



UAlbany grad is Green Party nominee for VP

By [MARC PARRY](#), Staff writer

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Rosa Clemente came to the University at Albany at a heady time for minority student activism.

There were demands for more students of color. Organizing. Opposition groups. Marches. Rodney King.

Amadou Diallo.

Clemente, who later worked briefly in the Legislature, was arrested twice at protests here.

"I think it was twice," Clemente said Wednesday. "It could have been one more, I don't remember."

Now 36, the 1995 UAlbany graduate and self-described black Puerto Rican hip hop activist and journalist is still involved in politics -- national politics.

The North Carolina resident recently became the vice presidential candidate in former U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney's Green Party presidential campaign.

Prominent rappers like Chuck D of Public Enemy sing her praises. M1 of Dead Prez put out this statement:

"Knowing that Rosa Clemente is down with Cynthia McKinney's run, I feel that now is the greatest opportunity for the Hip-Hop community to put our collective strength and power to the test and vote for someone who represents who we are and what we stand for."

Raised in the South Bronx, Clemente was president of the Albany State University Black Alliance (ASUBA) during her college days in the Capital Region.

Among issues she cares about are a living wage, access to college that doesn't leave you buried in debt, an end to the war, the so-called prison-industrial complex, police brutality and the death penalty.

The Greens got less than 1 percent of the vote in the last presidential election, according to Reuters.

Clemente said the goal this time is 5 percent, a threshold that she said would bring ballot access and matching funds.

At the party's convention in Chicago earlier this month, she pledged to fight "-isms and ideologies that divide us."

"Dick Cheney, bring it on," she joked.

Economists and McCain

In another presidential election story with local ties, remember that statement by 300 economists endorsing John McCain's economic agenda?

Turns out some weren't as crazy about the Arizona senator as he advertised.

The Web site Politico interviewed more than a dozen of the signatories, a group that included Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute Professor James Adams.

"There's just one problem," it found. "Upon closer inspection, it seems a good many of those economists don't actually support the whole of McCain's economic agenda. And at least one doesn't even support McCain for president."

Adams declined to discuss his views with Campus Notebook, and he took the same line with Politico: "I'm not involved in the campaign. I simply read a statement and signed on."

News of Hitchcock

A source with knowledge of the SUNY chancellor search told Campus Notebook that the University at Albany's former president, Karen Hitchcock, was nominated for the job at one point. She wasn't selected for an interview, said the source.

Hitchcock recently resigned as head of Queen's University in Canada after a tumultuous tenure. She was the subject of an Ethics Commission inquiry before she left UAlbany in 2004.

Chancellor's Award A Cohoes-raised former WTEN producer is among six Plattsburgh professors to win a SUNY Chancellor's Award. Peter J. Ensel III, who graduated from Cohoes High School in 1976, is an associate professor and chairman of the communications department. He has taught television production, electronic media management and writing for television and radio. He also worked with the journalism department to create the Center for Communication and Journalism Studies.

Marc Parry can be reached at 454-5057 or by e-mail at mparry@timesunion.com.