

# Tired feet, open mind, Peace looks for peace

By Kevin R. Gustafson

"There is a magic formula for resolving conflicts. It is this: Have as your objective the resolving of the conflict — not the gaining of advantage," says Peace.

Peace Pilgrim is her name; a pilgrimage for peace is her game — her only game.

"At any time when there is apathy in a crisis situation, a pilgrim comes out," Peace said before ASU's Tolstoi-Ghandi class Wednesday afternoon.

Peace said she has been on her pilgrimage for 21 years and has walked 25,000 miles. She will be in the Valley for the rest of the month speaking before classes at colleges and other gatherings.

"A pilgrimage is traditionally conducted on foot and in faith. I walk until given shelter and fast until given food. For the past 25 years, I have been given everything I need without asking," she said.

Peace does not ask anyone to follow her in her quest, but would rather inspire people to do things for peace in their own way.

Peace began her pilgrimage in 1953 during the Korean War. "I felt like a voice crying out of the wilderness when I started out. I am on the popular side now," she said.

Peace explained the possibilities for world peace exist today, but the only way to achieve this peace is through growth of a harmonious inner-self.

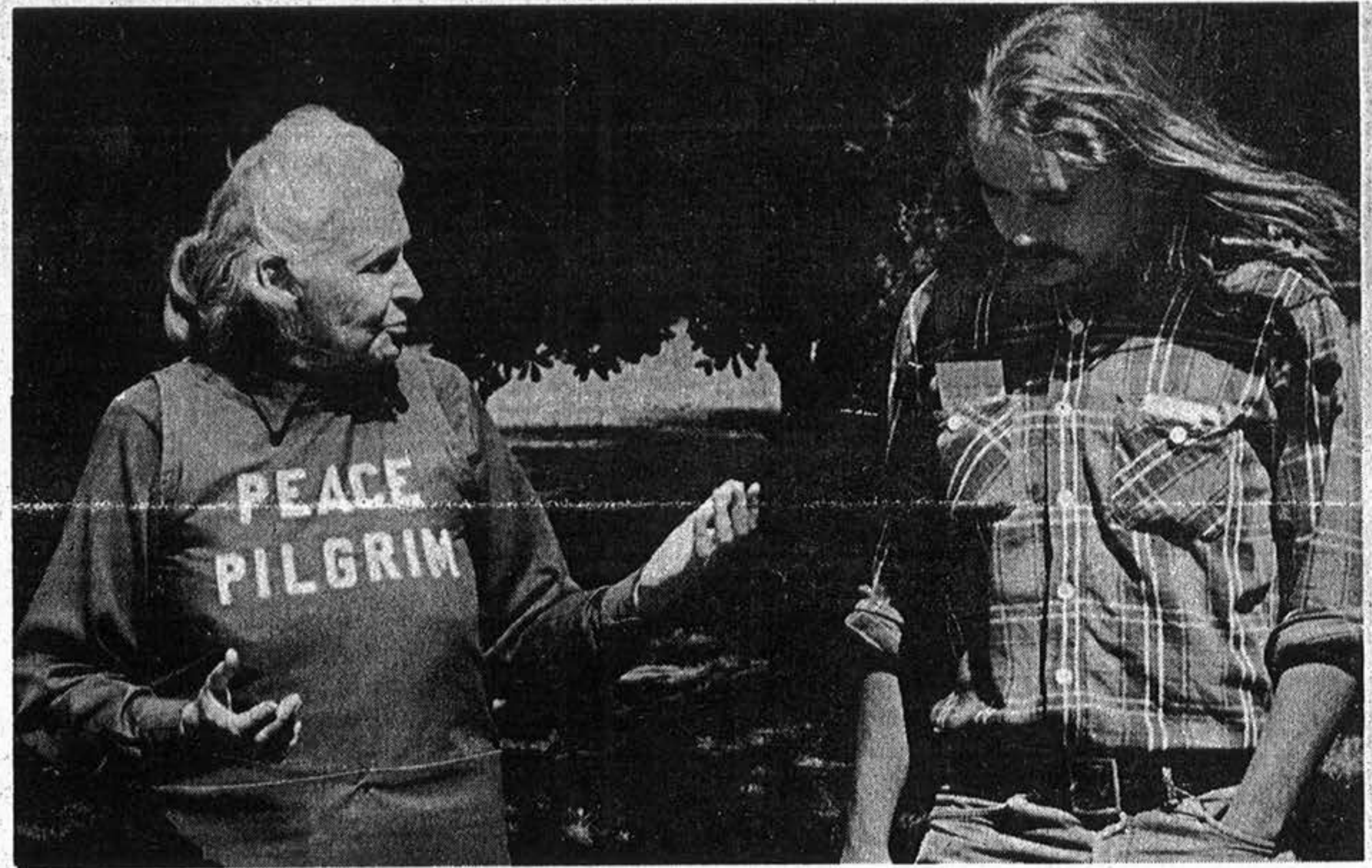
Then one's peak or illuminating experience happens, she said. "There is a season for this growing," she said, "The struggle between the self-centered nature and that of the good of the whole. You see the universe of complete and absolute oneness."

Peace's mission sounds like one of a religious nature, and it is. She admits that she is deeply religious, but she expounds no doctrine or denomination. She said it depends on whether you call that experience God. "God is within me and I am within God."

"Through living by the Golden Rule, I learned how to exist with my fellow man. Everything out of harmony, in the world, contains the seeds of its own destruction," she said. When asked if she would force fully defend herself against attack, Peace asserted, "This is contrary to God's law, and I would rather have God on my side than anyone else. There definitely is a force in the universe that all of us together could not surpass."

"I believe human beings have the most control over their affairs at the grass-roots level," Peace stated, and that is why she conducts her mission of peace through the pilgrimage.

Peace said her best communicator is her tunic with



Peace Pilgrim explains to State Press reporter Kevin Gustafson that world peace can be achieved through the growth of a harmonious inner self.

Photo by Lenny Lind

"Peace Pilgrim" (on the front), and "25,000 Miles On Foot For Peace" (on the back). The purpose of the tunic is to get people to approach her to talk, not for her to collar them on the street.

"We are sitting on a powder keg of destruction. So, if you do nothing, you are helping to maintain the current drift toward destruction. My job is to arouse people from their apathy and make them think. I have a lot of confidence in people. If I can get them to think, they will come up with the right answers."

Peace explained her philosophy on the growth of man as stages of realization. She interprets man's initial growth through early adulthood as one in a world of opposites.

Peace maintains that early childhood experiences are opposites: on one plane children are taught the Golden Rule, and then they see their favorite video-land hero kill the bad guy. "How about the hero doing something constructive to help," she asked. Isn't the right way for a hero to act to educate the villainous scoundrel in the folly of his ways?

Peace explained that the next plateau of human development happens when a person reaches high school or college. "There is a struggle between body, mind, emotion and your self-centered nature."