



Asterix

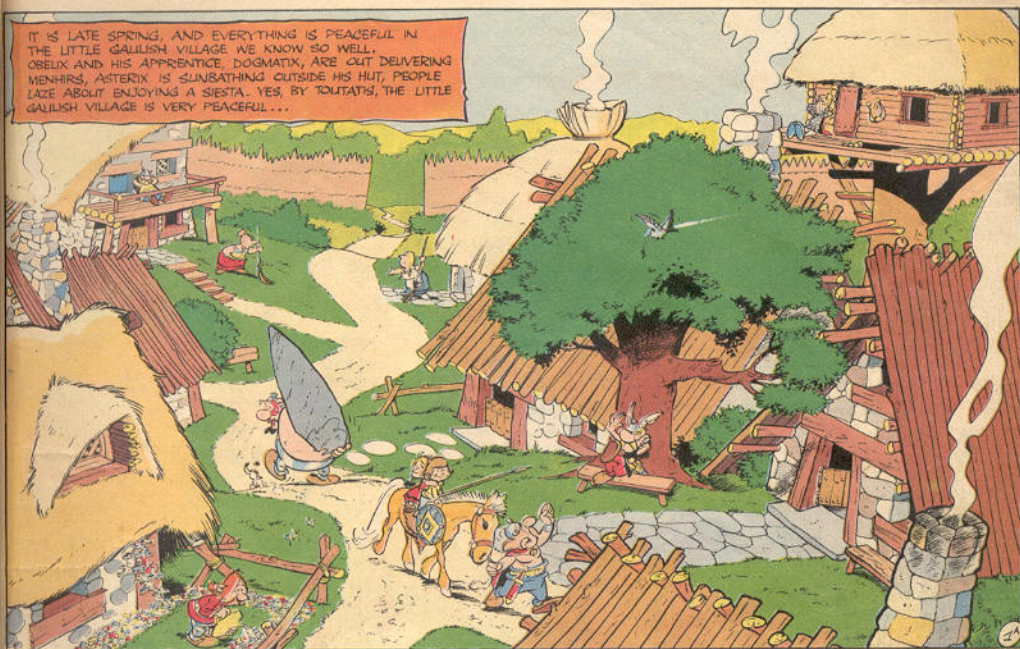
TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES



HODDER-DARGAUD

IT IS LATE SPRING, AND EVERYTHING IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GALLISH VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL. OREUX AND HIS APPRENTICE DOGMATIX, ARE OUT DELIVERING MENHIRS, ASTERIX IS SUNBATHING OUTSIDE HIS HUT, PEOPLE LAZE ABOUT ENJOYING A SIESTA. YES, BY TOUTATIS, THE LITTLE GALLISH VILLAGE IS VERY PEACEFUL...



WHEREAS THE ROMAN CAMP OF AQUIARIUM SEEMS TO BE IN A STATE OF GREAT EXCITEMENT...

BY JUPITER!

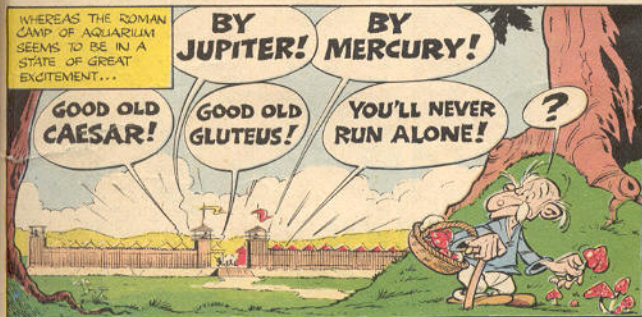
BY MERCURY!

GOOD OLD CAESAR!

GOOD OLD GLUTEUS!

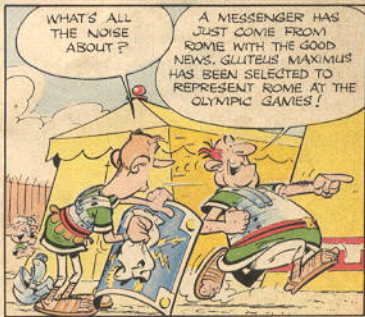
YOU'LL NEVER RUN ALONE!

?



WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ABOUT?

A MESSENGER HAS JUST COME FROM ROME WITH THE GOOD NEWS. GLUTEUS MAXIMUS HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT ROME AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES!



GLUTEUS MAXIMUS? WHO'S HE?

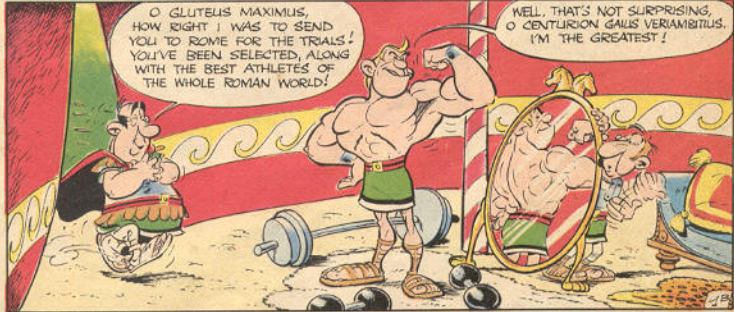
YOU'RE PRETTY GREEN, AREN'T YOU, GILUS?

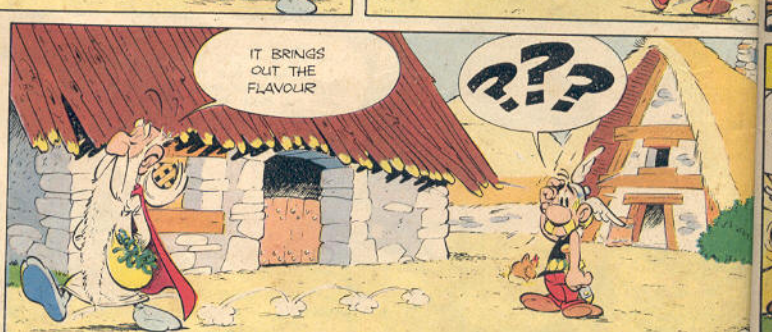
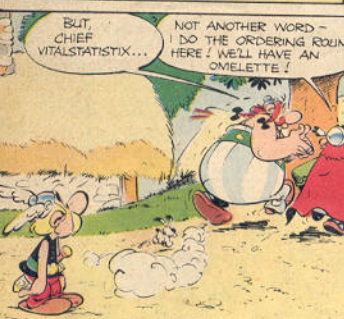
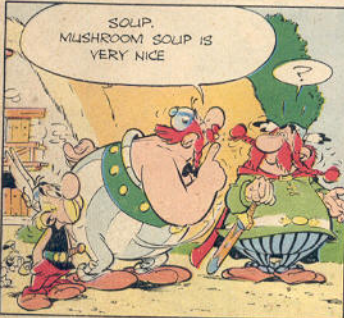
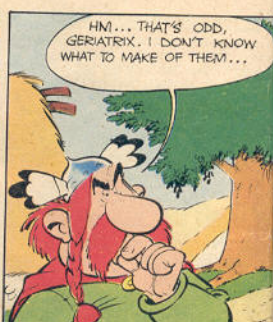
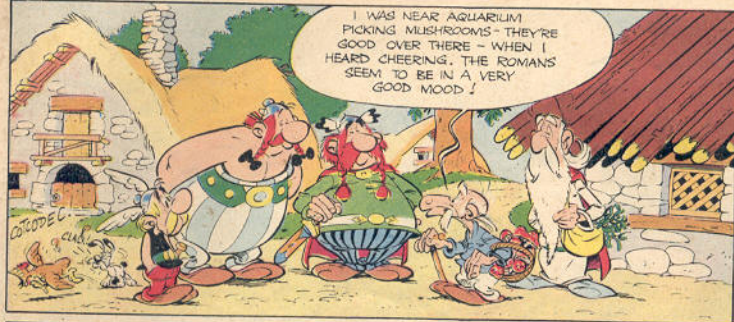
GLUTEUS MAXIMUS IS OUR CHAMPION! HE'S ONE OF OUR GARRISON AND A CREDIT TO US ALL!



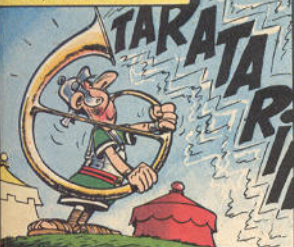
O GLUTEUS MAXIMUS, HOW RIGHT I WAS TO SEND YOU TO ROME FOR THE TRIALS! YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED, ALONG WITH THE BEST ATHLETES OF THE WHOLE ROMAN WORLD!

WELL, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING. O CENTURION GAUUS VERIAMBITUS, I'M THE GREATEST!

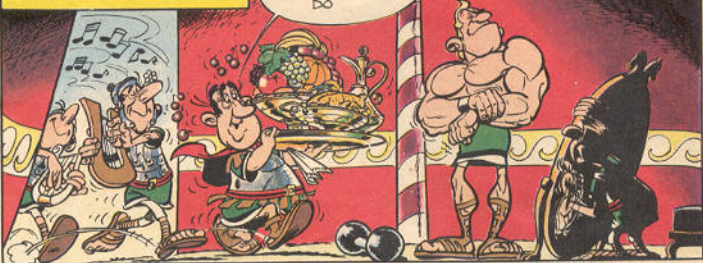




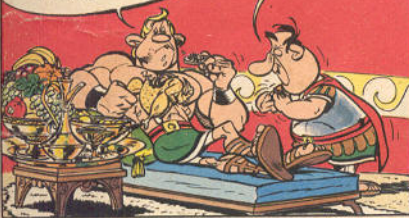
AT AQUARIUM, WHILE THE DUTY BUCCINIST IS BLOWING (COME TO THE COOK-HOUSE DOOR, BOYS'...



A MORE SOPHISTICATED BLOW-OUT HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR LEGIONARY GLUTTEUS MAXIMILIS



NOT BAD, O CENTURION GAULS VERIAMBITUS. ARMY RATIONS ARE IMPROVING! WHAT ARE THESE LITTLE BLACK THINGS?

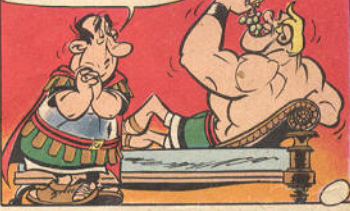


THEY'RE STURGEON'S EGGS, SENT FROM PERSIA TO OUR COMMANDING OFFICER—CAVARE TO THE GENERAL, SO TO SPEAK!

IF YOU WIN THE GOLD PALM! AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES THERE'LL BE EXTRA PASSES FOR THE CIRCUS AND PROMOTION ALL ROUND

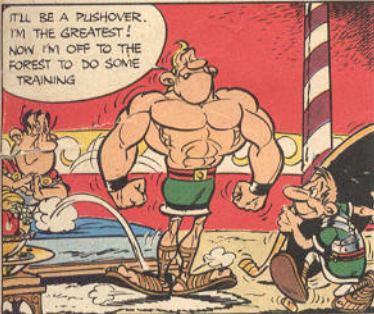


SPORTING PRESTIGE IS A MATTER OF SUCH NATIONAL IMPORTANCE THAT IF YOU WIN I COULD EVEN BECOME PREFECT OF GAUL! DON'T LET ME DOWN!



STOP WORRYING—I WON'T FAIL YOU, VERIAMBITUS

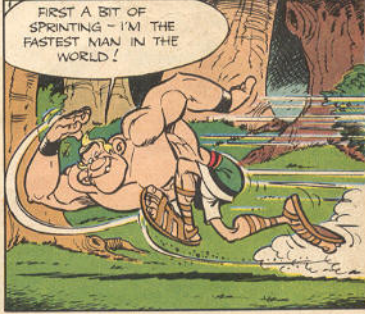
IT'LL BE A PUSHOVER. I'M THE GREATEST! NOW I'M OFF TO THE FOREST TO DO SOME TRAINING



HIS MORALE IS MARVELLOUS. WITH CONFIDENCE LIKE THAT, HE CAN'T LOSE!

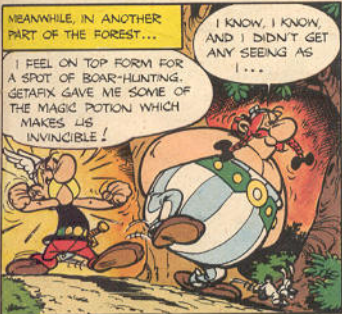


FIRST A BIT OF SPRINTING—I'M THE FASTEST MAN IN THE WORLD!



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST...

I FEEL ON TOP FORM FOR A SPOT OF BOAR-HUNTING. GETARYX GAVE ME SOME OF THE MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES US INVINCIBLE!



I KNOW, I KNOW, AND I DIDN'T GET ANY SEEING AS I...

ONE! TWO!
ONE! TWO!





WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT ROMAN ?

I HAVEN'T A CLUE... PERHAPS SOMEONE'S AFTER HIM



I'LL GO AND ASK HIM

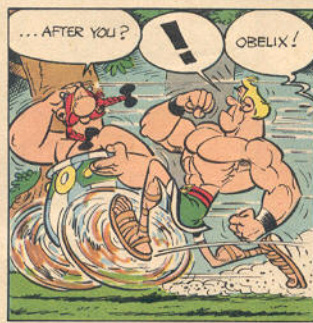


ONE! TWO! I'M THE FASTEST! ONE!...

EXCUSE ME...

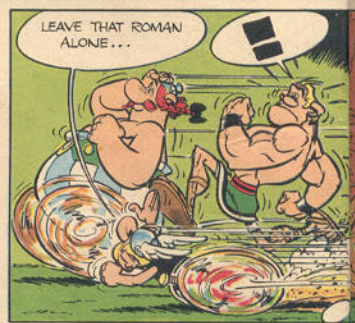


IS SOMEONE ...



... AFTER YOU ?

OBELIX !



LEAVE THAT ROMAN ALONE...



... AND LET'S GO AND FIND SOME BOARDS

ALL RIGHT

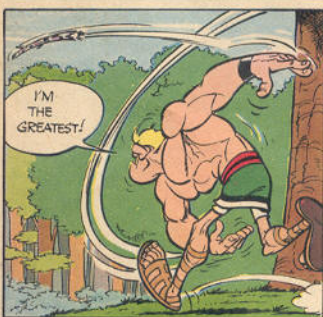


THEY OVERTOOK ME! BOTH OF THEM !

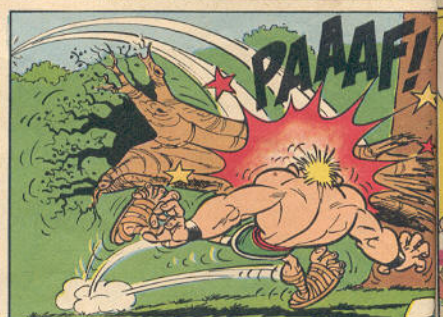


ANYWAY, WHEN IT COMES TO THROWING THE JAVELIN ...

CRACK!



I'M THE GREATEST!



PAAAF!

DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE
OF MY FRIEND, ROMAN ...

OBELEX! WHY DID
YOU DO THAT?
HE WASN'T BOTHERING
US

WHAT D'YOU MEAN?
HE THREW THAT BIT OF
WOOD AT MY HEAD, SO I
THREW ONE BACK AT HIM.
WE'RE QUITS NOW

YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO GET AWAY WITH
THIS, **BY
JUPITER!**

YOU, FATTY! I'LL TAKE YOU ON AT ORDINARY
WRESTLING, ALL-IN WRESTLING, BOXING! I'LL
WALLOP YOU AT THOSE! I'M THE GREATEST!
I'M ...

I'M NOT FAT!

PAFFF!

TELL ME STRAIGHT,
ASTERIX, ONCE AND
FOR ALL: DO YOU
THINK I'M FAT?

OF COURSE NOT, OBELEX. YOUR
CHEST HAS SUPPED
A BIT, THAT'S ALL.
COME ON, ARE WE GOING
TO GET THOSE BOARDS?

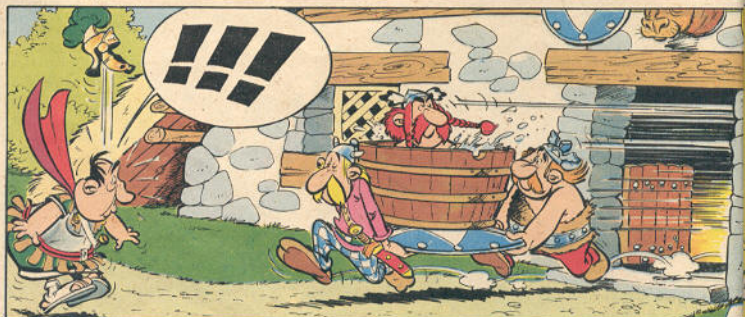
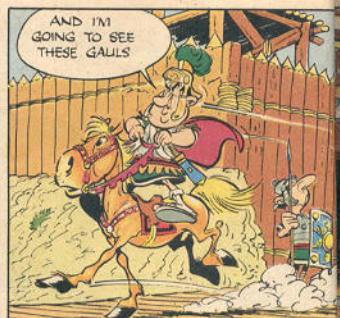
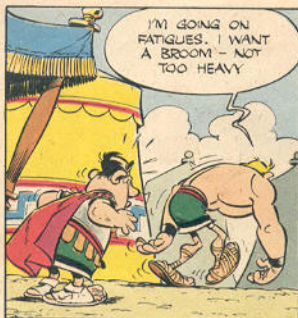
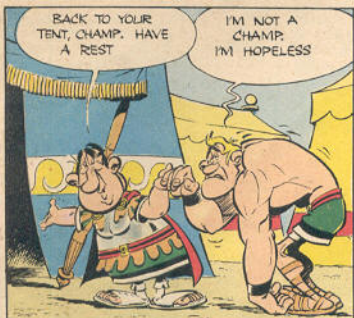
I'M
HOPELESS!

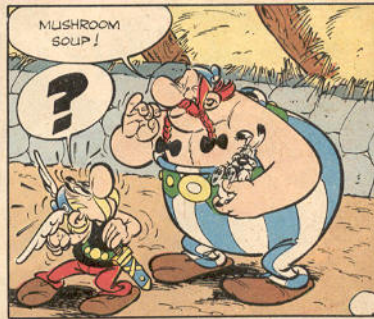
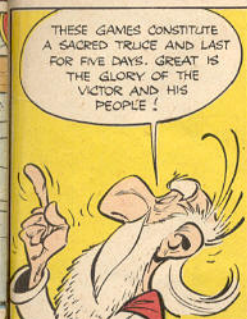
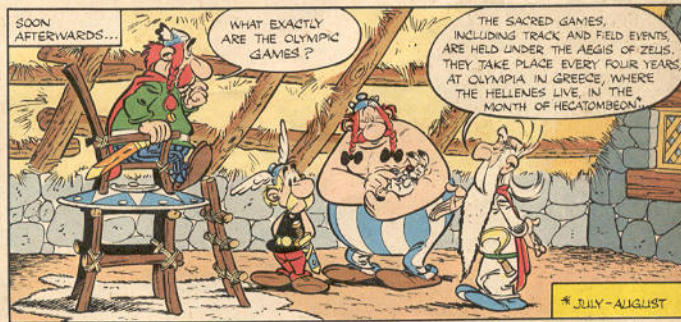
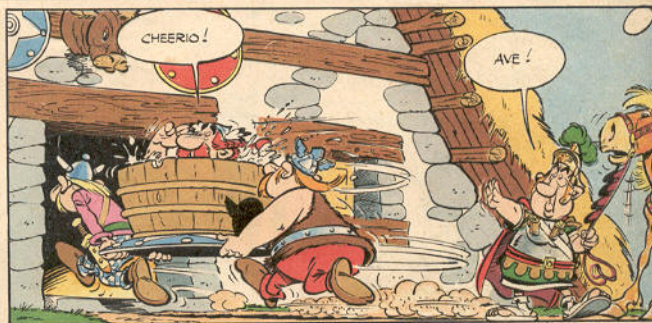
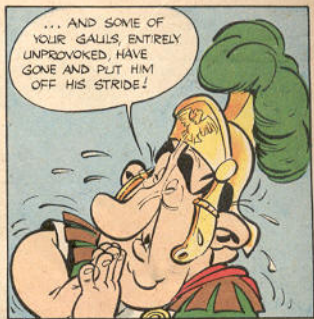
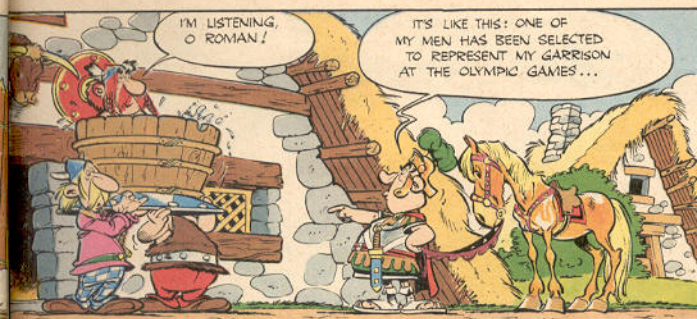
**WHAT D'YOU MEAN,
HOPELESS?!?**

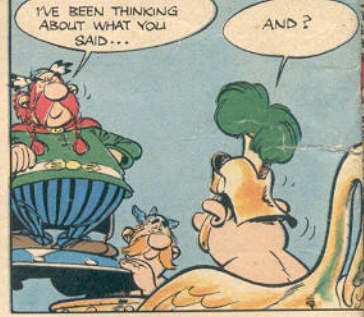
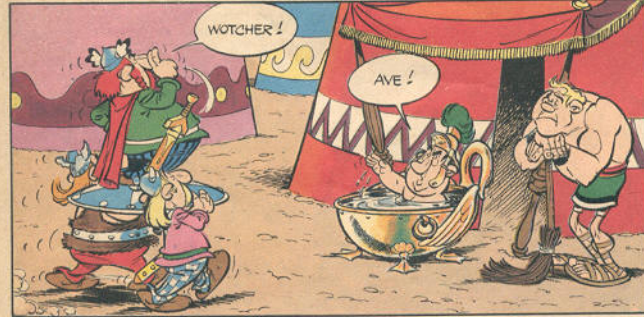
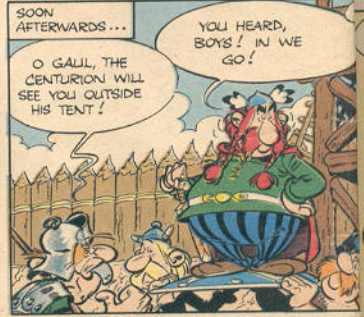
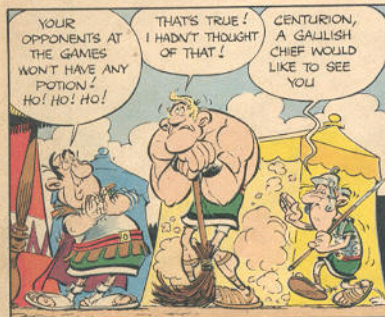
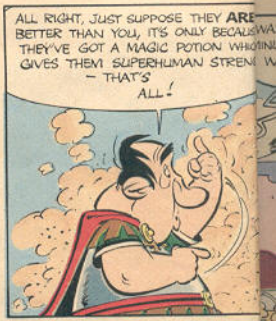
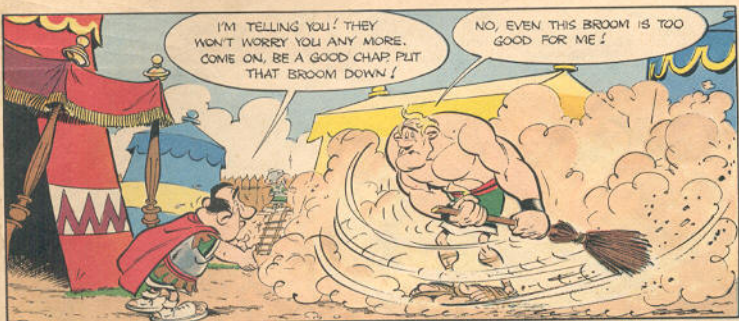
**WHO SAID
YOU WERE
HOPELESS?**

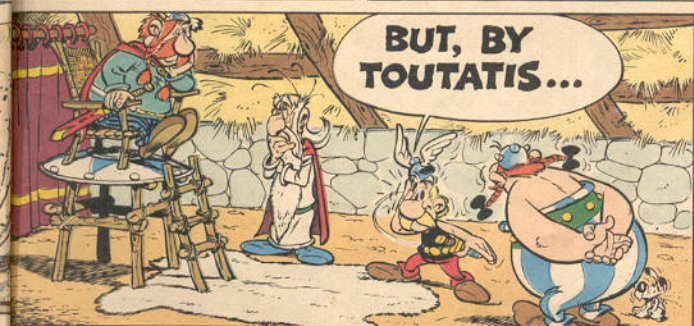
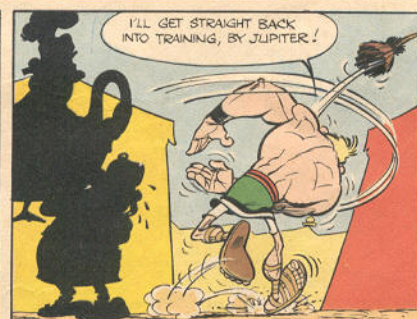
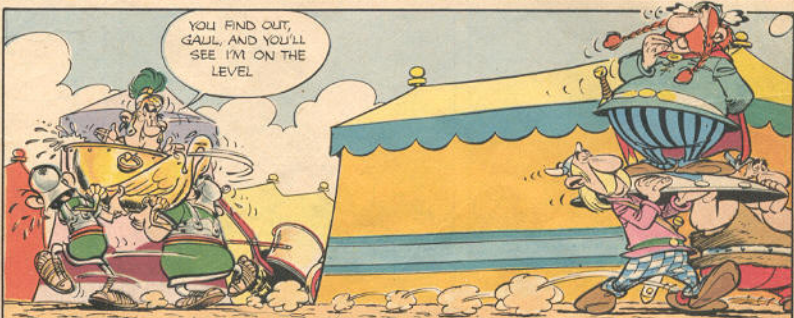
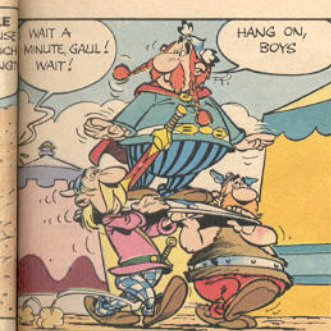
I SAID I WAS HOPELESS. EVERYONE IS BETTER
THAN ME. I'VE BEEN BEATEN BY ALL THE GAULS
I MET. A LITTLE TITCH AND A FAT
ONE WITH A PALINCH.
EVERYONE

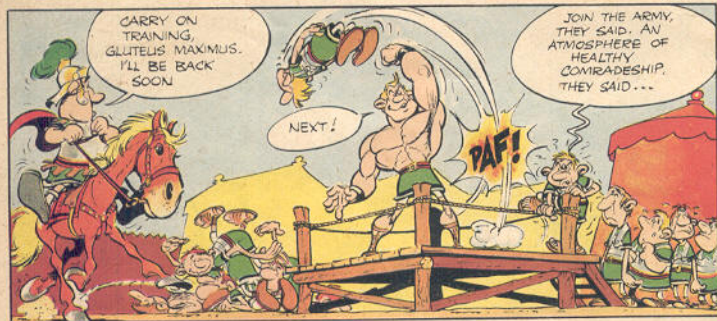
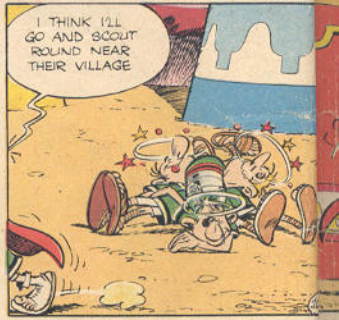
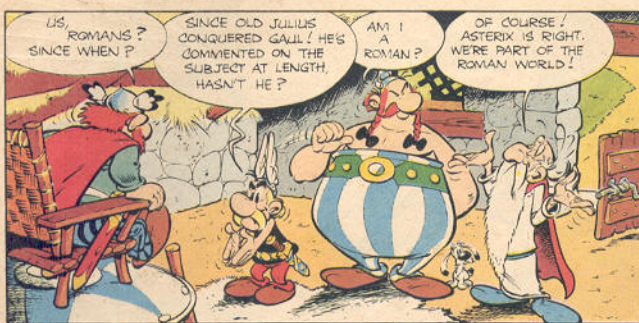
THE GAULS, BY
JUPITER! IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD
ANY TROUBLE WITH
THEM!

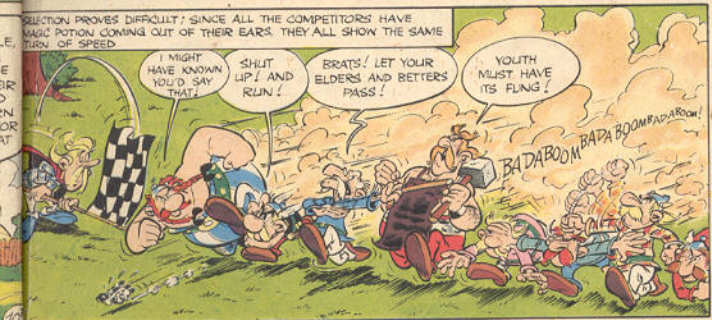
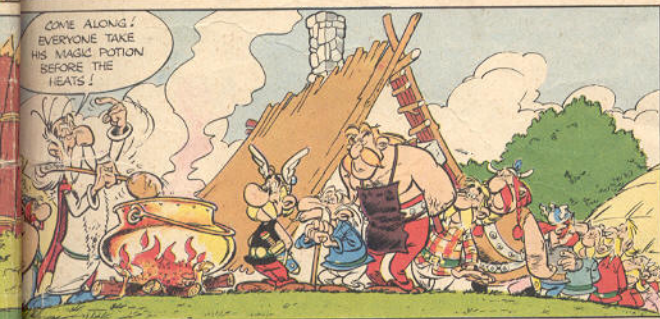
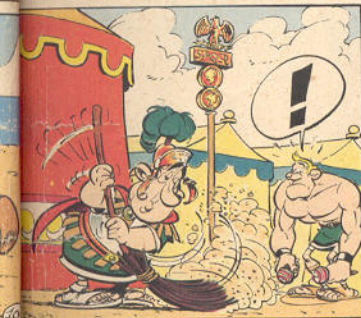
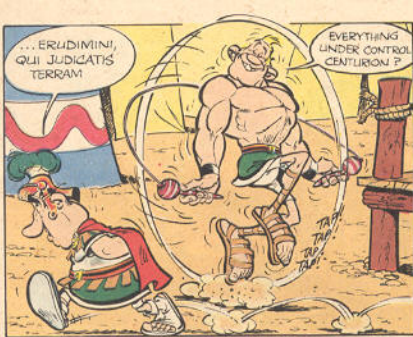












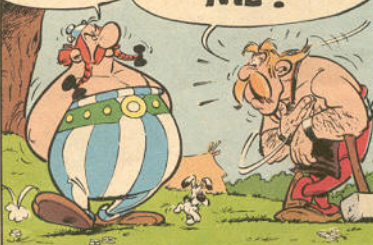
THE OLDEST INHABITANT SHOULD REPRESENT THE VILLAGE!

NO! I SHALL GO TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES!



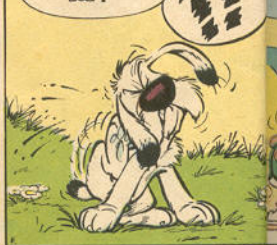
HUH! MIGHT JUST AS WELL SEND DOGMATIX. HE'S BETTER THAN YOU

BETTER THAN ME?



WELL, CAN YOU SCRATCH YOUR EAR WITH YOUR HIND LEG?

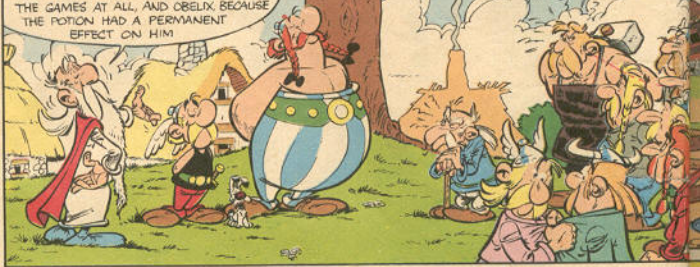
??



ORDER! ORDER! THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE HAS CHOSEN OUR TEAM



ASTERIX, BECAUSE HE'S THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND BECAUSE WITHOUT HIM WE WOULDN'T BE COMPETING IN THE GAMES AT ALL, AND OBELIX BECAUSE THE POTION HAD A PERMANENT EFFECT ON HIM



EXACTLY! I FELL IN WHEN I WAS A BABY!

GET AWAY! DO TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT...

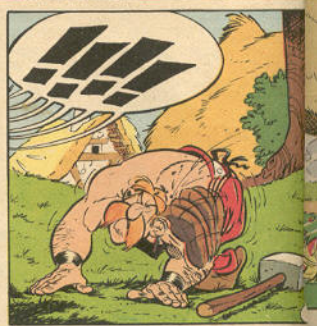


AND NOW, I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU! WE SHALL ALL ACCOMPANY OUR TEAM TO OLYMPIA TO CHEER THEM ON!

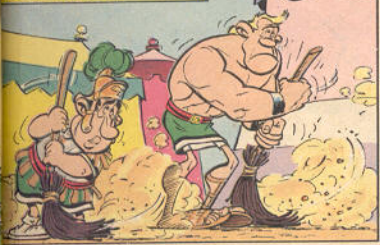
**GOOD OLD VITALSTATISTIX!
GOOD OLD ASTERIX!
GOOD OLD OBELIX!**



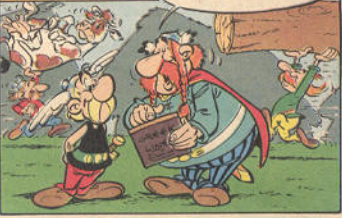
OBJECTION! I DON'T AGREE! LOOK!



AS THE DAY OF DEPARTURE APPROACHES, MORALE IN THE ROMAN CAMP IS GOING DOWN AND DOWN...



... WHEREAS IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE EVERYONE IS IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS. CHIEF VITALSTAR IS PLANNING THE JOURNEY...



I'VE HIRED A BOAT. WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY COMFORTABLE: ONE CLASS ONLY, DECK GAMES, OPEN AIR SPORTS AND MARVELLOUS ATMOSPHERE!

THE DRUID GETAFIX HAS TAKEN CARE OF ALL THE ATHLETES' TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

WE MUST PLAN THEIR TRAINING CAREFULLY. FOREIGN FOOD COULD RUIN OUR CHAMPIONS' FITNESS



WE MUST HAVE A WELL-BALANCED DIET

WHAT IS A WELL-BALANCED DIET, O DRUID?



THAT IS!

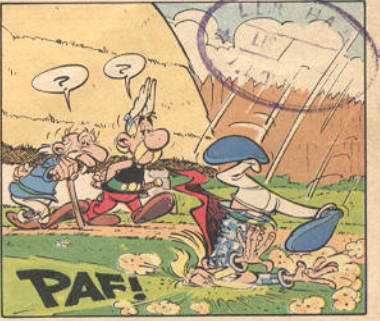


THE BARD CACOFONIX IS PREPARING FOR THE POMP OF THE CEREMONIES

I WILL NOW COMPOSE AN OLYMPIC HYMN

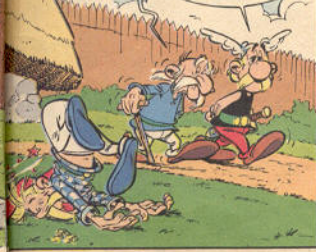


NO, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SING!

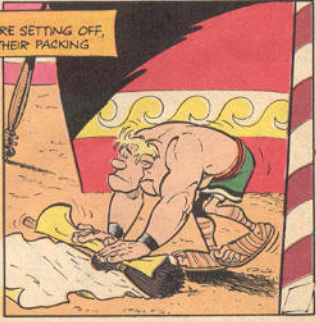
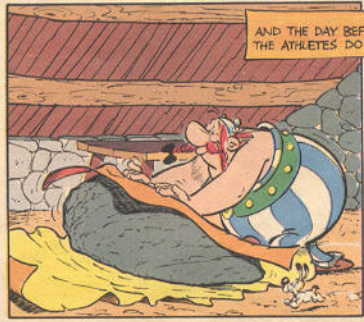


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIS HYMN?

I THINK HE'S SINGING FLAT



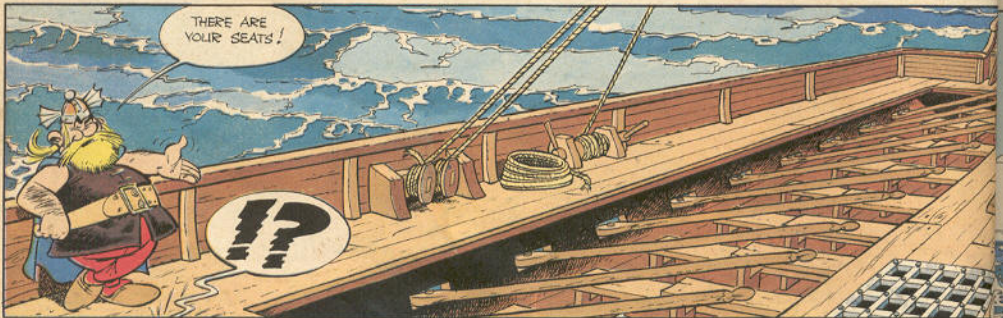
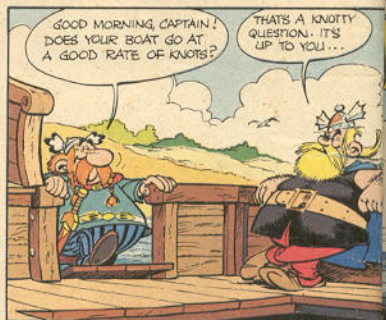
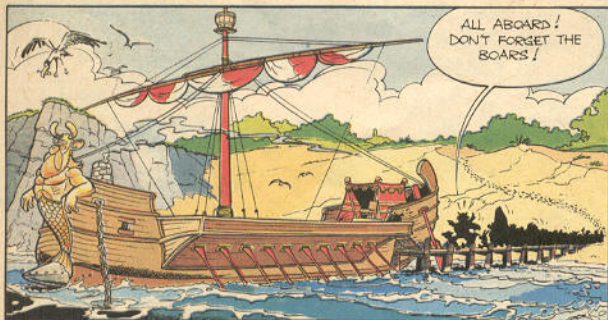
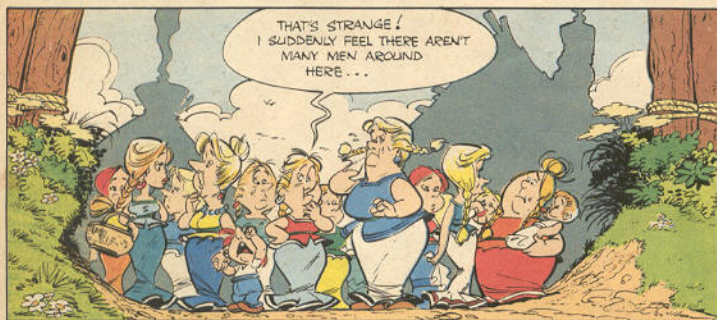
AND THE DAY BEFORE SETTING OFF, THE ATHLETES DO THEIR PACKING

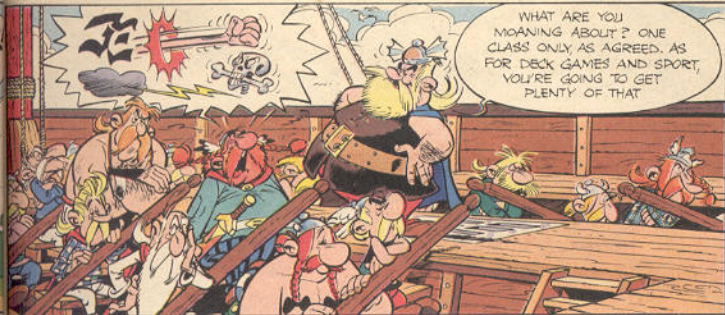


AT LAST THE DAY OF DEPARTURE DAWNS. OUR FRIENDS SET OFF FOR OLYMPIA AND OLYMPIC GLORY!

UP GAUL!
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

WOOF! WOOF!
WOOF!





WHAT ARE YOU MOANING ABOUT? ONE CLASS ONLY AS AGREED, AS FOR DECK GAMES AND SPORT, YOU'RE GOING TO GET PLENTY OF THAT



AND I ADVISE YOU TO GET ROWING, FOR A START, WE MUST SAIL WITH THE TIDE



WHAT ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE?

YOU HAVE A POINT THERE. LET THE MUSIC BEGIN!

SNAP!



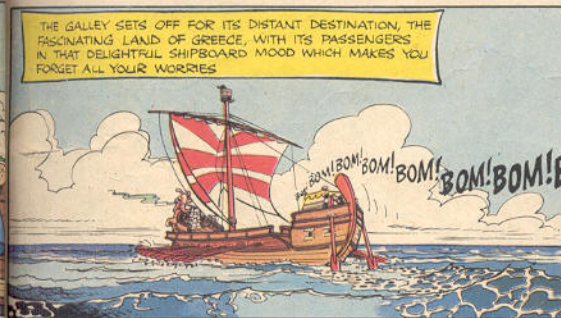
BONG!

BONG!



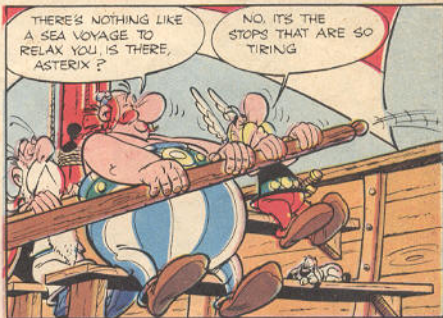
AND DON'T MAKE ANY FUSS, YOU'RE GETTING LUXURY CLASS, ON THE USUAL CRUISES, THE PASSENGERS ARE CHAINED UP AND WHIPPED. THERE'S A LONG WAITING LIST, EVERYONE WANTS TO GET TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES!

15'



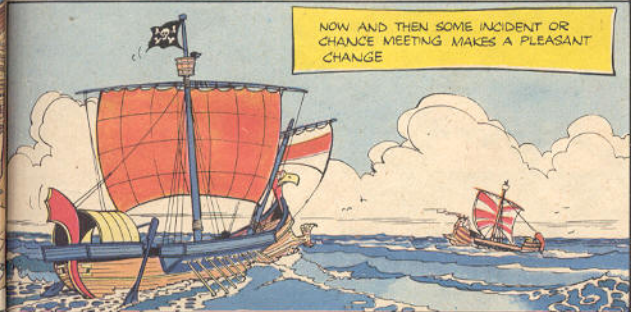
THE GALLEY SETS OFF FOR ITS DISTANT DESTINATION, THE FASCINATING LAND OF GREECE, WITH ITS PASSENGERS IN THAT DELIGHTFUL SHIPBOARD MOOD WHICH MAKES YOU FORGET ALL YOUR WORRIES

BOM! BOM! BOM!

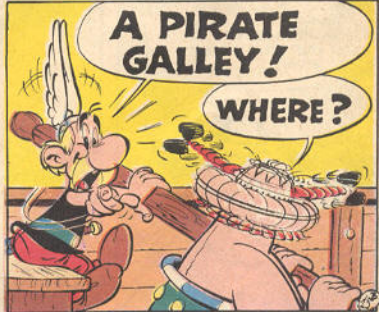


THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A SEA VOYAGE TO RELAX YOU IS THERE, ASTERIX?

NO, IT'S THE STOPS THAT ARE SO TIRING



NOW AND THEN SOME INCIDENT OR CHANCE MEETING MAKES A PLEASANT CHANGE



A PIRATE GALLEY!

WHERE?

GALLEY RIGHT AHEAD!



THERE AREN'T ONE OR TWO GALLIES ABOARD THAT GALLEY, BY ANY CHANCE?



IT'S SWARMING WITH FEROCIOUS GALLISH WARRIORS!



NOW LET'S KEEP CALM, MIE HEARTIES. WE'RE OUT OF OUR DEPTH HERE. STAND BY TO ABANDON SHIP! SCUTTLE HER!

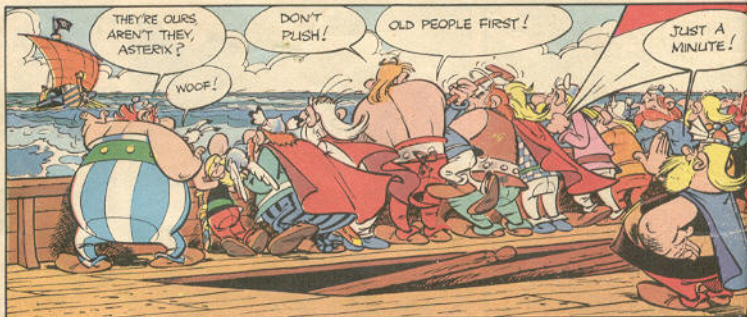


THEY'RE OURS AREN'T THEY, ASTERIX?

DON'T PUSH!

OLD PEOPLE FIRST!

JUST A MINUTE!



BOARDING PIRATE VESSELS IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FARE. IT'S AN EXTRA



WHAT D'YOU MEAN, AN EXTRA?

I'D JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT BOARDING IS AN OPTIONAL EXTRA...



APPLY TO THE PULSER. IT'S TWO SESTERTII!



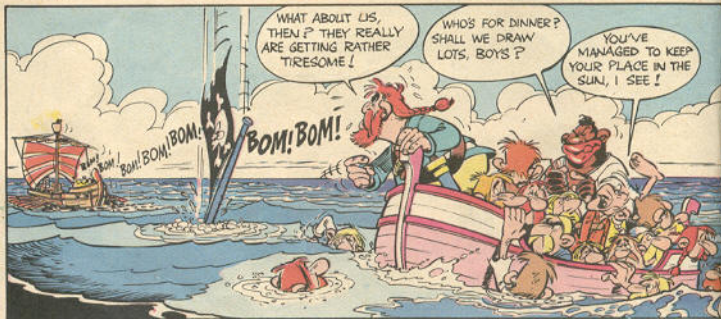
WE'LL COMPLAIN TO THE COMPANY! IT'S AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE! YOU CAN KEEP YOUR BLESSED PIRATE!



WHAT ABOUT US, THEN? THEY REALLY ARE GETTING RATHER TIRE SOME!

WHO'S FOR DINNER? SHALL WE DRAW LOTS, BOYS?

YOU'VE MANAGED TO KEEP YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN, I SEE!



THE VOYAGE
PROCEEDS
CALMLY...

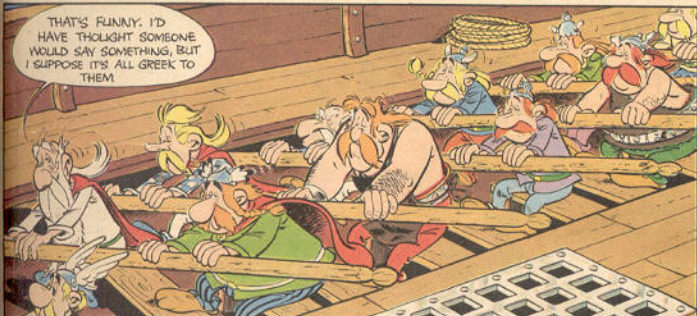


...UNTIL AT LAST
ONE DAY ...

WE'LL BE
THERE TOMORROW,
BOYS! PIRAEUS
AWAITS US!



THAT'S FUNNY. I'D
HAVE THOUGHT SOMEONE
WOULD SAY SOMETHING, BUT
I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL GREEK TO
THEM



GETAFIX ...

YES?



WHO IS
PIRAEUS?

AH! GOOD!

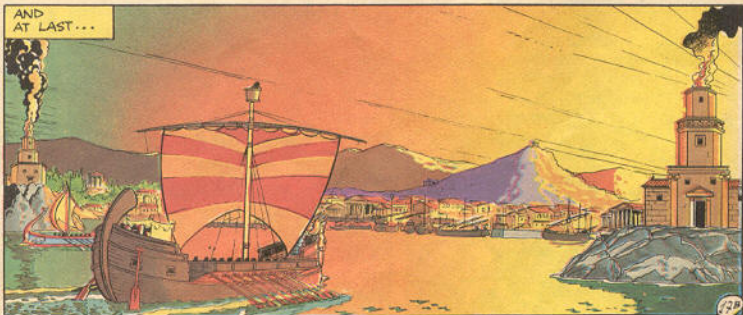


PIRAEUS, AS EVERYONE
KNOWS NOWADAYS, IS THE
HARBOUR OF ATHENS.
THE NIGHT BEFORE
ARRIVING, AS USUAL,
THERE IS A FAREWELL
PARTY ON BOARD
SHIP

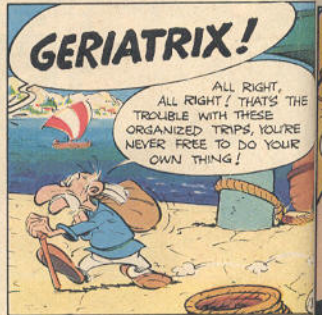
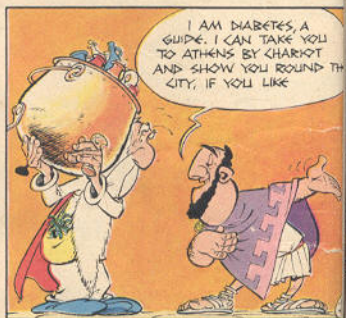
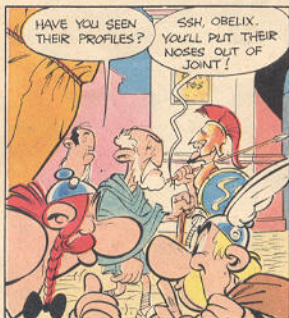
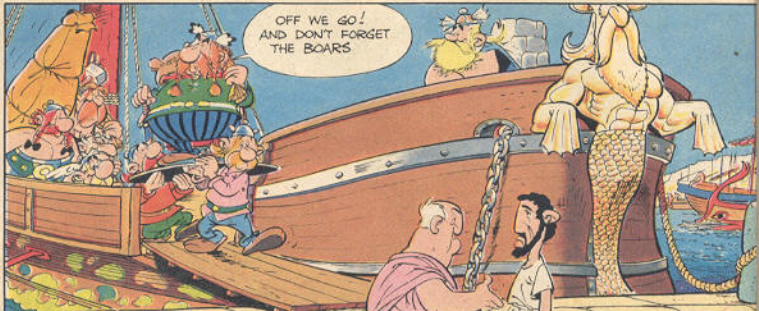
WHEN FATHER PAPERED
THE PARTHENON...



AND
AT LAST ...



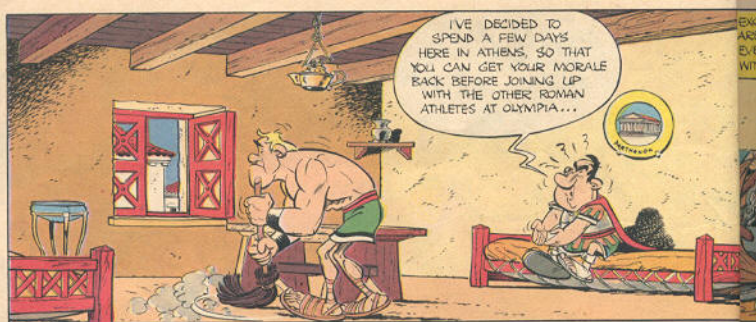
RIGHT, BOYS! WE REPRESENT GALL! LET US BE WORTHY OF HER! WE WON'T DRAW ATTENTION TO OURSELVES, OR MAKE FUN OF THE NATIVES, EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF OUR GLORIOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE!





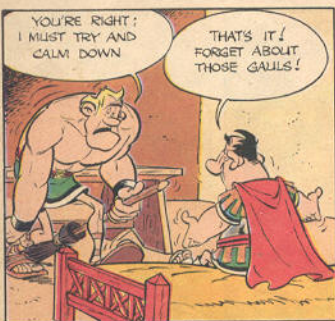
IN A CHEAP ROOM AT A SMALL ATHENS HOTEL...

FOR JUPITER'S SAKE! STOP CARRYING ON LIKE THAT!



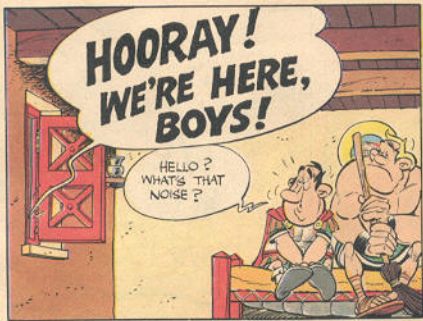
YOU'RE RIGHT! I MUST TRY AND CALM DOWN

THAT'S IT! FORGET ABOUT THOSE GAULS!



**HOORAY!
WE'RE HERE,
BOYS!**

HELLO? WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

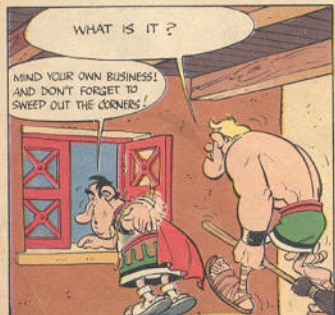


LET'S SEE!



WHAT IS IT?

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS! AND DON'T FORGET TO SNEEP OUT THE CORNERS!



YOU'LL BE VERY COMFORTABLE HERE, BY ZEUS. THE HOTEL IS VERY CROWDED, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO SHARE ROOMS

WHAT ABOUT THE BOARDS?

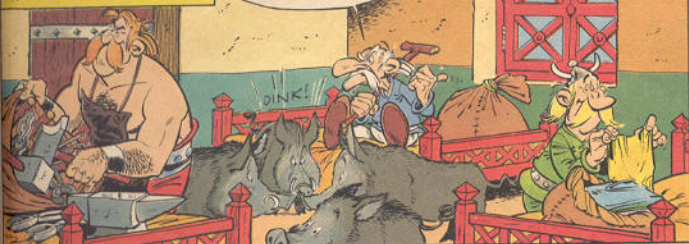


YOU CAN KEEP PETS IN YOUR ROOMS. WE HAVE TO PIG IT A BIT WHEN THE PLACE IS SO FULL



EXCEPT FOR THE BOARS, WHO ARE VERY FUSSY ANIMALS, EVERYONE IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE ACCOMMODATION.

I'M WARNING YOU, I SLEEP WITH THE WINDOW CLOSED!



COME ALONG, BOYS! DIABETES IS GOING TO SHOW US THE ACROPOLIS!



AND SOON AFTERWARDS ALL OUR TRAVELLERS CAN BE SEEN ON THE SACRED ROCK OF THE ACROPOLIS, WHERE THEY ADMIRE THE PROPYLAEA, THE TEMPLE OF ALE, AND THAT MASTERPIECE OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE, THE PARTHENON...



IT REMINDS ME OF BURDIGALA...

NO THERE'S A LITTLE SQUARE IN MASSILIA...

WHAT, NO DOLMENS??

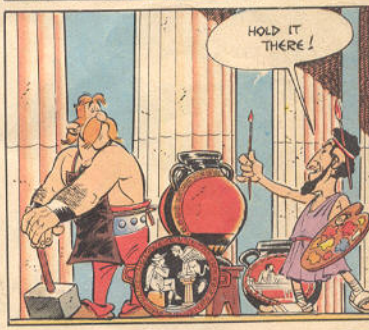
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NOT BAD, IF YOU LIKE COLUMNS

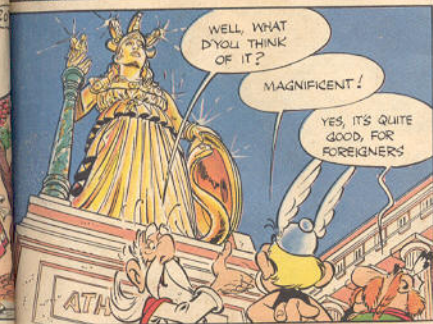


LOOK AT THAT! LOOK AT THAT, MY FRIENDS!

SMASHING!



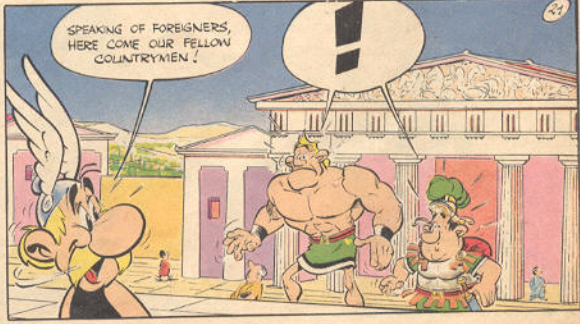
HOLD IT THERE!



WELL, WHAT D'YOU THINK OF IT?

MAGNIFICENT!

YES, IT'S QUITE GOOD, FOR FOREIGNERS!



SPEAKING OF FOREIGNERS, HERE COME OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!



I AM NOT YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMAN! IF I HAD MY WAY I'D GIVE YOU BACK GAUL AND REPATRIATE EVERYBODY!



BY TOUTATIS! IT OFFENDS MY ROMAN SPIRIT TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT!

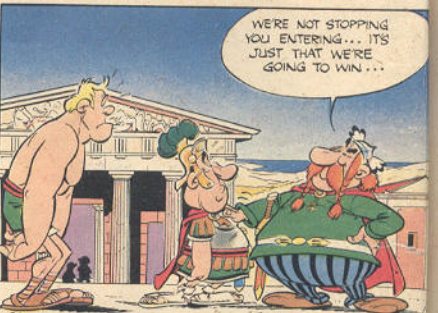


SERIOUSLY, NOW, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO TAKE PART IN THE GAMES?

WITH THE MAGIC POTION THAT MAKES US INVINCIBLE, YOU MUST ADMIT WE'D BE STUPID NOT TO!



BUT IT'S NOT FAIR! WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF US?



WE'RE NOT STOPPING YOU ENTERING... IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE GOING TO WIN...



... THAT'S THE POINT!



I'M TAKING YOU TO HAVE LUNCH AT MY COUSIN'S RESTAURANT. HIS NAME'S THERVIVS

THERE'S NO DEPOSIT ON THE AMPHORA. WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

KEEP IT, IT'LL MAKE A NICE SOUVENIR

ONK!

SO OUR TOURIST FRIENDS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE JOYS OF STUFFED VINE LEAVES, KEBABS, OLIVES, WATER MELON AND RESINATED WINE.



I HAD ONE WITH ME, BUT I LEFT HIM OUTSIDE. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD

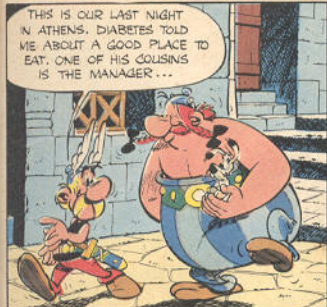
WHAT ON EARTH DO THEY PUT IN THEIR WINE?

OH, FOR A DROP OF AQUITANIAN WINE!

D'YOU REMEMBER THAT LITTLE RESTAURANT NEAR LUGDUNUM WHERE WE HAD THAT DELICIOUS VEAL?

IT'S NOT A PATCH ON BOAR!

ONK!



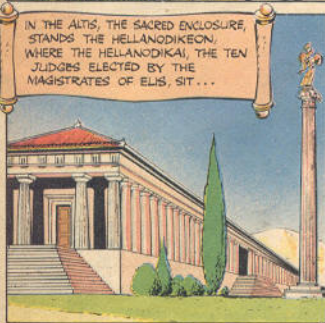
AS THE NIGHT GOES ON, OUR FRIENDS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE ART OF GREEK DANCING...



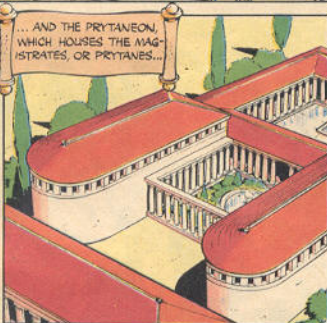
OLYMPIA! OLYMPIA, WITH ITS TEMPLES OF ZEUS, AND PHIDIAS'S STATUE OF THE GOD, ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD...



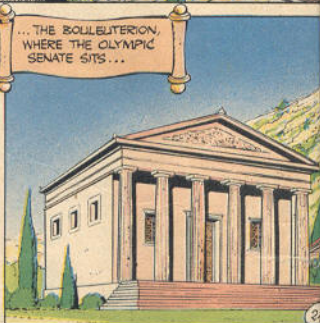
IN THE ALTIS, THE SACRED ENCLOSURE, STANDS THE HELLANODIKEION, WHERE THE HELLANODIKAI, THE TEN JUDGES ELECTED BY THE MAGISTRATES OF ELIS, SIT...



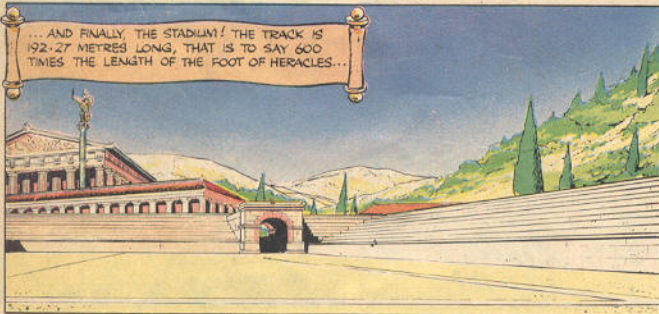
... AND THE PRYTANEION, WHICH HOUSES THE MAGISTRATES, OR PRYTANES...



... THE BOULEUTERION, WHERE THE OLYMPIC SENATE SITS...



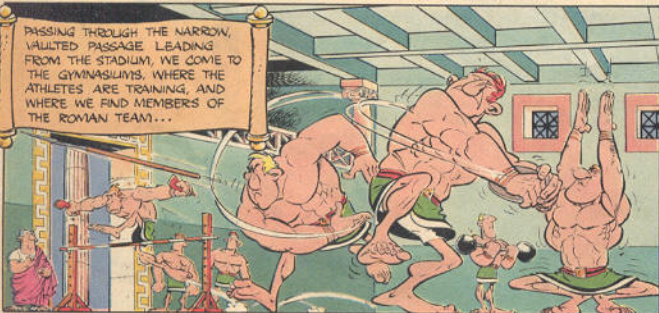
... AND FINALLY THE STADIUM! THE TRACK IS 192.27 METRES LONG, THAT IS TO SAY 600 TIMES THE LENGTH OF THE FOOT OF HERACLES...



... WHICH ALLOWS US TO CALCULATE THAT THE DEMI-GOD TOOK ABOUT SIZE 11 IN SHOES

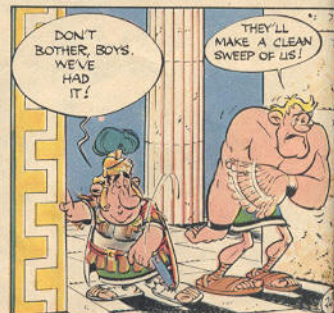


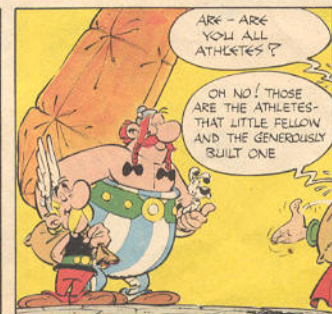
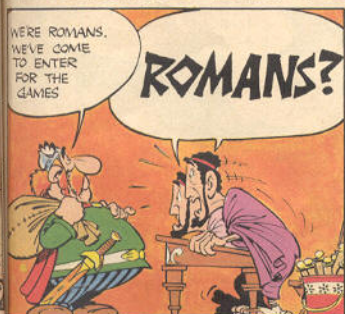
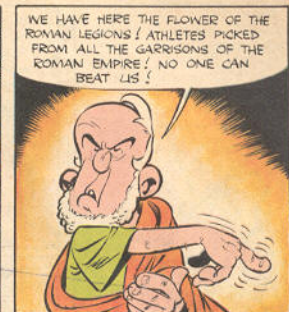
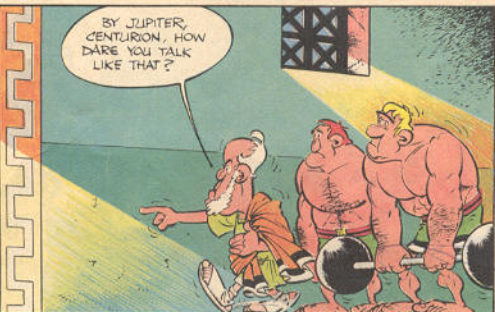
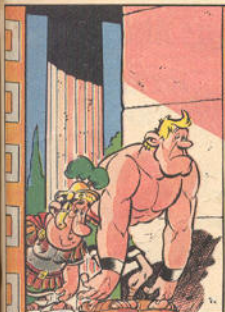
PASSING THROUGH THE NARROW, VAULTED PASSAGE LEADING FROM THE STADIUM, WE COME TO THE GYMNASIUM, WHERE THE ATHLETES ARE TRAINING, AND WHERE WE FIND MEMBERS OF THE ROMAN TEAM...



DON'T BOTHER, BOYS. WE'VE HAD IT!

THEY'LL MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP OF US!





RIGHT... ER... WELL, THE ATHLETES AND THEIR TRAINER CAN BE ADMITTED TO THE OLYMPIC VILLAGES, ALONG WITH THEIR LUGGAGE AND PROVISIONS

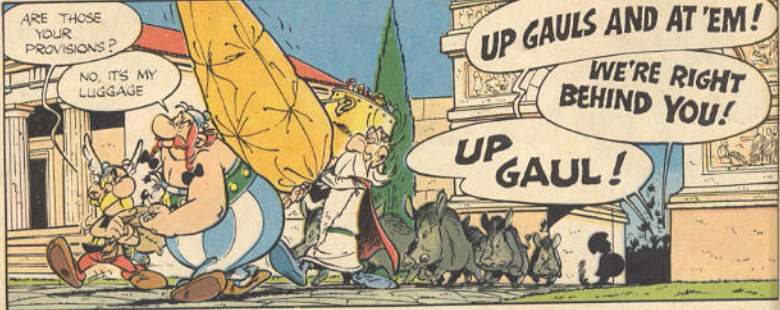
ARE THOSE YOUR PROVISIONS?

NO, IT'S MY LUGGAGE

UP GAULS AND AT 'EM!

WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

UP GAUL!

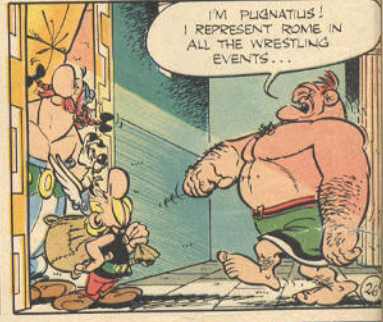
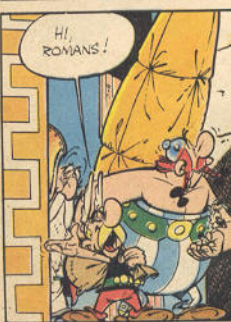


HI, ROMANS!

IT'S THEM! IT'S THEM!

JUST A MOMENT! LET ME BY!

I'M PUGNATIUS! I REPRESENT ROME IN ALL THE WRESTLING EVENTS...

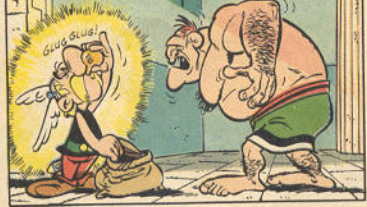


I HEAR YOU'RE VERY STRONG, GALL. I DON'T BELIEVE IT! COME ON, PROVE IT, BY MINERVA!

COMING?

COMING!

CRACK!



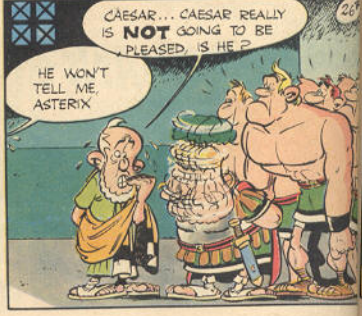
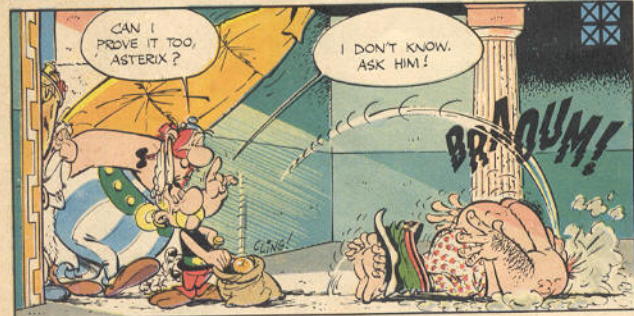
CAN I PROVE IT TOO, ASTERIX?

I DON'T KNOW. ASK HIM!

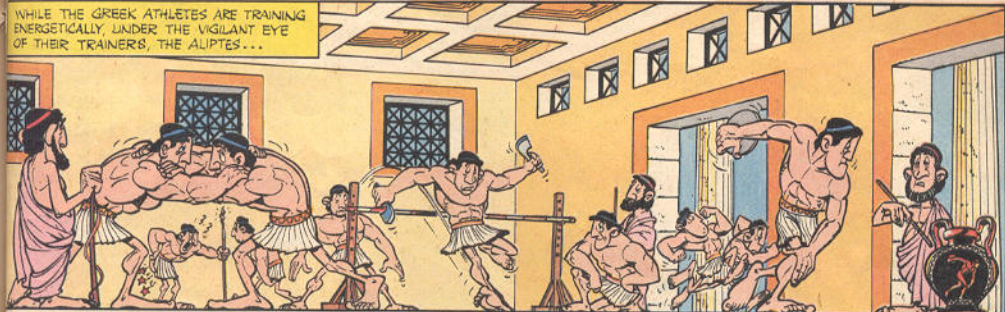
CAESAR... CAESAR REALLY IS NOT GOING TO BE PLEASED IS HE?

HE WON'T TELL ME, ASTERIX

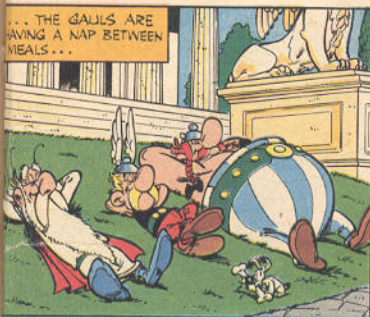
BRAOUM!



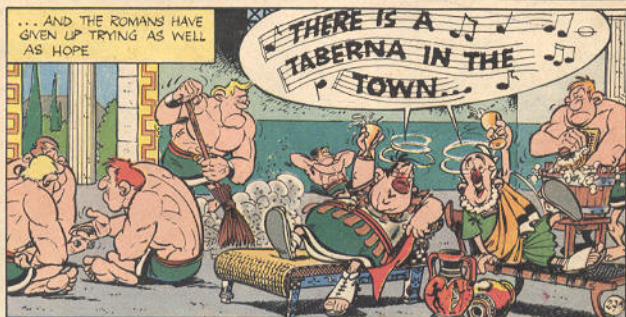
WHILE THE GREEK ATHLETES ARE TRAINING ENERGETICALLY UNDER THE VIGILANT EYE OF THEIR TRAINERS, THE AULPTES...



... THE GAULS ARE HAVING A NAP BETWEEN MEALS ...



... AND THE ROMANS HAVE GIVEN UP TRYING AS WELL AS HOPE

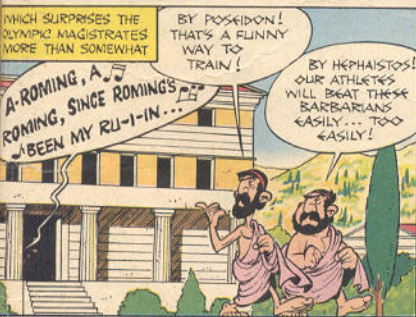


WHICH SURPRISES THE OLYMPIC MAGISTRATES MORE THAN SOMEWHAT

BY POSEIDON! THAT'S A FUNNY WAY TO TRAIN!

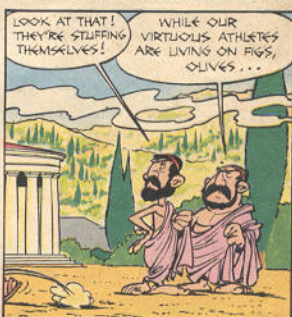
A-ROMING, A-ROMING, SINCE ROMINGS BEEN MY RU-I-IN...

BY HEPHAISTOS! OUR ATHLETES WILL BEAT THESE BARBARIANS EASILY... TOO EASILY!

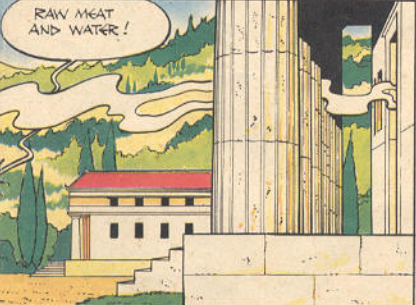


LOOK AT THAT! THEY'RE STUFFING THEMSELVES!

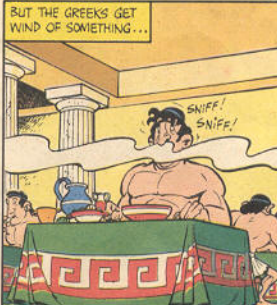
WHILE OUR VIRTUOUS ATHLETES ARE LIVING ON FIGS, OLIVES...



RAW MEAT AND WATER!



BUT THE GREEKS GET WIND OF SOMETHING...



... WHICH LEADS TO REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS IN THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE

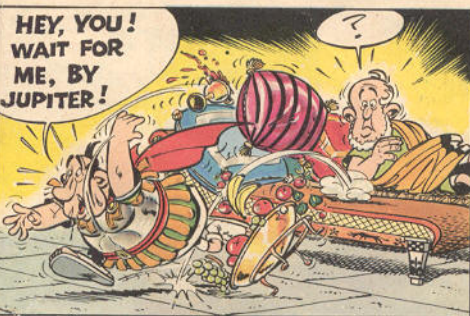
I'M NOT EATING THIS!

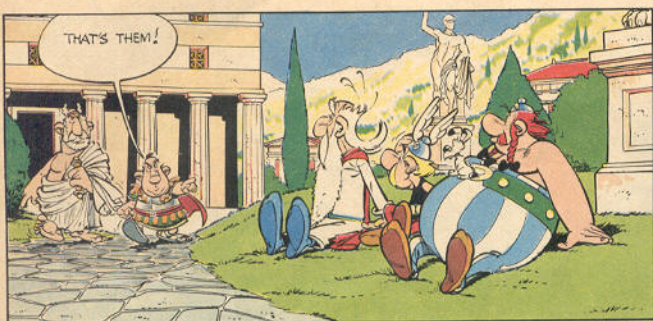




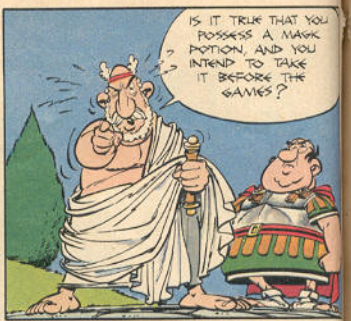
BUT BACK HOME IN SPARTA WE DON'T HAVE SAVAGES NEXT DOOR, STUFFING THEMSELVES WITH DELICIOUS THINGS ALL DAY LONG!







THAT'S THEM!



IS IT TRUE THAT YOU POSSESS A MAGIC POTION, AND YOU INTEND TO TAKE IT BEFORE THE GAMES?



YES THAT'S RIGHT



SUCH PROCEDURES ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!



STRICTLY?

STRICTLY!

STRICTLY.



ER...IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES I'D LIKE TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SACRED ENCLOSURE AND CONSULT OUR FRIENDS

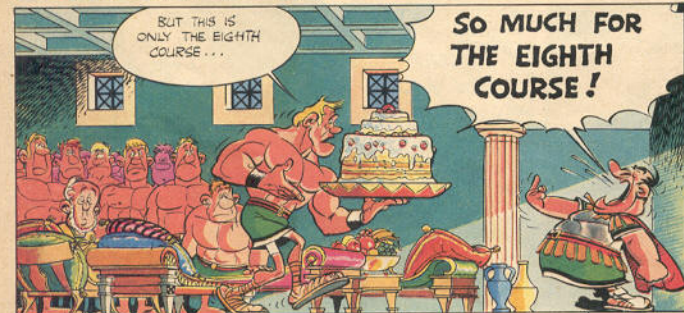
GRANTED!



HO, HO, HO! I'M OFF TO GIVE THE OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS!



GET UP, EVERYONE! STAND TO ATTENTION! TO WORK! YOU BARBARIC LOT! GLUTEUS MAXIMUS! PULL YOUR SOCCI UP! AND JUMP TO IT!



BUT THIS IS ONLY THE EIGHTH COURSE...

SO MUCH FOR THE EIGHTH COURSE!



AH, THE DISCOBOLI HAVE STARTED TRAINING AGAIN AT LAST



WE'LL HAVE TO CONSULT CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX

OUR FRIENDS MUST BE SOMEWHERE IN THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE

WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON, ASTERIX?



NO, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SING!

HUH! IF I HADN'T SUNG THOSE FIFTEEN VISIGOTHS WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE ROOM! WE GOT IN OLYMPIAS ONLY HOTEL!

THERE THEY ARE!



HEY, IT'S OUR CHAMPIONS! WHAT'S IN THE WIND, BOYS?



IT TURNS OUT THAT THERE IS SOMETHING VERY NASTY IN THE WIND, WHICH QUITE TAKES EVERYONE'S APPETITE AWAY...

IF THAT'S SO...

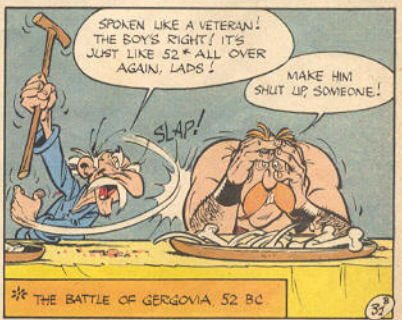


ALL WE CAN DO IS WITHDRAW!

NO!



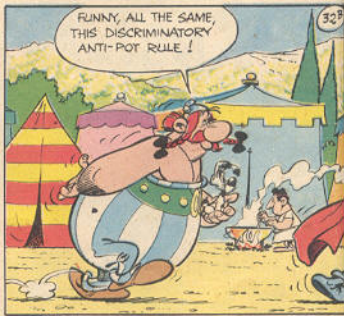
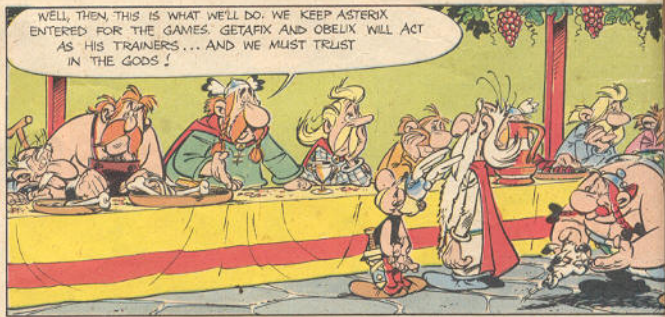
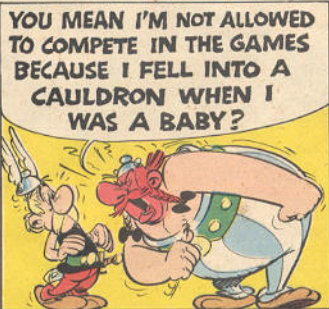
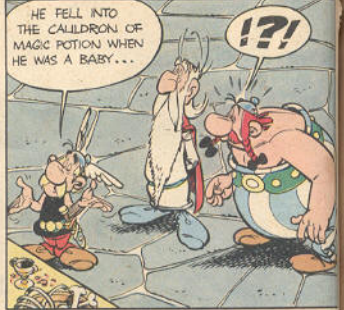
WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO GIVE UP, BY TOUTATIS! WE'LL MANAGE WITHOUT THE MAGIC POTION!

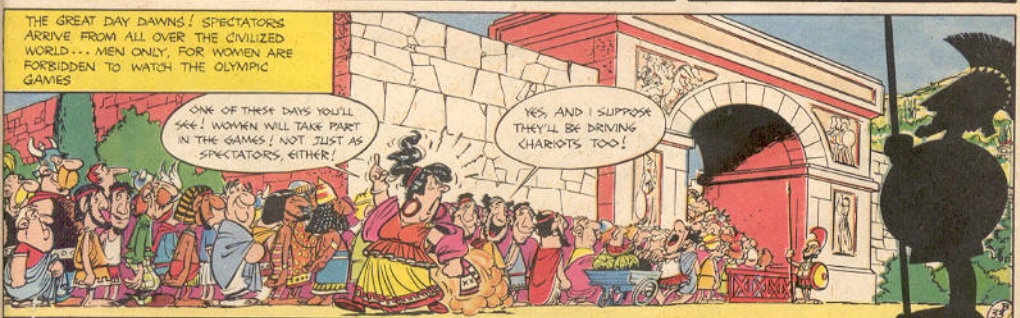
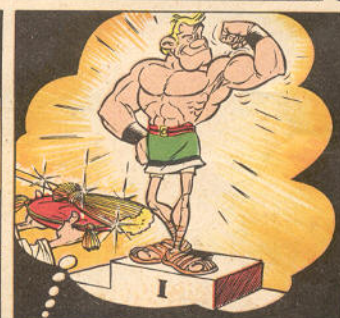
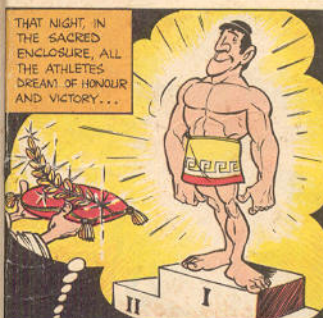
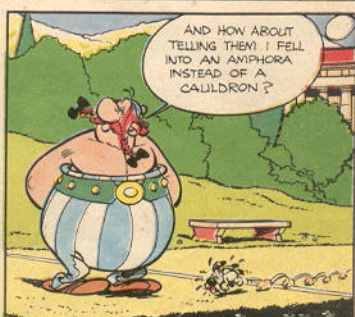
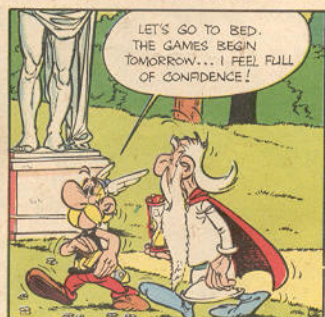
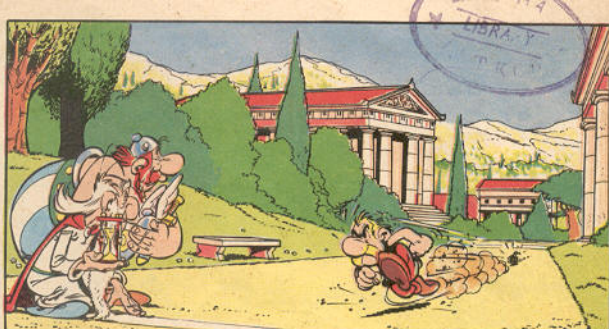
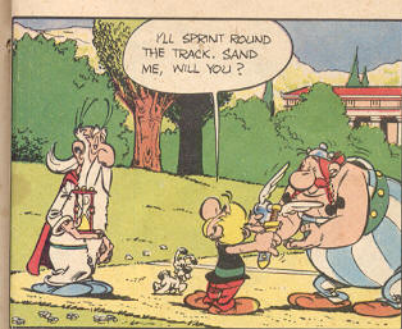


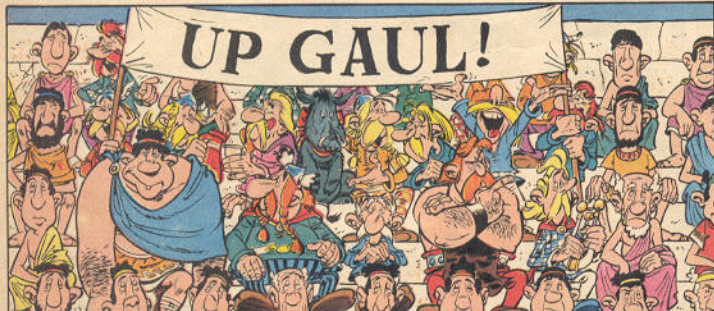
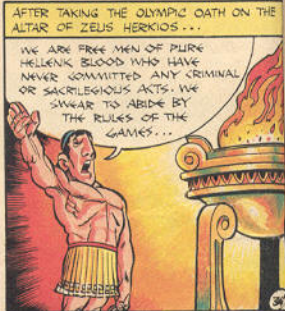
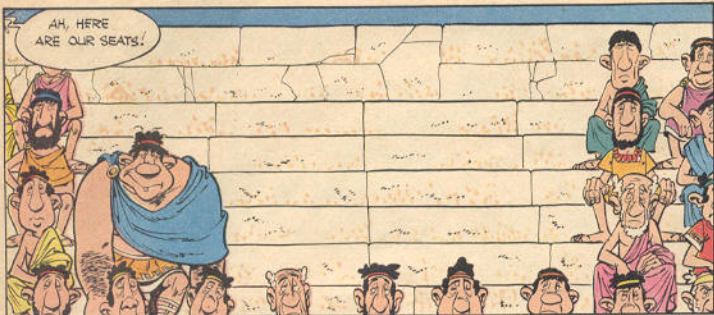
SPOKEN LIKE A VETERAN! THE BOYS RIGHT! IT'S JUST LIKE 52* ALL OVER AGAIN, LADS!

MAKE HIM SHUT UP, SOMEONE!

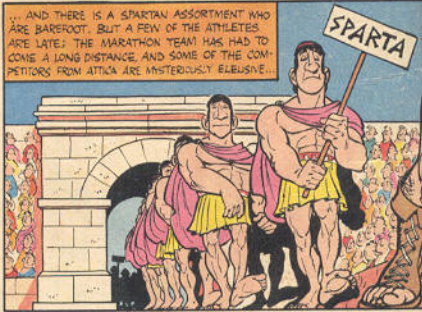
* THE BATTLE OF GERGOVA, 52 BC







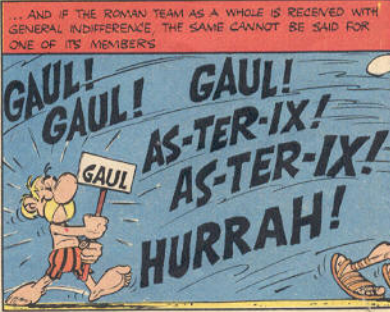
... THE ATHLETES ENTER THE STADIUM. THE MEN FROM THERMOPYLAE ARE THE FIRST TO PASS BY. EVERYONE IS BACK IN TRAINING; THE ATHLETES FROM MAGNESA ARE ON A MILK DIET, THE TEAM FROM GOS IS ON LETTUCE AND EVEN THE MEN OF SALAMIS HAVE GONE VEGETARIAN...



... AND THERE IS A PLEASANT ASSORTMENT WHO ARE BAREFOOT, BUT A FEW OF THE ATHLETES ARE LATE; THE MARATHON TEAM HAS HAD TO COME A LONG DISTANCE, AND SOME OF THE COMPETITORS FROM ATTICA ARE MYSTERICALLY EMBESSED.

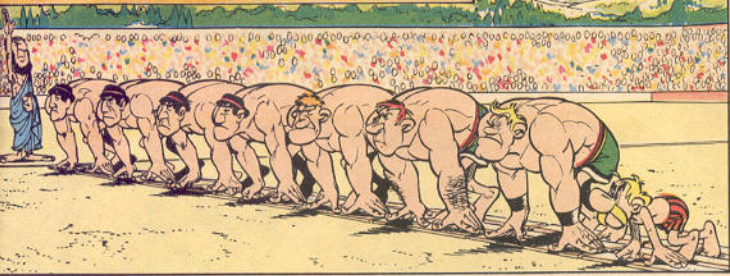


RHODES HAS SENT ONLY ONE REPRESENTATIVE, A COLOSSUS...

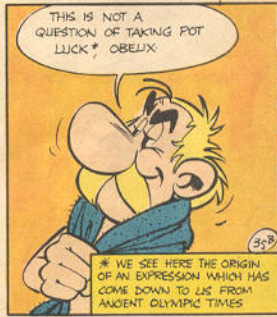
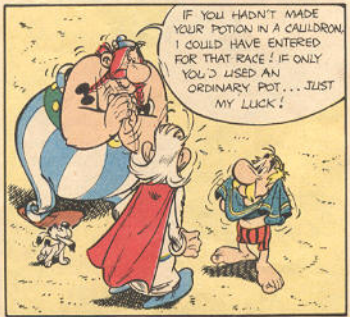
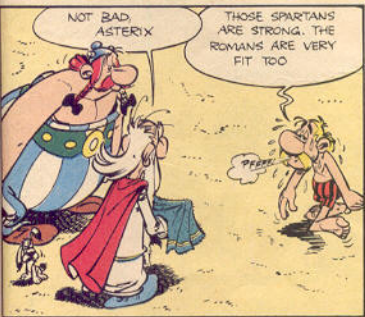
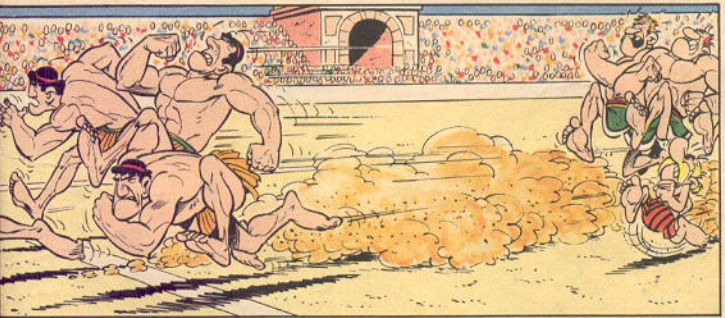
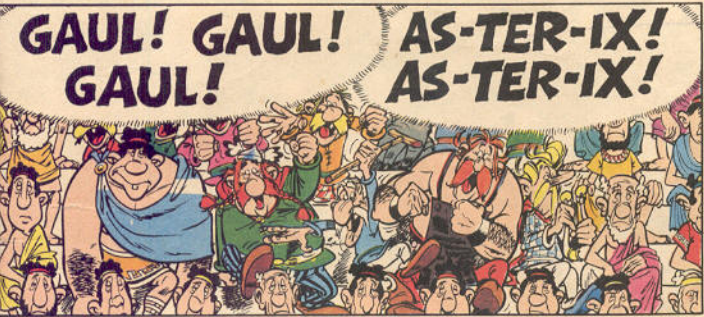


... AND IF THE ROMAN TEAM AS A WHOLE IS RECEIVED WITH GENERAL INDIFFERENCE, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR ONE OF ITS MEMBERS.

THE ATHLETES, BOTH GREEK AND ROMAN, GET INTO POSITION FOR THE FIRST RACE: 20 LAPS UP AND DOWN THE STADIUM. THEY ARE ALL, AT THE PRESENT TENSE...



... AND THE STARTER'S MOOD IS IMPERATIVE...



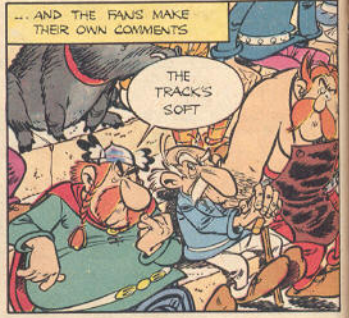
* WE SEE HERE THE ORIGIN OF AN EXPRESSION WHICH HAS COME DOWN TO US FROM ANCIENT OLYMPIC TIMES

WHILE THE WINNERS MOUNT THE PODIUM TO RECEIVE THEIR PALMS...

HOLD IT THERE!

... AND THE FANS MAKE THEIR OWN COMMENTS

THE TRACK'S SOFT



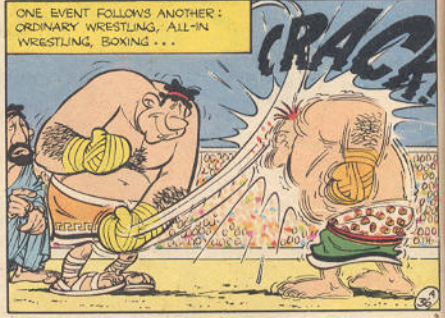
THERE'S THE CLIMATE, TOO... IT'S A HARD CLIMATE!

AND DON'T FORGET THE ATTITUDE!

OR THE BOARS' FOOD. THE POOR CREATURES AREN'T USED TO...

ONE EVENT FOLLOWS ANOTHER: ORDINARY WRESTLING, ALL-IN WRESTLING, BOXING...

CRACK!



IN THESE EVENTS NEUROSES, THE COLOSSUS OF RHODES IS UNBEATABLE

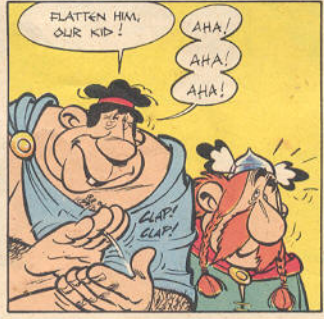
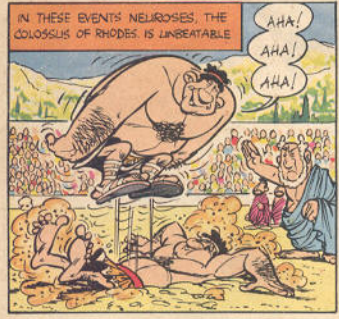
AHA!
AHA!
AHA!

FLATTEN HIM, OUR KID!

AHA!
AHA!
AHA!

ARE ALL YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT?

OH NO! OUR ELDEST BROTHER IS MUCH STRONGER...



BUT HE COULDN'T COME. MUWY HAD TO SWACK HIM, AND HE HASN'T GOT OVER IT YET. HA, HA, HA!

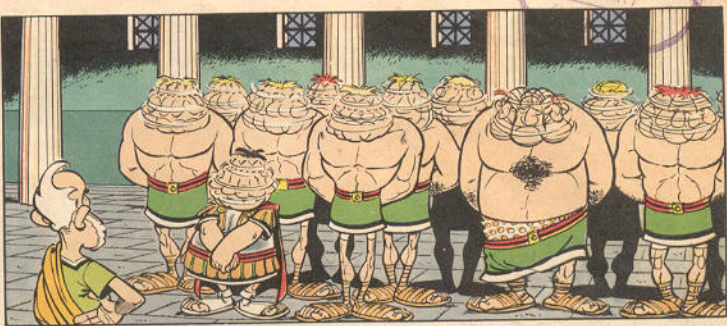
SPORT KEEPS YOU FIT, THEY SAID...

MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO, THEY SAID...



AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE ATHLETES RETURN TO THE SACRED ENCLOSURE TO TAKE STOCK...

WELL, IN VIEW OF YOUR BRILLIANT RESULTS, DO YOU THINK JULIUS CAESAR IS GOING TO BE PLEASED?



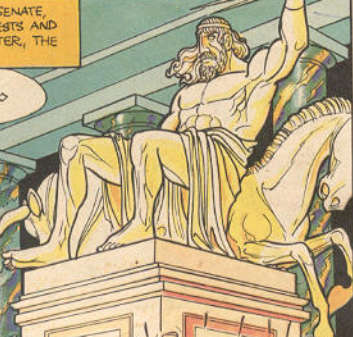
IN THE BULLETERION, THE OLYMPIC SENATE, THE MAGISTRATES, HELLANODIKAI, PRIESTS AND OFFICIALS HAVE ASSEMBLED. PHILIBUSTER, THE GREAT ORATOR, IS IN THE CHAIR:

NOBLE AND VENERABLE FRIENDS! OUR OWN ATHLETES ARE GOING TO WIN ALL THE PALMS, AS USUAL!

THAT'S RIGHT!

BY ATHENE!

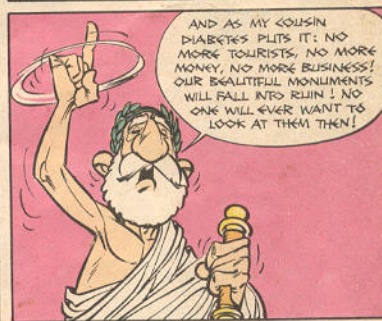
BY APOLLO!



UP WITH US!



NONE THE LESS, IF WE DON'T GIVE THESE ROMAN BARBARIANS THE CHANCE OF WINNING ONE PALM, TOURISTS WILL TAKE NO MORE INTEREST IN OUR GAMES...



AND AS MY COUSIN DIABETES PLITS IT: NO MORE TOURISTS, NO MORE MONEY, NO MORE BUSINESS! OUR BEAUTIFUL MONUMENTS WILL FALL INTO RUIN! NO ONE WILL EVER WANT TO LOOK AT THEM THEN!

BUT WE CAN'T ASK OUR ATHLETES TO CHEAT, JUST TO LET THESE DECADENT BARBARIANS WIN!



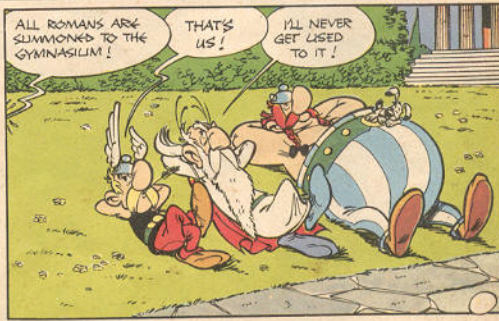
EUREKA! I THINK I HAVE IT!

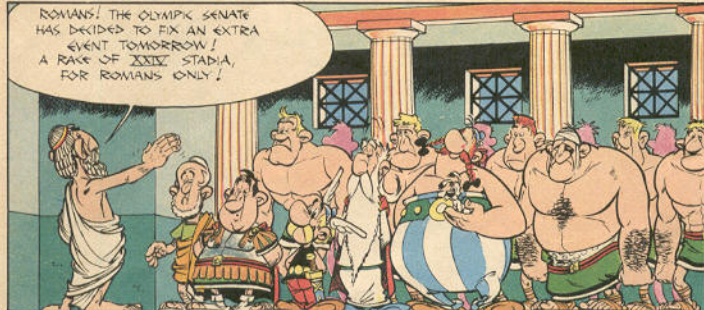


ALL ROMANS ARE SUMMONED TO THE GYMNASIUM!

THAT'S US!

I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT!

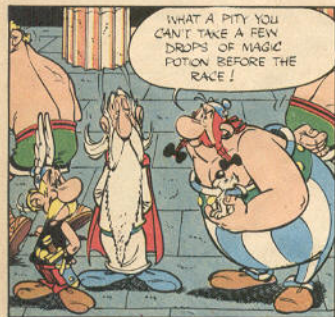




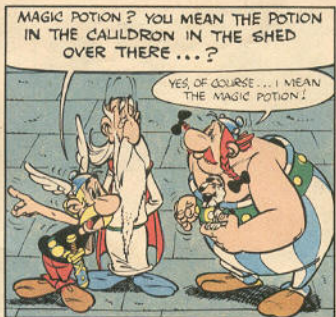
ROMANS! THE OLYMPIC SENATE HAS DECIDED TO FIX AN EXTRA EVENT TOMORROW! A RACE OF XXXIX STADIA, FOR ROMANS ONLY!



GOOD LUCK, AND MAY THE LEAST HOPELESS MAN WIN!

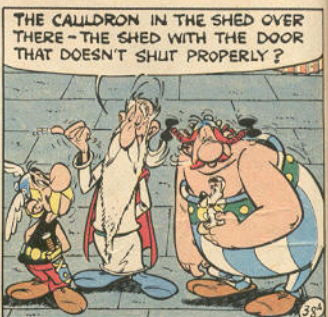


WHAT A PITY YOU CAN'T TAKE A FEW DROPS OF MAGIC POTION BEFORE THE RACE!



MAGIC POTION? YOU MEAN THE POTION IN THE CAULDRON IN THE SHED OVER THERE ... ?

YES, OF COURSE ... I MEAN THE MAGIC POTION!



THE CAULDRON IN THE SHED OVER THERE - THE SHED WITH THE DOOR THAT DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY?



YES, THE CAULDRON IN THE SHED OVER THERE WITH THE DOOR THAT DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY, THE ONE THAT ISN'T GUARDED BY NIGHT ... WOULD THAT BE THE ONE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, OBELIX?

ER ... YES!



OH, BUT WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DRINK THE MAGIC POTION IN THE CAULDRON IN THE SHED OVER THERE ...

... WITH THE DOOR THAT DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY, THE ONE THAT ISN'T GUARDED BY NIGHT

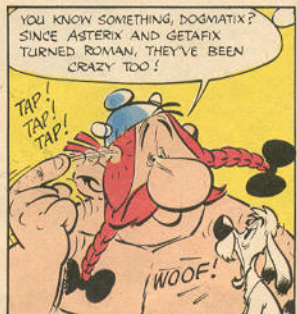


HO, HO, HO! HEE, HEE, HEE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?



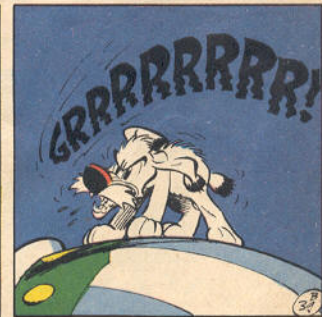
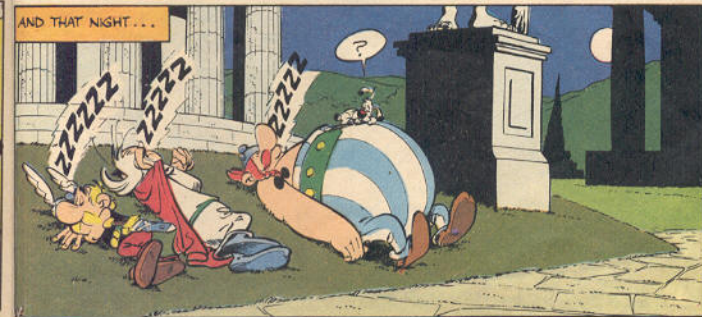
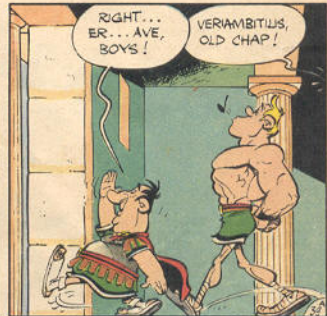
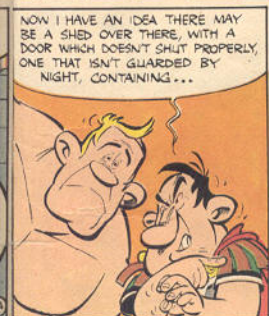
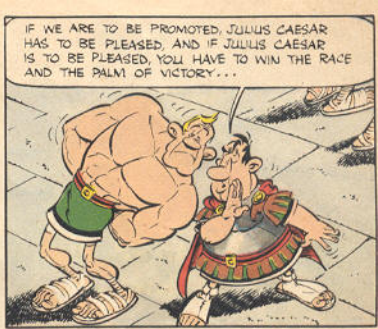
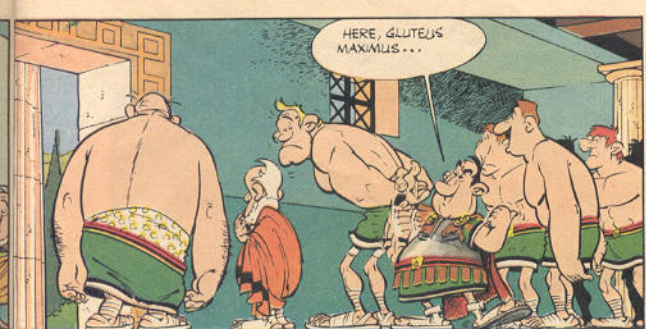
OBELIX, YOU'RE BRIGHTER THAN ANY OF US!



YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DOGMATIX? SINCE ASTERIX AND GETAFIX TURNED ROMAN, THEY'VE BEEN CRAZY TOO!

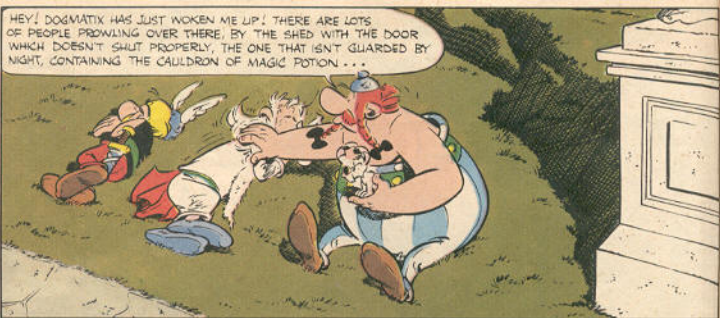
TAP! TAP! TAP!

WOOF!





HEY! DOGMATIX HAS JUST WOKEN ME UP! THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE PROWLING OVER THERE, BY THE SHED WITH THE DOOR WHICH DOESN'T SHUT PROPERLY, THE ONE THAT ISN'T GUARDED BY NIGHT, CONTAINING THE CAULDRON OF MAGIC POTION...



DOGMATIX IS A GREAT WATCHDOG!

WELL YOU TELL YOUR GREAT WATCHDOG TO GO BACK TO SLEEP AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!



BUT THEY MIGHT STEAL THE CAULDRON!



THEFT OF CAULDRONS IS NOT A CRIME AMONG THE HELLENES



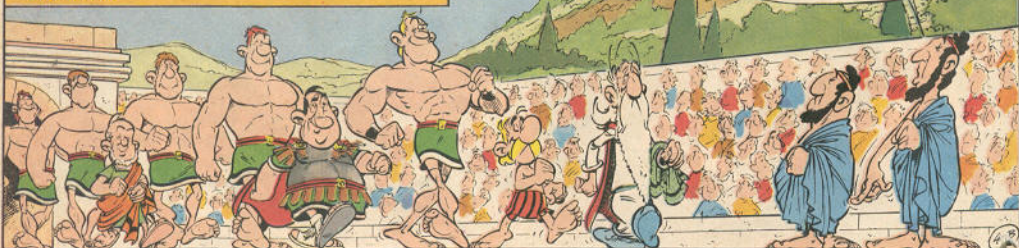
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT THE CAULDRON LAWS IN THESE PARTS, DOGMATIX?



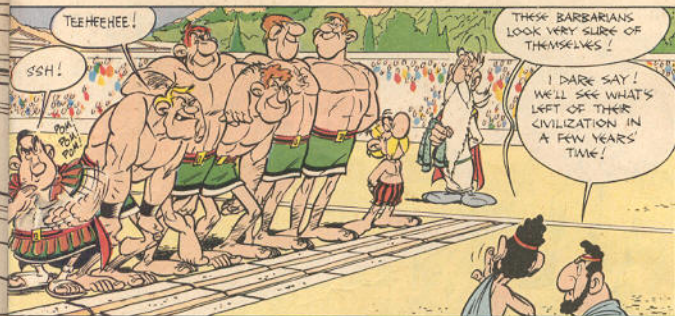
THESE HELLENES ARE CRAZY!



IT IS THE DAY OF THE 24 STADIA RACE, I.E. 4.614 METRES, 48 CENTIMETRES, OR AS WE MIGHT PUT IT MORE SIMPLY TODAY, 14,400 SIZE 11 SHOES LAID END TO END



ALL COMPETITORS ON THE STARTING GROOVES!

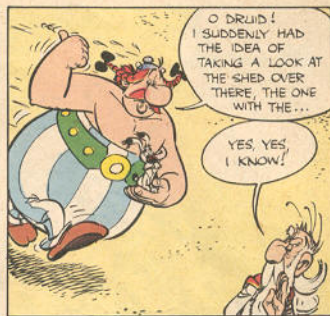


TEEHEEHEE!

SSH!

THESE BARBARIANS
LOOK VERY SURE OF
THEMSELVES!

I DARE SAY!
WE'LL SEE WHAT'S
LEFT OF THEIR
CIVILIZATION IN
A FEW YEARS'
TIME!



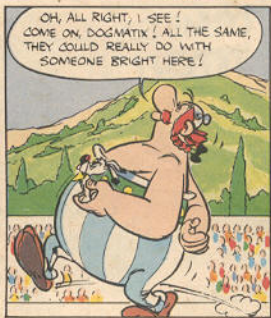
O DRUID! I SUDDENLY HAD
THE IDEA OF TAKING A LOOK AT
THE SHED OVER
THERE, THE ONE
WITH THE...

YES YES
I KNOW!



YES, BUT THE
CAULDRON
IS EMPTY!

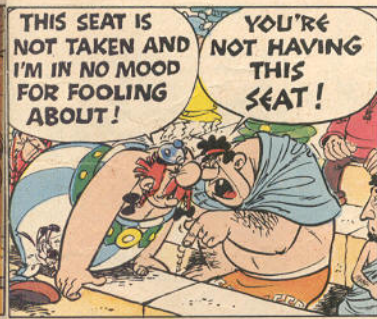
OBELIX! THIS IS NO
TIME TO BOTHER US!
GO AND SIT IN
THE STANDS
WITH THE
OTHERS!



OH, ALL RIGHT, I SEE!
COME ON, DOGMATIN! I KNOW,
THEY COULD REALLY DO WITH
SOMEONE BRIGHT HERE!

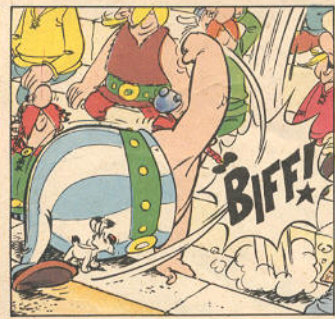


NO YOU CAN'T SIT
THERE; I'M KEEPING
IT FOR MY
BROTHER!



THIS SEAT IS
NOT TAKEN AND
I'M IN NO MOOD
FOR FOOLING
ABOUT!

YOU'RE
NOT HAVING
THIS
SEAT!



BIFF!



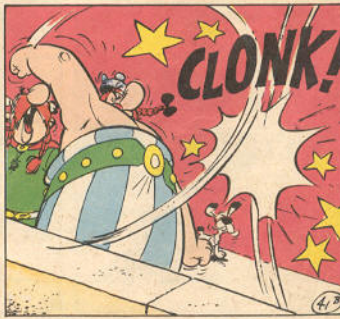
OH,
AREN'T I, BY
TOUTATIS!



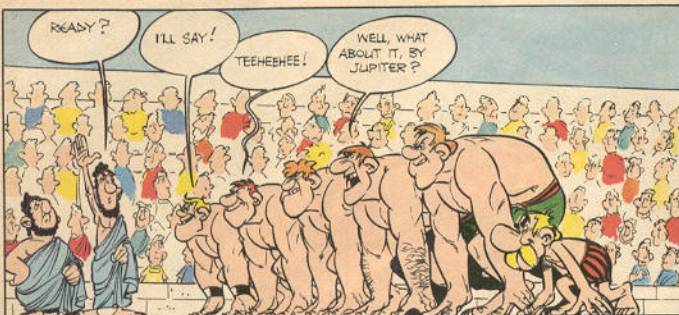
HAVE YOU SEEN MY BROTHER?



YOU'RE A
GLUTTON FOR
PUNISHMENT,
AREN'T YOU?



CLONK!



IN THE STANDS, THE ENTHUSIASM...

UP GAUL!

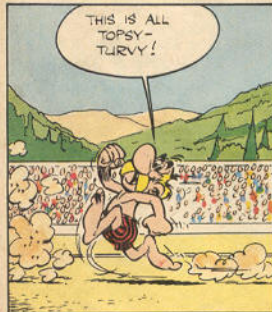
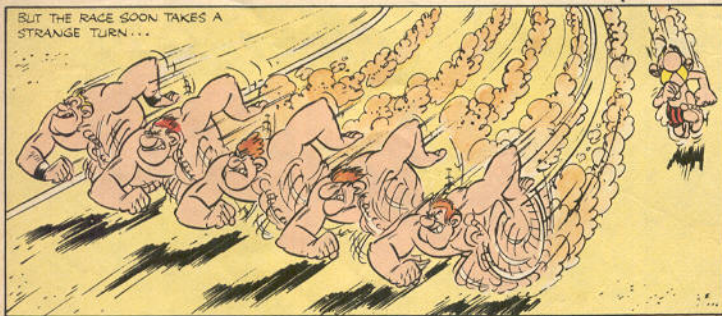


IF THEY ONLY KNEW... BUT NO ONE EVER LISTENS TO ME!

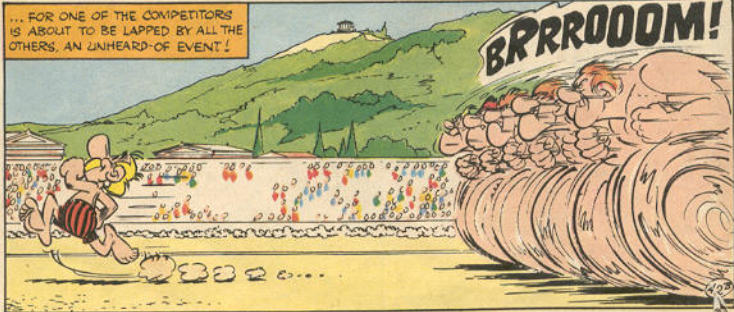
... IS BEYOND BELIEF!



BUT THE RACE SOON TAKES A STRANGE TURN...

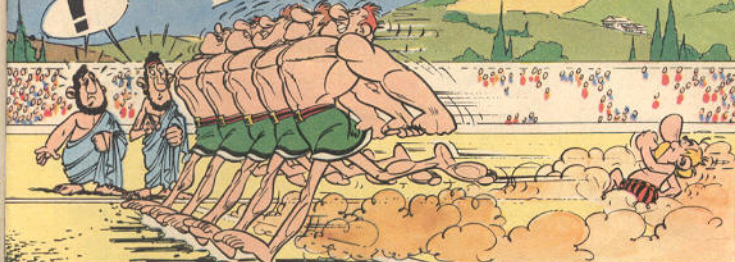


... FOR ONE OF THE COMPETITORS IS ABOUT TO BE LAPPED BY ALL THE OTHERS, AN UNHEARD-OF EVENT!



THEY REACH THE FINISHING LINE!

GNNGNGN!



IT MUST BE THEIR HABIT OF MARCHING IN RANKS, BY APOLLO!

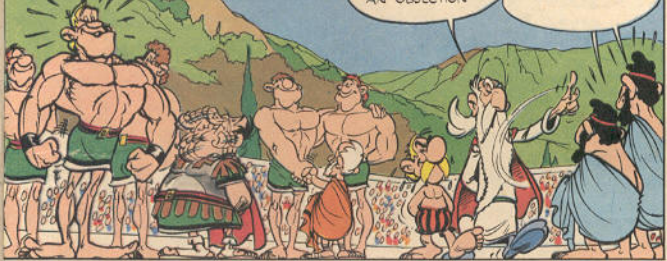
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET ALL THIS LOT ON THE PODIUM, BY ARTEMIS?



CAESAR WILL BE PLEASED WON'T HE?

ONE MOMENT! I WISH TO RAISE AN OBJECTION

OBJECTION?



YES! THE TRACK WAS TOO SOFT!

AND THE BOARS AREN'T WELL EITHER; THEY MUST HAVE BEEN MAKING PIGS OF THEMSELVES!



I ACCUSE ALL WHO FINISHED FIRST OF BEING FULL OF MAGIC POTION UP TO THE EARS!

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS ACCUSATION! CAN YOU PROVE IT?

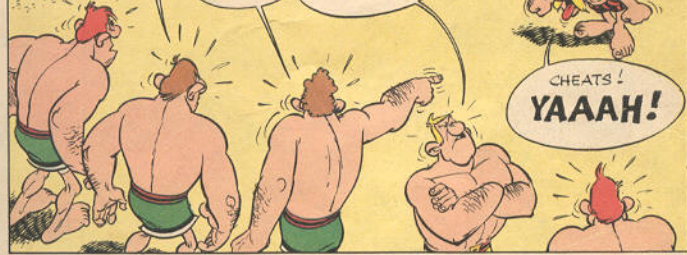


QUID?

QUOMODO?

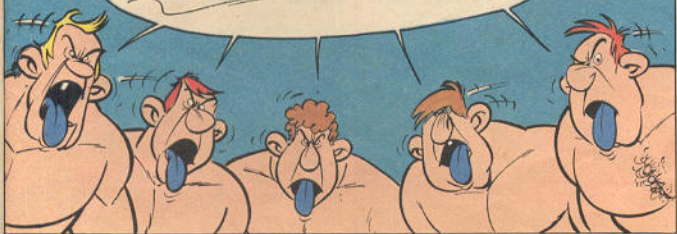
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!

I REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO...



CHEATS!
YAAAH!

YAAAH YOURSELF!



LOOK! I ADDED SOME PERMITTED COLOURING MATTER TO THE CAULDRON OF MAGIC POTION... THOSE WHO DRANK IT HAVE ALL GOT BLUE TONGUES!

BY HERMES, YOU'RE RIGHT!



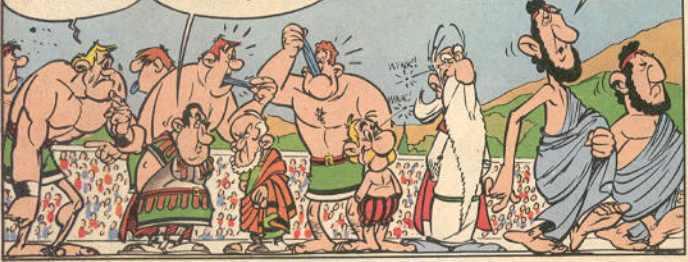
WE OUGHT TO HAVE HELD OUR TONGUES!

I'M FEELING RATHER BLUE MYSELF!

THE OLYMPIC SENATE WILL CONSIDER THIS UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

ALL COMPETITORS WHO DRANK THE MAGIC POTION ARE DISQUALIFIED! THE PALM OF VICTORY IS THEREFORE AWARDED TO... ASTERIX!

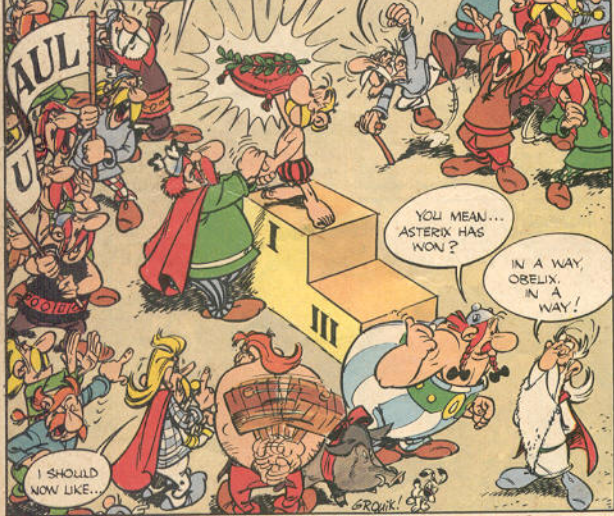


ASTERIX! HURRAH FOR ASTERIX!

I ALWAYS KNEW THE LITTLE FELLOW HAD IT IN HIM!

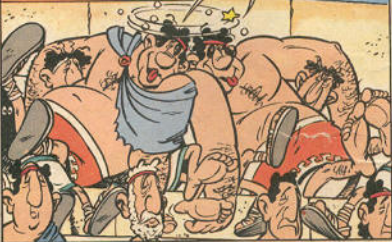
THE CROWD GOES WILD WITH ENTHUSIASM, AND IT IS ON THIS NOTE...

AHA, AHA, AHA!



YOU MEAN... ASTERIX HAS WON?

IN A WAY, OBELIX, IN A WAY!



... THAT WE LEAVE THE LAND OF THE HELLENES, OUR FRIENDS HAVE A QUIET CRUISE HOME...

I'VE GOT THAT SINKING FEELING AGAIN...



... TO THEIR LITTLE VILLAGE, WHERE UNDER A STARRY SKY, THEY CELEBRATE THEIR OLYMPIC VICTORY - SOMETHING THAT DOES A LOT FOR ANY NATION'S PRESTIGE.

WHERE'S YOUR PALM OF VICTORY ASTERIX?

DON'T TELL THE OTHERS, BUT I GAVE IT TO SOMEONE WHOSE NEED WAS GREATER THAN MINE, BY TOUTATIS!

AND FOR ONCE... FOR ONCE CAESAR IS PLEASED!

LEGIONARY GLUTEUS MAXIMUS, I MAKE YOU A CENTURION! CENTURION GAIUS VERIAMBILLUS, I PROMOTE YOU TO TRIBUNE!



THE END



This rar file is brought to you by:

=====
Comic-Central, home of the Comic Collector.
=====

You can find our links at [Http://Comic-Central.Bucktv.Net/](http://Comic-Central.Bucktv.Net/)

Better quality scans of this particular issue are wanted. If you have a 'real' version of this issue, then please visit our website and contact us. Thanks.