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Argus Weekend (South Africa)

May 04, 2008

e1 Edition

Aspartame a killer and should be banned

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 24

LENGTH: 403 words

The article by Di Caelers on **aspartame** headlined "Indulge your sweet tooth without calories" (Weekend Argus Classifieds, April 26) refers.

I have studied excitotoxins for over a year, and hundreds of reports both pro- and anti-**aspartame**. The evidence and testimonies from thousands of sufferers of **aspartame** poisoning and the unbiased reports from men and women with no financial interest is overwhelming: **aspartame** is a toxic substance which must be banned.

Aspartame is an excitotoxin made up of 50% phenylalanine, 40% aspartic acid and 10% methanol.

Phenylalanine damages nerve cells and reduces serotonin levels in the brain; this results in emotional and behavioural problems. It can lead to the formation of DKP which instigates tumour growth, especially that of glioblastoma, which is the most common and aggressive type of primary brain tumour.

Aspartic acid is a well-known excitotoxin.

Methanol belongs to the same class of poisons as cyanide and arsenic. It converts to formaldehyde and then formic acid in temperatures of 30 degrees or over (a temperature easily reached in the boot of a car or in the sun). Methanol and formaldehyde are carcinogenic (cancer-causing) and mutagenic, meaning they can change genetic information.

Mix the three together, and you have a highly toxic cocktail.

Mandy Marcus says there are over 200 objective studies proving **aspartame's** safety. I challenge her. The studies she quotes are bogus, funded and paid for by the food corporations with a financial interest in keeping the lie of **aspartame's** safety alive.

They stand to lose billions of dollars should **aspartame** be withdrawn, as it was before 1981 when **Donald Rumsfeld** was made CEO of GD Searle, which held the patent at that time. Rumsfeld had **aspartame** approved through devious means within the year after he came to office. He had a financial interest and was also paid \$12 million when Monsanto bought the patent from Searle for \$2.7 billion in 1985.

I challenge Marcus to read the hundreds of testimonies of **aspartame** victims, many of whom lost their sight (damage to the retina was one of the early scientific studies by ophthalmologists Drs Lucas and Newhouse). They had no financial interest in proving the danger of **aspartame**, nor did Dr John Olney, a respected neuroscientist and neuropathologist.

Aspartame poisoning is a fact that is not going to go away until it is withdrawn from our food chain.

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LOAD-DATE: May 4, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

JOURNAL-CODE: CZ

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