

# Winona Daily News

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## Group Aims to Fight Violent Behavior



Youth Action Theatre members, from left, Kaylynn Sandell, Becky Gaffron, Rachel Bartholomay, Austin Grubb and Lance Mayo present a scene Wednesday from "Beyond Tough Guise" at Winona Senior High School in Winona. The program is designed to help Winona area men and boys learn nonviolent behavior.

## Putting an end to tough guise

Story by **Janelle McDonald**  
Photo by **James A. Bowey**  
Winona Daily News

Joe Morse believes that our culture teaches boys to be aggressive.

His group, Beyond Tough Guise, is designed to teach boys and men nonviolent behavior and girls to support it.

The community group is working to end violence and abuse in workplaces, businesses, the media, churches, schools and homes and has joined with the Women's Resource Center, Winona Area Public Schools and the Youth Action Theatre to host an event to spread awareness and initiate action to stop the

Performance to engage people in community, initiate action

problem.

The Youth Action Theatre will perform a series of skits at 7 p.m. tonight at the Winona Arts Center that demonstrates abusive behavior and how it can be prevented. Audience participation will be a main factor in the performance.

"From the minute it starts to the minute it ends, the audience will participate," said Brian Rice, a Winona State University junior and the project coordinator for the event.

Winona Senior High stu-

dents will perform two skits. Once the audience has seen the skits, they will perform them again — but this time the audience will have control over what happens and how the characters act. They can stop the skit at any moment by yelling "freeze" and can participate in the skit to correct the behavior themselves.

Rice said the audience participation will initiate "action outside the performance" by giving members of the audience the confidence to go out into the community and help

put an end to abusive behavior.

Morse said the project is designed to go beyond the schools and the performance is a way to "engage the people in the community."

Beyond Tough Guise has established a list of 10 positive characteristics men and boys should demonstrate instead of being aggressive. These characteristics include using power appropriately, expressing feelings and appreciating affection and respecting others.

These characteristics will be the basis for the positive re-shaping of the skits at tonight's performance and will be used as guidelines to stop abuse in the community.