

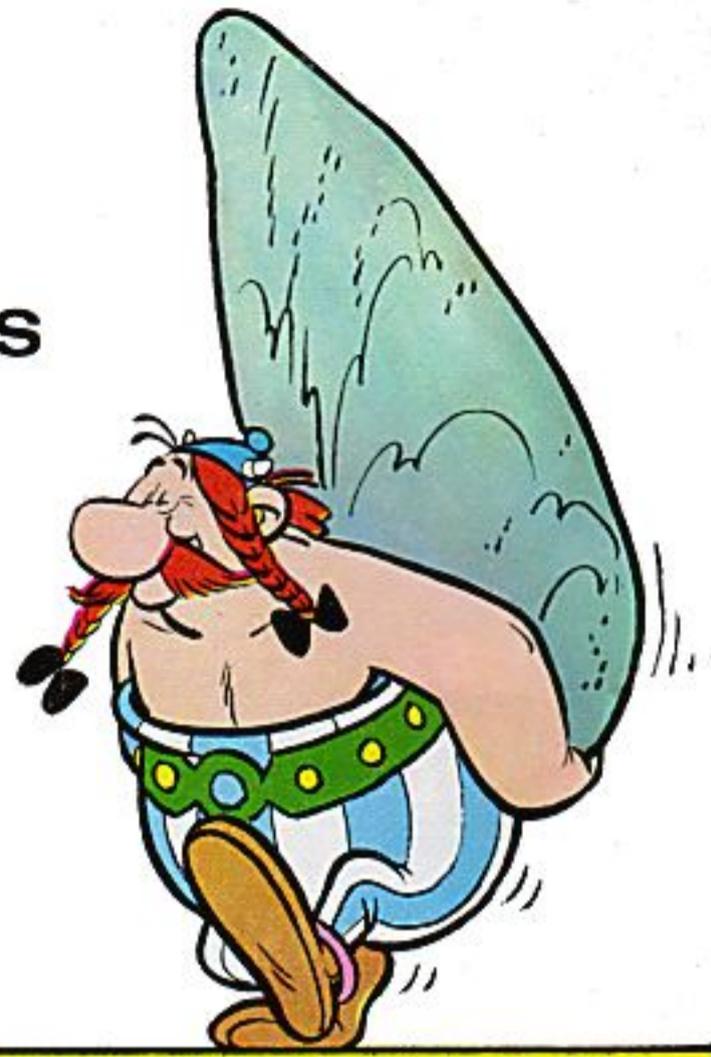


The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...

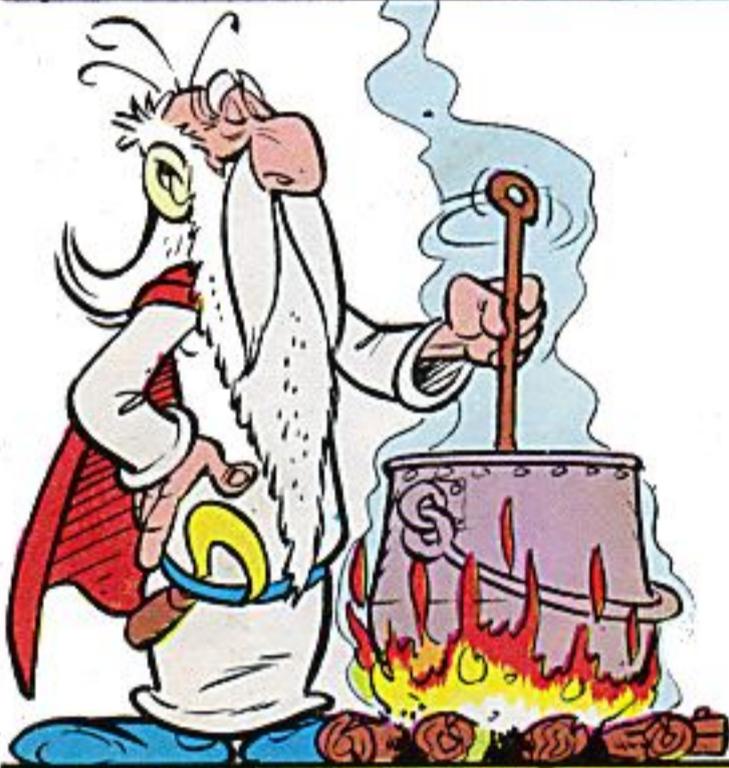


## a few of the Gauls

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...

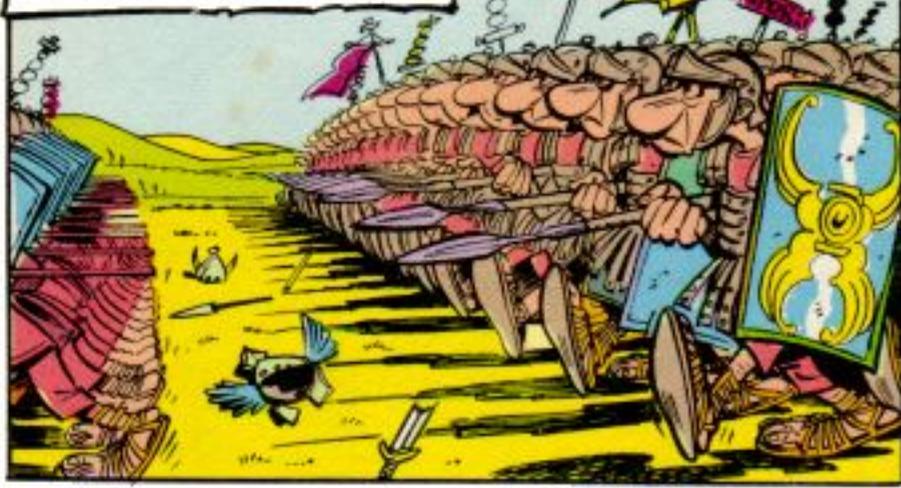


Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'



Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix 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  
konn back!

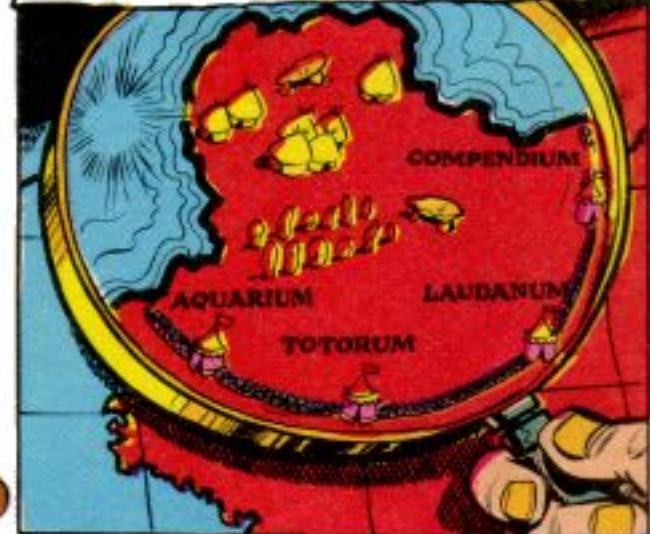
Gut! Ve go!



ALL GAUL  
IS OCCUPIED....

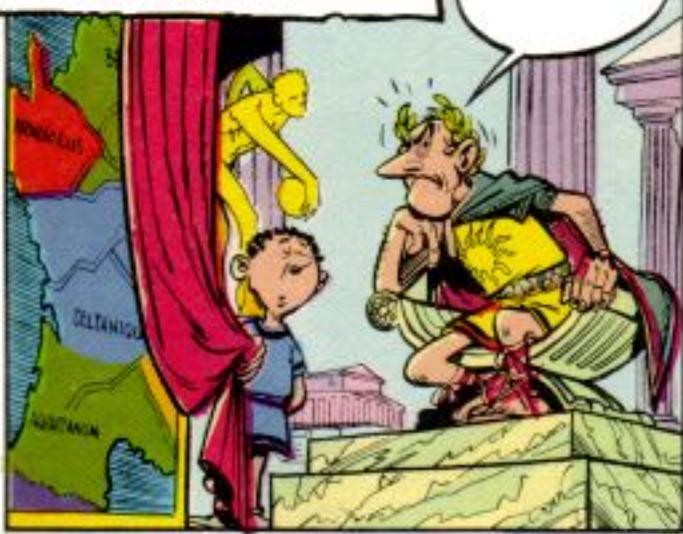


ALL ? NO-ONE VILLAGE STILL HOLDS OUT  
STUBBORNLY AGAINST THE INVADERS.  
ONE SMALL VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY  
FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMPS....



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

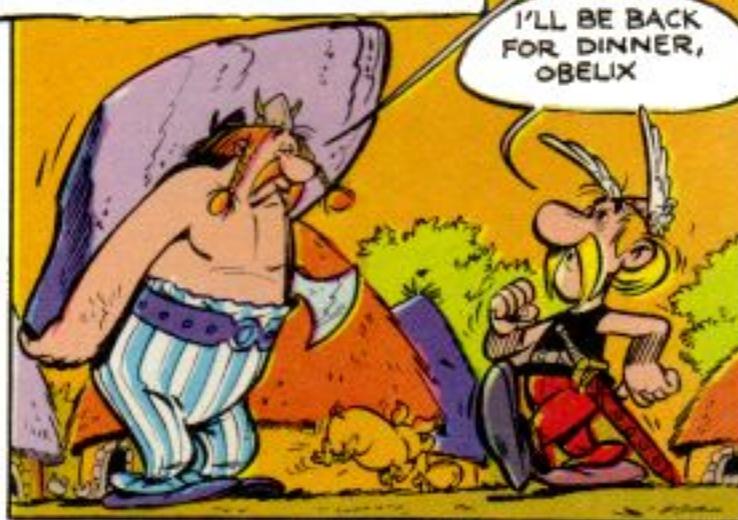
QUID ?



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

BACK SOON,  
ASTERIX ?

I'LL BE BACK  
FOR DINNER,  
OBELIX

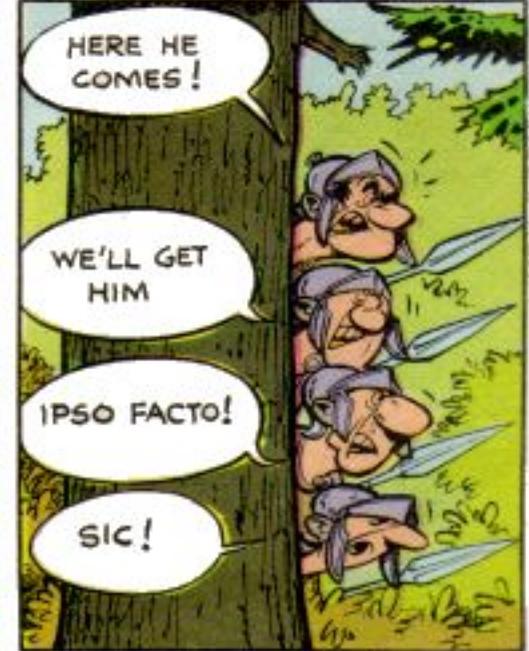


HERE HE  
COMES!

WE'LL GET  
HIM

IPSO FACTO!

SIC!

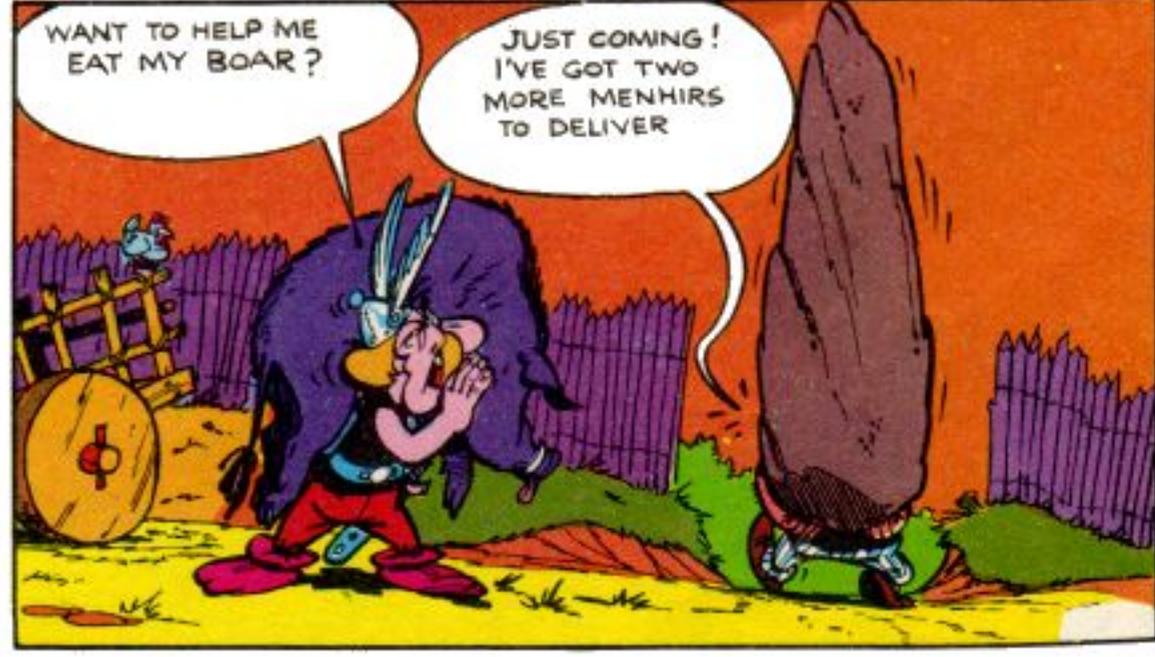
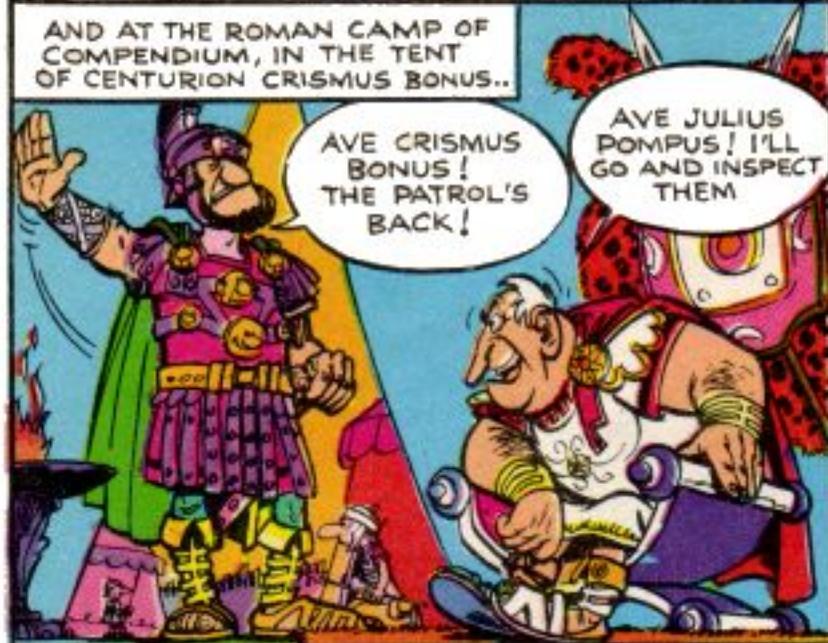


ACCIDENCE  
WILL HAPPEN....

VAE VICTO  
VAE VICTIS!

WE DECLINE!







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



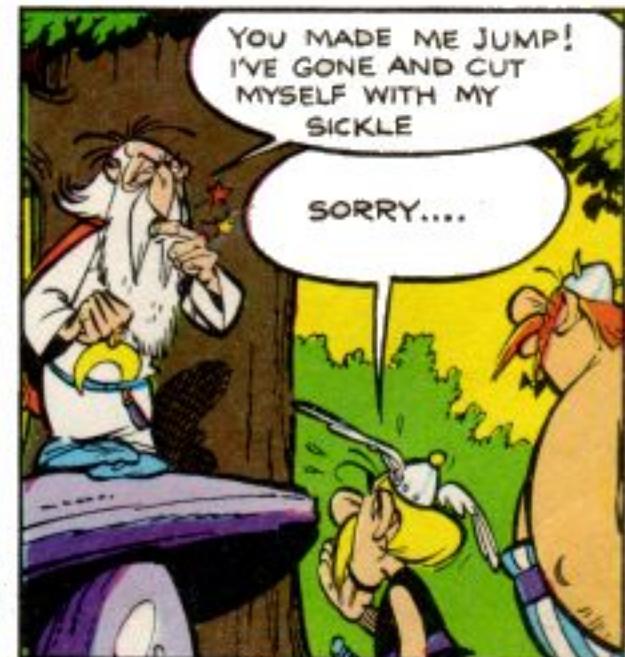
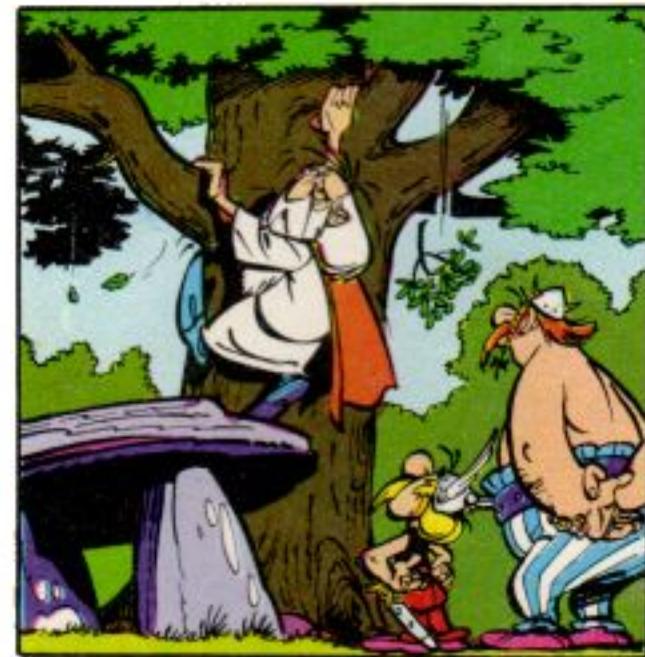
LET'S GO AND SEE THE DRUID NOW!



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



GETAFIX!  
O DRUID!



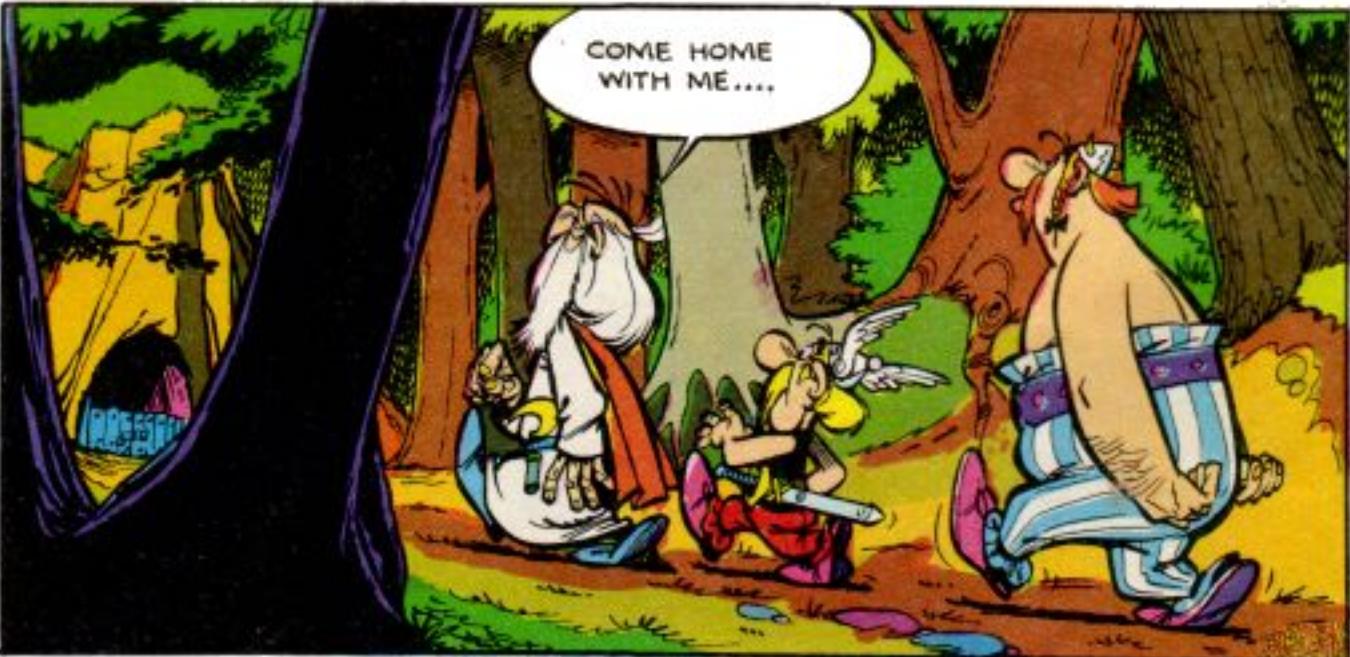
YOU MADE ME JUMP! I'VE GONE AND CUT MYSELF WITH MY SICKLE

SORRY....

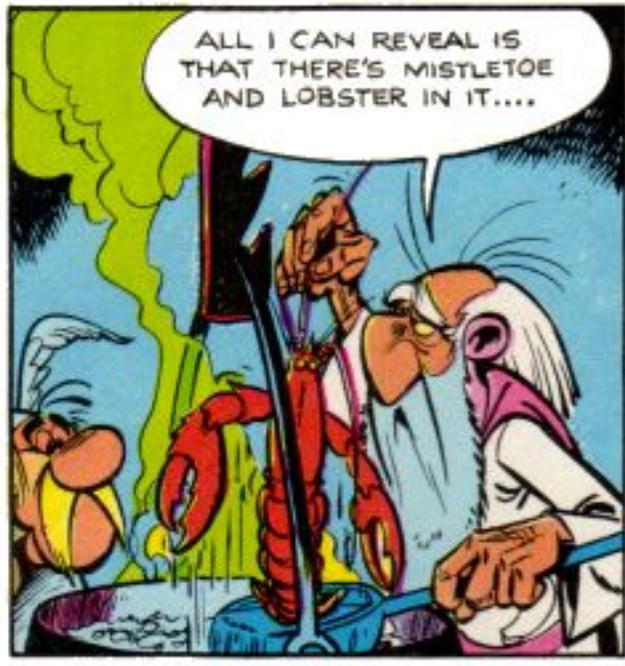


THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO HAVE MY DOSE OF POTION....

OH, ALL RIGHT...

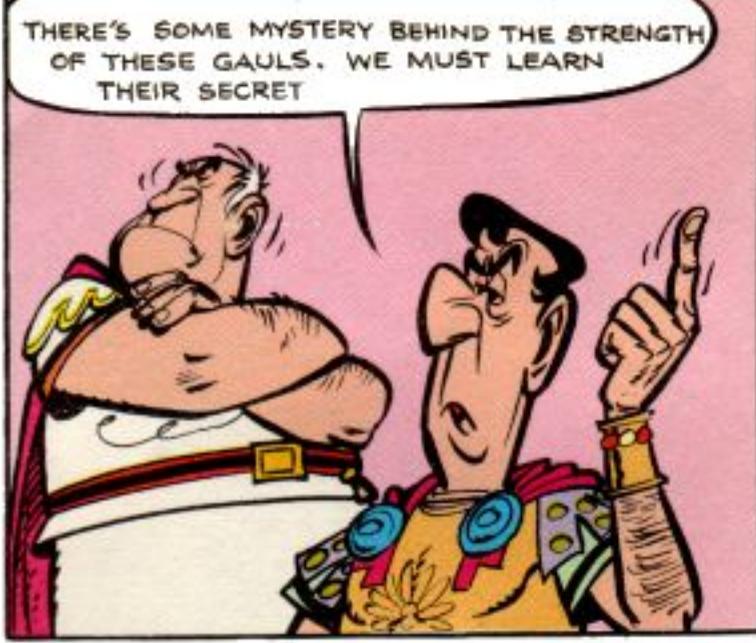


COME HOME WITH ME....

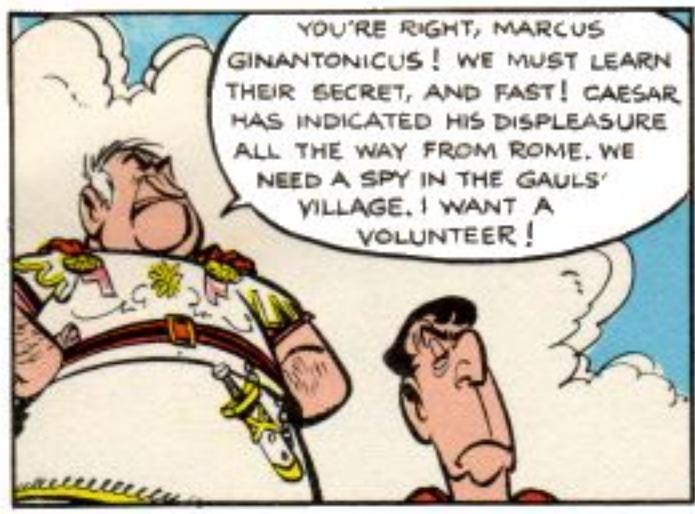




WE'VE BEEN LAYING SIEGE TO THESE GAULS FOR YEARS! THEY'VE GOT A NERVE! THIS MORNING'S PROVOCATION IS GOING TOO FAR. ONE AGAINST FOUR IS NO JOKE! THEY'RE MAKING US LOOK RIDICULOUS



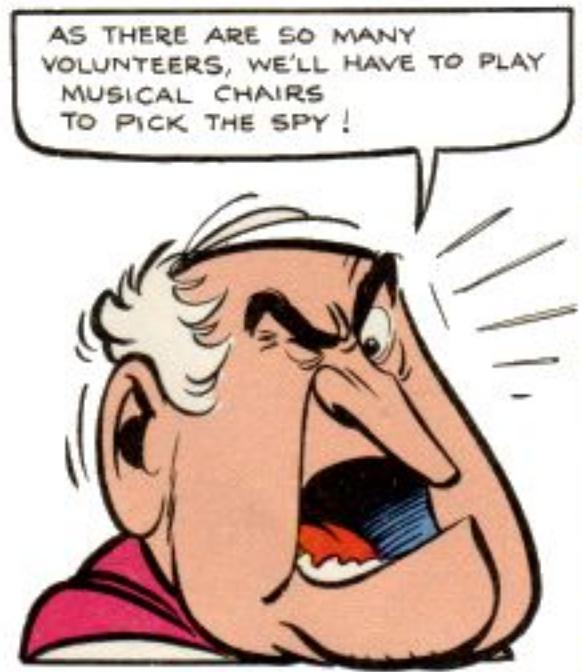
THERE'S SOME MYSTERY BEHIND THE STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS. WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET



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!



?!?



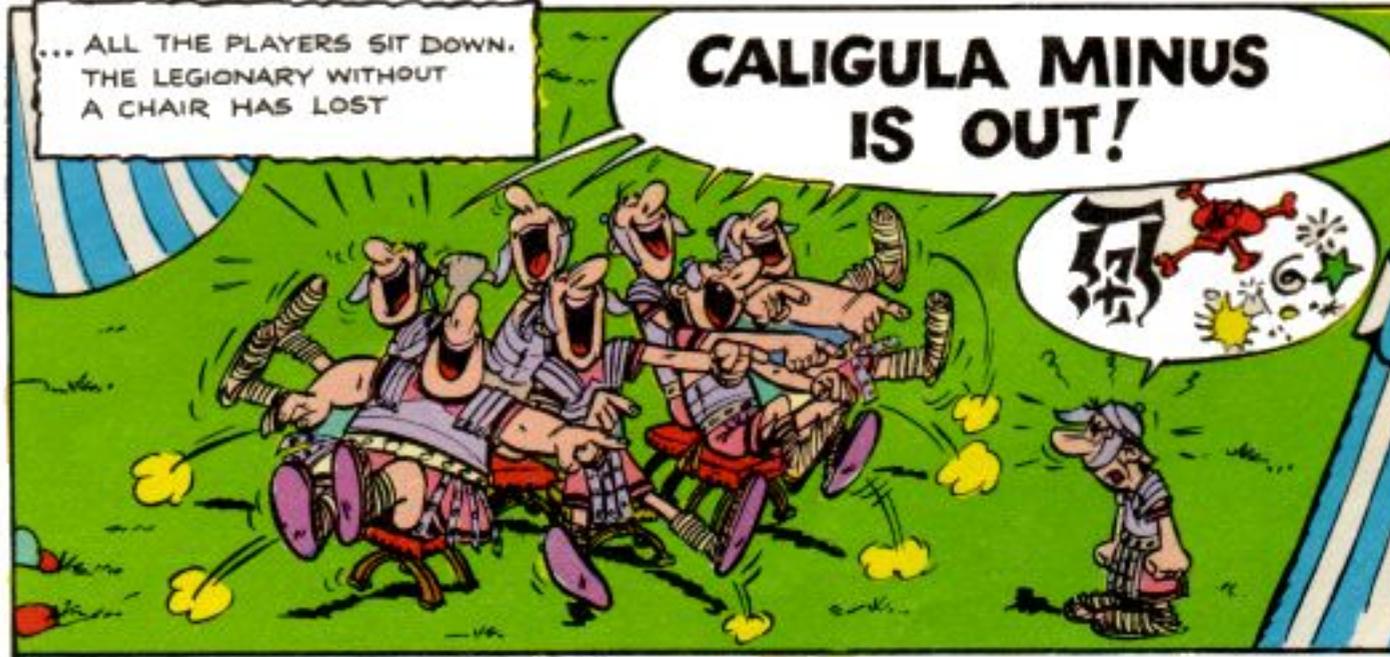
AS THERE ARE SO MANY VOLUNTEERS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS TO PICK THE SPY!



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



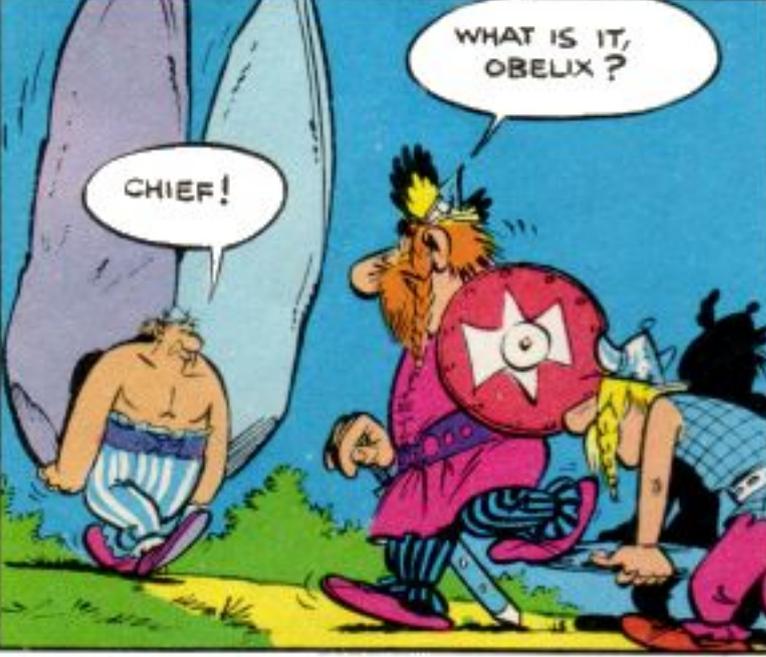
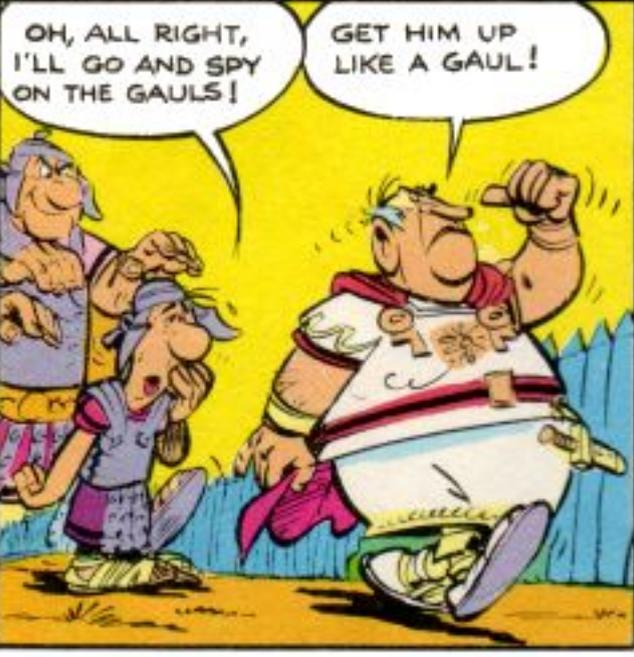
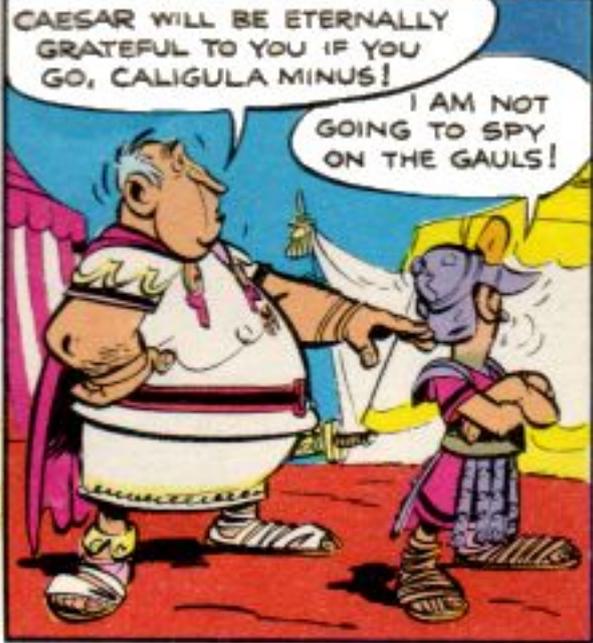
...WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS.....



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

**CALIGULA MINUS IS OUT!**

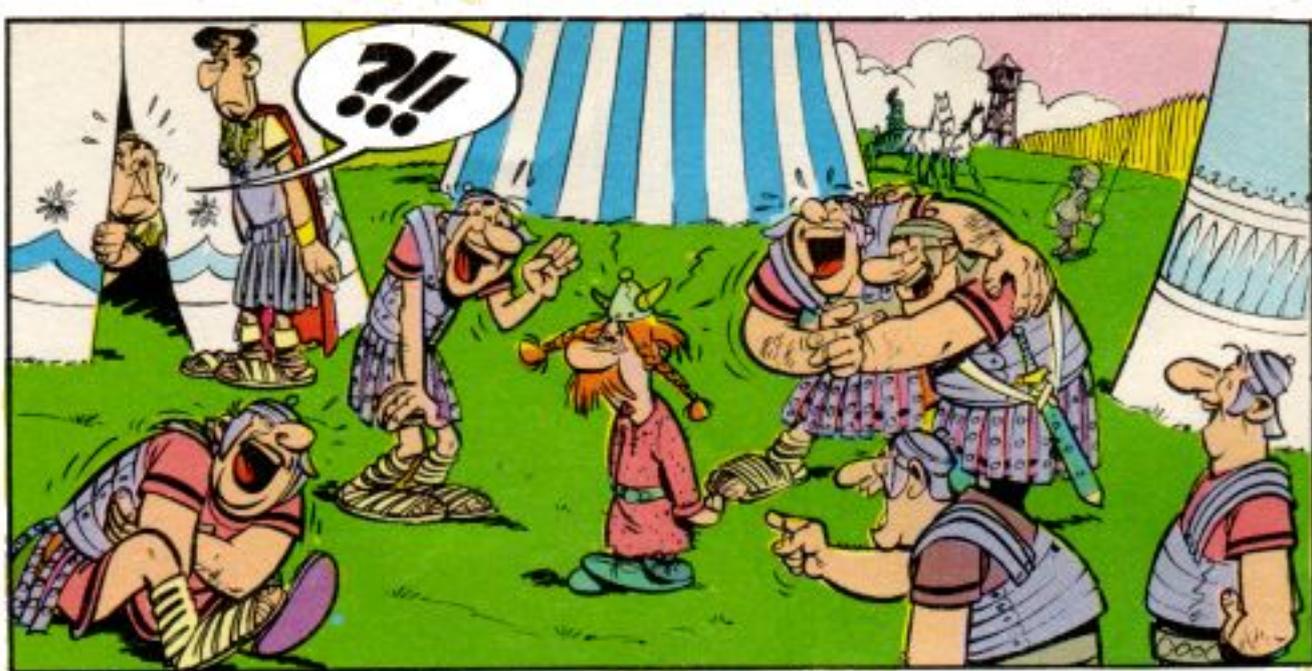
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CALIGULA MINUS IS READY, CRISMUS BONUS. WE'VE DISGUISED HIM AS A GAUL

LETS HAVE A LOOK...



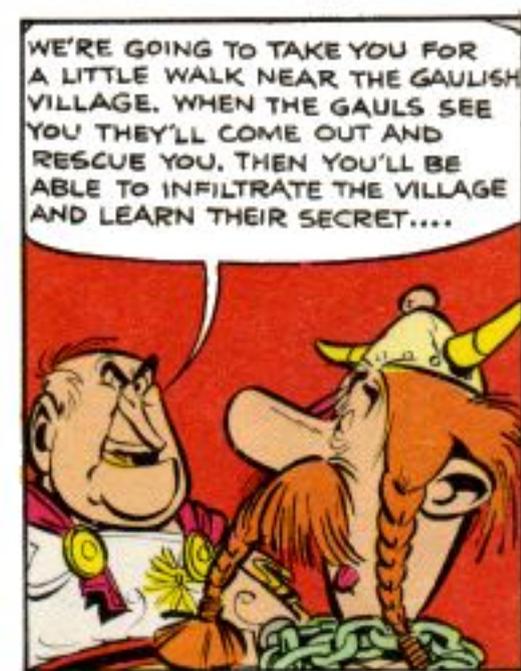
?!



HA! HA!  
Ho! Ho!  
PUT HIM IN CHAINS  
HA! HA!



WHASSUP?



WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU FOR A LITTLE WALK NEAR THE GAULISH VILLAGE. WHEN THE GAULS SEE YOU THEY'LL COME OUT AND RESCUE YOU. THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO INFILTRATE THE VILLAGE AND LEARN THEIR SECRET....



THAT'S MY PLAN. WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I DON'T. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF IT



TAKE HIM AWAY!

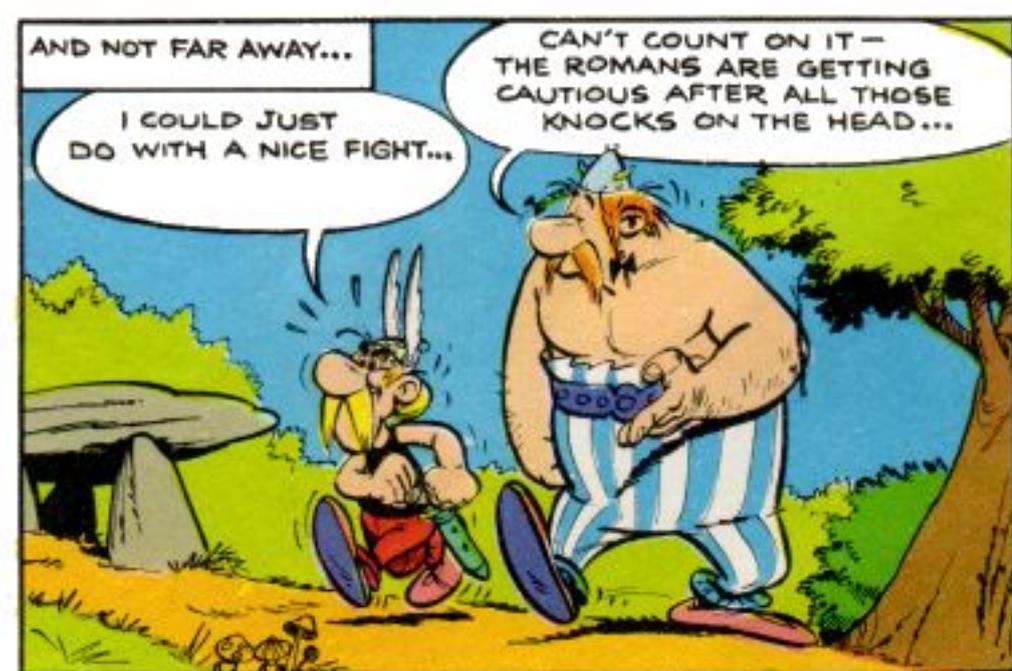
OUCH!  
CAREFUL! I'M A ROMAN!  
I'M ONLY A PRETEND GAUL!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

IS THIS WALK GOING ON MUCH LONGER?

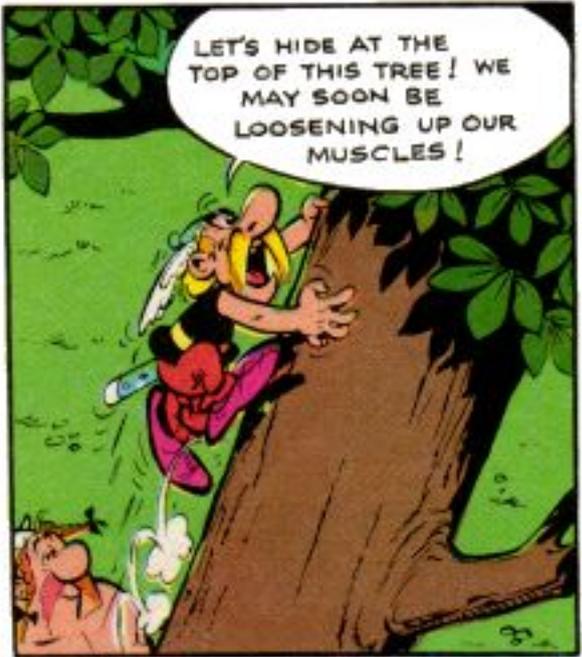
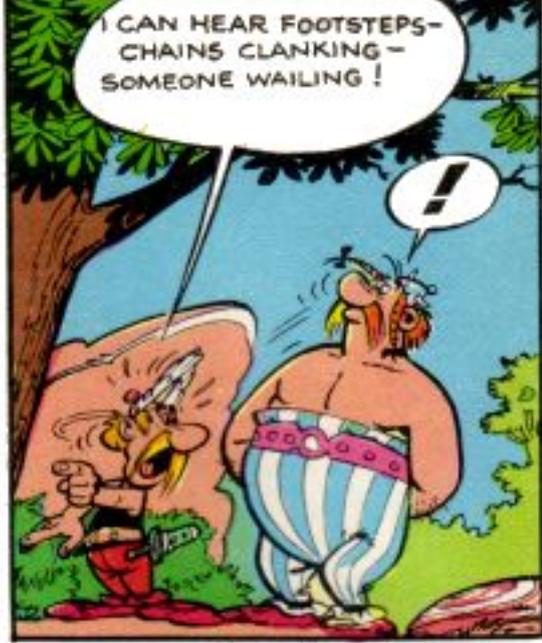
SHUT UP, CALIGULA MINUS!

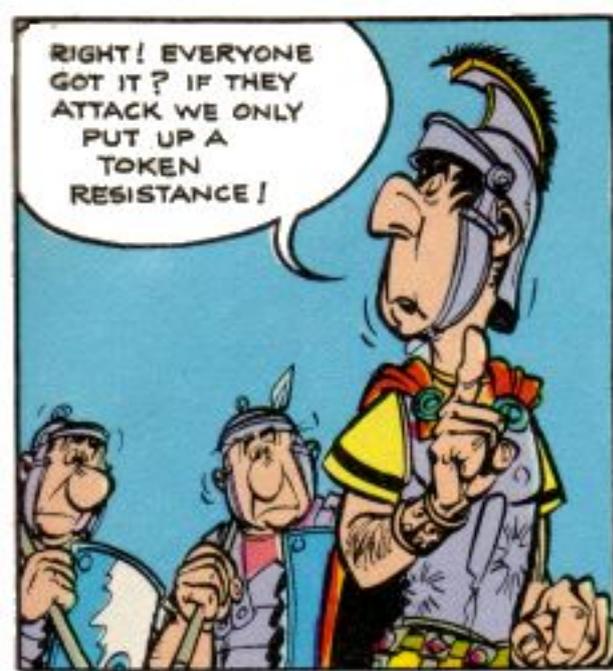


AND NOT FAR AWAY...

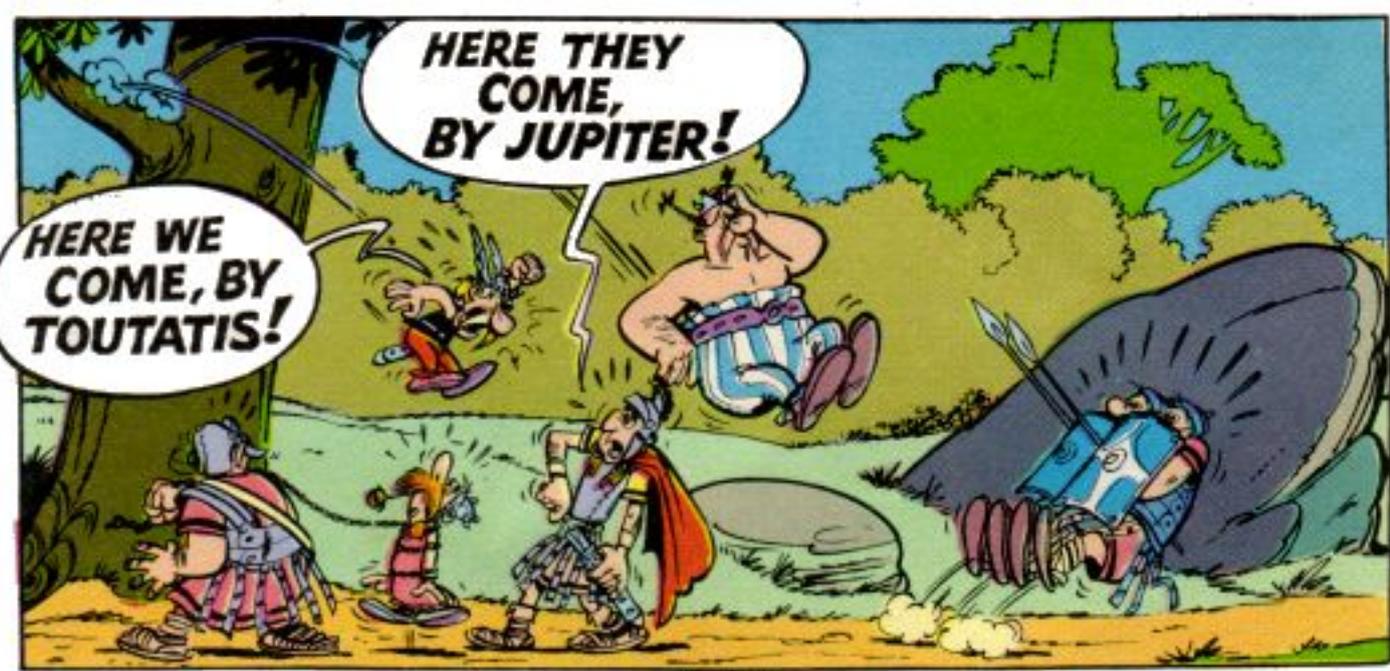
I COULD JUST DO WITH A NICE FIGHT...

CAN'T COUNT ON IT - THE ROMANS ARE GETTING CAUTIOUS AFTER ALL THOSE KNOCKS ON THE HEAD...





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



HERE WE COME, BY TOUTATIS!

HERE THEY COME, BY JUPITER!

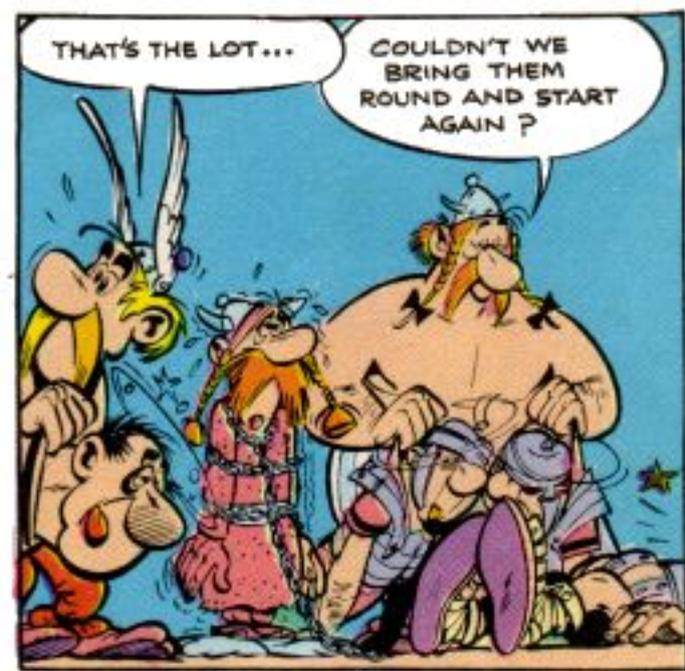


THEY'RE A BIT SOFT TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?

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

PAF!

CLONG!



THAT'S THE LOT...

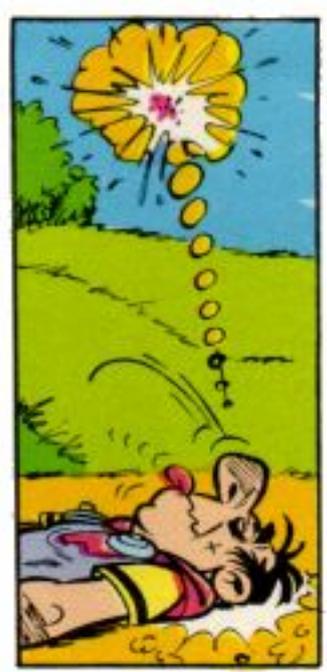
COULDN'T WE BRING THEM ROUND AND START AGAIN?



NO, COME ON! IT'S GETTING LATE



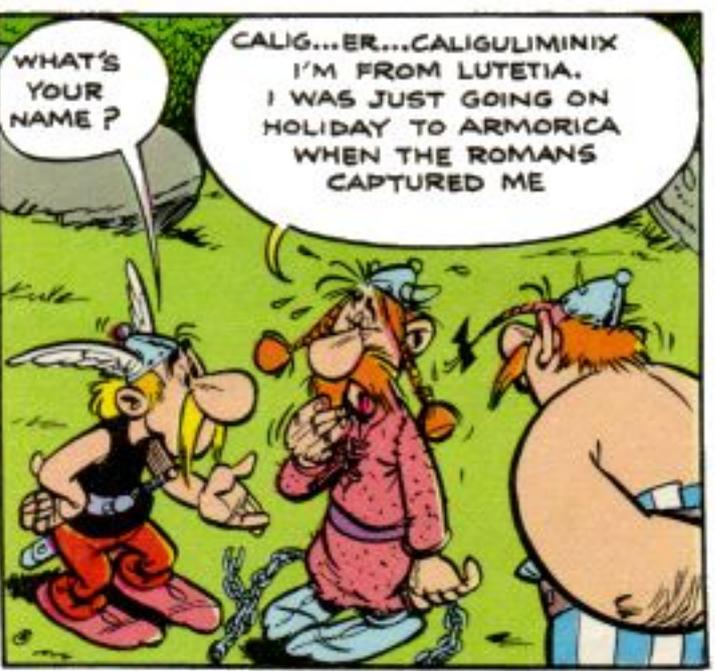
MI - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



WE WILL STRIKE OFF YOUR CHAINS!

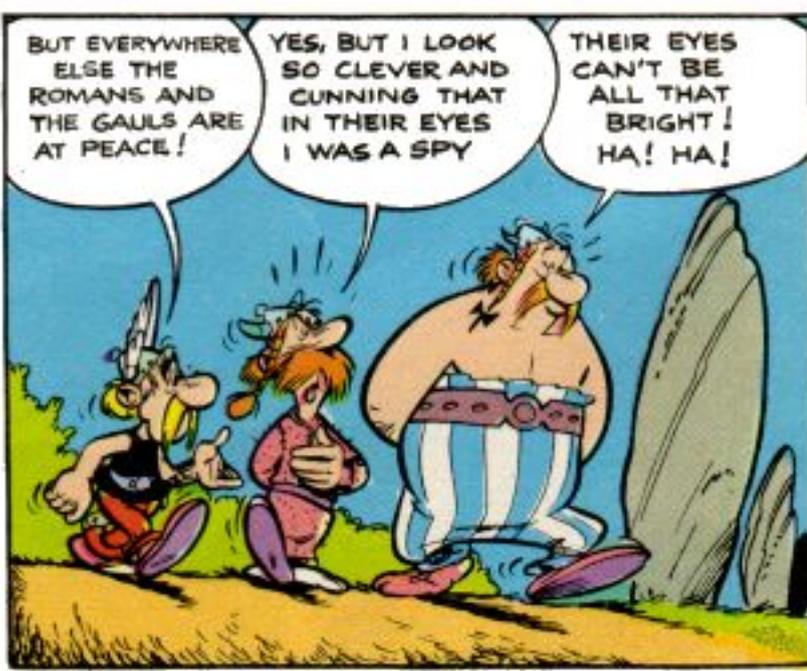
BUT YOU'LL NEED TOOLS... A HAMMER!

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

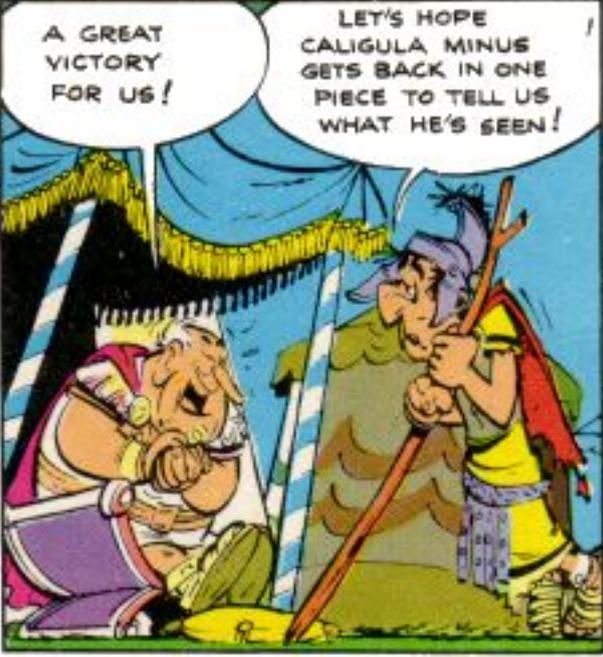


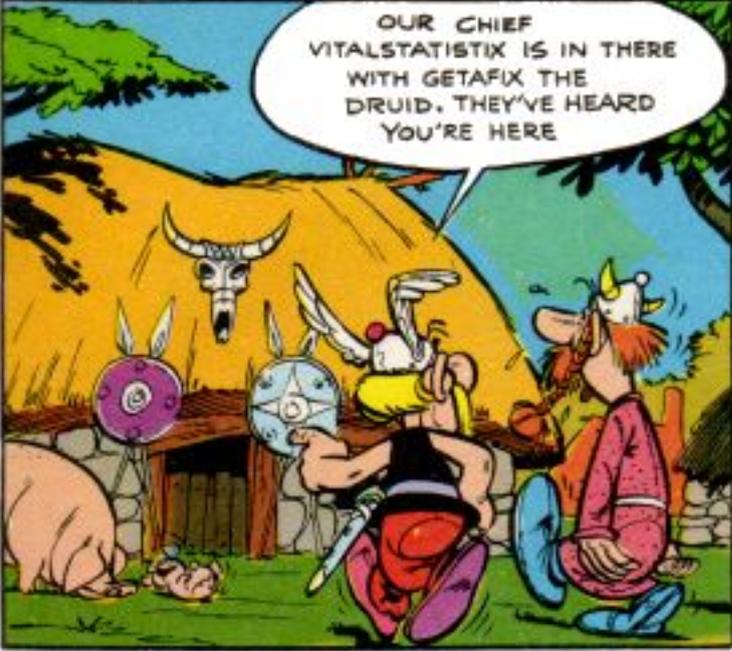
BUT EVERYWHERE ELSE THE ROMANS AND THE GAULS ARE AT PEACE!

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 VITALSTATITIX IS IN THERE WITH GETAFIX THE DRUID. THEY'VE HEARD YOU'RE HERE

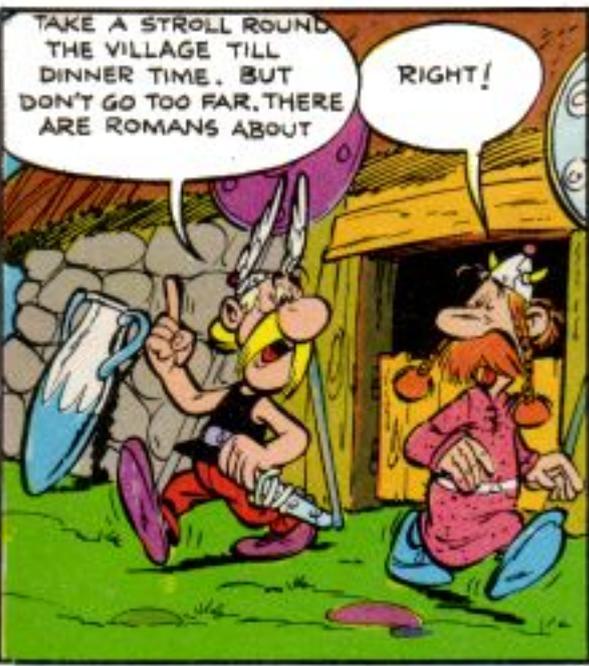


WELCOME, BROTHER! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

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

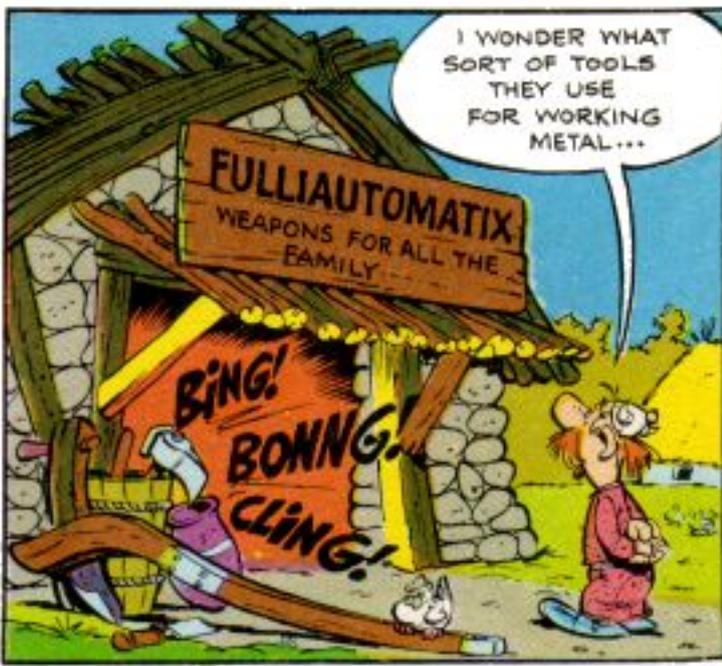
I WILL NOW SING A SONG OF WELCOME!

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

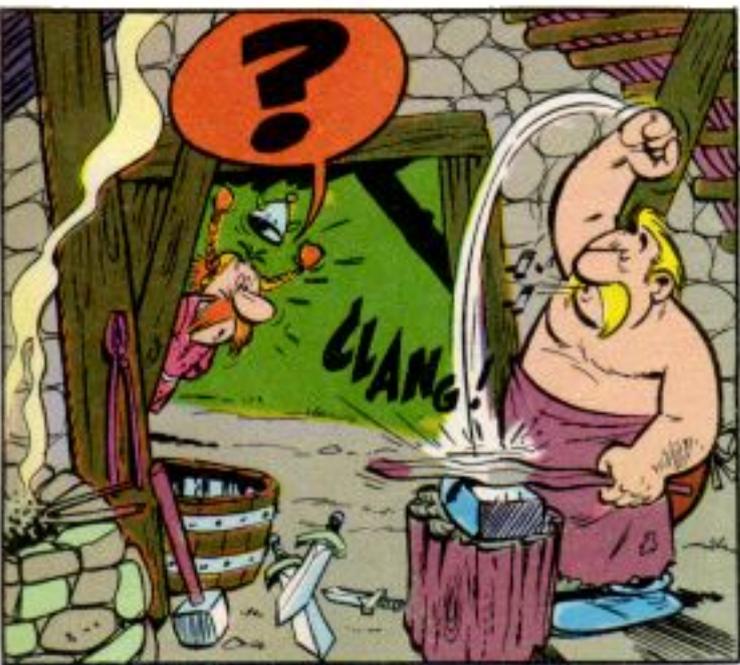


TAKE A STROLL ROUND THE VILLAGE TILL DINNER TIME. BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR. THERE ARE ROMANS ABOUT

RIGHT!



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

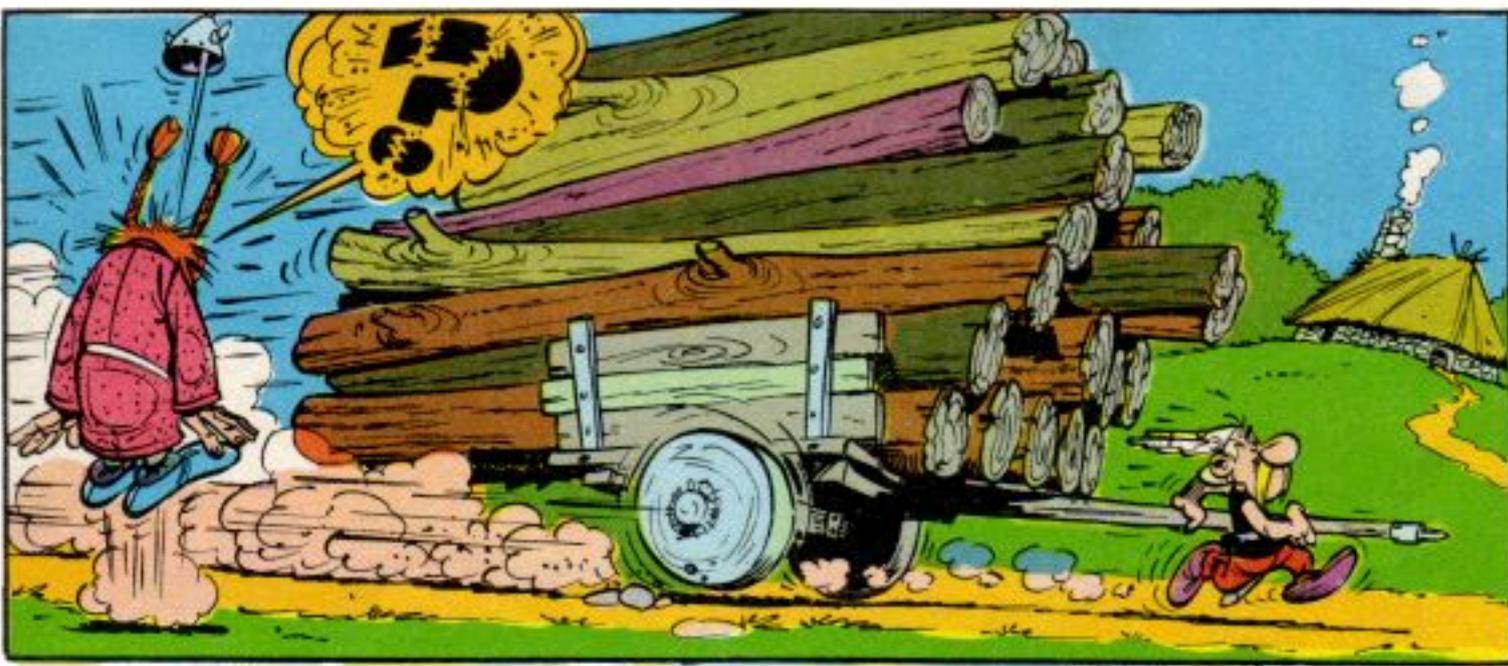


HIS HANDS, BY JUPITER! HIS BARE HANDS!



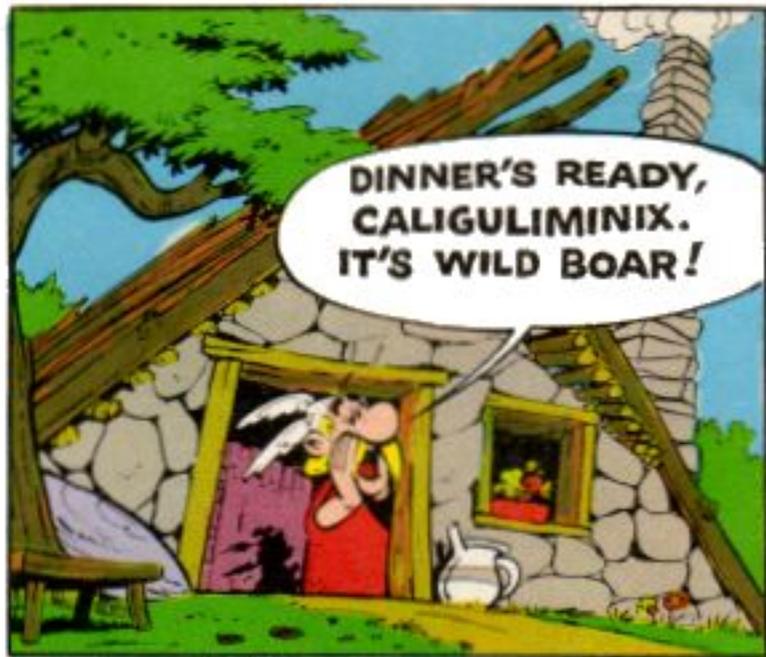
HOW'S THAT MENHIR GOING?

OH, IT'S COMING ALONG!

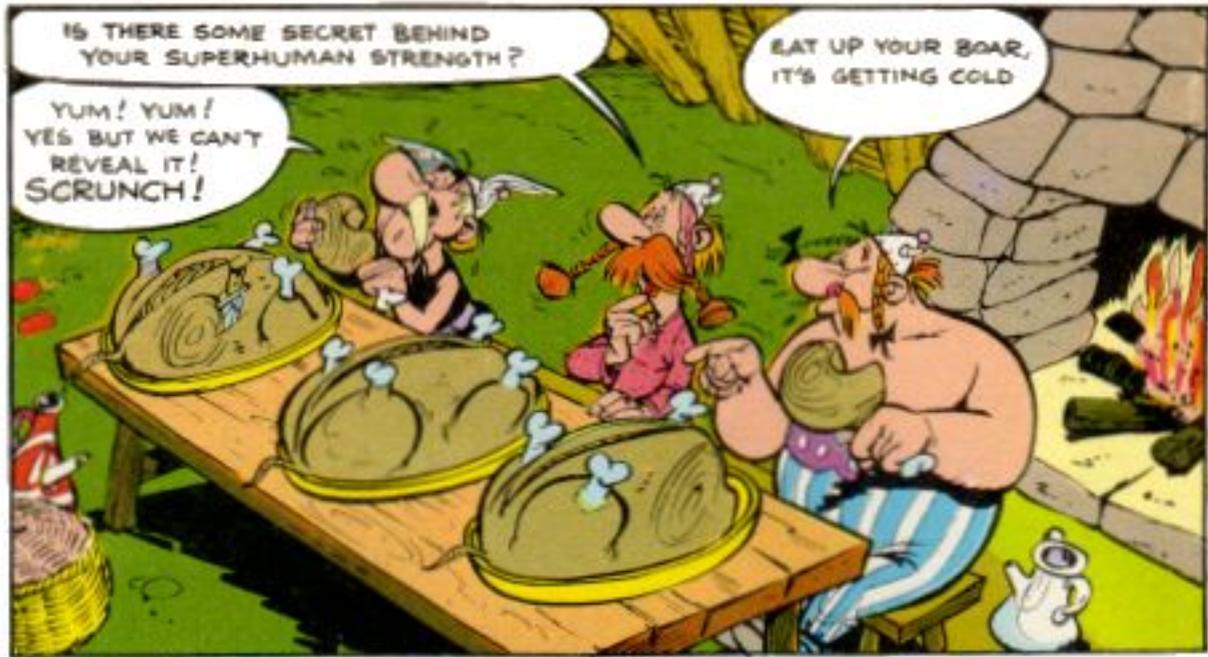


THEY CERTAINLY ARE VERY STRONG...MAYBE CRISMUS BONUS WAS RIGHT. THEY MUST HAVE SOME SECRET!





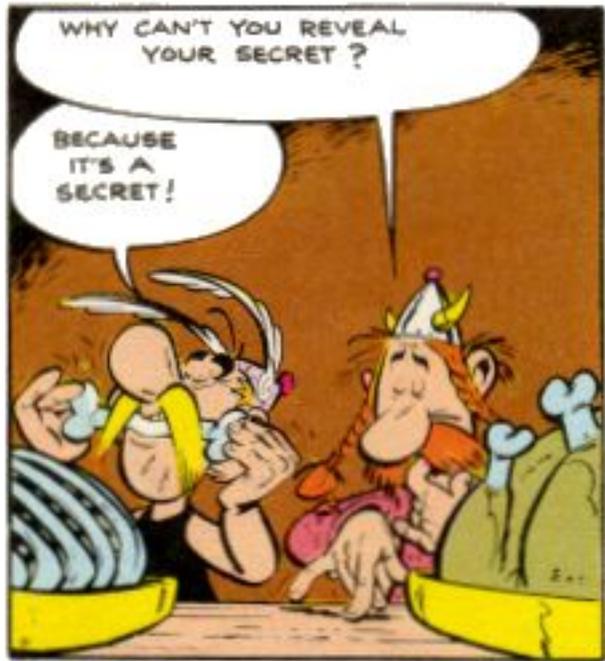
DINNER'S READY, CALIGULIMINIX. IT'S WILD BOAR!



IS THERE SOME SECRET BEHIND YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH?

EAT UP YOUR BOAR, IT'S GETTING COLD

YUM! YUM! YES BUT WE CAN'T REVEAL IT! SCRUNCH!



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

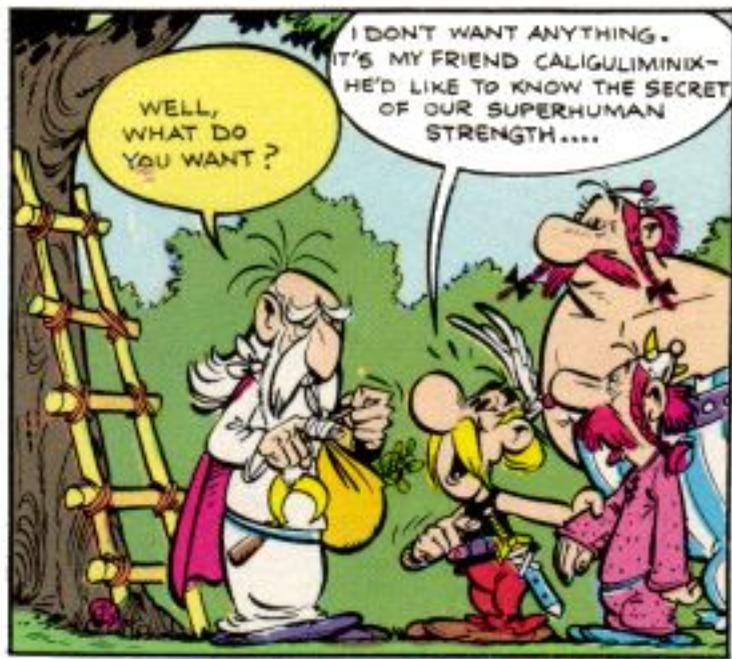


HI, DRUID!

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....

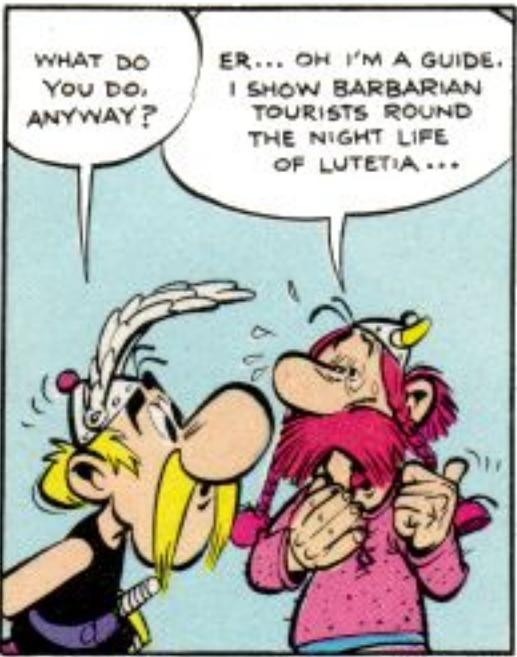


NOTHING DOING!

!



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...

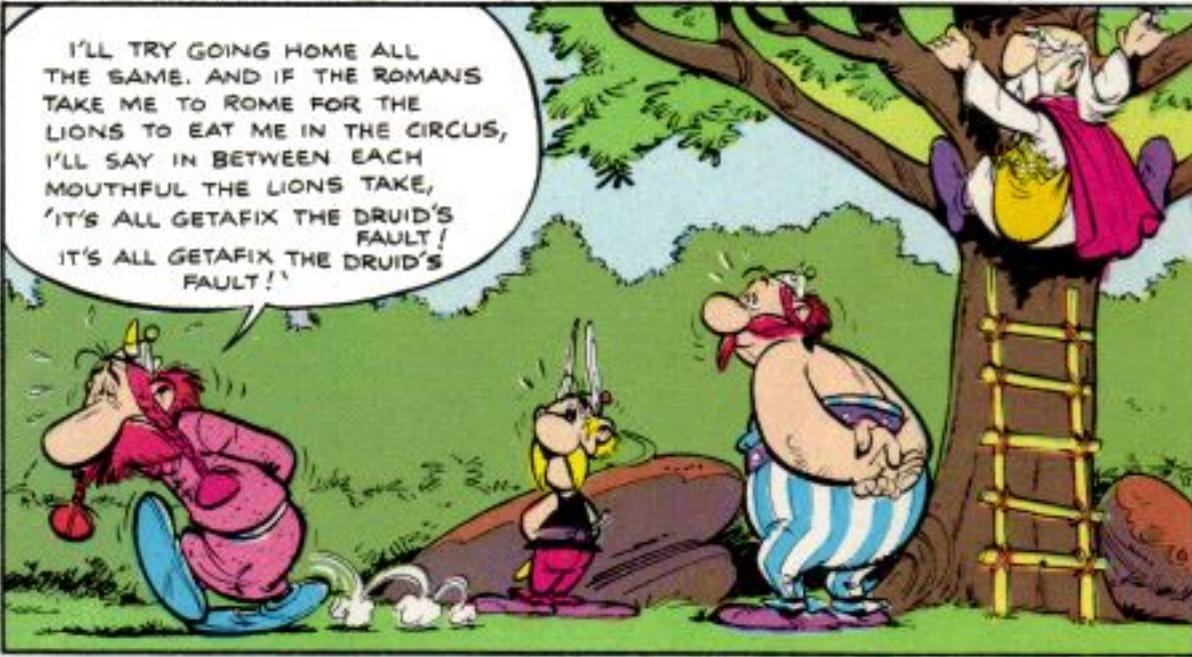


WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT, DRUID?

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



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



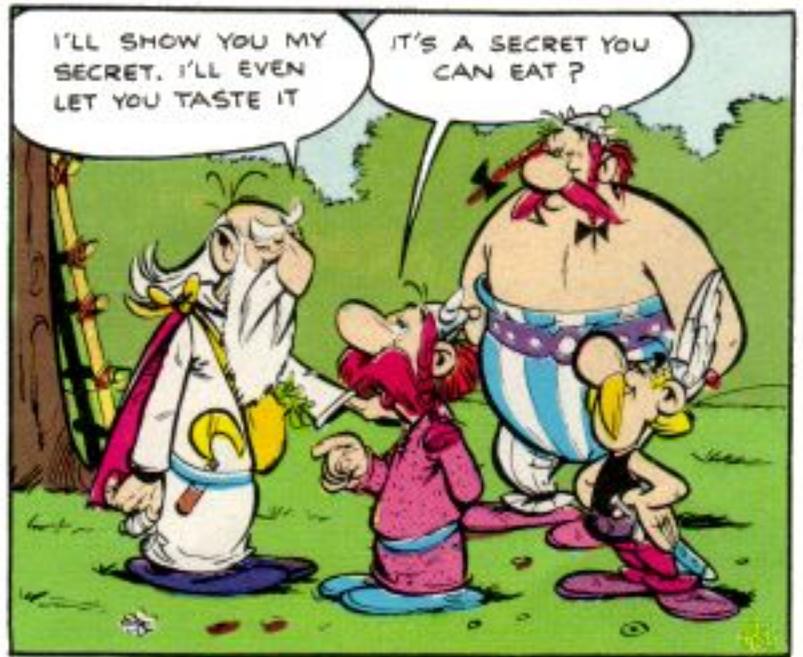
I'LL TRY GOING HOME ALL THE SAME. AND IF THE ROMANS TAKE ME TO ROME FOR THE LIONS TO EAT IN THE CIRCUS, I'LL SAY IN BETWEEN EACH MOUTHFUL THE LIONS TAKE, 'IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT! IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT!'



OH, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!

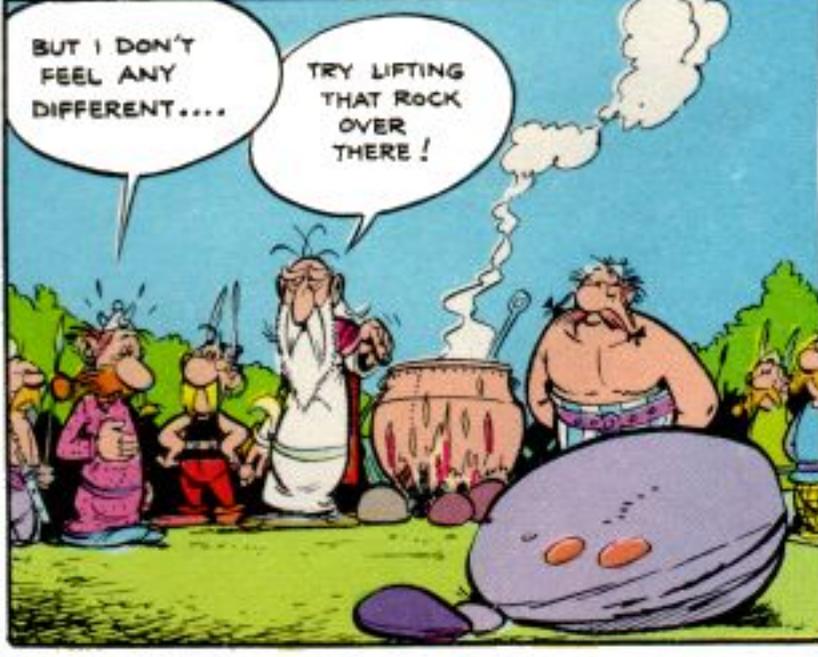
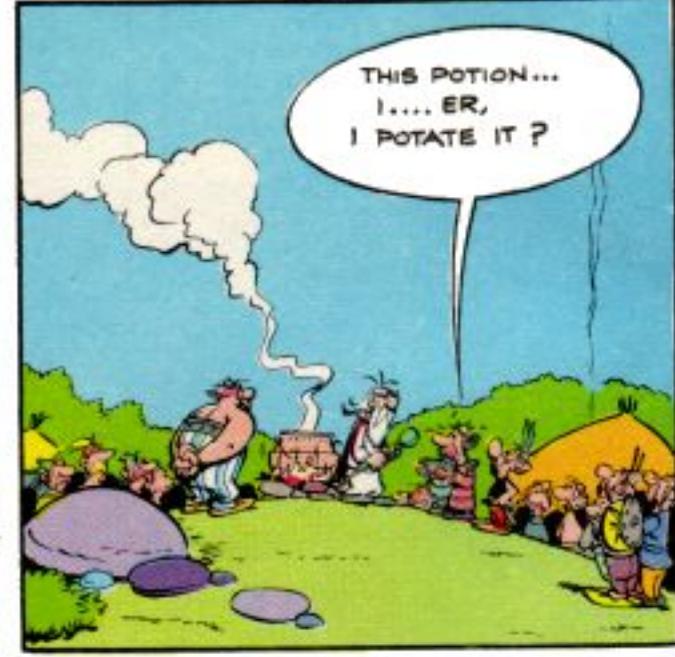
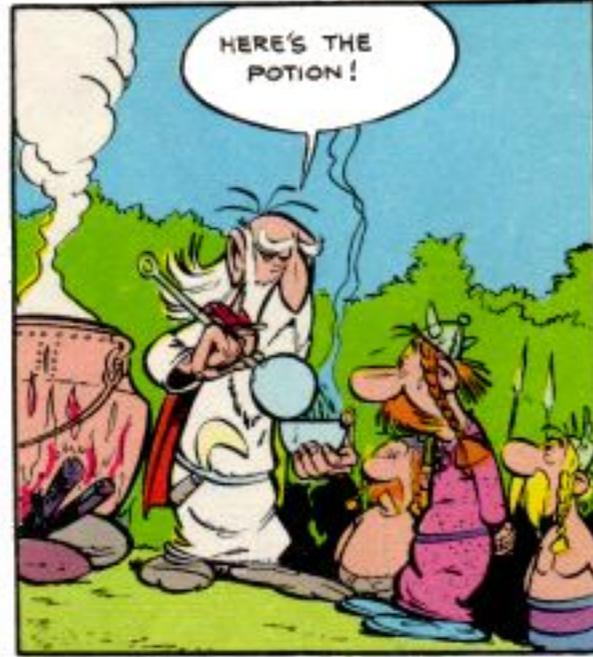
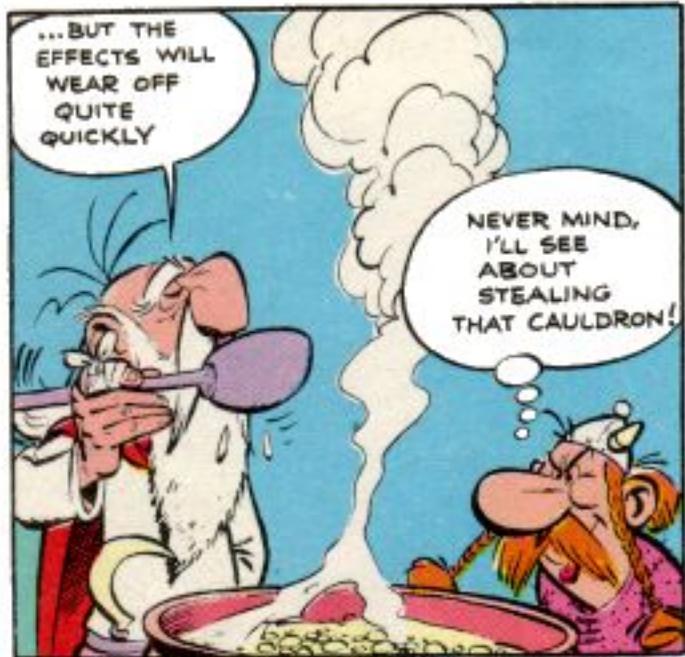
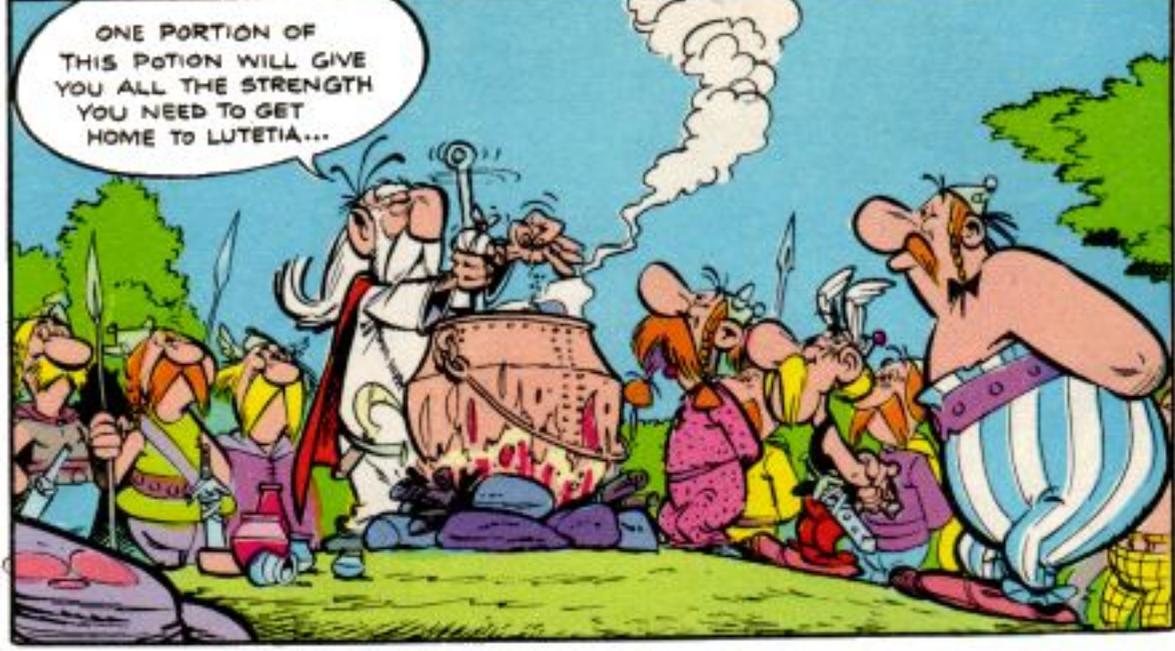


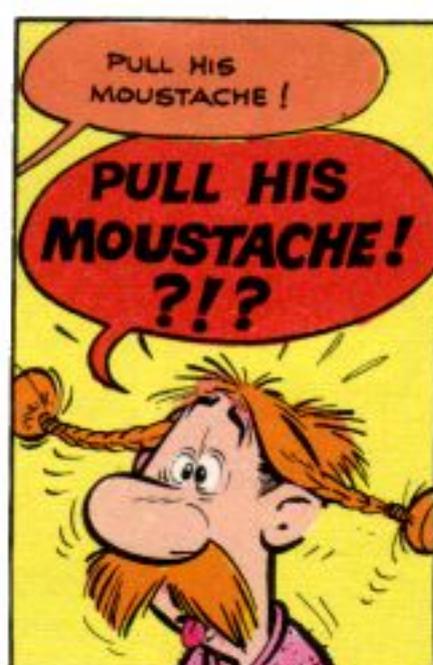
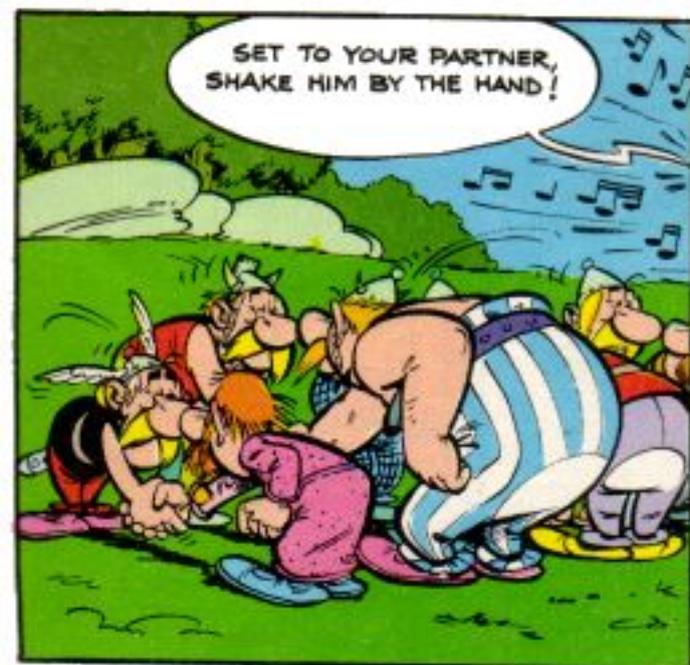
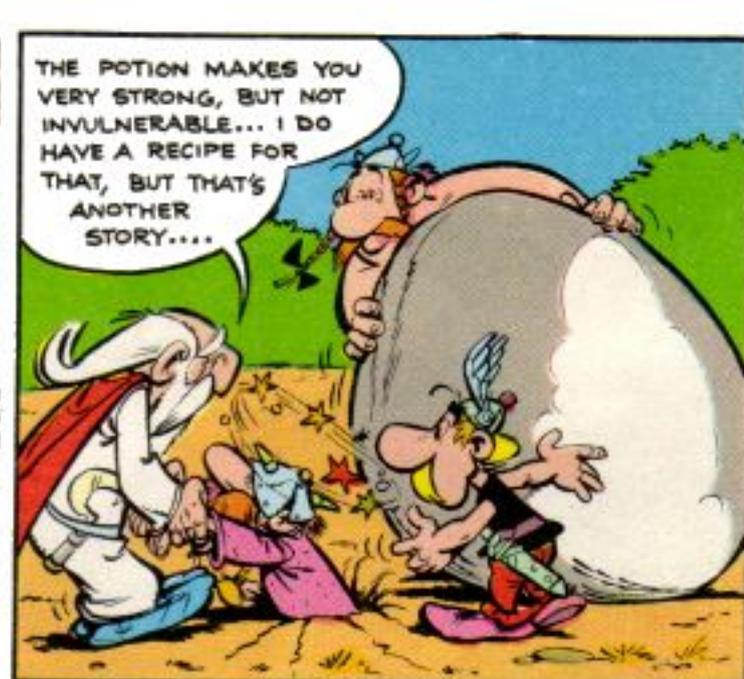
COME BACK, CALIGULIMINIX!

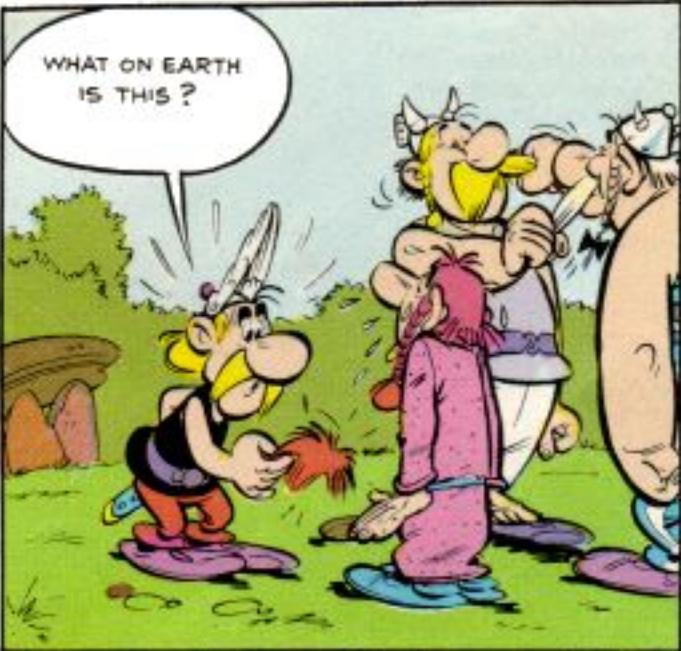


I'LL SHOW YOU MY SECRET. I'LL EVEN LET YOU TASTE IT

IT'S A SECRET YOU CAN EAT?



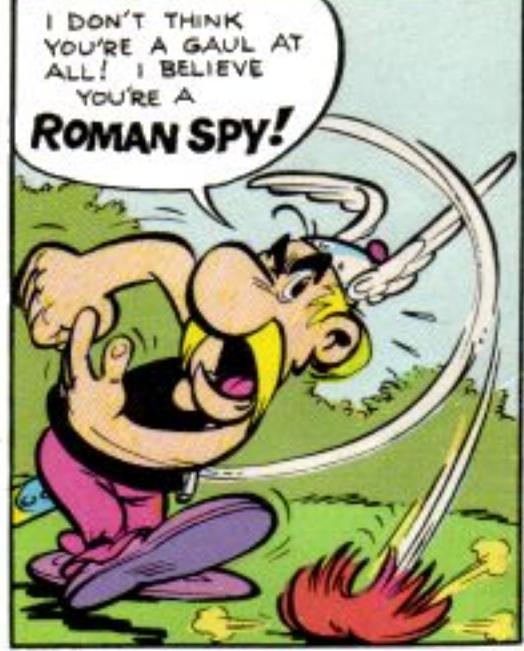




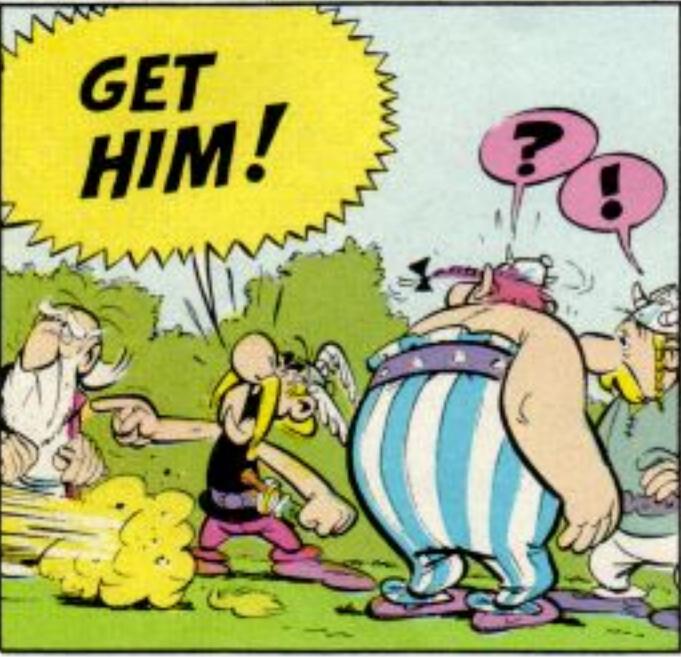
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?



ER....IT'S A DETACHABLE MOUSTACHE! THE LATEST THING FROM LUTETIA!



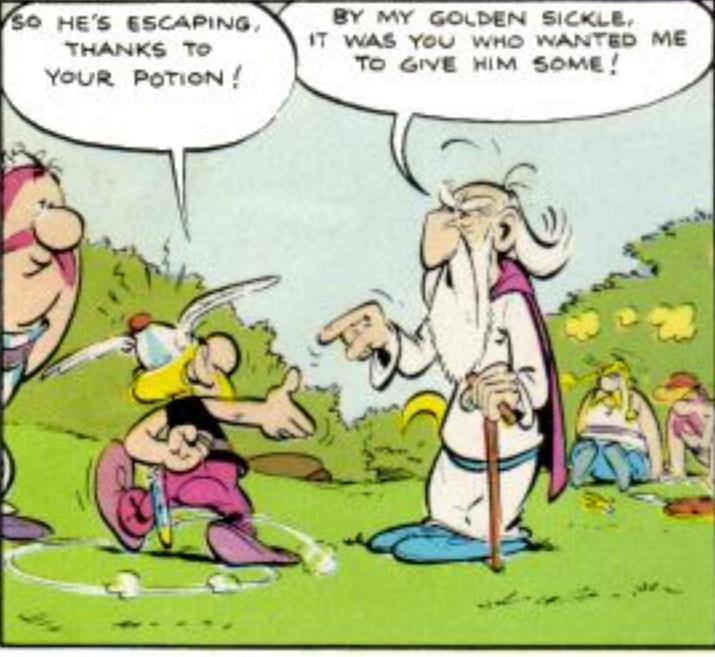
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A GAUL AT ALL! I BELIEVE YOU'RE A ROMAN SPY!



**GET HIM!**

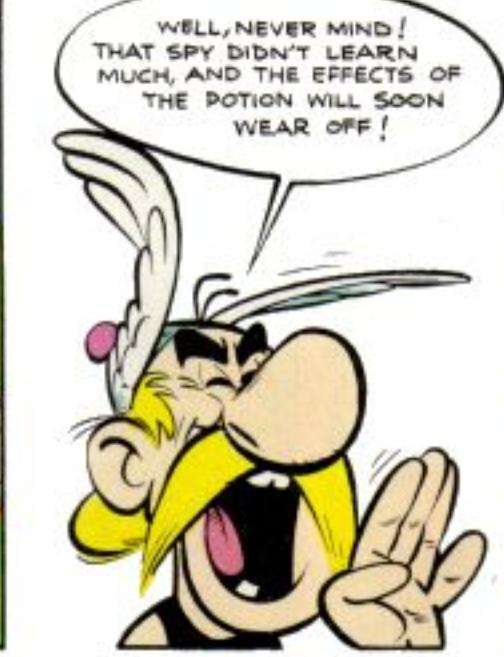


IT'S NO USE GOING AFTER HIM. HE'S JUST HAD THE POTION; HE'S PRACTICALLY INVINCIBLE!

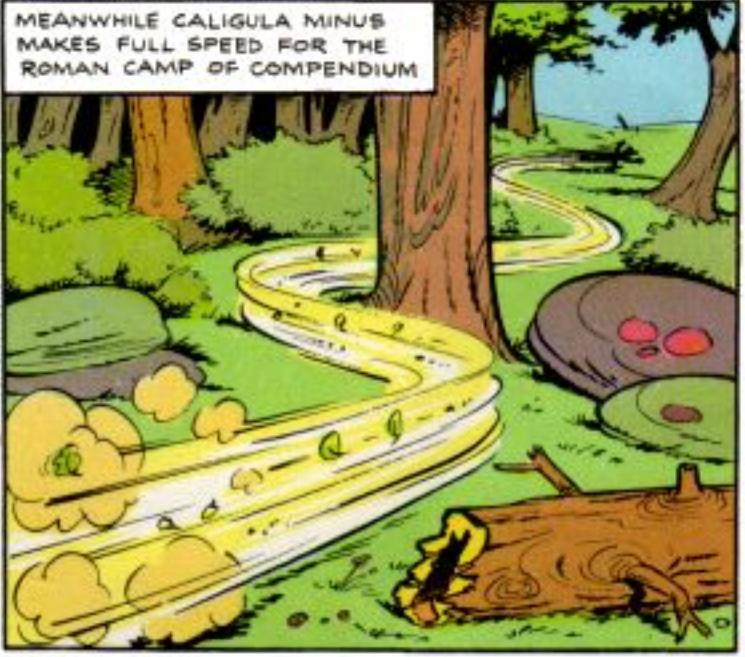


SO HE'S ESCAPING, THANKS TO YOUR POTION!

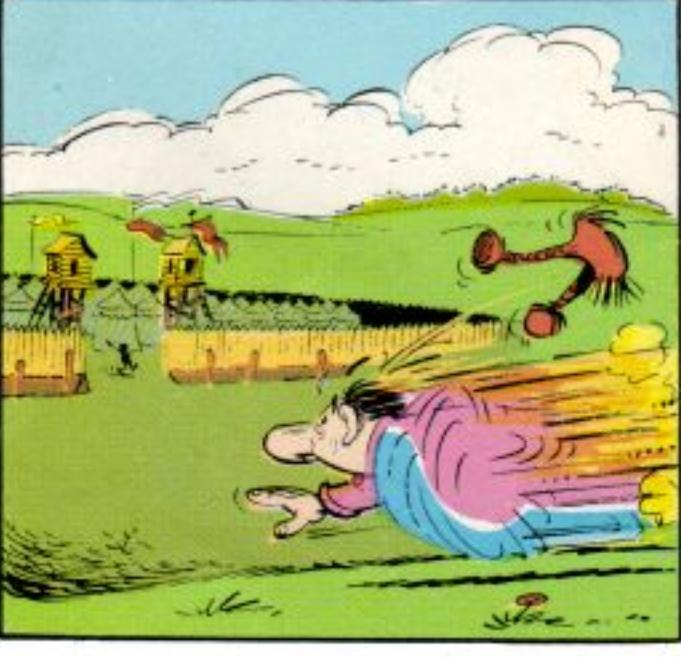
BY MY GOLDEN SICKLE, IT WAS YOU WHO WANTED ME TO GIVE HIM SOME!



WELL, NEVER MIND! THAT SPY DIDN'T LEARN MUCH, AND THE EFFECTS OF THE POTION WILL SOON WEAR OFF!

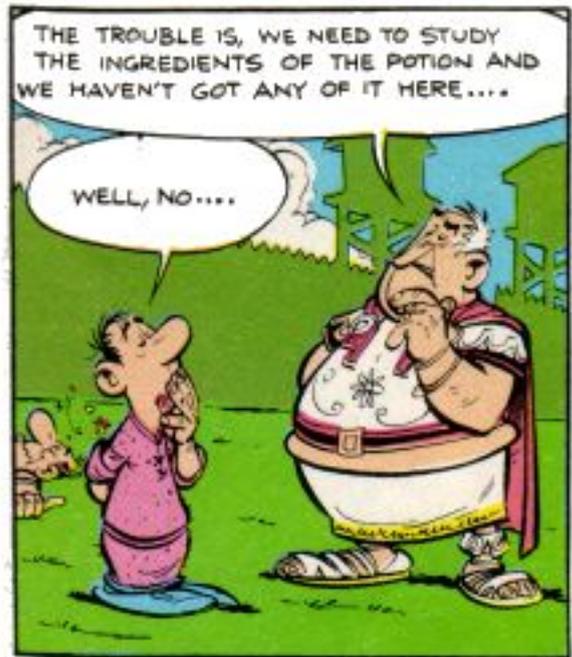
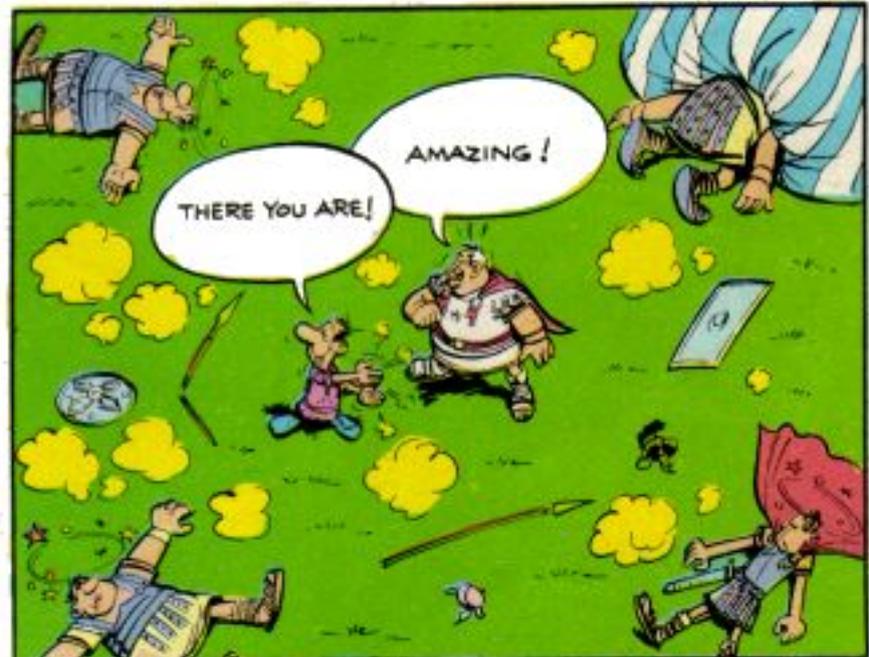
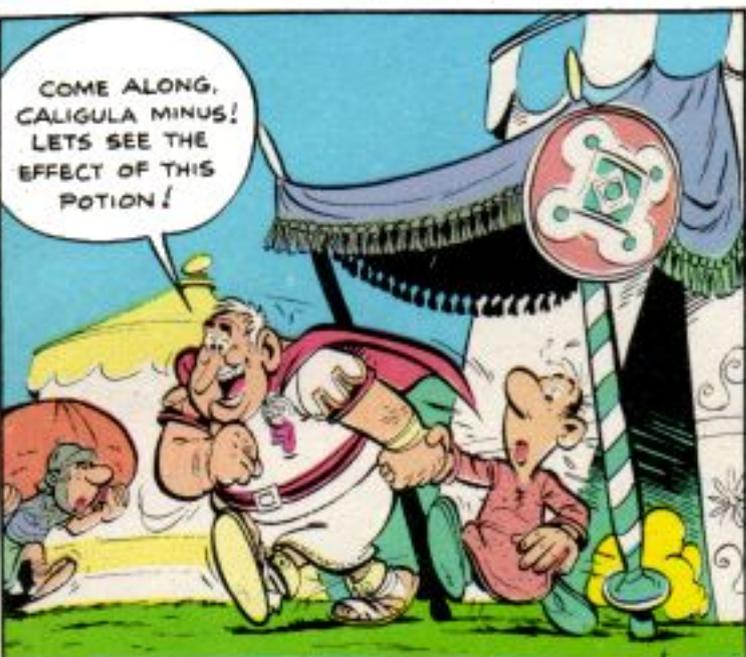
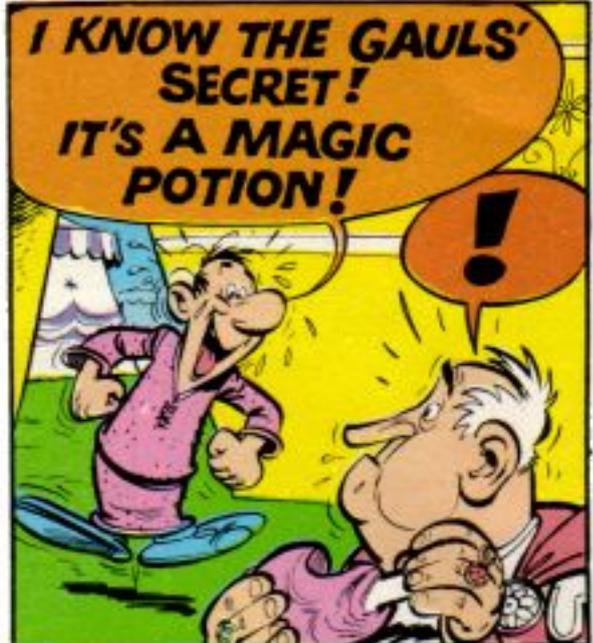


MEANWHILE CALIGULA MINUS MAKES FULL SPEED FOR THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM



**HALT!**  
QUO VADIS, GAUL?







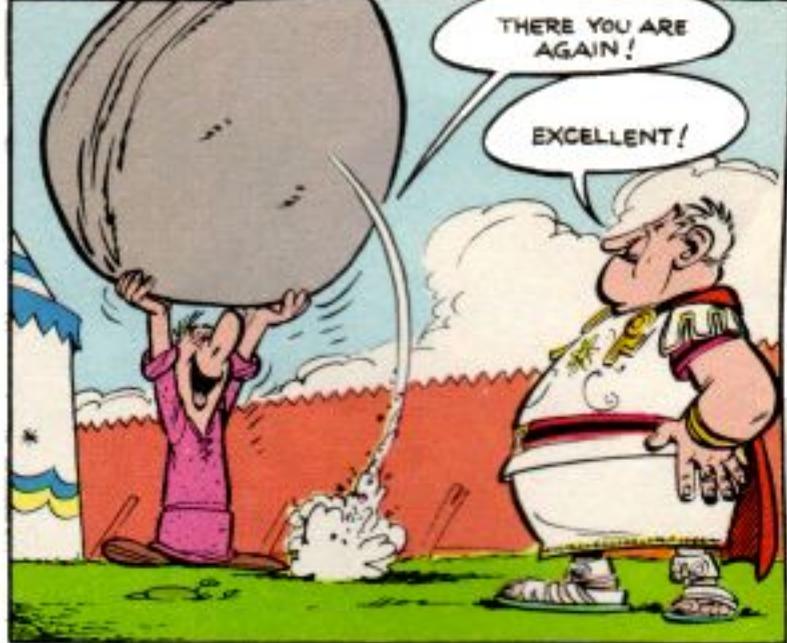
SO HOW LONG DO THE EFFECTS OF THIS POTION LAST?

DON'T KNOW...



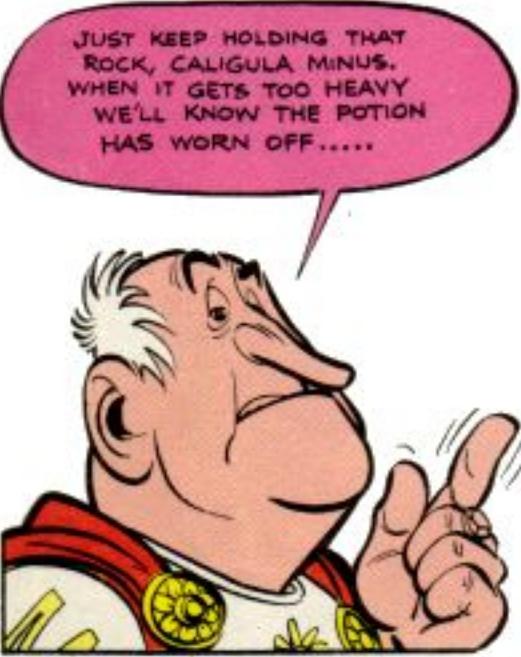
PICK THAT ROCK UP, CALIGULA MINUS

?



THERE YOU ARE AGAIN!

EXCELLENT!



JUST KEEP HOLDING THAT ROCK, CALIGULA MINUS. WHEN IT GETS TOO HEAVY WE'LL KNOW THE POTION HAS WORN OFF.....



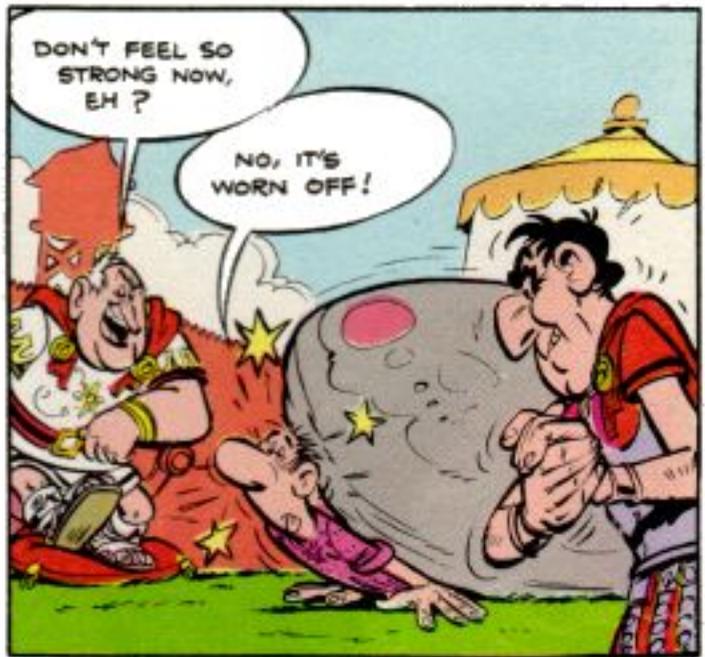
SEVERAL HOURS PASS BY....



WHEN SUDDENLY....



KERPLONK!



DON'T FEEL SO STRONG NOW, EH?

NO, IT'S WORN OFF!



HERE GOES!

ER... LET'S ALL KEEP CALM, SHALL WE?



I MUST GET HOLD OF THE RECIPE FOR THE POTION. WITH THAT RECIPE I CAN BECOME EMPEROR, CRISMUS CAESAR!

BIFF!

BANG!

TCHOC!

WHAM!

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 ANCIENT GAULISH  
AIR



OOPS!



GOT  
HIM!



2) ANCIENT GAULISH  
SWEAR-WORDS



SOON  
AFTERWARDS

WE GOT THE  
DRUID, O  
CRISMUS 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...

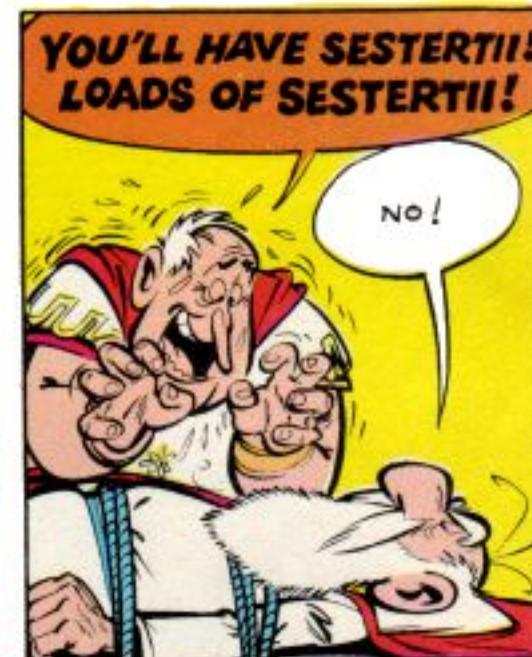
LOOK HERE, DRUID, THIS ISN'T FUNNY! WE'VE BEEN TORTURING YOU FOR HOURS, AND IT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO HURT. THIS WON'T HELP YOU!

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!

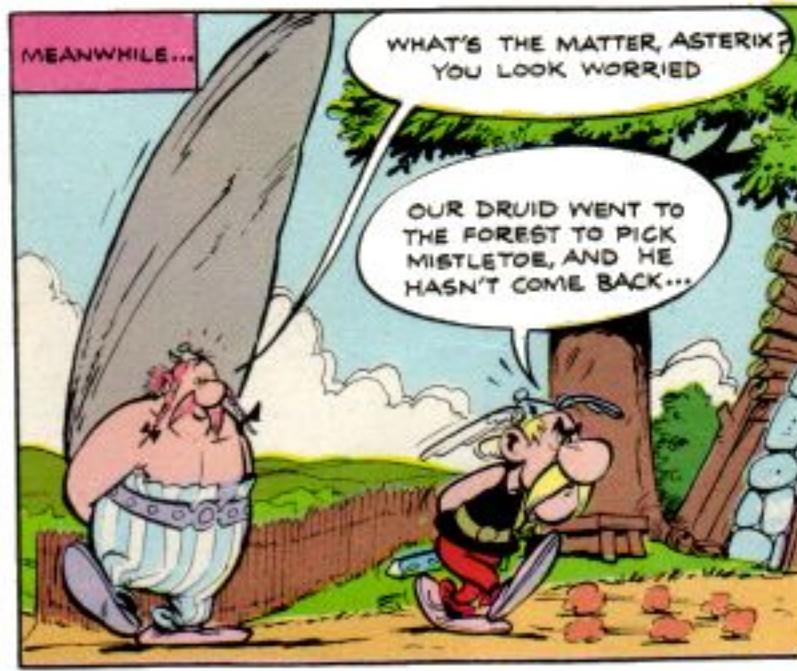
NO!



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



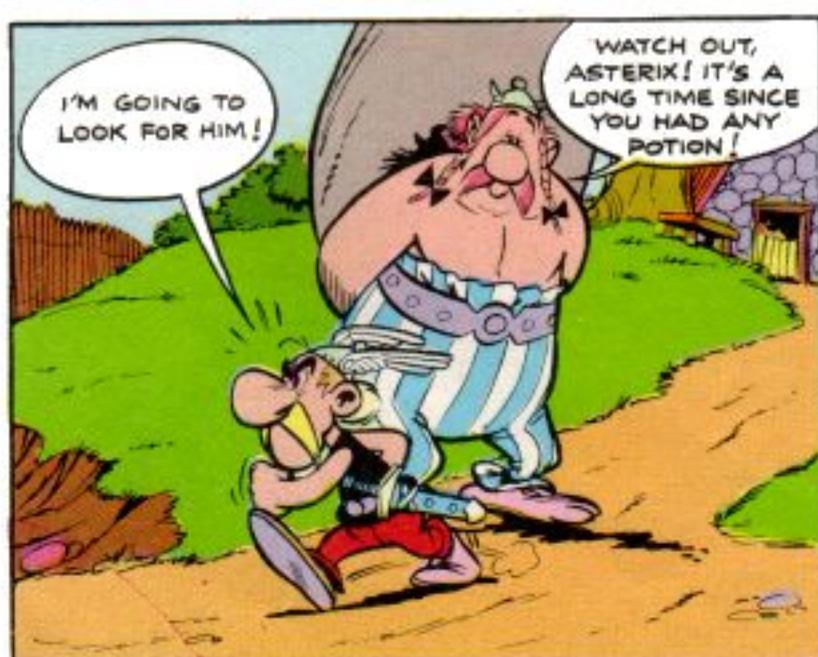
THIS DRUID'S MAGIC POWERS ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME - AND IS HE PIGHEADED!



MEANWHILE...

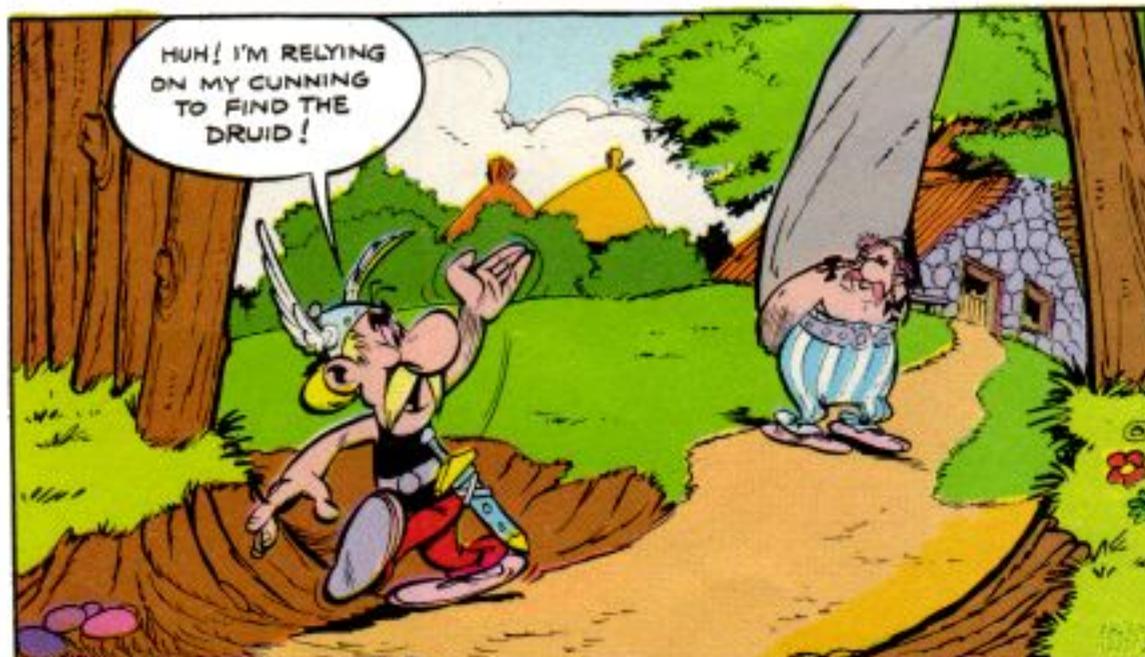
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ASTERIX? YOU LOOK WORRIED

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

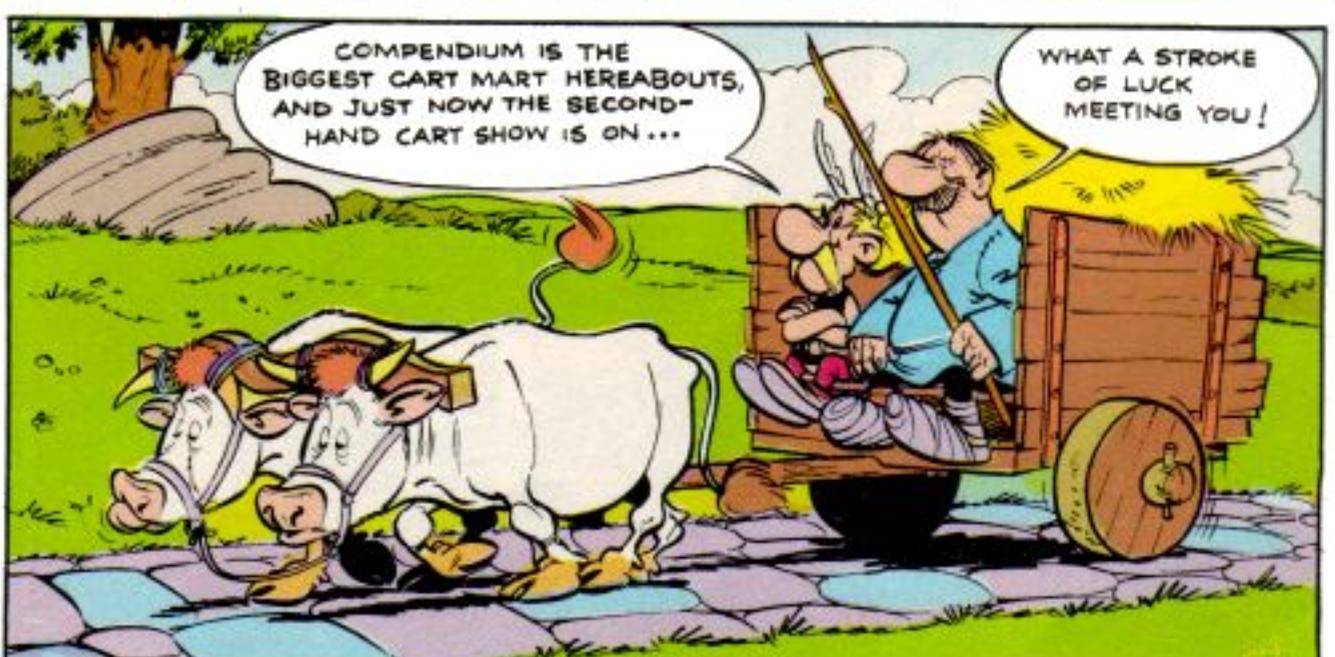
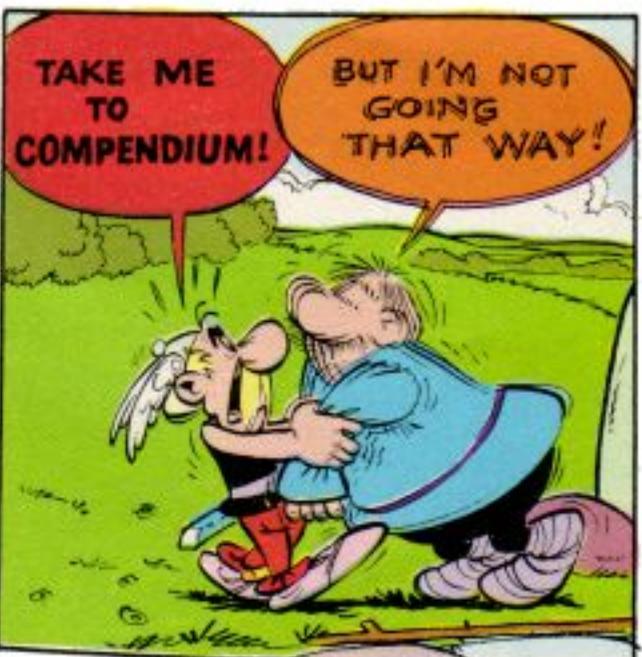
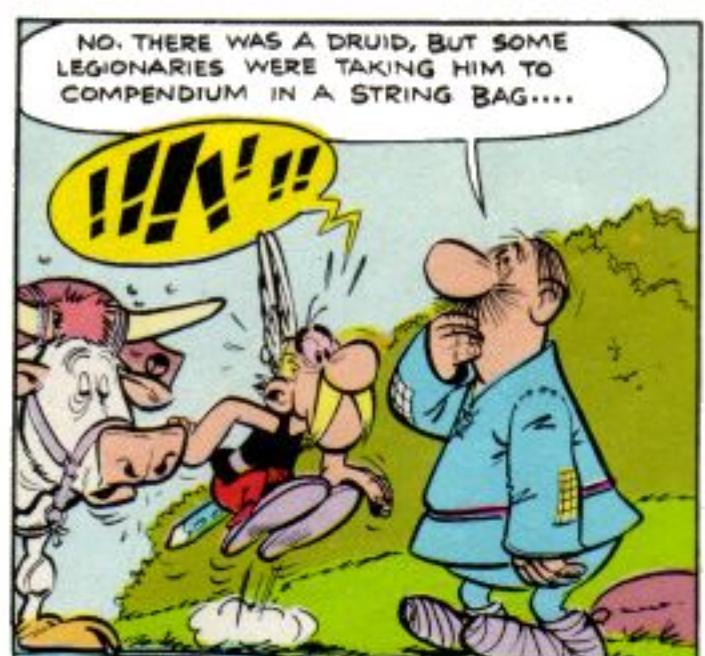
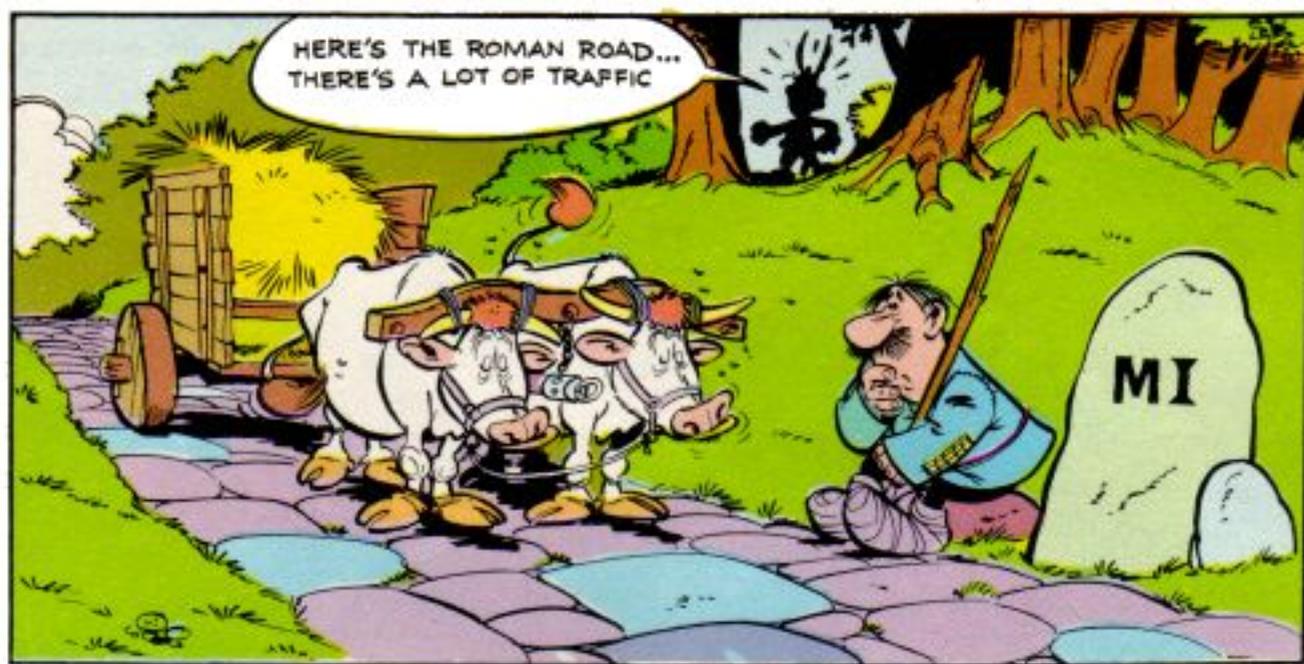


I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM!

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

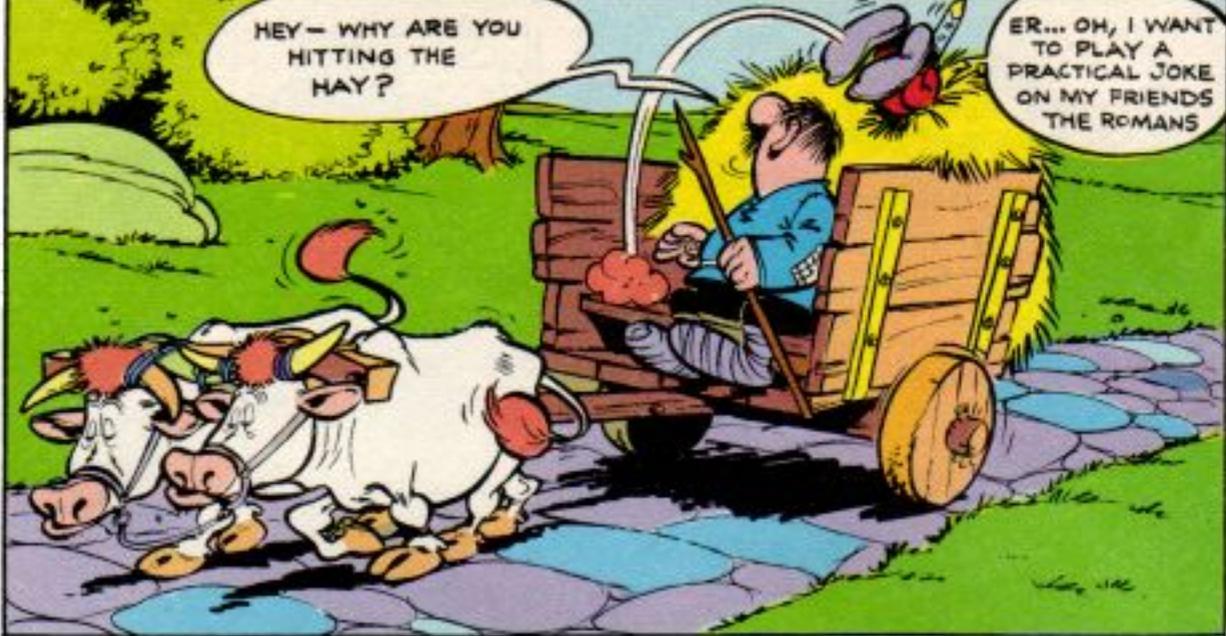


HUH! I'M RELYING ON MY CUNNING TO FIND THE DRUID!





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!

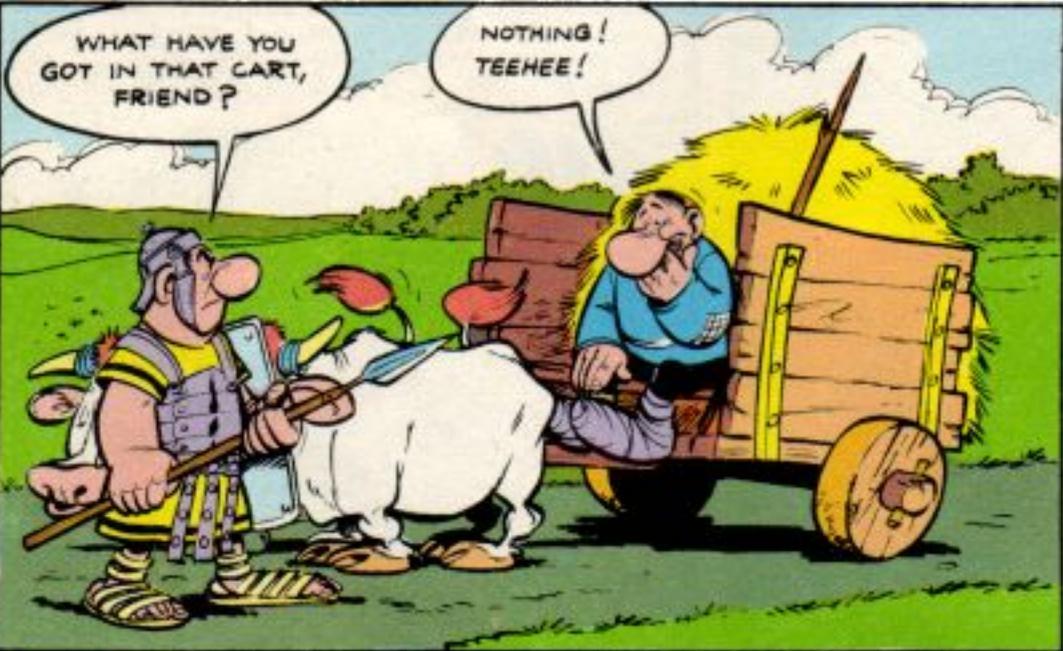


Ho! Ho! Ho!

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



**HALT!**  
WHO GOES THERE?



WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THAT CART, FRIEND?

NOTHING! TEEHEE!

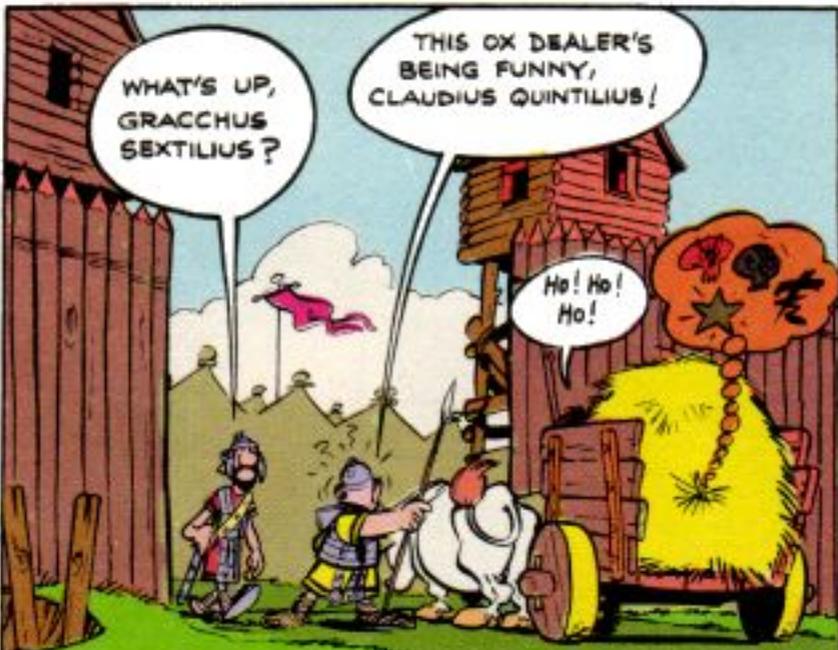


BY JUPITER, ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME?

HA! HA!  
Ho! Ho! Ho!



THIS FATHEAD WILL SPOIL EVERYTHING!



WHAT'S UP, GRACCHUS SEXTILIUS?

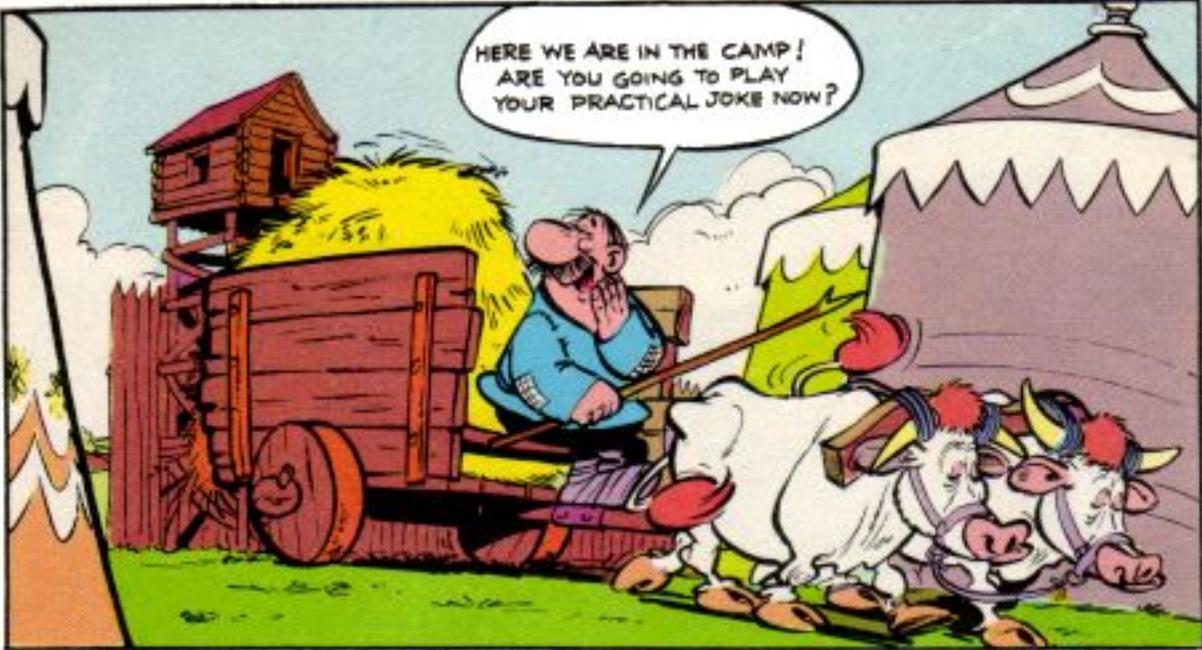
THIS OX DEALER'S BEING FUNNY, CLAUDIUS QUINTILIUS!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

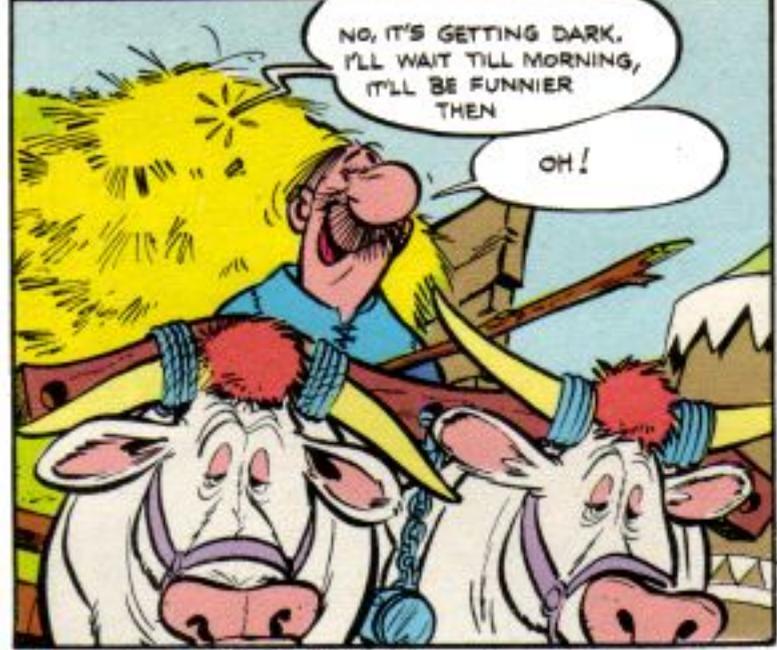


LET HIM PASS. I KNOW HIM. HE'S QUITE HARMLESS!

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...

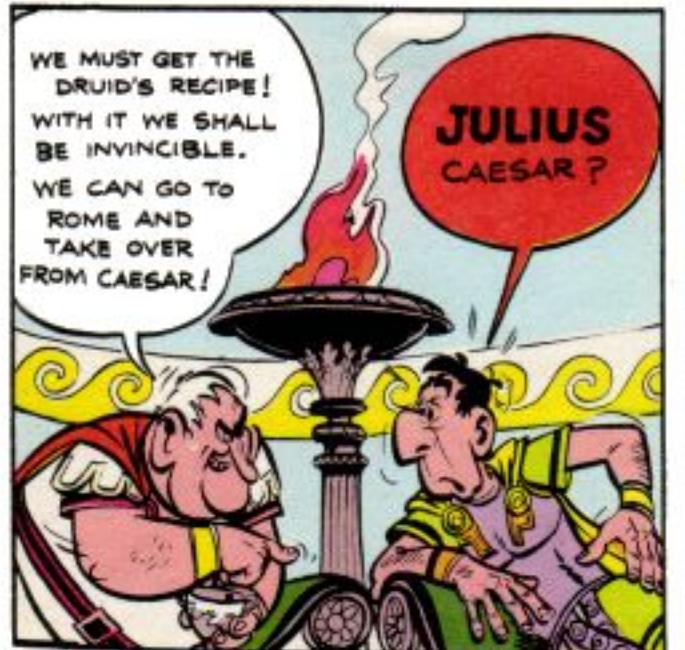


LET'S HAVE A LOOK  
OVER HERE ...



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

THANKS, O  
CRISMUS BONUS!

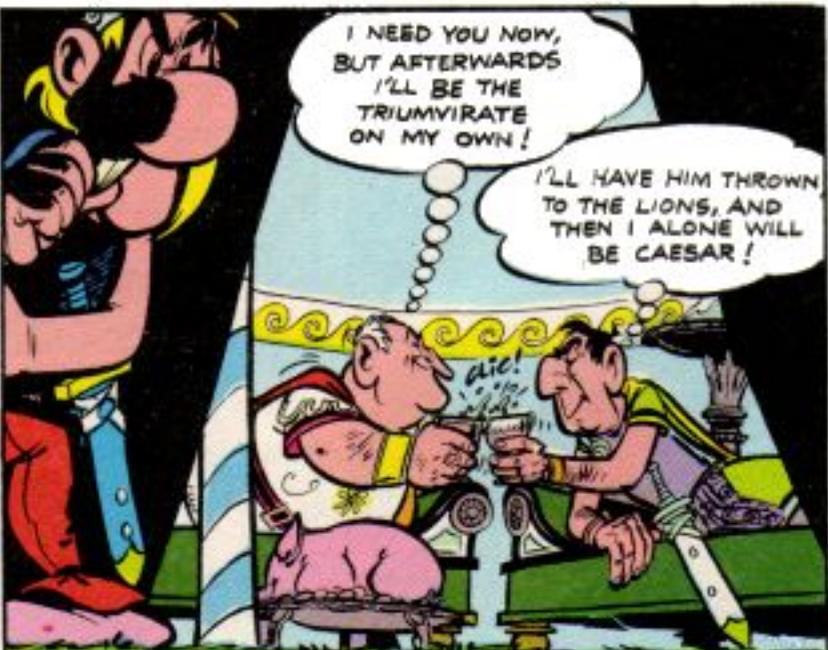


WE MUST GET THE  
DRUID'S RECIPE!  
WITH IT WE SHALL  
BE INVINCIBLE.  
WE CAN GO TO  
ROME AND  
TAKE OVER  
FROM CAESAR!

JULIUS  
CAESAR?

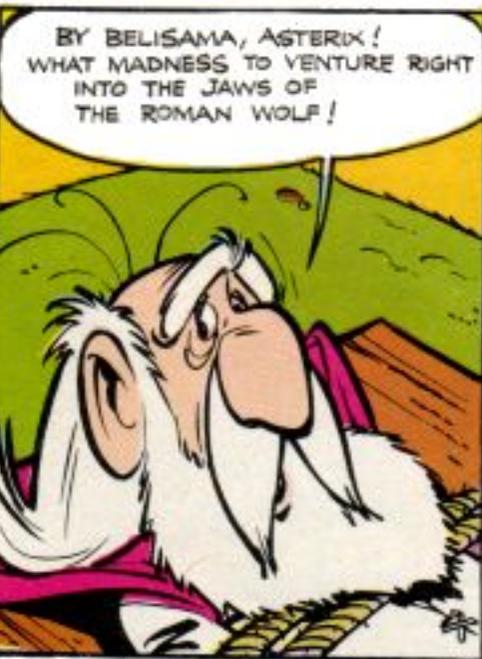
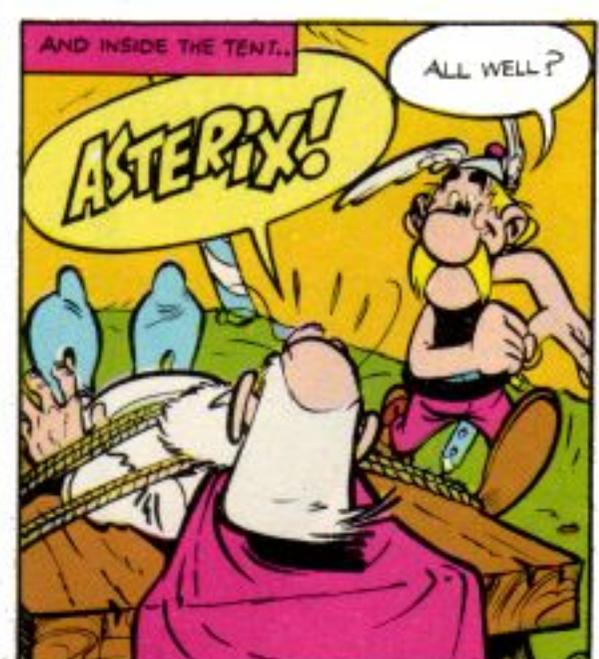


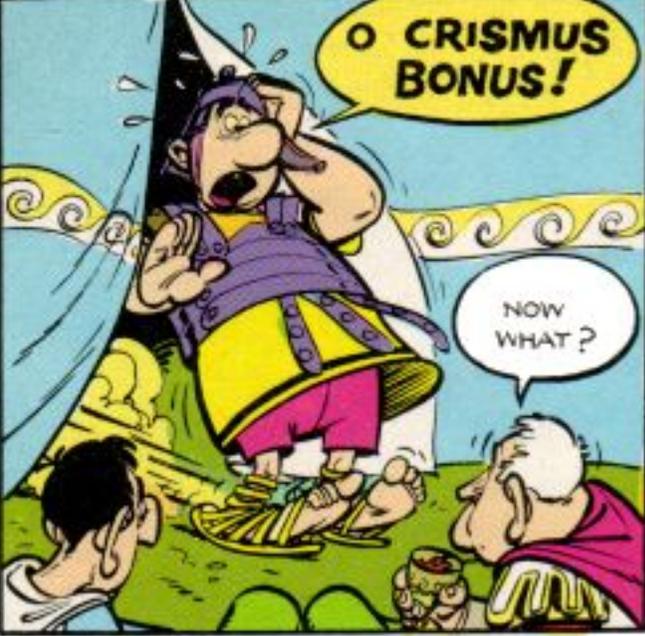
PRECISELY, JULIUS!  
THE TWO OF US WILL  
FORM A  
TRIUMVIRATE!



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!



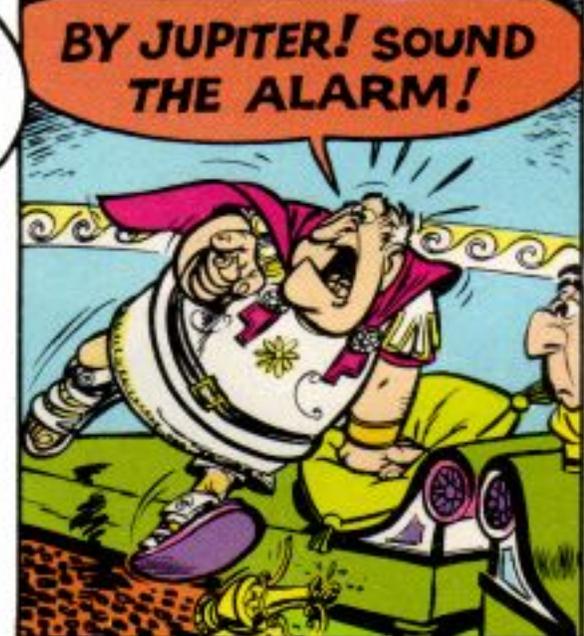


O CRISMUS BONUS!

NOW WHAT?



WE'VE CAPTURED A GAUL IN THE DRUID'S TENT BUT WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS TO STOP THE PRISONER GETTING AWAY !!!



BY JUPITER! SOUND THE ALARM!



TANTANTARA TATA!



SOON AFTERWARDS

SURRENDER, GAUL! OR I GIVE THE ORDER TO ATTACK!



WELL IS HE SURRENDERING OR ISN'T HE?

ALL THIS WAITING IS GETTING ME DOWN!



WATCH OUT! HERE HE COMES!



I LAY DOWN MY WEAPON AT YOUR FEET, CENTURION, AS OUR CHIEF YERCINGETORIX LAID HIS ARMS AT THE FEET OF YOUR MASTER CAESAR!



ZING!  
CLANG!  
CLINK!  
CLONK!  
CLICK!  
CLACK!  
WHOOSH!



WELL, COME ON, DO SOMETHING! I SURRENDER! I CAN'T HANG ABOUT ALL DAY!

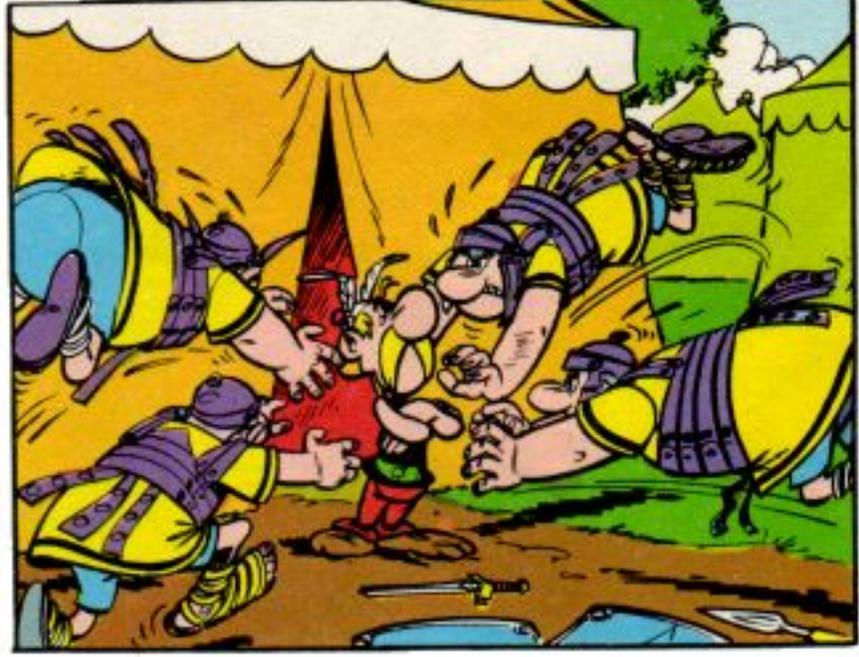
SEIZE HIM, YOU LILY-LIVERED LOT, OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE CIRCUS TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS!



THE CIRCUS?

THE LIONS?

OH WELL!



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!

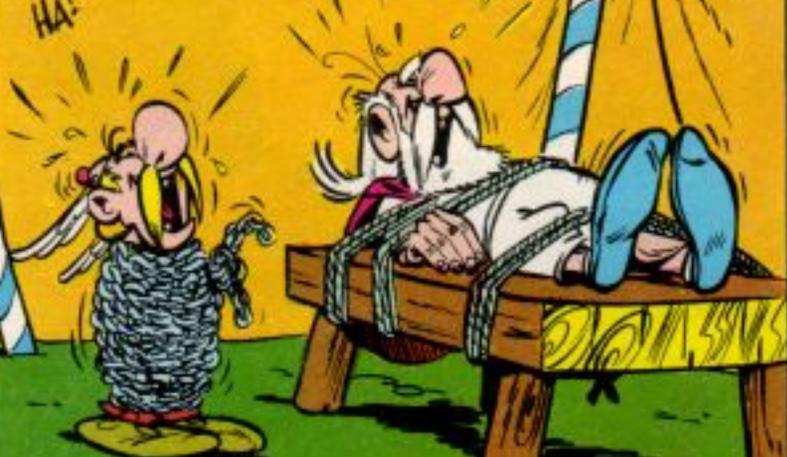


AUT CAESAR, AUT NIHIL! (I)



(I) THIS IS LATIN GRAMMAR

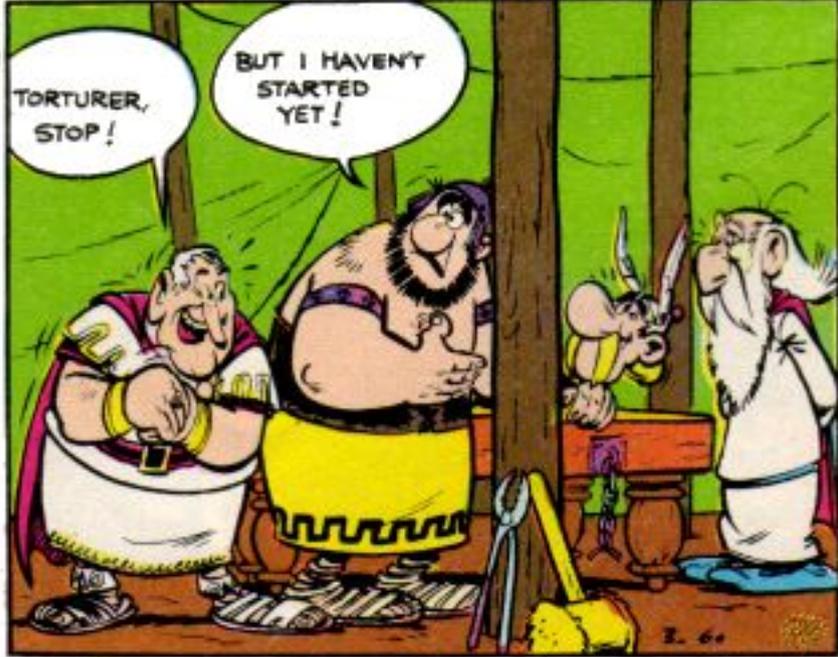
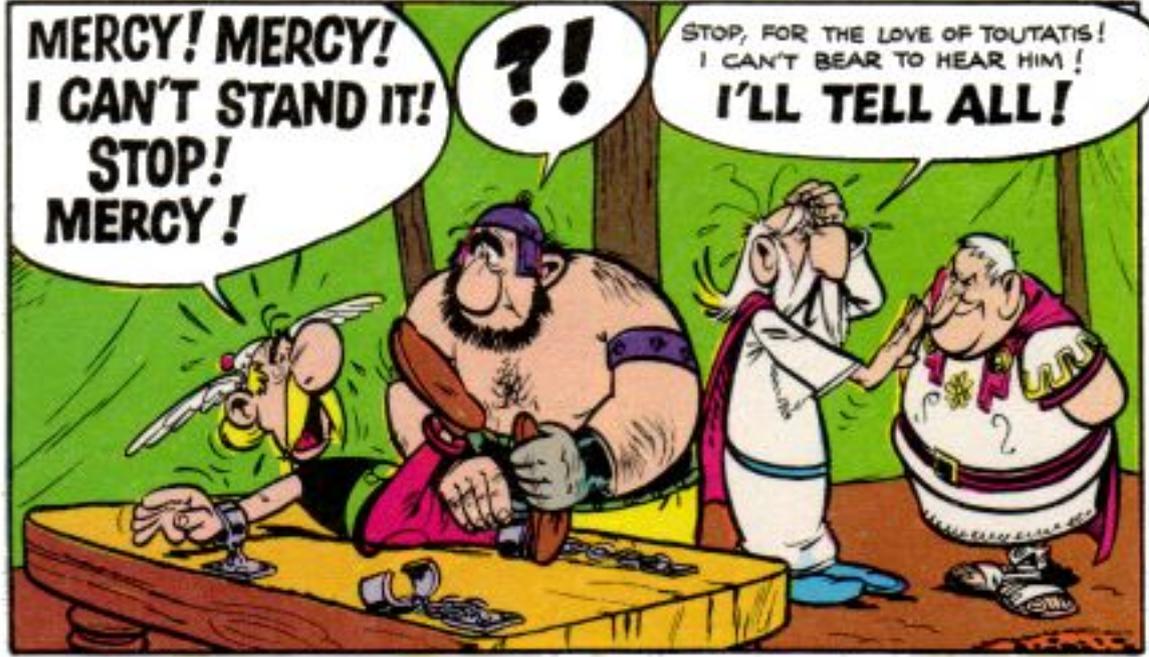
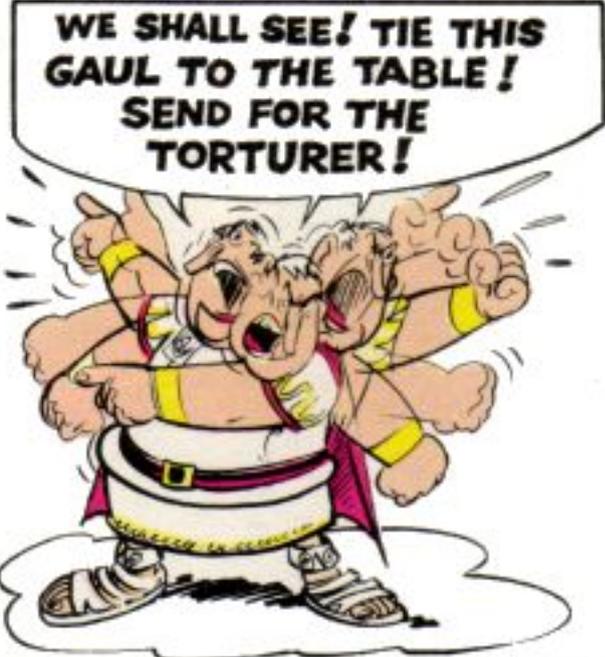
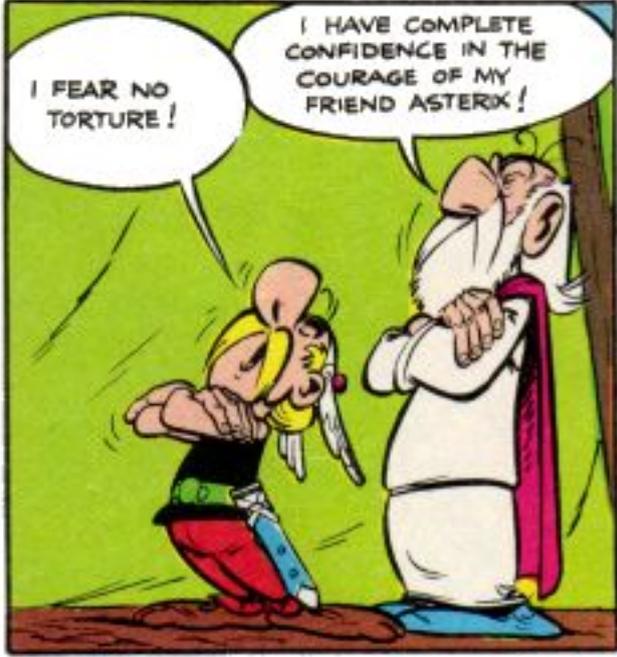
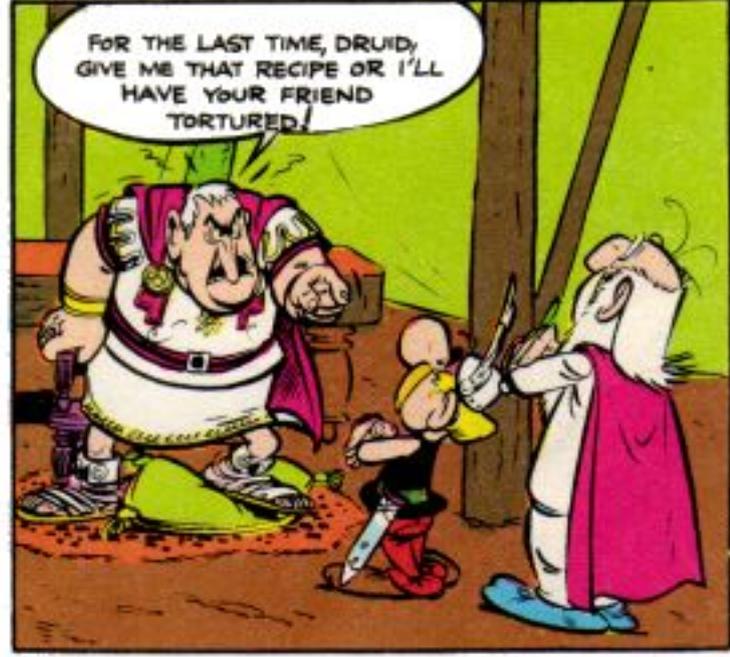
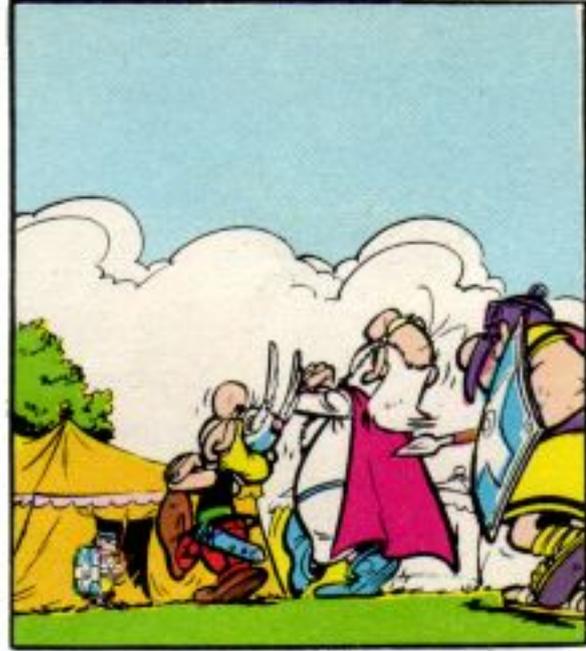
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!



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



(I) THIS IS BAD GRAMMAR





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...

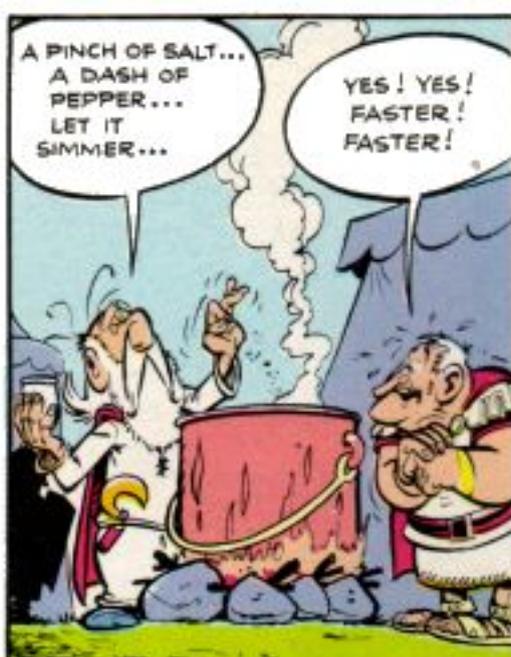


SOON AFTERWARDS...

THE DRUID IS BACK WITH MISTLETOE, ROOTS...

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

**GIVE HIM A CAULDRON!**



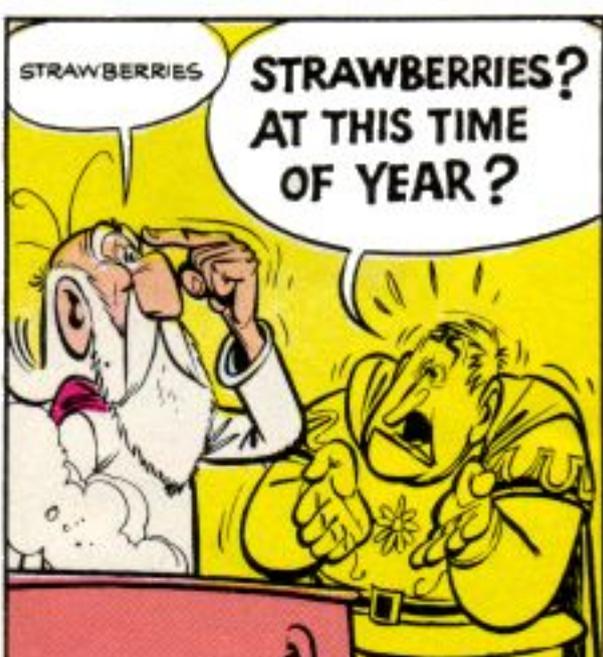
A PINCH OF SALT... A DASH OF PEPPER... LET IT SIMMER...

YES! YES! FASTER! FASTER!



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

**WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?**



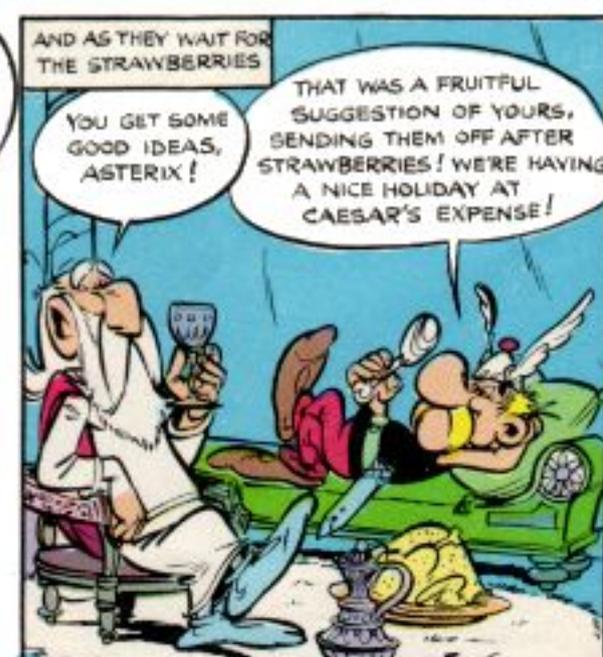
STRAWBERRIES

**STRAWBERRIES? AT THIS TIME OF YEAR?**



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

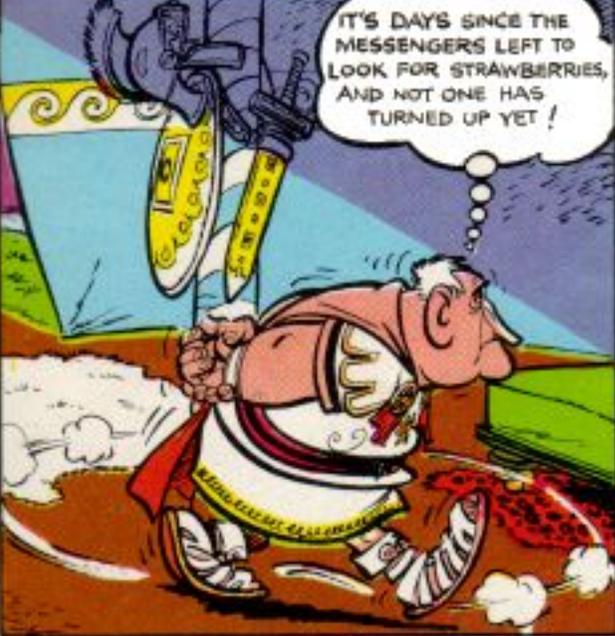
**NO, QUICK! SEND MESSENGERS! STRAWBERRIES! I MUST HAVE STRAWBERRIES! AT THE DOUBLE!**



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 MESSAGERS LEFT TO LOOK FOR STRAWBERRIES, AND NOT ONE HAS TURNED UP YET!



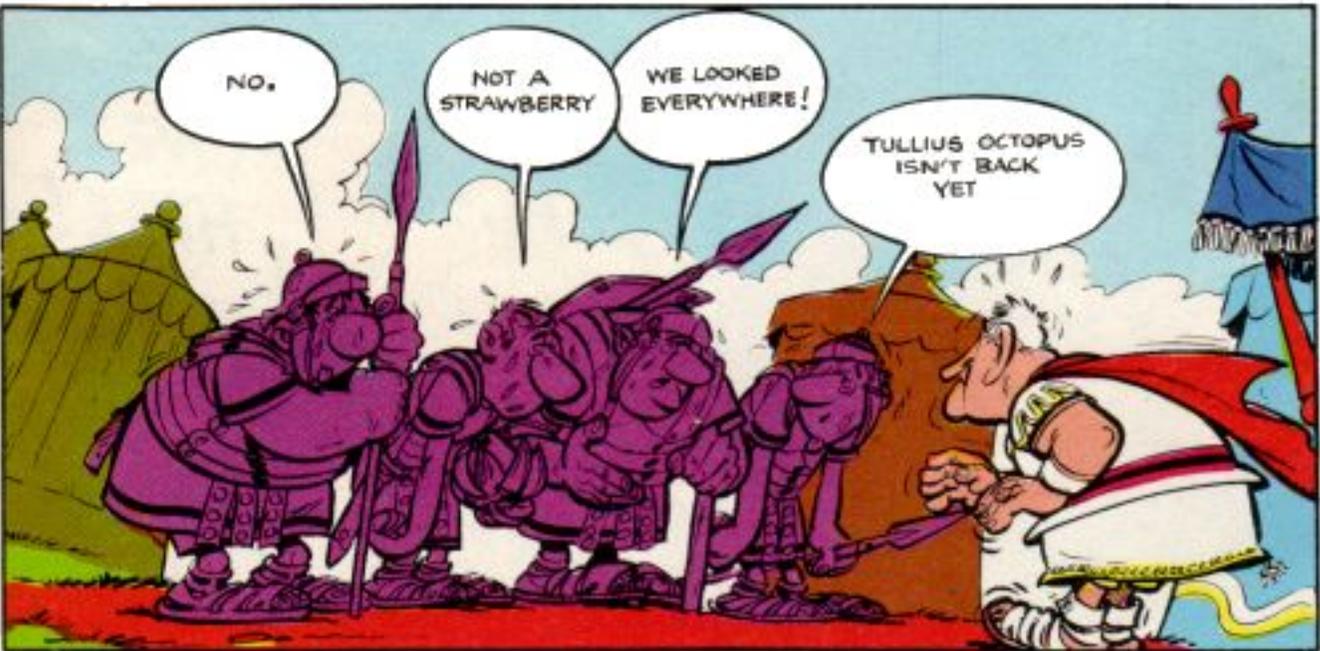
THE MESSAGERS ARE BACK, O CRISMUS BONUS!

**ABOUT TIME!**



AVE CRISMUS BONUS!

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



NO.

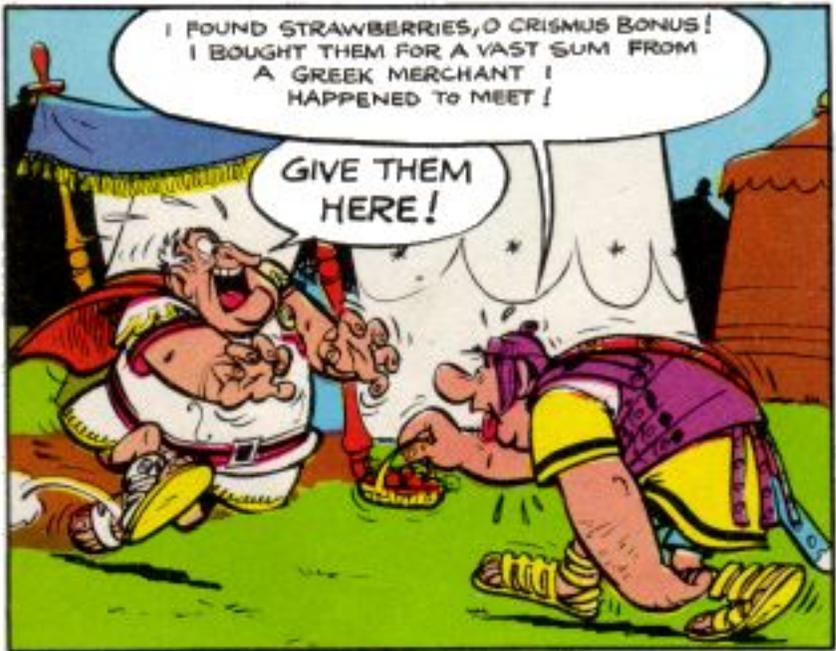
NOT A STRAWBERRY

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 I 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?

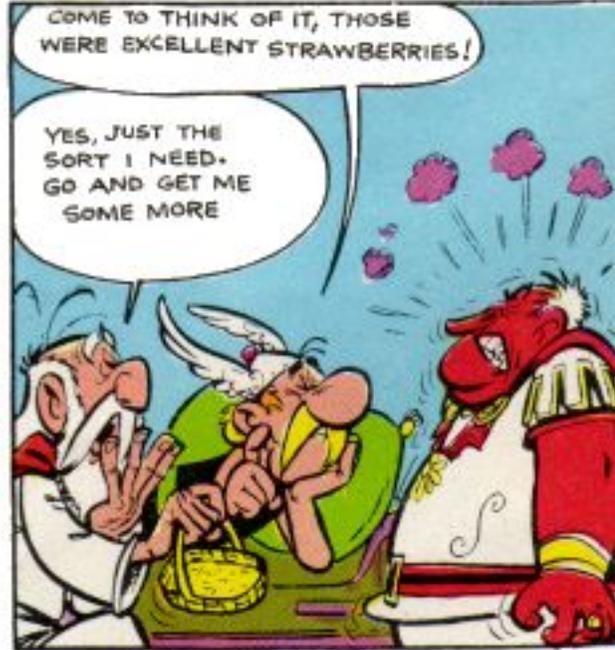
NOT UP TO MUCH!

!



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!

PAR! PAR! PAR!



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...

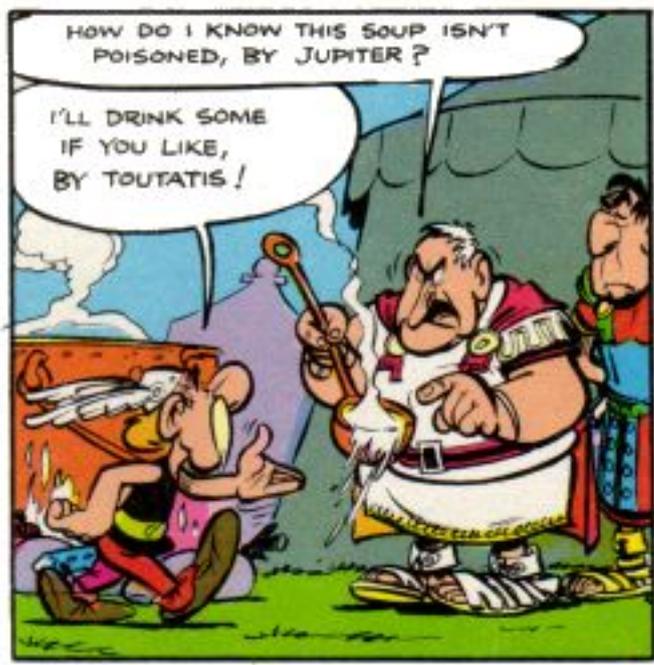
THE STRAWBERRIES DO LEAVE A TASTE IN THE MOUTH...

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!!!

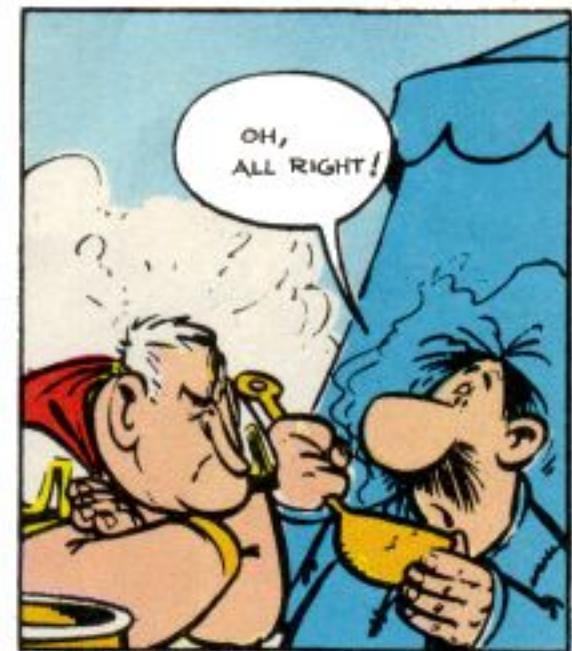
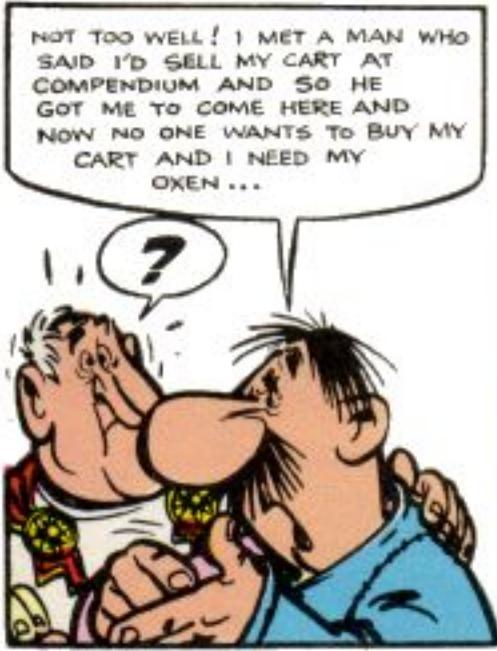
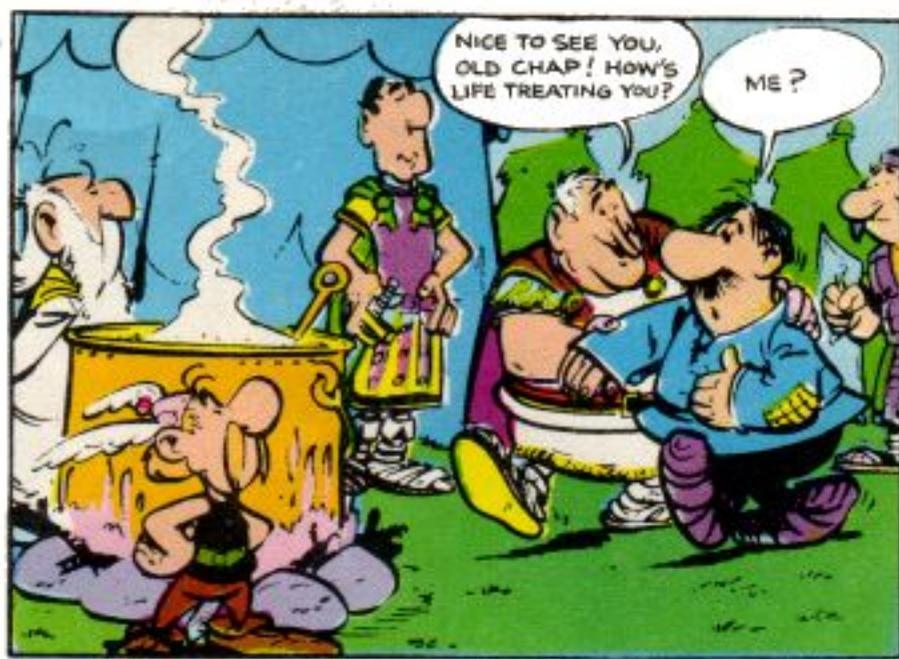
QUID NOVI?

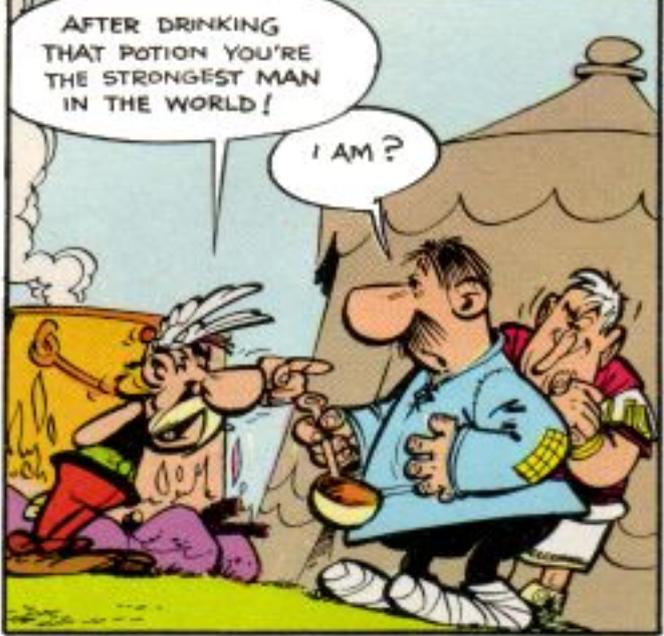
SURSUM CORDA!

SO WHAT?



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





AFTER DRINKING THAT POTION YOU'RE THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

I AM?



HO! HO! THAT'S A JOKE! HE'S A GREAT JOKER, HE IS! HA! HA!

WELL, WE SHALL NOW FIND OUT!



HIT SOMEONE! BUT I'M NOT CROSS WITH ANYONE!



A VOLUNTEER FOR A PUNCH ON THE JAW!

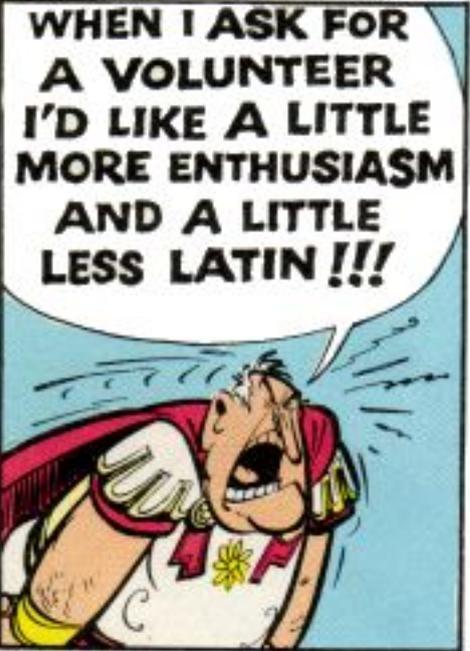


VANITAS VANITATUM ET OMNIA VANITAS...

DE FACTO...

QUOMODO VALES?

VERY WELL, THANK YOU!



WHEN I ASK FOR A VOLUNTEER I'D LIKE A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSIASM AND A LITTLE LESS LATIN!!!



I VOLUNTEER!

AN EXCELLENT NOTION!



GO ON, HIT ME!

GO ON, HIT HIM!

WELL, HIT HIM THEN!

GO ON, 'T 'IM!



BIFF!



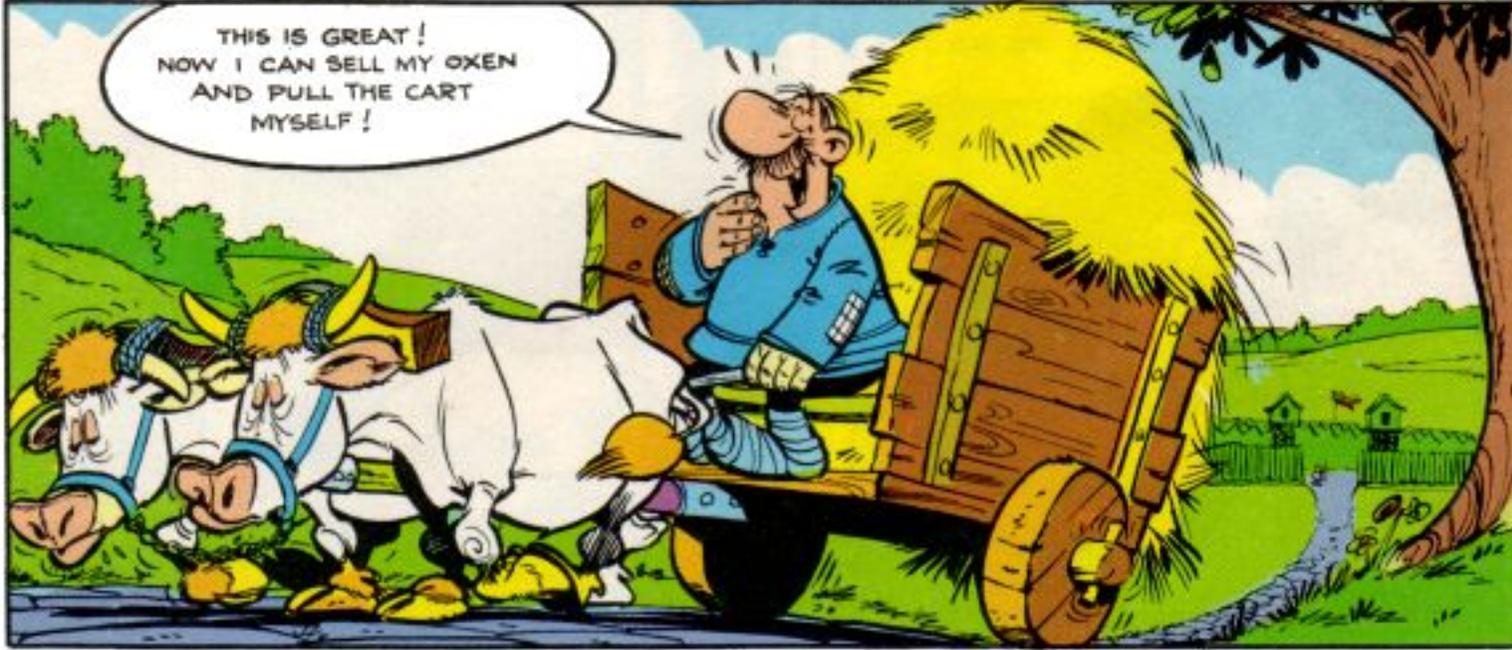
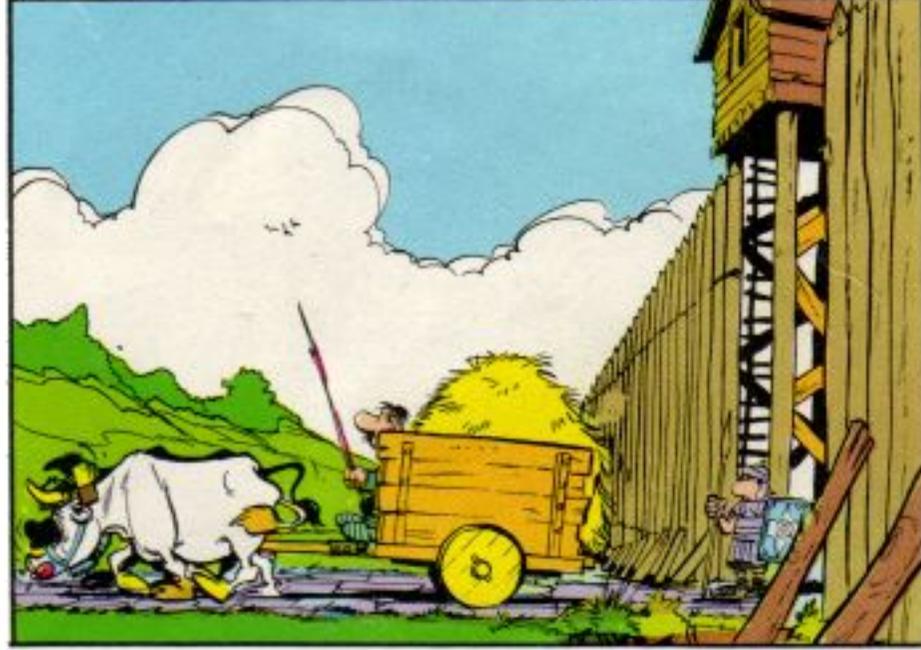
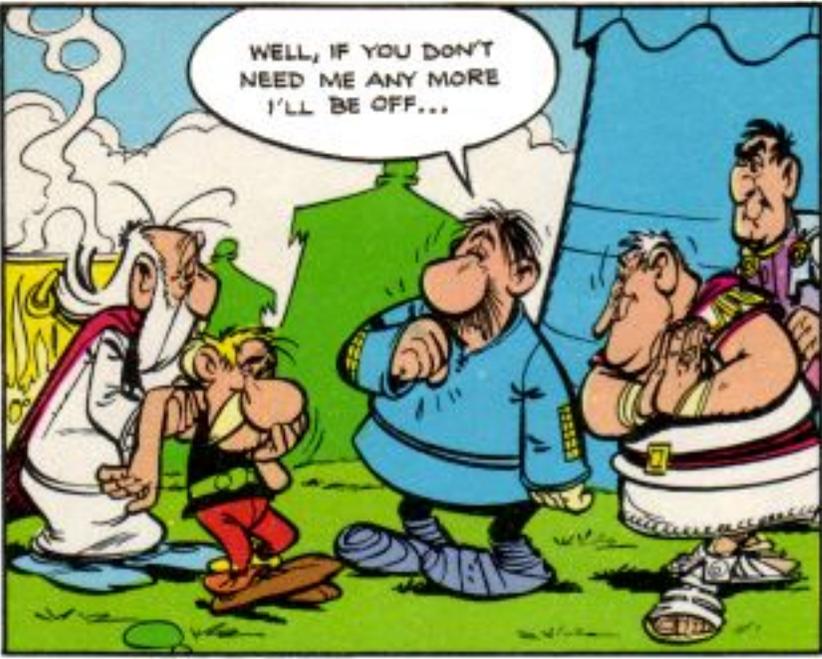
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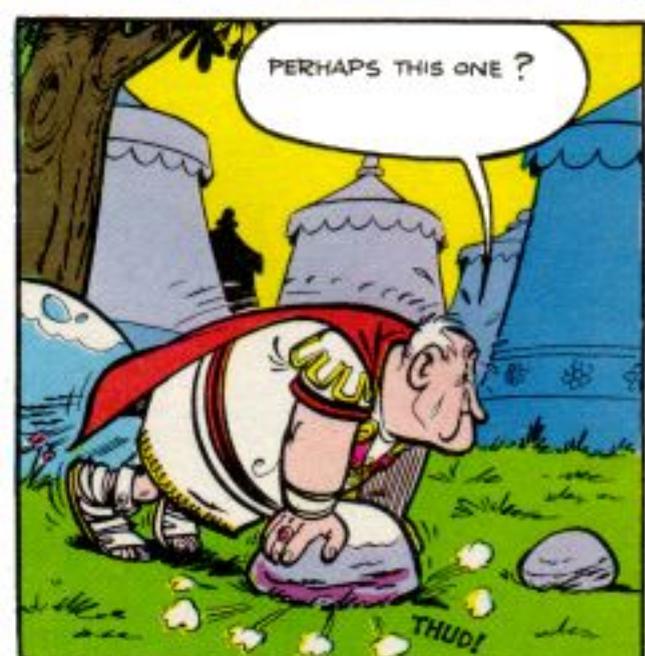
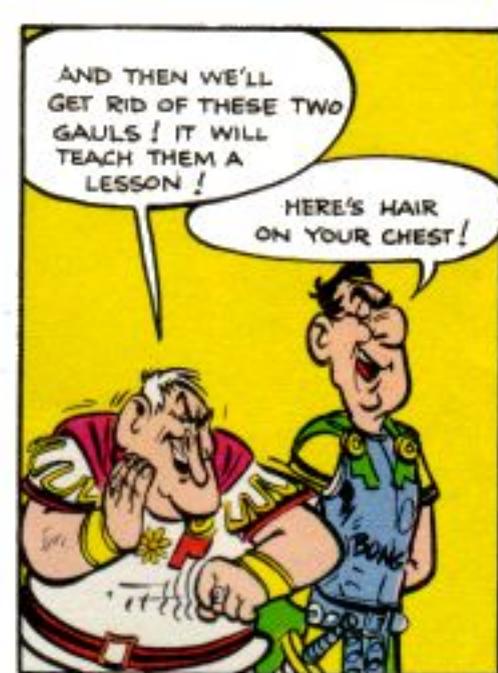
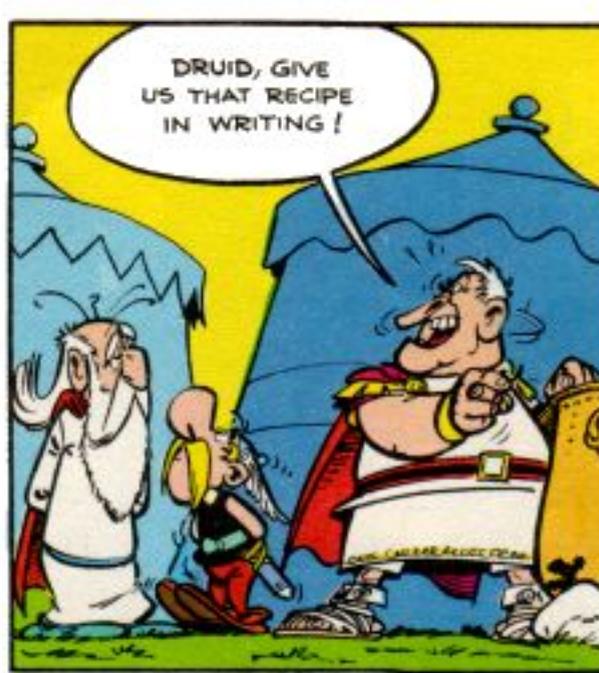


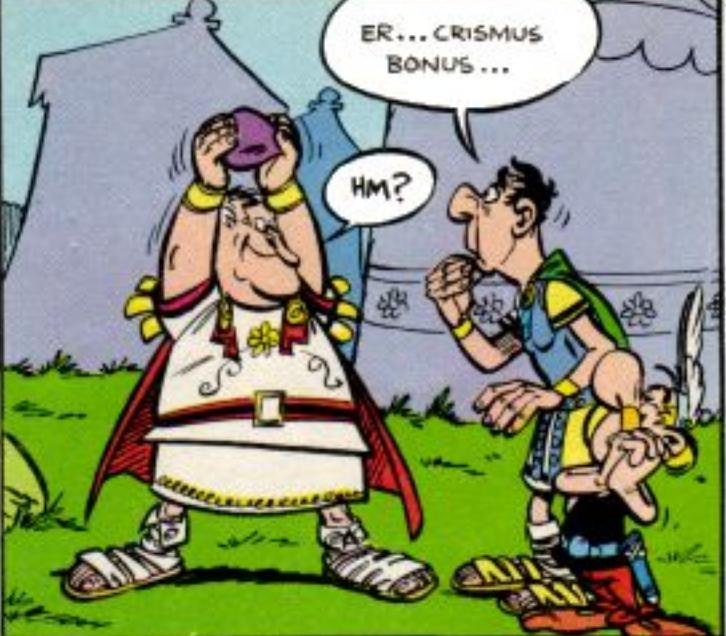
DID IT HURT?

I THOUGHT THE SKY HAD FALLEN ON MY HEAD!

?

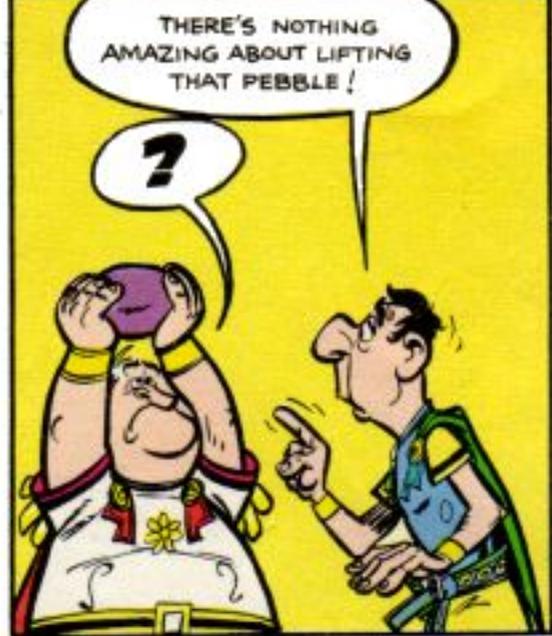






ER... CRISMUS BONUS ...

HM?



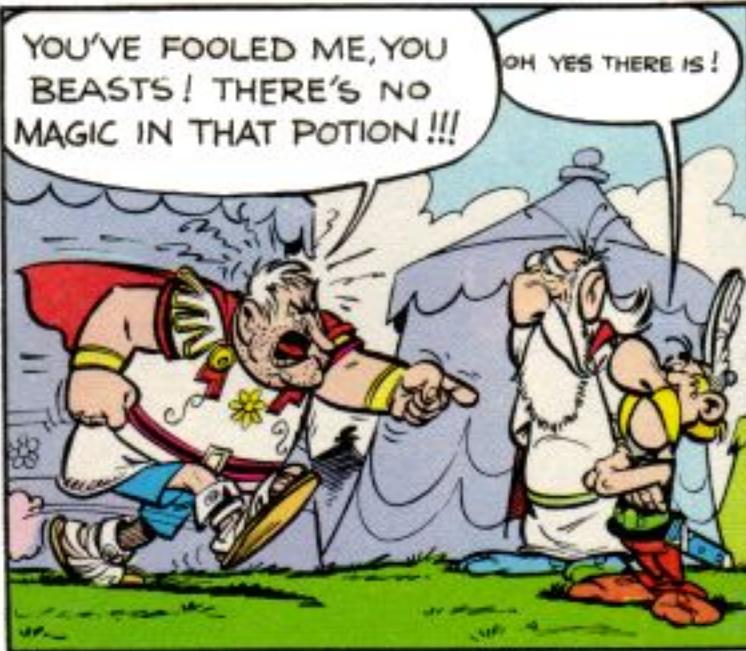
THERE'S NOTHING AMAZING ABOUT LIFTING THAT PEBBLE!

?



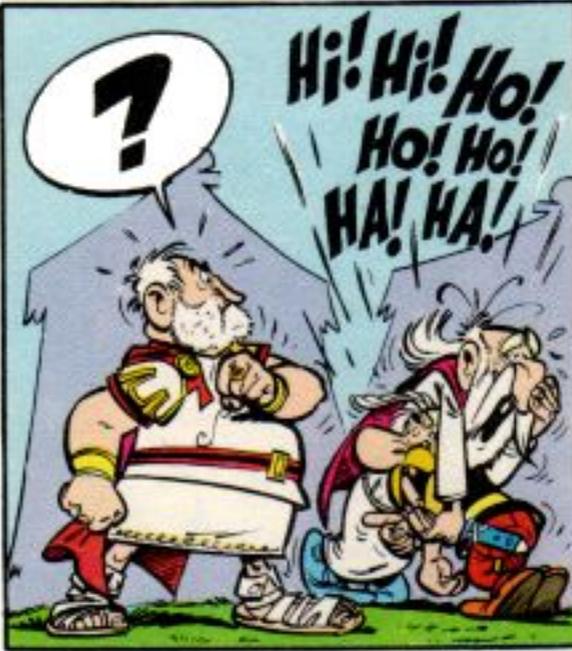
TRUE!

**OUCH!**



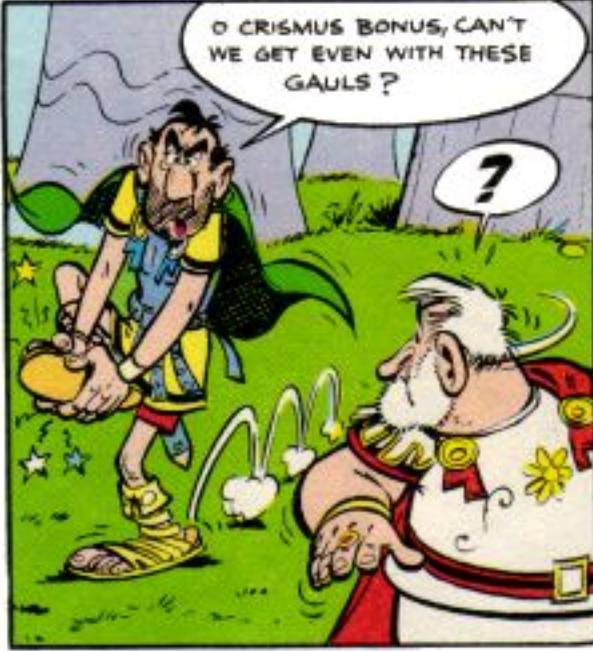
YOU'VE FOOLED ME, YOU BEASTS! THERE'S NO MAGIC IN THAT POTION!!!

OH YES THERE IS!



?

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



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

?



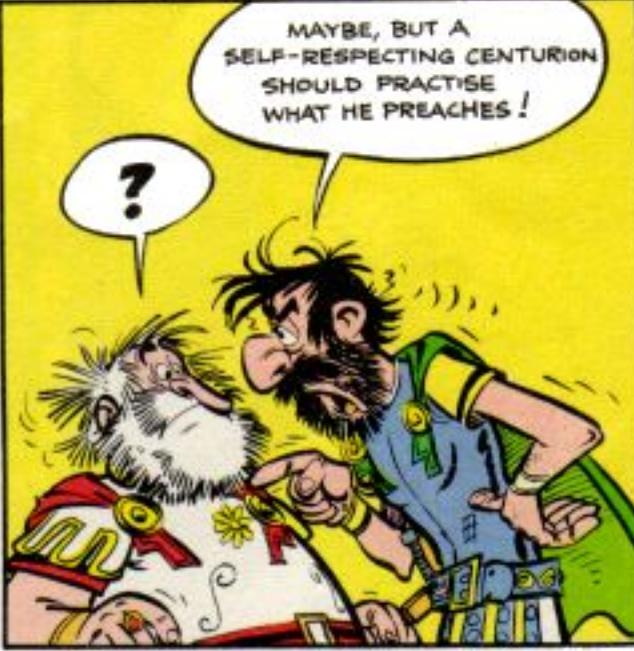
YOU COULD HAVE SHAVED BEFORE COMING TO SEE ME!

?



A SELF-RESPECTING LEGIONARY SHOULD BE CLEAN SHAVEN!

!



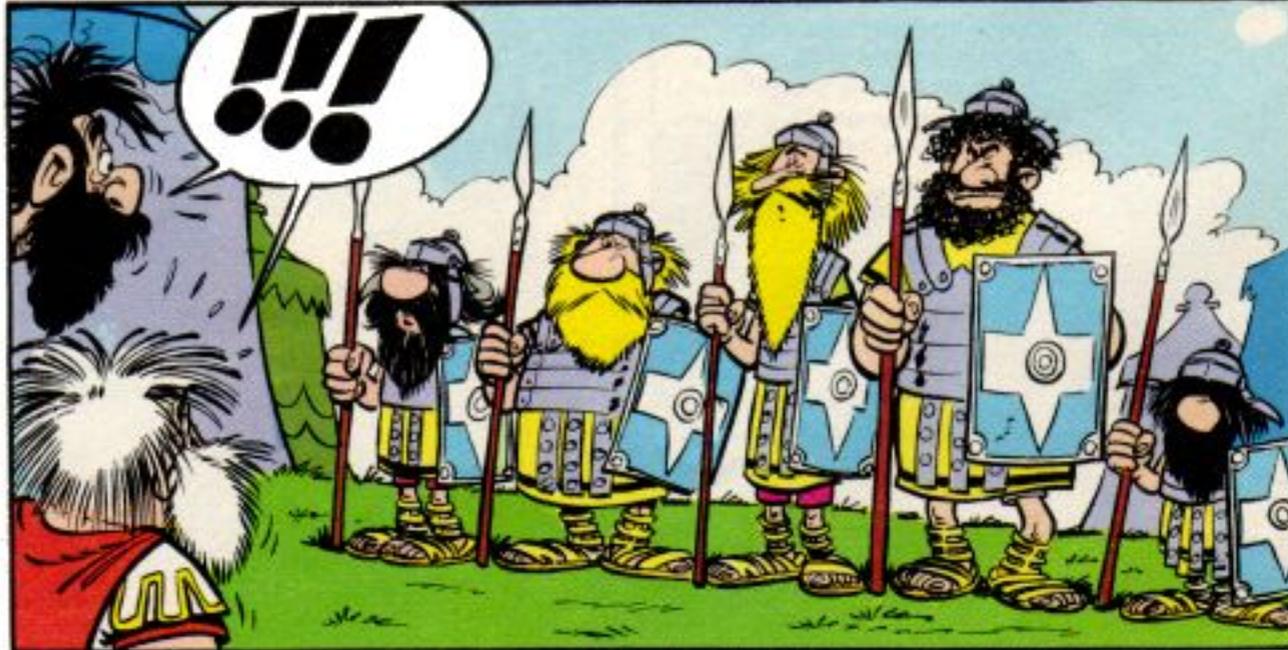
MAYBE, BUT A SELF-RESPECTING CENTURION SHOULD PRACTISE WHAT HE PREACHES!

?



HERE - WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

**LOOK!!!**



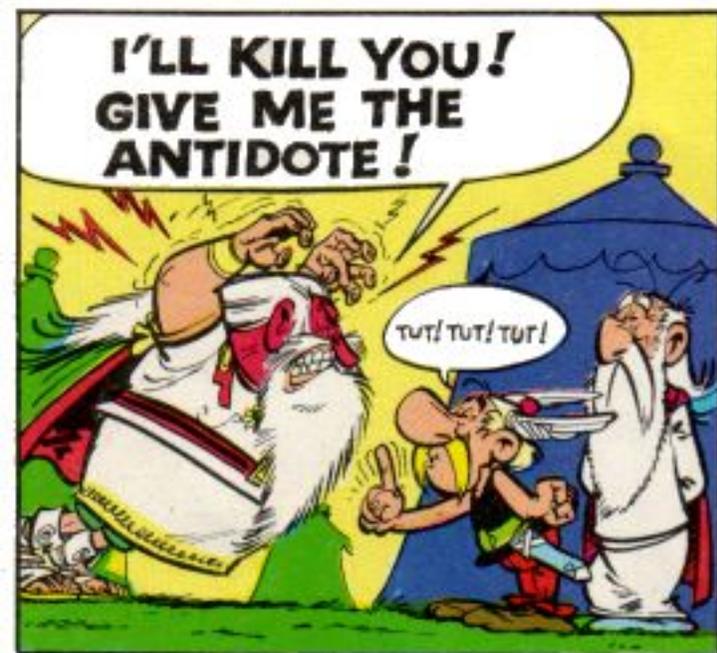
!!!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, DRUID?



IT'S AN ANCIENT RECIPE FOR HAIR LOTION. EXTREMELY POWERFUL! YOUR HAIR AND BEARDS ARE GOING TO GROW VERY FAST, NON-STOP



I'LL KILL YOU! GIVE ME THE ANTIDOTE!

TUT! TUT! TUT!



IF YOU KILL US WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY ANTIDOTE!



BESIDES, WE'RE A LITTLE TIRED TODAY...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A REST IN OUR TENT



WAIT !!!

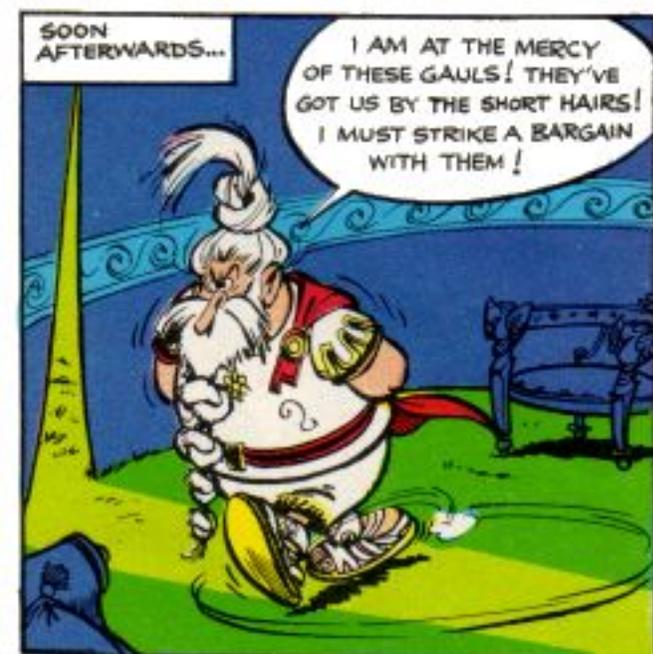


TUM!



WHAT HAPPENED, O CRISMUS BONUS?

I TRIPPED OVER MY BEARD, IDIOT!



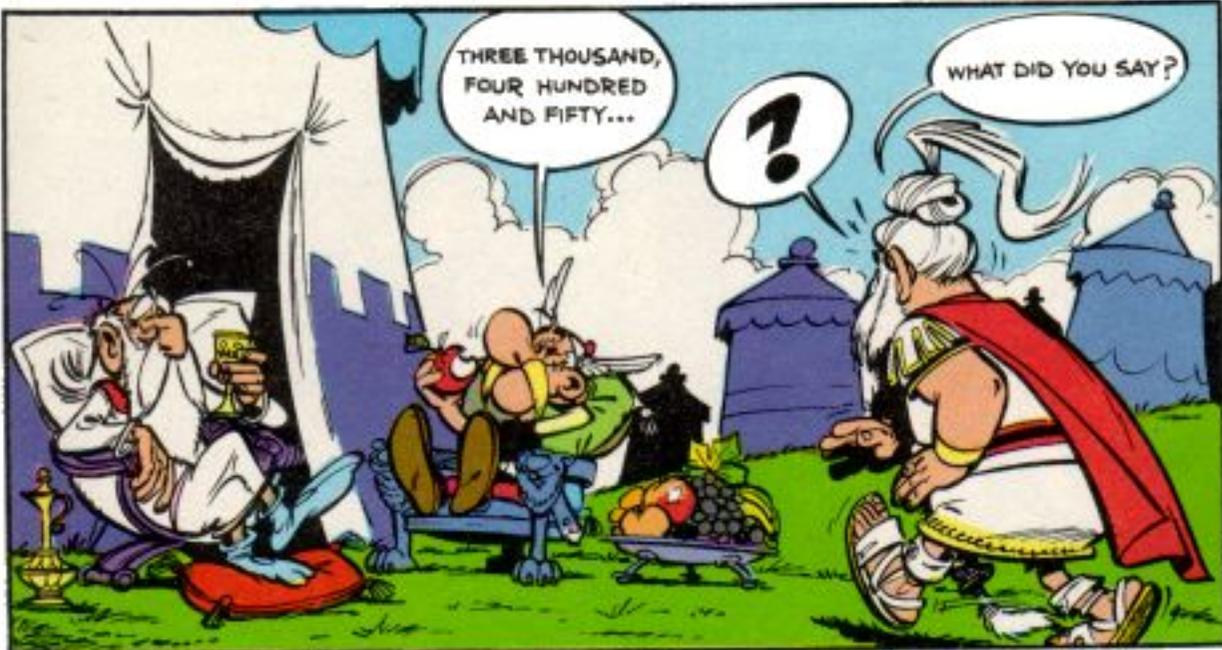
I AM AT THE MERCY OF THESE GAULS! THEY'VE GOT US BY THE SHORT HAIRS! I MUST STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH THEM!



!



THIS CAULDRON WHERE THEY BREWED THAT POTION!



THREE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?



WE'VE INVENTED A NEW GAME. EVERY TIME WE SEE A MAN WITH A BEARD WE SCORE FIFTEEN. THE ONE WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE WINS! (1)

(1) A GAME STILL PLAYED TODAY IN CERTAIN PARTS OF WESTERN EUROPE



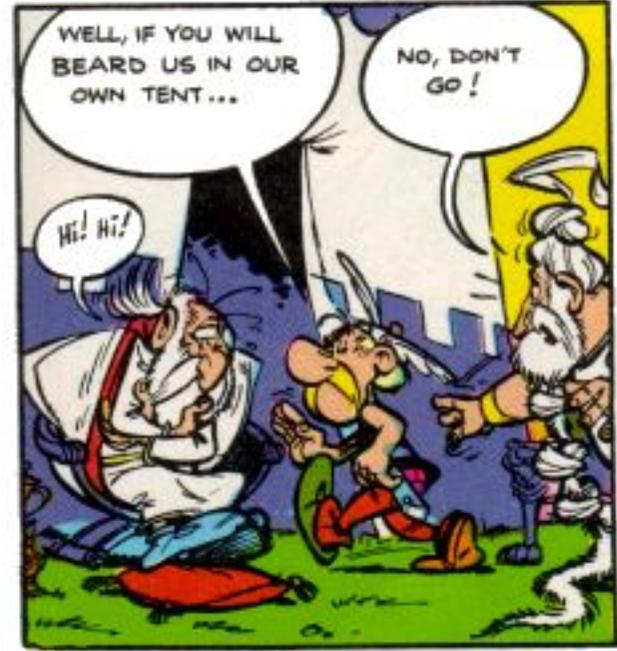
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME, GAUL. BUT I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!

TALK AWAY, THEN! LET'S NOT SPLIT ANY HAIRS

YELP! YELP! YELP!



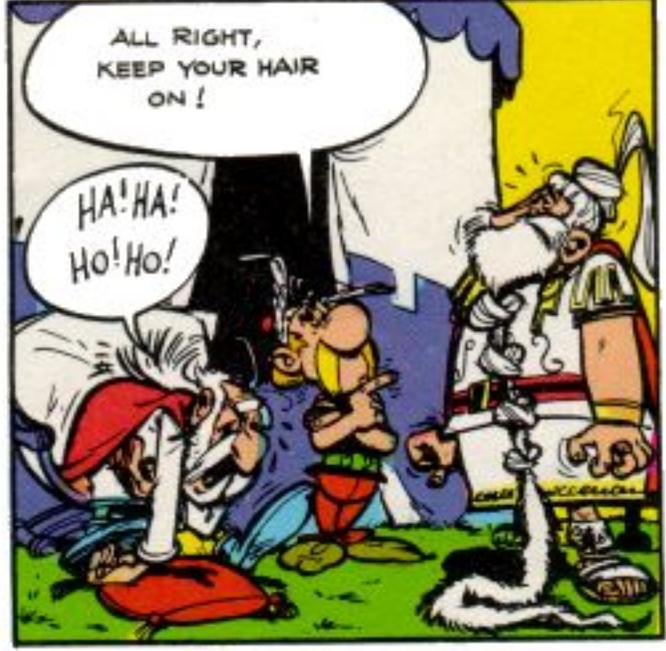
WILL YOU SHUT UP ABOUT HAIR!!!



WELL, IF YOU WILL BEARD US IN OUR OWN TENT...

NO, DON'T GO!

HE! HI!



ALL RIGHT, KEEP YOUR HAIR ON!

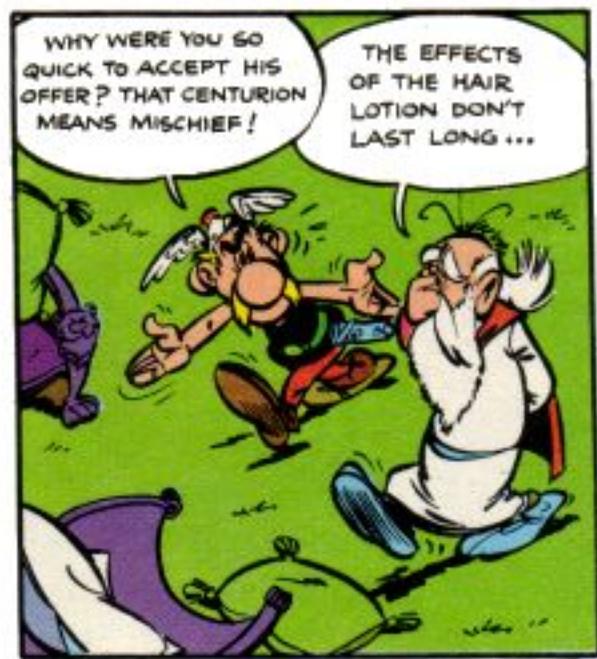
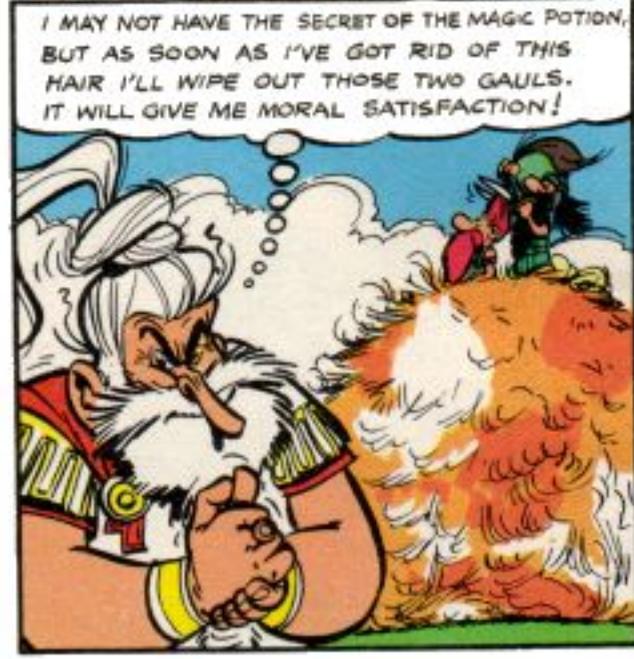
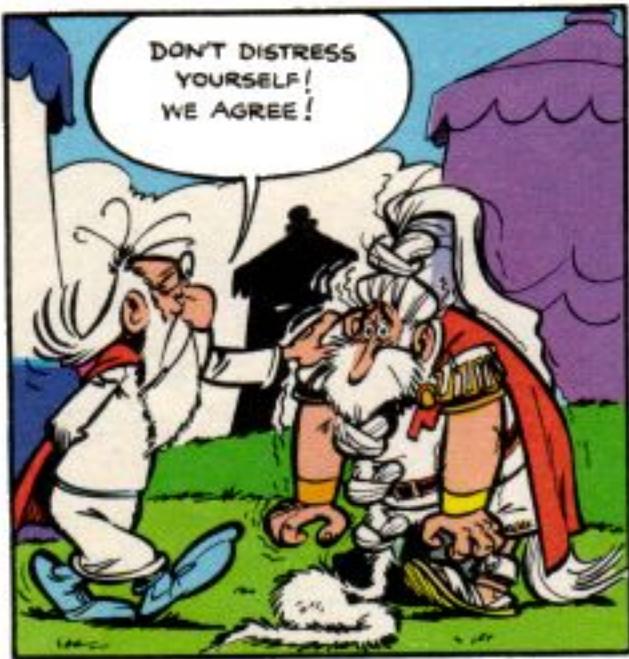
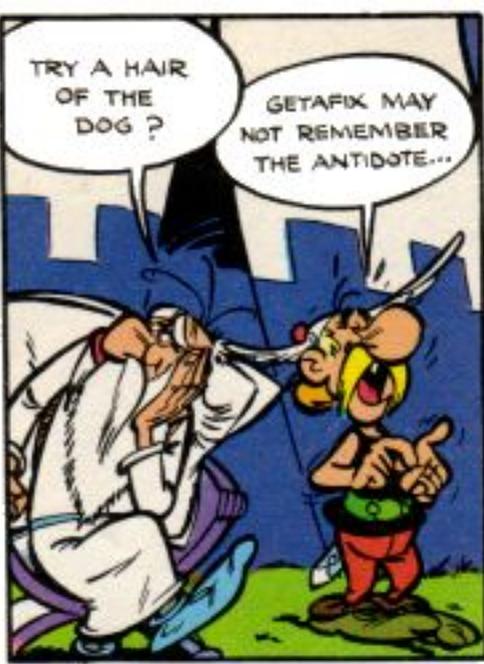
HA! HA! HO! HO!



OR THIS TALK WILL BRISTLE WITH DIFFICULTIES. GO ON!

HA! HA! STOP! STOP! HA! HA! HA! HA!

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!





HURRY UP!  
OUR BEARDS  
ARE GROWING!



I THINK  
WE'VE GOT JUST  
ABOUT ALL  
WE NEED...



HERE WE  
ARE AGAIN!

GOOD—  
GET STARTED!

PHEW! NOW I CAN REST!  
THAT'S THREE HOURS I'VE  
BEEN WORKING NON-STOP!



WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING?

I WANT TO  
WATCH YOU PREPARE  
THE ANTIDOTE!



TUT! TUT!  
NOTHING DOING!  
WE NEED PEACE AND  
QUIET! YOU'RE TOO  
JUMPY!

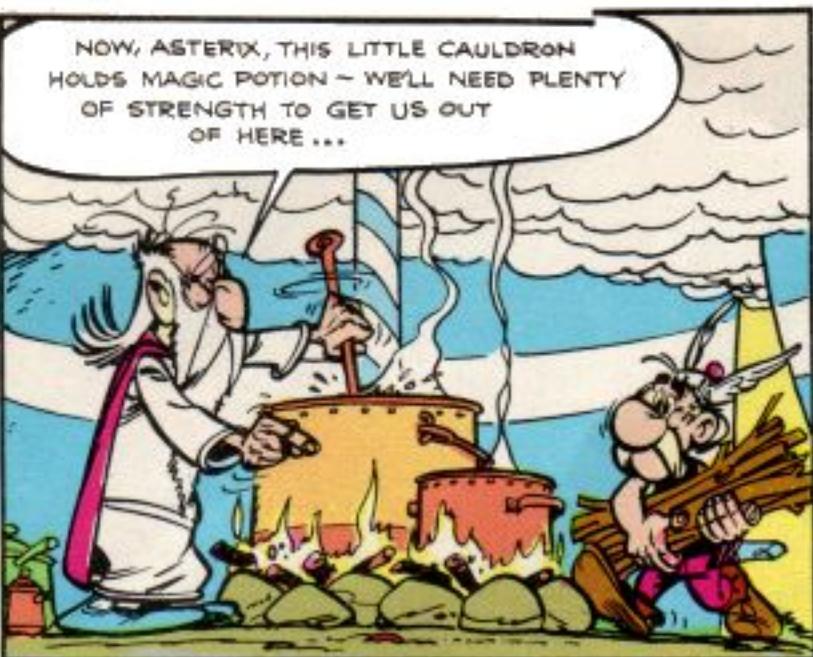


WATCH THAT TENT!  
DON'T LET THEM  
ESCAPE!

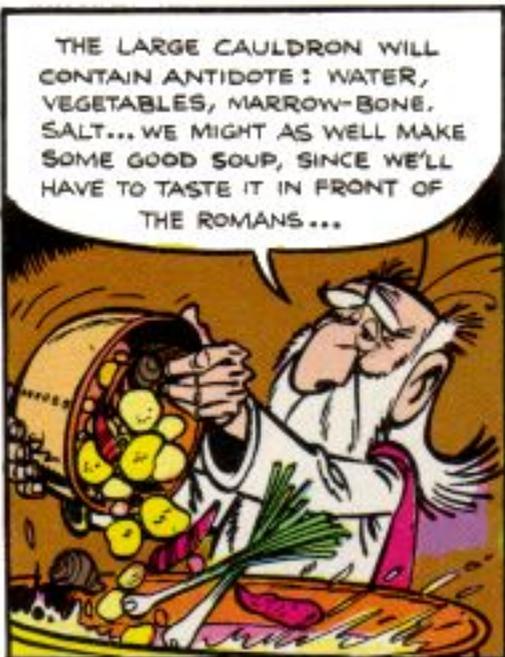


RIGHT!  
HERE GOES!

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 ...

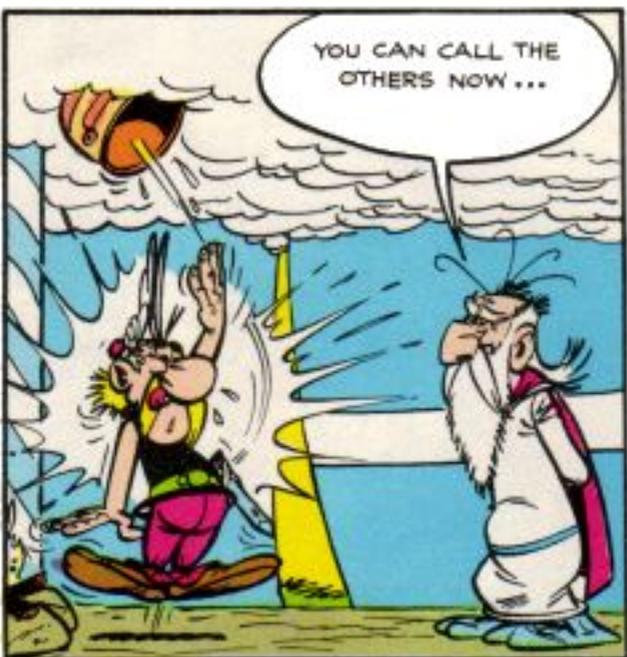


SOON AFTERWARDS...

THE MAGIC POTION IS READY! TAKE A GOOD SWIG!



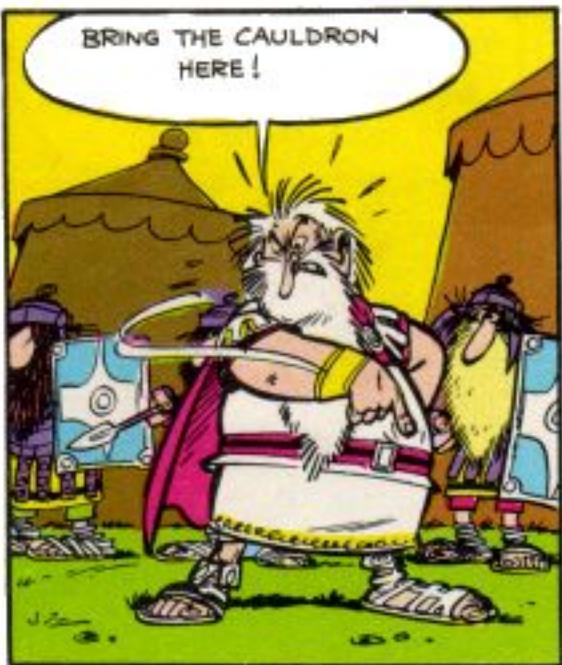
YOU CAN CALL THE OTHERS NOW ...



SOUP'S UP!



BRING THE CAULDRON HERE!



COMING! COMING!



YOU HAVE SOME FIRST!



WHAT'S IT LIKE?

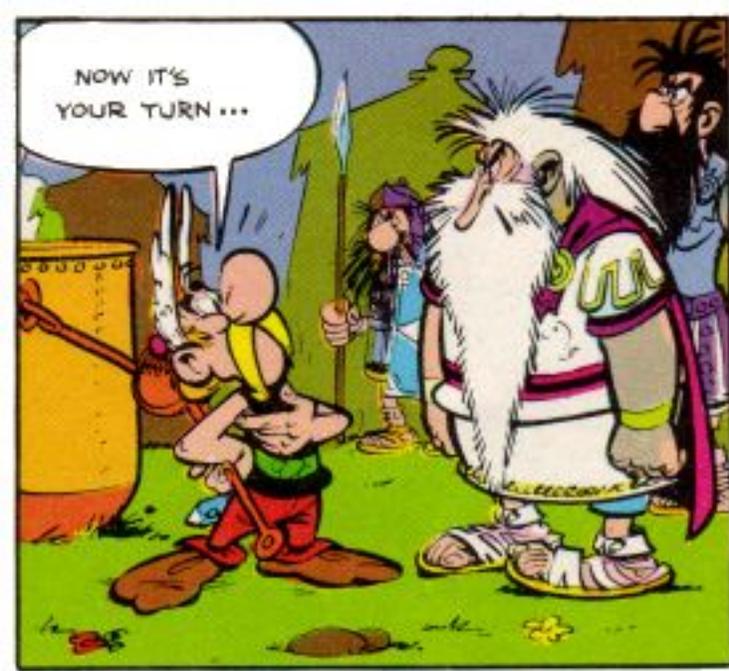
GLOP!  
GLOP!  
GLOP!



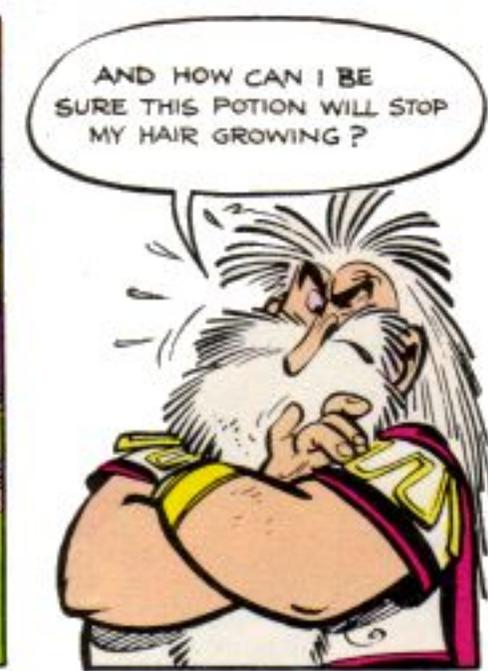
VERY GOOD ... A FEW CROUTONS MIGHT IMPROVE IT ...

?

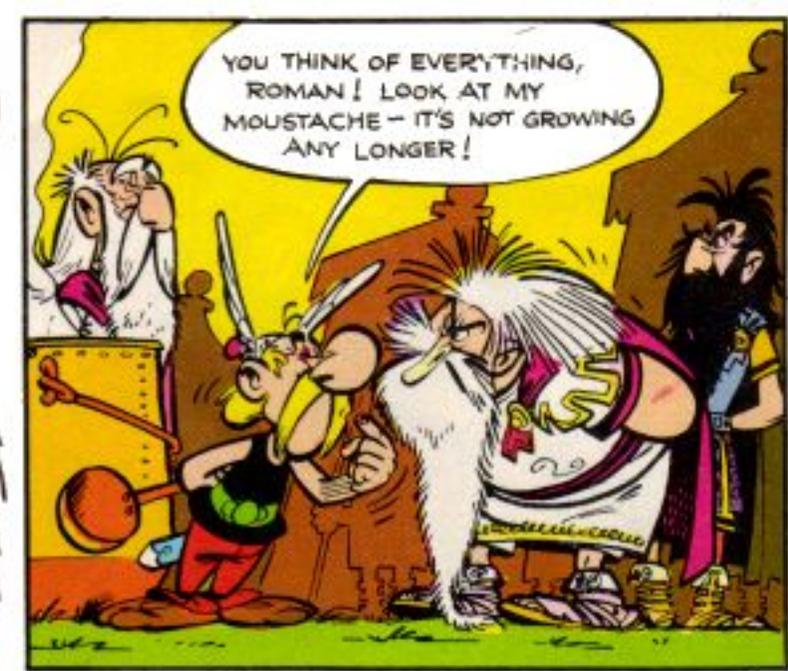




NOW IT'S YOUR TURN ...



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 !

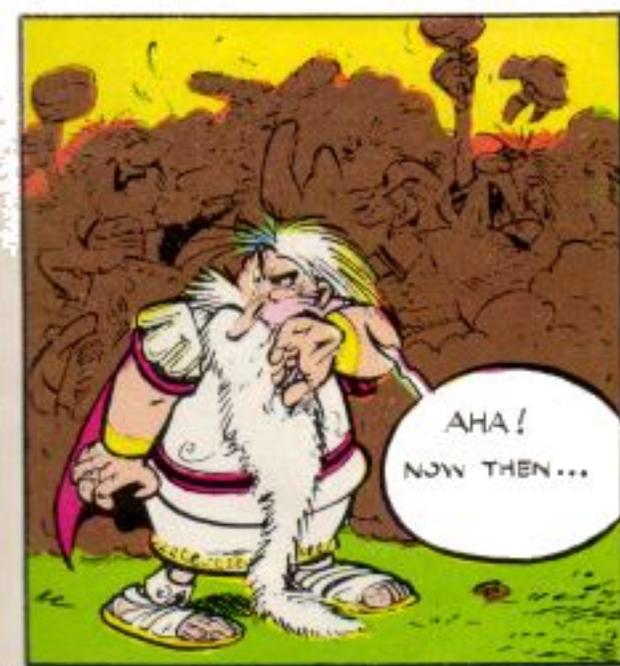


SO IT ISN'T, BY JUPITER ! LET'S HAVE SOME !



GREEDY PIGS !

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



AHA ! NOW THEN ...



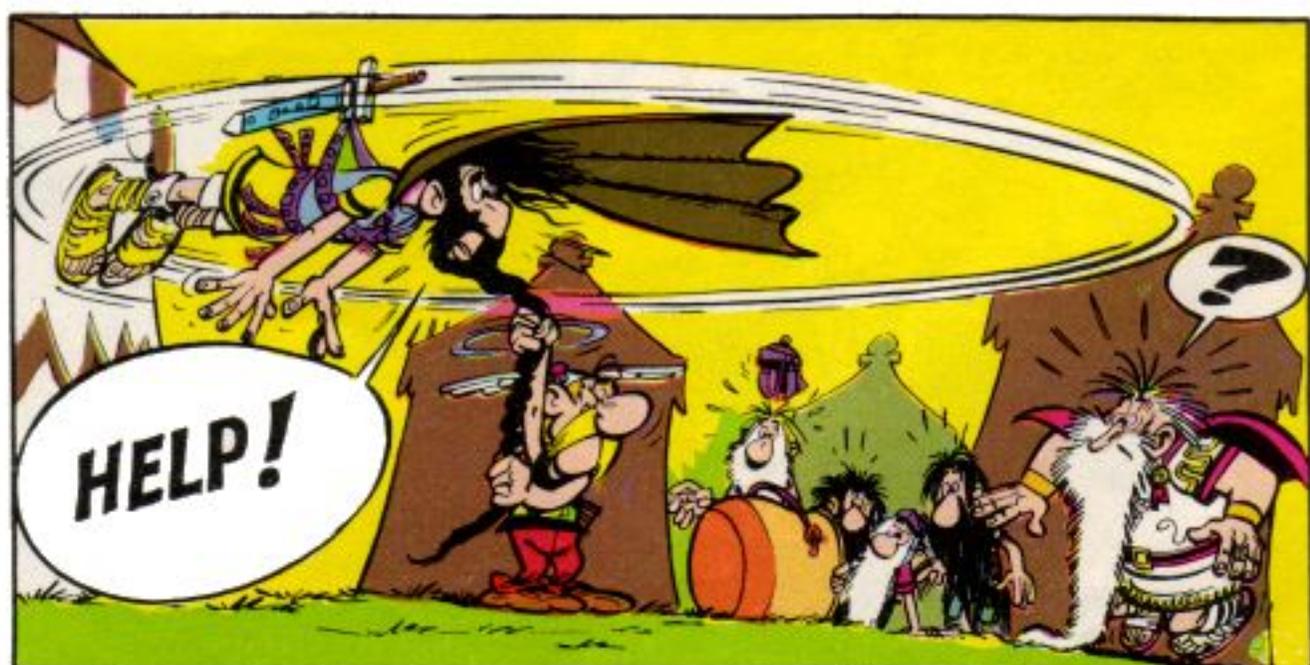
SEIZE THEM !!!

WITH PLEASURE !



CURLYLOCKS, CURLYLOCKS, WILT THOU BE MINE

LEGGO !



HELP !

?

