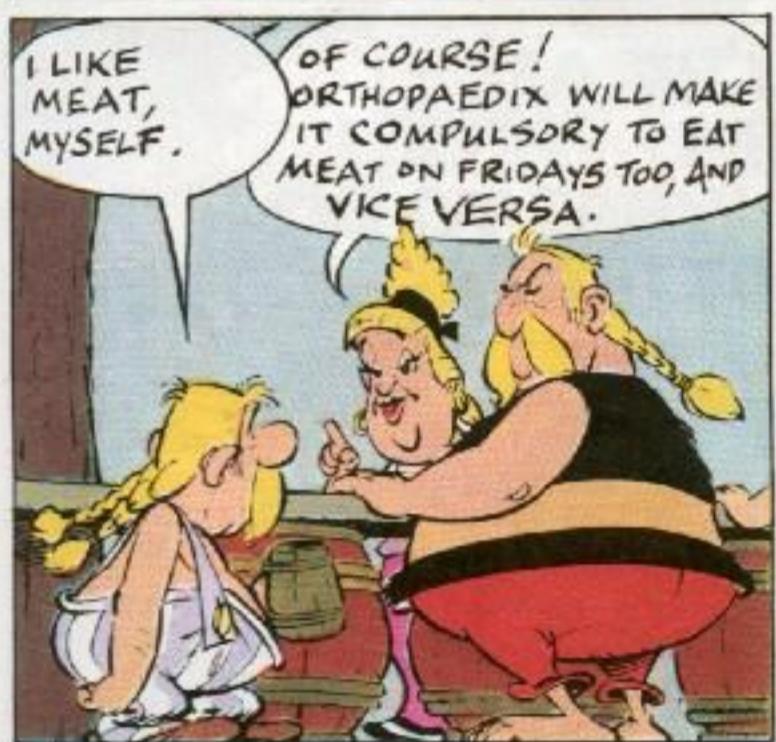
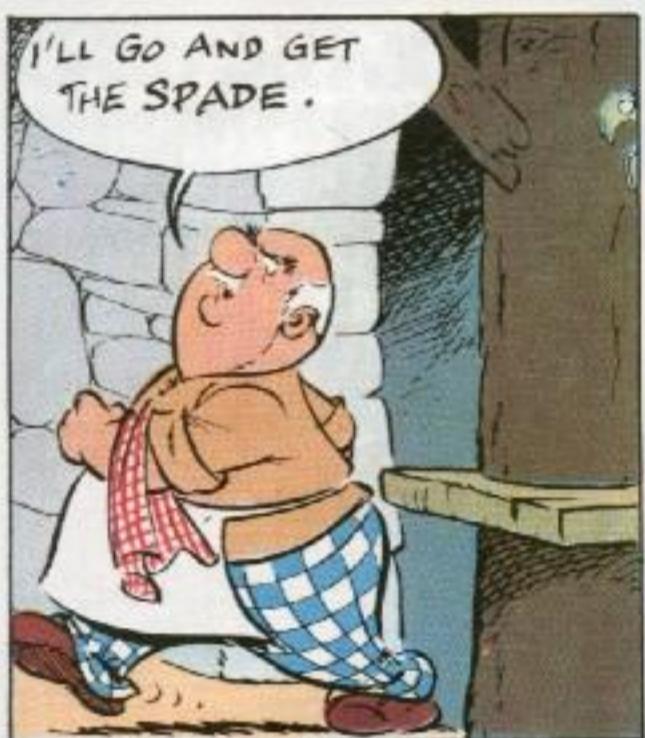
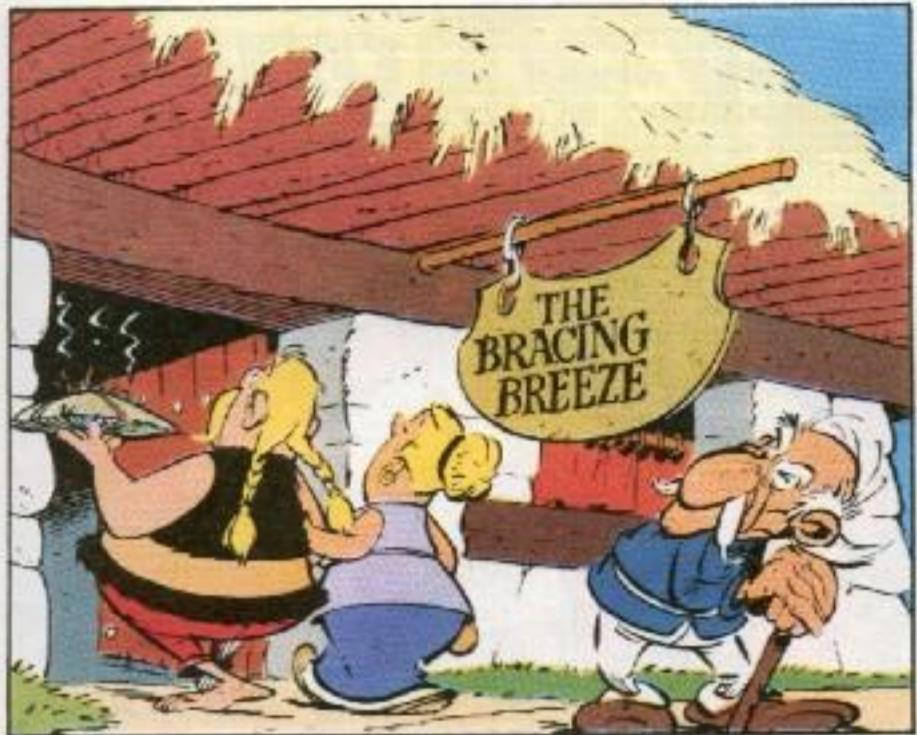


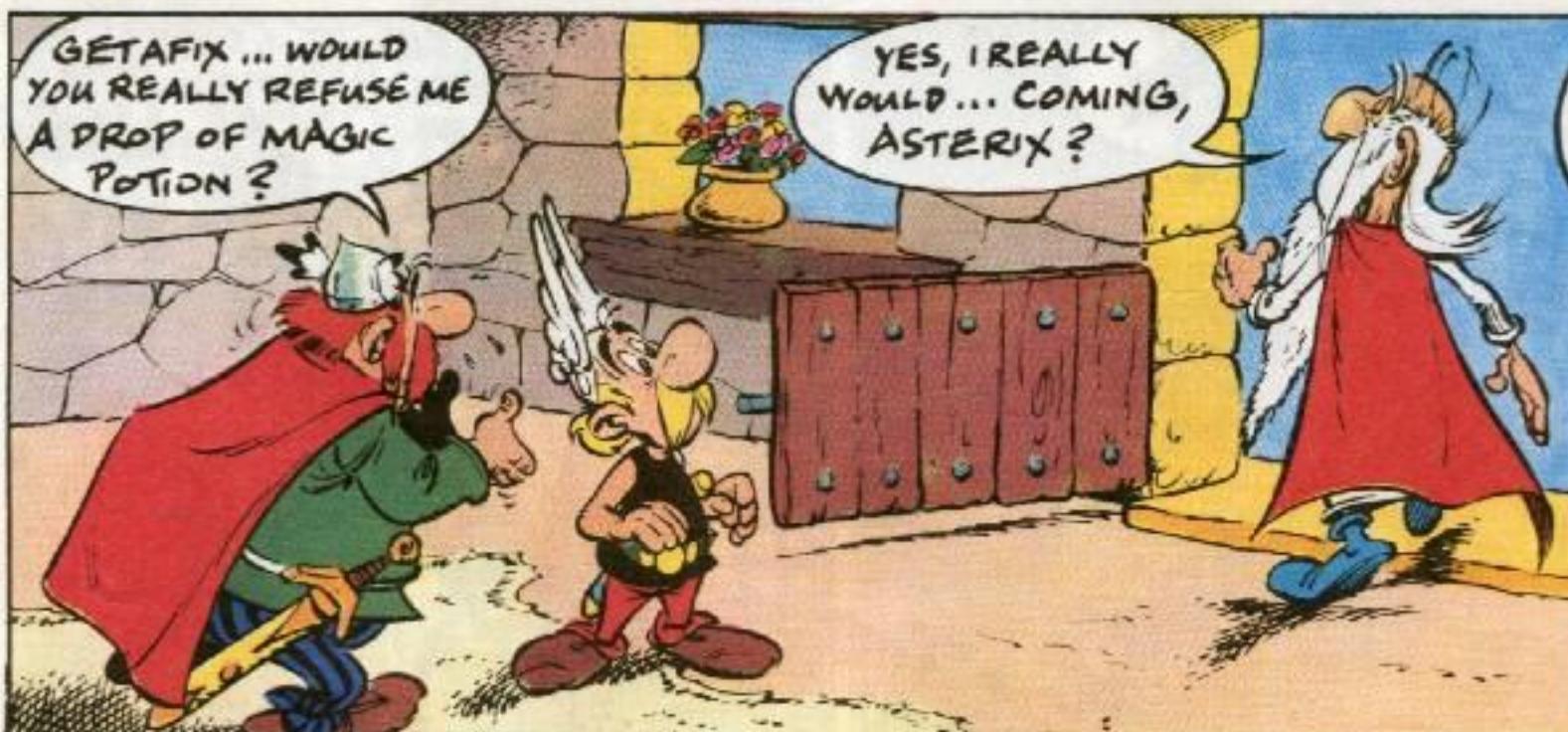
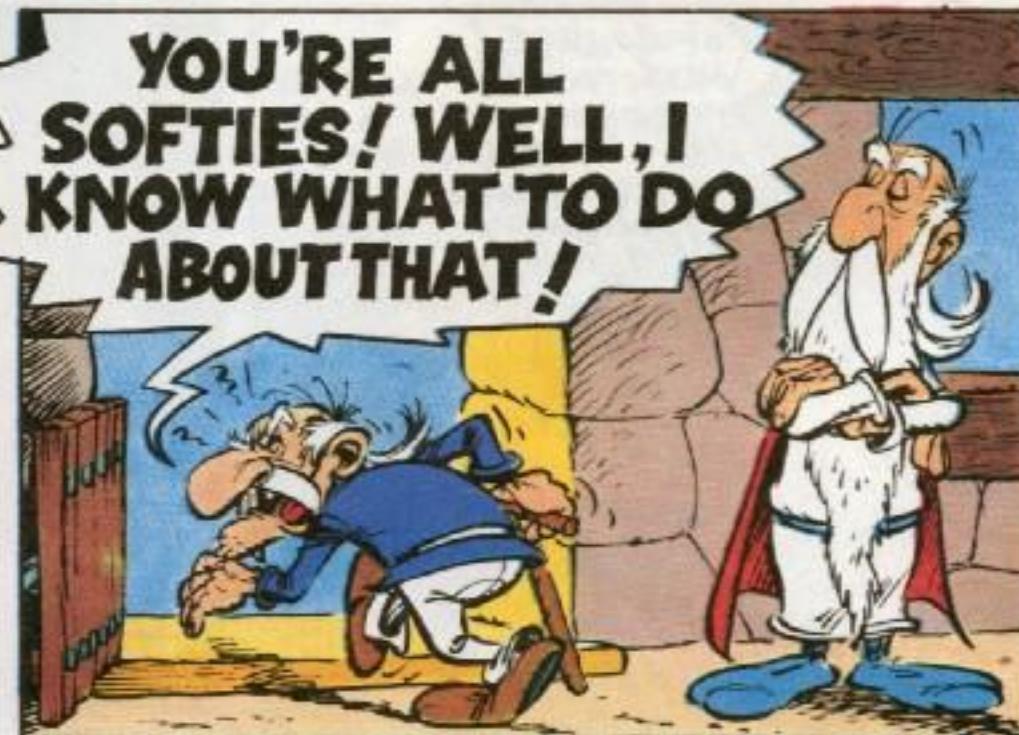
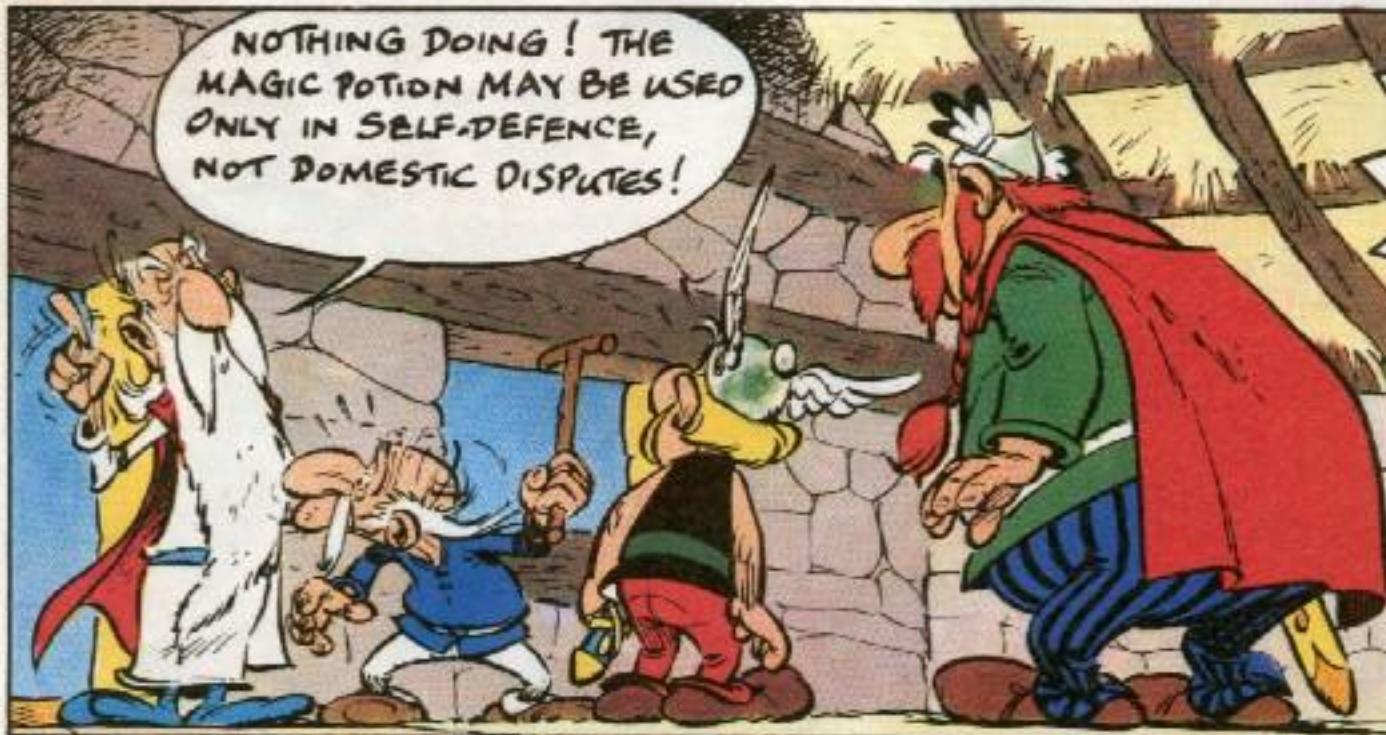
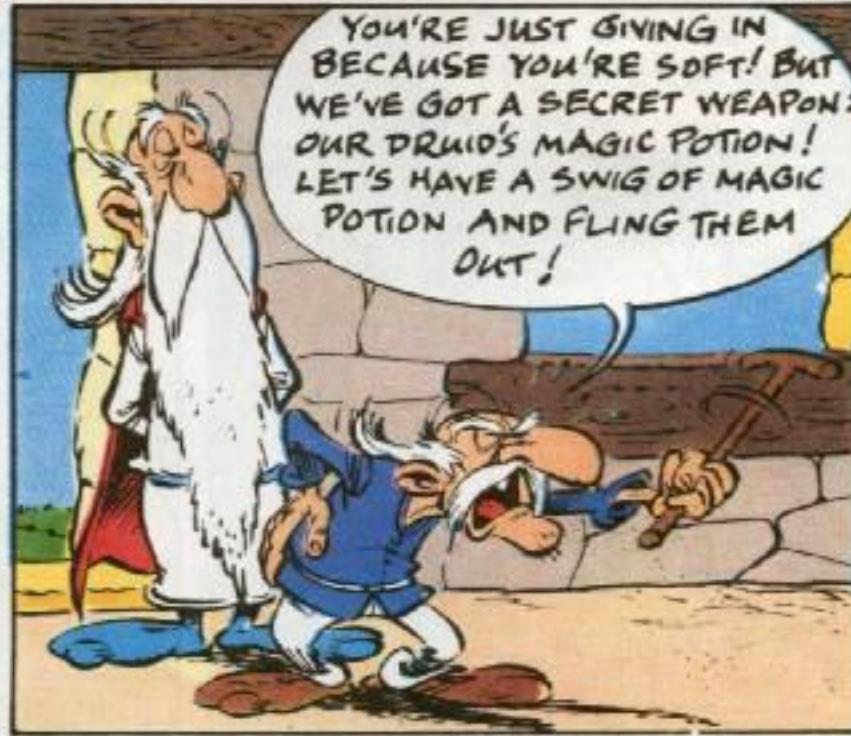
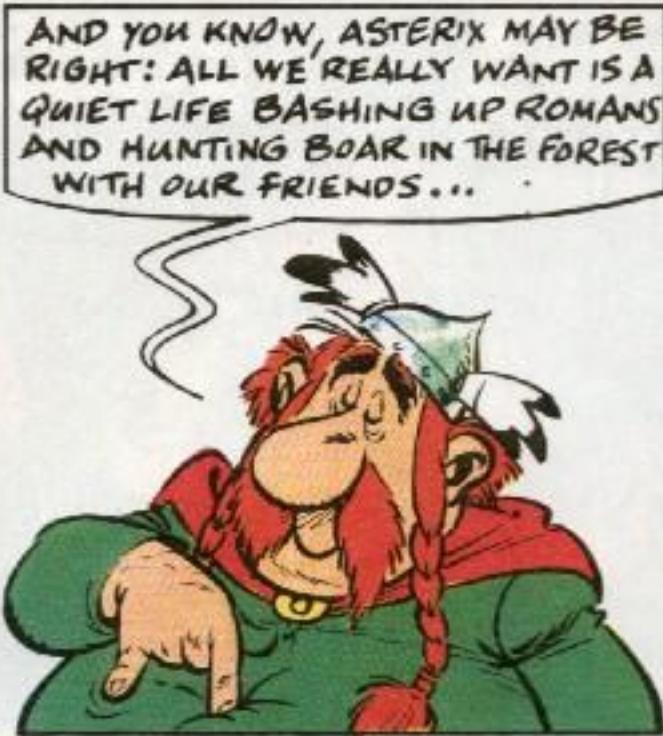
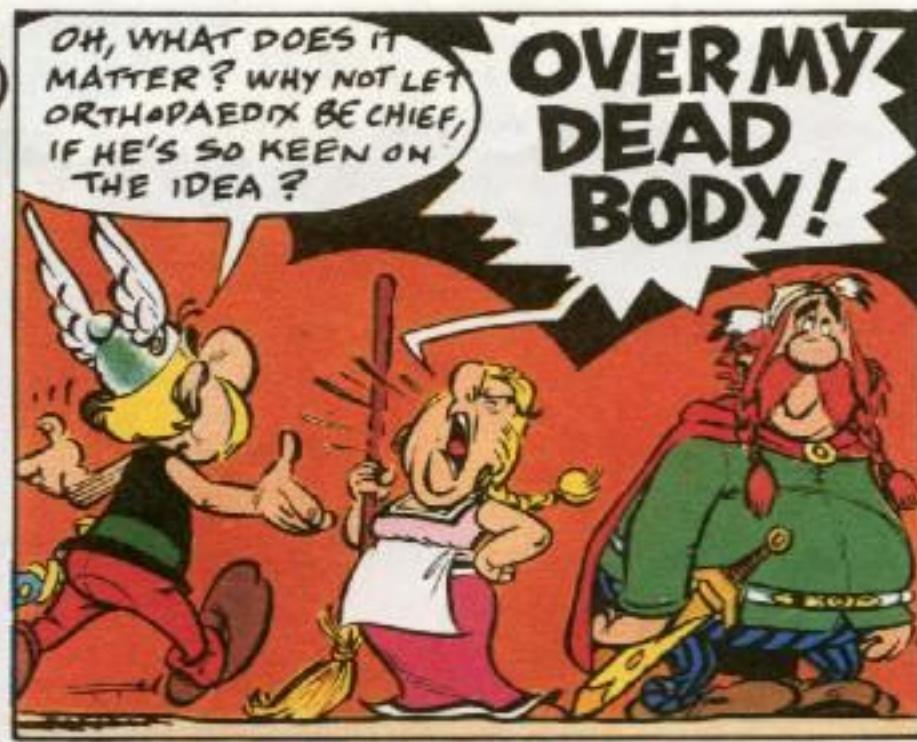


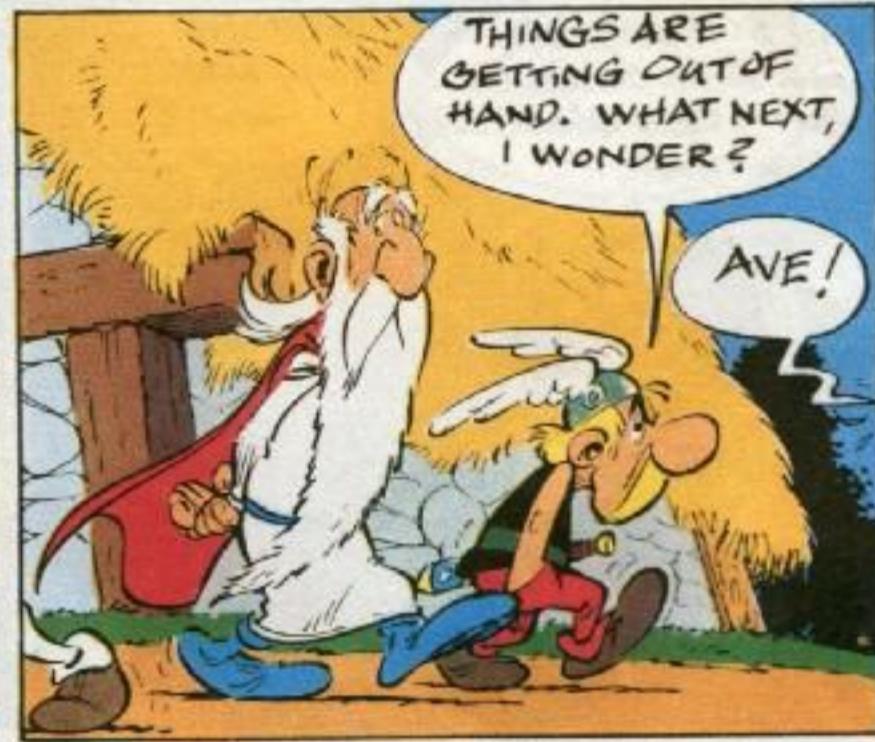
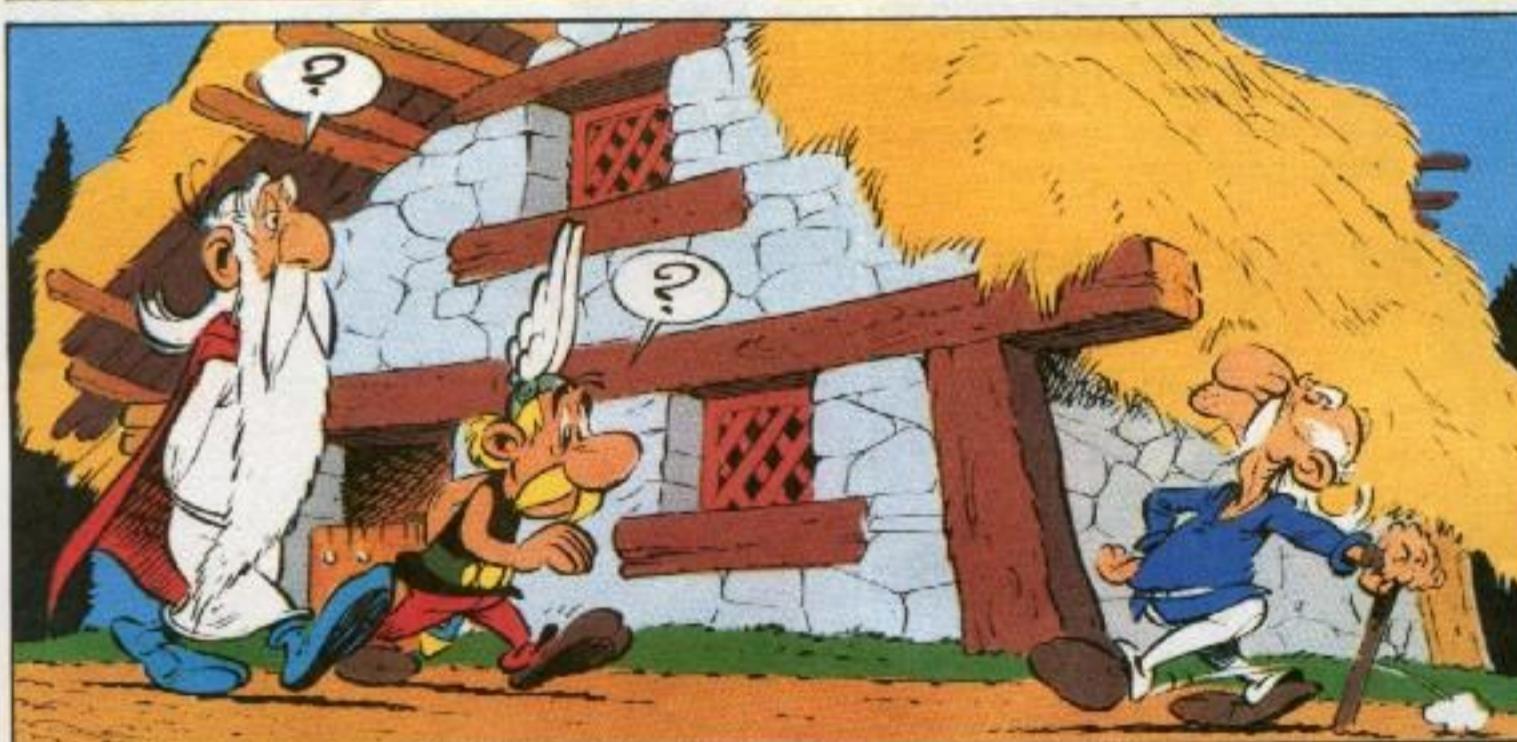
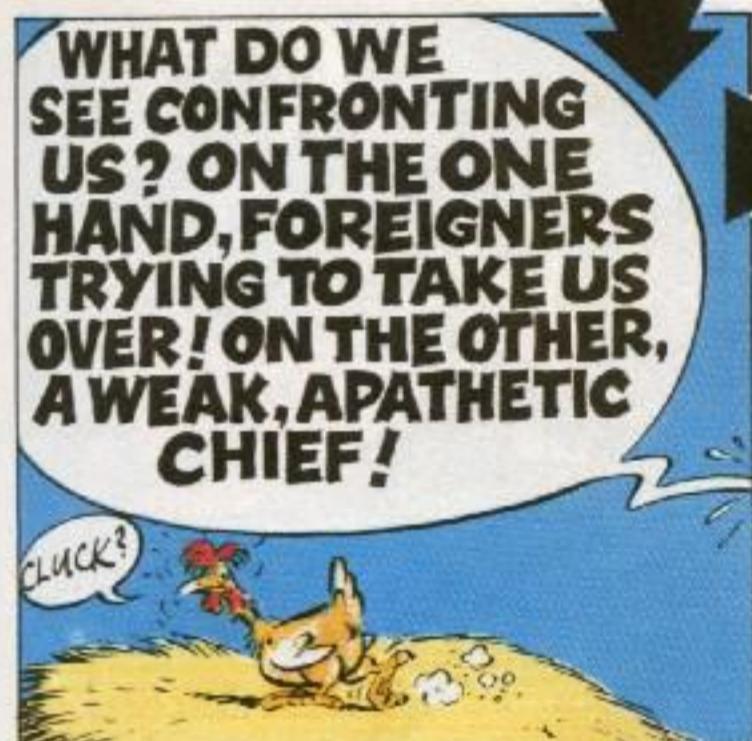
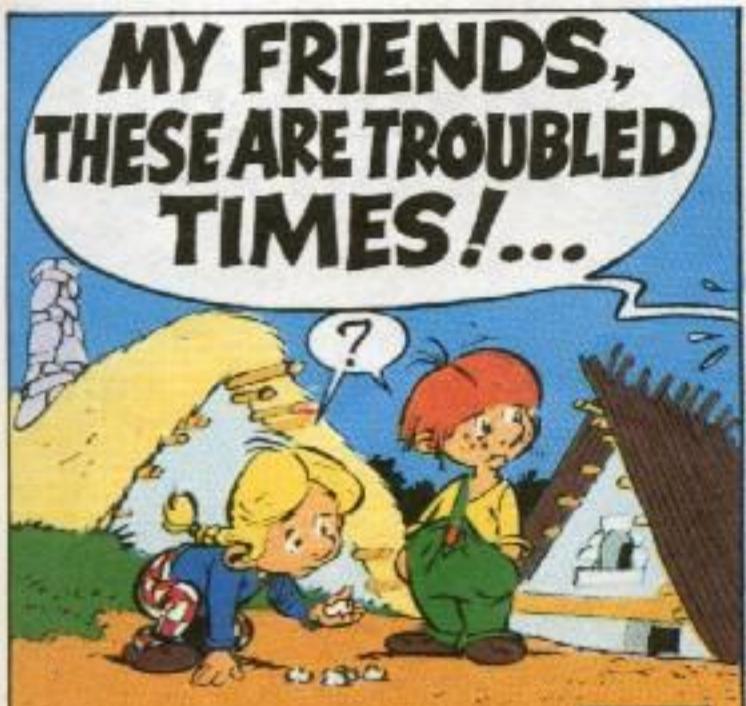




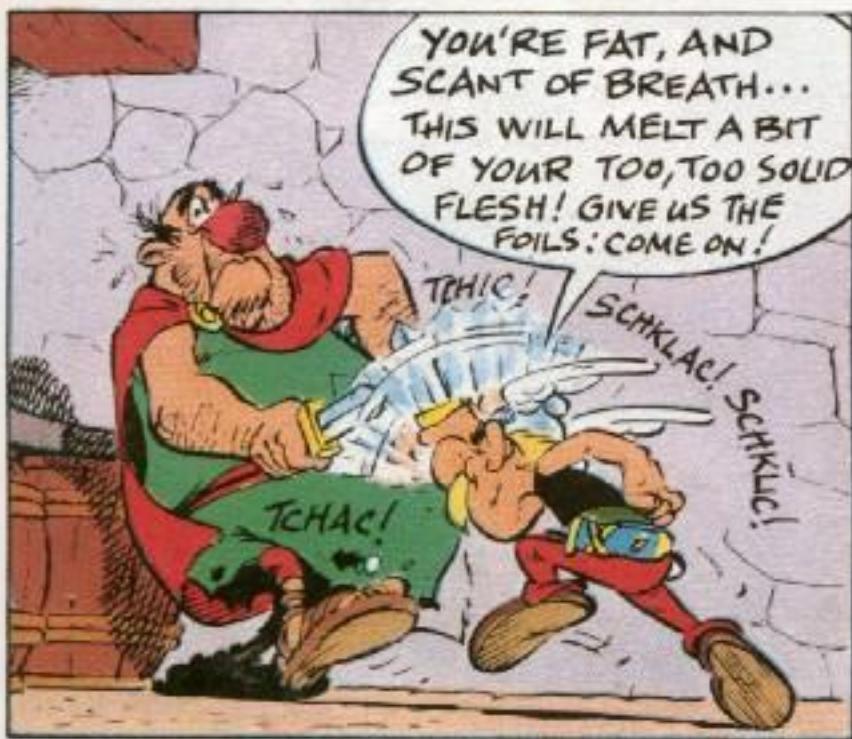
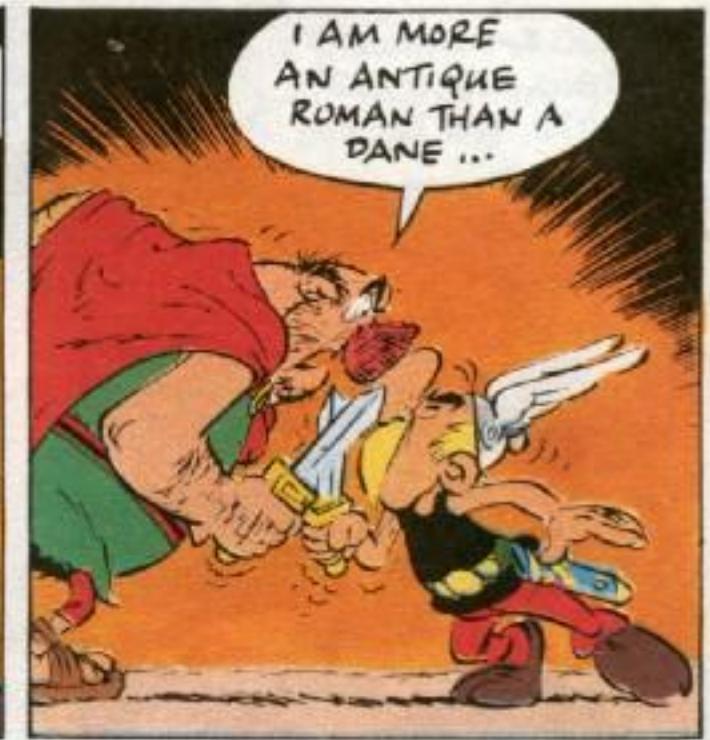


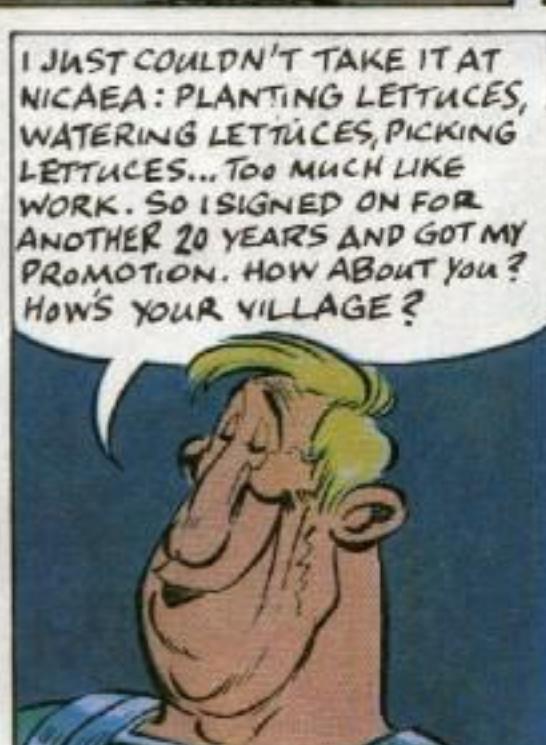
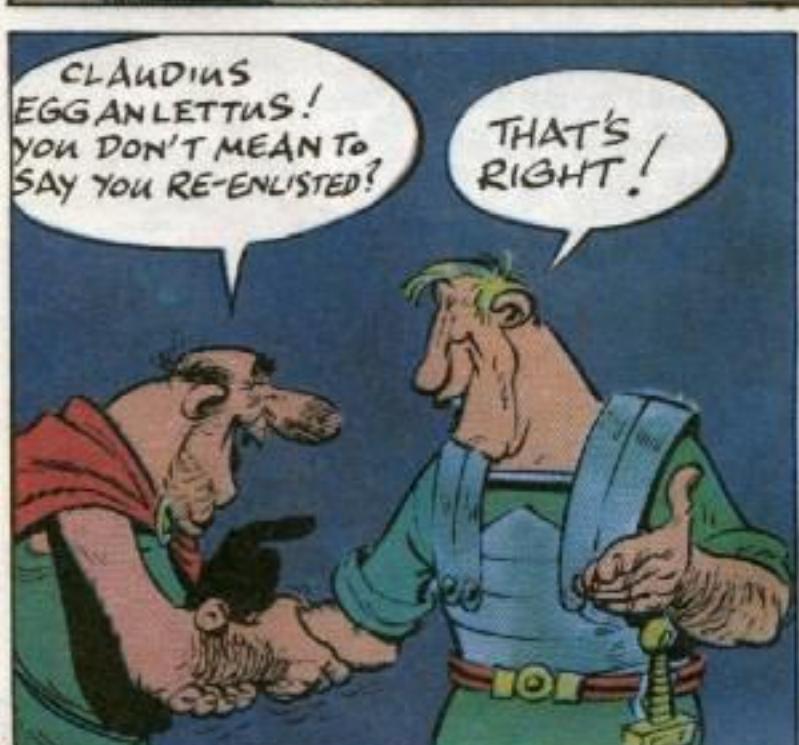
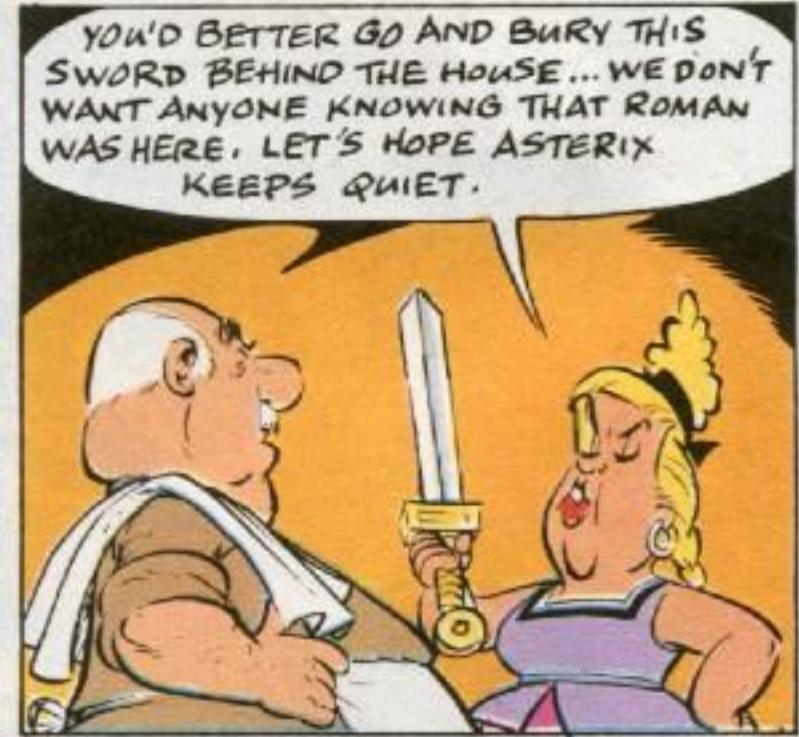
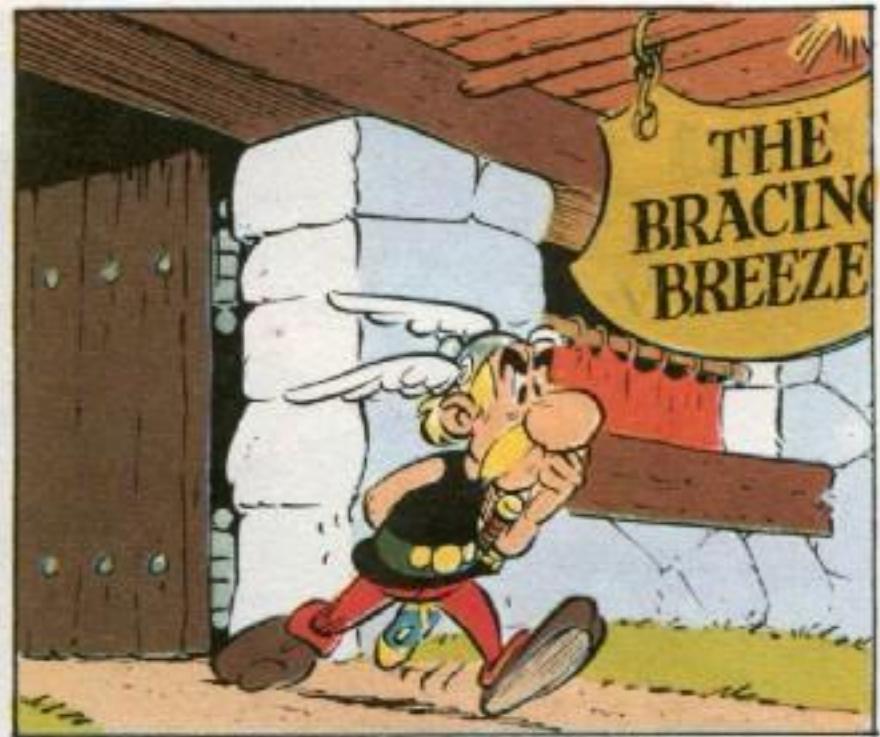
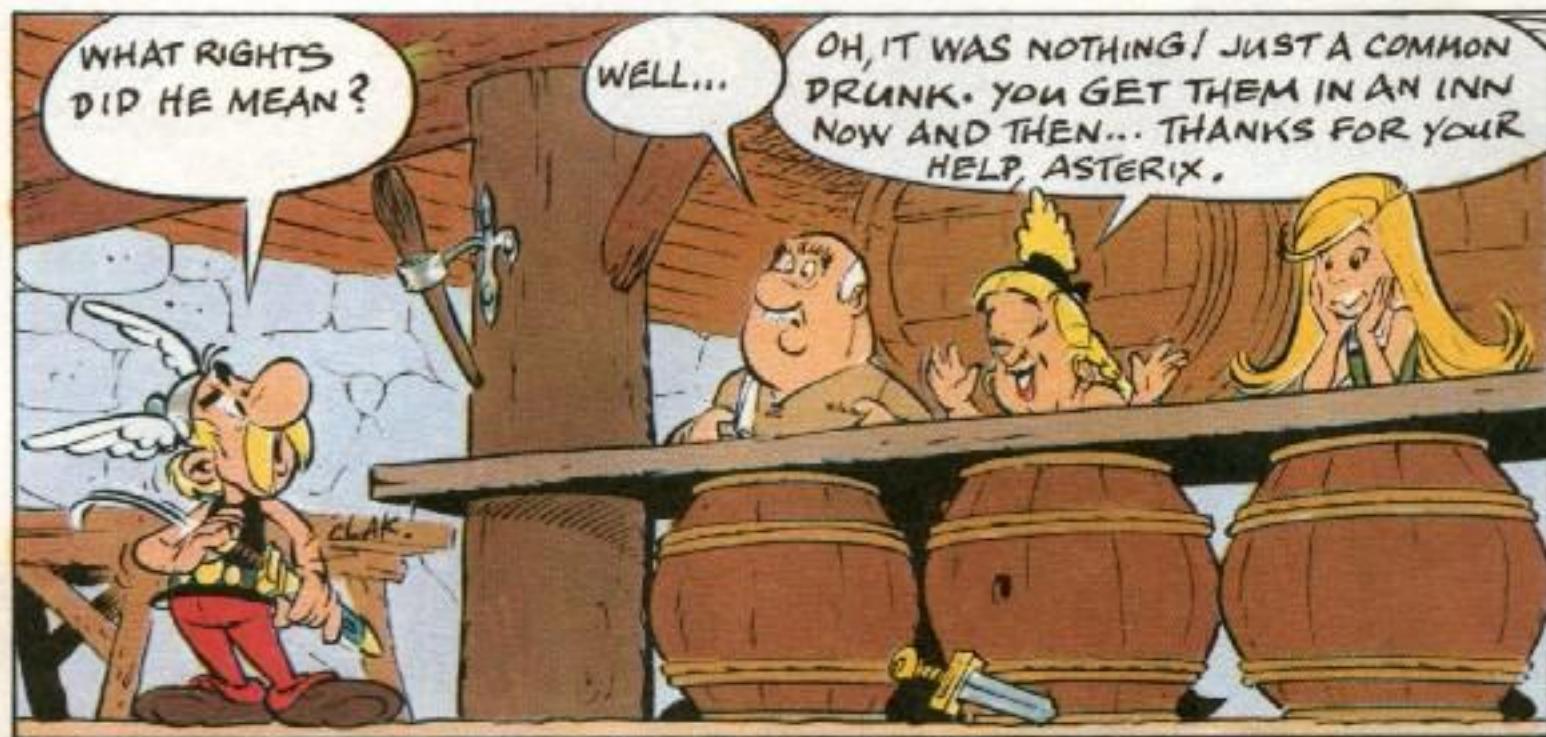


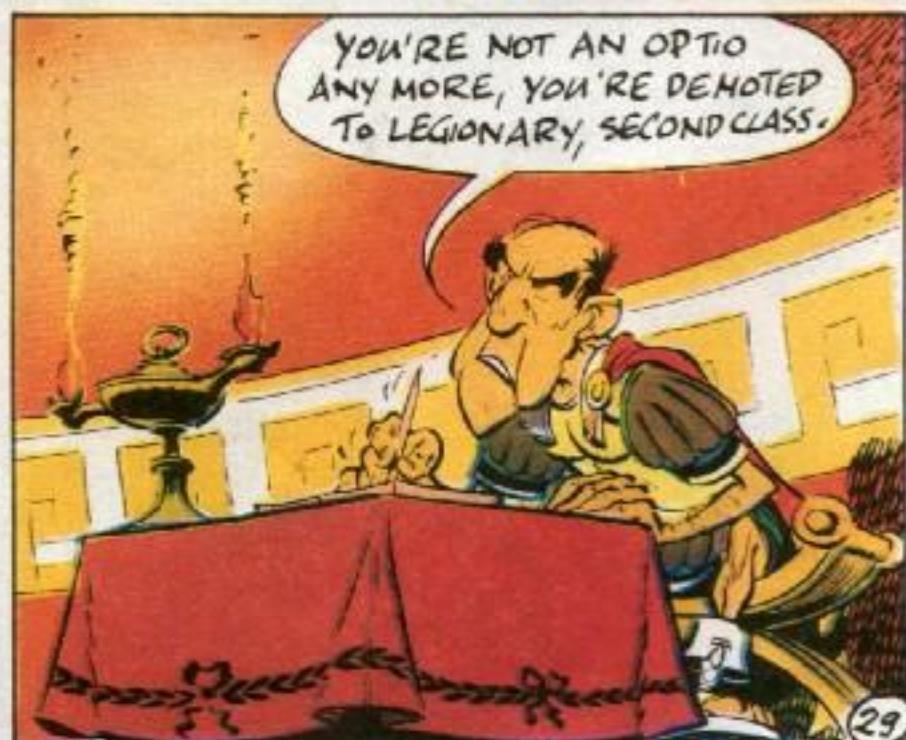
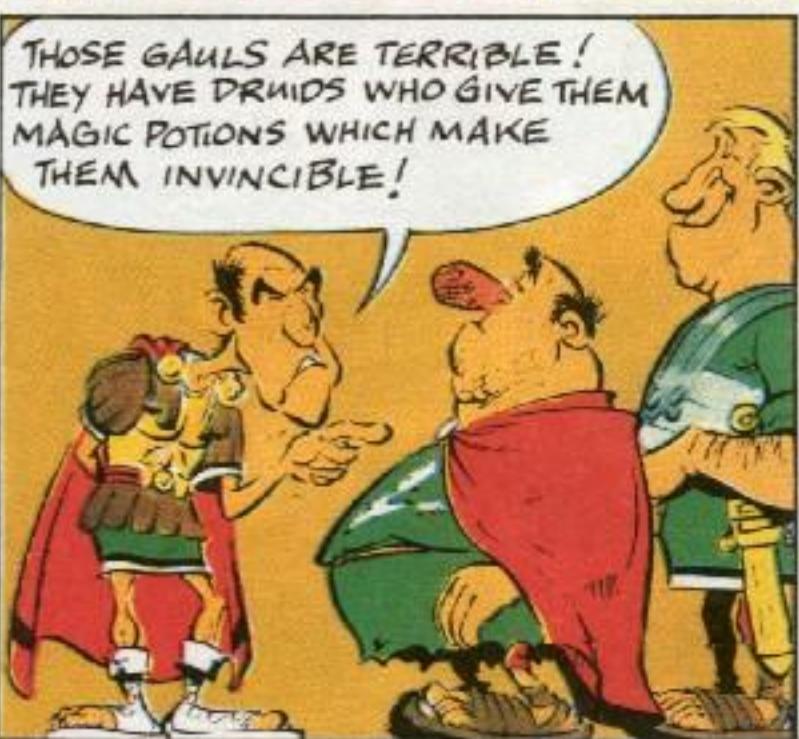
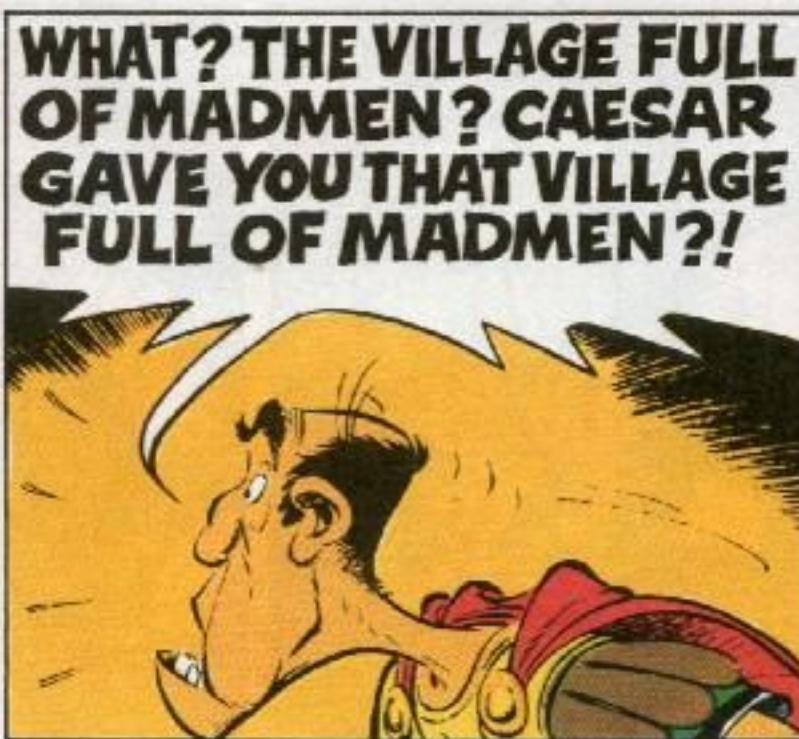
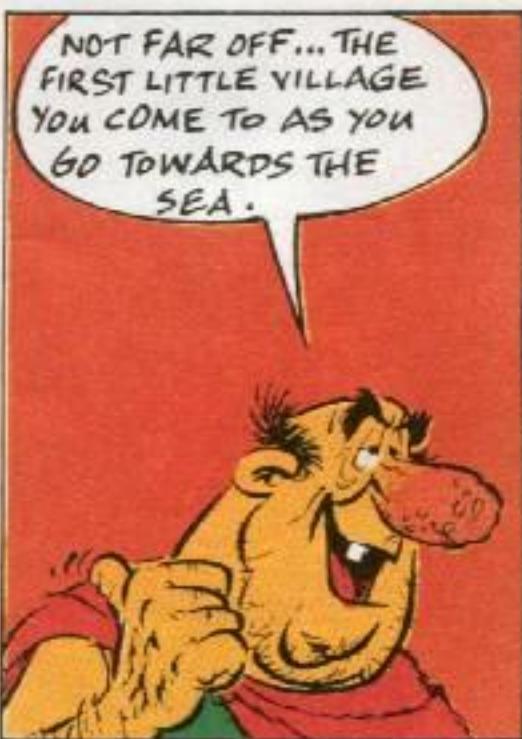
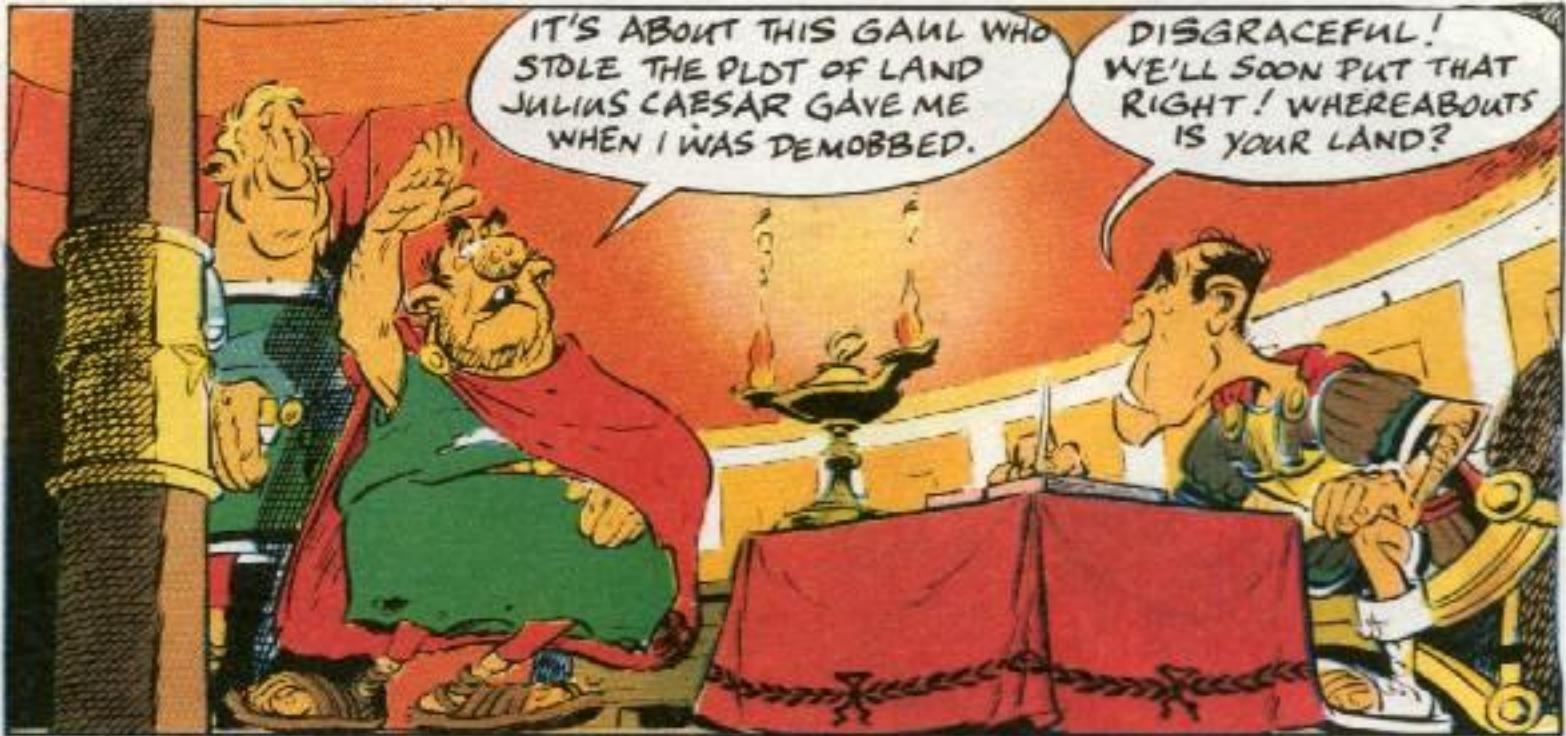


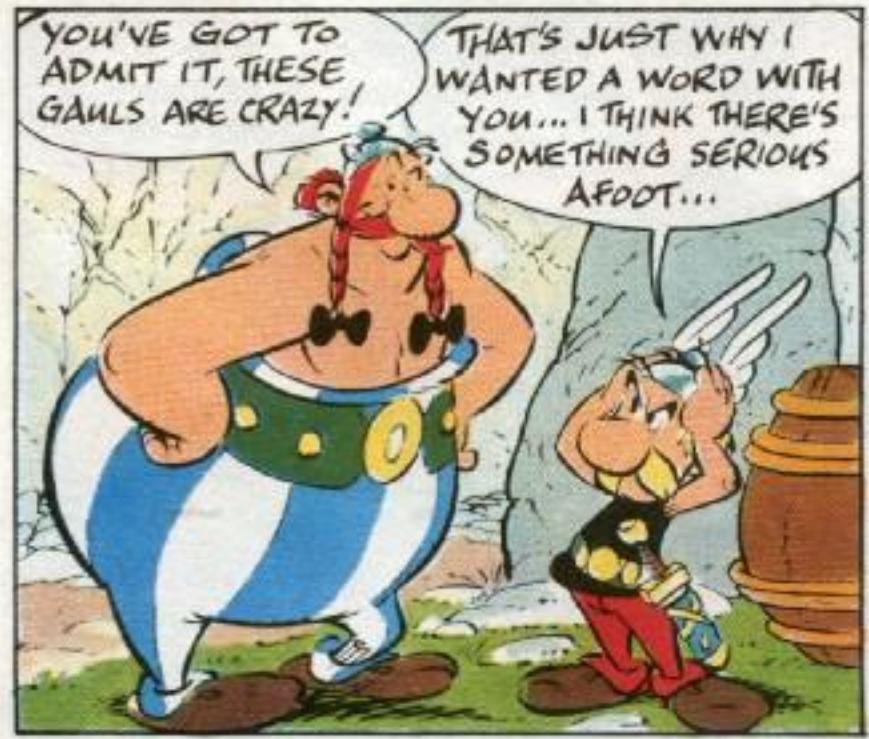
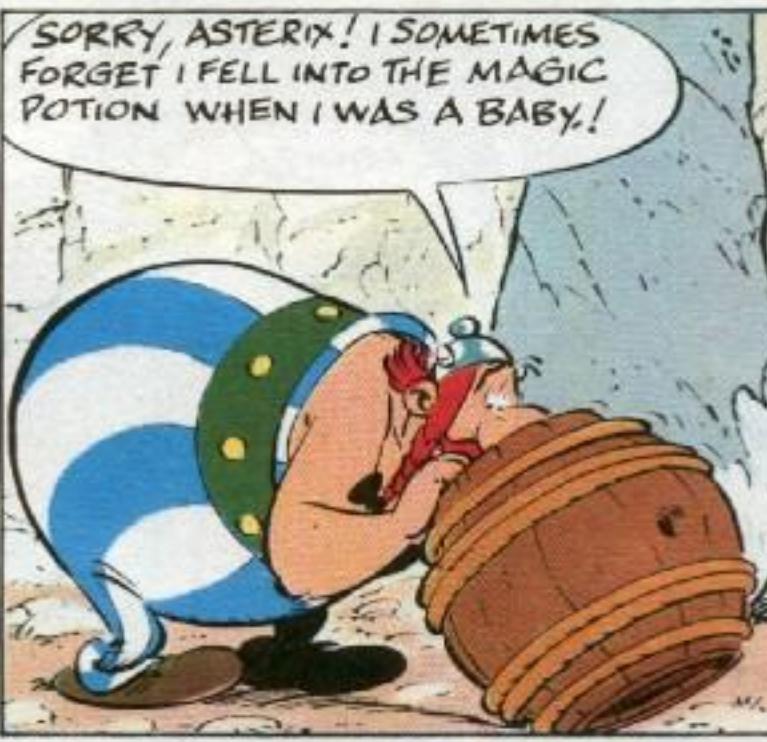
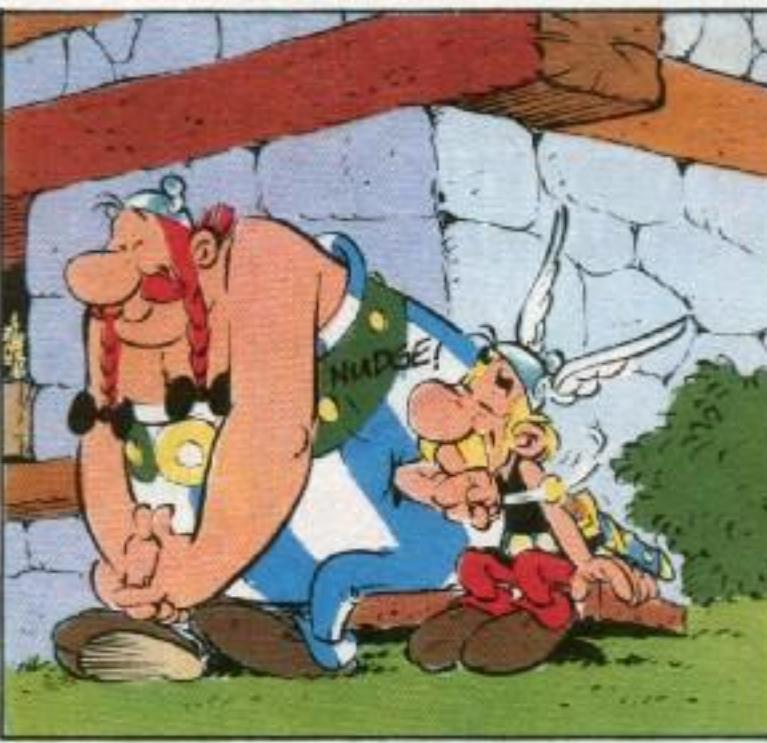
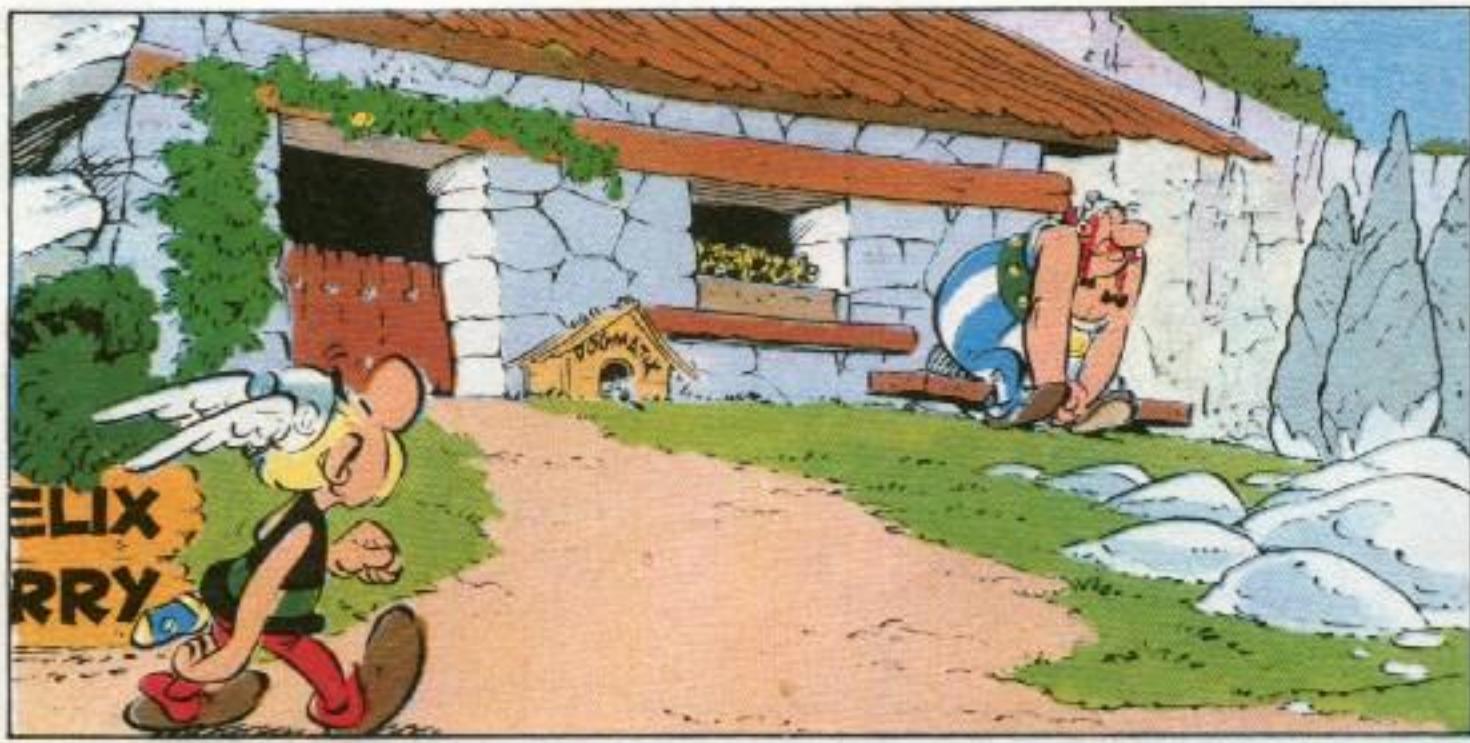


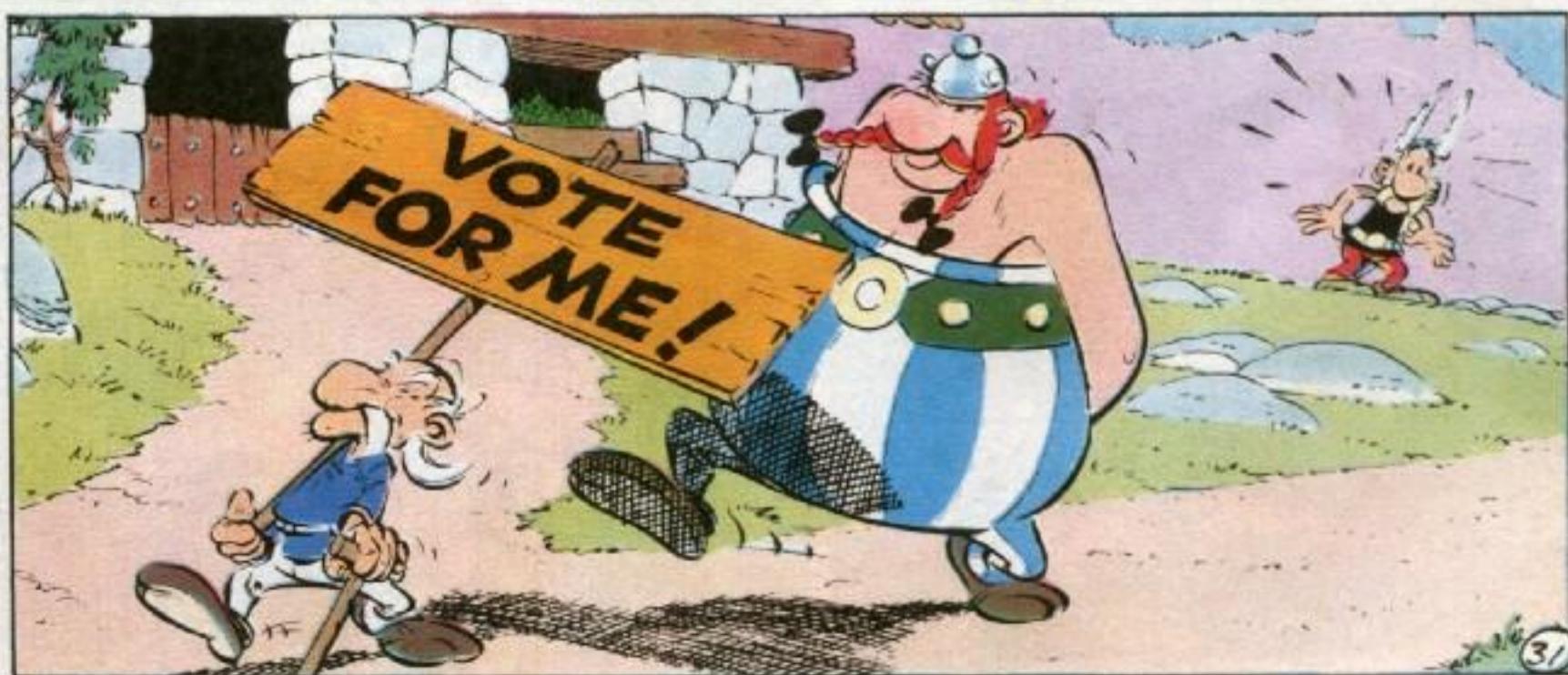
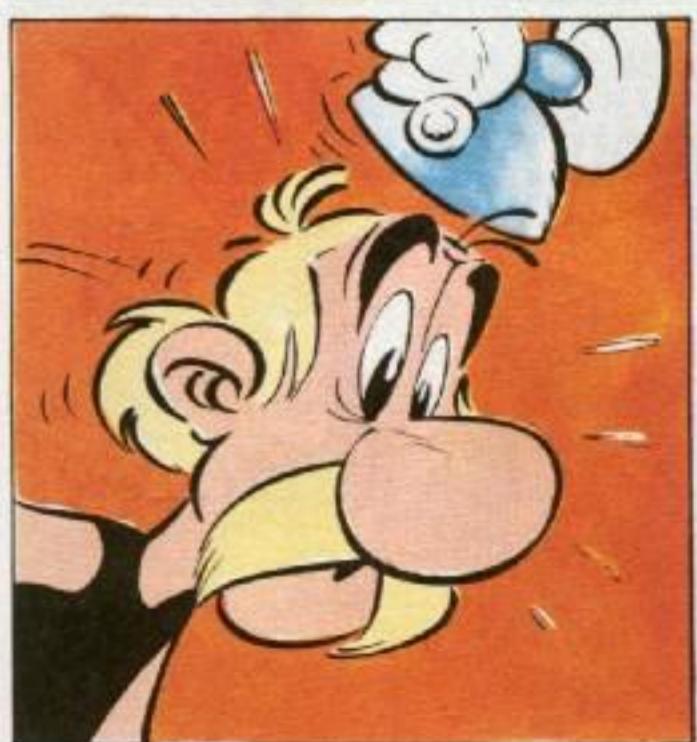
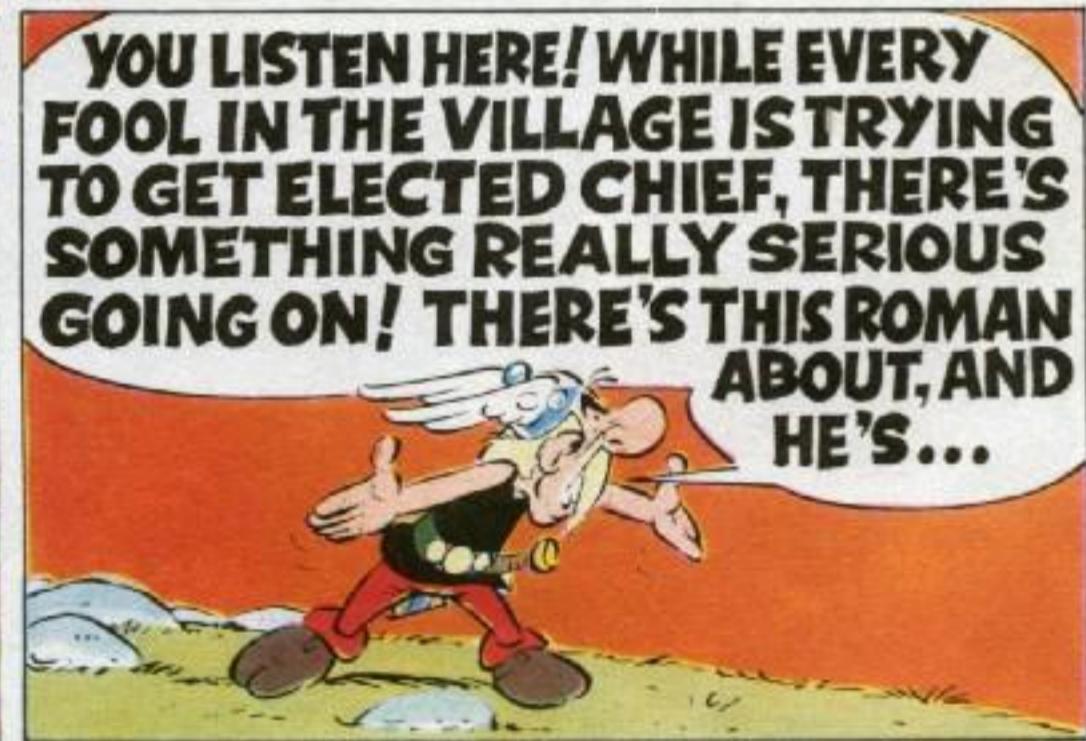
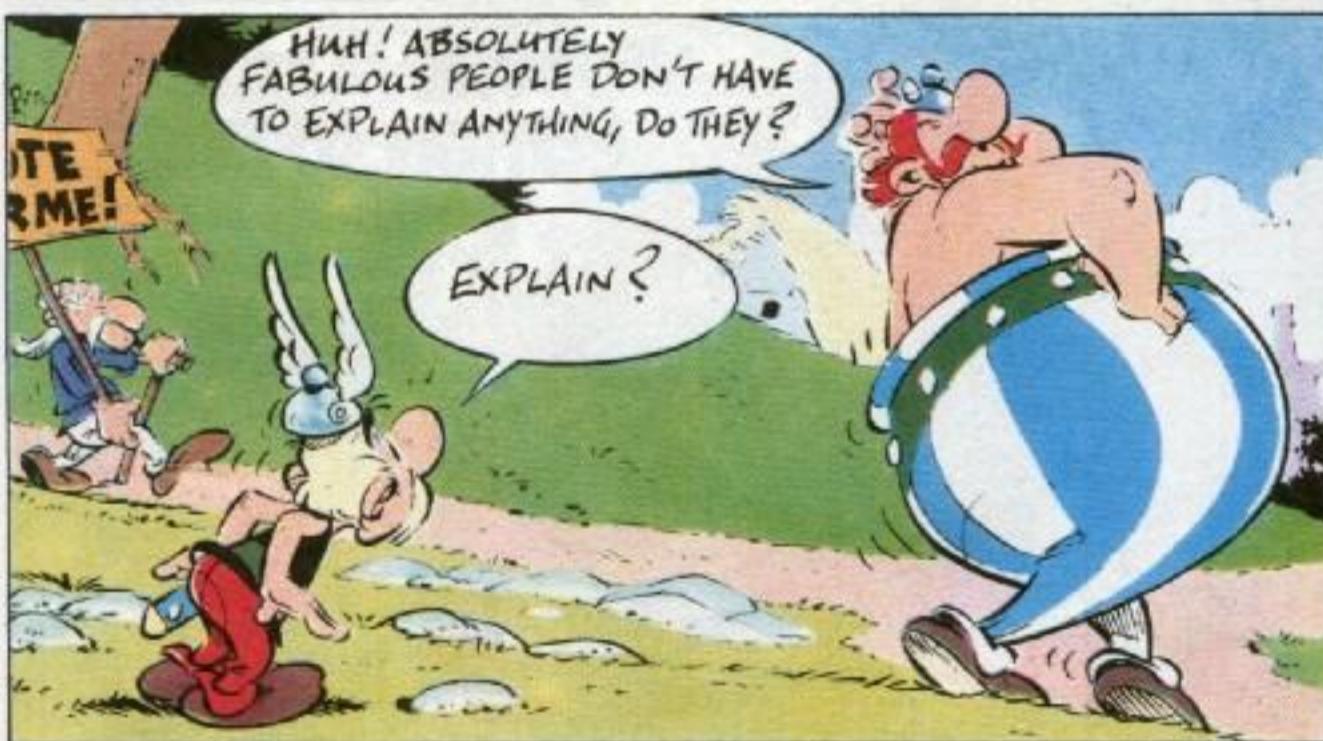
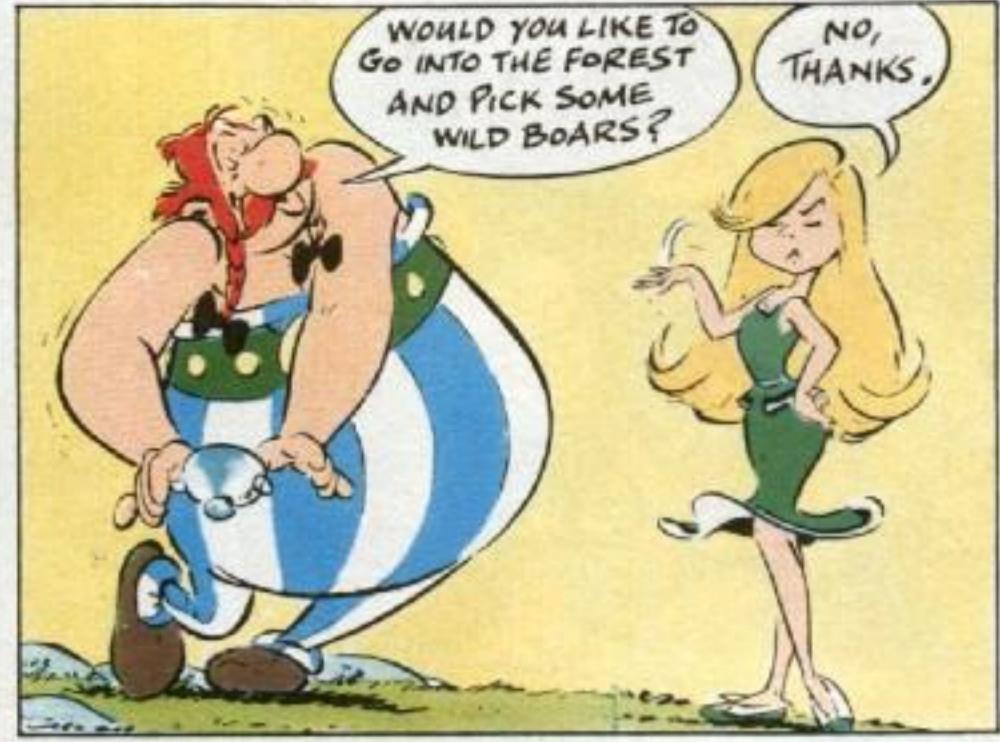


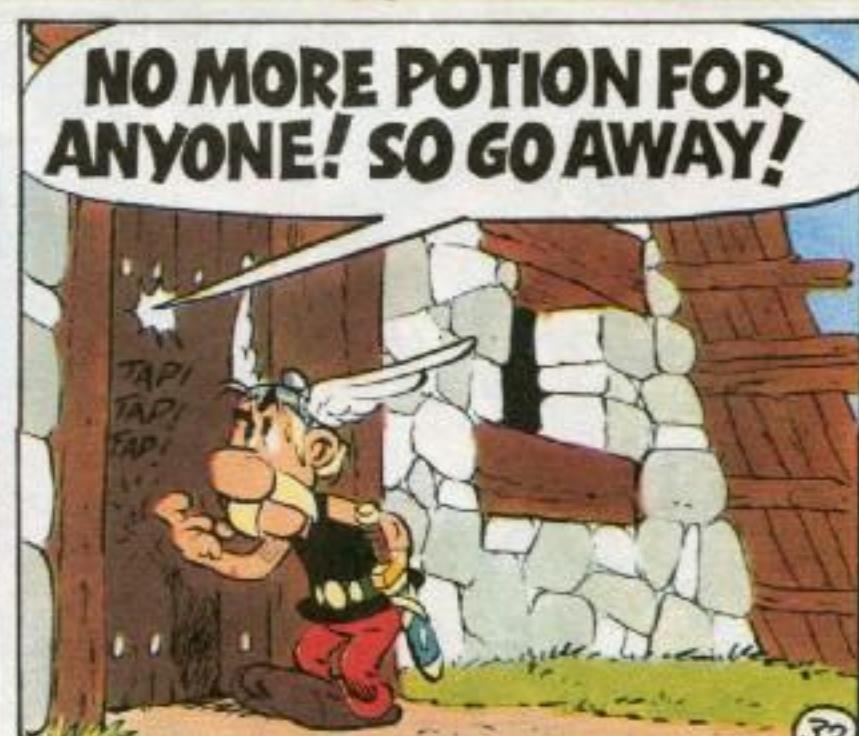
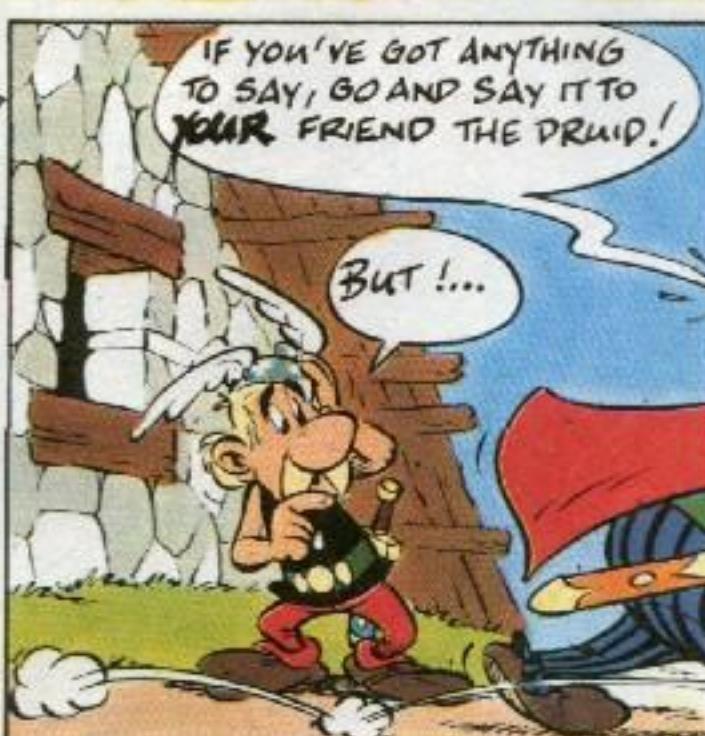
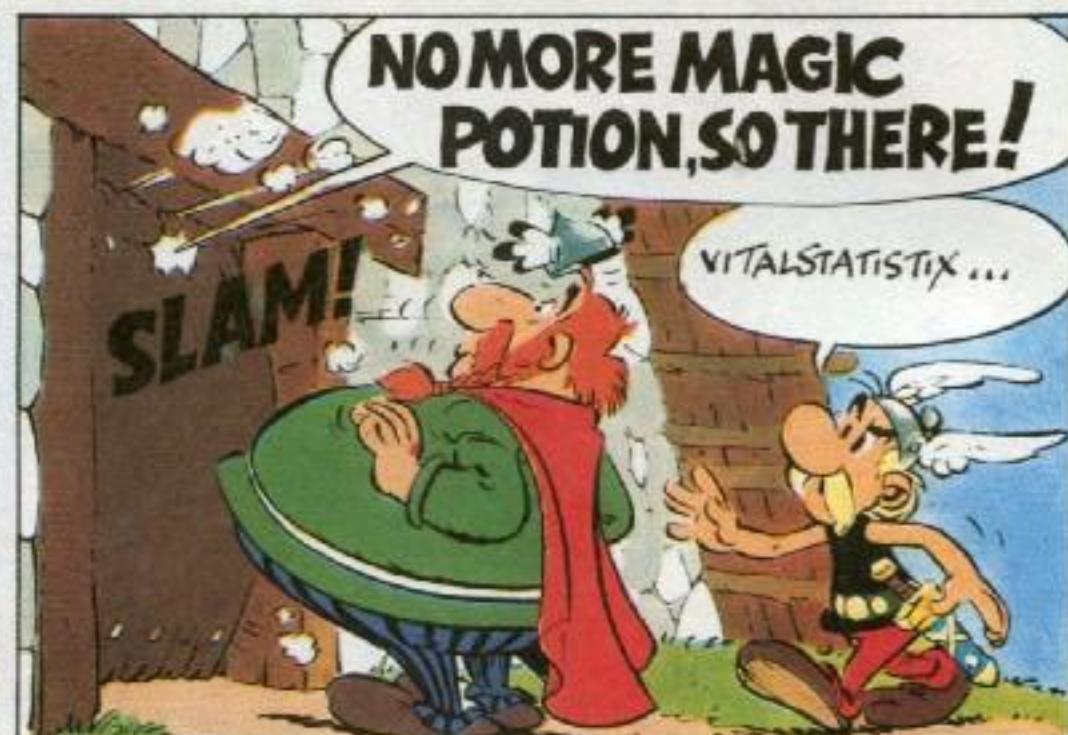
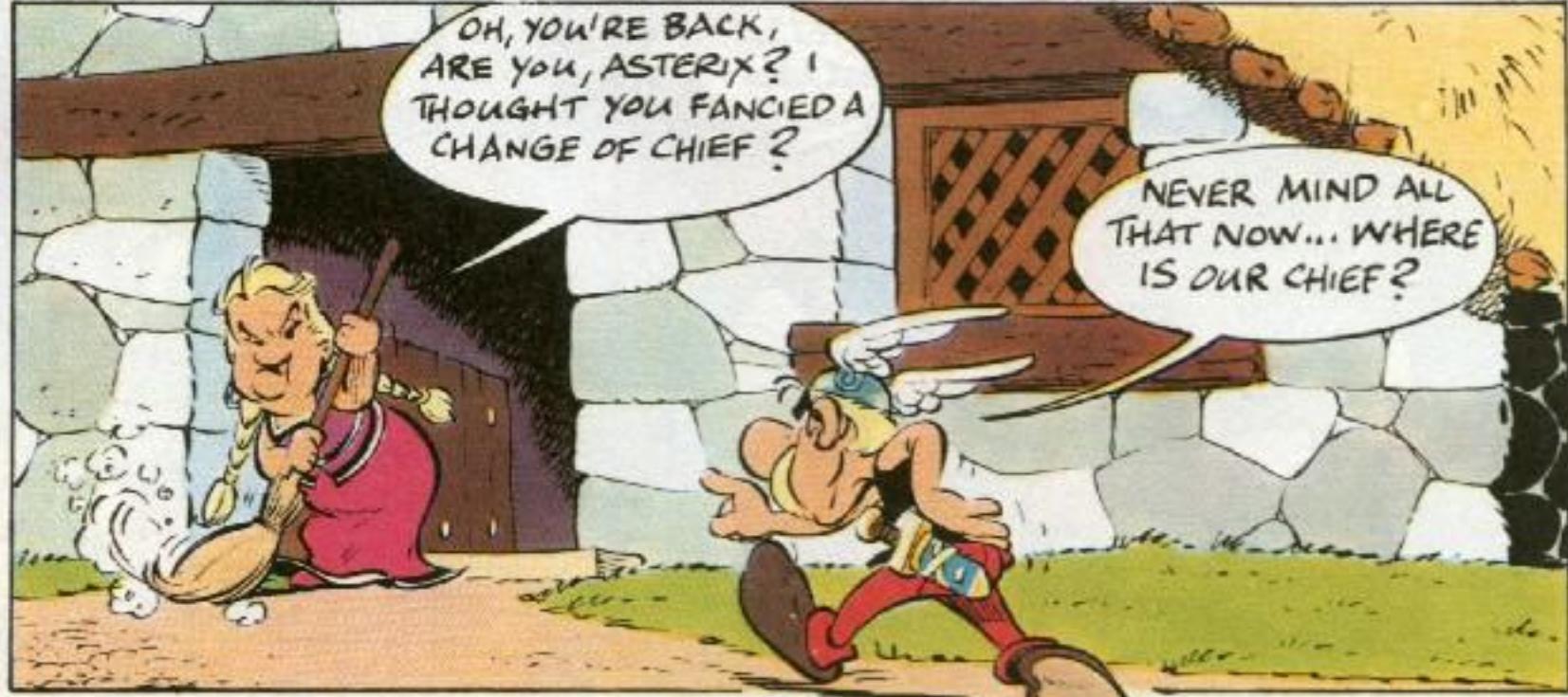
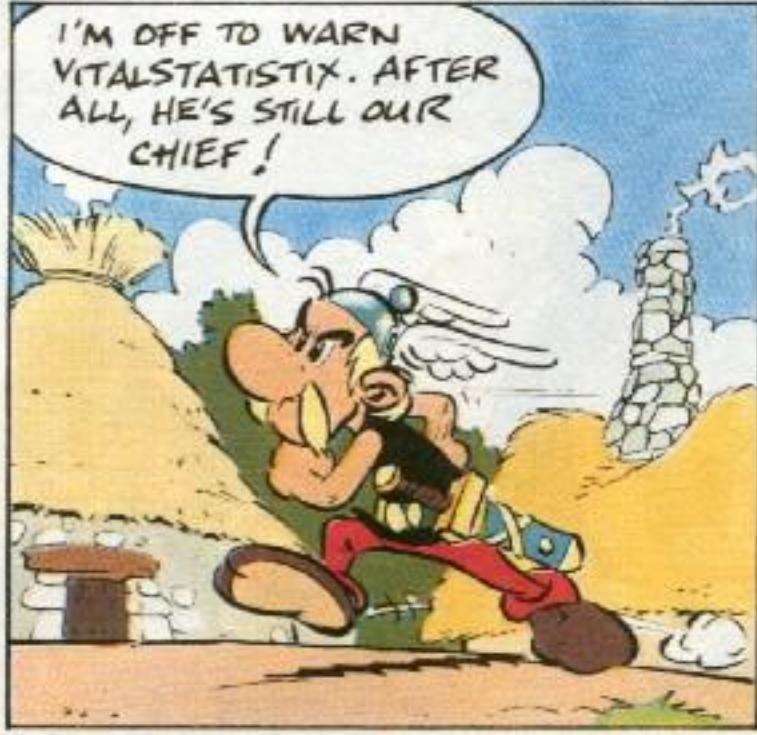


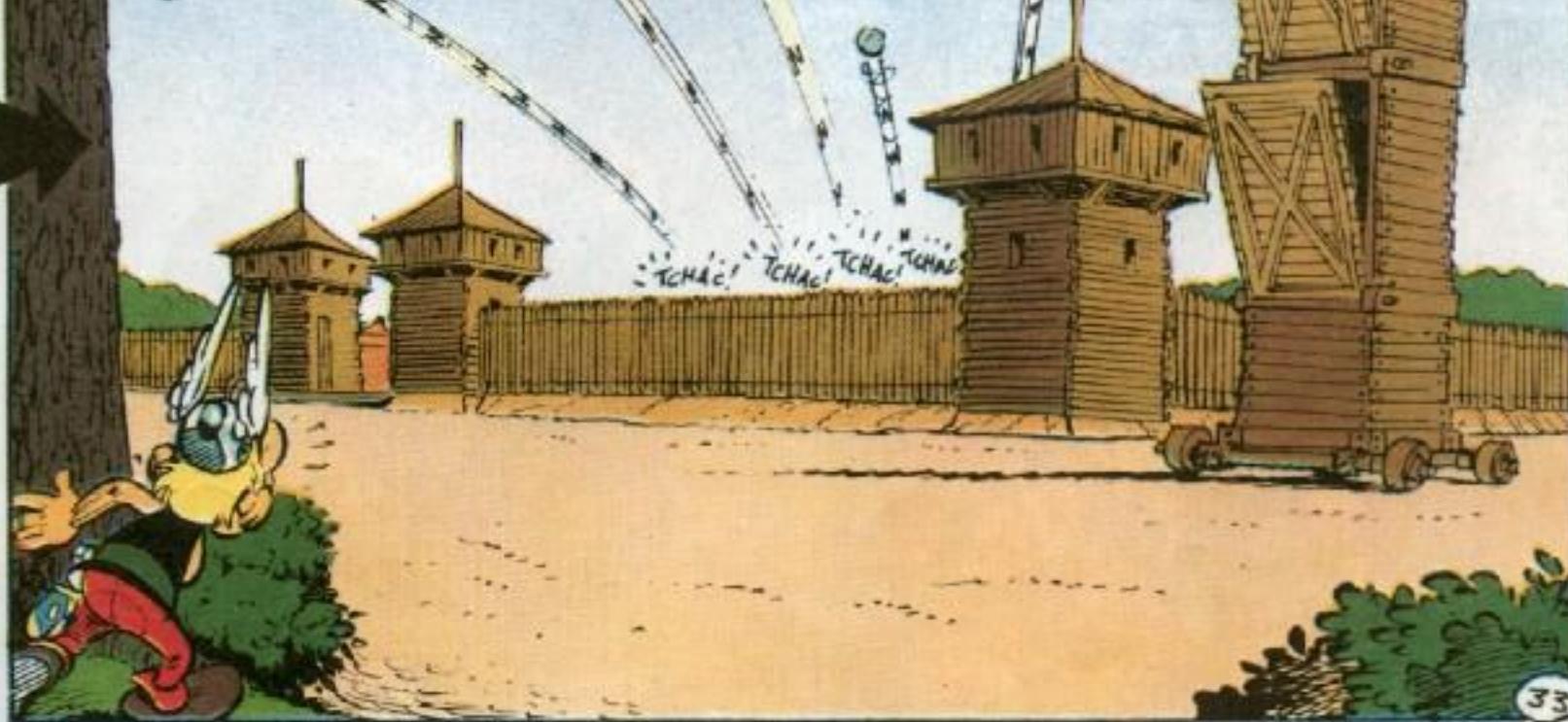
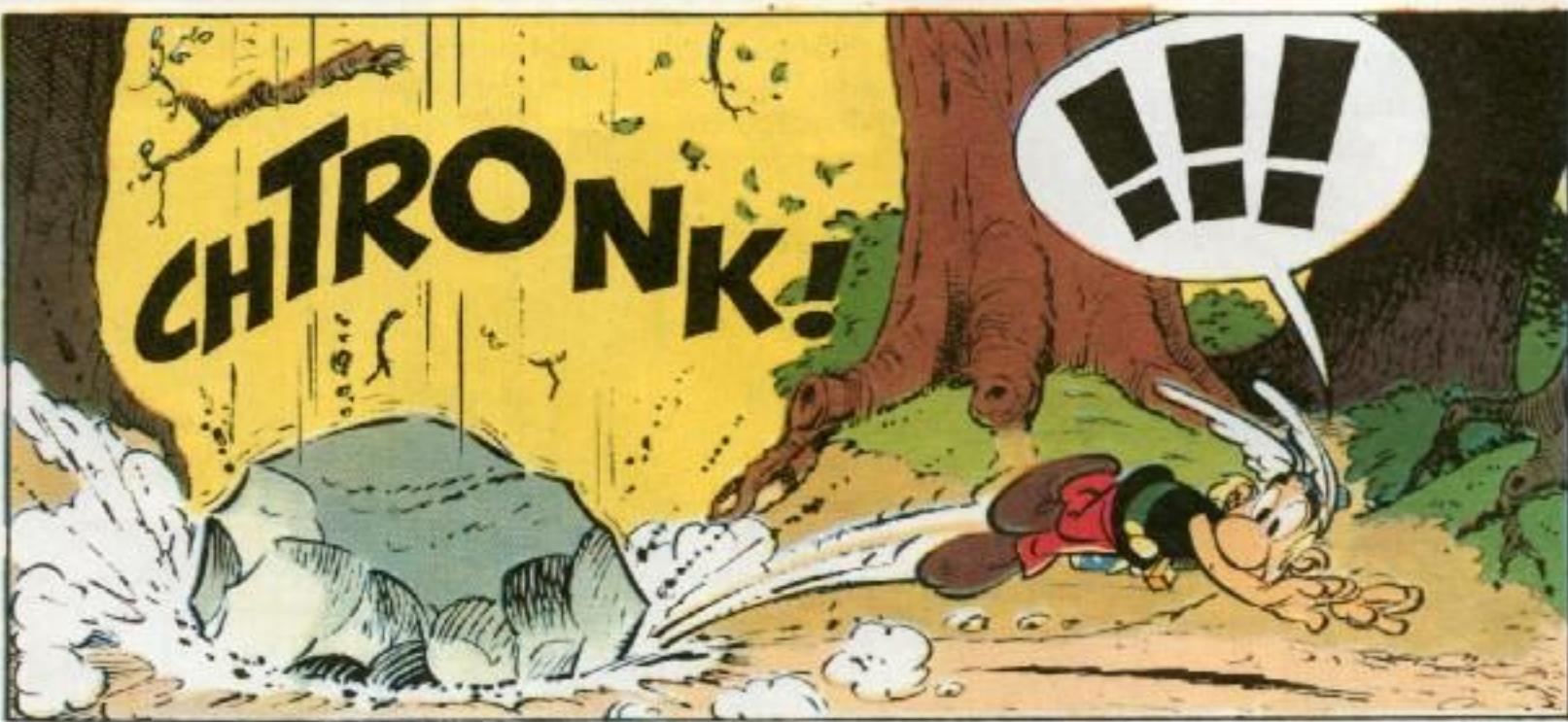
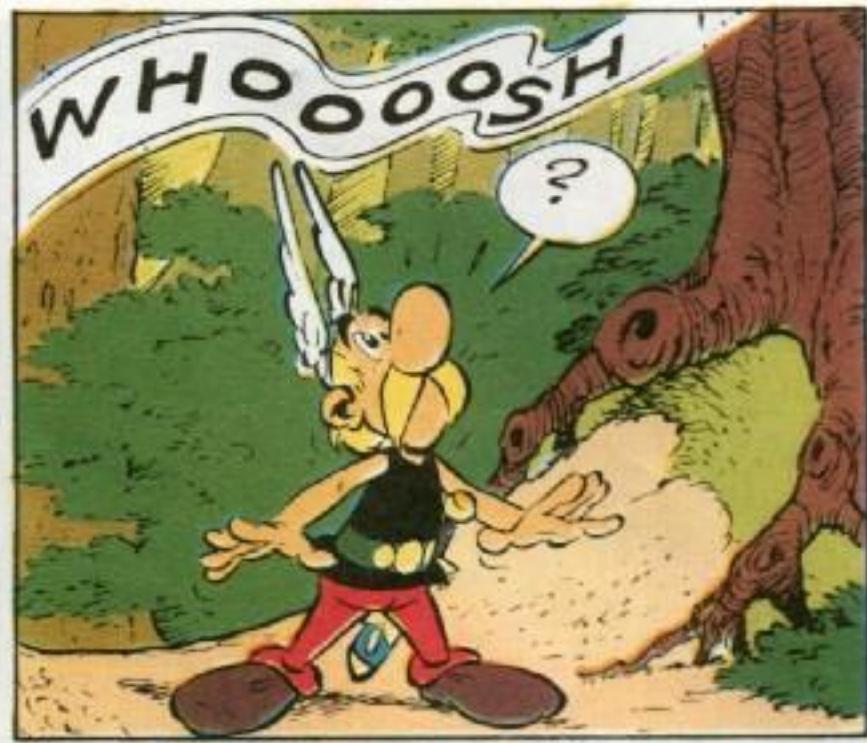
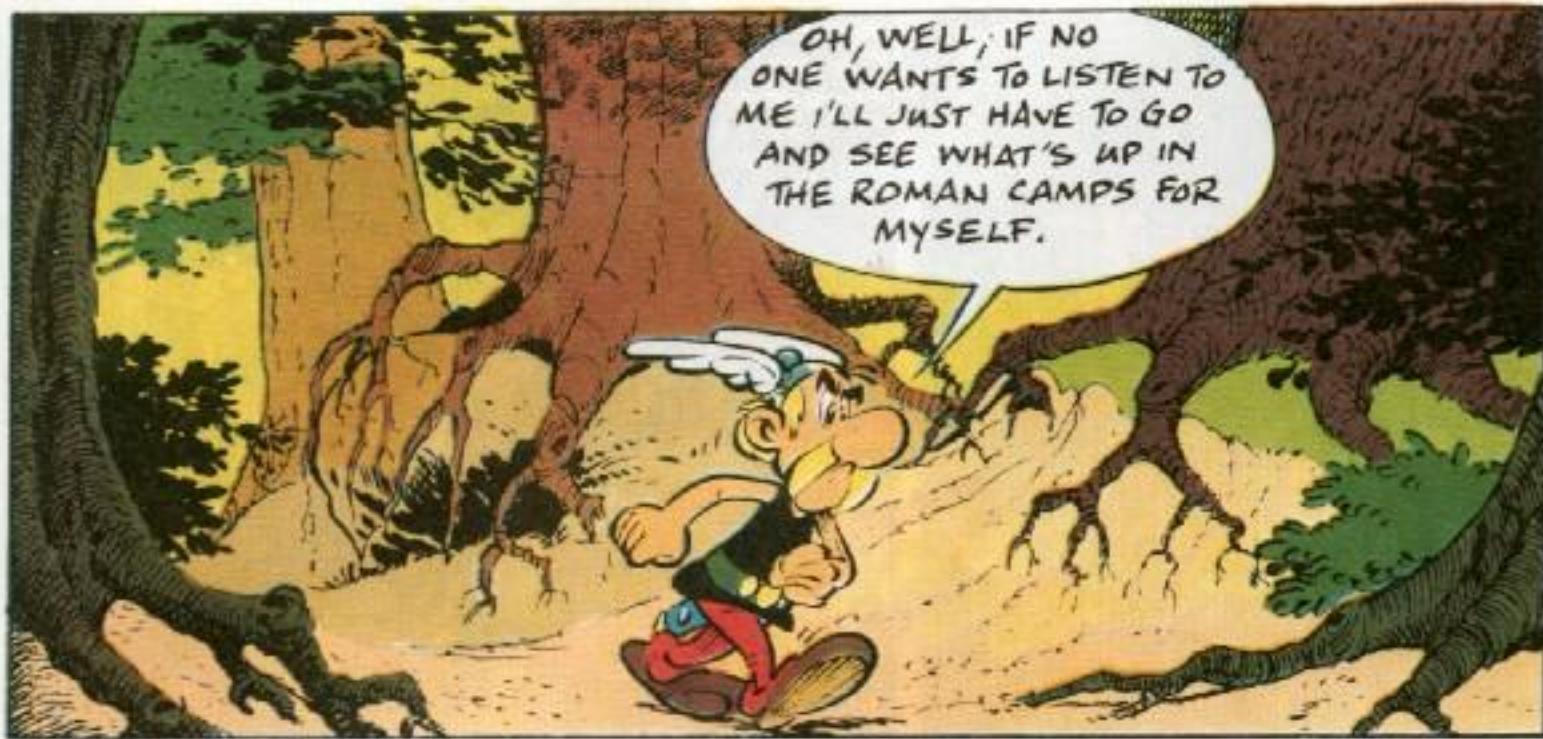


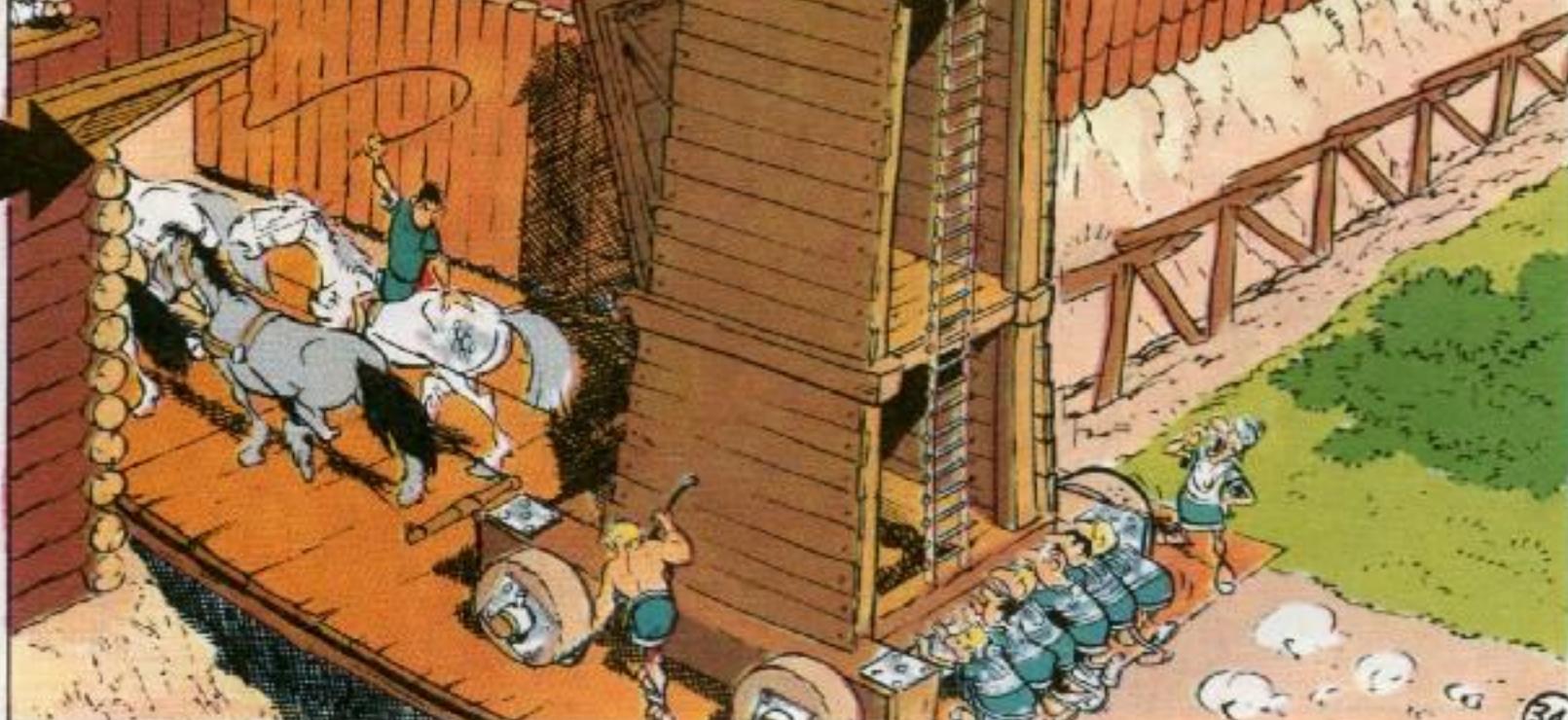
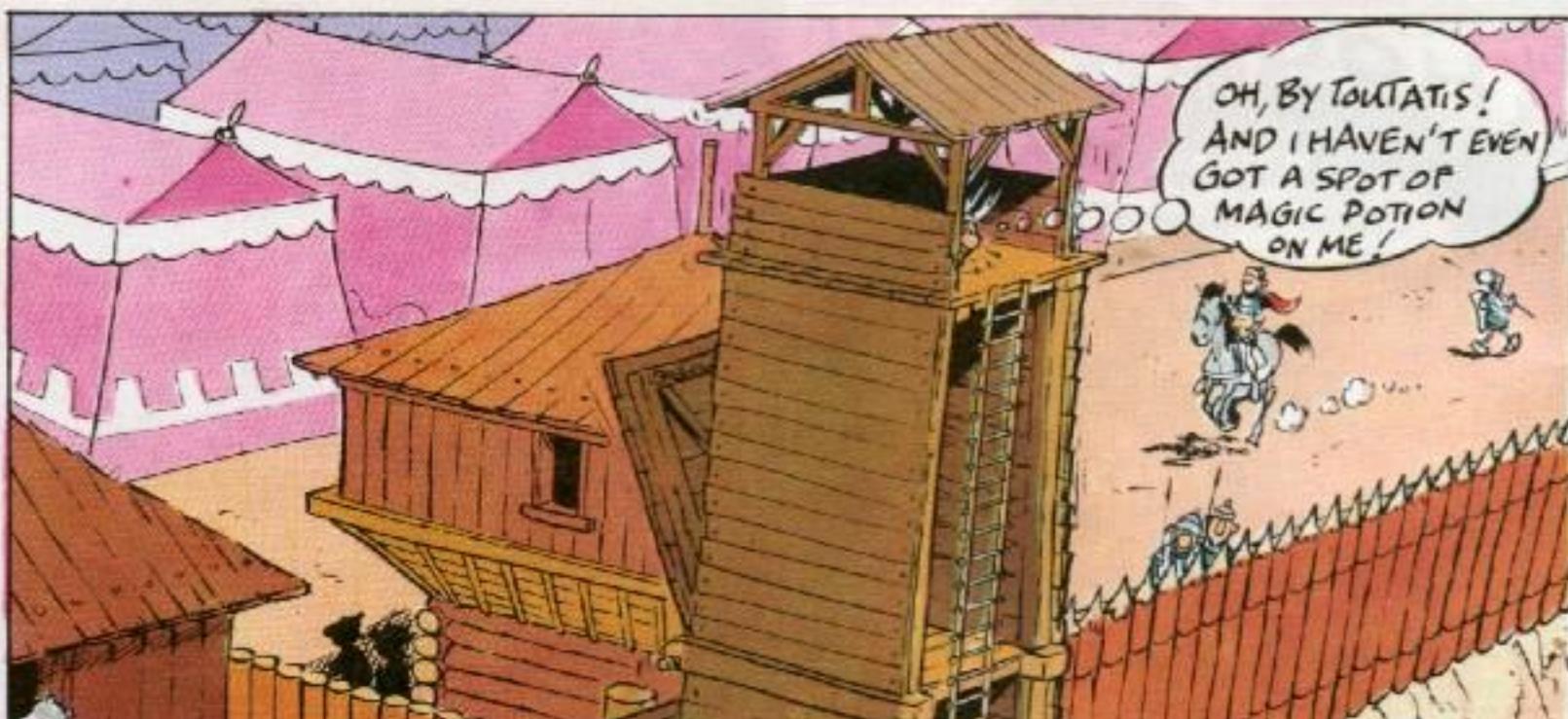
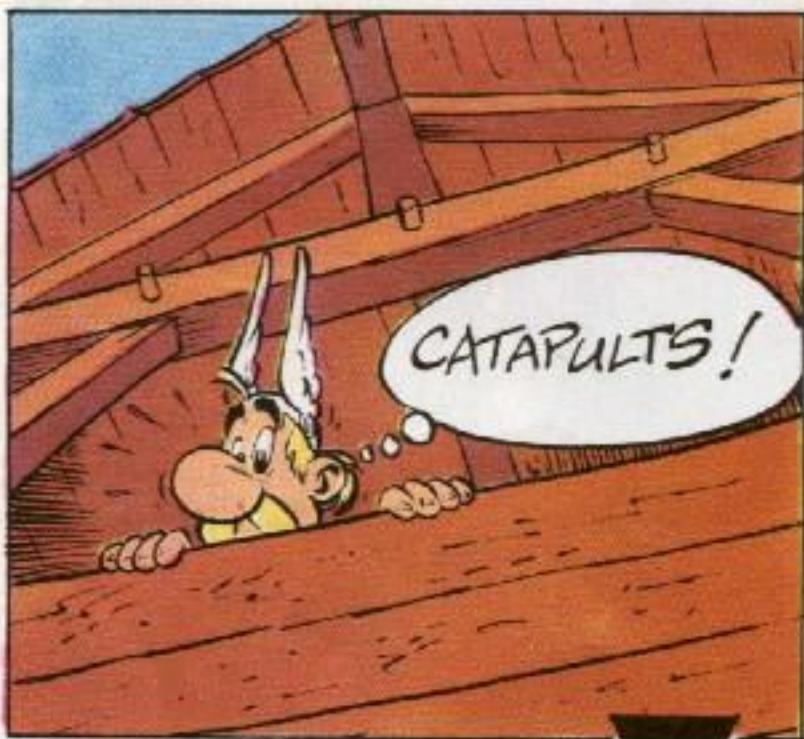
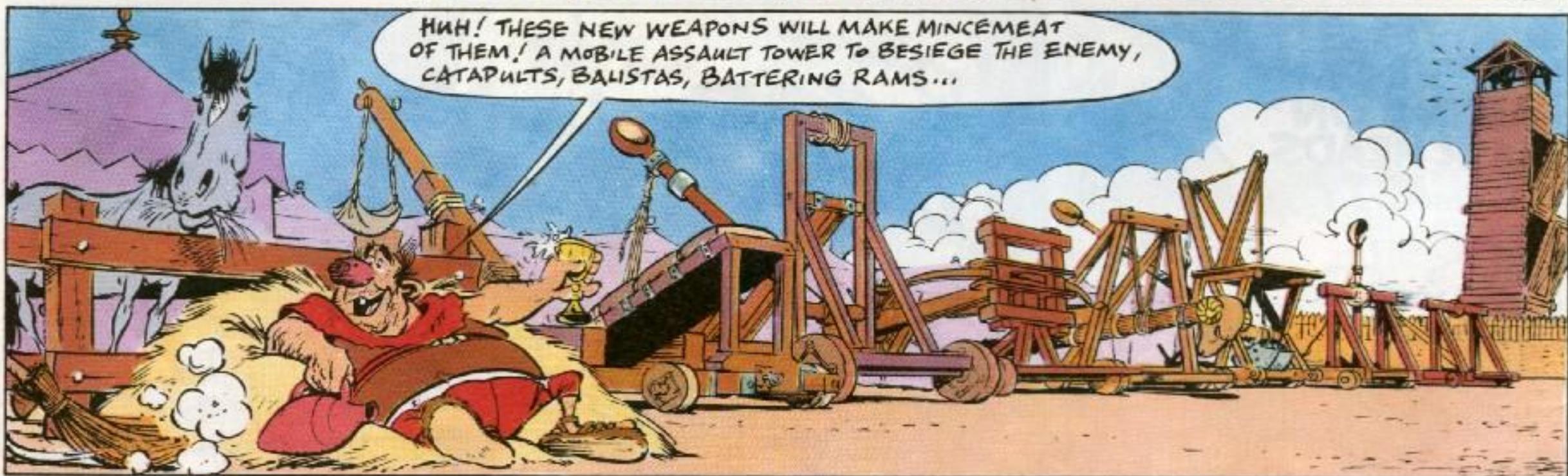
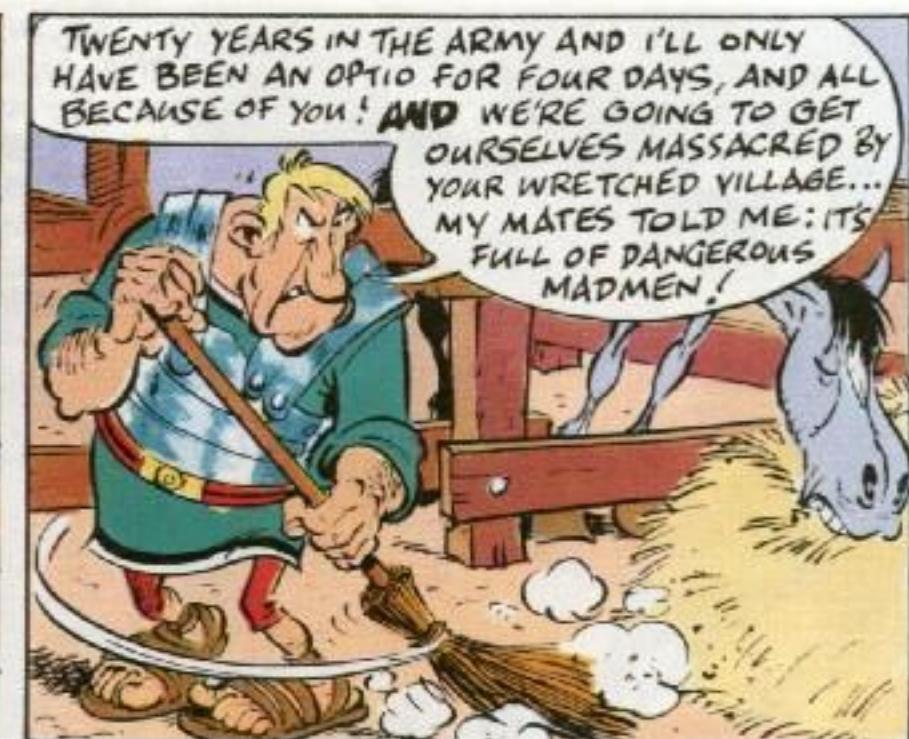
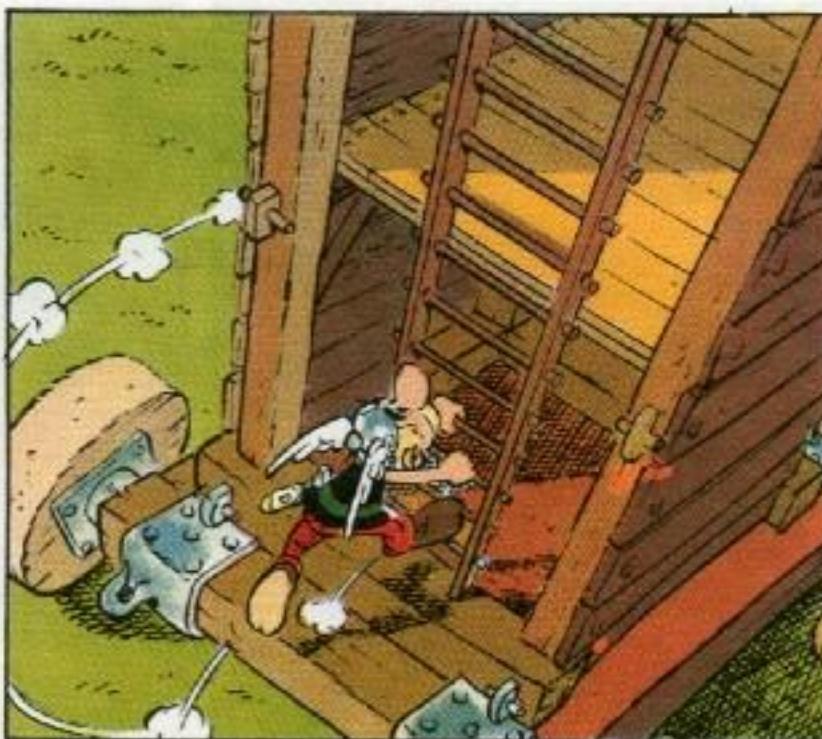
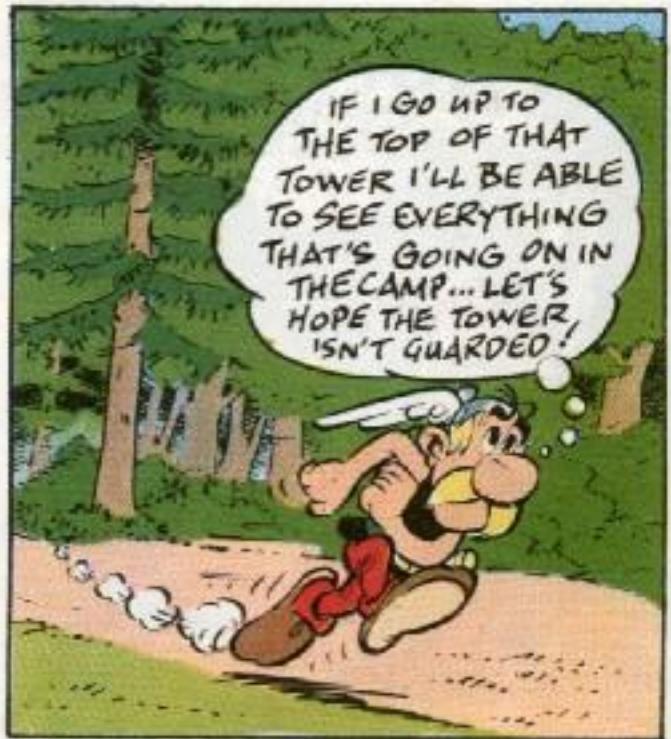


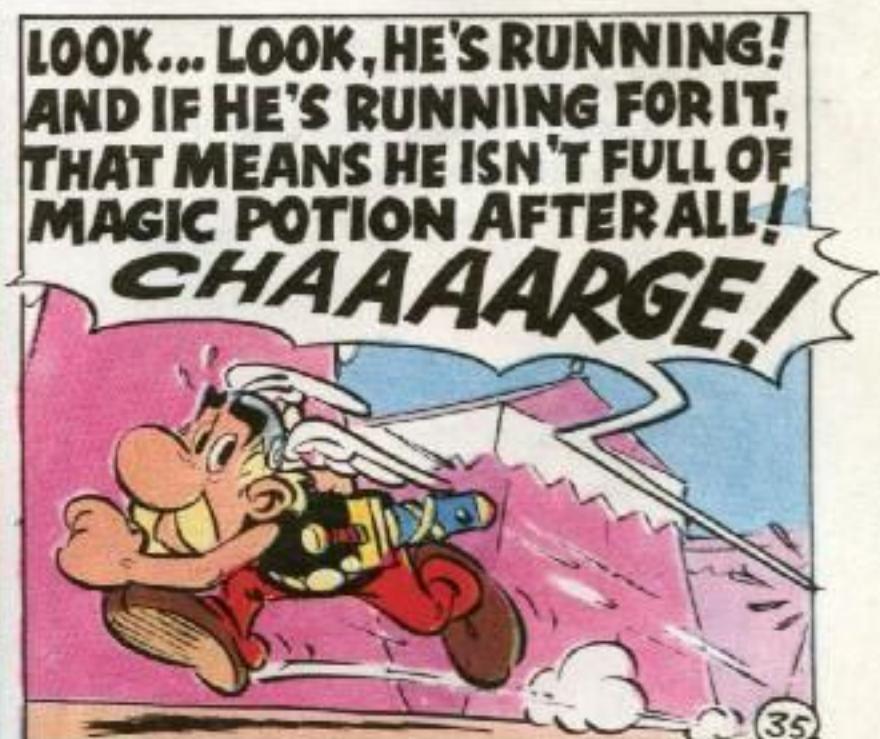
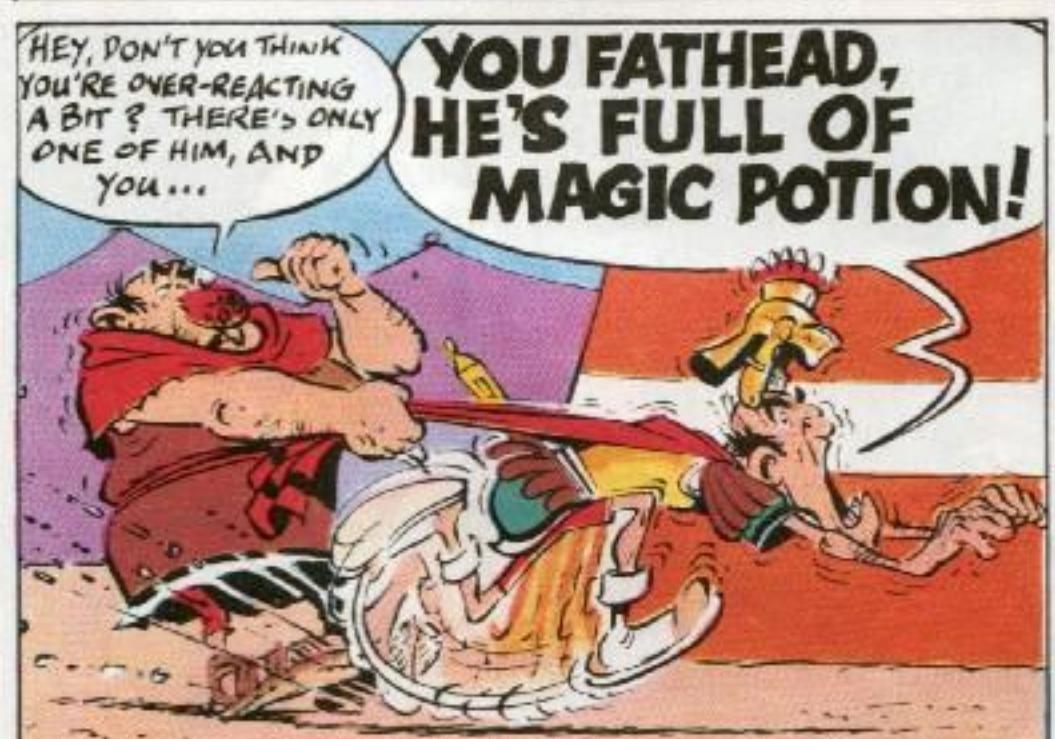
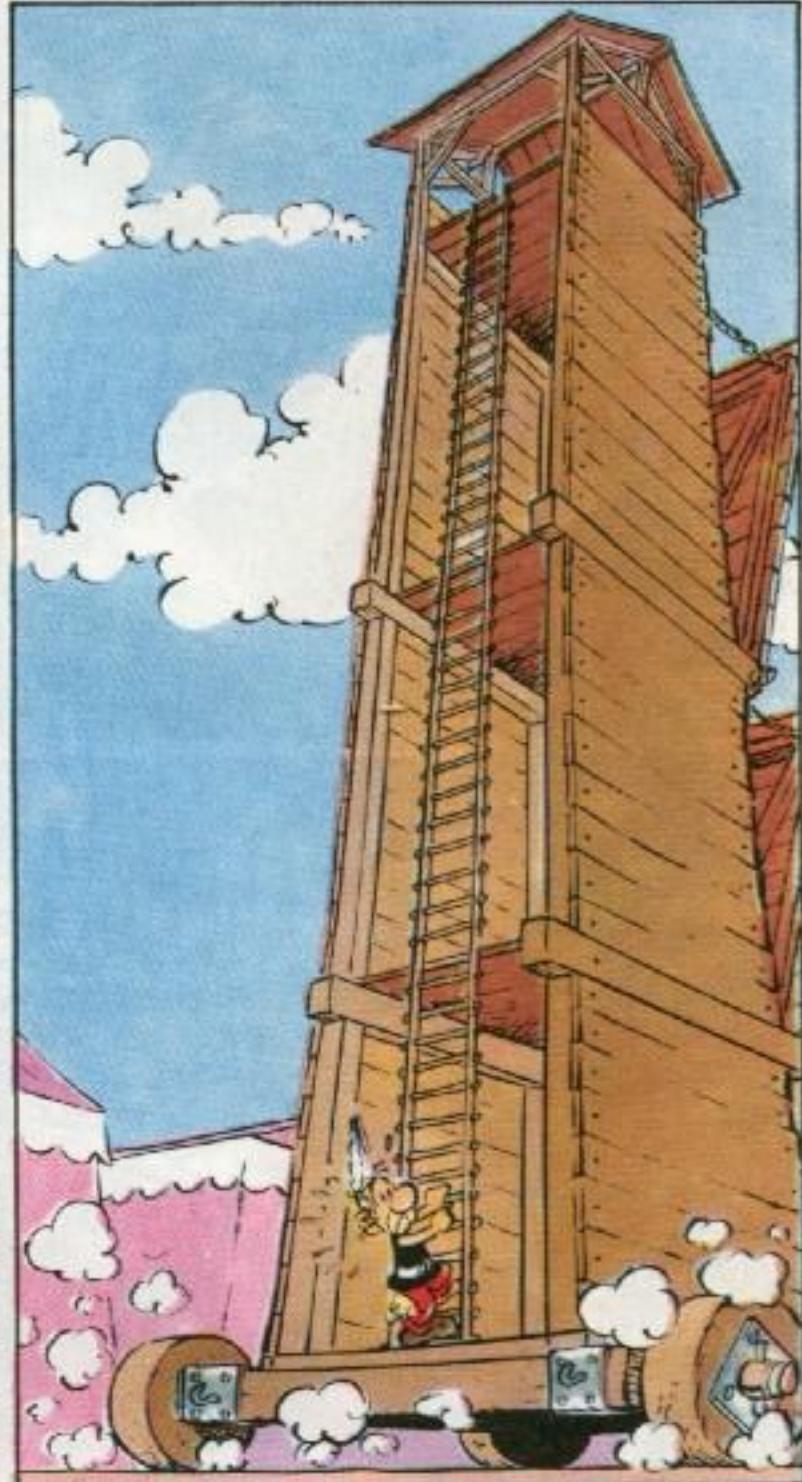
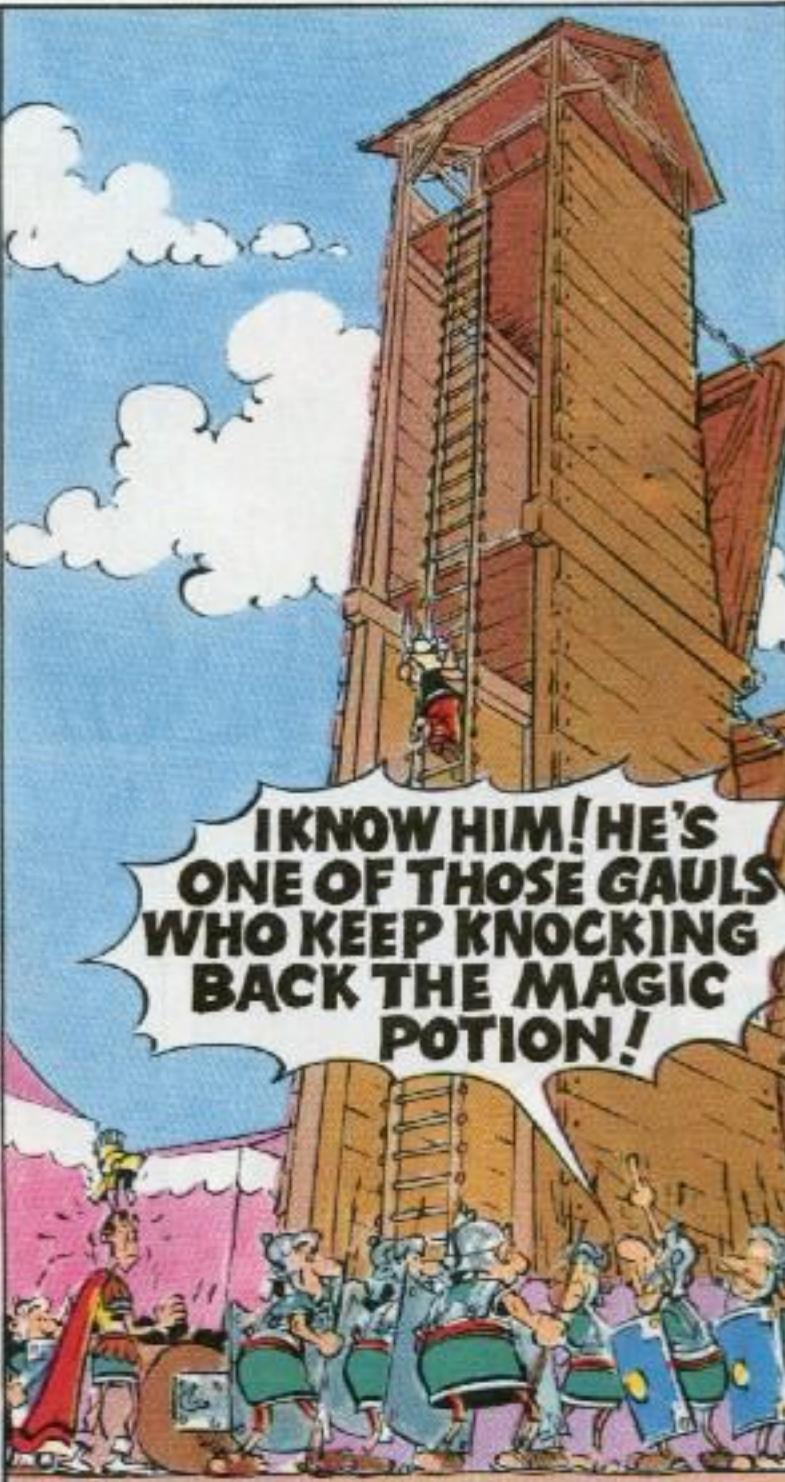
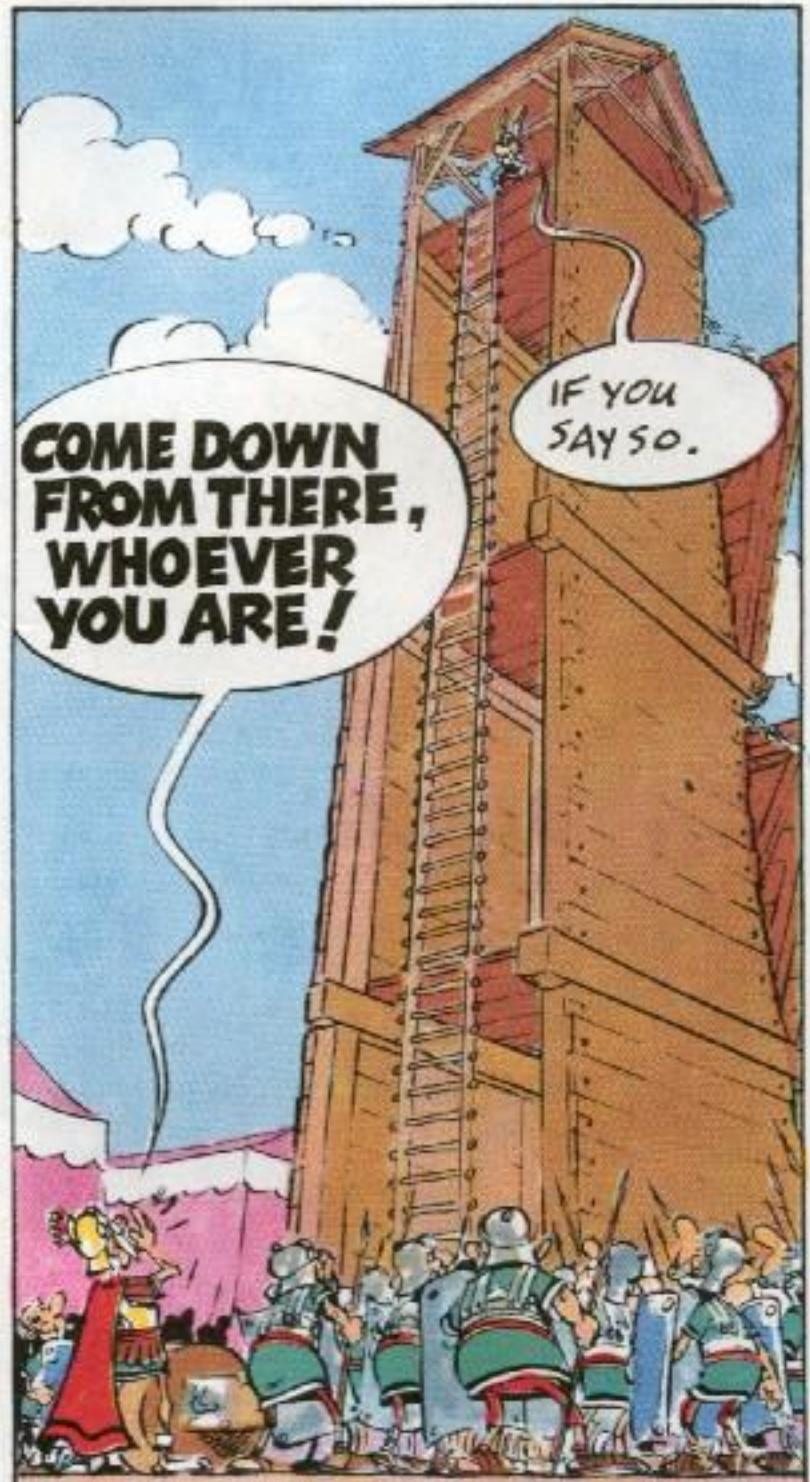
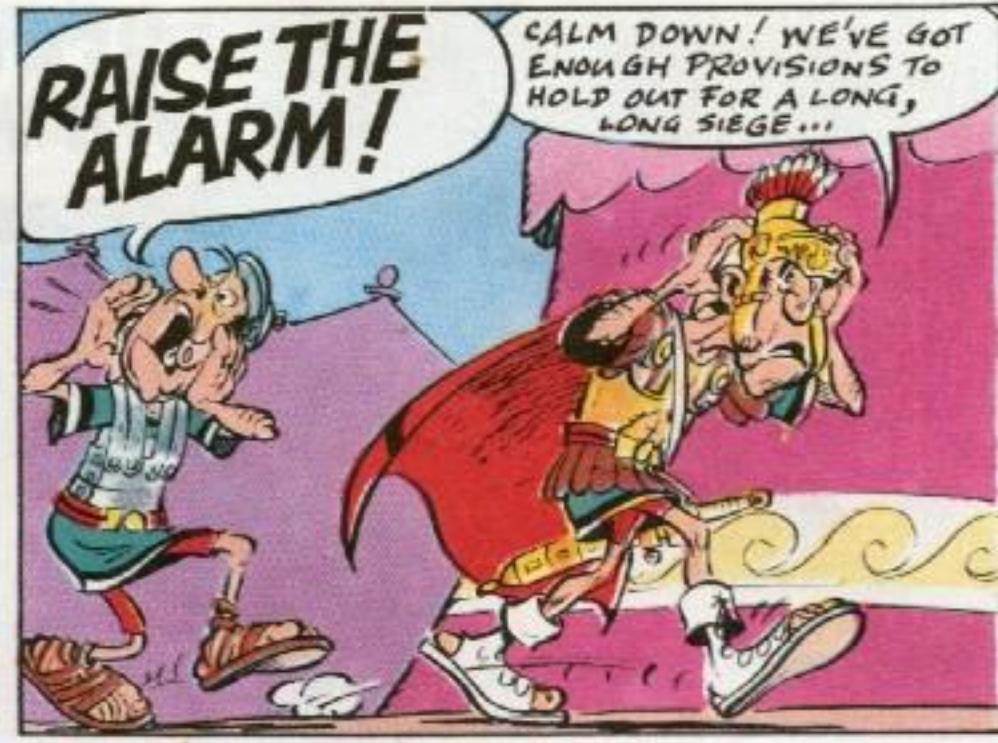
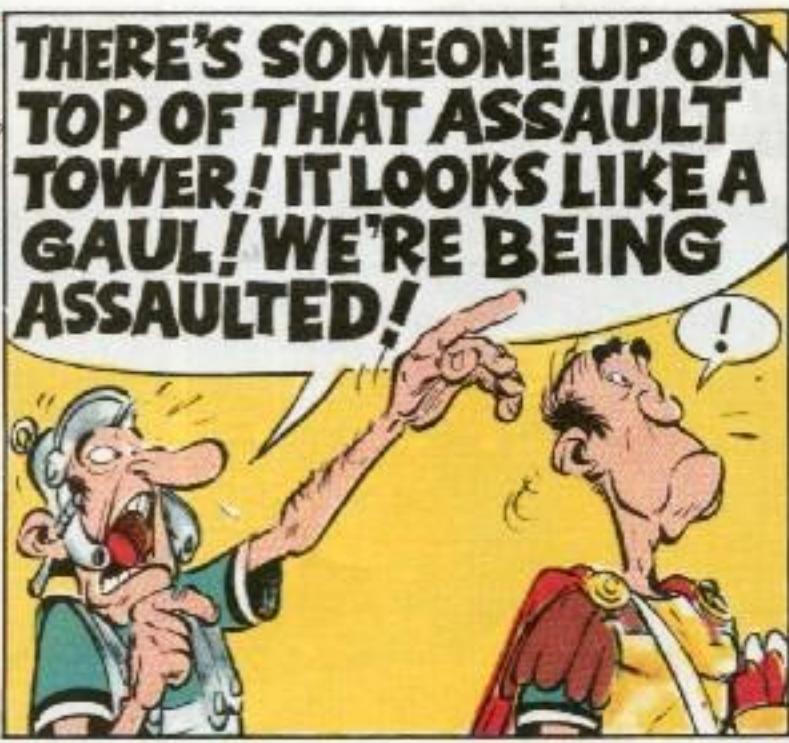




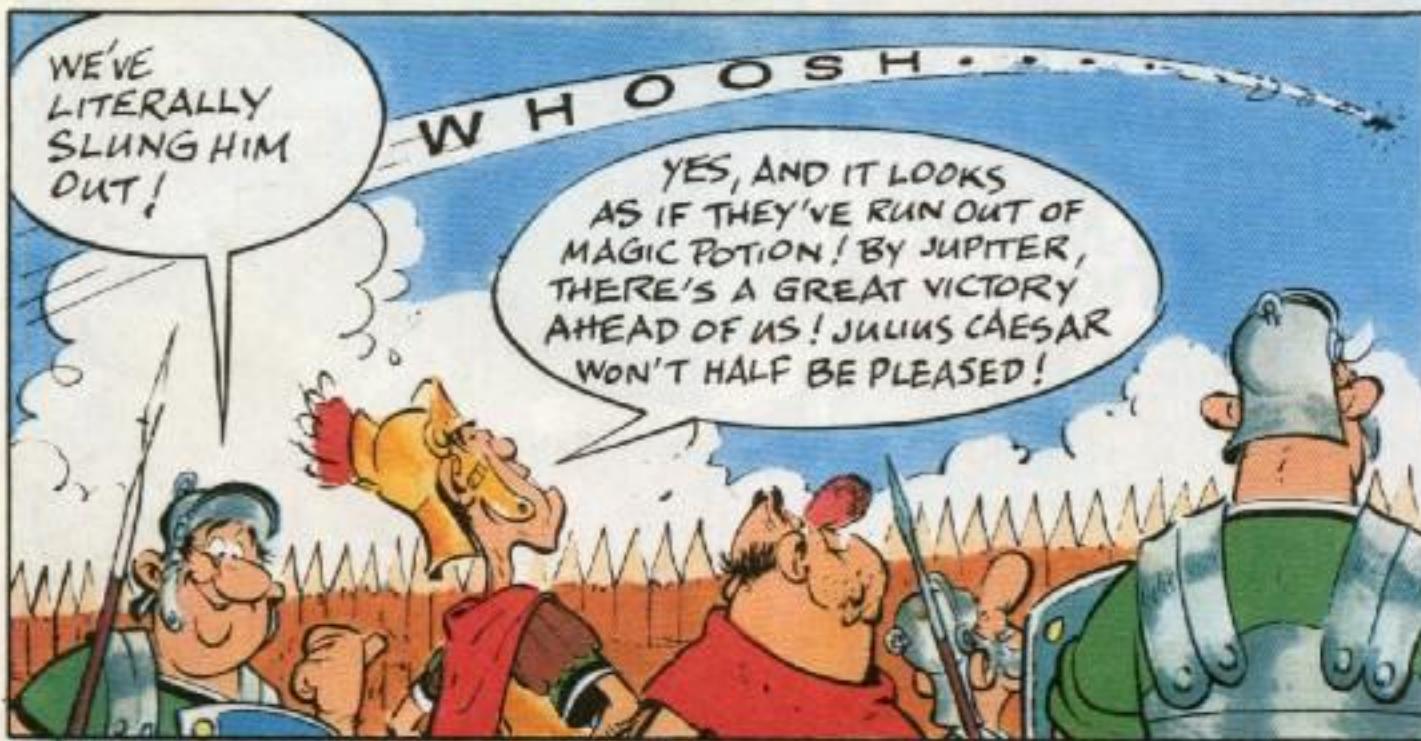
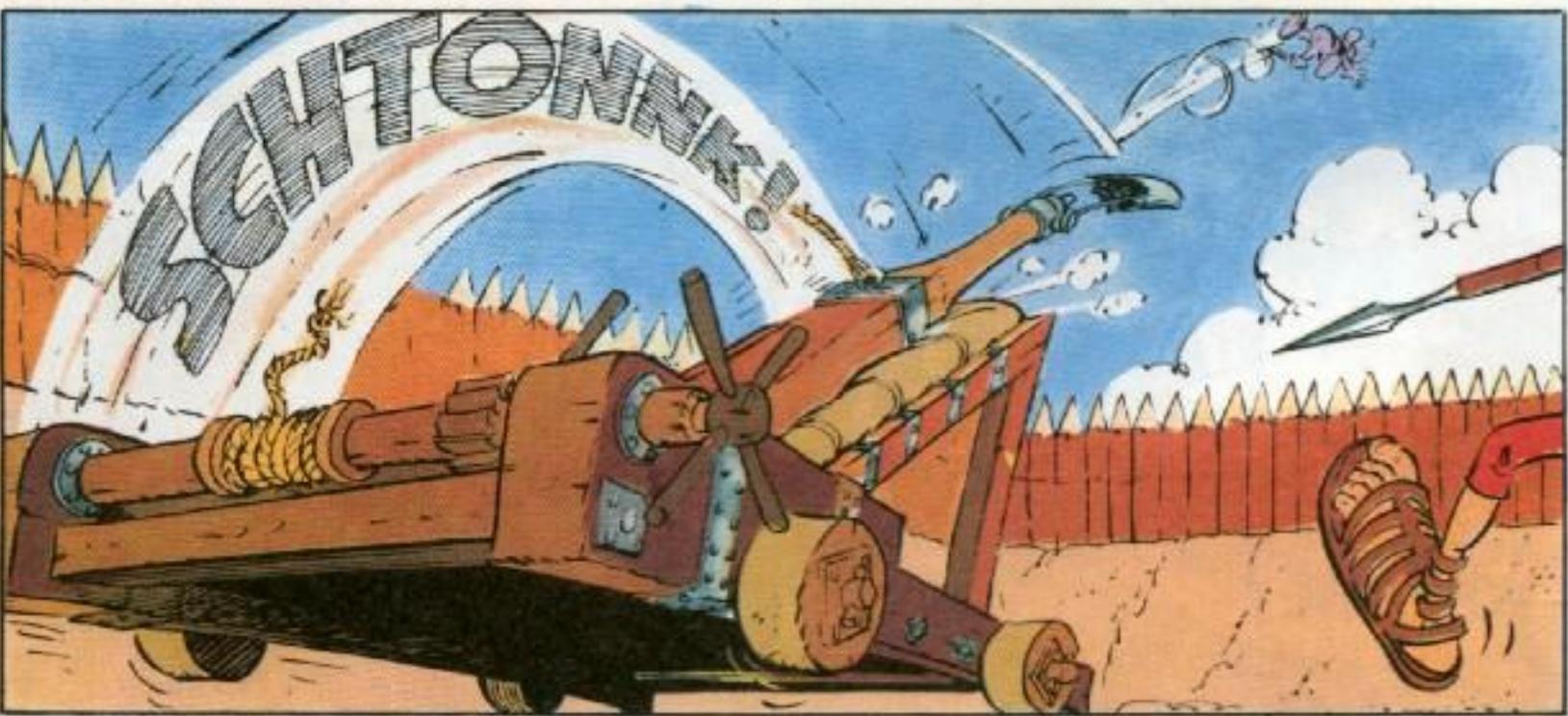
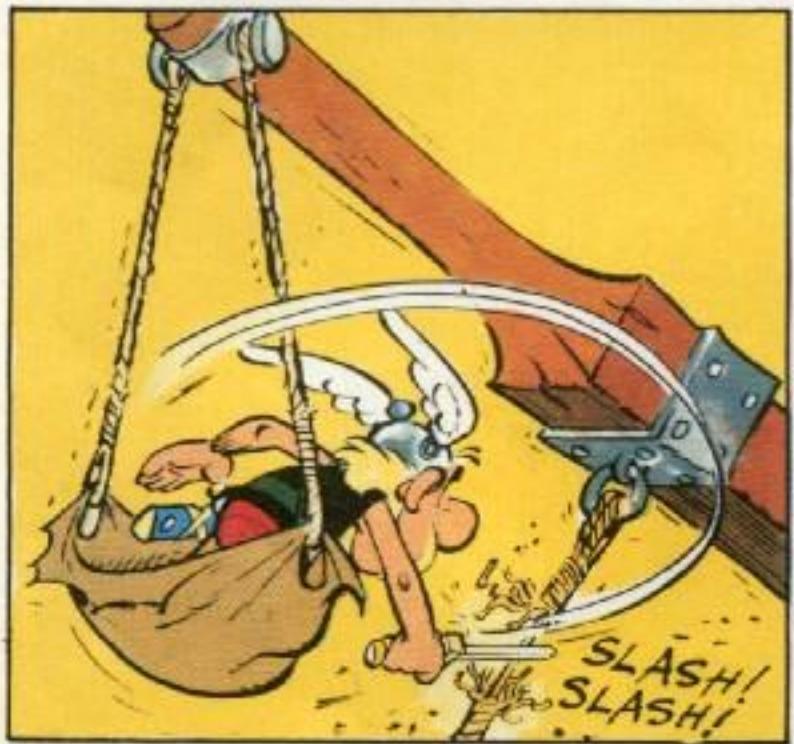
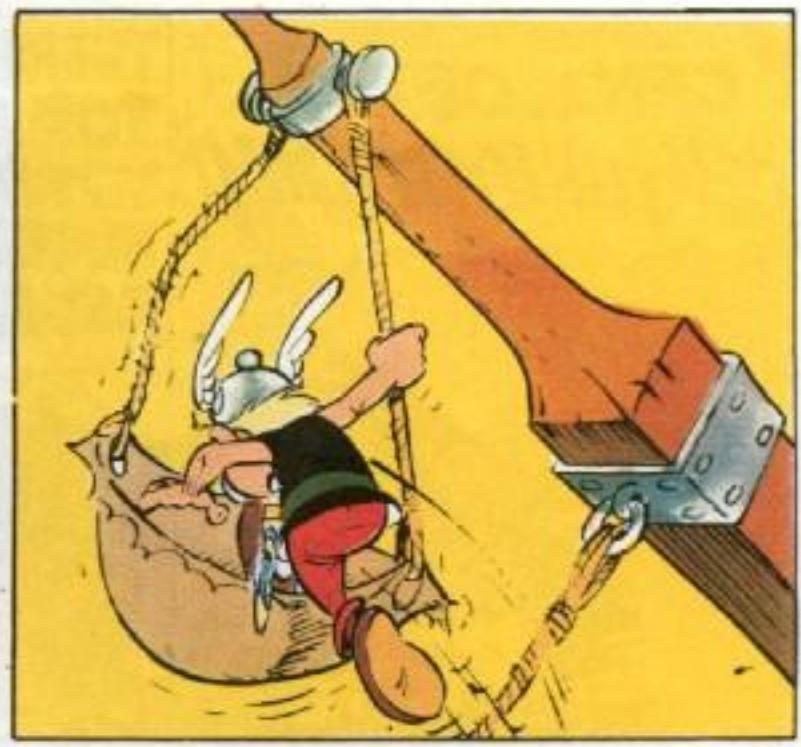


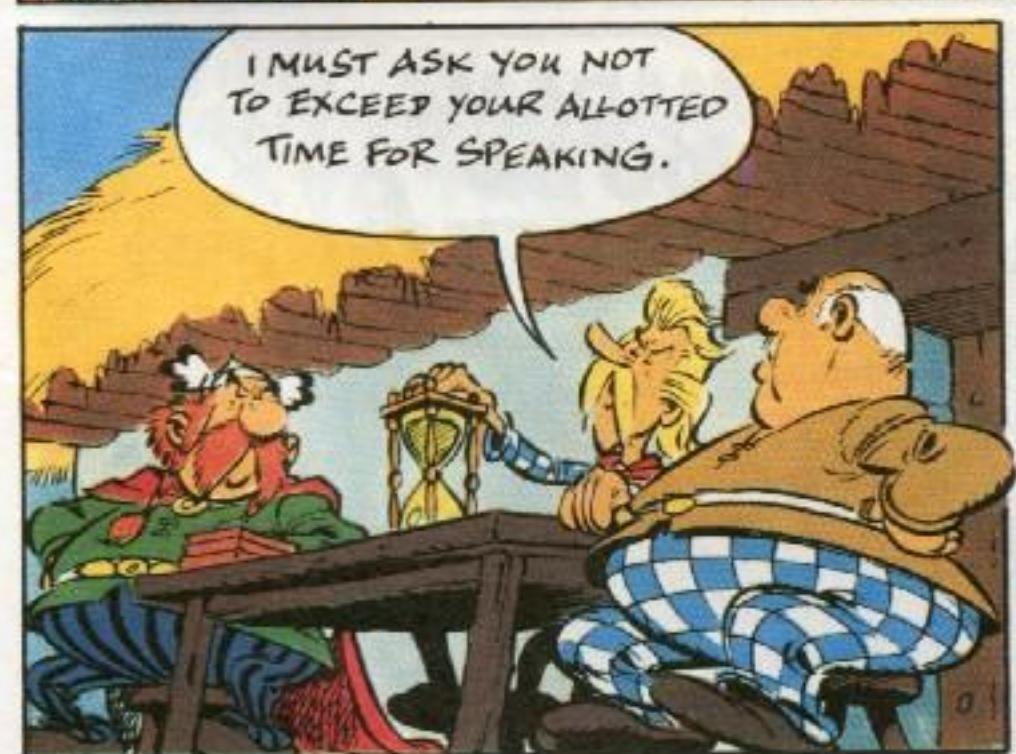
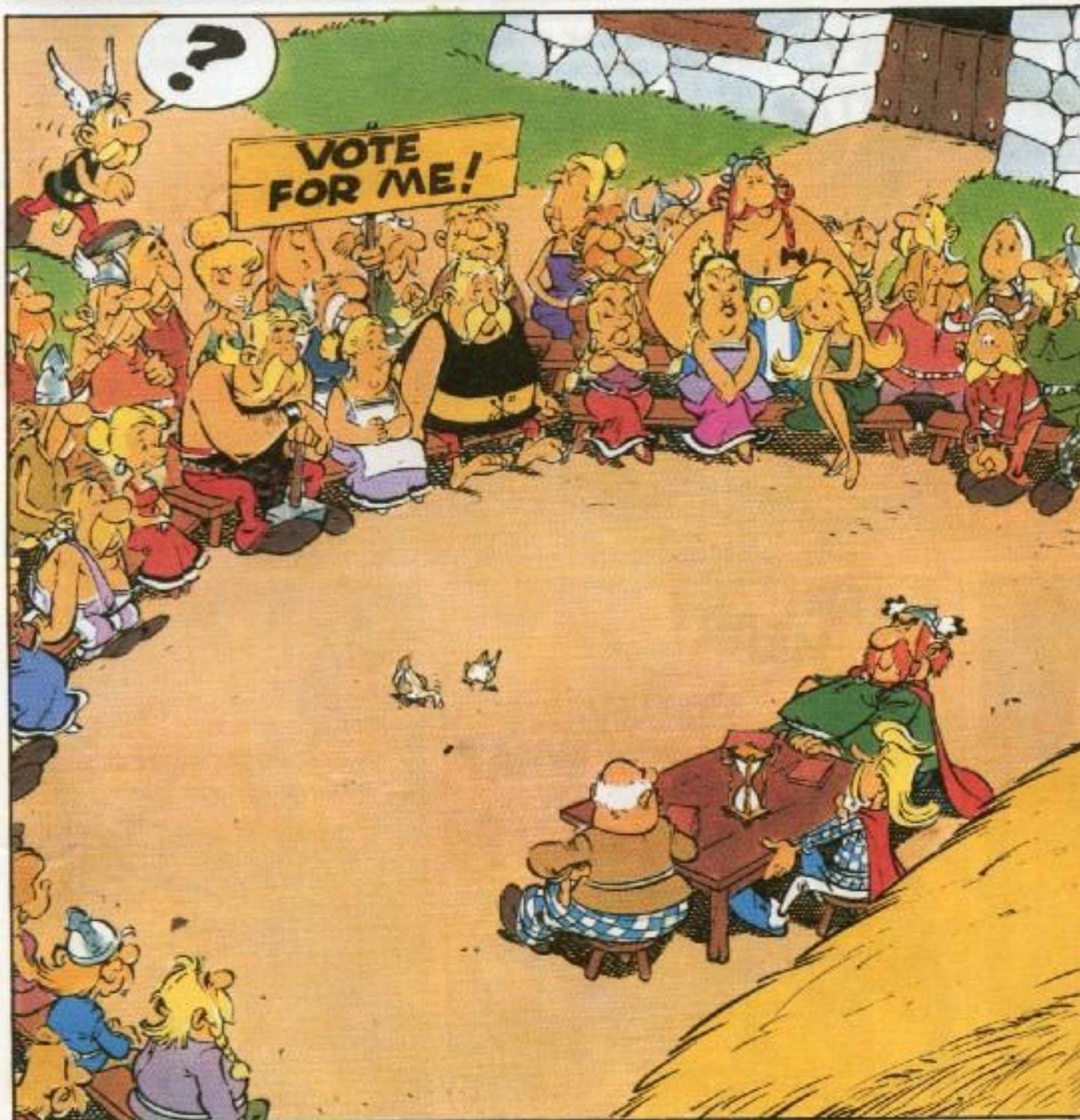


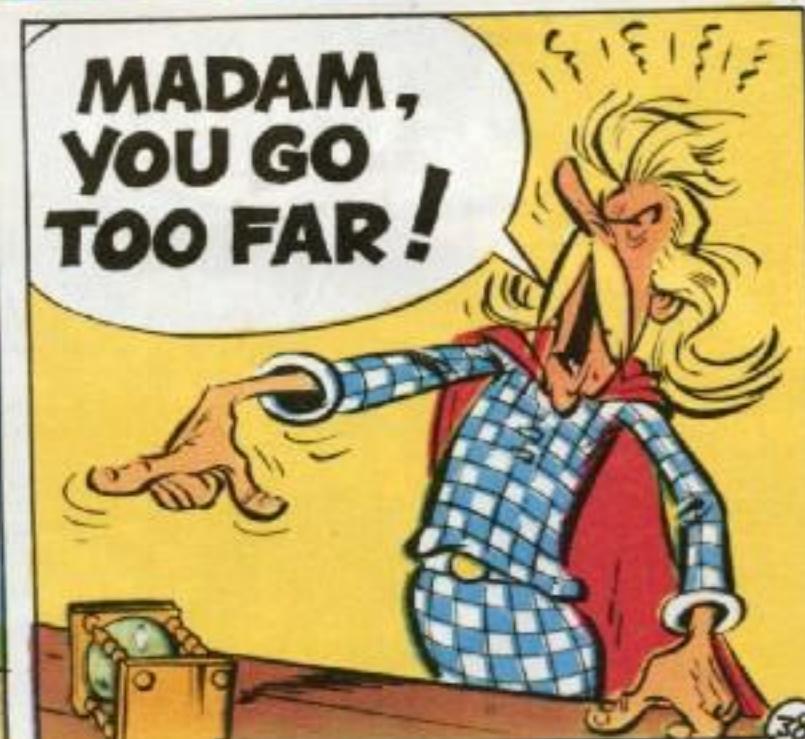
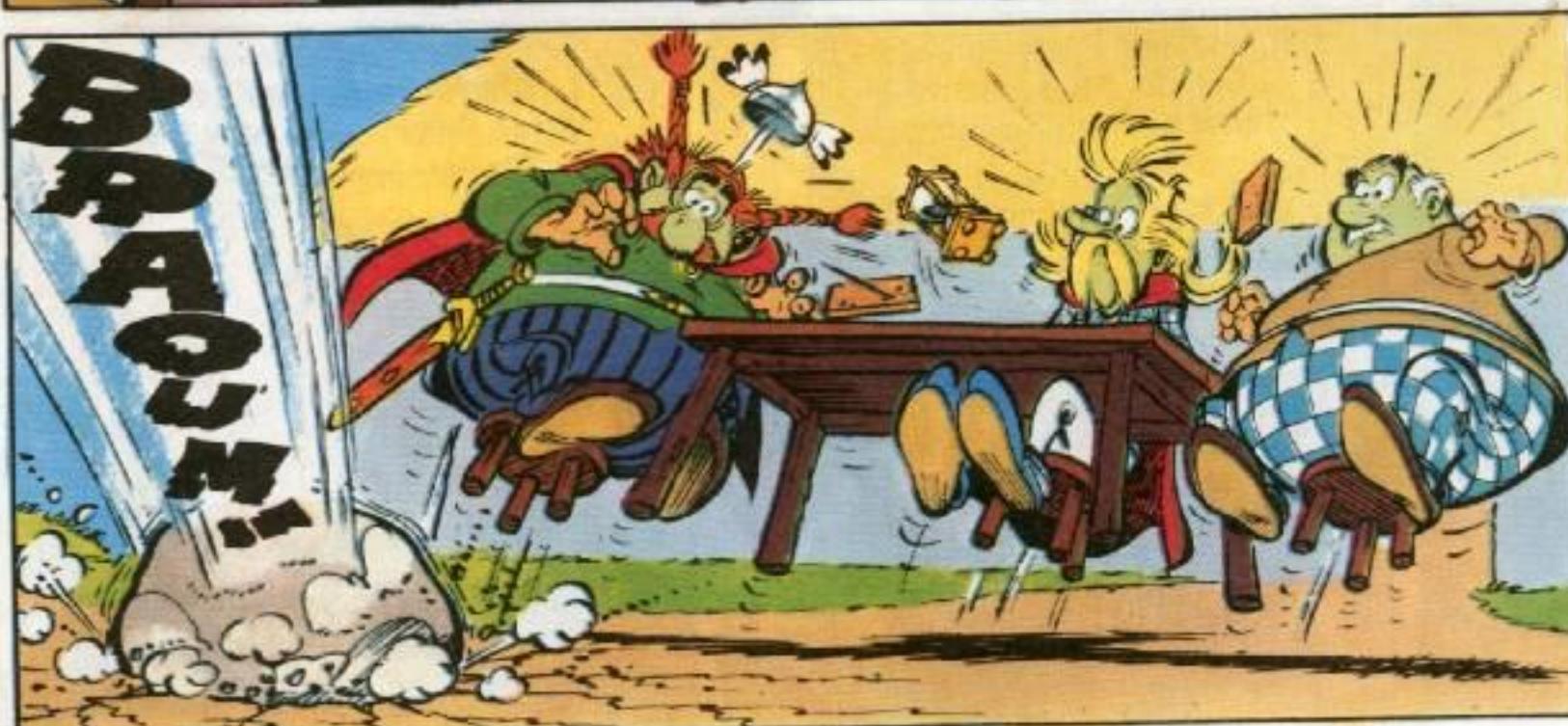
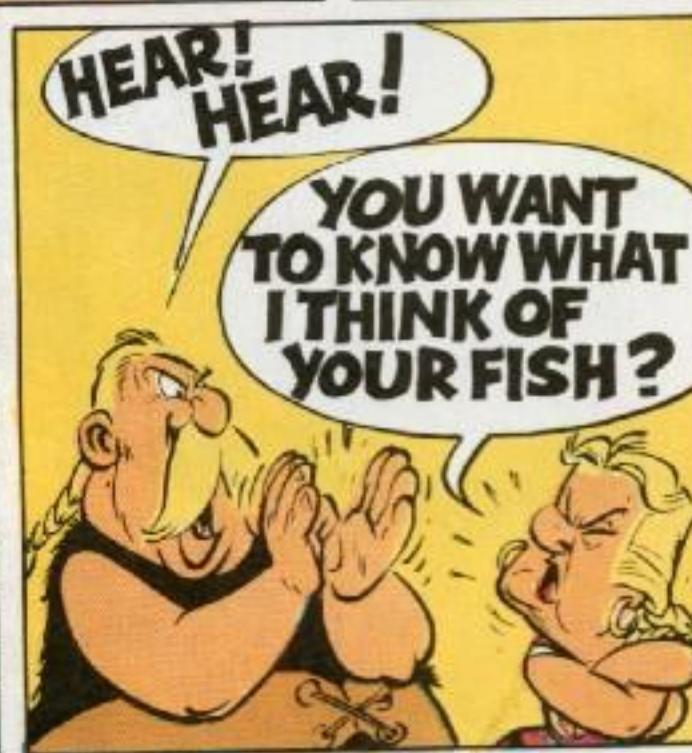
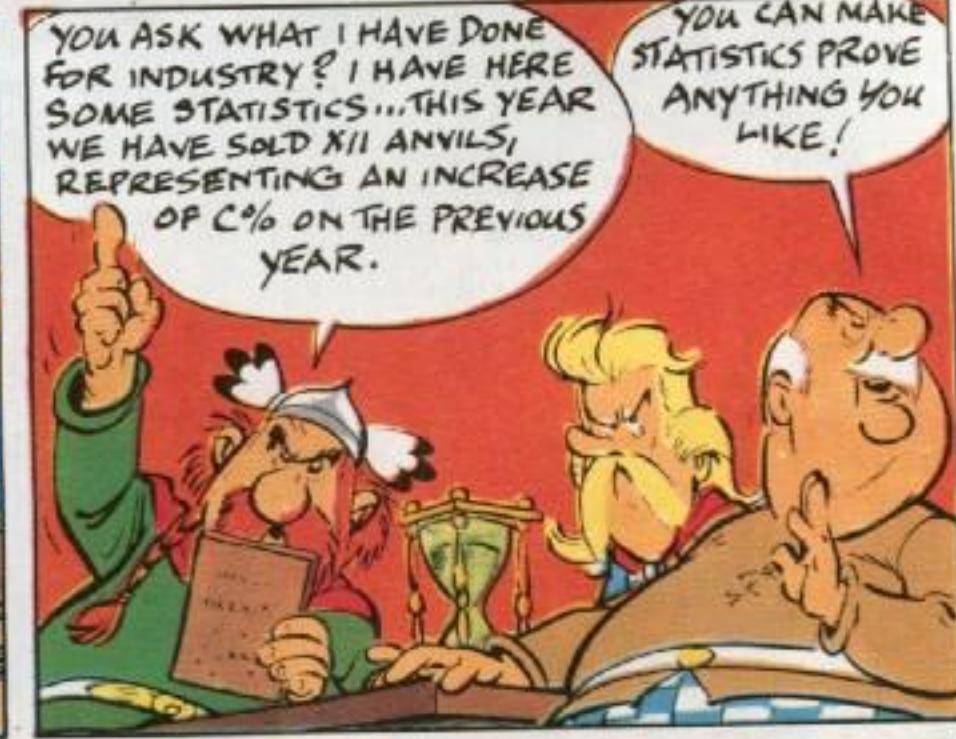
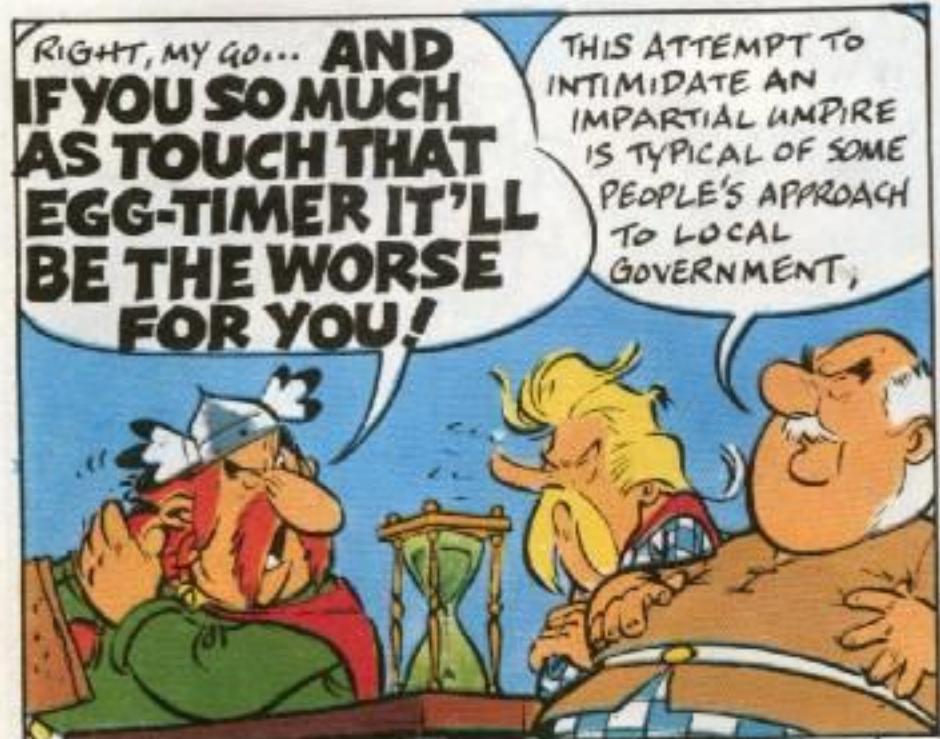
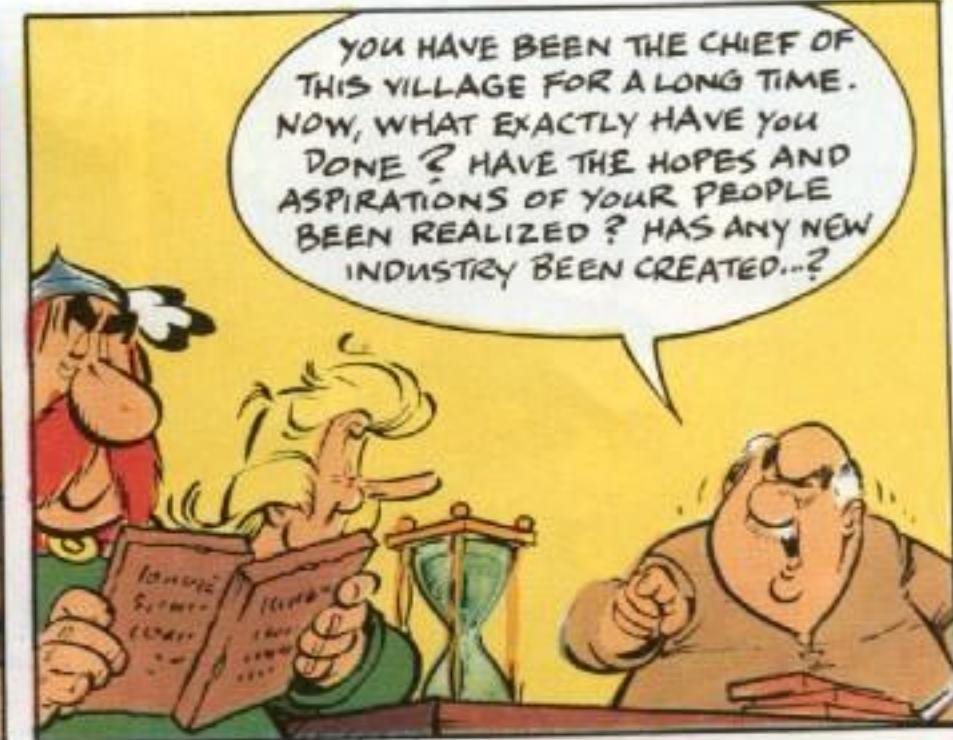
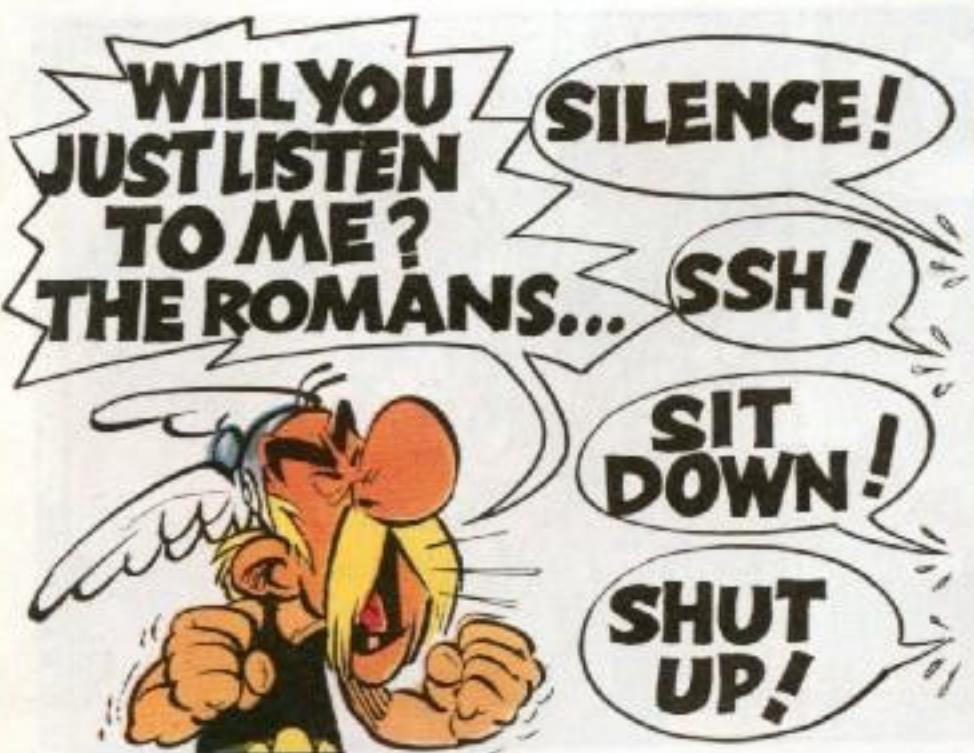


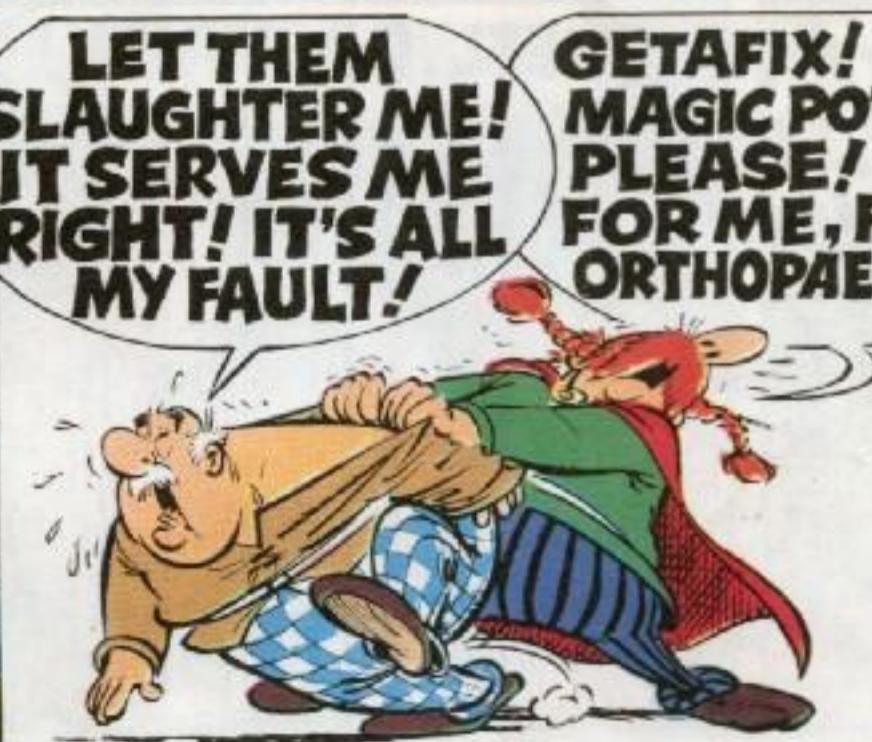
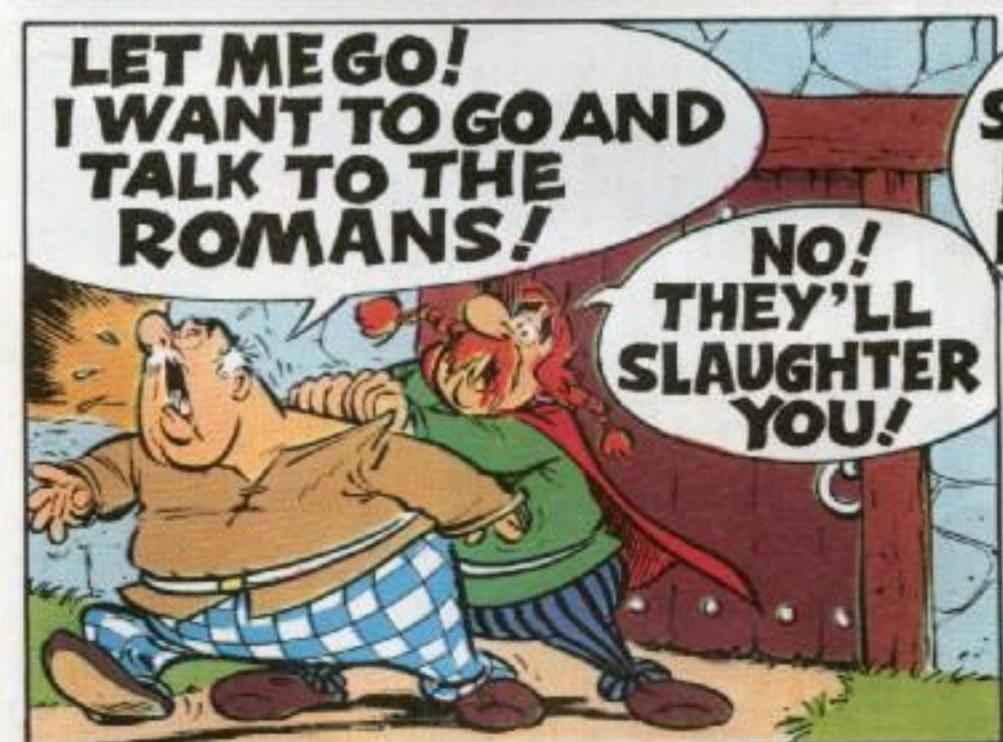
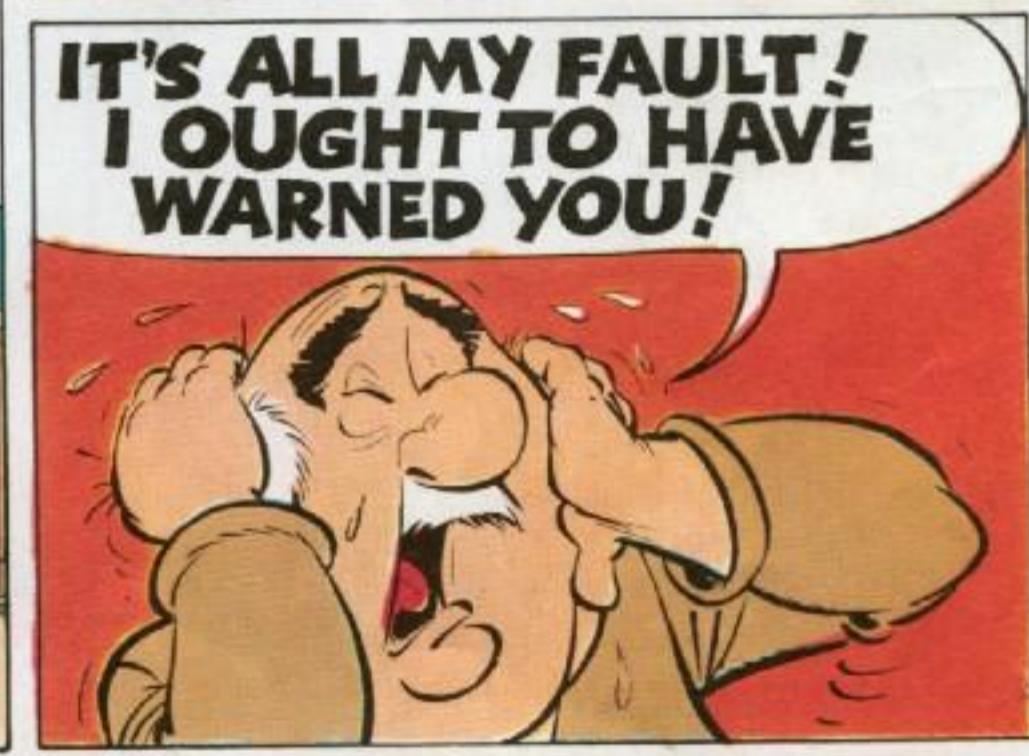
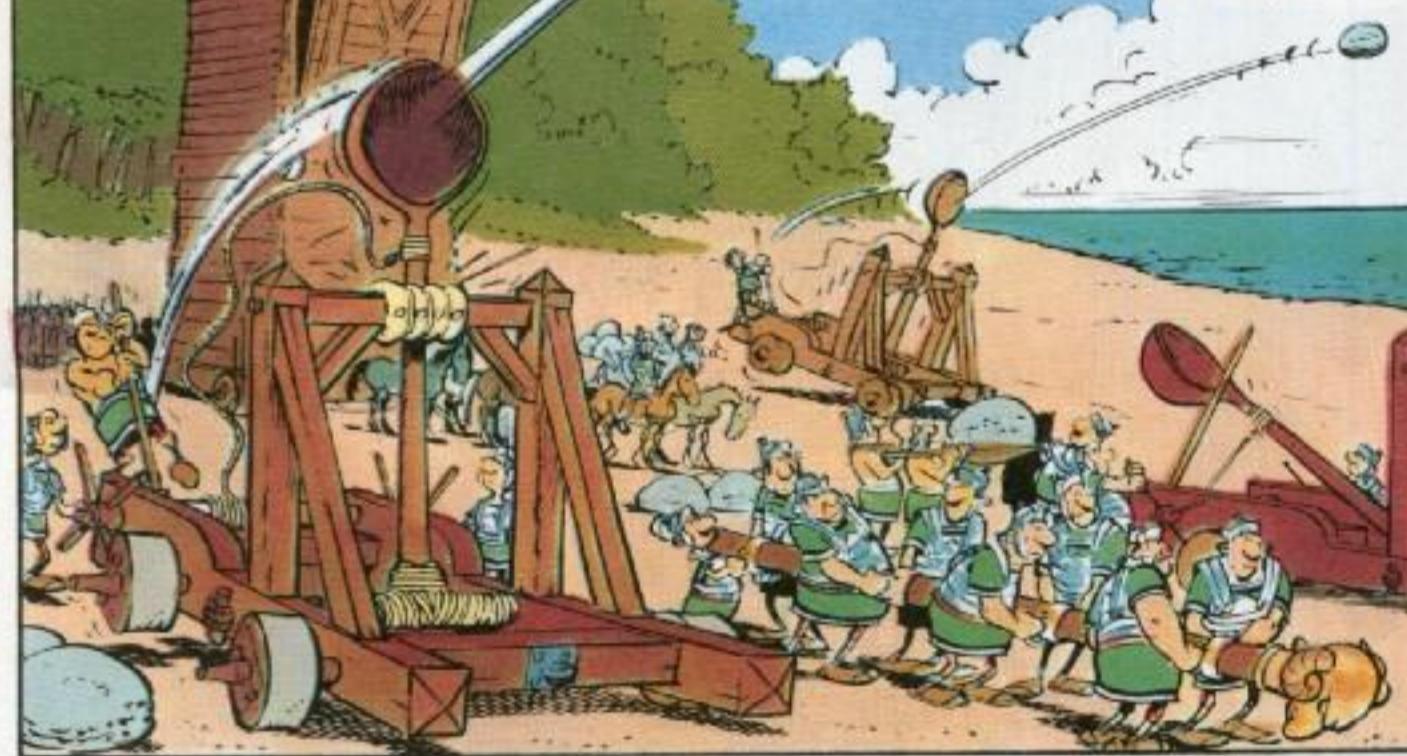
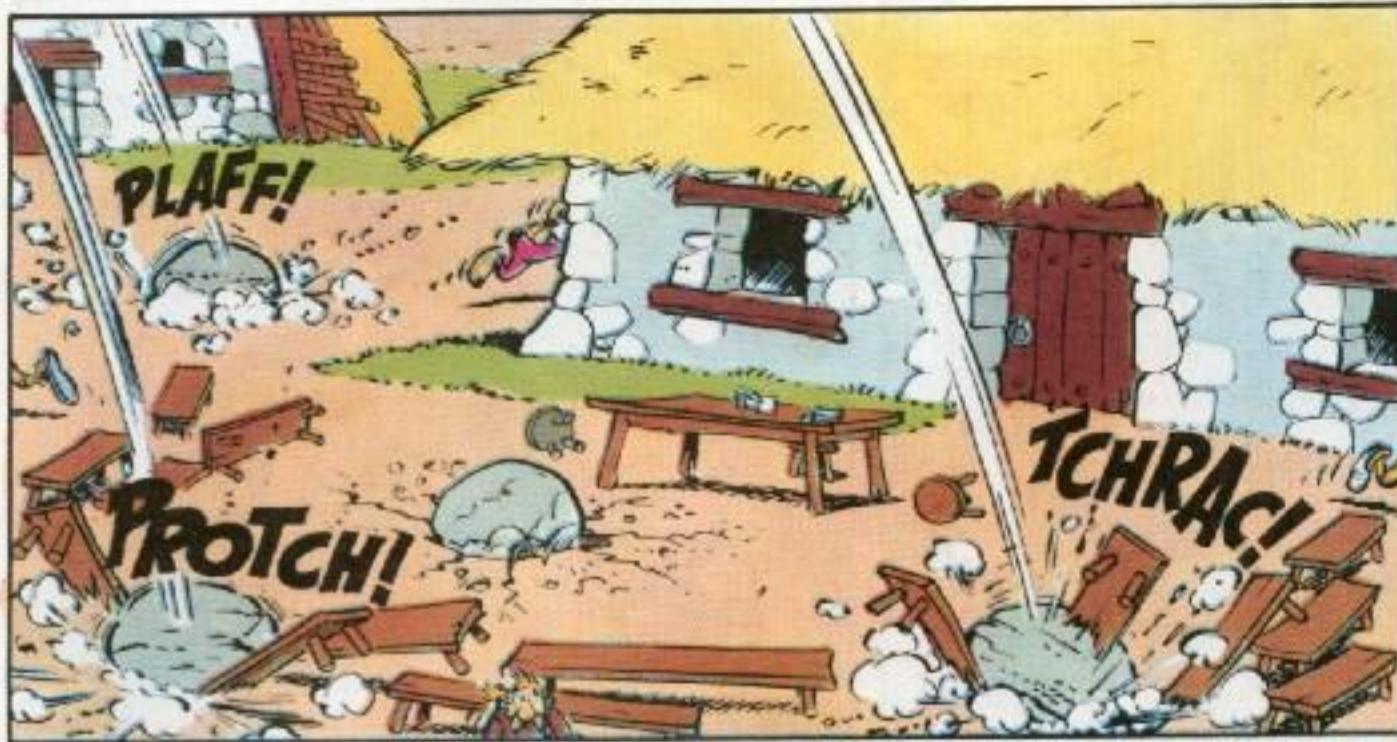


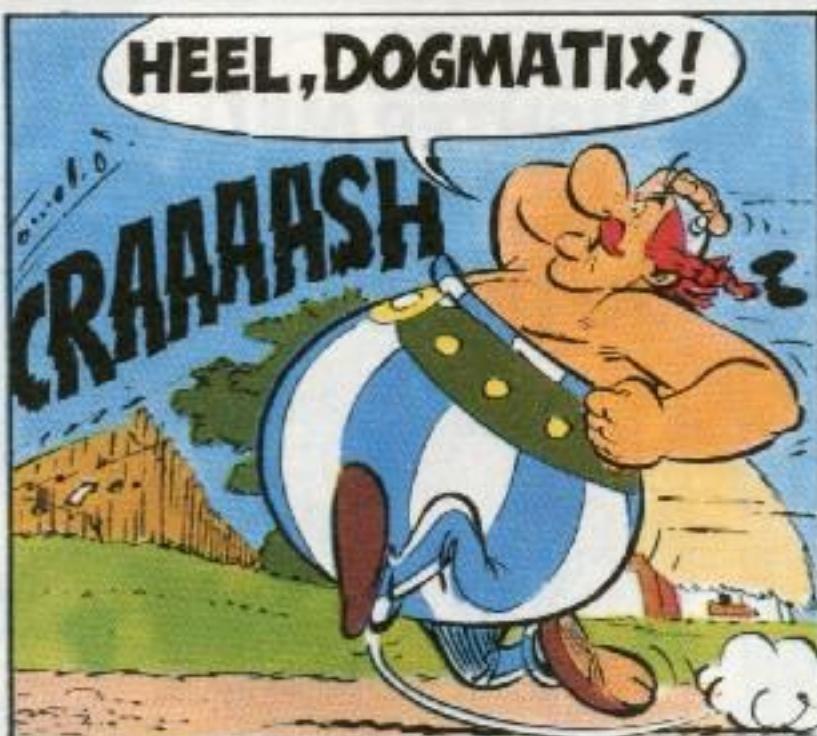
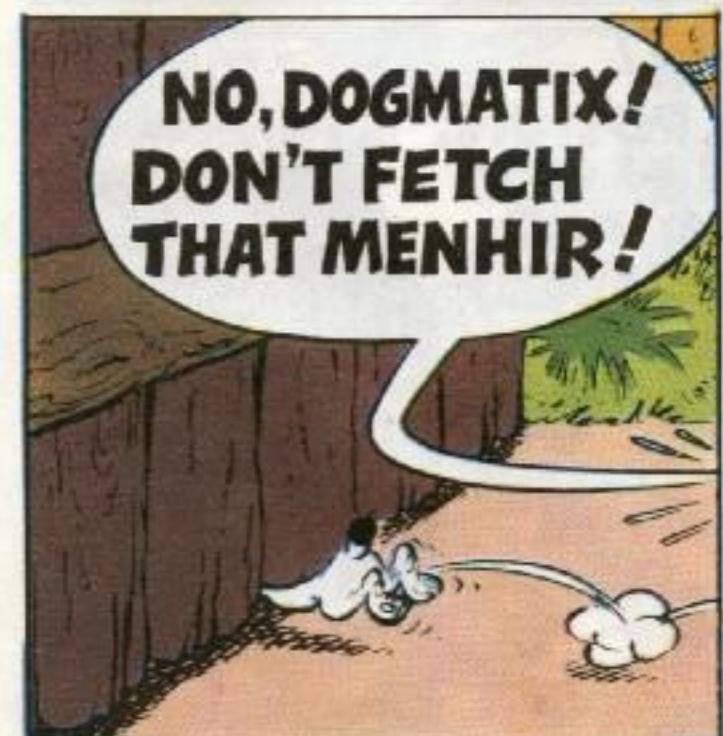
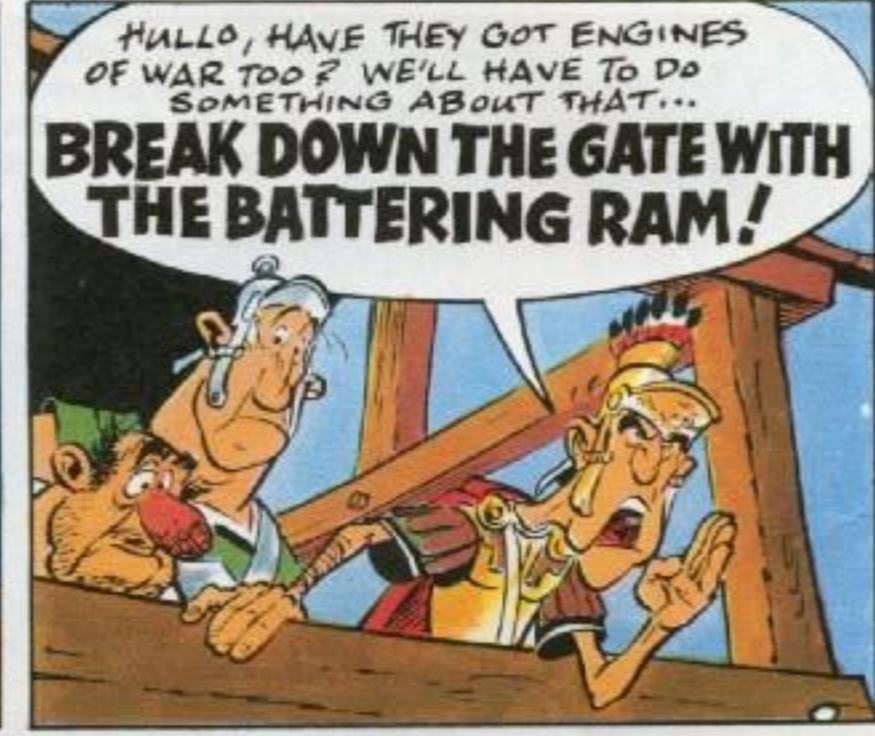
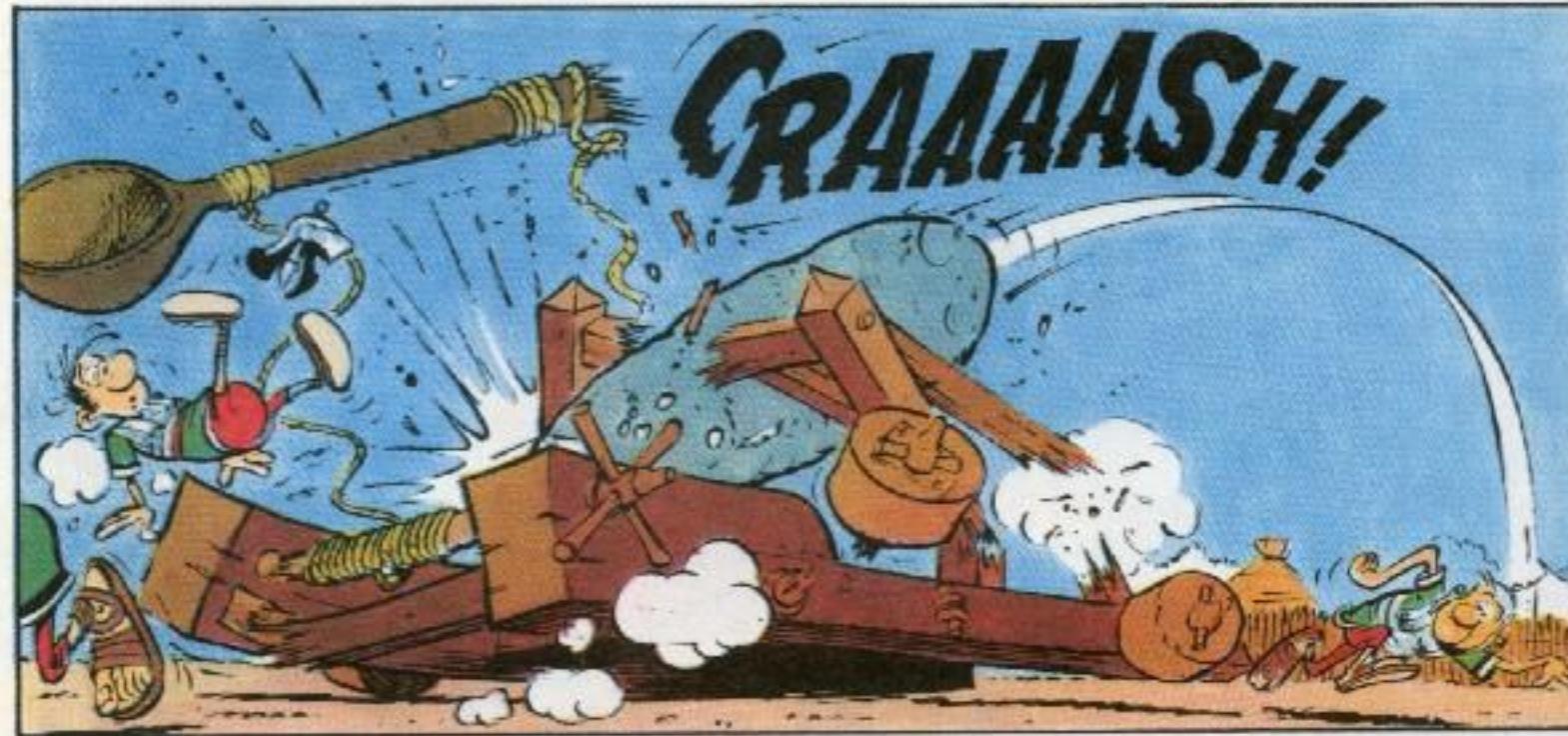
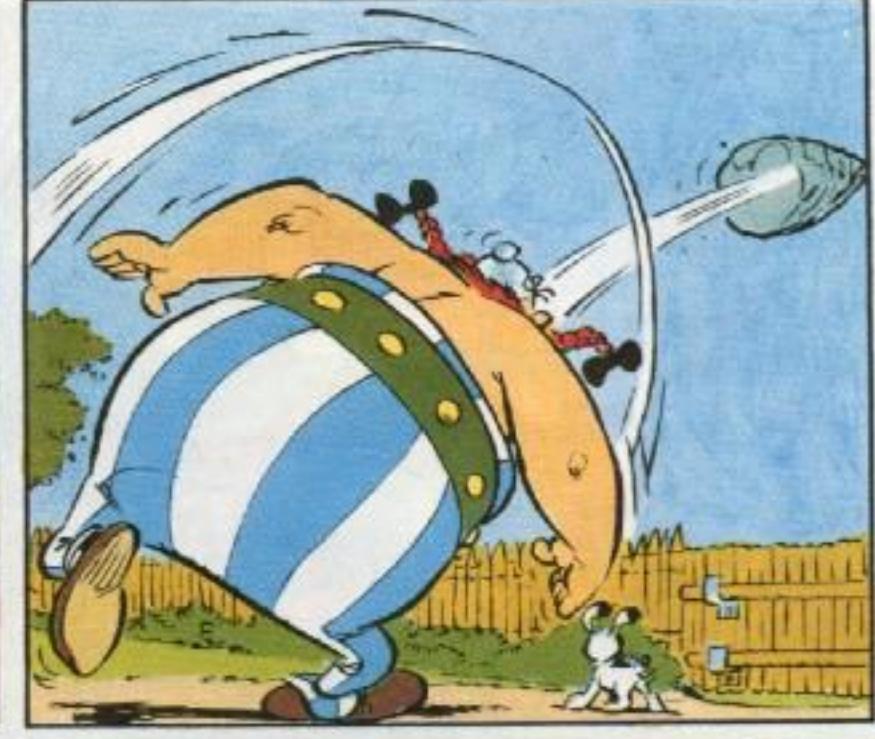
**HE'S CORNERED!
WE'VE GOT HIM!**

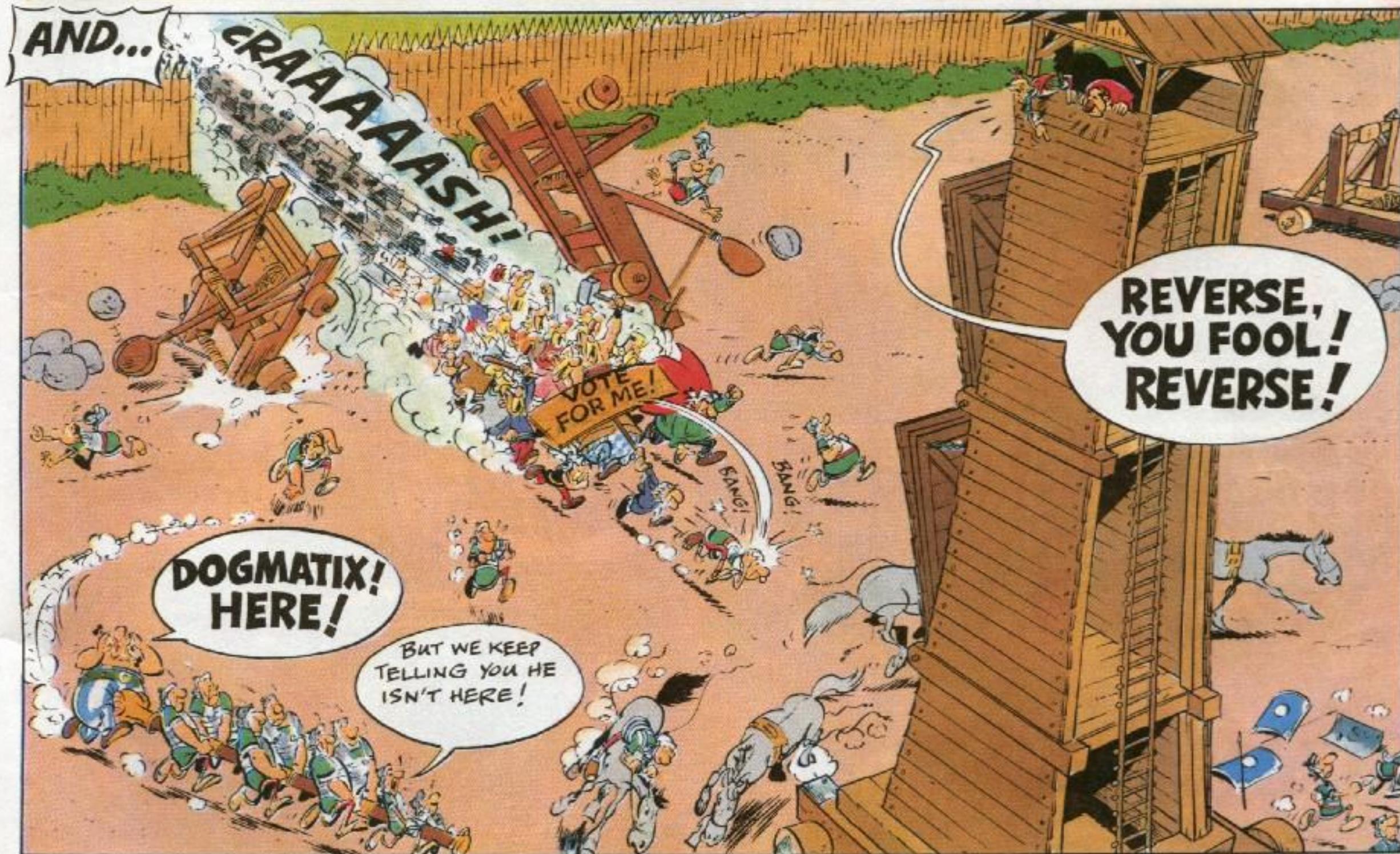


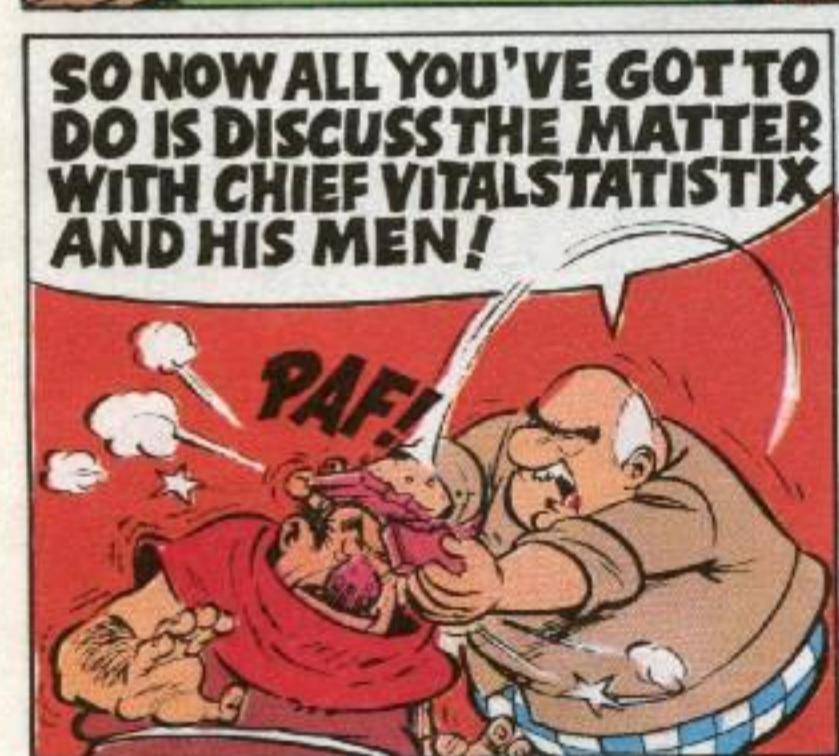
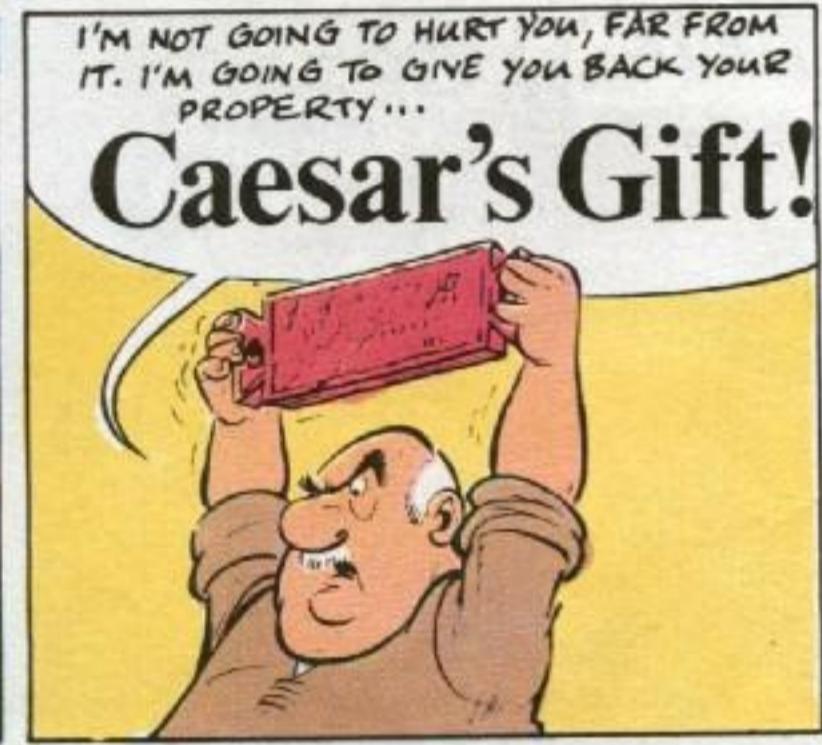
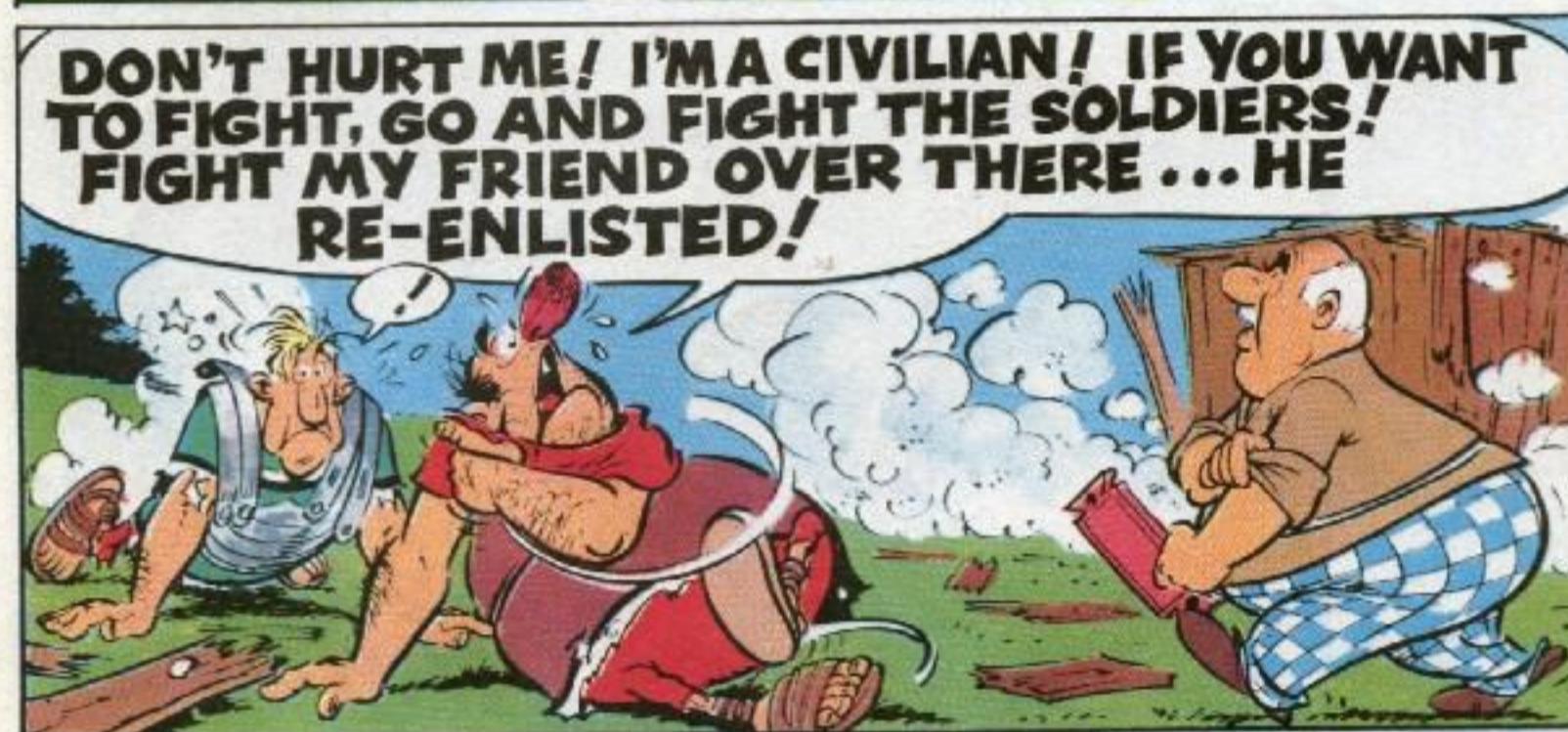
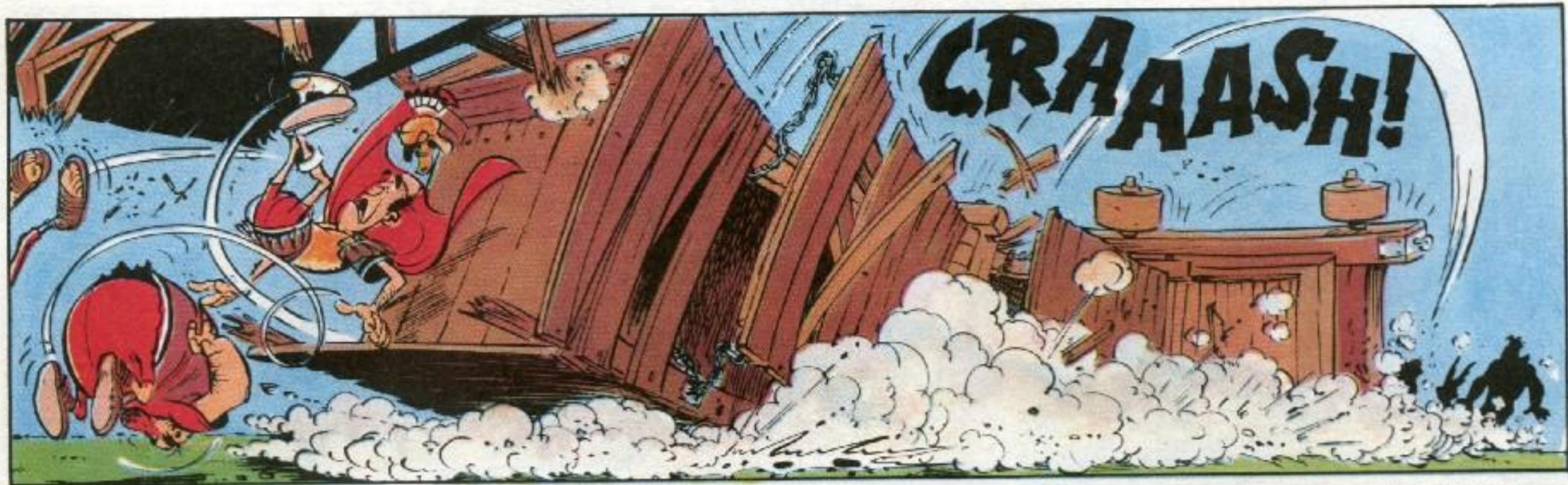


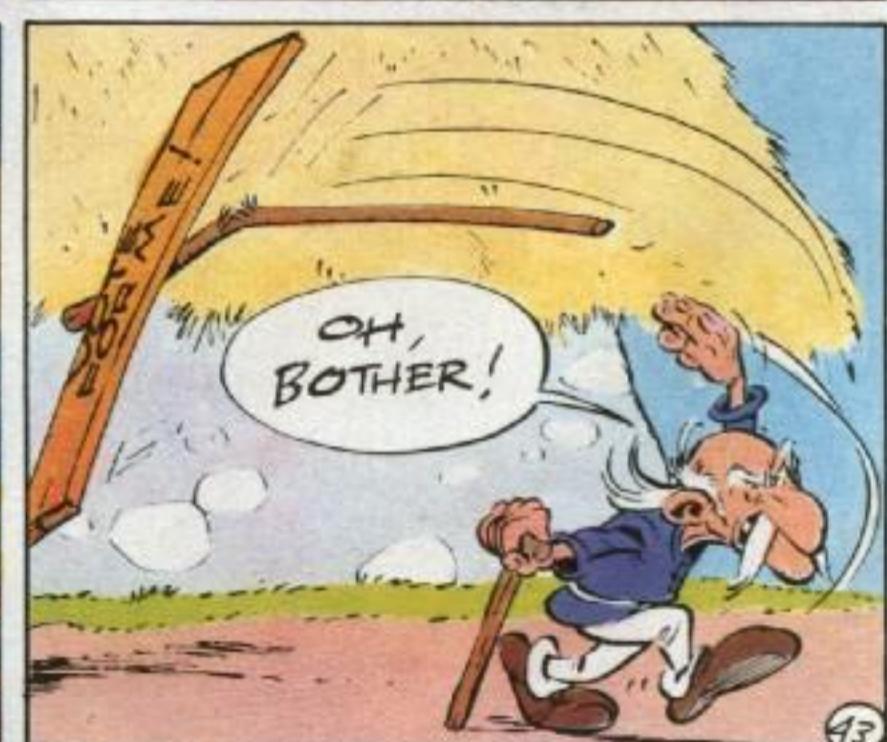
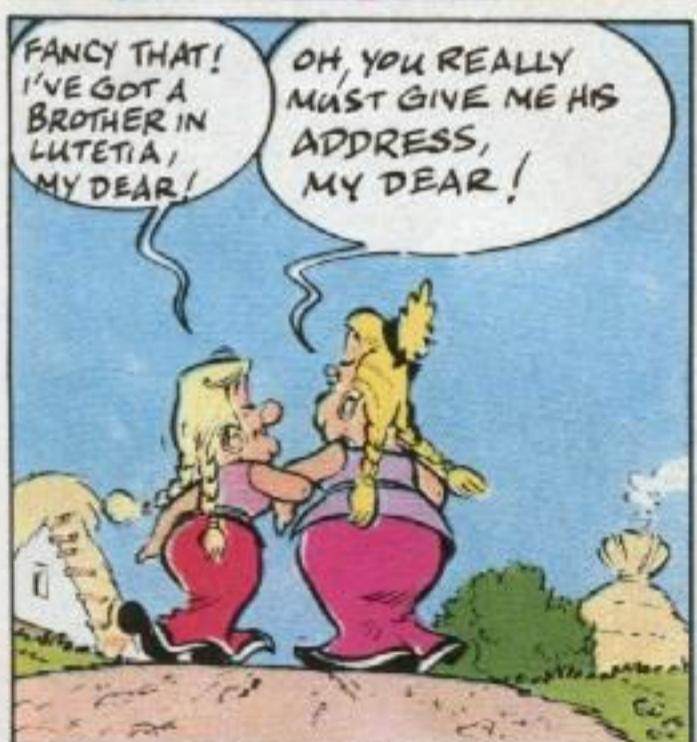
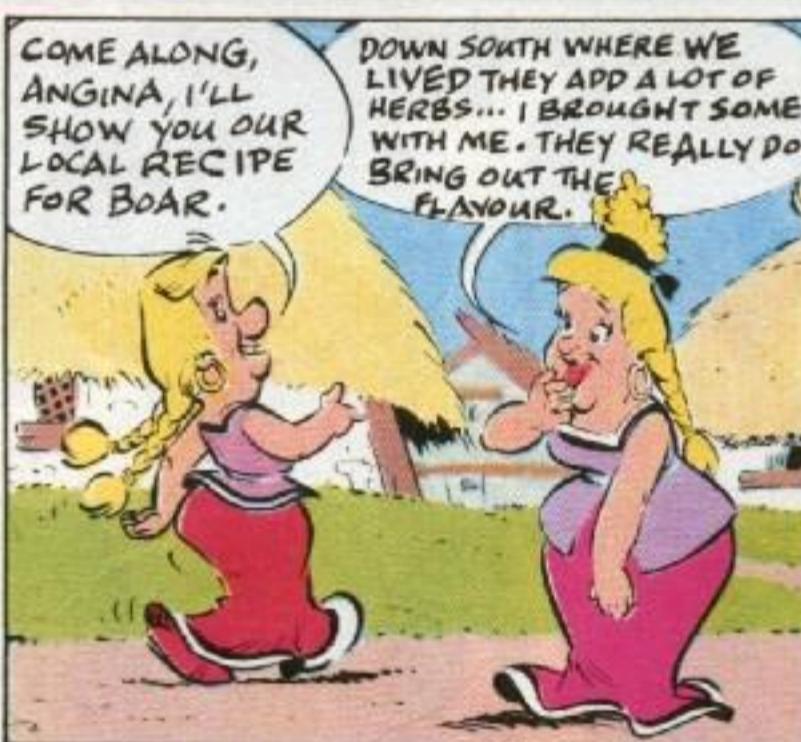
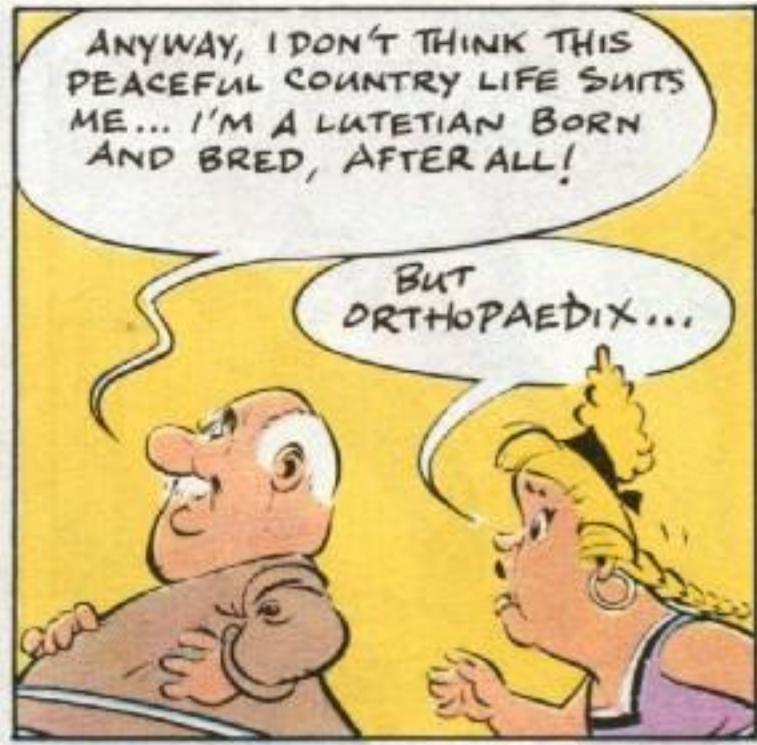














**OBELIX IS FRIENDS
WITH ME AGAIN!**

IN FACT, EVERYONE IS FRIENDS AGAIN.
UNDER THE STARRY SKY, ALL PARTIES
ARE RE-UNITED AROUND THE TABLE.
ALL PARTIES... FOR WE MUST NOT
FORGET THAT THIS HAPPENED VERY
LONG AGO, ABOUT 50 BC, AND
IN THOSE DAYS SUCH MATTERS
WERE NOT SO VERY IMPORTANT...

