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HOME  
NEWS  
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LIFESTYLES  
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ARCHIVES  
POLICIES  
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STAFF  
JOB APPLICATIONS  
WEATHER



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## Light approach taken with serious topic

*Audience participation helps raise sexual awareness*

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Using hypothetical situations and volunteers from the audience, a sexual awareness speaker emphasized Tuesday the gravity of sexual assault and encouraged students to take action against nonconsensual sexual intimacy during his speech in Neu Chapel.

**"The only way [sexual assault] can be stopped is if you do it yourself."  
-Becca Miller**

Mike Dormitrz spoke about the importance of respecting others regarding any form of physical intimacy, stressing that everyone deserves a choice.

Dormitrz, whose program was inspired by a sex crime against his sister, said the most important steps to remember while in a sexual situation are to respect yourself and your partner, ask before you act and respect the answer given.

"The definition of choice is to be part of a decision before it occurs," he said.

But respect for one another goes beyond steady romantic relationships. To make a point, Dormitrz acted out a hypothetical situation at a party in which a student attempts to force another into nonconsensual sexual intimacy.

"If you interfere with either one of these people, you protect both," he said.

Dormitrz said people do not usually interfere in similar situations because they do not believe sexual assault will actually take place. But he does believe people would



[Sports](#)

interfere if they feared for a friend's safety.

"We actually have to take action," he said, referring to the call that informed him of the crime committed against his sister. "I guarantee none of you want that phone call."

Despite the serious topic, Dormitrz had the audience laughing during appropriate moments and encouraged audience participation throughout the discussion.

With the help of volunteers, he demonstrated scenes in which asking for a kiss can be awkward, cheesy or respectful.

"Clearly, body language by itself is very unreliable," Dormitrz said.

He said asking for a kiss makes the situation more romantic and comfortable.

Senior Becca Miller participated with Dormitrz in a demonstration of different ways to ask.

"I think his message was very powerful, especially since a lot of people don't hear it very often," Miller said. "The only way [sexual assault] can be stopped is if you do it yourself."

Dormitrz said he was surprised with the way his audience reacted to the amount of respect a partner should expect, adding that each audience member should expect the same standard from any partner.

Dormitrz also said asking for consent from someone else is never a bad decision.

"If you ask and they say no, thank goodness you avoided an uncomfortable situation," he said. "You cannot go wrong if you ask."

Dormitrz left the audience with a word of caution.

"My sister was not the exception," he said. "She was the norm."

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