

## State and Local

# Author helps A&M understand 'why men are the way they are'

By Mercedes Salinas  
Reporter

Men tend to linger emotionally after a relationship ends even though they don't want to make a commitment, author Warren Farrell said at Texas A&M Wednesday.

Farrell, who wrote "Why Men Are the Way They Are," spoke to a small group of students Wednesday as a follow-up to his MSC Great Issues lecture in Rudder Tower Tuesday.

The lecture had to be moved to the Memorial Student Center after three hours because it was late and people wanted to continue the discussions. The lecture ended up lasting from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., with about 150 staying until the end.

Because of the good response from the audience Tuesday night, Farrell was available in Rudder again for discussions on Wednesday.

Tuesday evening, Farrell spoke to an audience of about 675 people. He began by having the male audience stand in their chairs so that the women could look at them. The women were then supposed to approach the male of their choice.

The audience was hesitant at first, but eventually got on with the swing of things. In everyday situations, the male is usually the pursuer and the female sits back and waits for things to happen, Farrell said.

"The man who does not take the risk quickly (of approaching a female) is the loser," Farrell said. "He has to go back to the boys and not have gotten anywhere. The luxury of sitting out is the luxury of being female. It is also the price of being female."

"Many times a male will settle for his third or fourth choice, even his 11th choice, because he is threatened by rejection. This is a very common occurrence. Men feel powerless because they are losing identity."

In a role reversal exercise, the

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— Author Warren Farrell

women took the men's position on the dance floor and were able to experience the power a man feels looking down at the shorter female and directing her moves.

The male felt the powerlessness that a girl experiences in this simple setting.

Sometimes a woman wonders if a man wants to go out with her just because he really likes her, Farrell said. The answer is both, he said.

"In the past thousands of years women and men have both lived in a sexist society," he said. "Women have been limited to a role of raising children and maintaining the household. Yet only in the past 20 years have we realized that men too, are living in a sexist society. Women are telling men 'no love unless you raise money.'"

In conducting research for his book, Farrell encountered thousands of women who were asking, "Why are men afraid of commitment?" and "Why are they afraid of intimacy?" Men are not afraid of intimacy; they're afraid of economics, he said.

A man rarely rejects a woman for her income, Farrell said; he'll commit to her whether she's a medical doctor or a secretary.

"They won't reject her for her position, but most will reject her if she's not attractive, no matter what she does," Farrell said.

Men learn to pay for women on a date not because they want control, but for equality, he said; they feel that they have to pay for her time and attention.

"The male must learn which 'no's' mean 'no,' which 'no's' mean 'maybe' and which 'no's' mean 'yes,'" Farrell said. "And because of this, many times men build a defense mechanism that turn women into sex objects and call sex a game. It hurts less to be rejected by an object than by a human being they could possibly really care about."

When a man and a woman marry, Farrell said, the woman many times expects to have the choice of whether she will work full time, work part time or not work at all.

But this situation is not quite the same for men, Farrell said.

"The male too, has three choices," he said. "He can work full time, work full time or work full time. He is not only working to support himself but to support his wife and family."

The average man is working hard to offer his spouse the opportunity of these three choices, Farrell said.

If a woman is not offered these three choices at some point in her life, she's likely to become angry and start to think, "This guy is a jerk," he said.

Farrell said the sales of Harlequin romances jumped dramatically between 1970 and 1980. He says more women began buying these books for "escape" in the 70s, when they began to have to work for economic reasons instead of having a choice.

"These novels allow a woman to experience a fantasy of power, excitement, independence and security without having to work so hard for it," Farrell said. "Less and less

women are marrying for intimacy. Eighty-five percent of top female executives marry up in society or don't marry at all. They always talk about marrying for intimacy yet are not often willing to marry down in society."

In concluding his program, Farrell had all the males stand in front of the stage so that once again the women could look them over through a male's eye. They walked across the floor, rotated and sat down in manner that would be acceptable for a female.

The purpose of this was to allow the male to experience how a woman competes in a beauty contest every day of her life.

Reactions from the males after this experience ranged from being 'embarrassed' to 'very uncomfortable.'

The women were then told to select the male they would like to date, based on looks alone, and approach him. She was instructed to make all the first moves, if she wasn't rejected immediately.

Even though there were more women at the lecture than men, some men were not approached at all, and many of the females left.

"This is exactly what happens in the real world," Farrell said. "Many men are too afraid to ask a woman out, and they leave the scene, while some girls are left sitting at home on Saturday night wishing they had some company."

Tammy Cotton, a senior biochemistry major, said she learned quite a bit Tuesday night.

"This lecture gave a lot of insight of what a guy goes through to ask a girl out," Cotton said. "I didn't think I could do the role reversibility exercises, but I did and I learned a lot."

Doug Uhlig, a senior ocean engineering major, also said he learned a lot about himself at Farrell's lecture.

"I think everyone should go see

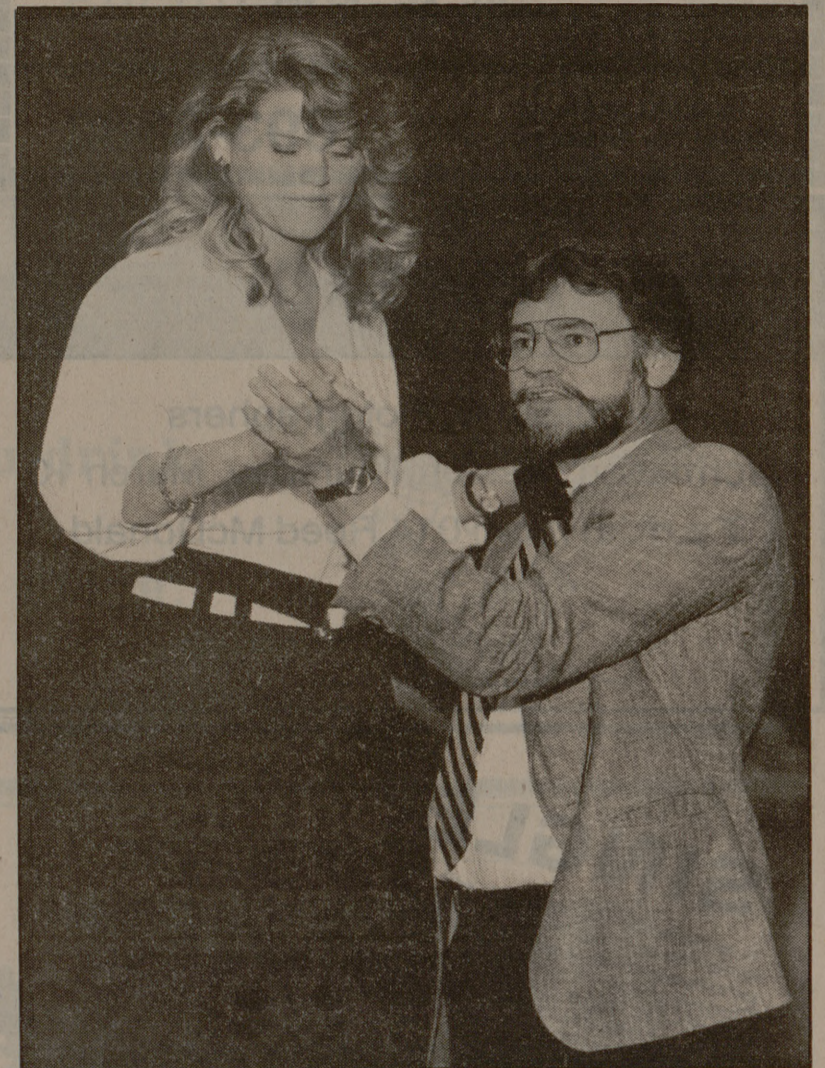


Photo by Dean Saito

Warren Farrell, author of "Why Men Are The Way They Are," reverses roles with an audience member at his lecture, part of MSC Great Issues, Tuesday night. He was illustrating the man's position of power while dancing by having the volunteer stand on a chair.

Dr. Farrell speak if they get the chance," Uhlig said. "I think it was well worth the three hours. More men need to listen to someone like this because they will learn a lot about themselves and why they act the way they do."

Farrell is now teaching in the College of Medicine at the University of California at San Diego.

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