Annotated Biblography

Askren, W. (2005). Predicting and Evaluating Misuses of Products. *Ergonomics in Design, 13*(1). Retrieved from [http://journals.sagepub.com.ezproxy.liberty.edu/doi/abs/10.1177/106480460501300105#](http://journals.sagepub.com.ezproxy.liberty.edu/doi/abs/10.1177/106480460501300105) articleCitationDownloadContainer

William Askren explores predicting and evaluating misuses of products, and if companies are ethically responsible for the misuse of their products. In the article, Askren explains the long-time argument about product misuses and who is to be held liable. In a ten year span from 1994 to 2004, over 600 product misuse cases were seen at the state and federal court level. In more recent years, the National Safety Council includes foreseeable product misuses as a critical element in product design.

Askren continues the article by exploring the nine steps to ensuring a safe product that will not be misused by consumers. While the steps are very informative, it shows further that companies should not be ethically responsible for misuse of products, especially with all the testing.

Bratton, J. & Baxter, B. (2009). Authorities warn against misuse of compressed air. *Mountain Home, 11.* Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-> com.ezproxy.liberty.edu/docview/442762466?pq-origsite=summon&accountid=12085

Dr. Allen Jackson, a physician at Baxter Regional Medical Center's Cline Emergency Center, said the inhalations of the fluorocarbons can cause a chemical bronchitis, which can cause symptoms of hallucinations, mental status changes, shortness of breath and a cough caused by a chemical irritation of the membranes of the upper and lower respiratory system.

This article explores the side effects of misusing dust cleaners and other compressed air cleaners. Many individuals started using the compressed air cleaners as a way to get high. But is it the company’s fault? Many stores started to have a minimum age requirement in order to purchase the compressed air cans in an effort to stop misuse.

Domonoke, C. (2017). After Ikea dresser recall, another toddler reportedly died in tip-over. *The Two-Way, NPR*. Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-> com.ezproxy.liberty.edu/docview/1954095561?pq-origsite=summon&accountid=12085

In 2016, a child pulling on an Ikea Malm dresser tipped the dresser over and crushed himself, resulting in a nation-wide call to Ikea to make their dressers safer. Author Camila Domonoske explains the multiple deaths from misuse of Ikea’s Malm dresser and all of the precautions Ikea put out after the deaths. Ikea not only launched a world-wide advertising campaign recalling the Malm dressers, but also sent millions of emails to consumers about the recall.

Ikea even went further after the second death and gave away free wall brackets to anyone who owned or was purchasing one of their dressers. Even after the campaign, consumers still did not properly install the dressers, and more deaths occurred.

Federwisch, A. (2015). The ethics of product usage. *Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.* Retrieved from <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/business-ethics/resources/the-> ethics-of-product-usage/

In this article, Anne Federwisch explores the notion that corporations have a moral responsibility over product usage. Federwisch explains that moral responsibly can be interpreted two ways, “in terms of obligation or duty; or in terms of culpability”. The article continues by exploring the idea of liability in the 20th century, that a company was held morally responsible if their product inflicted harm on someone, provided they should have known about it.

In the last few years, company’s scope of ethical responsibility has extended even further. Companies are now held responsible for injuries users inflict upon themselves, even when the company could not have prevented it.

Gray, J. W. (2011). Moral issues related to consumers. *Ethical Realism.* Retrieved from https://ethicalrealism.wordpress.com/2011/05/16/moral-issues-related-to-consumers/

In this article, Gray explains different moral issues related to consumers and product misuse. Gray discusses the responsibility of business to consumers, product safety, and advertising. Ethically, Gray states that companies are responsible for giving consumers what they paid for and that the product must not harm consumers.

But what if the product is not used for what it is intended for and causes injuries? Are companies held ethically responsible? Gray explains that in the early 20th century, companies were not held liable for the misuse of their products. However, in recent years companies are being held to “strict liability”, meaning they are responsible for misuse even if they take precautions.

Raymond, A. (2018). New York Lawmakers Want Tide Pods to Look Less Delicious. *Daily Intelligencer*. Retrieved from <http://link.galegroup.com.ezproxy.liberty.edu/apps/doc/A526653979/ITOF?u=vic_liberty> &sid=ITOF&xid=b4009543

In this article, Adam Raymond explores the notion of New York law-makers suing to make Tide Pods less delicious-looking. The author summarizes multiple pieces of legislation that are tempting to introduce regulations on Tide-Pods production. State Senator Brad Holyman and Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, and Democrats from Manhattan and Queens have all called on Procter and Gamble to make Tide Pods less appetizing.

Lawmakers suggest that Tide Pods are “squishy, smell sweet and look like gummy bears” which leads children to eat them. The author explains that lawmakers feel as though a neutral color and individual wrappers would benefit children and people with dementia who accidentally eat the pods.

Selyukh, A. (2018). Teenagers are still eating tide pods, but don’t expect a product redesign. *NPR.* Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2018/01/30/581925549/teenagers-are-still-> eating-tide-pods-but-dont-expect-a-product-redesign

Alina Selyukh explores the “Tide Pod Challenge”, whether or not Procter & Gamble (the producers) are ethically to blame for the poisonings, and what to expect next. The Tide Pod challenge originated on social media and calls for people to eat them because their design and smell mimics candy. Since January 2018, poison control centers across the United States have seen over 134 cases of intentional exposures to Tide Pods.

Selyukh continues to explain if Procter and Gamble have an ethical responsibility to the multiple poisonings from consumers digesting Tide Pods. Spokesman for Procter and Gamble, Damon Jones, says that it is quite a stretch to blame the design or smell for the dangerous trend.

Tebo, M. G. (1999). Who’s to blame for product misuse? Different views on liability make some manufacturers pay, let some walk away. *ABA Journal, 85*(12). Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/27841308

Margaret Tebo investigates multiple product misuse claims and whether the product buyer or company is to blame ethically for the misuse of the product. Tebo explains the case of fertilizer manufacturers, whose product was used to create two separate bombs, one at the World Trade Center and one at the Murrah Federal Building. In both cases, fertilizer was purchased for the ammonium nitrate which was then turned into explosives that caused damage to property and people. Is the company to be held ethically liable for the damages?

Tebo also explores a case in California against gun manufacturer Navegar Inc. In 1999, a man by the name of Gian Ferri used two of the guns manufactured by Navegar Inc to murder 14 people in a San Francisco law office.