

UFO

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said, because stars could be seen between them as they crossed the sky.

Gordon and others described additional sightings they have made in recent months, ranging from large fuzzy lights to reddish discs and an occasional daytime sighting of saucer-shaped craft.

On the afternoon of Jan. 29, Gordon said, he glimpsed one that emerged briefly from a cloud that "looked like you took a 75-watt bulb and shaped it into a flying saucer."

Judith Boatright, an Elk Creek artist, said her life was changed by UFO sightings in 1973 and 1975, when she lived in Maryland.

The sightings prompted her to spend six years researching UFOs, she said. The sporadic appearances of UFOs and lack of physical evidence make conventional investigation techniques difficult, she said. There is also the question of who should make such investigations — the military, astronomers or psychiatrists, she said.

"The UFO problem is not by any means a simple one," she said, because responses have ranged "from skepticism to deification."

Another speaker was Alice Moeller of Stuart, author of the 1983 book "A Woman's Spiritual Odyssey," distributed through the Edgar Cayce Association for Research and Enlightenment, in Virginia Beach. She is currently researching a book on UFOs.

Moeller recommended that people concentrate on remembering dreams and even keep a "dream diary" on hand to write them down, because, she said, people sometimes recall having been abducted by UFOs through dreams, after their memory of the experience has somehow been erased.

Like others at the conference, Moeller said she frequently sees UFOs in the night skies near her rural home, and she is convinced their occupants can pick up the thoughts of people on the ground.

"I'll say, 'Hi, I know you're out there,' and it'll go bing! It'll blink on. It happens quite often," Moeller said.

Gordon said he is disturbed by a lack of follow-up by the news media after the initial headlines about UFO sightings. He said he planned to make that point next Saturday,

when he will speak at a United Press International Broadcasters Convention at Virginia Beach.

While he is on that trip, Gordon has also scheduled an unofficial meeting with officials at Langley Air Force Base. He said that Air Force officials have told him that they will not investigate UFOs because there is no evidence that they threaten national security, although they acknowledge that people do see unidentified objects in the sky.

"One reason I had this conference before I went — if I don't come back, you people know what I know, you carry on," he said.

Gordon said future UFO conferences and a quarterly UFO update newsletter are possibilities if

interest in the region continues. Some of those at the conference also planned a night of UFO hunting, but rain canceled that part of the program.

The conference opened with a showing of the 1951 movie, "The Day the Earth Stood Still," which depicts a flying saucer landing in Washington with a message for the world to get its act together before it achieves space travel and threatens to extend its violence to other planets.

UFO watchers take queries to Boucher

By PAUL DELLINGER
SOUTH-WEST BUREAU

WYTHEVILLE — Unidentified flying objects carried a group of people — figuratively speaking — from the Millwald Theatre here on Saturday to a nearby town meeting held by U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher.

Eight of the approximately 60 people who attended Wytheville's second UFO conference drove to Rural Retreat to ask Boucher to help them find out about the unusual aircraft seen in Wythe County skies since October.

"I can certainly talk with the armed services, and I'll be happy to do so," responded Boucher, D-Abingdon. "I don't have any insight, I'm sorry, but I can work with you to make sure we get a response from the Air Force."

The UFO conference was organized by Danny Gordon, news director at WYVE radio in Wytheville, who has become an unofficial consultant for out-of-town news reporters and people interested in UFOs since the sightings began here.

Gordon said he has seen 19 UFOs himself, 11 of them since a conference on the topic at Wytheville Community College last Nov. 18, and he displayed photographs he took of some of them.

The photographs, taken at night, showed a pattern of colored lights that Gordon said he first thought were on a single aircraft. They turned out to be four separate aircraft flying in formation, he

PLEASE SEE UFO/C3

**Boucher's
help asked
with UFOs**

KRISTEN HEBESTREET
Staff Writer

RURAL RETREAT — Possible increases in Medicare coverage and more satellite scrambling devices are very nice, but what one group at a Saturday Rural Retreat town meeting really wanted to ask U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher, D-9th, was what he was going to do about the UFOs.

Boucher spoke at town meetings in Pembroke, Bluefield, Bland and Rural Retreat Saturday about the need to attract private industry and federal contracts and legislation he was sponsoring. The UFO problem was the "unexpected question of the day," Boucher said.

"I can talk with the armed services and will do so," Boucher said. "I don't have any insights; I'm sorry."

He suggested they write out specific questions for the Air Force which he would submit for

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STAN GORDON via COUD—I

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