

# Wintergreen for president

by Dionne Drabek

Beneath the clamor of the presidential campaign, whispers of uncertainty are audible as the undecided weigh their choices. With less than a week left until the election, some may long for another option. Although it is too late to add another candidate, voters can at least escape for an afternoon.

The University Singers are nominating and placing into office John P. Wintergreen in the hilarious 1932 Pulitzer Prize winning musical, *Of Thee I Sing* by Ira and George Gershwin. The show opens Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Judy Bayley Theatre.

David Weiller, the University Singers' conductor as well as director of Choral Studies and assistant professor of music at UNLV, is excited about this production.

"Usually the ensemble performs more sacred works," Weiller said. "This is the first time we have ever done a full musical. This particular work is so timely. It was first produced in the height of the depression not unlike the recession we face today. Its popularity served as an avenue for people to make fun of the political process."

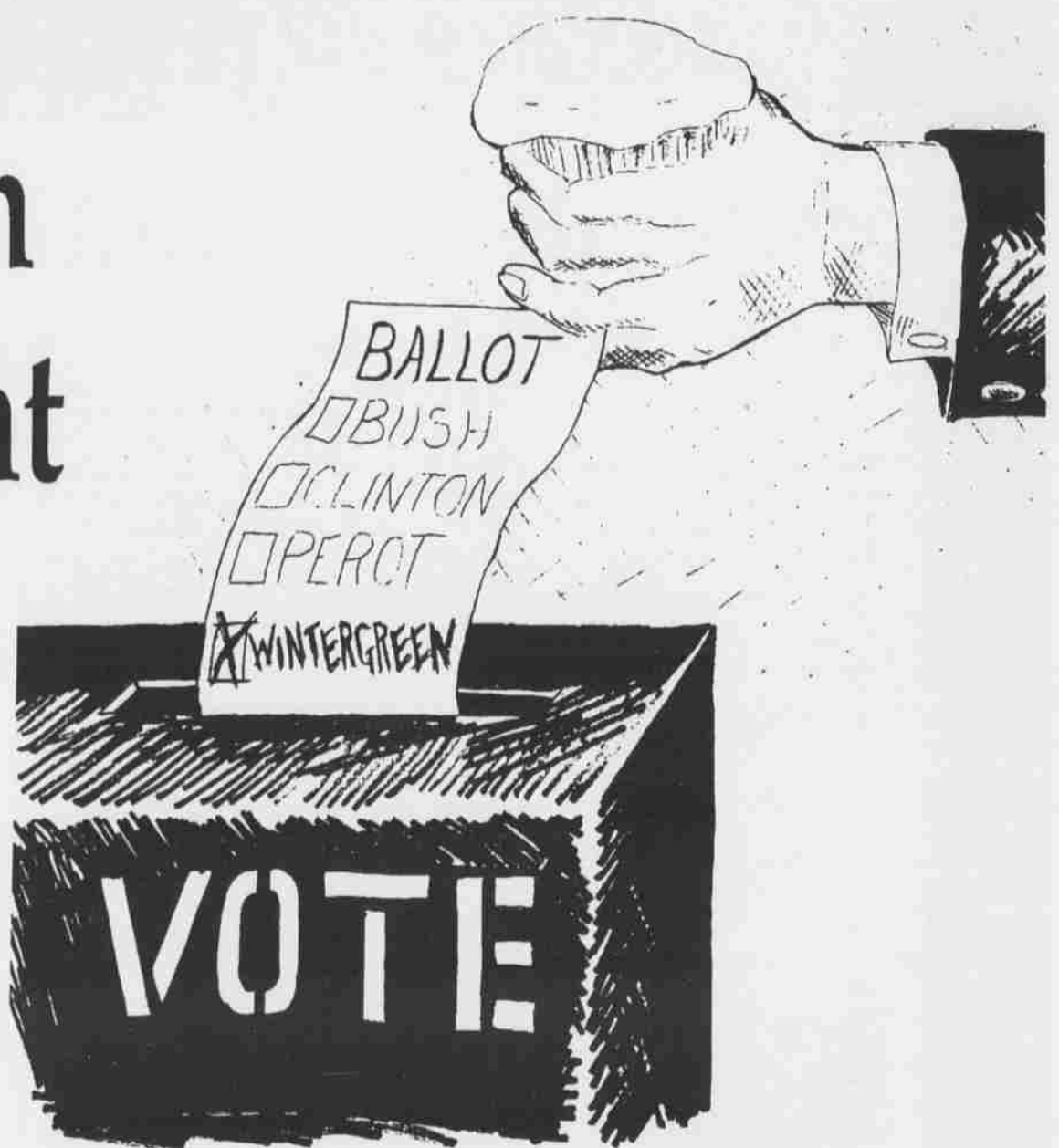
The concert version stars Jess S. Galchutt as presidential candidate,

John P. Wintergreen. His campaign committee supports their candidate on a platform of love. His "promise" to the people involves holding a beauty contest to choose Miss White House. Wintergreen promises to betroth the winner, the vivacious southern belle, Diana Devereauxe played by Traci Ohlson.

He fails to keep this promise after falling in love with the All-American, smart and sensible Mary Turner performed by Tina Jackson. One of Turner's most redeeming qualities is that she bakes great corn muffins.

After tasting these muffins, Wintergreen refuses to marry Devereauxe and creates an international scandal when the French Ambassador reveals that Miss White House is the illegitimate daughter of the illegitimate son of the illegitimate nephew of Napoleon. Therefore, to prevent further indiscretion, the Supreme Court finds it constitutional that in the event that the president cannot fulfill his duties the Vice President must.

Vice President Alexander Throttlebottom, played by Peter Clark, is a likeable guy but a bit of a dim wit—without naming anyone we can all imagine what he's like. Throttlebottom has never been to the White House because he doesn't think they allow vis-



itors. But he does save the country by agreeing to marry Devereauxe. And all is well in America! We couldn't wish for a happier ending to our own political shenanigans.

Those wearing campaign buttons to the show

will receive special seating, regardless of their choice of candidates. The Varsity Men's Glee Club will open the show with such patriotic favorites as "You're a Grand Ol' Flag" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

As part of the festivities, 1,000 muffins will be do-

nated by the Marie Callender's and Flamingo Road, and will be served during intermission.

At times like these, the musical continues to serve as a humorous escape to our campaign quandaries. General admission is \$6; student admission \$5.

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