

BOOK 18

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

*and the
Chieftain's Shield*

ASTRIX



HODDER DARGAUD

UDERZO

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 SUCCEUMBS 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.

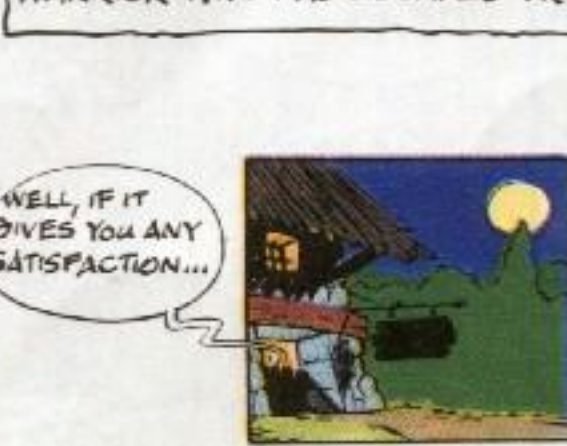


O TEMPORA! O MORES!

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 !!!



**BOOOOW!
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!



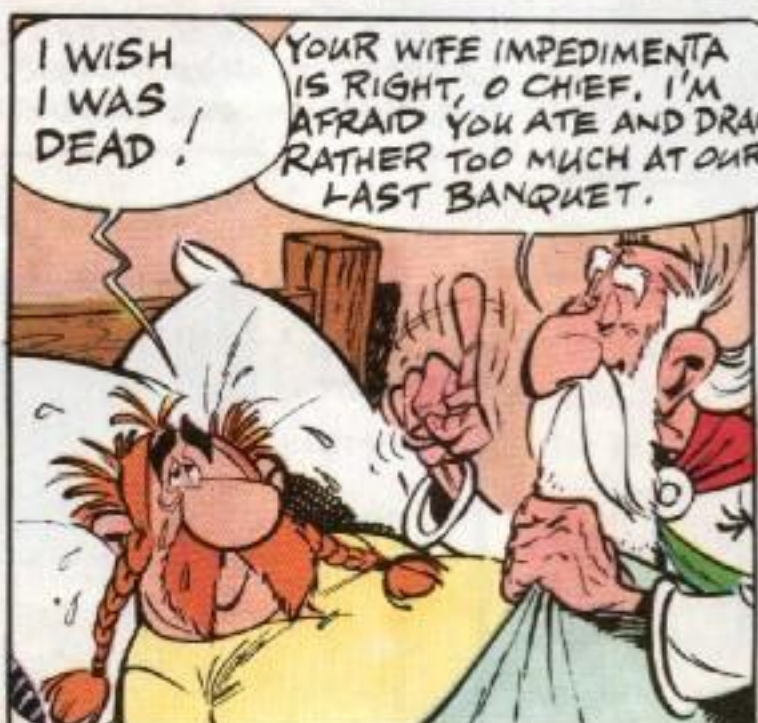
DOES IT HURT THERE, THEN?



AH, YES, HE'S GOT LIVER TROUBLE.

I NEVER KNEW ANYONE COULD GET LIVER TROUBLE...

OUCH!

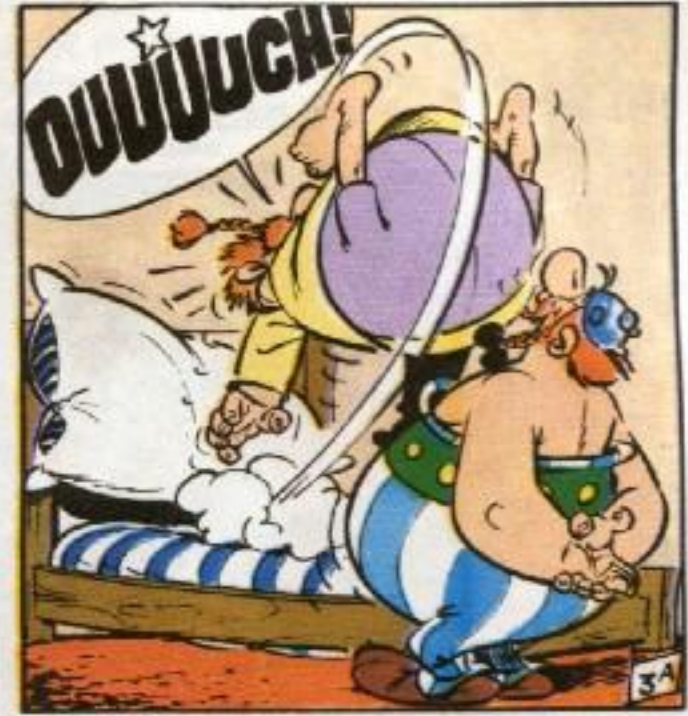
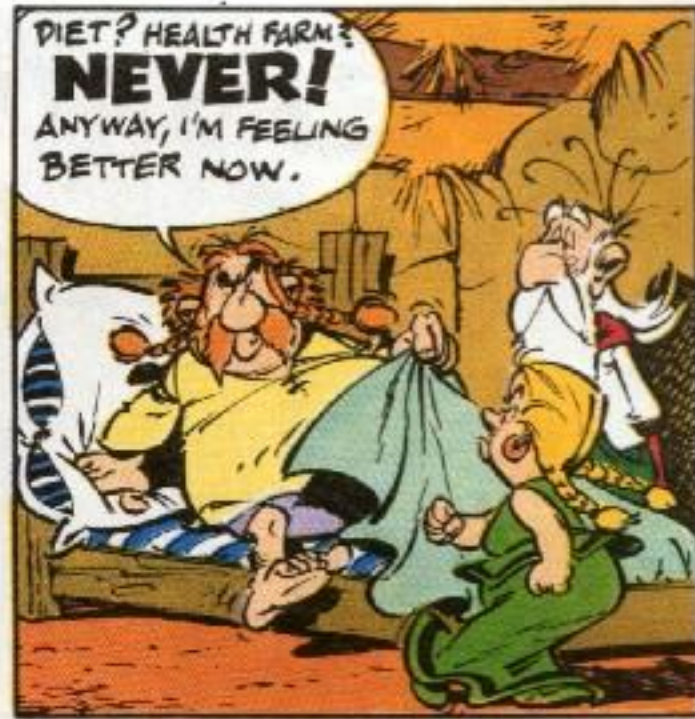
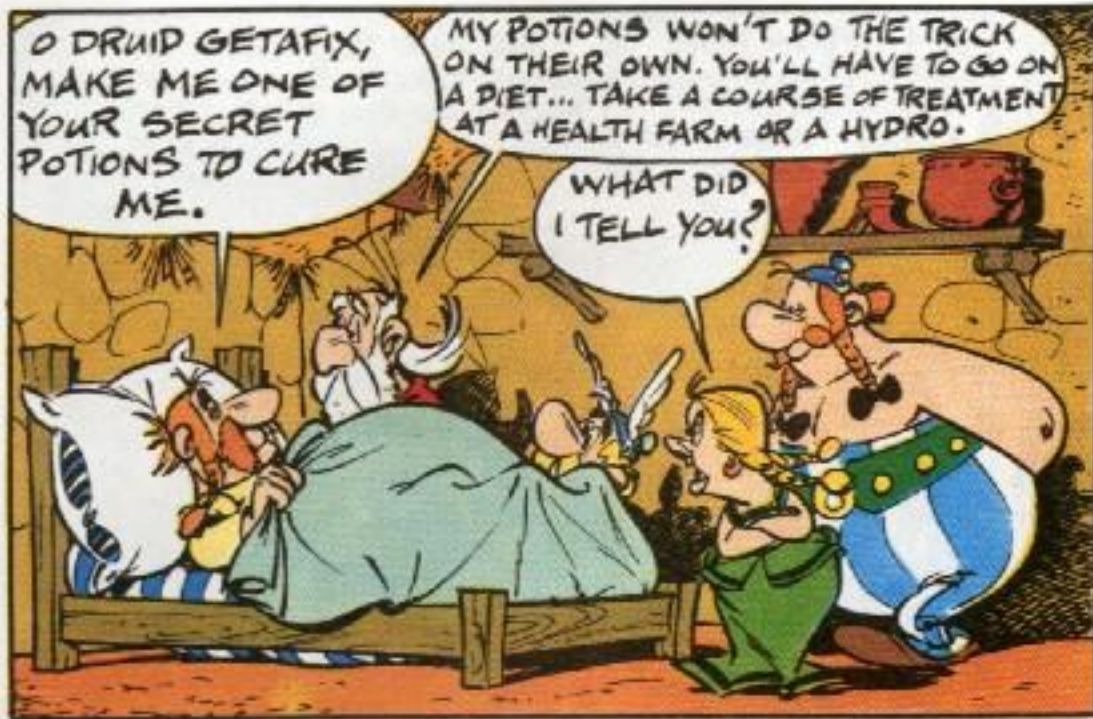


I WISH I WAS DEAD!

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.





I WOULDN'T MIND A HOLIDAY IN THOSE PARTS ...

RIGHT, I'M GOING TO SEND YOU TO SEE THE DRUID DIAGNOSTIX, WHO RUNS THE FAMOUS HYDRO AT AQUAE CALIDAE.



AND WE'LL GO WITH YOU, O VITALSTATISTIX! A CHIEF OUGHT TO HAVE AN ESCORT!

YES, AND DOGMATIX CAN COME TOO! A SLIMMING CURE MIGHT DO HIM GOOD. HE'S GETTING FAT.



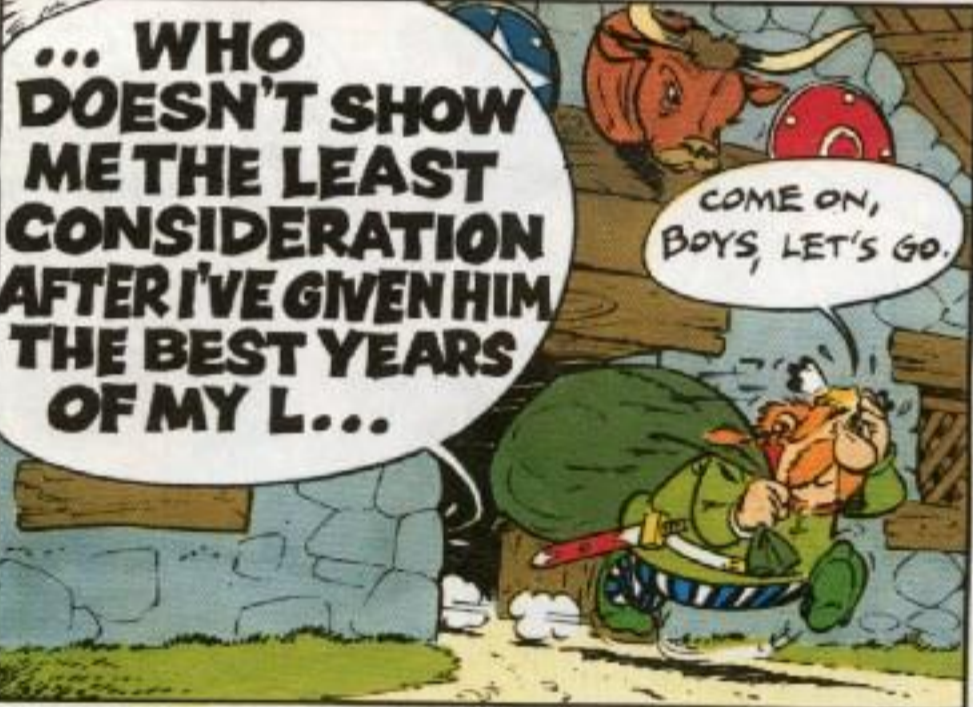
THE CHIEF'S LIVER IS SOON SOOTHED BY SOME INFUSIONS BREWED BY GETAFIX PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOURNEY ARE GOING AHEAD; ASTERIX HAS BEEN GIVEN HIS GOURD OF MAGIC POTION AND OBELIX IS SULKING SLIGHTLY ...

I KNOW, I KNOW, I DON'T GET ANY BECAUSE GNGNGN GNGNGN ...

I'M A BIT SORRY TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE, BUT WE CAN HAVE A GREAT BANQUET TO CELEBRATE OUR DEPARTURE AND ...

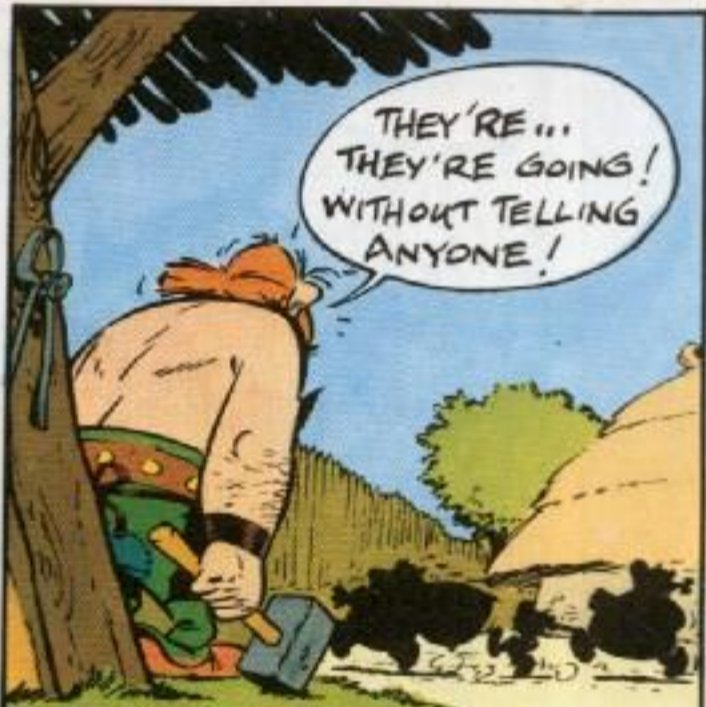


BANQUET? I'M SICK AND TIRED OF SACRIFICING MYSELF FOR A GREAT FAT BARBARIAN WITHOUT THE GUMPTION OF A WILD BOAR PIGLET ...



... WHO DOESN'T SHOW ME THE LEAST CONSIDERATION AFTER I'VE GIVEN HIM THE BEST YEARS OF MY L...

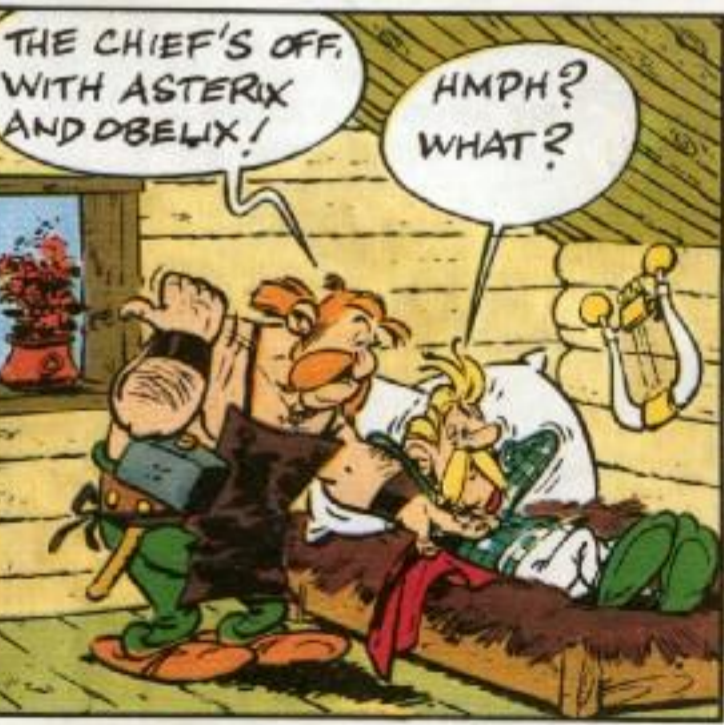
COME ON, BOYS, LET'S GO.



THEY'RE ... THEY'RE GOING! WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE!



CACOFONIX! CACOFONIX!



THE CHIEF'S OFF, WITH ASTERIX AND OBELIX!

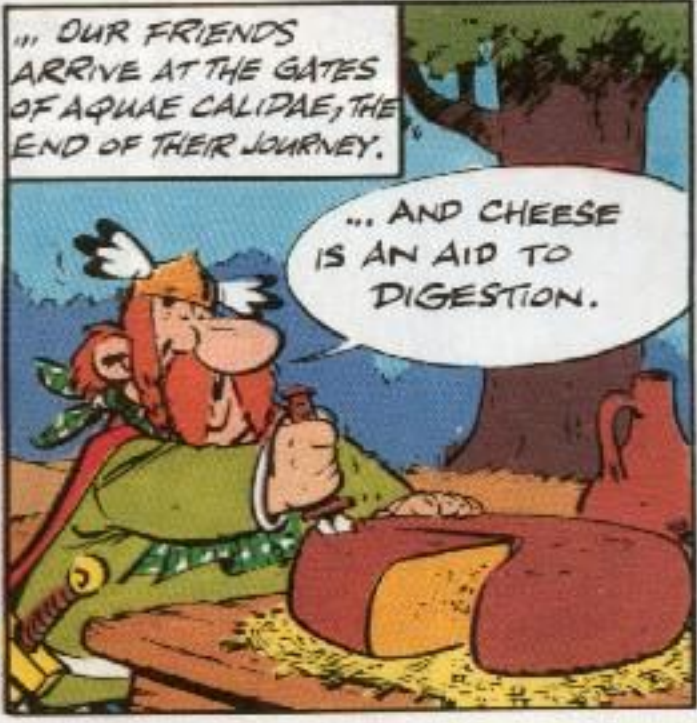
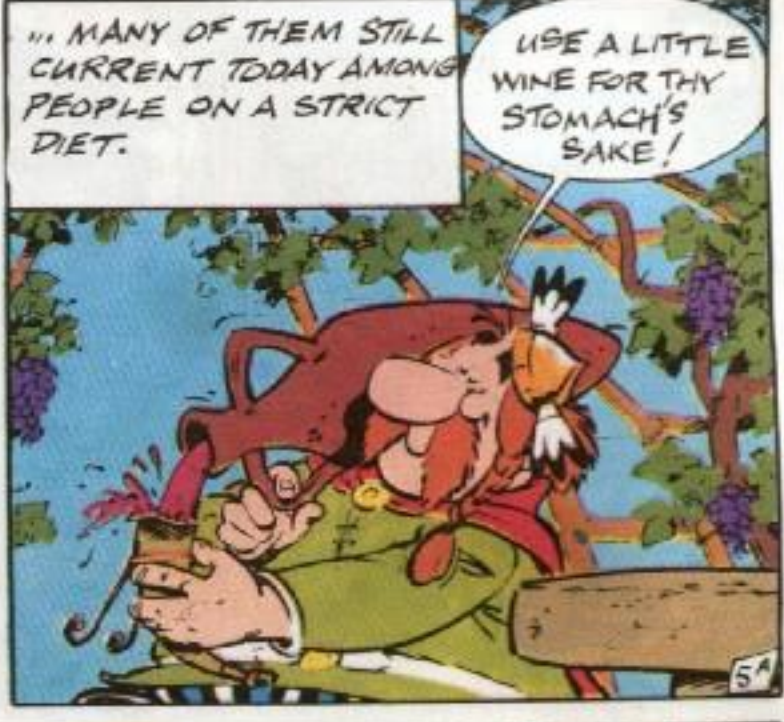
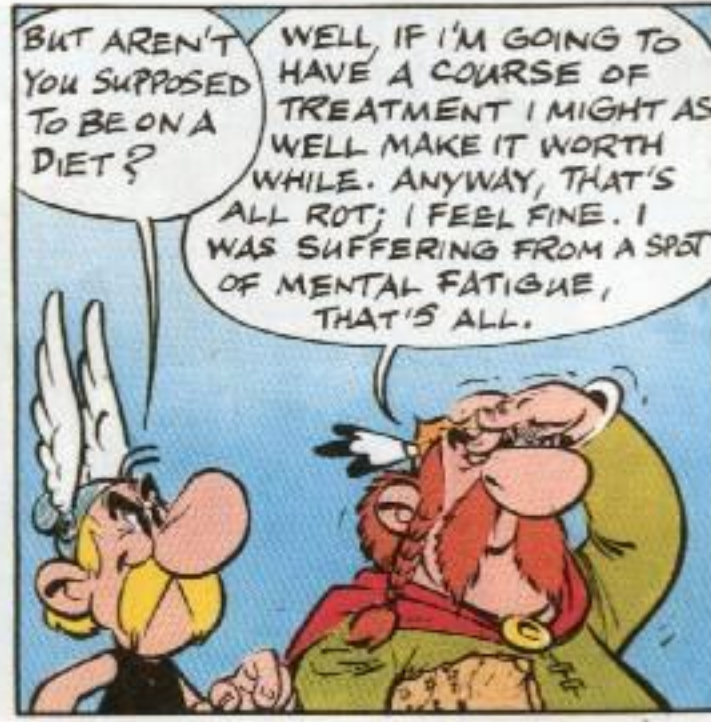
HMPH? WHAT?



QUICK! I WILL NOW GIVE THEM A SONG OF ...



OH NO, YOU WON'T! OH NO, YOU WON'T!



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

BOOOOOH!
I WISH I WAS DEAD!



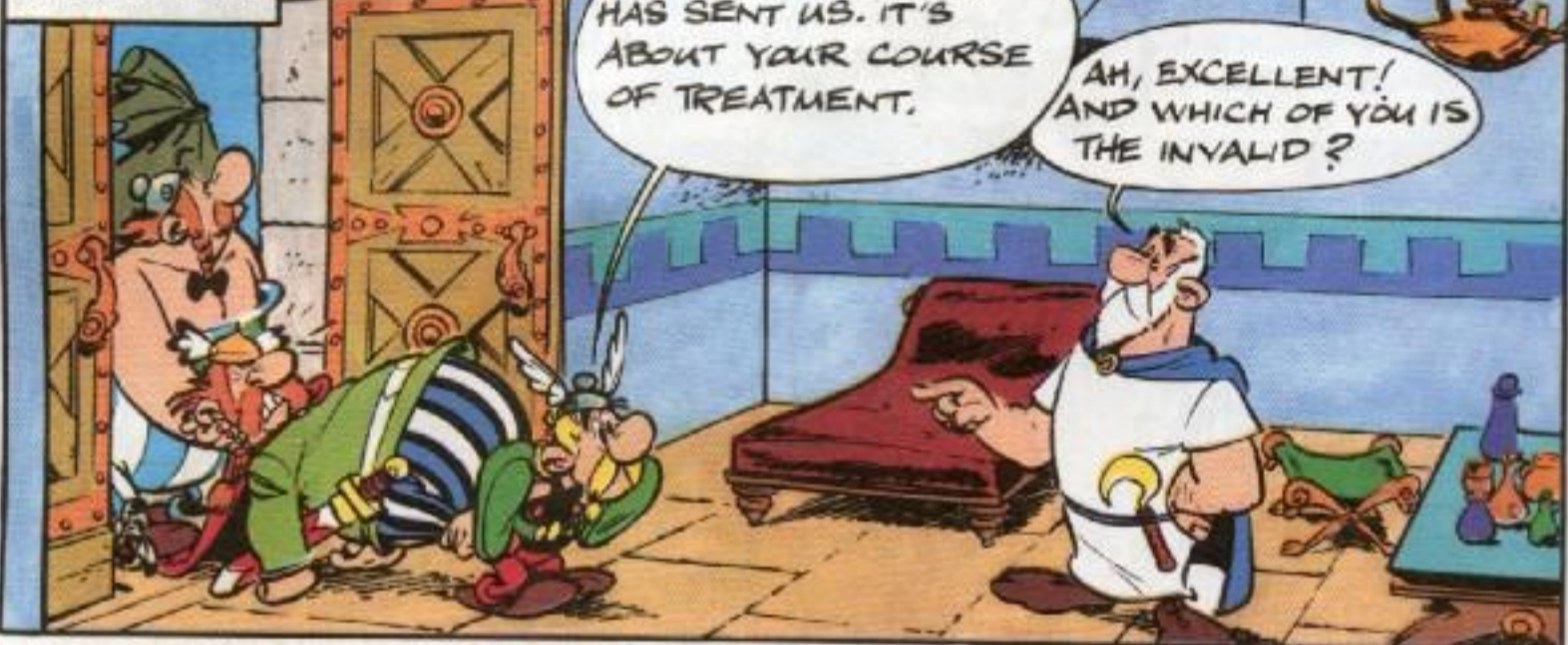
DIAGNOSTIX THE DRUID? THAT WAY, TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR CONDITION: WHATEVER SPRINGS TO MIND. I'VE GOT TO MIND THE SPRINGS.



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?



BOOOOOOH!

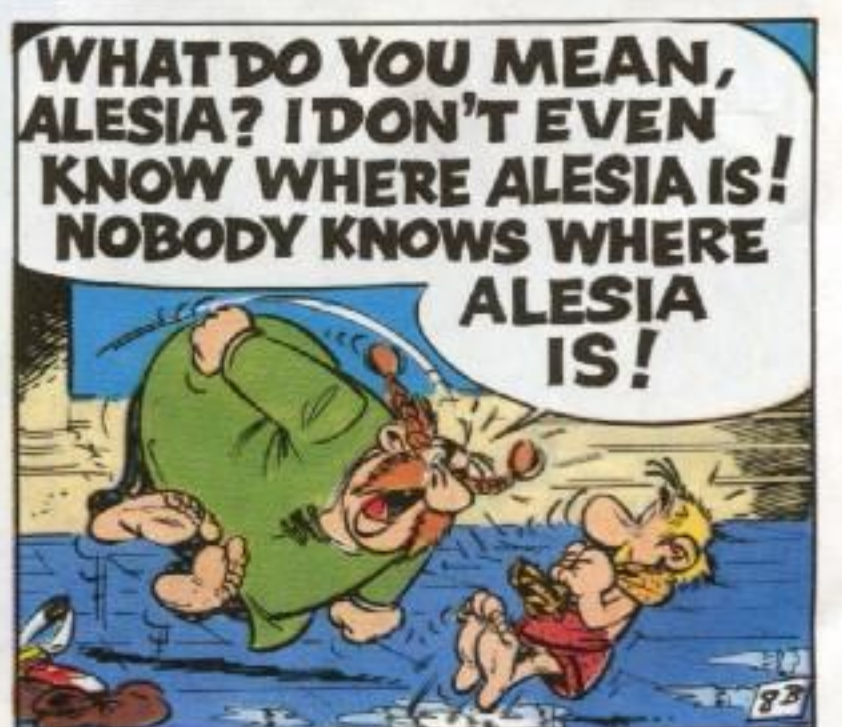


DRUID, QUICK! OUR CHIEF HAS FAINTED!

???









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 ARVERNIANS 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!



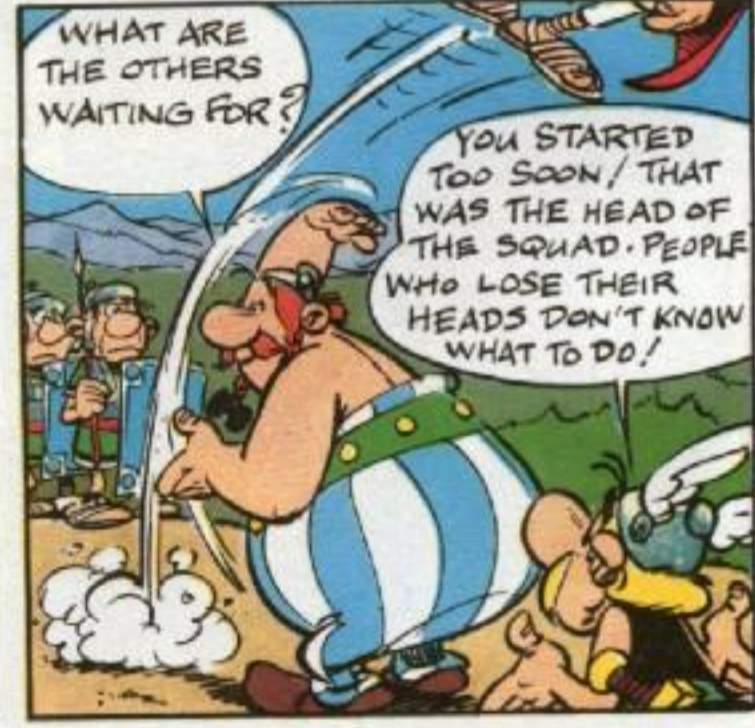
MEANWHILE OUR FRIENDS ARE STROLLING THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL ARVERNIAN COUNTRYSIDE...

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!

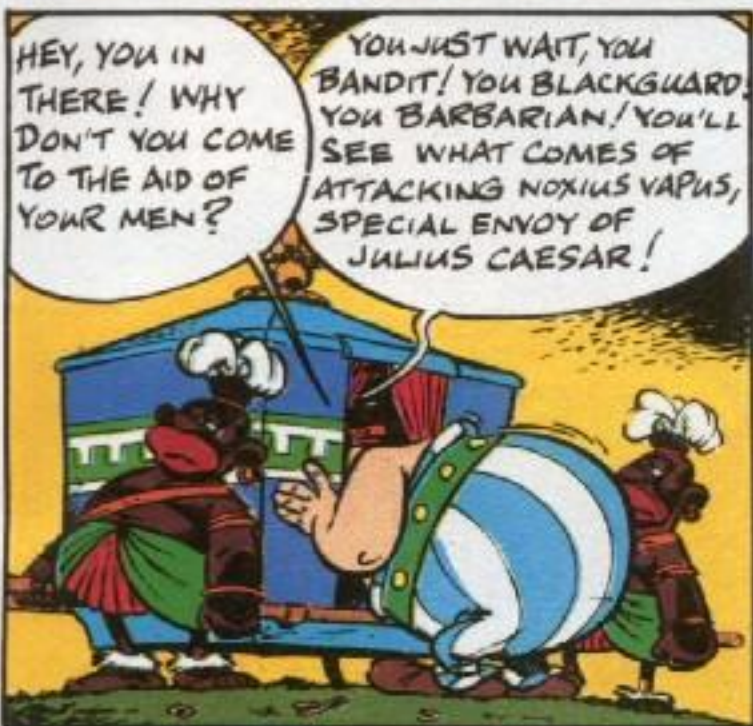




SOON AFTERWARDS...

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.



?!

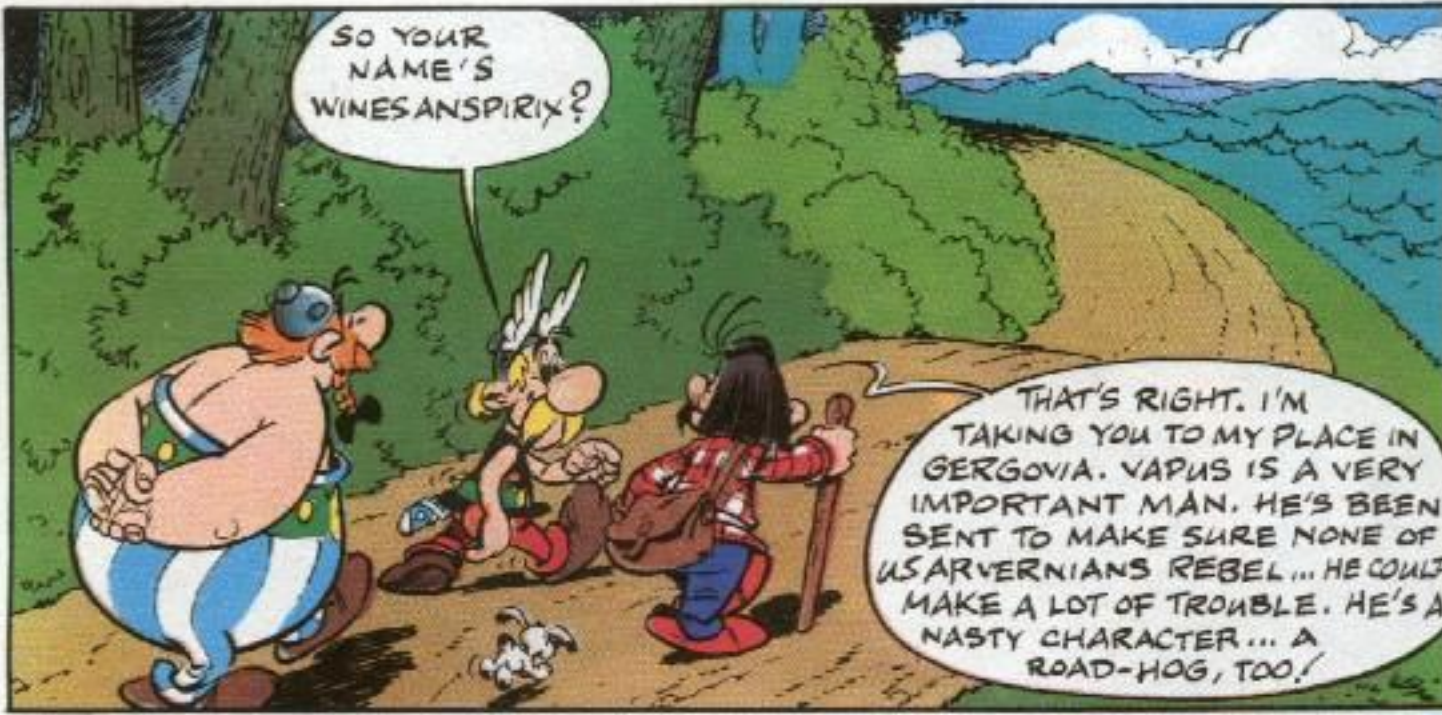


WELL, WELL! THEY'VE GOT VAPUS!



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.



SO YOUR NAME'S WINESANSPIRIX?

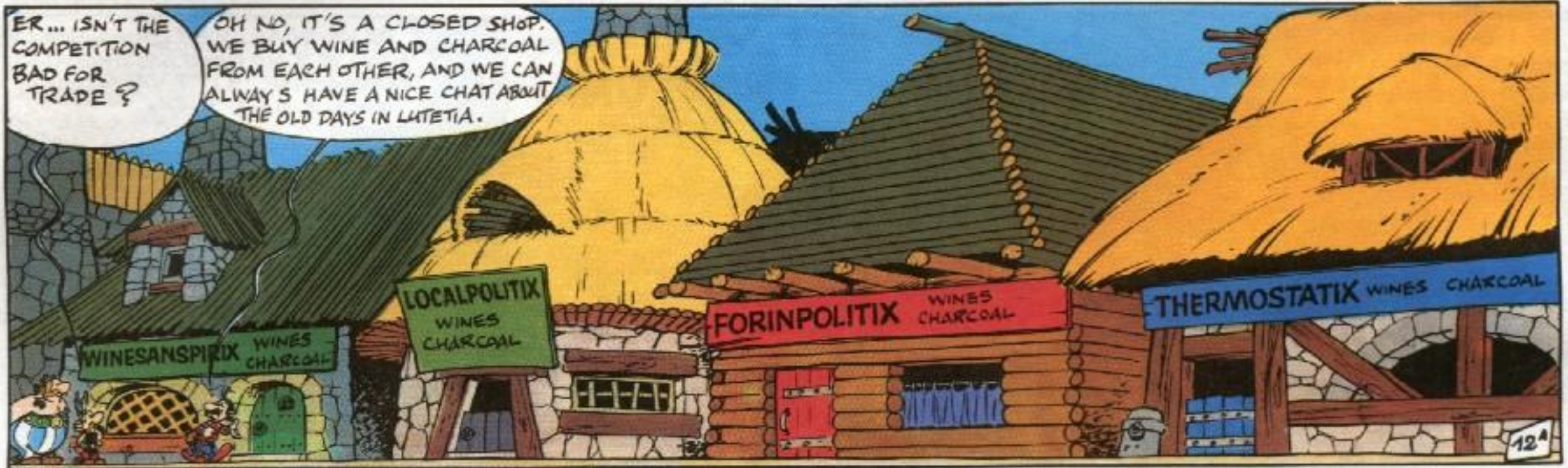
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M TAKING YOU TO MY PLACE IN GERGOVIA. VAPUS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MAN. HE'S BEEN SENT TO MAKE SURE NONE OF US ARVERNAINS REBEL... HE COULD MAKE A LOT OF TROUBLE. HE'S A NASTY CHARACTER... A ROAD-HOG, TOO!



I KEEP A LITTLE SHOP JUST INSIDE THE GATES OF GERGOVIA - HERE WE ARE.

DID HE SAY HOG? I'M HUH...

OH, HOGWASH, OBELIX!



ER... ISN'T THE COMPETITION BAD FOR TRADE?

OH NO, IT'S A CLOSED SHOP. WE BUY WINE AND CHARCOAL FROM EACH OTHER, AND WE CAN ALWAYS HAVE A NICE CHAT ABOUT THE OLD DAYS IN LUTETIA.



AND WHAT DID YOU DO IN LUTETIA?

WE SOLD WINE AND CHARCOAL.



COME IN!

TAP! TAP! TAP!



THESE ARE TWO FRIENDS OF MINE, DEAR; THEY'VE JUST TAUGHT VAPUS A GOOD LESSON! GO AND TELL THE OTHERS, AND WE'LL CELEBRATE!

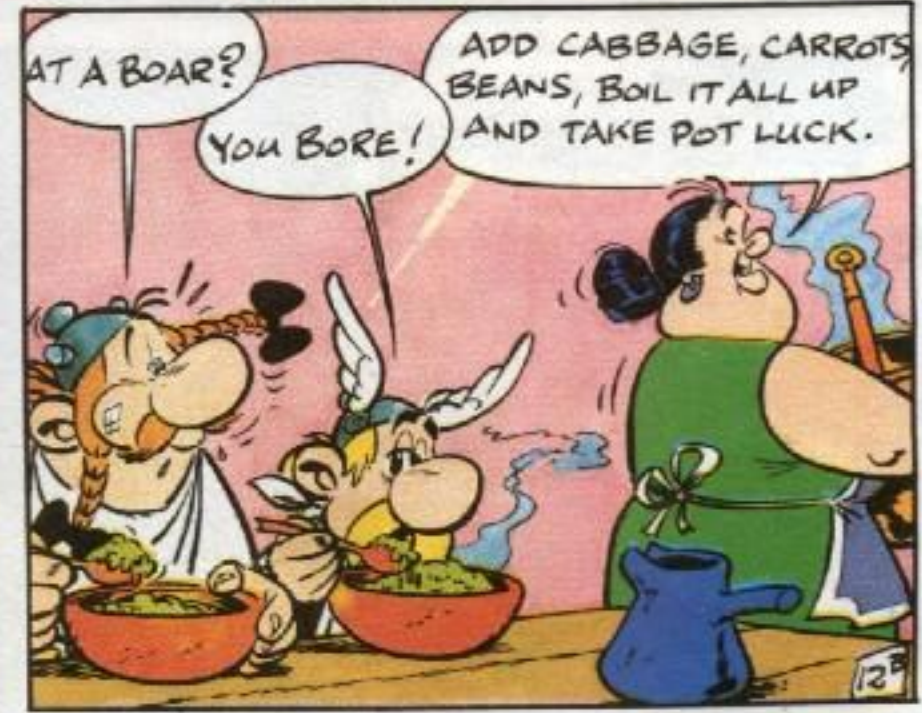
SOUP'S UP!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

IT'S VERY GOOD SOUP. HOW DO YOU MAKE IT?

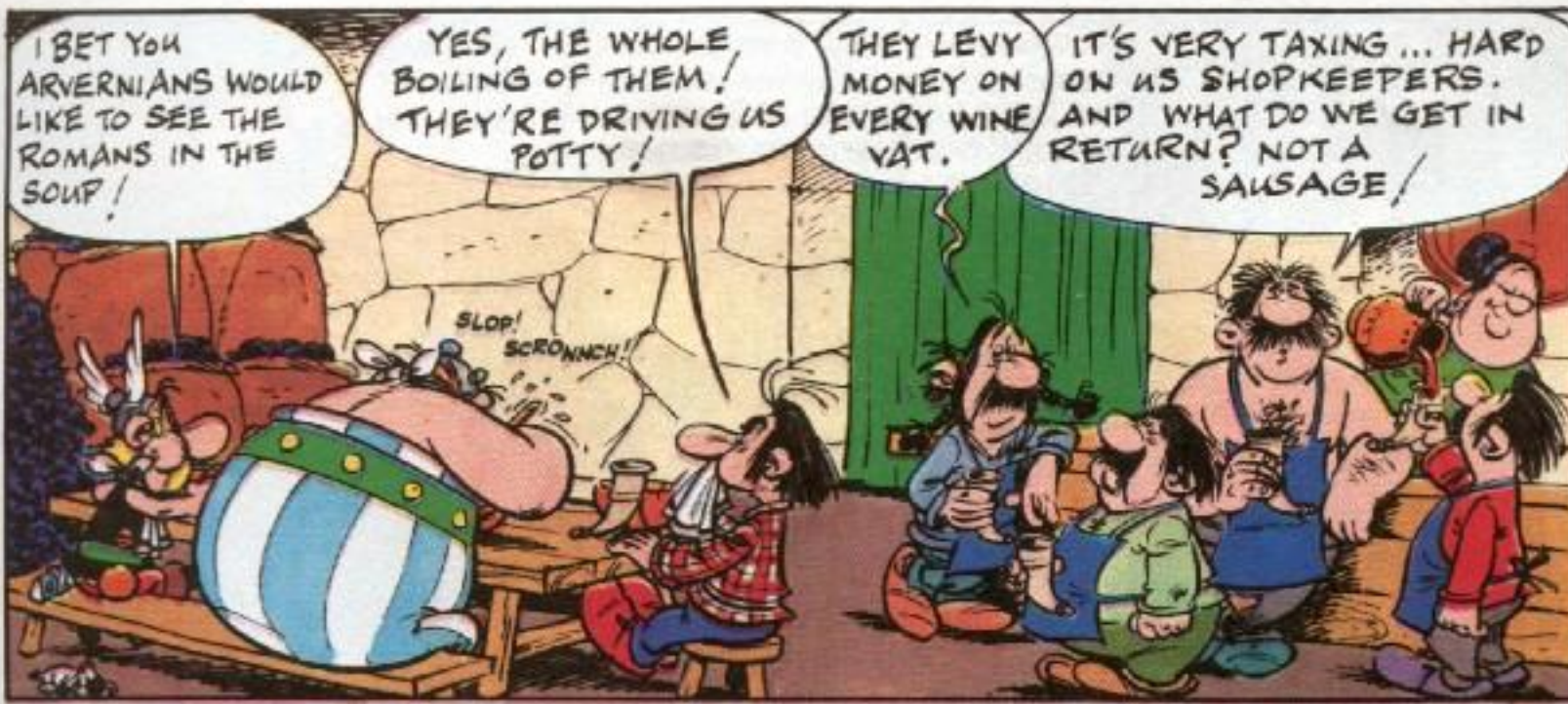
WELL, FIRST YOU TAKE A POT...



AT A BOAR?

YOU BORE!

ADD CABBAGE, CARROTS, BEANS, BOIL IT ALL UP AND TAKE POT LUCK.



I BET YOU ARVERNIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ROMANS IN THE SOUP!

YES, THE WHOLE BOILING OF THEM! THEY'RE DRIVING US POTTY!

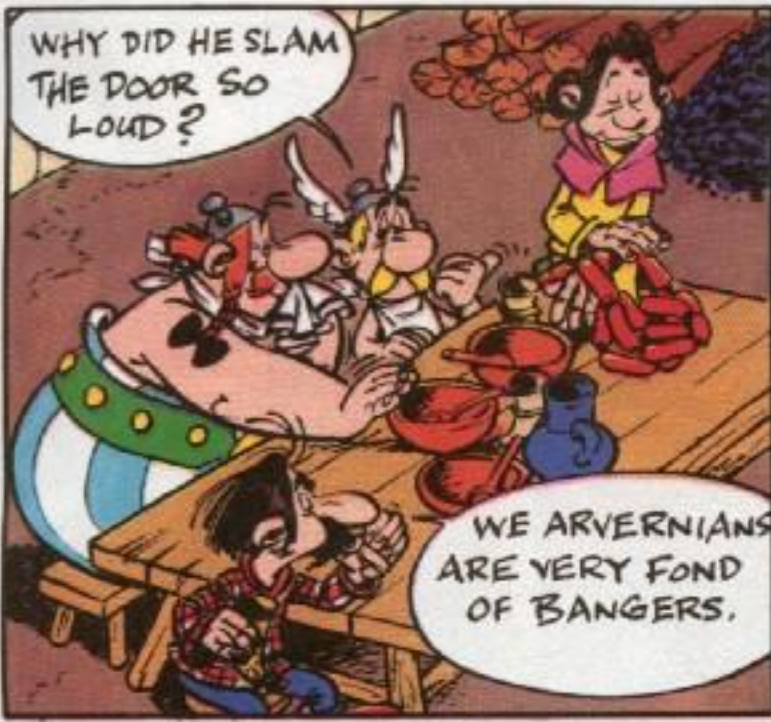
THEY LEVY MONEY ON EVERY WINE VAT.

IT'S VERY TAXING ... HARD ON US SHOPKEEPERS. AND WHAT DO WE GET IN RETURN? NOT A SAUSAGE!

SLOP! SCRONCH!

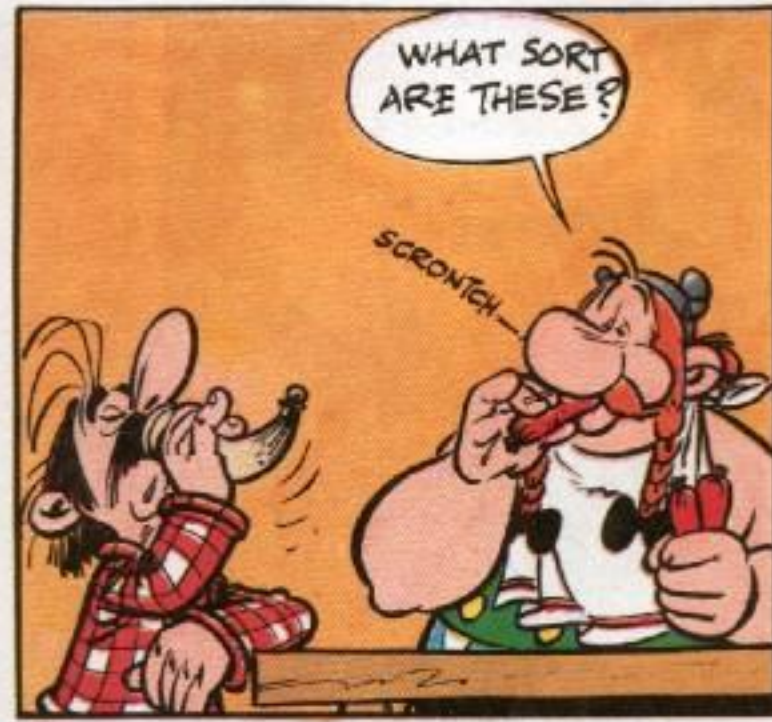


HI! SAUSAGES FOR AFTERS, EVERYONE!



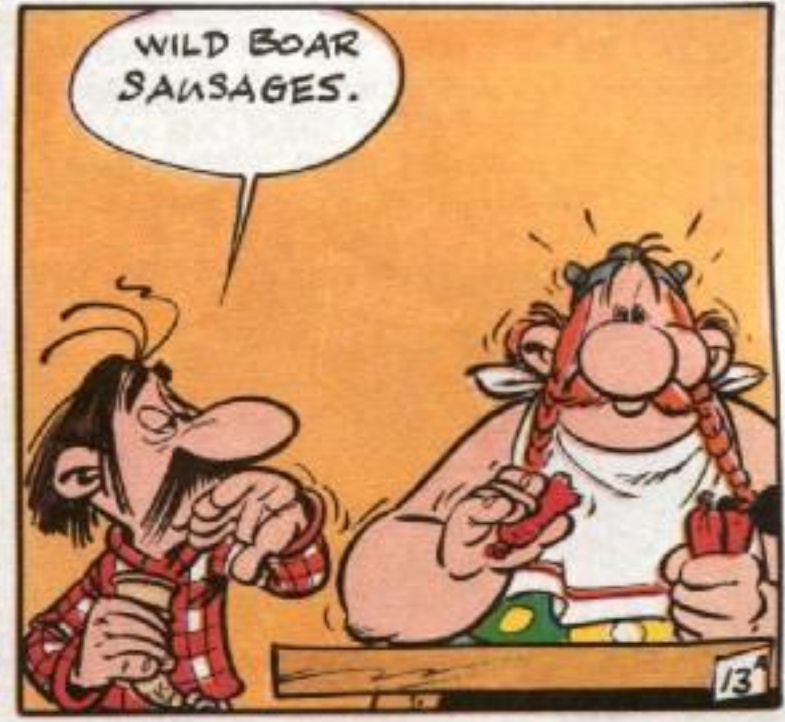
WHY DID HE SLAM THE DOOR SO LOUD?

WE ARVERNIANS ARE VERY FOND OF BANGERS.

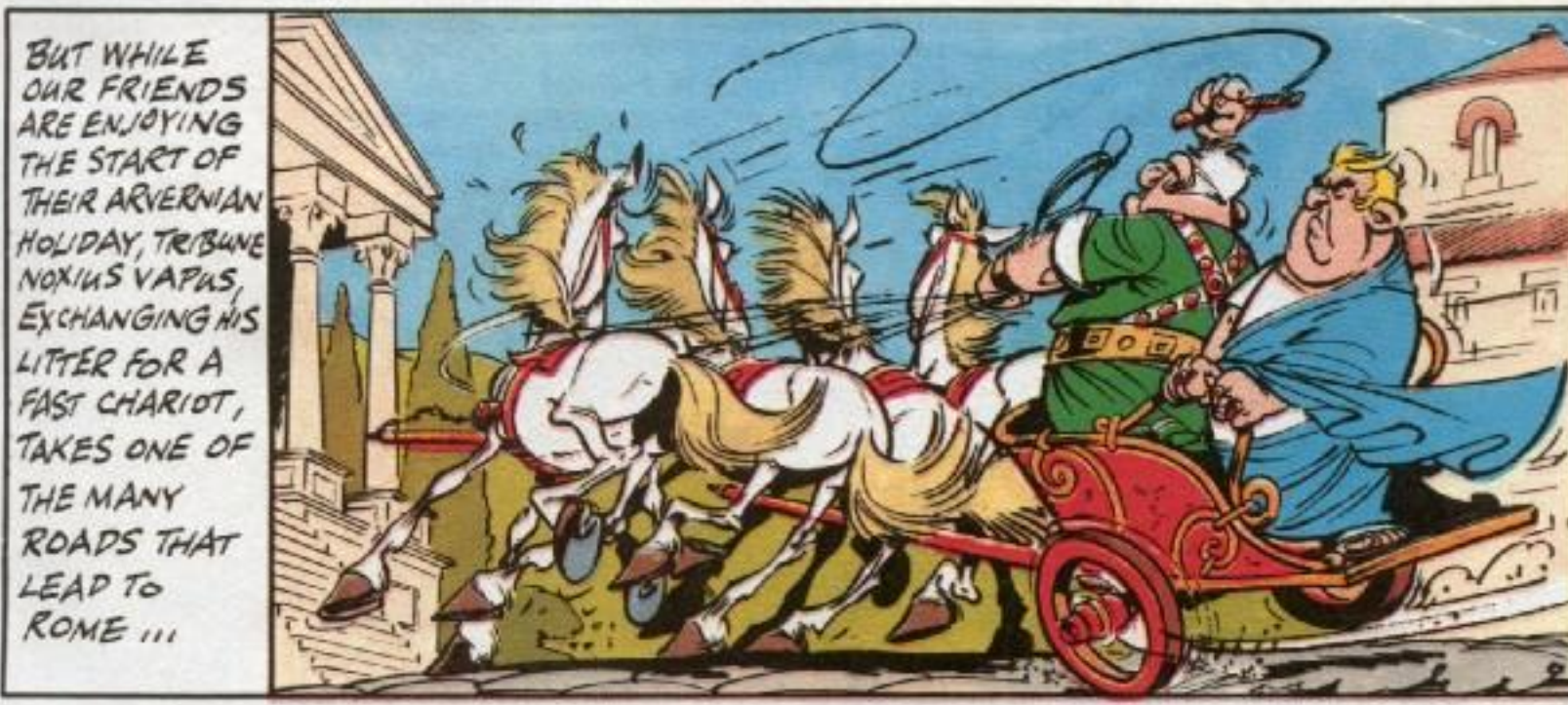


WHAT SORT ARE THESE?

SCRONCH



WILD BOAR SAUSAGES.



BUT WHILE OUR FRIENDS ARE ENJOYING THE START OF THEIR ARVERNIAN HOLIDAY, TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPAS, EXCHANGING HIS LITTER FOR A FAST CHARIOT, TAKES ONE OF THE MANY ROADS THAT LEAD TO ROME !!!



QUICK! I WANT AN AUDIENCE OF CAESAR!



O CAESAR, I'VE COME TO REPORT ON MY MISSION. THE ARVERNIANS ARE AS REBELLIOUS AS EVER. I WAS ATTACKED AND BEATEN UP, BY JUPITER!

WHERE, BY MINERVA?



AT GERGOVIA, BY SATURN!

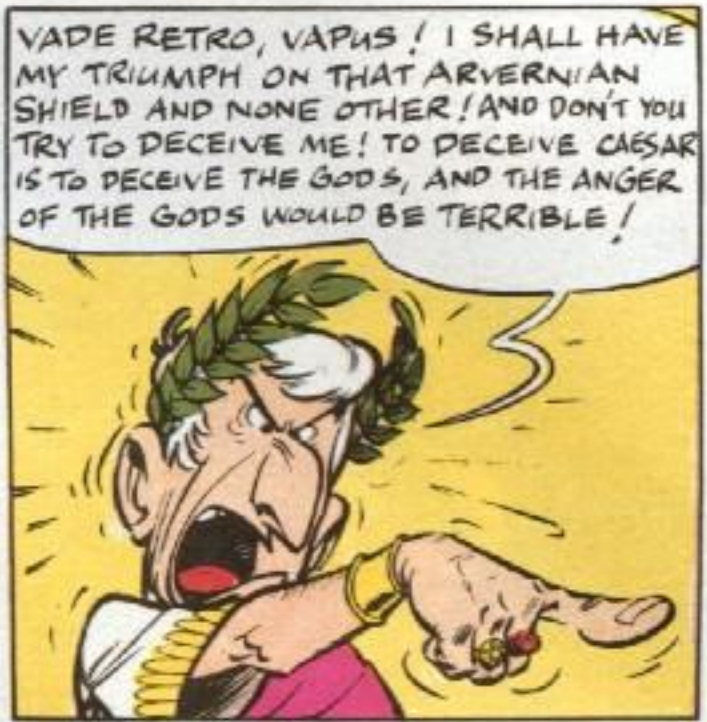
THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT, BY VULCAN!





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!

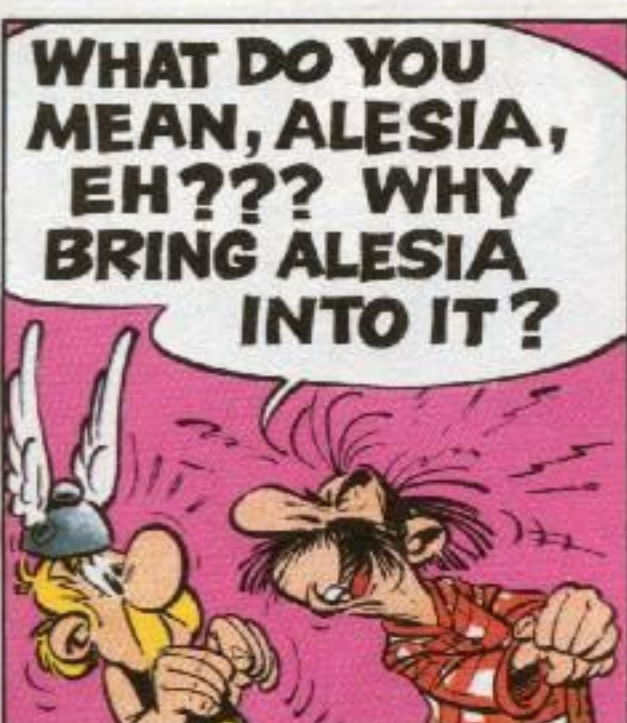


... AND THE TOWNS OF NEMESSOS ①, NERIDMAGUS ②, BORYO ③ AND CALENTES BAIÆ ④

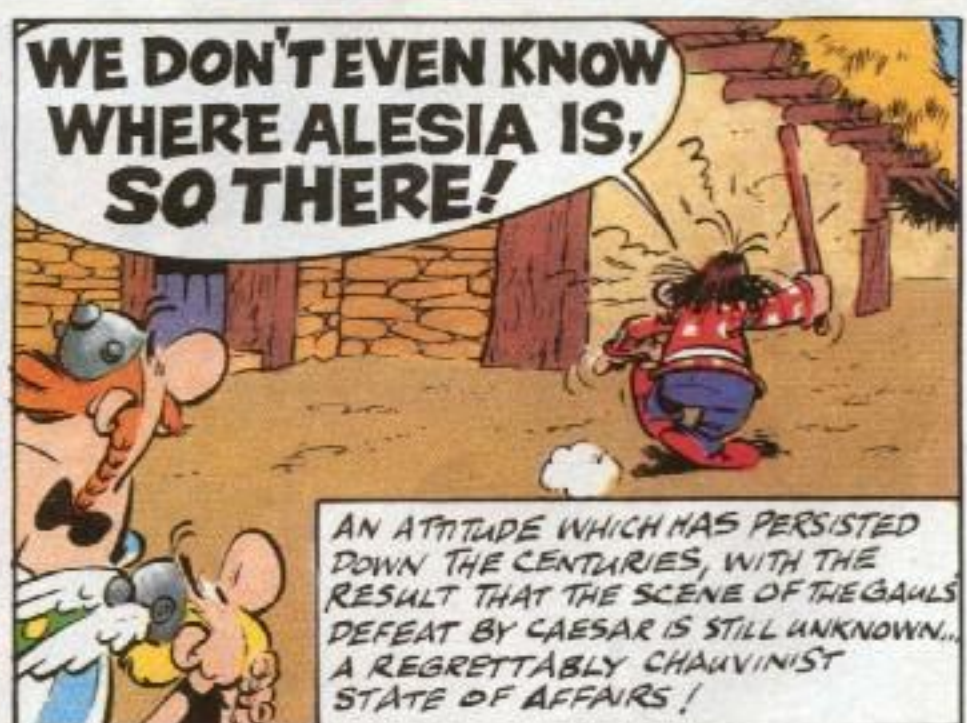
AND WHAT ABOUT ALESIA?

ALESIA?

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

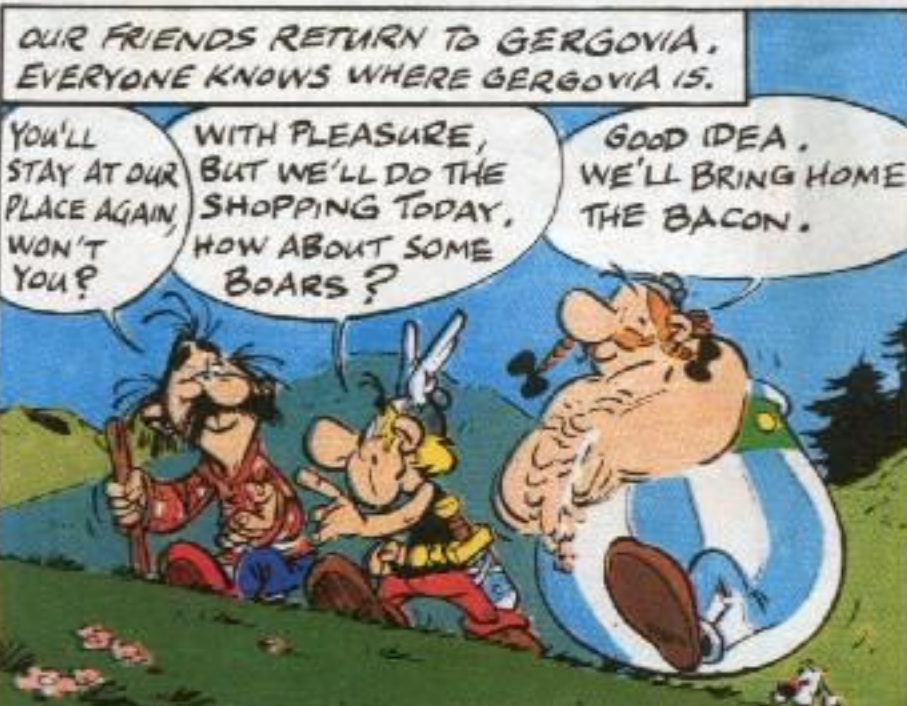


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ALESIA, EH??? WHY BRING ALESIA INTO IT?



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.



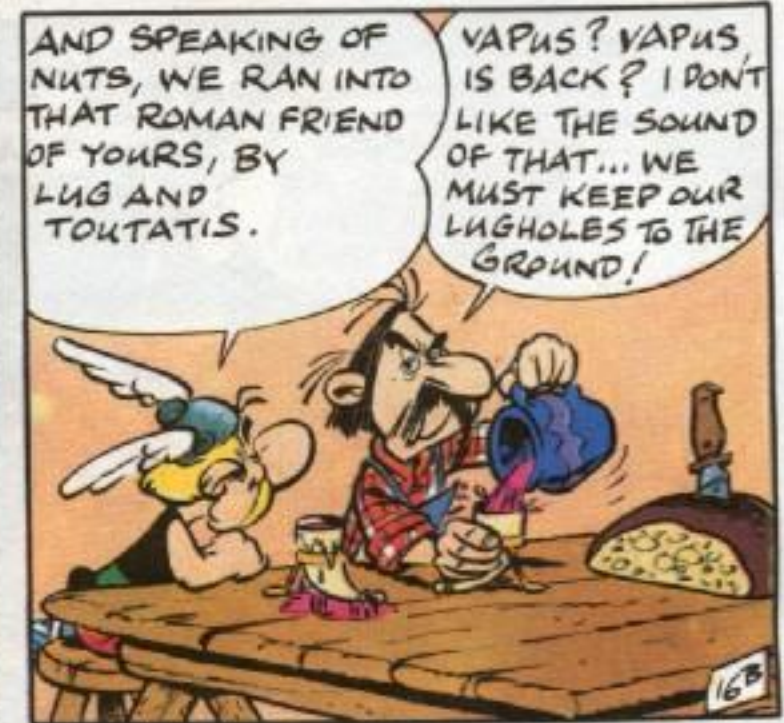
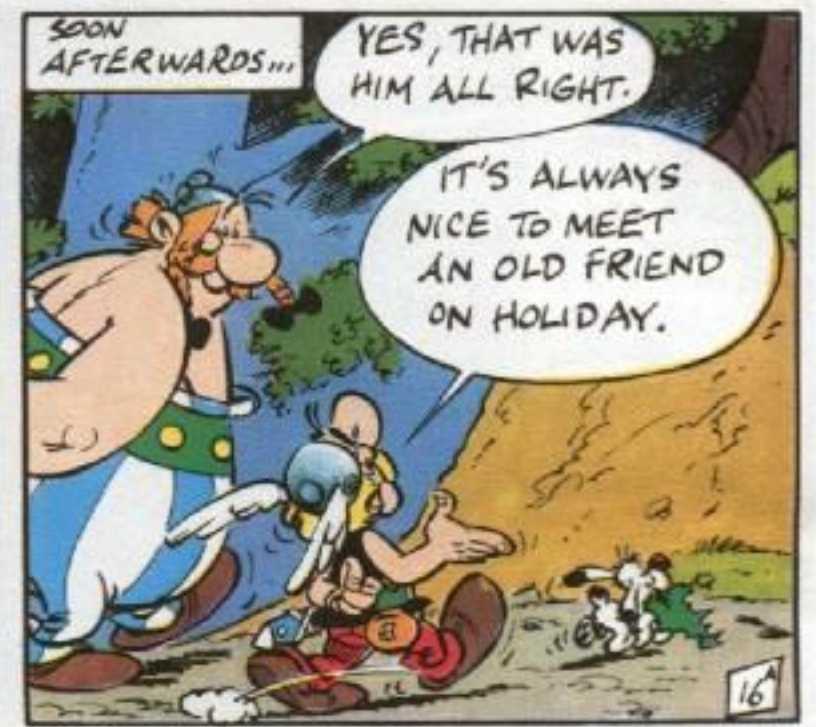
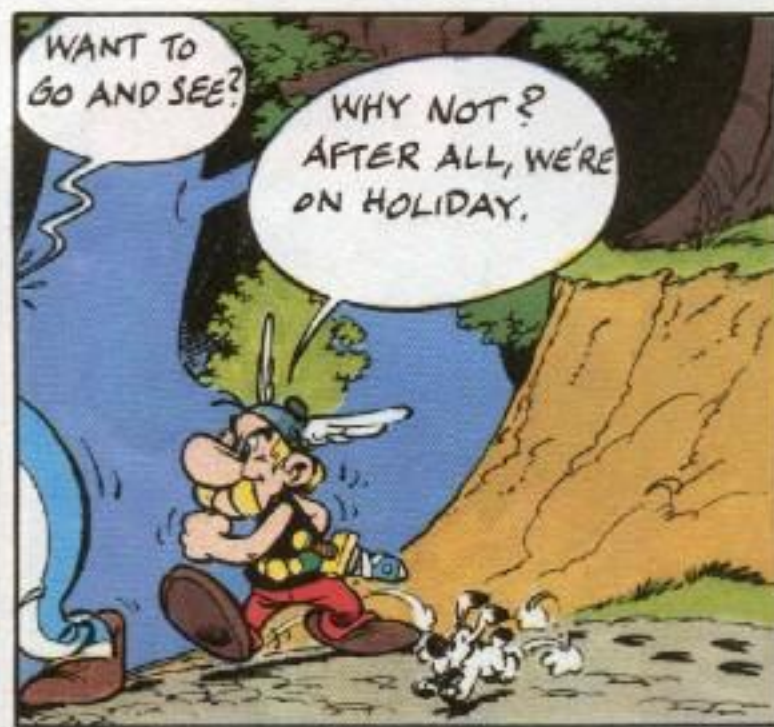
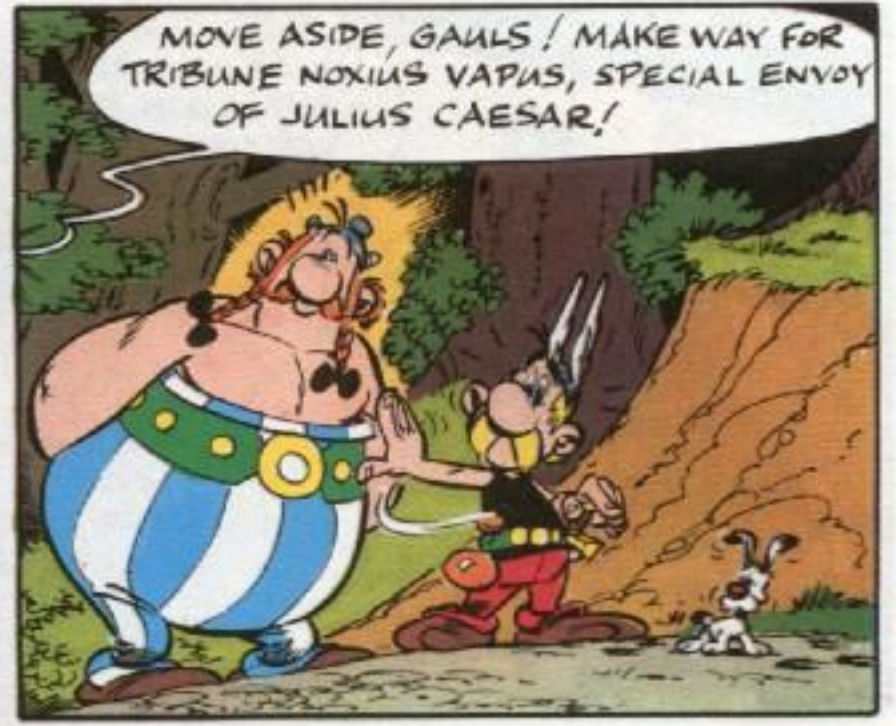
DON'T BE RASHER THAN YOU MUST.

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!



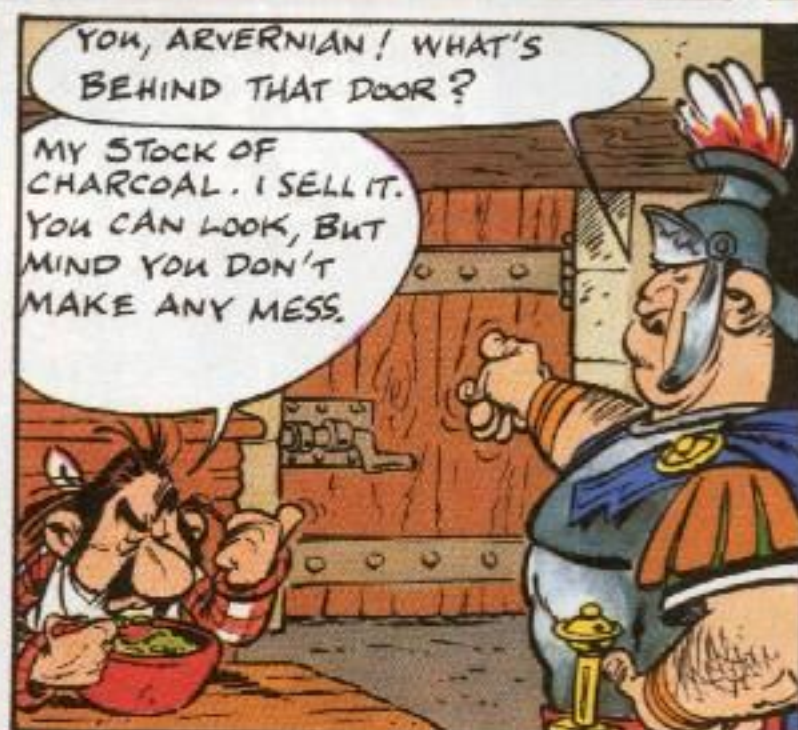
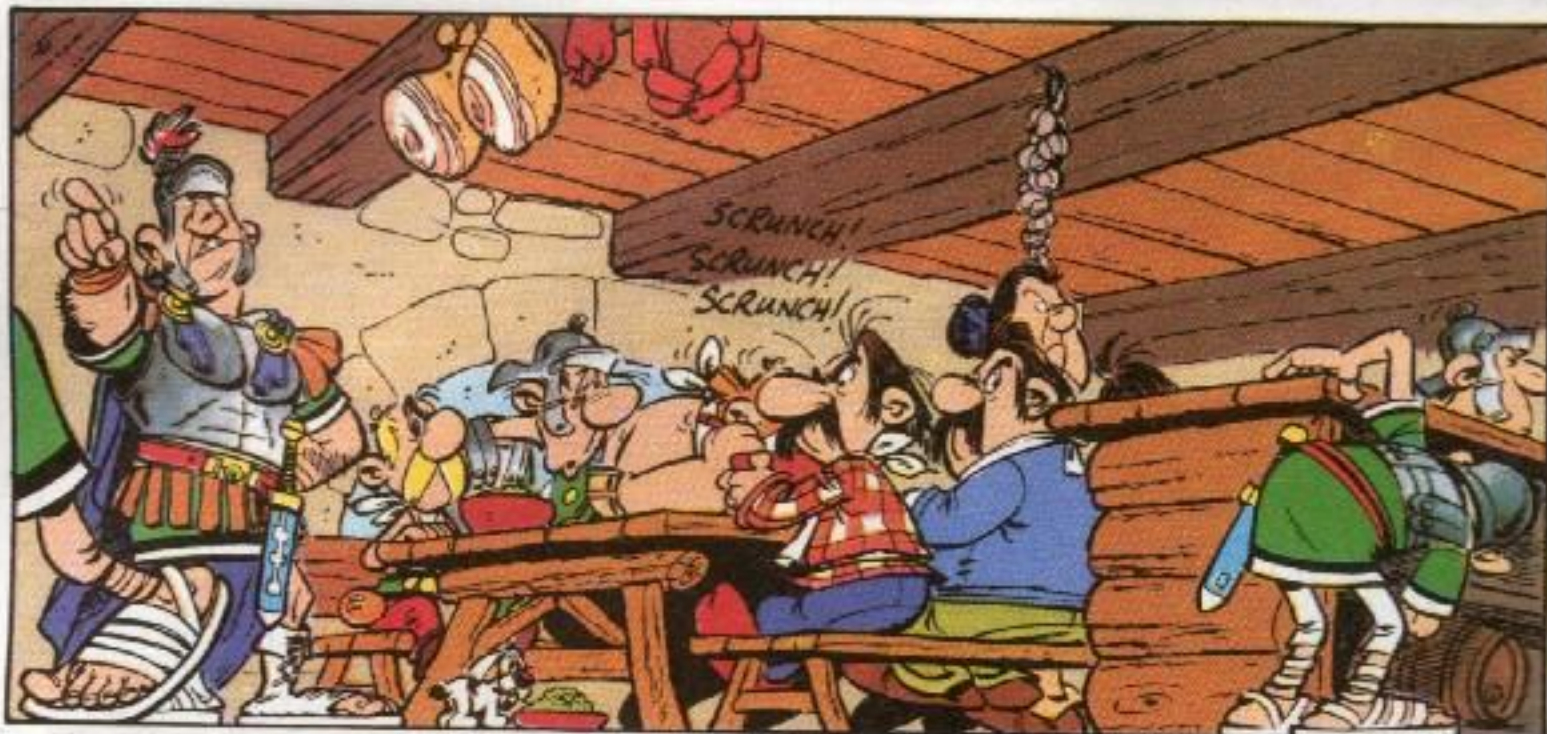
HEAR THAT? JOIN UP, THEY SAID. IT'S A MAN'S LIFE, THEY SAID...



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



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





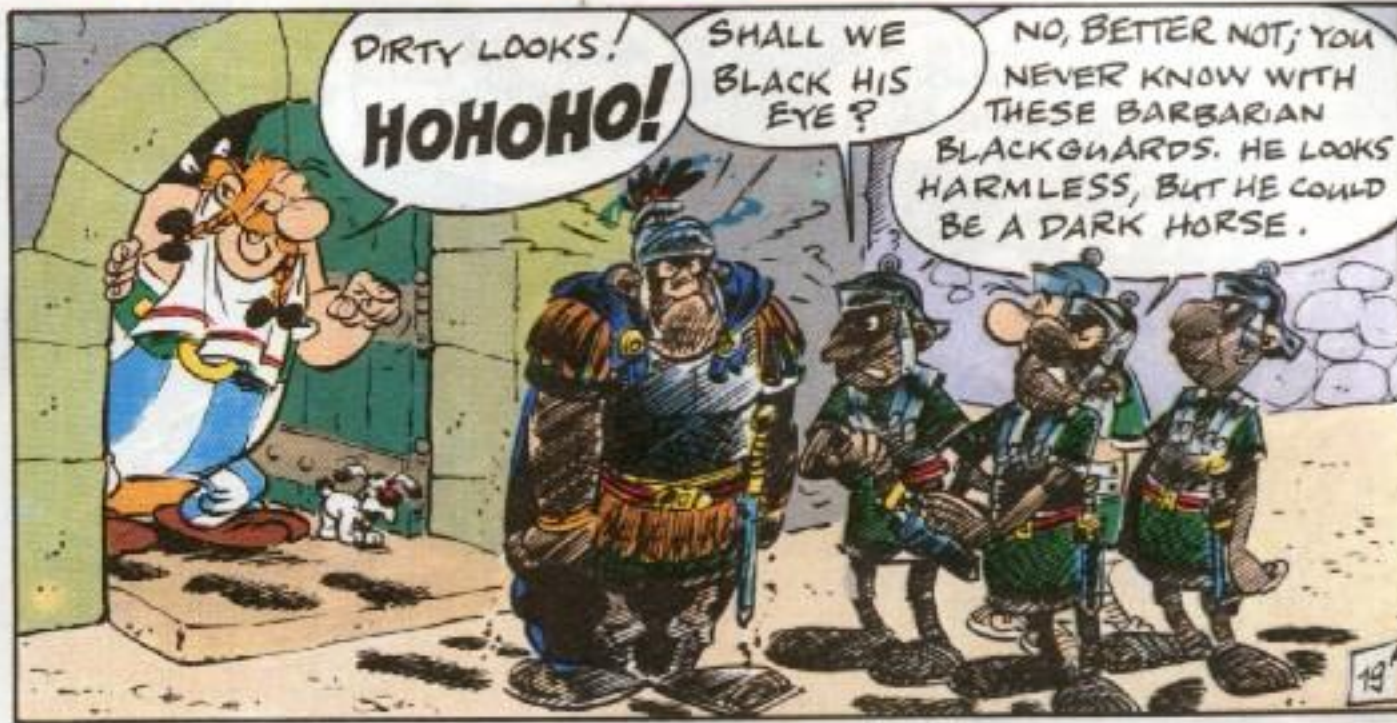
THEY DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING. TALK ABOUT DIRTY LOOKS!

HAHAHA HAHA!



I MAY NOT HAVE FOUND ANYTHING, BUT I'VE GOT MY EYE ON YOU!

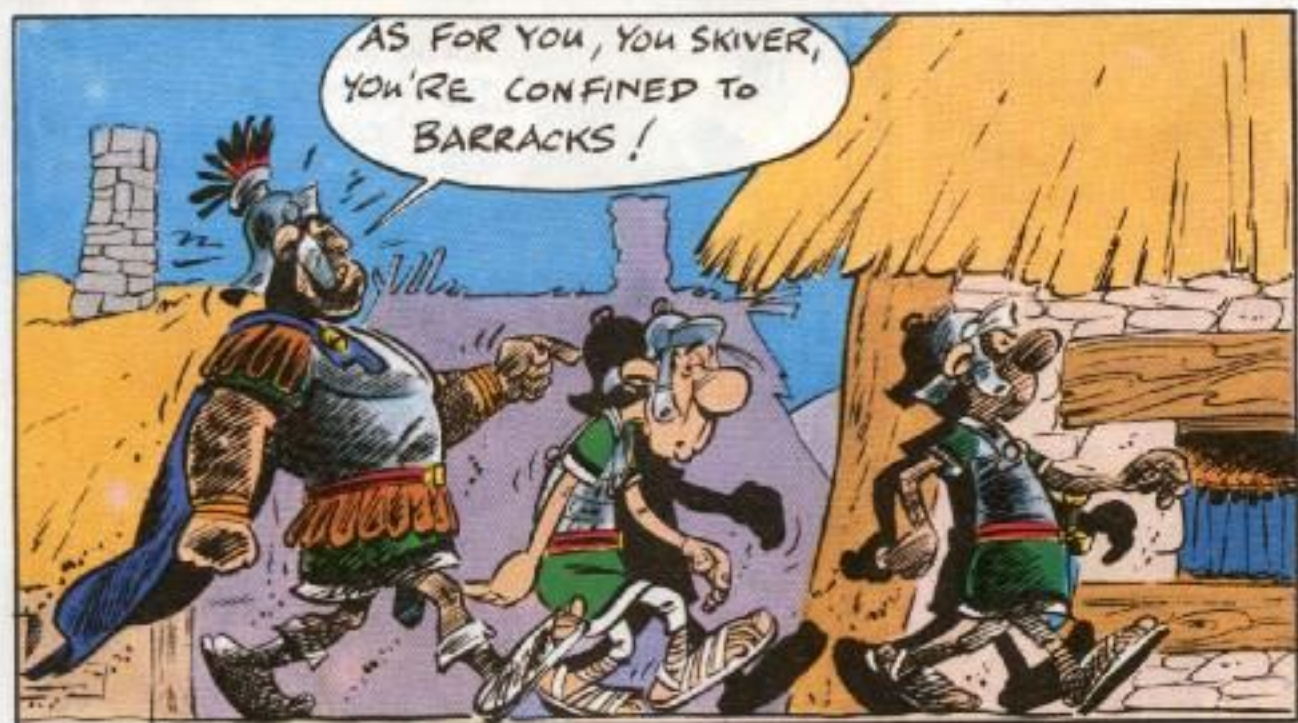
HAHAHA HAHA!



DIRTY LOOKS! NOHOHO!

SHALL WE BLACK HIS EYE?

NO, BETTER NOT; YOU NEVER KNOW WITH THESE BARBARIAN BLACKGUARDS. HE LOOKS HARMLESS, BUT HE COULD BE A DARK HORSE.



AS FOR YOU, YOU SKIVER, YOU'RE CONFINED TO BARRACKS!



I WONDER WHO CAN HAVE TOLD ON ME?



A LITTLE LATER, IN THE PREFECT'S PALACE...

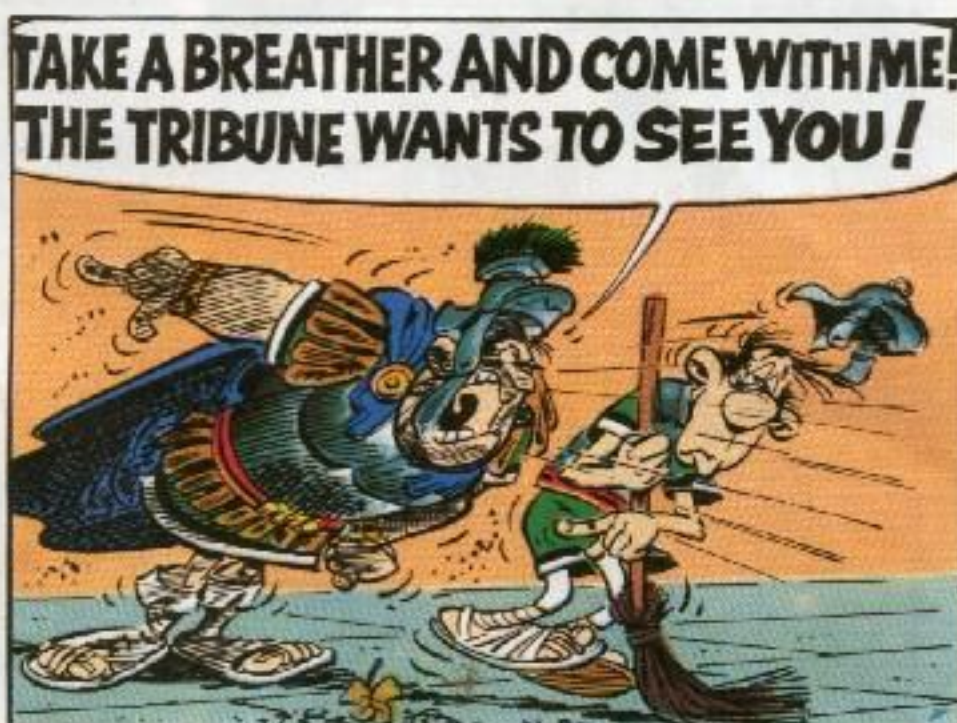
AVE, NOXIUS VAPUS! PATROL LEADERS REPORTING. TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAST OF IT...

?!



WELL?

WE GOT A DUSTY ANSWER.





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.

FOR JUPITER'S SAKE PUT THAT BROOM DOWN!



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

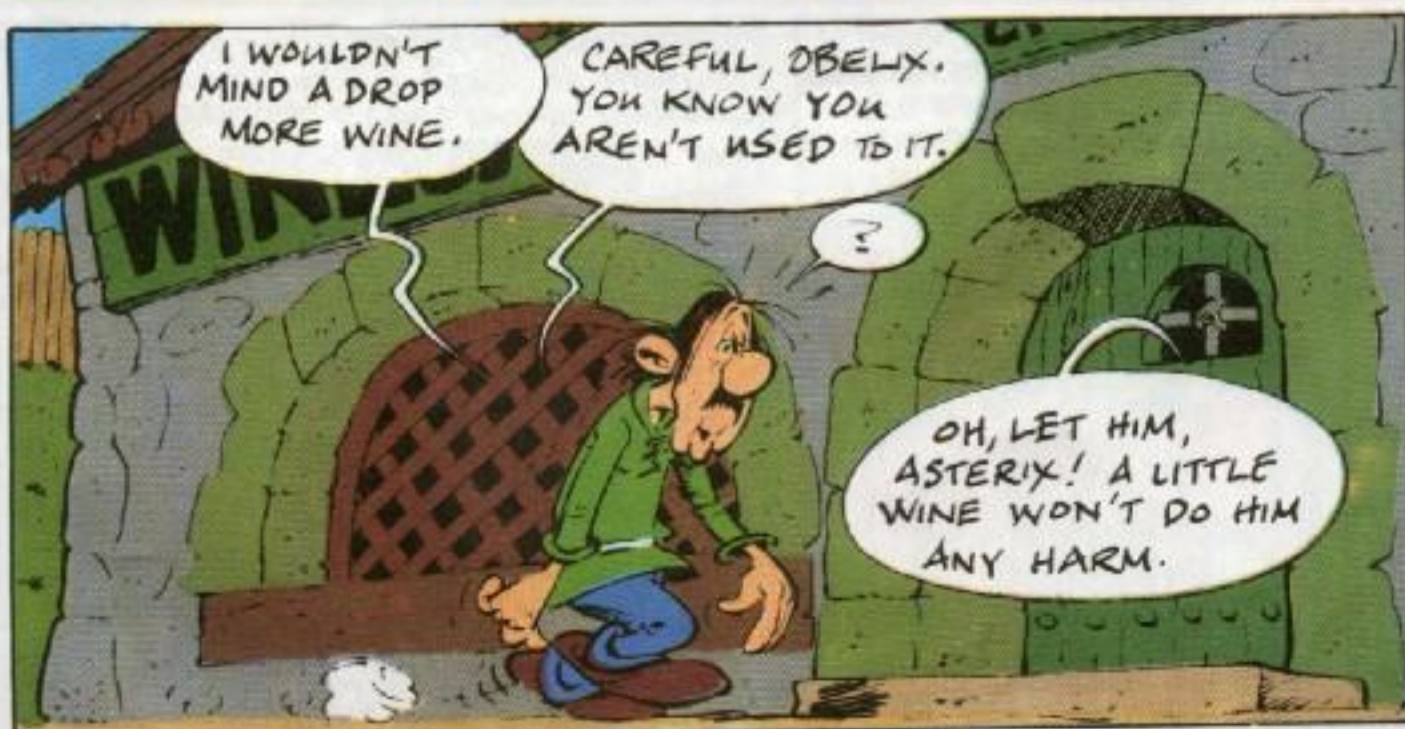
NO, BUT I DO WONDER WHETHER WE CAN RELY ON HIM...



... 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!

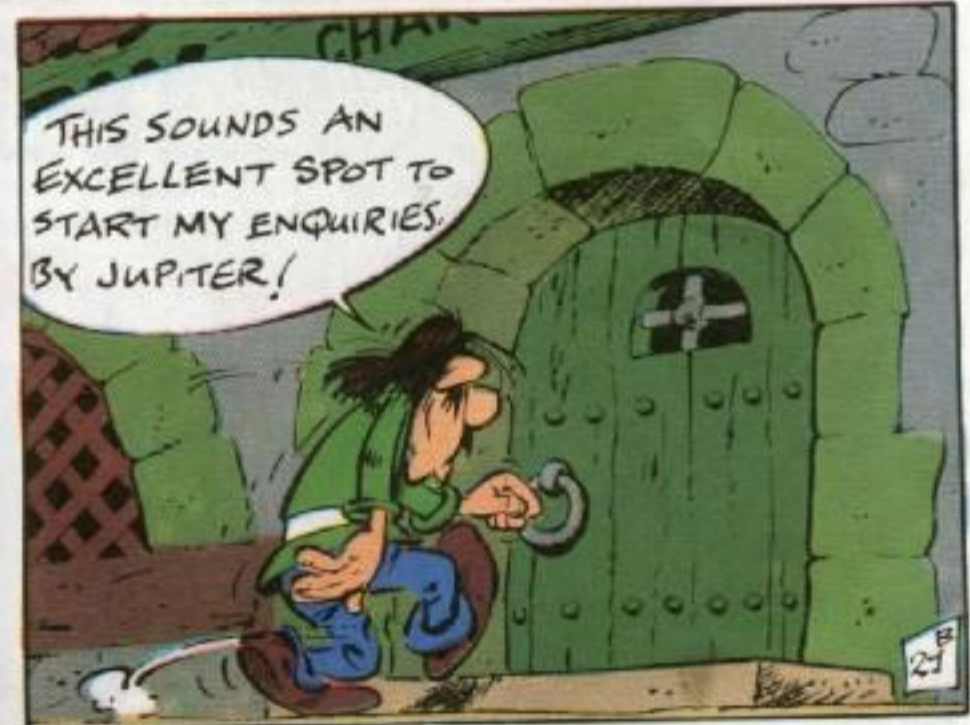


I WOULDN'T MIND A DROP MORE WINE.

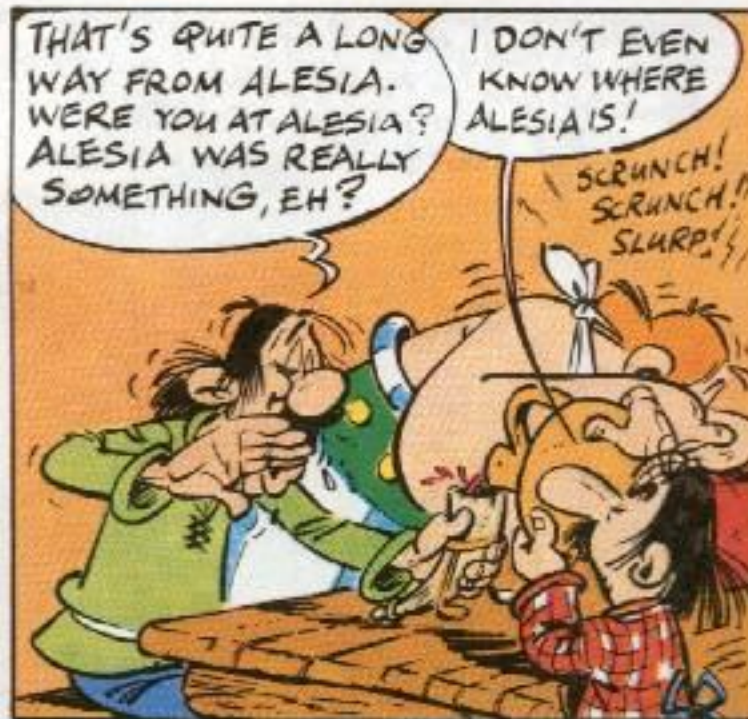
CAREFUL, OBELIX. YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T USED TO IT.

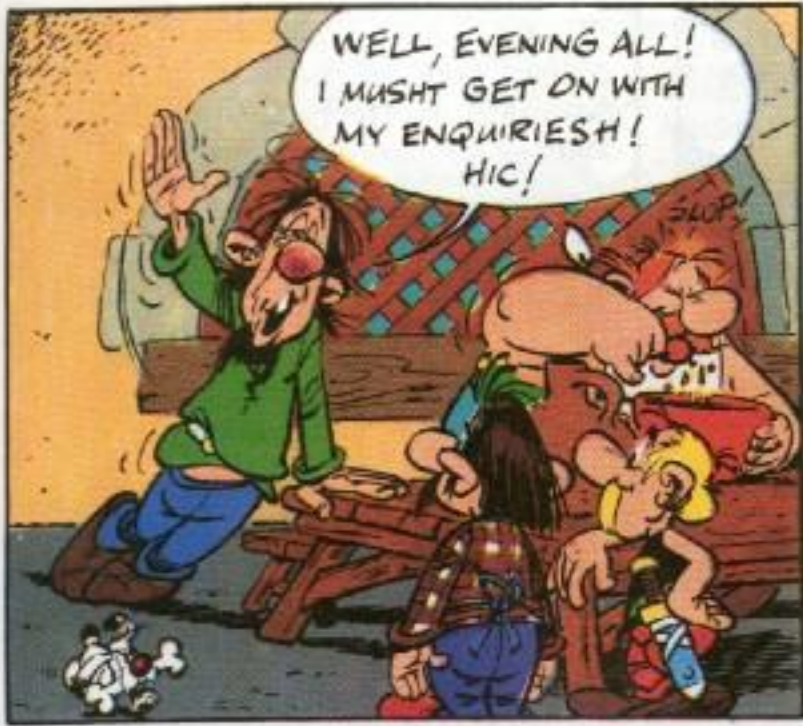
?

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!

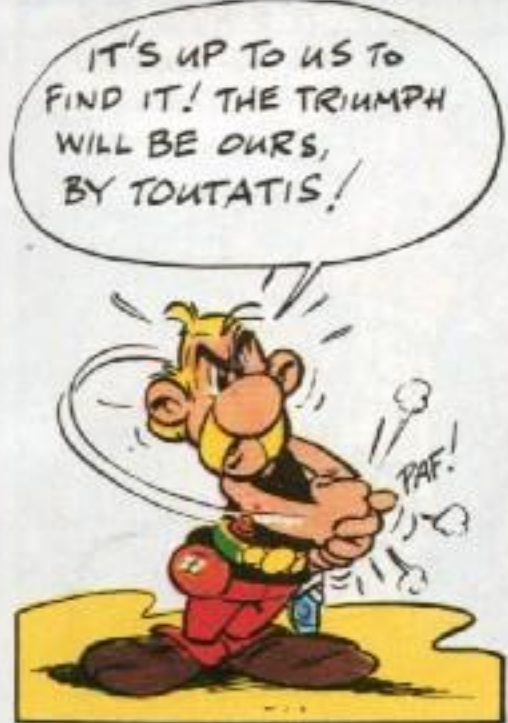


EVENING, ALL!
ANY CHANSHE OF A
DRINK? HAEC! HOC!



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.



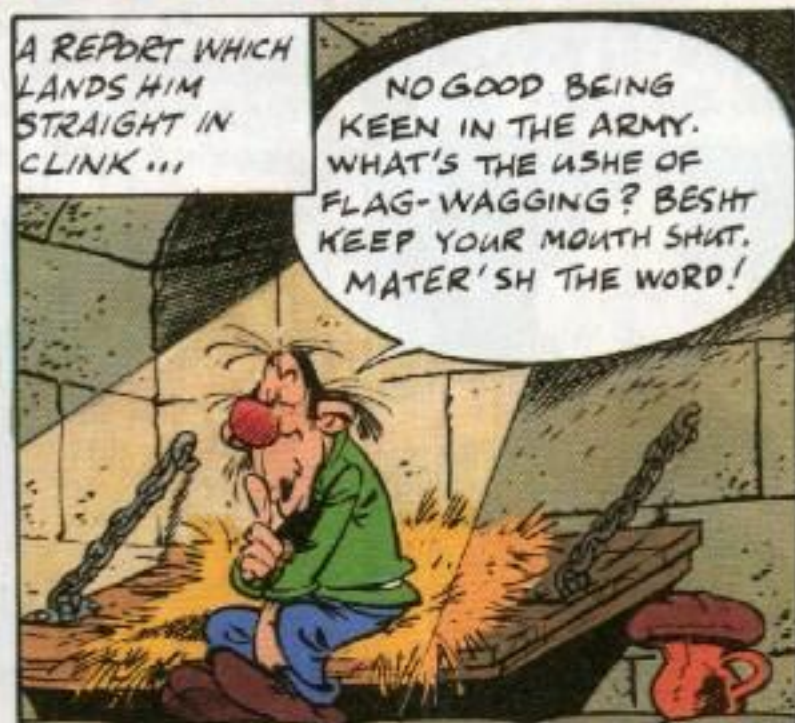
BACK FROM HIS SECRET MISSION,
LEGIONARY CAIUS PUSILLANIMUS
MAKES HIS REPORT..

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!



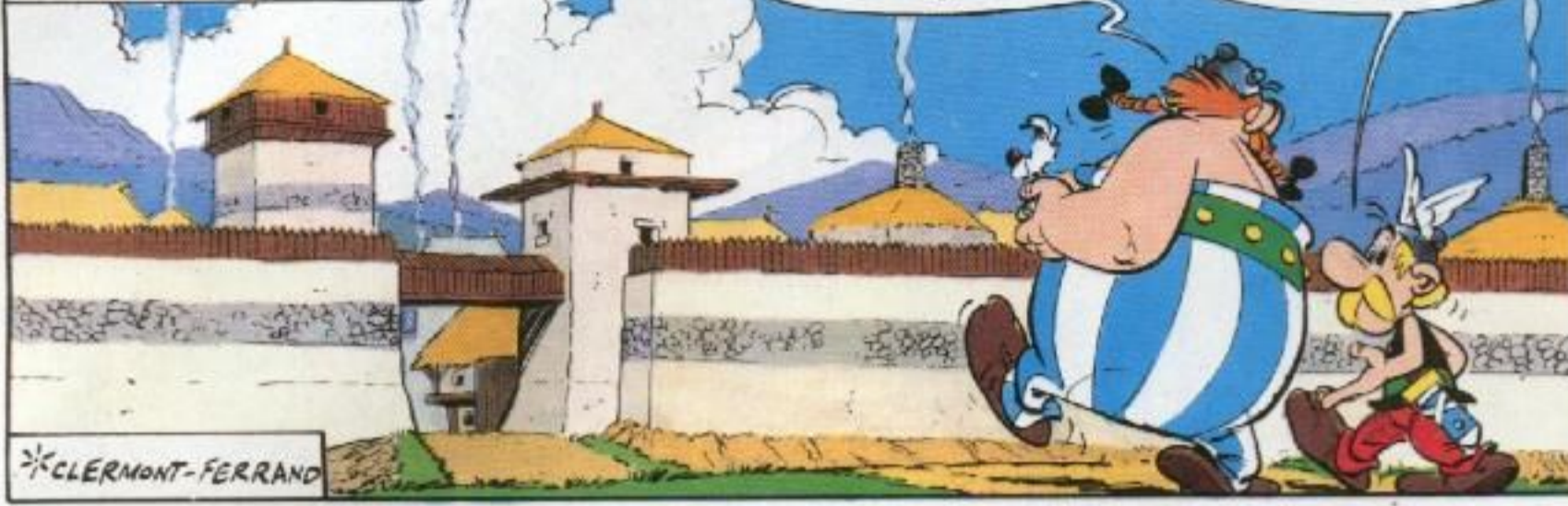
A REPORT WHICH
LANDS HIM
STRAIGHT IN
CLINK ...

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 ...

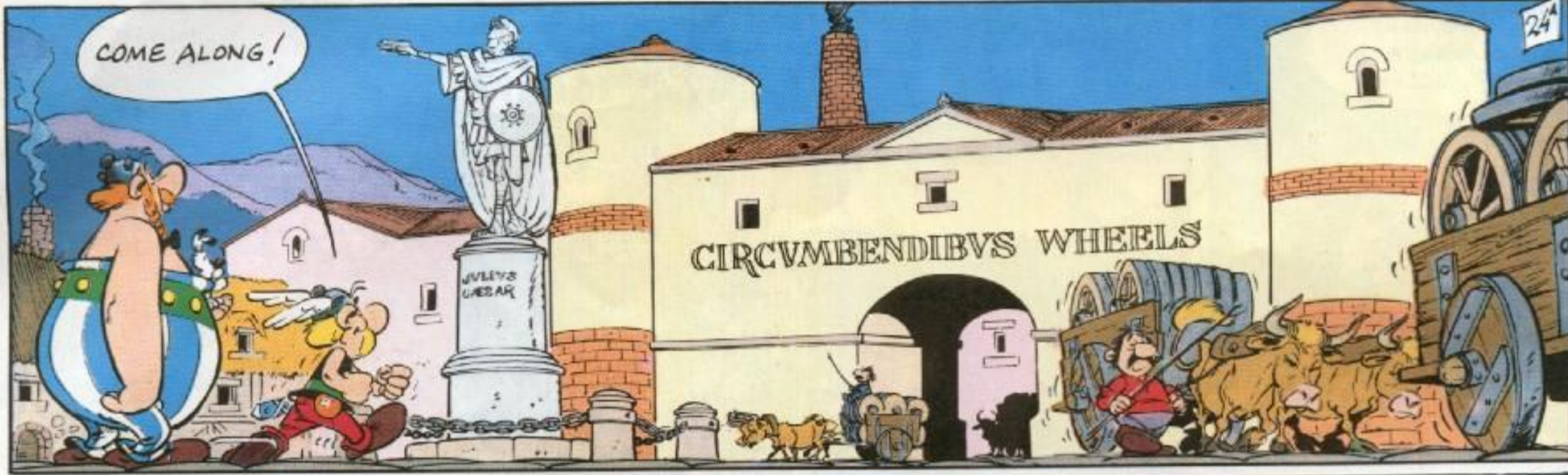


*CLERMONT-FERRAND

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!

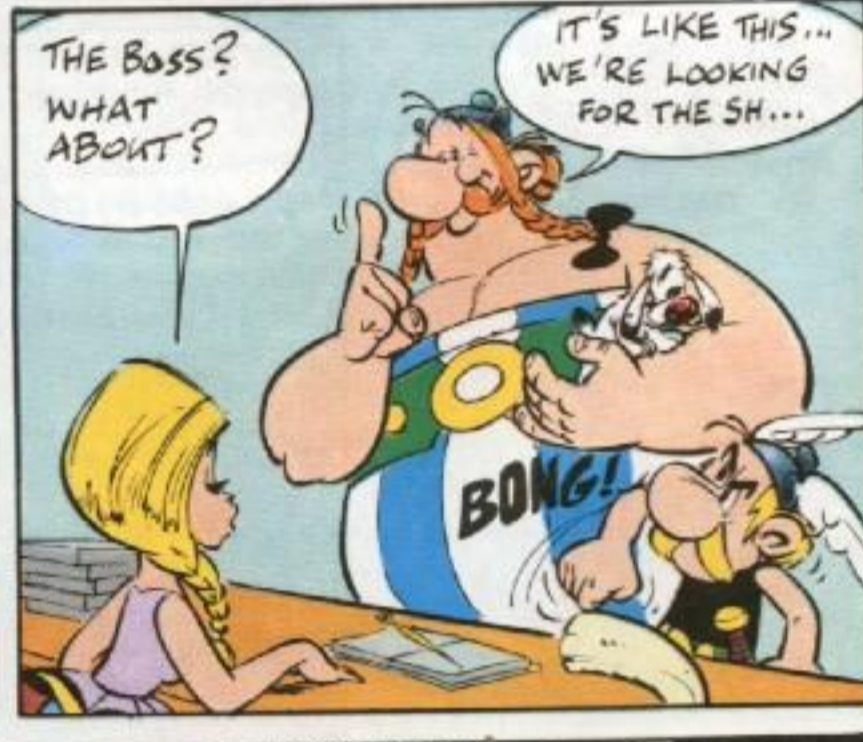


COME ALONG!



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.

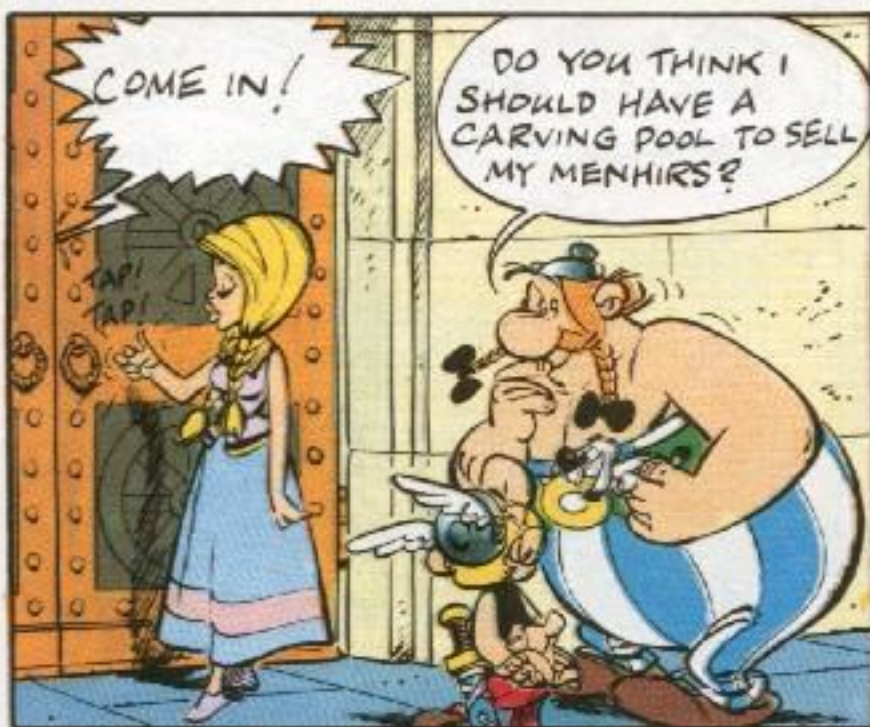
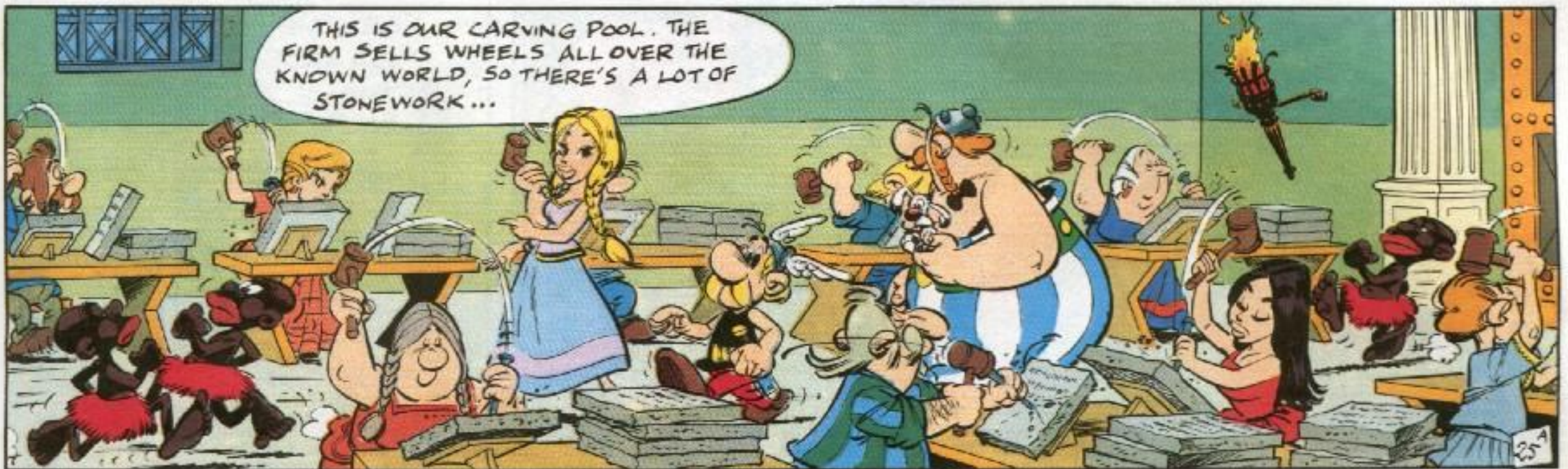


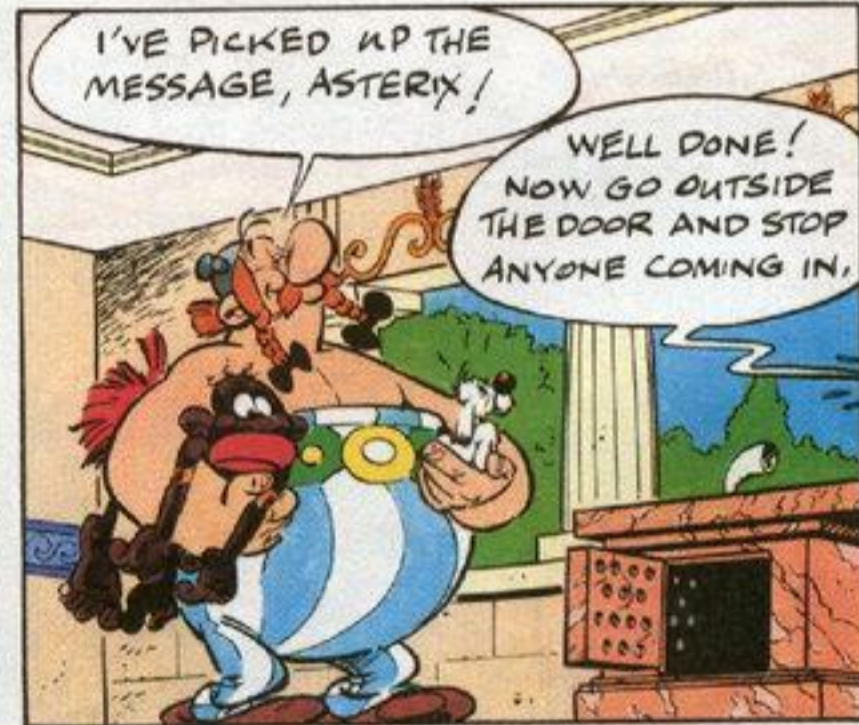
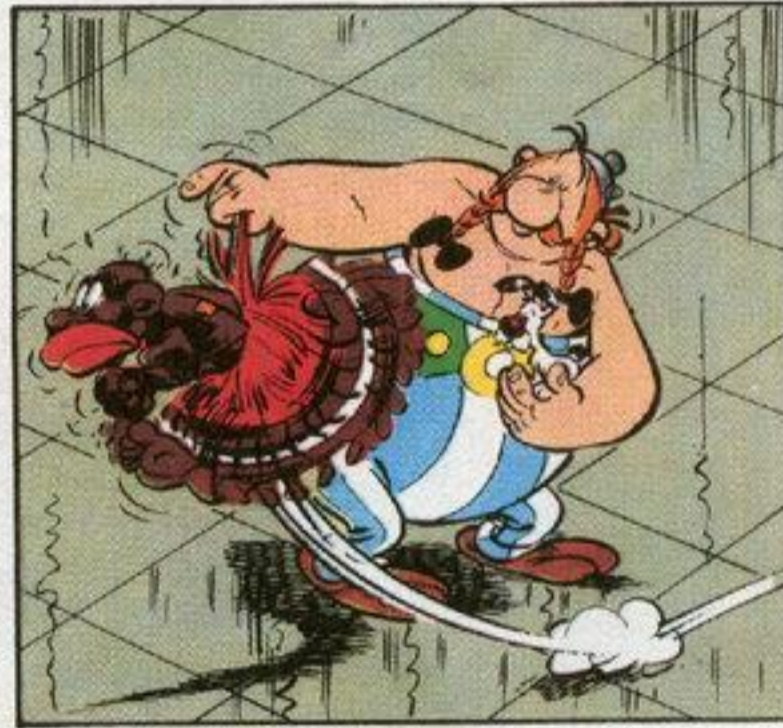
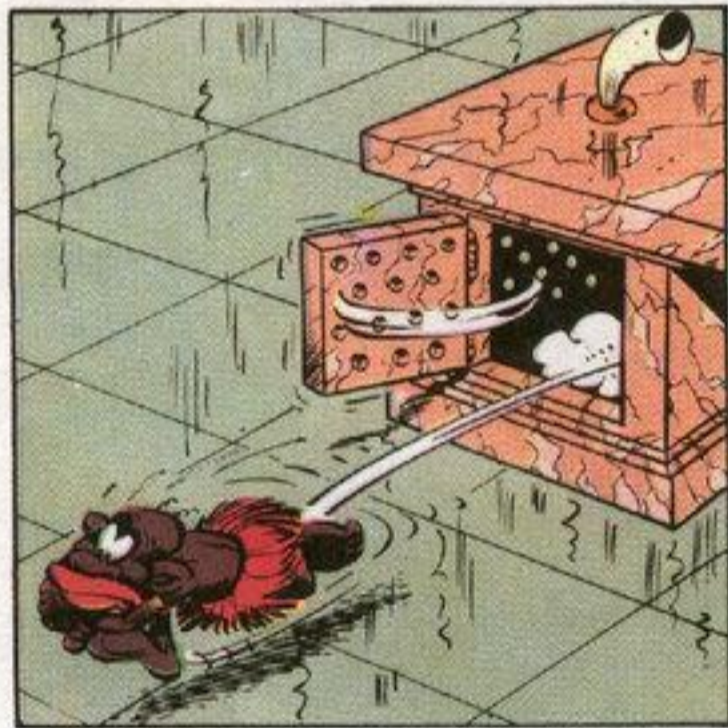
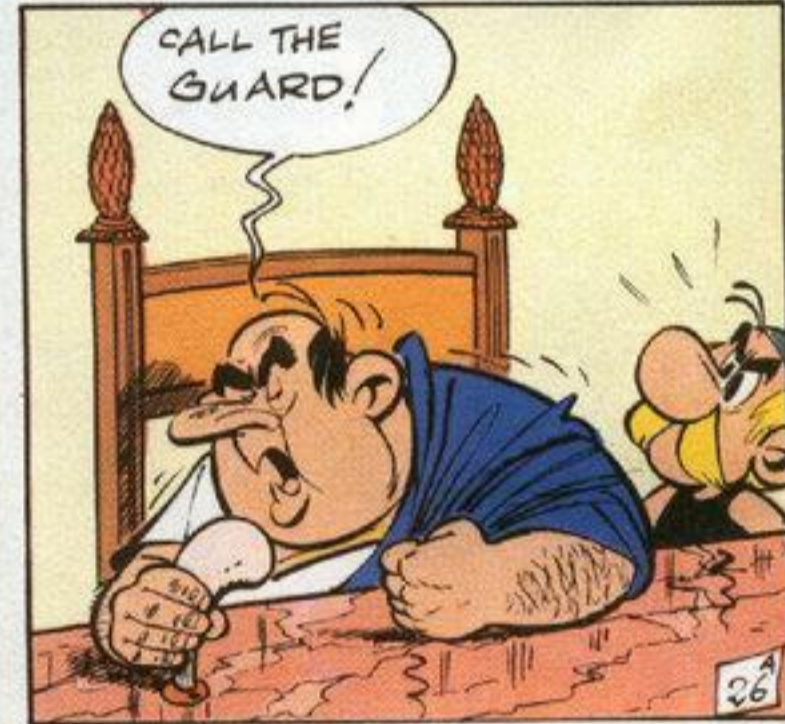
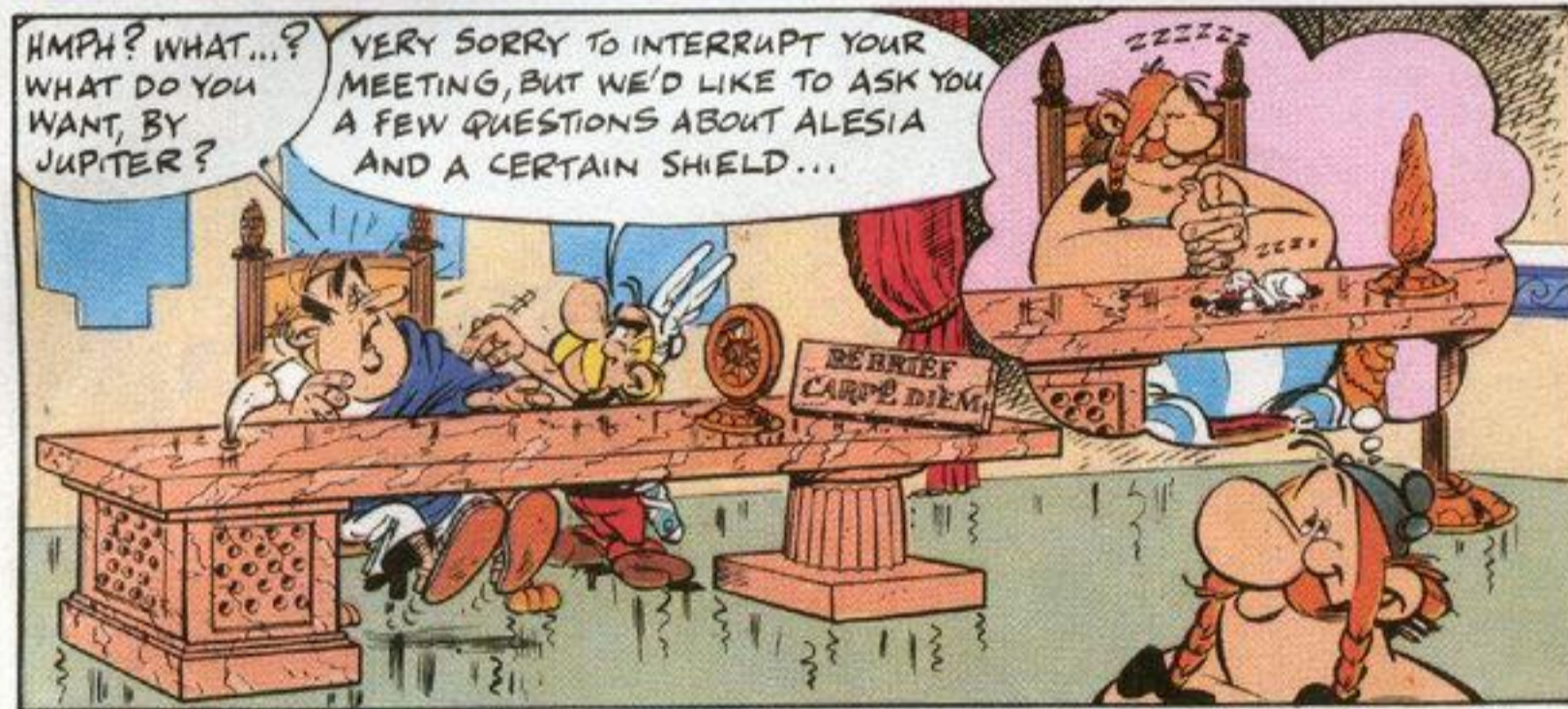
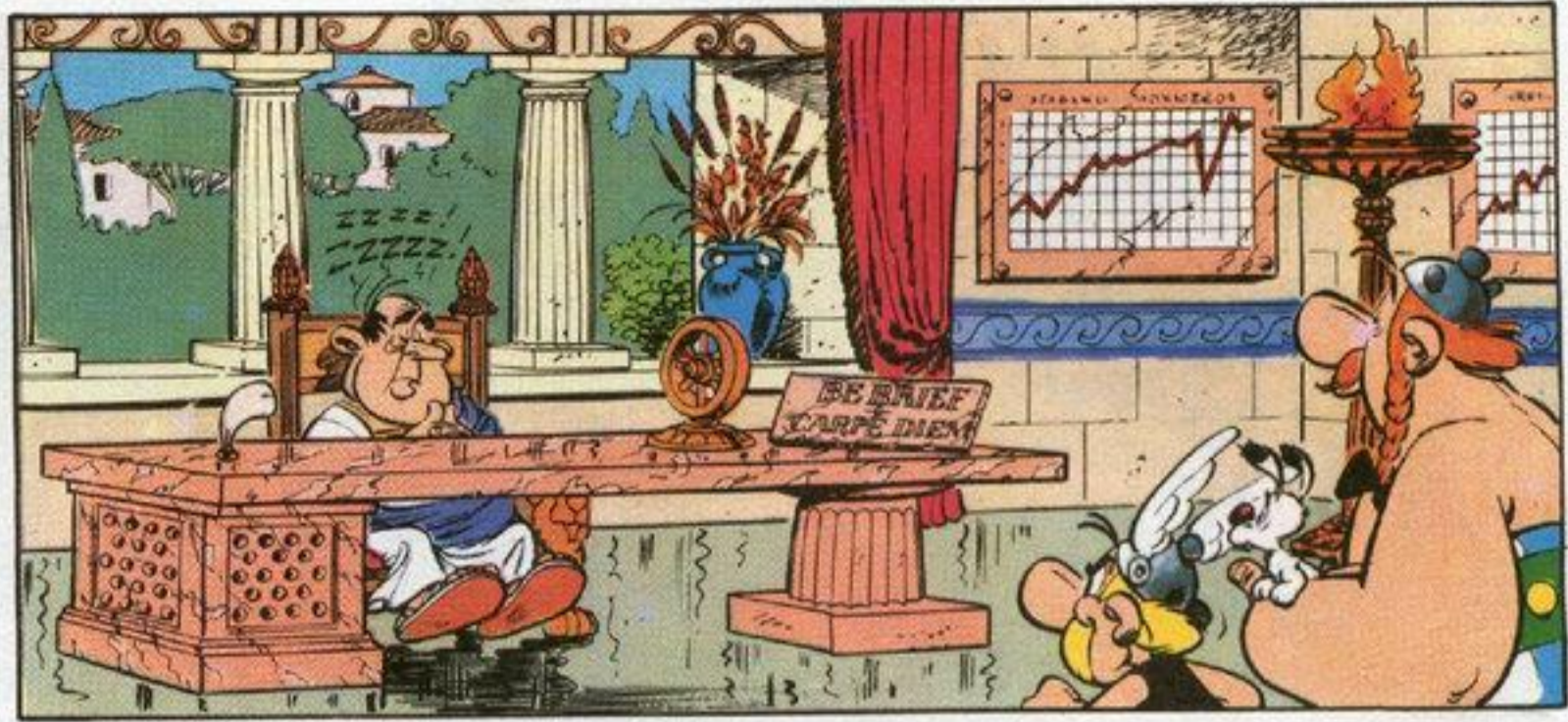
ASTERIX AND OBELIX WOULD
LIKE TO SEE THE BOSS ON
PRIVATE BUSINESS.

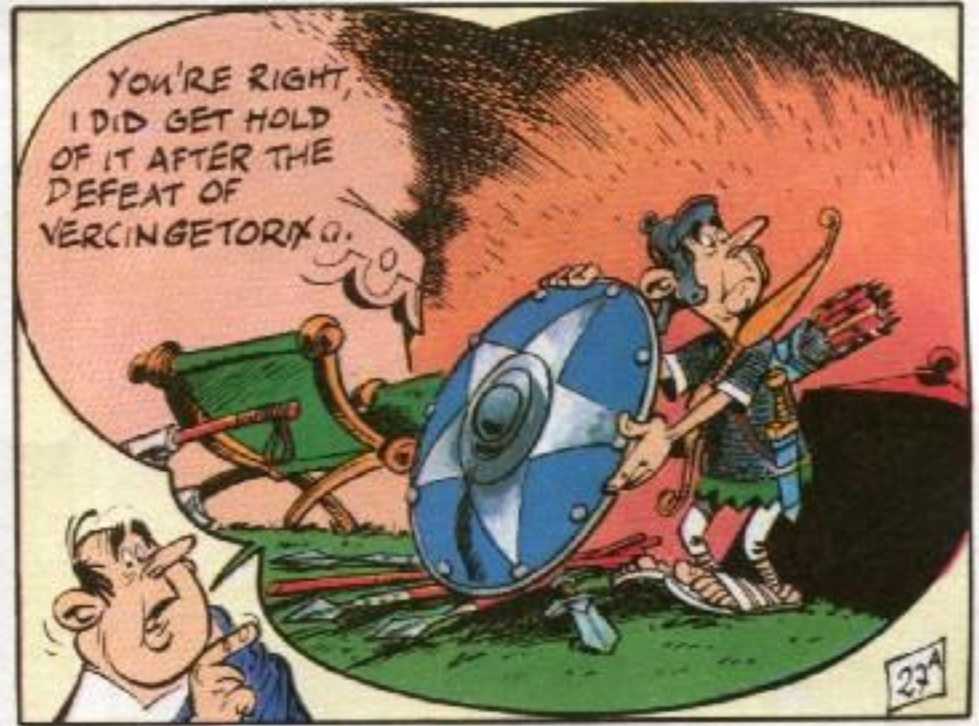
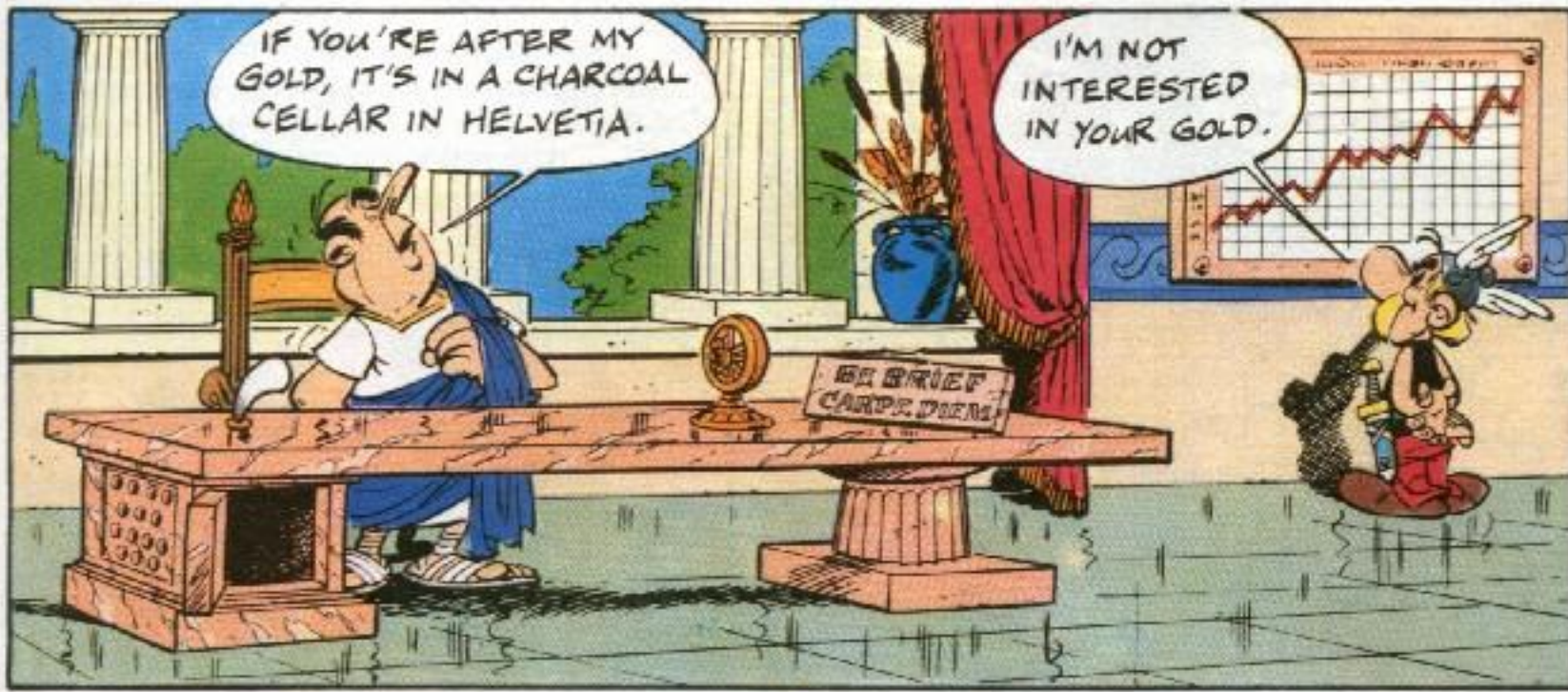


THAT'S OUR INTERCOM
SYSTEM... NOW, IF YOU'D
LIKE TO GO INTO THE
WAITING ATRIUM...

?









WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A COURSE OF TREATMENT!

TREATMENT? WHAT TREATMENT? WHAT FOR?



WE HAVE TO FIND A BATH ATTENDANT AT BORVO, SO DON'T ARGUE. LET'S FIND A FAST CHARIOT TO GET US THERE.



MEANWHILE ...

ANAESTHESIA!



YOU GOT THE NAMES OF THOSE BARBARIANS? RIGHT! CARVE A LETTER TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING THE GARRISON OF GERGOVIA AND HAVE IT SENT BY EXPRESS COURIER!

28A



USE A SLAB WITHOUT OUR TABLET-HEAD AND TAKE JUST ONE COPY FOR MY PERSONAL FILES. THIS MESSAGE MUST REMAIN ANONYMOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL.



HERE WE ARE AT BORVO,

LISTEN, ASTERIX... DOGMATIX AND I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO HAVE ANY TREATMENT BECAUSE ...



OBELIX, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET INTO THE BATHS AND FIND CARNIVERUS AND THE SHIELD WITHOUT AROUSING SUSPICION!



SO TRY TO LOOK ILL!

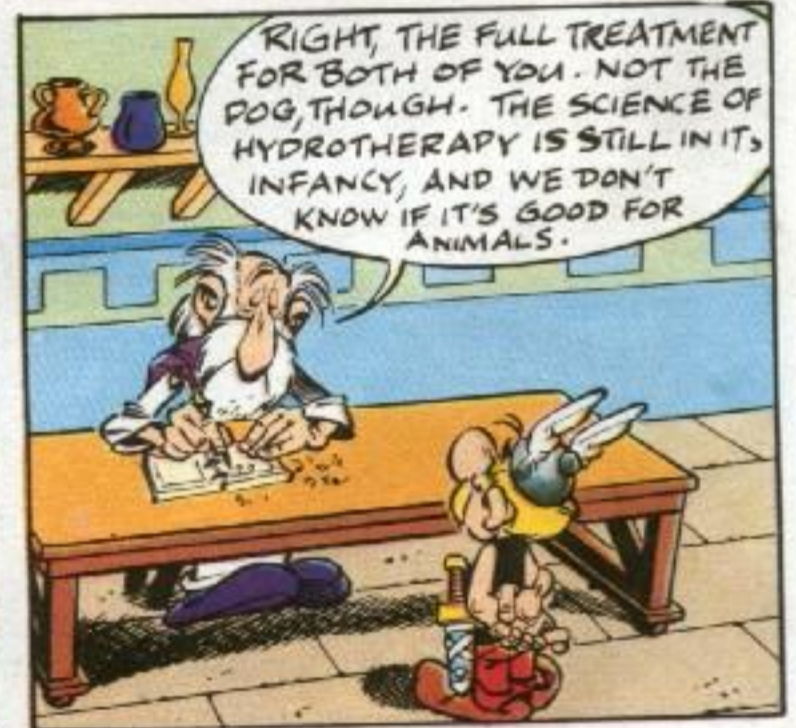
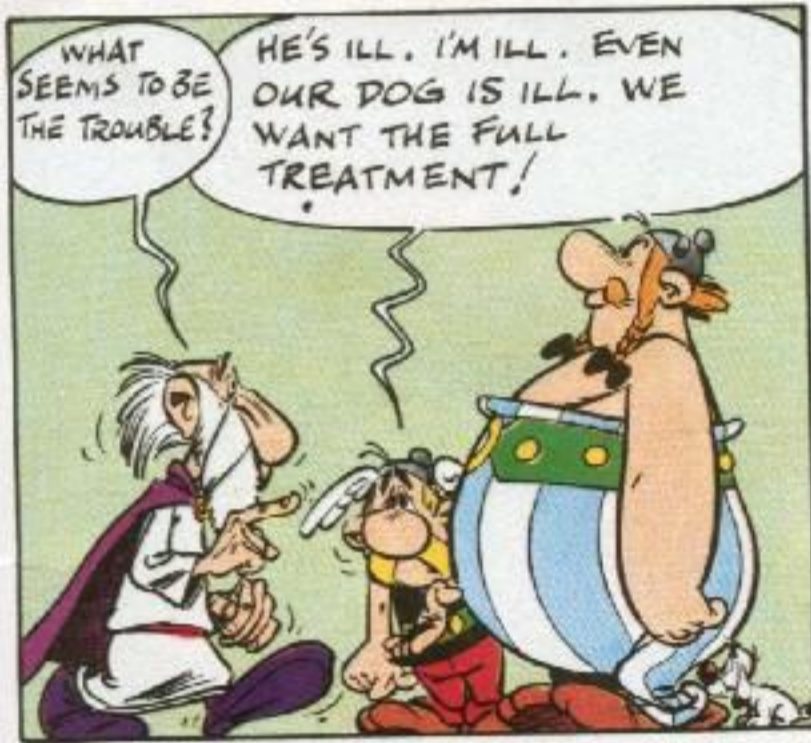
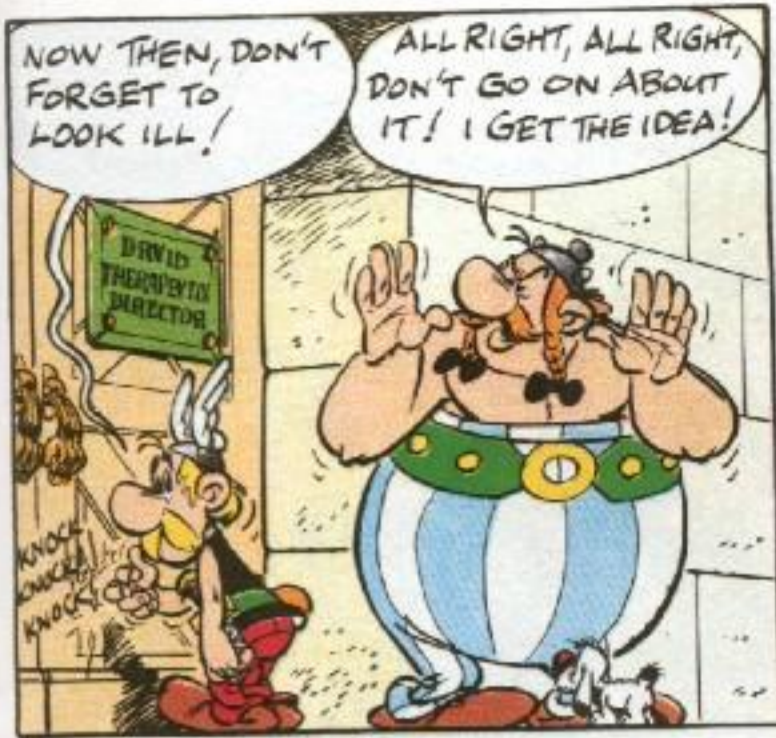


IF I DON'T GET A BOAR TO EAT SOON I SHAN'T HAVE TO TRY!

WE'D LIKE TO SEE THE DRUID WHO RUNS THIS HYDRO.

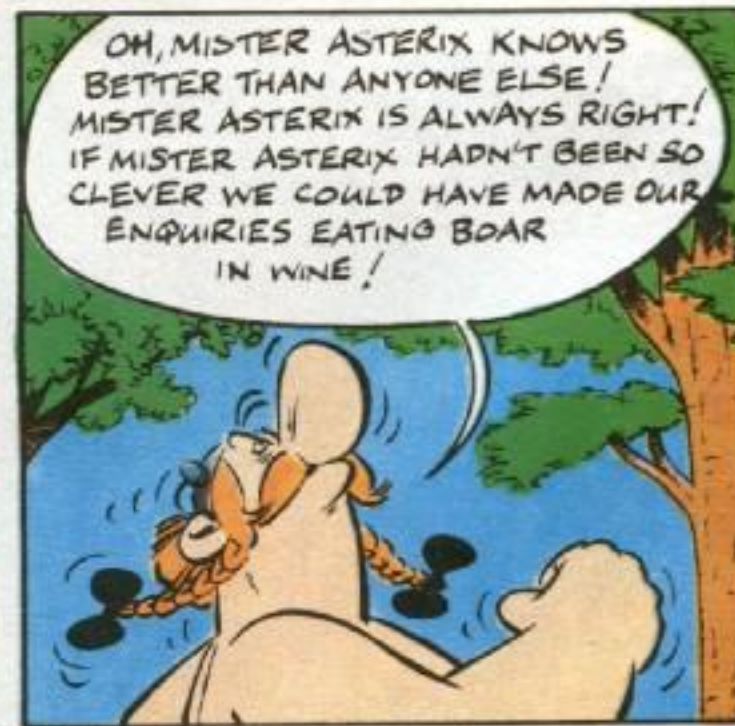
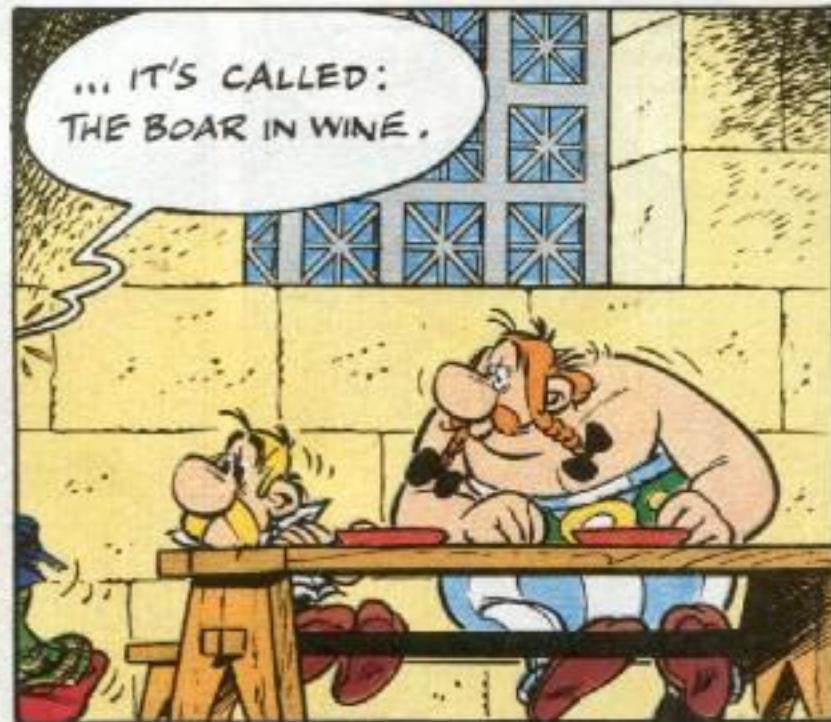
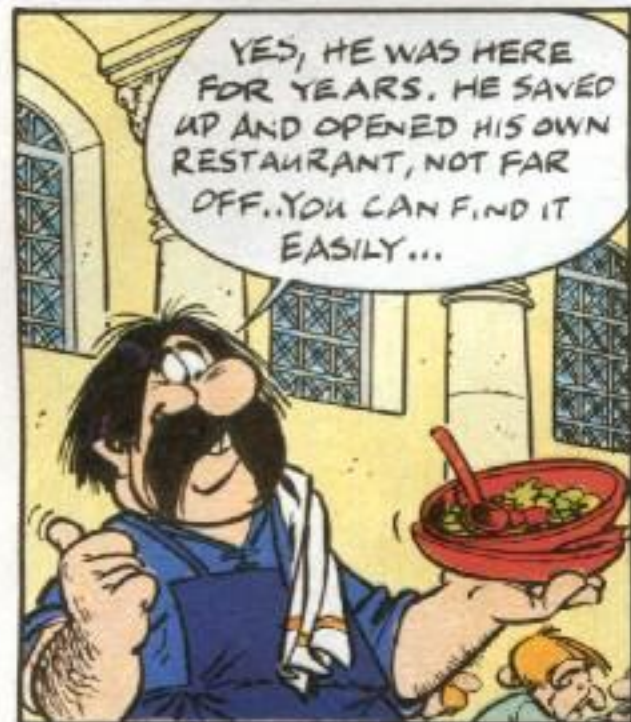
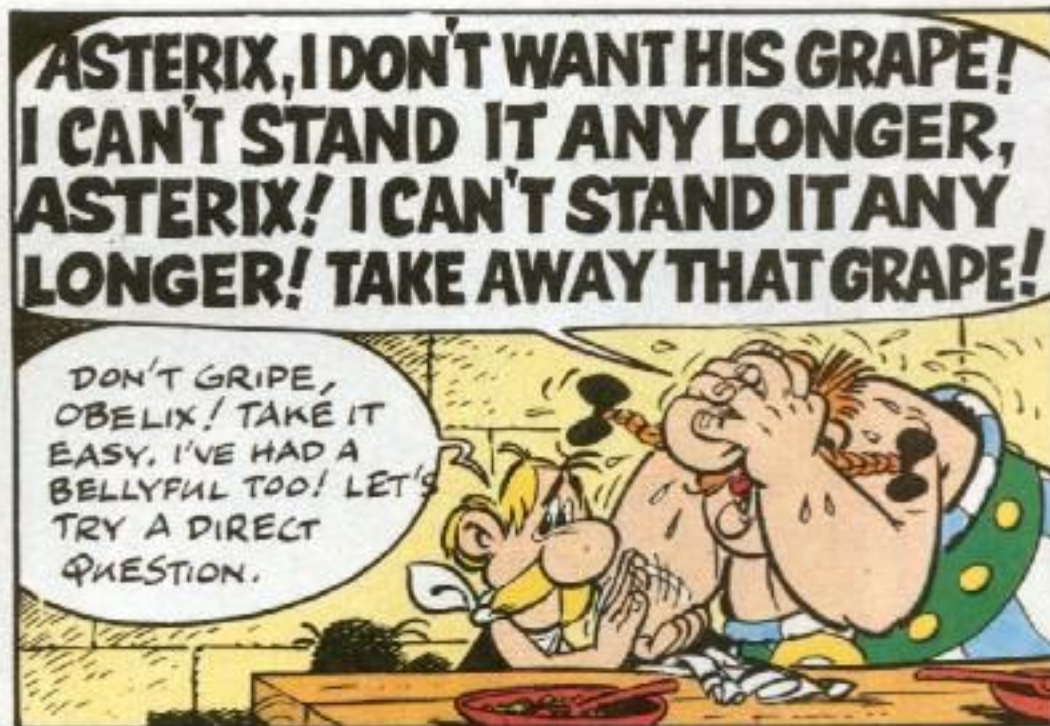
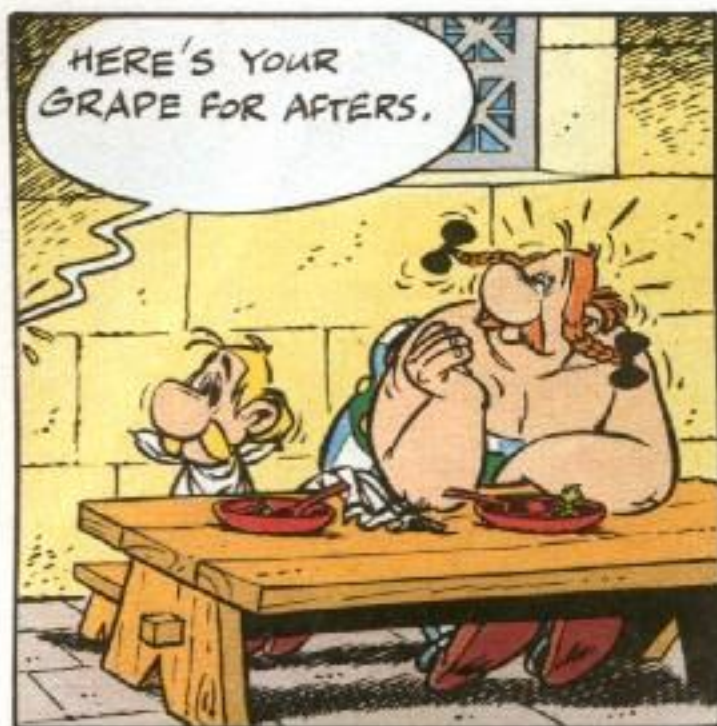
THERAPEUTIX? THIS WAY.

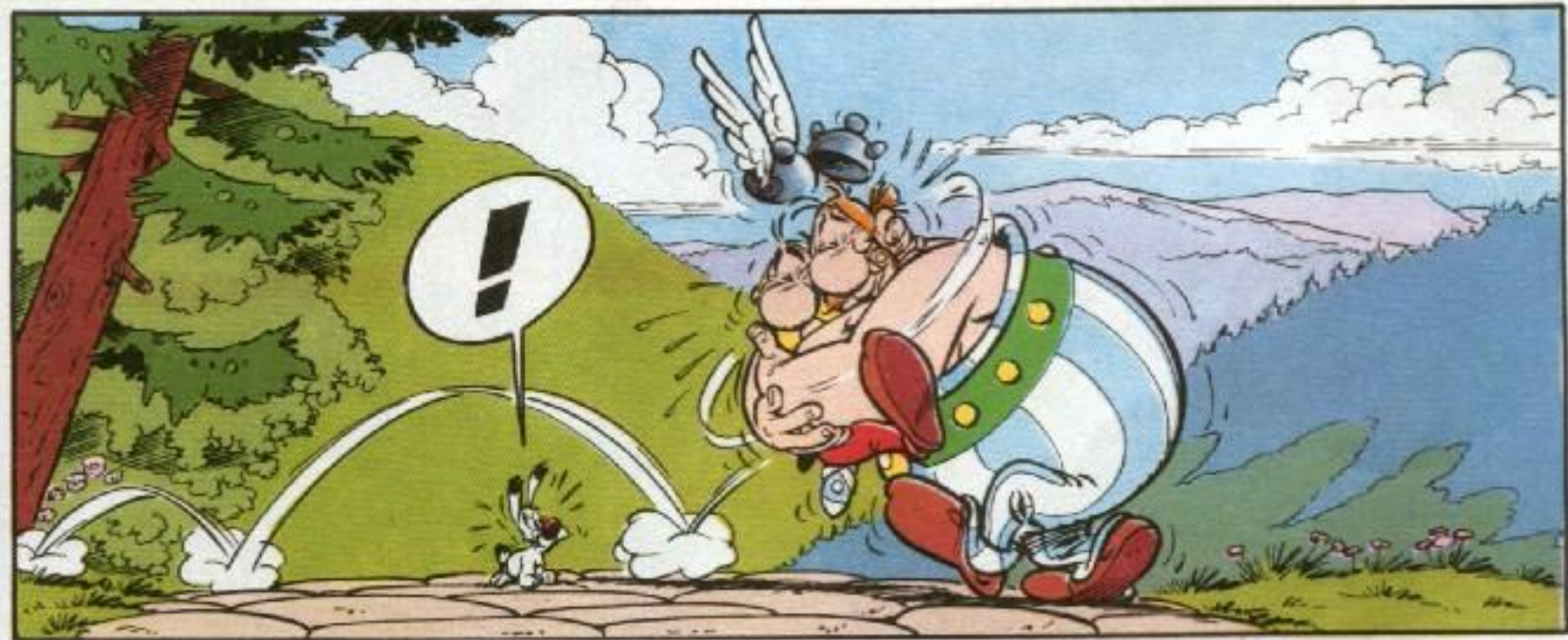
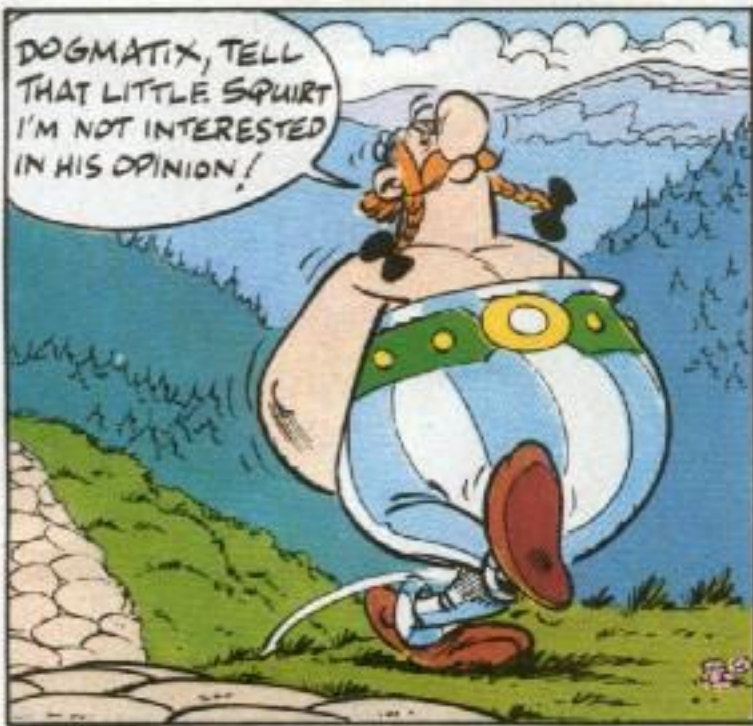
28B

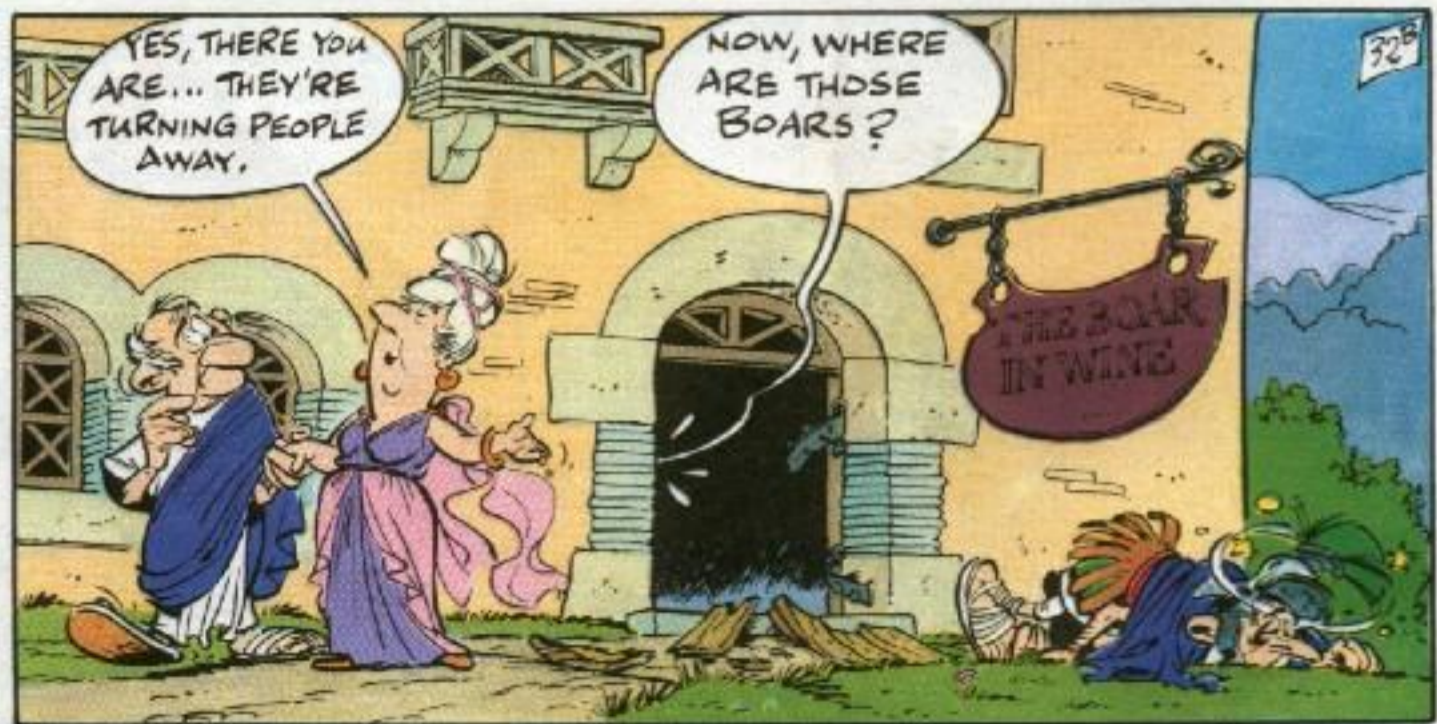
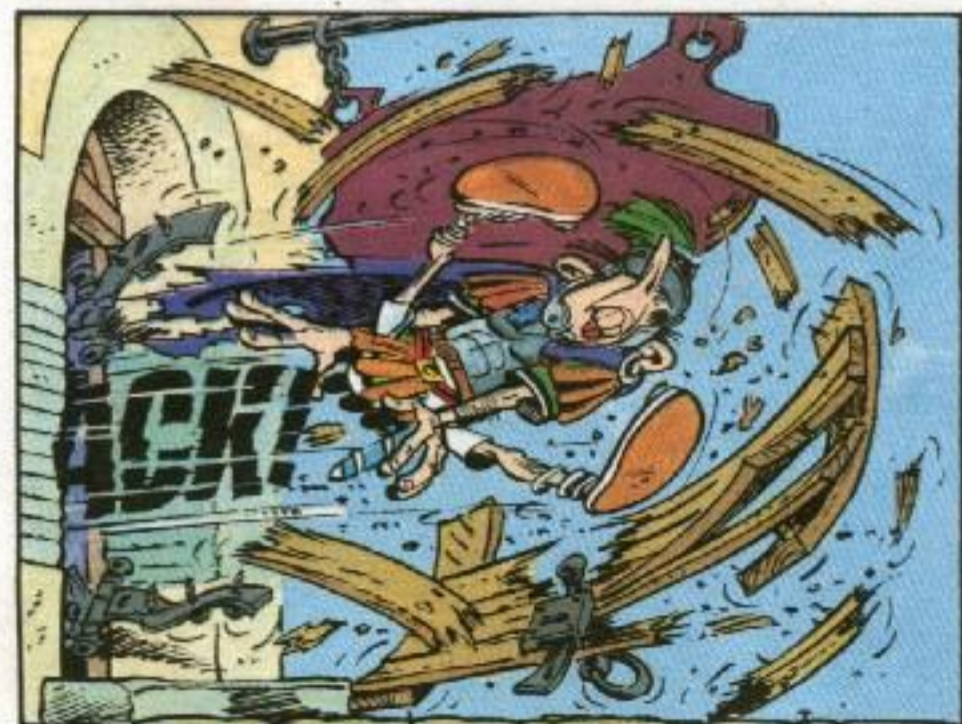
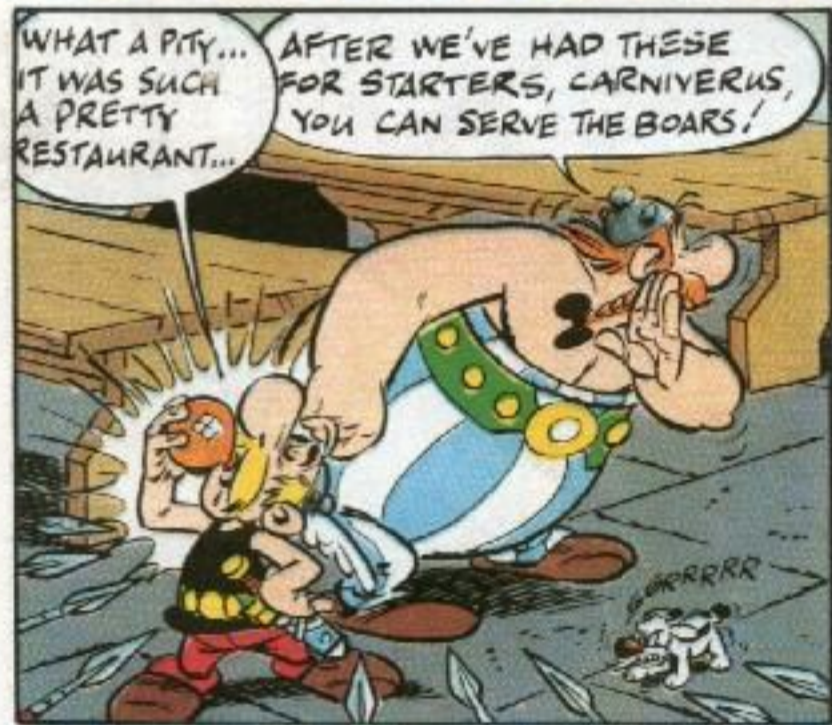
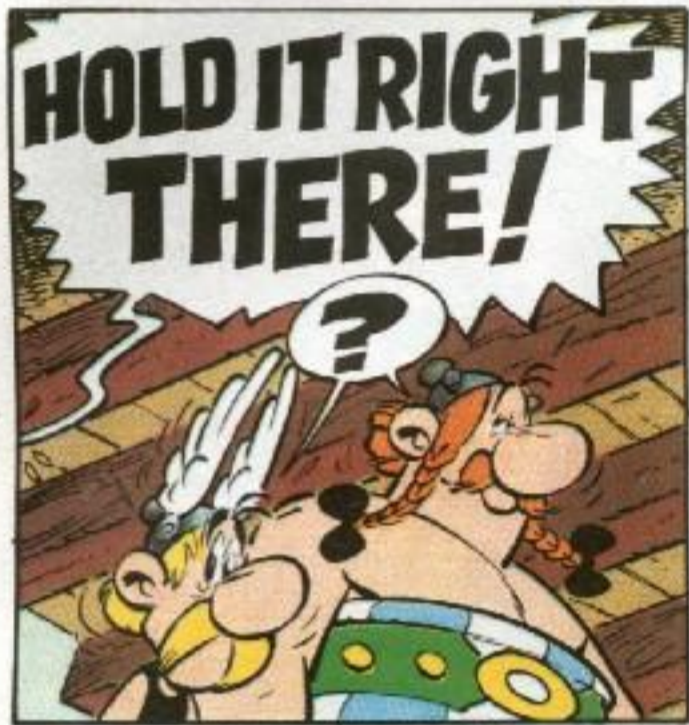
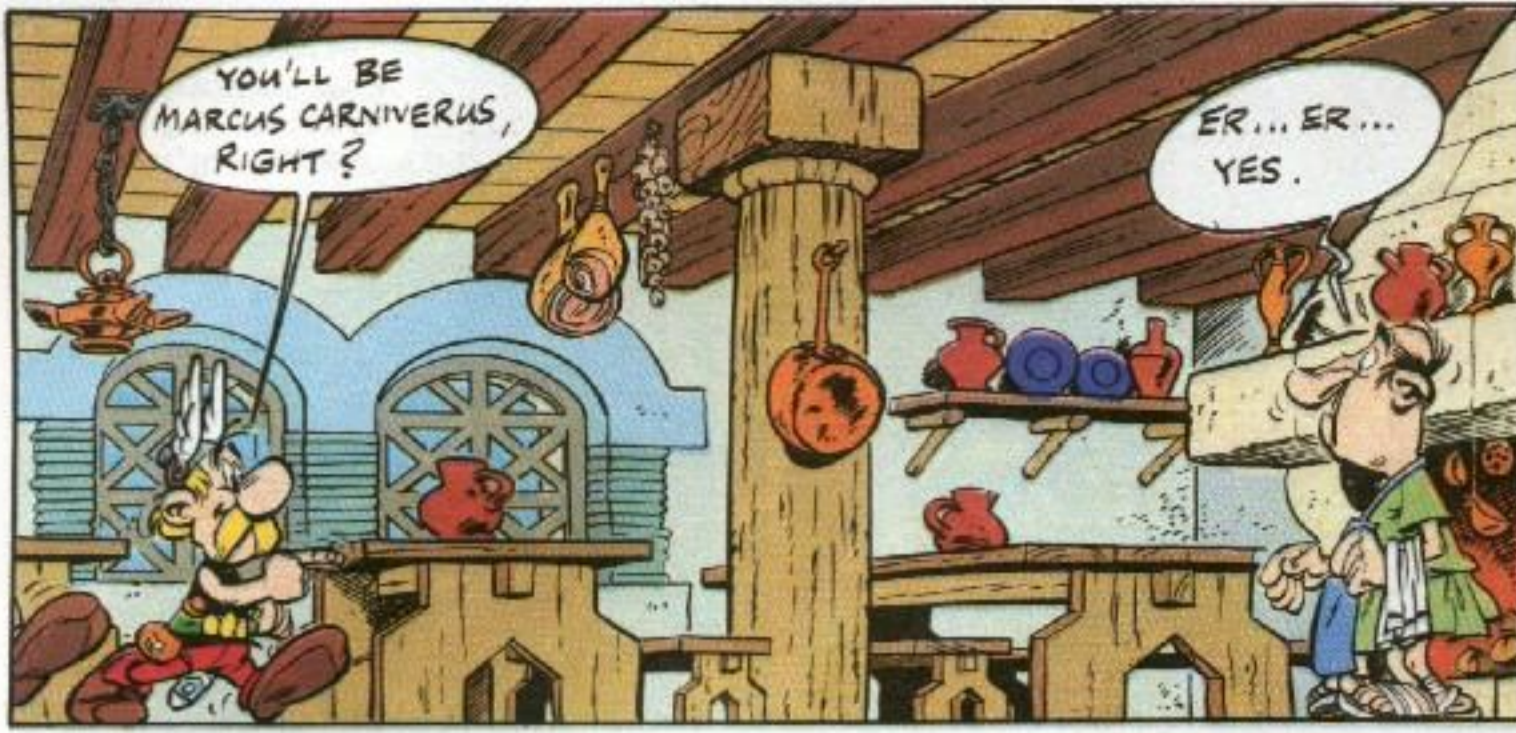


AND SO, IN THE COURSE OF TREATMENT, OUR FRIENDS ARE ABLE TO MAKE DISCREET ENQUIRIES ...





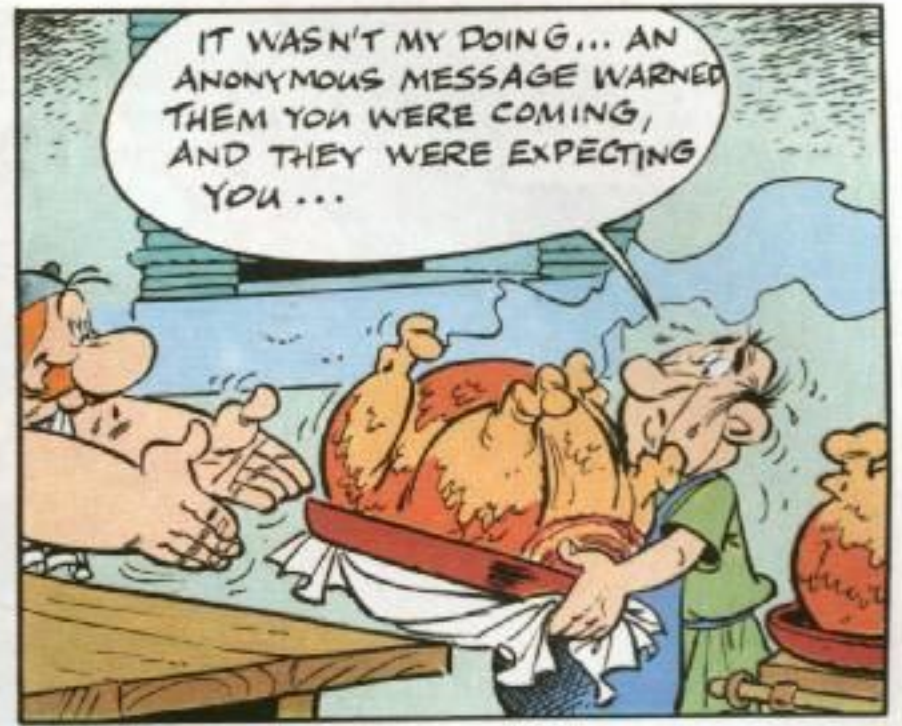




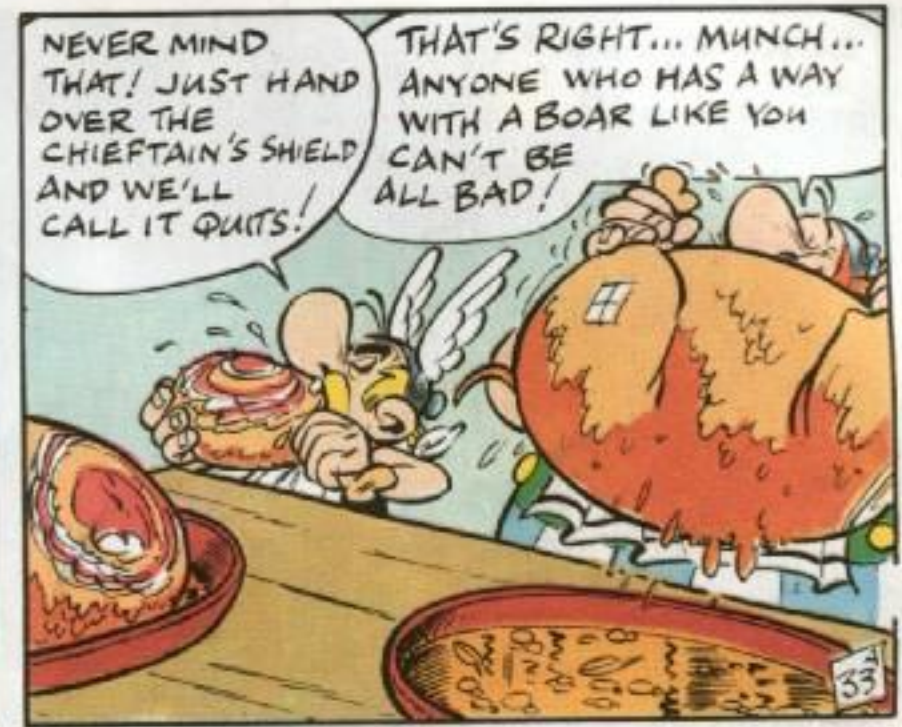


AH! AND ABOUT TIME TOO! WE'RE THE LAST TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO US!

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!

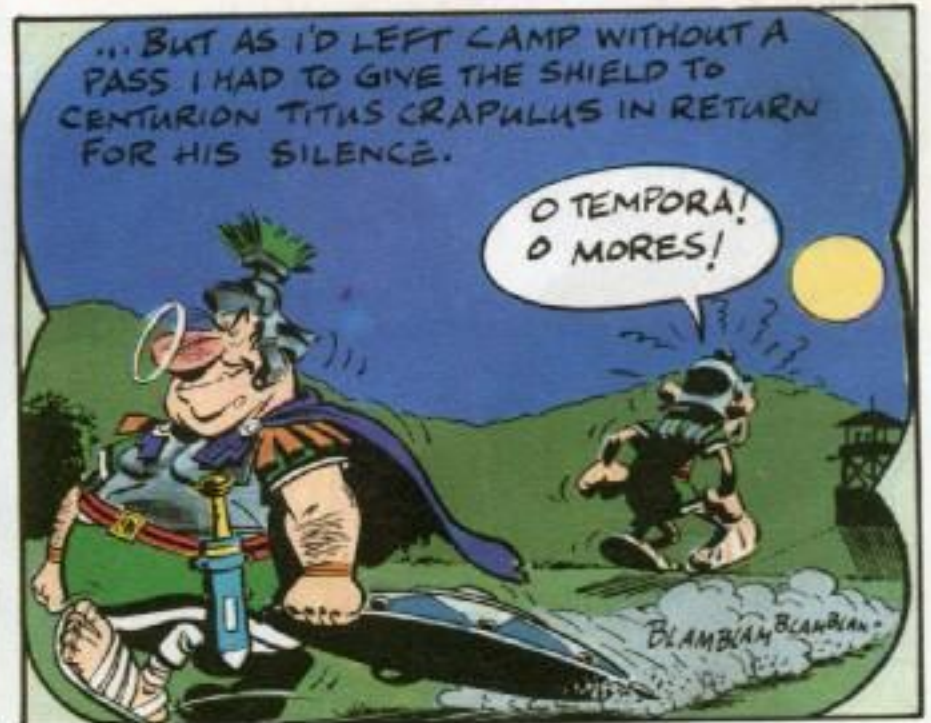


BUT I HAVEN'T GOT THE SHIELD ANY MORE... I ALREADY TOLD THEM...



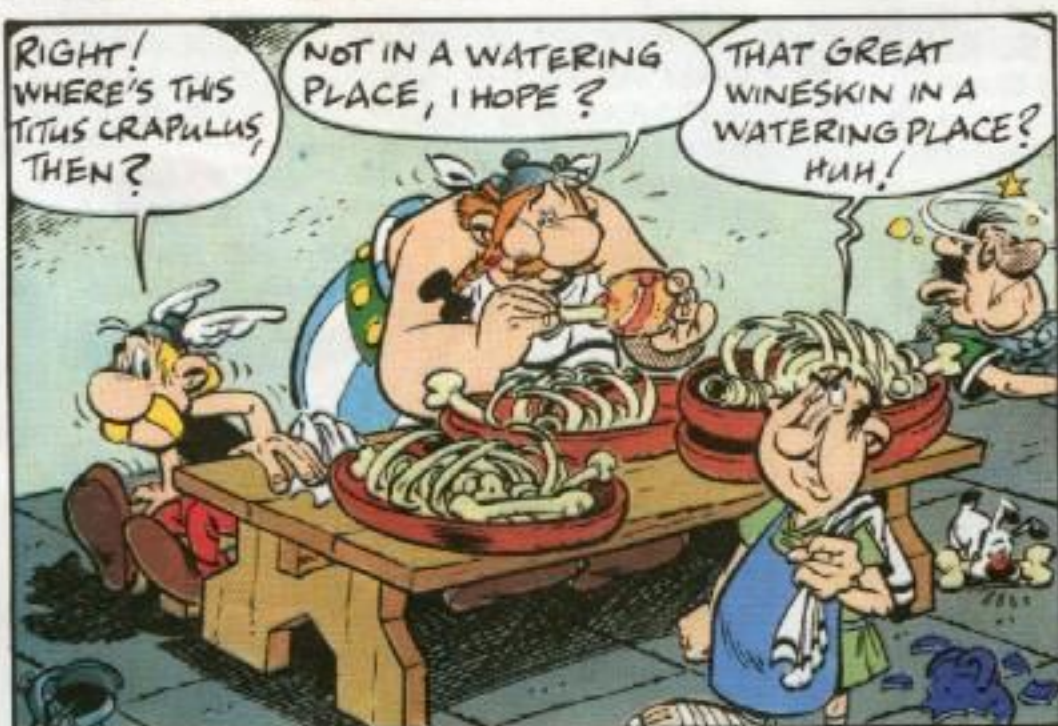
... YOU'RE RIGHT, I DID WIN IT IN A GAME OF CHANCE WHEN I WAS A LEGIONARY...

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!



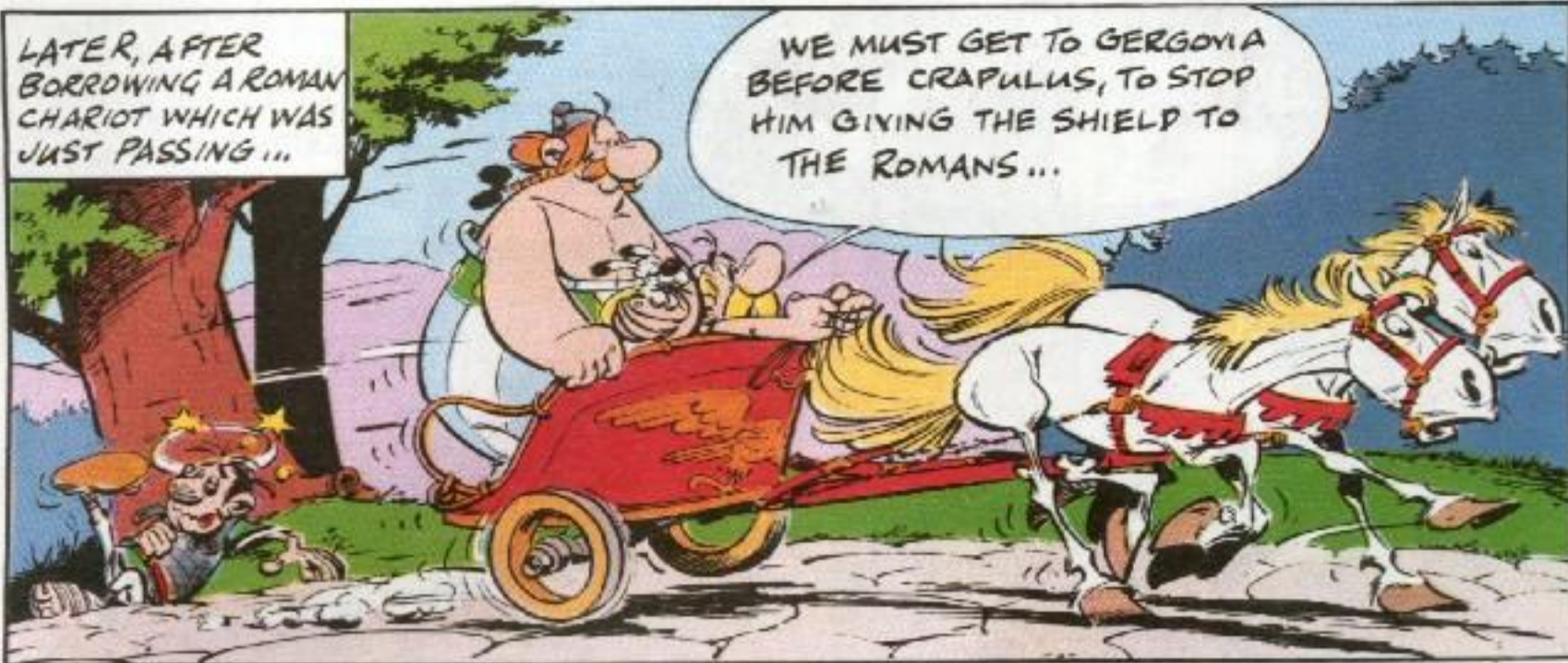
NO, HE STAYED IN THE ARMY. THE OTHERS WILL FIND HIM EASILY WHEN THEY CONSULT THE ARMY LISTS; I GAVE THEM HIS NAME.



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?

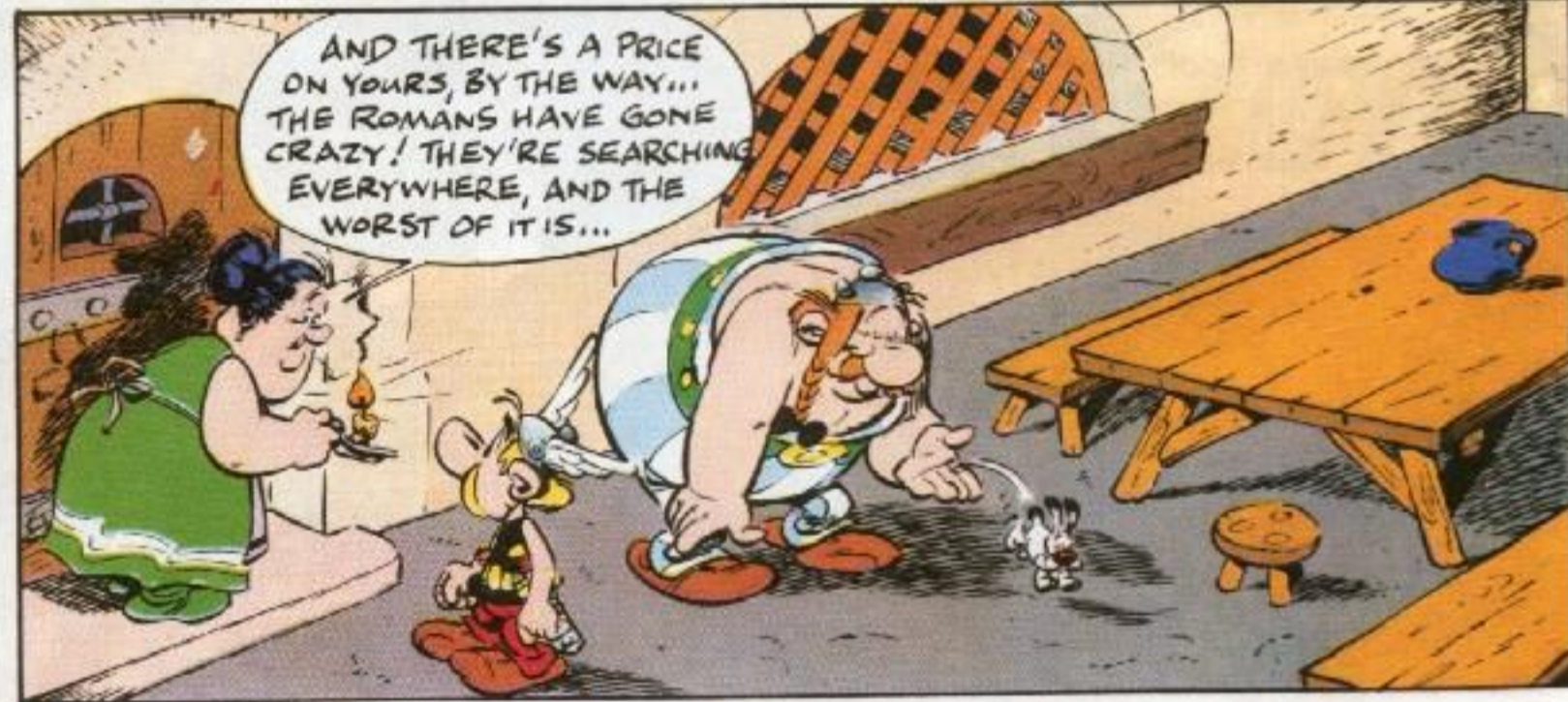
IT'S US! OBELIX, ASTERIX...

... AND DOGMATIX!



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

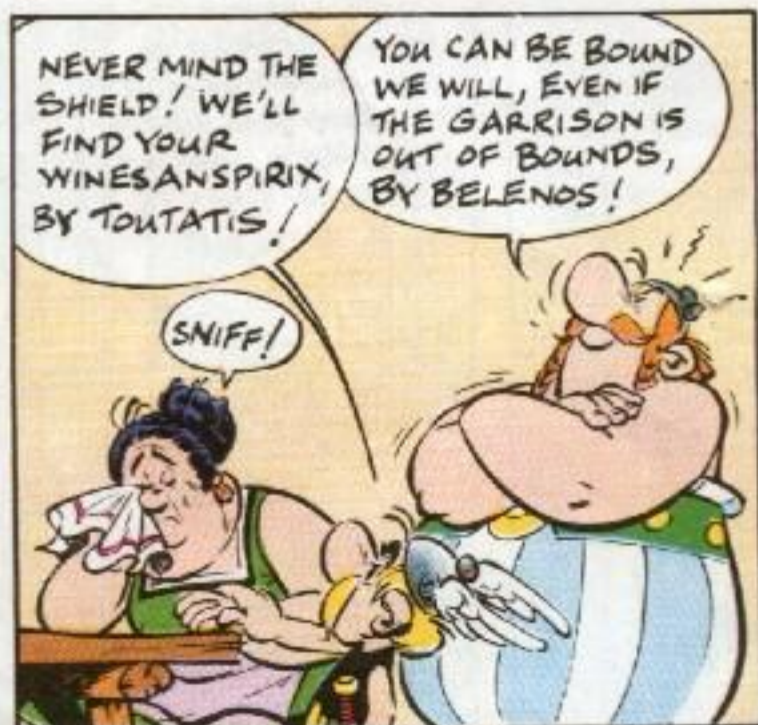
?!



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 WINESANSPIRIX HAS DISAPPEARED! NOXIUS VAPUS MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM PRISONER! BOOHOOHOO!



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

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

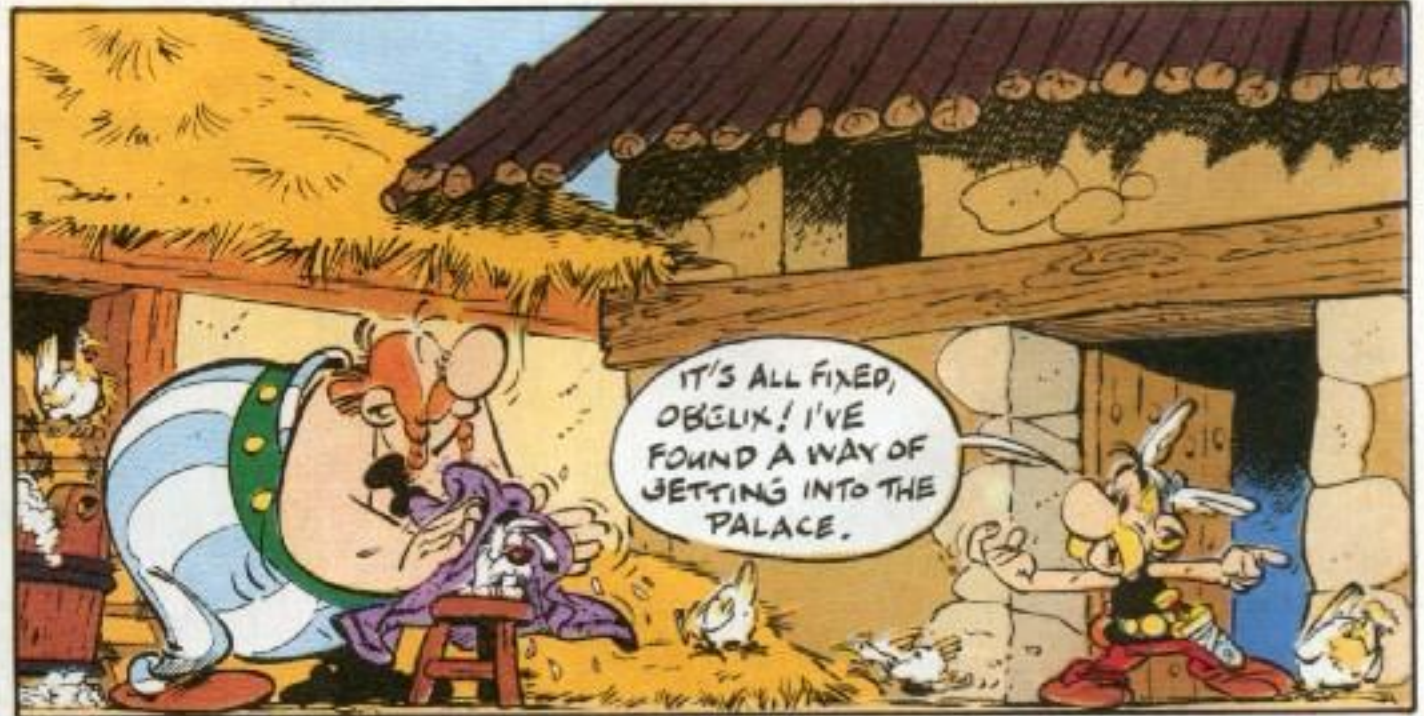
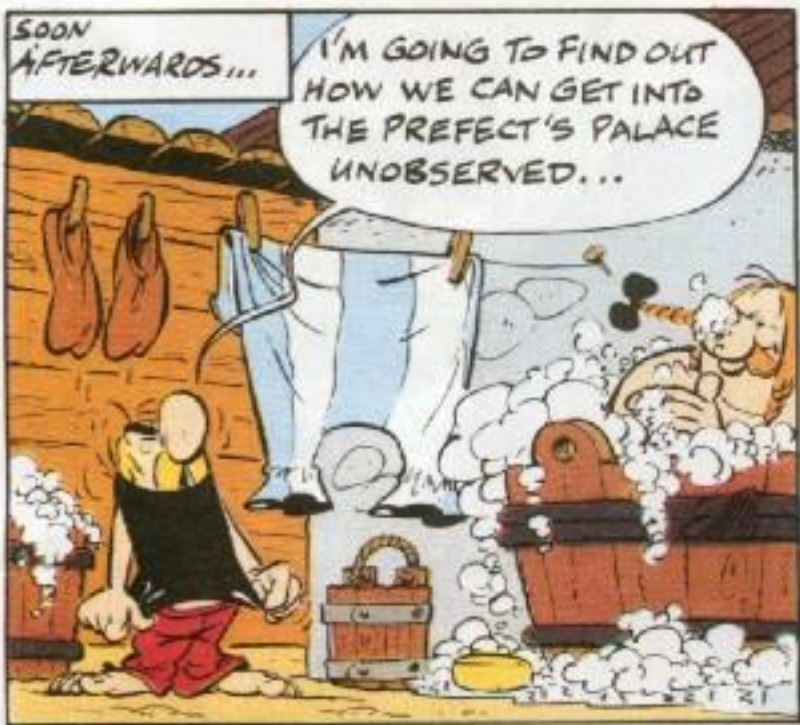
SNIFF!

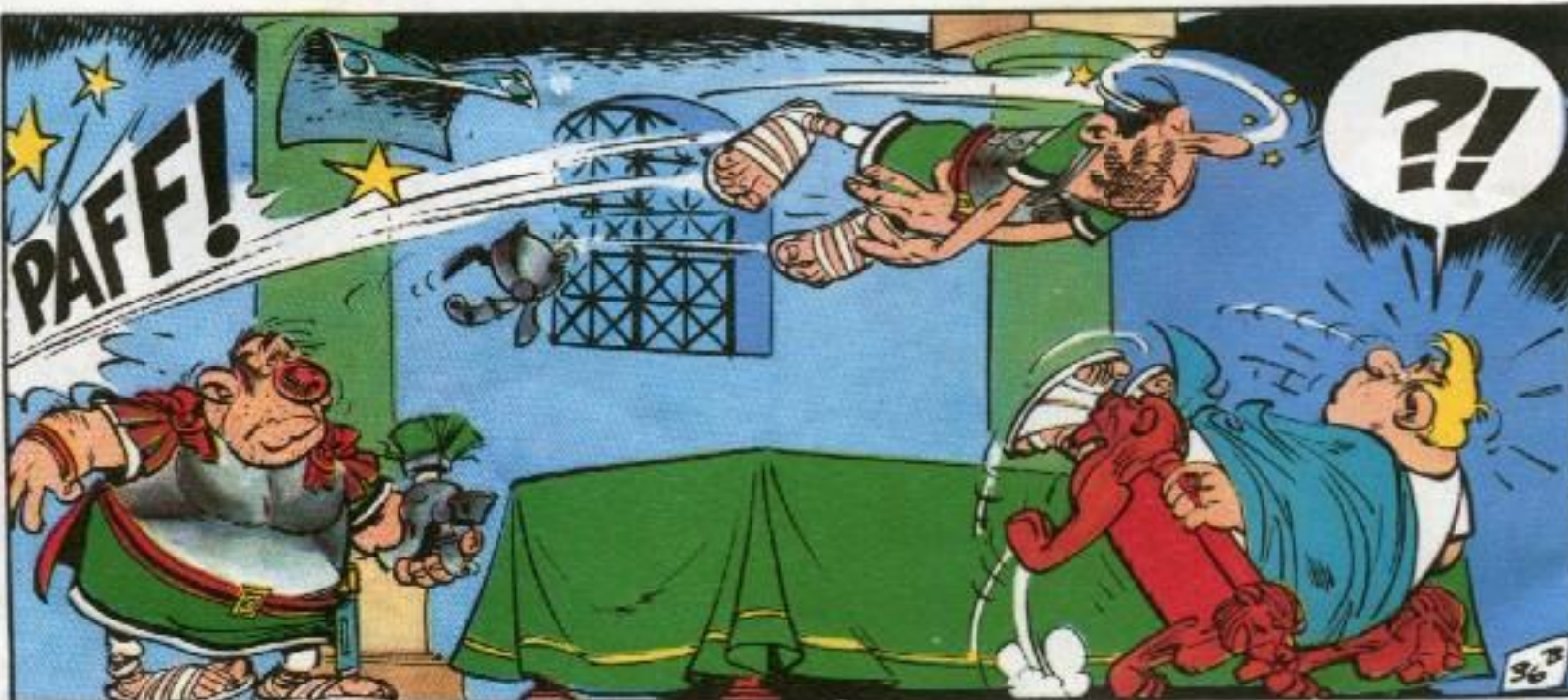
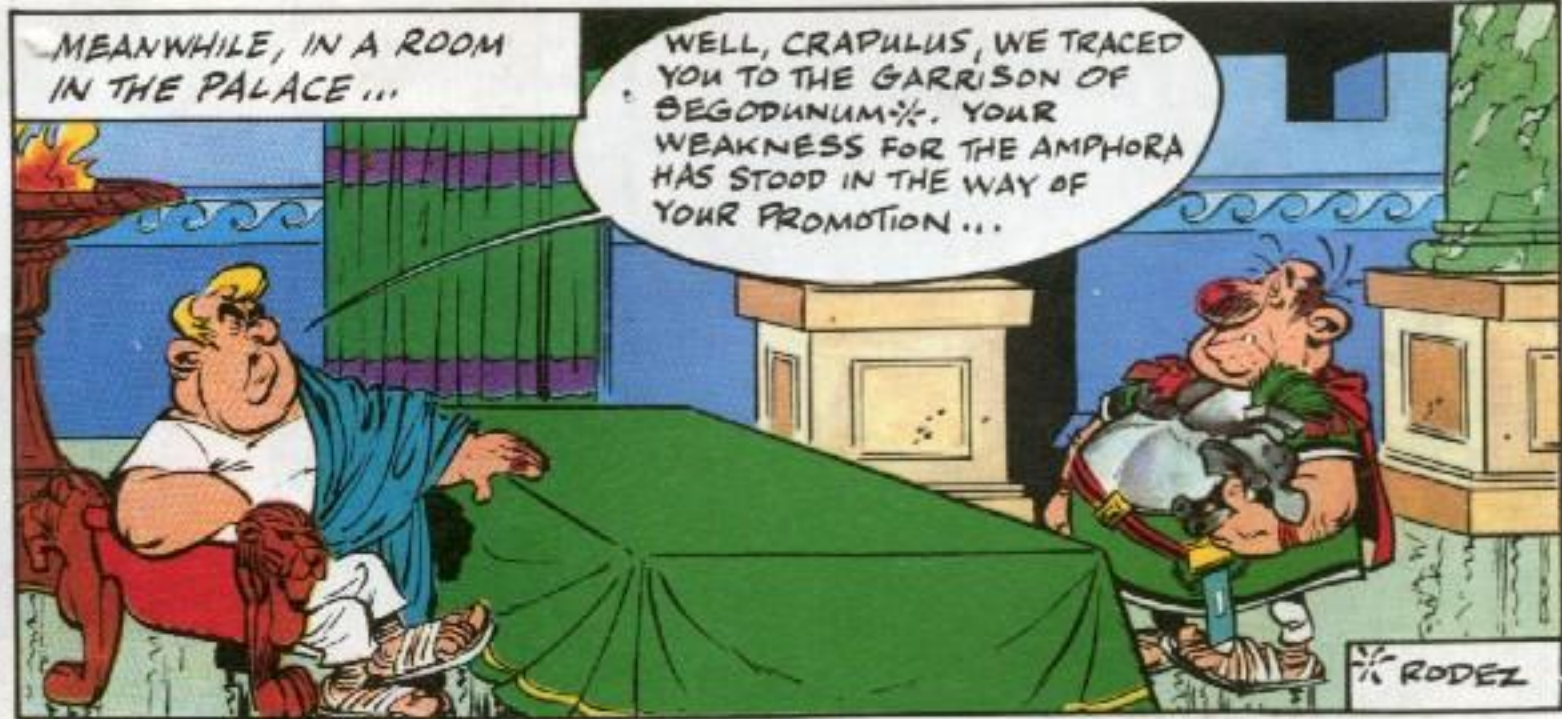


AND SO THE OUTLAWED ASTERIX, OBELIX (AND DOGMATIX) SPEND THE NIGHT HIDDEN IN A HEAP OF CHARCOAL...

GOOD NIGHT, OBELIX.

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



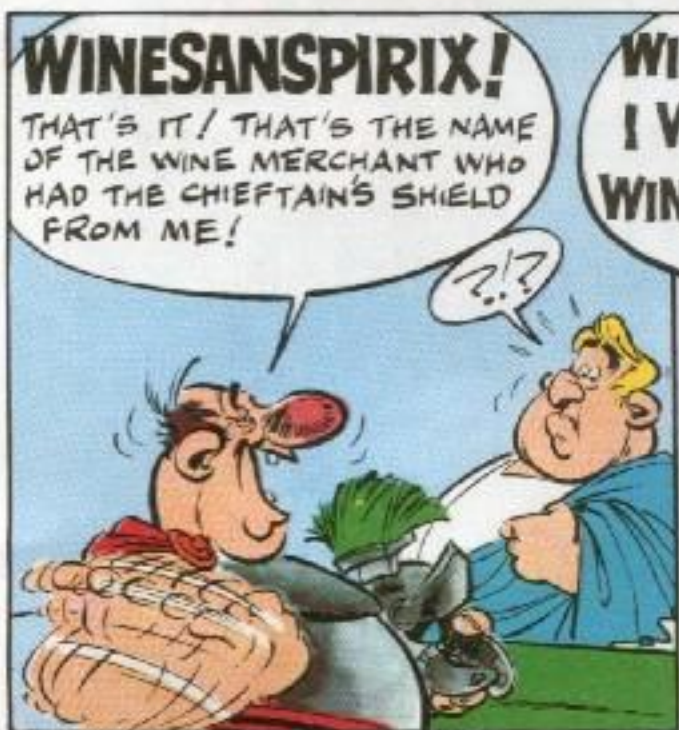




WH... WHO ARE YOU???



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 'N, 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...



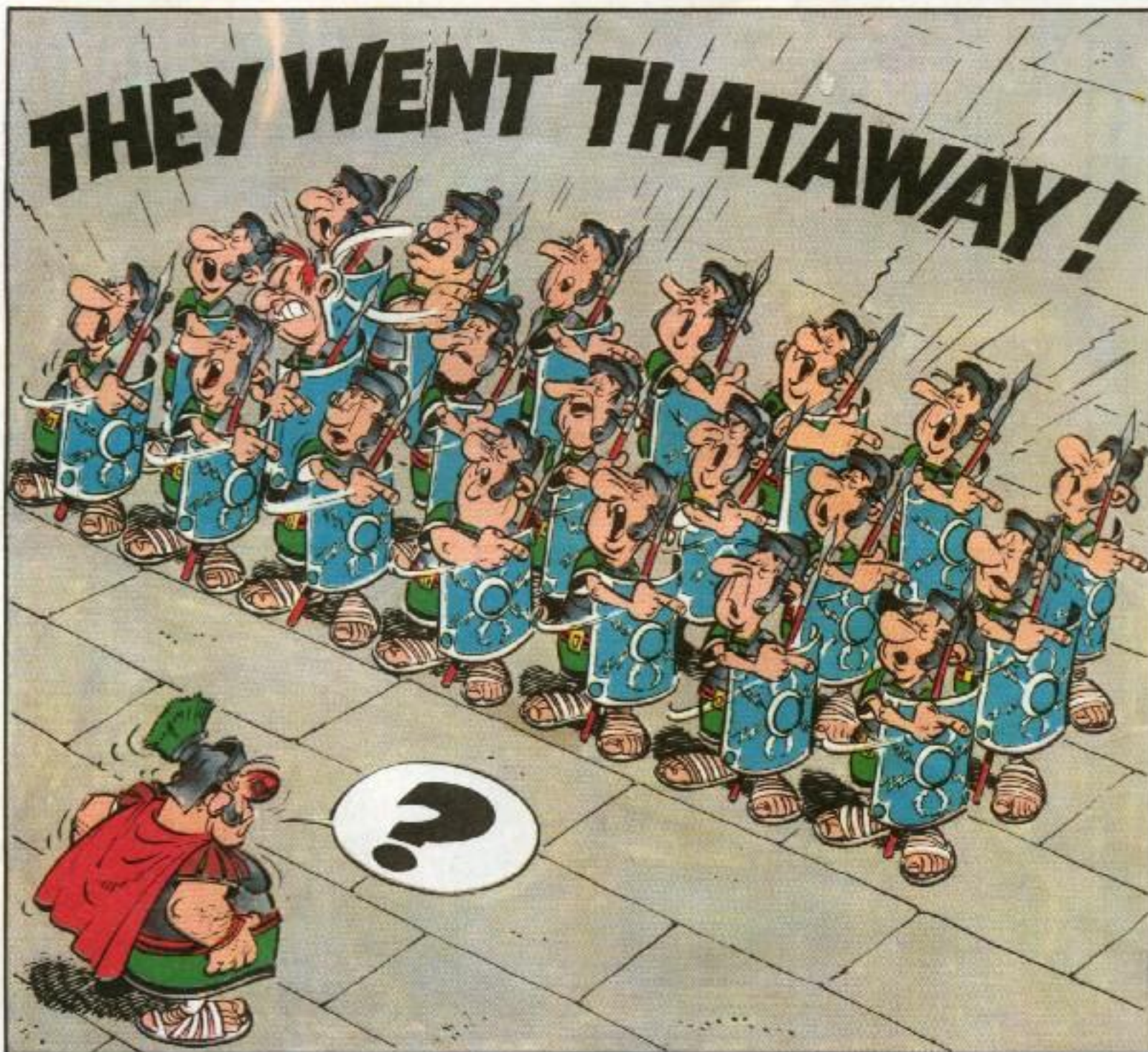
ATTEN-SHUN! STAND AT-EASE! COMPANEE 'SHUN! PAY ATTENTION, YOU LOT! AVE!



AVE!

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

39



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!

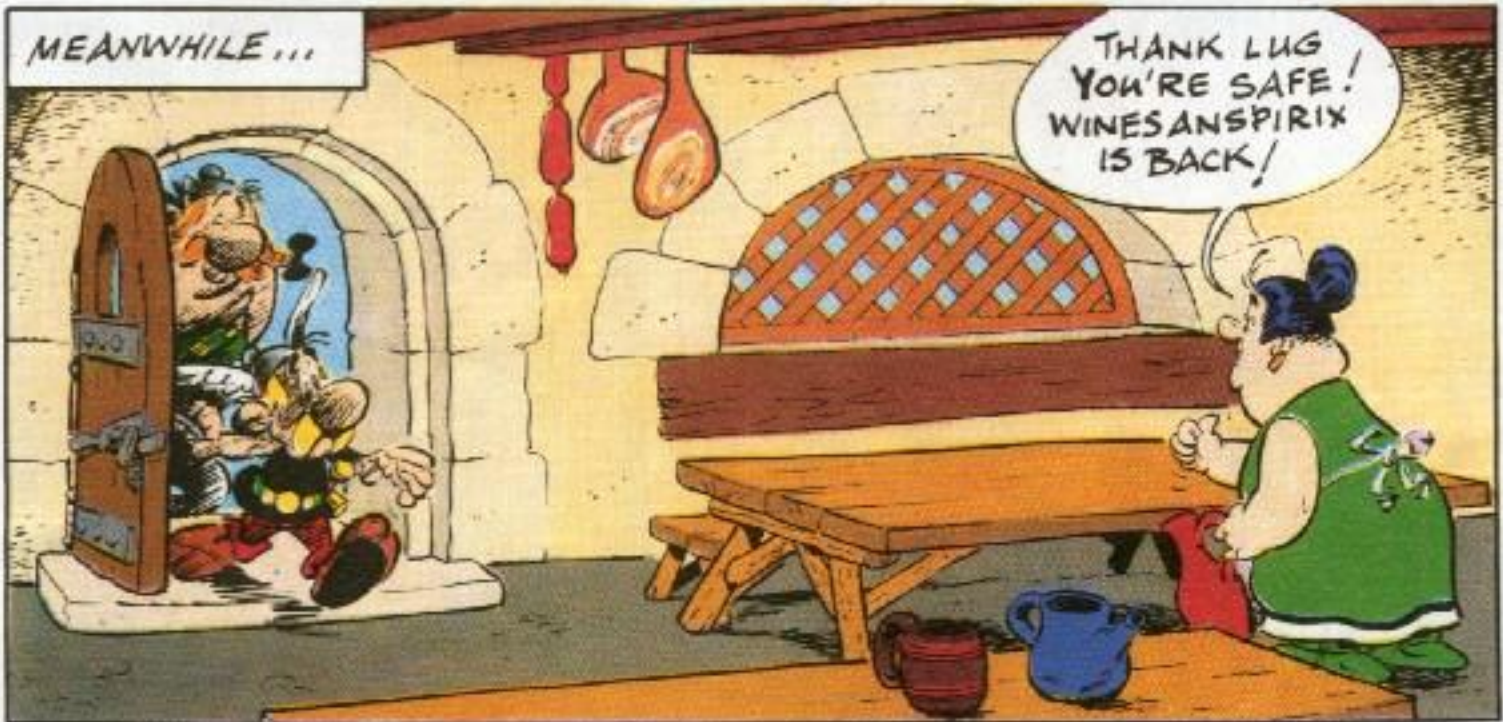
39



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

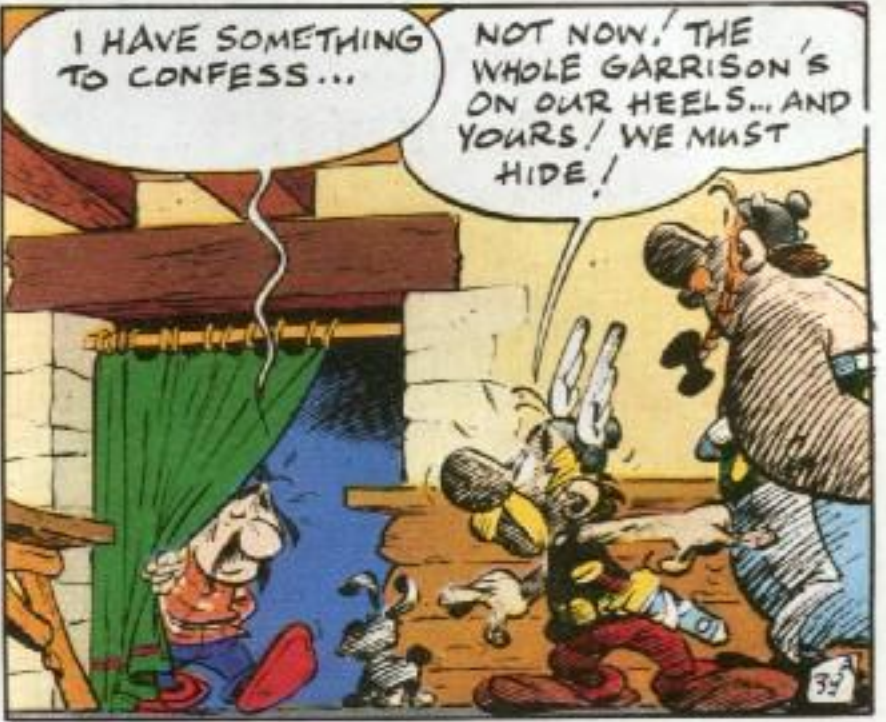


HEY, LEGIONARY! ANYWHERE AROUND HERE A MAN CAN DROWN HIS SORROW?
IT COULD BE ARRANGED... I'VE JUST FINISHED HALF A FLAGSTONE.



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!



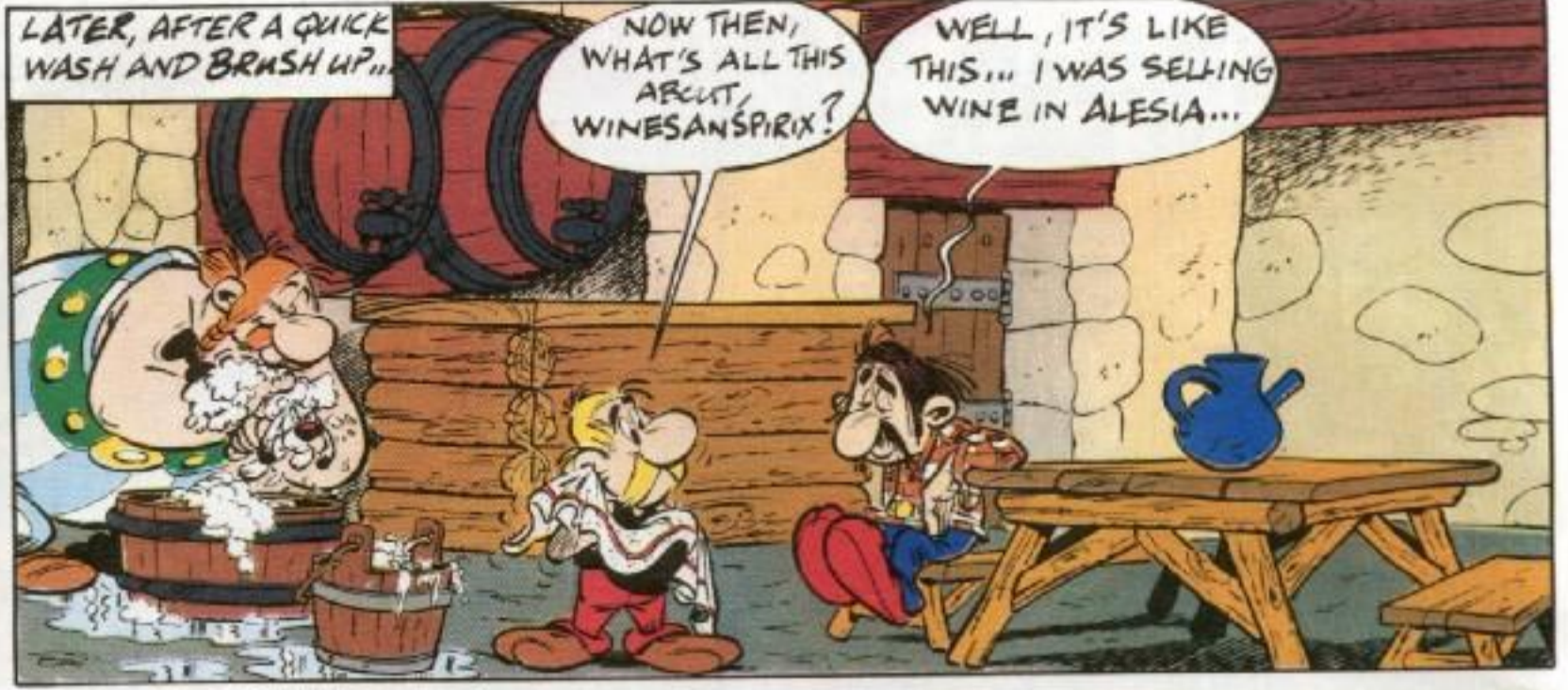
SOON AFTERWARDS

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

BLOTTO ON THE LANDSCAPE!!! HOC!



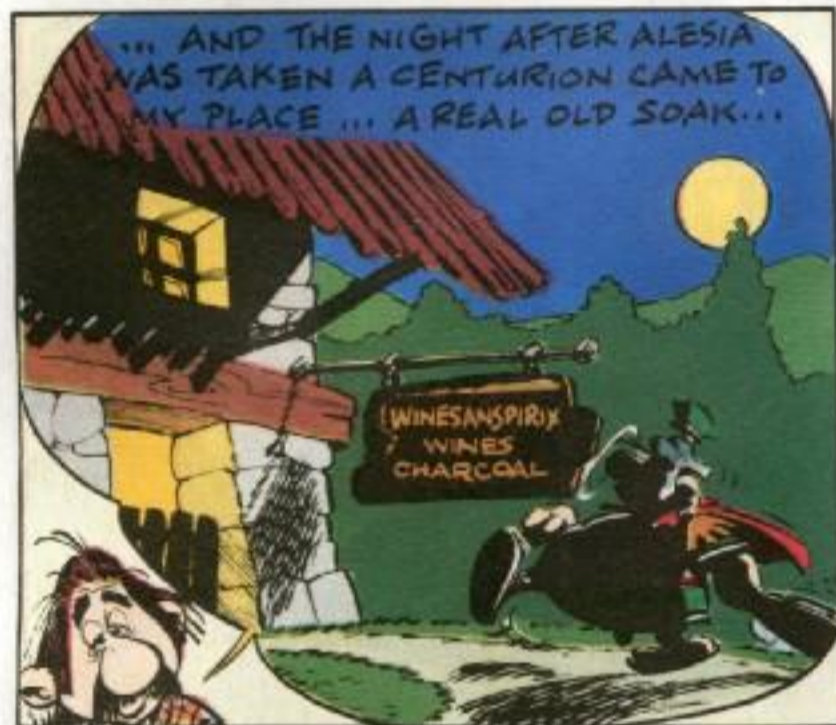
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW. THE ROMANS THINK YOU'VE LEFT GERGOVIA. THEY'RE SEARCHING THE FOREST.



LATER, AFTER A QUICK WASH AND BRASH 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...



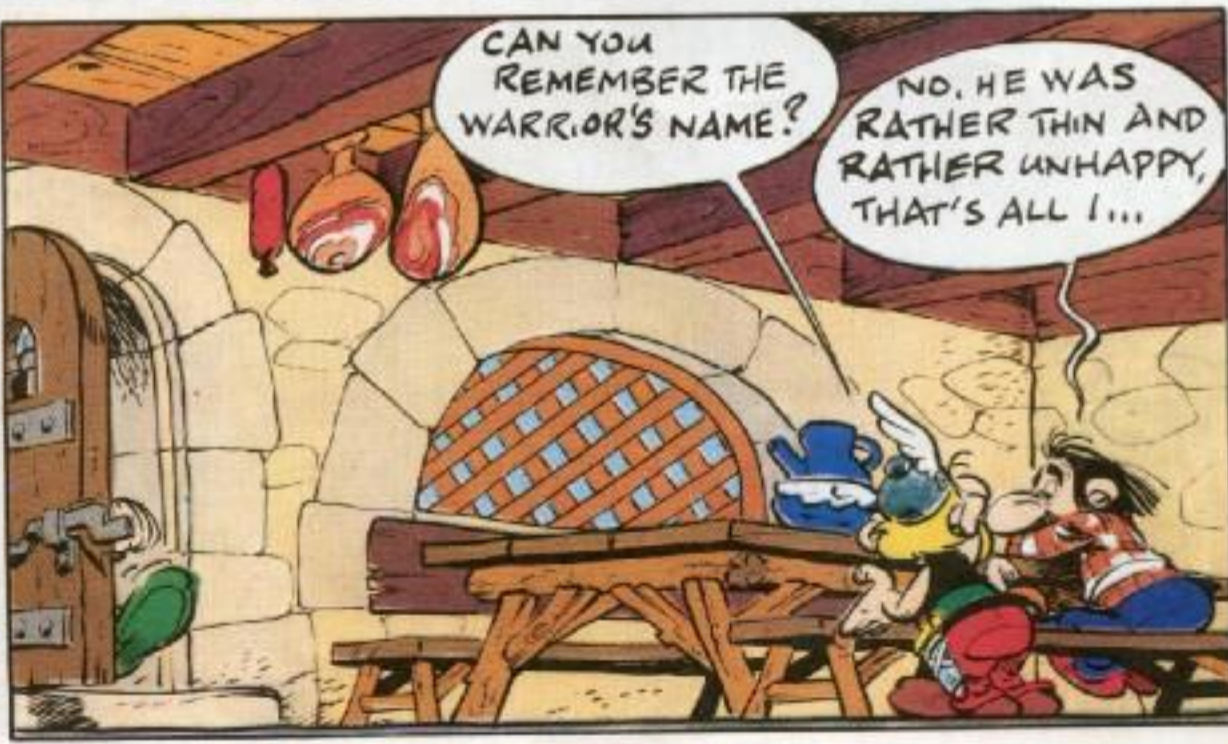
SO IN A WEAK MOMENT I GAVE THAT GLORIOUS SHIELD TO A STRANGER WHO DIDN'T EVEN COME FROM THESE PARTS!

CHEER UP, WINESANSPIRIX. FAR BETT FROM US TO CAST THE FIRST MENCHIR*.

* 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...



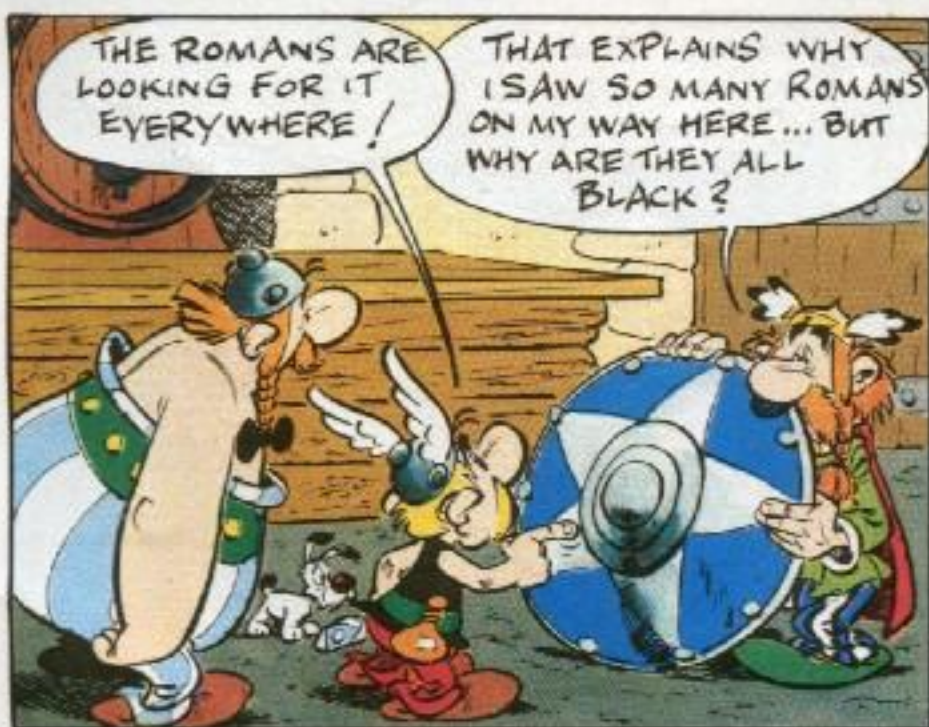
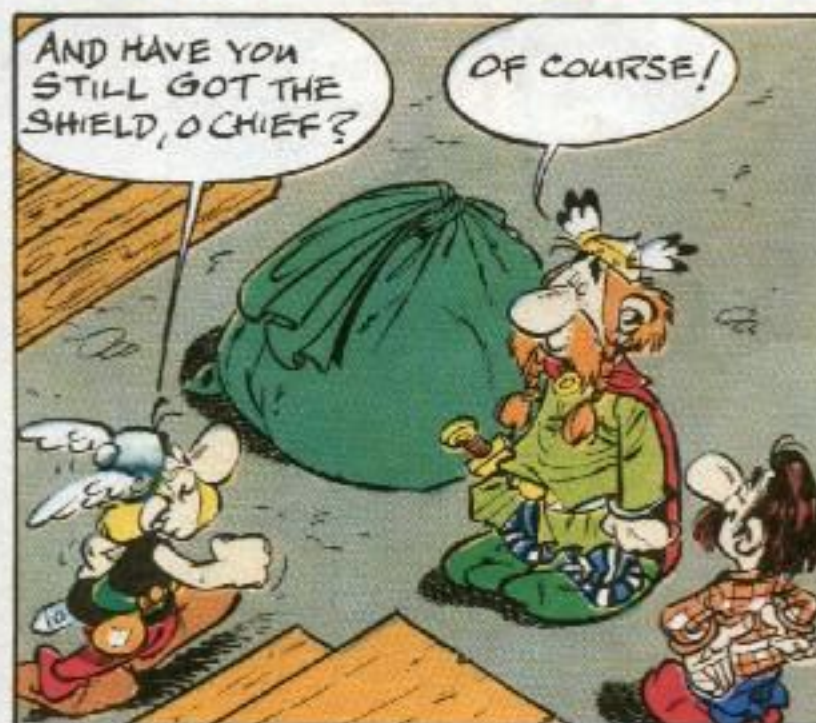
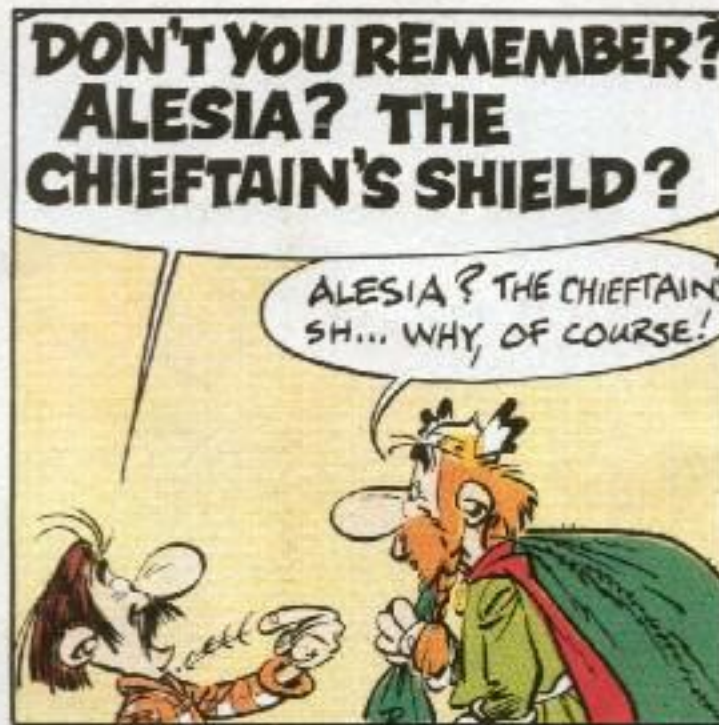
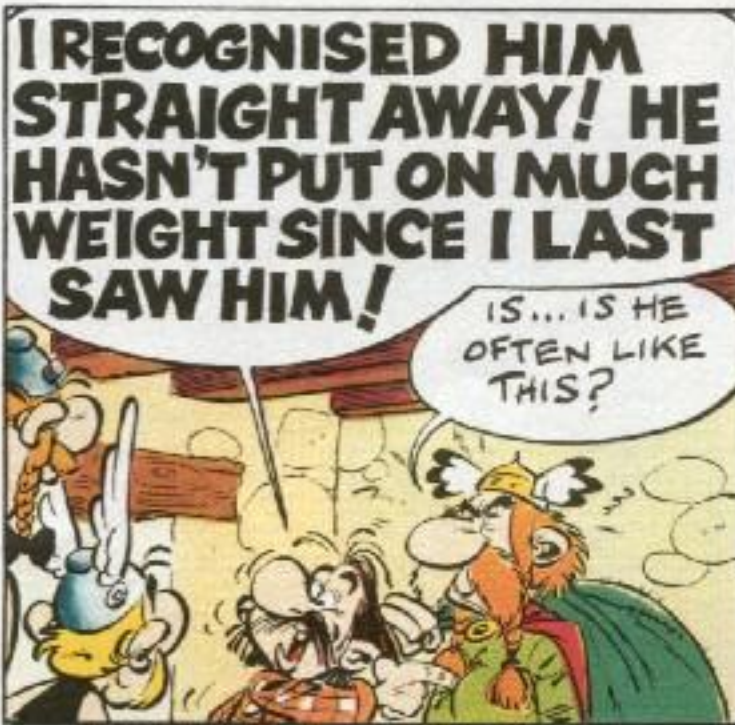
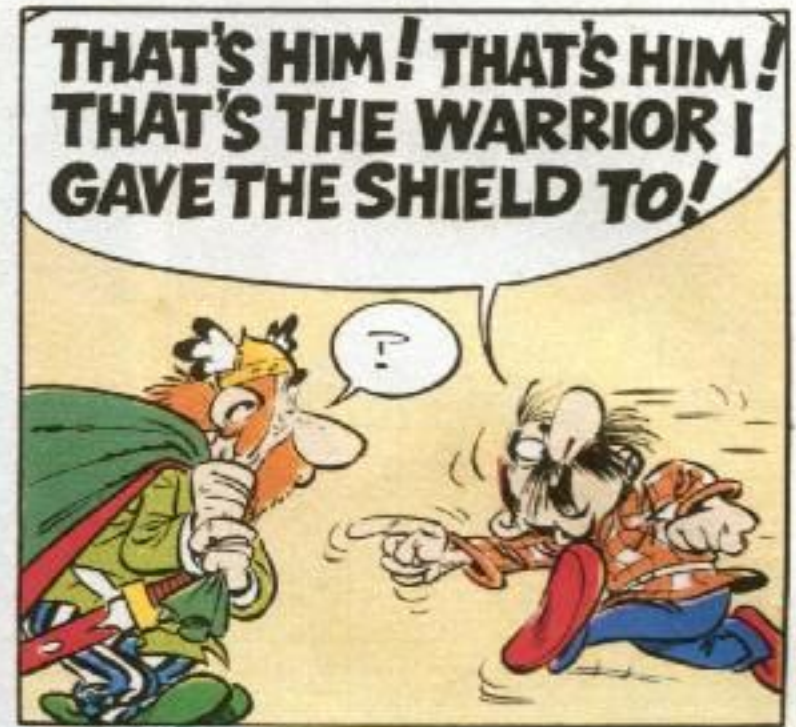
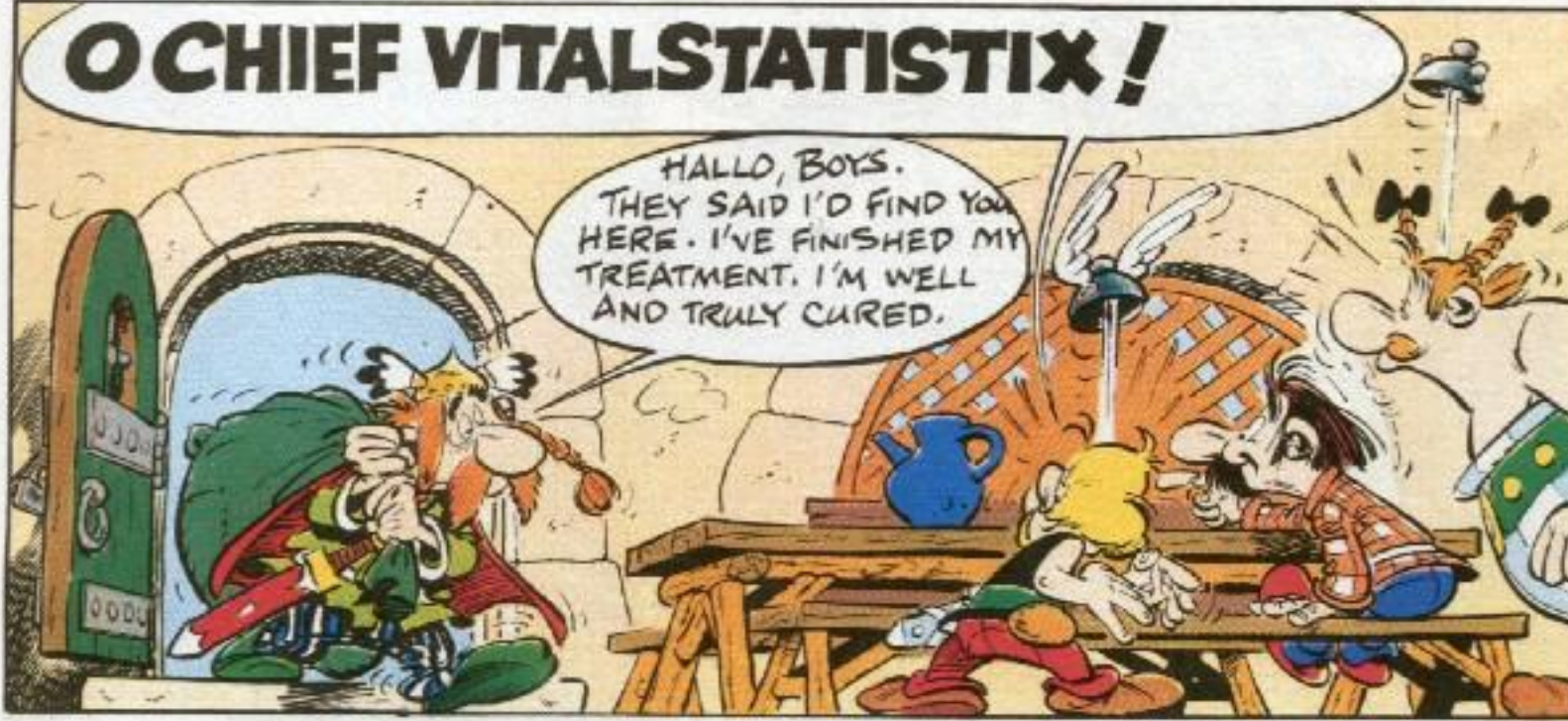
CAN YOU REMEMBER THE WARRIOR'S NAME?

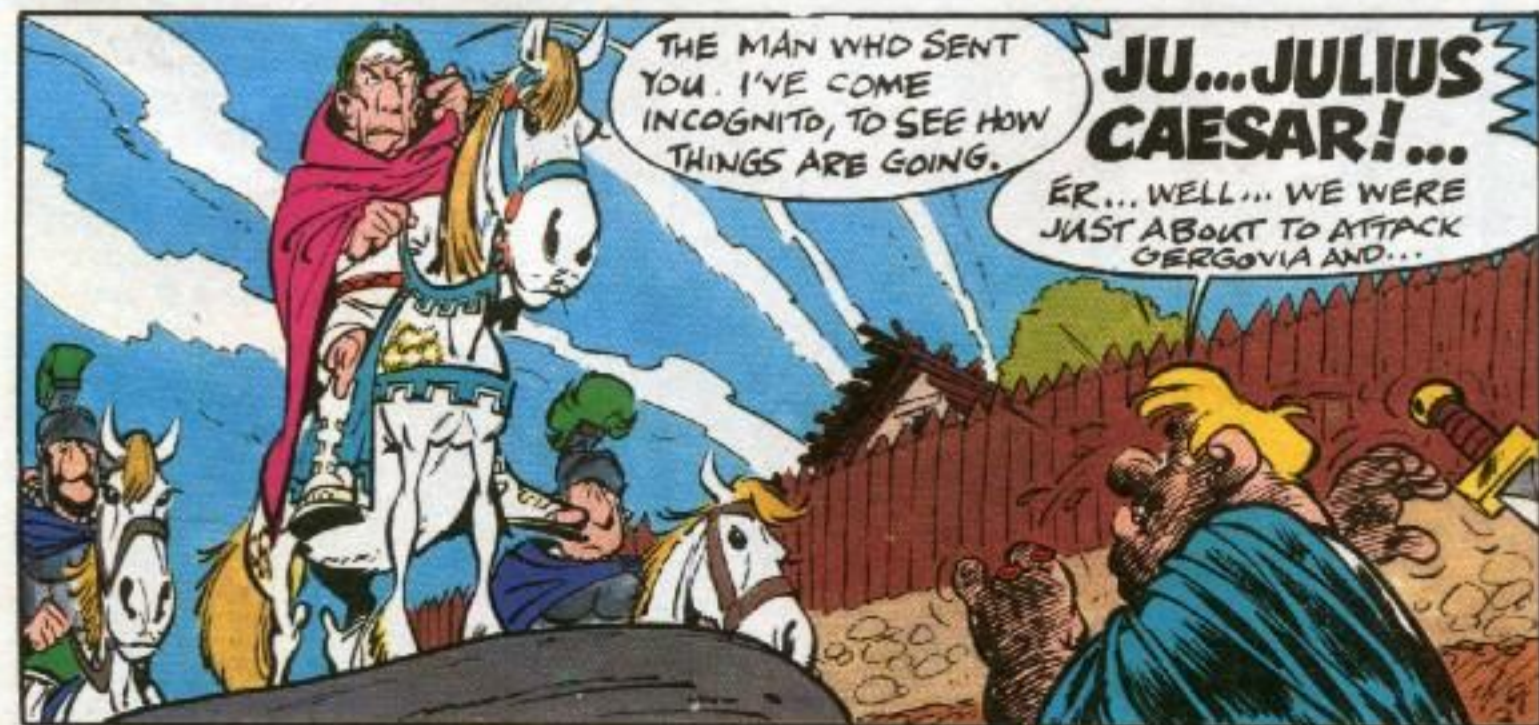
NO. HE WAS RATHER THIN AND RATHER UNHAPPY, THAT'S ALL I...



THAT'S HIM!!!

O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!







O ROMANS!

WHAT'S UP?

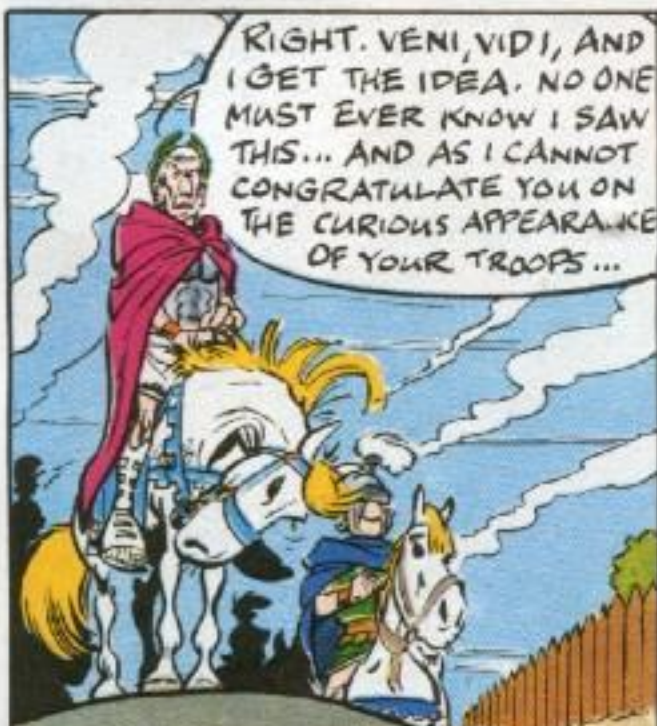
OH, NOTHING... DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE...



THE TRIUMPH OF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX ON THE SHIELD OF VERCINGETORIX!



TAKE A GOOD LOOK! AND YOU, BRAVE PEOPLE OF GERGOVIA, COME AND WATCH OUR TRIUMPH!



RIGHT. VENI, VIDI, AND I GET THE IDEA. NO ONE MUST EVER KNOW I SAW THIS... AND AS I CANNOT CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE CURIOUS APPEARANCE OF YOUR TROOPS...



... AND SO AS TO MAKE SURE MY VISIT REMAINS A SECRET, I'M SENDING YOU AND YOUR MEN TO A GARRISON IN NUMIDIA...



AH! AT LAST! TWO CLEAN SOLDIERS!

HIC!

HIC!



CENTURION! I PROMOTE YOU TO OFFICER COMMANDING THE GARRISON OF GERGOVIA! LEGIONARY, I PROMOTE YOU TO CENTURION! AND I NEVER WANT TO HEAR THE NAME OF THIS TOWN AGAIN! AVE!



AVE! DON'T YOU WORRY, WE'LL KEEP ON THE BEST OF TERMS WITH THE WINE MERCHANTS OF THESE PARTS, ME AND PUSILLANIMUS!

CENTURION

PUSILLAN - HIC! - MUS!

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

UDERZO & GOSCINNY