

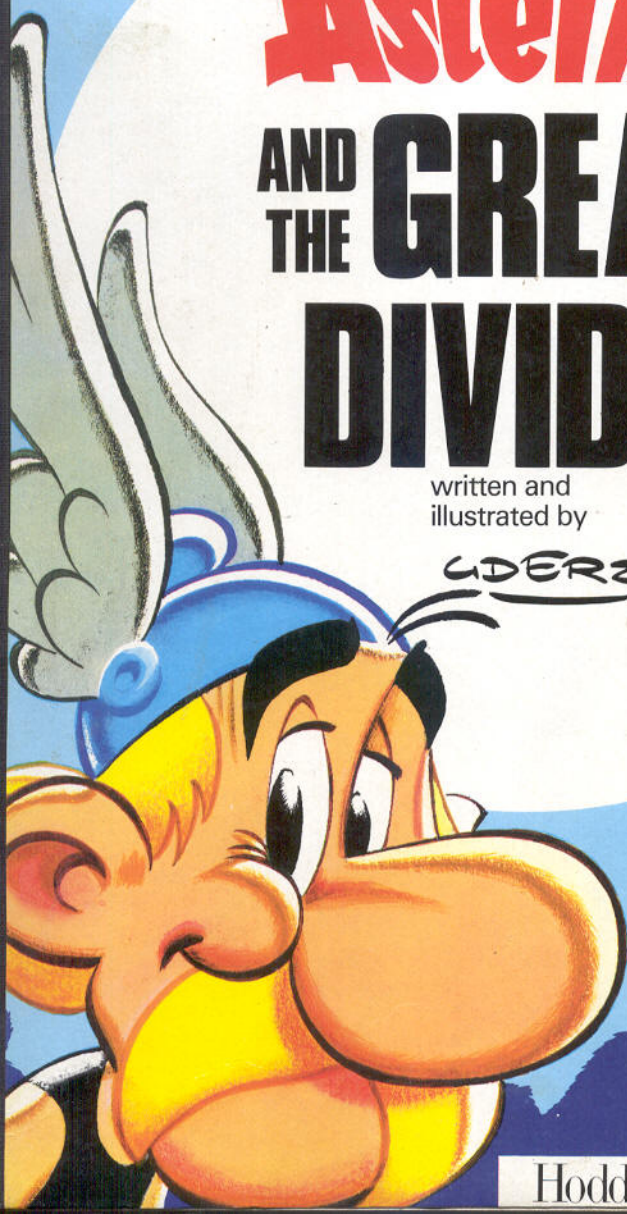
R. GOSCINNY - A. UDERZO

Asterix

AND THE GREAT DIVIDE

written and illustrated by

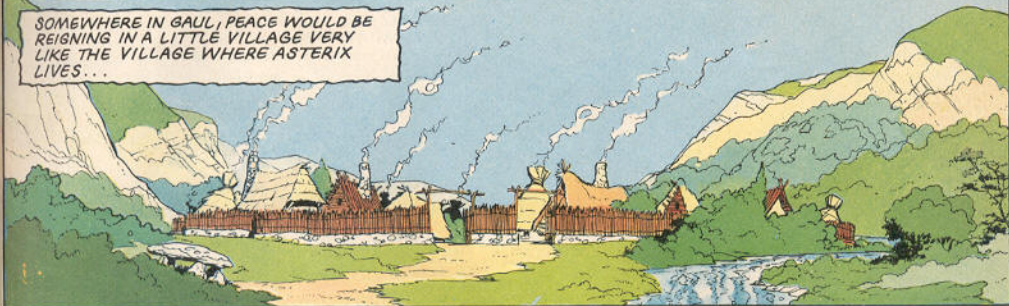
UDERZO



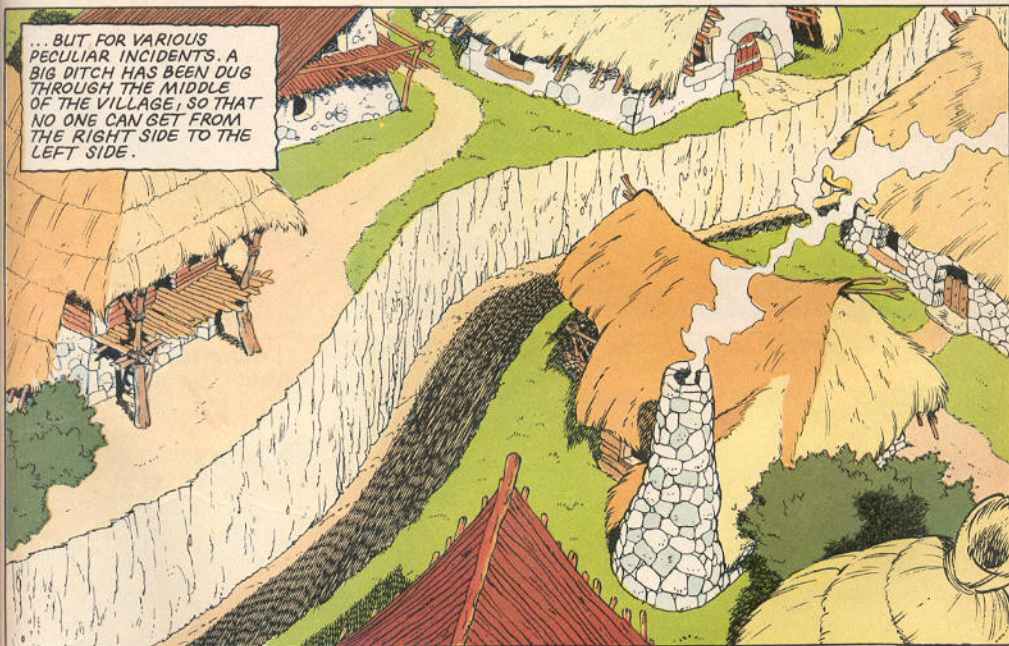
Hodder & Stoughton



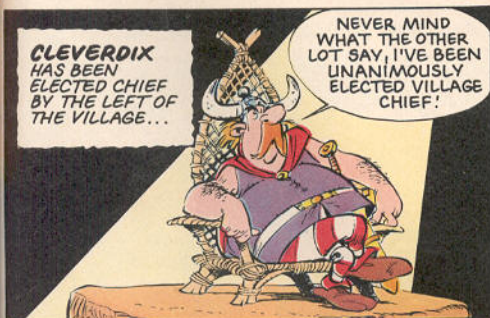
SOMEWHERE IN GAUL, PEACE WOULD BE REIGNING IN A LITTLE VILLAGE VERY LIKE THE VILLAGE WHERE ASTERIX LIVES...



... BUT FOR VARIOUS PECULIAR INCIDENTS. A BIG DITCH HAS BEEN DUG THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE, SO THAT NO ONE CAN GET FROM THE RIGHT SIDE TO THE LEFT SIDE.

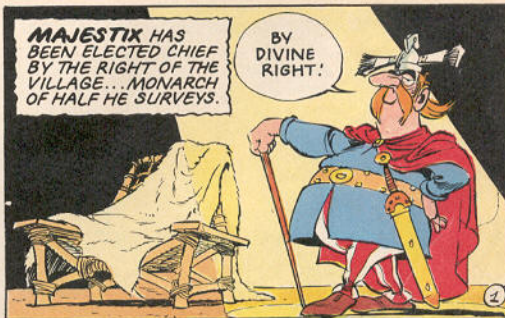


CLEVERDIX
HAS BEEN ELECTED CHIEF BY THE LEFT OF THE VILLAGE...



NEVER MIND WHAT THE OTHER LOT SAY, I'VE BEEN UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED VILLAGE CHIEF!

MAJESTIX HAS BEEN ELECTED CHIEF BY THE RIGHT OF THE VILLAGE... MONARCH OF HALF HE SURVEYS.



BY DIVINE RIGHT!

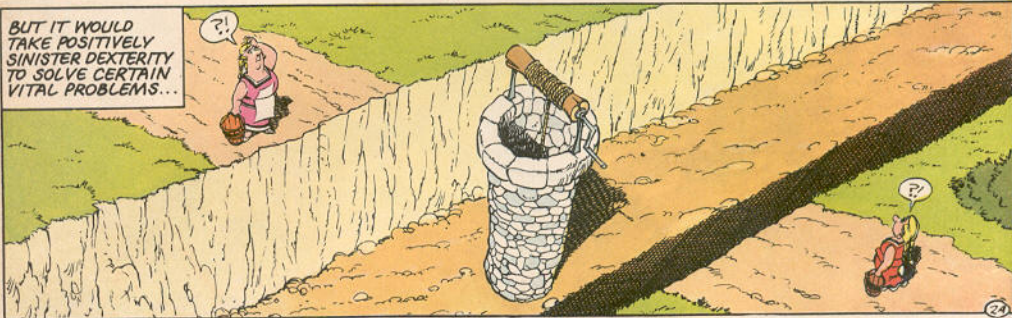
VARIOUS ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION...



AND THE VILLAGERS OF THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ARE EVER READY TO EXPRESS THEIR MUTUAL ANTAGONISM.



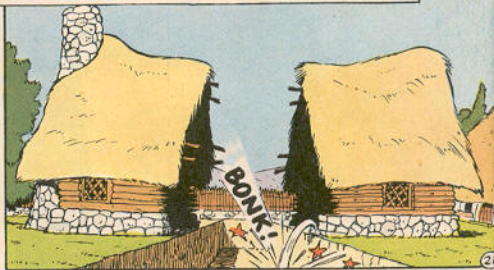
BUT IT WOULD TAKE POSITIVELY SINISTER DEXTERITY TO SOLVE CERTAIN VITAL PROBLEMS...



... AND ONLY THE CHILDREN ARE ANY BETTER OFF FOR THE RIFT.



SOME OF THE VILLAGERS, HAVING OPTED FOR NEUTRALITY, FIND THAT IT HAS ITS DISADVANTAGES.



IN CHIEF CLEVERDIX'S HUT...



LOOK HERE, FATHER, THIS CAN'T GO ON! THAT DITCH DIVIDING US IS A DISGRACE TO THE VILLAGE!

IS THAT MY FAULT, HISTRIONIX, MY BOY? THAT TRAITOR MAJESTIX SANK TO BRIBING SOME OF THE VOTERS!



HE AND HIS HENCHMAN, THE UNSPEAKABLE CODFIX, HAD THE NERVE TO GET VOTES FROM VILLAGERS WHO WERE ONLY BABES IN ARMS!



WELL, AT THIS RATE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF GAULS AREN'T GOING TO THINK MUCH OF THEIR ANCESTORS!



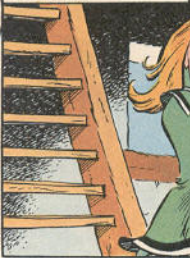
CAN YOU SUGGEST ANYTHING, FATHER?



YES, MY BOY, I CAN. I'VE DECIDED TO MAKE A SPEECH TO THE VILLAGERS OPPOSITE. THAT'LL BRIDGE THE GAP. THEY'LL SOON SEE HOW WRONG THEY WERE TO DITCH ME!



AND IN CHIEF MAJESTIX'S HUT...



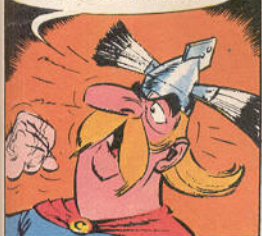
OH, FATHER, DO YOU REMEMBER HOW HAPPY THE VILLAGE WAS WHEN WE ONLY HAD ONE CHIEF, ALTRUISTIX?



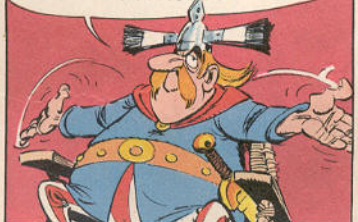
YES, I DO! THE OLD 50-AND-50 TOOK AFTER HIS COUSIN ALCAPONIX... MAKING OFF WITH ALL THE VILLAGE'S TAXES!



THIS IS ALL THAT FOOL CLEVERDIX'S FAULT! HE STOLE VOTES WHICH WERE MINE BY RIGHT.



HE EVEN PROMISED TO BRING DOWN INFLATION, AND THOSE IDIOTS FELL FOR IT! THAT WAS WHEN THE BALLOON WENT UP!



MELODRAMA IS RIGHT! WE NEED A SINGLE CHIEF TO LEAD THE VILLAGE. YOU LET THEM KNOW OVER ON THE LEFT THAT YOU'RE THE RIGHTFUL CHIEF!



CODFIX, YOUR ADVICE ISN'T ALWAYS COPSWALLOP! YES, I'LL ADDRESS THEM!



AND SOON AFTERWARDS...



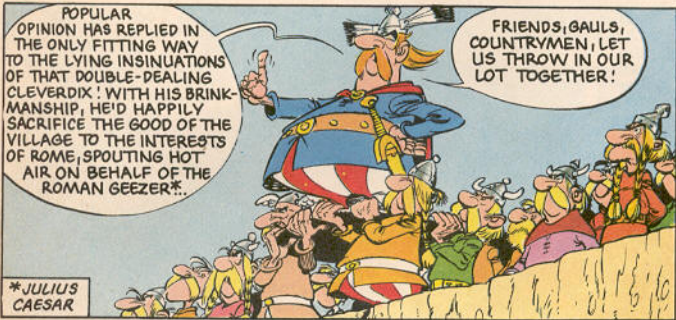


BROTHERS, WE ARE HOVERING ON THE BRINK OF VILLAGE DISASTER! BUT THE PARTY OF THE LEFT OFFERS FULL EMPLOYMENT... MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL FOR ALL WORKERS...

... SHIELD-BEARERS INCLUDED. DON'T YOU LISTEN TO MAJESTIX! HE'D PLUCK THE VERY WINGS FROM YOUR HELMETS! WORKERS OF THE VILLAGE, UNITE!



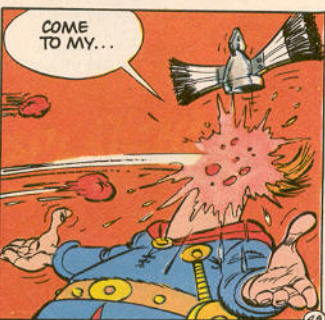
CROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE!



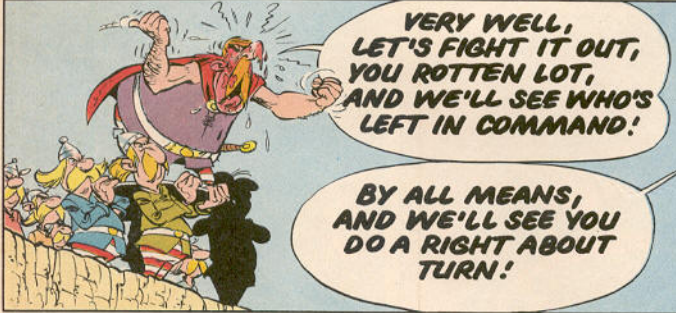
POPULAR OPINION HAS REPLIED IN THE ONLY FITTING WAY TO THE LYING INSINUATIONS OF THAT DOUBLE-DEALING CLEVERDIX! WITH HIS BRINK-MANSHIP, HE'D HAPPILY SACRIFICE THE GOOD OF THE VILLAGE TO THE INTERESTS OF ROME, SPOUTING HOT AIR ON BEHALF OF THE ROMAN GEEZER!

FRIENDS, GAULS, COUNTRYMEN, LET US THROW IN OUR LOT TOGETHER!

*JULIUS CAESAR



COME TO MY...



VERY WELL, LET'S FIGHT IT OUT, YOU ROTTEN LOT, AND WE'LL SEE WHO'S LEFT IN COMMAND!

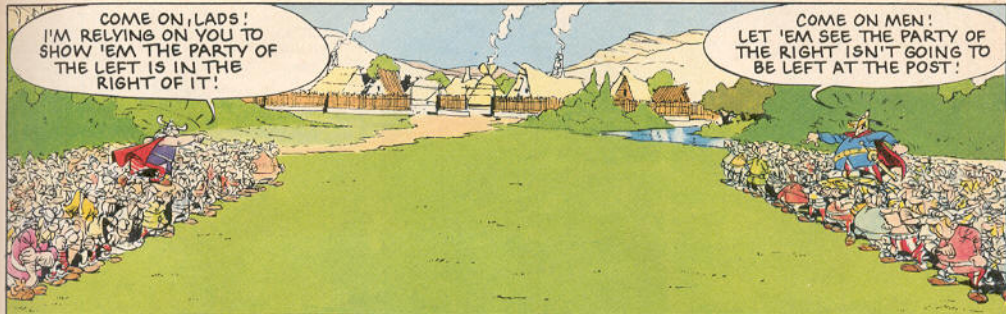
BY ALL MEANS, AND WE'LL SEE YOU DO A RIGHT ABOUT TURN!



RSPRRR!
RSPRRR!

COME ON, LADS!
I'M RELYING ON YOU TO
SHOW 'EM THE PARTY OF
THE LEFT IS IN THE
RIGHT OF IT!

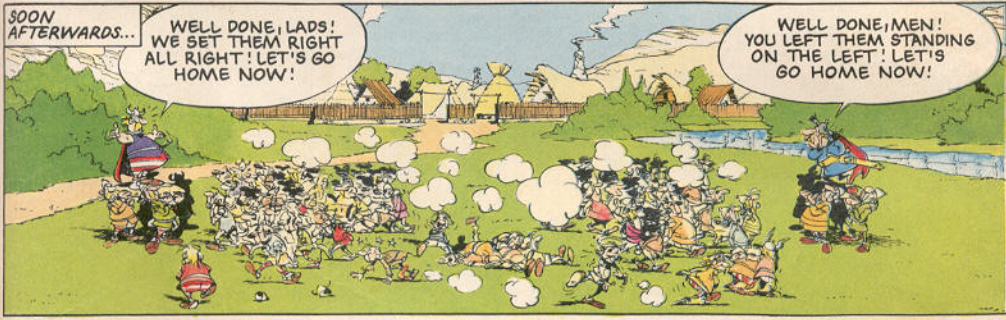
COME ON MEN!
LET 'EM SEE THE PARTY OF
THE RIGHT ISN'T GOING TO
BE LEFT AT THE POST!



SOON
AFTERWARDS...

WELL DONE, LADS!
WE SET THEM RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO
HOME NOW!

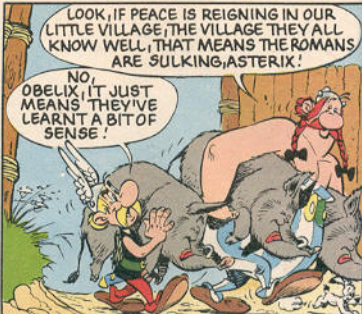
WELL DONE, MEN!
YOU LEFT THEM STANDING
ON THE LEFT! LET'S
GO HOME NOW!



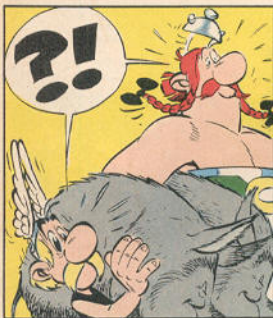
ELSEWHERE, PEACE IS REIGNING IN ANOTHER LITTLE VILLAGE, A VILLAGE WE ALL KNOW WELL...



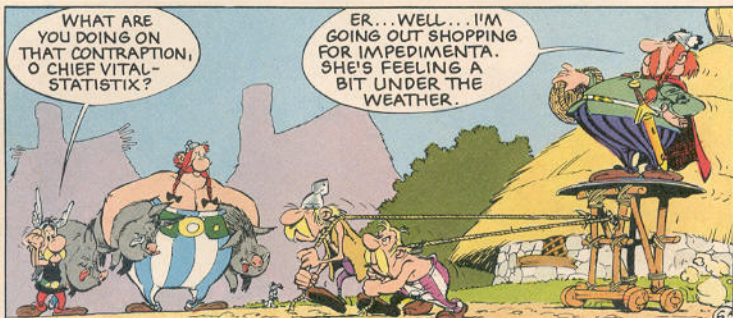
LOOK, IF PEACE IS REIGNING IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE, THE VILLAGE THEY ALL KNOW WELL, THAT MEANS THE ROMANS ARE SULKING, ALEXIS!



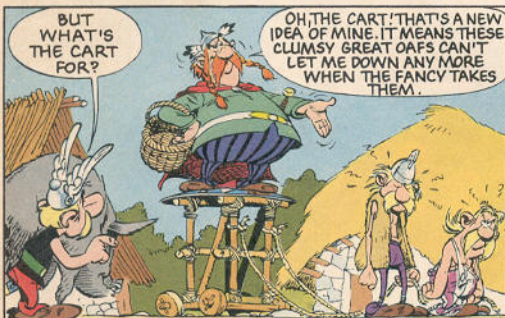
NO, OBELIX, IT JUST MEANS THEY'VE LEARN'T A BIT OF SENSE!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THAT CONTRAFTION, O CHIEF VITAL-STATISTIX?



ER... WELL... I'M GOING OUT SHOPPING FOR IMPEDIMENTA. SHE'S FEELING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER.

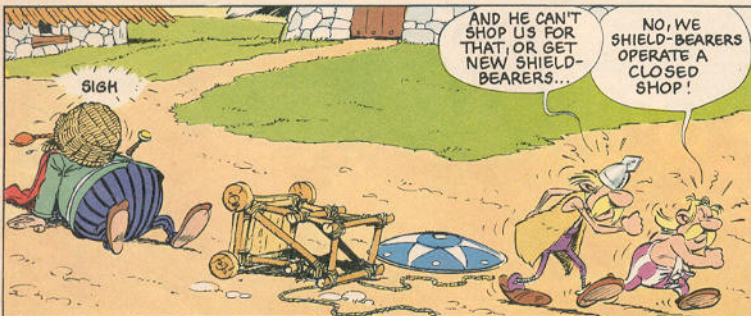


BUT WHAT'S THE CART FOR?

OH, THE CART! THAT'S A NEW IDEA OF MINE. IT MEANS THESE CLUMSY GREAT OAFS CAN'T LET ME DOWN ANY MORE WHEN THE FANCY TAKES THEM.



RIGHT, YOU TWO! WHATEVER YOU DO NOW, I STAND FIRM ON MY TRUSTY SHIELD! SO OFF WE GO SHOPPING!



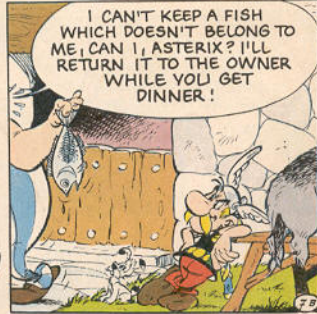
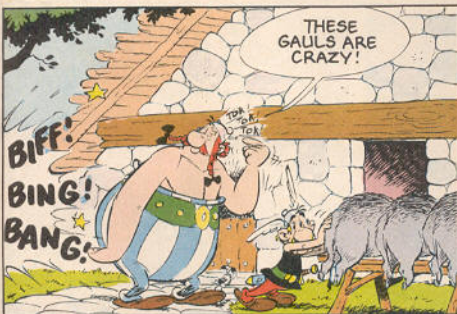
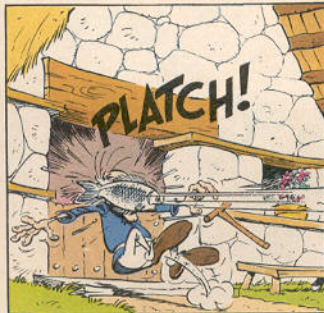
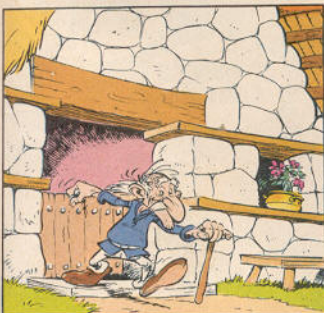
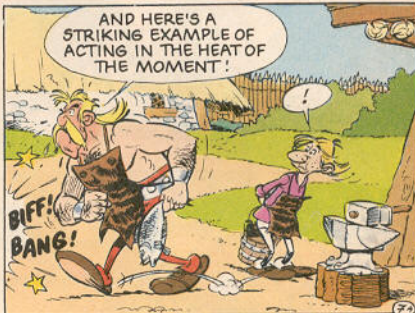
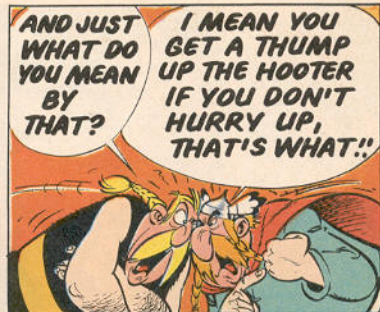
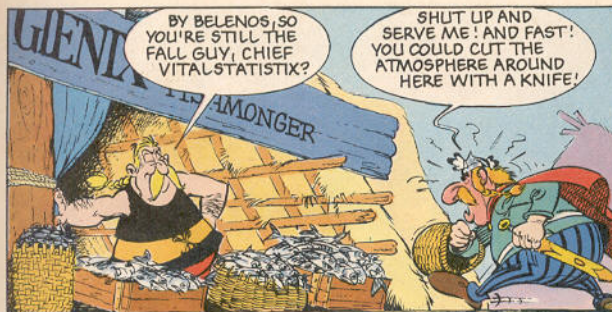
SIGH

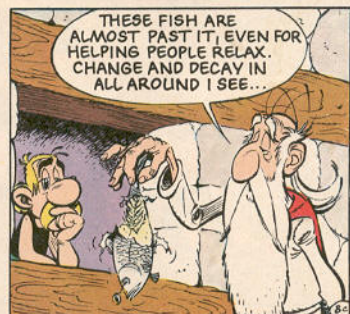
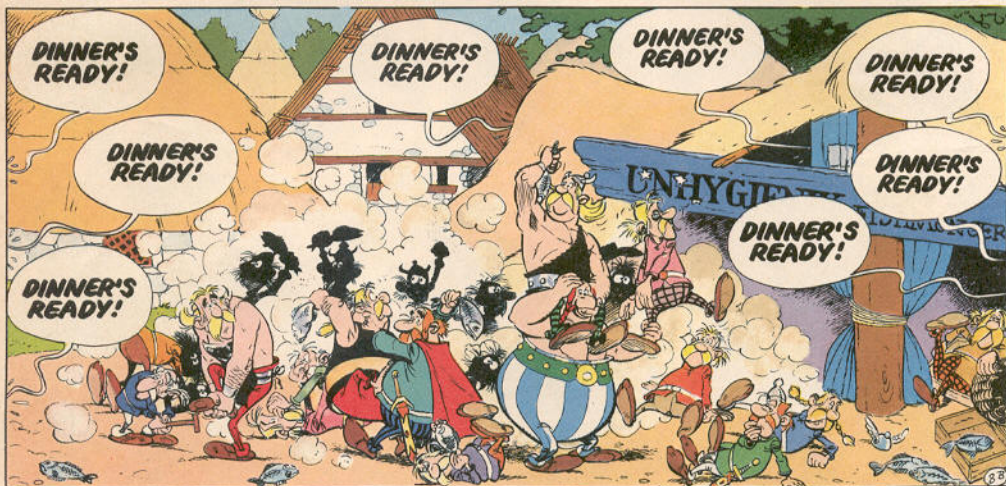
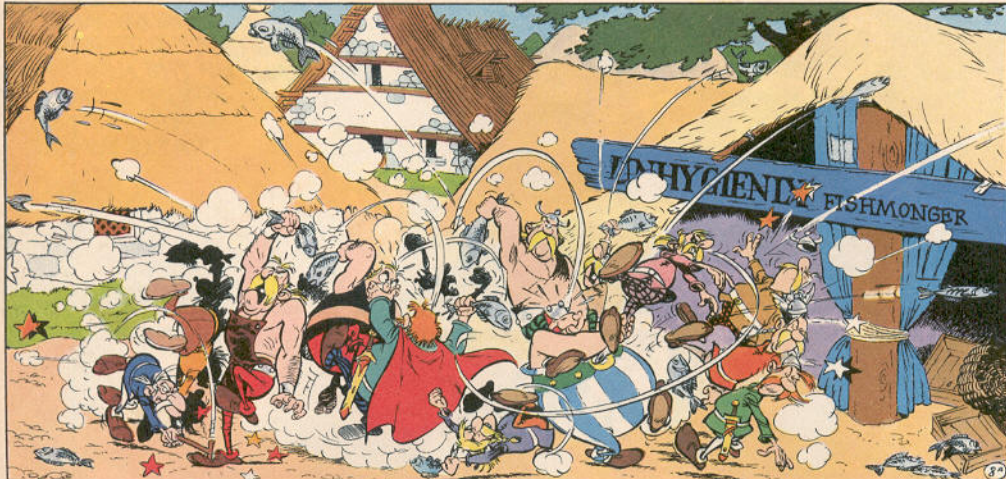
AND HE CAN'T SHOP US FOR THAT, OR GET NEW SHIELD-BEARERS...

NO, WE SHIELD-BEARERS OPERATE A CLOSED SHOP!



DOWNCAST AGAIN, PIGGYWIGGY? THINKING YOURSELF SO CLEVER... HUH! PIGS MIGHT FLY!







MEAN-WHILE...

AND JUST WHAT GOOD DID THAT PUNCH-UP DO YOU? ABSOLUTELY NONE! IT ONLY WIDENED THE RIFT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF OUR VILLAGE!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE FIRST THING ABOUT POLITICS AND THE ART OF WARFARE, MY GIRL! GO UP TO YOUR ROOM AND LEAVE US ALONE!

HEAR THAT? SHE'LL SOON BE JOINING CLASSICAL WOMEN'S LIB - SPEAKING TO THEM OFF-THE-CUFF*!

ALL THE SAME, YOU HAD TO ADMIT THAT TODAY'S LITTLE CONFRONTATION DIDN'T GET US ANYWHERE.

*LATIN: AD LIB



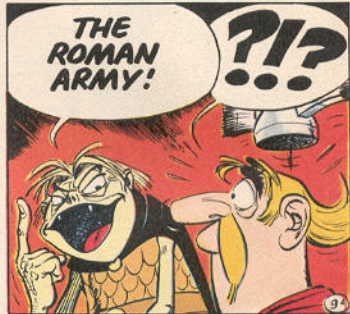
I KNOW. I JUST CAN'T SEE WHAT TO DO NEXT!

WELL, O CHIEF MAJESTIX, I'D LIKE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER!



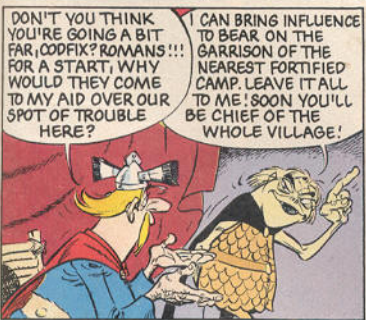
GIVE ME MELO-DRAMA'S HAND IN MARRIAGE, AND I WILL COME UP WITH THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR PROBLEMS!

OH YES? AND WHAT'S THAT?



THE ROMAN ARMY!

?!?



DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING A BIT FAR, COODIX? ROMANS!!! FOR A START, WHY WOULD THEY COME TO MY AID OVER OUR SPOT OF TROUBLE HERE?

I CAN BRING INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON THE GARRISON OF THE NEAREST FORTIFIED CAMP. LEAVE IT ALL TO ME! SOON YOU'LL BE CHIEF OF THE WHOLE VILLAGE!



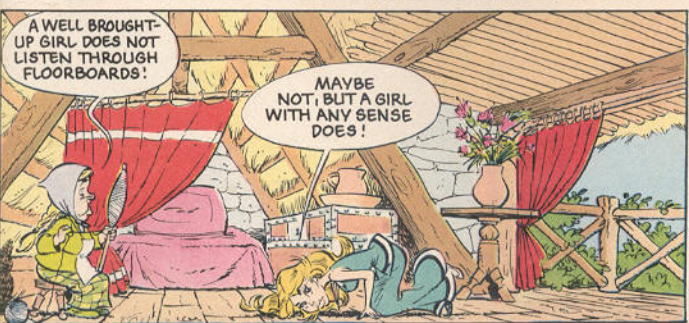
I'M STILL NOT KEEN ON HAVING FOREIGNERS MIXED UP IN OUR AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY ROMANS. PAX ROMANA OR NO PAX ROMANA, THEY'RE OUR ENEMIES!

HAVE NO FEAR! AS SOON AS THE TROUBLES' CLEARED UP, THEY'LL GO PEACEFULLY BACK TO THEIR OWN CAMP!



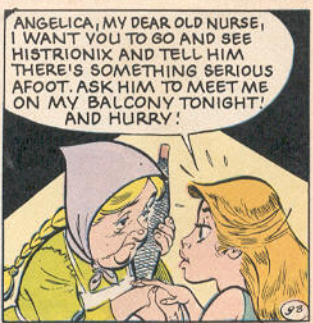
RIGHT! IT'S A DEAL, COODIX! I PUT MYSELF IN YOUR HANDS, BUT YOU'RE NOT MARRYING MELODRAMA UNTIL I'M THE ONLY CHIEF IN THE VILLAGE... CHIEF OF THE LEFT AS WELL AS THE RIGHT!

CONSIDER YOURSELF CHIEF, DAD, AND CONSIDER ME MR RIGHT!



A WELL BROUGHT-UP GIRL DOES NOT LISTEN THROUGH FLOORBOARDS!

MAYBE NOT, BUT A GIRL WITH ANY SENSE DOES!



ANGELICA, MY DEAR OLD NURSE, I WANT YOU TO GO AND SEE HISTRIX AND TELL HIM THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUS AFOOT. ASK HIM TO MEET ME ON MY BALCONY TONIGHT! AND HURRY!

NIGHT HAS FALLEN, AND ALL IS CALM AGAIN IN THE VILLAGE.

TIME FOR BED, SCHIZO-PHRENIX!

COMING, DARLING!



CODFIX IS GOING TO ASK THE ROMANS TO HELP MAKE MY FATHER CHIEF OF THE WHOLE VILLAGE... AND IN RETURN MY FATHER HAS PROMISED HIM MY HAND IN MARRIAGE!

HOW DARE HE?! BUT I'M FROM THE OPPOSITE CAMP, MELODRAMA... WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WITH ANY SENSE IN THIS CRAZY VILLAGE, AND I DON'T WANT TO MARRY COD-FIX! O HISTRIONIX, HISTRIONIX! WHERE ARE ART THOU HISTRIONIX?

?

!?!

RAISE THE ALARM!



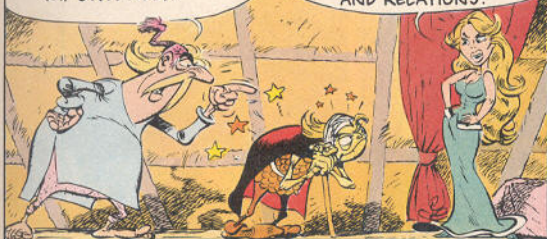
ARE YOU HURT, HISTRIONIX?

NO, I'M ALL RIGHT... I FANCY A PASSING SHOAL OF FISH BROKE MY FALL!



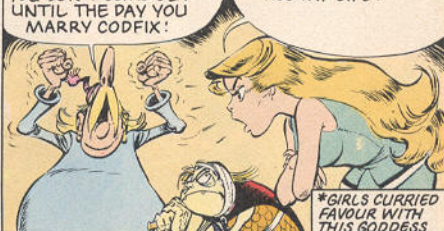
MY OWN DAUGHTER
IN LEAGUE WITH THE
ENEMY! TREACHERY UNDER
MY OWN ROOF!

AND MY OWN FATHER
ISN'T ASHAMED TO ASK THE
ROMANS FOR HELP IN
FIGHTING OUR OWN FRIENDS
AND RELATIONS!



SHUT UP, YOU
UNGRATEFUL CHILD!
I'M GOING TO LOCK YOU
IN YOUR ROOM, AND
YOU DON'T COME OUT
UNTIL THE PAY YOU
MARRY CODFIX!

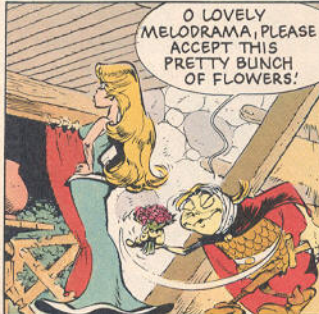
I NEVER WILL!
I'D RATHER BE A
VIRGIN SERVING VESTA*
ALL MY LIFE!



DON'T LET'S RUSH
THIS MAJESTIX! TIME
AND PATIENCE WILL
ACHIEVE MORE THAN
RAGE AND VIOLENCE
EVER COULD!



SOMETIMES
I WONDER HOW
I THINK THESE
THINGS UP...



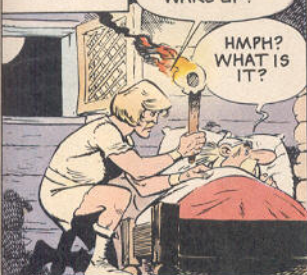
WHAT MAKES YOU
THINK YOU'RE A SMASH
HIT WITH ME?



MEANWHILE...

FATHER,
WAKE UP!

HMPH?
WHAT IS
IT?



MAJESTIX AND HIS
HENCHMAN CODFIX
ARE PLANNING TO ASK
THE ROMANS TO HELP
THEM CONQUER THE
WHOLE VILLAGE!

OH, ARE THEY?
WELL, SON, I WANT
YOU TO GO IN SEARCH OF
MY OLD COMRADE-IN-
ARMS VITALSTATISTIX.
HE AND I FOUGHT
TOGETHER AT
GERGOVIA...

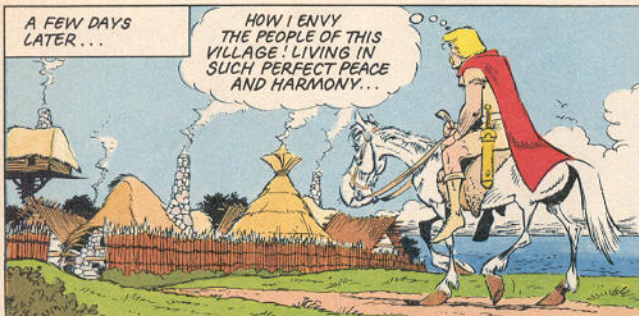


HE'S CHIEF OF A ARMORICAN
VILLAGE A FEW DAYS' JOURNEY
AWAY. THANKS TO THE DRUID
GETAFIX'S MAGIC POTION,
HE HAS KEPT THE WHOLE
MIGHT OF CAESAR'S LEGIONS
AT BAY! EXPLAIN IT ALL
TO HIM, AND TELL HIM
I NEED HIS HELP!



A FEW DAYS
LATER...

HOW I ENVY
THE PEOPLE OF THIS
VILLAGE! LIVING IN
SUCH PERFECT PEACE
AND HARMONY...



YOU STUPID IGNORANT
LOT! I'M NOT SELLING
ANY MORE OF MY FISH
TO THOSE WHO DON'T
APPRECIATE ITS
TRUE WORTH!

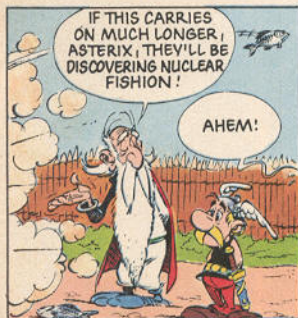
GOOD!!! THOSE WHO APPRECIATE
ITS TRUE WORTH WILL TURN IT INTO
GLUE, AND IT WON'T SMELL
SO BAD!!!

?!



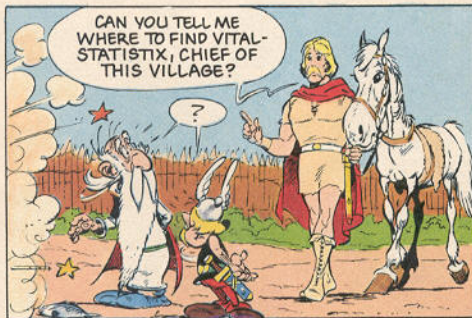
IF THIS CARRIES
ON MUCH LONGER,
ASTERIX, THEY'LL BE
DISCOVERING NUCLEAR
FISHION!

AHEM!



CAN YOU TELL ME
WHERE TO FIND VITAL-
STATISTIX, CHIEF OF
THIS VILLAGE?

?



VITALSTATISTIX?
HE'S ON HIS
WAY!



STOP! AND
THAT'S AN
ORDER!



SCREECH



I'M
GOING TO CRACK
UP... I CAN FEEL IT
COMING ON! YES...
I'M GOING TO
CRACK UP.



THIS
IS IT! I'M
CRACKING
UP!



... AND THAT, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIK, IS THE SAD STORY OF OUR VILLAGE. ONLY YOUR DRUID GETAFIX'S MAGIC POTION AND THE WISDOM OF YOUR EXPERIENCED WARRIORS CAN SAVE US!



HMPH, YES. SPEAKING OF THE WISDOM OF MY EXPERIENCED WARRIORS, I SOMEHOW FEEL I SHOULD BE PUTTING MY OWN HOUSE IN ORDER FIRST...

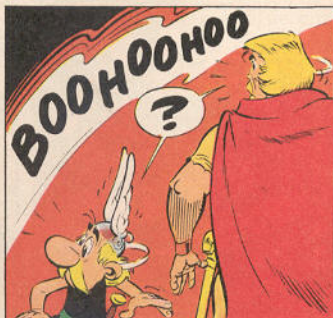
... BUT SINCE THE ROMANS LOOK LIKE GETTING MIXED UP IN YOUR AFFAIRS, I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULDN'T LEND MY OLD COMRADE-IN-ARMS CLEVERDIX A HAND!



THANK YOU... AND ON MY OWN BEHALF TOO! UNLESS WE FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, MELODRAMA AND I CAN NEVER HOPE TO BE UNITED!



BOOHOOHOO?



BOOHOOHOOHOO



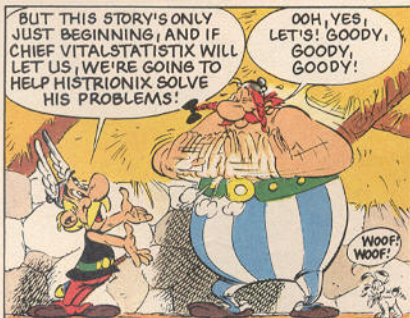
WHAT'S THE MATTER, OBELIX?

SNIFF! I GET ALL UPSET BY LOVE STORIES WITH UNHAPPY ENDINGS! SNIFF!



BUT THIS STORY'S ONLY JUST BEGINNING, AND IF CHIEF VITALSTATISTIK WILL LET US, WE'RE GOING TO HELP HISTORION SOLVE HIS PROBLEMS!

OOH, YES, LET'S! GOODY, GOODY, GOODY!

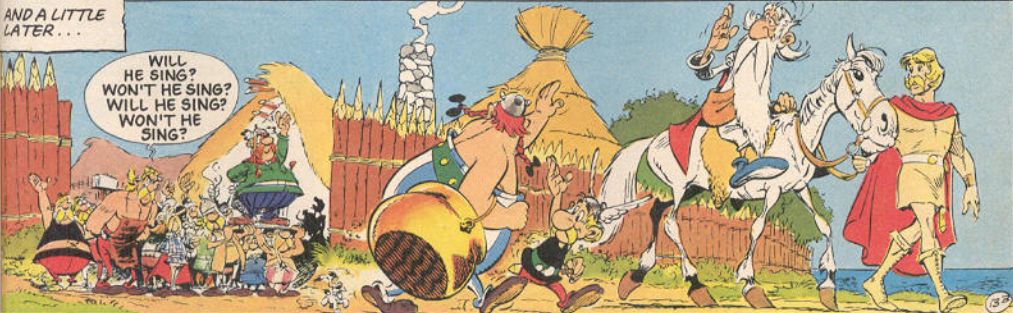


THE ROMANS AROUND HERE ARE KEEPING VERY QUIET JUST NOW, SO I THINK I CAN JOIN THE EXPEDITION MYSELF! THE PEOPLE OF YOUR VILLAGE MAY NEED ME TO HELP THEM BRIDGE THE GREAT DIVIDE!



AND A LITTLE LATER...

WILL HE SING?
WON'T HE SING?
WILL HE SING?
WON'T HE SING?



IN THE ROMAN CAMP
NEAR THE DIVIDED
VILLAGE...

HEY,
SOURPUS,
I'LL SWAP YOU
TWO SENTRY
DUTIES FOR
ONE LAUNDRY
FATIGUE!

NOTHING
DOING! YOU ALREADY
OWE ME THREE COOK-
HOUSE FATIGUES AND
TWO LATRINE
FATIGUES!

BACK AT THE
RECRUITMENT OFFICE,
THEY TOLD US WE'D
GET BEAUTIFUL SLAVE-
GIRLS FROM THE
COUNTRIES WE CON-
QUERED...

BACK IN ROME, CAESAR
SAID HE WAS COUNTING
ON US TO CLEAN UP THE
BARBARIANS... WHAT
A WASH-OUT!

LOOT, THEY SAID.
THE CARROT FOR
THE DONKEY!

IT'S A MAN'S
LIFE IN THE ARMY.
THEY SAID...

ALL RIGHT,
WE KNOW
WE KNOW

DECURIUS INFECTIUS
VIRUS, THIS TENT IS A PIGSTY,
AND THE COOKING IN THE CAMP
IS GOING FROM BAD TO
WORSE!

I KNOW. THE COOKHOUSE IS RE-
VOLTING, O CENTURION UMBRAGEOUS
CUMULONIMBUS. THERE'S A MOOD
OF GENERAL UNREST. THE MEN WANT
SLAVES TO DO THE DIRTY WORK, BUT
CAESAR SAID WE WEREN'T TO
TAKE SLAVES DURING THE
ROMAN PEACE!

WISH I'D BROUGHT
MY SLAVEGIRL FROM
HOME... NICE LITTLE
ROMAN PIECE*,
SHE IS!

*PAX
ROMANA

CENTURION,
I HAVE THE ANSWER
TO ALL YOUR
PROBLEMS!

WHO LET
YOU INTO
THIS CAMP,
GAUL?

THE MAN ON DUTY
AT THE GATE. HE WAS QUITE
HAPPY WHEN I OFFERED
HIM A SLAVE IN
EXCHANGE!

WHO ARE
YOU, ANYWAY?
HOW DARE YOU
CORRUPT MY
LEGIONARIES?

I'M FROM
MAJESTIX, RIGHT-
FUL CHIEF OF THE
RIGHT SIDE OF OUR
VILLAGE. I'M HIS
ALTER EGO AND
RIGHT HAND!

AND THIS
IS MY LEFT FOOT!
BE OFF, OR IT'LL
ALTER YOUR EGO!

CHIEF
MAJESTIX WANTS
YOU TO HELP HIM PUT
DOWN A REBELLION
LED BY
CLEVERDIX!

THAT'S NONE OF MY
BUSINESS! THIS IS YOUR NUNC
DIMITTIS... GET OUT, OR YOU'LL BE
SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE. A
FUNERAL DIRGE FROM
HYMNUS ANCIENT*!

*HYMNUS MODERN
AS YET UNWRITTEN

HOLD ON A MOMENT, CENTURION! YOU HELP MY CHIEF, CLEVERDIX AND HIS MEN WILL BE CONQUERED... SO YOU CAN MAKE THEM YOUR **SLAVES!** YOUR LEGIONARIES ARE VERY KEEN ON HAVING SLAVES!



AND WHAT ABOUT CAESAR'S ORDERS, EH, GAUL?



NEVER MIND THAT, ROMAN! JUST THINK: HALF THE VILLAGE FIGHTING FOR YOU, THE OTHER HALF SERVING YOU AS SLAVES!

THAT'S ALL A LOAD OF COB! I'VE GOT OTHER FISH TO FRY. GET MOVING BEFORE I PUT YOU ON FATIGUES YOURSELF!



RESTORE OUR DIFFERENTIALS!
GIVE US SLAVES!

LEGIONARIES' LIB!

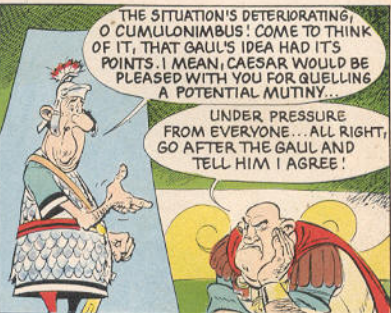
NO MORE CHORES!

SCRUB THOSE SCRUBBING BRUSHES!

?!

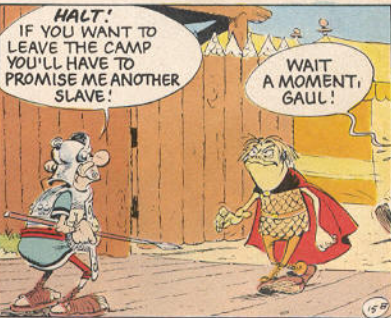
THE SITUATION'S DETERIORATING, O CUMULONIMBUS! COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT GAUL'S IDEA HAD ITS POINTS. I MEAN, CAESAR WOULD BE PLEASED WITH YOU FOR QUELLING A POTENTIAL MUTINY...

UNDER PRESSURE FROM EVERYONE... ALL RIGHT, GO AFTER THE GAUL AND TELL HIM I AGREE!



HALT! IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE CAMP YOU'LL HAVE TO PROMISE ME ANOTHER SLAVE!

WAIT A MOMENT, GAUL!



GO AND TELL YOUR CHIEF THAT WE'LL GIVE HIM THE HELP HE WANTS. JUST LET US HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO OUR LEGIONARIES!



HO, HO! MY VILLAINY KNOWS NO BOUNDS! AND I'M NOT THROUGH YET, BECAUSE WHEN I'VE MARRIED THE BEAUTIFUL MELODRAMA, IT WILL BE EASY ENOUGH FOR ME TO DEPOSE THAT FOOL MAJESTIX AND BECOME CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE MYSELF!



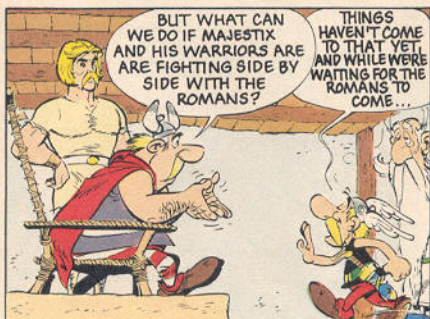
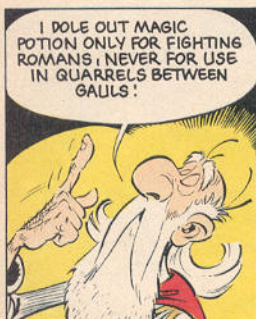
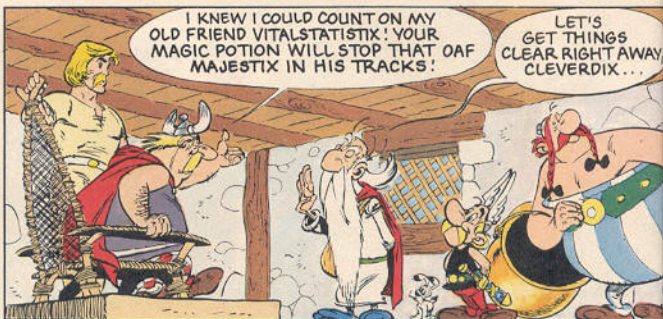
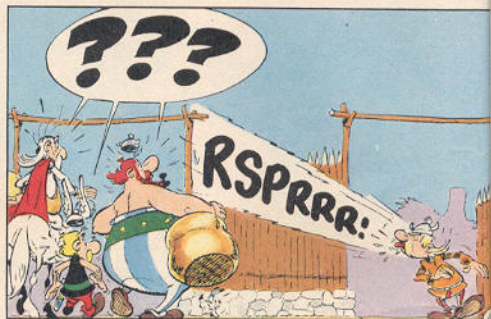
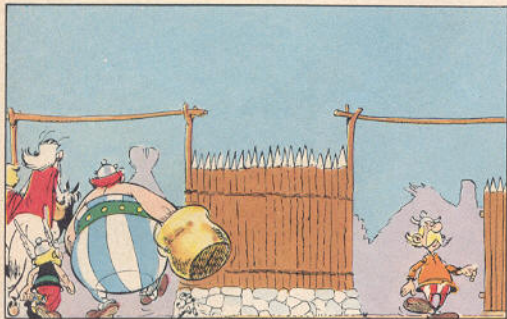
FUNNY, I COULD HAVE SWORN I SMELT SOMETHING FISHY!

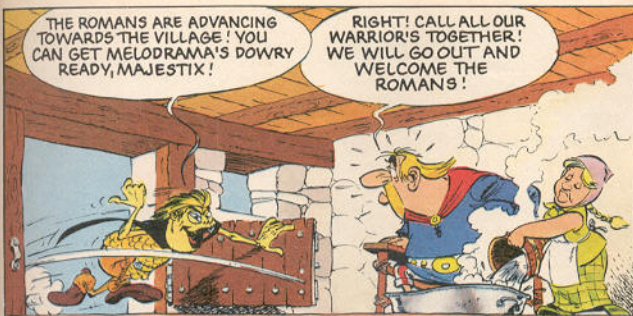
WHY, YOUR VILLAGE LOOKS MORE PEACEFUL THAN OURS!

YES, I DON'T WANT TO CRY STINKING FISH, BUT THE AIR CERTAINLY SEEMS CLEARER HERE!



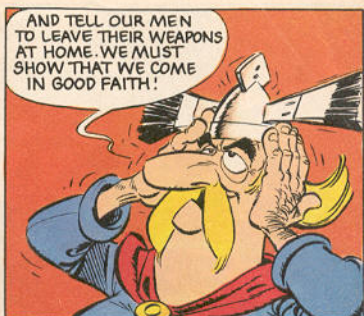
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT. THERE'S A SLUMBERING VOLCANO UNDER THOSE THATCHED ROOFS... ONE WHICH COULD ERUPT INTO VIOLENCE AT ANY MOMENT!



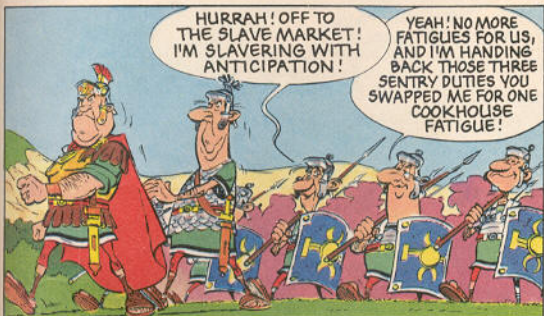


THE ROMANS ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS THE VILLAGE! YOU CAN GET MELODRAMA'S DOWRY READY, MAJESTIX!

RIGHT! CALL ALL OUR WARRIOR'S TOGETHER! WE WILL GO OUT AND WELCOME THE ROMANS!

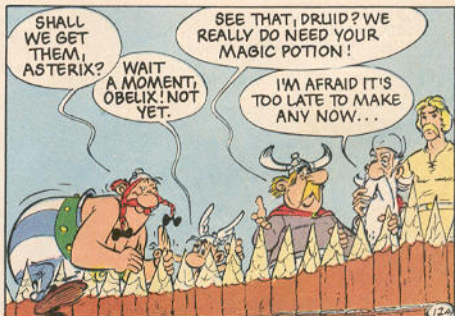


AND TELL OUR MEN TO LEAVE THEIR WEAPONS AT HOME. WE MUST SHOW THAT WE COME IN GOOD FAITH!



HURRAH! OFF TO THE SLAVE MARKET! I'M SLAVERING WITH ANTICIPATION!

YEAH! NO MORE FATIGUES FOR US, AND I'M HANDING BACK THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES YOU SWAPPED ME FOR ONE COOKHOUSE FATIGUE!



SHALL WE GET THEM, ASTERIX?

WAIT A MOMENT, OBELIX! NOT YET.

SEE THAT, DRUID? WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR MAGIC POTION!

I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LATE TO MAKE ANY NOW...



WELCOME, O ROMAN! OUR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR VALUABLE ASSISTANCE KNOWS NO BOUNDS, AND...

CUT THE CACKLE! WHERE ARE THE SLAVES?



SLAVES? WHAT SLAVES!!!

THE SLAVES YOUR FISH-FACED FRIEND PROMISED IN THE SMALL PRINT OF THE CONTRACT!

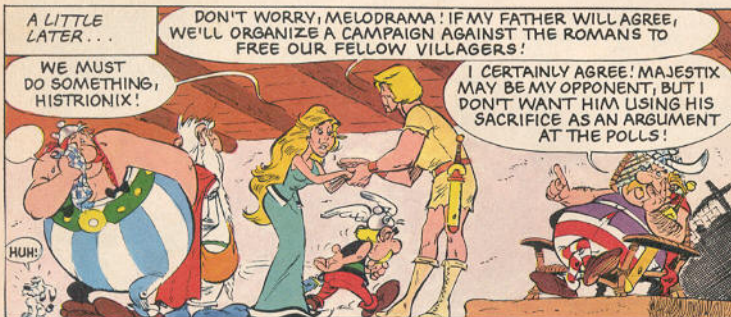
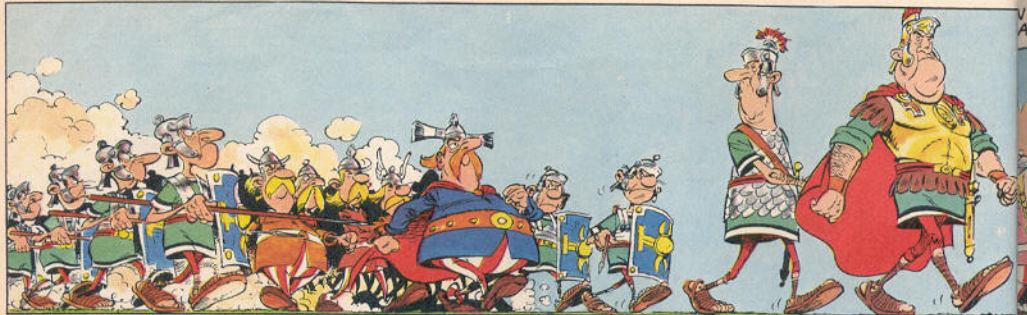


GAULS NEVER, NEVER, NEVER WILL BE SLAVES! I SHALL BE CHIEF OF EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WITHOUT EXCEPTION, AND WITHOUT SLAVES!

YOU DON'T GO CALLING OUT THE ROMAN ARMY FOR NOTHING! MEN, GRAB HOLD OF THIS LOT! THEY CAN BE OUR SLAVES THEMSELVES!



HELP! THAT FOOL MAJESTIX HAS RUINED EVERYTHING!



IN THE ROMAN CAMP...

WE WILL NEVER BE YOUR SLAVES, ROMAN!

DO YOU KNOW THE PENALTIES FOR A SLAVES' REVOLT? YOU'D BETTER STOP AND THINK, UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS AT ROME A SQUARE MEAL!

AND WHILE THEY'RE THINKING, CHAIN THEM ALL UP WELL!!!



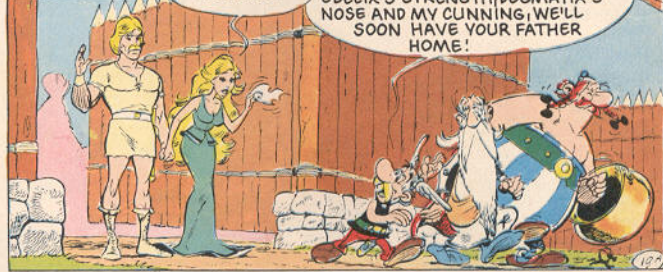
CAN I HAVE THOSE THREE SENTRY DUTIES BACK? THE ONES YOU SWAPPED FOR MY COOKHOUSE FATIGUE!

PRICES HAVE RISEN... IT'LL BE FOUR SENTRY DUTIES NOW!

MEANWHILE...

GOOD LUCK, FRIENDS!

DON'T WORRY, MELODRAMA! THANKS TO GETAFIX'S KNOW-HOW, OBELIX'S STRENGTH, DOGMATIX'S NOSE AND MY CUNNING, WE'LL SOON HAVE YOUR FATHER HOME!



FUNNY HOW SURE OF THEMSELVES CLEVERIX'S ALLIES SEEM! I'LL FOLLOW THEM AT A SAFE DISTANCE!

DOGMATIX HAS BEEN SNIFFING ABOUT EVER SINCE WE LEFT! I THINK HE'S PICKED UP THE SCENT OF A BOAR!

NO, NO, IT'S JUST A RED HERRING.

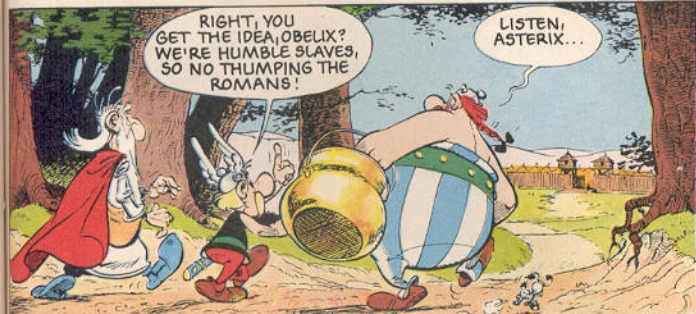
IF SO, IT'S BEEN TAKING CODLIVER OIL!

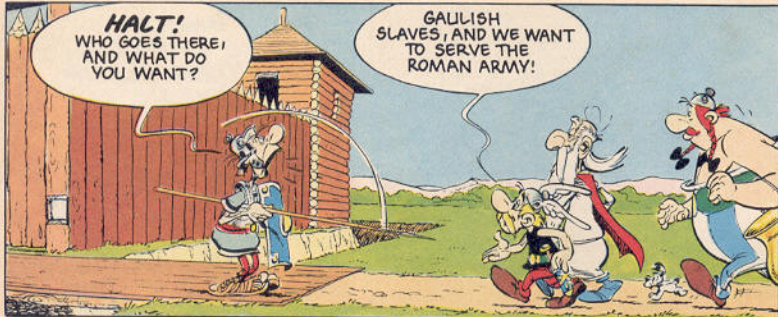


RIGHT, YOU GET THE IDEA, OBELIX? WE'RE HUMBLE SLAVES, SO NO THUMPING THE ROMANS!

LISTEN, ASTERIX...

...IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A SLAVE-DOG?





HALT!
WHO GOES THERE,
AND WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

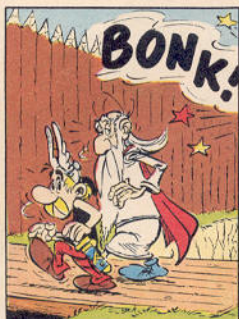
**GAULISH
SLAVES, AND WE WANT
TO SERVE THE
ROMAN ARMY!**



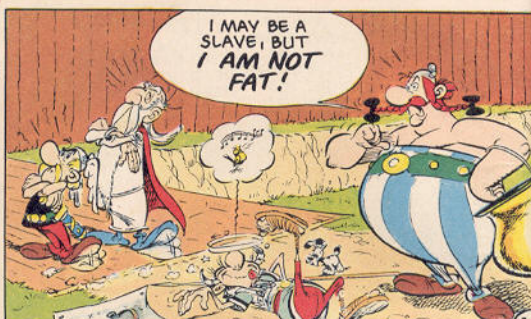
**THAT'S A BIT
OF LUCK! WE'VE JUST
GOT SOME BRAND-NEW
SLAVES IN, BUT THEY
WON'T SERVE
YET!**



**AND I'LL
KEEP THIS FAT
SLAVE FOR
MYSELF!**



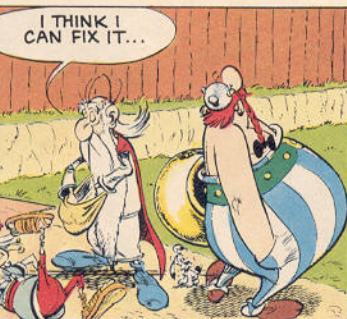
BONK!



**I MAY BE A
SLAVE, BUT
I AM NOT
FAT!**



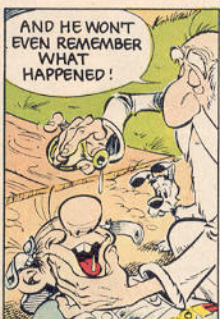
**WELL, JUST
HOW DO YOU EXPECT
THEM TO TAKE US
SERIOUSLY NOW,
OBELIX?**



**I THINK I
CAN FIX IT...**



**THIS FLASK CONTAINS
AN ELIXIR OF MY OWN
INVENTION! A FEW
DROPS WILL INSTANTLY
RESTORE THIS ROMAN TO
FULL HEALTH
AND STRENGTH...**



**AND HE WON'T
EVEN REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED!**



HALT!
WHO GOES THERE,
AND WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

**GAULISH SLAVES,
AND WE WANT TO
SERVE THE ROMAN
ARMY!**

**HERE WE GO
AGAIN...**



**AMAZING! THOSE
GAULS ARE AMAZING
... AND I CAN'T HELP
WONDERING WHAT
TRICK THEY'RE
PLANNING TO PLAY
ON THE ROMANS!**



AND I'LL KEEP THIS FA...

NO! DON'T!

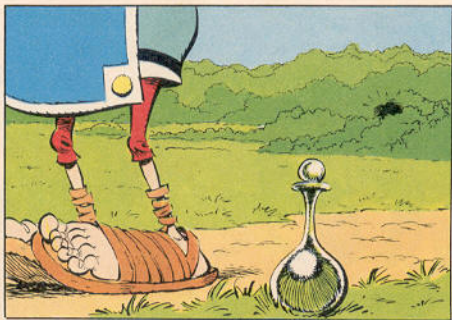


SO SORRY, WE'RE CLASS I SLAVES, AND WE CAN'T SERVE THE RANK AND FILE!

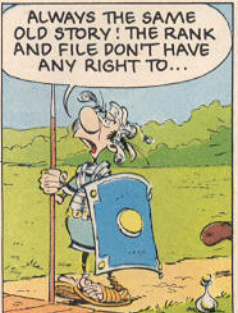
?!?



HOW DID HE GUESS WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY?



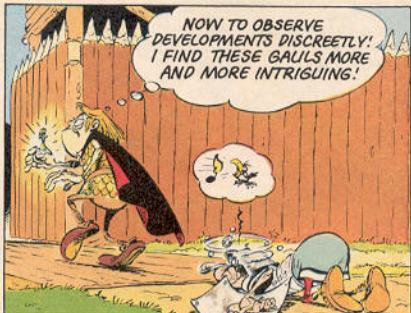
THE DRUID FORGOT HIS FLASK! I ABSOLUTELY MUST GET HOLD OF IT. IT COULD COME IN USEFUL!



ALWAYS THE SAME OLD STORY! THE RANK AND FILE DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO...



CLANG!

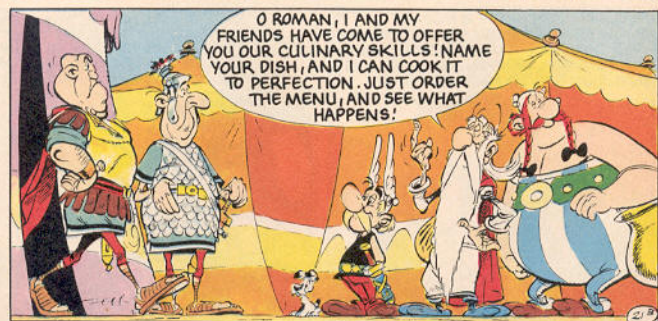


NOW TO OBSERVE DEVELOPMENTS DISCREETLY! I FIND THESE GAULS MORE AND MORE INTRIGUING!



THREE NEW GAULS HAVE JUST ARRIVED, CUMULONIMBUS! THEY WANT TO BE YOUR SLAVES.

?!?
I SHALL CERTAINLY NEVER UNDERSTAND THE GAULS!



O ROMAN, I AND MY FRIENDS HAVE COME TO OFFER YOU OUR CULINARY SKILLS! NAME YOUR DISH, AND I CAN COOK IT TO PERFECTION. JUST ORDER THE MENU, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

THE GODS MUST HAVE SENT YOU, GAUL! A SPOT OF GOOD COOKING WILL CERTAINLY MAKE A CHANGE FROM THE USUAL MESS!

OH, WE CAN COOK A GOOD MEAL FOR ALL YOUR MEN, CENTURION! THE FEAST OF THE CENTURY, AS YOU MIGHT SAY!



FOR STARTERS, A FORTIFYING SOUP. THE MEAT COURSE... A REALLY NICE CUT! SAY CHUMP CHOP, STEWED IN YOUR... I MEAN, IN ITS OWN JUICE. AND WE WON'T MAKE A HASH OF IT. IF YOU FANCY Poultry, WE CAN COOK YOUR GOOSE FOR YOU! GAME FOR ANYTHING? THEN GROUSE AND QUAIL. AFTER THAT, YOU GET YOUR DESSERTS: A FOOL, WELL BEATEN, PERHAPS SOME INSTANT WHIP, AND A FEW RASPBERRIES. ALL WASHED DOWN WITH THE GAULISH BEER WE CALL WALLOP... IT PACKS QUITE A PUNCH!



THAT'LL DO FINE! GET ON WITH IT... I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

WE SHAN'T TAKE LONG!

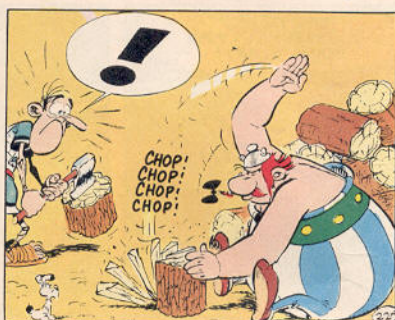
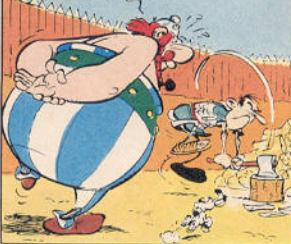


LOOK HERE, GETAFIX, WHY DON'T WE ADD A FEW NICE ROAST BOARS?

?!? WHY NOT GO AND CHOP UP SOME KINDLING FOR THE FIRE, OBELIX?

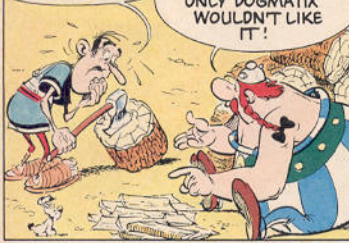


WELL, I ONLY THOUGHT HE'D GONE AND FORGOTTEN THE BOARS...



AMAZING! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE CHOP WOOD LIKE THAT BEFORE!

OH, THAT'S NOTHING! I COULD CUT A WHOLE TREE DOWN THAT WAY, ONLY DOGMATIX WOULDN'T LIKE IT!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

READY IN A MOMENT!

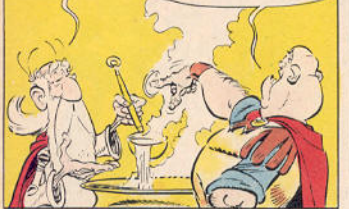
I'M A BIT WORRIED, CENTURION! A COLONIS OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS, AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIOUS VIRUS. WE MUST BE CAREFUL!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TASTE THE SOUP FOR SEASONING, CENTURION?

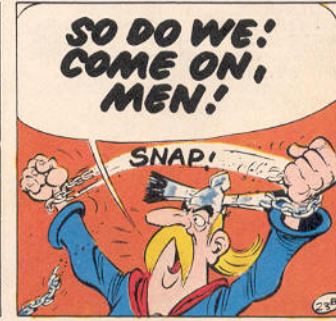
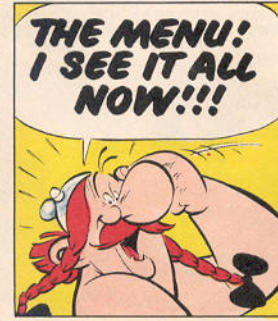
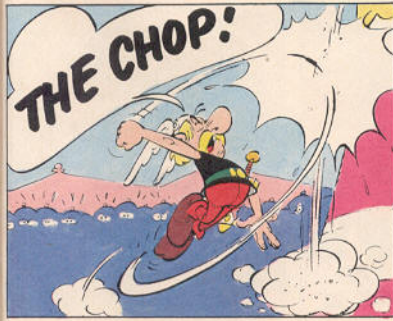
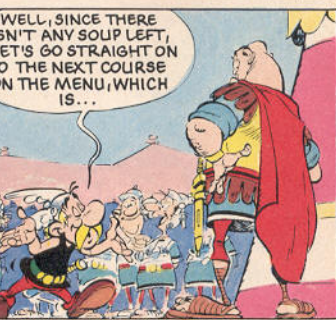
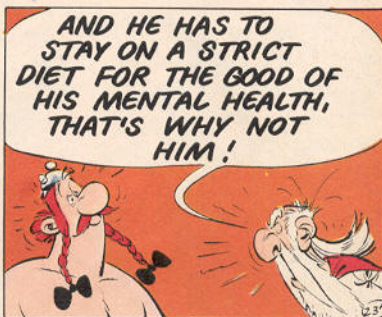
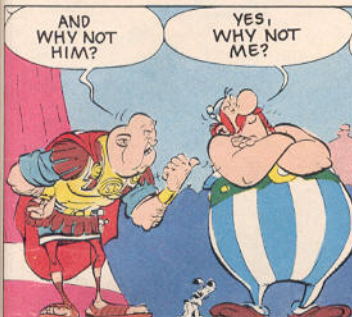
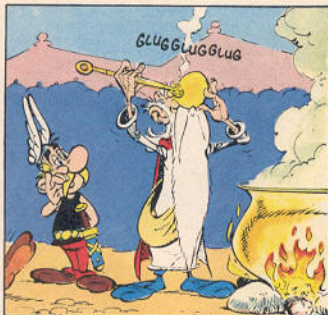
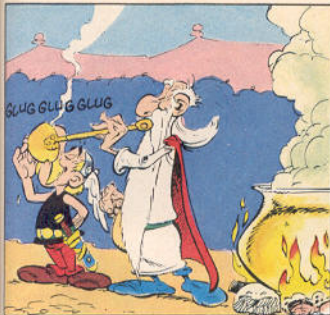
JUST A MOMENT, GAUL! HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO POISON THE GARRISON, SO AS TO SET THE PRISONERS FREE?

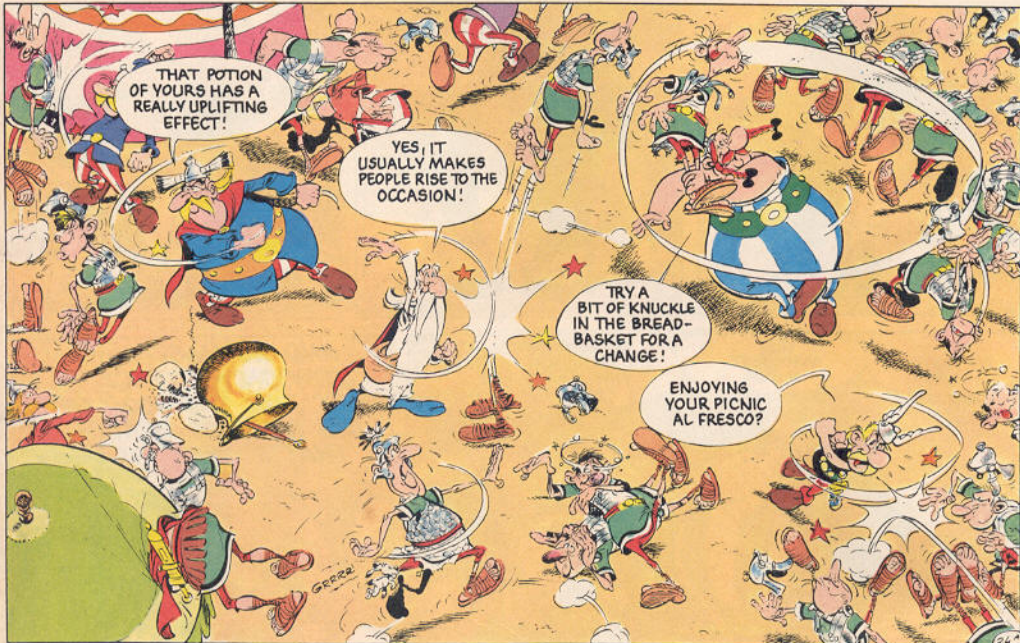


I QUITE UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS. YOU DON'T WANT TO FIND YOURSELF IN THE SOUP. SO WE'LL DRINK SOME OURSELVES, TO SHOW IT'S ALL RIGHT!

AND TO PROVE IT EVEN MORE CONCLUSIVELY, WE'LL GIVE SOME TO THE PRISONERS TOO!







THAT POTION OF YOURS HAS A REALLY UPLIFTING EFFECT!

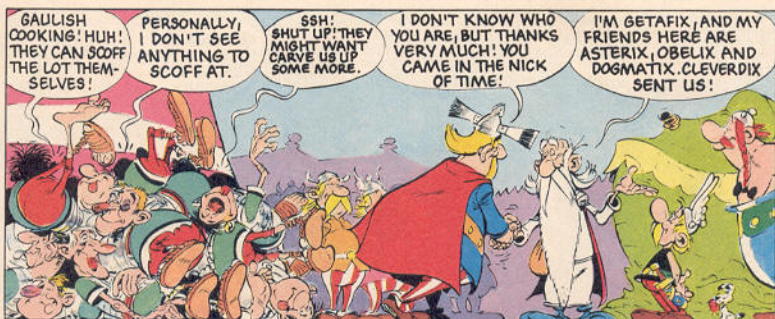
YES, IT USUALLY MAKES PEOPLE RISE TO THE OCCASION!

TRY A BIT OF KNUCKLE IN THE BREAD-BASKET FOR A CHANGE!

ENJOYING YOUR PICNIC AL FRESCO?



I GET THE PICTURE... NO NEED FOR ANY BIG FRESCO TO SHOW THAT THE ROMANS CAN'T STOMACH THAT DRUID'S RECIPES!



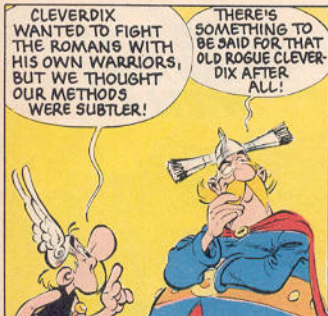
GAULISH COOKING! HUH! THEY CAN SCOFF THE LOT THEMSELVES!

PERSONALLY, I DON'T SEE ANYTHING TO SCOFF AT.

SSH! SHUT UP! THEY MIGHT WANT CARVE US SOME MORE.

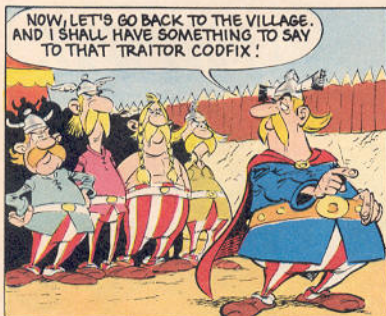
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT THANKS VERY MUCH! YOU CAME IN THE NICK OF TIME!

I'M GETAFIX, AND MY FRIENDS HERE ARE ASTERIX, OBELIX AND DOGMATIX. CLEVERDIX SENT US!



CLEVERDIX WANTED TO FIGHT THE ROMANS WITH HIS OWN WARRIORS, BUT WE THOUGHT OUR METHODS WERE SUBTLER!

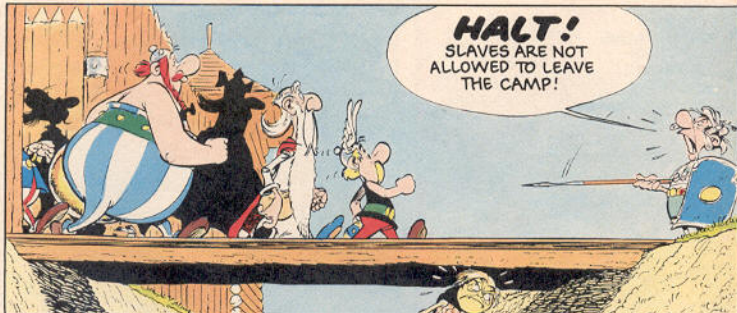
THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THAT OLD ROGUE CLEVERDIX AFTER ALL!



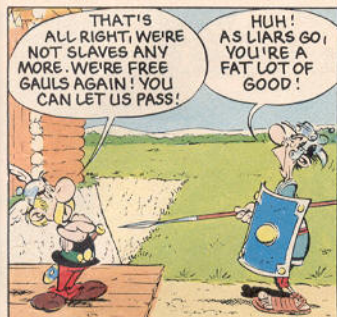
NOW, LET'S GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE. AND I SHALL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THAT TRAITOR CODFIX!



OH, HELP! I'D BETTER LIE LOW FOR A WHILE!



HALT!
SLAVES ARE NOT
ALLOWED TO LEAVE
THE CAMP!

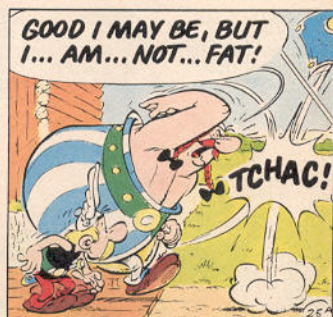


THAT'S ALL RIGHT, WE'RE NOT SLAVES ANY MORE. WE'RE FREE GAULS AGAIN! YOU CAN LET US PASS!

HUH! AS LIARS GO, YOU'RE A FAT LOT OF GOOD!

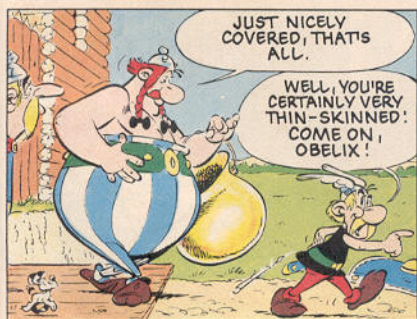


LEAVE THIS TO ME, ASTERIX!



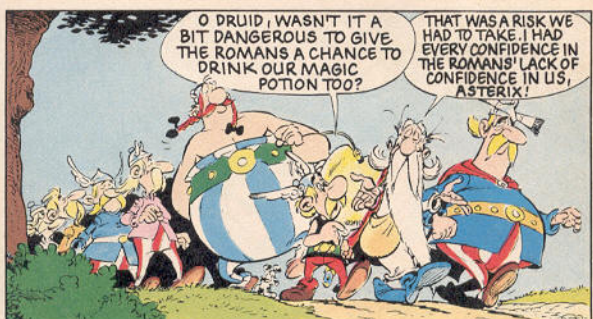
GOOD I MAY BE, BUT I... AM... NOT... FAT!

TCHAC!



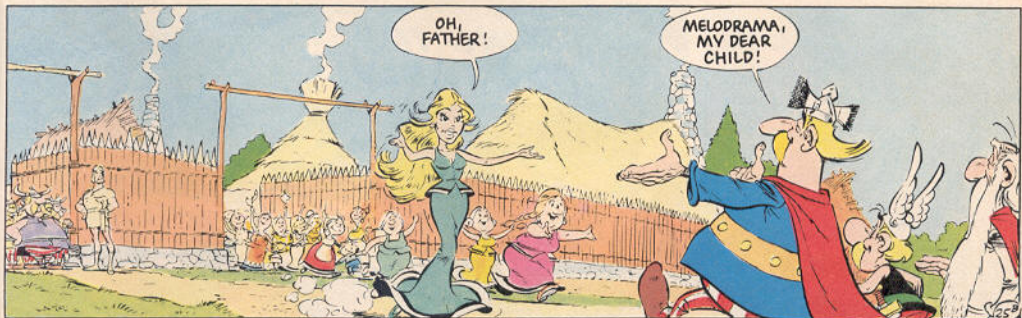
JUST NICELY COVERED, THAT'S ALL.

WELL, YOU'RE CERTAINLY VERY THIN-SKINNED! COME ON, OBELIX!



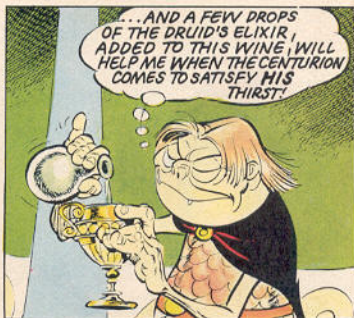
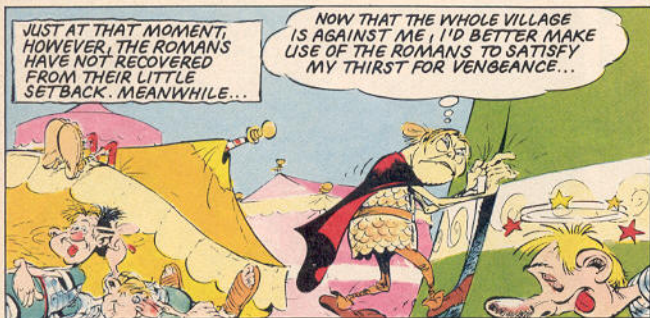
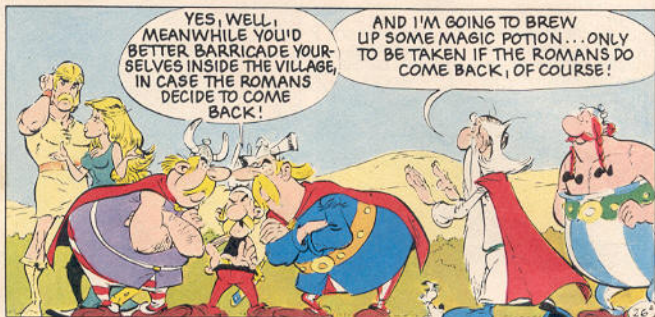
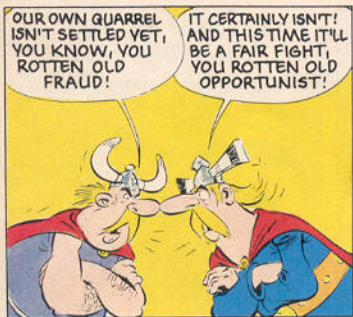
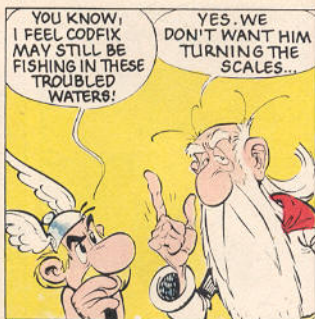
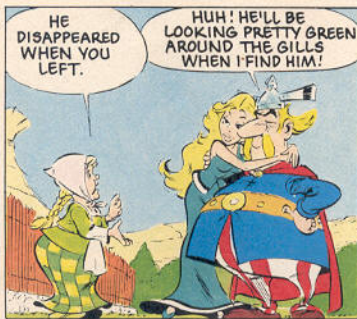
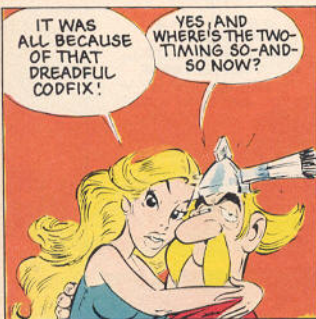
O DRUID, WASN'T IT A BIT DANGEROUS TO GIVE THE ROMANS A CHANCE TO DRINK OUR MAGIC POTION TOO?


THAT WAS A RISK WE HAD TO TAKE. I HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE ROMANS' LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN US, ASTERIX!



OH, FATHER!

MELODRAMA, MY DEAR CHILD!






RIGHT! WE SHALL NOW FORGET THIS WHOLE UNFORTUNATE EPISODE AND CLEAR UP THE MESS! I WANT THE GARRISON ALL SPRUCED UP AND LOOKING LIKE A CENA CANIS*! DISMISS!

*LATIN: DOG'S DINNER



WHAT'S CENA CANIS?

DOG LATIN, YOU IDIOT!




AH, A NICE GOBLET OF WINE WILL HELP ME FORGET MY TROUBLES!



GLUG!
GLUG!
GLUG!

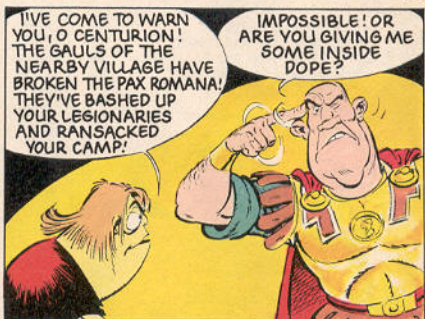


AAAH! BY JUPITER, I'M FEELING ON TOP OF THE WORLD!



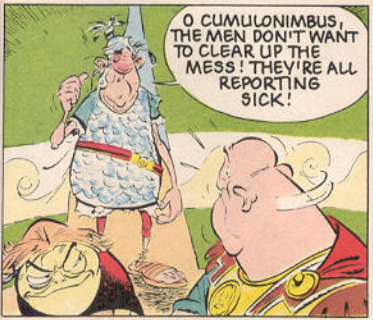
?!? WHO ARE YOU, GAUL, AND WHO LET YOU INTO THIS CAMP?

IT'S WORKING!



I'VE COME TO WARN YOU, O CENTURION! THE GAULS OF THE NEARBY VILLAGE HAVE BROKEN THE PAX ROMANA! THEY'VE BASHED UP YOUR LEGIONARIES AND RANSACKED YOUR CAMP!

IMPOSSIBLE! OR ARE YOU GIVING ME SOME INSIDE DOPE?



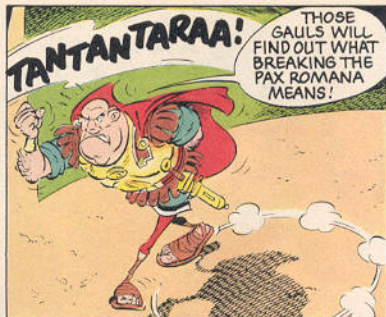
O CUMULONIMBUS, THE MEN DON'T WANT TO CLEAR UP THE MESS! THEY'RE ALL REPORTING SICK!



SICK BAY



**SOUND THE ASSEMBLY!
I WANT THIS GARRISON
PLACED ON A WAR
FOOTING!**



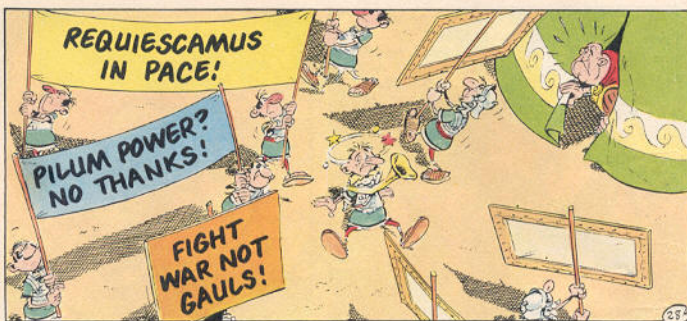
TANTANTARAA!

THOSE GAULS WILL
FIND OUT WHAT
BREAKING THE
PAX ROMANA
MEANS!



**TARAA...
BOING!**

?!?

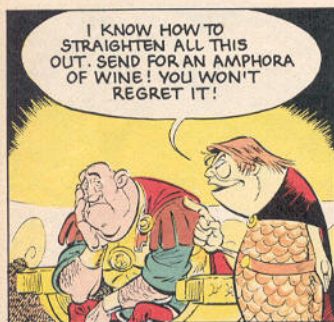


**REQUIESCAMUS
IN PACE!**

**PILUM POWER?
NO THANKS!**

**FIGHT
WAR NOT
GAULS!**

28



I KNOW HOW TO
STRAIGHTEN ALL THIS
OUT. SEND FOR AN AMPHORA
OF WINE! YOU WON'T
REGRET IT!



?!?



**EXTRA
GROS RATION
COMING UP!**



TAKE IT EASY.
THERE'LL BE PLENTY
FOR EVERYONE!



BY JUPITER,
I'M FEELING
GREAT! NOT
AT ALL
GROGGY!

THIS IS A
RUM DO... WHO
MIGHT YOU
BE?

29

AND LATER...

I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE, GAUL, BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME UNGRATEFUL FOR SERVICES RENDERED!

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT LATER, ONCE YOU'VE DONE FOR THE VILLAGE AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS.

BUT WATCH OUT! THERE'S A DRUID WITH THEM, AND HE HAS A POTION WHICH MAKES ANYONE WHO DRINKS IT INVINCIBLE!

CENTURIUS, A COUSIN OF MINE STATIONED IN ARMORICA TOLD ME ABOUT A DRUID THERE WHO HAS STRANGE POWERS, AND I'M JUST WONDERING WHETHER...

YOU'VE GOT A POINT, INFECTIUS VIRUS! WE MUST BE CAREFUL!

MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

THE MAGIC POTION'S READY. WE'D BETTER PUT IT SAFE ON NEUTRAL GROUND SOMEWHERE WHILE WE WAIT TO SEE IF THE ROMANS ARE COMING BACK!

SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS NEUTRAL GROUND. IT'S BANG IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE.

YES, LET'S PUT IT THERE. THAT FOOL SCHIZOPHRENIX HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE HE'S ON!

DIDN'T YOU EVER THINK OF PUTTING FLOOR-BOARDS DOWN OVER THE GAP?

THAT'S FLUORISHED HIM! WE'LL DO IT NOW.

AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...

I'LL WATCH OVER THE CAULDRON TONIGHT, TO MAKE DOUBLY SURE!

THEN YOU'D BETTER HAVE THIS GOULD OF MAGIC POTION ASTERIX. YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU MIGHT NEED A BOOSTER DOSE, IN SPITE OF THE POTION IN THE CAULDRON.

AND THAT NIGHT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE WOOD NEAR THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

I DON'T TRUST THAT DRUID AND HIS SECRET WEAPONS! I THINK I'D BETTER GO SCOUTING AHEAD BEFORE WE ATTACK!

AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MOVE TILL I GET BACK!

RIGHT, BUT HURRY UP! I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY REVENGE ON THOSE GAULS!



THE GODS OF THE UNDERWORLD ARE ON MY SIDE! IT'S THAT FOOL CONGENITAL-IDIOTIX ON SENTRY DUTY! I'LL SOON DEAL WITH HIM!

HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

IT'S ME, CODFIX.

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN FROM THE SMELL! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO ASK CHIEF MAJESTIX TO FORGIVE ME!

YOU CAN COME IN, BUT IF I WERE YOU I'D KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM MAJESTIX!

WHY ARE YOU MOUNTING GUARD LIKE THIS? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

WE'RE AFRAID THE ROMANS MAY COME BACK. BUT LUCKILY GETAFIX THE DRUID HAS MADE US SOME OF HIS MAGIC POTION. IT'S SAFE IN SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT!

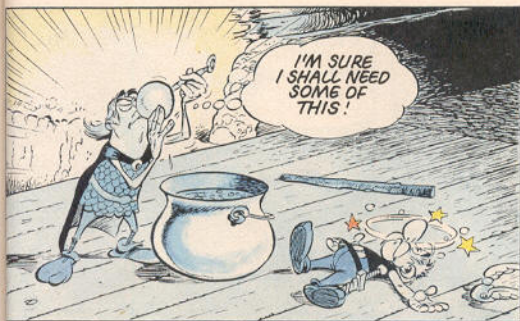
TEEHEE!



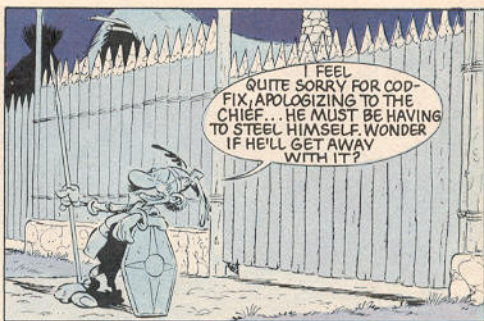
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SEE STARS INSIDE A HUT BEFORE!



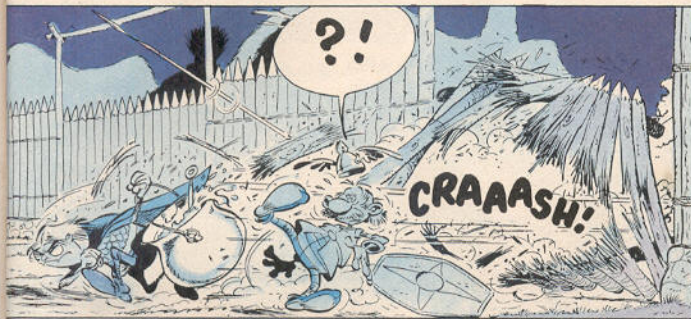
BONG!



I'M SURE I SHALL NEED SOME OF THIS!



I FEEL QUITE SORRY FOR COD-FIX, APOLOGIZING TO THE CHIEF... HE MUST BE HAVING TO STEEL HIMSELF WONDER IF HE'LL GET AWAY WITH IT?

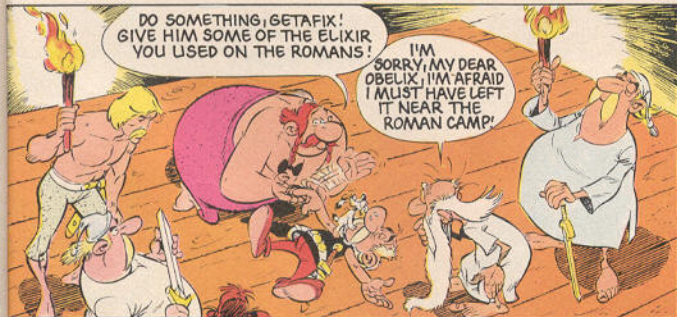


?!

CRAAASH!

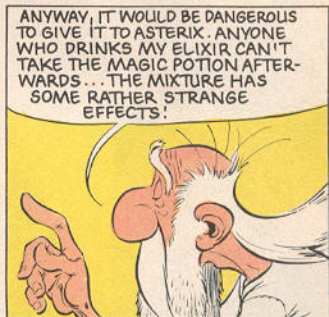


HELP!
HELP!



DO SOMETHING, GETAFIX! GIVE HIM SOME OF THE ELIXIR YOU USED ON THE ROMANS!

I'M SORRY, MY DEAR OBELIX, I'M AFRAID I MUST HAVE LEFT IT NEAR THE ROMAN CAMP!

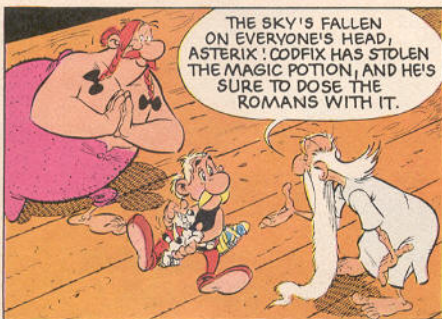


ANYWAY, IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO GIVE IT TO ASTERIX. ANYONE WHO DRINKS MY ELIXIR CAN'T TAKE THE MAGIC POTION AFTERWARDS... THE MIXTURE HAS SOME RATHER STRANGE EFFECTS!



BUT LUCKILY ASTERIX IS ALL RIGHT!

THIS TIME I REALLY DO THINK THE SKY HAS FALLEN ON MY HEAD!



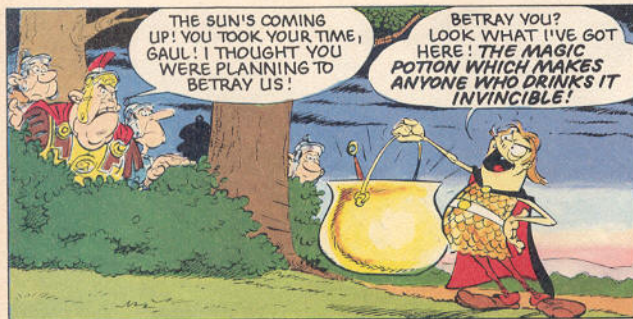
THE SKY'S FALLEN ON EVERYONE'S HEAD, ASTERIX! COD-FIX HAS STOLEN THE MAGIC POTION, AND HE'S SURE TO DOSE THE ROMANS WITH IT.



HUH! MAGIC POTION OR NO MAGIC POTION, WE CAN DEAL WITH THE ROMANS!

SPOKEN LIKE THE TRUE SON OF A CHIEF!

HMPH!



THE SUN'S COMING UP! YOU TOOK YOUR TIME, GAUL! I THOUGHT YOU WERE PLANNING TO BETRAY US!

BETRAY YOU? LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT HERE: THE MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES ANYONE WHO DRINKS IT INVINCIBLE!



ARE YOU SURE IT'S...

WATCH THIS!



CRAAACK!



CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP



NEVER MIND THE CURTAIN CALLS! IT'LL BE CURTAINS FOR US IF WE DON'T GET ON WITH DRINKING IT!



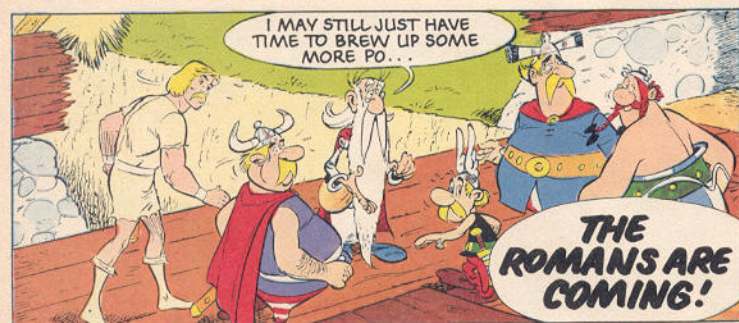
SOON AFTERWARDS...

THAT'S IT! EVERYONE'S HAD HIS POTION. COMING TO JOIN THE ATTACK?

ER... NO... NO, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME NOT TO BE SEEN WITH YOU! IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, YOU KNOW!



FORWARD MARCH!

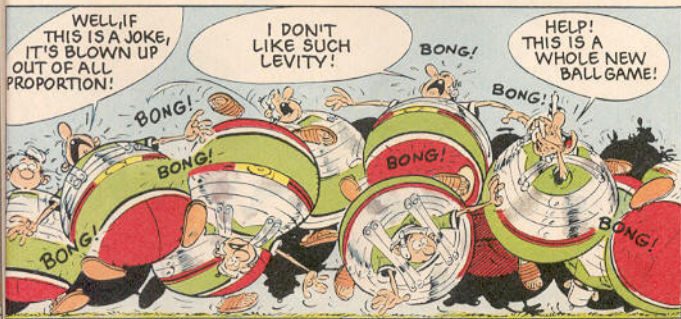
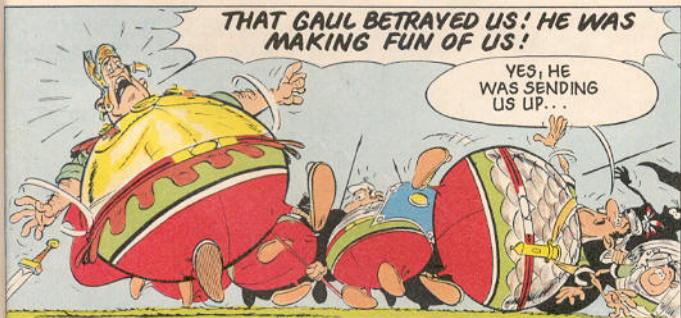
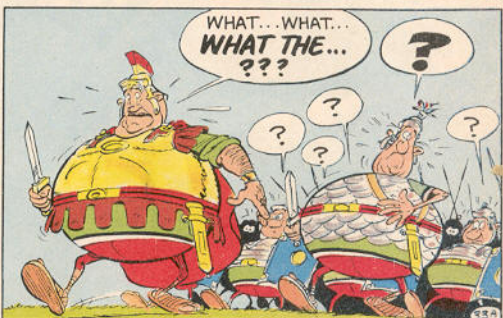
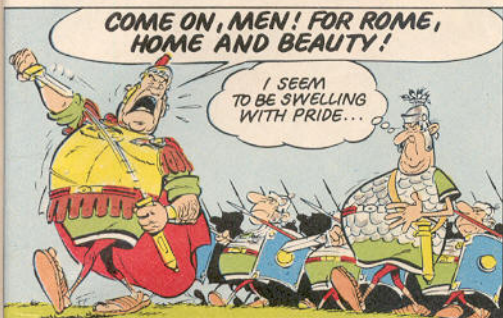


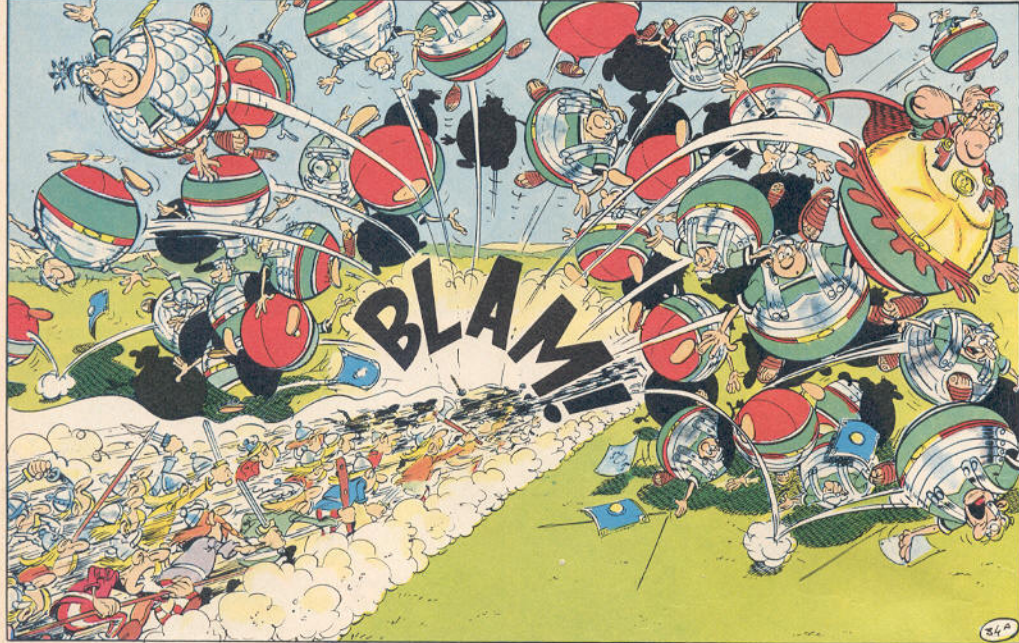
I MAY STILL JUST HAVE TIME TO BREW UP SOME MORE PO...

THE ROMANS ARE COMING!

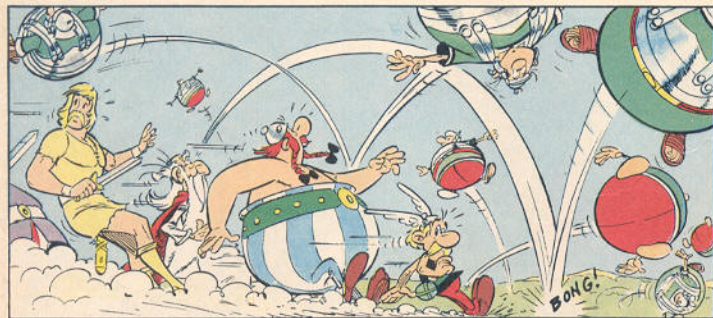


WE MUST GO OUT TO MEET THE ROMANS AND FIGHT THEM, IF WE'RE TO SAVE THE VILLAGE!





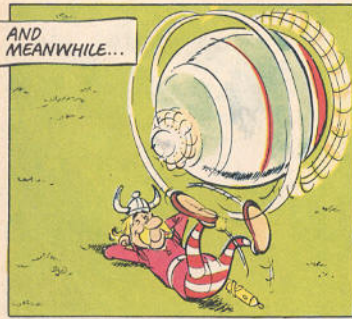
347



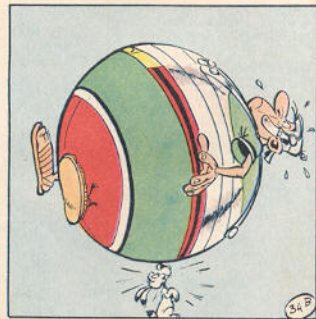
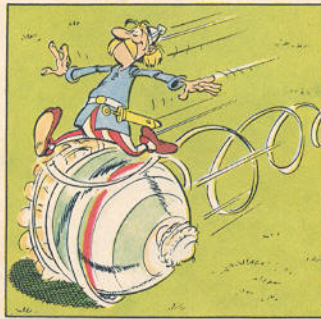
BONG!



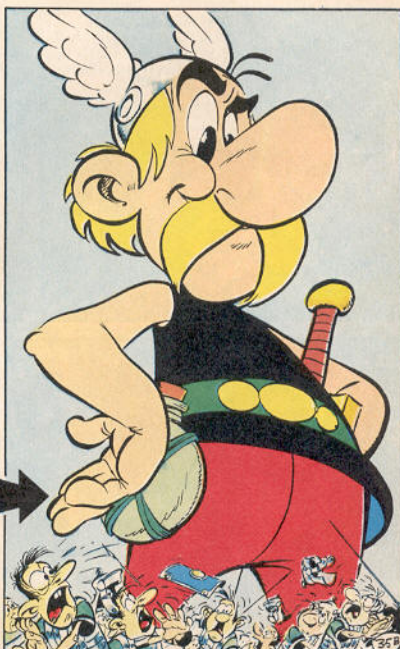
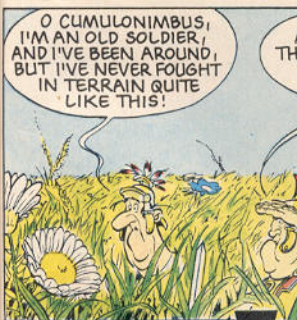
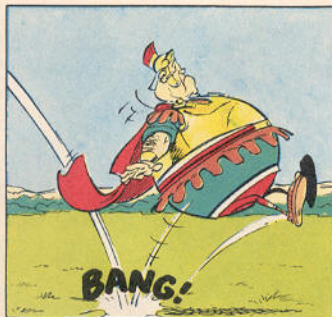
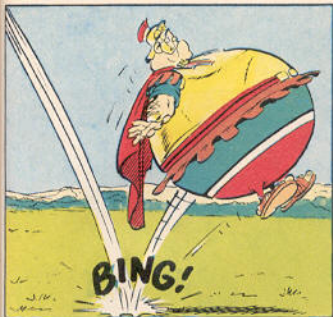
THESE ROMANS ARE REALLY CRAZY!
THEY'RE NOT AT THE CIRCUS NOW!

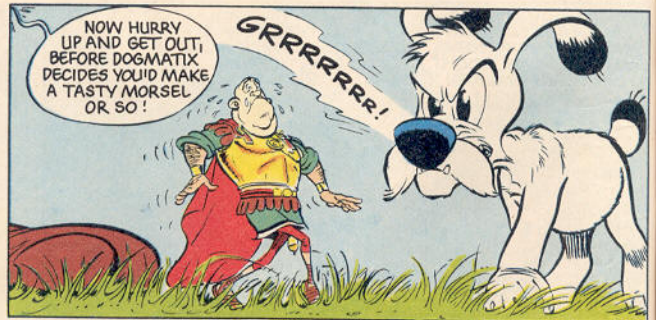
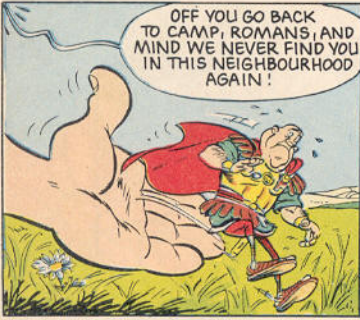
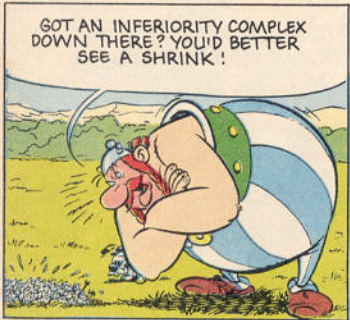
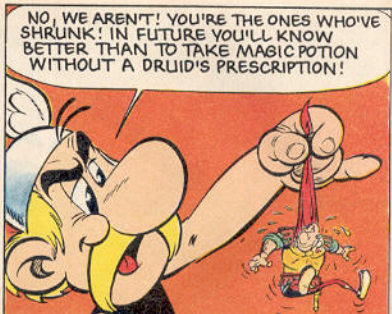
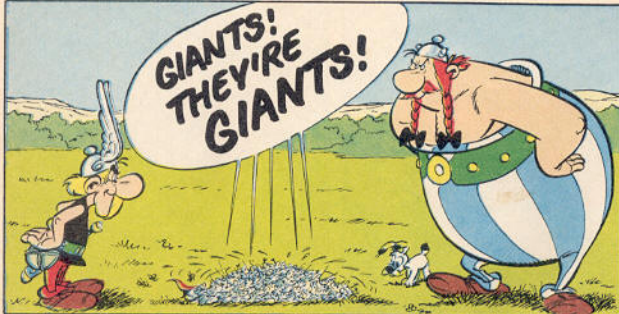


AND MEANWHILE...



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WELL, MY DEAR OBELIX, YOU STARTED QUITE A TRAIN OF EVENTS WITH THAT PUNCH YOU GAVE THE SENTRY OUTSIDE THE ROMAN CAMP... AND THE ENEMY LOST OUT!

YOU MEAN I DID IT?



ER... MAJESTIX, NOW WE'VE DEALT WITH THE ROMANS, I... THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU...

JUST A MOMENT, MY BOY! DON'T FORGET YOUR FATHER AND I STILL HAVE TO SETTLE OUR ARGUMENT, AND...



**MAJESTIX!
MAJESTIX!**

?!



CODFIX HAS KIDNAPPED MELODRAMA! HE LEFT THIS ROLL OF PARCHMENT ADDRESSED TO YOU!

THE DOUBLE-DEALING TRAITOR!



IF YOU WANT TO SEE MELODRAMA AGAIN, LEAVE 100 POUNDS IN GOLD NEAR THE DOLMEN BY THE SPRING BEFORE SUNSET.
Codfix

THE VILLAIN! I'M REALLY IN A JAM NOW, AND SO IS MELODRAMA... IT'S ALL VERY WELL FOR CODFIX, BUT WHERE DO I GET THAT KIND OF MONEY BY SUNSET?

I SHALL LEAVE AT ONCE IN SEARCH OF CODFIX, AND BY TOUTATIS, I SWEAR TO BRING MELODRAMA BACK SAFE AND SOUND!

OBELIX AND I WILL GO WITH YOU...



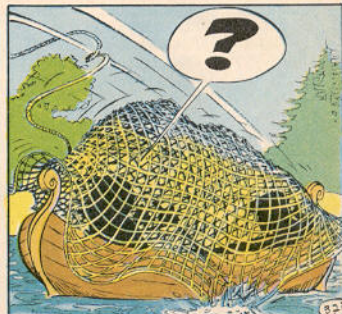
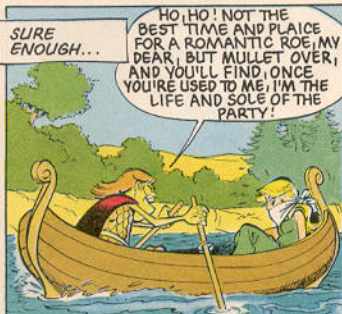
*** HENCE: MONEY FOR JAM.**



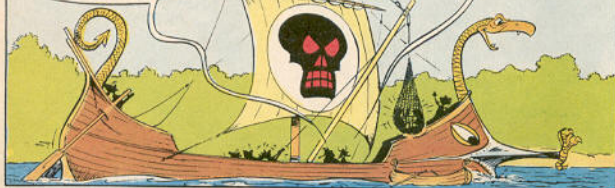
SO WILL DOGMATIX! LOOK, HE'S ALREADY PICKED UP THE SCENT! HE'S MAKING STRAIGHT FOR THE RIVER!

SURE ENOUGH...

HO, HO! NOT THE BEST TIME AND PLACE FOR A ROMANTIC ROE, MY DEAR, BUT MULLET OVER, AND YOU'LL FIND, ONCE YOU'RE USED TO ME, I'M THE LIFE AND SOLE OF THE PARTY!



WELL, ME HEARTIES, THERE'LL BE MANY A GOOD CATCH TO BE HAD IN THIS RIVER... HERE'S THE FIRST! AND WE CAN BE SURE WE DON'T RUN ANY RISK OF MEETING THOSE GAULS ISLAND!



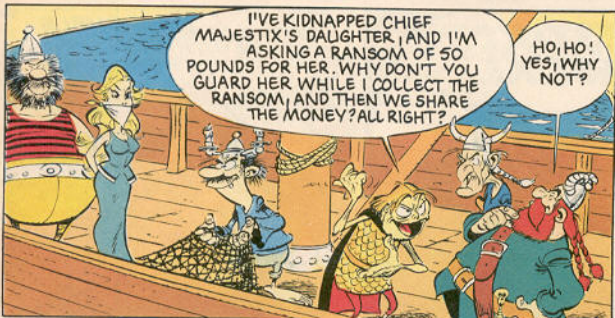
IF YOU BUY THAT YOU'LL BUY ANTHING. CAVEAT EMPTOR!

I HAVE A STRAIGHTFORWARD DEAL TO SUGGEST, O PIRATE!



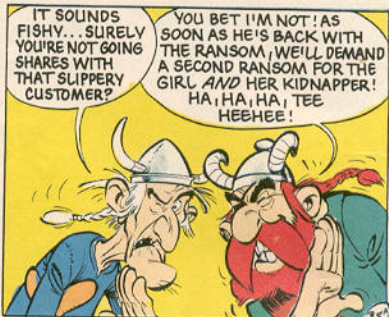
I'VE KIDNAPPED CHIEF MAJESTIX'S DAUGHTER, AND I'M ASKING A RANSOM OF 50 POUNDS FOR HER. WHY DON'T YOU GUARD HER WHILE I COLLECT THE RANSOM, AND THEN WE SHARE THE MONEY? ALL RIGHT?

HO, HO! YES, WHY NOT?



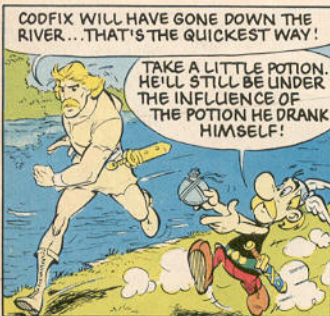
IT SOUNDS FISHY... SURELY YOU'RE NOT GOING SHARES WITH THAT SLIPPERY CUSTOMER?

YOU BET I'M NOT! AS SOON AS HE'S BACK WITH THE RANSOM, WE'LL DEMAND A SECOND RANSOM FOR THE GIRL AND HER KIDNAPPER! HA, HA, HA, TEE HEEHEE!



CODFIX WILL HAVE GONE DOWN THE RIVER... THAT'S THE QUICKEST WAY!

TAKE A LITTLE POTION. HE'LL STILL BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE POTION HE DRANK HIMSELF!

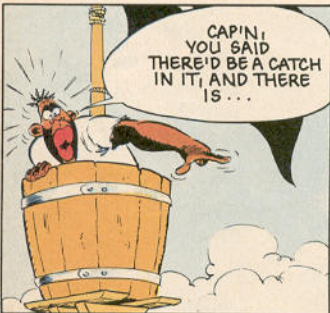


LOOK! A BOAT!

WHY, IF IT ISN'T OUR OLD FRIENDS! AND SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'LL FIND MELODRAMA WITH THEM!

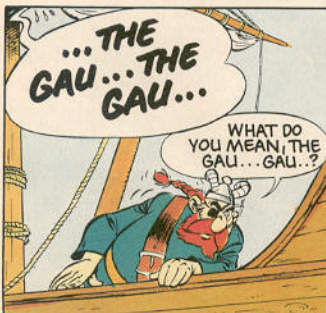


CAP'N, YOU SAID THERE'D BE A CATCH IN IT, AND THERE IS...



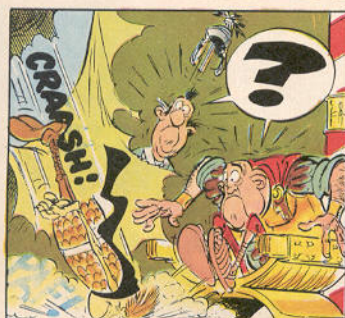
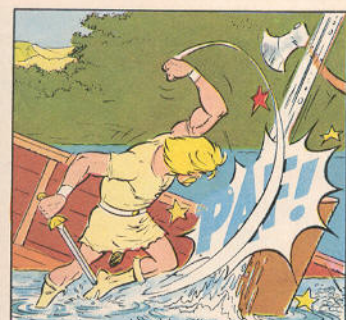
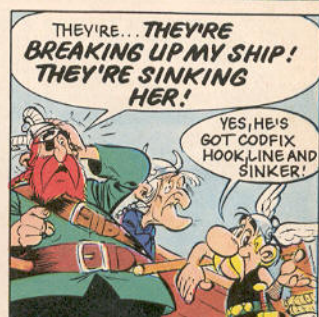
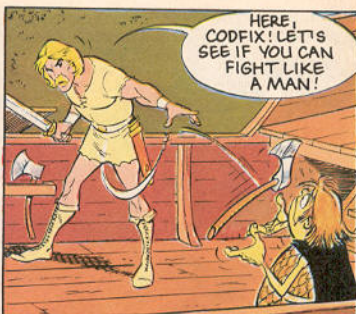
...THE GAU... THE GAU...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THE GAU... GAU...?



THE GAU... THE GAULS!





MEANWHILE...

SUNK IN SALT WATER...
SUNK IN FRESH WATER...
ALL THE WATER I EVER
WANT AGAIN IS A NIP OF
AQUA VITAE!

YOU'RE
GETTING THE
LINGO NICELY...YES,
IT'S TERRA FIRMA
FOR ME, TOO.

QUICK, LET'S GO AND
SET MAJESTIX'S MIND
AT REST!

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE SUCH
AS THIS, IT IS ONLY RIGHT TO
FORGET OUR DIFFERENCES, AND
I FEEL FOR YOU, MAJESTIX!

THEY'RE
BACK, WITH
MELODRAMA!

OH, FATHER,
HISTRIONIX ACTED
LIKE A TRUE
CHIEF!

I'M EXTREMELY
GRATEFUL TO
HISTRIONIX FOR HIS
BRAVE ACTION, BUT
THAT'S GOING A BIT
TOO FAR, MY
DEAR!

OH NO, IT ISN'T.
AFTER ALL, HIS-
TRIONIX IS THE
SON OF A
CHIEF!

SON OF A
CHIEF MY FOOT!!!
I'M THE ONLY
REAL CHIEF
AROUND
HERE!

OH, FOR GOODNESS'S SAKE, WE'VE
HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! IF YOU MUST
FIGHT FOR THE CHIEFTAINSHIP, KEEP
IT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU!!!

MELODRAMA IS QUITE
RIGHT! FIGHT IF YOU
MUST, BUT LEAVE THE
OTHER VILLAGERS OUT
OF IT. THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH
OF YOUR QUARRELS!

AND SOON
AFTER-
WARDS...

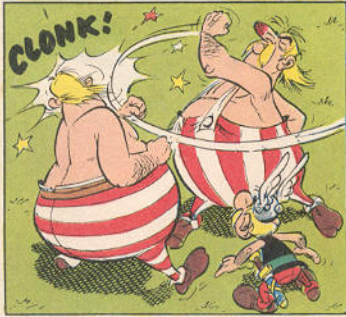
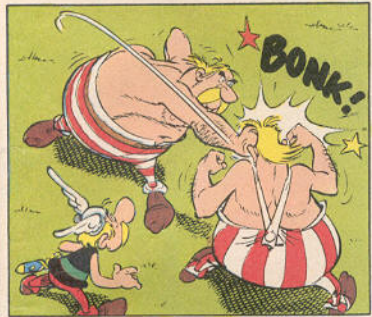
NOW, YOU SENILE OLD
DOTARD, I'LL SHOW YOU
WHAT A REAL CHIEF CAN
DO, AND WITH MY
BARE HANDS!

YOU
DYSPEPTIC OLD
FOGY! YOU'RE
IN FOR A
SHOCK!

YOU'LL NEED
A NEUTRAL UMPIRE.
I VOLUNTEER TO REFEREE
YOUR SINGLE
COMBAT!



ACCORDING TO THE RULES, THE FIGHT
MAY GO ON UNTIL SUNRISE TOMORROW. THE
LOSER IS THE MAN WHO STAYS DOWN AFTER
A COUNT OF 100! OFF YOU GO, AND MAY
THE BEST MAN WIN THE PRIZE!

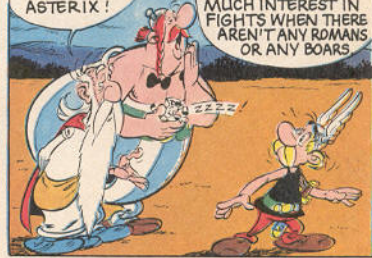


AS EVENING COMES ON, MANY OF THE AUDIENCE,
TIRING OF THE SHOW, LEAVE THE RING.



THEY OUGHT TO REVISE THE
RULES OF THESE
PRIZEFIGHTS.

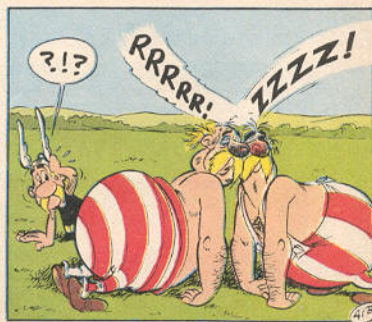
IT'S LATE.
I'M GOING
TO BED,
ASTERIX!



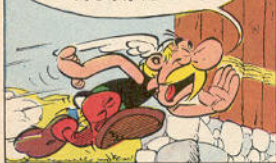
EVEN ASTERIX IS UN-
ABLE TO KEEP HIS EYES
OPEN. ALL ALONE, IN
THE MOONLIGHT, THE
TWO CHIEFS ARE STILL
EQUALLY MATCHED.



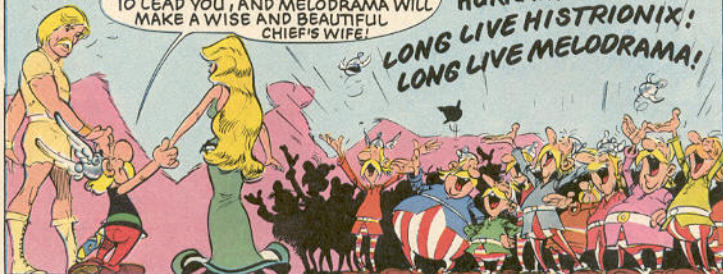
AND AT
SUNRISE...



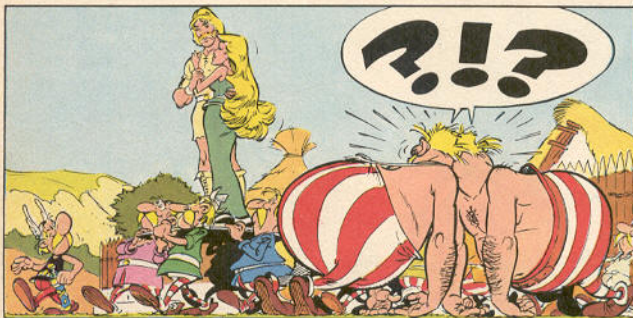
FRIENDS, FATE HAS DECIDED THE RESULT OF THE SINGLE COMBAT... NO ONE HAS WON AND NO ONE HAS LOST!



BUT YOU CAN HAVE A YOUNG, STRONG CHIEF IF YOU CHOOSE HISTRIXIONX TO LEAD YOU, AND MELODRAMA WILL MAKE A WISE AND BEAUTIFUL CHIEF'S WIFE!



**HURRAH!
LONG LIVE HISTRIXIONX!
LONG LIVE MELODRAMA!**



OH, WELL, I RATHER THINK ALL WE CAN DO IS GET DRESSED AGAIN!

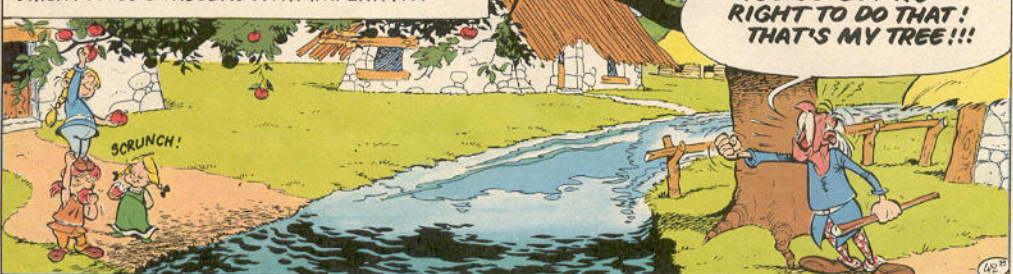
YOU SAID IT, FAT-FACE!



REUNITED AT LAST, UNDER THE RULE OF THEIR NEW CHIEF HISTRIXIONX, THE GAULS OF THE VILLAGE DIVERT PART OF THE NEARBY RIVER INTO THE DITCH, WHICH NO LONGER SERVES ANY USEFUL PURPOSE. AND NOW THERE IS NO PARTY OF THE RIGHT OR PARTY OF THE LEFT, ONLY A RIGHT BANK AND A LEFT BANK, RUNNING WATER ON EVERYONE'S DOORSTEP, AND FREEDOM FOR ALL THE VILLAGERS TO GO TO AND FRO.



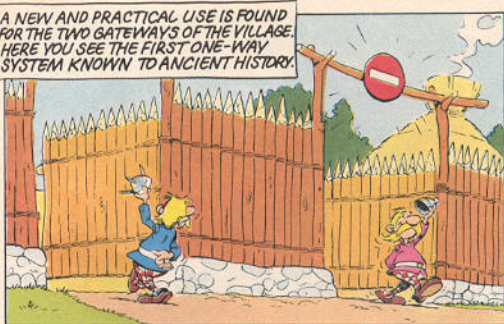
THE CHILDREN CAN STILL GATHER THE FRUITS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LABOURS WITH IMPUNITY...



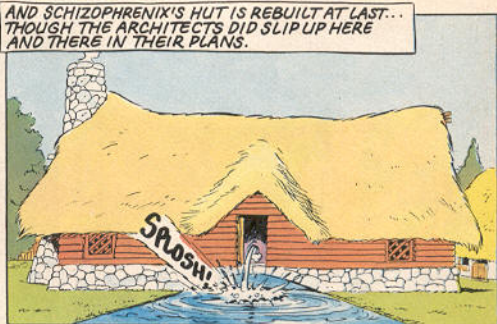
**YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO DO THAT!
THAT'S MY TREE!!!**

SCRUNCH!

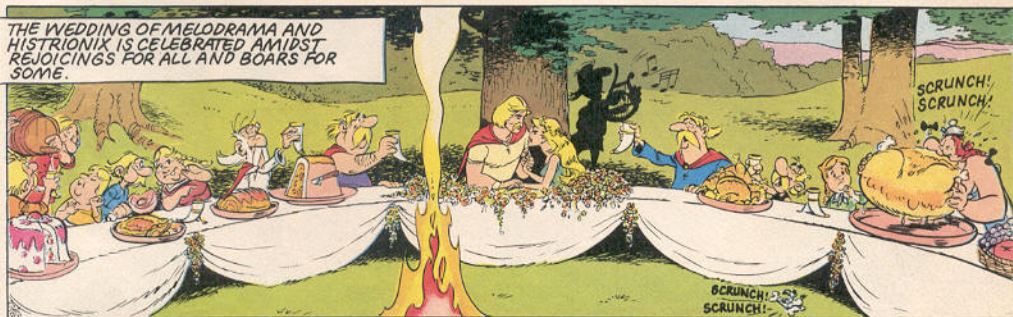
A NEW AND PRACTICAL USE IS FOUND FOR THE TWO GATEWAYS OF THE VILLAGE. HERE YOU SEE THE FIRST ONE-WAY SYSTEM KNOWN TO ANCIENT HISTORY!



AND SCHIZOPHRENIX'S HUT IS REBUILT AT LAST... THOUGH THE ARCHITECTS DID SLIP UP HERE AND THERE IN THEIR PLANS.



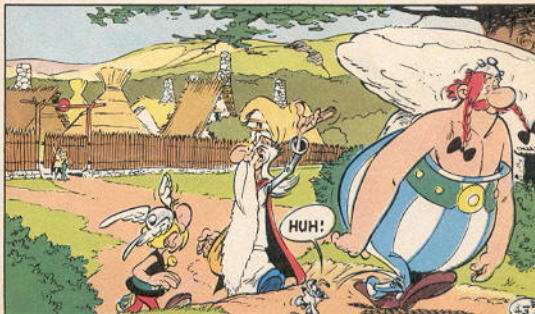
THE WEDDING OF MELODRAMA AND HISTRIONIX IS CELEBRATED AMIDST REJOICINGS FOR ALL AND BOARS FOR SOME.

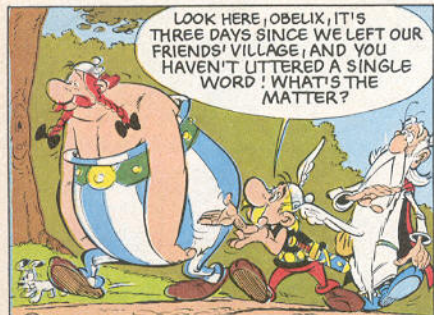


THE TIME COMES TO SAY GOOD-BYE.

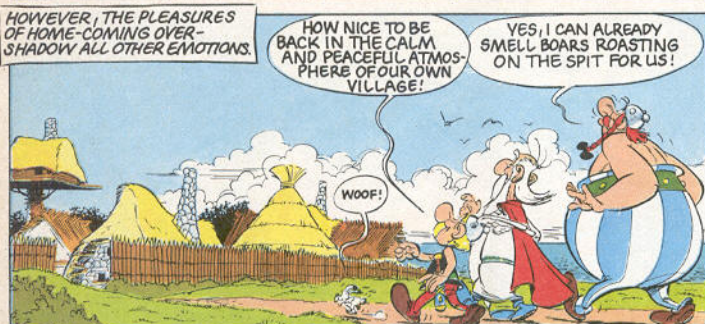
HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU FOR ALL WE OWE YOU?

YOU'RE HAPPY, AND THAT'S ALL THE THANKS WE NEED!





HOWEVER, THE PLEASURES OF HOME-COMING OVERSHADOW ALL OTHER EMOTIONS.



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