

Chicago Tribune
4-3-78

Ex-employee asks Amoco to release cancer data

By Saffie L. Gaines
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

A former employee at Amoco's Naperville research center, where six current or former employees have been diagnosed with malignant brain tumors, filed a court petition Thursday asking that the company be required to turn over all documents relating to the illnesses.

Irwin Samuel Ginsburg of Ooltewah, Tenn., said that he worked at the Naperville facility from 1970 through 1972, and several years later developed thyroid cancer.

Starting in 1989, an unusually high number of employees at the Amoco center have been diagnosed with malignant brain tumors.

Last year, the company brought in medical researchers to study all cases of cancer in current and former employees.

To date, researchers have identified 15 cases of head tumors, seven of them believed to be a malignant form called glioma. Two of the glioma patients have died.

Ginsburg's petition, filed in Cook County Circuit Court, is the first legal action stemming from the cancers.

Amoco spokeswoman Vicki Kastory said the company believes Ginsburg learned of the cancers from a letter the company sent to former employees explaining the medical investigation. She said Ginsburg apparently wants to know whether any of his Amoco peers have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

The petition is not a lawsuit accusing Amoco of wrongdoing or seeking any damages, said Ginsburg's attorney, G. Grant Dixon III of Corboy & Demetris in Chicago. But if the court grants the request, information gathered could form the basis of a suit, Dixon added.

The cancer issue came to light in 1989, when brain tumors were diagnosed in two employees. An in-house study concluded the cases were a coincidence, and several medical institutions agreed. The issue was reopened in 1996 after a retiree was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

Last year, Amoco brought in research teams from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham to look at all cancers and head tumors among current and former employees.

Dixon acknowledged Amoco's efforts to find the cause of the tumors, but said employees have no way of knowing whether those efforts are adequate or whether all relevant information has been disclosed.

Kastory said Amoco attorneys are trying to clarify what information Ginsburg wants and determine whether it exists and how it could be shared.



The Wall Street Journal hopes its new section will lead readers to spend more time v

Weekend meets Wall St Journal launches color-splashed leisure s

By Tim Jones
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Following the crowd has never been part of the signature of the Wall Street Journal, especially when it comes to the design of the three-section business daily. It has doggedly remained true to and prospered from its visually gray eminence, right down to the stippled renderings, instead of photographs, of chief executives and other figures in the news.

The Wall Street Journal did not become the nation's largest circulation newspaper, with 1.8 million daily, by being visually trendy.

But Fridays at the Journal now offer a splash of color and a clear departure from the balance-sheet orientation of the 109-year old business bible. Weekend Journal, a color-decorated, separate section, focuses on what the Journal's readers can do for fun with their average \$193,000 in annual household income.

It is a section of diversions—the arts, travel, entertainment, sports, real estate—for some of the most well-heeled newspaper readers in America to digest after the stock market closes for the week.

"Weekend Journal is about your passions, not just your obligations," wrote section editor Joanne Lipman in the issue's March 20 launch.

In helping you manage your personal business," Lipman wrote.

In this regard, the Journal is advancing the glacial pace of its concessions to some aspects of popular newspaper design and content.

In 1986 it added a sports section, and then, last year, television listings. But in some ways, the daily is actually following the lead of other newspapers in trying to broaden its appeal to new readers on the left business day of the week.

For the Journal this means women, targeted in much the same way that the world's largest retailer, Sears Roebuck and Co., promotes its "softer side." This is the section the Journal hopes its overwhelmingly male readership will take home on Friday, instead of discarding at the office.

"It's an attempt to make their Friday product the kind of thing that sits around over the weekend," said newspaper analyst John Morton. "They would like to benefit from some of the business that a Sunday paper generates."

The Journal publishes Monday through Friday, and while it aims to extend the life of its Friday edition into Saturday or Sunday, the paper has no plans to publish a separate weekend edition, a spokesman said.

The launch of Journal Weekend coincided with a similar, but more colorful, section

Life Weekend or USA Today daily circulation from Monday through Friday. USA Today's is billed as a week and its circulation leaps to an average 2 million. Like the Today does no weekends.

A new section graphically trendy Today is not so for the Wall Street devote a section sports, books, the theater, a critique and other week that's news.

Boosting circulation what the Journal is about, said RI spokesman for Co., which owns

"What we're here is deeper o with our reader spend an average a day with the n anything we can that number high dinary importat said.

"We hope they'll with them on F which before now been," he said.

The second page is to draw in ers, notably from industry, To be se to broaden it ou