### Mysterious campaign lacks nuclear issue

She was crying out: "Nuclear War!?! Oh, No. There Goes My



There was something in that line that got to me - the black humor, the irony of it. But now when I see the T-shirt hanging in my locker, I wonder if it is the ultimate tag line on this peculiar election year.

do not follow his lead on impor- math of this election, the number

T-shirt with a cartoon pro- Walter Mondale's stand on many less important than the number it, the idea has lost some political levels: the level of anxieties ex-L hile of a female Yuppie policy matters, but do not want one positive — an improved meaning. looking up at the sky in distress. him standing the Oval Office.

> The most glaring example of this paradox has to do with war. With monotonous regularity, the public rates nuclear war as its number one concern. A full onehalf of Americans surveyed believe that nuclear war will happen in their lifetime. At the same time, most of the polls of this season have shown that the public is worried about Reagan's hand on the nuclear trigger.

By any normal mathematical equation - one plus one equals This is a campaign of mysteries. two - this would add up to a The voters applaud Ronald Rea- landslide for Mondale. But it is gan's "leadership," even when they not working that way. In the new

bout a year ago, I bought a tant questions. They agree with one negative - fear of war - is and the president who opposes nuclear policy has gone on at two economy.

better car to the holocaust?

I do not think we are suffering from madness or that we have entirely lost the instinct for selfpreservation. My sense is that voters simply cannot grab onto the great, amorphous, Number One Worry we call "nuclear war." for a vote. What we have at the moment is a concern in search of an issue.

For a while, it looked as if the nuclear freeze would be the way to translate fear into political action. It was and is a simple way of demanding, "No more." But supporting the freeze has become, become an issue. It gives them a as one advocate admits, "just an- chance to take leadership." Yet, other way of expressing anxiety." as he agrees, they have not taken When a majority of delegates to the Republican National Convention simultaneously back a freeze

When the Public Agenda nological jargon spoken by the Is this just proof of a national Foundation looked into this gap cruise and MX missile experts. In myopia captured by the author between our private worries and politics, it goes on from two sides. of my T-shirt? After all, 50 percent our public politics, it found some Reagan talks tough (in the nicest of Americans under 30, Reagan's consensus and some confusion. possible way) and Mondale talks largest group of supporters, be- Americans are absolutely clear freeze. Reagan plays on fear of lieve that an all-out nuclear war on the dangers of nuclear war, the Soviets, and Mondale on fear is likely within 10 years. Have and totally reject the notion that of Reagan. Many voters, anxious they simply decided to drive a it could be "limited" or "winnable." We even reject the notion that find some easy listening. there are winners in the arms race. In short, we agree on the

But we are thoroughly conflicted about the nature of the Soviet threat, how to negotiate with the USSR or how to defend There is no concrete solution up ourselves in the nuclear age. In short, we do not know what to do. And "doing" is the business of politics.

> As the foundation's president, Dan Yankelovich, said, "It's an enormous opportunity for what political leaders always look for, those concerns that haven't yet that leadership.

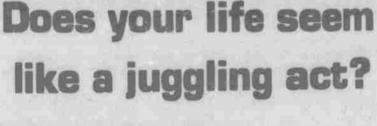
So far, the discussion about

pressed by "The Day After" or "Red Dawn," and the level of techand uncertain, turn the dial to

As Yankelovich said, "You can't explain the fact that the arms race isn't the number one issue without some reference to the peculiar kind of national mood. It's like the public is taking a holiday from negativity, from complexity, from the big mindbreaking questions."

If we can't get a grip on the questions, if we do not see clear choices and options, we concentrate on something reassuring the temporary good news of the economy. But if there is anyone who really thinks we can take a holiday from the arms race, I have a T-shirt tailored just for

1984, The Boston Globe Newspaper Company/Washington Post Writers





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### Religious approach to abortion avoids issue

berg ("Pre-defined religious mor- ished according to the law murder. Since science cannot als unneeded," Sept. 26 Daily whether he is a priest, ditch- determine when human cells Nebraskan). Sure, people should digger, lawyer or whatever. not force their beliefs on others, but how do we determine if a moral issue as murder or social benefit of a doubt and let them moral is religious or not?

were forced not to date interra- his faith, or that person would be it. cially, and blacks were kept out of denying his faith. Religion is an As to the argument of the right some school organizations. If a inseparable part of that person, to choice, everyone should also religion breaks a law, it is not dif- This idea is the same with abor- have the right to live, whether ferent from any individual break- tion or Social Security. It doesn't they depend on someone else, as ing a law. Some churches do dis- erase the issue. agree with the government on doesn't work with the law - for example, someone who bombs an

issue concerning government-

issues like abortion, nuclear pro- a religious, moral issue is a card- the street. liferation, etc., but these churches board protest. It changes nothing work within the law. Anyone who and is, in fact, skirting the true issue.

The real issue with abortion is

I disagree with Kema Soder- abortion clinic - should be pun- whether or not we are allowing actually become a person, Abortion is as much a religious shouldn't we give the unborn the security. A religious person judges live? Otherwise we may be com-At Bob Jones University people government laws according to miting murder without realizing

with a fetus, or whether they are The argument that abortion is just ordinary people walking down

> Kyle W. Hollman freshman physics

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Student says neutrality naive func d abortions in her Sept. 26 Kema Soderberg does a won- edit ial, "Pre-defined religious

derful job of clouding the true, morais unneeded." One would never guess from her article that people who abhore abortion are forced to help pay for thousands of abortions yearly through their federal tax dollars.

> Platitudes like, "It is not the government's right to rule on this issue or morality because the correct morals are undefinable," only throw an etherizing haze over the entire issue.

The government is, in fact, taking a moral stand in forcing certain people to help certain other people abort their fetuses. It just so happens that the moral posi-tion of the U.S. government coin-

cides with Soderberg's at the moment, but this does not mean the government is taking no moral position whatsoever.

It is a little shameful, or at best naive, for an educated person to claim moral neutrality in a political issue. The claim to neutrality is little more than an attempt to boost one's morality over the opposition's.

> Mike Lawrence freshman pre-law

Mike Lawrence, Freshman .Pre-law

> Mike Lawrence Freshman, Pre-law

## Letter

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