

March 26, 1986

## Women report UFO hovering over G-P

Two Bellingham women reported seeing a gigantic bank of bright lights hovering over Bellingham Tuesday night, but law enforcement and aviation officials did not confirm the sighting today.

Robin Henley, 24, and Katie James, 23, both of 1026 N. Forest St., said they saw three rows of bright, white lights about 50 feet long hovering at 10:55 p.m. between the Georgia-Pacific Corp. mill and Squalicum Harbor Marina.

The object — which Henley said she at first thought was a blimp — remained over the city for about five minutes, then moved "ever so slowly" to the north, until it disappeared over the hills, James said.

Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration, Whatcom County Sheriff and Bellingham Police reported no sightings from employees or the public.

Nor was there any unusual activity scheduled at G-P last night that would cause such lights, according to Tom Spink, pulp and chemical operations manager.

Pacific Southwest Airlines officials this morning said the last DC-9 landed at Bellingham International Airport 10:54 p.m. The last San Juan Airlines flight arrived at 11:05.

But both women maintained they observed the PSA flight approaching from over the bay from the southwest about the same time they saw the lights. They said they also saw a helicopter, which seemed to be almost tailing the object.

The women spotted the lights while heading toward the city on Boulevard. They were so stunned that Henley pulled into one of the Boulevard Park parking spots overlooking the bay, James said.

The object was a "flat cylinder" with the bottom and top lights brighter than those running down the center, according to Henley. The bottom lights beamed down, while the top lights appeared to shine upward, she said.