

Men's rights activist speaks

# 'Women get most valuable thing'

by Ann Grever

"I don't think the women's movement has gone far enough" says Fredric Hayward, the founder and director of Men's Rights Inc.

Hayward spoke yesterday at SUB to about 50 people about men's rights.

"I really want to see equality of both sexes. People think the men's movement is a backlash. It's not backlash, but whiplash."

Hayward sees the women's movement as a car that went down the road towards equality "but slammed on the brakes when it came to men's rights. We all got whiplash."

"Feminism rests on prejudged conclusions and everything in the world fits into that conclusion."

"Men and women are interdependent. If men have a problem, so do women. If women have, then so do men. The provider object is just as dehumanizing, just as limiting to me, as being a sex object is to a woman. I miss out on raising children."

Hayward likes individual feminists, but not the women's movement.

"Their perception is that we are competitors; they just assumed men are powerful." Hayward referred to a cover of *Esquire* magazine that portrayed the "Dominant American Man", "the kind of man women have been talking about for years."

Hayward pointed out that while there is one dominant man, the majority of the men portrayed in the picture, the "real men", have to accept the authority of the dominant man.

"When feminists talk about women it is valid, but when they talk about men, it's baloney. We have to start addressing real men, not a mythical stereotype."

Hayward sees women's power centred around children.

"Women have demanded a fair share of the productive sphere — politics and economics — and we want a fair share of the reproductive sphere. Women get the most valuable thing, the children. Women determine what and who gets reproduced." Or, as a Men's Rights pamphlet says, "Male dominance in production led us to consider a man's work more valuable than a woman's work; and female dominance in reproduction led us to consider a woman's life as more valuable than a man's life."

One way Hayward wants to see men gain more power in the reproductive sphere is by having some

legislation to allow for joint custody of children in divorce cases, and to give men a say in whether their unborn child will be aborted or not.

Hayward believes that men should have some power over their baby if it is a planned pregnancy. If the mother wants the baby and the father doesn't, then the woman can "just have the baby, but don't slap me with a paternity suit."

While the women's movement has "gotten women in touch with the feeling of female powerlessness...female powerlessness doesn't make invalid male powerlessness."

One example of men's power-

lessness is men still having to take the initiative in starting a relationship.

"The male who initiates a relationship gives away the power. As long as the female maintains that power, and she does maintain it, he has to keep her interested in him and become the man she wants him to be."

This initiation sets the whole relationship on a bad footing that the couple will have to overcome.

"He's developed the mentality of getting into the hunt and he's dehumanized her. It does not hurt as much to be rejected by an object." Dishonesty is also set up by men having constantly to make the first move. "I have to hide my attraction and insecurity in order to be successful."



Feminism caused the battle of the sexes, says Hayward.

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