

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix

and the
SECRET WEAPON

Written and illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE SECRET WEAPON

Written and Illustrated by ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by ANTHEA BELL *and* DEREK HOCKRIDGE





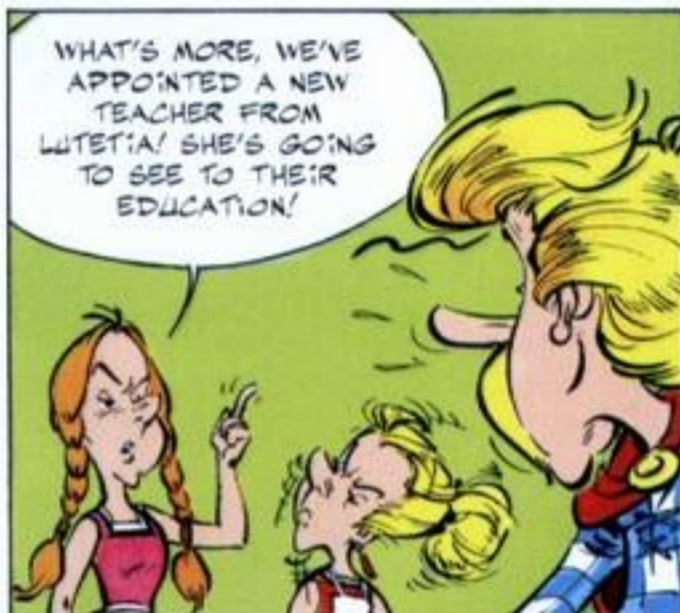


COME ALONG, CHILDREN! BREAK'S OVER!

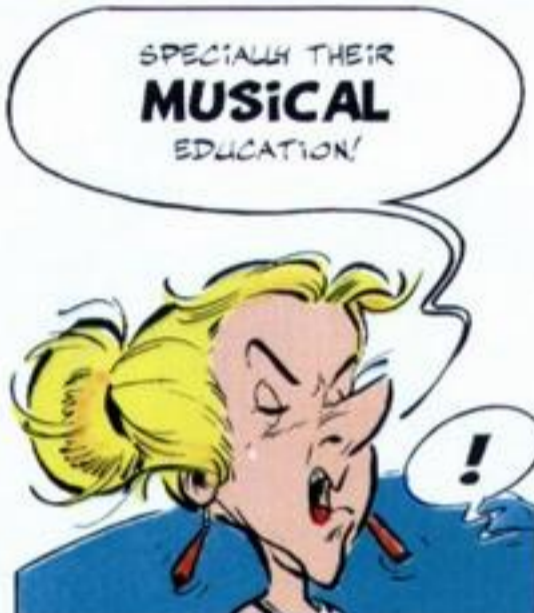


WE'VE DECIDED TO REMOVE OUR CHILDREN FROM THIS SCHOOL! IT HAS A POOR REPUTATION!

?!?



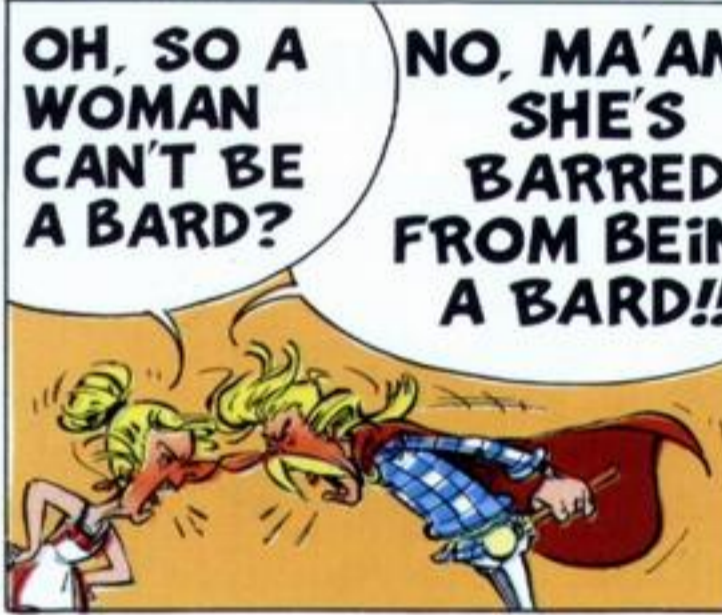
WHAT'S MORE, WE'VE APPOINTED A NEW TEACHER FROM LUTETIA! SHE'S GOING TO SEE TO THEIR EDUCATION!



SPECIALLY THEIR **MUSICAL** EDUCATION!



ALLOW ME TO REMIND YOU THAT ONLY DRUIDS AND BARDS ARE QUALIFIED TO TEACH SCHOOLCHILDREN!



OH, SO A WOMAN CAN'T BE A BARD?

NO, MA'AM! SHE'S BARRED FROM BEING A BARD!!!



THAT'S JUST TOO BARD! TAKE THAT!

KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF, MA'AM!

NO HOLDS BARRED, EH?



NOT ONLY DO THEY THUMP ME AT THE DROP OF A LYRE, THEY'RE BRINGING IN A FOREIGN FEMALE TO REPLACE ME! WELL, THAT'S IT! I'M LEAVING THE VILLAGE!



POOR OLD CACOFONIX! HE REALLY SEEMS TO MEAN IT! I'D BETTER GO AND TELL CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!

IT'S NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE! NO WOMAN COULD EVER REPLACE ME! CARVING MENHIRS IS FAR TOO DELICATE A JOB!



CHIEF VITALSTATIX! CACOFONIX IS PLANNING TO LEAVE US OVER A WOMAN BARD!

YOU MEAN HE'S IN LOVE?



NO, BUT HE'S ALL UPSET TO THINK HE'S BEING REPLACED BY A WOMAN FROM OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE!

OH, I HAVE EVERY FAITH IN US! WE'LL SEE THIS WOMAN BARD OFF IN DOUBLE-QUICK TIME!



MEANWHILE WE MUST PERSUADE CACOFONIX TO STAY. HE'S EXCELLENT COMPANY WHEN HE DOESN'T SING!



THE WHOLE VILLAGE ASKS YOU NOT TO LEAVE, CACOFONIX!

FAREWELL, YOU UN-GRATEFUL LOT! QUALIS ARTIFEX PEREO!*

* WHAT AN ARTIST PERISHES WITH ME! (LATIN SAYING WRONG ATTRIBUTED TO NERO)



LOOK... JUST TO SHOW HOW FOND WE ARE OF YOU, WE'RE EVEN WILLING TO... TO LET YOU SING!



OH NO, YOU WON'T GET ME TO SING! OH NO, YOU WON'T GET ME TO SING!!!

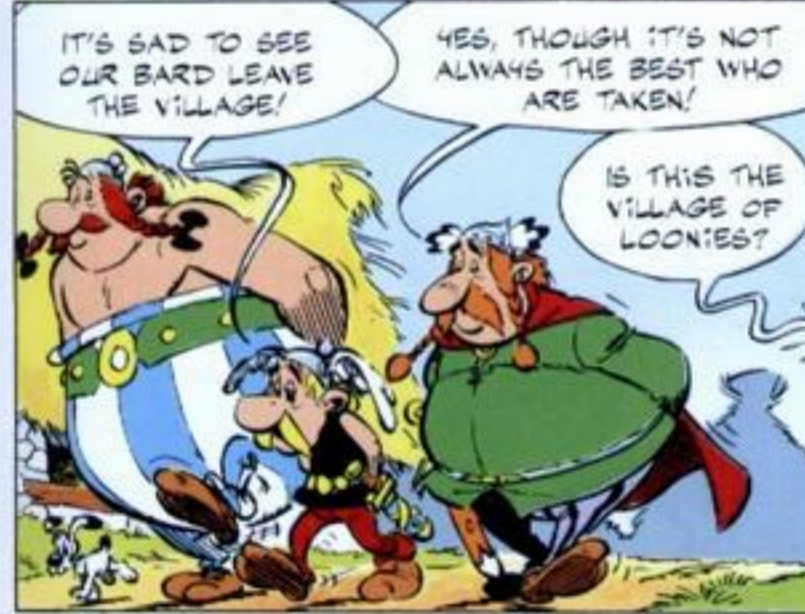
BONG! BONG! BONG!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CACOFONIX?

I AM RETIRING TO MY LITTLE PIED-A-LAIR* IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST TO MEDITATE ON MAN'S INGRATITUDE!

* A BARD'S SECOND HOME.



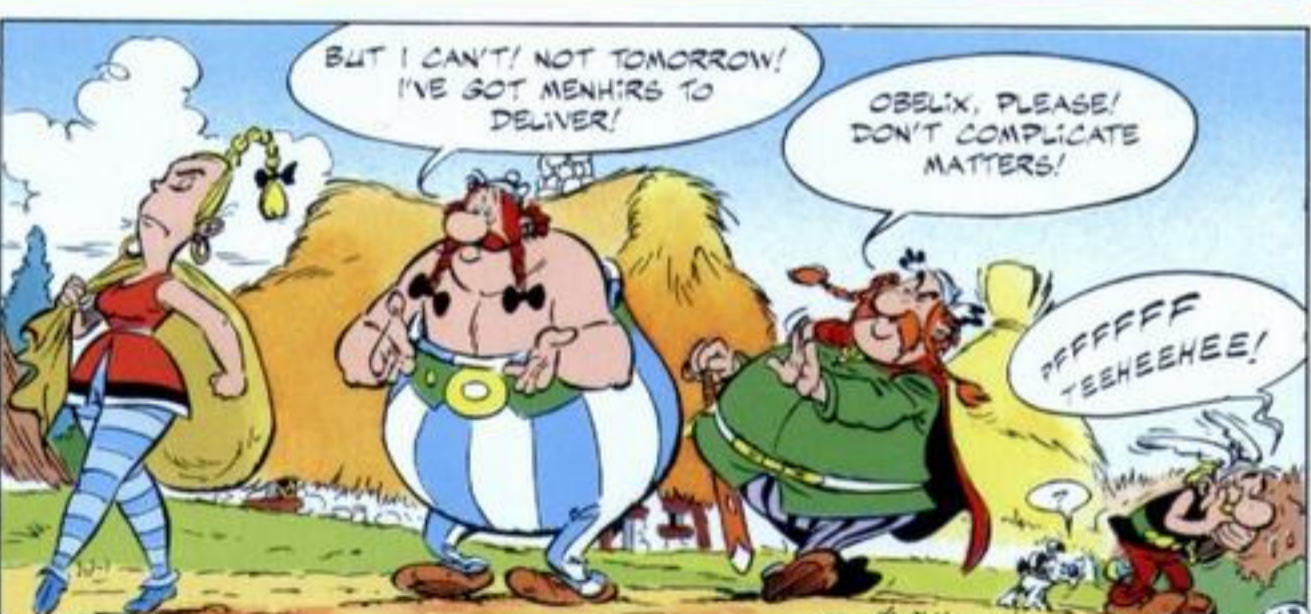
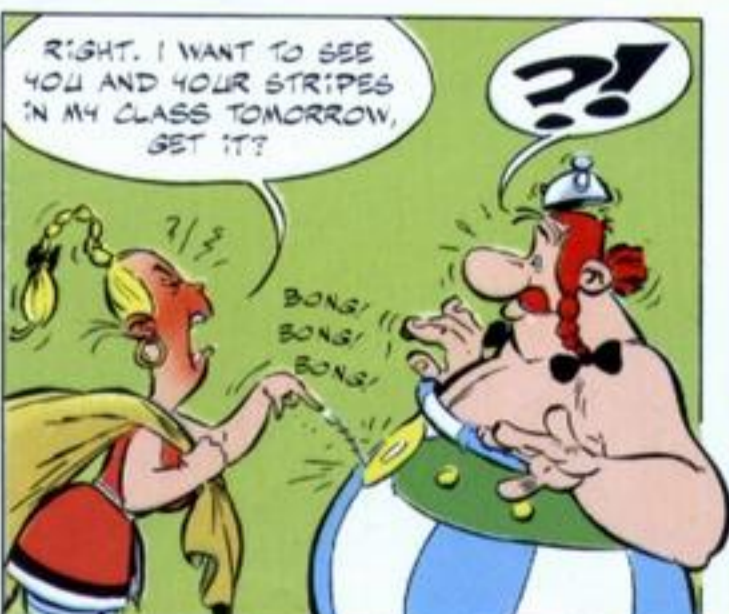
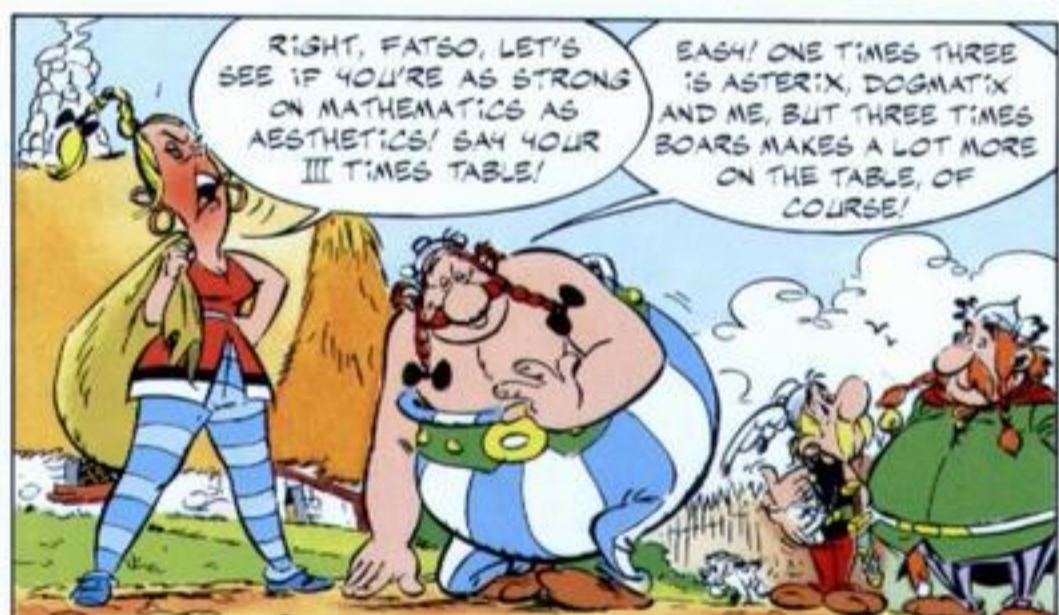
IT'S SAD TO SEE OUR BARD LEAVE THE VILLAGE!

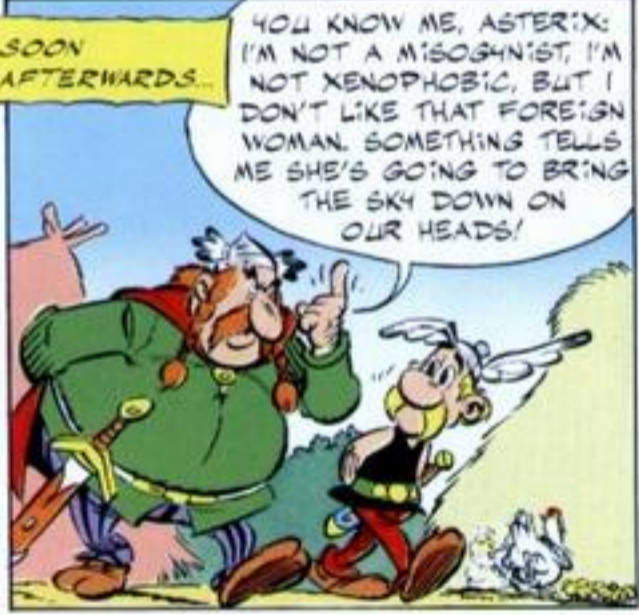
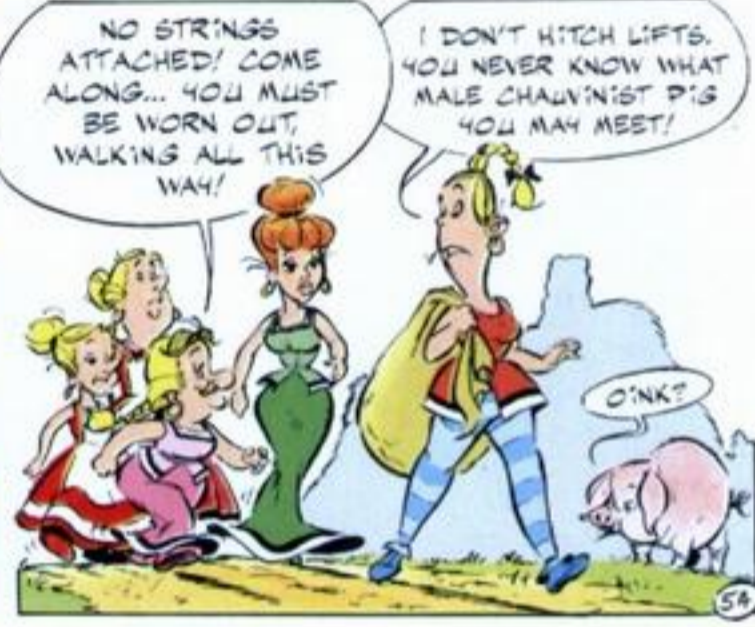
YES, THOUGH IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE BEST WHO ARE TAKEN!

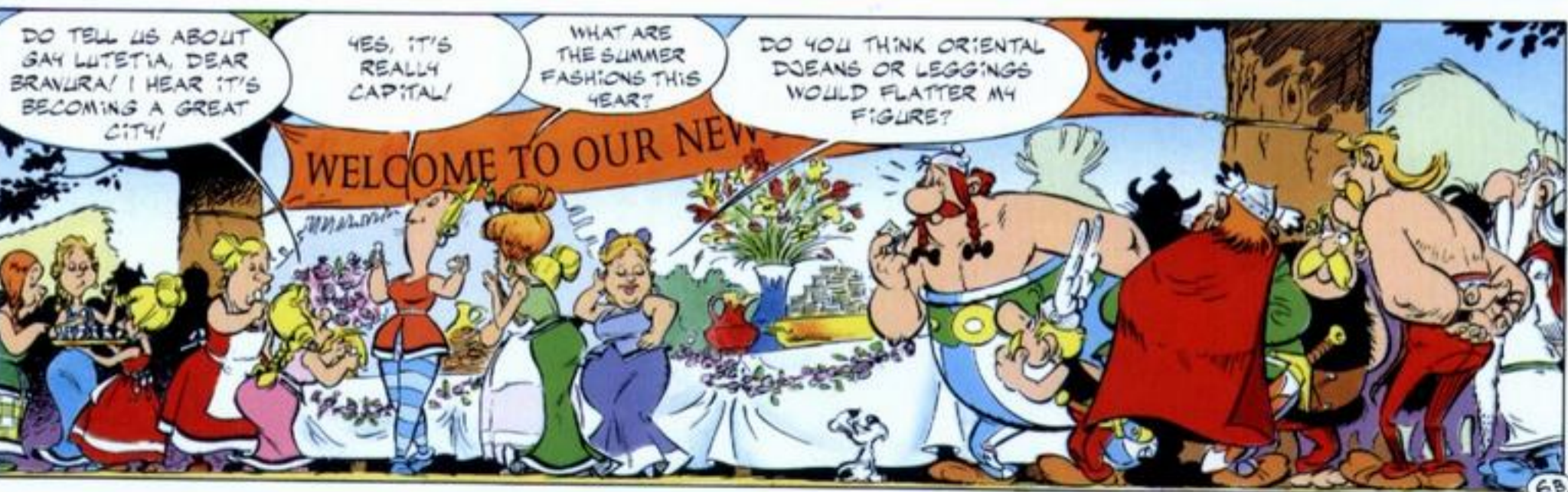
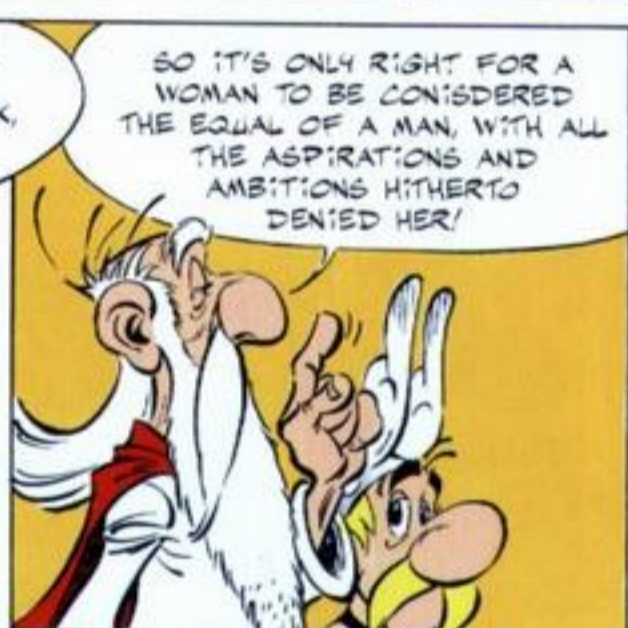
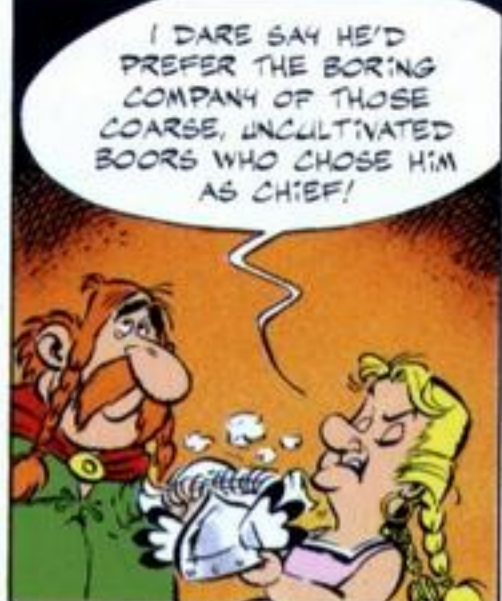
IS THIS THE VILLAGE OF LOONIES?



!?







**A SONG!
A SONG!**

BRAVURA DEAR,
DO SING US ONE
OF YOUR ODES!

ER... WELL...
I'M NOT IN GREAT
VOICE THIS
EVENING!

I NEVER SAW A
BARD SHY ABOUT
SINGING BEFORE!

WELL, IF YOU
INSIST, I'LL GET
THE INSTRUMENT
I USE FOR
ACCOMPANIMENT!

I
THOUGHT
AS MUCH!

AAAAAHH!

SOON
AFTERWARDS

THE HARP AND THE
CARNYX* ARE JUST FOR
EARLY MUSIC FANS NOW!
ONLY PERCUSSION CAN
DRUM MODERN LYRIC
POETRY INTO AN AUDIENCE!
LISTEN TO THIS!

* GAULISH TRUMPET

**ARMORICA! ARMORICA!
TOUTATIS SHED HIS GRACE
ON THEE!**

**BONG!
BONG!**

**ARMORICA THE
BEEAUOOOTIFUL...**

**BONG!
BONG!**

**BONG!
BONG!**

**HA! HA!
HO! HO! TEEHEEHEE!**

NOW, NOW,
GENTLEMEN! LIVE
AND LET
L'HEEHEEHEE!

PHILISTINES/
RUSTIC
BOORS!

TAKE NO NOTICE OF
THEM! IT WAS... ER,
WELL, IT WAS VERY
NICE, YOU KNOW!

I KNOW! WHAT I DON'T KNOW IS HOW
YOU CAN PUT UP WITH THESE
RETARDED BARBARIANS!

THEY DO LIKE A
JOKE, BUT THEY
MEAN WELL!

YOU CAN ALL COME AND SEE ME
TOMORROW AFTER THE CHILDREN
HAVE FINISHED SCHOOL, AND I'LL
TELL YOU ABOUT WOMAN'S PLACE IN
GAULISH SOCIETY TODAY!

NIGHT BRINGS THE VILLAGE PEACE AND CALM...



...BROKEN ONLY BY THE SNORING OF THE VILLAGE COCKEREL, WHOSE ADENOIDS ARE STILL GIVING HIM TROUBLE.



IN LUTETIA'S FAIR CITY WHERE GIRLS ARE SO PRETTY...





NEXT DAY...

OUR NEW BARD LOOKS CROTCHETY THIS MORNING!

YEAH, SHE FELL FLAT!

BONG!
BONG!
BONG!



GET IN LINE, AND NO TALKING, PLEASE!

I'M OFF TO HUNT WILD BOAR! I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR LESSONS, OBELIX!



ANIMALS ARE FORBIDDEN IN SCHOOL!

BUT DOGMATIX ISN'T TOO OLD A DOG TO LEARN A FEW NEW TRICKS!



I SAID ANIMALS ARE FORBIDDEN IN SCHOOL!

THERE, NOW YOU'VE GONE AND UPSET HIM!

GRRRRR!

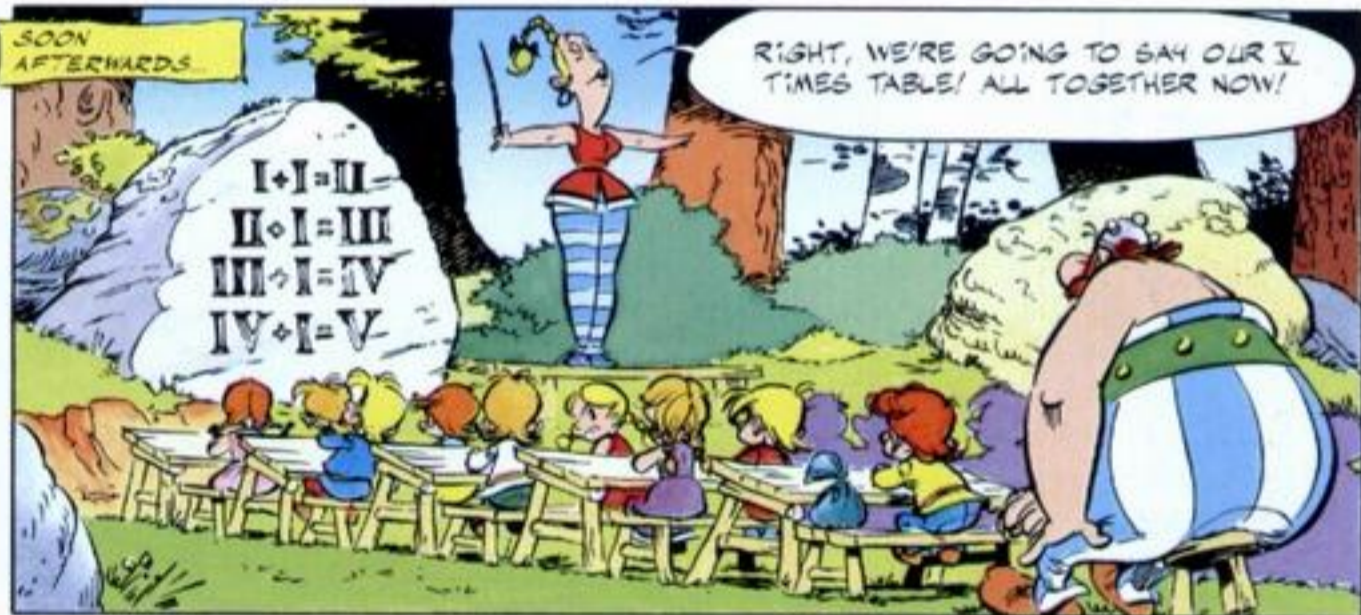


NEVER MIND, DOGMATIX! WAIT FOR ME HERE. I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!



AND WHAT, MAY I ASK, IS THAT?

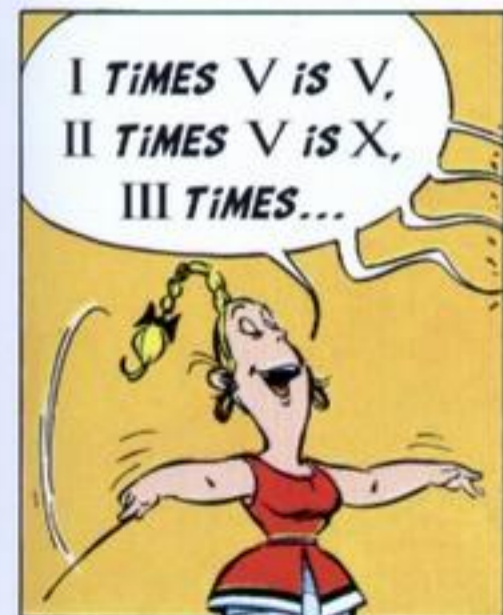
MY LUNCH-BUNDLE! THAT'S NOT FORBIDDEN, I HOPE?



SOON AFTERWARDS

I + I = II
II + I = III
III + I = IV
IV + I = V

RIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO SAY OUR X TIMES TABLE! ALL TOGETHER NOW!



I TIMES V IS V,
II TIMES V IS X,
III TIMES...



MISS! PLEASE, MISS, OBELIX IS TRYING TO GET AT MY LUNCH-BUNDLE!



I WAS ONLY GOING TO HAVE A TASTE, THAT'S ALL!

RIGHT, YOU WILL CARVE OUT 100 TIMES: I MUST NOT GET AT SOMEONE ELSE'S LUNCH-BUNDLE!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN ROME...

WELL, MANLIUS CLAPHAM-OMNIBUS, HOW ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT 'VERY SPECIAL CENTURY' YOU WERE GOING TO RECRUIT?

IT'S READY TO GO, O CAESAR! YOUR NEW SECRET WEAPON MERELY AWAITS YOUR ORDERS TO EMBARK!

I DON'T WANT ANY WITNESSES TO THIS BUSINESS, UNDERSTAND? **NO WITNESSES!**

EVERY PRECAUTION SHALL BE TAKEN, O CAESAR, I SWEAR IT!

IF THE EXISTENCE OF YOUR CENTURY BECAME KNOWN, I SHOULD BE VULNERABLE TO MY ENEMIES IN THE SENATE AND THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF ROME! SO WATCH IT, CLAPHAMOMNIBUS!

AND THUS A ROMAN SHIP, CARRYING CAESAR'S MYSTERIOUS SECRET WEAPON, SETS SAIL IN THE DIRECTION OF GAUL!

POOR OBELIX! WHAT A PITY HE COULDN'T COME ON THIS HUNT...

...HE'D HAVE HAD SUCH FUN!

A LITTLE LATER, IN THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM...

BY JUPITER! ANYONE WOULD THINK ALL GAUL HAD BEEN TRAMPLING OVER YOU!

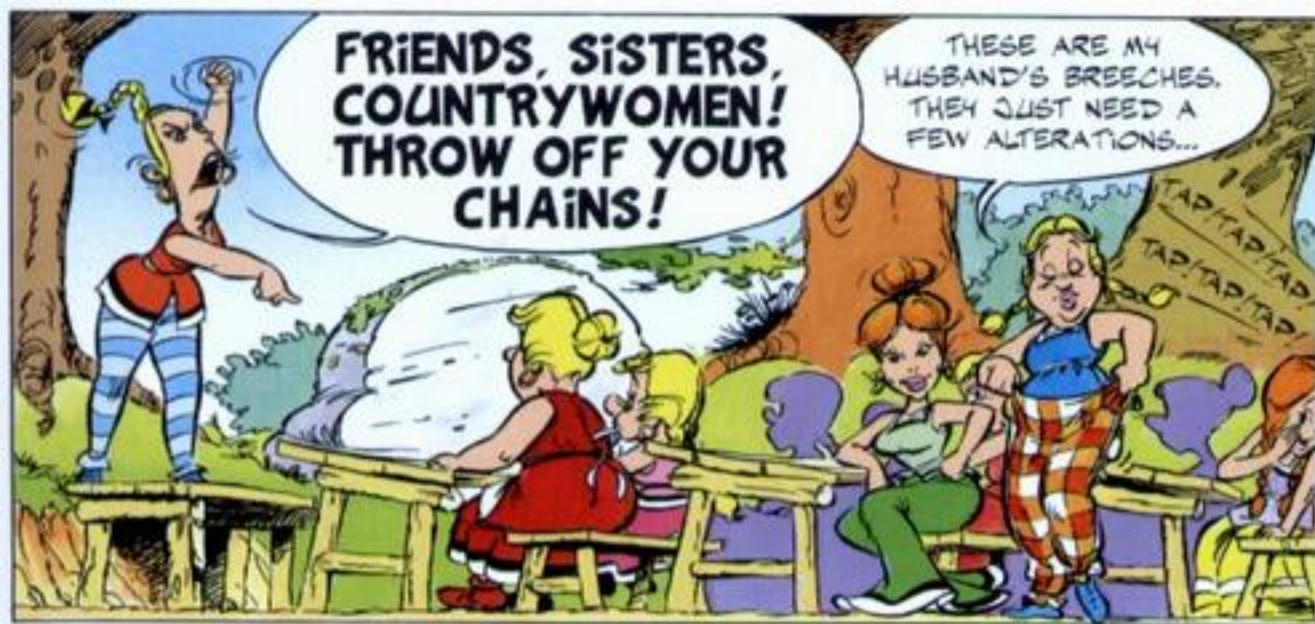
IT FEELS LIKE IT, FENTURION!

WE BUMPTED INTO A BOAR...

...AND THAT LITTLE STINKER FROM THE VILLAGE OF 'INDOMITABLE GAULS!'

GLORIA VICTIS!

BEAR UP, BOYS! ROME HAS PROMISED TO SEND OUR RELIEF SOON!



FRIENDS, SISTERS, COUNTRYWOMEN! THROW OFF YOUR CHAINS!

THESE ARE MY HUSBAND'S BREECHES. THEY JUST NEED A FEW ALTERATIONS...



FREE YOURSELVES FROM SLAVERY! SWELL THE RANKS OF THOSE WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT...



...MASCULINE TYRAN...

?!?



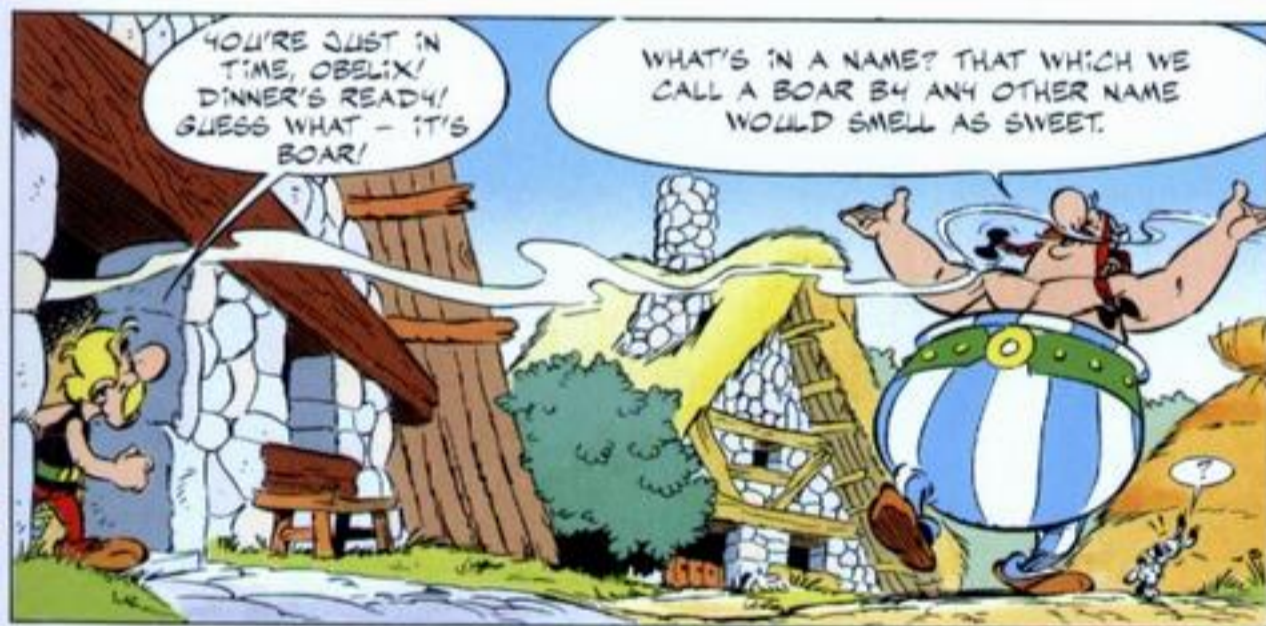
HELLO, ARE YOU STILL HERE?

OF COURSE. YOU TOLD ME TO CARVE OUT THAT YOU MUSTN'T GO A BUNDLE ON SOMEONE ELSE'S LUNCH 100 TIMES, DIDN'T YOU?



ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN GIVE SCHOOL A MISS THIS TIME!

YES, MISS!



YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, OBELIX! DINNER'S READY! GUESS WHAT - IT'S BOAR!

WHAT'S IN A NAME? THAT WHICH WE CALL A BOAR BY ANY OTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET.



BLANK VERSE NOW, EH? SCHOOL MUST AGREE WITH YOU.

SCRUNCH! THAT'S ALL OVER! SHE TOLD ME TO GIVE SCHOOL A MISS... SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!



SO I GAVE HER TO THE VILLAGE LADIES FOR THEIR EVENING CLASSES! SCRUNCH! GLOP!



EVENING CLASSES? WHAT EVENING CLASSES?



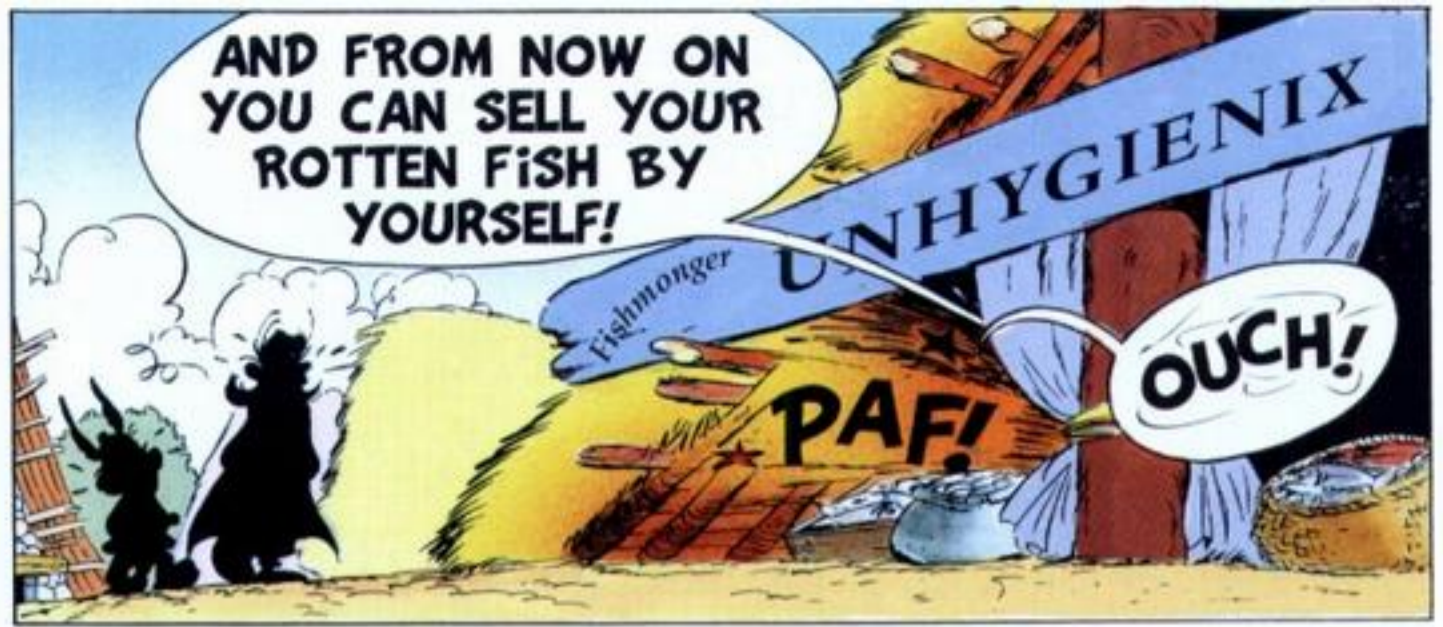
NO IDEA IT WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THROWING UP CHAMPAGNE AND FREEING THE SLAVE TO QUELL THE PRANKS OF THOSE WHO PRODUCE EXCEPT I FORGET WHAT...

?



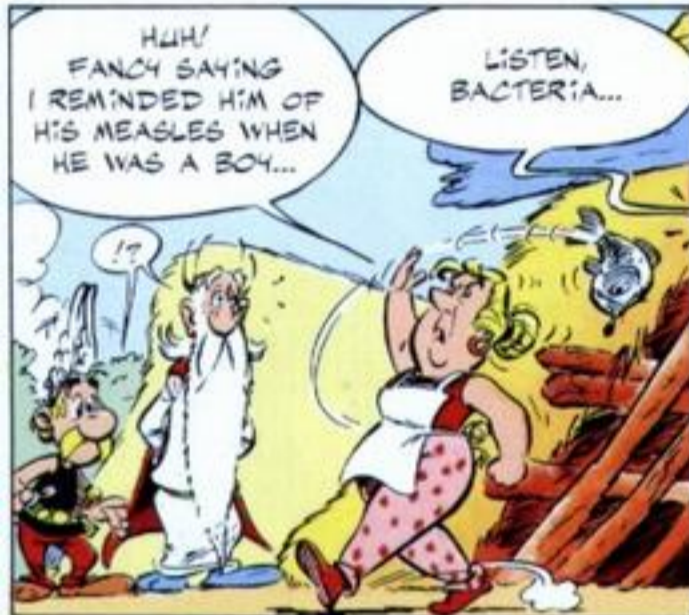
I FEAR VITALSTATISTIX MAY BE RIGHT. I'M AFRAID THIS BRAVURA WILL SOW DISCORD AMONG US!

NOW, NOW, LET'S NOT JUDGE HASTILY, ASTERIX!



AND FROM NOW ON YOU CAN SELL YOUR ROTTEN FISH BY YOURSELF!

OUCH!



HUH! FANCY SAYING I REMINDED HIM OF HIS MEASLES WHEN HE WAS A BOY...

LISTEN, BACTERIA...



BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITHOUT MY BREECHES?

THE DISHES, GERIATRIX DEAR! THE DISHES!

!!!



WAAAH! DON'T WANT TO LOOK LIKE THE NASTY BOYS!!!

YOU'RE AS REACTIONARY AS YOUR FATHER!



WHAT DID I SAY JUST NOW?

LET'S GO AND DISCUSS THIS WITH VITALSTATISTIX!



NO, 'PEDI... (MPEDIMENTA! NOT MY SHIELD!

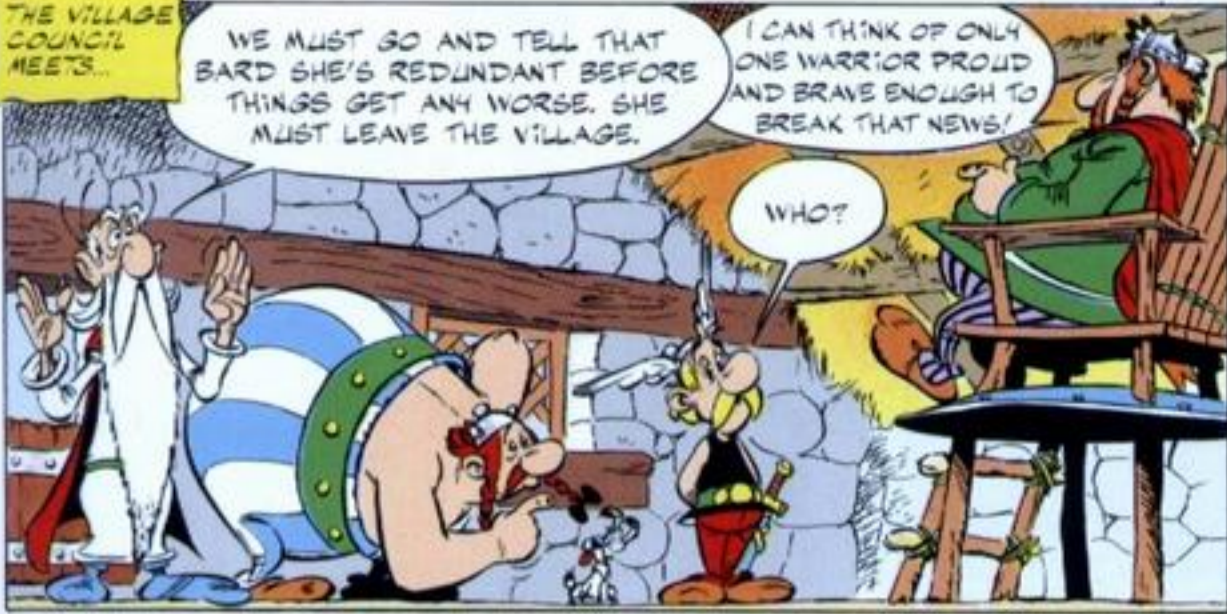
YOUR SHIELD IS MY SHIELD!

SO THIS IS WOMAN'S PLACE IN GALLISH SOCIETY TODAY!

YOU MAY BE WEARING THE BREECHES, BUT YOU NEEDN'T THINK YOU CAN EMULATE OUR PROUD MASCULINE BEARING!



THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETS...



WE MUST GO AND TELL THAT BARD SHE'S REDUNDANT BEFORE THINGS GET ANY WORSE. SHE MUST LEAVE THE VILLAGE.

I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE WARRIOR PROUD AND BRAVE ENOUGH TO BREAK THAT NEWS!

WHO?



404, ASTERIX!

OH NO! WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?

I'M NO PROUDER OR BRAVER THAN THE NEXT MAN, AND I'M REALLY NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS SORT OF...



ASTERIX, PLEASE! DON'T COMPLICATE MATTERS!

...MISSION!



PPPPPPPP!

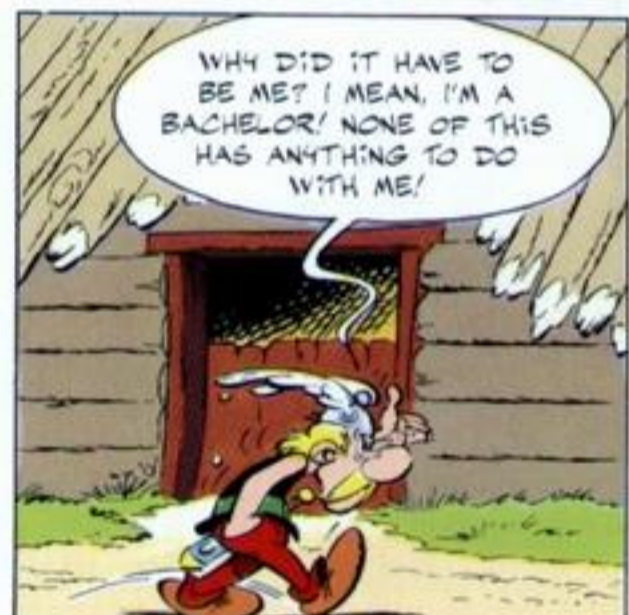
PPPPPPPP!



BE FIRM AND UNYIELDING, ASTERIX!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ASTERIX?

GUESS!



WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE ME? I MEAN, I'M A BACHELOR! NONE OF THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME!



SOMETIMES I REALLY ENVY CACOFONIX, LIVING IN THE DEPTHS OF THE FOREST!

SIGH!



MA'AM... ER... I'VE BEEN SENT TO TELL YOU THAT...

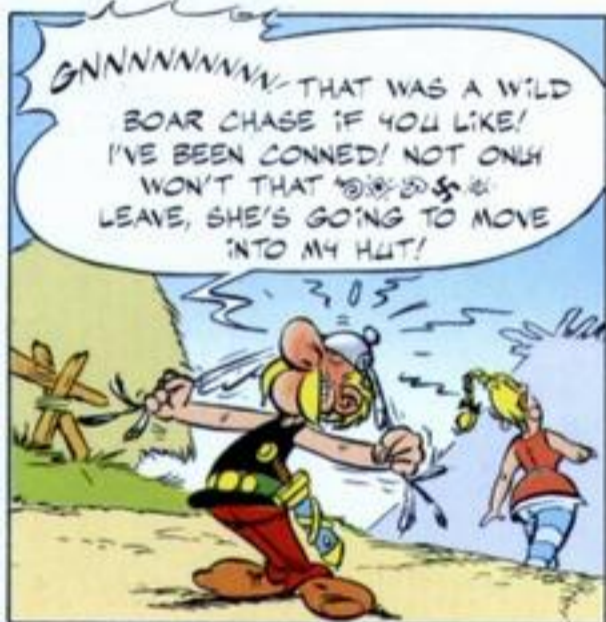
AH, YOU'RE THE LITTLE FELLOW WHO ISN'T AFRAID OF THE BIG BOYS?



YOU KNOW, I LIKE YOU! I WANTED A WORD WITH YOU MYSELF!

SLAP!

TONIGHT: GALLISH WOMEN'S MOVEMENT WORKSHOP



MEANWHILE, IN THE PEACE AND QUIET OF THE ARMORICAN FOREST...

I'M SERGEANT PEPPUS' LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND...



BARBARIAN!



...AND ON THE CALM SURFACE OF THE ARMORICAN SEA...

WE'RE SAILING IN WATERS FREQUENTED BY THOSE CRAZY GALLS, SO WATCH OUT FOR THEIR CRAFT!

ROMAN CRAFT RIGHT AHEAD!



ROMANS! GOODY, GOODY! LET'S BE CRAFTY TOO AND PLACE OURSELVES UNDER THEIR PROTECTION! HO HO!



CAESAR SAID NO WITNESSES, SO NO QUARTER!!!

CRAASH!

?!



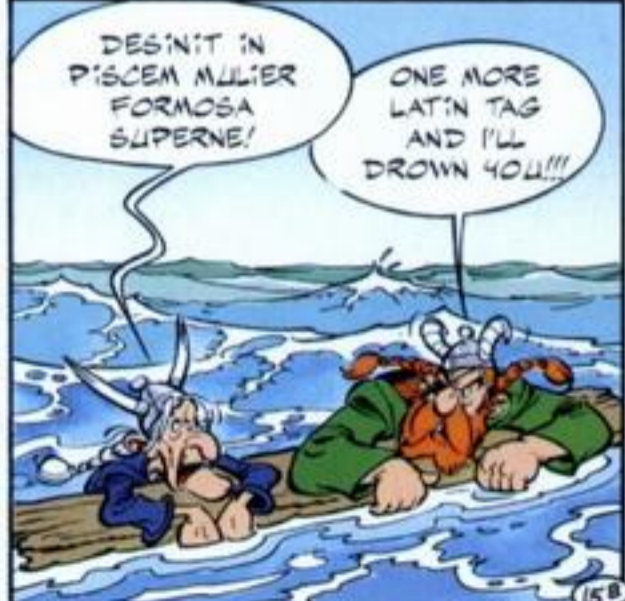
HE SAID NO QUARTER! HE DIDN'T SAY CHOP US IN HALF EITHER!

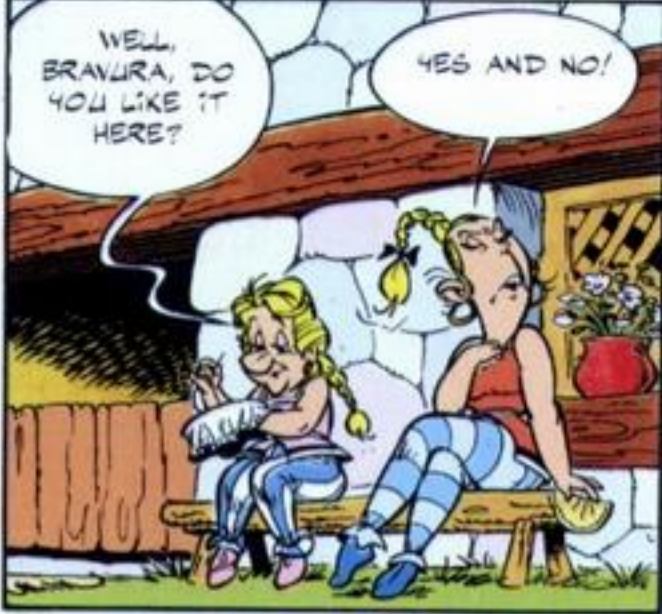
BARBARIANS!!!



DESINT IN PISCEM MULIER FORMOSA SUPERNE!

ONE MORE LATIN TAG AND I'LL DROWN YOU!!!





WELL, BRAVURA, DO YOU LIKE IT HERE?

YES AND NO!



OH? WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE?

WELL, LOOK AT YOURSELF! YOU'RE THE FIRST LADY OF THIS VILLAGE, AND YOU SIT THERE DOING EMBROIDERY INSTEAD OF TAKING THE DESTINY OF YOUR PEOPLE IN HAND!



BUT... BUT VITALSTATISTIX IS...

FIDDLESTICKS! WHO BUT YOU KNOWS WHAT THE GALLISH WOMAN REALLY WANTS? NOT THAT SUPERANNATED BORE!



WHAT'S THAT? SLIPPER? MARINATED BOAR?

HUH! I'M OFF!

WAIT A MINUTE, BRAVURA...



NOW I WONDER WHO'S COOKED A GREAT BIG BOAR FOR HER DEAR LITTLE PIGSHWIGGY?



I AM NOT YOUR SLAVE!!!



COME INDOORS! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU

HELP! WHAT HAVE I GONE AND DONE THIS TIME?



SO THAT'S IT! FROM NOW I SHALL SIT ON THE VILLAGE COUNCIL TOO. I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE, RIGHT?

RIGHT! AND I'M THE CHIEF AROUND HERE!



OH YES?

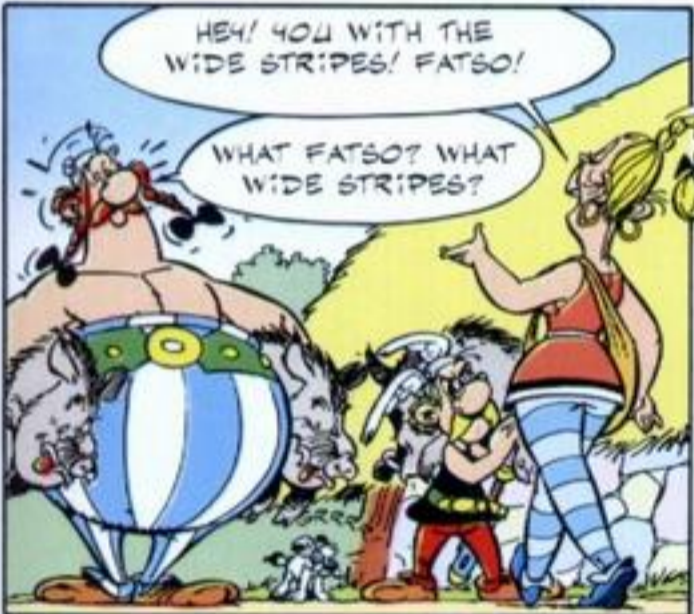
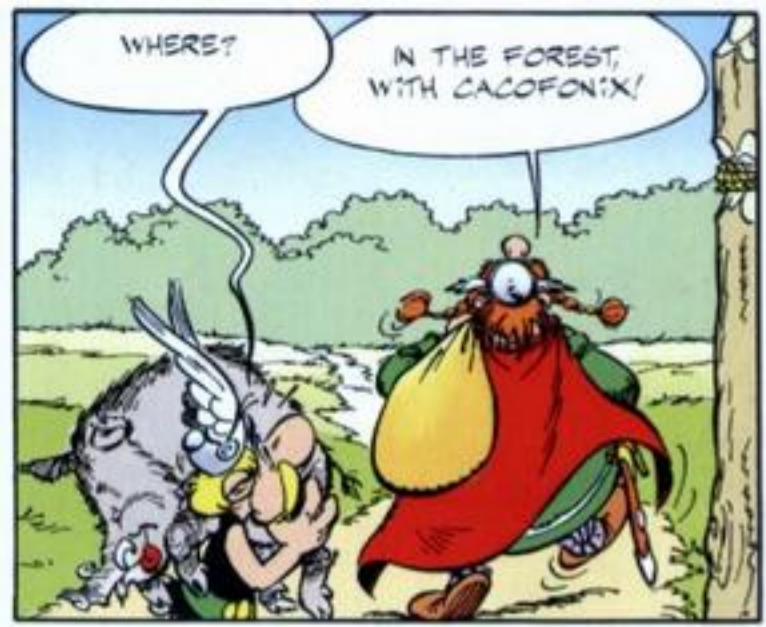
OH YES?

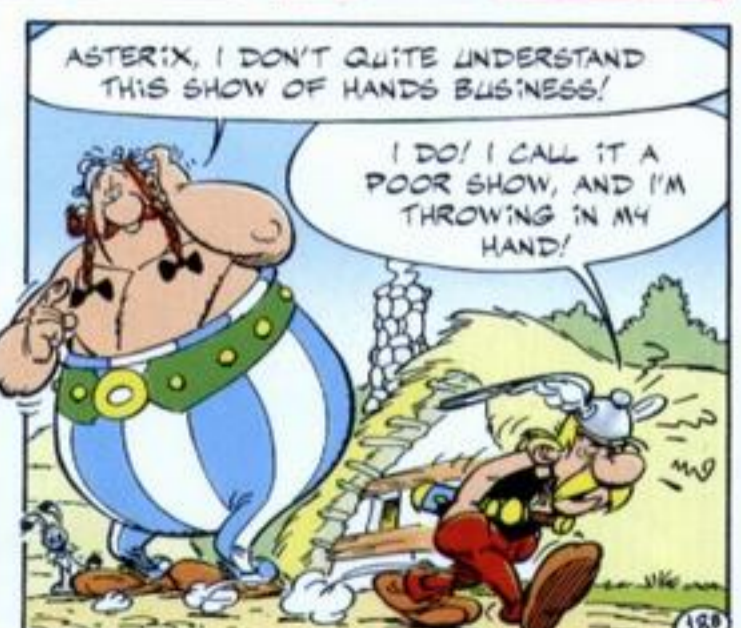


OKAY THEN, I'M LEAVING THE VILLAGE!!

LOOKS LIKE IMPEDIMENTA HIT THE ROOF!

AND THAT'S NOT ALL SHE HIT!





NOW THEN, MY PROUD LITTLE GALL, DON'T BE CROSS! I'M SURE WE CAN SETTLE THIS AMICABLY!



YOU LEAVE ME ALONE!

LISTEN, DID YOU EVER THINK OF SETTLING DOWN?



MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

BECAUSE IF SO, I WOULDN'T MIND SETTLING DOWN WITH YOU MYSELF!



WH... WHAT?

WE COULD DO GREAT THINGS TOGETHER! FOR INSTANCE, WE COULD BECOME CHIEFS OF THIS VILLAGE!



OH YES?

SO THAT'S YOUR LITTLE GAME! YOU HAVE DESIGNS ON THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD!!!



WHY, MY PROUD LITTLE GALL LOOKS EVEN MORE HANDSOME WHEN HE'S ANGRY!



STOP THIS CRAZY TALK, OR I'LL...

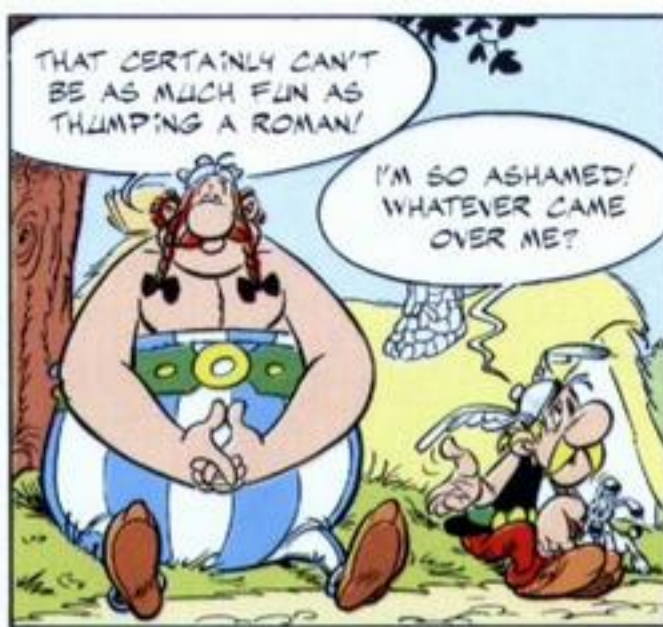


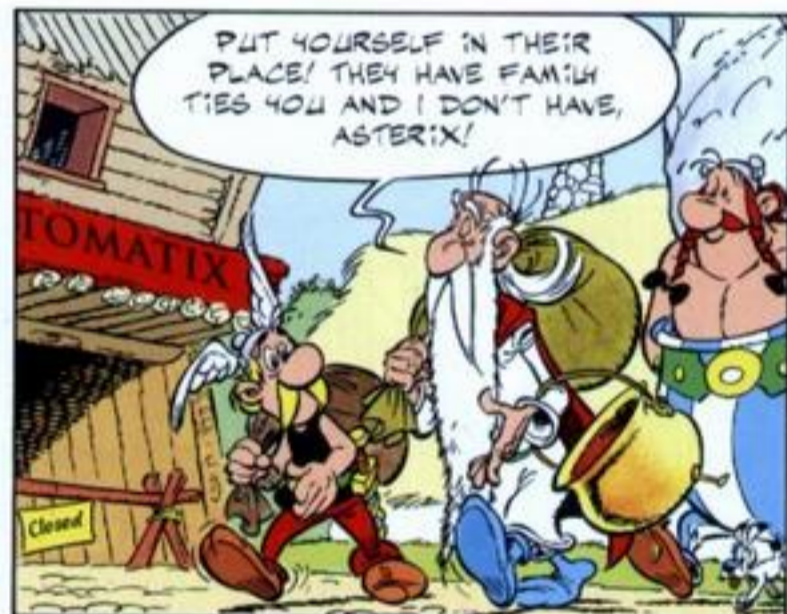
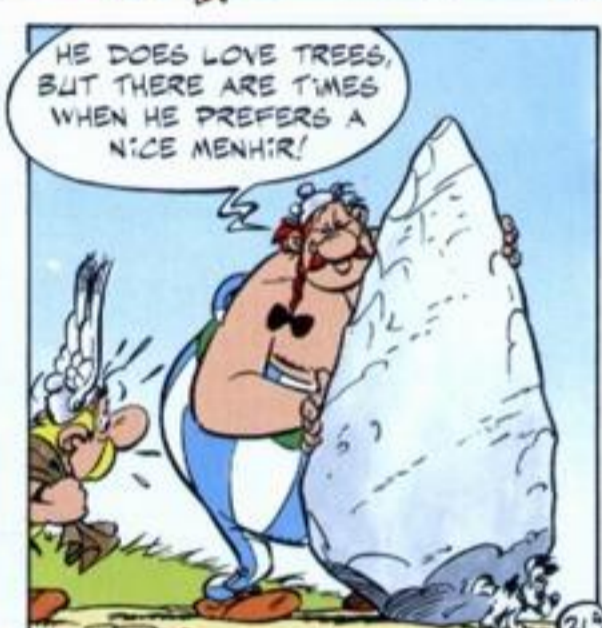
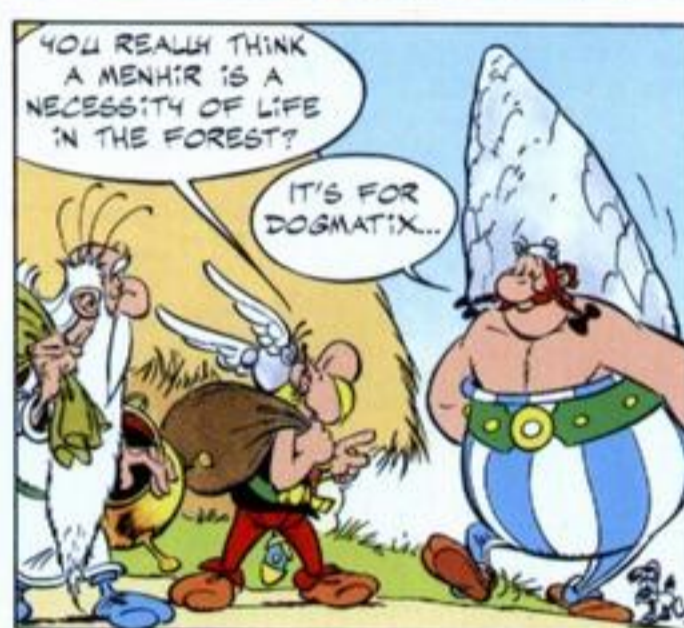
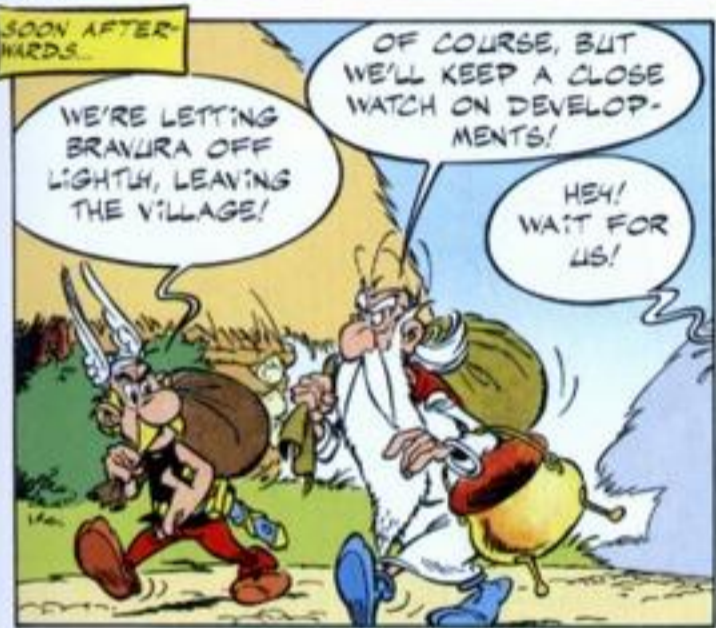
I'M... ER... I'M TERRIBLY SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO...



I DO APOLOGIZE! IT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER...

IN FUTURE I'M STEERING CLEAR OF UNSCRUPULOUS AND SHAMELESS MIDGETS!





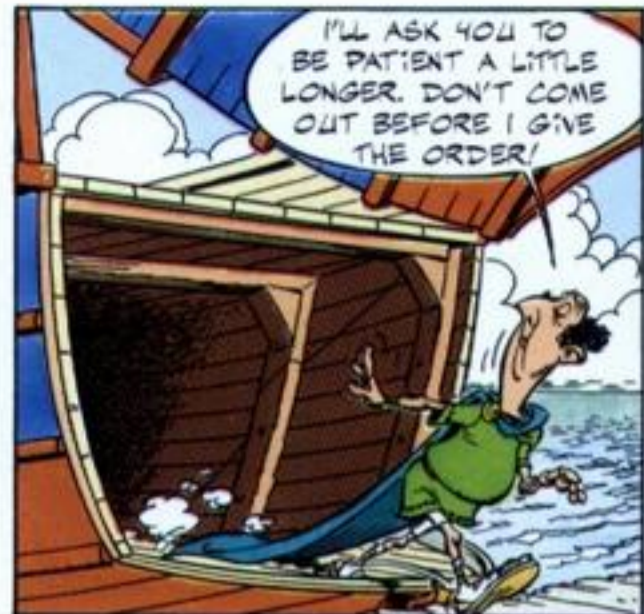
MEANWHILE, ON THE COAST NEAR THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM...



STAND BY TO DISEMBARK!

CREEEAK!

OH FOR SOME NICE SEA AIR!



I'LL ASK YOU TO BE PATIENT A LITTLE LONGER. DON'T COME OUT BEFORE I GIVE THE ORDER!

AND IN THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM...



SNIFF! THE GAULS HAS GOT A FORBID-ABLE AND DABGEROUS WEAPOB...

...THEIR WRETCHES BARB WHO CAB OBH SING SO BADH...

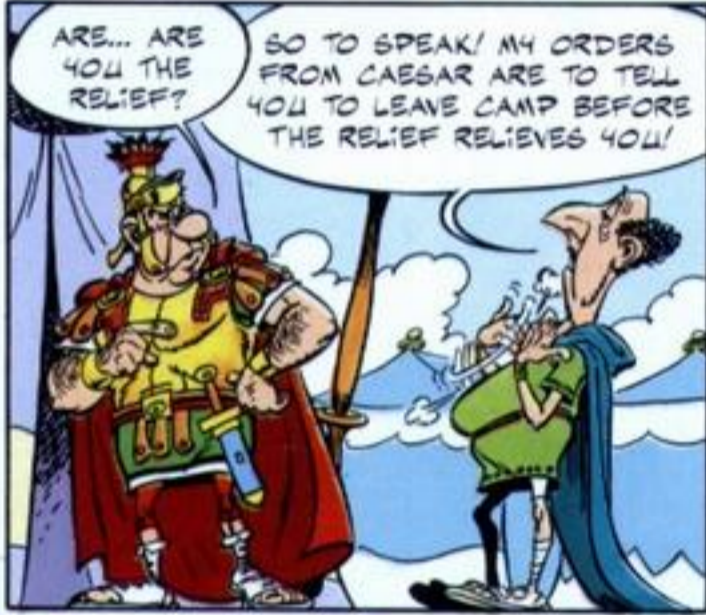
...THAT HE BRINGS DOWN THE CURSE OF THE GOBS WHEBEVER HE SINGS!

QUOB ERAT BEMONSTRANBAAA...
TISHOOO!



IT'LL BE A GREAT RELIEF WHEN THE RELIEF GETS HERE!

THE RELIEF'S HERE, CENTURION!



ARE... ARE YOU THE RELIEF?

SO TO SPEAK! MY ORDERS FROM CAESAR ARE TO TELL YOU TO LEAVE CAMP BEFORE THE RELIEF RELIEVES YOU!



AND SUPPOSE I REFUSE TO LEAVE CAMP BEFORE THE RELIEF RELIEVES US?

THEN YOU'LL BE RELIEVED OF YOUR DUTIES AND GO TO RELIEVE THE MONOTONY OF THE DIET OF THE LIONS IN THE CIRCUS!



WE'RE LEAVING CAMP!

MEANWHILE, IN THE FOREST SEPARATING THE VILLAGE FROM THE ROMAN CAMP.



WE'RE NOT TOO BADH OFF HERE WHILE WE WAIT FOR OUR GOOD LADIES TO SEE SENSE!

BUT WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD, IN CASE THE ROMANS TAKE THEIR CHANCE TO SEIZE THE VILLAGE!

OBELIX AND I WILL GO AND KEEP WATCH ON THEM!

RIGHT!
DISEMBARK IN AN
ORDERLY AND
DISCIPLINED
MANNER!!!



WHAT KIND OF A JOKE IS THIS?

WE'VE COME TO RELIEVE YOU JOKERS, THAT'S WHAT!

HO, HO, HO! TALK ABOUT RAISING THE MORALE OF THE TROOPS! DRESSED TO KILL, TOO!

HA, HA, HA! OH, DO STOP IT! THIS IS KILLING ME!

HA! HA! HA!
HO! HO!

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

?!

BONG!

24

PAF!

CLONK!

BONG!

BY TOUTATIS!
DO YOU SEE
WHAT I SEE,
OBELIX?

YOU BET!
THE ROMANS ARE
THUMPING EACH OTHER!
THAT'S NOT FAIR!

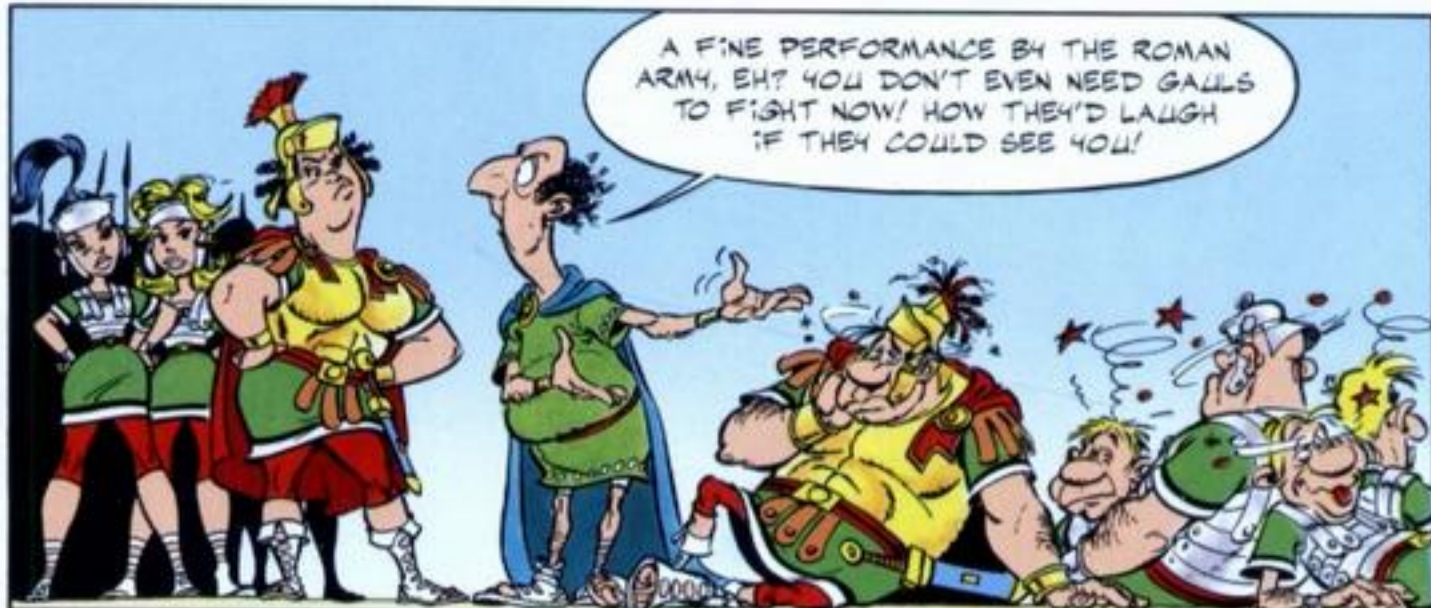
GRRRR

25

STOP IT! STOP IT AT ONCE!

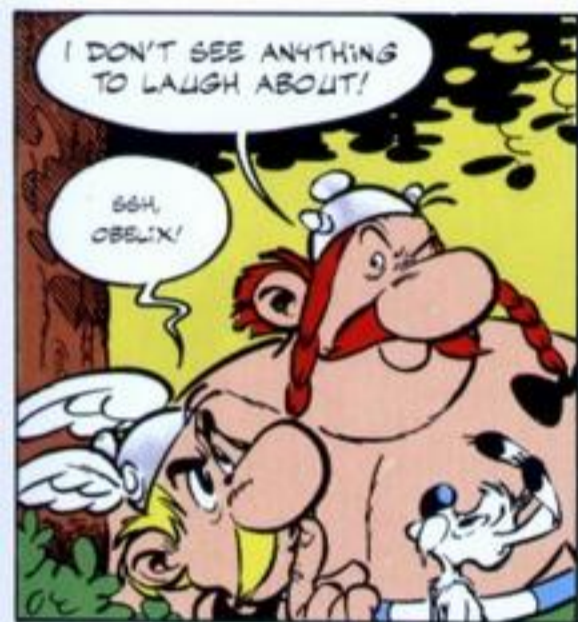


A FINE PERFORMANCE BY THE ROMAN ARMY, EH? YOU DON'T EVEN NEED GAULS TO FIGHT NOW! HOW THEY'D LAUGH IF THEY COULD SEE YOU!



I DON'T SEE ANYTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT!

GGH, OBBELIX!



I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE CAMP, CENTURION!

LISTEN, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE IDEA?



COME HERE A MINUTE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!



I GOT THE IDEA OF RECRUITING THIS CENTURY OF WOMEN TO CONQUER THE GAULS AND OCCUPY THEIR VILLAGE AT LONG LAST!

YOU THINK YOUR SECRET WEAPON WILL SUCCEED WHERE WE'VE FAILED, DO YOU?

?!?



THEIR FAMOUS GALLISH GALLANTRY WILL PREVENT THE INDOMITABLE VILLAGERS FROM FIGHTING WOMEN, EVEN WOMEN IN UNIFORM!

I GET IT! RIGHT, WE'LL LEAVE CAMP!



OH NO, YOU WON'T! NOW YOU KNOW THE SECRET YOU'RE ALL CONFINED TO BARRACKS!

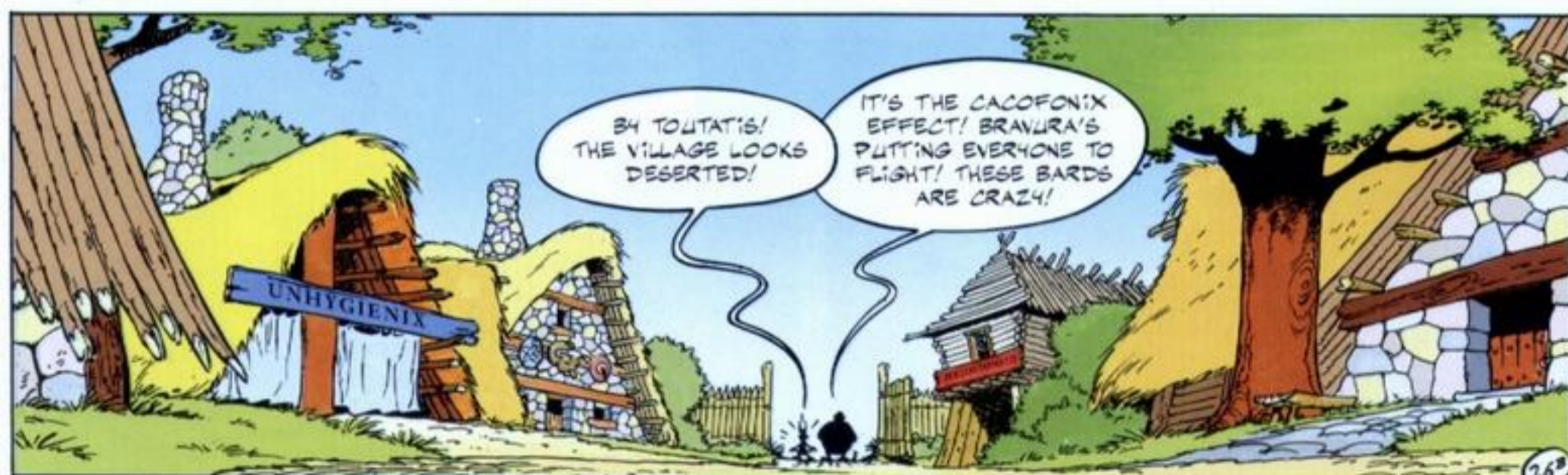
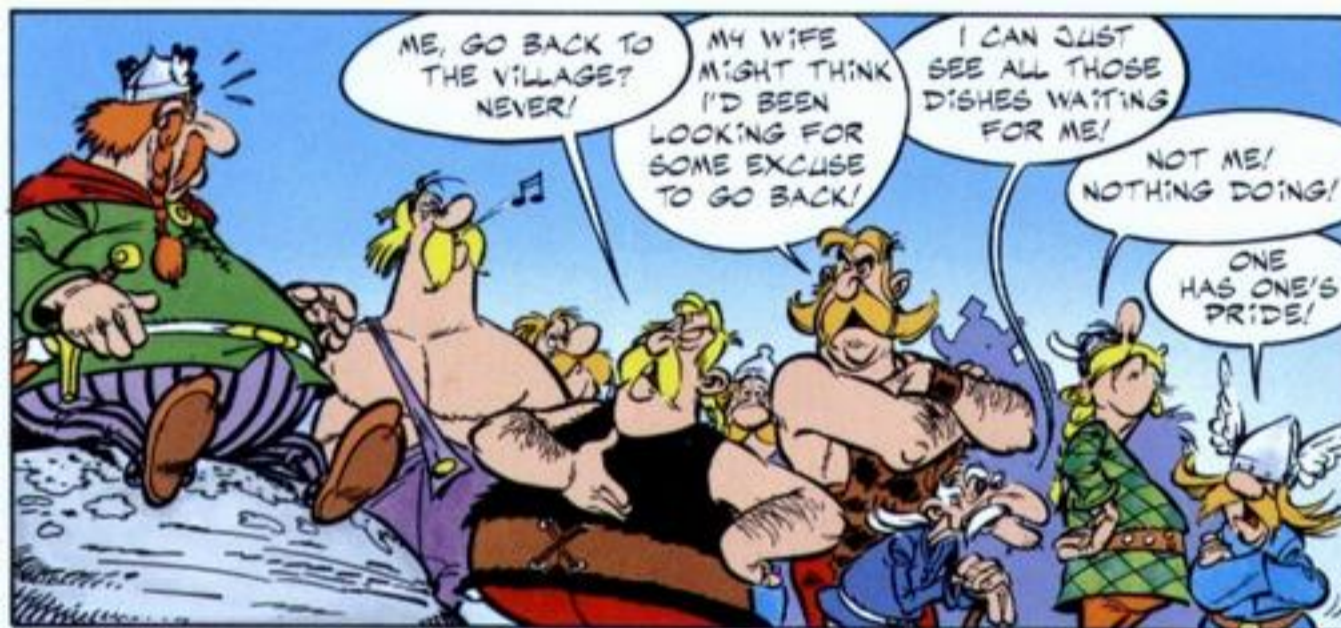
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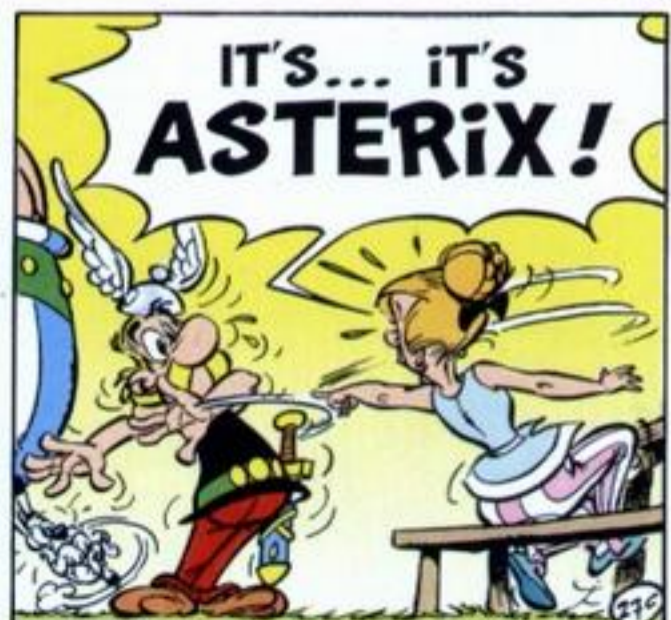
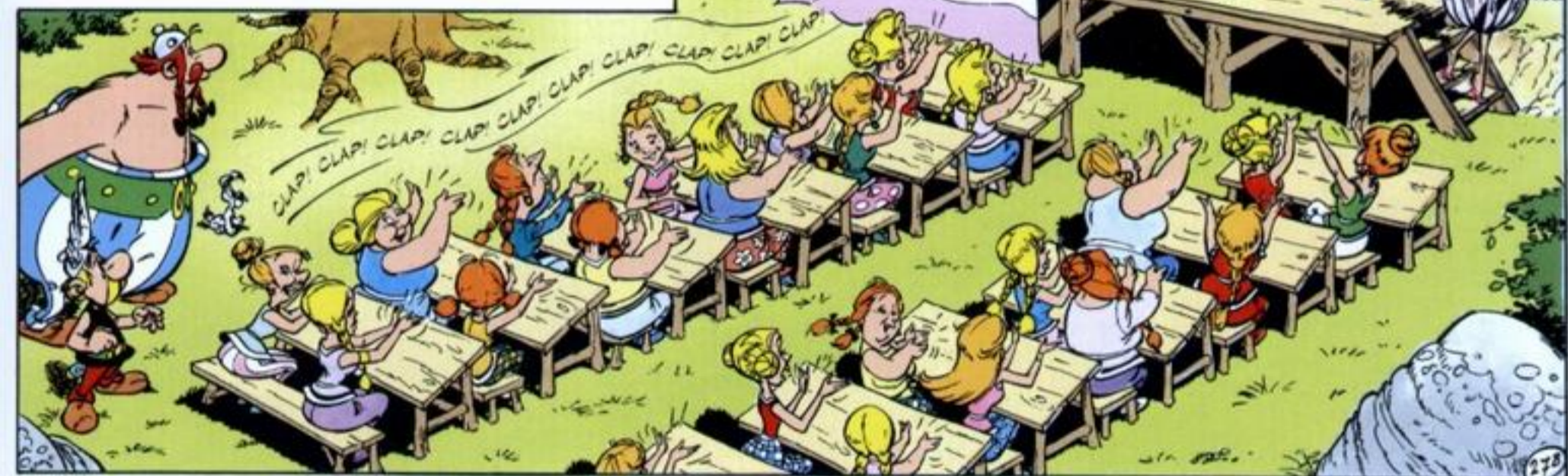


QUICK! WE MUST GO AND WARN OUR CHIEF!

ASTERIX, WHAT'S GALLISH GALLANTRY?









WHERE ARE OUR HUSBANDS?
 WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
 HOW ARE THEY?
 WHEN ARE THEY COMING HOME?

!?



HUH!
 SLAVES YOU WERE AND
 SLAVES YOU WILL REMAIN!



QUIET, PLEASE!
 MOVE BACK!
 ASTERIX MAY HAVE
 SOMETHING TO TELL
 US.



I'M SORRY TO
 INTERRUPT THE SHOW,
 BUT VITALSTATISTIX HAS
 SENT ME TO TELL YOU
 THAT...



THE COUNCIL WILL
 MEET IN MY HUT TO
 HEAR WHAT THAT
 GREAT BOOR HAS
 TO TELL US!

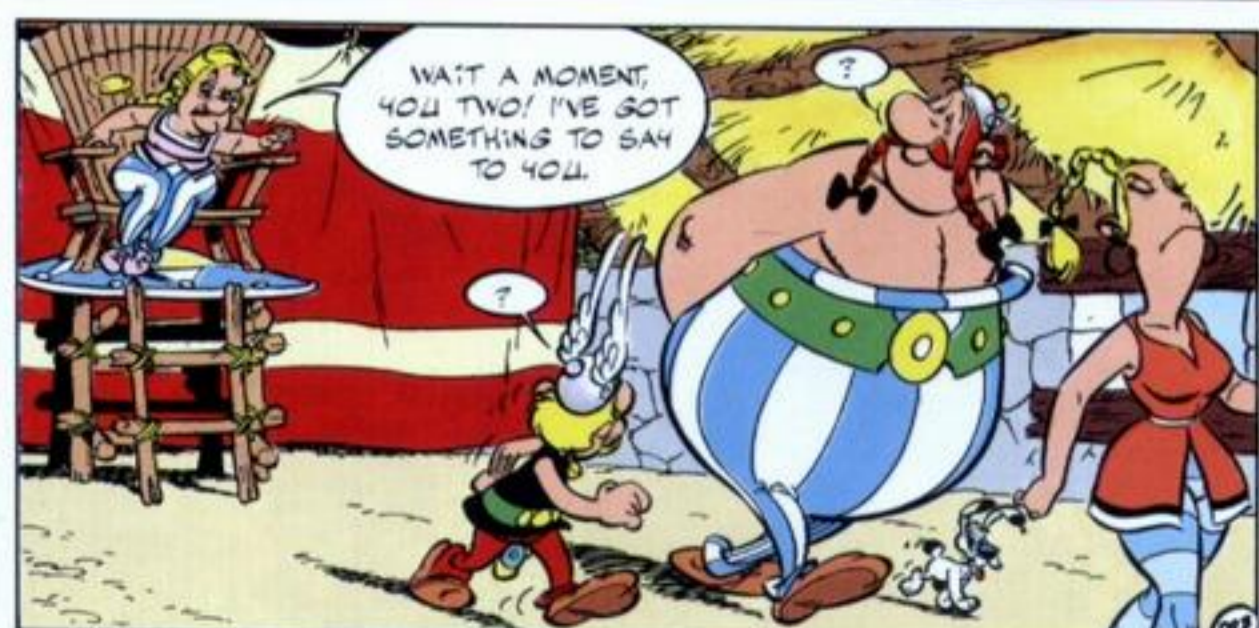


SOON
 AFTER
 WARDS

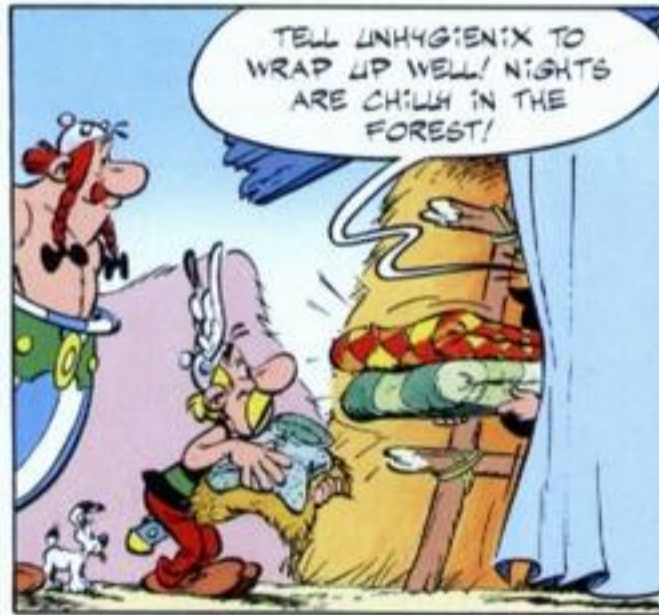
SO CAESAR HAS DISCOVERED THE WEAKNESS OF THE GAULS!
 FACING THOSE WOMEN LEGIONARIES, WE MEN ARE HELPLESS!
 I KNOW SOME ONE WHO WASN'T ALWAYS SO SCRUPULOUS!
 THEN WE'LL FIGHT THEM OURSELVES!
 AND BEAT THEM WITH THE AID OF THE MAGIC POTION...
 ...EVEN IF IT IS FATTENING!



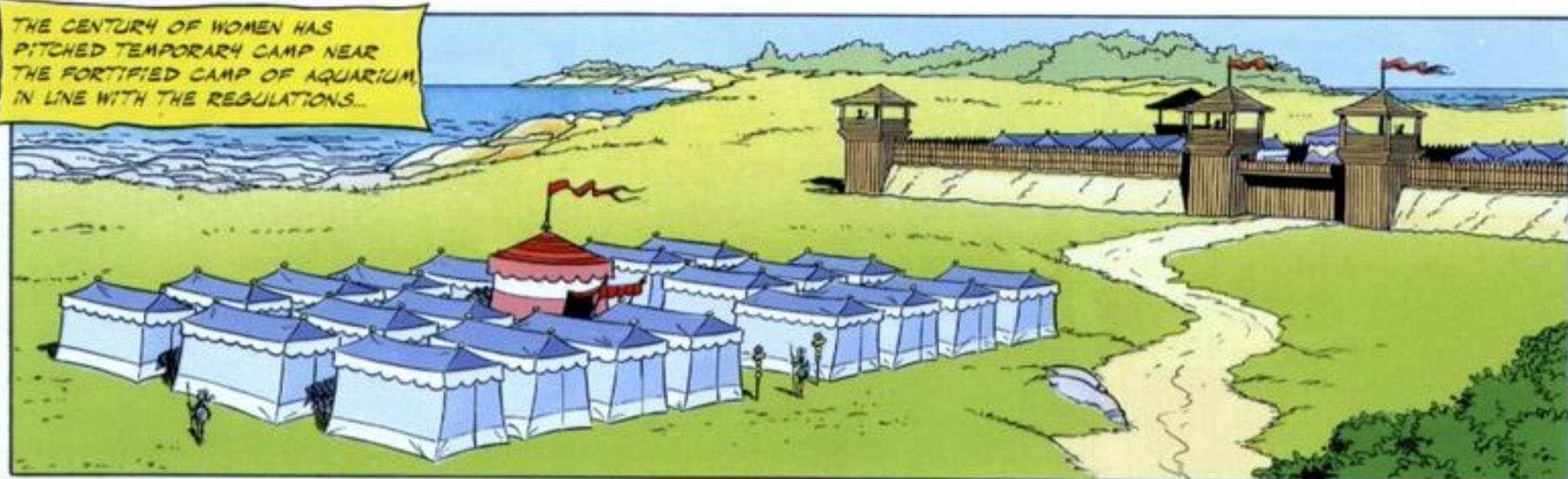
WE DON'T NEED ANY MAGIC POTION! I SHALL GO AND SEE THESE ROMAN MATRONS. IT WILL BE EASY ENOUGH TO AGREE ON A PEACE FORMULA WOMAN TO WOMAN!
 ALL THE SAME, I'D LIKE YOU TO GO AND WARN THE OTHER VILLAGE WOMEN. FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED!



WAIT A MOMENT,
 YOU TWO! I'VE GOT
 SOMETHING TO SAY
 TO YOU.



THE CENTURY OF WOMEN HAS PITCHED TEMPORARY CAMP NEAR THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM, IN LINE WITH THE REGULATIONS...



...SLIGHTLY MODIFIED HERE AND THERE!

JUST WHAT IS THIS?

THIS PRINT? IT'S A FAST DYE! GUARANTEED NOT TO RUN IN THE WASH!



SOME OF THE DISGRUNTLED MEN CONFINED TO BARRACKS NEXT DOOR RELIEVE THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THEIR RELIEF.

IF WOMEN CAN JOIN THE LEGIONS NOW, WHAT USE ARE WE GOING TO BE?

I COULD TELL YOU! I WOULDN'T EVEN MIND BEING A DOMESTICUS OVER IN THAT CAMP!



* SERVANT

MEANWHILE...



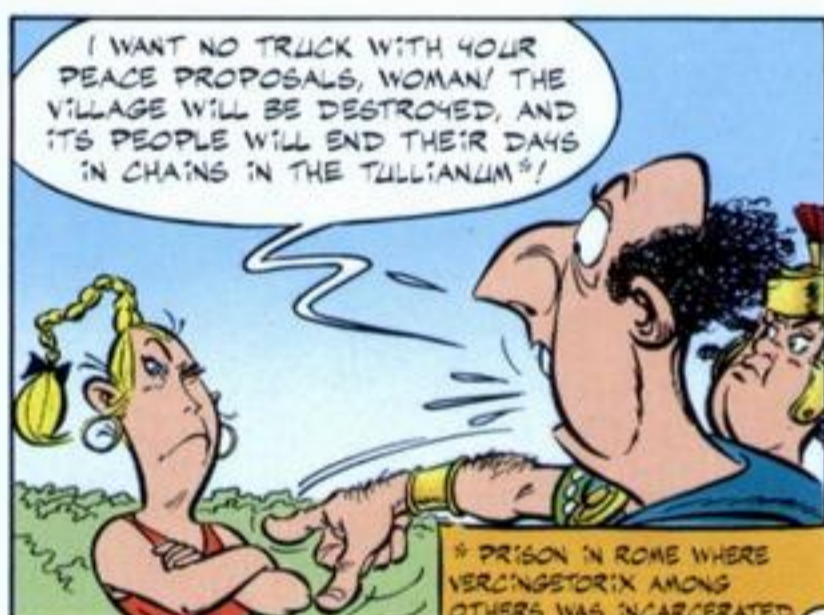
BRAVURA! SHE MUST BE GOING TO THE ROMAN CAMP! LET'S FOLLOW HER DISCREETLY!

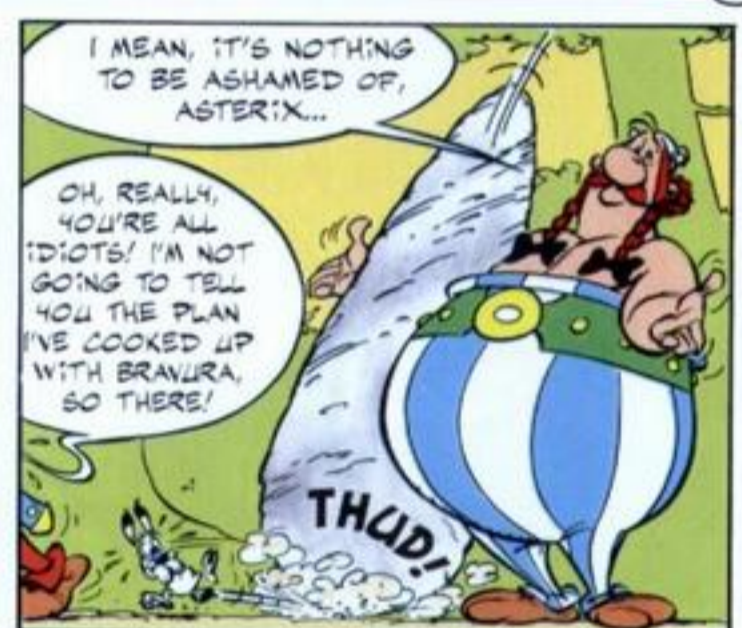


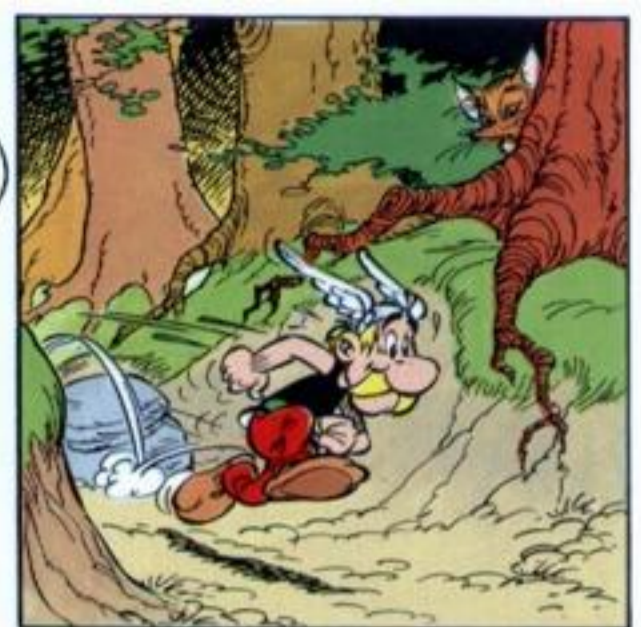
HALT, GAUL!

YOU'RE A WOMAN TOO! THAT MAKES US SISTERS, SO LET'S SHAKE HANDS, ROMAN!











IT STARTED WITH A HORRIBLE HOWL...

...FOLLOWED BY A DOWNPOUR WHICH BROUGHT OUT SNAKES AND SPIDERS...

...AND EVEN WOLVES!

I'M SURE THERE'S A DRAGON IN THAT FOREST!



STOP BEING SUCH DRIPS, WILL YOU?



REGULAR AS CLOCKWORK, AS PATROL FOLLOWS PATROL...

GNNAARRR HOOUURRR



...DOWNPOUR FOLLOWS DOWNPOUR...

RRRIIIIIIIIOOUUU

34 (1) OWL SWEAR-WORDS



...AND DAY FOLLOWS MISERABLE DAY...

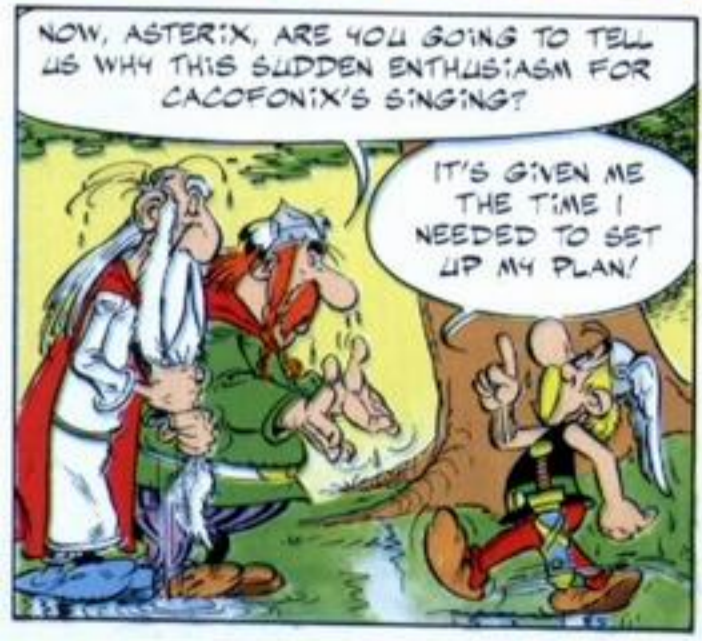
I CAN'T SEE WHY A FEW DROPS OF RAIN AND A HOWL OR SO SHOULD...

NO, WELL, YOU'RE NOT THE ONE FACING THE MUSIC, CLAPHAMOMNIBUS!



...IN BOTH CAMPS.

THAT WAS THE LAST BOAR IN THE FOREST, AND I CAN'T EVEN COOK IT!



NOW, ASTERIX, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL US WHY THIS SUDDEN ENTHUSIASM FOR CACOFONIX'S SINGING?

IT'S GIVEN ME THE TIME I NEEDED TO SET UP MY PLAN!



BUT WHAT IS THIS PLAN OF YOURS?

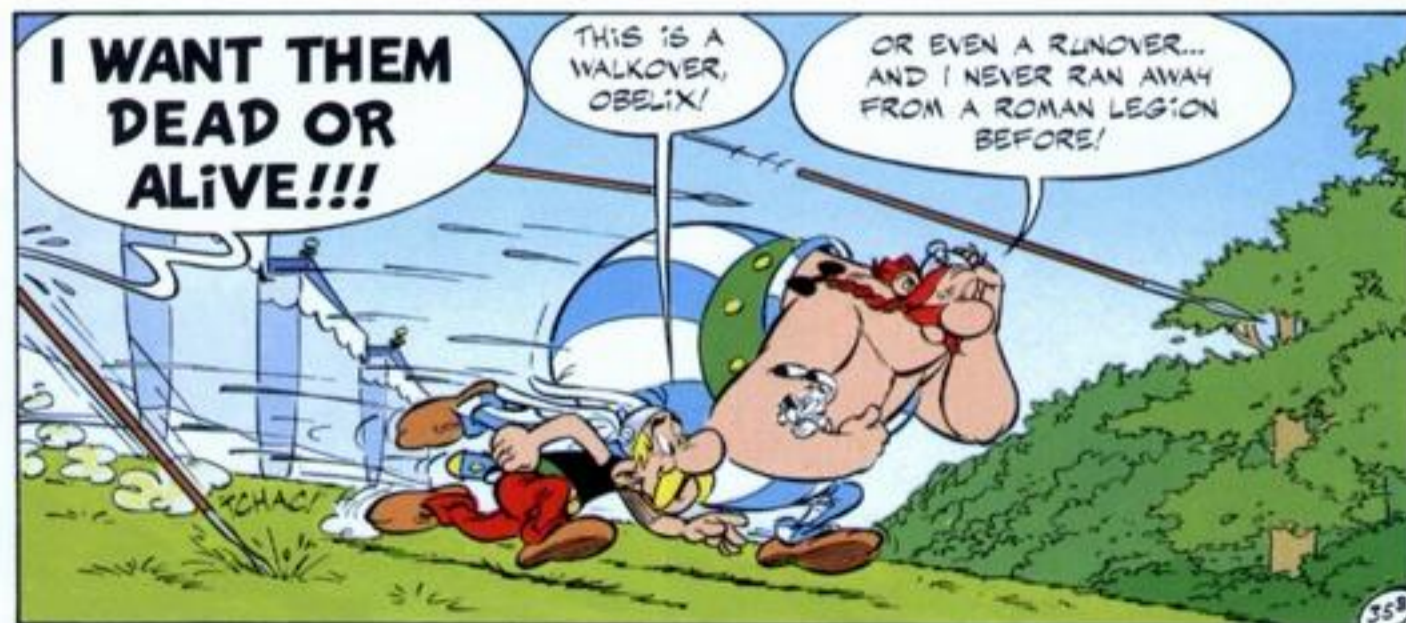
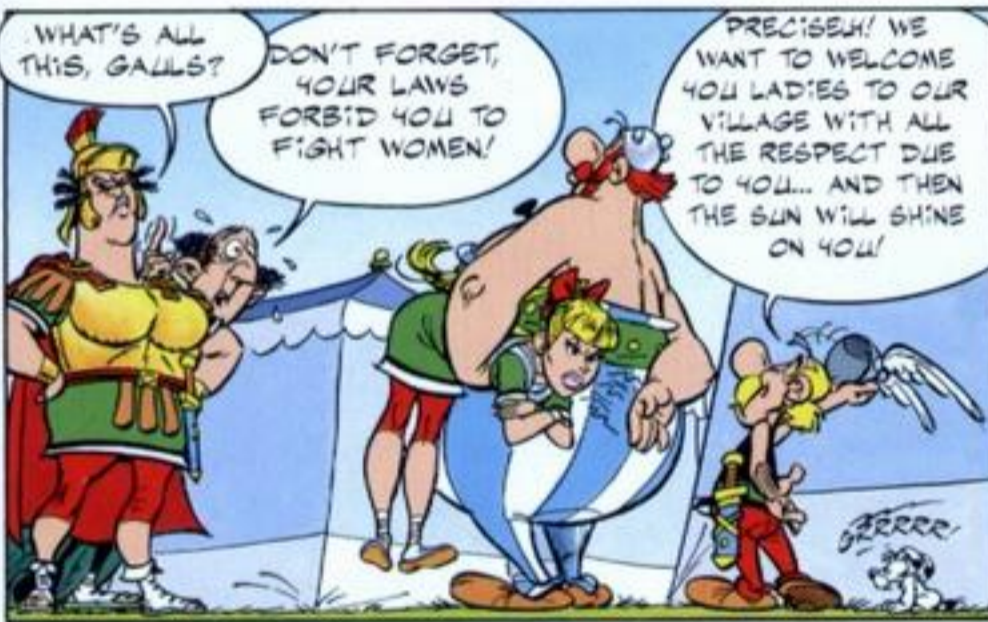
YES, WHAT EXACTLY IS IT?

TRUST ME A LITTLE LONGER! ALL I ASK IS FOR YOU TO WAIT FOR ME NEAR THE VILLAGE, KEEPING UNDER COVER. WHATEVER HAPPENS, DON'T INTERVENE!

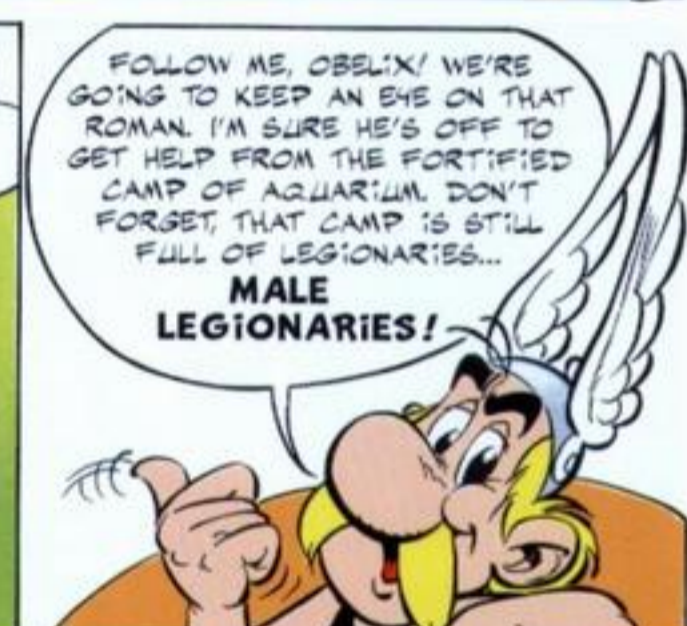


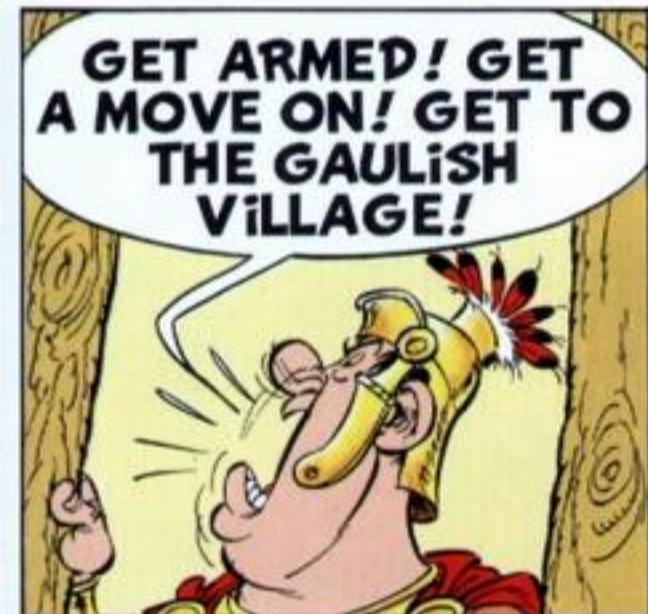
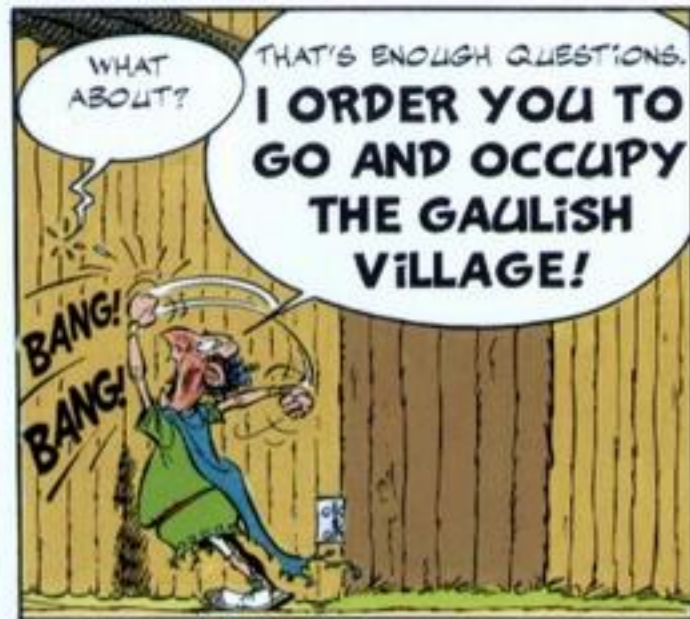
OBELIX AND I STILL HAVE A FEW THINGS TO DO. COMING, OBELIX?

?!?









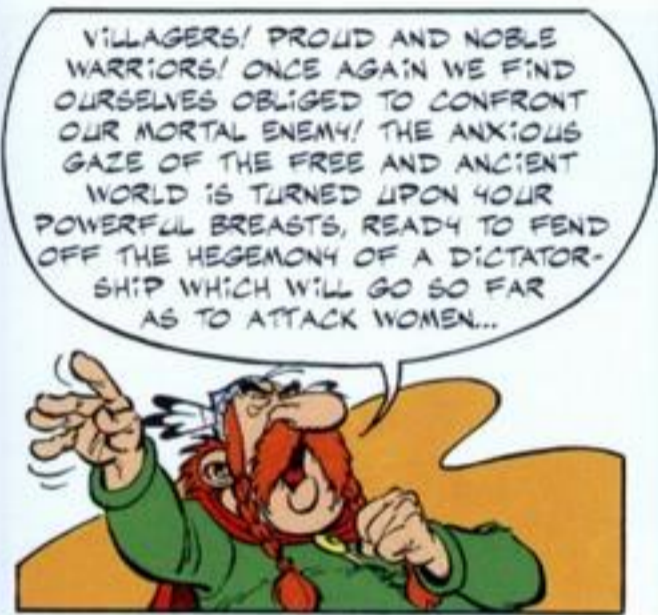


A LITTLE LATER



I'M SORRY, CACOFONIX, BUT YOUR VOICE MIGHT CURDLE THE MAGIC POTION!

HUH!



VILLAGERS! PROUD AND NOBLE WARRIORS! ONCE AGAIN WE FIND OURSELVES OBLIGED TO CONFRONT OUR MORTAL ENEMY! THE ANXIOUS GAZE OF THE FREE AND ANCIENT WORLD IS TURNED UPON YOUR POWERFUL BREASTS, READY TO FEND OFF THE HEGEMONY OF A DICTATORSHIP WHICH WILL GO SO FAR AS TO ATTACK WOMEN...



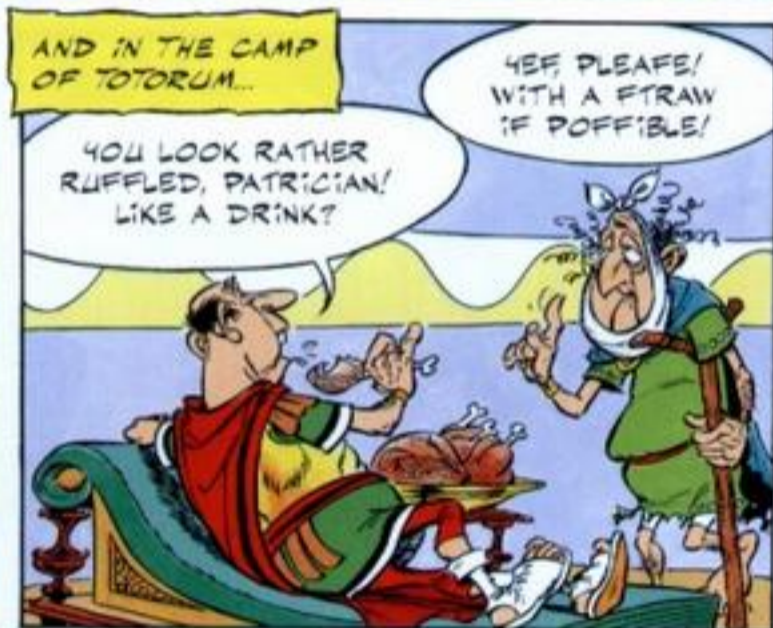
...AND CHILDREN!

THE GOOD POTION GUIDE SHOULD GIVE TODAY'S BREW SEVERAL STARS!

YES, AND THE ROMANS WILL SOON BE SEEING PLENTY!



CAESAR WILL BE FURIOUS THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN! LUCKILY I CAN STILL CALL ON THE OTHER FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMPE!



AND IN THE CAMP OF TOTURUM...

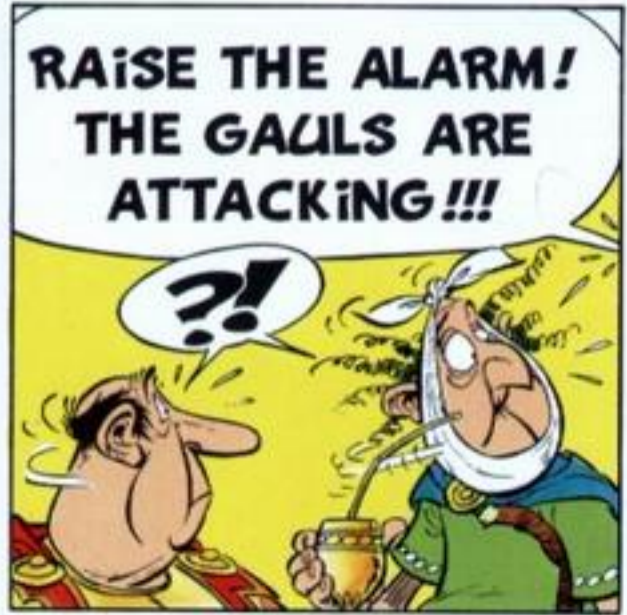
YOU LOOK RATHER RUFFLED, PATRICIAN! LIKE A DRINK?

YES, PLEASE! WITH A STRAW IF POSSIBLE!



WELL, WELL! SO THE COWARDLY GAULS HAVE ABANDONED THEIR VILLAGE, LEAVING ONLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO GUARD IT!

JUST AS I SAID, FENTURION! SLUP!



RAISE THE ALARM! THE GAULS ARE ATTACKING!!!

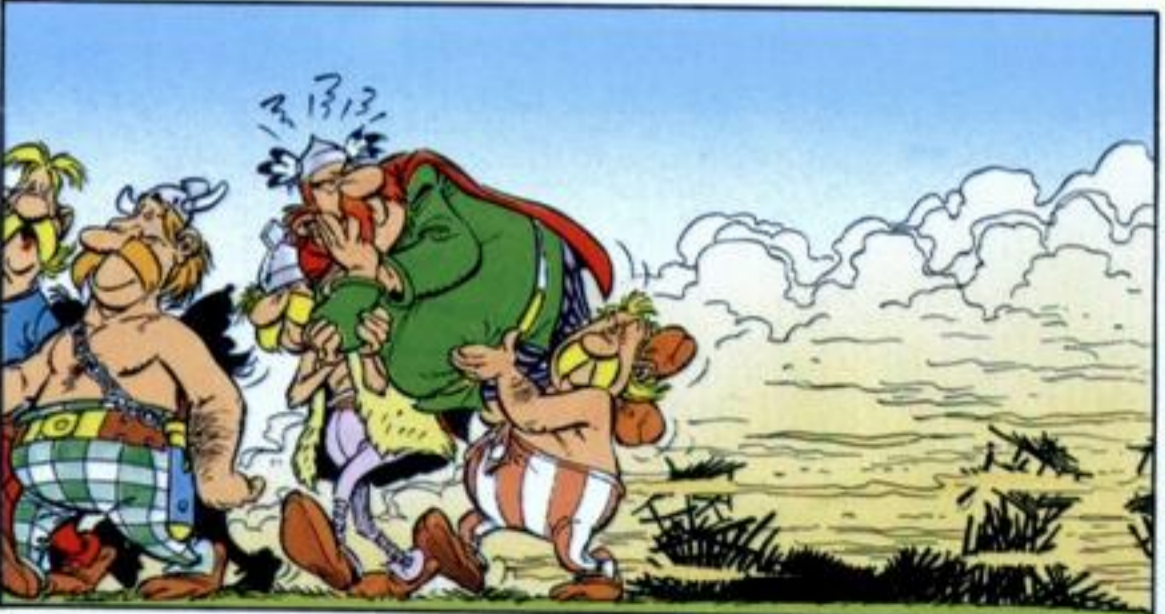
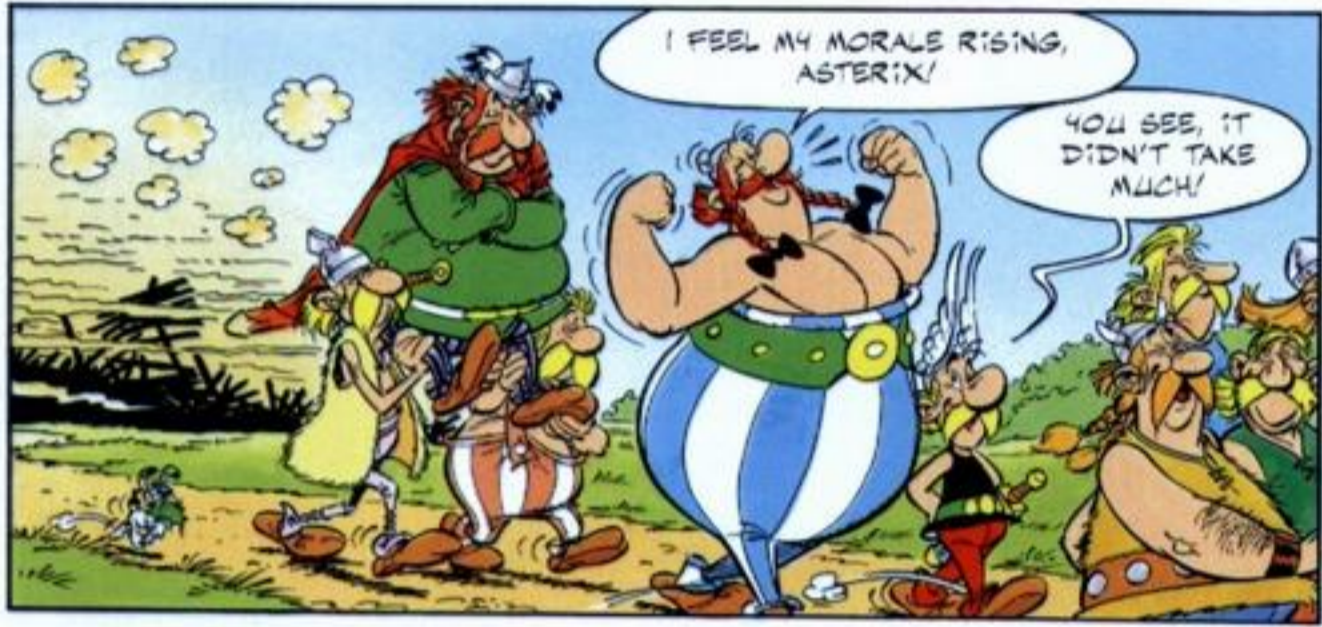
?!



CHARGE, BOYS!

LEAVE THEM TO ME! LEAVE THEM TO ME!

DON'T BE SELFISH, OBELIX!



MEANWHILE, AT THE VILLAGE GATES...

WHEN I GET BACK TO ROME I'M OPENING A SHOP CALLED HIGH FASHION OF LUTETIA!

I'M GOING TO BOOK TIME IN THE ARENA FOR FASHION SHOWS IN THE INTERVALS OF GLADIATORIAL CONTESTS! IT WILL BE BRILLIANT!

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR KIND HOSPITALITY!

OH, DON'T MENTION IT! IT WAS NOTHING!

THEY'LL BE GREEN WITH ENVY IN THE FORUM!



NOW I'M ALONE AT LAST I CAN POLISH UP MY POETICAL ONOMATOPOEICAL WORK!





HERE, PIGGY-WIGGY! THE SHIELD SUITS YOU BETTER THAN ME!

YOU KNOW YOU CAN USE IT WHENEVER YOU LIKE, 'PEDI'... 'PEDI-MENTA!



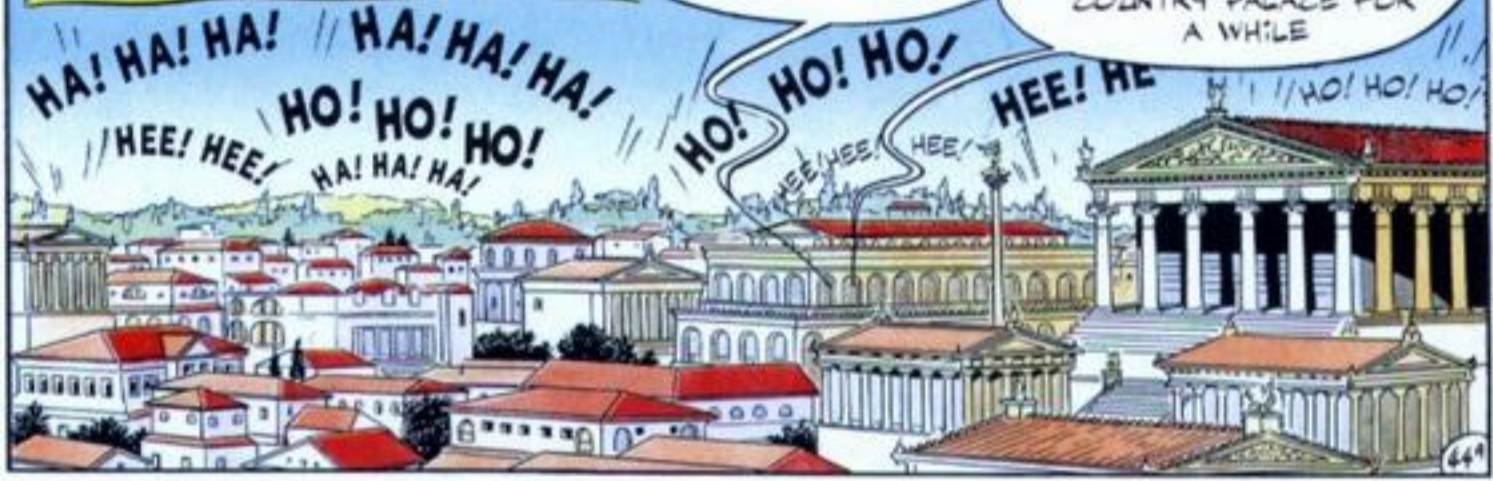
NO HARD FEELINGS, BRAVURA?

NO HARD FEELINGS, ASTERIX!

ALLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL A CERTAIN CHEERFULNESS EVEN SEEMS TO HAVE CRYPT INTO ROME... OR MOST OF IT!

THERE'S A STRANGE SENSE OF GAIETY IN ROME, O CAESAR!

SHUT UP, IDIOT, AND PACK MY BAGS! I'M GOING AWAY TO MY COUNTRY PALACE FOR A WHILE



HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
HEE! HEE! HO! HO! HO!
HA! HA! HA!

HO! HO! HO!

HEE! HEE!

HO! HO! HO!

AND FINALLY, IN HAPPY CELEBRATION OF THE RETURN OF DOMESTIC PEACE AND GENERAL GOODWILL, THE TRADITIONAL BANQUET IS HELD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE. BRAVURA AND ALL THE GAULISH WOMEN ARE GUESTS OF HONOUR. EVEN CACOPHONIX IS INVITED... ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

FRIENDS, GAULS, COUNTRYMEN! IT IS WITH DEEP EMOTION THAT...

DO YOU LIKE IT IN OUR VILLAGE, BRAVURA?

YES, BUT I MUST GET BACK TO LUTETIA SOON! AND BY WAY OF APOLOGY I'VE PROMISED TO TAKE YOUR BARD BACK WITH ME AND INTRODUCE HIM TO ZIEGFELDFOLIX, THE GREAT LUTETIAN IMPRESARIO!

I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO BE GROWN UP AND HAVE FUN!

ME TOO! THEN I'LL BE YOUR CHIEF!



THE END
- UDERZO '91

A woman bard is unheard-of in Ancient Gaul – but when the mothers in Asterix and Obelix's little village decide that besides being a terrible musician Cacophonix, the local bard and school-teacher, is not educating their children properly, it's Bravura they call in. The men of the village are horrified at first, but Bravura proves a useful ally in countering Julius Caesar's secret weapon – the Roman leader has sent in a troop of female legionaries, relying on the chivalrous Gauls not to fight women. But Bravura has no such scruples, and together with Asterix thinks up a good idea. Even Cacophonix's music comes into its own . . .



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