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'Nobody' runs for president

BY JANE ANDREWS
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DURHAM — "Nobody" kicked off the presidential campaign which won more than 40 percent of the vote in 1976 and is expected to do well this time.

A "Nobody for President" rally at UNH was held Thursday.

The "candidate" attracting a large cheering crowd at the Memorial Union was actually a set of plastic wind-up teeth which chatter when Nobody is talking.

The campaign retinue arrived with the wit and wisdom of Nobody and a serious message after the laughing was over. But first, the laughs.

Dressed in clown suits, campaign managers Wavy Gravy and Curtis Spangler say that Nobody has freed the hostages, persuaded the Russians to leave Afganistan, brought peace to our time, will turn nuclear reactors into rock and roll pavilions, keeps all promises, is incorruptible, works for nothing and lives forever.

They arrived with Nobody's guru Baba Ram Dass, the Harvard professor who was fired along with Timothy Leary for drug experiments with students, and Nobody's bodyguard Joe Jitsu, aka Will Berliner of Portsmouth, who wore a purple kimono and plastic sword.

Gravy told students a Secret Service man frisked him and relieved him of his candidate during the Kansas City convention in 1976 but the teeth began chattering while in the agent's hand.

"I said, 'Quiet, our leader is talking,' and he said, 'You're too weird to arrest,'" Gravy related.

He remembered one heady moment during that campaign when President Carter gave them an unintentional boost by saying, "Nobody has all the answers."

Jitsu, who taught adult education classes at the Portsmouth Community Center, stuck his sword in his belt and said,

"Here in New Hampshire, we get very serious about the campaign and we should put all the humor has been lost.

"We feel by making people laugh, we loosen them up to new ideas."

The ideas, according to Nobody's spokesmen, include giving the American government back to the American people.

Ram Dass explained that as a servant of God, he has a spiritual obligation to fulfill and must be active, but "nobody is putting

humanitarianism over nationalism."

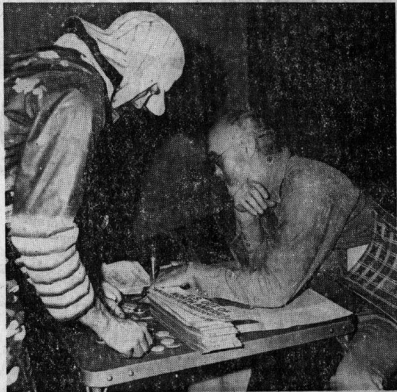
The presidential campaign "shouldn't be a popularity contest for millionaires," said the former Franklin, N.H. resident who now lives in Santa Fe, N.M.

The mood became serious after he said he supported Carter and Brown earlier but now supports neither.

"If I were president, I'd want to

redistribute the wealth," he stated. "A person dies of starvation somewhere in the world every two seconds, now...now...another died...now..."

His words echoed slightly in the stillness of the Memorial Union for a moment. Then the lightness returned as he said, "Remember. Nobody cares, Nobody loves you and if Nobody wins, Nobody loses."



NOBODY'S STALWARTS — Curtis Spangler, left, and Ram Dass, right, lay out bumper stickers saying "U.S. out of North America" and other campaign paraphernalia. "Nobody for President"

started when Wavy Gravy became disenchanted with presidential politics and decided Nobody should have that much power. (Staff Photo)