

THERE IS NO RUG BIG ENOUGH TO SWEEP THE DESERT UNDER



LUPO ALBERTO



It is no accident that our planet is called Earth. All terrestrial life depends on the fragile, friable crust of soil that coats the continents.

◆
This precious covering is painfully slow to form and can be destroyed terrifyingly fast. Just a single inch of soil can take centuries to build up!

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But, if mistreated, it can be blown and washed away in a few seasons.

And earth is now rapidly vanishing all over the planet that bears its name.

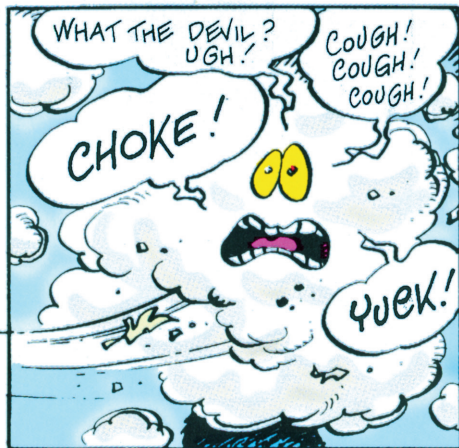
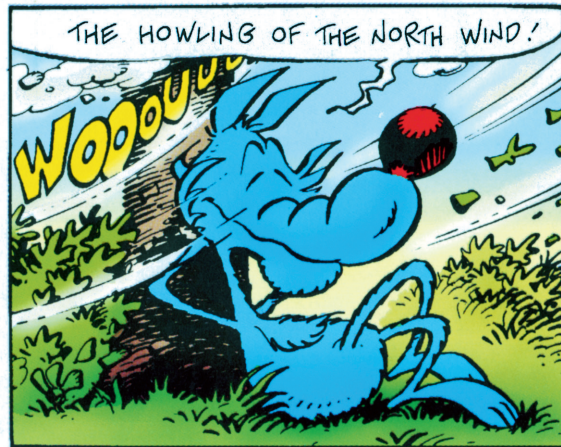
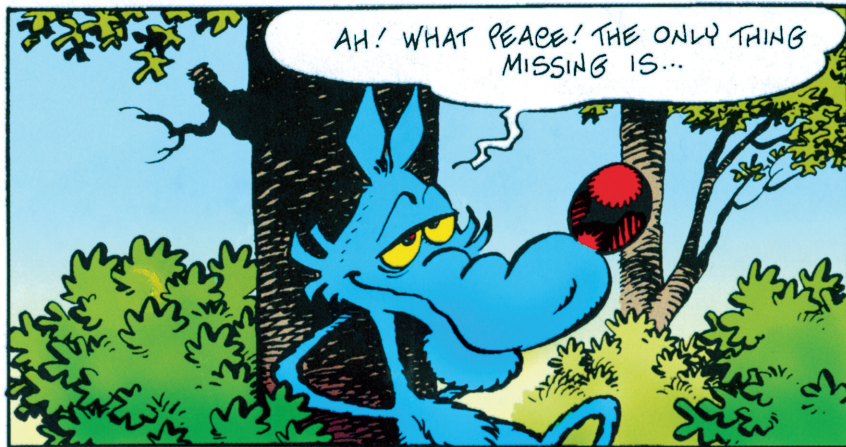
Nowhere is the crisis more acute than in the drylands which stretch across more than a third of the Earth's land surface. It is here that desertification takes hold.

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Desertification is land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. It threatens the livelihoods of more than one billion people and may drive over 135 million away from their land.

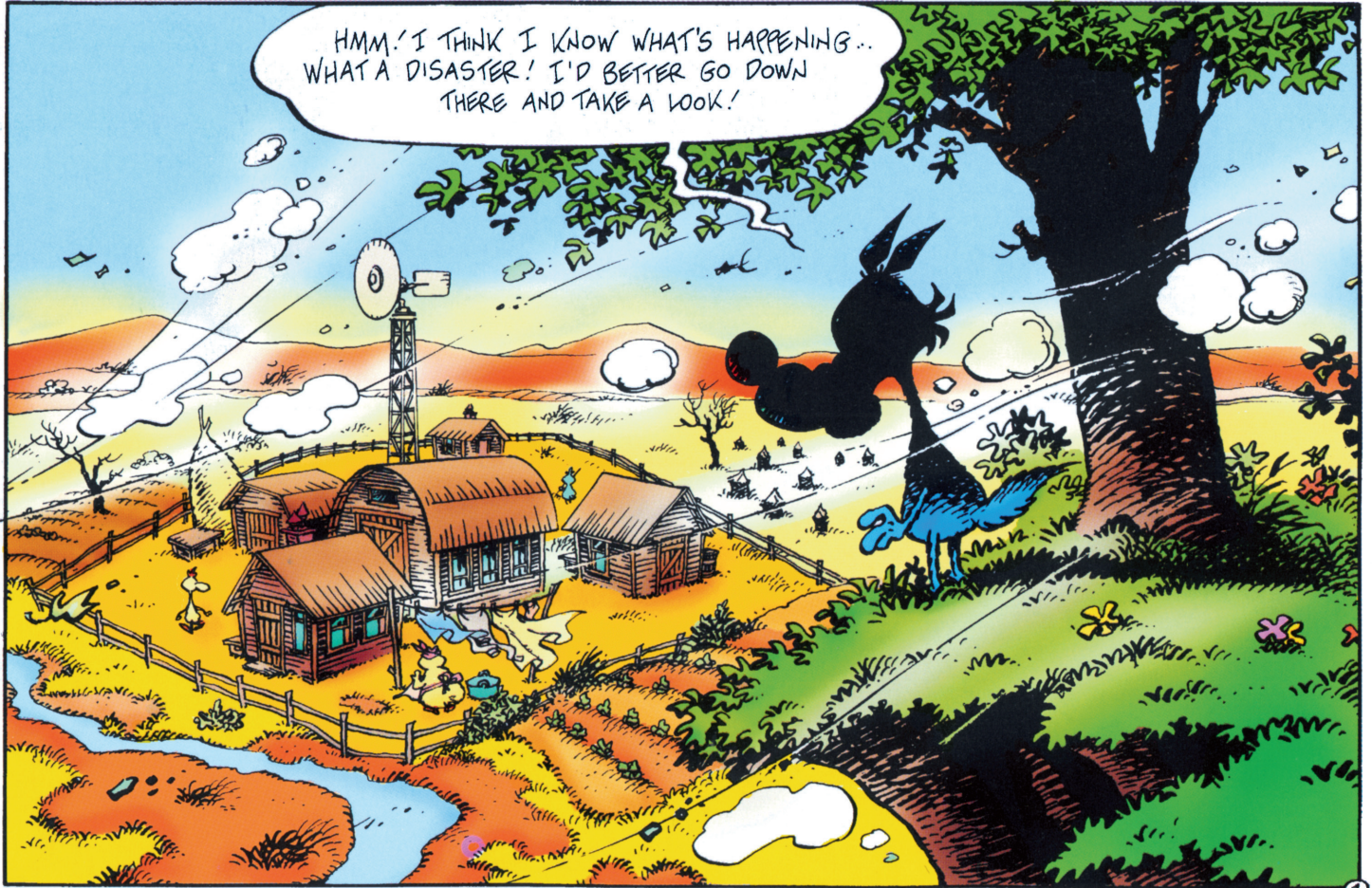
The situation is especially dramatic in Africa, but action is also needed in other regions:

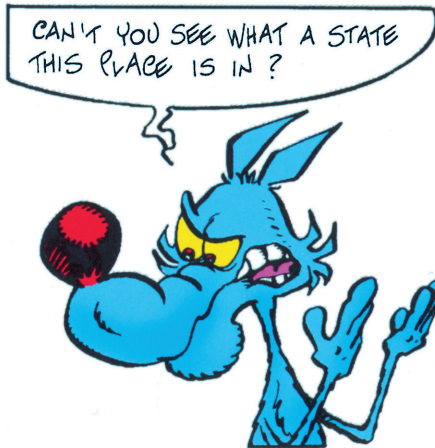
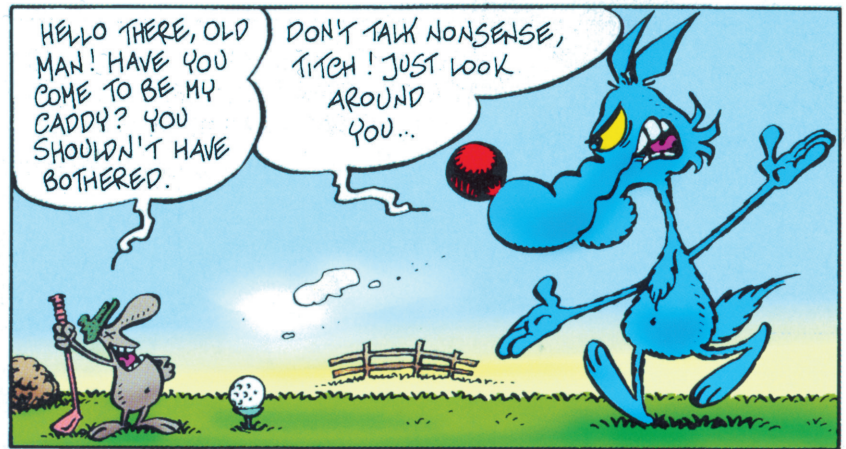
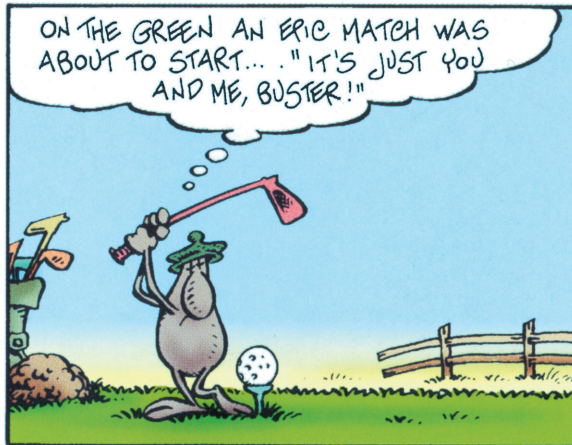
Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

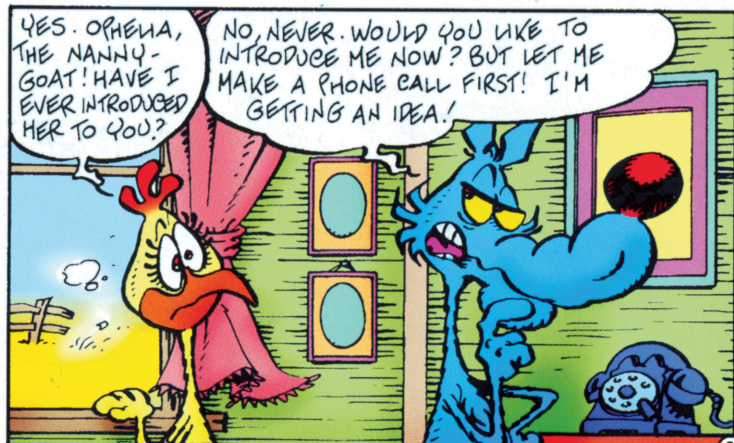
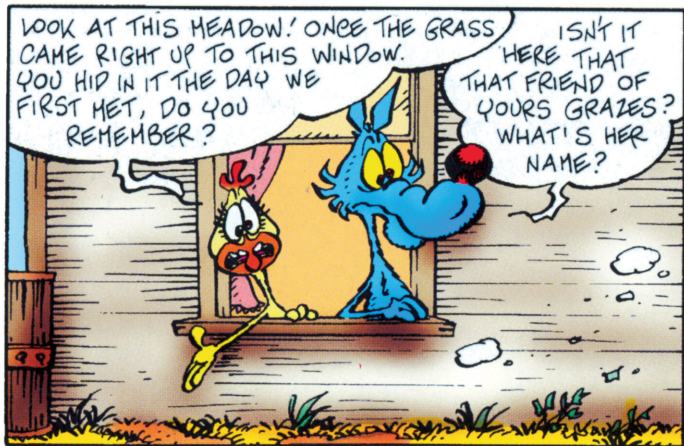
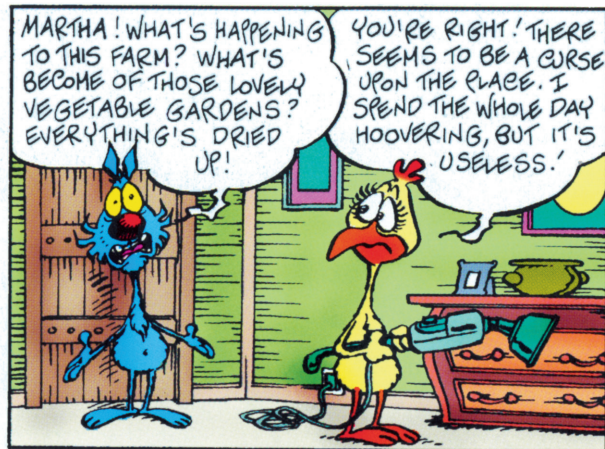
Furthermore, countries which are not directly affected bear some of its consequences, for desertification contributes to food insecurity, economic hardship, poverty and political unrest, which in turn lead to population movements.

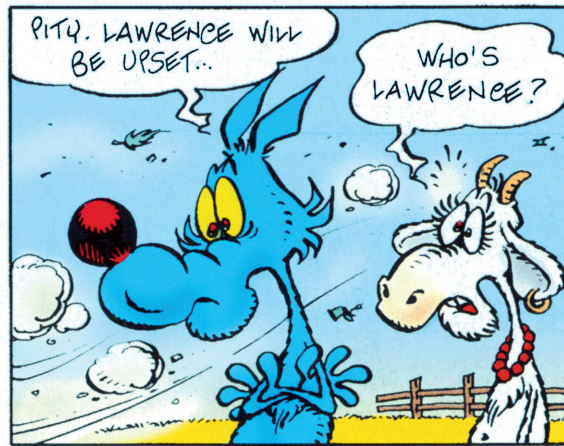
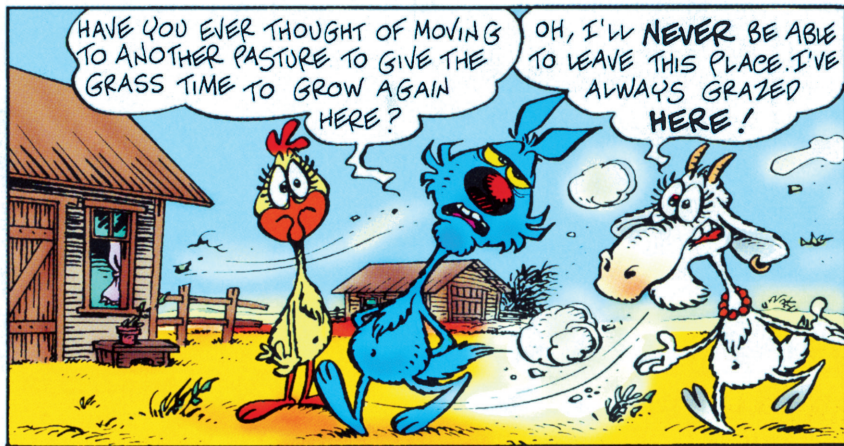
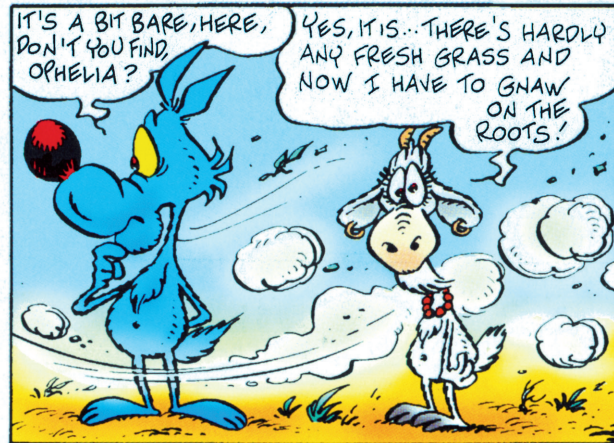


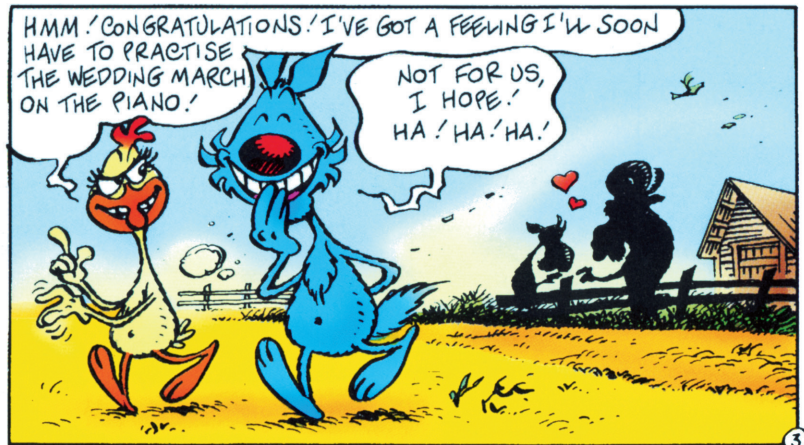
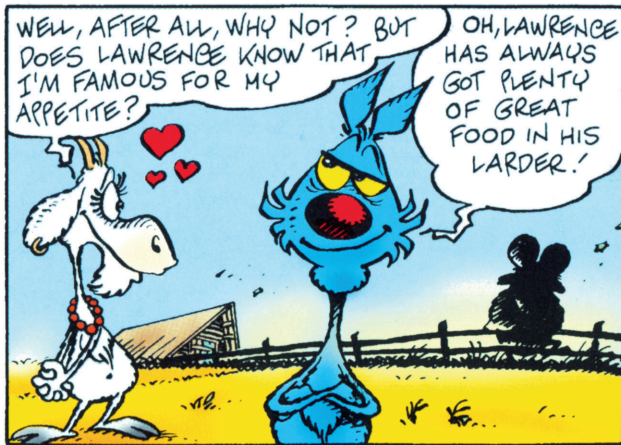
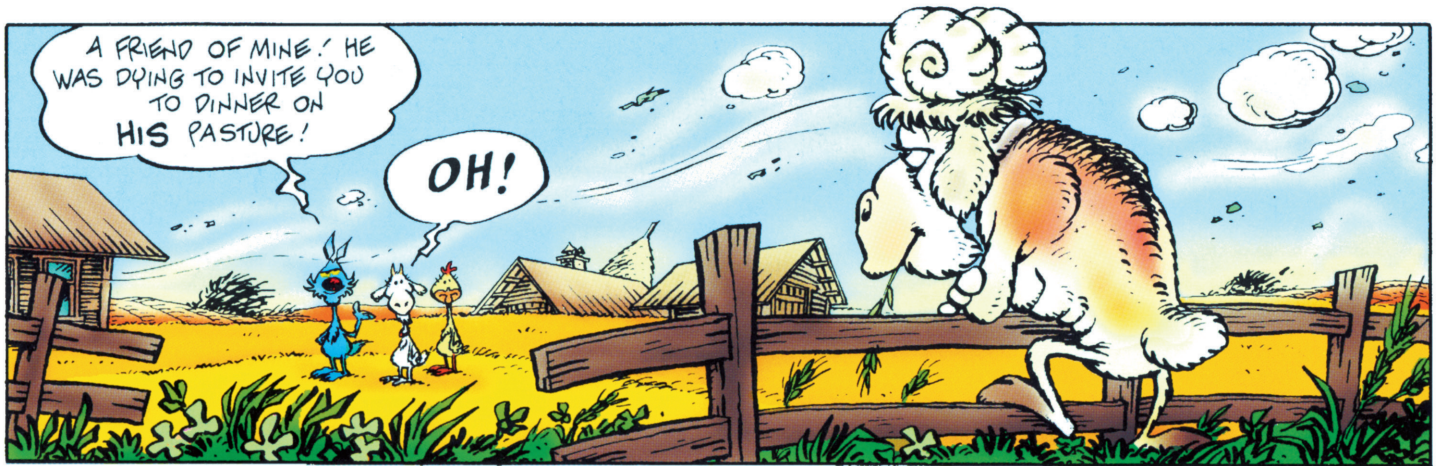
HMM! I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING..
WHAT A DISASTER! I'D BETTER GO DOWN
THERE AND TAKE A LOOK!

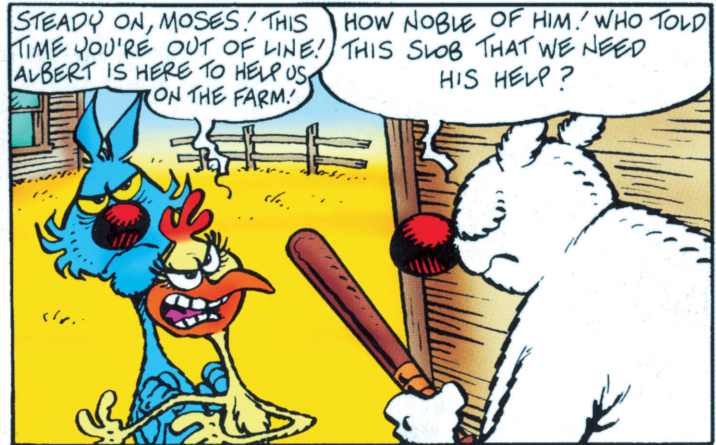
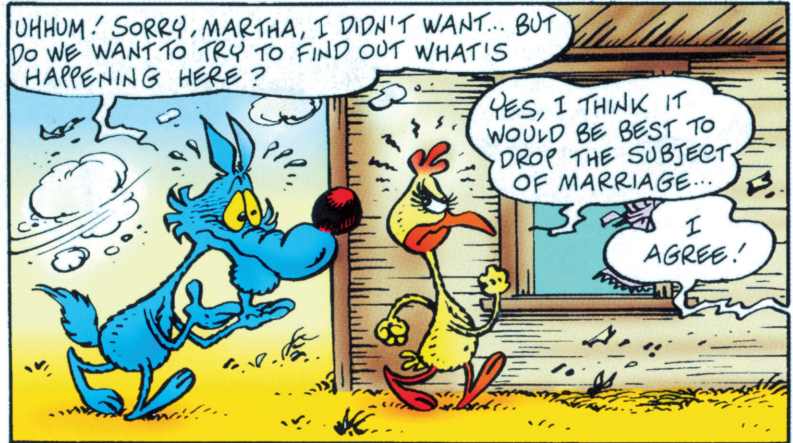
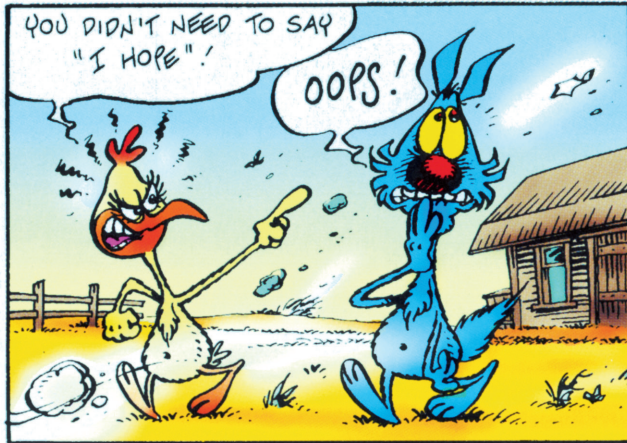


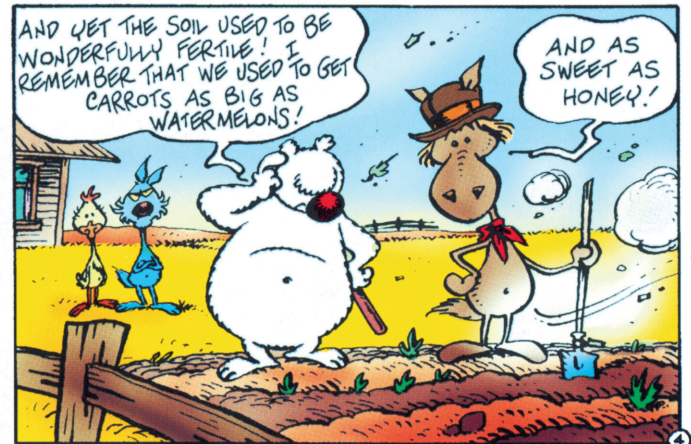
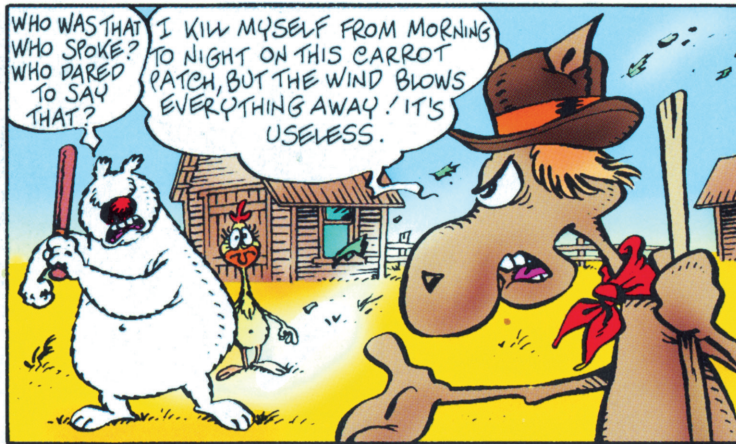
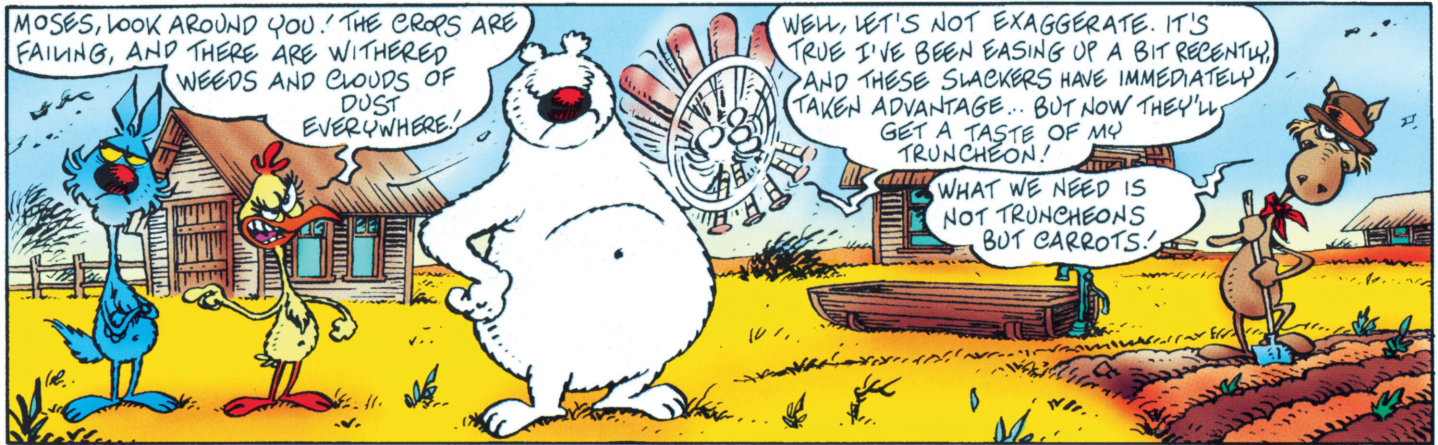


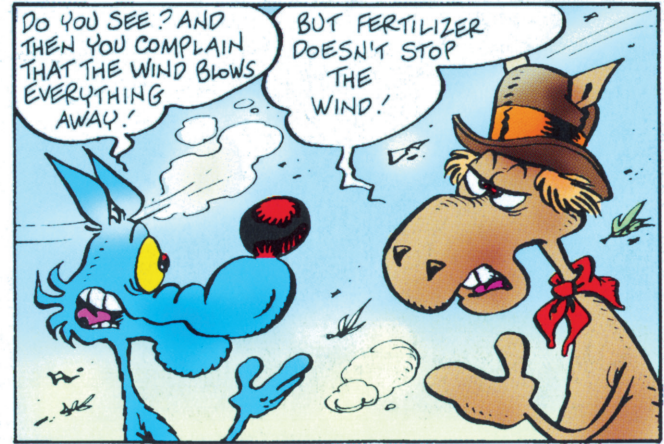
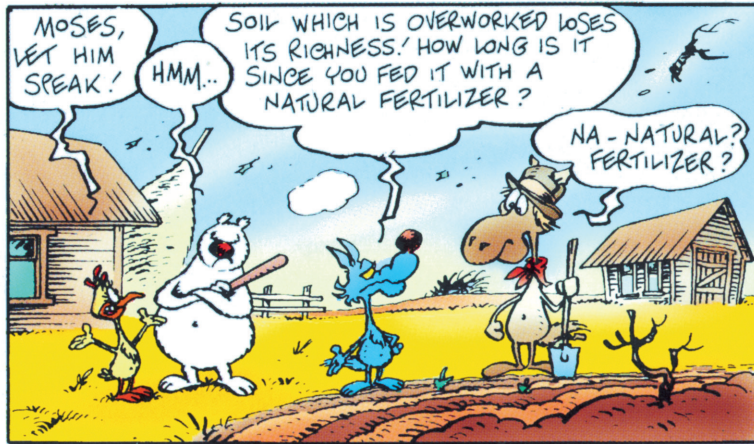
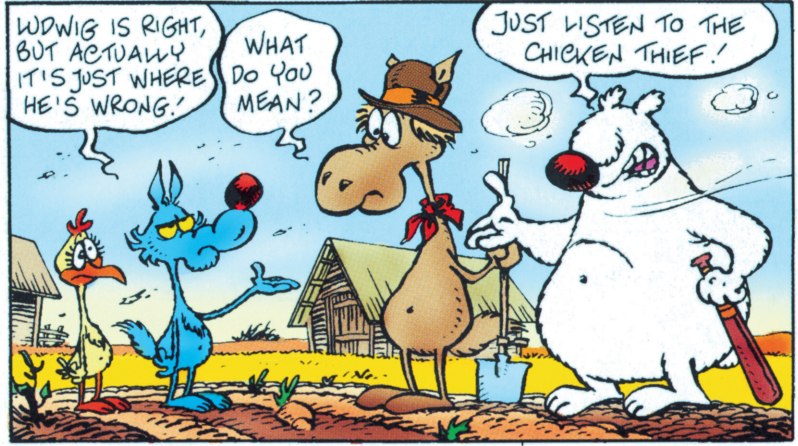
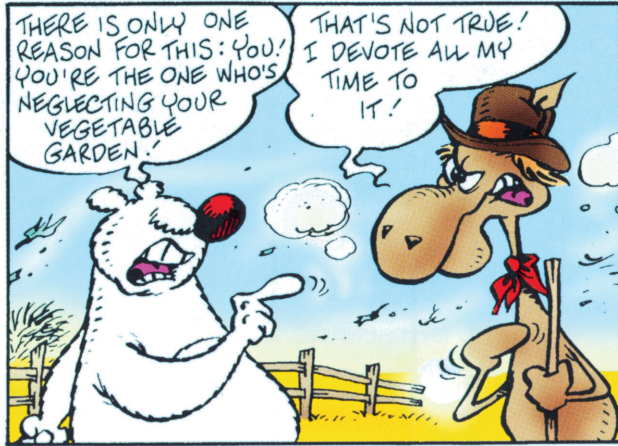


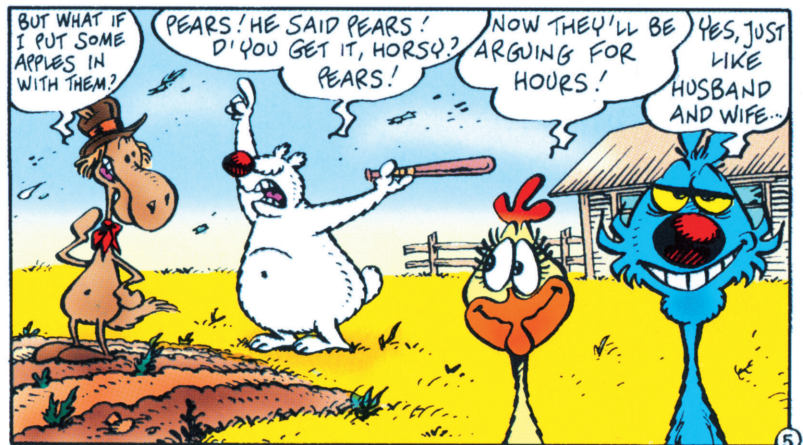
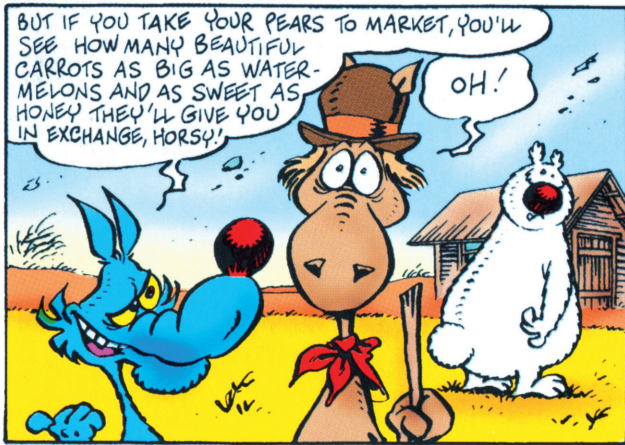
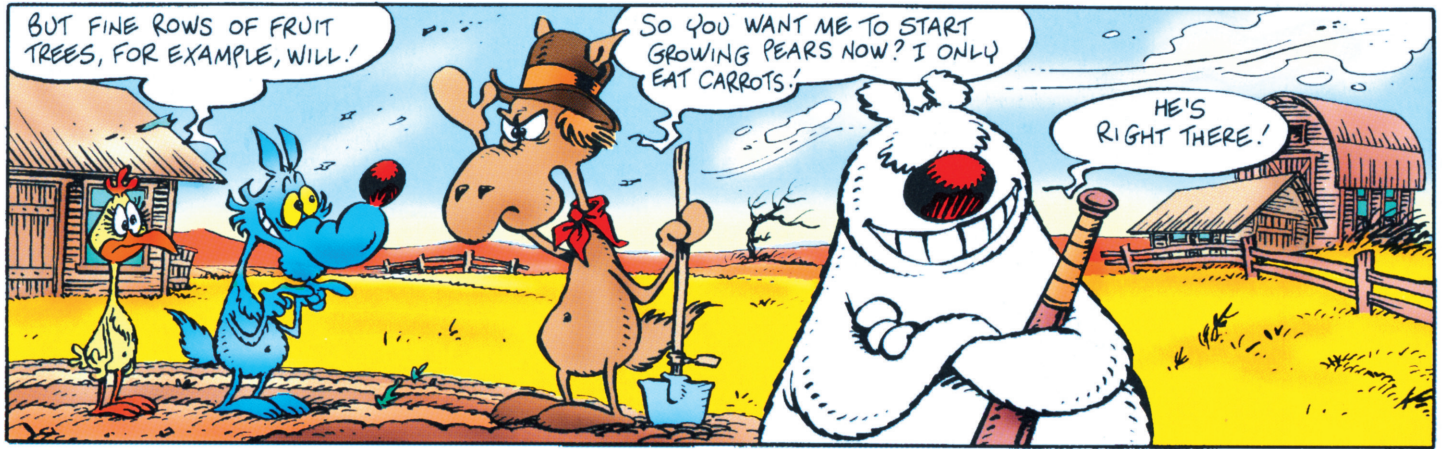


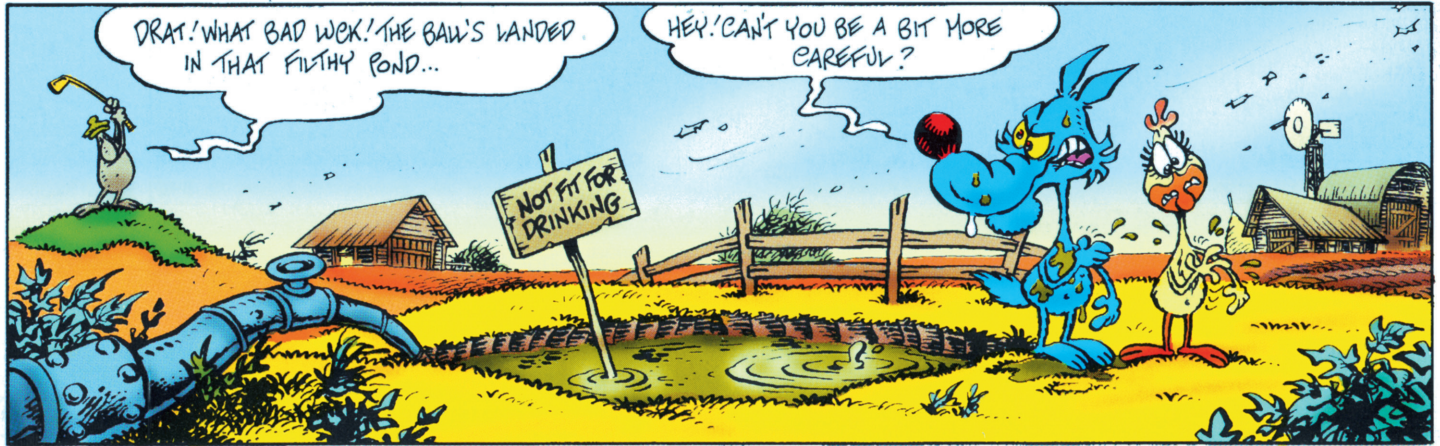
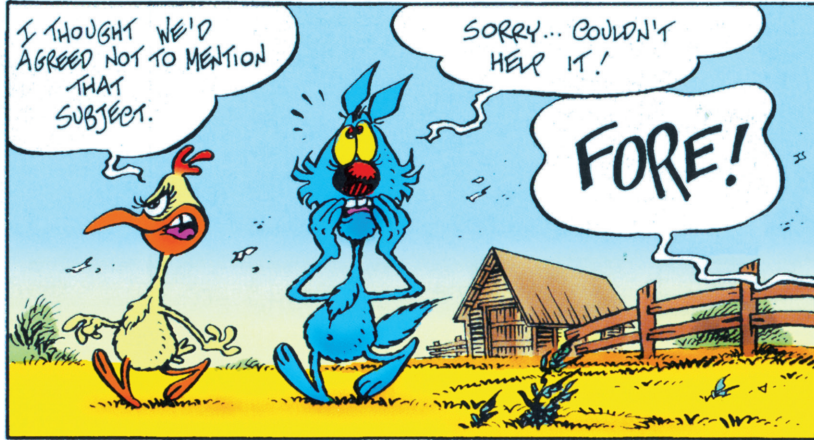


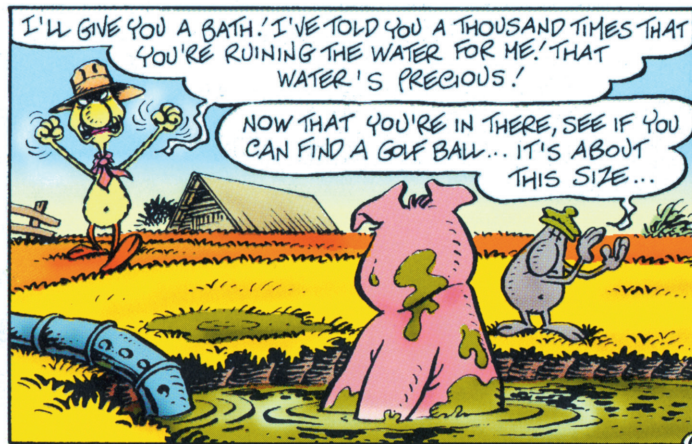
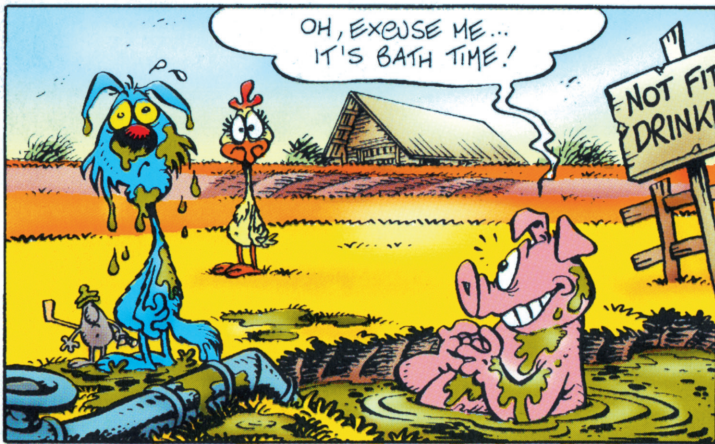
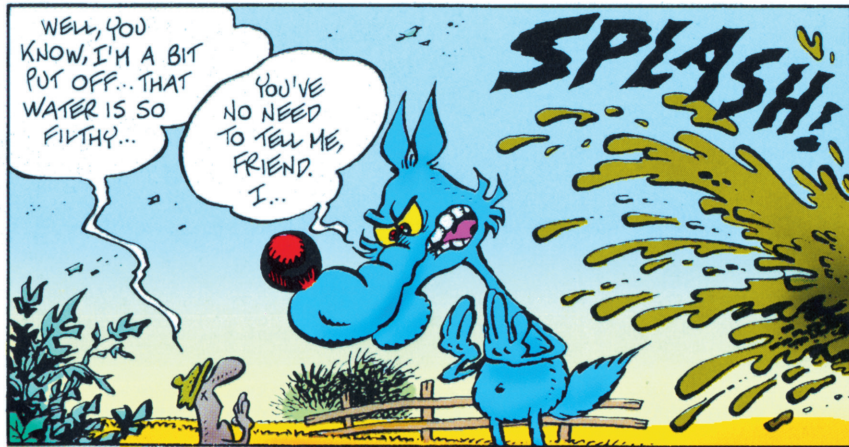
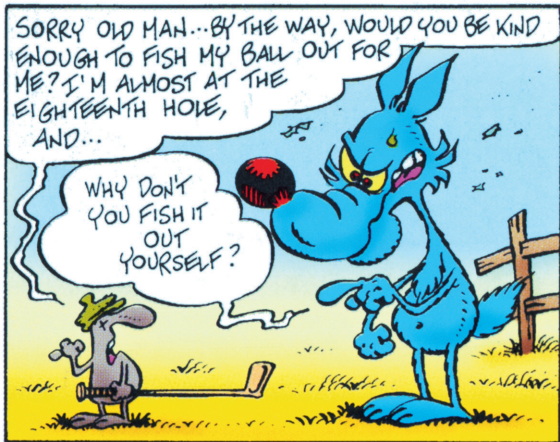


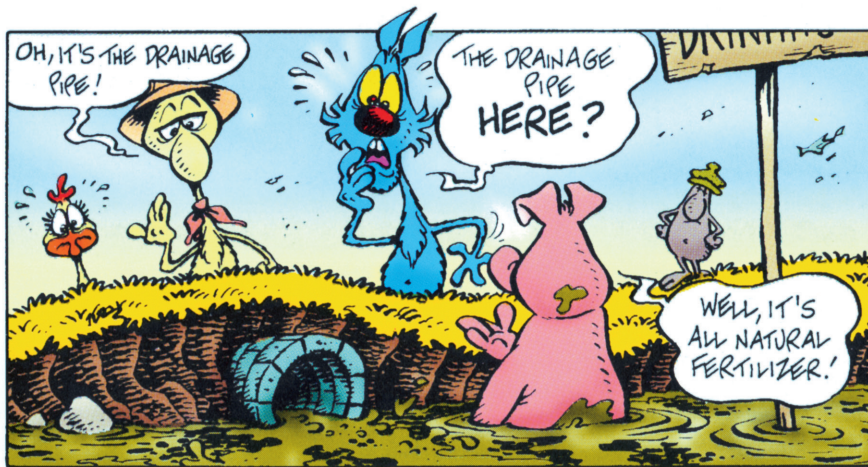
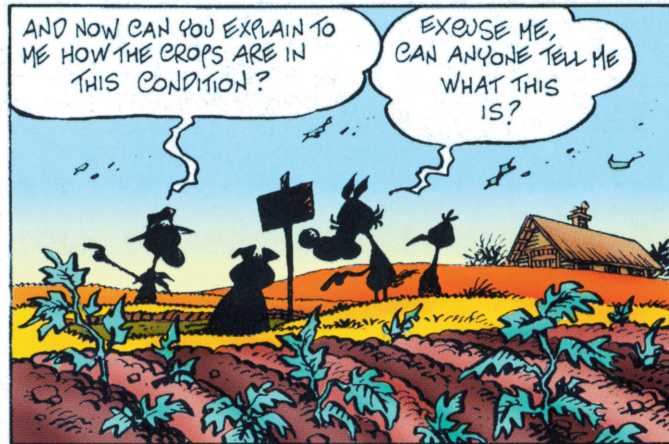
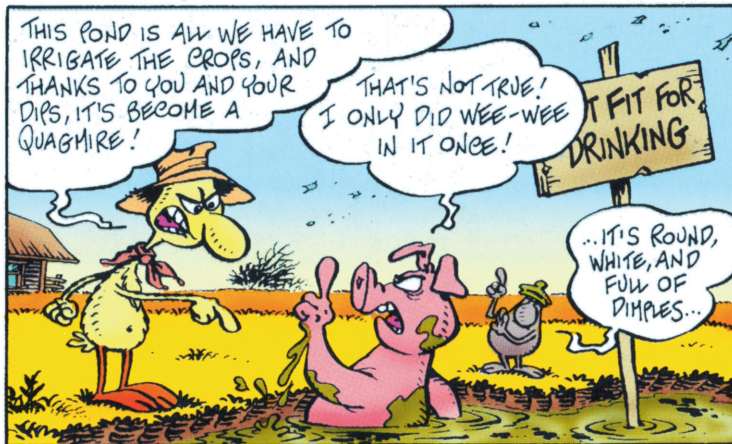


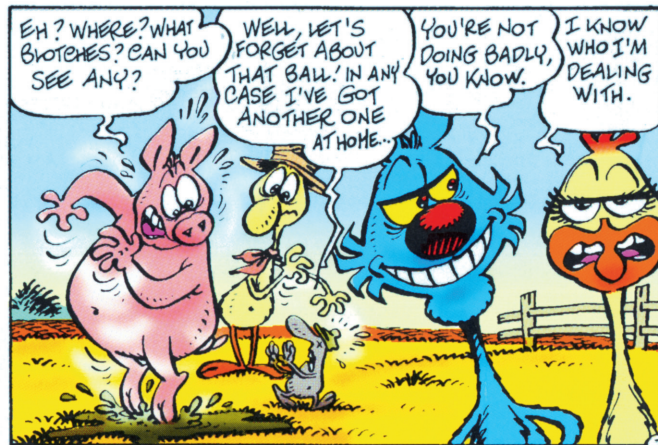
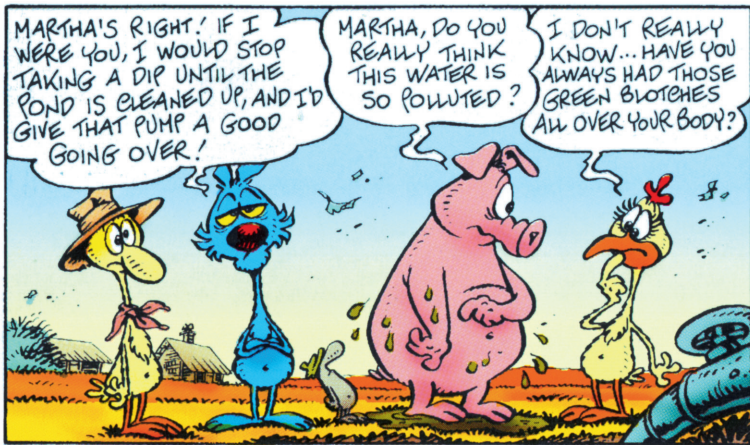
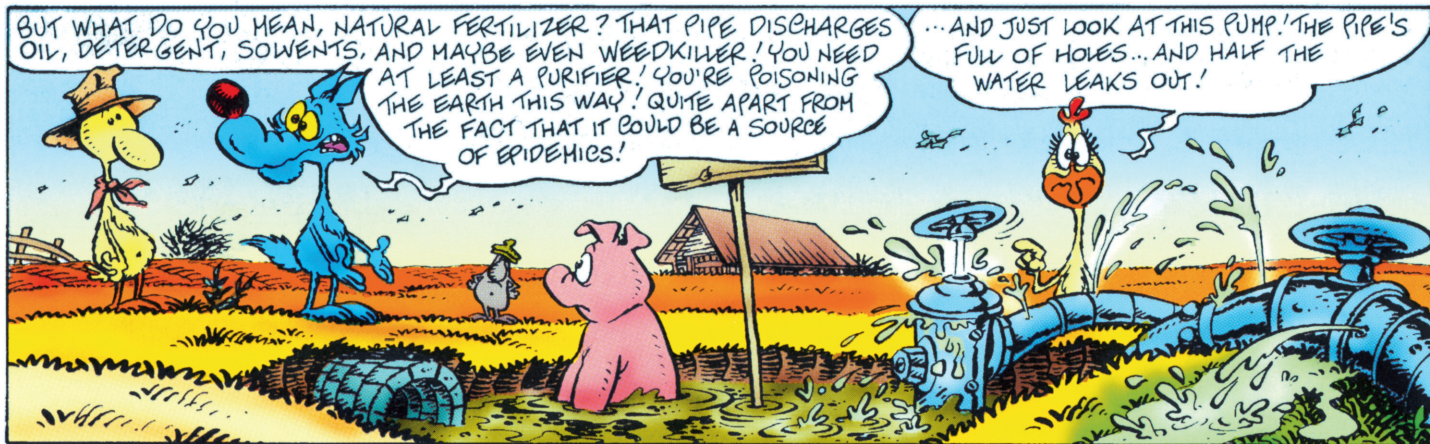


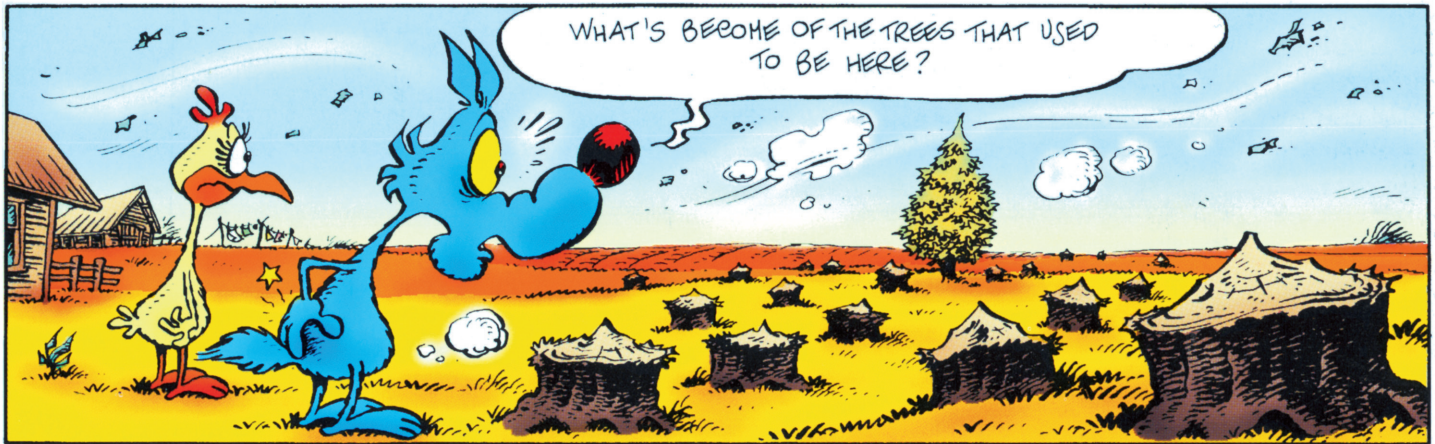
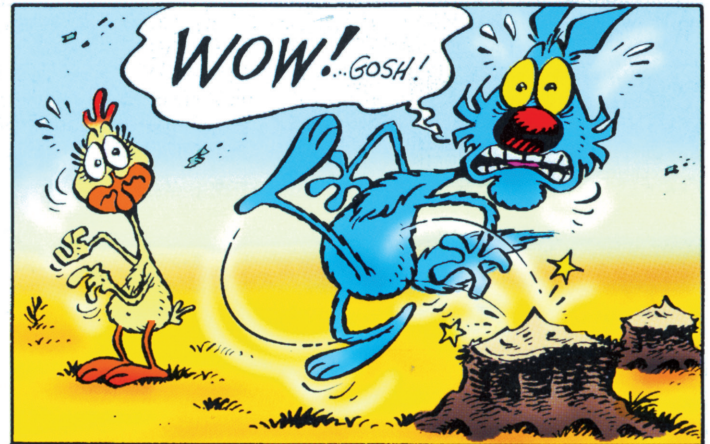
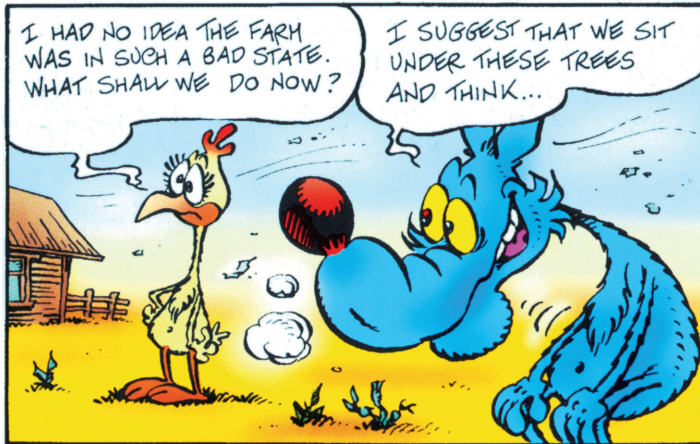


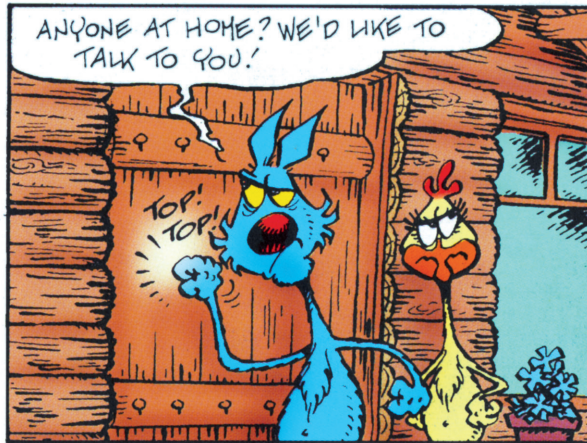
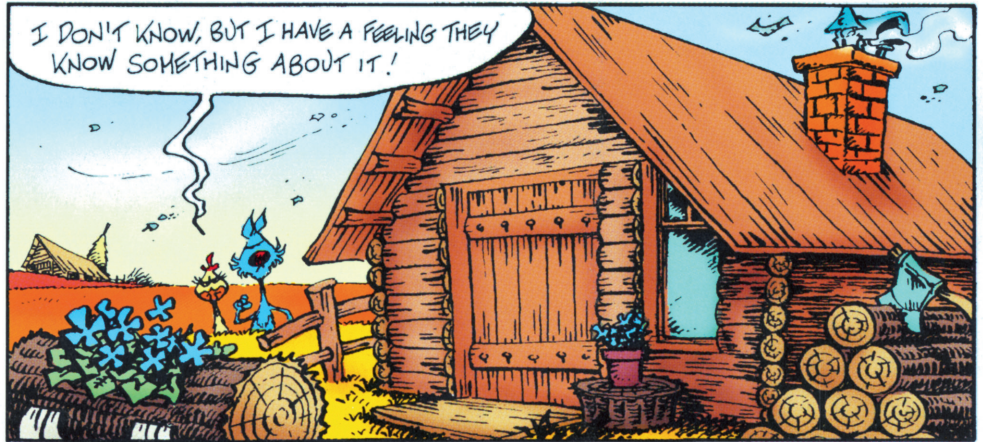


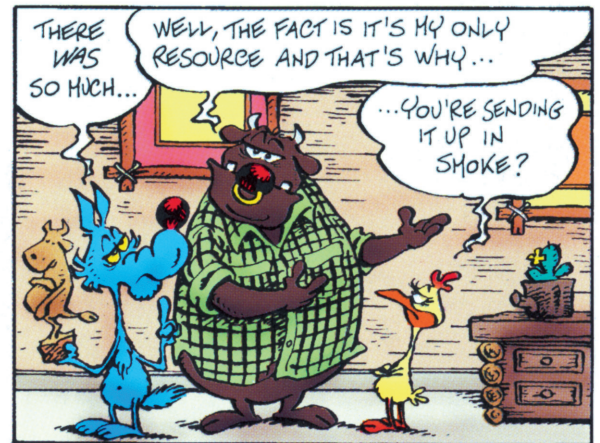
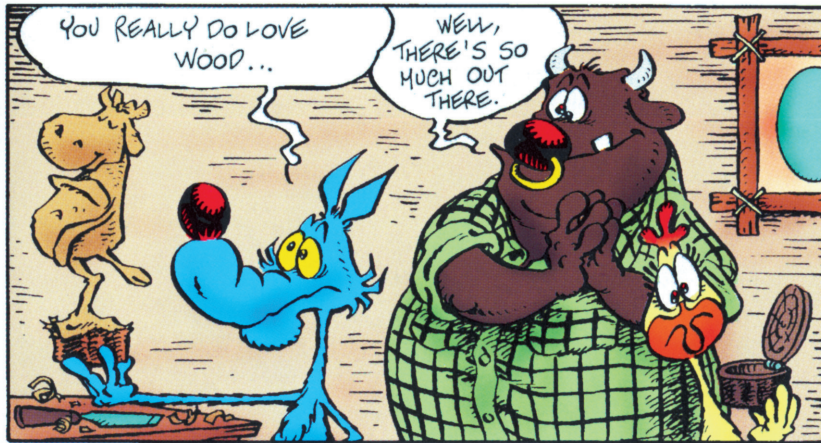
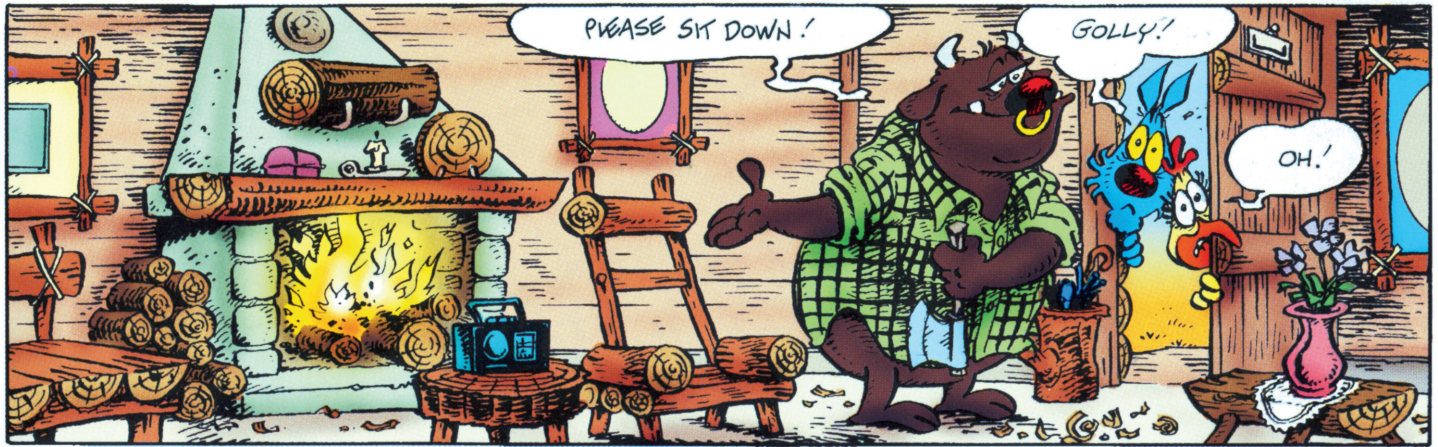


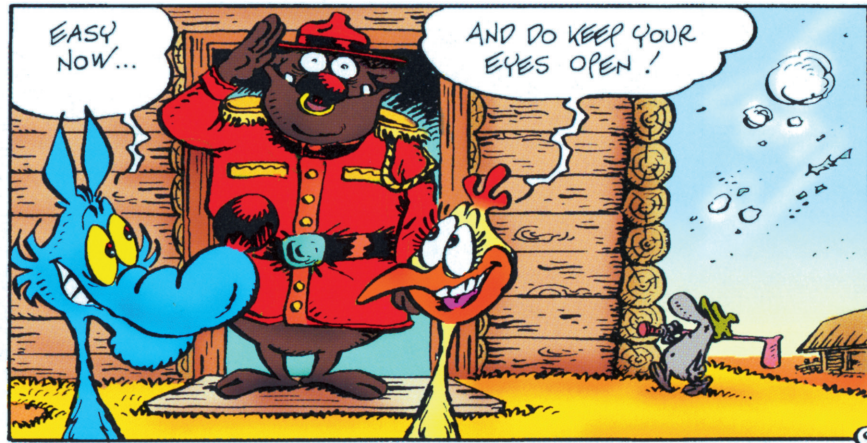
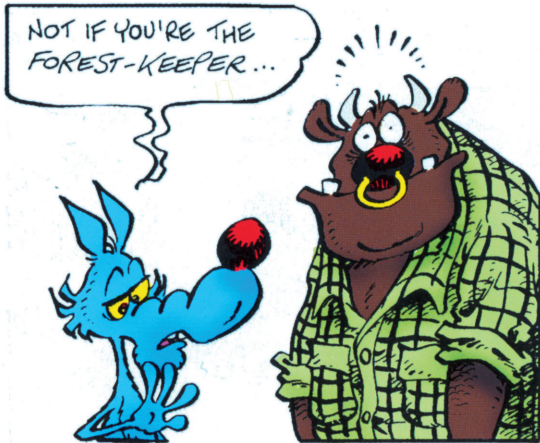
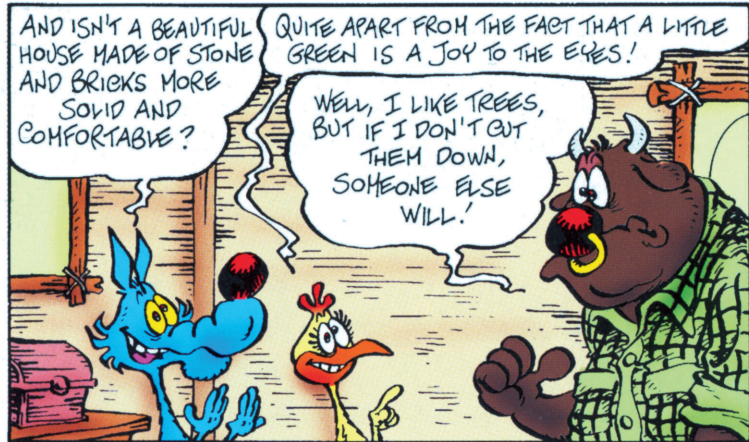
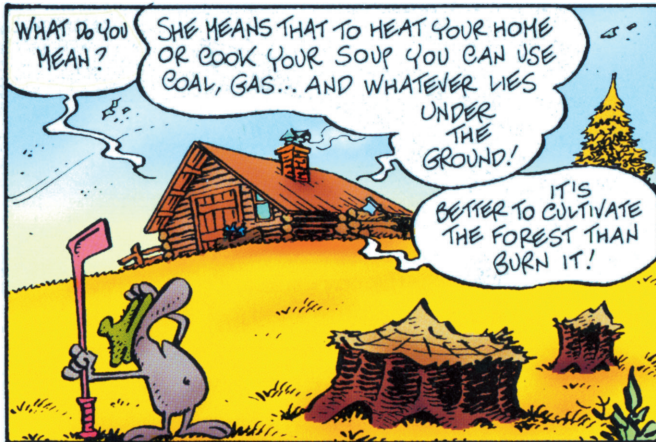


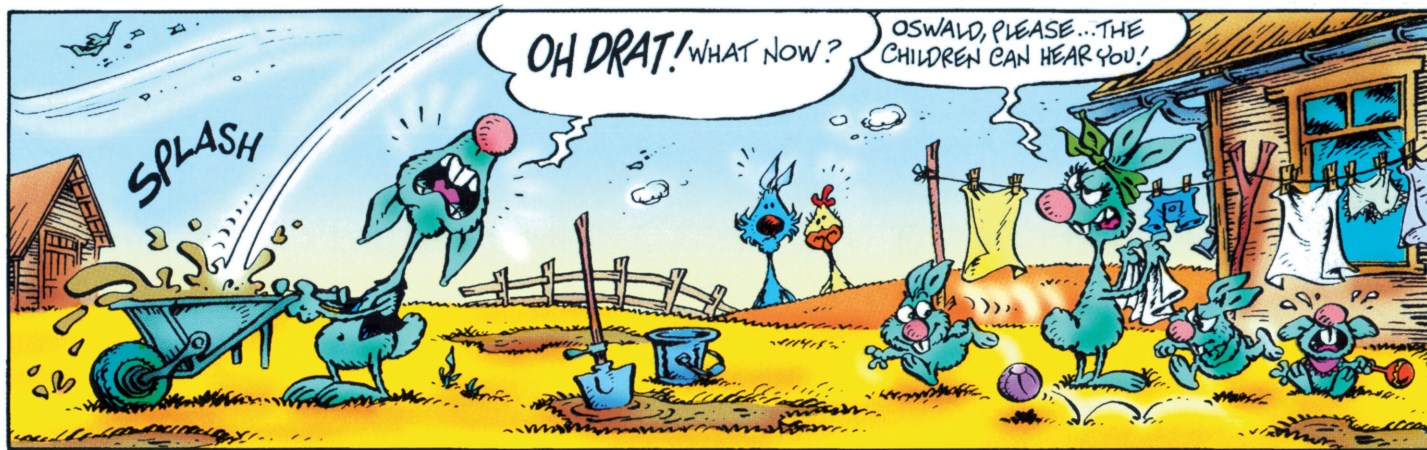
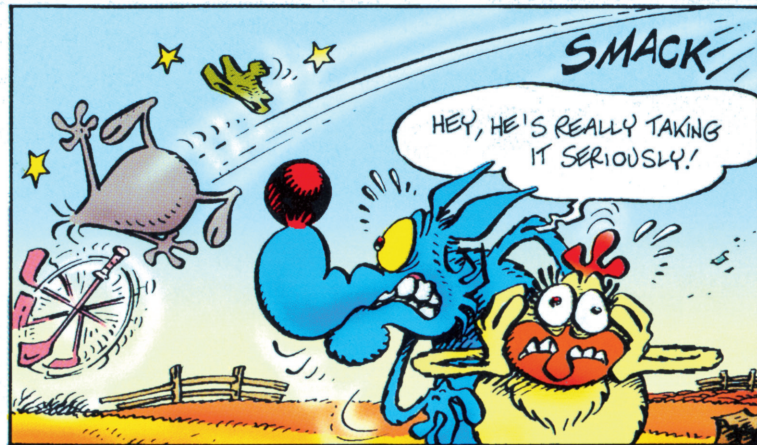
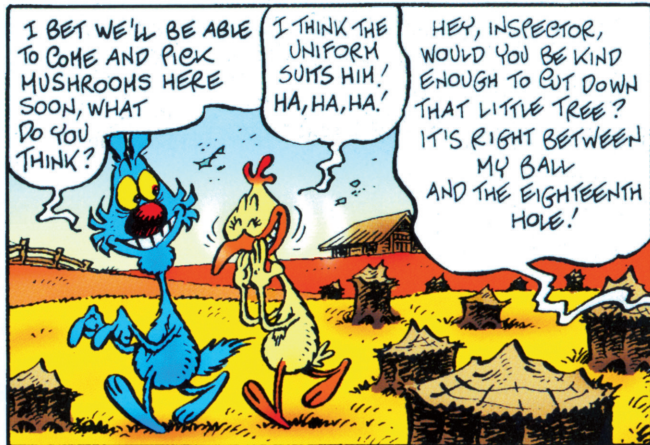


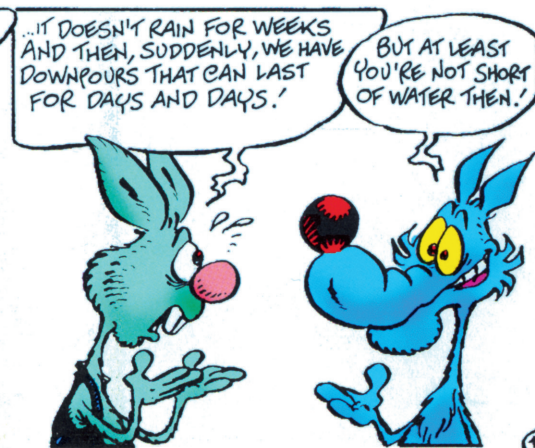
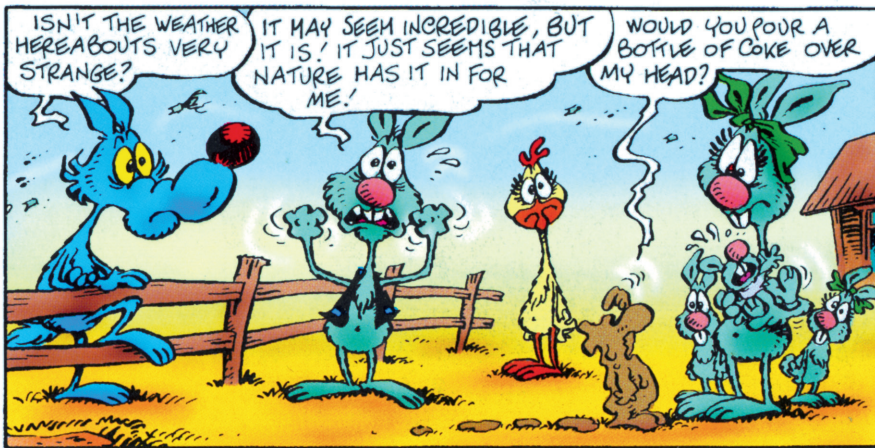
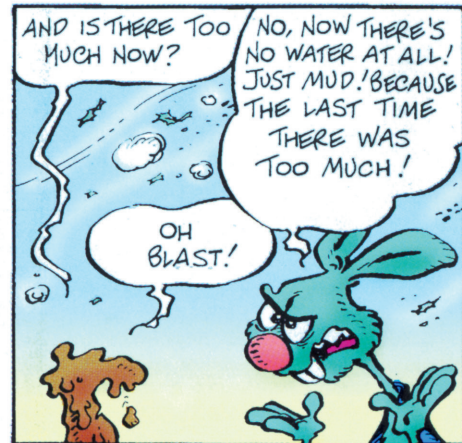
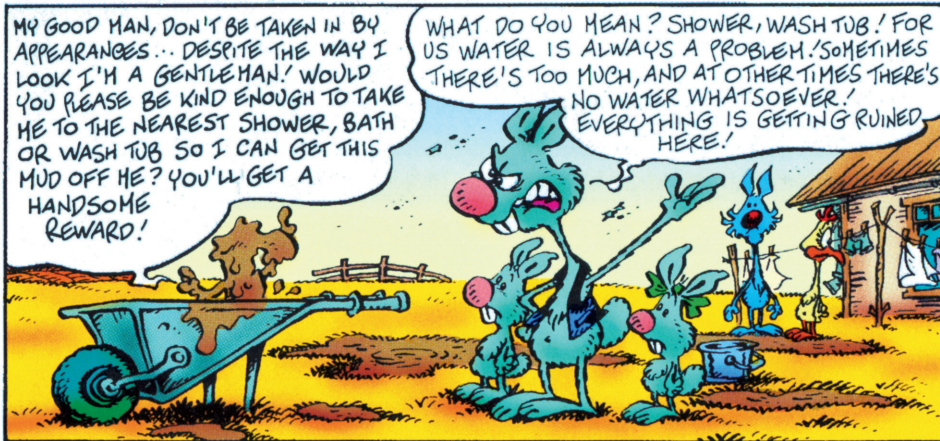


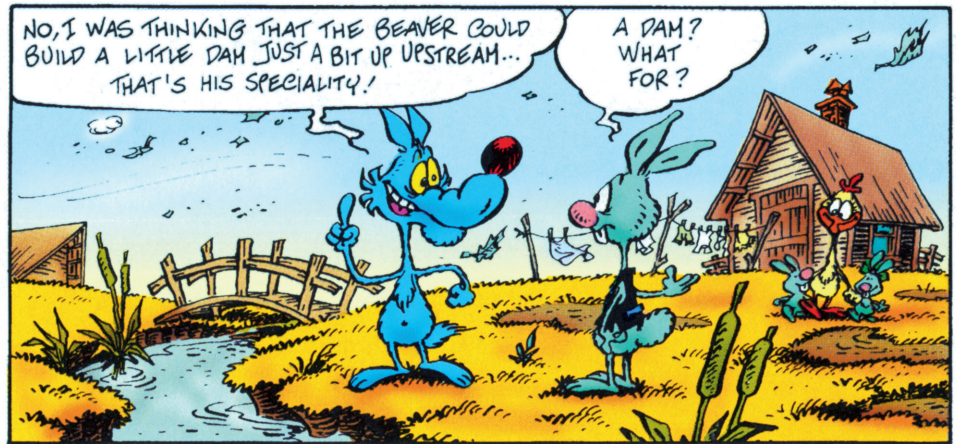
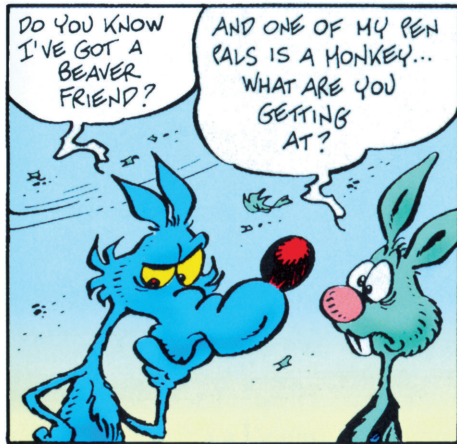
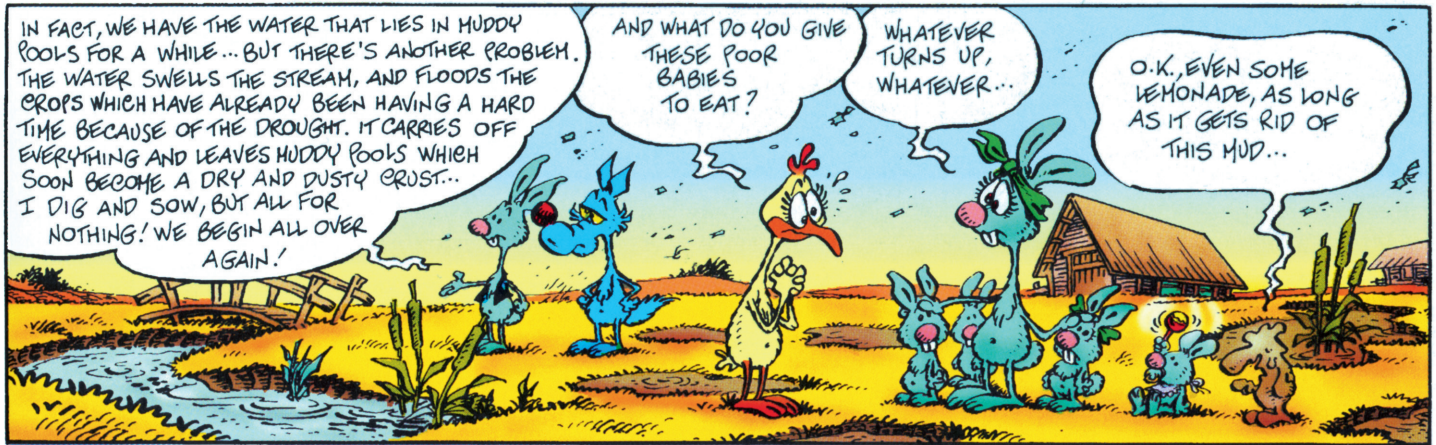


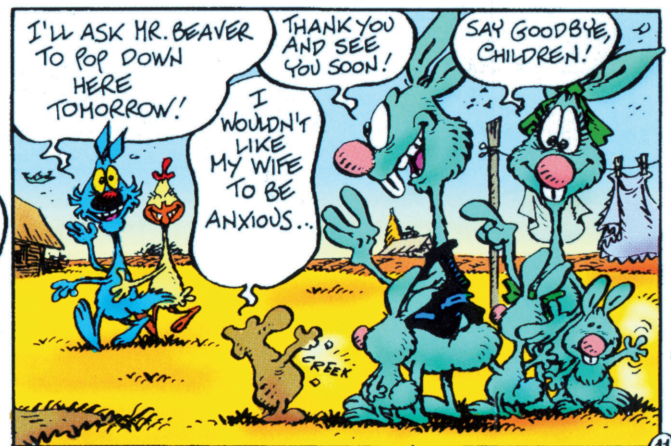
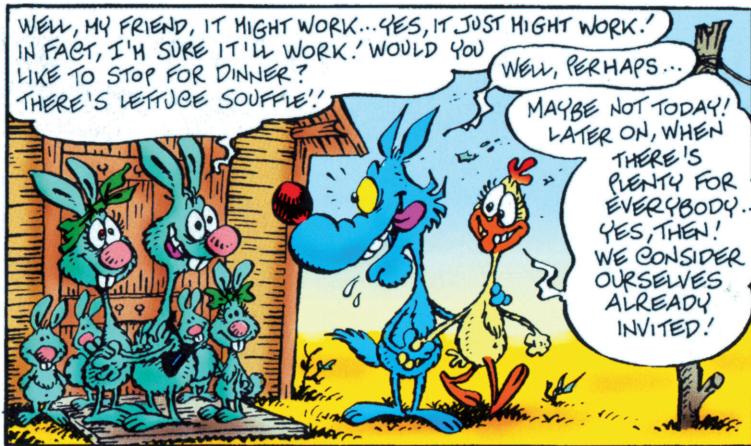
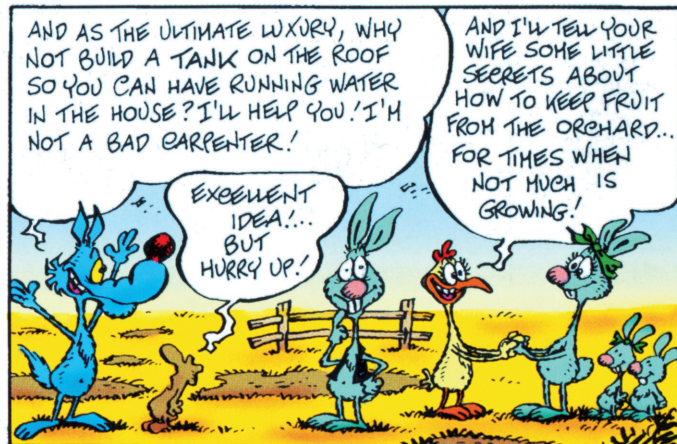
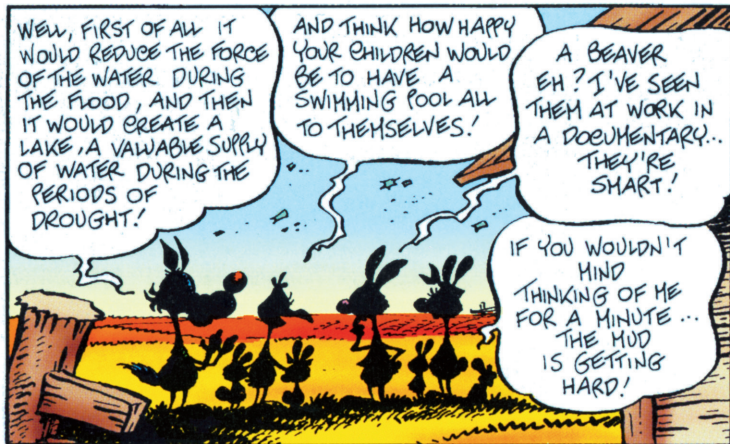






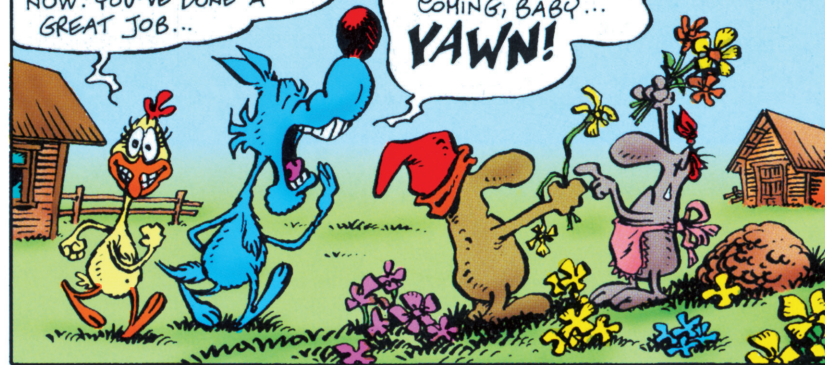






A LITTLE WHILE LATER ...

THE AIR IS DIFFERENT NOW! YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB...

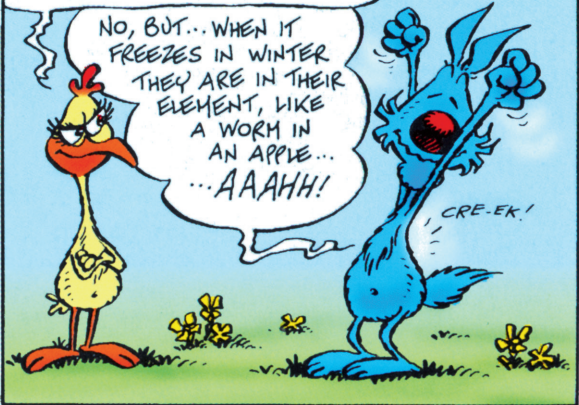


WELL, WINTER IS COMING, BABY...

YAWN!

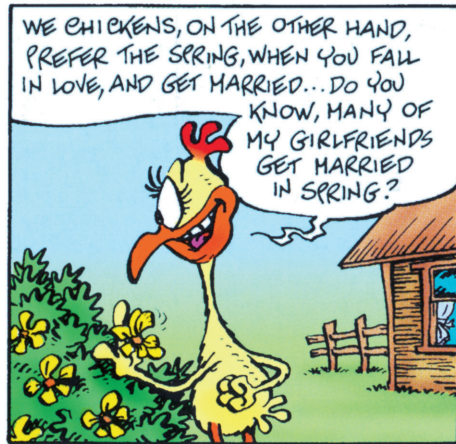
DO WOVES HIBERNATE?

NO, BUT... WHEN IT FREEZES IN WINTER THEY ARE IN THEIR ELEMENT, LIKE A WORM IN AN APPLE...
...AAAHH!



CRE-EK!

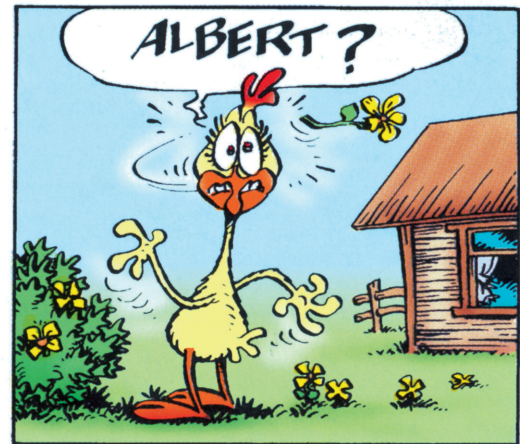
WE CHICKENS, ON THE OTHER HAND, PREFER THE SPRING, WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE, AND GET MARRIED... DO YOU KNOW, MANY OF MY GIRLFRIENDS GET MARRIED IN SPRING?

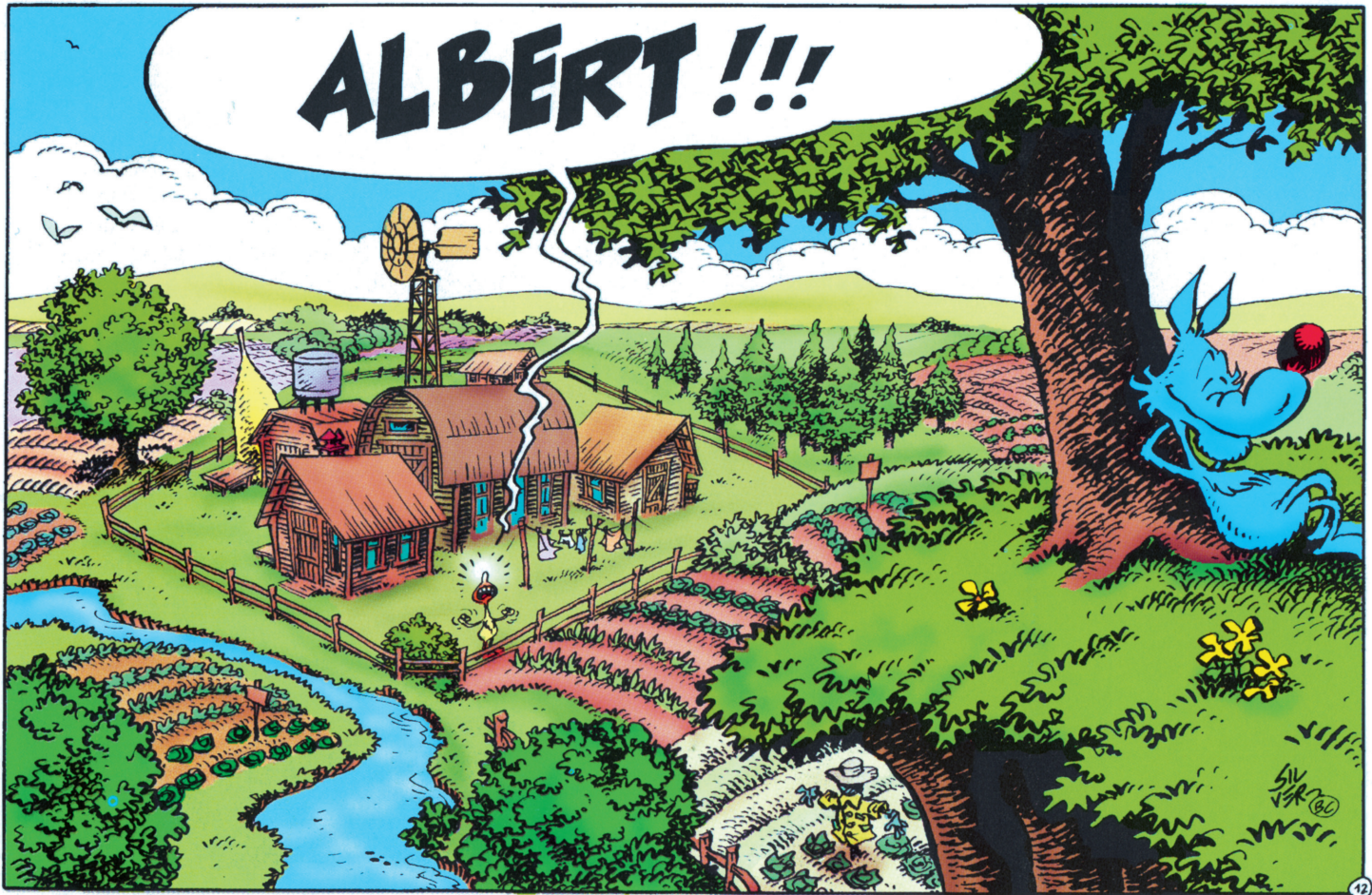


MAYBE YOU KNOW ONE ... ARE YOU LISTENING, ALBERT?



ALBERT?





Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the United Nations adopted the Convention to Combat Desertification in 1994. The Convention entered into force on 26 December 1996. Its core principle is the need for a participative approach directly involving citizens of both affected and not affected countries. The people living in the drylands understand the root causes of desertification, including activities such as unsustainable agriculture, overgrazing, deforestation, etc. However, they are often driven by poverty to get as much out of their land as possible in the short term.

The Convention to Combat Desertification was created to help the people of the drylands shoulder the risk of change to more sustainable practices. It acknowledges that the people of the drylands are the key to combating desertification, and that development must be human-oriented if it is to be sustainable, insisting that local people must be fully involved in deciding how to tackle the problem.

**For further information please contact
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Other publications available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian:

* the UNCCD kit, comprising the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, an explanatory leaflet and 16 fact sheets about the Convention.

* Down to Earth, a simplified guide to the Convention to Combat Desertification that explains why it is necessary and what is important and different about it.

◆
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