



MEDIA RELEASE

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Walter C. Heinrich, Sheriff

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33601

CONTACT: Jack Espinosa FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Community Relations Coordinator
H.C.S.O.
247-8060

FACT SHEET

WHO: HEALTH CARE PRODUCTS, INC.
19235 Hwy. 41, North
Lutz, FL

Principals:

Elbert Carl Anderson Jr.
Age: 49 DOB 8-31-40
15414 E. Burrell Drive
Lutz, FL

Ronald Edward Anderson
Age: 30 DOB 5-11-60
2004 Clement Road
Lutz, FL

Barbara Williams Larkin
Age: 49 DOB 9-18-40
1105 Ballinger Road
Lutz, FL

F.B.I. (FATBUSTERS INC.) and O.E.I. (OVEREATERS, INC.)
207 Kilsey Lane
Suite #K, Bldg. #4
Tampa, FL

Principals:

Robert S. Calistri
Age: 48 DOB 7-4-42
504 Apache Trail
Brandon, FL

George Carpella
Age: 40 DOB 7-7-50
4508 Country Gate Court
Valrico, FL

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WHAT: The attached list of suspects were charged by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office detectives executing court authorized searches on both companies and arrest warrants for owners/distributors of weight loss products through deceptive and misleading advertising. The listed suspects were charged with one count each of organized scheme to defraud.

Investigation continues and additional charges may be forthcoming.

The joint investigation conducted by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office, State of Florida Health and Rehabilitative Services, Florida Regional Drug Inspector's Office and the United State Postal Inspector's Office, uncovered an international fraudulent scheme involving the advertising and distribution of weight loss products estimated at yeilding over 30 million dollars in profits for the companies involved.

Two local corporations, Health Care Products and O.E.I. have been deceptively selling these products through misleading advertising in nationally prominent magazines and tabloids.

Health Care Products Inc. is national distributor of Cal-Ban 3000, available in reputable stores in Florida. Cal-Ban 3000 is manufactured, packaged and labeled by a local laboratory in Largo. The product is composed primarily of a filler substance known as Guar Gum and other fillers.

F.B.I. (Fatbusters, Inc.) and O.E.I. (Overeaters, Inc.) is national distributor for two alleged weight loss products sold as Bodi-Trim and Dietol 7 also available in legitimate stores in Florida and consisting of the same substance (Guar Gum and other fillers).

In depth studies conducted by diet and nutrition researchers provide expert testimony that these products cannot produce results advertised by these competing companies.

Cal-Ban 3000 is available throughout Florida in popular legitimate stores such as Wal-Mart Discount stores, General Nutrition Centers (GNC) and various retail stores. Bodi-Trim and Dietol 7 are sold at Eckerd's drug stores and other outlets.

Sheriff's office is urging these stores and others that may have these products for sale to remove them from their counters effective today.

When: July 6, 1990- approximately 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
court authorized searches were conducted and arrest
warrants issued on principals listed .

Attached are lists of publications in which companies
advertised.

CALBAN ADVERTISERS

Muscle and Fitness
Weekly World News
Globe
National Inquirer
Women's World
National Examiner
Sun

PUBLICATIONS • ADVERTISE

COSMOPOLITAN
WOMAN'S DAY (NOT CURRENTLY)
NATIONAL ENQUIRER
GLOBE
NATIONAL EXAMINER
SUN
WEEKLY WORLD NEWS
MAC FADDEN WOMEN'S GROUP
-SECRETS
-TRUE CONFESSIONS
-TRUE ROMANCES
-TRUE EXPERIENCE
STERLING WOMAN
-DAYTIME SOAP
-SOAP OPERA STARS
-DAYTIME DIGEST
-DAYTIME T.V.
GRIT
CAPPERS
FARMER'S ALMANAC
VALASSIS INSERTS
Newspaper inserts. Covers U.S. every 8 weeks.
DELL PUZZLES
PRODUCT MOVERS INSERTS
Sunday newspaper inserts (coupons).
4-5 million per month.
HERALD TRIBUNE PUZZLE GROUP
TV GUIDE
WOMAN'S WORLD
HEALTH
YOUR HEALTH

TAMPA TRIBUNE

Saturday, September 5, 1987

Merkle seeks order to halt payments to weight-loss firm

A Tribune Staff Report

TAMPA — U.S. Attorney Robert W. Merkle Friday asked a federal judge to prohibit a Tampa weight-loss business from receiving payment for orders of their product.

Merkle filed a motion asking for a temporary order to hold the payments made to Health Care Products, the makers of Cal-Ban 3000, based on allegations that the company has falsely advertised its product.

In national advertisements, Health Care has contended that Cal-Ban 3000 will allow buyers to

"eat all you want and still lose weight" and that the weight-loss program requires no exercise or calorie restrictions.

Merkle alleges these assertions are false.

Those who order Cal-Ban 3000 mail their payments to two post office boxes in Tampa. Merkle has asked a judge to issue orders that would require postal authorities to hold all mailed payments for the product until postal officials complete an administrative proceeding to determine the validity of the advertisements.