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**Company chief sentenced for selling fake cancer cure**

Richard Burgess  
 rburgess@theadvertiser.com  
 August 25, 2004

LAFAYETTE — The head of a Lake Charles company that sold alternative medicines over the Internet was sentenced Tuesday to 33 months in prison on federal charges of defrauding customers and skirting federal health laws.

Prosecutors said Gregory James Caton's Internet business, Alpha Omega Labs, made \$950,000 selling what were billed as natural remedies for cancer and other ailments.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Larry Regan said at least two women, one in Indiana and another in Texas, suffered injuries after using an Alpha Omega product called "Cansema," a salve that the company billed as a natural treatment for cancer.

"It was sulfuric acid, which they said had been neutralized," Regan said.

The criminal charges against Caton, 48, involved Cansema and H30, which the company touted as a food preservative and disinfectant.

Federal officials have said none of Alpha Omega's claims about the products had been substantiated through testing.

Alpha Omega began selling the alternative treatments online in 1999. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration ordered last year that the company halt distribution because the products had not been approved by federal health officials.

Regan said all of the chemicals used to make the products have since been destroyed.

"I never had any intent to harm anyone, and I did it in good conscience," Caton told U.S. District Judge Tucker Melancon before sentencing.

Caton's attorney, Lewis Unglesby, told the judge that Alpha Omega products had been used by patients for "years" with no reported injuries and that the product had been prescribed by some medical doctors.

The 33-month sentence was the most lenient Caton could have received in the case. He faced a maximum of 41 months in prison.

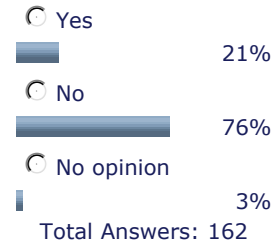
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Melancon also ordered that restitution for the Indiana woman will be determined by the outcome of a pending lawsuit against Caton. His company has already settled a lawsuit in the Texas case for an undisclosed amount, according to Regan.

Caton, who pleaded guilty to the federal charges earlier this year, is set to report to prison on Sept. 24. He referred comment to his attorney.

"We think the outcome was very fair," Unglesby said. "Greg is a big believer that a lot of his products do help people, but you have to follow the federal regulations that are in place."

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