

Cloud of acid droplets found hanging 100,000 feet over U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — An invisible cloud of sulfuric acid droplets has been detected 100,000 feet above the United States by scientists investigating the atmosphere, according to a National Science Foundation report.

The source of the acid cloud is believed to be the Mexican volcano El Chichon, which spewed large amounts of sulfur dioxide in the air when it erupted last April.

Drs. David Hofmann and James Rosen, scientists at the University of Wyoming, detected the acid in studies of the air above Wyoming. They said the cloud is of "continental proportions."

Hofmann and Rosen said the cloud, detected by instruments sent aloft in balloons, contains more than 500 acid droplets per cubic centimeter, com-

pared to a normal concentration of one or two droplets.

They predicted it will be a "semi-permanent feature of the 100,000-foot region for years to come." "The droplets are so small it will take gravity many years to bring them to Earth," they said.

While these acid droplets are too small to be seen, they could accumulate into larger particles which then would scatter light and reduce the amount of sunlight reaching Earth, possibly causing a drop in surface temperatures. The scientists said they could not estimate when this might take place.

El Chichon's effect on the atmosphere has been more than 40 times greater than that of the eruption of Mount St. Helens two years earlier.

University's plan worries other schools

CORVALLIS (AP) — A proposal by the University to start its own management institute has some other schools worried the state's largest university doesn't want to cooperate on management training.

But university officials say their proposal to create the Northwest Strategic Management Institute doesn't conflict with a recommendation by Higher Education Chancellor Bud Davis for a three-school management training program.

Davis' suggestion, included in his draft "Strategic Plan for Higher Education," is to form an advanced program operated jointly by the business schools at Portland State University, Oregon State University and the University. The program would be directed primarily at people already employed in business.

Davis told the state Board of Higher Education last week he was concerned that the University was

trying to establish the same type of program, but without the help of the other two schools. The board delayed consideration of the university's proposal until February.

Davis' worry was echoed by Earl Goddard, dean of the School of Business at Oregon State University.

"I don't think it's fair to say they (the University) were trying to end-run the chancellor's plan," Goddard said. "But people thought if they had been in the spirit of that plan they would have withdrawn their proposal."

But Shirley Menaker, associate dean of the University business school, said the institute they have in mind would be principally for research, not for teaching.

The institute has been in the planning stages for several months and the fact that it surfaced at the same time as the Davis proposal was "an unfortunate coincidence," she said.



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Ron jr. wants to have a baby

NEW YORK (AP) — Ron Reagan says he quit ballet because he wants to "make a home with my wife and to one day have a child" — goals that he found only "distantly attainable" as an underpaid, overworked dancer.

"I admit my mistake," writes the president's son in this week's edition of Newsweek. "Ballet is much more and much less than I'd imagined as an 18-year-old."

Reagan says he also quit the Joffrey Ballet because "I'd had enough of hearing that I or my colleagues were less than sentient beings simply because we jete on the wrong foot."

Reagan, who dropped out of Yale University several years ago to become a dancer, says: "Ballet dancers are among the most grossly underpaid professionals in America. I refer not to that handful of megastars who command huge salaries, but to the anonymous dancers who constitute the corps and soloist ranks of our major companies."

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