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Wednesday, August 25, 2004
Internet medicine head gets 33 months
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Internet medicine company head gets 33 months

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) - The head of a Lake Charles company that sold alternative medicines over the Internet has been sentenced to 33 months in federal prison for defrauding customers and skirting federal health laws.

Prosecutors say Gregory James Caton's Internet business, Alpha Omega Labs, made 950-thousand dollars selling what were billed as natural remedies for cancer and other ailments.

Assistant US Attorney Larry Regan says at least two women, one in Indiana and another in Texas, suffered injuries after using a salve that the company billed as a natural treatment for cancer.

He says the salve was actually sulfuric acid, which Caton's company said had been neutralized. Federal officials have said none of Alpha Omega's claims about its products had been substantiated through testing.

Alpha Omega began selling the alternative treatments online in 1999. The US Food and Drug Administration ordered a halt to the distribution of the company's products last year. Caton, who pleaded guilty, is set to report to prison on September 24th.

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