

tside U.S.

, we want it," said Wisconsin Central Chairman and Executive Ed Burkhardt, and in a country veteran who plan.

for its ultimate success, Wisconsin Central already has been the biggest U.S. owner of broads and reshaped its last year, its international accounted for half its net \$77.4 million — which fell from \$15.4 million in and 75 percent of its \$333.5 revenue.

ly because the Asian slump hurt business at Wisconsin Central's Tranz Rail, in Wisconsin Central has a 24 percent stake, net income fell 1.3 percent in the first nine months

analysts recommend Wisconsin Central stock, saying

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# Additional cancer victims file lawsuits against Amoco

BY DAN CULLOTON  
Daily Herald Business Writer

More victims of other forms of cancer have emerged to sue Amoco Corp., which already faces legal action from several current and former employees of its Naperville research center who have developed brain tumors.

The latest wave of five lawsuits, filed on New Year's Eve, includes a Florida woman and former research center employee who claims to have the same form of malignant brain cancer Amoco has found among seven male chemists who worked on the third floor of building 503 on the campus.

A team of health specialists from the University of Alabama at Birm-

ingham and Johns Hopkins University who are completing a more-than-two-year study of 20 benign and malignant head tumors at the research center have said the seven cases of malignant cancers known as glioma are probably work related.

But Amoco and its hired investigators, who have looked at the health histories of virtually everyone who ever worked at the research center, also have said they have found only seven confirmed gliomas among male former researchers.

Attorney G. Grant Dixon, who is representing Jan Weber of Florida, said the woman's doctors have

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## a operator with parks

the most discriminating of riders.

Premier Parks grew out of Oklahoma's Frontier City amusement park, which had been slated for demolition in the early 1980s.

When it could be torn down, it was saved by two twists of fate. First, a lawsuit that devastated Oklahoma-made developers lose interest in turning the park into a shopping center, and Gary Story signed

Story, who today is Premier's president and chief operating officer, had begun his theme park career sweeping park streets as a janitor at Six Flags over Mid-America outside St. Louis. He has been there for 10 years, finishing his career as manager of attrac-

Story had a different company when he bought a theme park in Mexico and worked in the retail division. He then moved on to manage a theme park in Australia.

Story joined Frontier City 15 years ago.

Story has never seen anything so beat



**Gary Story, president and chief executive officer of Premier Parks, stands in front of an amusement park ride in Oklahoma City.**

Associated Press Photo

pany began acquiring other parks, and in 1994 changed its name to Premier Parks to better reflect their growing national presence. A public stock offering a year later was used to finance further

acquisition the use of Warner Bros.' Looney Tunes and D.C. Comics animated characters at all its parks in the United States and Canada.

By July, Premier Parks' stock was trading at close to \$24

# AMOCO: More research center cancer victims file suits

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found a "brain stem abnormality" they have diagnosed as a glioma.

Dixon admitted, however, there may be some dispute over whether Weber actually has a glioma.

An Amoco spokesman said the company would not comment on pending litigation, but said the company knew of no female glioma victims among its employees.

Last year, though, members of

Amoco's brain tumor task force said they had looked into an eighth reported case of glioma, but had been unable to confirm the diagnosis.

Dixon, an attorney with the firm Corboy & Demetrio, filed all five of the new lawsuits on Dec. 31 just hours before British Petroleum completed its acquisition of Amoco.

All of the lawsuits claim Amoco knowingly exposed its employees to carcinogenic chemicals in a

building with faulty ventilation.

"Something was going on in building 503 that we allege Amoco knew about and didn't do anything about for at least 15 years," said Dixon, who last year filed a lawsuit against Amoco on behalf of a former research center employee with thyroid cancer.

Besides Weber, Dixon said he will seek "significant" damages for the following former employees:

■ Oak Park resident and former clerk Holly Charles, 44, who sur-

vived a bout with a benign tumor of the auditory nerve called a schwannoma.

■ The Naperville family of former chemist Vincente Ereneta and his wife, Paula, both non-smokers who died of lung cancer.

■ Hammond, Ind., resident Clare Vater, who died last July of skin cancer.

Amoco now faces nine lawsuits stemming from the rash of tumors at its Naperville campus. Dixon has filed six of them.

# PARKS: Great America operator a Premier owner

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flow would fall short of initial projections.

Story and Jim Dannhauser, chief financial officer, blamed Six Flags' decision to abandoned its traditional family-oriented approach in favor of a sort of MTV-on-steroids slant.

A Six Flags commercial for the new ride "Riddler's Revenge" featured a long-haired young man in a sweaty gray T-shirt running through the park to reach a trash can just in time to throw up.

"We know that (for) seven out of 10 visitors in our parks, mom will be the one to decide they could come that day. Mom is the gatekeeper," Story said. "Mom isn't interested in watching a commercial with a teenager puking in a trash can."

Six Flags had pared its discounts and saw season passes —

drop nearly 50 percent from prior years. Overall attendance was down as was in-park spending.

"It was a convoluted approach borne from inexperience," Story said.

Almost immediately after taking over, Premier Parks returned to a more family-focused marketing at the Six Flags properties, reinstated more favorable discount rates and started cutting overhead.

Story said that by July, Premier Parks had improved season pass sales to just 3 percent below prior years' levels.

"We feel more confident than ever that the Six Flags acquisition was a good acquisition for our company," Story said.

Despite the drag on the bottom line for 1998, the company insists that it has rounded the corner and will meet analysts' expectations of 20 percent to 30 percent

during the third quarter to \$100.7 million, or \$1.23 per share, up from \$27.2 million, or 72 cents a share, during the same quarter in 1997. Some analysts had anticipated earnings of only 99 cents a share.

Third-quarter revenue was \$446.3 million, up from \$120 million last year.

Wall Street has taken notice.

"There isn't a business problem here. The majority of the people in there now are perfectly comfortable with the business," Petrella said, although he said some investors likely did pause at the initial shortfall announcement and wonder if the company had grown too fast.

But Petrella said he and many other analysts following entertainment industry stocks continue to believe Premier Parks is well positioned for future growth.

"I actually feel better today

# Apple's iMac drops price as

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Computer Inc. intensified its challenge to conventional computer design Tuesday by unveiling four bright new colors for its popular iMac desktop machine.

The iMac is now available in red, orange, purple and green as well as its original color, teal.

Steve Jobs, Apple's interim chief executive, announced the new colors at the annual MacWorld show. He also revealed that the price of the \$1,300 computer will fall by \$100 and that its processing power and storage capacity will be increased.

The variety of colors will make