

## 2020 HOLIDAY MEGA PACK

By James W. Hackleroad

For some odd reason the company that operates the canteen here has decided to offer a "special" order for the "2020 Holiday". Delivery between December 7 to December 11, 2020.

All items are "Kosher", with ten (10) different items being offered per package, for a price of "\$13". A "20% savings" off of the usual canteen prices.

The order forms were distributed to the dorms on October 21. They had to be returned by Friday morning (October 23) to the canteen.

(Apparently no one considered the weather (rain - no yard, no canteen access), operational delays (eat lunch at 2 PM, and/or supper at 6:30-7:30 PM - no yard, no canteen access), and/or COVID-19 restrictions (only one (1) section of a dorm permitted in the yard at one time).)

So - what was being offered?

	Quantity	Our Canteen Price
KEEFE French Vanilla Cappuccino 0.81oz	4	
International Delight Coffee Creamer		
Caramel Macchiato .44oz	10	<sup>9</sup> 0.04/ <sup>9</sup> 0.40
KEEFE Kitchen Sweet Potatoes 3oz	1	
MOON LOOGE Hot Hot Hot Onion Ring 6oz	1	
BND'S BEST Iced Holiday Shortbread		
Cookies 9oz	1	
BND'S BEST Iced Peppermint Shortbread		
Cookies 9oz.	1	
Coffee, KEEFE Single Serve	5	<sup>8</sup> 0.14/ <sup>8</sup> 0.70
Chips, THE WHOLE SHEBANG 1.5oz	1	<sup>8</sup> 0.99
Coffee Cake, MARKET SQUARE, Creme		
Cheese 4oz	1	<sup>8</sup> 1.62
Monsieur Iced Honey Bun, MARKET SQUARE		
BAKERY 6oz	1	<sup>8</sup> 1.78
TOTAL VALUE		<sup>\$</sup> 13.00
HANDLING FEE		<sup>\$</sup> 1.00

TOTAL COST \$ 14.00

Companies love "Handling Fees"! In this case the company is recouping a big part of that "20%" discount with that "1" "Fee". As well as earning a nice chunk of change from "The Float". ("The float" is that period of time from the date when the company gets your money - in this case, October 26-30 - and the date that it sends your order - in this case, December 7-11. The money sits in the bank earning interest for the company.)

The fact is - the company has such a super high markup on all of the products that it offers that it will not see much - if any - of a percentage cut in its profit margin.

Who will buy this stuff? The sweet potatoes and onion rings are the only items not available in our canteen.

But when you have not had any onion rings for over 50 years - it may be worth it just for the single treat.

## UPDATE

~~Apparently the "delivered"~~ I received the package on 12/14/2020.

The "sweet potatoes" are powdered - and the package contains white potatoes in the mix. Throw some sugar in it and use a tortilla - make a "pie".

The "onion ring" are "Onion FLAVORED Rings". In effect, ring shaped cheese puffs - without the cheese. So but you can not taste any "onion" flavor.

The other items are as expected. Some of it is a different size/brand, but all purchasable from our canteen.

I feel cheated. The order form says "onion ring". Ordered the package on the belief that it would contain "onion rings".

Maybe I can sue the company for false advertising practices.

(The author is a former Death Row prisoner who has been serving time in Florida since 1971.)