

# West Kootenay Women's Association

May 22, 1990  
San Francisco Shop,  
Waneta Plaza Mall,  
Trail, B. C.

FILE COPY

Dear Manager: Re: Wife Assault

Recently our organization offered a educational display in the Waneta Plaza on the topic of wife assault.

As you may or may not know, one in nine women in Canada is aassaulted by her partner. Assault is a criminal offence and the police now will charge the batterer without the permission or consent of the victim.

Statistics indicate that 75% of female homocides are the result of beatings by spouses or boyfriends. Not just the women suffer in these situations, children often witness these brutal beatings. These children grow up to be batterers and victims, and perpetuate the cycle of violence.

With respect to this grave social situation I was appalled to discover that you sell two foam sponge bats, one is called a Wife Wacker and the other a Girl Friend Wacker, a Love Wacker product made in Taiwan exclusively for San Francisco Gift Company of Edmonton.

These items are obviously for novelty use however, I feel strongly that awareness of such a serious social problem as wife assault needs to be taken seriously and not trivialized. This kind of product, a Love Wacker, perpetuates acceptance of this illegal behaviour, especially in young people, who comprise a large percentage of your customers.

I would strongly suggest that such items be removed from your shelves immediately and I would appreciate a response to this letter.

Your very truly,  
WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATON

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Wife Assault Multi-Media Co-ordinator



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