

THIS ISSUE
WHAT MAKES
A MAN?

MALECALL

Taking you back to the basic fundamentals of all things manly.

MAKING A MAN

MANHOOD

Traditionally, MaleCall gives you tips and tricks on manhood. But this time, we explore the question — what makes a man?

Mesquite trees and tall grass cover the landscape between the blind and the deer feeder. It's 6:30 p.m., and the early evening air is crisp at the ranch just outside of Brownwood, Texas.

Adrenaline flooding his veins, the alert eight-year-old prepares to pick up the lethal .270 mm rifle and shoot the grazing doe.

But he doesn't shoot. In fact, the third grader Taubert Nadalini '13 doesn't lay a finger on the rifle, curling up into his chair in shame instead, knowing he has let his father and the rest of his family down.

He has been on hunts with his family many times before and enjoys skeet shooting fondly. Yet all he wanted to do when he was told to shoot the innocent deer was watch.

To Nadalini's surprise, his father is not the least bit disappointed. Rather he turns to his son and says, "I don't want you to shoot one for me. I only want to shoot one if you want to. We can just sit here and watch them and I'll be fine with that."

Nadalini's grandfather was just as accepting of his grandson's displeasure at shooting an animal, making Nadalini all the more proud.

"In that moment I gained so much respect for my dad and my grandfather," Nadalini said, "because they didn't scold me for not following a traditionally manly path that the family prior to me had set."

Nadalini's experience introduces the discussion of what it means to be a man, a definition that is changing now more than ever.

For him, the answer to the question "what defines a man?" varies greatly.

According to Nadalini, actors and other celebrities play an integral role in demonstrating this social standard.

"In the majority of society," Nadalini said, "I would say that the standard for manhood in celebrities would be someone like Leonardo DiCaprio, who plays roles like he does in *Wolf of Wall Street* and now in *The Revenant* — a kind of aggressive personality and a very aggressive character who doesn't take weakness for an answer."

Harold Montgomery '78 believes there was a much more definite and firm example of who embodied manliness back when he was growing up in the 70s and 80s: Bruce Jenner.

"He was handsome," Montgomery said. "He was strong. He was on the Wheaties box; the guy was the pinnacle of masculinity of my era."



TAUBERT NADALINI '13
Says there is not simply one definition of manhood.

Stephanie Barta, who taught here for more than 40 years, feels that the understanding of manliness has significantly evolved.

"Back when I first started at St. Mark's, manliness was more macho in the

common vernacular of the school," Barta said. "Boys were supposed to be strong and never cry and not necessarily be in touch with their more feminine side. People who were more feminine were definitely not as accepted."



HAROLD MONTGOMERY '78
Attributes change partly to shift in gender roles.

Nadalini also acknowledges the fact that the definition of what makes a man is changing in a positive way.

"In my time at St. Mark's," Nadalini said. "I could see a shift from certain stereotypes and standards that now people might see as obsolete."

Montgomery partially attributes this shifting of the scales to the development of gender roles in society over the years.

"The other thing that's happened is the role of women has evolved tremendously," Montgomery said.

He also notes that there is an increased number of women in the work place and in college than there were during his youth as a result of this evolution.

"There are far more women making a lot of money, and in many cases more than their husbands," Montgomery said. "And that's an inversion of a pattern that was there in my day."

The involvement of women coupled with an ever more intellectually-dependent society has also significantly affected in what ways men are expected

to operate.

"The world we live in is an intellectual world," Montgomery said. "It's a world that's run by people's minds and their ability to program or operate computers. It's not built on killing a deer or killing an elephant to feed the family — which emphasizes brute strength or physical skill."

Barta feels that a truly manly person is more open and accepting of individuals who do not fit the stereotypical definition of manliness that reigned supreme for so many years during her and Montgomery's time at St. Mark's.

"Finally, I feel like over the last 40 years people who are truly manly can cope in a non-threatened way with their friends who are not of the same as they are," Barta said. "I think the school has evolved in a positive direction with that. The more sensitive well-rounded human was missing at the macho end [of the spectrum]."



STEPHANIE BARTA
Sees positive change in the past 40 years.

Similarly for Nadalini, acceptance of traditionally feminine qualities in men is a vital component to the changing understanding of what makes a man.

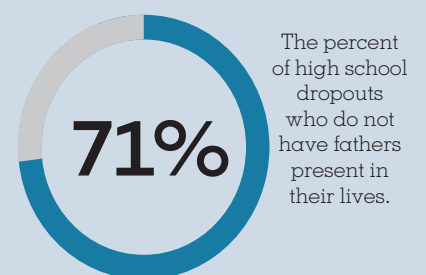
"I would say instead of womanhood or manhood," Nadalini said, "there is a universal person-hood that I think a lot of times men don't want to subscribe to because that does encompass qualities that are traditionally associated with women."



ROLE MODELS From Dwayne Johnson to Dirk Nowitzki, there are many different icons and celebrities who embody the various aspects of manhood.

MANHOOD IN REAL LIFE

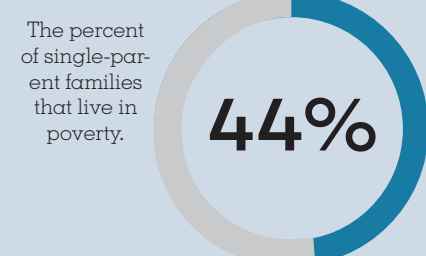
the importance of fatherhood



The estimated number of fathers across the nation.

70.1
million

2 Children who grow up without fathers are **two times** as likely to commit suicide.



SOURCE: National Center for Fathering, fatherhood.gov