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'Nobody' hopes third try for Oval Office is charm

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At last, a presidential candidate who makes Democrat Alan Cranston look pudgy.

He (or she?) is Nobody, the invisible creation of two California men who rode a wave of political apathy into Madison Friday to promote their third "Nobody for President" campaign.

To listen to Hugh Romney and Curtis Spangler — Nobody's fools — their candidate nearly won the 1976 and 1980 elections, when 46 percent of the U.S. voting-age population stayed home.

In other words, all those people voted for Nobody.

"Nobody is incorruptible," Romney declared to the cheers of about 100 students who gathered late Friday for a "Nobody for President" rally on Madison's Library Mall.

"Nobody has lowered your taxes," he said. "Nobody has the answers."

Romney, who bills himself as a former "counter-culture figure" from San Francisco, wore a blue clown suit with white stars for the non-event. He whipped the crowd into a non-frenzy by yelling:

Q: "Who is perfect?"

A: "Nobody!"

Q: "Who understands the economy?"

A: "Nobody!"

Nobody for President buttons were sold at the 20-minute rally. What becomes of the money, you ask? That's Nobody's business.

Most people in Wisconsin favor slashing the federal budget deficit even if it means unpopular spending cuts and tax increases, according to a

Talk of the Hill

poll by U.S. Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis.

Eighty-six percent of those responding to Proxmire's January poll answered "yes" when asked:

"Many economists contend that the large deficits (\$175-200 billion) now facing the federal government will endanger the economic recovery now under way. Do you favor reducing these deficits even if it means spending cuts in programs you support and tax increases?"

Of those who believe the deficits should be cut, 56 percent said it should be a combination of spending cuts and higher taxes, while 42 percent wanted spending cuts alone.

Fifty-three percent said Congress should look for cuts in both military and domestic programs, although 28 percent said only the defense budget should be pared.

Three choices for tax increases received roughly the same rating: an increase in corporate taxes (66 percent); a delay in income-tax indexing scheduled to begin in 1985 (59 percent); and rescinding the third year of the personal income-tax cut (57 percent).

Peggy Lautenschlager, chairwoman of the 6th Congressional District Democratic Party, will be a candidate for election this fall in the four-

county 18th Senate District.

The incumbent is Sen. Scott McCallum, a Fond du Lac Republican who failed in his bid to upset Proxmire in 1982. McCallum was elected to the Senate in 1976 and again in 1980.

David Bergland, the Libertarian Party candidate for president, will bring his party's "think small" ideas about government to Madison this spring.

Bergland will speak at 7:30 p.m. April 23 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Union.

A program titled "Women: the missing chapter in Wisconsin politics," will be held 7 p.m. March 5 at the state Historical Society in Madison.

According to the National Women's Political Caucus of Wisconsin, a panel of five speakers will "discuss the circumstances of coming to (political) office when women in public office were an oddity."

The program will include former Rep. Ruth Doyle of Madison, who was first elected to the Legislature in 1948; Virginia Hart, the first woman to be named to a cabinet-level post in state government; Rep. Esther Luckhardt, a Horicon Republican who has served in the Assembly since 1962; Rep. Marjorie Miller, a Madison Democrat who was first elected in 1970; and Andrea Nye, a UW-White-water professor.

The event marks the beginning of National Women's History Week.