

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

# Asterix

## THE GAUL



Written by  
René GOSCINNY

Illustrated by  
Albert UDERZO



# ASTERIX THE GAUL

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

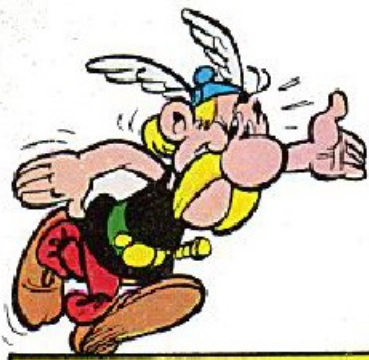
TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE

<http://asterixcomicsfreedownload.blogspot.com/>





The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...

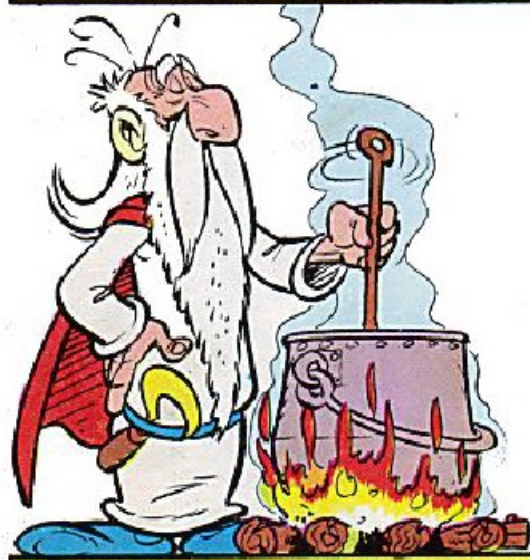


## a few of the Gauls

Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...

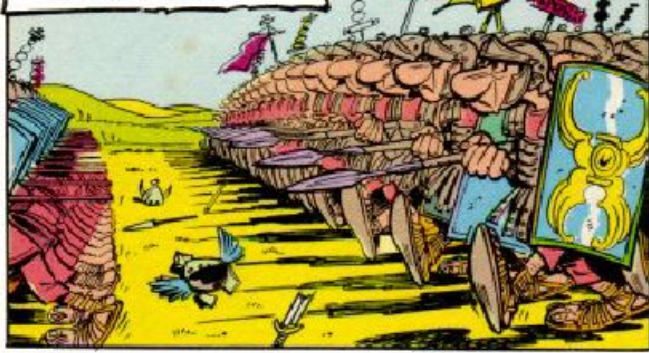


Cacophonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacophonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...



Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

IN THE YEAR 50 BC,  
AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE,  
THE ANCIENT GAULS HAD  
BEEN CONQUERED BY  
THE ROMANS.....



CHIEFS LIKE  
VERCINGETORIX HAD  
TO LAY THEIR ARMS  
AT CAESAR'S FEET....



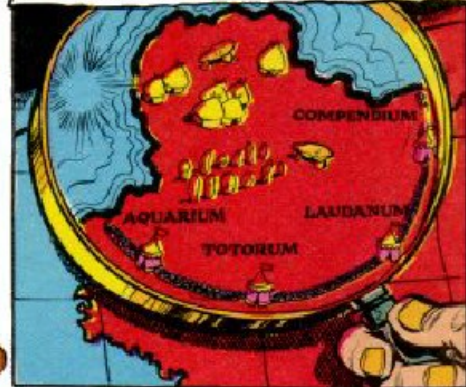
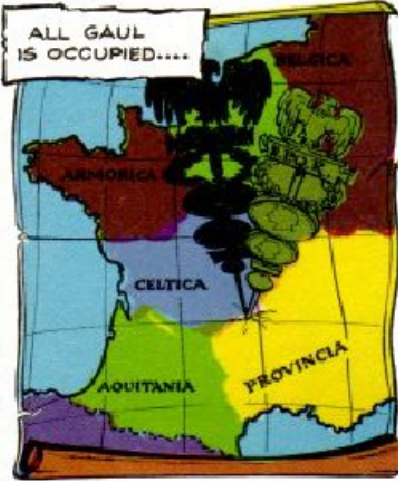
PEACE REIGNS, DISTURBED  
ONLY BY OCCASIONAL  
ATTACKS BY THE GERMANS,  
SPEEDILY REPULSED....

So! But ve  
konn back!

ALL GAUL  
IS OCCUPIED....

ALL ? NO-ONE VILLAGE STILL HOLDS OUT  
STUBBORNLY AGAINST THE INVADERS.  
ONE SMALL ROMAN VILLAGE SURROUNDED BY  
FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMPS....

Gut! Ve go!



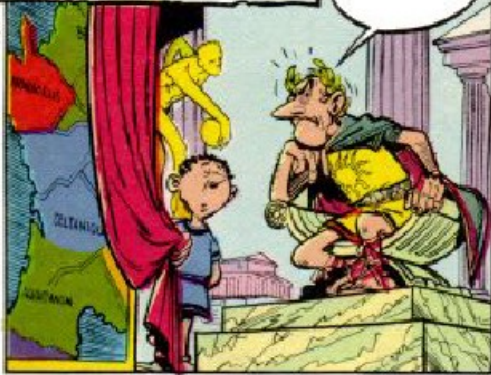
ALL EFFORTS TO SUBDU  
THESE PROUD GAULS HAVE  
FAILED, AND CAESAR  
ASKS HIMSELF....

QUID?

AND NOW WE MEET OUR HERO,  
THE WARRIOR ASTERIX,  
JUST OFF HUNTING  
AS USUAL

BACK SOON,  
ASTERIX?

HERE HE  
COMES!



ACCIDENCE  
WILL HAPPEN....

VAE VICTO  
VAE VICTIS!

WE DECLINE!



AND AT THE ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM, IN THE TENT OF CENTURION CRISMUS BONUS...

AVE CRISMUS BONUS! THE PATROL'S BACK!

AVE JULIUS POMPIUS! I'LL GO AND INSPECT THEM

AVE....

!?!?

WHAT HAPPENED, BY ALL THE GODS? WERE YOU ATTACKED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS?

SUPERIOR NUMBERS...

CAN'T QUITE SAY...

THERE WAS ONE OF THEM...

NOT A VERY LARGE ONE EITHER!

BY JUPITER! THERE MUST BE SOME SECRET BEHIND THE SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS!

MEANWHILE....

SO YOU'RE BACK ASTERIX. ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN?

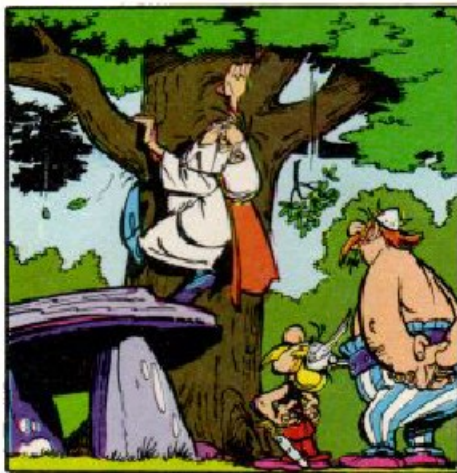
NO....

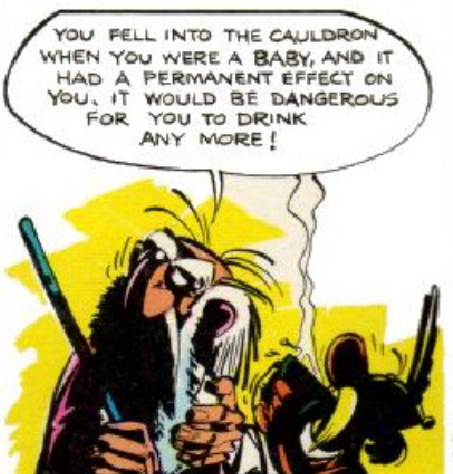
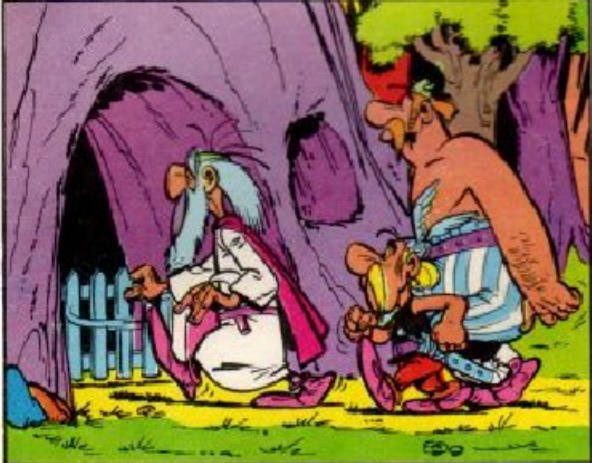
OH YES! I KNOCKED FOUR ROMANS OUT

OH, GOOD!

WANT TO HELP ME EAT MY BOAR?

JUST COMING! I'VE GOT TWO MORE MENHIRS TO DELIVER







WE'VE BEEN LAYING SIEGE TO THESE GAULS FOR YEARS! THEY'VE GOT A NERVE! THIS MORNING'S PROVOCATION IS GOING TOO FAR. ONE AGAINST FOUR IS NO JOKE! THEY'RE MAKING US LOOK RIDICULOUS



THERE'S SOME MYSTERY BEHIND THE STRENGTH OF THESE GAULS. WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET



YOU'RE RIGHT, MARCUS GINANTONICUS! WE MUST LEARN THEIR SECRET, AND FAST! CAESAR HAS INDICATED HIS DISPLEASURE ALL THE WAY FROM ROME. WE NEED A SPY IN THE GAULS' VILLAGE. I WANT A VOLUNTEER!



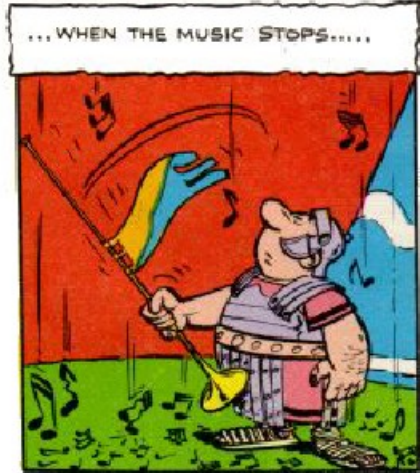
?!



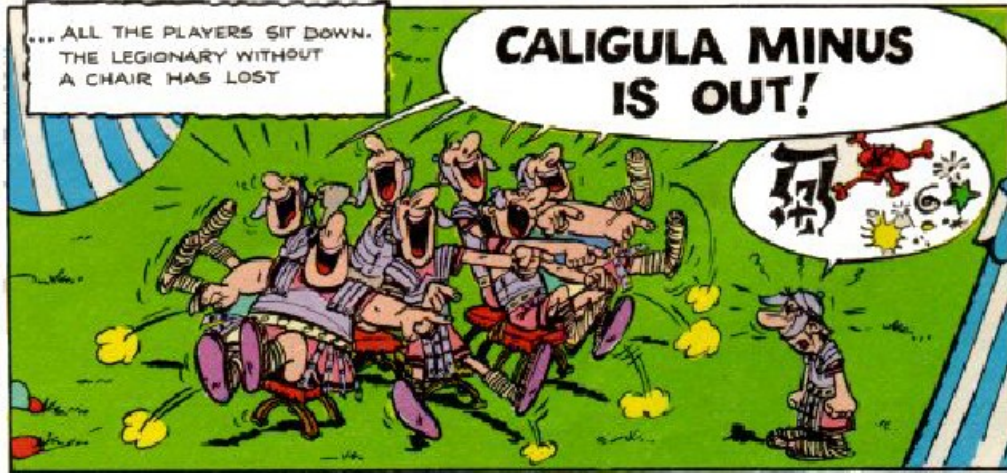
AS THERE ARE SO MANY VOLUNTEERS, WE'LL HAVE TO PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS TO PICK THE SPY!



THIS ANCIENT ROMAN GAME IS PLAYED WITH ONE LESS CHAIR THAN THERE ARE LEGIONARIES.....



...WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS.....



... ALL THE PLAYERS SIT DOWN. THE LEGIONARY WITHOUT A CHAIR HAS LOST

**CALIGULA MINUS IS OUT!**

?!



I'M NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!



CAESAR WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU IF YOU GO, CALIGULA MINUS!

I AM NOT GOING TO SPY ON THE GAULS!



I'LL ROAST YOU ALIVE IF YOU DON'T!



OH, ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO AND SPY ON THE GAULS!

GET HIM UP LIKE A GAUL!



MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

THOSE ROMANS HAVE KEPT QUIET TOO LONG! IT CAN'T LAST. BE ON YOUR GUARD - AND NEVER FORGET TO TAKE YOUR MAGIC POTION!

LONG LIVE OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!



WHAT IS IT, OBELIX?

CHIEF!



THEY WON'T LET ME HAVE ANY POTION. IT'S NOT FAIR! I FEEL RATHER WEAK...



HELP! HERE COMES THE BARD CACOFONIX!



I WILL NOW GIVE YOU A SONG TO INSPIRE THE WARRIORS WITH COURAGE...

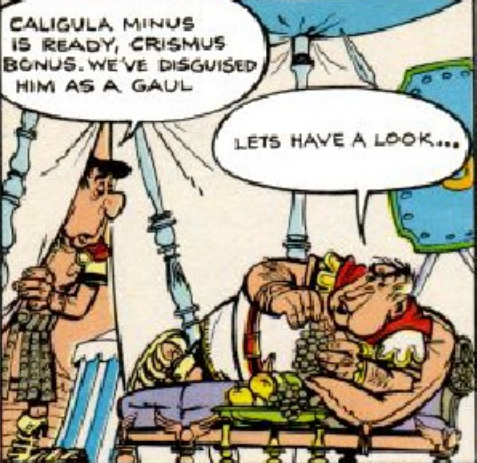


CAN'T STOP...

I'VE GOT NO END OF MENHIRS TO DELIVER...

MAY THE SKY FALL ON MY HEAD! IT'S GETTING LATE

BARBARIANS! THEY DON'T APPRECIATE MY ART!



CALIGULA MINUS IS READY, CRISMUS BONUS. WE'VE DISGUISED HIM AS A GAUL

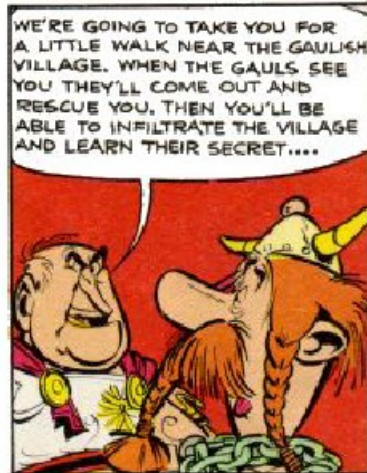
LETS HAVE A LOOK...



HA! HA! HO! HO!  
PUT HIM IN CHAINS  
HA! HA!



WHASSUP?



WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU FOR A LITTLE WALK NEAR THE GAULISH VILLAGE. WHEN THE GAULS SEE YOU THEY'LL COME OUT AND RESCUE YOU. THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO INFILTRATE THE VILLAGE AND LEARN THEIR SECRET....



THAT'S MY PLAN. WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I DON'T. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF IT



TAKE HIM AWAY!

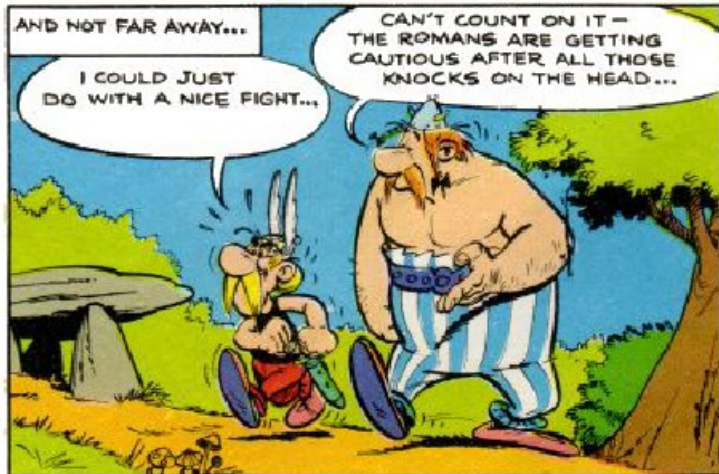
OUGH! CAREFUL! I'M A ROMAN! I'M ONLY A PRETEND GAUL!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

IS THIS WALK GOING ON MUCH LONGER?

SHUT UP, CALIGULA MINUS!



AND NOT FAR AWAY...

I COULD JUST DO WITH A NICE FIGHT...

CAN'T COUNT ON IT - THE ROMANS ARE GETTING CAUTIOUS AFTER ALL THOSE KNOCKS ON THE HEAD...



WAIT A MINUTE!

HM?



SSH!

BUT...



I CAN HEAR FOOTSTEPS- CHAINS CLANKING- SOMEONE WAILING!

!



LET'S HIDE AT THE TOP OF THIS TREE! WE MAY SOON BE LOOSENING UP OUR MUSCLES!



BY ALL THE GODS, I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AT HOME! I NEVER OUGHT TO HAVE JOINED CAESAR'S LEGIONS IN SEARCH OF FAME AND FORTUNE! MY SKIN'S NOT WORTH A SESTERTIUS AND I'LL NEVER EAT TAPIOCCA (1) LIKE MOTHER MADE AGAIN!

(1) SPAGHETTI WAS NOT IMPORTED FROM CHINA BY MARCO POLO UNTIL MUCH LATER.



WILL YOU SHUT UP, CALIGULA MINUS! AFTER ALL, WHEN THE HORDES OF GAULS ATTACK US YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THEY'LL SPARE!



SURE ENOUGH, THERE ARE THE HORDES...

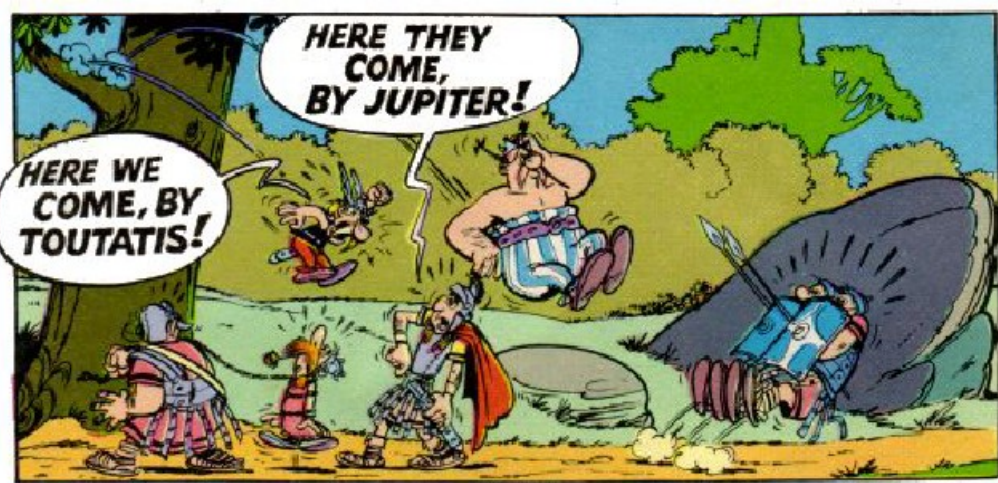
ROMANS, WITH A GAUL AS PRISONER!

WE'LL RESCUE HIM!





RIGHT! EVERYONE GOT IT? IF THEY ATTACK WE ONLY PUT UP A TOKEN RESISTANCE!



HERE THEY COME, BY JUPITER!

HERE WE COME, BY TOUTATIS!



THEY'RE A BIT SOFT TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?

PAFI!



YES, THEY'RE OFF FORM. THEY SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES - EAT A WELL BALANCED DIET

CLONG!



THAT'S THE LOT...

COULDN'T WE BRING THEM ROUND AND START AGAIN?



NO, COME ON! IT'S GETTING LATE



MI - MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



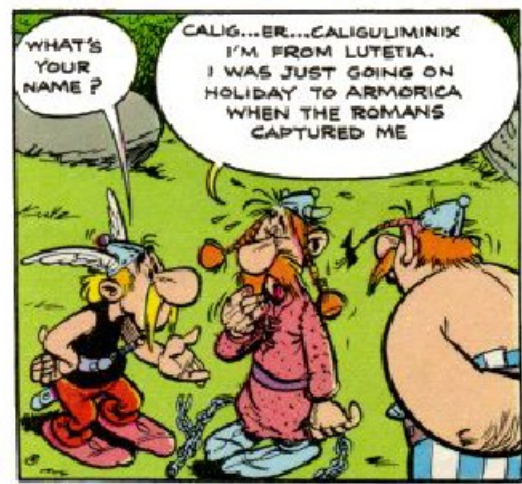
WE WILL STRIKE OFF YOUR CHAINS!

BUT YOU'LL NEED TOOLS.... A HAMMER!

HA! HA! WE'RE THE TOOLS!



!



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

CALIG...ER...CALIGULIMINIX I'M FROM LUTETIA. I WAS JUST GOING ON HOLIDAY TO ARMORICA WHEN THE ROMANS CAPTURED ME



BUT EVERYWHERE ELSE THE ROMANS AND THE GAULS ARE AT PEACE!

YES, BUT I LOOK SO CLEVER AND CUNNING THAT IN THEIR EYES I WAS A SPY

THEIR EYES CAN'T BE ALL THAT BRIGHT! HA! HA!

MARCUS GINANTONICUS AND HIS HEROIC DETACHMENT RETURN TO COMPENDIUM....



OH! BUT WE'VE MISSED THE VICTORY!



THE GAULS CAME AND SAW AND CONQUERED CALIGULA MINUS!



A GREAT VICTORY FOR US!

LET'S HOPE CALIGULA MINUS GETS BACK IN ONE PIECE TO TELL US WHAT HE'S SEEN!



HE'D BETTER! IF NOT I'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO HIS ROMAN REMAINS!

ALEA JACTA EST!

PARDON?



MEANWHILE....

THIS IS OUR VILLAGE, CALIGULIMINIX. YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE! IT'S FULL OF GAULS!

THAT'S A GREAT COMFORT



ASTERIX AND OBELIX ARE BACK!

THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING WITH THEM!



SOMETHING VERY PECULIAR, BY BELENOS!



COME AND MEET OUR CHIEF, VITALSTATISTIX

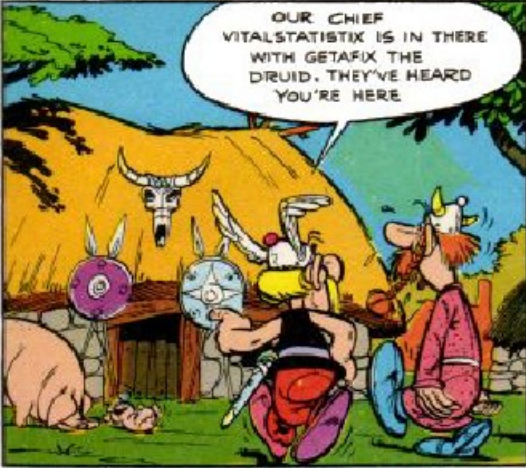


BUT- BUT THEY'RE ALL ARMED!

YES, WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO FIGHT THE ROMANS AT THE DROP OF A HELMET



A WISE PRECAUTION!



OUR CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX IS IN THERE WITH GETAFIX THE DRUID. THEY'VE HEARD YOU'RE HERE



WELCOME, BROTHER! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

AV... ER... HOW DO YOU DO?

I WILL NOW SING A SONG OF WELCOME!

JUST GO AND LOOK UP AN OAK TREE TO SEE IF I'M THERE!

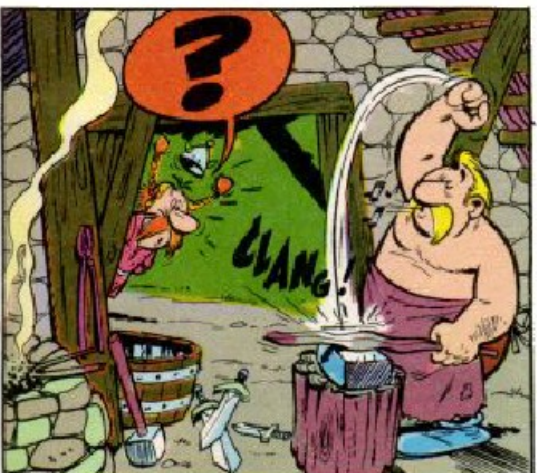


TAKE A STROLL ROUND THE VILLAGE TILL DINNER TIME. BUT DON'T GO TOO FAR. THERE ARE ROMANS ABOUT

RIGHT!



I WONDER WHAT SORT OF TOOLS THEY USE FOR WORKING METAL...

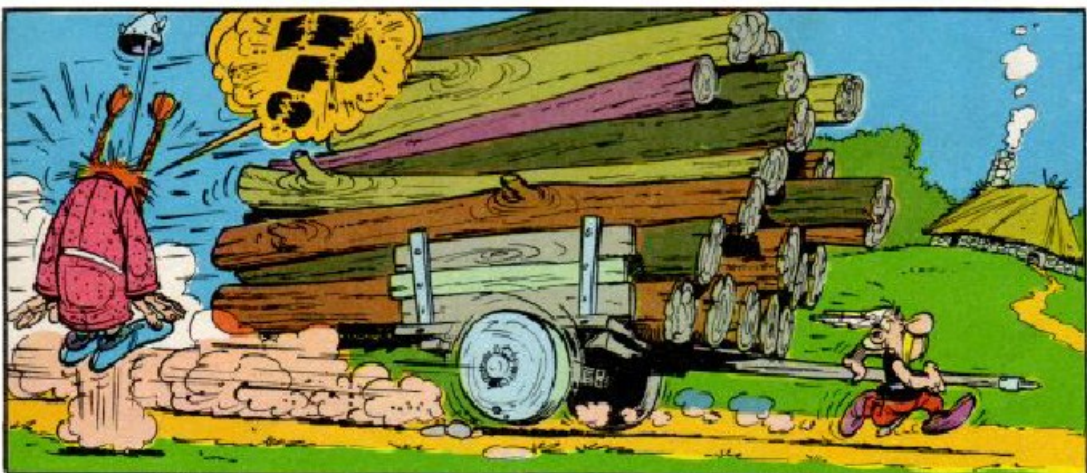


HIS HANDS, BY JUPITER! HIS BARE HANDS!

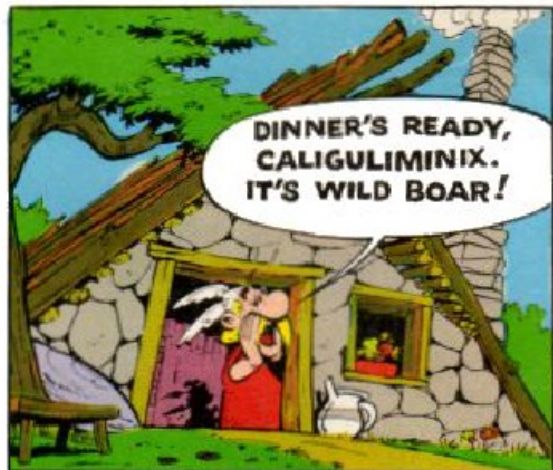


HOW'S THAT MENHIR GOING?

OH, IT'S COMING ALONG!



THEY CERTAINLY ARE VERY STRONG...MAYBE CRISMUS BONUS WAS RIGHT. THEY MUST HAVE SOME SECRET!



DINNER'S READY, CALIGULIMINIX. IT'S WILD BOAR!



IS THERE SOME SECRET BEHIND YOUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH?  
YUM! YUM! YES BUT WE CAN'T REVEAL IT! SCRUNCH!

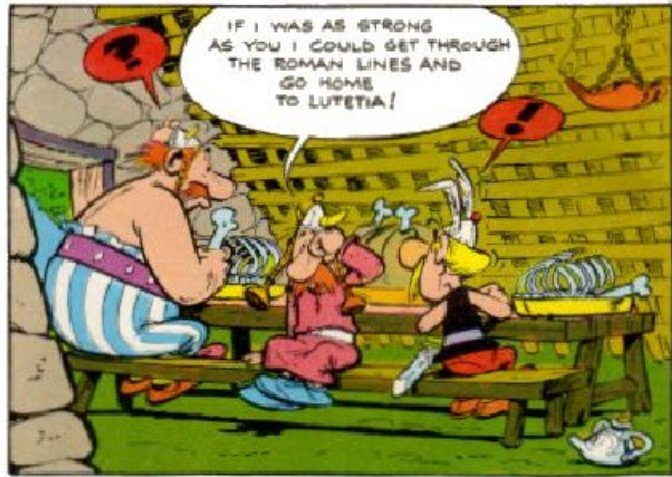
EAT UP YOUR BOAR, IT'S GETTING COLD



WHY CAN'T YOU REVEAL YOUR SECRET?  
BECAUSE IT'S A SECRET!



THAT'S NOT FAIR! WHAT ARE THINGS COMING TO IF ONE GAUL CAN'T TRUST ANOTHER?



IF I WAS AS STRONG AS YOU I COULD GET THROUGH THE ROMAN LINES AND GO HOME TO LUTETIA!



MY POOR FAMILY! SNIFF! THEY'LL BE WORRIED TO DEATH!  
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?  
WE COULD ALWAYS EAT HIS WILD BOAR?



COME ON, CALIGULIMINIX! WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE DRUID



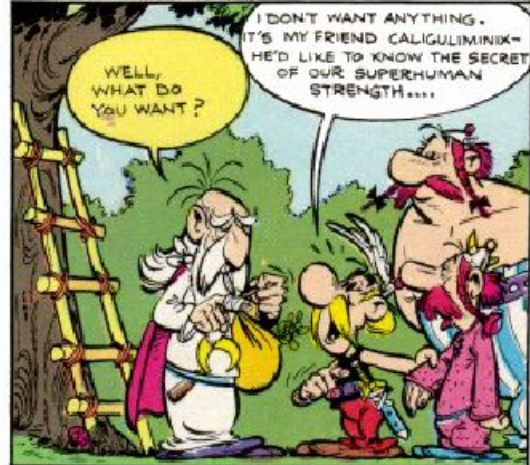
HE'LL BE UP AN OAK TREE, IT'S THE SIXTH DAY OF THE NEW MOON, AND MISTLETOE CUT THEN IS A POWERFUL ANTIDOTE TO POISON



Hi, DRUID!  
OUCH!

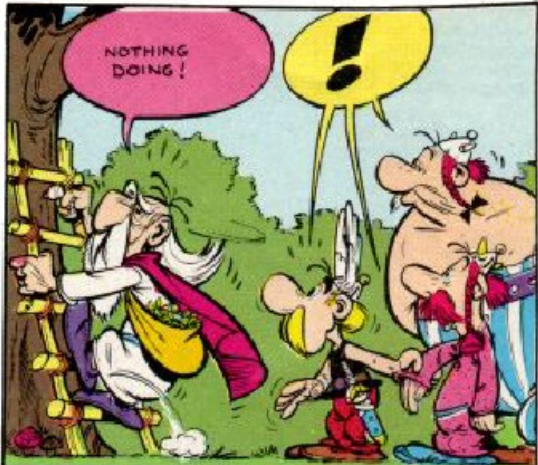


ASTERIX, I TOLD YOU BEFORE NOT TO MAKE ME JUMP WHEN I'M USING MY SICKLE!!!



WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING. IT'S MY FRIEND CALIGULIMINIX- HE'D LIKE TO KNOW THE SECRET OF OUR SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH....



NOTHING DOING!

!



I HAVE TO GET HOME TO MY FAMILY.... GO BACK TO WORK....



WHAT DO YOU DO, ANYWAY?

ER... OH I'M A GUIDE. I SHOW BARBARIAN TOURISTS ROUND THE NIGHT LIFE OF LUTETIA....

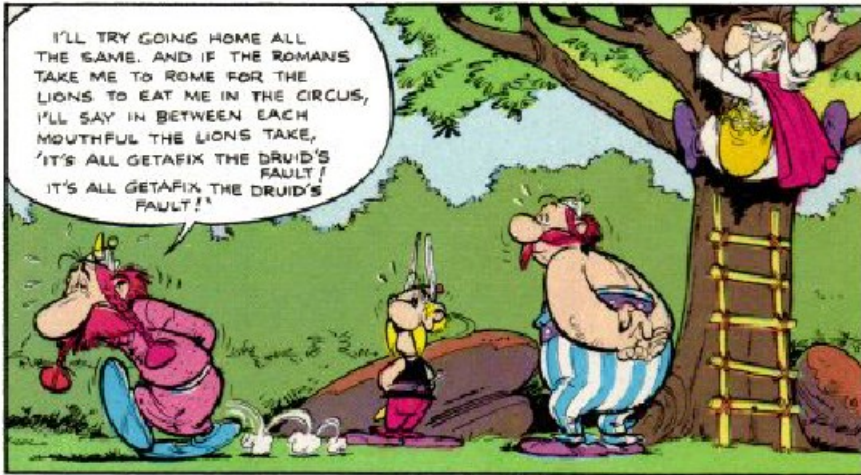


WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT, DRUID?

NO, NO, AND FOR THE THIRD TIME, NO!



OH, FINE! THAT'S JUST FINE! I QUITE SEE!



I'LL TRY GOING HOME ALL THE SAME. AND IF THE ROMANS TAKE ME TO ROME FOR THE LIONS TO EAT ME IN THE CIRCUS, I'LL SAY IN BETWEEN EACH MOUTHFUL THE LIONS TAKE, 'IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT!' IT'S ALL GETAFIX THE DRUID'S FAULT!!



OH, ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT!



COME BACK, CALIGULIMINIX!

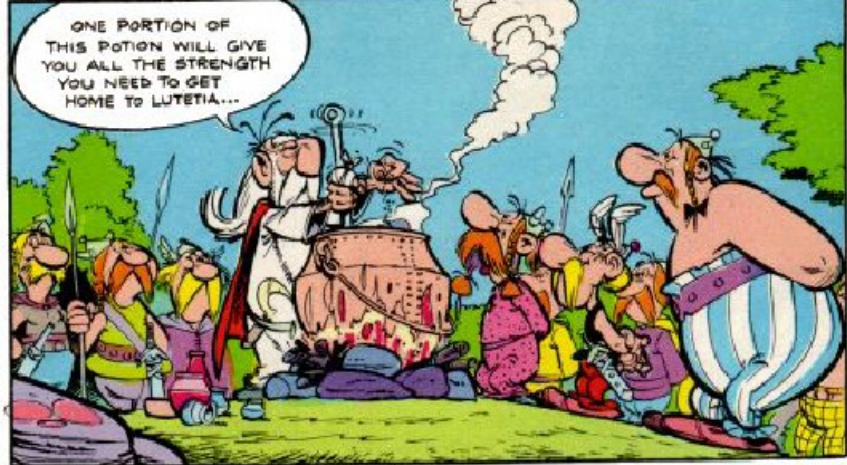


I'LL SHOW YOU MY SECRET. I'LL EVEN LET YOU TASTE IT

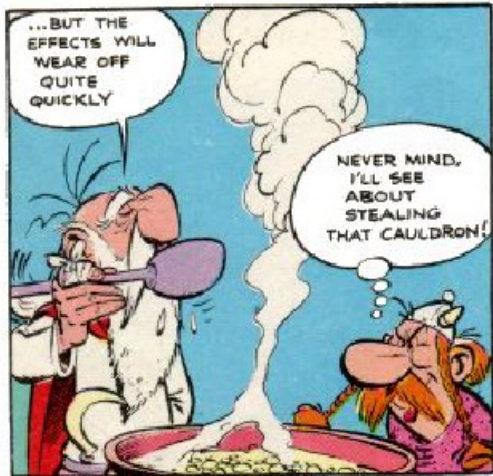
IT'S A SECRET YOU CAN EAT?



COME ON, ALL OF YOU!  
OUR DRUID GETAFIX  
IS GOING TO MAKE  
THE MAGIC POTION!

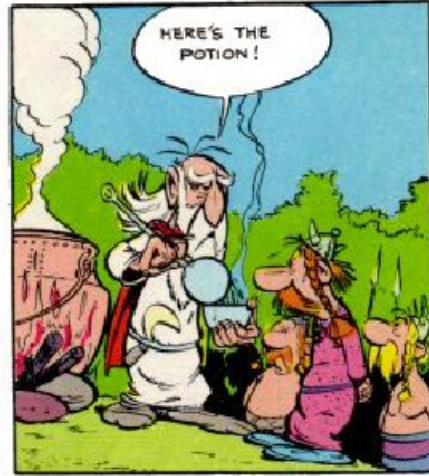


ONE PORTION OF  
THIS POTION WILL GIVE  
YOU ALL THE STRENGTH  
YOU NEED TO GET  
HOME TO LUTETIA....



...BUT THE  
EFFECTS WILL  
WEAR OFF  
QUITE  
QUICKLY

NEVER MIND,  
I'LL SEE  
ABOUT  
STEALING  
THAT CAULDRON!



HERE'S THE  
POTION!



THIS POTION...  
I... ER,  
I ROTATE IT?

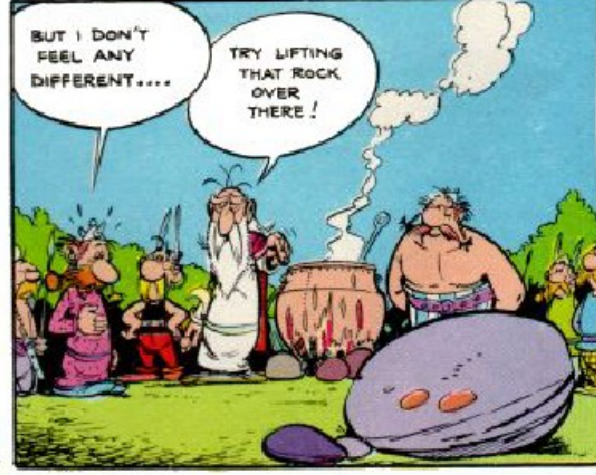


GLUG!  
GLUG!  
GLUG!  
GLUG!



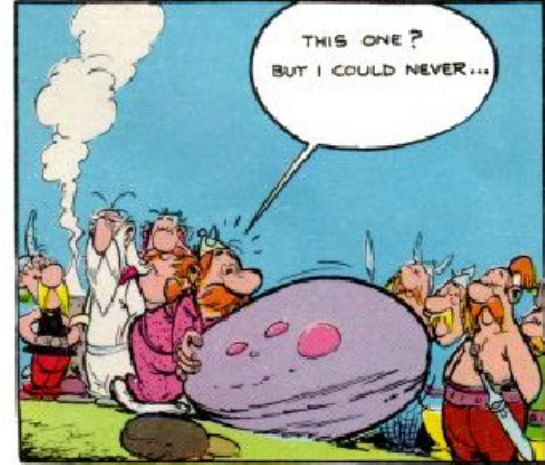
TASTES LIKE  
VEGETABLE  
SOUP!

IT COMES IN SEVERAL  
OTHER DELICIOUS  
FLAVOURS: SHRIMP,  
CHEESE OMELETTE, DUCK  
WITH ORANGE SAUCE  
AND VANILLA!



BUT I DON'T  
FEEL ANY  
DIFFERENT....

TRY LIFTING  
THAT ROCK  
OVER  
THERE!

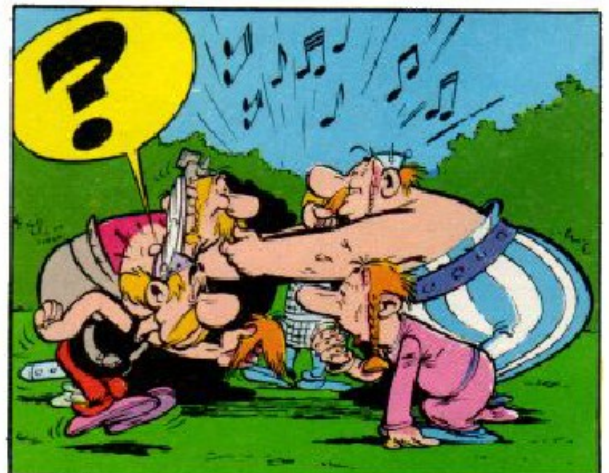
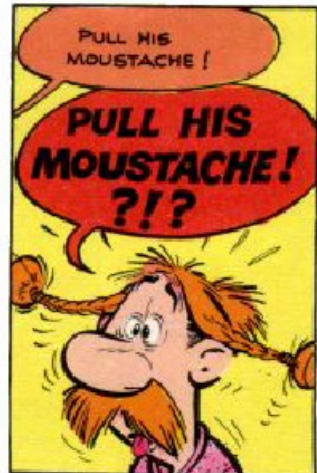
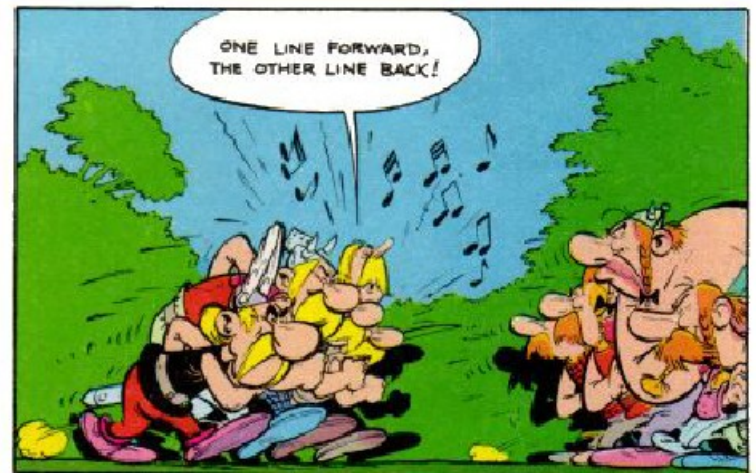
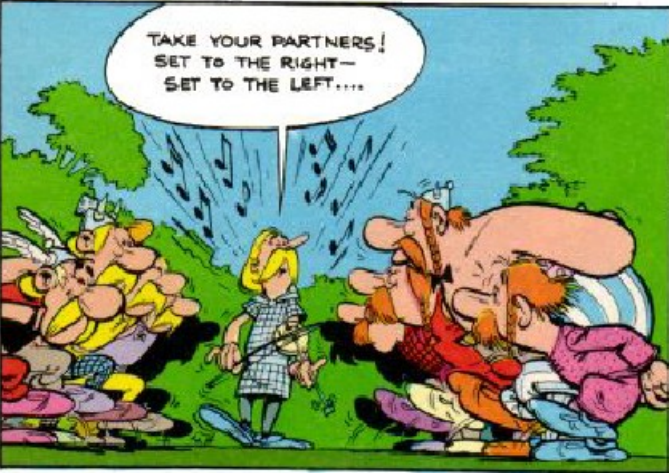
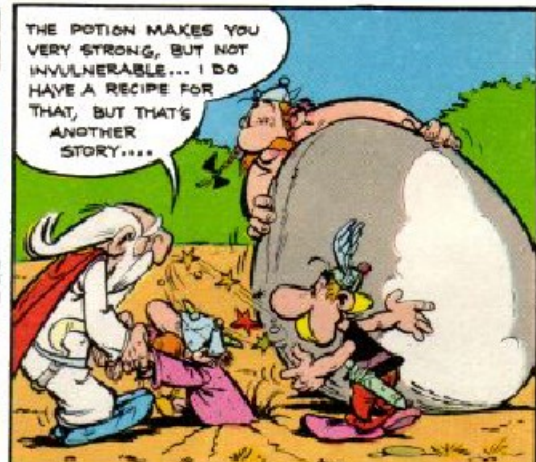


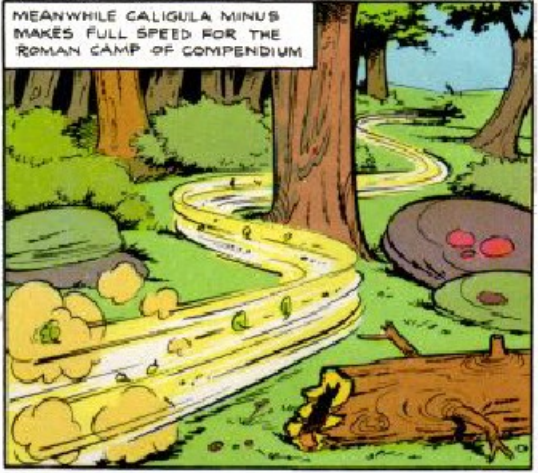
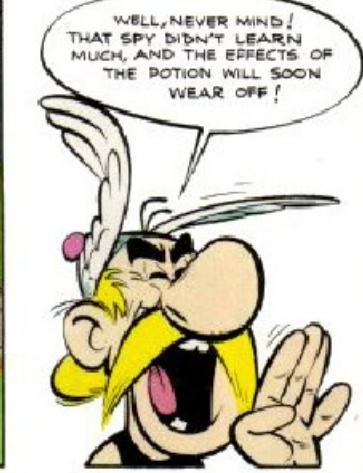
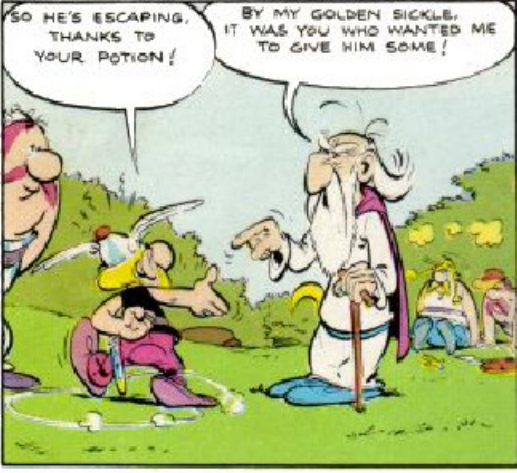
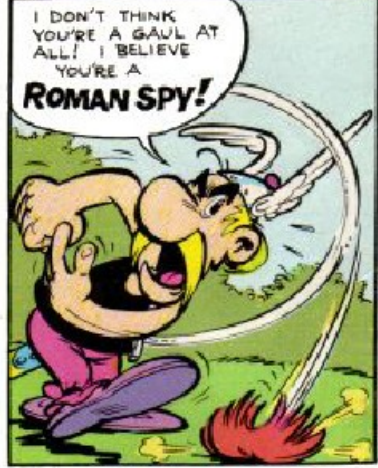
THIS ONE?  
BUT I COULD NEVER...

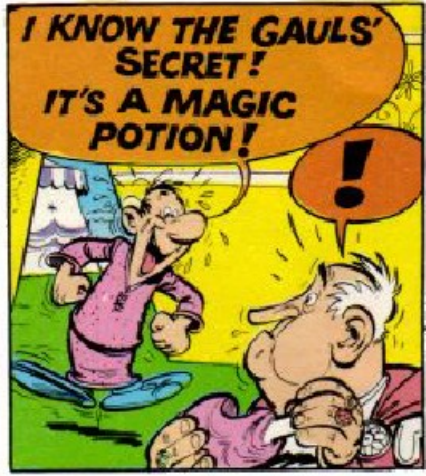


?!?

HA! HA!  
HA! HA!  
HA! HA!









SOON AFTERWARDS  
IN THE GAULISH  
VILLAGE

I'M JUST GOING TO PICK  
SOME MISTLETOE IN THE  
FOREST

WANT ME TO  
COME WITH YOU,  
DRUID?

NO, ASTERIX, YOU STAY HERE  
TO GUARD THE VILLAGE. YOU  
GET YOUR STRENGTH FROM  
MY POTION, BUT YOUR  
INTELLIGENCE AND CUNNING  
ARE ALL YOUR OWN...

IT WOULD BE A  
DISASTER FOR US TO  
LOSE YOU! BESIDES,  
I'LL BE BACK SOON

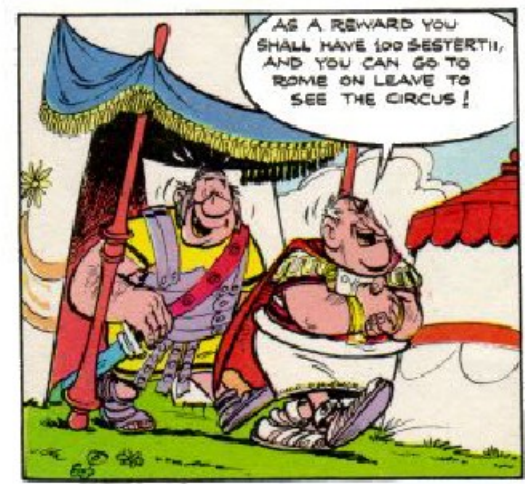
GOOD...



1 ANCIENT GAULISH  
AIR



2) ANCIENT GAULISH  
SWEAR-WORDS





WE'LL TORTURE THE DRUID. THEN HE'LL TALK ALL RIGHT!



WELL, ARE YOU TALKING ?

NO, YOU ARE !



MUCH LATER ...

LOOK HERE, DRUID, THIS ISN'T FUNNY! WE'VE BEEN TORTURING YOU FOR HOURS, AND IT DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO HURT. THIS WON'T HELP YOU!

OH YES, IT WILL; IT'LL HELP TO PASS THE TIME



DRUID, IF YOU TALK I CAN MAKE YOU RICH AND POWERFUL !

NO !



**YOU'LL HAVE SESTERTII! LOADS OF SESTERTII!**

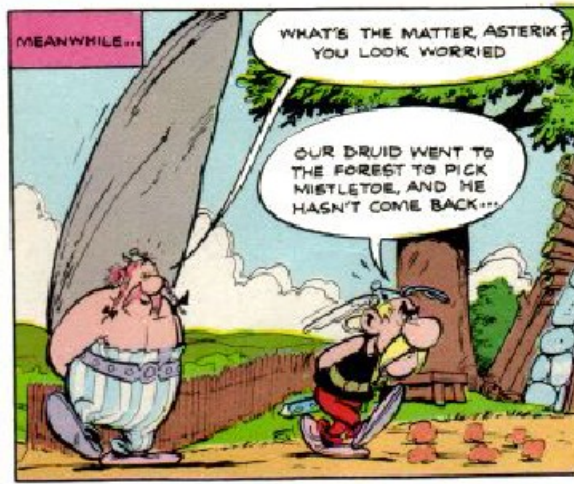
NO !



IS THIS TORTURE GOING ON MUCH LONGER ? I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO !



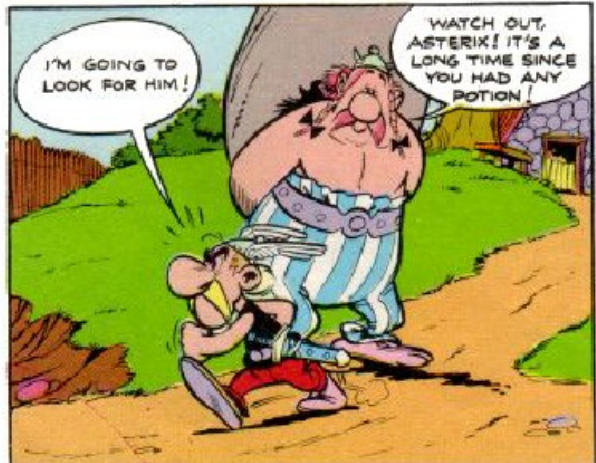
THIS DRUID'S MAGIC POWERS ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME - AND IS HE PIGHEADED !



MEANWHILE ...

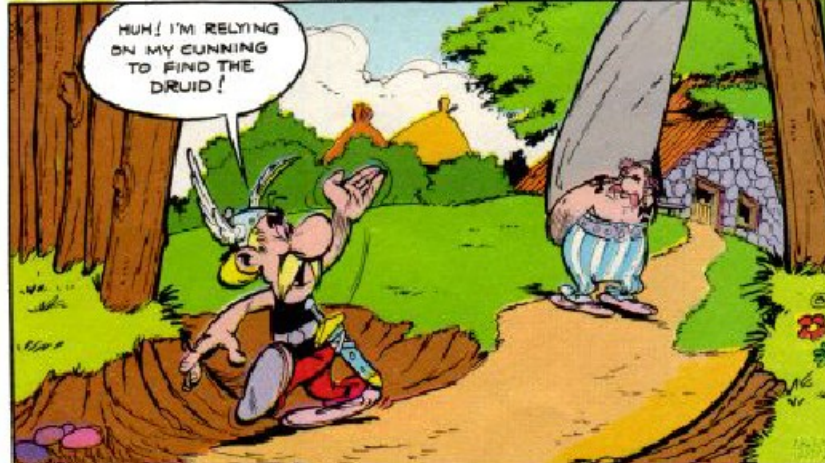
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ASTERIX ? YOU LOOK WORRIED

OUR DRUID WENT TO THE FOREST TO PICK MISTLETOE, AND HE HASN'T COME BACK ...

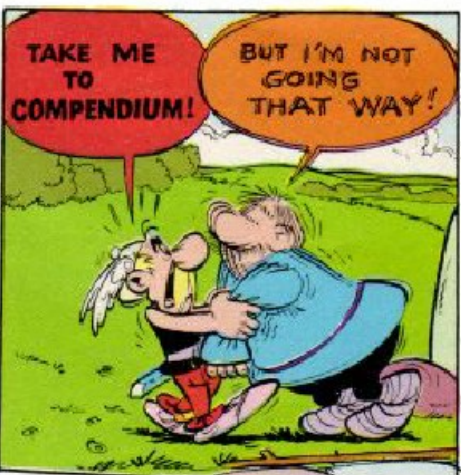
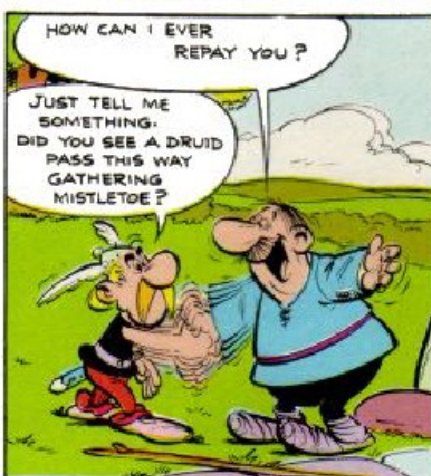
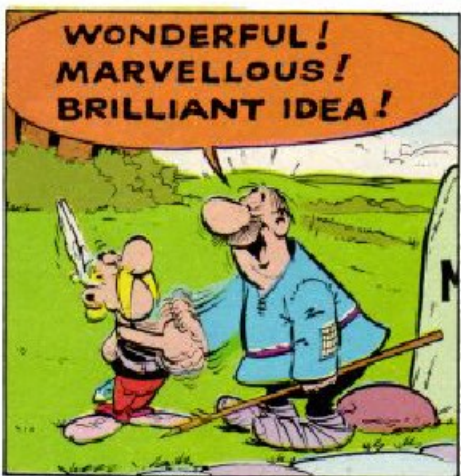
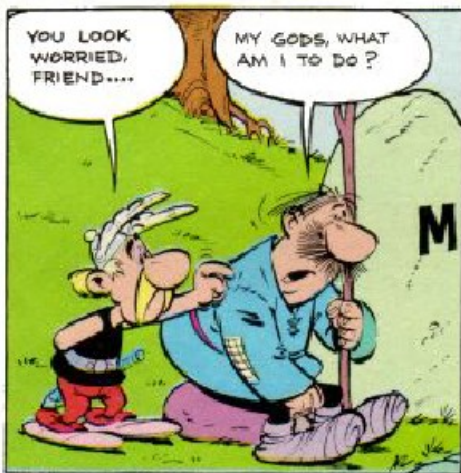


I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM !

WATCH OUT, ASTERIX ! IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE YOU HAD ANY POTION !

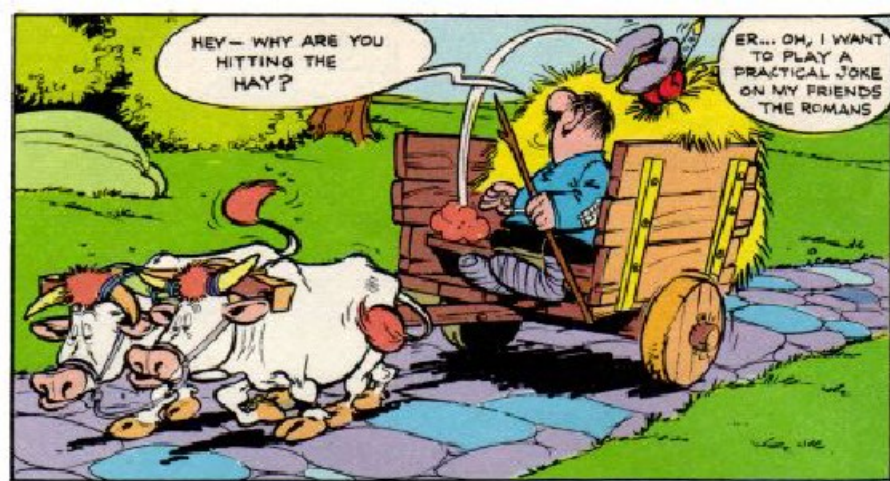


HUH ! I'M RELYING ON MY CUNNING TO FIND THE DRUID !





WE'RE COMING TO GOMPENDIUM NOW!

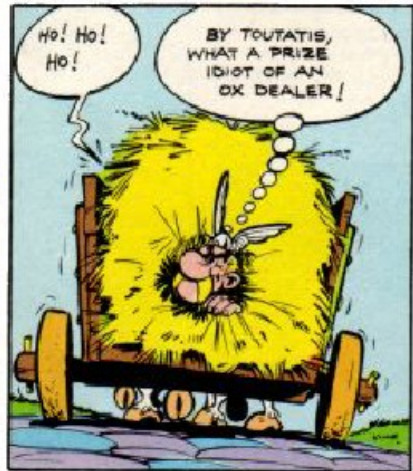


HEY - WHY ARE YOU HITTING THE HAY?

ER... OH, I WANT TO PLAY A PRACTICAL JOKE ON MY FRIENDS THE ROMANS

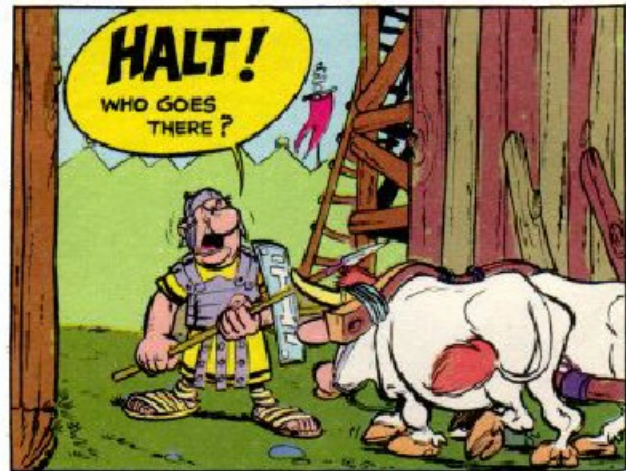


HA! HA! THAT'S RICH! I LOVE PRACTICAL JOKES!

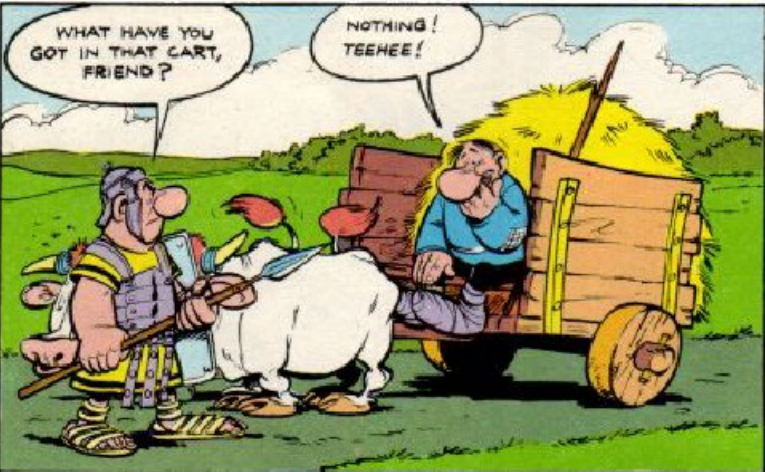


Ho! Ho! Ho!

BY TOUTATIS, WHAT A PRIZE IDIOT OF AN OX DEALER!



**HALT!**  
WHO GOES THERE?



WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THAT CART, FRIEND?

NOTHING! TEEHEE!

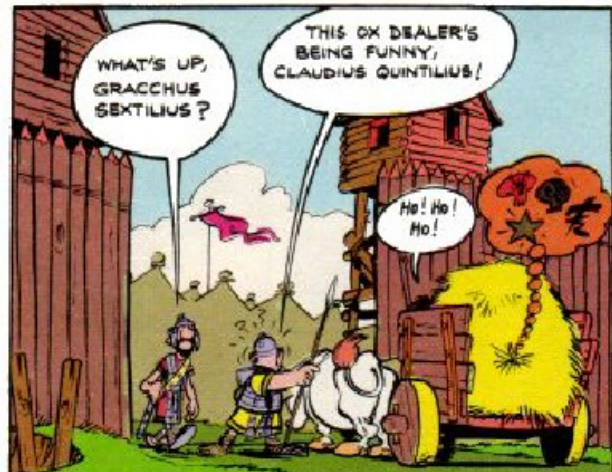


BY JUPITER, ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME?

HA! HA!  
Ho! Ho! Ho!



THIS FATHEAD WILL SPOIL EVERYTHING!



WHAT'S UP, GRACCHUS SEXTILIUS?

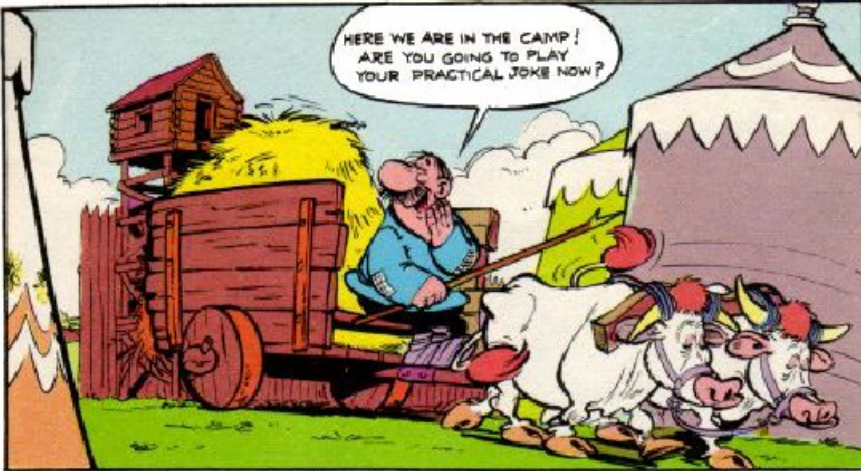
THIS OX DEALER'S BEING FUNNY, CLAUDIUS QUINTILIUS!

Ho! Ho! Ho!



LET HIM PASS. I KNOW HIM. HE'S QUITE HARMLESS!

PHEW!



HERE WE ARE IN THE CAMP!  
ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY  
YOUR PRACTICAL JOKE NOW?



NO! IT'S GETTING DARK,  
I'LL WAIT TILL MORNING,  
IT'LL BE FUNNIER  
THEN

OH!



GOOD NIGHT!

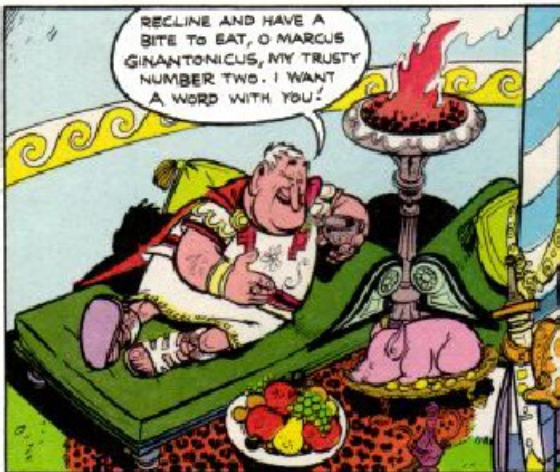
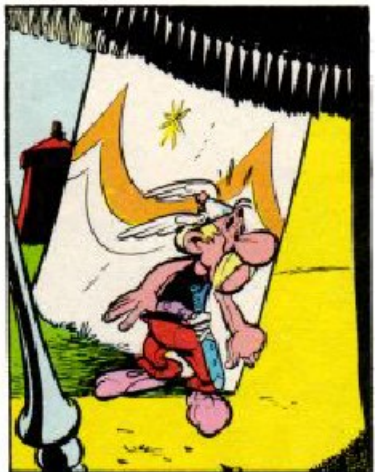


SOON AFTERWARDS

AND NOW TO FIND  
WHERE THEY'VE  
GOT THE  
DRUID...



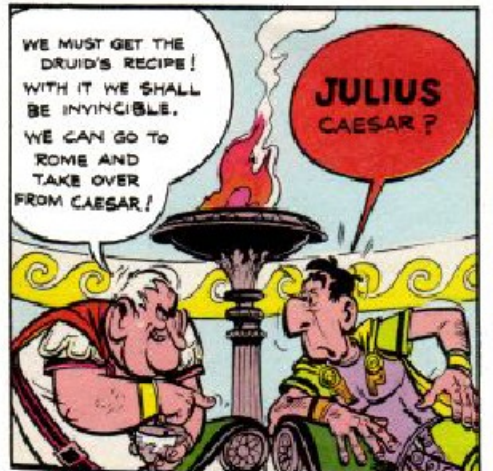
LET'S HAVE A LOOK  
OVER HERE ...



RECLINE AND HAVE A  
BITE TO EAT, O MARCUS  
GINANTONICUS, MY TRUSTY  
NUMBER TWO. I WANT  
A WORD WITH YOU!



THANKS, O  
CRISMUS BONUS!



WE MUST GET THE  
DRUID'S RECIPE!  
WITH IT WE SHALL  
BE INVINCIBLE.  
WE CAN GO TO  
ROME AND  
TAKE OVER  
FROM CAESAR!

**JULIUS  
CAESAR?**

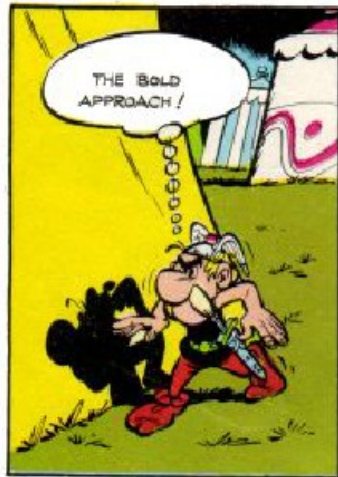


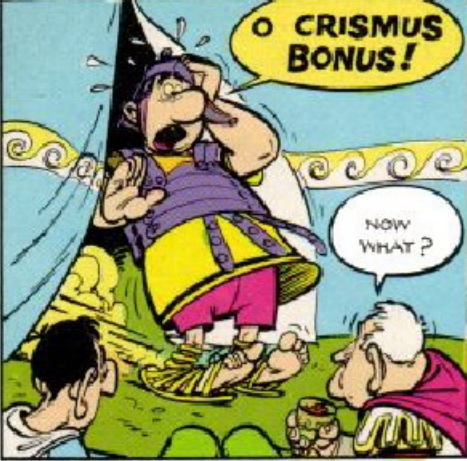
PRECISELY, **JULIUS!**  
THE TWO OF US WILL  
FORM A  
TRIUMVIRATE!



I NEED YOU NOW,  
BUT AFTERWARDS  
I'LL BE THE  
TRIUMVIRATE  
ON MY OWN!

I'LL HAVE HIM THROWN  
TO THE LIONS, AND  
THEN I ALONE WILL  
BE CAESAR!



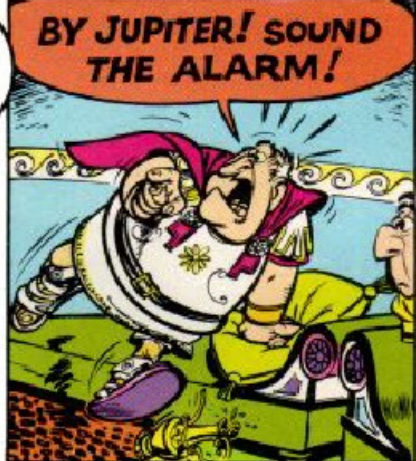


O CRISMUS BONUS!

NOW WHAT?



WE'VE CAPTURED A GAUL IN THE DRUID'S TENT BUT WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS TO STOP THE PRISONER GETTING AWAY!!!



BY JUPITER! SOUND THE ALARM!



TANTANTARA TATA!



SOON AFTERWARDS

SURRENDER, GAUL! OR I GIVE THE ORDER TO ATTACK!



WELL IS HE SURRENDERING OR ISN'T HE?

ALL THIS WAITING IS GETTING ME DOWN!



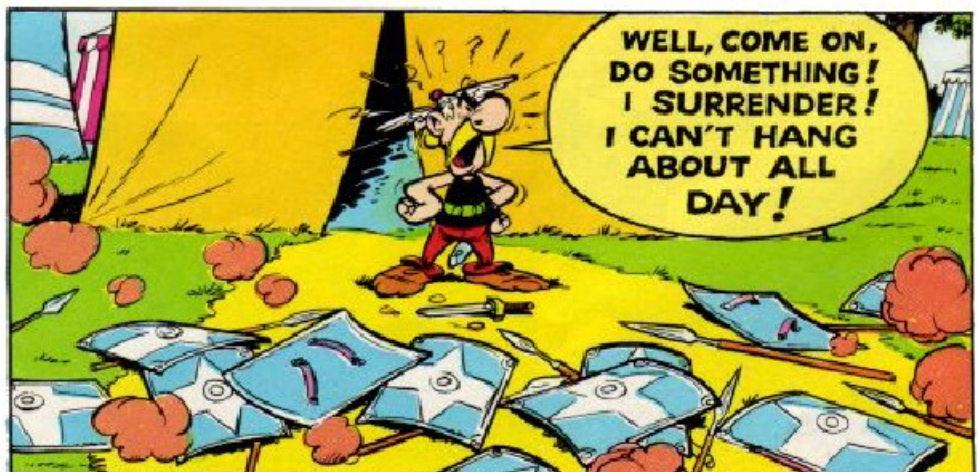
WATCH OUT! HERE HE COMES!



I LAY DOWN MY WEAPON AT YOUR FEET, CENTURION, AS OUR CHIEF VERINGETRIX LAID HIS ARMS AT THE FEET OF YOUR MASTER CAESAR!



ZING! CLANG! CLINK! CLONK! CLICK! CLACK!



WELL, COME ON, DO SOMETHING! I SURRENDER! I CAN'T HANG ABOUT ALL DAY!

SEIZE HIM, YOU LILY-LIVERED LOT, OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE CIRCUS TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS!

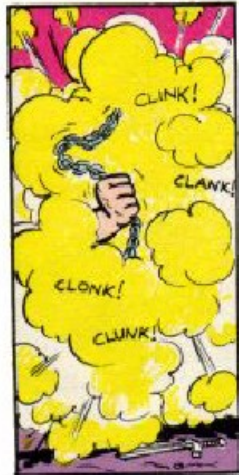
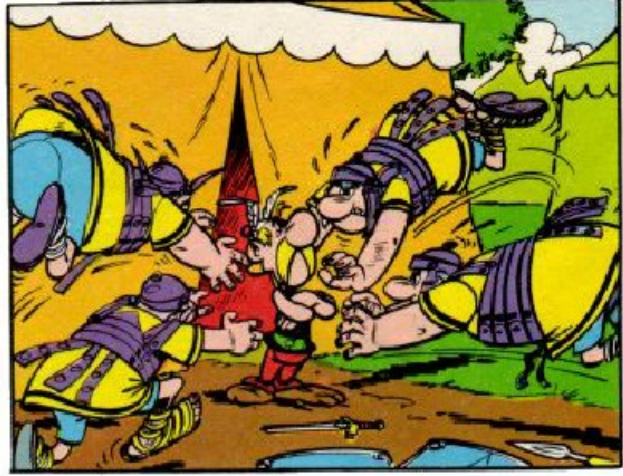


THE CIRCUS?



THE LIONS?

OH WELL!



CLINK!  
CLANK!  
CLONK!  
CLUNK!



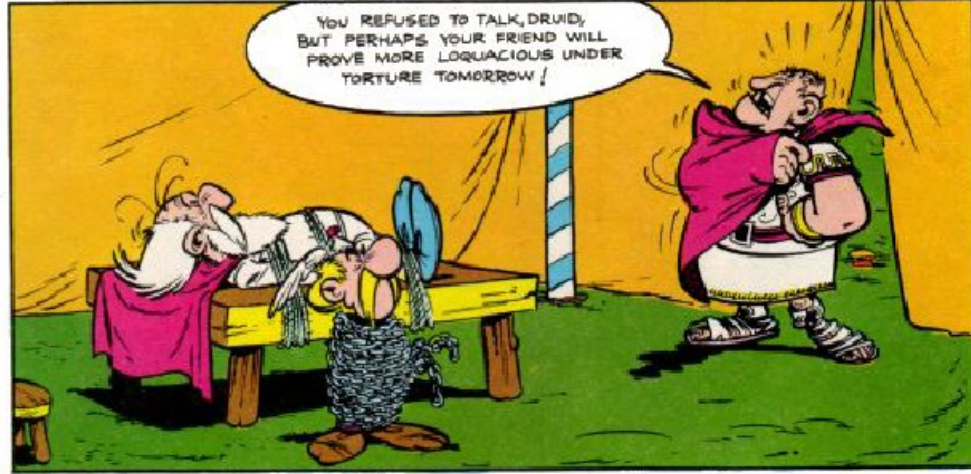
WHAT'S UP?

IT'S A GAUL WHO GOT INTO THE CAMP...



IT'S NOT FAIR! HE DIDN'T WAIT FOR ME TO WAKE UP TO PLAY HIS PRACTICAL JOKE! IT'S NOT FAIR!

?

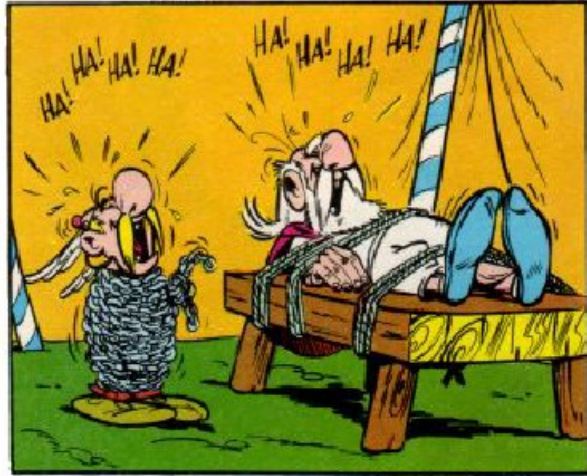


YOU REFUSED TO TALK, DRUID, BUT PERHAPS YOUR FRIEND WILL PROVE MORE LOQUACIOUS UNDER TORTURE TOMORROW!



AUT CAESAR, AUT NIHIL! (I)

(I) THIS IS LATIN GRAMMAR

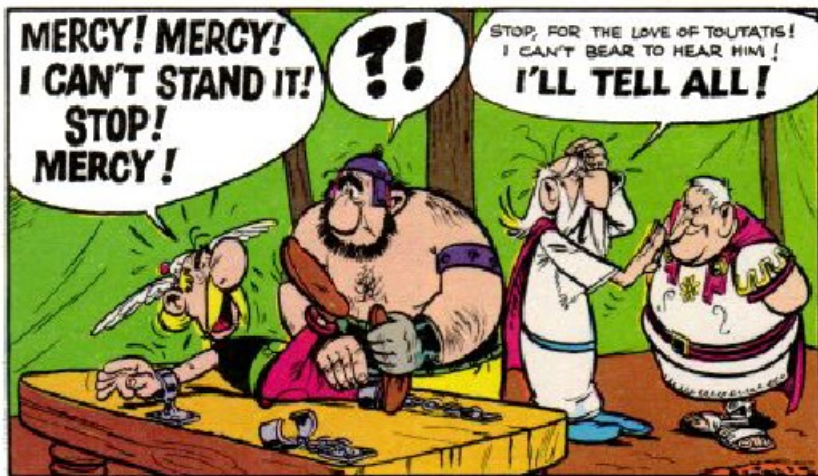
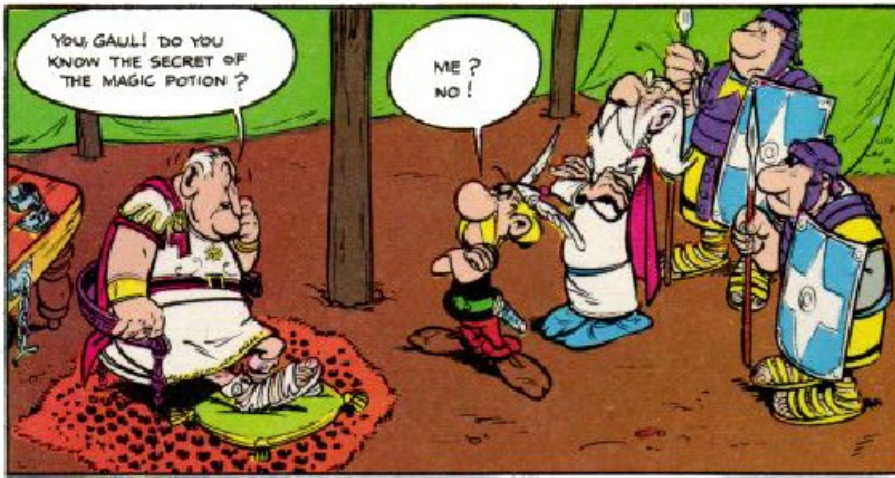


HA! HA! HA! HA!  
HA! HA! HA! HA!



I'LL BE LOQUACIOUS ALL RIGHT! I'LL LOQUACE LIKE NO ONE EVER LOQUACED BEFORE! (I)

(I) THIS IS BAD GRAMMAR





NOW THEN, DRUID, SHOW US HOW TO COOK THIS RECIPE OR WE'LL COOK YOUR FRIEND'S GOOSE!

I WILL PREPARE THE POTION BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES, BUT I NEED SEVERAL INGREDIENTS FROM THE FOREST...

MERCY!



YOU SHALL HAVE ALL YOU NEED! GIVE THE DRUID AN ESCORT! I'M KEEPING THE OTHER GAUL HERE AS A HOSTAGE!



A SPOT OF MISTLETOE...



A FEW ROOTS...



SOON AFTERWARDS...

THE DRUID IS BACK WITH MISTLETOE, ROOTS...

... HERBS AND WILD FLOWERS. HE WANTS A CAULDRON

**GIVE HIM A CAULDRON!**



A PINCH OF SALT... A BASH OF PEPPER... LET IT SIMMER...

YES! YES! FASTER! FASTER!



THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING... SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT...

**WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?**



STRAWBERRIES

**STRAWBERRIES? AT THIS TIME OF YEAR?**



WELL, OF COURSE IT WON'T BE EASY. WE COULD WAIT FOR THE STRAWBERRY SEASON...

**NO, QUICK! SEND MESSENGERS! STRAWBERRIES! I MUST HAVE STRAWBERRIES! AT THE DOUBLE!**



AND AS THEY WAIT FOR THE STRAWBERRIES

YOU GET SOME GOOD IDEAS, ASTERIX!

THAT WAS A FRUITFUL SUGGESTION OF YOURS. SENDING THEM OFF AFTER STRAWBERRIES! WE'RE HAVING A NICE HOLIDAY AT CAESAR'S EXPENSE!



IT'S DAYS SINCE THE MESSENGERS LEFT TO LOOK FOR STRAWBERRIES, AND NOT ONE HAS TURNED UP YET!



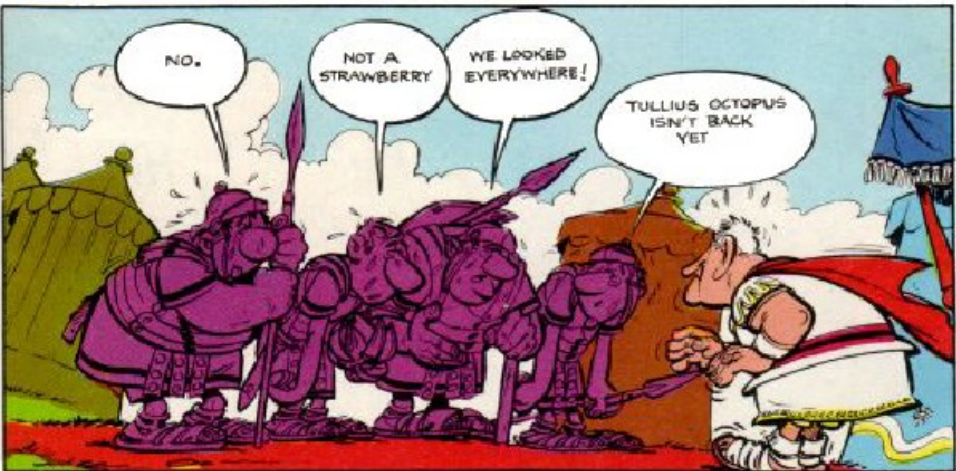
THE MESSENGERS ARE BACK, O CRISMUS BONUS!

**ABOUT TIME!**



AVE CRISMUS BONUS!

AVE, AVE, BOYS! THE STRAWBERRIES— DID YOU GET THEM?



NO.

NOT A STRAWBERRY

WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!

TULLIUS OCTOPUS ISN'T BACK YET



HERE I AM, O CRISMUS BONUS!



I FOUND STRAWBERRIES, O CRISMUS BONUS! I BOUGHT THEM FOR A VAST SUM FROM A GREEK MERCHANT! HAPPENED TO MEET!

GIVE THEM HERE!



THIS TIME I REALLY MEAN IT! AS A REWARD YOU CAN GO HOME ON LEAVE TO SEE ALL THE FUN OF THE CIRCUS!

I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS! I'M GOING TO THE CIRCUS!



DRUID! HERE ARE THE STRAWBERRIES YOU ORDERED FOR THE MAGIC POTION!



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM, ASTÉRIX?

NOT UP TO MUCH!



NOT BAD...

HM...



COME TO THINK OF IT, THOSE WERE EXCELLENT STRAWBERRIES!

YES, JUST THE SORT I NEED. GO AND GET ME SOME MORE

YOU'VE EATEN MY STRAWBERRIES AND NOW YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY STRAWBERRIES AND YOU WANT MORE STRAWBERRIES AND IT'S NOT FAIR AND I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD ENOUGH!



THERE, THERE! NEVER MIND! WE'LL MAKE YOU YOUR POTION...



OF COURSE WE WILL!

WE CAN ALWAYS MAKE THE POTION WITHOUT STRAWBERRIES, ONLY IT WON'T BE THE SAME...



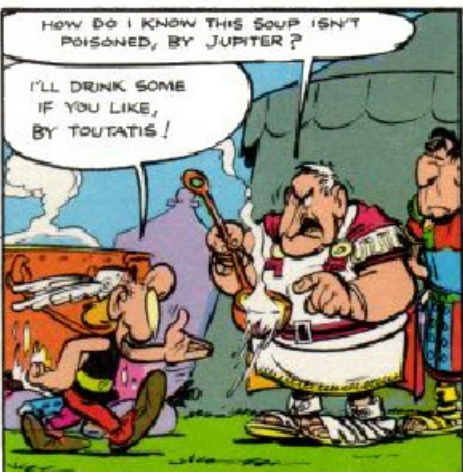
THE STRAWBERRIES DO LEAVE A TASTE IN THE MOUTH...

SNIFF! SNIFF!



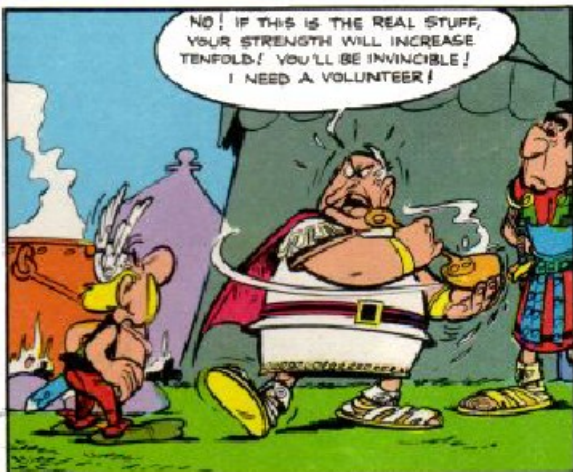
IT'S DONE! SERVE HOT!

GIVE IT HERE!



HOW DO I KNOW THIS SOUP ISN'T POISONED, BY JUPITER?

I'LL DRINK SOME IF YOU LIKE, BY TOUTATIS!



NO! IF THIS IS THE REAL STUFF, YOUR STRENGTH WILL INCREASE TENFOLD! YOU'LL BE INVINCIBLE! I NEED A VOLUNTEER!

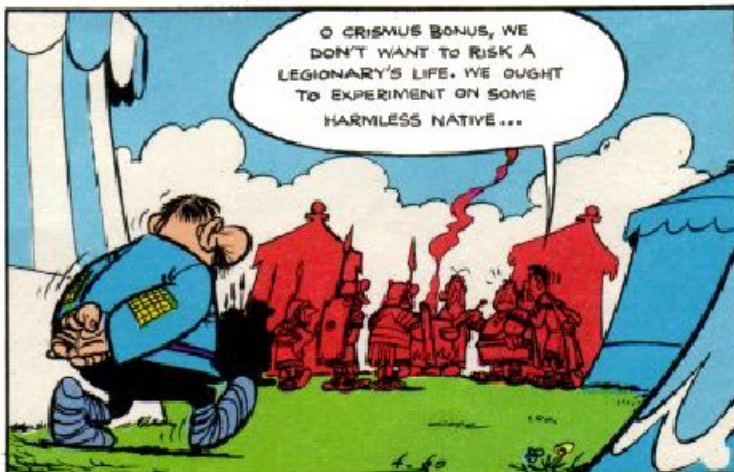


I SAID: I NEED A VOLUNTEER!!!

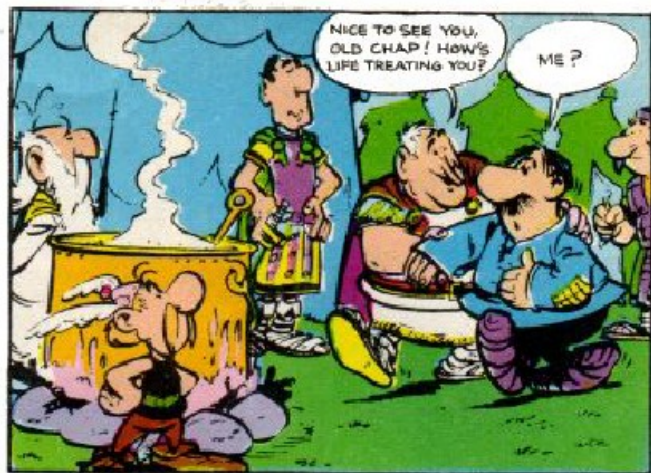
GUID NOVI?

SURSUM CORDA!

SO WHAT?



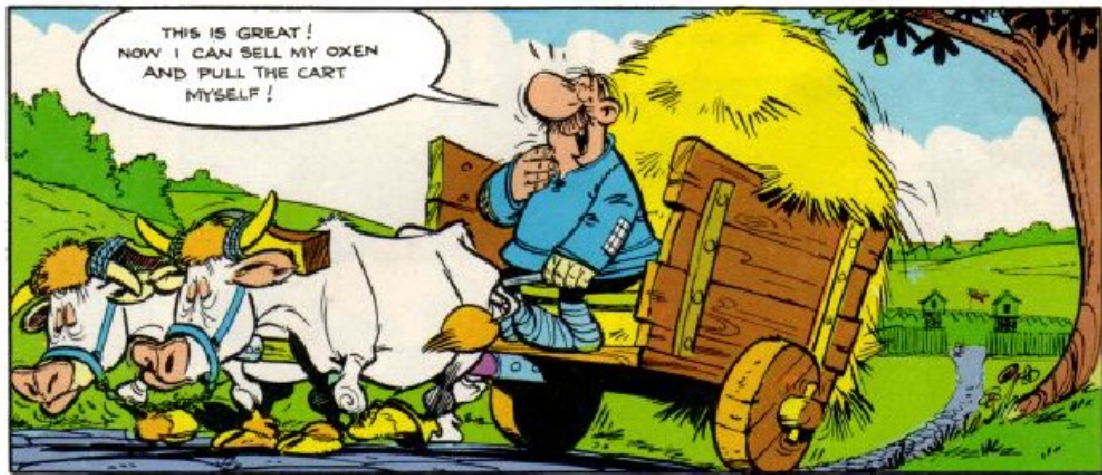
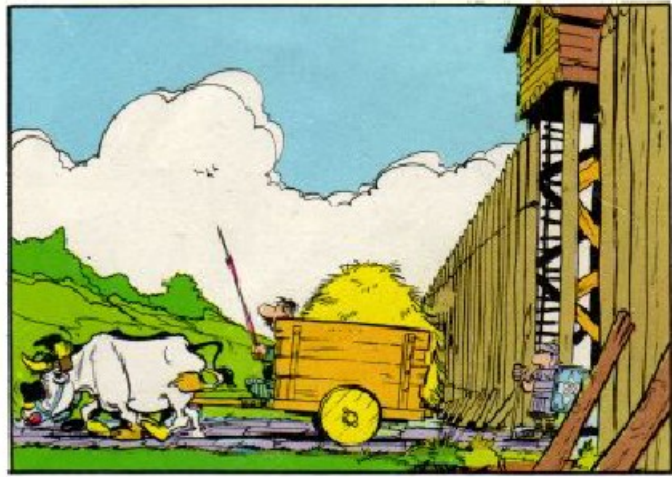
O CRISMUS BONUS, WE DON'T WANT TO RISK A LEGIONARY'S LIFE. WE OUGHT TO EXPERIMENT ON SOME HARMLESS NATIVE...



NOT TOO WELL! I MET A MAN WHO SAID I'D SELL MY CART AT COMPENDIUM AND SO HE GOT ME TO COME HERE AND NOW NO ONE WANTS TO BUY MY CART AND I NEED MY OXEN...

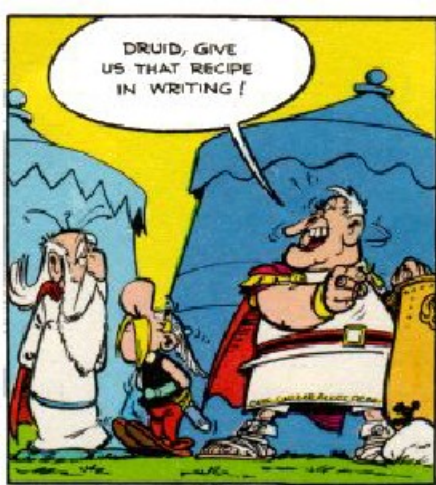








OUR ROAD TO ROME IS CLEAR. O MARCUS GINANTONICUS! CAESAR'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!



DRUID, GIVE US THAT RECIPE IN WRITING!



AND THEN WE'LL GET RID OF THESE TWO GAULS! IT WILL TEACH THEM A LESSON!

HERE'S HAIR ON YOUR CHEST!



AND NOW TO TRY OUT MY NEW STRENGTH!



NNNNNG!



HMM - SET MY SIGHTS TOO HIGH!



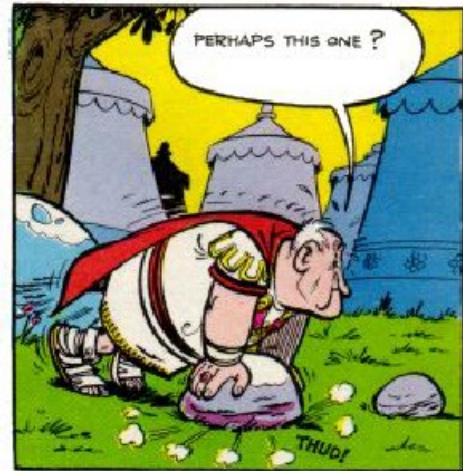
I'LL TRY THIS ONE!



NNNNNG!



SOMETHING SMALLER...



PERHAPS THIS ONE?



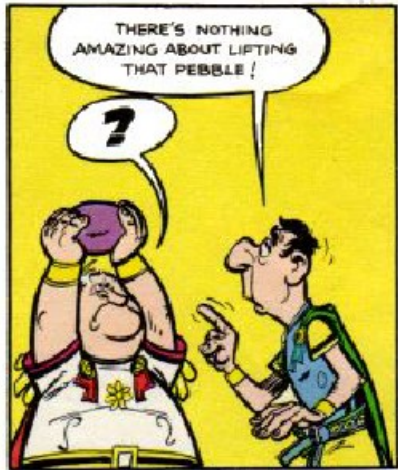
I'VE DONE IT! I'M A SUPERMAN!!!

AMAZING!



ER... CRISMUS BONUS...

HM?



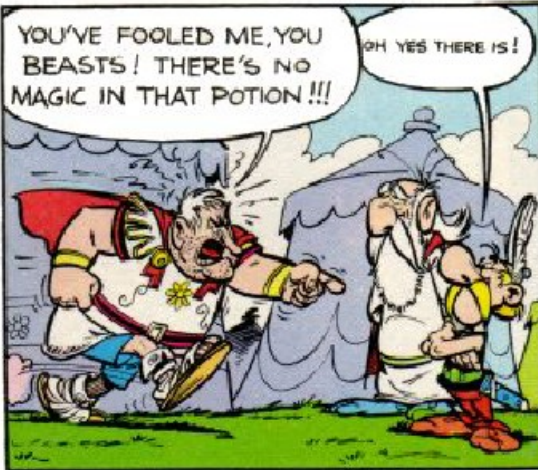
THERE'S NOTHING AMAZING ABOUT LIFTING THAT PEBBLE!

?



TRUE!

OUCH!



YOU'VE FOOLED ME, YOU BEASTS! THERE'S NO MAGIC IN THAT POTION!!!

OH YES THERE IS!



?

Hi! Hi! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! HA! HA!



O CRISMUS BONUS, CAN'T WE GET EVEN WITH THESE GAULS?

?



YOU COULD HAVE SHAVED BEFORE COMING TO SEE ME!

?



A SELF-RESPECTING LEGIONARY SHOULD BE CLEAN SHAVEN!

!



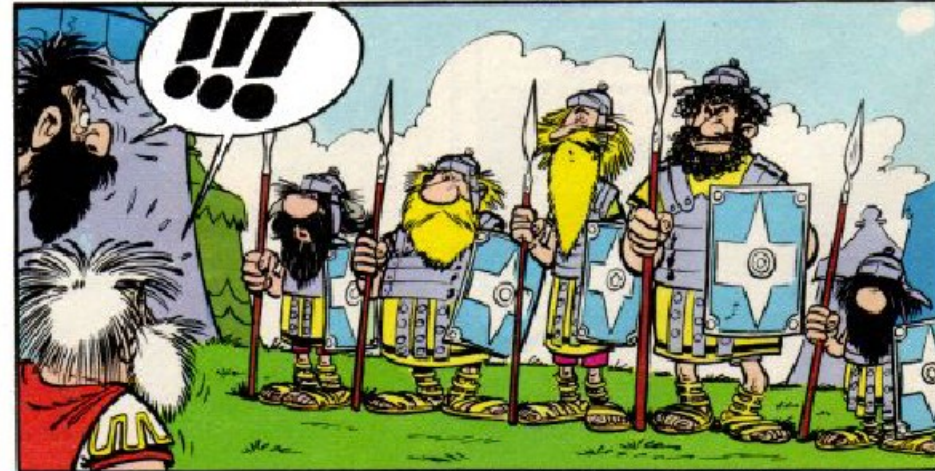
MAYBE, BUT A SELF-RESPECTING CENTURION SHOULD PRACTISE WHAT HE PREACHES!

?



HERE - WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

LOOK!!!



!!!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, DRUID?



IT'S AN ANCIENT RECIPE FOR HAIR LOTION. EXTREMELY POWERFUL! YOUR HAIR AND BEARDS ARE GOING TO GROW VERY FAST, NON-STOP



I'LL KILL YOU! GIVE ME THE ANTIDOTE!



IF YOU KILL US WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY ANTIDOTE!



BESIDES, WE'RE A LITTLE TIRED TODAY...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A REST IN OUR TENT



WAIT !!!



THUMP



WHAT HAPPENED, O CRISMUS BONUS?

I TRIPPED OVER MY BEARD, IDIOT!

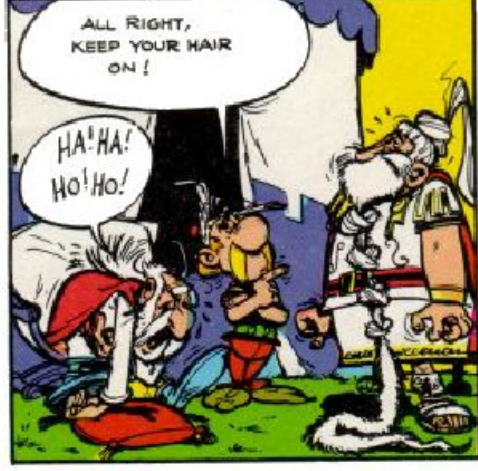


SOON AFTERWARDS...

I AM AT THE MERCY OF THESE GAULS! THEY'VE GOT US BY THE SHORT HAIRS! I MUST STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH THEM!



!







HURRY UP!  
OUR BEARDS  
ARE GROWING!



I THINK  
WE'VE GOT JUST  
ABOUT ALL  
WE NEED...



HERE WE  
ARE AGAIN!

GOOD—  
GET STARTED!

PHEW! NOW I CAN REST!  
THAT'S THREE HOURS I'VE  
BEEN WORKING NON-STOP!



WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING?

I WANT TO  
WATCH YOU PREPARE  
THE ANTIDOTE!



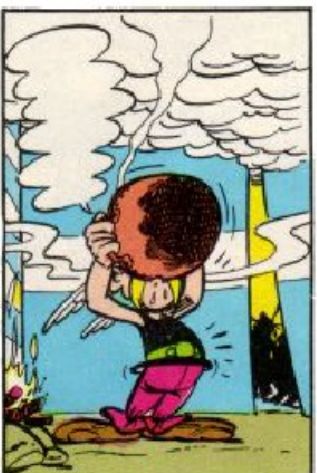
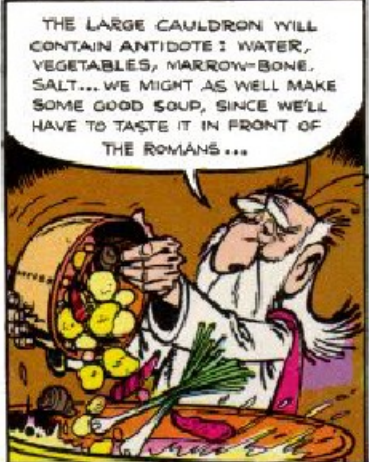
TUT! TUT!  
NOTHING DOING!  
WE NEED PEACE AND  
QUIET! YOU'RE TOO  
JUMPY!



**WATCH THAT TENT!  
DON'T LET THEM  
ESCAPE!**



RIGHT!  
HERE GOES!





NOW IT'S YOUR TURN ...



AND HOW CAN I BE SURE THIS POTION WILL STOP MY HAIR GROWING ?



YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING, ROMAN ! LOOK AT MY MOUSTACHE - IT'S NOT GROWING ANY LONGER !



SO IT ISN'T, BY JUPITER ! LET'S HAVE SOME !



GREEDY PIGS !

YES, AND JUST THINK OF ALL THOSE HAIRS IN THE SOUP ! UGH !

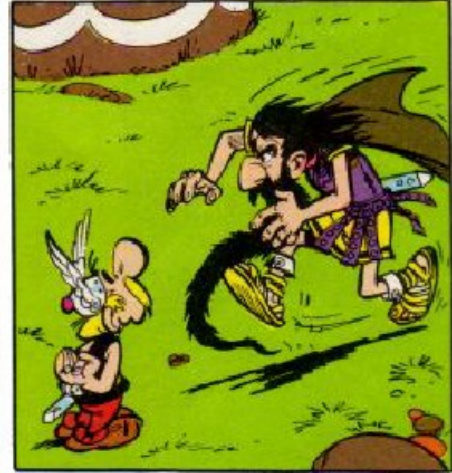


AHA ! NOW THEN ...



SEIZE THEM !!!

WITH PLEASURE !



CURLYLOCKS, CURLYLOCKS, WILT THOU BE MINE

LEGGO !



HELP !

?

