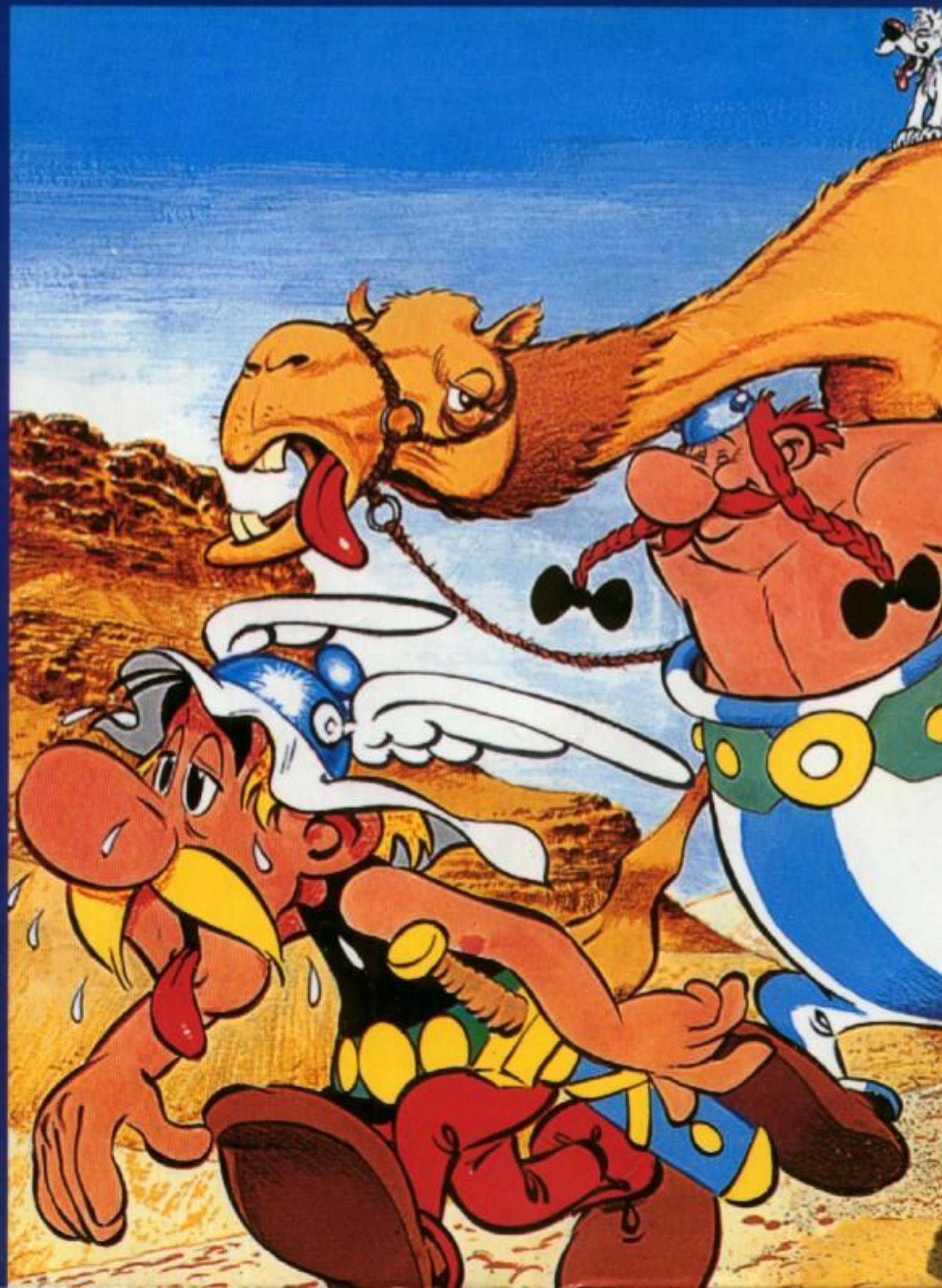


BOOK 27

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

AND THE
BLACK GOLD



IN THE QUIET, PEACEFUL DEPTHS OF THE GAULISH FOREST, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT IT IS DINNER TIME...



...BUT SOME OF THE FOREST DWELLERS HAVE LOST THEIR APPETITES.



(AUTHOR'S NOTE: WITH APOLOGIES TO PURISTS, WE PROVIDE A DUBBED VERSION TO FACILITATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIALOGUE.)

ARE YOU QUITE SURE WE AREN'T GOING TO MEET ANY OF THOSE CRAZY GAULS FROM THE VILLAGE?

I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE QUITE SAFE WITH ME. WHY ARE YOU SCARED?



BECAUSE THEY'VE WOLFED DOWN, SCRUNCHEDED, CRUNCHED AND GOBBLED UP MY WHOLE HERD, AND I AM THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF A LARGE FAMILY, THAT'S WHY!!!

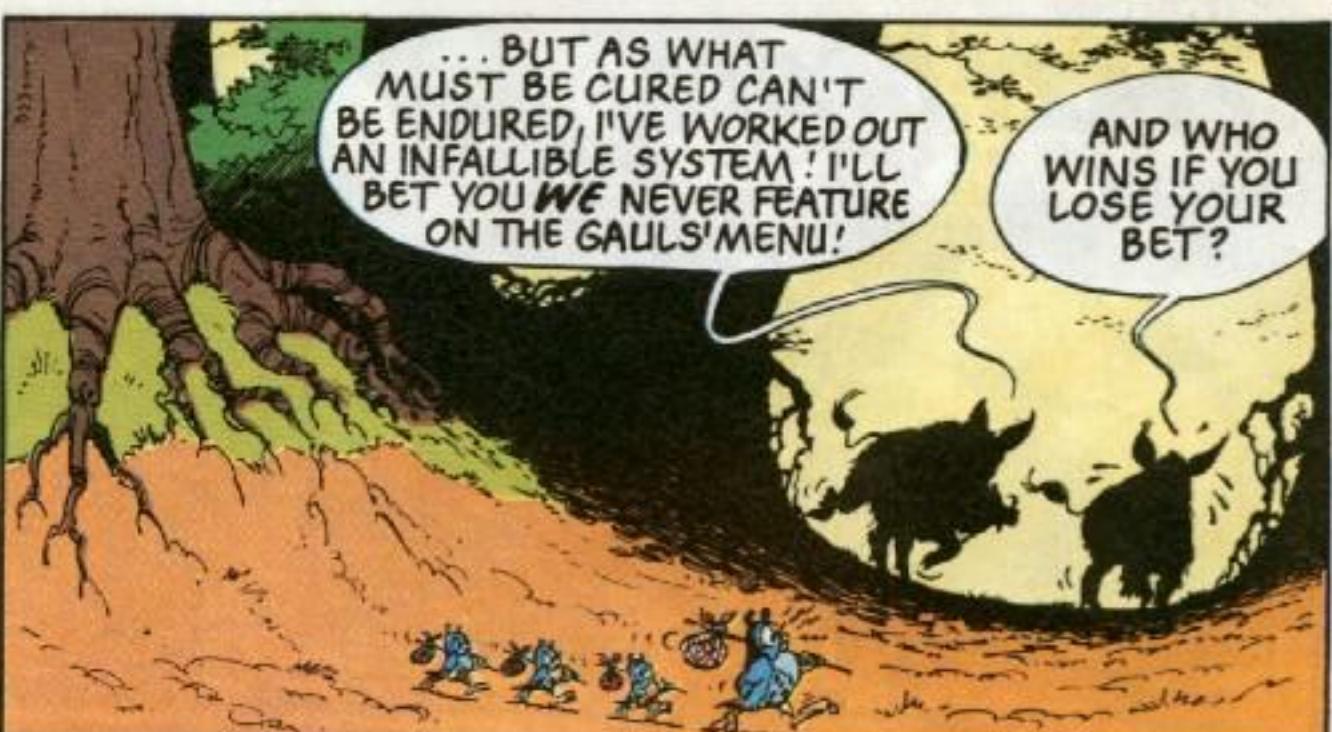


CALM DOWN! NO NEED TO GO RANTING LIKE A BARNSTORMER*. I ADMIT THEY'RE GOOD AT BRINGING HOME THE BACON...



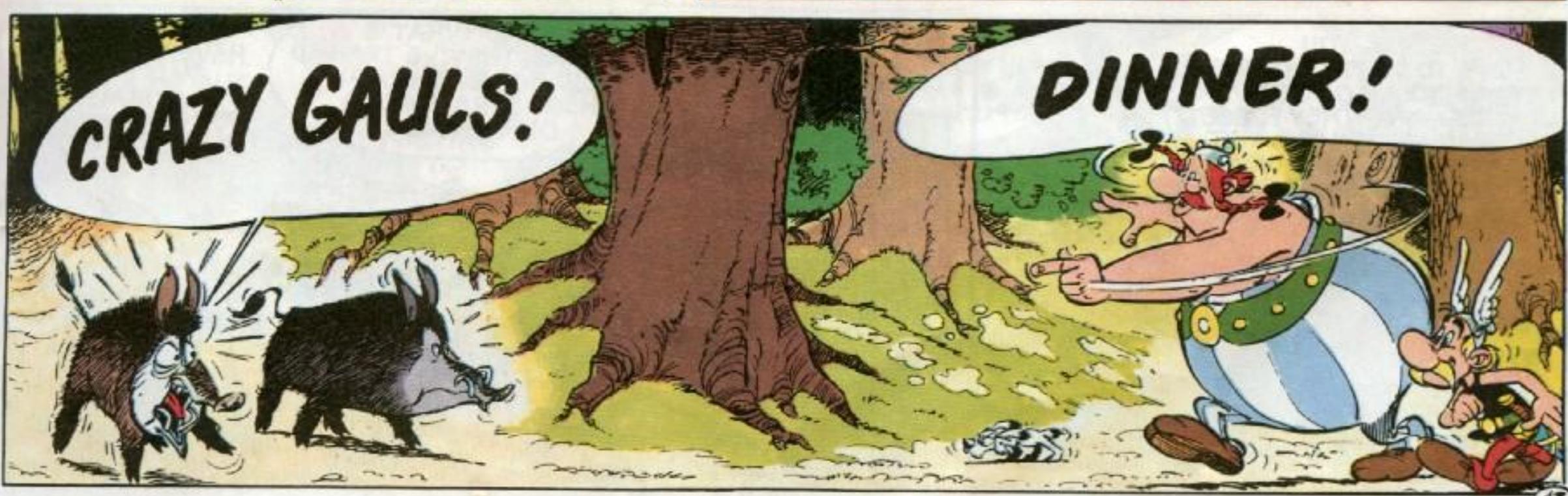
...BUT AS WHAT MUST BE CURED CAN'T BE ENDURED, I'VE WORKED OUT AN INFALLIBLE SYSTEM! I'LL BET YOU WE NEVER FEATURE ON THE GAULS' MENU!

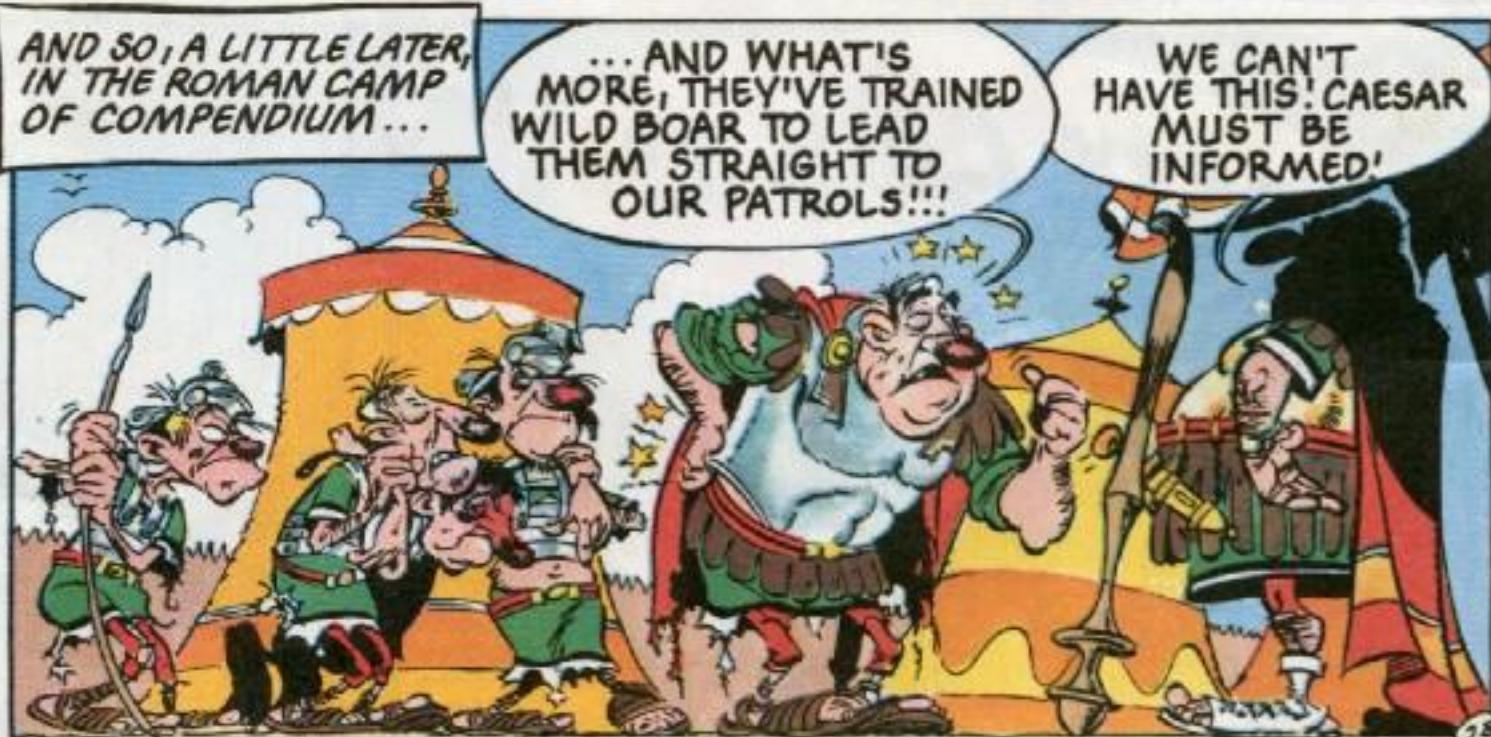
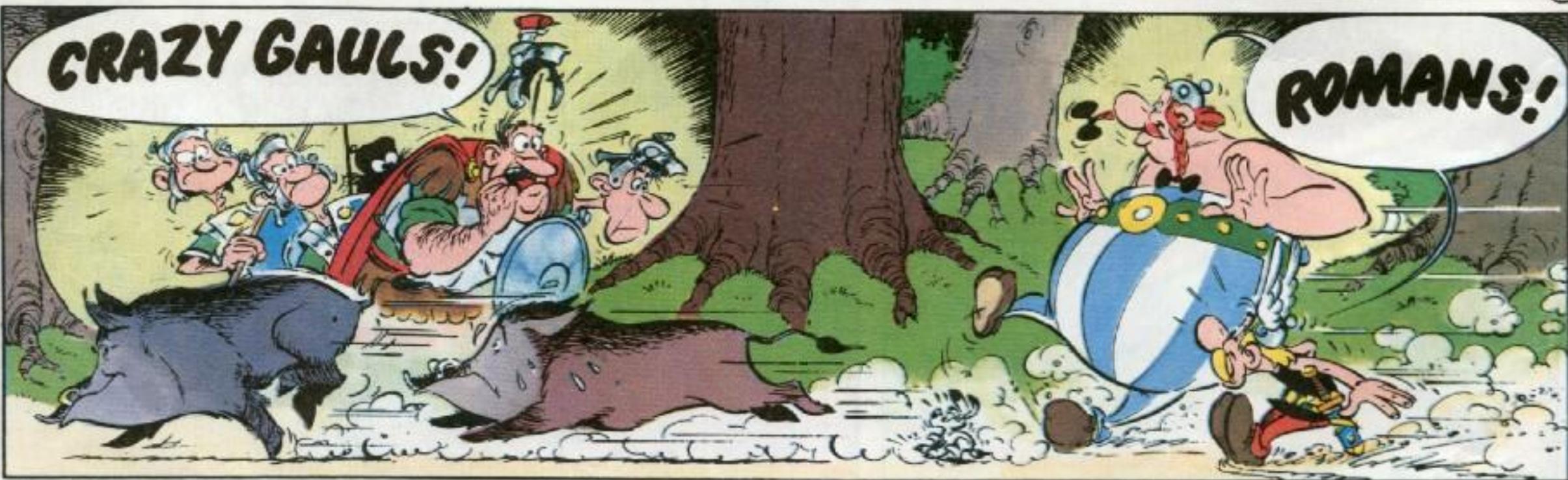
AND WHO WINS IF YOU LOSE YOUR BET?



CRAZY GAULS!

DINNER!





IN ROME...

NO, WE MOST CERTAINLY CAN'T HAVE THIS!!!

THAT ARMORICAN VILLAGE IS STILL HOLDING THE MIGHT OF ROME UP TO RIDICULE!



AND I HEAR THAT MY LEGIONS NOW HAVE TO FACE Hordes OF WILD BEASTS!

THE MORALE OF MY TROOPS IS AT ROCK BOTTOM, AND I AM THE LAUGHING STOCK OF MY ENEMIES IN THE SENATE!

AS WE ALL KNOW, WE HAVE FAILED TO CONQUER THOSE INDOMITABLE GAULS BY FORCE, CORRUPTION, OR EVEN KIDNAPPING, AND YET...



3A

M. DEVIUS SURREPTITIUS, YOU'RE CHIEF OF MY SECRET SERVICE, M.I.VI. IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA, BY JUPITER, LET'S HEAR IT!

O CAESAR, THE SECRETS OF THE DRUIDS ARE PASSED ON ONLY FROM DRUID TO DRUID BY WORD OF MOUTH!

WHAT ABOUT IT?

SIMPLE! NO ONE BUT A DRUID WHO IS ALSO SPYING FOR US CAN OBTAIN AND PASS ON THE RECIPE OF THAT MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES THE GAULS INVINCIBLE!



AND AMONG MY AGENTS I HAVE JUST SUCH A DRUID!

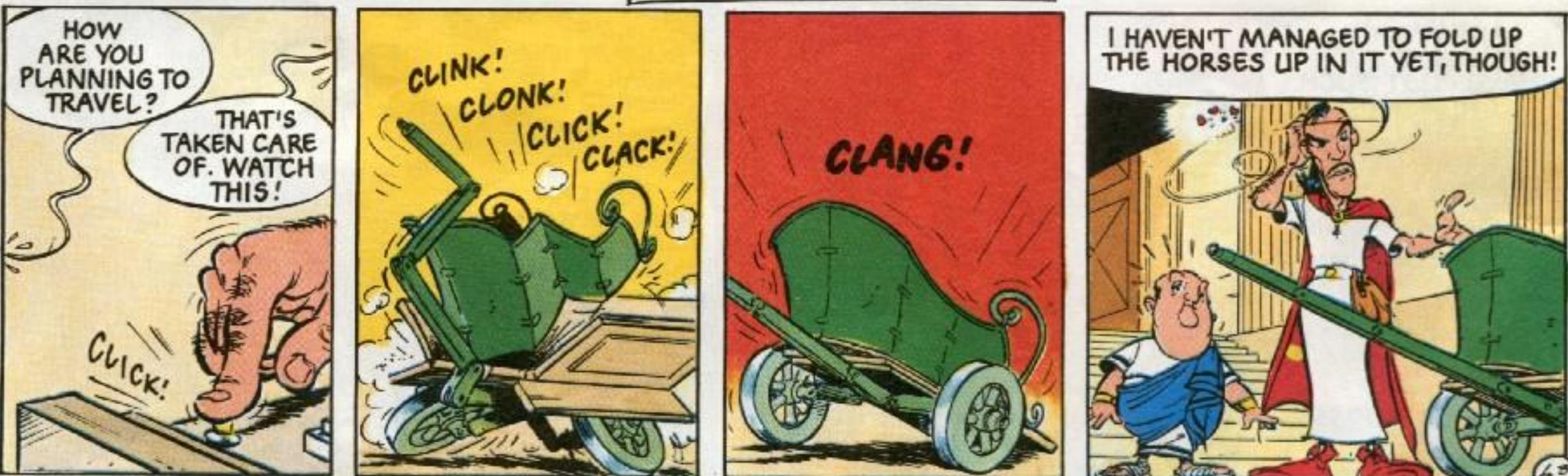
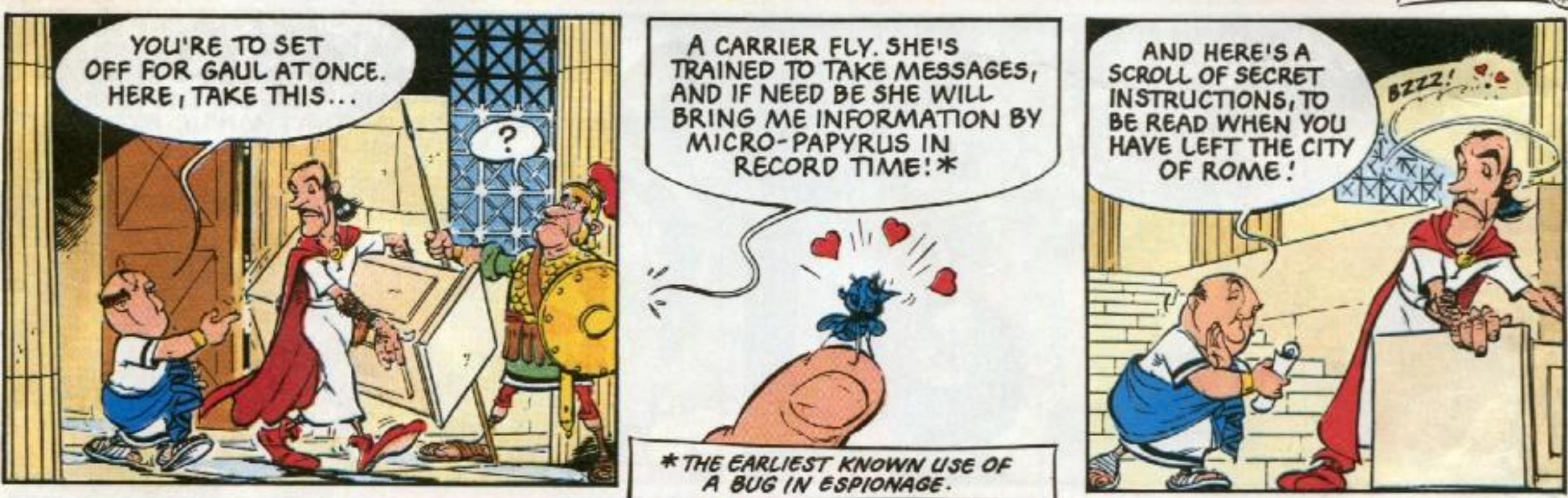
THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? FETCH HIM!

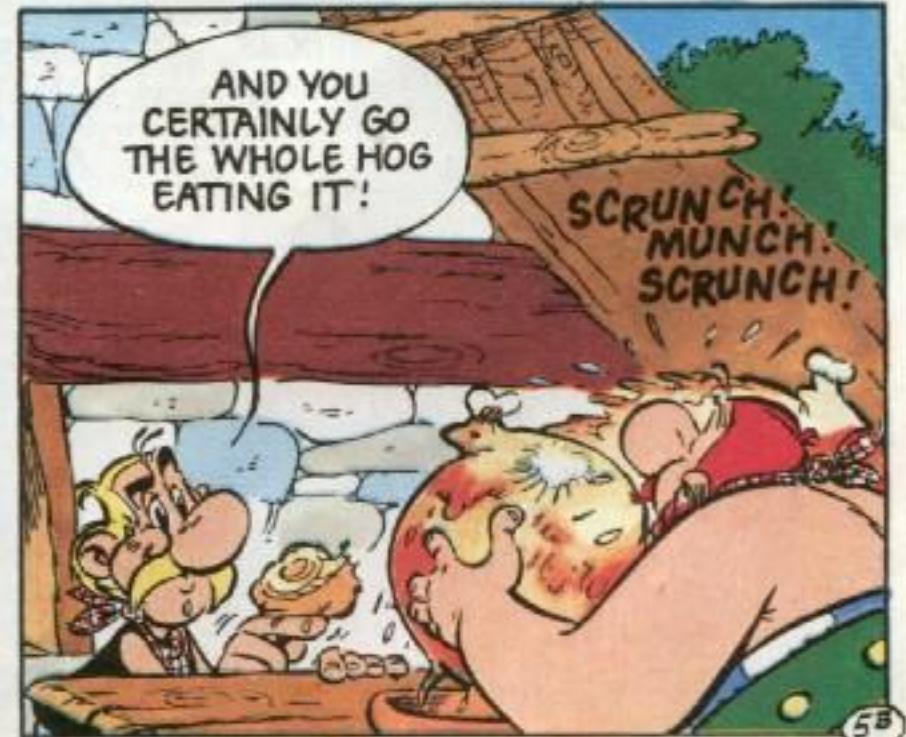
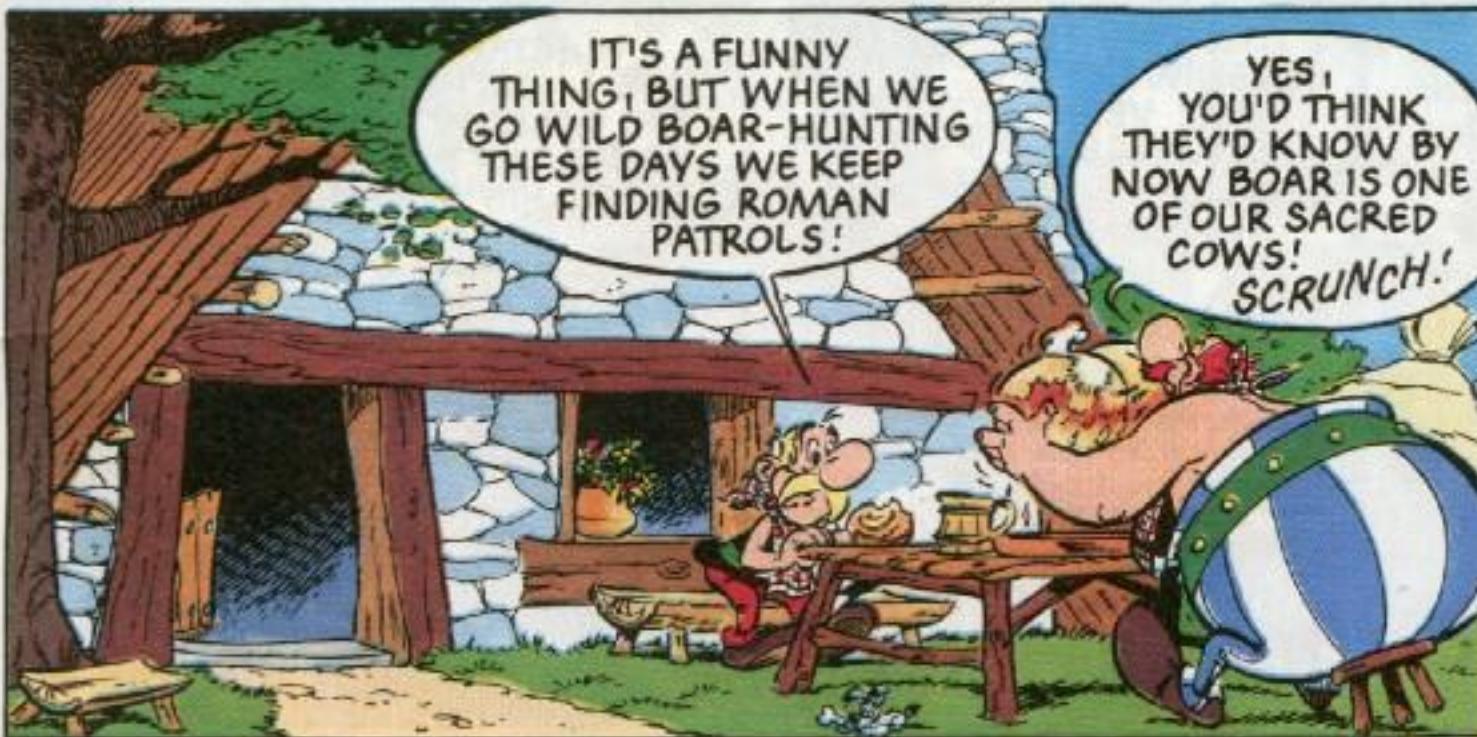
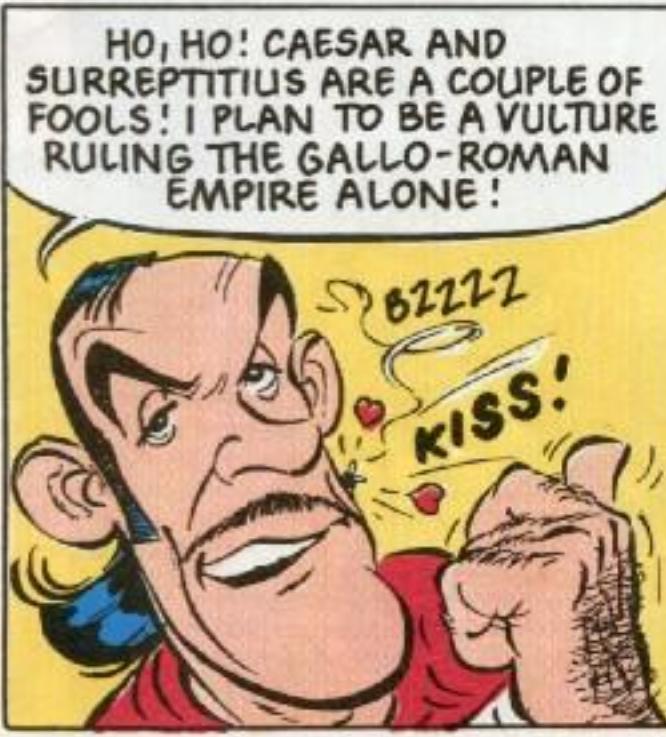
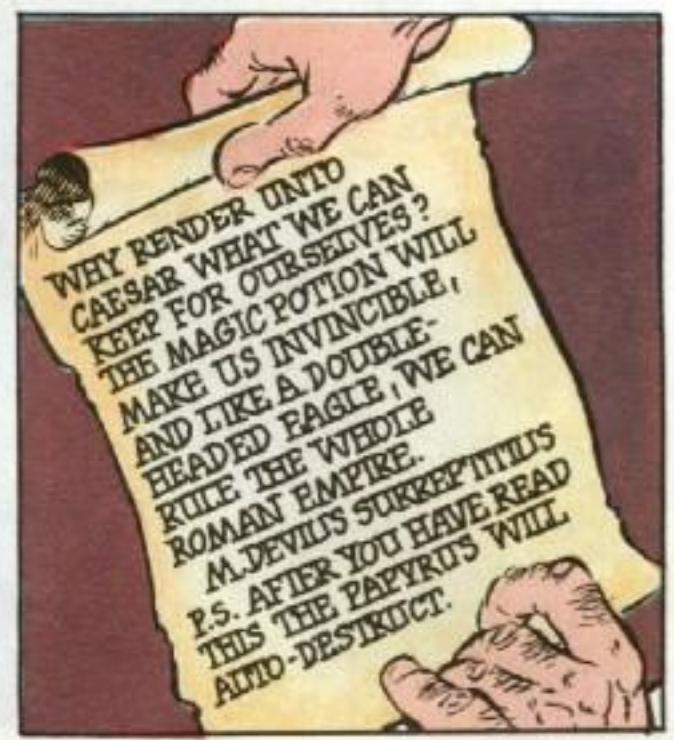
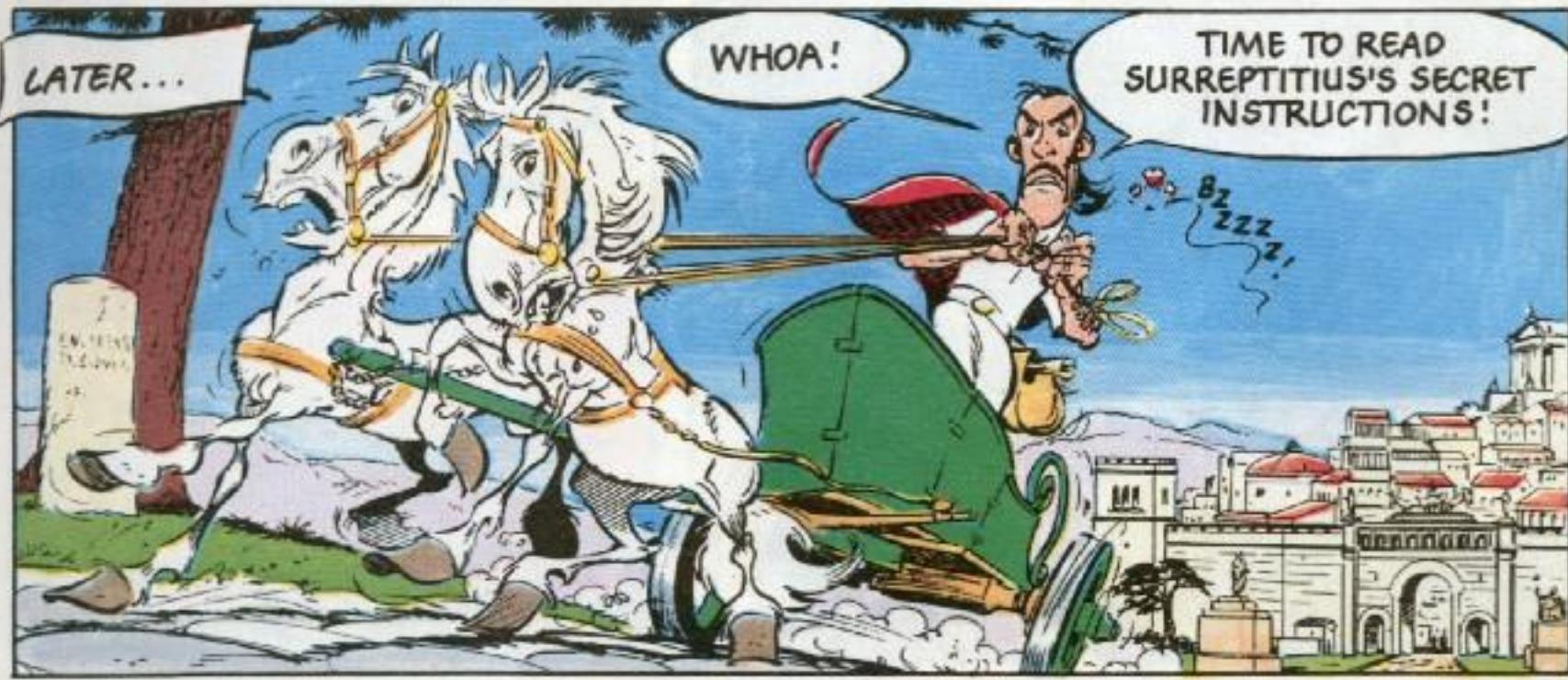
HE'S ALREADY HERE, CAESAR, QUITE CLOSE TO YOU!

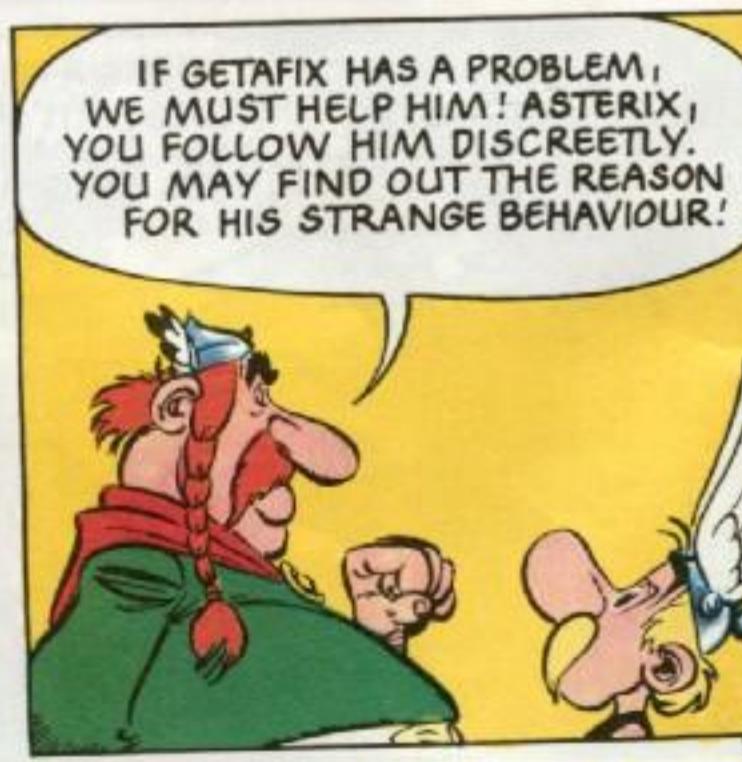
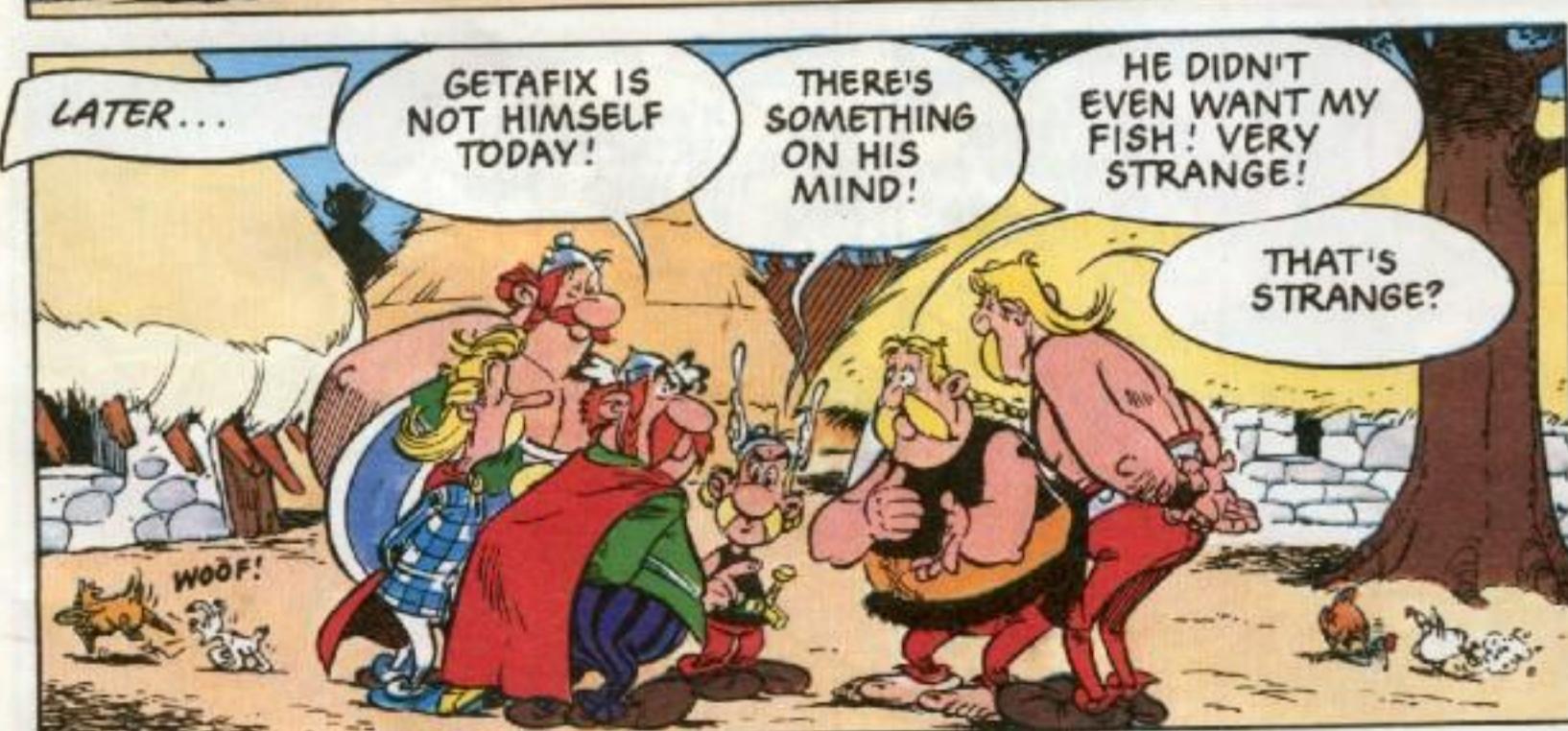
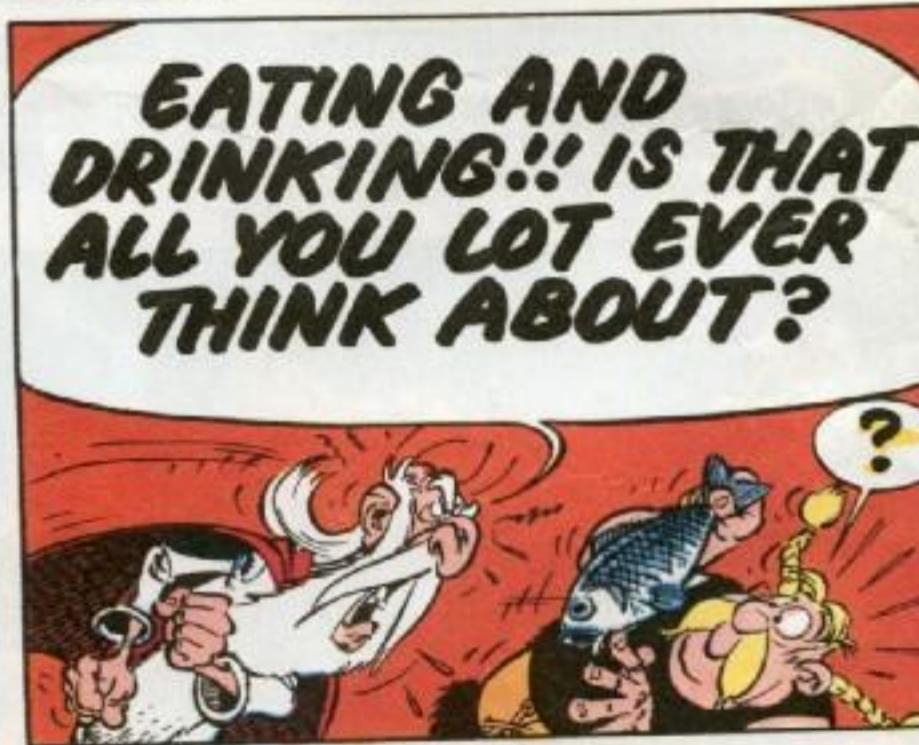
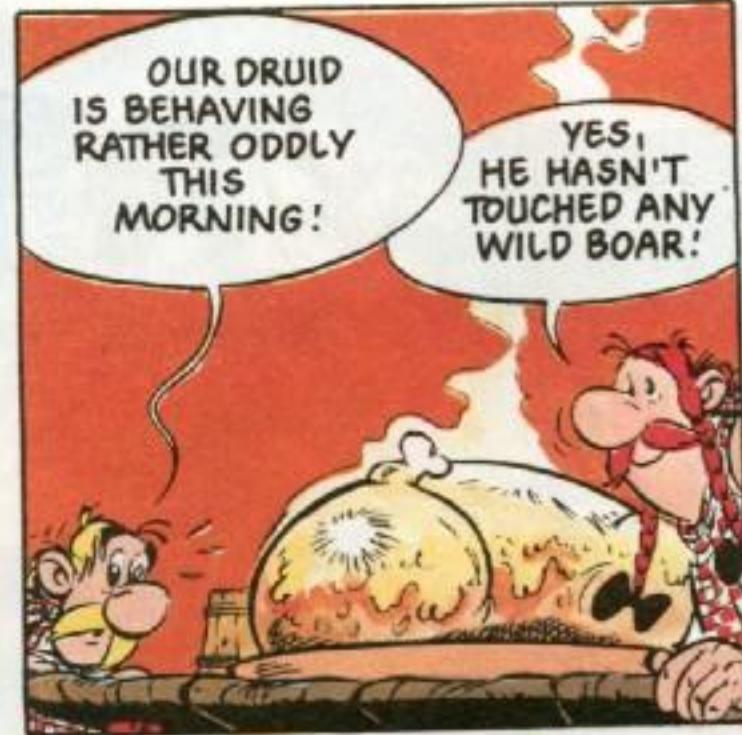
YOU CAN COME DOWN FROM YOUR PEDESTAL NOW, DUBBEO-SIX!

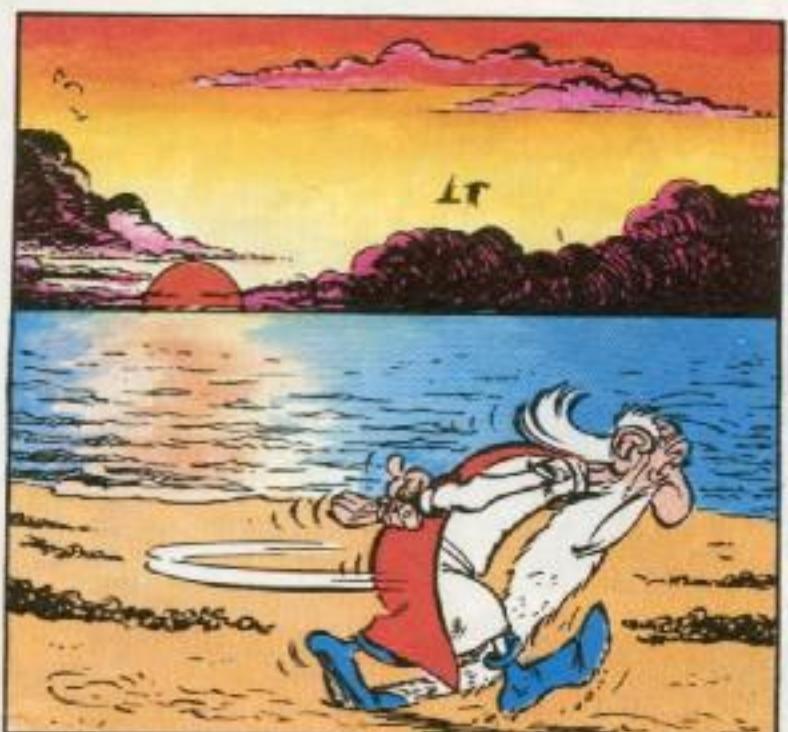
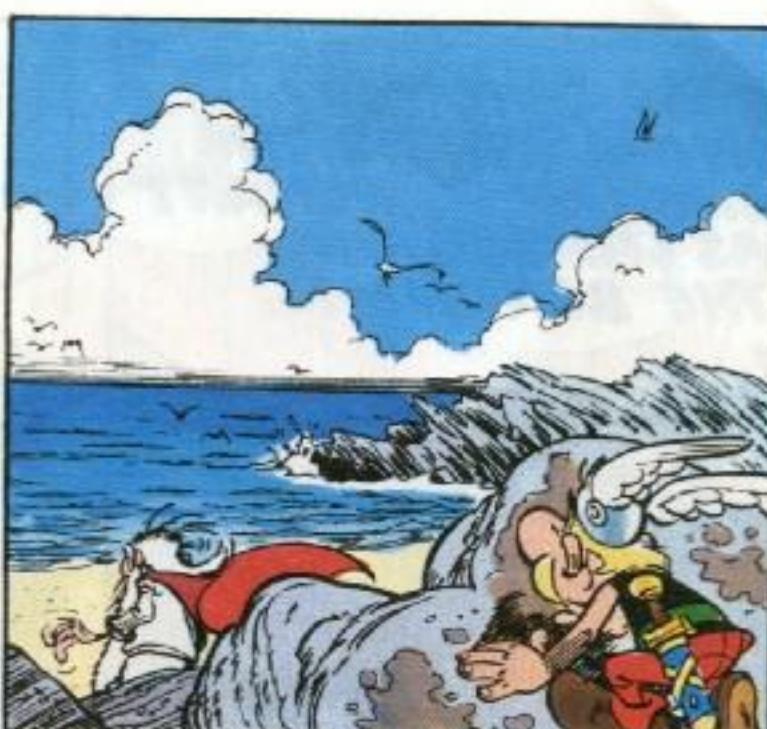


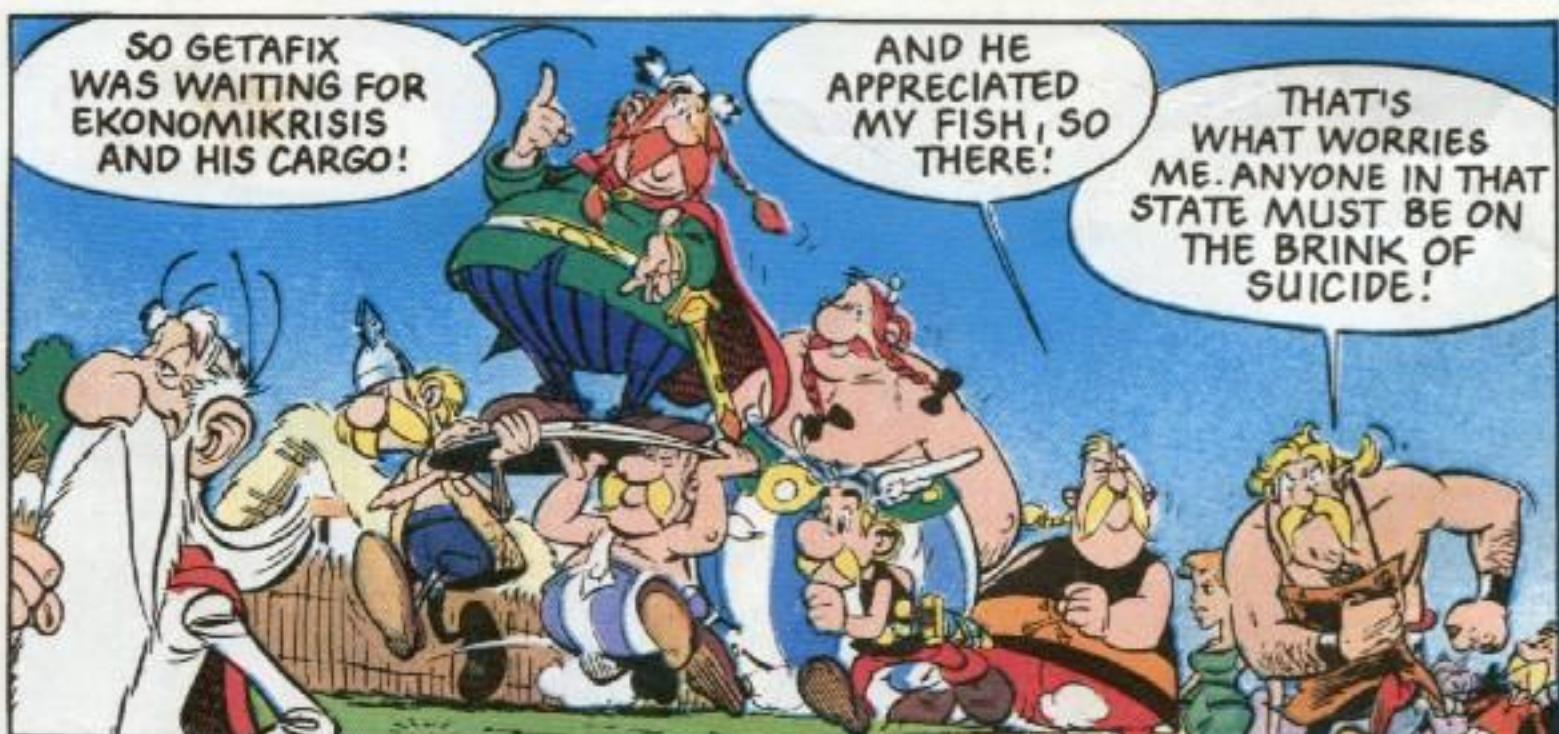
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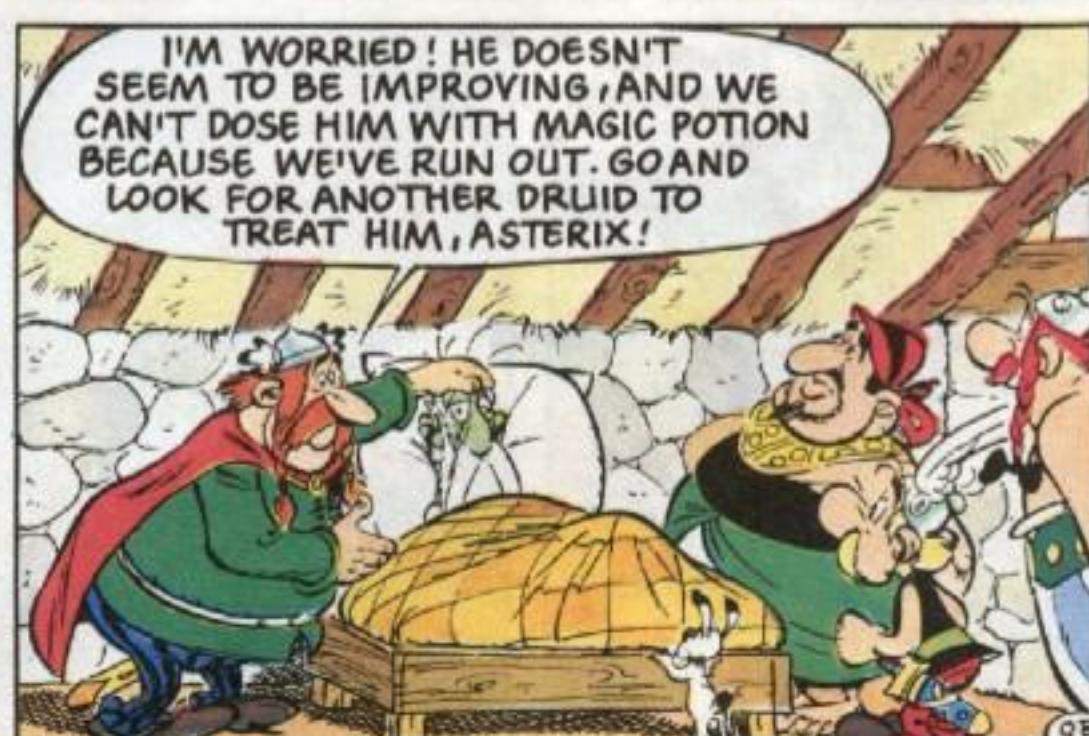
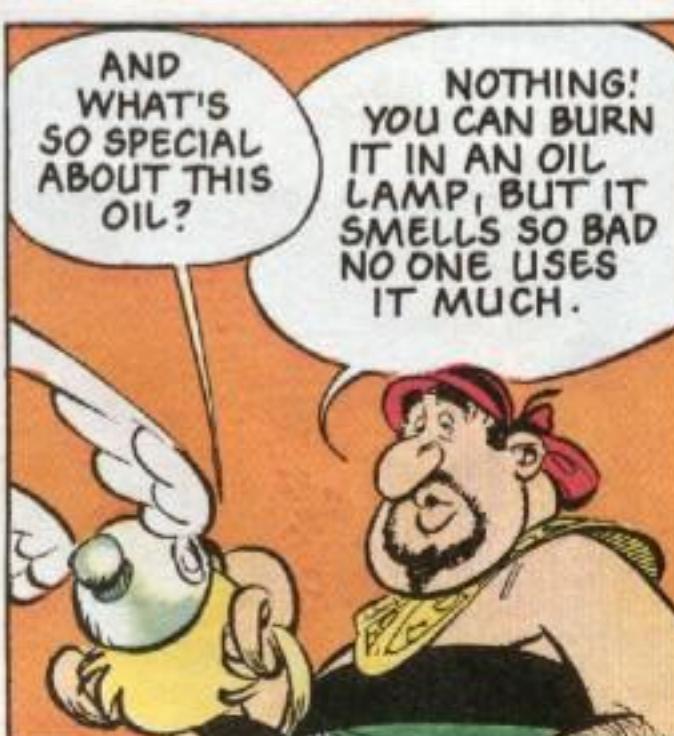
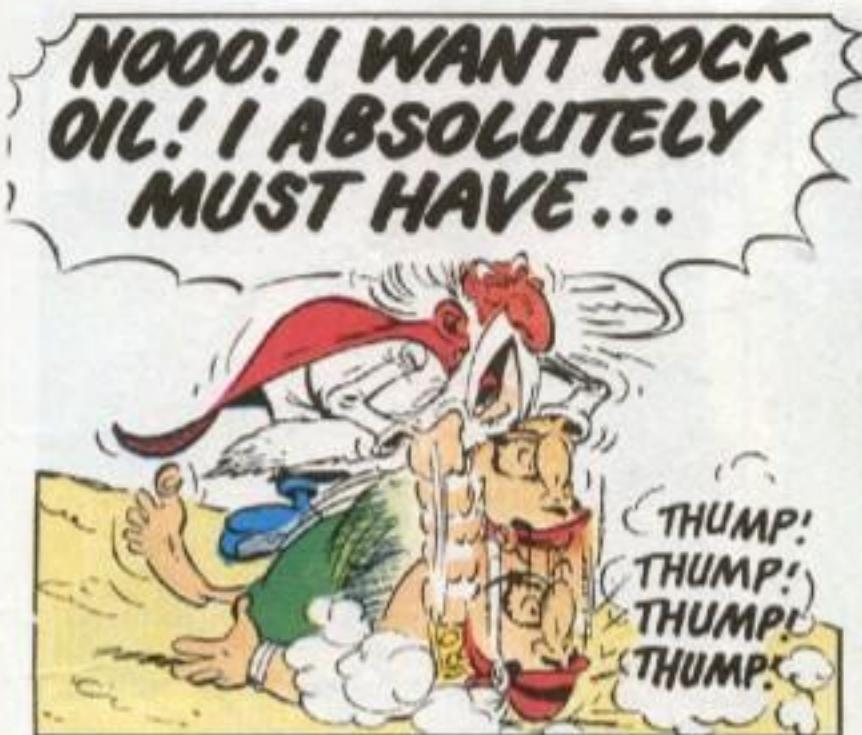
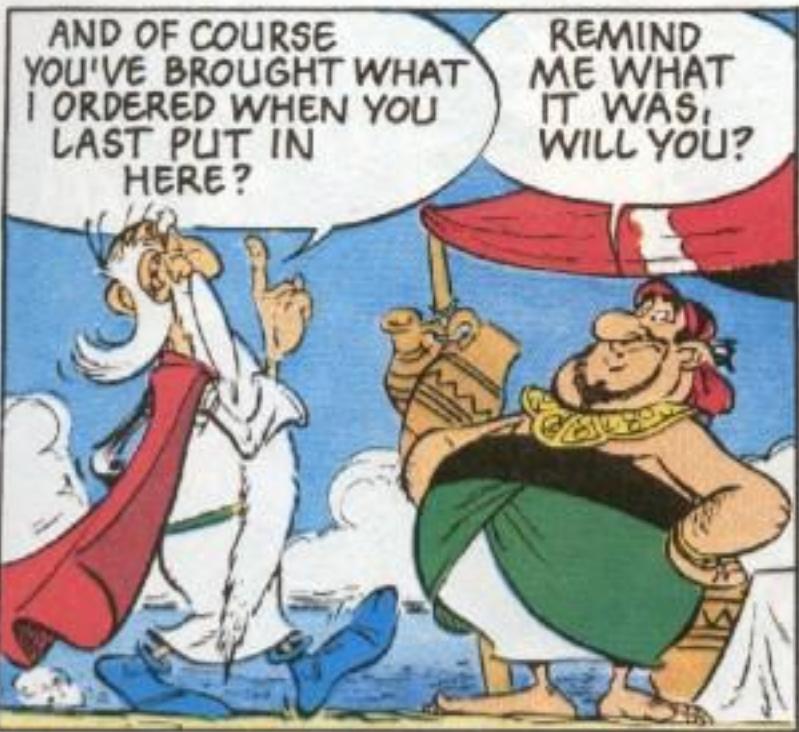


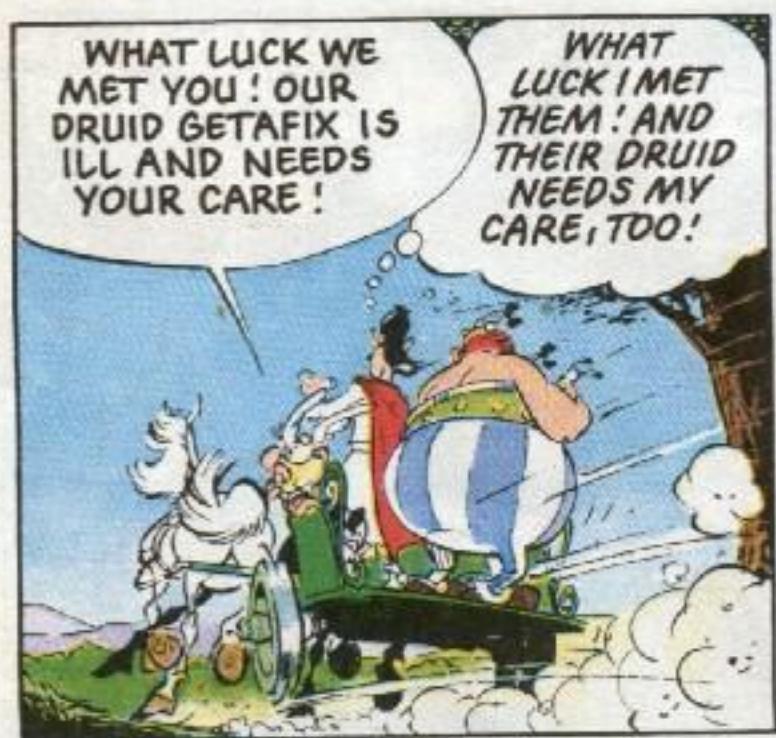
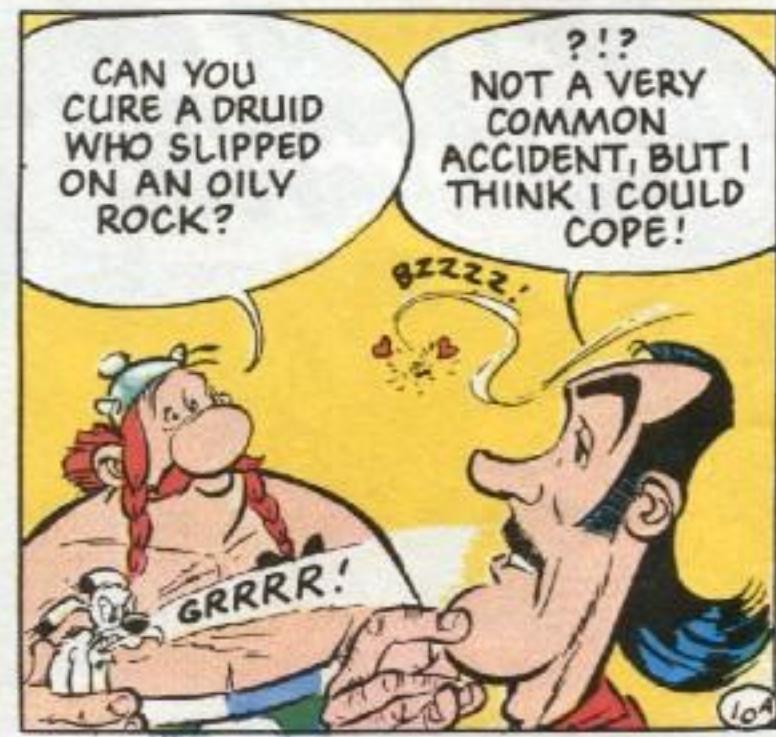
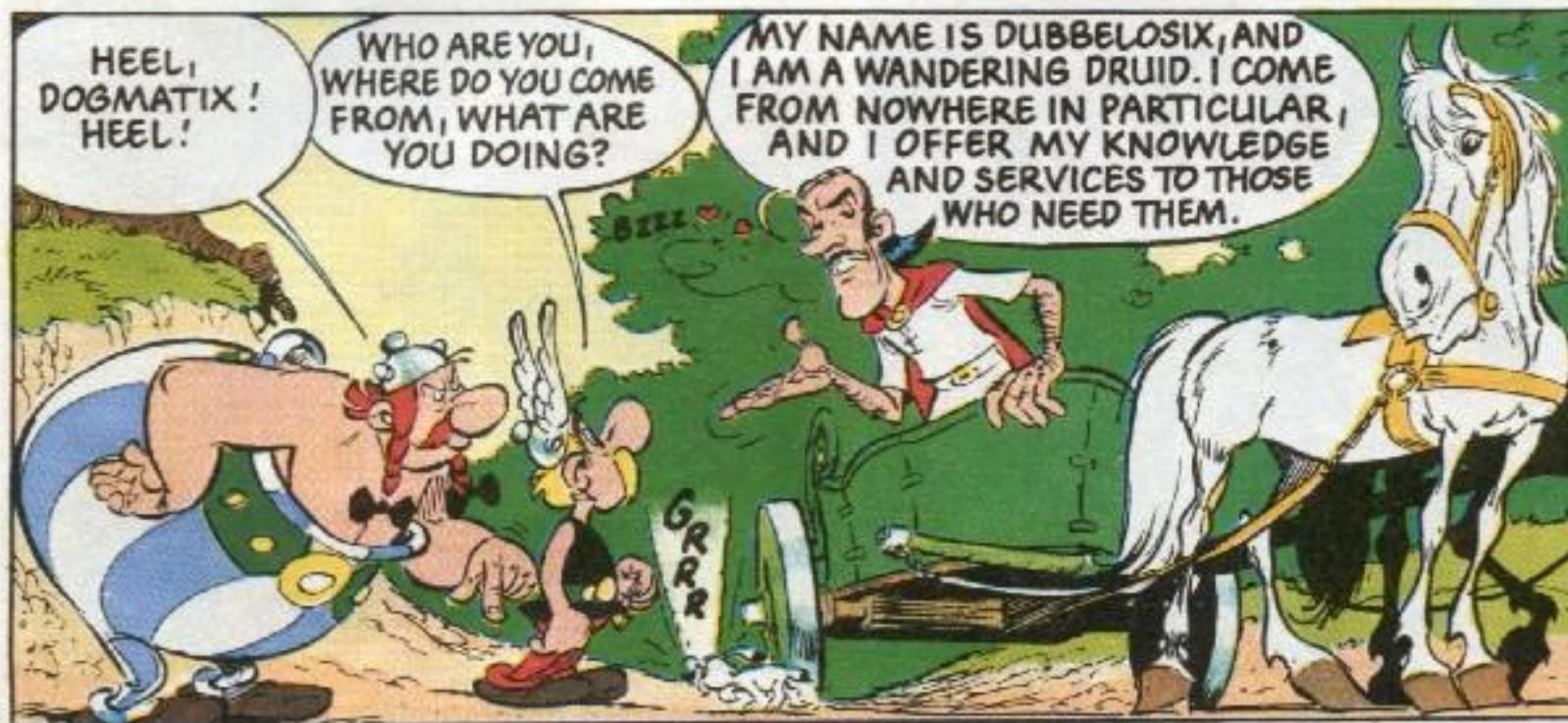


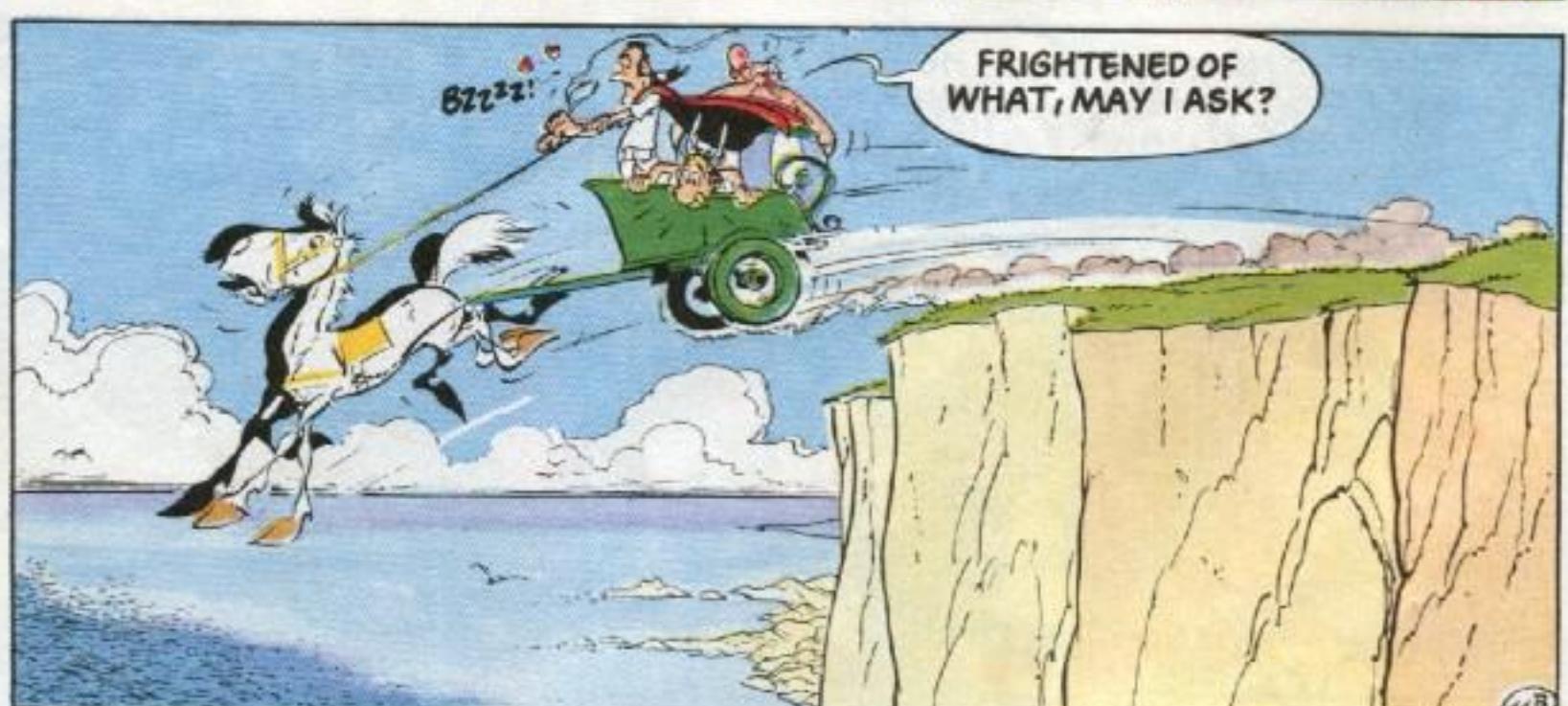
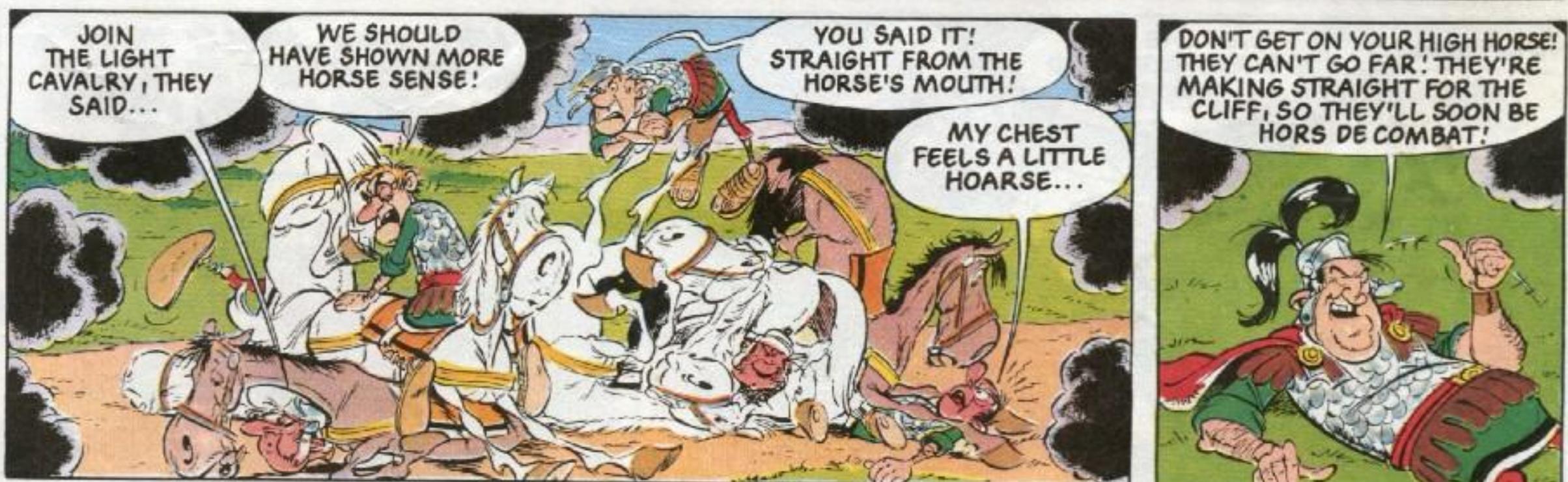


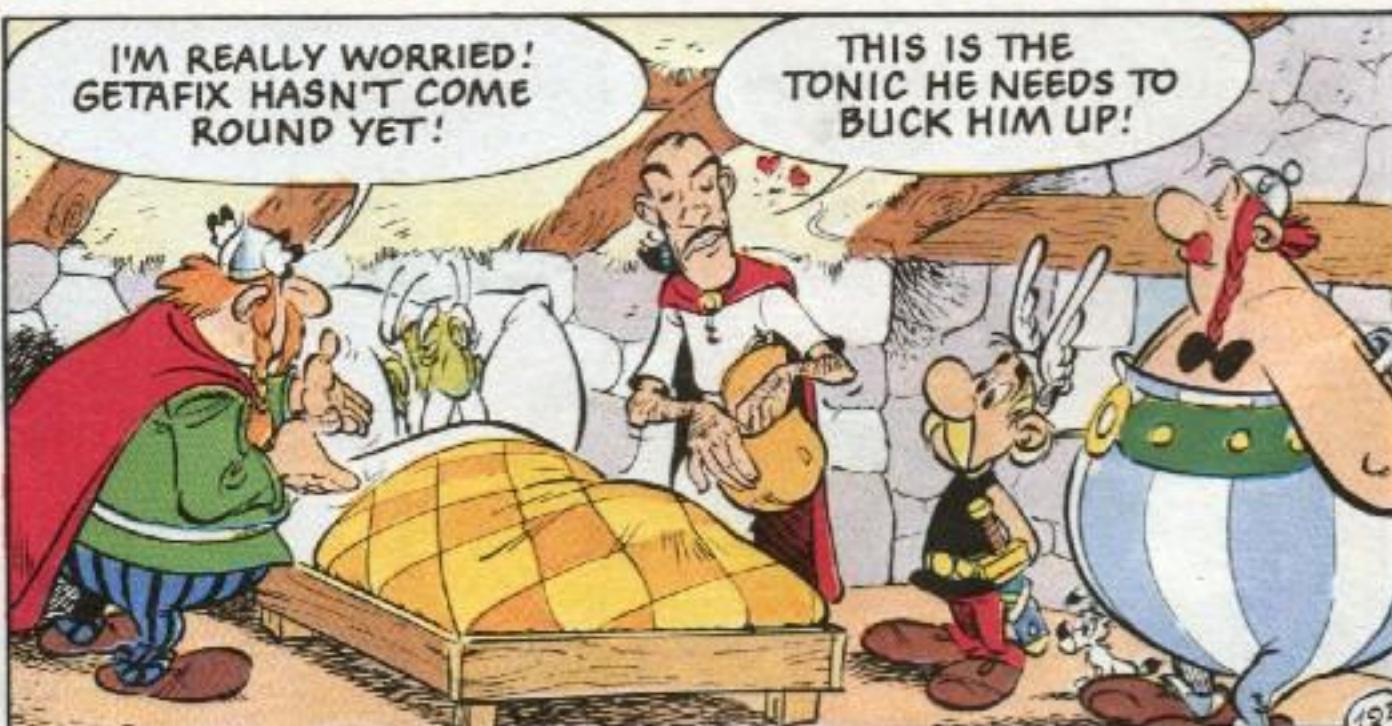
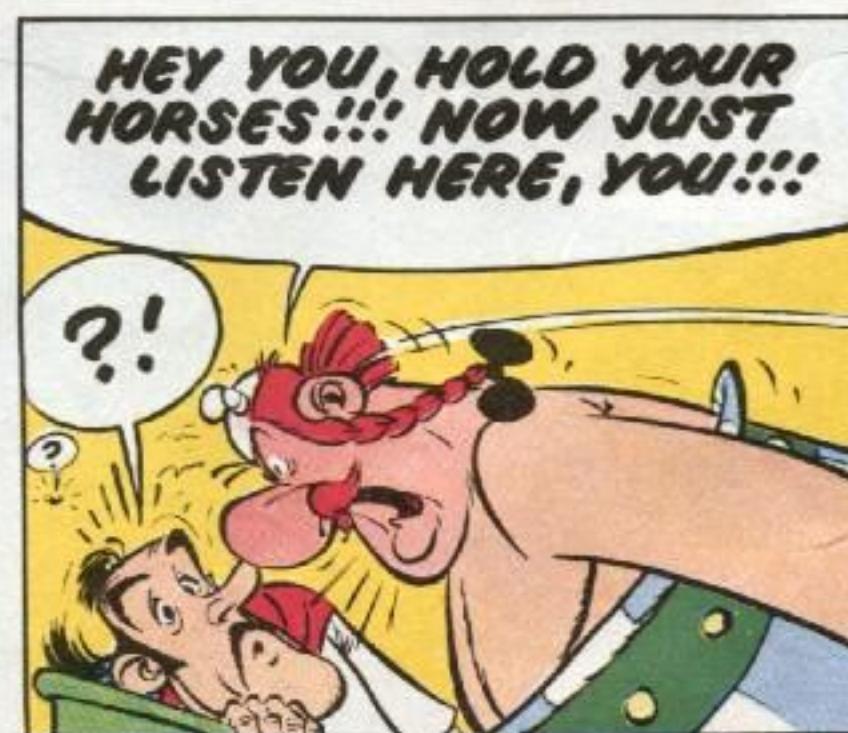
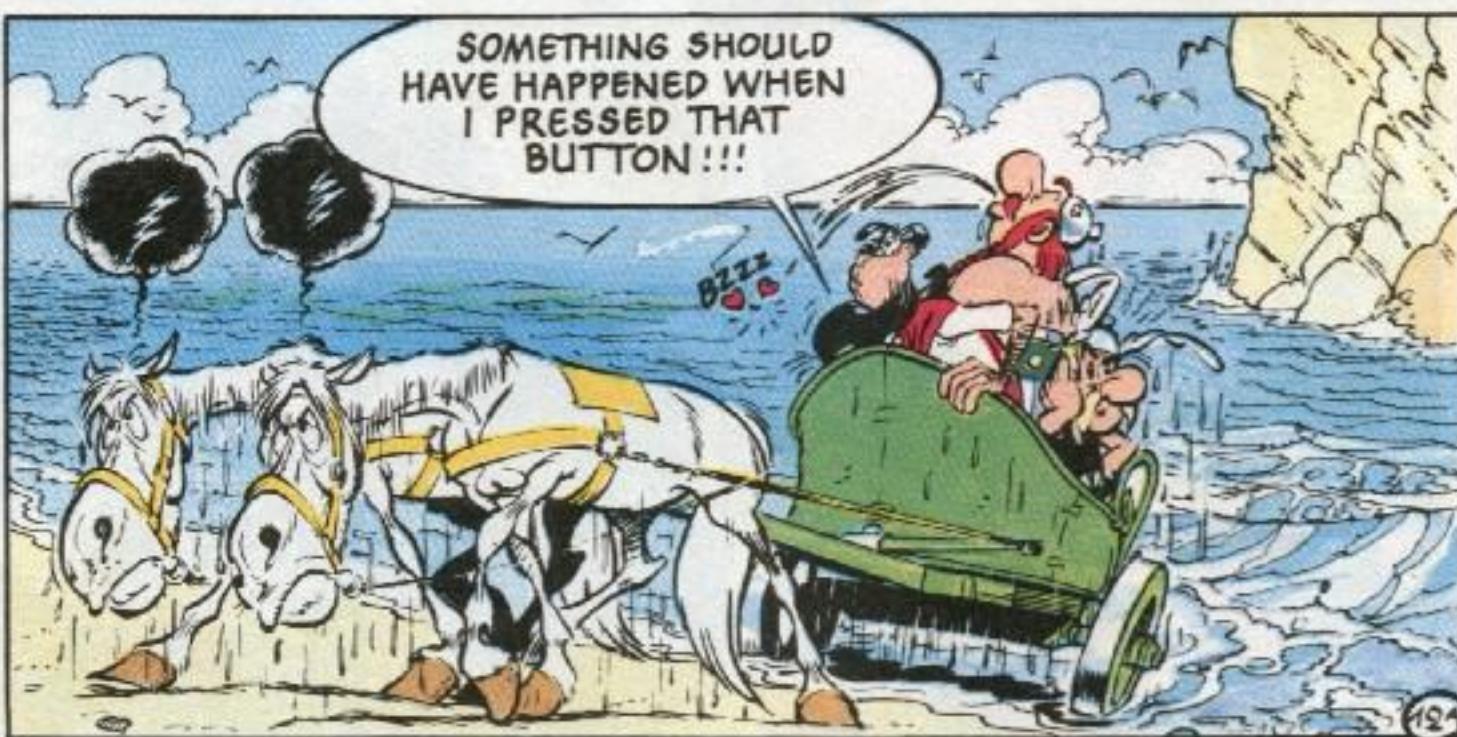
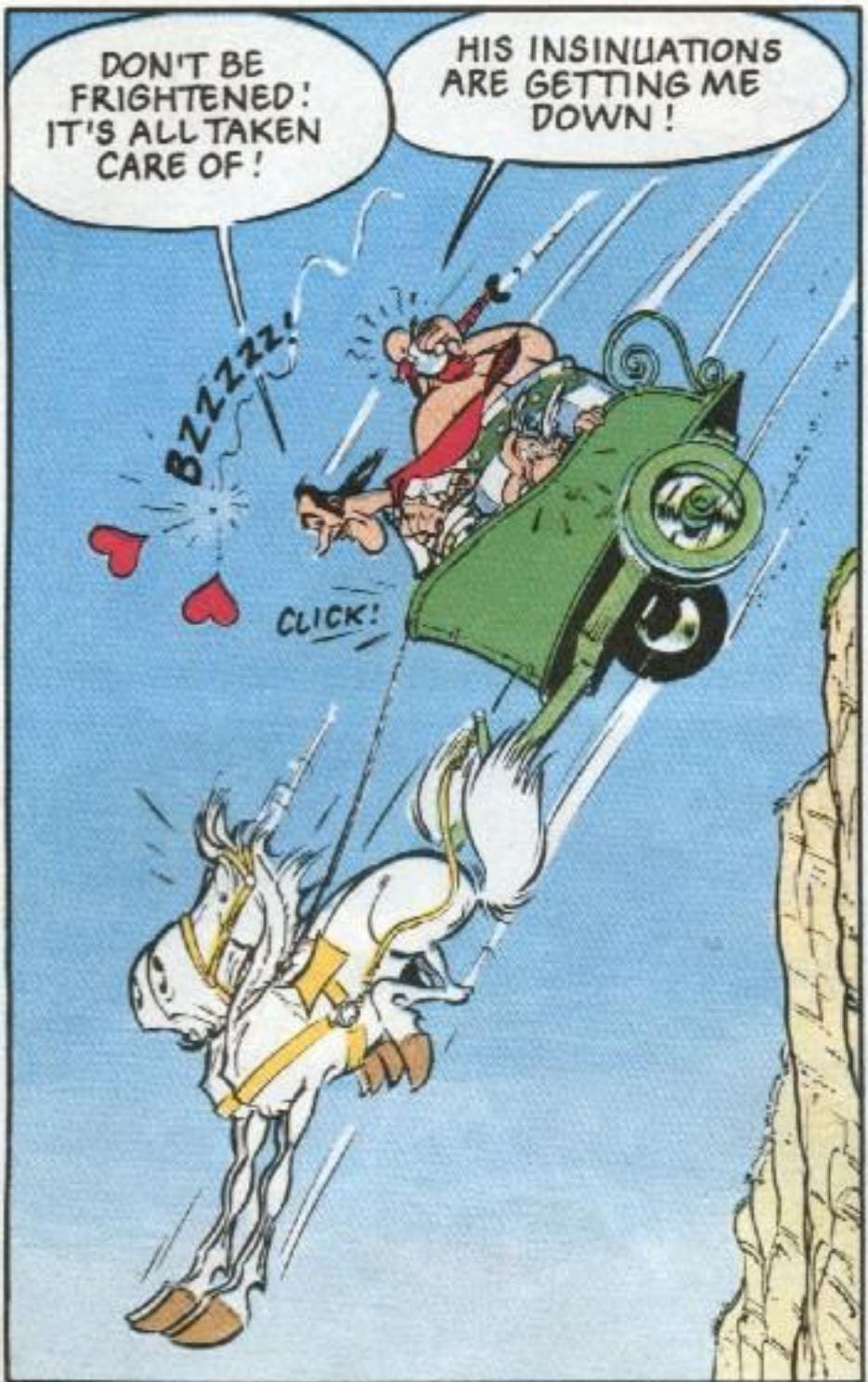


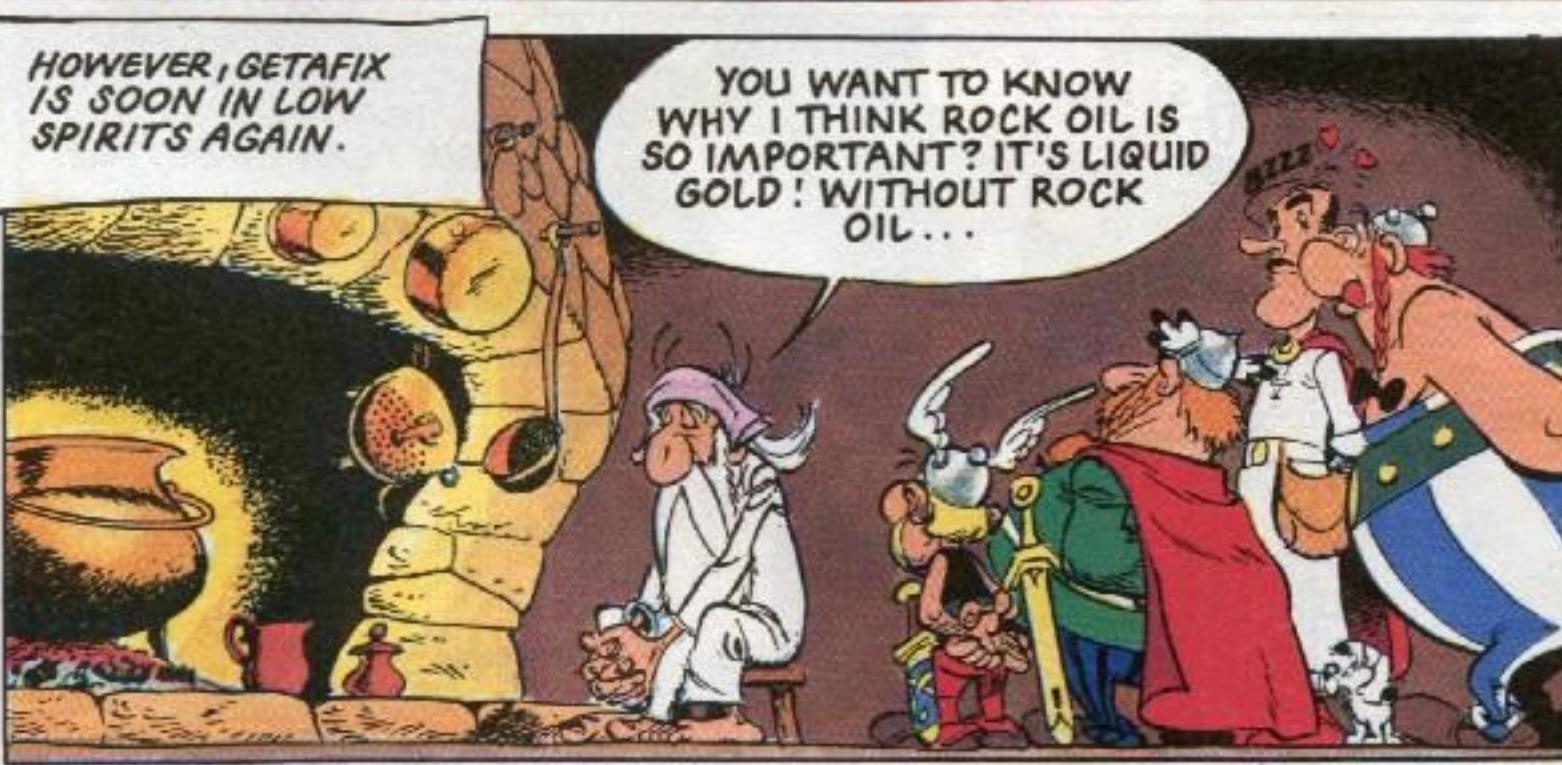
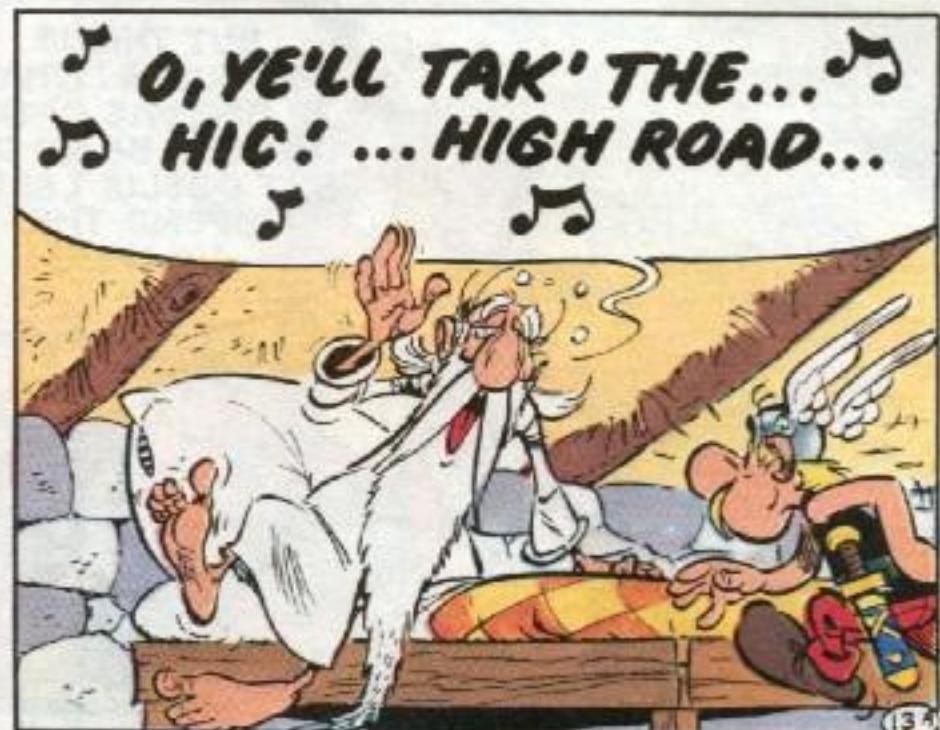
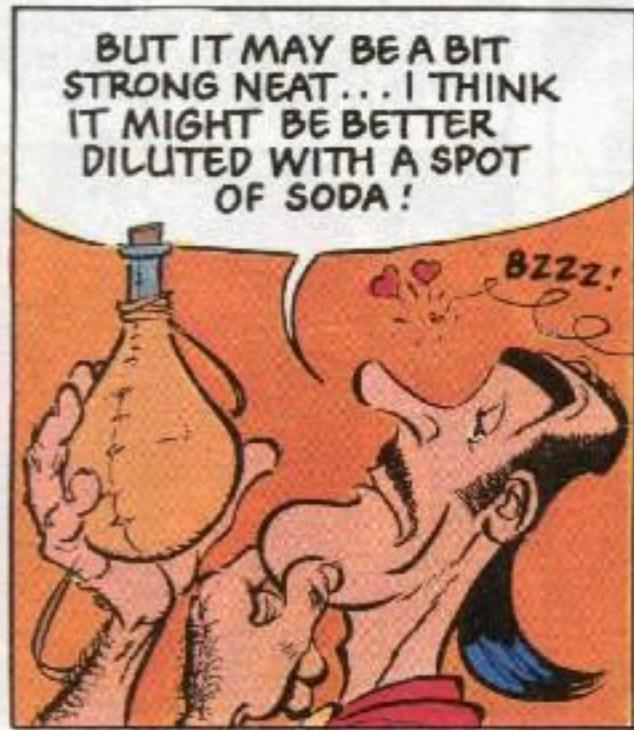
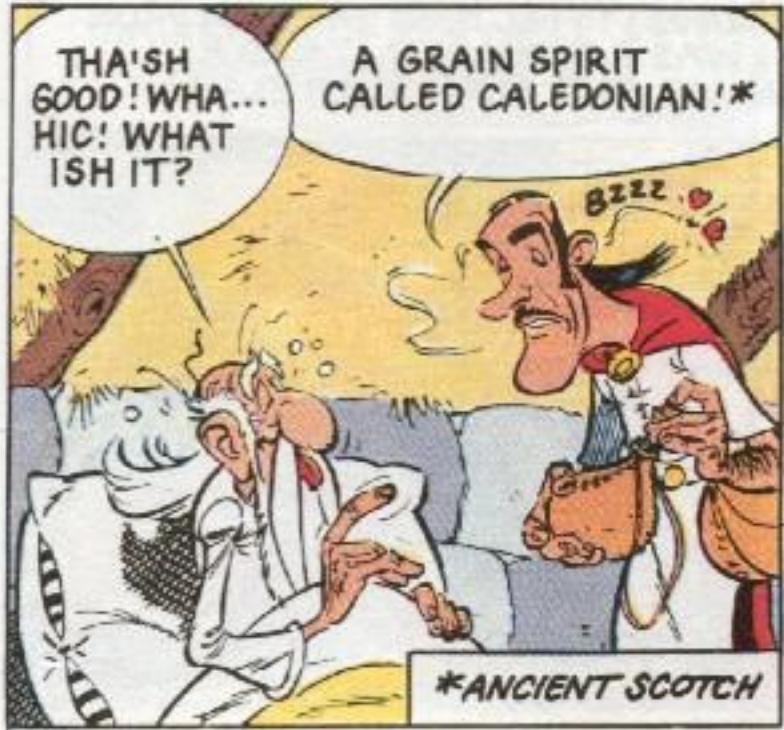


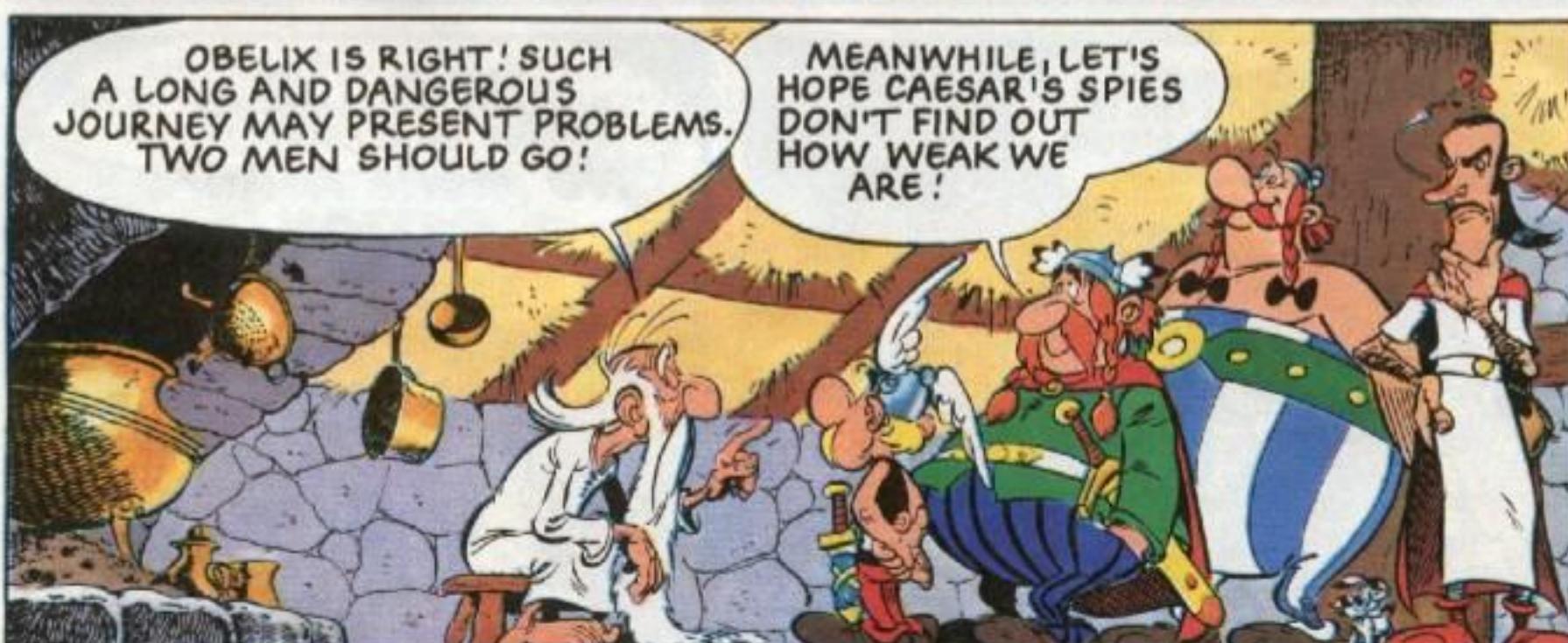
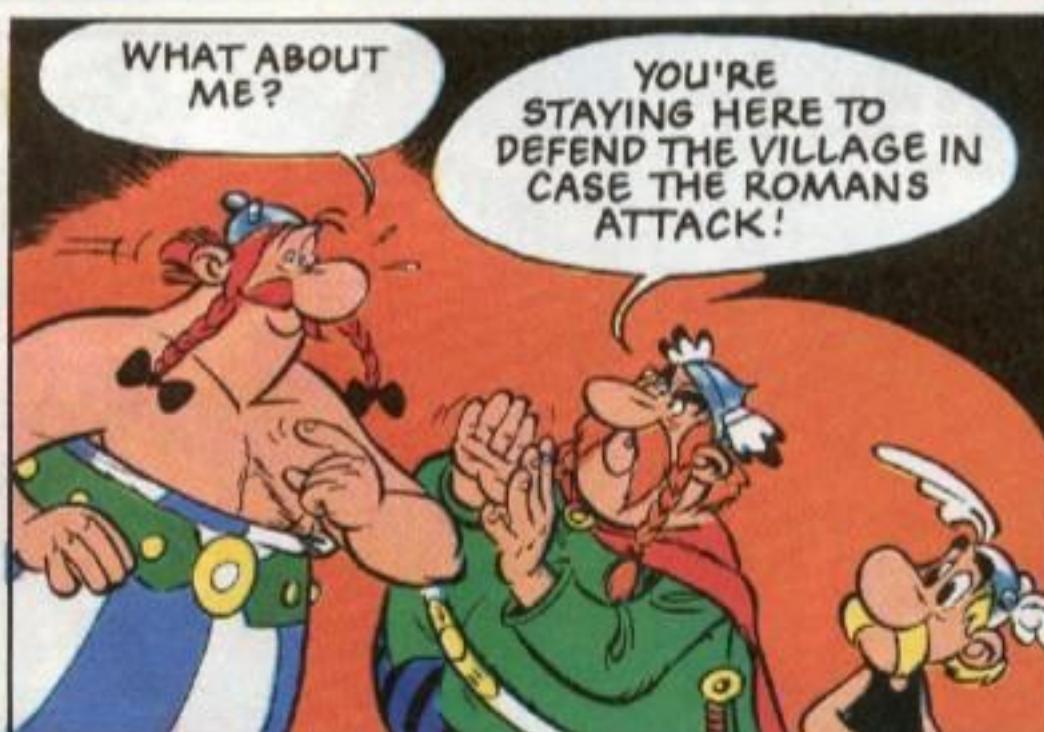
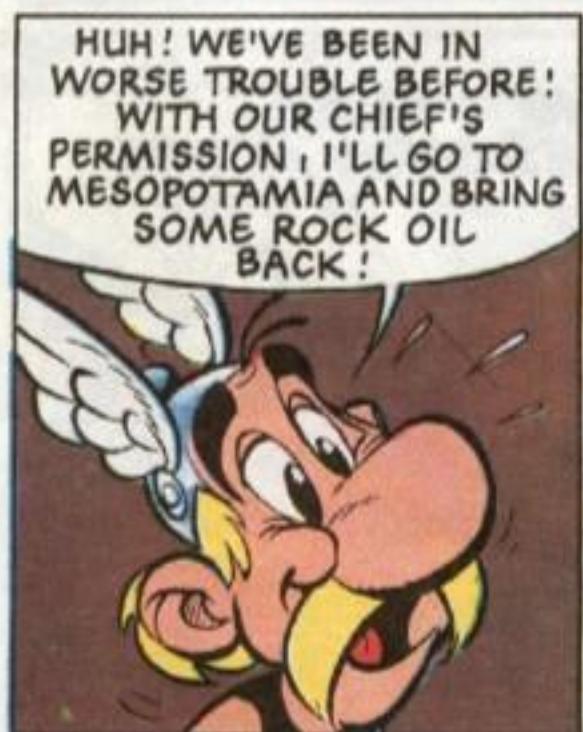
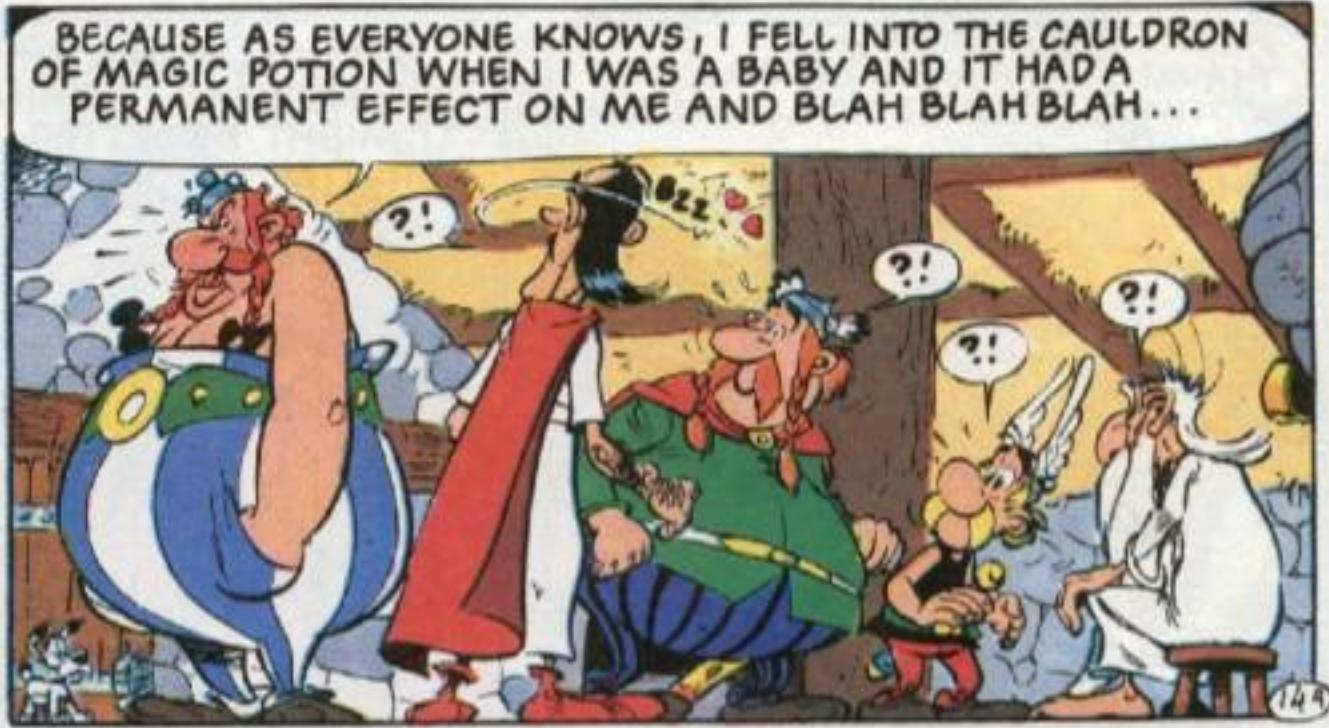
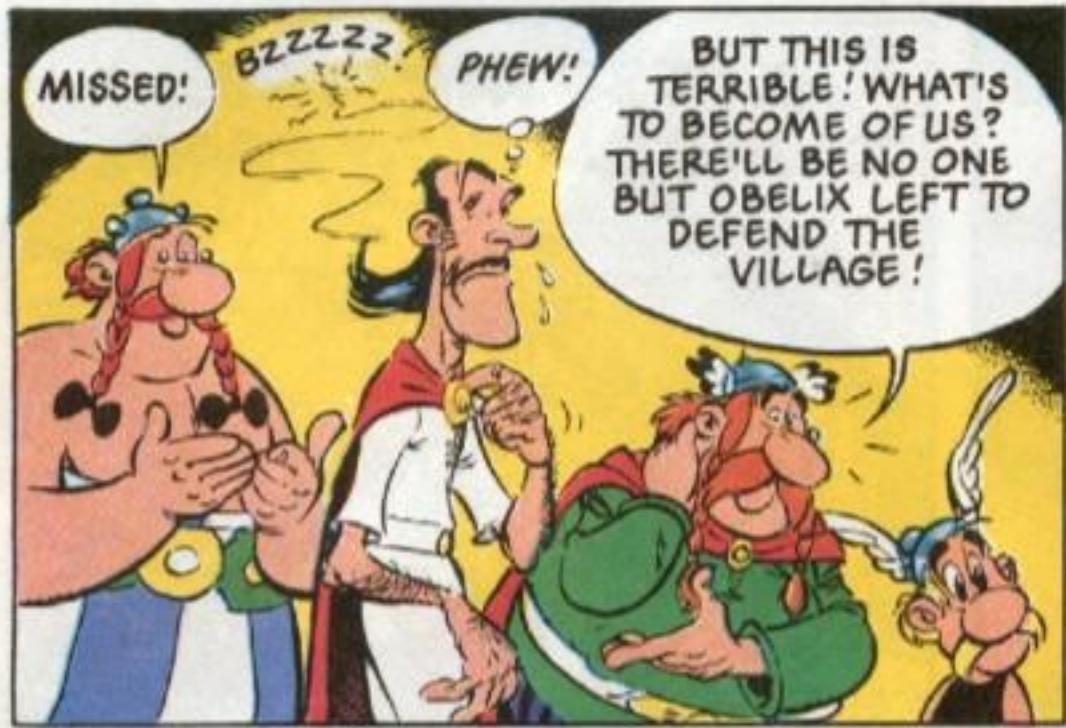
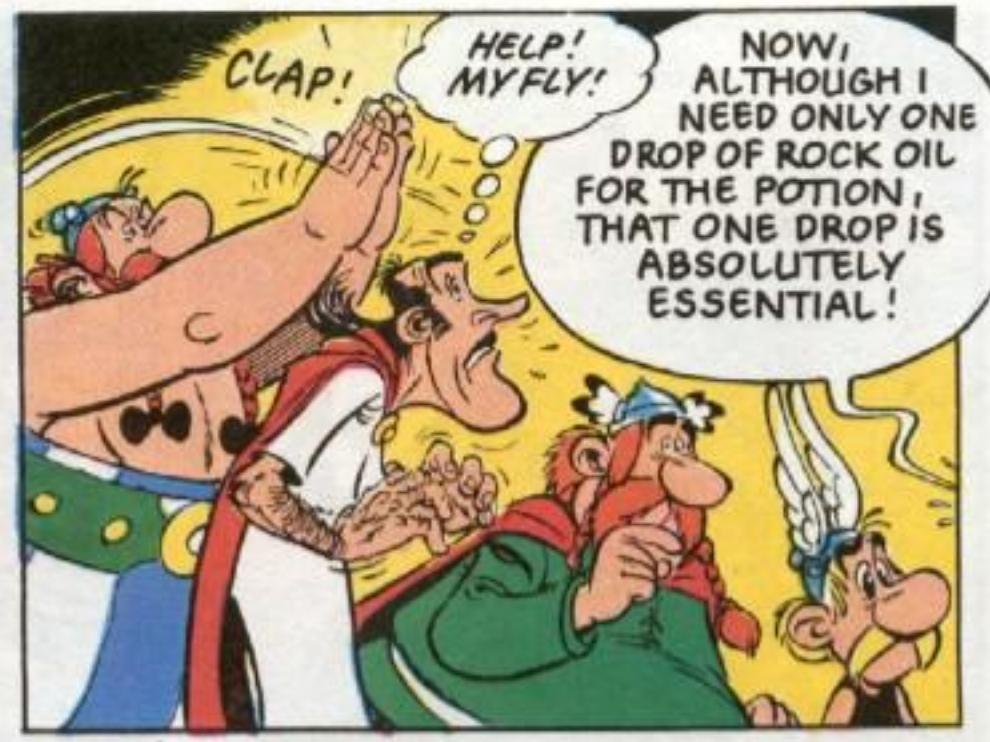
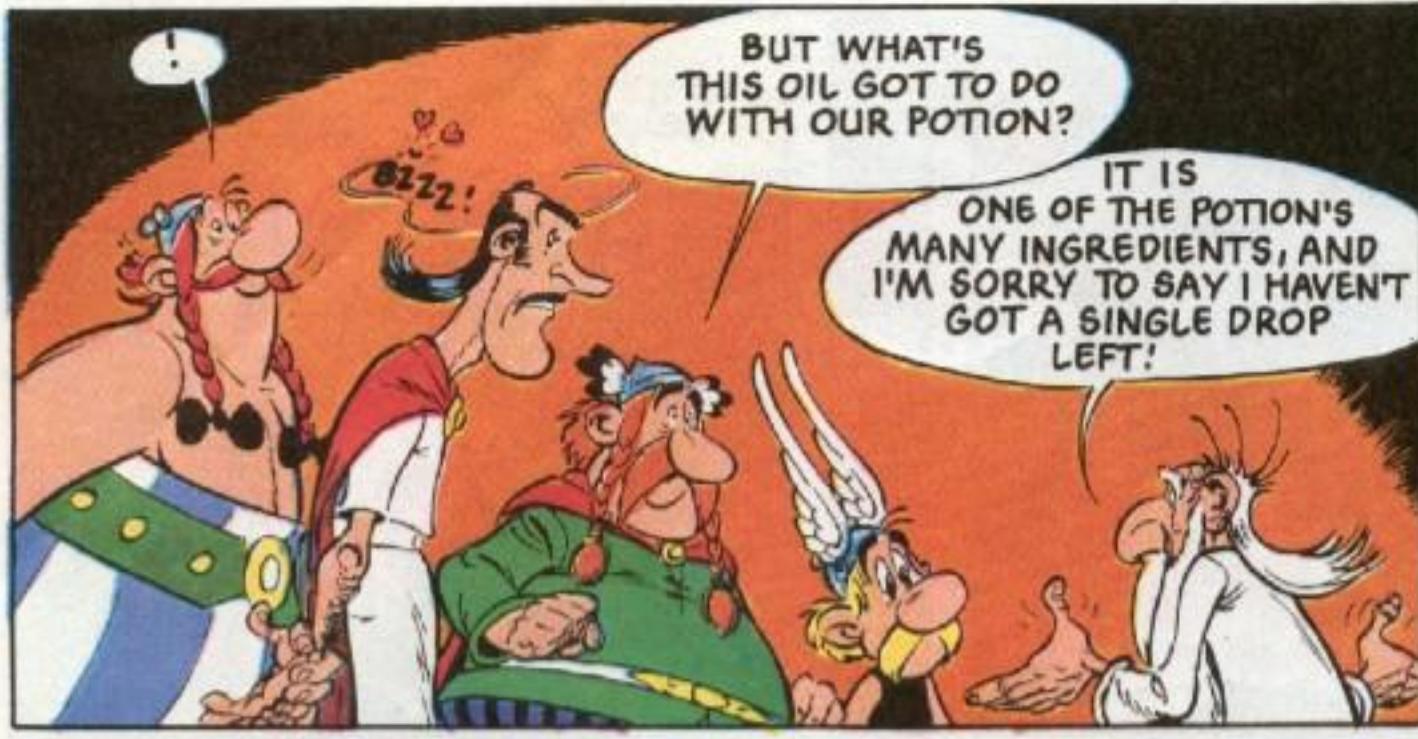


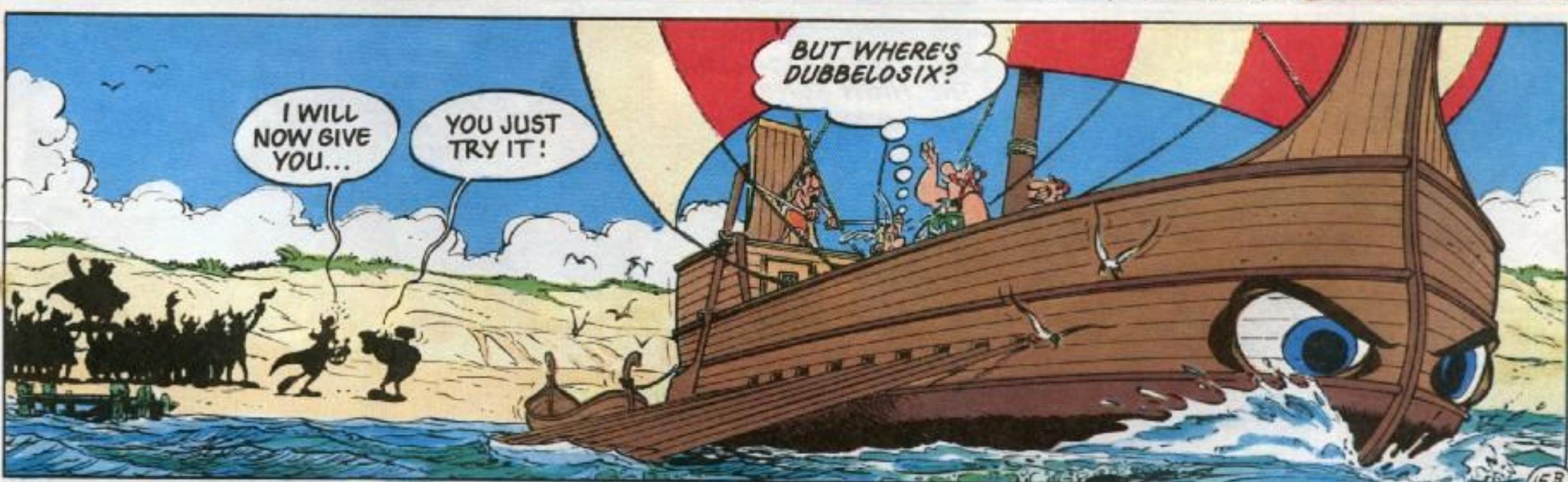
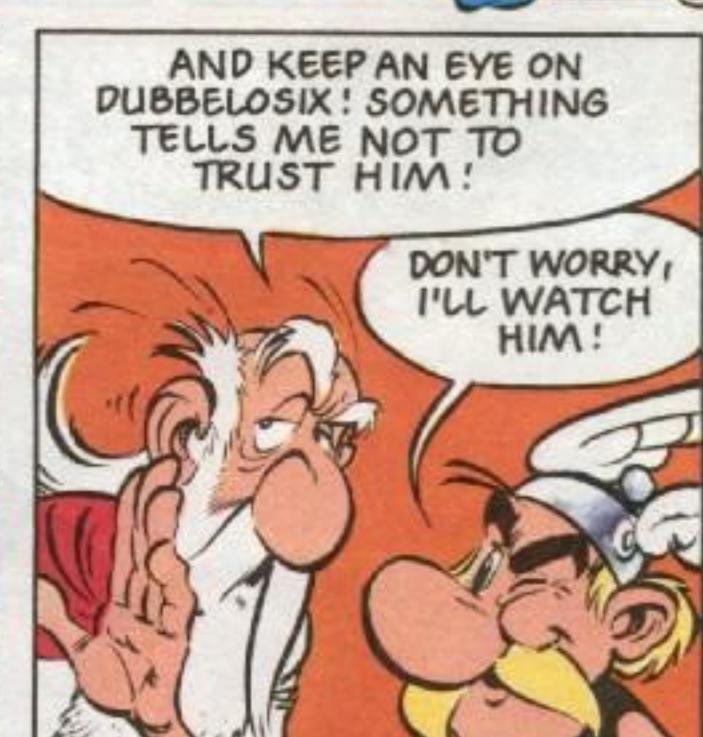
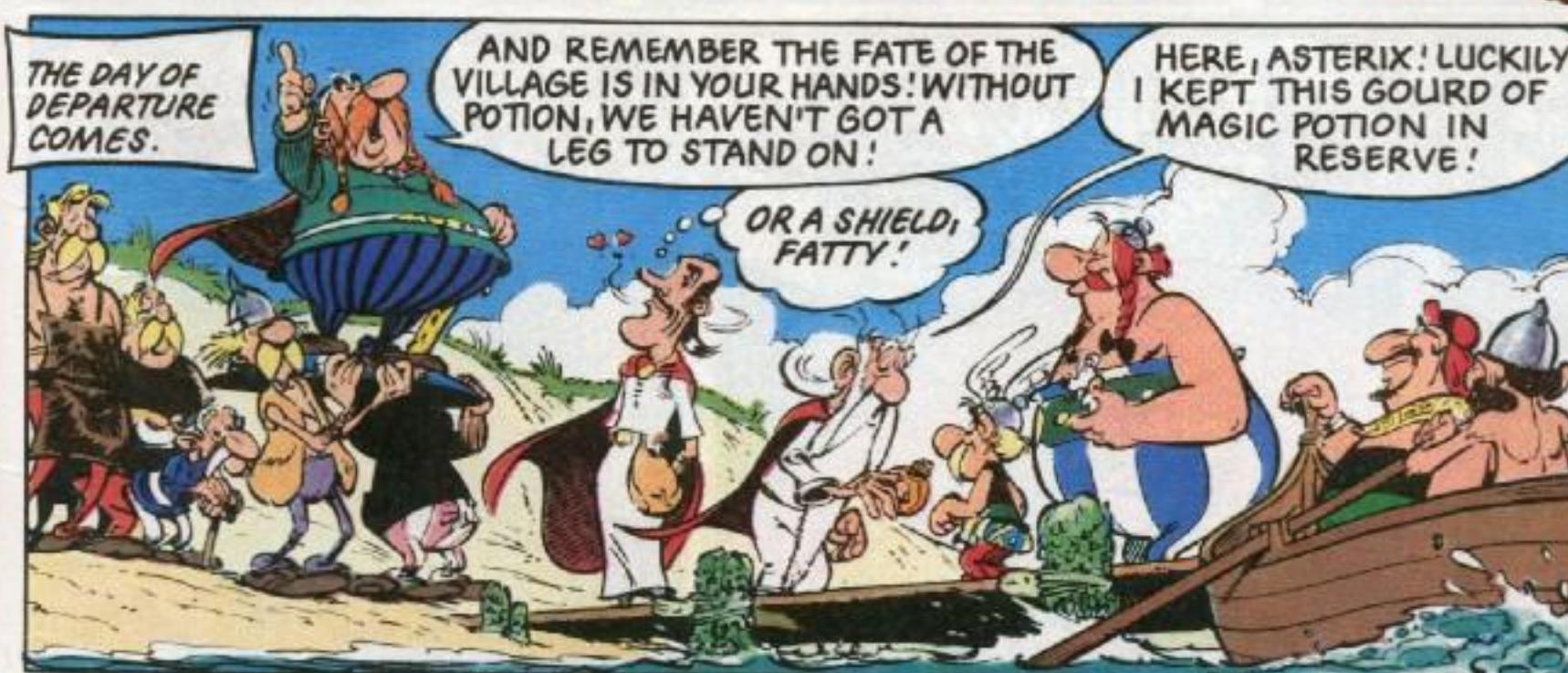
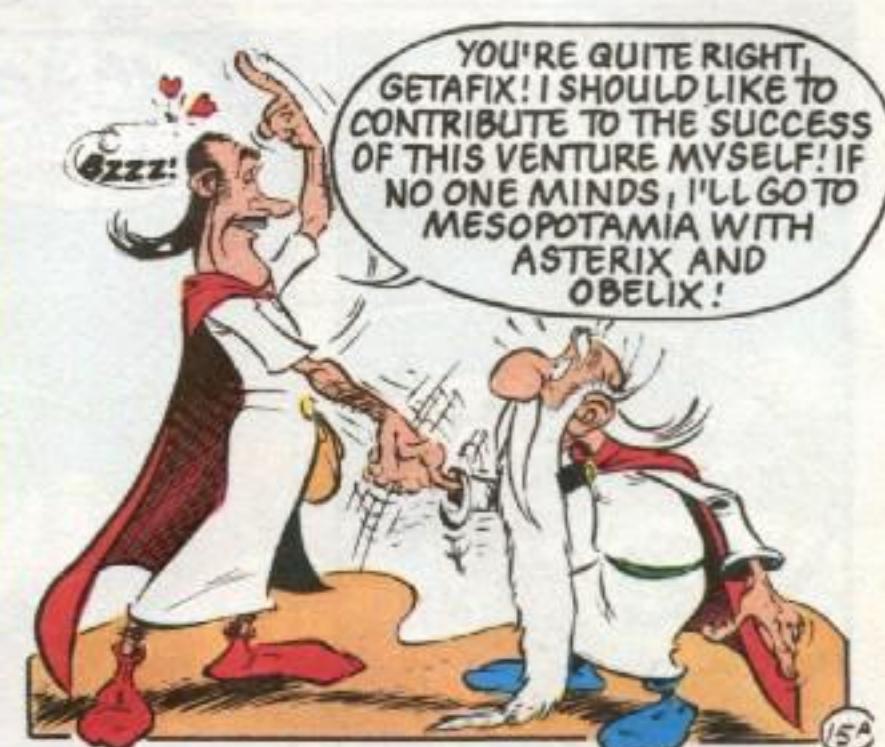
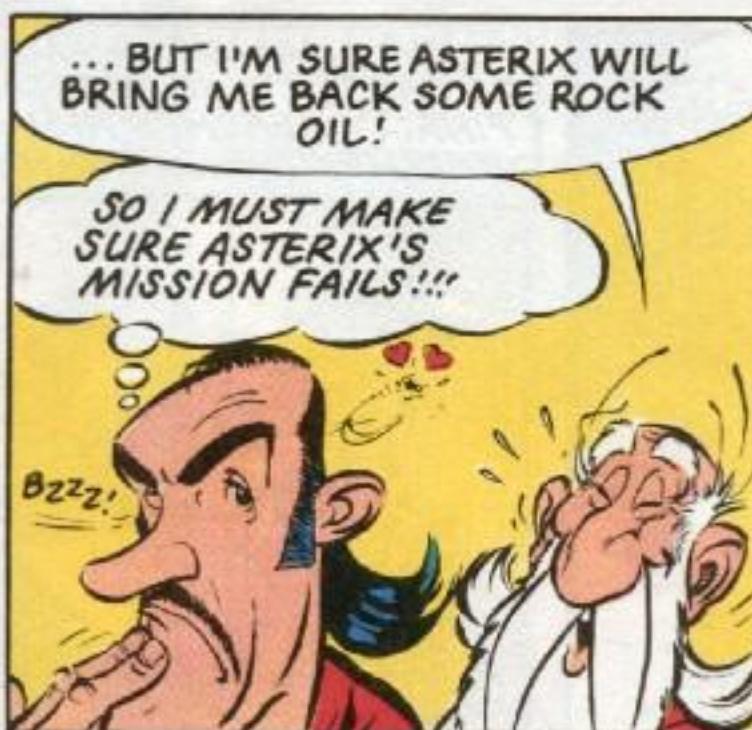
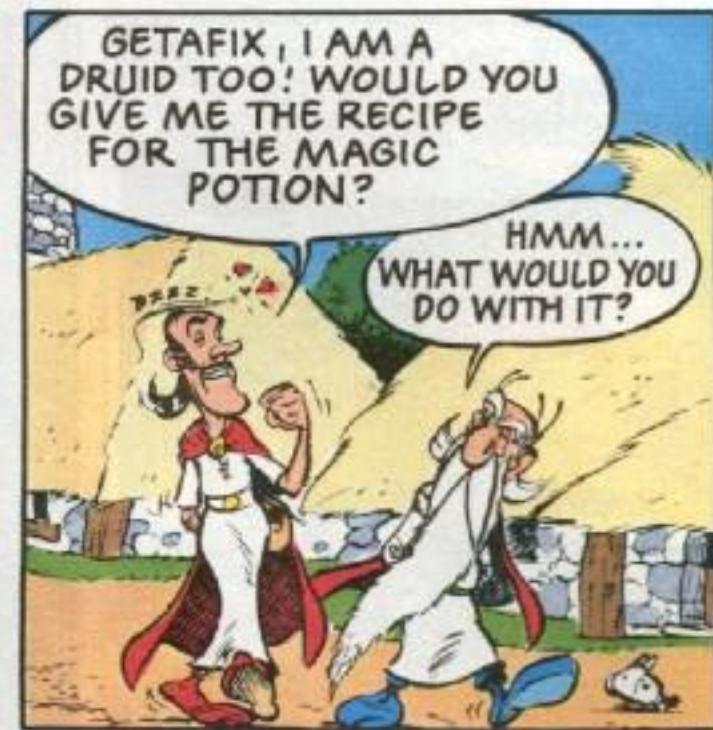
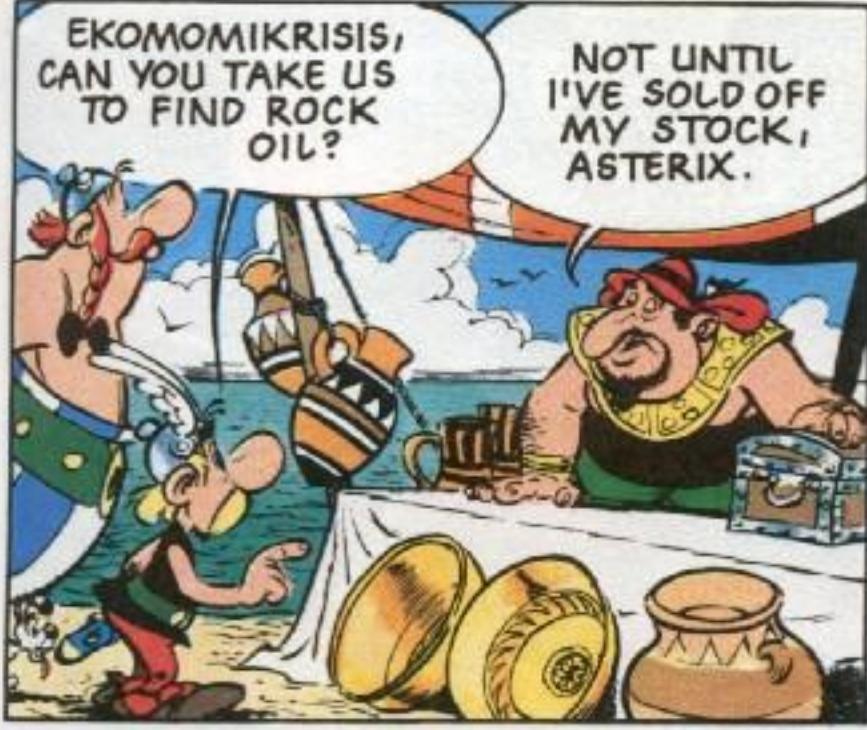


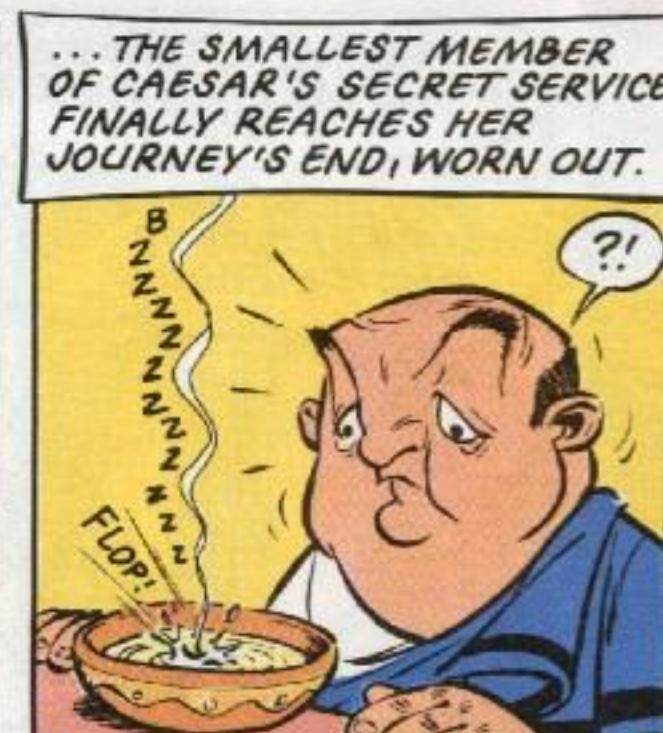
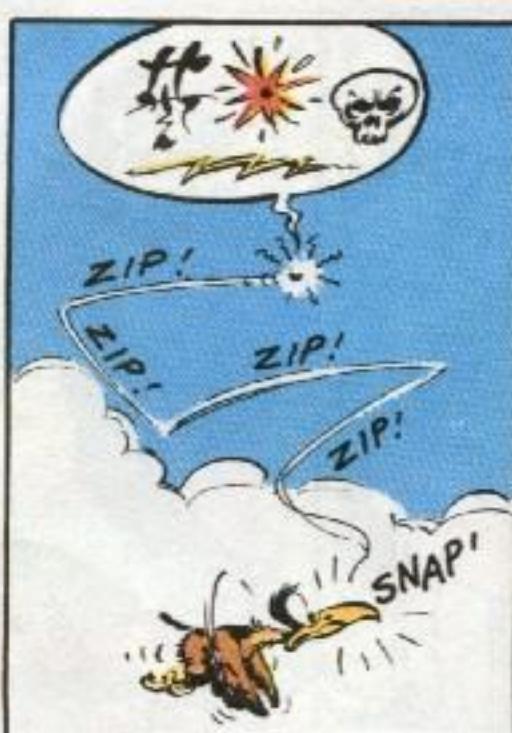
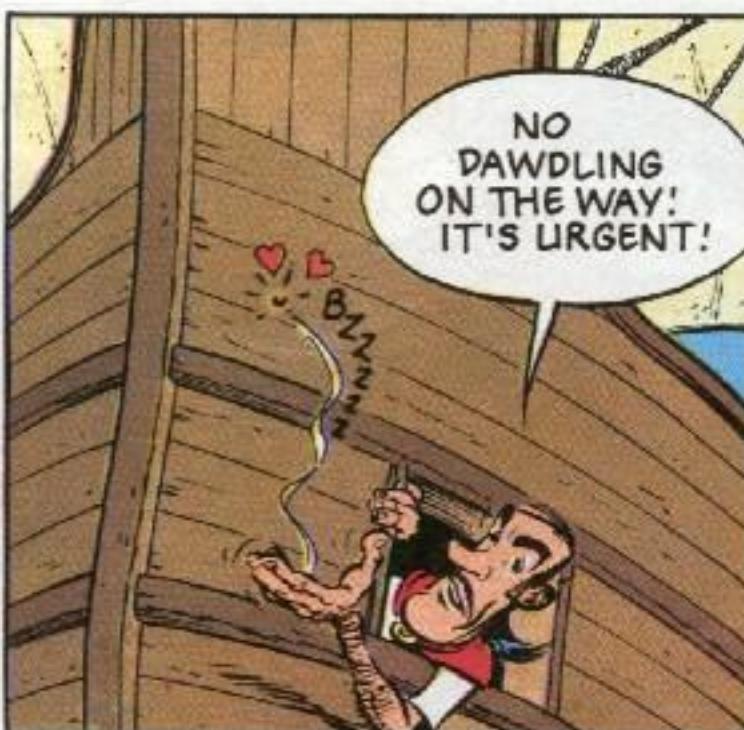




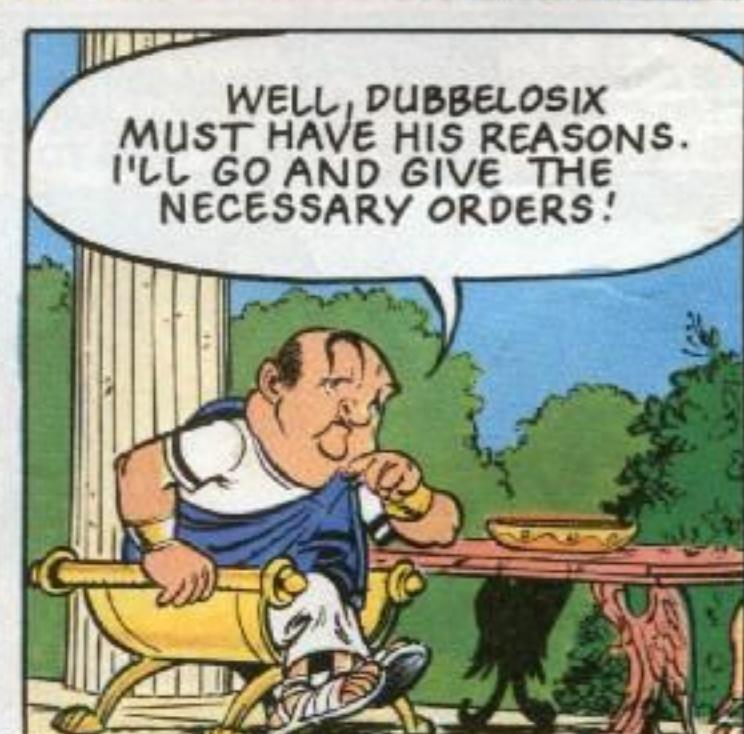
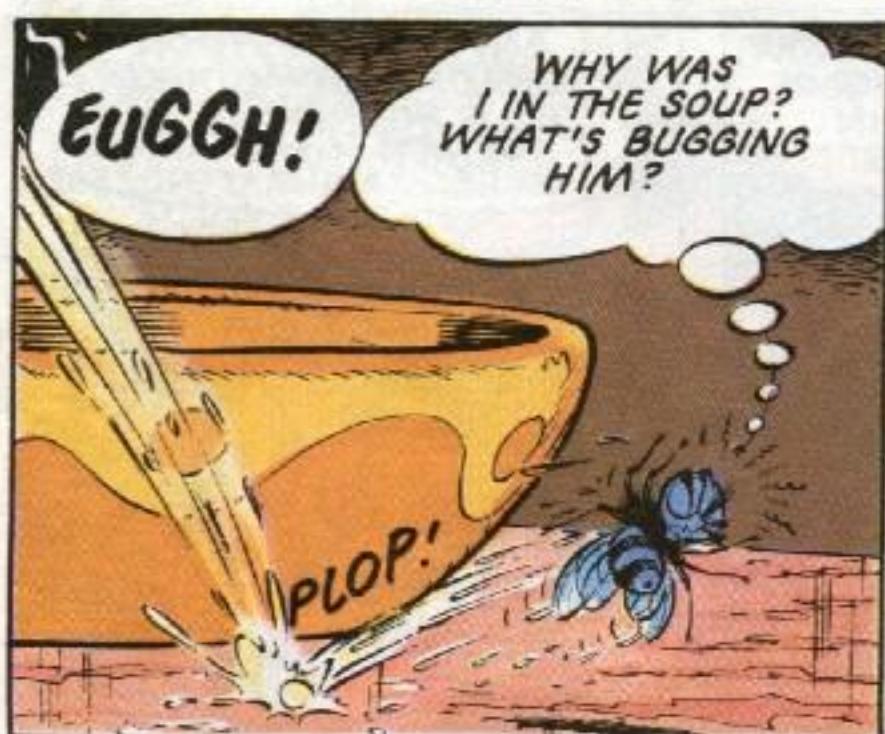




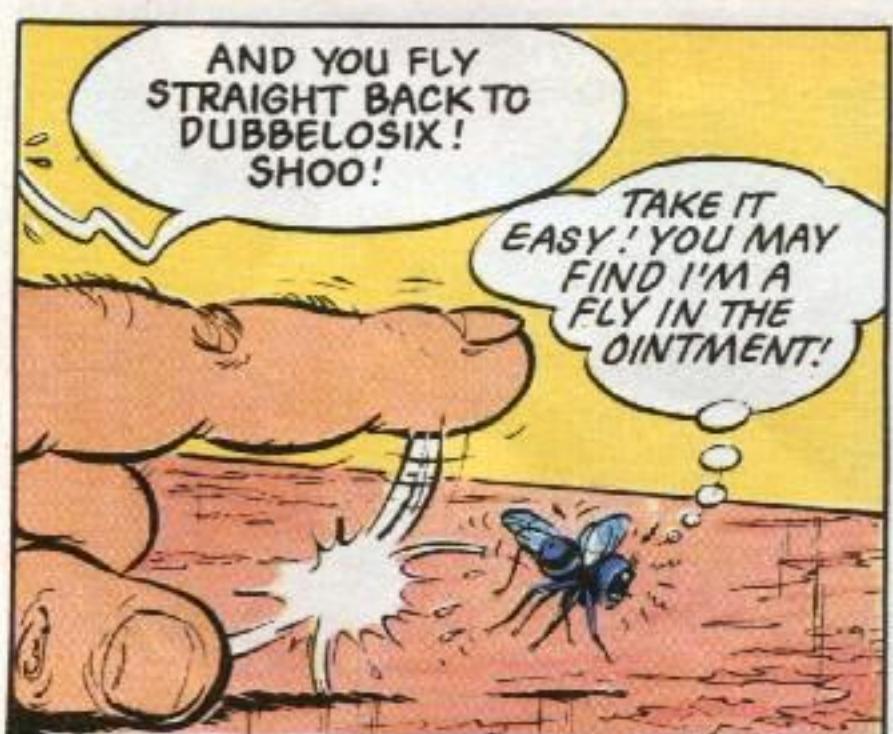




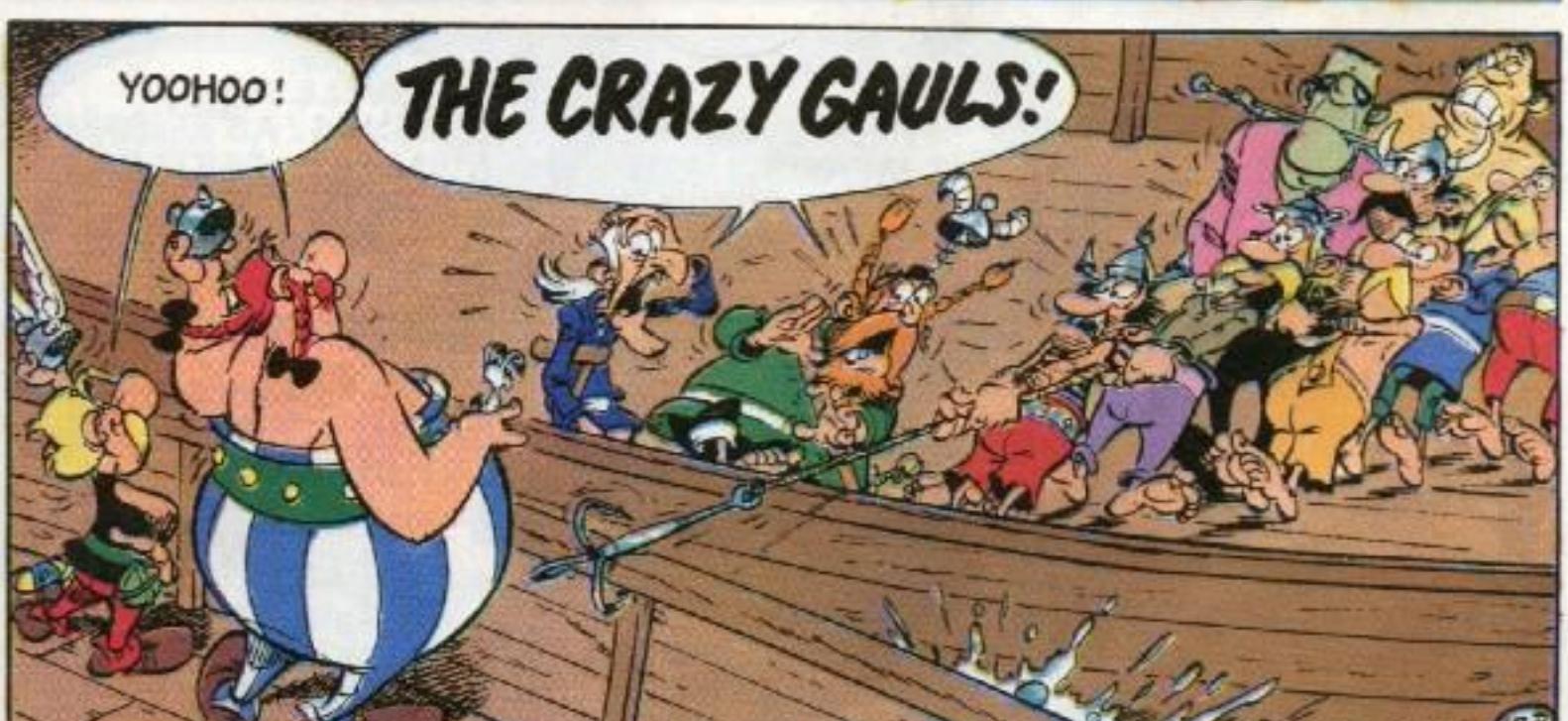
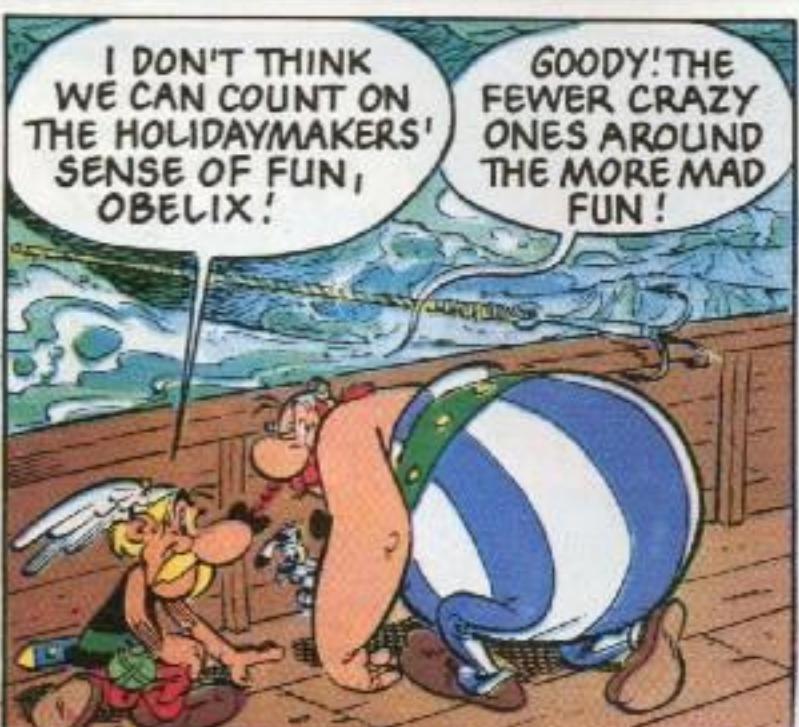
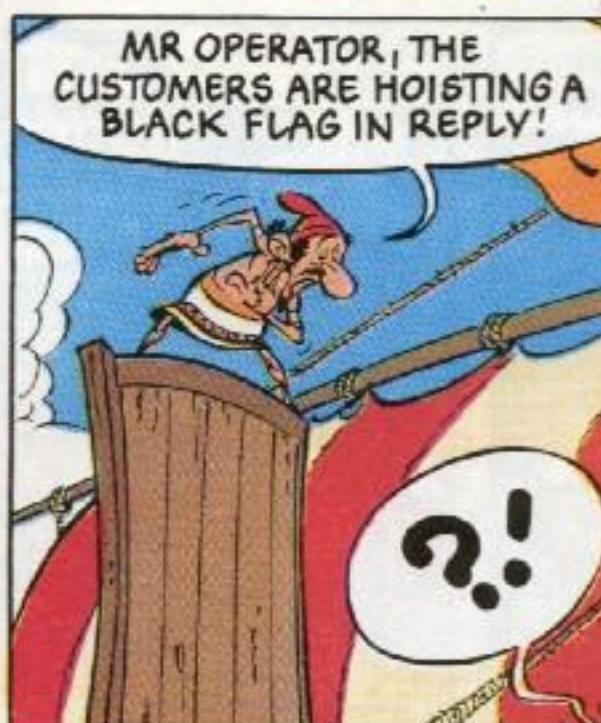
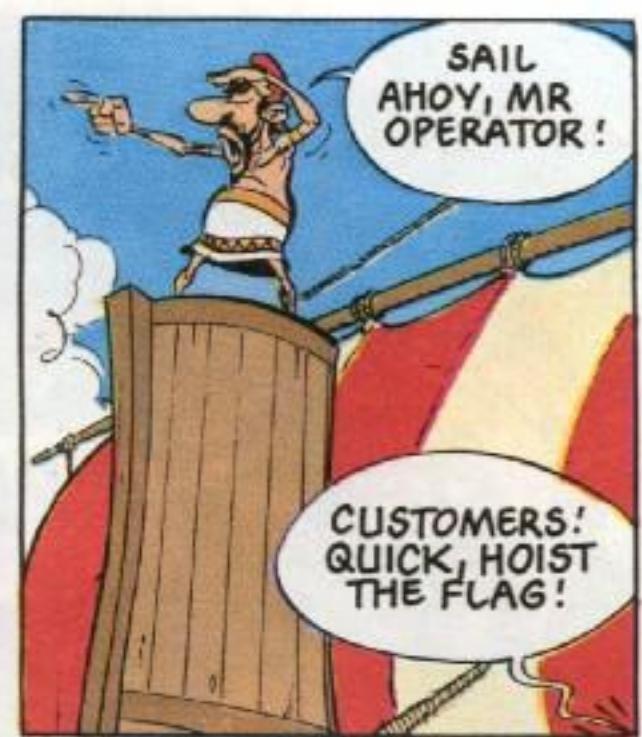
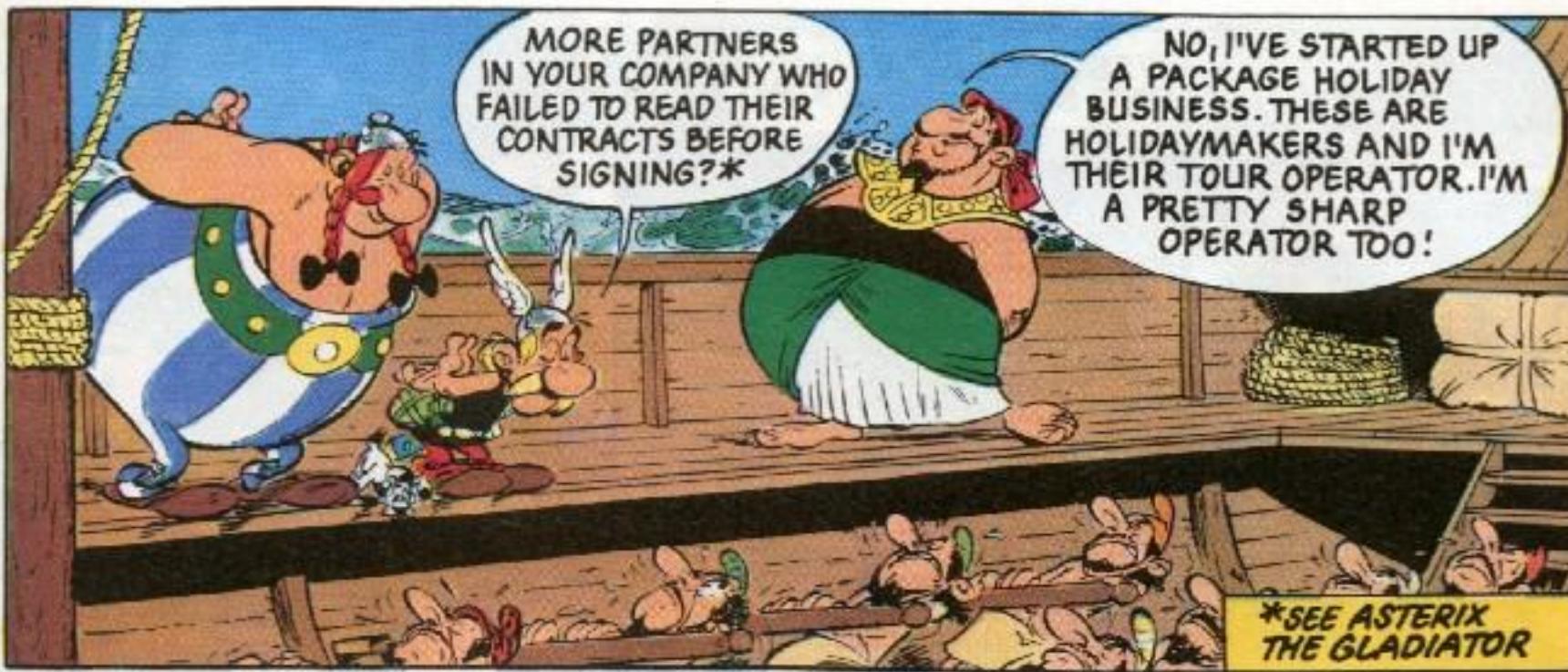
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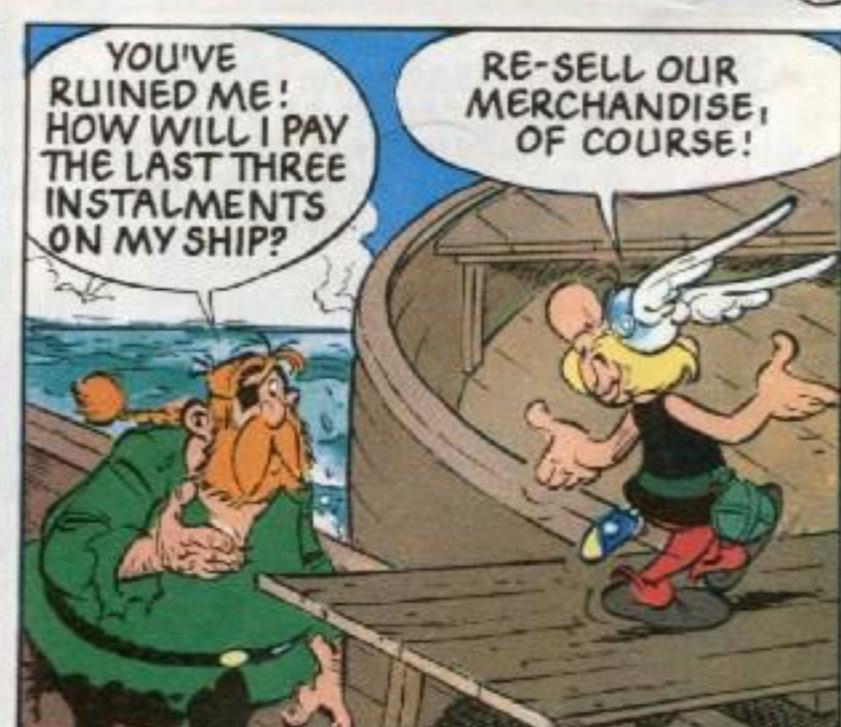
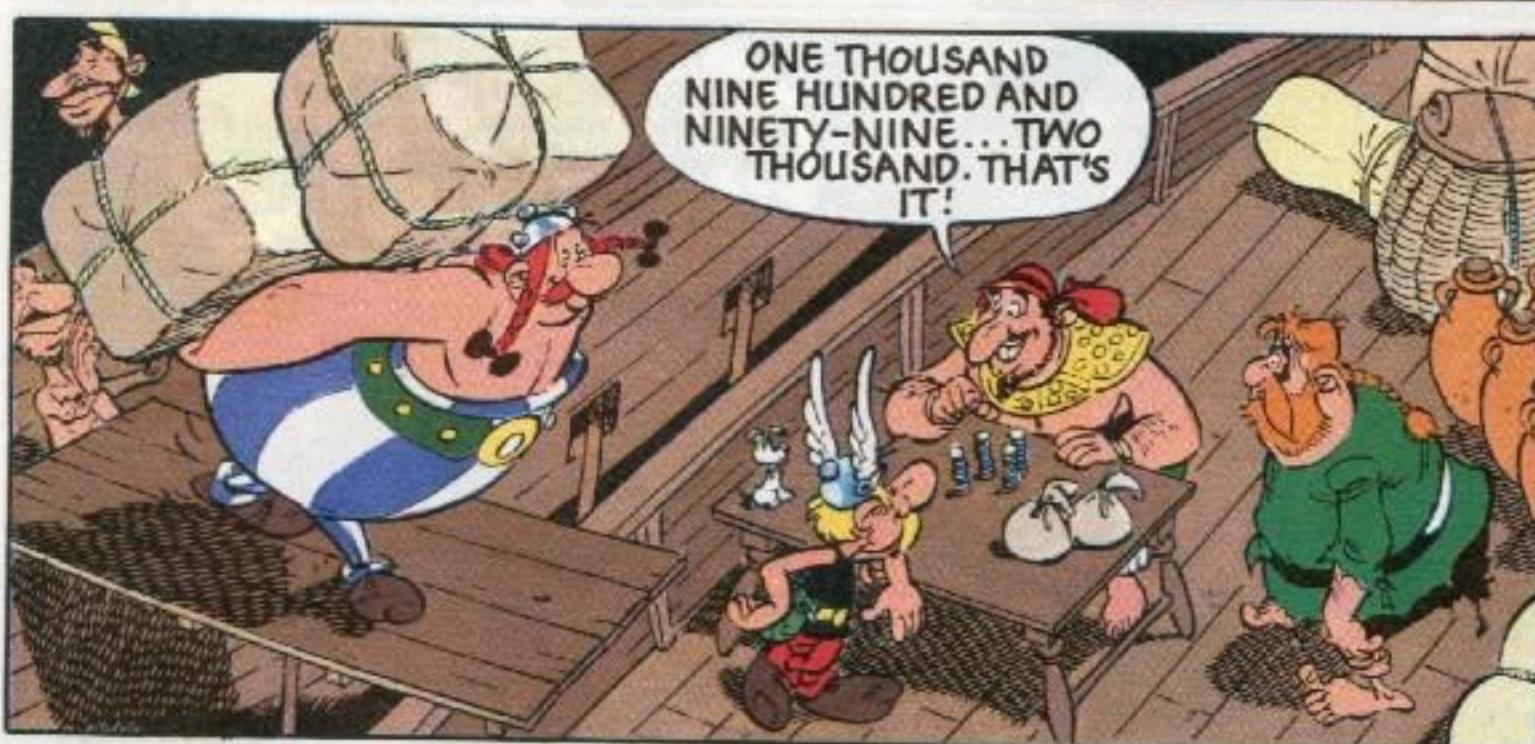
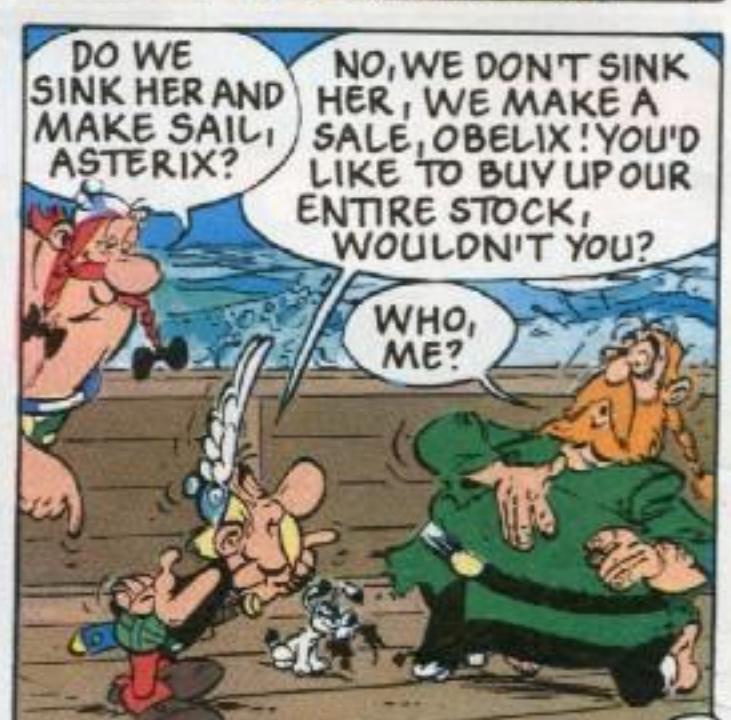


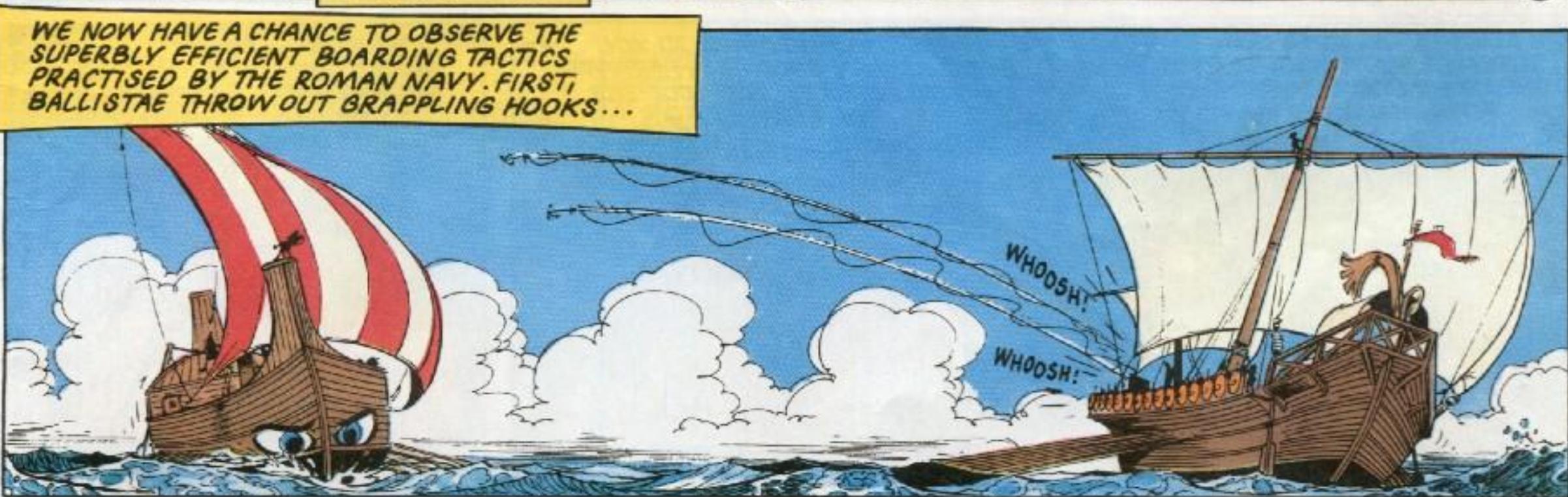
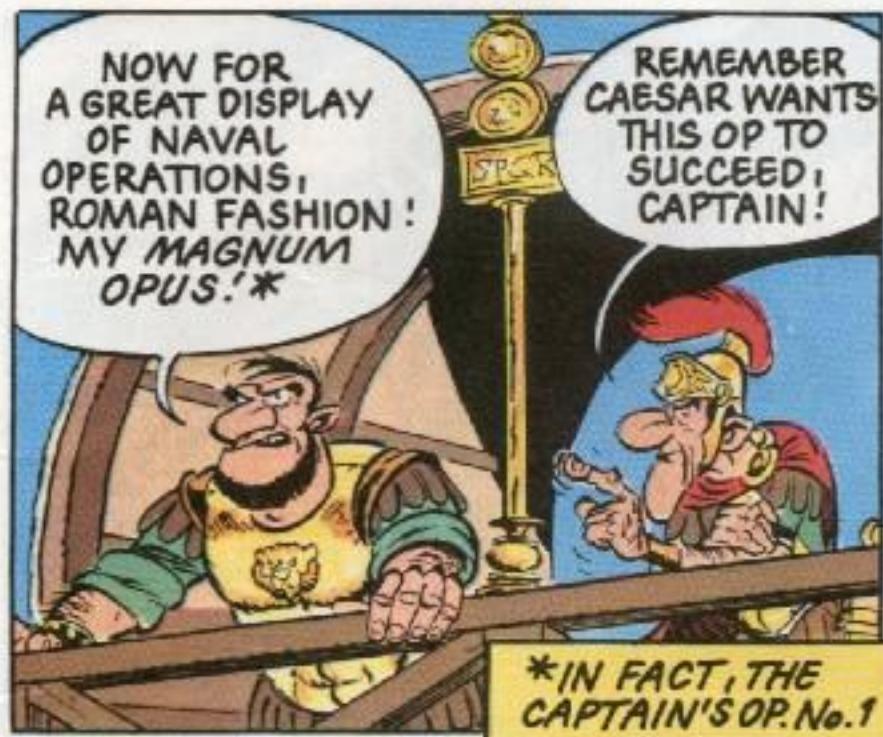
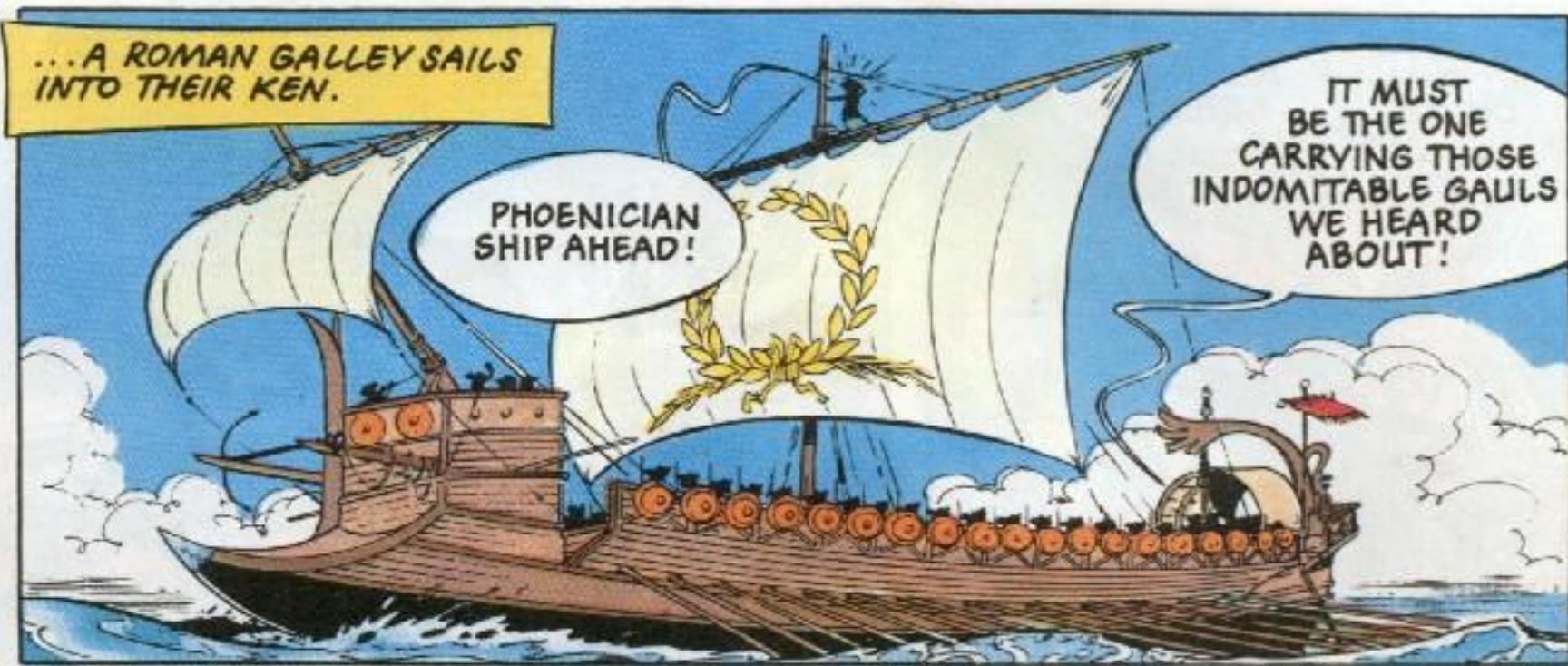
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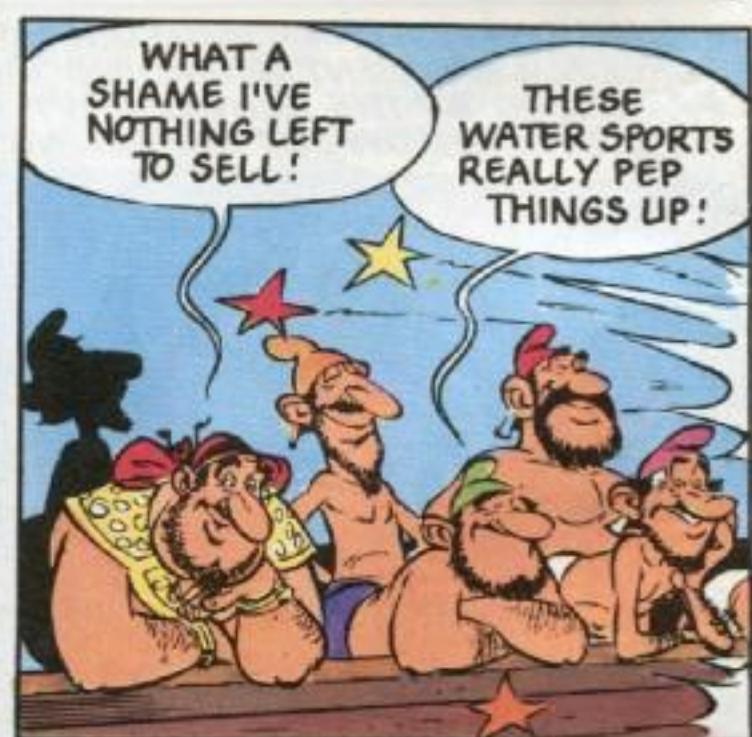
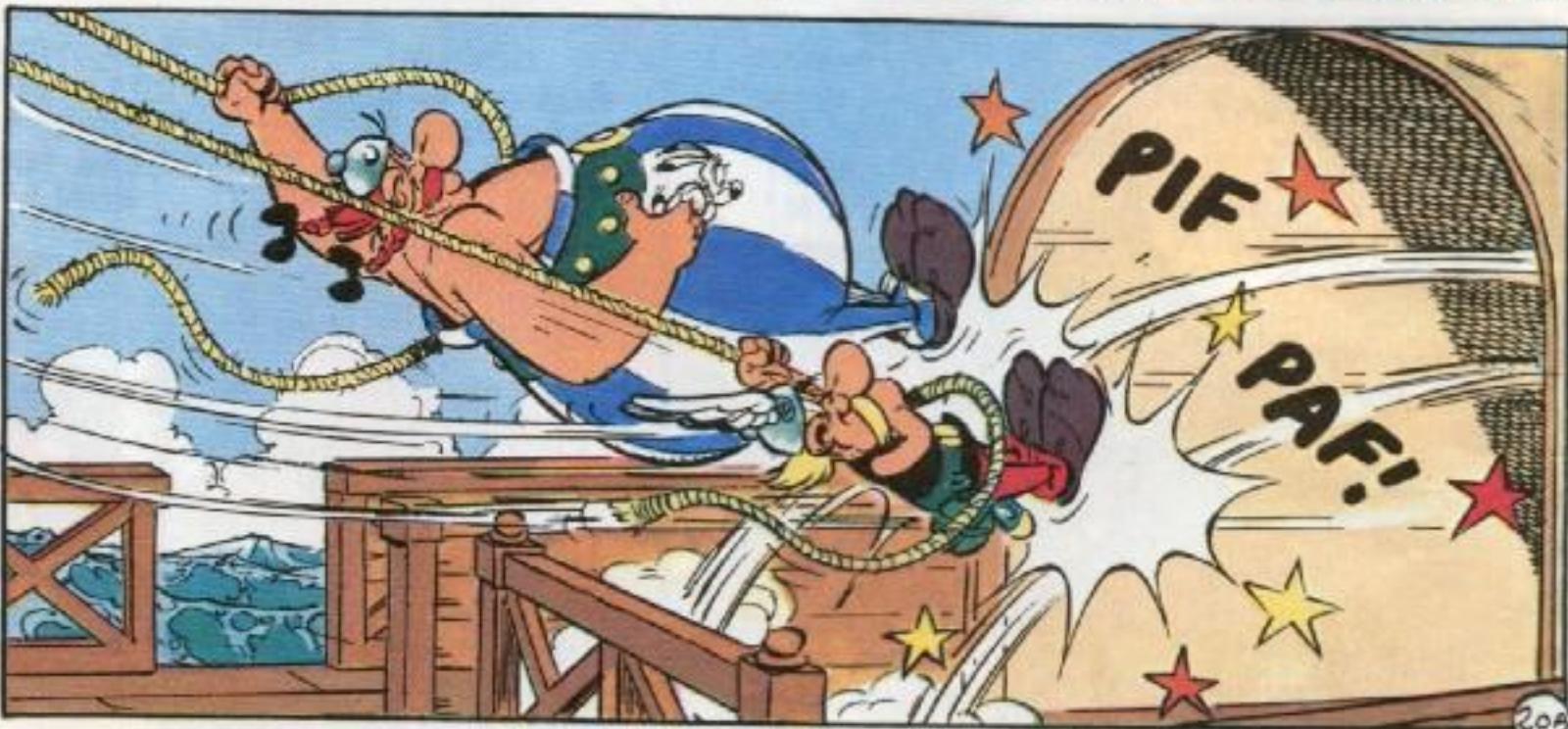
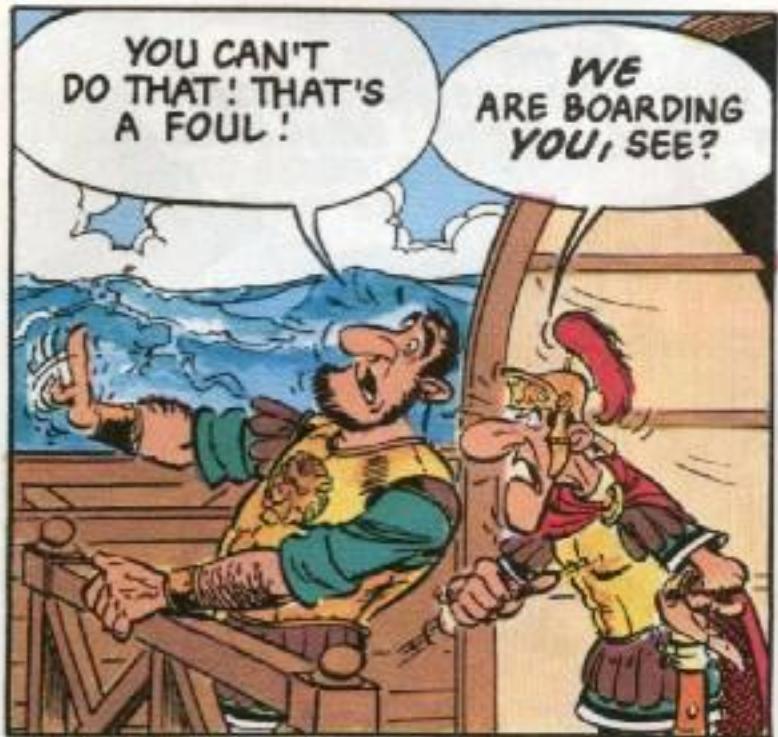
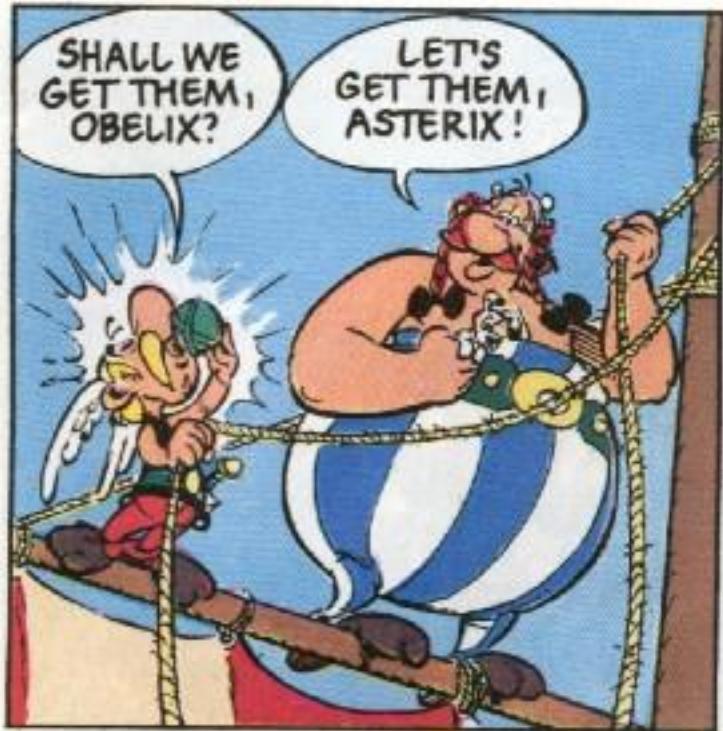


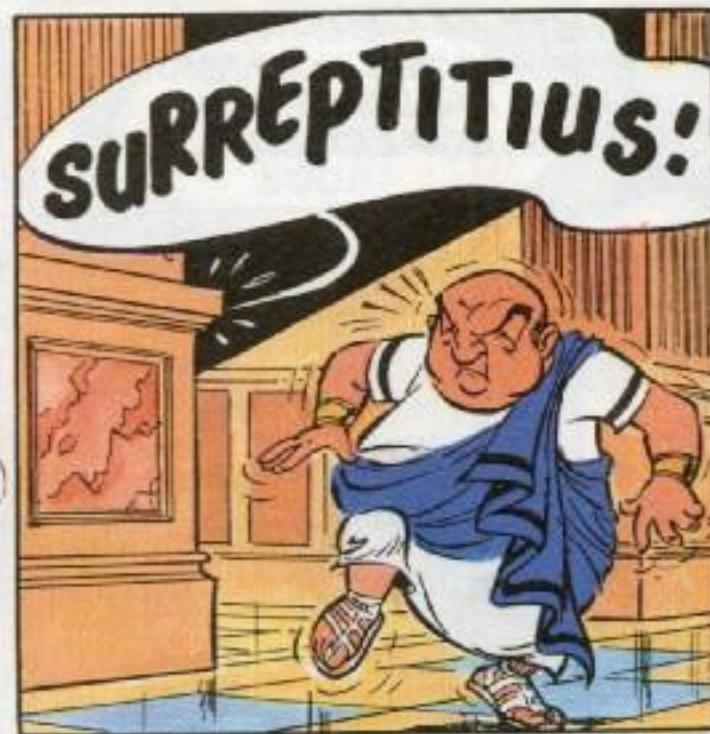
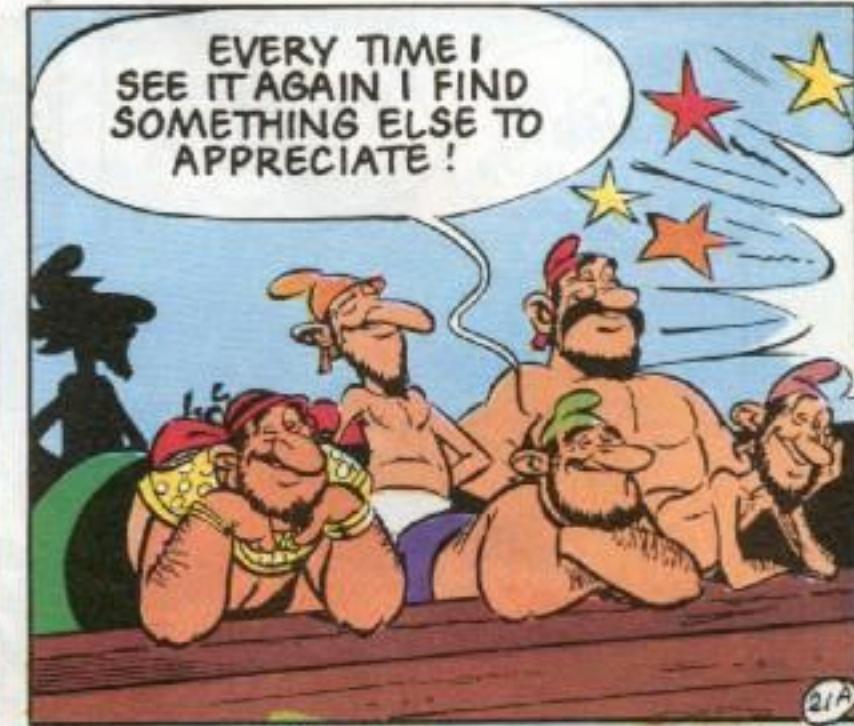
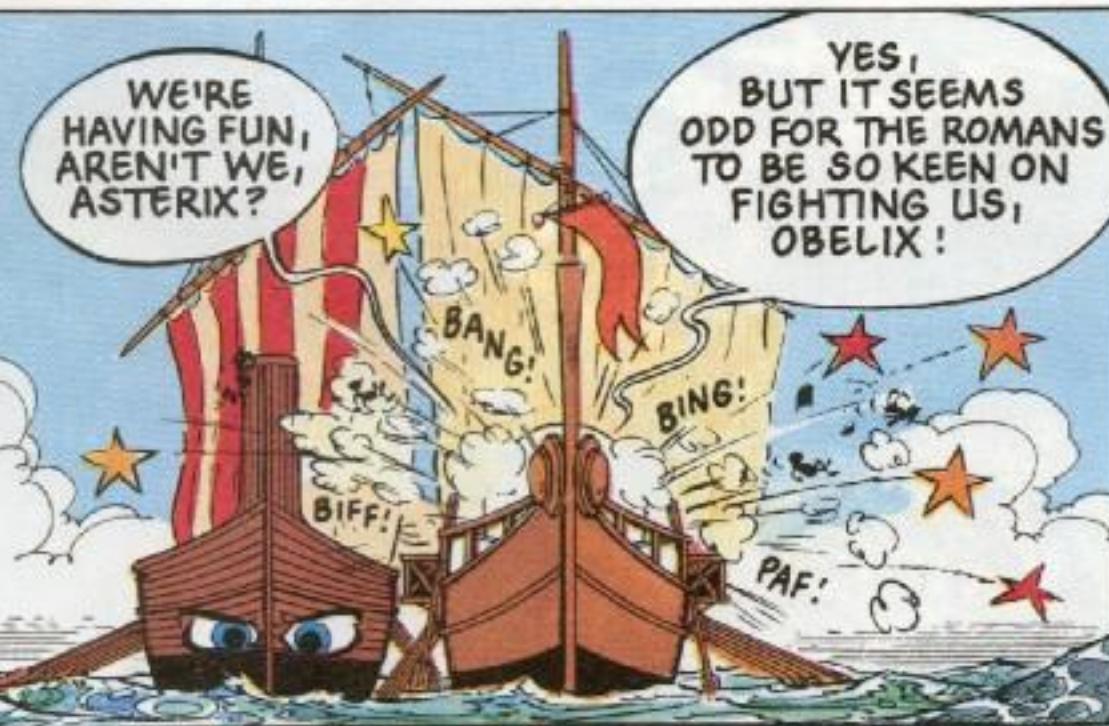
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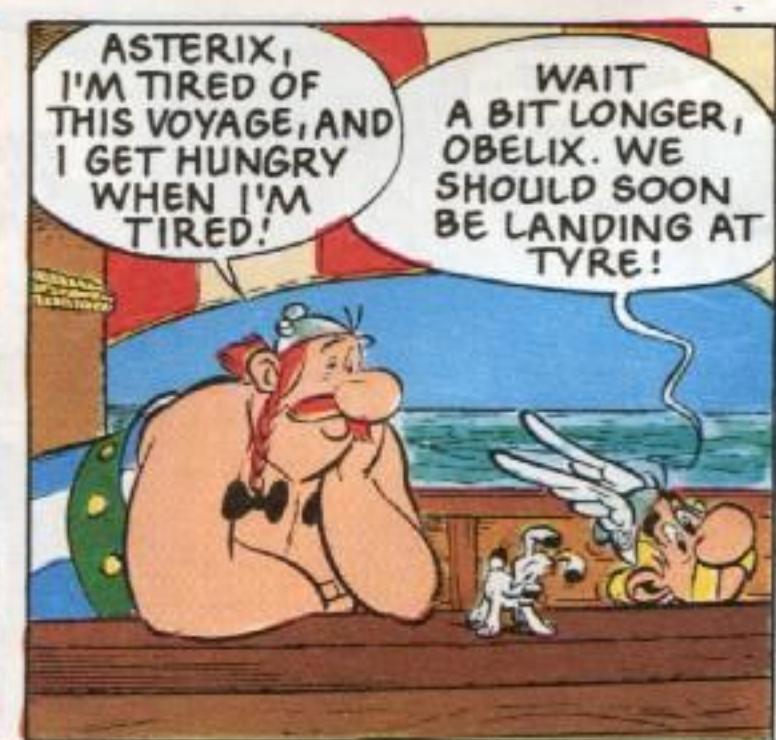
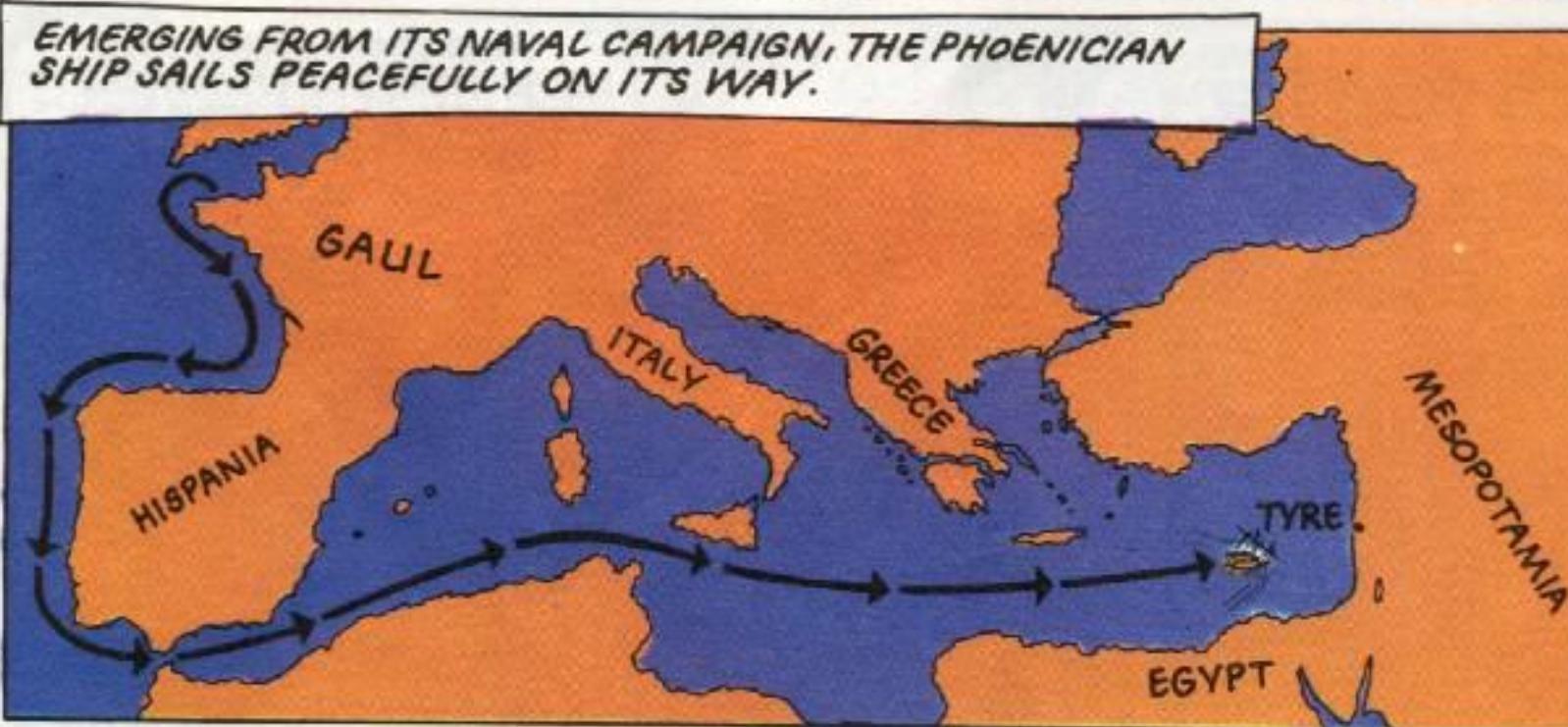
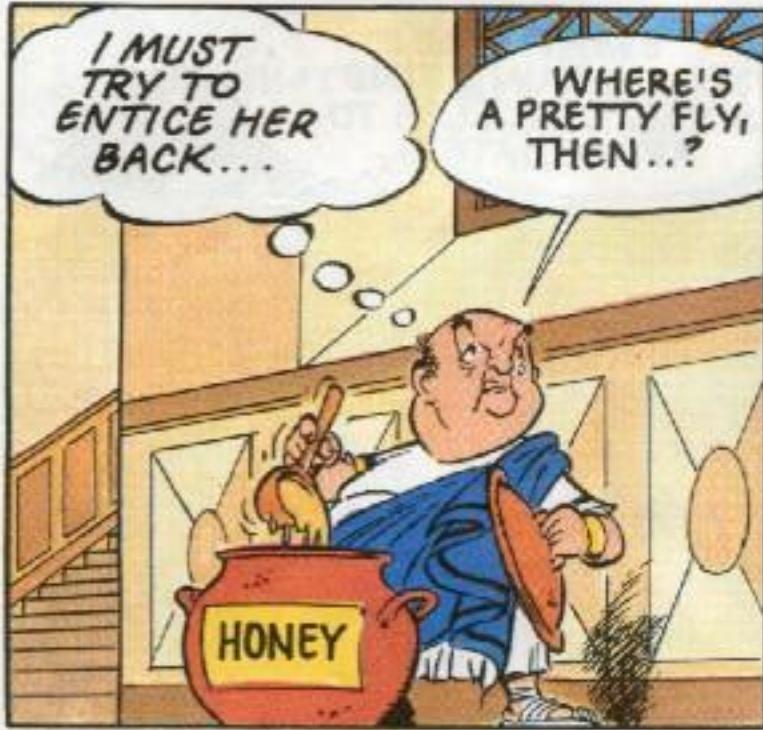
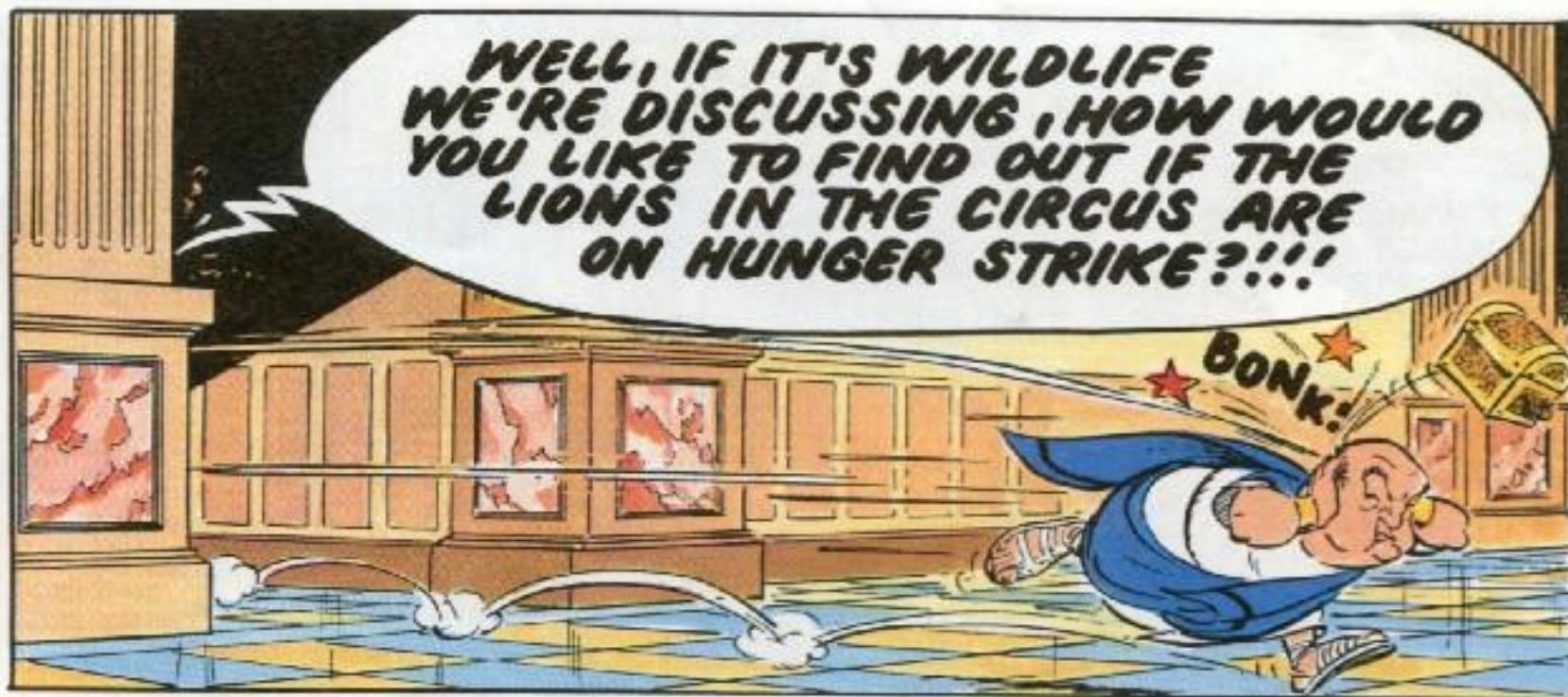
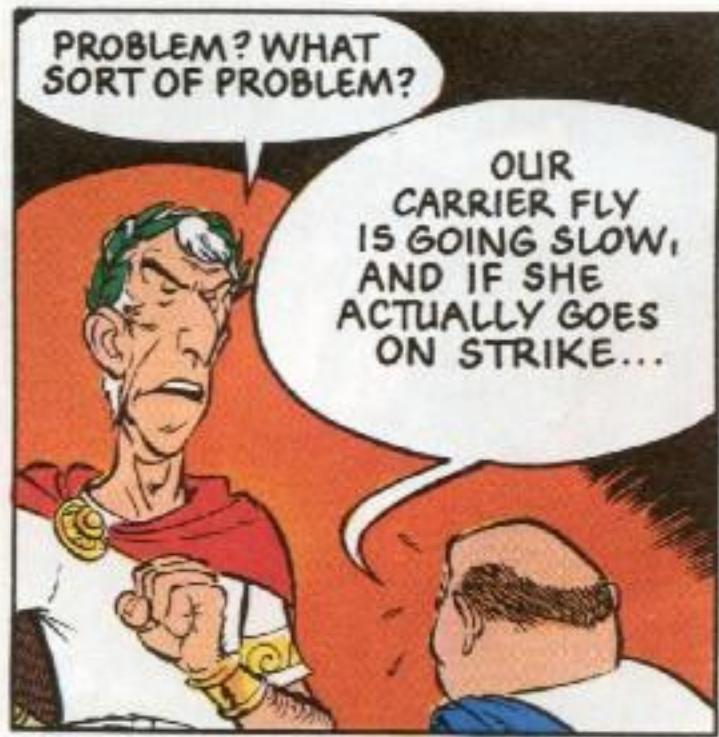




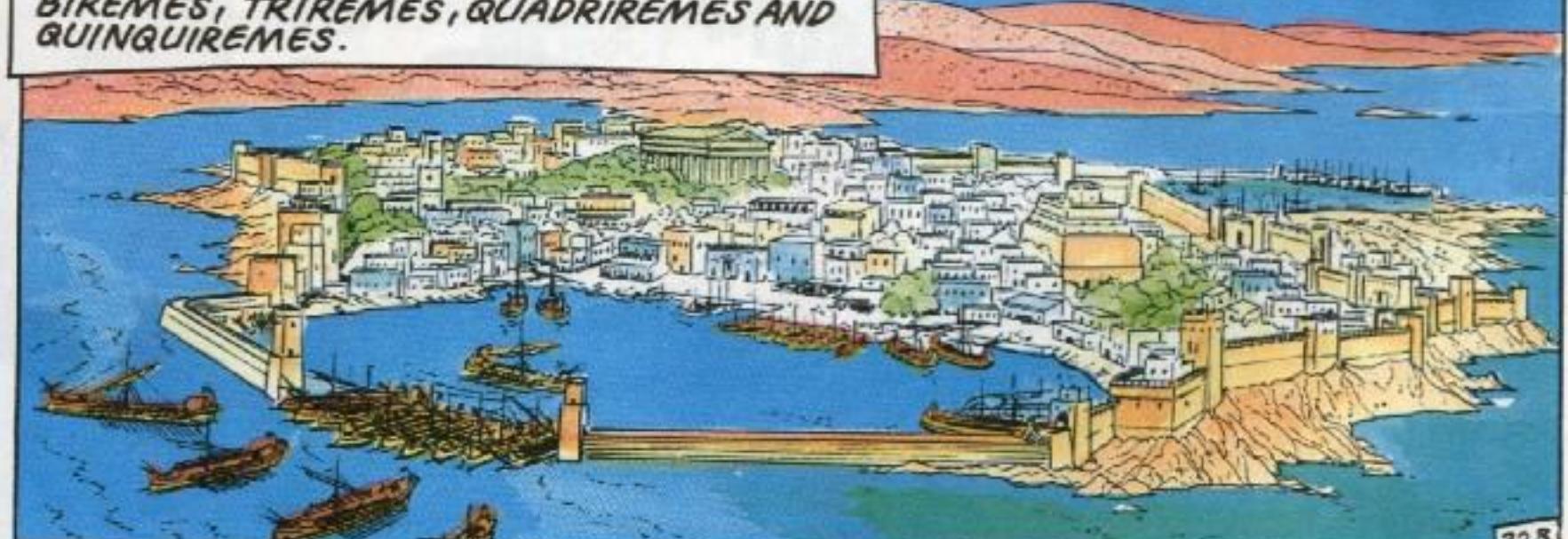


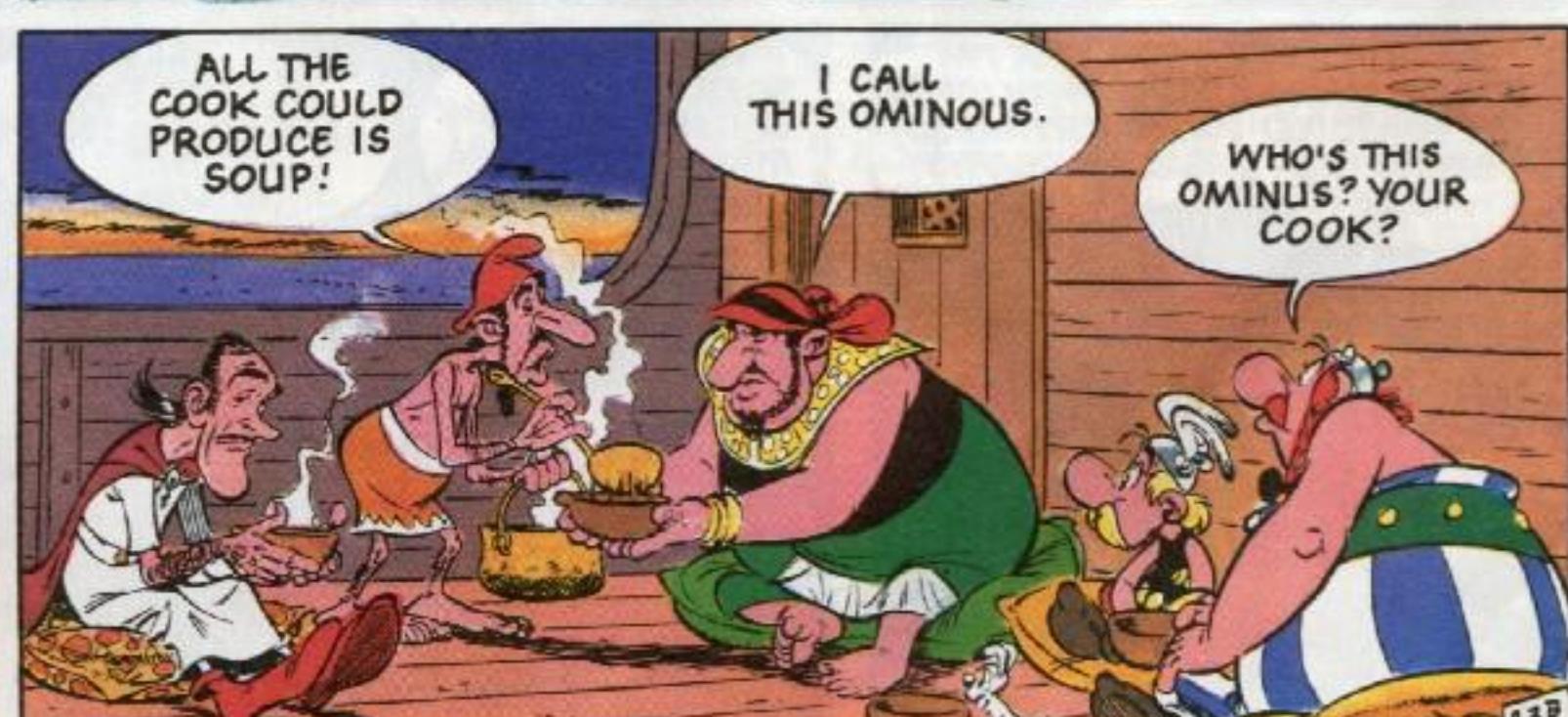
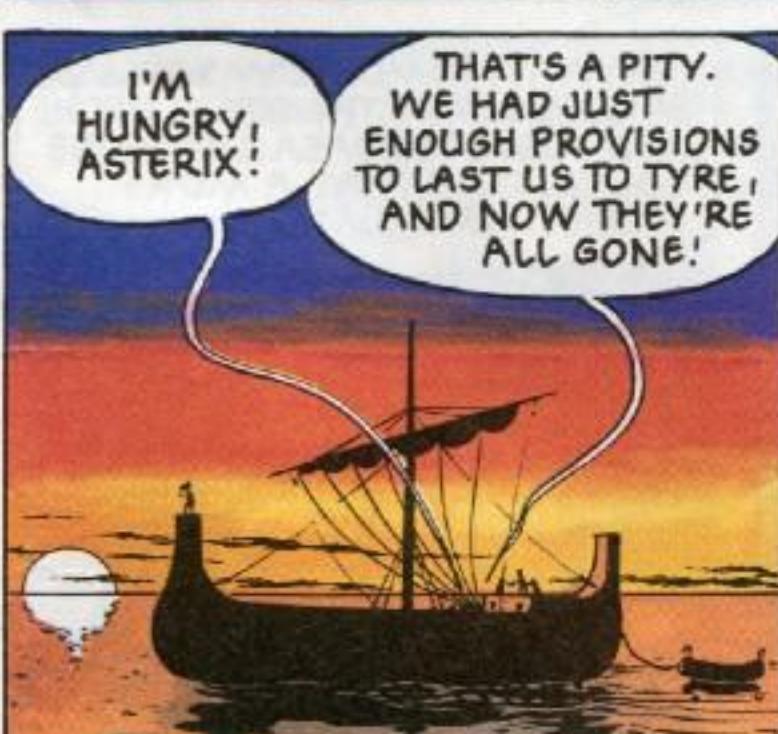
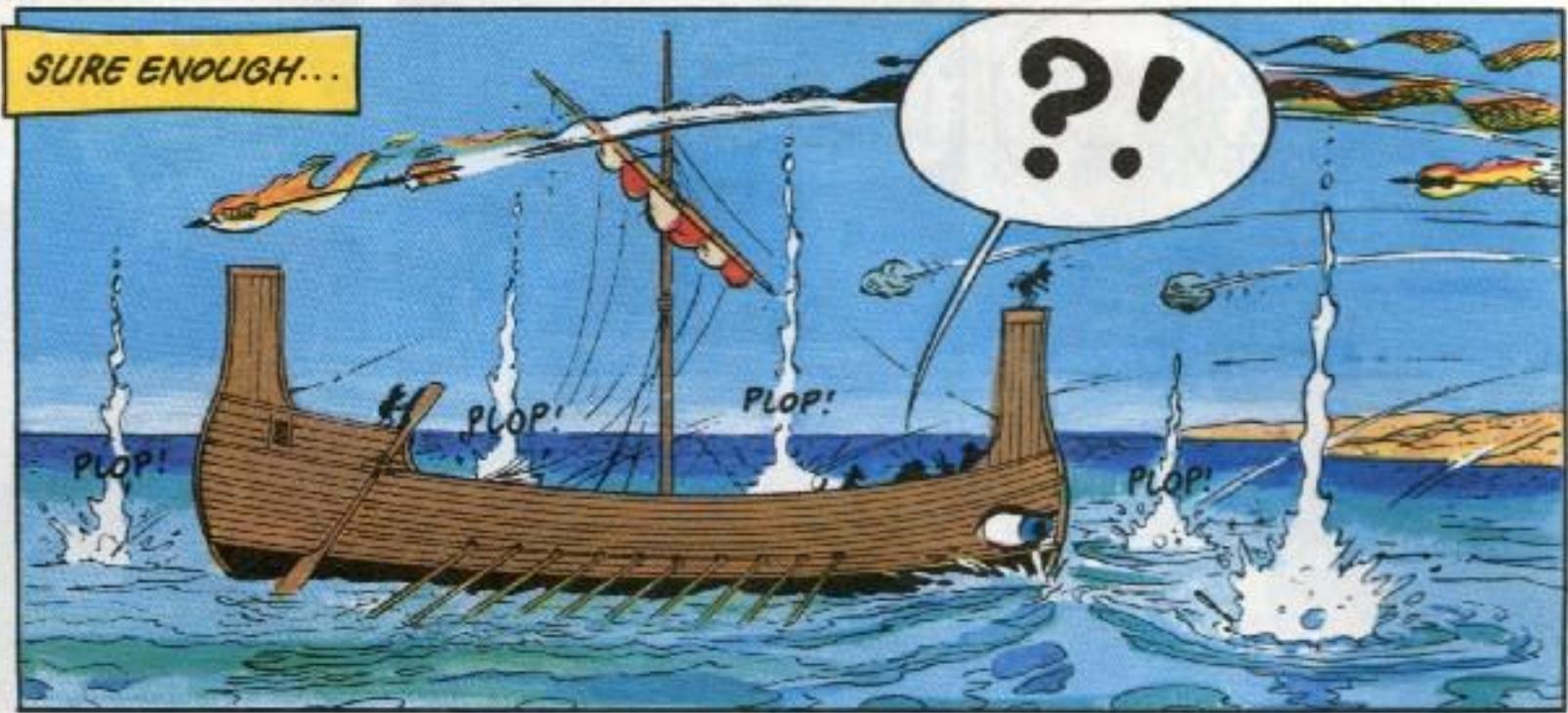
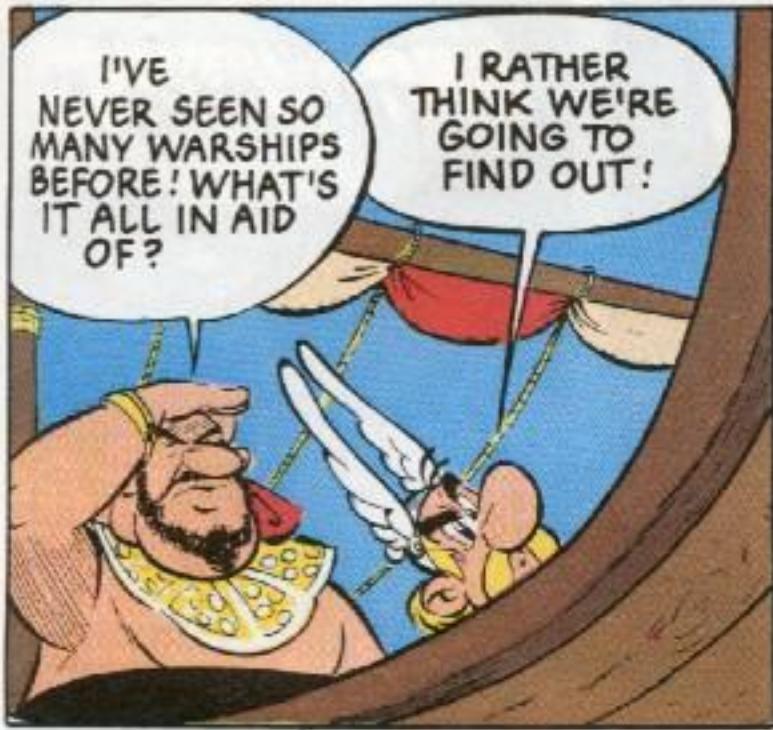






BUT ONE OF THE FINEST OF PHOENICIAN TRADING PORTS HAS BECOME INACCESSIBLE. THE HARBOUR MOUTH IS BLOCKED BY BIREMES, TRIREMES, QUADRIREMES AND QUINQUIREMES.



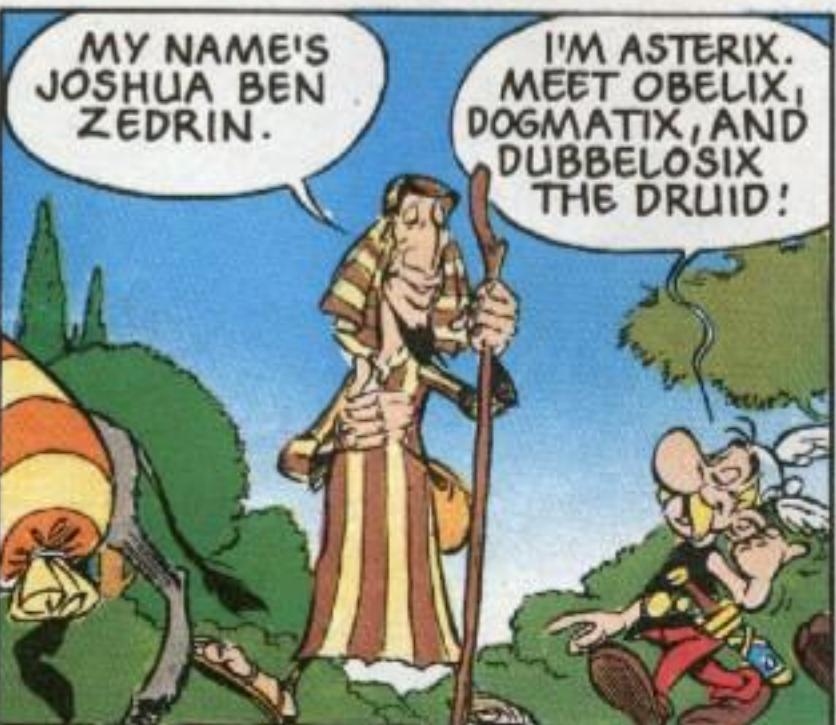
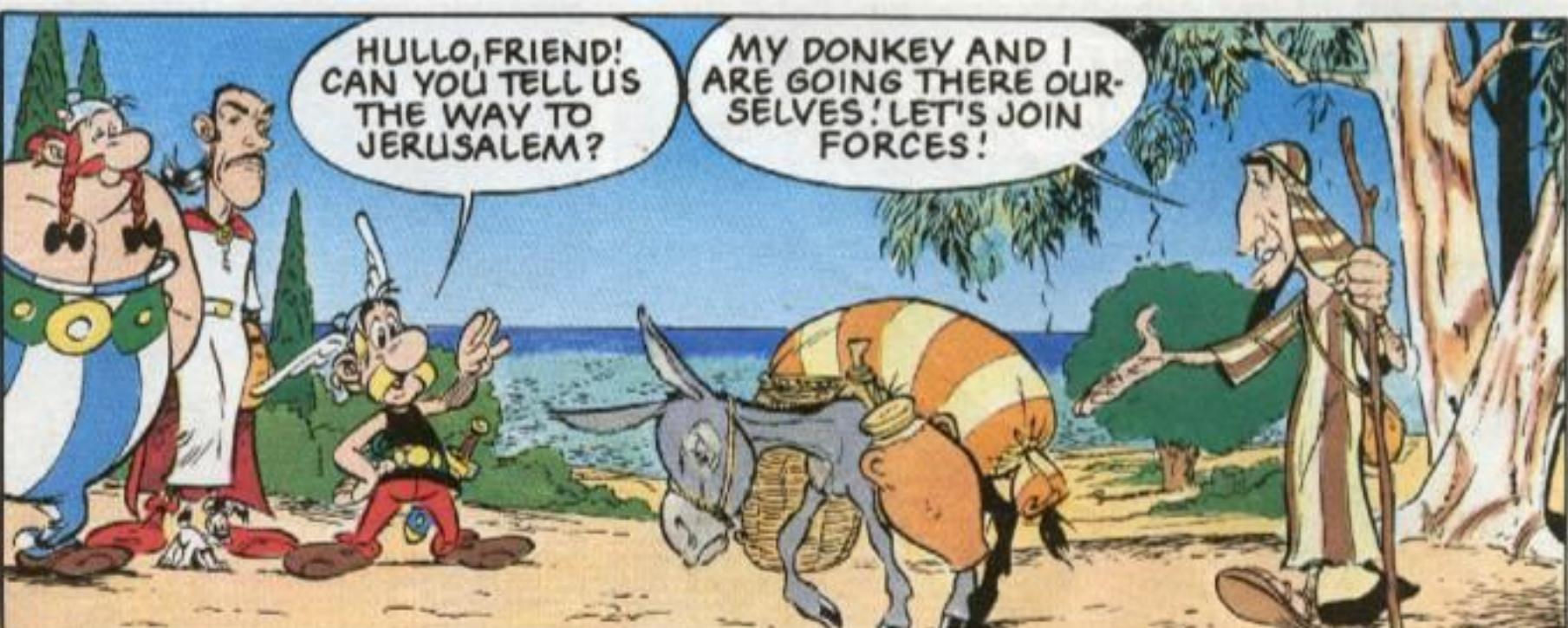
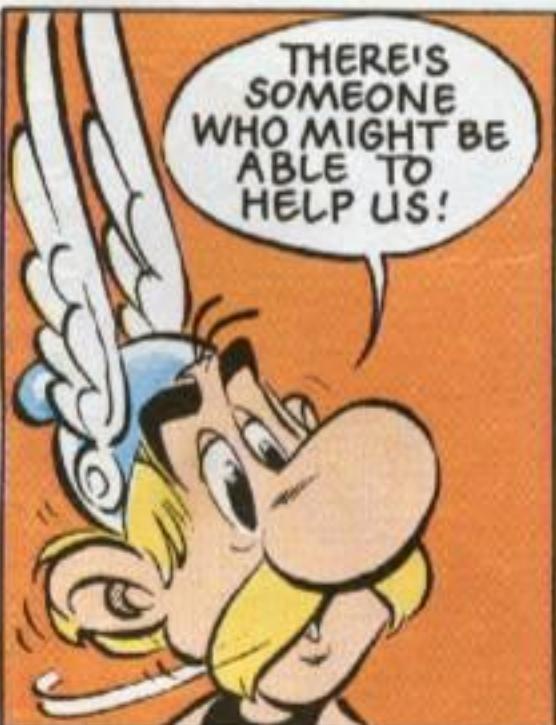
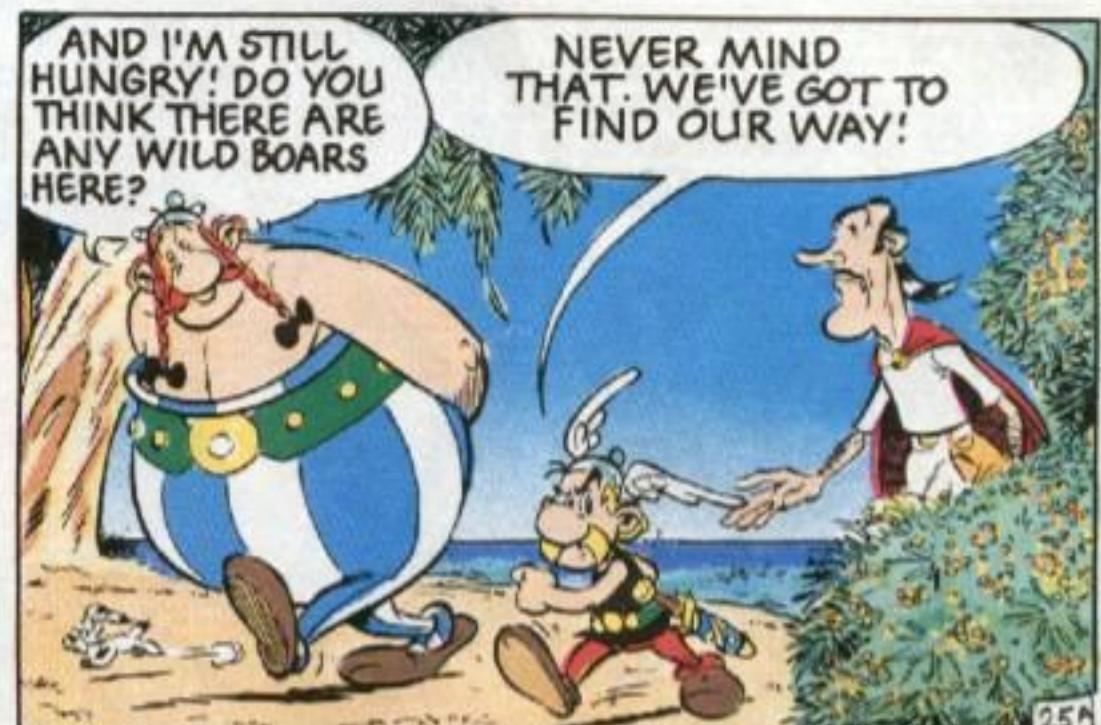
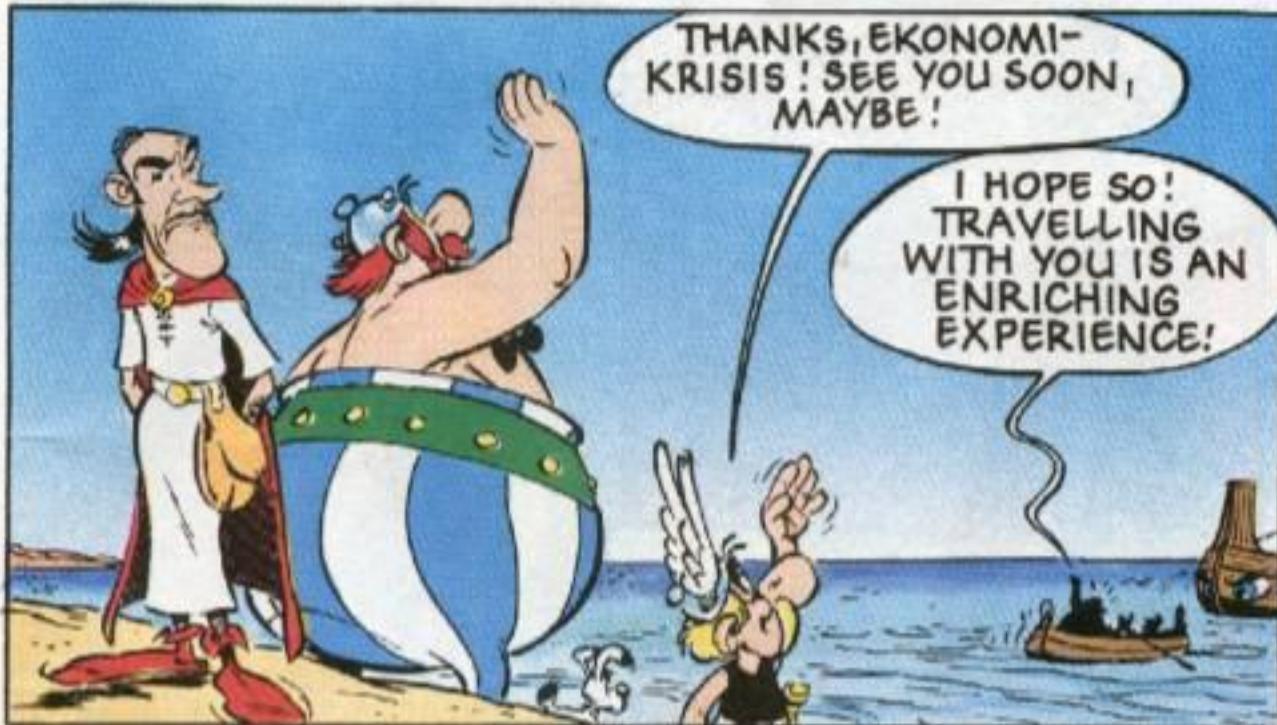


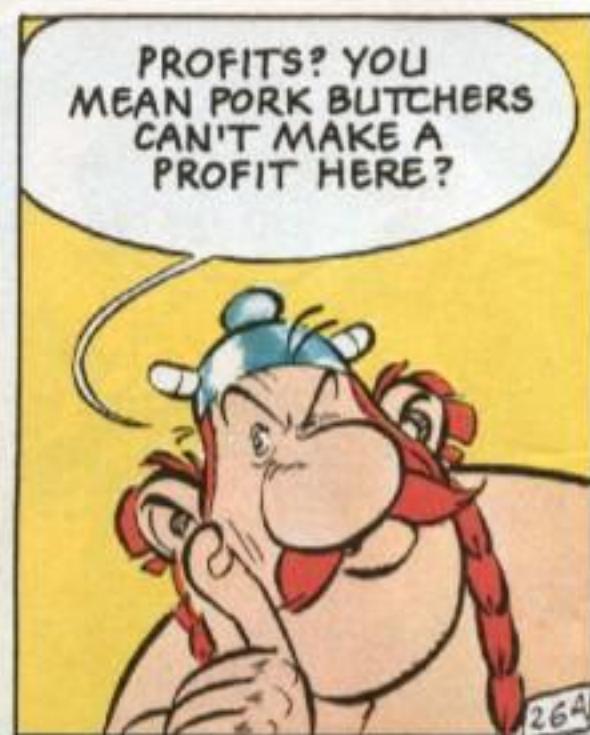
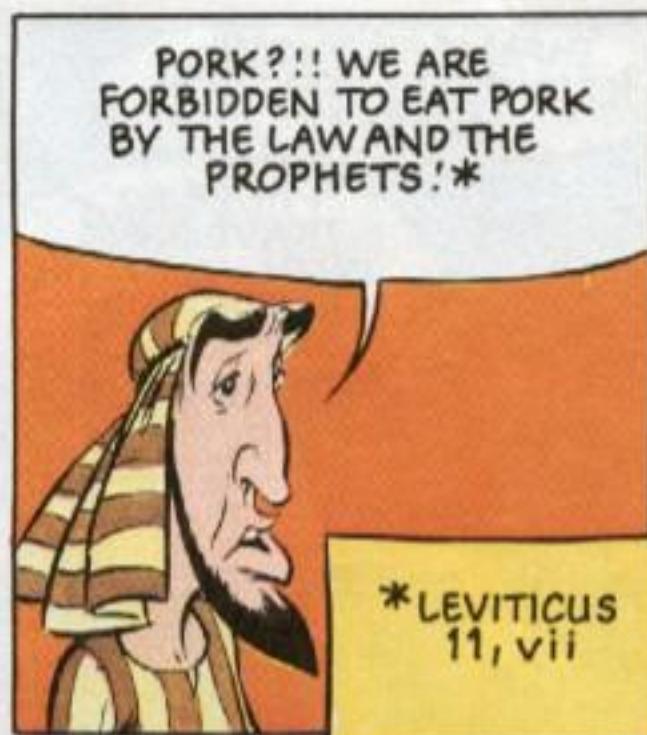
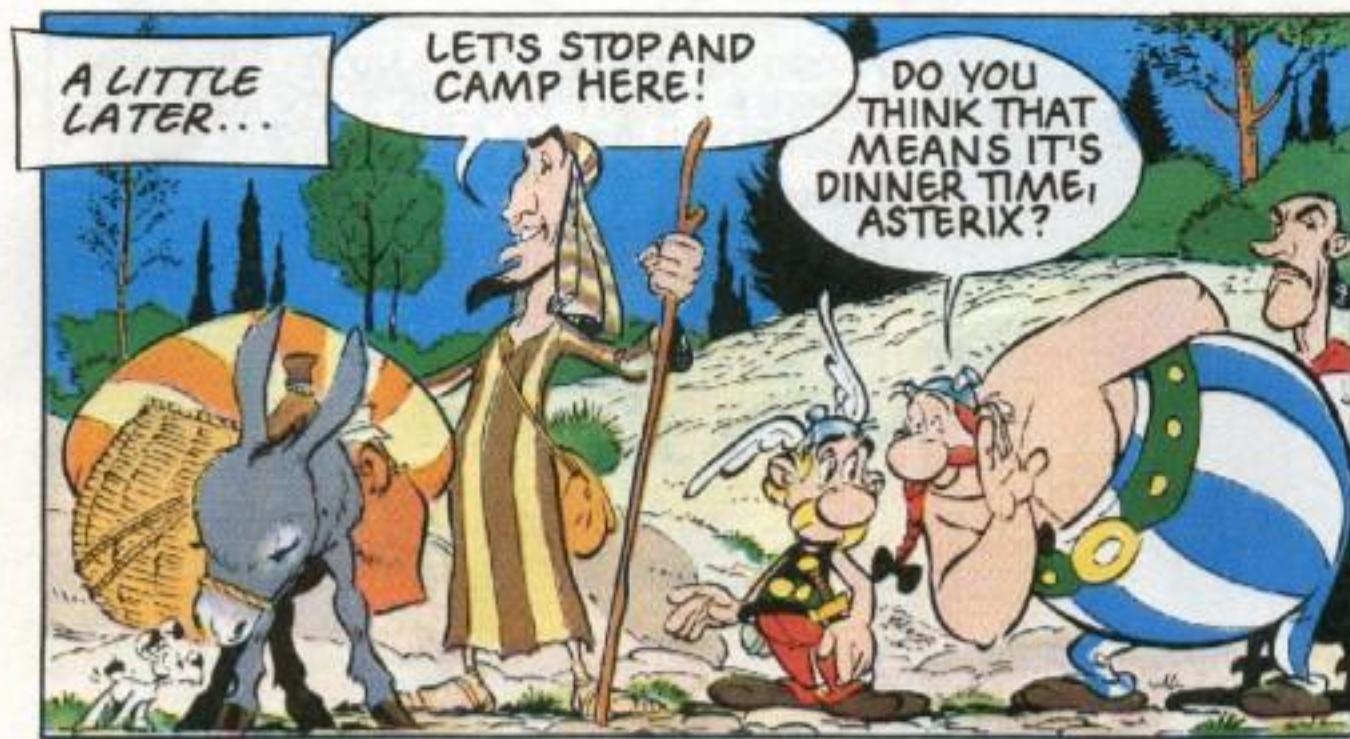


NEXT MORNING...

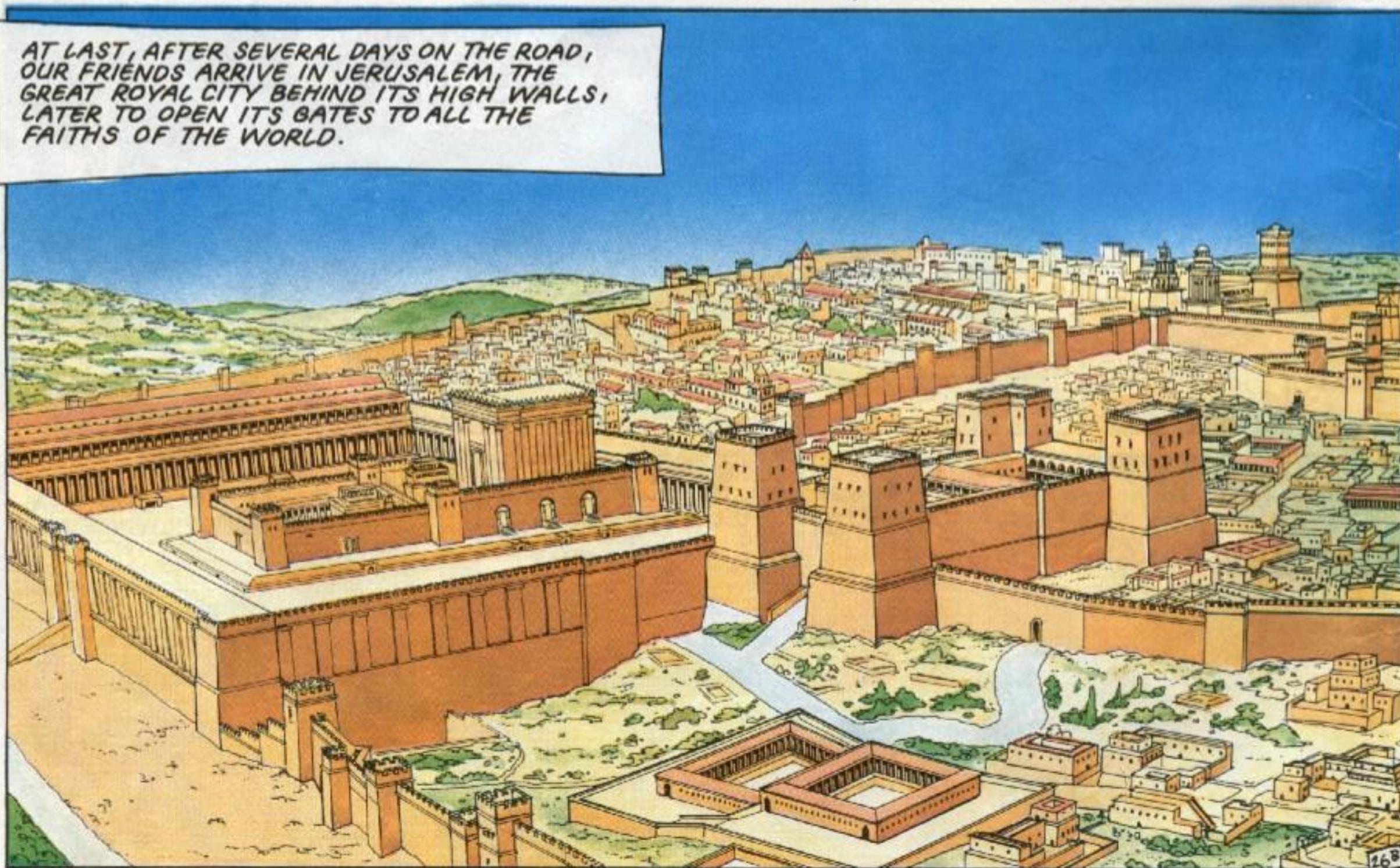
THERE'S THE PROMISED LAND, ASTERIX!

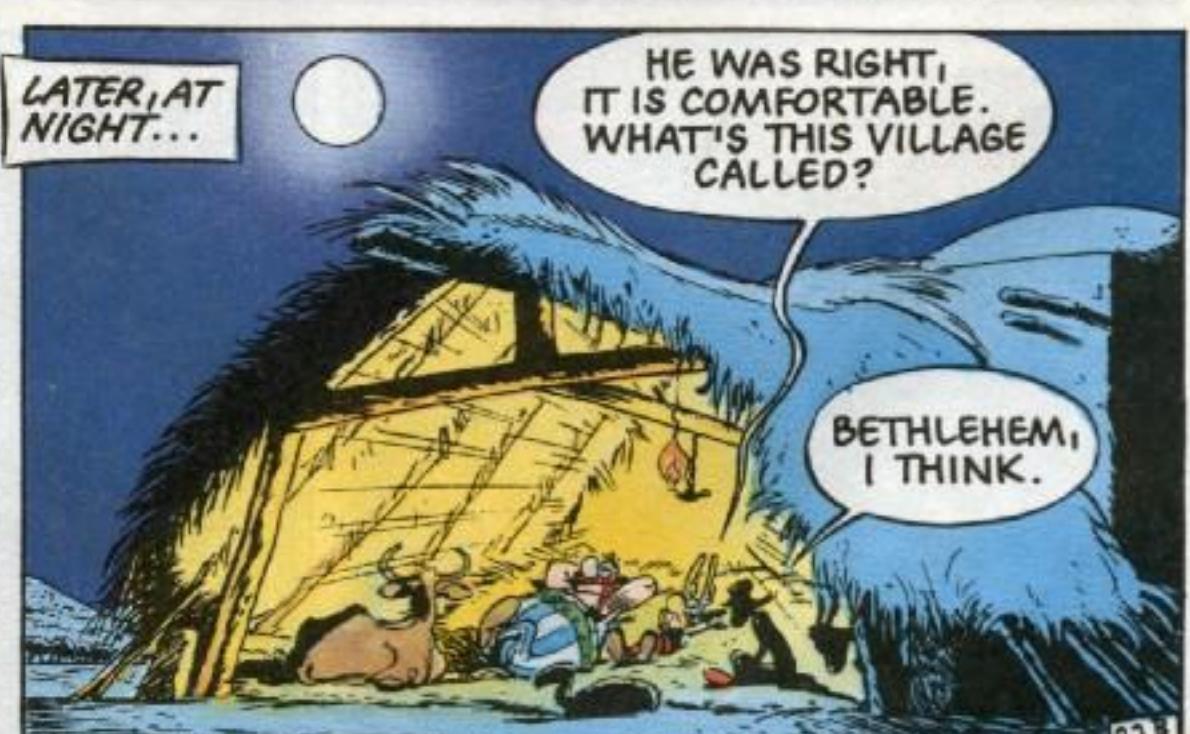
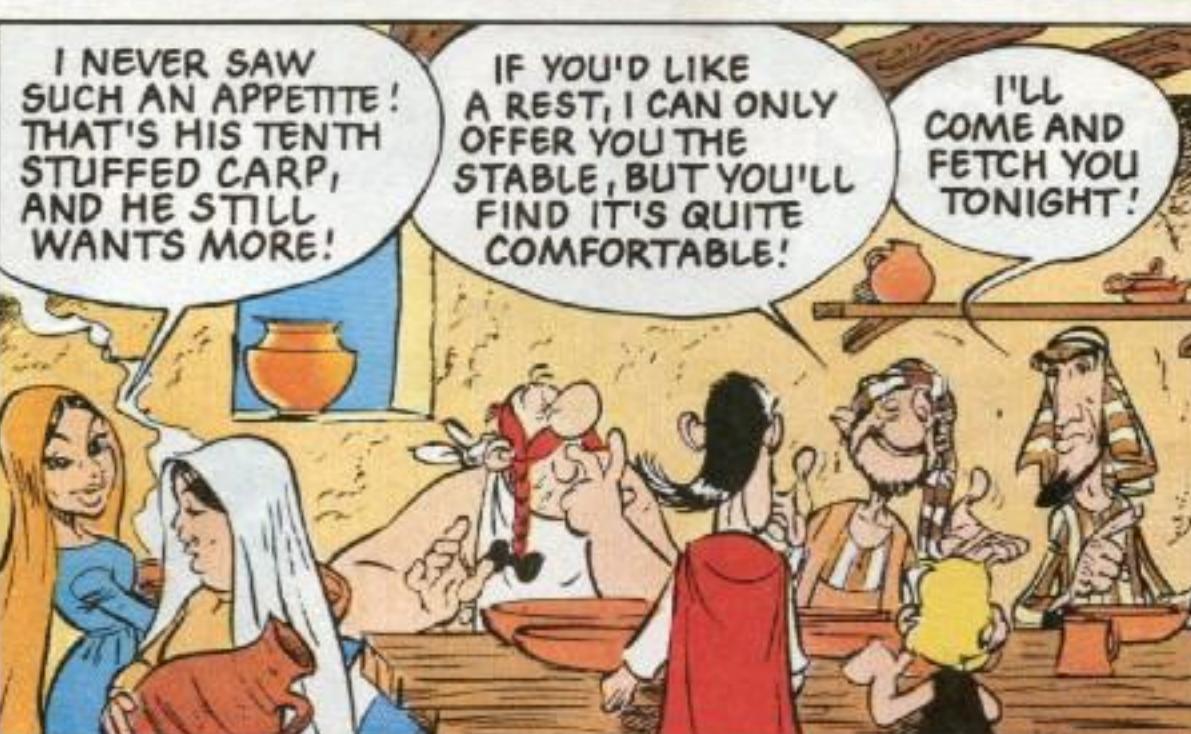
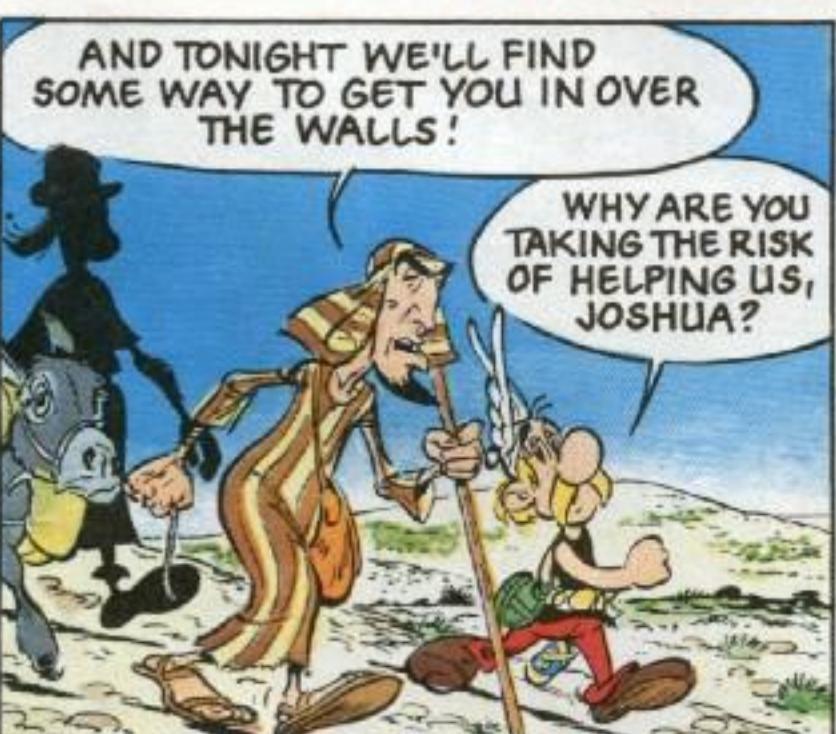
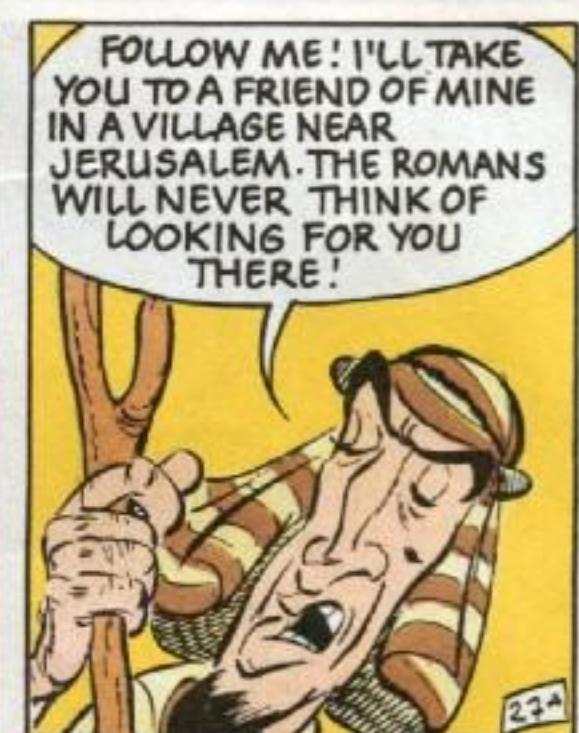
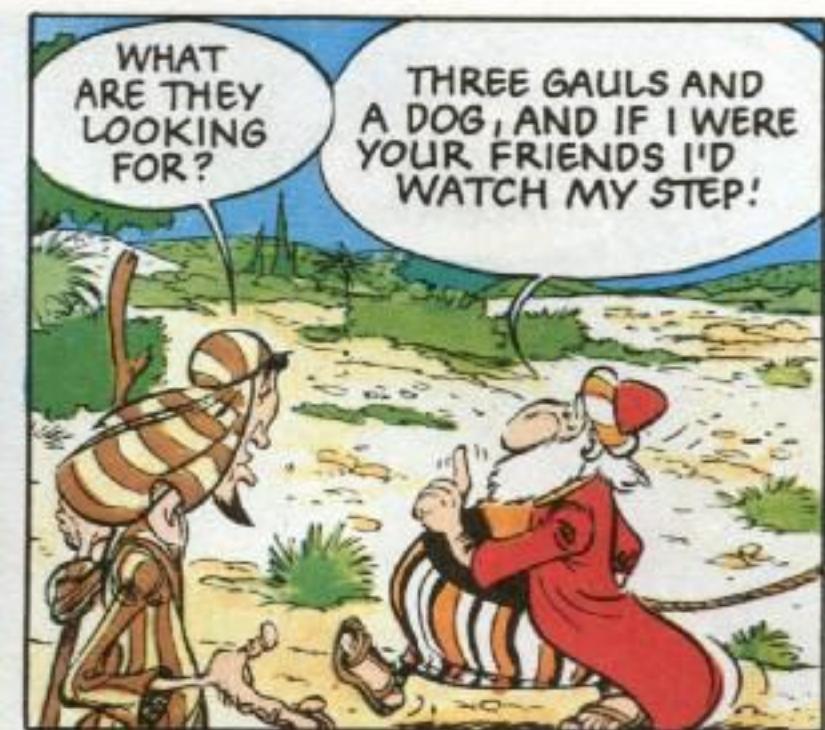
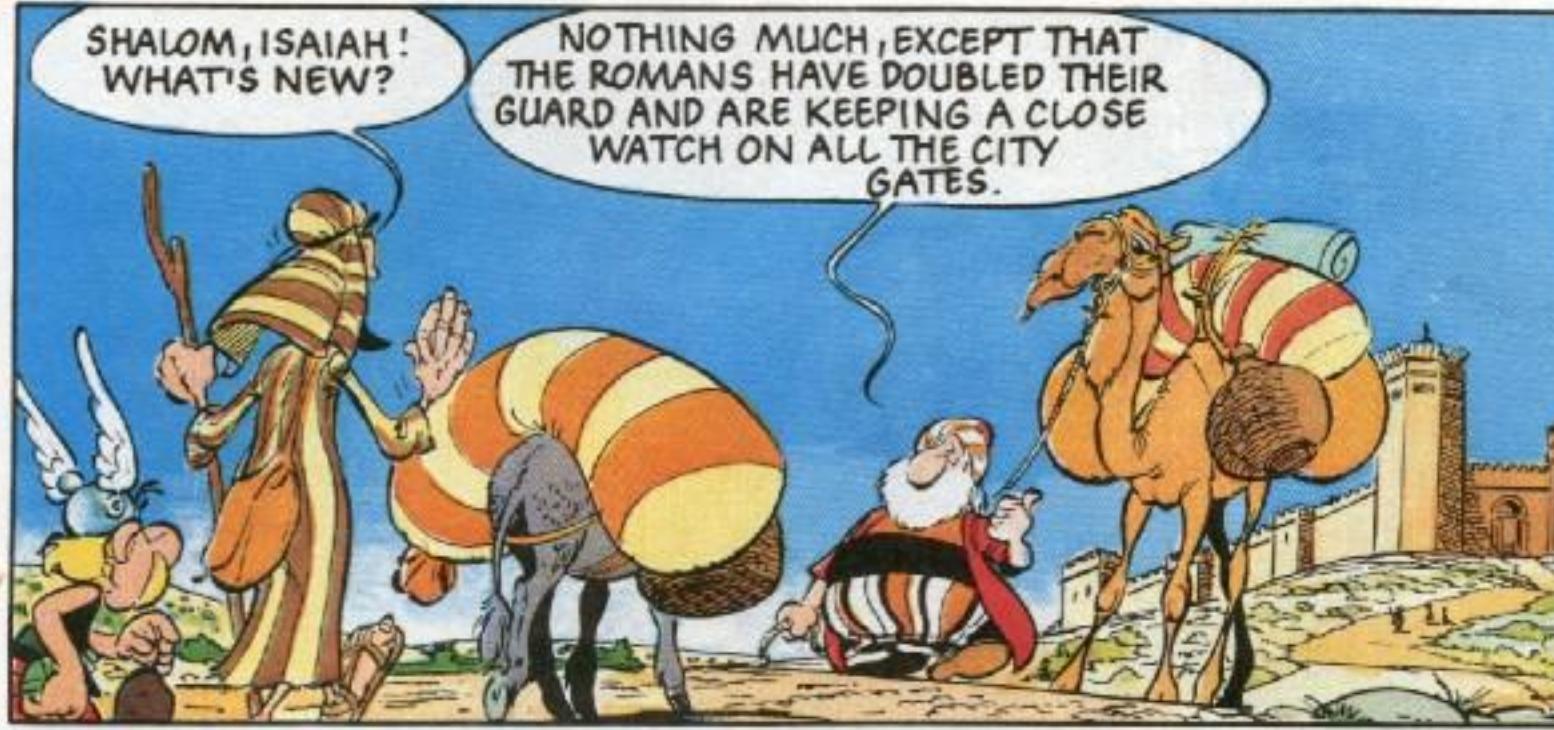
GO TO JERUSALEM AND TELL SAMSON ALIUS I SENT YOU. HE'S MY SUPPLIER: YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET ROCK OIL FROM HIM.

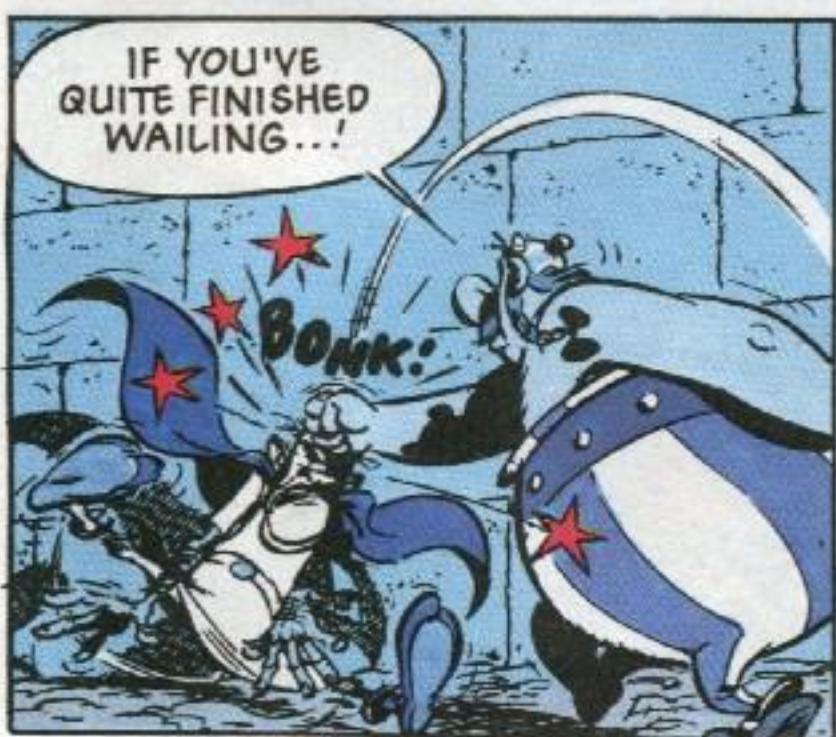




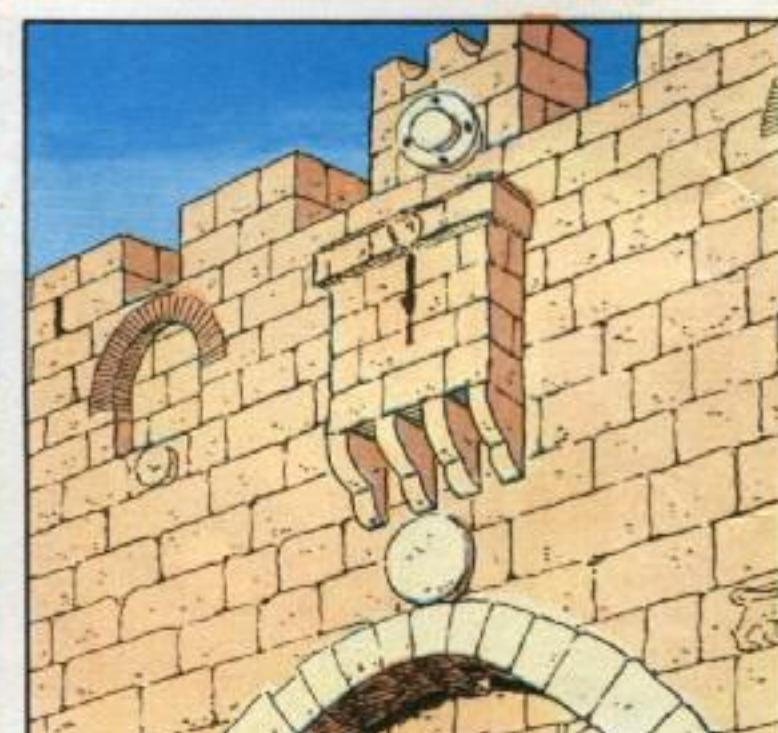
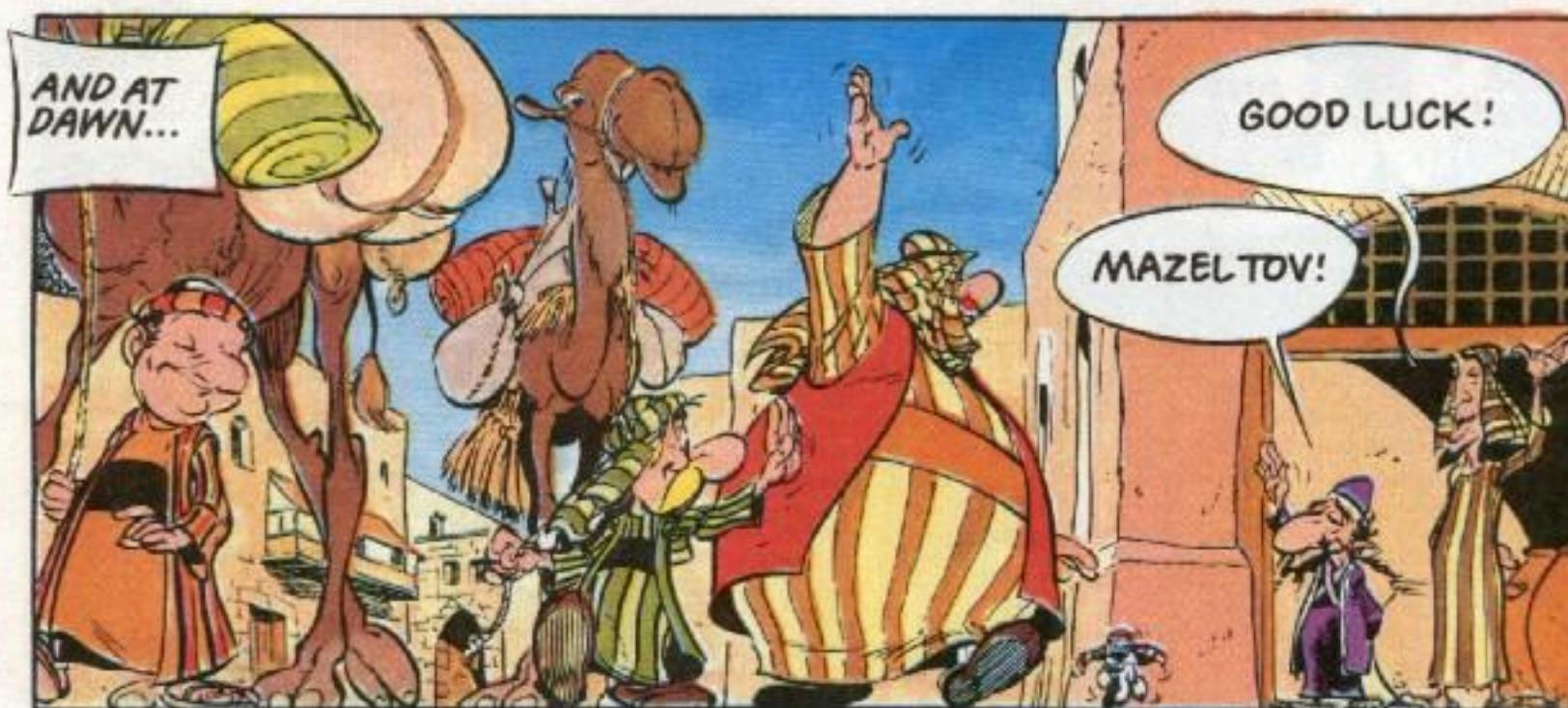
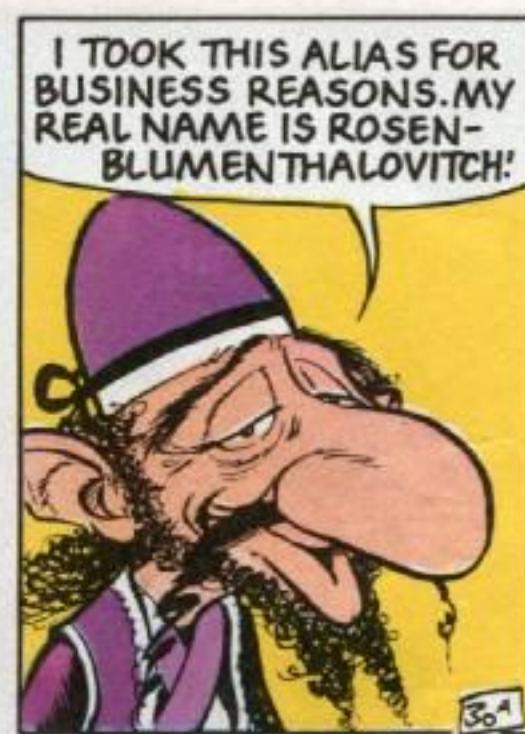
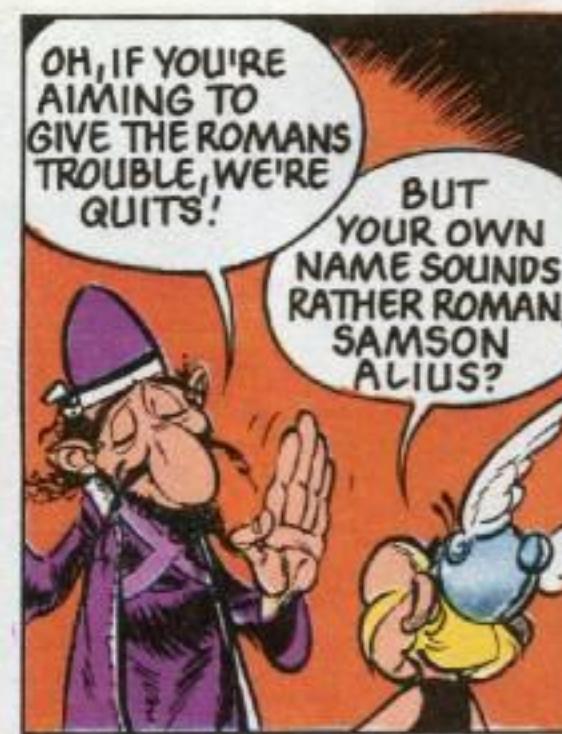
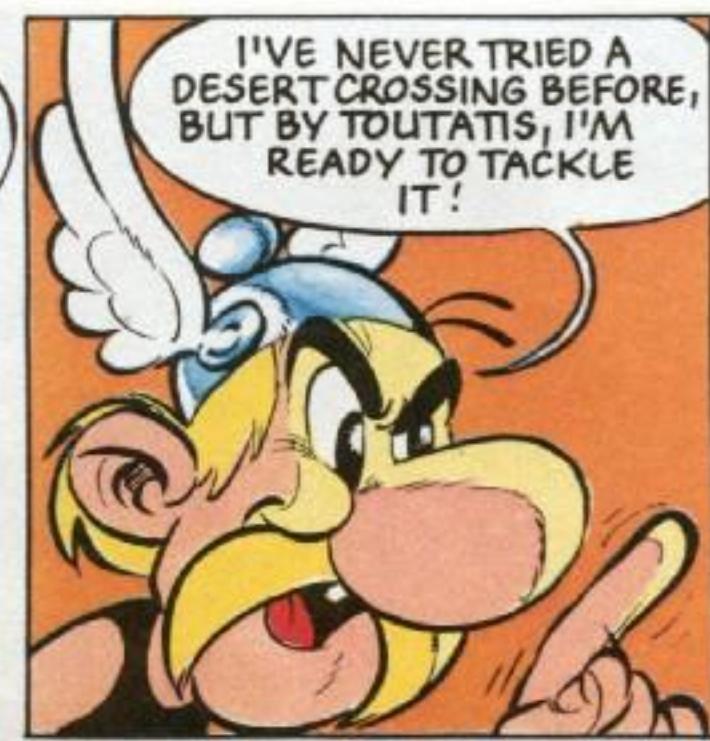
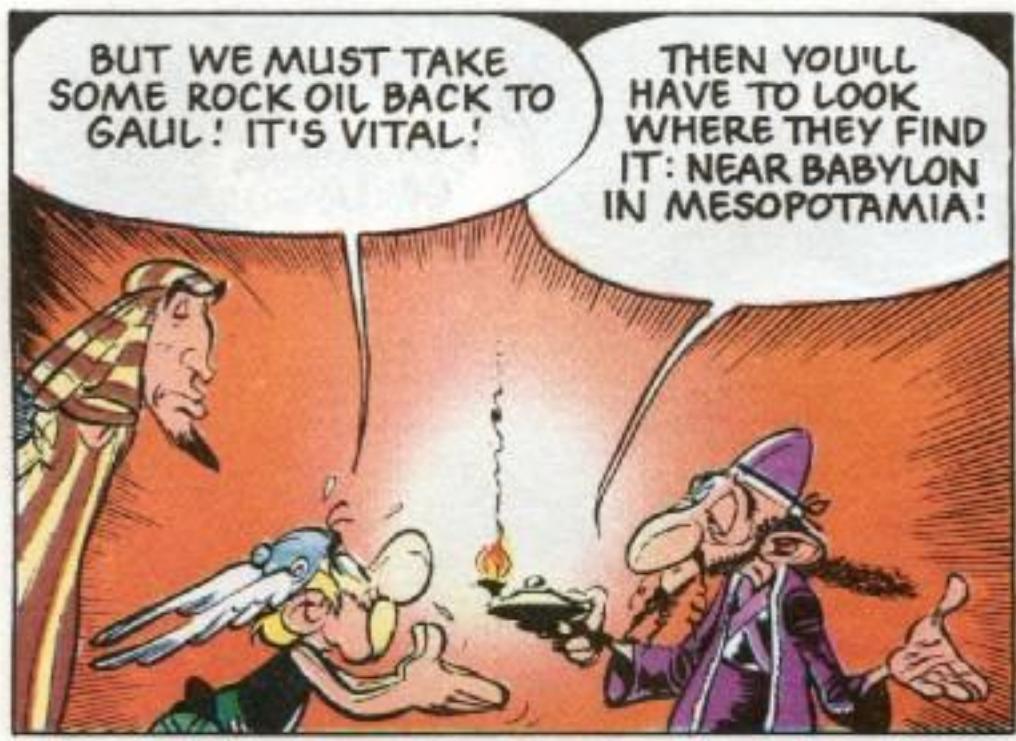
AT LAST, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS ON THE ROAD, OUR FRIENDS ARRIVE IN JERUSALEM, THE GREAT ROYAL CITY BEHIND ITS HIGH WALLS, LATER TO OPEN ITS GATES TO ALL THE FAITHS OF THE WORLD.







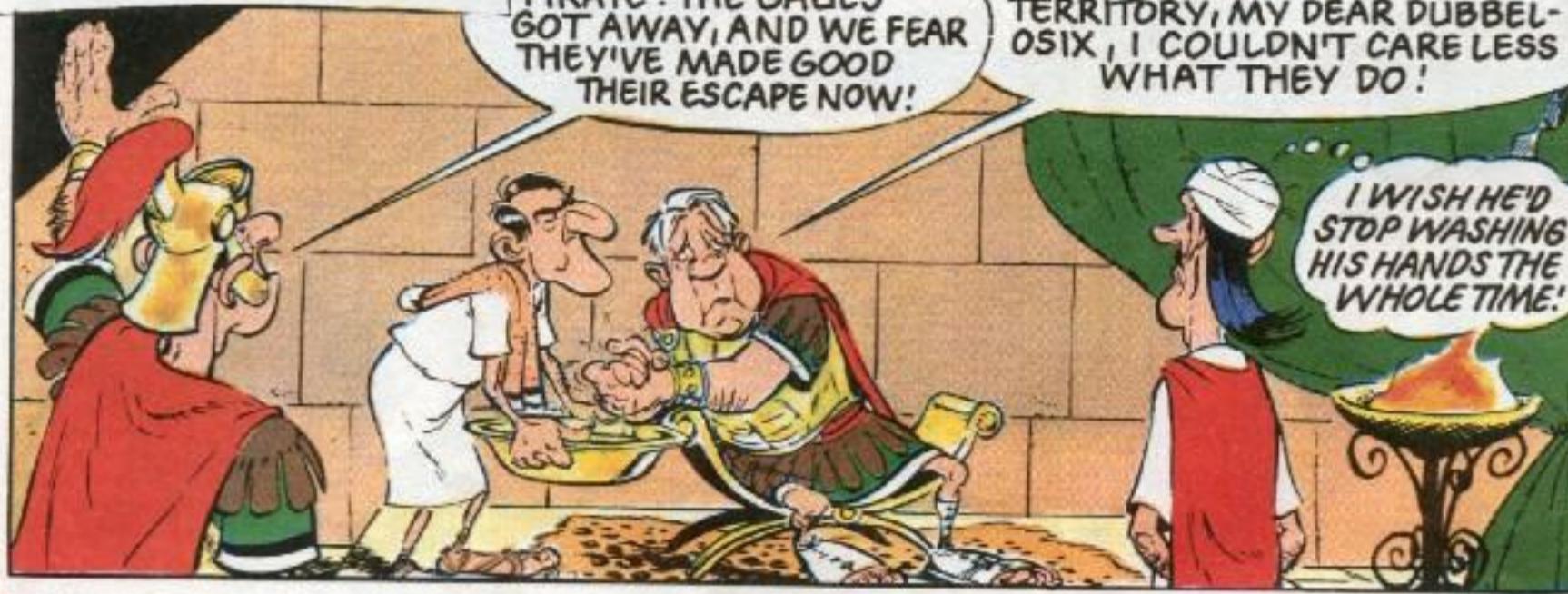




AT THE ROMAN
PROCURATOR'S PALACE...

AVE, O PONTIUS
PIRATE ! THE GAULS
GOT AWAY, AND WE FEAR
THEY'VE MADE GOOD
THEIR ESCAPE NOW !

ONCE THEY'RE OUTSIDE MY
TERRITORY, MY DEAR DUBBEL-
OSIX, I COULDN'T CARE LESS
WHAT THEY DO !



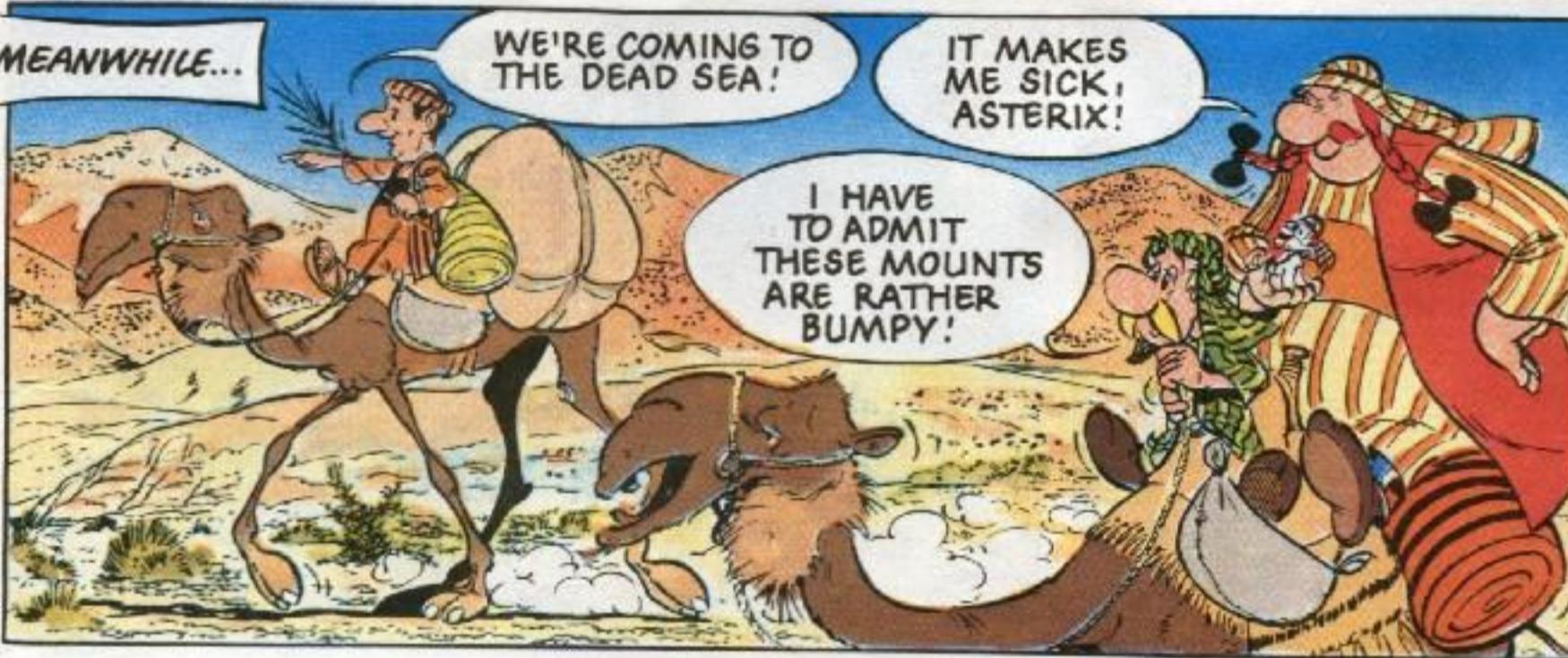
WELL, NEVER MIND ! ASTERIX
AND OBELIX ARE BOUND TO
GO BACK ON BOARD SHIP, AND
WHEN THEY DO WE'LL BE
WAITING, WITH QUITE A
RECEPTION COMMITTEE !

MEANWHILE...

WE'RE COMING TO
THE DEAD SEA !

IT MAKES
ME SICK,
ASTERIX !

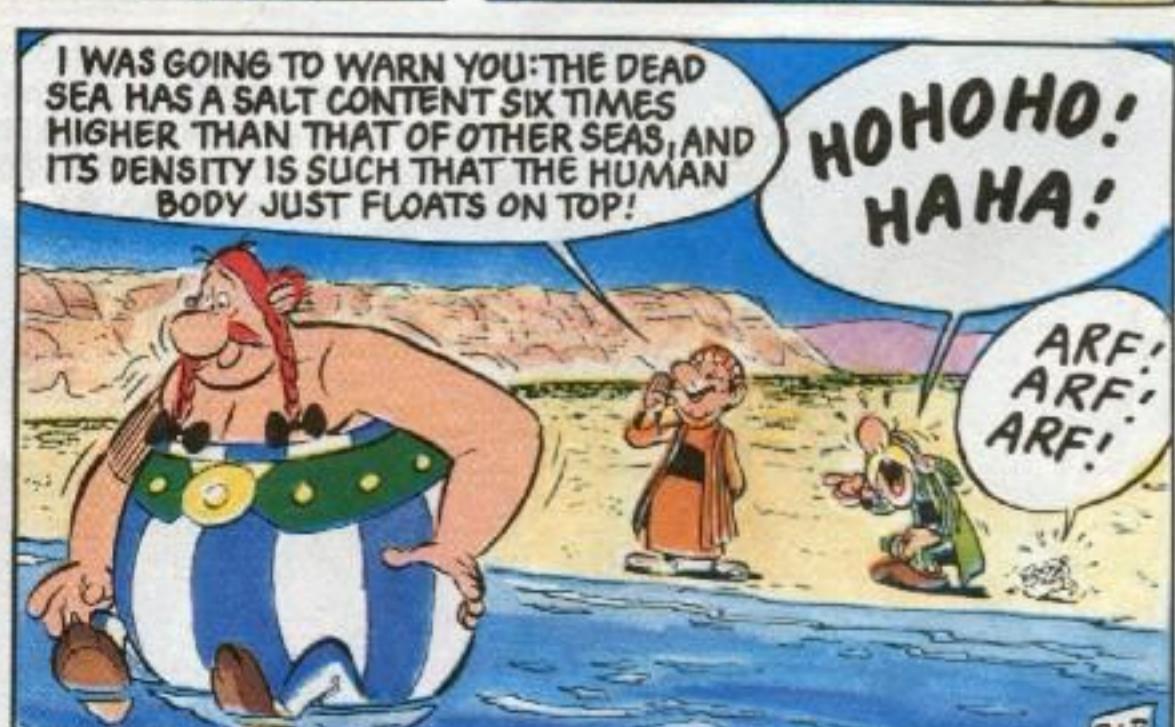
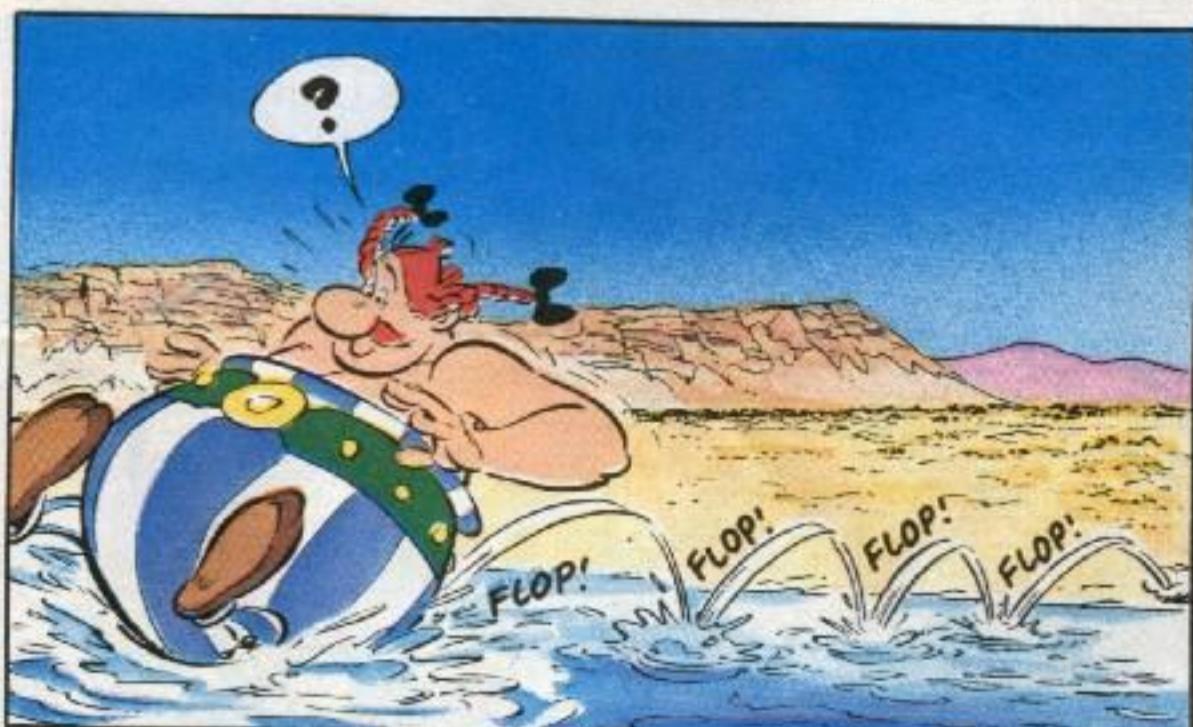
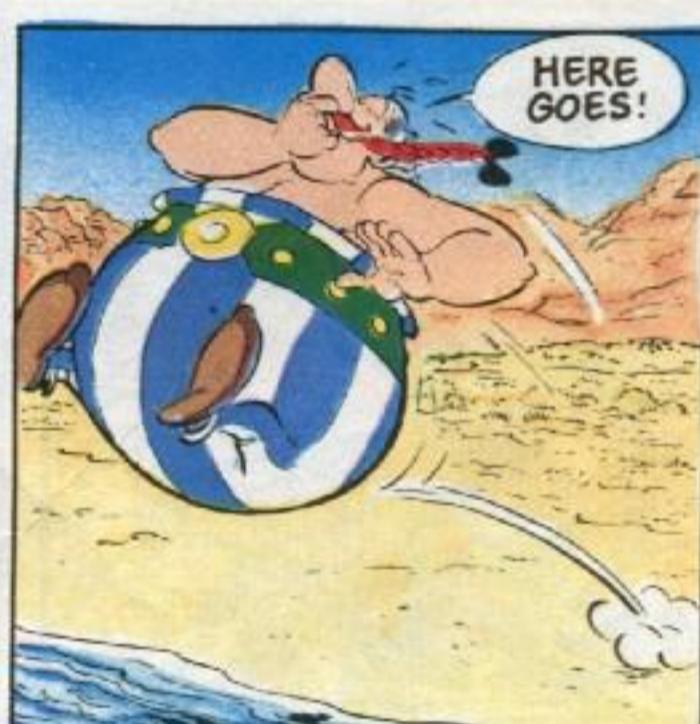
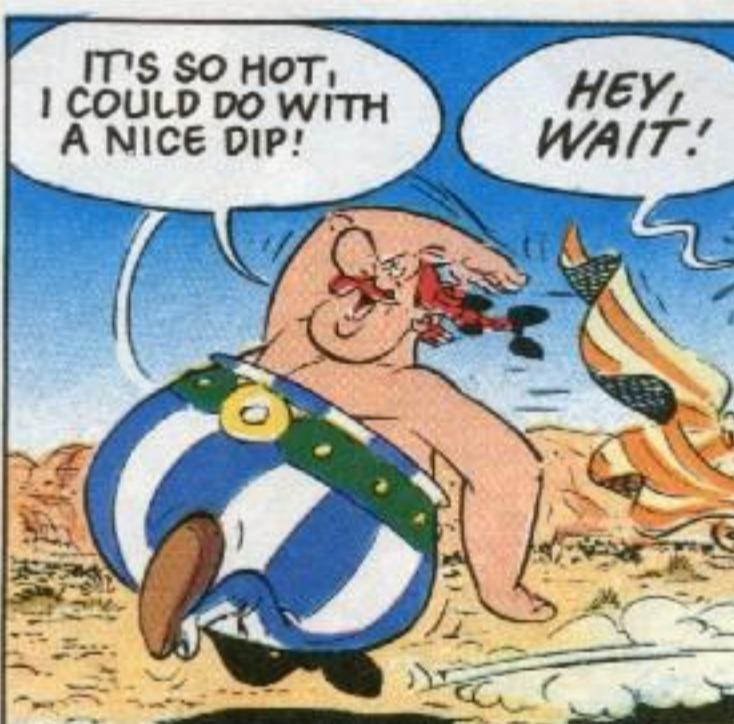
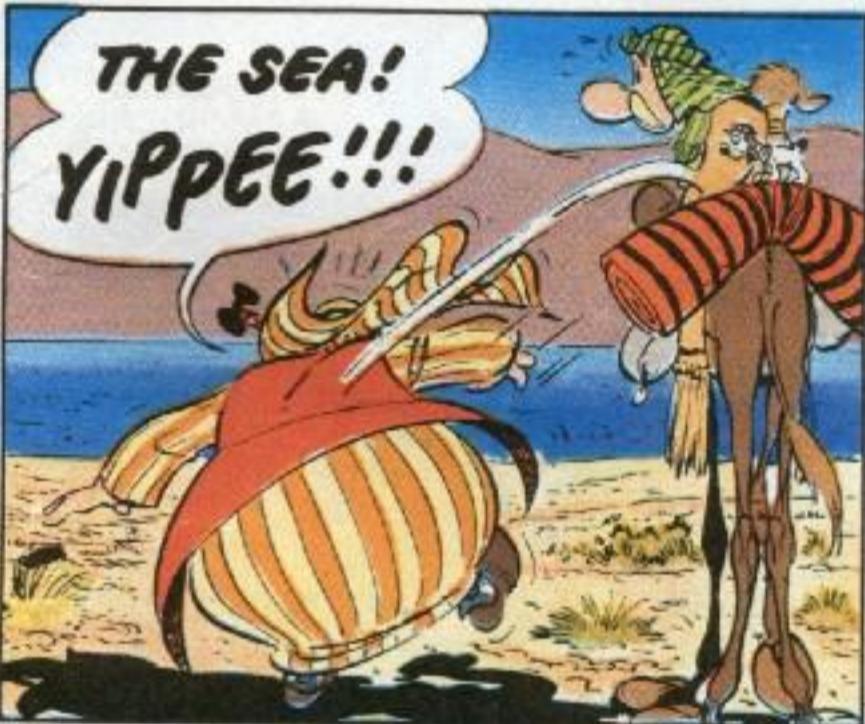
I HAVE
TO ADMIT
THESE MOUNTS
ARE RATHER
BUMPY !



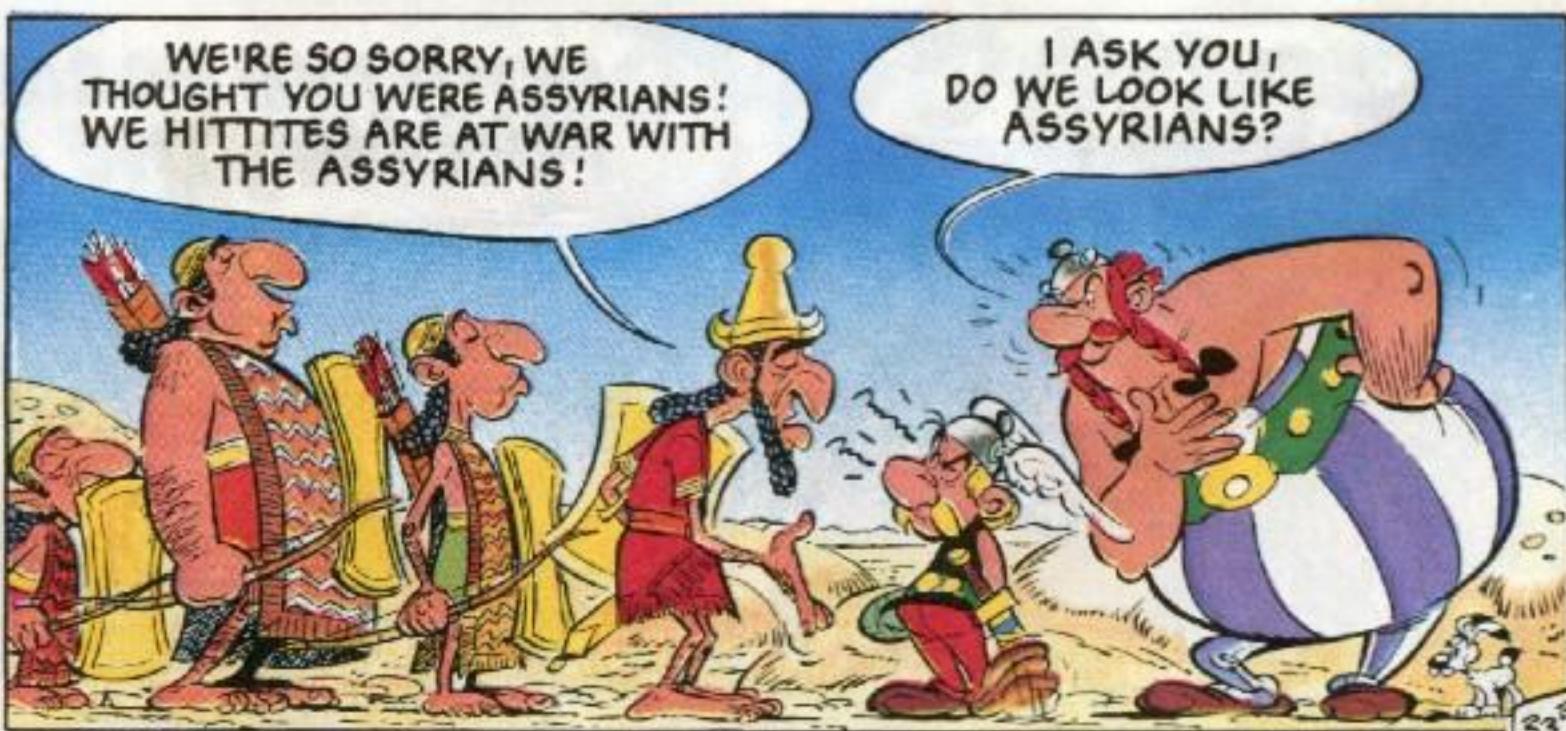
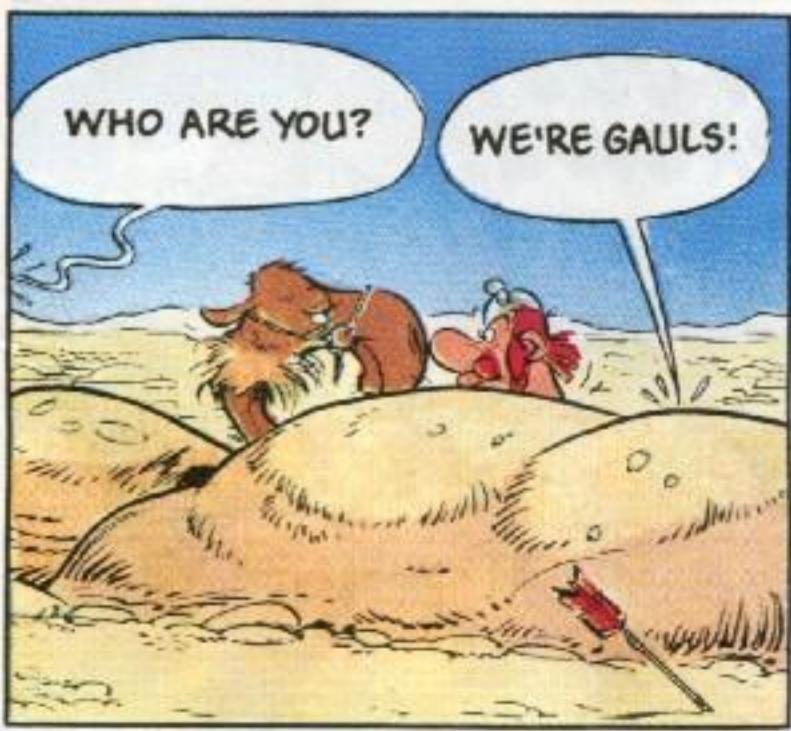
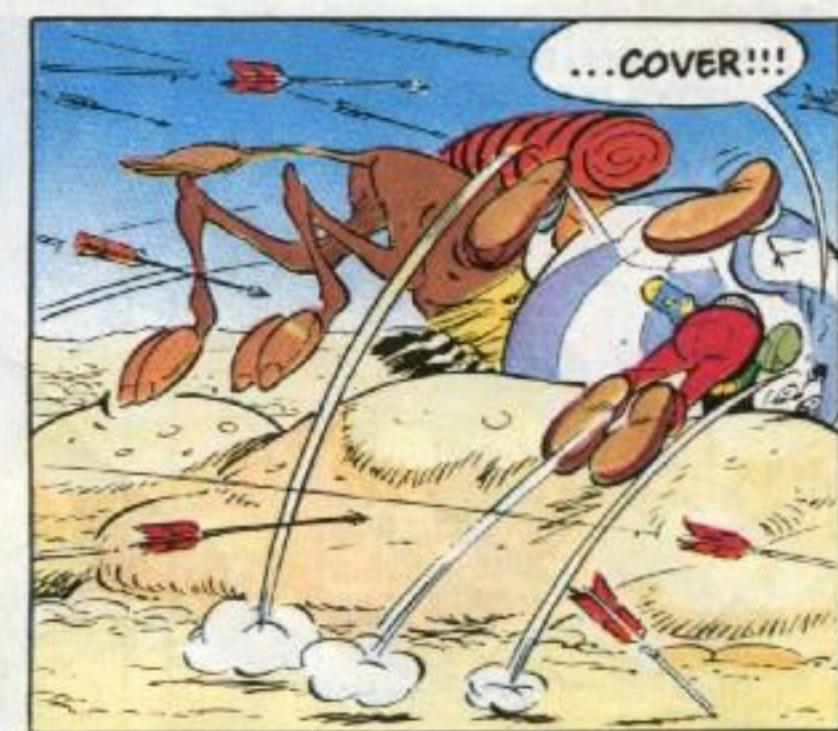
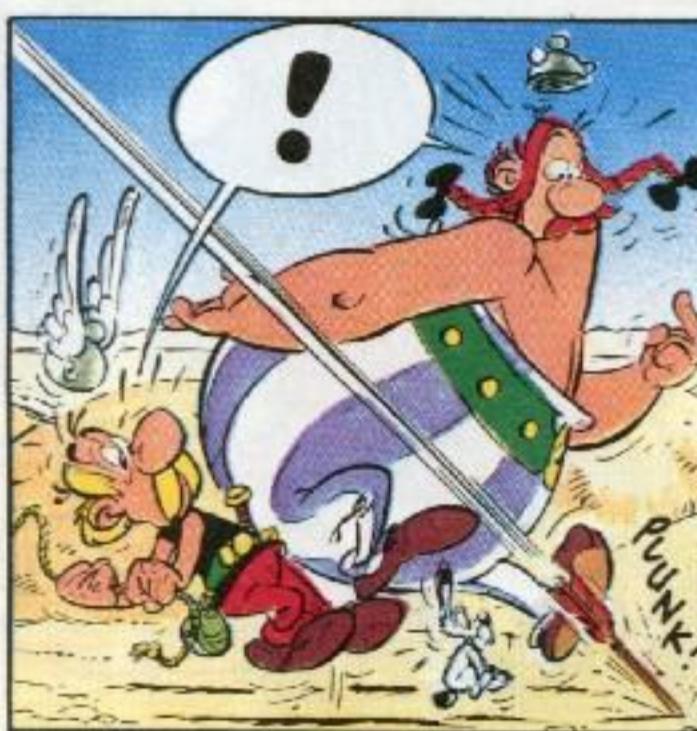
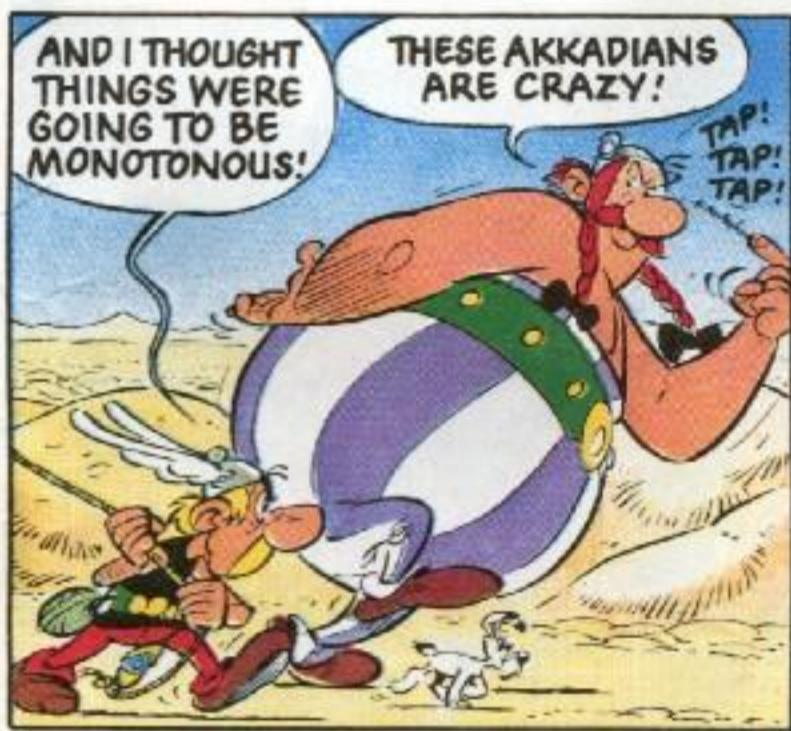
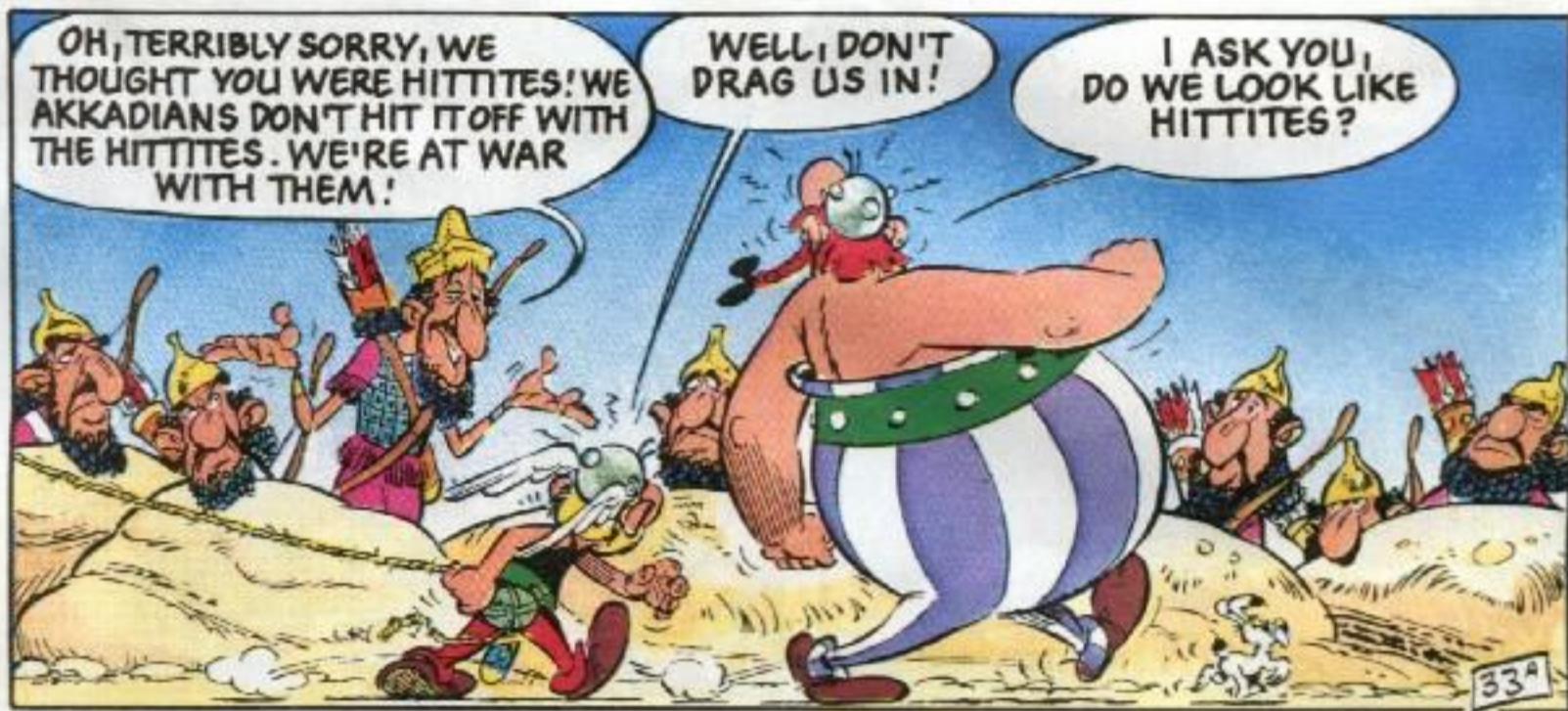
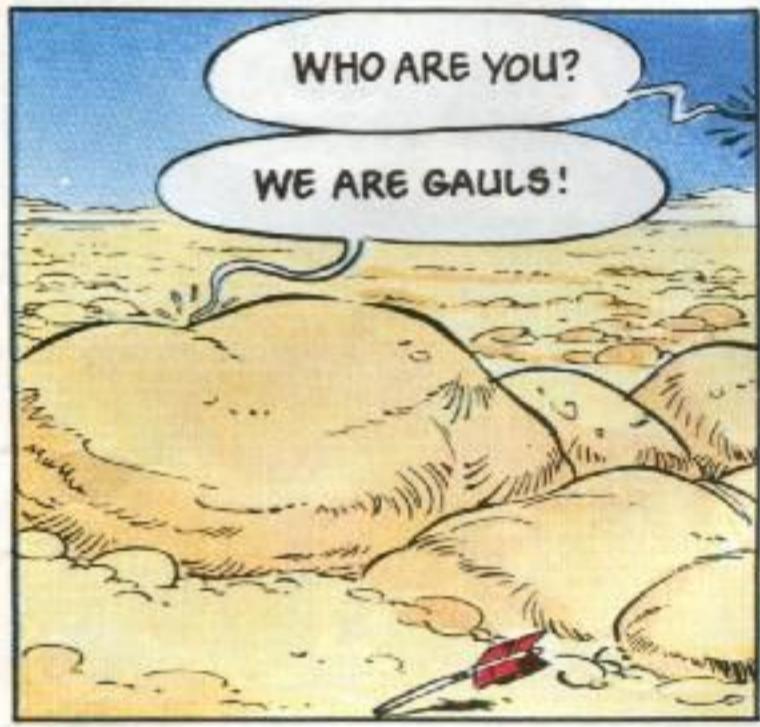
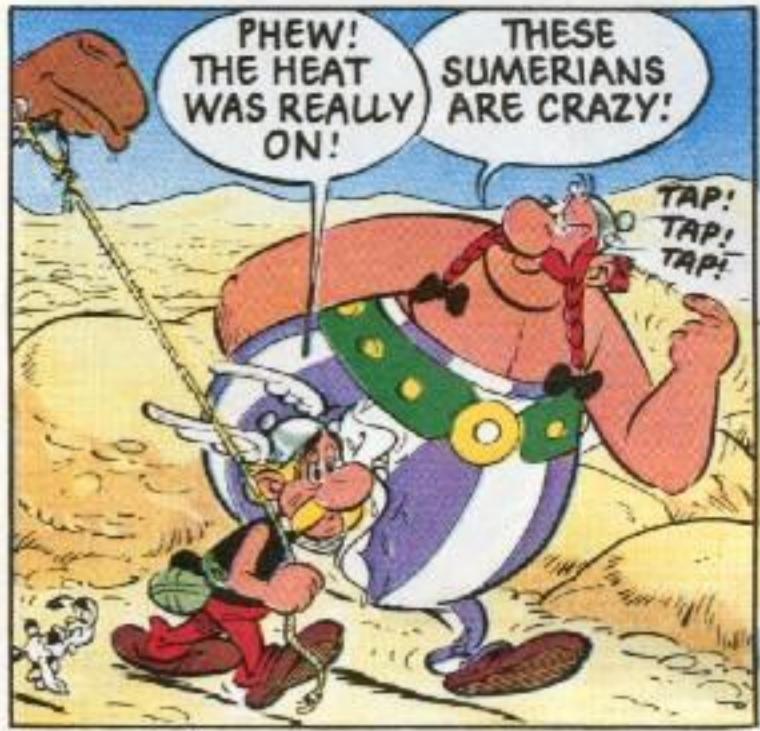
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT ! IT
MAKES ME SICK TO THINK
OF THE RACIAL DISCRIMI-
NATION PRACTISED AGAINST
BOARS IN THIS COUNTRY !

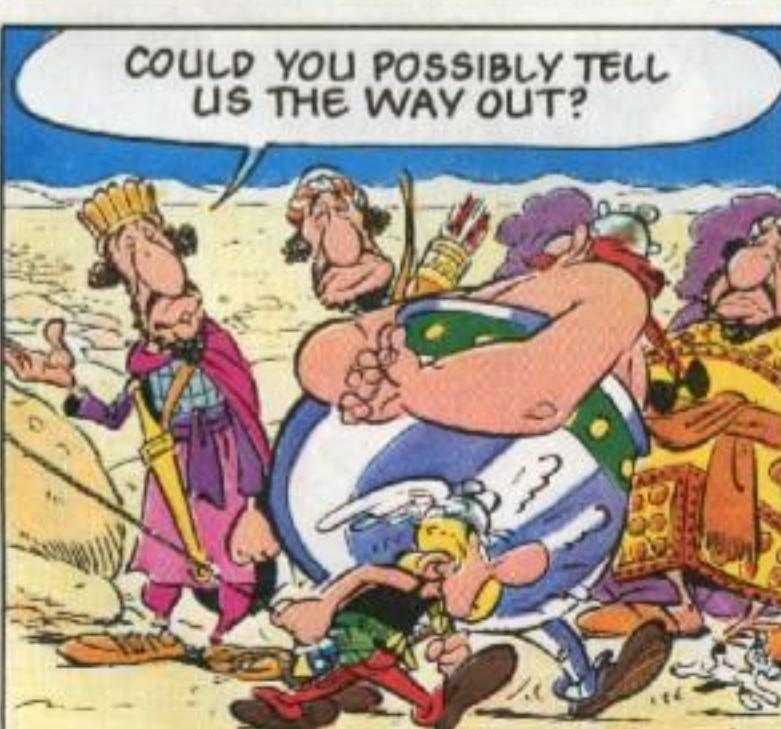
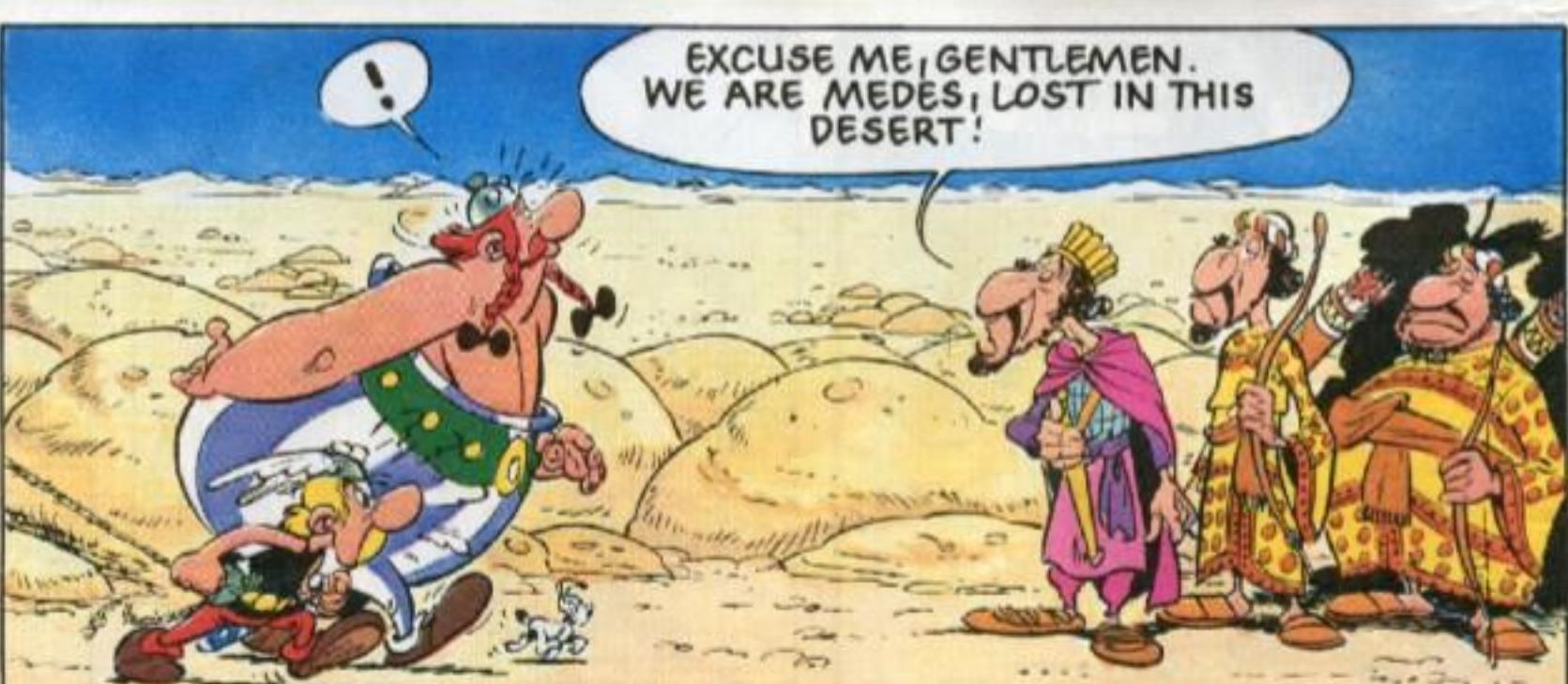
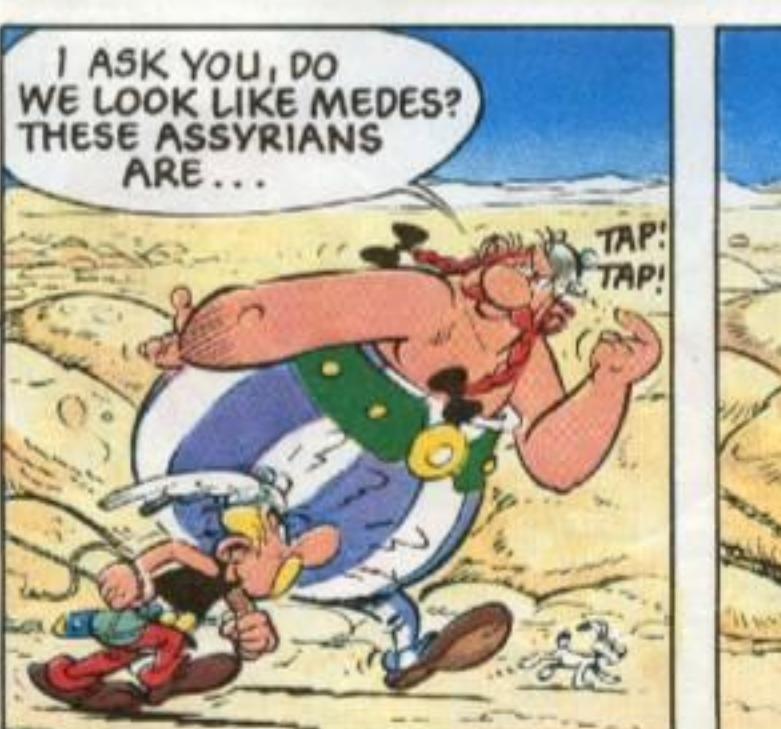
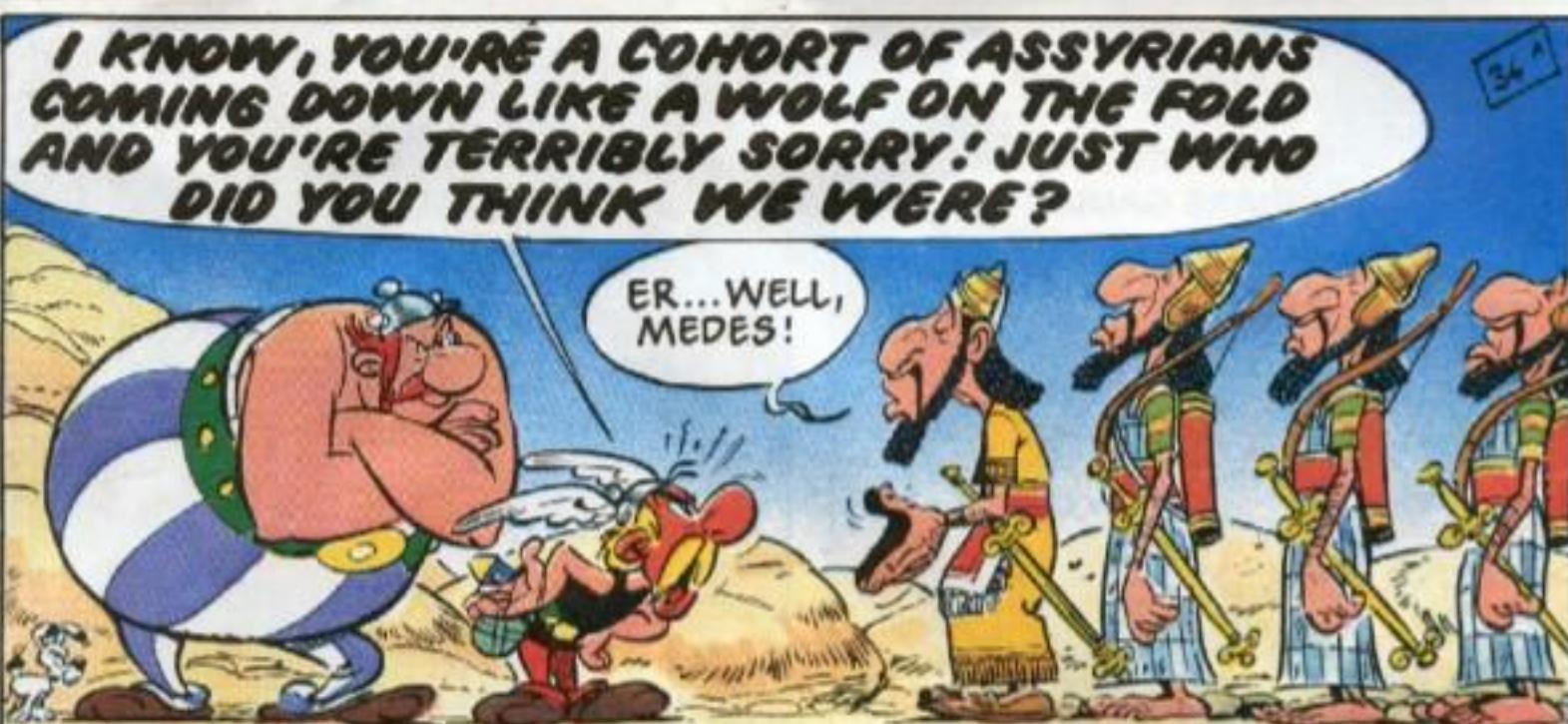
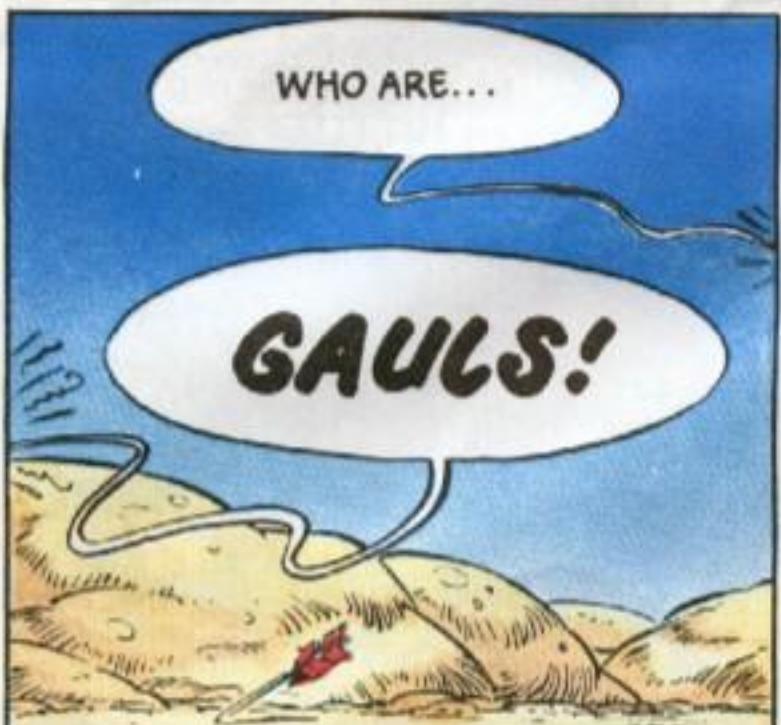
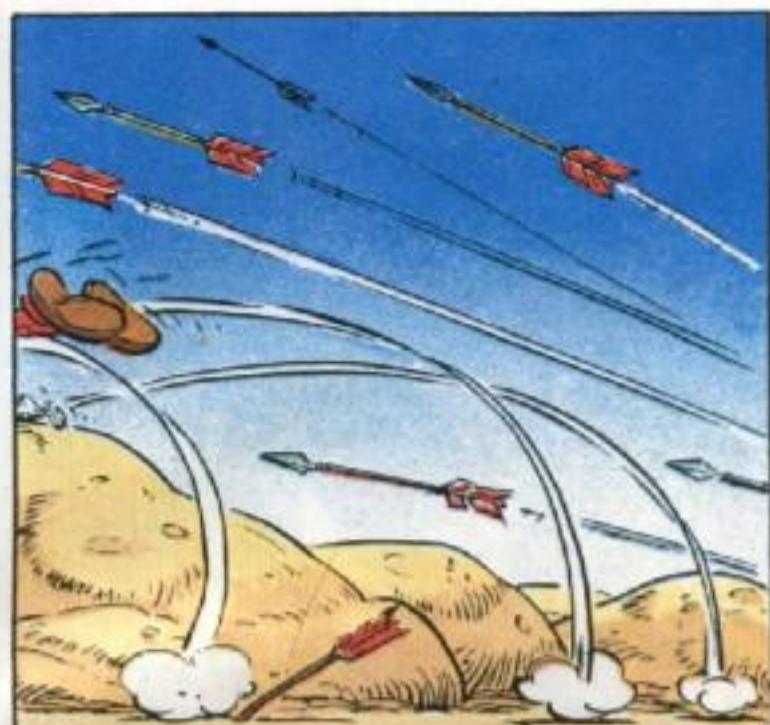
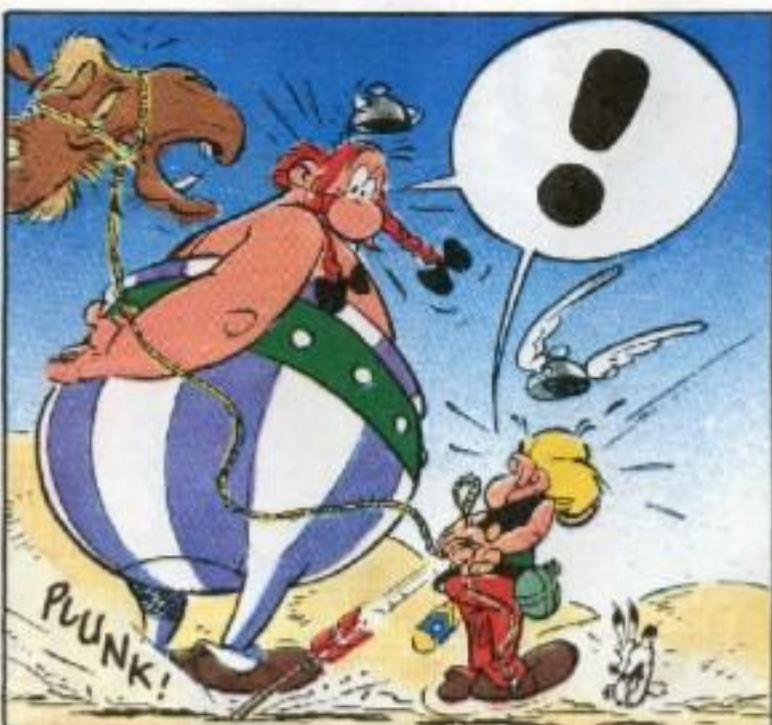
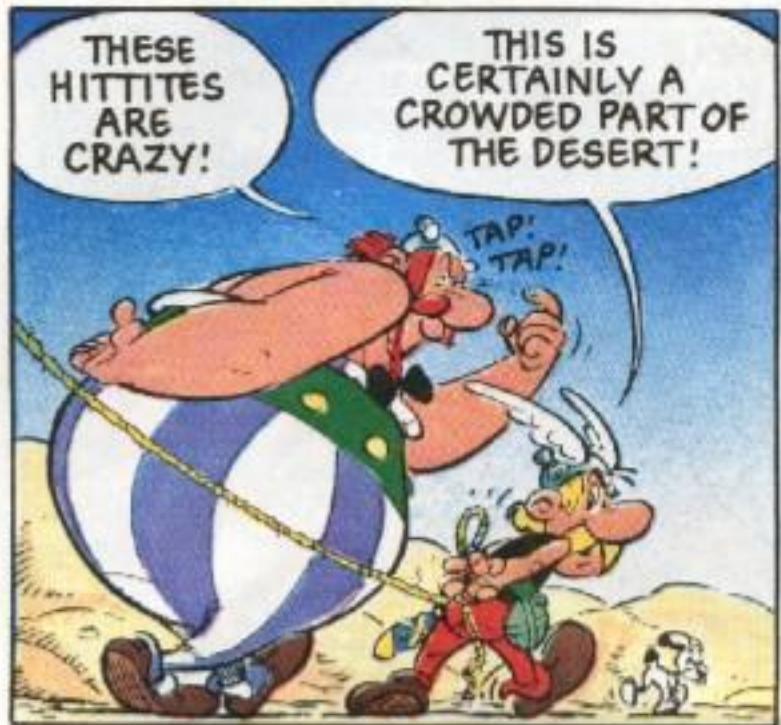
? !?

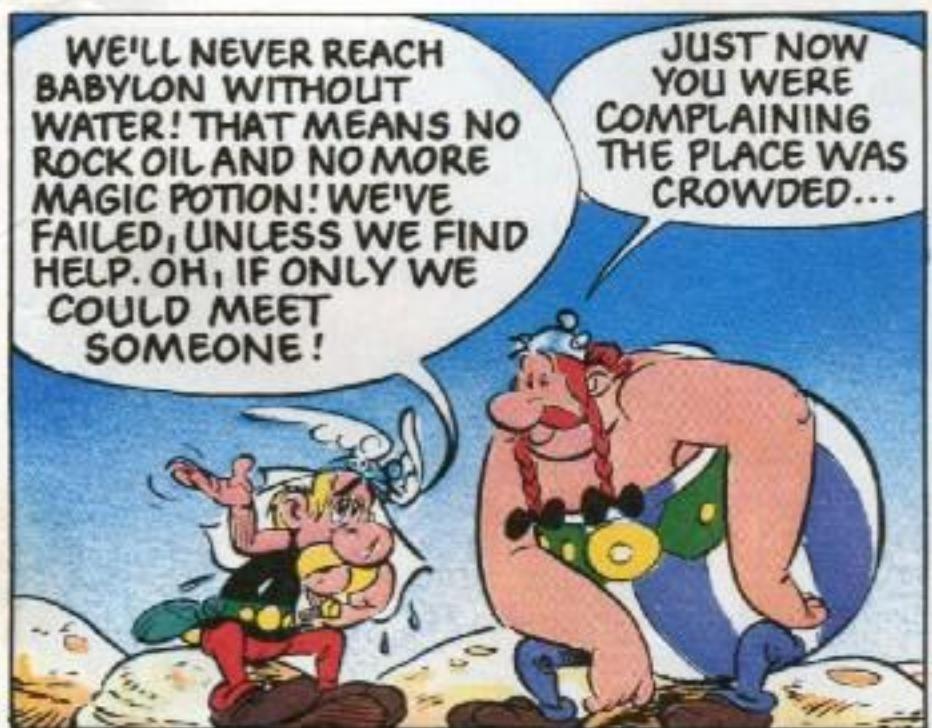
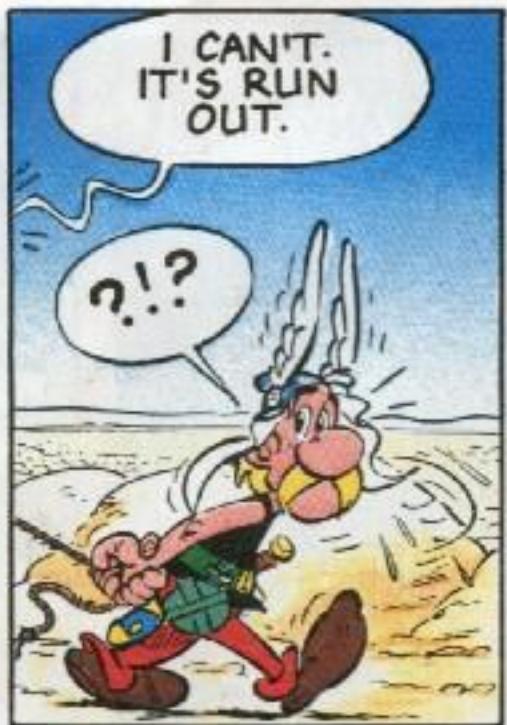
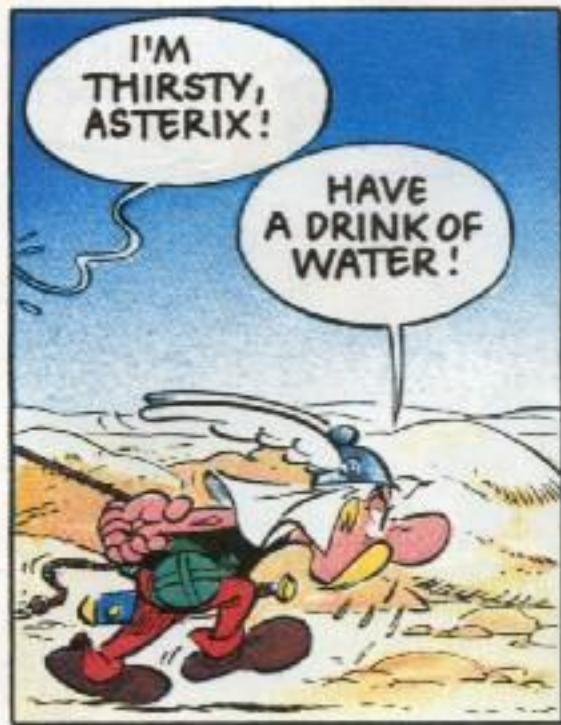
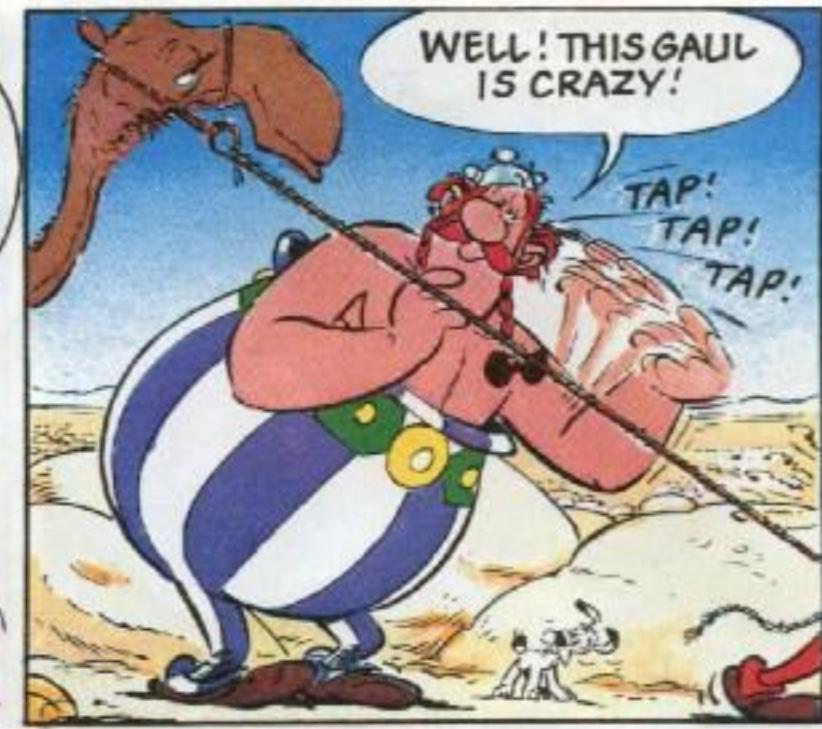
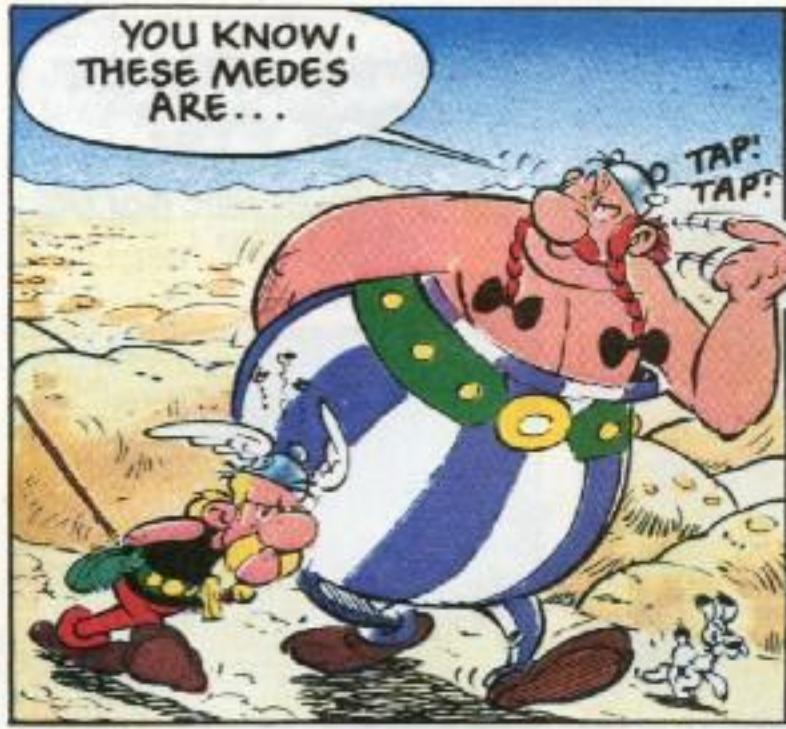
31A



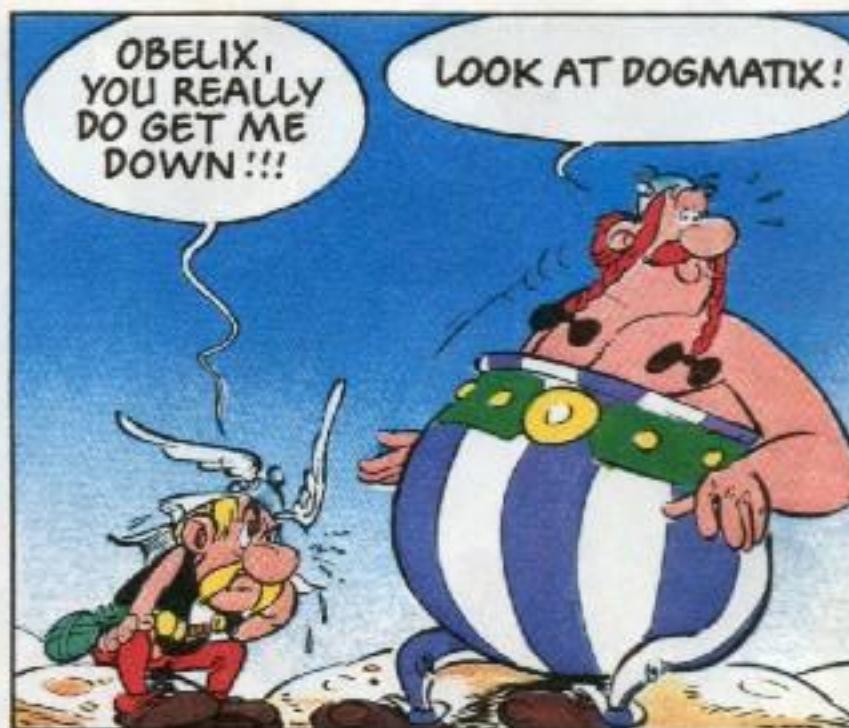








JUST NOW
YOU WERE
COMPLAINING
THE PLACE WAS
CROWDED...



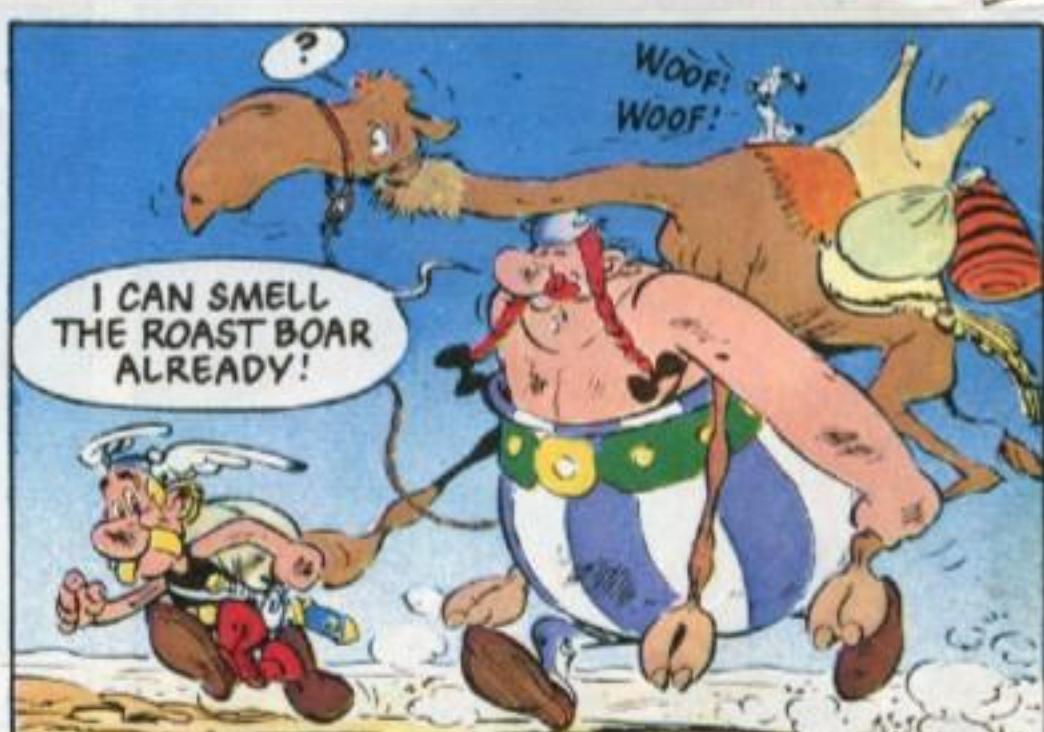
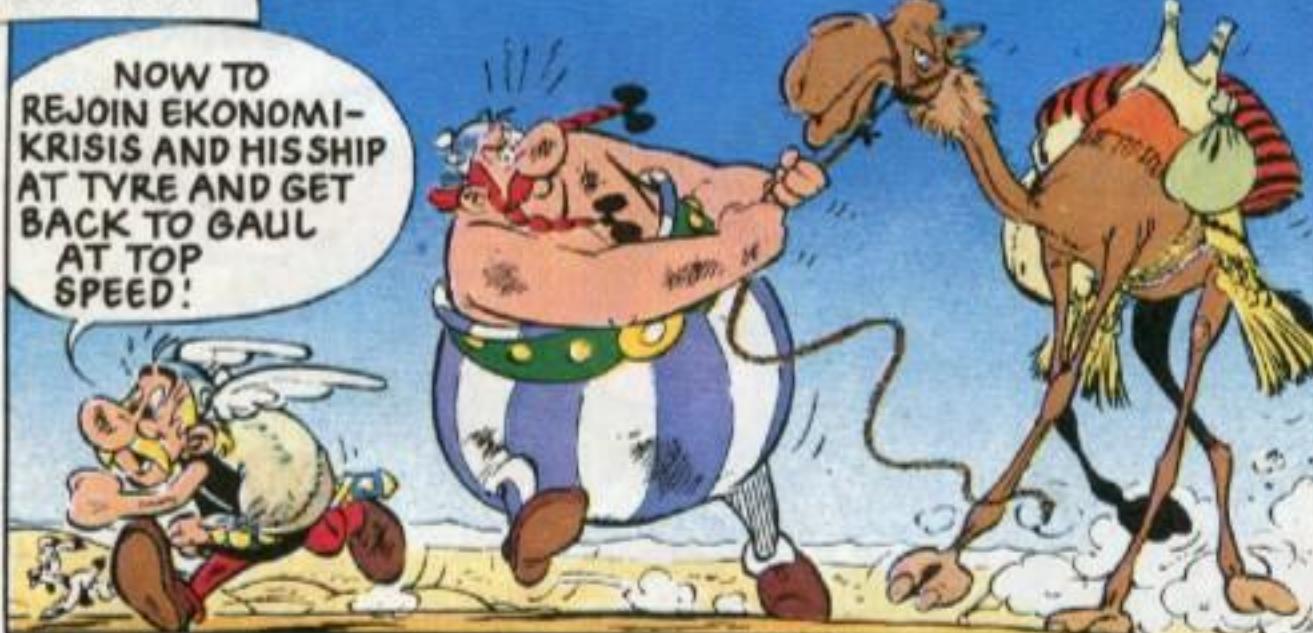


DIDN'T I TELL YOU
DOGMATIX COULD
FIND ANYTHING?

I'VE REPAIRED THE WATER SKIN.
LET'S FILL IT WITH OIL AND GET
OUT OF THIS DESERT FAST!



LATER...



BUT IN PREFECT CLASSIS
TYRANNICUS'S PALACE IN TYRE...

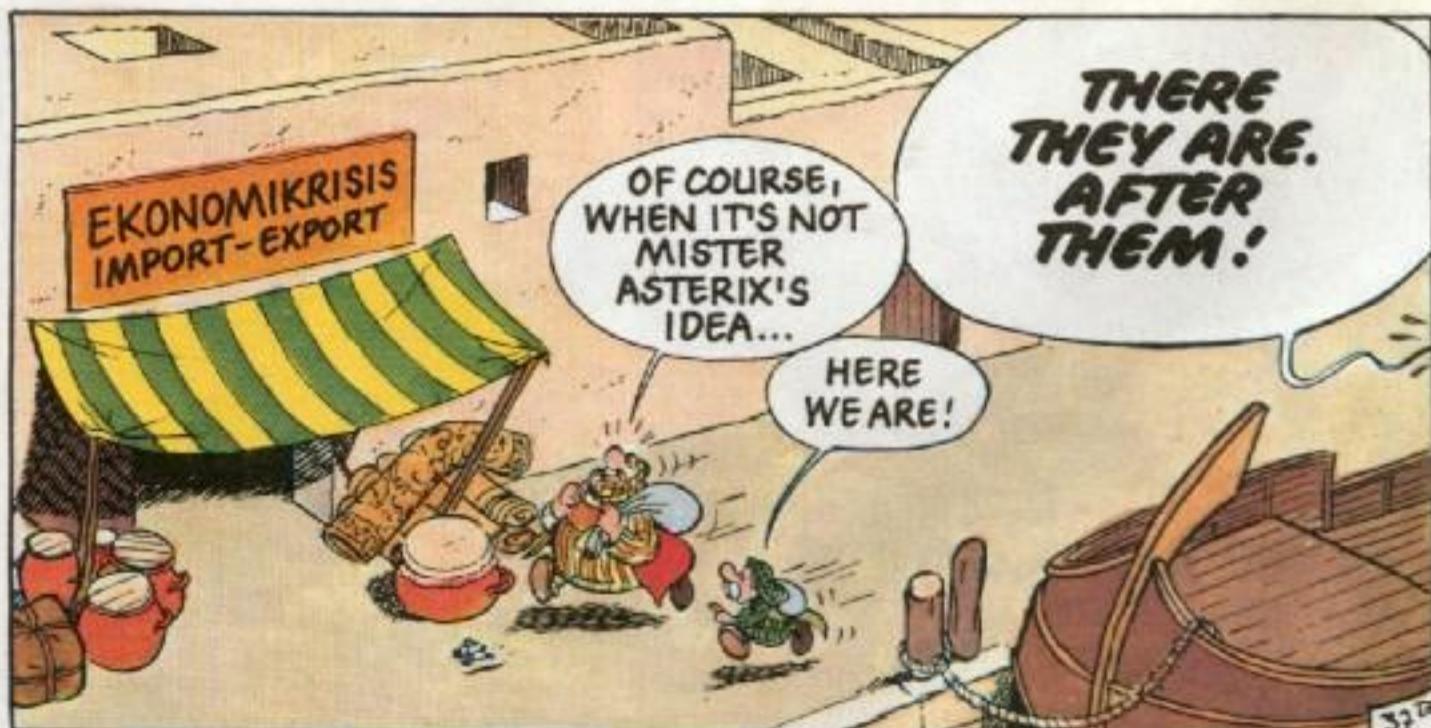
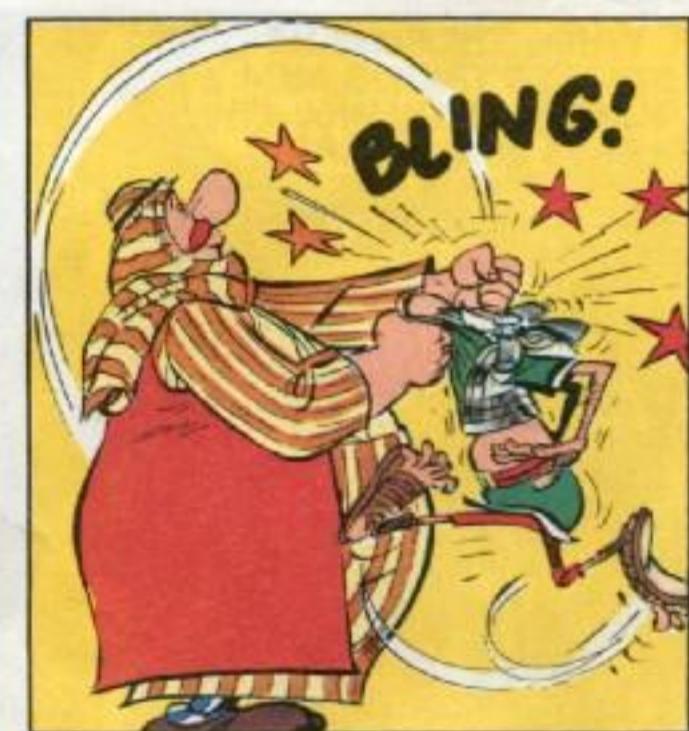
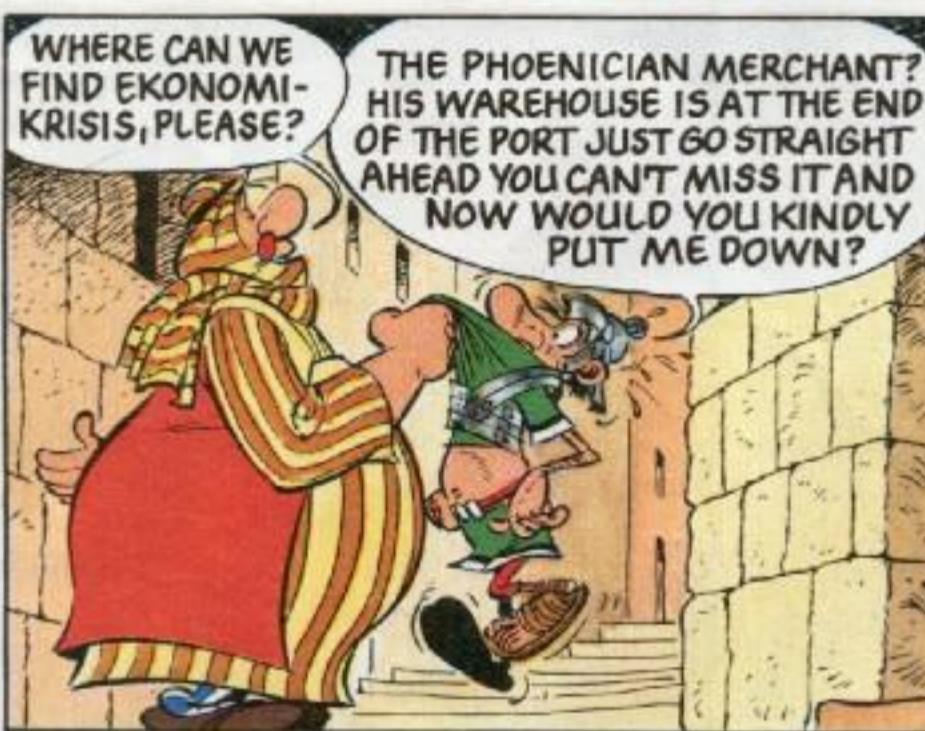
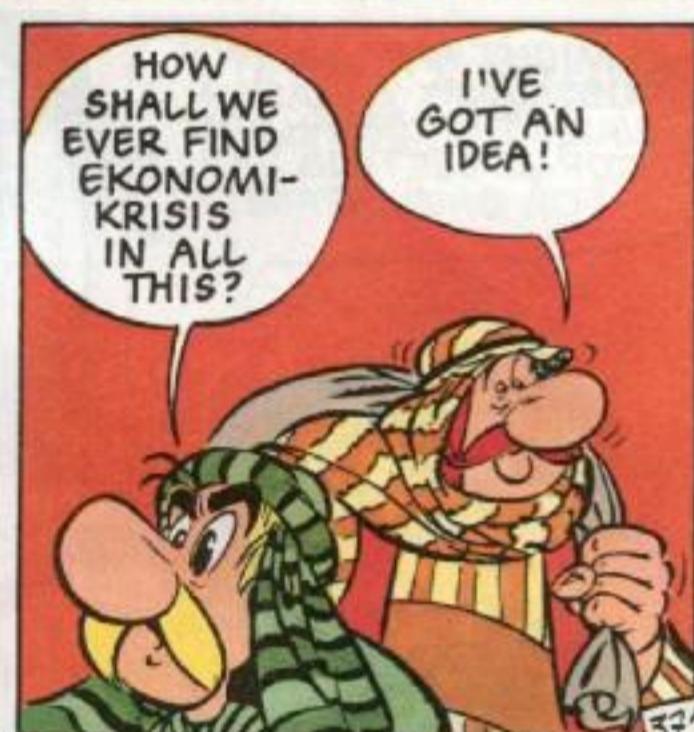
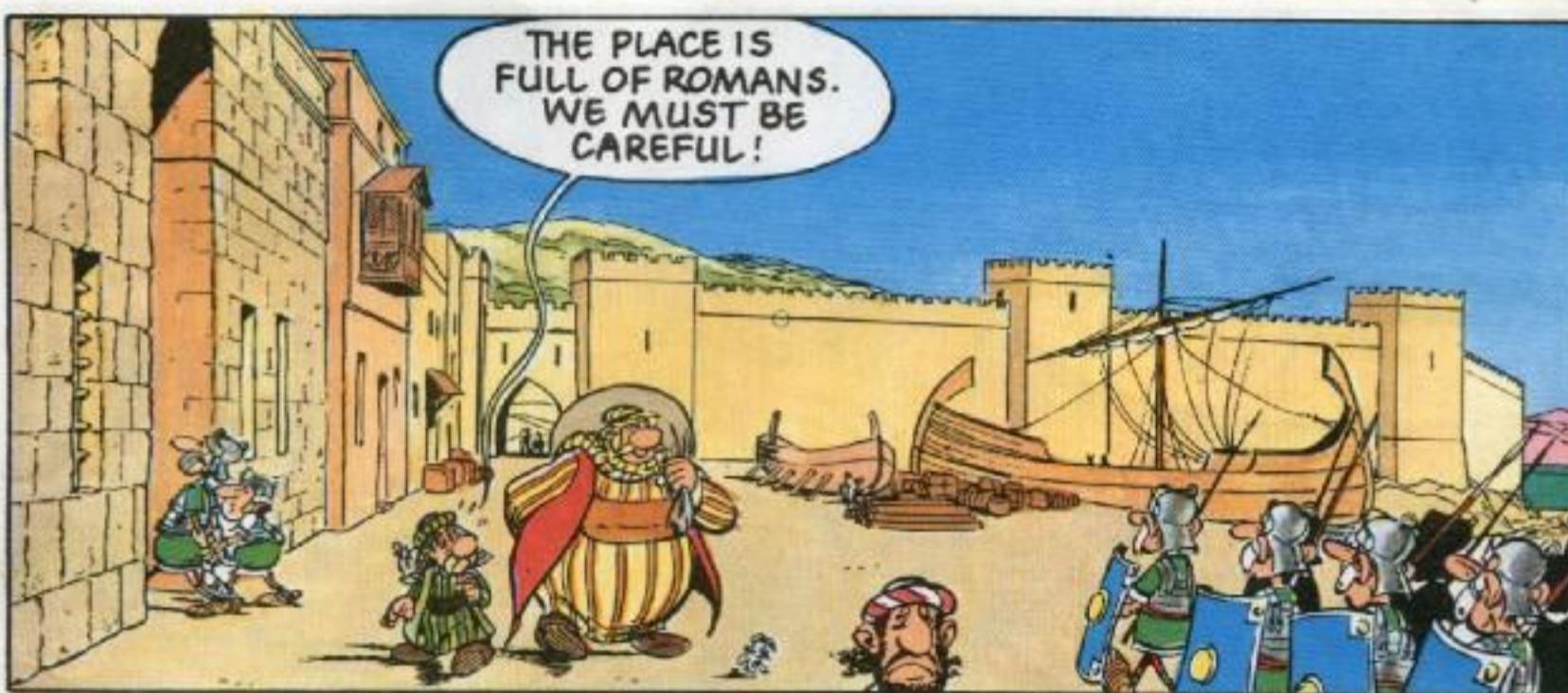
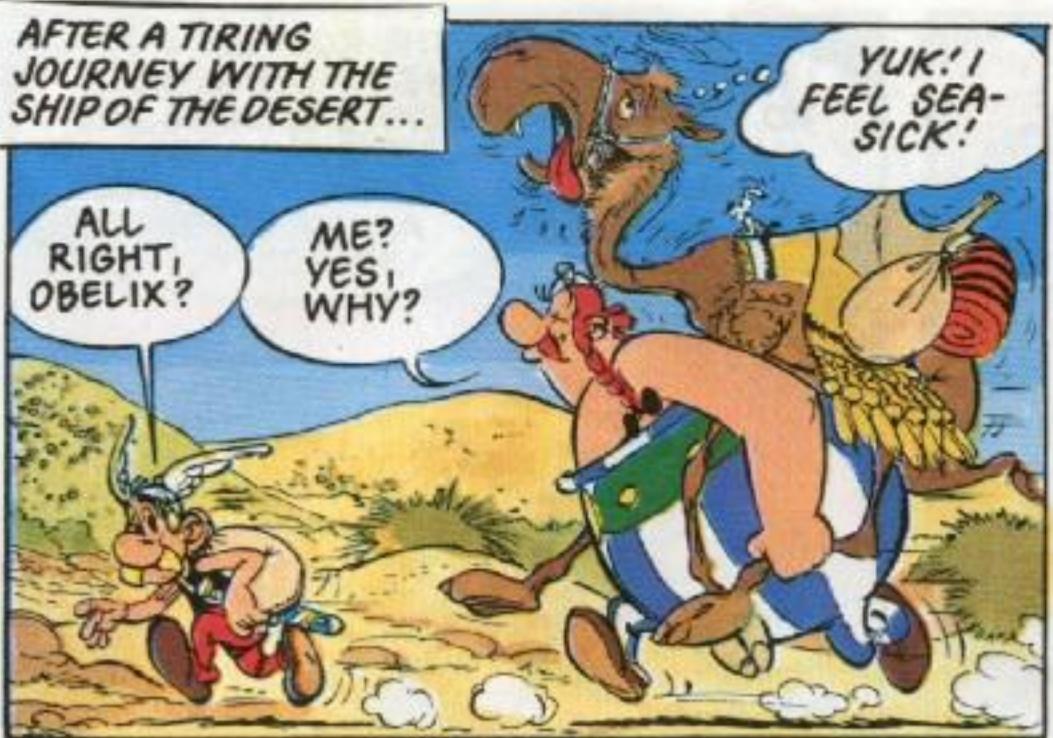


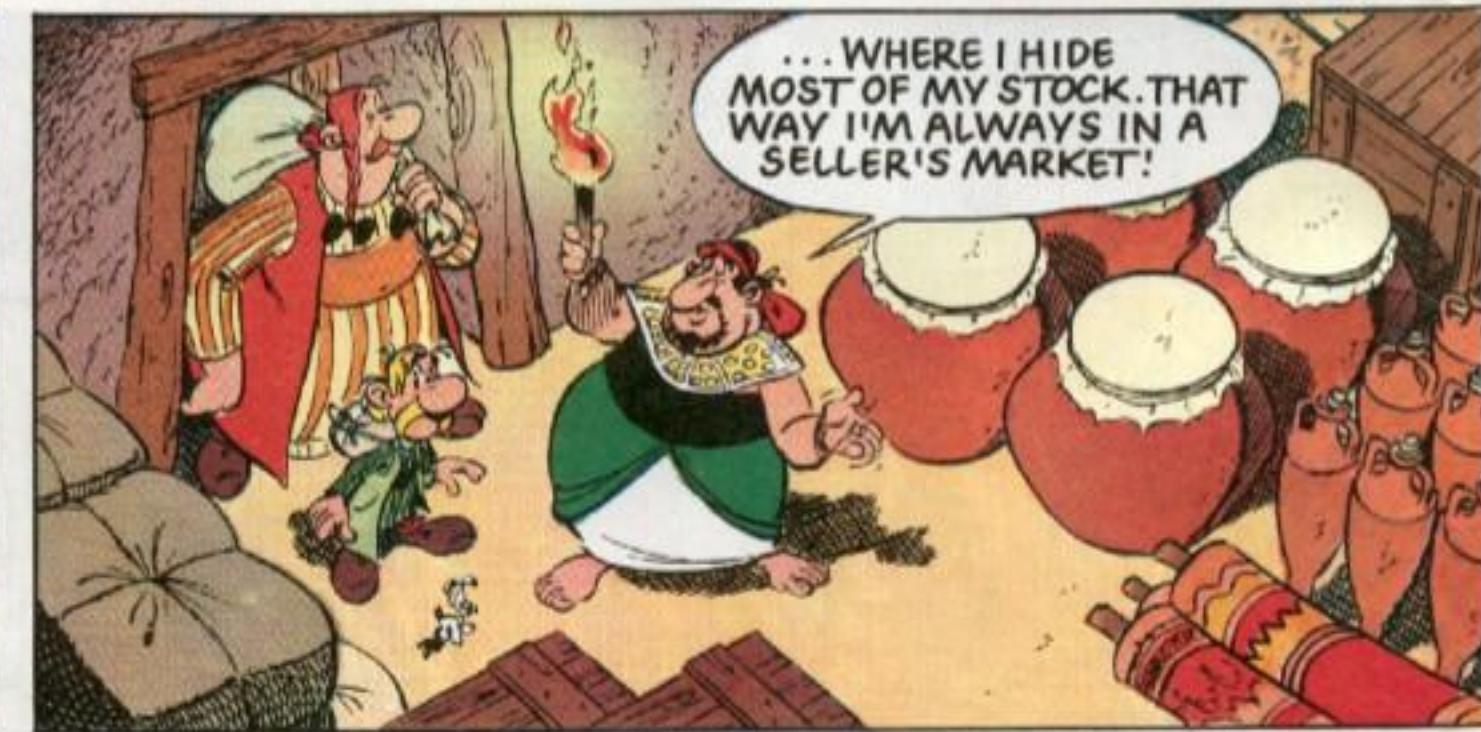
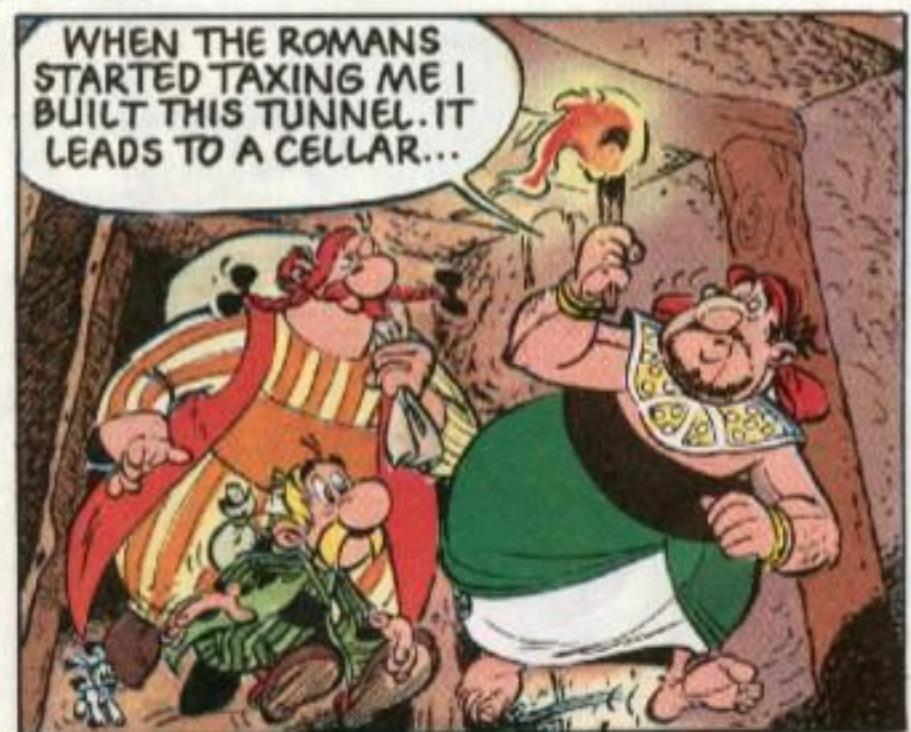
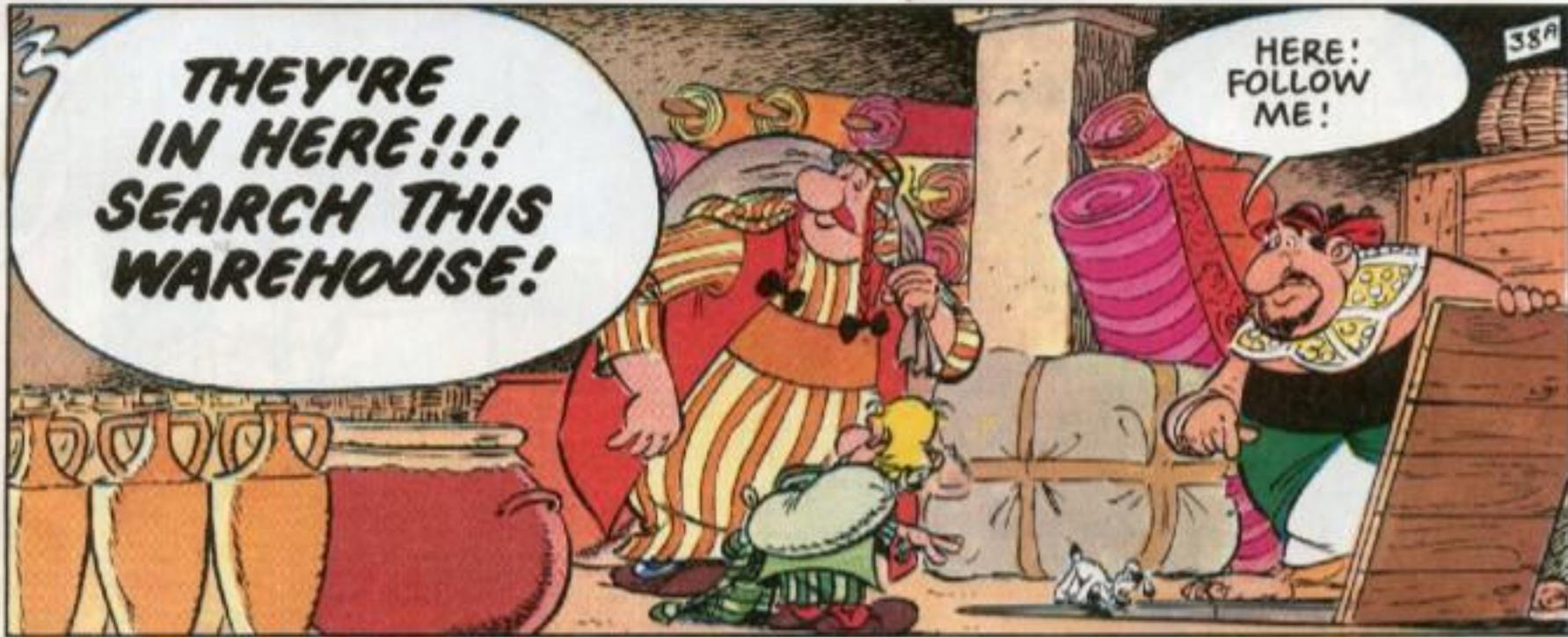
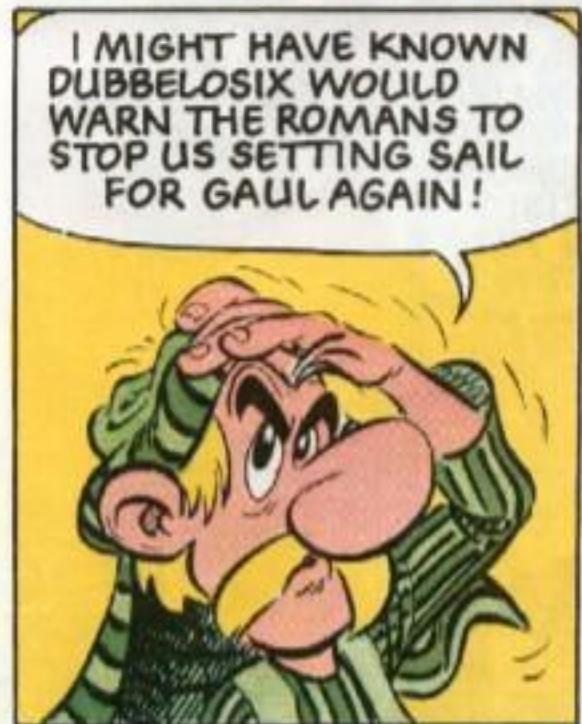
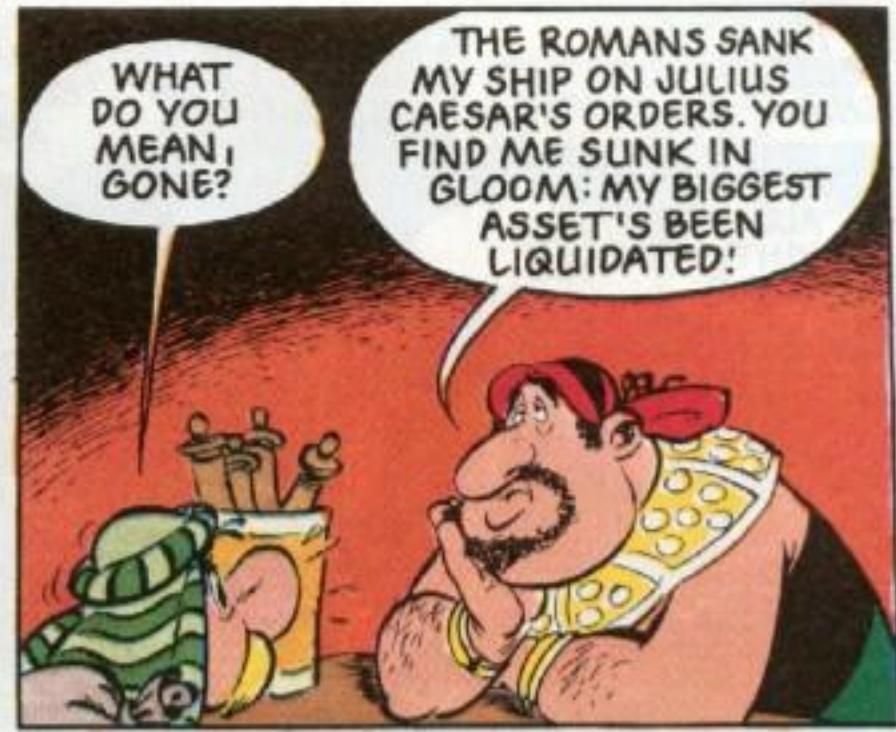
I AM SENT BY
CAESAR, WHO HAS JUST
GOT THIS MESSAGE
THROUGH TO ME. YOU ARE
TO GIVE ORDERS TO HAVE ALL
MERCHANT VESSELS ABOUT
TO SET SAIL FOR GAUL
DESTROYED AND SUNK!

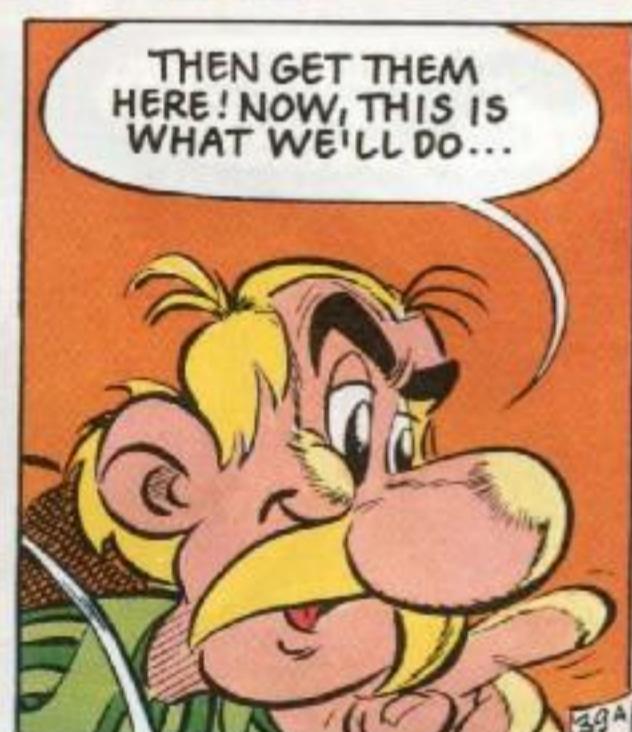
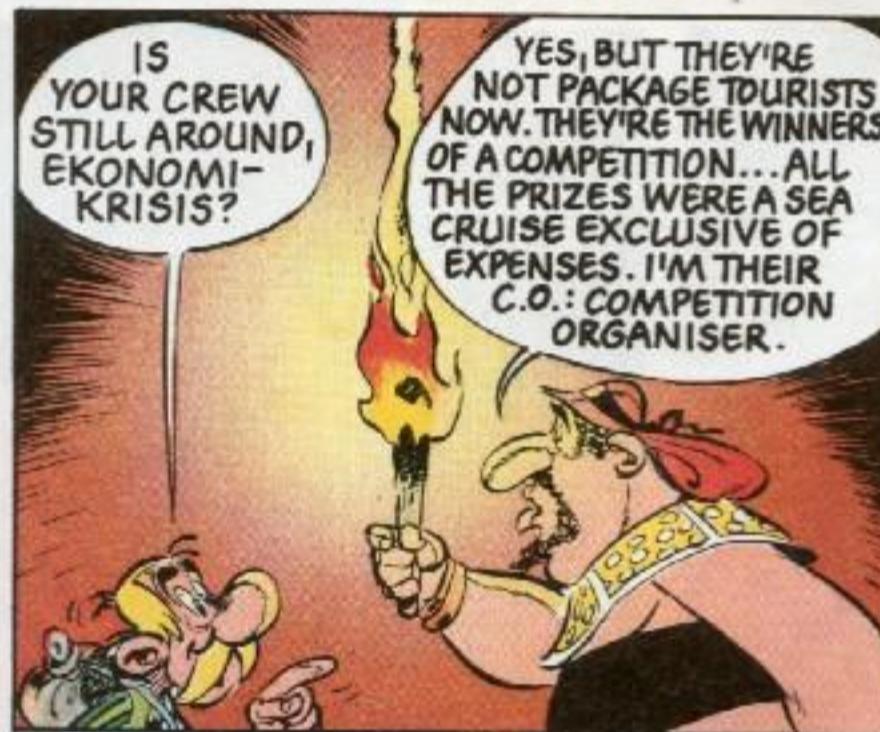
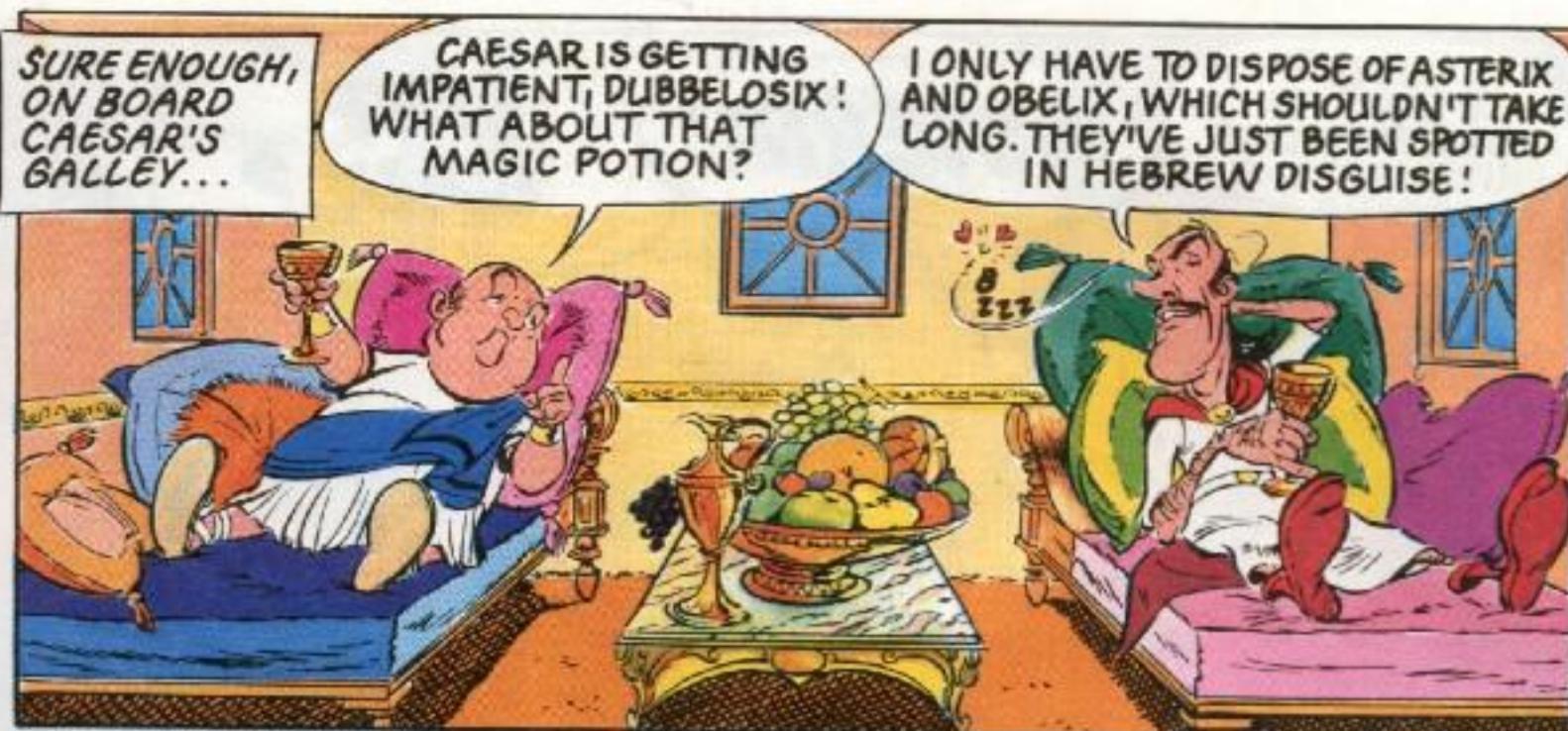
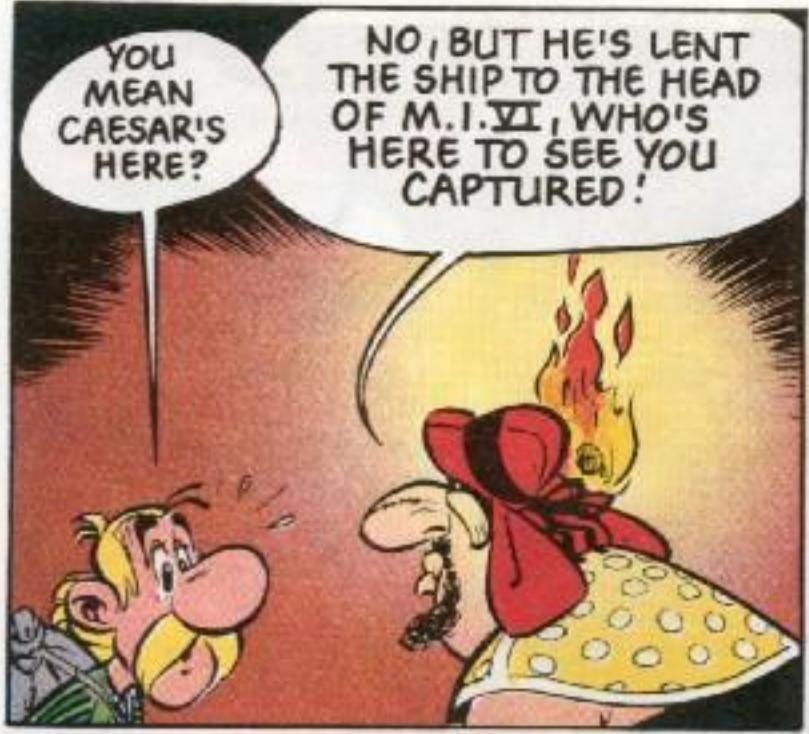
TALK ABOUT
WINGED WORDS! YOUR
MESSENDER DID WELL
TO DO THE JOURNEY
FROM ROME TO TYRE
SO FAST!

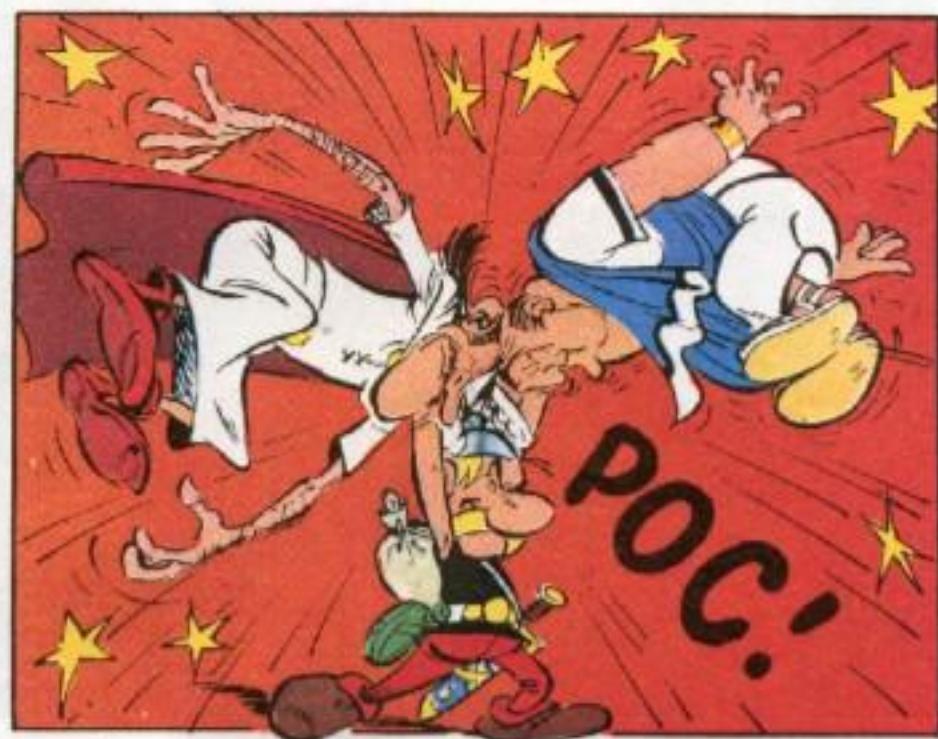
YES, A
REALLY TOP FLIGHT
MESSENDER!











THE RETURN JOURNEY IS
A PLEASANT IF ROUTINE
KIND OF CRUISE...

PIRATE
SHIP AHOOY,
C.O.!

CUSTOMERS!

ROMAN
GALLEY TO
STARBOARD!

WE'RE NEUTRAL!
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!
I WAIVE THIS ONE...LET
THE ROMANS RULE THE
WAVES!

BUT THEY'RE
NOT WAVERING!
THEY'RE GIVING
CHASE!

LATER...

FOUR
THOUSAND
SESTERTII!
THAT'S
IT!

BUT
THAT'S
TWICE LAST
TIME'S
PRICE!

YOU
KNOW HOW
IT IS WITH THE
INFLATION!

HOW
WOULD YOU LIKE TO
GO INTO BUSINESS
WITH ME!

AVE
ATQUE
VALE!

NEVER MIND THE
VEILED REFERENCES,
HOW AM I GOING TO
SELL THIS LOT?

FLOAT A
COMPANY!

WELL, WE ARE
BRINGING ROCK OIL
BACK TO GAUL IN
SPITE OF YOU,
DUBBELOSIX!

!?
I'M NOT
SO SURE ABOUT
THAT!

NO, OBELIX!
NOOO!

PRRR FFFFFF

BONG!

WOOF!
WOOF!

AND THE WATERS OF THE
CHANNEL ARE POLLUTED
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
HISTORY.

OH NO!
DON'T SAY
YOU'RE STARTING
ALREADY?!



