

'Can I Kiss You' Reveals Dating Do's and Don'ts

Program draws nearly 900 to ballroom.

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We have all heard it since the time we were just noticing our classmates as more than dodgeball opponents. When it comes to intimacy, no means no. But according to speaker and healthy dating expert Mike Domitrz, the question should come before the answer.

About 900 people attended Domitrz's program entitled "Can I Kiss You?" in the CSU Ballroom Wednesday. Though many of the attendees admitted they were there because of class or athletic team requirements, the interest in the topic of dating and intimacy showed in the crowd's eagerness to participate throughout the event.

"I believe sexual education is real important," said Omaar Balton, a freshman who said he had to attend the event for football, but saw importance in the message.

Domitrz began the program by asking the audience whether or not people ask, "can I kiss you?" on dates, to which the crowd overwhelmingly responded with "no."

Domitrz then asked if it was easy to read a partner's body language on a date when things are becoming more intimate.

Again, a big no all around.



Media Credit: [Tom Froemming](#)

Mike Domitrz presented a dating program called "Can I Kiss You" to a packed CSU Ballroom of about 900 people on Wednesday. The program included information on sexual education and common dating mistakes.

"Why don't we make it easy for ourselves and just ask?" Domitrz asked.

Often times, Domitrz explained, it's the fear of being rejected or looking like "an idiot" that prevents men from asking before making the move.

Domitrz questioned the fear of rejection theory, however, because "they try it over and over" anyway.

"Putting on a show" is another dating tactic that will likely bomb, Domitrz said, because then your partner only ends up wanting "a piece of the show."

Domitrz commented on the "current system" of "making a move" where nothing is said and one partner simply goes for it. The problem here, Domitrz said, is that the other person may not actually feel comfortable with the action, even if they have not specifically said "no."

"Even if you think you might be right, you don't know (until you ask)," he said. "You never go wrong (with asking)."

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A person who is willing to ask is willing to show his feelings, and willing to give someone a choice, Domitrz concluded with the help of a female audience member.

The topic of discussion then shifted to a more serious matter when Domitrz spoke of his own experience with sexual assault after his sister was brutally raped.

Sexual assault affects everybody, Domitrz said, both sexes and all races. It can be easily defined, "any sexual contact without permission," and easily avoided by asking, Domitrz said.

"You ask when you take \$5 from a friend, why not when you do something intimate to someone's body?" he asked.

Domitrz then asked the audience to, in the first three hours after leaving the event, "open the doors" to talking with loved ones about sexual assault. Many times, he said, victims of sexual assault do want to talk about it, they just do not want to be judged.

Alcohol also plays a dangerous role in hooking up and sexual assault, Domitrz said. It is obvious sexual feelings will be there in times of drinking, "just don't act on it," Domitrz said. He also emphasized the importance of intervening before drunken friends get themselves into situations where sexual assault is a risk - just like not letting friends drive drunk, Domitrz compared.

Domitrz closed the program by asking for the audience to do three things: be a friend at a party, "open a door" to supporting sexual assault victims and take a pledge to take a stand against sexual assault.

As the crowd made its way to the pledge table, MSU sophomore Chaz Peterson, who attended the event with his girlfriend, felt Domitrz did a sufficient job of relating to his audience

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"It was very refreshing to hear such a personality," Peterson said. "I thought it was fabulous."

And as far as what Peterson took away from "Can I Kiss You?": "When it comes to relationships you really have to think and communicate before you act."