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Local News



Audience gets advice on dating

By Julie DiFranco
REPORTER

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ADVICE: Last night in Olscamp, Mike Domitrz, healthy dating expert, said letting someone know your intentions when dating is very important.

Can I kiss you? Have you ever asked or been asked this question? Last night Mike Domitrz spoke on avoiding sexual assault and how to better communicate with the people you date.

Domitrz involved the audience and used students to give better examples on communication techniques. He chose his first volunteer to come up on stage and show the audience his "I'm about to give you a kiss" face, which received quite a few laughs from the audience. After taking a quick survey, the crowd decided that out of ten occurrences, your partner will understand what you actually want less than three times. Domitrz used his second volunteer to show her opinion on where she would touch her partner to show her interest in them. After giving her answer as the shoulder, Domitrz shared with us that the most popular spot was actually the knee.

Domitrz then did a demonstration, on how to ask for a kiss. After asking his next volunteer for a kiss three different ways, the females of the audience agreed that his last approach was the best, where Domitrz came across as caring, kind and respectful. He said that the reason this approach was so appealing was because he gave her a choice and showed that he actually cared.

The biggest male complaint is that the girl expects him to read her mind. Domitrz points out by openly discussing what you are feeling and what you want to do will eliminate this expectation.

Domitrz said he was often asked if he himself had always asked permission while on a date. His answer was "no" up until his college years when he received a phone call that changed his life. One morning his mother called him with the news that his sister had been raped just four hours earlier. He was angry, hurt and frustrated that there was nothing he could do to help the situation. Sexual assault is defined as physical contact without consent. Well, he thought, just about everyone has been guilty of that right? What makes the rest of us different from a rapist then? Asking for permission ends the risk of sexual assault. It's not just about asking, it's about asking the right way, with dignity and respect.

"Intimacy would be so much simpler if partners communicated more", Domitrz

said. Some argue that speaking may ruin the mood or the spontaneity of the relationship.

Domitrz disagrees, saying that talking openly about wants and expectations makes the relationship more exciting, more fun and reduces the risk of misunderstanding one another.

Dormitrz concludes his presentation by giving advice to use next time we are out on a date or engaged in an intimate moment. He said take a second to ask yourself if this is what you absolutely want and if you would be proud of your decision when looking back at it.

When asked what they thought of the lecture, BG student, Rachel Blevins said, "while the beginning was exciting and drew her in, the ending of the lecture was more about first-date situations and did not really apply to long term relationships". ■