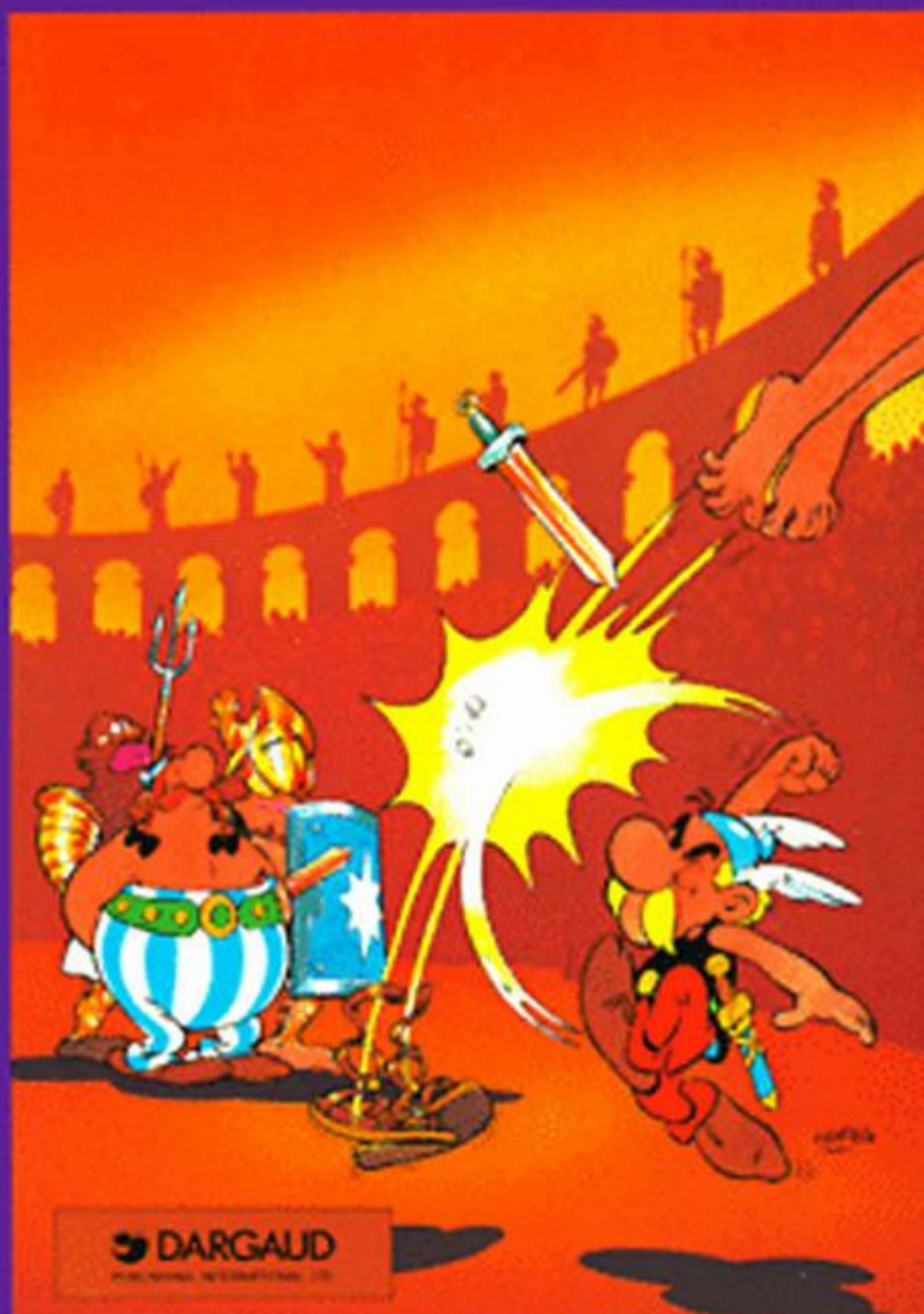


AN ASTERIX
ADVENTURE

Asterix

THE GLADIATOR

Asterix



 DARGAUD

PUBLISHED BY DARGAUD S.A.

ASTERIX THE GLADIATOR

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE





GAULISH VILLAGE

BELGICA

COMPENDIUM

AQUARIUM

LAUDANUM

TOTORUM

LUTETIA

ARMORICA

GAUL
(ROMAN CONQUEST)
50 B.C.

CELTICA

PROVINCIA

AQUITANIA

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...

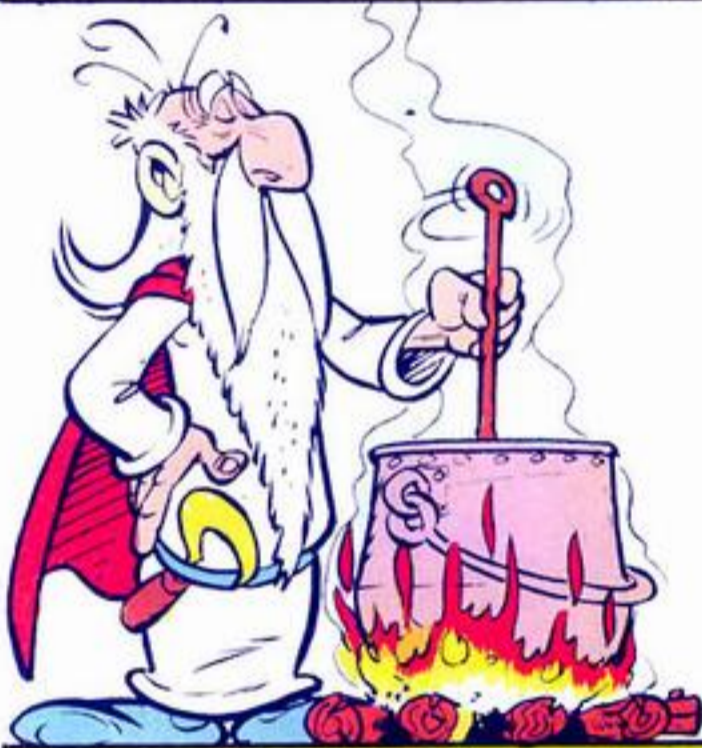


a few of the Gauls

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...

THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM IS IN A FERMENT. THE PREFECT OF GAUL, JULIUS 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?

WHAT?!



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!



SCANNED BY SOLOMONGRUNDIFIX - E FLURIBUS HACSA!!!!

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!



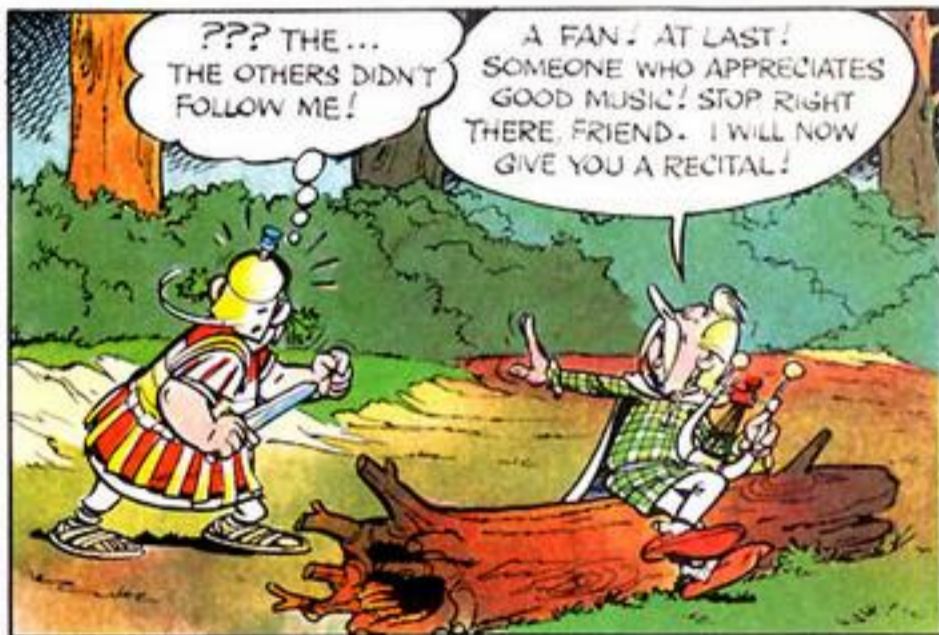
AND IN THE GAULISH
VILLAGE...

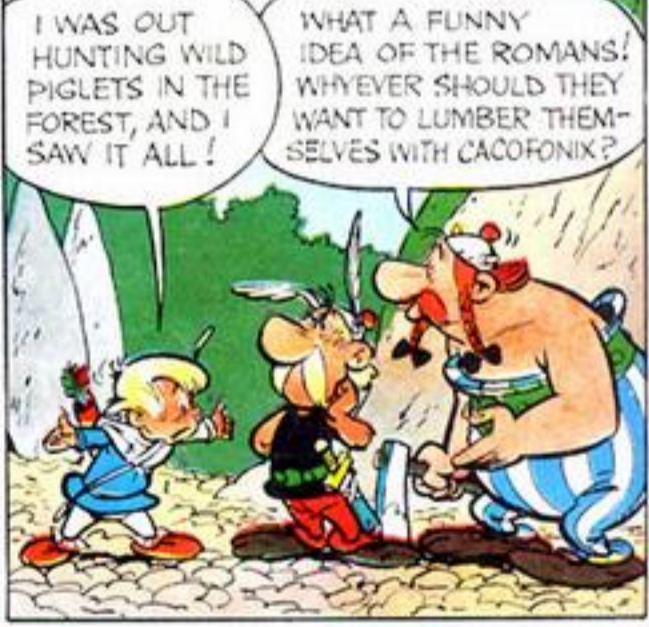
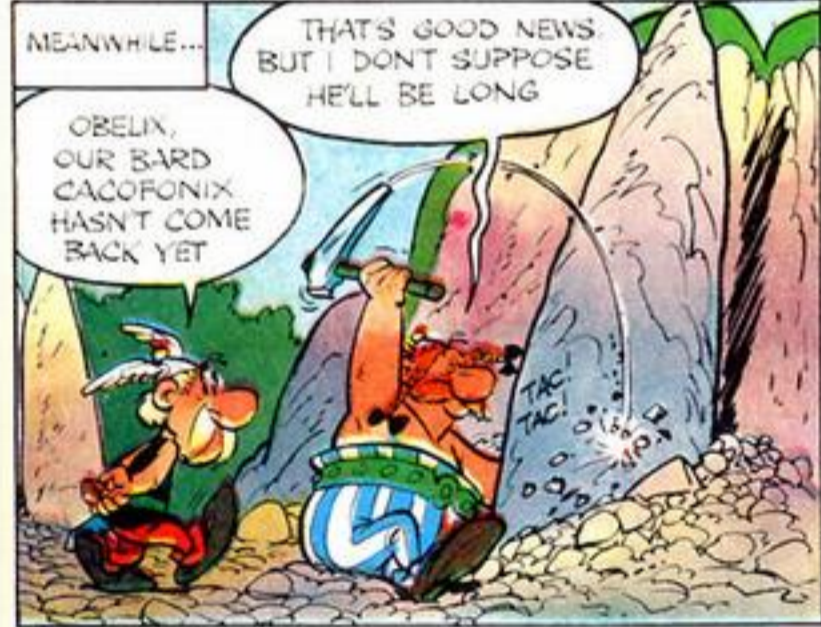
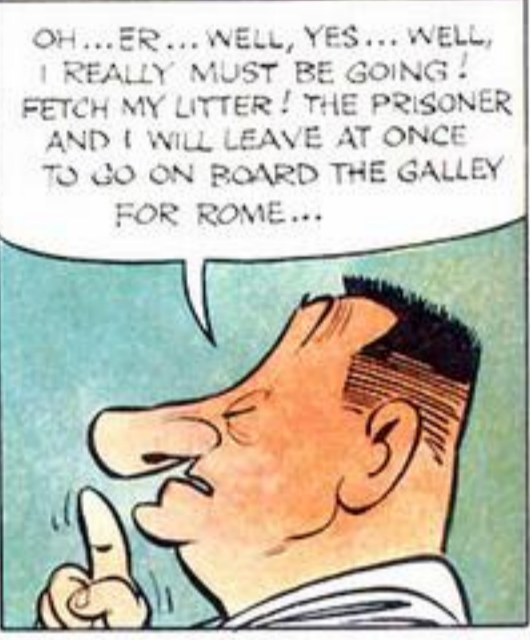
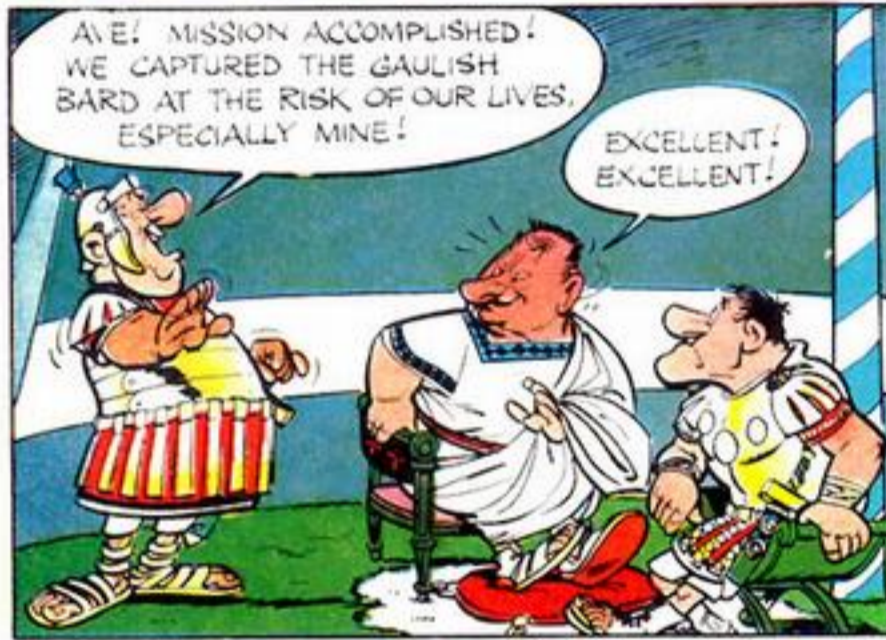
GOODBYE,
ASTERIX, I'M GOING
FOR A WALK IN
THE FOREST!

GOODBYE,
CACOFONIX!











O VITALSTATISTIX, OUR BARD CACOFONIX HAS DISAPPEARED!

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT TO PLEASE ME...



THE ROMANS HAVE CAPTURED HIM!

WHAT?



BY TOUTATIS! EVEN IF IT IS A FUNNY IDEA OF THE ROMANS, THAT'S NOT PLAYING FAIR! WE CAN'T HAVE THIS SORT OF THING!



A GAUL MUST KNOW HOW TO MAKE HIS ENEMY RESPECT HIM! WE SHALL ORGANIZE A PUNITIVE EXPEDITION! LET THE DRUID PREPARE THE MAGIC POTION!



SOON AFTERWARDS THE GAULISH WARRIORS ARE DRINKING THE MAGIC POTION WHICH GIVES THEM INVINCIBLE STRENGTH...



NO, OBELIX! NOT YOU! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU YOU DON'T NEED ANY POTION! YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH AS YOU ARE!

WHAT, ME STRONG? NOT A BIT OF IT! I'M AS WEAK AS ANYTHING!



GO ON! I'LL GIVE YOU THIS NICE MENHIR!

NO, NO AND FOR THE THIRD TIME NO!

SILENCE! OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX IS GOING TO MAKE A SPEECH!



FRIENDS, GAULS, COUNTRYMEN! WE MUST GIVE THESE ROMANS A GOOD LESSON, BY TOUTATIS!



AND REMEMBER, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR BUT THE SKY FALLING ON OUR HEADS!



IN THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM THE TROOPS HAVE BEEN ALERTED...

AND REMEMBER, ROMANS, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR BUT THE GAULS!



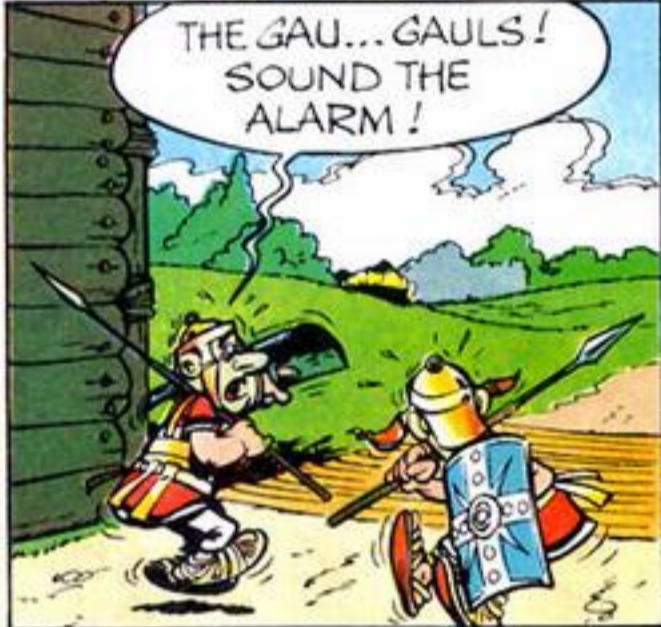
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME CACOFONIX HAS EVER GIVEN US ANY ENTERTAINMENT!

I SAY, ASTERIX! HOW ABOUT A BET? THE ONE WHO KNOCKS OUT MOST LEGIONARIES WINS, AND WE HAVE TO COLLECT THEIR HELMETS AS PROOF!



AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AT COMPENDIUM...

PUT YOUR HELMETS ON!!!



THE GAU... GAULS! SOUND THE ALARM!



HELP! THEY'RE COMING!



AND INSIDE THE CAMP WE OBSERVE THE IMPRESSIVE SPECTACLE OF LEGIONARIES MANOEUVRING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAMOUS PRECISION OF THE ROMAN ARMY...

COHORTS INTO THREE LINES... FORM!



SOUND THE HORNS, TRUMPETS AND BUCINAS!



PILUM AT THE READY!



MANOEUVRE, BY JUPITER!!!

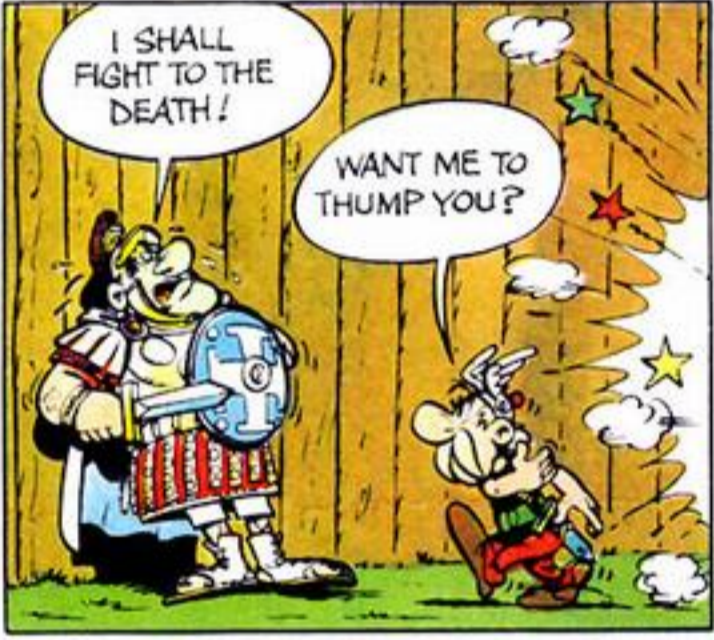
WHOOSH!

WE CAN'T! THE GAULS ARE IN THE WAY!

THE BATTLE IS SHORT...



BUT SHARP...



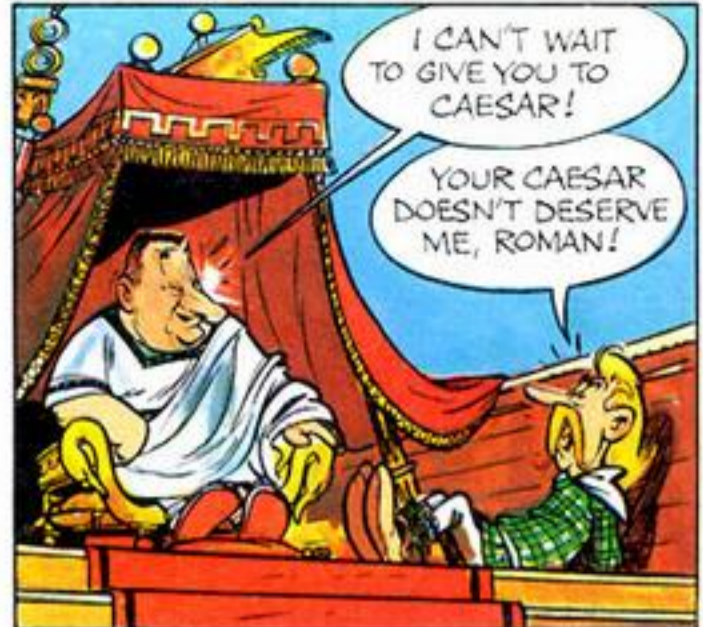
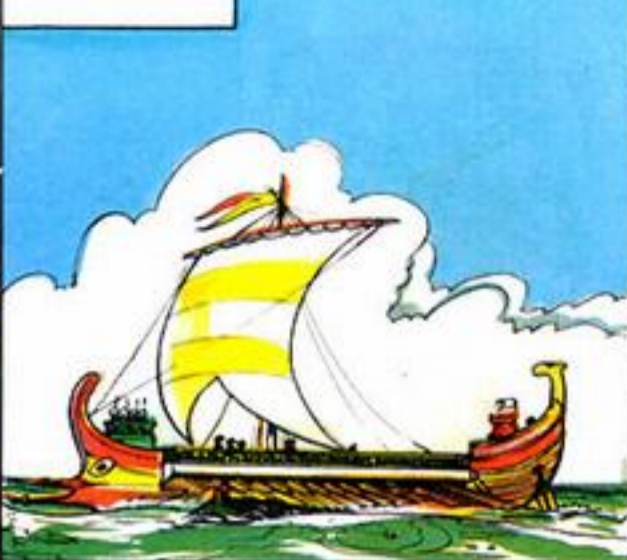
LATER IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

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

POOR CACOFONIX, PRISONER ON BOARD A ROMAN GALLEY!



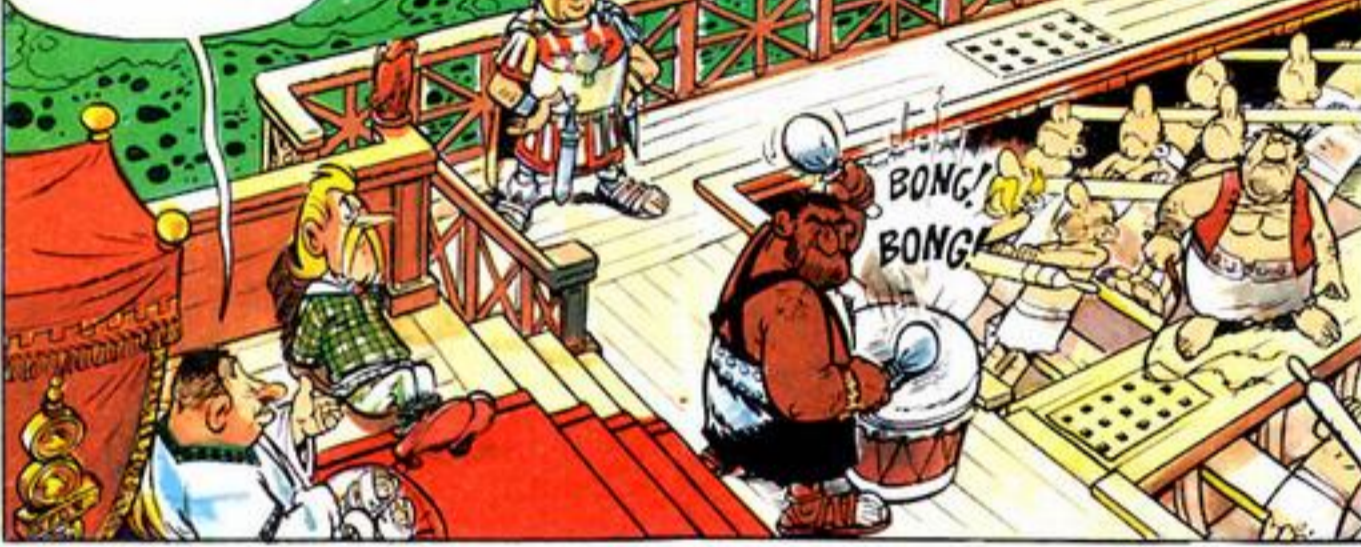
MEANWHILE...



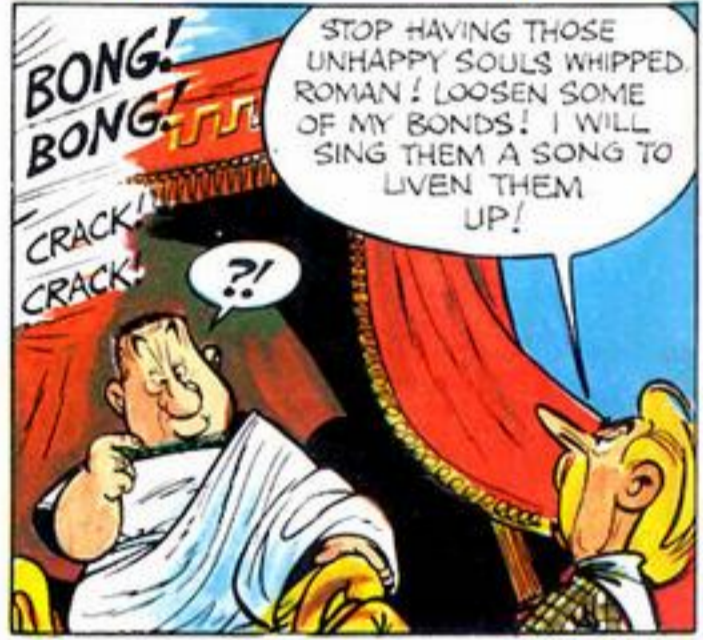
I CAN'T WAIT TO GIVE YOU TO CAESAR!

YOUR CAESAR DOESN'T DESERVE ME, ROMAN!

MAKE THEM ROW FASTER!



BONG!
BONG!



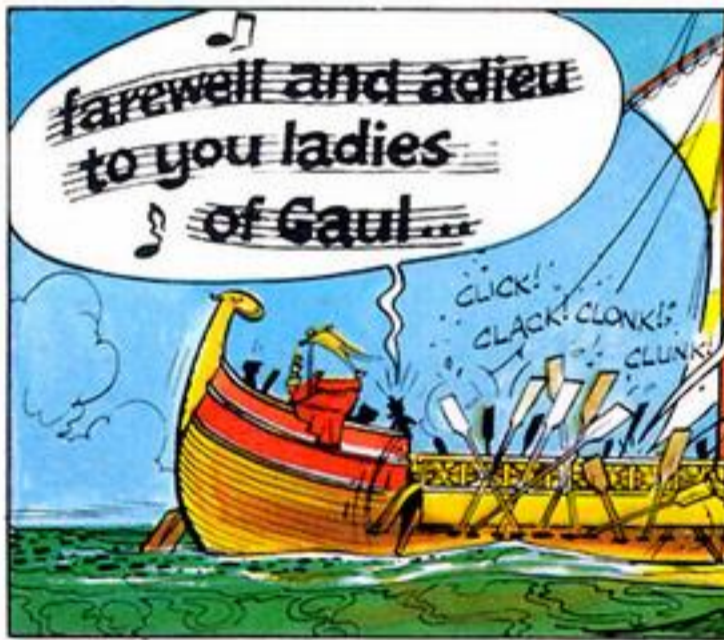
BONG!
BONG!
CRACK!
CRACK!

STOP HAVING THOSE UNHAPPY SOULS WHIPPED, ROMAN! LOOSEN SOME OF MY BONDS! I WILL SING THEM A SONG TO LIVEN THEM UP!

?!



farewell and adieu
to you
fair Celtic
ladies...



farewell and adieu
to you ladies
of Gaul...

CLICK!
CLACK!
CLONK!
CLUNK!
BONG!



STOP!
MERCY!

WE'D RATHER
HAVE THE WHIP!



OUR WORK ISN'T ALL FUN AND GAMES, BUT THIS IS INHUMAN! IF THE GAUL WILL SHUT UP WE PROMISE TO ROW OUR HARDEST!



YOU IGNORANT LOT! YOU BRUTES!
YOU'LL ALL END UP IN THE... WELL,
YOU ALREADY HAVE!

BONG!



I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF CAESAR REALLY DOES DESERVE THIS...



OBELIX! WE MUST GO TO ROME AND RESCUE CACOPHONIX!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT BY ME... SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH! ...BUT HOW DO WE GET THERE? IT'S A LONG WAY! SCRUNCH!



... AND SO WE'LL GO DOWN TO THE BEACH AND TAKE THE FIRST BOAT FOR ROME!

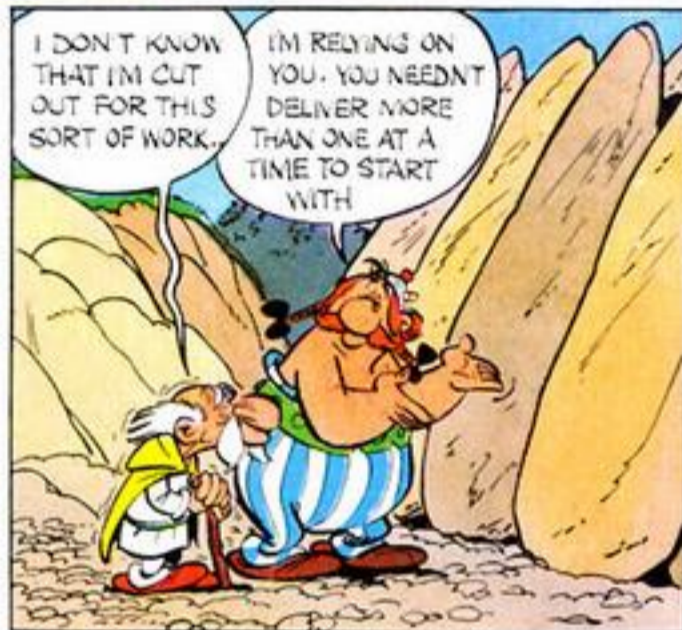
IT'S RISKY, ASTERIX, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT; WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR BARD IN THE LURCH. HE SINGS ATROCIOUSLY, BUT HE'S A GOOD SORT...

AN EXCELLENT SORT!



YOU COME WITH ME, ASTERIX, AND I'LL MAKE YOU A GOURD OF MAGIC POTION...

I'LL JUST GO AND FIND SOMEONE TO DELIVER MY MENHIRS WHILE I'M AWAY...



I DON'T KNOW THAT I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS SORT OF WORK.

I'M RELYING ON YOU. YOU NEEDN'T DELIVER MORE THAN ONE AT A TIME TO START WITH



COME ON, OBELIX, IT'S TIME TO LEAVE!

COMING, ASTERIX!



TAKE CARE!

DON'T WORRY! IF THE ROMANS AREN'T NICE TO US WE'LL LEAVE THEIR CITY FULL OF RUINS!



ASTERIX, WHAT'S THE LATIN FOR WILD BOAR?

SINGULARIS PORCUS, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAVE THEM IN ROME



NOW WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR A SHIP...

LET'S HAVE A BET WHILE WE WAIT. WE SEE HOW MANY DOZEN OYSTERS WE CAN EAT, AND THE ONE WHO EATS MOST WINS A SINGULARIS PORCUS!



LOOK! A SHIP! WE'RE IN LUCK!

WHY DON'T WE WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE? THEN WE COULD HAVE OUR BET!



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 OFTEN TO STOP SHIPS



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

WHAT'S THE PHOENICIAN FOR SINGULARIS PORCUS?

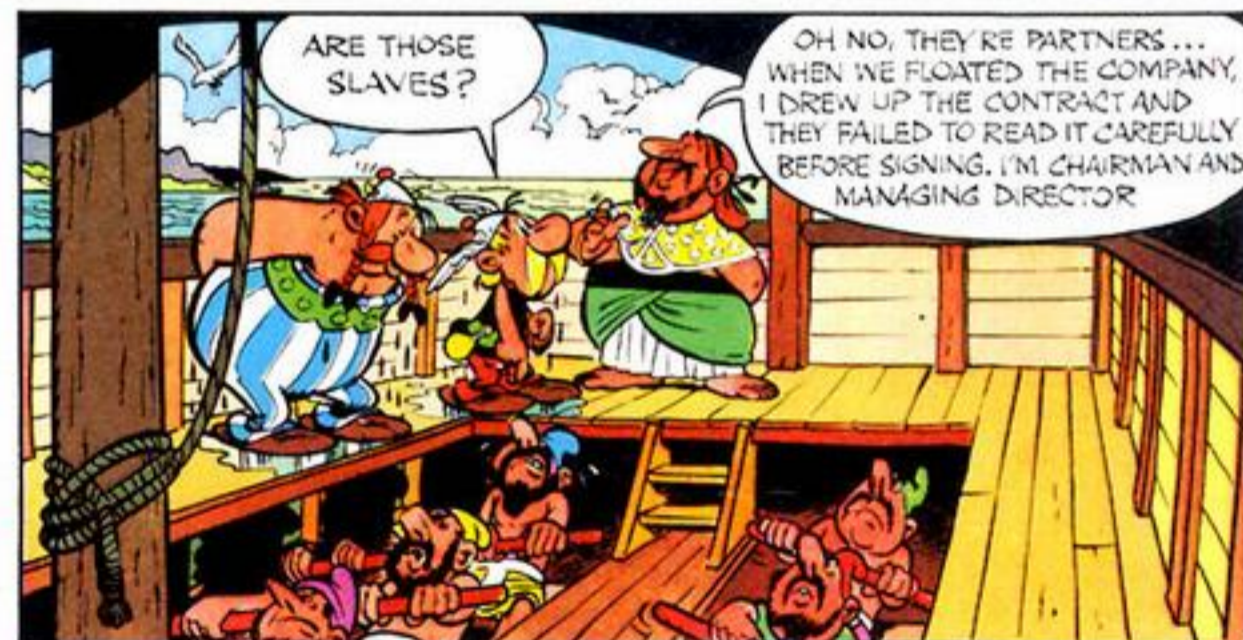
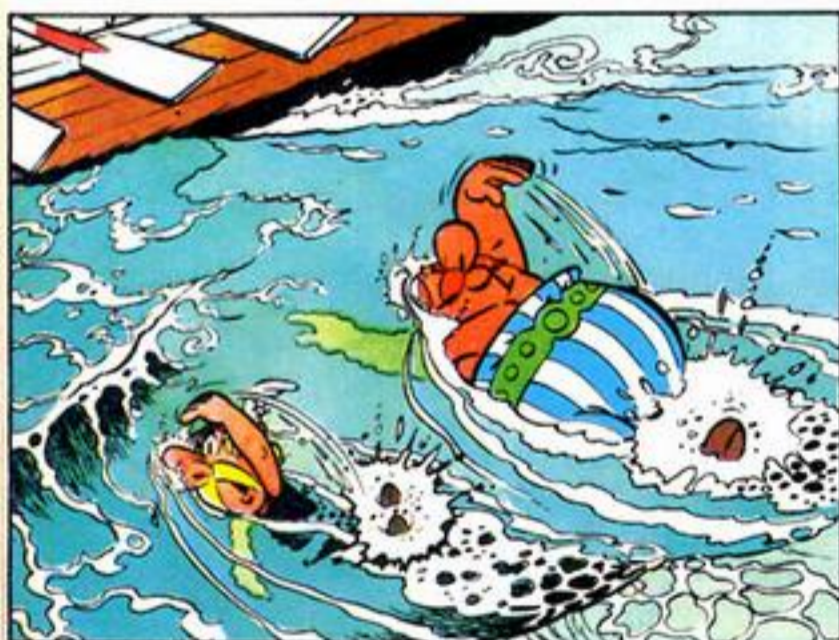


WE'RE FROM TYRE IN PHOENICIA. MY NAME IS EKONOMIKRISIS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ANY GLASS, JEWELS, TEXTILES, PURPLE, FURNITURE?

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

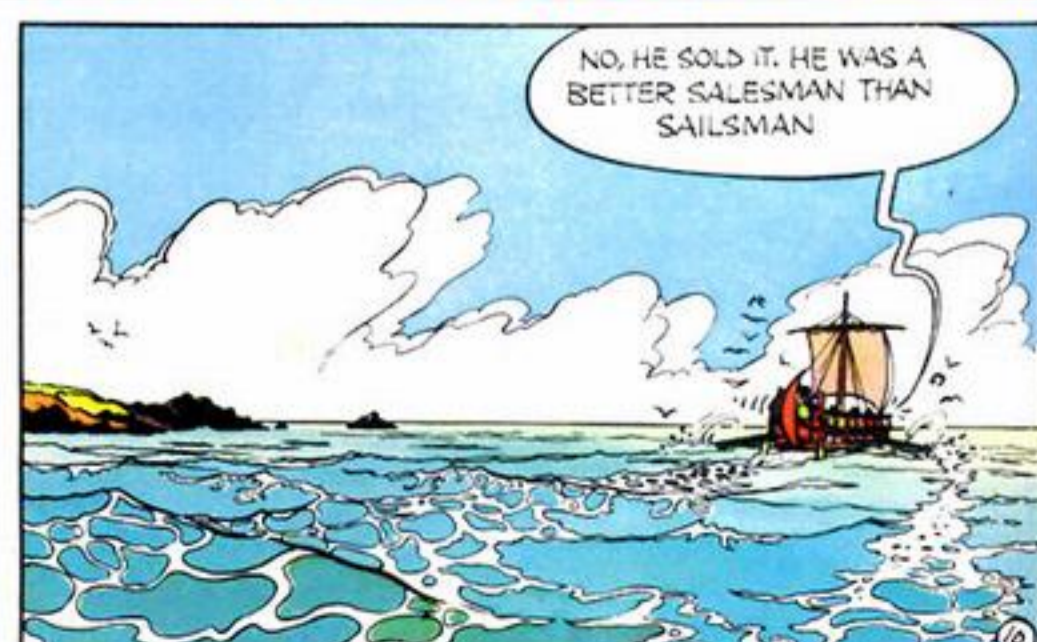


IT'S KIND OF YOU TO TAKE US TO ROME. I HOPE IT DOESN'T MEAN GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY?

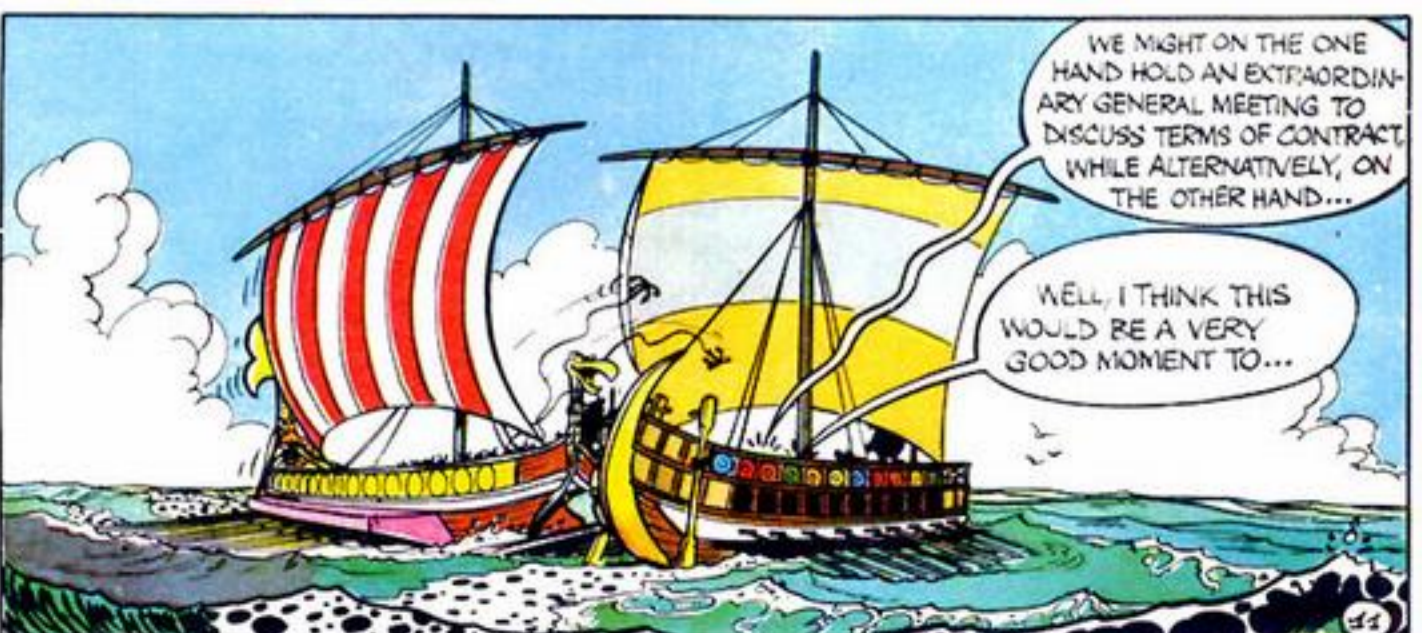
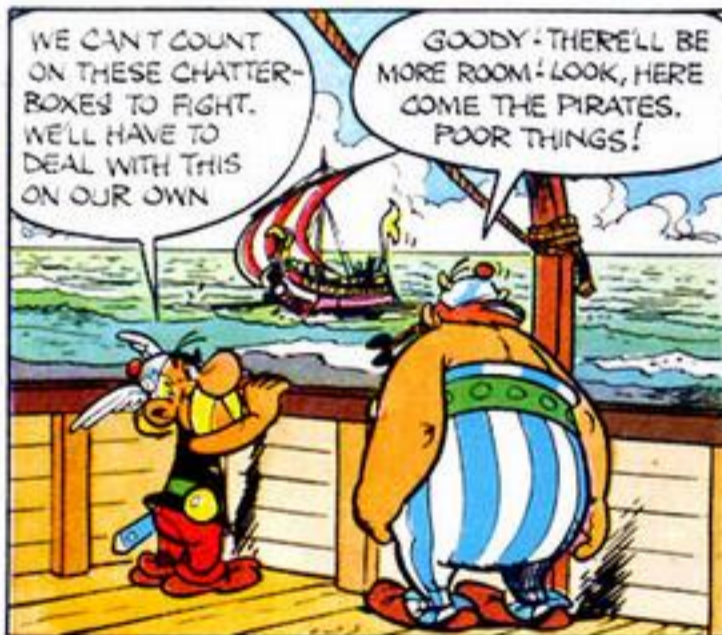
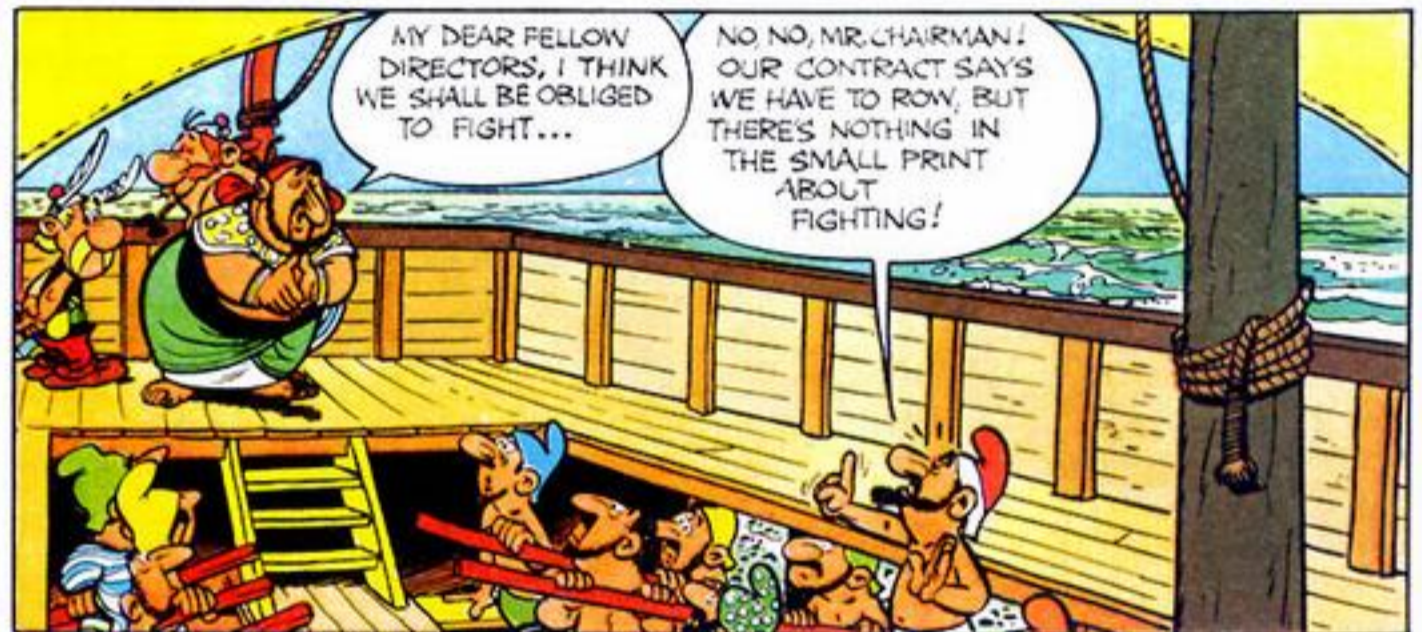
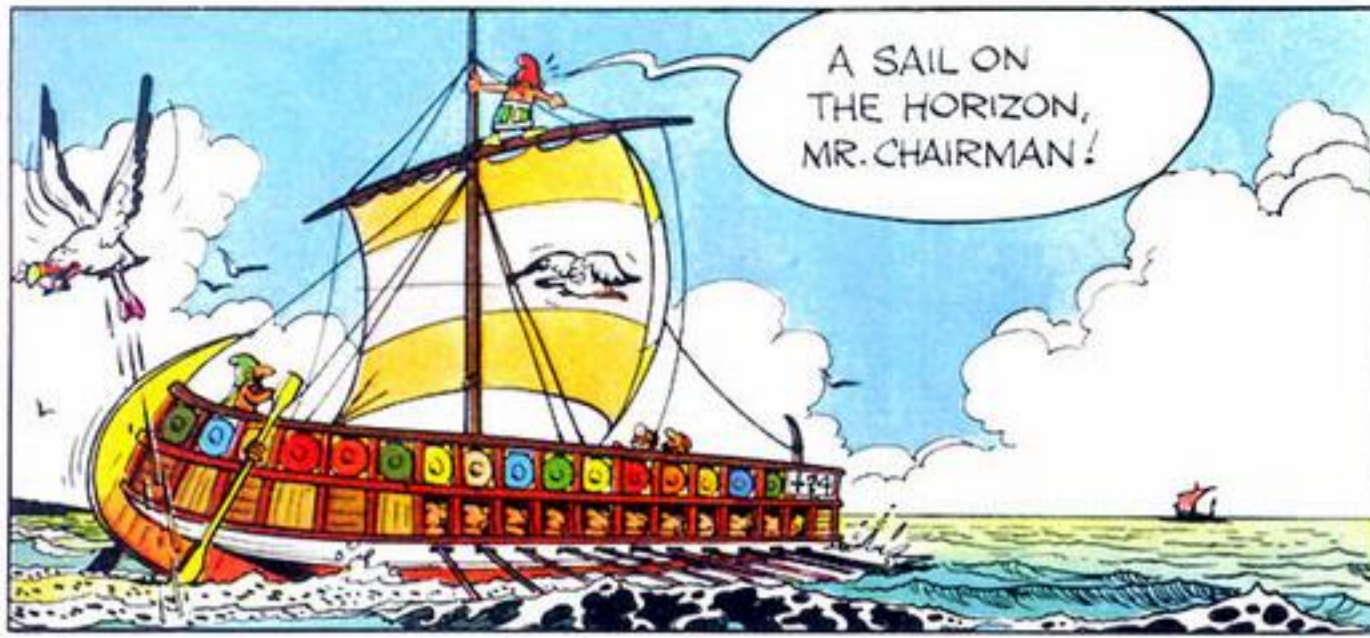
AS IT HAPPENS, WE WERE PLANNING TO GO TO ROME. ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS ABANDONED HIS SHIP THERE...

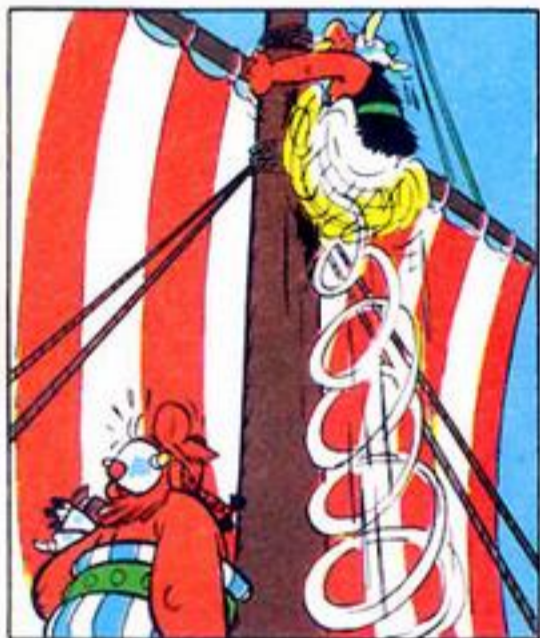


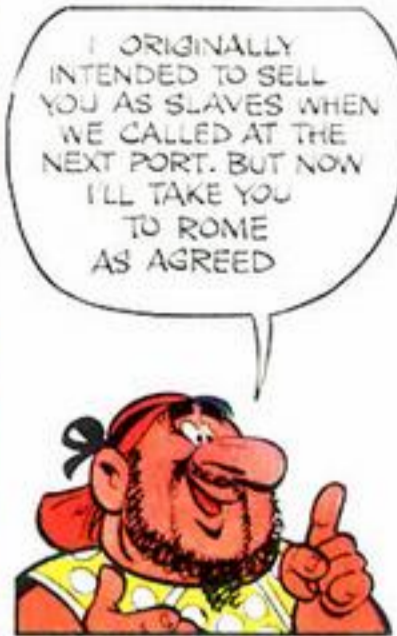
IT SANK?

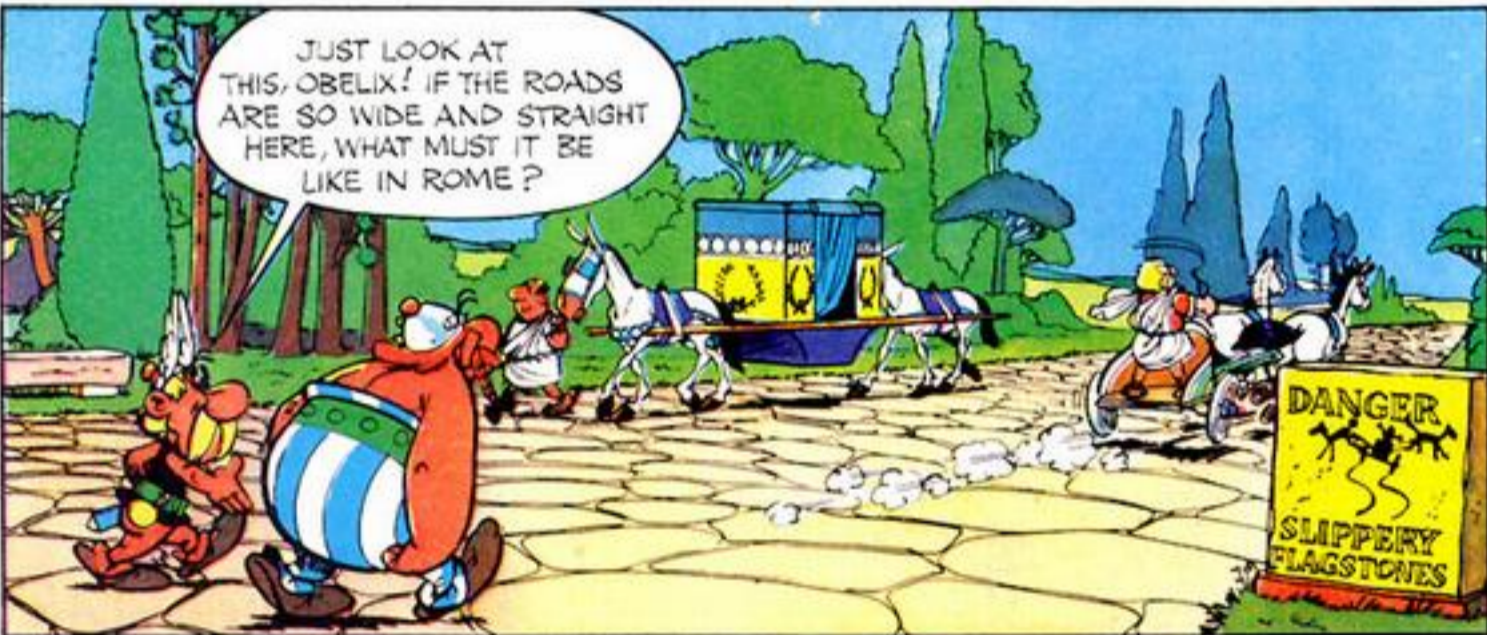
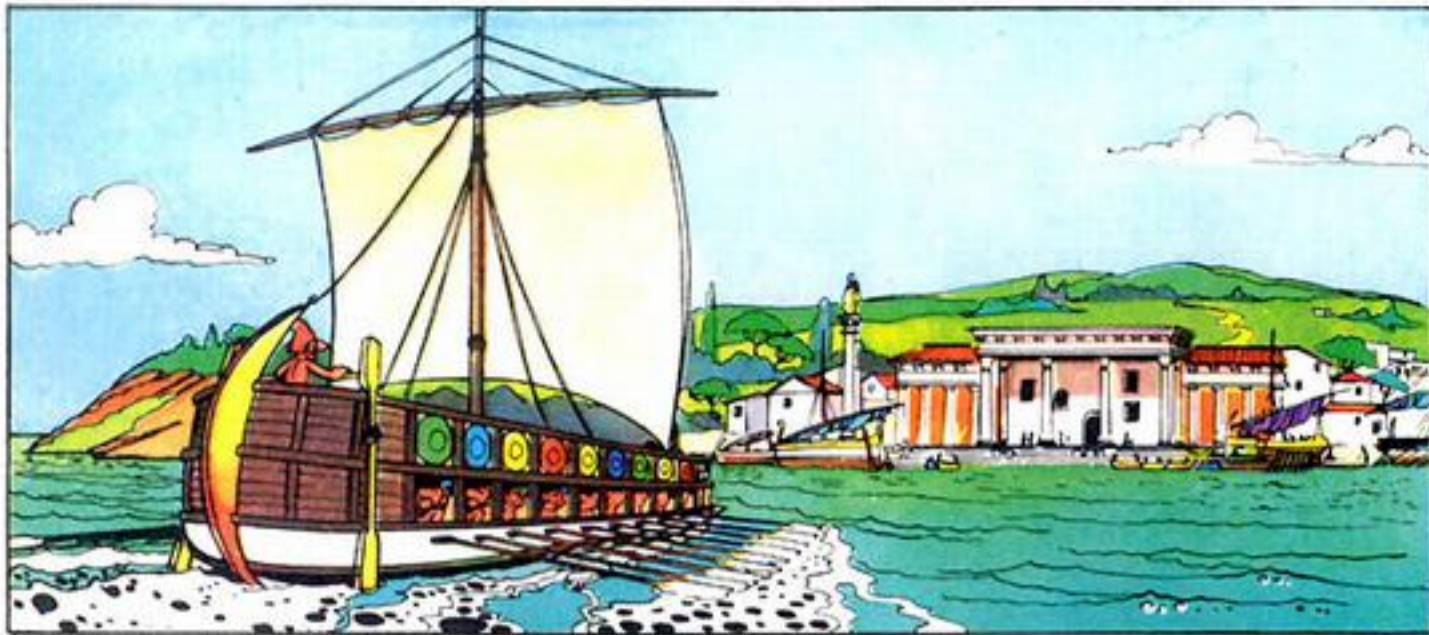


NO, HE SOLD IT. HE WAS A BETTER SALESMAN THAN SAILSMAN

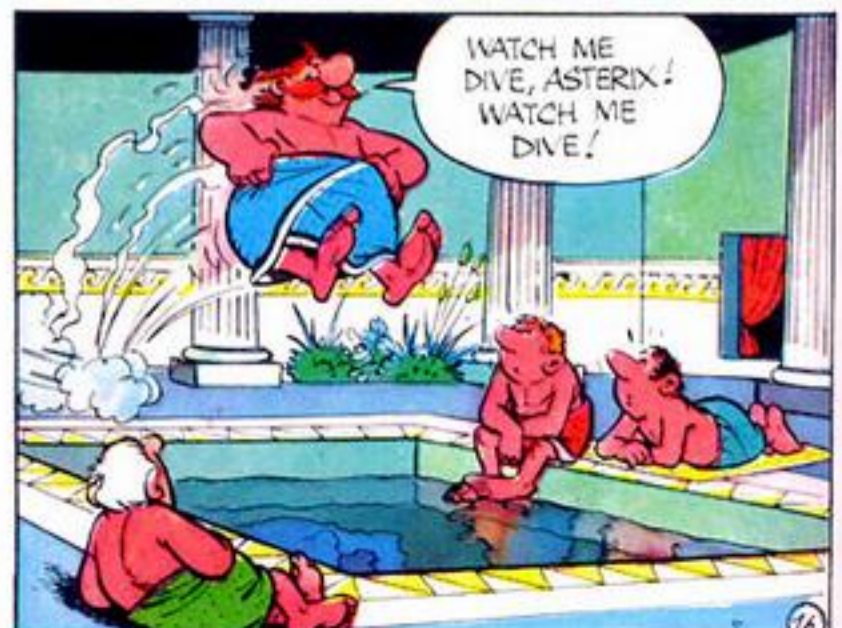
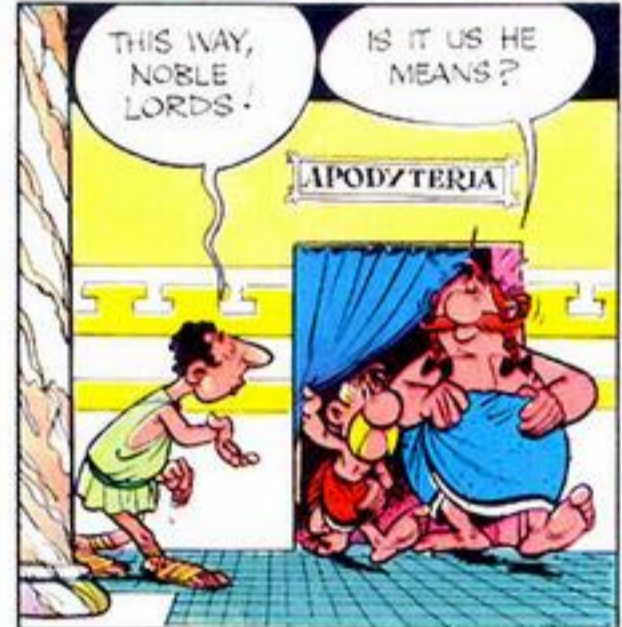
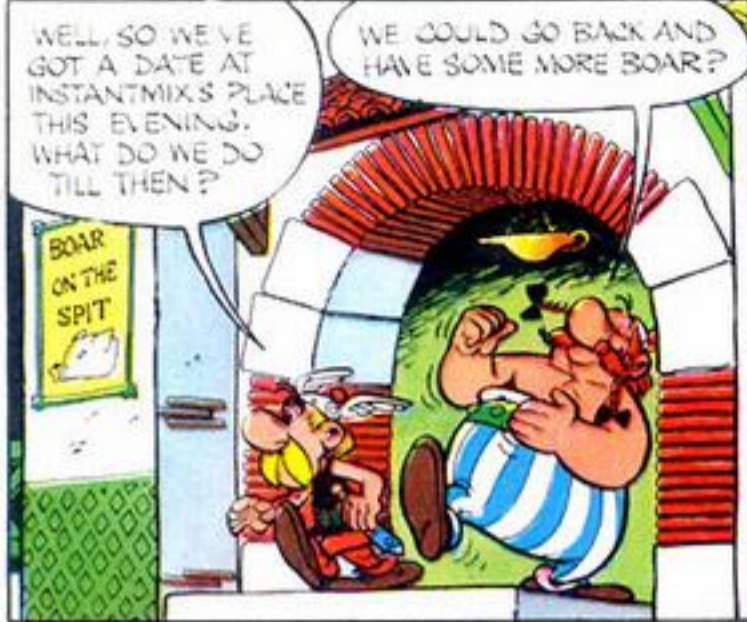




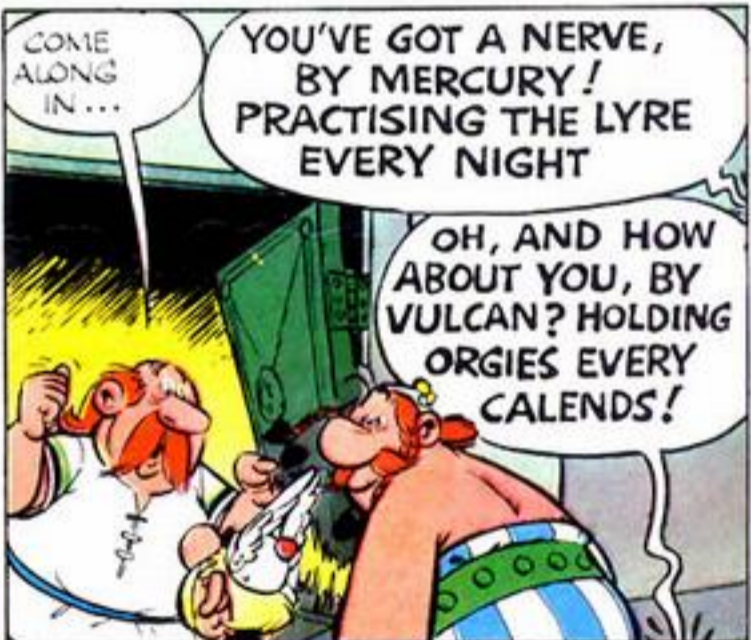
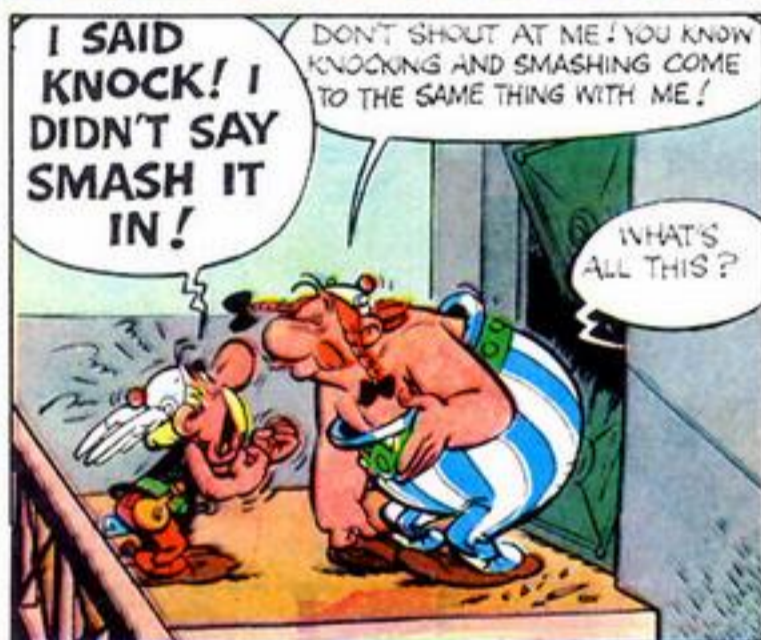
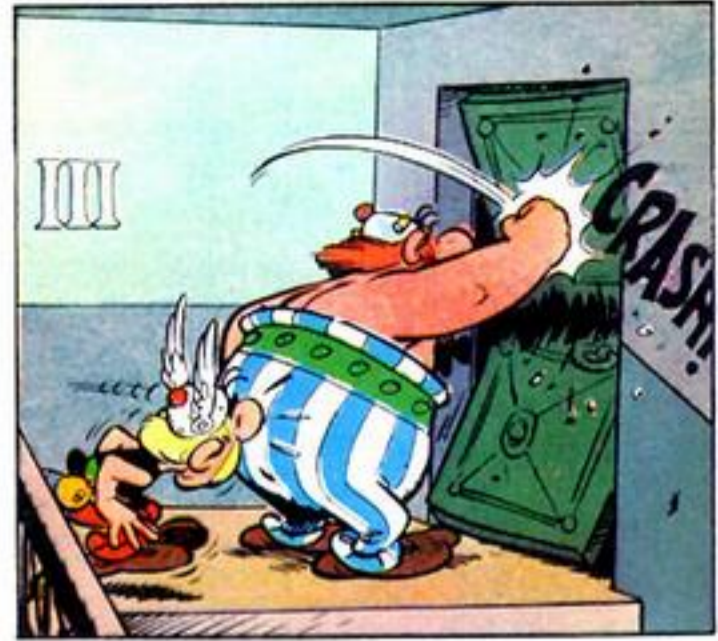














YES, I DID HEAR ABOUT THE BARD THAT THE PREFECT OF GAUL GAVE CAESAR AS A PRESENT...



IT SEEMS THAT THIS BARD IS TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS AT THE NEXT GAMES IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS IN A FEW DAYS' TIME...

!!



WE'LL RESCUE HIM!

YOU CAN'T. THE BARD'S BEEN SHUT UP IN A CELL IN THE CIRCUS... AND IT'S A MAXIMUM SECURITY CIRCUS!

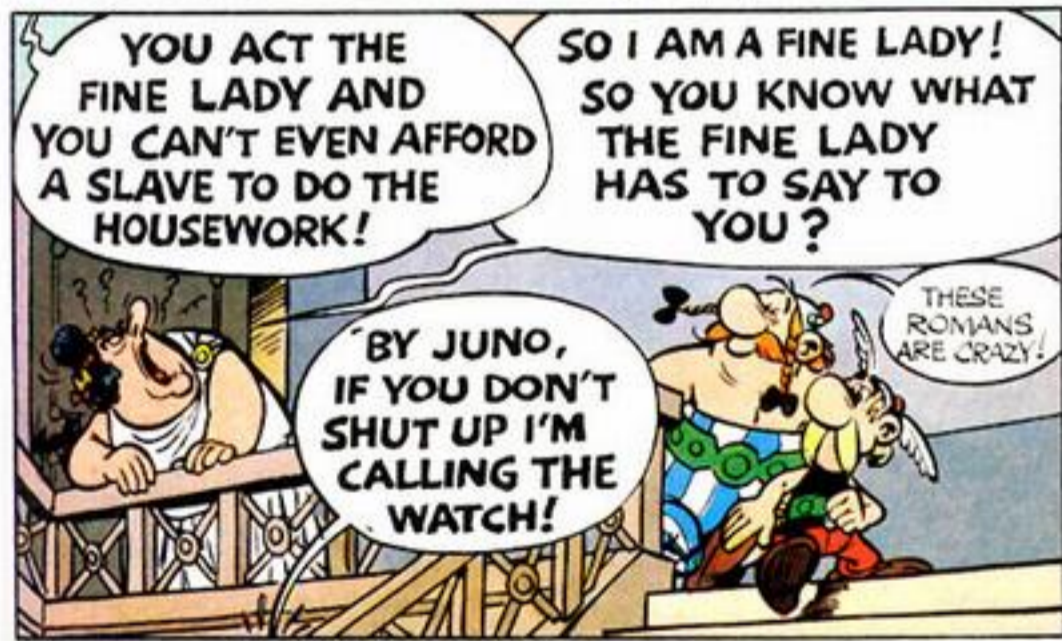


BUT THERE'S WORSE TO COME. THAT'S WHY I WARNED YOU TO BE CAREFUL. YOU MUST BE INDOMITABLE GAULS LIKE THE BARD! YOU MUST FLEE FROM ROME!



CAIUS FATUOUS, WHO TRAINS THE GLADIATORS, IS LOOKING FOR MEN FOR THE GAMES... AND INDOMITABLE GAULS ARE IN GREAT DEMAND!

WE WILL RESCUE OUR BARD!



YOU ACT THE FINE LADY AND YOU CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A SLAVE TO DO THE HOUSEWORK!

SO I AM A FINE LADY! SO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FINE LADY HAS TO SAY TO YOU?

BY JUNO, IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP I'M CALLING THE WATCH!

THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

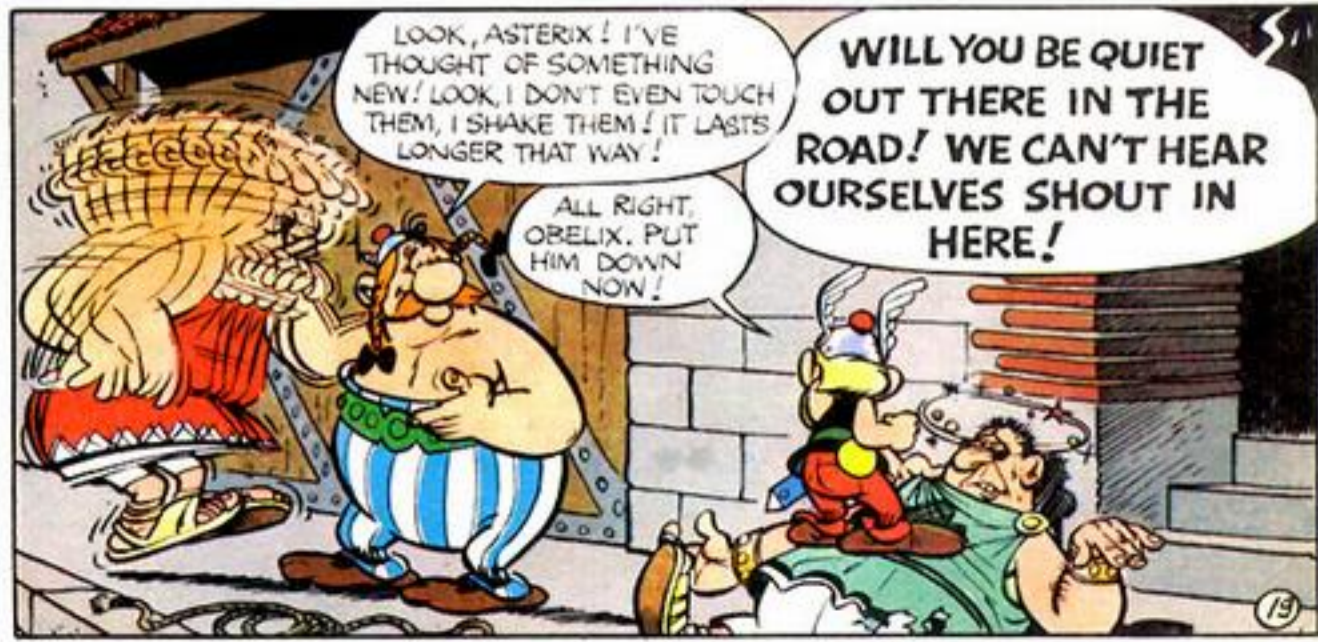


THERE THEY ARE!



WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!

GOODY!



LOOK, ASTERIX! I'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING NEW! LOOK, I DON'T EVEN TOUCH THEM, I SHAKE THEM! IT LASTS LONGER THAT WAY!

ALL RIGHT, OBELIX. PUT HIM DOWN NOW!

WILL YOU BE QUIET OUT THERE IN THE ROAD! WE CAN'T HEAR OURSELVES SHOUT IN HERE!



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

RIGHT

CIRCUS INN



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



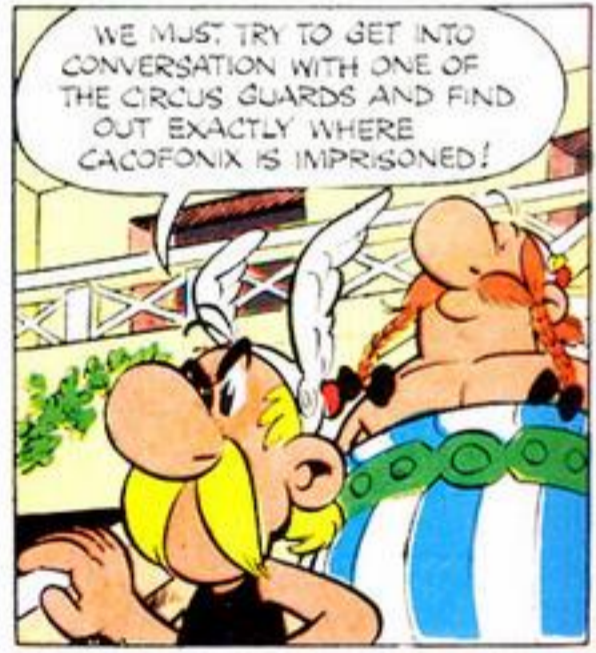
I MUST HAVE THOSE TWO MEN! JUMP TO IT, EVERYONE!



AND NEXT MORNING...

SLEEP WELL, ASTERIX?

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

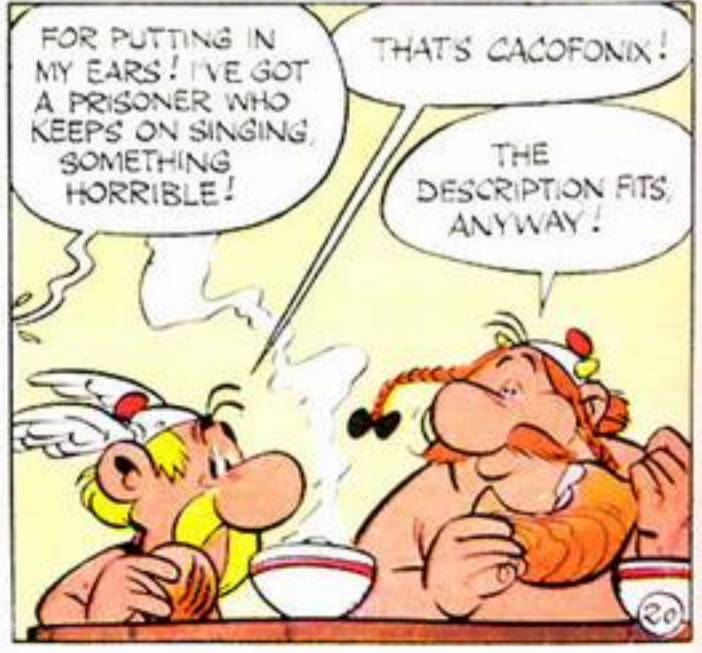


WE MUST TRY TO GET INTO CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF THE CIRCUS GUARDS AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHERE CACOFONIX IS IMPRISONED!



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!





WHERE'S THE BARD, GUARD?

THEY CHANGED HIS CELL. HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE THIRD BASEMENT DOWN. NO ONE COULD BEAR TO HEAR HIM ANY MORE. PLEASE WOULD YOU KINDLY STOP HITTING!

BIFF!
BIFF!
BIFF!
BIFF!



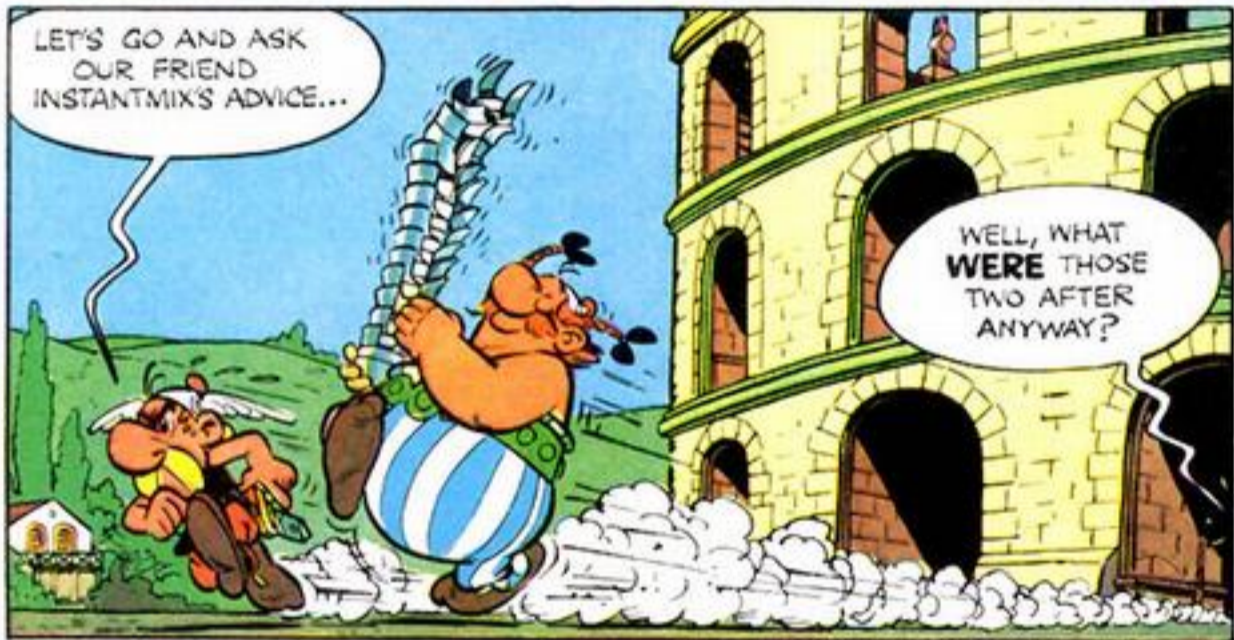
SOUND THE ALARM!

COME ON, THEN!

NO! WE MUST GET OUT OF HERE!



...EXIT!



LET'S GO AND ASK OUR FRIEND INSTANTMIX'S ADVICE...

WELL, WHAT WERE THOSE TWO AFTER ANYWAY?



SOON AFTERWARDS...

I WARNED YOU! ONLY CONDEMNED MEN, LIONS AND GLADIATORS GET INTO THAT CIRCUS!

SNIFF!
SNIFF!



MEANWHILE, IN THE HOUSE OF CAIUS FATUOUS...

TWO GAULS TRYING TO RESCUE THE BARD? THOSE MUST CERTAINLY BE MY MEN, AND THEY MUST CERTAINLY BE INDOMITABLE GAULS!



I WANT THE WHOLE STAFF TO COMB THE CITY IN GROUPS OF THREE! I MUST HAVE THOSE TWO GAULS! BRING THEM TO ME!



AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, PUT UP NOTICES EVERYWHERE! I'M OFFERING 10,000 SESTERTII TO ANYONE WHO CAPTURES THESE TWO INDOMITABLE GAULS!

YES BOSS!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

THERE THEY ARE!



LET'S GET THEM!

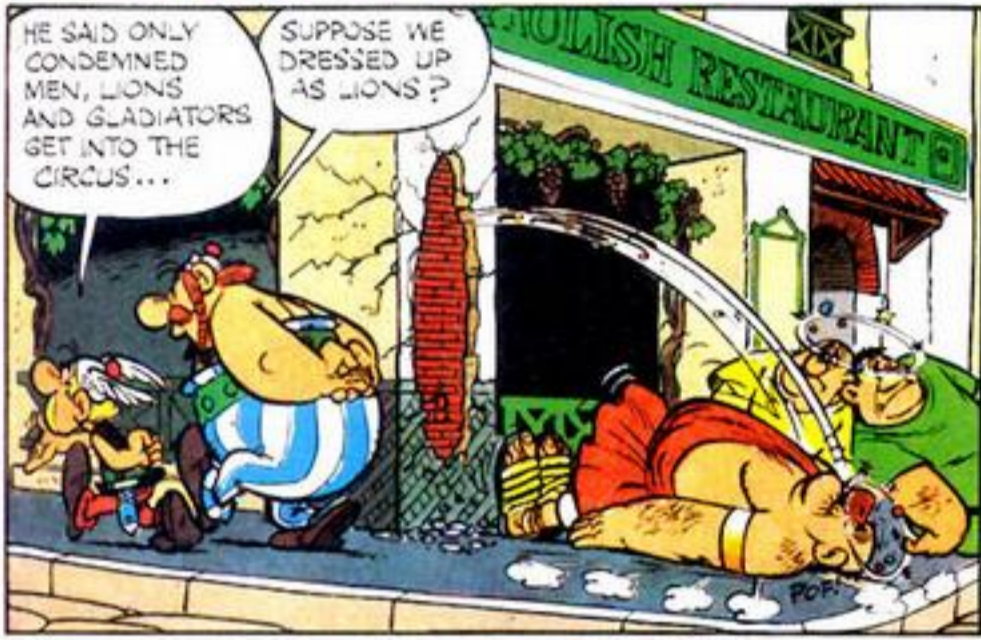


SPLAT!

IT'S A NUISANCE, WHAT INSTANTMIX TOLD US ...

CLONK!

YES, HEARING THINGS LIKE THAT MAKES ME COME OVER ALL FAINT...



HE SAID ONLY CONDEMNED MEN, LIONS AND GLADIATORS GET INTO THE CIRCUS...

SUPPOSE WE DRESSED UP AS LIONS?



HERE THEY COME!

YOU'RE TOO FAT FOR A LION!

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN...



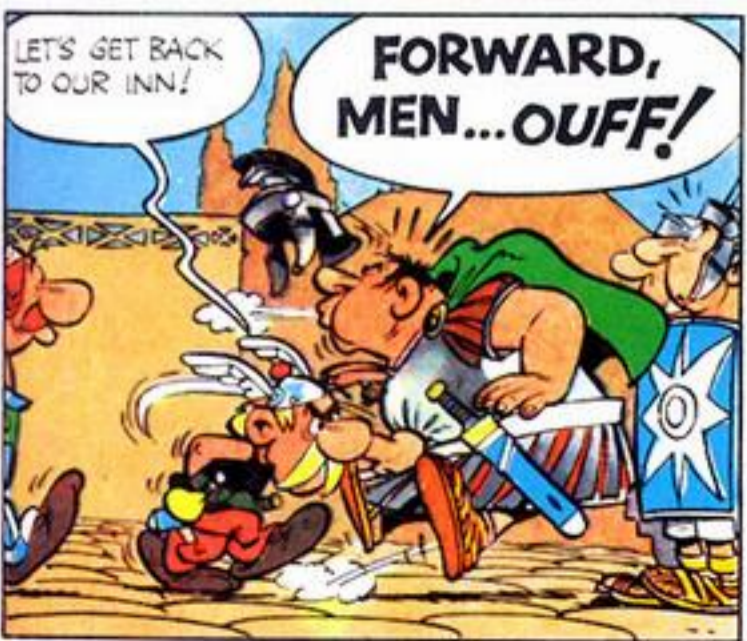
ALL THE SAME, WE MUST SAVE OUR BARD!

OF COURSE!

LET'S BEAT IT! HERE COME THE COPS!



NOW NOW NOW, WHAT'S ALL THIS'ERE? YOU COME ALONG QUIETLY TO THE STATION! AND NO FUNNY BUSINESS-WE'RE SEVEN TO TWO!



LET'S GET BACK TO OUR INN!

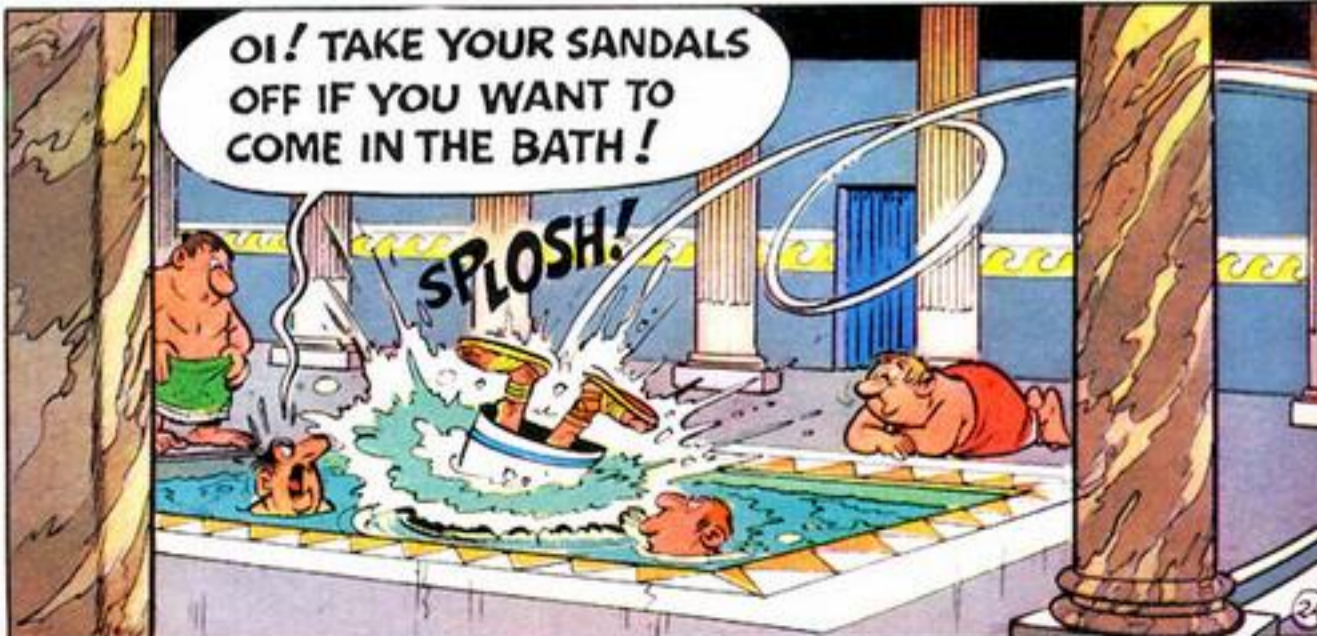
FORWARD, MEN... OUFF!

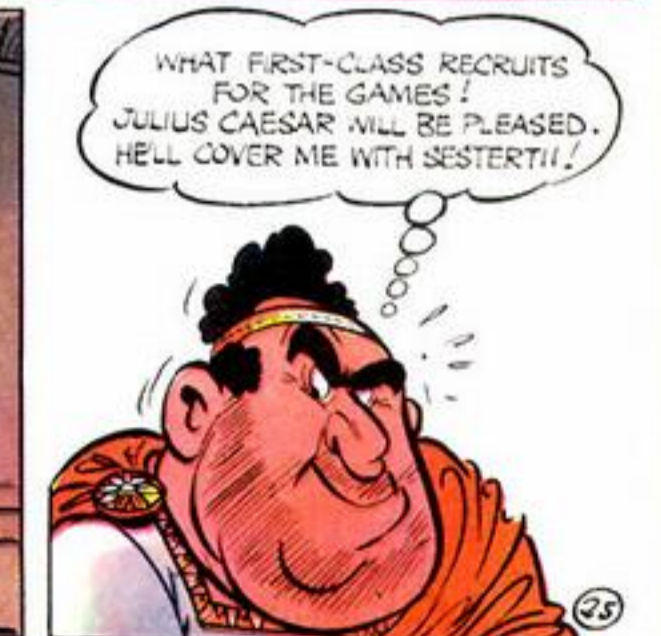
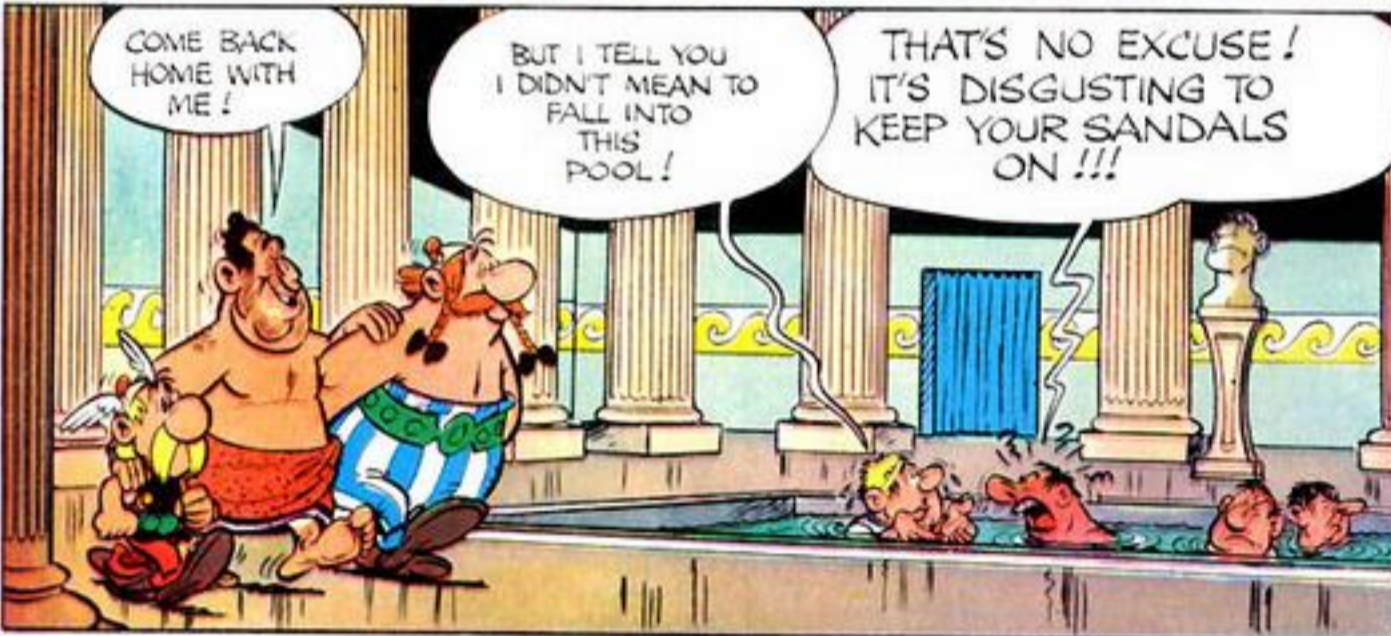
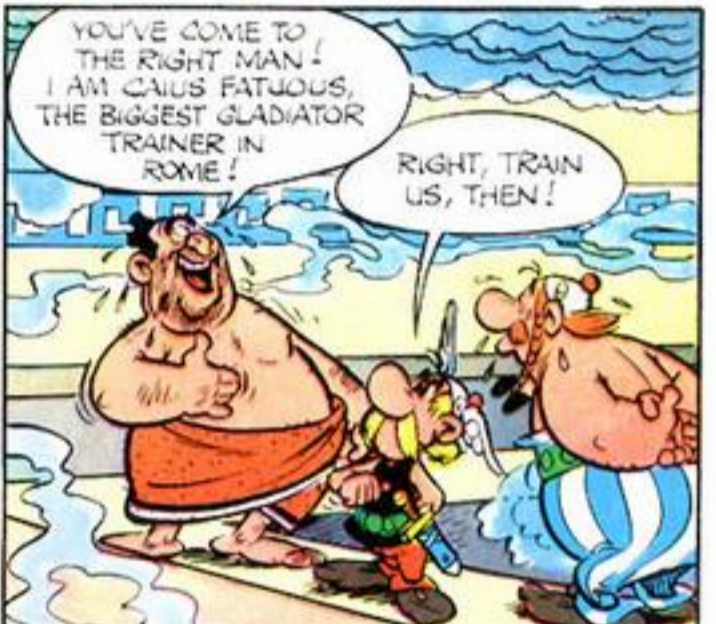
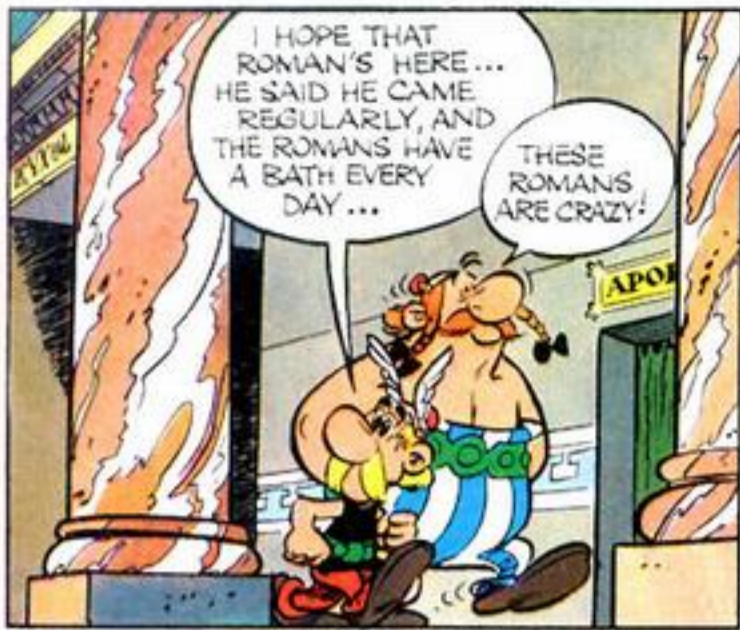


I SAY ASTERIX, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, ALL THESE PEOPLE ATTACKING US?

PEOPLE? WHAT PEOPLE?

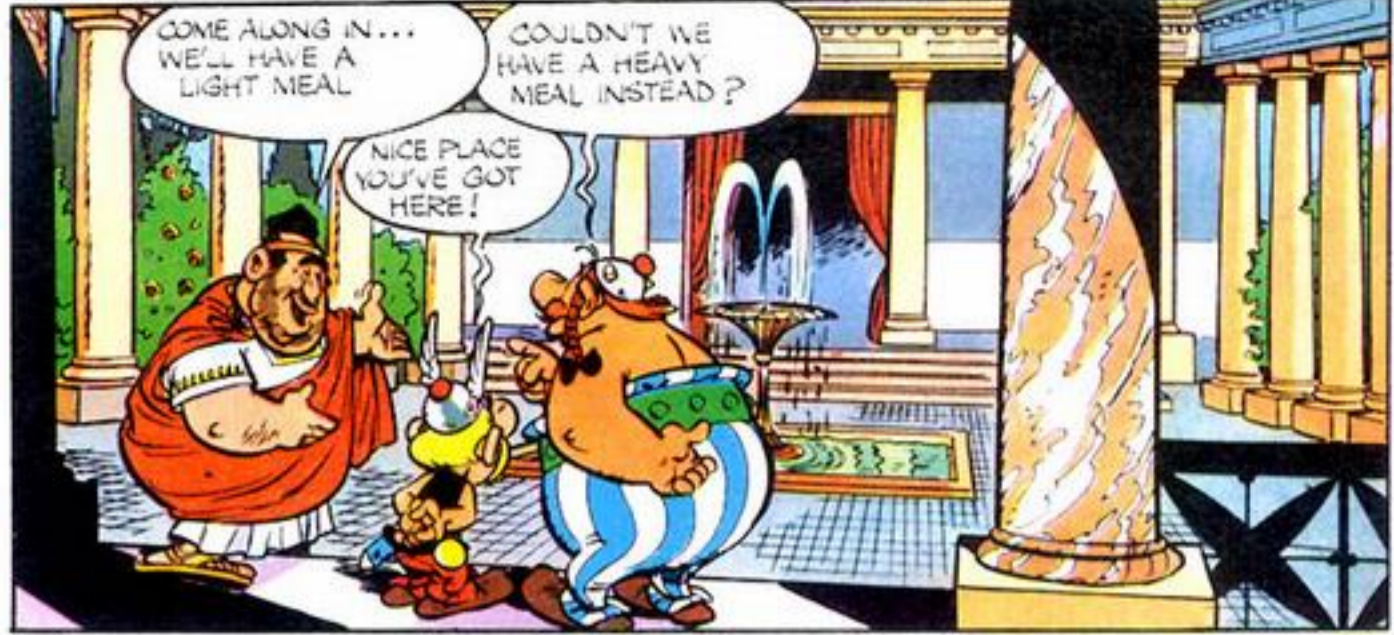
CIRCUS INN







I MUST FIRST WIN THEIR CONFIDENCE SO THAT THEY'LL SIGN THE CONTRACT WHICH WILL GET THEM INTO MY HOT LITTLE HANDS...



COME ALONG IN... WE'LL HAVE A LIGHT MEAL

COULDN'T WE HAVE A HEAVY MEAL INSTEAD?

NICE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE!



JUST TASTE THESE PASTIES! THEY'RE A NEW RECIPE - THEY COST A FORTUNE! NIGHTINGALES' TONGUES IMPORTED FROM THE NORTH OF GAUL, STURGEONS' EGGS FROM THE FARTHEST BARBARIAN LANDS, COCKROACHES' GUMS FROM MONGOLIA...



WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM?

GULP!



SALTY

!



RIGHT! THE FUN'S OVER, BY JUPITER! MAKE YOUR MARKS ON THESE CONTRACTS!



EXCELLENT! UP YOU GET! INSALUBRIUS!



INSALUBRIUS. HERE ARE THE TWO NEW GLADIATORS! TRAIN THEM FOR THE CIRCUS - AND JUMP TO IT!

THEY'LL JUMP TO IT ALL RIGHT, LANISTA, THEY'LL JUMP TO IT!

I SAY, ASTERIX, DO YOU THINK THE LIGHT MEALS OVER?



SALTY! HUH! THESE BARBARIANS DON'T APPRECIATE GOOD FOOD! BRING ME THE GIBLET JAM!

SNAP!





WATCH OUT, GAULS! I'VE GOT YOU MARKED DOWN!

INSALUBRIOUS IS FURIOUS! I WOULDN'T GIVE MUCH FOR YOUR CHANCES!

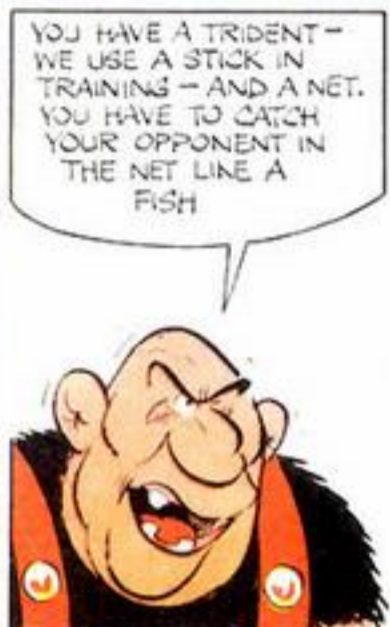
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO IF WE'RE MARKED DOWN

STOP IT! YOU'LL MAKE ME LAUGH AGAIN



YOU! I'M GOING TO TRAIN YOU AS A RETIARIUS!

WHAT'S THAT?



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



BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? DON'T YOU HAVE A STICK?

I'M NOT TRAINING!

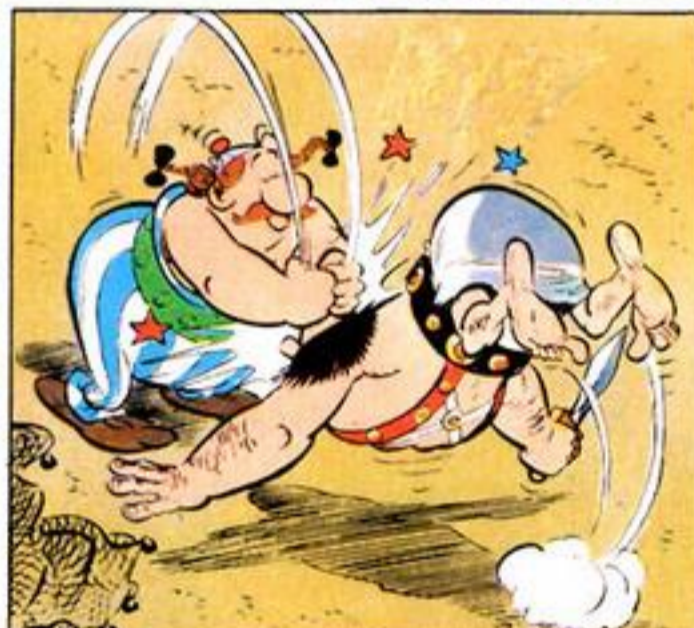


FAIR ENOUGH!

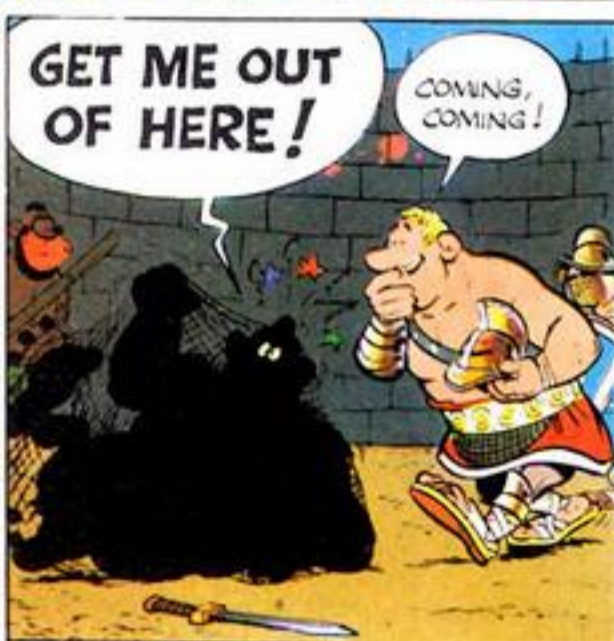
OFF WE GO!



HERE...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

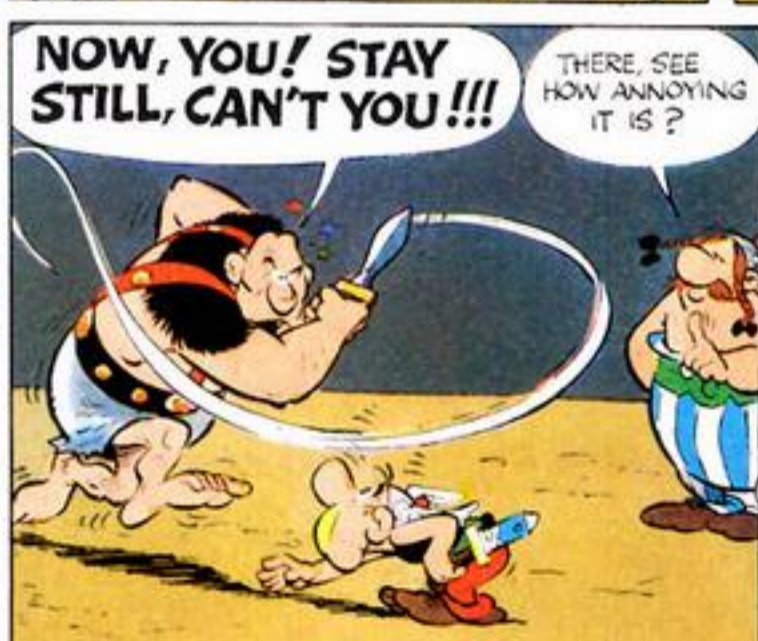


THAT'S HOW I CATCH MY FISH!



GET ME OUT OF HERE!

COMING, COMING!



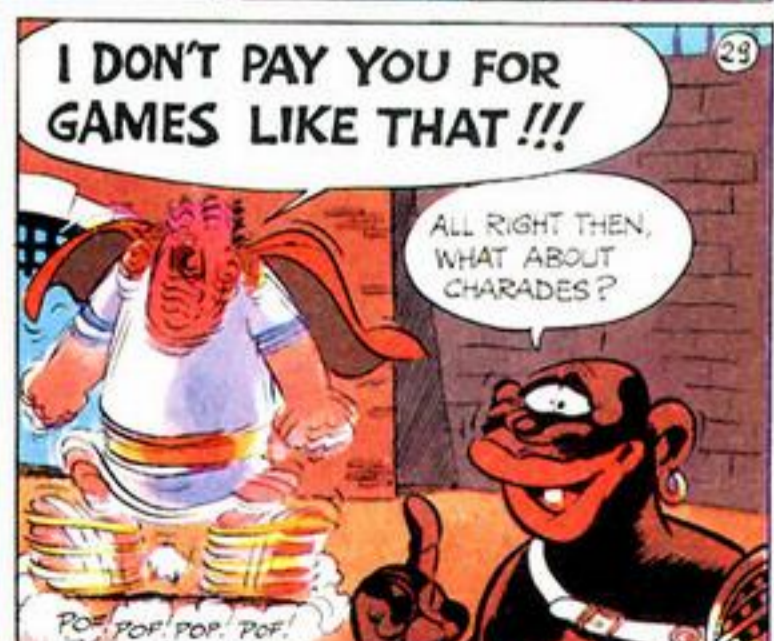
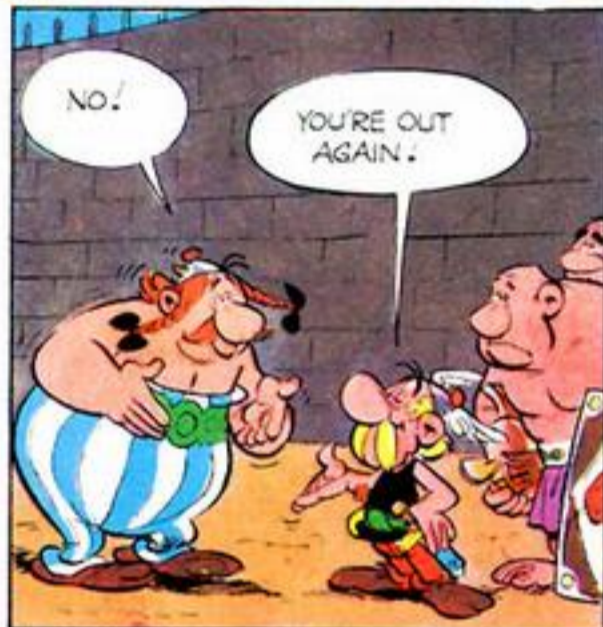
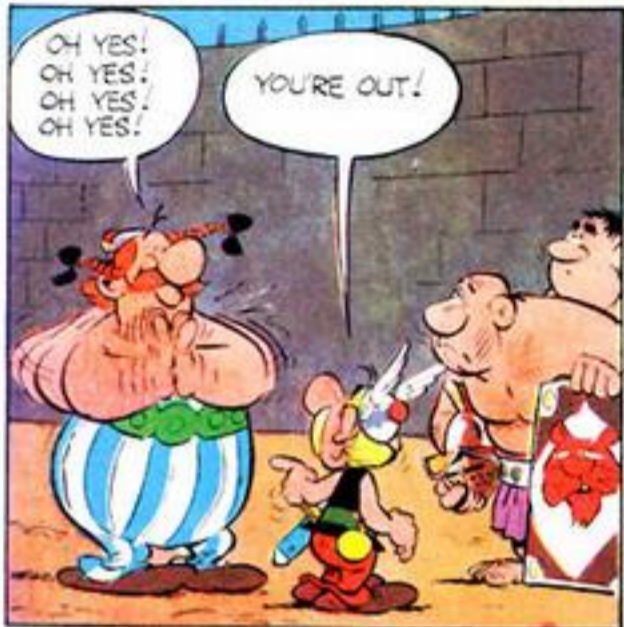
NOW, YOU! STAY STILL, CAN'T YOU!!!

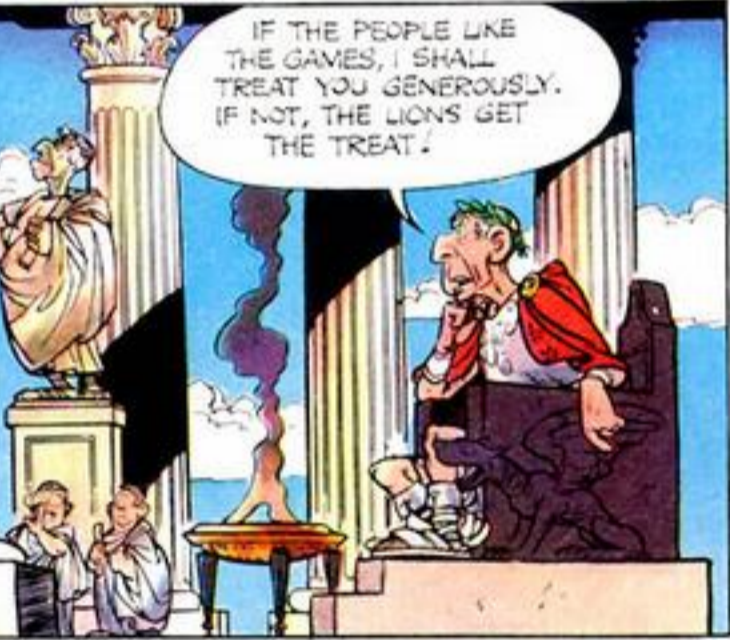
THERE, SEE HOW ANNOYING IT IS?

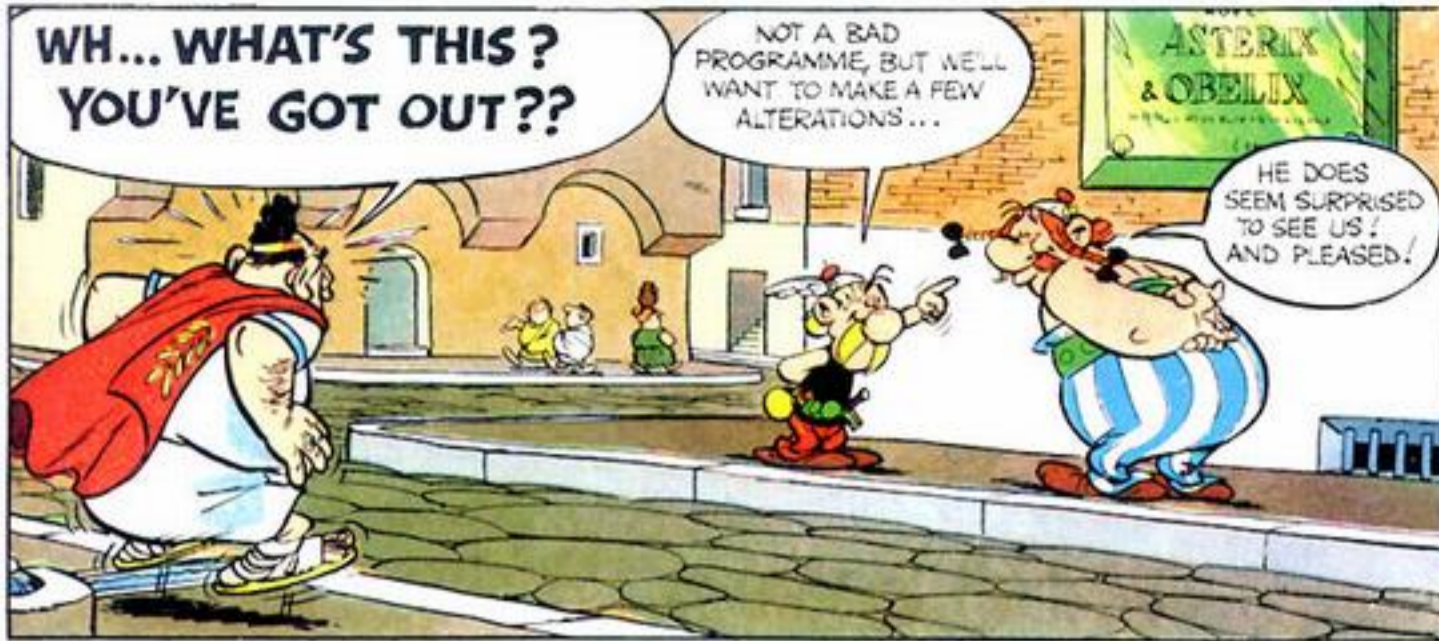


SPLAT!

HE REALLY IS A GREAT TRAINER!







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!



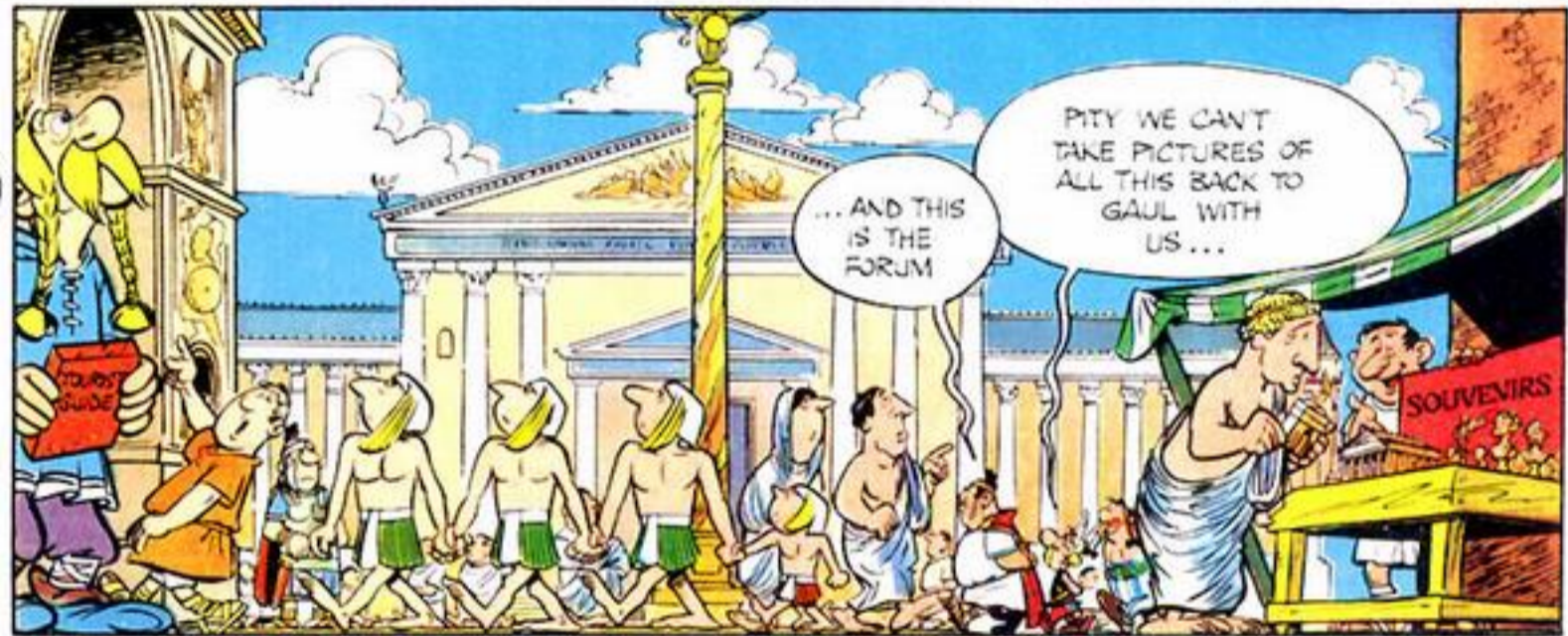
YOU TURNED UP
JUST AT THE RIGHT
MOMENT! WE WERE
LOOKING FOR A
GUIDE TO SHOW
US THE TOWN!

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



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!

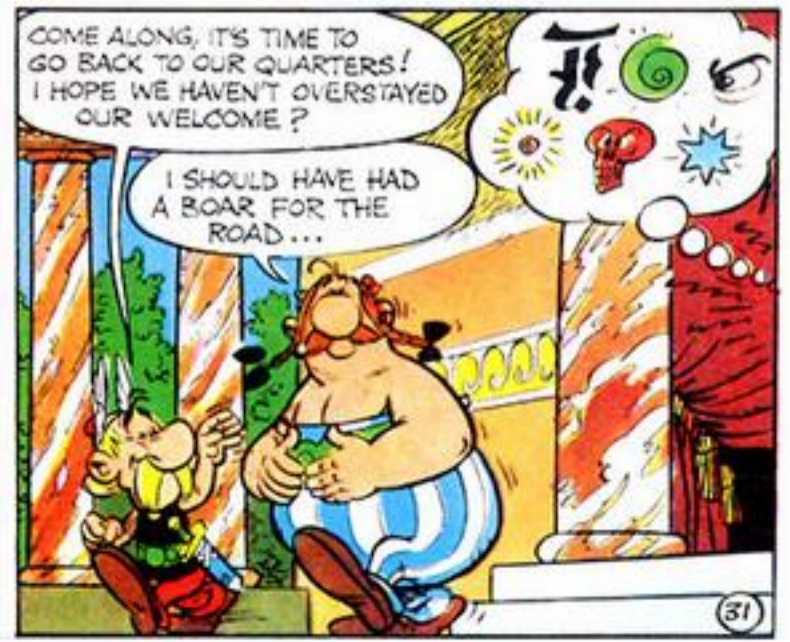


DINNER IS MUCH ENJOYED
BY EVERYONE - WELL,
NEARLY EVERYONE...

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

YUM! GULP!
'SRIGHT!
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...



MY FIRST IS A HUNDRED, MY SECOND IS A SIGN OF THE ZODIAC, MY THIRD IS A HIBERNIAN, MY FOURTH IS THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE SUN AND JULIUS CAESAR LOVES MY WHOLE! WHO AM I?

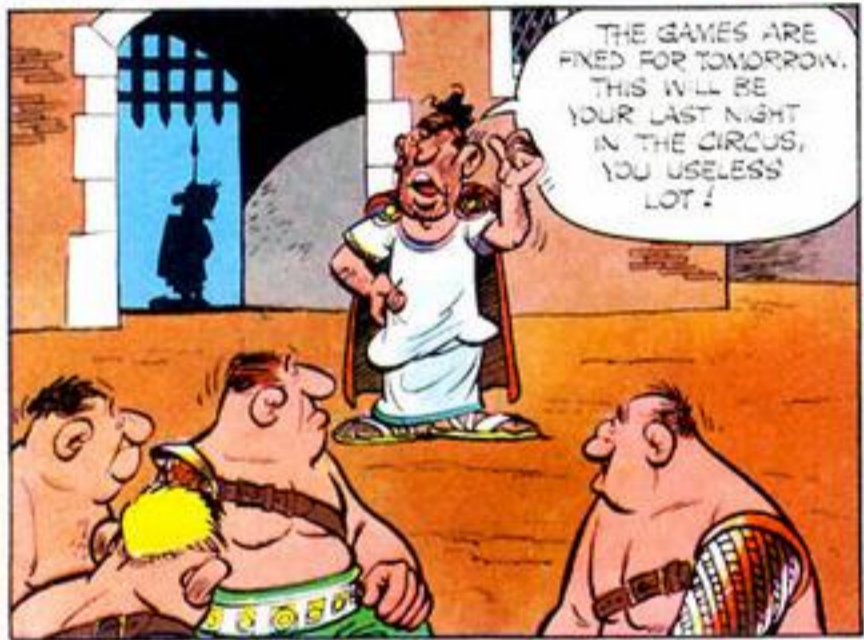
WHILE CAIUS FATIUS IS LOSING IT...



THERE THEY GO AGAIN! PLAYING DOTTIC GAMES INSTEAD OF TRAINING! A FINE CIRCUS THIS IS GOING TO BE!

IT'S C. LEO, PAT, RA... CLEOPATRA.

THAT WAS A DIFFICULT ONE THAT WAS!



THE GAMES ARE FINED FOR TOMORROW. THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NIGHT IN THE CIRCUS, YOU USELESS LOT!



WE DON'T REALLY WANT TO FIGHT ANY MORE, ASTERIX

DON'T WORRY! I PROMISE YOU WON'T HAVE TO RISK YOUR LIVES IN THE ARENA!



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

HA HA! HO, HO!

STOP PUSHING, WILL YOU!

PORPUS IS A BEAST! PASS IT ON!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM?

NO IDEA. LOCK THEM UP DOWN BELOW!



PORTER WE WANT TO SEE OUR FRIEND CACOPHONIX THE BARD

I'M NOT A PORTER AND YOU CAN'T!



VERY WELL THEN, WE SHALL TEAR OUT THESE BARS ONE BY ONE UNTIL YOU CO-OPERATE!

GO AHEAD AND TRY!



PLINNNK!

PLONNNK!

PLUNNNK!



STOP! LEAVE THE FIXTURES ALONE!

AH, ABOUT TIME TOO! WHAT SERVICE!



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 CIRCENSES

LONG LIVE CAESAR!

CAESAR FOR EVER!



EVERYONE APPLAUDS THE DICTATOR...



ET TU BRUTE!

* YOU TOO, BRUTUS!

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



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

THIS WILL BE A GREAT SHOW, O CAESAR!

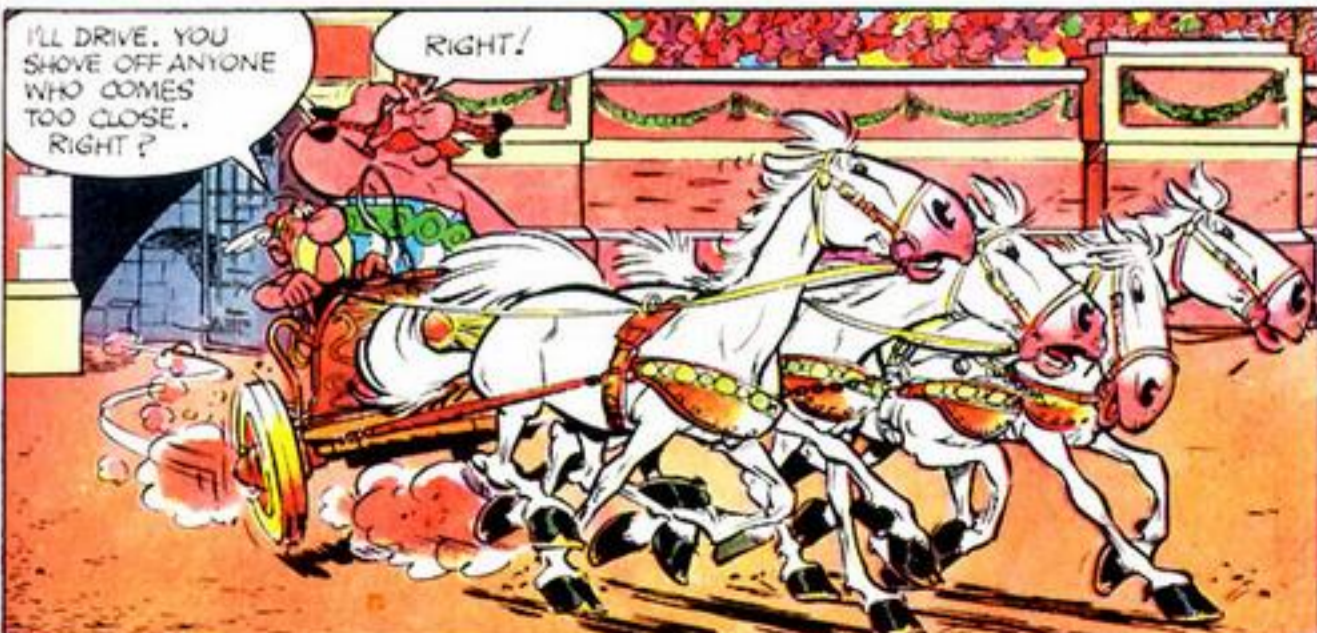
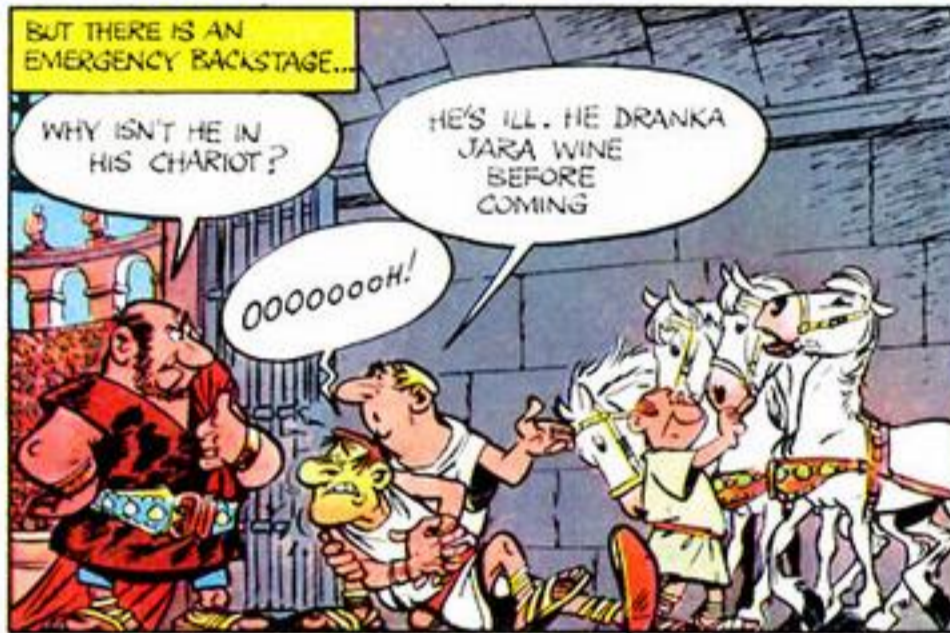
I HOPE SO, CAIUS FATUOUS. IF NOT, YOU'LL BE IN ON THE ACT

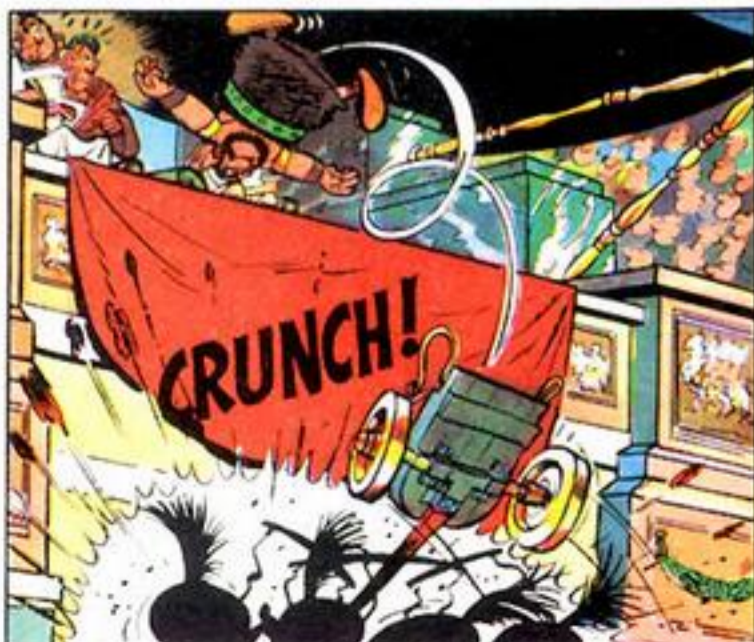
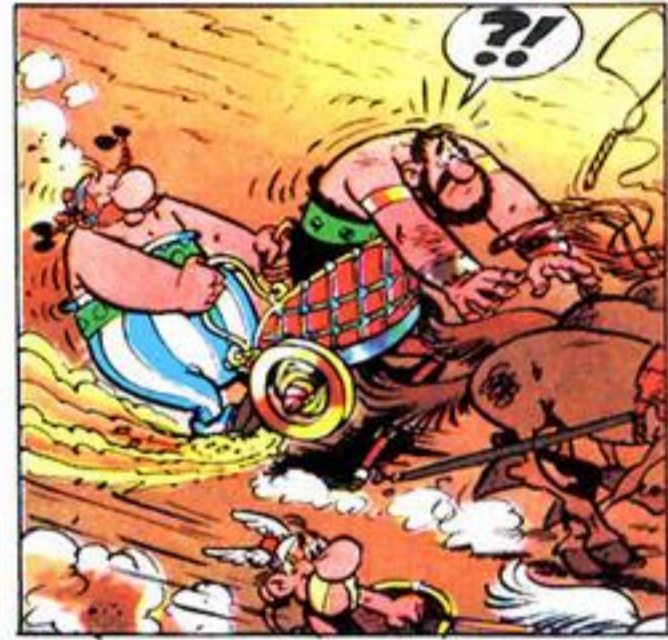


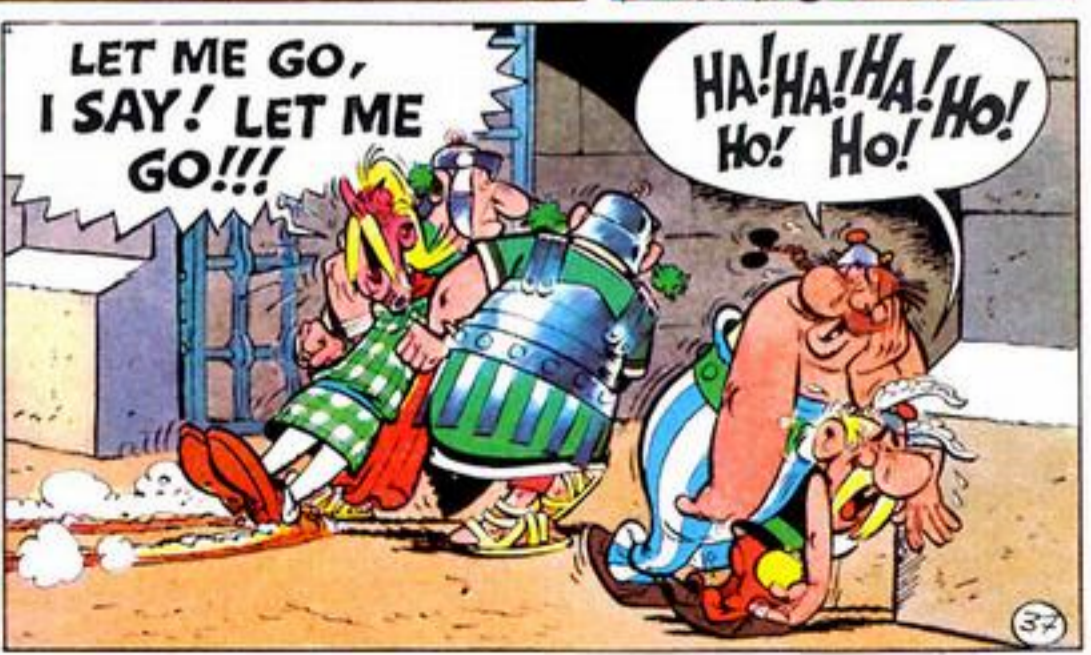
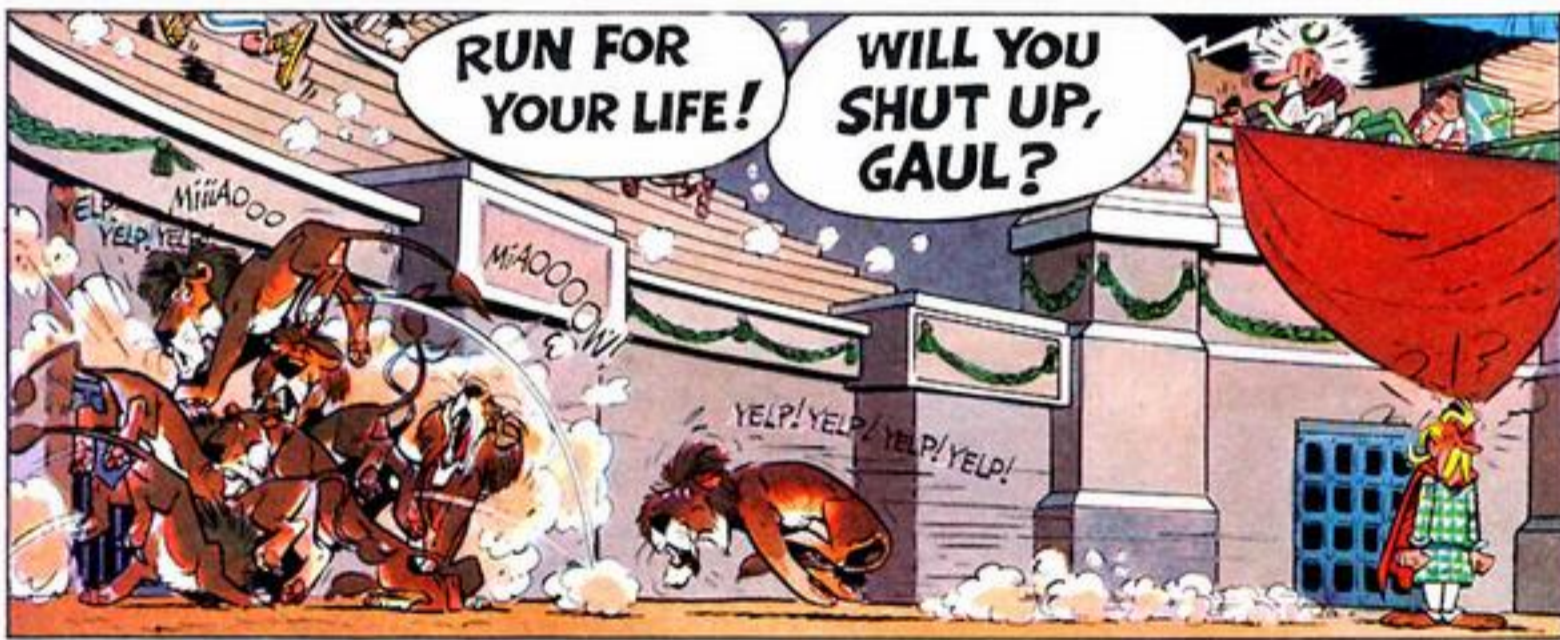
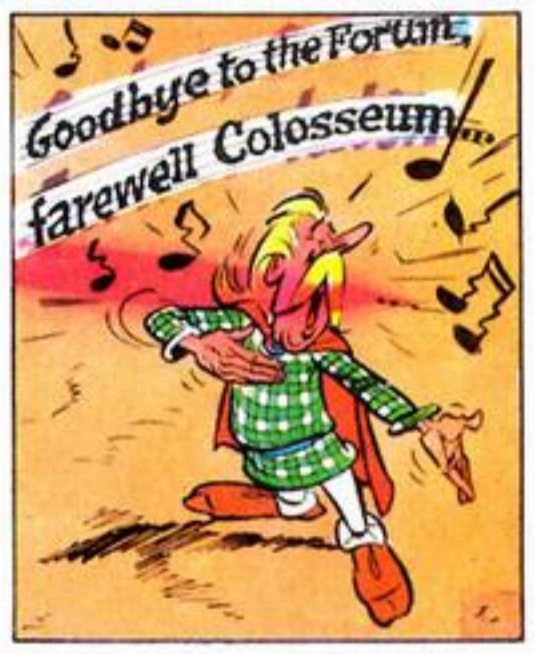
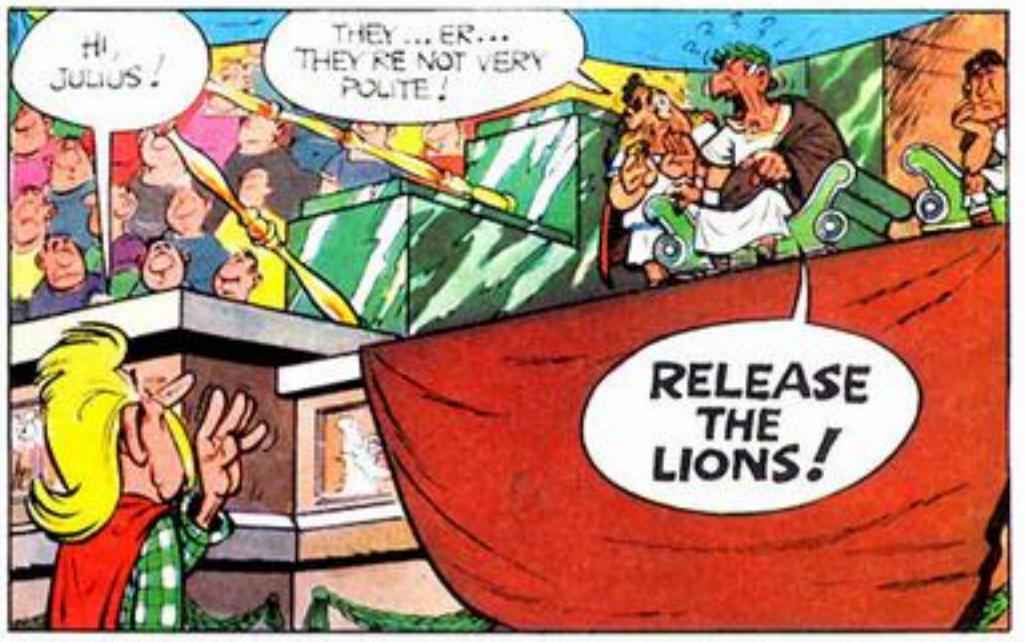
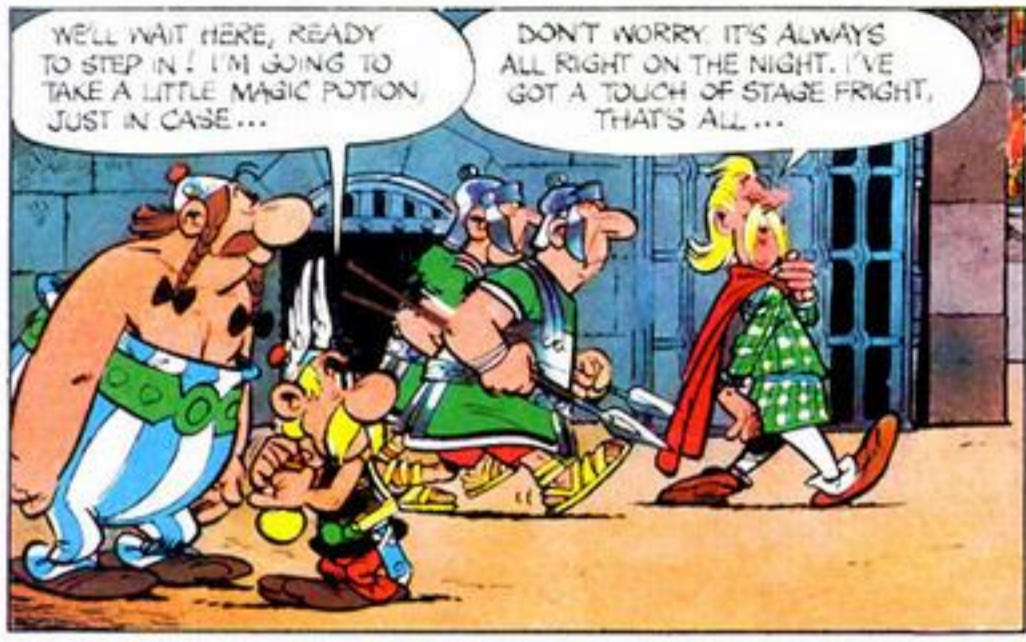
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

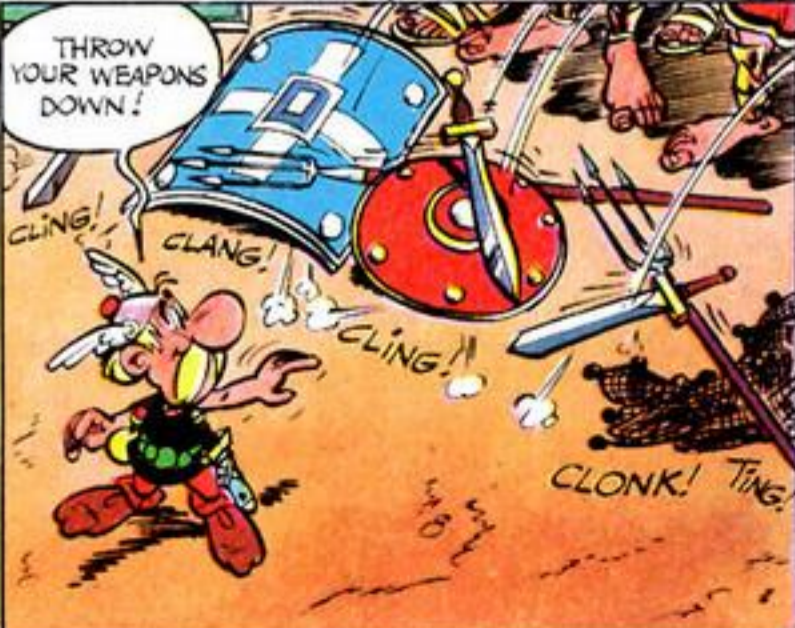
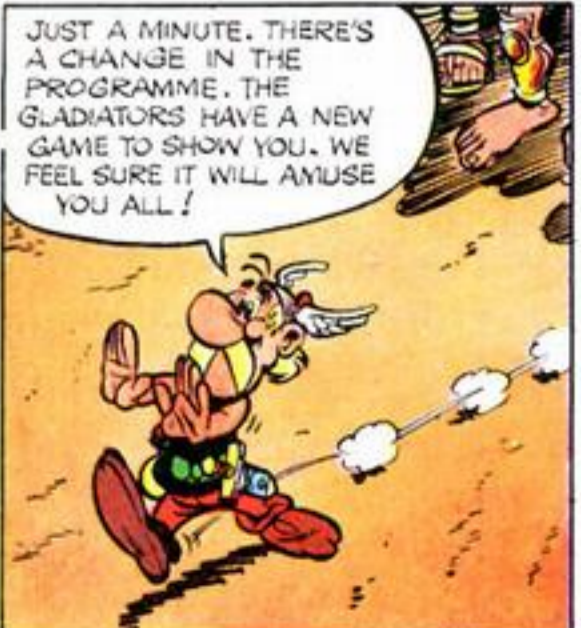


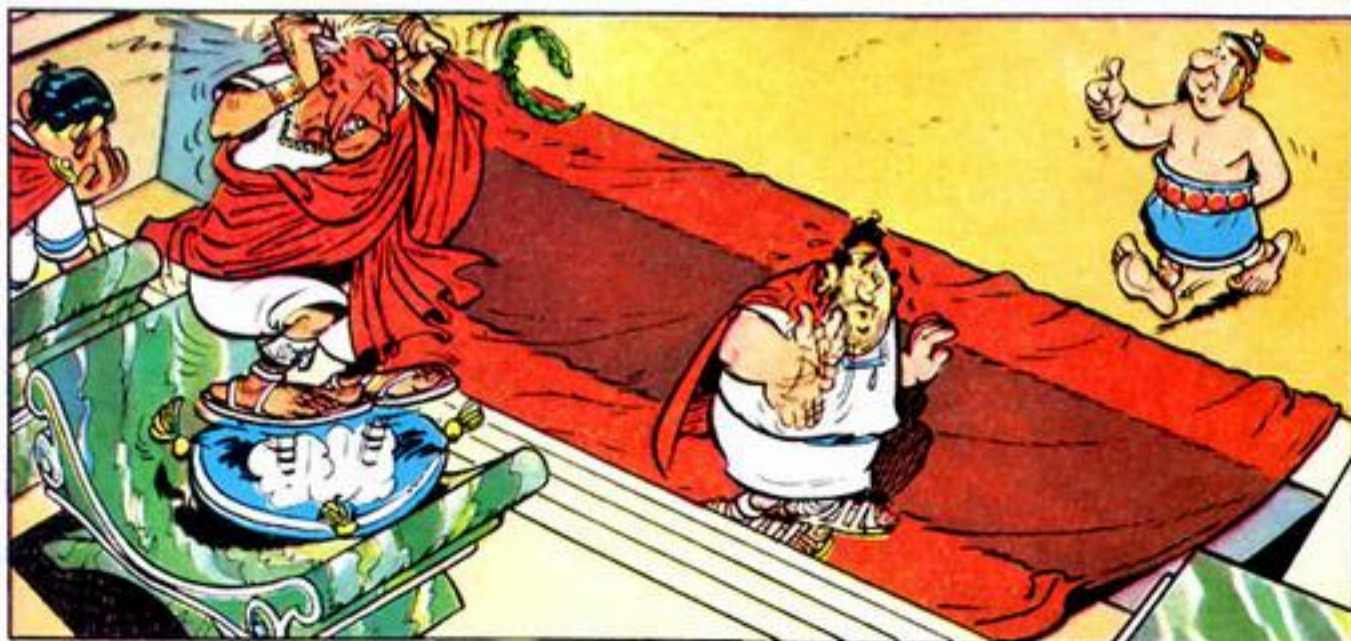
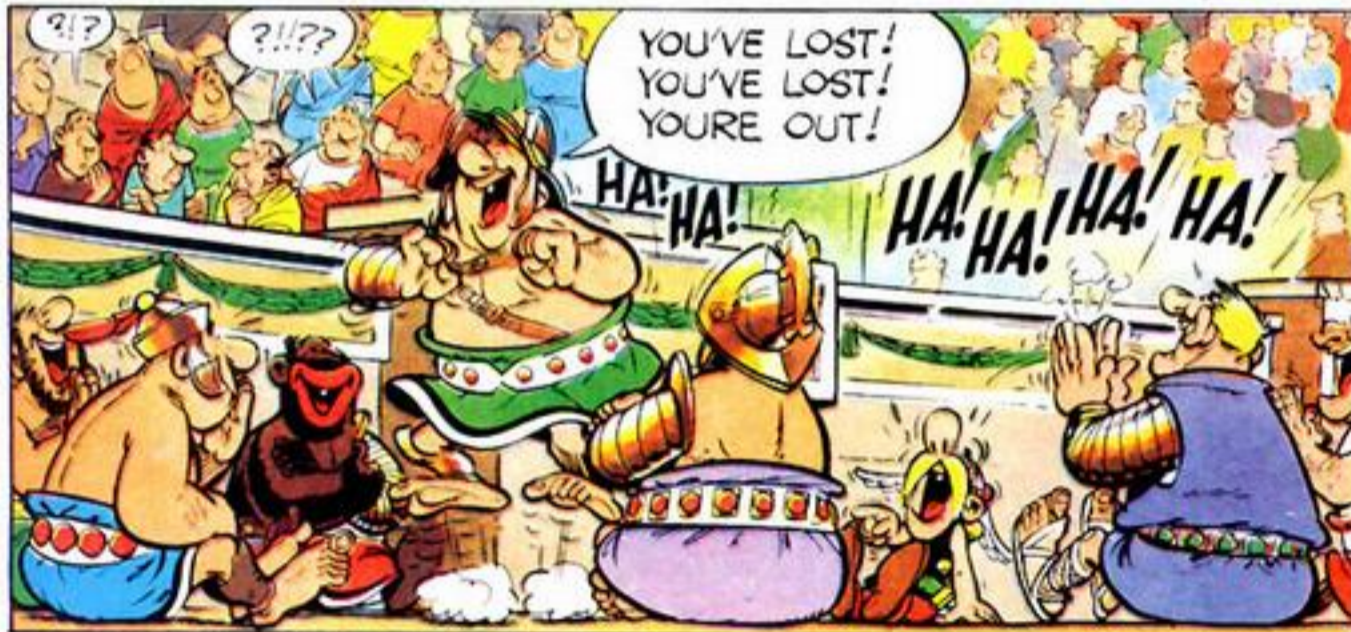
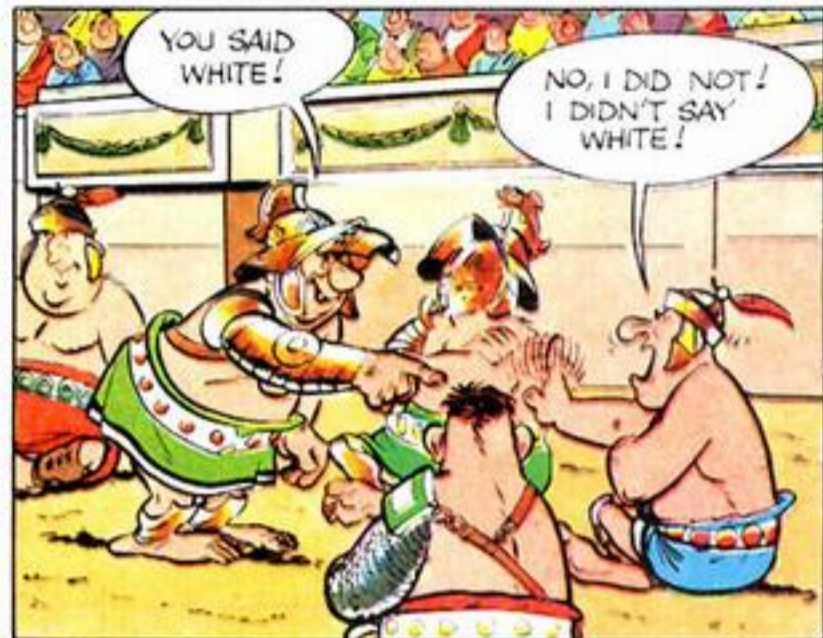
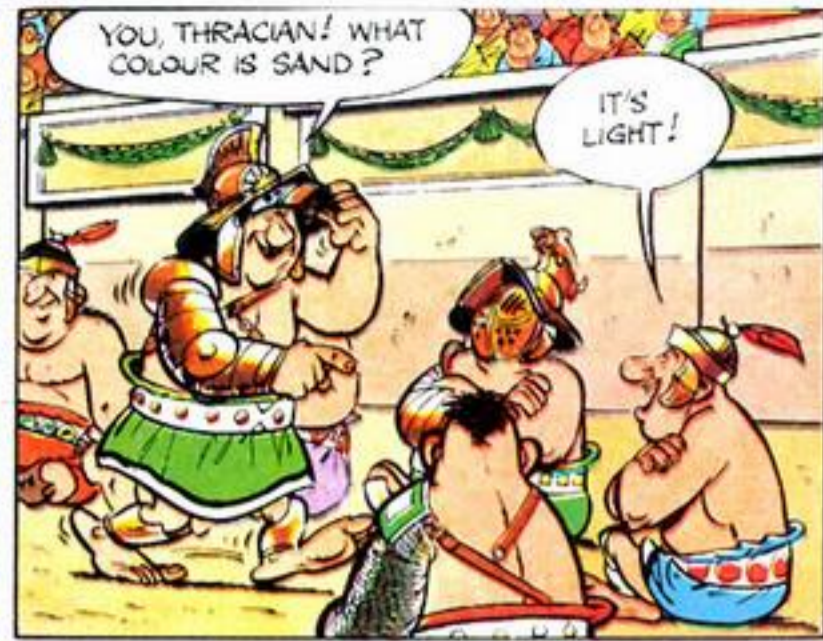
GULP!













SO YOU WANT TO SEE SOME FIGHTING, ROMAN? THEN YOU SHALL! SEND IN SOME OF YOUR CRACK LEGIONARIES. MY FRIEND OBELIX AND I WILL DEAL WITH THEM. LEAVE THOSE OTHER POOR DEVILS ALONE!



OH, SO YOU WANT TO MAKE FUN OF ME, GAULS? VERY WELL! SEND IN A COHORT OF MY BEST LEGIONARIES!!!



THE REST OF YOU GO AND PLAY OUTSIDE...

YES, BUT WAS I OUT OR NOT?



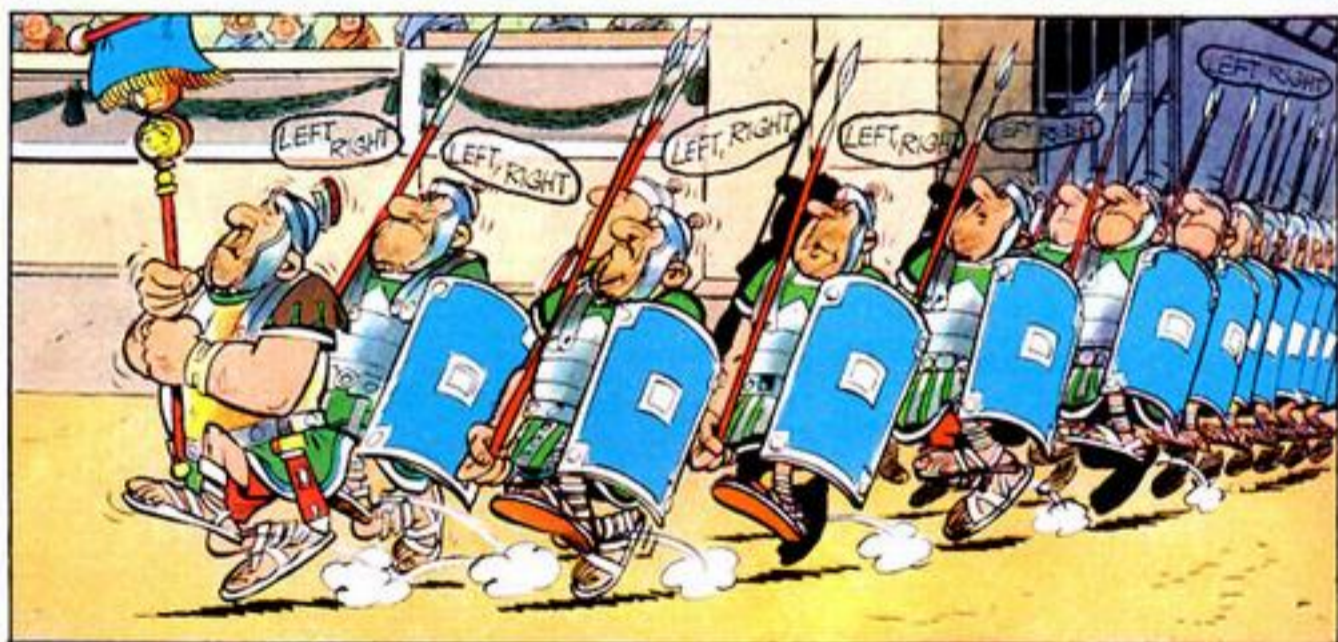
I'LL JUST FINISH OFF THE MAGIC POTION...

SHALL WE DO THE HELMET ROUTINE AGAIN? SHALL WE, ASTERIX?



WELL, ARE THEY COMING OR DO WE HAVE TO GO AND FETCH THEM?

GOODY! HERE THEY COME, ALL WITH THEIR TIN HATS ON!



LEFT RIGHT

LEFT RIGHT

LEFT RIGHT

LEFT RIGHT

LEFT RIGHT

LEFT RIGHT



UNARMED! I WANT TO PROLONG THE PLEASURE! I WANT TO SEE YOU FLATTEN THESE TWO GAULS WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!



I PROTEST! IT WON'T BE A FAIR FIGHT IF THEY'RE UNARMED!

BOING!



BONG! BANG! BING!

YOU COMING? I'VE STARTED ALREADY!

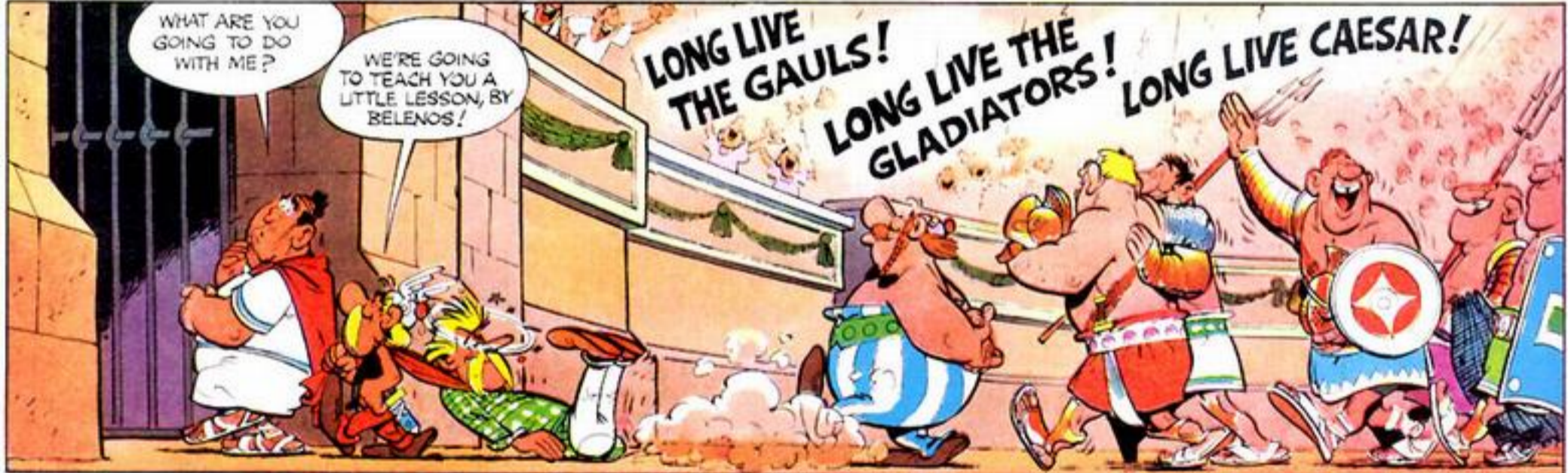


GAULS, YOU ARE BRAVE MEN, AND I SHOULD KNOW! I DECLARE YOU THE WINNERS, AND AS YOU HAVE MANAGED TO ENTERTAIN MY PEOPLE, I WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU ASK. SUCH IS THE GENEROSITY OF CAESAR!



WAKE UP, CACOFONIX! WE'VE RESCUED YOU!

ANYWAY, I WON! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CAP THAT!



AND AFTER A FEW HOURS WALK...

O EKONOMIKRISIS, PHOENICIAN MERCHANT, WILL YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE AND TAKE US BACK TO GAUL?

MY OLD FRIENDS THE GAULS!!!

COME ABOARD, FRIENDS! BUSINESS WAS GOOD. I HAVE SOLD EVERYTHING, AND NOW I HAVE TO STOCK UP AGAIN!

WHO'S THIS? A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOUR ROWING PARTNERS!

DO I... DO I HAVE TO ROW ALL BY MYSELF? ALL THE WAY BACK TO GAUL?

THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO DO A DIRTY JOB AND LIVE OFF OTHER PEOPLE'S MUSCLE!

WHY DON'T I SING A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LIVEN HIM UP?

NOOOOO!

HE'S GREAT! WHAT AN OARSMAN!

HEAR, HEAR!

SPLAT, SPLAT, SPAT, SPLAT, SPLAT, SPLAT

I FEEL WE MIGHT MAKE THIS ROMAN A PARTNER!

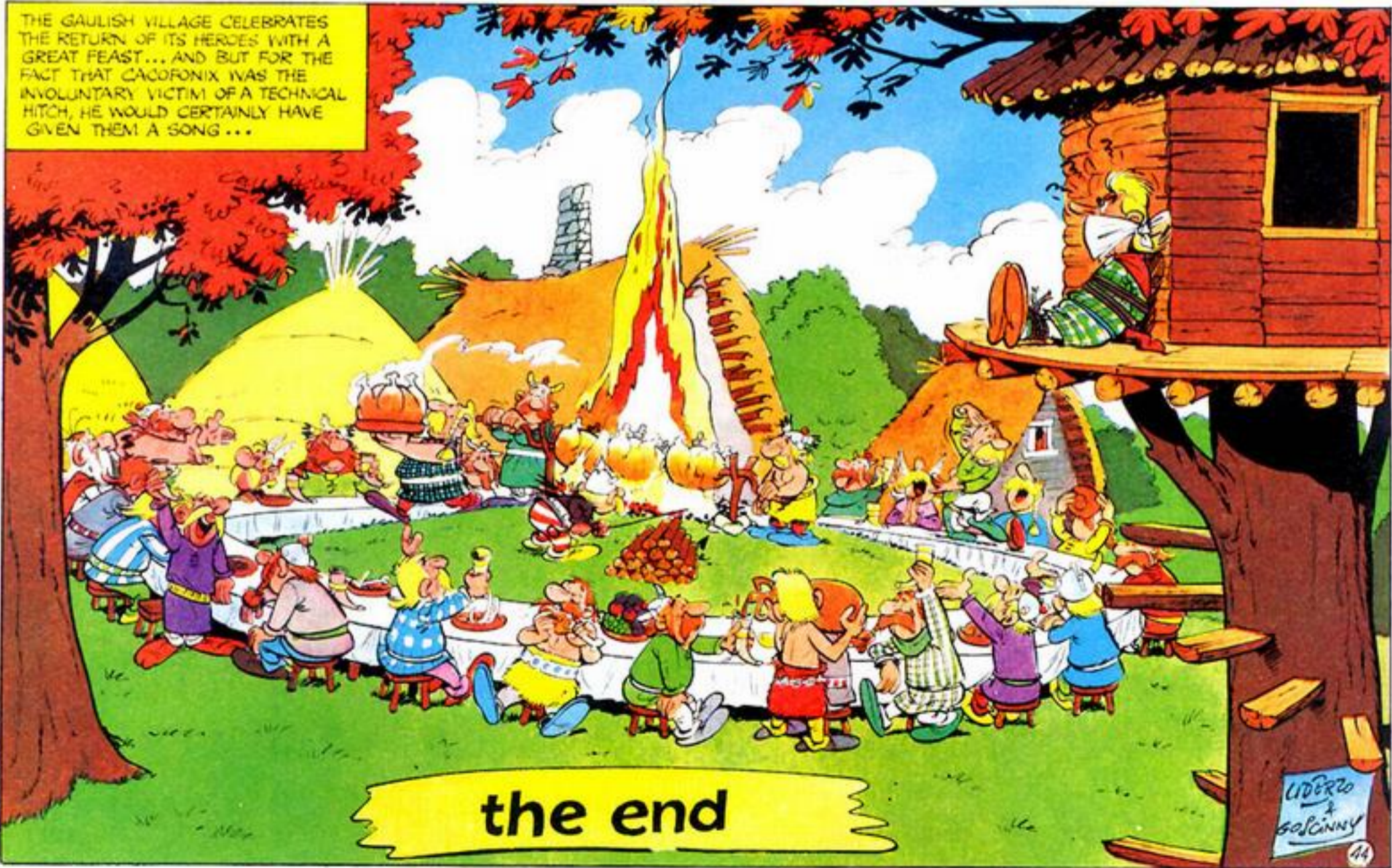
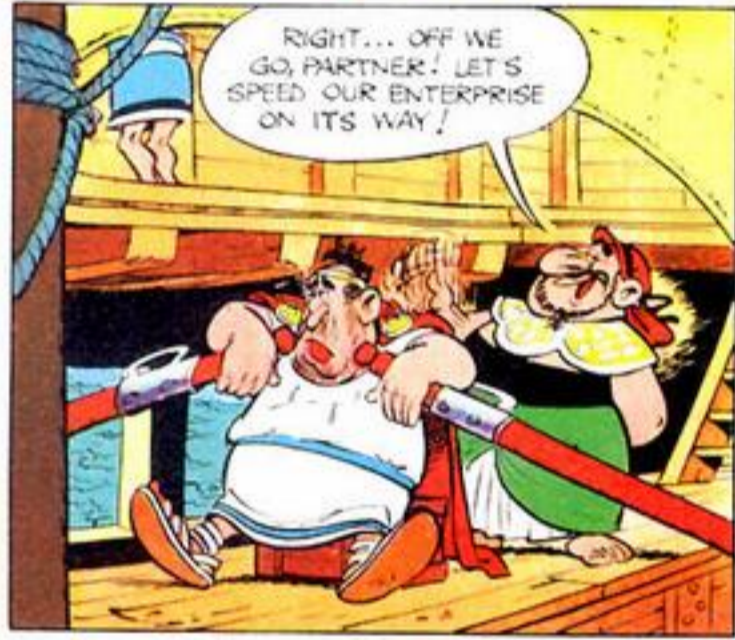
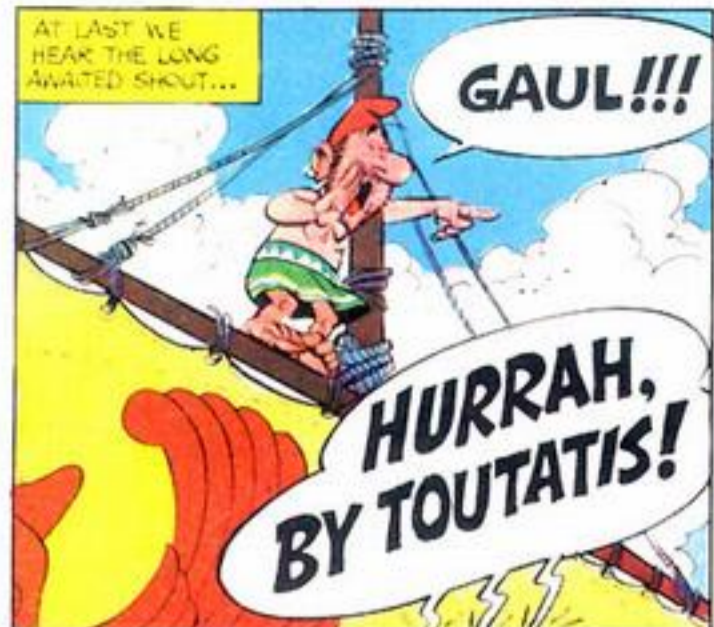
AN EXCELLENT NOTION, MR. CHAIRMAN!

BAH!

THE VOYAGE IS UNEVENTFUL, EXCEPT FOR A SORMISH WITH THE PIRATES...

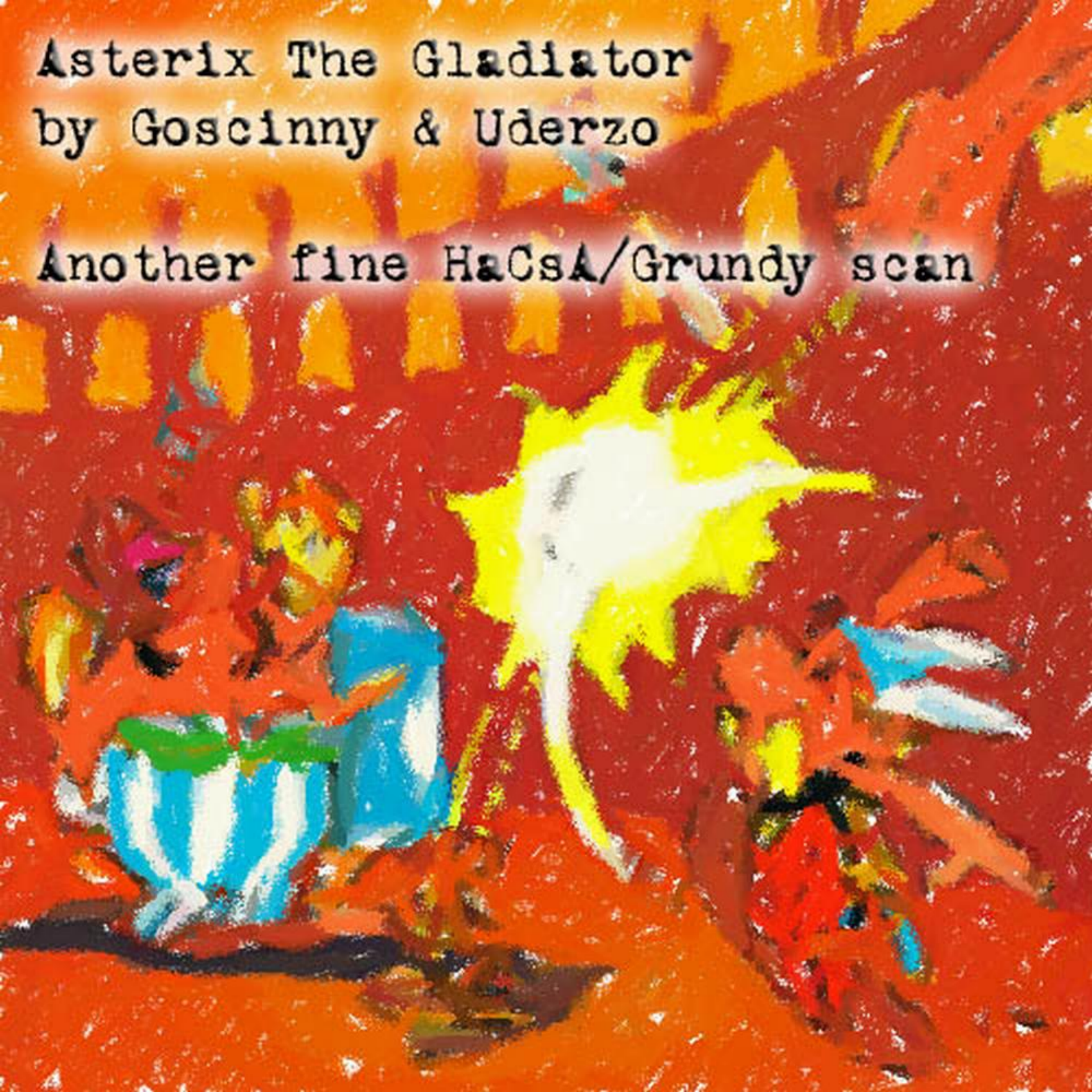
CHEER UP, CAP'N! WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!





Asterix The Gladiator
by Goscinny & Uderzo

Another fine HaCsa/Grundy scan



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