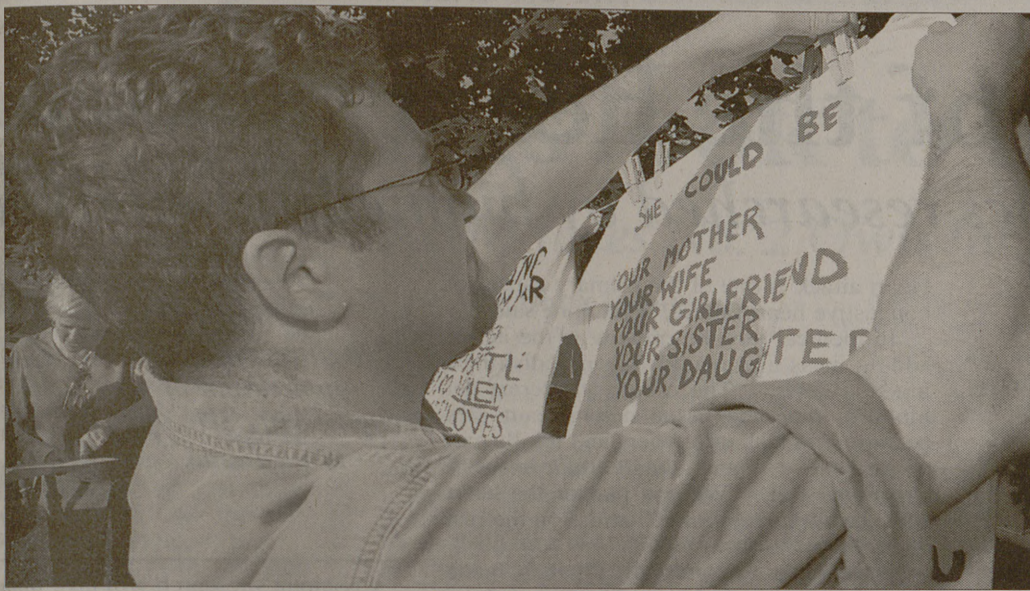


Honoring victims



Founder of Men Against Rape, **Jesse Reich**, hangs a shirt created during the vigil honoring victims of violent crimes was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Rape Crisis Center.

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Abercrombie & Fitch pulls T-shirts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Clothier Abercrombie & Fitch is pulling a line of T-shirts that triggered protests from Asian groups who said they reinforced negative stereotypes.

The T-shirts, some of which show smiling men with slanted eyes and conical hats, will be pulled from all of the company's 311 stores in 50 states, company spokesman Hampton Carney said Thursday.

"We're very, very, very sorry," Carney said. "It's never been our intention to offend anyone."

But more than 100 Asian-Americans protesting outside an Abercrombie & Fitch store in San Francisco Thursday said the apology was not enough.

They read a list of demands including a public apology in four major newspapers, increased philanthropy and investment in the Asian com-

munity and the hiring of consultants to ensure sensitivity on Asian issues.

"It's unacceptable for them to smear and continue to perpetuate racist stereotypes of Asian-Americans," said Ivy Lee, 30, an attorney at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach. "They wouldn't do the same for any other ethnic groups."

Activists in other parts of the country urged people to call or write the company to complain.

Christine Chen, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, based in Washington, D.C., planned to email several thousand Asian-Americans asking them to check that shirts are removed from stores, and to voice their opinions to Abercrombie.

In Minneapolis, Minn., Bao Phi, 27, was asking people to boycott Abercrombie until it

pledges that such designs will not be repeated.

"The fact is, they've already made money out of our exploitation," Phi said.

Carney could not say how many of the T-shirts were already in stores, or how much the recall would cost the New Albany, Ohio-based casual sportswear company.

The T-shirts, which went on sale in some stores Friday for \$24.50, also will be removed from sale on the company's Website, Carney said.

"These graphic T-shirts were designed with the sole purpose of adding humor and levity to our fashion line," Carney said. "Since some of our customers have been offended by their content, we are pulling these shirts."

One of the company's T-shirts reads "Wong Brothers Laundry Service — Two Wongs Can Make It White."

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