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by Ilene Barth



The Farrells share household duties. Folding sox together makes laundry a bearable chore and promotes equality.

GAMBIER, OHIO.

Do nice guys finish first? Rutgers University political science instructor, Warren Farrell, thinks they do.

As coordinator of the NOW (National Organization for Women) Task Force on the Masculine Mystique, Warren Farrell has a message: men's liberation. Its premise is simple: Men would be happier if they could be free from the pressure of traditional male roles.

Farrell, who lives in New York, travels around the country lecturing on the subject of men's liberation. Men's liberation groups now exist in a dozen cities, including Boston, Madison, Wis., and Denver, and Farrell plans to start more. He is also writing a book, *Beyond Masculinity*, to be published next fall.

When he is delivering his message to America his schedule is a busy, almost frantic one. His day in Knox County, Ohio, for example, begins with a radio interview. A panel of women interrogates him on the early-morning show, *Coffee Cup*.

"How did you get interested in men's liberation?" a woman asks.

"I got interested first in women's liberation," he explains. "I wanted to discover why my wife and I were growing apart."

Discussion begun

He explains that interest took him to NOW meetings where he met other men. "They attended for various reasons," relates 28-year-old Warren. "Some came because they thought a liberated woman would be easy to seduce."

"But others came because they wanted to understand their wives better, and we decided to start a discussion group." In time, Farrell explains, the men were discussing their own liberation. "We then decided to meet together on alternate weeks with our women. Their side of the story kept us honest."

The radio panelists are intrigued. What does this talk about women's and

men's liberation have to do with sex?

Warren Farrell answers carefully, "Sexual liberation is part of human liberation but it's a small element. You can be a freethinker about sex but still be tied to old man-woman games."

Leaving the sizzling radio waves behind, Farrell rushes to a Kiwanis Club lunch. As he enters, the men are singing "Good Night, Ladies." He takes the rostrum to tell 70 men how unfree he once was.

He tells them four years ago he was being groomed for a national defense job. Being a man meant for him being successful, making a lot of money, and never admitting he was wrong. His wife was a traditional woman who rushed home from her job to cook his supper and do the housework.

When she said, "Chopped meat went up 2 cents a pound today," she was being boring. When he said, "GM stock is up \$2 a share," he was being worldly and interesting.

The Kiwanis businessmen listen at-