The Weather Vane

by Emily Chamelin

Humorous T-shirt Musings

My next husband will be normal. That is the writing on a bright green T-shirt that I wore around campus. With this beautiful spring weather, why not? But if you are going to wear a shirt like that on campus, you’d better be prepared to stop and talk to a lot of people. It is interesting to see people’s reaction to my shirt: I couldn’t walk anywhere without people asking me to see what was written. Then would come the questions or the laughing, or both.

I have noticed four major types of reactions that people have in response to it. The first reaction is the most boring. My friends come up and read my shirt, then they proceed to look me straight in the eye and say, “you have a husband?” Just for the record, I do NOT have a husband! I still find it fascinating that most of my friends who know me fairly well can look me in the eye and seriously ask me if I have a husband. They fail to see the humor in my shirt.

We move on to the next category of responses: the “older women” category. As I walk around campus I run in to many older women who stop to read my shirt. I enjoy watching them read it out loud then with total sincerity nod and mutter under their breath... “yes, yes!” and add a little chuckle at the end. These women understand!

The fourth and final response category is my personal favorite. This reaction comes from middle-aged working women, who just want to get off their feet. After reading my shirt this group laughs loudly—holding nothing back—and proceed to tell all their friends within earshot to come and read the shirt as well. Louder laughing follows. This group also gives me a couple solid slaps on the back followed by encouragement. “How true is that? That is a great shirt. I totally understand.” These women want to talk about their strange collection of men. But I usually have to excuse myself and sneak off, leaving them standing around talking about their husbands and how they need a shirt like that.

It is amazing how much excitement a shirt like this can bring into your life—and who couldn’t use little more excitement in their life? It only makes me wonder what kind of response I would get if I wore a shirt that said, “my next husband will be normal.”

Just for the record, I do NOT have a husband!

The next response is from my friends who “get it.” They laugh and then ask me where I found a shirt like that. Since you asked, my grandmother gave it to me. She thought it was the funniest thing—until she reached the “yes, yes” phase, and she gave it to me. So now I wear it around to entertain those around me—like those in the last response category.

For a picture of a real Iraqi citizen affected by our “war to liberate the Iraqi people,” email a request to mjs579@emu.edu.

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Iraq Civilian Casualties as of Mar. 26

minimum: 227
maximum: 307

courtesy www.iraqbodycount.net