

1971-72

by Lucinda Chodan

*Somethin's happenin' here,
What it is ain't exactly clear,
There's a man with a gun over
there,
Tellin' me I got to beware...*

Although the release of Buffalo Springfield's hit *For What It's Worth* occurred several years earlier, campus happenings at the U of A probably came closest to 1960s-style American student activism in 1971-72.

And in a year of teach-ins, boycotts, and protest marches, *The Gateway* (including a young ad manager named Percy Wickman) set the tone early with a two-page feature titled "making the system fit you...start with survival in the classroom."

The article advised students to demand the right to determine course and lecture content, the physical environment in the classroom and whether grades should be assessed. "...Start presenting that professor with some demands about what goes down in the classroom and how it goes down," the article counselled.



New Dean of Education Myer Horowitz

And some students did — if not in the classroom, then on the streets. About 400 placard-carrying students protested the proposed Amchitka nuclear blast in the Aleutian islands in October, and in November, ten students were arrested for protesting the blast in front of Imperial Oil offices in downtown Edmonton.

Students' Council was also more controversial then. After a Native Forum on campus, the SC endorsed a boycott of reserve schools by Alberta Indians and cancelled classes for a day so students could attend an SU-sponsored teach-in on Indian problems. That year, the SU was beseeched for funds by a group investigating the War Measures Act, the U of A Vietnam Action Committee and the Young Socialist newspaper committee; and they even granted money to support the repeal of abortion laws.

That year, SU president Don McKenzie also participated in a Young Socialist-prompted debate, "Be it resolved that the Students' Union be a force for radical political action." By all reports, the Young Socialists, who argued the affirmative, won.

But the biggest confrontation between the forces of good — the "counterculture" — and the forces of evil — the "establishment" — took the form of the clash between *The Gateway* and Students' Council. The running battle began with some acerbic commentary on SC actions and a heated exchange of letters between the SC's McKenzie and *Gateway* editor Bob Beale. In the first major skirmish, though, the SC tried to force the newspaper to publish free SU ads in the form of a flyer called *The Gazette*. When McKenzie issued an ultimatum to the paper, editor Beale responded with a salvo of his own and dared the SU to try to force the staff to run *The Gazette*. The issue died quietly in November, and round one had gone to *The Gateway*.



Construction began in October on the new Housing Union Building (HUB).

Worse was yet to come, though. Because of budgetary problems, the SU closed its Art Gallery, radio station CKSR and the Photodirectorate, which supplied *The Gateway* with photographs. In retaliation, the newspaper staged a photo strike, and for three issues, blank squares instead of photographs appeared in the paper. But the photo strike was quickly overtaken by an even greater crisis — a total *Gateway* strike — when Students' Council shunted aside the paper's elected editor-in-chief candidate for 1972-73 and selected one of their own.

GATEWAY GOES ON STRIKE, screamed the front-page headline February 15. The paper published a front-page comment on the SU action and ran a crimson and black full-page "In Memoriam" poster in that issue. For the rest of the term, the paper continued to blast Students' Council, president McKenzie and *Gateway* editor-elect Terri Jackson.

In the last paragraph of the last article of the last issue of the "free *Gateway*", the staff made this announcement:

By the way, the Gateway staff will be publishing their own paper next year and need help...

And thus was born *Poundmaker*.

ALSO IN THE NEWS

•Rookie Bears' football coach Jim Donlevy made his first appearance of

the pages of *The Gateway* in early fall, and a youthful-looking Myer Horowitz was appointed Dean of Education.

•The last edition of the university yearbook *Evergreen and Gold* also appeared in the fall.

•The SUB cafeteria, RATT, was in trouble because of poor attendance. Although the unlicensed coffee house survived several ultimatums, it hovered near closure all year.

•Hitchhiking zones marked with specific destinations were established on 87 Avenue and 112 and 116 Streets.

•And you thought CAB food was bad... in early December, about 90 Lister Hall residents were treated at Student Health for suspected food poisoning after an outbreak of meatloaf. "But most of the students are off and running today," *The Gateway* reported.

•Blood, Sweat and Tears, Chilliwack and Procol Harum performed in Edmonton; Hair, Moby Grape and the Plastic Ono Band were hits; and *McCabe and Mrs. Miller* was "America's Greatest Film", according to young *Gateway* movie critic Stephen Scobie.

•And last, but not least, optimistic predictions about a new Students' Union-owned housing project abounded when construction began on the Housing Union Building (HUB) in October. See 1975-76 for the ultimate result of the Bricklin, er, I mean HUB.



Headed for Jasper Place? Can I get a ride? The SU established student hitchhiking zones in the immediate university area.



The unrepentant *Gateway* staff — and the beginnings of the *Poundmaker*.