



Dargaud presents

*Gaul was divided
into three parts*

No, four parts
for one small
village of
indomitable
Gauls still held
out against the
Roman invaders...

by
GOSCINNY
and
UDERZO

Asterix THE GAUL



ASTERIX THE GAUL

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE



HODDER AND STOUGHTON

LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND TORONTO



The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...



a few of the Gauls

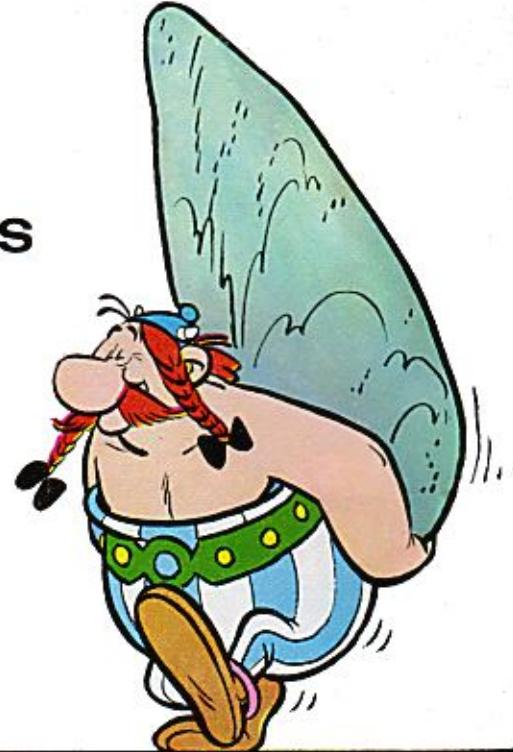
Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...



Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...

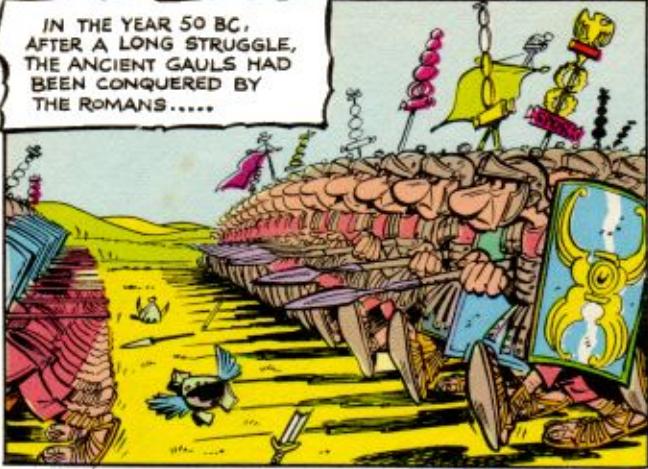


Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

IN THE YEAR 50 BC,
AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE,
THE ANCIENT GAULS HAD
BEEN CONQUERED BY
THE ROMANS.....



CHIEFS LIKE
VERCINGETORIX HAD
TO LAY THEIR ARMS
AT CAESARS FEET....



PEACE REIGNS, DISTURBED
ONLY BY OCCASIONAL
ATTACKS BY THE GERMANS,
SPEEDILY REPULSED....

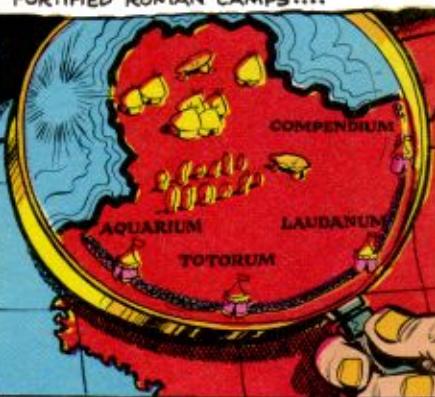
So! But ve
komm back!



ALL GAUL
IS OCCUPIED....



ALL ? NO - ONE VILLAGE STILL HOLDS OUT
STUBBORNLY AGAINST THE INVADERS.
ONE SMALL VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY
FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMPS....

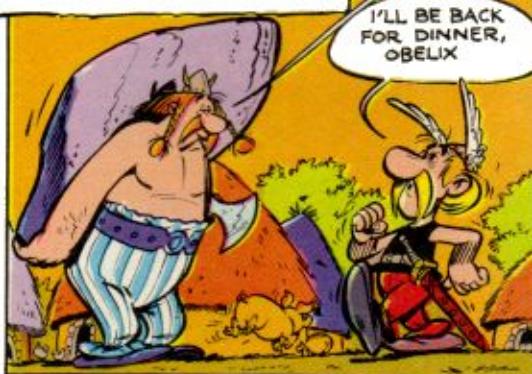


ALL EFFORTS TO SUBDUCE
THESE PROUD GAULS HAVE
FAILED, AND CAESAR
ASKS HIMSELF....

QUID ?



AND NOW WE MEET OUR HERO,
THE WARRIOR ASTERIX,
JUST OFF HUNTING
AS USUAL



BACK SOON,
ASTERIX?

I'LL BE BACK
FOR DINNER,
OBELIX

HERE HE
COMES !

WE'LL GET
HIM
IPSO FACTO!
SIC!



ACCIDENTE
WILL HAPPEN....

VAE VICTO
VAE VICTIS !

WE DECLINE !

AND AT THE ROMAN CAMP OF
COMPENDIUM, IN THE TENT
OF CENTURION CRISMUS BONUS..

AVE CRISMUS
BONUS !
THE PATROL'S
BACK !

AVE JULIUS
POMPUS ! I'LL
GO AND INSPECT
THEM

AVE

! ? ! ?

WHAT HAPPENED,
BY ALL THE GODS ?
WERE YOU ATTACKED
BY SUPERIOR
NUMBERS ?

SUPERIOR
NUMBERS...

CAN'T
QUITE
SAY...

THERE WAS
ONE OF
THEM...

NOT A VERY LARGE
ONE EITHER !

BY JUPITER ! THERE
MUST BE SOME SECRET
BEHIND THE SUPERHUMAN
STRENGTH OF
THESE GAULS !

MEANWHILE....

SO YOU'RE BACK ASTERIX.
ANYTHING INTERESTING
HAPPEN ?

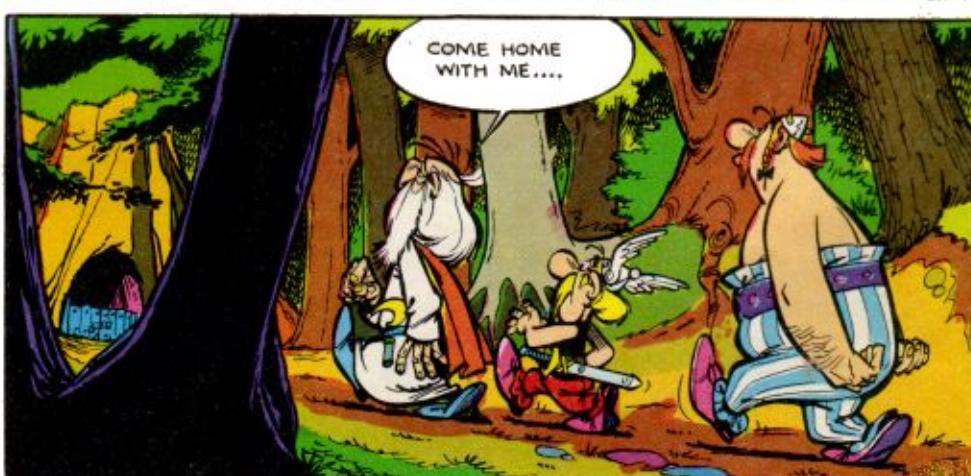
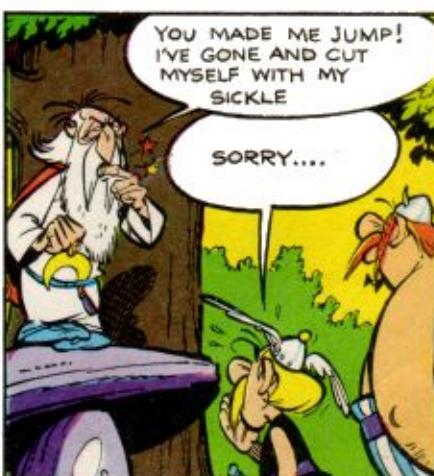
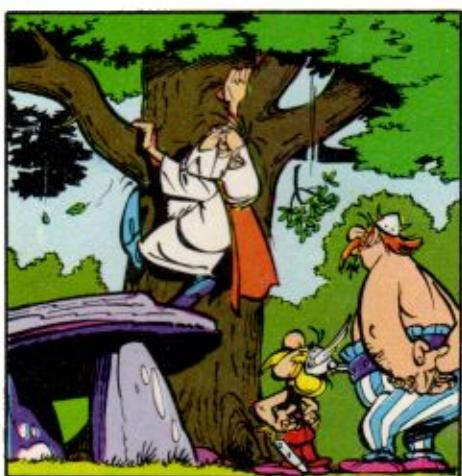
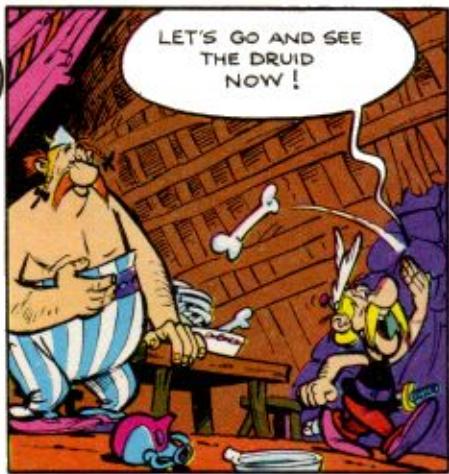
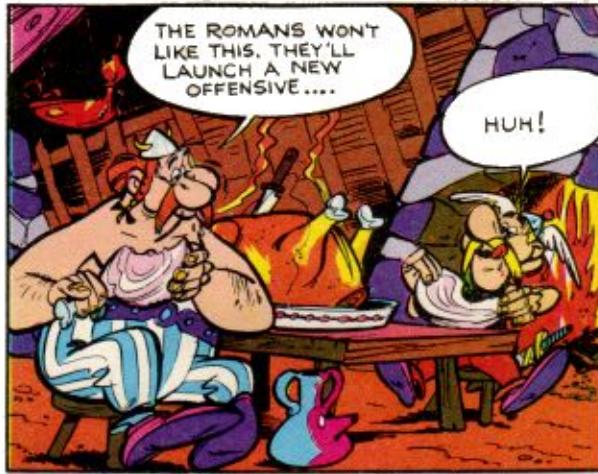
NO....

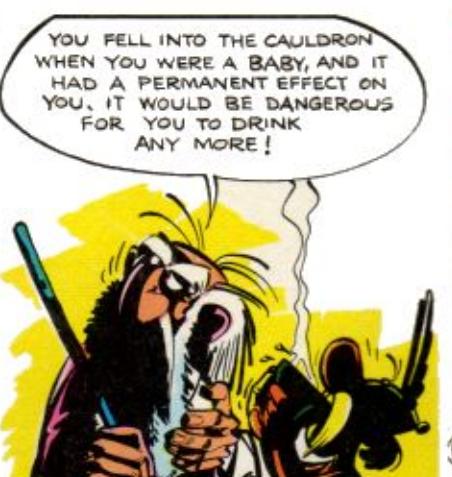
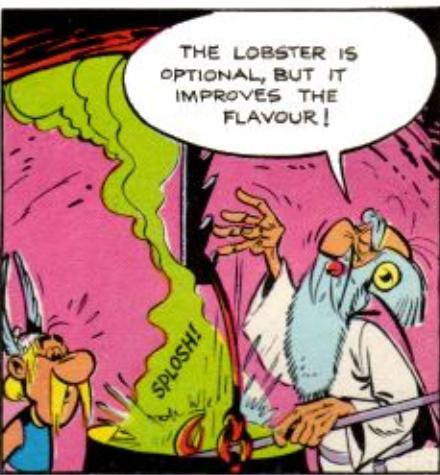
OH YES !
I KNOCKED
FOUR ROMANS
OUT

OH, GOOD !

WANT TO HELP ME
EAT MY BOAR ?

JUST COMING !
I'VE GOT TWO
MORE MENHIRS
TO DELIVER





WE'VE BEEN LAYING SIEGE TO THESE GAULS FOR YEARS! THEY'VE GOT A NERVE! THIS MORNING'S PROVOCATION IS GOING TOO FAR. ONE AGAINST FOUR IS NO JOKE! THEY'RE MAKING US LOOK RIDICULOUS

THERE'S SOME MYSTERY BEHIND THE STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS. WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET

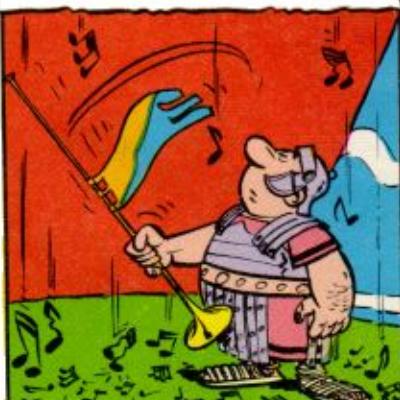


AS THERE ARE SO MANY VOLUNTEERS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS TO PICK THE SPY!

THIS ANCIENT ROMAN GAME IS PLAYED WITH ONE LESS CHAIR THAN THERE ARE LEGIONARIES.....



...WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS.....



... ALL THE PLAYERS SIT DOWN. THE LEGIONARY WITHOUT A CHAIR HAS LOST

CALIGULA MINUS IS OUT!

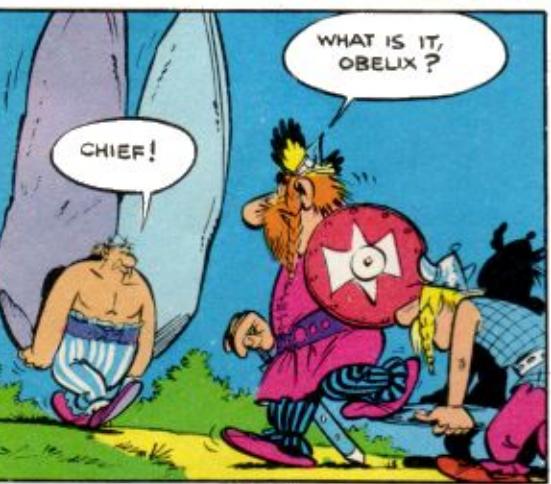
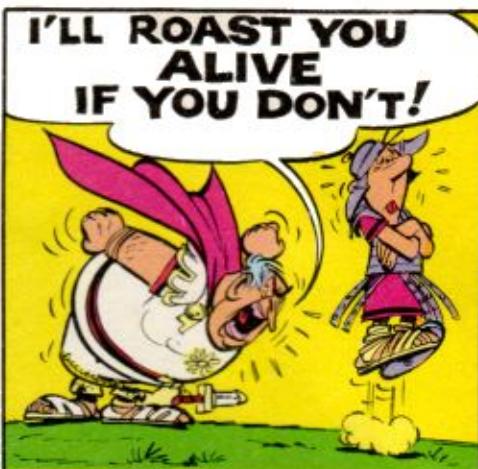
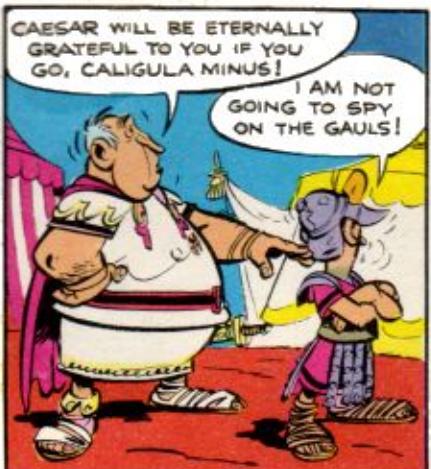
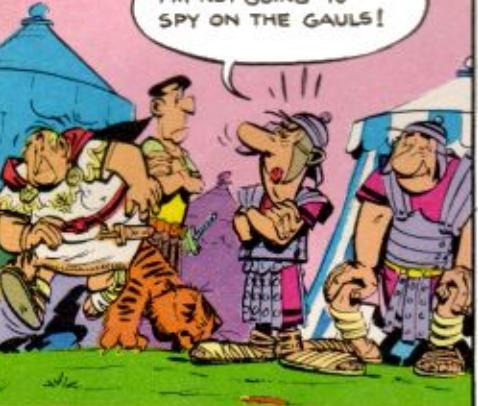


I'M NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!

CAESAR WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU IF YOU GO, CALIGULA MINUS!

I AM NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!

I'LL ROAST YOU ALIVE IF YOU DON'T!



CALIGULA MINUS
IS READY, CRISMUS
BONUS. WE'VE DISGUISED
HIM AS A GAUL

LETS HAVE A LOOK...



HA! HA!
Ho! Ho!

PUT HIM IN
CHAINS

WHASSUP?

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU FOR
A LITTLE WALK NEAR THE GAULISH
VILLAGE. WHEN THE GAULS SEE
YOU THEY'LL COME OUT AND
RESCUE YOU, THEN YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO INFILTRATE THE VILLAGE
AND LEARN THEIR SECRET....

THAT'S MY PLAN.
WELL, WHAT DO
YOU THINK?

I DON'T.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
A WORD OF IT

TAKE HIM AWAY!

OUCH!
CAREFUL! I'M A
ROMAN!
I'M ONLY A PRETEND
GAUL!

SOON
AFTERWARDS...

IS THIS WALK
GOING ON MUCH
LONGER?

SHUT UP,
CALIGULA MINUS!

AND NOT FAR AWAY...

I COULD JUST
DO WITH A NICE FIGHT...

CAN'T COUNT ON IT—
THE ROMANS ARE GETTING
CAUTIOUS AFTER ALL THOSE
KNOCKS ON THE HEAD...

WAIT A MINUTE!

HM?

SSH!

BUT...

I CAN HEAR FOOTSTEPS - CHAINS CLANKING - SOMEONE WAILING !

!

LET'S HIDE AT THE TOP OF THIS TREE! WE MAY SOON BE LOOSENING UP OUR MUSCLES!

BY ALL THE GODS, I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AT HOME! I NEVER OUGHT TO HAVE JOINED CAESAR'S LEGIONS IN SEARCH OF FAME AND FORTUNE! MY SKIN'S NOT WORTH A SESTERTIUS AND I'LL NEVER EAT TAPIOCA (1) LIKE MOTHER MADE AGAIN!

(1) SPAGHETTI WAS NOT IMPORTED FROM CHINA BY MARCO POLO UNTIL MUCH LATER.

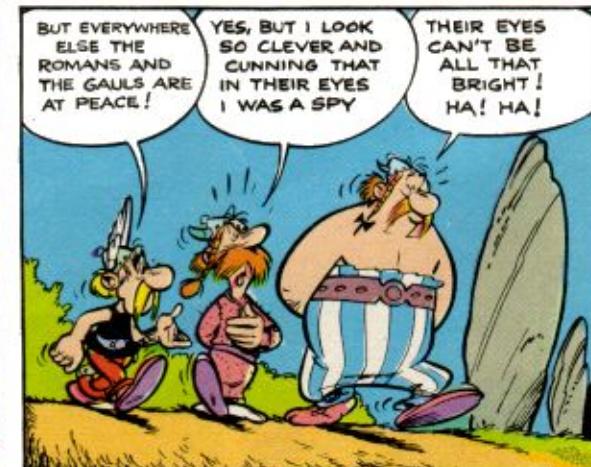
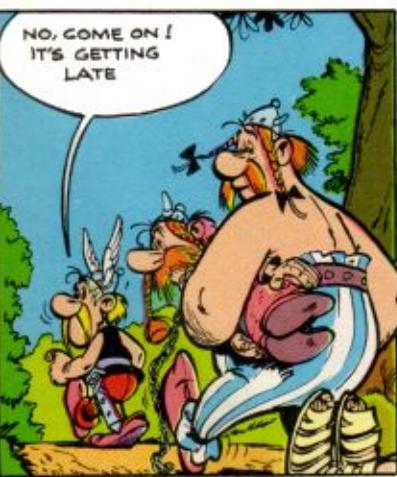
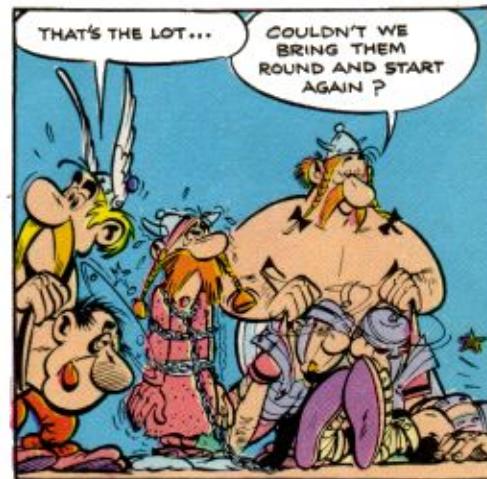
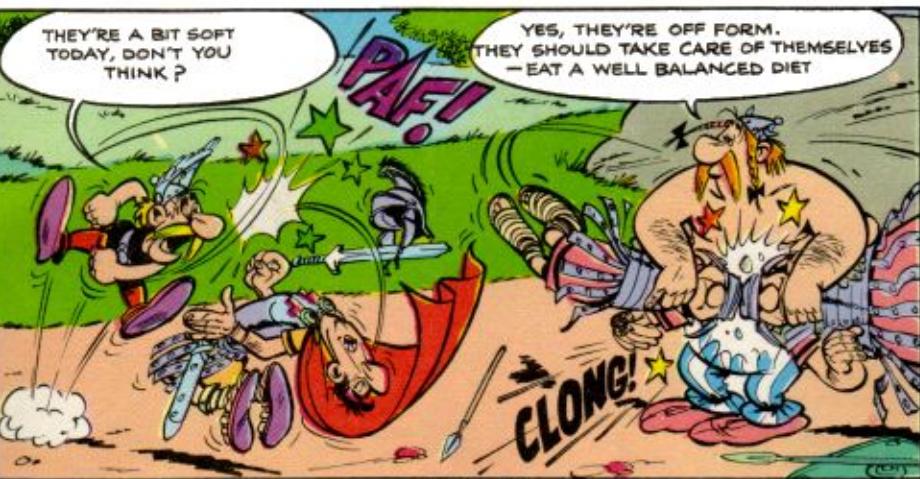
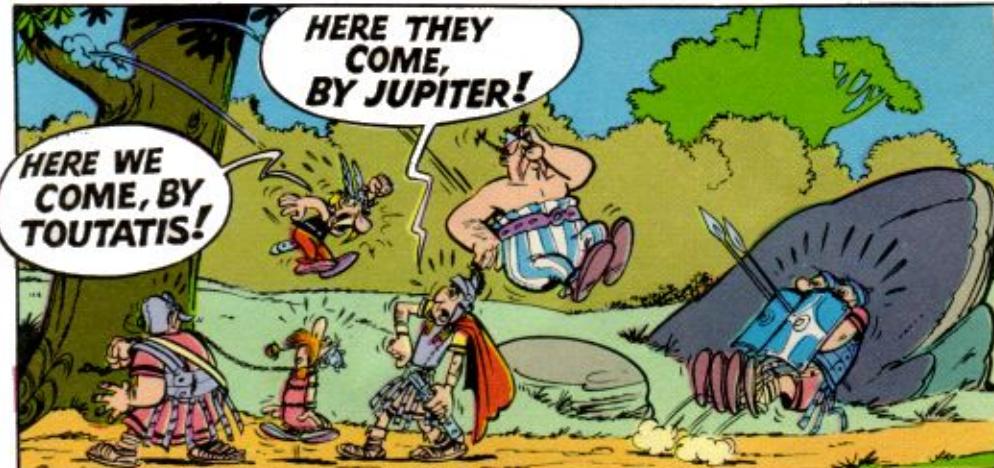
WILL YOU SHUT UP, CALIGULA MINUS! AFTER ALL, WHEN THE HORDES OF GAULS ATTACK US YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THEY'LL SPARE!

SURE ENOUGH, THERE ARE THE HORDES...

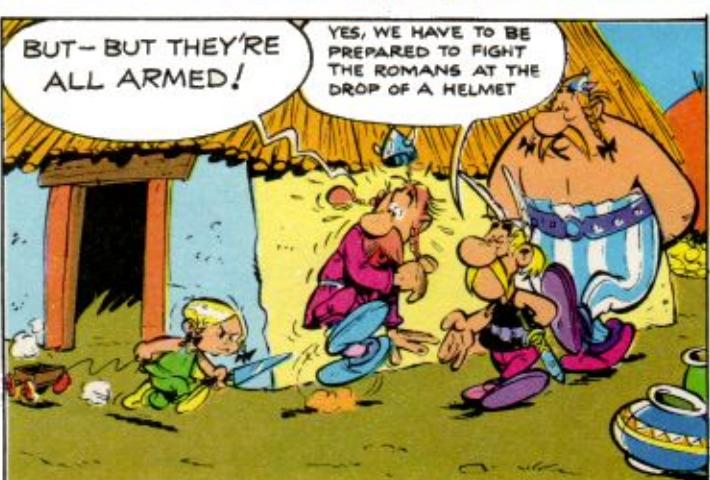
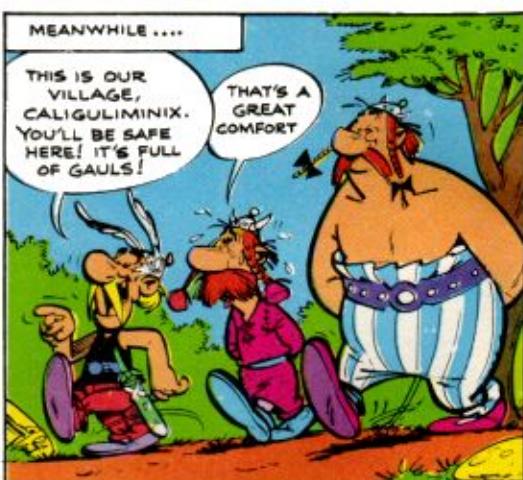
ROMANS, WITH A GAUL AS PRISONER!

WE'LL RESCUE HIM!





MARCUS GINANTONICUS AND HIS HEROIC DETACHMENT RETURN TO COMPENDIUM....



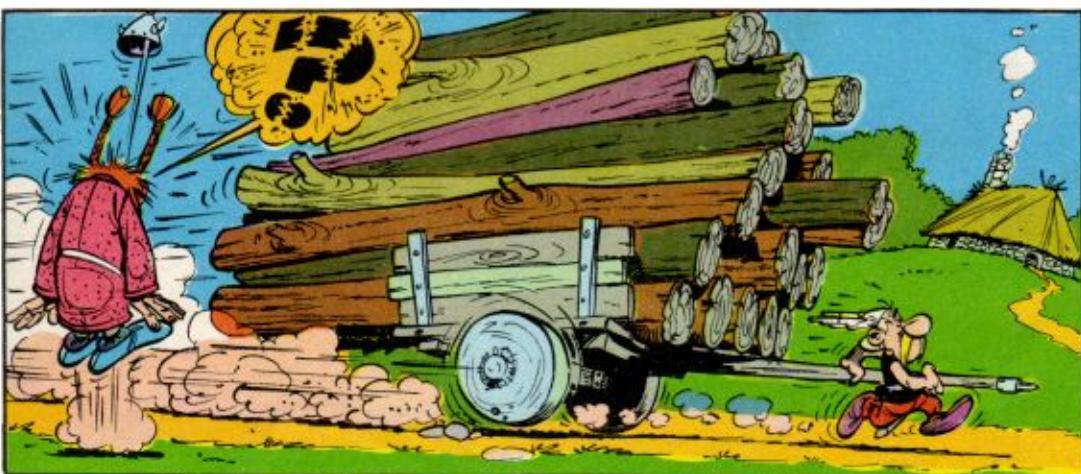
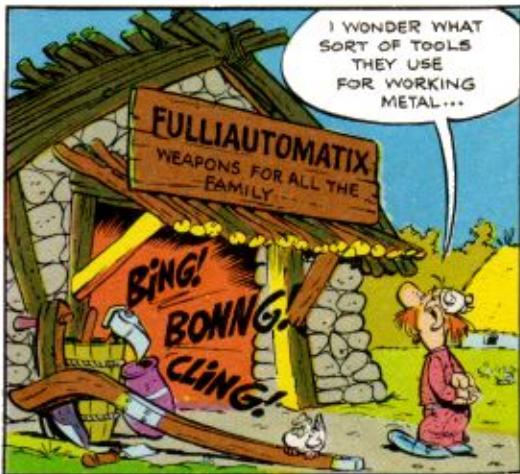
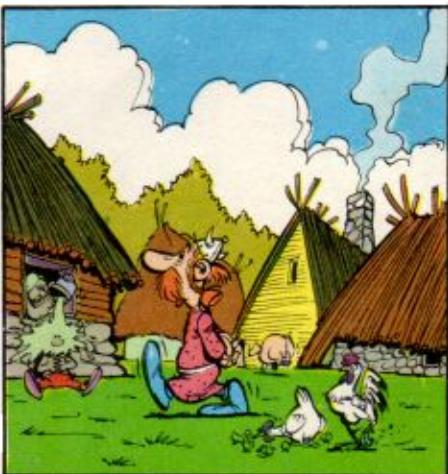
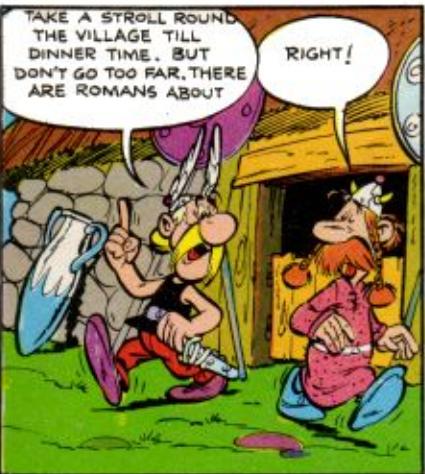
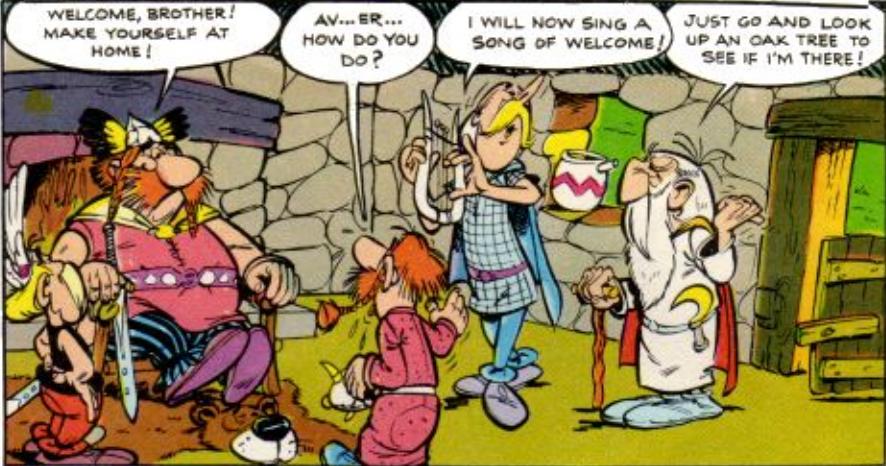
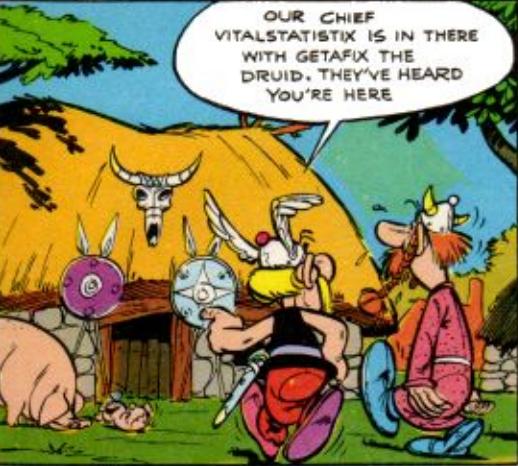
OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX IS IN THERE WITH GETAFIX THE DRUID. THEY'VE HEARD YOU'RE HERE

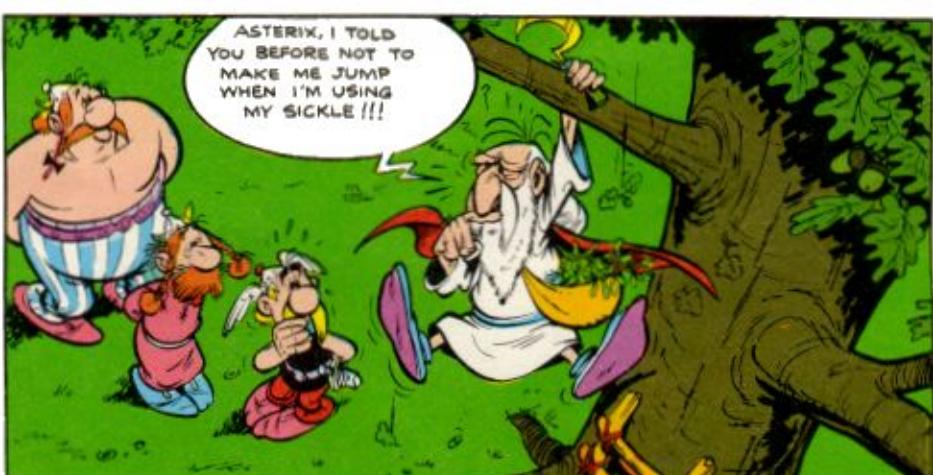
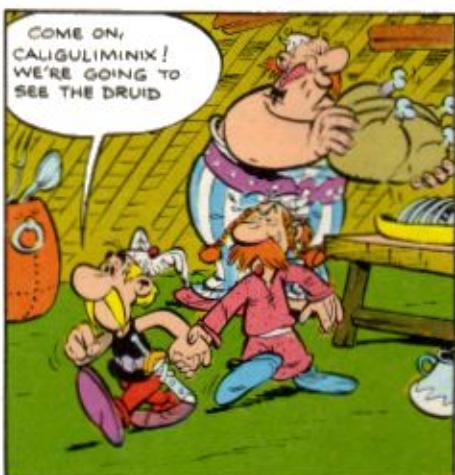
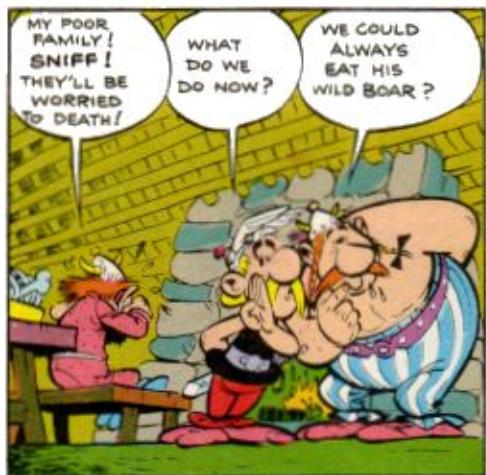
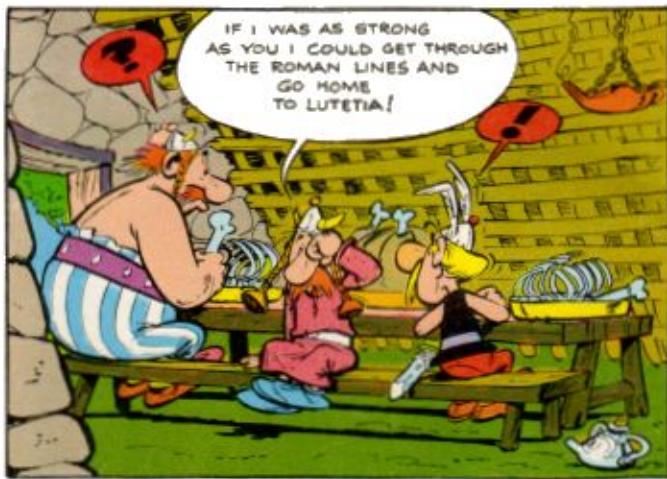
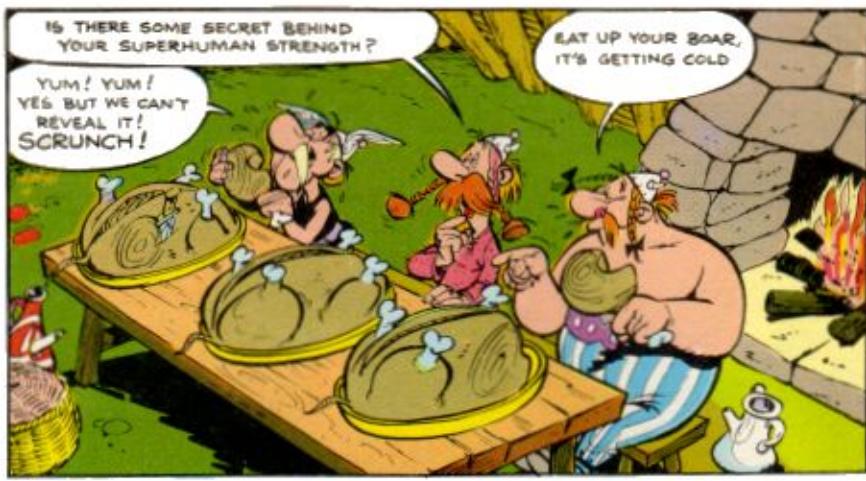
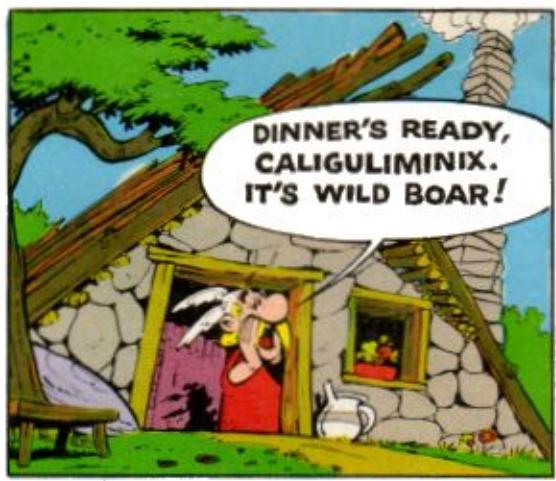
WELCOME, BROTHER! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

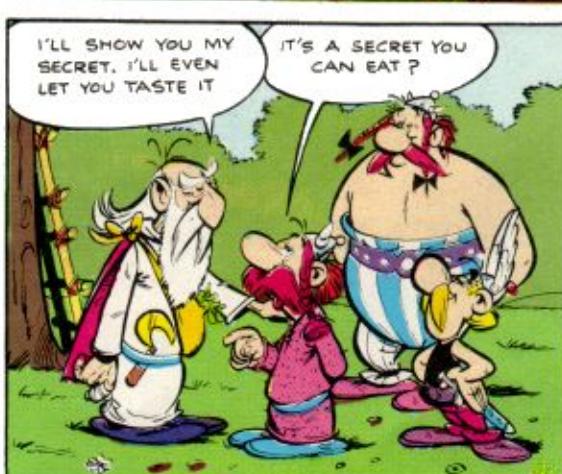
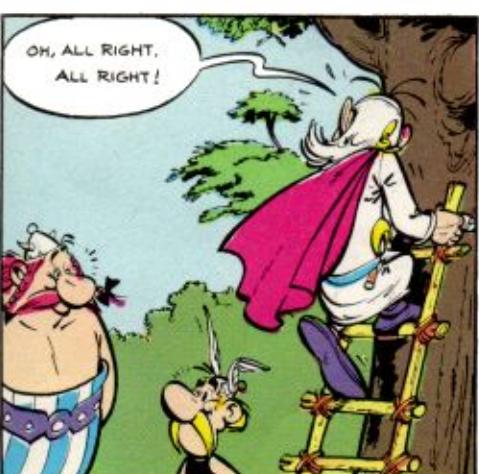
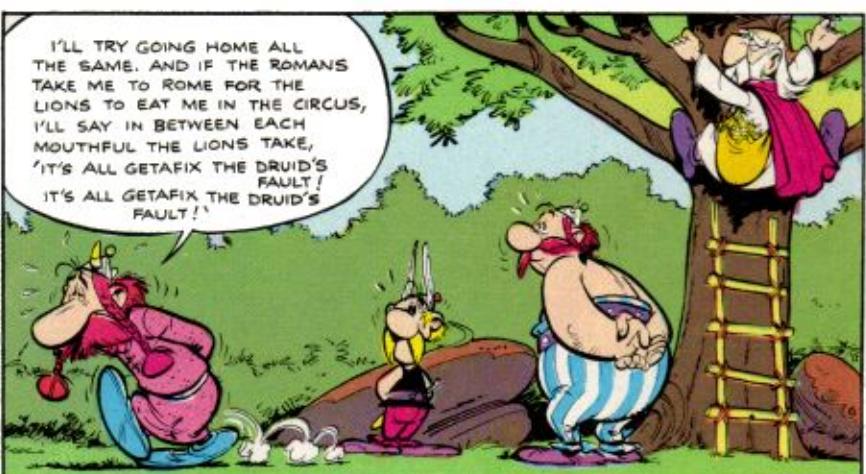
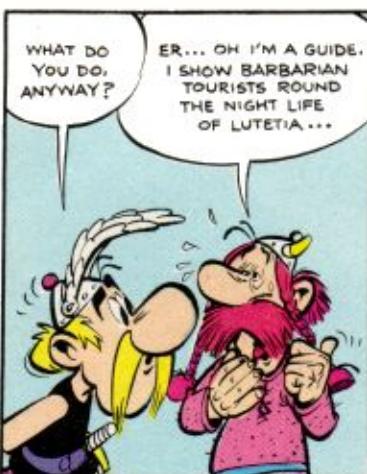
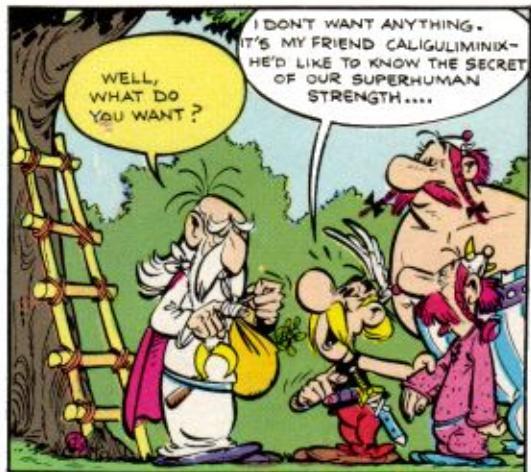
AV...ER... HOW DO YOU DO?

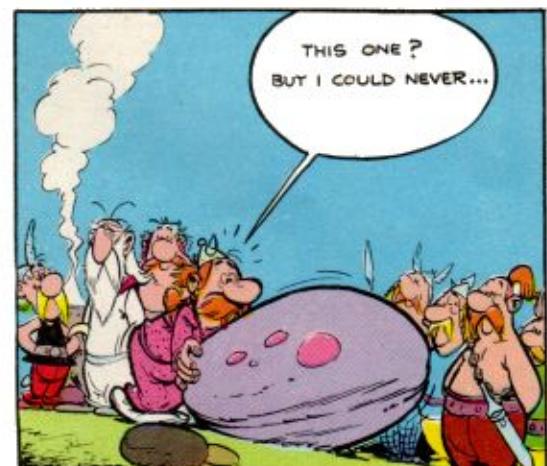
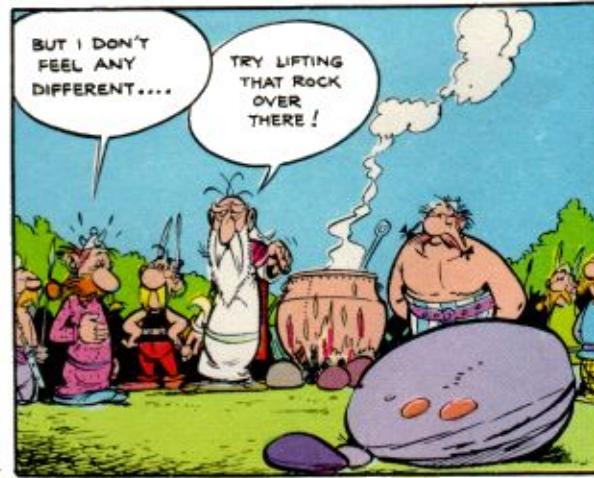
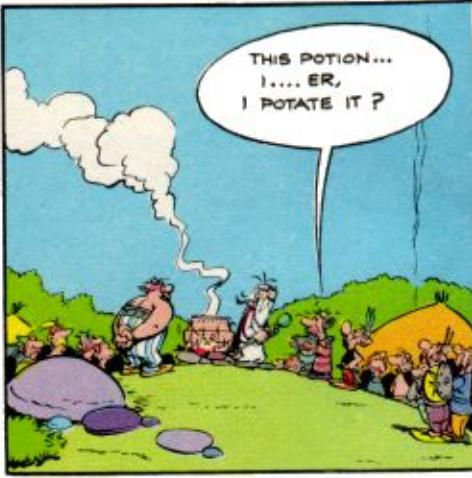
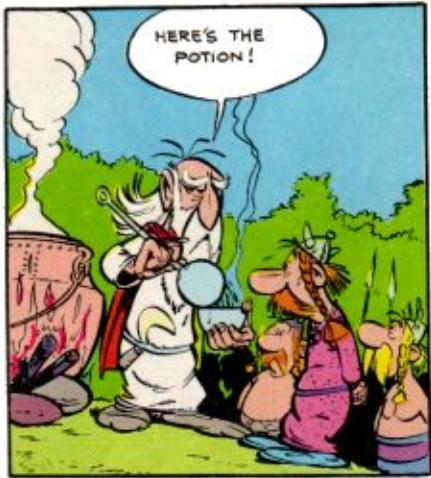
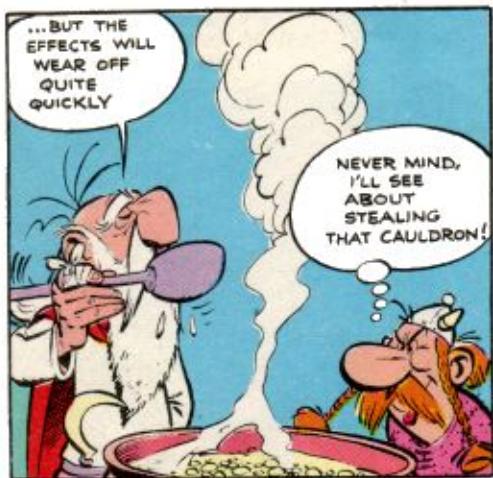
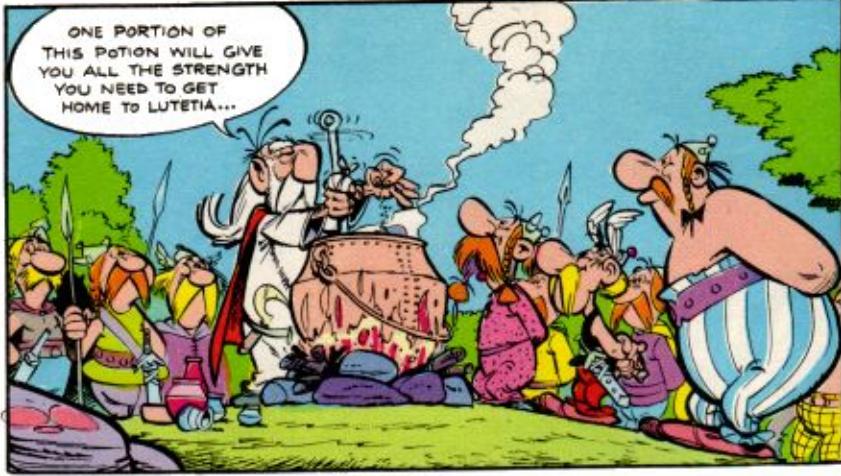
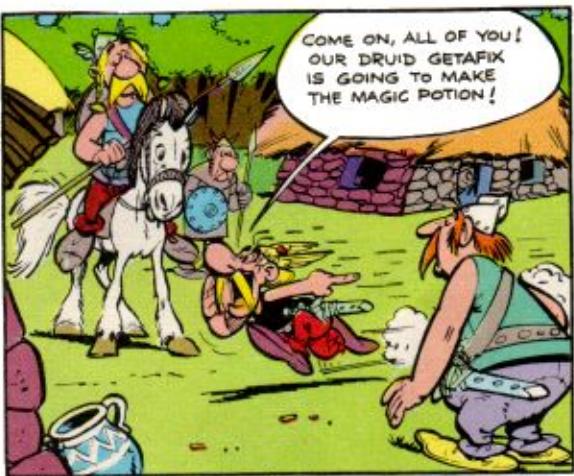
I WILL NOW SING A SONG OF WELCOME!

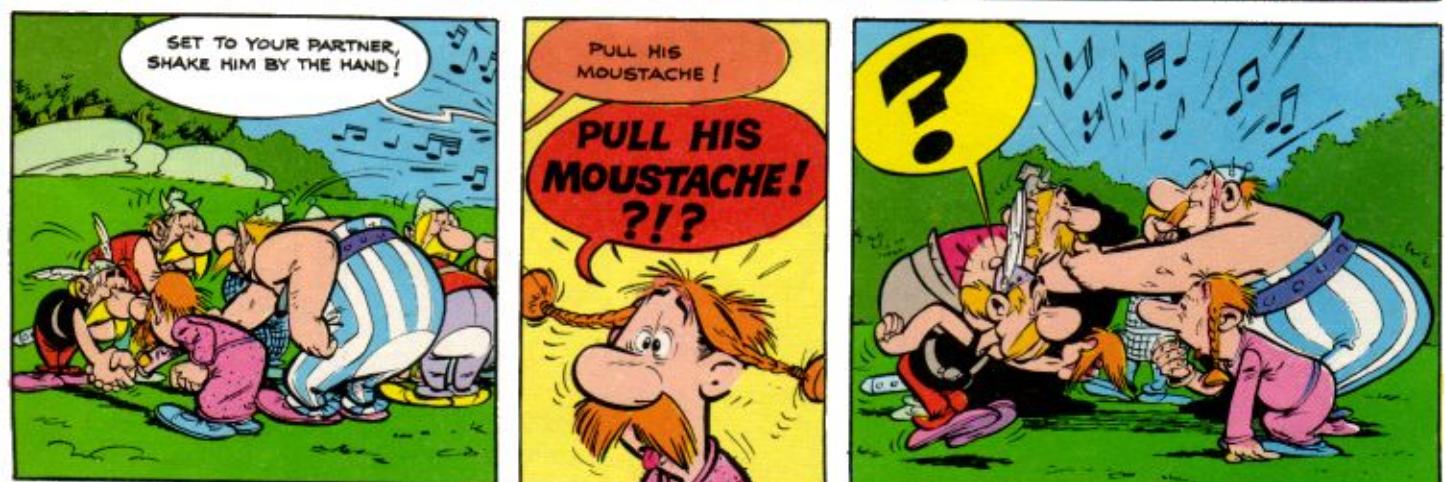
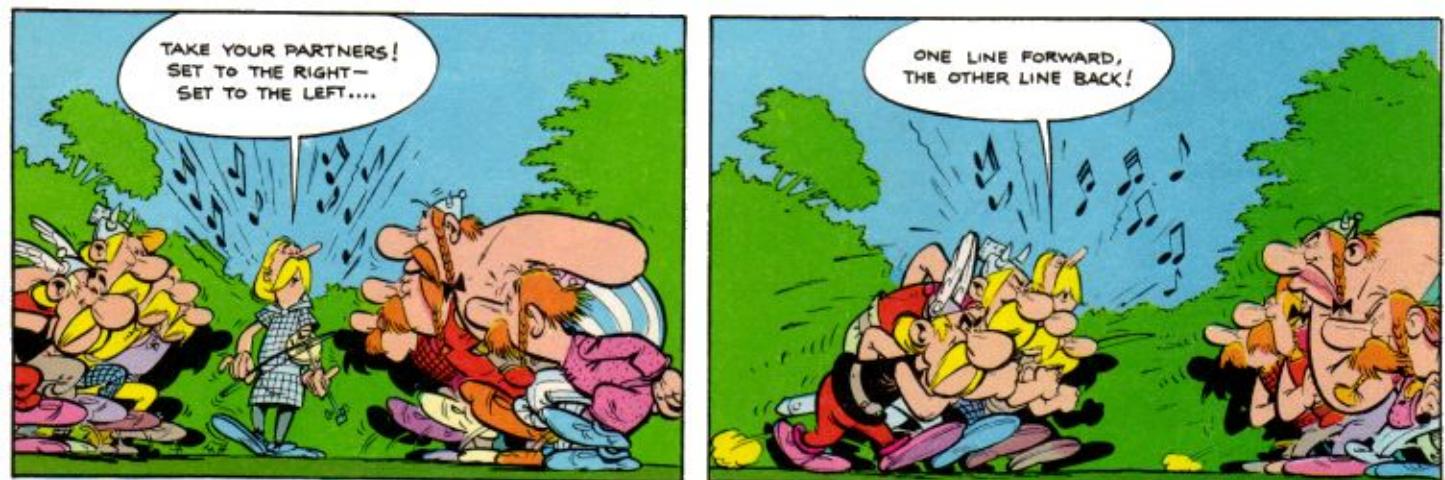
JUST GO AND LOOK UP AN OAK TREE TO SEE IF I'M THERE!

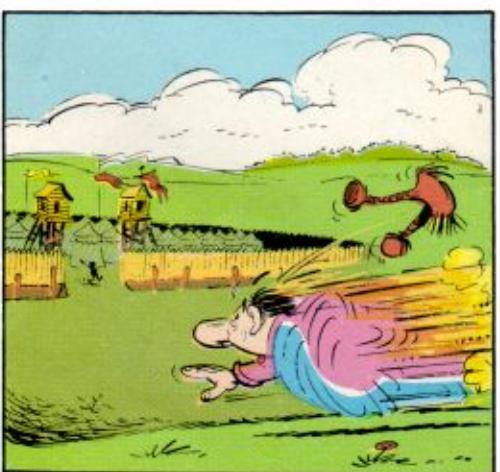
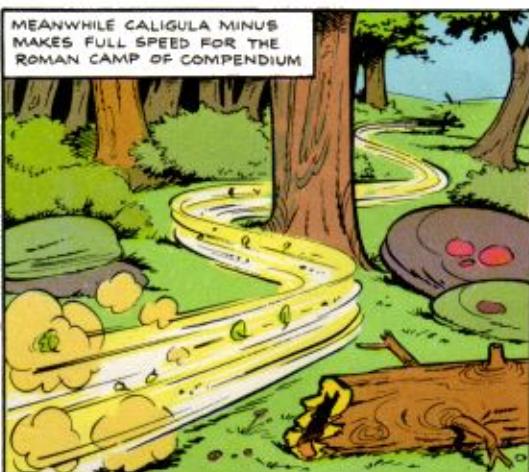
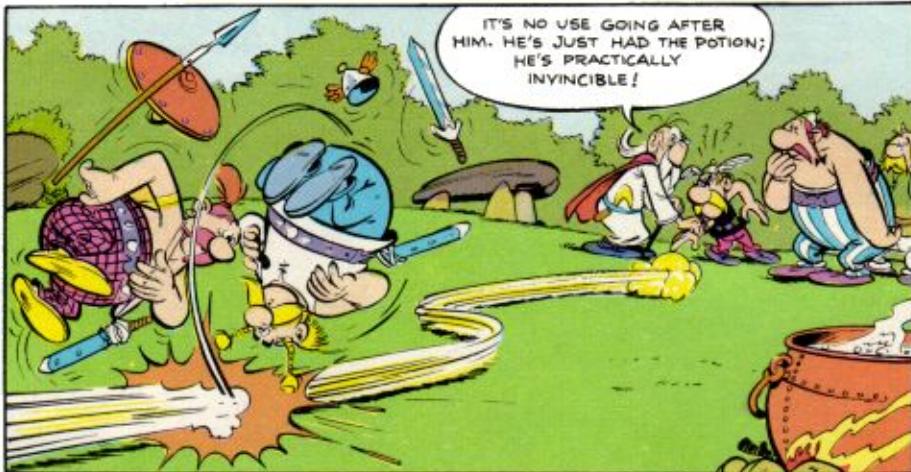
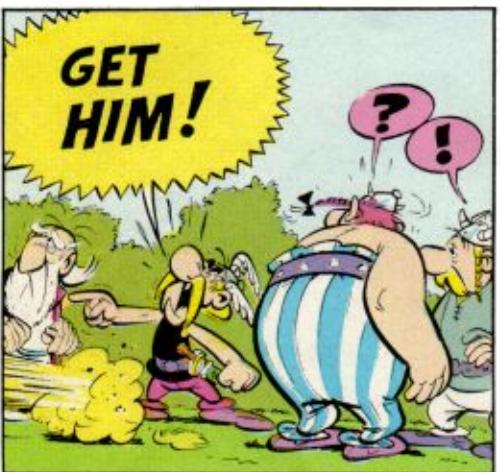
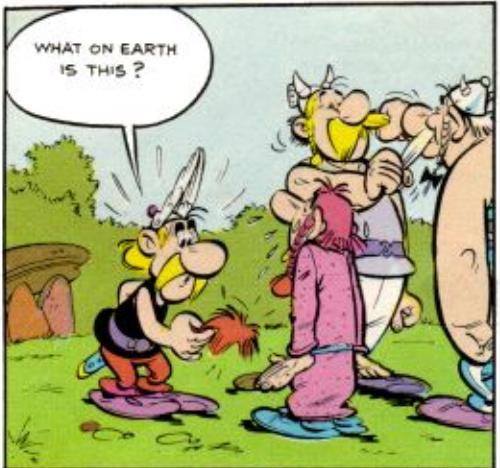


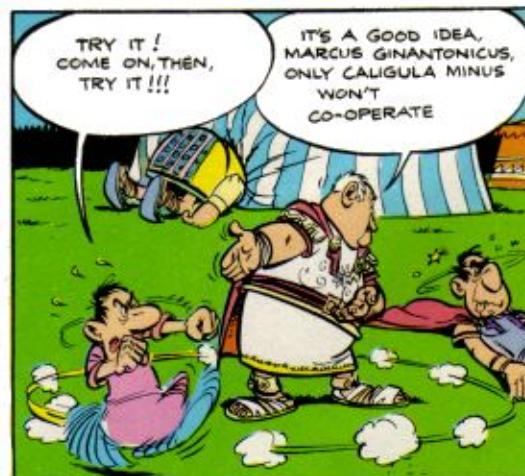
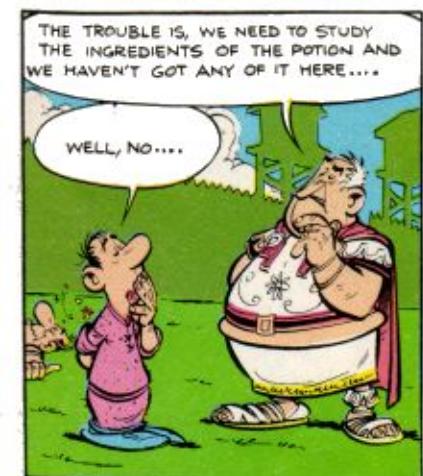
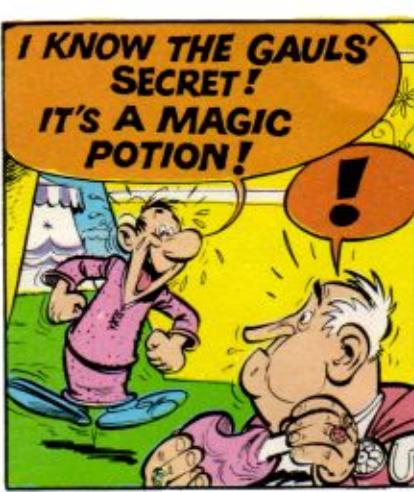


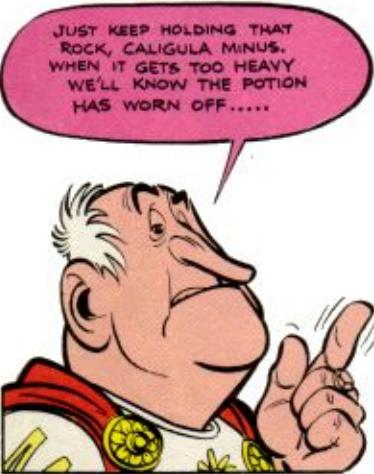
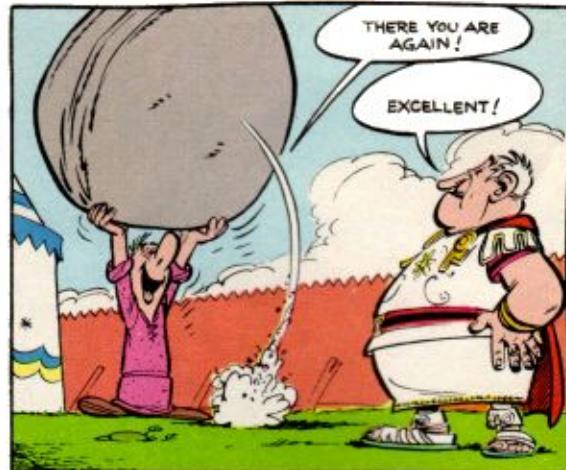
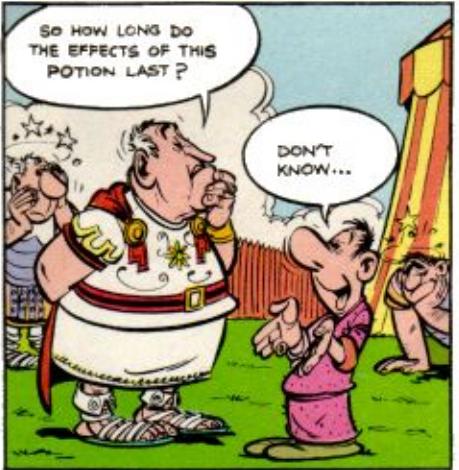












SOON AFTERWARDS
IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE

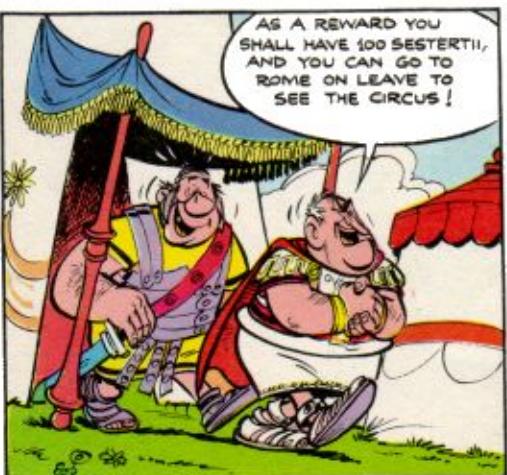
I'M JUST GOING TO PICK
SOME MISTLETOE IN THE
FOREST

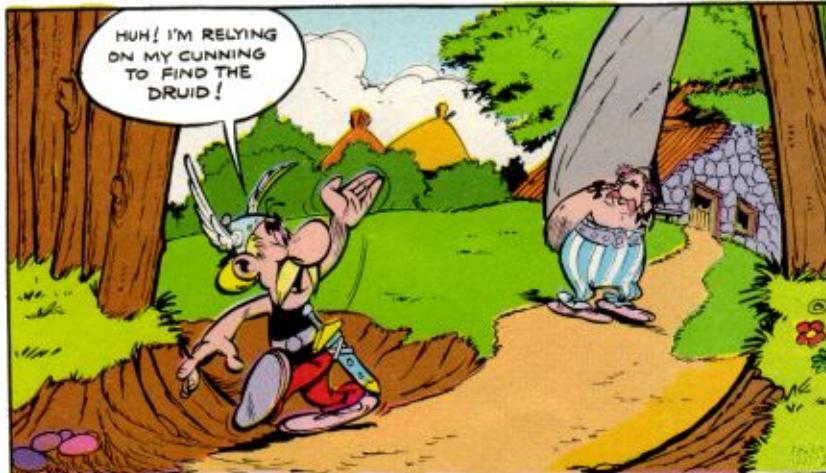
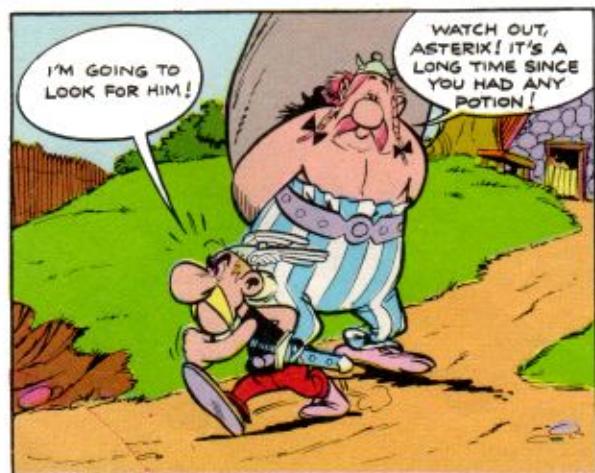
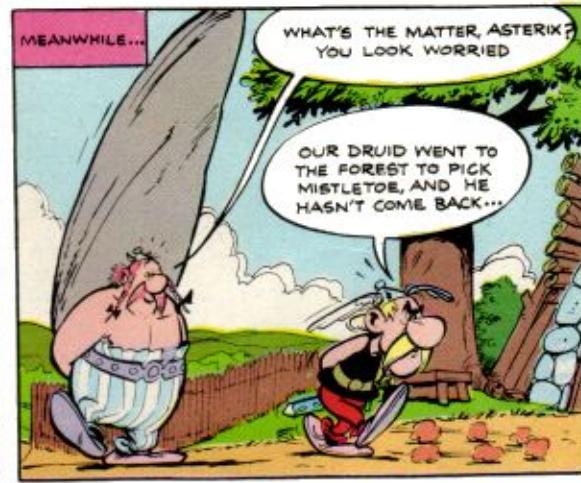
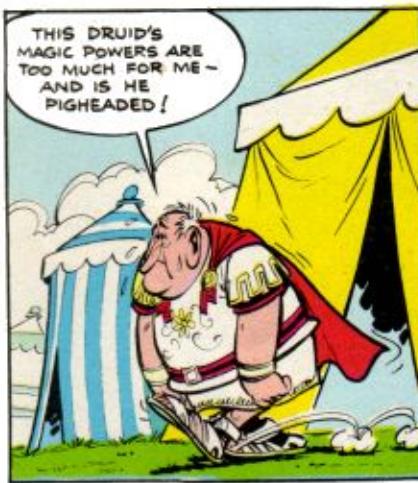
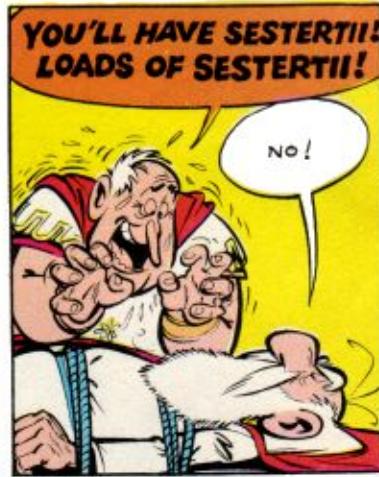
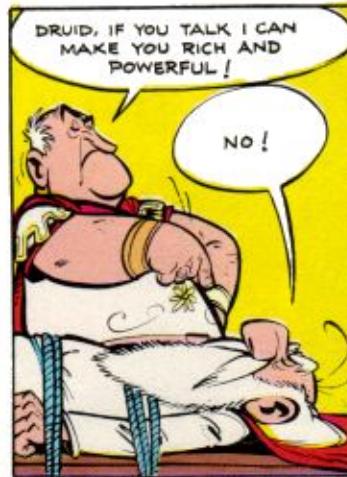
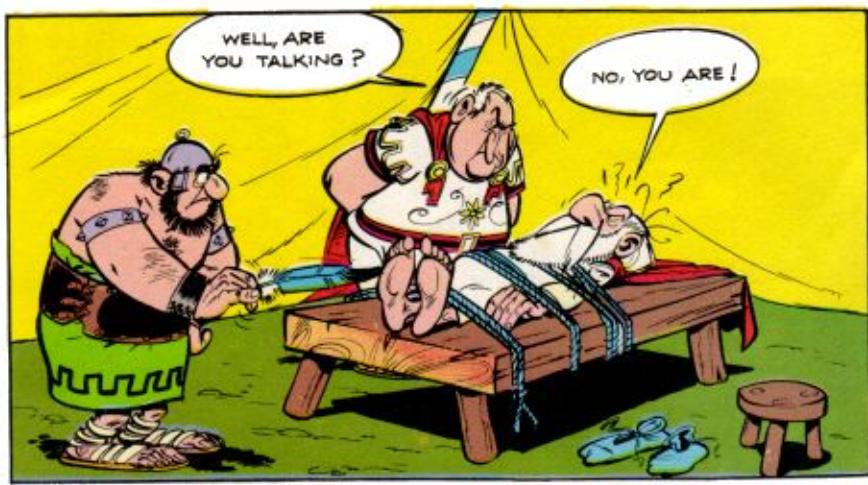
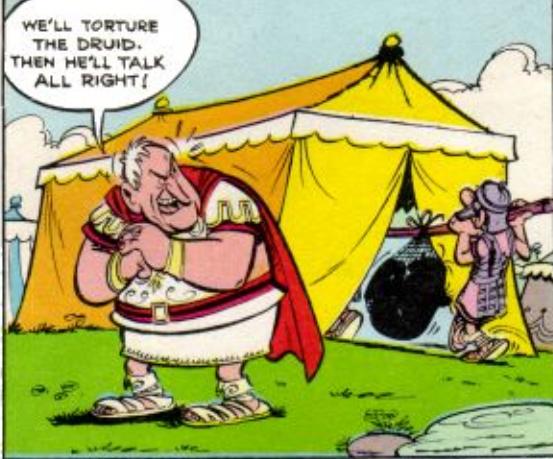
WANT ME TO
COME WITH YOU,
DRUID?

NO, ASTERIX, YOU STAY HERE
TO GUARD THE VILLAGE. YOU
GET YOUR STRENGTH FROM
MY POTION, BUT YOUR
INTELLIGENCE AND CUNNING
ARE ALL YOUR OWN...

IT WOULD BE A
DISASTER FOR US TO
LOSE YOU! BESIDES,
I'LL BE BACK SOON

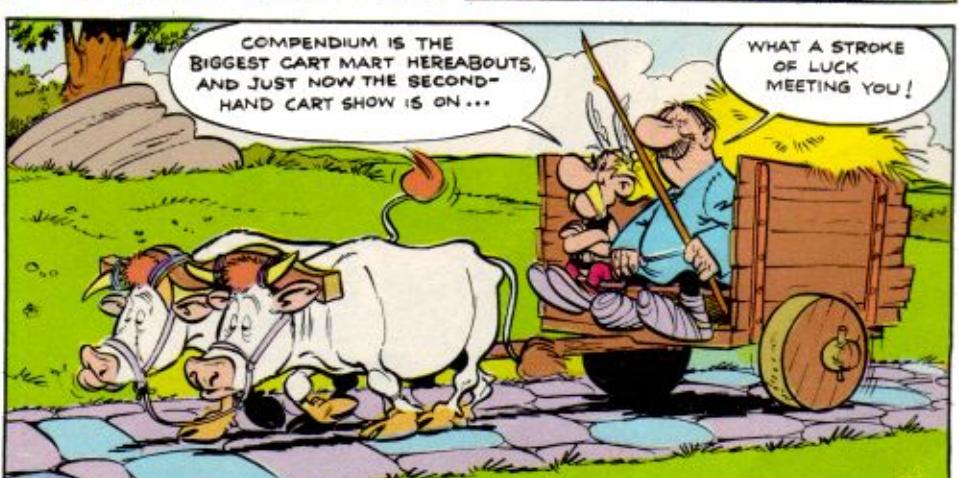
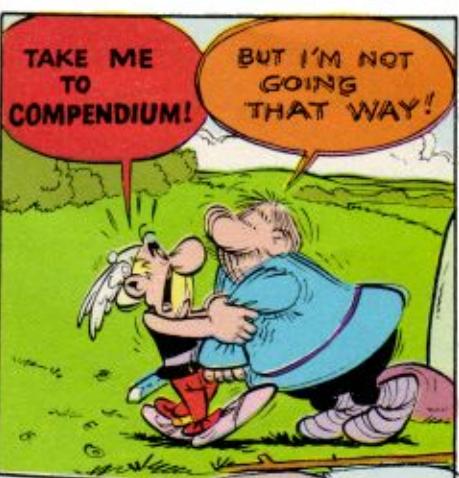
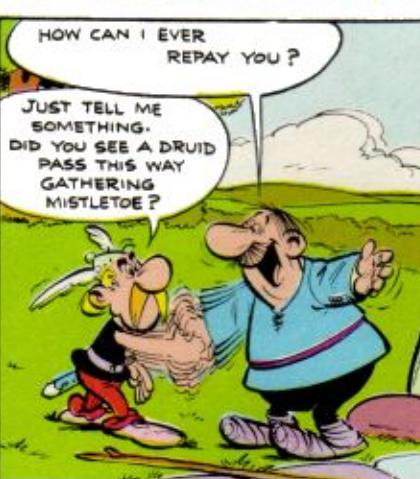
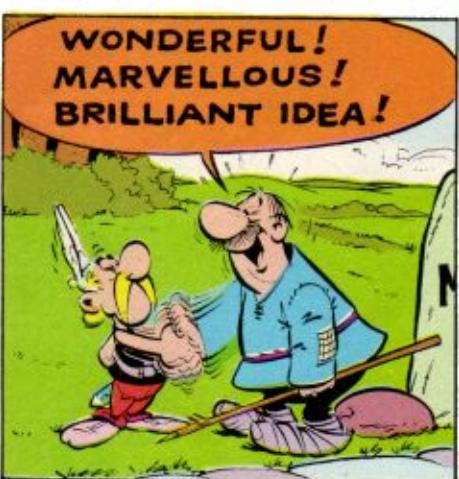
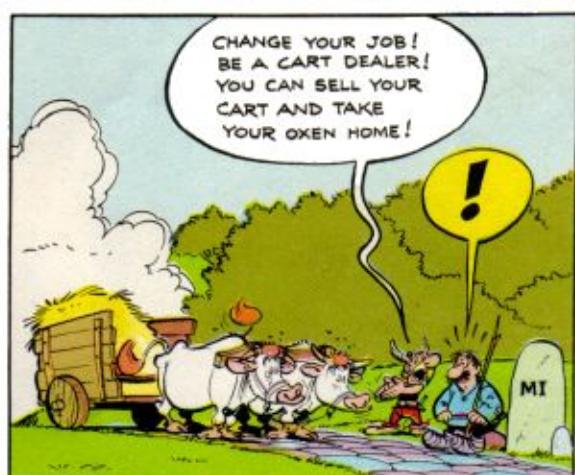
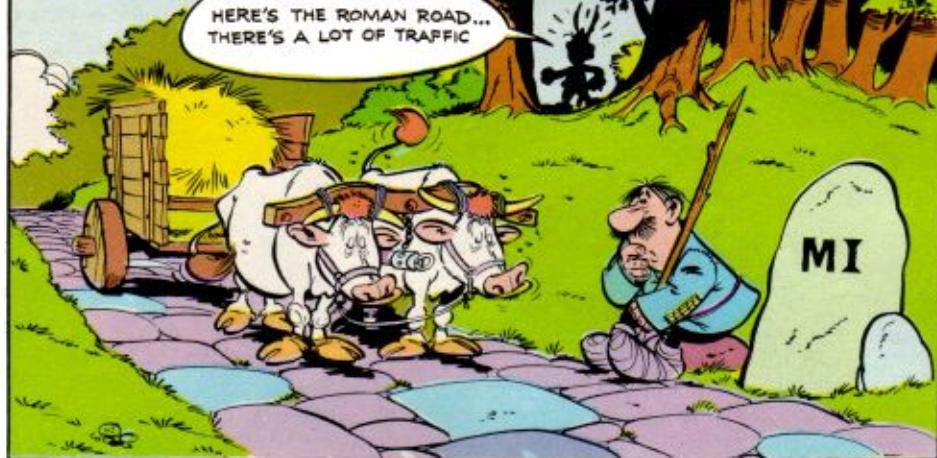
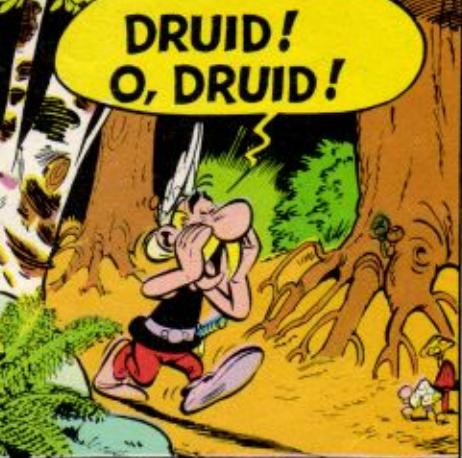
GOOD...





**DRUID!
O, DRUID!**

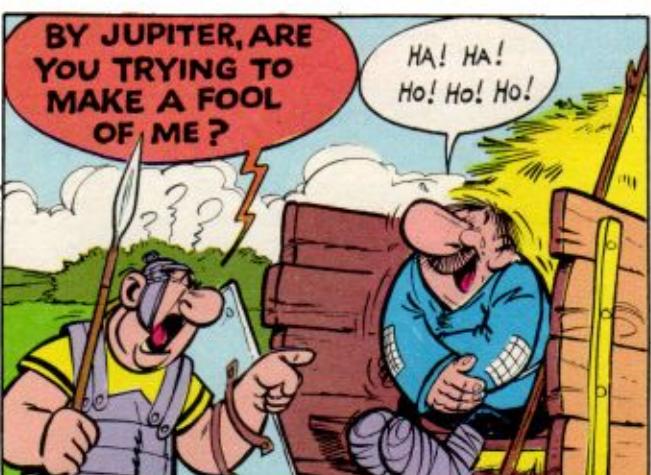
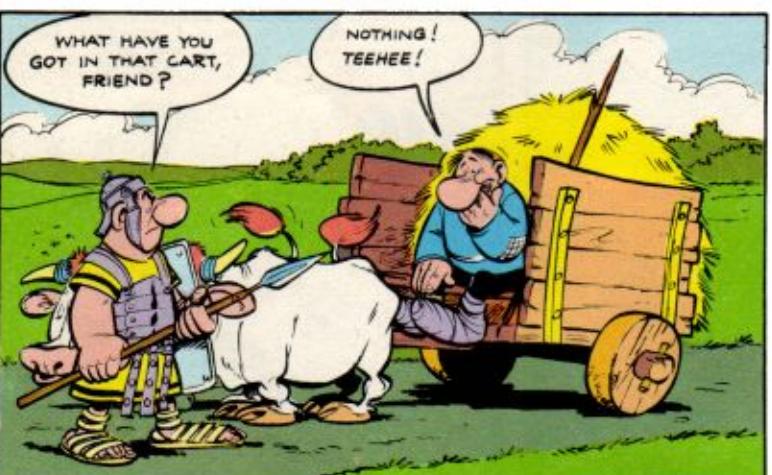
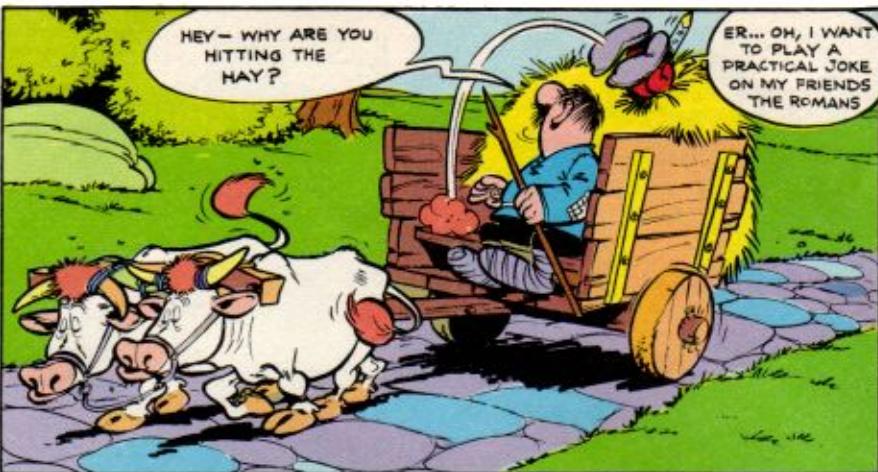
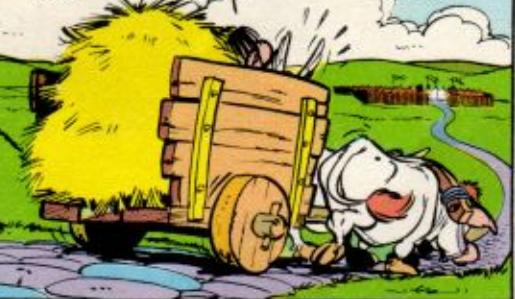
HERE'S THE ROMAN ROAD...
THERE'S A LOT OF TRAFFIC



WE'RE COMING
TO COMPENDIUM
NOW!

HEY - WHY ARE YOU
HITTING THE
HAY?

ER... OH, I WANT
TO PLAY A
PRACTICAL JOKE
ON MY FRIENDS
THE ROMANS



HERE WE ARE IN THE CAMP !
ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY
YOUR PRACTICAL JOKE NOW ?

NO, IT'S GETTING DARK.
I'LL WAIT TILL MORNING,
IT'LL BE FUNNIER
THEN

OH !

GOOD NIGHT !

SOON AFTERWARDS

AND NOW TO FIND
WHERE THEY'VE
GOT THE
DRUID...

LET'S HAVE A LOOK
OVER HERE...

RECLINE AND HAVE A
BITE TO EAT, O MARCUS
GINANTONICUS, MY TRUSTY
NUMBER TWO. I WANT
A WORD WITH YOU !

THANKS, O
CRISMUS BONUS !

WE MUST GET THE
DRUID'S RECIPE !
WITH IT WE SHALL
BE INVINCIBLE.
WE CAN GO TO
ROME AND
TAKE OVER
FROM CAESAR !

JULIUS
CAESAR ?

PRECISELY, JULIUS !
THE TWO OF US WILL
FORM A
TRIUMVIRATE !

I NEED YOU NOW,
BUT AFTERWARDS
I'LL BE THE
TRIUMVIRATE
ON MY OWN !

I'LL HAVE HIM THROWN
TO THE LIONS, AND
THEN I ALONE WILL
BE CAESAR !

MOST INTERESTING,
BUT IT TELLS ME
NOTHING OF
GETAFIX'S
WHEREABOUTS!

HE MUST BE
IN THAT HEAVILY
GUARDED
TENT...

THE BOLD
APPROACH!

DON'T LET HIM OUT! HE'S ONE
OF THOSE INVINCIBLE GAULS...
MAGIC POTION FAIRLY Oozing OUT
OF HIS EARS! I'M GOING FOR
REINFORCEMENTS!

V... VERY WELL! BUT
DON'T BE LONG,
O CAIUS FLEBITUS!

AND INSIDE THE TENT...

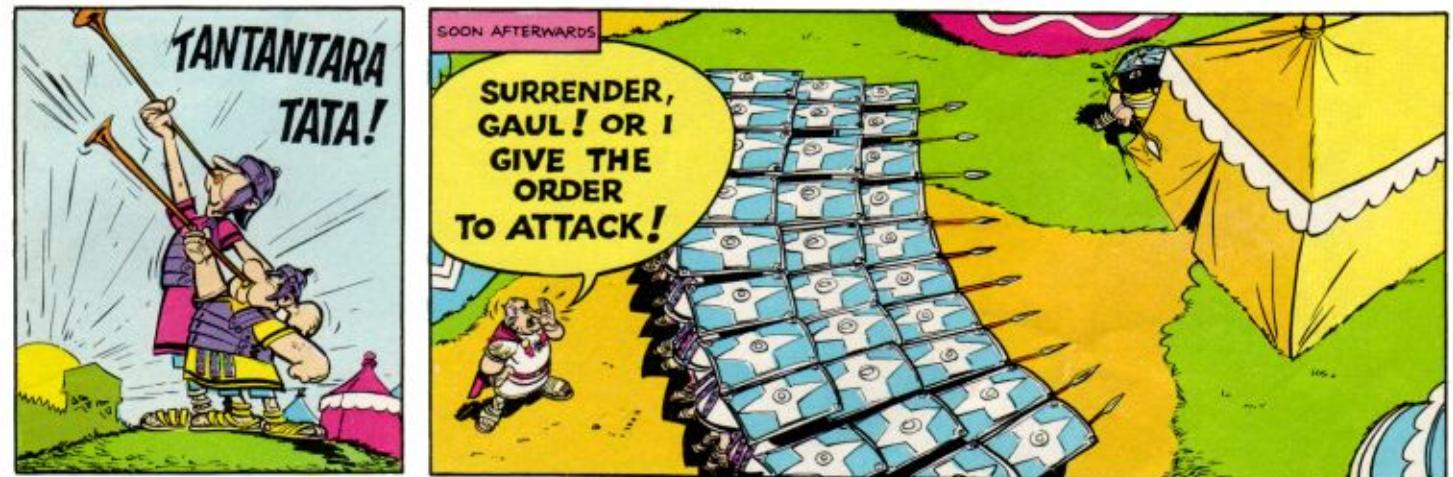
ALL WELL?

BY BELISAMA, ASTERIX!
WHAT MADNESS TO VENTURE RIGHT
INTO THE JAWS OF
THE ROMAN WOLF!

THE ROMANS CAN'T
DO A THING AGAINST MY
MAGIC POWERS!

EXACTLY! WE'LL
HAVE SOME FUN
WITH THEM! I'VE
GOT A FEW
IDEAS!

SIR!
SIR!



SEIZE HIM, YOU LILY-LIVERED LOT,
OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE CIRCUS
TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS !

THE CIRCUS ?

THE LIONS ?

OH WELL !

IT'S A GAUL WHO GOT INTO
THE CAMP...

IT'S NOT FAIR ! HE DIDN'T WAIT
FOR ME TO WAKE UP TO PLAY HIS
PRACTICAL JOKE ! IT'S NOT FAIR !

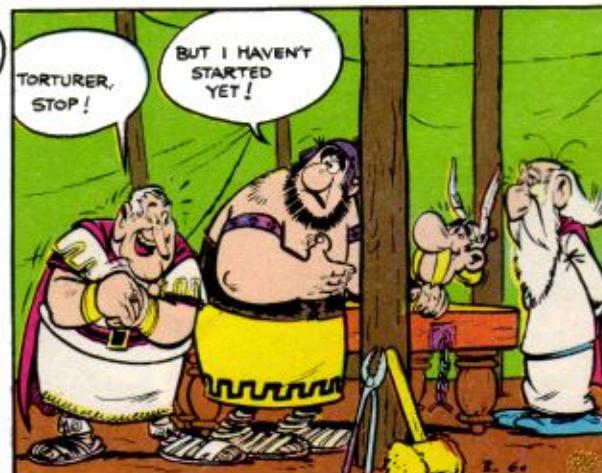
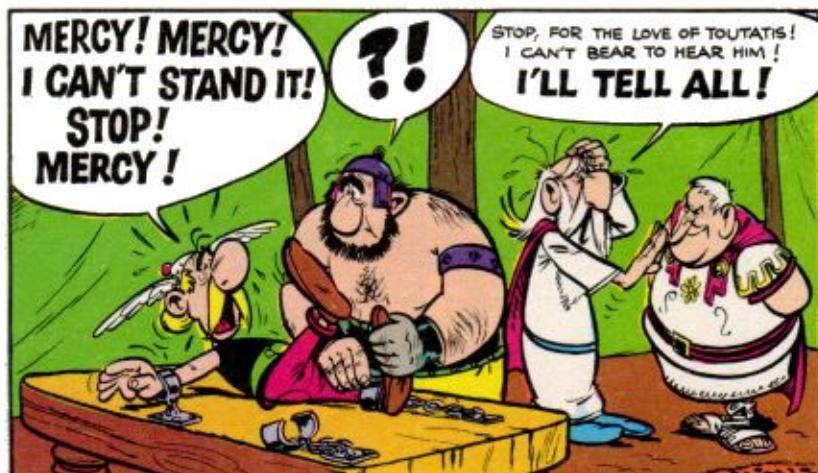
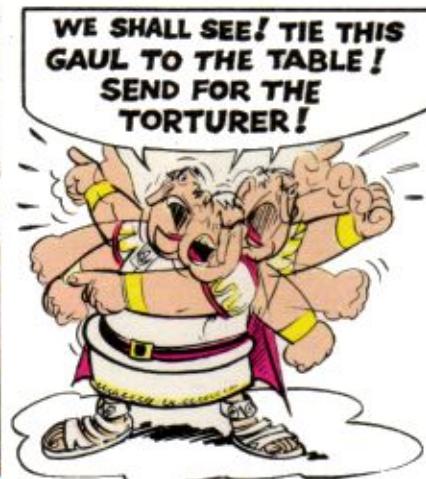
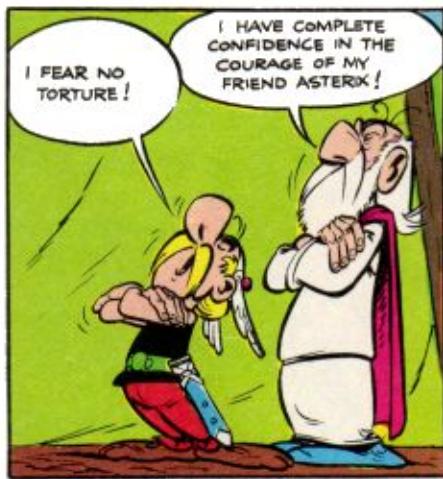
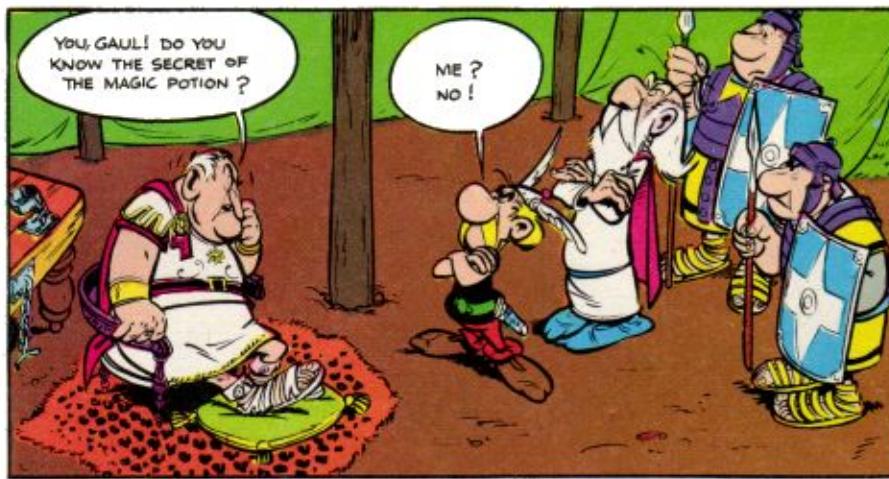
YOU REFUSED TO TALK, DRUID,
BUT PERHAPS YOUR FRIEND WILL
PROVE MORE LOQUACIOUS UNDER
TORTURE TOMORROW !

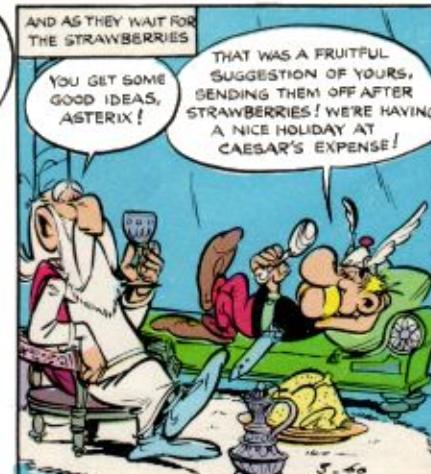
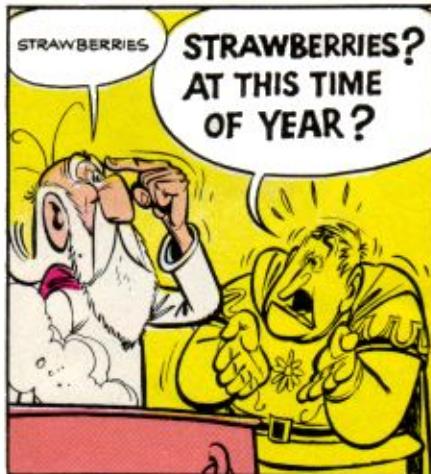
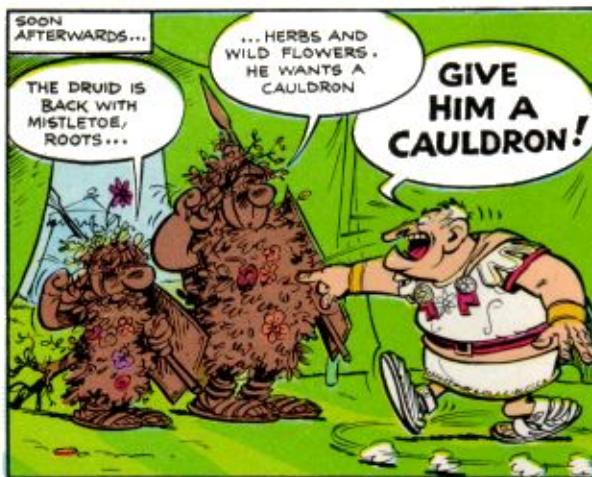
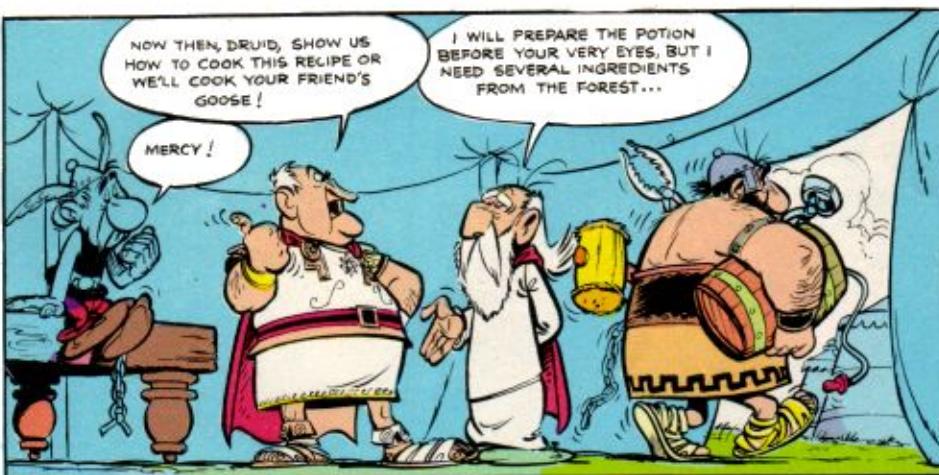
AUT CAESAR,
AUT NIHIL ! (I)

(I) THIS IS
BAD GRAMMAR

I'LL BE LOQUACIOUS ALL
RIGHT ! I'LL LOQUACE LIKE
NO ONE EVER LOQUACED
BEFORE ! (I)

(I) THIS IS
BAD GRAMMAR





IT'S DAYS SINCE THE MESSENGERS LEFT TO LOOK FOR STRAWBERRIES, AND NOT ONE HAS TURNED UP YET!

THE MESSENGERS ARE BACK, O CRISMUS BONUS!

ABOUT TIME!

AVE, AVE, BOYS ! THE STRAWBERRIES - DID YOU GET THEM ?

NO.

NOT A STRAWBERRY

WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE !

TULLIUS OCTOPUS ISN'T BACK YET

HERE I AM, O CRISMUS BONUS !

I FOUND STRAWBERRIES, O CRISMUS BONUS ! I BOUGHT THEM FOR A VAST SUM FROM A GREEK MERCHANT ! HAPPENED TO MEET !

GIVE THEM HERE !

THIS TIME I REALLY MEAN IT ! AS A REWARD YOU CAN GO HOME ON LEAVE TO SEE ALL THE FUN OF THE CIRCUS !

I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS ! I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS !

DRUID ! HERE ARE THE STRAWBERRIES YOU ORDERED FOR THE MAGIC POTION !

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM, ASTERIX ?

NOT UP TO MUCH !

NOT BAD ...

COME TO THINK OF IT, THOSE WERE EXCELLENT STRAWBERRIES !

YES, JUST THE SORT I NEED. GO AND GET ME SOME MORE

YOU'VE EATEN MY STRAWBERRIES AND NOW YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY STRAWBERRIES AND YOU WANT MORE STRAWBERRIES AND IT'S NOT FAIR AND I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD ENOUGH !

THERE, THERE ! NEVER MIND ! WE'LL MAKE YOU YOUR POTION... .

OF COURSE WE WILL !

WE CAN ALWAYS MAKE THE POTION WITHOUT STRAWBERRIES, ONLY IT WON'T BE THE SAME...

THE STRAWBERRIES DO LEAVE A TASTE IN THE MOUTH...

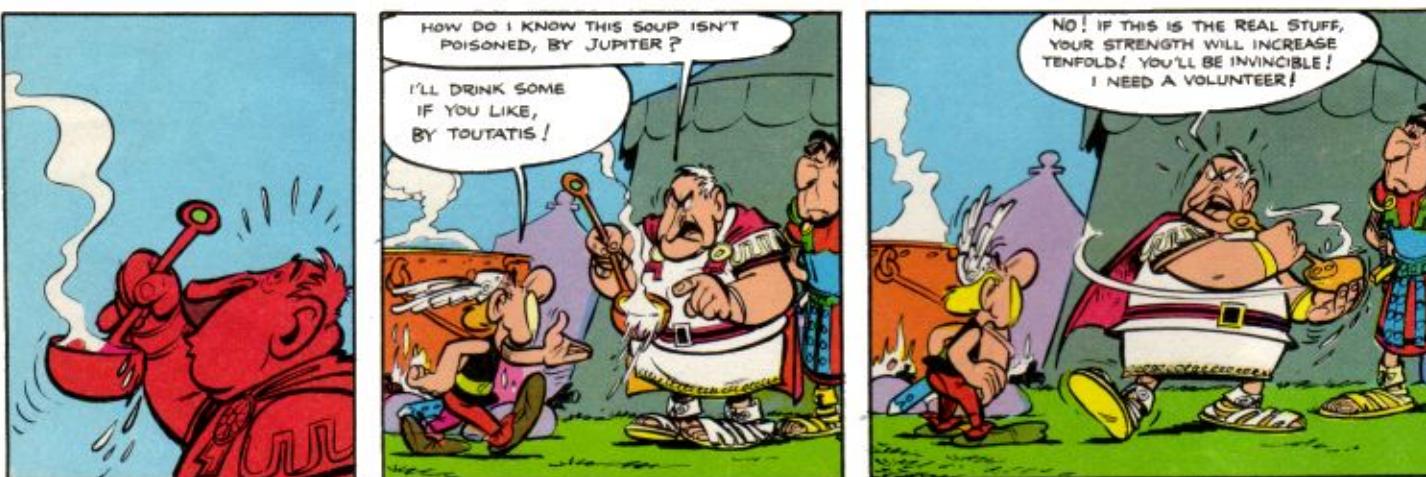
SNIFF ! SNIFF !

MIAU ! PAW, PAW !



IT'S DONE ! SERVE HOT !

GIVE IT HERE !



I SAID : I NEED A VOLUNTEER !!!

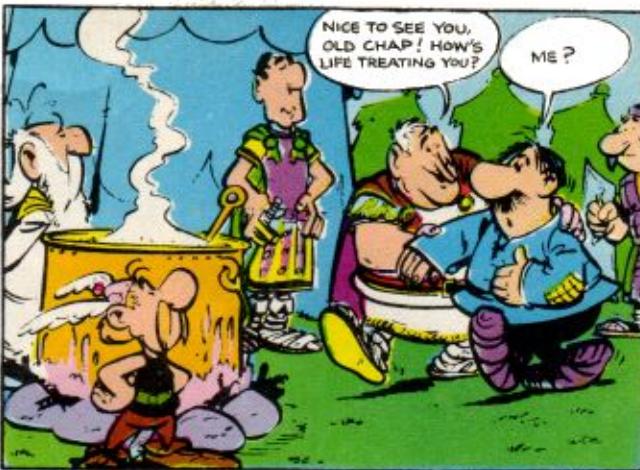
QUID NOVI ?

SURSUM CORDA !

SO WHAT ?

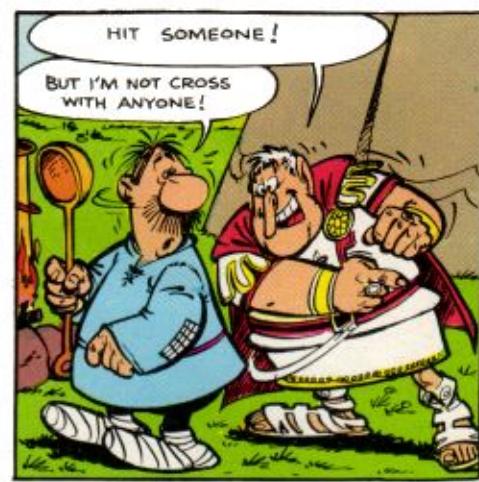
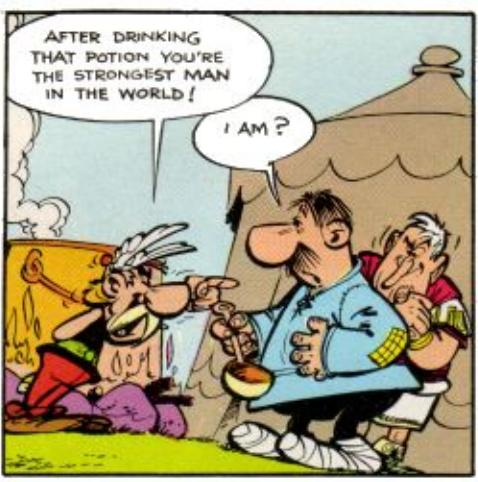
O CRISMUS BONUS, WE DON'T WANT TO RISK A LEGIONARY'S LIFE. WE OUGHT TO EXPERIMENT ON SOME HARMLESS NATIVE...



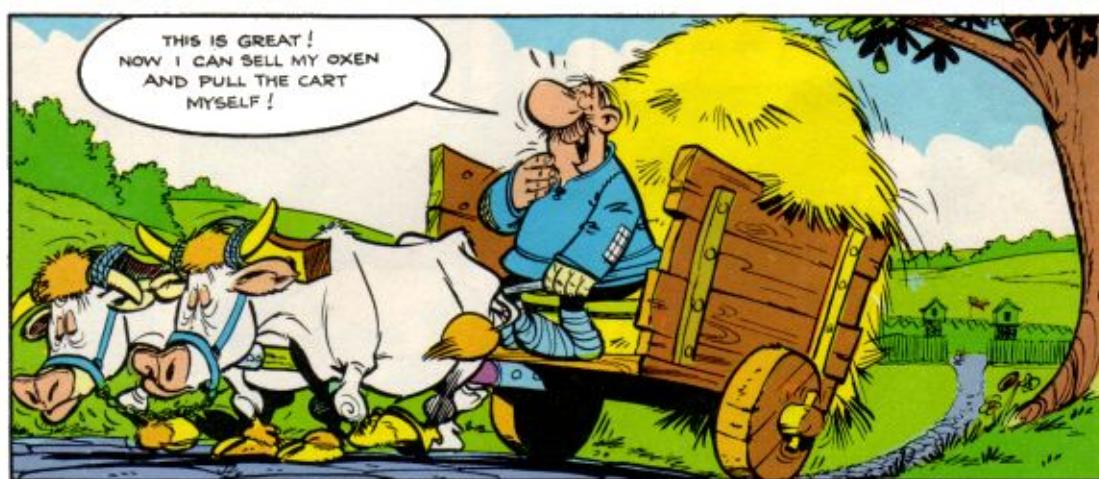
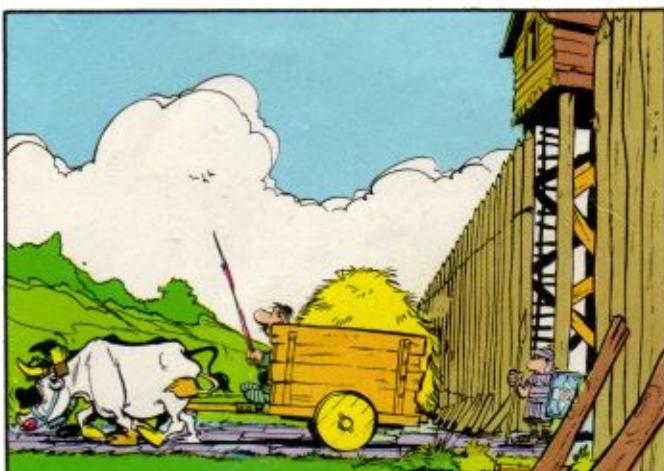


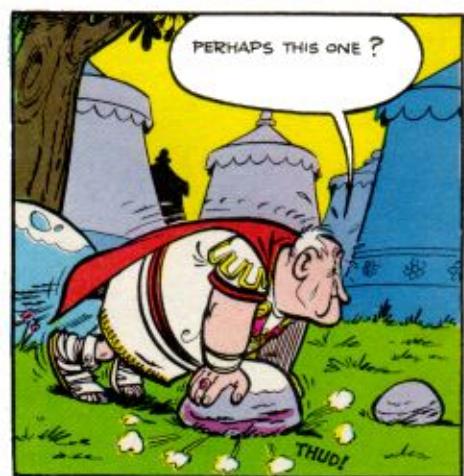
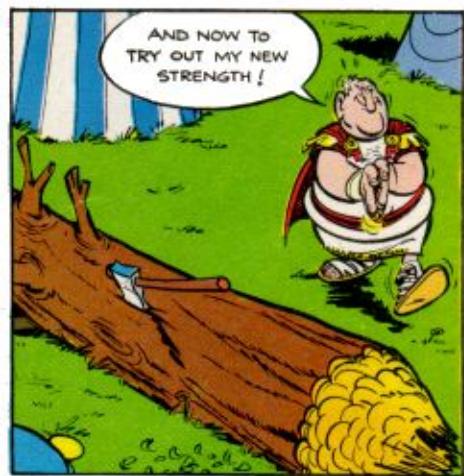
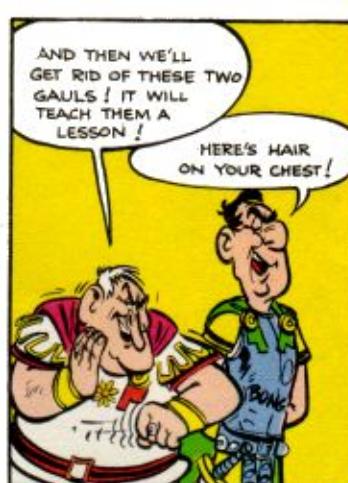
NOT TOO WELL! I MET A MAN WHO SAID I'D SELL MY CART AT COMPENDIUM AND SO HE GOT ME TO COME HERE AND NOW NO ONE WANTS TO BUY MY CART AND I NEED MY OXEN...

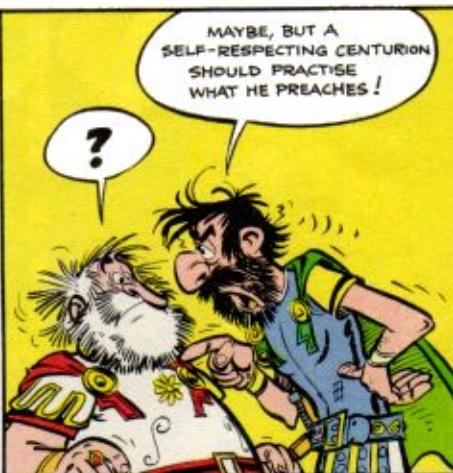
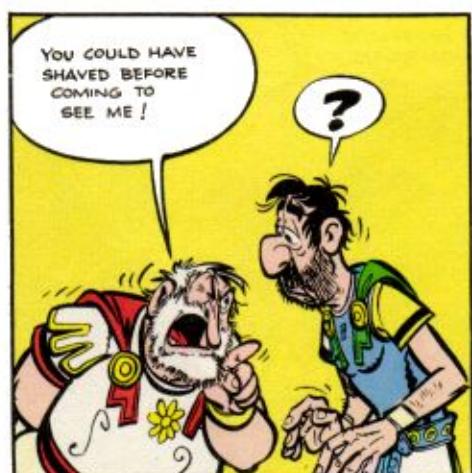
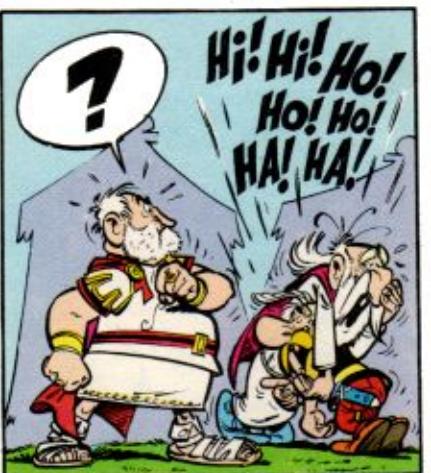
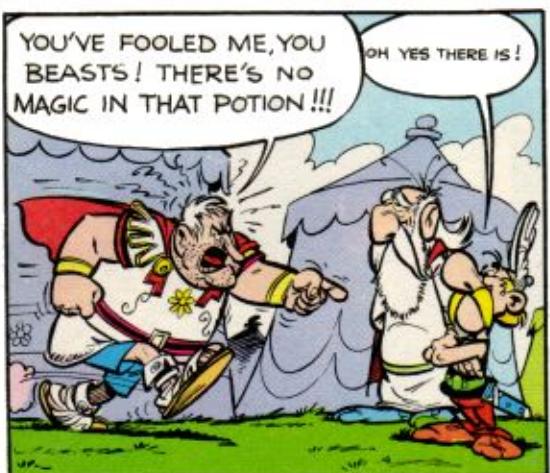
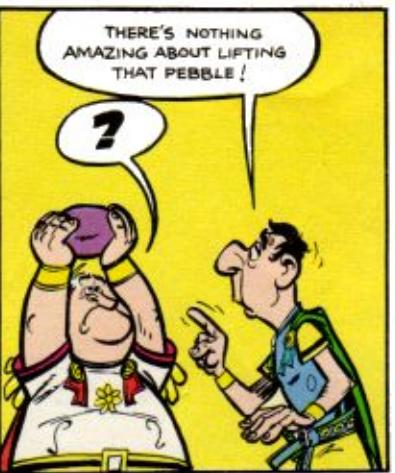
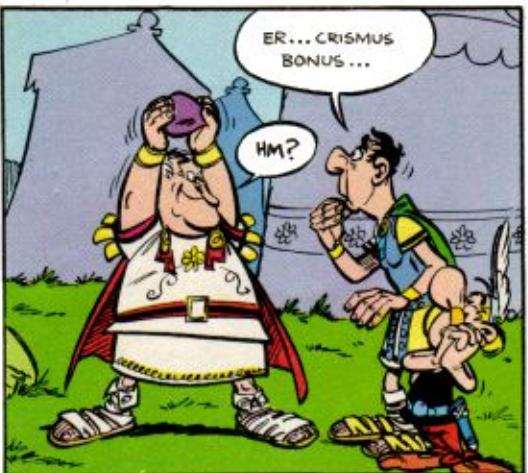




WELL, IF YOU DON'T
NEED ME ANY MORE
I'LL BE OFF...







WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, DRUID?

IT'S AN ANCIENT RECIPE FOR HAIR LOTION. EXTREMELY POWERFUL! YOUR HAIR AND BEARDS ARE GOING TO GROW VERY FAST, NON-STOP

I'LL KILL YOU!
GIVE ME THE ANTIDOTE!

TUT! TUT! TUT!

IF YOU KILL US WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY ANTIDOTE!

BESIDES, WE'RE A LITTLE TIRED TODAY...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A REST IN OUR TENT

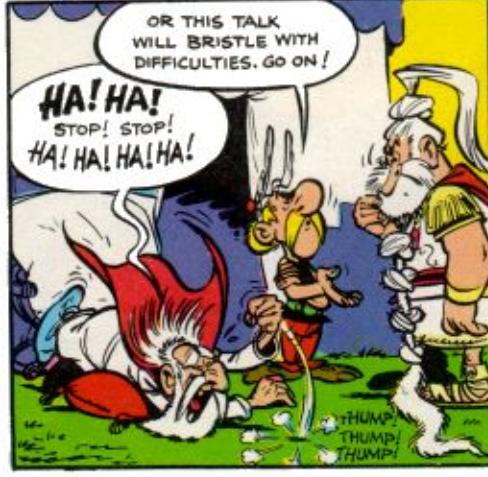
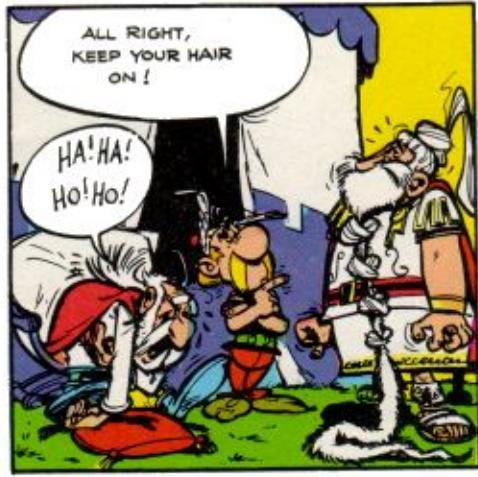
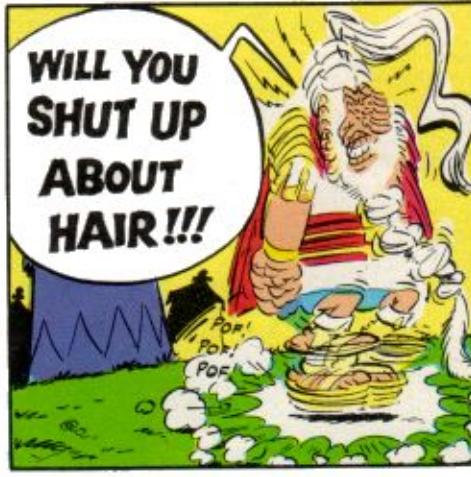
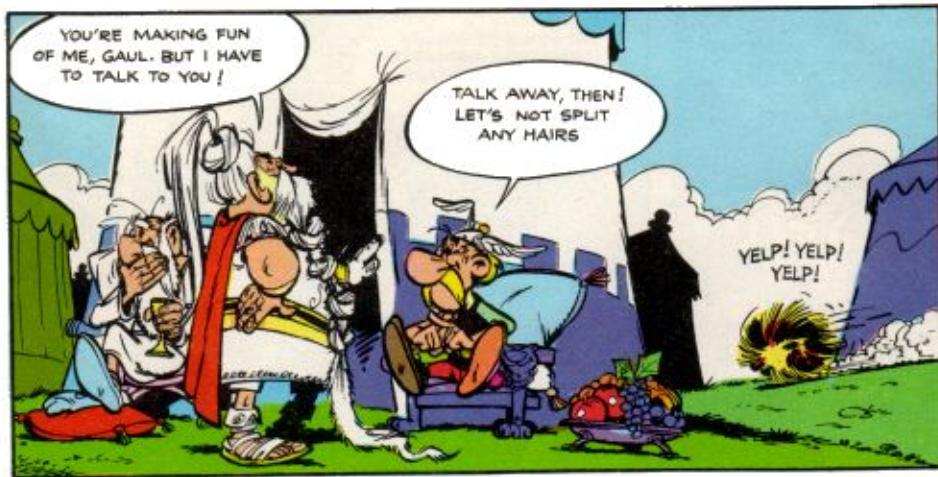
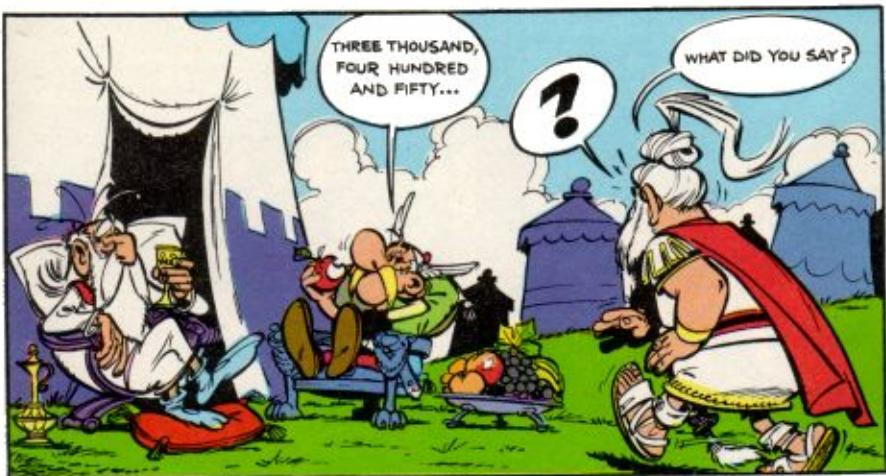
WAIT !!!

WHAT HAPPENED,
O CRISMUS BONUS?

I TRIPPED OVER
MY BEARD,
IDIOT!

SOON AFTERWARDS...
I AM AT THE MERCY OF THESE GAULS! THEY'VE GOT US BY THE SHORT HAIRS! I MUST STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH THEM!

THUMP!



I GIVE IN ! GIVE ME
THE ANTIDOTE
AND YOU CAN GO
FREE !

TRY A HAIR
OF THE
DOG ?

GETAFIX MAY
NOT REMEMBER
THE ANTIDOTE...

HE'S A BIT HARE-BRAINED
SOMETIMES !

Ho! Ho! Ho!

DON'T DISTRESS
YOURSELF !
WE AGREE !

I'LL HAVE TO GO
AND FETCH
INGREDIENTS FROM
THE FOREST...

I'LL ARRANGE
FOR AN
ESCORT...

I MAY NOT HAVE THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION,
BUT AS SOON AS I'VE GOT RID OF THIS
HAIR I'LL WIPE OUT THOSE TWO GAULS.
IT WILL GIVE ME MORAL SATISFACTION !

WHY WERE YOU SO
QUICK TO ACCEPT HIS
OFFER ? THAT CENTURION
MEANS MISCHIEF !

THE EFFECTS
OF THE HAIR
LOTION DON'T
LAST LONG ...

TOMORROW THEIR HAIR
WILL HAVE STOPPED GROWING.
I MUST THINK OF A WAY
OUT OF THIS !

REPORTING TO ESCORT
YOU TO THE FOREST
FOR INGREDIENTS !

THAT'S OUR
STRONG POINT,
WE'RE BURSTING
WITH IDEAS !

STOP WALKING ON
MY HAIR !

WELL, PICK IT
UP, THEN !

I HAVE A PLAN !

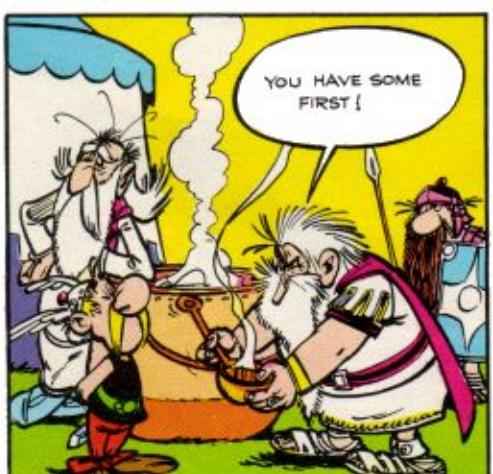
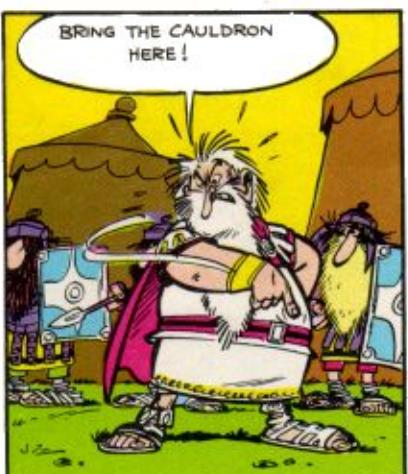
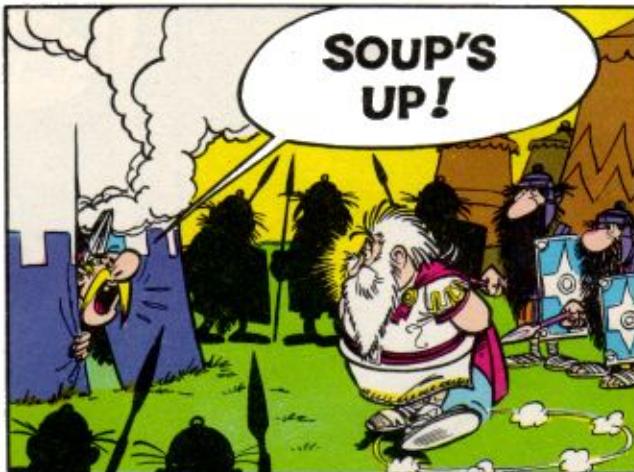


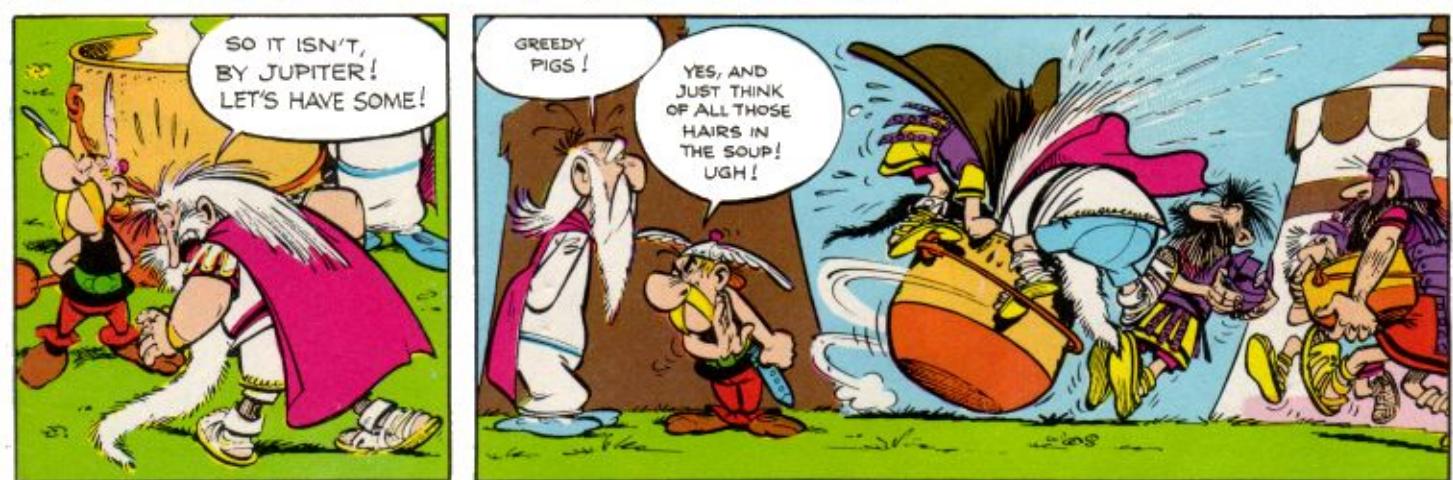
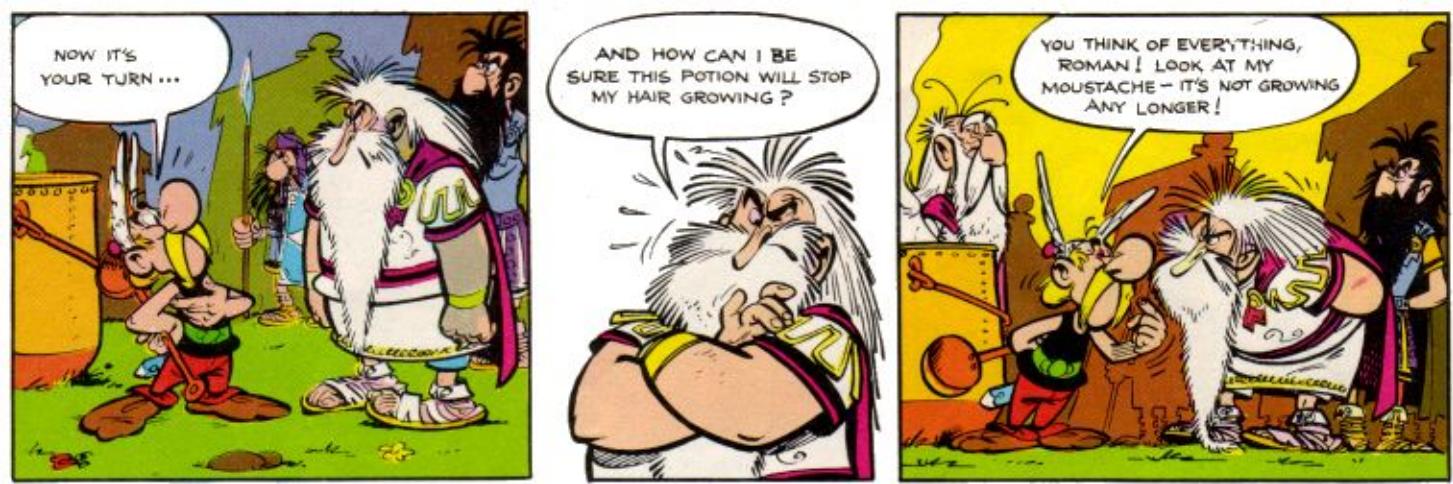
NOW, ASTERIX, THIS LITTLE CAULDRON HOLDS MAGIC POTION - WE'LL NEED PLENTY OF STRENGTH TO GET US OUT OF HERE ...

THE LARGE CAULDRON WILL CONTAIN ANTIDOTE: WATER, VEGETABLES, MARROW-BONE, SALT... WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE SOME GOOD SOUP, SINCE WE'LL HAVE TO TASTE IT IN FRONT OF THE ROMANS ...

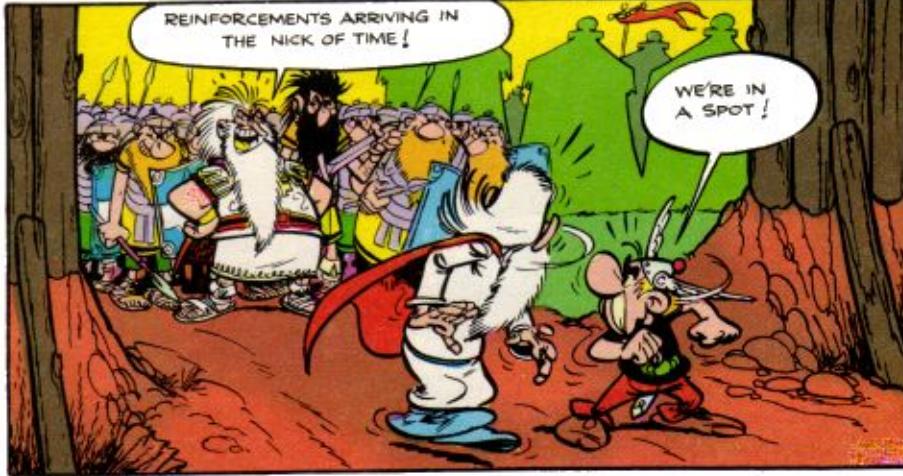
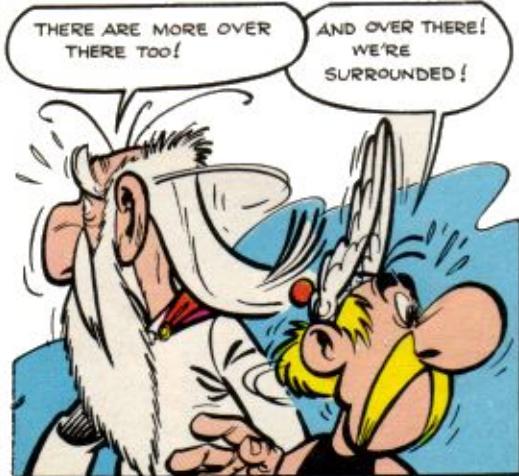
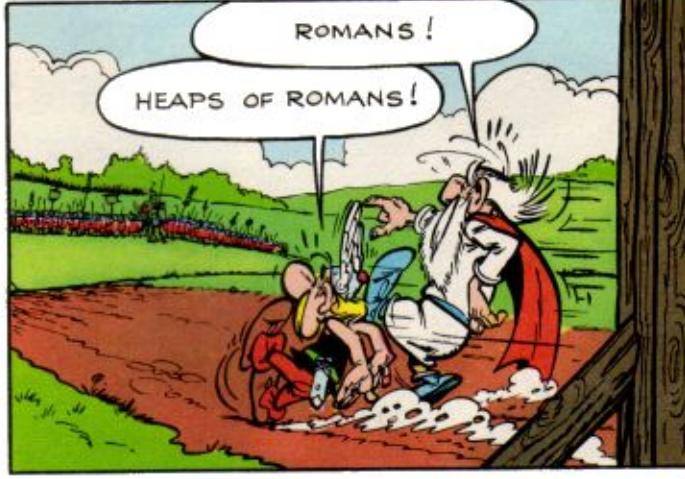
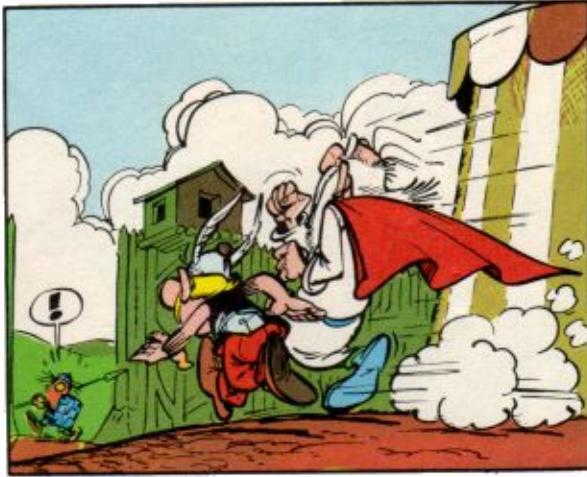
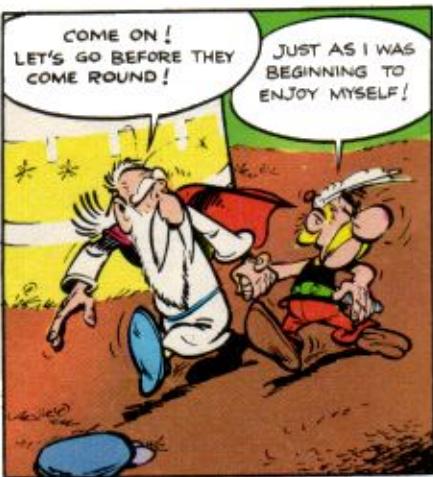
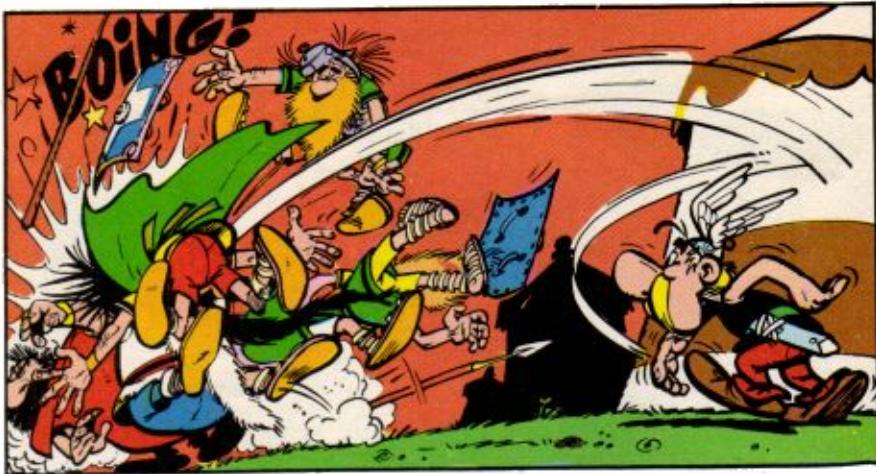
SOON AFTERWARDS...

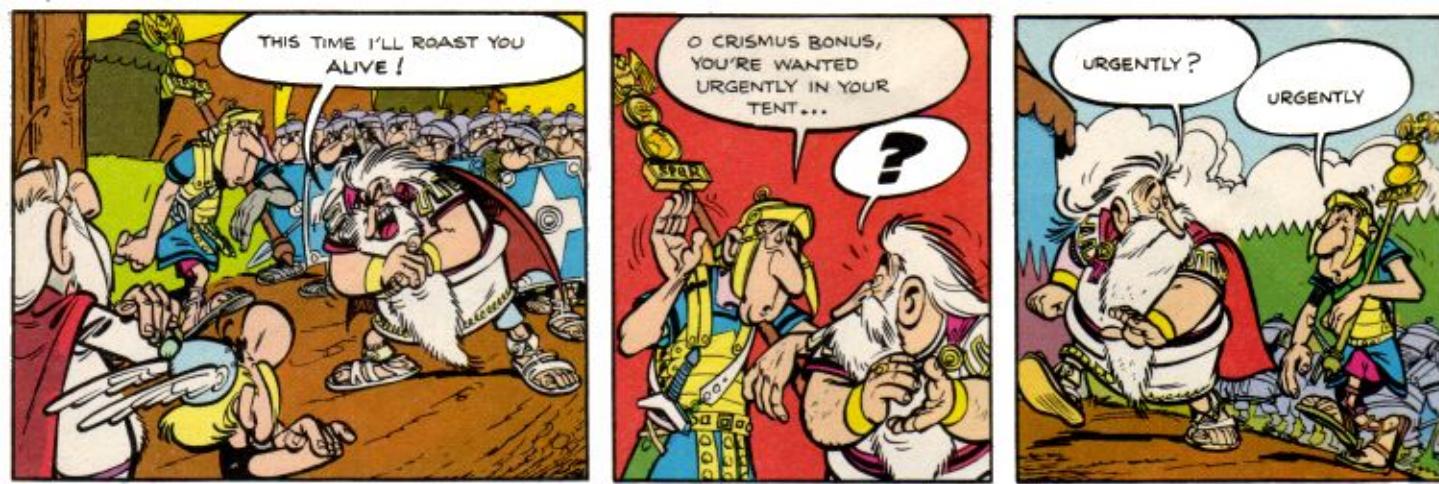
THE MAGIC POTION IS READY! TAKE A GOOD SWIG!





LET GO!





AHA! SO THESE ARE THE TERRIBLE GAULS!

TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT...



CRISMUS BONUS WAS EXTREMELY EAGER TO GET HOLD OF THE RECIPE FOR A MAGIC POTION WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE HIM INVINCIBLE, REMOVING ALL OBSTACLES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE IMPERIAL THRONE...

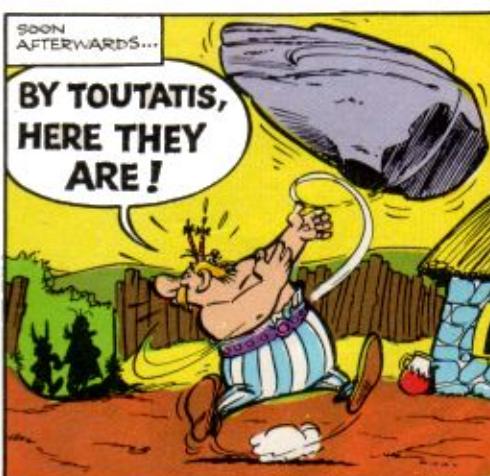
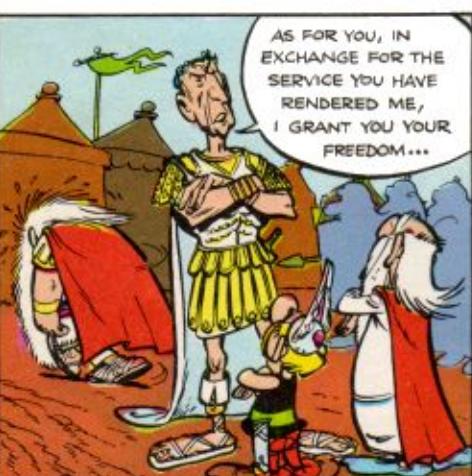


AS FOR YOU, IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SERVICE YOU HAVE RENDERED ME, I GRANT YOU YOUR FREEDOM...

BUT THIS IS ONLY A TRUCE. GAUL. WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

BY TOUTATIS, HERE THEY ARE!



AND ALL NIGHT LONG BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON, UNDER A STARRY SKY, THE GAULS FEAST THEIR HEROES, VICTORIOUS OVER THEIR ENEMIES THANKS TO MAGIC, THE PROTECTION OF THE GODS, AND LOW CUNNING ...

I COULD EAT ANOTHER BOAR...

