

Dargaud presents

Asterix

THE GAUL

*Gaul was divided
into three parts*

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



by
GOSCINNY
and
UDERZO

ASTERIX THE GAUL

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE



HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND TORONTO



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

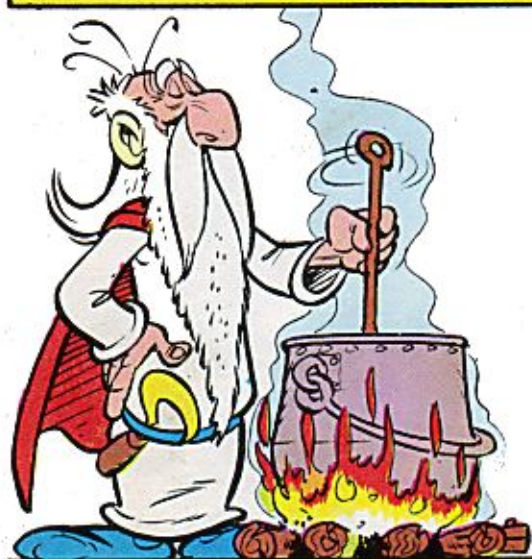


a few of the Gauls

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



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



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

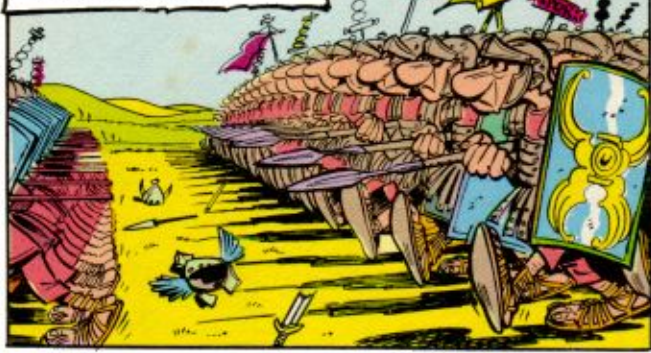


Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'



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

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



CHIEFS LIKE
VERCINGETORIX HAD
TO LAY THEIR ARMS
AT CAESAR'S FEET....



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

So! But ve
komm back!

ALL GAUL
IS OCCUPIED....

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

Gut! Ve go!



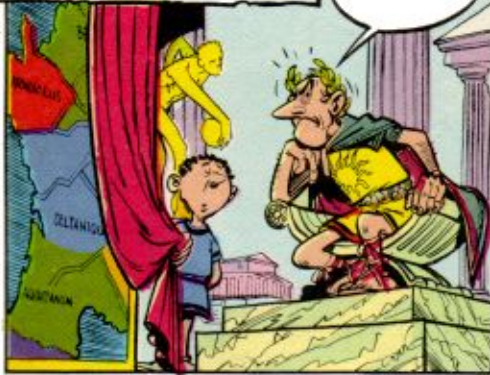
ALL EFFORTS TO SUBDUE
THESE PROUD GAULS HAVE
FAILED, AND CAESAR
ASKS HIMSELF....

QUID?

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

BACK SOON,
ASTERIX?

HERE HE
COMES!



I'LL BE BACK
FOR DINNER,
OBELIX



WE'LL GET
HIM

IPSO FACTO!

SIC!



ACCIDENCE
WILL HAPPEN....

VAE VICTO
VAE VICTIS!

WE DECLINE!



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

AVE CRISMUS BONUS! THE PATROL'S BACK!

AVE JULIUS POMPUS! I'LL GO AND INSPECT THEM

AVE....

?!?!

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

SUPERIOR NUMBERS...

CAN'T QUITE SAY...

THERE WAS ONE OF THEM...

NOT A VERY LARGE ONE EITHER!

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

MEANWHILE....

SO YOU'RE BACK ASTERIX. ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN?

NO....

OH YES! I KNOCKED FOUR ROMANS OUT

OH, GOOD!

WANT TO HELP ME EAT MY BOAR?

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



COME IN, OBELIX. IT'S DONE TO A TURN!

YUM, YUM, ASTERIX!



THE ROMANS WON'T LIKE THIS. THEY'LL LAUNCH A NEW OFFENSIVE....

HUH!



SO LONG AS OUR DRUID GETAFIX KEEPS BREWING HIS MAGIC POTION, THE ROMANS CAN'T DO A THING



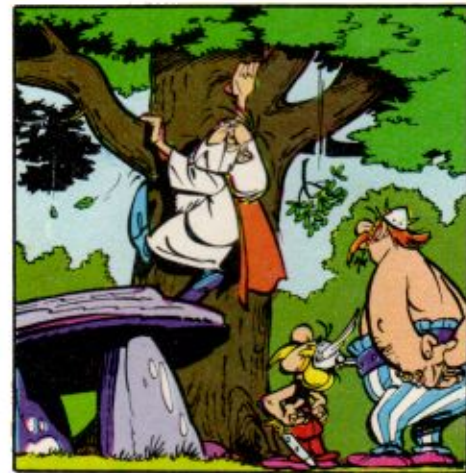
LET'S GO AND SEE THE DRUID NOW!



HE'LL BE UP THAT TREE, CUTTING MISTLETOE WITH HIS GOLDEN SICKLE



GETAFIX!
O DRUID!



YOU MADE ME JUMP! I'VE GONE AND CUT MYSELF WITH MY SICKLE

SORRY....

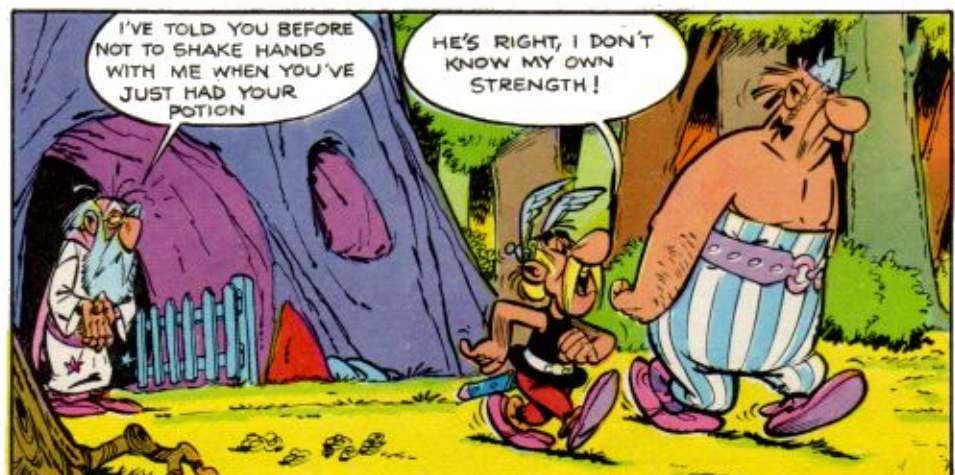
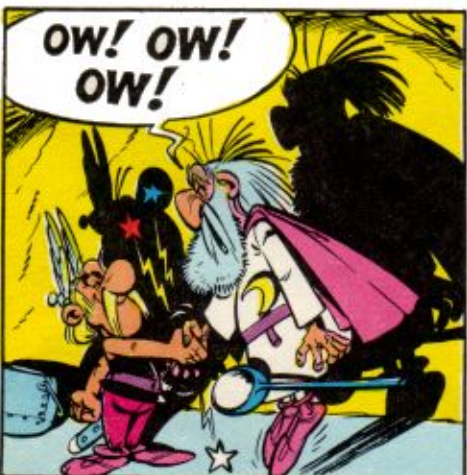
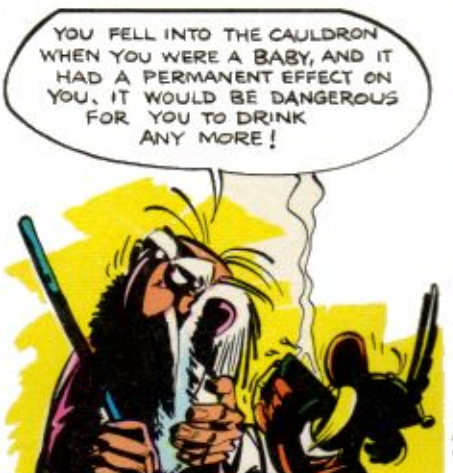
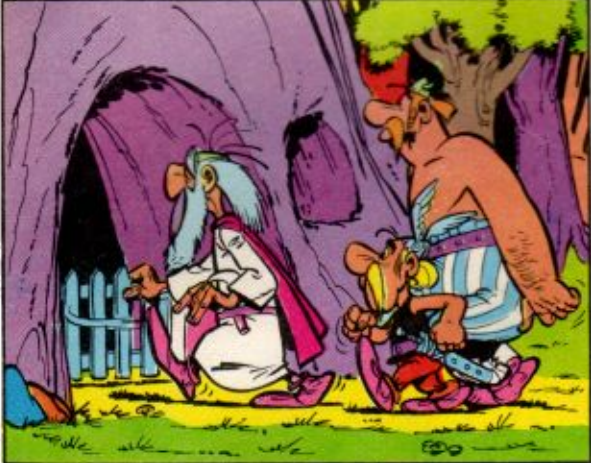


THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO HAVE MY DOSE OF POTION....

OH, ALL RIGHT...



COME HOME WITH ME....





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



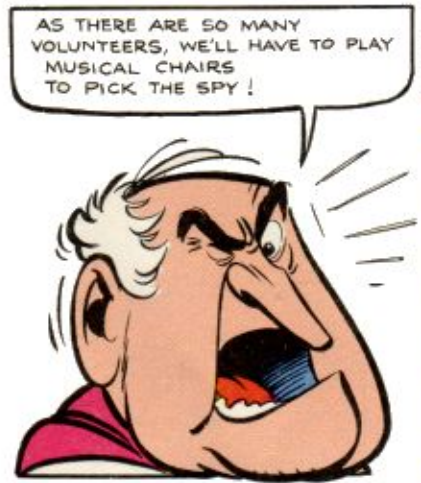
THERE'S SOME MYSTERY BEHIND THE STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS. WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET



YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCUS GINANTONICUS! WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET, AND FAST! CAESAR HAS INDICATED HIS DISPLEASURE ALL THE WAY FROM ROME. WE NEED A SPY IN THE GAULS' VILLAGE. I WANT A VOLUNTEER!



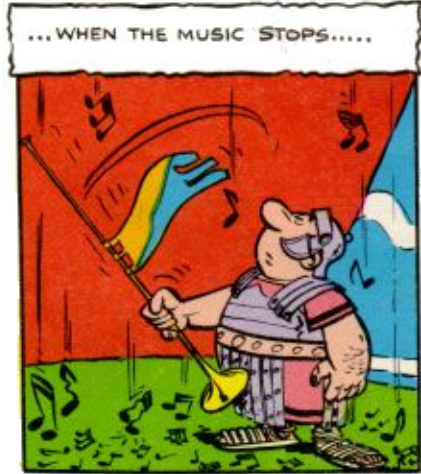
?!



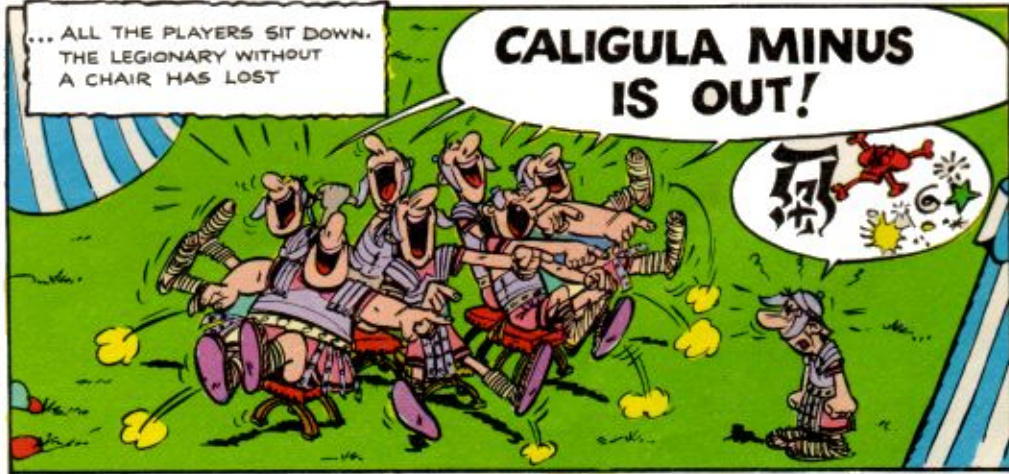
AS THERE ARE SO MANY VOLUNTEERS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS TO PICK THE SPY!



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



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



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

CALIGULA MINUS IS OUT!

X



I'M NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!



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

I AM NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!



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



OH, ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO AND SPY ON THE GAULS!

GET HIM UP LIKE A GAUL!



MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

THOSE ROMANS HAVE KEPT QUIET TOO LONG! IT CAN'T LAST. BE ON YOUR GUARD— AND NEVER FORGET TO TAKE YOUR MAGIC POTION!

LONG LIVE OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!



WHAT IS IT, OBELIX?

CHIEF!



THEY WON'T LET ME HAVE ANY POTION. IT'S NOT FAIR! I FEEL RATHER WEAK...



HELP! HERE COMES THE BARD CACOFONIX!



I WILL NOW GIVE YOU A SONG TO INSPIRE THE WARRIORS WITH COURAGE...

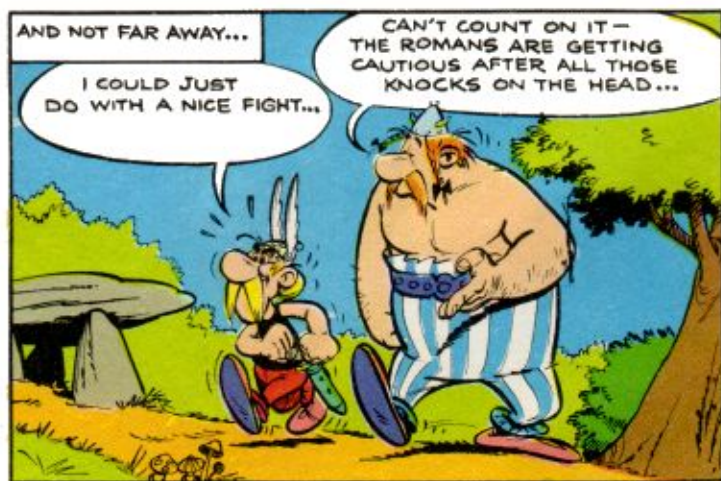
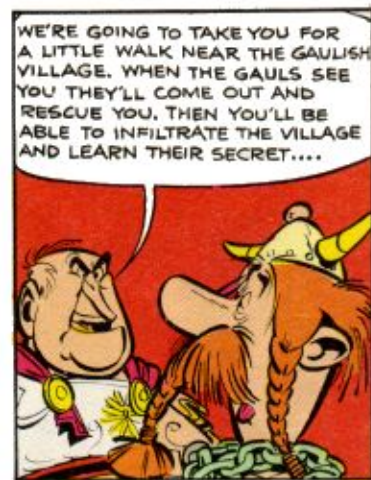
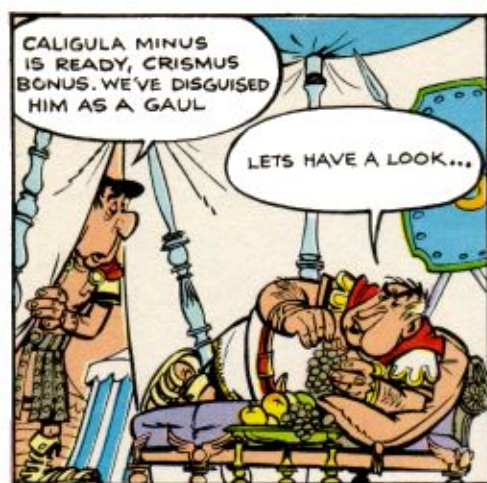


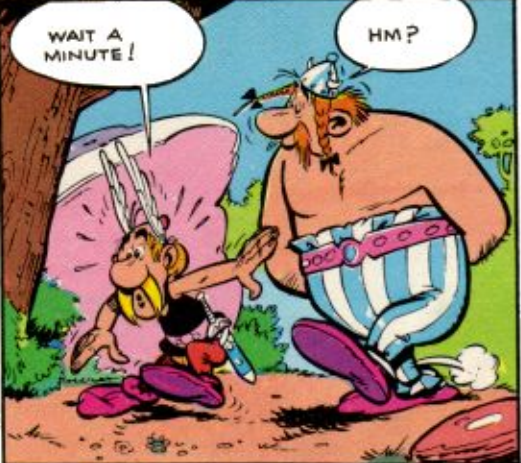
CAN'T STOP...

I'VE GOT NO END OF MENHIRS TO DELIVER..

MAY THE SKY FALL ON MY HEAD! IT'S GETTING LATE

BARBARIANS! THEY DON'T APPRECIATE MY ART!



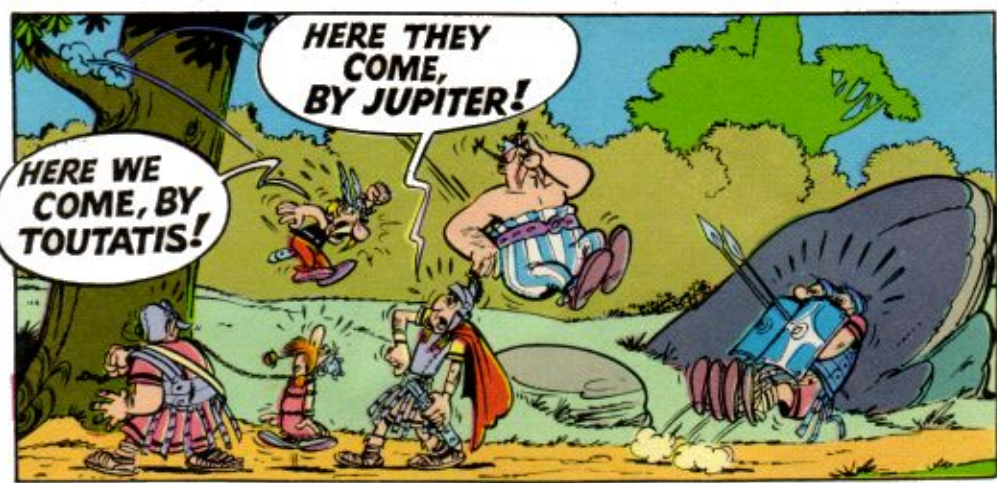


(1) SPAGHETTI WAS NOT IMPORTED FROM CHINA BY MARCO POLO UNTIL MUCH LATER.



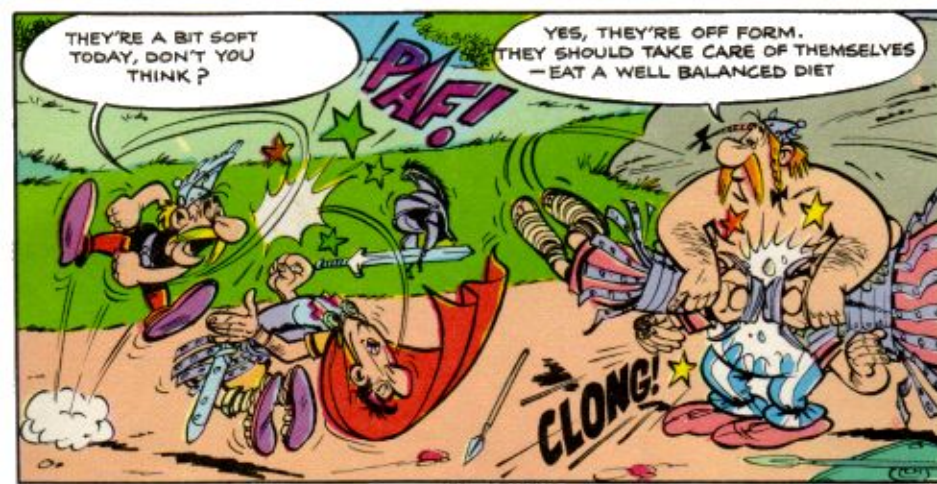


RIGHT! EVERYONE GOT IT? IF THEY ATTACK WE ONLY PUT UP A TOKEN RESISTANCE!



HERE THEY COME, BY JUPITER!

HERE WE COME, BY TOUTATIS!



THEY'RE A BIT SOFT TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?

YES, THEY'RE OFF FORM. THEY SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES - EAT A WELL BALANCED DIET



THAT'S THE LOT...

COULDN'T WE BRING THEM ROUND AND START AGAIN?



NO, COME ON! IT'S GETTING LATE



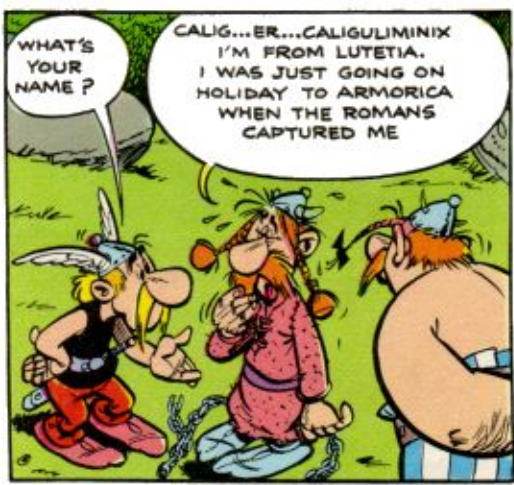
MI - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



WE WILL STRIKE OFF YOUR CHAINS!

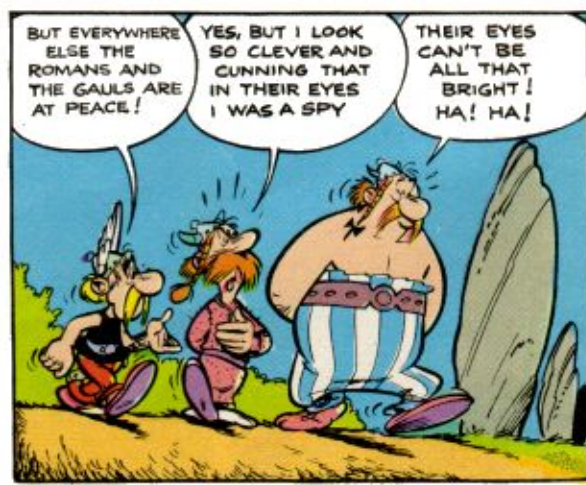
BUT YOU'LL NEED TOOLS.... A HAMMER!

HA! HA! WE'RE THE TOOLS!



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

CALIG...ER...CALIGULIMINIX I'M FROM LUTETIA. I WAS JUST GOING ON HOLIDAY TO ARMORICA WHEN THE ROMANS CAPTURED ME



BUT EVERYWHERE ELSE THE ROMANS AND THE GAULS ARE AT PEACE!

YES, BUT I LOOK SO CLEVER AND CUNNING THAT IN THEIR EYES I WAS A SPY

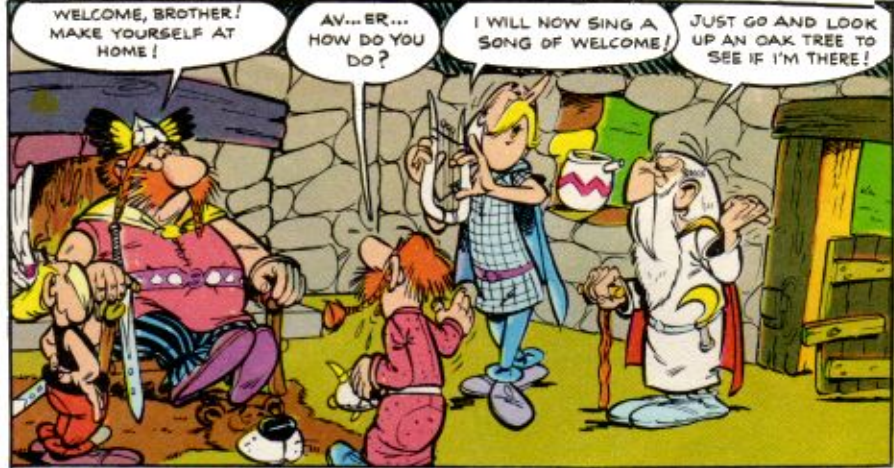
THEIR EYES CAN'T BE ALL THAT BRIGHT! HA! HA!

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





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



WELCOME, BROTHER! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

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

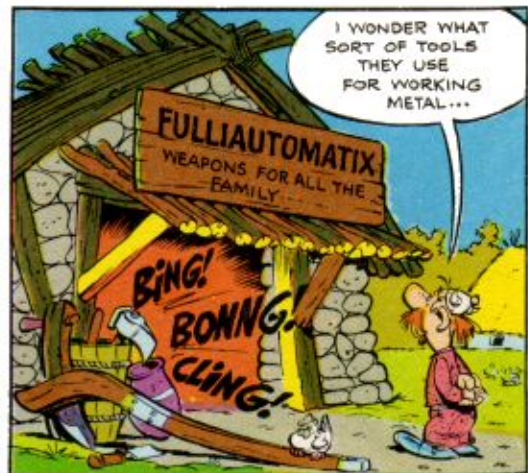
I WILL NOW SING A SONG OF WELCOME!

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

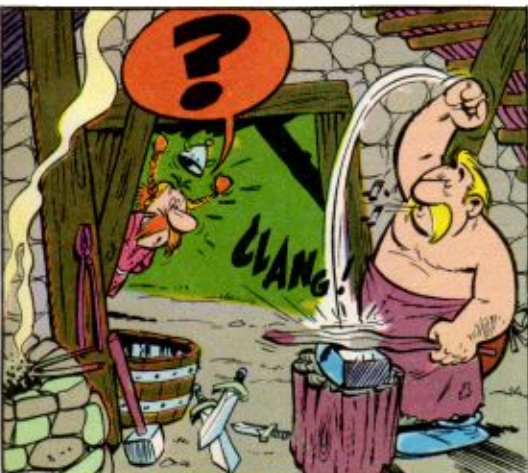


TAKE A STROLL ROUND THE VILLAGE TILL DINNER TIME. BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR, THERE ARE ROMANS ABOUT

RIGHT!



I WONDER WHAT SORT OF TOOLS THEY USE FOR WORKING METAL...

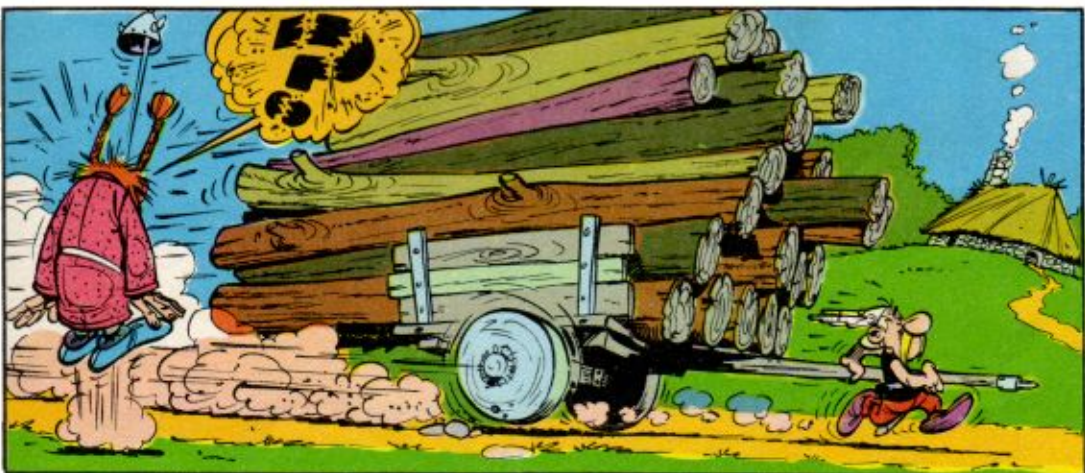


HIS HANDS, BY JUPITER! HIS BARE HANDS!

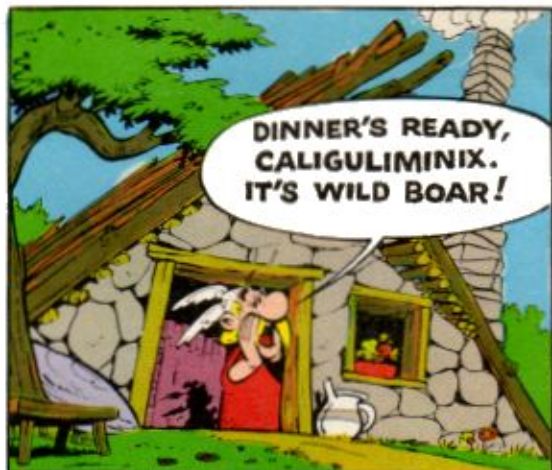


HOW'S THAT MENHIR GOING?

OH, IT'S COMING ALONG!



THEY CERTAINLY ARE VERY STRONG... MAYBE CRISMUS BONUS WAS RIGHT. THEY MUST HAVE SOME SECRET!



DINNER'S READY, CALIGULIMINIX. IT'S WILD BOAR!



IS THERE SOME SECRET BEHIND YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH?
YUM! YUM! YES BUT WE CAN'T REVEAL IT! SCRUNCH!

EAT UP YOUR BOAR, IT'S GETTING COLD



WHY CAN'T YOU REVEAL YOUR SECRET?

BECAUSE IT'S A SECRET!



THAT'S NOT FAIR! WHAT ARE THINGS COMING TO IF ONE GAUL CAN'T TRUST ANOTHER?



IF I WAS AS STRONG AS YOU I COULD GET THROUGH THE ROMAN LINES AND GO HOME TO LUTETIA!



MY POOR FAMILY! SNIFF! THEY'LL BE WORRIED TO DEATH!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WE COULD ALWAYS EAT HIS WILD BOAR?



COME ON, CALIGULIMINIX! WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE DRUID



HE'LL BE UP AN OAK TREE, IT'S THE SIXTH DAY OF THE NEW MOON, AND MISTLETOE CUT THEN IS A POWERFUL ANTIDOTE TO POISON



HI, DRUID!

OUCH!

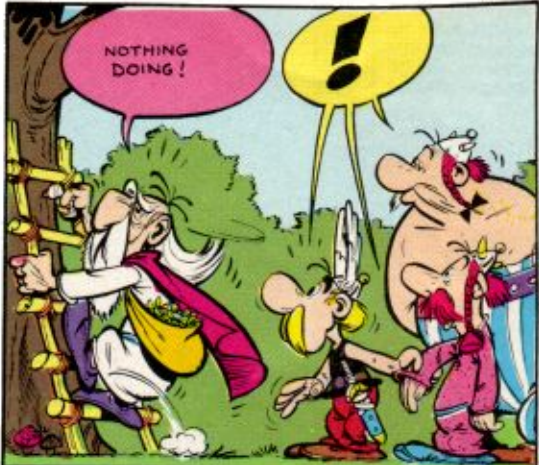


ASTERIX, I TOLD YOU BEFORE NOT TO MAKE ME JUMP WHEN I'M USING MY SICKLE !!!



WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

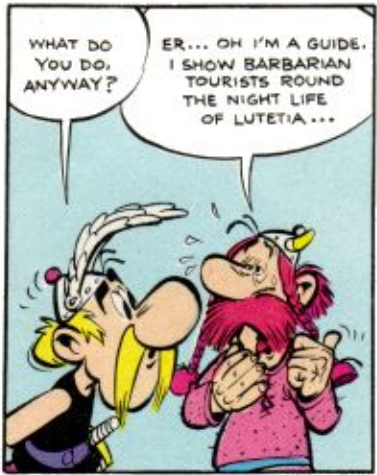
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING. IT'S MY FRIEND CALIGULIMINIX- HE'D LIKE TO KNOW THE SECRET OF OUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH....



NOTHING DOING!



I HAVE TO GET HOME TO MY FAMILY.... GO BACK TO WORK....



WHAT DO YOU DO, ANYWAY?

ER... OH I'M A GUIDE. I SHOW BARBARIAN TOURISTS ROUND THE NIGHT LIFE OF LUTETIA...

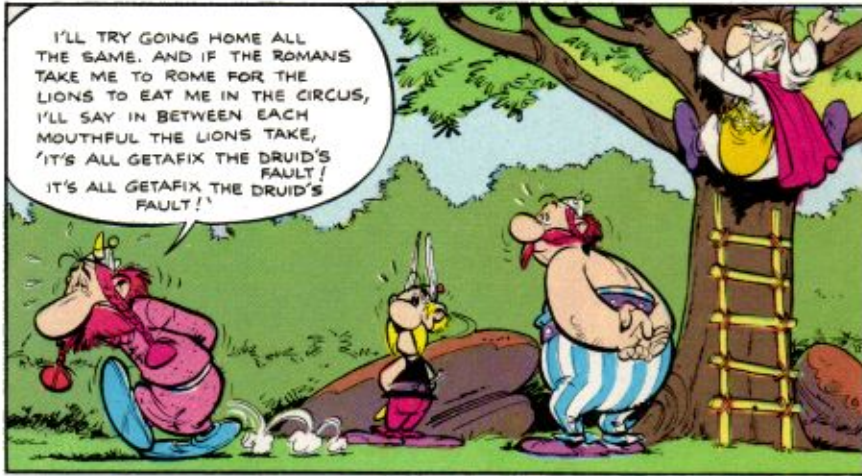


WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT, DRUID?

NO, NO, AND FOR THE THIRD TIME, NO!



OH, FINE! THAT'S JUST FINE! I QUITE SEE!



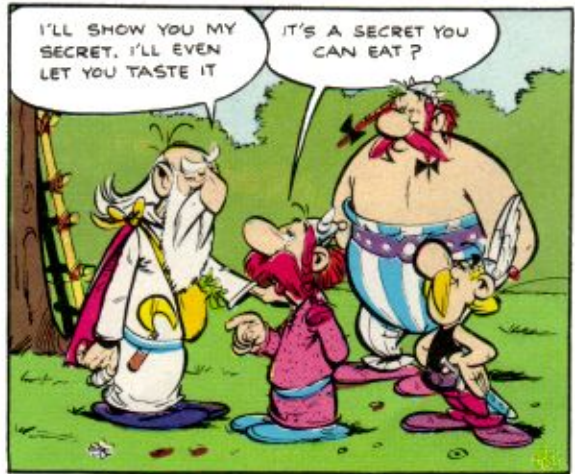
I'LL TRY GOING HOME ALL THE SAME. AND IF THE ROMANS TAKE ME TO ROME FOR THE LIONS TO EAT ME IN THE CIRCUS, I'LL SAY IN BETWEEN EACH MOUTHFUL THE LIONS TAKE, 'IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT! IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT!'



OH, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!



COME BACK, CALIGULIMINIX!

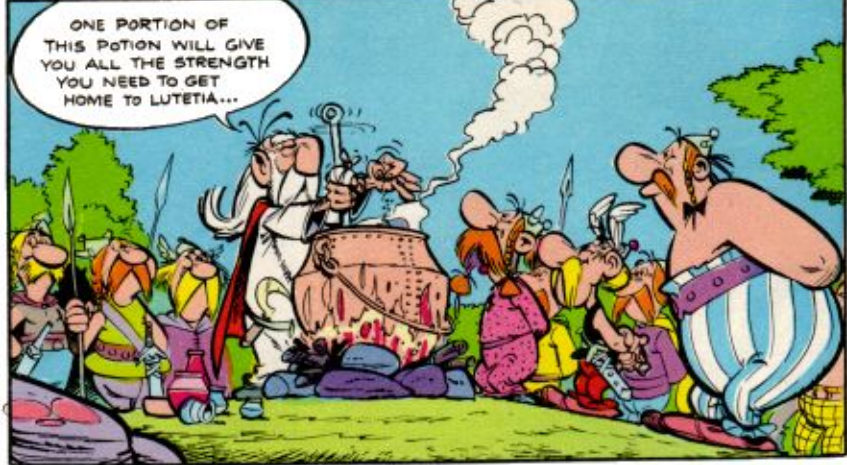


I'LL SHOW YOU MY SECRET. I'LL EVEN LET YOU TASTE IT

IT'S A SECRET YOU CAN EAT?



COME ON, ALL OF YOU!
OUR DRUID GETAFIX
IS GOING TO MAKE
THE MAGIC POTION!

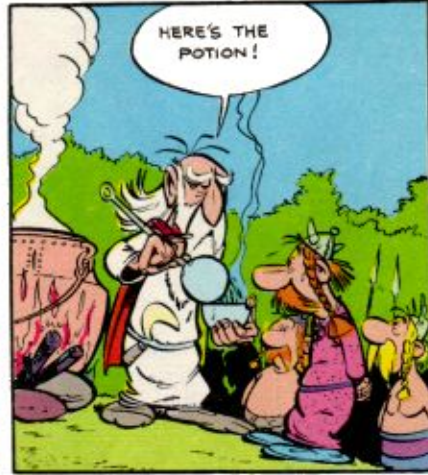


ONE PORTION OF
THIS POTION WILL GIVE
YOU ALL THE STRENGTH
YOU NEED TO GET
HOME TO LUTETIA...

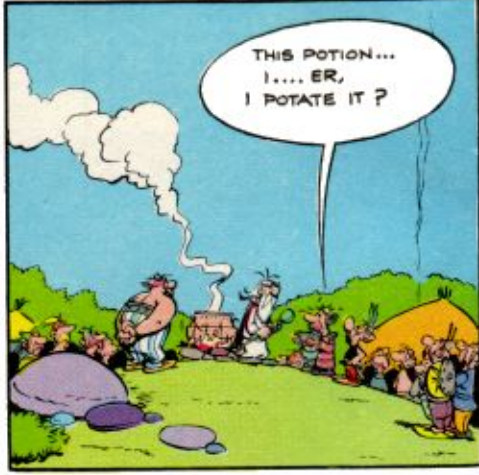


...BUT THE
EFFECTS WILL
WEAR OFF
QUITE
QUICKLY

NEVER MIND,
I'LL SEE
ABOUT
STEALING
THAT CAULDRON!



HERE'S THE
POTION!



THIS POTION...
I.... ER,
I POTATE IT ?



GLUG!
GLUG!
GLUG!
GLUG!
GLUG!



TASTES LIKE
VEGETABLE
SOUP!

IT COMES IN SEVERAL
OTHER DELICIOUS
FLAVOURS: SHRIMP,
CHEESE OMELETTE,
DUCK
WITH ORANGE SAUCE
AND VANILLA!



BUT I DON'T
FEEL ANY
DIFFERENT....

TRY LIFTING
THAT ROCK
OVER
THERE!

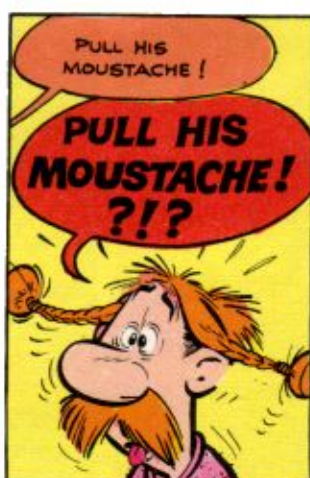
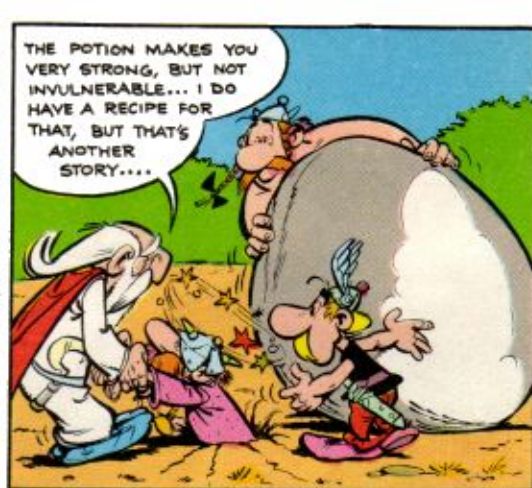


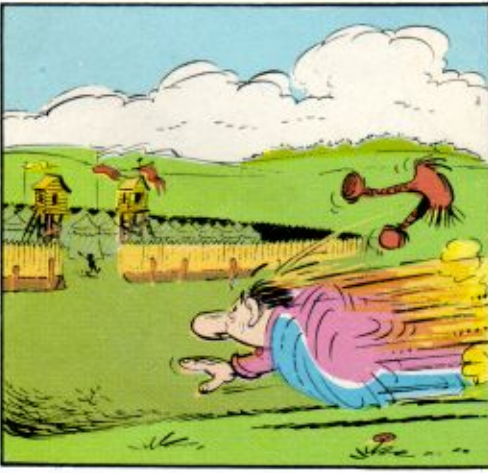
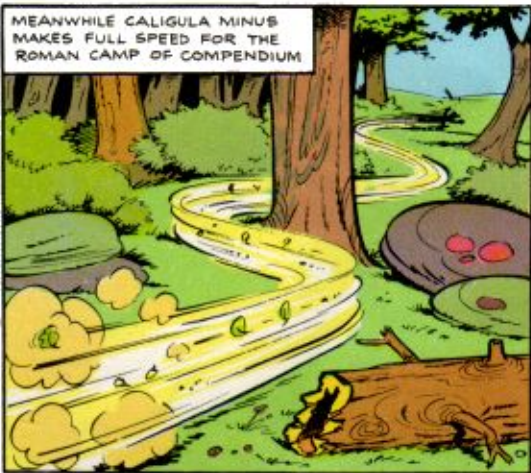
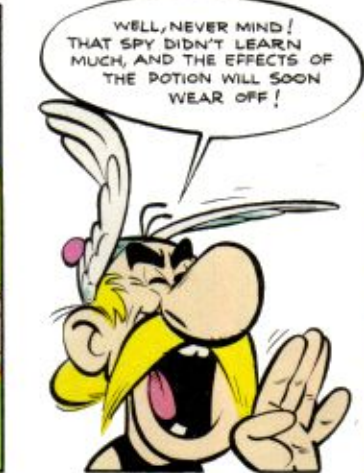
THIS ONE ?
BUT I COULD NEVER...

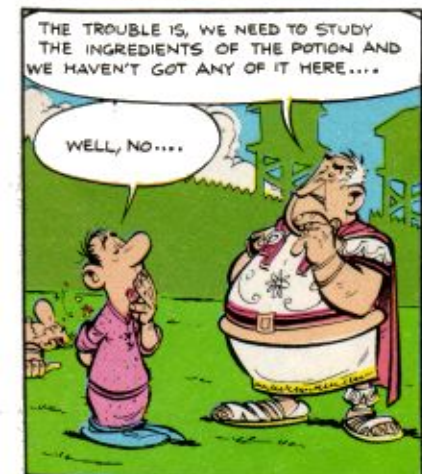


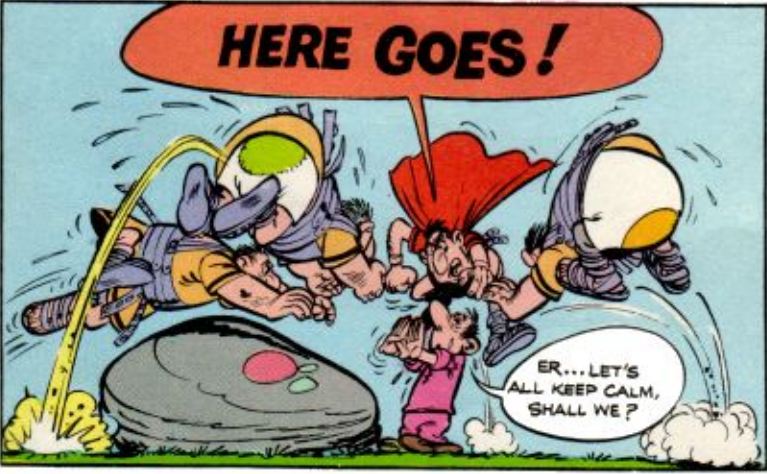
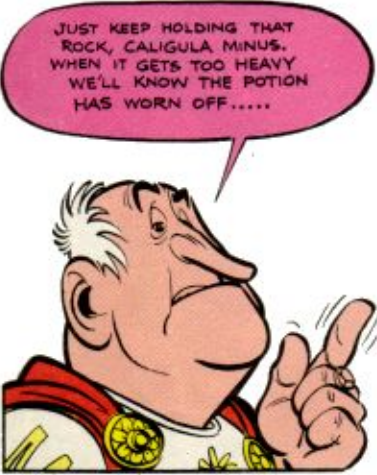
?!?

HA! HA!
HA! HA!
HA! HA!









SOON AFTERWARDS
IN THE GAULISH
VILLAGE

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

WANT ME TO
COME WITH YOU,
DRUID?

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

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

GOOD...



♪ (1)

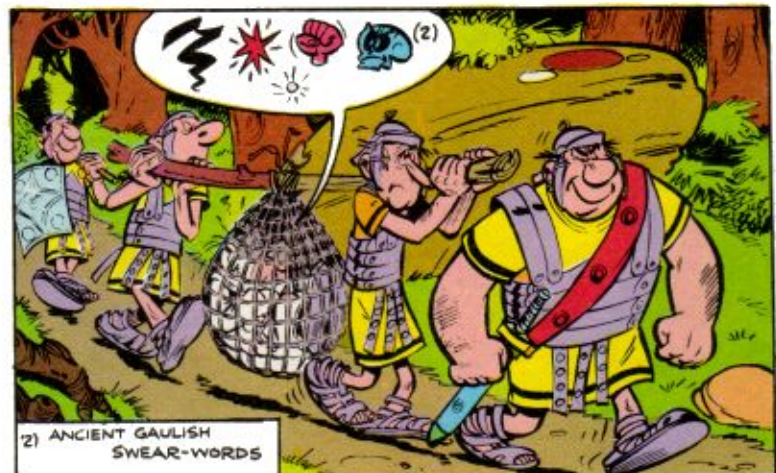
1 ANCIENT GAULISH
AIR



OOPS!



GOT
HIM!



⚡ ⭐ ✊ 💀 (2)

2) ANCIENT GAULISH
SWEAR-WORDS



SOON
AFTERWARDS

WE GOT THE
DRUID, O
CRISIUS BONUS!

GOOD WORK,
TULLIUS OCTOPUS!



AS A REWARD YOU
SHALL HAVE 100 SESTERTII,
AND YOU CAN GO TO
ROME ON LEAVE TO
SEE THE CIRCUS!



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

NOW, DRUID,
YOU WILL TELL ME
YOUR SECRET!

THAT'S WHAT
YOU
THINK!



WE'LL TORTURE THE DRUID. THEN HE'LL TALK ALL RIGHT!



WELL, ARE YOU TALKING?

NO, YOU ARE!



MUCH LATER...

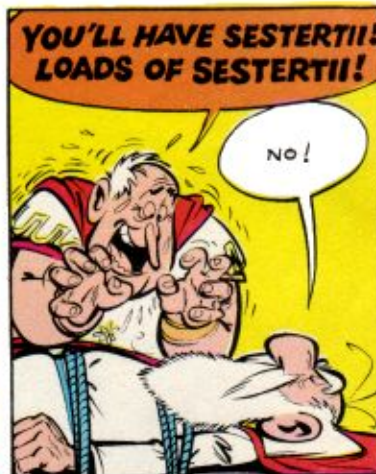
LOOK HERE, DRUID, THIS ISN'T FUNNY! WE'VE BEEN TORTURING YOU FOR HOURS, AND IT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO HURT. THIS WON'T HELP YOU!

OH YES, IT WILL; IT'LL HELP TO PASS THE TIME



DRUID, IF YOU TALK I CAN MAKE YOU RICH AND POWERFUL!

NO!



YOU'LL HAVE SESTERTII! LOADS OF SESTERTII!

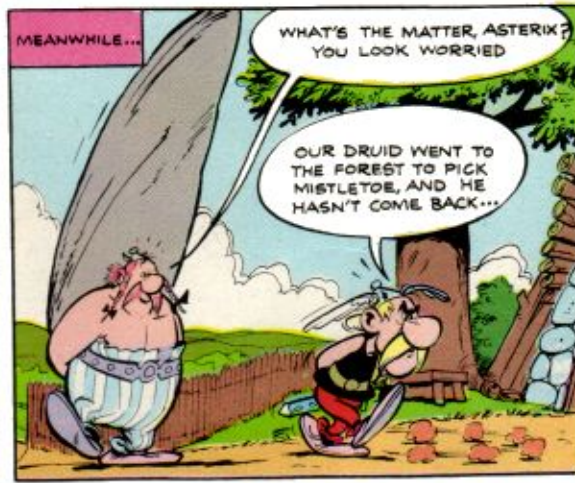
NO!



IS THIS TORTURE GOING ON MUCH LONGER? I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO!



THIS DRUID'S MAGIC POWERS ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME - AND IS HE PIGHEADED!



MEANWHILE...

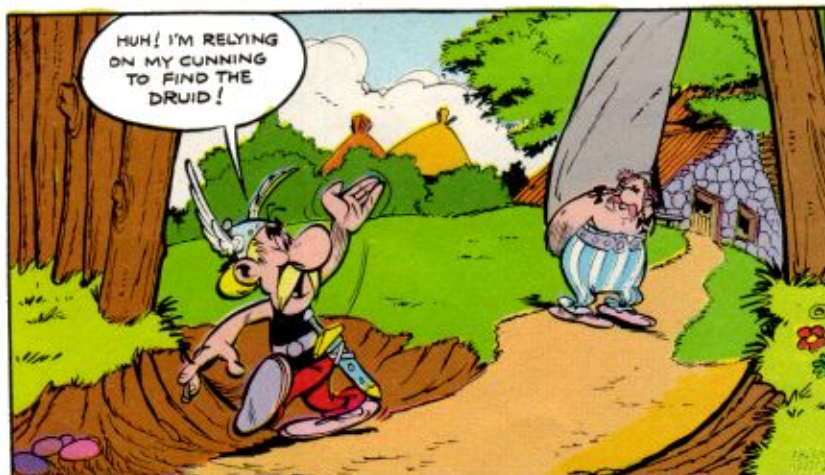
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ASTERIX? YOU LOOK WORRIED

OUR DRUID WENT TO THE FOREST TO PICK MISTLETOE, AND HE HASN'T COME BACK...

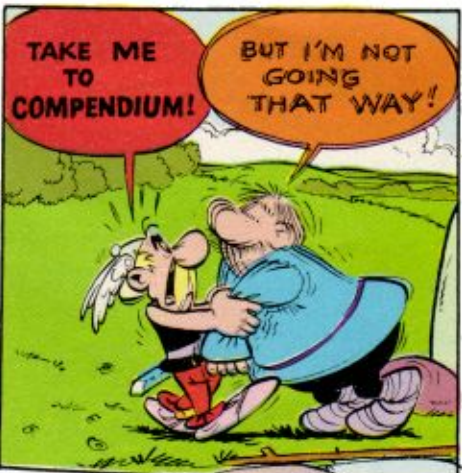
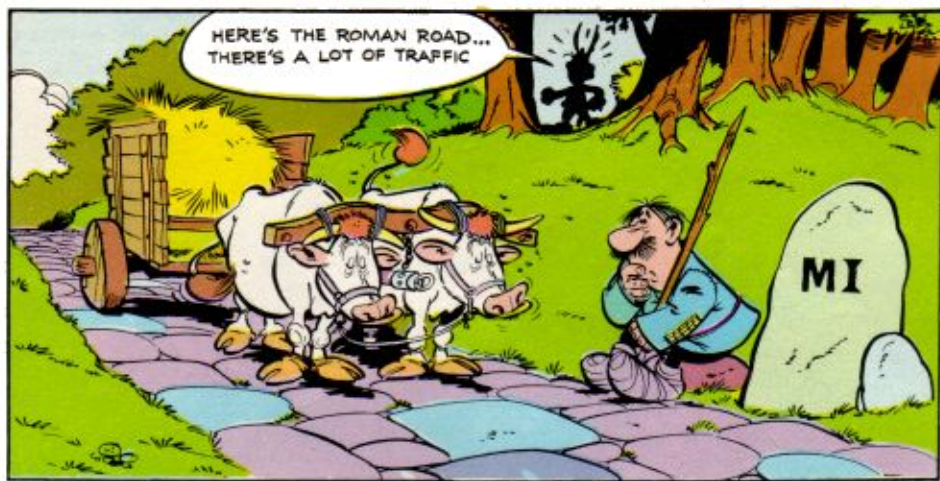


I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM!

WATCH OUT, ASTERIX! IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE YOU HAD ANY POTION!

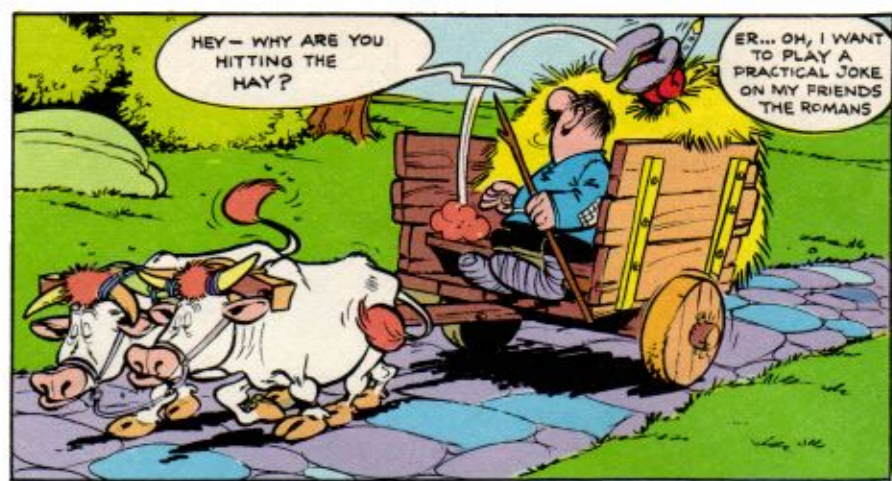


HUH! I'M RELYING ON MY CUNNING TO FIND THE DRUID!





WE'RE COMING TO COMPENDIUM NOW!

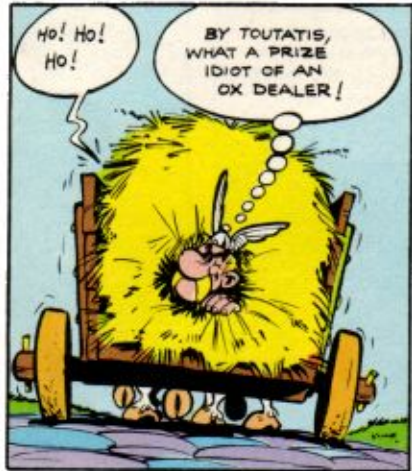


HEY - WHY ARE YOU HITTING THE HAY?

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



HA! HA! THAT'S RICH! I LOVE PRACTICAL JOKES!

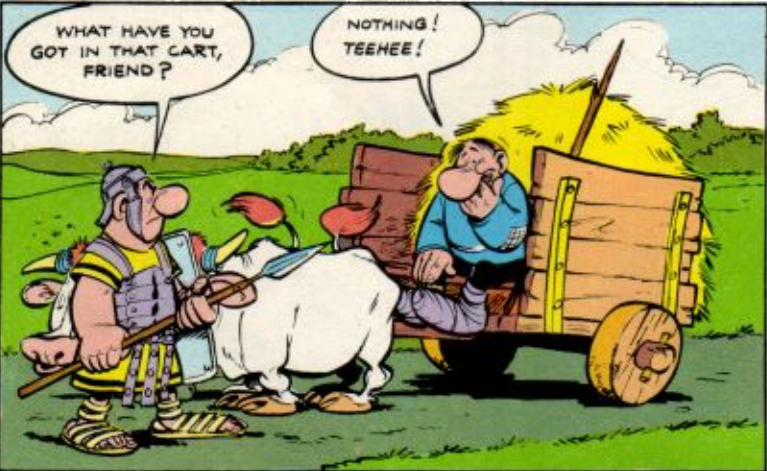


HO! HO! HO!

BY TOUTATIS, WHAT A PRIZE IDIOT OF AN OX DEALER!



HALT!
WHO GOES THERE?



WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THAT CART, FRIEND?

NOTHING! TEEHEE!

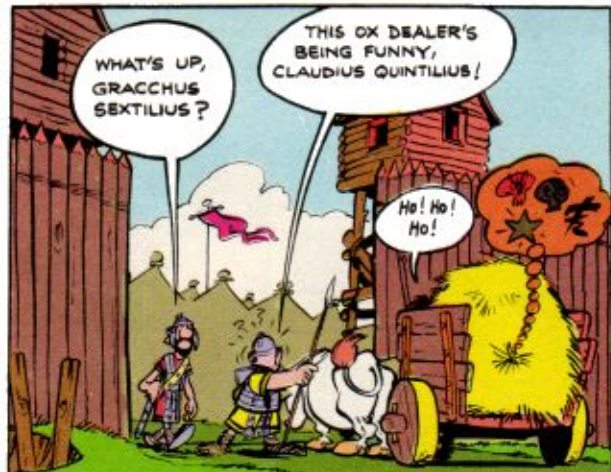


BY JUPITER, ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME?

HA! HA! HO! HO! HO!



THIS FATHEAD WILL SPOIL EVERYTHING!



WHAT'S UP, GRACCHUS SEXTILIUS?

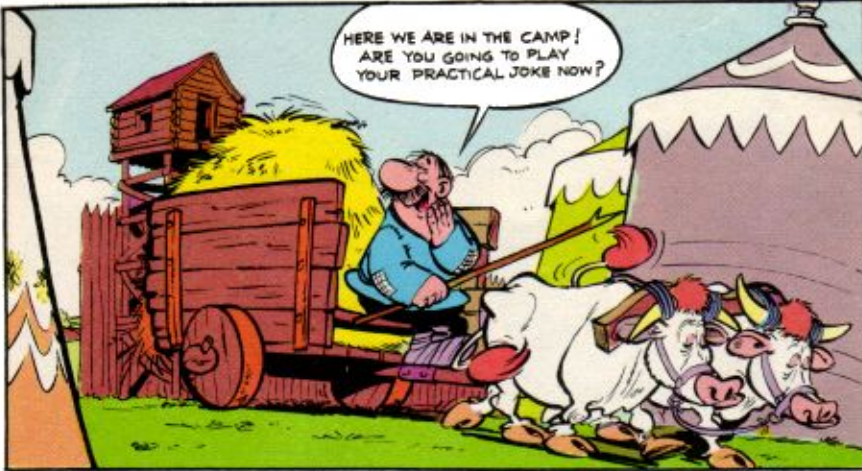
THIS OX DEALER'S BEING FUNNY, CLAUDIUS QUINTILIUS!

HO! HO! HO!



LET HIM PASS. I KNOW HIM. HE'S QUITE HARMLESS!

PHEW!



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



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

OH!



GOOD NIGHT!

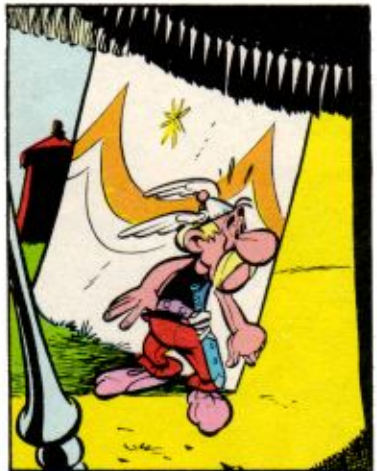


SOON AFTERWARDS

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



LET'S HAVE A LOOK
OVER HERE ...



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

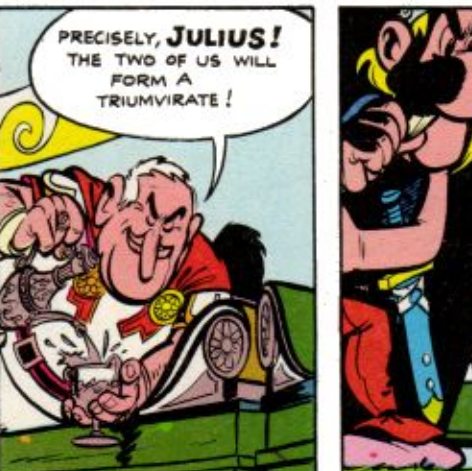


THANKS, O
CRISMUS BONUS!

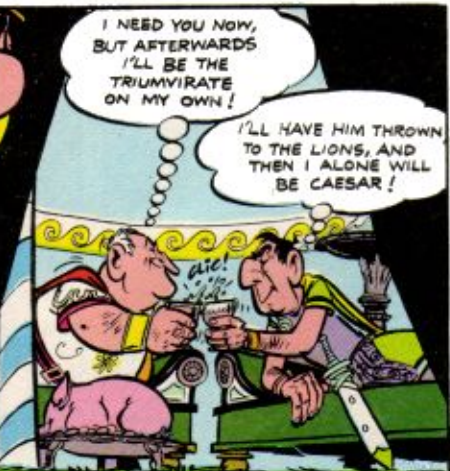


WE MUST GET THE
DRUID'S RECIPE!
WITH IT WE SHALL
BE INVINCIBLE.
WE CAN GO TO
ROME AND
TAKE OVER
FROM CAESAR!

**JULIUS
CAESAR?**

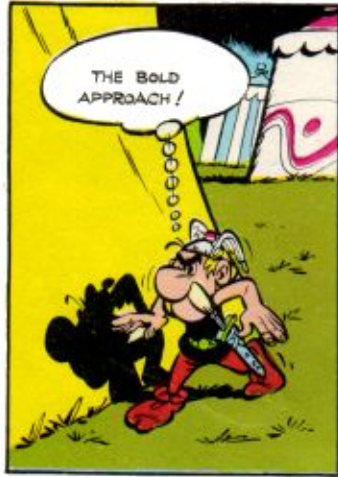


PRECISELY, **JULIUS!**
THE TWO OF US WILL
FORM A
TRIUMVIRATE!



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

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





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

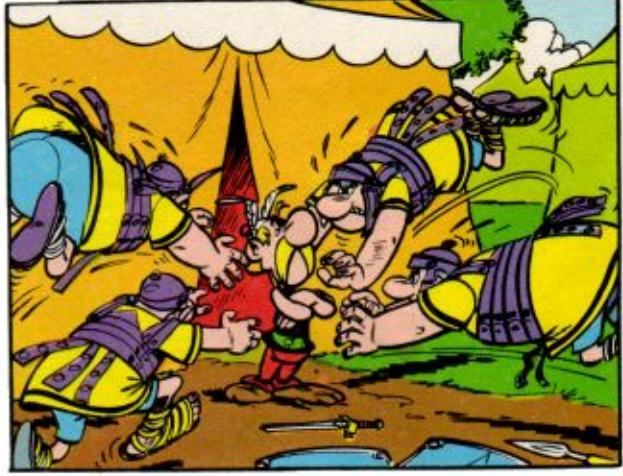


THE CIRCUS?



THE LIONS?

OH WELL!

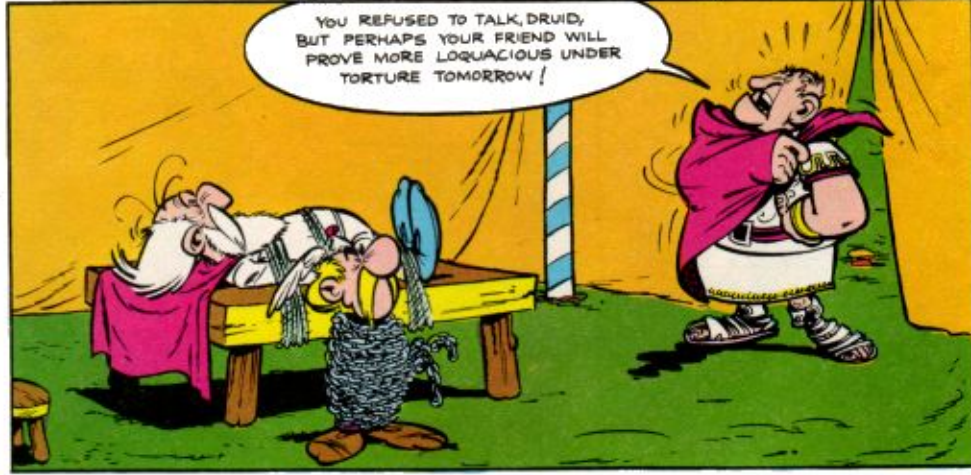


WHAT'S UP?

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



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

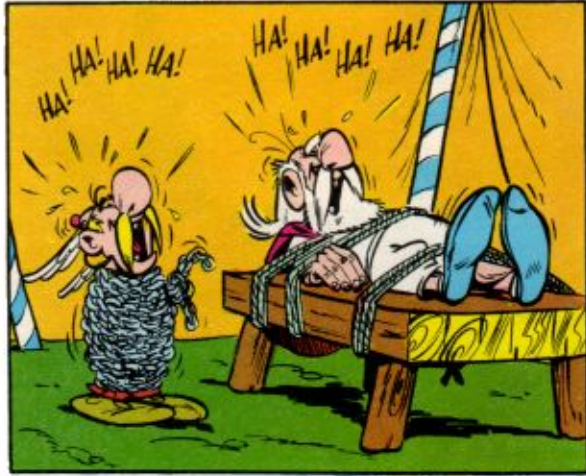


YOU REFUSED TO TALK, DRUID, BUT PERHAPS YOUR FRIEND WILL PROVE MORE LOQUACIOUS UNDER TORTURE TOMORROW!



AUT CAESAR, AUT NIHIL! (I)

(I) THIS IS LATIN GRAMMAR



HA! HA! HA! HA!



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

(I) THIS IS BAD GRAMMAR



QUIET! SOMEONE'S COMING!



CRISMUS BONUS WANTS TO SEE YOU...

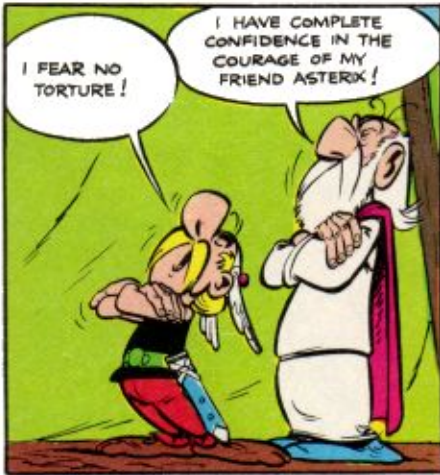


YOU, GAUL! DO YOU KNOW THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION?

ME? NO!

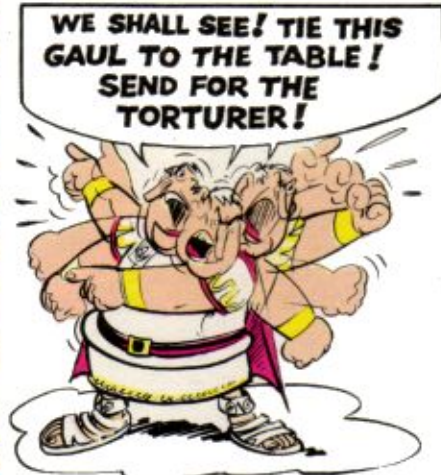


FOR THE LAST TIME, DRUID, GIVE ME THAT RECIPE OR I'LL HAVE YOUR FRIEND TORTURED!



I FEAR NO TORTURE!

I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE COURAGE OF MY FRIEND ASTERIX!



WE SHALL SEE! TIE THIS GAUL TO THE TABLE! SEND FOR THE TORTURER!



HERE I AM! HERE I AM! EVER READY!



MERCY! MERCY! I CAN'T STAND IT! STOP! MERCY!

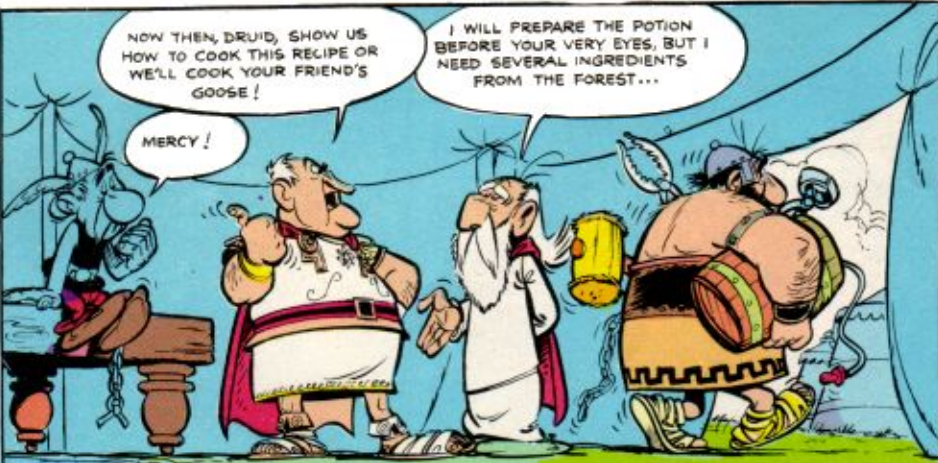
?!

STOP, FOR THE LOVE OF TOUTATIS! I CAN'T BEAR TO HEAR HIM! I'LL TELL ALL!



TORTURER, STOP!

BUT I HAVEN'T STARTED YET!



NOW THEN, DRUID, SHOW US HOW TO COOK THIS RECIPE OR WE'LL COOK YOUR FRIEND'S GOOSE!

I WILL PREPARE THE POTION BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES, BUT I NEED SEVERAL INGREDIENTS FROM THE FOREST...

MERCY!



YOU SHALL HAVE ALL YOU NEED! GIVE THE DRUID AN ESCORT! I'M KEEPING THE OTHER GAUL HERE AS A HOSTAGE!



A SPOT OF MISTLETOE...



A FEW ROOTS...



SOON AFTERWARDS... THE DRUID IS BACK WITH MISTLETOE, ROOTS...

... HERBS AND WILD FLOWERS. HE WANTS A CAULDRON

GIVE HIM A CAULDRON!



A PINCH OF SALT... A DASH OF PEPPER... LET IT SIMMER...

YES! YES! FASTER! FASTER!



THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING... SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT...

WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?



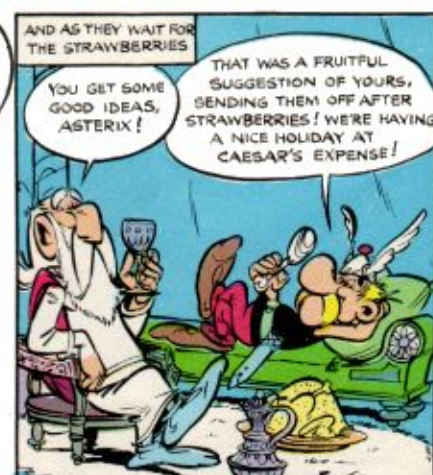
STRAWBERRIES

STRAWBERRIES? AT THIS TIME OF YEAR?



WELL, OF COURSE IT WON'T BE EASY. WE COULD WAIT FOR THE STRAWBERRY SEASON...

NO, QUICK! SEND MESSENGERS! STRAWBERRIES! I MUST HAVE STRAWBERRIES! AT THE DOUBLE!



AND AS THEY WAIT FOR THE STRAWBERRIES YOU GET SOME GOOD IDEAS, ASTERIX!

THAT WAS A FRUITFUL SUGGESTION OF YOURS, SENDING THEM OFF AFTER STRAWBERRIES! WE'RE HAVING A NICE HOLIDAY AT CAESAR'S EXPENSE!



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



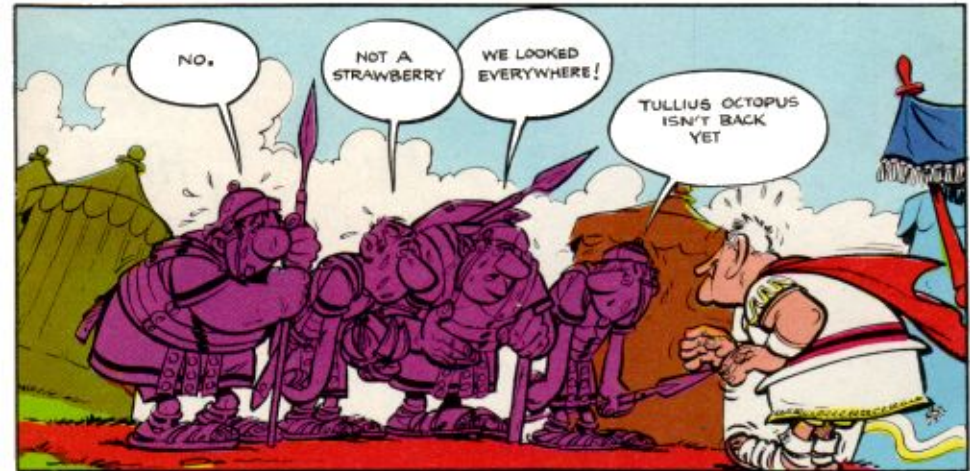
THE MESSENGERS ARE BACK, O CRISMUS BONUS!

ABOUT TIME!



AVE CRISMUS BONUS!

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



NO.

NOT A STRAWBERRY

WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!

TULLIUS OCTOPUS ISN'T BACK YET



HERE I AM, O CRISMUS BONUS!



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

GIVE THEM HERE!



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

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



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



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM, ASTERIX?

NOT UP TO MUCH!



NOT BAD...

HM...



COME TO THINK OF IT, THOSE WERE EXCELLENT STRAWBERRIES!

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

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



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



OF COURSE WE WILL!

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



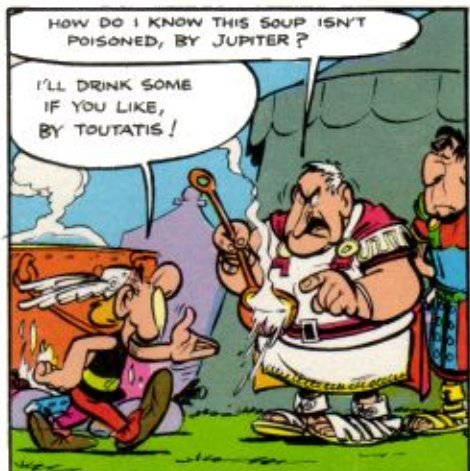
THE STRAWBERRIES DO LEAVE A TASTE IN THE MOUTH...

SNIFF! SNIFF!



IT'S DONE! SERVE HOT!

GIVE IT HERE!



HOW DO I KNOW THIS SOUP ISN'T POISONED, BY JUPITER?

I'LL DRINK SOME IF YOU LIKE, BY TOUTATIS!



NO! IF THIS IS THE REAL STUFF, YOUR STRENGTH WILL INCREASE TENFOLD! YOU'LL BE INVINCIBLE! I NEED A VOLUNTEER!



I SAID: I NEED A VOLUNTEER!!!

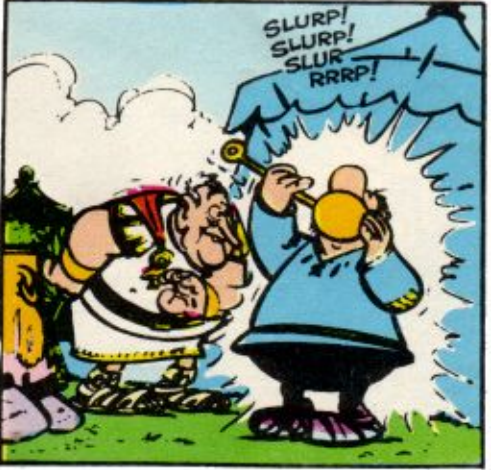
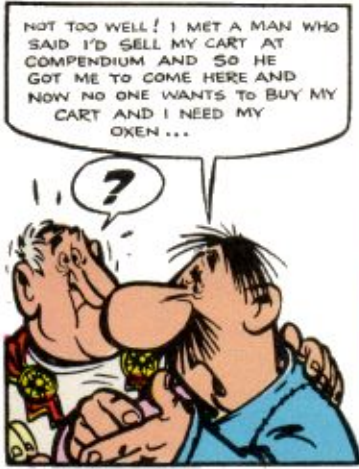
QUID NOVI?

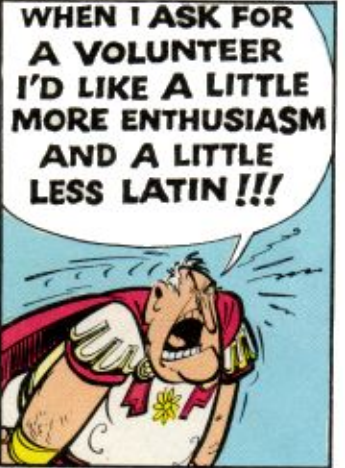
SURSUM CORDA!

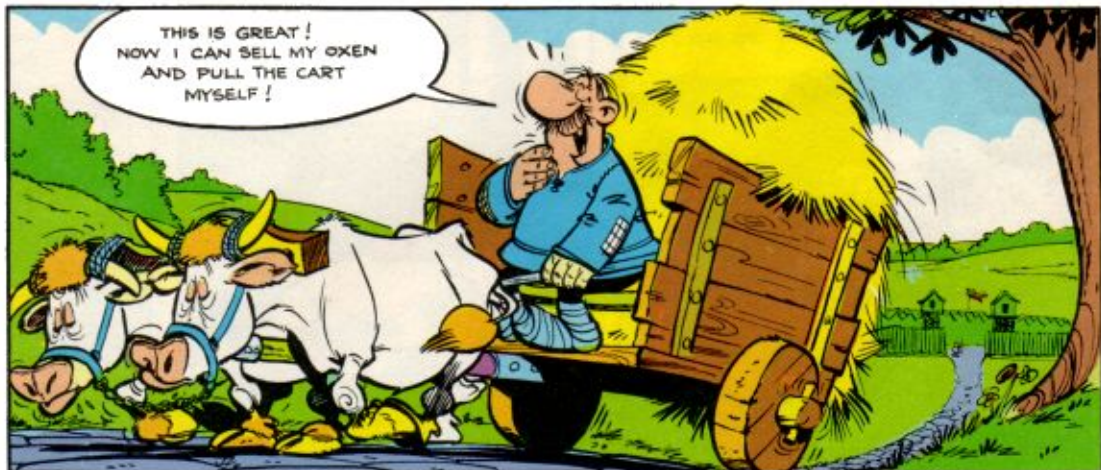
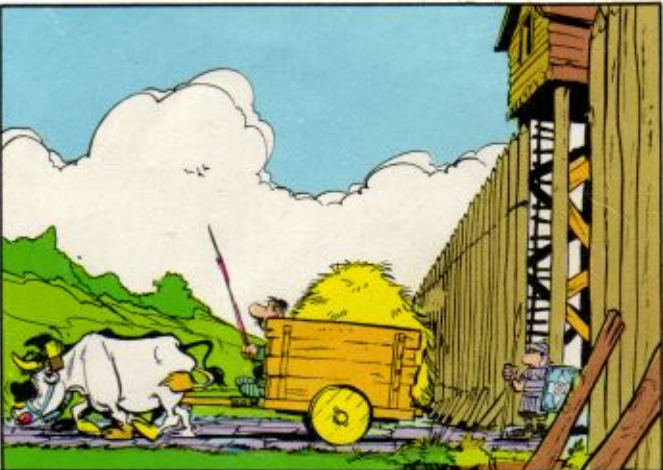
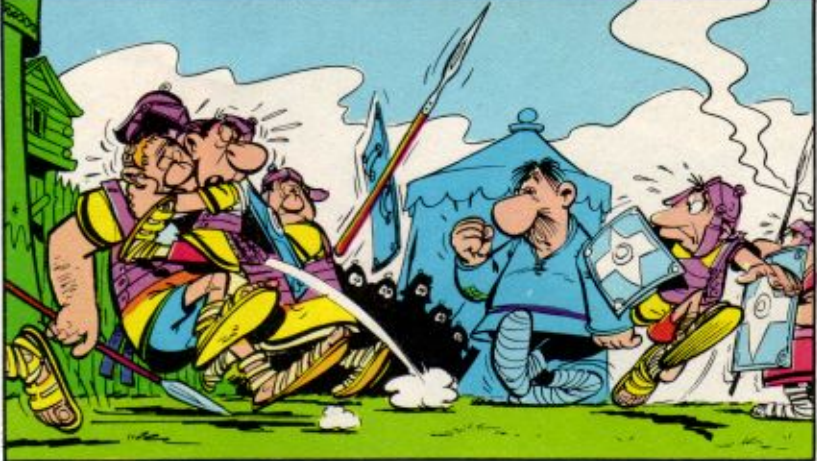
SO WHAT?



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





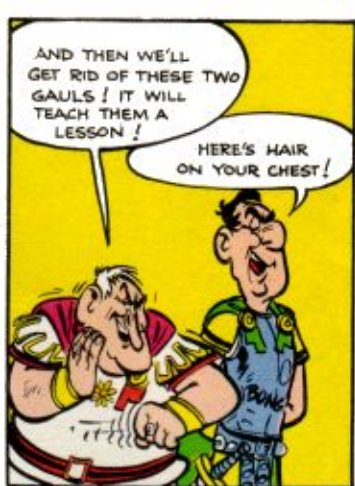




OUR ROAD TO ROME IS CLEAR, O MARCUS GINANTONICUS! CAESAR'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!



DRUID, GIVE US THAT RECIPE IN WRITING!

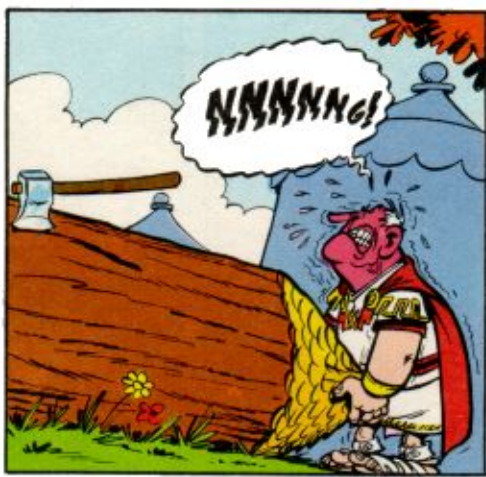


AND THEN WE'LL GET RID OF THESE TWO GAULS! IT WILL TEACH THEM A LESSON!

HERE'S HAIR ON YOUR CHEST!



AND NOW TO TRY OUT MY NEW STRENGTH!



NNNNNG!



HMM - SET MY SIGHTS TOO HIGH!



I'LL TRY THIS ONE!



NNNNNG!



SOMETHING SMALLER...



PERHAPS THIS ONE?



I'VE DONE IT! I'M A SUPERMAN!!!

AMAZING!



ER... CRISMUS BONUS...

HM?



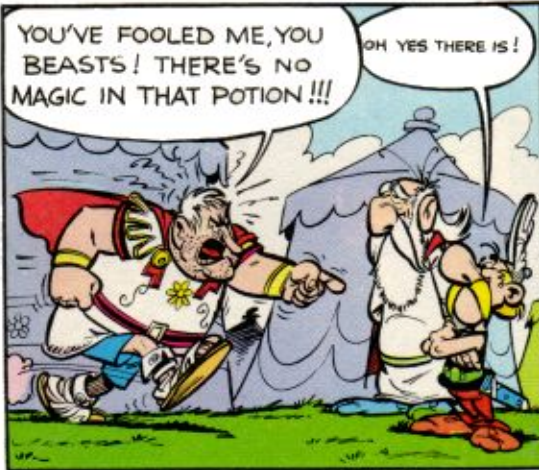
THERE'S NOTHING AMAZING ABOUT LIFTING THAT PEBBLE!

?



TRUE!

OUCH!



YOU'VE FOOLED ME, YOU BEASTS! THERE'S NO MAGIC IN THAT POTION!!!

OH YES THERE IS!



?

Hi! Hi! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! HA! HA!



O CRISMUS BONUS, CAN'T WE GET EVEN WITH THESE GAULS?

?



YOU COULD HAVE SHAVED BEFORE COMING TO SEE ME!

?



A SELF-RESPECTING LEGIONARY SHOULD BE CLEAN SHAVEN!

!



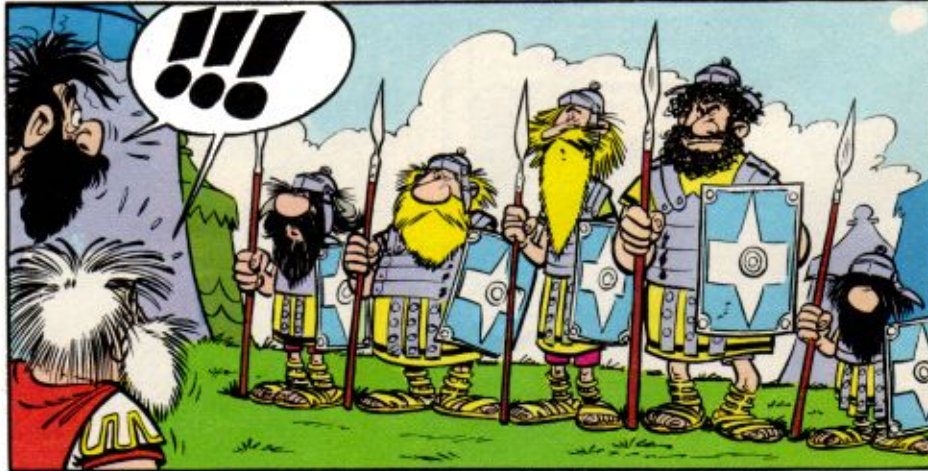
MAYBE, BUT A SELF-RESPECTING CENTURION SHOULD PRACTISE WHAT HE PREACHES!

?

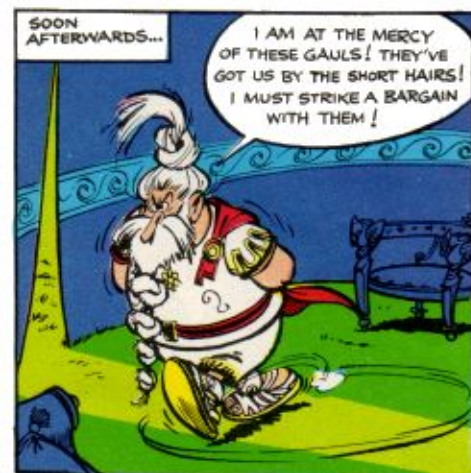


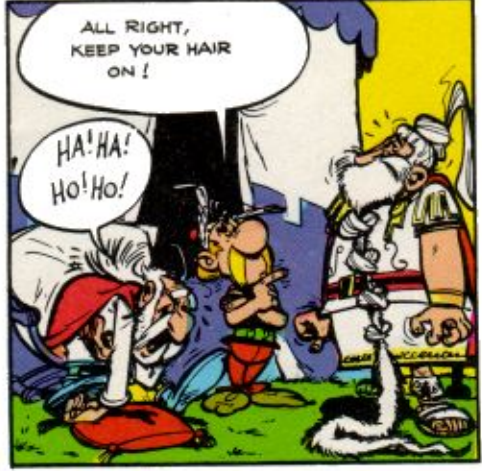
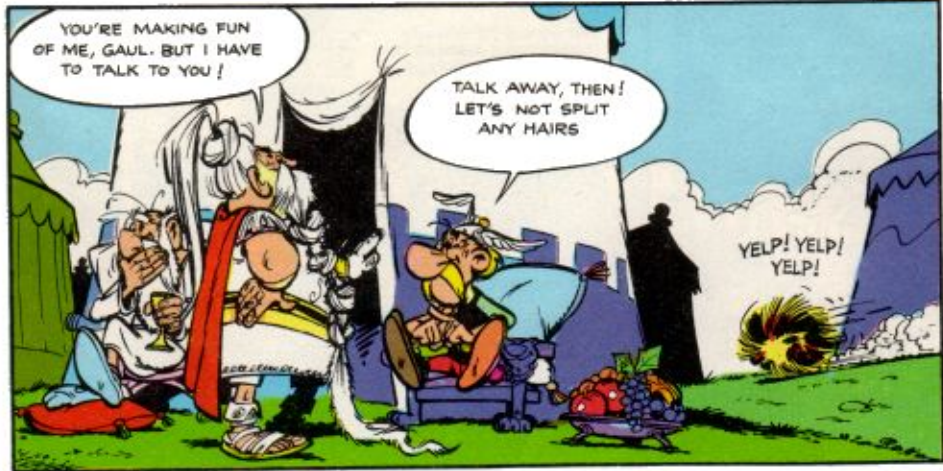
HERE - WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

LOOK!!!



!!!







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



TRY A HAIR OF THE DOG?

GETAFIX MAY NOT REMEMBER THE ANTIDOTE...



HE'S A BIT HARE-BRAINED SOMETIMES!

Ho! Ho! Ho!



DON'T DISTRESS YOURSELF! WE AGREE!



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

I'LL ARRANGE FOR AN ESCORT...



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



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

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



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



REPORTING TO ESCORT YOU TO THE FOREST FOR INGREDIENTS!



STOP WALKING ON MY HAIR!

WELL, PICK IT UP, THEN!



I HAVE A PLAN!

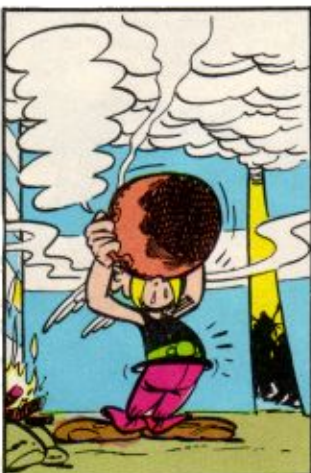
THAT'S OUR STRONG POINT, WE'RE BURSTING WITH IDEAS!



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

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

SOON AFTERSWARDS... THE MAGIC POTION IS READY! TAKE A GOOD SWIG!



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN ...

AND HOW CAN I BE SURE THIS POTION WILL STOP MY HAIR GROWING ?

YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING, ROMAN! LOOK AT MY MOUSTACHE - IT'S NOT GROWING ANY LONGER!

SO IT ISN'T, BY JUPITER! LET'S HAVE SOME!

GREEDY PIGS!

YES, AND JUST THINK OF ALL THOSE HAIRS IN THE SOUP! UGH!

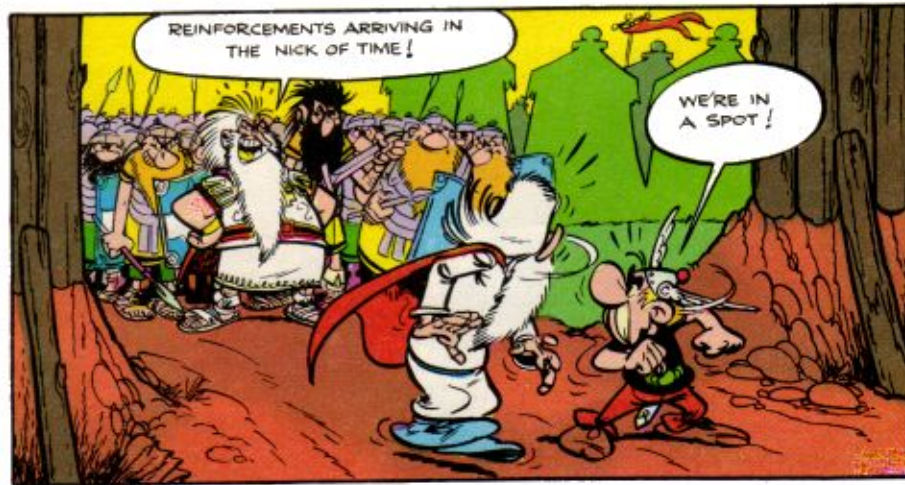
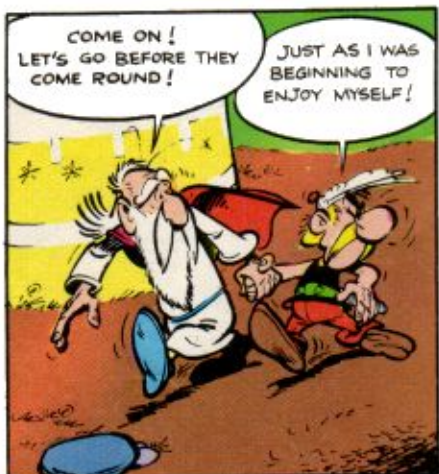
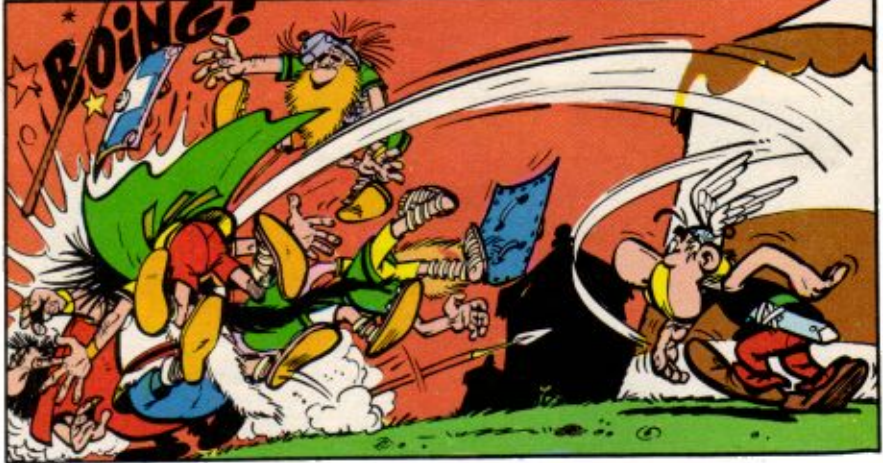
SEIZE THEM!!!

WITH PLEASURE!

CURLYLOCKS, CURLYLOCKS, WILT THOU BE MINE

LEGGO!

HELP!





THIS TIME I'LL ROAST YOU ALIVE!



O CRISMUS BONUS, YOU'RE WANTED URGENTLY IN YOUR TENT...

?

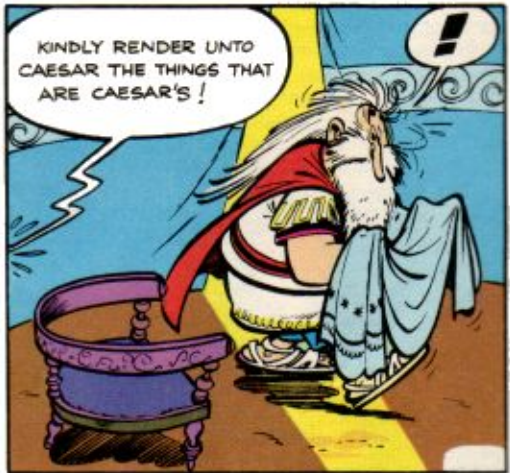


URGENTLY?

URGENTLY



WHO'S LEFT THIS CLOAK LYING AROUND MY TENT?



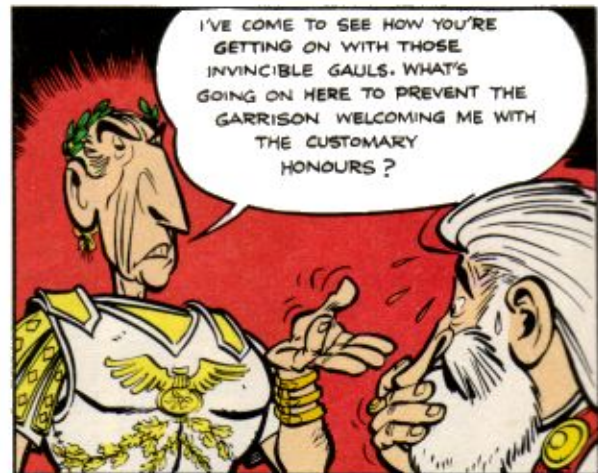
KINDLY RENDER UNTO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CAESAR'S!

!



JULIUS CAESAR!!!

WHO ELSE?



I'VE COME TO SEE HOW YOU'RE GETTING ON WITH THOSE INVINCIBLE GAULS. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE TO PREVENT THE GARRISON WELCOMING ME WITH THE CUSTOMARY HONOURS?

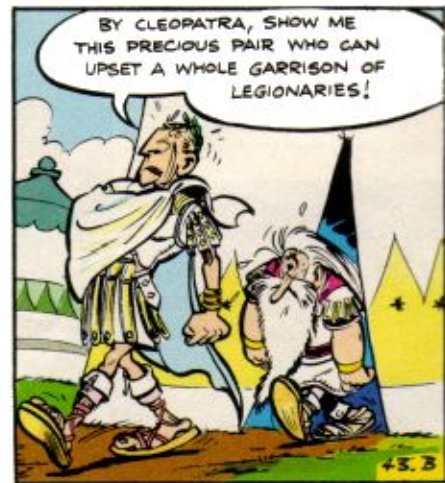


WELL... ER... IT SO HAPPENS WE'RE FIGHTING THE GAULS AT THIS VERY MOMENT...

GAULS? HOW MANY GAULS?



TWO!



BY CLEOPATRA, SHOW ME THIS PRECIOUS PAIR WHO CAN UPSET A WHOLE GARRISON OF LEGIONARIES!

