

Put Some Machismo in your Religion 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

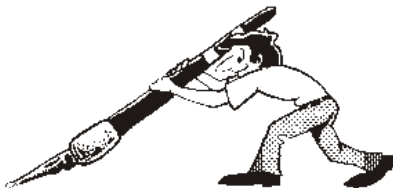
order. In this volume I am presenting some of the collected stories.

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.

Kurt Erichsen Cartoonist & Illustrator

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The Church of Spiritual Machismo



Most gay bashing today is done in the name of religion — but who says the Religious Right has first dibs on the Will of God?

Always the believer in direct action, Sid tackles the dilemma. We could debate the true meaning of the Bible till the four horsemen pull up in the driveway — so maybe it's more direct to create a new religion where God is unquestionably on our side. It's a church with a difference — services are Saturday night, conducted by Holy Daddy Bear Sid

Every writer gets asked where ideas come from. I say that if I knew, I'd go there more often. This series came to me while on an airplane, reading EPA Stormwater NPDES rules in the Federal Register. Normally it doesn't inspire this many punchlines.

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by Kurt Erichsen



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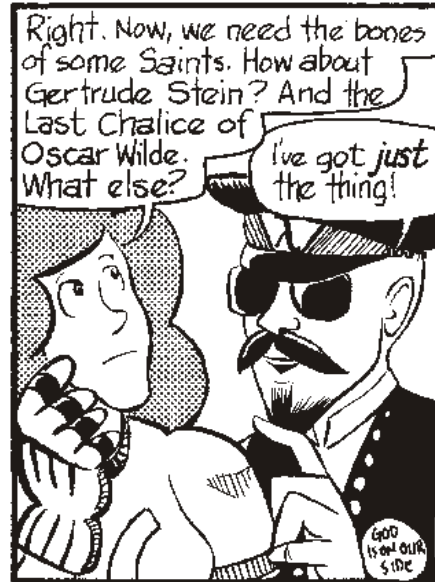
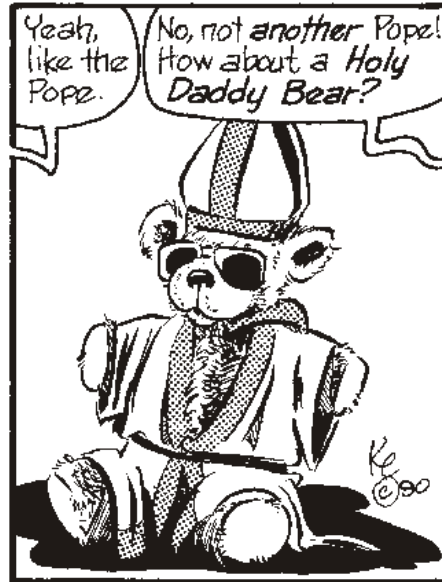
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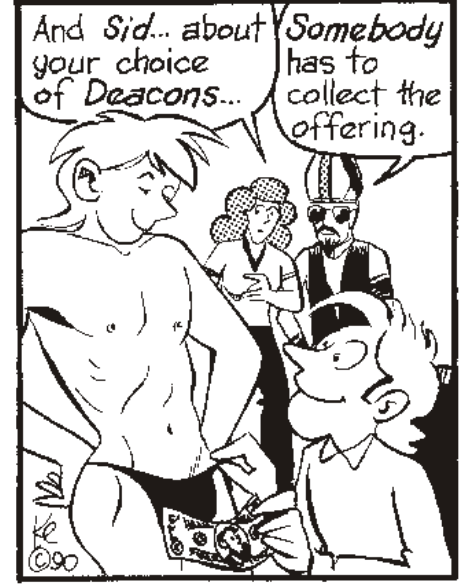
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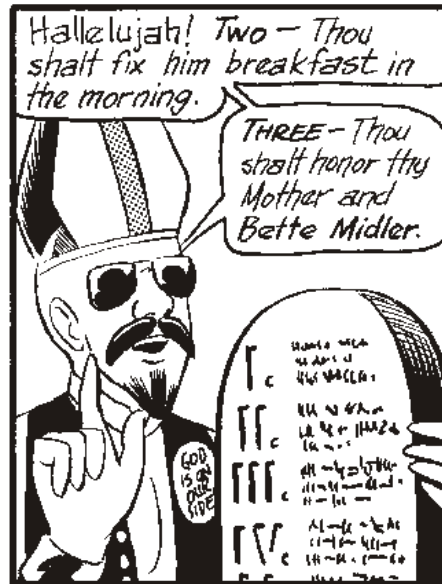
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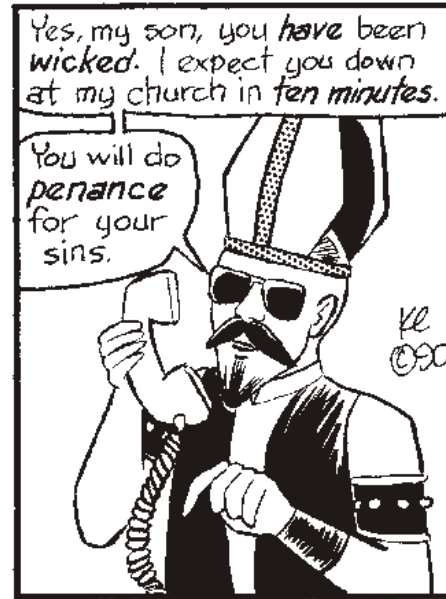
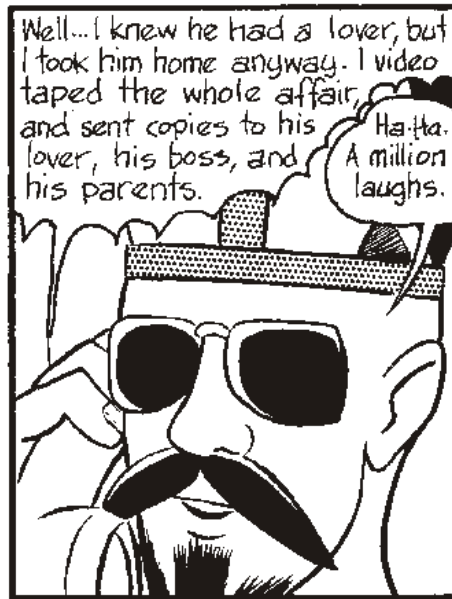
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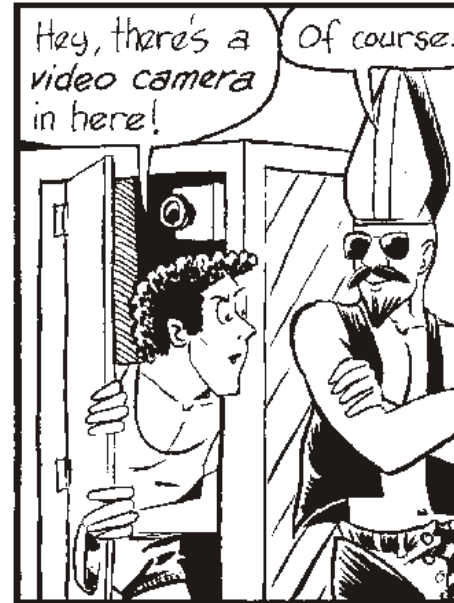
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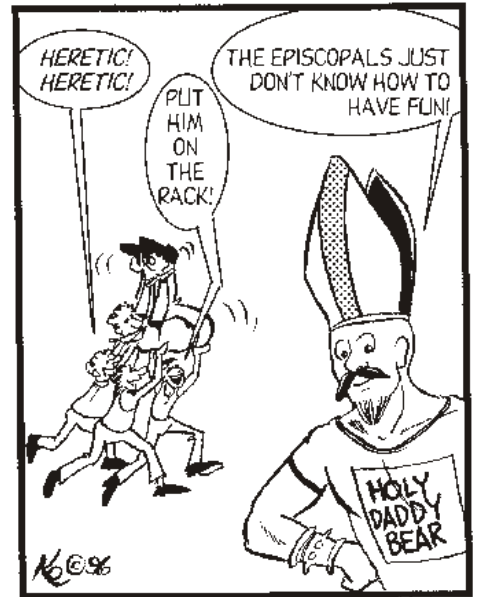
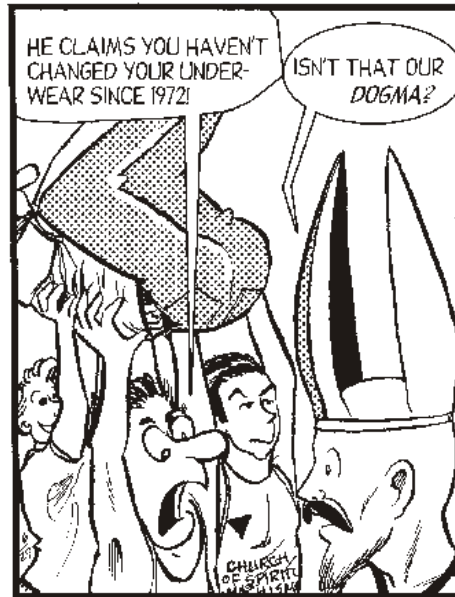
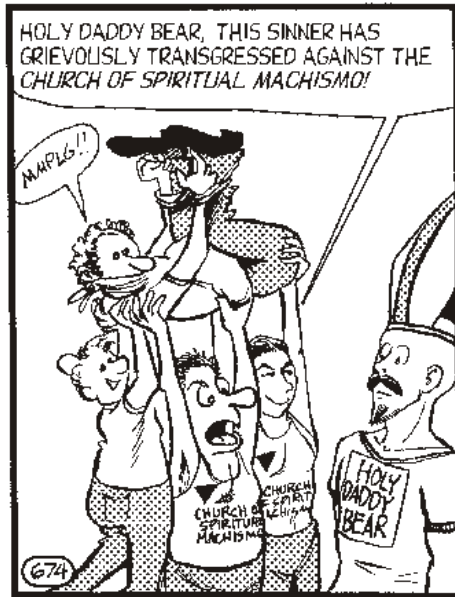
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