

# THE CAPITAL TIMES

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## The perfect candidate — Nobody

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What if there was a presidential election and Nobody won?

About 200 ardent supporters of a not so well-known write-in candidate asked themselves that question at a rally on the Library Mall Friday afternoon.

Who totally understands the economy? Nobody!

Who's lowered your taxes? Nobody!

Who do you want to run your life? Nobody!

Nobody for President?

The candidate's arrival was accompanied by tremendous fanfare — although the circus music that was to precede the event was turned off because supporters lacked the proper permit.

The star of the rally rode in on a sedan chair carried by two loyalists with all the hoopla, confetti and media attention that befits a Major Polit-

ical Figure.

The crowd had been whipped into a frenzy and, when the candidate arrived, the celebration let loose.

Presidential politics entered the Twilight Zone.

All this for a wind-up pair of plastic choppers — the type your average garden-variety prankster would carry?

Hardly an average prankster. The event was organized by former-Merry Prankster Wavy Gravy, who calls himself "a psychedelic relic."

Wavy Gravy wore a blue star-spangled clown's suit, a blue bowler, huge pointy-toed shoes and bore symbols of his official authority as "Nobody's fool" — including a Dane County Deputy Dance Supervisor badge.

His blue eyes shone beneath the white cake makeup, highlighted by rainbow stripes around his eyes and sparkling red circles at the corners of his mouth and at the tip of his nose.

Amidst the absurdity of the event, Wavy Gravy carried a more serious message, with tongue planted firmly in cheek.

"More people will vote for Nobody than any other candidate. That's happened election after election. What we're asking is that they make it official and actually write in — so we don't have to bite the bullet of choosing the lesser of two evils," Gravy said.

Gravy's involvement in absurdist presidential politics goes back to 1968, when he helped Abbie Hoffman and other Yippies run a pig, Pegasus, "the first female black-and-white candidate."

The Nobody campaign began in 1976, when Wavy Gravy came upon the idea that "Nobody's perfect."

Gravy was here in 1980, and said he decided to run the non-candidate three times, because "Nobody's too good to put aside."