

NOW PLAYING: **Wrecking Ball**
Miley Cyrus

ON AIR NOW: **Jerry Noble**
Call in: 810-251-5105
FULL SCHEDULE

LISTEN LIVE

Facebook Twitter iHeartRADIO Station Info VIP Club Enter Keyword

CK 105.5
ALL THE HITS!

Shows Features Events Contests News SweetJack

News > Health News

Reservist Alleges Tainted Diet Pill Caused Insomnia Rage, Five Days in Mental Ward

2:50PM Tuesday
January 14, 2014

1

Share With

- Facebook
- Twitter
- MySpace
- Yahoo!
- Google



(NEW YORK) -- Sainah Theodore, serving in the Army Reserves and with dreams of being an officer, says she turned to an herbal diet supplement that she had used before with success to help her lose weight and be fit for a combat job.

But in a lawsuit, she alleges the Natural Lipo-X pills she bought at a health food store in New York City in December 2012 contained illegal chemicals not listed on its label, which prevented her from sleeping for six days. As a result, she says she went into a psychological rage that cost her not only her career aspirations but tens of thousands of dollars of property damage and lost wages.

"Aside from paranoid, aggressive, nasty text messages she sent to her mother all day, she was picking fights with strangers in a movie theater," said her lawyer, Brian C. Pascale. "She said she heard voices and...was driving aggressively and reacting erratically."

After a week of rage-driven episodes that came to a head on Dec. 19 with the physical destruction of her home, Theodore was committed involuntarily to a hospital mental ward for five days, according to a lawsuit filed in the state Supreme Court of Kings County on Jan. 6.

Theodore, 26, is suing the Natural Health Food Center in Brooklyn and its owner, Adalgisa Garcia. Theodore's lawyers say they are trying to find the manufacturers of Natural Lipo-X to hold them accountable.

The product is no longer available on the store's website, but it is described elsewhere online as "a lipotropic formula designed to amplify your fat burning efforts by increasing fat metabolism and helping to control hunger."

The lawsuit alleges Garcia, who uses the title "Dr." before her name, is not a medical doctor.

"She passes herself off as a doctor, which makes people trust her," said Marc. S. Ullman, a lawyer who specializes in food and drug litigation and is helping with Theodore's case.

Garcia's website states she is a "certified natural health professional" with a doctoral degree in neuropathy. It also says she obtained a degree in "general medicine and family medicine" at Nordestana University in the Dominican Republic.

But, said Pascale, "I found no doctors registered under her name with the New York State Department of Health."

Theodore's lawyers said they tested Theodore's remaining diet pills, and a lab report from Oregon's Flora Research Laboratories dated April 4, 2013, obtained by ABC News shows they contained two chemical additives that are not approved by the FDA for over-the-counter dietary supplements and are not listed in the bottle's label of ingredients:

Advertisement

Patsy Lou
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
"The All American Corner"
Linden Rd
Corunna Rd
GMC MEGALOT

SweetJack Deal of the Day

sweetjack
MAGIC VEGGIE TWISTER
VIEW DETAILS

Playlist

NOW PLAYING: **Wrecking Ball** Miley Cyrus

ON AIR NOW: **Jerry Noble**
Call in: 810-251-5105
FULL SCHEDULE

LISTEN LIVE

ALL THE HITS!

Test Booster Takes GNC By Storm | Homeowners Are In For A Big Surprise | Public Valley Stream Arrest Records | USA's New Scandal | How Cruise Lines Fill Unsold Cabins?

Station Information | Employment Opportunities | Privacy Policy | Terms of Service | Advertise With Us

Copyright 2014 Cumulus Media
Cumulus Media is an equal opportunity employer / AA

"Consumers may unknowingly take products laced with varying quantities of approved prescription drug ingredients, controlled substances, and untested and unstudied pharmaceutically active ingredients," says the FDA on its website, Tainted Weight Loss Products. "These deceptive products can harm you! Hidden ingredients are increasingly becoming a problem in products promoted for weight loss."

Before it was removed from the market, sibutramine carried a label warning of possible side effects: "lack of sleep, agitation and aggressive behavior," said Ullman. "Patients were warned that if you can't sleep for an extended period of time, to stop immediately."

Theodore is seeking an undetermined amount of damages, but Pascale said she racked up \$21,000 in property losses, a \$1,400 ambulance bill and \$14,000 in lost wages from the military and potential bonuses.

In addition to serving in the Reserves, Theodore had a job in hospital admissions and was going to school full-time to study sociology.

ABC News called the Natural Health Food Center and was told Adalgsa Garcia was "unavailable." She has not yet filed her response with the court.

"We have no comment," said a man who identified himself as Kennedy Angeliz. "Get in contact with the other party."

According to the *Daily News*, which first reported the story, Angeliz is the store manager's son. He told the newspaper that Theodore had been fasting on the pills.

"We can't leave the store to see the customer eats well," he told the newspaper. "The insurance is handling this. That's all I will say."

Theodore's paranoia and aggression came to a head in a "road rage" incident on Dec. 19, 2012, said her lawyer, Pascale.

"She got stopped in the middle of a busy intersection and started arguing with people," he said. "Finally a cop came and gave her a ticket."

The lawsuit alleges that Theodore drove home and then went into another rage with her mother and tore the screen door off her own house. "This is a strong lady," he said.

"Then, she proceeds to take a knife out on the mattresses in the house," said Pascale. "She wasn't just stabbing pillows. She was brandishing a knife on her mother, who called 911."

Pascale said Theodore was taken to Queens Medical Center by ambulance and was admitted to its mental ward. "She had no choice," he said.

The first thing the medical staff did was sedate Theodore, according Pascale.

"When she was awake and felt normal, she asked, 'Why am I here?'" he said. "The hospital, after talking to Theodore, realized it was the pills."

Today, Theodore is doing "pretty well," said Ullman. "But she is not doing well as far as her military career is concerned."

Theodore wants to be an officer, so she must accumulate service points, he said. Getting an assignment in an active combat zone is important for her goal.

At virtually the same time as the rage incidents, Theodore was short-listed and on standby for an assignment, say her lawyers.

"She was concerned about her weight and that's why she took the product," said Ullman. "When this happened, she had to withdraw from the unit. She doesn't know of another opportunity to deploy, especially after the sequester and the phase-out in Afghanistan."

Theodore's legal team says it still has not been able to find out who manufactures Natural Lipo-X.

"They are probably made in a facility outside the U.S. with no controls," said Ullman. "One batch they have thrown something extra into. We will attempt to find out, and if we can, we plan to hold them accountable."

Copyright 2014 ABC News Radio


Teenage Dream 6:33pm

Suit & Tie 6:30pm

THE MONSTER 6:26pm

Call Me Maybe 6:22pm
[view full onair playlist history >](#)

Music Activity Feed:

 **Kyle Alderman**
Played playlist
1 hour ago
[view more music activity >](#)

Show Playlist Ad

Concert Calendar

concert search by artist [▶](#)

Bastille	JAN 19 Royal Oak Music Theatre Royal Oak, MI
Colton Dixon	JAN 23 , FEB 22 , FE...
St. Lucia	JAN 24
Panic! At The Disco	JAN 26
The Pretty Reckless	FEB 04
Kris Allen	FEB 09 , FEB 10
Anthony Hamilton	FEB 16
We Are the In Crowd	FEB 25 , FEB 27
Mayer Hawthorne	MAR 06
Young the Giant	MAR 08 , MAR 12
Robin Thicke	MAR 12
Jessie J	MAR 12
Little Mix	MAR 13
Demi Lovato	MAR 13 , MAR 23 , M...
Fifth Harmony	MAR 13 , MAR 23 , M...
Lorde	MAR 16
Cher Lloyd	MAR 23

Facebook

Related Content

Health News



NOW PLAYING:

Wrecking Ball

Miley Cyrus

ON AIR NOW:



Jerry Noble
Call in: 810-251-5105
FULL SCHEDULE

LISTEN LIVE

Trending Offers and Articles



Best Exercises for Weight Loss...



8 Celebrities you would never want to work with...



Access Some of the Most Shocking Photos of Natasha Galkina Right Here



These celebrities are known to look just as good walking away as they are up front.

ADVERTISEMENT

Like

CK 105.5

You can burn 144 calories just by standing for three hours. What do you do to burn calories?

10 hours ago

CK 105.5

Ben Affleck bought JLo a \$105,000 gem encrusted Toilet seat when they were dating. What is the most romantic gesture you have ever experienced?

Yesterday at 7:34am

5,864 people like CK 105.5.



Facebook social plugin

The Hollywood 5

Like 10,343

The Hollywood 5

Denise Richards could be homeless if Charlie Sheen's new girlfriend gets her way. It's Charlie's fault Denise is even living in one of his homes! Thoughts? Details-- <http://ow.ly/sBMVy>



Facebook social plugin