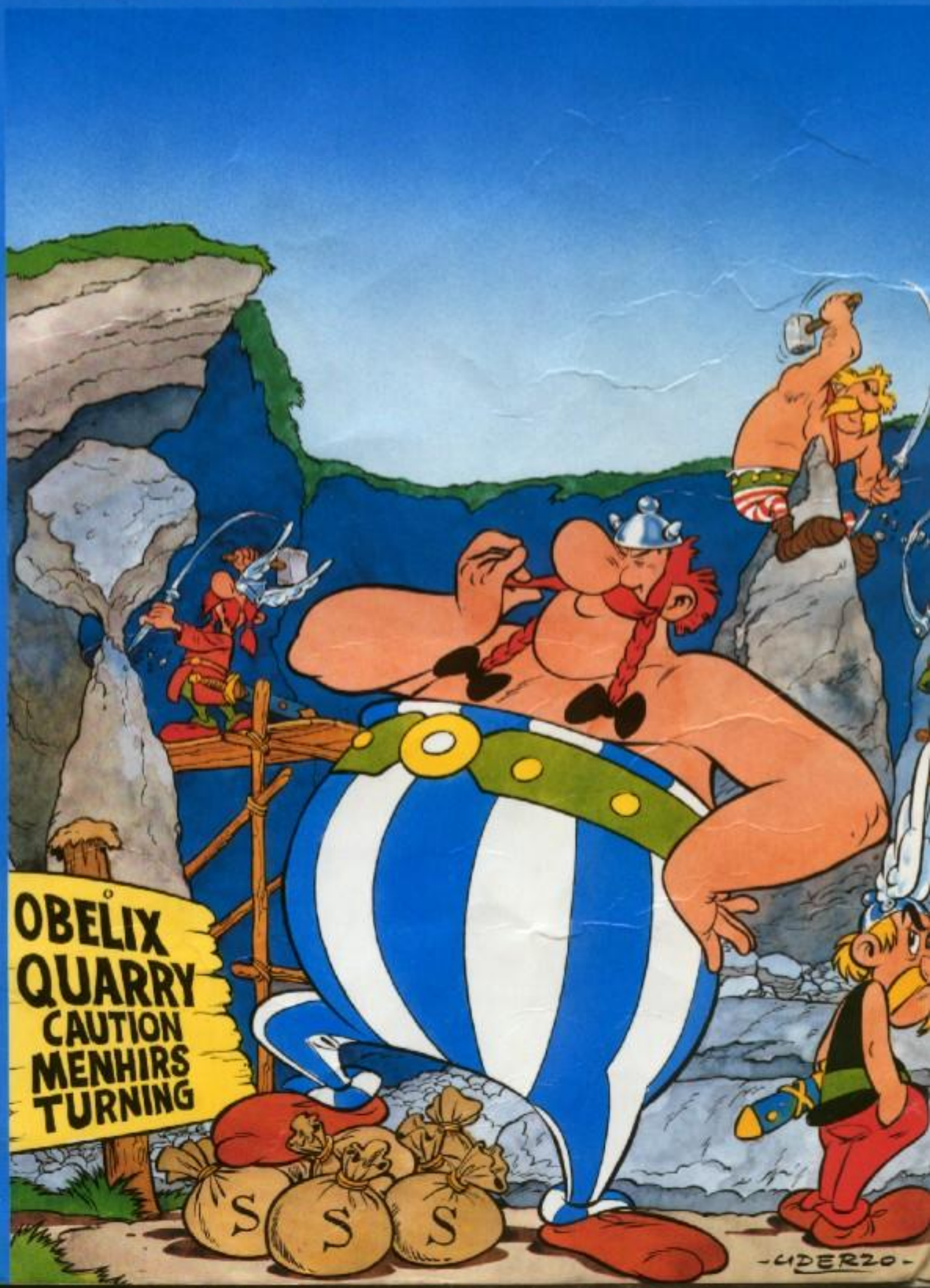


BOOK 22

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

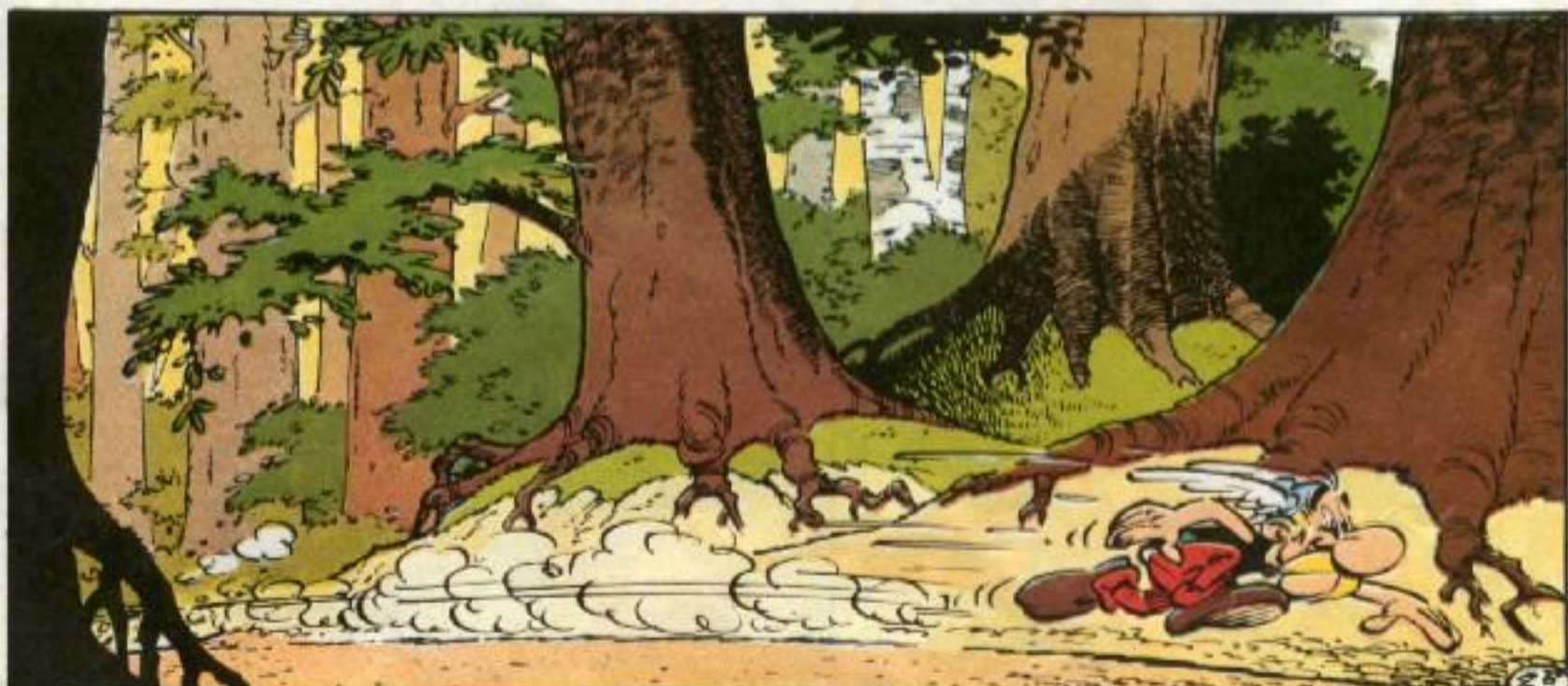
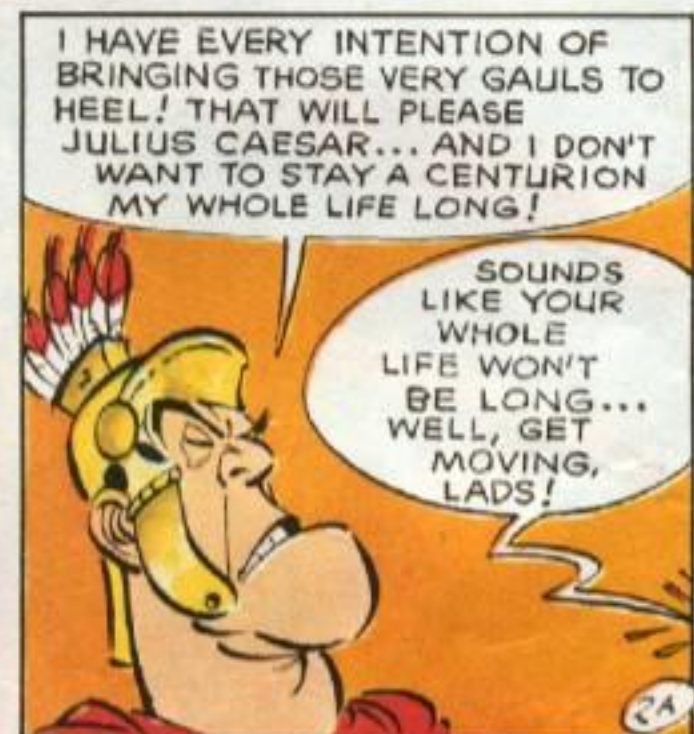
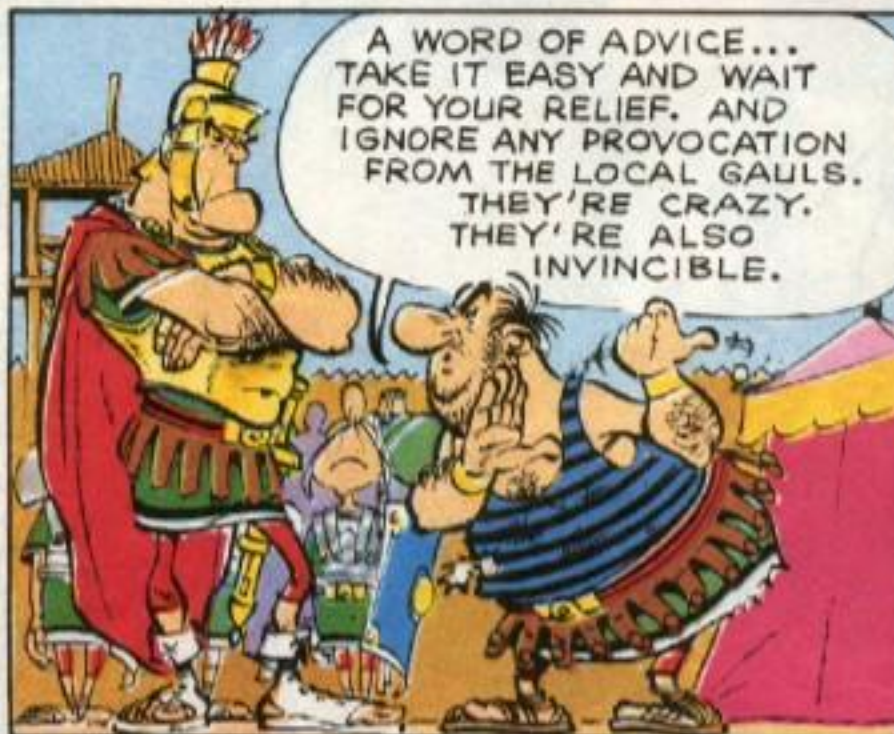
Asterix

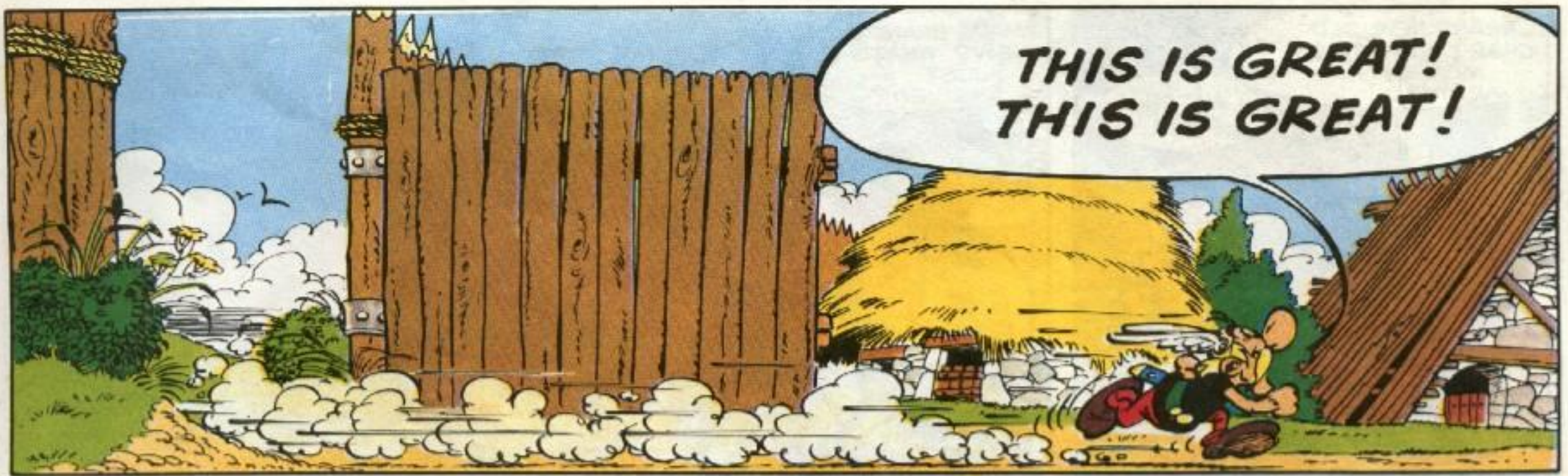
OBELIX and Co.

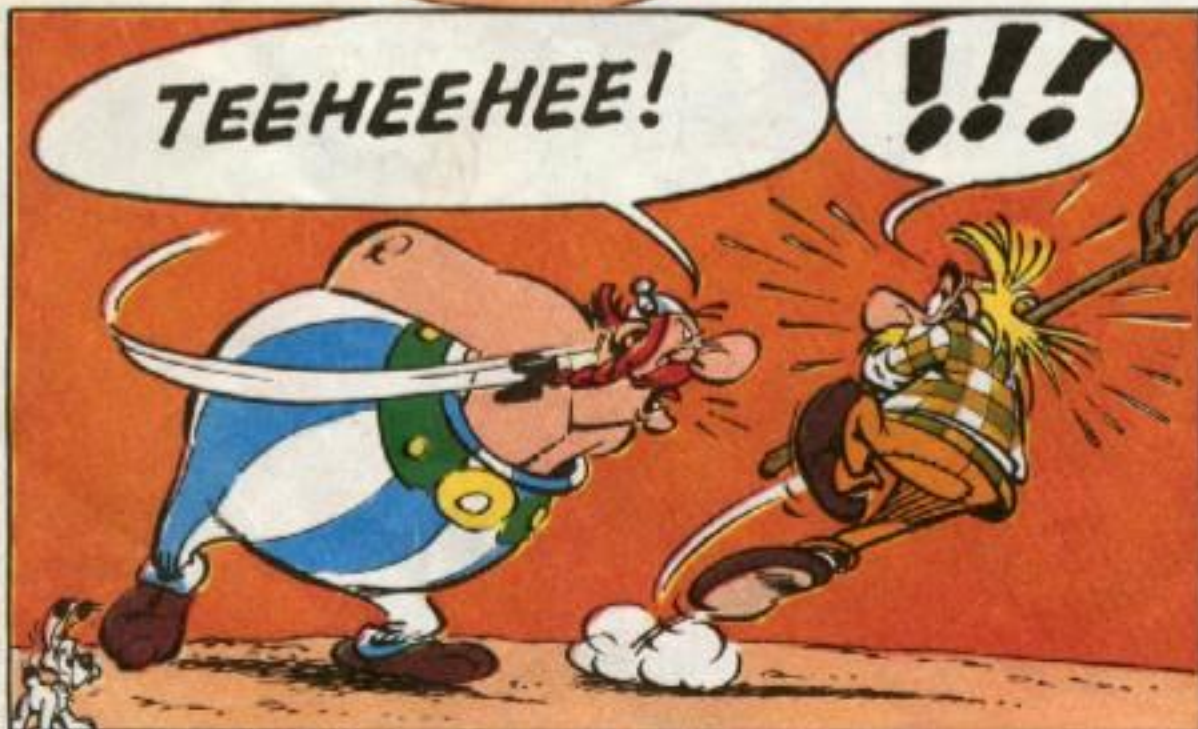
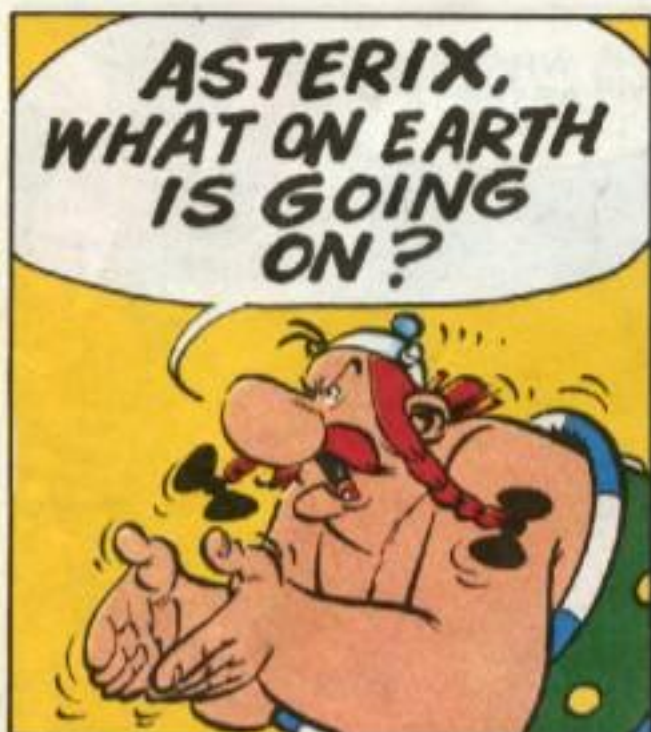


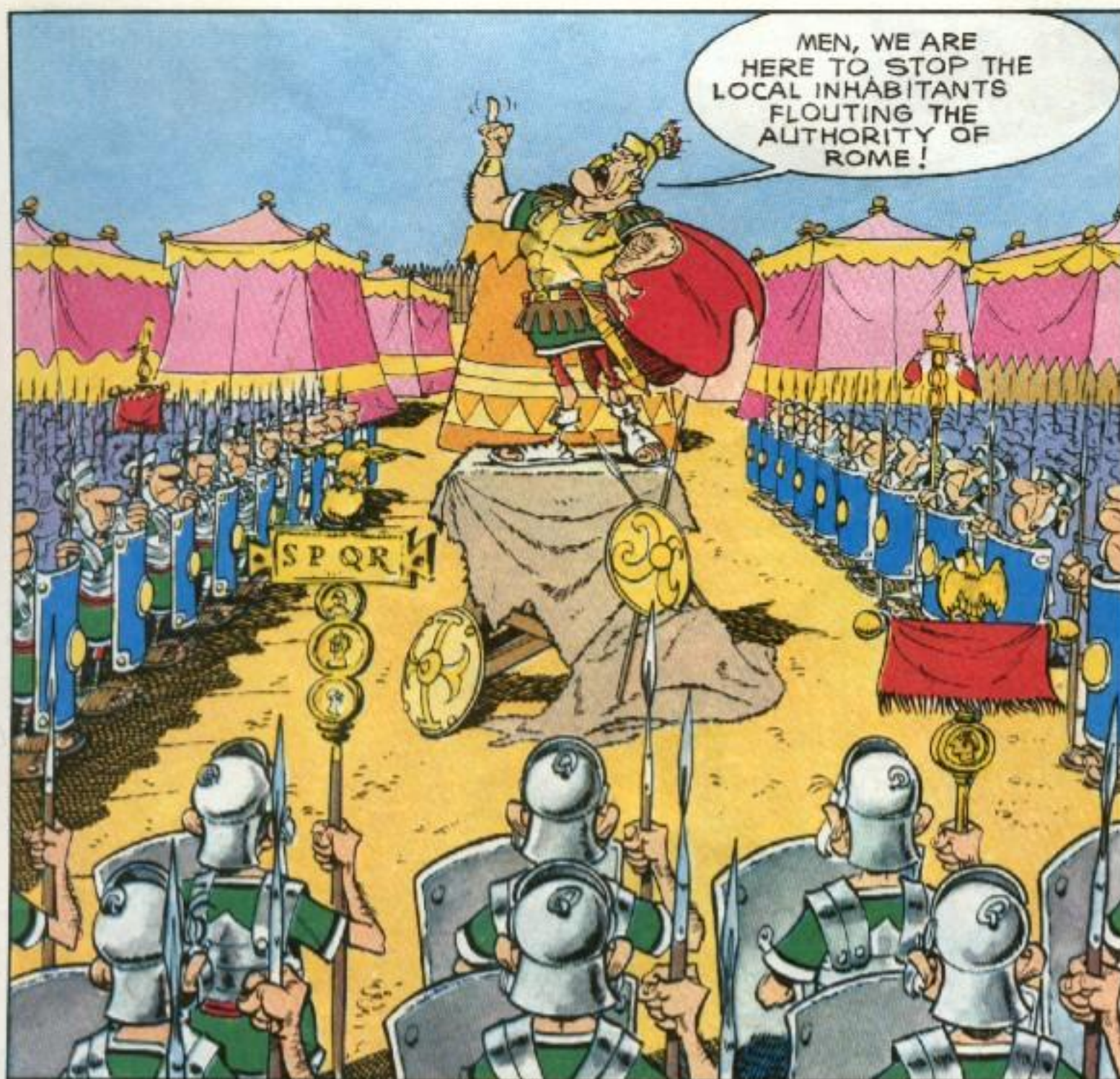
HODDER DARGAUD

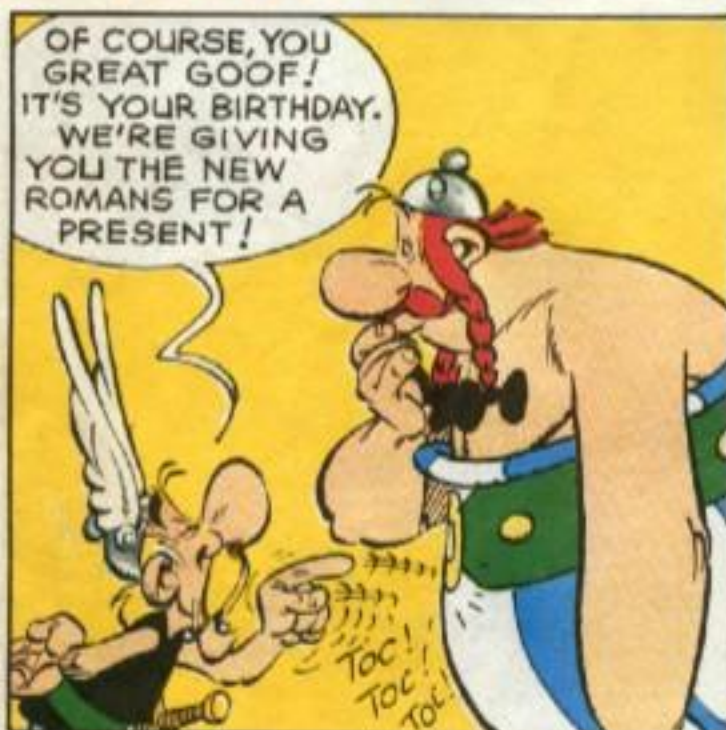


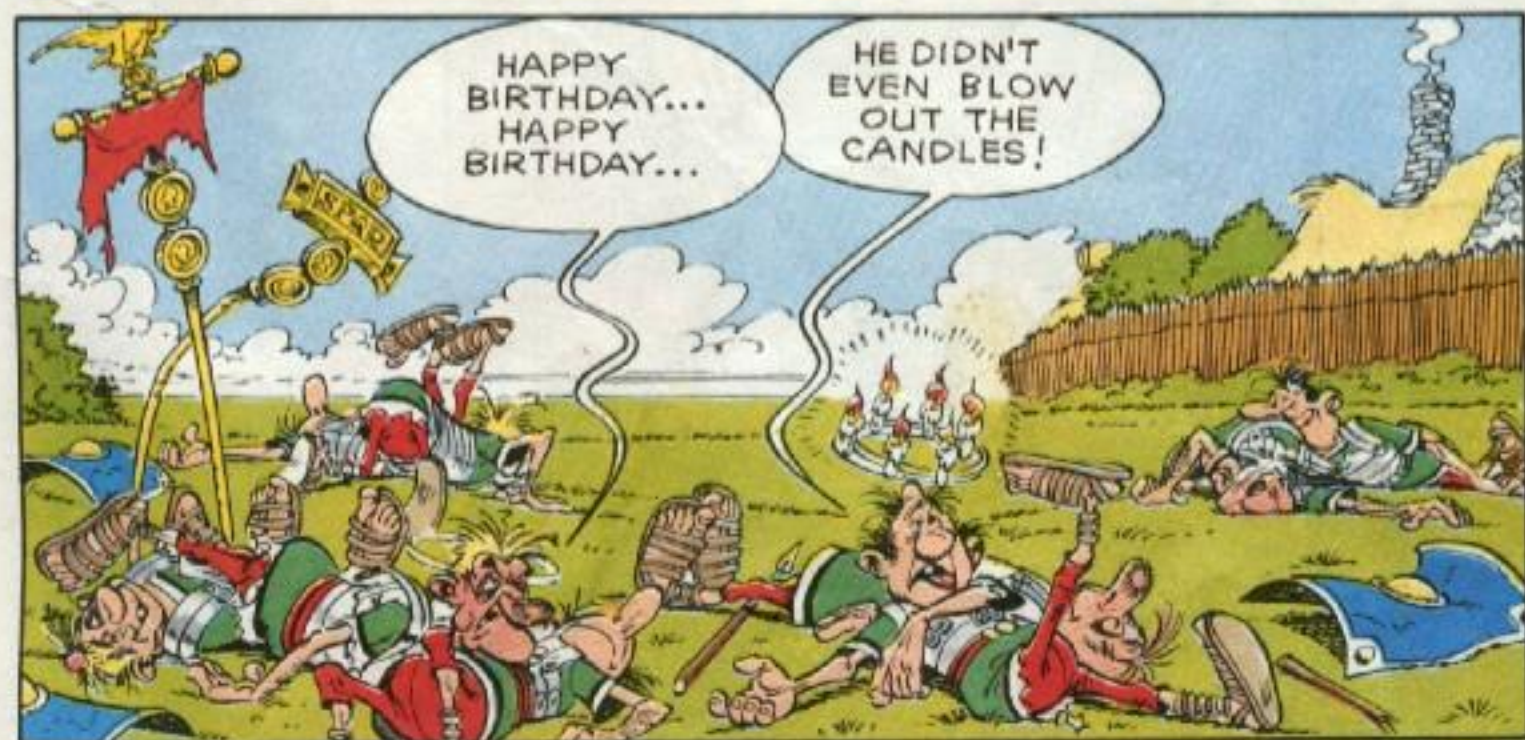
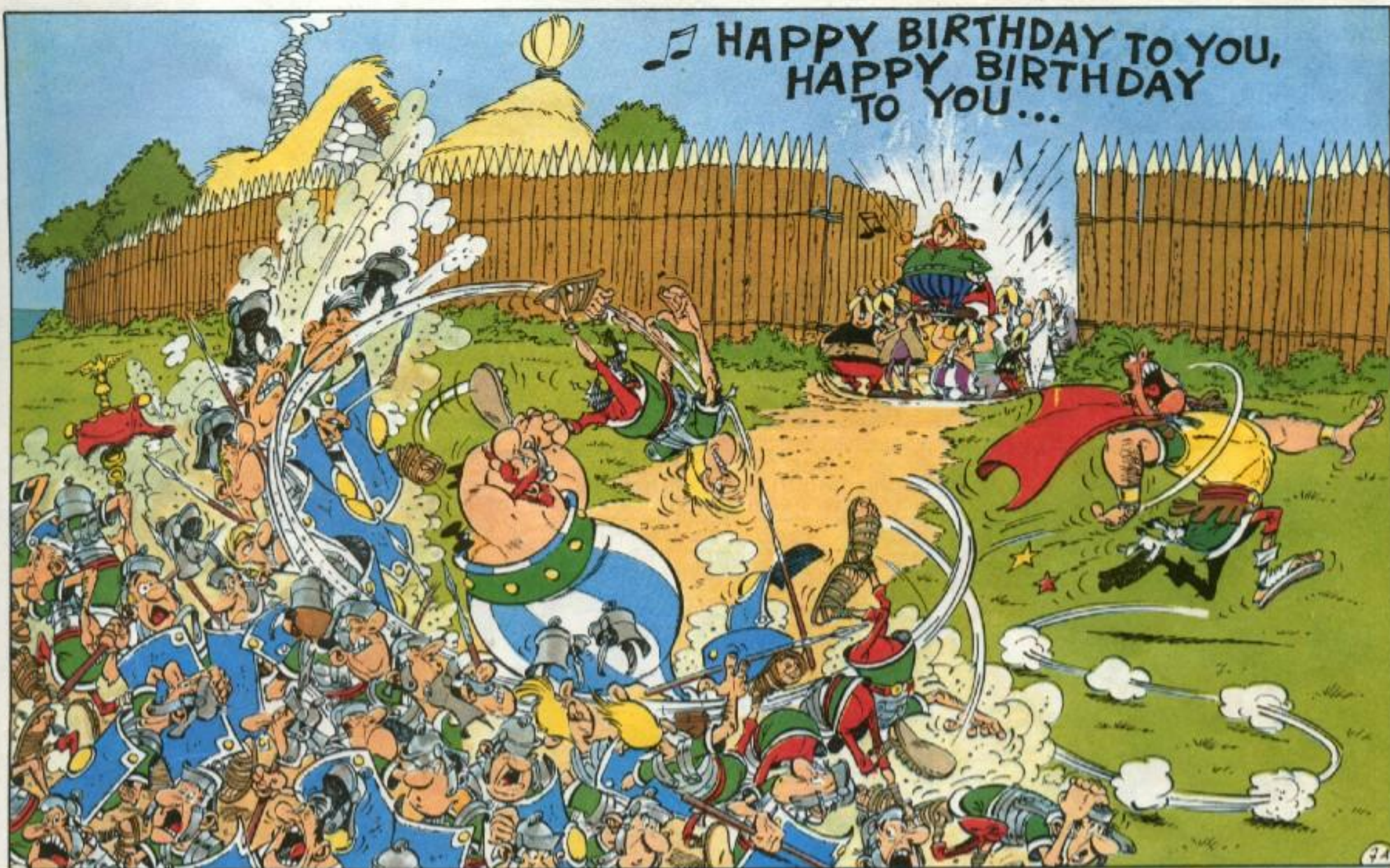












IN ROME...

ONE MAN!
ONE SOLITARY GAUL
MANAGED TO DEFEAT
AND DEMORALISE
MY CRACK
TROOPS!

THIS IS TOO MUCH! THESE GAULS
MAKE ME LOOK RIDICULOUS. WE
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, BY
JUPITER! WELL? I'M WAITING
FOR SUGGESTIONS!

WE COULD SEND
THE ENTIRE
ARMY...

YES,
BUT WE
MUSTN'T LEAVE
OUR FRONTIERS
UN-
GUARDED.

SUPPOSE WE SET UP A
COMMISSION TO STUDY THE
PROBLEM?

GOOD IDEA! WITH
SUB-COMMITTEES TO
CONSIDER THE VARIOUS
ASPECTS...

LET'S
HAVE A
WORKING LUNCH
TO DISCUSS
IT...

TAPTAPTAP!
TAPTAPTAP!

THEY ARE STRONG, SO
WE MUST WEAKEN THEM. THEY
HAVE NOTHING TO DO BUT
FIGHT, SO WE MUST KEEP
THEM BUSY SOME OTHER
WAY...

COME HERE, CAIUS
PREPOSTERUS. JUST HOW
WOULD YOU SET ABOUT WEAKENING
THE GAULS, WITH THEIR
MAGICAL STRENGTH?

GO ON! LET'S
SEE WHAT THEY
TAUGHT YOU AT THE
LATIN SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS...

EASY, O CAESAR.
GOLD, THE
PROFIT
MOTIVE...

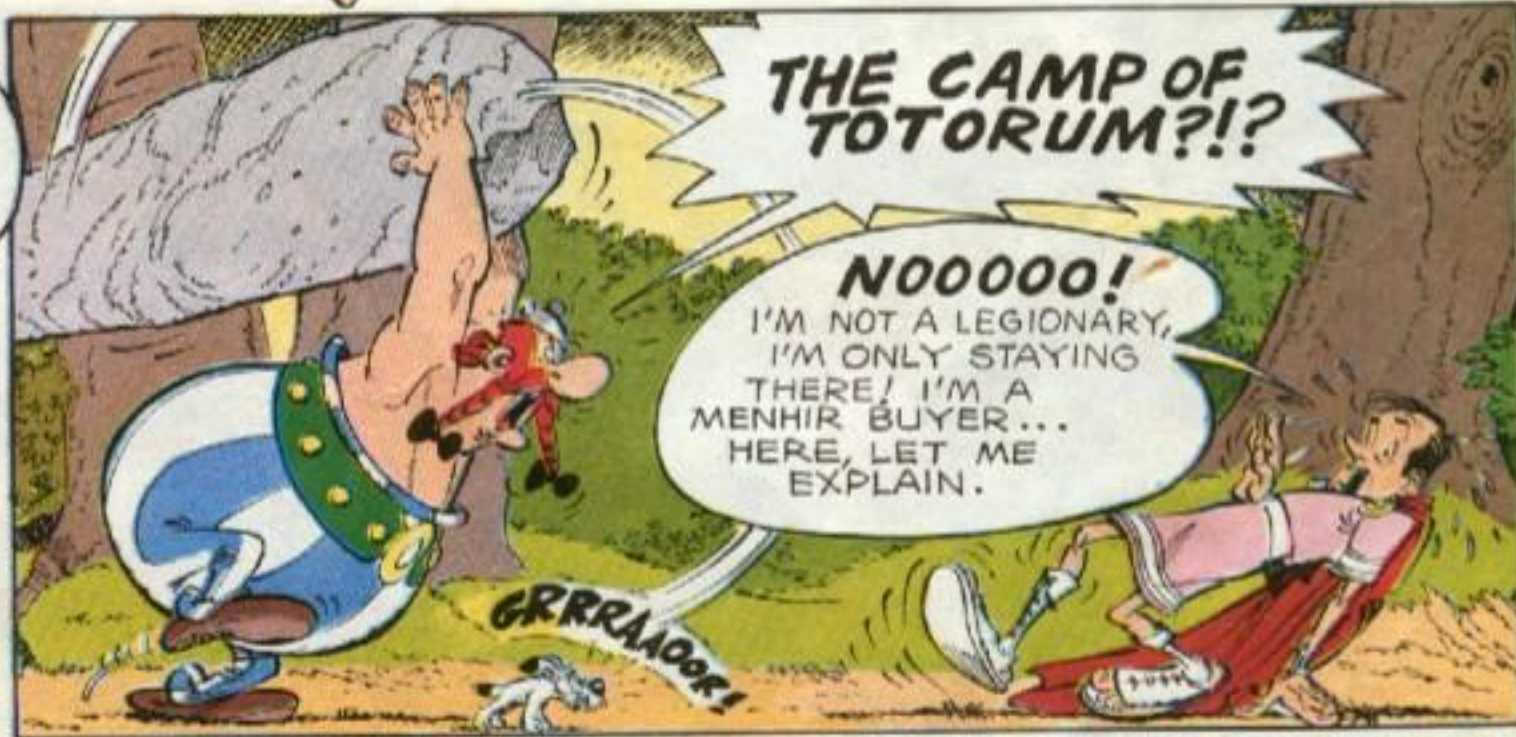
... WILL ENFEEBLE
THEM AND KEEP THEM
BUSY. WE MUST
CORRUPT
THEM.

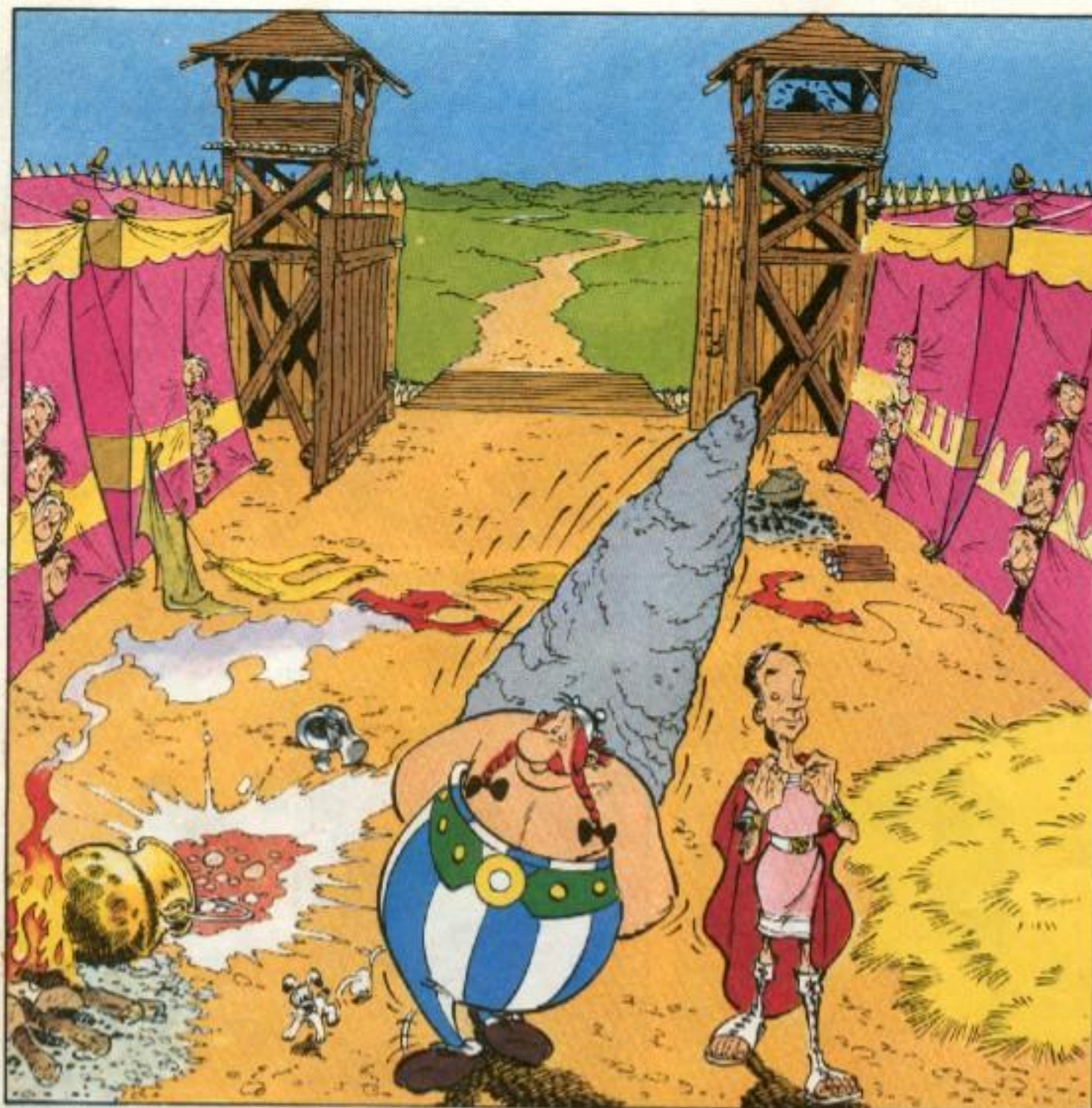
YOU THINK
THAT WILL
DO THE
TRICK?

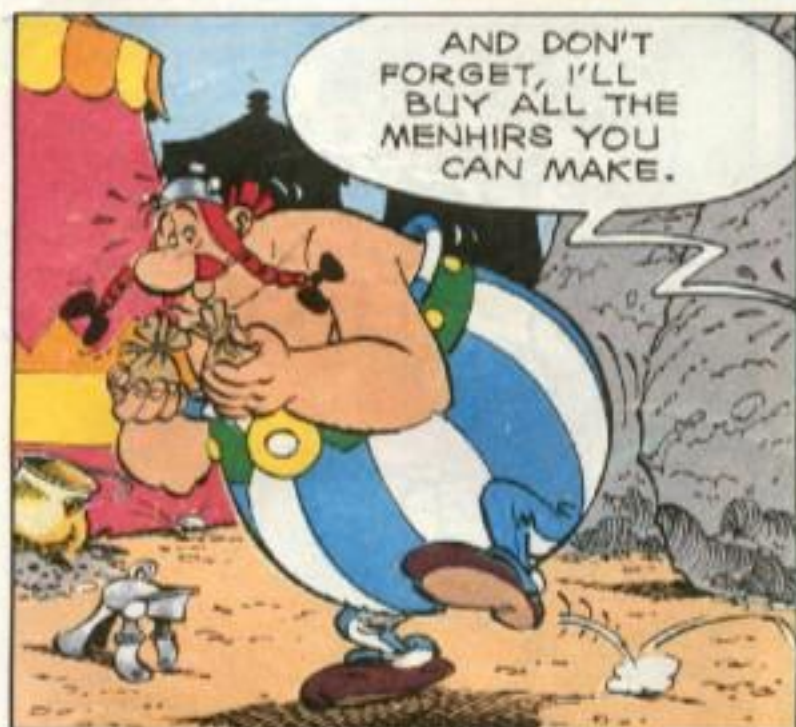
LOOK
AROUND
YOU, O
CAESAR!

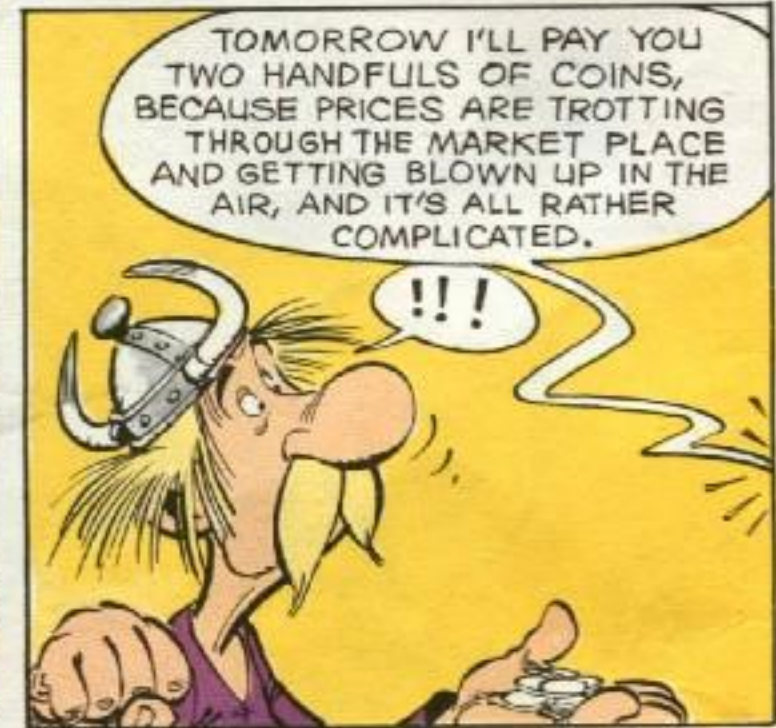
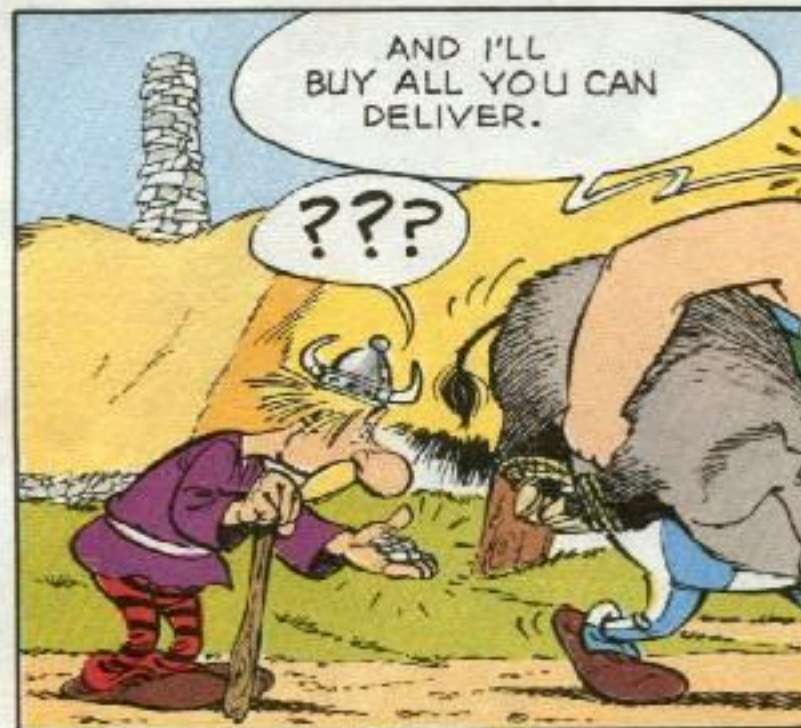
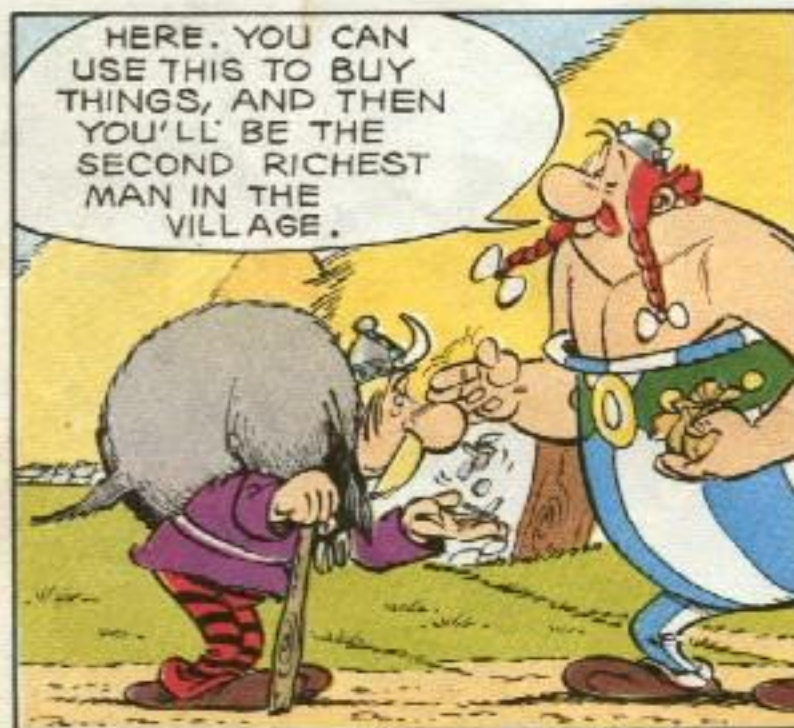
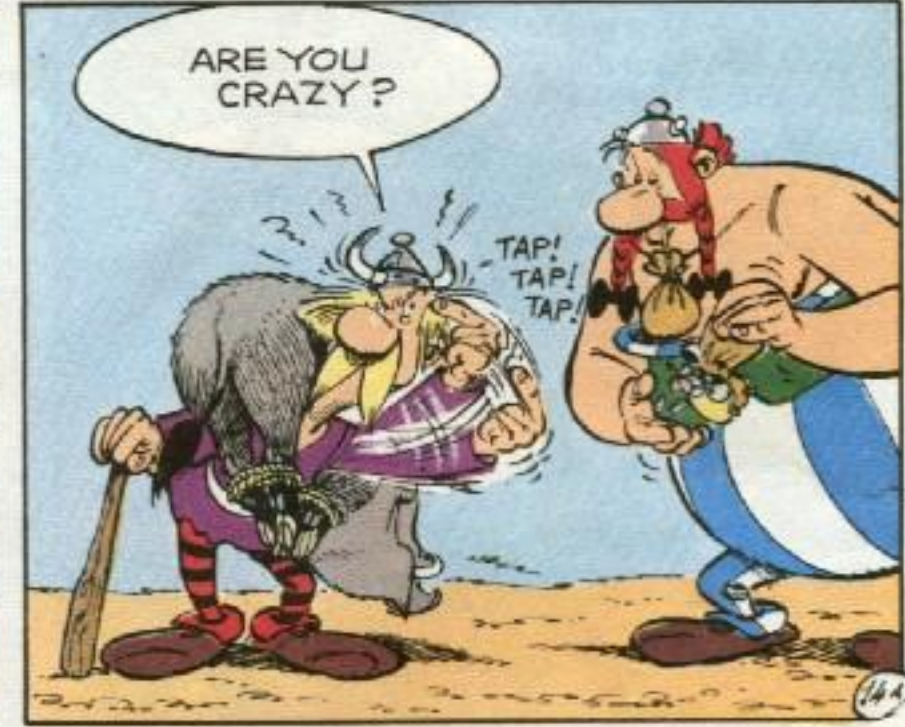
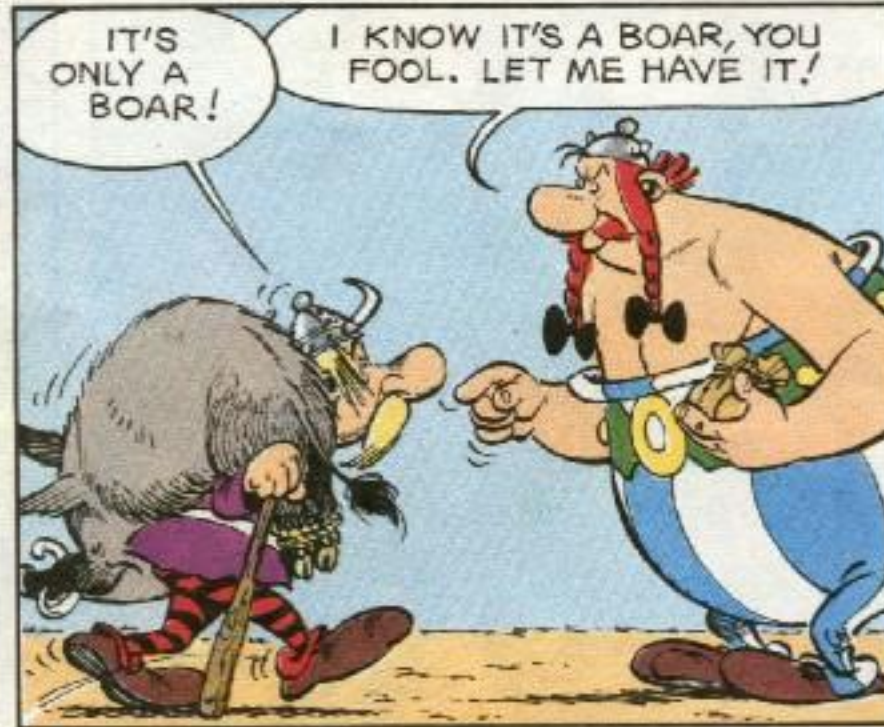
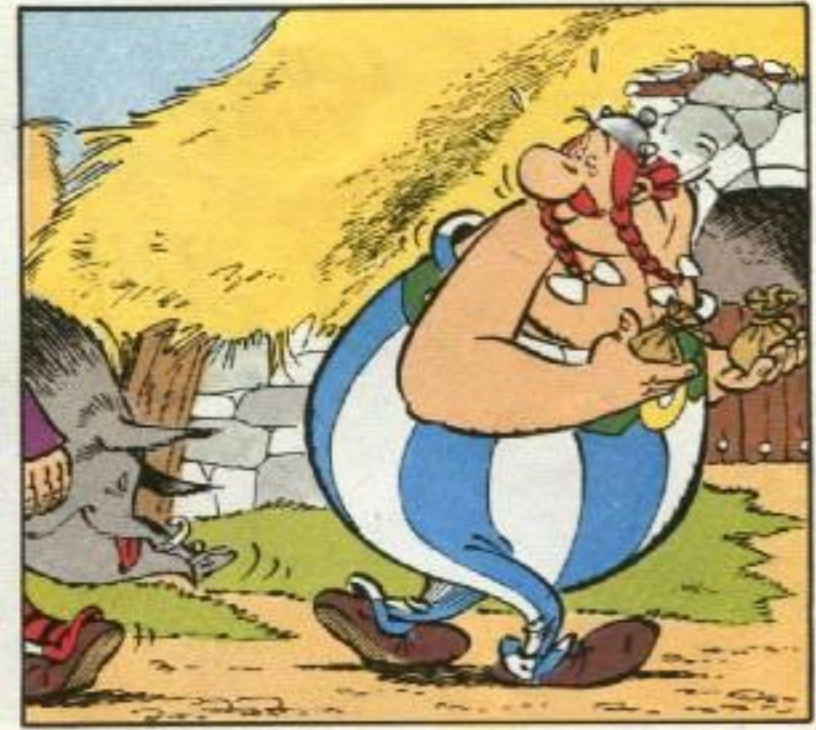
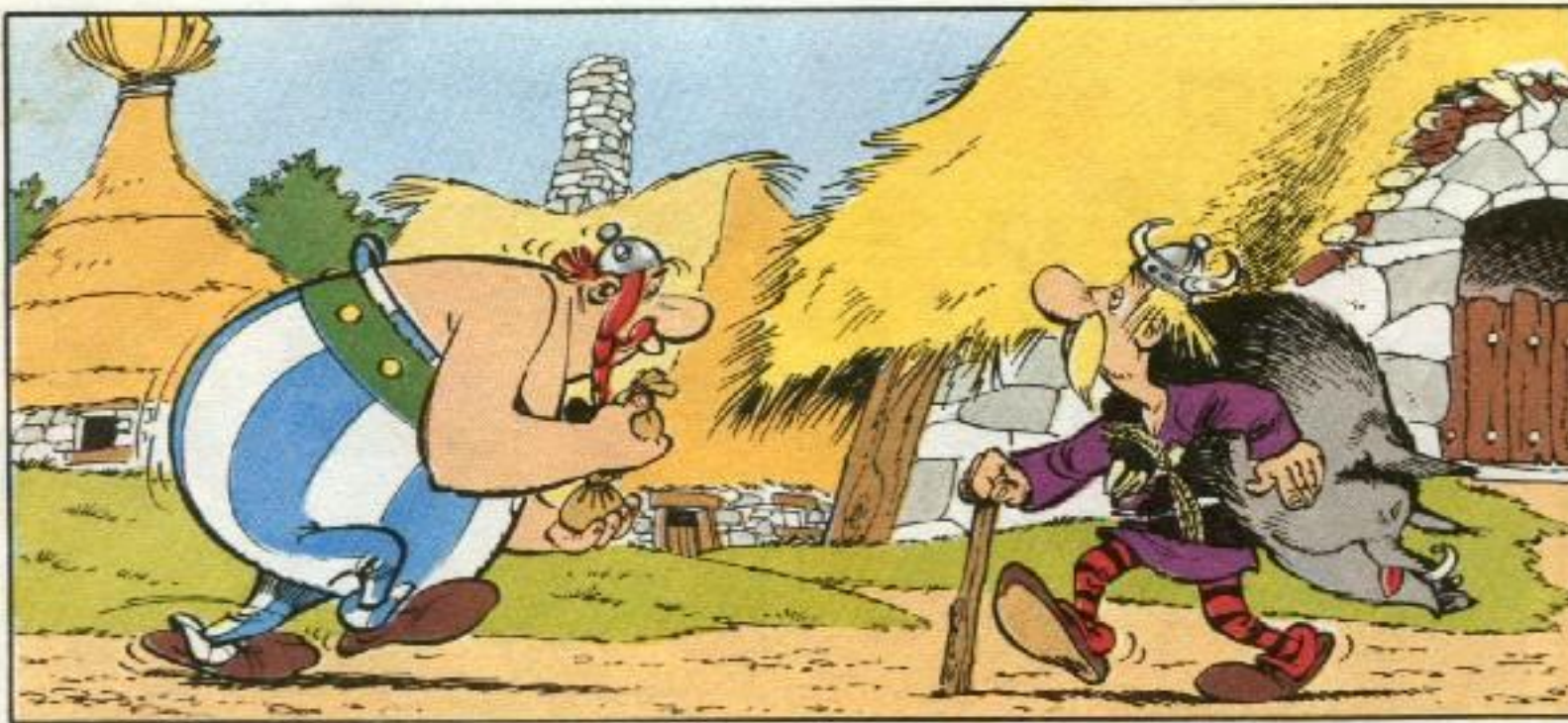


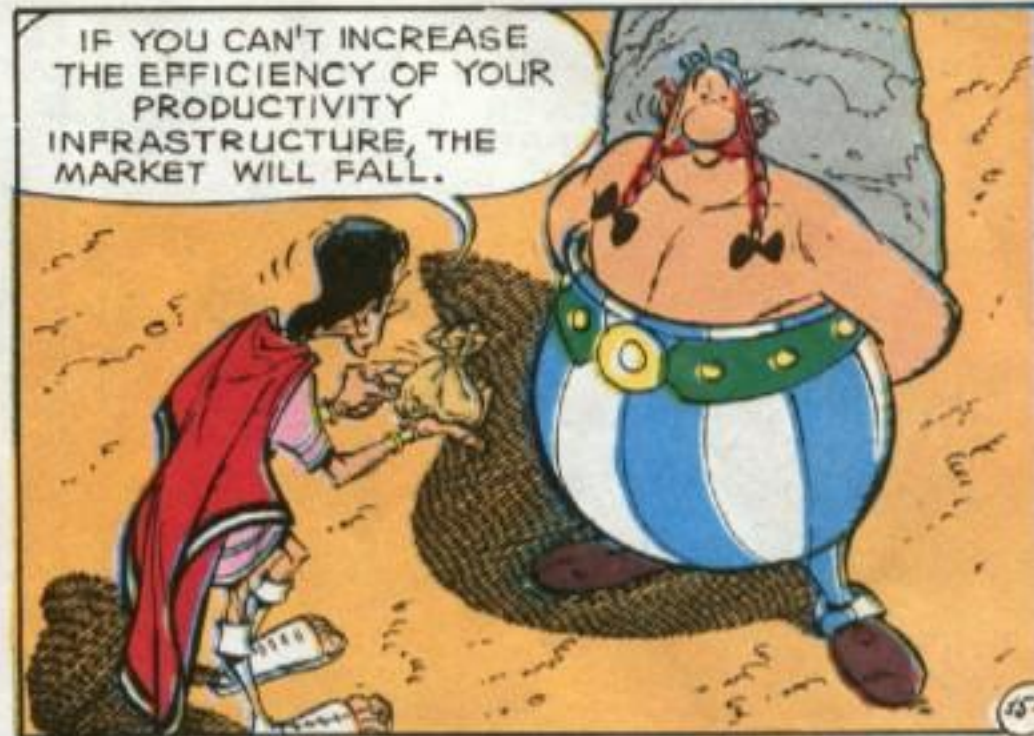
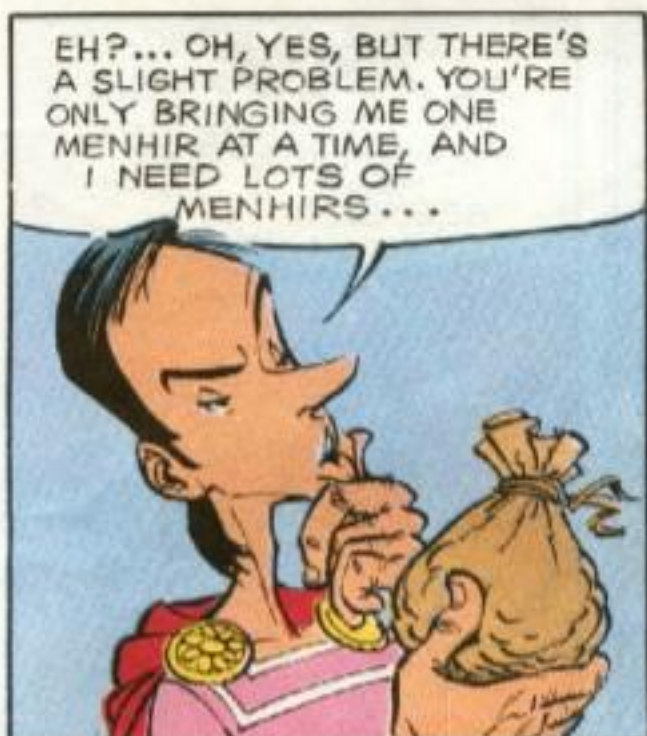


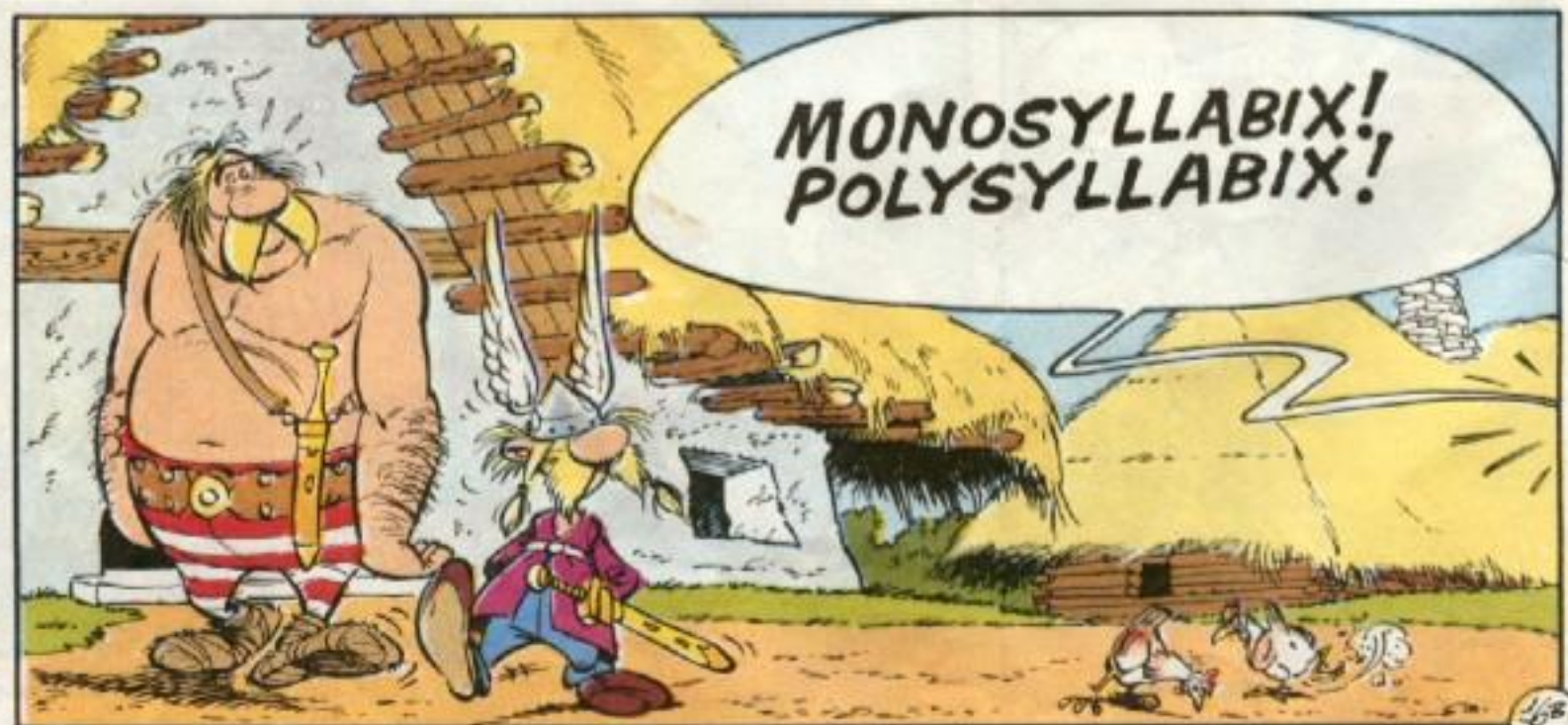
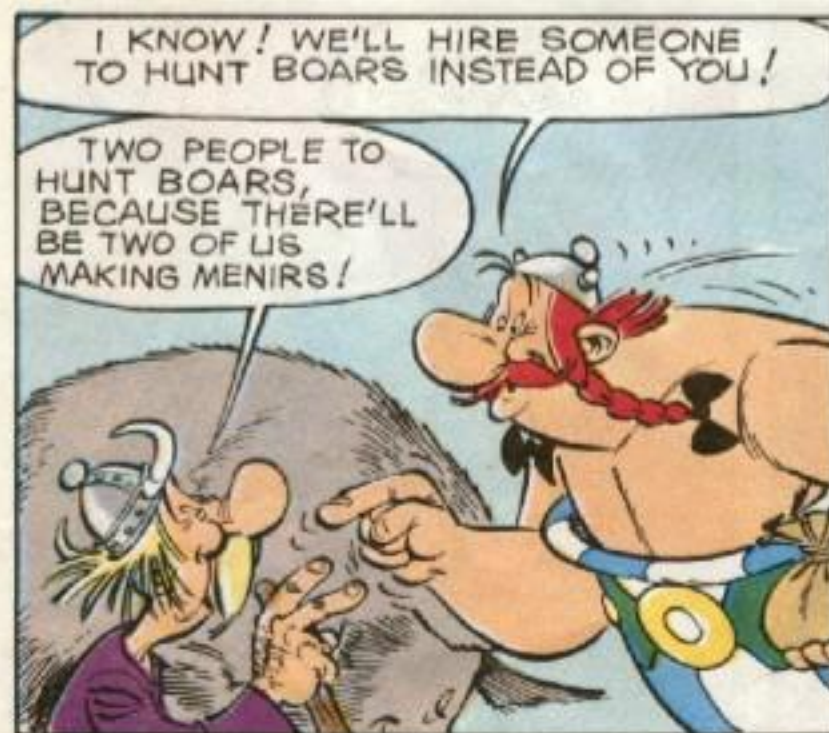
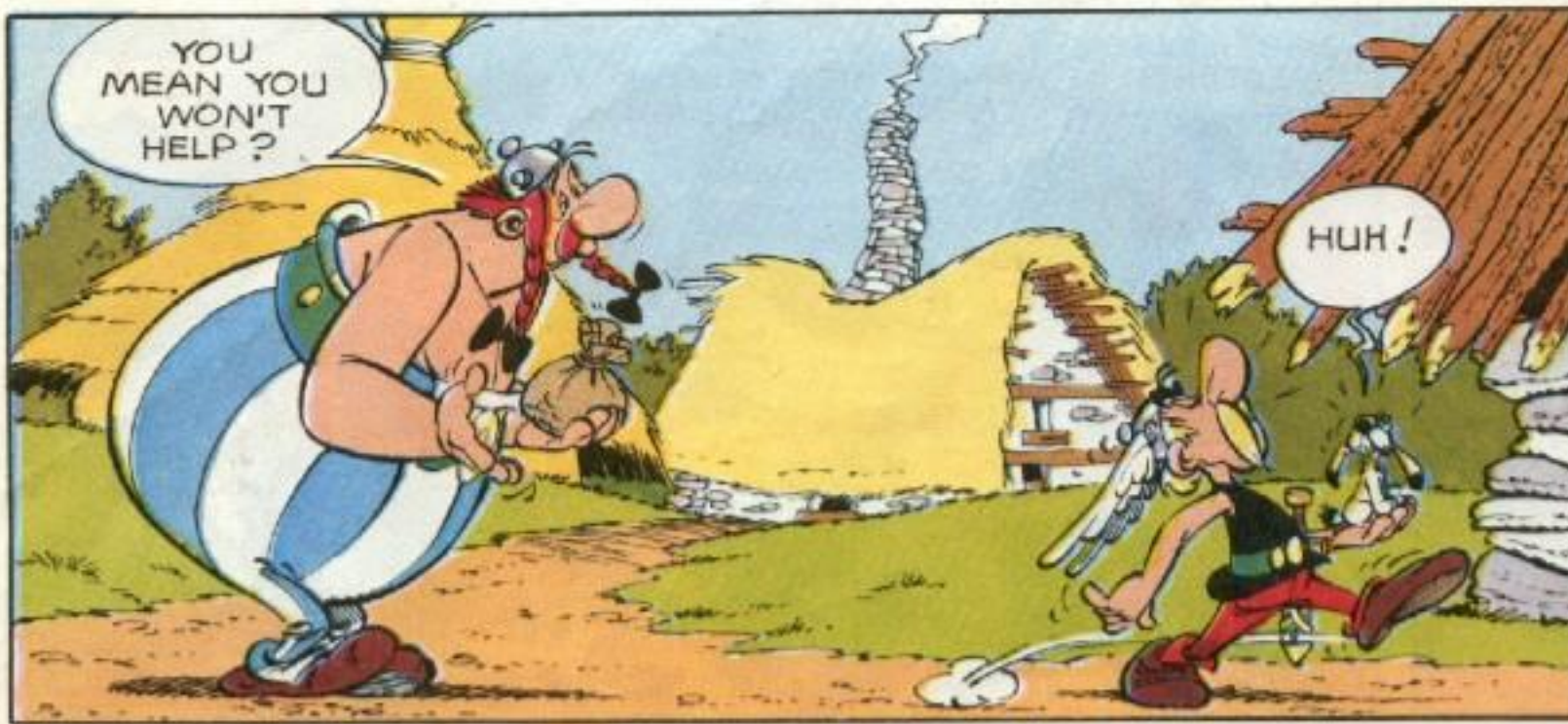




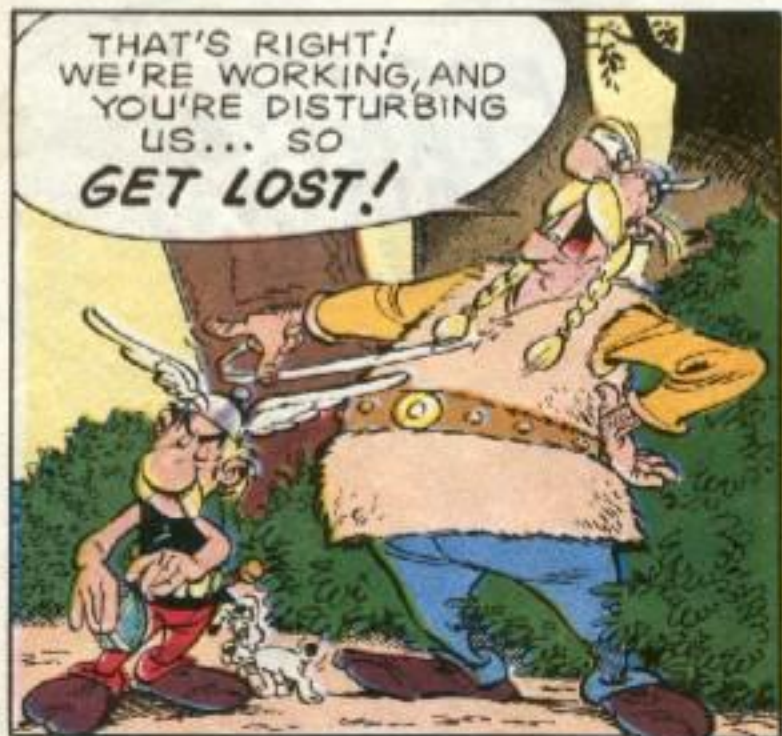
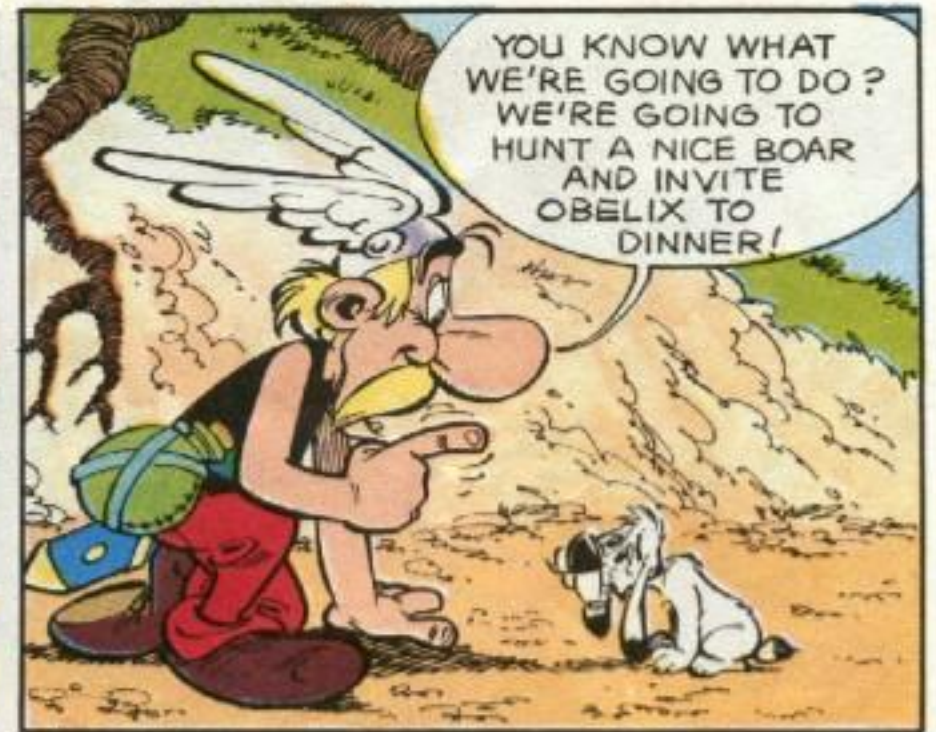
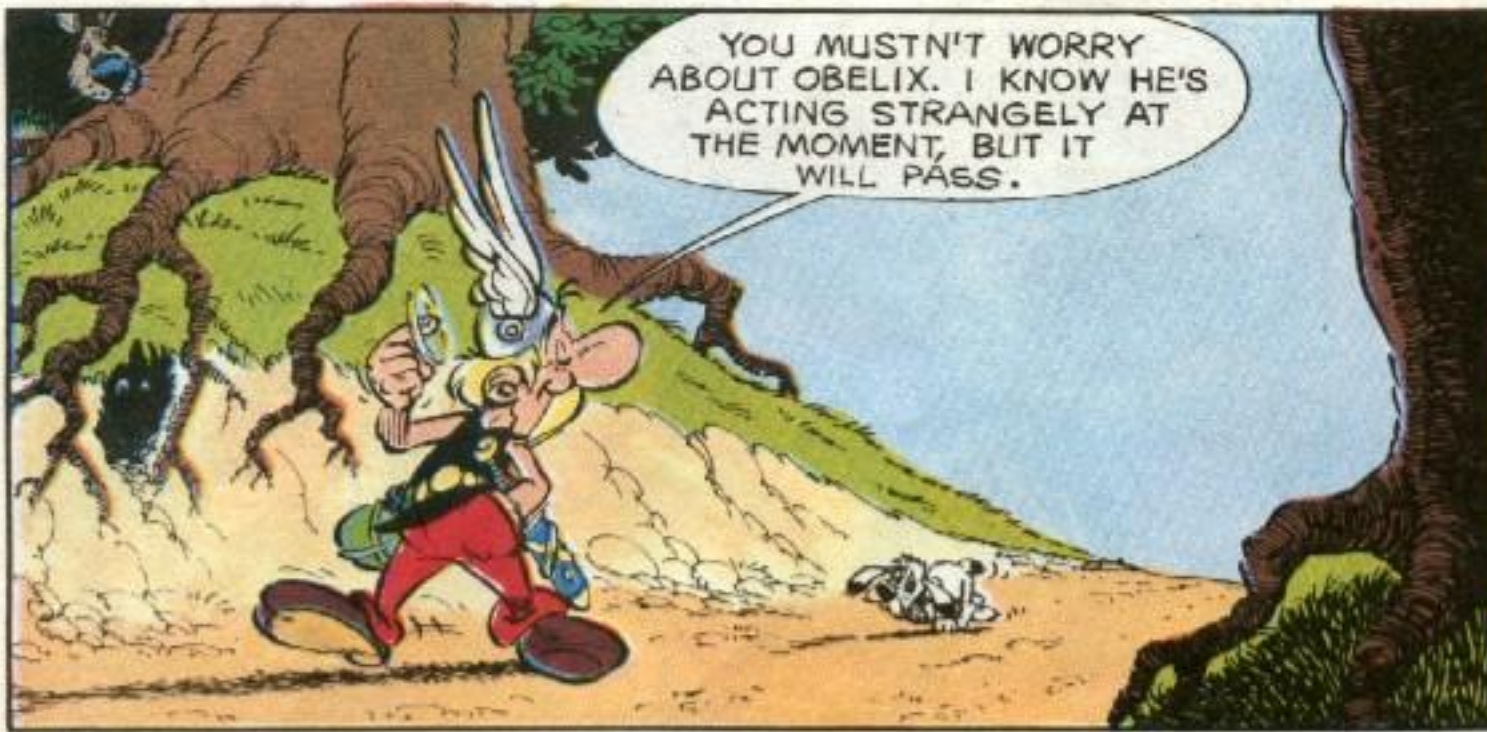


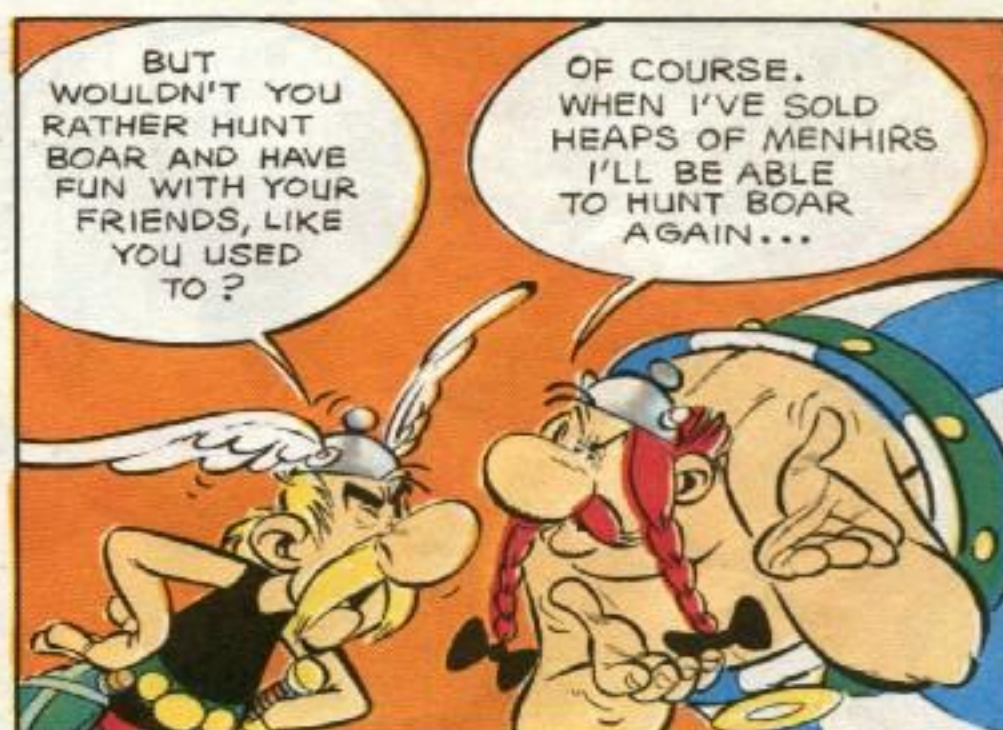
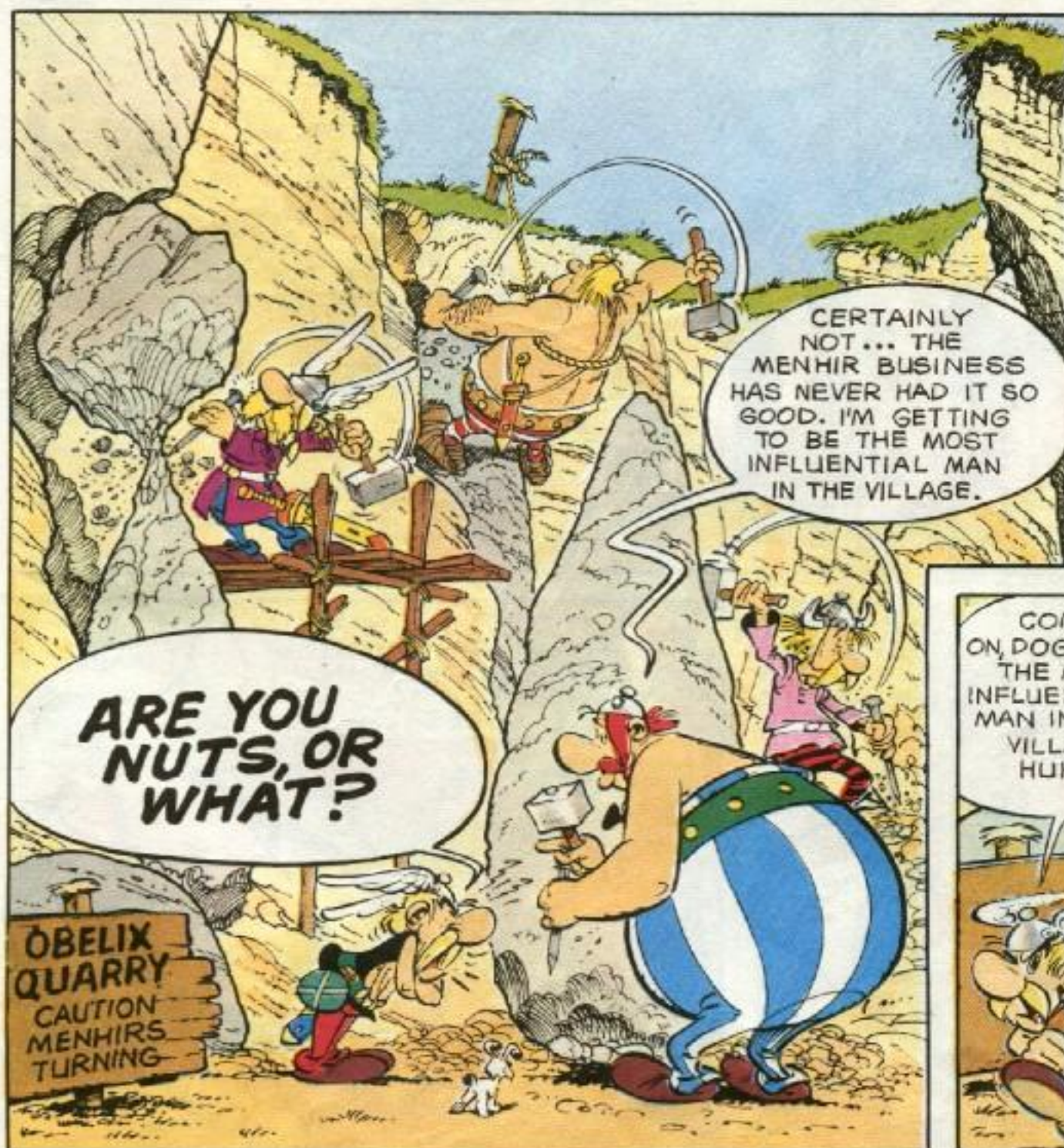
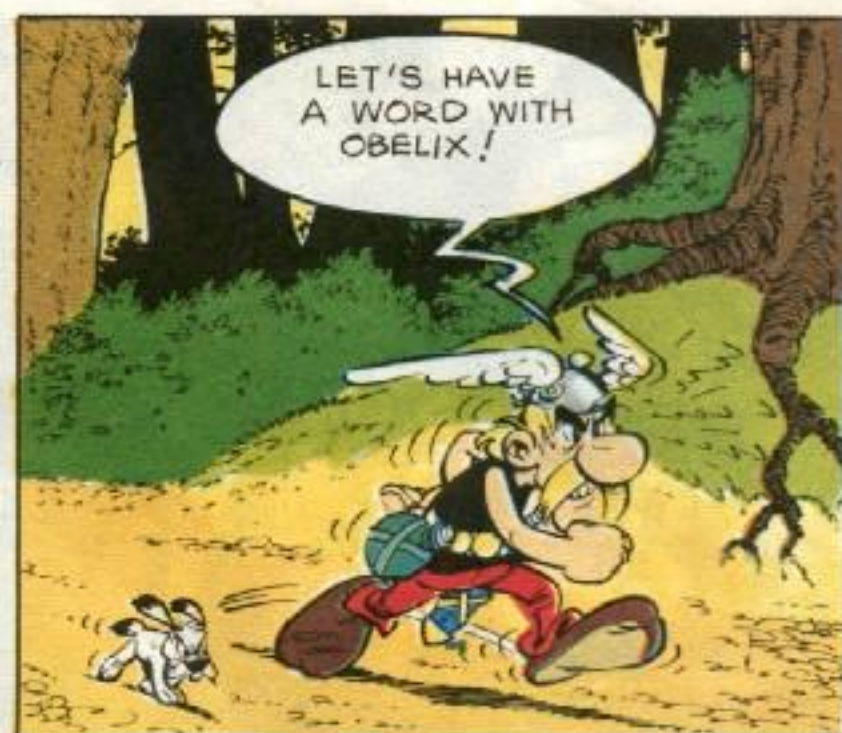




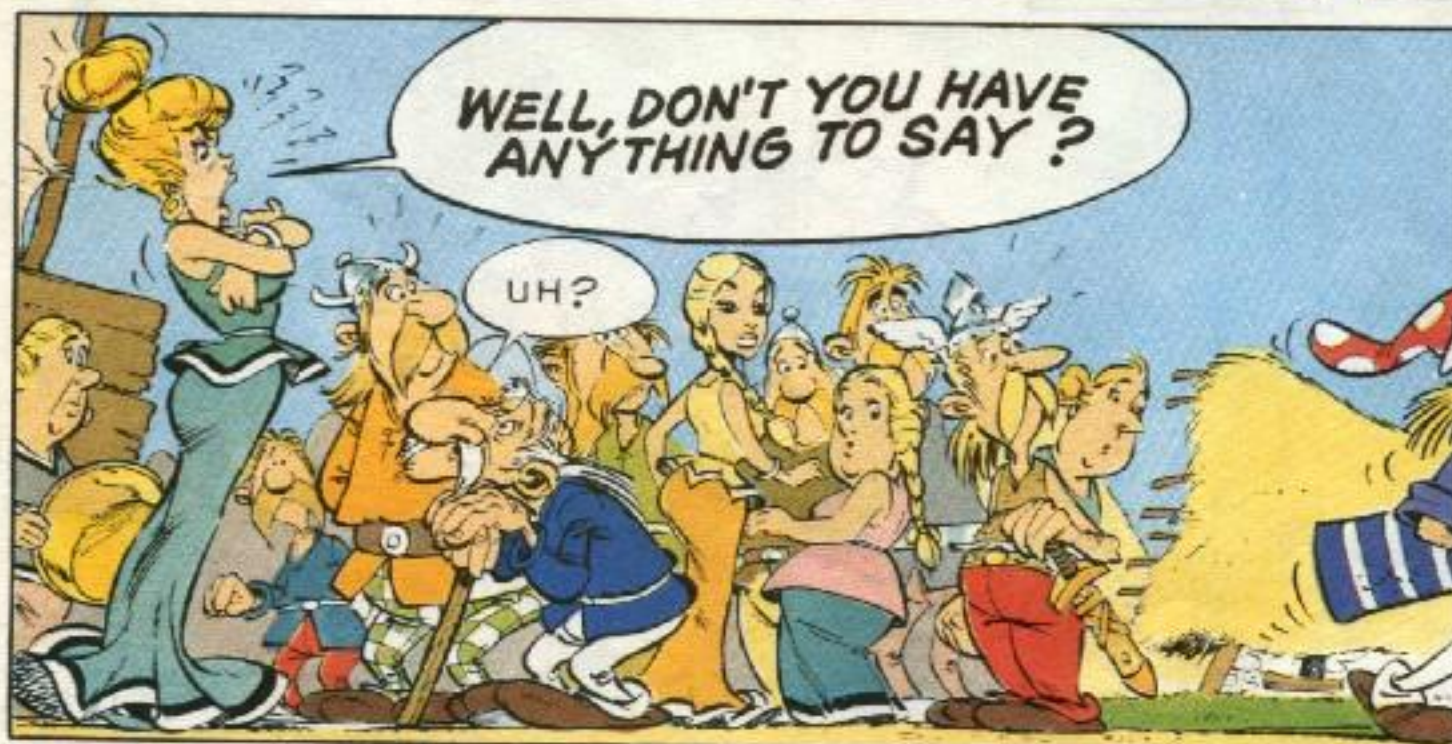


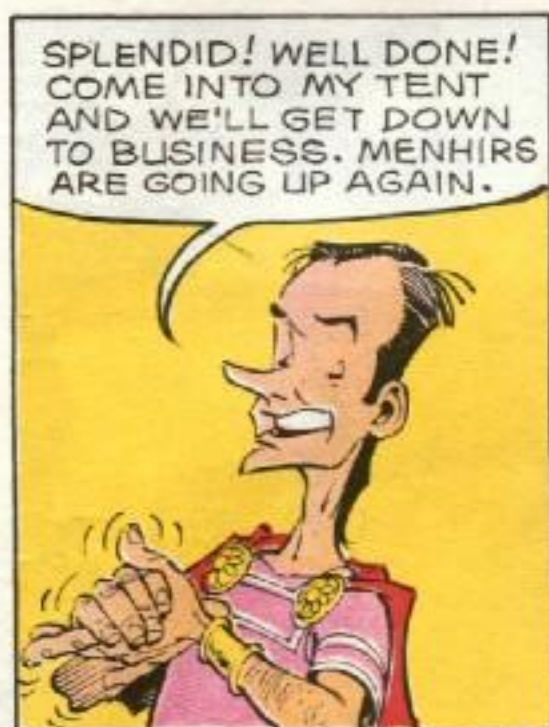




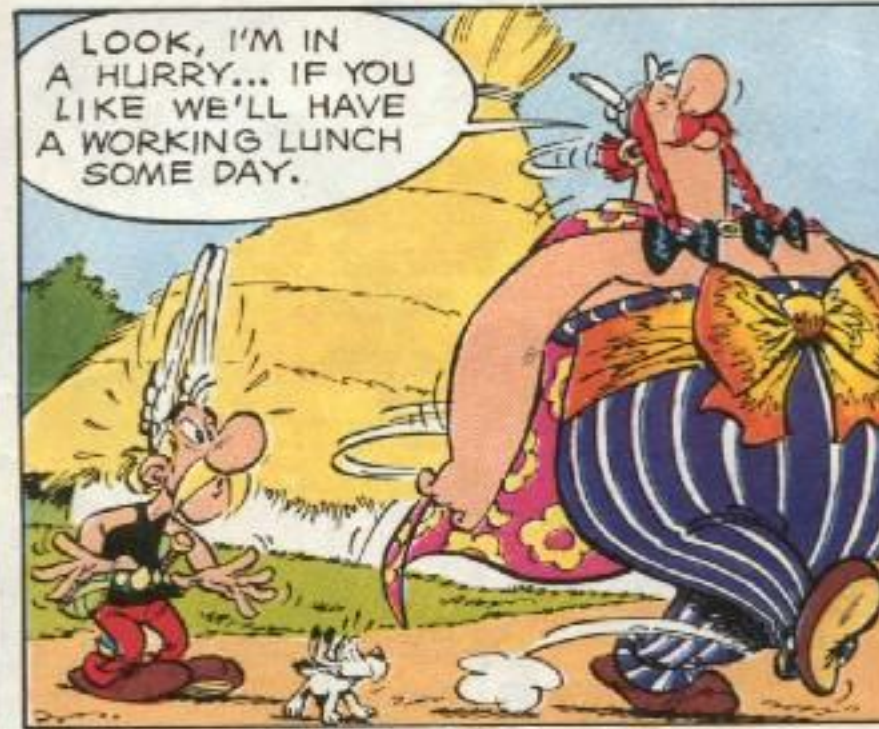
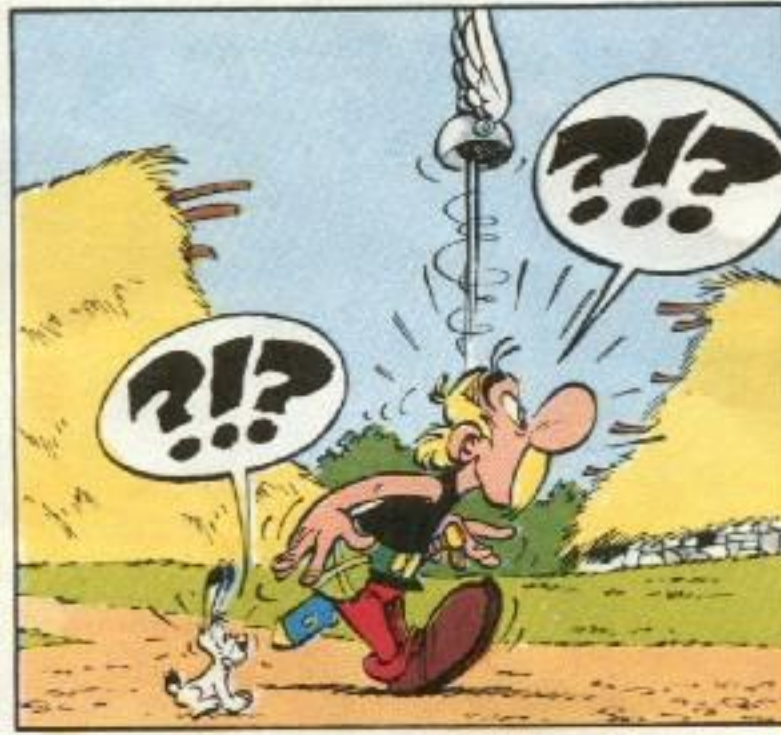
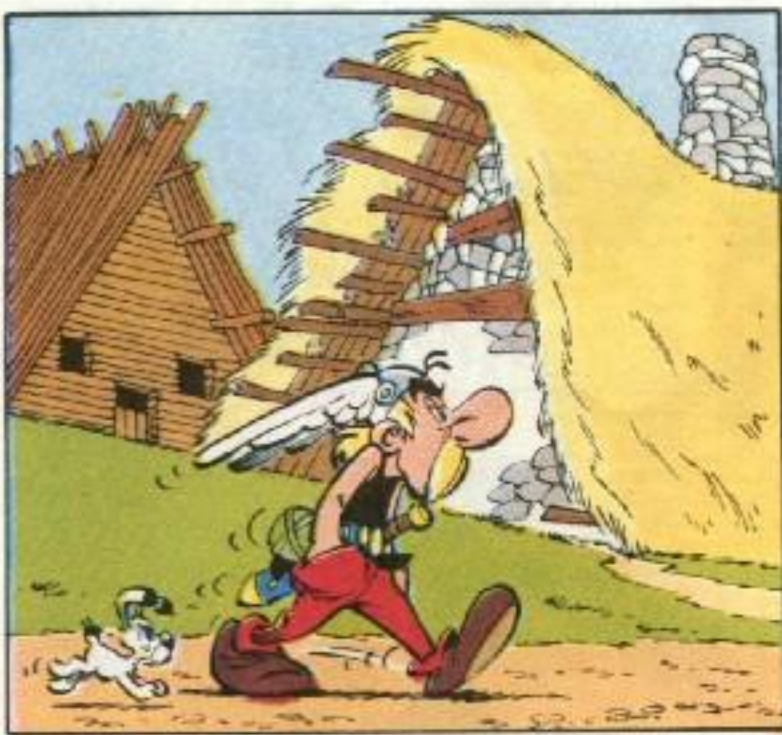


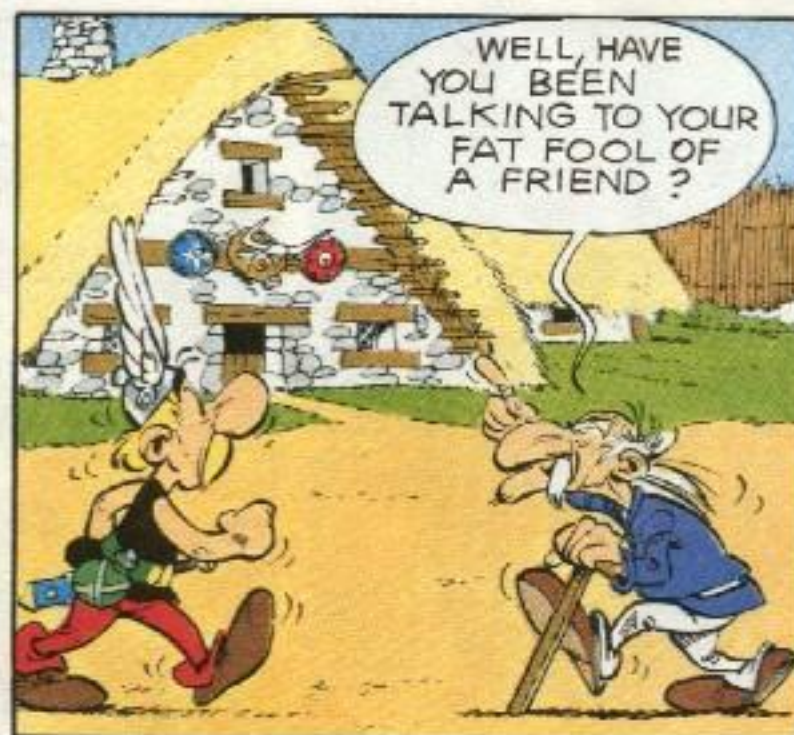


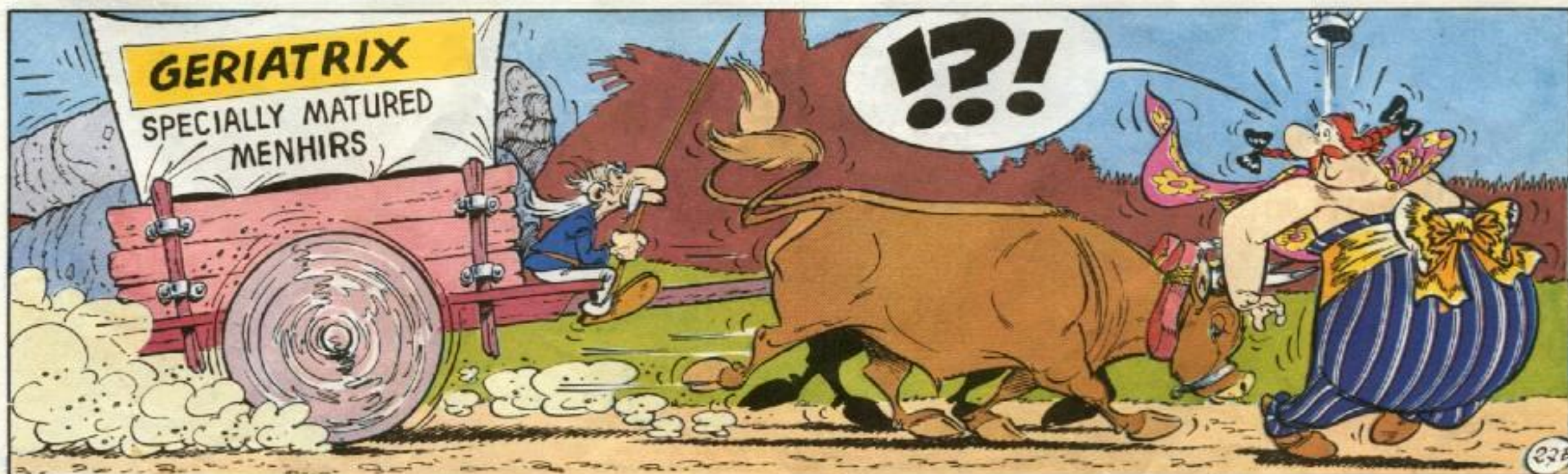
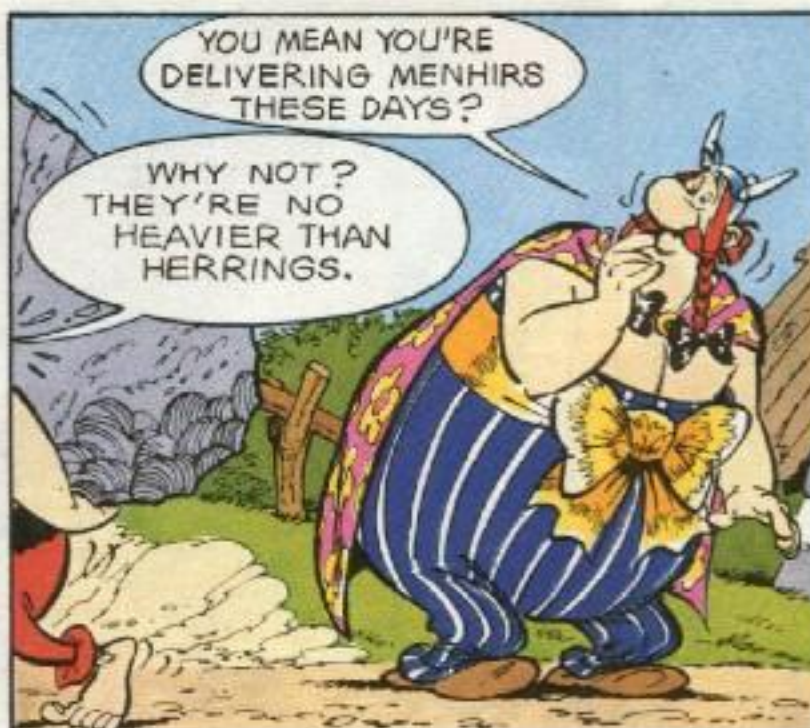
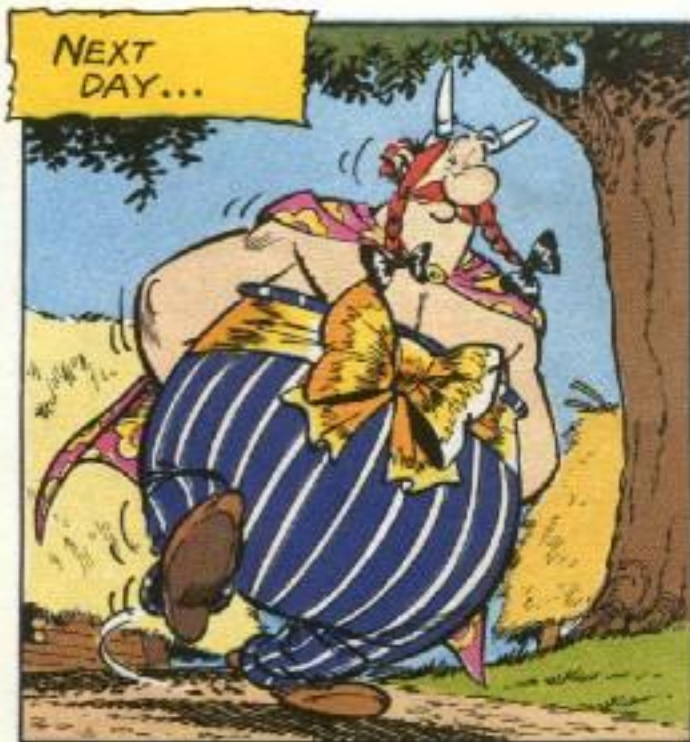


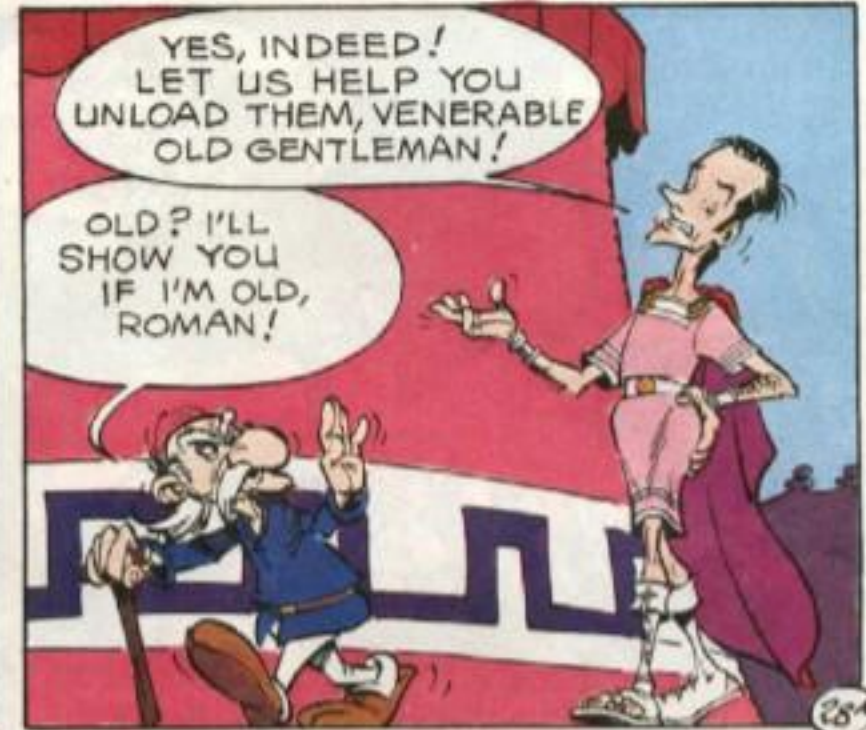
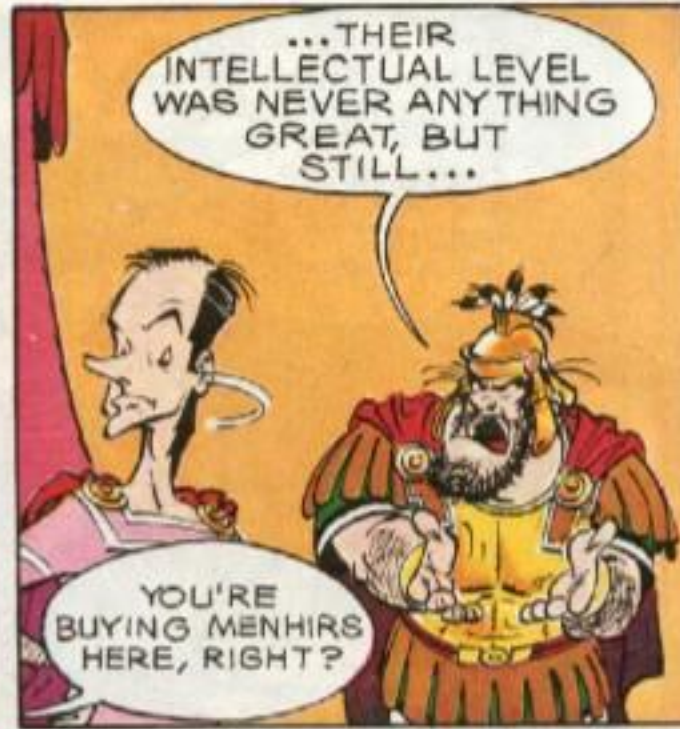


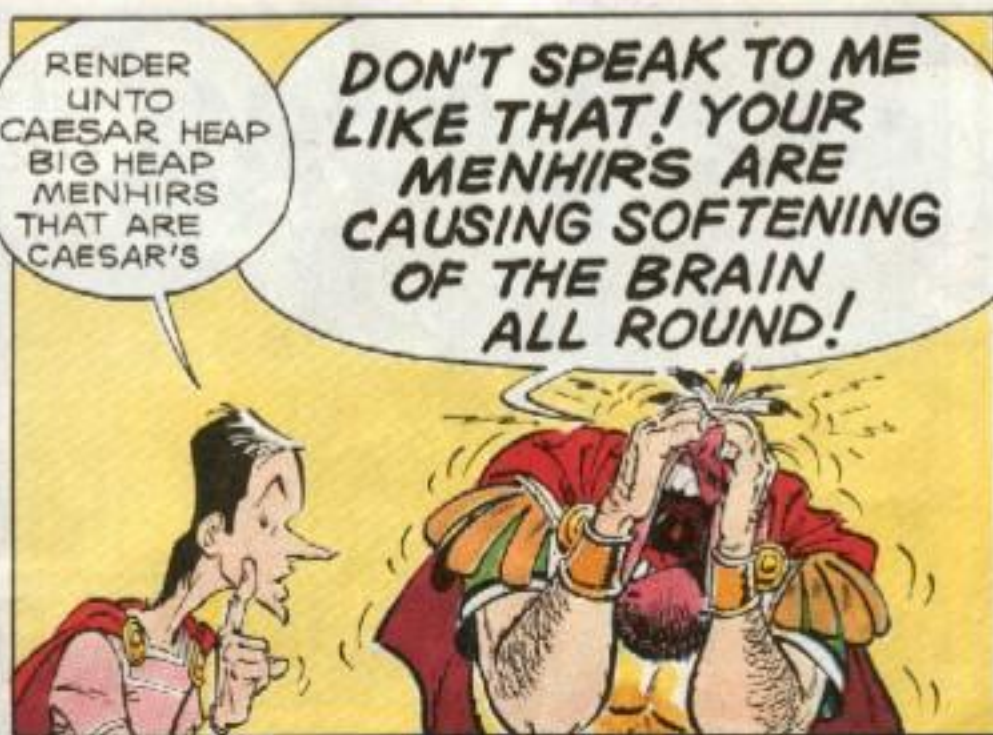


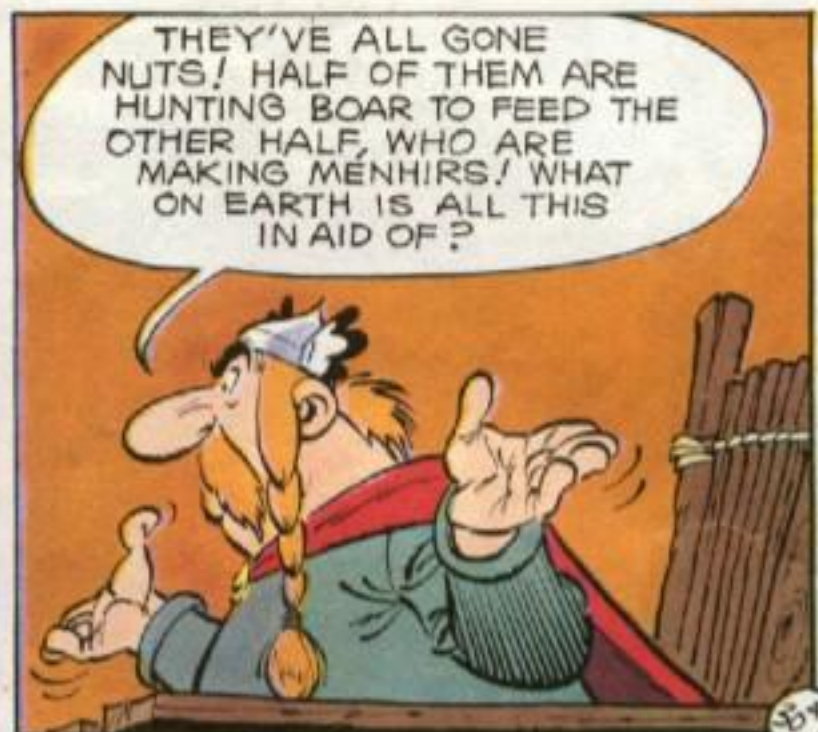


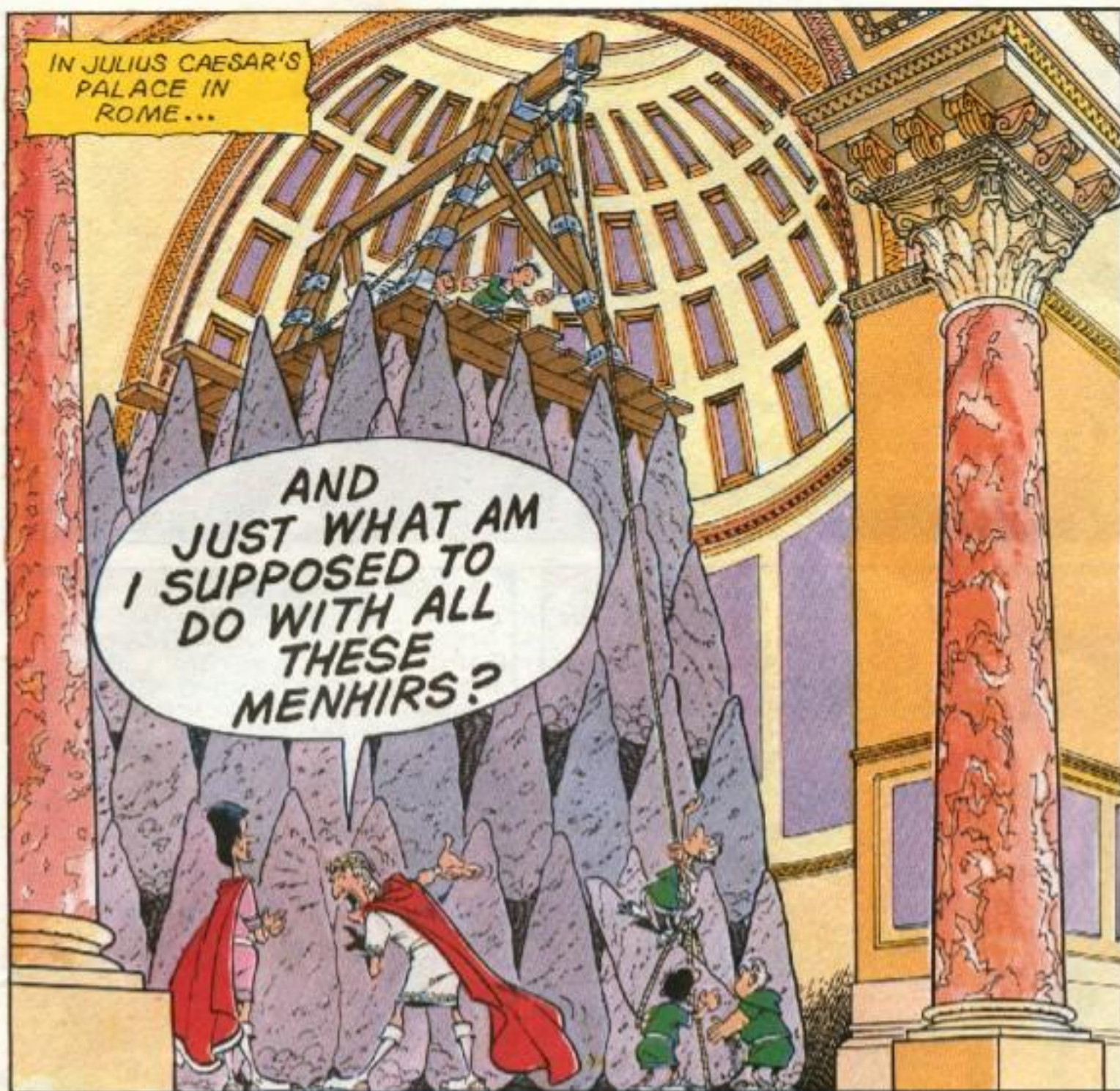












THE FOLLOWING
PASSAGE WILL BE
DIFFICULT
FOR THOSE OF YOU
UNACQUAINTED
WITH THE ANCIENT
BUSINESS WORLD
TO UNDERSTAND,
ESPECIALLY AS,
THESE DAYS, SUCH
A STATE OF
AFFAIRS COULD
NEVER EXIST,
SINCE NO ONE
WOULD DREAM OF
TRYING TO SELL
SOMETHING
UTTERLY
USELESS...



A FEW DAYS LATER,
ON EVERY WALL
IN ROME...

YOUR DEAREST WISH...



A MENHIR

IT'S BIG, IT'S
BEAUTIFUL,
IT'S A
MENHIR



ON SALE IN ALL THE BEST
TEMPLES, BATHS AND FORUMS

YOU OWN A VILLA, A
CHARIOT, SLAVES...
BUT...



DO YOU OWN A MENHIR?

AND NOW, FOLKS, AS WE
WAIT FOR THE NEXT ACT,
THERE WILL BE A SHORT
INTERLUDE...



IT'S THE RIGHT ONE,
IT'S NOT THE LIGHT ONE,
IT'S A MENHIR...

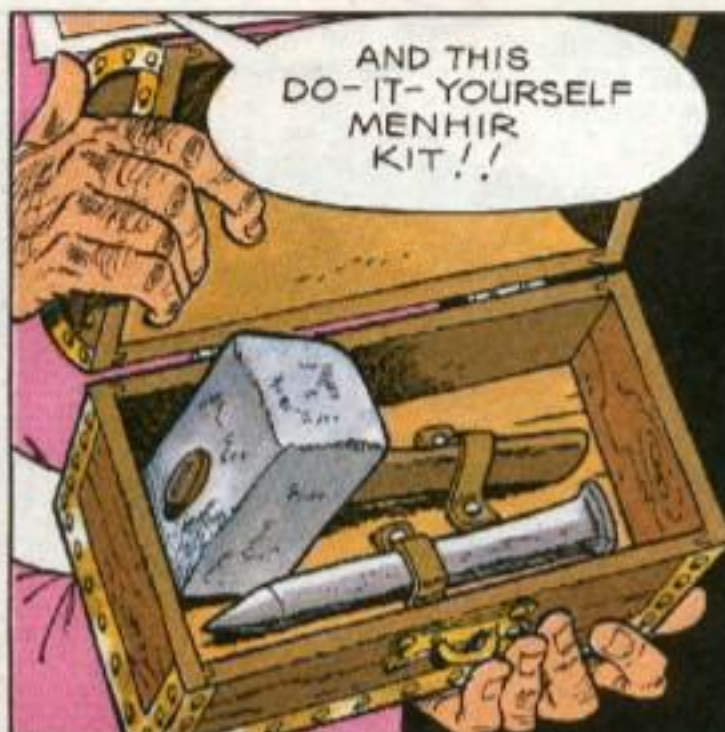
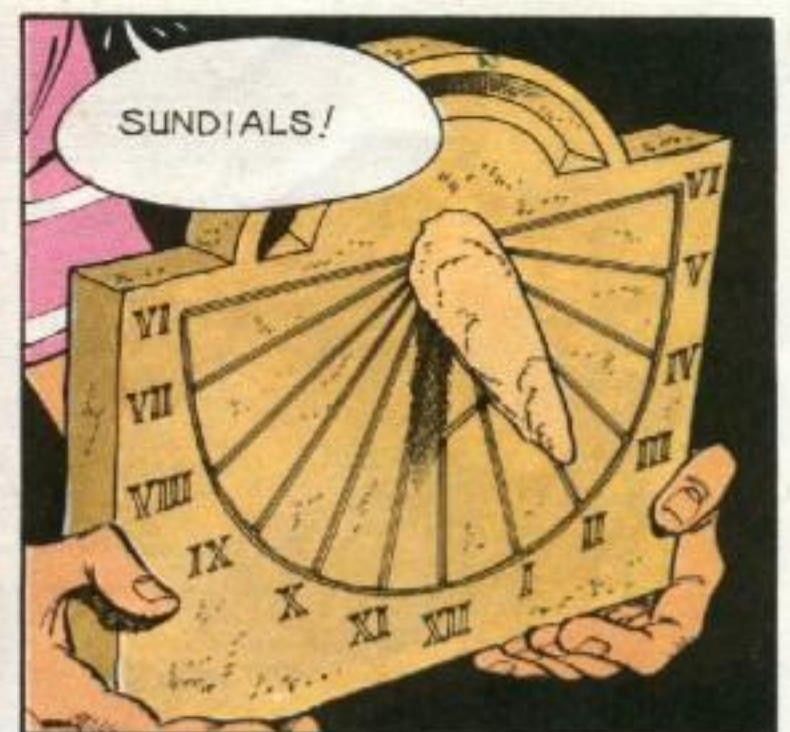


AND THE RESULTS OF THE
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ARE
NOT LONG COMING IN...



IT'S A KNOCKOUT!
MENHIRS ARE
SELLING LIKE
HOT CAKES!





SOON
AFTERWARDS...

WHAT'S THE BIG
IDEA, MERETRICIUS?
SINCE WHEN
HAVE ROMANS
BEEN
MANUFACTURING
MENHIRS?

SINCE PEOPLE
STARTED BUYING
THEM, O CAESAR.

WELL, I
FORBID YOU TO
SELL ANY
MORE
MENHIRS!

I REPRESENT THE ENTIRE ROMAN
MENHIR INDUSTRY, AND I CANNOT
COUNTEenance AN EDICT
WHICH ENDANGERS THE JOBS
OF SO MANY WORKERS!

BUT THE
WORKERS
ARE
SLAVES!

EXACTLY! THE RIGHT
TO WORK IS THE ONLY
RIGHT A SLAVE
HAS. HE MUST
NOT BE DEPRIVED
OF IT!

IF YOU GO
ON CIRCULATING
MENHIRS
YOU'LL FIND
YOURSELF IN
THE CIRCUS!

RIGHT. YOU
LEAVE ME NO
ALTERNATIVE.

NEXT DAY, ON
THE APPIAN
WAY...

BAN THE GAULISH MENHIR

JOBS FOR
THE
SLAVES



IN ROME, THE BOTTOM IS DROPPING OUT OF THE MENHIR MARKET.

FREE GIFT OF 11 BLUE SHIELD MENHIRS WITH EVERY SLAVE PURCHASED



PEOPLE DON'T EVEN WANT THEM AS A GIFT... WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD! I'VE LOST A FORTUNE, BUT LET'S FORGET IT...

THE THING IS...



YES?

WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS, O CAESAR...



I WANTED TO KEEP THE PEACE IN GAUL, SO BEFORE I LEFT I GAVE ORDERS FOR THEM TO GO ON BUYING MENHIRS... AND RAISING THE PRICE.



WHAT? YOU KNOW THE STATE OF MY FINANCES? AND YOU SAID WE'D MAKE A KILLING! GET BACK TO GAUL AND STOP IT!!!



ER... YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEND SOMEONE ELSE, WOULD YOU? I HAVE A FRIEND WHO WAS AT BUSINESS SCHOOL WITH ME. HE...



YOU'RE GOING YOURSELF, YOU IDIOT! IT'S YOUR FAULT I NEARLY HAD A CIVIL WAR ON MY HANDS! ROME MIGHT HAVE BEEN RUINED! EVEN BRUTUS HAS BEEN GIVING ME NASTY LOOKS!

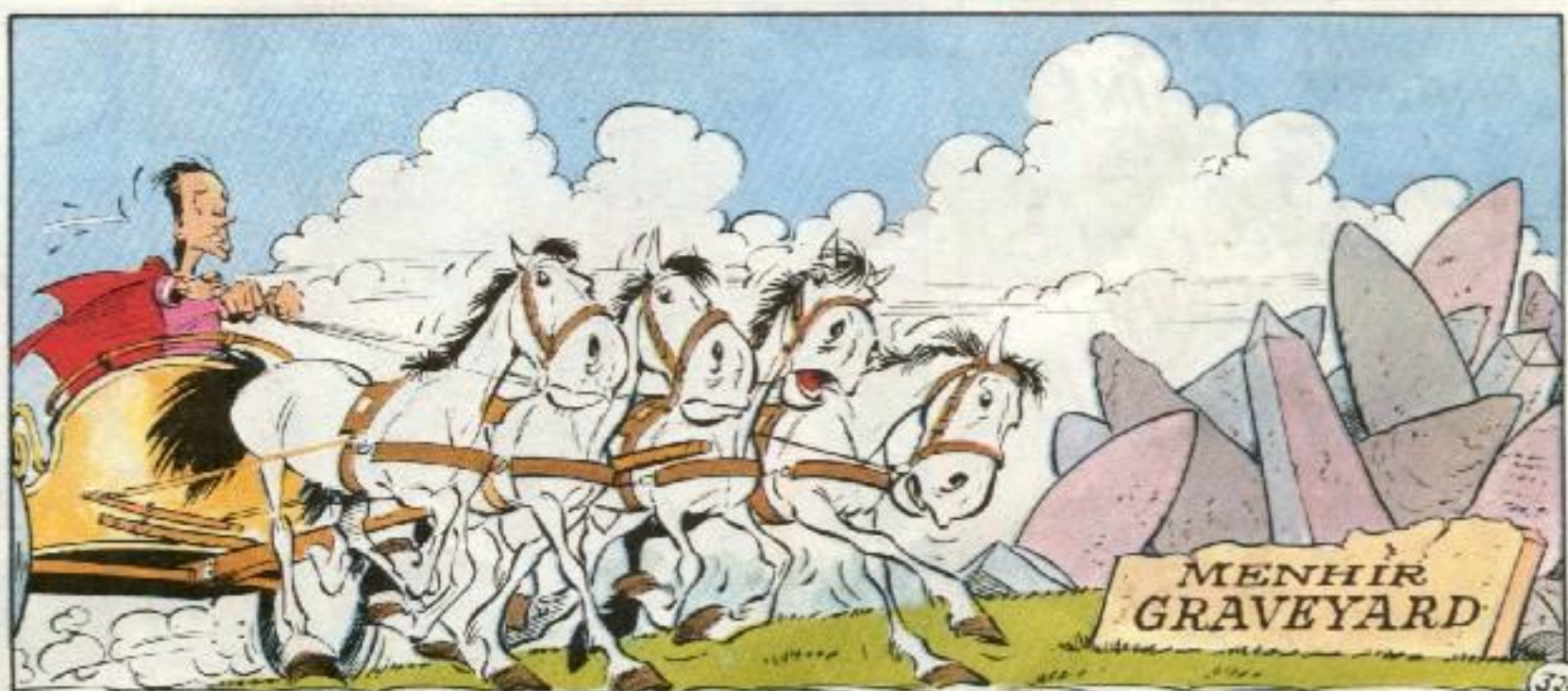


BUT... BUT THEY'LL KILL ME!

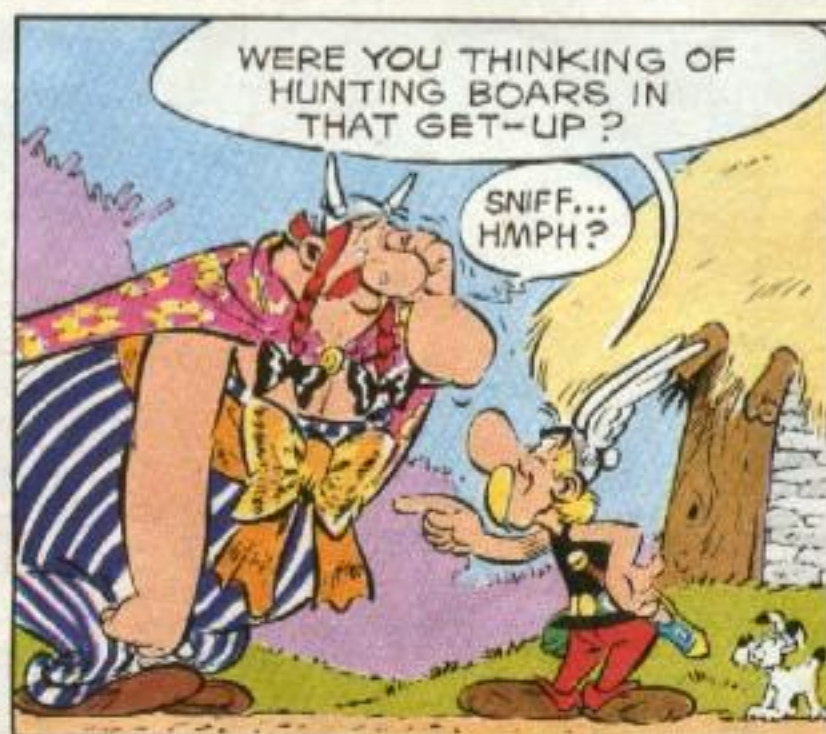
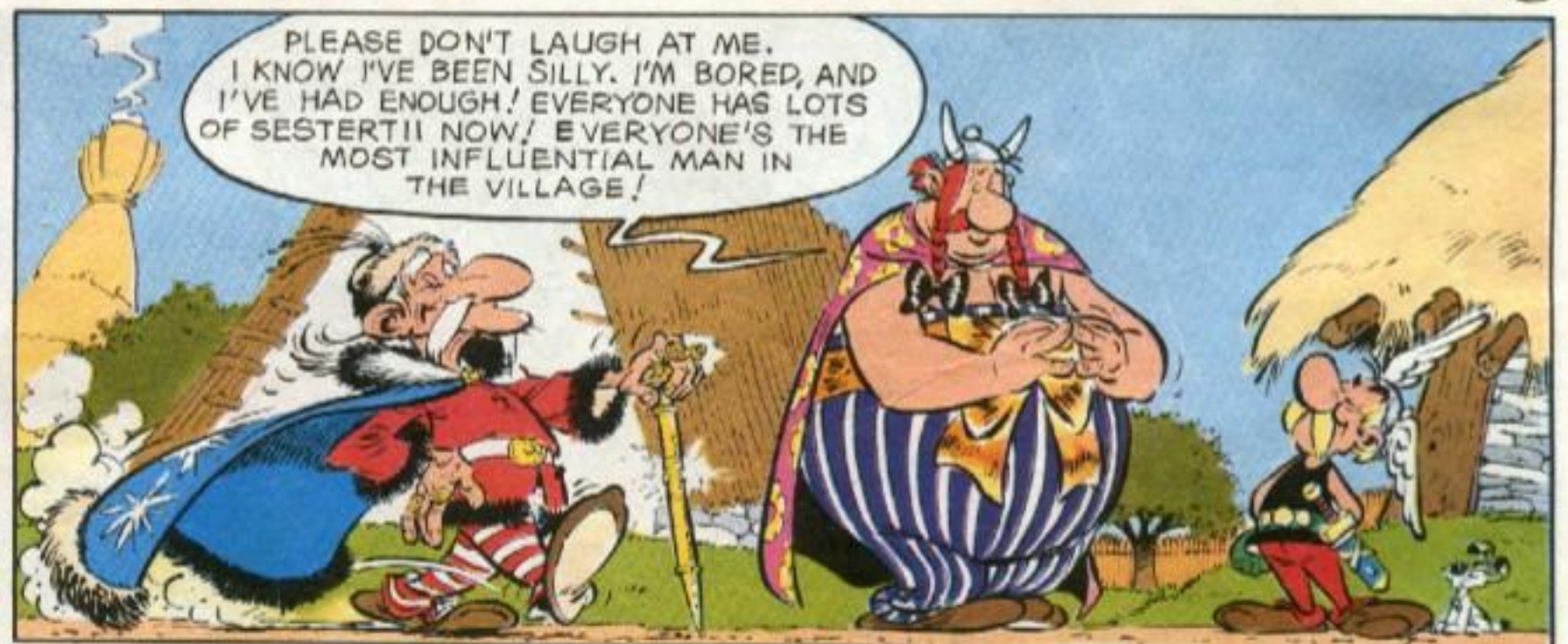
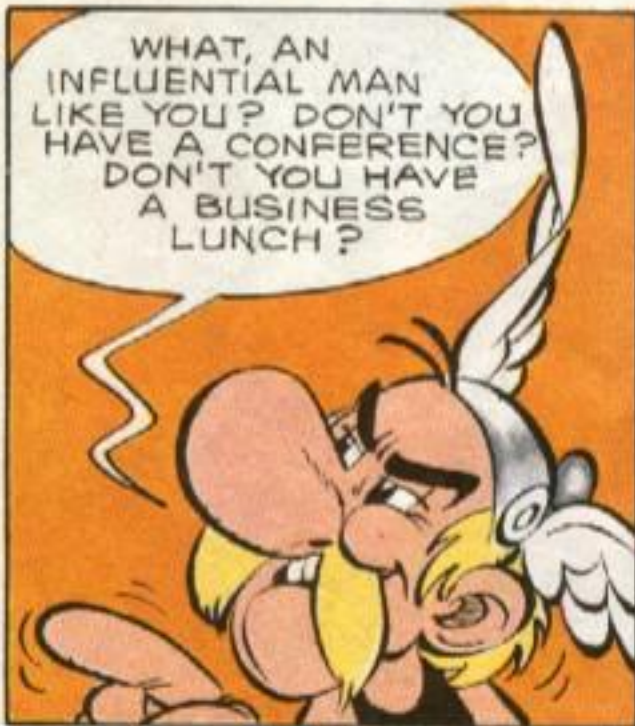
THAT PARTICULAR KILLING WOULDN'T WORRY ME!



ANYWAY, IF YOU DON'T GO I'LL HAVE YOU THROWN TO THE LIONS!!



MENHIR GRAVEYARD



THE CAMP OF
TOTORUM...

HEY, WHAT
DO YOU KNOW?
OLD
PREPOSTERUS IS
BACK!

AVE, PREPOSTERUS! I CARRIED
OUT YOUR ORDERS; WE HAVE
VAST STOCKS OF MENHIRS...

AND I HOPE YOU'VE BROUGHT
PLENTY OF SESTERTII,
BECAUSE...

WATCH OUT,
YOU LOT, HERE
COMES
ANOTHER
CLOWN!

HERE ARE
SOME MORE MENHIRS.
YOUR
LEGIONARIES CAN
UNLOAD
THEM.

NO. TAKE
THEM
AWAY!

?!
374

WHAT?

I'M NOT
BUYING
ANY MORE
MENHIRS.

BUT WHAT AM I
GOING TO DO WITH
THEM...? SUPPOSE
I LET YOU HAVE
THEM CHEAP?

NOOOOO!

NO MORE MENHIRS!
GET OUT!

WELL,
HONESTLY!

I DON'T KNOW
THAT I UNDER-
STAND YOUR
NEW STRATEGY
...

THERE ISN'T
ANY STRATEGY.
WE'RE NOT
BUYING ANY
MORE MENHIRS,
THAT'S
ALL!

RIGHT!
I'LL BE
OFF. AVE!

?!
375

OH NO, YOU WON'T! YOU'RE STAYING
HERE UNTIL I FULLY UNDERSTAND
THE SITUATION!

