

BOOK 18

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

# Asterix

*and the  
Chieftain's Shield*

# ASTRIX



HODDER DARGAUD

VERCINGETORIX, DEFEATED AT THE SIEGE OF ALESIA, THROWS HIS ARMS AT CAESAR'S FEET... AND OFFICIALLY, ALL GAUL IS CONQUERED...

OUCH!



AFTER THIS MELANCHOLY CEREMONY, CAESAR SETS OFF IN SEARCH OF FRESH CONQUESTS...



... AND THE ARMS OF THE ARVERNIAN CHIEFTAIN LIE WHERE THEY HAVE FALLEN. NO ONE DARES TOUCH THEM...



... UNTIL SUNSET, WHEN A ROMAN ARCHER SUCCUMBS TO TEMPTATION AND MAKES OFF WITH A MAGNIFICENT SHIELD...



HEY, HOW ABOUT A GAME OF RUBER ET NIGER?



... WHICH HE LOSES AT ONCE IN A GAME OF CHANCE.



DIEM PERDIDI!

YOU CAN QUOTE ME ON THAT TOO!

THE WINNER, A LEGIONARY OUT WITHOUT A PASS, FINDS THE PRESENT TENSE WHEN TRYING TO SNEAK INTO CAMP, HE IS PICKED UP BY A CENTURION WITH AN ACTIVE VOICE...



HEY, YOU THERE! QUO VADIS, LADDIE?

... AND IN AN IMPERATIVE MOOD, WHO CONFISCATES THE SHIELD IN RETURN FOR HIS SILENCE.



O TEMPORA! O MORES!

THE CENTURION, HAVING SPENT ALL HIS PAY, SWOPS THE PRECIOUS SHIELD FOR AN AMPHORA OF WINE AT A WINE AND CHARCOAL MERCHANTS...



... AND THE SHOPKEEPER SUBSEQUENTLY AGREES TO HAND IT OVER TO A GAULISH WARRIOR WHO HAS ESCAPED FROM ALESIA...



WELL, IF IT GIVES YOU ANY SATISFACTION...

... AND IS TRYING TO DROWN HIS SORROWS IN DRINK...



HIC!

SO ALL GAUL IS OCCUPIED. ALL? NO! ONE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE IS STILL HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. A LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW VERY WELL, WHERE MORALE IS HIGH, AND ANY EXCUSE WILL DO TO HOLD A BANQUET WITH LOTS TO EAT AND DRINK. AS IT HAPPENS, THE LAST SUCH BANQUET HAS HAD SOME UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES!!!



OOOOW!  
OOOOOHH!  
OH! OH! OH!

IS SOMEONE SLAUGHTERING A WILD BOAR?

NO, IT'S OUR BARD SINGING A LULLABY!

MAKE WAY FOR THE DRUID! CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX IS ILL!



IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY: THE DAY AFTER HE'S BEEN EATING AND DRINKING AND MAKING MERRY WITH THOSE BARBARIANS HE FEELS AS IF THE SKY HAD FALLEN ON HIS HEAD!

IT ISN'T MY HEAD THAT HURTS!



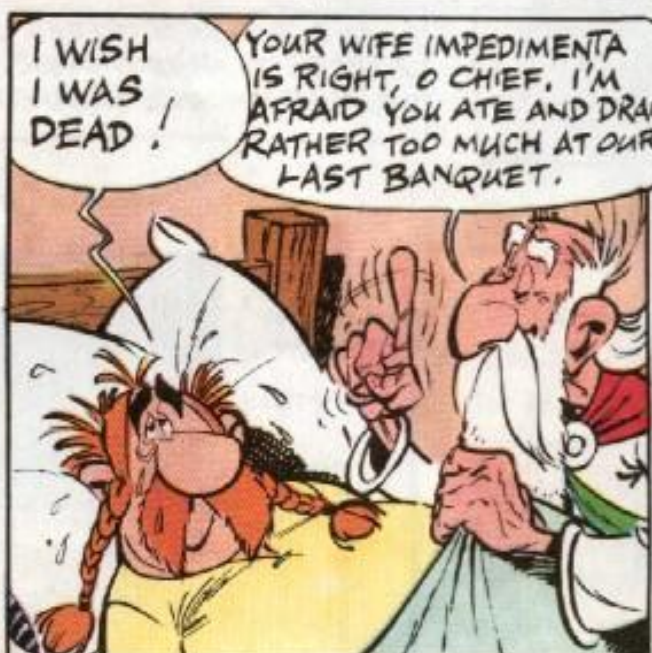
DOES IT HURT THERE, THEN?



AH, YES, HE'S GOT LIVER TROUBLE.

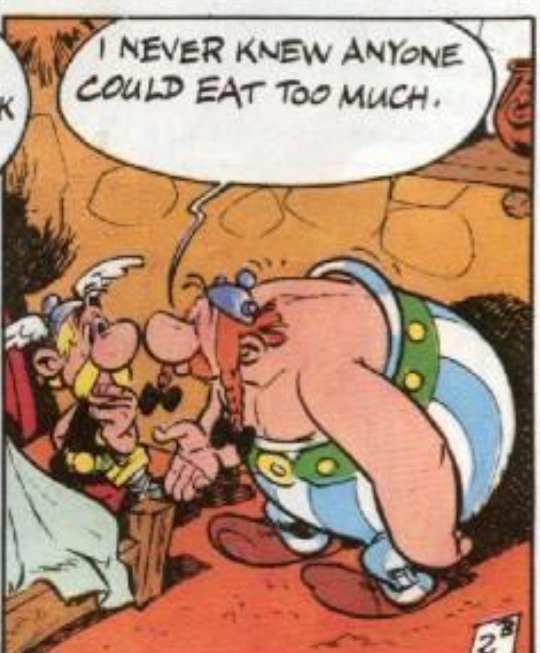
I NEVER KNEW ANYONE COULD GET LIVER TROUBLE...

OUCH!

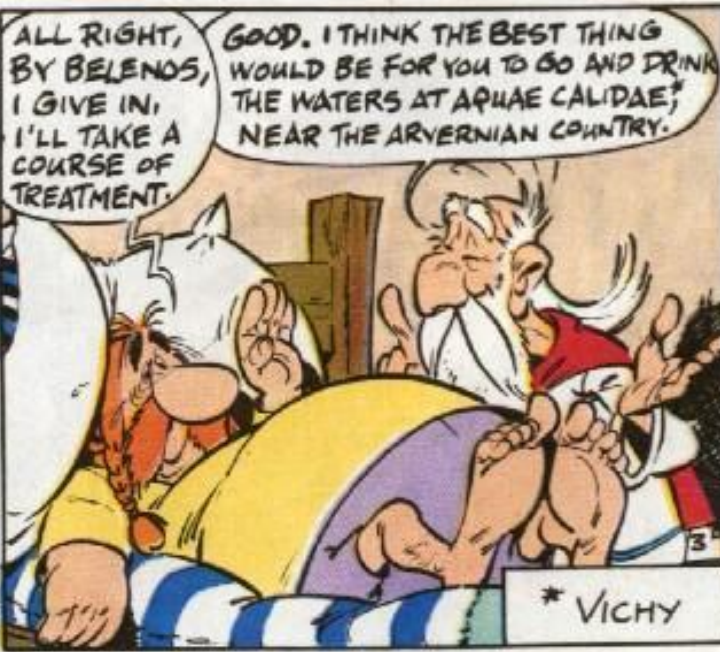
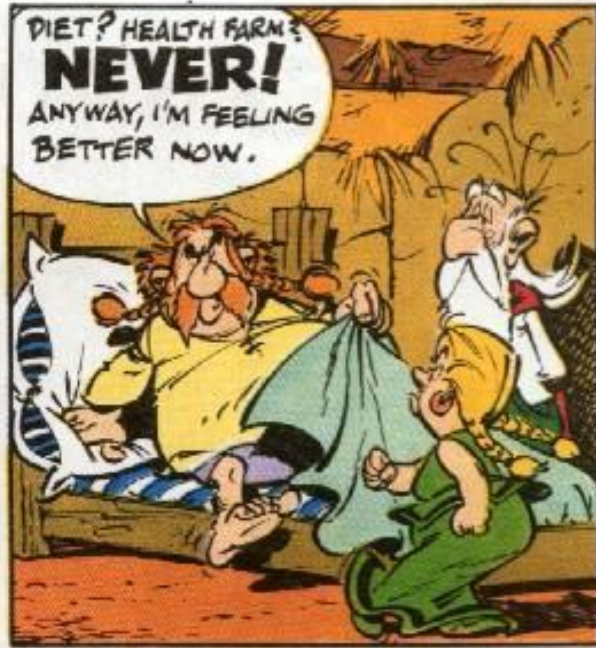
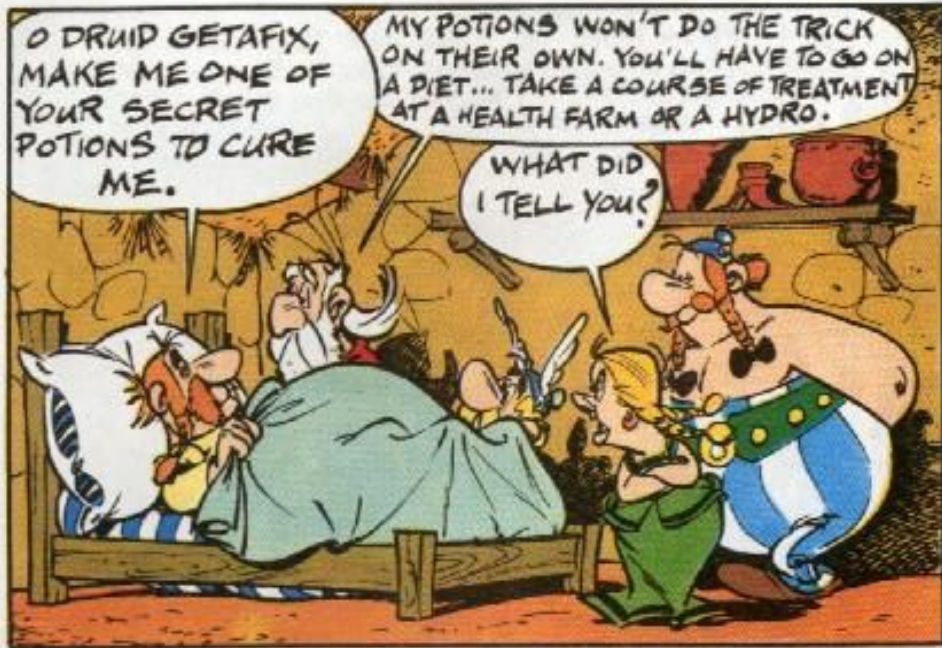


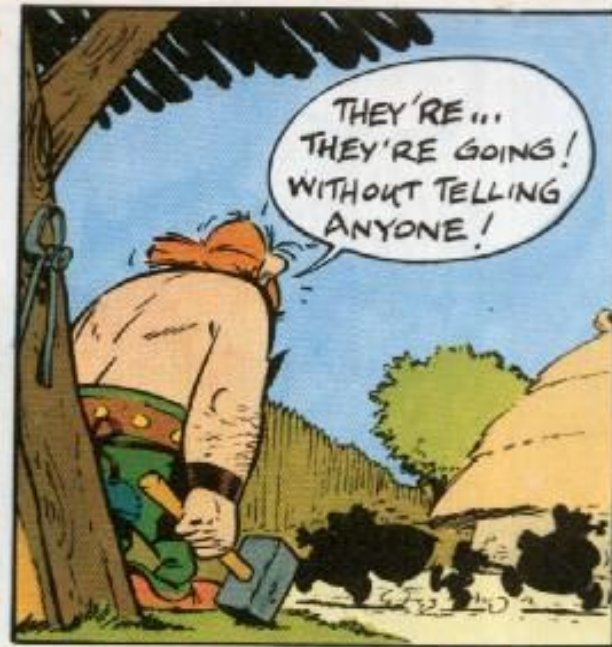
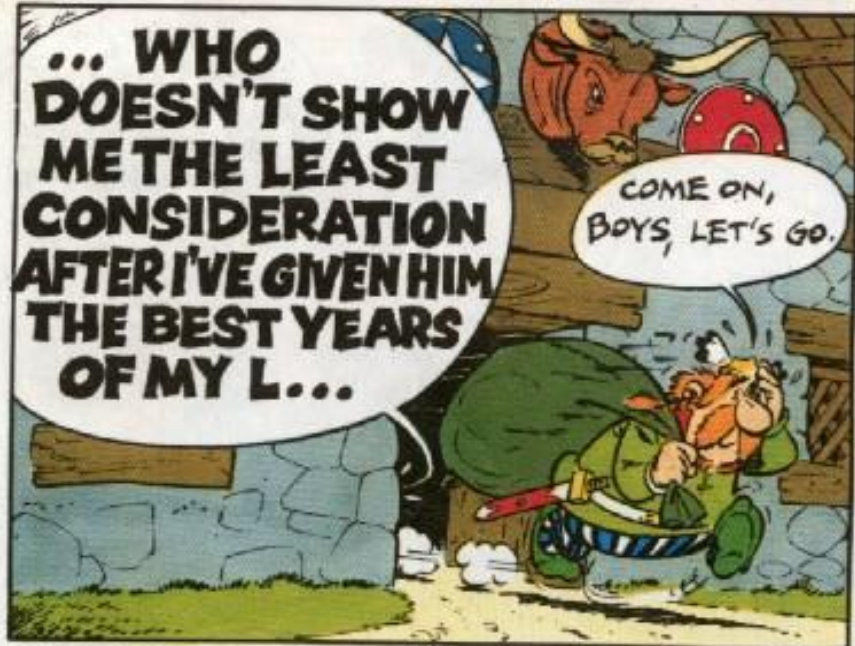
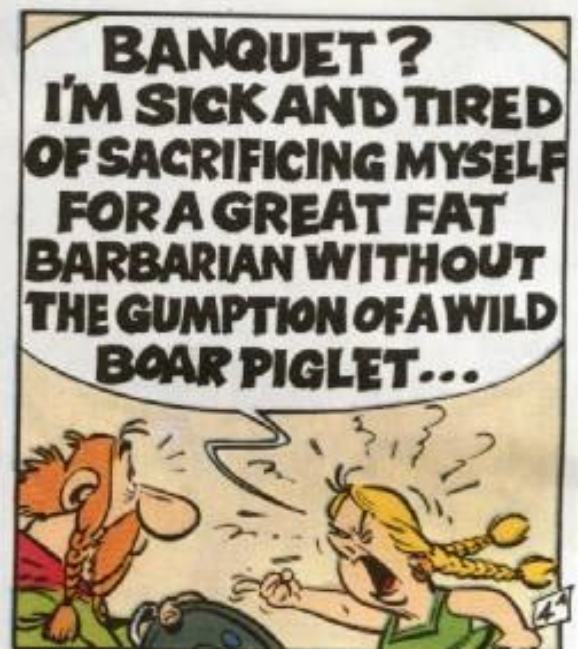
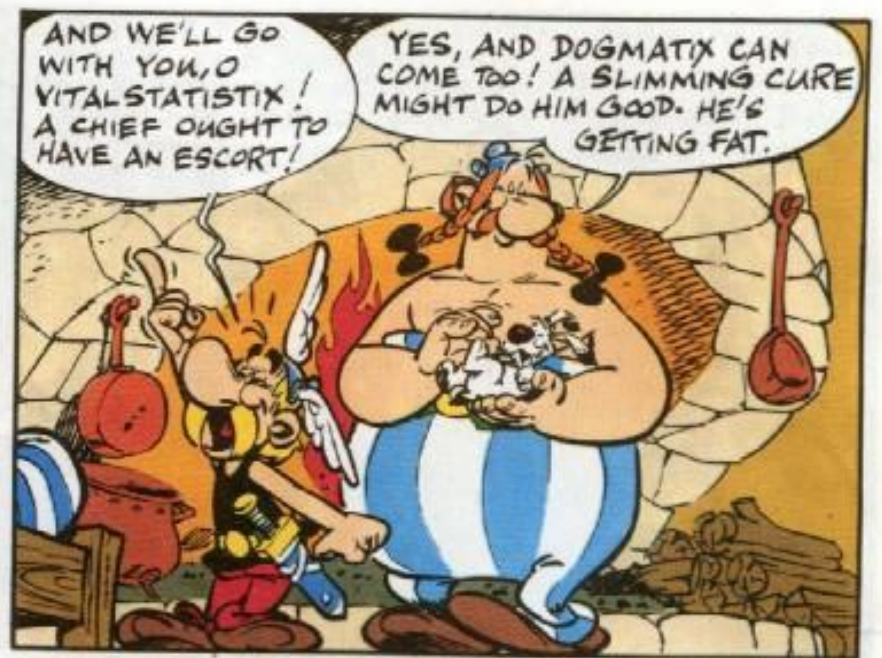
I WISH I WAS DEAD!

YOUR WIFE IMPEDIMENTA IS RIGHT, O CHIEF. I'M AFRAID YOU ATE AND DRANK RATHER TOO MUCH AT OUR LAST BANQUET.



I NEVER KNEW ANYONE COULD EAT TOO MUCH.





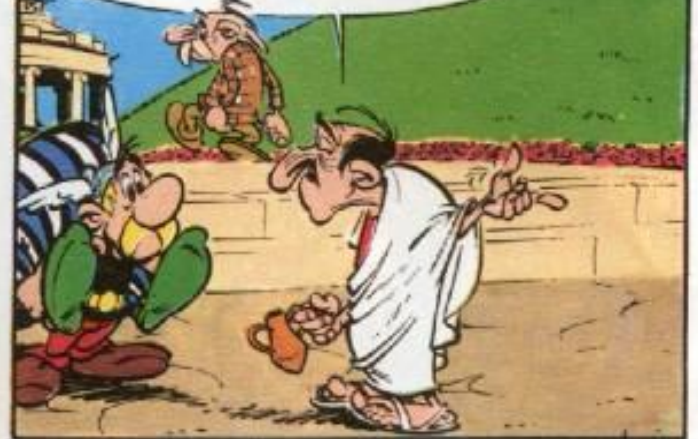


AND SO OUR FRIENDS ENTER THE TOWN OF AQUAE CALIDAE, FAMOUS AMONG BOTH GAULS AND ROMANS FOR ITS HOT SPRINGS AND MINERAL WATERS.

OOOOOHH!  
I WISH I WAS DEAD!



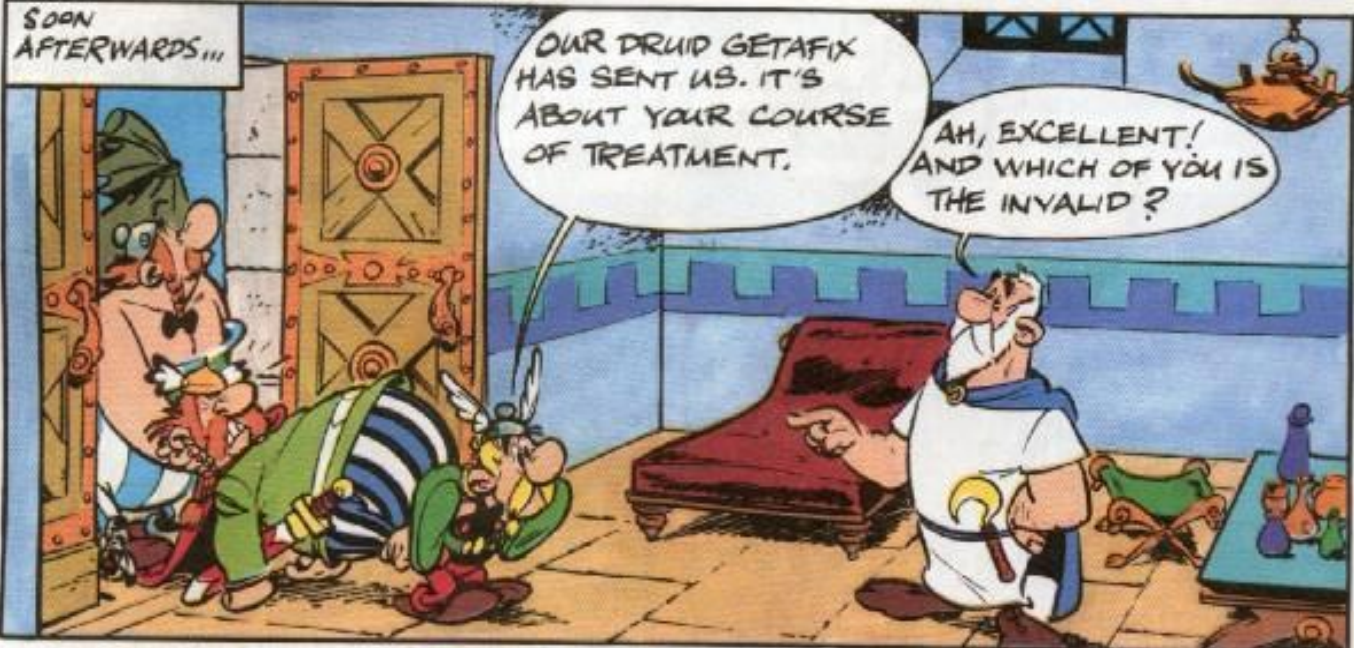
DIAGNOSTIX THE DRUID? THAT WAY, TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR CONDITION: WHATEVER SPRINGS TO MIND. I'VE GOT TO MIND THE SPRINGS.



SOON AFTERWARDS...

OUR DRUID GETAFIX HAS SENT US. IT'S ABOUT YOUR COURSE OF TREATMENT.

AH, EXCELLENT! AND WHICH OF YOU IS THE INVALID?



FOR THE ANSWER, PRESS HERE ...

**NO!**

EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD! I WILL EXAMINE THE PATIENT.



**NOOOOO!**  
DON'T TOUCH ME! DON'T LOOK AT ME! IT HURTS!

HMM... A VERY SEVERE CASE. DIET N°1



AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'M FINE.



YOUR FAT FRIEND HERE OBVIOUSLY OVEREATS; I DOUBT IF HIS LIVER IS IN A HEALTHY STATE.

HE ISN'T FAT AND HIS LIVER IS IN A VERY GOOD STATE!



HE IS FAT, AND WE'LL SOON SEE ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS LIVER!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



**OOOOOHH!**



DRUID, QUICK! OUR CHIEF HAS FAINTED!

???





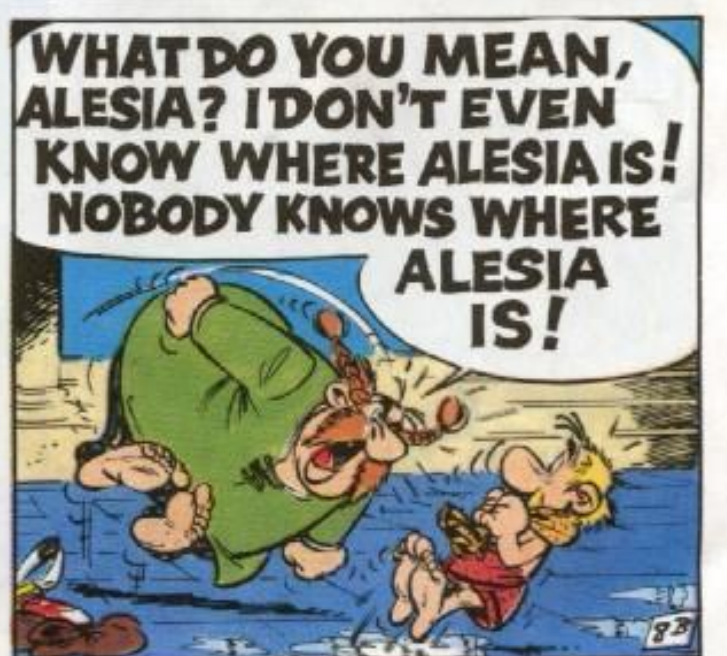
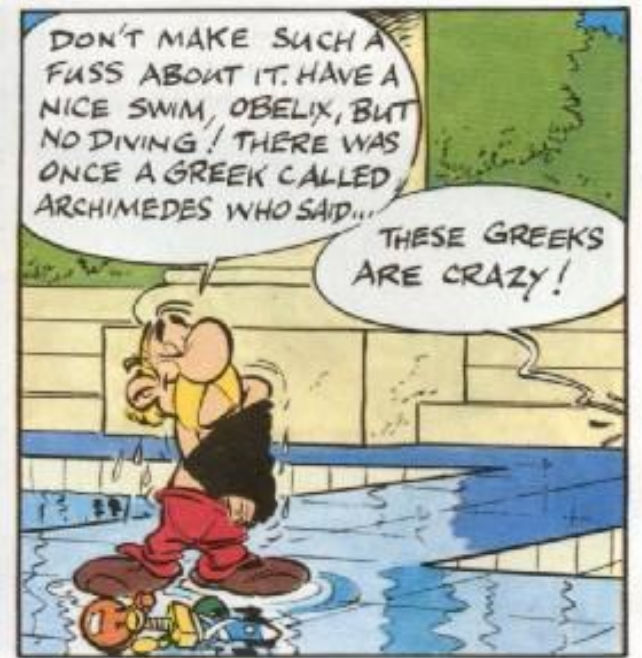
AND THIS IS WHERE THE TROUBLE BEGINS, SINCE ASTERIX AND OBELIX, AS THE CHIEF'S ESCORT, HAVE PERMISSION TO SHARE HIS TABLE AT MEAL TIMES...



SOME OF THE OTHER PATIENTS BEGIN TO CRACK UP...









WE'VE COME TO SAY GOODBYE, CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY!



WELL, WE'RE OFF, O CHIEF. LOOK AFTER YOURSELF! WE'LL SEE YOU IN GERGOVIA WHEN YOUR TREATMENTS OVER.

AND DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT US, WE'RE GOING TO EXPLORE THE COUNTRYSIDE. I HEAR THE ARVERNIAN HAVE SOME GOOD LOCAL SPECIALITIES... WILD BOAR IN WINE...



AND VEGETABLE SOUP!

AND SAUSAGES!



**GET OUT!**

...AND THERE'S ARVERNIAN BLUE CHEESE!!!

COME ON, OBELIX. I THINK WE'D BETTER GET GOING!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE KITCHENS OF THE HYDRO...

FANNY... THE PATIENTS SEEM RATHER QUIET!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER THEM! WHEN I TOOK THE BOILED VEGETABLES IN THEY STARTED ACTING LIKE MADMEN! TWO OR THREE OF THEM EVEN BIT ME!



MEANWHILE OUR FRIENDS ARE STROLLING THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL ARVERNIAN COUNTRYSIDE...

MARVELLOUS AIR UP HERE, OBELIX!

YES, BUT THERE'S ONE THING MISSING... WE HAVEN'T SEEN MANY ROMAN LEGIONARIES LATELY.



MOVE ASIDE THERE, GAULS! MAKE WAY FOR TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPUS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF JULIUS CAESAR!



DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, GAULS? MAKE WAY FOR TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPUS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF JULIUS CAESAR!

OH, GOODY! I LIKE THIS PLACE, ASTERIX. THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING LAID ON! DO WE MAKE WAY?

WAIT A MOMENT... I'LL JUST TAKE A SPOT OF MAGIC POTION...

SLAG!  
GAG!  
GAG!



NO, WE DO NOT MAKE WAY! THEY DIDN'T ASK NICELY, SO WHY SHOULD WE?



YOU MOVE ASIDE, ROMANS! MAKE WAY FOR OBELIX, ASTERIX...

WOOF!

?!

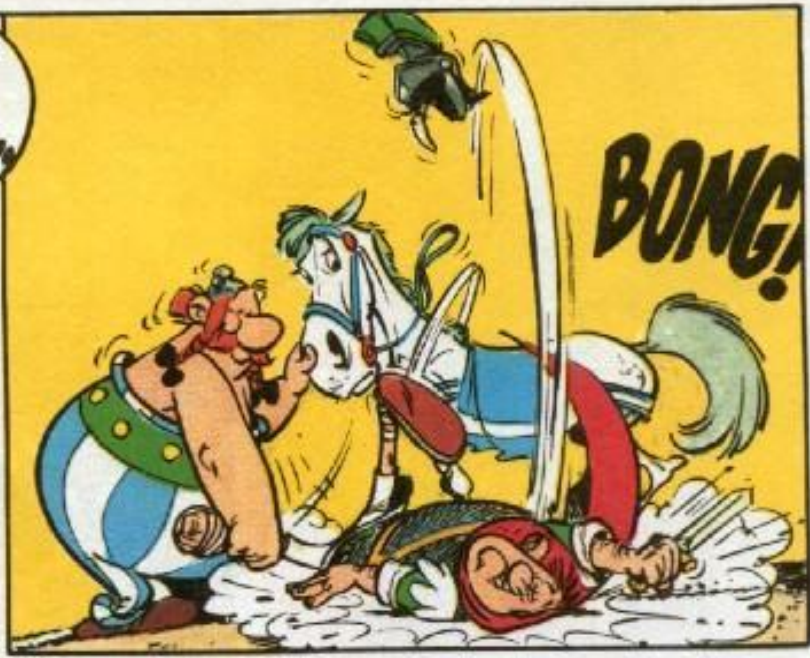


... AND DOGMATIX, SPECIAL ENVOYS OF VITALSTATISTIX!

SLAUGHTER THOSE THREE IDIOTS, BY JUPITER, AND LET'S GET ON WITH OUR JOURNEY!



LEGIONA...



BONG!



WHAT ARE THE OTHERS WAITING FOR?

YOU STARTED TOO SOON! THAT WAS THE HEAD OF THE SQUAD. PEOPLE WHO LOSE THEIR HEADS DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!



OH, WELL, ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH... COME ON, MEN, CHARGE!

GOOD IDEA... CHARGE!



CHARGE! CHARGE!

YOU KNOW, OBELIX, IF ONLY EVERYONE ACTED LIKE THIS IT WOULD INCREASE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING NO END.



SOON AFTERWARDS...

ANYONE FOR SECONDS?

HOLD ON, I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR REINFORCEMENTS.



HEY, YOU IN THERE! WHY DON'T YOU COME TO THE AID OF YOUR MEN?

YOU JUST WAIT, YOU BANDIT! YOU BLACKGUARD, YOU BARBARIAN! YOU'LL SEE WHAT COMES OF ATTACKING NOXIUS VAPUS, SPECIAL ENVOY OF JULIUS CAESAR!



VADE RETRO! AUDACES FORTUNA JUVAT!



DEAR, DEAR, WHAT LANGUAGE! NOW IT'S NO GOOD GETTING ALL WORKED UP, IS IT? CALM DOWN, LIKE A GOOD BOY!

PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT!



OBELIX, LEAVE THE MAN ALONE. I DON'T THINK HE SEES THE JOKE. HE LOOKS CRACKED TO ME... A BIT OF A NUT-CASE.



RIGHT.



?! ?!

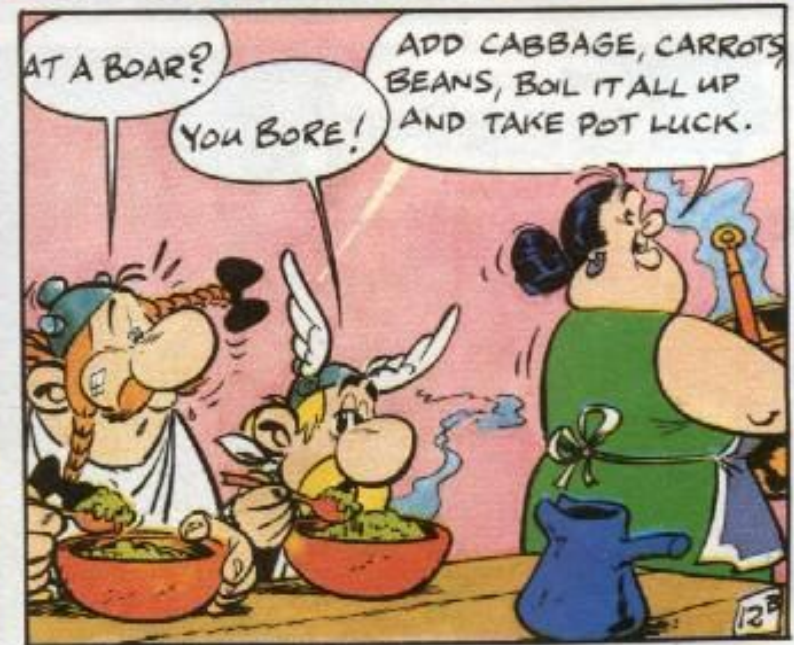
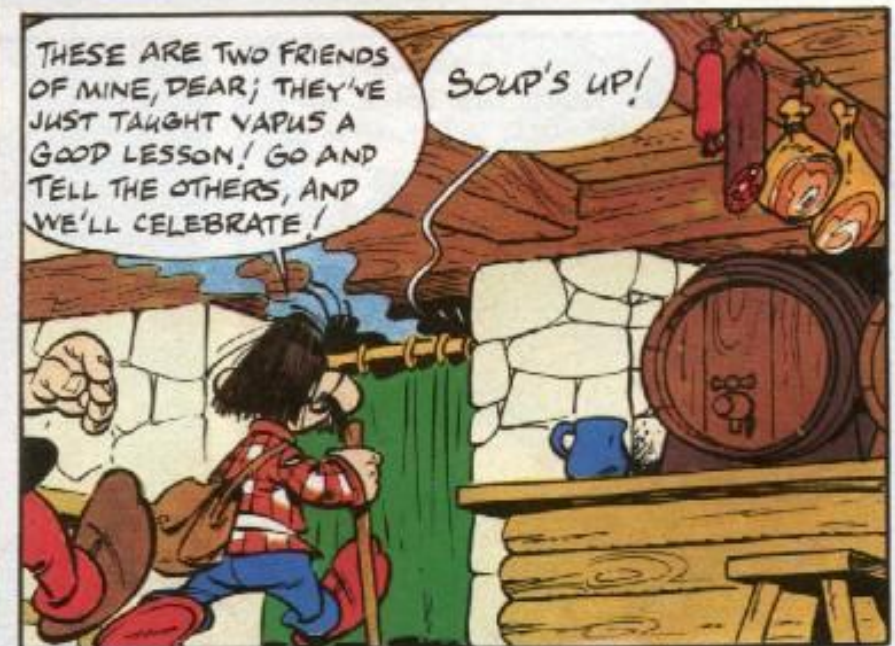
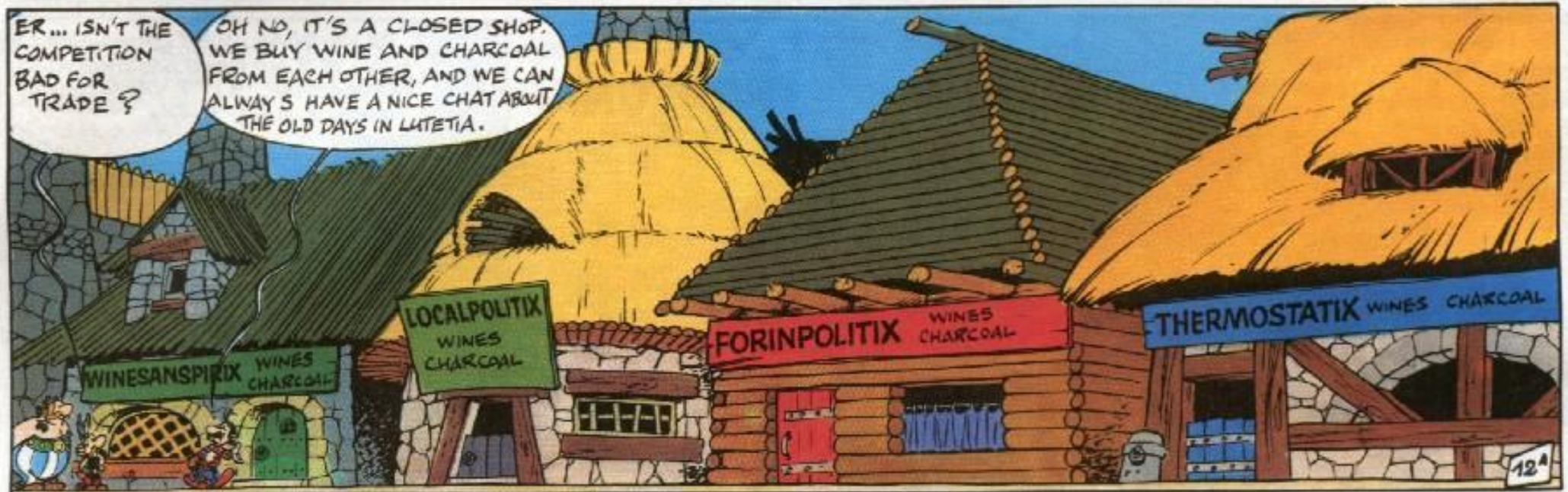


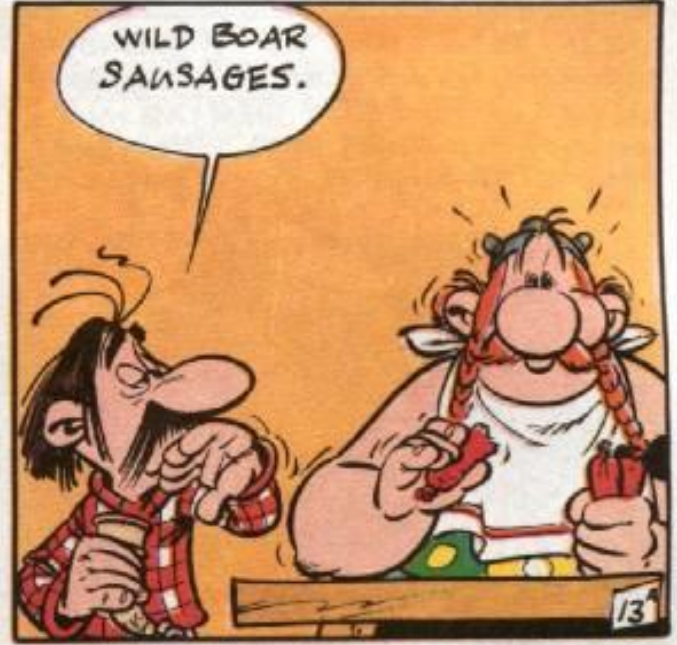
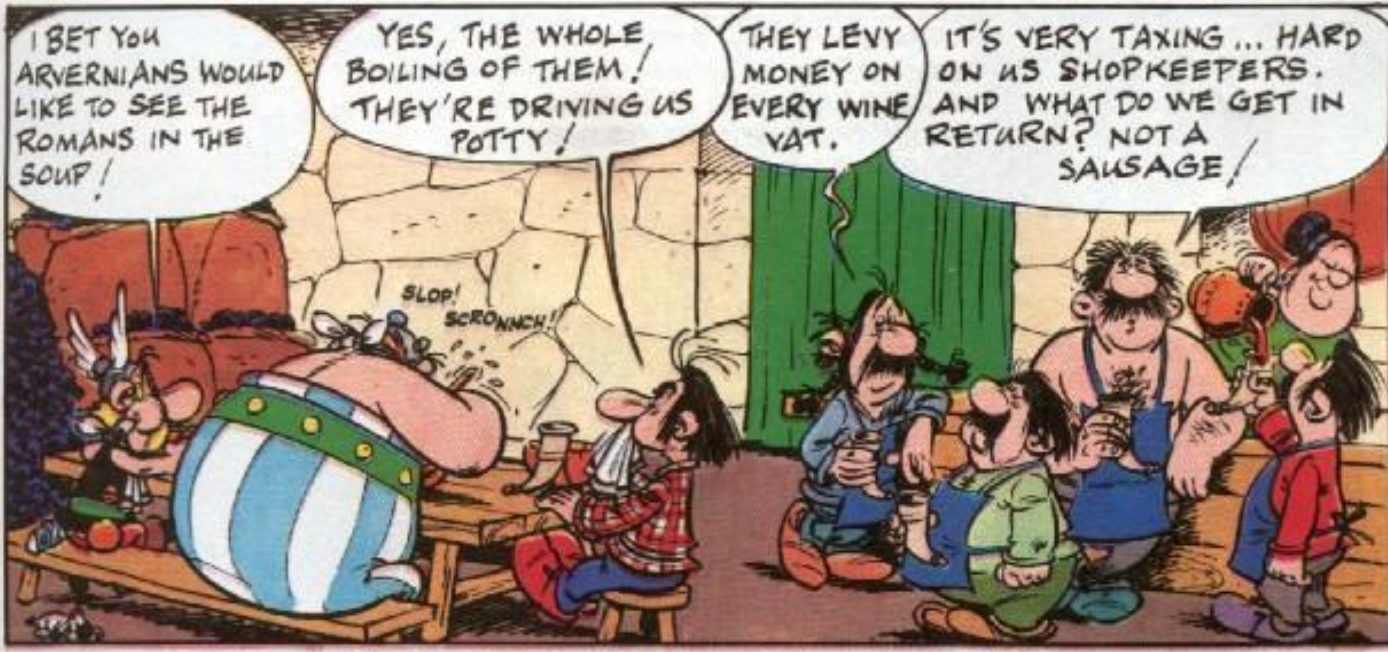
WELL, WELL! THEY'VE GOT VAPUS!

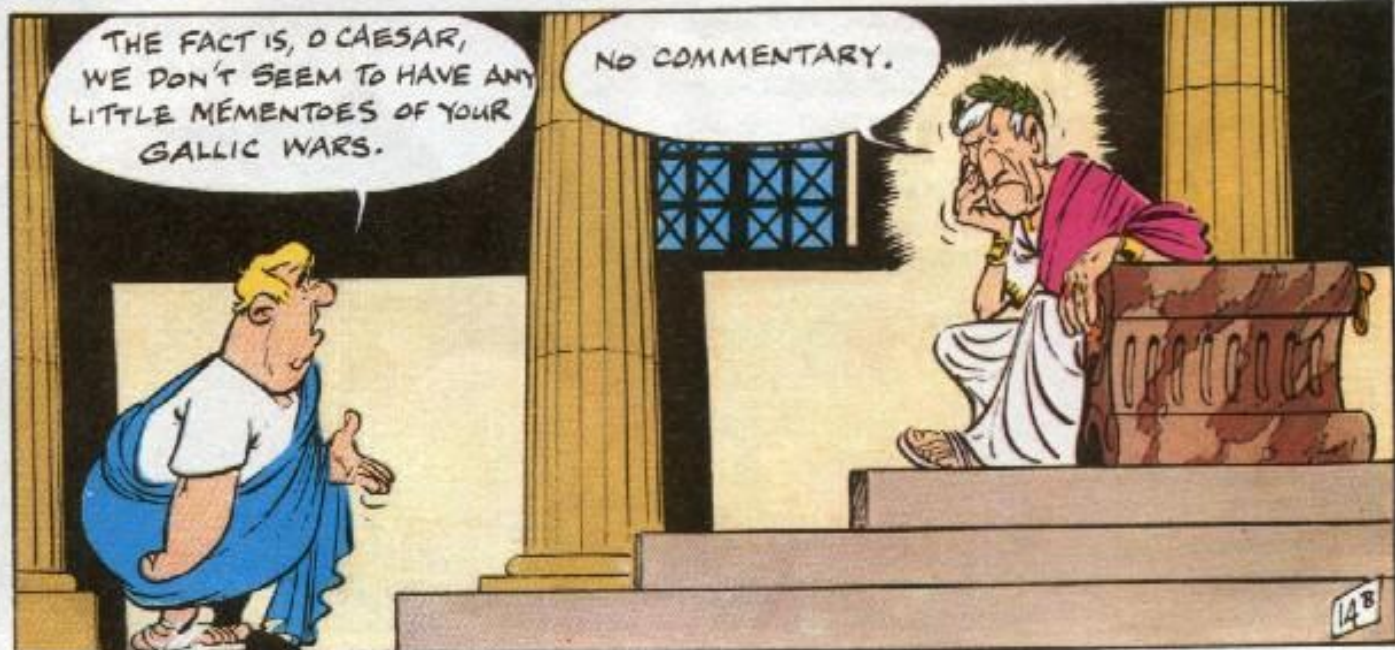


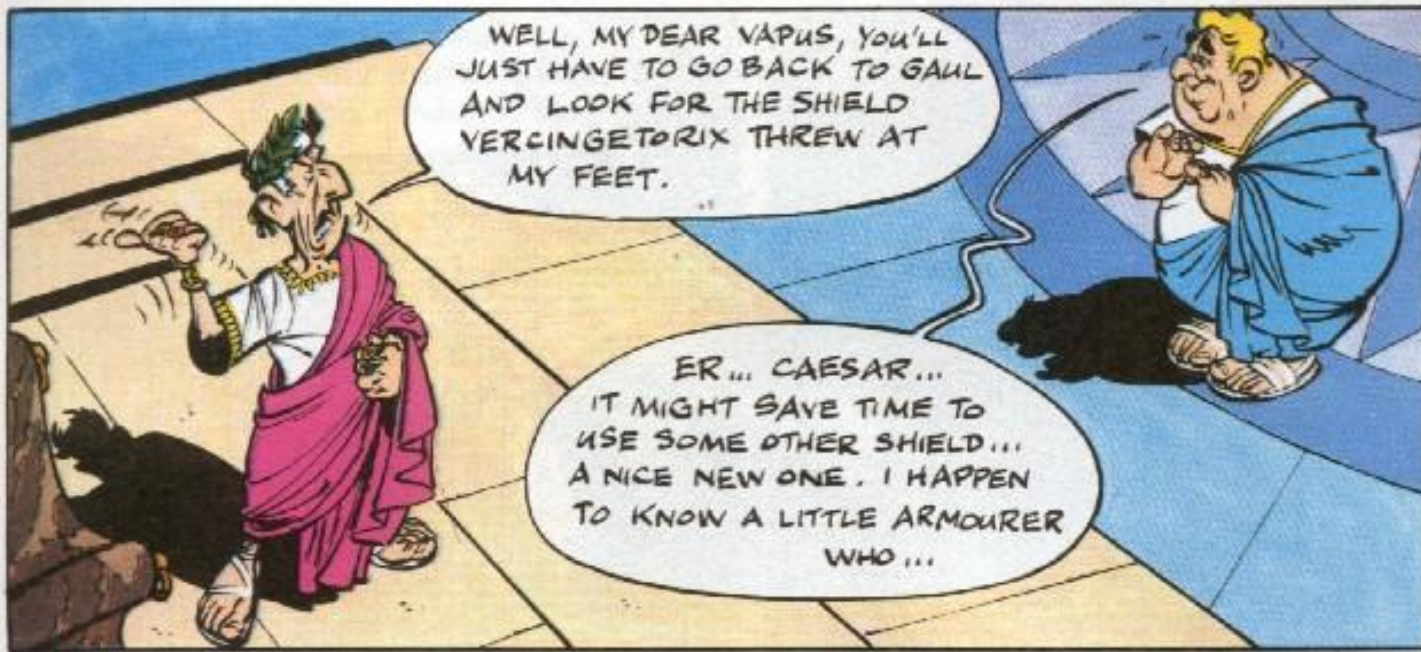
WHO'S GOT THE VAPOURS?

NO ONE; THAT'S HIS NAME. YOU'VE BEEN HITTING NOXIUS VAPUS, A SPECIAL ENVOY FROM ROME. DON'T LET'S HANG AROUND HERE; THERE'LL BE TROUBLE.



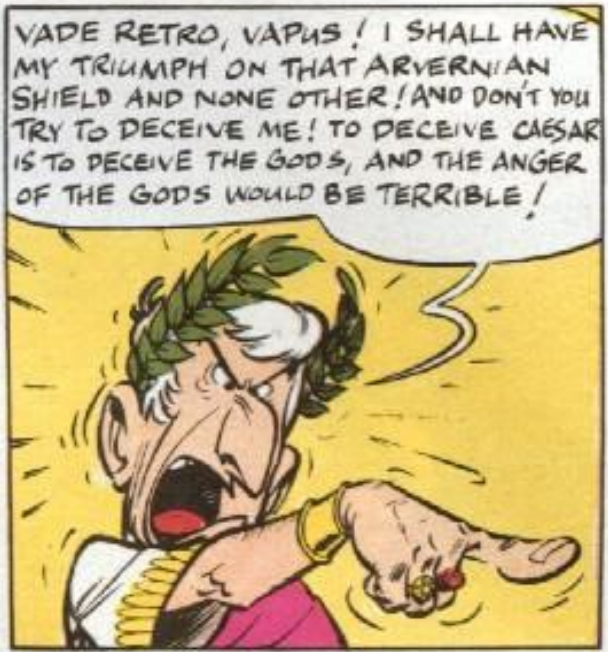






WELL, MY DEAR VAPUS, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GO BACK TO GAUL AND LOOK FOR THE SHIELD YERCINGETORIX THREW AT MY FEET.

ER... CAESAR... IT MIGHT SAVE TIME TO USE SOME OTHER SHIELD... A NICE NEW ONE. I HAPPEN TO KNOW A LITTLE ARMOURER WHO...



VADE RETRO, VAPUS! I SHALL HAVE MY TRIUMPH ON THAT ARVERNIAN SHIELD AND NONE OTHER! AND DON'T YOU TRY TO DECEIVE ME! TO DECEIVE CAESAR IS TO DECEIVE THE GODS, AND THE ANGER OF THE GODS WOULD BE TERRIBLE!



AND AS TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPUS RELUCTANTLY SETS OFF FOR GAUL AGAIN, OUR HEROES ARE ENJOYING THEIR HOLIDAY... THEY VISIT THE FAMOUS PUY DE DÔME (HERE SEEN LOOKING SOUTH. TO SEE IT LOOKING NORTH, TURN ROUND.)



... AND THE TEMPLE OF LUG, GOD OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY...

OUR VERY OWN GOD!

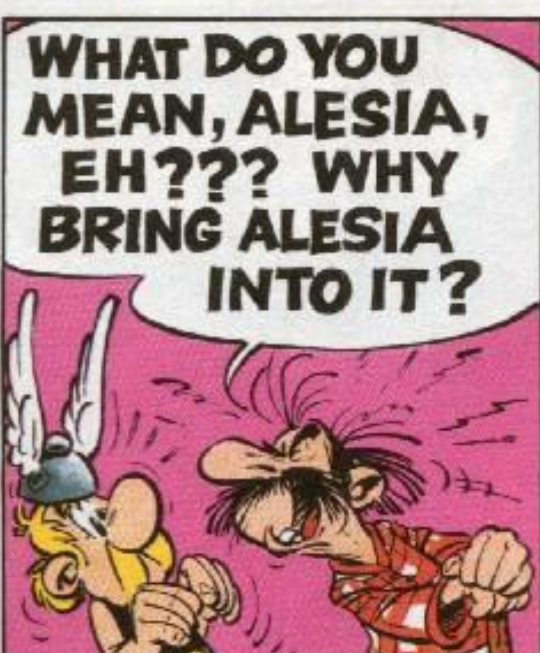


... AND THE TOWNS OF NEMESSOS ①, NEROMAGUS ②, BORYO ③ AND CALENTES BAIÆ ④

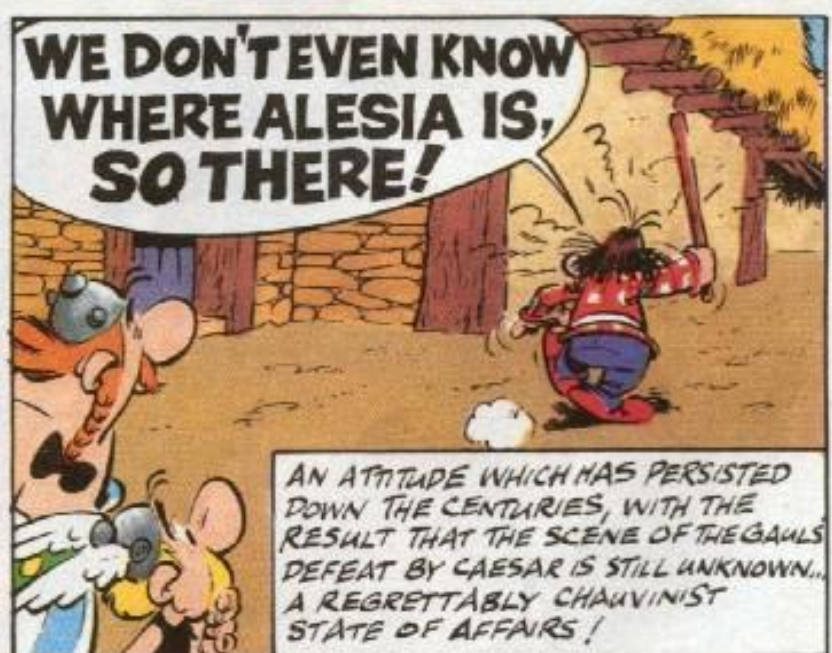
AND WHAT ABOUT ALESIA?

**ALESIA?**

① CLERMONT-FERRAND ② NERIS  
③ LA BOURBOULE ④ CHAUDES-AIGUES



**WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ALESIA, EH??? WHY BRING ALESIA INTO IT?**



**WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE ALESIA IS, SO THERE!**

AN ATTITUDE WHICH HAS PERSISTED DOWN THE CENTURIES, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE SCENE OF THE GAULS' DEFEAT BY CAESAR IS STILL UNKNOWN... A REGRETTABLY CHAUVINIST STATE OF AFFAIRS!



OUR FRIENDS RETURN TO GERGOVIA. EVERYONE KNOWS WHERE GERGOVIA IS.

YOU'LL STAY AT OUR PLACE AGAIN, WON'T YOU?

WITH PLEASURE, BUT WE'LL DO THE SHOPPING TODAY, HOW ABOUT SOME BOARS?

GOOD IDEA, WE'LL BRING HOME THE BACON.



DON'T BE RASHER THAN YOU MUST.

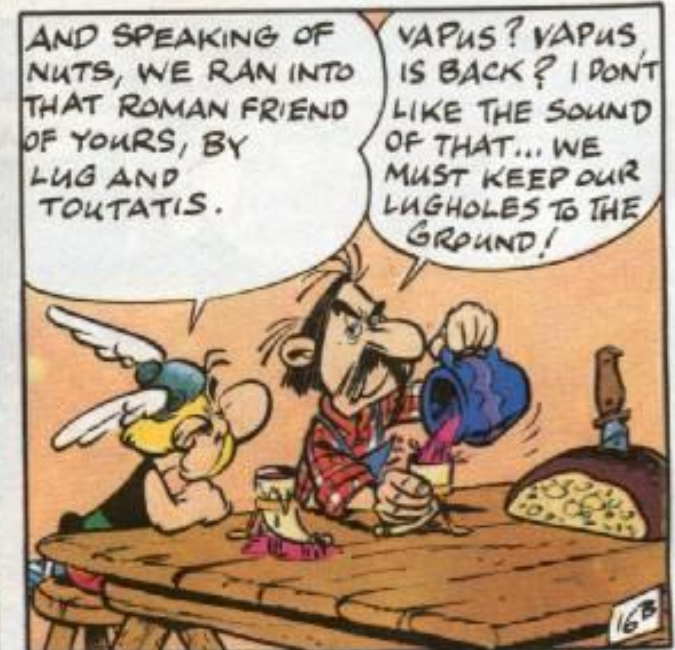
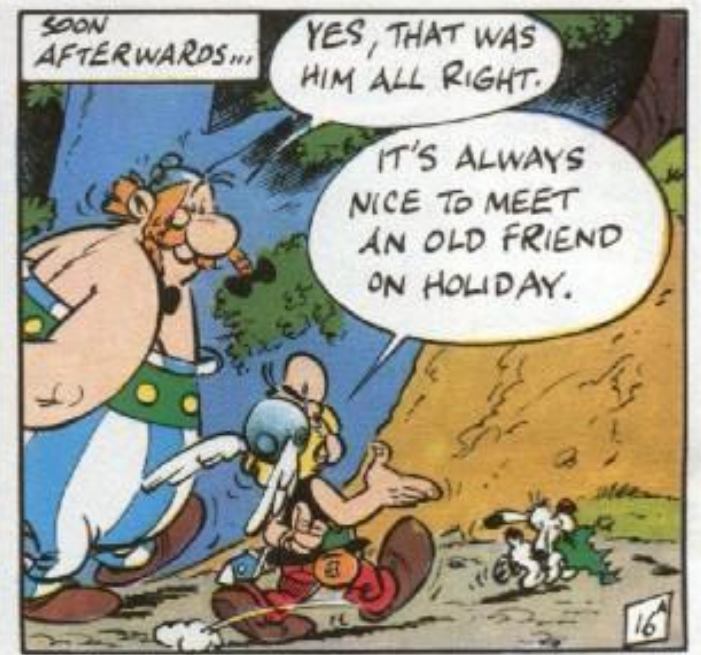
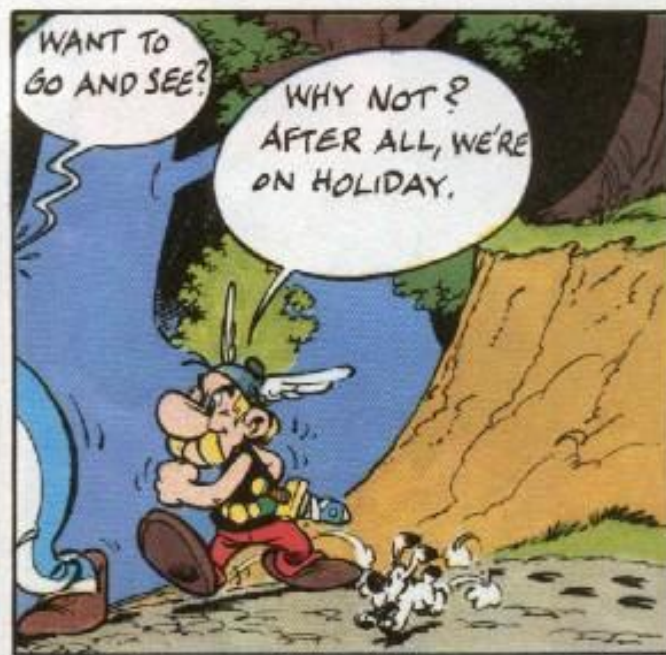
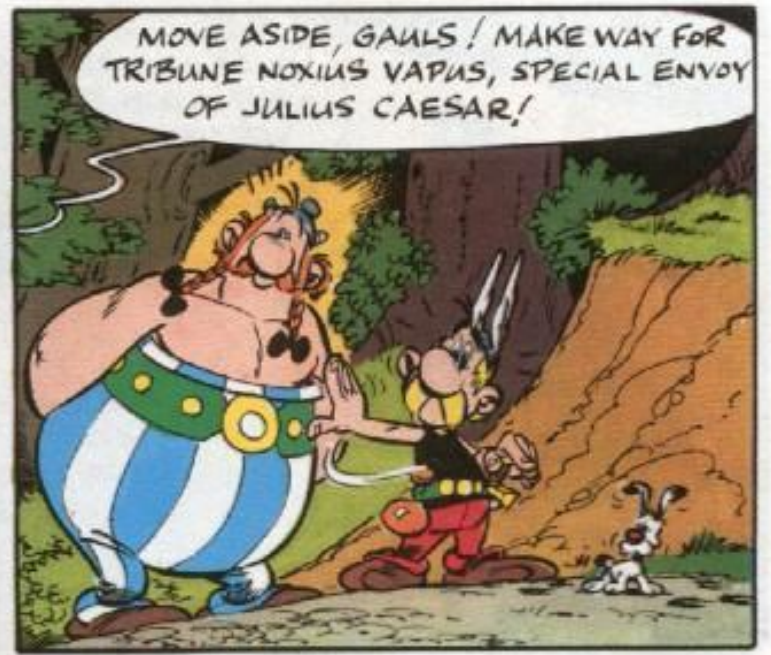
WE'RE NEVER HAM-HANDED!



I HOPE THAT'S NOT JUST GAMMON!

TAP TAP TAP TAP!





VAPUS IS NOTORIOUS IN THESE PARTS. CAESAR SENDS HIM TO KEEP US DOWN. IF HE'S BACK, WE'RE IN FOR A BAD TIME!



OH, DON'T LET'S BOTHER ABOUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT!

IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO COOK FOR A MAN WHO ENJOYS HIS FOOD!

OH, I SAY!

MEANWHILE, TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPUS ARRIVES AT THE PREFECT'S PALACE...



AVE, NOXIUS VAPUS! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON... ER... DID YOU HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY?



SUMMON ALL THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL GARRISONS AT ONCE. ALL LEAVE IS CANCELLED!



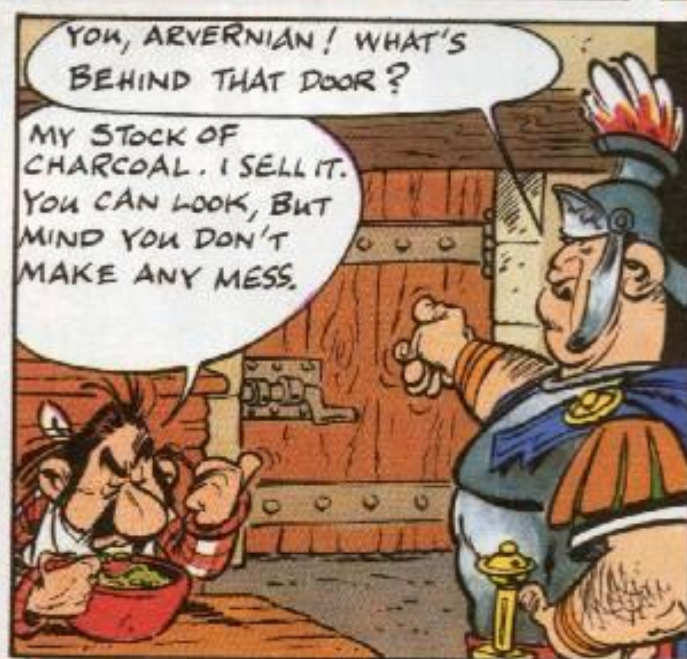
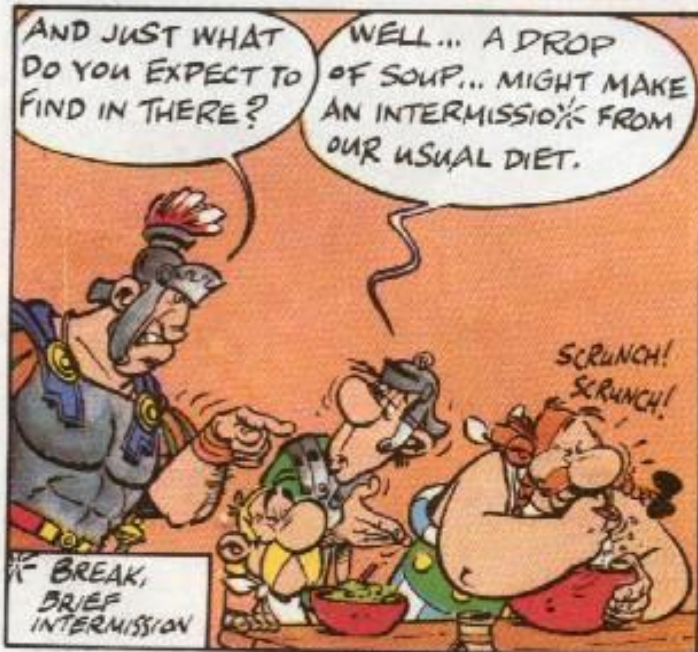
HEAR THAT? JOIN UP, THEY SAID. IT'S A MAN'S LIFE, THEY SAID...



WELL, THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS: FIND THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD SO THAT CAESAR CAN HOLD HIS TRIUMPH IN GERGOVIA!

A LOT OF ALESIANs CAME TO LIVE IN GERGOVIA AFTER THEIR DEFEAT. THAT GIVES US A GOOD OPENING. SEARCH EVERY HOUSE! AND GET MOVING, BY JUPITER!











THIS IS LEGIONARY CAIUS PUSILLANIMUS, O NOXIUS VAPUS.

AVE.

LEGIONARY, I CONGRATULATE YOU! YOU'VE JUST BEEN CHOSEN VOLUNTEER TO GO AND SPY ON THE GAULS.



OH, AWFULLY SORRY, BUT I'VE STILL GOT HALF A FLAGSTONE TO SWEEP BEFORE CURFEW.

?!



**IF YOU REFUSE TO VOLUNTEER I'LL HAVE YOU SWEEPING EVERY HALF FLAGSTONE FROM HERE TO THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS!**



THAT'S RATHER A LOT OF HALF FLAGSTONES...

HOW RIGHT YOU ARE! NOW, WE SHALL DISGUISE YOU AS AN ARVERNIAN. YOU'RE TO TRY AND GET INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF VERLINGETORIX'S SHIELD!



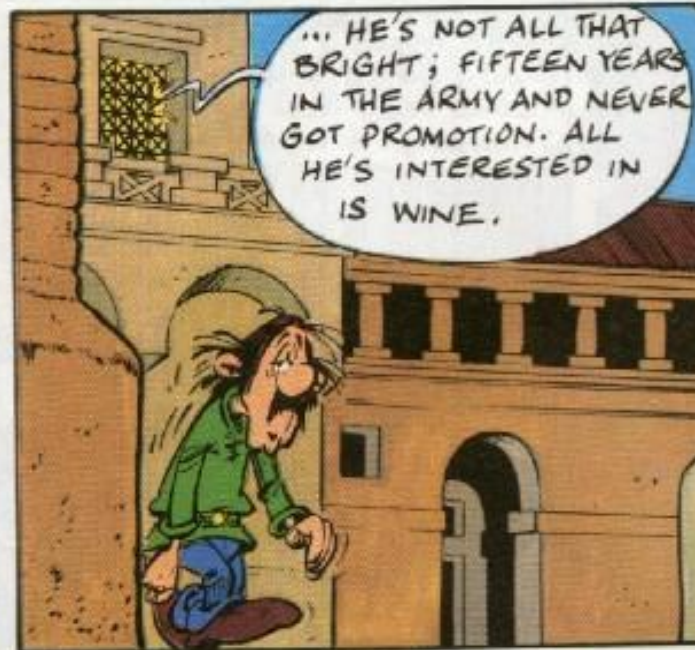
OH, WELL... AVE.

AV... **FOR JUPITER'S SAKE PUT THAT BROOM DOWN!**



ONE THING, HE LOOKS SUCH A FOOL THE ARVERNAINS WILL NEVER SUSPECT HIM.

NO, BUT I DO WONDER WHETHER WE CAN RELY ON HIM...

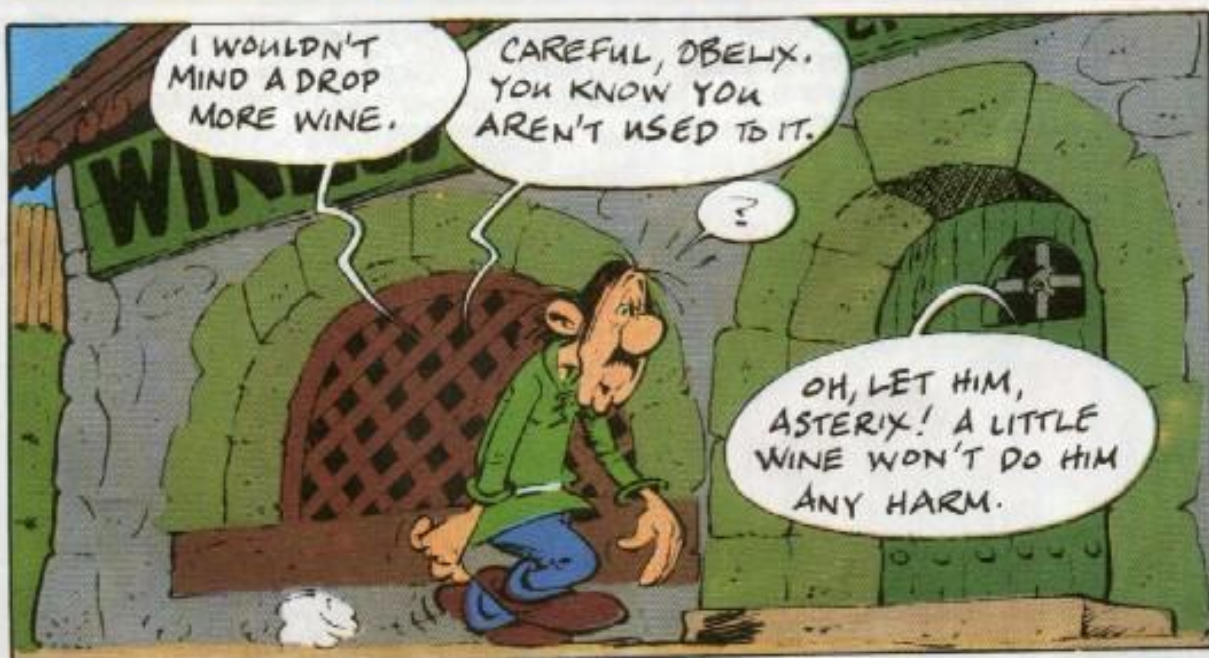


... HE'S NOT ALL THAT BRIGHT; FIFTEEN YEARS IN THE ARMY AND NEVER GOT PROMOTION. ALL HE'S INTERESTED IN IS WINE.



SEE THAT? IT'S CAIUS!

YOU'D HARDLY KNOW HIM WITHOUT HIS BROOM!



I WOULDN'T MIND A DROP MORE WINE.

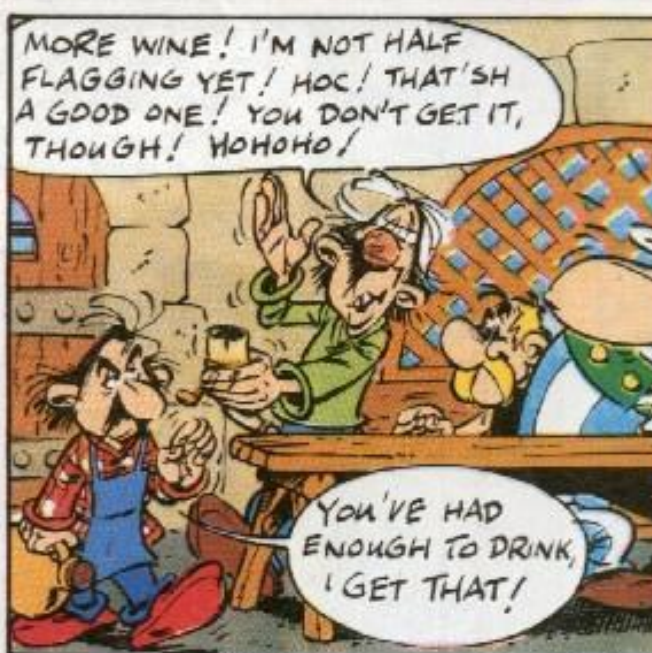
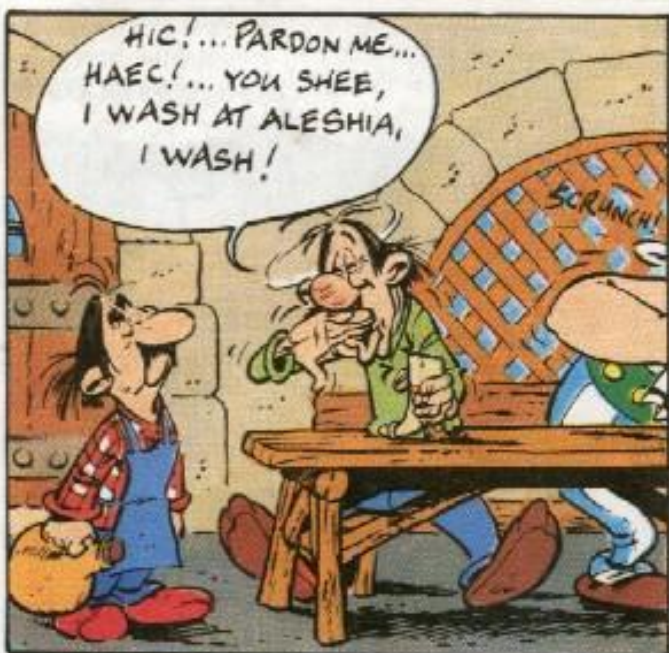
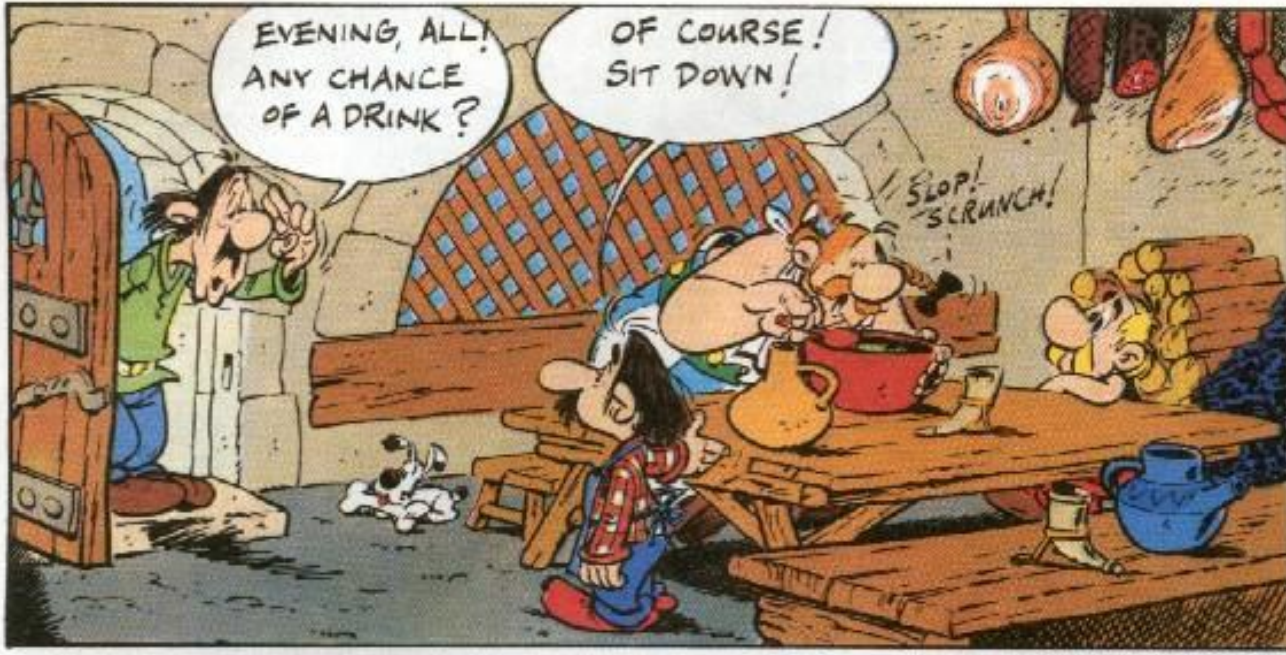
CAREFUL, OBELEX. YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T USED TO IT.

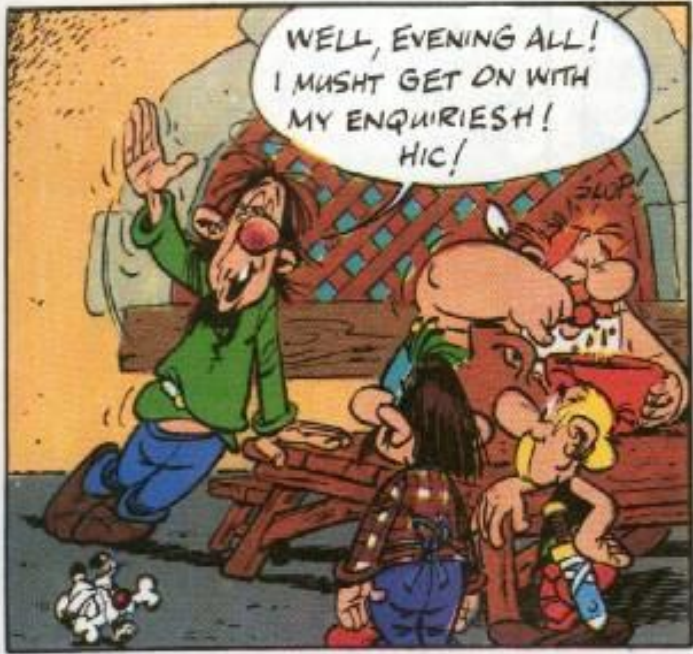
?

OH, LET HIM, ASTERIX! A LITTLE WINE WON'T DO HIM ANY HARM.



THIS SOUNDS AN EXCELLENT SPOT TO START MY ENQUIRIES. BY JUPITER!





WELL, EVENING ALL!  
I MUSHT GET ON WITH  
MY ENQUIRIESH!  
HIC!



..... MOUSTACHE!

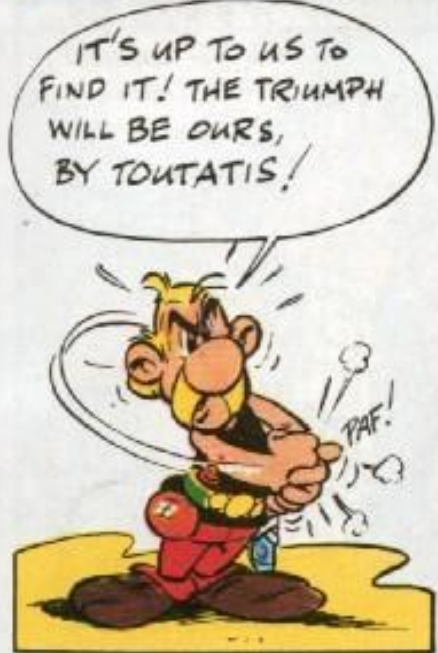


EVENING, ALL!  
ANY CHANSHE OF A  
DRINK? HAEC! HOC!

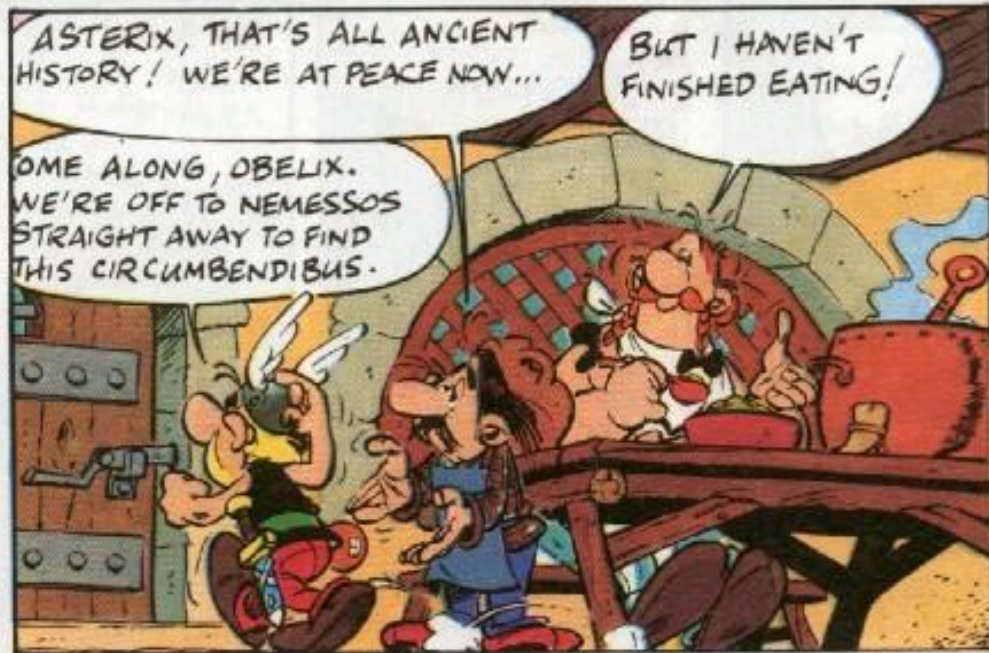


DID YOU HEAR THAT SPY?  
THE ROMANS ARE LOOKING FOR  
THE SHIELD OF VERGINGETORIX!  
THEY MUST NOT FIND IT!

OH, DON'T WORRY...  
THAT IDIOT WAS  
ABSOLUTELY STONED...



IT'S UP TO US TO  
FIND IT! THE TRIUMPH  
WILL BE OURS,  
BY TOUTATIS!



ASTERIX, THAT'S ALL ANCIENT  
HISTORY! WE'RE AT PEACE NOW...

BUT I HAVEN'T  
FINISHED EATING!

COME ALONG, OBELIX.  
WE'RE OFF TO NEMESSOS  
STRAIGHT AWAY TO FIND  
THIS CIRCUMBENDIBUS.



BACK FROM HIS SECRET MISSION,  
LEGIONARY CAIUS PUSILLANIMUS  
MAKES HIS REPORT..

AV... AV...  
EV...  
EVENING ALL!



WELL?  
WHAT  
NEWS?

THEY DON'T KNOW A THING  
ABOUT ALESHIA ... HIC! ... BUT  
THEY KNOW A THING OR TWO  
ABOUT MAKING WINE,  
BY SHUPITER!



A REPORT WHICH  
LANDS HIM  
STRAIGHT IN  
CLINK ...

NO GOOD BEING  
KEEN IN THE ARMY.  
WHAT'S THE USHE OF  
FLAG-WAGGING? BESHT  
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.  
MATER'SH THE WORD!



EVENING, ALL!



MEANWHILE, OUR FRIENDS  
HAVE ARRIVED AT THE  
LARGE ARVERNIAN TOWN  
OF NEMESSOS\*



\*CLERMONT-FERRAND

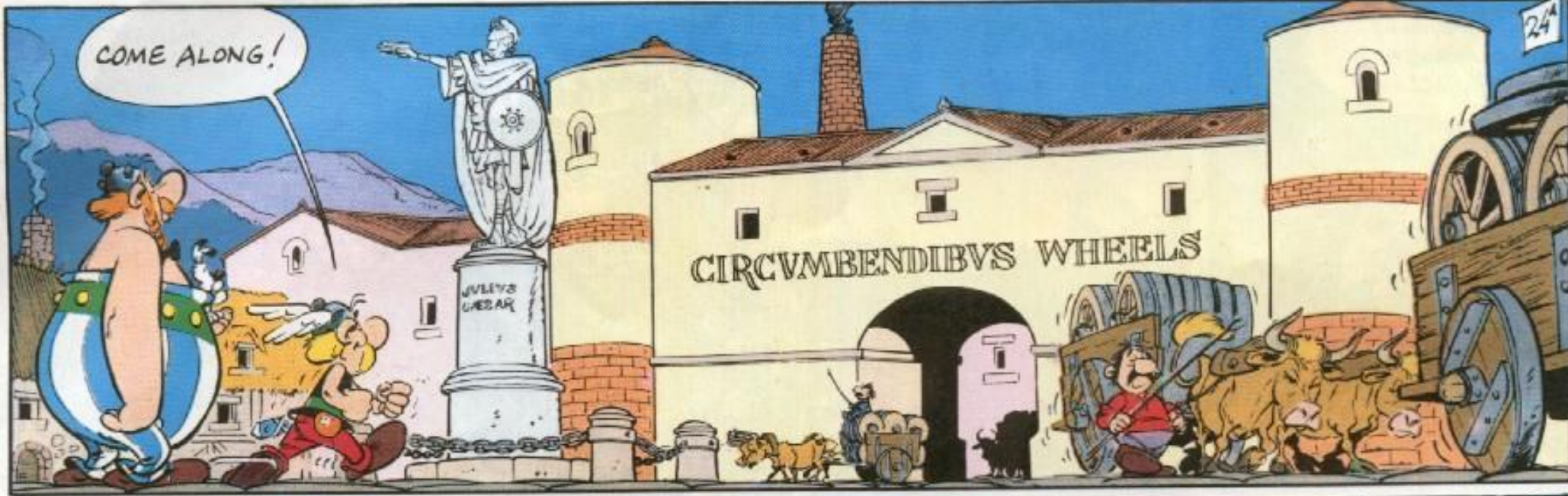
BUT HOW DO WE SET  
ABOUT FINDING  
CIRCUMBENDIBUS,  
ASTERIX?

HE MAKES WHEELS...  
IT SHOULD BE EASY TO  
SPOT A WHEEL  
FACTORY...

THERE, LOOK! THE  
OTHER SIDE OF THAT  
SQUARE WITH THE  
STATUE OF JULIUS  
CAESAR!



COME ALONG!



CAN I  
HELP YOU?

WE WANT  
TO SEE  
CIRCUMBENDIBUS.



THE BOSS?  
WHAT  
ABOUT?

IT'S LIKE THIS...  
WE'RE LOOKING  
FOR THE SH...



PRIVATE  
BUSINESS.  
OUR NAMES ARE  
ASTERIX AND  
OBELIX.

AND  
DOGMATIX.



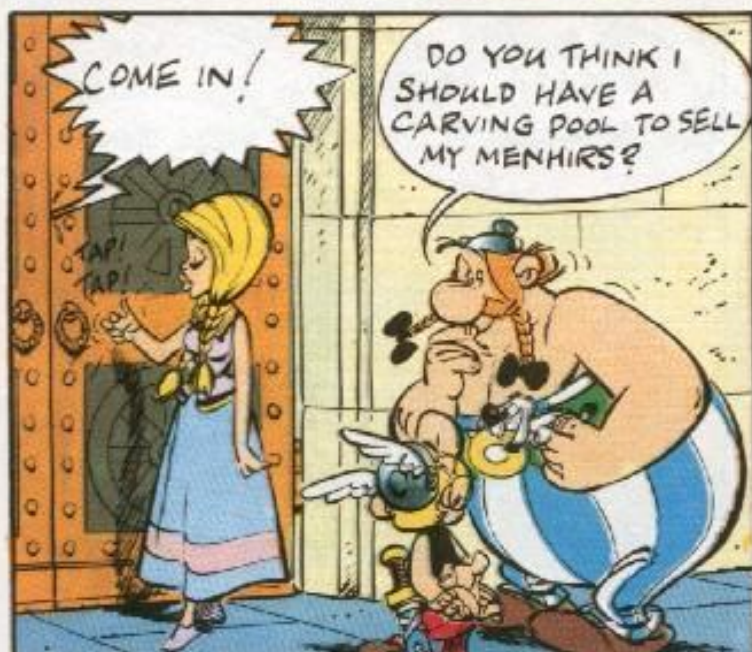
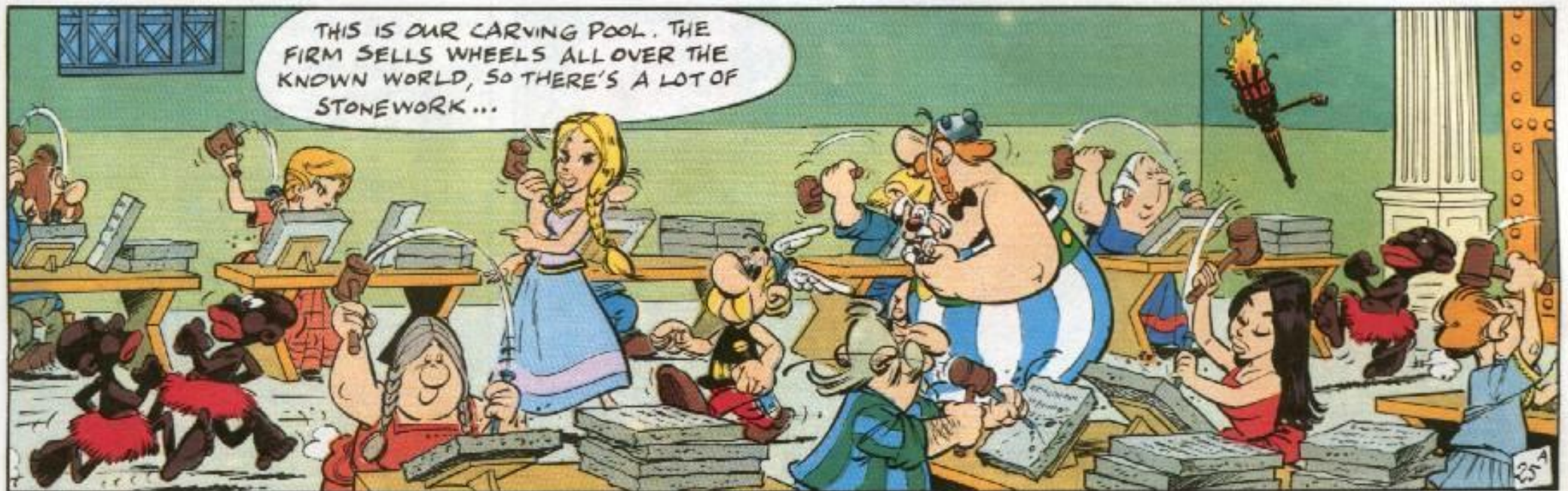
ASTERIX AND OBELIX WOULD  
LIKE TO SEE THE BOSS ON  
PRIVATE BUSINESS.

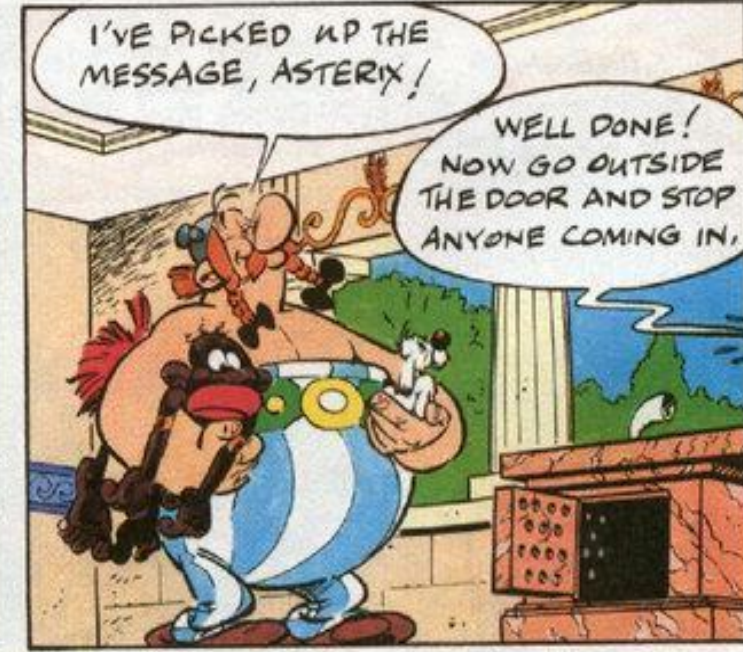
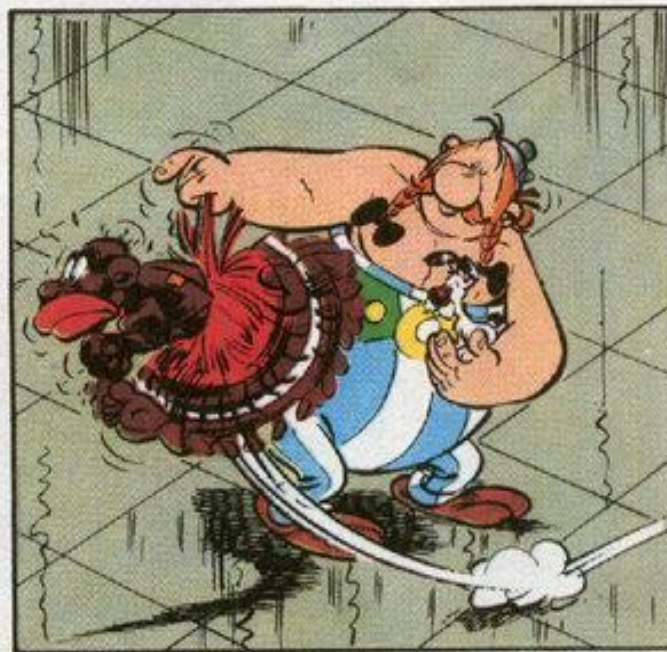
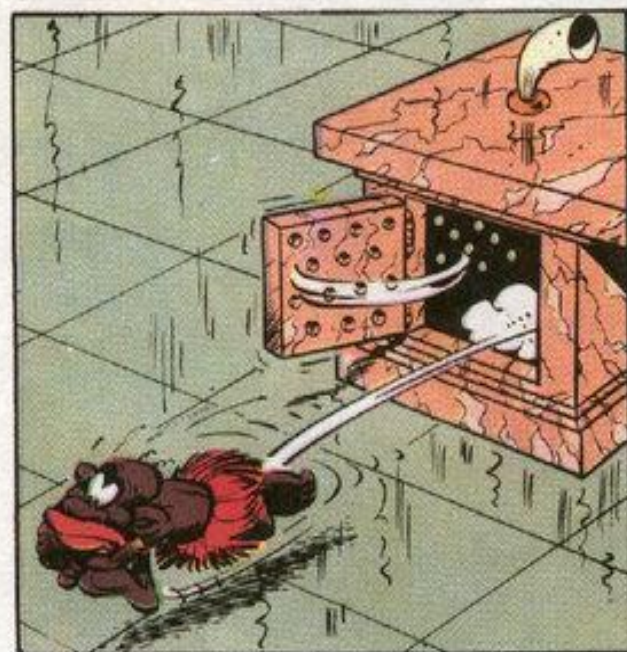
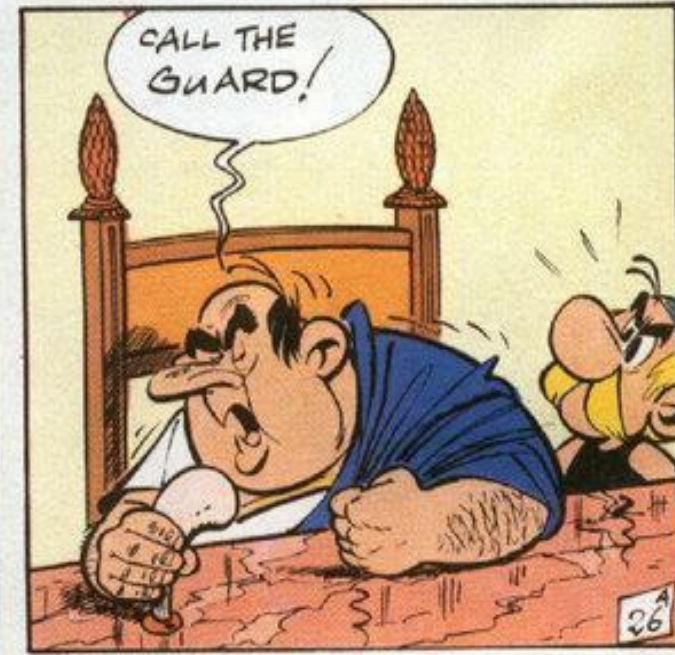
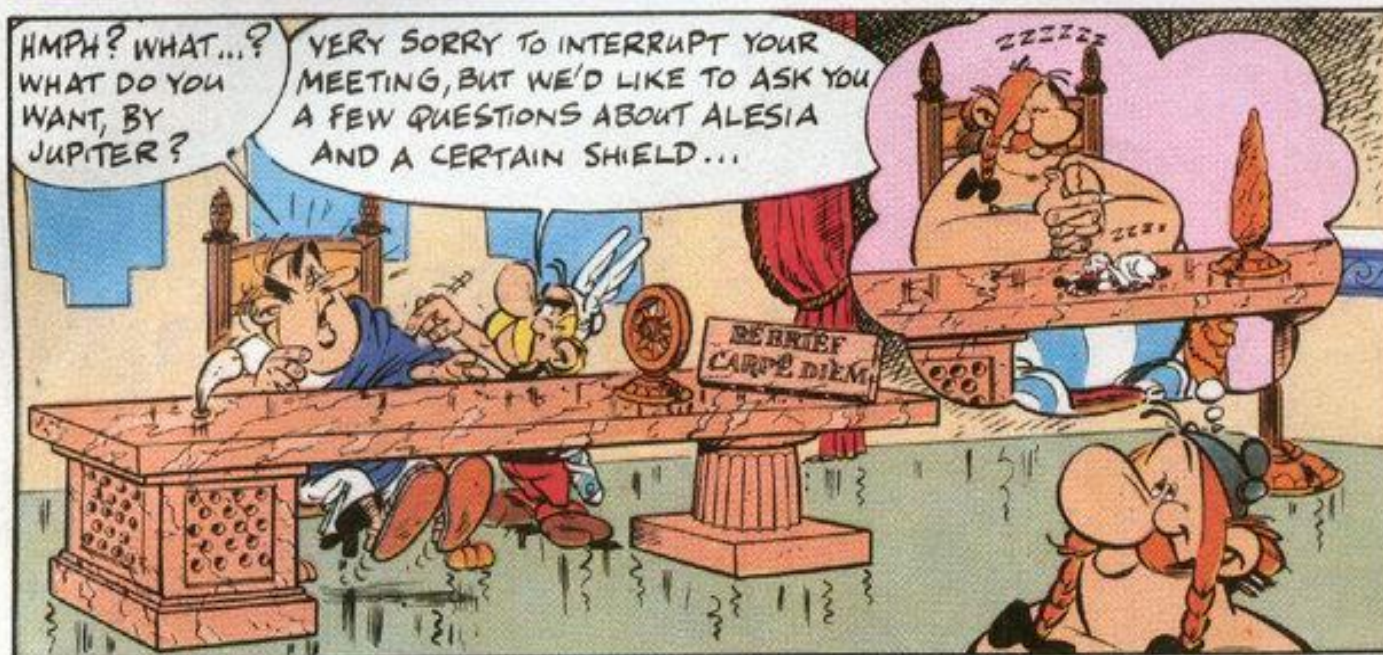
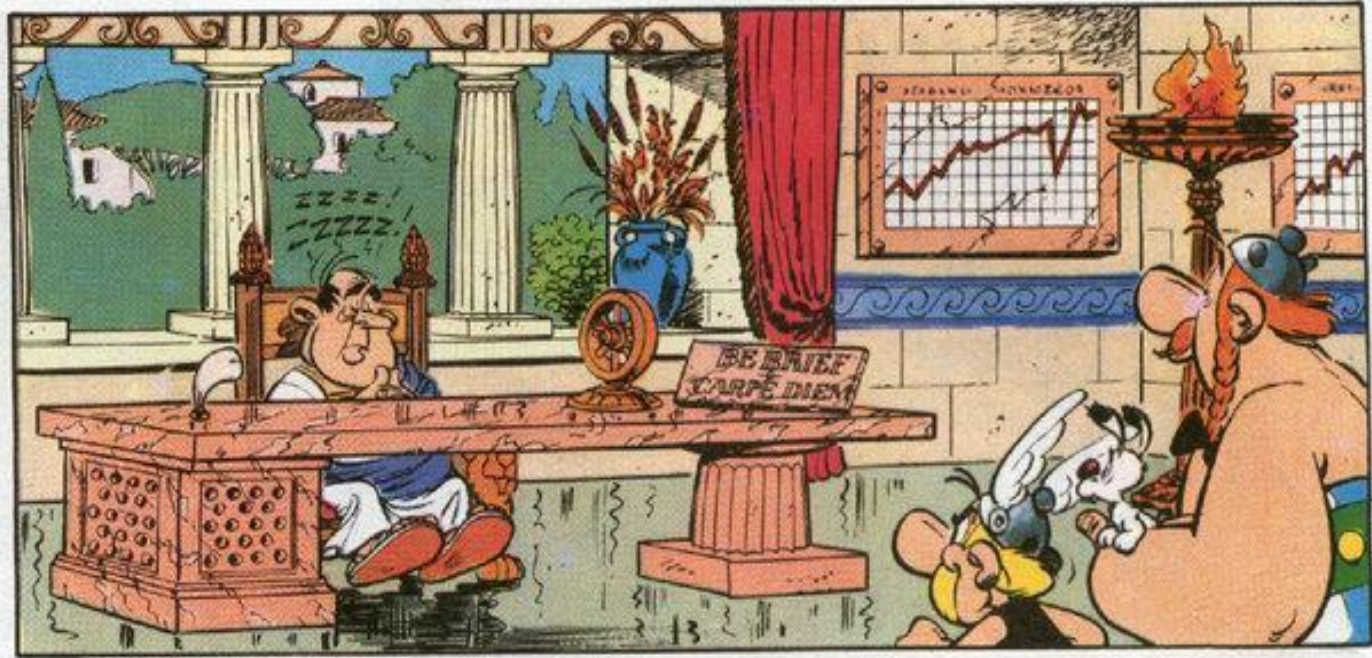


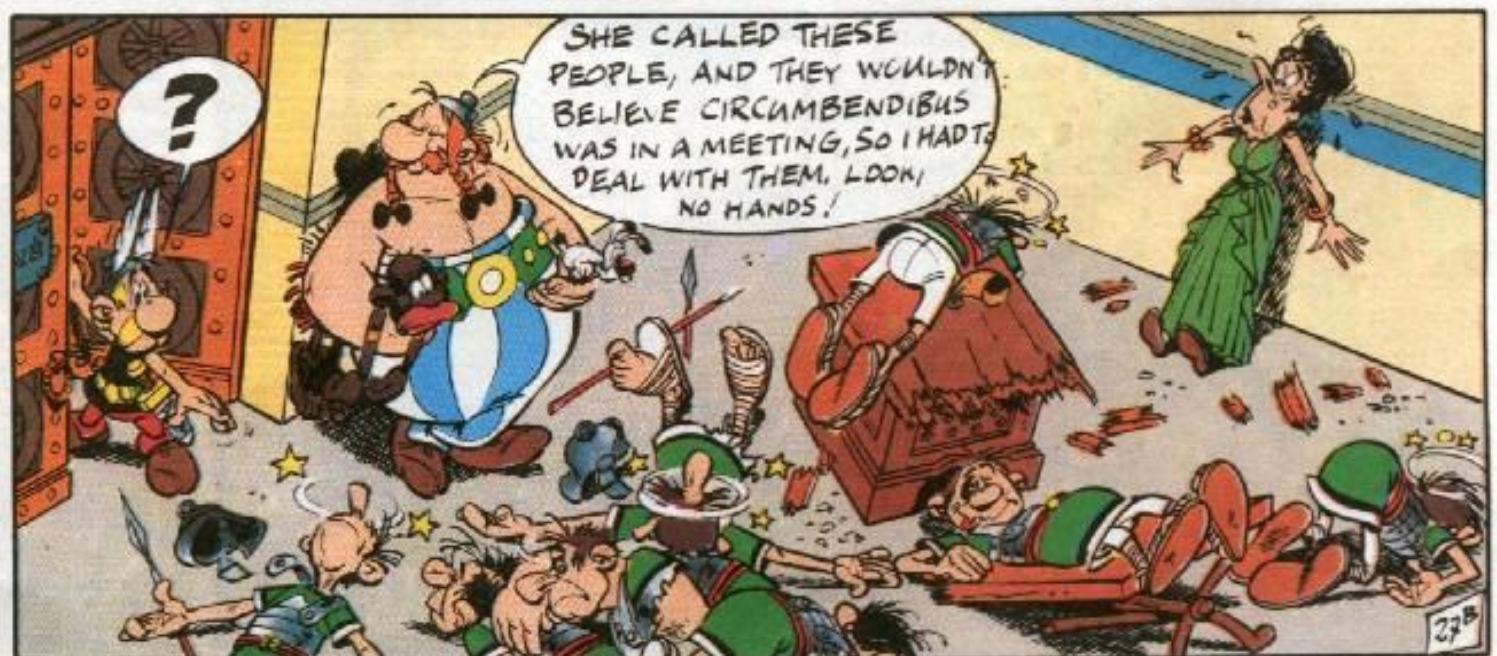
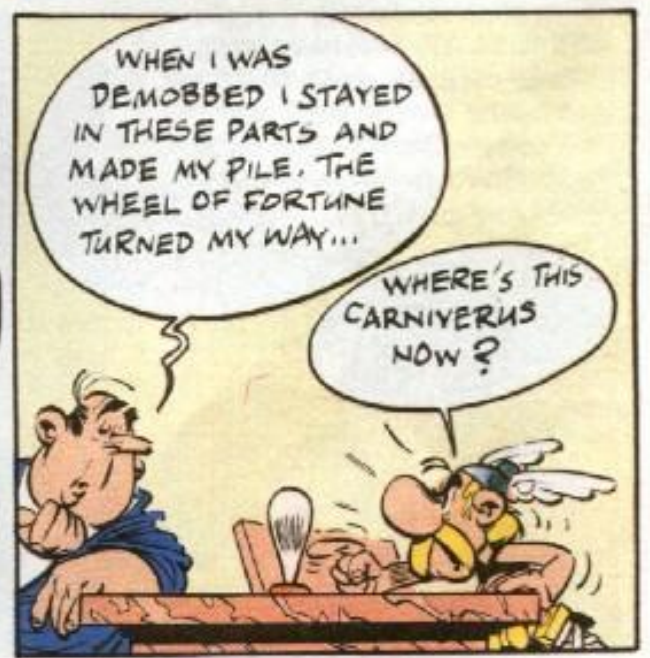
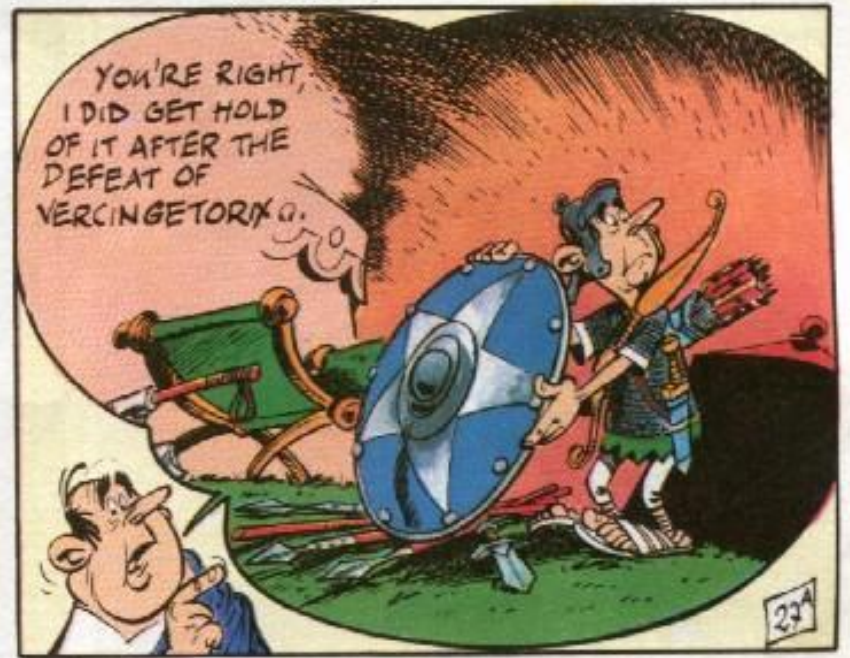
THAT'S OUR INTERCOM  
SYSTEM... NOW, IF YOU'D  
LIKE TO GO INTO THE  
WAITING ATRIUM...

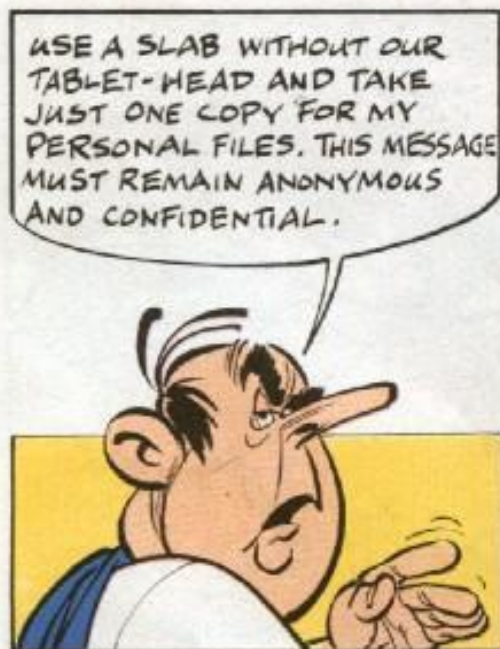
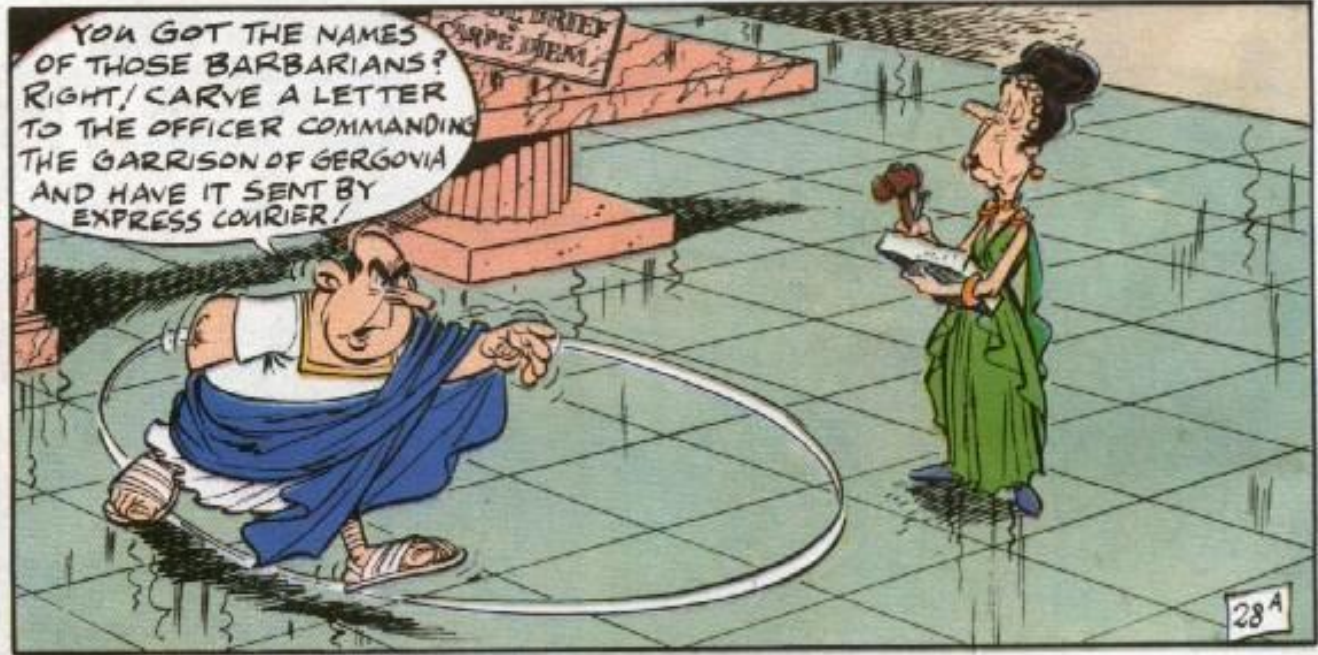
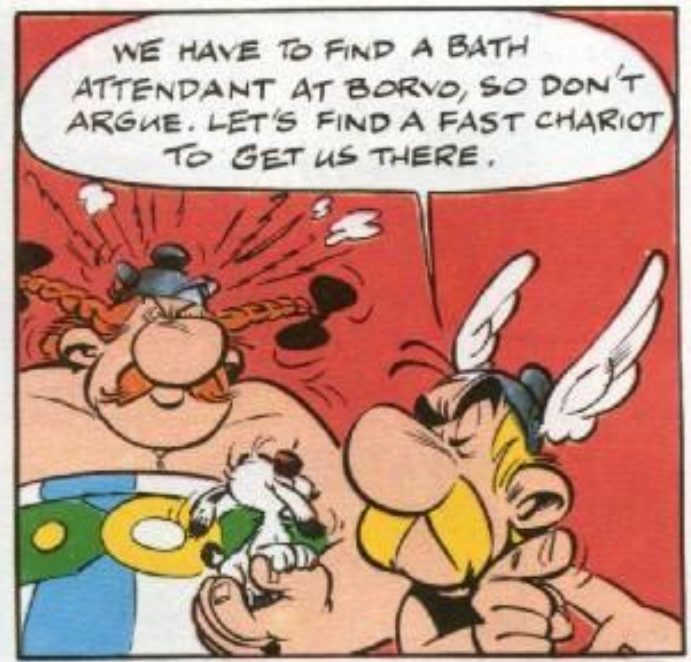
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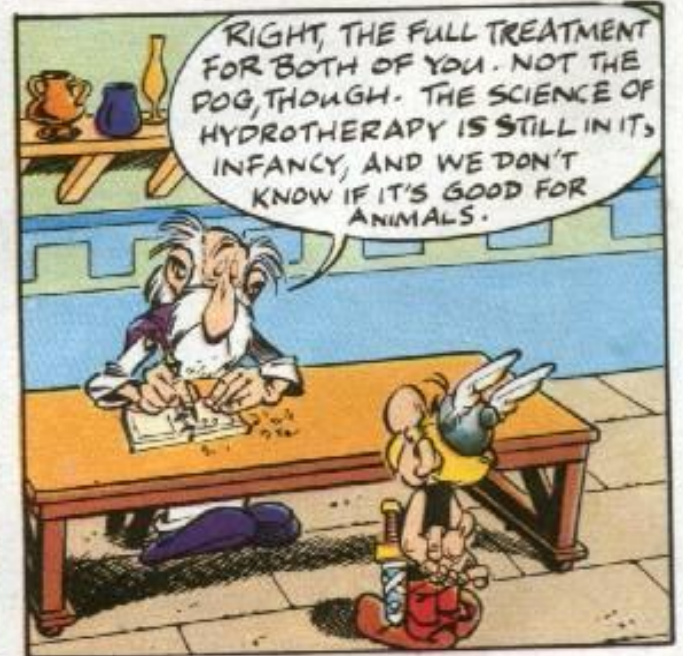
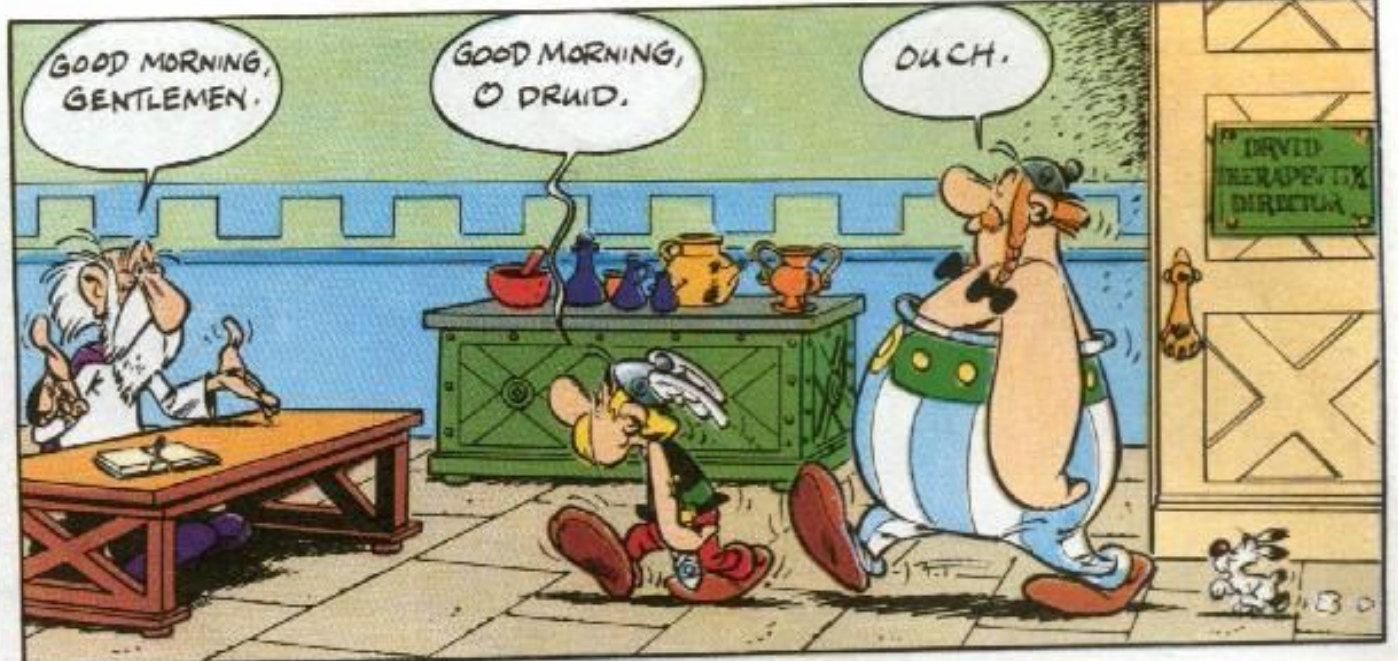
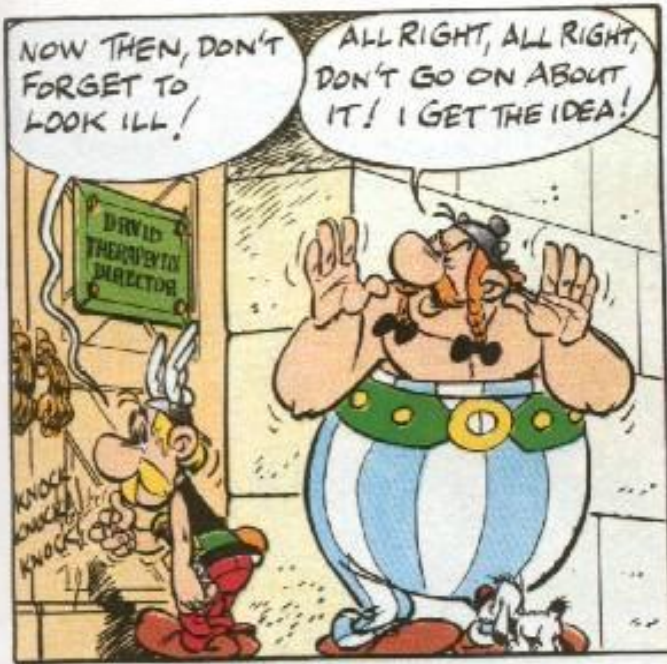










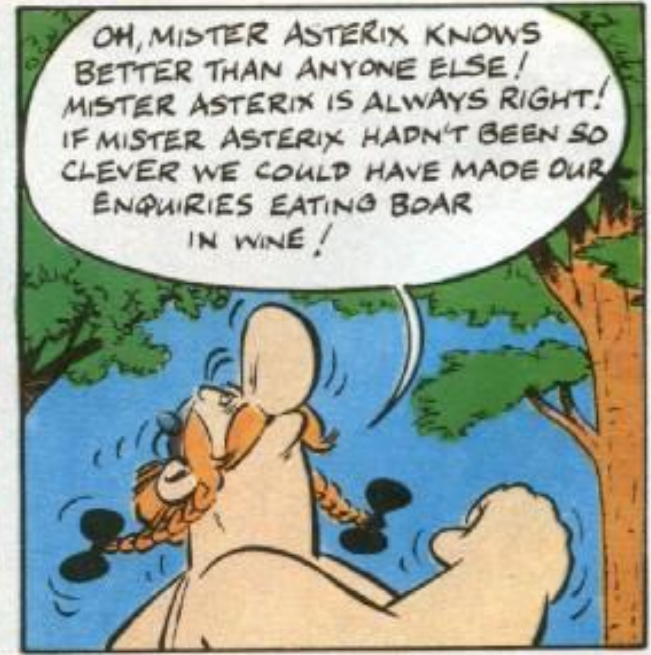
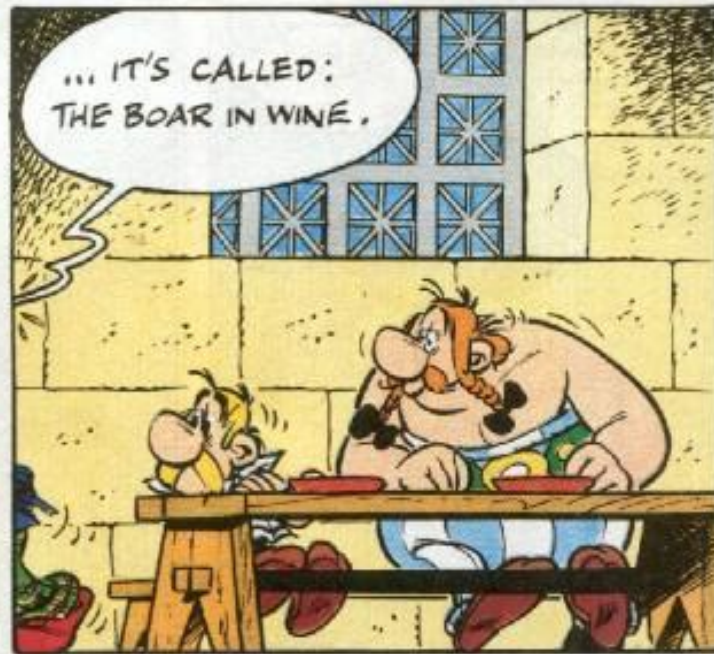
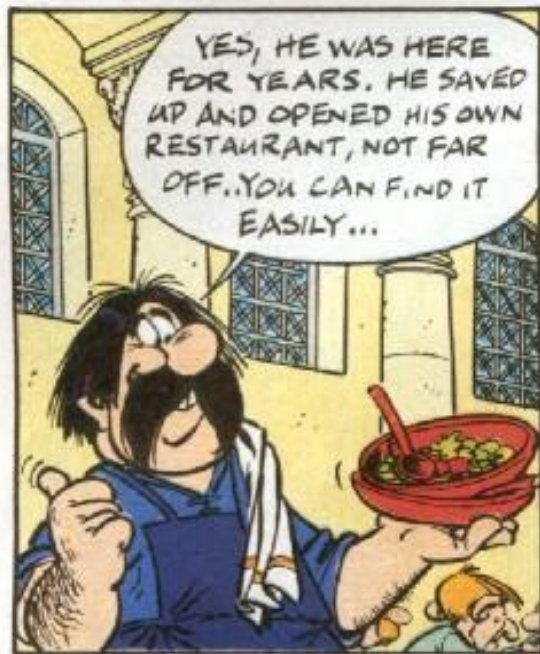
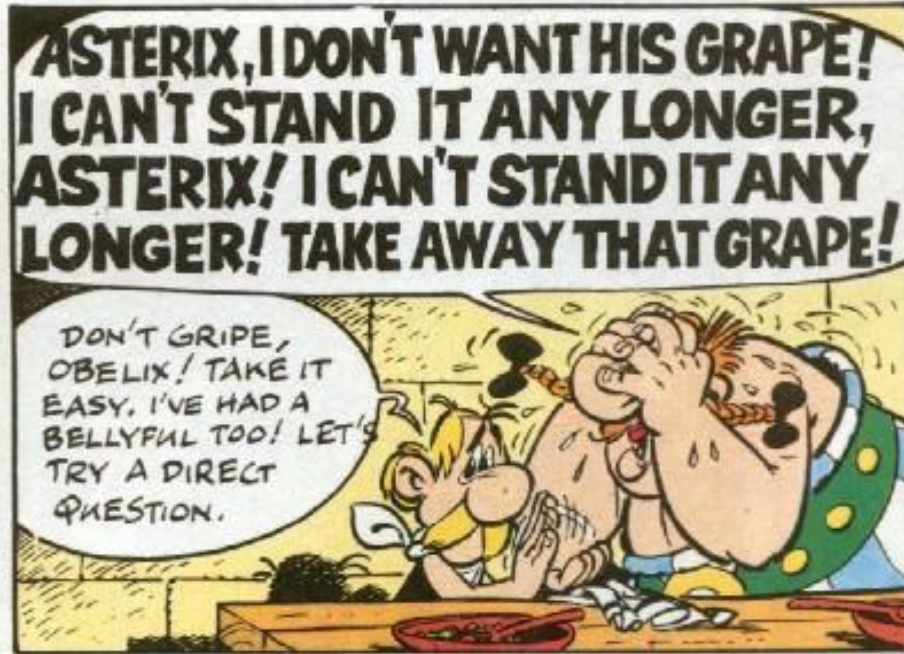


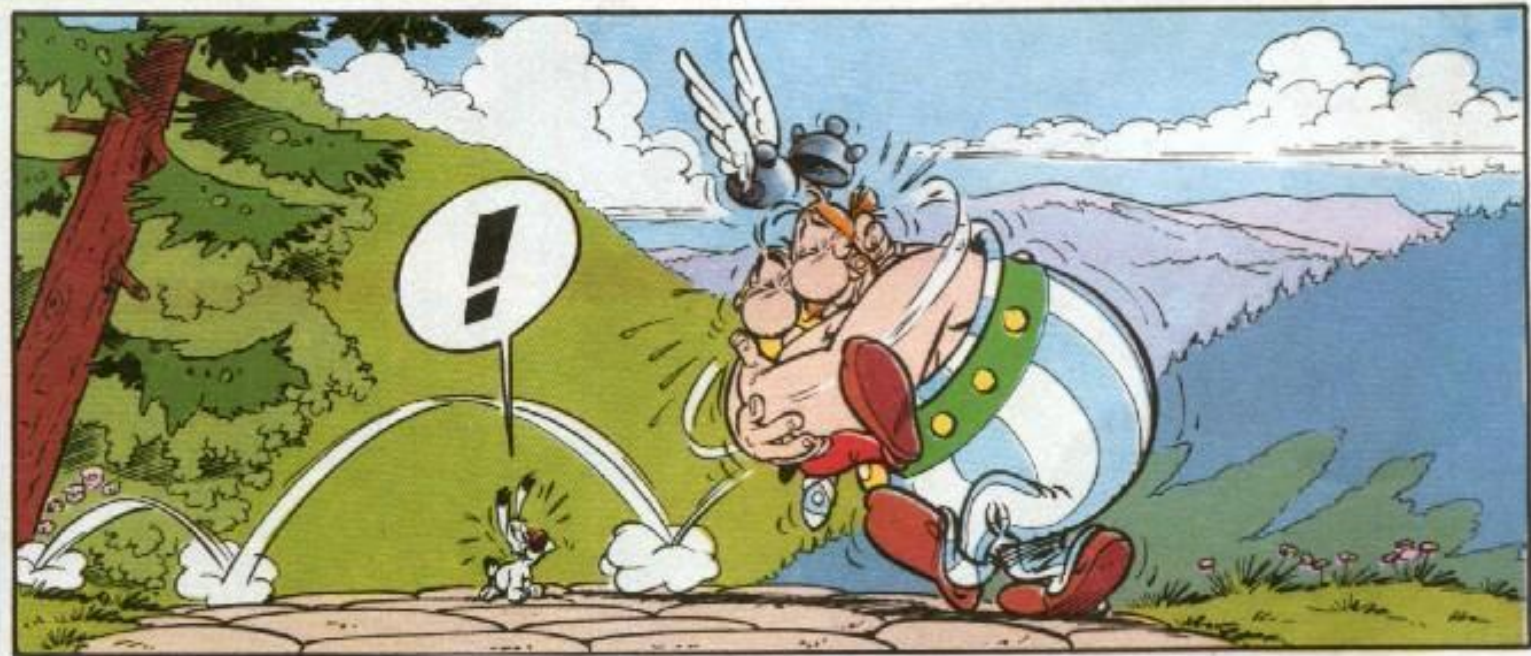
AND SO, IN THE COURSE OF TREATMENT, OUR FRIENDS ARE ABLE TO MAKE DISCREET ENQUIRIES ...



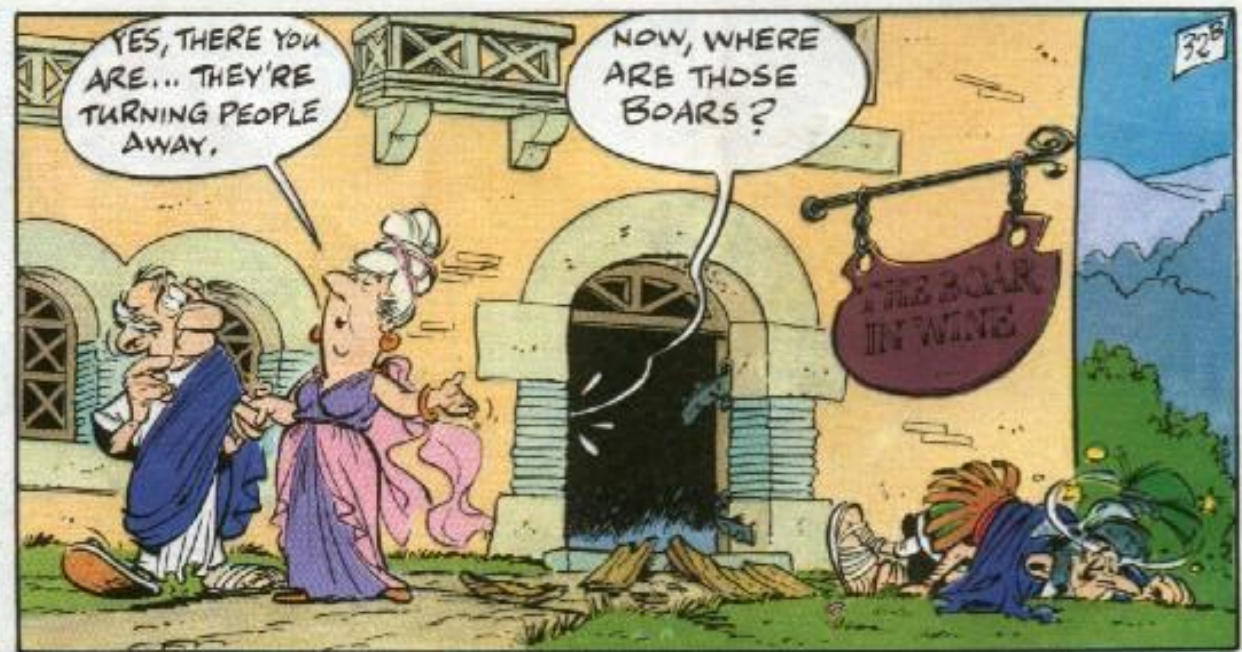
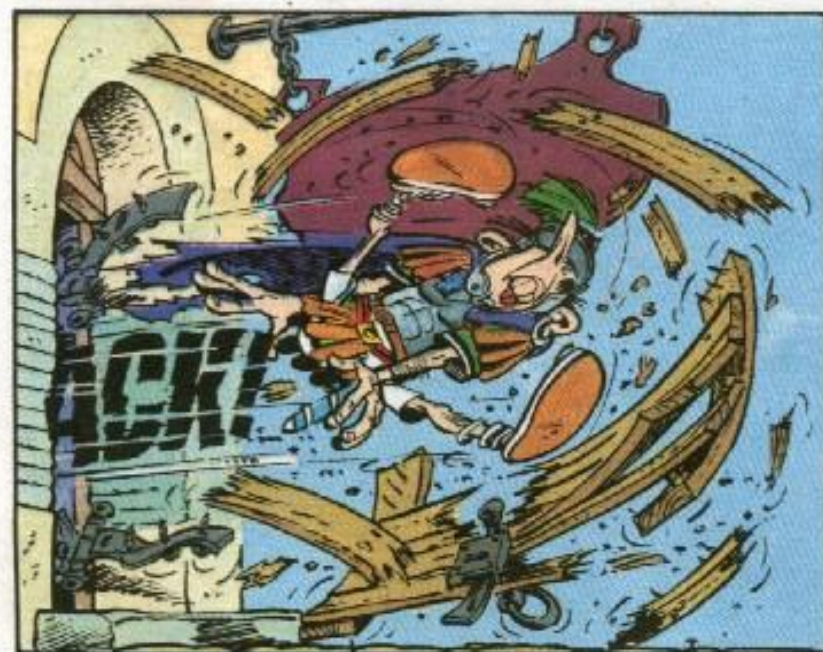
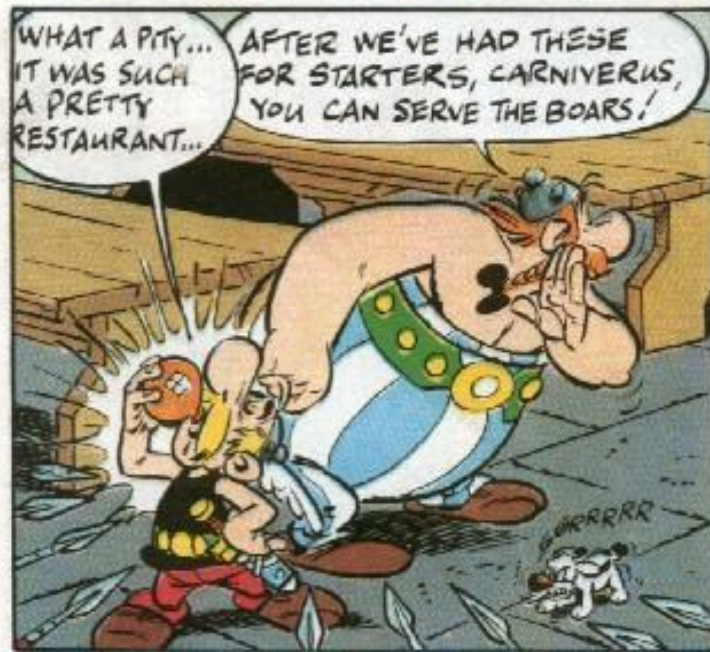
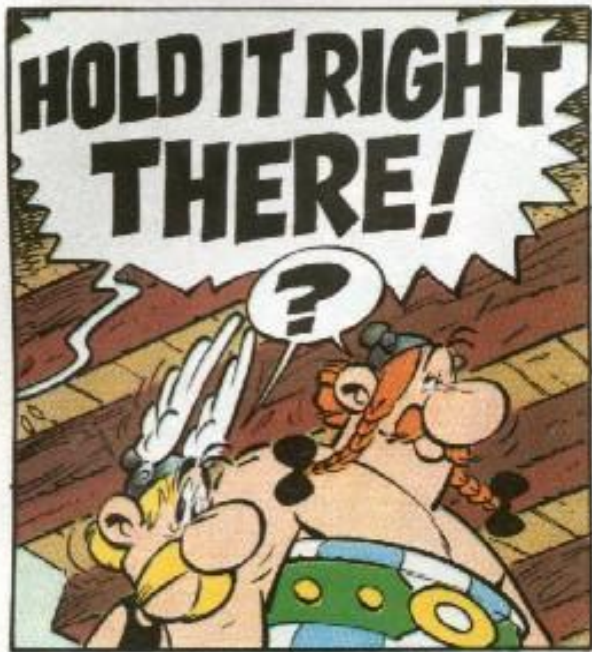
THE TREATMENT IS PARTICULARLY PAINFUL AT MEALTIMES ...







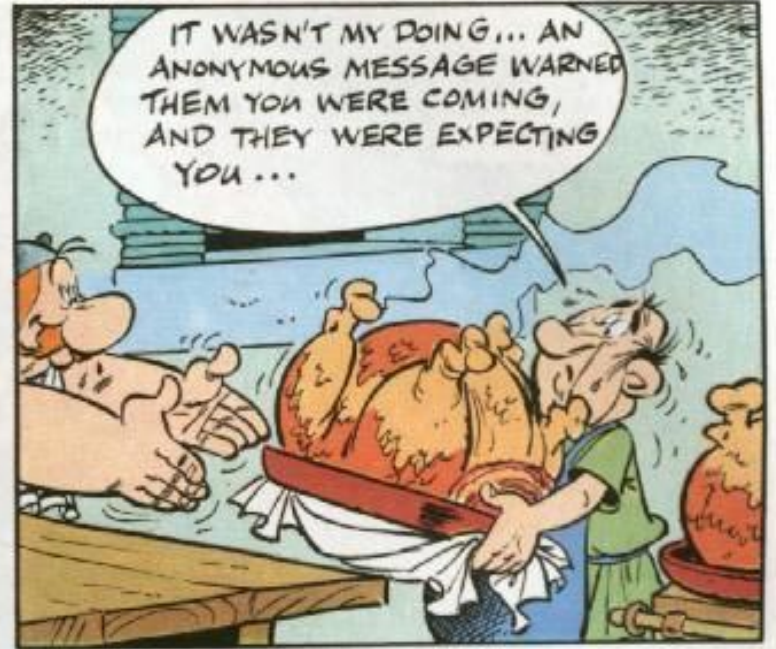




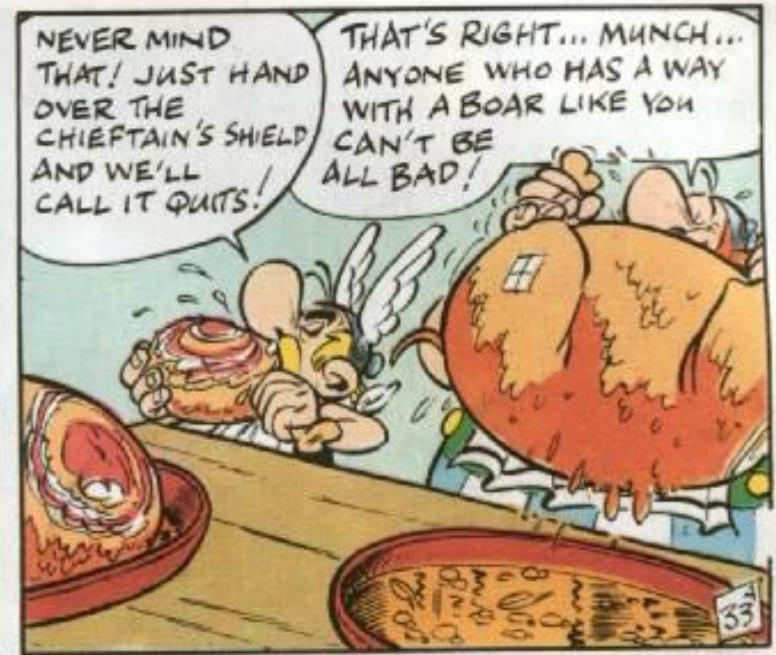


AH! AND ABOUT TIME TOO! WE'RE THE LAST TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO US!

GOOD! COME AND JOIN US, CARNIVERUS, OLD CHAP.



IT WASN'T MY DOING... AN ANONYMOUS MESSAGE WARNED THEM YOU WERE COMING, AND THEY WERE EXPECTING YOU...



NEVER MIND THAT! JUST HAND OVER THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD AND WE'LL CALL IT QUITS!

THAT'S RIGHT... MUNCH... ANYONE WHO HAS A WAY WITH A BOAR LIKE YOU CAN'T BE ALL BAD!

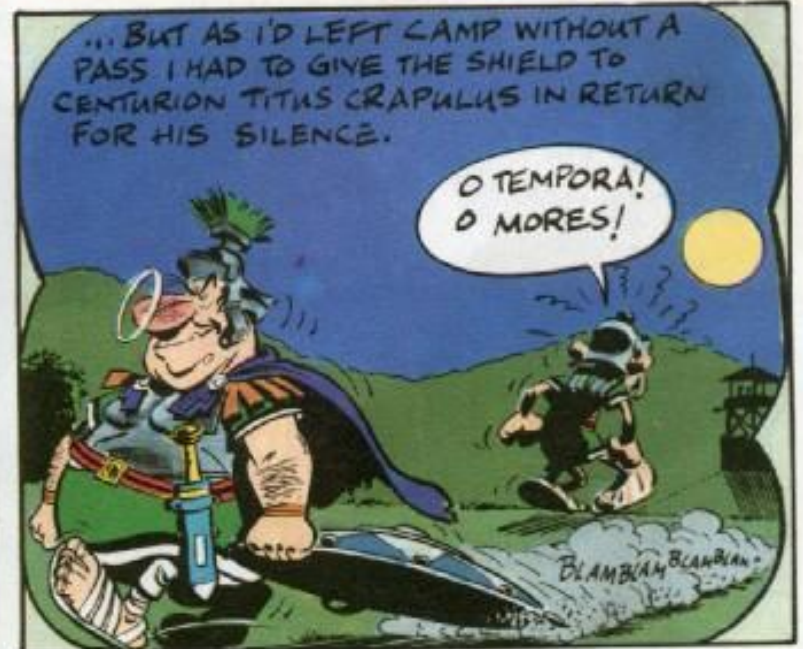


BUT I HAVEN'T GOT THE SHIELD ANY MORE... I ALREADY TOLD THEM...



... YOU'RE RIGHT, I DID WIN IT IN A GAME OF CHANCE WHEN I WAS A LEGIONARY...

HEY! YOU THERE! QAO VADIS, LADDIE?



... BUT AS I'D LEFT CAMP WITHOUT A PASS I HAD TO GIVE THE SHIELD TO CENTURION TITUS CRAPULUS IN RETURN FOR HIS SILENCE.

O TEMPORA! O MORES!



RIGHT! WHERE'S THIS TITUS CRAPULUS, THEN?

NOT IN A WATERING PLACE, I HOPE?

THAT GREAT WINESKIN IN A WATERING PLACE? HUH!



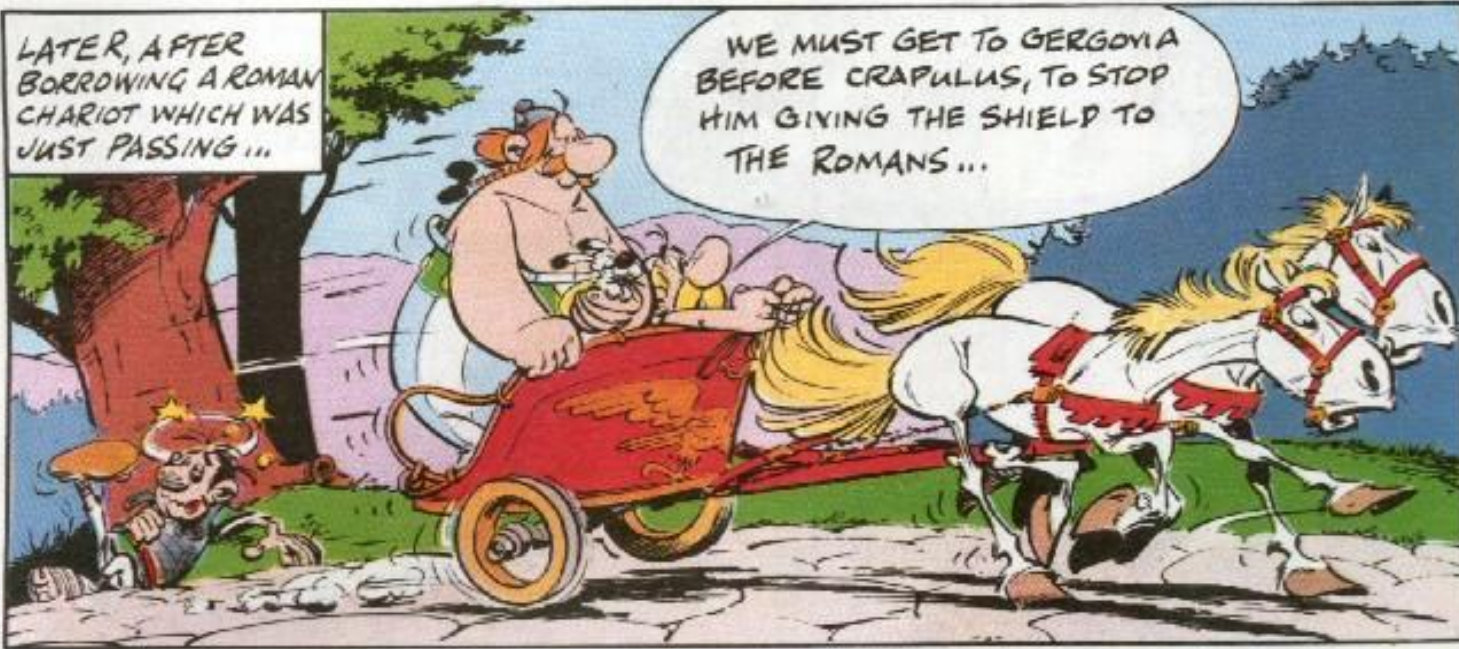
NO, HE STAYED IN THE ARMY. THE OTHERS WILL FIND HIM EASILY WHEN THEY CONSULT THE ARMY LISTS; I GAVE THEM HIS NAME.



HOW MUCH DO WE OWE YOU?

12 SESTERTII FOR THE BOARS. THE RESTAURANT'S ON ME. JUST PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER COME BACK.

LATER, AFTER BORROWING A ROMAN CHARIOT WHICH WAS JUST PASSING...



WE MUST GET TO GERGOYA BEFORE CRAPULUS, TO STOP HIM GIVING THE SHIELD TO THE ROMANS...

IF HE GETS THERE FIRST WE'VE HAD IT. WE CAN'T FIGHT THE WHOLE GARRISON!



WHY NOT? IS IT OUT OF BOUNDS?

LATE THAT NIGHT...



WHO... WHO'S THERE?

IT'S US! OBELIX, ASTERIX...

...AND DOGMATIX!



COME IN, QUICK! THE SKY HAS FALLEN ON OUR HEADS!

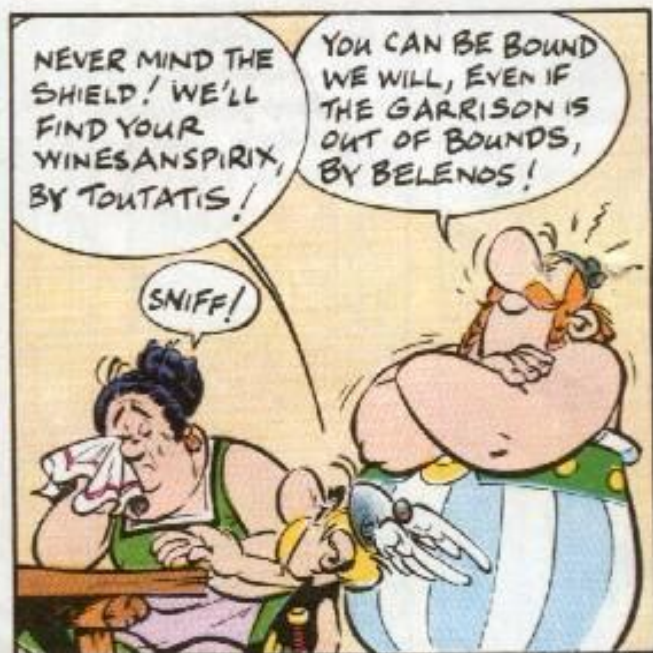
?!



AND THERE'S A PRICE ON YOURS, BY THE WAY... THE ROMANS HAVE GONE CRAZY! THEY'RE SEARCHING EVERYWHERE, AND THE WORST OF IT IS...



...MY WINEANSPIRIX HAS DISAPPEARED! NOXIUS VAPUS MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM PRISONER! BOOHOOHOO!



NEVER MIND THE SHIELD! WE'LL FIND YOUR WINEANSPIRIX, BY TOUTATIS!

SNIFF!

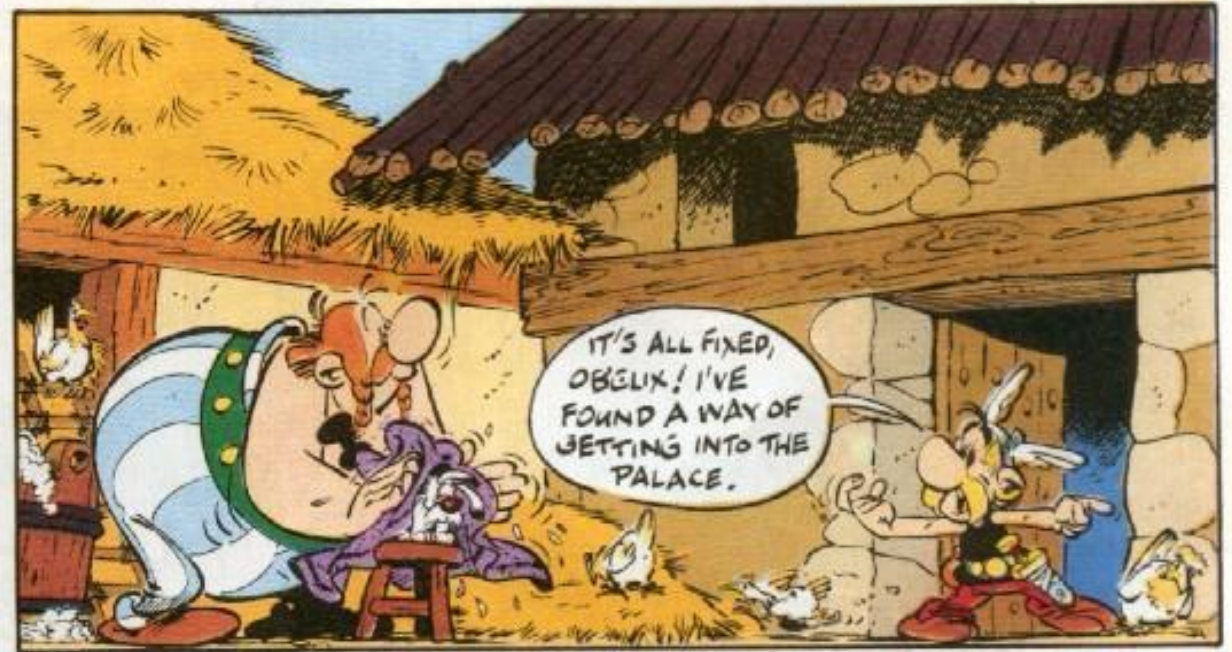
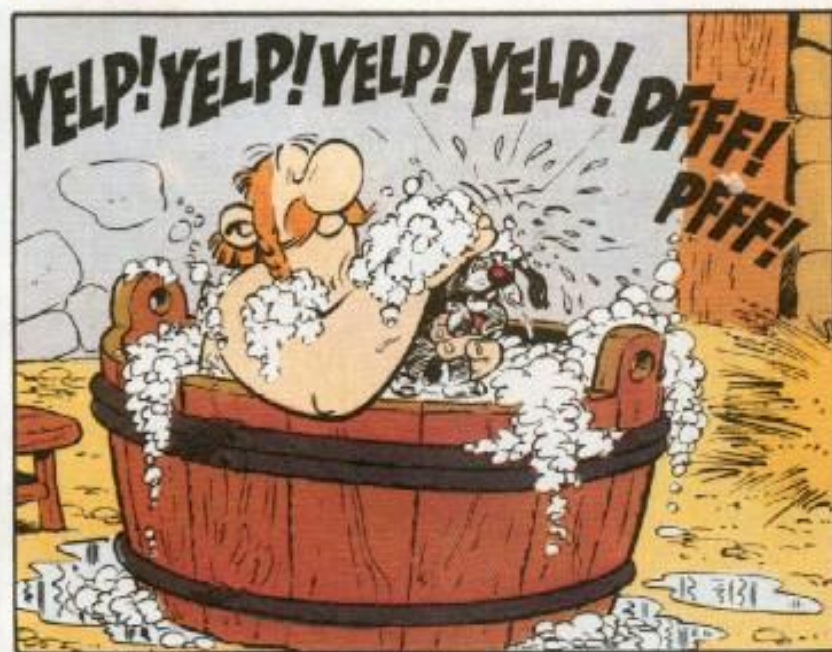
YOU CAN BE BOUND WE WILL, EVEN IF THE GARRISON IS OUT OF BOUNDS, BY BELENOS!



AND SO THE OUTLAWED ASTERIX, OBELIX (AND DOGMATIX) SPEND THE NIGHT HIDDEN IN A HEAP OF CHARCOAL...

GOOD NIGHT, OBELIX.

SORRY I LOST MY TEMPER EARLIER. YOU'RE A WHITE MAN, ASTERIX!



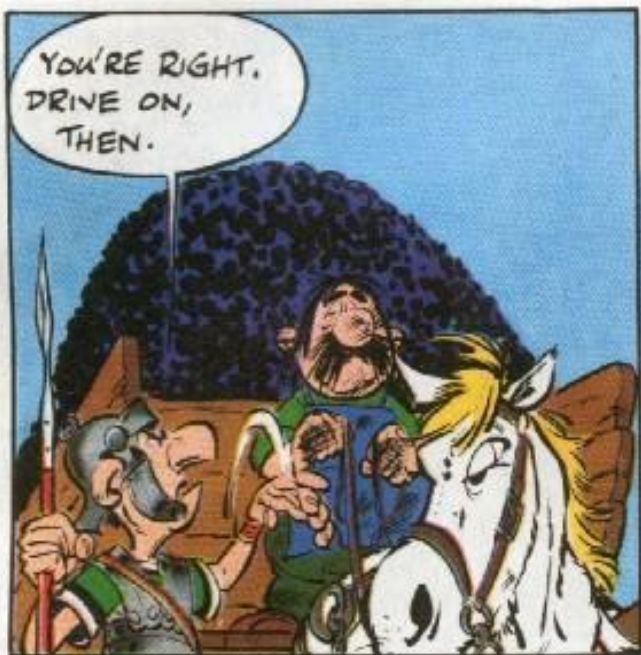


IT'S THE CHARCOAL.



WE DUGHT TO SEARCH HIS LOAD.

ARE YOU OFF YOUR HEAD, BY MERCURY? WE'D GET FILTHY. WHAT ABOUT THE KIT INSPECTION? POLISHED CALIGAE AND ALL THAT!



YOU'RE RIGHT. DRIVE ON, THEN.



IT'S WORKING NICELY! NOW I'M GOING TO UNLOAD YOU INTO THE CELLAR DOWN A CHUTE. GOOD LUCK!



YOOWWL!

SH!



MEANWHILE, IN A ROOM IN THE PALACE ...

WELL, CRAPULUS, WE TRACED YOU TO THE GARRISON OF BEGODUNUM%. YOUR WEAKNESS FOR THE AMPHORA HAS STOOD IN THE WAY OF YOUR PROMOTION ...

RODEZ



NOW, I CAN FIX THAT, IF YOU'LL TELL ME WHERE THE CHIEPTAIN'S SHIELD IS.

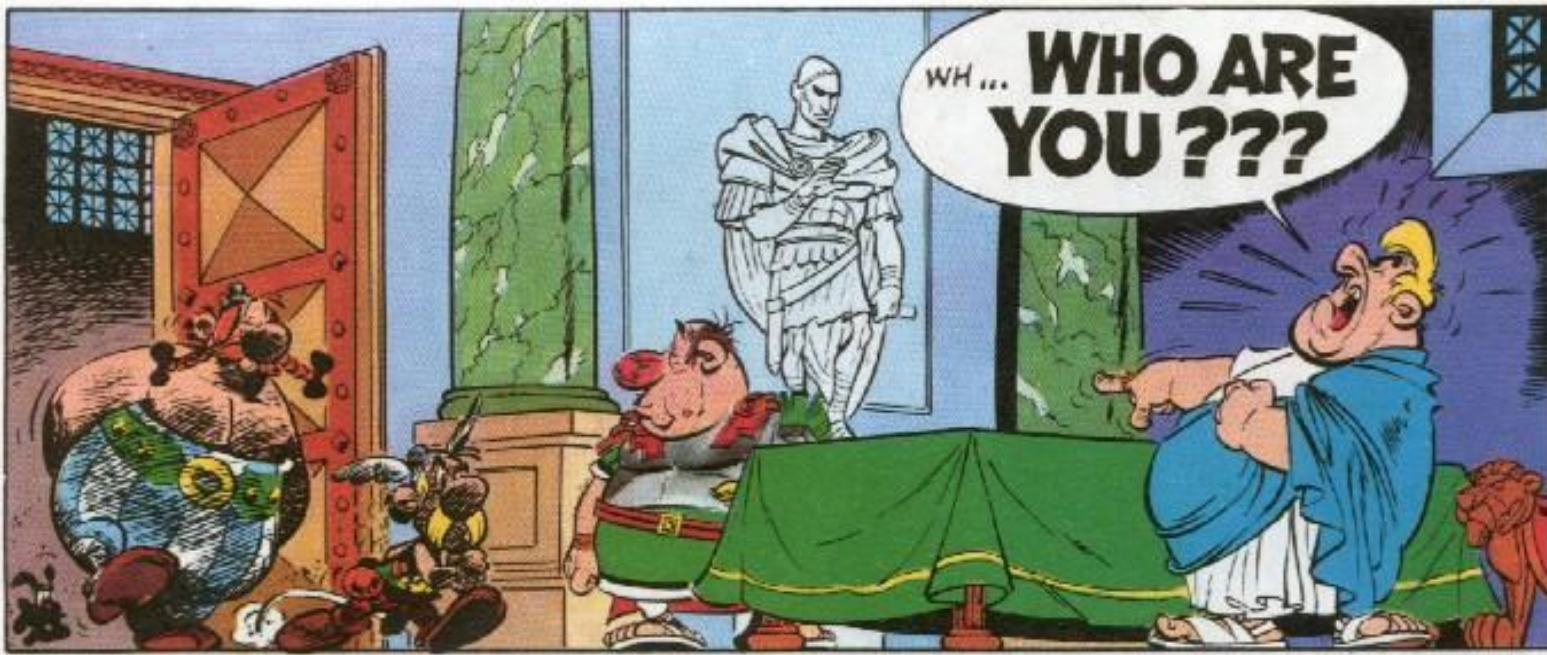
THE THING IS... I GAVE IT TO A WINE MERCHANT, LONG AGO, ONLY I CAN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME ...



PAFF!

?!

36



WH... **WHO ARE YOU???**



WE'RE LOOKING FOR **WINESANSPIRIX.**



**WINESANSPIRIX!**  
THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE NAME OF THE WINE MERCHANT WHO HAD THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD FROM ME!

?!?



**WINESANSPIRIX!**  
I WANT THIS **WINESANSPIRIX!**

**NO, WE WANT WINESANSPIRIX!**

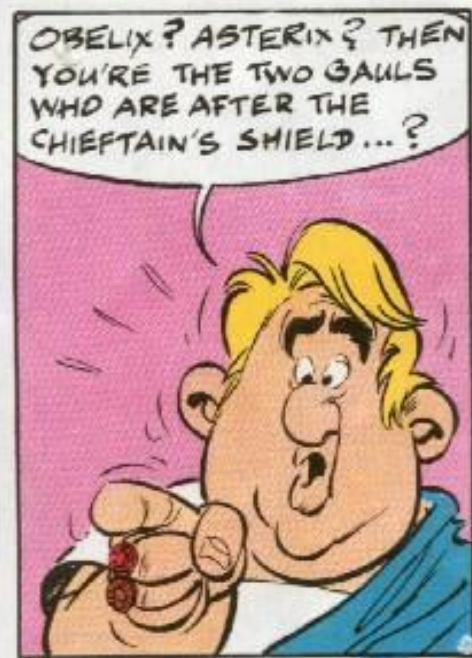
**WINESANSPIRIX!**  
**YOOHOO!**  
**WINESANSPIRIX!**

**I WAS THE ONE WHO REMEMBERED THE NAME!**  
**DON'T FORGET MY PROMOTION!**



C'ME IN, **OBELIX.** **WINESANSPIRIX** DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN HERE. LET'S GO AND LOOK FOR HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE.

ALL RIGHT, **ASTERIX.**



**OBELIX? ASTERIX? THEN YOU'RE THE TWO GAULS WHO ARE AFTER THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD...?**



**CALL OUT THE GUAR...**

COMING, **OBELIX?**

YES.

**PAF!**



HEY, WHAT ABOUT MY PROMOTION, THEN?



THOSE MEN... STOP THOSE MEN!

LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL SEE TO IT! I'LL FALL EVERYONE IN!



SURE ENOUGH, **CRAPULUS** DOES SEE TO IT ...

THAT'S FUNNY. THE SENTRIES ARE LEAVING THEIR POSTS...

**TANTANTARA TARAA**

THAT SUITS US!



HA! I'LL SHOW THIS SPECIAL ENVOY HOW AN OLD NCO CAN DRILL HIS MEN...



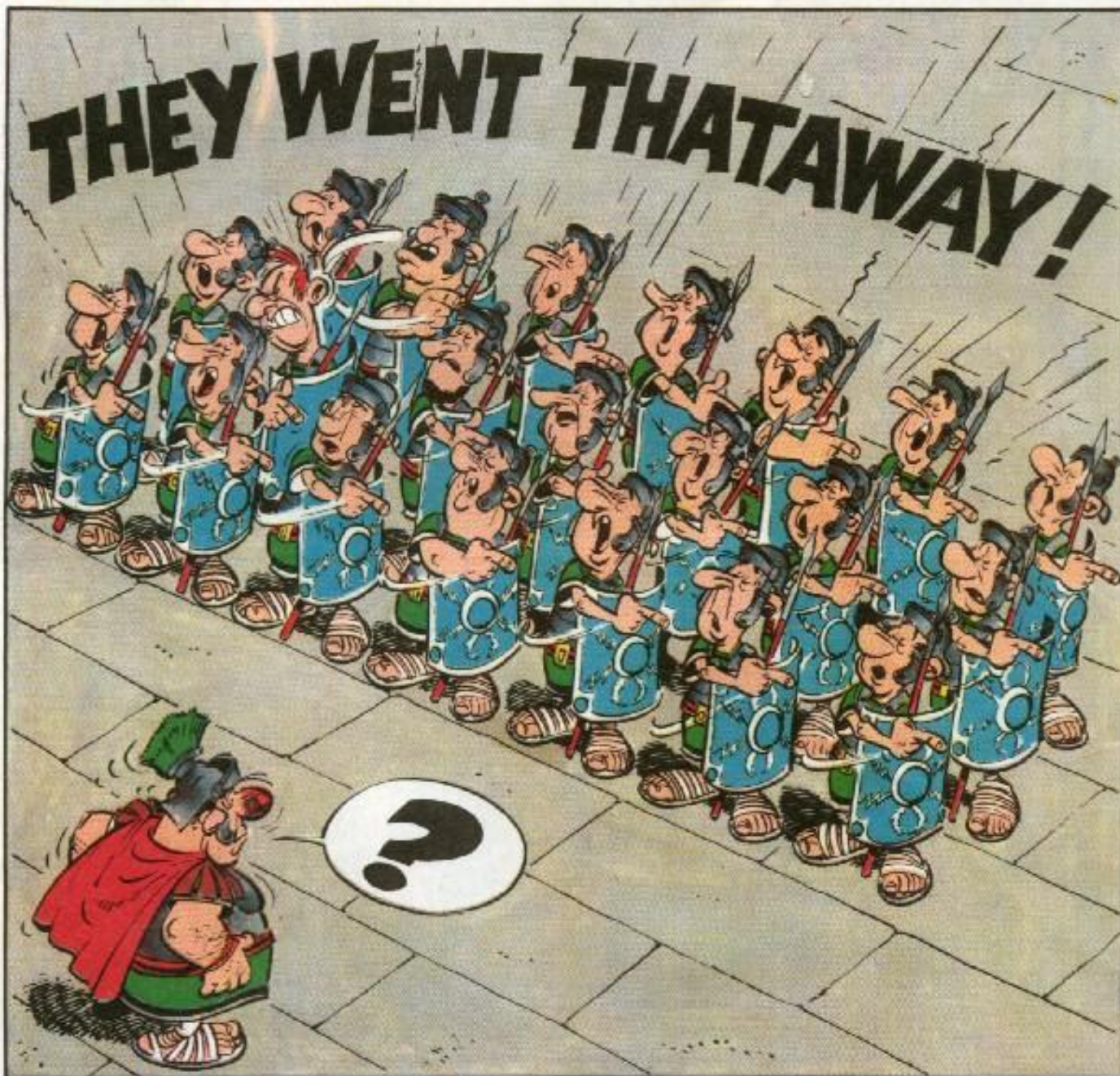
ATTEN-SHUN! STAND AT-EASE! COMPANEE 'SHUN! PAY ATTENTION, YOU LOT! AVE!



AVE!

RIGHT! TWO STRANGERS MAY TRY TO BREAK OUT OF THESE BARRACKS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ANIMAL OF CANINE BREED. THE ORDER OF THE DAY IS: STOP THEM AT ANY COS ...

38



THEY WENT THATAWAY!

?



WELL? HAVE YOU FOUND THEM?

AVE! CERTAIN INDICATIONS SEEM TO SHOW CLEARLY THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED INDIVIDUALS AND THE ANIMAL...



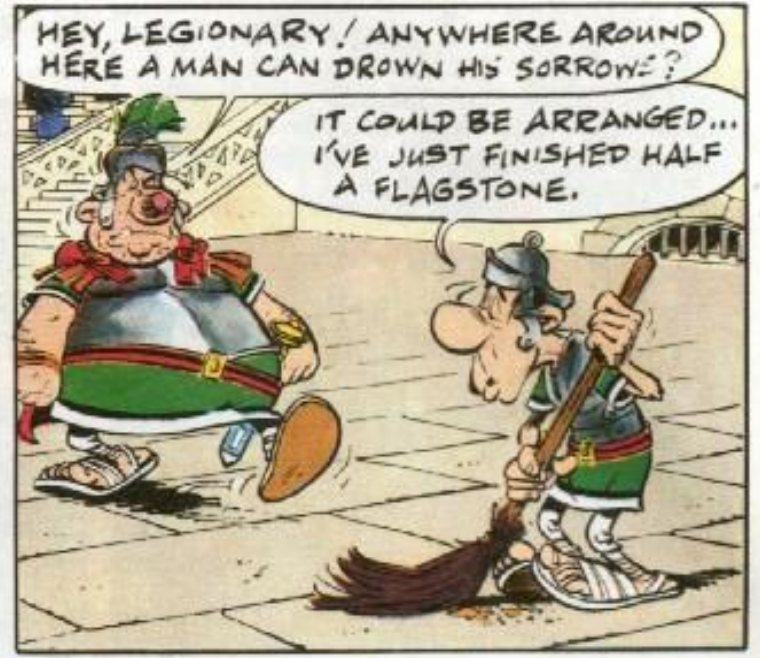
... WENT THATAWA ...

QUICK! EVERYONE AFTER THEM!

39



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ARMY'S COMING TO! NO DISCIPLINE! NO SENSE OF TRADITION!

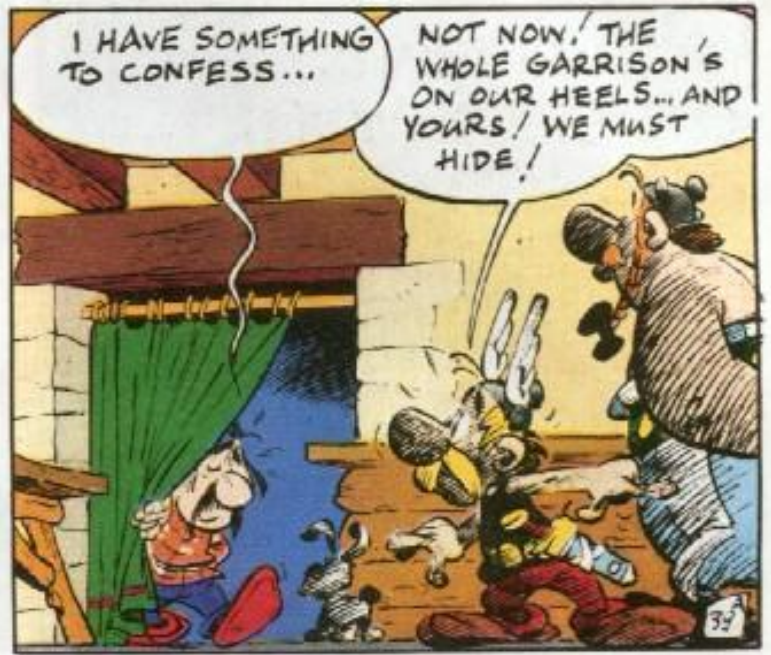


HEY, LEGIONARY! ANYWHERE AROUND HERE A MAN CAN DROWN HIS SORROW?  
IT COULD BE ARRANGED... I'VE JUST FINISHED HALF A FLAGSTONE.



MEANWHILE...

THANK LUG YOU'RE SAFE! WINESANSPIRIX IS BACK!



I HAVE SOMETHING TO CONFESS...  
NOT NOW! THE WHOLE GARRISON'S ON OUR HEELS... AND YOURS! WE MUST HIDE!



NOT IN THE CHARCOAL. THAT'S WHERE THEY ALWAYS LOOK! GO DOWN HERE!



A FEW SECONDS LATER ...

WE'RE LOOKING FOR WINESANSPIRIX AND THOSE TWO CRAZY GAULS! DON'T YOU MOVE!

I'VE NO INTENTION OF MOVING.



SEARCH THE CHARCOAL!



SOON AFTERWARDS

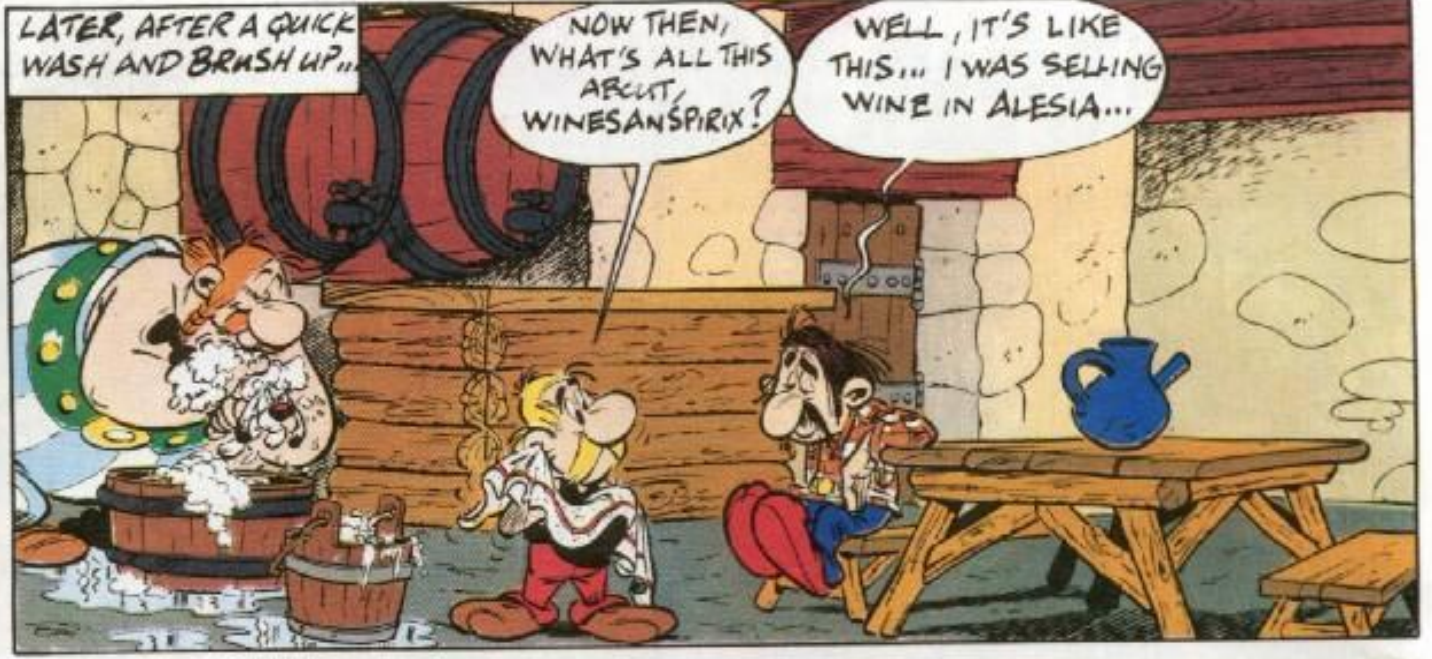
LOOK AT THEM, PUSILLANIMUS... BEYOND THE PALE! HIC! PROBABLY FILTHY DRUNK TOO. HAEC!

BLOTTO ON THE LANDSCAPE!!! HOC!





YOU CAN COME OUT NOW. THE ROMANS THINK YOU'VE LEFT GERGOVIA. THEY'RE SEARCHING THE FOREST.



LATER, AFTER A QUICK WASH AND BRUSH UP...

NOW THEN, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT, WINESANSPIRIX?

WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS... I WAS SELLING WINE IN ALESIA...



... AND THE NIGHT AFTER ALESIA WAS TAKEN A CENTURION CAME TO MY PLACE ... A REAL OLD SOAK...



... I SWOPPED HIM AN AMPHORA OF WINE FOR THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD...



AND THEN A GAULISH WARRIOR WHO WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR HOME SAW THE SHIELD...

LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THAT SHIELD!



... AND HE BEGGED ME TO LET HIM HAVE IT FOR SAFE KEEPING.

WELL, IF IT GIVES YOU ANY SATISFACTION...



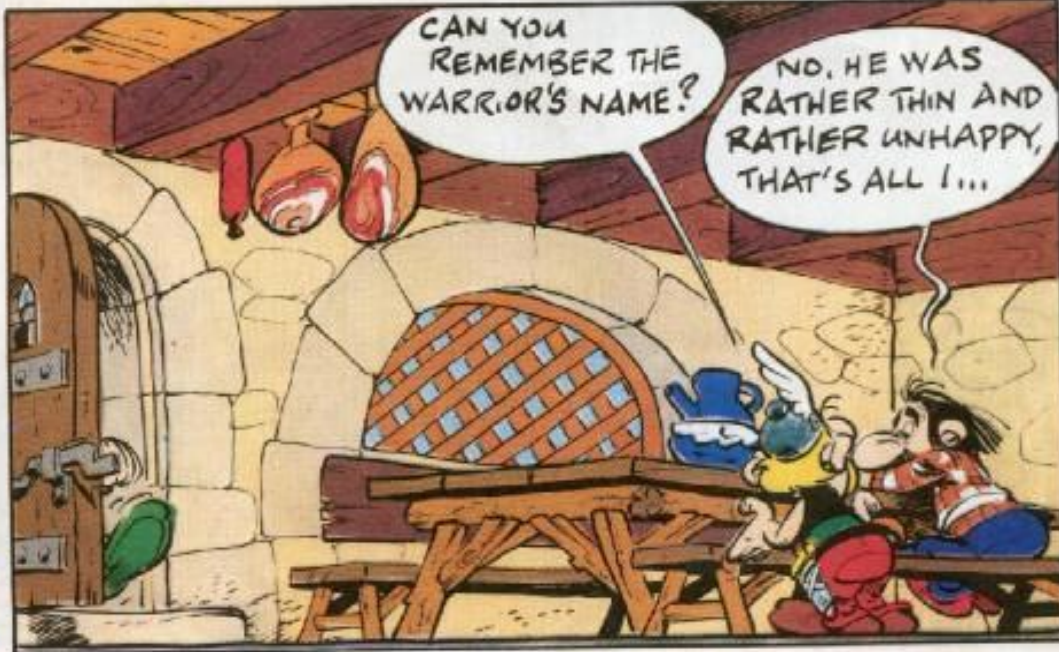
SO IN A WEAK MOMENT I GAVE THAT GLORIOUS SHIELD TO A STRANGER WHO DIDN'T EVEN COME FROM THESE PARTS!

CHEER UP, WINESANSPIRIX. FAR BETTER FROM US TO CAST THE FIRST MENHIR\*.

\* PEOPLE WITHOUT POTION CAST SMALLER STONES.



AND WHEN I SAW HOW IMPORTANT THE SHIELD IS TO YOU I WAS ASHAMED OF MYSELF, AND I RAN AWAY. THEN I WAS OVERCOME WITH REMORSE AND CAME BACK TO CONFESS...



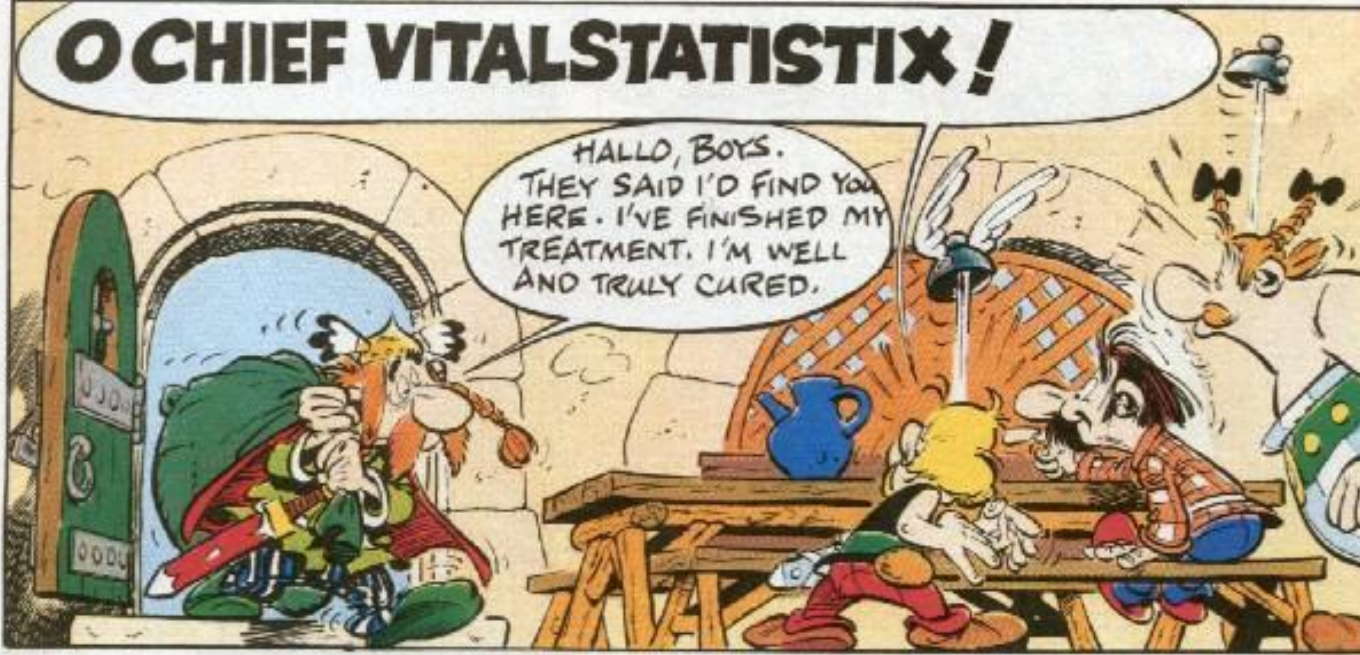
CAN YOU REMEMBER THE WARRIOR'S NAME?

NO, HE WAS RATHER THIN AND RATHER UNHAPPY, THAT'S ALL I...

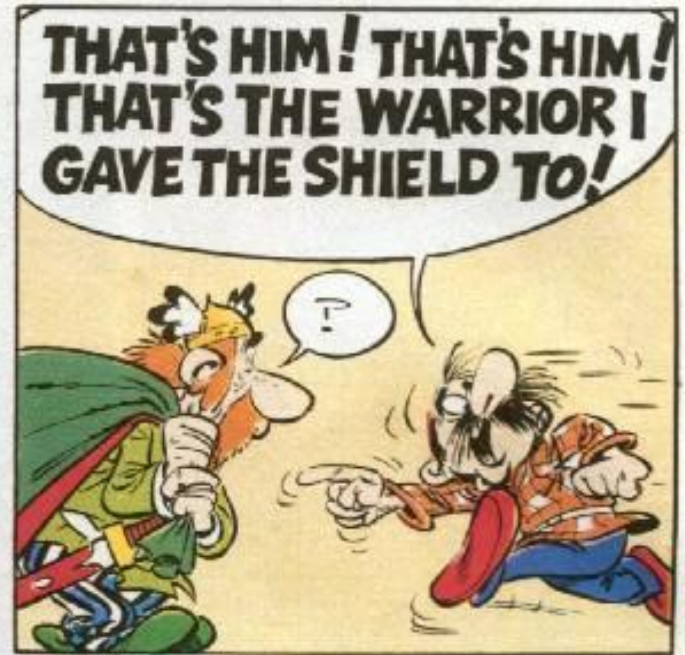


THAT'S HIM!!!

# O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!



THAT'S HIM! THAT'S HIM! THAT'S THE WARRIOR I GAVE THE SHIELD TO!



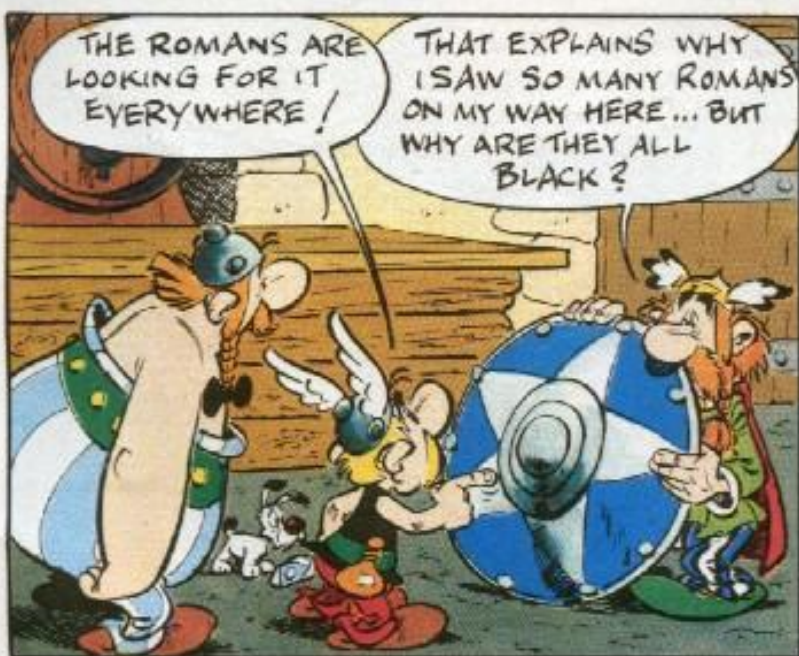
I RECOGNISED HIM STRAIGHT AWAY! HE HASN'T PUT ON MUCH WEIGHT SINCE I LAST SAW HIM!



DON'T YOU REMEMBER? ALESIA? THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD?



AND THAT WINE MERCHANT WAS YOU?





I'VE GOT AN IDEA, WINESANSPIRIX. SUMMON ALL THE INHABITANTS OF GERGOVIA!



MEANWHILE, AFTER SEVERAL FRUITLESS SEARCHES...

LET'S GET BACK TO GERGOVIA! WE MAY HAVE TO SACK THE TOWN, BUT WE'LL FIND THEM, BY JUPITER, IF IT'S THE LAST THING WE DO!



O ROMANS! ?!



HERE WE ARE... WAITING FOR YOU!

42A



THAT'S ONE OF THEM! CHARGE!



JUST A MOMENT, TRIBUNE!

?!



AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE TO STOP NOXIUS VAPUS, SENT HERE SPECIALLY BY JULIUS CAESAR?



THE MAN WHO SENT YOU. I'VE COME INCOGNITO, TO SEE HOW THINGS ARE GOING.

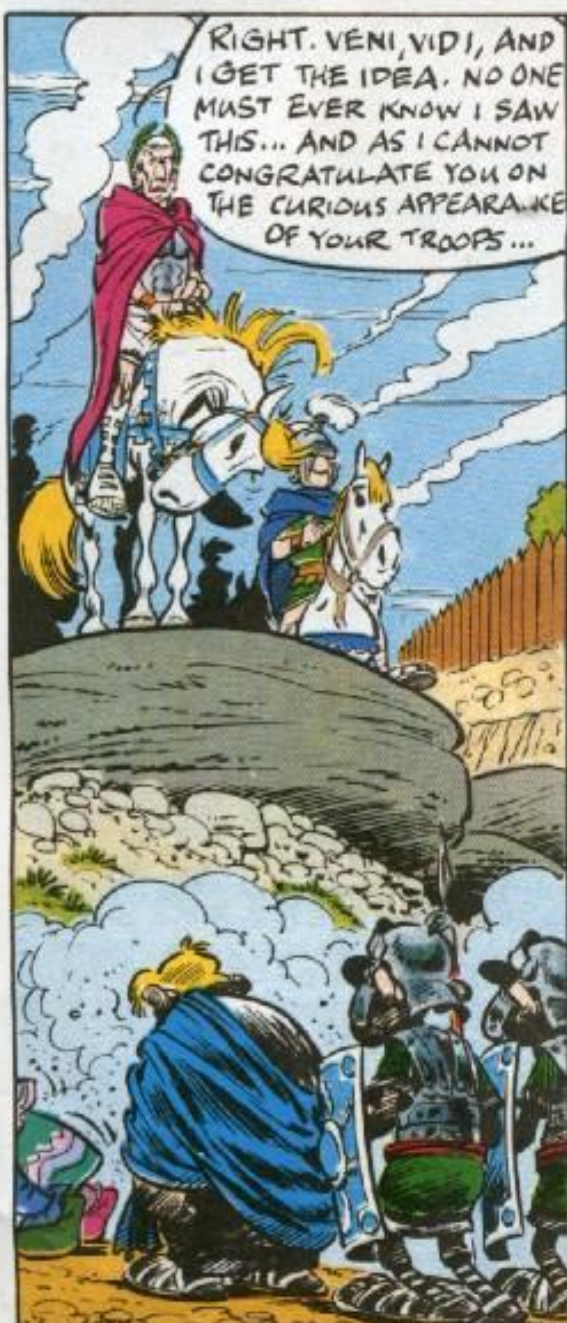
JU... JULIUS CAESAR!...

ER... WELL... WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO ATTACK GERGOVIA AND...

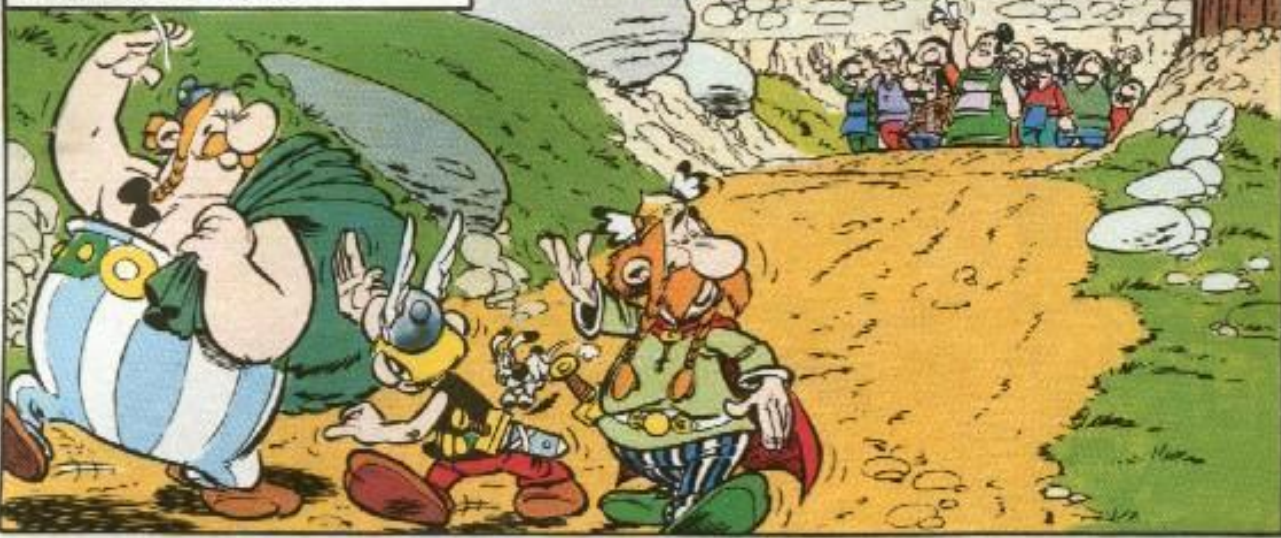


OH NO! BIS REPETITA DON'T ALWAYS PLACENT! ONCE WAS QUITE ENOUGH!

42B



OUR FRIENDS ARE QUITE SORRY TO LEAVE GERGOVIA AFTER THEIR MEMORABLE TRIUMPH...



ON THE WAY HOME THE CHIEF'S STATISTICS ARE REVITALIZED AS HE VISITS ALL THE INNS HE PATRONIZED ON THE OUTWARD JOURNEY.



AND ONCE AGAIN OUR STORY ENDS WITH A BANQUET... EVERYONE IS THERE. EVERYONE? NO, SOMEONE IS MISSING... WHO CAN IT BE?



NOT HIM; HE'S THERE ALL RIGHT. SO WHO CAN IT BE, THEN?



...WHO?



BUT, IMPEDIMENTA, I HAVE TO SIT AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE! I HAVE TO GO! I'M CURED, MY LOVE...  
**IMPEDIMENTA! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HIT ME OVER THE HEAD WITH THAT SHIELD, ARE YOU?!?**

**THE END**  
LUDERZO.  
GOSINNIP