

Men don't wear Tops

I know this is last minute, it being December 24 and all, but ladies if you've purchased an article of clothing for your man this Christmas, be careful what you call it when he's got it on.

Men, as a rule, don't adapt well to change. We get into routines and we like to stay there. Those include work, home and even speech routines. That's why I'm as amazed as the next guy as to how well men, in general, have adapted to the new lexicon of the politically correct. I hear men everywhere using terms like firefighter instead of fireman, human kind instead of mankind and vertical exit as opposed to manhole. Ok, I made that last one up.

So these are all adjustments men have had to make to their speech patterns and by extension, their thought processes, which is really scary. I can't think of one example of where the reverse is true. There are no instances of general terms that contain a feminine slant needing to be de-gendered. Until now!

Let's start with the one that's been a bee in my bonnet...ah, I mean hat, since my wife and I started dating. Men don't wear 'tops'. If I ask Julie a wardrobe question, invariably I get a response that includes the phrase, "...and your tops are all clean in the drawer." So as far as I'm concerned, I have nothing to wear because I don't own any 'tops'. I have plenty of shirts and sweaters, but mercifully no tops. While we're on the subject my closet doesn't contain any trousers, slacks or bottoms either. I do have a healthy selection of pants though.

Guys, have you noticed that all of your friends are small? Ya, any time I have a "night out with the guys" planned, just as I'm heading out the door my wife will chirp up, "well have a nice time with your

little friends!" The same is true of the event. "So did you have a good time at your little poker game?" Ya, I did. My little friends and I had a great time at our little poker game. And on the way home I picked up your little birthday present.

There are certain adjectives we men chose to stay clear of as well. Not too many among us enjoy hearing our actions, looks or body parts being described as cute. Especially the body parts. Cute is a word that should be set aside and reserved for pets and pets alone. Occasionally when my sensitive side kicks in and someone points that out to others using the word cute, my first inner reaction involves thumb sucking and the fetal position. This also crystallizes why men have a bad rap on sensitivity. There's a reason we chose not to cry at movies. It's not the crying itself, it's the word cute being used in a portrayal to others later. We're just as emotionally responsive as women; we just don't want to be called cute. You need proof? Spark up the movies *Old Yeller*, *Brian's Song* or the first 20 minutes of *Saving Private Ryan*... then watch the waterworks gush. But if you ever want to see it again, don't say, "Ah, he was soooooo cute!"

That's another thing! You will not find our sensitive side surface at a movie involving any of the following actresses: Julia Roberts, Barbara Hershey, Cher, Meg Ryan, Sandra Bulloch or Julia Roberts. It appears I've mentioned Julia Roberts name



ATTENTION: This is a shirt!

Jeff Lumby's view from the country

twice...interesting. Given the choice of seeing a screen full of weepy women or being pinned down in a foxhole with a broken rifle, most men will chose the bunker. You want to know when men get emotional. Any movie that involves a life and death situation between a guy and his brother, dad, teammate, army buddy or dog. That's

it. That's all we have the capacity for. And if you think adding Bette Midler to the equation is gonna have us running for the Kleenex box think again. Men tend to rewrite "chic" songs and in Bette's case we've got a whole different version to *You are the wind beneath my*

wings! If you catch my drift.

Here's another newsflash! Men don't get their hair done. We get it cut. Those of us who are a little more metro-sexual than others may get it styled. But we don't get it done. No hair-do for the fellas, only a haircut. It's not a salon, it's a barbershop. And if metro-sexual means well groomed, I'll opt for well groomed. Hey, why do I have to opt for anything? What's with all of the labels? That's what we've turned

into, a society of labelers. Every single person who roams the earth seems to need a label of some kind. Is he a metro-sexual? Are they yuppies, or dinks? Is the function upscale casual?

There is no way on God's green earth that a man came up with even one of these labels. We are so busy trying to figure out how the TV networks put that imaginary, yellow 10-yard marker on the football field we simply have no time to deal with the fact that DINK is an acronym for Double Income No Kids. I also have a tough time believing the idea came from someone in the country. This is definitely a city thing. I can't see one of my neighbour's to-do lists reading... change the fluids in the tractor, harvest the corn crop, come up with a catchy name for working couples with no children.

As you can see, the road is long. We all have our work cut out for us in the global fight to bring a better understanding to the terms we use. Educating women on the difference between a top and a shirt will be easy. Eradicating the world of senseless labels will be the tough job. But Rome wasn't built in a day. We may have to form some kind of alliance. Like, people against labels. Ya, people against labels...PALS. Perfect.

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Horses & Other Animals
By A.W. Finn

The ARAB, oldest and purest of all horse breeds, is considered to be the most beautiful equine animal in the world. With its refined head and dished profile, expressive eyes, high spirits and unique, floating action, the Arab is undoubtedly one of the most exquisite of creatures. It has been bred with great care for centuries. Its exact origins are unclear. Depictions of horses in ancient art suggest that horses of the Arab type lived in the Arabian Peninsula as long ago as 2,000 - 3,000 BC. More than any other horse, it is the Arab that has influenced the development of the equine.

Swarms of locusts that recently plagued Egypt brought their devastation to southern Israel, devouring lawns and palm trees and causing panic among children, no doubt wondering when the next biblical plague might strike. The locusts worked their way north since crossing the border and headed for the West Bank town of Jericho.

Six deer hunters were killed and two were injured in a dispute over a tree stand in northwestern Wisconsin. The alleged gunman was arrested and charged with the shootings which began after a hunting party saw a hunter they did not know occupying their tree stand.

A friendly young Beluga whale that won hearts on the northeastern seaboard was found dead on a mud flat off the Maine coast. The body of Poco, who was separated from his pod, appeared off the Bay of Fundy where he charmed divers and salmon farmers with his curiosity. Beluga, are an endangered species and live in the Arctic region.

A nine-year old Hamilton, Ontario boy was attacked by his own pet pit bull in the living room of his parents' home. The dog became extremely aggressive when he drew blood after biting the boy on the ear. It then lunged at the boy again and bit him on the shoulder, the thigh and buttocks. The two-year-old Staffordshire terrier was put down at the request of the owner.

Wildlife officials in southern Ireland say about 60 grey seals, most of them pups, were slaughtered on a western Irish island. A group called the Irish Seal Sanctuary blamed local fishermen for killing the animals because they eat fish. The seals are protected under Ireland's Wildlife act.

Taiwan is in the final round of U.S. beef inspections as they move towards an agreement to resume importing U.S. beef and beef products. The U.S. ban on importing Canadian cattle is still under discussion.

A Thai man was arrested when he tried to smuggle two small Eagles into Belgium. They were infected with the deadly avian flu virus. Authorities found the birds in plastic tubes that had been carried on flights from Bangkok via Vienna. The birds were destroyed.

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