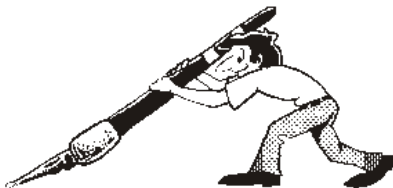


Love and Marriage Go Together Like a Jet and Horseless Carriage Stories from Murphy's Manor

I first met Murphy Robinson in February 1982 when he came out of the end of my pen. Ever since I've been writing and drawing four Murphy's Manor comic strips a month, lending new meaning to the phrase "that time of the month." Um, I won't pursue the metaphor any further than that. The continuing story is one of gay/lesbian Weekend Revolutionaries in a mid-sized mid-western city I call Black Swamp, Ohio. Most of the main characters live in a big old house owned by Murphy Robinson. From there, they pursue their livelihoods, happiness and occasionally indulge in political shenanigans.

I have laid out a rather large community in Black Swamp. All sorts of characters spend brief stays in my four panels - Bedouins exploring the caves near Qumran, Alexander Graham Bell and Watson, Charles Darwin, even Joe Camel and a talking rat from the Vatican. In more than 800 comic strips, I've done a lot of stand-alone cartoons featuring my regular characters. There have also been many that form larger continuing story lines. I hope these series cartoons stand on their own - they have to. Some papers that run Murphy's Manor are weekly, some biweekly, some monthly. Continuing series only work in weeklies, and even then I have no assurance that the cartoons will be run in the correct



Kurt Erichsen Cartoonist & Illustrator

2539 Scottwood Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43610-1358
[419] 243-2559
Kerichsen@att.net
<http://kerichsen.home.att.net>

order.

In this volume I am presenting some of the collected stories.

The first series I did was a short one, when I'd been doing these strips for about a year. It concerned Jeff Sorensen (one of the tenants at Murphy's Manor) falling for a very effeminate man who turned out to be heterosexual. For me, the high point of this series was when this swishy straight guy tried to teach Murf how to swish.

In this volume I present a few of my favorite series, dealing with a raunchy brand of gay religion, a few fine points of the Ohio Revised Code, and micro-activism. It would be traditional for me to close these introductory remarks by saying that I hope you enjoy reading the cartoons in this volume as much as I enjoyed drawing them. Drawing them involved sitting at my drawing table and staring at each strip for several hours, of ten far into the night while you were doing something trivial, like falling in love or dancing the night away. Be fair, now. Is it fitting for me to wish you as much joy as I experienced? Still, I do sincerely wish you thousands of ecstatic seconds in the world of Murphy's Manor.

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Wedding Bells



Mark and Murf get married. What would happen if they really tried – and how could they accomplish it, legally?

Two details of Ohio law struck me as interesting. One is the ability of the Mayor to perform weddings. Well, Mayor Meg O'Keefe is a tenant at Murphy's Manor.

The other was the peculiar wording of Ohio Revised Code §3101 – which you'll see in one of the strips. The wording I used was verbatim.

Of course in 2004 that changed, and I did another series as Murf and Mark got married again ... and again ... and again, till the Powers That Be finally listen.

MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



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§3101.01 Persons who may marry
Male persons of the age of eighteen years, and female persons of the age of sixteen years, not nearer of kin than second cousins, and not having a husband or wife living, may be joined in marriage. A minor must first obtain the consent of his...

Hmm... I was afraid of that. The State Law is heterosexual.

461

Now, look. We're both male persons, over 18 years. So we both qualify to marry.

I don't think the people at the License Bureau would read it that way.

462

Meg said that if we could get a license, she'd perform the ceremony. There must be a way.

Of course!

463

Here's our license. Let's go!

I can't wait for our wedding night. I'll give you a lube job and rotate your tires.

Ke
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Here's the situation, Rev. Hasenpflug. Mark and Murf are getting married.

Two guys!?!?

464

That's right.

Now, they could have a Civil ceremony at City Hall, but it's not the same as a church wedding.

465

What makes you think I'll allow a homosexual wedding in my church?

We thought you might if we use the right wedding march music.

466

And what music is that?

"Here Comes the Bribe."

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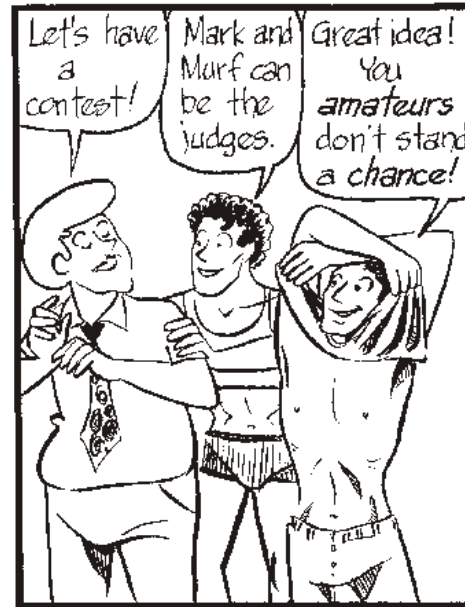
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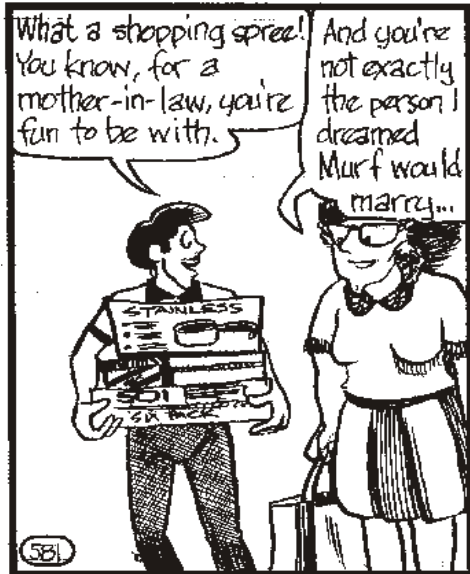
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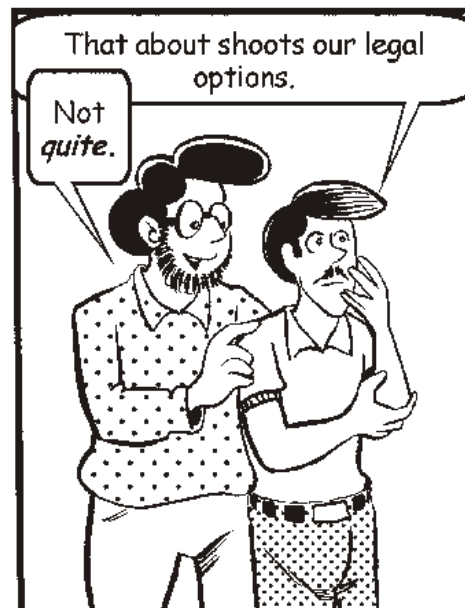
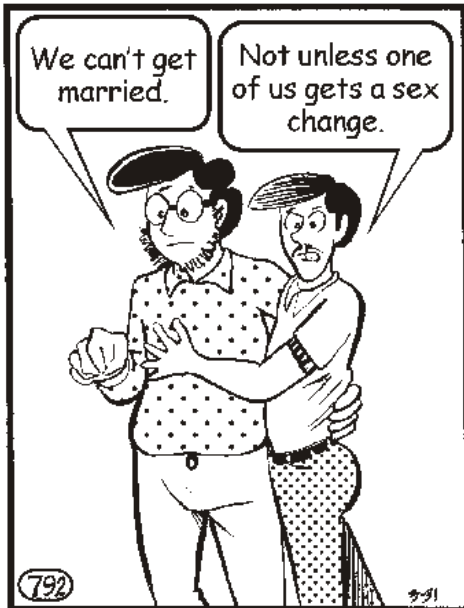
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