



## President: Jane McAlevey A Breath of Fresh Air

If ever students have had reason to be cynical about student government politics, it is now. The potential of a Hayden presidency at this time last year was enormous; the end result was a disgrace.

Can student government ever amount to anything?

Writing an endorsement from the point of view of campus journalists, especially as editors of a magazine that last year strongly supported Hayden for his potential, we consider ourselves lucky to again have the opportunity to speak optimistically, and feel strongly about the potential of a year of SA under the guidance of Jane McAlevey. We feel equally strong about the negative consequences should Bob Hayden once again be brought to power.

Jane McAlevey has all the makings of a responsible, active SA president. She has a history of almost unprecedented **hard** work—not on committees, but on the street, organizing the otherwise uninvolved student. She has an openness in her political style, and a credible platform built on a foundation of *collective* leadership which reflects that style, that it frankly amazed us for its contrast to the openly dictatorial nature of all past SA administrations we have seen in recent years.

McAlevey's extensive knowledge of state-wide student issues that affect us so strongly here at UB, and her ability to work aggressively to have influence on a fair outcome, promises a year that is different in effectiveness, knowledge, and actual accomplishment. This year we have a candidate with plans for improving student government, but also one with feasible plans to effect that change.

Our optimism for Jane McAlevey is accented by a sour aftertaste left over from

Bob Hayden's months in office. We are in a rare position to be able to judge a candidate by his actual performance in the office for which he seeks election. Accordingly, our criticism of Hayden stems not from a poor performance in an half-hour endorsement interview; on the contrary, his responses were remarkably smooth. Rather, we are critical of his solid record of laziness on the job, personal arrogance in relations with his colleagues and subordinates, and his overall failure in office. Hayden's tenure, marked by only one substantial accomplishment—opening SA up to women and minorities—was characterized chiefly by internal bickering in student government that extended well beyond the court cases that both began and ended his term of office.

In the history of SA, Bob Hayden will not be remembered for the successful implementation of the CNT union plan. He made no progress on turning his blueprints into reality despite the pleas of students with whom he had worked for years on the plan. Nor will Hayden be remembered for, as he also promised, the registration of five thousand students in a massive voter drive. No organized voter registration occurred while Hayden was in office; in fact, Hayden might be best remembered for halting last Fall's voter registration for his own political ends. A large part of this semester's politically stifled, though somehow successful voter drive, was organized and executed by Jane McAlevey and her 40-member strong SASU chapter. In short, we are opposed to the one-man, top-down legacy of student government leadership under Bob Hayden.

It is time, however, to look ahead. For the first time in years, we have before us a presidential candidate with an authentic and road-tested plan for "greater student involvement" in student government that goes beyond rhetoric and proposes specifics.

To start, McAlevey plans to create an actual search process for candidates to fill the appointed coordinator, Sub-Board and FSA positions. University departments will

be contacted to maximize the number of applicants. In accordance with Jane's philosophy of collective leadership, this year's Positions and Appointments Committee will be expanded to almost a dozen members representing as many interests within the undergraduate student body as is practically feasible. This committee will be required to conduct an active search process for qualified individuals. This may be the first year in which any competent—or even hard-working—individual can enter top leadership in SA without prior political connections.

The past tradition of parceling out SA appointments, largely an expedient, unpublicized, "inside job," has virtually guaranteed incompetence.

Jane McAlevey is a different kind of student leader because she has not risen through the ranks of SA administrators merely administering student money. Jane's experience lies in organizing—she has led large numbers of student time and again in struggles to roll back proposed tuition increases, to fight the proposed 21-year old drinking age, and even in smaller issues such as turning over the housing office's takeover of Clinton Hall.

Jane has always emphasized the importance of individual students working for themselves in their own behalf. We are confident that she has the ability to be the first activist, rather than bureaucratic, SA president.

Her campaign platform is pragmatic, realistic, and appropriate to the needs of students, especially when compared to the overblown plans of Bob Hayden—he actually thought we would be impressed by his \$1 million plan to buy the Granada theatre on Main Street.

Emerging from a stale discord that predates the Squire Hall controversy, from political and legal struggles that have pushed student patience and the SA constitution to its very limits—Jane McAlevey, optimistic, open-minded, and enthusiastic, and quite the new kid on the block, is a breath of fresh air.