

THE MOMENT OF SILENCE
A short monologue from "You Can't Say That"
By William Missouri Downs & Lucy Wright

(Maxine, an English professor talking before a group of faculty and students.)

MAXINE OR MAX

We will now have a moment of silence to celebrate the life of Buddy Young. Please lower your heads. Unless of course your particular religion does not allow you to do so, or if you have a physical impairment that prevents you. Also, lowering your head does not mean that you're performing an act of submission - Unless you want to perform an act of submission. You may say a prayer if you wish, but you are not required to do so, nor does my broaching the subject in any way suggest that the Department of English endorses or opposes prayer. Also know that a moment of silence does not imply an assumption of belief. This is a nonsectarian act that can be interpreted as sectarian if you so desire. If you do choose to say a prayer please whisper as this is a moment of silence, but know that by asking you to whisper I am not attempting to censor you in any way. If you wish to hold hands or hug the person beside you, do so only after you have asked permission and after you have received a positive confirmation that is witnessed by at least one person. Do not assume that just because someone gave you consent previously to hug them, that their consent is universal. We shall now begin a moment of silence.

(After three seconds...)

MAXINE

Thank you for coming.

(MAXINE exits.)