

Beware of the marijuana marketers

Fear the pitches coming from Wall St., Madison Avenue and booze industry



William F.B. O'Reilly

‘Coke, sens, VCR, mesc . . .’ That was “Butterman’s” constant pitch on the southeast corner of MacDougal and Washington Square West circa 1984.

“Coke” for cocaine; “sens” for sensimilla, a mind-erasing marijuana bud; “mesc” for mescaline and “VCR” for, well, a videocassette recorder. Someone I knew — not from New York, obviously — shelled out 40 bucks for one. It had a phone book taped inside for weight. Butterman hightailed it for awhile.

His pitch seems quaint today. Now the big boys are getting in the game. Wall Street. Madison Avenue. Booze and cigarette manufacturers.

“There’s a lot of money in that white powder,” Santino pleaded to his dad in “The Godfather.”

Well, there’s gold in those suddenly legal leaves, too, and

everyone wants a piece of it.

U.S. marketing magic is in the air. Pot helps everything now, not just glaucoma. Read the stories. Smoking pot may improve lung capacity. (Really?) It can stop cancers from spreading, slow brain tumors and protect against concussions. Marijuana will stop nightmares (a fifth of bourbon will do that, too, I’ve found); it’ll delay the onset of Alzheimer’s.

That’s not all. Oh no . . . Smoking pot helps alcoholics drink less, we’re told. I suspect that’s true, just as alcohol keeps stoners from smoking so much weed and Oxy cuts down on heroin use. Lemmon 714s (quaaludes) did a good job of that in the ’70s.

Jesus smoked pot. Did you know that? I didn’t. Read a story about it recently. Let me guess . . . Tyre Stick and Philistia Gold?

Crustaceans can benefit from pot as well. Some Maine restaurateur with a sore conscience was in the news recently about it. She gets her



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Plants of cannabis — a growing business across the United States — grow in a greenhouse in Ontario.

lobsters high before dropping them in boiling water. Eases the pain, you know. I mean, duh.

Even Coca-Cola’s diving in. It’s planning to roll out a line of beverages with CBD, a chemical in cannabis that doesn’t get you high. Meh.

A news-editor aunt securely in heaven gave great advice to young newspaper readers: “Ask yourself who pitched the story you’re reading,” she used to say. “Then ask yourself why they pitched it. That will tell you more than the story itself.” Worth remembering still.

Poor Butterman. Last I heard he got pinched by the Sixth Precinct. Today he’d be in the Advertising Hall of Fame.

William F.B. O'Reilly is a consultant to Republicans.



Judge Brett Kavanaugh sits down to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Sept. 6.

tered with similar and more of the types of allegations faced by Brett Kavanaugh, and culminated with an actual sexual encounter with an intern in the Oval Office.

In 1999, he paid Paula Jones \$850,000 to settle a sexual harassment suit. He was fined \$90,686 for lying under oath, lost his law license for five

years and was impeached by the House of Representatives.

The Senate voted not to remove him from office, and guess who voted against it? Diane Feinstein, Dick Durbin (both members of the current Senate Judiciary Committee) and our own Chuck Schumer. Today, Clinton is still a revered and iconic figure in the Demo-

cratic Party. Nothing more needs to be said.

Frank J. Donohue, Riverhead

I don’t know why I’m shocked, but I am. President Donald Trump’s comments dismissing Christine Blasey Ford’s allegations against Brett Kavanaugh showed such a degrading attitude toward a woman who had the courage to come forward to tell her story [“Aides say Trump just stating facts,” News, Oct. 4].

Mimicking her honesty with forgetting how she got to the gathering and the address, showed such disrespect and lack of knowledge regarding sexual attacks and how they are internalized. This is a new low. Women and men should be outraged. What are we condoning?

Diane McGuire, Centerport

For some time, we have had courses and conferences on bul-



DRAWING ON KAVANAUGH

Editorial cartoonists from around the country render their verdicts in the controversy over the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh. See a gallery.

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lying in schools and on playgrounds. On Sept. 28, we saw examples of bullying in the U.S. Senate.

Activists were seen bullying Republican Sen. Jeff Flake on a Senate elevator. Is this an example for the youth of America to see in our nation’s Capitol?

We saw Sen. Richard Blumenthal, who lied about serving in Vietnam, telling Kavanaugh

that lying in one instance is lying in all instances.

What hypocrites we have in our Congress!

Marian Milne, Oceanside

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