



# The Crusader



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## 'Can I Kiss You?' educates about sexual assault in original way

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This past Tuesday in the Hogan Ballroom, Mike Domitrz performed his one-man show/lecture "Can I Kiss You?"

The performance began in a striking manner. The lanky Domitrz stood on stage, arms spread in gesticulation, and uttered his first words to the crowd, "Can I kiss you?" The audience of students chuckled uncomfortably at the bold, rhetorical question, wondering whether he expected a verbal answer. For the next hour Mr. Domitrz entertained us through role-playing, audience participation, and other engaging exercises that emphasized the importance of such pertinent issues as healthy dating, communication, and sexual assault awareness.

Mr. Domitrz's important message was, in its simplest form, one of respect. Through his 'can I kiss you?' catchphrase he stressed how imperative it is for couples to consensually agree to any type of sexual encounter. He asked the students how many of them had ever asked a partner if it was okay to kiss them. Not surprisingly, no students raised their hands. His presentation questioned why something so simple, asking for per-

mission to kiss another person, is so rarely performed. He poked fun at how males and females foolishly believe that body language, such as the touching of a knee or shoulder, supposedly expresses the desire that one is interested in kissing. This assumption causes ambiguity that may confuse the other person thus weakening their interest. He showed through a mock situation how such nonverbal communication is not equivalent to asking for permission as well as generally proving less effective than a humble, verbal request. An overwhelming "awwww" emanated from the female members of the audience as they watched a scene of a shy Mike sincerely asking his partner if she would be comfortable letting him kiss her. Grinning broadly, he spoke to the males in the crowd: "See, guys," he said, "the girls love this stuff!"

Through recounting a personal story of his sister's rape, Mr. Domitrz spoke about the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses and offered strategies to combat a potential dangerous situation from occurring. He adamantly declared how a rape victim should never be accused of baiting the aggressor based on their choice of clothing or state of inebriation. He backed this up by providing a parallel hypothetical. He asserted how being drunk and wearing revealing clothing

does not make it acceptable for one to be robbed, so therefore it is ludicrous for outsiders to assert that such circumstances warrant rape. The tragedy of his sister's rape, for which he himself felt a degree of responsibility, served as the turning point in his life. Mike had visited his sister at her college a week earlier and spent the night weary of a guy who had caused his sister to feel incredibly uncomfortable. This stranger proved later to be her attacker. After enduring such unfortunate circumstances, it led Mr. Domitrz to make it his mission to educate the world regarding issues of healthy dating, consent, and sexual assault awareness.

Mr. Domitrz's humorous and laid-back nature suits perfectly the college-age audience. He possesses the rare ability to provoke laughter at one moment and to suddenly switch gears in the next moment to appeal to the audience's compassionate side by addressing more serious matters. His presentation made a profound impact on many students and sparked much-needed conversation among others.

Can I Kiss You? was sponsored by SGA, Women's Forum, and CAB. More information can be found at Mike Domitrz's website, [canikissyou.com](http://canikissyou.com).