

NEWS SECTIONS

Trinity Life

TRINITY LIFE COMICS

Top Stories

Trinity Life

Sports

Opinion

## 'Can I Kiss You' promotes talking over smooching

*Send us your comics!*

Mike Domitrz uses audience participation to promote verbal communication

SITE OPTIONS

Archives

Submissions

Advertise

Staff/Contact

About Us

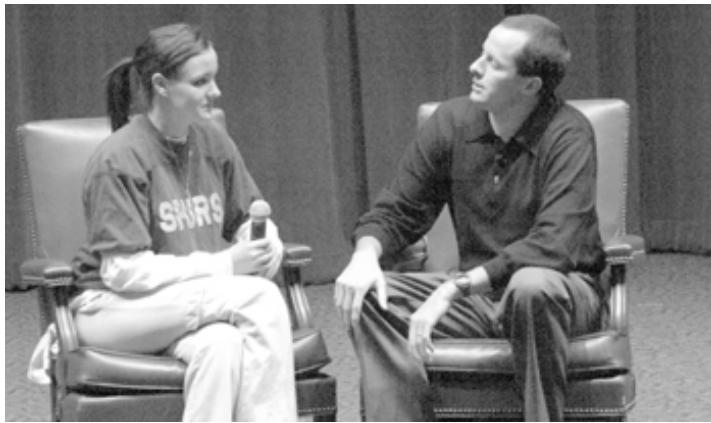
Subscribe



*Photo by: Sarah Taylor*

**listen up:** Mike Domitrz talks about misinterpreted body language Wednesday night in Laurie Auditorium. Domitrz's interactive speech was influenced by his sister's experience as a sexual assault

victim.



*Photo by: Sarah Taylor*

**listen up:** Domitrz role plays with Spur Aubrey Eggertsen, junior, during the presentation; he uses these role-playing games to demonstrate how a man should “ask” a woman before he does anything.

---

“Can I kiss you?”

It’s a simple question, but hardly one that is widely integrated into today’s average dating scene.

According to Mike Domitrz, plainly asking a person for his or her permission to take a relationship to the next level not only sets a tone of honesty and romanticism; it’s the right thing to do.

For over a decade Domitrz has preached his message of respect and communication between couples in an interactive program aptly titled, “Can I Kiss You?” Students filed into Laurie Auditorium on Wednesday night to discover the reasons why people don’t ask and how it affects the way men and women relate to one another in relationships.

The event, sponsored by Student affairs and the NCAA, featured over an hour of amusing, yet realistic, role-play balanced with serious discussion on the dangers of misinterpreted body language.

“Society’s view of asking is skewed,” said Katy Massey, first year. “We find asking to be un-sexy and un-cool, when in reality, it’s the opposite.”

Generally, people across the globe rely on non-verbal communication to understand the desires of their partners, which, Domitrz asserts, can sometimes lead to complications.

Over the years, society, including movie and television, has shaped the population’s perspective on audibly expressing mutual interest by creating certain stigmas. Because there exists a possibility of rejection, looking stupid, or ruining the moment, men and women would rather save the embarrassment and not ask for their partner’s consent.

Domitrz understands society’s need to maintain an attractive reputation, but says vocalization eliminates the need for both parties to be someone that they are not; rather, they are allowed to act natural and be themselves.

This idea illustrated itself several times with the help of student volunteers hand-picked from the audience.

“I enjoyed how he made his points. He took our opinions and real-life situations and made them into something fun.” Massey said.

Of course, the “Can I Kiss You” program contained a deeper and more solemn

theme. Domitrz, the brother of a sexual assault victim, passionately advocated the practice of helping and understanding victims of this prevalent crime.

By definition, assault includes sexual contact that is nonconsensual, or forced, and Domitrz points out that most people do not verbally, and officially, gain the permission of their partner.

Though, rather than blame assault victims for not saying, "no," when found in a dangerous situation, Domitrz advises students to recognize that these victims are not always asked. Respect and dignity are the key ingredients to helping and comforting someone who has experienced sexual assault.

"[I learned] that the most important thing is to realize that it's not your fault if someone doesn't ask." said Taylor Floyd, first year.

Domitrz advocates change through being active and spreading his ideas to students across the nation.

With his charismatic personality and crowd interaction, Domitrz made the simple question, "can I kiss you?" a lot simpler.

By Rachelle Ware

---

Site design by the [Trinitonian Webmaster](#) The Trinitonian website is updated by noon of each Friday an issue is published.

The website does not contain all content from the actual issues, please [subscribe](#) for the complete edition

The Trinitonian and Mirage are organizations of the Campus Publications Board

\*\*\*\*\*All material herein is copyright © of their respective publications\*\*\*\*\*