

The fight is out of the Don King handbook. A 19-year veteran with a rebuilt physique takes on an amateur phenom who looks to break into the professional ranks.

In one corner, from Rosemont, a 19,000-seat venue with 48 skyboxes and \$20 million in renovations, including larger concourses, wider seats, more bathrooms and an updated facade.

In the other corner, from Prospect Heights, an \$84 million proposed entertainment center with 12,000 seats, 42 suites and what developers say will be state-of-the-art acoustics.

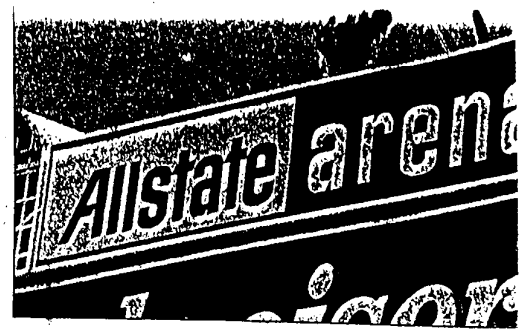
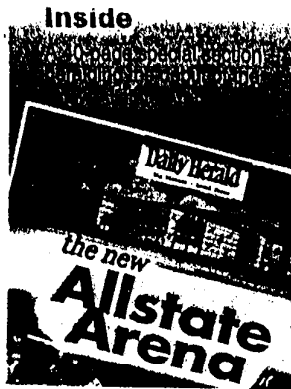
When it comes to the upcoming

arena and planned Prospect Heights Entertainment Center, many in the sports- and event-marketing world plan to watch it closely.

The Chicago area already is home to several venues, from the upscale United Center to the massive Soldier Field to the mid-sized UIC Pavilion. But the Prospect Heights site and Allstate Arena, formerly the Rosemont Horizon, are just 10 miles apart — prompting questions about whether both will be successful.

"Obviously, some existing events that play at what is now the Allstate Arena will look at Prospect

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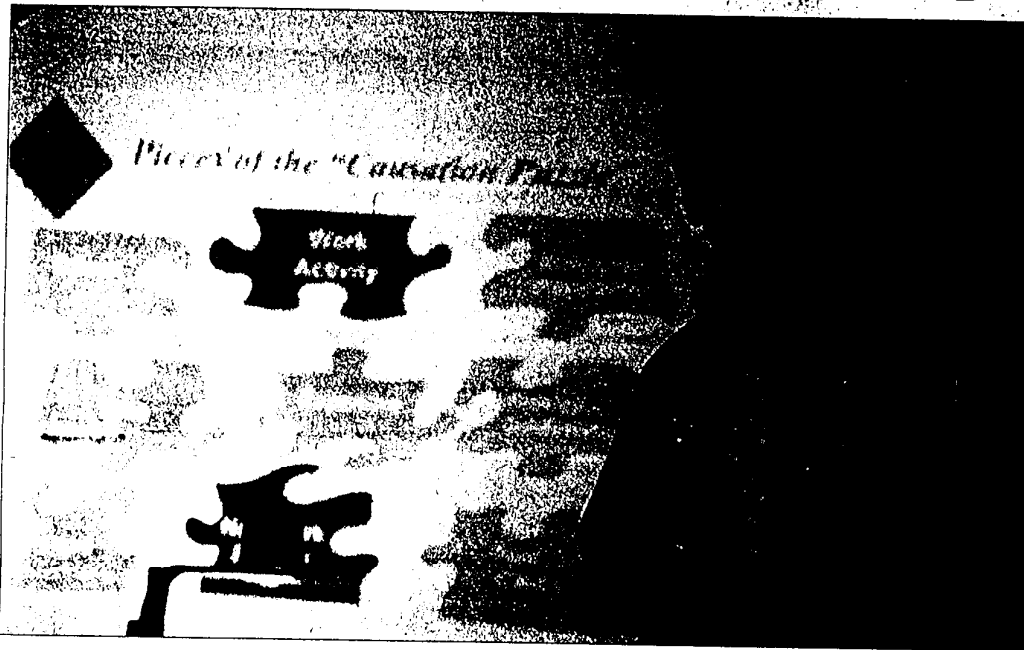


Say goodbye to the Horizon. Tom Staunton of White V installs the new Allstate Arena sign in Rosemont Thursday. The arena reopens tonight.

Daily Herald Photo/Giber

## THE AMOCO CANCER CLUSTER

# A stubborn mystery



Michael Wells, BP Amoco's epidemiology manager, explains the results of the company's three-year study of brain tumors at the Naperville Research Center.

Daily Herald Photo/Jeff Knox

## BP Amoco can't find cause of brain tumors

BY DAN CULLOTON  
Daily Herald Business Writer

Three years ago, BP Amoco launched an investigation into a cluster of brain tumors and cancers at its Naperville Research Center and vowed to get to the bottom of the illnesses.

The company closed that inquiry Thursday, but admitted the mystery still seems bottomless.

The oil and chemical giant is pretty sure something at the research center caused the most serious six cases of the 19 brain tumors that have afflicted current and former employees since 1982.

However, the largest, longest and most extensive examination of the mystery the company is likely to do failed to come up with what everyone most wanted: a cause.

Frustration was the word leaders of

BP Amoco's Brain Tumor Task Force, which has been studying the issue on and off for a decade, used over and over again as they released the preliminary results of the five-part study of the 170-acre campus conducted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Johns Hopkins University.

"It's frustrating to spend three years studying something and not have a definitive answer to give," said Jim Lowry, the chairman of the task force and an Amoco manager who worked with many of the tumor victims in the now infamous Building 500 complex.

Frustration also was what some of the victims' family members and lawyers expressed. "It just seems pretty strange that so many people working in the same area got tumors," said

See MYSTERY on Page 7

Full text of report summary on our Web site

<http://www.dailyherald.com>

### INSIDE

#### Study aids research

■ As brain cancer cases are growing, but causes are obscure

— Business

# Four die when plane crashes in power line

BY TIMOTHY S. ROONEY  
AND LEE FITAS  
Daily Herald Staff Writers

A small plane flew into high-tension wires incorporated Lake County and crashed near a report Thursday, killing all four people aboard.

The identities of the three men and one woman in the crash were not released, but reports the pilot was from McHenry.

The Lake County Sheriff's Police Department and Round Lake Fire Department emergency officials responded to numerous neighbors and passers-by who witnessed or crash shortly before 10 p.m.

The plane hit the power lines about 100 feet ground and plummeted into a field, a quarter mile from the nearest building. The single-engine plane was preparing to land at the airport when it crashed into the power lines, said Lake County Coroner Barbara Richardson.

Richardson also said authorities believe the plane crashed off from Campbell Airport earlier in the day and 6:30 p.m. Authorities didn't know where had traveled.

There were no signs of fire around the plane. Only damage appeared to come from the crash. Grayslake Fire Department Deputy Chief Greg Ca.

The crash occurred about a quarter-mile west of Peterson and east of Bacon road west of Round Lake Park, near Campbell Airport.

ComEd also sent teams to the accident site to assess the damage to the high-tension lines and begin repairs. Formica said Thursday's plane crash was the most significant plane wreck in several years. National Transportation Safety Board statistics show 621 people died in general aviation crashes last year.

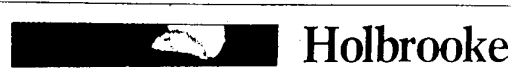
The Lake County Sheriff's Police Department, Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board investigators and representatives from the county continued looking early today into cause of the crash.

In an unrelated incident Thursday, four men in Lake Geneva, Wis. — were injured when a plane crashed during an aborted take-off. Ed A. Pekol, 47, and three other men, who were not identified, were injured in the crash. Pekol was treated for facial cuts and released from Lakeland Medical Center. The other three were treated at Froedter Memorial Lutheran in Milwaukee, a spokesperson there said.

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The Associated Press and staff writers Daw and Rob Olmstead contributed to this report.

# Family sues to remove part of land



Holbrooke

# MYSTERY: Benign tumor not work-related, study sa

Continued from Page 1

Janet Brady, whose husband, David, is one of five research center employees who have died of glioma.

Grant Dixon, an attorney with the Chicago firm Corboy & Demetrio, accused BP Amoco of refusing to name a specific cause to limit its liability.

"How much information does Amoco need to conclude that these people developed cancer because they worked at Amoco," said Dixon, who represents at least six former research center employees with various forms of cancer.

Lowry and other company officials adamantly maintained they have been just as eager to finger a culprit as anybody and said the investigation into the confounding cancer cluster is likely to continue, though not on the scale of the last three years.

"We are not satisfied," said Mike Wells, manager of BP Amoco's epidemiology department. "We are very frustrated because we, more than anything, wanted to give people some answers today."

On Thursday, investigators from UAB and Johns Hopkins confirmed what earlier phases of their inquisition had suggested — that six veteran male chemists who all worked in the 503 wing of the Building 500 complex probably developed glioma, a fatal form of brain cancer, because of something they did on the job, while the 13 benign tumors and one other skin cancer case the company once mistook for a glioma, were not work related.

The experts reached these conclusions even though they discovered all the employees with glioma often worked with two types of agents — low level ionizing radiation and a solvent called n-hexane. While hazardous, investigators said there was little chance these substances or any other one substance or procedure at the center caused the gliomas, Wells said.

Petro-chemical companies like BP Amoco used to use the chemical n-hexane often as a solvent to mix with other products. It is a known neurotoxin that can cause dizziness, headaches, muscle weakness and damage to the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord. "But there is no evidence that it causes cancer," Wells said.

Ionized radiation, though, does cause cancer, including brain cancer, but all of the tumor victims' lifetime exposure to that from high frequency light waves was less than what is normally allowed in a year, Wells said.

"It did not appear to be the thing behind it," he said. As for the 13 non-malignant tumors that have inflicted BP Amoco's ranks, the report concluded they were not related to work at the research center.

"There was no pattern associated with any of (the benign tumors)," Wells said. "There was no pattern in time. There was no pattern in space. There was just no common exposure."

The specter of brain tumors has haunted the research center since 1989 when two male chemists who worked in the same lab, 3327, on the third floor of the 503 wing of Building 500 got gliomas.

Initial investigations by the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Mayo Clinic and other experts came up empty, but cautioned vigilance. The emergence of more tumors among employees who had worked in the 503 wing led BP Amoco to shutter the third floor and launch its extensive investigation with UAB and Johns Hopkins.

Initial phases of the study, which included scouring the

## Trouble at Amoco

**1988**

■ Two employees develop glioma. A third who used the in Building 503 had one in 1986.

■ The University of Illinois at Chicago, Mayo Clinic and Institute of NeuroSurgery & Neuroresearch investigate.

■ Fourth worker not connected to building develops me tumor of the lining of the brain and spinal cord.

**1990**

■ UIC calls Building 503 clean but tells Amoco to monit

**1992**

■ Amoco learns of another employee with meningioma.

**1993**

■ Employee develops schwannoma, a benign auditory i

■ Mayo Clinic finds no link between the illnesses and w

■ Record search turns up another case of schwannoma

**1994**

■ One employee diagnosed with glioma in 1989 dies. A develops tumor of the pituitary gland.

**1996**

■ A retiree connected to Building 503 develops glioma.

■ Third floor of Building 503 closed.

■ University of Alabama at Birmingham and Johns Hopl sity start a study.

■ Four more schwannomas reported.

**1997**

■ Retiree diagnosed with glioma in July, another in Dec

■ Second glioma victim dies.

**1998**

■ Two glioma victims die in February.

■ Seventh possible case of glioma discovered.

■ Two meningioma cases reported.

■ UAB and Johns Hopkins report rate of glioma on third Building 503 is seven times that of the general populatio

■ Employee with tumor of the pituitary gland reported.

■ UAB and Johns Hopkins report brain cancer victims w 34 common projects and discover another benign tumor

**1999**

■ Fifth glioma victim dies in March.

work and health histories of nearly 7,000 people passed through the campus in the last 29 years, alarming occurrence of brain tumors among w veteran chemists who had worked in the 503 w

Eventually, investigators learned that all but glioma victims were white males over 40 with a of 17 years of experience who worked in the 5 the mid 1970s and early 1980s. Five of them wor third floor and three of them in the same lab.

The last phase of the investigation, and th Amoco reported on Thursday, compared wor and exposures of the 12 tumor victims who wor Building 500 complex with about 120 people of gender and age who also worked there but did n

After reviewing records of 2.5 million work 6,700 chemicals, investigators concluded the gl most likely work related, but the benign tumors



Research Center was closed three years

Daily Herald Photo/Marcelle Bright

## The families suffer effects

ed brain tumor cases.

There are 10 lawsuits pending against the London-based company representing 21 people. Many of those suits postulate flaws in Building 500's ventilation system and the presence of several risky chemicals caused the tumors.

BP Amoco's Brain Tumor Task Force maintains it has not concerned itself with litigation, only helping the victims and their families.

"We've been meeting with them and listening to their concerns and will continue to meet with them and listen to their concerns," said company spokeswoman Vicki Kastory.

"They've treated me OK," said Janet Brady, whose husband worked at the research center for 23 years and who worked there herself as a technician for nearly 10 years. But she knows who she blames.

"I don't have my husband anymore," Brady said. "So, yes, I guess I blame Amoco to a point."

**REACTION**  
and a **FREE SEMINAR**

# Move over Agent Scully