

Peace group biking for nuke freeze

By ROBERT MCGLOHON
Staff Writer

They stayed with members of a local peace group Monday night and are on the road again today. Journey's end — and their goal of a nuclear freeze — is still far in the distance.

They are by most standards a diverse group: Laura Purdy is 21 and a piano teacher. Father Mike Carmody is 28 and a Roman Catholic priest. Sixteen-year-old Jimi Clark is a high school student.

They number 15 in all — ten on bicycles and five in support cars — and hail from a wide range of backgrounds.

But as they rolled onto East 26th Street in Bryan Monday afternoon, they were unified by their vision of peace ... and by exhaustion.

"That's it," said Father Carmody as he stopped in front of the phalanx of journalists on the steps of the Federal Building in Bryan. "I'm going back — too far."

The Pantex Anti-Nuclear Weapons Pilgrimage began in 14 cities throughout Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico on Saturday. More than 140 bicyclists and support people will travel several hundreds of miles to meet at the Pantex Nuclear Weapons Assembly Plant near Amarillo. They plan to hold a three-day rally at the plant Aug. 4-6, ending with an interfaith religious service on the anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, Japan.

Bob Henschen, 36, is one of the organizers of the Houston portion of the Pantex Pilgrimage. He is also driving one of the support cars on the trip to Amarillo.

He said no civil disobedience is planned for the rally and authorities have been notified.

The purpose of the pilgrimage and rally is to inform the public of the dangers of the current nuclear arms race and to promote a nuclear freeze, Henschen said, explaining that Pantex was picked as the site of the rally because it is the final assembly plant for all nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal.

Essentially, he said, the Pantex Pilgrimage is part of a nationwide fight for public opinion on the issue of the nuclear arms race. And as part of that battle, the Pantex pilgrims will "pamphlet" people on their trip to the Panhandle, trying to explain their concerns.

"This is a part in the long struggle for the hearts and minds of the people," Henschen said.

Originally, organizers were expecting about 500 people to show up at the peace rally. "Lately, we've been thinking of maybe 1,000," Henschen said.



Photo by ROBERT MCGLOHON

Sixteen-year-old Jimi Clark, right, takes a drink of water from his bicycle canteen as he helps Laura Purdy, 21, hold a peace banner outside the Federal Building in downtown Bryan Monday afternoon.

Missile freeze

Soviet Union denies return to arms talks

United Press International

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union denied Monday it might return to the Geneva arms talks if the United States freezes deployment of new missiles in Europe and raised new doubts over whether it will hold "star wars" talks with Washington.

The Soviet reaction came a day after Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu said he was convinced Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko was willing to resume talks as long as there were no further missiles installed in Western Europe.

The Soviet news agency Tass replied to Ceausescu's published comments by blaming the United States for undermining the Geneva talks on limiting medium and long-range nuclear missiles by deploying cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe.

"The talks may resume any time," Tass said. "But with this aim it is necessary that the United States should eliminate the obstacles which it has created by the deployment of new missiles in Europe."

Tass also said Moscow would continue retaliatory measures to offset the U.S. missiles, including stationing extra nuclear-armed submarines off the American coast.

The Soviets broke off the talks in Geneva on medium and long-range nuclear missiles last December in retaliation for the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles. The U.S. missiles were deployed to counter Soviet SS-20s targeted on Western Europe.

In a separate statement, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said the United States should agree to declar-

ing a moratorium on developing and testing space weapons before proposed "star wars" talks are held in Vienna.

"There is no sense in conducting the negotiations if there is no moratorium on testing," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Lomeiko told a news conference. "We regard it as part and parcel of the problem."

Washington has said a moratorium would be an unacceptable condition for the Vienna talks, which it wants the space weapons talks broadened to include the Geneva nuclear arms talks.

Lomeiko said Washington's response to Moscow's June 29 proposal for talks on banning space weapons "sets conditions, is evasive and gives no clear answer."

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Monday.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A black Peugeot twelve-speed bicycle was stolen from the entrance to Haas Hall.
- A light blue Sears Free Spirit ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Clements Hall bike rack.
- A blue and silver Raleigh Record ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Haas Hall bike rack.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- Someone dented the right rear panel of a 1979 Audi in Parking Annex 32.

HARASSMENT:

- A student in Haas Hall reported receiving an obscene phone call.

INDECENT EXPOSURE:

- A student reported seeing a man expose himself on the fourth floor of Sterling C. Evans Library.

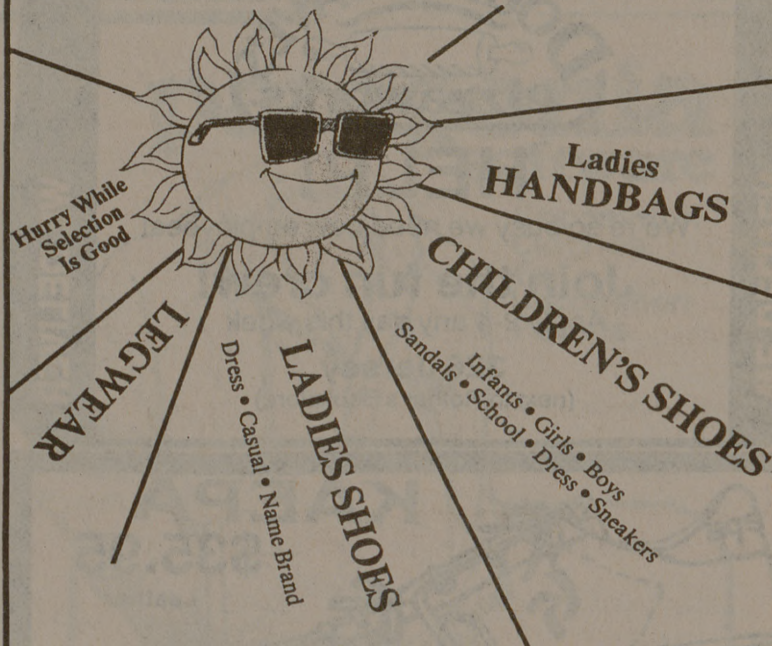
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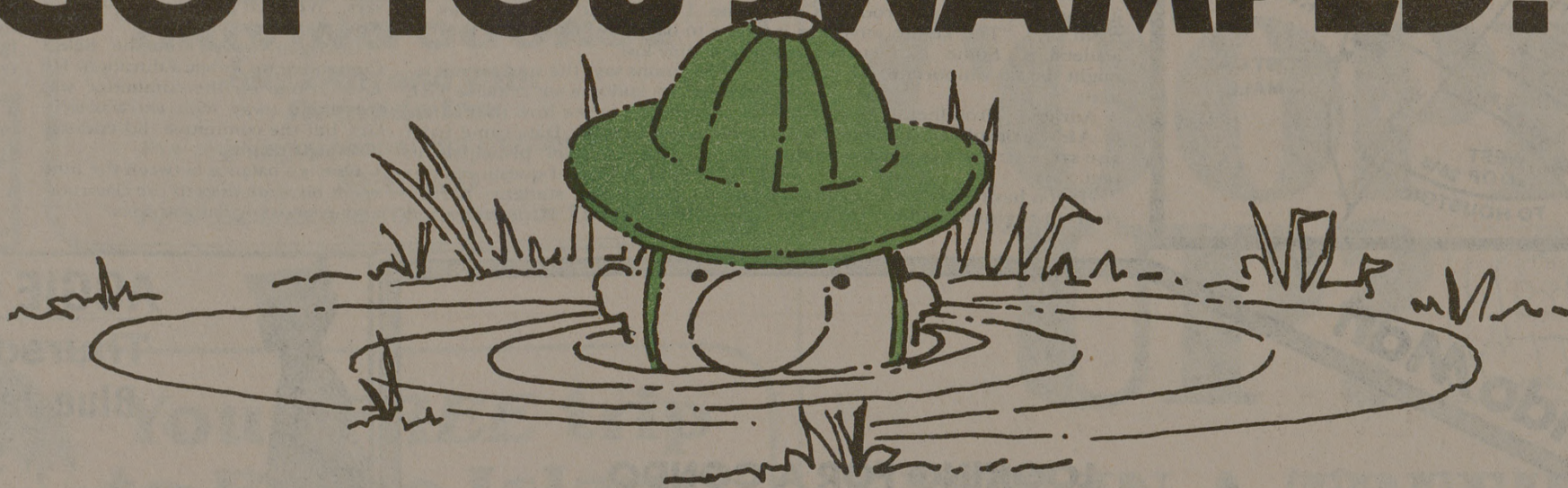
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