

Debates more shadow than substance...

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One cameraman noted the students' apple-cheeks and designer clothes and mumbled, "When's the last time you guys went without a meal?"

Diana Feinberg said although she supported Mondale, she decided not to take part in a welcome she thought was as "superficial as the rest of the debate process."

She and other demonstrators said they preferred to spend their time "more productively" at the Sunday afternoon rally that culminated in a "freedom march" downtown led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

About 50 Reagan supporters decided to stage an anti-abortion rally rather than join the president's welcoming crowd at the airport. A young woman dressed in red, white and blue sang the national anthem to begin the low-key rally.

"The abortion issue is more a matter of civil rights than faith," said Gary Tebbets, a Kansas City salesman. "It's like slavery. It's not right to own, and do what you want with another person's life."

Joshua Goodman carried a "Hymnies for Reagan" sign. He said he was at the rally to protest Mondale's positions and the views of liberals in general.

"The brunt of liberal magazines, press and broadcasters and their handling of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon stirred up bad sentiment," Goodman said.

Goodman recruited anti-abortionists to walk with him a few blocks to the anti-intervention rally. He wanted to protest the activity of "anti-Semite" Jesse Jackson and other liberals. Though he said Mondale himself was not a racist, "liberal views promote a racist environment."

When Goodman, Tebbets and three others walked through the anti-U.S. intervention crowd, a few people booed but most quietly let the anti-abortionists pass by.

Dave Smith put down his "dove of peace" cardboard cutout to pat his idealistic opponent Tebbets on the back.

"I may not agree with him, but I admire him for coming here," Smith said. "This is democracy in action, not the debates."

Smith said he and Tebbets both were members of a minority. He said most people are willing to let superficial impressions be their guides in the electoral process. Smith is a former Roman Catholic monk who left an order in Guatemala to become politically active in the United States.

"I've worked for the last three years on the refugee underground, helping op-

pressed Latins come north," Smith said. "I get my reports of American violence first hand. But I'm a minority. Most Americans are content to believe the rhetoric politicians spoon-feed them."

Jackson avoided stealing the show. He joined with prominent Midwestern ministers in a cry for change in Central America and made little mention of the night's debate. "In Central America our government is exporting terrorism," he said.

Noah and Jeff said they "got an education" at the rally and the freedom march that they wouldn't soon forget.

"First we just came to see Jesse, you know," Noah said. "But then we all started listening to some of the speakers and reading the signs. It's good this shit will get some national press, even if it is just because Jesse's here. The government's been covering up — been messing up. We all got to get together on this, make the killing and the faking stop."



Jeff Browne/Daily Nebraskan

Bruce Weiner protests Sunday outside Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium before the second Mondale-Reagan debate. Weiner was protesting the Reagan administration's treatment of Soviet Jews.

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