

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix and the **SECRET WEAPON**

Written and illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

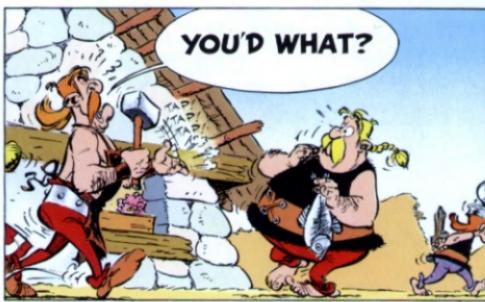
An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE SECRET WEAPON

Written and Illustrated by ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by ANTHEA BELL and DEREK HOCKRIDGE







CHIEF
VITALSTATIX!
CACOFONIX IS
PLANNING TO
LEAVE US OVER A
WOMAN BARD!

YOU MEAN
HE'S IN
LOVE?

NO, BUT HE'S ALL UPSET TO
THINK HE'S BEING REPLACED
BY A WOMAN FROM OUTSIDE
THE VILLAGE!

OH, I HAVE EVERY FAITH IN
US! WE'LL SEE THIS WOMAN
BARD OFF IN DOUBLE-
QUICK TIME!

MEANWHILE WE MUST
PERSUADE CACOFONIX TO
STAY. HE'S EXCELLENT
COMPANY WHEN HE DOESN'T
SING!

THE WHOLE VILLAGE
ASKS YOU NOT TO
LEAVE, CACOFONIX!

FAREWELL, YOU UN-
GRATEFUL LOT! QUALIS
ARTIFEX PEREO!*

* WHAT AN ARTIST PERISHES
WITH ME! (LATIN SAYING
WRONGLY ATTRIBUTED
TO NERO)

LOOK... JUST TO SHOW
HOW FOND WE ARE OF YOU,
WE'RE EVEN WILLING TO...
TO LET YOU SING!

OH NO, YOU WON'T
GET ME TO SING! OH
NO, YOU WON'T GET
ME TO SING!!!

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING,
CACOFONIX?

I AM RETIRING TO MY LITTLE
PIED-A-LAIR IN THE HEART
OF THE FOREST TO MEDITATE
ON MAN'S INGRATITUDE!

IT'S SAD TO SEE
OUR BARD LEAVE
THE VILLAGE!

YES, THOUGH IT'S NOT
ALWAYS THE BEST WHO
ARE TAKEN!

IS THIS THE
VILLAGE OF
LOONIES?

!?

*A BARD'S
SECOND HOME



LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT
ALWAYS THE BEST WHO
REPLACE THEM, EITHER!



PFFFFFEEH!
HEEEHEE!

SO YOU'RE THE...
WHAT DO WE CALL
YOU? BARDESS?
BARDETTE?

SUCH AN ORELIN!

JUST BARD! MY NAME IS
BRAVURA, AND TELL
YOUR HYSTERICAL FRIEND
TO STOP THAT SIGH
GIGGLING OR I SHALL LOSE
MY TEMPER!

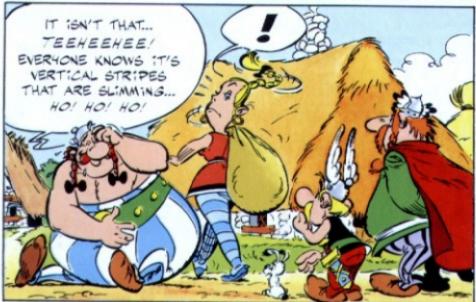


HOHOHA HAHA!

ER... PLEASE
FORGIVE MY FRIEND.
HE'S NEVER SEEN
A WOMAN WEARING
THE BREECHES
BEFORE!

YOU IGNORANT RUSTICS!
ORIENTAL 'DOEANS',
LEVIK AND LEGGINGS
LIKE THESE ARE ALL
THE RAGE IN LUTETIA!

IT ISN'T THAT...
TEHEEEHEE!
EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S
VERTICAL STRIPES
THAT ARE SLIMMING...
HO! HO! HO!



RIGHT, FATSO, LET'S
SEE IF YOU'RE AS STRONG
ON MATHEMATICS AS
AESTHETICS! SAY YOUR
III TIMES TABLE!

EASH! ONE TIMES THREE
IS ASTERIX, DOGMATIX
AND ME, BUT THREE TIMES
BOARS MAKES A LOT MORE
ON THE TABLE, OF
COURSE!

RIGHT. I WANT TO SEE
YOU AND YOUR STRIPES
IN MY CLASS TOMORROW;
GET IT?

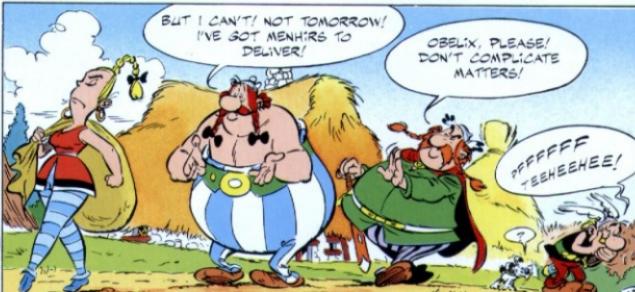


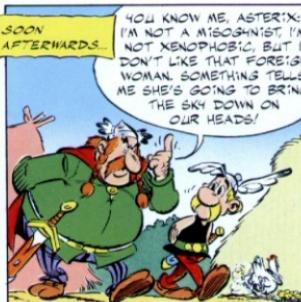
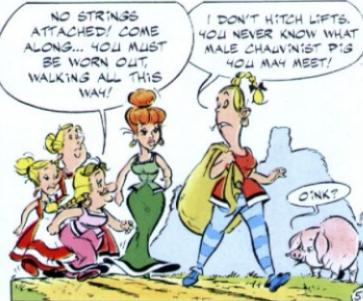
BUT I CAN'T! NOT TOMORROW!
I'VE GOT MENHIRS TO
DELIVER!

OBELIX, PLEASE!
DON'T COMPLICATE
MATTERS!

PFFFFF
TEHEEEHEE!

BONG!
BONG!
BONG!





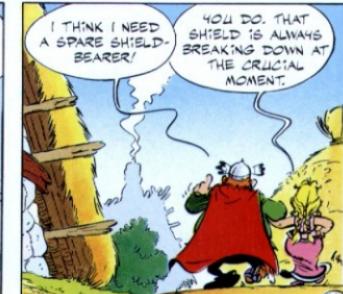
A PARTY IN
HONOUR OF
THAT... THAT
BARD! HUMPH!
HONESTLY!

OH, I SEE! JUST FOR ONCE
WE WELCOME A PERSON OF
QUALITY AND EDUCATION
TO THE VILLAGE, AND
MISTER VITALSTATISTIX
DON'T LIKE IT!

I DARE SAY HE'D
PREFER THE BORING
COMPANY OF THOSE
COARSE, UNCULTIVATED
BOORS WHO CHOSE HIM
AS CHIEF!

LISTEN,
'PEDIMENTA
DEAR...

AND STOP CALLING
ME 'PEDIMENTA!
IT'S COMMON!
RIDICULOUS!



I DIDN'T THINK
THERE COULD
BE WOMEN
BARDS!

WE ARE ENTERING THE
MODERN ERA OF THE
ANCIENT WORLD, ASTERIX,
WHEN ANYTHING MAY
HAPPEN!

SO IT'S ONLY RIGHT FOR A
WOMAN TO BE CONSIDERED
THE EQUAL OF A MAN, WITH ALL
THE ASPIRATIONS AND
AMBITIONS HITHERTO
DENIED HER!

YOU MEAN
THERE COULD
BE WOMEN
DRUIDS
TOO?

OH, COME ON,
ASTERIX, BE
SERIOUS!



DO TELL US ABOUT
GAY LUTETIA, DEAR
BRAVURA! I HEAR IT'S
BECOMING A GREAT
CITY!

YES, IT'S
REALLY
CAPITAL!

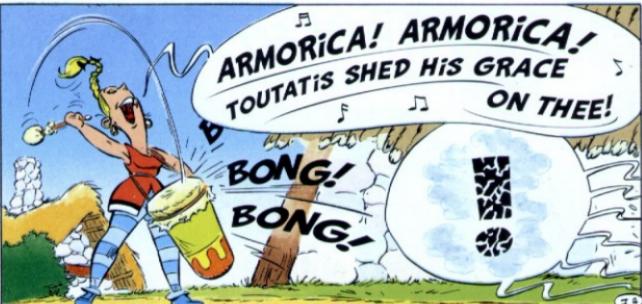
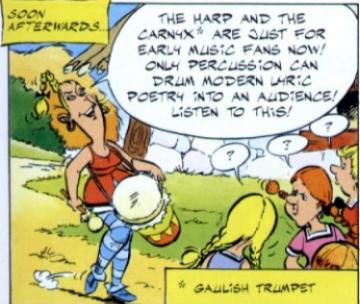
WHAT ARE
THE SUMMER
FASHIONS THIS
YEAR?

DO YOU THINK ORIENTAL
DJEANS OR LEGGINGS
WOULD FLATTER MY
FIGURE?

WELCOME TO OUR NEW



A SONG! A SONG!



NIGHT BRINGS THE
VILLAGE PEACE AND CALM...

BROKEN ONLY BY THE SNORING OF THE
VILLAGE COCKEREL WHOSE ADENOIDS
ARE STILL GIVING HIM TROUBLE.

IN LUTETIA'S FAIR CITY
WHERE GIRLS ARE
SO PRETTY...

RRRRRR!
ZZZZ!

BOOM!
BOOM!

LOCK-A-
WHAT'S...

I FIRST SET
MY EYES...

BOOM!
BOOM!

ON SWEET
MOLLIA
MALONUS

...AS SHE
WHEELED HER
WHEELBARROW

BOOM!
BOOM!
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

AND YOU CALL
THAT A PERSON
OF QUALITY AND
EDUCATION?!

SO! BARDS DON'T
CLOCK-WATCH!

...THROUGH
STREETS BROAD
AND NARROW...

MUCH THE SAME
AS CACOFONIX,
EXCEPT IT
ISN'T RAINING!

BOOM!
BOOM!

BOOM!
BOOM!

SHE
WAS REALLY
GETTING
ME DOWN!

GETTING YOU DOWN!
MALE CHAUVINIST
BOAR!

...CRYING
CARDIA AND
MYTILI...

BOOM!
BOOM!
CHOP!
CHOP!

...ALIVE-ALIVE
OOOOOH!

CRAASH!

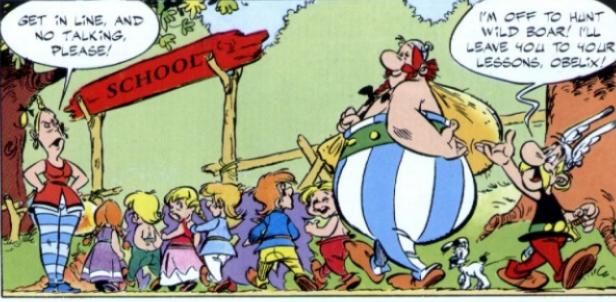
DON'T CRY, DOGMATIX!
I'LL ASK GETAFIX TO
MAKE THE TREE GROW
AGAIN TOMORROW!

EEEEEH!

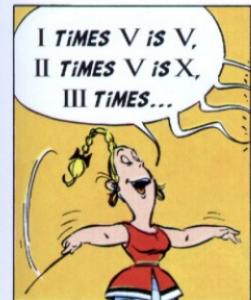
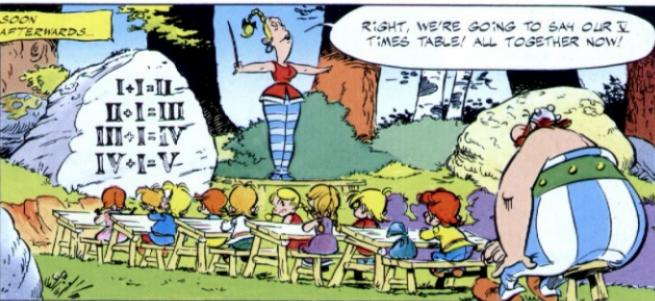
EEEEEH!

WOOOAHHH!

NEXT DAY...



MY LUNCH-BUNDLE!
THAT'S NOT FORBIDDEN, I HOPE?



AT THIS VERY
MOMENT, IN
ROME...

WELL, MANILIUS CLAPHAMONIBUS, HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT 'VERY SPECIAL CENTURY' YOU WERE GOING TO RECRUIT?

IT'S READY TO GO, O CAESAR! YOUR NEW SECRET WEAPON MERELY AWAITS YOUR ORDERS TO EMBARK!

I DON'T WANT ANY WITNESSES TO THIS BUSINESS. UNDERSTAND?

NO WITNESSES!

EVERY PRECAUTION SHALL BE TAKEN, O CAESAR, I SWEAR IT!

IF THE EXISTENCE OF YOUR CENTURY BECAME KNOWN, I SHOULD BE VULNERABLE TO MY ENEMIES IN THE SENATE AND THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF ROME! SO WATCH IT, CLAPHAMONIBUS!

AND THUS A ROMAN SHIP, CARRYING CAESAR'S MYSTERIOUS SECRET WEAPON, SETS SAIL IN THE DIRECTION OF GAUL!

POOR OBELIX! WHAT A PITY HE COULDN'T COME ON THIS HUNT...

...HE'D HAVE HAD SUCH FUN!

A LITTLE LATER, IN THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM

BY JUPITER! ANYONE WOULD THINK ALL GALL HAD BEEN TRAMPLING OVER YOU!

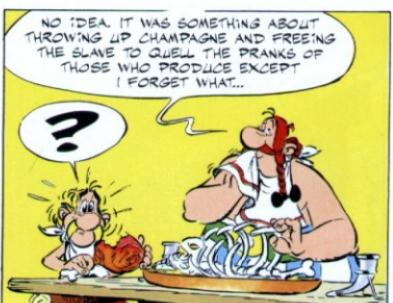
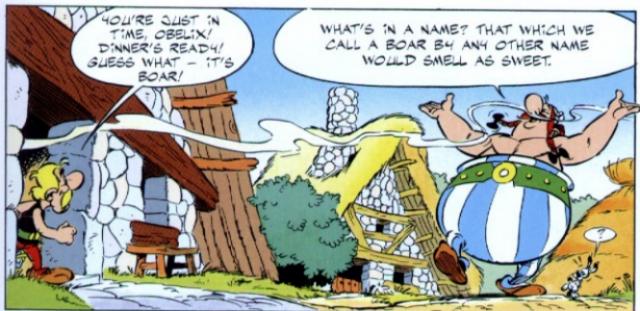
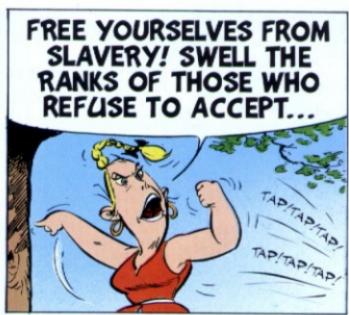
IT FEELS LIKE IT, FENTURION!

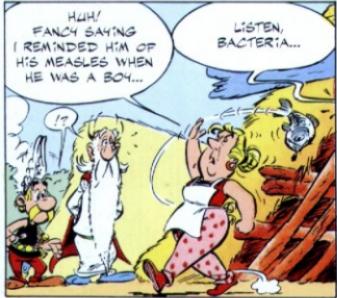
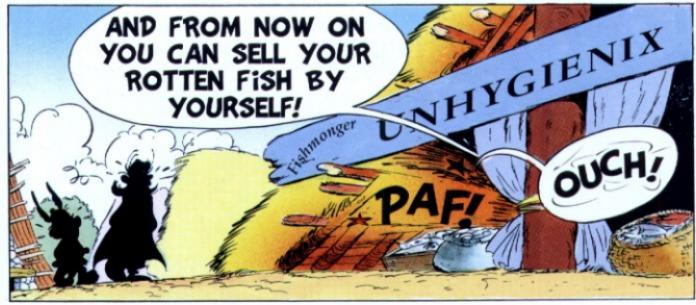
WE BUMPED INTO A BOAR...

...AND THAT LITTLE STINKER FROM THE VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GALLS!

GLORIA VICTIS!

BEAR UP, BOYS! ROME HAS PROMISED TO SEND OUR RELIEF SOON!





YOU MAY BE WEARING THE BREECHES,
BUT YOU NEEDN'T THINK YOU CAN EMULATE
OUR PROUD MASCULINE BEARING!



THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETS...

WE MUST GO AND TELL THAT BARD SHE'S REDUNDANT BEFORE THINGS GET ANY WORSE. SHE MUST LEAVE THE VILLAGE.

I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE WARRIOR PROUD AND BRAVE ENOUGH TO BREAK THAT NEWS!

WHO?

YOU! ASTERIX!

OH NO! WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?

I'M NO PROUDER OR BRAVER THAN THE NEXT MAN, AND I'M REALLY NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS SORT OF...

ASTERIX, PLEASE! DON'T COMPLICATE MATTERS!

MISSION

BE FIRM AND UNFLINCHING, ASTERIX!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ASTERIX?

GUESS!

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE ME? (I MEAN, I'M A BACHELOR! NONE OF THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME!)

SOMETIMES I REALLY ENVY CACOFONIX LIVING IN THE DEPTHS OF THE FOREST!

SIGH...

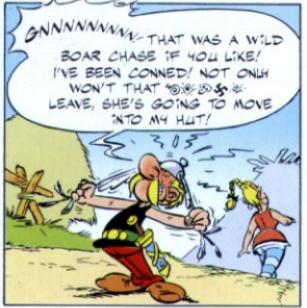
MA'AM... ER... I'VE BEEN SENT TO TELL YOU THAT...

AH, YOU'RE THE LITTLE FELLOW WHO ISN'T AFRAID OF THE BIG BOYS?

YOU KNOW, I LIKE YOU! I WANTED A WORD WITH YOU MYSELF!

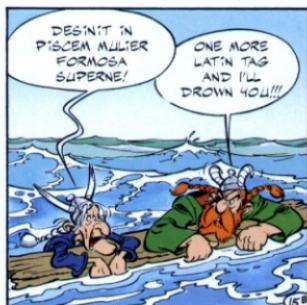
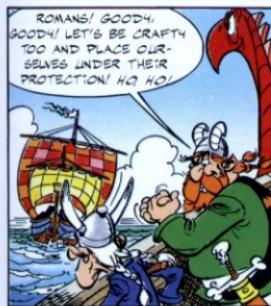
SLAP!

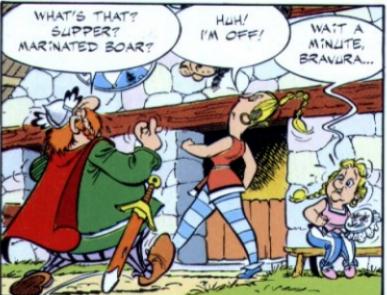
TONIGHT GAULISH WOMEN'S MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

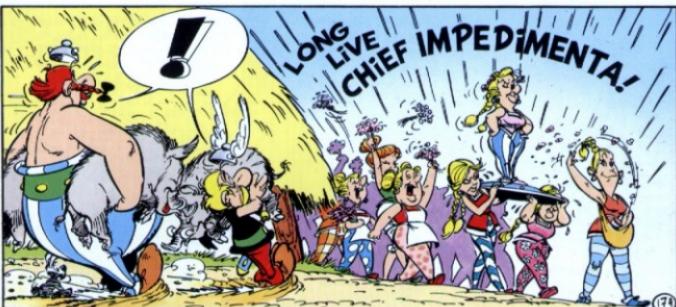
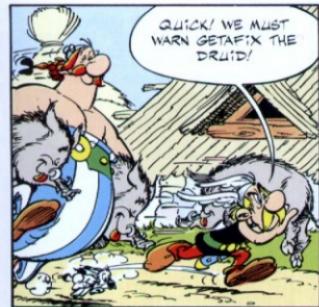


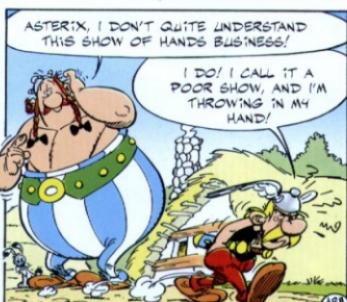
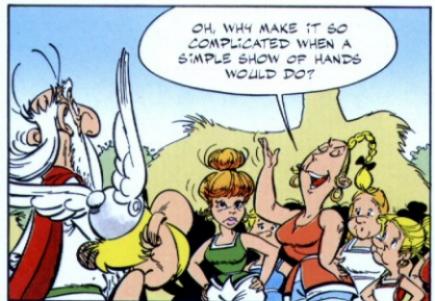
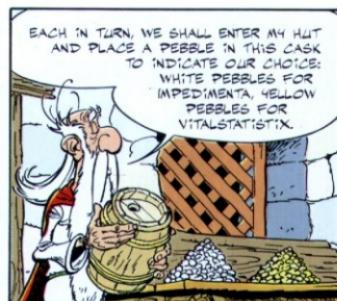
MEANWHILE, IN THE PEACE
AND QUIET OF THE
ARMORICAN FOREST...

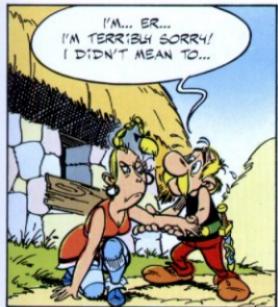
I'M
SERGEANT PEPPUS'
LONELY HEARTS
CLUB BAND...

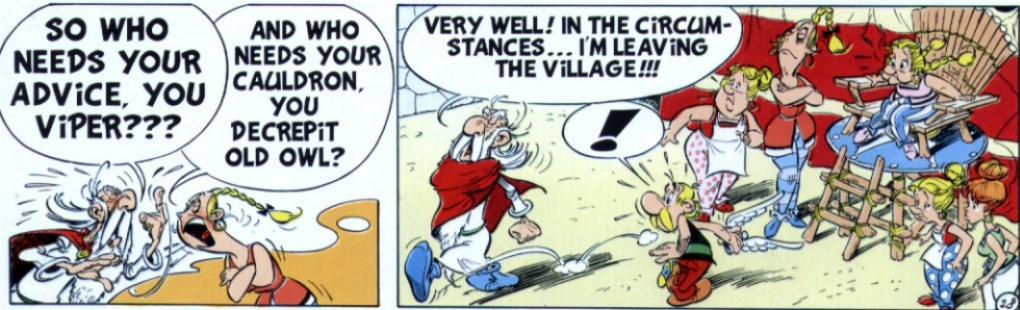
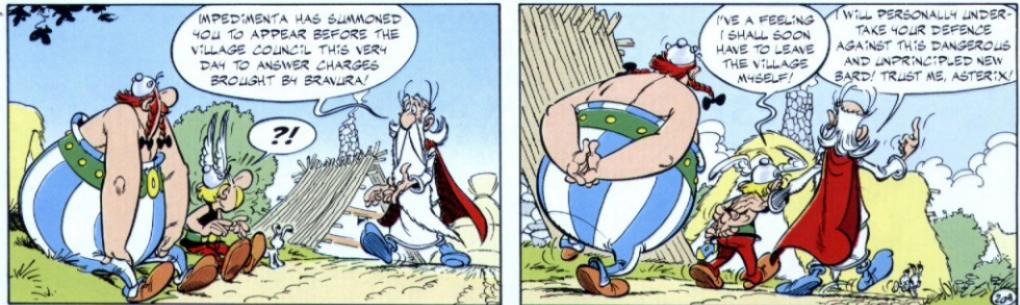
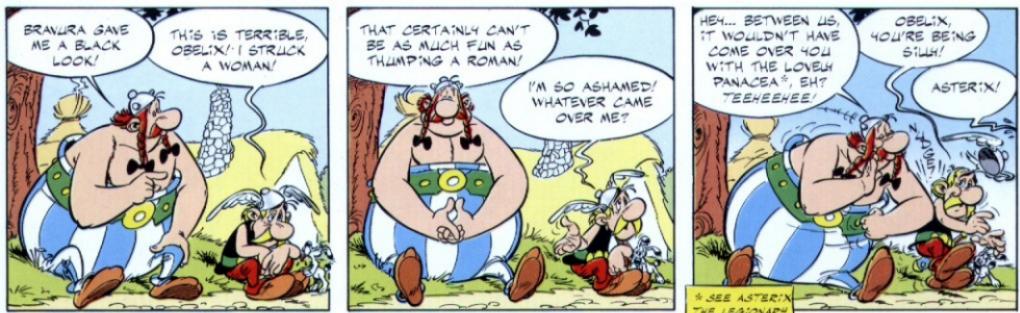


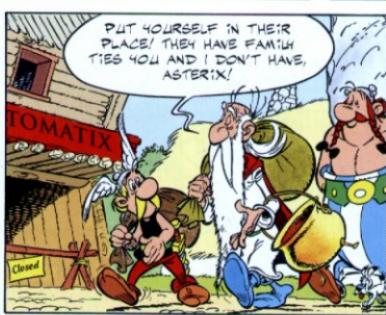
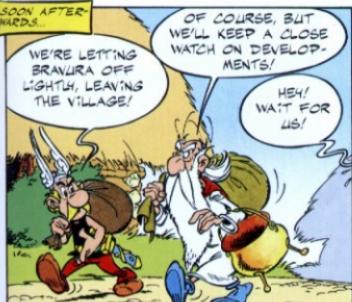












MEANWHILE, ON THE COAST NEAR THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM...

STAND BY TO DISEMBARK!

CREEEAK!

OH FOR SOME NICE SEA AIR!

I'LL ASK YOU TO BE PATIENT A LITTLE LONGER. DON'T COME OUT BEFORE I GIVE THE ORDER!

AND IN THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM...

SNIFF! THE GALLS HAB GOT A FORBIDDEN AND DAB DABEROUS WEAPOB...

...THEIR WRETCHES BARB WHO CAB OBH SING SO BADLY...

...THAT HE BRINGS DOWB THE CURSE OF THE GOBS WHIEVER HE SINGS!

QUOB ERAT DEMONSTRANBAAA...
TISHOOO!

IT'LL BE A GREAT RELIEF WHEN THE RELIEF GETS HERE!

THE RELIEF'S HERE, CENTURION!

ARE... ARE YOU THE RELIEF?

SO TO SPEAK! MY ORDERS FROM CAESAR ARE TO TELL YOU TO LEAVE CAMP BEFORE THE RELIEF RELIEVES YOU!

AND SUPPOSE I REFUSE TO LEAVE CAMP BEFORE THE RELIEF RELIEVES US?

THEN YOU'LL BE RELIEVED OF YOUR DUTIES AND GO TO RELIEVE THE MONOTONY OF THE DIET OF THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS!

WE'RE LEAVING CAMP!

MEANWHILE, IN THE FOREST SEPARATING THE VILLAGE FROM THE ROMAN CAMP.

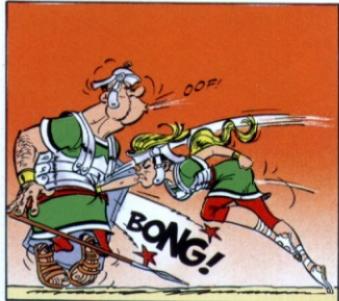
WE'RE NOT TOO BADLY OFF HERE WHILE WE WAIT FOR OUR GOOD LADIES TO SEE SENSE!

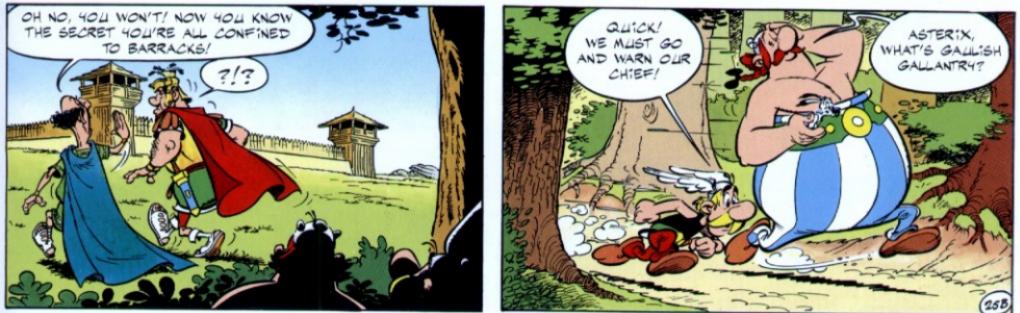
BUT WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD, IN CASE THE ROMANS TAKE THEIR CHANCE TO SEIZE THE VILLAGE!

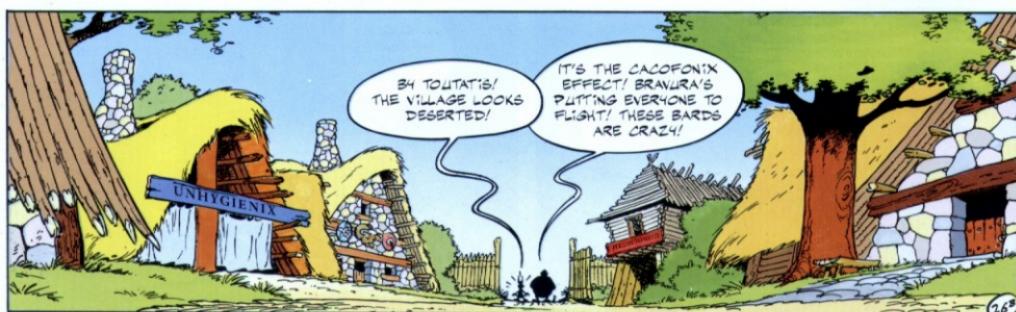
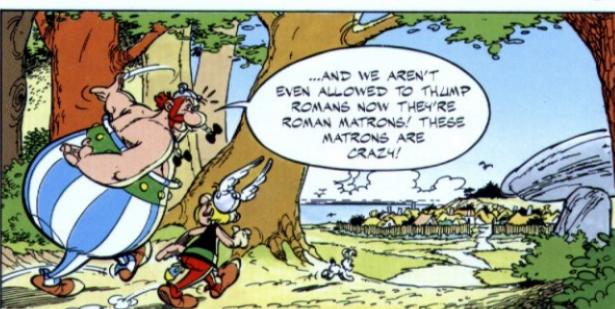
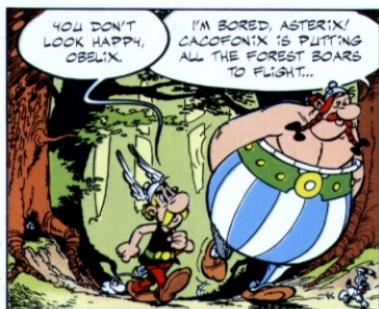
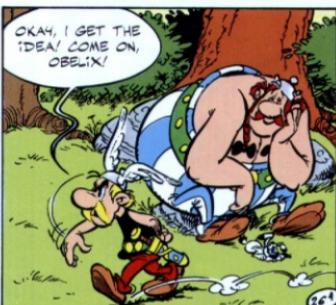
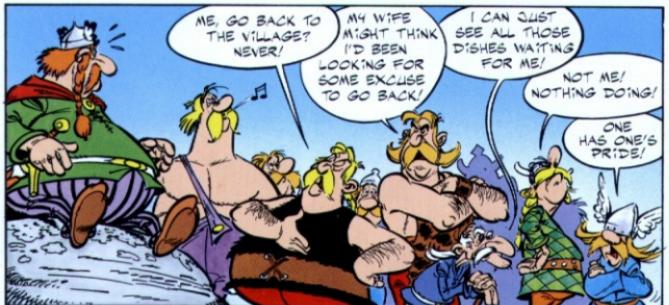
OBELIX AND I WILL GO AND KEEP WATCH ON THEM!

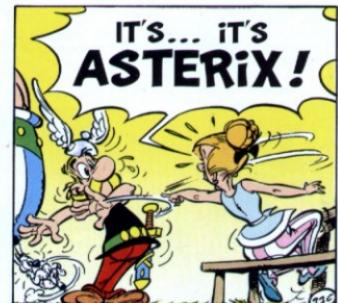
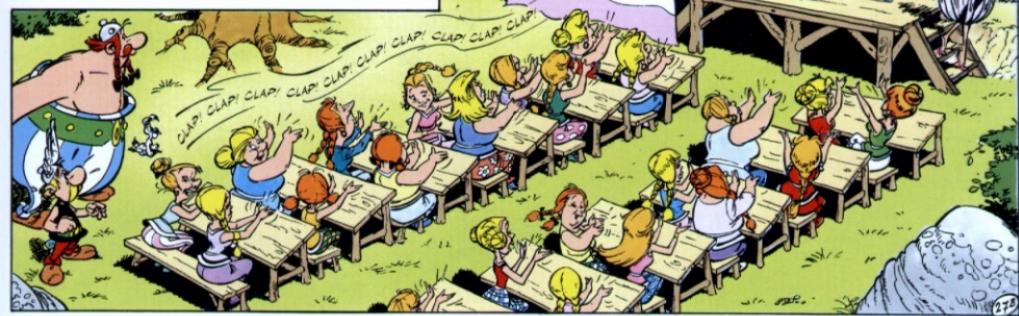


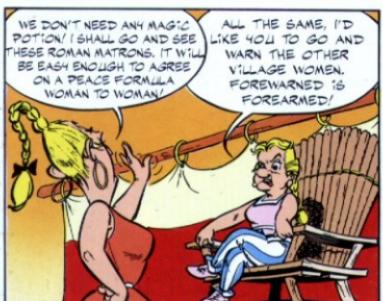
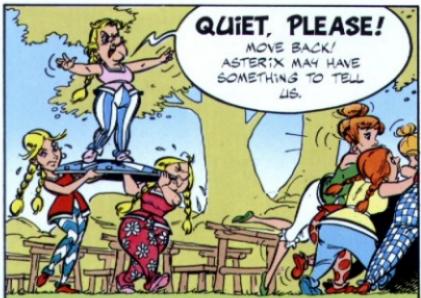


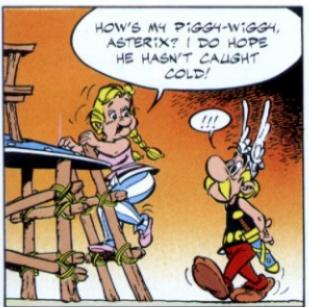












THE CENTURY OF WOMEN HAS
PITCHED TEMPORARY CAMP NEAR
THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM,
IN LINE WITH THE REGULATIONS...

SLIGHTLY
MODIFIED HERE
AND THERE!

JUST
WHAT
IS
THIS?

THIS PRINT?
IT'S A FAST DYE!
GUARANTEED NOT
TO RUN IN THE
WASH!

SOME OF THE DIS-
GRUNTLIED MEN CONFINED
TO BARRACKS NEXT DOOR
RELIEVE THEIR FEELINGS
ABOUT THEIR RELIEF

IF WOMEN
CAN JOIN THE
LEGIONS NOW, WHAT
USE ARE WE
GOING TO BE?

I COULD TELL YOU! I
WOULDN'T EVEN MIND BEING
A DOMESTICUS³ OVER IN
THAT CAMP!

* SERVANT

MEANWHILE...

BRAVURA! SHE
MUST BE GOING TO
THE ROMAN CAMP!
LET'S FOLLOW HER
DISCREETLY!

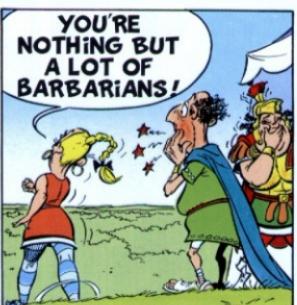
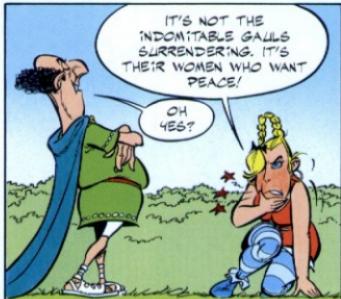
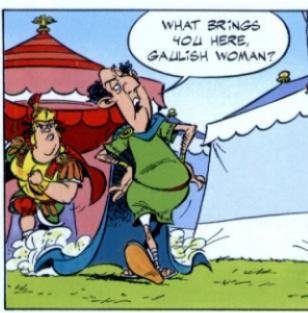
HALT,
GAUL!

YOU'RE A WOMAN TOO! THAT
MAKES US SISTERS, SO LET'S
SHAKE HANDS, ROMAN!

TCHAC!

30B



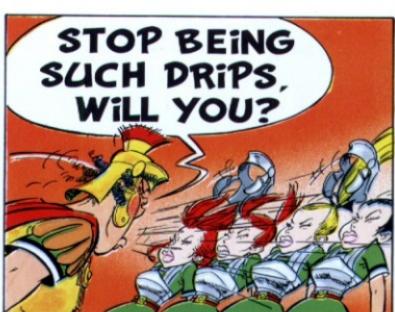


WE'RE AGREED, THEN,
BRAVURAT!

ABSOLUTELY AGREED,
ASTERIX!







**HALT! YOU
SHALL NOT PASS,
GAULS!!!**

BE GALLANT, OBELIX,
UNDERSTAND?

TCHAC!

'SCUSE ME,
LADY!

IS THIS GALLANT
ENOUGH,
ASTRIX?

JUST RIGHT,
OBELIX!

**PUT ME
DOWN,
WILL
YOU?**

**GUARDS!
HELP!**

WHAT'S ALL
THIS, GAULS?

DON'T FORGET
YOUR LAWS
FORBID YOU TO
FIGHT WOMEN!

PRECISELY! WE
WANT TO WELCOME
YOU LADIES TO OUR
VILLAGE WITH ALL
THE RESPECT DUE
TO YOU! AND THEN
THE SUN WILL SHINE
ON YOU!

EVEN IF WE HAVE TO
FACE JUPITER'S
THUNDERBOLTS,
**WE WILL CRUSH
YOUR VILLAGE!**

IN THAT
CASE...

'SCUSE
ME,
LADY!

PRRRR!

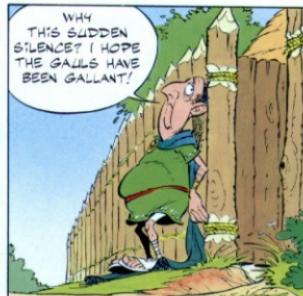
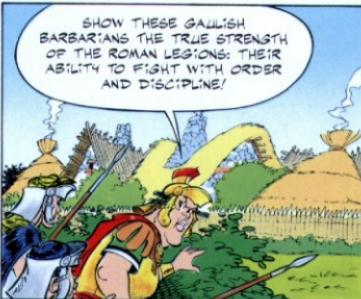
PRRR!

**I WANT THEM
DEAD OR
ALIVE!!!**

THIS IS A
WALKOVER,
OBELIX!

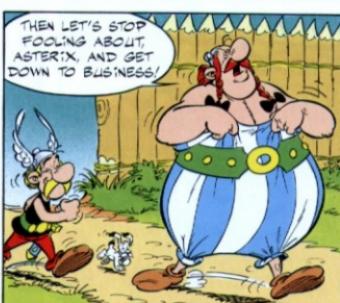
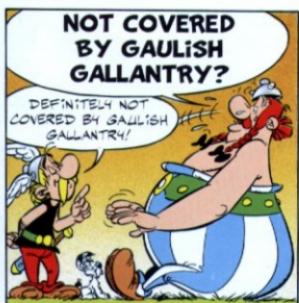
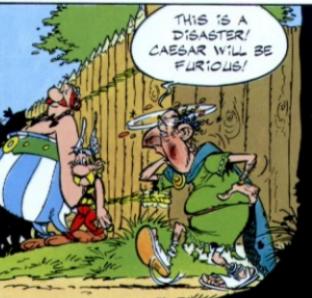
OR EVEN A RUNOVER...
AND I NEVER RAN AWAY
FROM A ROMAN LEGION
BEFORE!

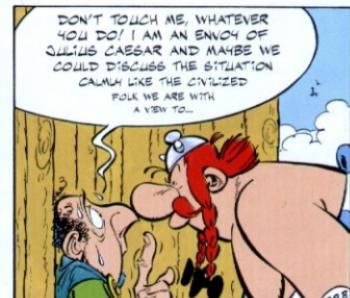
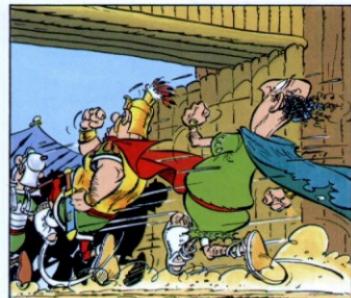
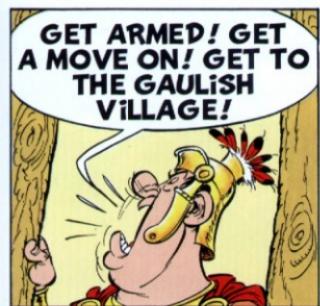
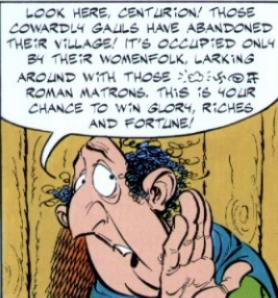
WHAT A
SHAME! I
COULD HAVE
BROUGHT THE
FOREST DOWN!

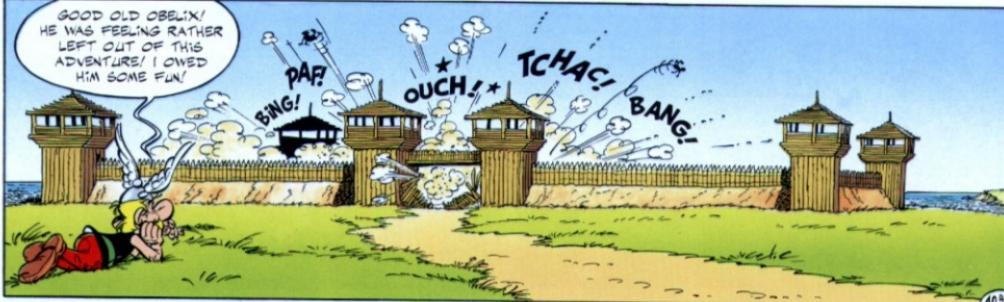




L PER C*
DISCOUNT
ON ALL
PURCHASES!





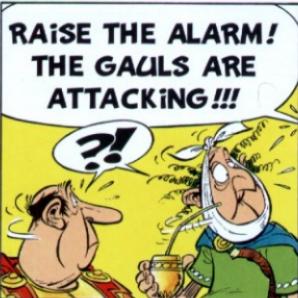
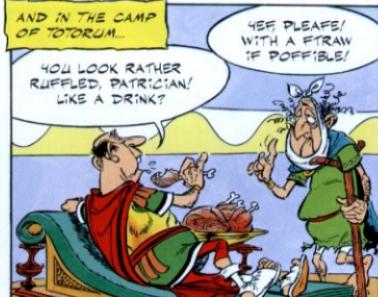


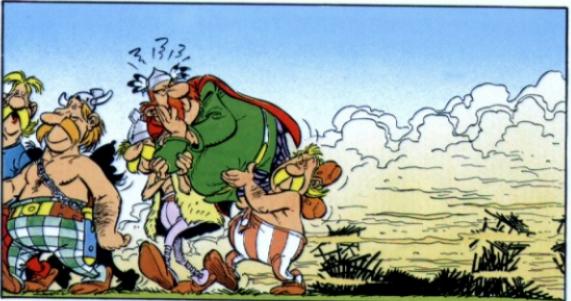
A LITTLE
LATER

I'M SORRY, CACOFONIX, BUT
YOUR VOICE MIGHT CURDLE THE
MAGIC POTION!



VILLAGERS! PROUD AND NOBLE
WARRIOR! ONCE AGAIN WE FIND
OURSELVES OBLIGED TO CONFRONT
OUR MORTAL ENEMY! THE ANXIOUS
GAZE OF THE FREE AND ANCIENT
WORLD IS TURNED UPON YOUR
POWERFUL BREASTS, READY TO FEND
OFF THE HEGEMONY OF A DICTATOR-
SHIP WHICH WILL GO SO FAR
AS TO ATTACK WOMEN...





MEANWHILE, AT
THE VILLAGE
GATES...

WHEN I GET
BACK TO ROME I'M
OPENING A SHOP
CALLED HIGH FASHION
OF LOTTA!

THEY'LL BE
GREEN WITH ENVY
IN THE FORUM!

I'M GOING TO BOOK TIME IN THE
ARENA FOR FASHION SHOWS IN THE
INTERVALS OF GLADIATORIAL CONTESTS!
IT WILL BE BRILLIANT!

THANK YOU AGAIN
FOR YOUR KIND
HOSPITALITY!

OH, DON'T
MENTION IT! IT
WAS NOTHING!



NOW I'M ALONE AT LAST I CAN
POLISH UP MY POETICAL
ONOMATOPOEICAL WORK!

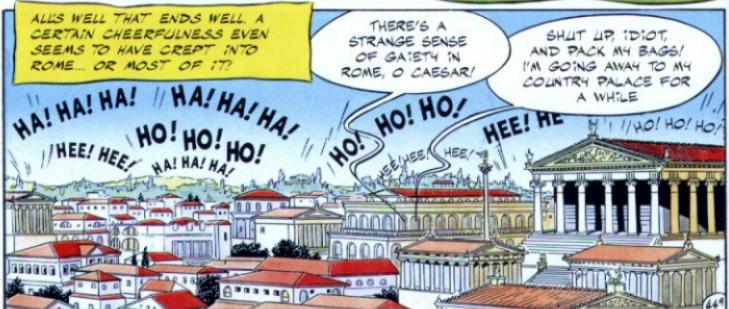


I KNEW THERE WAS
A DRAGON IN
THERE SOME-
WHERE!



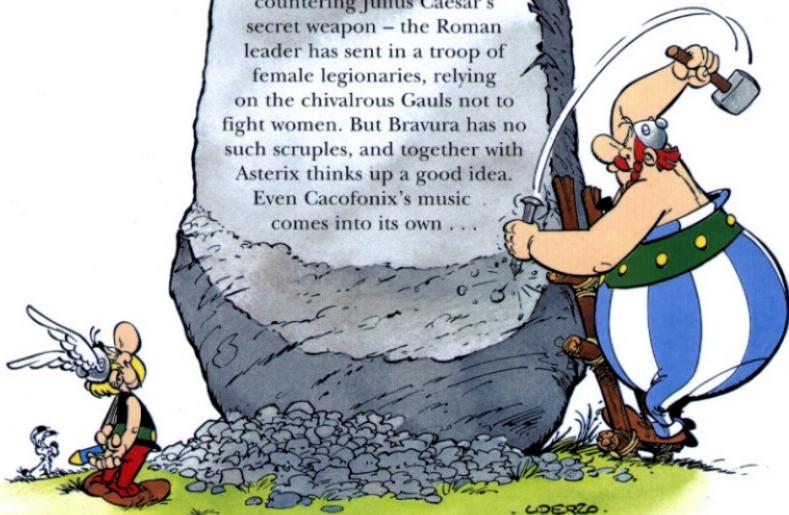
HEY! DON'T
BE BEAFLY!
WAIT FOR
ME!





THE END
- CIDERZO '91

A woman bard is unheard-of in Ancient Gaul – but when the mothers in Asterix and Obelix's little village decide that besides being a terrible musician Cacofonix, the local bard and schoolteacher, is not educating their children properly, it's Bravura they call in. The men of the village are horrified at first, but Bravura proves a useful ally in countering Julius Caesar's secret weapon – the Roman leader has sent in a troop of female legionaries, relying on the chivalrous Gauls not to fight women. But Bravura has no such scruples, and together with Asterix thinks up a good idea. Even Cacofonix's music comes into its own . . .



ISBN 0-75284-777-5



9 780752 847771

£6.99