

# Quiet on the Set! Put it in the Can!

## 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 some thousand 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

order.

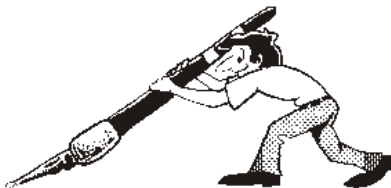
In this volume I am presenting some of the collected stories.

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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# Garbage Can Movies



I still think of Andrew Paszko as a newer character. This series, from 1992, was the first time we really got to know him. Andrew is our Angry Young Man. He puts political activism above everything, including sex. He first showed up in strip #333 as Mayor Meg O'Keefe's aide. He continued to fill the role of a Painfully PC, politically active young gay man who came out the Age of AIDS. Over the next 150 strips, he appeared sporadically, eventually being the Mayor's liaison to the gay community.

He's an aide who works overtime — and into the small hours — taking gay liberation into his own hands.

## MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



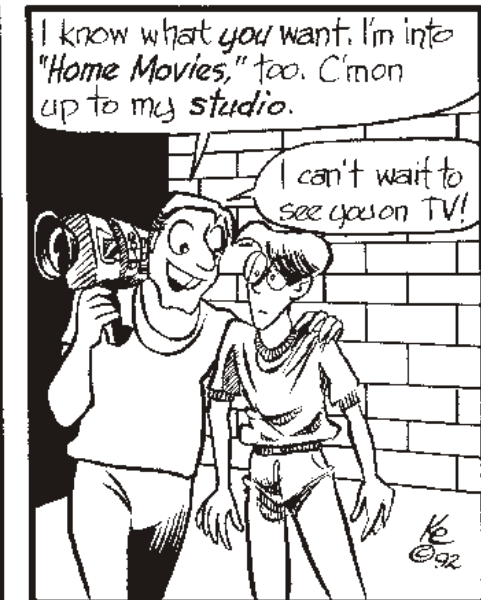
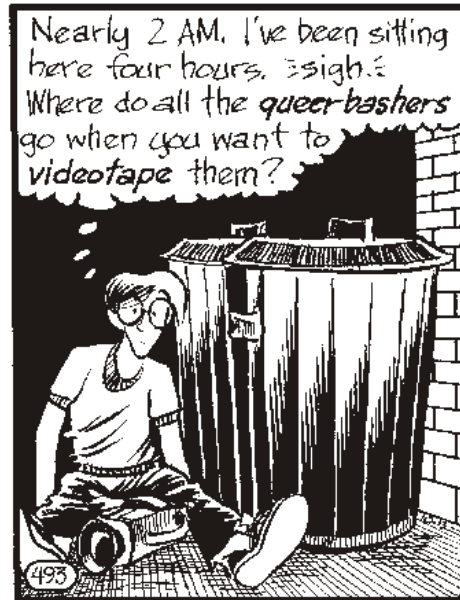
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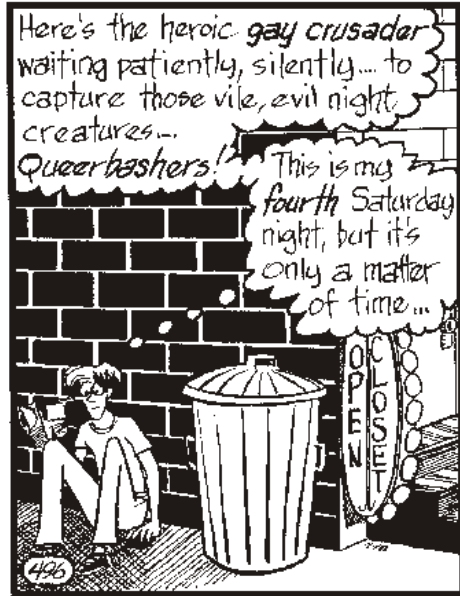
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You *can't* sit out in the alley every weekend waiting for *gaybashers*, Andrew.

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If I don't catch them in the act, who will? The cops? Ha!

Now, wait a minute. Some of my very best friends wear uniforms....

Still, I guess you're right. If I got "lucky" enough to capture queerbashers on videotape, I'd probably be their victim.

That's right. They never attack when you're watching for them.

Look, Vinnie! Here's a couple fags now!

Yeh!

503

# MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen

Me and Vinnie'll take the *Queen*... you let the *little Pansy* have it.

Yeh, Heh, heh. Smashi the queers.

507

That's *Sergeant Queen* to you, punk!!

"The little pansy"?!?

A cop! We're trapped!

"You have the right to remain..." Hold still, dammit!!

"Sgt. Tony Miller, Police Department!"

Who are you?

I'm a plain clothes cop.

Then I'd love to see your costume for Halloween.

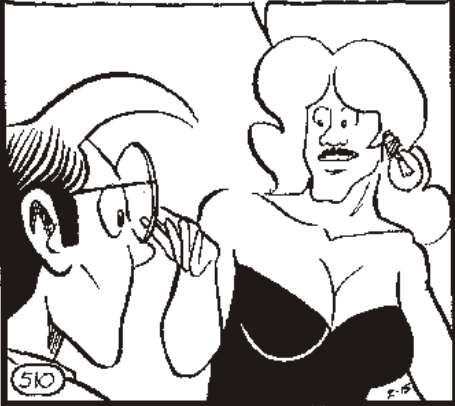
(gkgkg!!)

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# MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen

It's "Gay Sensitivity Training." The Mayor thought the police were apathetic about gay bashings. She had us go in drag to experience homophobia first hand.



You fit in so naturally. Your drag act was good. Are you sure you're straight?

Straight but talented.



How does the Mayor's scheme work? Now do you know what it's like to be gay?

Well, sort of...



My wife caught me with the green nail polish and extra-large party-hose. I had some fast talking to do. That's as close as I'm going to get to knowing.



# MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen

Sgt. Tony Miller, for heroism beyond the call of Police duty, I am proud to award you this special commendation. Congratulations, Sergeant.

Thank you Mayor.



You'll find details in your press packets. Sgt. Miller was in drag. He caught three gay-bashers single-handed.

Anything you'd like to add, Sergeant?



I'll sure be glad to get rid of this damn wig!

But you're a great cop in a wig, a dress, and falsies...



...So we're giving you a whole squad to train in your technique. Carry on, Sgt. Antoinette!

