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'Nobody' campaign underway

DURHAM — In the 1976 presidential election, more than 45 percent of the nation's voting age population voted for nobody and that message hasn't been lost on a group which this year is reviving the candidacy of "Nobody."

The Nobody for President campaign—featuring Baba Ram Dass (formerly Richard Alpert)—will visit UNH Thursday, Feb. 21.

Ram Dass is the former Harvard professor who, with Timothy Leary, was fired for refusing to halt psychedelic drug experiments with students. He is author of the book "Be Here Now."

He will appear at a rally at noon outside the Memorial Union and speak at 12:30 p.m. in the Strafford Room with "Wavy Gravy," leader of the Hog Farm Commune, which provided volunteer marshalls at the Woodstock festival.

"We truly feel that there are no qualified candidates," Ram Dass said in explaining the campaign, "and we wish to draw attention to that in a gentle and amusing way."

Ram Dass said he and others in the campaign will use the not-so-serious form of the campaign rally to put forth the idea that "maybe we don't need the office of President."

The first Nobody for President rally was conducted in Berkeley, Calif., in June 1976, and subsequent rallies were held at the Democratic and Republican National conventions that year.