

BOOK 19

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

# Asterix

and

## Caesar's Gift

# Asterix



HODDER DARGAUD

OUR STORY OPENS MELODIOUSLY IN A BAR IN A DISREPUTABLE PART OF ROME. AS THEY USED TO SAY IN THE COLLOQUIAL IDIOM OF THE TIME, 'VINUM ET MUSICA LAETIFICANT COR'...

♪ AND WHEN I'M DEAD DON'T BURY ME AT ALL, ♪ JUST PICKLE MY BONES IN ALCOHOL, ♪ AN AMPHORA OF WINE AT MY HEAD AND FEET, ♪ AND THEN I'M SURE MY BONES WILL KEEP....

HIC!... DE MORTUIS NIL NISI BONUM!





SOON AFTERWARDS...

HOW LONG HAVE YOU DONE THEN, SON?

TWO YEARS.



ONLY EIGHTEEN MORE TO GO, SON! THE ENDS IN SIGHT!

YES! THIS TIME XVIII YEARS WHERE SHALL I BE? NOT IN THE ROMAN INFANTRY!

\* OLD ROMAN ARMY SONG, AN ADAPTATION OF WHICH IS STILL CURRENT IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS TODAY.



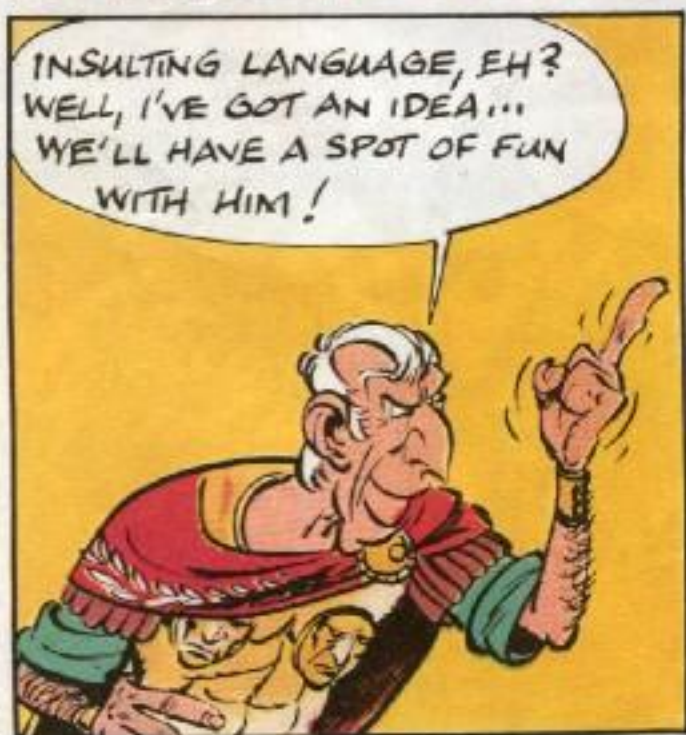
NEXT MORNING, IN JULIUS CAESAR'S PALACE...

WELL, CENTURION, SO SOME OF OUR VETERANS GET THEIR HONESTA MISSIO TODAY. ALL MEN WITH GOOD CONDUCT RECORDS, I HOPE?

YES, THEY'VE DONE FINE, O JULIUS CAESAR... BARRING ONE OLD SOAK WHO HASN'T BEEN SOBER IN TWENTY YEARS.



IN FACT HE'S IN THE GLASSHOUSE THIS VERY MOMENT. HE WAS USING INSULTING LANGUAGE ABOUT YOU LAST NIGHT.



INSULTING LANGUAGE, EH? WELL, I'VE GOT AN IDEA... WE'LL HAVE A SPOT OF FUN WITH HIM!



GET HIM OUT OF PRISON AND HAVE HIM LINED UP FOR THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY ALONG WITH THE REST.

YOU'RE GOING TO THROW HIM TO THE LIONS, O CAESAR?

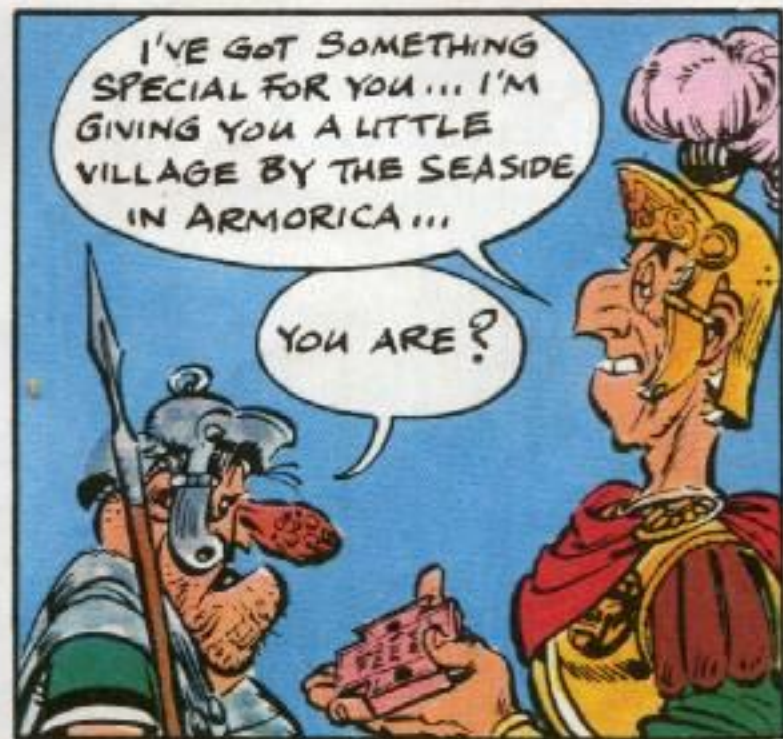
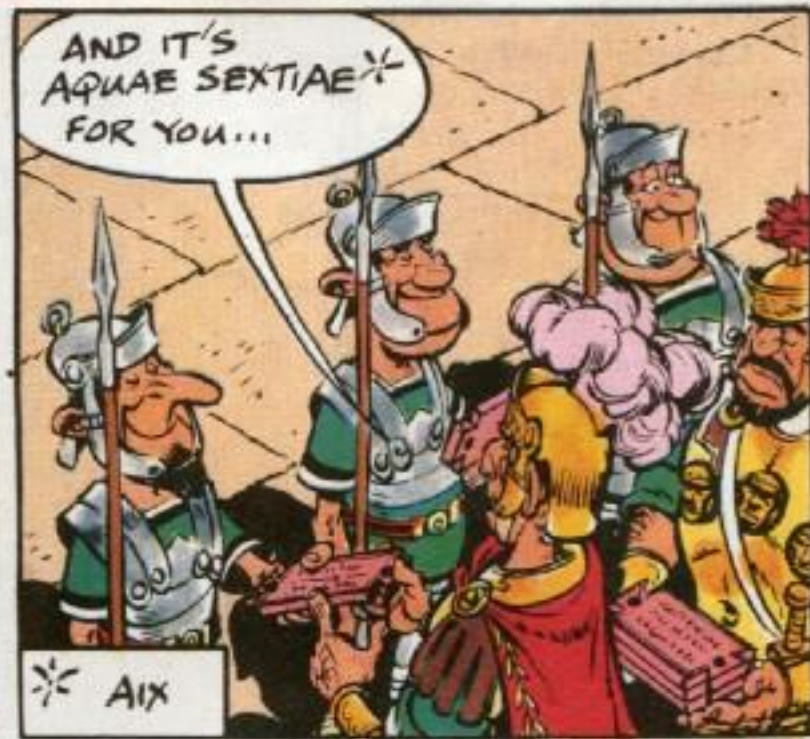
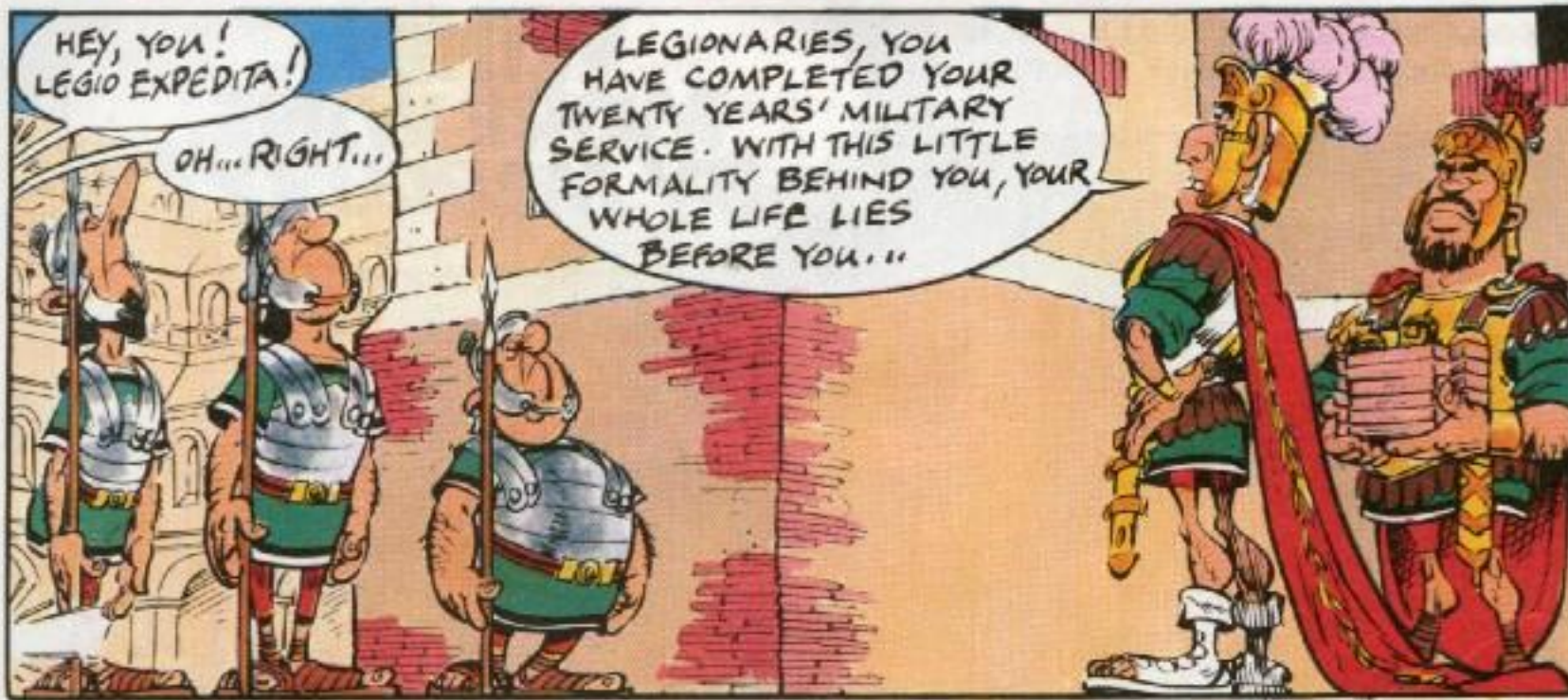


**WORSE! I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A PRESENT!**



SOME HOURS LATER...

ATTEN-SHUN!





AVE, CLAUDIUS!

WE MUST HAVE A REUNION SOME TIME AND CHAT ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

YES, WE'VE HAD SOME FUN, COME TO THINK OF IT!

REMEMBER THAT TIME I LOOKED THE OPTIO STRAIGHT IN THE EYE AND I SAID TO HIM, QUI HABET AURES AUDIENDI, AUDIAT, I SAID?

WHAT'S THE GOOD OF A GAULISH VILLAGE? CAN'T DRINK A GAULISH VILLAGE, CAN I?



HEY, EGGANLETTUS! WANT TO BUY A VILLAGE?

NO THANKS I'VE GOT A PLOT OF LAND NEAR NICAEA. I'M GOING TO GROW SALAD STUFF.

\* NICE



HAVE A NICE TIME IN ARMORICA, TREMENSELIRIUS! AVE!

SCRATCH SCRATCH



SOME DAYS LATER, IN AN INN AT ARAUSIO ON ROMAN ROAD VII

WINE! MORE WINE, BY MERCURY!

\* ORANGE



YOU'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH, AND IT'S CLOSING TIME. COME ON, PAY UP!

PAY?



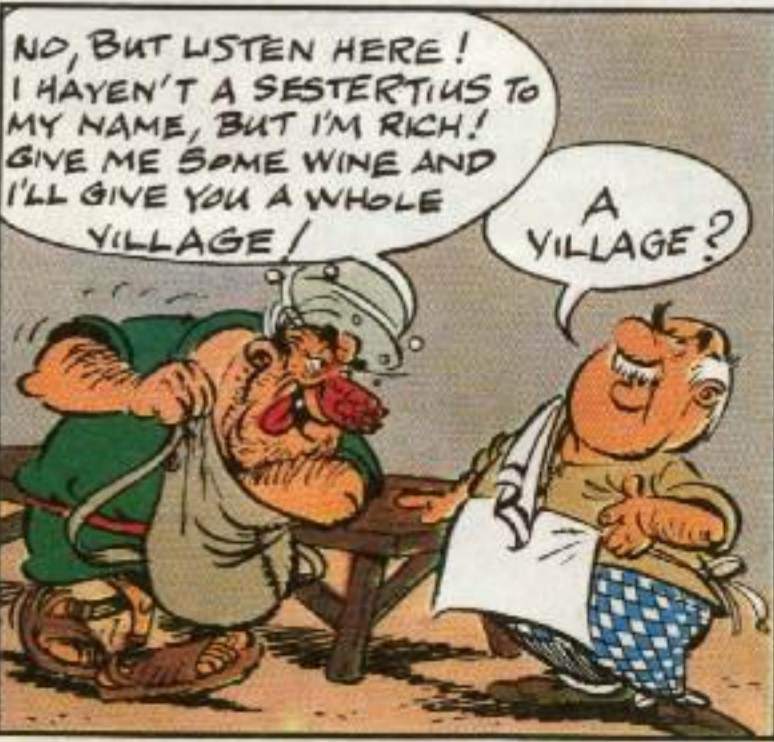
PAY!....

HAHAHAHA!



I CAN'T PAY LANDLORD, I HAVEN'T GOT ANY MONEY!

WHAT?



NO, BUT LISTEN HERE! I HAVEN'T A SESTERTIUS TO MY NAME, BUT I'M RICH! GIVE ME SOME WINE AND I'LL GIVE YOU A WHOLE VILLAGE!

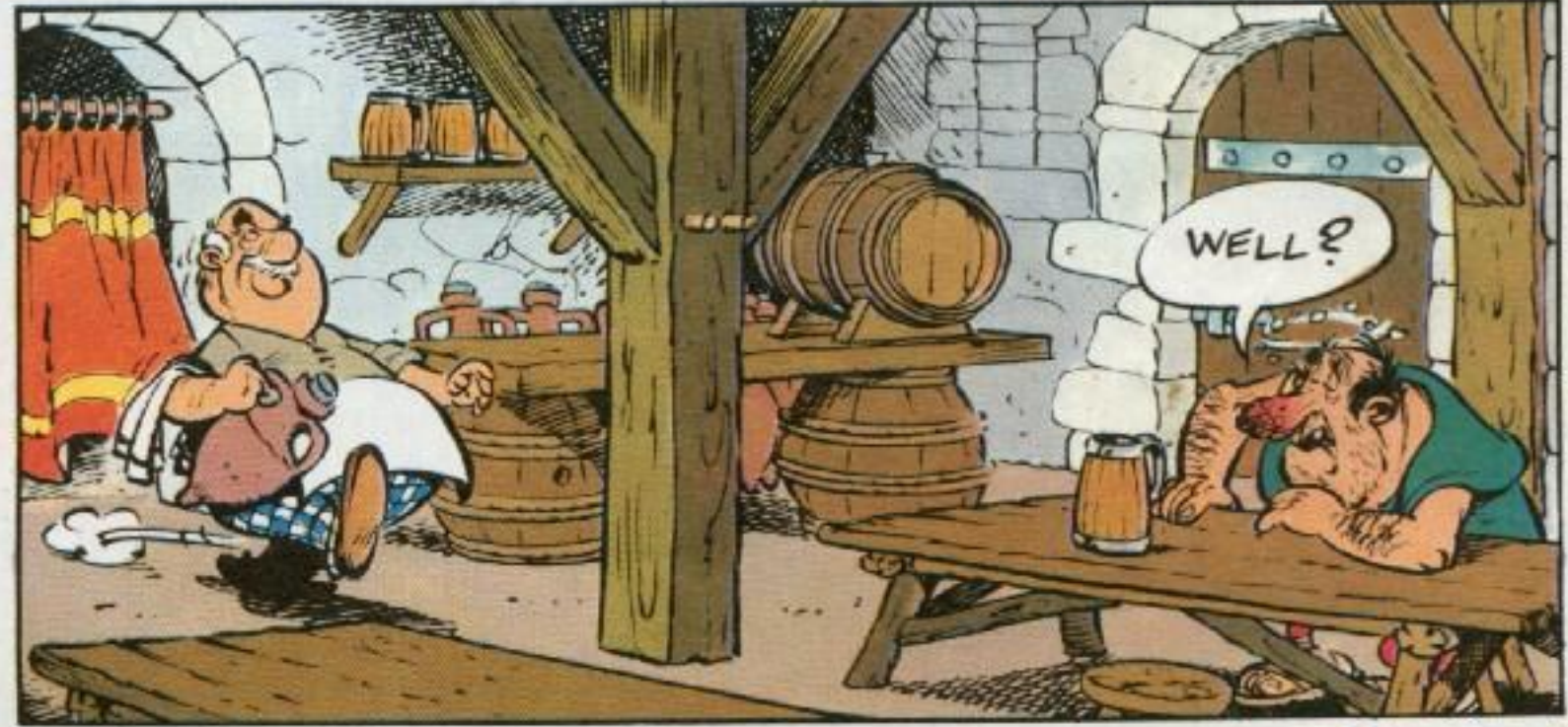
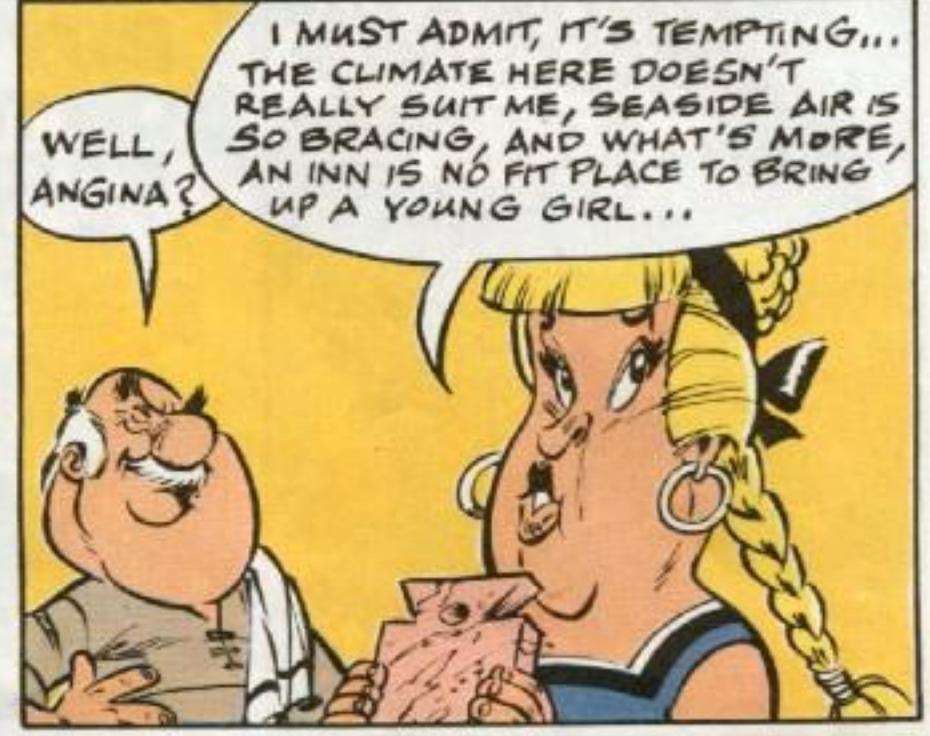
A VILLAGE?



THAT'S RIGHT, A VILLAGE! A LOVELY SEASIDE VILLAGE IN ARMORICA!



SEE THIS TABLET BEARING JULIUS CAESAR'S OWN SEAL?



YES, A TYPICAL LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE, COMPLETE WITH WARRIORS, CRAFTSMEN, TRADESMEN, DRUID AND BARD...

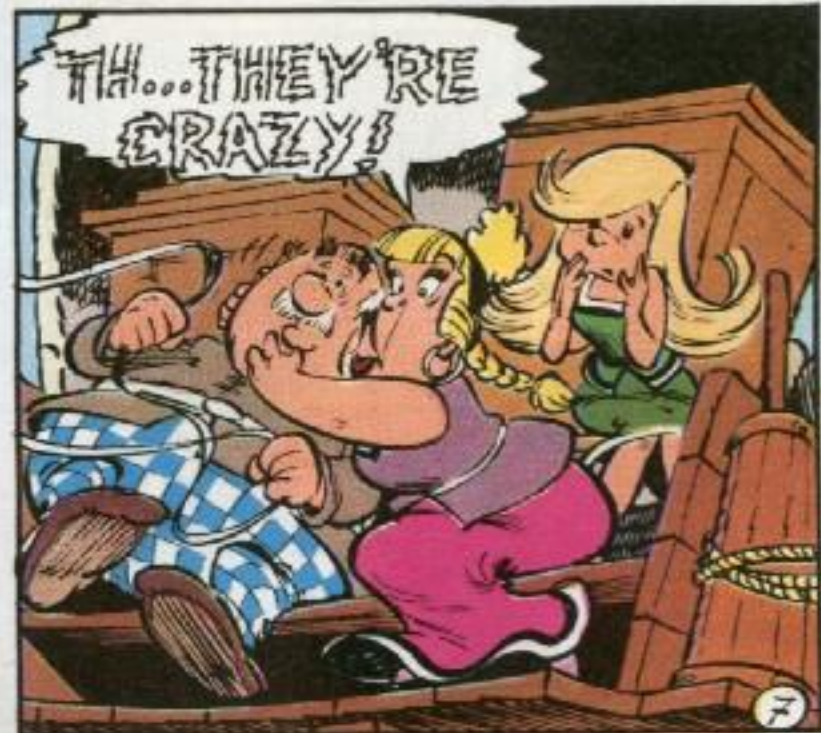
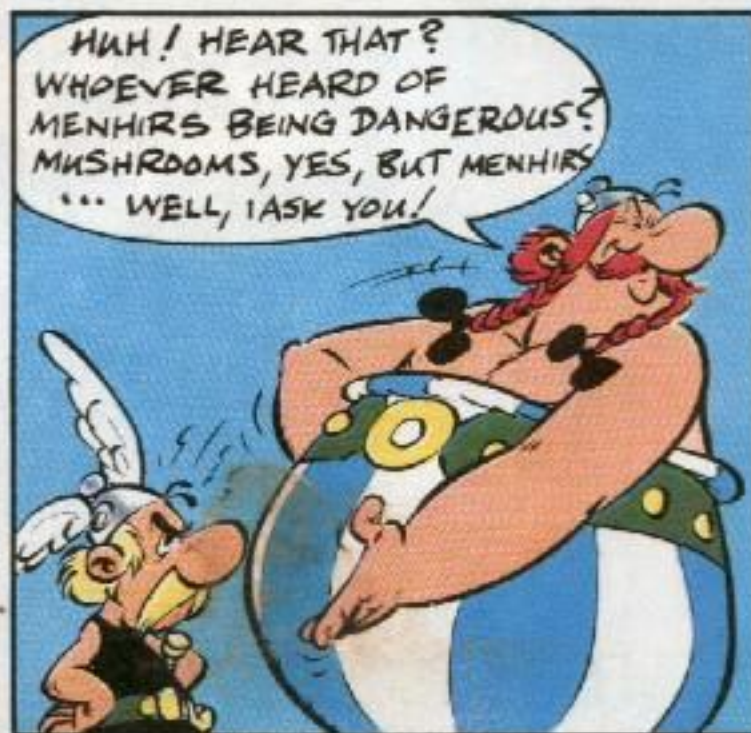
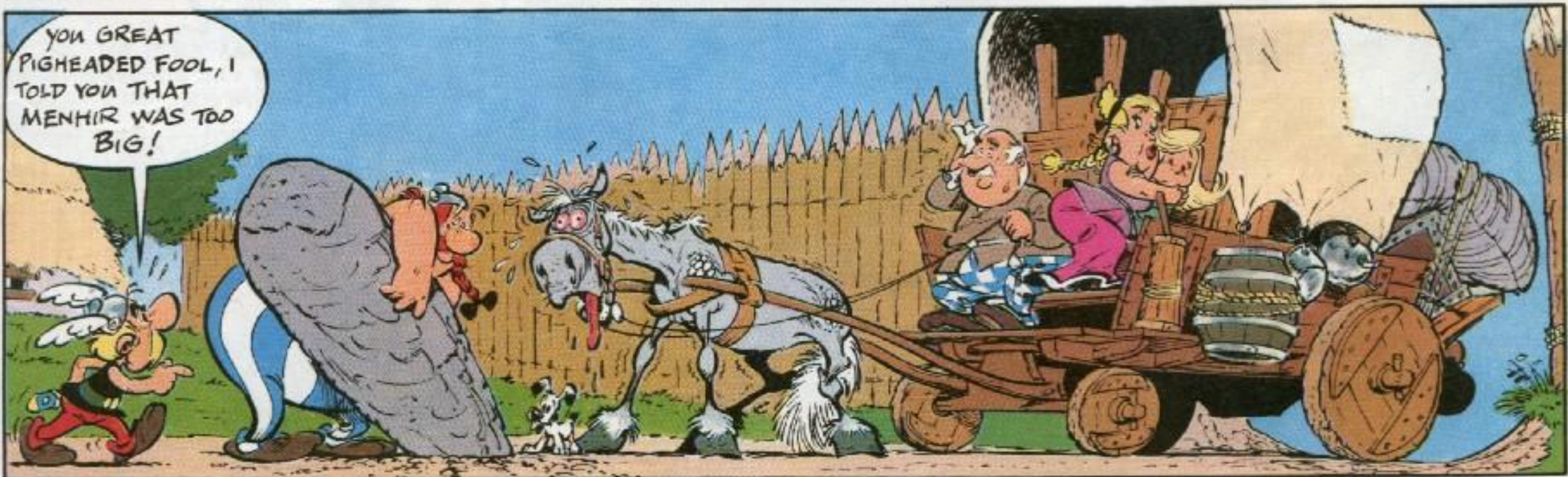
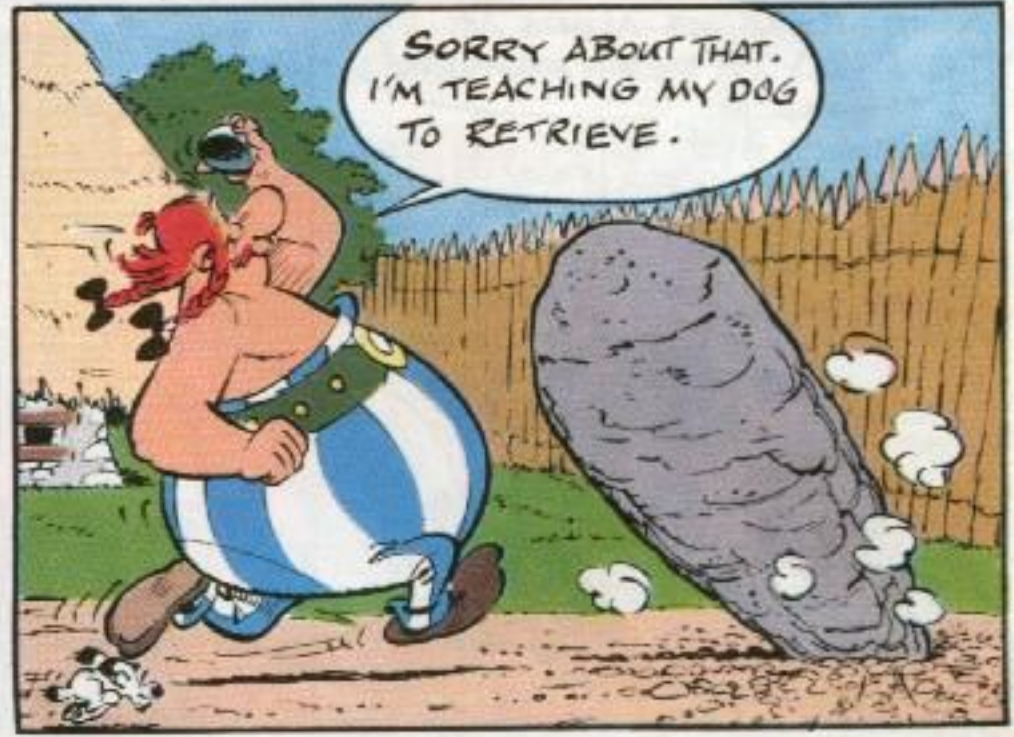
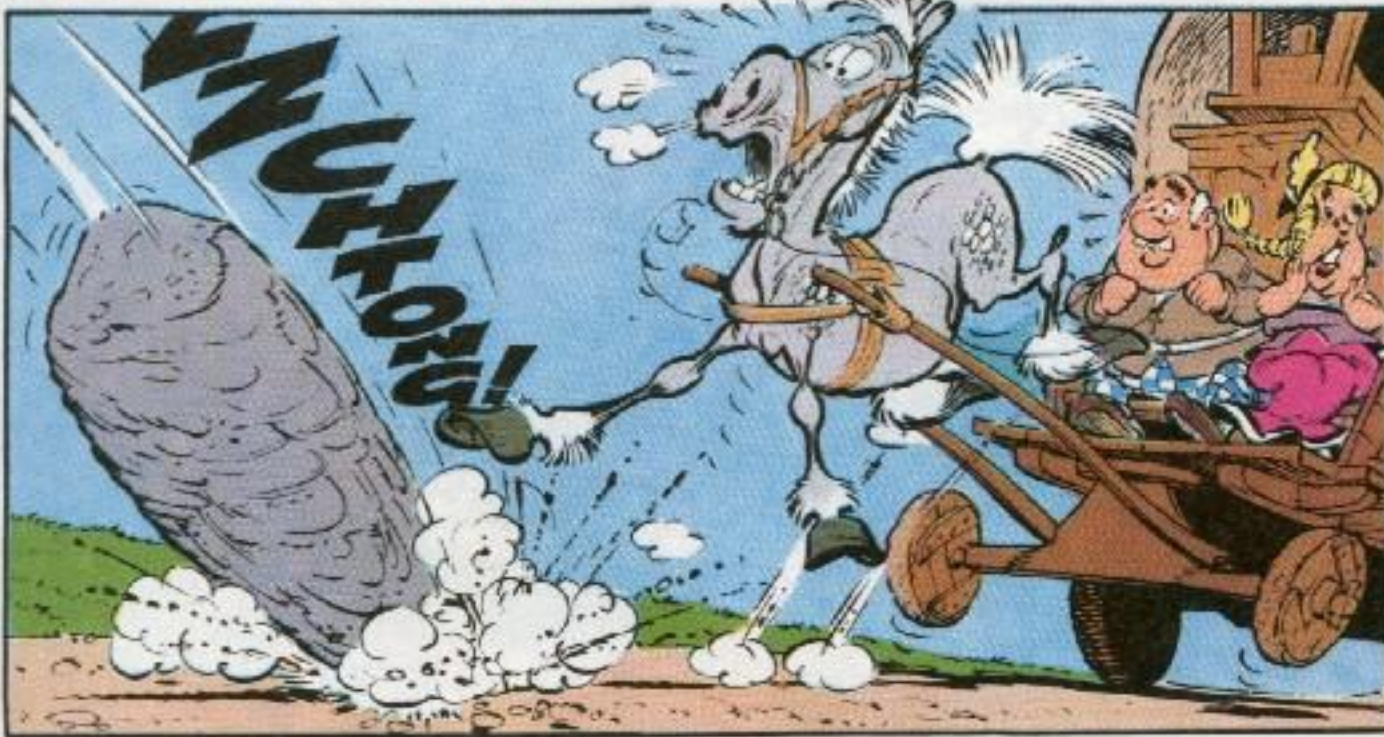
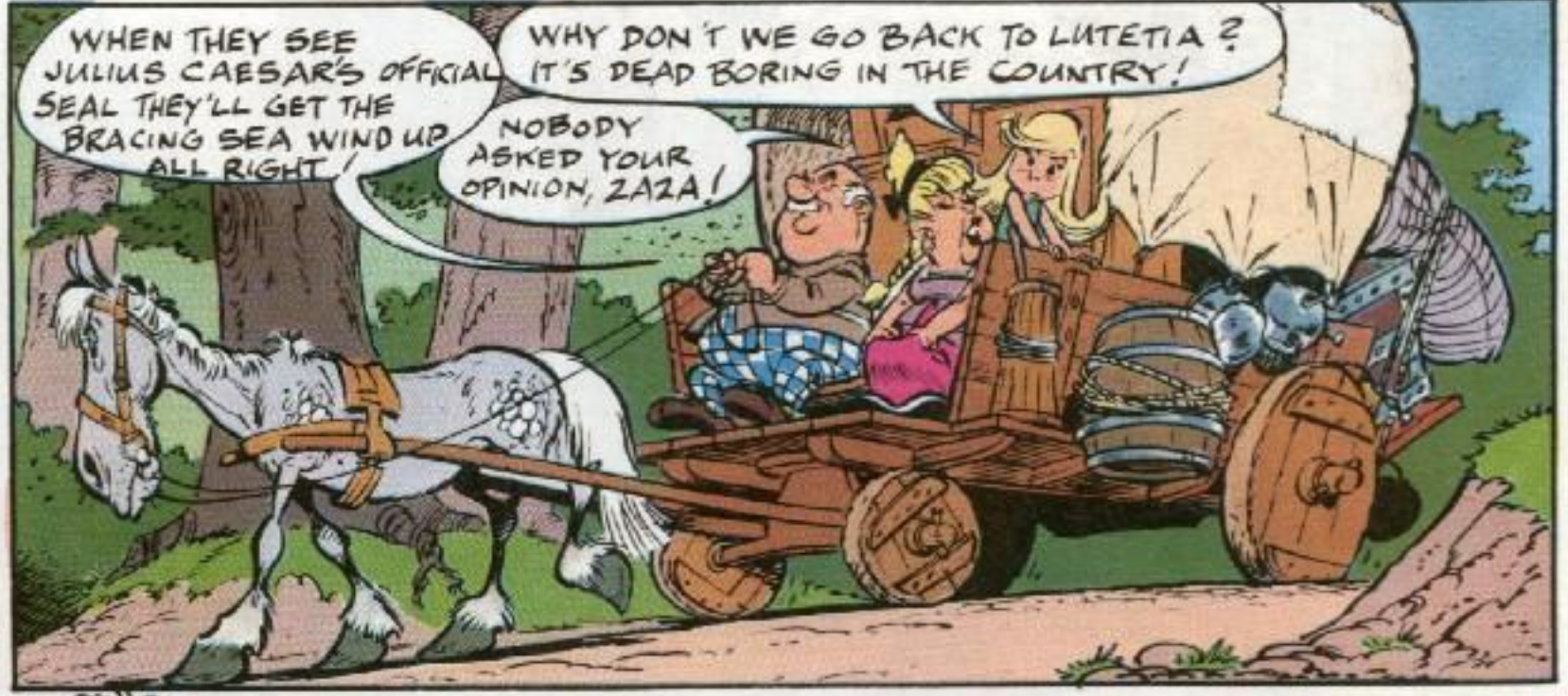
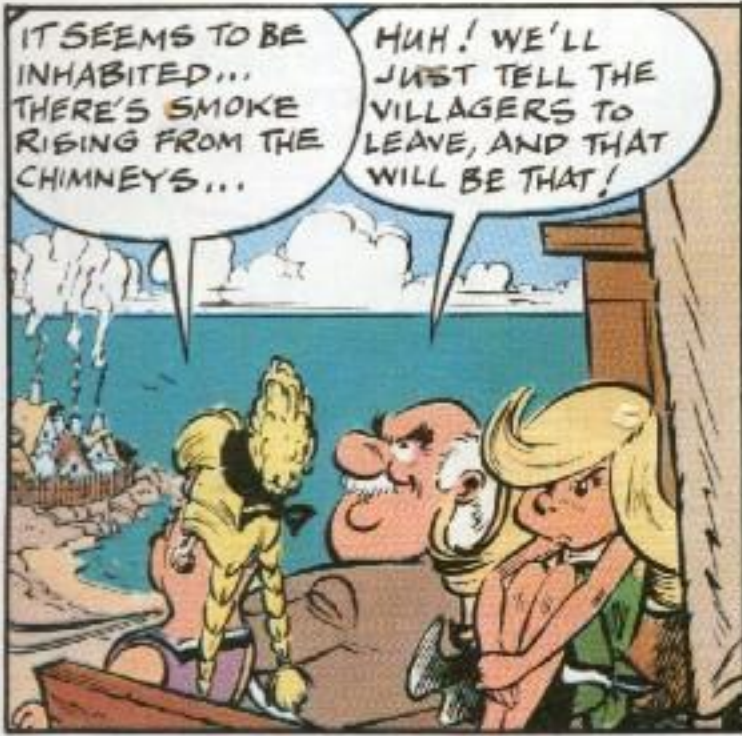


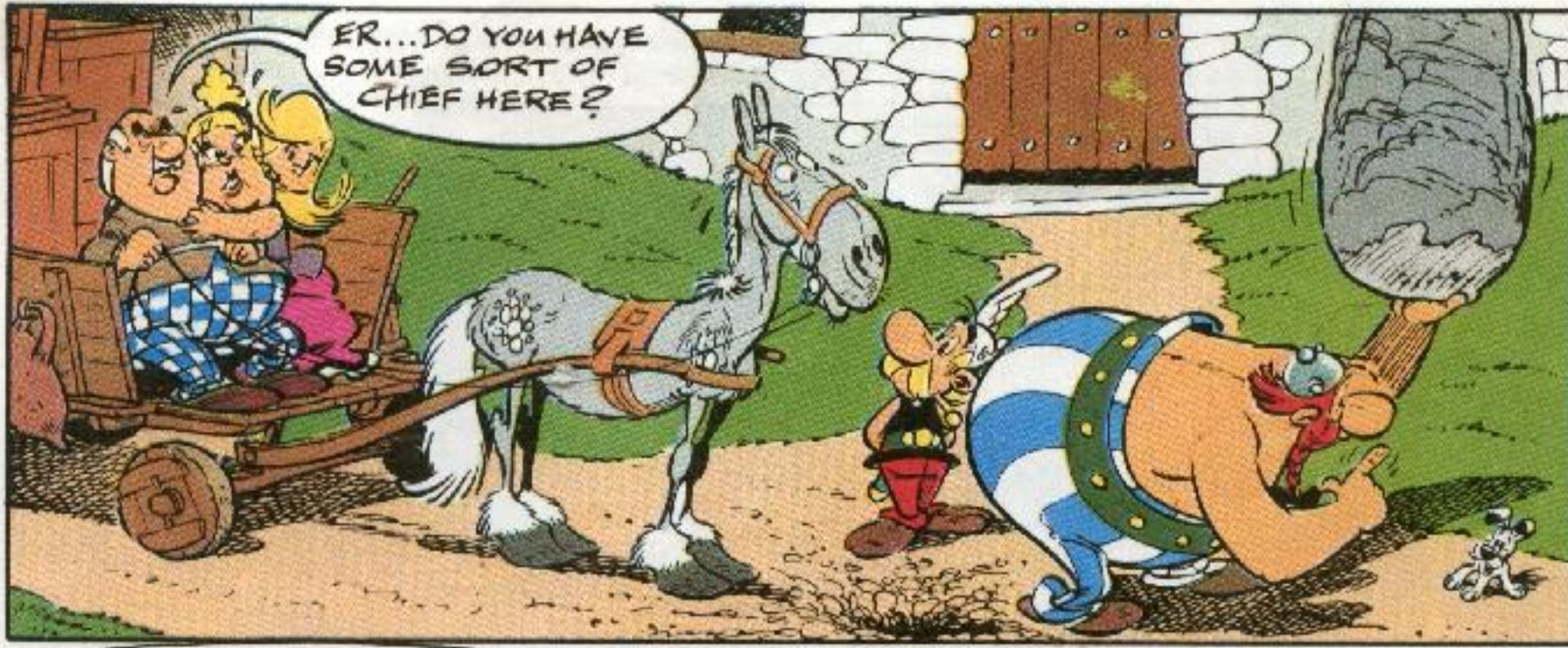
... AND A CHIEF WHO IS EASY GOING, THOUGH INCLINED TO STAND ON CEREMONY...



**BUT DIDN'T I FORBID YOU TO SNEEZE WHEN CARRYING ME?**







ER...DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF CHIEF HERE?



YES, WE DO HAVE SOME SORT OF CHIEF... YOU'LL FIND HIM IN THAT HOUSE OVER THERE.

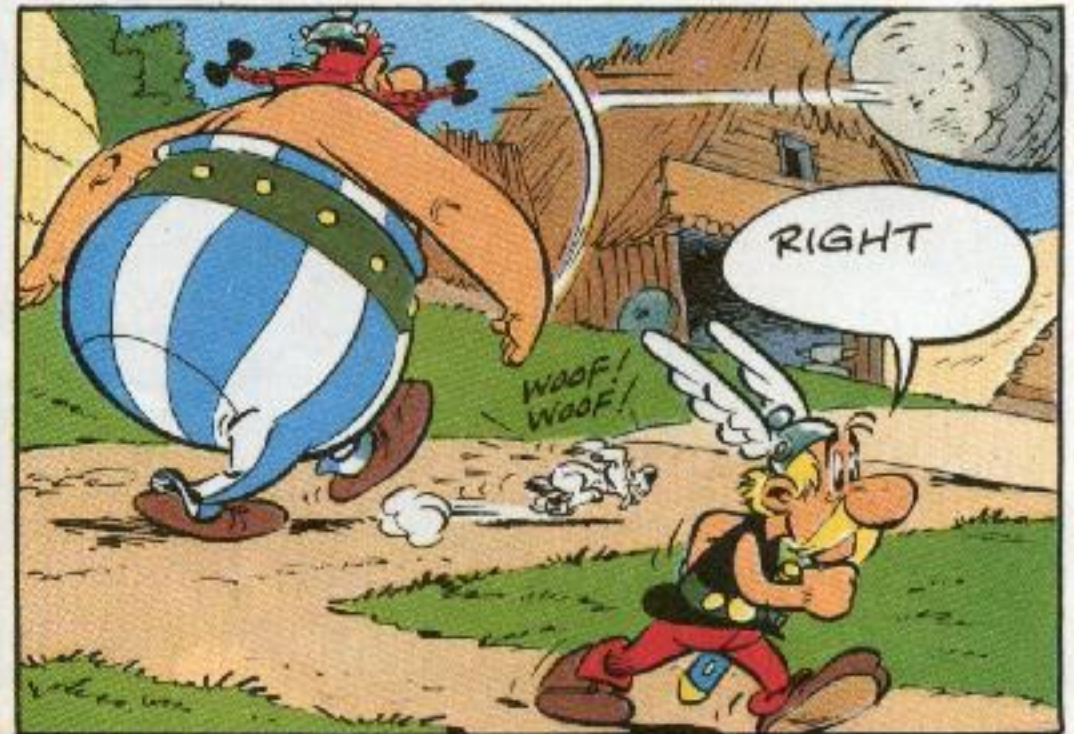


DON'T LEAVE US ALONE AT THE MERCY OF THESE MADMEN!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... BUT THEY'RE NOT MAD... JUST A LITTLE RUSTIC, MAYBE...



WOULD YOU KINDLY GO AND GET YOUR CHIEF? I HAVE SOME VERY IMPORTANT NEWS.



RIGHT



SOME VERY IMPORTANT NEWS? LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT'S UP!

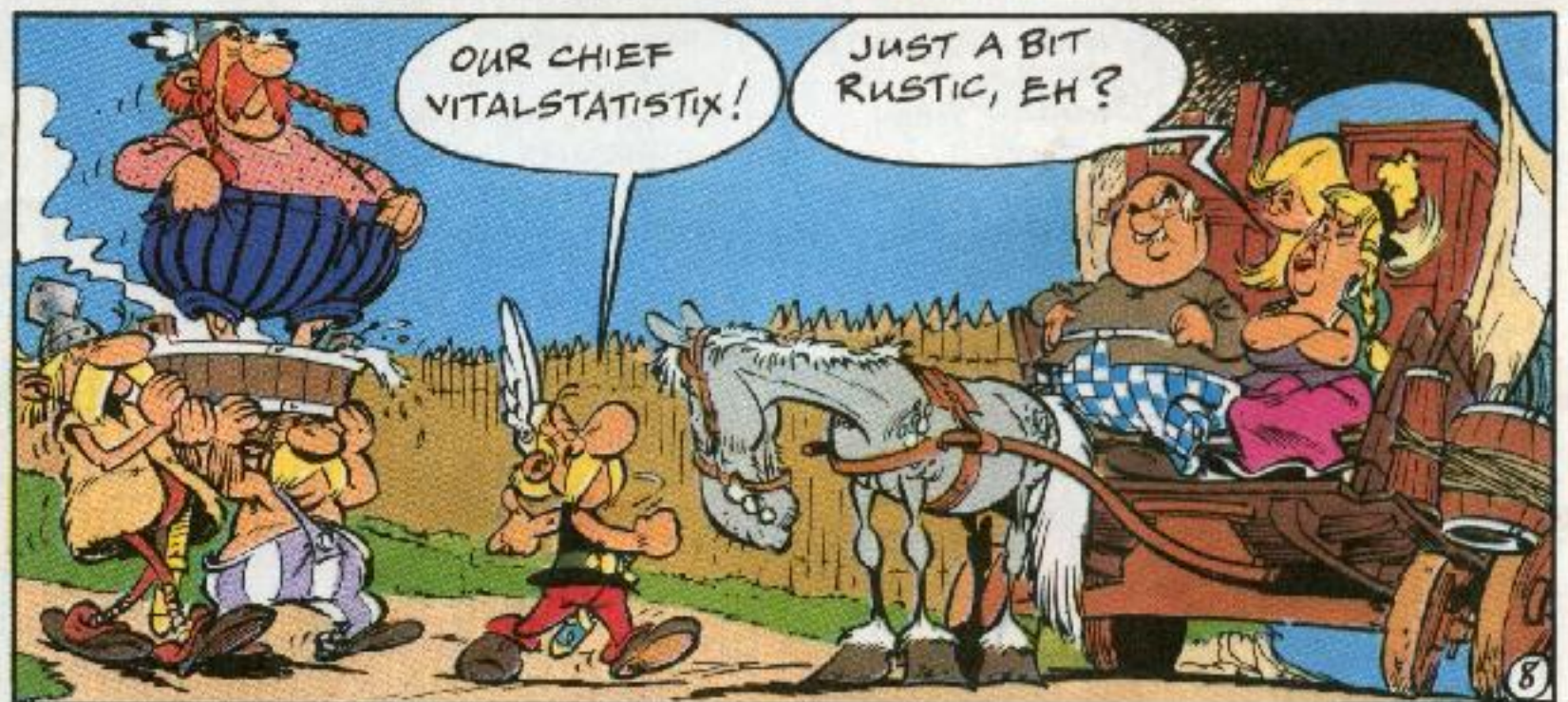


I HAVE TO GO OUT, PEDIMENTA FEAR.

OH NO, YOU DON'T! THE WATER'S WARM, AND I'LL BE NEEDING THE TUB AFTERWARDS TO DO THE WASHING!



SOON AFTERWARDS...



OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!

JUST A BIT RUSTIC, EH?



WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

MY NAME IS ORTHOPAEDIX, AND I MUST ASK YOU AND YOUR MEN TO LEAVE MY VILLAGE.



WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?



I SAID THIS VILLAGE IS MINE, AND YOU MUST LEAVE, ALL YOU GAULS, WORTHY AS YOU MAY BE. I'M A MAN OF PROPERTY NOW...  
TAP! TAP! TAP!

??

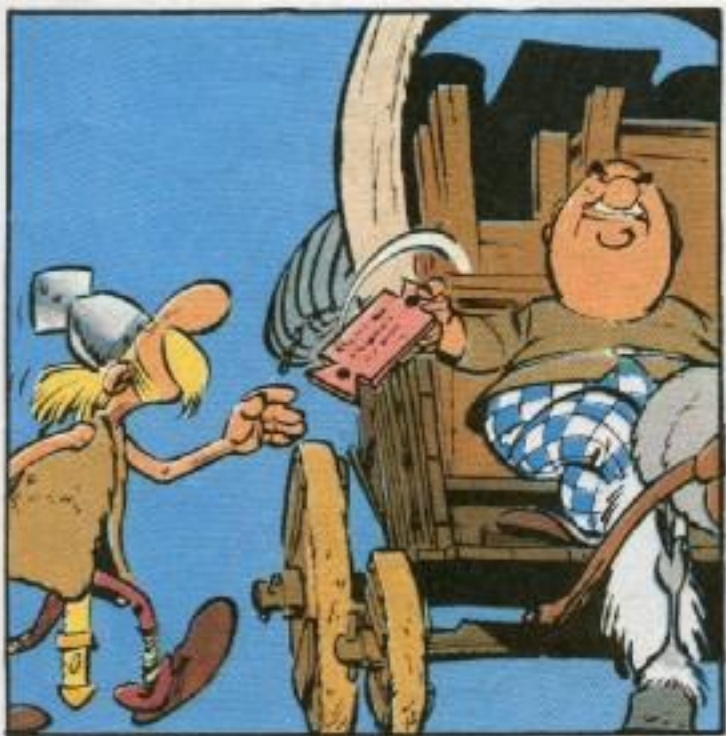


THIS PROPERTY, AND HERE ARE THE TITLE DEEDS.



BRING ME THAT TABLET.

RIGHT, CHIEF!



NO, DOWN HERE!



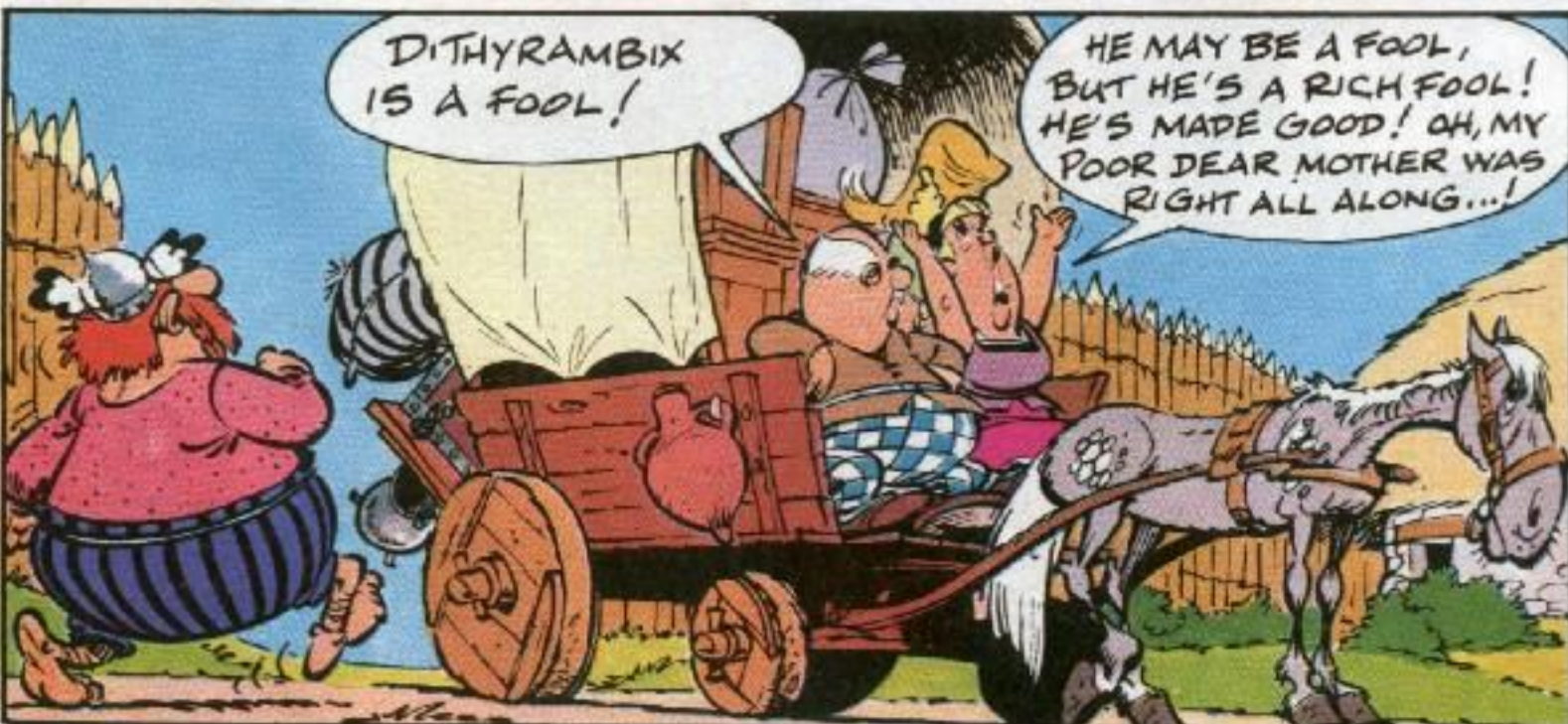
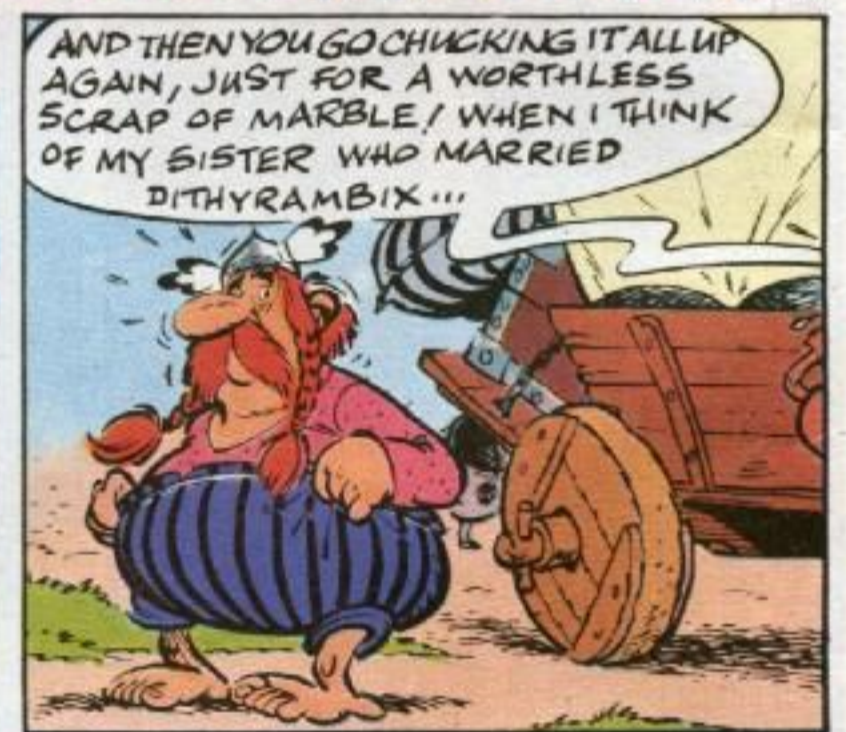
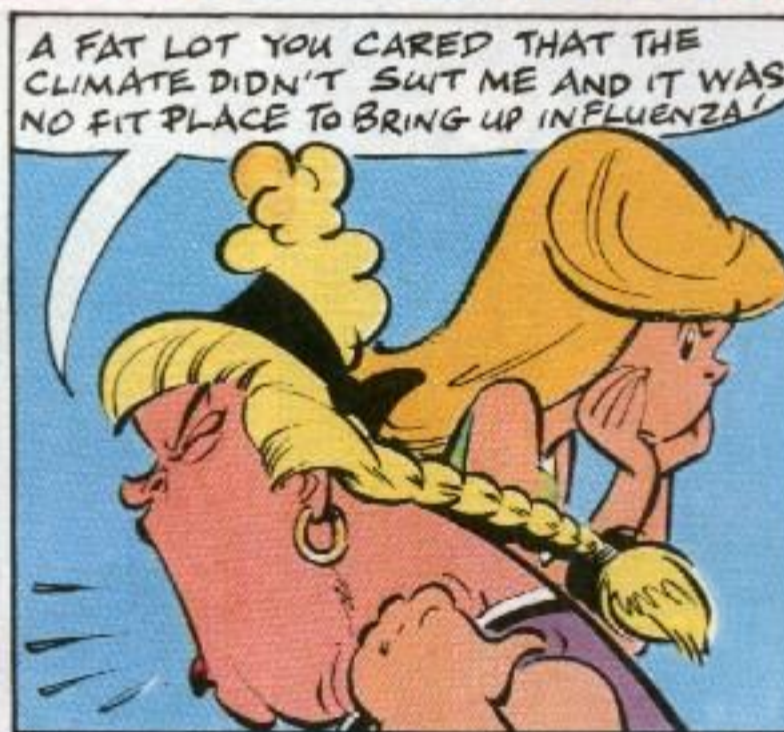
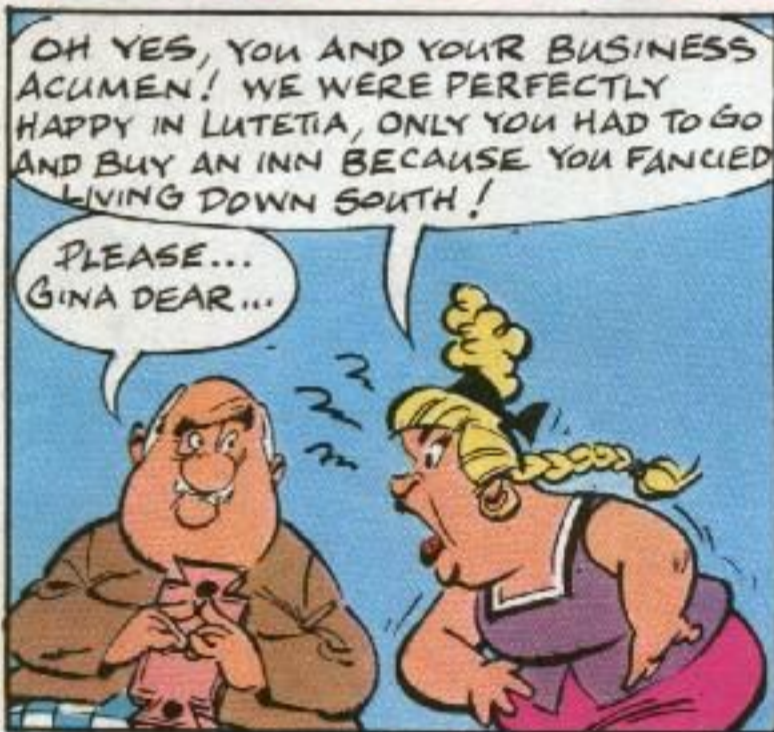
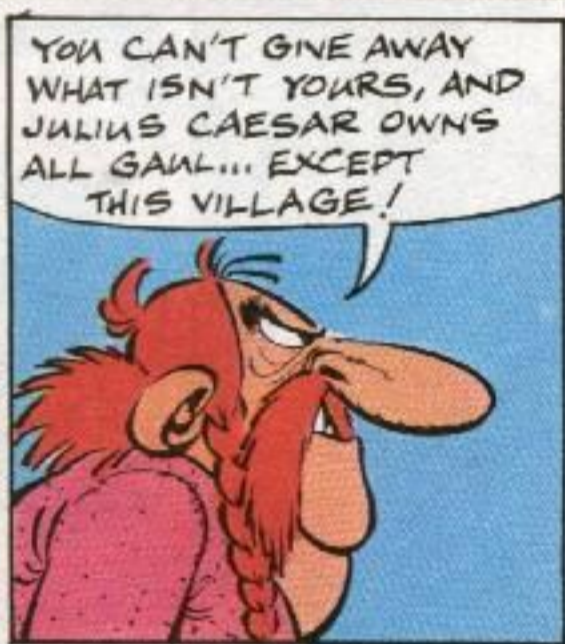
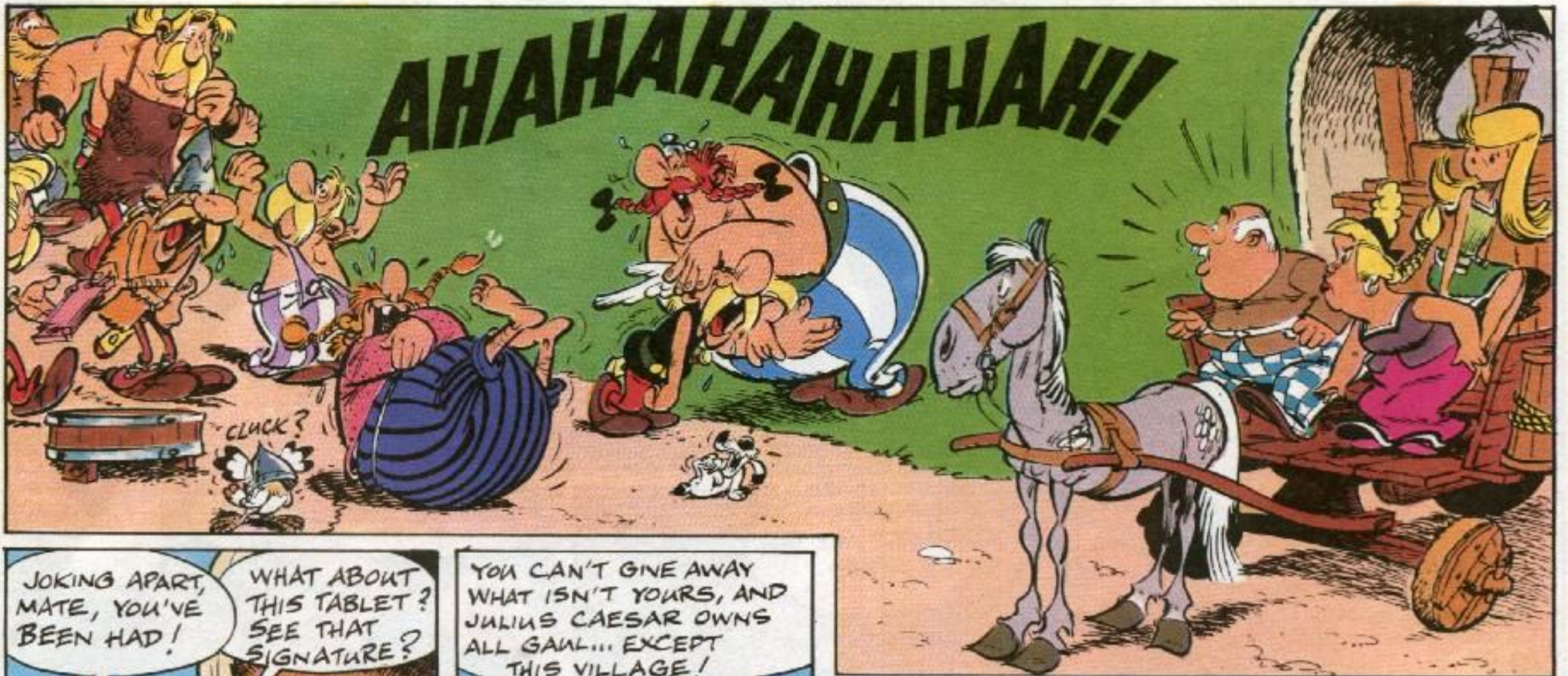
SEE THAT SIGNATURE?



HMPH? HAHA...



HAHAHAHAHAHA!





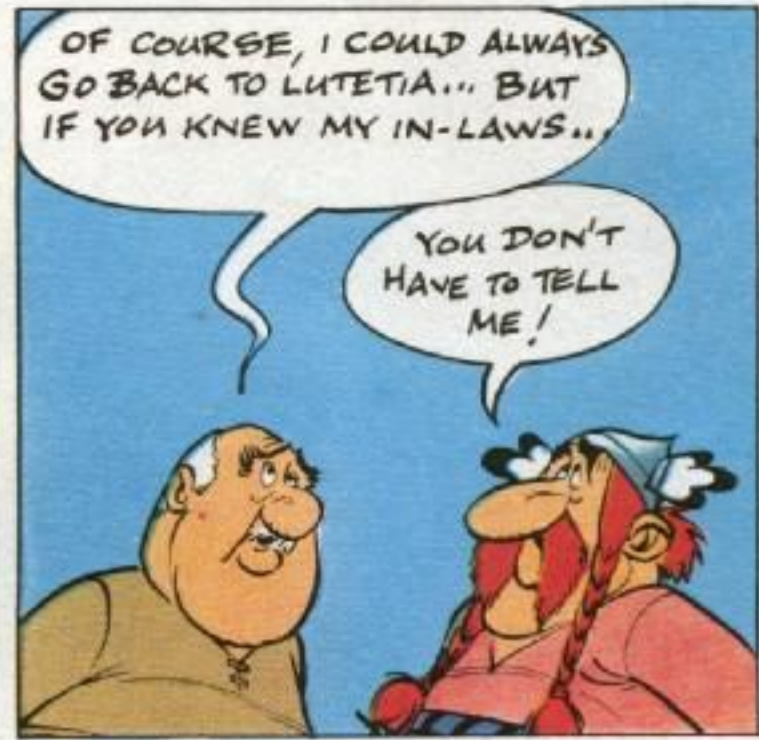
LET'S GO OVER HERE, OUT OF THE WAY...

?



YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS, RIGHT?

WELL, YES... THE THING IS, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO NOW...



OF COURSE, I COULD ALWAYS GO BACK TO LUTETIA... BUT IF YOU KNEW MY IN-LAWS...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME!



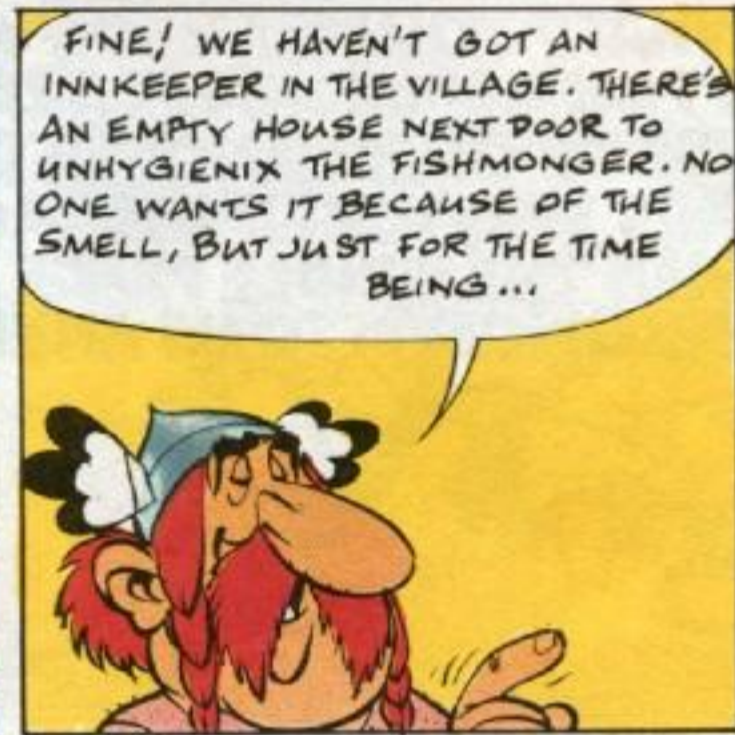
YOU MEAN YOU HAVE THE SAME SORT OF PROBLEMS...?

SSH! NOT SO LOUD!



LISTEN, I WANT TO HELP YOU... WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

WELL, I USED TO KEEP AN INN.



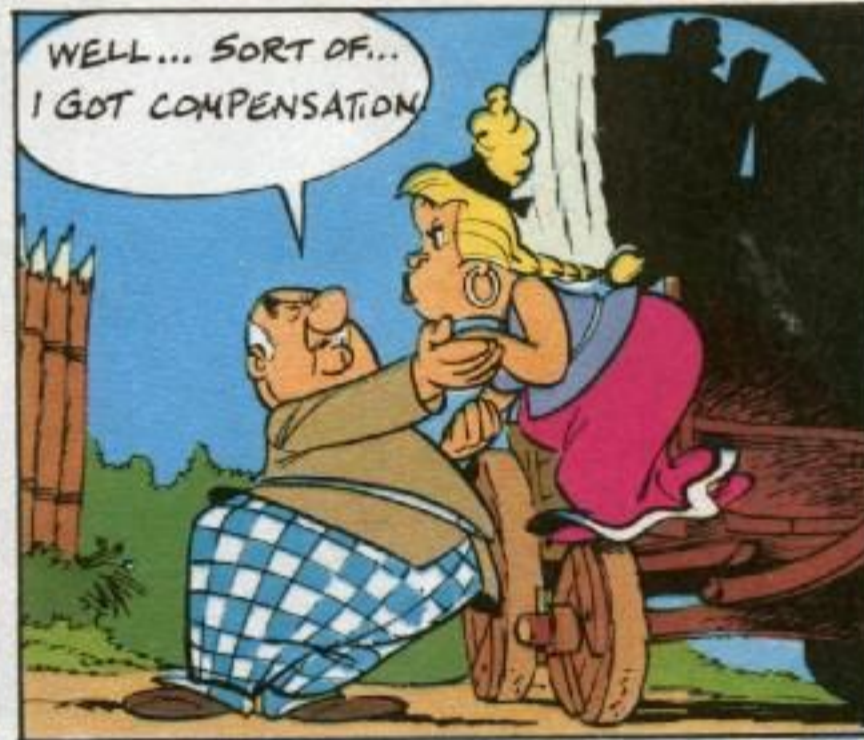
FINE! WE HAVEN'T GOT AN INNKEEPER IN THE VILLAGE. THERE'S AN EMPTY HOUSE NEXT DOOR TO UNHYGIENIX THE FISHMONGER. NO ONE WANTS IT BECAUSE OF THE SMELL, BUT JUST FOR THE TIME BEING...



SOON AFTERWARDS...

YOU CAN GET DOWN. WE'RE STAYING.

OH, GOOD! SO YOU MANAGED TO STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS AFTER ALL!



WELL... SORT OF... I GOT COMPENSATION



HEY, YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP ME DOWN?

HMMM...



YOU... YOU'RE LIGHTER THAN A MENHIR...



YOU'VE REALLY GOT A WAY WITH THE GIRLS, HAVEN'T YOU!

OOH, I SAY!

LOOK, YOU CAN PUT ME DOWN NOW.

GRRRR



HERE WE ARE. THE CHIEF HAS GIVEN US THIS HOUSE FOR OUR INN.

UNHYGIENIX F... DNGER

**WHAT? YOU MEAN WE'VE LEFT OUR NICE INN AT ARAUSIO JUST TO OPEN ANOTHER IN THIS WRETCHED VILLAGE, WHEN THE WHOLE PLACE BELONGS TO US ANYWAY?**

BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO GIVE US THE VILLAGE!

OH, LET'S GO BACK TO UNCLE DITHYRAMBIX IN LUTETIA!

NO, NO! WE SHALL BE VERY COMFORTABLE HERE... AND THE AIR'S SO BRACING!

BRACING? IT STINKS OF ROTTEN FISH!

SNIFF! SNIFF!

WE'LL AIR THE HOUSE OUT... ANYWAY, THAT'S THE SMELL OF THE SEA!

IT'S SOME TIME SINCE ANY FISH SMELLING LIKE THAT SAW THE SEA!

IT'S FUN HAVING NEW PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE, ISN'T IT, GETAFIX?

WELL, I HAVE A NOTION WE SHAN'T BE BORED, EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THEM, ANYWAY

SHE'S ALMOST AS LIGHT AS YOU DOGMATIX!

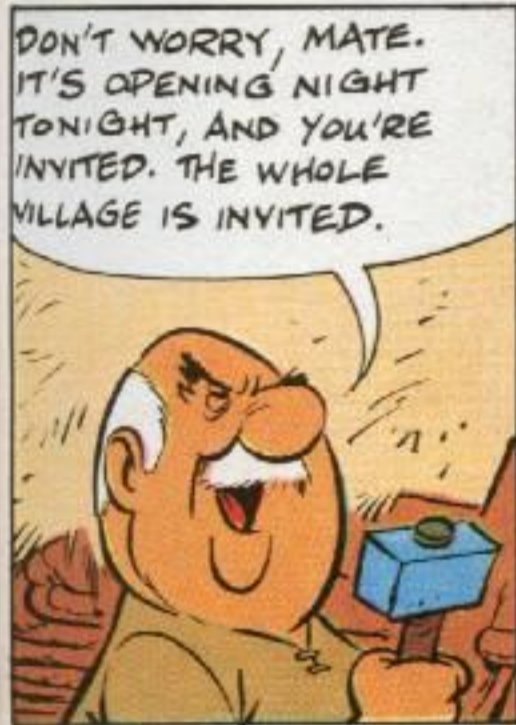
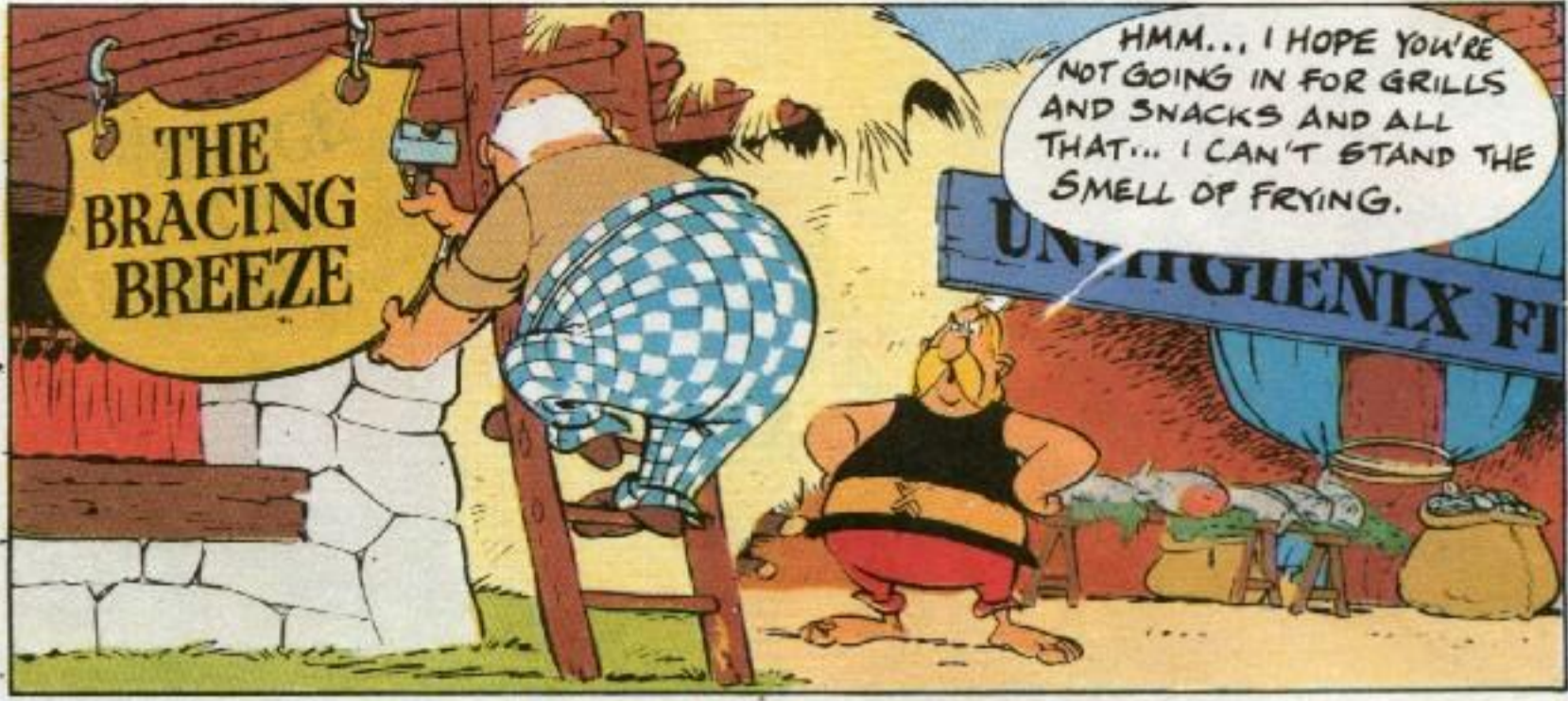
GRRRR!

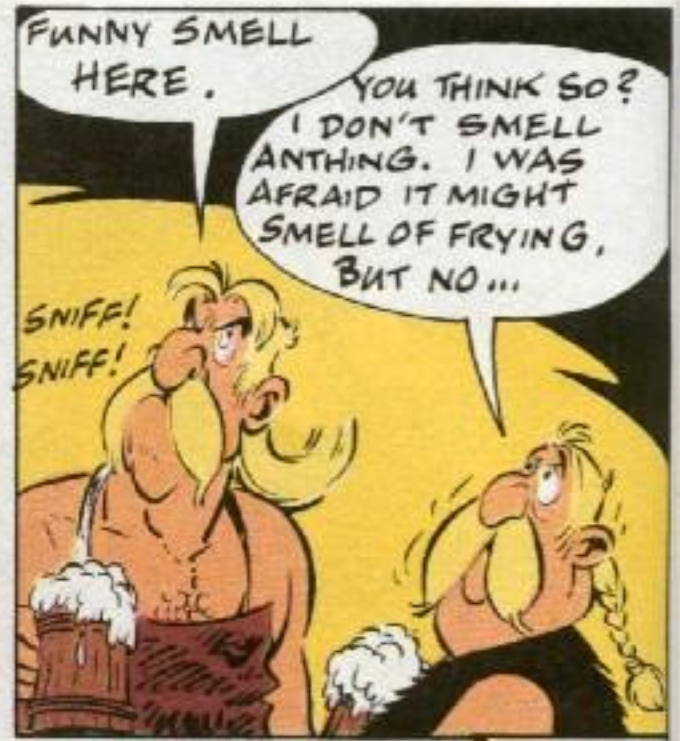
OBELIX QUARRY

NEW PEOPLE? WHAT NEW PEOPLE?

YOU KNOW ME, I'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST FOREIGNERS, SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE FOREIGNERS, BUT THESE PARTICULAR FOREIGNERS AREN'T FROM THIS VILLAGE!

AS FOR THAT GIRL, SHE HAS THE MOST APPELLING TASTE!





FUNNY SMELL HERE. YOU THINK SO? I DON'T SMELL ANYTHING. I WAS AFRAID IT MIGHT SMELL OF FRYING, BUT NO...

SNIFF! SNIFF!



IMPEDIMENTA, MEET OUR NEW INNKEEPER, ORTHOPAEDIX.

AND THIS IS MY WIFE ANGINA.

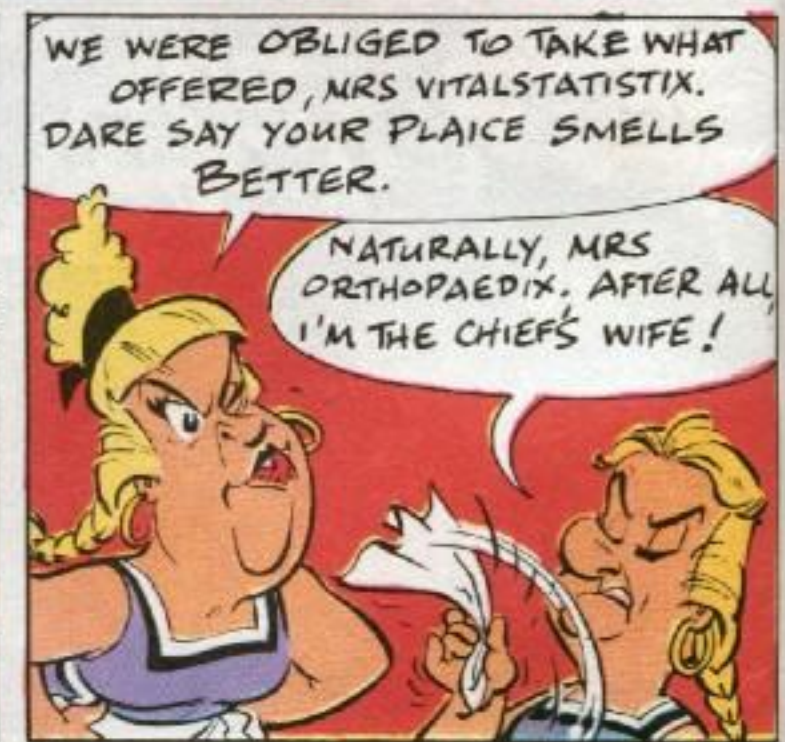


PLEASED TO MEET YOU. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.



NICE LITTLE PLACE YOU HAVE HERE, MRS ORTHOPAEDIX. WHAT A PITY ABOUT THE SMELL OF FISH.

FISH!



WE WERE OBLIGED TO TAKE WHAT OFFERED, MRS VITALSTATISTIX. DARE SAY YOUR PLAICE SMELLS BETTER.

NATURALLY, MRS ORTHOPAEDIX. AFTER ALL I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE!



IT DOESN'T HALF SMELL OF FISH, TOO!

OH, SO IT SMELLS OF FISH, EH?

WHAT CHIEF'S WIFE, MRS VITALSTATISTIX? THIS VILLAGE BELONGS TO MY HUSBAND.

ANGINA, DEAR, COME AND HELP ME SERVE OUR GUESTS.



I CONSIDER THAT REMARK MOST IMPERTINENT, COMING FROM A FOREIGNER!

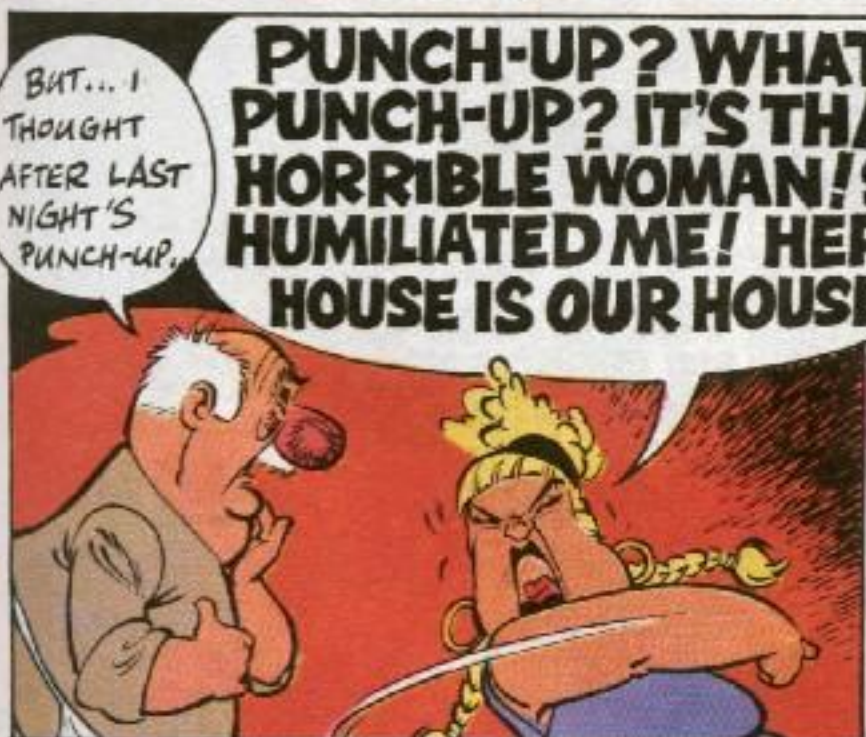
ROTTEN FISH, TOO!

IMPEDIMENTA, PLEASE!

BACTERIA, FETCH ME OUR STOCK!



NO CARPING, FRIENDS! THIS ONE'S ON THE HOUSE! MUSSEL IN!





WE'VE COME TO HELP YOU CLEAR UP THE MESS... OUR FRIENDS MEAN WELL, YOU KNOW. THEY'RE JUST A BIT HIGH-SPIRITED, THAT'S ALL...

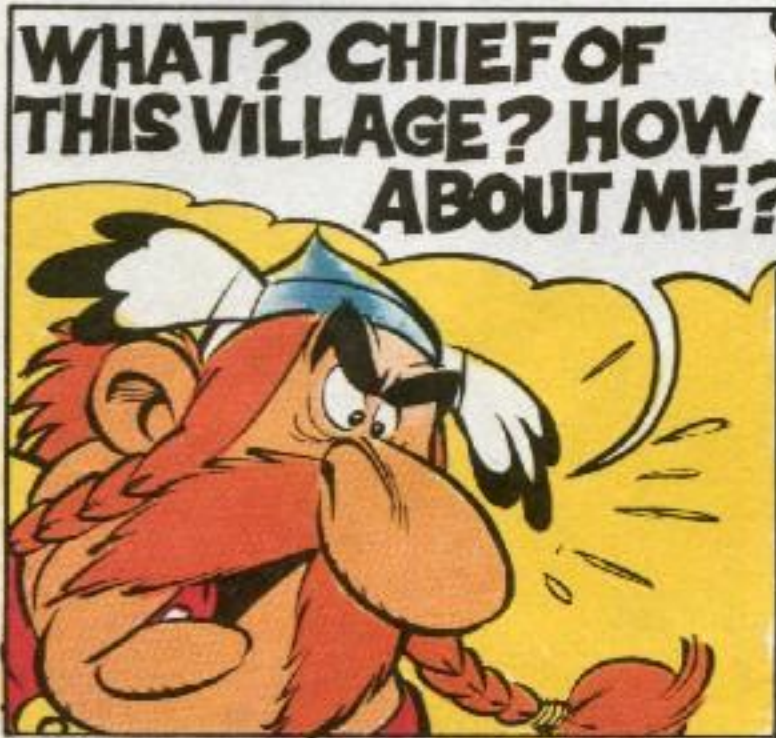
AND I'VE BROUGHT YOU A BOAR FOR BREAKFAST.

I DON'T THINK THIS IS QUITE THE MOMENT...

OH YES IT IS! WE SHAN'T FORGET YOUR KIND GESTURE...



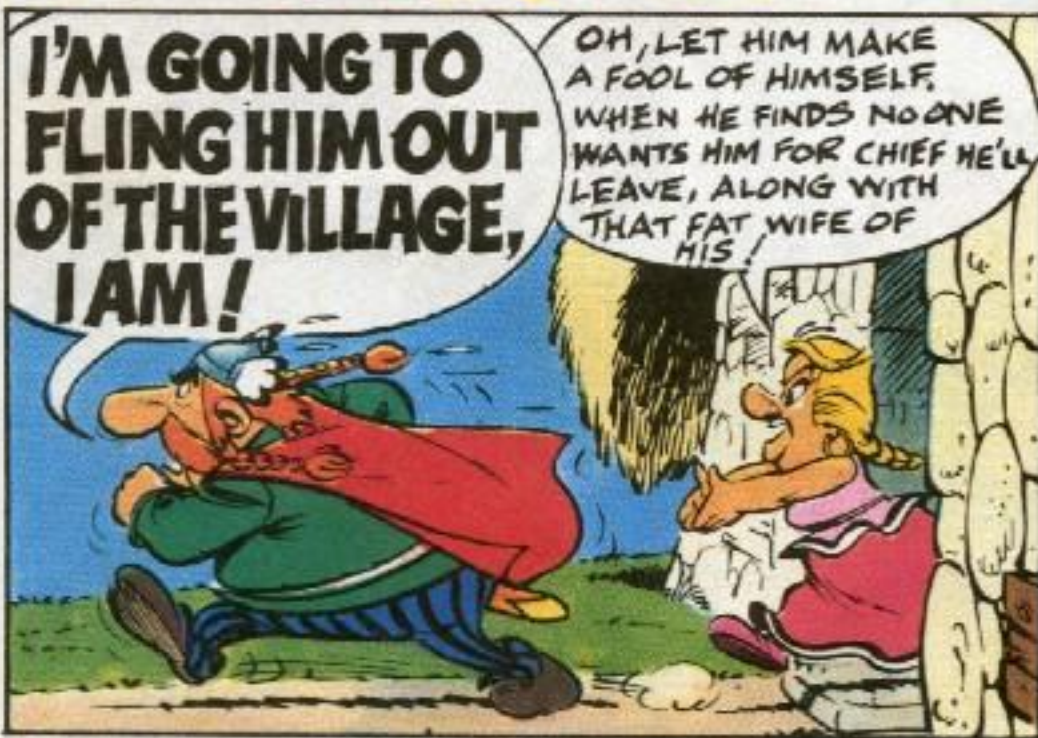
ESPECIALLY AS MY HUSBAND ORTHOPAEDIX INTENDS TO BECOME CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE



WHAT? CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE? HOW ABOUT ME?



OUR LAWS CLEARLY STATE THAT ANYONE AT ALL HAS THE RIGHT TO STAND FOR ELECTION. IF HE GETS A MAJORITY VOTE, HE TAKES OVER FROM THE OLD CHIEF.



I'M GOING TO FLING HIM OUT OF THE VILLAGE, I AM!

OH, LET HIM MAKE A FOOL OF HIMSELF. WHEN HE FINDS NO ONE WANTS HIM FOR CHIEF HE'LL LEAVE, ALONG WITH THAT FAT WIFE OF HIS!



WE'LL SOON SEE WHO'S CHIEF: HER OR ME!

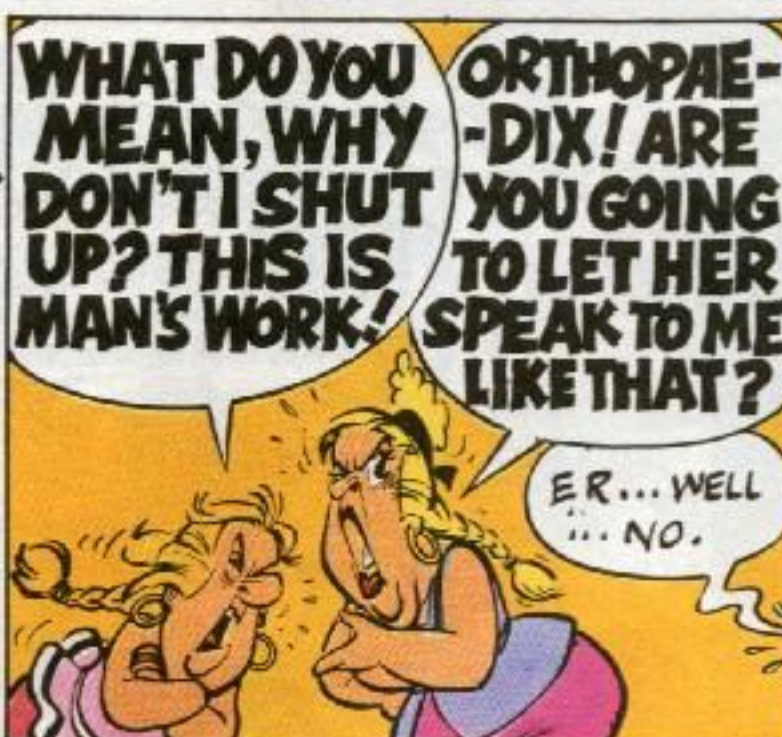
ORTHOPAEDIX!

YES?



SO YOU'RE THINKING OF TAKING OVER FROM ME AS CHIEF?

ER... THAT'S RIGHT!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHY DON'T I SHUT UP? THIS IS MAN'S WORK!

ORTHOPAEDIX! ARE YOU GOING TO LET HER SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT?

ER... WELL... NO.



THE FESTIVAL OF THE GOD LUG IS IN FIFTEEN DAYS' TIME! IF YOUR FOOL OF A HUSBAND GETS MORE VOTES THAN MINE THEN, AND ONLY THEN, HE BECOMES CHIEF OF OUR VILLAGE!

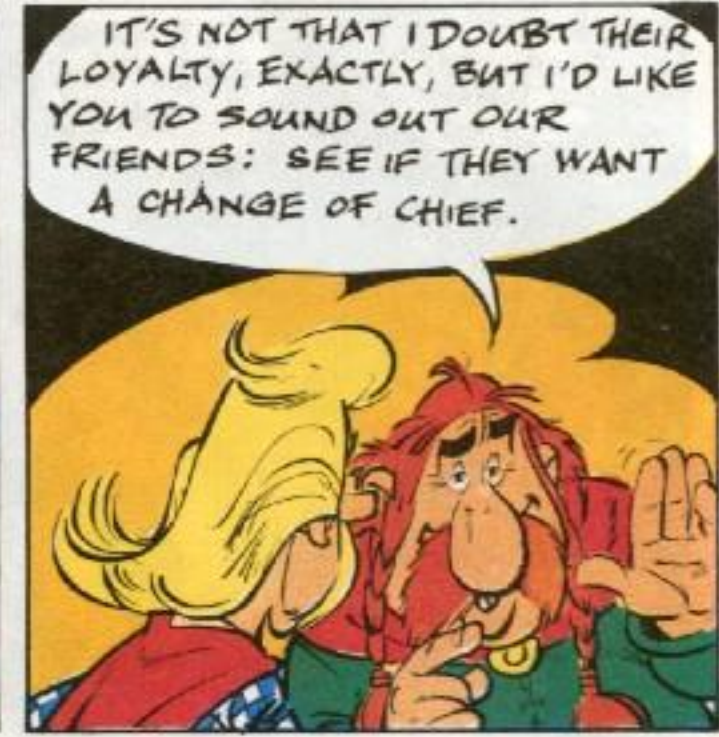
RIGHT!

WHAT?



YOU WANTED ME, VITALSTATISTIX?

THAT'S RIGHT, CACOFONIX... I'VE GOT A LITTLE JOB FOR YOU...



IT'S NOT THAT I DOUBT THEIR LOYALTY, EXACTLY, BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO SOUND OUT OUR FRIENDS: SEE IF THEY WANT A CHANGE OF CHIEF.



LATER...

WELL, WHAT NEWS?



GERIATRIX IS BACKING YOU. HE SAYS HE'S GOT NOTHING AGAINST FOREIGNERS BUT THEY DON'T BELONG HERE. THE OTHERS DON'T MIND ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, SO LONG AS THEY STILL GET PLENTY OF BOARS AND ROMANS...



FULLIAUTOMATIX THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO SOUND HIM OUT IN SONG SO HE KNOCKED ME OUT FIRST.



YOU HAVEN'T VOICED YOUR OWN OPINION YET...?

HUH! YOU DON'T LIKE MY VOICE ANY MORE THAN THE REST OF THEM!



WHAT, ME? I SIMPLY LOVE YOUR VOICE!

YOU DO? LISTEN TO THIS NEW PROTEST SONG I'VE JUST COMPOSED, THEN...



WE SHALL OVERCOME... WE SHALL OVER-COME...

\*FREEDOM FIGHTERS THE WORLD OVER OWE THIS SONG TO CACOFONIX. THE ORIGINAL TUNE HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN EXTENSIVELY REVISED...



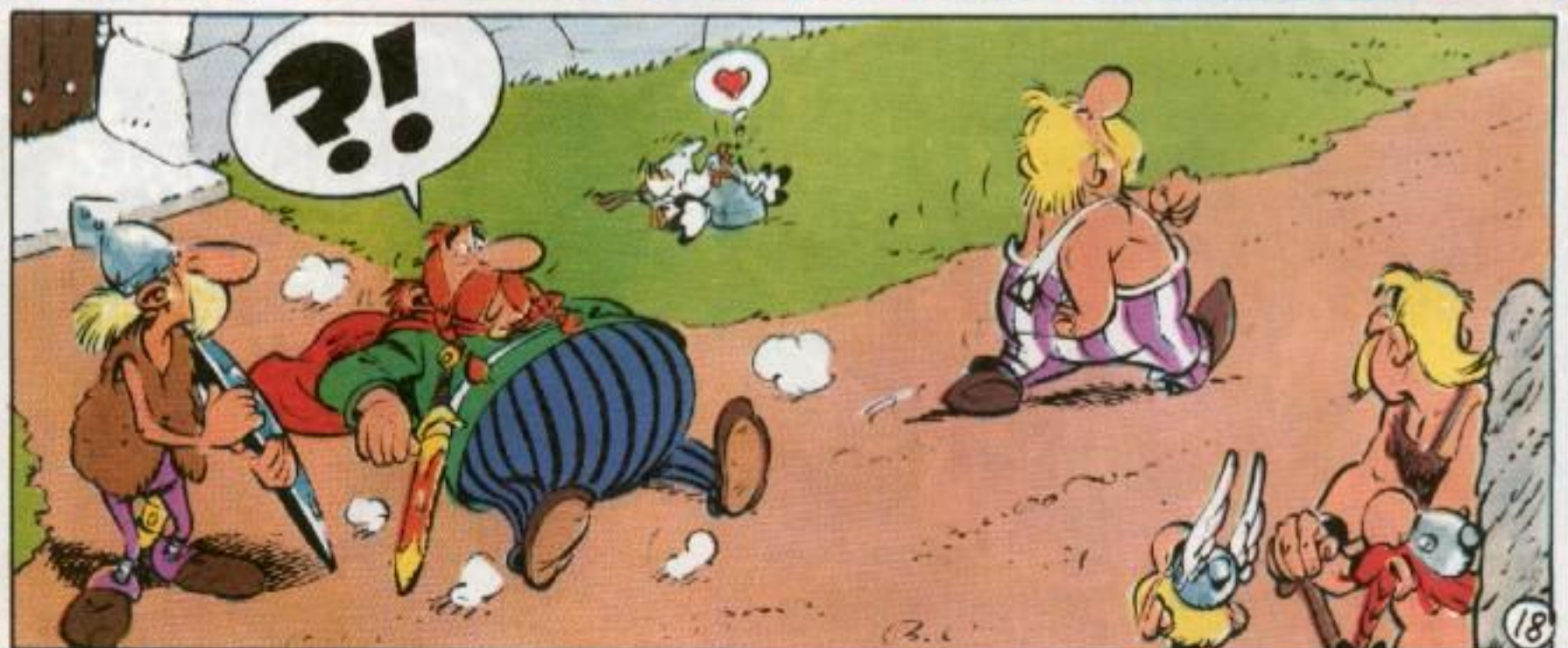
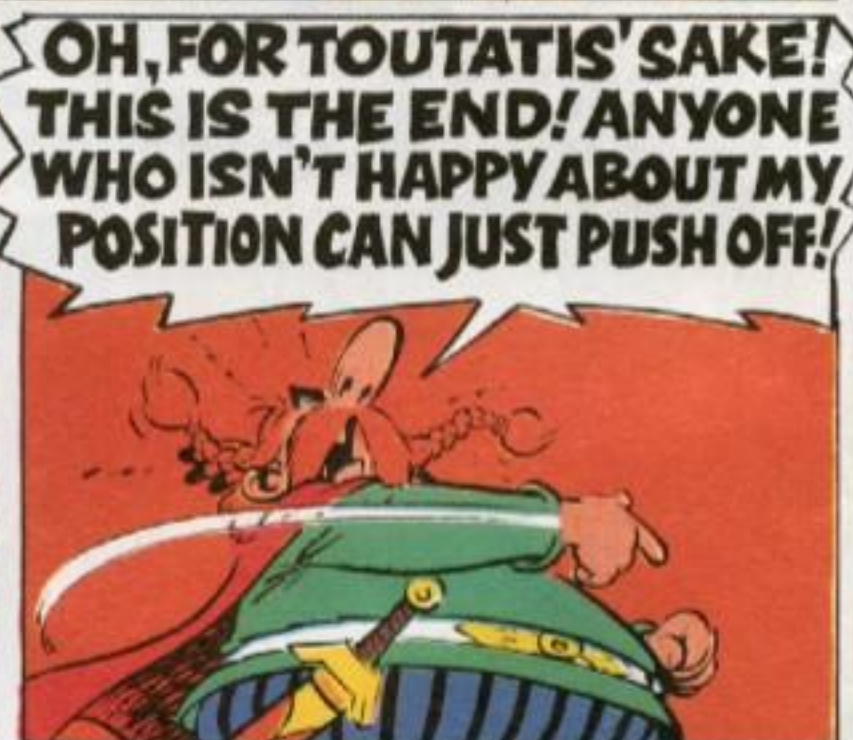
STOP! I'M OVERCOME ALREADY! THIS IS A PROTEST... MARCH!

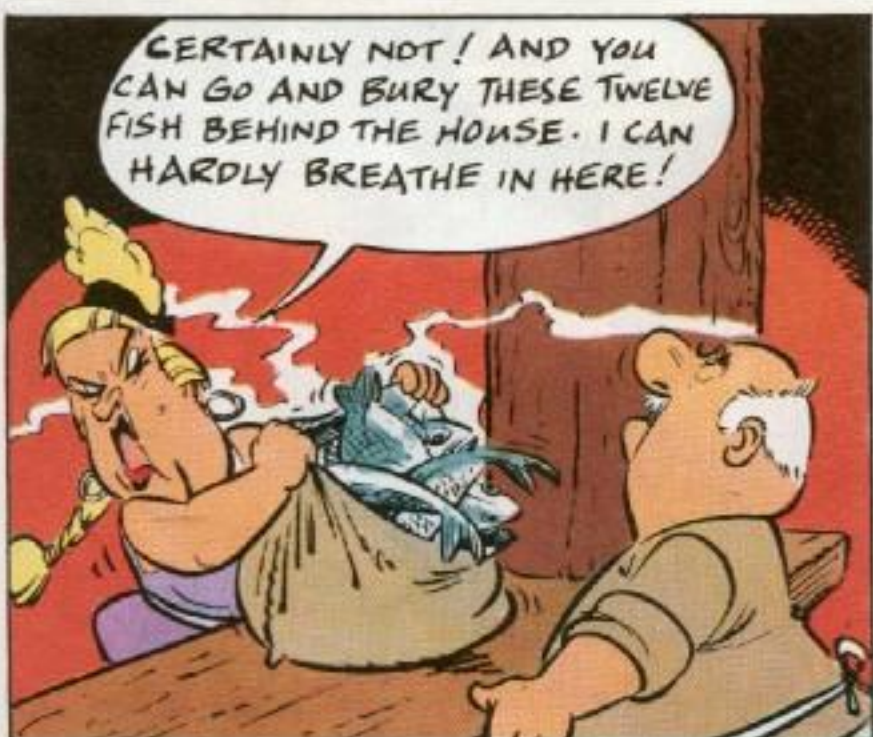
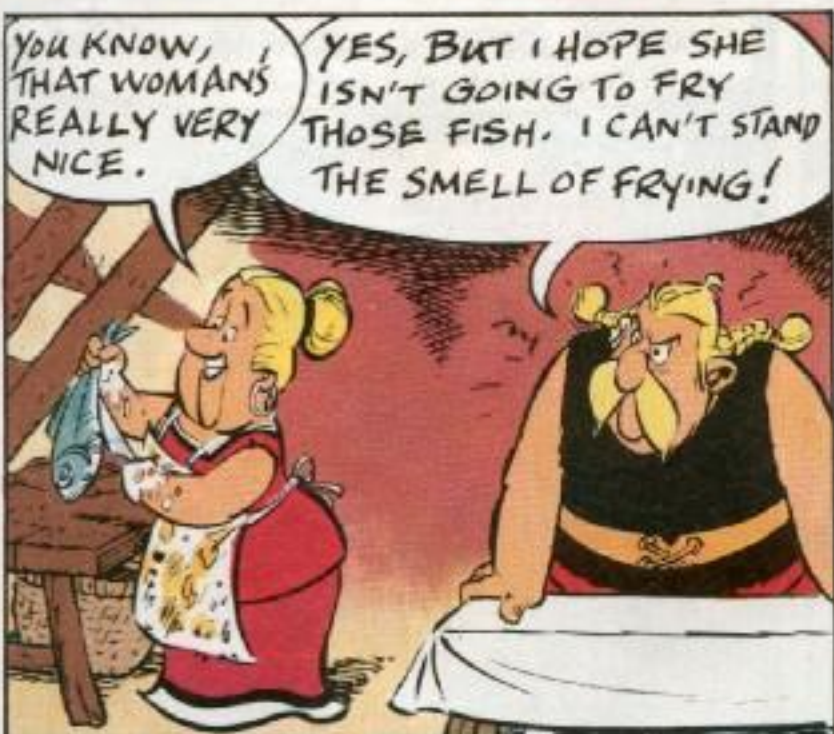
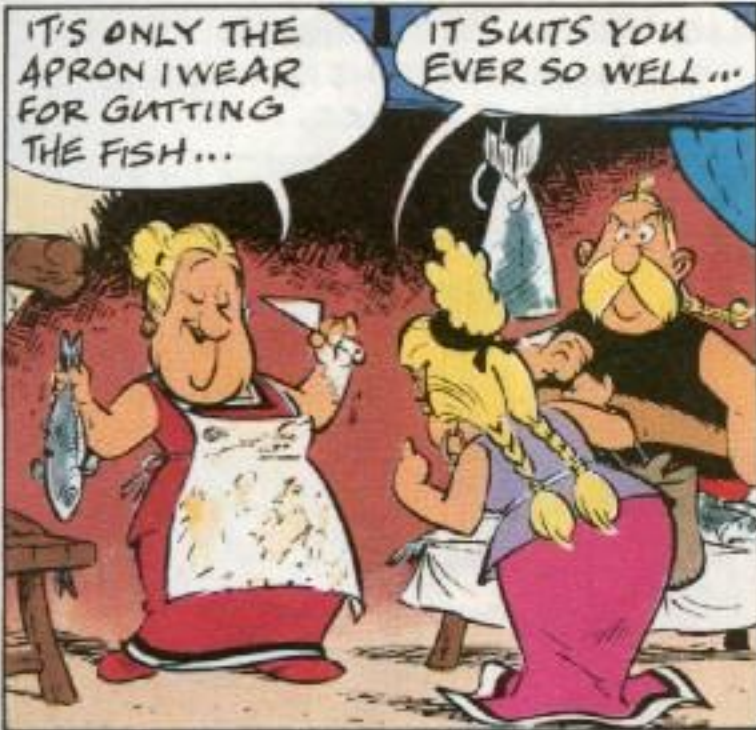
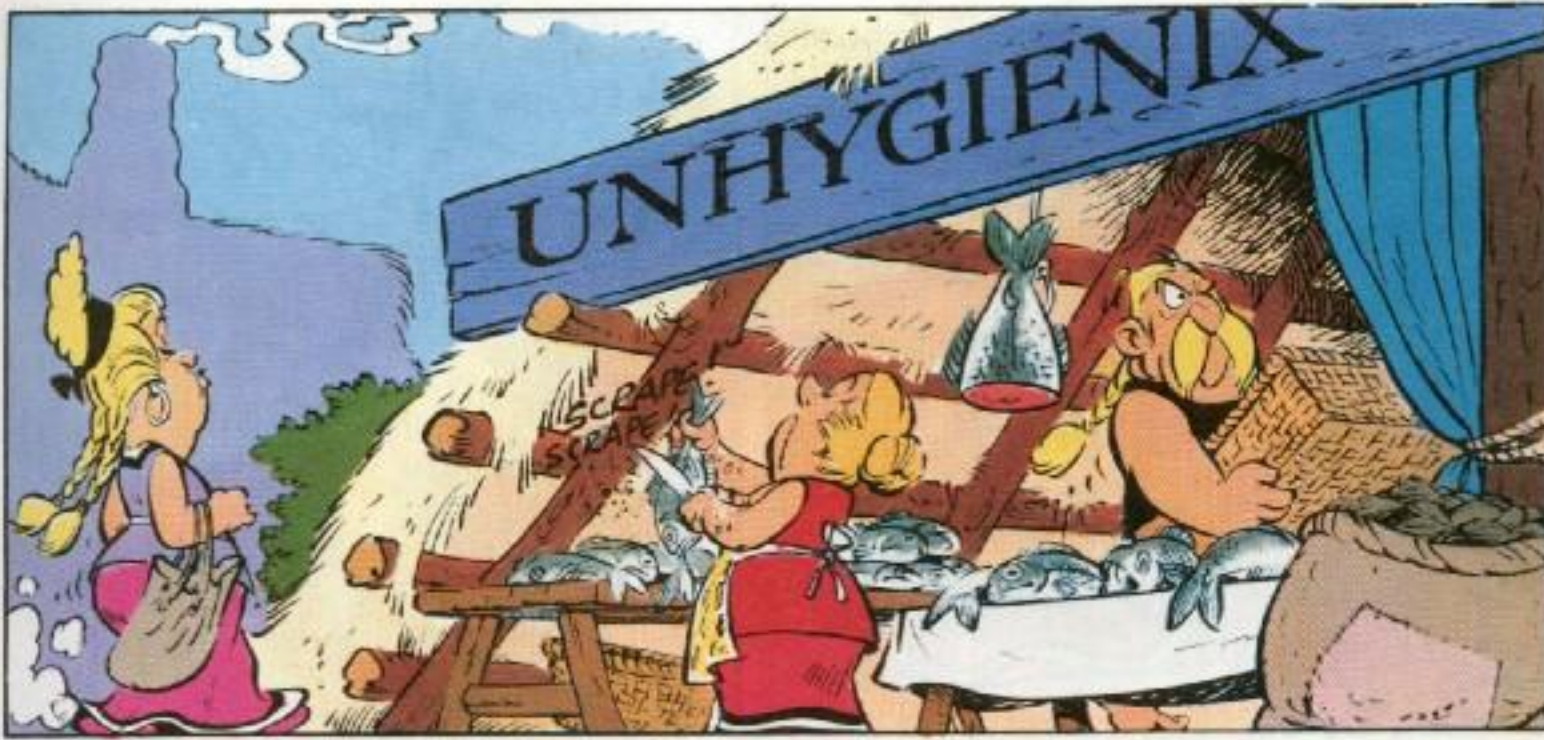
ALL RIGHT, ORTHOPAEDIX CAN HAVE THE BENEFIT OF MY SONG! MAYBE HE'LL APPRECIATE IT!!!



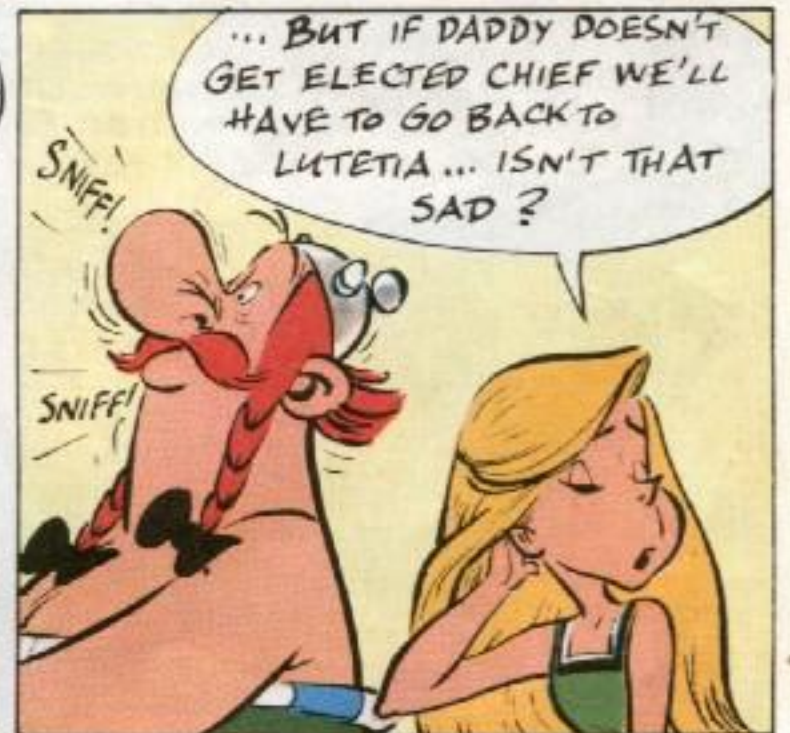
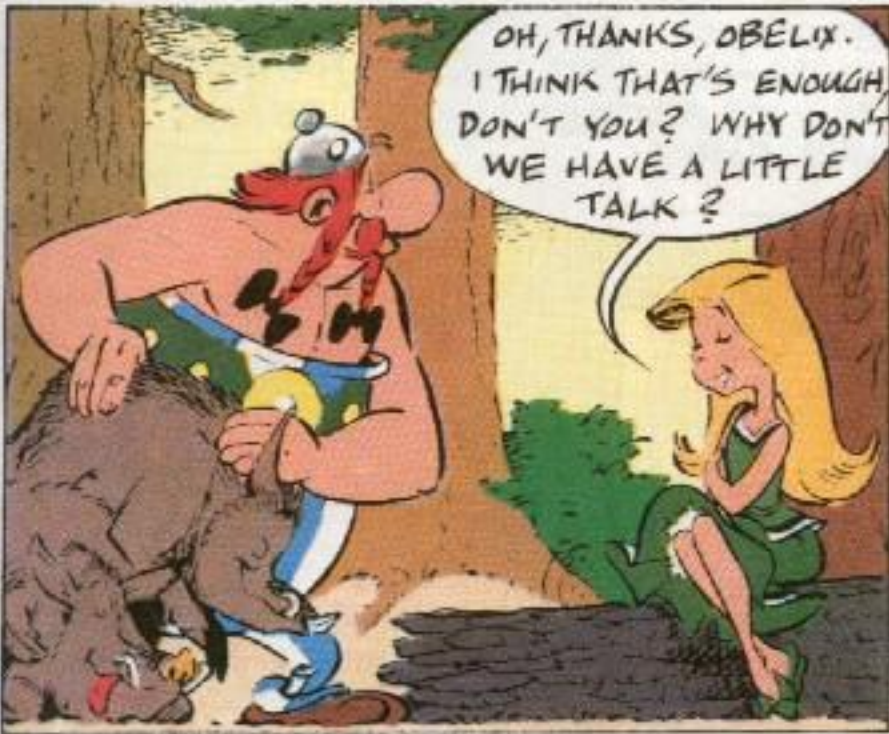
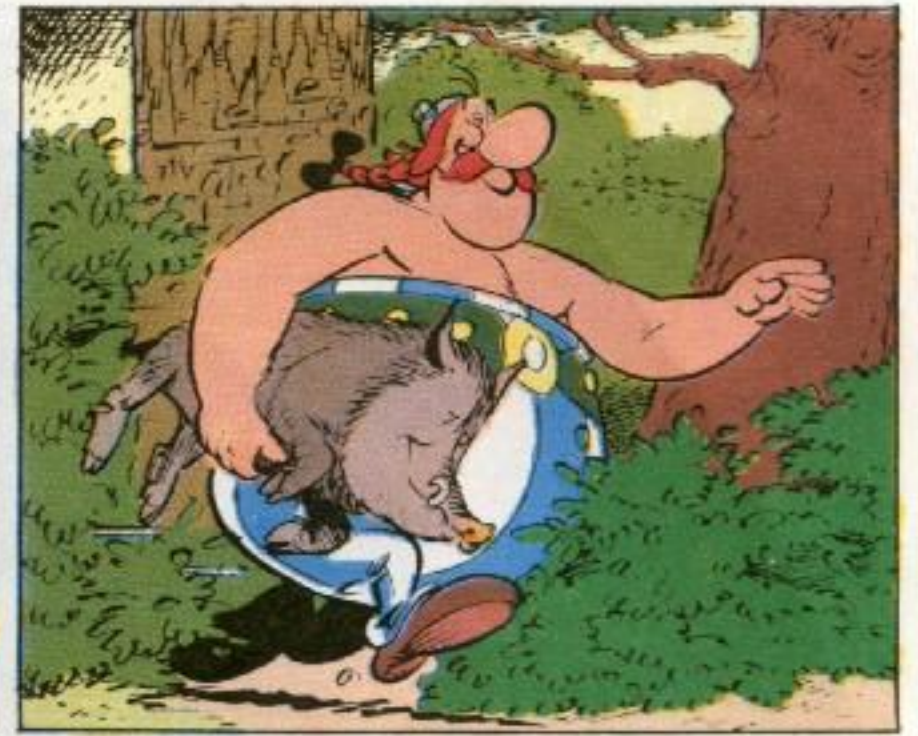
PEDIMENTA, I FEEL WE MAY HAVE MADE A MISTAKE... THAT'S ONE PROTEST VOTE ALREADY!

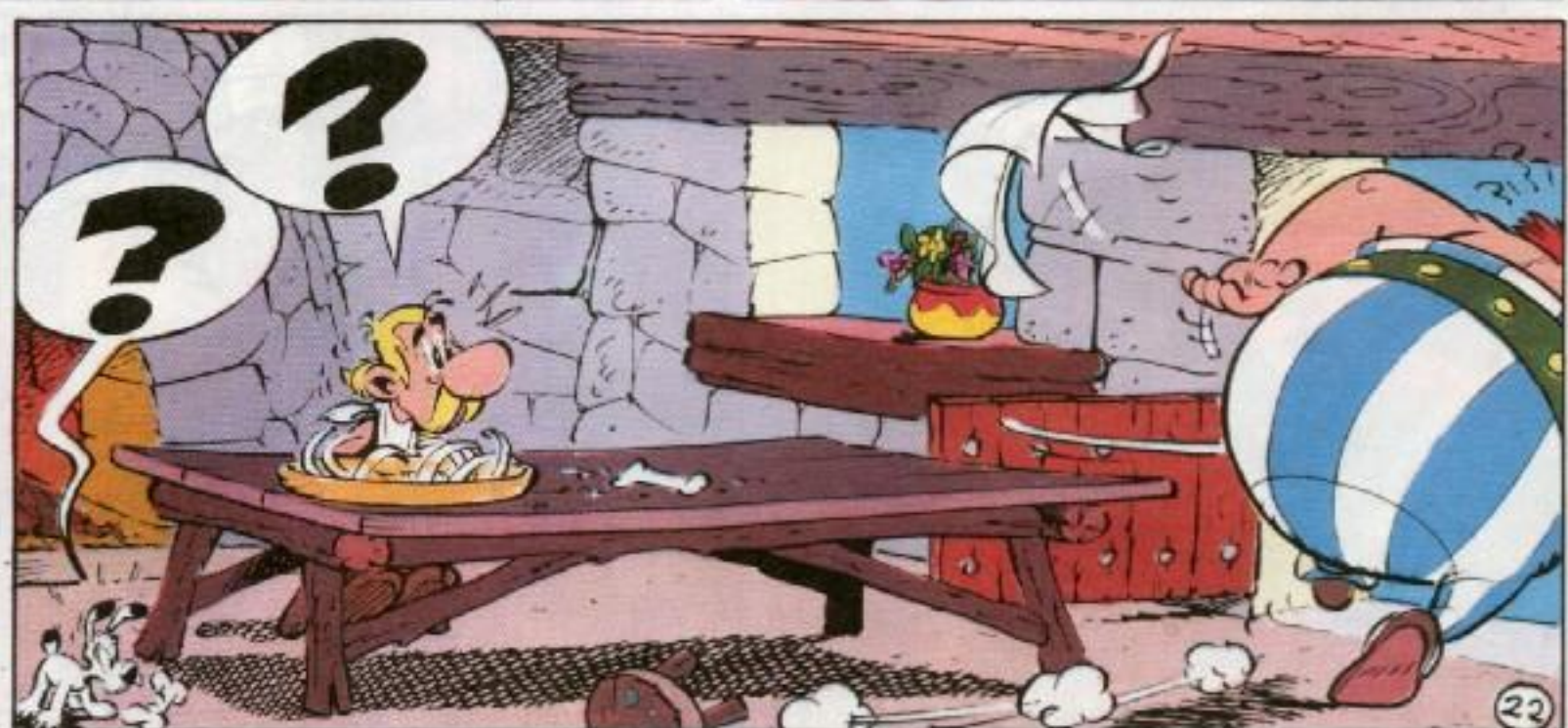
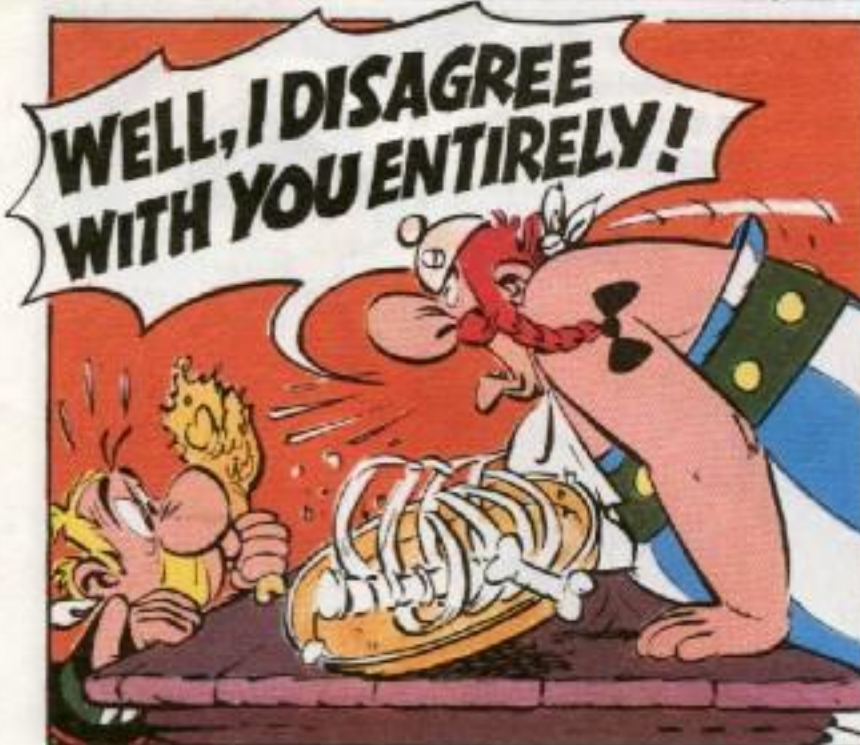
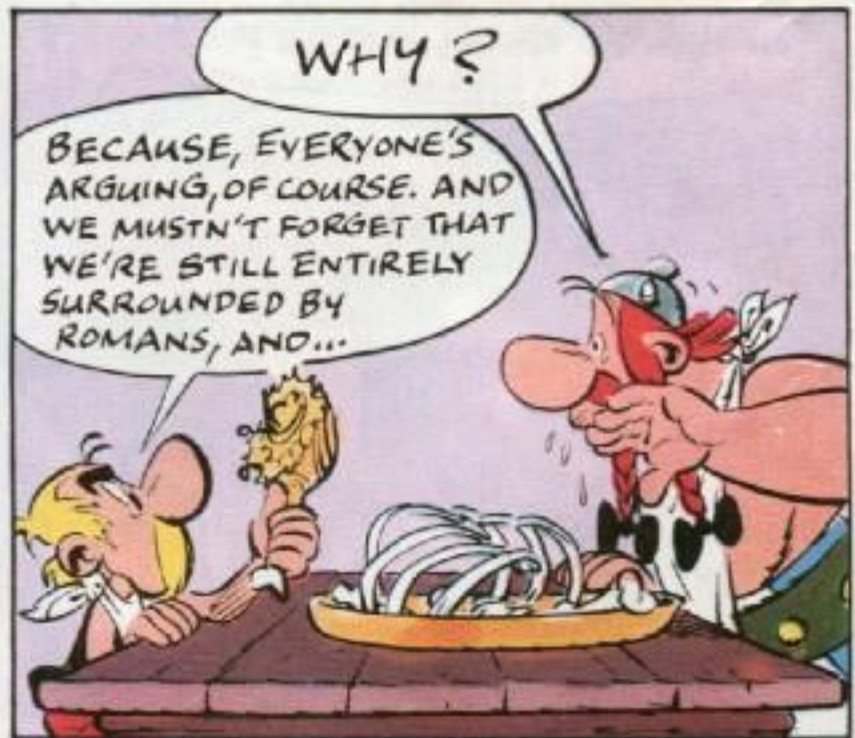
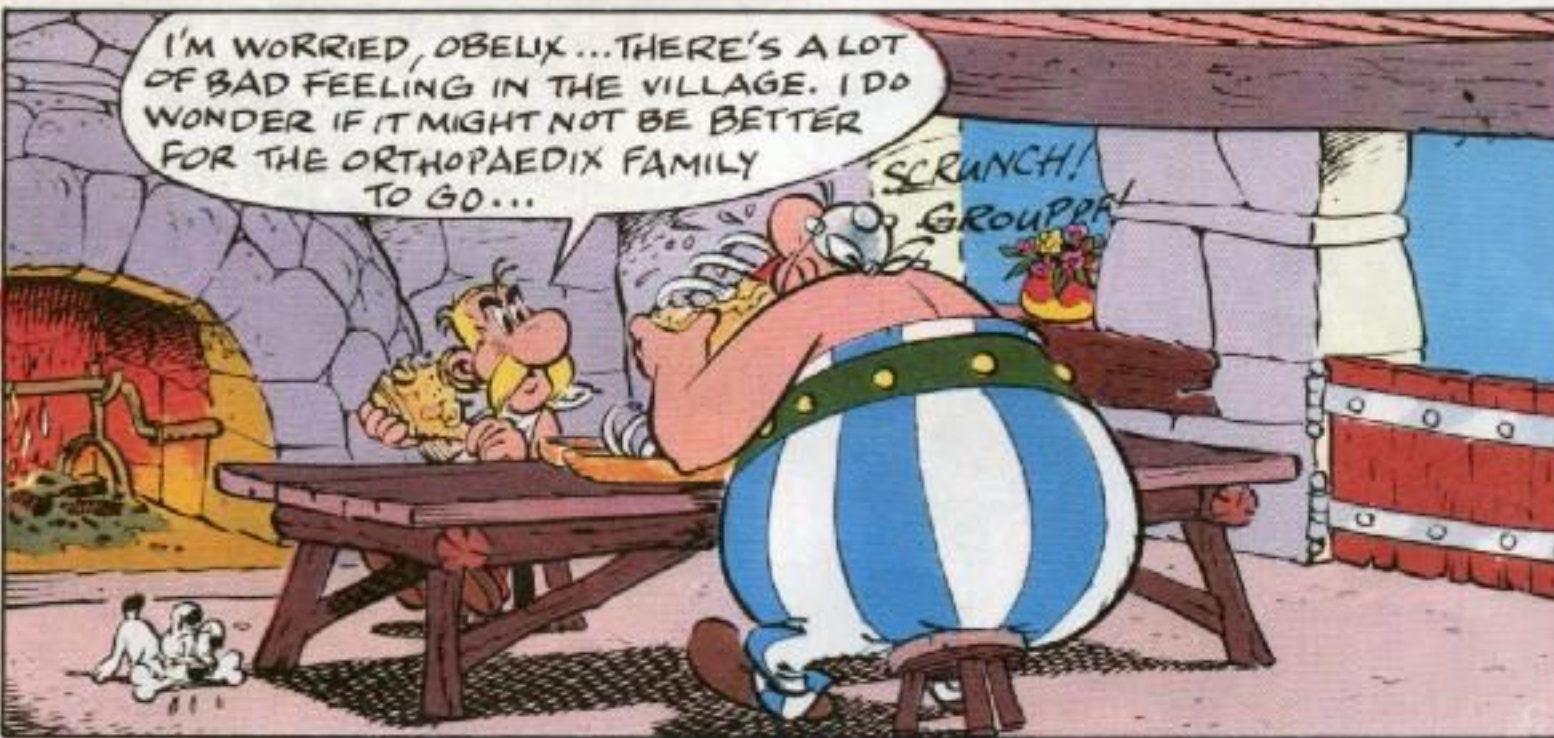
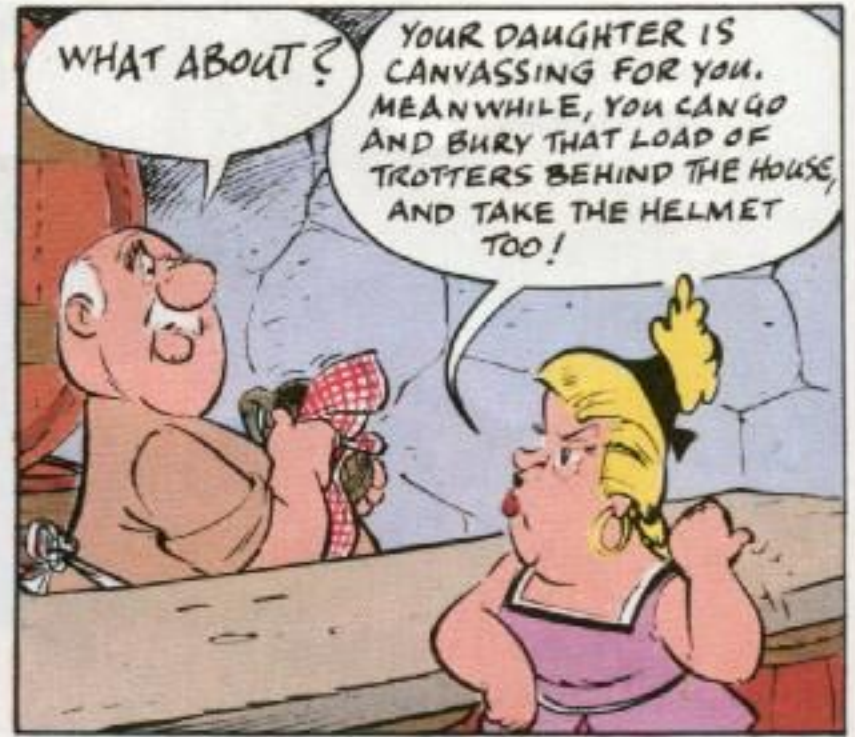
WHY NOT ADDRESS YOUR PEOPLE? ROUSE THEM UP A BIT?

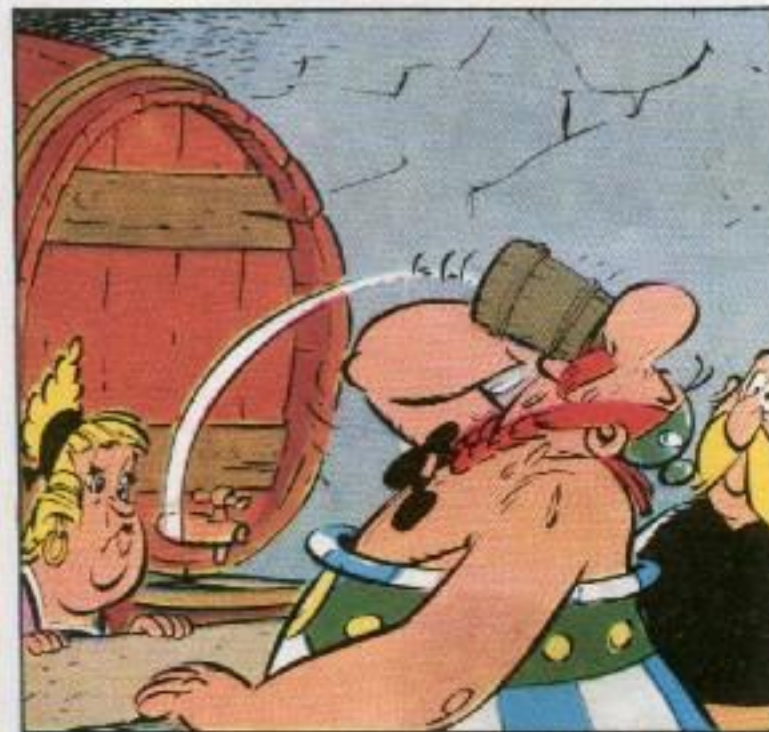


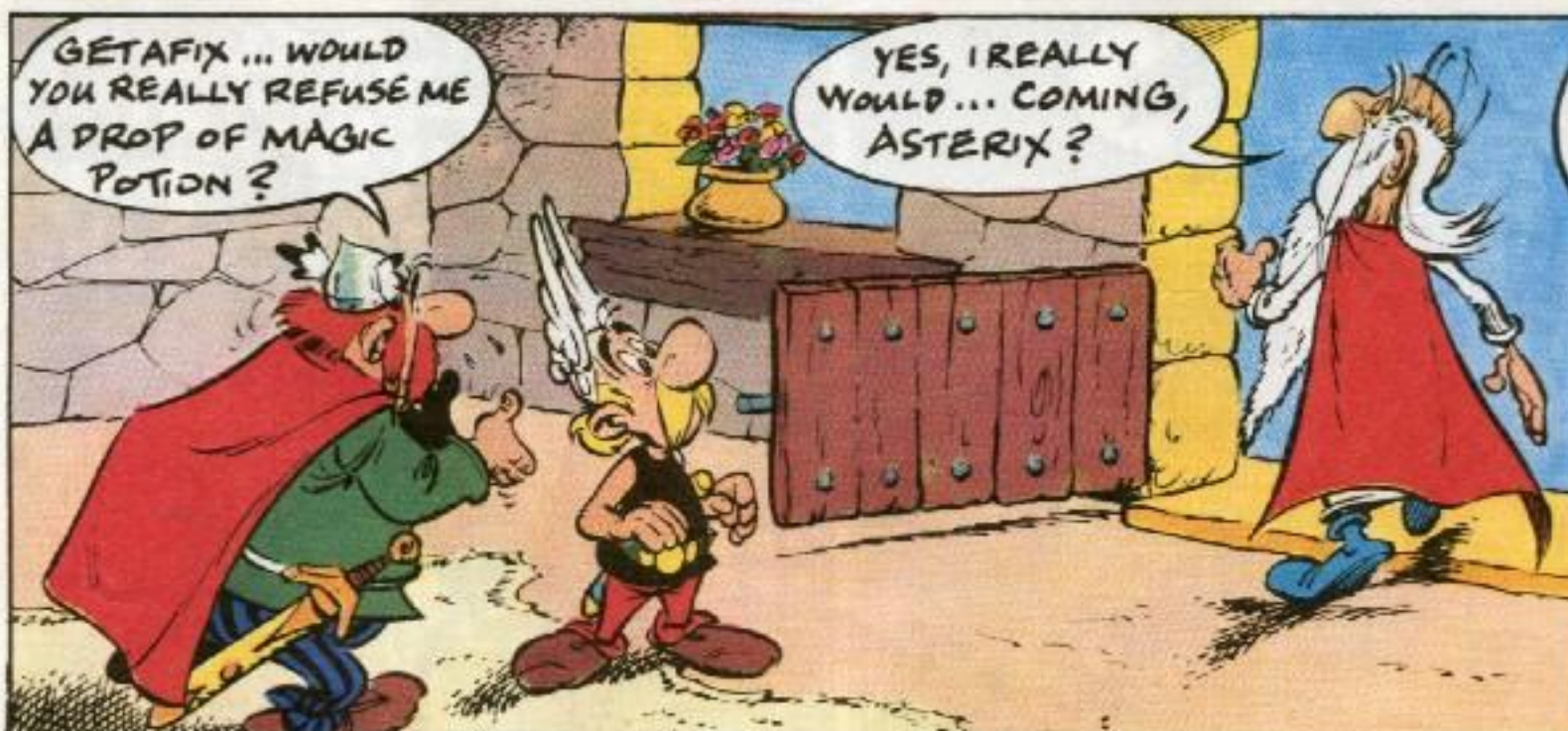
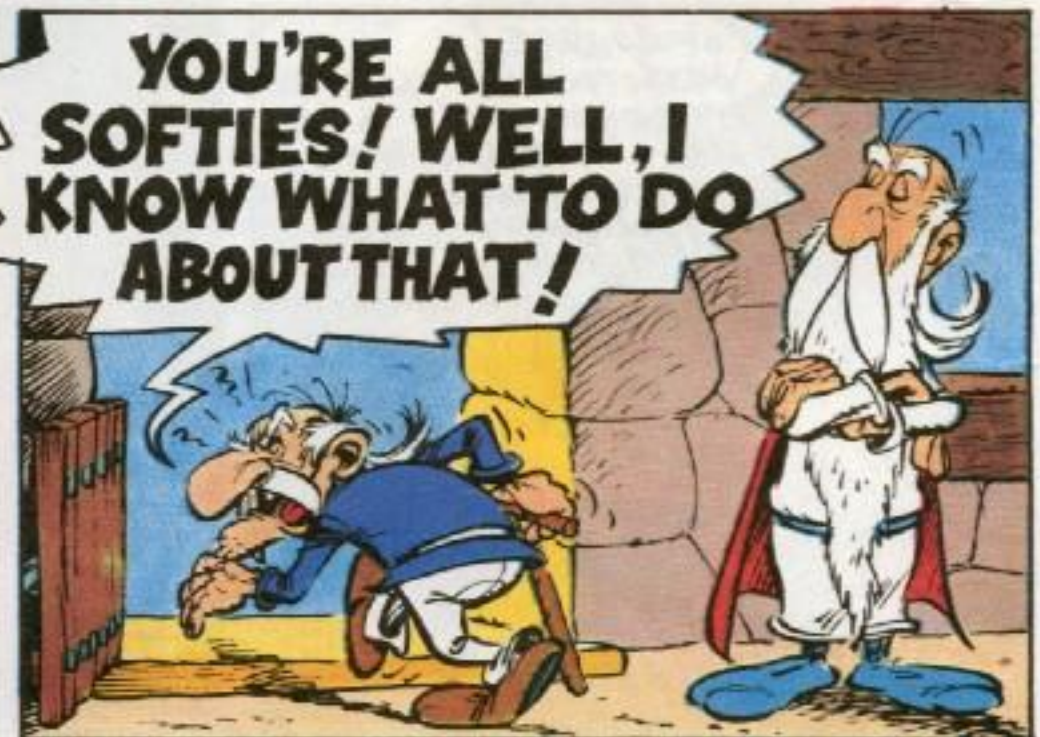
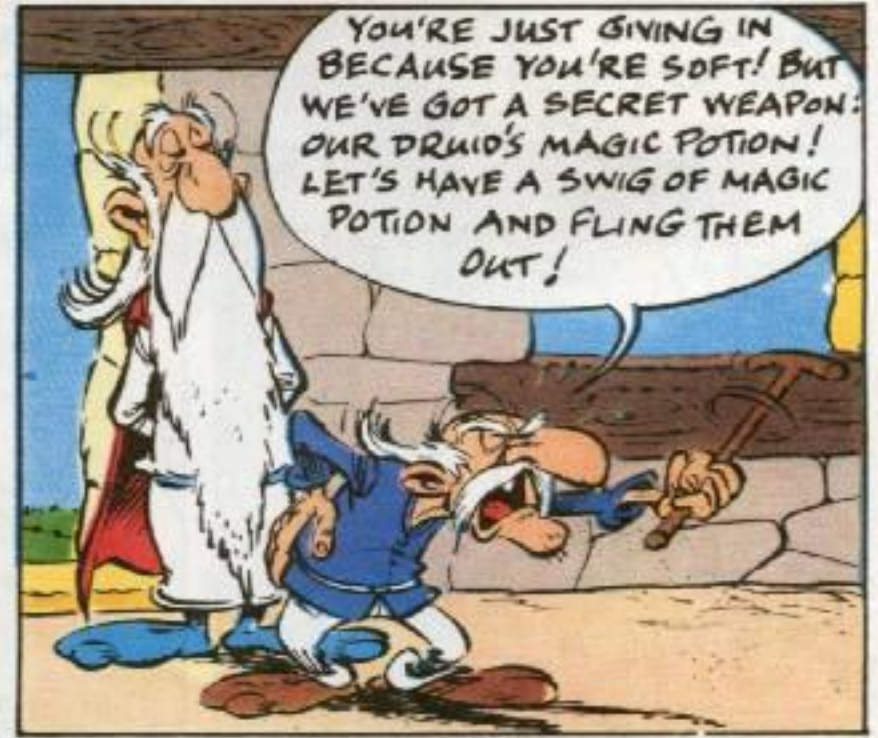














MY FRIENDS,  
THESE ARE TROUBLED  
TIMES!...

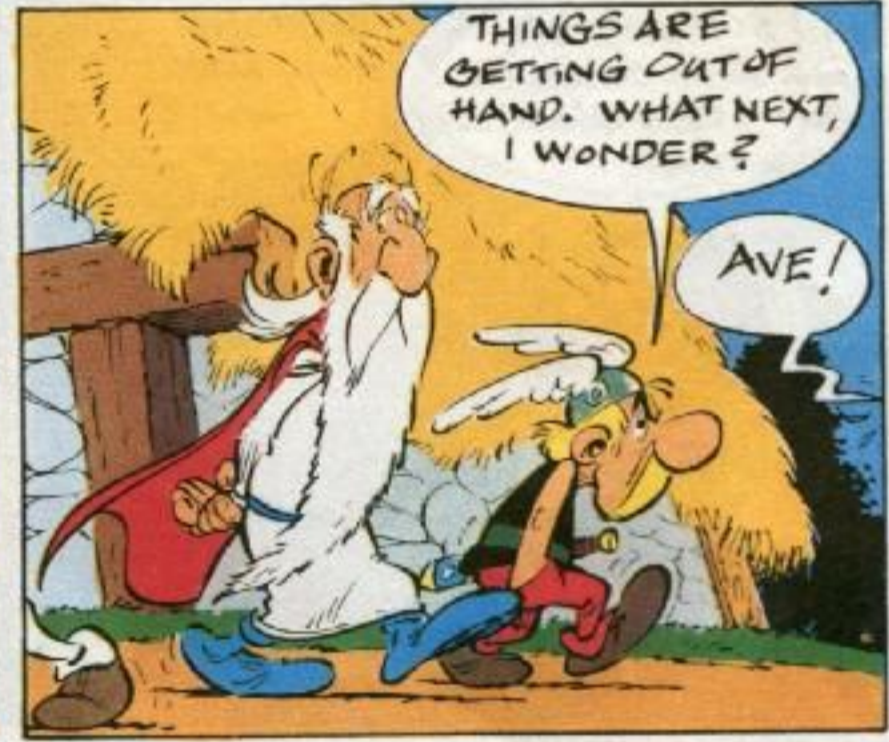


WHAT DO WE  
SEE CONFRONTING  
US? ON THE ONE  
HAND, FOREIGNERS  
TRYING TO TAKE US  
OVER! ON THE OTHER,  
A WEAK, APATHETIC  
CHIEF!



FRIENDS,  
I OFFER MYSELF  
FOR ELECTION!  
AS YOUR CHIEF,  
I SHALL BE  
ENERGETIC!! TOUGH!  
INFLEXI...

GERIATRIX,  
LOVEY, COME ON  
HOME! YOU'LL CATCH  
YOUR DEATH OF COLD!



THINGS ARE  
GETTING OUT OF  
HAND. WHAT NEXT,  
I WONDER?

AVE!

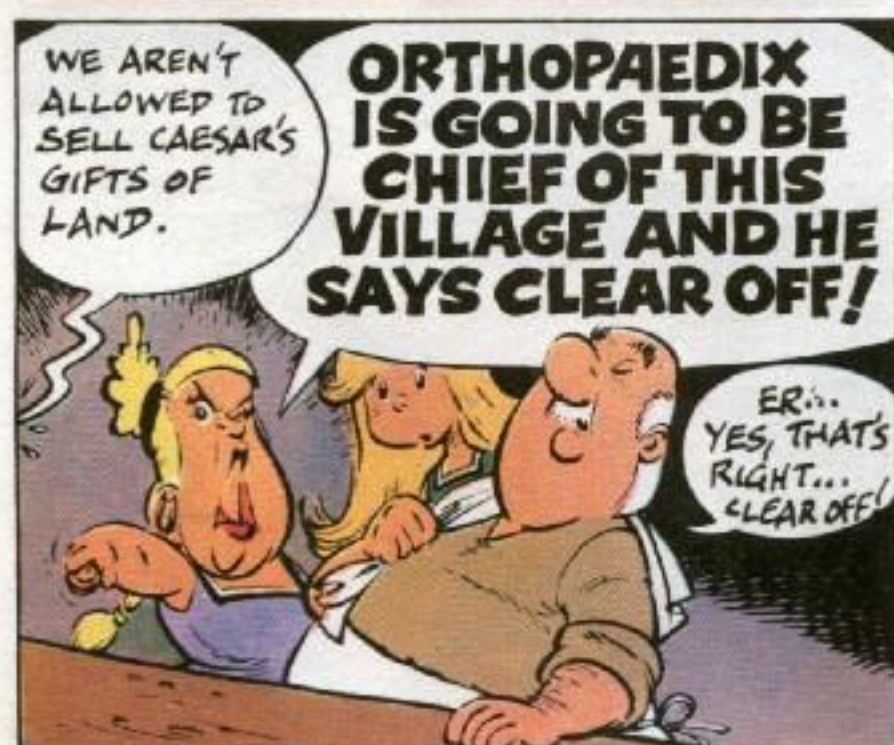
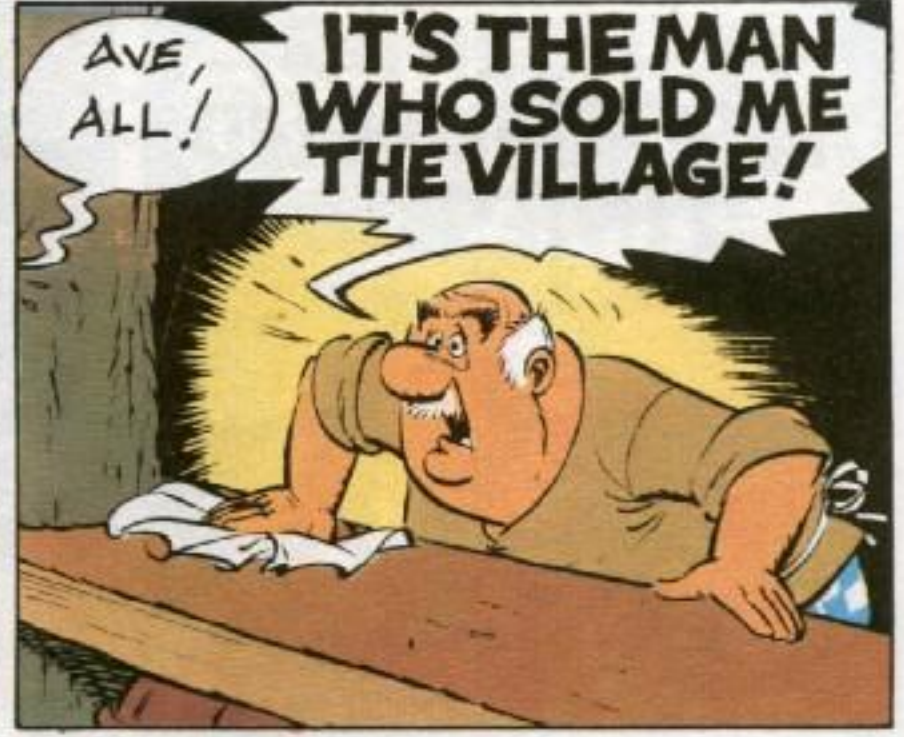


LISTEN, DO YOU  
KNOW ANYONE  
HEREABOUTS WHO  
USED TO KEEP AN  
INN AT ARAUSIO?

ORTHOPAEDIX?  
YES, HE'S LANDLORD  
OF THE PUB OVER  
THERE.



THANKS.

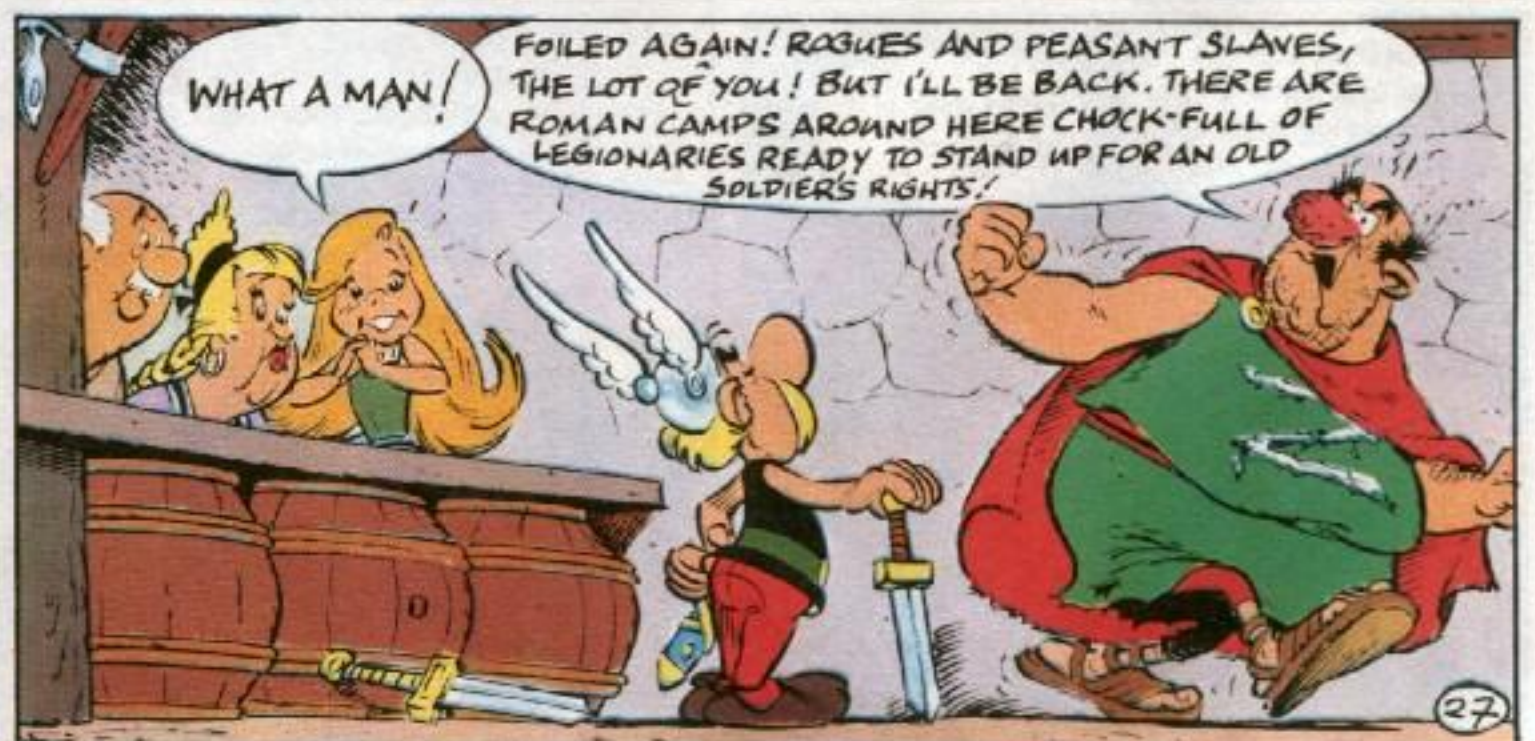
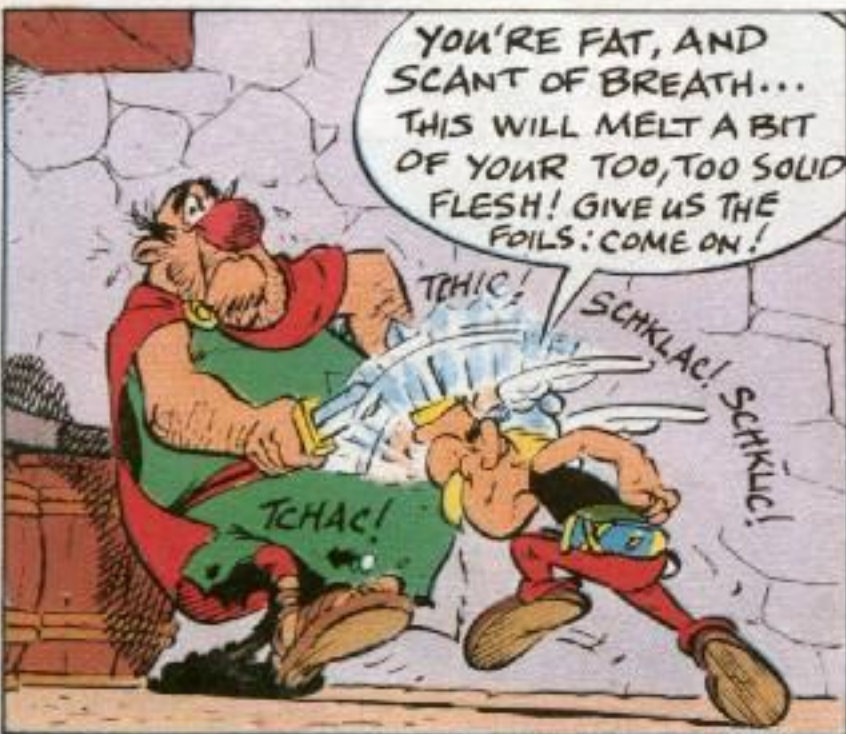


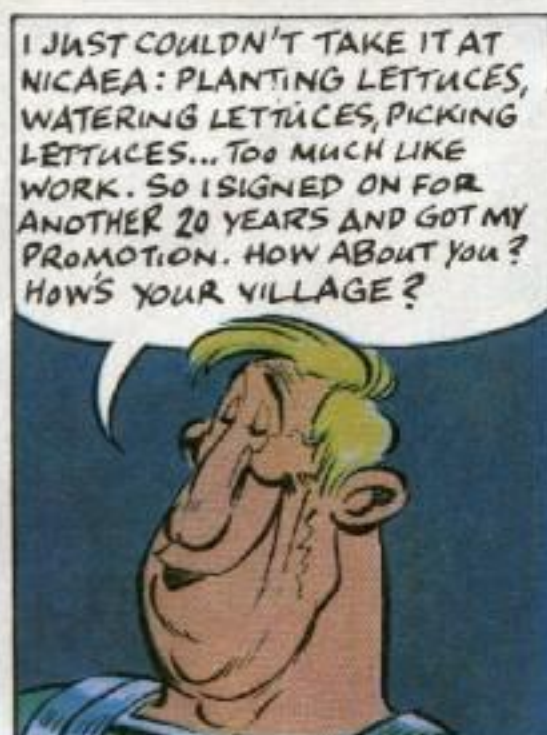
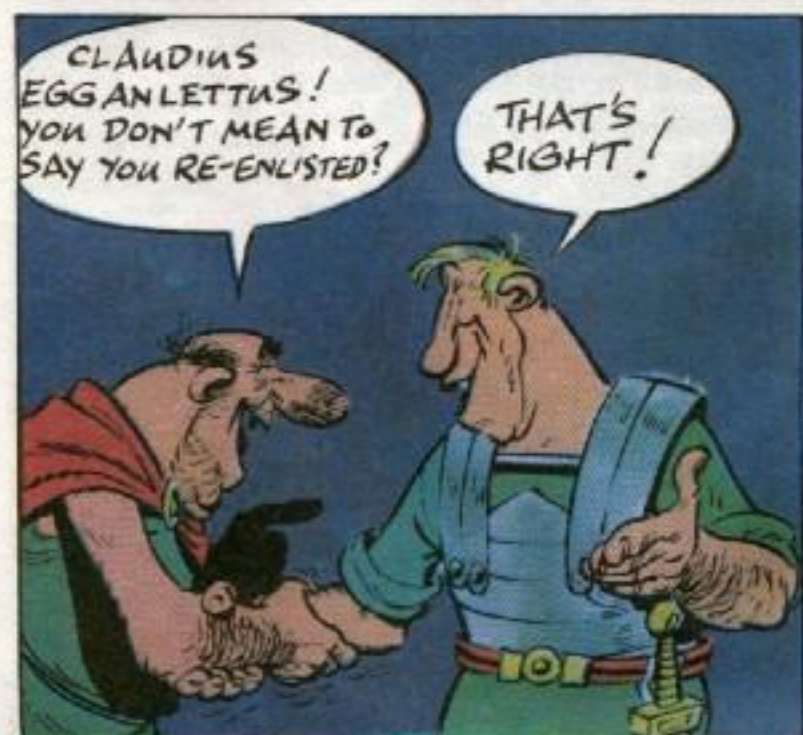


\* FLAMEN: HIGH-RANKING ROMAN PRIEST



SCHKLAC! SCHKLIC!







AVE, CENTURION TONSILLITUS! THERE'S AN OLD SOLDIER HERE TO SEE YOU!

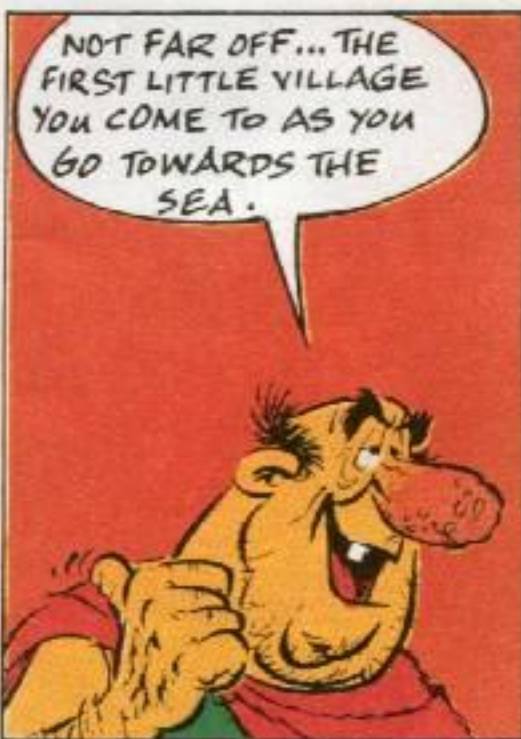
SEND HIM IN!

BONG!



IT'S ABOUT THIS GAUL WHO STOLE THE PLOT OF LAND JULIUS CAESAR GAVE ME WHEN I WAS DEMOBBED.

DISGRACEFUL! WE'LL SOON PUT THAT RIGHT! WHEREABOUTS IS YOUR LAND?



NOT FAR OFF... THE FIRST LITTLE VILLAGE YOU COME TO AS YOU GO TOWARDS THE SEA.

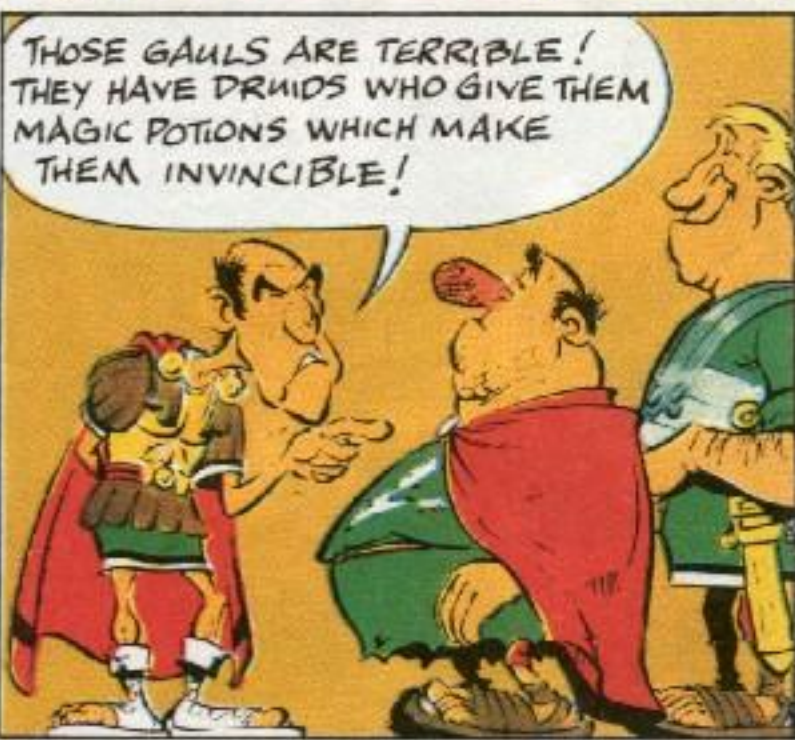


**WHAT? THE VILLAGE FULL OF MADMEN? CAESAR GAVE YOU THAT VILLAGE FULL OF MADMEN?!**



THAT'S RIGHT; I WAS THERE.

WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION, OPTIO, I'LL ASK FOR IT!



THOSE GAULS ARE TERRIBLE! THEY HAVE DRUIDS WHO GIVE THEM MAGIC POTIONS WHICH MAKE THEM INVINCIBLE!



YOU'D BETTER FORGET THE WHOLE THING... WHY NOT RE-ENLIST LIKE THIS OTHER IDIO... LIKE YOUR FRIEND HERE?

NO! I WANT MY VILLAGE!



CAESAR WOULDN'T LIKE TO THINK OF GAULS GETTING THE BENEFIT OF THE GIFTS HE GIVES HIS OLD SOLDIERS.

THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN I TELL HIM, HE WON'T LIKE IT ONE LITTLE BIT!



OH, ALL RIGHT. WE'LL GET READY... LUCKILY I'VE JUST GOT SOME NEW SECRET WEAPONS IN.

THANKS, CENTURION!

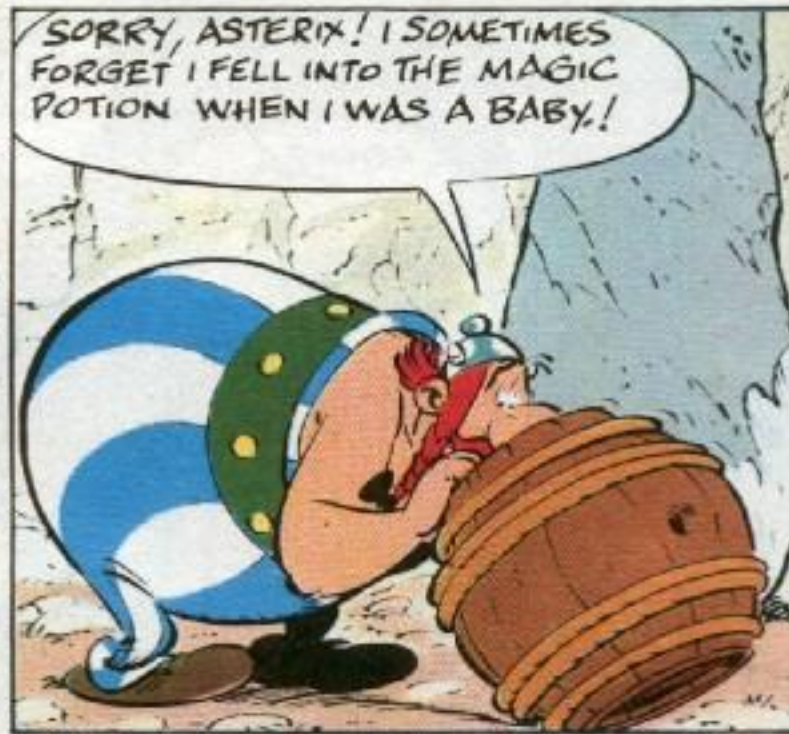


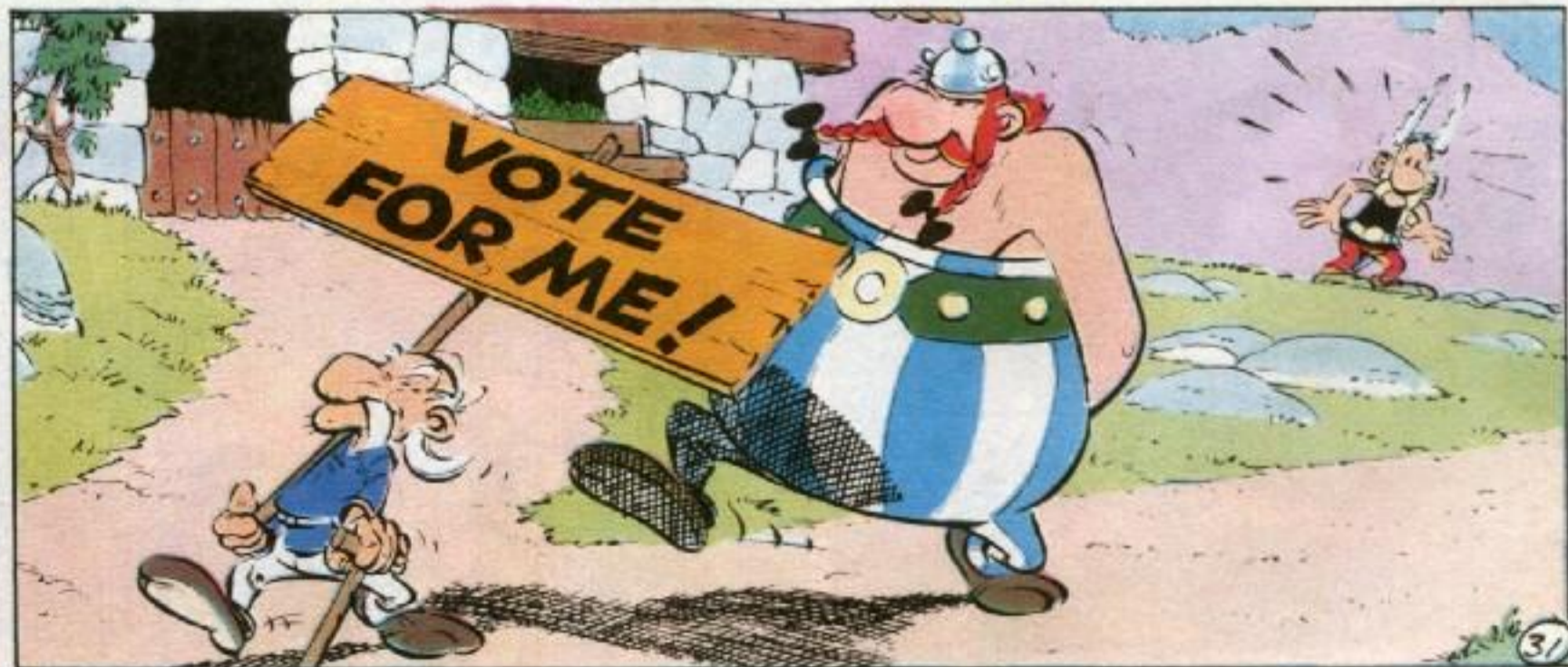
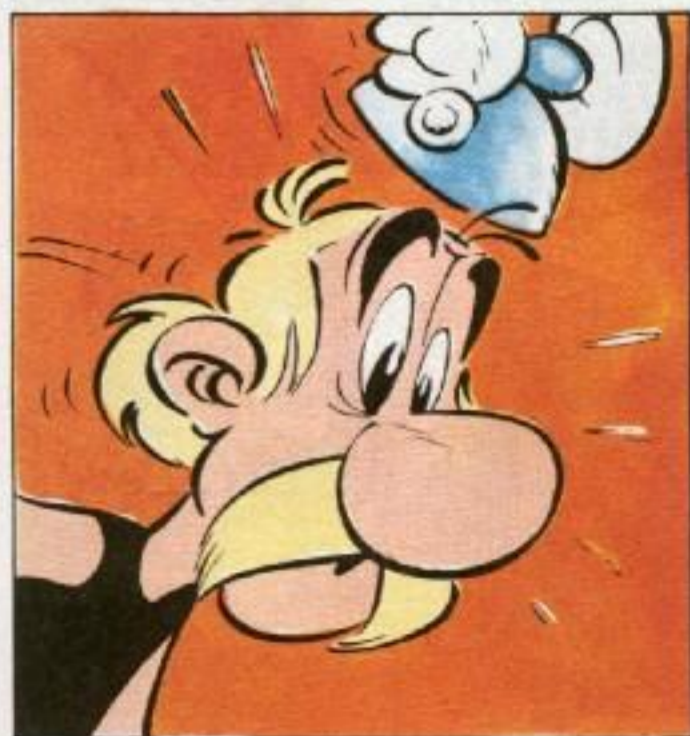
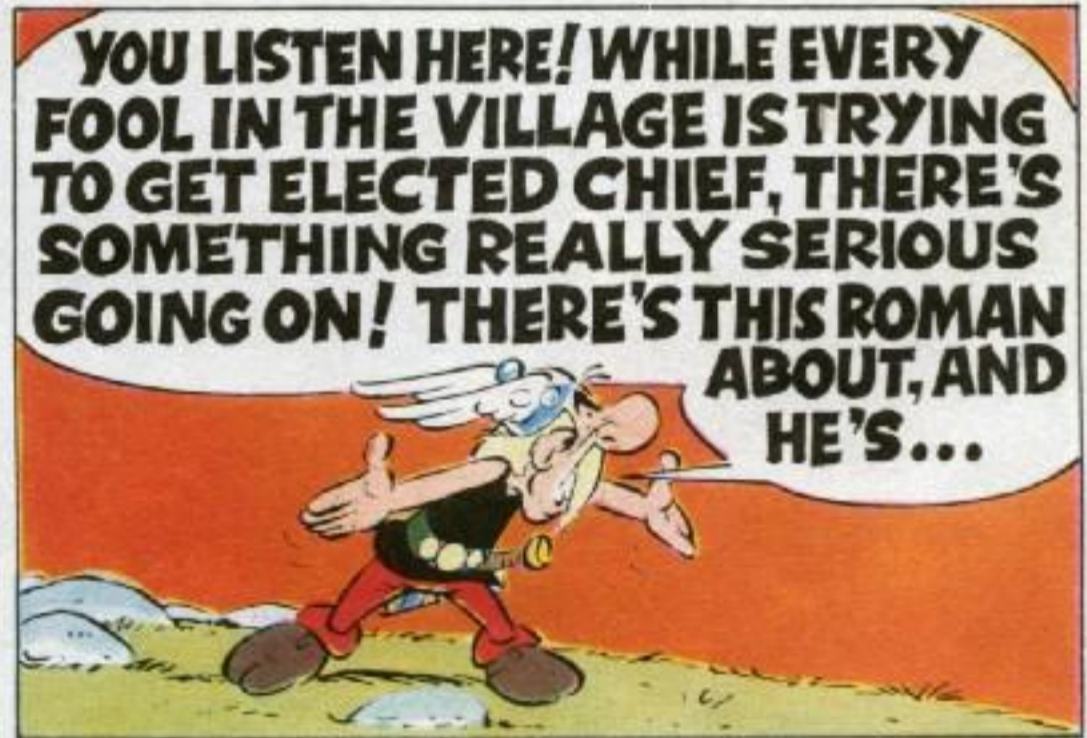
OH, AND BY THE WAY, OPTIO...

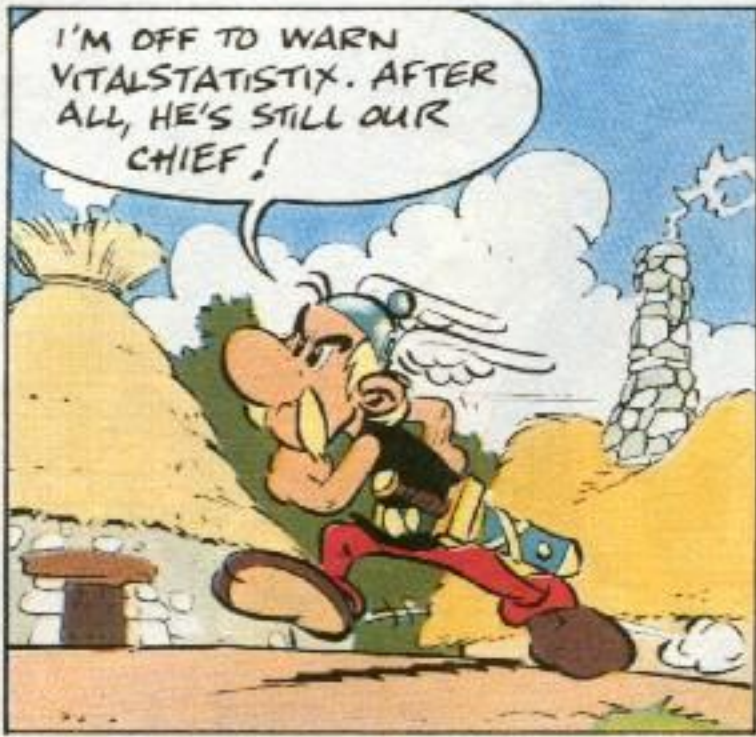
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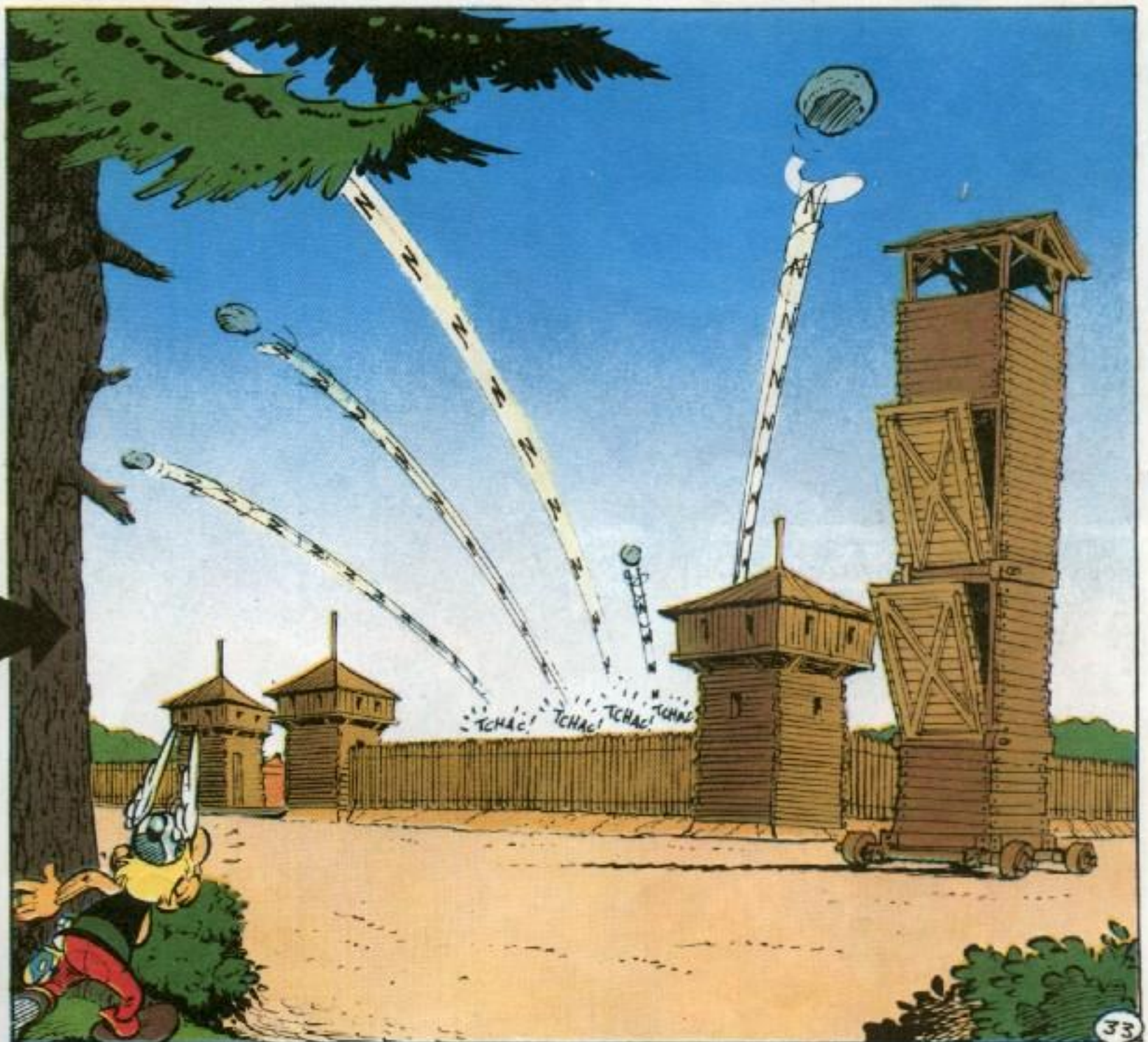
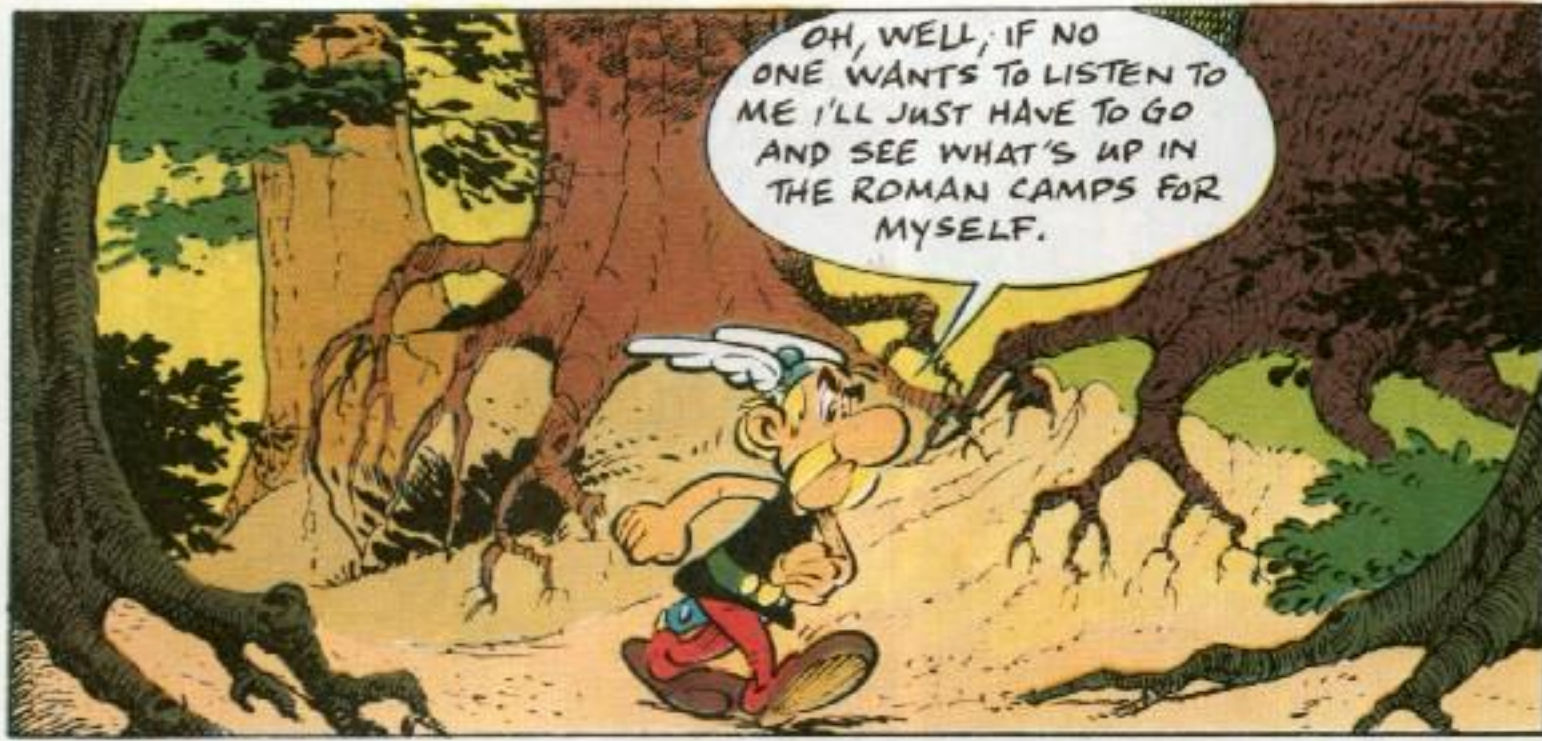


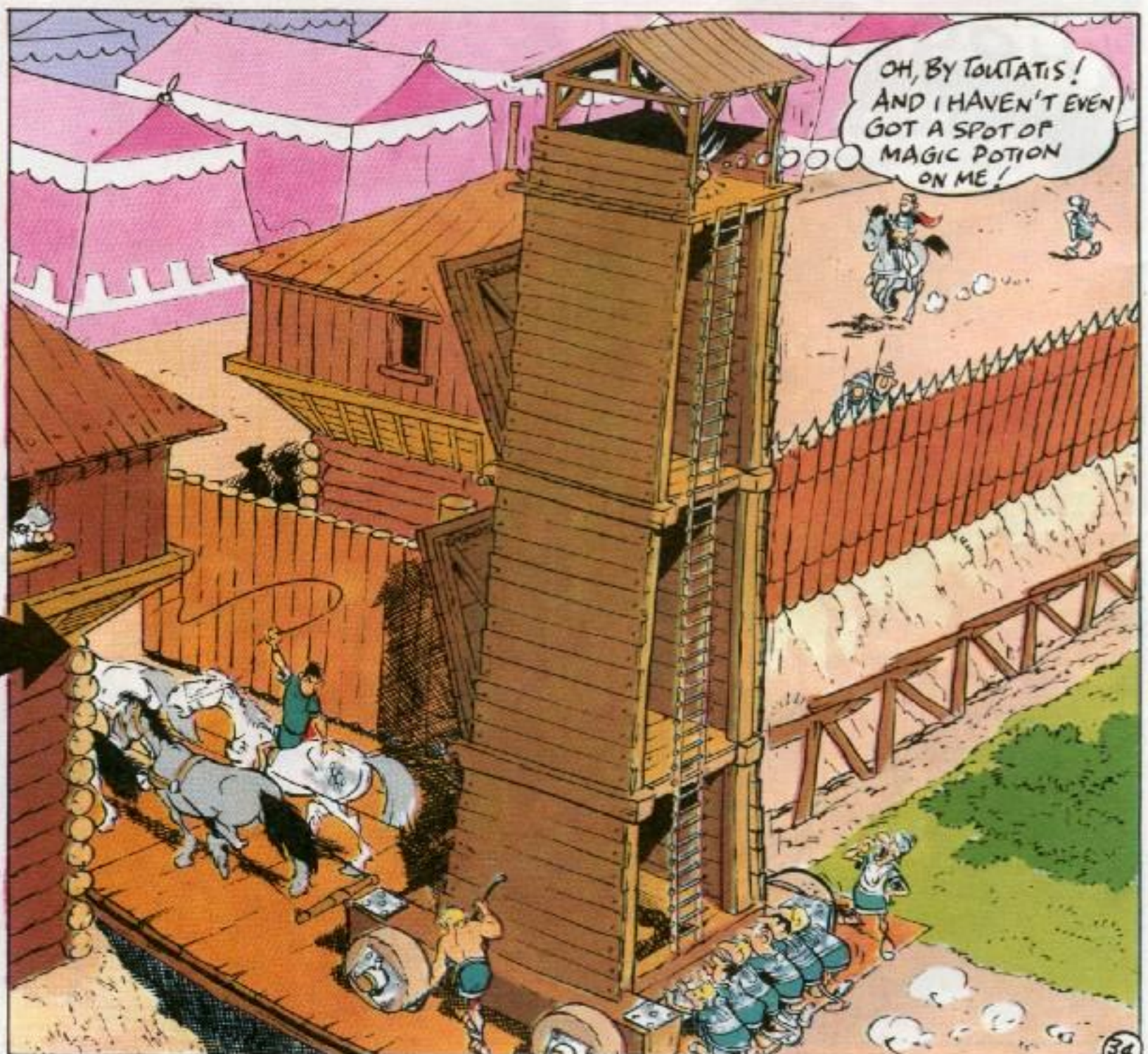
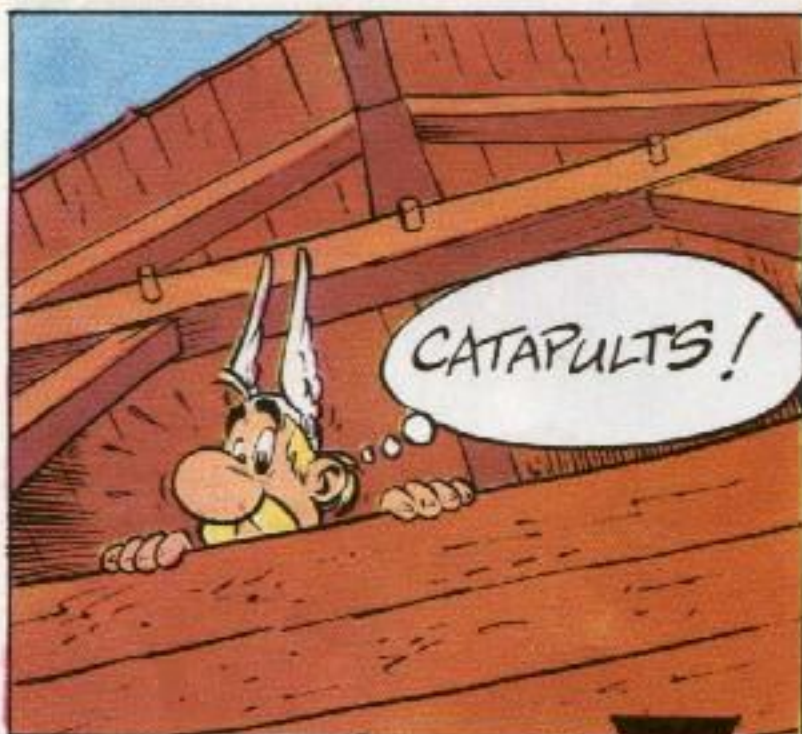
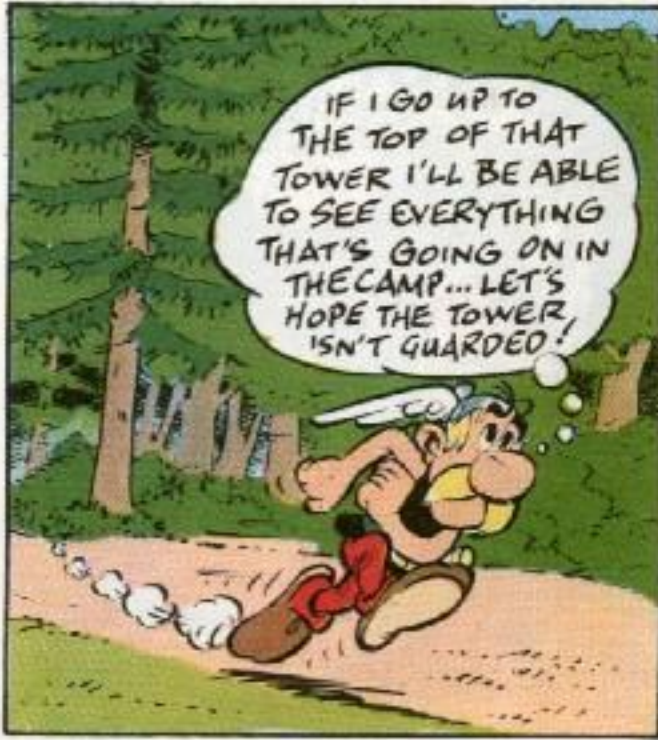
YOU'RE NOT AN OPTIO ANY MORE, YOU'RE DEMOTED TO LEGIONARY, SECOND CLASS.

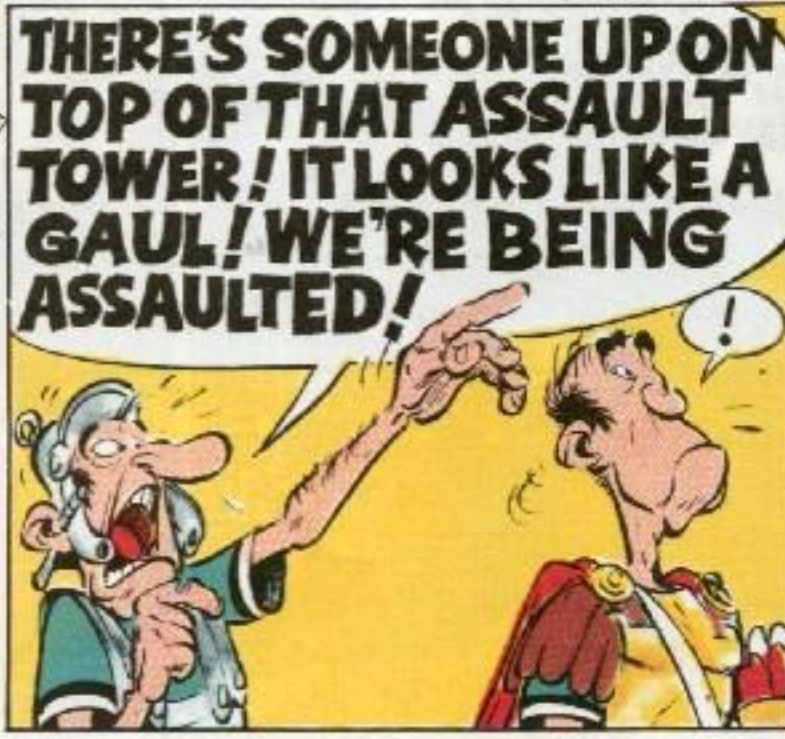












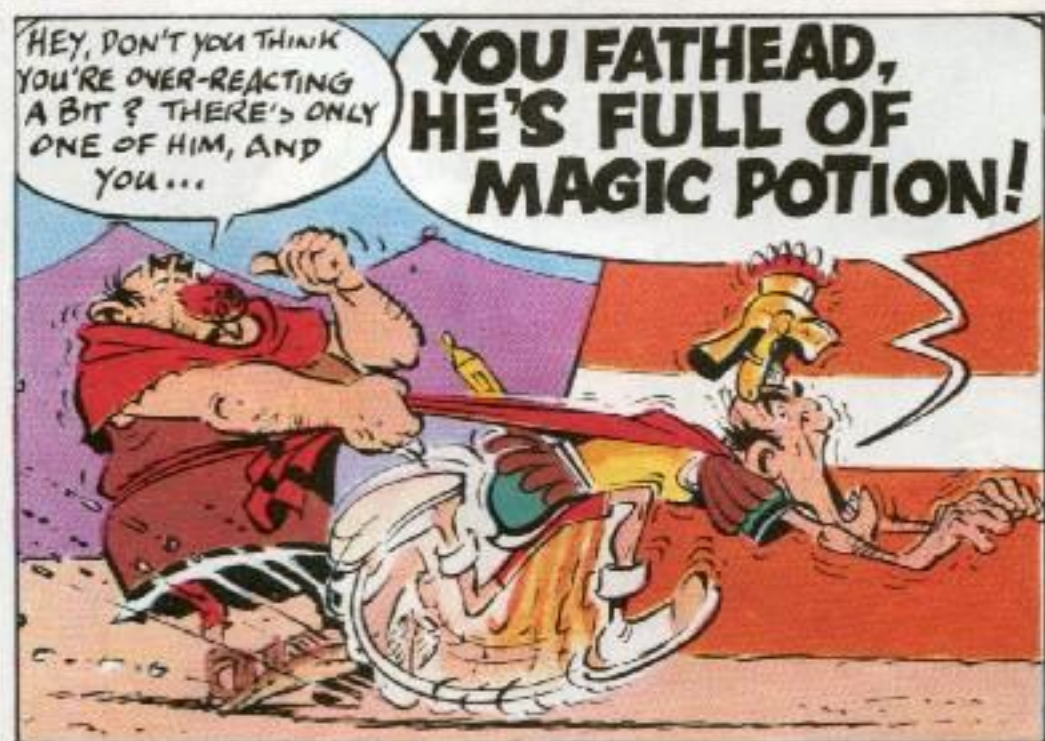
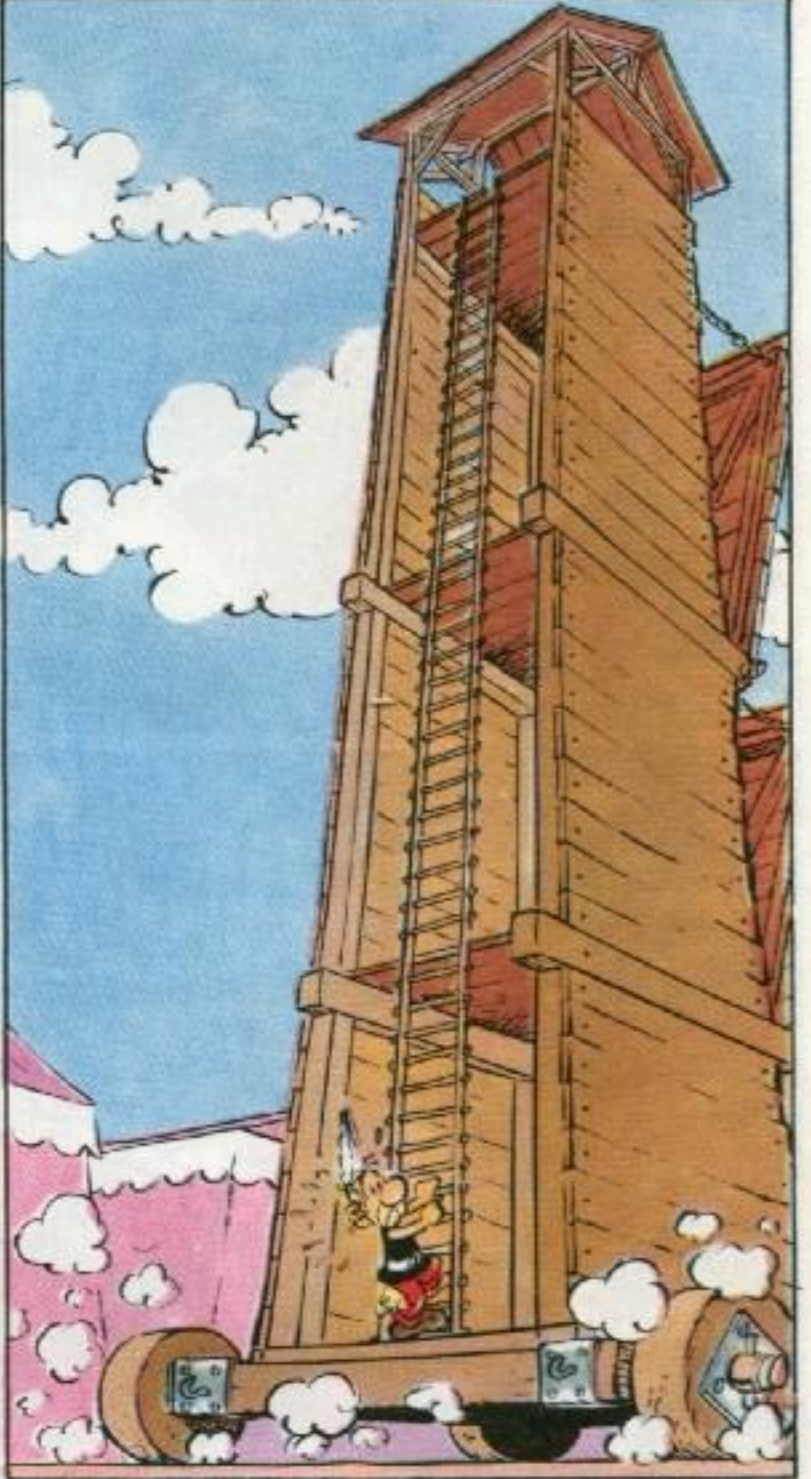
CALM DOWN! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO HOLD OUT FOR A LONG, LONG SIEGE!!!



IF YOU SAY SO.



I KNOW HIM! HE'S ONE OF THOSE GAULS WHO KEEP KNOCKING BACK THE MAGIC POTION!



YOU FATHEAD, HE'S FULL OF MAGIC POTION!

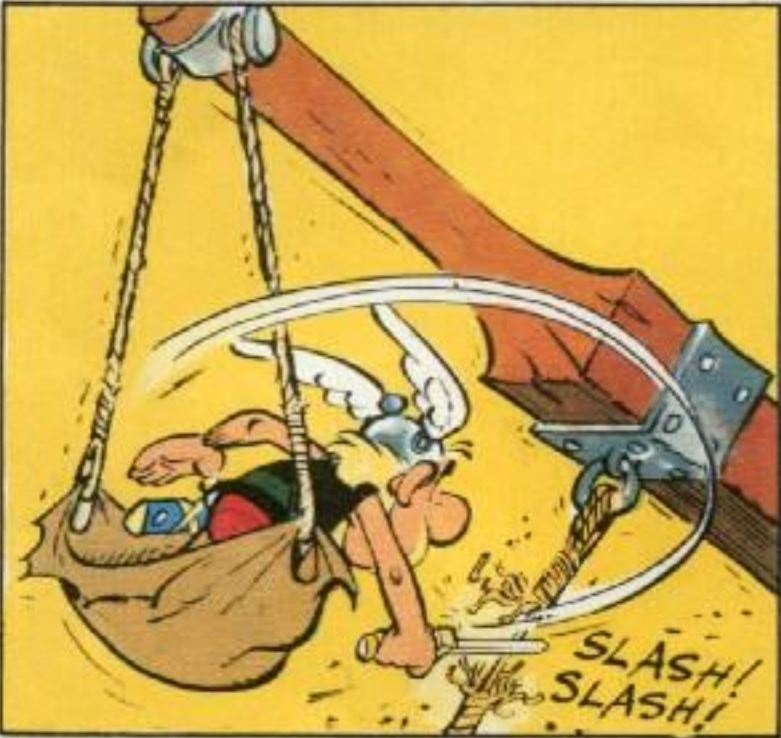


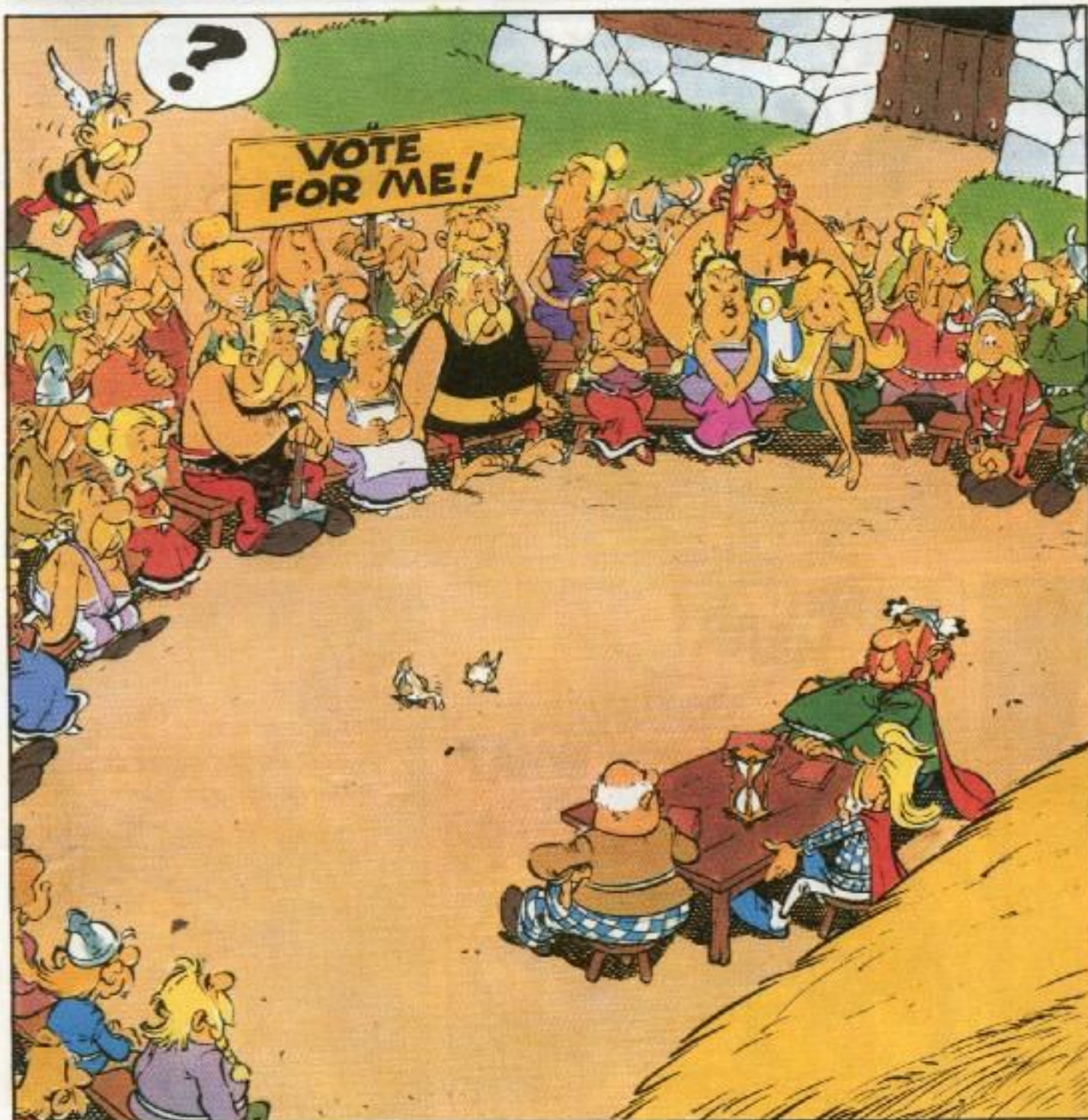
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS CAMP BEFORE THEY NOTICE ANYTHING FUNNY...



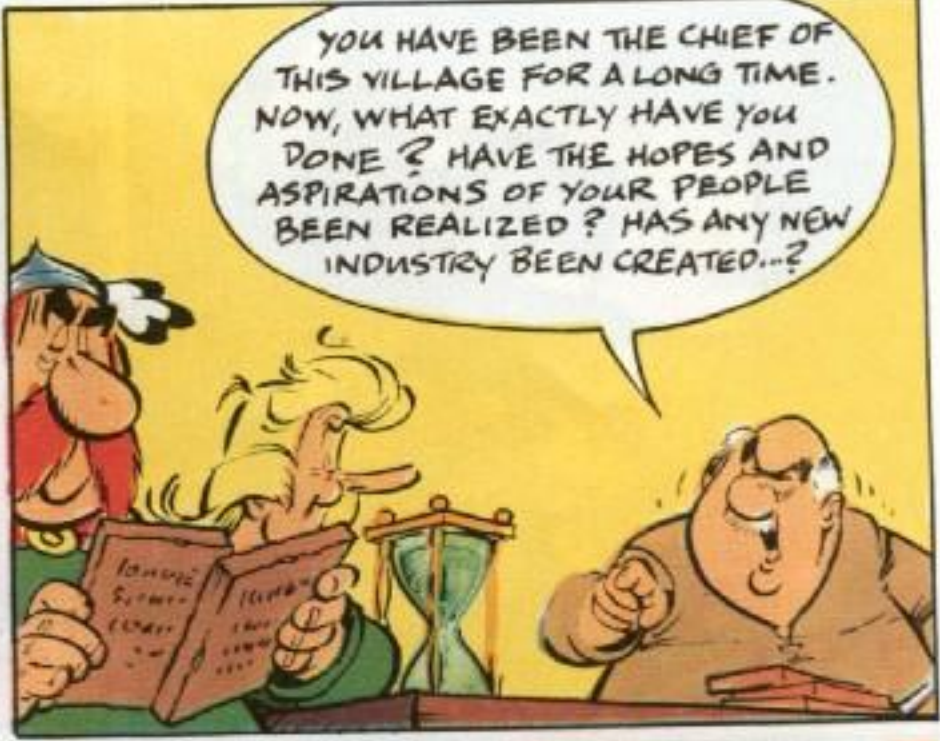
LOOK... LOOK, HE'S RUNNING! AND IF HE'S RUNNING FOR IT, THAT MEANS HE ISN'T FULL OF MAGIC POTION AFTER ALL!

CHAAAARGE!

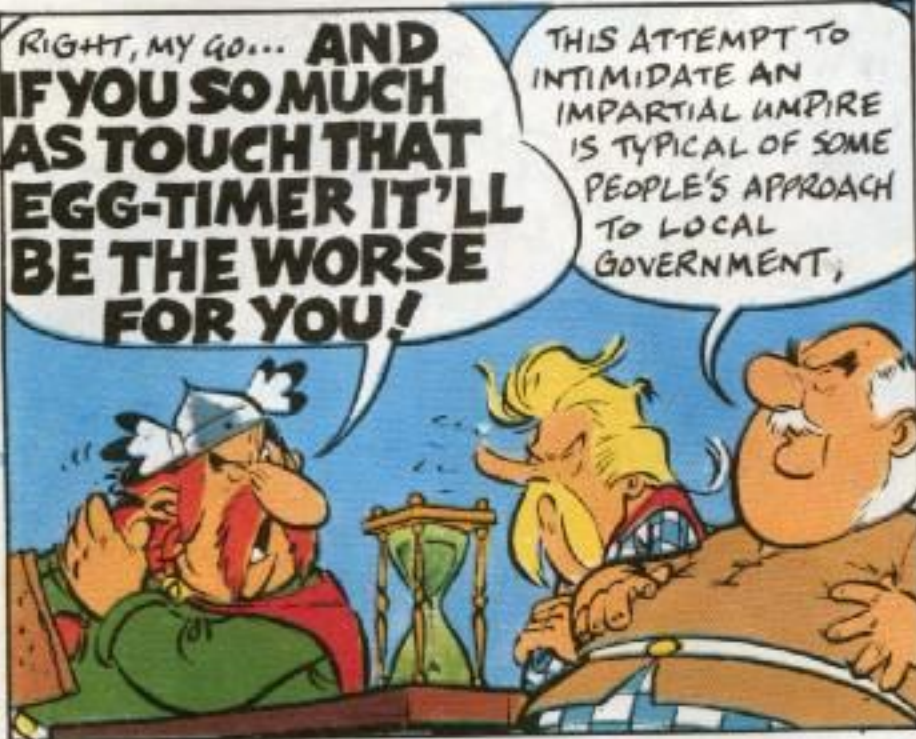




**WILL YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME? THE ROMANS... SILENCE! SSH! SIT DOWN! SHUT UP!**



YOU HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF OF THIS VILLAGE FOR A LONG TIME. NOW, WHAT EXACTLY HAVE YOU DONE? HAVE THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUR PEOPLE BEEN REALIZED? HAS ANY NEW INDUSTRY BEEN CREATED...?



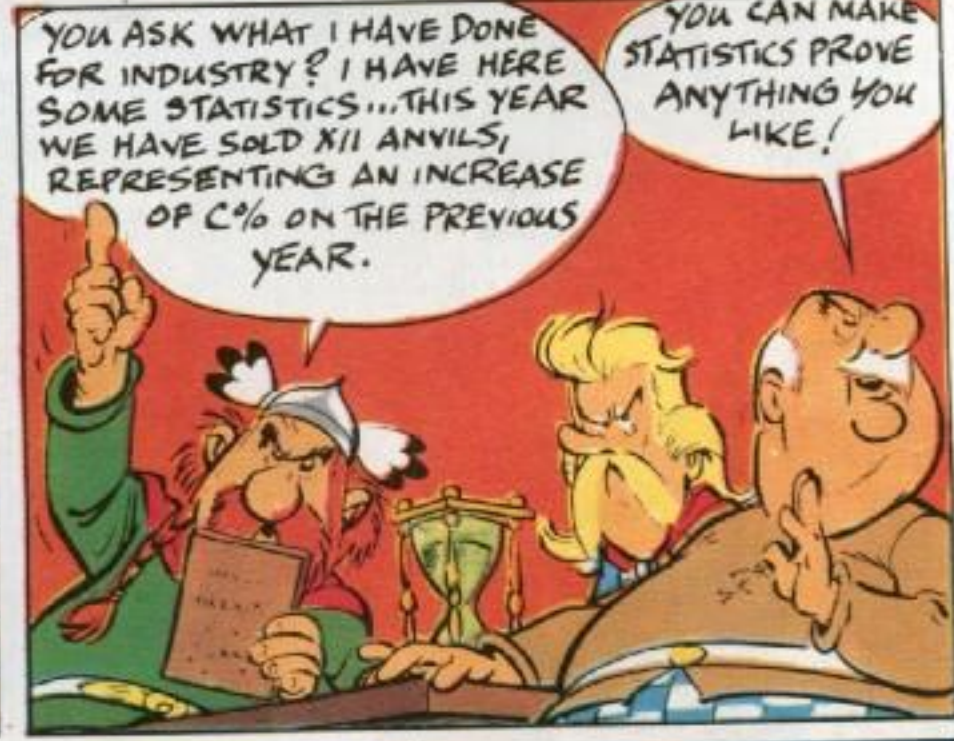
RIGHT, MY GO... AND IF YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH THAT EGG-TIMER IT'LL BE THE WORSE FOR YOU!

THIS ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE AN IMPARTIAL UMPIRE IS TYPICAL OF SOME PEOPLE'S APPROACH TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT,



**A HIT, A VERY PALPABLE HIT!**

A LITTLE DIGNITY, IF YOU PLEASE!



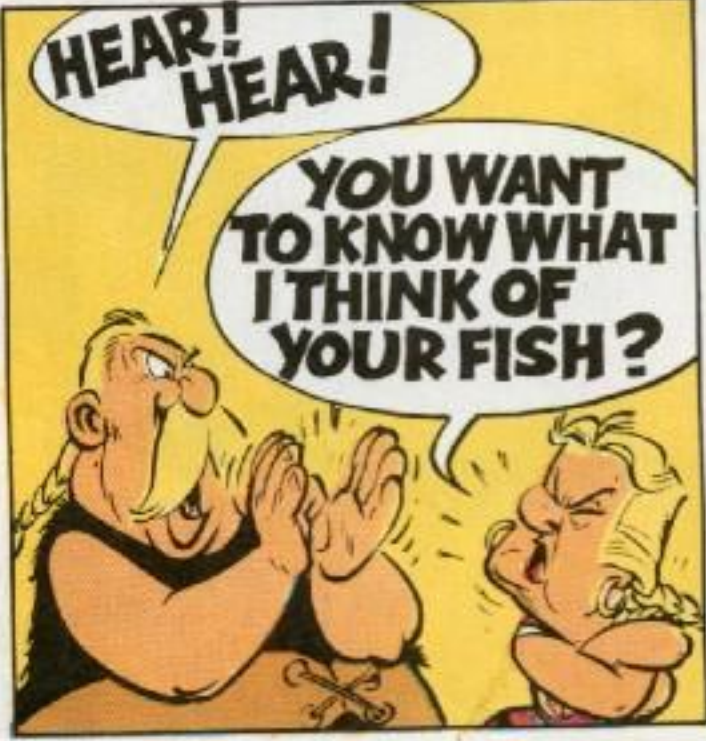
YOU ASK WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR INDUSTRY? I HAVE HERE SOME STATISTICS... THIS YEAR WE HAVE SOLD XII ANVILS, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF C% ON THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

YOU CAN MAKE STATISTICS PROVE ANYTHING YOU LIKE!



AND HOW ABOUT BUSINESS? BUSINESS IS ROTTEN! TAKE THE FISH TRADE, FOR INSTANCE...

OH, LET'S BE SERIOUS!



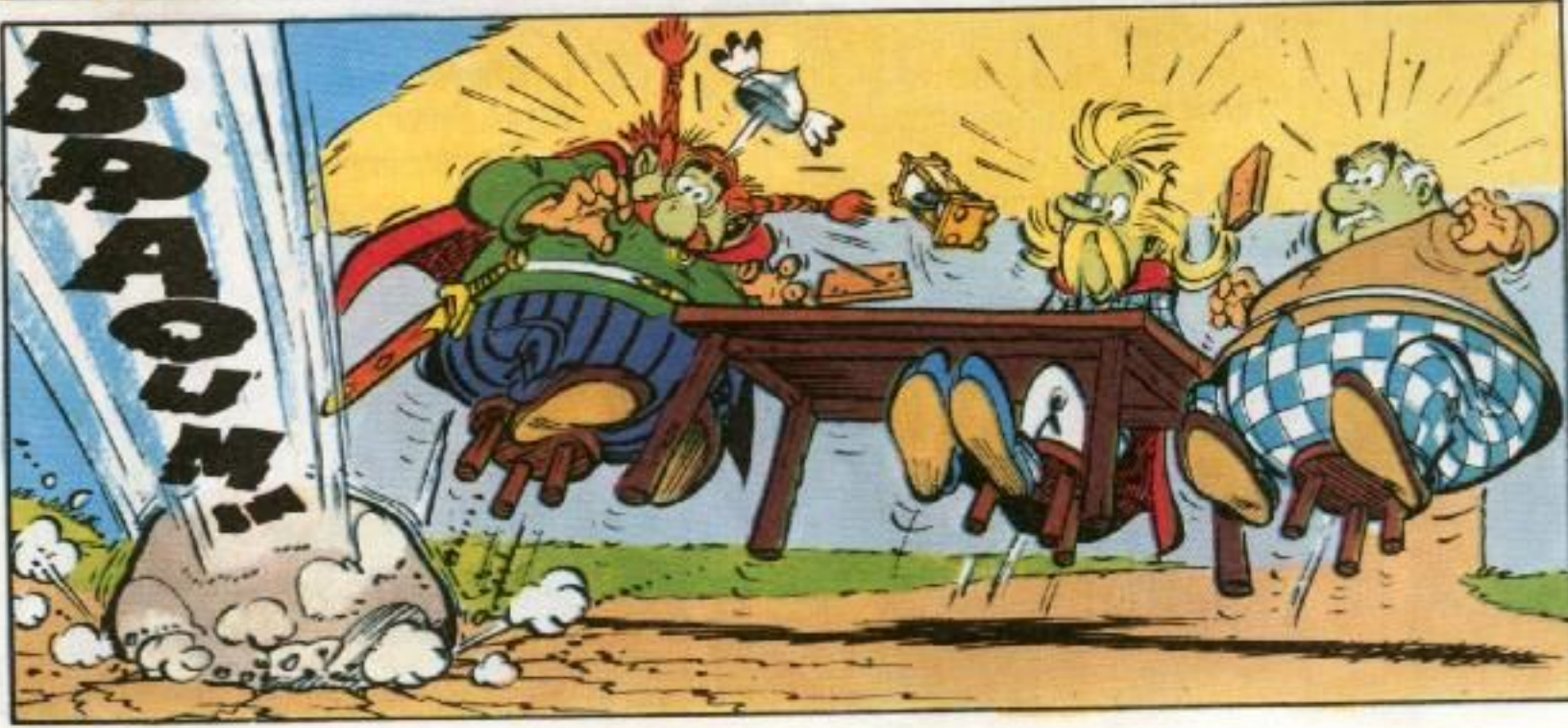
**HEAR! HEAR!**

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FISH?

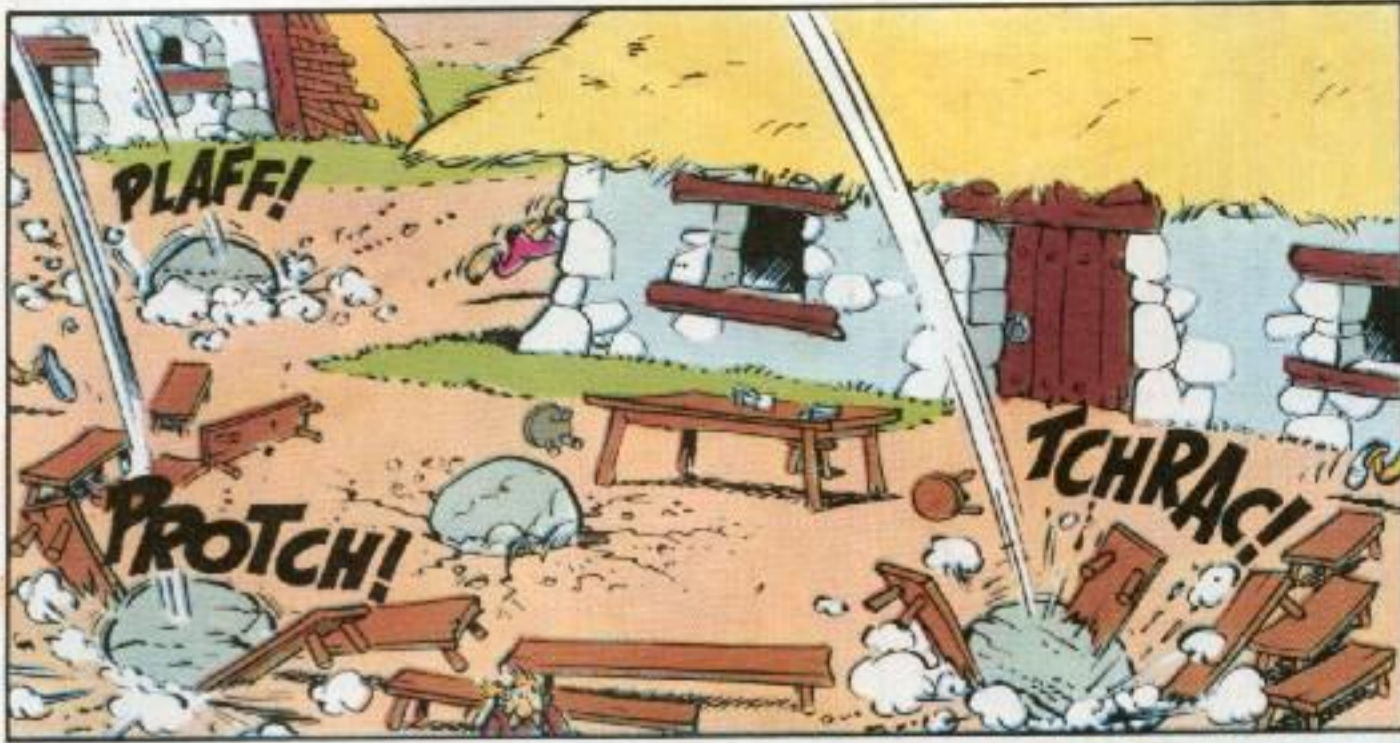


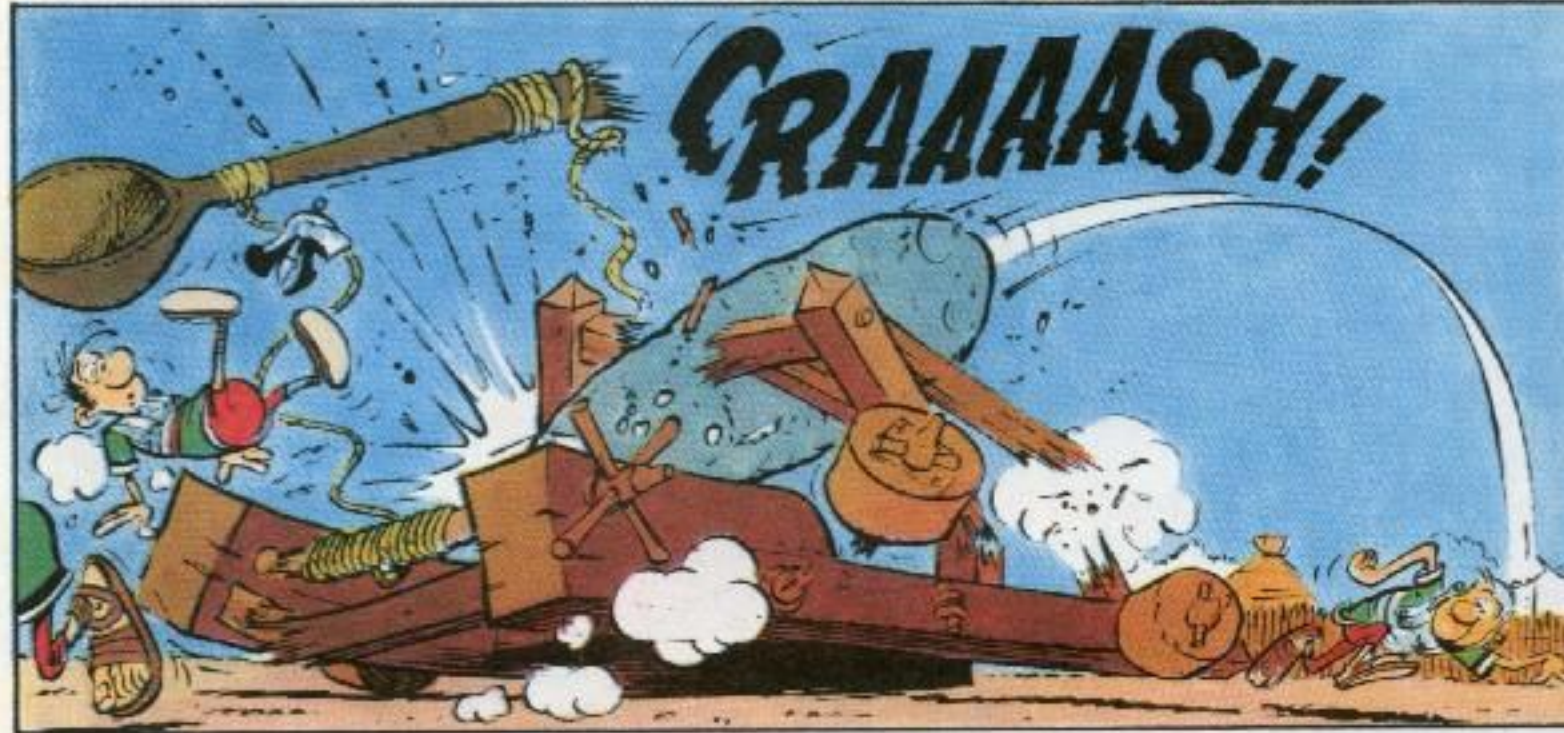
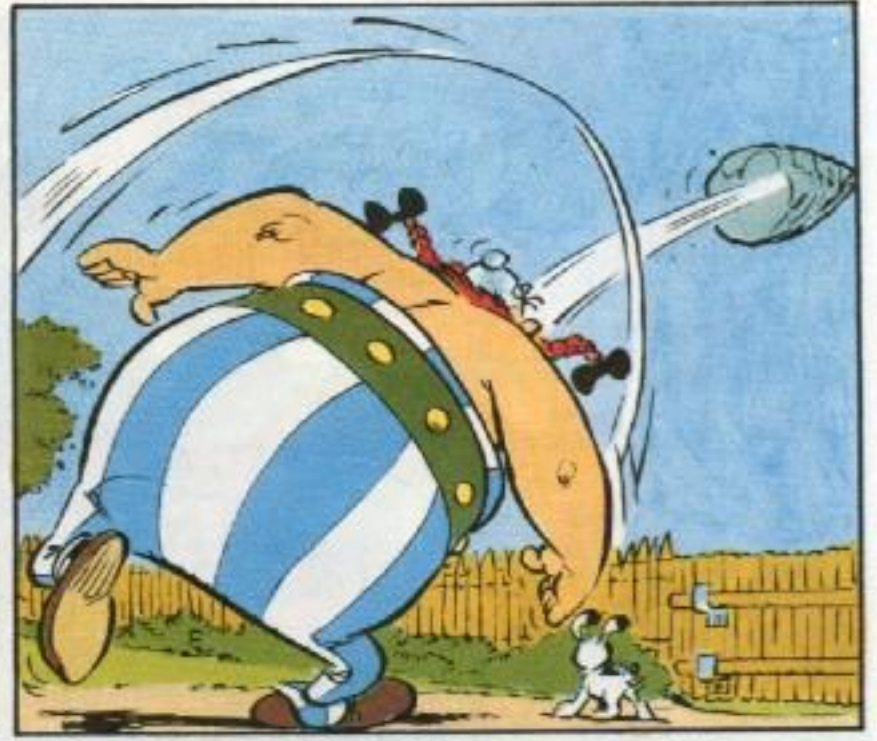
**WOOOOSH**

OH, CHUCK IT! PEDIMENTA! DON'T LETS CAST THE FIRST STONE!



**MADAM, YOU GO TOO FAR!**







**DOGMATIX!  
YOOHOO!**



MEANWHILE ...  
**IT'S READY,  
LADS!**



**AND...**

**CRAAAAASH!**

**VOTE  
FOR ME!**

**SANG!  
SANG!**

**DOGMATIX!  
HERE!**

**BUT WE KEEP  
TELLING YOU HE  
ISN'T HERE!**

**REVERSE,  
YOU FOOL!  
REVERSE!**

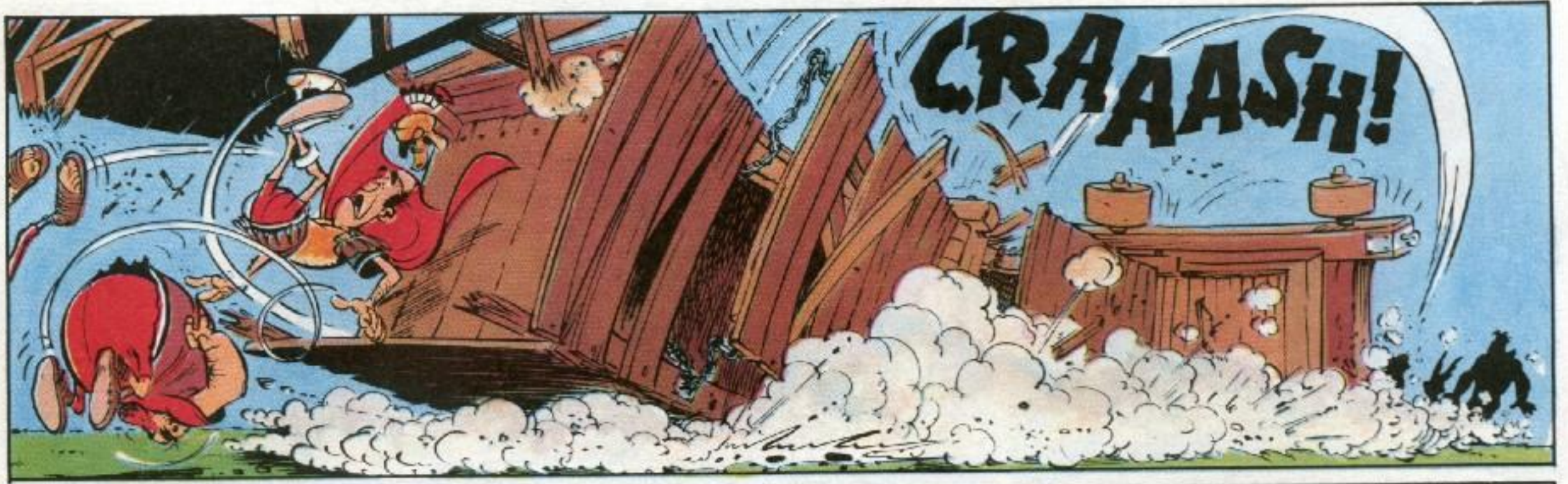


**HEY, THERE'S  
SOME OF THEM UP  
ON THAT TOWER.  
SHALL WE GO  
UP?**

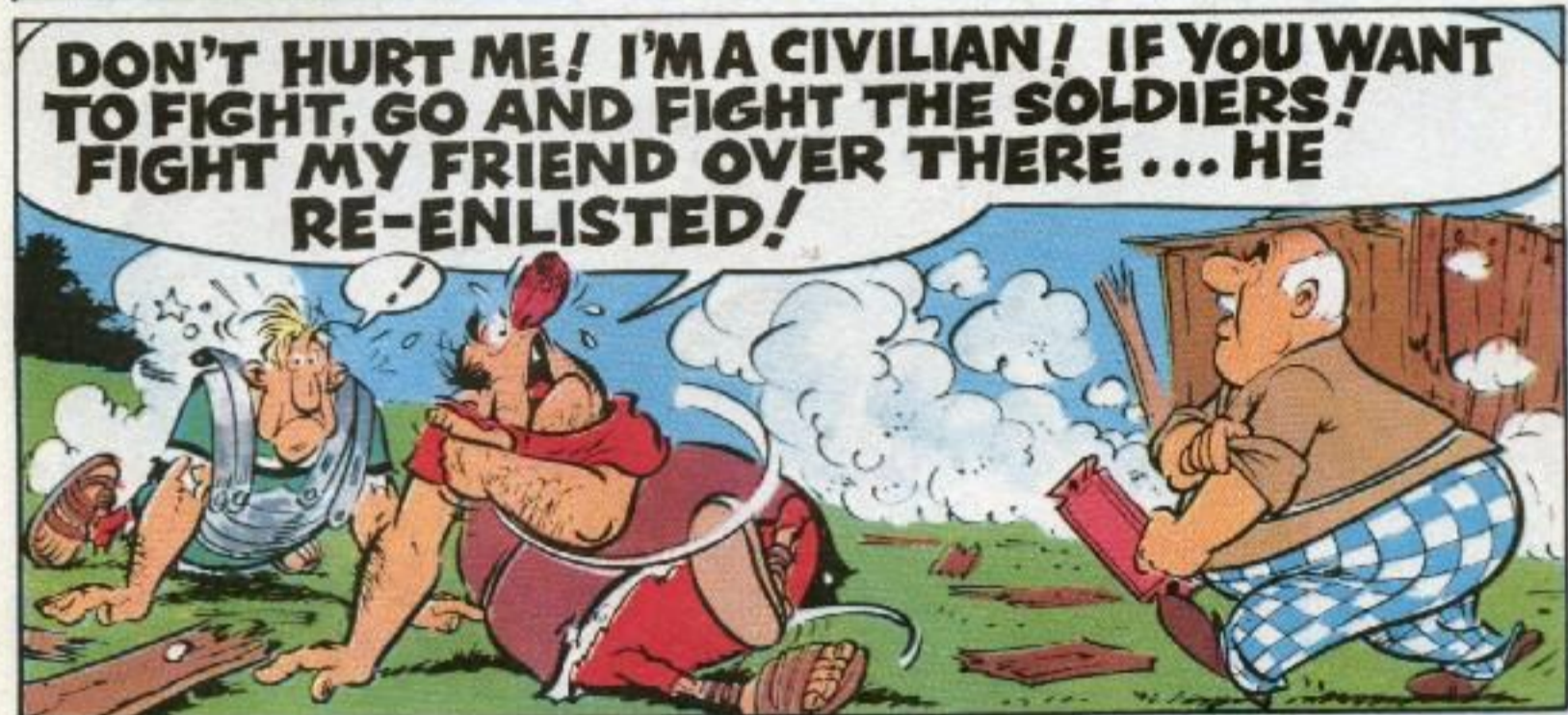
**NO, LET'S GET  
THEM DOWN!**



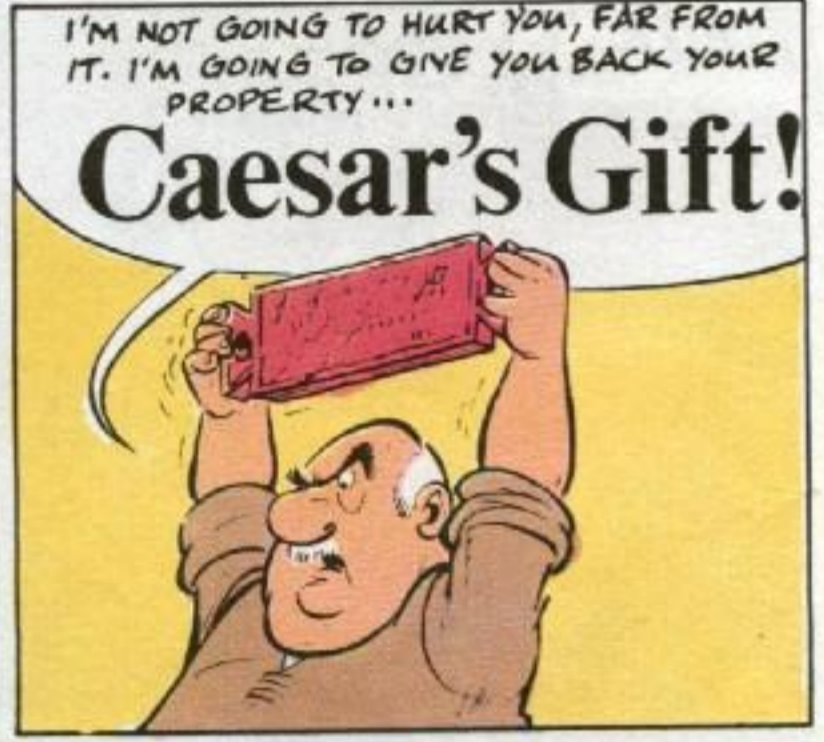
**LET ME DOWN!  
I TELL YOU, LET ME  
DOOOOWWN!**



**CRAAASH!**

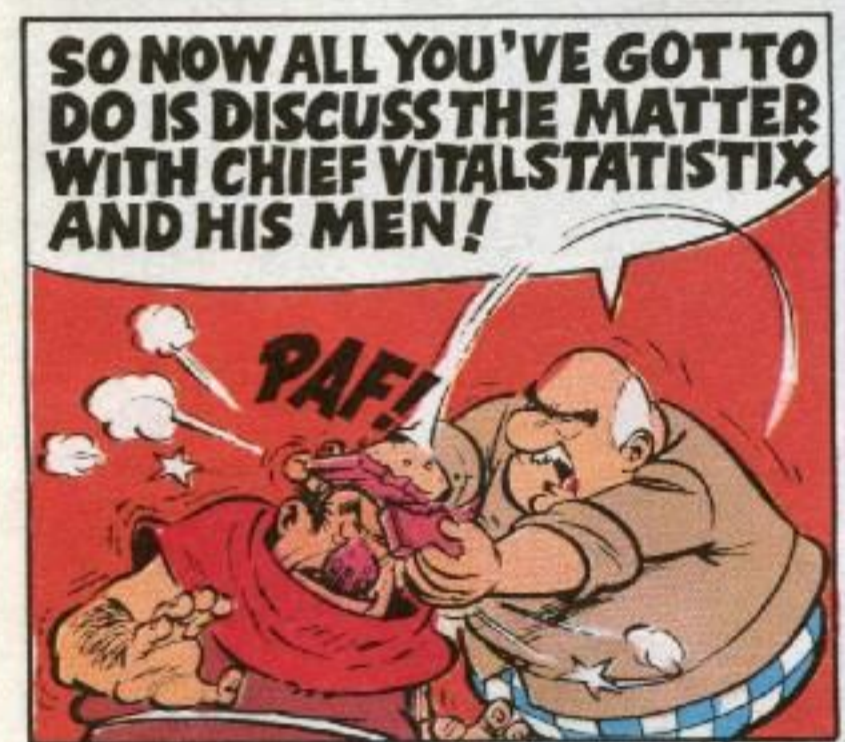


**DON'T HURT ME! I'M A CIVILIAN! IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT, GO AND FIGHT THE SOLDIERS! FIGHT MY FRIEND OVER THERE ... HE RE-ENLISTED!**



I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU, FAR FROM IT. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR PROPERTY...

**Caesar's Gift!**



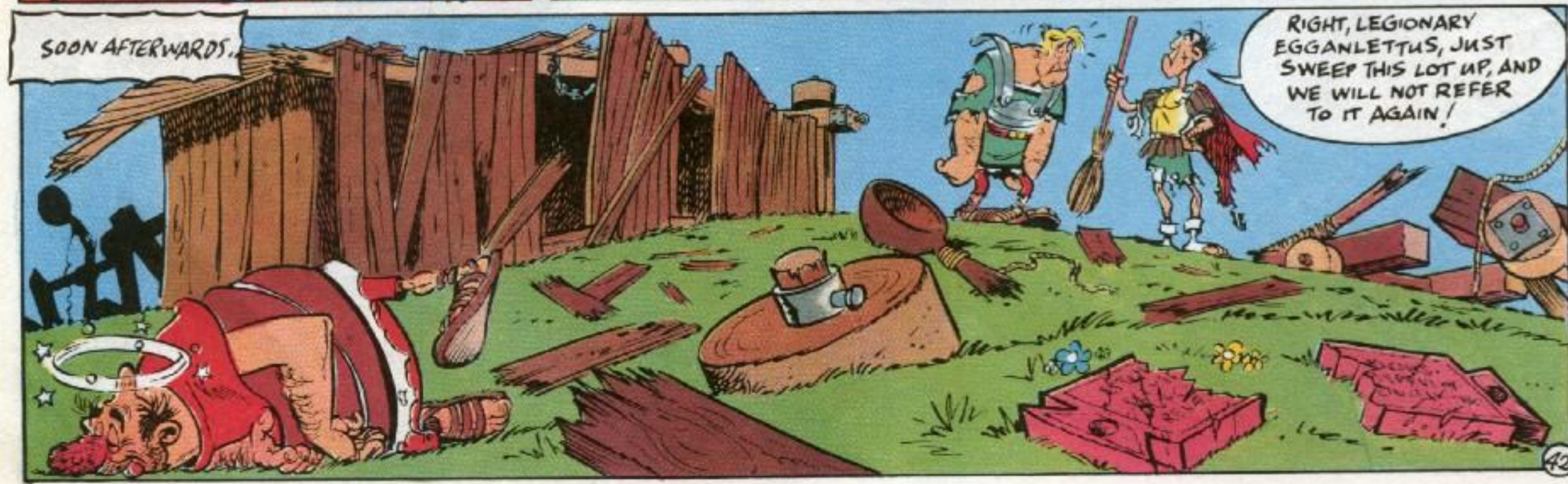
**SO NOW ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX AND HIS MEN!**

**PAF!**



HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! YOU WOULDN'T DO A THING LIKE THAT TO AN OLD FRIEND, WOULD YOU?

COME ON, LET'S GO HOME!



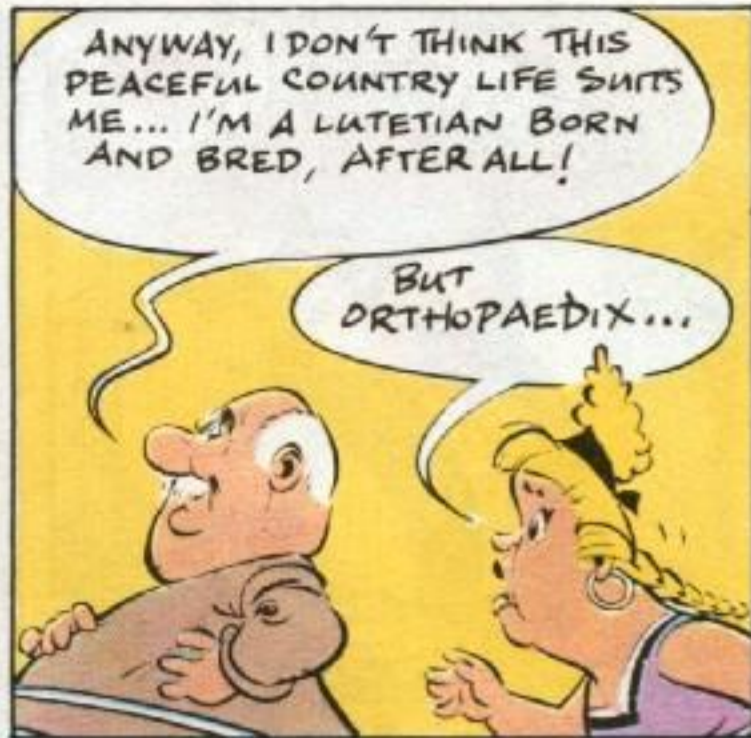
SOON AFTERWARDS...

RIGHT, LEGIONARY EGGANLETTUS, JUST SWEEP THIS LOT UP, AND WE WILL NOT REFER TO IT AGAIN!



I THINK YOU'LL MAKE THE VILLAGE A REALLY GOOD CHIEF...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE CHIEF AT ALL!



ANYWAY, I DON'T THINK THIS PEACEFUL COUNTRY LIFE SUITS ME... I'M A LUTETIAN BORN AND BRED, AFTER ALL!

BUT ORTHOPAEDIX...



**SILENCE! I SAID WE'RE GOING BACK TO LUTETIA! THAT WAS WHAT YOU WANTED WASN'T IT?**

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL THAT GREAT FLABBY LUMP DITHYRAMBIX ALL ABOUT THIS!

OH, GOODY, DAD!



WELL THEN, LET'S HAVE A PARTY!



COME ALONG, ANGINA, I'LL SHOW YOU OUR LOCAL RECIPE FOR BOAR.

DOWN SOUTH WHERE WE LIVED THEY ADD A LOT OF HERBS... I BROUGHT SOME WITH ME. THEY REALLY DO BRING OUT THE FLAVOUR.



YOU LIKE LUTETIA, DO YOU, ANGINA?

OH YES, IMPEDIMENTA, AND MY SISTER LIVES THERE TOO.



FANCY THAT! I'VE GOT A BROTHER IN LUTETIA, MY DEAR!

OH, YOU REALLY MUST GIVE ME HIS ADDRESS, MY DEAR!



WHAT ABOUT ME, THEN?



OH, BOTHER!



IN FACT, EVERYONE IS FRIENDS AGAIN. UNDER THE STARRY SKY, ALL PARTIES ARE RE-UNITED AROUND THE TABLE. ALL PARTIES... FOR WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THIS HAPPENED VERY LONG AGO, ABOUT 50 BC, AND IN THOSE DAYS SUCH MATTERS WERE NOT SO VERY IMPORTANT...



UNDER 20 GO PUNNY

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