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# DAILY TIMES-CALL

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## Roughhousing boys can be peaceful men

Today's society teaches and praises young boys who are tougher, aggressive and more masculine because it is accepted to roughhouse, fight, wrestle or have physically aggressive interactions with their peers. However, in teaching these young males to be the dominant masculine male, we often neglect to teach them that intimidation, control and violence against women or any other individual is wrong, hurtful and ignorant. This lesson must start to be integrated in a young man's life through his family, school and community.

As a husband and father, I believe the teaching and educational awareness of domestic violence must start in the home. It is unacceptable for any man, husband or father to express his anger or frustration on his significant other or children using any sort of mental, emotional or physical abuse. If we do not teach this, then the precedent for the youths of tomorrow will be to believe that abusive actions are normal interactions within the family or home. Living in intense fear, intimidation and emotional stress, these children learn that intimidation and violence are "healthy" actions used to control situations that have angered or frustrated them.

Instead, they need to learn how to control and manage their anger within themselves and express their emotions in healthy and non-violent ways.

Statistics support and prove that men commit an overwhelming and alarming percentage of violent crimes against women in America. These actions stereotype our male youths as potential abusers, dominators and intimidators of females. This is a stereotype that must be extinguished through the young males' education in their homes, schools, communities and extracurricular activities. Men within the community must be role models with the strength and courage to raise educated, independent and non-violent male leaders of tomorrow.

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