

The SALTY Cow

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Started From The Bottom, Now I'm Still at The Bottom...?

New Federal law will pass Thursday Morning banning multiple businesses with the appellation of a “pyramid scheme” from continuing to operate, based on numerous allegations of harassment from friends and family of employees. Brands such as *It Works*, *Jamberry*, *Mary Kay*, and *Herbalife* along with many other well known “work from home” corporations, have been under fire in the past few months after Congress has been flooded with complaints from people who simply “can’t take the constant pedaling of overpriced gimmick items to support someone else’s dream of staying home.” While it may sound harsh, many people believe the operation of these companies actually prevent them from leading happy lives.

A frequent flyer in the complaint department, Mila Hess explained her reasoning for speaking out against these companies, “I counted the other day and out of the 230 friends on my social media, 47 of them were selling something - Some \$15 nail polish, others magical hair creams. People from high school I didn’t even know were coming out of the woodworks assuming I would be interested in their stretch mark cream.



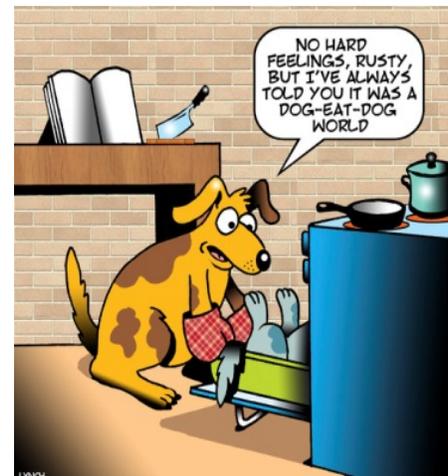
Unfortunately, it doesn’t end there; the harassment started happening at work. You’d get to know someone new and real quick you’d learn what they were selling. It could be something as stupid as fucking scented wax or even items they knitted at home. Pyramid schemes have opened

the door for peer-pressure based advertising, and now some think it is socially acceptable to continuously ‘promote’ your business to people who aren’t buying, when really it is down-right obnoxious. I have even been called into my manager’s office during my shift because his wife was ‘getting ready to put an order in’ and she wanted to see if I was purchasing something! Mind you I never ordered anything from her before (despite her many attempts any time she visited) and what an awkward position it put me in. I don’t hate people trying to make money, but we have to draw the line somewhere! More and more people are falling victim to this ‘work from home dream’ but people this is America, you need a job.”

While this ban on “pyramid schemes” has offered hope for peace to some, it has also been met with severe backlash from many groups such as the Single Mom’s Alliance, who has actively spoken out against the ban. One of the founding members Brianna Stark released this statement to reporters Thursday following the news: “We must support each other like the community of warrior women we are! We must continue to flood social media newsfeeds with “games” and other banter, regardless of Congress! We must push back harder and stonewall family members at Christmas if they haven’t purchased anything! These companies allow us the time to stay at home with our children, even if the entire time is spent on our phone or computer, and who cares if we are advertising our financial woes to everyone we ever knew? – it’s worth it to be at home.” The new law goes into full effect on Friday, and The Salty Cow will continue to follow this story as it develops.

Come on Over Rover, You’re Dinner!

Walmart announced plans of a new line this fall, claiming they will begin to sell both cat and dog based products, which are “easier on the environment and cheaper to produce.” Walmart CEO Doug McMillon issued a statement earlier this week regarding the company’s future aspirations; “At Walmart one of our main priorities is saving our consumers money, and we have discovered a significantly cheaper meat alternative that helps both the people, and the local



animal shelters. We are working together to keep our streets clean from strays, and our families well-nourished even through the toughest of times.” Some of the products Walmart hopes to introduce include “*Kitten’ Wings*” which are made entirely from locally sourced, free range kittens who had no hope otherwise. A 16oz bag will run you around \$1.99 and they come in different unique flavors such as *Almost Made it Home Spicy Mustard*, *Tastes Like Chicken Buffalo*, and lastly *Abandoned Baby BBQ*. Another product Walmart boasts is their new “*Doggy Burger*,” a combination of multiple breeds of locally sourced humane society dogs that no one loved anyway. Walmart claims these dogs were given all of their shots, and feed large diets to promote the perfect fatty flavor we all love. The best news about these burgers is their incredibly reasonable price at a whopping \$1.12 per puppy pound! Many other meat markets are already catching on to the trend and have started offering butchering services for household pets. An Ohio butcher has adapted the phrase, “Find a stray and Bring em’ to Ray’s.” People seem excited for the eco-friendly solution to what seems to be two societal problems. We interviewed a local Oregonian who shared her thoughts over Walmart’s announcement “At first I wasn’t sure how I felt about butchering cats and dogs, after all I wouldn’t want my own pets slaughtered. But then I remembered there are a lot of hungry people out there and a lot pets just sitting in shelters, so who am I to say what is right and what is wrong?” While there has been some backlash from critics of pet-based meats, Walmart insured their consumers “We plan to follow all current FDA regulations that are in place for livestock, and use their years of industry wisdom to produce better products for your family.” With their catchy product names, and light-hearted spirit it is clear Walmart is an innovative leader in our country’s foodie future.

Knowledge is Power?

While other states around the country are working to eliminate college tuition, the University of Oregon in the small town of Eugene, has stirred up controversy over a recent “all in favor” tuition increase announcement, that was made after an incredible 13-0 vote came back in favor of the price



hike Friday morning. Trustee Ross Kari said just before the vote “If we don’t do this, I won’t get the parking spot I am hoping for.” University of Oregon is known for its difficult parking situation. People are forced to trek long distances and get their daily recommended amount of exercise – an atrocity that must be stopped! According to the UO President Michael Schill, he is aware that a tuition increase can be challenging for “some” and believes that this 2.84% increase, a mere \$9,000 a year, will actually be beneficial to low income students because it will make more money available to them in grants, and maybe even loans! We know what you’re thinking, more loans and more tuition, what does that do for me and my future? But University of Oregon Board of Trustees encourage us to not focus so much on this year’s increase, but to consider it more of a warm up to next year’s projection of a 6.66% tuition increase. “That’s when we’ll really see which ducks sink or swim” joked Schill. The money is also said to go to “rising schools costs” like the cost of re-peat classes for athlete students, pesky “building maintenance codes”, and “pest control” services that work round the clock to ward off both unwanted critters and homeless people. Just last week the University spent over \$3,000 on a raccoon that perched himself in a tree outside the EMU. When asked to comment on the expense Schill claimed the extra funds were due to a request from the Psychology department, to attempt to persuade the raccoon down. “It was very expensive fencing off the area for a few days, and required a lot of man power to get that raccoon down. These are the important battles we face every day that maybe the public doesn’t consider when thinking about a tuition increase.” The University also plans to increase tuition prices every year until they see the classroom sizes decline to meet state standards, which they project will be a change we can expect to see over the course of the next five years.



Sugar, Ah Money Money!

The National Sugar Company announced Wednesday plans to begin distribution of their new Diabetes medication called “*Before You Sugar*” in hopes of bringing awareness to the disease and offering support to consumers who are currently suffering from it. CEO John McCreedy claimed “We have a responsibility to our customers to offer them the products they desire without being judgmental, so we have decided to remove nutritional labels from our sugar products, and replace them with advertisements for our new Diabetes medication.” When The Salty Cow asked McCreedy how the FDA responded to their removal of nutrition labels, McCreedy looked puzzled and said “FD who? Oh yeah those guys, I think their name mostly comes up in our cash books. They must be working with our advertisers.” Many consumers have fallen in support with the company’s decision saying things like “I never read those labels anyway” and “I enjoy the new Diabetes medication advertisement, they even come with a coupon for a free children’s prescription refill. None of my kids have Diabetes yet, but I am grateful The National Sugar Company is helping me to be prepared!” *Before You Sugar* is expected to reach exceptional sales in its first year with projected revenue of just over 3 Billion dollars. The National Sugar Company generously plans to use a portion of that money to research cheaper diabetes drugs for children.



I decided to do mock news, because I feel really inspired by the sarcastic tone in a lot of the mock news sites like *The Onion* and TV shows like *The Colbert Report*. For some of the stories, I used real life Parody, like The University of Oregon article was a parody of an actual article written about the real tuition

increase at the school. I wanted to satirize their justification for the tuition spike because they were all so vague in their responses and out of touch. For example, Michael Schill really did say that the increase could help low income students by offering more grants. As a low income student myself, I wonder where exactly these extra grants are, and when and how they plan to implement them. As far as I can see, my tuition is in fact rising next year, but absolutely no word has been mentioned about grants to help with the new financial burdens. I feel as though the university wants an endless pit of money, yet has little to no regard for how their actions and increases affect their students – the life blood of the University.

My piece on the animal meat products is meant to satirize both big business and the hypocrisy of how our society has no problem butchering mass amounts of livestock, but has deemed some animals worthy of not eating. I tried to play with the question, what about the animals that are in shelters? No one cares about those pets, are we able to butcher them? Is there a profit Walmart can exploit? Our society tends to look the other way when there's a deal involved. The pyramid scheme is a legitimate parasite in today's world of social media. Many of the things I said in this piece are true, and I wanted to poke fun at this epidemic because a lot of people are afraid to be critical of these independent sellers, because like I said they are our friends and family. There can be social repercussions for not being "supportive" of them.

Lastly my piece about The National Sugar Company, this one is relatively self-explanatory. Diabetes is no new issue in our country, and it happens to be increasing at an alarming rate, so I wanted to satirize many things in this piece; Pharmaceutical companies that contribute to the problem rather than helping, the FDA for not regulating the amount of sugar allowed in products, especially those advertised to children, and lastly how even if the FDA were to regulate them, the sugar companies are so rich and powerful they can often lobby themselves out of government action. I hope you enjoyed reading some of them, and I just wanted to tell you how great I thought this class was! The material is amazing, and I learned so much over the course of the term. I feel like I need a whole year on this subject matter! Have a great summer.

Works cited

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Images Source: Clip Art; Donald Duck, Pyramid Scheme, Sugar, Good & Evil, Mad Cow

Image of “cost of college” source The New Yorker:
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/05/28/the-cost-of-college>

Image: Dog Cartoon. Source ToonPool.com https://www.toonpool.com/cartoons/Dog-eat-Dog%20world_217762