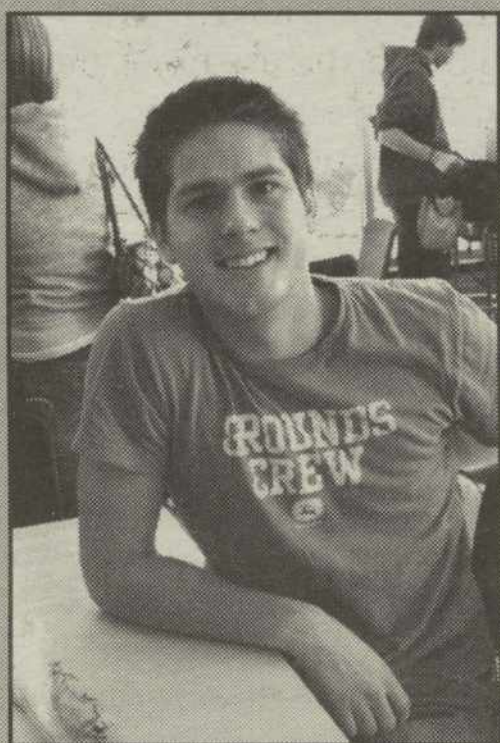


STUDENTS

PEAK OUT

How do you feel about military recruiters having access to your student records and personal information?

James Low,
senior



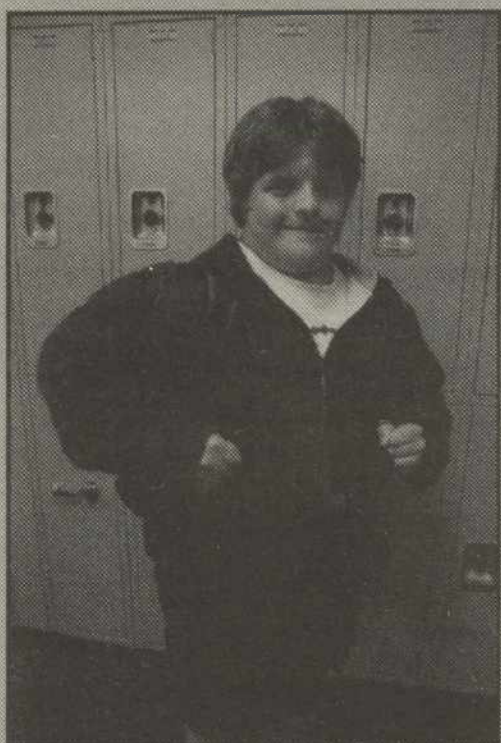
"I think it's fine, because you have the option to say 'no' to recruitment. You make your own decisions. It's an important cause to consider."

Madison Wegener,
sophomore



"Unless the recruiters target students based on their grades, I don't really think it matters. It's your choice to say 'yes' or 'no' in the end."

Zachary Long,
freshman



"I think they should have the ability to get the info if you show an interest in being in the military."

Jessica Johnson,
junior



"We don't get a say in it, so to me it seems like an invasion of privacy. I don't want to be asked or recruited to join the army; It's a very personal decision and a long lasting one."

Abercrombie: sold in U.S., made overseas

CALLEY LATHROP

Staff Reporter

Abercrombie & Fitch is a brand that runs rampant in our school. Everywhere I walk, there are students with the familiar moose in the corner of their designer shirts. However, I don't think anyone knows that their designer shirts and pants are not "made in the U.S.A.," but made by the hands of sweatshop workers in the Mariana Islands.

Most students might think that their A&F products are made in the U.S.A. because the tag on the back says so. That is not the case.

According to www.salon.com, in 1944 the U.S. fought the Japanese in a bloody battle and gained control of a small group of islands just off the eastern states in the Atlantic. They were named "The Mariana Islands," and made a commonwealth of the U.S. That meant that companies could set up shop there, and labor laws would not fully apply.

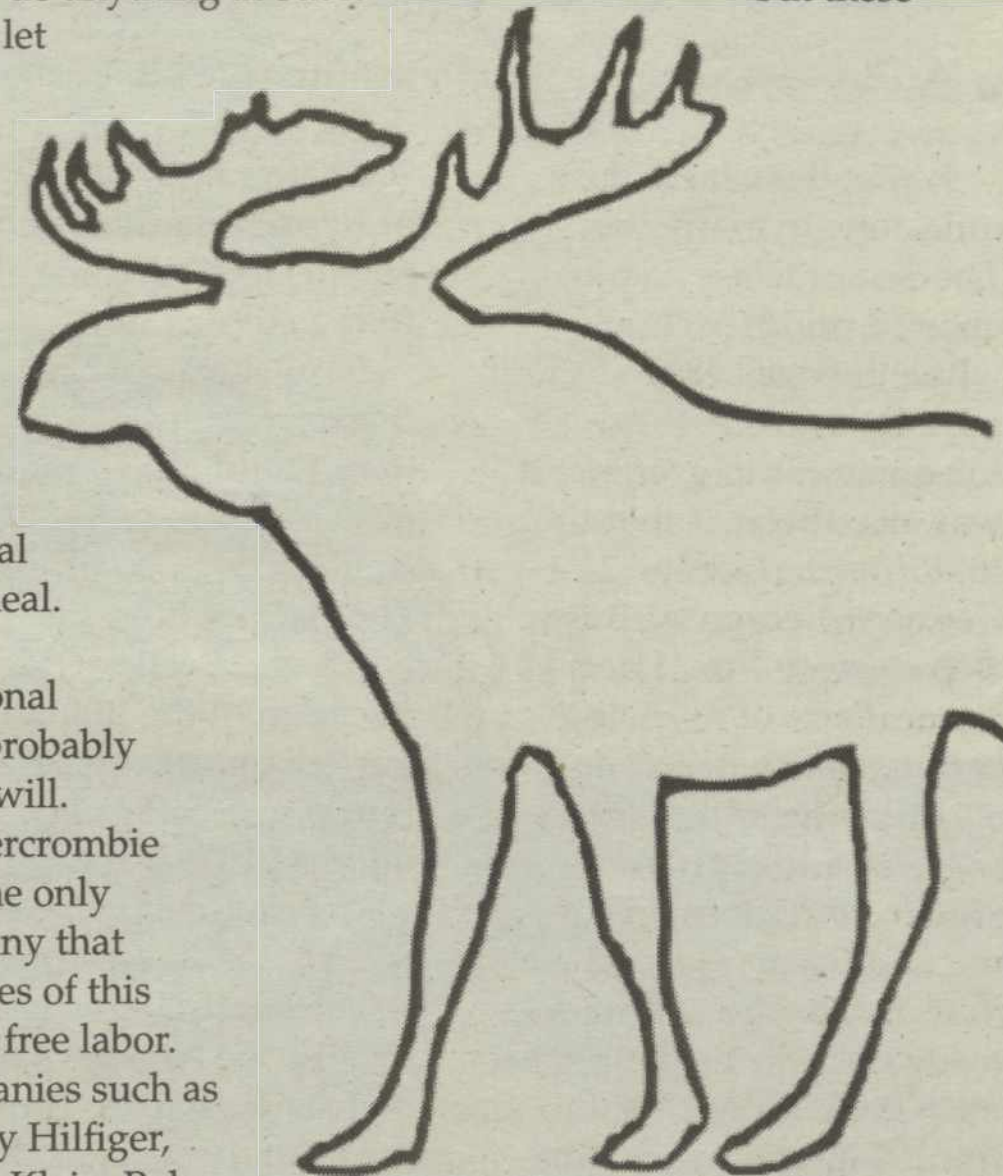
Among others, Abercrombie began hiring (usually poor) Japanese, Chinese and Filipino workers in their new factories. The migrants were told that they were going to America and would be given good jobs and a better life. Once they arrived, they were housed in barracks that were unsanitary and forced to work up to ten hours a day, seven days a week and were only paid for around six hours. The minimum wage on the islands is around \$3 an hour and most of the factories are located in the capital, Saipong. To me, that is the closest it could get to slavery.

All of this is still going on today and it gets worse all the time. The workers cannot go home; to do so would mean paying around \$4,000, money most of them don't have.

According to Witness.org, the women in these factories are often forced into prostitution and if they get pregnant, they are forced to have an abortion or go back home. Again, no one can afford that. The workers are often beaten or raped, and cannot do anything about it except let the

choose to buy that \$35 shirt, or we can find somewhere else that keeps its factories in the U.S. We have included information on a store that keeps their business in the U.S. Buy their clothes!

Another comment I hear constantly is, "Oh, but these



physical scars heal. Their emotional scars probably never will.

Abercrombie isn't the only company that partakes of this nearly free labor. Companies such as Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Polo, Ralph Lauren, The Gap, Sears Roebuck and Co., Nordstrom, Wal-Mart and Target also take part in these atrocities. These companies may not make all of their clothes in the Mariana Islands, but they do make a portion of them. Lawsuits have been filed against the companies and settlements have been paid. Certain laws are in process that should allow workers more rights, but so far none of them have been seriously enforced. I think that, as of now, the government is perfectly happy with the money they are making and so is Abercrombie & Fitch.

There is something we can do about this. We, as free Americans, (unlike the garment workers) have choices. We can

clothes are sooooo much more comfortable!" There are a lot of comfortable clothes out there. Just because that shirt has a funny looking moose on it doesn't make it better than others. Lying is wrong, abusing workers is wrong, and ruining lives to make profit is wrong. That is what Abercrombie & Fitch is doing. Their workers in the Mariana Islands came here searching for a better life, wanting to live out the American dream. They came and were given nothing but unsanitary barracks and factories that become their prisons until the day they die. All so we can wear clothing made by the overrated and overpaid clothing store Abercrombie & Fitch.

American Apparel offers sweatshop free option

MARGARET ADAMS

Staff Reporter

If you're interested in supporting sweatshop-free corporations, you

can start by checking out American Apparel. According to the company's mission statement, they've consolidated all stages of

production under one roof at their downtown Los Angeles factory.

Employees are allowed paid time-off, free parking, bus passes, on-site masseurs and affordable health care for them and for their families. Each employee is offered year-round employment at wages as low as \$13 per hour to as high as \$27

per hour, as well as offering job security.

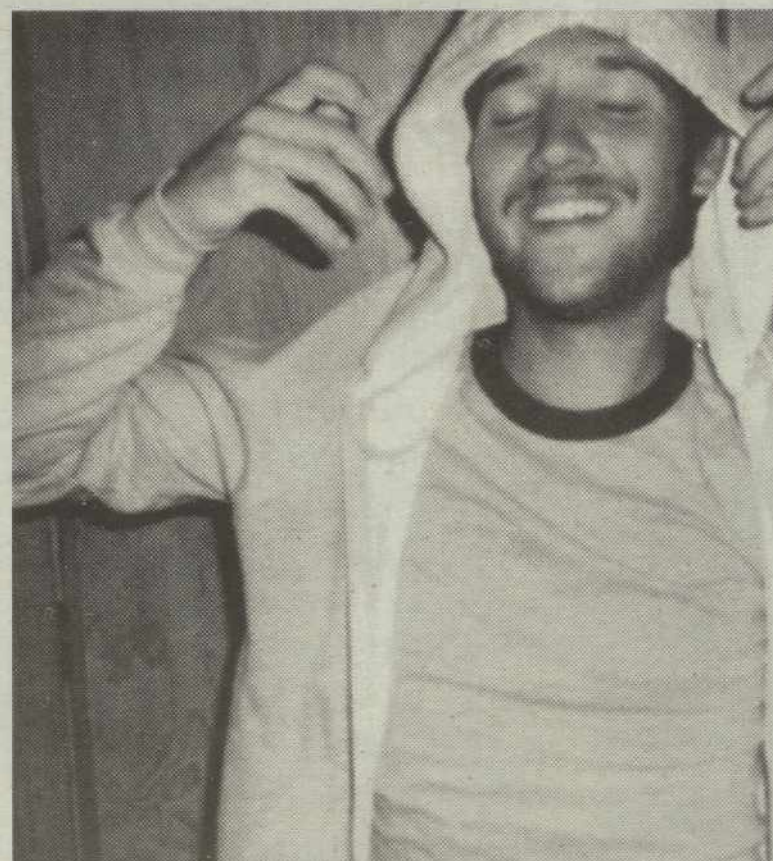
The products are mostly cotton basics (T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.) in a wide variety of colors as well as a "sustainable" line that is produced entirely of organic cotton. If you're into name brands emblazoned on your tees, stick with Abercrombie & Fitch because American Apparel is logo-free.

These are two easy to find Portland locations:

American Apparel
3412 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, Ore. 97214
Tel. (503) 231-0043

American Apparel
1234 S.W. Stark St.
Portland, Ore. 97205
Tel. (503) 721-0700

Meet Julio.



American Apparel™ Made in Connecticut, U.S. Locally Integrated Manufacturing