

# pathways

a magazine of personal, spiritual and community evolution feb. 1980 - free

## Wavy Gravy is Nobody's Fool



Wavy Gravy is Nobody's fool. Nobody, in case you haven't heard, polled more votes than either of the two major candidates in the last presidential election and figures to do just as well, if not better, in 1980. And Wavy Gravy, one time Hog Farmer, Woodstock emcee, and clown is touring the country promoting his candidate, Nobody. "Who is in Washington working for you?" Wavy will ask his audience at a rally.

"Nobody!" shouts the crowd.

"Nobody solved the problems of the poor," declares Wavy. "Nobody brought about racial justice. Nobody made a fair distribution of income. And remember, Nobody cares."

In California, where the Nobody campaign has had wide publicity, President Carter was cheered when he proclaimed, "Nobody knows all the answers." He later changed that to "no one" after an aide tipped him off.

Wavy Gravy, born Hugh Romney, has had a varied career as a stand-up comic (Lenny Bruce was his manager), Greenwich Village poet, communitard at Hog Farm, and acid-tripper with Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters. At Woodstock, he and the Hog Farmers ran the drug freakout tent. Although he refers to himself as "Nobody's fool," Wavy is really a full-fledged clown, complete with two-foot shoes and rubber nose. "I used to be a fool," he says, "but then I became a

clown because I was tired of getting beaten up at demonstrations. Clowns are safe. You never see a bunch of rednecks get together and say, 'Hey, let's go out and kill us a couple of clowns.'"

As a clown, Wavy Gravy has worked with dying children at Oakland Children's Hospital. He has also given himself and his sense of humor to countless causes and organizations working for the betterment of the human condition. He has stumped the country to raise money to end world hunger and is on the board of directors of SEVA, an organization dedicated to ending blindness as a world health problem (see Larry Brilliant's piece in Viewpoints).

We in Ann Arbor are privileged to have Wavy Gravy visiting us in February on his way out to the New Hampshire presidential primary. He will be here from February 12th (Lincoln's Birthday) to February 14th (Valentine's Day), and if anyone can pull together politics and love, Wavy can. As yet, his schedule is incomplete, but check the boards, newspapers and the local grapevine for up-to-date information. As anyone who has heard Wavy speak can tell you, he is a warm and funny human being who is coming from love—or, as he would say, "The only way to change consciousness is live it and have fun."