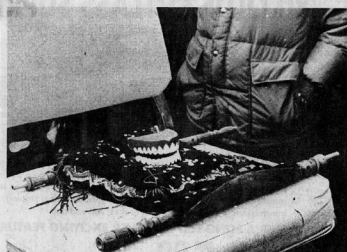




# Wisconsin State Journal

## What if Nobody was running for president?



Nobody gets teeth into the presidential campaign.

—State Journal photo by J.D. Patrick

By Thomas W. Still  
Of The State Journal

Nobody likes Madison, and Madison apparently loves Nobody.

That feeling of mutual admiration was evident Monday when the "Nobody for President" campaign rolled into Wisconsin's capital atop a rising wave of apathy.

At least 100 people proved they were nobody's fools by braving wintery weather to greet the "Nobody campaign" at a rally on the 800 block of the State Street Mall.

True to his (or her?) word, Nobody showed up.

"Nobody nearly won the 1976 election," said Hugh Romney, a former comedian and counter-culture figure who helped organize the non-event. "Forty-one percent of the people voted for Nobody, and this time we hope to get 50 percent."

Romney and Curtis Spangler, a fellow Californian, came to Madison to

drum up some political non-support before traveling to New Hampshire for next week's presidential primary.

It was obvious that Nobody cares.

"Nobody knows the truth about Chappaquiddick; Nobody has freed the hostages; Nobody has abolished the draft forever," Romney told the bemused crowd.

Romney, who for campaign purposes dresses like a clown, wasn't finished reciting his non-existent candidate's do-nothing platform.

"Nobody is perfect. Nobody has all the answers. Nobody knows you when you're down and out."

Then Romney whipped the puzzled onlookers into a non-frenzy by yelling: "Who will lower your taxes?"

"A: Nobody!

"Q: Who will feed the poor?"

"A: Nobody!

Finally, Nobody arrived in the empty back seat of a rented Ford Pinto. Nobody got out of the car, and was hoisted on to a chair amid a flurry

of confetti tossed by the crowd.

Nobody said nothing, but the crowd cheered nonetheless as a set of plastic teeth chattered away on the chair.

Seriously, folks, the "Nobody campaign" is not without a purpose. Romney became somewhat soured on conventional politics after campaigning for Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

"We were afraid that Barry Goldwater was going to blow up the world," Romney said, then noted that Johnson wound up escalating American involvement in the Vietnam war.

Now Romney is convinced Nobody should have that much power.

"The presidential election is a millionaire's popularity contest. If we need an official greeter, how about Bo Derek or Paul Newman? We think it (the presidential race) should be decided by a civil service test."

He wrapped up his view of the presidential campaign this way:

"If Nobody wins, nobody loses."

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