

Maybe it's that America can't get its collective conscious wrapped around the concept that monogamy isn't the be-all and end-all for everyone, or maybe it's the stereotype of the wild, promiscuous gays doing whatever they feel like, but a lot of people think Savage is much more permissive than he believes he is. Savage rejects Dueholm's idea that he is a sexual libertarian, or even that he's scandalously sexually liberal.

Savage says that critics sometimes act like he's "throwing permission slips into the street" when it comes to cheating, but a closer look will prove them wrong.

"I'm often telling people not to do shit," Savage says. "I make very clear distinctions in my column about when I believe cheating is permissible and when I believe it's not."

Savage says that it's not a complicated set of ethics and standards that guides him; it's "a sense of right and wrong rooted in the Golden Rule." He says he solves a lot of the dilemmas that readers present him by asking how they would feel on the receiving end of a behavior. His general sex advice is to be GGG: good in bed, giving equal time and pleasure, and game for anything reasonable. Usually, the answer to the cheating problem centers on what will cause the least pain and keep life bearable.

Dueholm's interpretation of Savage's ethical code — disclosure, autonomy, mutual exchange and minimum standards of performance — doesn't necessarily conflict with Savage's "do unto others" philosophy. The DAMEMSP, as Savage might refer to it, is more of a "how to treat your partner with respect," while the Golden Rule is more of an ideal that leaves individuals to sort out "how" on their own — or with a little help from Savage.

Don't shoot the messenger

"I guess Catholic guilt guides me," Savage says. He grew up in a Catholic family and went to a school for young men considering the priesthood, but he's written that he's now an atheist who's been steeped in Catholic culture. He's loudly critical of the religion that disregards his marriage with Miller.



They officially wed in Vancouver, B.C., in 2005, and though the marriage isn't recognized in the U.S., their relationship has surpassed the 11-year mark that is the median for U.S. marriages. This begs the question: If a tree falls in a Canadian forest and no American federal government is there to recognize it, do two people still love each other?

Recently Savage criticized the hypocrisy of practicing Catholics who consider him unqualified to give advice to women "without first telling that old fag in Rome to STFU already."

For Savage, the moral responsibility of Christians in favor of gay rights like marriage is "to get in the faces of Christians who don't." He says that assuring people who are gay that there are Christians who support them is a far cry from adequate; it's important "to tell conservative, right-wing evangelical Christians who claim to speak not only in their own names but in the names of all Christians that they don't speak for you."

Savage's biting humor and sharp, defined sense of acceptable behavior have gotten him in trouble, and not just with those he makes namesakes of gay sex acts. He's pissed off defenders of people who are bisexual, trans, fat, liberal, conservative, Arabs, African Americans, men, women, pit bull lovers and most of who's left over. He's been in a Twitter/blog fight over disparaging fat people with one of his editors at *The Stranger*, who writes about vagina as well as he does, if not better.

"I am not biphobic; I am not transphobic; I am not racist; I am not sexist," Savage rattles off, familiar with the litany.

"I have written for 20 years a very joke-y sex advice column," he says. "And some people are making a sport now of pulling things out of context and saying, 'Oh look, he's a bully, he made this joke.' I don't want to live in a world where people can't make jokes, and joking ain't bullying necessarily."

While a few people have posted YouTube videos expressing hesitancy over participating in the It Gets Better Project because it's led by a figure who's not exactly sweet as pie, Savage says that's an even better reason for people of all backgrounds to contribute.

"I may be an imperfect messenger," he says, "but the perfect messenger didn't come along and start this project. The more people who participate the more diluted my voice becomes." **EW**



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RESPONSIBLE LEADER

I am running to bring responsible leadership to the Eugene, 4J School Board. The board should and must make certain that all students are receiving the best education that prepares them for their next step in life.

SUSTAINABLE BUDGET

The current trend of our school budget cannot be sustained. I built a construction business from the ground up and had to adapt my business plan to meet my customer's needs to stay in business. We must meet the challenge and stop pushing the problems down the road. The school board owes parents, teachers and the community a sustainable plan for the future not the insecurity that we have had recently. Efficiency in public schools is as important as it is in private business and where quality cannot be sacrificed.

MONEY INTO CLASSROOMS

My children and I attended Twin Oaks, Kennedy and Churchill Schools. Education starts with family. Having parents engaged from the beginning is critical to the discussion concerning the education of their children. We cannot forget the concerns of community and look for ways to work together. Together we can face the challenges ahead and educate our kids for success.

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