

Play explores date rape, sex, violence

by Annie Tsang
Staff Writer

Students filled up most of Colonial Hall in Squires Student Center last night for a performance of "You the Man," a one-man show dedicated to educating communities on sexual assault and dating violence.

The event, coordinated by several groups, including the Women's Center and the Office of Judicial Affairs, starred 25-year-old Eddie Martinez.

Martinez acted out six different male roles dealing with unhealthy relationships, sexual assault and dating violence during the 45-minute show.

The show began and ended with "Stan the Man" who answered letters from guys about date rape, sex and alcohol. Martinez later free-styled his way into asking the audience what they were going to do to end violence against women.

"It's time for the violence to end/starting with you and your friends/But Stan the Man can't hold your hand/You the man — ladies too/Now. Whatcha gonna do?" Martinez said.

Three of the other roles revolved around Jana, a girl in an unhealthy relationship. Martinez played Jana's Dad, her friend Mitchell and her science teacher Dr. Wing. The situations dealt with each man confronting and responding to Jana's involvement in an abusive relationship.

Martinez also played "Virgin Larry," a guy whose basketball



KRIS POWERS/SPPS

Eddie Martinez starred in the one-man show, "You the Man," yesterday in Squires Student Center. The play delved into issues of sex and violence against women.

teammate videotaped himself and his girlfriend having sex.

As "Officer Friendly," Martinez presented the audience with facts and statistics of sexual assault.

There were two free performances accompanied by two panel discussions during which audience members could ask questions directly to the panelists or could write their questions on

Roanoke and thought it would be effective in inciting awareness at Tech.

"The performance was interactive, engaging and creative," she said. "It wasn't just speaking. It was also interactive and had a lot of feeling."

Ben McMillan, a sophomore civil engineering major, read about the show from one of the cards on tables in Dietrick

Dining Hall.

"I wanted to hear what the guy had to say," he said. "Maybe I could learn something that would enable me to help (sexual assault victims) with their problems."

The show helped clear up a lot of misconceptions and questions about sexual violence, said freshman biochemistry major Katie Ownby, a volunteer at the Women's Center.

"I thought it was very entertaining, well put on and informative," she said.

The play, written by Cathy Plourde premiered in February 2002 at the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut. The play is performed in high schools and universities mostly in the New England area.

The show also the kicked off the White Ribbon Campaign, an effort to stop violence against women, coordinated by the Theta Chi & the VT Men's group.

There will be a Dedication of the First Annual White Ribbon Fund held at 5 p.m. Wednesday on the Drillfield.

Sponsors helped organize the performance as well as fund it. Sponsors are as listed: the President's Office, Dean of Students Office, the Virginia Tech Women's Center, Office of Judicial Affairs, Office for Equal Opportunity, Residence Hall Federation, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Greek Life, the VT Men's Group and the Virginia Tech Athletic Department.