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T-shirt spurs outrage

Sean G. Turnbull

Thursday, September 23, 2004

A T-shirt was the cause of controversy and outrage in St. Catherine's on Monday, prompting a protest at a downtown store.

The shirt, being sold at Cherry Bomb, depicted a bloodied hammer accompanied by the text "she was asking for it."

Kelly Wilson, coordinator of the Women's Issues Network at Western, said she absolutely agrees with the protests against the shirt.

"The fact is that we have a history of systematic violence towards women justified by 'she had it coming,'" Wilson said, adding the shirt trivializes a very serious issue.

Wilson argued the shirt was inappropriate because "[society] has a responsibility to ensure the most vulnerable are protected."

Kristin Falle, the owner of Cherry Bomb, expressed sympathy with those offended by the shirt.

"I never meant to come across as insensitive," she said. "I just felt bullied [by the protesters]. I was never approached compassionately."

Falle also explained a similar woman's sized shirt was displayed alongside the hammer shirt, the female version showing bloodied scissors and reading "he had it coming."

She said the fact the protesters complained only about the men's shirt was "ridiculous."

Mike Supermodel of Jinxed Clothing, makers of the shirt, said the shirt had been around for five years and this was the first complaint about it.

"We don't condone violence at all," he said. "The whole line of shirts pokes fun at serious subjects like violence and suicide."

"To take these images at face value is reactionary at best. No one is forcing you to look at, buy or wear anything you don't want to," Jinxed said in a statement. Citing the "he had it coming" shirt as evidence, the statement argued "we are equal-opportunity offenders."

Wilson said she was equally offended by the female version of the shirt, calling the justification of "equality of abuse" inappropriate and absurd.

"Its just a T-shirt," Supermodel noted.

November 28, 2007



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Are those poisoned by salmonella from CentreSpot entitled to monetary compensation?

- Yes. The university owes those whose health was compromised by its negligence
- No. Suck it up.

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