



# Getting

# the

Creating Change

# House

# in

comes to Portland

# Order

to eradicate racism

by Kim Stephenson • Page 24



## Savage sins

Dan Savage travels the country to learn what he already knew: Sin is in

BY SARAH LEIMERT

**D**uring the course of the past 10 years, gay Seattle writer Dan Savage has proven himself to be quite a sex advice columnist. "Savage Love," found locally in *The Portland Mercury*, is syndicated in more than 70 newspapers worldwide.

His new book, *Skipping Towards Gomorrah: The Seven Deadly Sins and the Pursuit of Happiness in America*, proves he's a man who can write mean political commentary as well. It doesn't seem like an easy leap, but he does it with panache.

Having previously published two books, *Savage Love: Straight Answers from America's Most Popular Sex Columnist* and *The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant*, along with acting as editor of the Seattle alternative weekly (and *Mercury* big sister) *The Stranger*, Savage is no, er, stranger to mixing his sex with his politics.

*Skipping* is a direct answer to the constant prattle of America's "moral conservative scolds" or, as the writer puts it, the "virtue-crats." A parade of self-righteous conservatives including Bill Bennett, Pat Buchanan, Laura Schlessinger and Robert Bork have had their chance at sin-condemning; now it's Savage's turn to dismantle each of their arguments, sin by deadly sin.

You could sit around and do this in your living room, but Savage hit the road, traveling around the United States, celebrating and eagerly committing each of the seven deadly sins (research).

This is quite a book from a man who's seen it all. From problem gamblers and married swingers to fat-acceptance conferences and shooting ranges, the author throws himself



Dan Savage hits Portland on Nov. 1

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