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UFO pictures prompt calls

GULF BREEZE, Fla. (UPI) \_ Pictures of what was labeled as a glowing unidentified flying object published in recent editions of a weekly newspaper have prompted a half-dozen residents to call the paper to report similar sightings, an editor said Wednesday.

Duane B. Cook, editor and publisher of The Sentinel of Gulf Breeze, said the object in the pictures looks like the top of the Space Needle in Seattle, but he hopes it is an alien spacecraft.

"I personally hope it is. I'd be delighted if somebody decided it was time for us to communicate," said Cook, who said an expert will examine the photos Friday.

The Nov. 18 edition of The Sentinel published three pictures of the object along with a letter written by the anonymous photographer. The items were brought to the Sentinel by Ed Walters, a friend of the photographer.

The writer said he took four pictures with a Polaroid camera the night of Nov. 11 in Gulf Breeze, south of Pensacola. He said the house-sized object hovered several moments then "shot straight up and disappeared."

He said it did not spin but weaved slightly and glowed from the bottom.

"I wish to remain anonymous, but if these photos and stories spark any interest from your readership, I may identify myself," he wrote.

"I have nothing to gain and everything to lose."

Cook said he was not given the name of the photographer, but he decided to publish the pictures because he trusts Walters. Since then, six residents called the paper to tell about similar sightings on the same day.

Cook said he planned to publish this week two more pictures from yet another anonymous photographer. The new photos, supposedly taken in June 1986, show the same object. But Cook says he has no way to tell the age of the photos.

Don M. Ware, a retired Air Force pilot from Fort Walton Beach who heads the state's Mutual UFO Network, said one of his investigators, Charles Flannigan, is looking into the sightings.

"We didn't hear anything about it until the Sentinel wrote their first article. Shortly after that paper came out I was given a call by a friend of mine," he said. "I immediately notified Charles."

"He hasn't made a judgment yet, and he's not supposed to," said Ware, adding that Flannigan will give him a preliminary report Saturday and a written report in two weeks.

"He has interviewed several (witnesses) already and has several more to interview," Ware said. "I find it interesting because it is a fairly clear photograph and there were several independent witnesses that claimed to see the same thing."

MUFON is a private group that investigates UFO sightings. It has 66 members in Florida, including field investigators, trainees and researchers. Ware said there are five investigators in his five-county area of northwest Florida.

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**THE GATE**  
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