

A LUCKY LUKE ADVENTURE

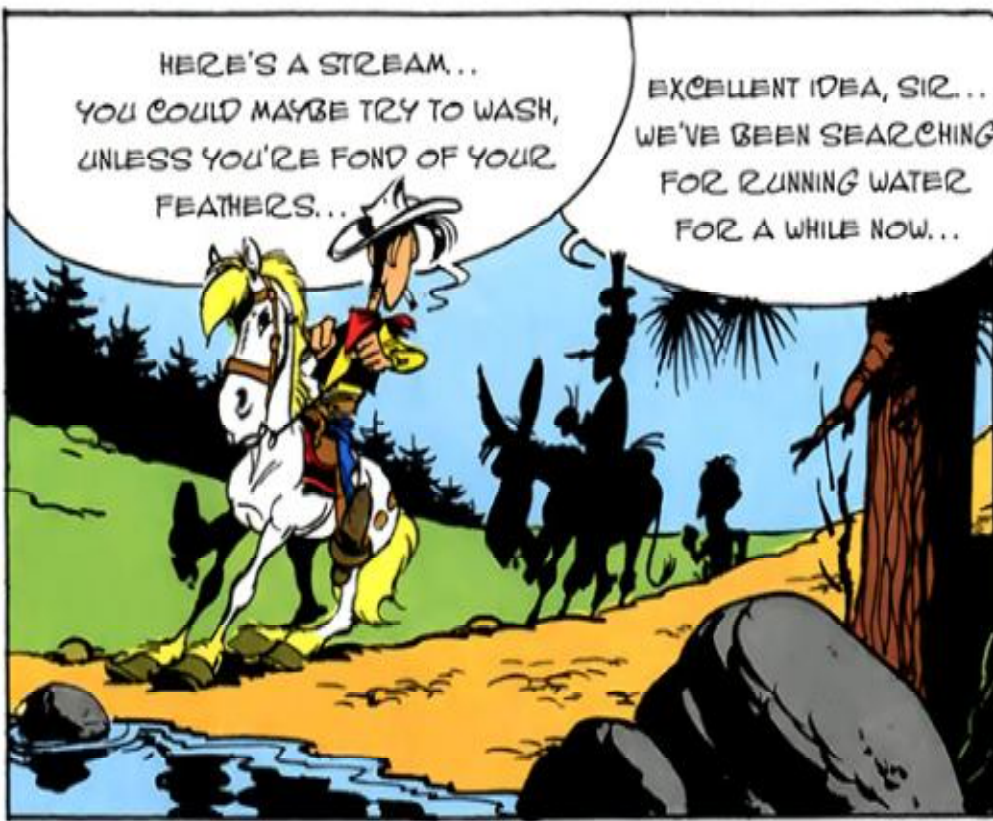
2

GHOST TOWN

MORRIS &
GOSCINNY

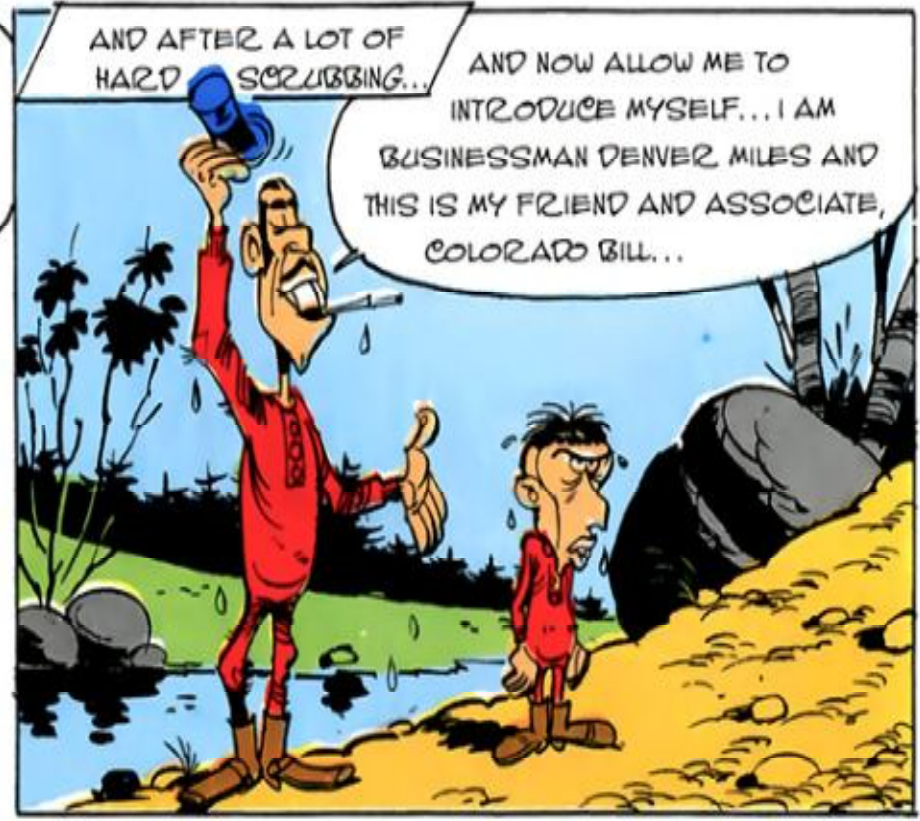






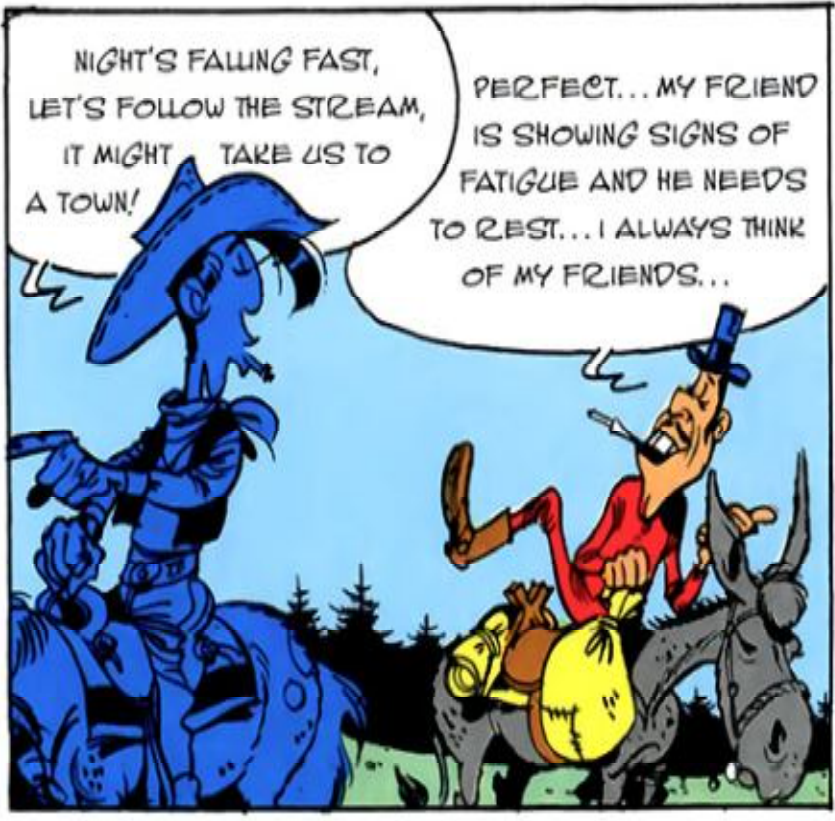
HERE'S A STREAM... YOU COULD MAYBE TRY TO WASH, UNLESS YOU'RE FOND OF YOUR FEATHERS...

EXCELLENT IDEA, SIR... WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR RUNNING WATER FOR A WHILE NOW...



AND AFTER A LOT OF HARD SCRUBBING...

AND NOW ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... I AM BUSINESSMAN DENVER MILES AND THIS IS MY FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE, COLORADO BILL...



NIGHT'S FALLING FAST, LET'S FOLLOW THE STREAM, IT MIGHT TAKE US TO A TOWN!

PERFECT... MY FRIEND IS SHOWING SIGNS OF FATIGUE AND HE NEEDS TO REST... I ALWAYS THINK OF MY FRIENDS...



SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

A TOWN!



24



A GHOST TOWN... BORN IN SOME GOLD RUSH AND ABANDONED SOON AFTER...

THERE'S A SALOON, OVER THERE...



BULLET HOLES... IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIVELY HERE...

A REAL DIVE. LOOK, THERE'S STILL A CARD ON THE GROUND...

I BET YOUR HORSE AND YOUR CLOTHES THAT IT'S CLUBS.



YEEBOUCH!...

EXCUSE MY FRIEND... HE'S DRINKING...

INSTEAD OF JOKING, LET'S LOOK FOR SOMEWHERE TO SLEEP IN THIS DANDY LITTLE CITY.

28

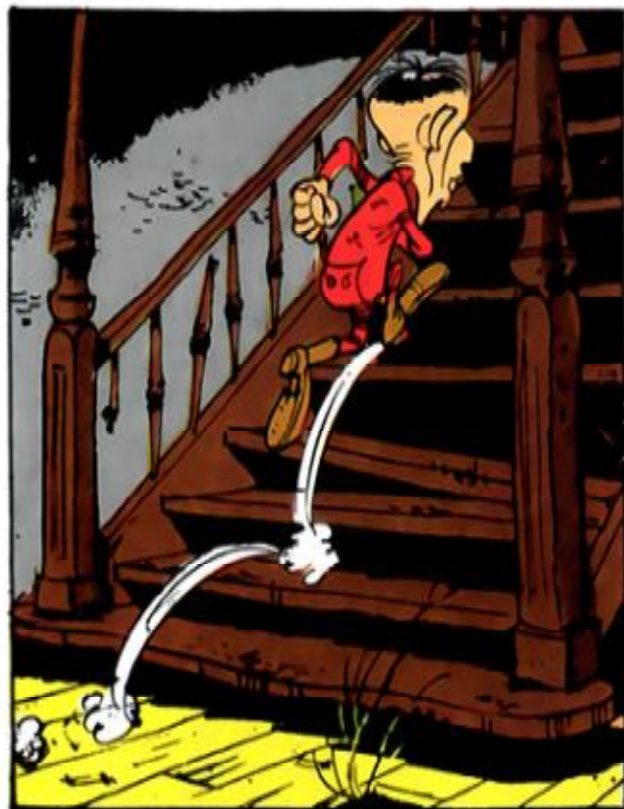


I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT THERE MAY BE A VACANCY IN THIS HOTEL...



THE ROOMS MUST BE UPSTAIRS...

THE FIRST TO REACH THE TOP WINS 20 DOLLARS!



Crashboombang!



EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME THAT OLD, NEGLECTED STAIRCASES CAN BE DANGEROUS...



YEEBOUCH!

RIGHT, WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO SLEEP IN THE HALL. GOOD NIGHT!...

THWACK!

ALWAYS IN A HURRY, COLORADO! IT'LL ONLY CAUSE YOU TROUBLE!...



DURING THE NIGHT...

COME ON, COLORADO! IT'S TIME TO STEAL THIS SUCKER'S HORSE...

AND HIS STUFF...



BANG!



KIND SIR, ONCE AGAIN WE ARE VICTIMS OF A TERRIBLE MISTAKE... YOU THOUGHT WE WANTED TO STEAL YOUR HORSE...

AND YOUR STUFF...

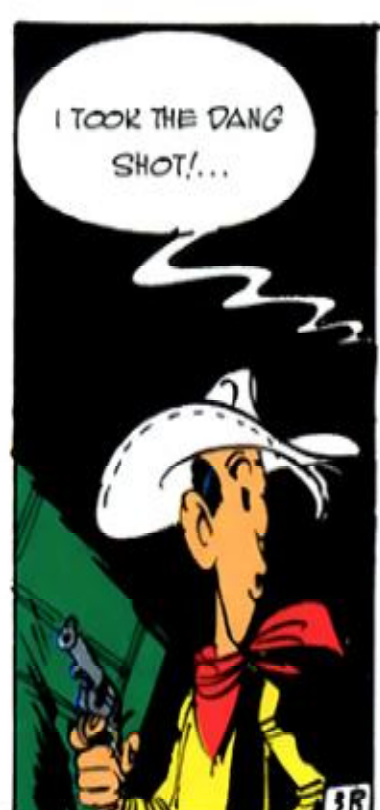


... BUT WE ONLY WANTED TO GET SOME FRESH AIR... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOOT AT US...

IT WASN'T ME WHO SHOT AT YOU... I WAS WOKEN BY THE GUNSHOT... JUST IN TIME, IT SEEMS...

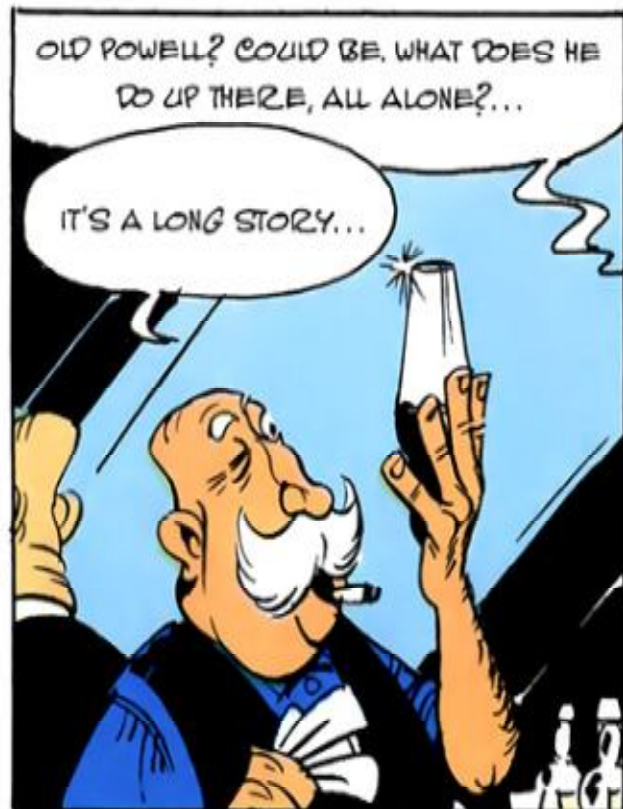
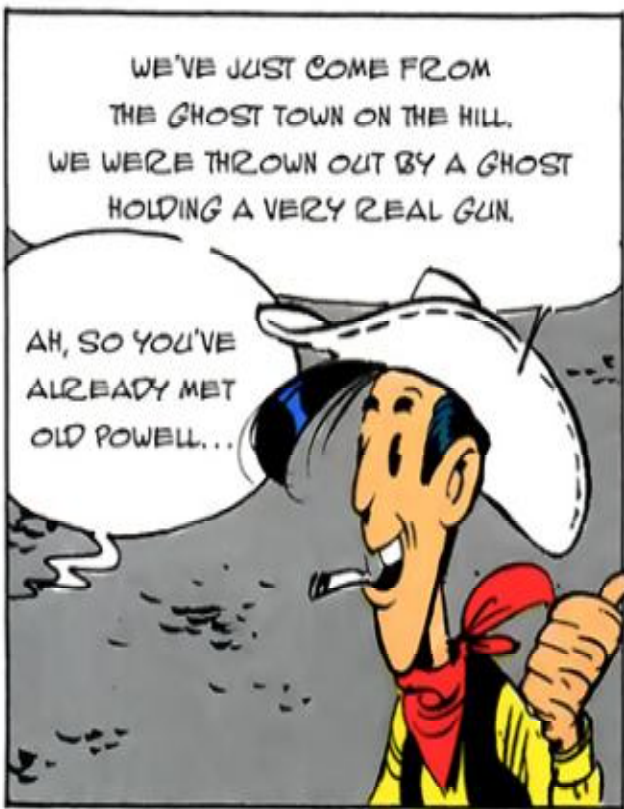
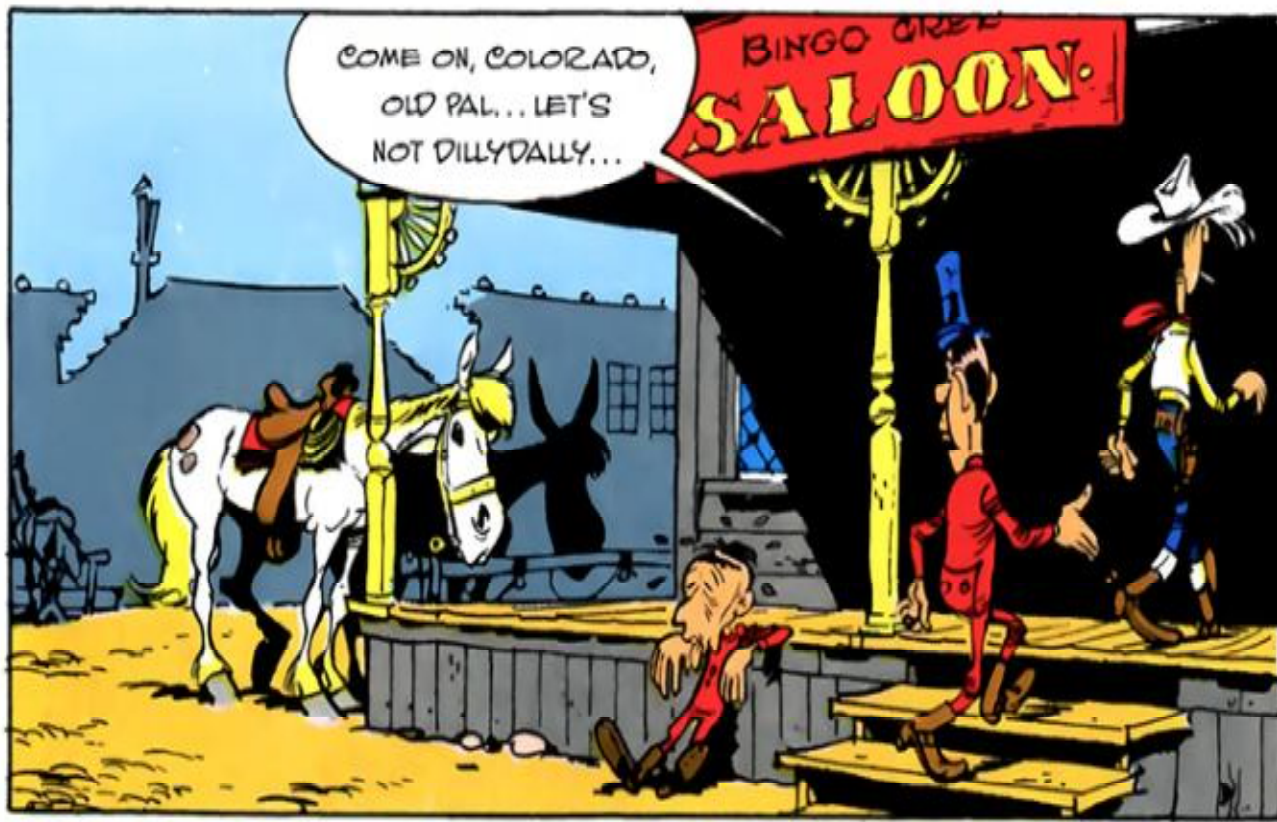
THWACK!

YEEBOUCH!



I TOOK THE DANG SHOT!...





A GOOD MANY YEARS AGO, POWELL, THEN A YOUNG PROSPECTOR, CAME BACK FROM A TRIP SPENT LOOKING FOR GOLD. HE CAME BACK EMPTY-HANDED.



... ONE NIGHT HE MET A MAN WHO TOLD HIM THAT HE'D FOUND GOLD. THE MAN EXPLAINED THAT HE COULD NOT EXPLOIT THE MINE, BECAUSE OF HIS HEALTH, HE WAS OBLIGED TO HEAD EAST...



... TO PROVE HIS WORD, THE MAN DUG AT RANDOM IN THE ROCK TO TAKE SOME SAMPLES...



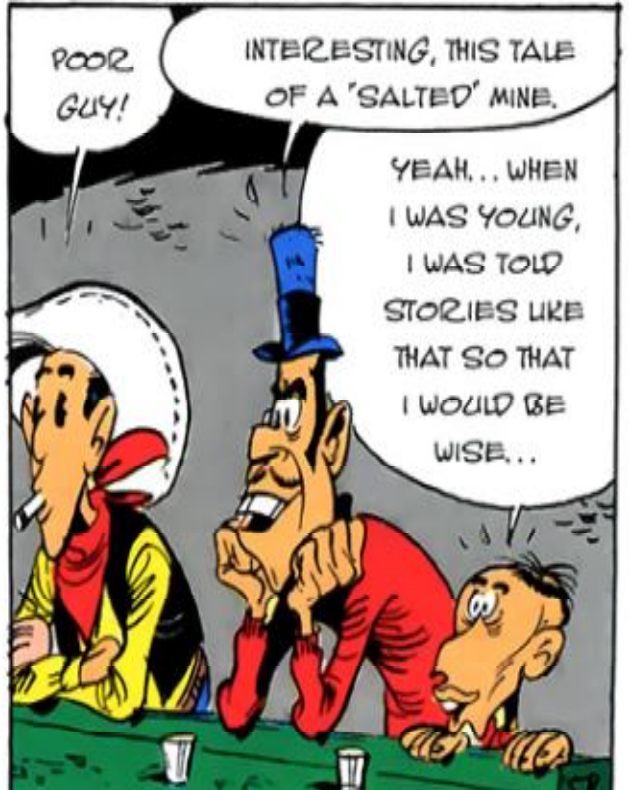
... WASHED IN THE RIVER, THESE SAMPLES REVEALED TO POWELL'S AMAZED EYES A FEW GRAINS OF GOLD...



... WHAT POWELL DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT THE MAN HAD PLANTED THE GOLD IN THE ROCK SO HE COULD TRICK SOMEONE NAÏVE ENOUGH...



... FILLED WITH JOY, POWELL GAVE THE MAN ALL THE MONEY HE HAD LEFT. THE MAN DISAPPEARED FOREVER, AND POWELL WENT TO CERTIFY HIS TITLE TO THE PROPERTY AT THE MINE OFFICE IN BINGO CREEK.



... BUT SOON, BY WORD OF MOUTH, FROM INDIAN TO MEXICAN...



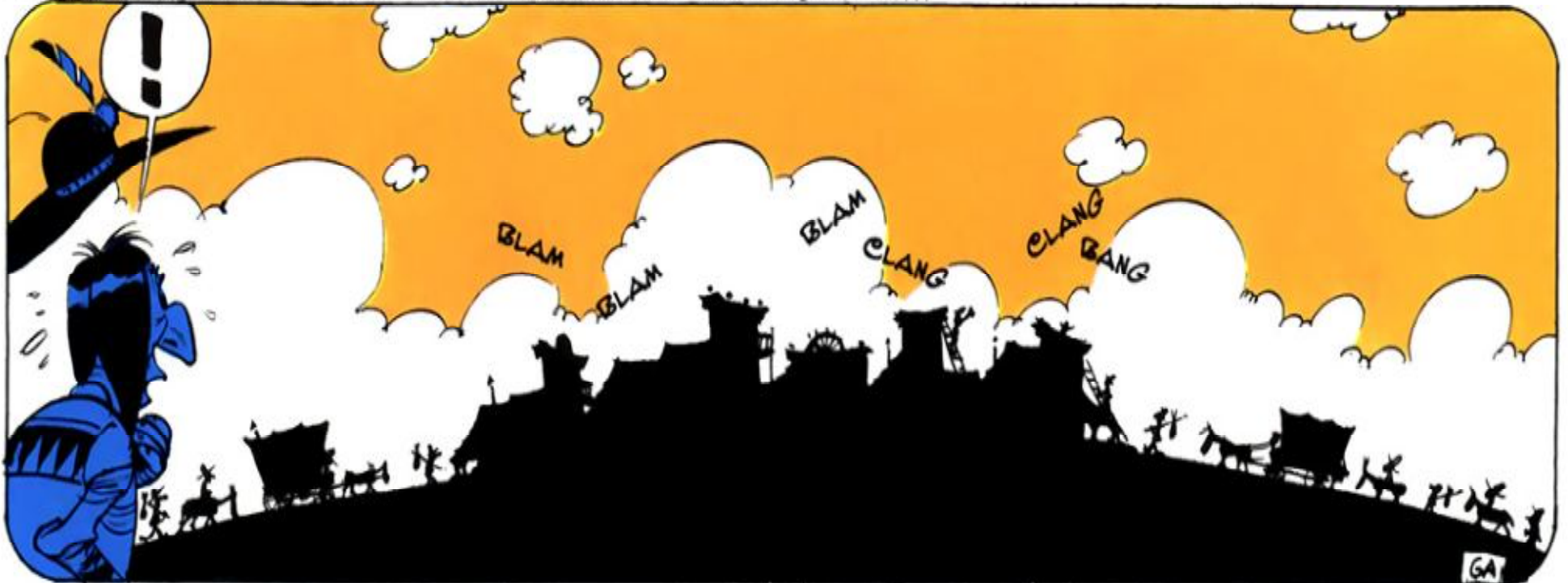
... FROM MEXICAN TO COWBOY...



... FROM COWBOY TO BARTENDER, THE WORD PASSED AROUND ON THE HILL, THERE WAS GOLD!...



... THERE WAS A HUGE RUSH OF GOLD SEEKERS ON THE HILL, FOLLOWED BY A WHOLE HERD OF GAMBLERS, PAWNBROKERS, DESPERADOS. THESE MEN CAME FROM EVERY HORIZON TO BUILD GOLD HILL...



... BUT, OF COURSE, NO ONE WOULD FIND ANY GOLD, STARTING WITH POWELL.

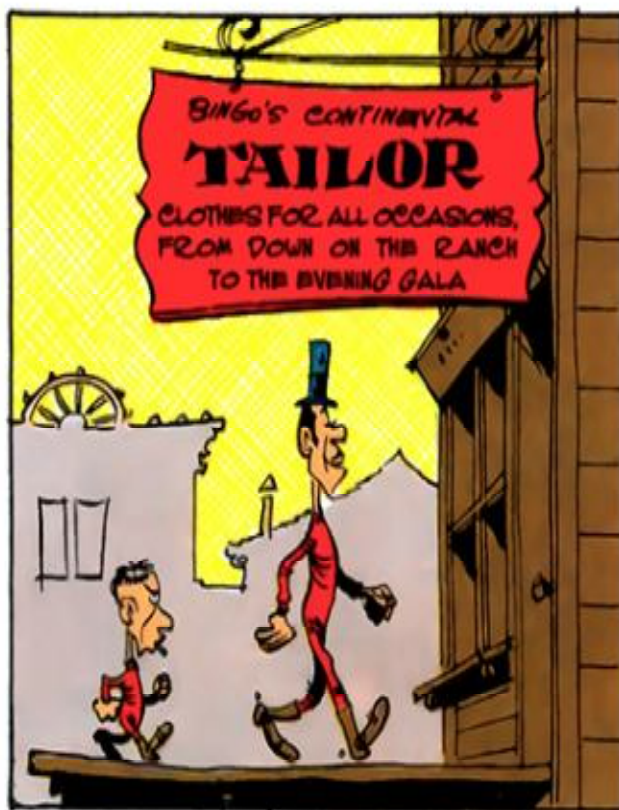


... THE INHABITANTS LEFT AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAME, AND SOON THE BOOMTOWN WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A DEAD TOWN, A GHOST TOWN...

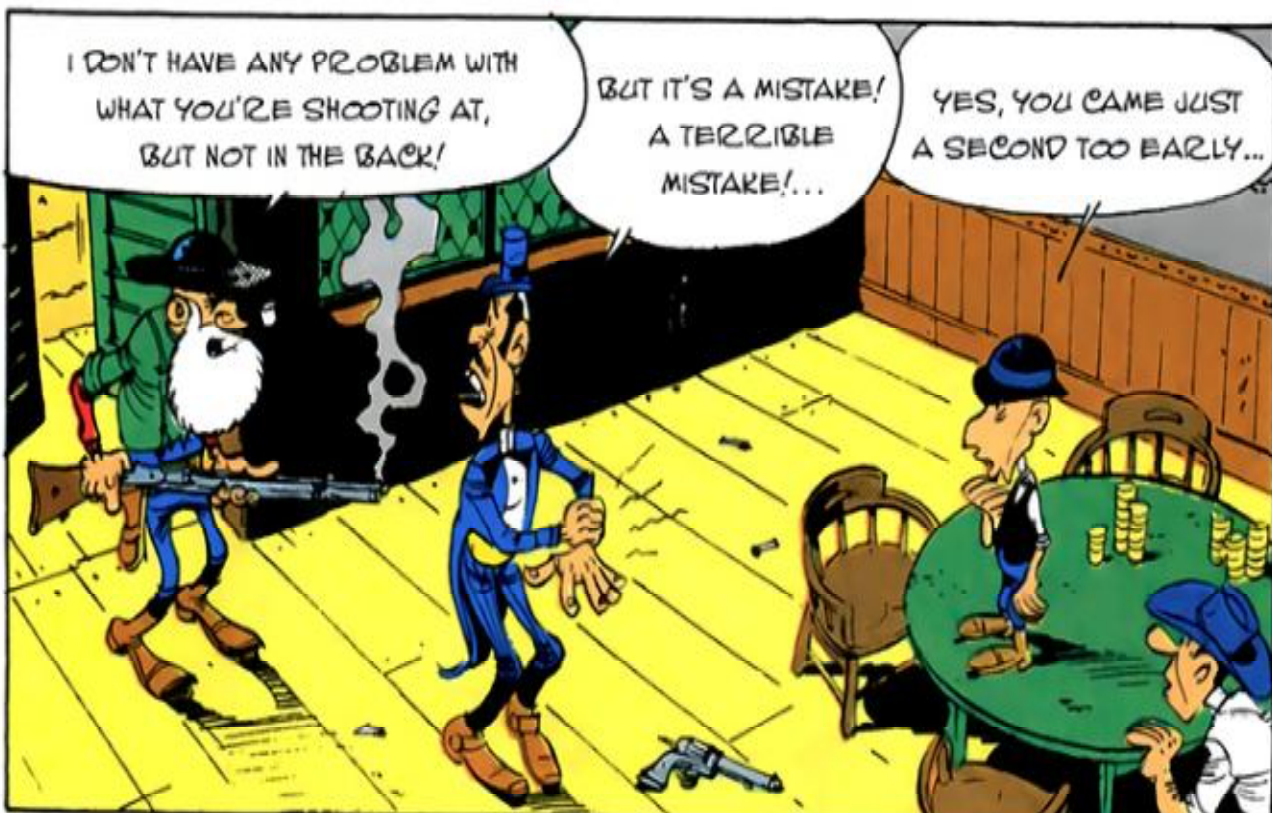


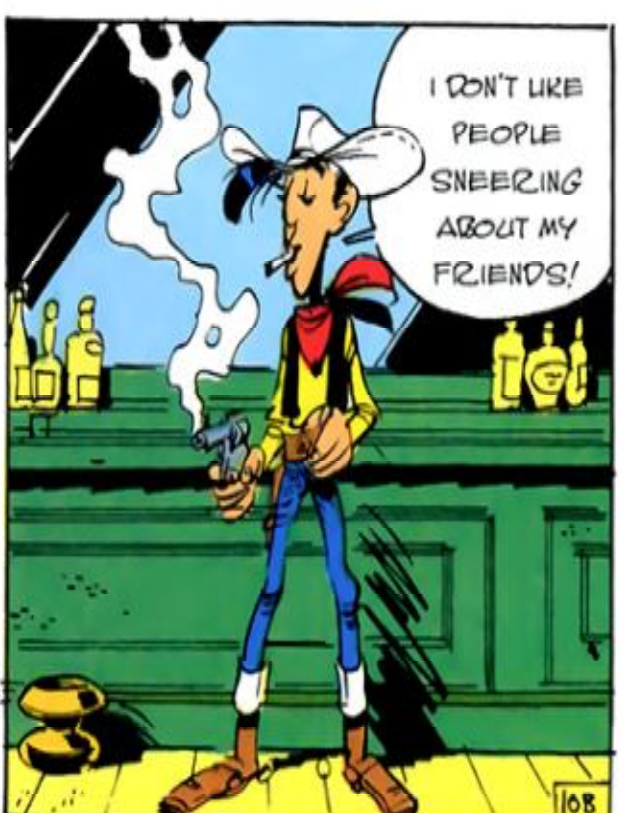
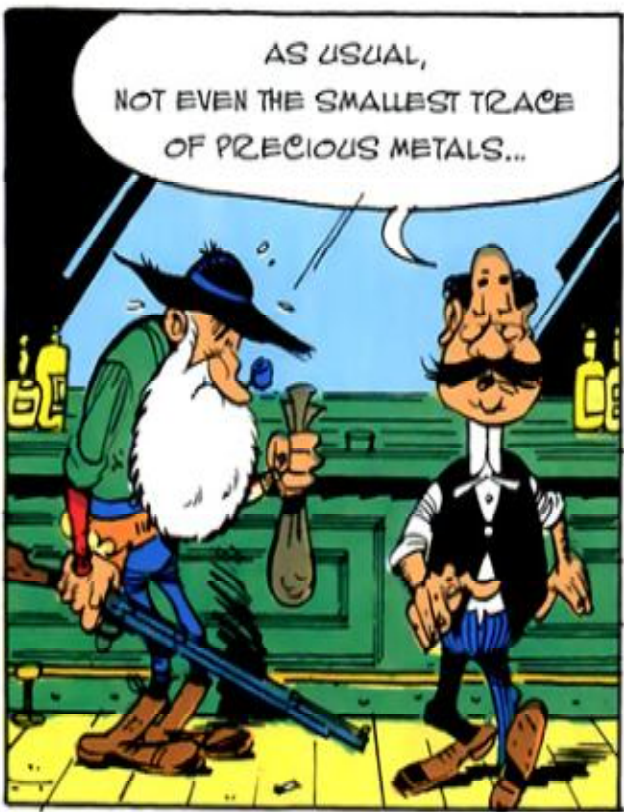
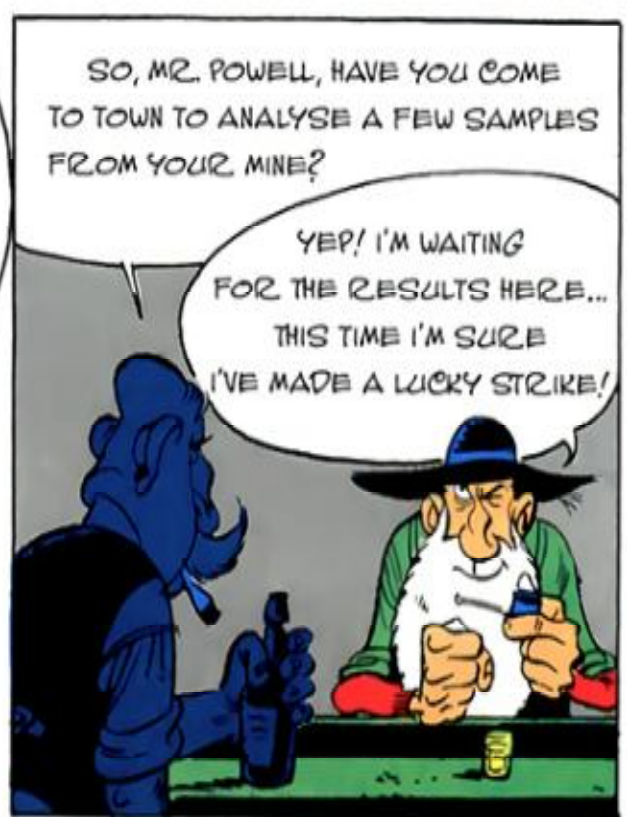
... THE ONLY ONE TO STAY WAS POWELL, WHO, REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE OBVIOUS, CONTINUED TO DIG HIS MINE...

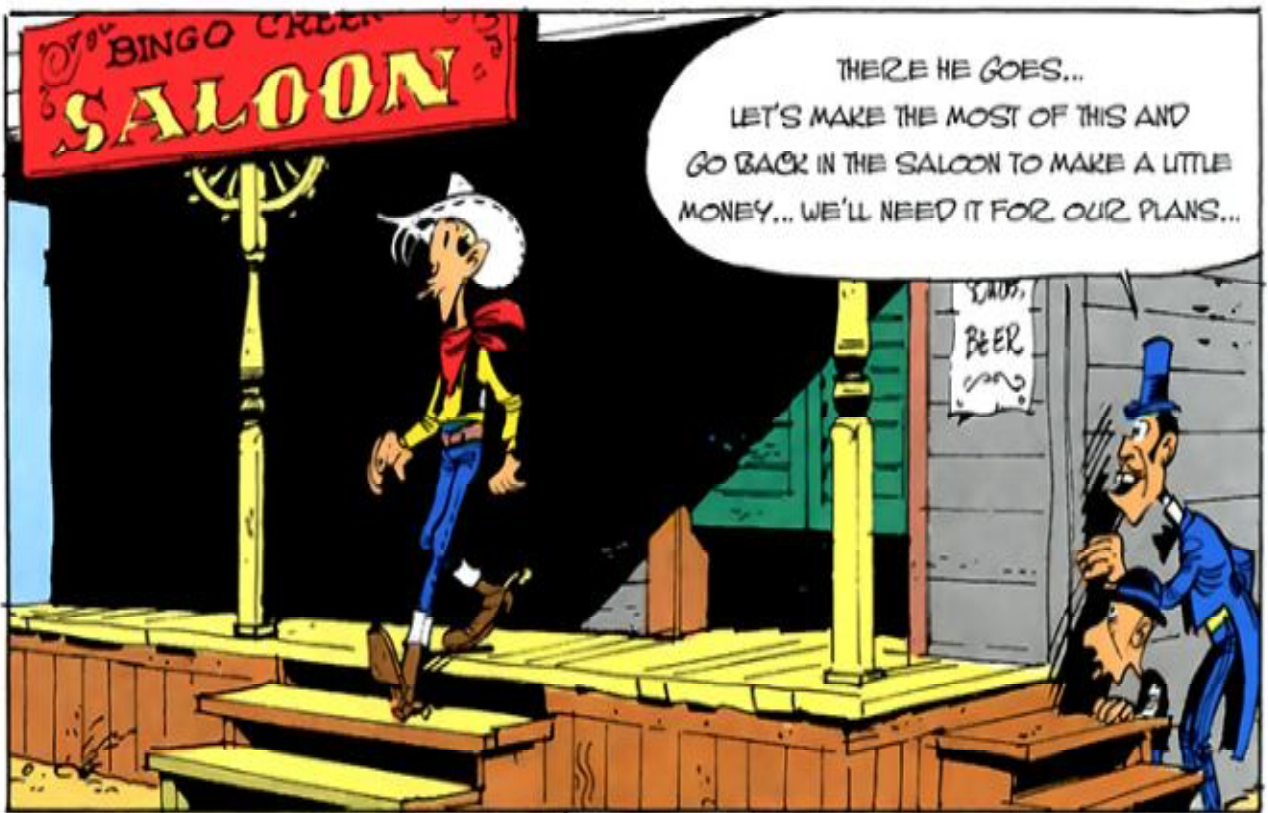


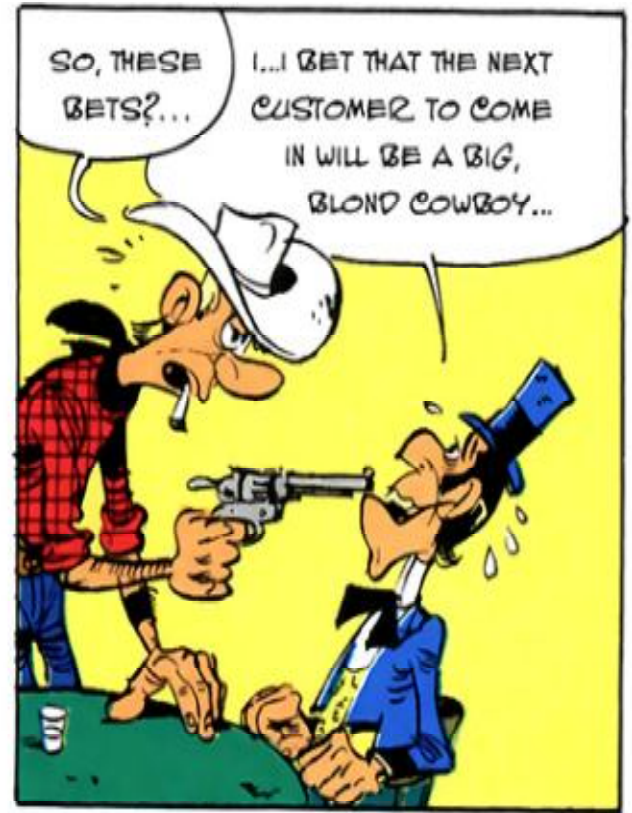
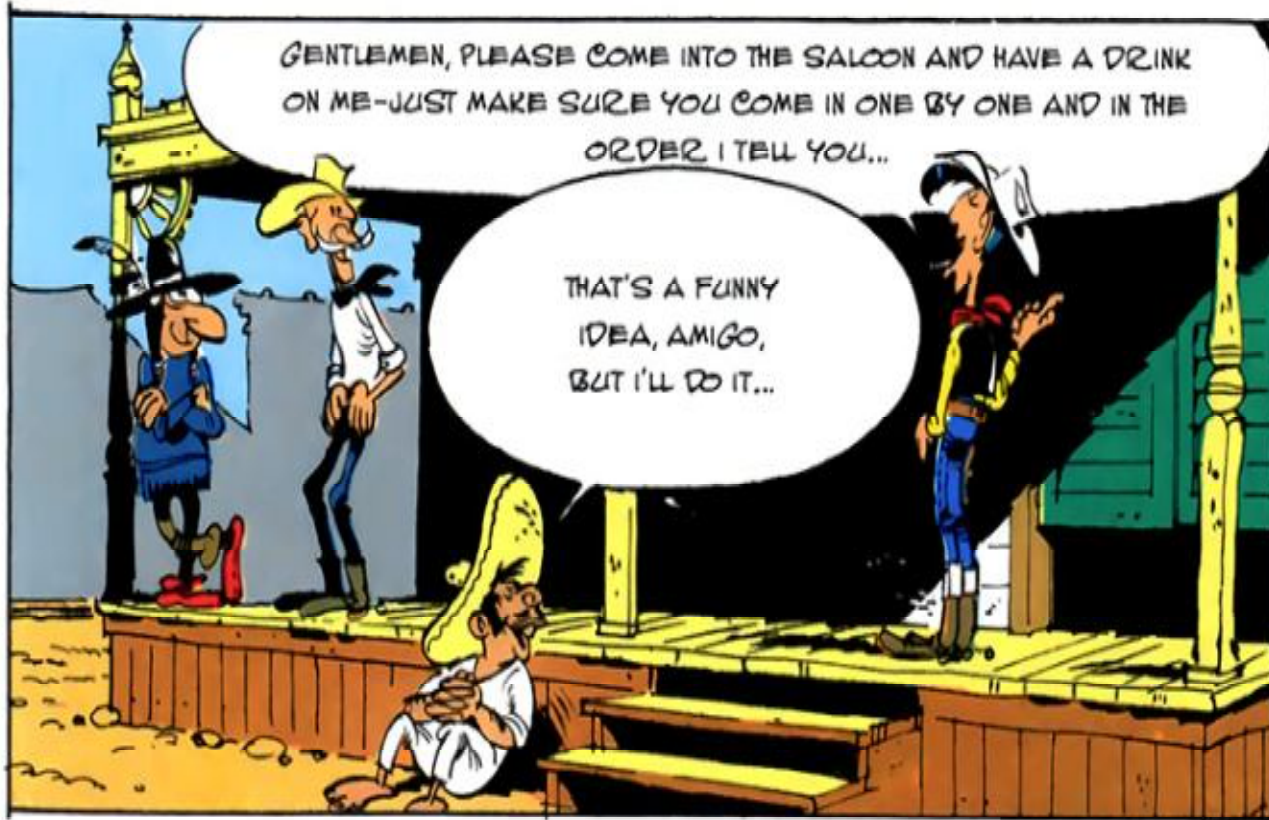


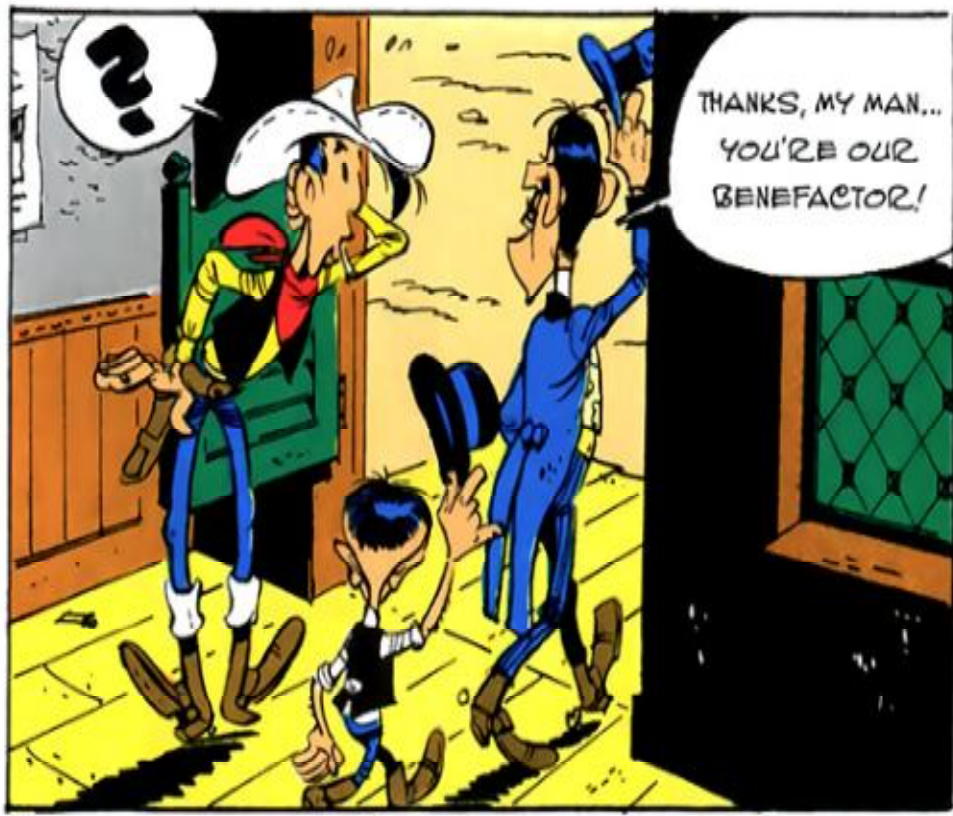








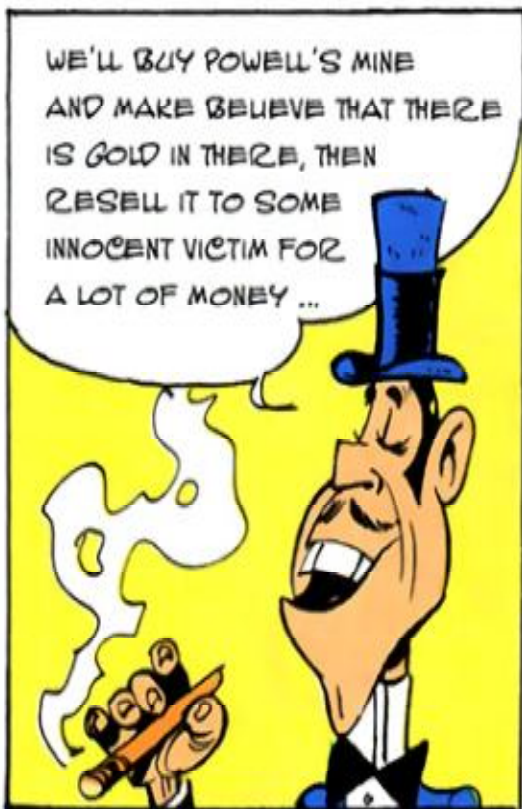




THANKS, MY MAN... YOU'RE OUR BENEFACTOR!



STARTING TOMORROW MORNING, WE WILL INVEST THIS MONEY IN THE BUSINESS THAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT...



WE'LL BUY POWELL'S MINE AND MAKE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS GOLD IN THERE, THEN RESELL IT TO SOME INNOCENT VICTIM FOR A LOT OF MONEY ...



THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

IT WILL BE EASY TO CONVINCЕ PEOPLE... THERE ARE LOTS WHO THINK THAT POWELL ISN'T WRONG AND THAT THERE IS GOLD IN HIS MINE...

WHAT WILL BE DIFFICULT WILL BE CONVINCING POWELL...



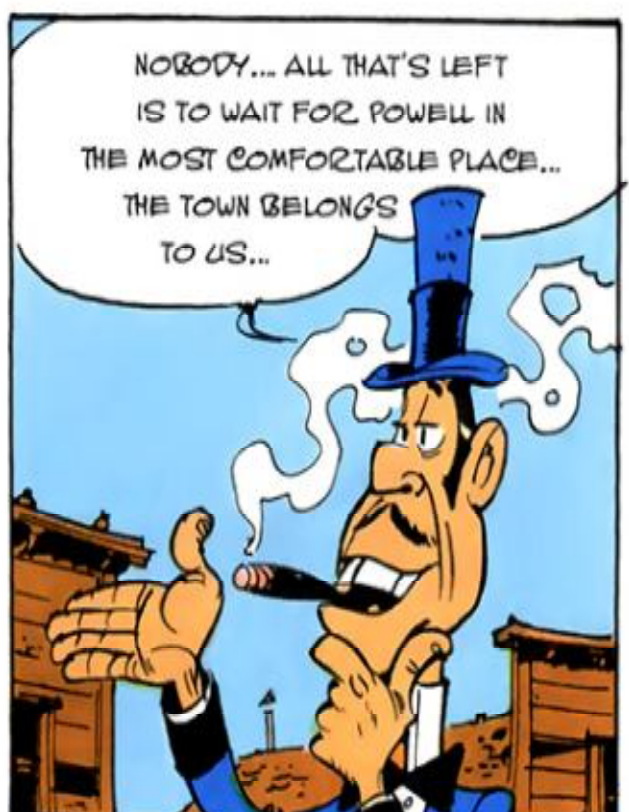
AND WHAT'S MORE, HIS GHOST TOWN GIVES ME THE SHIVERS...

DON'T BE STUPID, COLORADO! BESIDES, WE'RE HERE NOW!



MR. POWELL!

NOT SO LOUD... HE MIGHT HEAR YOU...



NOBODY... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO WAIT FOR POWELL IN THE MOST COMFORTABLE PLACE... THE TOWN BELONGS TO US...



COLORADO!...



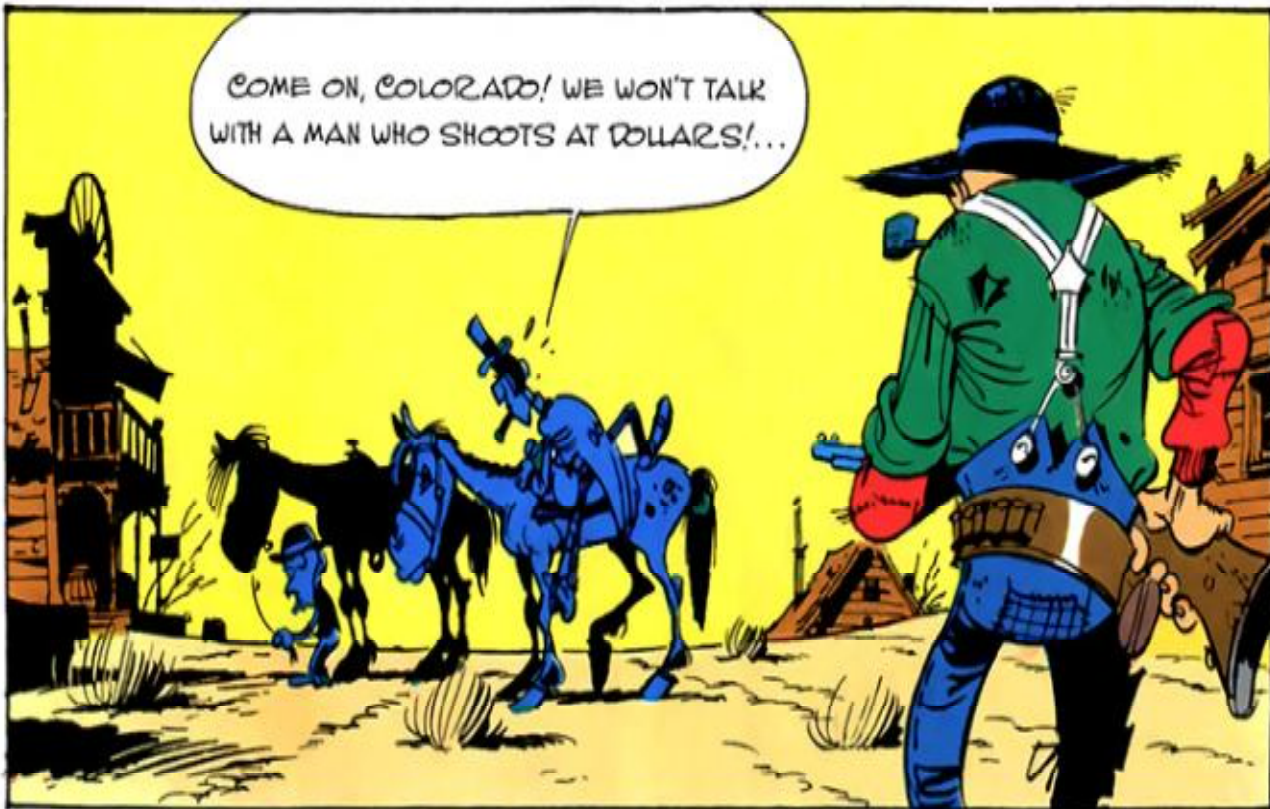
SORRY... IT'S A HABIT... AND ABOUT THAT, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO QUIT HITTING MY NEW HAT!

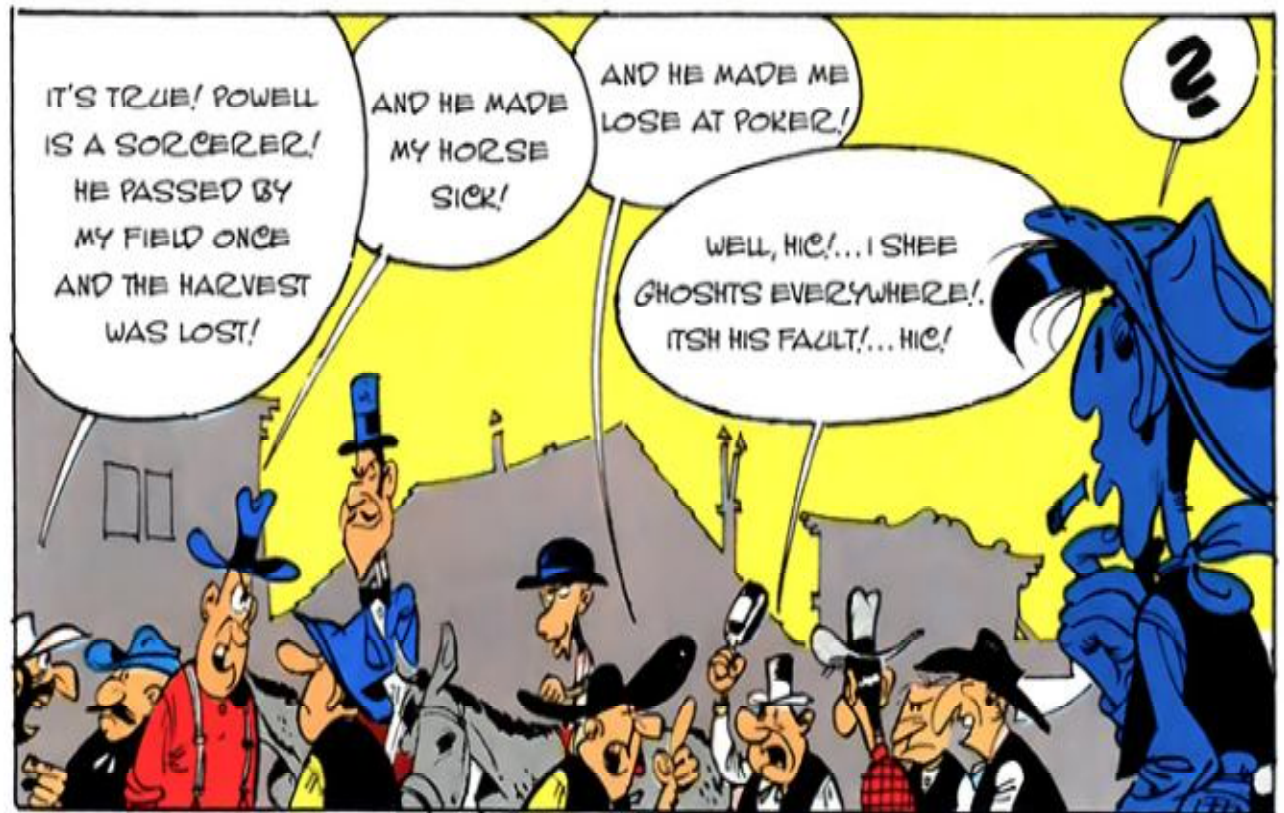
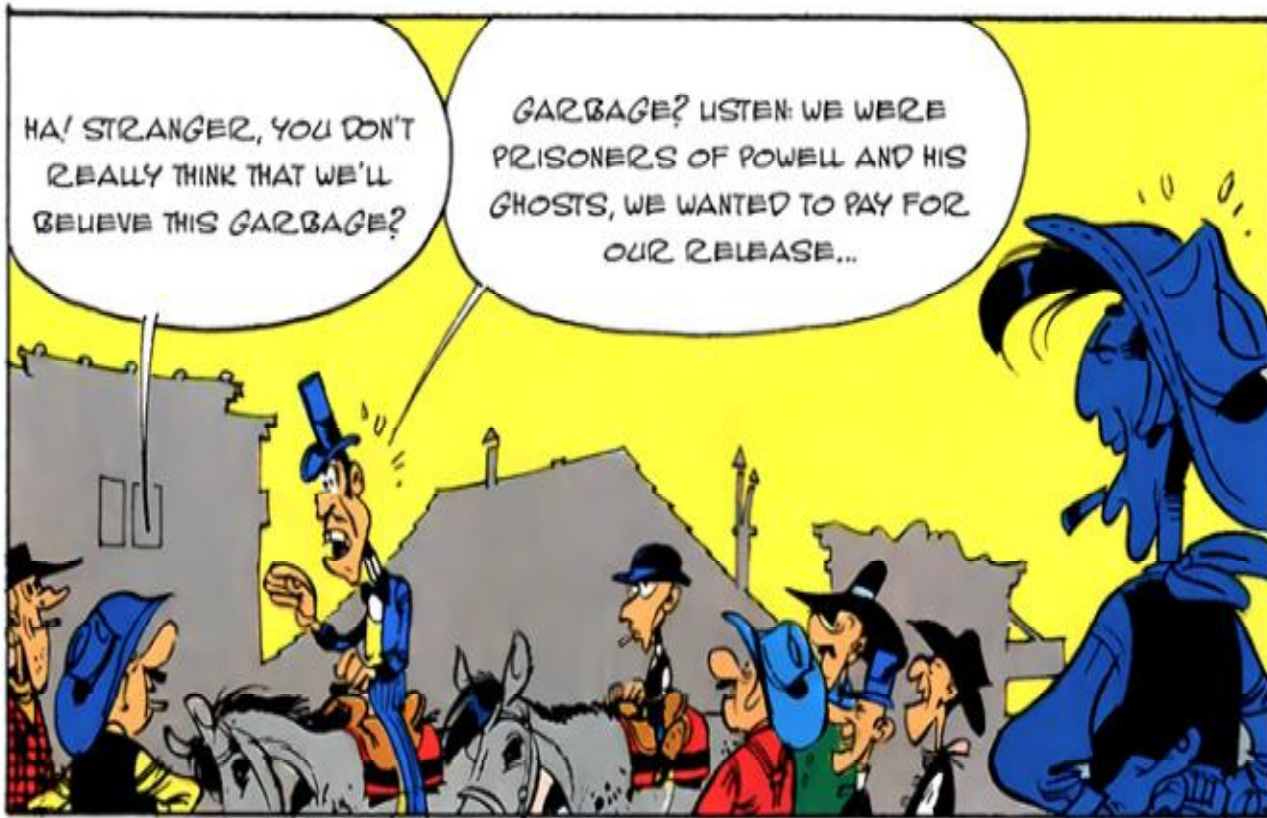
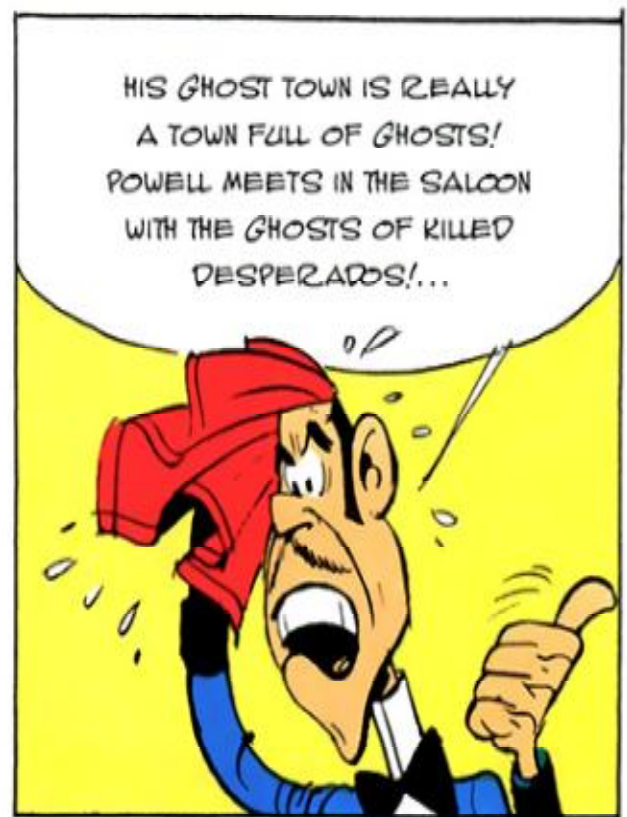
LET'S GO INTO THE SALOON INSTEAD!

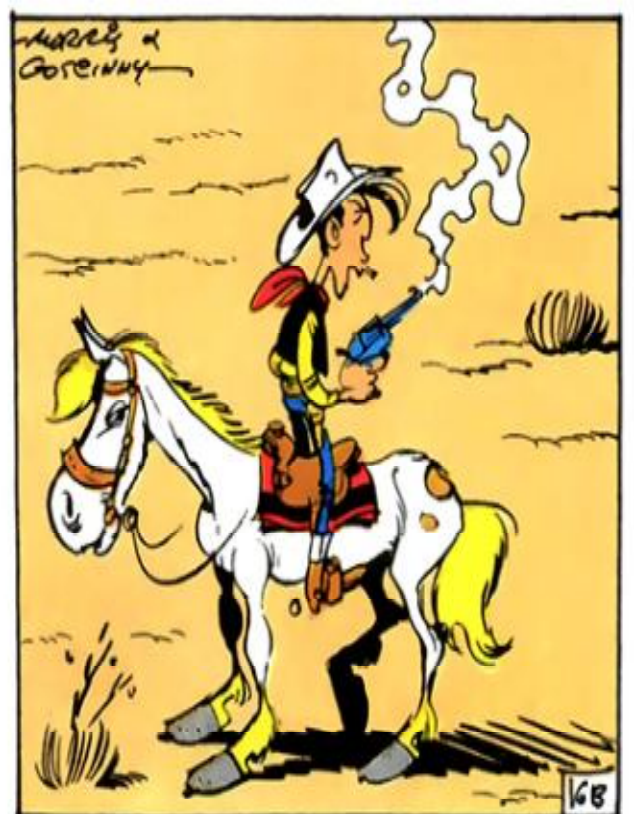
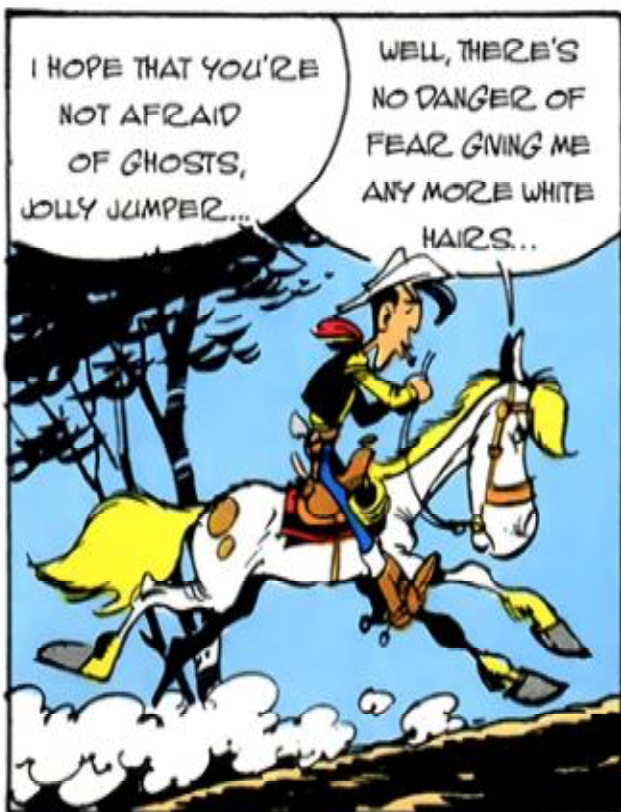
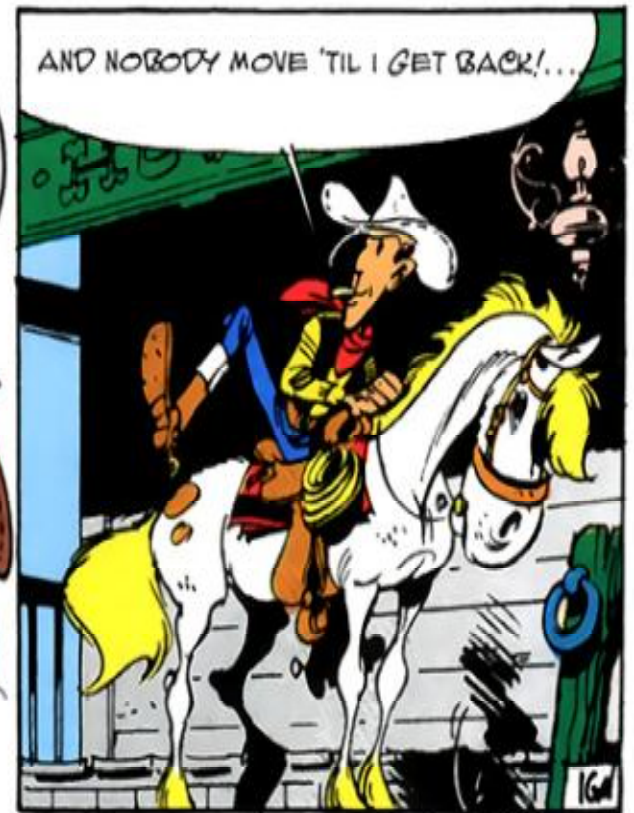


I'LL TAKE A DRINK...

LEAD IN YOUR REARS IF YOU DON'T BOTH GET OUT RIGHT NOW!



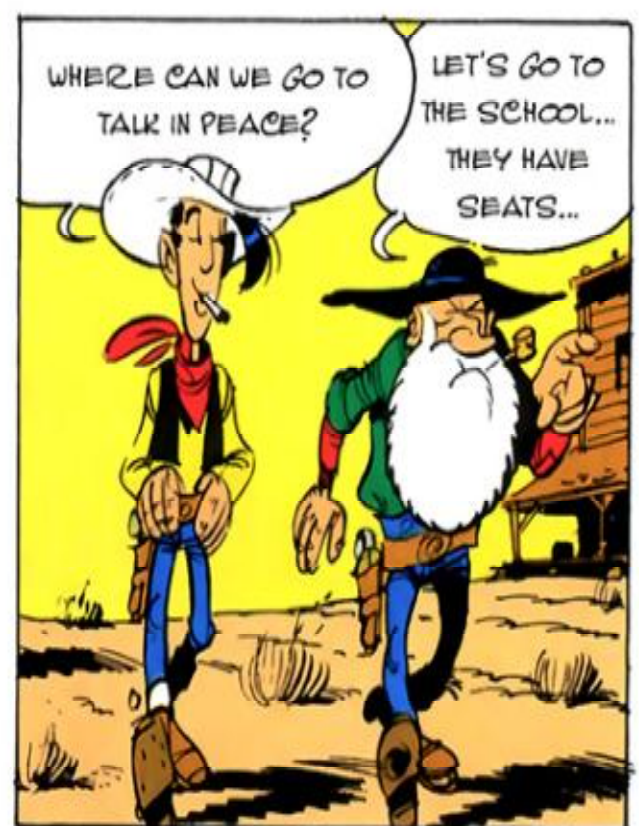






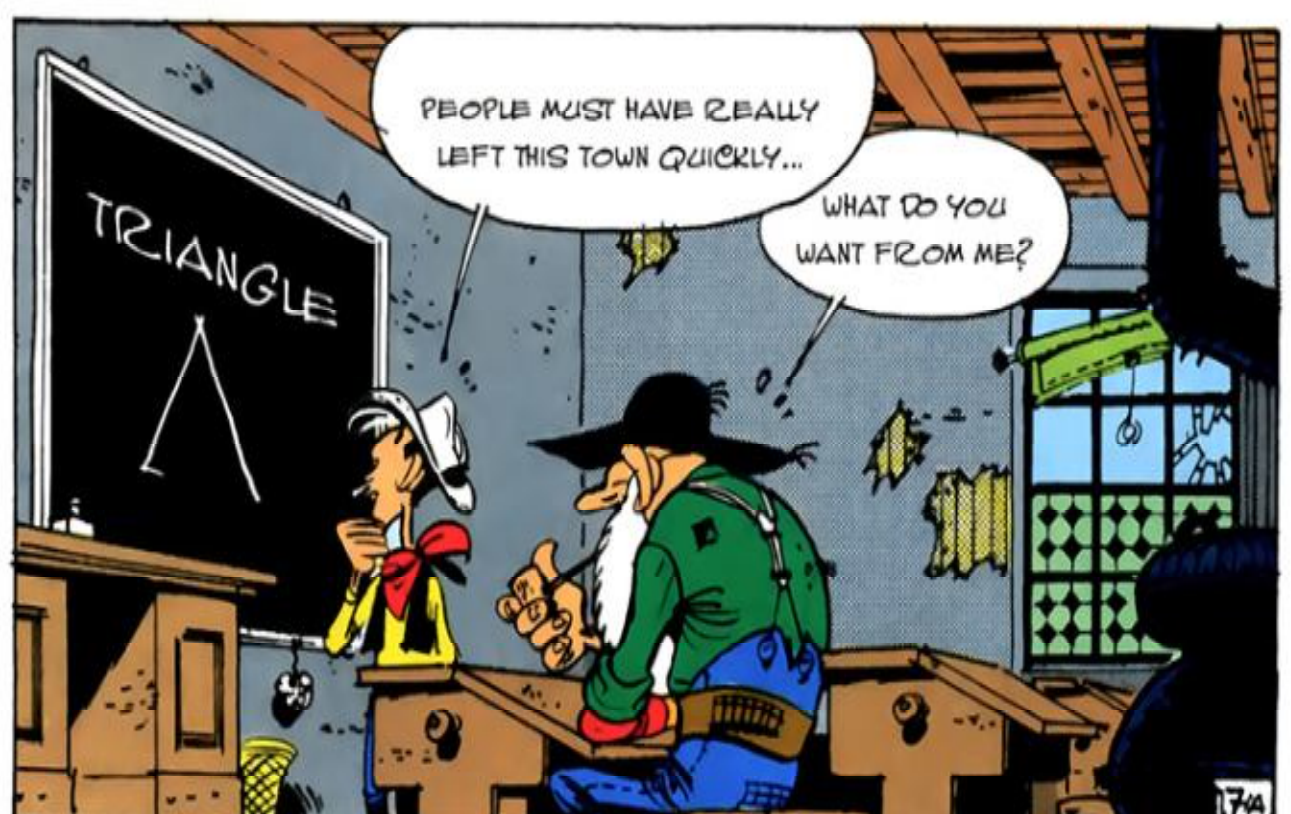
YOU OBVIOUSLY WANT TO KILL ME AND TAKE MY MINE!
SO DO IT QUICK!

DON'T TALK NONSENSE AND
PUT DOWN YOUR ARMS!...



WHERE CAN WE GO TO
TALK IN PEACE?

LET'S GO TO
THE SCHOOL...
THEY HAVE
SEATS...



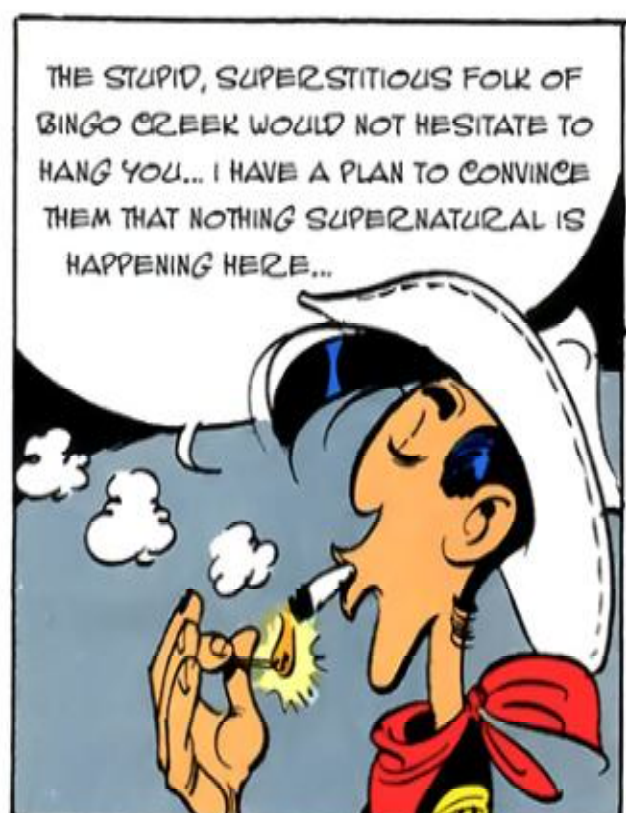
PEOPLE MUST HAVE REALLY
LEFT THIS TOWN QUICKLY...

WHAT DO YOU
WANT FROM ME?



THERE ARE RUMOURS
SPREADING THAT YOU'RE A
SORCERER, FOR REASONS
WHICH I'LL IGNORE... AND PEOPLE
WANT TO CHASE YOU OUT
OF HERE...

SORCERER?
IF I WERE
ONE, I
WOULD HAVE
MADE GOLD
APPEAR IN THE
MINE!



THE STUPID, SUPERSTITIOUS FOLK OF
BINGO CREEK WOULD NOT HESITATE TO
HANG YOU... I HAVE A PLAN TO CONVINCE
THEM THAT NOTHING SUPERNATURAL IS
HAPPENING HERE...



A LITTLE
LATER...

SO, ARE WE
AGREED?...

IF YOU HOLD TO IT,
AND IF YOU BELIEVE
THAT IT'LL WORK,
I AGREE!...



ER...
LUCKY LIKE...

YES?



THANKS,
SONNY...



AND NOW WE JUST HAVE TO CONVINCE THE
PEOPLE OF BINGO CREEK!

I'M NOT A BAD HORSE,
BUT THESE COMINGS
AND GOINGS ARE
STARTING TO WEAR
ME OUT!...



WHERE DID THEY ALL GO?
HAS BINGO CREEK BECOME
A GHOST TOWN TOO?...



THESE YELLABELLIES ARE
AFRAID OF GHOSTS! THAT'S
WHY THEY'RE ALL HIDING
IN THEIR HOUSES!



AND YOU, OLD TIMER,
AREN'T YOU AFRAID
OF GHOSTS?...

OH I'VE LIVED
AROUND HERE
LONG ENOUGH
TO PREFER GHOSTS
TO PEOPLE...
IF ONLY THERE WERE
SOME GHOSTS...



BANG BANG BANG BA

BANG

COME OUT! YOU
YELLABELLIES!
I HAVE TO SPEAK
TO YOU!

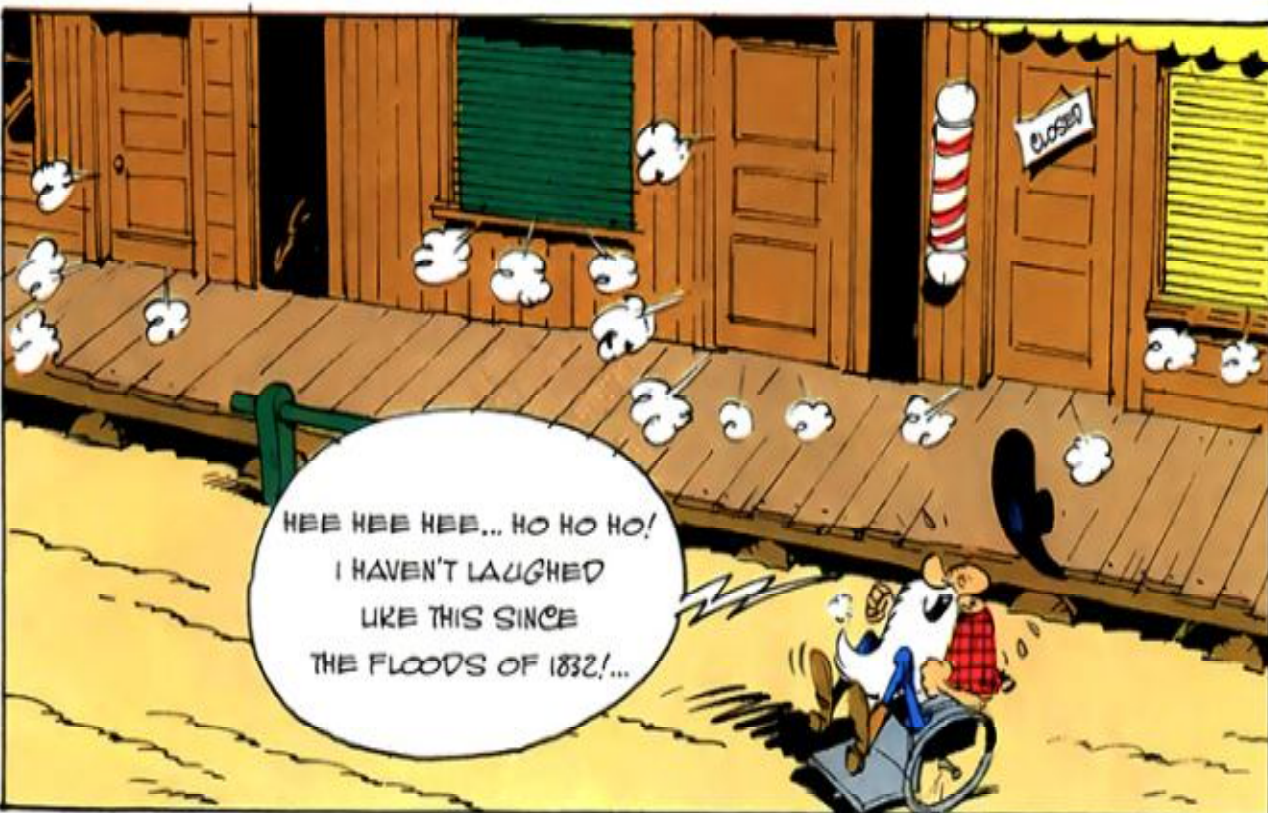
BANG



I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT
RELOADING MY REVOLVER ONE
OF THESE DAYS...



Booooooo!...
I AM A GHOST!...



HEE HEE HEE... HO HO HO!
I HAVEN'T LAUGHED
LIKE THIS SINCE
THE FLOODS OF 1832!...



BANG BANG BA

BANG

BANG

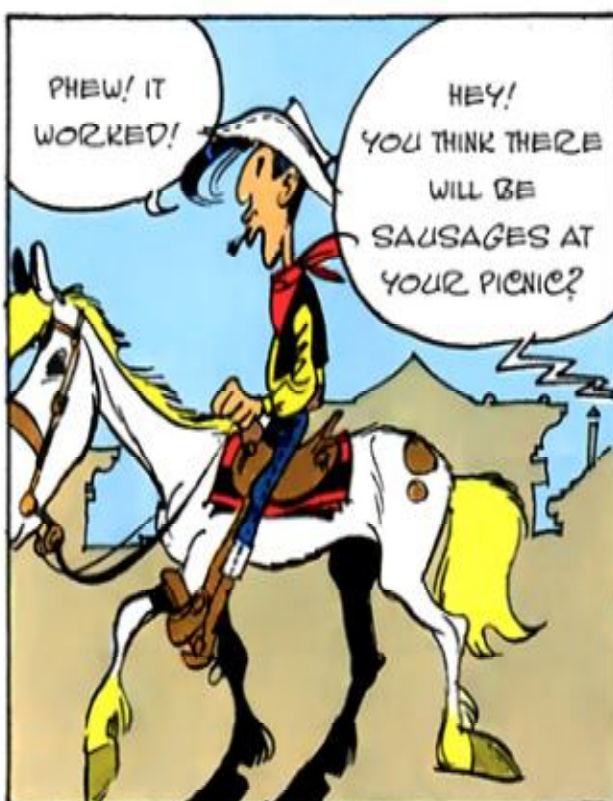
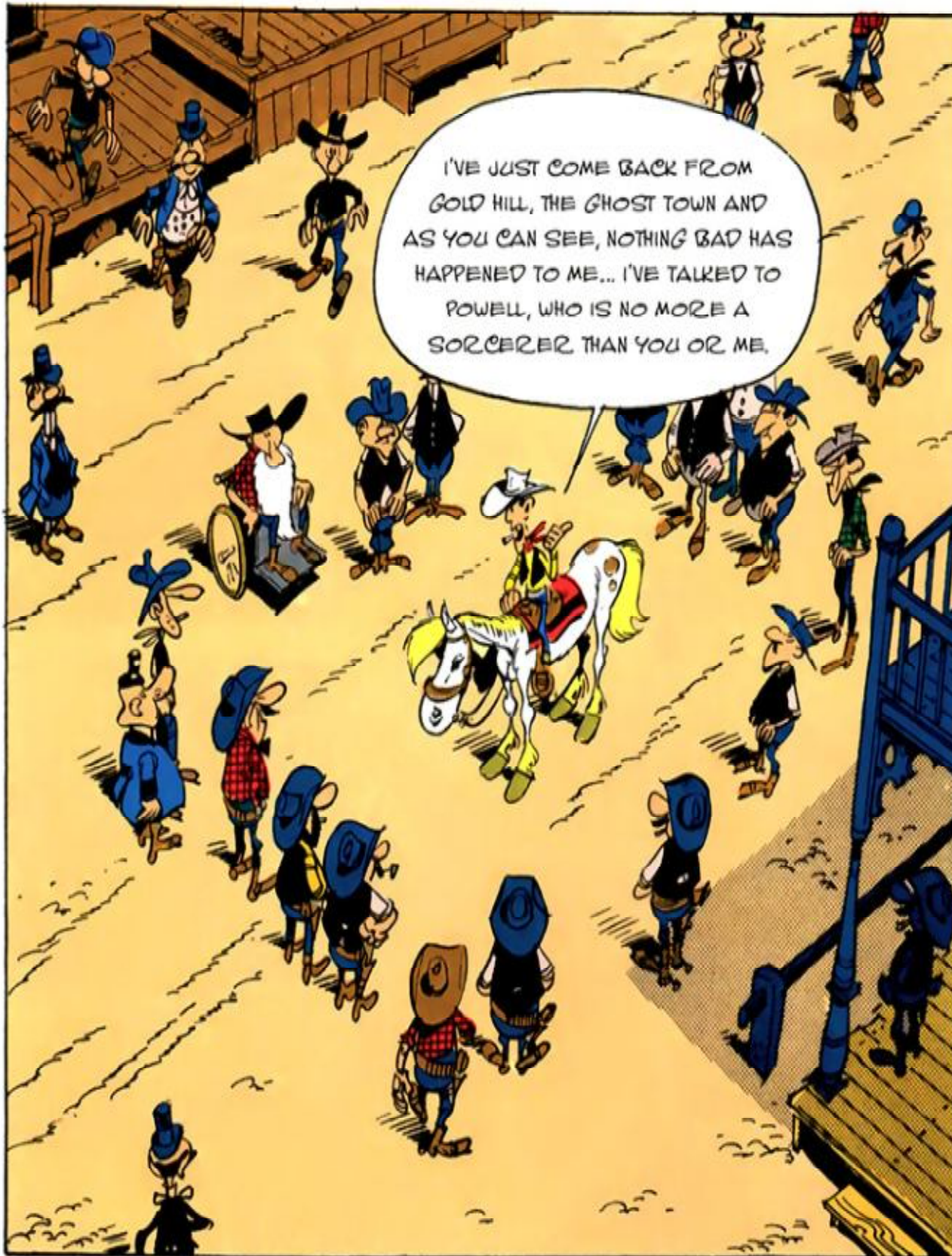
BANG

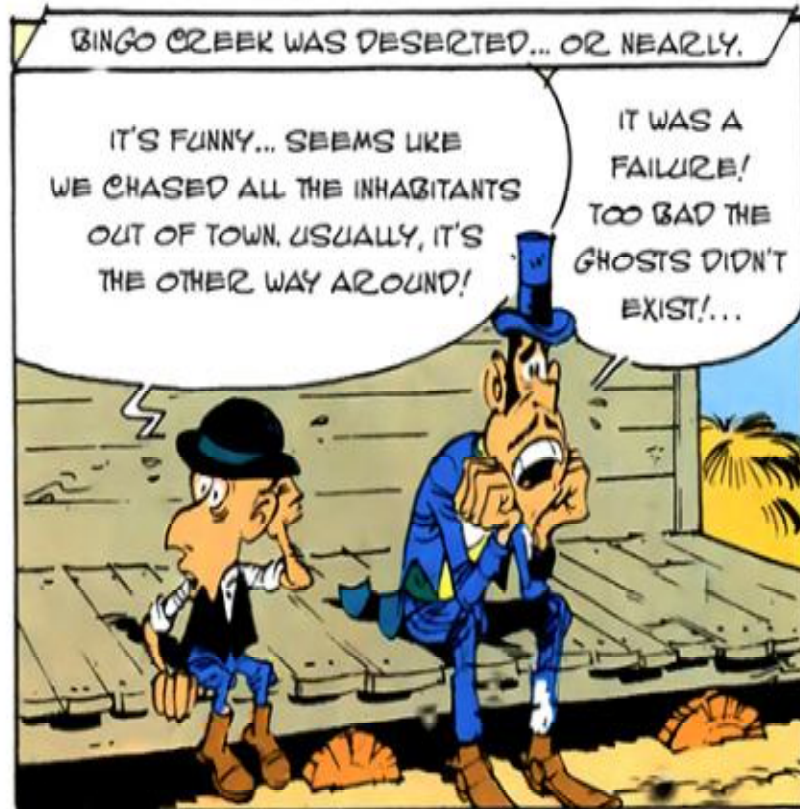
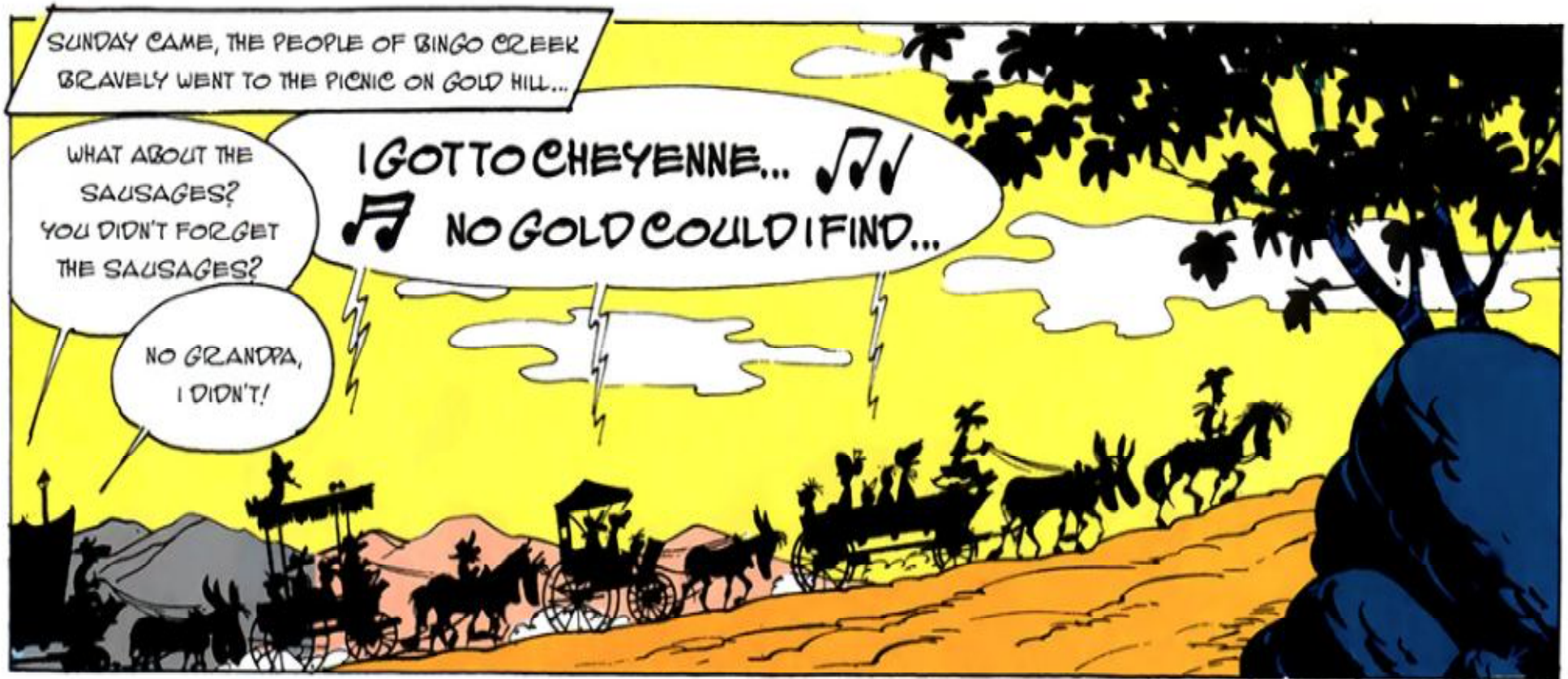
SO, ARE YOU
COMING OUT OR
WILL I COME AND
GET YOU WITH MY
SIX-SHOOTER?

BANG

BANG

BANG







THE GARLANDS ARE IN PLACE!

THE MECHANICAL PIANO IS REPAIRED, LUCKY LUKE!

AND I'M IN PLACE TOO! SO ARE THE SAUSAGES READY?



COME AND GET IT!

BUT I'M ALREADY READY!

WE KNEW THAT, OLD TIMER!



HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING, LUCKY LUKE?

START WITHOUT ME, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK



POWELL, COME OUT AND JOIN US!

NO, I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE! GET LOST!



I'LL LEAVE YOU SOME GRUB, POWELL, ENJOY IT!

I DON'T WANT IT! I'M NOT HUNGRY!



MUNCH... YUM... GLUG...



AND AS NIGHT FELL... THEN YOU'VE GOT IT, COLORADO. I'LL MIX IN WITH THE PEOPLE AND AT THE RIGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT, WITHOUT RUSHING IT, YOU MAKE YOUR ENTRY AND I GIVE THE PANIC SIGNAL!...

ALL RIGHT! BUT WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE GHOST? LET'S DECIDE BY PLAYING POKER!



DENVER, DON'T HIT MY NEW HAT ANYMORE!!!



NIGHT FALLS ON GOLD HILL, THE GHOST TOWN...

SALOON

COME ON! MAKE ROOM TO DANCE!

MOVE THE TABLES, CHAIRS AND OLD TIMER OUT OF THE WAY!...

BUT I HAVEN'T FINISHED EATING!...



AND NOW, MY FRIENDS, BRING ON THE DANCING AND THE GAMES!

I HAVEN'T FINISHED EATING, I SAID!



AND A ONE, A TWO...



AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

WAIT FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT, HE SAID! HE COMES UP WITH SOME GOOD ONES! IT'S COLD OUT HERE. I'LL JUST GET THIS OVER WITH!



A ONE, TWO, THREE!

BOOOOOOOOO



AND HERE IS OUR GUEST OF HONOUR! THE GHOST WILL START THE DANCING!... PLAY THAT MUSIC! I'LL KEEP THE BEAT!...

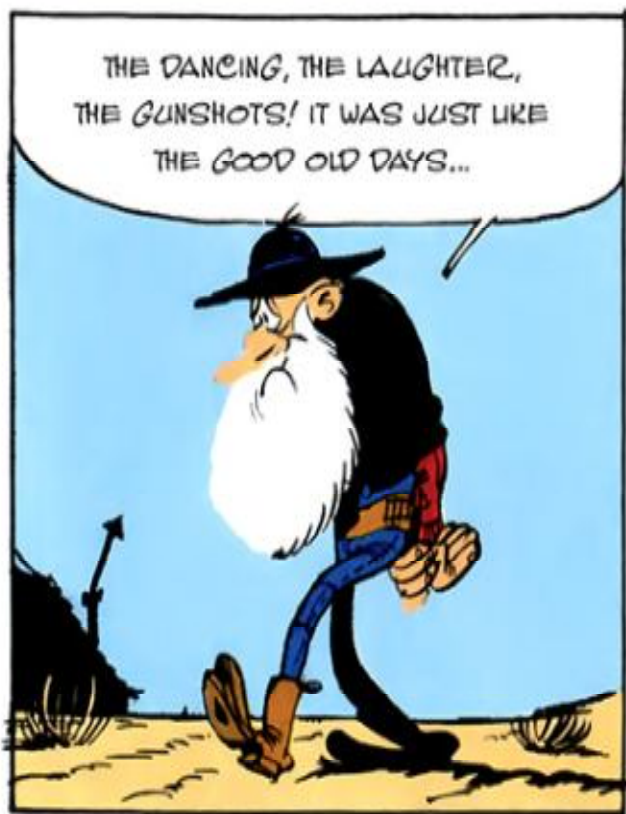


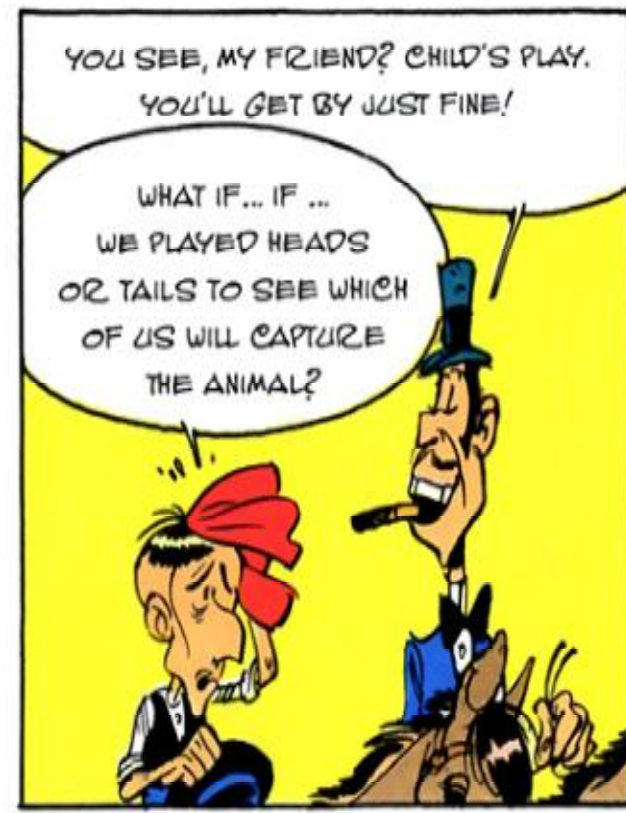
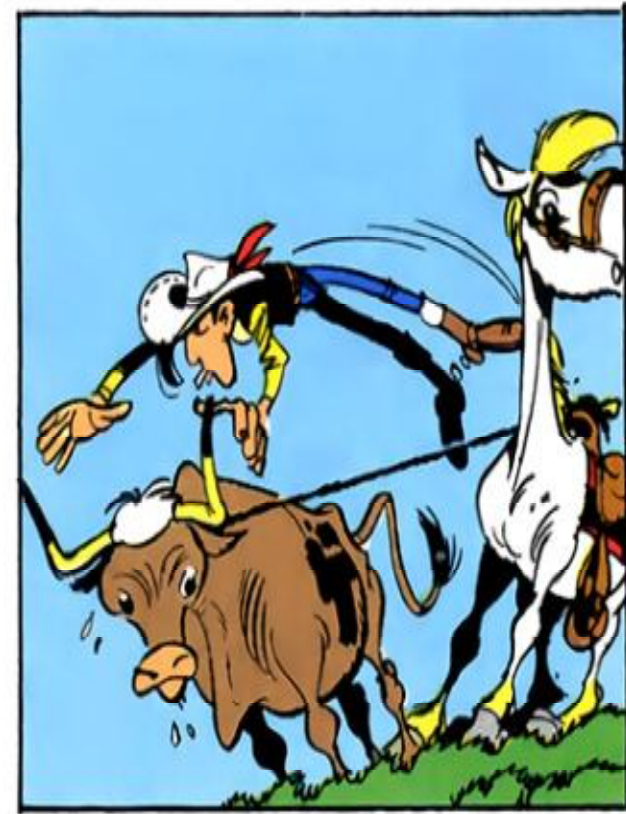
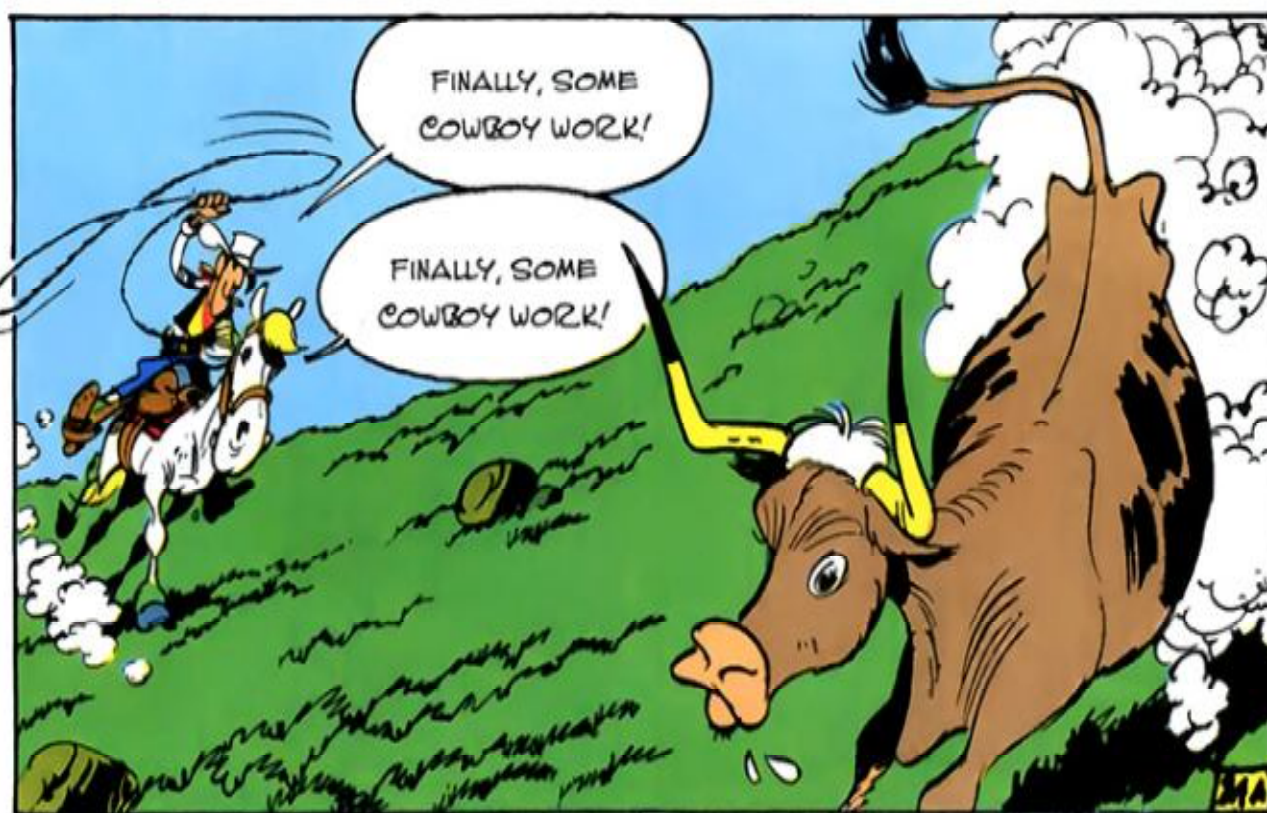
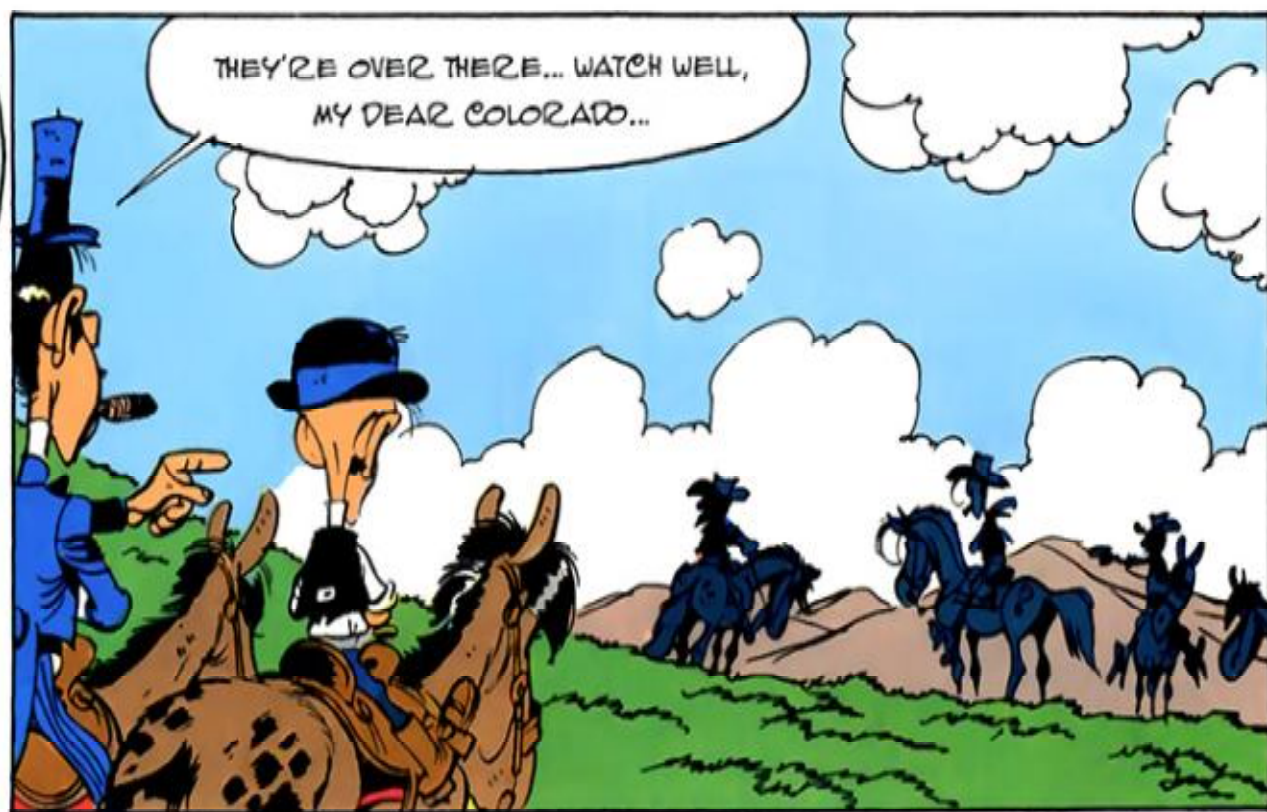
YEEHAW! THIS LUCKY LUKE HAS SOME GREAT IDEAS!

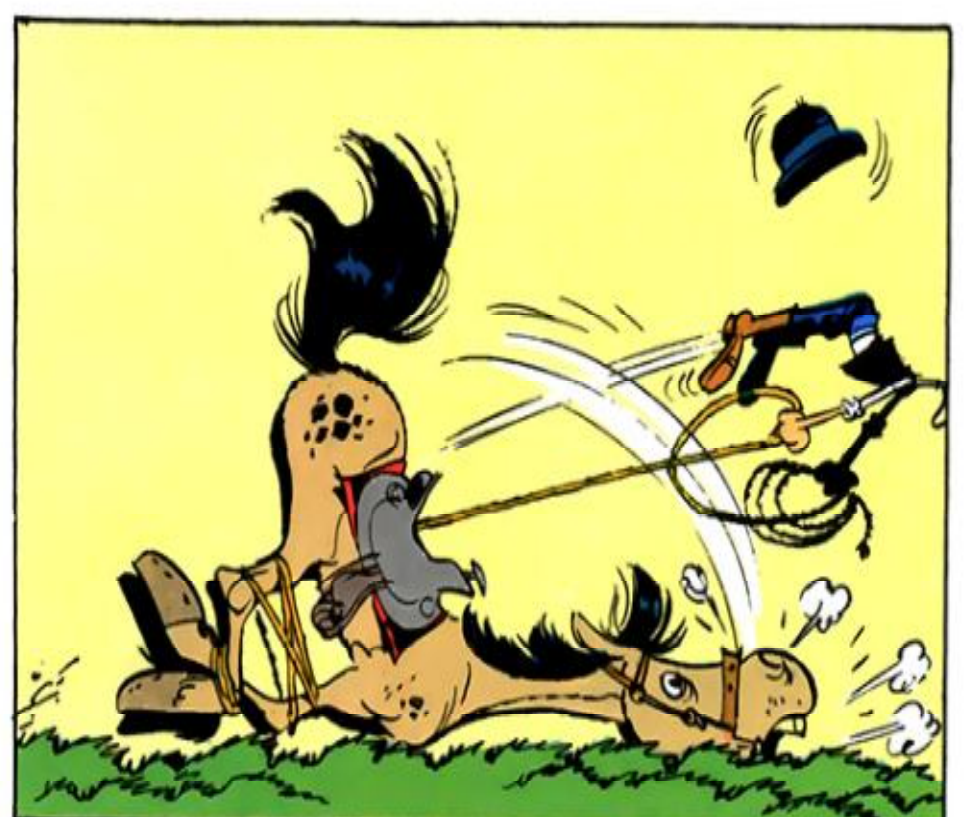
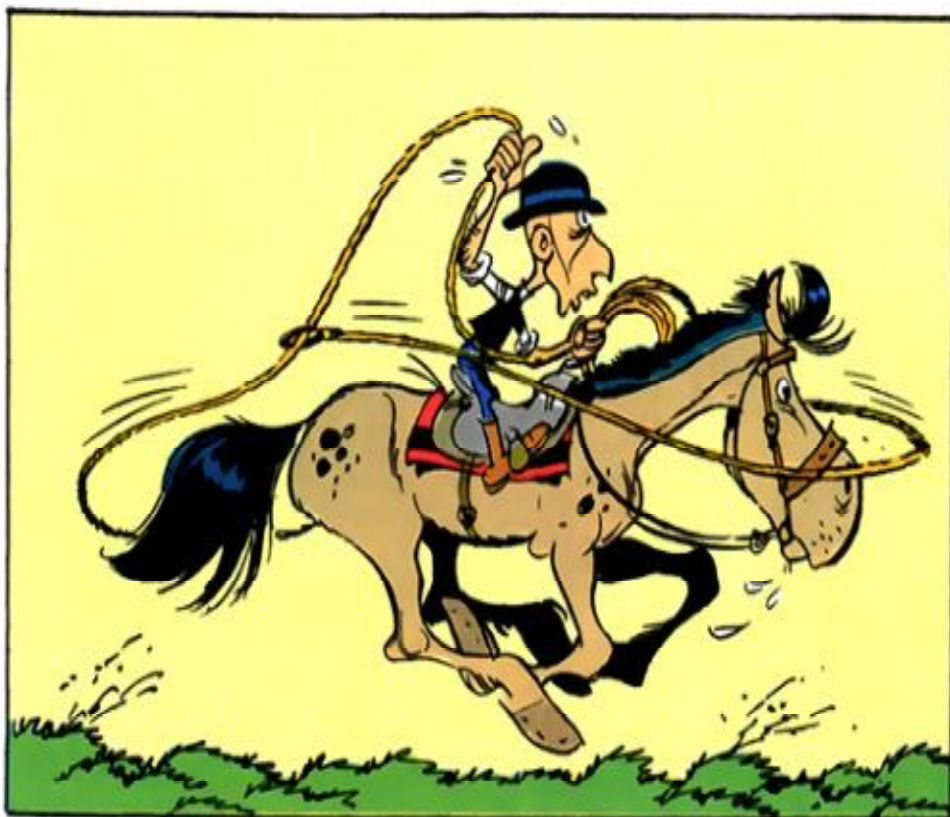
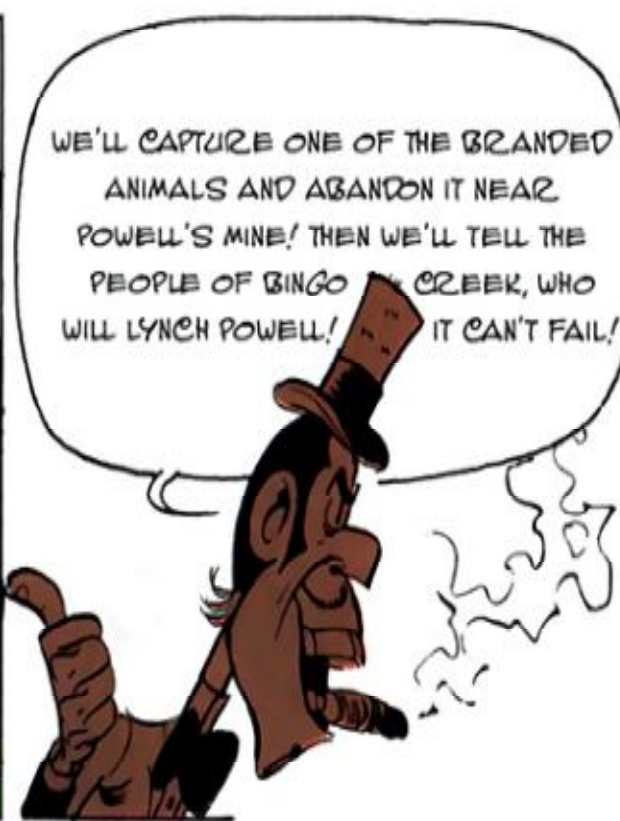
YEAH! A GHOST, IT'S FUNNY!

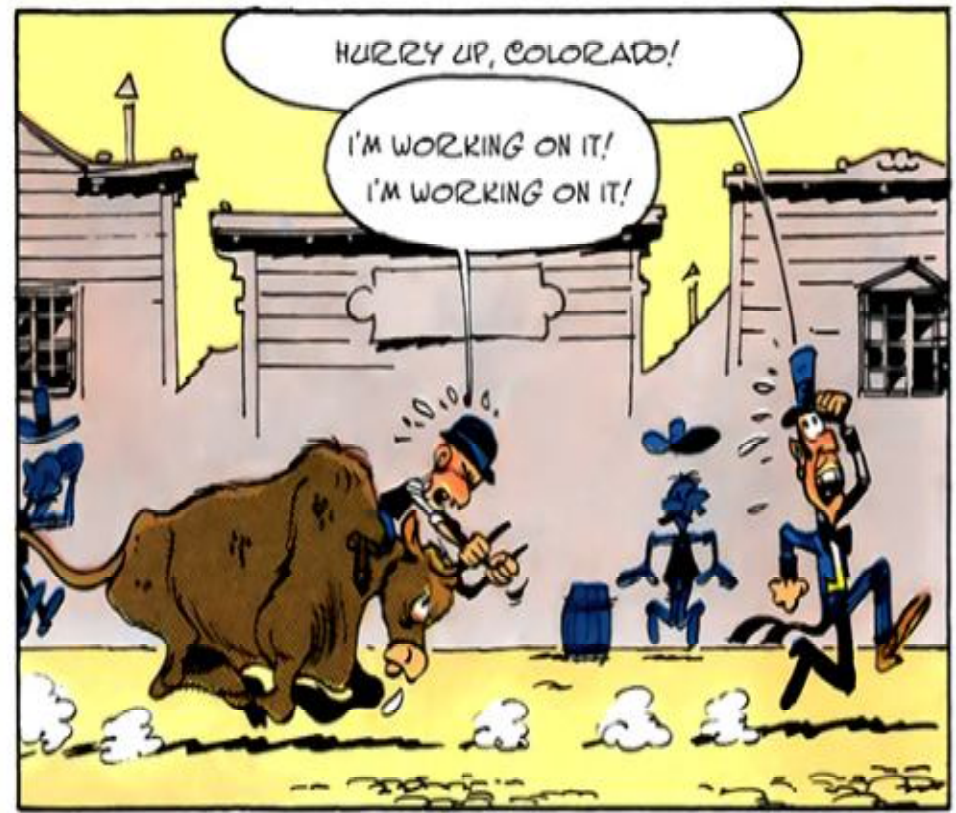


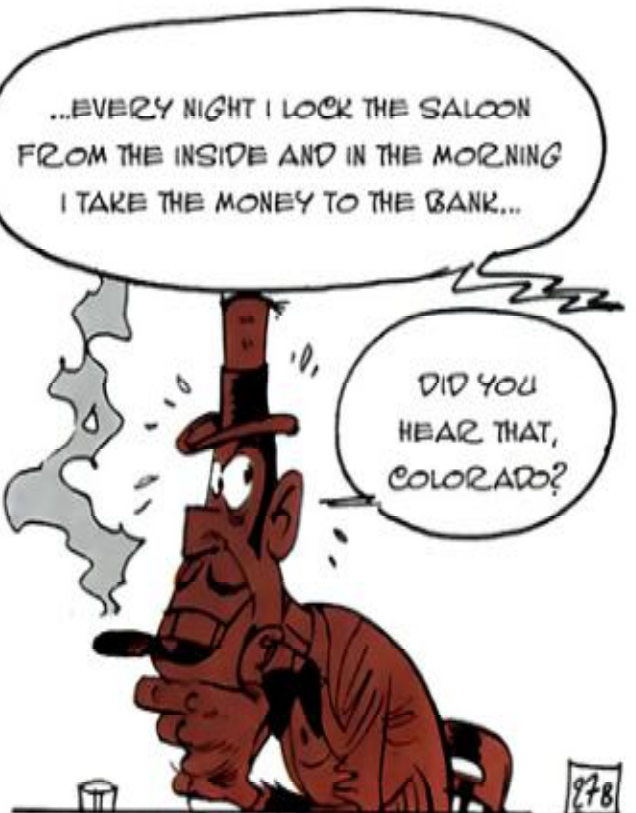
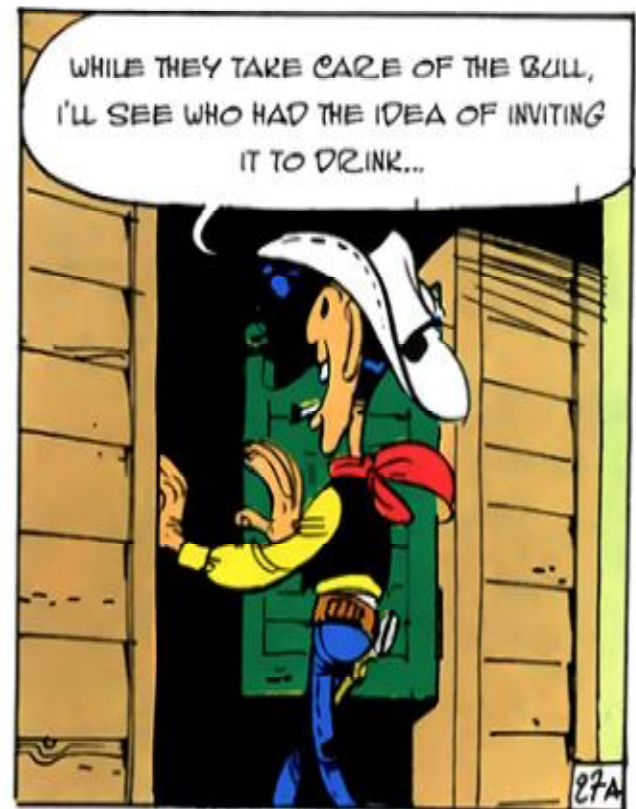
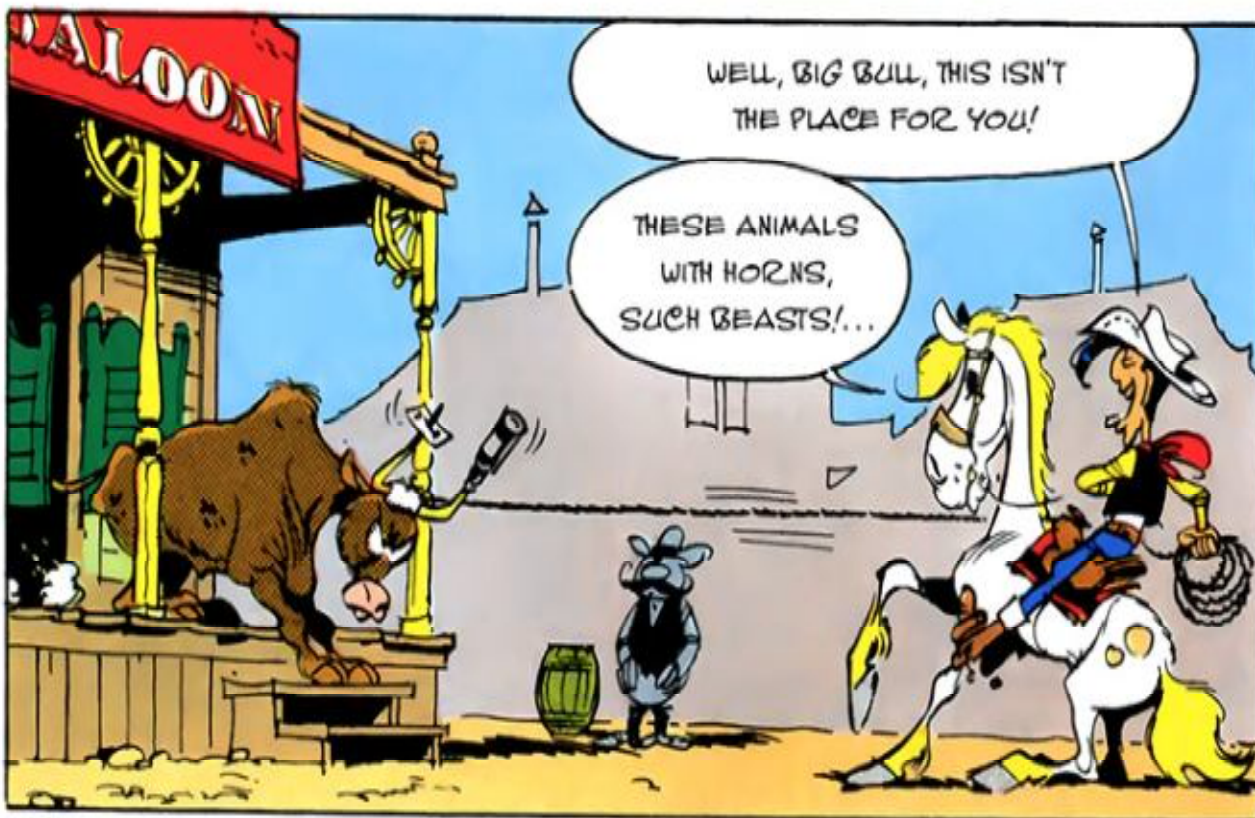
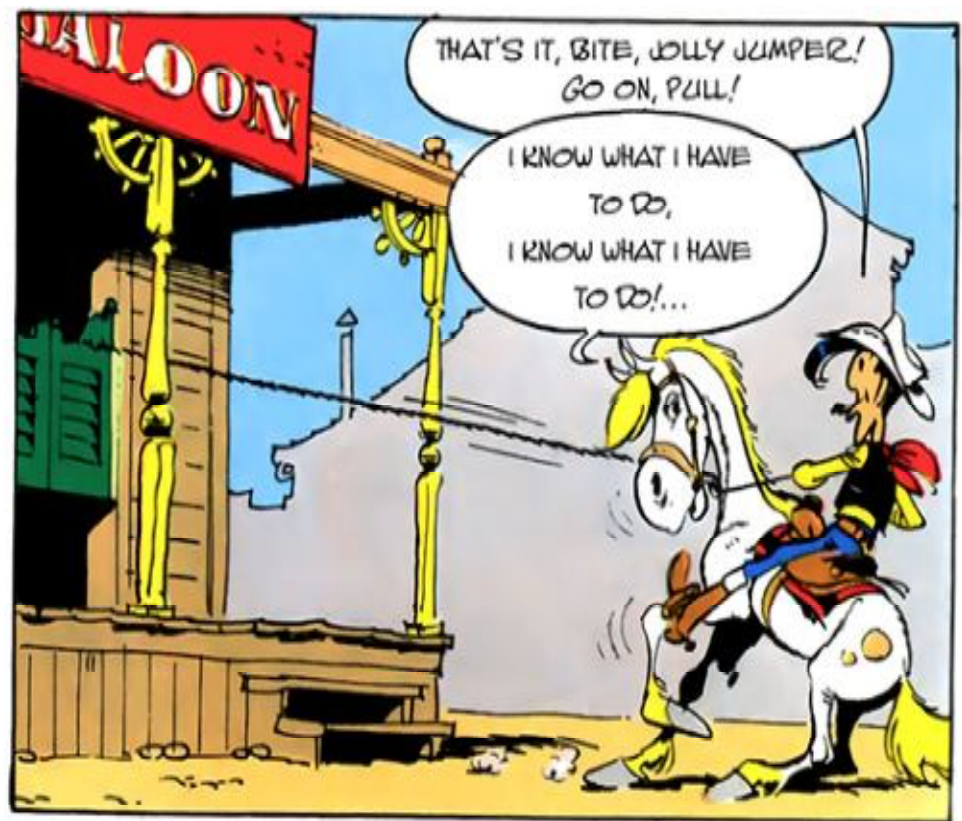
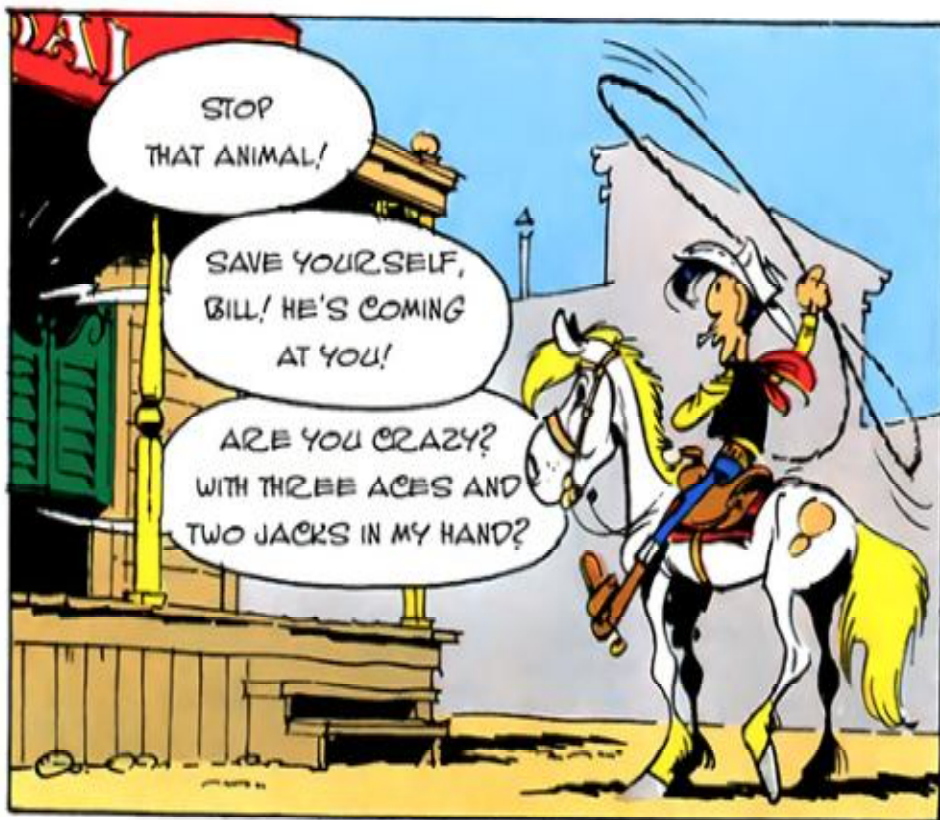
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT WAS AT MIDNIGHT! NOT WHEN THE DANCING STARTED! YOUR HASTE WILL CAUSE US TO FAIL AGAIN, COLORADO!



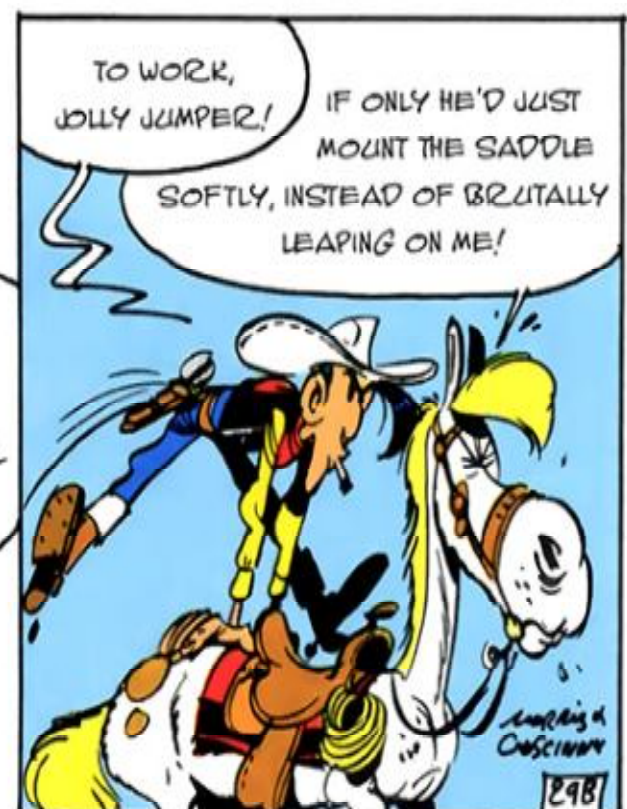
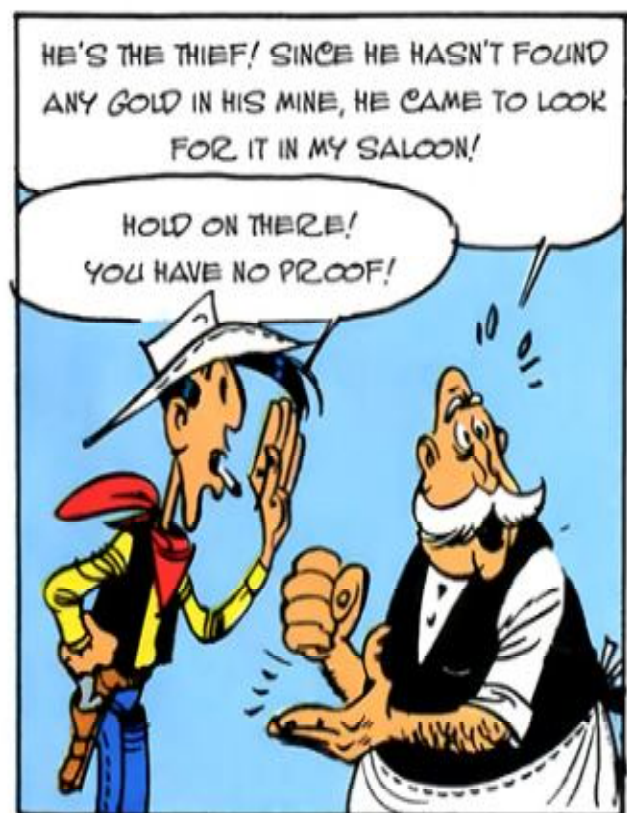
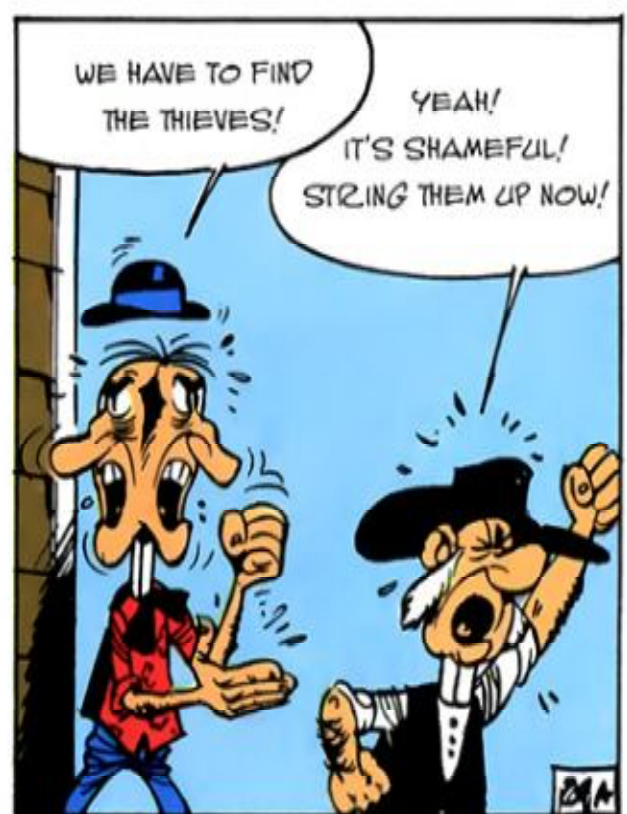
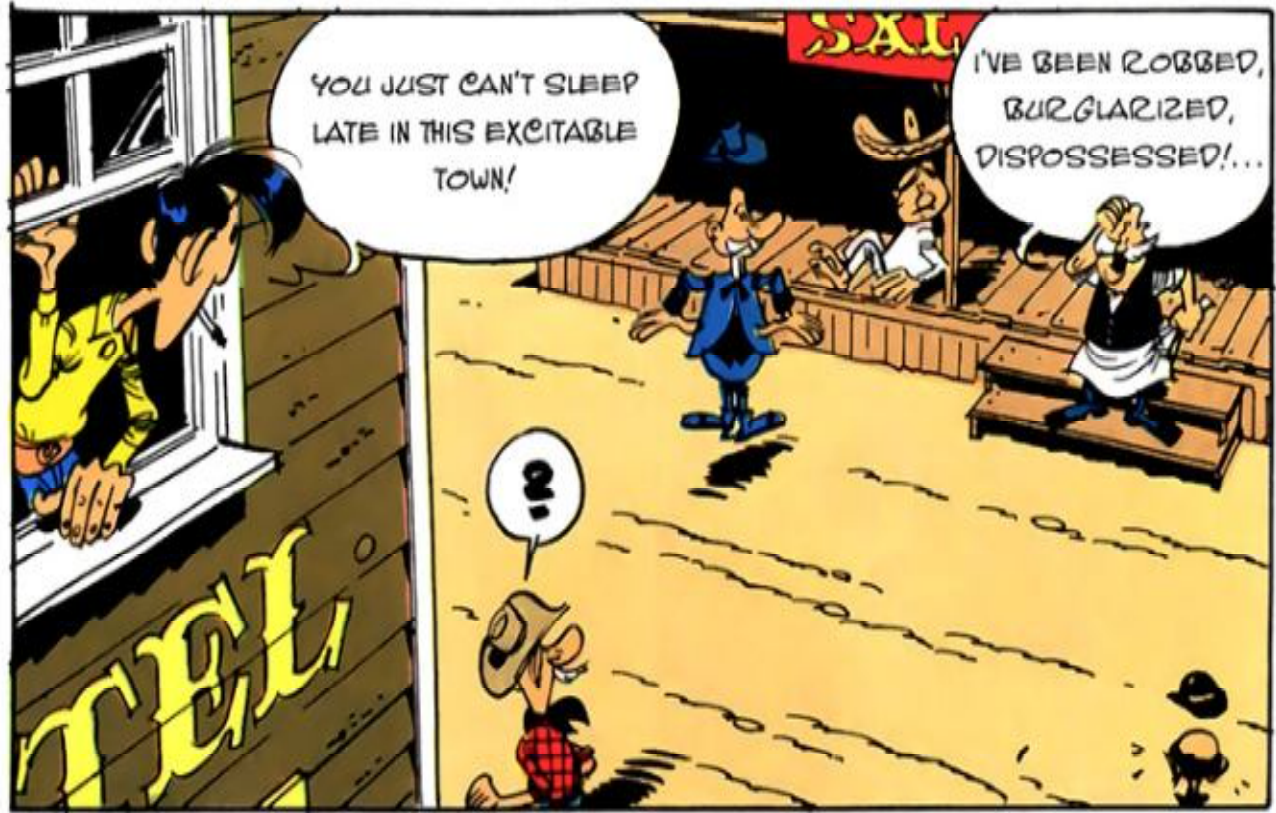














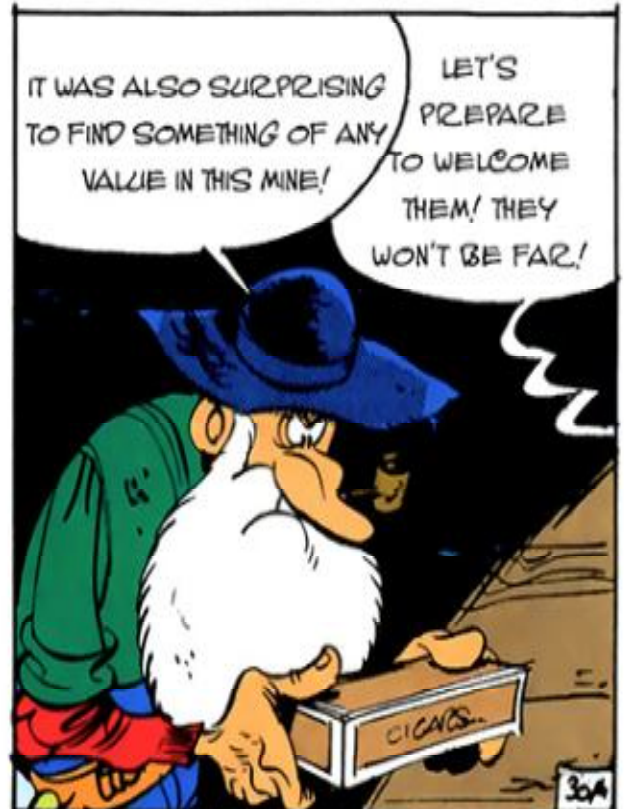
IMPORTANT THINGS?

THE PEOPLE OF BINGO CREEK ARE COMING TO HANG YOU! THEY ACCUSE YOU OF HAVING STOLEN THE SALOON REGISTER!



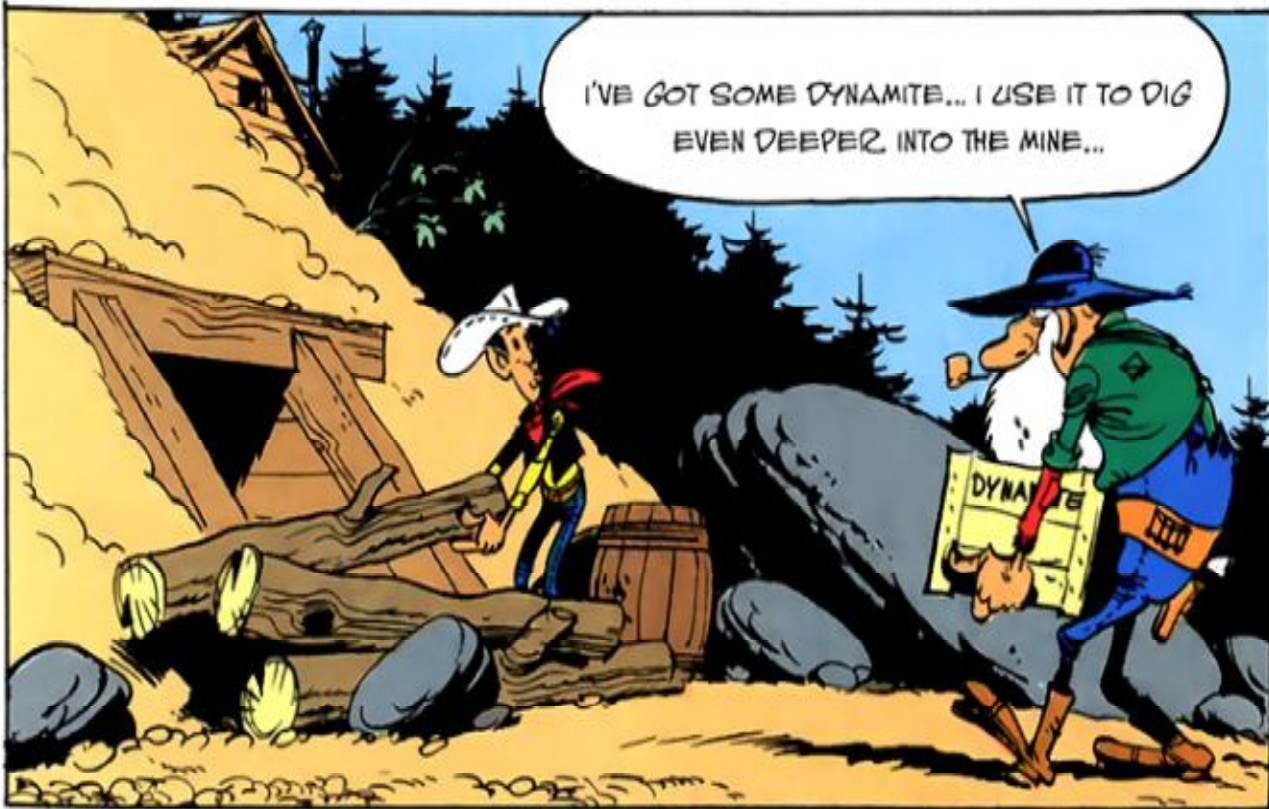
THIS MORNING, I FOUND THIS BOX FULL OF NOTES AT THE ENTRANCE TO MY MINE... I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT...

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW? THEY'RE LOOKING TO HURT YOU!



IT WAS ALSO SURPRISING TO FIND SOMETHING OF ANY VALUE IN THIS MINE!

LET'S PREPARE TO WELCOME THEM! THEY WON'T BE FAR!



I'VE GOT SOME DYNAMITE... I USE IT TO DIG EVEN DEEPER INTO THE MINE...



THERE THEY ARE!

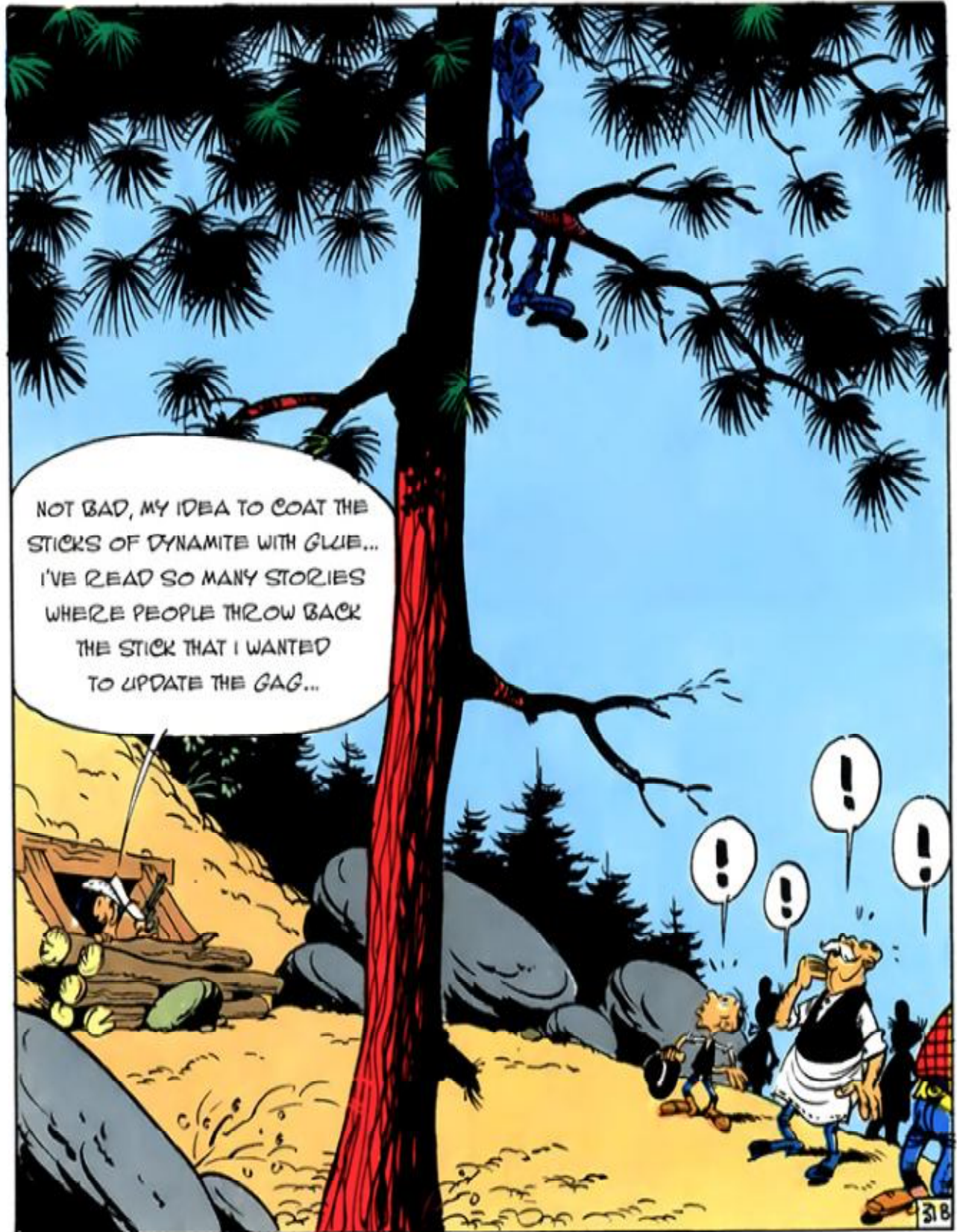
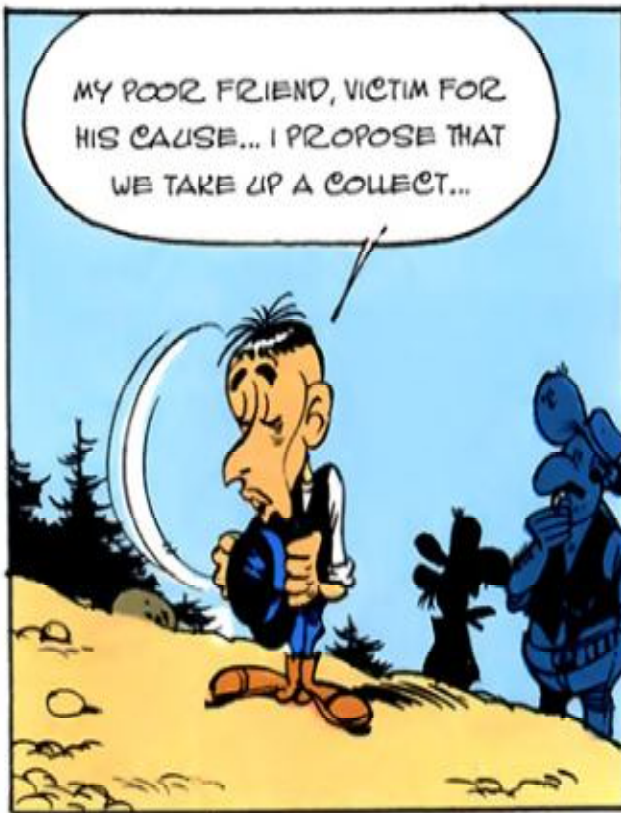


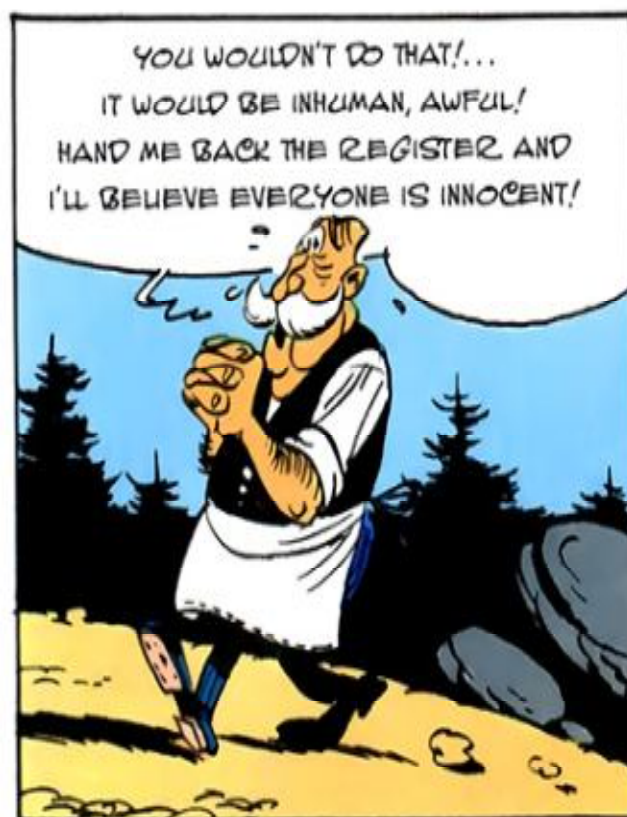
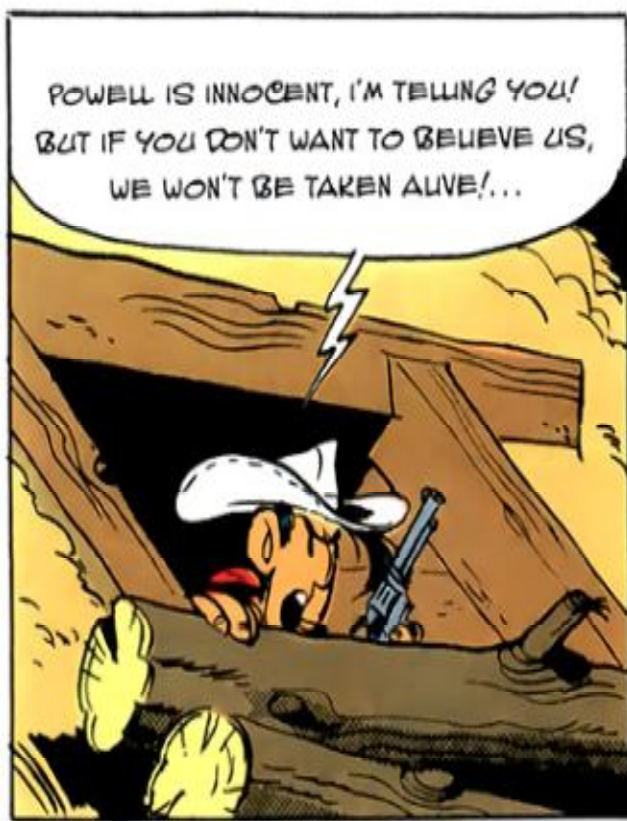
LISTEN, YOU LOT! THE SALOON REGISTER WAS PUT HERE TO FRAME POWELL!! HE IS INNOCENT!

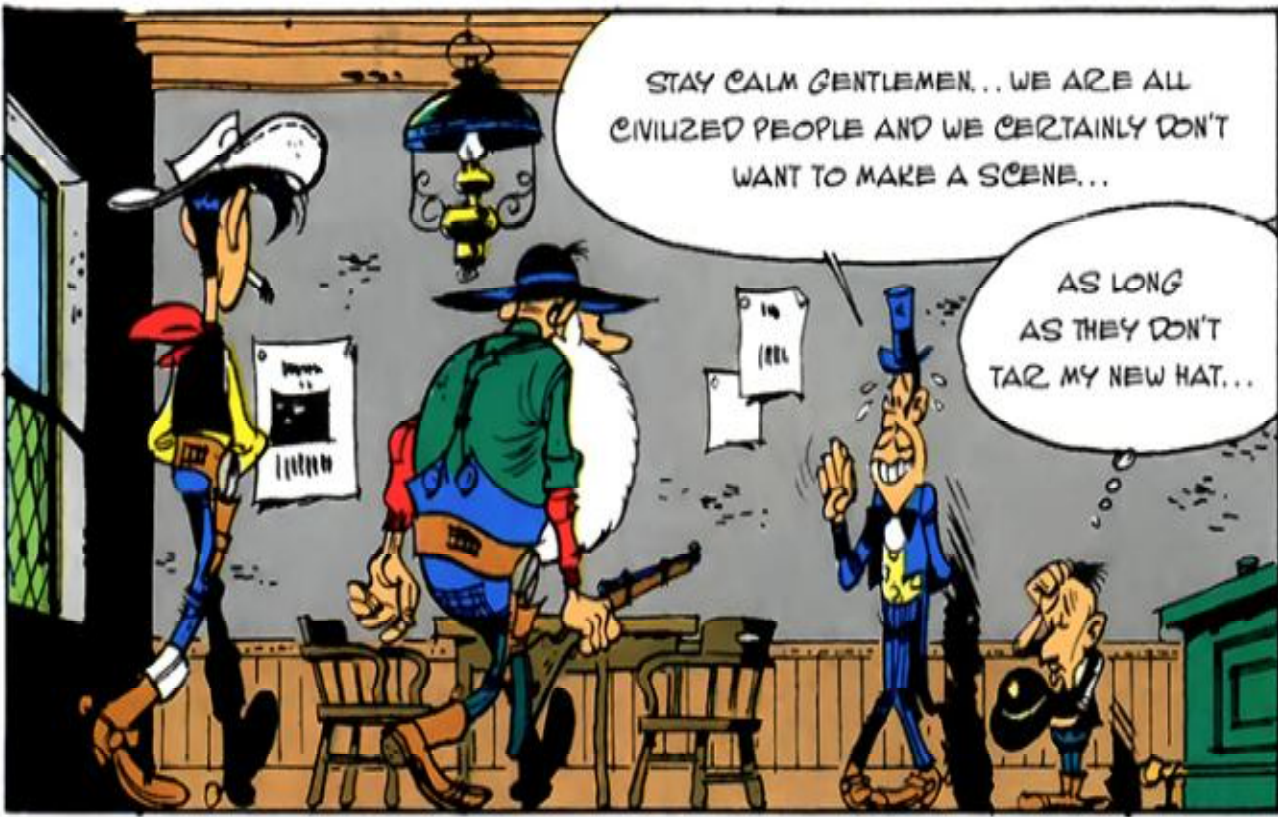
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! POWELL IS CONFESSING BECAUSE HE KNOWS HE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED! AND LUCKY LUKE IS HIS ACCOMPLICE!

HANG THEM!

YEAH! THEY'RE COYOTES!







STAY CALM GENTLEMEN... WE ARE ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE AND WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO MAKE A SCENE...

AS LONG AS THEY DON'T TAKE MY NEW HAT...



DO YOU STILL WANT TO BUY MY MINE?

?!?



WELL OF COURSE... ONLY WE CAN'T PAY VERY MUCH AND...

IT DOESN'T MATTER... THERE ISN'T A GRAM OF GOLD IN THAT MINE!



THE NOTES ARE IN BAD SHAPE, BUT IT WAS YOU WHO SHOT THEM AND DYNAMITED THEM...



THE MINE WILL BELONG TO YOU WHEN WE'VE SIGNED THE OWNERSHIP PAPERS WITH THE MINE OFFICE.



LET'S GO RIGHT AWAY...

WE CAN'T. THE OFFICE IS ONLY OPEN TWO DAYS A WEEK... WE HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...



COME, MY DEAR COLORADO, THERE'S BREAD IN THE BASKET...



LATER... GOOD NEWS! POWELL HAS ABANDONED THE GHOST TOWN AND LIVES AT THE HOTEL WITH LUCKY LUKE!

PERFECT, WE CAN SALT THE MINE IN PEACE!

"SALTING THE MINE" - A DISHONEST OPERATION THAT INVOLVES SHOOTING A CARTRIDGE FULL OF GOLD POWDER AT THE ROCK. A PIECE OF THIS ROCK THAT'S SENT FOR ANALYSIS WILL, OF COURSE, REVEAL A LARGE QUANTITY OF GOLD...



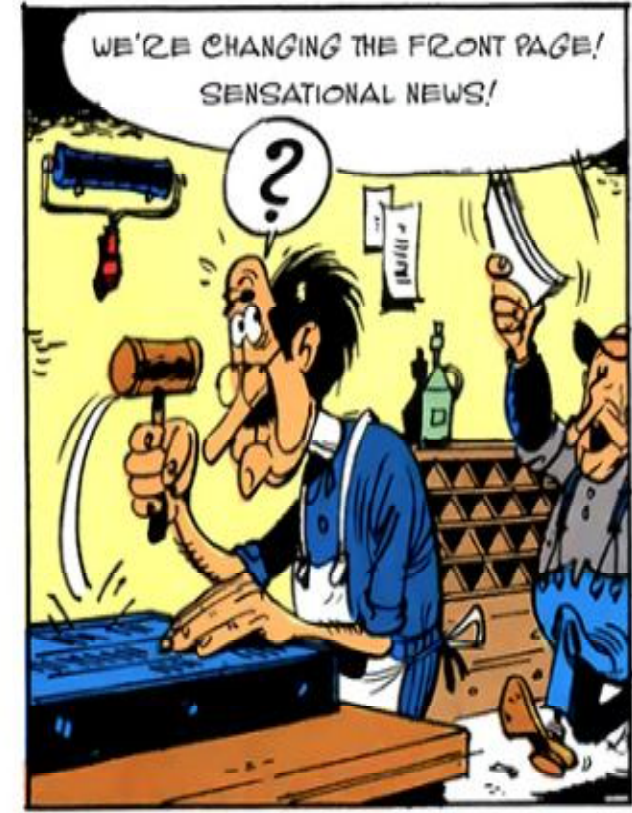
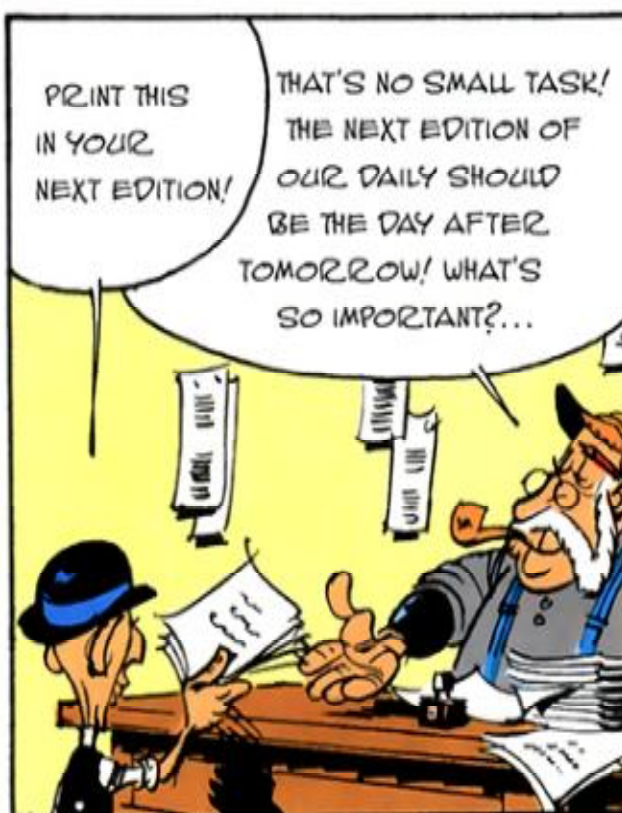
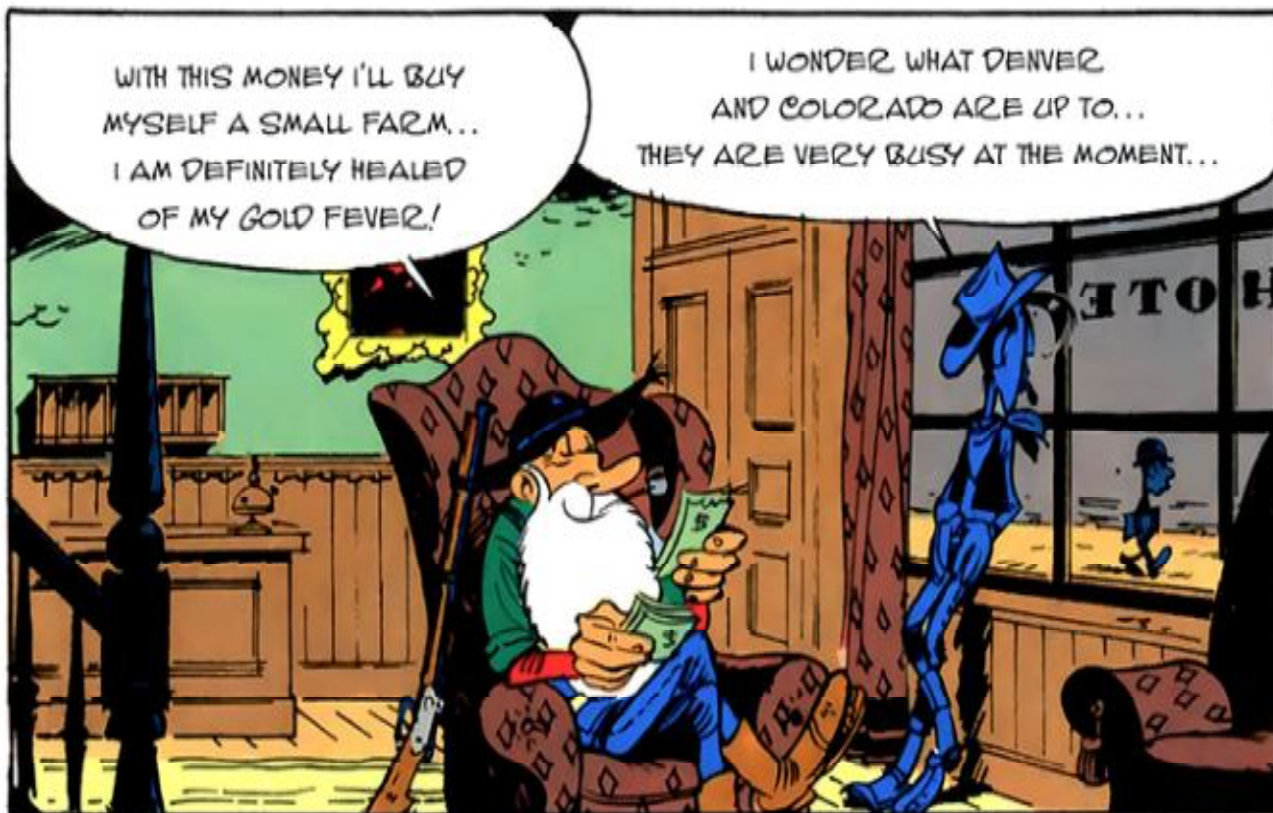
I COULD HAVE DONE THAT, AS CLUMSY AS YOU ARE, YOU WOULD HAVE MISSED IT!... AND GOLD POWDER DOESN'T COME CHEAP...

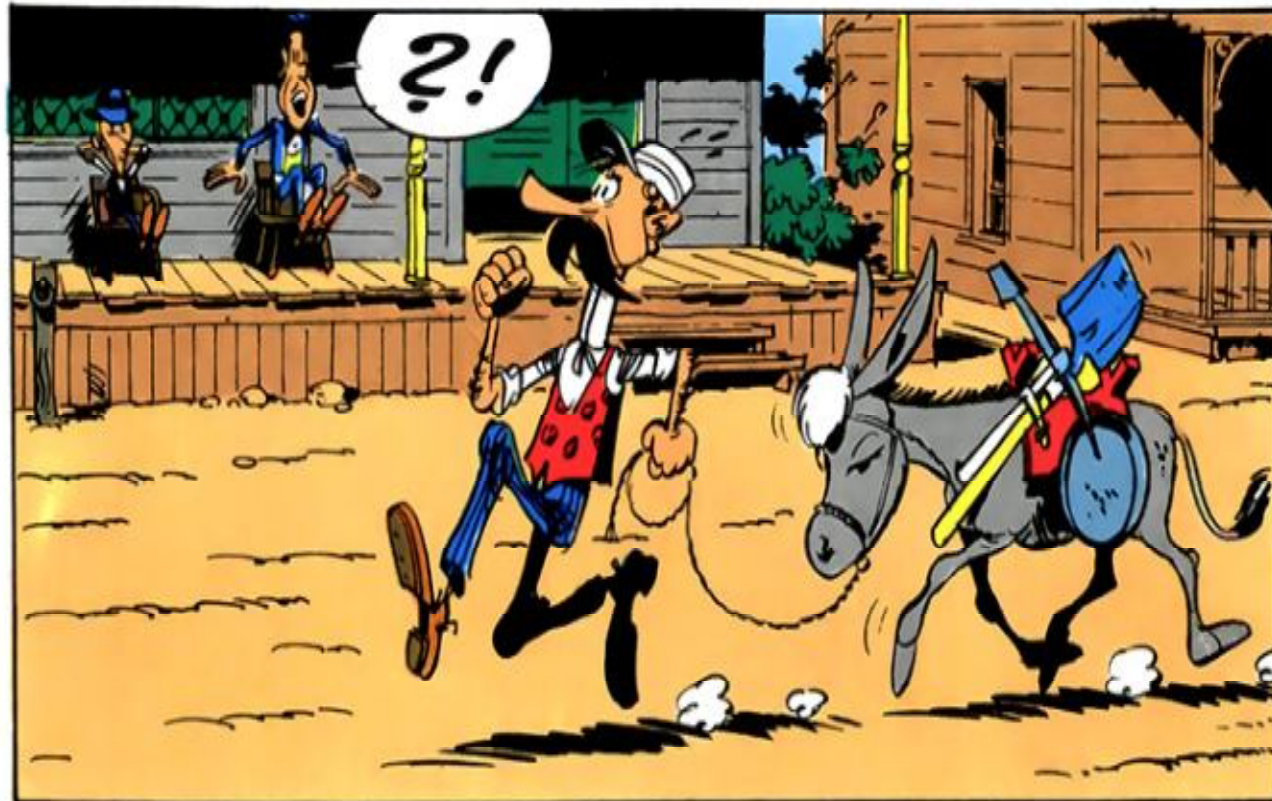
BANG

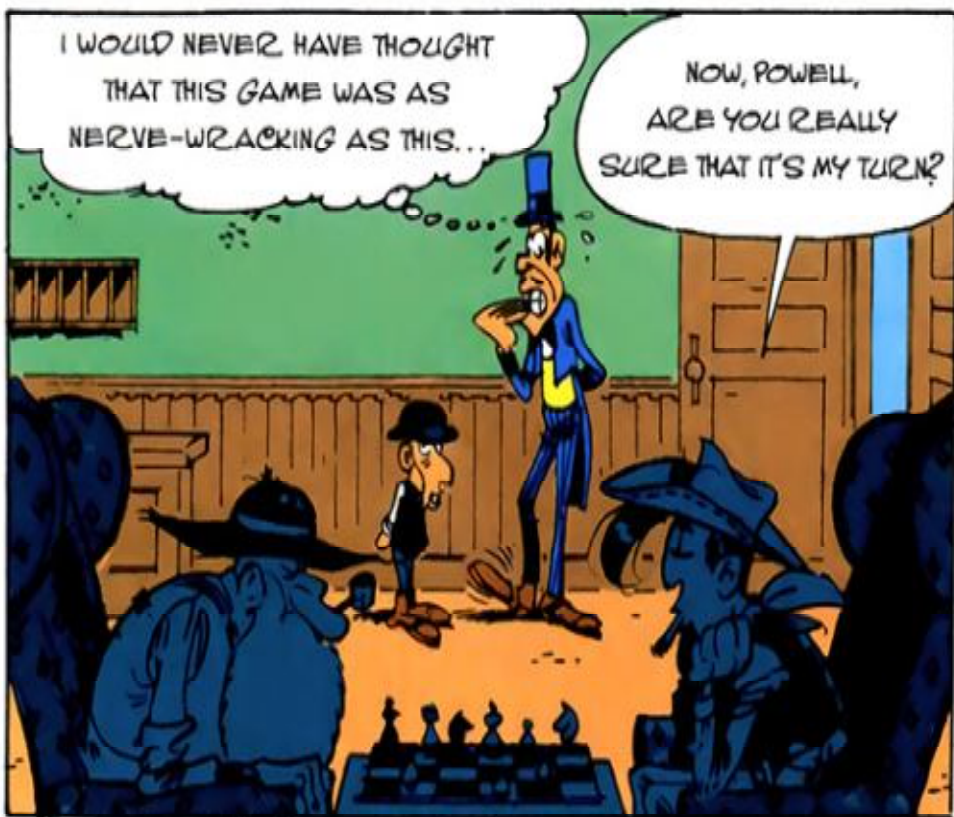


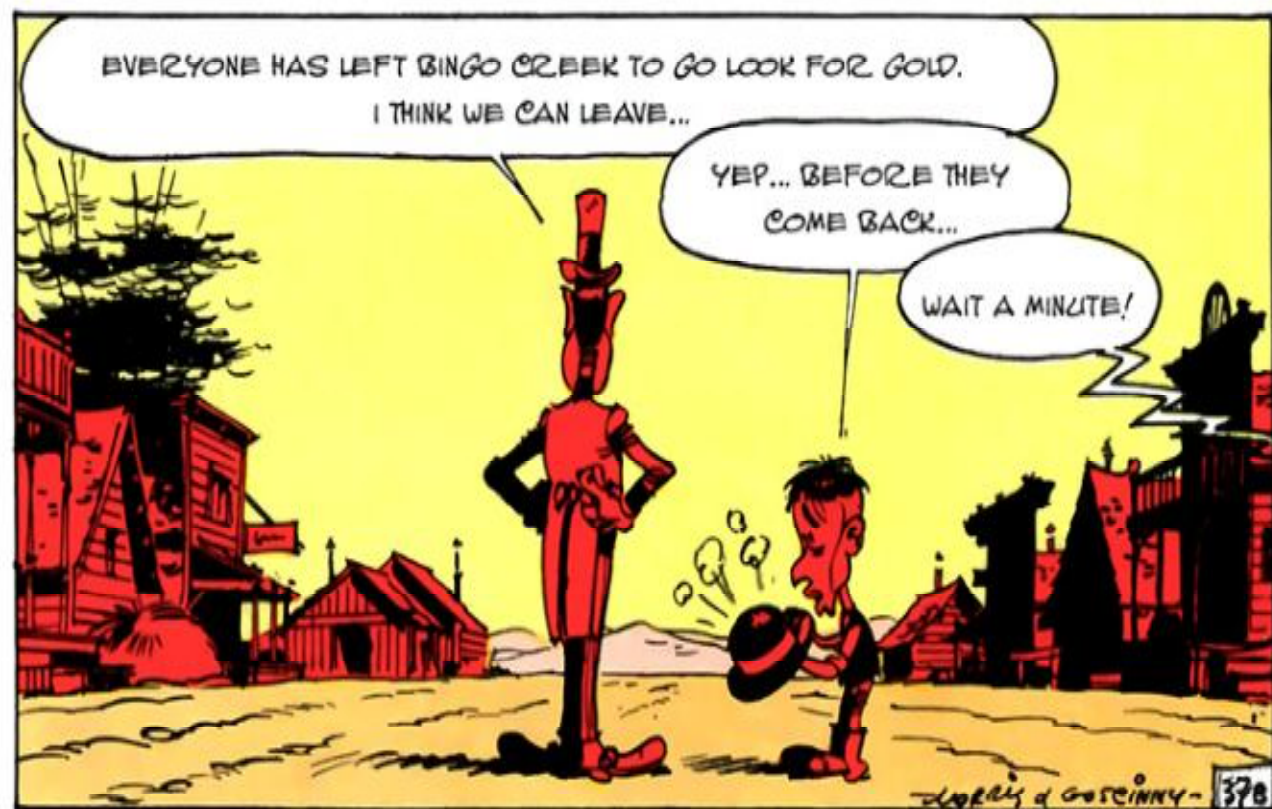
I'VE LEFT THE ROCK SAMPLE WITH THE PONY EXPRESS. IT WILL BE IN NEW YORK IN A FEW DAYS...

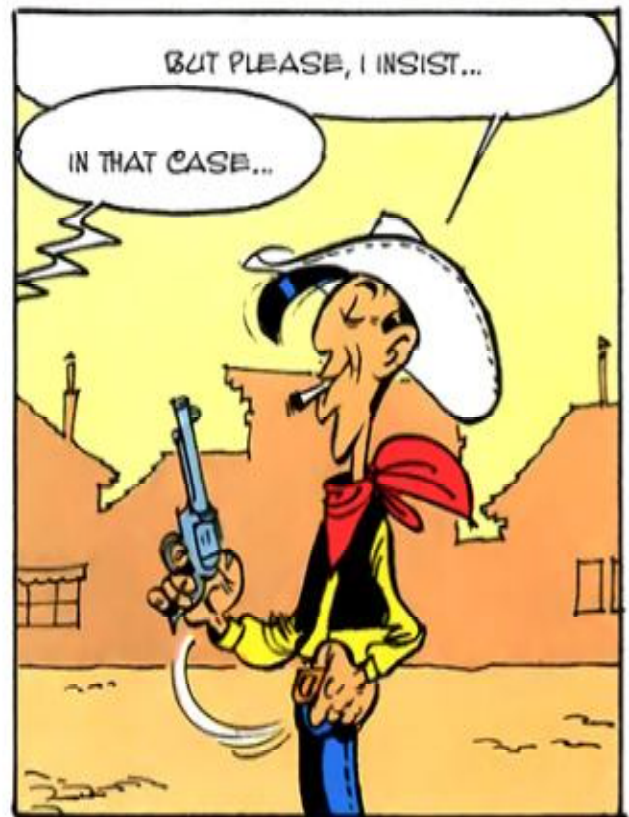
PERFECT! I'LL JUST FINISH WRITING THESE ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSPAPERS, ANNOUNCING THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD ON GOLD HILL!

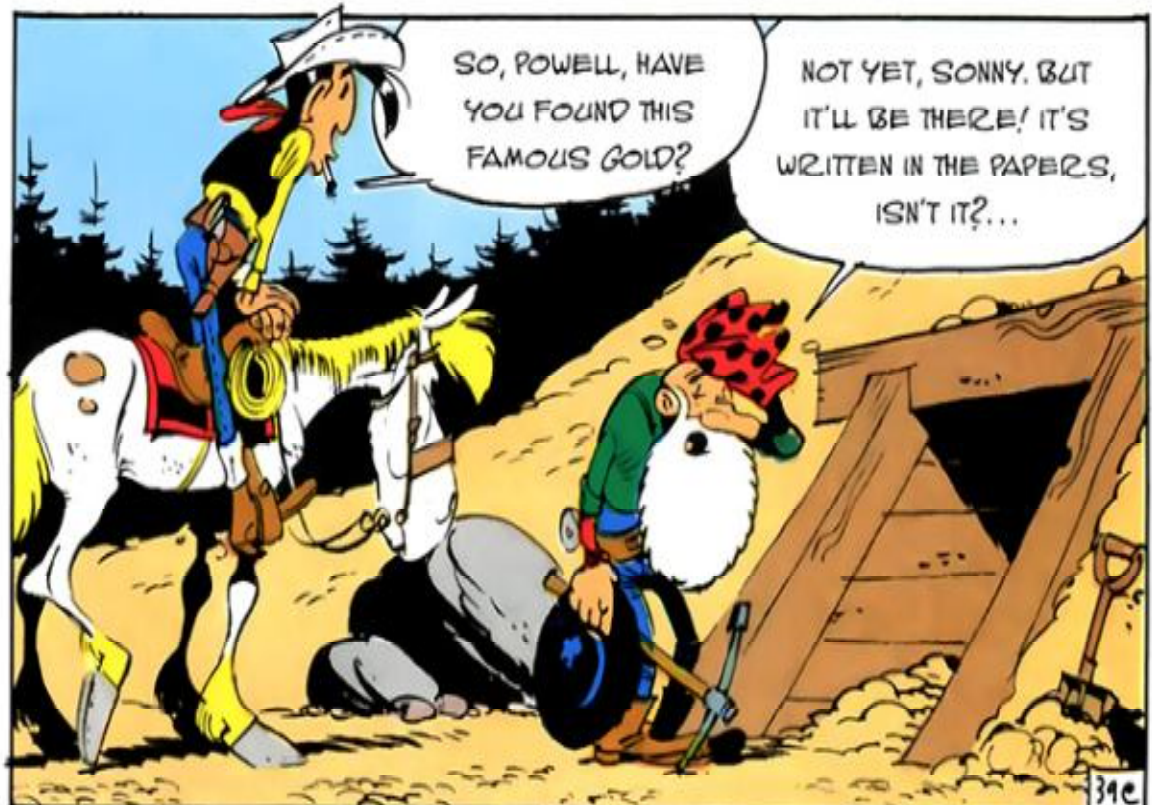
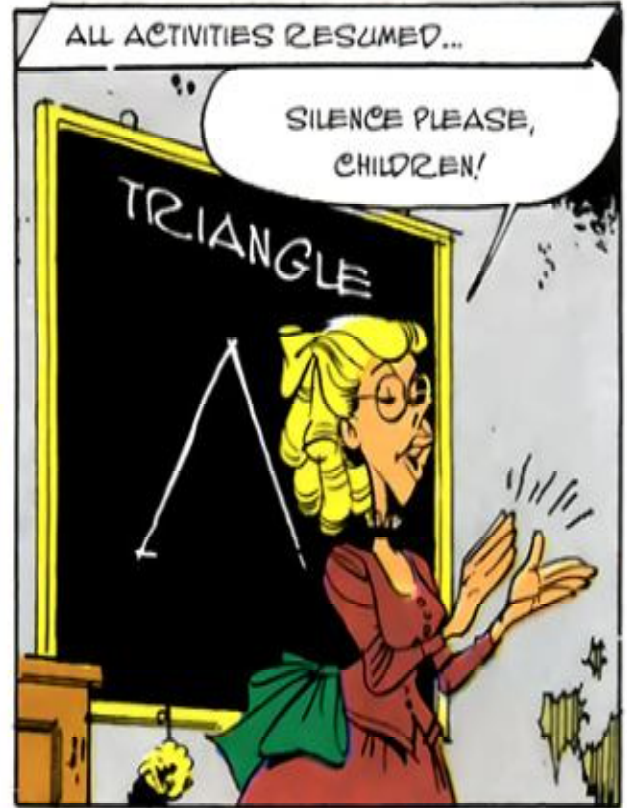
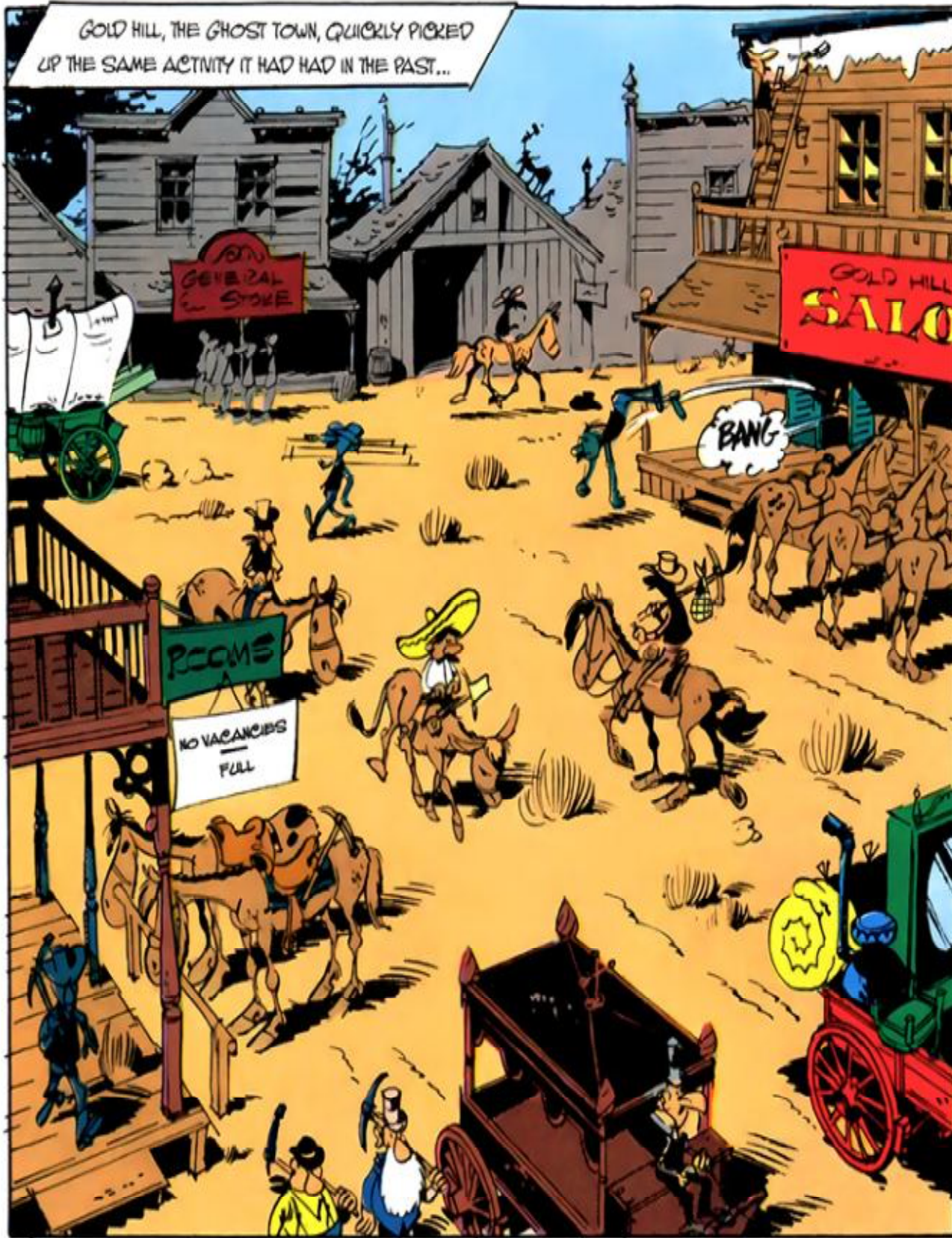
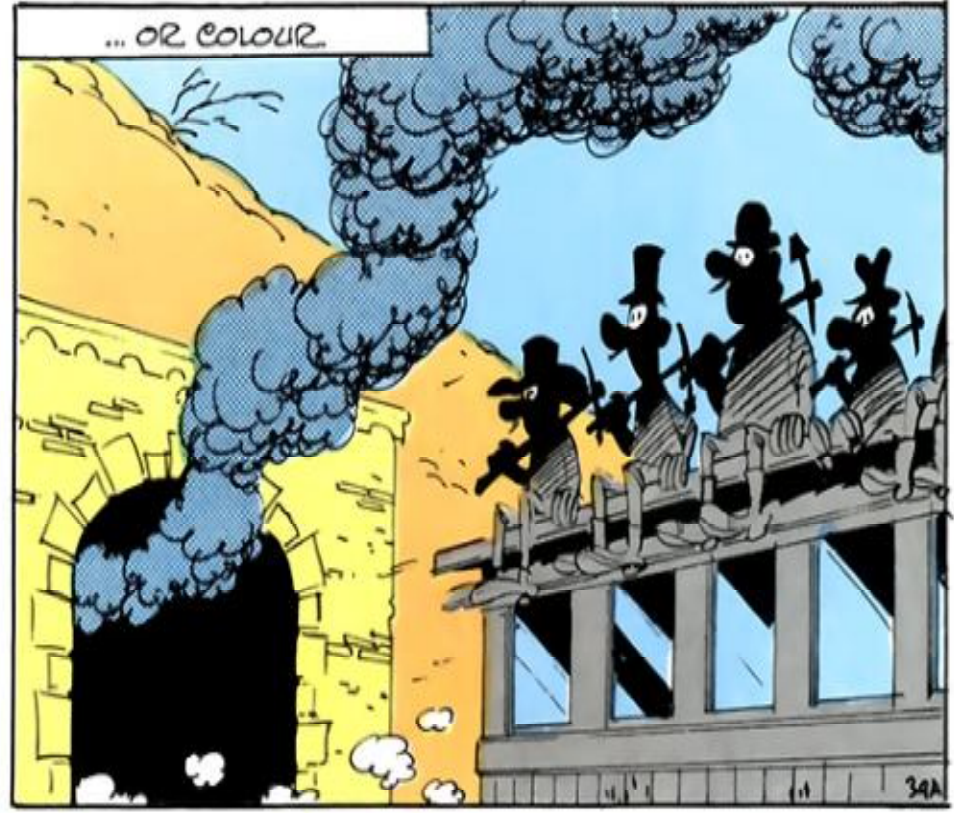
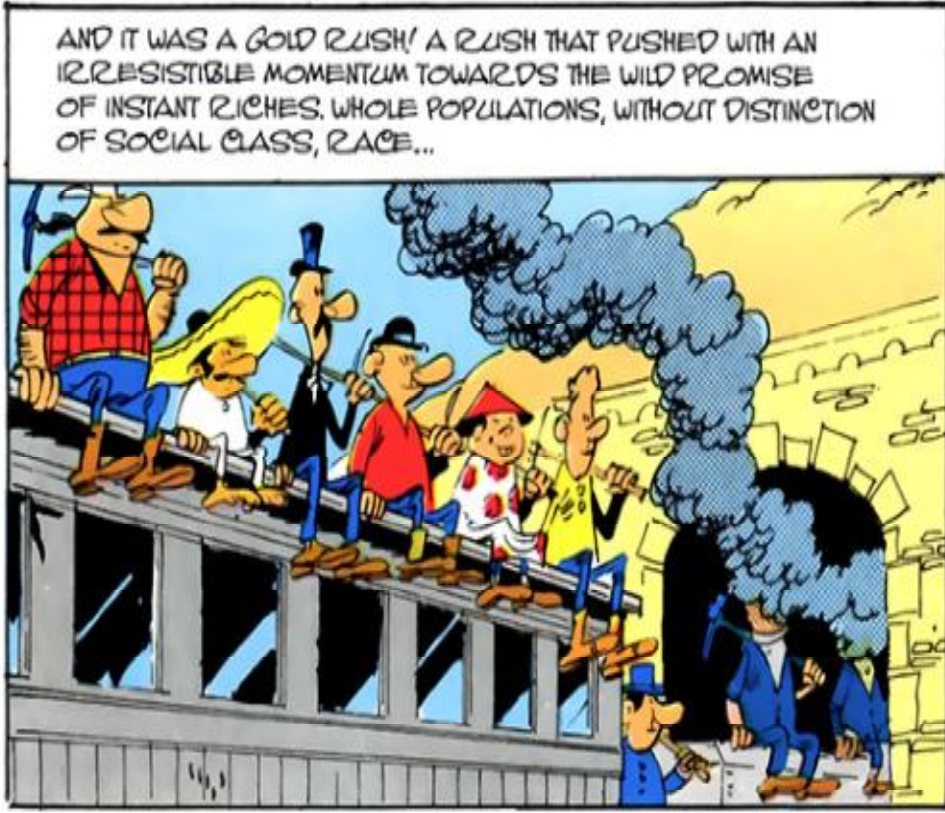


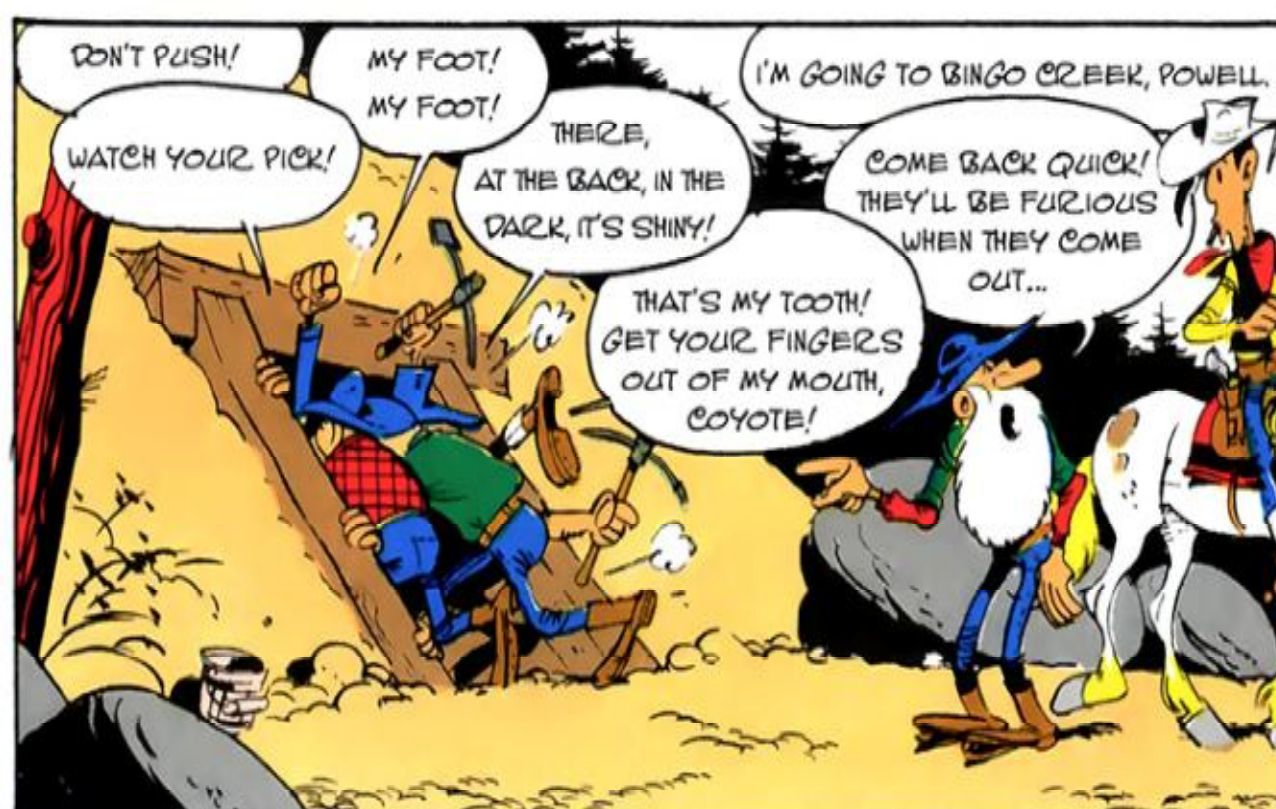
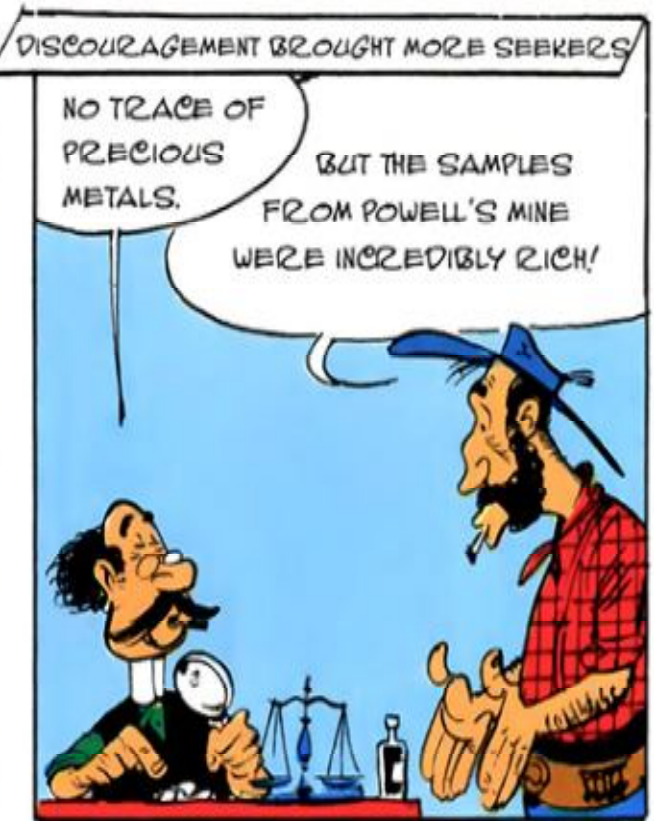


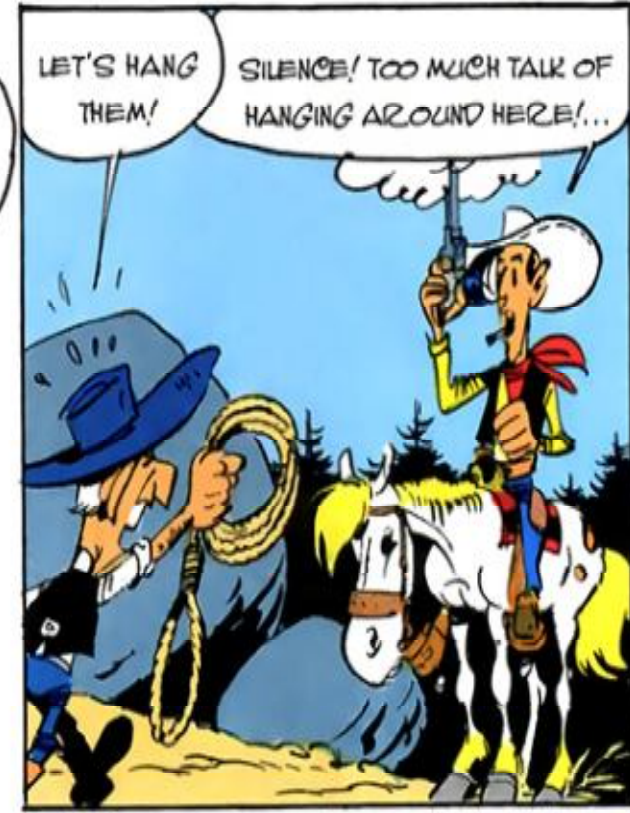
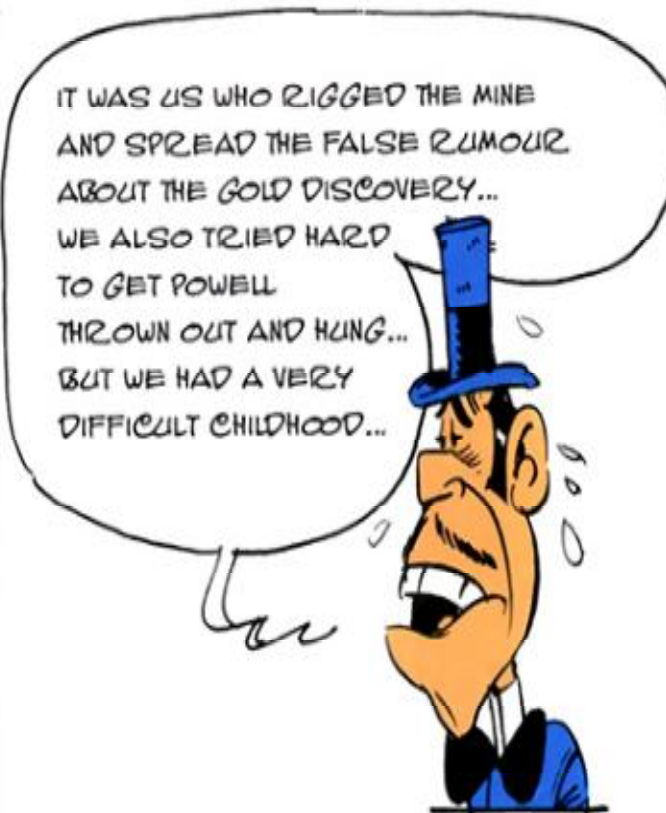
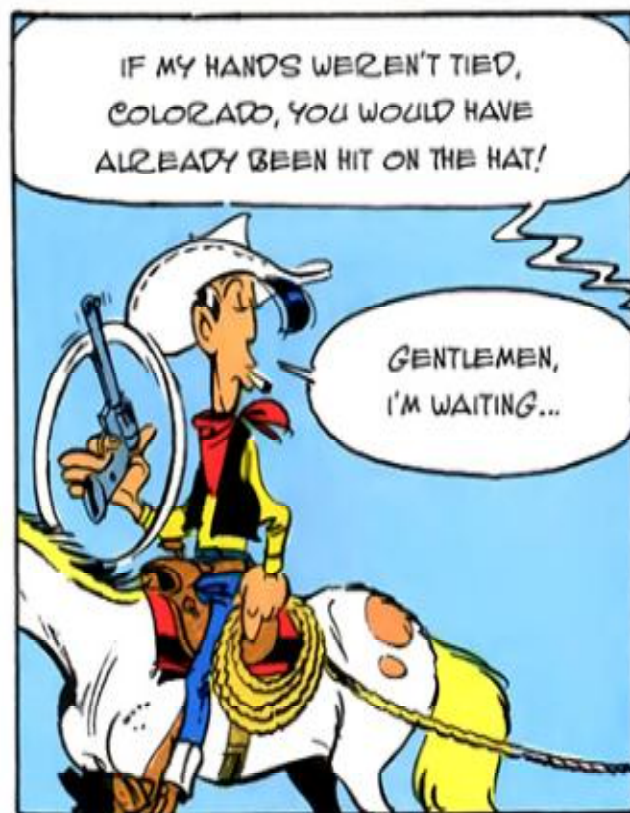
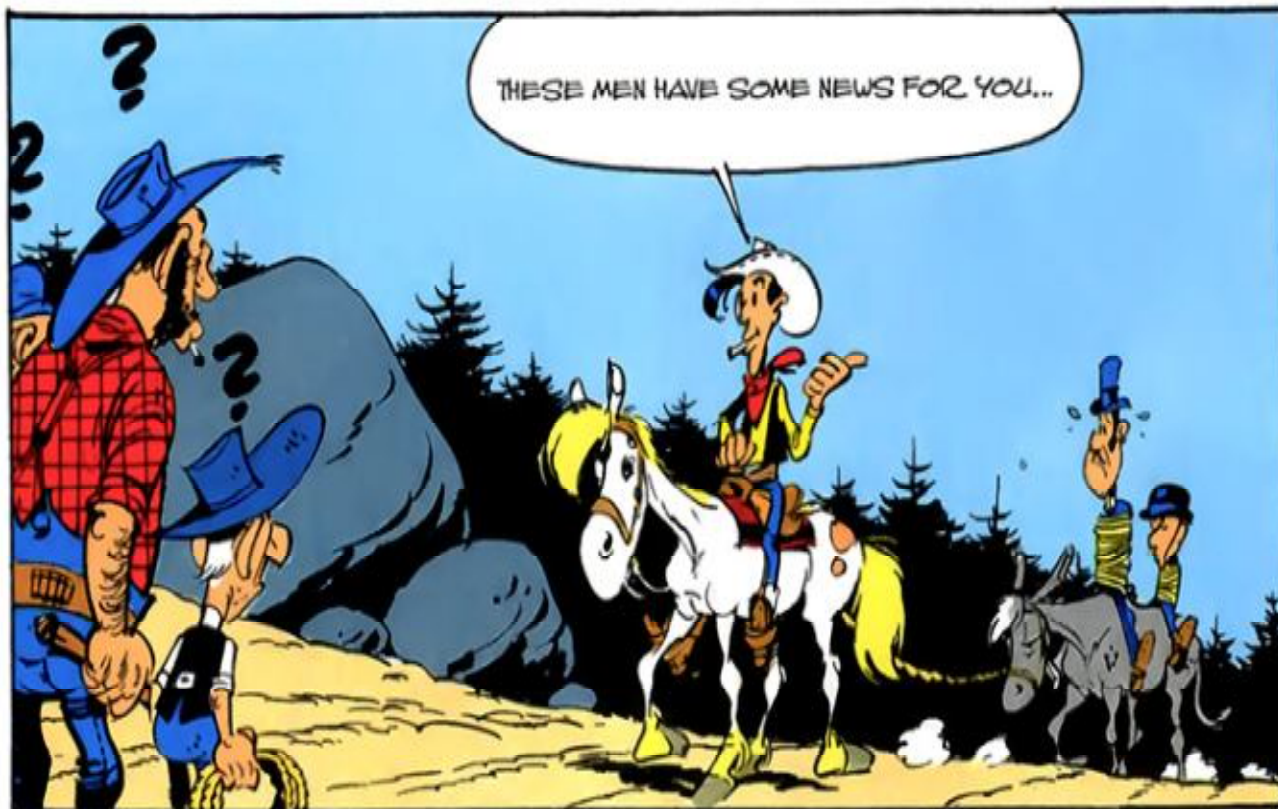


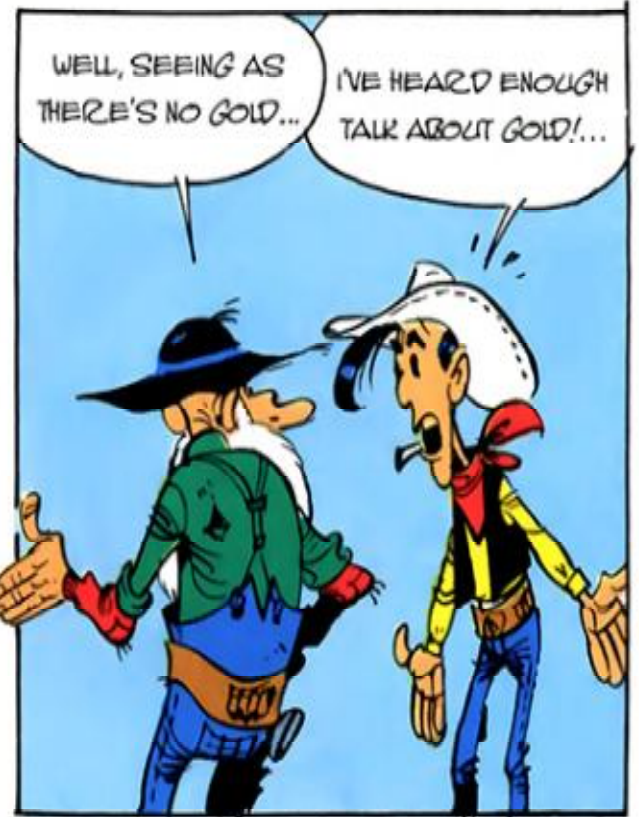


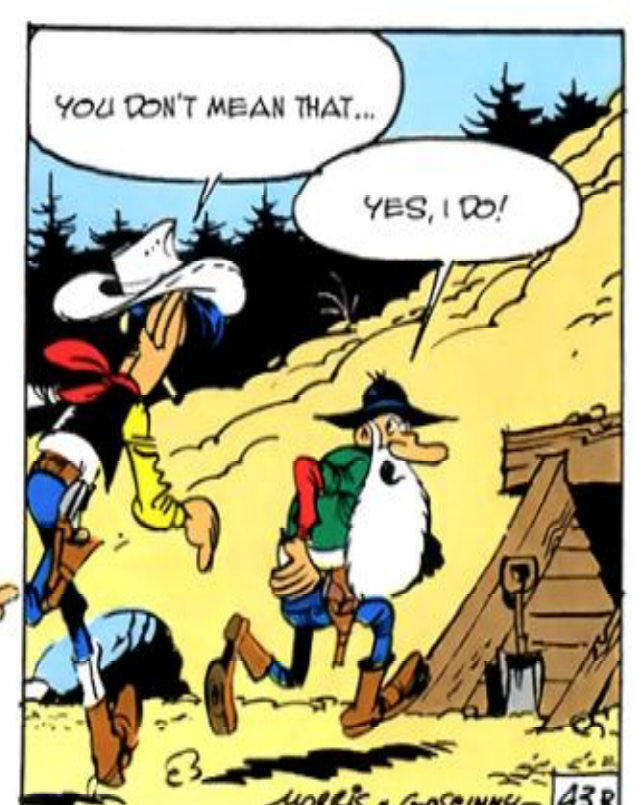
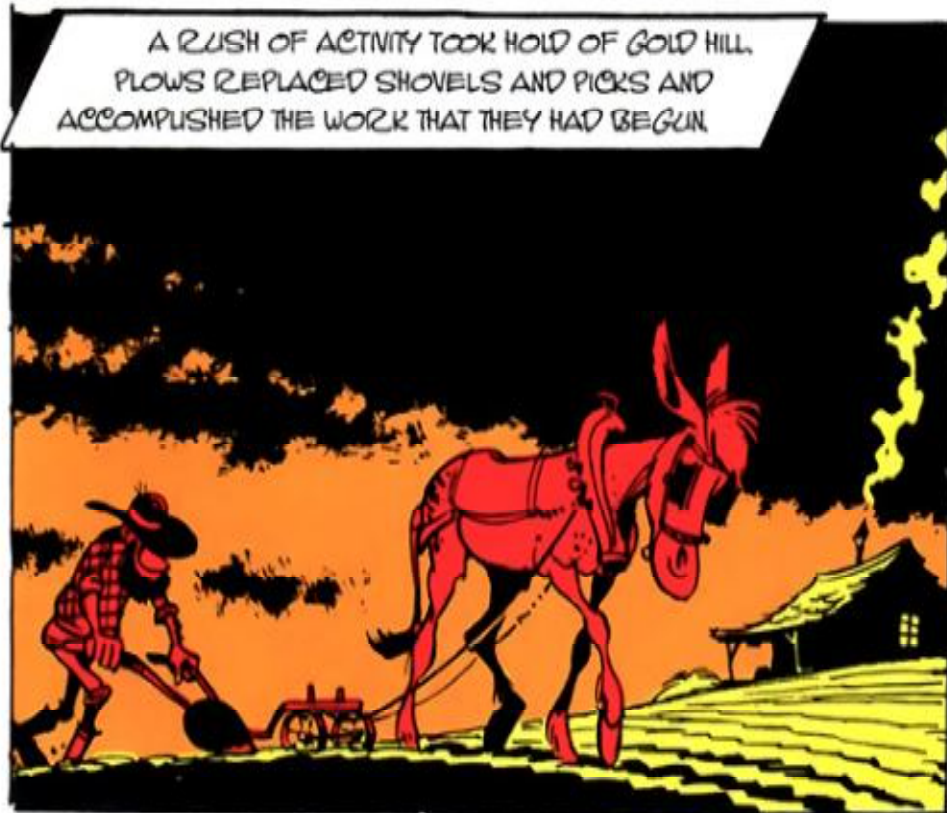
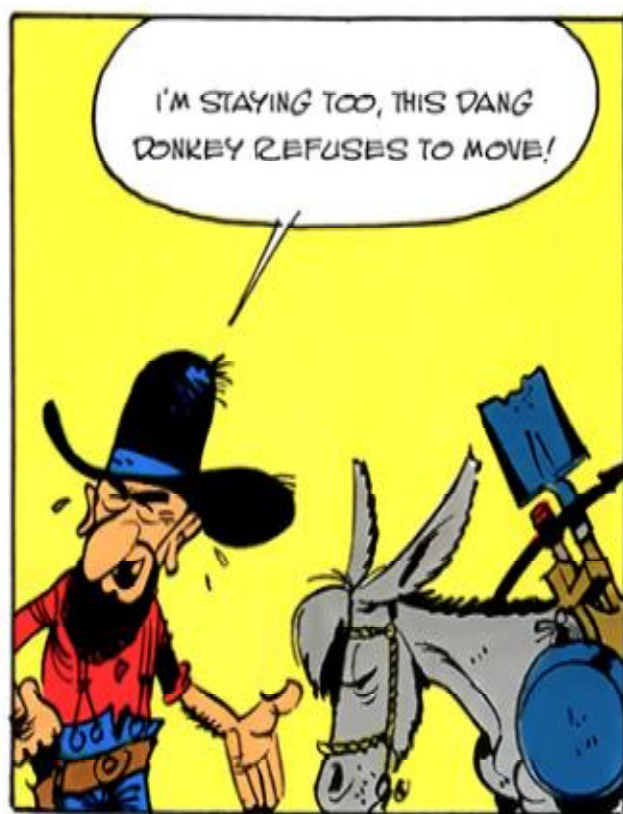


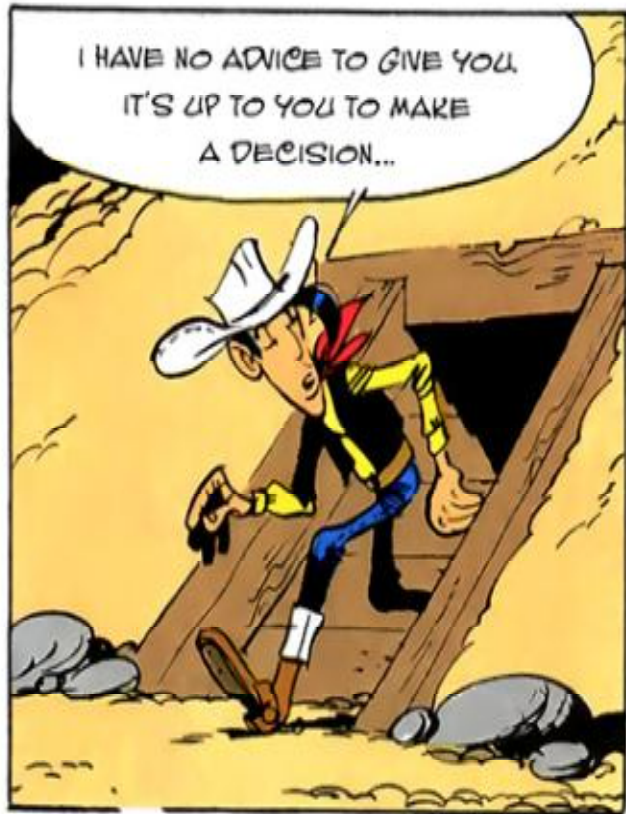
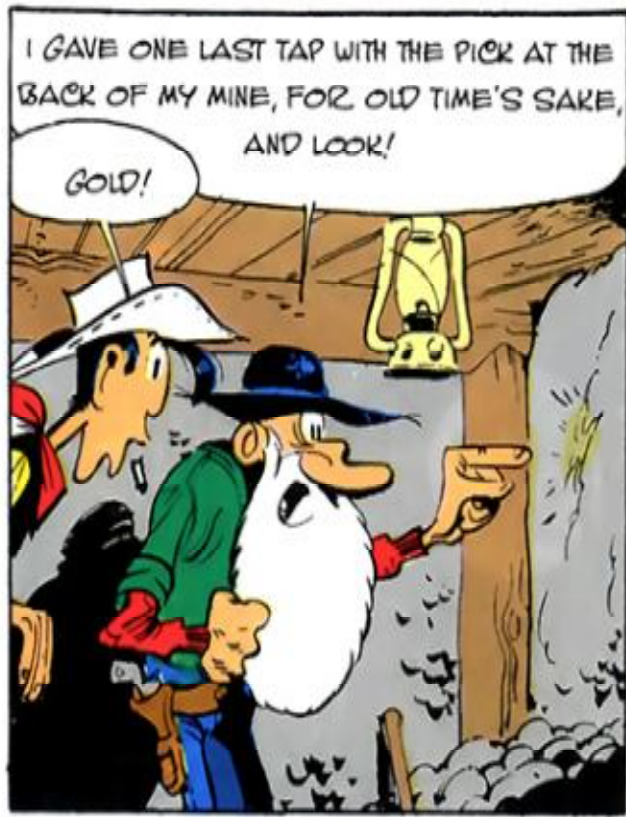












(*) INDEED, GOLD HILL HAS NOW BECOME A FARMING TOWN WITH 687,541 INHABITANTS, SEVERAL WHEAT SILOS AND MODERN SLAUGHTERHOUSES. ITS FARMERS' MARKET IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST IN THE WORLD...