Interview

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Art Fer Guvner

A "B" Western movie star running the state government? Perhaps in California. But Iowa? It could happen, especially if Iowa write-in gubernatorial candidate Art Roamer has his way. So what does this cowboy of sorts, the alter ego of Des Moines artist Gene Hamilton, have to offer the state of "Ioway?" ethos asked this fictional "man with a mission" about his candidacy, his platform and a few of his favorite cowboy words.

e: Why did you declare your candidacy for governor of Iowa?
AR: Well, I think folks are lookin' fer more than Gobber ... Gopher ... or a life time governor fer Iowa. I'm an option fer really good people. I don't care about money. I spit on it. You can quote me on that, I spit on it. It's like I always say, if you are goin' to get buffed, let Art do it.

e: You are a movie star running for office ... did other actors inspire you to run for office?
AR: Gobber, he's runnin'. He was on that boat show. Ronald—he was an actor in Westerns. Sonny Bono is one of the best actors to get elected. And Clint, too. If they can do it, why can't I. Who's better, a "B"-movie star or a guy who emptied waste baskets? I jumped on the backs of bandits and shot guns out of the hands of bad guys. I'm fightin' fer justice and law and order, while Gopher was carryin' a beer to some rich guy.

e: How do you feel about the other candidates?
AR: Well Bonnie—she's a right perk girl. Terry—well, he's like the Papa Doc of loway. It's time fer him to get out of the road. He can't even get out of the way of a sled. How can he run a state? Reichardt—he dresses like a rich man.

e: So are you looking for the blue-collar vote?
AR: I'm goin' fer the honest folks who are honest with themselves. I got the guts to be up front and working hard.

e: What about your taxation policy? Isn't taxing 98 percent of someone's income pretty steep?
AR: I'm allowing folks to keep 2 percent of their income because that's about all we need. I'm tellin' ya right off the line about it.

e: But where is all that money going to go?
AR: It will be used to perpetuate the lifestyles of the government workers. It will all go to the pensions of retired federal, state, county and local workers and officials.

e: So is that why you want to be governor?
AR: You betcha! David Good-Deer—he was in the movies with me—he said "Art good man. He good fer leading state of loway. Not what in brain, but in heart that matters." I'm not smart, but I've got heart.

e: What is your campaign manager, Hoppy Hopkins?
AR: It began when I was doin' charity events fer the American Cancer Society. So I probably met him there.

e: Have you and Hoppy considered ads?
AR: Hoppy and me are talkin' about havin' a fundraiser. It might be a cowboy Western rave, but we need a place to hold it. Or we can do a bar-b-que because there is an Art Roamer Bar-B-Que sauce, along with t-shirts and coffee mugs, but it don't matter much.

e: What party would you say you belong to?
AR: Parties are fer people who want to be in the in-crowd. I don't need nonsense like that. I'm a human being. Let 'em call themselves Republicans and Democrats. I'm a part of the Human-Being Party.