

The Uncensored Honeymoon

By Kurt Erichsen

If you draw gay cartoons, sooner or later you deal with sex. This is a touchy matter for gay cartoonists and their publishers. The publications where you read our works are businesses, and that's where it gets interesting.

If a cartoonist wants freedom of expression, he'll end up with one-handed literature, like *Meatmen*. Anywhere else: he respects the publisher's limits, or he does not get published.

I have been able to live with these restrictions. Usually. Some newspapers have insisted the *Murphy's Manor* characters be eunuchs, and I could not even suggest that Jeff got laid. Most papers have been more tolerant, as long as there's no live sex shown. A few think I don't go far enough, bless their hearts.

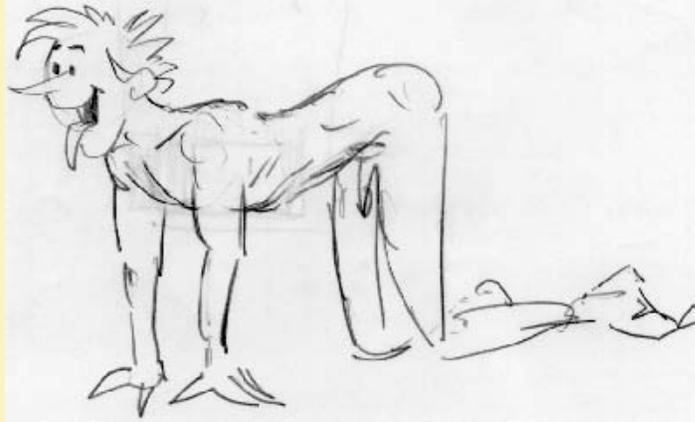
I always try to meet the editor's requirements. Occasionally I get an unpleasant surprise--and find out the editor has a problem with my material only when I send in finished art.

This is what happened when I submitted "Honeymoon" for *Gay Comics* #22. The unstated gag pushes the edge. A story about two gay gerbils and their pet human never mentions the urban legend of what gay men supposedly do with gerbils, but reminds the reader of it. It's one of my favorite stories - I wish I'd had 8 pages for it.

The objection was not to the subject matter, but the Canadian border. The editor informed me that the publisher did not want the book seized at the Canadian border, as many other GLBT publications have. He insisted, therefore, that Honeymoon not be naked. It was okay to have him piss

on the *Rush Limbaugh Show*, and his pants could be down for that. Otherwise, he had to wear gym trunks.

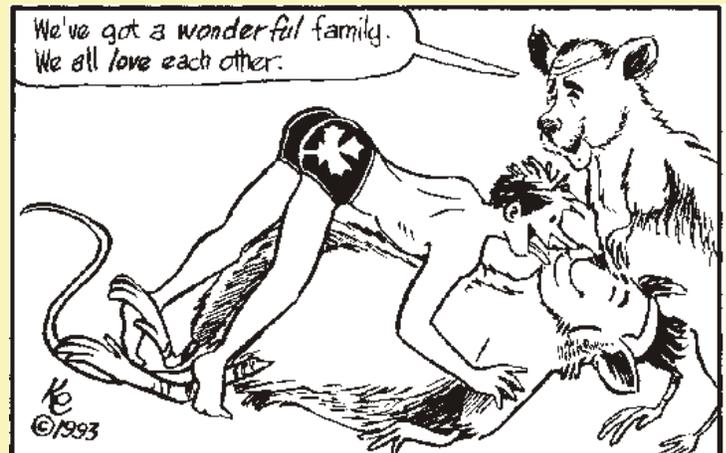
What choice did I have? I'd spent several months and a lot of all-nighters writing, penciling, lettering, and inking this story. If *Gay Comics* didn't run it, nobody else would publish it.



So I drew gym trunks on Honeymoon. But only on the stats, not on the original artwork. And with a Canadian Maple Leaf on Honeymoon's trunks as a hello to our friends in Customs.

Is Honeymoon obscene? I didn't think so then, and don't now. Honeymoon for all intents and purposes, is a dog (I think this is obvious), and acts like one.

Presented here for the first time is "Honeymoon" as I intended it. The readers of *Gay Comics* #22 had no explanation of that maple leaf. I've always wondered what they made of it.



Kurt Erichsen
Cartoonist & Illustrator

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Jerry 'n' Pat, those playful, fun-loving gerbils, in...

Honeymoon

by
Kurt
Erichsen
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I have the perfect name for him...

Right you are, Pat!

Rrrrr-ruff!!



It's the rebirth of our love!

We've got a new friend to cement it.

HUMAN SAVE \$20 OFF!



Let's see how Honeymoon likes his new leash.

You have to walk your grat everyday, Tad.

He really likes you, Pat!

Heh-heh!

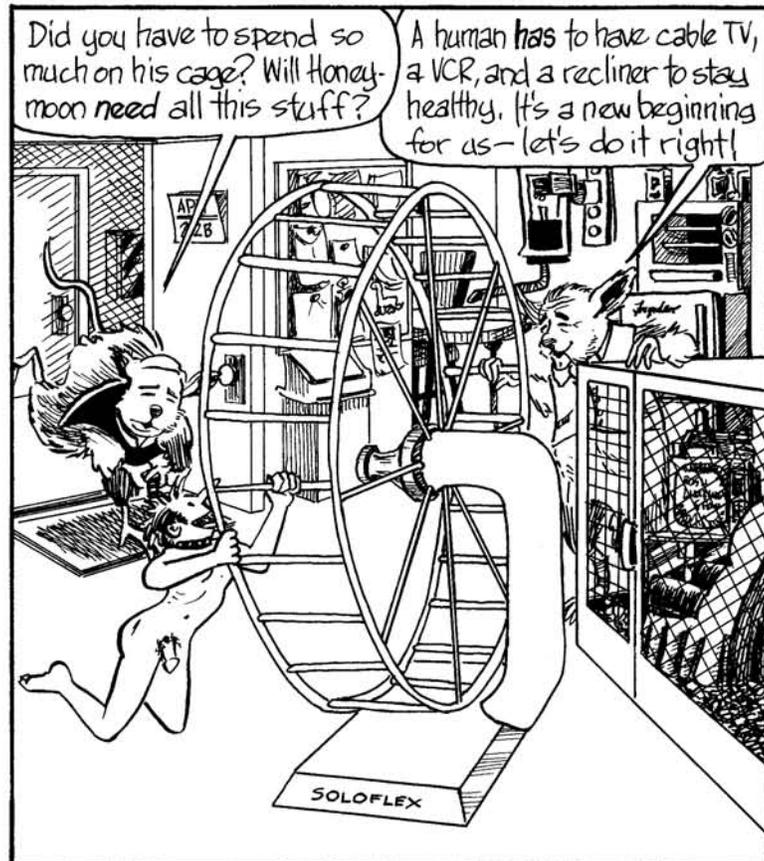


Look, he really does love me!

Let's go home, Pat.

SOFT Sunflower seeds Lettuce Leaf

VIDEO



Did you have to spend so much on his cage? Will Honeymoon need all this stuff?

A human has to have cable TV, a VCR, and a recliner to stay healthy. It's a new beginning for us - let's do it right!

SOLOFLEX

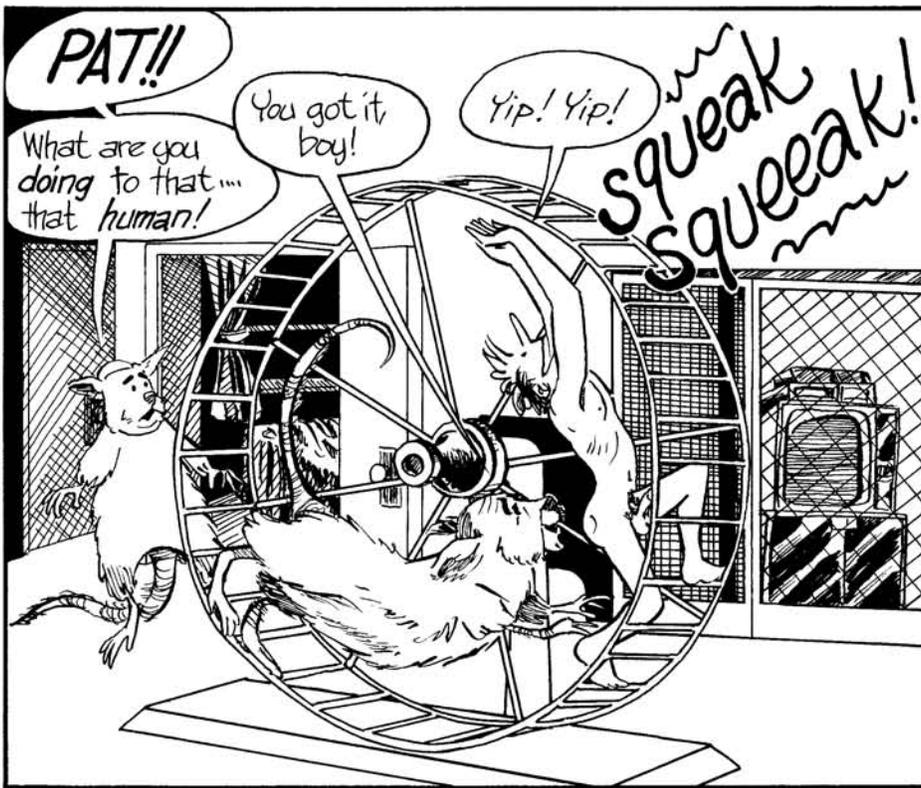


It's been a long time for us. Remember our first date? We couldn't keep our hands off each other. We did it on the foyer floor and then went out.

Just a second. I have to feed Honeymoon.

the Rush LIMBAUGH Show





PAT!!

What are you doing to that... that human!

You got it, boy!

Yip! Yip!

squeak
squeak!



Jerry, You're awake.

I know what you are! Why, you're a ...a ... humanist!



This is the end, Pat! You didn't want the human to save our relationship... only to... to...!

You c-can't leave me, Jerry!

You don't need me, Pat - you've got ...

Honeymoon,

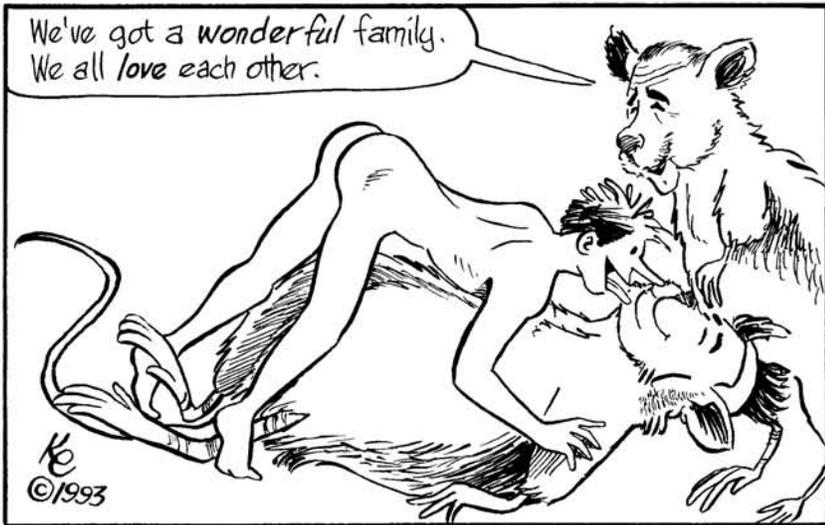
Grrr!!



Look, Jerry, he really likes you!

Down...uh, good boys, Honeymoon!

SLURP!



We've got a wonderful family. We all love each other.

Ke
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Don't spoil it, Jerry. Stay with us.

I guess he is our Honeymoon.

R-ruff-ruff!

The End