

## Please don't kill yourself

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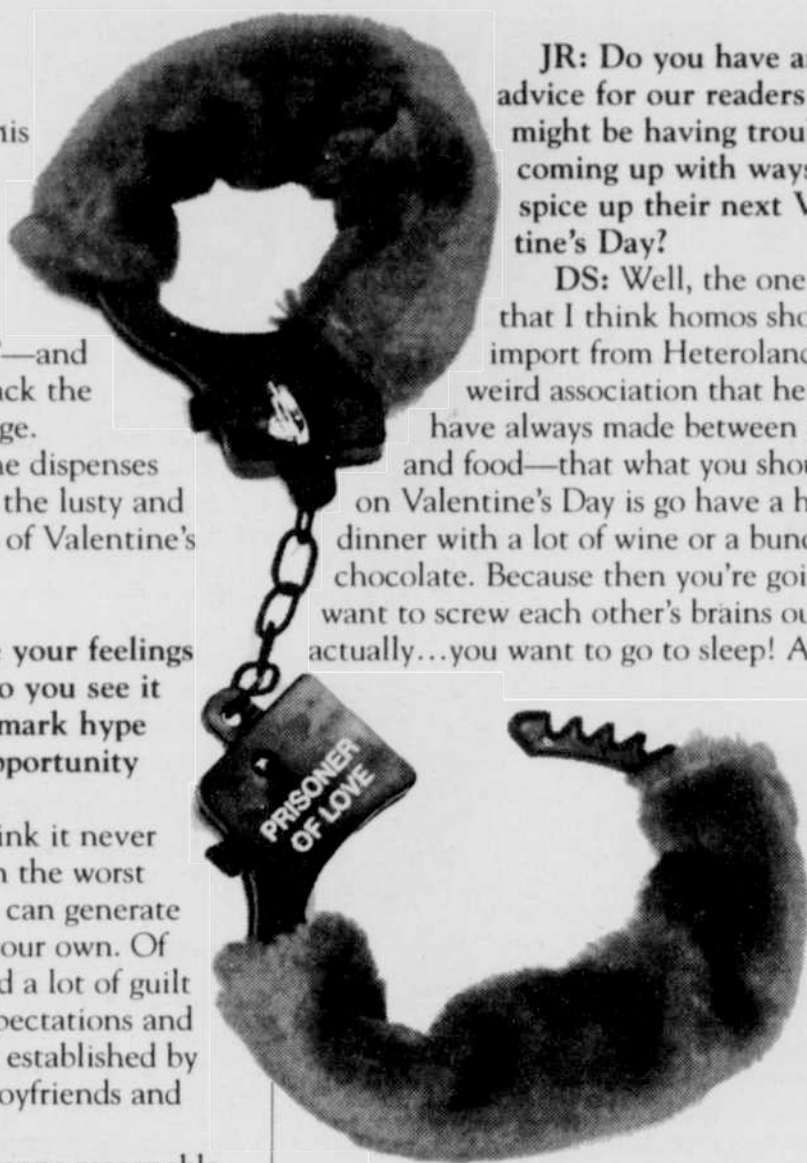
campaign to get back at this bigot, Savage coined the term "santorium"—defined as "the frothy mixture of lube and fecal matter that is sometimes the byproduct of anal sex"—and launched a Web site to track the word's rapidly growing usage.

Now gather 'round as he dispenses some words of wisdom for the lusty and the listless in anticipation of Valentine's Day 2004:

**Jim Radosta:** What are your feelings about Valentine's Day—do you see it as a bunch of hetero Hallmark hype or an important annual opportunity for romance?

**Dan Savage:** Well, I think it never hurts to have a reminder in the worst part of the winter that you can generate some heat for yourself on your own. Of course, it's a lot of hype and a lot of guilt and a lot of heightened expectations and a false standard that's been established by which people judge their boyfriends and girlfriends.

But if you're dating someone reasonable and sensible—and let's all hope that we're all dating someone reasonable and sensible—they're not going to demand that you mortgage your house and do something outrageous for Valentine's Day. Just a gesture is usually all it takes to make somebody feel good. A gesture and a blow job. In that order. Unless the blow job is the gesture.



**JR:** Do you have any advice for our readers who might be having trouble coming up with ways to spice up their next Valentine's Day?

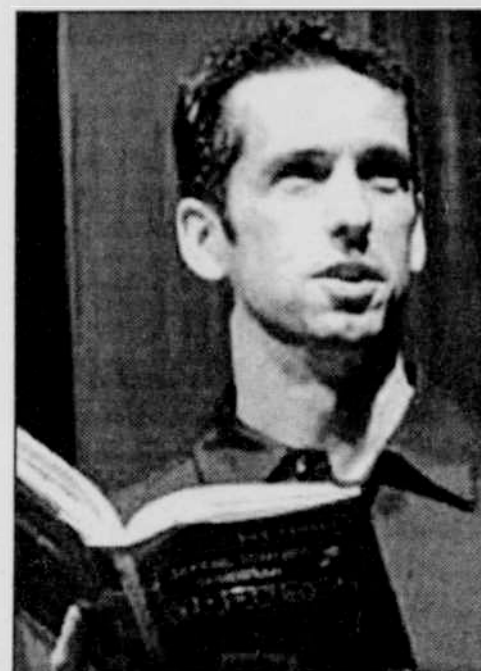
**DS:** Well, the one thing that I think homos should not import from Heteroland is this weird association that heteros have always made between arousal and food—that what you should do on Valentine's Day is go have a heavy dinner with a lot of wine or a bunch of chocolate. Because then you're going to want to screw each other's brains out, and actually...you want to go to sleep! And yet

all these heteros out there in the world trying to reignite the spark in their relationship are going out to dinner and sitting on their already-enormous asses and then wondering why they aren't getting it on when they get home. It's because they're full. They're already stuffed.

**JR:** There's no room left!

**DS:** One wafer-thin mint or one great big dick and they'll just explode.... But it's always more fun to just go out and run around with somebody you love and have a good time together.... That's always my advice. That and a new coil of rope and a new roll of duct tape.

**JR:** Here's a dilemma that some people might be facing: They've been going out for a little while, but they haven't quite reached that "exclusive" stage. Do they treat Valentine's Day like any other date, or should they take advantage of the holiday to move things to the next level?



Dan Savage spreads the good word about the seven deadly sins

**DS:** Oh, man, that's really a tough one. You don't want to arbitrarily hurry things along because Feb. 14 rolled around. You do want to let the relationship unfold at its own pace while also acknowledging that this is, you know, this day when people are supposed to make some sort of romantic gesture. And you can make an appropriate one based on the reality of where the relationship is at rather than pretending that it's further along than it actually is....

You don't want to scare somebody off. When peo-

ple talk about being scared off, they don't mean they're not ready for commitment. But it betrays a certain emotional immaturity...if you're doing big things too soon. If you've been dating for a month and a half and you present them with a ring on Valentine's Day, that's going to scare the other person off because they're going to think you are an idiot!

...Maybe the night you met, you bought them a drink and they were drinking Makers Mark on the rocks. A nice Valentine's Day gift would be a medium bottle of Makers Mark.... Something obvious will present itself if you think about it for a minute, and then you don't have to go the chocolate/flowers/candy/card/romantic meal route, which is boring and not creative.

**"You don't want to scare somebody off... It betrays a certain emotional immaturity...if you're doing big things too soon."**  
—Dan Savage



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