

Network News

Young Feminists at Work

ABERCROMBIE AND FITCH PULLS OFFENSIVE SHIRTS

National clothing retailer Abercrombie and Fitch recently pulled offensive t-shirts off the shelves in response to a “girlcott” initiated by the Allegheny County Girls as Grantmakers organization. In a statement spread through an email campaign, the girls argued that Abercrombie’s “attitude t-shirts” marketed to teenage girls are demeaning to women. “We, as young women and girls, do not need to create extra division and competition between our ranks. By girlcotting these shirts, we not only create unity for a single project or battle, we create unity within the female community as a whole. As girls, we can spend our dollars on more empowering, less racist, and less sexist street ware. So join us in our national girlcott effort to encourage A&F to stop selling these rags and instead start selling some more girl empowering wear. We are asking girls throughout the country to do three things:

1. Stop shopping at A&F till they stop selling these tees and formally apologize to all of us for selling them in the first place.
2. Email a letter saying that you will be doing #1 to the A&F headquarters.
3. Spread the word to other groovy girls you know. It’s as easy as that.”

Some of the t-shirts identified by the girlcot- ters as particularly offensive included the following:

“Who needs brains when you have these?”

“Blondes Are Adored, Brunettes Are Ignored”

“Do I make you look fat?”

“I had a nightmare I was a brunette.”

“All Men Like Tig Old Bitties”

In addition, the Allegheny girls spread the word through interviews with NBC’s *Today Show*, the *Chicago Sun Times*, and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, among other media outlets.

In a joint statement released on Abercrombie’s Investor Relations webpage with the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania, Abercrombie apologized for misjudgment noting, “We recognize that the shirts in question, while meant to be humorous, might be troubling to some.” The Women and Girls Foundation accepted the apology and commented that they look forward to a meeting between “Girlcott” representatives and Abercrombie executives.

The Allegheny County Girls as Grantmakers organization is sponsored by a collaboration between the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania, the FISA Foundation, the Eden Hall Foundation, and the Jewish Women’s Foundation. The organization consists of twenty-six local girls who were chosen among forty applicants to participate in a two-year-long educational and philanthropic program. The interracial, interethnic, and interreligious group consists of girls in grades eight through ten who attend a variety of public and private schools. Beginning in the fall of 2005, the girls met monthly to discuss and develop a request for grant proposals to be distributed in early 2006 to schools in Allegheny County. Along

with an advisory council of six young professional women, the girls will learn how to do needs analysis, conduct grant workshops, review grant proposals, and, finally, distribute the grant money to local teens. During the second year of the program, The Allegheny County Girls as Grantmakers will provide project assistance to grantees. The intention is to empower girls to help other girls create programs that will improve the lives of women in Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania and The Allegheny County Girls as Grantmakers, go to <http://www.wgfswwpa.org>.

GRANT GUIDELINES FROM THE THIRD WAVE FOUNDATION

Stay tuned for new opportunities for young women who want to make a difference.

The Third Wave Foundation is releasing new guidelines for grants in 2006. According to their website, "Young women must be given the financial support to take action. Through grantmaking, the Third Wave Foundation helps young women make change in their lives and the lives of others. Whether through our Reproductive Health and Justice Initiative, the Organizing and Advocacy Fund, or Young Women and Transgender Activist Scholarships, we ensure that young activists have the resources to implement their strategies and move social justice forward." Encourage young women you know to apply at <http://www.thirdwavefoundation.org/programs/grants.html>.