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News

Domitrz tackles rape myths

New Student Programs enlists the help of speaker Mike Domitrz

By Kelly Garthwaite

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A common misconception about rape is that women are the only victims. On Wednesday night, Mike Domitrz, one of the most sought-after inspirational speakers today, made that completely clear. Most people believe that men are not at any risk for being taken advantage of sexually. As silly as it may sound, they can be.

The crowd at Preston Auditorium consisted of what seemed to be every single sorority sister at RU and a lot of freshmen who had to attend this event to fulfill some sort of class requirement. Either way, everyone had fun. Domitrz had the entire crowd shifting from hysterical laughter to complete silence. He brought up issues that most normal, red-blooded American young people are afraid to.

There were instances where he brought up audience members to demonstrate normal dating situations. One specific situation involved a girl sitting on the couch, which was the only prop on the stage. He sat her down and brought up the idea of simply asking for a kiss.

He made sense when he mentioned that just asking is easier than simply making a move. When someone makes a move and the other party is too nervous or scared to say no, there is a lot of tension that can build up. Domitrz kept stressing that everyone should just ask, that they should

throw out the idea of being rejected and realize that not every date will end the way they might prefer.

Domitrz got the ladies of the crowd riled up when he started talking about the different ways men try to make their moves. The women made it clear that they would prefer to be asked whether or not they would like to go further on a date. He also pointed out that body language is the most artificial way of showing someone exactly what is being felt. Communication is a key factor in any type of dating situation.

There were some issues brought up that seemed to make almost everyone feel a little uncomfortable. An overwhelming aura of distress filled the room when Domitrz brought up the subject of his own sister being raped. He spoke of how appalled he felt in the fact that it was from his sister's plight that his success came about. He wished that he'd spoken out before she had even been put through this awful situation; he knew that rape happened all the time, but was unable to feel the pain from it until it touched him personally.

Even though the subject of the evening was a very tough one, there was an amazing sense of togetherness that night. Following the talk was a candlelight march accompanied by different chants from anyone who wanted to join in attempting to "take back the night," in which both men and women were encouraged to join.

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