

HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS



BOOK 15

Asterix

TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

and the GOLDEN SICKLE



Asterix and the Golden Sickle

ALL NO. 60'S

THE FIERCELY INDEPENDENT LITTLE VILLAGE WHERE ASTERIX AND THE OTHER GAULS LIVE IS AT PEACE...



OBELIX IS HAPPILY AT WORK, CARVING OUT A MENHIR...



CALCOPHIX THE BARD IS GIVING THE CHILDREN LESSONS...

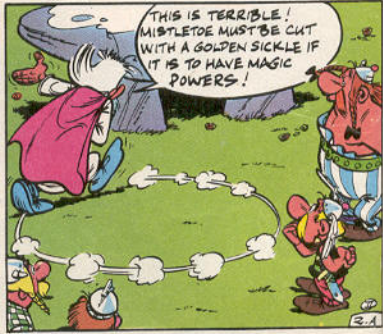
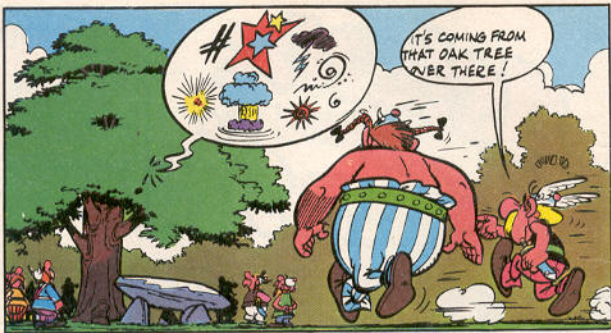


IN SHORT EVERYONE IS CONTENTED, ALL IS PEACE AND PLENTY...



WHEN SUDDENLY...







THANK YOU FOR OFFERING, ASTERIX, BUT I REALLY COULDN'T LET YOU GO OFF TO LUTETIA...



I INSIST, O DRUID. IT'S TOO FAR. TOO DANGEROUS!



OH, WELL, IN THAT CASE...



ER... RIGHT! I ACCEPT!

OH!



I'M COMING TOO! METALLURGIX IS A DISTANT COUSIN OF MINE. HE'S THE BIG SUCCESS IN OUR FAMILY.



LET'S GET GOING STRAIGHT AWAY!

I'LL TELL THE OTHERS!



BY TOMTATS AND BELENOS, I WISH YOU A GOOD JOURNEY AND A STEEDY RETURN WITH A FINE GOLDEN SICKLE FOR OUR DRUID.

YOU CAN COUNT ON US, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX!



HERE'S A SPOT OF MAGIC POTION. IT WILL MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE EVERY TIME YOU DRINK IT!

THANKS...



I WILL NOW GIVE YOU A SONG OF FAREWELL...



GOODBYE...

IT'S GETTING LATE...

I'VE GOT A WILD BOAR ON THE SPOT...



LATER...

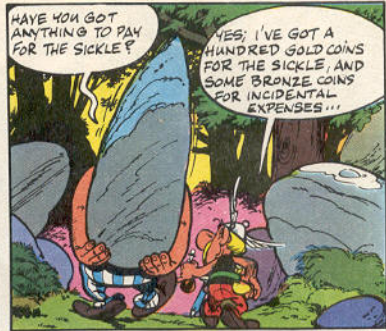
WHAT'S THAT MENHIR FOR?

IT'S A PRESENT FOR METALLURGIX. JUST A LITTLE GIFT AS A TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP...



I'VE HEARD THERE ARE A LOT OF BANDITS ABOUT THE FOREST JUST NOW. I THINK I'LL TAKE A DROP OF MAGIC POTION.

ALL THESE FEEBLE EXCUSES ABOUT ME FALLING INTO THE CAULDRON OF POTION WHEN I WAS A BABY. JUST TO STOP ME HAVING ANY! IT'S NOT FAIR!



HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING TO PAY FOR THE SICKLE?

YES, I'VE GOT A HUNDRED GOLD COINS FOR THE SICKLE, AND SOME BRONZE COINS FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES...



DID YOU HEAR THAT?

COME ON!



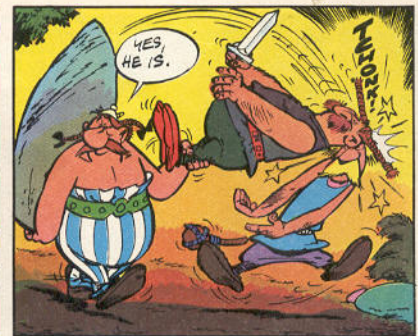
YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE!

DO YOU SUPPOSE THESE ARE BANDITS?

VERY LIKELY!!!



METALLURGY MUST BE DOING WELL!



YES, HE IS.

THOR!



WHAT DOES HE DO WITH ALL THE GOLD COINS HE GETS FOR HIS SICKLES?



OH, HE MAKES MORE SICKLES.

STOK!



I HOPE WE AREN'T GOING TO MEET TOO MANY MORE BANDITS ON THE WAY. IT DOES CUT DOWN OUR AVERAGE SPEED.

NIGHT IS FALLING, OBELIX. THERE'S AN INN NEAR HERE CALLED THE CONTRITE BARBARIAN. WE'LL STOP THERE!!!

DANGER
SLIPPERY FLAGSTONES



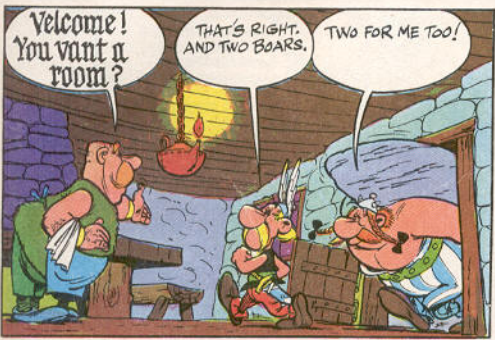
THIS INN IS FAMOUS FOR ITS SPECIALITY: ROAST BOAR!

ROAST OR JUST SERVED RAW AS A SIMPLE LITTLE SALAD, BOAR IS MY FAVOURITE FOOD!

Welcome! You want a room?

THAT'S RIGHT. AND TWO BOARS.

TWO FOR ME TOO!



YOU CAN TAKE OUR LUGGAGE TO OUR ROOM.

???



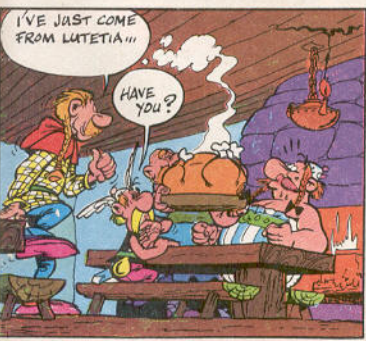
And where are you going like rat?

TO LUTETIA!!!

SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!



Aaaa! Lutetia!



I'VE JUST COME FROM LUTETIA!!!

HAVE YOU?



A BEAUTIFUL CITY, LUTETIA, BUT DANGEROUS. VERY DANGEROUS!

OH, COME! WE'RE ONLY GOING THERE TO BUY A SICKLE.



A SICKLE? SICKLES ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN LUTETIA JUST NOW.

DON'T WORRY, WE KNOW WHERE TO GO!

NEXT MORNING!!!



Auf
wiederschen!

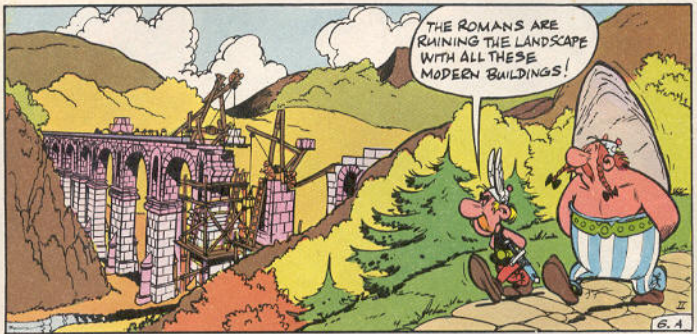


HEY, ASTERIX, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT TRAVELLER TOLD US SICKLES WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY IN LUTETIA?

NO IDEA, OBELIX.

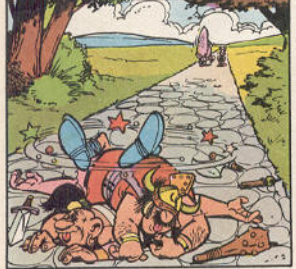


LET'S ENJOY OUR JOURNEY; WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER!!!



THE ROMANS ARE RUINING THE LANDSCAPE WITH ALL THESE MODERN BUILDINGS!

OUR FRIENDS' JOURNEY PROCEEDS WITHOUT MUCH INCIDENT, APART FROM A FEW SCUFFLES WITH BANDITS!!!



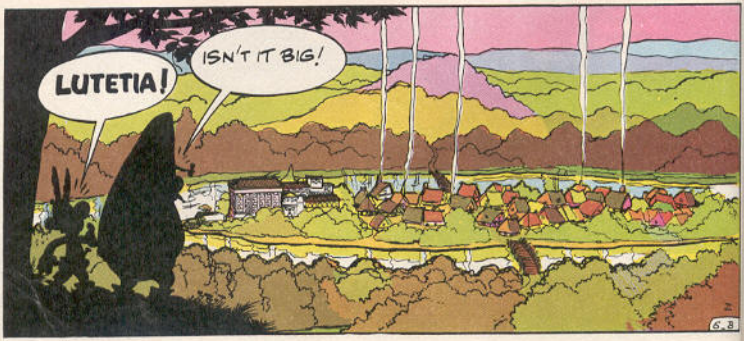
AT SWINDINUM, ASTERIX AND OBELIX ARE UNABLE TO FIND A BED AS IT HAPPENS TO BE THE DAY OF THE GREAT OX-CART RACE, THE SWINDINUM 24 HOURS!!!



BUT AT LAST, ONE DAY!!!

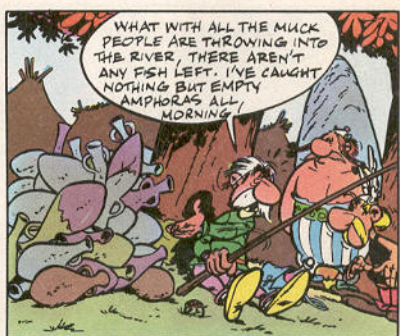
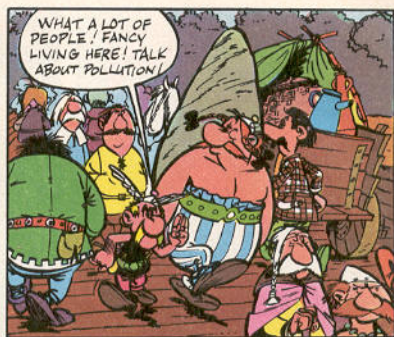


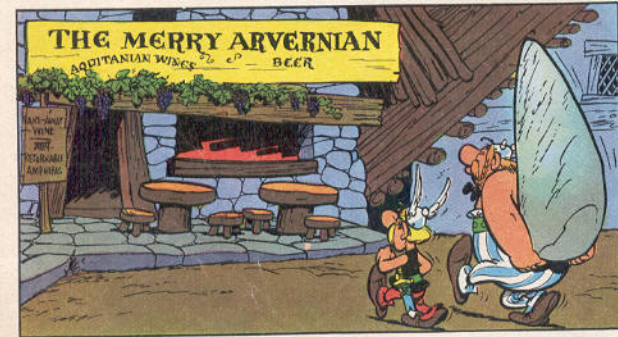
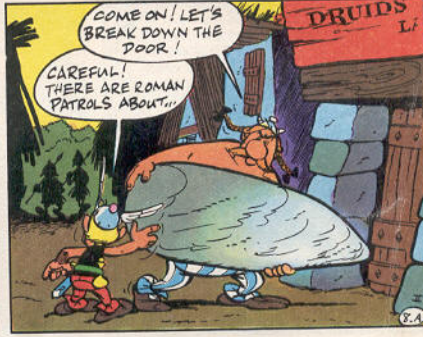
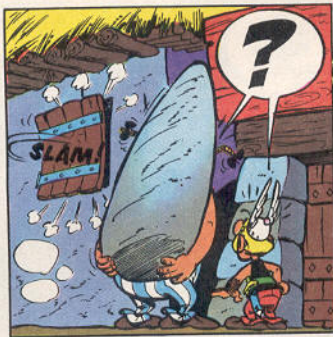
LOOK!
OBELIX!

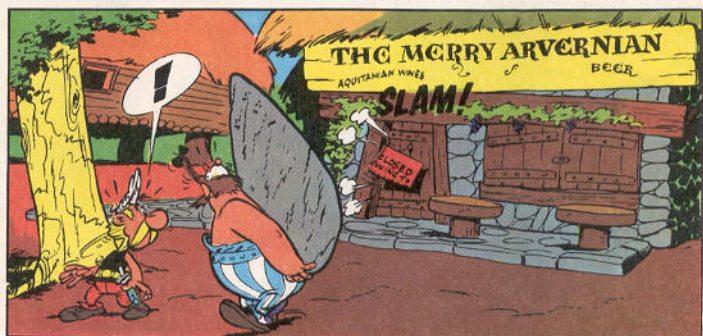


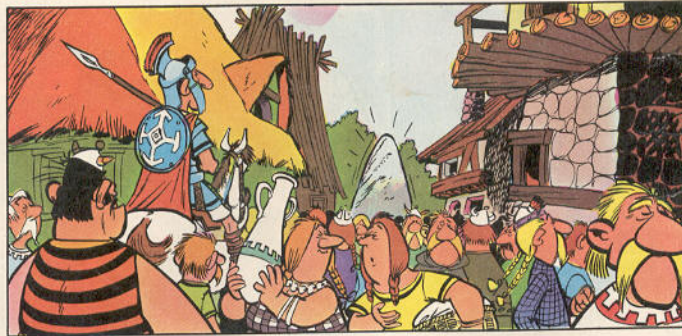
LUTETIA!

ISN'T IT BIG!

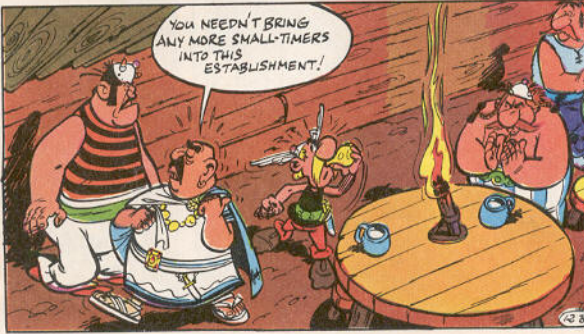
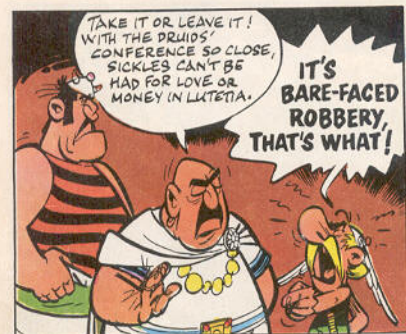


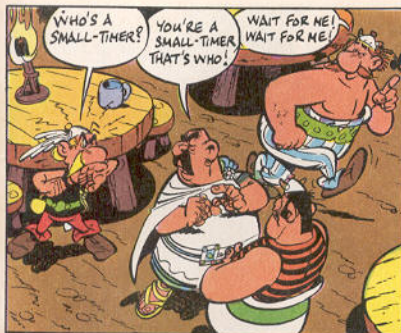


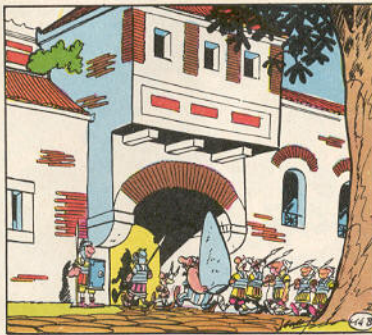


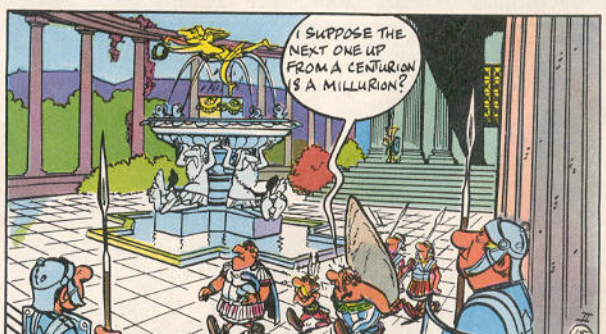
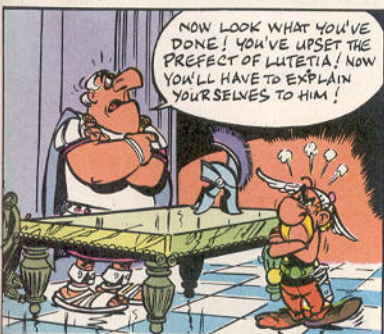
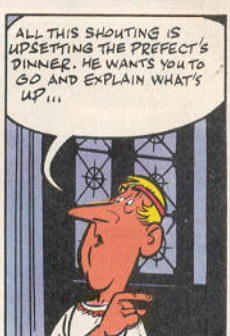
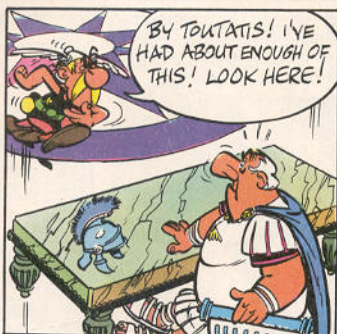
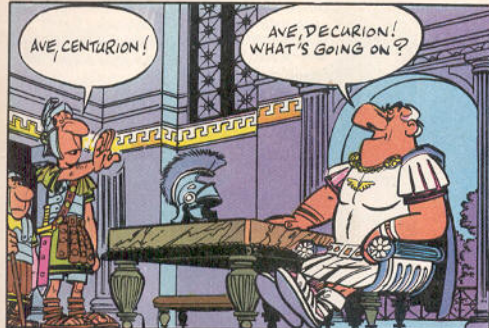


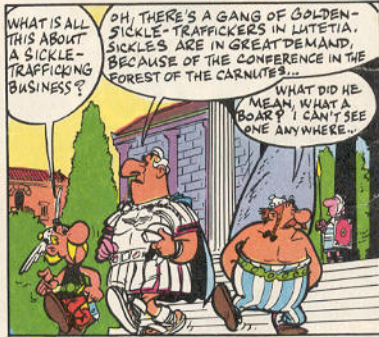
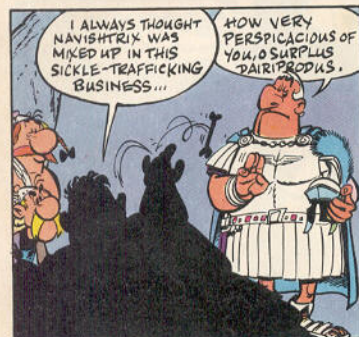
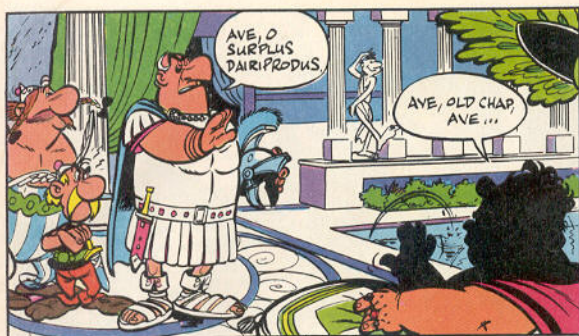












BOOHOO!
POOR COUSIN
METALLURGIX!



WE'LL FIND HIM,
OBELEX. FOR A START,
WHAT DOES YOUR
COUSIN LOOK LIKE?

WHAT DOES HE LOOK
LIKE? I'VE NO IDEA.
I'VE NEVER SET
EYES ON HIM.



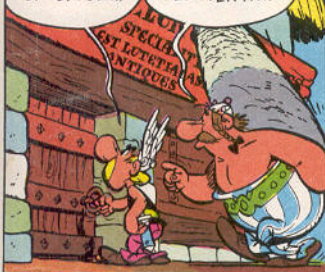
LET'S GO BACK
TO HIS HOUSE.
WE MIGHT FIND A
CLUE THERE...



SO WE MIGHT, NOW
CAN I BE EXPECTED TO
KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS
LIKE WHEN I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM...?
SOMETIMES ASTERIX
JUST DOESN'T STOP
TO THINK!

THE DOORS LOCKED,
OF COURSE...

LEAVE IT TO ME.
I'LL OPEN IT...

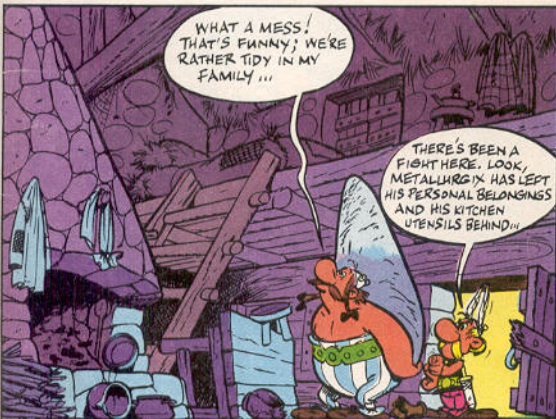


THERE YOU ARE!



WHAT A MESS!
THAT'S FUNNY; WE'RE
RATHER TIDY IN MY
FAMILY...

THERE'S BEEN A
FIGHT HERE, LOOK,
METALLURGIX HAS LEFT
HIS PERSONAL BELONGINGS
AND HIS KITCHEN
UTENSILS BEHIND...



BUT HIS TOOLS, HIS
SICKLES AND HIS
MONEY ARE ALL
MISSING. OBELEX,
YOUR COUSIN'S BEEN
KIDNAPPED BY THE
SICKLE-
TRAFFICKERS!

BOOHOOO!
POOR
METALLURGIX!



LATER...

WHAT A PRICE BOAR IS
IN LUTETIA!

AND THE BUTCHER SAID
PRICES WERE GOING TO
RISE EVEN HIGHER. IT'S
A POOR LOOKOUT FOR
GAIL!



WELL, THIS PROVES
METALLURGIX IS
STILL ALIVE. WE'LL
FIND HIM, BY
TOUTATIS!

OH
GOODY!



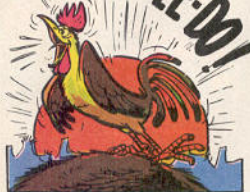
LET'S MOVE IN
HERE, AND FIRST,
LET'S GO AND DO
SOME SHOPPING.

GOOD IDEA!



THE SUN, RISING ON LATETIA,
IS GREETED BY A COCKEREL!!!

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!

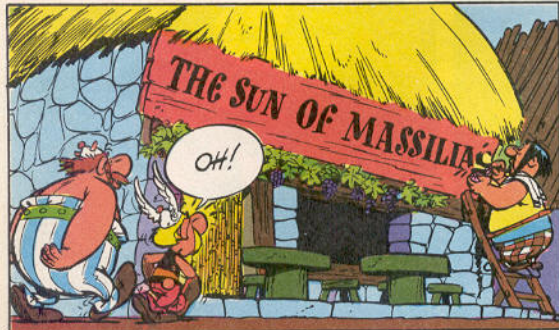


GET UP, OBELIX!
IT'S TIME TO START
OUR INVESTIGATIONS!

THAT'S RIGHT.
WE MUST FIND
METALLURGI-X.

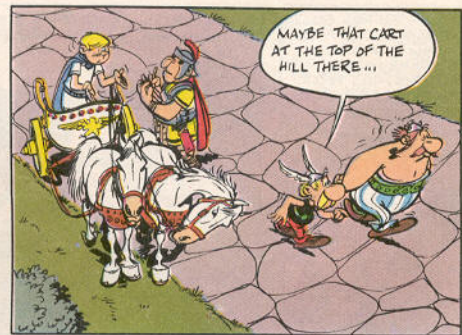
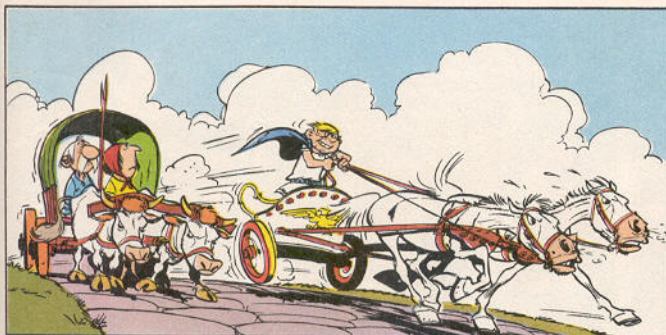
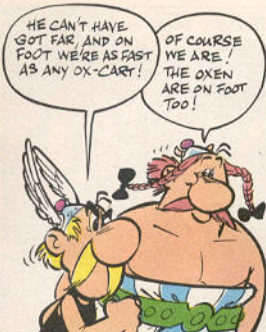


LET'S GO BACK TO
THAT ARVERNIAN IN
THE WINE SHOP. I'M
SURE HE KNOWS
SOMETHING!



THAT CRAZY GAUL WHO SOLD
ME THIS PLACE FOR A HANDFUL
OF BRONZE COINS! IT'S UNDER
NEW MANAGEMENT NOW, BUT
YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!

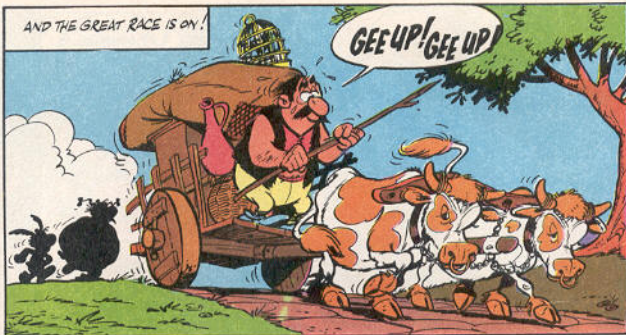






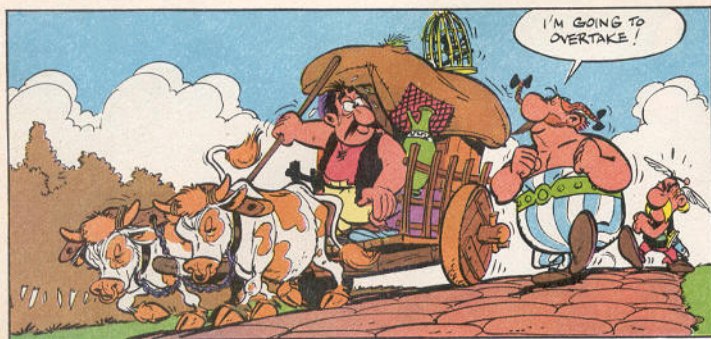
THE ARVERNIAN!
IN FRONT THERE!

LET'S GO!



AND THE GREAT RACE IS ON!

GEE UP! GEE UP!



I'M GOING TO
OVERTAKE!

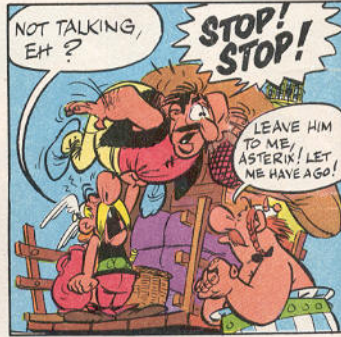


BONG!



WHAT'S THE
MATTER? WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

WHERE'S
METALLURGIX?
TELL US ALL YOU
KNOW!



NOT TALKING,
EH?

STOP!
STOP!

LEAVE HIM
TO ME,
ASTERIX! LET
ME HAVE A GO!



ONE DAY SOME MEN CAME AND
TOOK METALLURGIX AWAY... I
HAPPENED TO BE PASSING,
AND THEY WERE GOING TO
TAKE ME TOO...



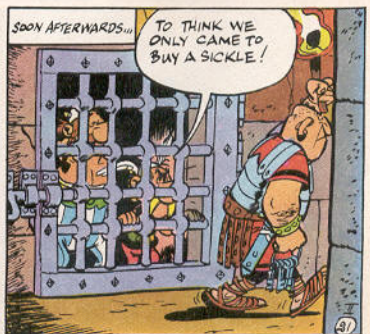
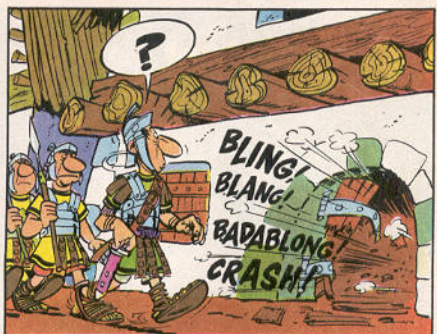
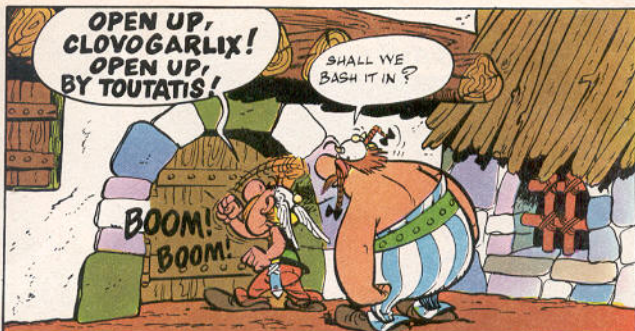
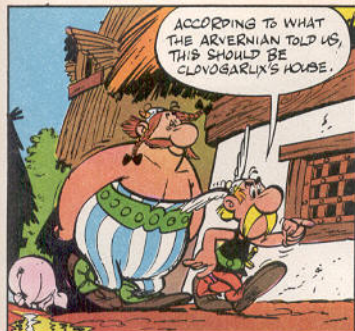
BUT ONE OF THE MEN, CALLED
CLOVOGARLIX, LET ME GO ON
CONDITION I TOLD HIM IF
ANYONE CAME LOOKING FOR
METALLURGIX, THEY FORCED
ME TO BE THEIR ACCOMPLICE,
BUT I'M INNOCENT REALLY!



RIGHT! THE
ARVERNIAN HAS
GIVEN US
CLOVOGARLIX'S
ADDRESS... WE'LL
GO THERE!

WE OUGHT TO HAVE
KEPT ONE OF THE
OXEN FOR A
SNACK...

I'LL NEVER SET
FOOT IN
LUTETIA AGAIN!



LONG LIVE VERGINCE !!!
-HIC!... TORIX!



HULLO. WHAT ARE YOU
INSIDE FOR?
-HIC!



WE'RE LOOKING
FOR A MAN CALLED
CLOYOGARLIX !!!

I KNOW HIM. HE ... HIC!
... WISHED TO WORK AT
NAVISHTRIX'S PLACE!



NAVISHTRIX HAD A LOVELY
LITTLE WINE FROM GALLIA
NARBONENSIS !!! HIC! ... LOVELY
LITTLE WINE ... ALL DONE FOR
NOW ... HIC! ... ALL OVER!



IT'SH SAD ...
SAAAAD!
BOOHOO ... HIC!
... HOOOOO ...

ANY IDEA WHERE
NAVISHTRIX AND
CLOYOGARLIX MIGHT
HAVE GONE ?



NO ... SNIFF! ... BUT I OFTEN
HEARD THEM ARRANGING TO MEET
UNDER THE DOLMEN
... HIC!

UNDER THE
DOLMEN?

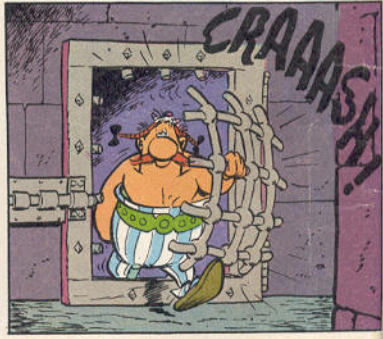


IT'S A CLUE. ONLY A SLIGHT CLUE, BUT A CLUE!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

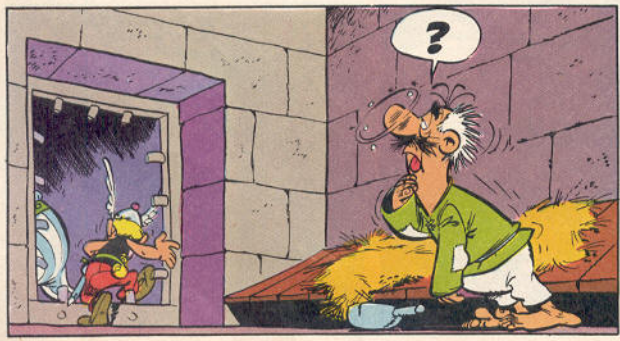
RIGHT.



CRAASH!

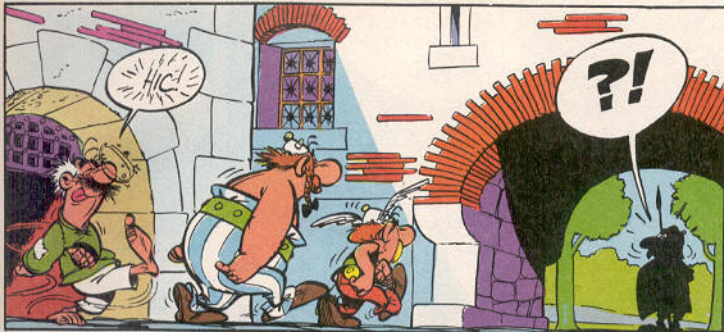


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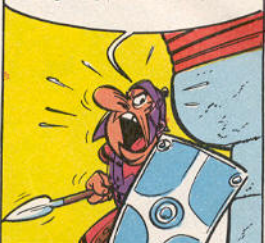


LONG LIVE VERGINCE...VERCEGIN...
-Hic!...VERCEGINTORIX!

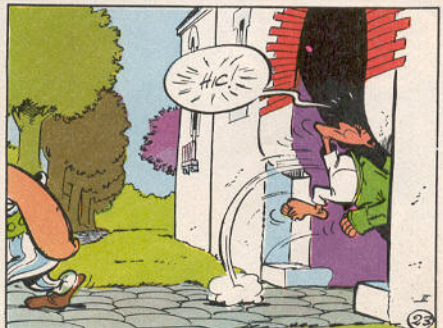


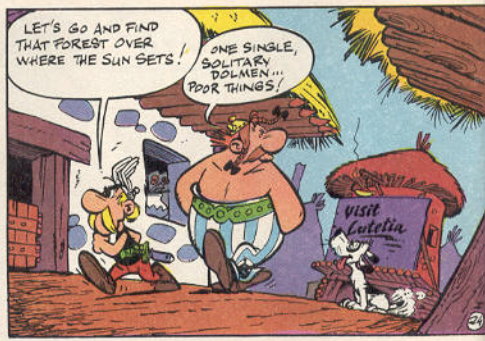
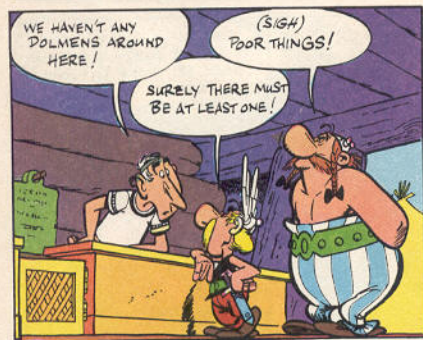
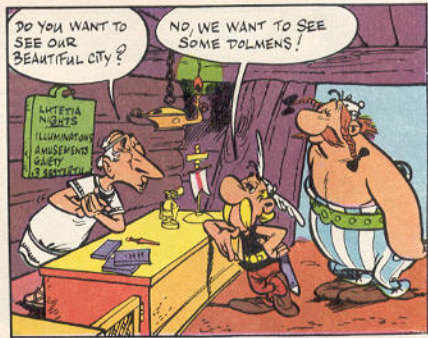


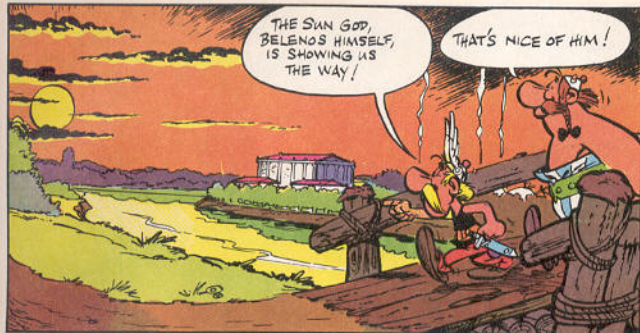
HELP! RAISE THE ALARM! THE PRISONERS ARE ESCAPING!



STOP, BY MERCURY! MY MASTER THE PERFECT IS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE NOISE. HE ORDERS YOU TO GO AND EXPLAIN WHAT'S HAPPENING!







THE SUN GOD, BELENO'S HIMSELF, IS SHOWING US THE WAY!

THAT'S NICE OF HIM!



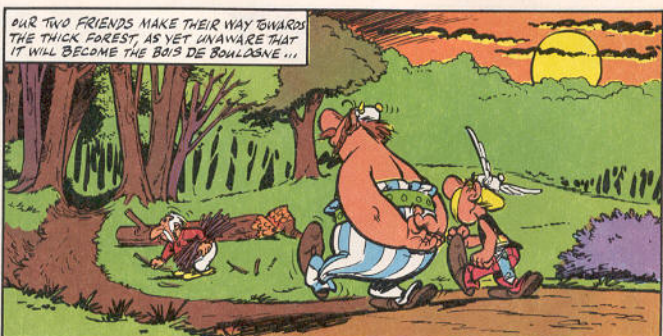
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF COMING ACROSS OF COMING ACROSS SOME BOARS AS WELL, BECAUSE WOLVES, ARE YOU?

NO, BUT I HOPE WE COME ACROSS SOME BOARS AS WELL, BECAUSE I'M HUNGRY AND I DON'T LIKE WOLF!!!



WE'LL PROBABLY COME ACROSS BANDITS TOO!

NO THANKS, I DON'T FANCY BANDIT EITHER.



OUR TWO FRIENDS MAKE THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE THICK FOREST, AS YET UNAWARE THAT IT WILL BECOME THE BOIS DE BOURLOGNE...



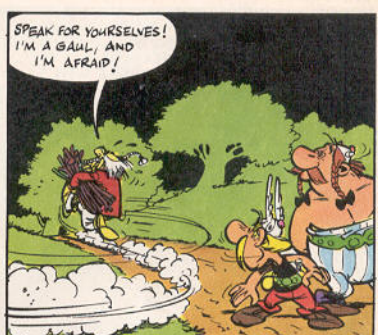
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

THE FOREST!



THE FOREST'S DANGEROUS AT NIGHT, INHABITED WITH WOLVES AND BANDITS!

HUH! WE GAULS DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF FEAR!



SPEAK FOR YOURSELVES! I'M A GAUL, AND I'M AFRAID!



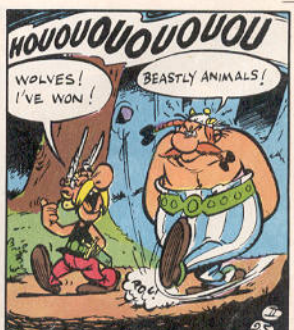
WHICH SHALL WE COME ACROSS FIRST, WOLVES OR BANDITS?

SHALL WE HAVE A BET?



IF IT'S WOLVES, YOU BUY A ROUND OF BEER, IF IT'S BANDITS I WILL.

DONE!



WOLVES! I'VE WON!

BEASTLY ANIMALS!

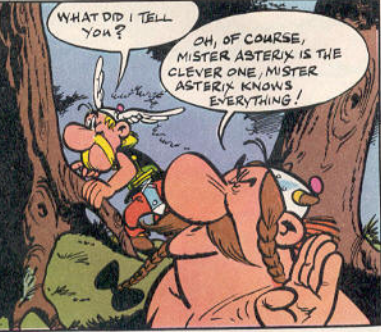
THE HOWLING'S COMING FROM OVER THERE !!

IT'S ALWAYS ME WHO LOSES BETS! IT'S NOT FAIR!



WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

OH, OF COURSE, MISTER ASTERIX IS THE CLEVER ONE, MISTER ASTERIX KNOWS EVERYTHING!



THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO EAT UP THERE



HELP!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

YOU'VE STILL LOST THE BET, SMARTY!



THAT BET WASN'T FAIR! IT WAS YOU WHO THOUGHT OF IT!

DON'T BE SUCH A ROTTEN SPORT, OBELIX!



SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT COULD YOU POSSIBLY SEE YOUR WAY TO HELPING ME?



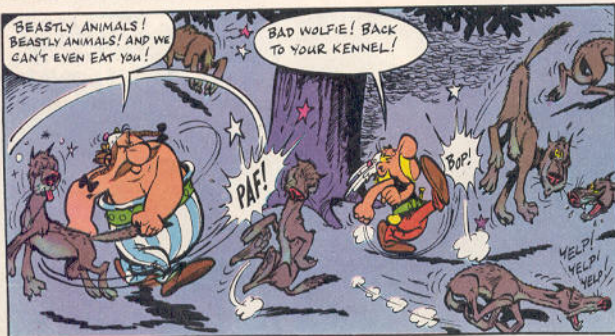
WE'RE COMING!

VERY KIND OF YOU!



BEASTLY ANIMALS! BEASTLY ANIMALS! AND WE CAN'T EVEN EAT YOU!

BAD WOLFIE! BACK TO YOUR KENNEL!



YOU CAN COME DOWN NOW. THEY'VE ALL GONE.

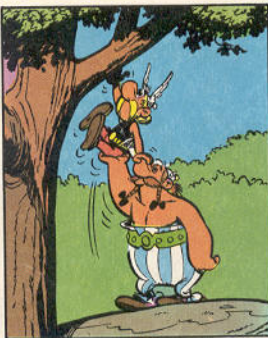
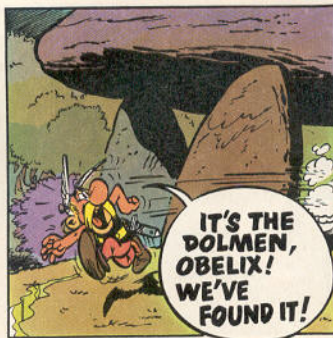
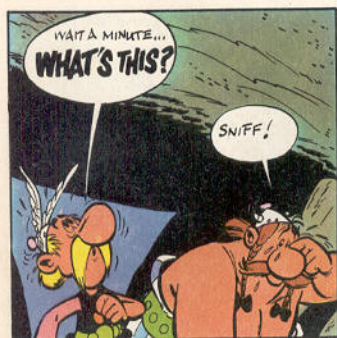
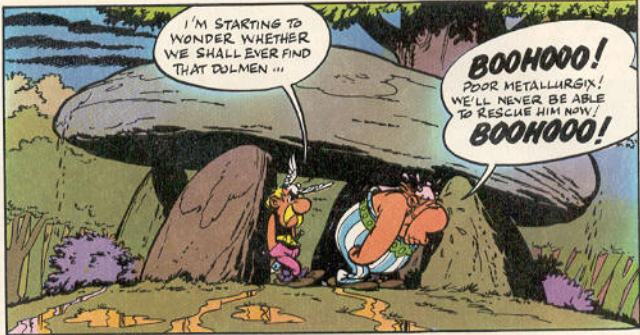
REALLY?!

BOO!

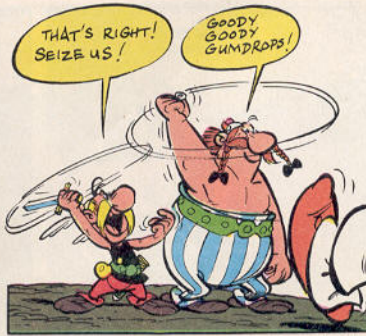
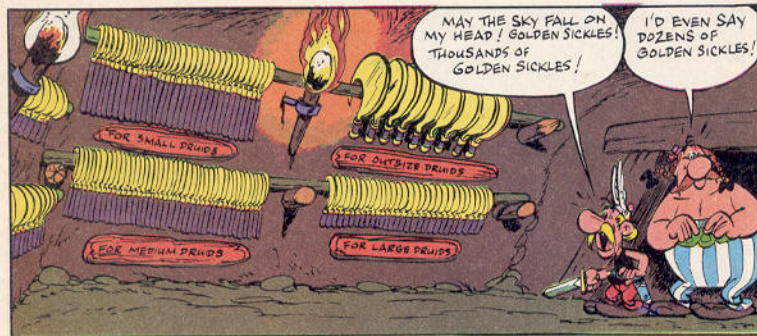
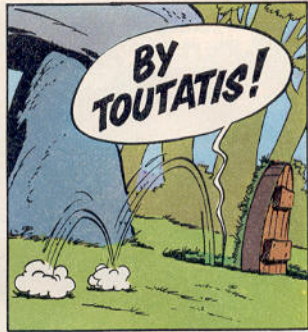
!?



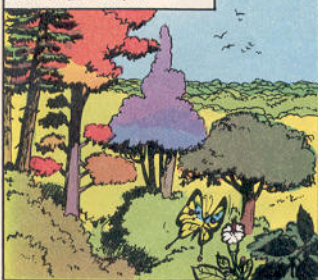








WARM RAYS OF BRILLIANT
SUNSHINE LIGHT UP A
CLOUDLESS SKY!!!



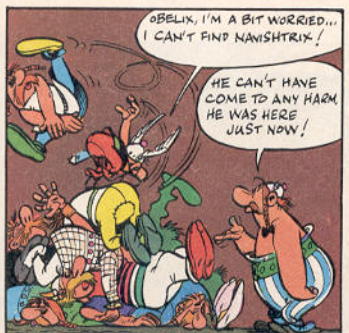
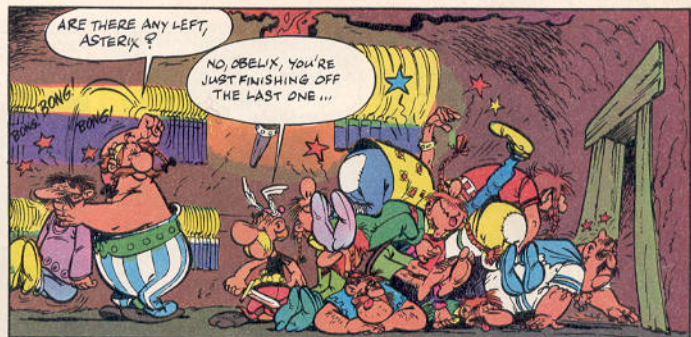
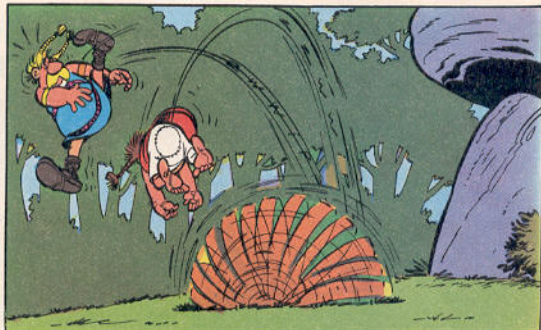
!!! LITTLE BIRDS WARBLE ON
THE LEAFY BRANCHES !!!

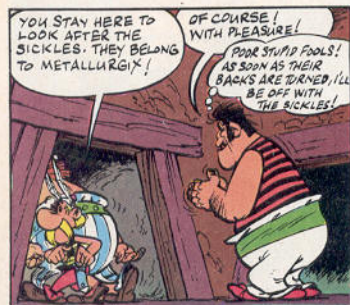
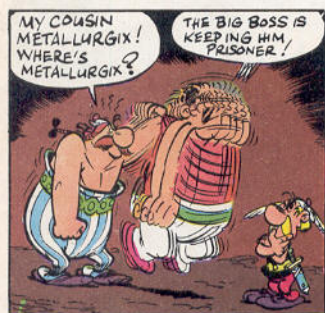
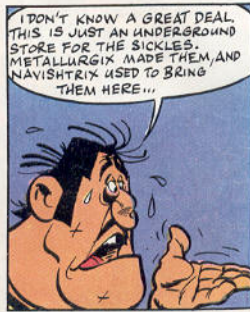
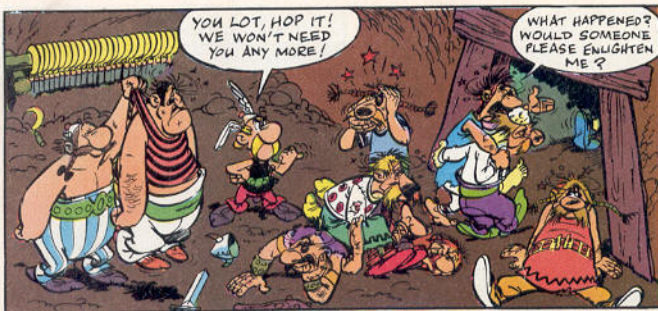


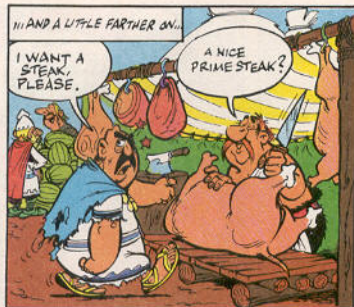
!!! SQUIRRELS PLAY ON
THE MOSSY GROUND !!!

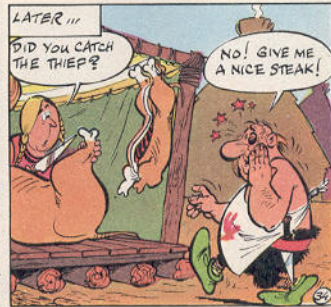
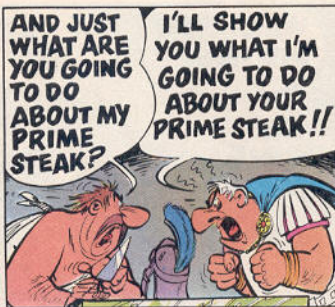
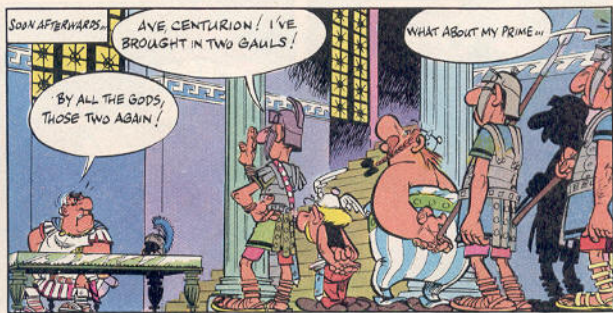
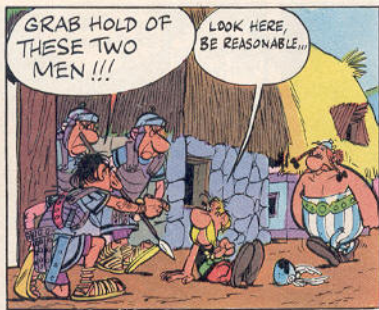
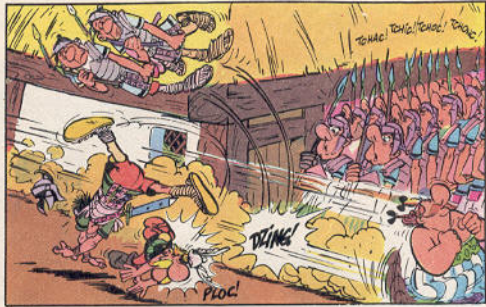


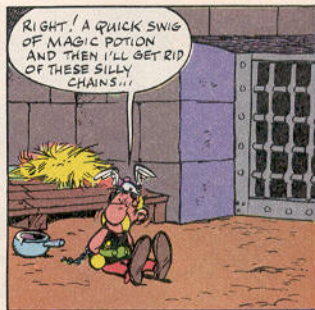
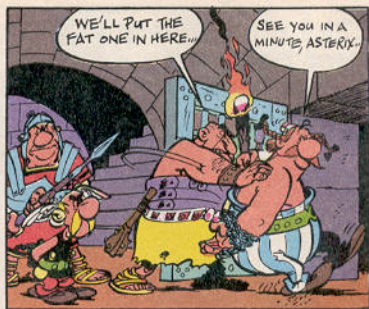
!!! WHILE UNDERNEATH
THE MOSSY GROUND!!!

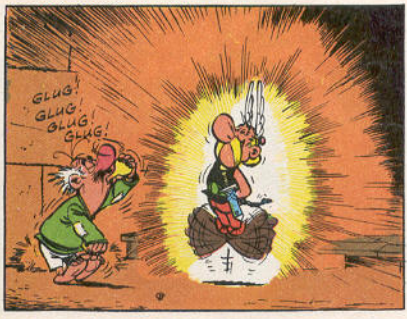
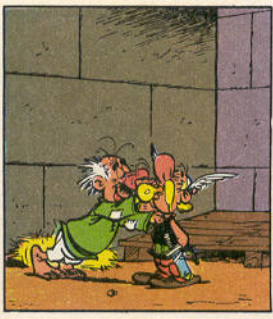


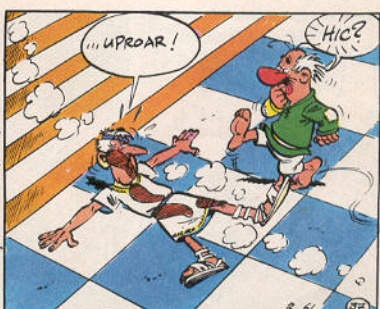
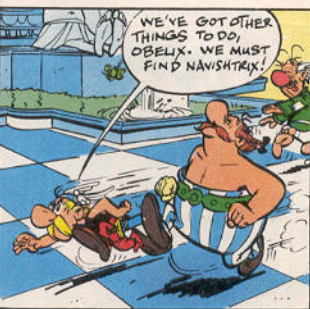


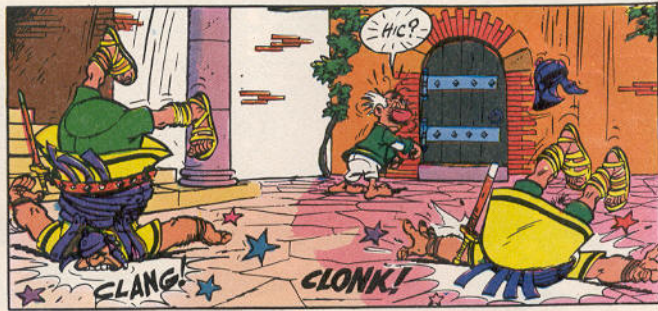


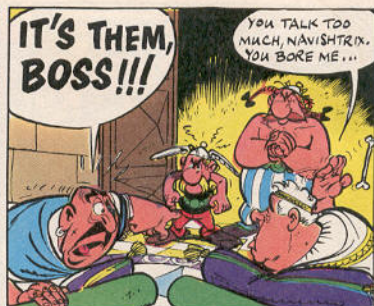
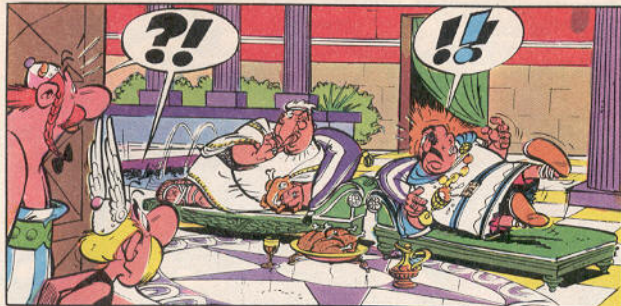


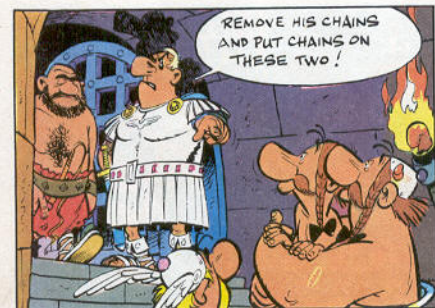
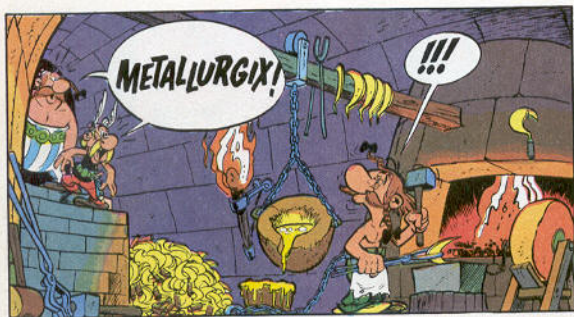


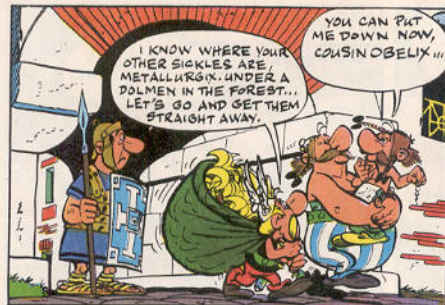












WITH THEIR GOLDEN SICKLE AT LAST, OUR TWO FRIENDS LEAVE LUTETIA FOR AN UNEVENTFUL JOURNEY...



APART FROM A FEW RASH BANDITS...



... A FEW FOOLHARDY BARBARIANS ...



COME ALONG, OBELIX! DON'T PAWDLÉ!

... AND SEVERAL CARELESS WILD BOAR ...



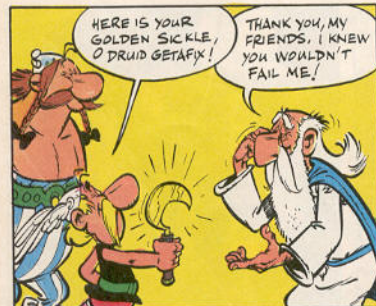
... THEIR JOURNEY, AS WE SAID, WAS ANEVENFUL!



COME ON, EVERYONE! ASTERIX AND OBELIX ARE BACK!



WELCOME BACK, BRAVE WARRIORS!



ALL OUR FRIENDS GATHER TOGETHER FOR A GREAT FEAST TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE HEROES WITH THE BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN SICKLE WHICH WILL BRING GLORY AND FAME TO THE VILLAGE...

THAT'S FUNNY, OUR BARD CACOPHONIX HASN'T TURNED UP TO SING HIS ONE OF HIS ODES!

