



NEWS PHOTO • CECIL LOCKARD

Nobody's Fool, alias Wavy Gravy, alias Hugh Romney, touches up his makeup during his appearance Tuesday night on behalf of the Nobody for President campaign

NOBODY

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The first campaign was in the Bicentennial year and now the third one takes place in the year on which George Orwell unknowingly put a hex. Gravy knows the year, however, is not the issue here. The problem, as he sees it, is that Nobody is running the country, Nobody understands foreign policy and when Nobody loses the election, Nobody wins.

The aim of all these shenanigans is to earn a place on the national presidential ballot for the alternative of a "none of the above" type choice. Gravy admits that this has grown less likely with each election, as it has become more difficult even to place such a choice on an individual state's ballot.

Along with this is the suggestion that the process for determining the choice of candidates should be made more along the lines of a civil service exam rather than the the current process.

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'I have always found that thinking gets in the way of thought.'

— Nobody's Fool

Sound quixotic? Well, Gravy (a.k.a. Hugh Romney) has had a long and varied career which has taken him from hog farming to spending over seven years living in a communal bus caravan. His involvement in a host of socio-political causes has had him arrested for protesting at nuclear plants and Indian reservations, yet he ran a theater group at one time, and a summer camp (Camp Winnarainbow) for brain damaged children. He also worked in the children's burn ward of a San Francisco Hospital.

His appearance in Ann Arbor is sponsored by the Student Organization of the Seva Foundation. It's a non-profit group, based in Chelsea, which worked to eliminate smallpox and is now fighting blindness in the middle-Asian nation of Nepal. Seva comes from a Sanskrit word meaning "survival," and Gravy says that that sums up the organization's philosophy, "survival for those who can barely — or sometimes can't — achieve a subsistence living."

All of his seemingly unconnected interests are, metaphorically, "many spokes, one wheel." Ask him where the idea for the chattering teeth or "Nobody" came from and he'll defy analysis. "I have always found that thinking gets in the way of thought."

The last campaign for Nobody for President? Campaign manager Curtis Spangler says in his press release "Nobody will continue to take the credit until somebody gets the job done." This might leave the door open for a comeback in '88 because, as anybody will tell you, Nobody keeps all his campaign promises.