The Standoff.

Rodriquez was now in control of the Remitroot crop and purposely withholding the product in order to cause discontent in Alqueria thus forcing a general election which he intended to win by foul means or fair. He used a variety of excuses to explain why the product wasn't being delivered. To justify his actions he produced reams of elaborate horticultural statistics backed up by supposedly sound metrological data. He didn't need to employ this subterfuge however, simply by running the plant to the best of his ability would guarantee a shortage and eventually the total collapse of the entire Remitroot industry.

Under his careful management the plant was already in decline. Poyato, the previous owner had a 'duty of care' to his workforce. Rodriguez's duty of care was to his wallet and he cut more corners than an Formula One driver.

Manuela now had to act and the Remitroot enterprise was duly nationalised under the trade-name of AlquiRoot, with an advertising jingle of:

'AlquiRoot for her,
AlquiRoot for he,
AlquiRoot for dinner,
AlquiRoot for tea,
AlquiRoot,
AlquiRoot,
teeheehee'.

Unfortunately Rodriquez refused to give up the plant and as the Alquerian establishment employed only one policeman, José Cabrasilbido who could be terrorised by a balloon on a stick a standoff ensued. Manuela then went for Rodriquez's metaphoric jugular and banned Abyssinian Goat Shirling. A sport Rodriquez loved above all else and which had already been banned in practically

every civilised country. He was so passionate about the sport he once tried to swap his wife's favours for ten minutes at the Shirling pit. His wife didn't complain about the potential deal but the third party demanded cash after meeting her.

Who would break first, Rodriquez denied his beloved Abyssinian Goat Shirling or the people of Alqueria without their Remitroot?

The lack of Remitroot was taking a toll, people, young and old staggered in the streets, wide-eyed, sober and desolate. Manuela herself was irritable and edgy. Without their daily intake of 'Remitroot the aphrodisiac' her men-friends had taken up the delights of stamp collecting and folk dancing instead of delighting Manuela. Rodriguez couldn't contemplate a life without Goat Shirling. He looked for other venues but apart from a remote village in the Ibebuggar Gorge of southern Kwa-Knutshurt there were none.

Rodriquez reluctantly admitted defeat and gave control of the Remitroot crop back to Poyato. With Poyato once more at the helm Remitroot soon flowed freely into the streets and veins of Alqueria and its singular population.