

The photo above appeared in a January, 1973 Gateway with the caption 'Engineering Queens 1973' It promoted vehement outcries from engineers and engineering queens and princesses.

# 1972-73

by Portia Priegert

History depends less often on those who shape it than on those who comment on it.

Harvey G. Thomgirt

Few of us now remember Harvey G. Thomgirt. But in 1972, the stuffed green snake gained notoriety as the mascot (and publisher) of *The Poundmaker*, the U of A's "alternative" newspaper.

*The Poundmaker* made its first appearance in 1972 after a schism developed between *Gateway* staffers and that year's appointed *Gateway* editor, Terri Jackson. (See the previous page for the sordid details.) Most of the staff went their own way (taking a lot of *Gateway* equipment with them) and thus *The Poundmaker* (named after a famed Indian chief) was born.

Accordingly, U of A students could choose between the objective, sometimes staid reporting of *The Gateway* and the lively left-wing political commentary and perverted humor of *The Poundmaker*.

As in other years, Students' Council antics were a prominent source of news, thanks, in particular, to an obnoxious SU president. His name was Gerry Riskin, and his game was ripping off the SU.

He used SU funds to solicit parking spaces for several of his friends and to print personal business cards and letterhead paper. The final straw came when he posted, at SU expense, pictures (without names) of the SU executive — just to let students know what they looked like.

Riskin later tried to transfer long-term SU funds into the SU operating budget, but not surprisingly, failed to do so. Yet despite these and other scandals, Riskin managed to last an entire term in office.

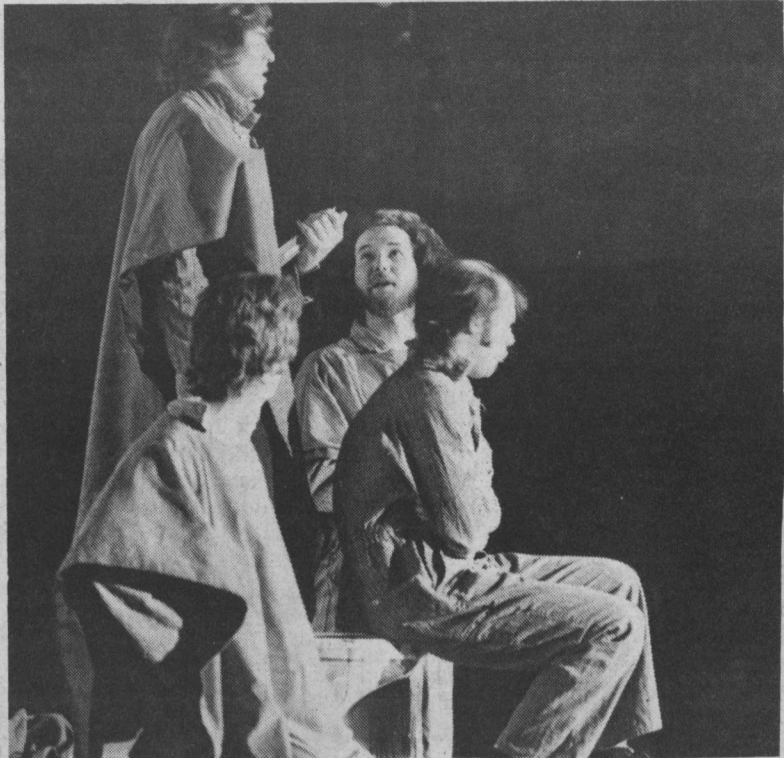
Proposals to modify the tenure system at the U of A were also big news in 1972. Although months of debate left the system unchanged, various schemes

surfaced during that time. One dean went so far as to propose a graded salary scale whereby lecturers would be paid \$30,000, profs \$20,000 and administrators \$10,000.

If staff members couldn't leave and couldn't be fired, the dean maintained, incapable and lazy people could be promoted into oblivion. This system had the added advantage of facilitating rapport between the senior incompetents of the university and the government, the dean said. (Hmmm, I wonder if Scott Thorkelson — or Rollie Cook — has heard about this?)

## Also in the news:

- Campus Security was refused permission to seek Special Constable Status, which would have given them the same powers as the City Police force.
- A proposal to create an ecology department or program of environmental studies was defeated at General Faculties Council.
- The National Union of Students (NUS) was formed in November, though representatives from Quebec and the Maritimes left the conference after a bitter fight over membership criteria.
- A *Poundmaker* survey revealed that the majority of students didn't vote Tory.
- A university student fell, hit his head and died in the Ice Arena. A number of people watched him die and failed to help him.
- Students voted resoundingly in favor of more liquor outlets on campus. Students' Council discussed the possibility of setting up bars in RATT and HUB.
- The SU supported in principle the establishment of a record co-op in SUB.
- GFC approved computerized pre-registration and library fine tabulation.
- Student Health experienced grave financial problems, putting its future existence in doubt.



The Cage, a play performed by ex-convicts, put in an appearance on the U of A campus. Also in the arts: Bruce Cockburn, Ian and Sylvia Tyson and in a different 'art', Xaviera Hollander.

## POUNDMAKER

Newspaper of the Students of the University of Alberta, Edmonton

### GSA recommends boycott of Students' Union fees

The Students' Union may end up \$20,000 short of graduate student fees this year unless a dispute between the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association is resolved.

The dispute has resulted in a recommendation to graduate students from the GSA that they refuse to pay the \$10 Students' Union fee paid in other years.

As a result, GSA no longer occupies its office in the Students' Union Building.

In past years, the Students' Union fee for graduate students has been \$10, \$6 going to amortize the mortgage on SU B, and \$4 which helped pay for services such as *The Gateway*, student radio, etc. As well, a minimal \$1 per year was paid to GSA for office space in SU B.

GSA contends that this agreement was to be renewed annually subject to conditions in the unissued minutes of a Board of Governors executive committee meeting held in March, 1969.

That day of the 70-graduate students be given the option of: (a) paying \$20 for membership in the Students' Union, or (b) paying \$10 for building and activities' privileges only in the Students' Union Building.

Last year GSA president J. Hoddinot attempted to come to an alternate transaction.

### A Free and Democratic Student Press

**EDITORIAL**

*Poundmaker* is an attempt by some students at this university to produce a newspaper magazine which is financed entirely by advertising and is independent of any vested interests.

*Poundmaker* is staffed by former members of *The Gateway*. As some of you may remember, a dispute over the appointment of a new *Gateway* editor last spring caused the entire staff of that newspaper to leave.

The dispute centered around the appointment of an editor who had never been a member of *The Gateway* staff, who did not receive any votes in an election held by the staff for the position of editor, and whose beliefs concerning the operation of a newspaper were diametrically opposed to those held by the staff.

These beliefs centered around the concept that as an organization staffed by volunteers, *The Gateway's* policy and direction should be determined by the staff after free and open debate. The editor appointed by students' council maintained that the editor is the creator of a newspaper's policy.

While the former *Gateway* staff would not work for an editor imposed on them by students' council, they still wanted to write. Over this past summer there was much talk, but little action, concerning organizing an independent student newspaper, which became financially feasible after *The Gateway*, at the request of its former staff, was expelled from Canadian University Press and from Youthstream Network, the national advertising co-operative affiliated with CUP. With *The Gateway* out of CUP and Youthstream, another University of Alberta student newspaper could apply for membership and the estimated \$100,000 yearly advertising revenue. *Poundmaker* now has both.

That the end of summer arrived and the organizing of another newspaper appeared to have fallen through. So some of the old staff approached the new *Gateway* editor in an attempt to see if she would agree to consider their concept of staff democracy in exchange for their help with *The Gateway*. She refused them.

And *Poundmaker* was born.

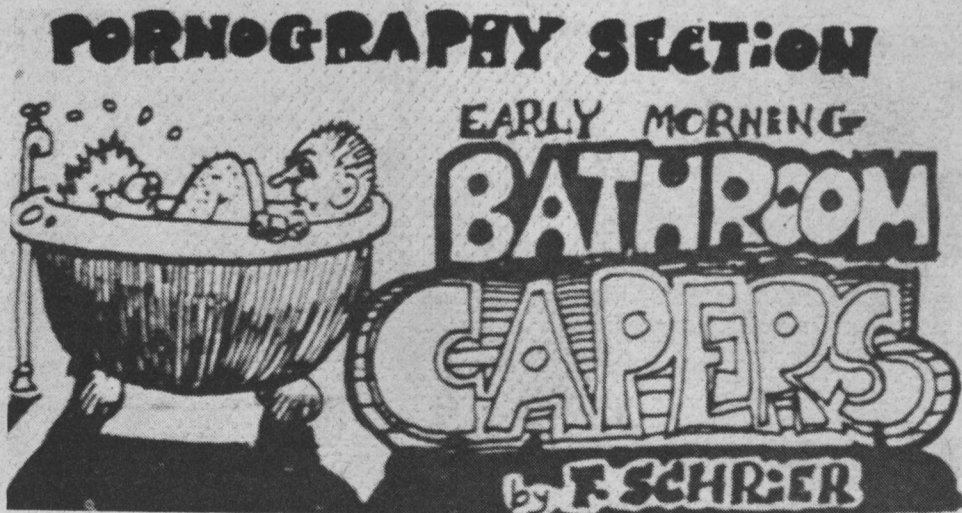
Unlike *The Gateway*, it casts the students' choice. All we ask is that it be read, and that interested students come over and talk with us, and perhaps help put out a real student newspaper.

If you are interested in maintaining a free and democratic student newspaper on this campus (and meeting a lot of hard-earned ad dollars and alcohol, revolutionaries) come and join us, just a block off campus at:

11021 88th Avenue (side door)  
or phone 438-2628

We also have a well stocked refrigerator.

The front page of the very first issue of *The Poundmaker*.



From *The Poundmaker*. The rest of the strip was seized by the RCMP morality squad.

