

dark clouds bright skies



A 24-HOUR COMIC
TO ENVISION A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

BY
DANIEL LOCKE, CHRIS SANDOM
JO LINDSAY WALTON

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Hello,

Welcome to our 24-hour comic to envision a sustainable future.

You may have noticed we're facing some BIG challenges. Climate change is changing what 'normal' is. So many things are getting harder, more dangerous, and more uncertain. We're losing nature at a scary rate. It is tempting just to ignore what's happening. Thinking about it too much can just make you feel powerless.

But what if you could envision a future you actually want to create? A future that fills you with hope, a future you'd be proud to leave to the next generation? Maybe even a future that helps you to leap out of bed on some mornings, excited to work towards it?

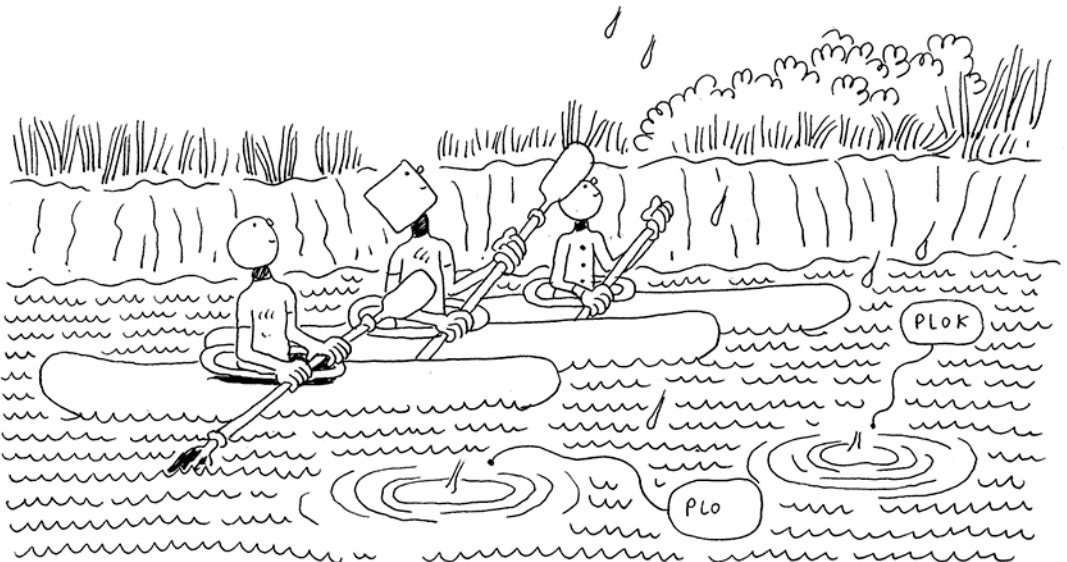
That is what this comic is all about. But where to start? How do we begin to imagine a future where we've tackled climate change, where nature is thriving, and the whole world has enough affordable good food to eat? Sometimes, you need to give yourself permission to just give it a go. So, we decided to add an absurd deadline as well – 24 hours. We gave ourselves just 24 hours to imagine a hopeful future.

Could we REALLY create a fully researched and plausible future that solves all the world's problems in a way that makes everyone happy in just 24 hours? Obviously not. But having this ridiculous deadline helped to focus our minds, and weirdly added some fun and joy to the task.

We wanted to show that anyone can have a go at imagining a hopeful future. We've done it as a 24-hour comic, but it could be done in any way you want. All you need to do is imagine the future the way you want it. You could create a comic about it, or a zine, a short story, a social media post, a song, a game, a podcast, a walking tour, a recipe, a doodle, or whatever you feel like. You could take a canoe trip with friends and just talk about it. We've gone to the year 25 AP (After Present). We've also done it as a group and we've talked to an amazing bunch of people in preparation as well. In fact, the talking and building a community is the bit that has brought us most hope.

So, we hope you enjoy our comic. But more than that, we hope you'll be inspired to create and share your own. And ultimately, we hope we can collectively build a community to create a hopeful future.

Chris, Dan, & Jo



Acknowledgements

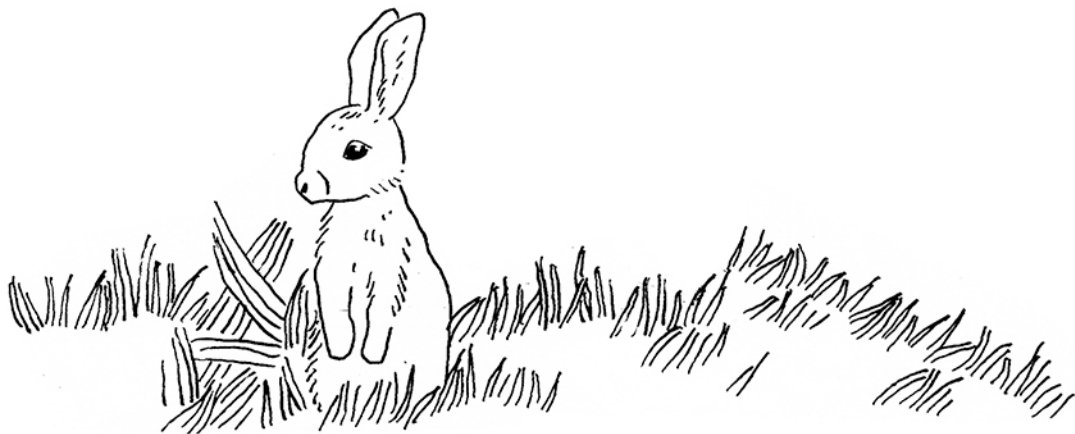
Before taking on the 24-hour comic we held three workshops to explore what a sustainable future might look like. A huge thanks to Angela Blair, David Blandy, Alex Briggs, Benedict Dempsey, Sarah Dobson (The Living Coast Biosphere), Hannah Eaton, Naomi Foyle (The University of Chichester), Isabella Green, Jessica Green, Victoria Phillips (University of Sussex), Graciela Madrid (University of Sussex), Sophie Robinson (Brighton & Hove Food Partnership), Minnie Sandbach, and Peter Williamson (Climate Friends – Residents for a Nature and Climate Friendly Parish in East Dean and Friston, East Sussex) for all your energy, ideas, and hopeful visions. We would also like to thank all the visitors on the day for their zines and contributions to the comic, and especially Eloise (aka Missy) and Eliot. All your visions and your voices are present in big ways and small, and you are as much the creators of the comic as we are.

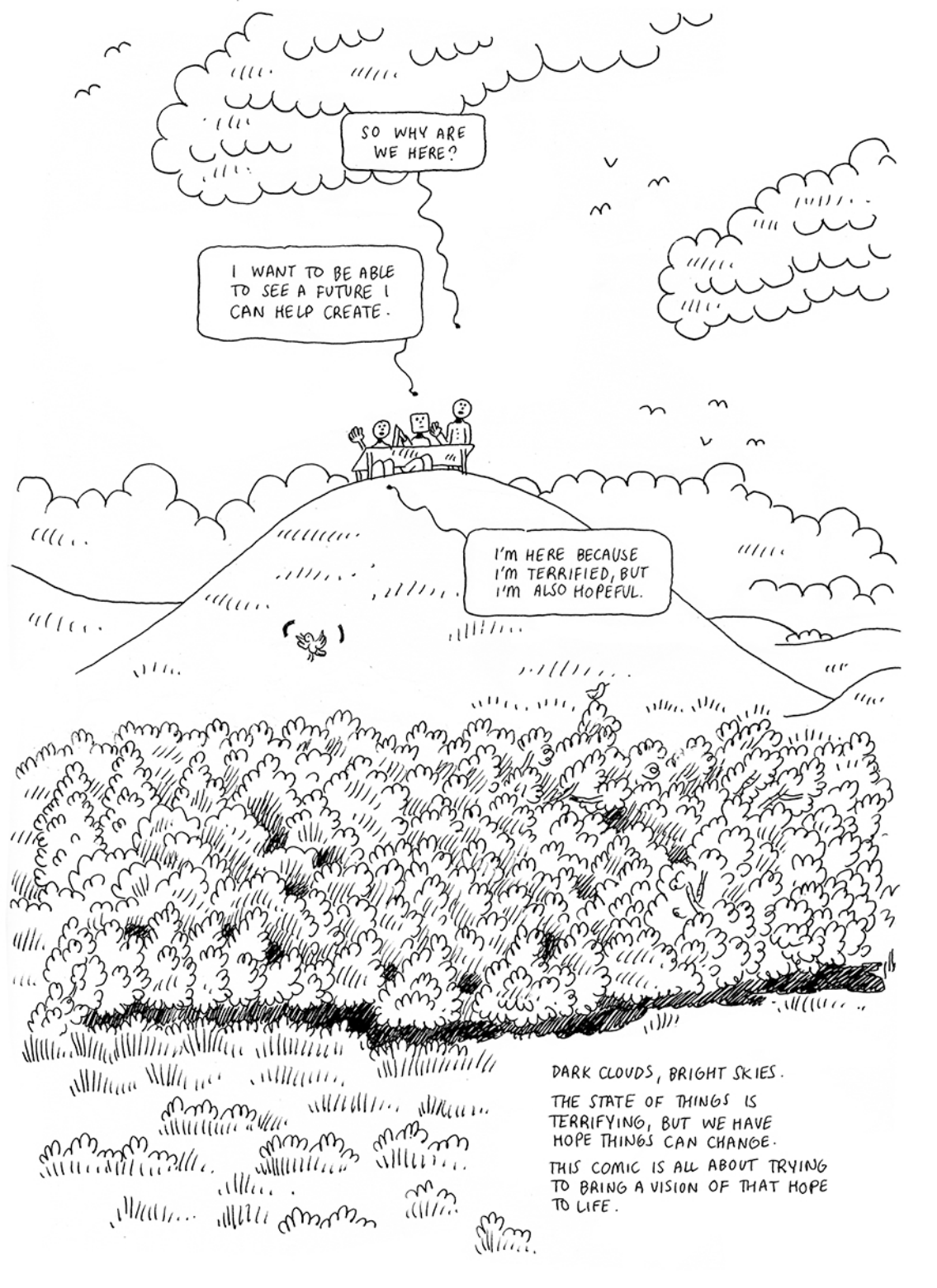
We would also like to thank the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) at the University of Sussex for funding this project; Katherine Blackadder, Margaretta Jolly, Carolyn Watt, Lizzie Thynne for their advice and support; Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement Team at the School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex for their advice and support; Flavio Ferrari, Tom Staniford, Phil Medway, Jemma Levine, Zak Thorpe, Danni Baxter, and Gusto Film for helping us to document the day (and night); the Future Observatory Design Accelerator Programme, Sussex Sustainability Research Programme and Sussex Digital Humanities Lab for supporting related activities; and the Knepp Wildlands Foundation and Phoenix Art Space for hosting us.

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SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

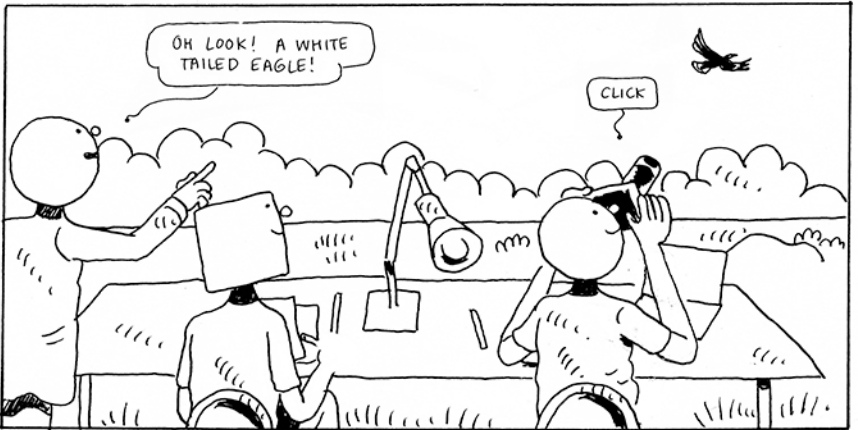
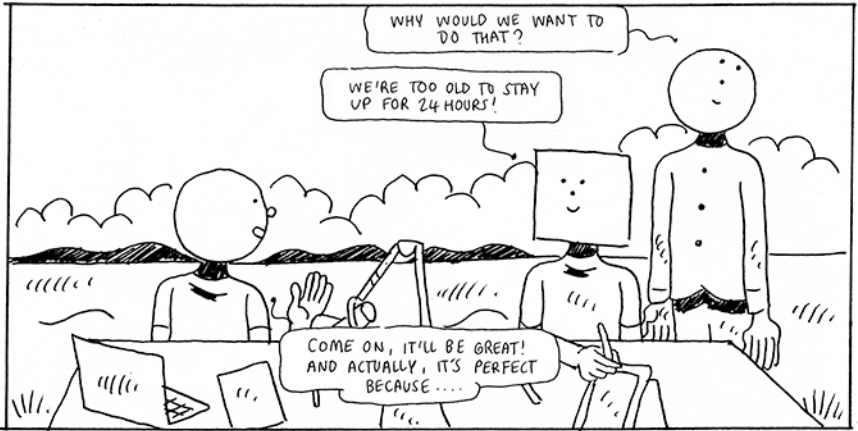
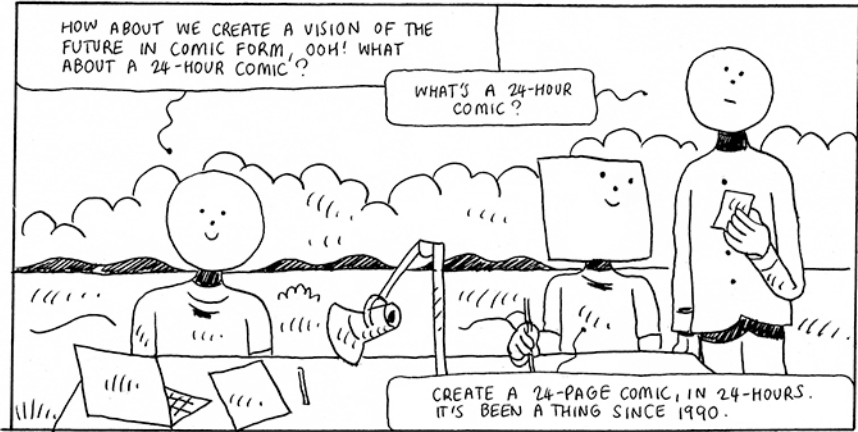
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SEE A FUTURE I CAN HELP CREATE.

I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M TERRIFIED, BUT I'M ALSO HOPEFUL.

DARK CLOUDS, BRIGHT SKIES.

THE STATE OF THINGS IS TERRIFYING, BUT WE HAVE HOPE THINGS CAN CHANGE.

THIS COMIC IS ALL ABOUT TRYING TO BRING A VISION OF THAT HOPE TO LIFE.



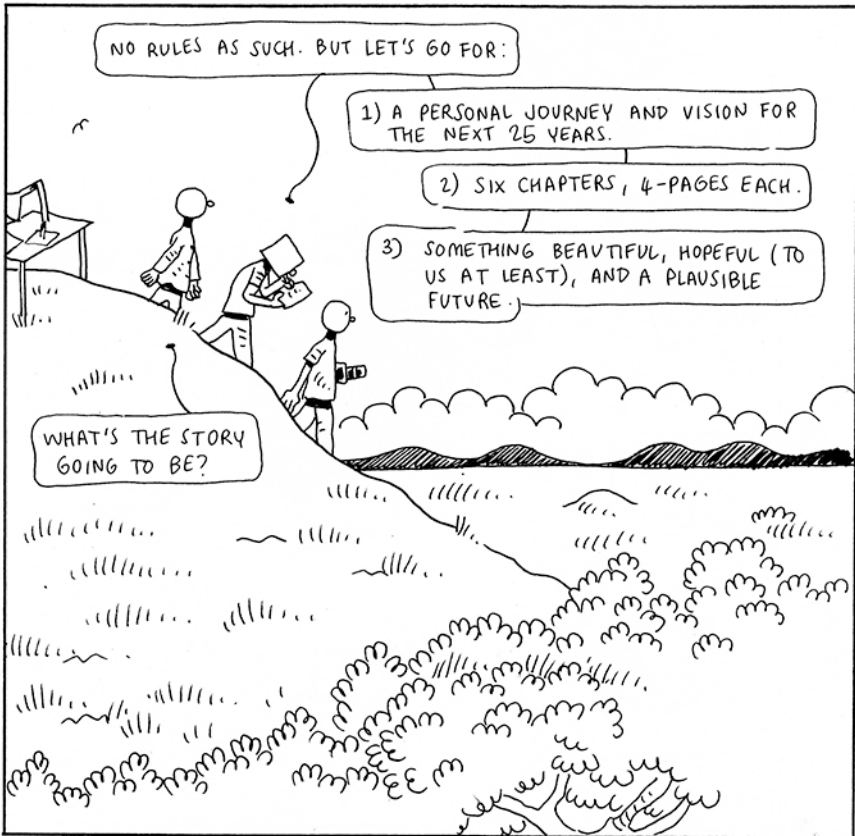
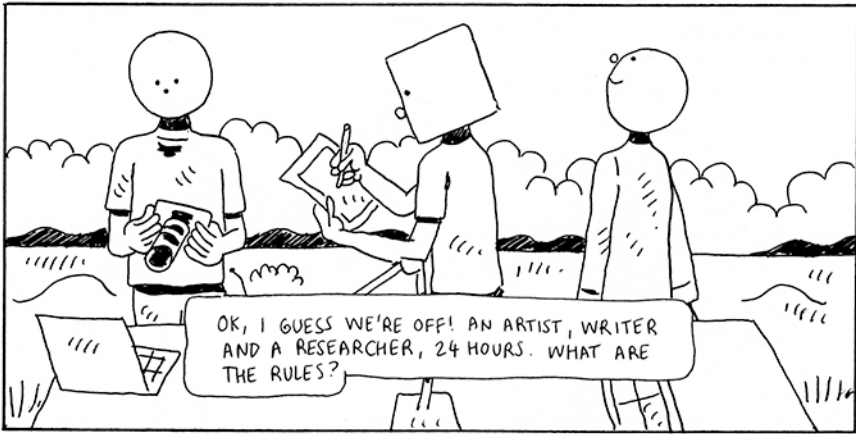
...SUSTAINABILITY IS TOO DAUNTING A TOPIC TO START WORKING ON WITHOUT AN ABSURD DEADLINE.

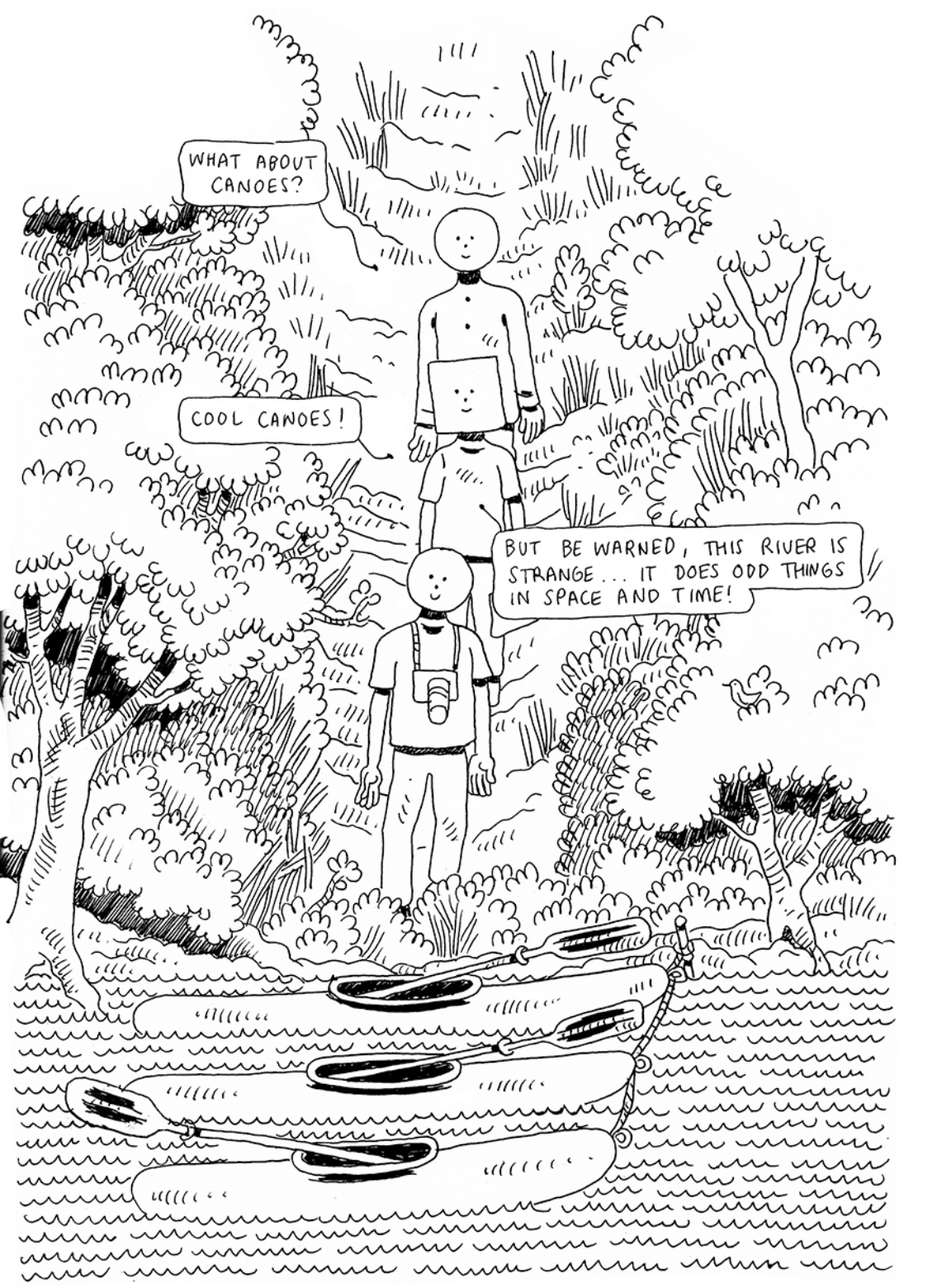
AND ILLUSTRATED STORIES ARE A GREAT WAY TO EXPLORE AND SHARE COMPLEX IDEAS.

PLUS THE 24 HOUR DEADLINE MIRRORS THE URGENCY OF THE NEED TO SORT ALL THESE PROBLEMS OUT. AND IT'S A BIT OF AN EVENT.



WOW, THEY REALLY ARE BIG - 2METER WING SPAN. I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D BE BROUGHT BACK. JUST GOES TO SHOW, THINGS CAN CHANGE.

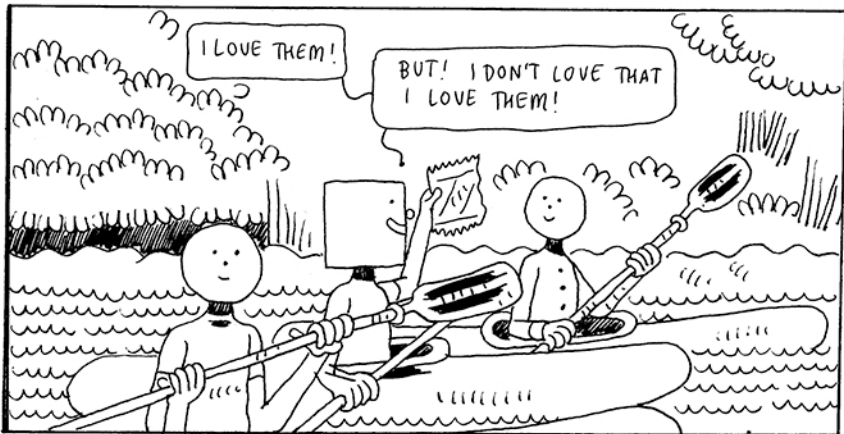
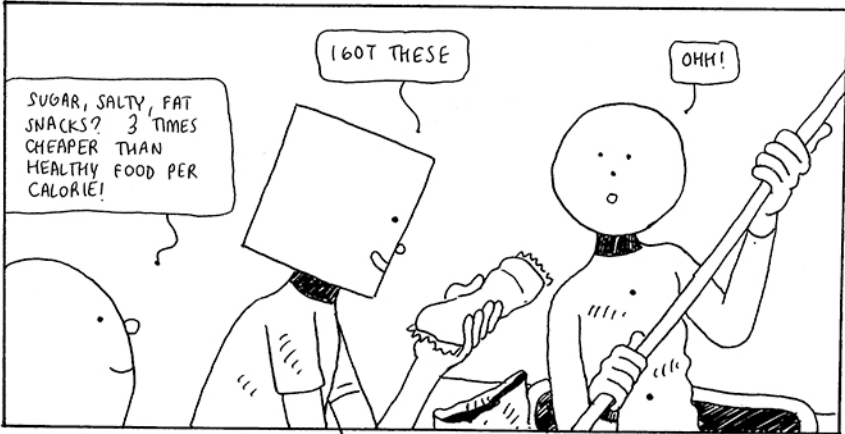
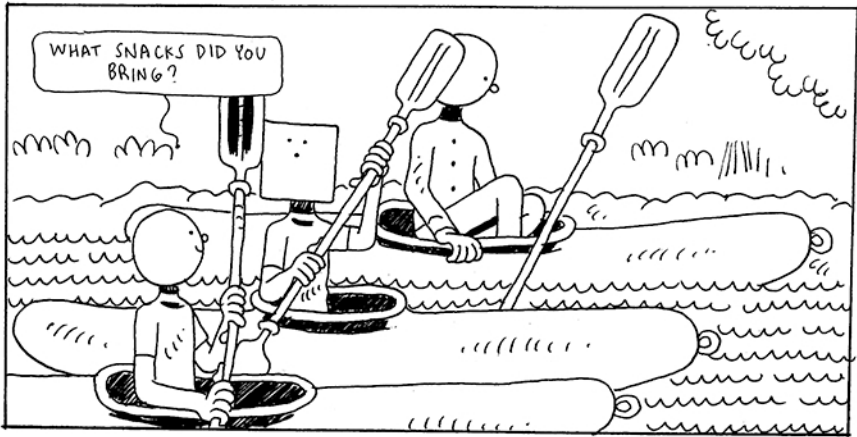


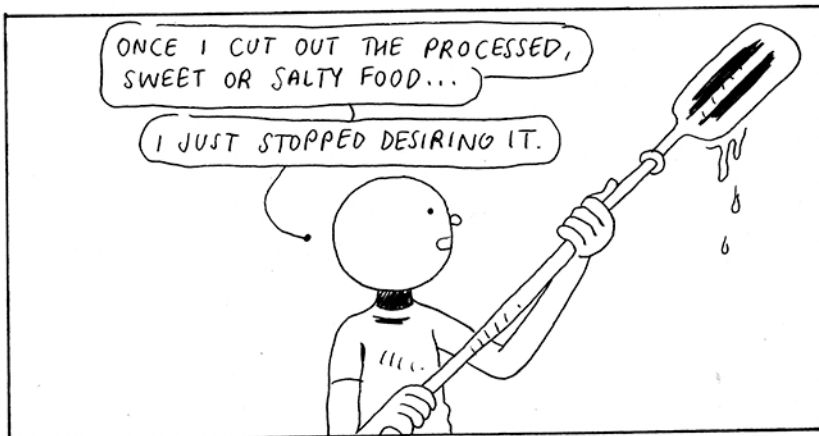
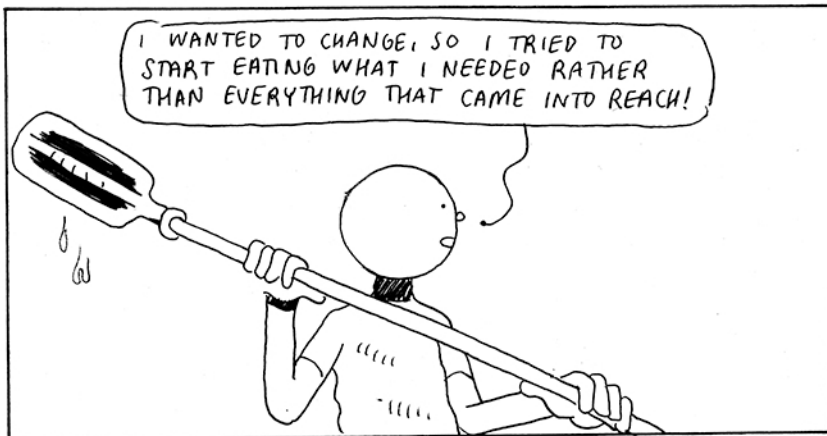
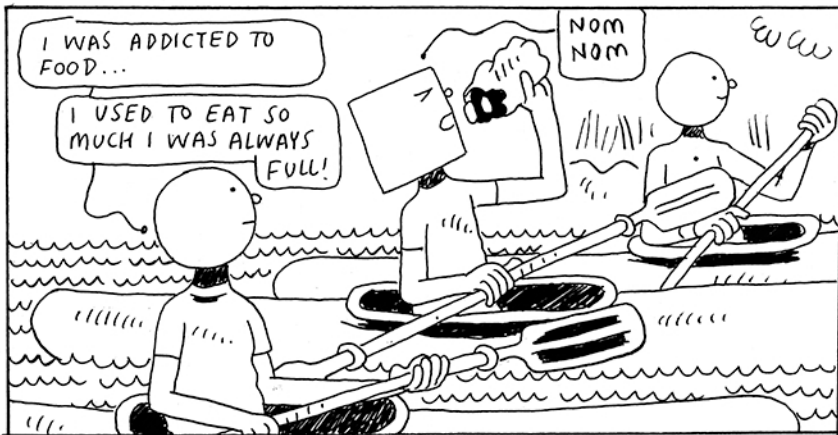


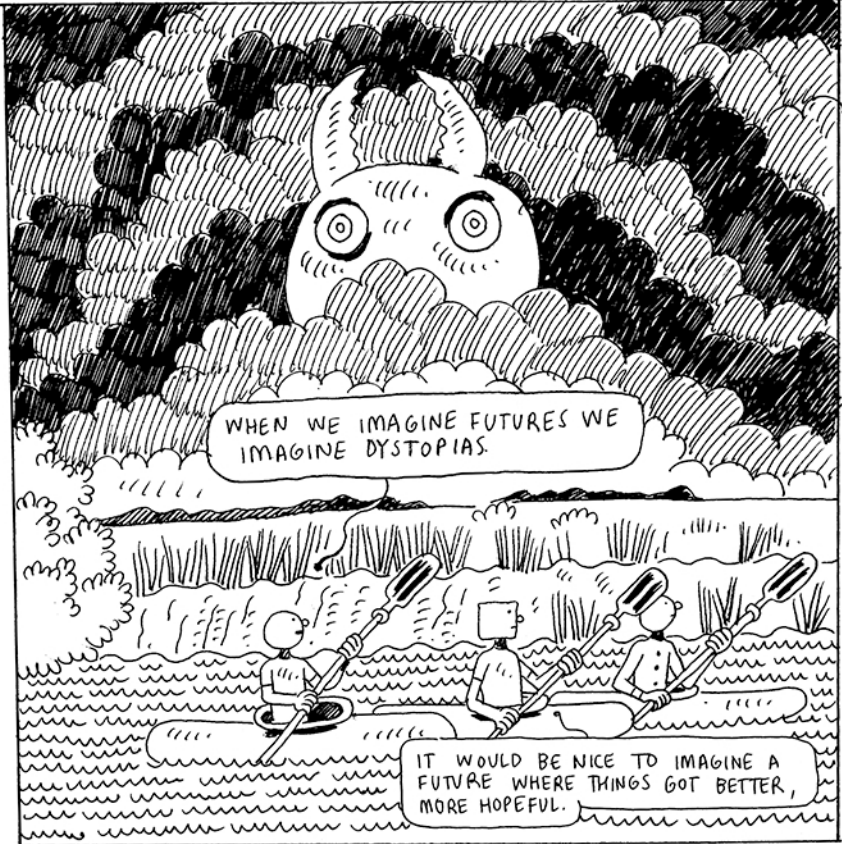
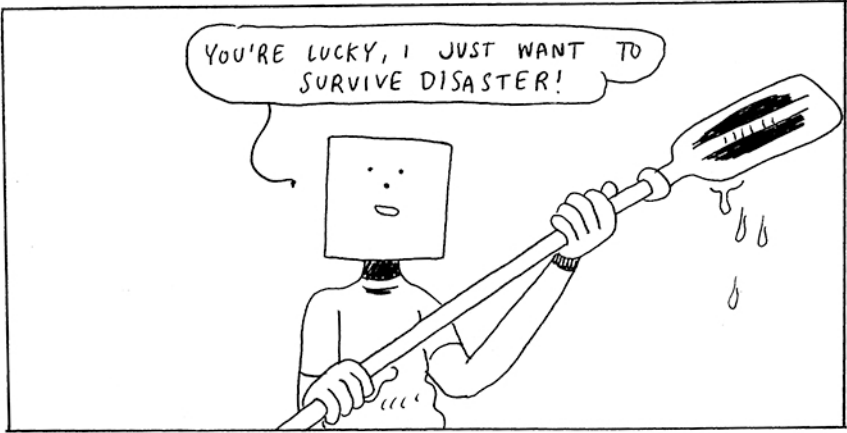
WHAT ABOUT CANOES?

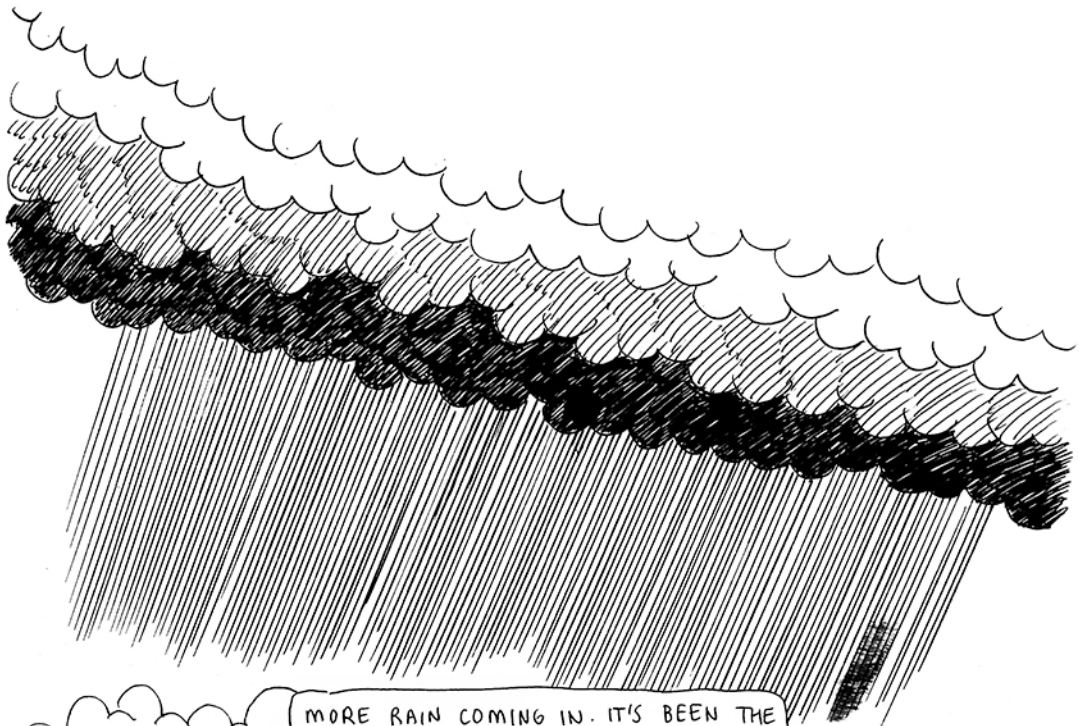
COOL CANOES!

BUT BE WARNED, THIS RIVER IS STRANGE... IT DOES ODD THINGS IN SPACE AND TIME!

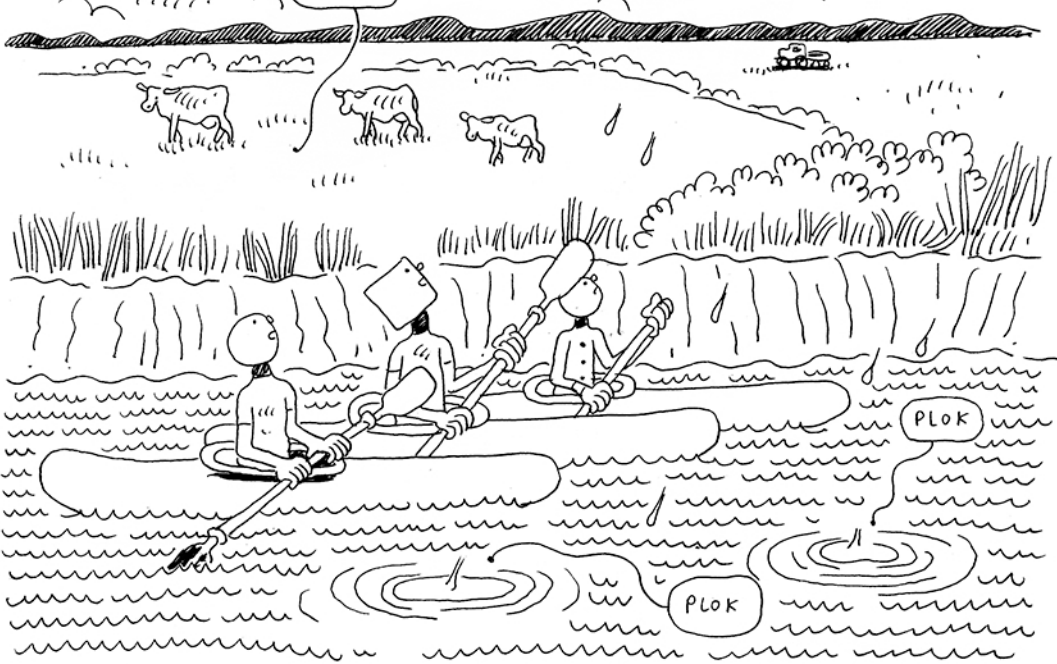


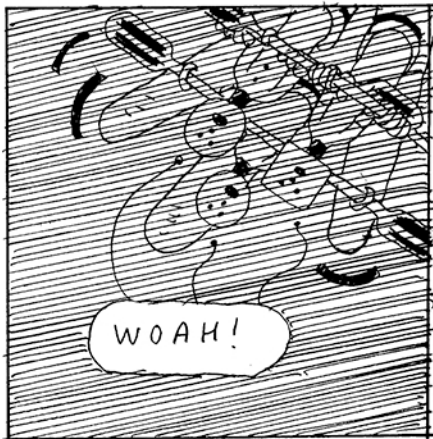
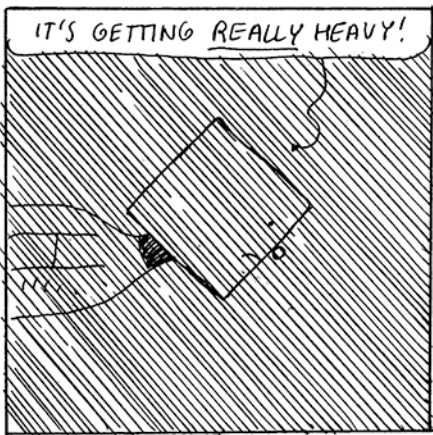
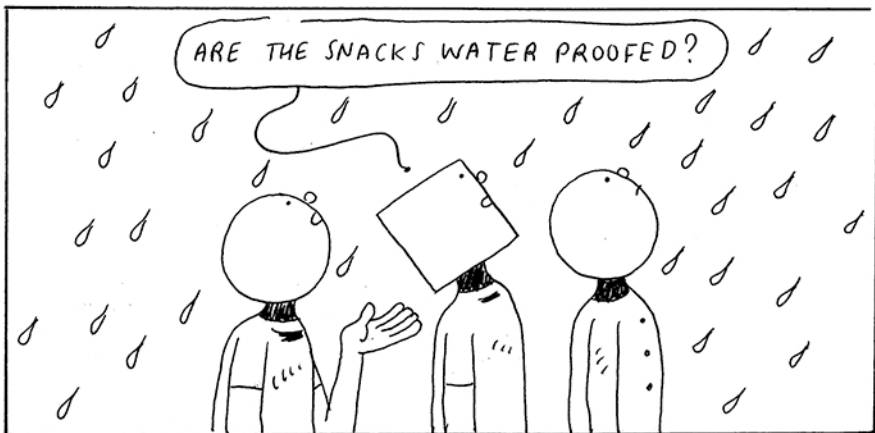


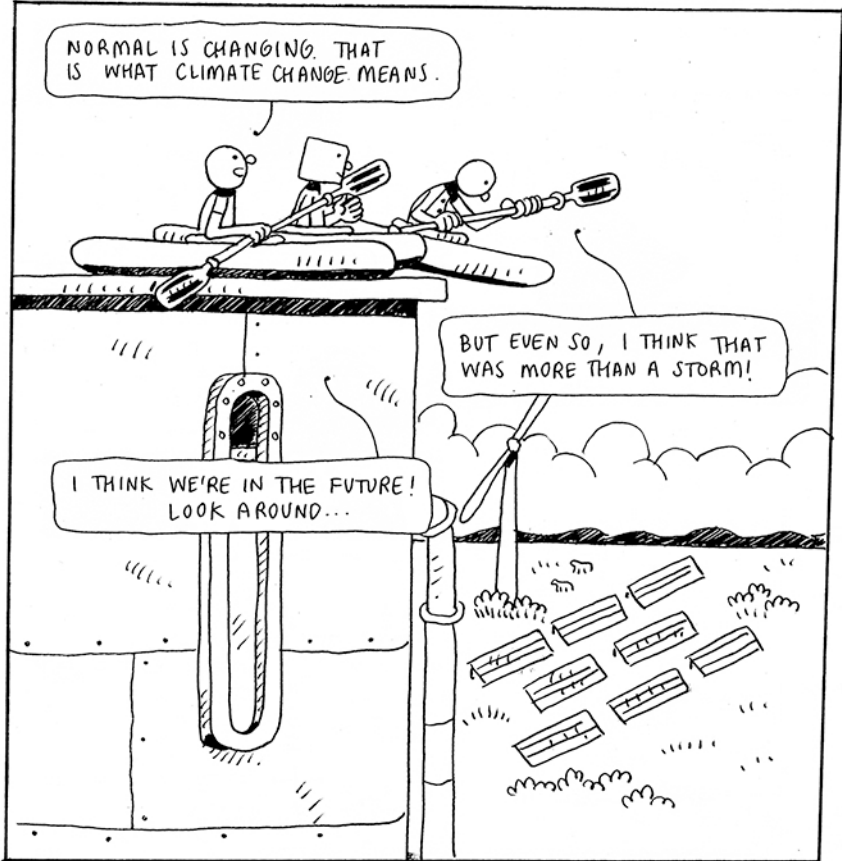




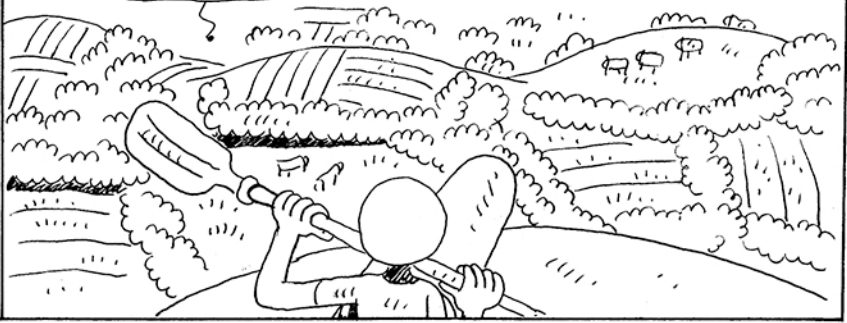
MORE RAIN COMING IN. IT'S BEEN THE WETTEST 18 MONTHS ON RECORD. THESE EXTREMES ARE HARD TO COPE WITH.



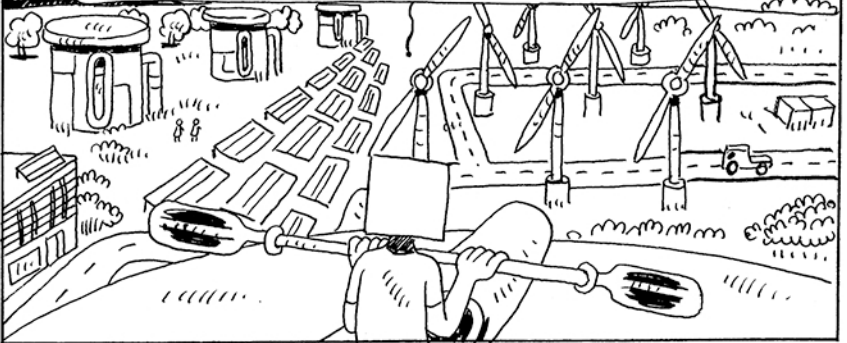




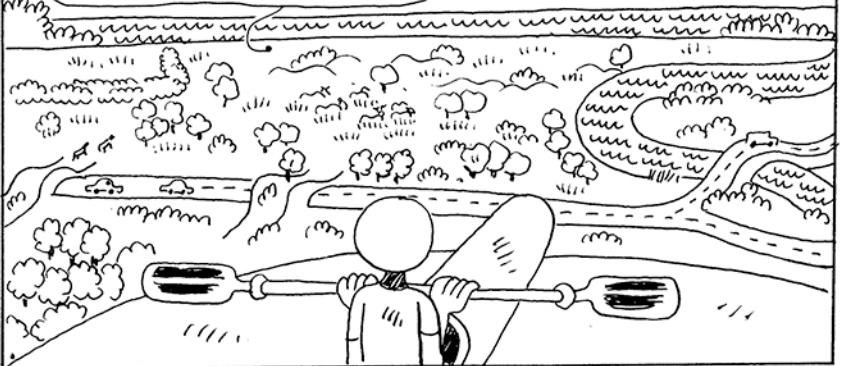
IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO DIFFERENT TO ME. THERE ARE CROPS AND LIVESTOCK. MAYBE A MORE DIVERSE TYPE OF FARMING, AND THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE ON THE LAND TOO IT SEEMS.

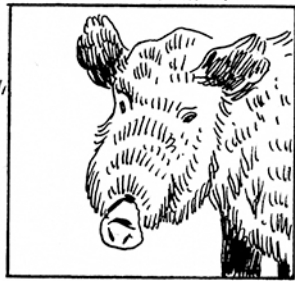


OH YEAH? BUT LOOK OVER HERE. IT'S AN ODD LOOKING FARM, MORE MODERN INDUSTRY. IS THAT A VAT? IT'S LABELED BIOPHOODAI. THERE IS LOTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TOO.



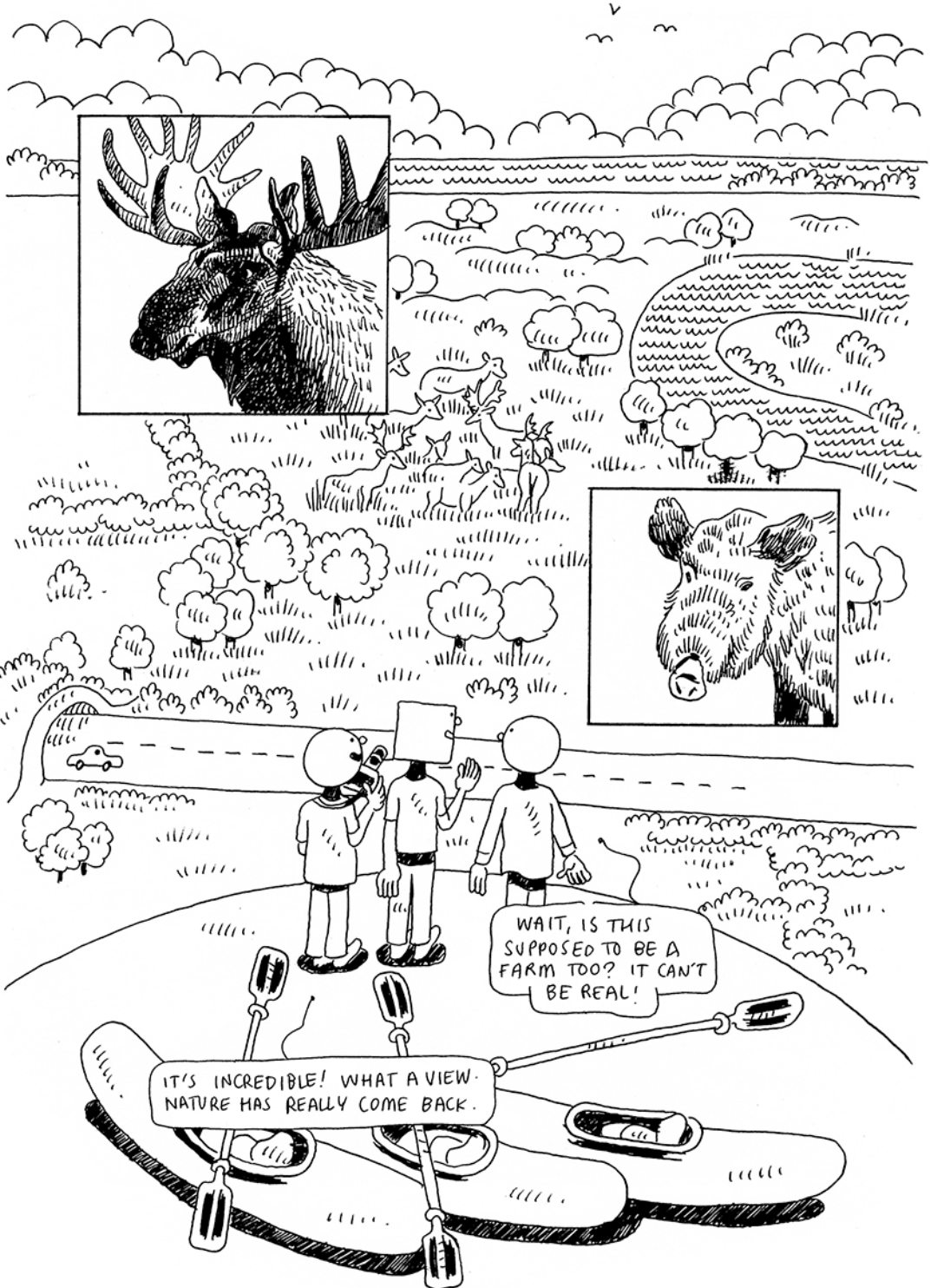
AND OVER HERE IT'S GREEN BRIDGES, BIO ANIMALS & BEAUTIFUL WATER WAYS. AND BEAVERS TOO!

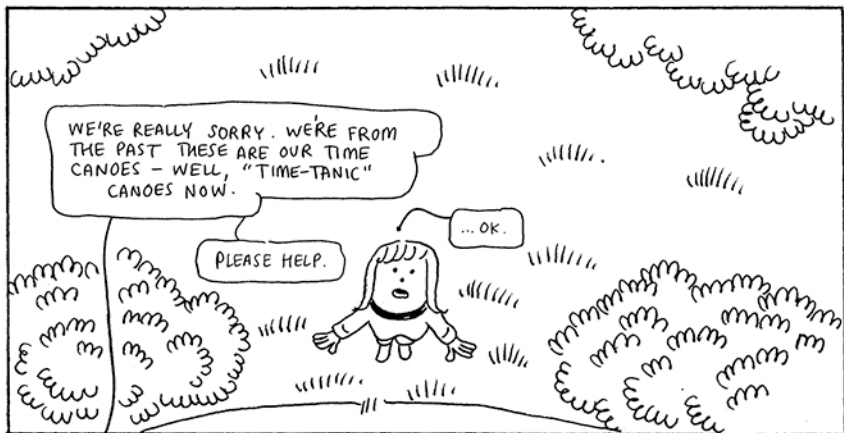
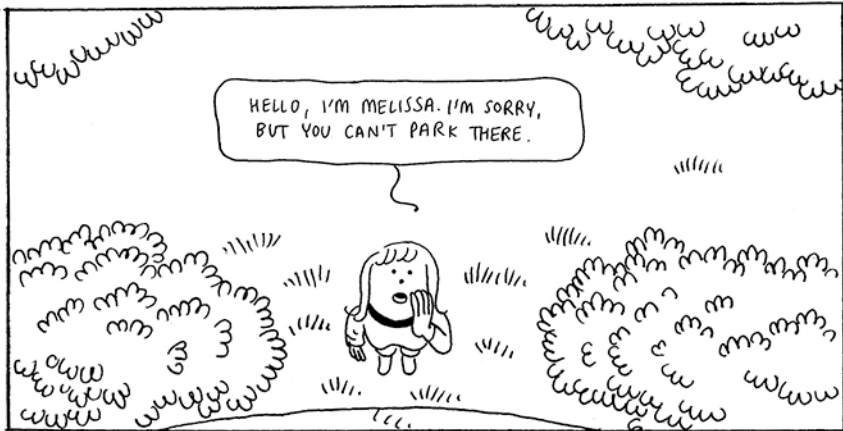


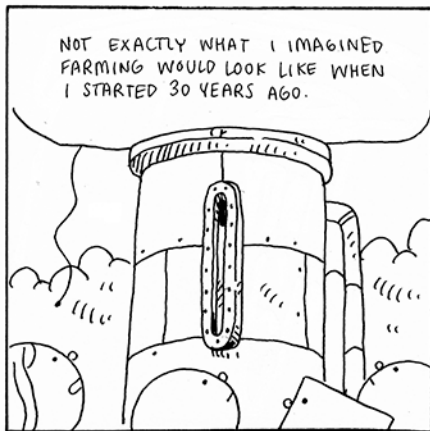
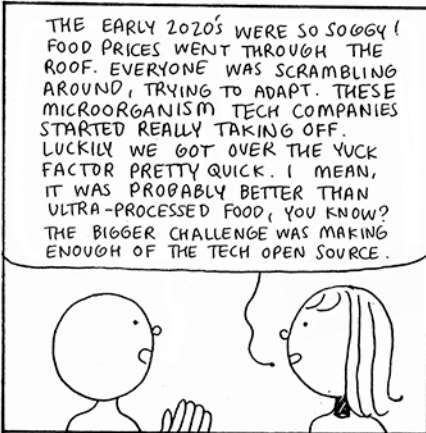
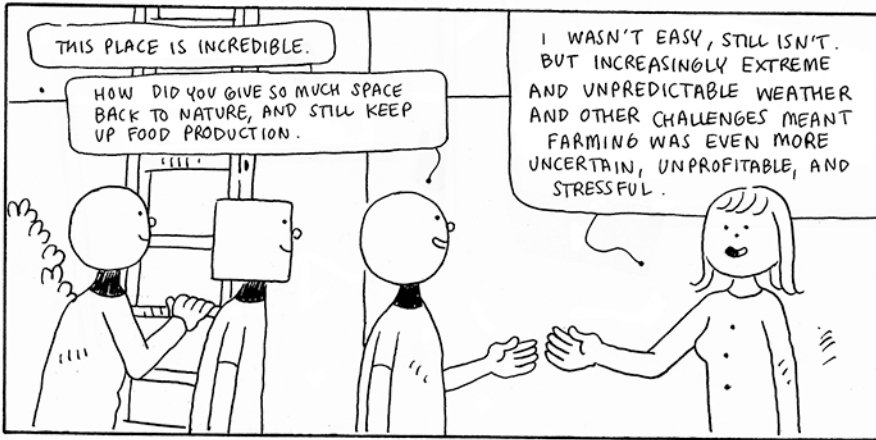


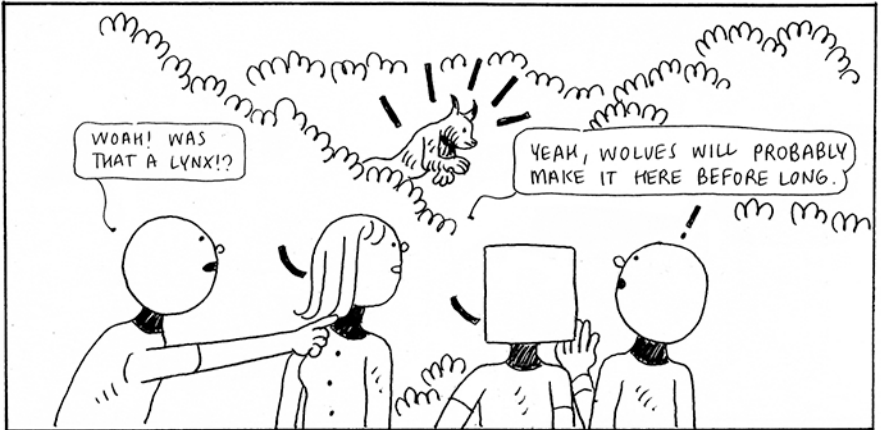
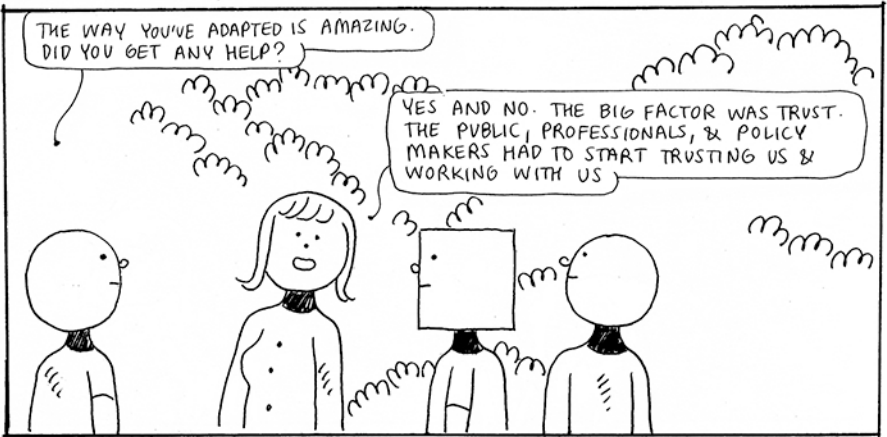
WAIT, IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A FARM TOO? IT CAN'T BE REAL!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! WHAT A VIEW. NATURE HAS REALLY COME BACK.







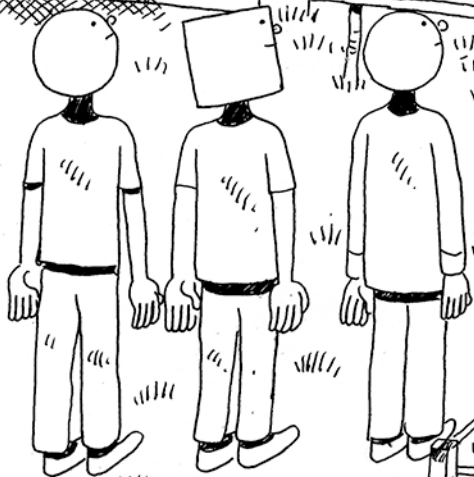


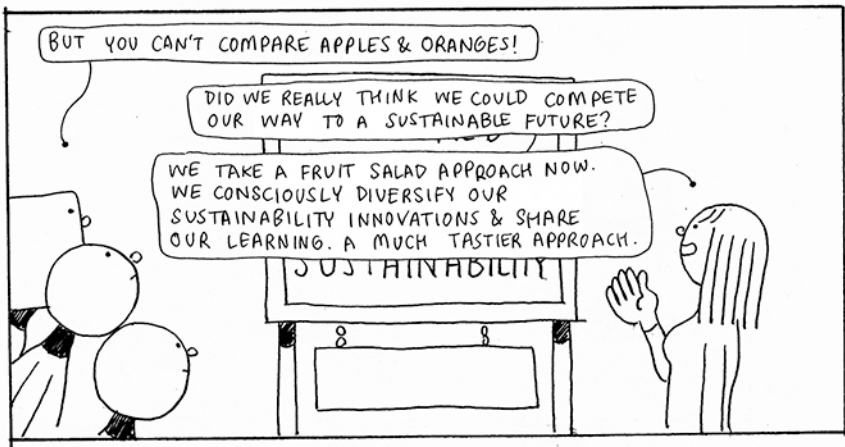
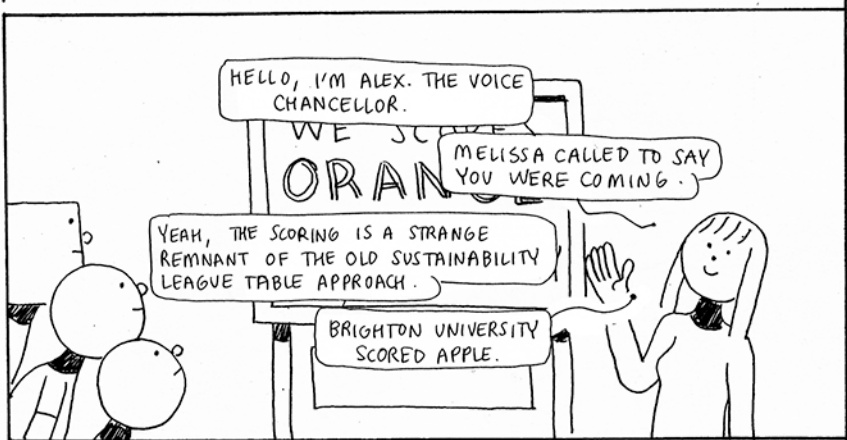
AT UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX ...

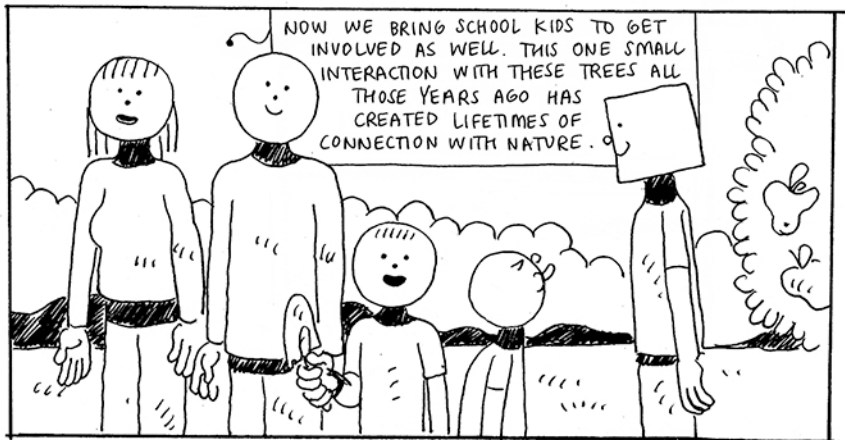
SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE!

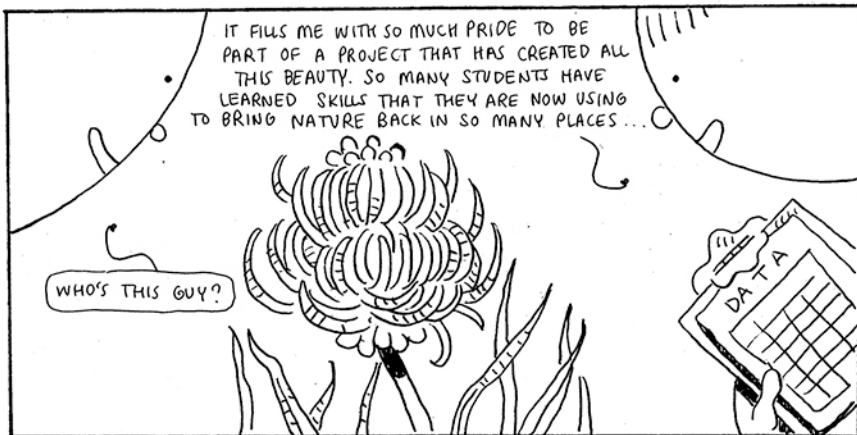
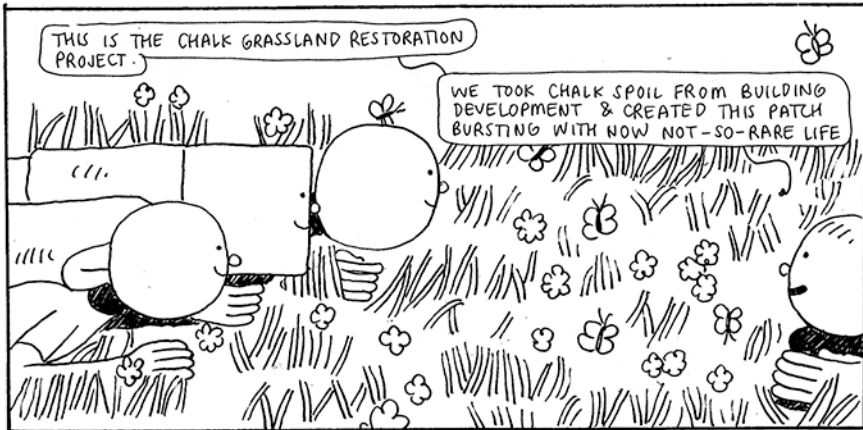
...AND OTHER THINGS REALLY DO CHANGE.

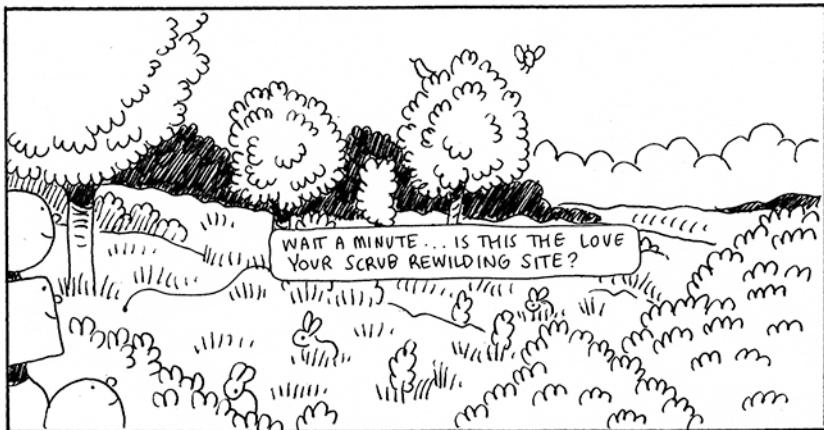
WE SCORED
ORANGE
ON
SUSTAINABILITY



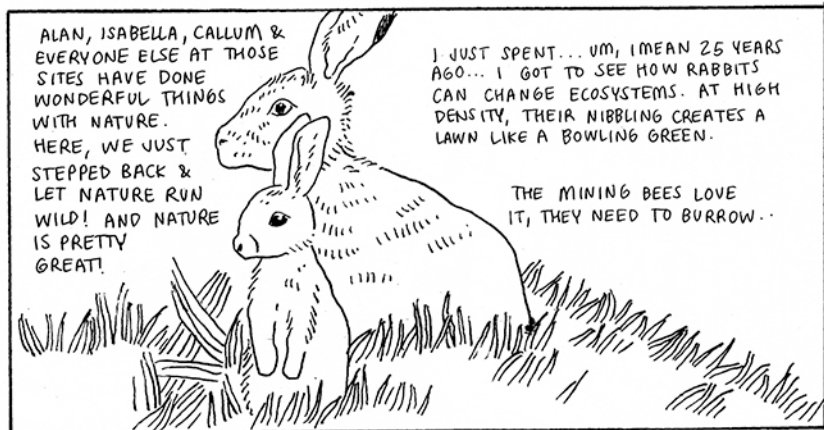








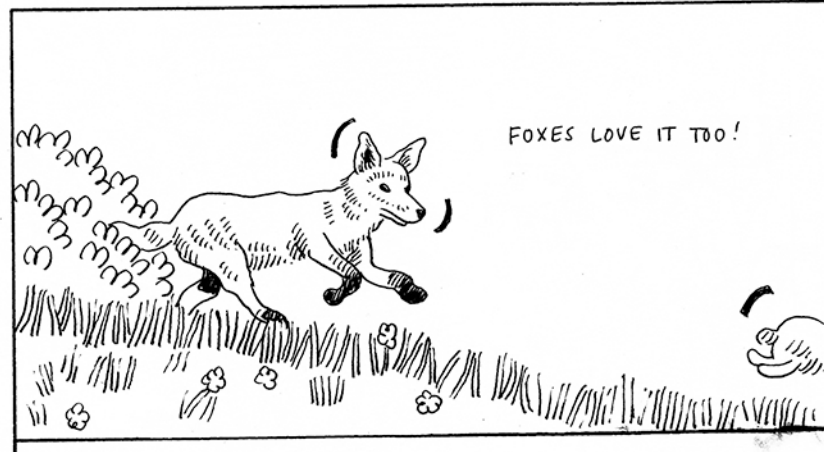
WAIT A MINUTE... IS THIS THE LOVE
YOUR SCRUB REWILDING SITE?



ALAN, ISABELLA, CALLUM &
EVERYONE ELSE AT THOSE
SITES HAVE DONE
WONDERFUL THINGS
WITH NATURE.
HERE, WE JUST
STEPPED BACK &
LET NATURE RUN
WILD! AND NATURE
IS PRETTY
GREAT!

I JUST SPENT... UM, I MEAN 25 YEARS
AGO... I GOT TO SEE HOW RABBITS
CAN CHANGE ECOSYSTEMS. AT HIGH
DENSITY, THEIR NIBBLING CREATES A
LAWN LIKE A BOWLING GREEN.

THE MINING BEES LOVE
IT, THEY NEED TO BURROW..



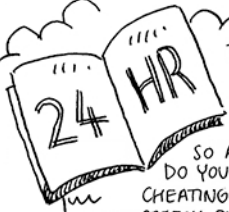
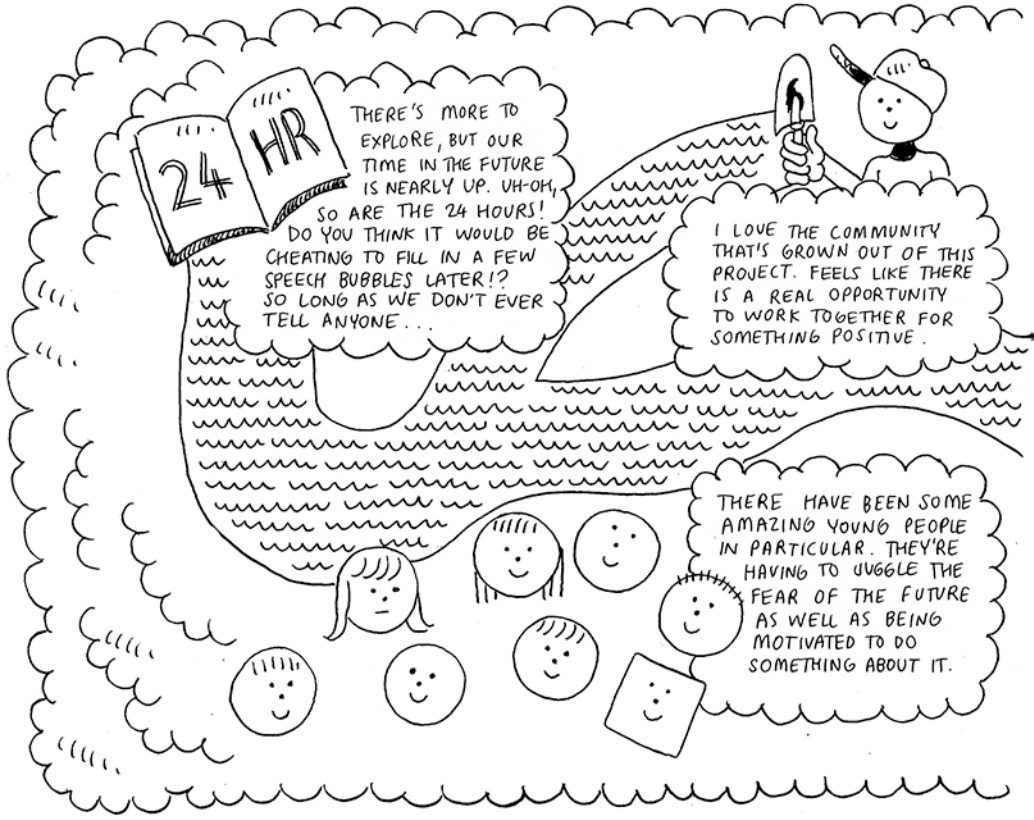
FOXES LOVE IT TOO!

ARE YOU HERE FOR YOUR BAA-CHELOR'S DEGREE?

WE'RE OUT OF TERM TIME. MAYBE WE'RE GIVING MORE OF THE CAMPUS OVER TO NATURE WHILE IT'S BEING USED LESS?

YOU CAN REALLY SEE HOW PEOPLE & NATURE HAVE RECONNECTED!

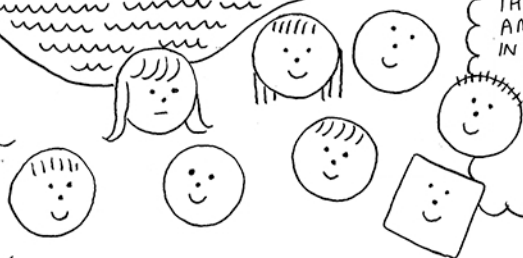




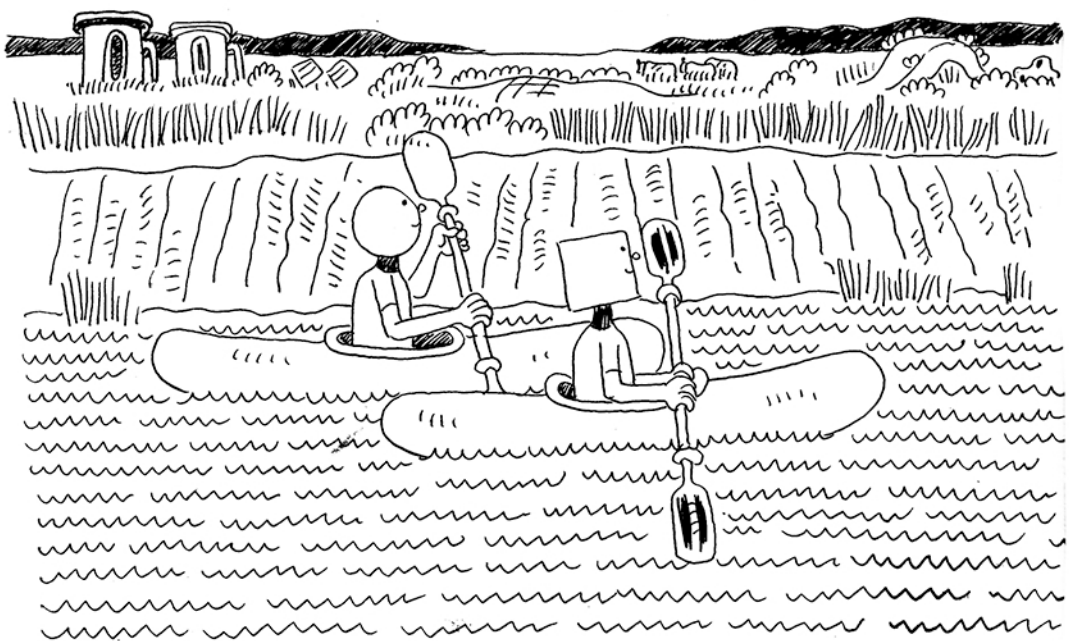
THERE'S MORE TO EXPLORE, BUT OUR TIME IN THE FUTURE IS NEARLY UP. UH-OH, SO ARE THE 24 HOURS! DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE CHEATING TO FILL IN A FEW SPEECH BUBBLES LATER!? SO LONG AS WE DON'T EVER TELL ANYONE...

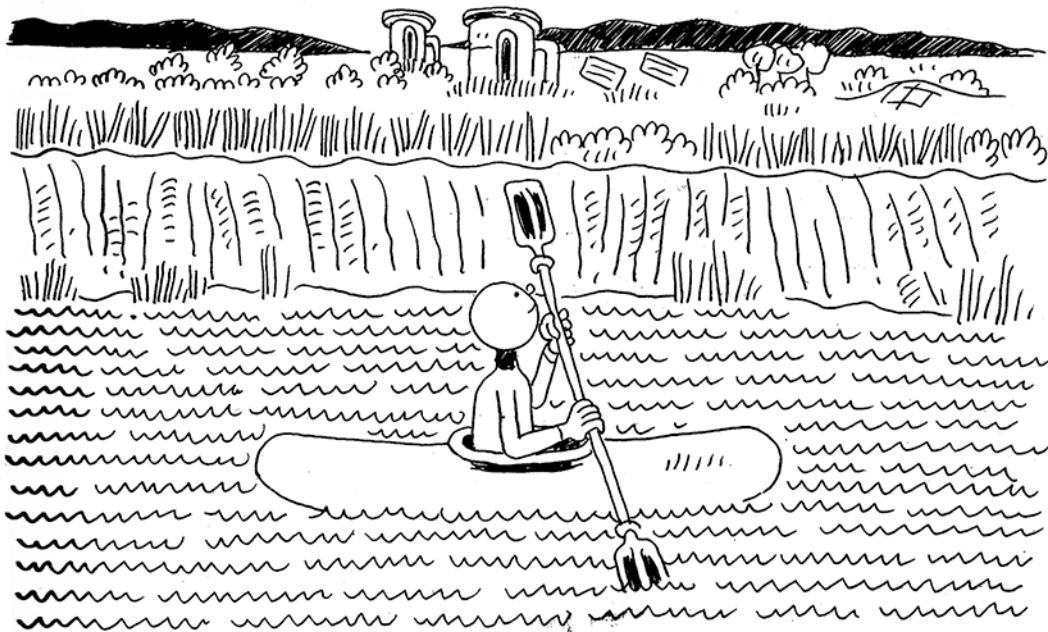
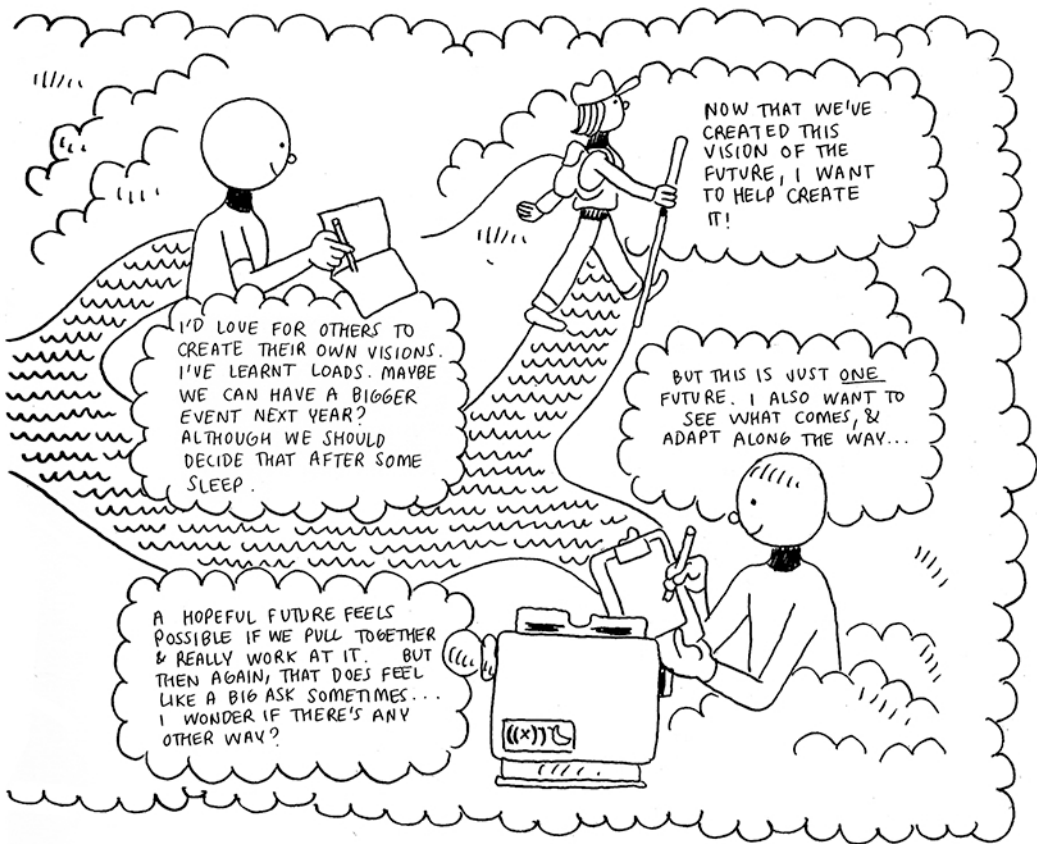


I LOVE THE COMMUNITY THAT'S GROWN OUT OF THIS PROJECT. FEELS LIKE THERE IS A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE.



THERE HAVE BEEN SOME AMAZING YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR. THEY'RE HAVING TO JUGGLE THE FEAR OF THE FUTURE AS WELL AS BEING MOTIVATED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.





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