

HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS

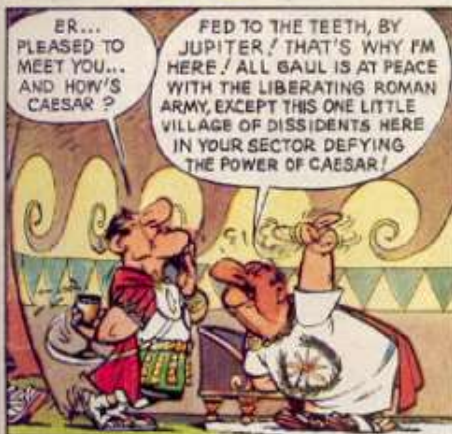


Asterix

TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

and the BANQUET





PEACE REIGNS IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE AS WELL... IT REIGNS TOO HARD FOR THE LIKES OF SOME...



HEY, ASTERIX, THE ROMANS AREN'T ATTACKING US ANY MORE... DO YOU THINK WE'VE ANNOYED THEM?

DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU... WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED DELIVERING MENHIRS, WHY DON'T WE HUNT SOME BOARS?



SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE FOREST...

SUPPOSE WE WROTE TO THE ROMANS?



WE COULD EXPLAIN THAT...

SSH!

YOU COWARDLY LOT! YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT A HANDFUL OF GAULS COULD RESIST YOU?



DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE, O OVERANXIOUS, OR YOU'LL ALERT THE WHOLE HANDFUL!

IT'S THE ROMANS!!!

GOODY!



COME ON, WE MUST TELL THE OTHERS!

MUST WE? WHY NOT JUST DIVIDE THEM BETWEEN US? NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW...



OBELIX, YOU'RE BEING VERY SELFISH! THE OTHERS HAVE A RIGHT TO THEIR BIT OF FUN! ROMANS ARE COMMON PROPERTY.



SO COME ALONG!

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME! IT'S NOT FAIR, IT JUST ISN'T FAIR... IF THEY WANT ROMANS, WHY CAN'T THEY GO AND FIND SOME OF THEIR OWN...?



A LITTLE LATER...

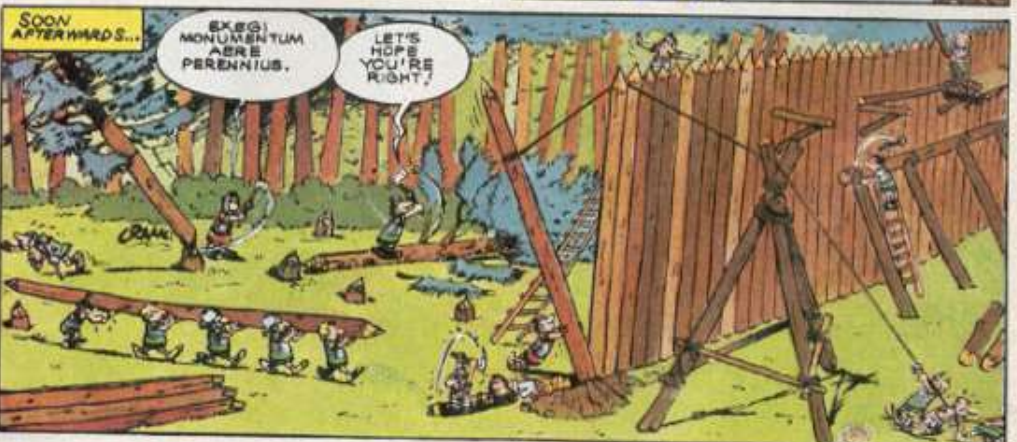
NOW THEN, NO SHOVING! STAND IN LINE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

THERE'S NO NEED TO PUSH... THERE'LL BE PLENTY TO GO ROUND.

ONLY THREE OR FOUR EACH... THAT'S ALL... WILL YOU LEND ME YOURS, ASTERIX?

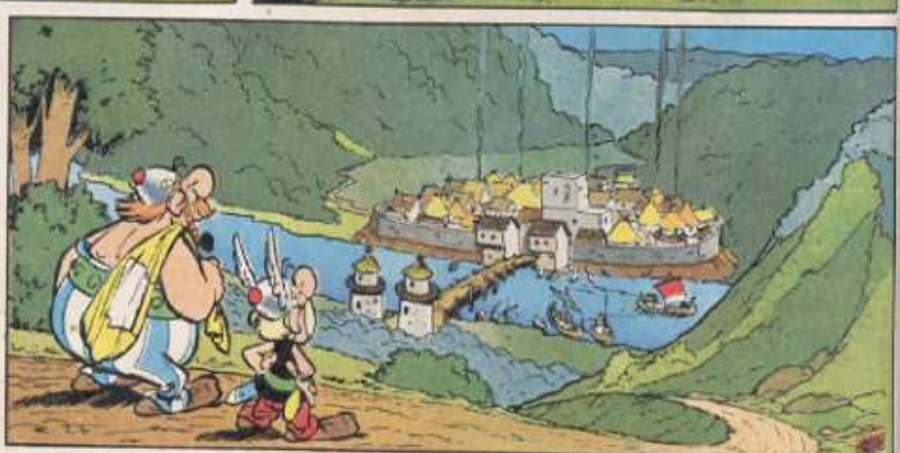
COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CHARGE, MEN! CHARGE!

MUMMY!

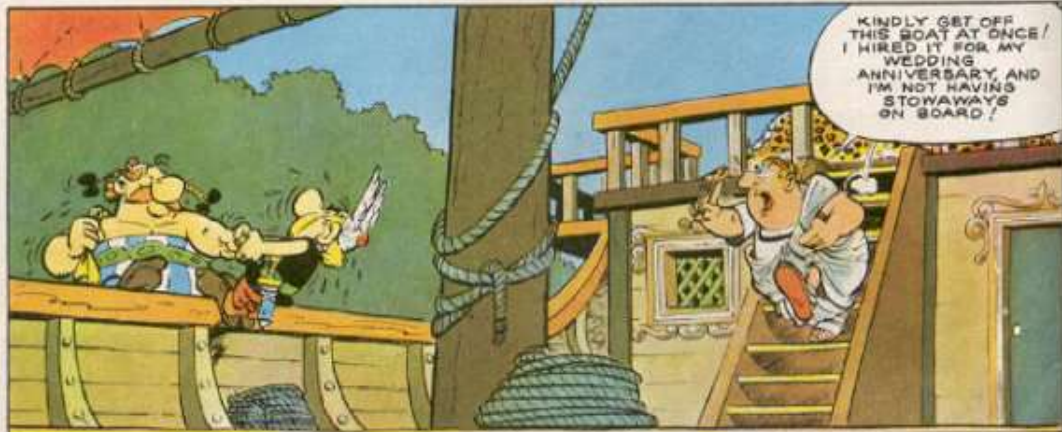


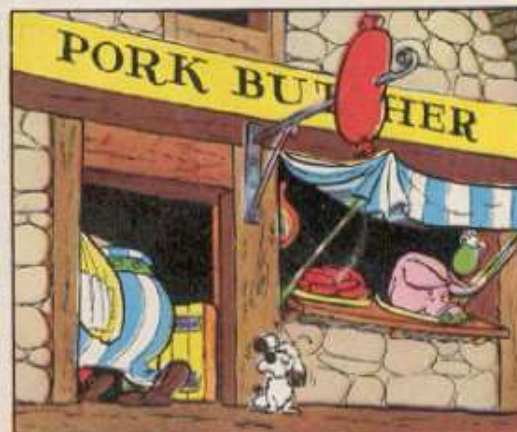




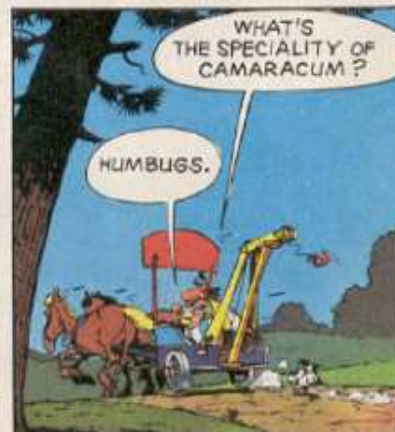


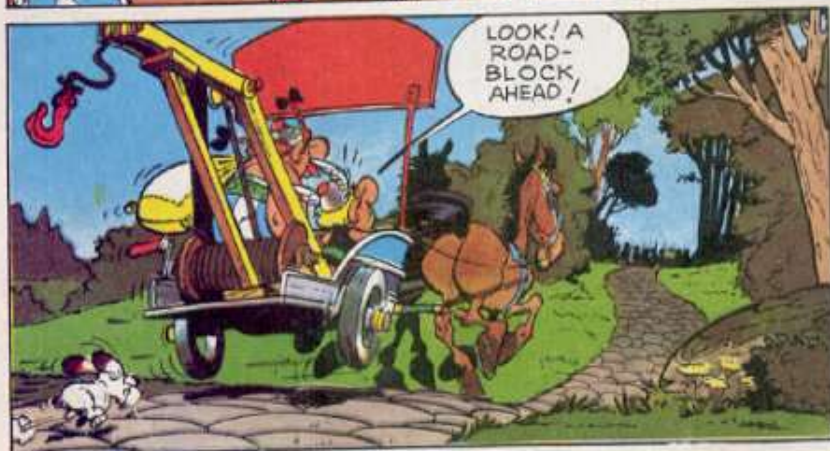










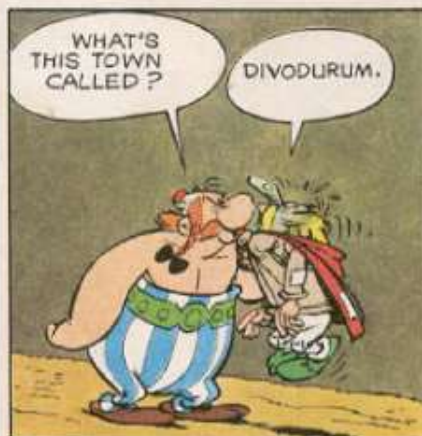


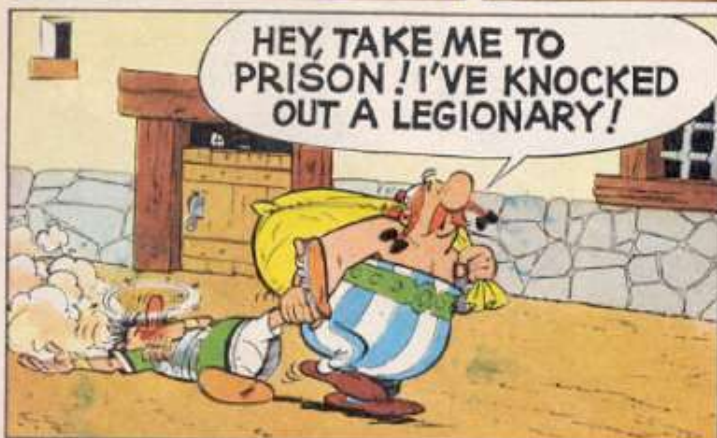


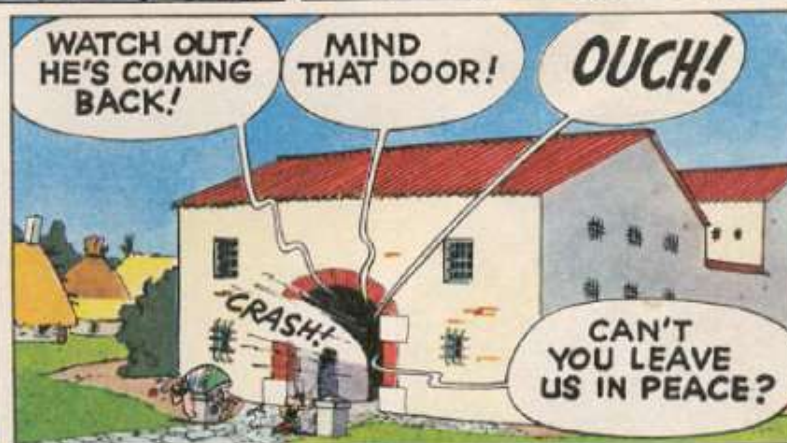


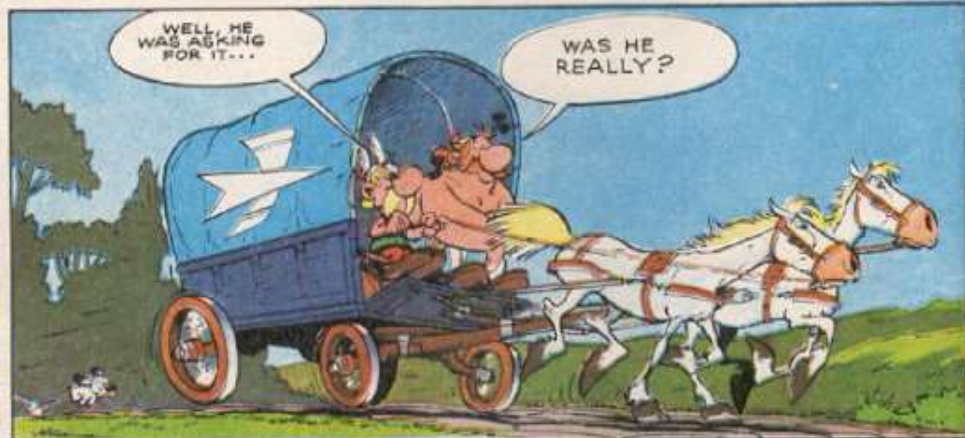












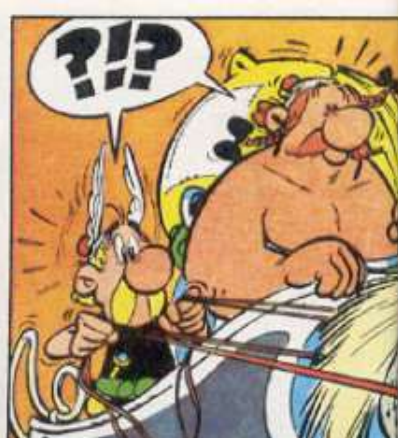






*AN IDEA LATER TAKEN UP BY A FAMOUS TELLER OF FAIRY TALES WHICH GOES TO SHOW THAT IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.







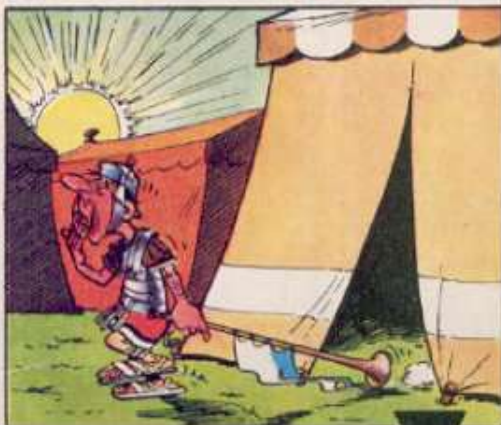


AT LAST, AFTER A LONG SEA JOURNEY, OUR FRIENDS TIE UP AT THE GREAT PORT OF MASSILIA...















AFTER THIS GREAT VICTORY OF MINE I'M SURE TO GET AN ADMINISTRATIVE POST IN ROME.



I WANT TO SEE THE PREFECT, AT ONCE! IT'S IMPORTANT.



WELL, CENTURION? YOU HAVE NEWS FOR ME?

YES, O PREFECT ADIPUS. I'D LIKE YOU TO COME TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOLOSA. I HAVE A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU!



SOON AFTERWARDS.

I LIKE SURPRISES, AND THE EXERCISE WILL DO ME GOOD.

NEARLY THERE. THIS WILL BE QUITE A SURPRISE!



BY JUPITER!



THE PRISONERS! WHERE ARE THE PRISONERS?!

THIS IS YOUR SURPRISE? A SET OF SEMI-CONSCIOUS LEGIONARIES?



THEY WENT OFF SOON AFTER YOU LEFT... THEY SAID THEY HADN'T COME TO TOLOSA TO SEE ANY PREFECT, THEY WANTED SOME OF THE LOCAL SAUSAGE.



SAUSAGE? PREFECT? WHAT ON EARTH IS ALL THIS ABOUT, BY MINERVA?

NOTHING! NOTHING! FORGET IT!

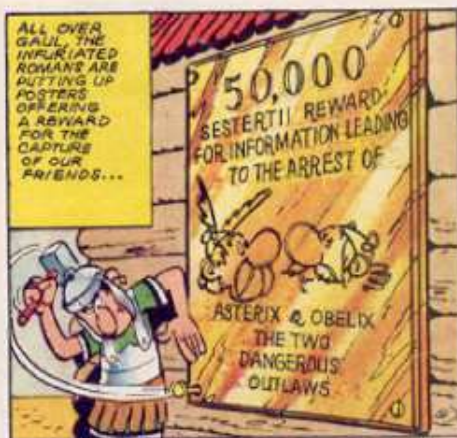
SOBS



MEANWHILE OUR FRIENDS ARE LEAVING TOLOSA...

PRETTY PLACE, TOLOSA... IS THE SAUSAGE NICE?

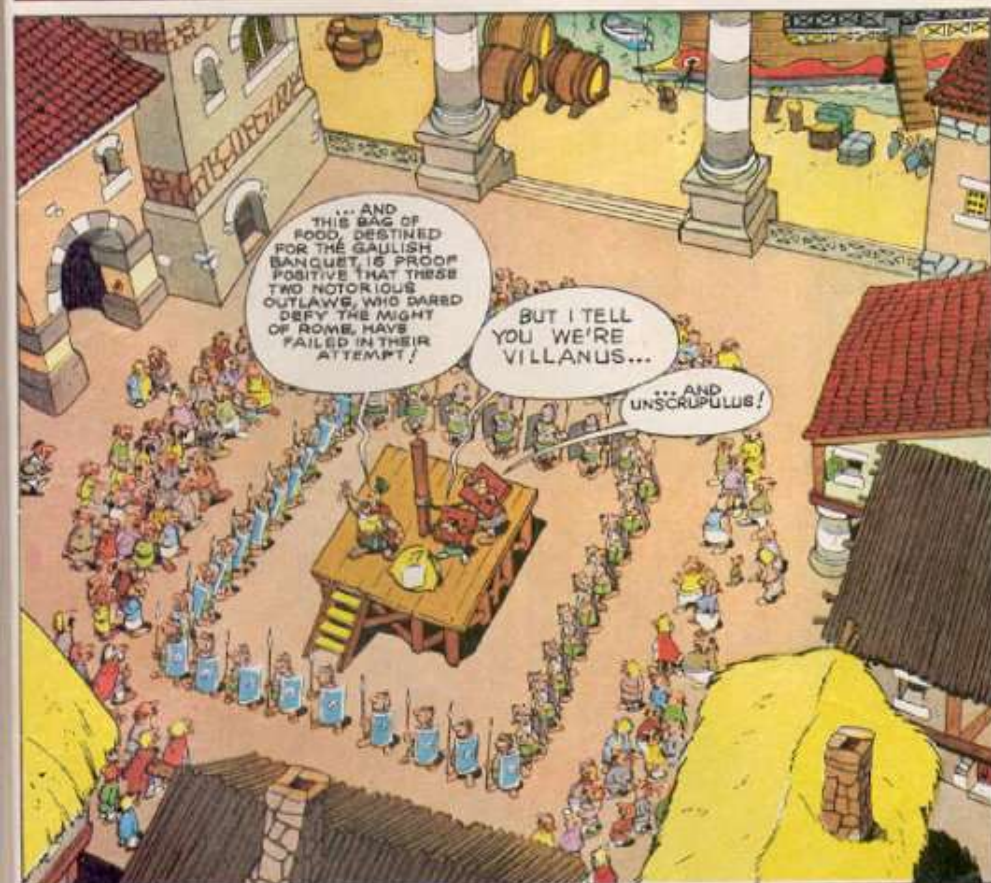
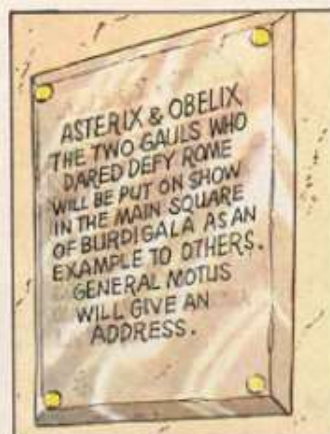
DELICIOUS, OBELIX!





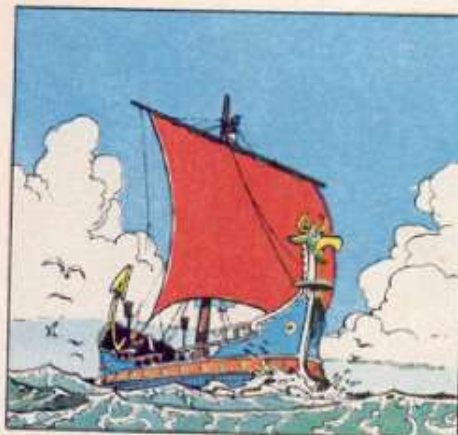












THERE'S NO DANGER OF MEETING ANY ROMANS. THEIR GALLEYS DON'T VENTURE THIS FAR... BUT THERE ARE PIRATES ABOUT!

YOU REALLY THINK WE MIGHT MEET PIRATES?



SURE ENOUGH, ON BOARD ANOTHER SHIP...

AFTER OUR LAST FIGHT, ERIK, WE HAD TO DO AN HONEST JOB OF WORK AND SAVE UP FOR A NEW BOAT... WE HAVEN'T FINISHED PAYING OFF THE INSTALLMENTS YET, SO HERE'S HOPING FOR A VICTIM!



VICTIM TO STARBOARD!



PIRATE TO PORT!



GOODY!



RIGHT, LADS, NOW TAKE IT EASY. DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH! WE MUSTN'T FAIL THIS TIME!

WHY... IT'S... IT'S THEM AGAIN!



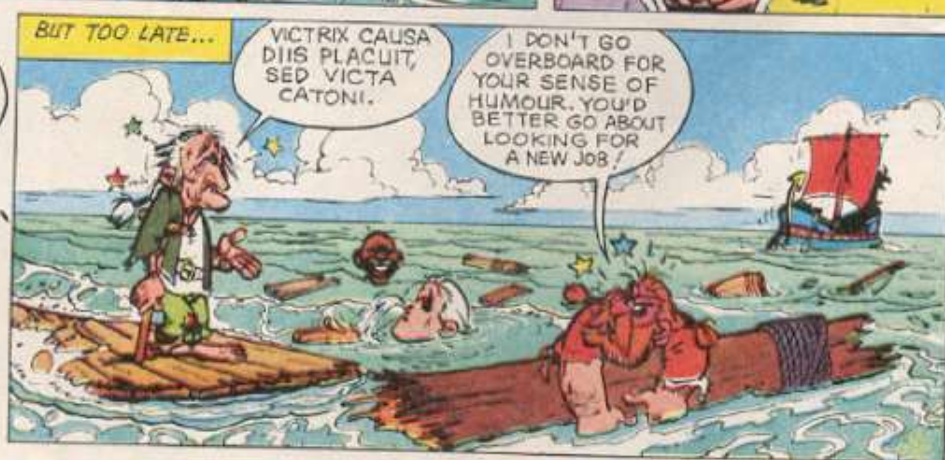
GO ABOUT! QUICK, QUICK! GO ABOUT!

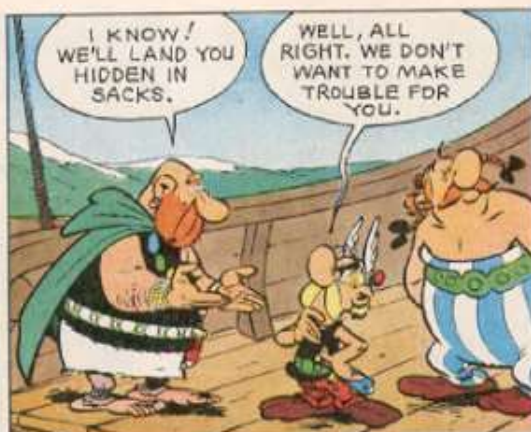


BUT TOO LATE...

VICTRIX CAUSA DIIS PLACUIT, SED VICTA CATONI.

I DON'T GO OVERBOARD FOR YOUR SENSE OF HUMOUR. YOU'D BETTER GO ABOUT LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB!









AND THAT EVENING OVER-ANXIUS COMES, GNASHING HIS TEETH, TO SINK THEM IN THE EVIDENCE...



HERE ARE THE THINGS TO EAT AND DRINK WE'VE BROUGHT BACK FROM ALL OVER GAUL... HAM FROM LUTETIA, HUMBUGS FROM CAMARACUM, DUROCORTORUM WINE...



... SAUSAGE FROM TOLOSA, SAUSAGE FROM LUGDUNUM, SALAD FROM NICA, FISH STEW FROM MASSILLA, OYSTERS AND WINE FROM BURDISALA.



BUT THERE'S STILL ONE COURSE MISSING... THE SPECIALITY OF THIS VILLAGE!

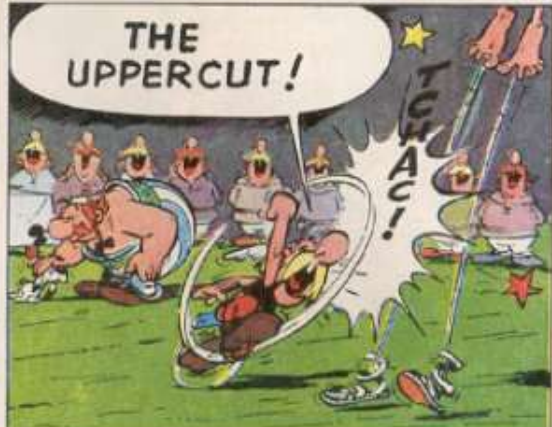


QUITE RIGHT, OBELIX!



O, OVERANXIUS YOU KNOW WHICH CUT OF MEAT IS OUR OWN SPECIALITY?

THE UPPERCUT!



AND OUR FRIENDS HOLD A MAGNIFICENT BANQUET TO CELEBRATE THEIR TRIUMPHANT TOUR OF GAUL, PUTTING BACK ALL THE DELICIOUS FOOD AND WINE OF THEIR BEAUTIFUL AND BELOVED COUNTRY... AS INSPECTOR GENERAL OVERANXIUS COULD CONFIRM, IT IS A GENUINE THREE-STAR MEAL...

