

Feds combine air and sea efforts to probe ozone

Two federal science agencies, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), recently announced a cooperative investigation to better understand the nature of potential depletion of stratospheric ozone over the Arctic.

During January and February, scores of scientists from NASA, NOAA and nearly a dozen other research organizations will carry out an airborne study similar to that done last year on Antarctic ozone depletion.

That study directly implicated man-made chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) as a cause of the "ozone

hole" over Antarctica in the austral spring, and raised the question whether a similar phenomenon could be occurring in the Arctic, perhaps on a reduced scale.

Earlier this year, in smaller, separate field investigations, NASA and NOAA found elevated levels of chlorine compounds in the atmosphere over the Arctic, giving urgency to this Arctic joint study.

"NASA Headquarters has organized the expedition and is providing overall mission management and support through its Upper Atmosphere Research Program, while NOAA's Aeronomy Laboratory is providing project

science management," according to NASA's Dr. Robert Watson, the chief program manager.

The planned Airborne Arctic Stratospheric Expedition will fly specially instrumented NASA ER-2 and DC-8 aircraft into the Arctic vortex from January 1 through February 15, 1989.

The timing of the flights coincides with the statistically most active period for the formation of extremely low-temperature polar stratospheric clouds there. Such clouds are involved in the complex processes that result in the destruction of stratospheric ozone in the Antarctic polar vortex.

"The investigation will search for ozone-depletion processes

within the Arctic vortex and their possible influence on ozone concentrations over heavily-populated northern mid-latitudes. If even a small fraction of the Antarctic loss is occurring in the Arctic, it could more than double the predicted high-latitude ozone depletion," said Dr. Daniel L. Albritton, director of NOAA's Aeronomy Laboratory, Boulder, Colo.

Scientists and engineers will be stationed at Stavanger, Norway, for the duration of the aircraft flights.

Additionally, in related activities, personnel from NOAA's Geophysical Monitoring for Climatic Change Program will be

launching balloon-borne ozone sonde instruments from Barrow, Alaska; Canadian scientists will fly similar instruments from Alert, Northwest Territories; and NASA scientists will launch balloon ozone sondes from Lerwick, U.K. and assist the Danish Meteorological Institute in conducting similar experiments from Greenland to provide additional ozone information about the Arctic.

Crank caller has students keyed

by Peter Brown and UW News Bureau
Imprint staff

WATERLOO (ISIS) The University of Waterloo is issuing an alert to the surrounding community about an obscene caller posing as one of its researchers.

Over the past several months, a number of women in the K-W area have received obscene telephone calls from a man saying he is a VW sociology researcher. The caller typically begins his approach by saying he is conducting a survey about smoking behaviour and cancer.

After the woman agrees to answer his questions, he begins with seemingly routine and inoffensive inquiries about the individual's habits and history, and gradually, his questions become progressively more personal — inevitably revolving around parts of the anatomy.

The university has reported the incidents to the regional police. Dr. Susan Sykes of the Office of Human Research says that her office receives similar complaints "about once a term," but it does not seem to be a persistent problem.

"The caller seems to be the same individual; he apparently sounds very professional and puts people off their guard," says Dr. Lynn Watt, Acting Dean of Research.

Watt says legitimate UW researchers are not permitted to do surveys by telephone in this manner.

All legitimate UW research involving humans as participants must be submitted to the Office of Human Research for ethics review and authorization beforehand.

Normally, any UW researcher whose project involves the participation of members of the public in an interview is required to make initial contact by mail using UW departmental letterhead. This contact letter should provide a detailed description of the study and indicate when a follow-up telephone call will be received in order to finalize interview arrangements.

Proof of affiliation with UW must be provided by the researcher whenever members of the public are interviewed in person.



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