

Let me tell you, I'm not as tired as I was last week. Seriously. Even with the Penguin Hackers HackYSU last weekend, where sleep was a valued, yet unaccounted for, precious commodity. Getting that last bit off my chest just did the Switch good. However, there's something else I've noticed – well, more like something that I had noticed before that had been drowned out by the white noise of “Weakness” which we talked about last week. I've grumbled about it before to people in passing... now it's time to rant about it to all who is listening (-low- thank you, by the way) ... as I was saying... It's time to crank the rant up to 12 and 'Switch This'.

Sooooooooo. Let's talk about consent. Let's talk about respect. More specifically... let's talk about some of the posters you may have seen around campus. I know they are still out there, since there is still one up at the Veterans Resource center. Tell me if you know this one: it has your stereotypical neighborhood slash college bar type feel, and a guy standing there with a phone, while some lady in the background is getting harangued by some quote unquote Dude.

The message? The tagline? The Piece-de-resistance of this Public Service Announcement in Print? “I called to give her an out”

--long sigh--

Now, don't get me wrong here: I DO NOT DISAGREE WITH THIS MESSAGE. There have been enough bleepin' bad apples around to darn near to teach decent guys that they have to distrust themselves. As much as women have been taught that there is strength and safety in numbers, guys need to jump on that bandwagon too... guys can help keep an environment safe: by being a friend, by calling a cab, by giving that text or call mentioned in the poster.

However... Boys and Girls, Ladies and Gentlemen... I ask all of you this wonderful gem: “What in the actual Scrooge McDuck?!?!?”

Why don't we address the elephant in the room here: “DON'T BE THAT GUY!” No, not the guy who is a halfway decent human being looking out for other halfway decent human beings... the guy (and I use that term verrrry loosely) who Mr. Watchdog has to go in and keep from being an insult to those of us who have a conscience... by giving a girl a “socially acceptable” out from an awkward and potentially dangerous situation.

Waaait another second here. Did I just have to rationalize away the fact that telling someone “No” or “No Thank You” is somehow not “socially acceptable”?

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot.

Guys, lets face a couple facts of life nowadays:

- One: If you want to buy a stranger a drink, the only people who should touch it are either the bartender or the server.

- Two: You can be the most charming, well meant, and kindest individual on the planet. However, anything you may say to someone whom you feel interest in... no matter how selfless and sincere YOU are, someone ELSE may well have used those same words in just as IN-sincere and self-ISH.
- Three: Now this one's a work-in-progress, but bear with me... **Just because a bad apple can spoil the bunch... enough good apples make a pie.** Yeah, that one's a bit corny and needs definite work, but think about it. That number two can be a real [ahem], but that gives you no-excuse-whatsoever from continuing your habit of being a quality human being. Seriously. Be that decent guy. Be a flirt. Be a charmer. Be the shy one. Just be yourself. Just. Keep. Being. That. Decent. Guy. **No bad apples allowed.**

(I wonder if that could work as a slogan. It's got a ring to it...)

So why aren't we focusing those posters on spreading the word to the idiots out there that these actions will not and cannot be tolerated? Hmm. Strike the phrase idiots from that past comment. People who prey on others can be just as intelligent as you or I, which makes things that much rougher for everyone. Reference back to good ol' number two I mentioned a few moments ago.

Yet INTOLERABLE is the best choice of words I can be allowed to use on the air here today... since we're live and this is Coolguy & Havok's show, I'd prefer to be allowed back in the studio... Soooooo, as I was saying, many other words come to mind, but we'll just leave it at that. Intolerable.

So yes, every time I go by and see one of those posters... I just want to grab a post-it and a sharpie and put "Better yet: DON'T BE THAT GUY" on each and every one.

But taking a "No bad apples" policy in life... I think that has some promise.

Oh... and guys? Small little fact of life I've managed to pick up in my years... call it the extra credit section of my earlier list of three... and for some strange reason it's just not talked about. Simply put... if you're having sex, get yourself tested on a regular basis. (I can almost hear the sounds of countless jaws hitting the floor right now) I should be ranting about the fact that many DON'T do this, but to be honest, I'd rather just... ask... nicely.

It's actually simple... quick... and the hardest part of the whole process is thinking back to any risky type behavior you may (or may not have) encountered in life – and it gets easier the more often you do it. Me? I get tested yearly **at the minimum**. Respect yourself. Respect the people you're with. Respect the people you'll be with in the future. Or just do what I do and smile when people look quizzically at me when I say that I keep "Clean Walking Papers".

And where do I go and keep my "walking papers" updated? At ye' ol' local Planned Parenthood – it's not just for women, folks. You can use Insurance **OR** theres scaled charge based on income. And if you're boo-hooing the cost of peace of mind, both yours and your parner's

(singular or plural), you'll save a boatload on condoms. Yes: inexpensive prophylactics. (*I hate to say it... it's almost cheaper to be a smoker than sexually active nowadays...*) So, yes, go get tested. Go get some peace of mind. Go give others some peace of mind. Get a bagful of inexpensive high-grade condoms in multiple colors while you're there. Heck, bring your partner and go home with two bags of high-grade condoms in multiple colors.

But whatever you do.

Seriously.

Be the guy, better yet KEEP BEING the guy who keeps an eye out for others.
keep being the guy that understands that it's ok to ask for consent...
...and that it's OK for someone to say no.

Just Don't be THAT Guy...
(like I said earlier: NO BAD APPLES)