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# UFO?

## Residents say yes, officials call plane with banner

By JOHN LINDBACK  
Daily News reporter

A bright, lighted object over south Anchorage Friday night sent as many as 50 local residents scrambling for their telephones to report that an unidentified flying object was in the area.

The Federal Aviation Administration, Anchorage Police Department, and Alaska State Troopers all reported receiving phone calls from local residents about the object, which FAA Duty Officer Bill Schofield claims was an airplane towing a lighted banner.

But, at least four local residents who saw the object vehemently disagree that it was in any way similar to a conventional airplane.

"You could see the lights

inside. It kept going in circles," said Doris Coles, who lives at 9110 Golovin Street. Coles and her two sons all saw the alleged UFO, she said.

"You could see it really clearly when you first looked at it through binoculars," she said. "You couldn't hear any noise. It was really quiet."

Coles described the object as round, and that it tilted in different directions "like a flying saucer."

Coles said she's never been a believer in UFOs before, but she's a believer now.

Don Coles, Doris Coles' son, said he saw the airplane towing the banner Saturday night, and it was not the object he saw Friday night.

"That was nothing like I saw the night before," he said.

"I've never seen anything like it before."

Meanwhile, another local resident who asked not to be identified said he and a group of friends saw an object hover about 30 feet off the ground over the Dimond Estates Mobile Home Park, 1200 W. Dimond Blvd.

"It had lights that kept spinning around," the man said, adding that in "no way" was the object a conventional aircraft.

"You didn't hear any sound...from it," the man said.

A student at Wendler Junior High School says he also saw the object at Dimond Estates Mobile Home Park, and that it wasn't an airplane.

"I've seen that" plane that tows the banner, said 13-year

old Chris Prehn, who claims that was he saw was different. "It wasn't an airplane. It was just hovering," he added. He also described the object as round with lights, and it made a "light moaning noise."

"I had the impression it was oblong," Schofield said, adding he determined it was the plane towing the banner because some callers had described the object as moving in a "waving" or "undulating" manner.

Ltd. Wade Lacey of the Anchorage Police Department said officers on duty also determined that the object was the airplane towing the banner.

"I haven't seen any little green men running around so I'll have to believe it was an airplane," Lacey said.