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# "Can I Kiss You?" - "Glad You Asked."

## Mike Domitrz challenges our attitudes toward dating.

By Michael Austen

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Gullick Theatre was turned upside down Monday evening as nationally renowned speaker Michael Domitrz gave powerful testimony as well as humorous scenarios about problems with our contemporary approaches to dating.

"So why is it that we ask permission for the simplest things on a day to day basis like borrowing a five dollar bill, but for the most intimate interactions between two people we leave to chance?" questioned Domitrz. "And I know what all the guys are thinking. You're saying, 'No way man! You expect me to ask a girl before I make my move?'"

But Domitrz showed how even if one of the two persons involved is not thinking the same as the other, the results would be much more devastating than if one asked and wasn't granted their request.

"If you reached out to kiss someone and got pushed away, not only were you brutally rejected but you've probably lost any chance of being on speaking terms with that other person in the future," Mike said. "But if you ask beforehand, even if you're told no, the other person knows that they're being respected."

On many occasions, Domitrz had the audience in uproars of laughter as friends volunteered friends to participate in Mike's demonstrations, which often required the participants to take a step outside their comfort zone.

The mood of the evening changed somewhat as Mike gave a personal account of how one of his sisters was raped. In fact, the word sexual assault wasn't even mentioned until 40 minutes into his program. "We can't even understand why sexual assault happens until we understand everything before it," as he went on to show how our miscommunications lead to many cases of unwanted sexual contact.

"Why are women being told to say 'no' to questions that aren't being asked in the first place?" he questioned. Domitrz finished the program with a challenge; to not wait until someone close to us gets hurt before we take action. "Something terrible had to happen to my sister before I was motivated enough to stand before you tonight. Make a commitment to change as you leave the doors of the theatre tonight."

(Domitrz, father of four young boys, speaks at three to four colleges per week, across the nation, and has been doing so for the past ten years).

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