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Dan Savage to Speak at Gender Issues Week

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Dan Savage, an openly gay sex advice columnist, author and media pundit will speak at Illinois Wesleyan on Thursday, March 8 at 8 p.m. in Hansen Student Center (300 E. Beecher St., Bloomington).

Savage will speak as part of IWU's Gender Issues Week, sponsored by the Student Welfare and Human Relations Commission of Student Senate and co-sponsored by IWU Pride Alliance and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA).

The event is free and open to the public.

A Chicagoland native, Savage is best known for his internationally syndicated relationship column, "Savage Love," a liberal column with a tone that is humorous, profane and occasionally hostile towards conservatives. The column is famous for its neologisms, newly coined terms that Savage often creates for social, sexual and political issues.

Currently, Savage works as the editor of the Seattle weekly newspaper, *The Stranger* and is a frequent contributor to *Out* magazine. He has also written a bi-weekly advice column, *Dear Dan*, which was published on ABC News' Web site from 1998 until 2000.

Savage is a regular contributor to *This American Life*, an hour-long radio show on Chicago's WBEZ radio station. His column, "Savage Love" was also turned into a weekly two-hour call-in radio show on Seattle's KCMU Radio until 1997, which is now available for free download both on iTunes Music Store and at <http://www.thestranger.com/savagelove>.

As a former theatre and history double major at University of Illinois, Savage spent time in the theatre under the name "Keenan Hollahan." During his theatre career, Savage helped found Seattle's Greek Active Theatre which performed queer re-contextualizations of classic works such as a version of *Macbeth* that had members of different genders play the roles of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Savage is also known for his 2001 parody of Peter Schaffer's 1973 play *Equus*, called *Egguus*, which exchanged a fascination of horses to a fixation on chickens.

Savage has authored four books during his career that touch on issues of sexuality, social problems and politics. *The Commitment: Love, Sex, Marriage, and My Family, Skipping*

Towards Gomorrah, The Kid: What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Go Get Pregnant and Breeder: Real-Life Stories From the New Generation of Mothers, which he co-authored with three other writers. In 1998, a book based on his column called *Savage Love: Straight Answers From America's Most Popular Sex Columnist* was published.

For additional information, contact Andrea Ambrosia, student welfare and human relations commissioner at aambrosi@iwu.edu.

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