

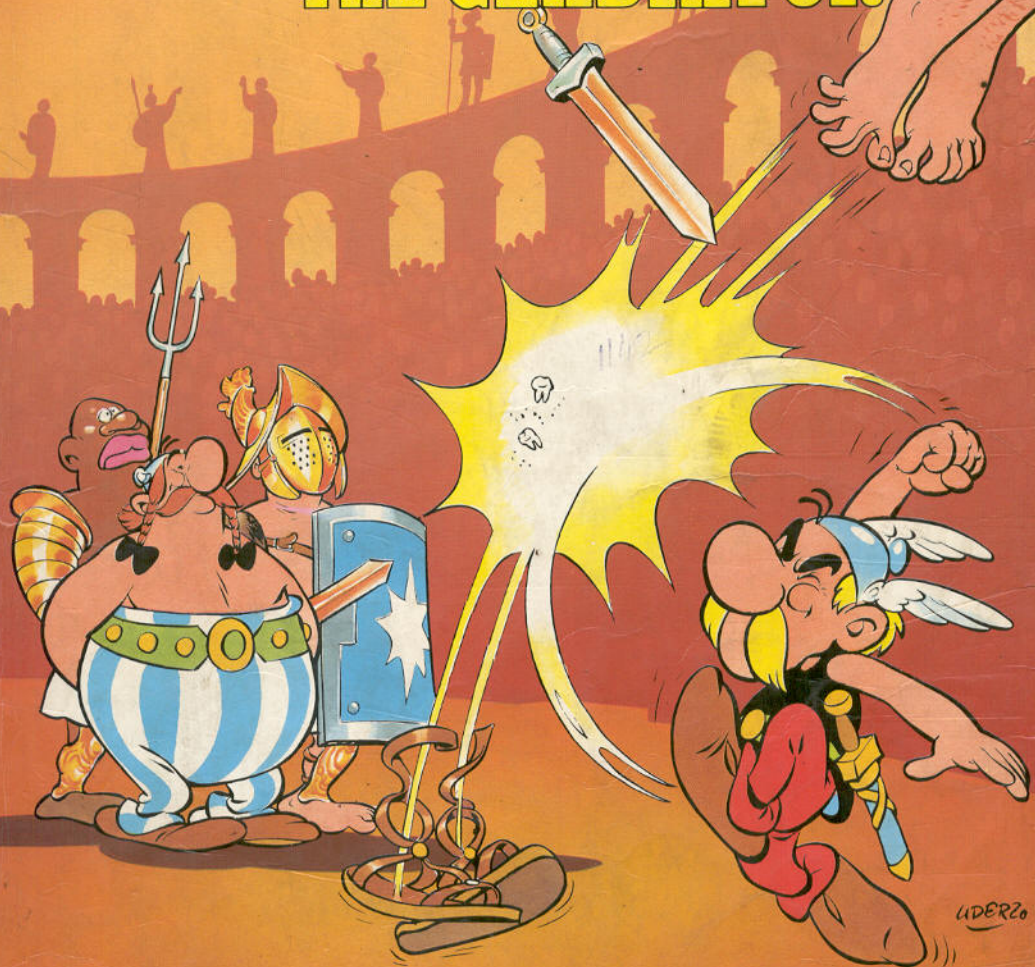
HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS



TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

Asterix

THE GLADIATOR



THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM IS IN A FERMENT. THE PREFECT OF GAUL, ODIUS ASPARAGUS, IS PAYING A CALL ON CENTURION GRACCHUS ARMISURPLUS. THE PREFECT ARRIVES FROM THE NEARBY COAST WHERE HIS GALLEY HAS PUT IN ...

PRESENT...
PILUM!...



AVE, PREFECT!
THIS IS A GREAT
HONOUR FOR
ME!

AVE, CENTURION!
YOU'RE TELLING
ME!



AND NOW FOR THE
PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, CENTURION!
I'M GOING TO ROME ON LEAVE,
AND CUSTOM DECREES THAT I TAKE
CAESAR A HANDSOME PRESENT...
SOMETHING UNUSUAL AND
VERY VALUABLE...



... I DID THINK OF TAKING
HIM A PRESENT FROM
LUTETIA, MAYBE A MARBLE
MEMO TABLET FOR HIM TO
CARVE DOWN HIS
APPOINTMENTS, BUT THAT'S
TOO ORDINARY...



THEN I HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA!
WHY NOT TAKE CAESAR ONE OF THE
INVINCIBLE GAULS FROM HEREABOUTS?

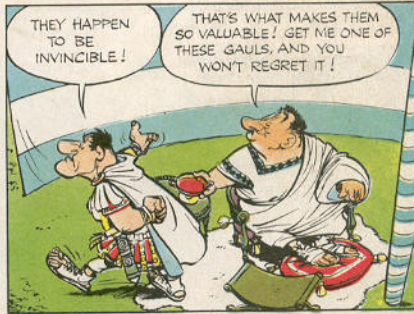


BUT, PREFECT, ABOUT
THESE INVINCIBLE GAULS
... THERE'S JUST ONE
SNAG!



WELL,
WHAT IS IT?

THEY HAPPEN
TO BE
INVINCIBLE!



THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM
SO VALUABLE! GET ME ONE OF
THESE GAULS, AND YOU
WON'T REGRET IT!

THERE'S CERTAINLY ONE
WHO'S A BIT MORE HARMLESS
THAN THE OTHERS... CACOFONIX
THE BARD. HE OFTEN GOES FOR
WALKS IN THE FOREST BY HIMSELF
LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION!



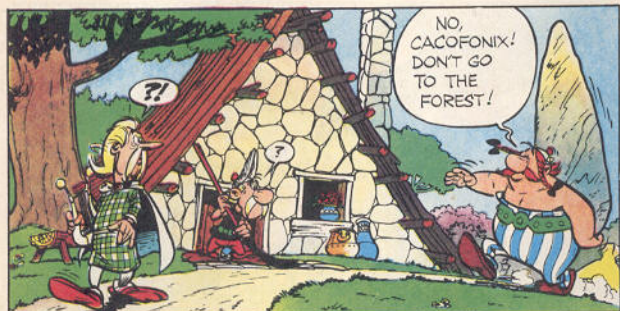
EXCELLENT!
I MUST HAVE THIS
BARD - AND FAST!

AND IN THE GAULISH
VILLAGE...

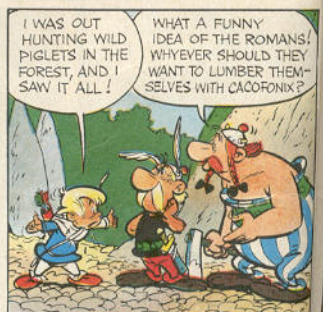


GOODBYE,
ASTERIX, I'M GOING
FOR A WALK IN
THE FOREST!

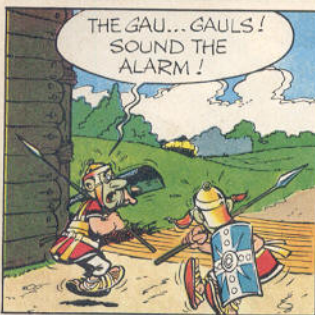
GOODBYE,
CACOFONIX!







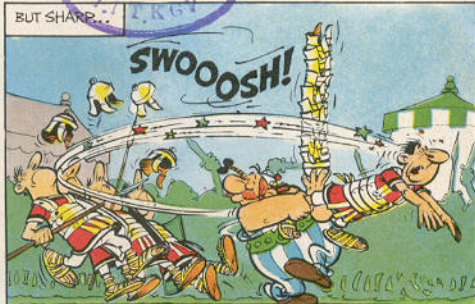




THE BATTLE IS SHORT...



BUT SHARP...

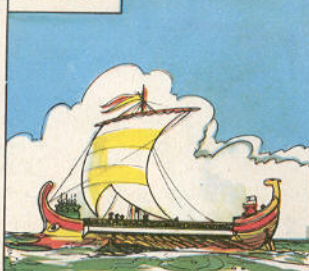


LATER, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

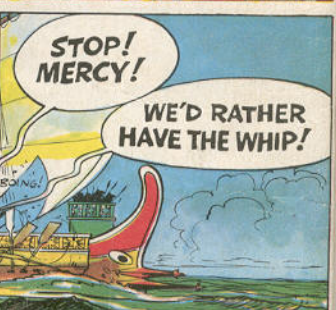
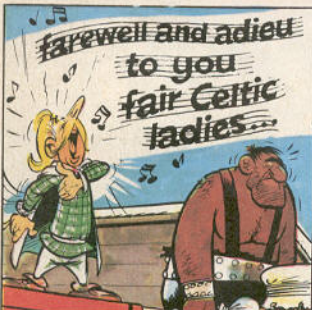
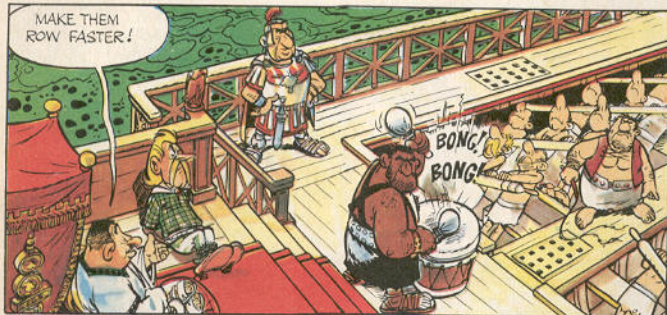
POOR CACOFONIX, PRISONER ON BOARD A ROMAN GALLEY!

HE WAS SO NICE! SCRUNCH! SO WELL BROUGHT UP! NEVER SANG WITH HIS MOUTH FULL! SCRUNCH! PITY HE DIDN'T EAT MUCH... SCRUNCH!

MEANWHILE...



MAKE THEM ROW FASTER!





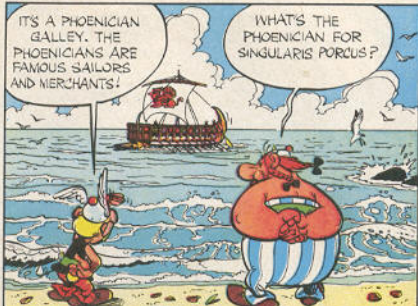
NOW TO STOP
THIS SHIP
SAILING ALONG
THE COAST!

ASTERIX AND OBELIX MAKE
THE ANCIENT GAULISH SIGN INDICATING
A WISH TO BE TAKEN ON BOARD...
NOTE THE FOUR CLENCHED
FINGERS AND THE THUMB JERKED
IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION. IF YOU
WISH TO GO TO ROME, THE DIRECTION
OF THE THUMB IS IMMATERIAL,
SINCE ALL ROADS LEAD THERE



N.B. THIS GESTURE IS STILL
EMPLOYED TODAY, THOUGH NOT
OFFEN TO STOP SHIPS

IT'S A PHOENICIAN
GALLEY. THE
PHOENICIANS ARE
FAMOUS SAILORS
AND MERCHANTS!



WHAT'S THE
PHOENICIAN FOR
SINGULARIS PORCUS?

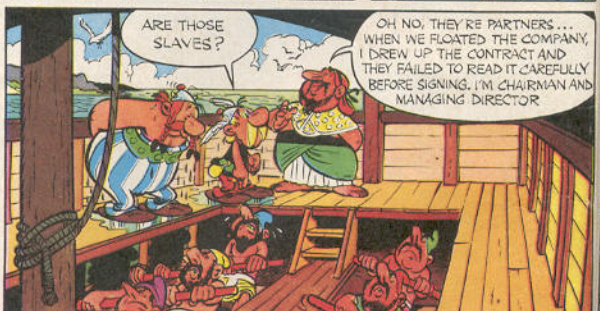
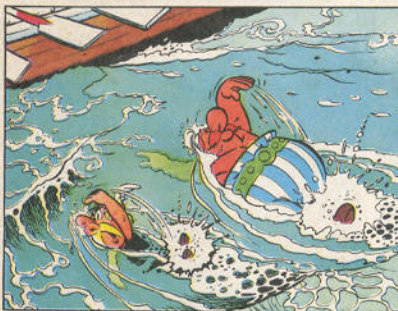


WE'RE FROM TYRE IN PHOENICIA. MY NAME IS
EKOMONIKRISIS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ANY
GLASS, JEWELS, TEXTILES, PURPLE, FURNITURE?

NO, WE WANT TO GO
TO ROME



HM...ER...ALL RIGHT,
COME ON BOARD!



ARE THOSE
SLAVES?

OH NO, THEY'RE PARTNERS...
WHEN WE FLOATED THE COMPANY,
I DREW UP THE CONTRACT AND
THEY FAILED TO READ IT CAREFULLY
BEFORE SIGNING. I'M CHAIRMAN AND
MANAGING DIRECTOR



IT'S KIND OF YOU
TO TAKE US TO
ROME. I HOPE IT
DOESN'T MEAN GOING
OUT OF YOUR WAY?

AS IT HAPPENS, WE
WERE PLANNING TO
GO TO ROME. ONE OF MY
PREDECESSORS ABANDONED
HIS SHIP THERE...



IT SANK?



NO, HE SOLD IT. HE WAS A
BETTER SALESMAN THAN
SAILSMAN



A SAIL ON THE HORIZON, MR. CHAIRMAN!



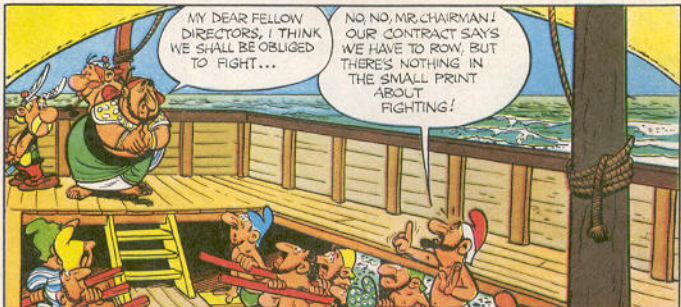
IT MUST BE PIRATES! THEY MAY TAKE US PRISONER, KILL US, OR EVEN WORSE STEAL OUR MERCHANDISE!

SURE ENOUGH, ON BOARD THE PIRATE GALLEY...

SHIVER ME TIMBERS, WE'VE GOT 'EM, ME HEARTIES! PULL AWAY! THAT HEAVY PHOENICIAN SHIP WITH ALL ITS CARGO WILL NEVER ESCAPE US!

LET'S PUSH THE BOAT OUT!

TERESE HEE!



MY DEAR FELLOW DIRECTORS, I THINK WE SHALL BE OBLIGED TO FIGHT...

NO, NO, MR. CHAIRMAN! OUR CONTRACT SAYS WE HAVE TO ROW, BUT THERE'S NOTHING IN THE SMALL PRINT ABOUT FIGHTING!

NOW, I SUGGEST WE CHANGE THE CONTRACT. I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MODIFICATION TO MAKE

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ME TOO!



WE CAN'T COUNT ON THESE CHATTER-BOXES TO FIGHT. WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS ON OUR OWN

GOODY! THERE'LL BE MORE ROOM! LOOK, HERE COME THE PIRATES. POOR THINGS!

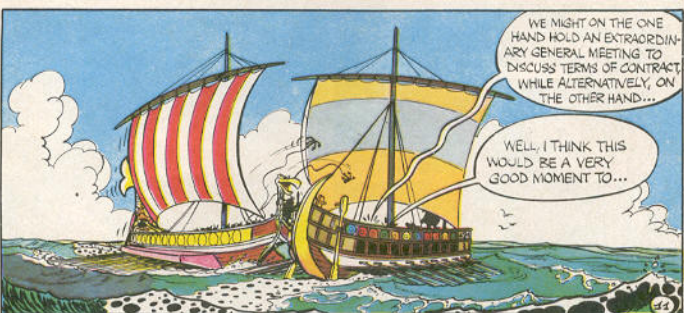


THEY'RE WEARING HELMETS! WE CAN HAVE ANOTHER BET LIKE WE DID WITH THE LEGIONAIRES!



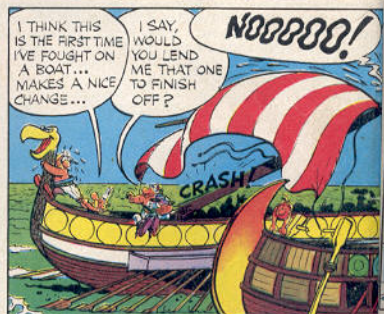
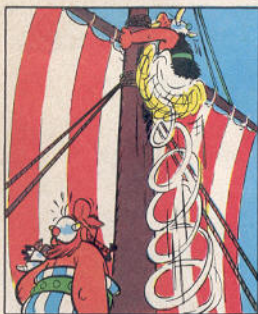
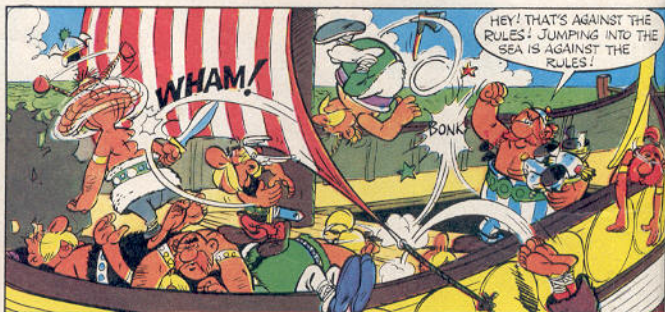
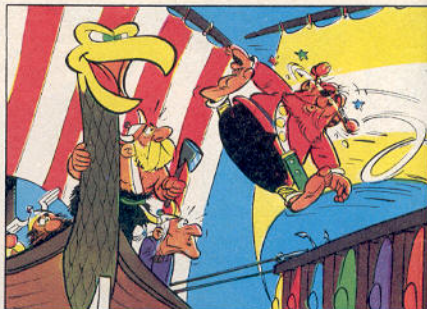
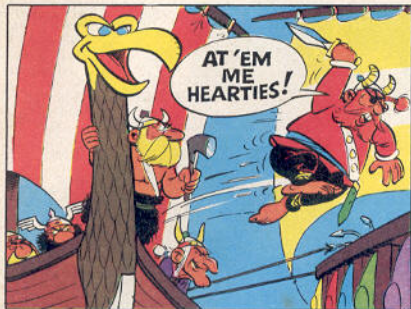
GIDDY GOAT'S HORNS, WE'LL MAKE JUST ONE MOUTHFUL OF THEM!

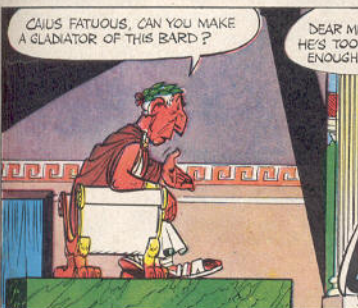
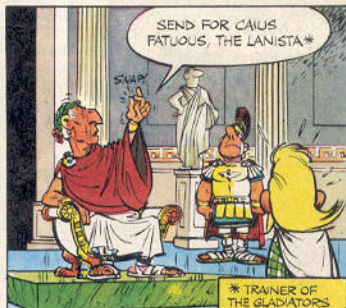
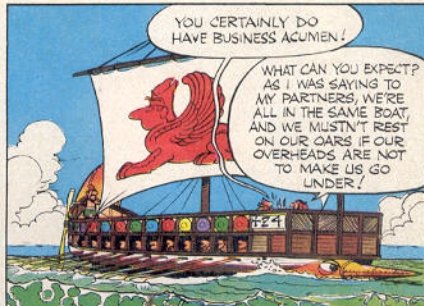
VANITAS VANITATUM ET OMNIA VANITAS!

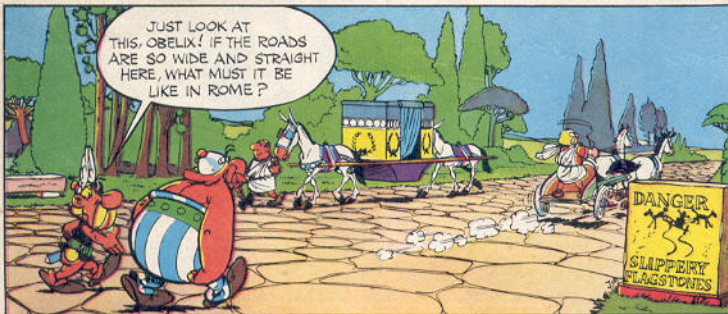
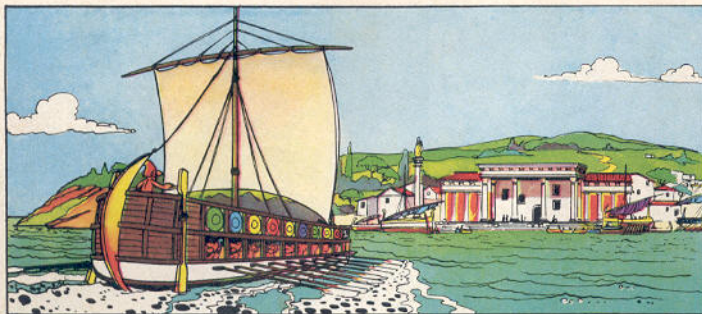


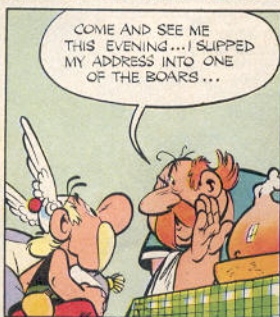
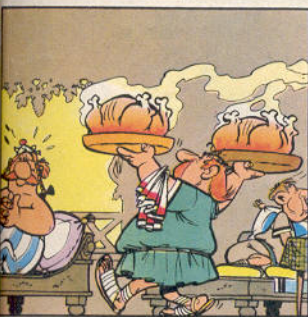
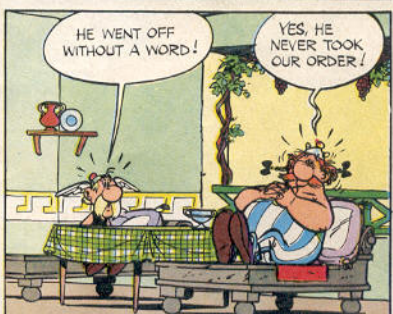
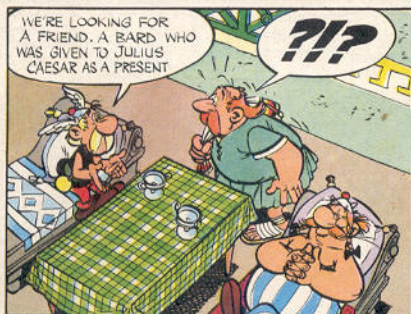
WE MIGHT ON THE ONE HAND HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING TO DISCUSS TERMS OF CONTRACT, WHILE ALTERNATIVELY, ON THE OTHER HAND...

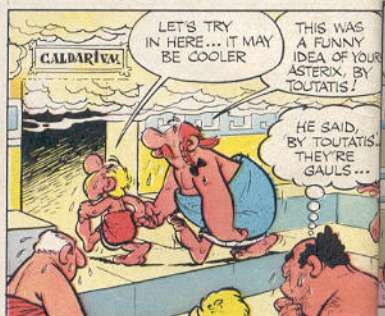
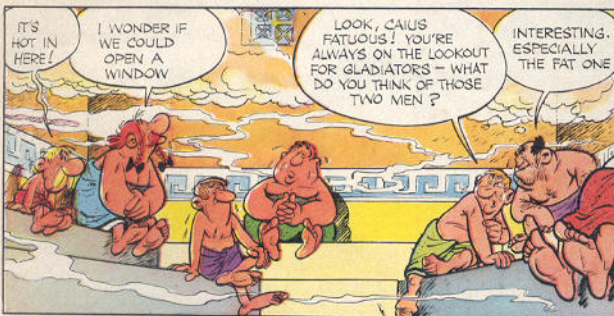
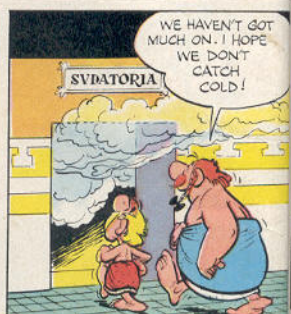
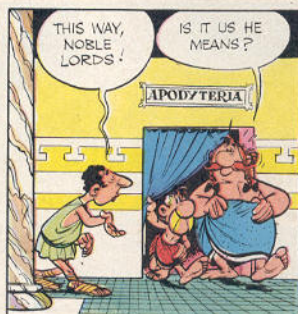
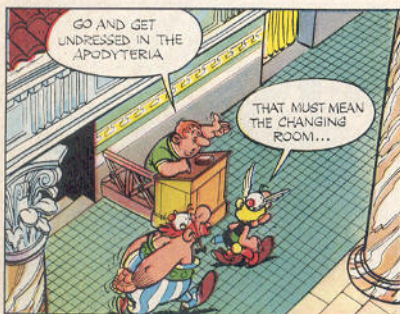
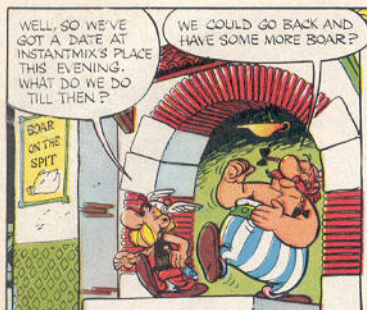
WELL, I THINK THIS WOULD BE A VERY GOOD MOMENT TO...

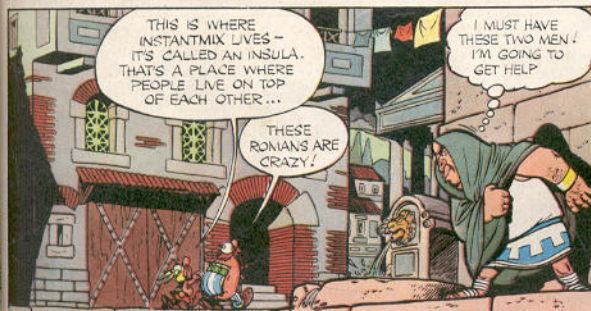
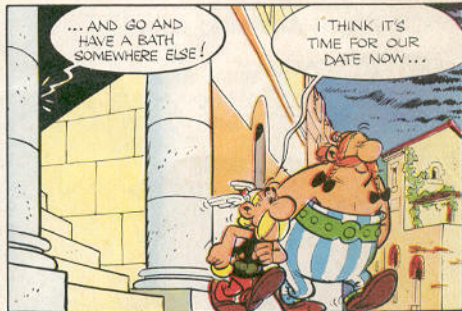
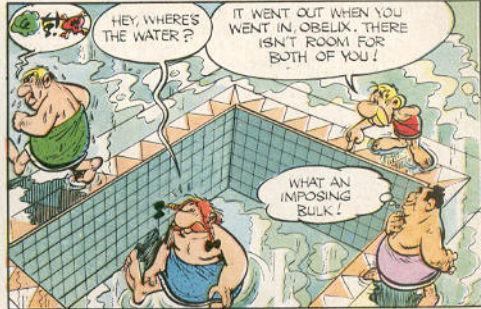


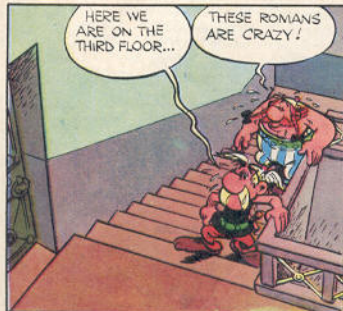












HERE WE ARE ON THE THIRD FLOOR...

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!



STOP WASTING TIME AND KNOCK AT THIS DOOR!

RIGHT!



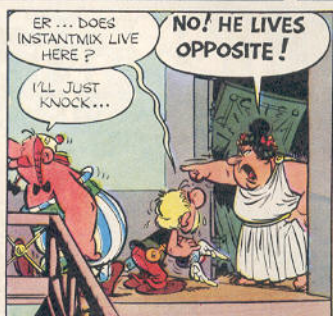
CRASH!



I SAID KNOCK! I DIDN'T SAY SMASH IT IN!

DON'T SHOUT AT ME! YOU KNOW KNOCKING AND SMASHING COME TO THE SAME THING WITH ME!

WHAT'S ALL THIS?



ER... DOES INSTANTNIX LIVE HERE?

NO! HE LIVES OPPOSITE!

I'LL JUST KNOCK...



CRASH!

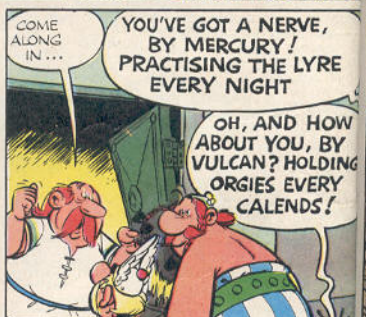
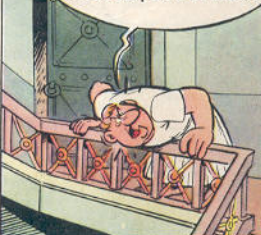
DON'T TOUCH ANY MORE DOORS!



YOU KEEP ON SHOUTING! I DIDN'T SHOUT AT YOU WHEN YOU GOT US INTO HOT WATER JUST NOW, DID I?

WHAT ABOUT MY DOOR? YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS?

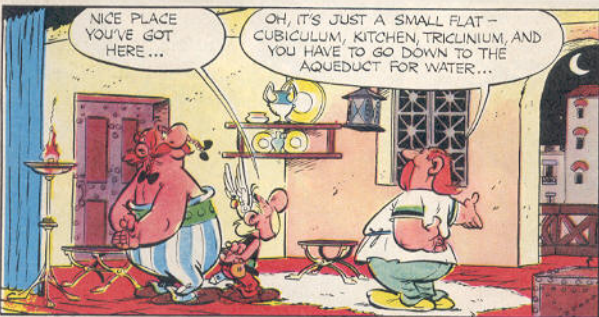
LET'S HAVE A BIT OF PEACE! WE'RE TRYING TO SLEEP, BY JUPITER!



COME ALONG IN...

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE, BY MERCURY! PRACTISING THE LYRE EVERY NIGHT

OH, AND HOW ABOUT YOU, BY VULCAN? HOLDING ORGIES EVERY CALENDIS!



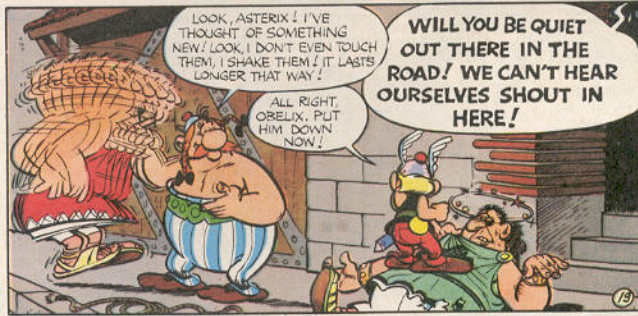
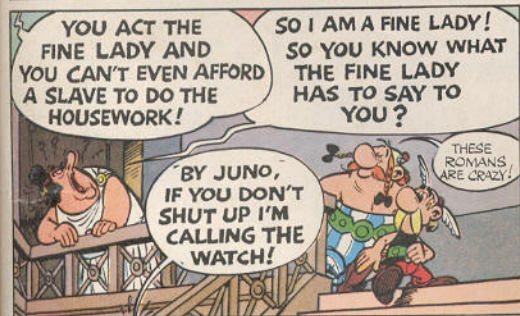
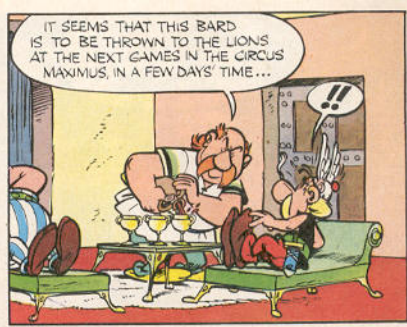
NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE...

OH, IT'S JUST A SMALL FLAT - CUBICULUM, KITCHEN, TRICLINIUM, AND YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE AQUEDUCT FOR WATER...



AND WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS SORT OF PLACE?

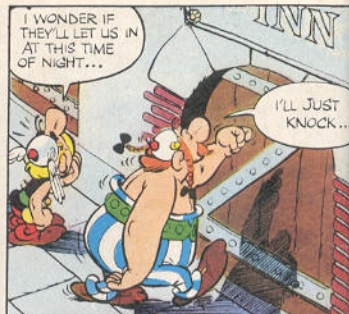
OH, THESE ARE GREATER GLC FLATS - GREATER LATIN COUNCIL...





THIS INN OPPOSITE
THE CIRCUS WILL SUIT
US NICELY. LET'S SEE
IF THEY HAVE
ANY ROOM

RIGHT



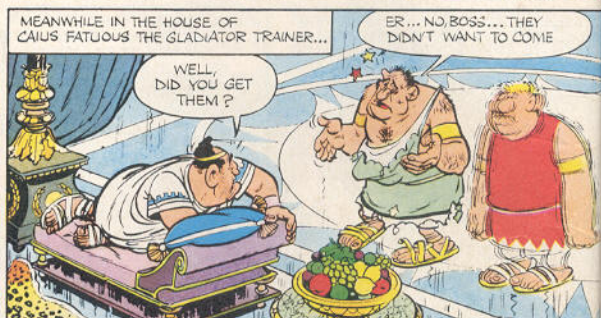
I WONDER IF
THEY'LL LET US IN
AT THIS TIME
OF NIGHT...

I'LL JUST
KNOCK...



SOON
AFTERWARDS...

THAT WILL BE 20 SESTERTII
FOR THE NIGHT AND
40 SESTERTII FOR THE DOOR



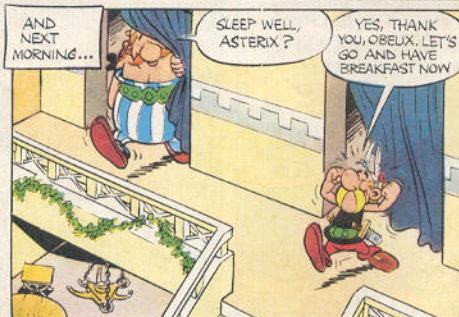
MEANWHILE IN THE HOUSE OF
CAIUS FATUOUS THE GLADIATOR TRAINER...

WELL,
DID YOU GET
THEM?

ER... NO, BOSS... THEY
DIDN'T WANT TO COME



I MUST HAVE
THOSE TWO MEN!
JUMP
TO IT, EVERY-
ONE!



AND
NEXT
MORNING...

SLEEP WELL,
ASTERIX?

YES, THANK
YOU, OBELIX. LET'S
GO AND HAVE
BREAKFAST NOW



WE MUST TRY TO GET INTO
CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF
THE CIRCUS GUARDS AND FIND
OUT EXACTLY WHERE
CACOFONIX IS IMPRISONED!



WAITER! HAVE
YOU BY ANY CHANCE
GOT SOME PARSLEY?

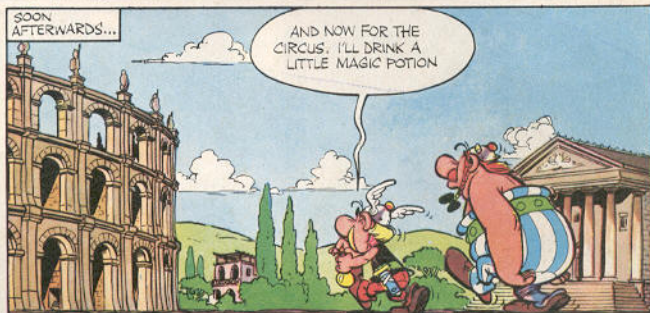
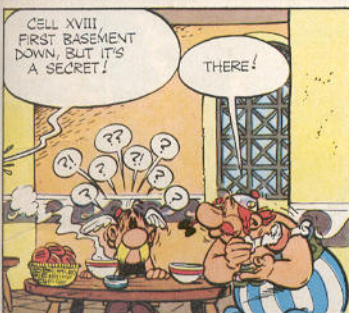
PARSLEY?
WHAT
FOR?

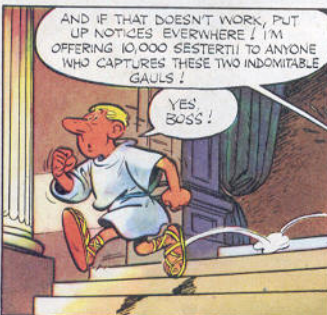
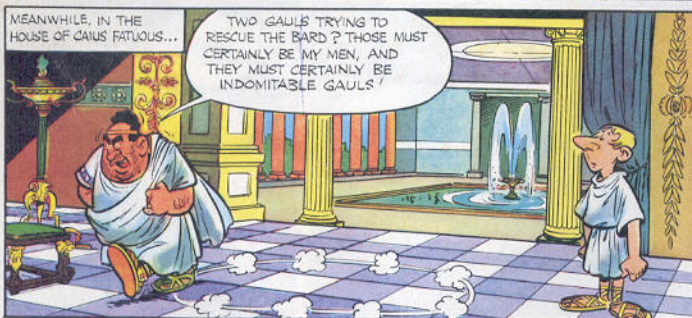
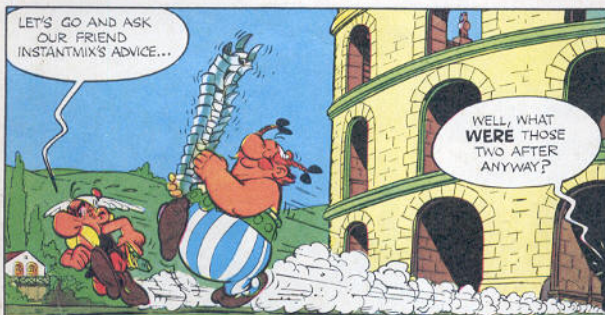
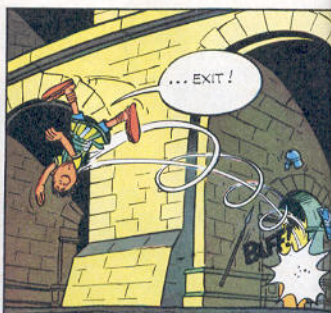


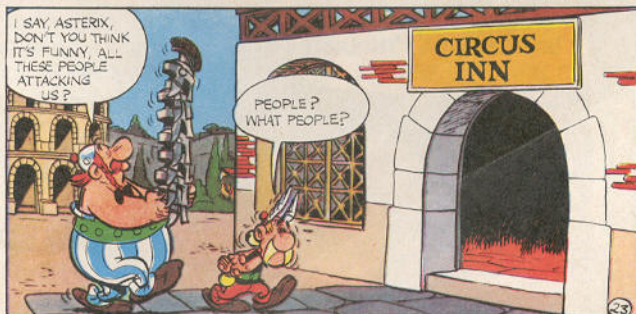
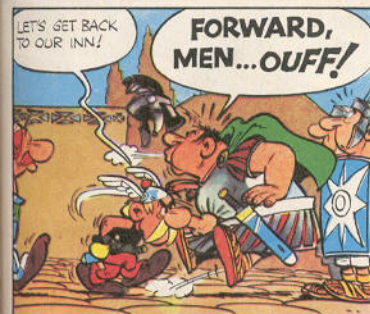
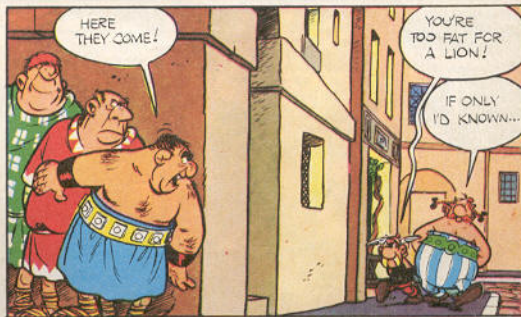
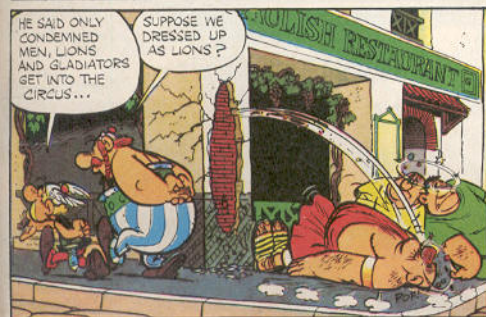
FOR PUTTING IN
MY EARS! I'VE GOT
A PRISONER WHO
KEEPS ON SINGING,
SOMETHING
HORRIBLE!

THAT'S CACOFONIX.

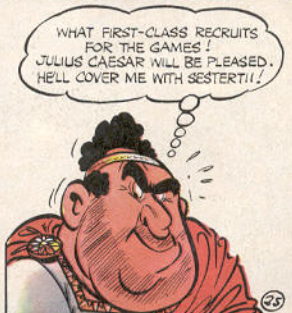
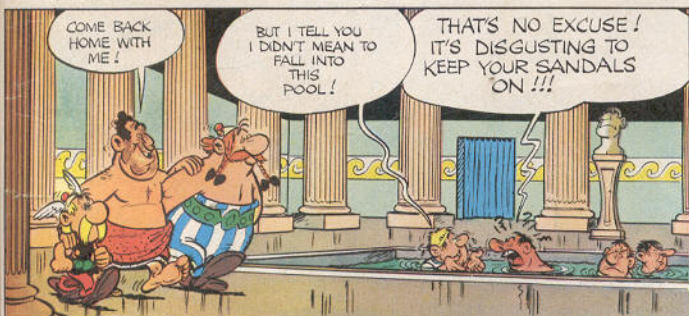
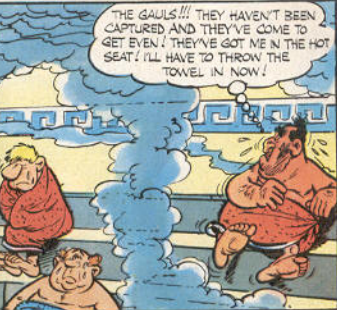
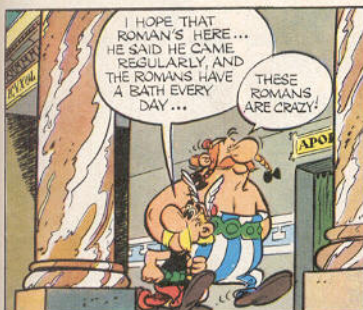
THE
DESCRIPTION FITS
ANYWAY!

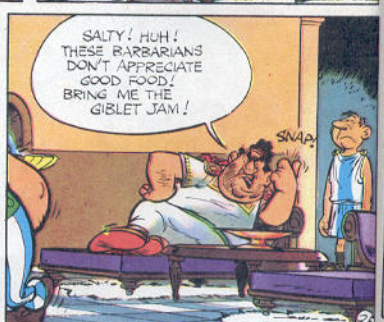


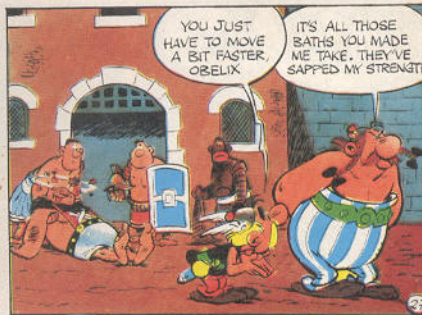


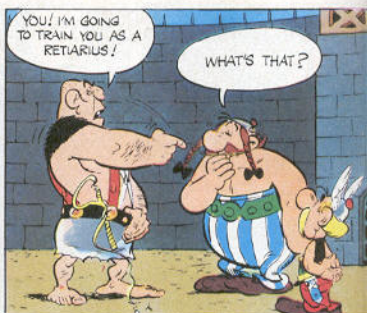
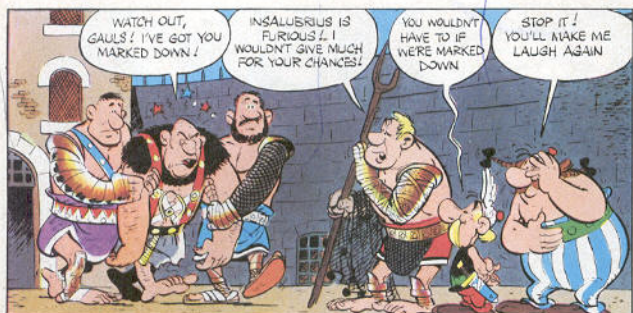




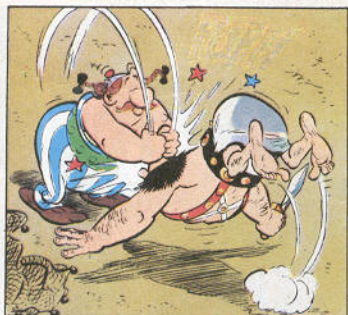


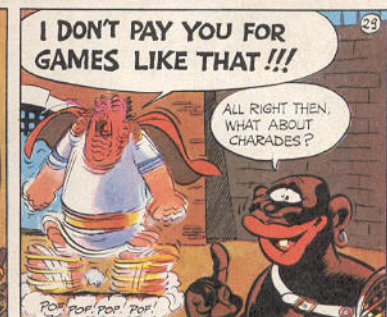
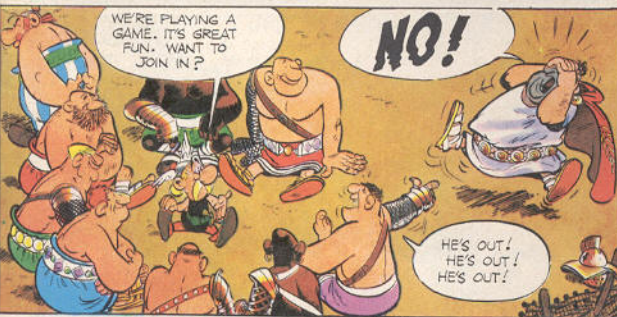
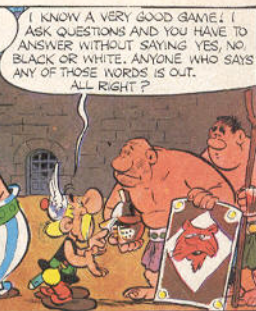
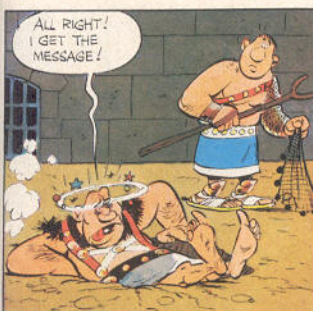


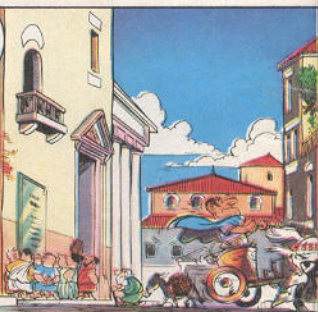
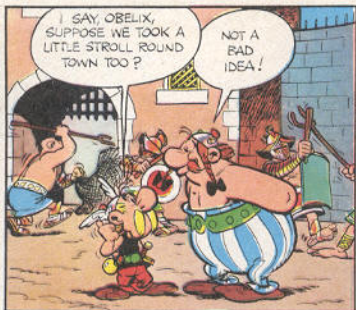




YOU HAVE A TRIDENT - WE USE A STICK IN TRAINING - AND A NET. YOU HAVE TO CATCH YOUR OPPONENT IN THE NET LIKE A FISH







**WH... WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'VE GOT OUT??**

NOT A BAD PROGRAMME, BUT WE'LL WANT TO MAKE A FEW ALTERATIONS...

HE DOES SEEM SURPRISED TO SEE US, AND PLEASED!

**A GUI... A GUI...
A GUIDE!**

YOU TURNED UP JUST AT THE RIGHT MOMENT! WE WERE LOOKING FOR A GUIDE TO SHOW US THE TOWN!

KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP... THE MAIN THING IS NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THEM...

ALL RIGHT

... AND THIS IS THE FORUM

PITY WE CAN'T TAKE PICTURES OF ALL THIS BACK TO GAUL WITH US...

YOU SEEM VERY SURE YOU'LL GET OUT OF THE CIRCUS ALIVE!

WELL, OF COURSE!

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT US!

???

SUPPOSE I WENT CARVING MY NAME ON YOUR PYRAMIDS, EH?

NOW LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR PLACE FOR DINNER!

AND NO BORING LITTLE PASTIES THIS TIME - JUST BOARS!

DINNER IS MUCH ENJOYED BY EVERYONE - WELL, NEARLY EVERYONE...

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR THE ROMANS, THEY KNOW HOW TO ENTERTAIN! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ORELIX?

YUM! GULP!
'RIGHT!
SCRUNCH!

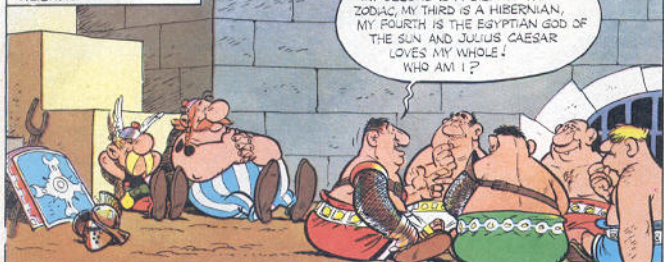
PATIENCE, PATIENCE! THEY'LL BE LAUGHING THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR FACES IN THE ARENA!

COME ALONG, IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO OUR QUARTERS! I HOPE WE HAVEN'T OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME?

I SHOULD HAVE HAD A BOAR FOR THE ROAD...



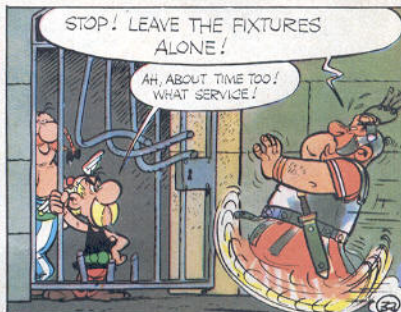
TIME PASSES BY, AND THE GLADIATORS ARE PUTTING ON WEIGHT...

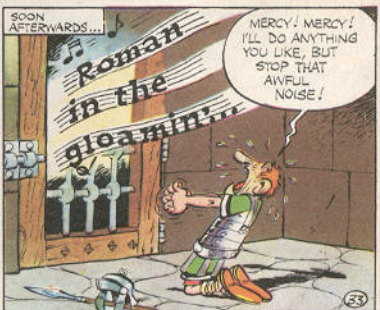
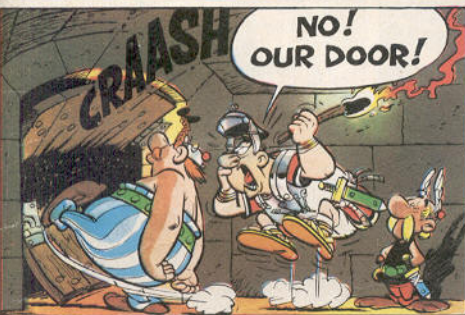


WHILE CAIUS RATIUS IS LOSING IT...



AND A VERY RELAXED GROUP OF GLADIATORS ARRIVES AT THE CIRCUS...





A HUGE CROWD IS FORMING
OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS...

**WASH YOUR TOGAS
IN SUPER PERSIC! SUPER
PERSIC WASHES EVEN
PURPLER!**

SCORE CARD
SCORE CARD!

CUSHIONS!
CUSHIONS!

CHIPOLATAE!
CANES CALIDI!
CHIPOLATAE!

AND INSIDE THE IMPOSING ARENA
THE TRUMPETS ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL
OF CAESAR IN THE IMPERIAL BOX...

**TANTAN
TARA!!!**

PANEM ET CIRCENSEM

**LONG
LIVE
CAESAR!**

**CAESAR
FOR
EVER!**

EVERYONE
APPLAUDS THE

ET TU
RRUTE.

* YOU TOO, BRUTUS!

THAT BRUTUS... I CAN SEE
I'M GOING TO HAVE
TROUBLE WITH HIM *

CLAPCL
CLAPCL
CLAPCL
CLAPCL

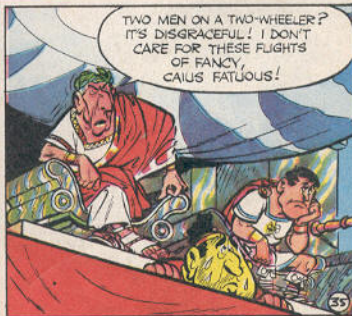
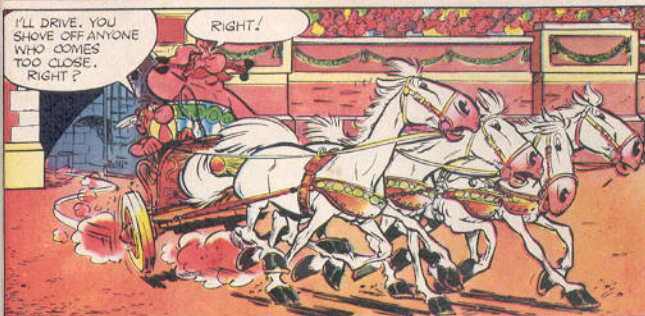
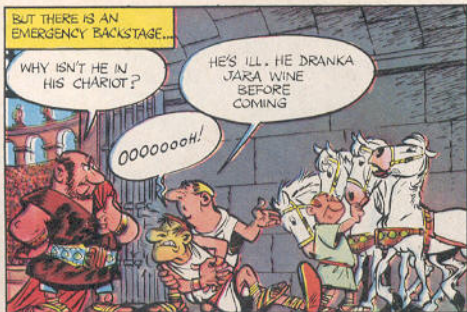
THIS WILL BE A
GREAT SHOW,
O CAESAR!

I HOPE SO,
CAIUS FATUOUS.
(IF NOT, YOU'LL BE
IN ON THE ACT)

LET THE GAMES
BEGIN!

GULP!

*AN EXAMINATION OF ACT III, SCENE 1
OF JULIUS CAESAR BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE WILL INDICATE THE
PROPHETIC NATURE OF THIS REMARK



THE CHARIOTS
ARE OFF...

THAT ONE IN FRONT
WON'T LET US
OVERTAKE!

AAAAARGH!

IF THOSE TWO COME NEAR ME, BY MERCURY, THEY'LL GET A TASTE OF MY WHIP!

Pov

CRACK!

LAST
LAP

YOU GO ON- LEAVE
THIS TO ME! WE'LL
HAVE SOME FUN!

3

LET GO, WILL
YOU! LET
GO THIS
MINUTE!

YOU CAN LET GO NOW,
OBELIX. I'VE WON!

NOOOOO!

W H O O S

**HURRAH!
BY JUPITER!
PLAUDITE CIVES**

AVE
CAESAR!

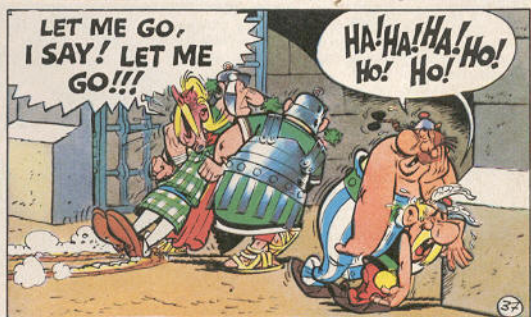
THE
PEOPLE ARE
PLEASED...
AND THAT
PLEASES ME!

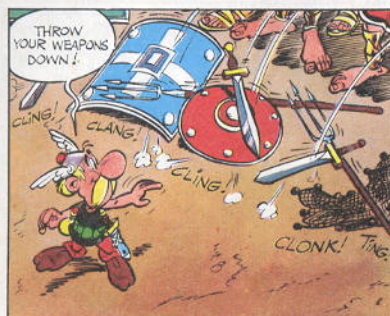
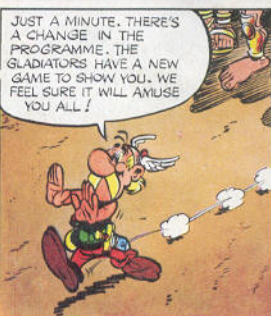
ER... THAT'S
IT... I GOT UP A
LITTLE COMIC
TURN!
I THOUGHT THE
PEOPLE WOULD
LIKE IT!

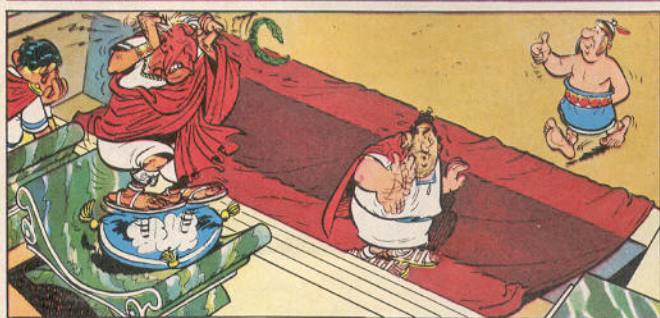
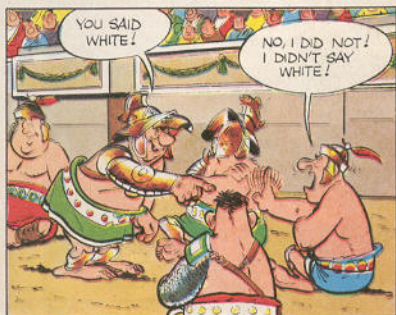
BUT WE DON'T
WANT THE
GAMES TO BE
ALL COMIC TURNS.

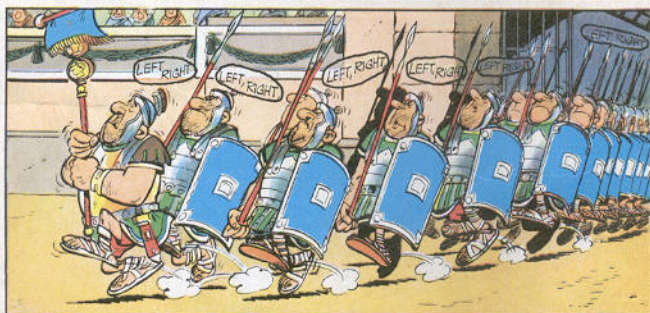
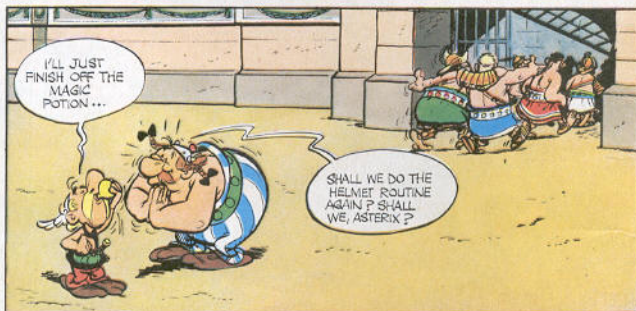
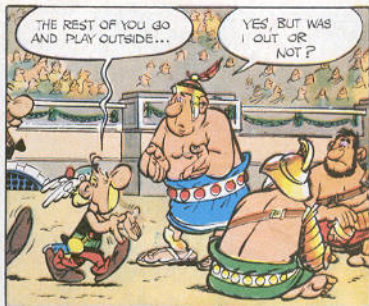
NO, NO!
AND NOW WE
PRESENT A MAN
BEING EATEN
ALIVE BY THE
LIONS!

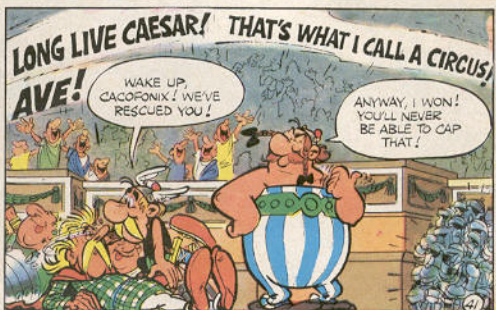
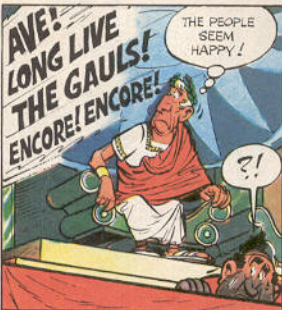
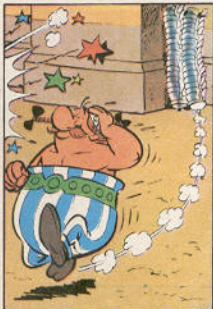
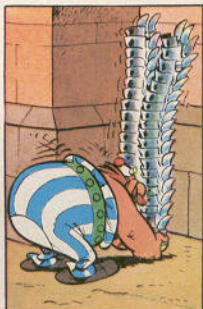
CRUNCH!

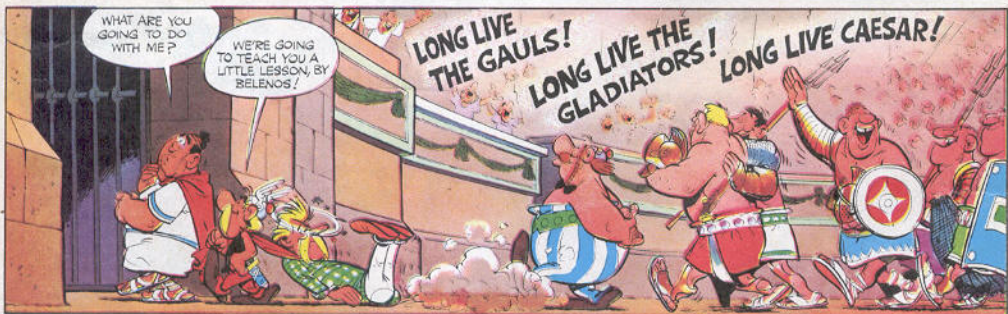


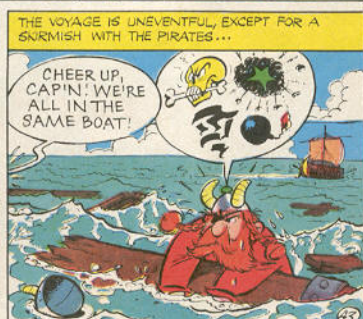
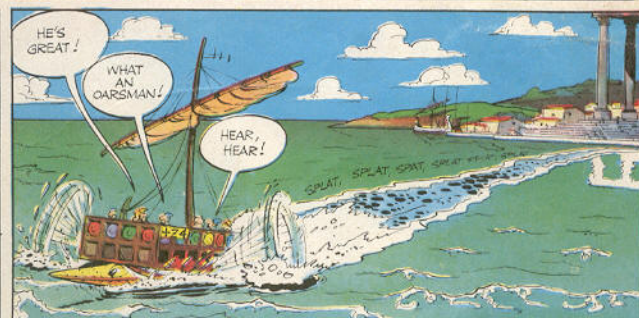
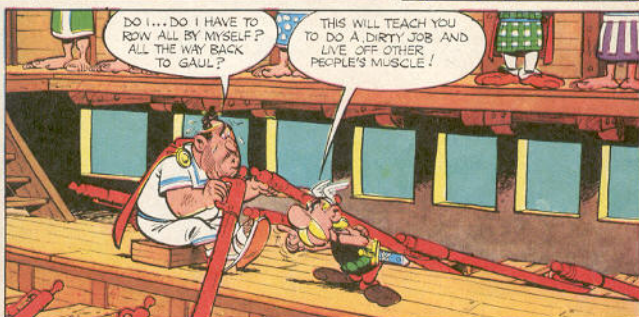
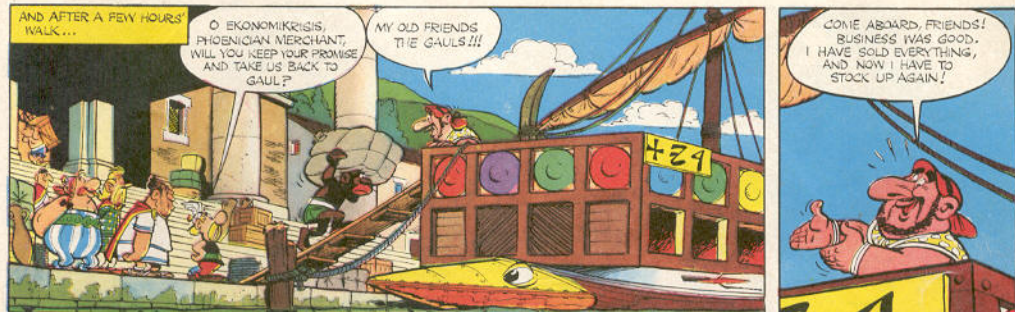












AT LAST WE
HEAR THE LONG
AWAITED SHOUT...

GAUL!!!

**HURRAH,
BY TOUTATIS!**

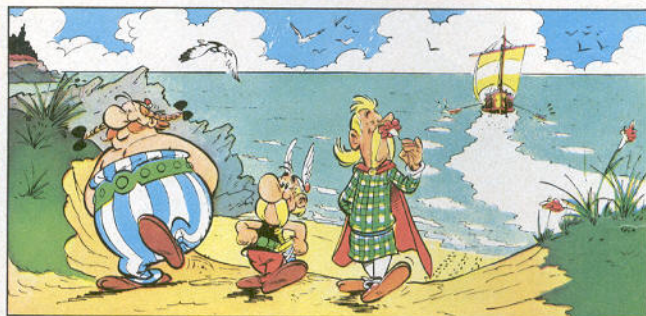
THANKS FOR THE
TRIP, EKONOMIKRISIS.
PROMISE TO TAKE THE
ROMAN HOME SAFE AND
SOUND AND NOT SELL
HIM ON THE WAY!

WHAT, SELL
A PARTNER?

A FRIEND?

WE'RE VERY FOND
OF CAIUS FATLOUIS.
HE KEEPS US ALL
GOING!

RIGHT... OFF WE
GO, PARTNER! LET'S
SPEED OUR ENTERPRISE
ON ITS WAY!



THE GAULISH VILLAGE CELEBRATES
THE RETURN OF ITS HEROES WITH A
GREAT FEAST... AND BUT FOR THE
FACT THAT CACORONIX WAS THE
INVOLUNTARY VICTIM OF A TECHNICAL
HITCH, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE
GIVEN THEM A SONG...

the end

LIBERTE
&
GOLCONNY