

Business

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1998

↑ +13.91 Dow Jones
 8533.14
 Gainers 1,852
 Same 462
 Losers 1,228

↑ +8.56 S&P 500
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↑ +6.46 Russell 2000
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↑ +27.89 Nasdaq
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↑ +8.32 Amex
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↑ +0.06 30-yr. T-bond
 5.13%



Ex-Chrysler exec has "Guts"
 Bob Lutz's book chronicles his stint as No. 2 in command at the firm.
Jim Mateja, Page 4

On the Internet

Get an update on today's Chicago business news at 4:30 p.m. at chicagotribune.com/go/business

Clues converge on Amoco cancer

By Sallie L. Gains
 TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Amoco Corp. said Thursday it is close to concluding that seven cases of deadly brain tumors at its Naperville research center almost certainly were caused by something at work—probably chemicals used on the third floor of Building 503.

That grim conclusion isn't all bad news, Amoco said. Just knowing that the workplace must be the culprit gives medi-

Oil giant close to finding relationship to work

cal researchers a shot at something never before accomplished: Identifying a cause of the brain cancers.

Researchers from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, brought in by Amoco more than a year ago, updated employees at the west suburban facility Thursday. While researchers, led by Dr. Elizabeth Deltzell, are

careful to say nothing is proven, more patterns are becoming clear, said Jim D. Lowry, chairman of the in-house Amoco task force on the cancer issue.

The most important pattern is that a non-work-related cause is becoming more and more unlikely.

"The evidence is very strong now for the possibility of a work

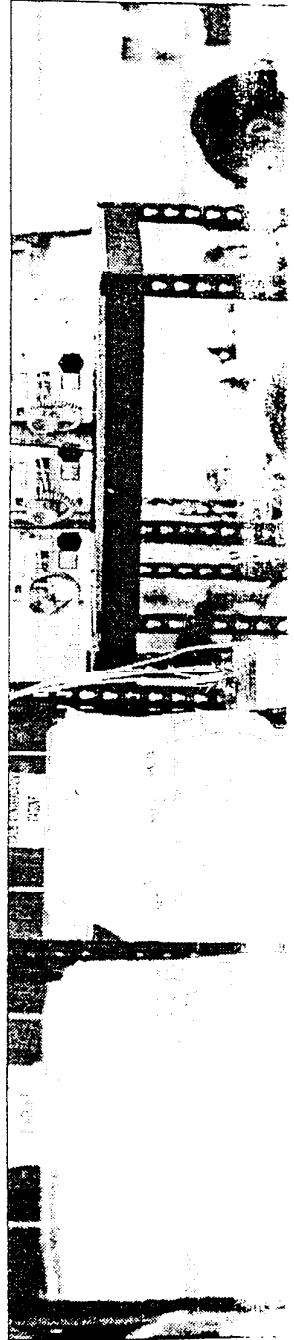
the first two patients was diagnosed with the same form of tumor, a glioma.

Amoco reopened the study, and last summer brought in research teams from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the University of Alabama at Birmingham to look at all cancers and head tumors among current and former employees.

So far, 20 cases of head tumors have been identified. Thirteen of

SEE CANCER, PAGE 2

Microsoft proposal fabricated: Attorney





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next year along with Air New
Zealand and Ansett Australia.

In addition to United, the
alliance is composed of Air
Canada, Lufthansa German
Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines
System, Thai Airways Interna-
tional, and VARIG Brazilian
Airlines.

...management firm on Jan. 1.
The post will be taken by Jer-
ome Claeys, while Perlmutter
will serve as non-executive
chairman.

The company will also be
reorganized as a partnership
with **United Asset Manage-
ment**, a Boston-based invest-
ment firm of which Heitman
has been an affiliate.

Cancer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those cases involve benign tumors,
and all the patients are living.
Researchers have not yet found a
pattern to these cases, Wells said.
"Not a single person ever shared a
project in common that we know
of," he said.

It's the seven gliomas that are sta-
tistically significant. All the patients
worked in one place—Building 503,
mostly on the third floor—and all
are white men. Four have died.

The latest study indicates that
seven cases of gliomas in Building
503 is 12 times the number that
might be considered normal;
among only white men in Building
503, the rate is 15 times expecta-
tions, Wells said.

In this latest phase, the study
looked for other patterns of illness
at the center. While the center's
population overall is "fairly
healthy," researchers found more
cases of thyroid and colorectal can-
cers than expected, Lowry said.

No patterns emerged for these
diseases—patients worked in differ-
ent buildings, at different jobs and
have no common characteristics
such as age or race—but medical
researchers will study these cases
more, Lowry said.

So far, 11 people have sued
Amoco on charges of negligence.
The 11 include four current or for-
mer employees and their spouses,
as well as survivors of three for-
mer employees who have died.

And a former Amoco employee,
Samuel Ginsburg of Ooltewah,
Tenn., who has thyroid cancer, will

sue on Monday, said his attorney,
Grant Dixon of Corboy and Dem-
etrio in Chicago.

"Amoco knew or should have
known that there was a significant
or real problem at the Amoco
Research Center and they inten-
tionally chose to do nothing about
it," Dixon said.

The next step for medical re-
searchers is a case-control study
that will look in depth at the seven
gliomas. It is this phase that re-
searchers hope will lead to the
likely culprit, say Amoco represen-
tatives.

These results are expected to be
made public early in 1999. At best,
they will pinpoint a cause of the
cancers. At worst, they won't find
enough common ground to make
an educated guess.

Wells and Lowry, initially pess-
imistic about finding a cause, are
leaning toward the best-case sce-
nario.

"I think we have given ourselves
a very good chance here," Wells
said. "We might not ever be able to
name a specific chemical or a spec-
ific process. But there could be
some strong associations that come
out of this."

Even though the Alabama study
will come to an end in 1999, just
narrowing the field of suspects to a
family of chemicals or processes is
a huge step forward, he said.

Once the final study is public,
Wells said, he expects other chem-
ical companies to study whether
their employees' cancer history
duplicates the Amoco pattern. If
the pattern is broader than just
Amoco, that will add more clues to
solving the puzzle, he said.

Port James... America's largest tissue market...
stronger results in Europe and...
jumped 22 percent, largely from...
said third-quarter profits...
America's largest tissue market...
Fort James...
most recent deal...
Sara Lee reported first-quar-
ter net income increased 50 per-
cent to \$38 million, or 70 cents...
\$25 million, or 44...
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tion in market-driven revenue...
down from...
for the third quarter, down from...
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ter from \$68 million a year...
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executives who feel their...
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