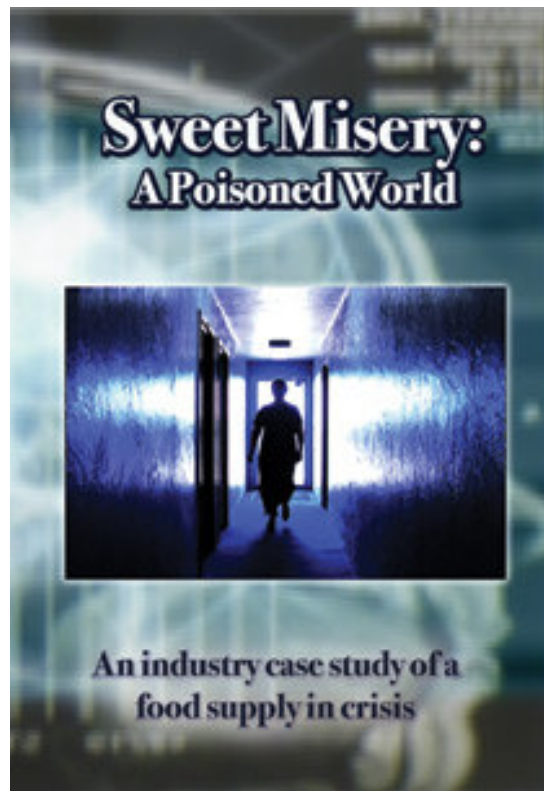


# Sweet Misery: A Poisoned World



Produced and Directed by  
**JT Waldron and Cori Brackett**

USA, 2004  
In English  
Running time: 95 minutes

**DVD Street Date: December 24, 2005**

**Distribution:**



## ***SYNOPSIS***

“Sweet Misery: A Poisoned World” is a close examination into what many consider to be a "hoax": aspartame toxicity. This documentary attempts to look at what is 'definitively' known about aspartame and discovers that the label "hoax" in this case is a dangerous misconception.

In a journey through interviews with various doctors, lawyers, activists and victims, narrator Cori Brackett discovers symptoms to a much larger problem: The institutions designed to protect the public from harmful substances have failed them.

A close examination of the process by which aspartame was approved by the FDA reveals one of the most pervasive, insidious forms of corporate negligence in the history of the industrial revolution and shows how powerful corporations are influencing once-trusted institutions.

## ***ABOUT THE FILM***

In November of 2001, Cori Brackett, co-owner of Sound and Fury Productions, was in the process of doing research on Eugenics when she began to experience a tingling sensation in her hands and feet. At the time, she was unaware of any controversy surrounding artificial sweeteners and had been a heavy consumer of diet soda. Then she read an article about aspartame being connected to many health problems and quit drinking diet soda - which contains aspartame.

However, the tingling stubbornly continued, eventually convincing her to seek medical advice. Her doctor ordered an MRI of her brain which resulted in the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. At first, she was horrified as her condition quickly progressed to the point that she had double vision, slurred speech, and weak limbs forcing her to use a wheelchair. Through dietary changes and a host of therapies, her condition improved and continues to do so to this day.

This rather extreme experience caused her to seek answers. The result of this quest is the documentary, "Sweet Misery".

As Brackett says, "I never asked for any of this, but since it happened, I feel compelled to share with others. I only want to help people in any way that I can. I ask for full disclosure from companies, so that everyone has a true understanding of what they purchase and consume."

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

*Cori Brackett* was diagnosed in 2002 with multiple sclerosis. That diagnosis, combined with her longtime consumption of aspartame-containing products, led her and her husband, JT Waldron, on a journey across the country in search of answers. In doing so, they spoke with various doctors, lawyers, activists and others who have had problems with the artificial sweetener. This led to the production of *Sweet Misery: A Poisoned World*. Cori is also the author of "Through the Shadows", an exploration in poetry and prose designed to remove what alienates the sick from the healthy. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona and is currently studying for her Ph.D. in Natural Health from Clayton College. She's a co-owner of Sound and Fury Productions in Tucson, AZ.

*JT Waldron* brings over fifteen years of film and video experience to Sound and Fury Productions, which he owns with his wife, Cori Brackett. For *Sweet Misery*, he served as the co-director, camera operator and editor.

## **WHO'S IN THE FILM**

*Dr. Blaylock* is a nationally recognized, board-certified neurosurgeon, health practitioner, author and lecturer. His credentials include 26 years of experience in neurosurgery, editorship of the respected *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* and *Journal of the American Nutraceutical Association*, and many years as Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the Medical University of Mississippi. Currently, he's the editor of *The Blaylock Wellness Report*.

*Ralph G. Walton, M.D.*, Acting Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM), is a Professor of Clinical Psychiatry for NEOUCOM and Psychiatry Clerkship Director for Forum Health. He is Chairman of The Center for Behavioral Medicine, Forum Health. Under his leadership, programs include ECHO (Enhancing and Creating Healthy Opportunities), adult and youth services, Discovery House, adolescent recovery services and CHAMPS (Challenge and Mutual Problem-Solving).

*Dr. James Bowen* was a medic in Vietnam and had a general practice in Phoenix until the early 90's. He appeared in CBS's 1984 news coverage of aspartame with Dan Rather.

*H.J. Roberts, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.C.C.P.*, is a Board-certified internist in West Palm Beach, and an internationally respected medical consultant and researcher. He is on the Staff of Good Samaritan Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, Director of the Palm Beach Institute for Medical Research (since 1964), and a member of prestigious medical and scientific organizations--including The Endocrine Society and the American Academy of Neurology. His publications include ten acclaimed texts and more than 220 original articles and letters; many deal with researches in challenging neurological disorders.

*Dr. Roberts* is listed in "Who's Who in America", "in Medicine and Health Care", "in the World", in Science and Technology, and "The Best Doctors in the U.S." The editors of a national medical publication selected Dr. Roberts as "The Best Doctor in the U.S." He has been knighted by the Order of St. George for his professional and humanitarian efforts.

*James S. Turner* represents businesses as well as individuals and consumer groups in a wide variety of regulatory matters concerning food, drug, health, environmental and product-safety matters. He has appeared before every major consumer regulatory agency, including the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture and the National Institutes of Health. Mr. Turner has served as special counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Food, Nutrition, and Health and to the Senate Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Research. He has also been a policy consultant to major corporations in the food, pharmaceutical and telecommunications industries. Recently Mr. Turner was the lead attorney on a successful petition to the FDA to reclassify acupuncture needles from Class III to Class II medical devices, permitting their legal importation and distribution.

*Ed Johnson* has a background as a U.S. Department of Justice Attorney, and served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney under William S. Sessions, who later became the Director of the FBI. He has been listed in "Who's Who in The World", "In America", "In American Law", "In The South & Southwest", "In Industry & Finance", and "Among Top Executives". For the last 10 years he has served as founder, President and CEO of one of the larger law firms in the eighth largest city in America. He served for three years on the Federal Licensing Committee for the Western District of Texas.

*Arthur Evangelista* is a Vietnam-era Veteran who is a former FDA investigator. He left the FDA in the late 1980s because of its practices.

**96 SYMPTOMS OF ASPARTAME REPORTED TO THE FDA**

April 20, 1995

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
 SYMPTOMS attributed to ASPARTAME in complaints submitted to the FDA

REPORTED SYMPTOMS	NO. OF COMPLAINTS	% OF REPORTS	% OF COMPLAINTS
HEADACHE	1847	21.1%	19.0%
DIZZINESS / POOR EQUILIBRIUM	735	11.2%	7.5%
CHANGE OF MOOD	656	10.0%	6.7%
VOMITING OR NAUSEA	647	9.8%	6.6%
ABDOMINAL PAIN AND CRAMPS	483	6.9%	4.7%
CHANGE IN VISION	362	5.5%	3.7%
DIARRHEA	330	5.0%	3.4%
SEIZURES AND CONVULSIONS	290	4.4%	3.0%
MEMORY LOSS	255	3.9%	2.6%
FATIGUE, WEAKNESS	242	3.7%	2.5%
OTHER NEUROLOGICAL	230	3.5%	2.4%
RASH	226	3.4%	2.3%
SLEEP PROBLEMS	201	3.1%	2.1%
HIVES	191	2.9%	2.0%
CHANGE IN HEART RATE	185	2.8%	1.9%
ITCHING	175	2.7%	1.8%
GRAN MAL	174	2.6%	1.8%
NUMBNESS, TINGLING	172	2.6%	1.8%
LOCAL SWELLING	114	1.7%	1.2%
CHANGE IN ACTIVITY LEVEL	113	1.7%	1.2%
DIFFICULTY BREATHING	112	1.7%	1.2%
ORAL SENSORY CHANGES	108	1.6%	1.1%
CHANGE IN MENSTRUAL PATTERN	107	1.6%	1.1%
SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY LESS THAN 100 COMPLAINTS	1812	—	18.6%

**DISTRIBUTION of REACTIONS to ASPARTAME by product name.**

REPORTED SYMPTOMS	NO. OF COMPLAINTS	% OF REPORTS	% OF COMPLAINTS
DIET SOFT DRINKS	3021	45.9%	38.3%
TABLE TOP SWEETENER	1716	26.1%	21.7%
PUDDINGS - GELATINS	633	9.6%	8.0%
LEMONADE	410	6.2%	5/2%
OTHER	346	5.3%	4.4%
KOOL AID	339	5.1%	4.3%
ICED TEA	319	4.8%	4.0%
CHEWING GUM	319	4.8%	4.0%
HOT CHOCOLATE	318	4.8%	4.0%
FROZEN CONFECTIONS	136	2.1%	1.7%
CEREAL	119	1.8%	1.5%
SUGAR SUBSTITUTE TABLETS	71	1.1%	0.9%
BREATH MINTS	62	0.9%	0.8%
PUNCH MIX	45	0.7%	0.6%
FRUIT DRINKS	24	0.4%	0.3%
NON-DAIRY TOPPINGS	8	0.1%	0.1%
CHEWABLE MULTI-VITAMINS	8	0.1%	0.1%
FRUIT, DRIED	1	0.01%	0.01%

## CREDITS

Interviewer: Cori Brackett

Camera: J.T. Waldron

Edited By: J.T. Waldron

Interviews:

Dr. Russell L Blaylock

Dr. Jim Bowen

Joan H. Edge

Diane Fleming

Ed Johnson

Betty Martini

Robert C. Mehl

Lorena Murray

Betty Rickmond

Dr. H.J. Roberts

James S. Turner

Dr. Ralph S. Walton

Original Music: Ryan Smith

Opening Song: Music 2 Hues

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William Lunsford

David Coppit

Joey Siedel

J.T. Waldron

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Sound and Fury Productions

Special Thanks To:

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