

# — Wavy Gravy

(Continued from page 1)

"But in my heart I believe people should be able to do their thing as long as it doesn't hurt anybody. So I threw what I call an instant 'I-Ching' to make a decision. Three heads in a row, and I did it."

More than 300 demonstrators suddenly found themselves being addressed from the balcony by the father of walking anarchy — in a clown outfit.

"Nobody has been supporting you all along," Wavy told them. He got a 30-second standing ovation.

As with any Zen riddle, there is a cutting edge to all of this. Wavy points out that more than half of the voting age population of this country voted for nobody in every national presidential election in recent memory.

Now, he urges everyone to vote, but he is a firm believer in adding a "None of the above" category to the bottom of the ballot.

He also believes that people should be able to vote for more than one candidate, and that all votes should then be tallied. He has been known to urge the supporters of Nobody to throw a vote to Walter Mondale, although he believes Jesse Jackson is the only candidate who stays awake.

Born Hugh Romney 47 years ago, Wavy Gravy grew up (or, at least was reared) in Princeton, N.J., (where Albert Einstein is said to have taken him for walks) and in West Hartford, Conn., (where it is not entirely clear what happened to him). A poet, trained in the circus

arts and improvisational theater, he is something of a bridge between the "beat generation" of the 1950s and the early '60s, and the psychedelic counterculture that blossomed later in the '60s. He knew Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady well, and he still calls Allen Ginsberg "Ginzy."

He has a 12-year-old son, born Howdy Do Good Gravy, who recently changed his name (to Jordon Romney).

For Wavy Gravy, the Nobody campaign trail started in 1976, but it has come to represent something even more important than good political theater. He explains that it refreshes old contacts and creates new ones.

And that may be what Wavy Gravy is best at: rallying support for causes that have little to do with Woodstock nostalgia.

He is on the board of directors of SEVA, an international society of doctors and laypeople helping to prevent and cure blindness in children around the world. He also has been a leading figure in the children's hospice movement and he runs a series of summer camps to bring the circus arts to children.

When he calls Baba Ram Das or Jackson Browne or the Grateful Dead ("the official band for SEVA"), Wavy says that he knows they at least will consider offering some help.

"I have tremendous nostalgia for the future," he said yesterday.

And then he was off for New Hampshire, where he will continue to do Nobody's business.