

## GFC cancels classes for SU general meeting tomorrow

All classes will be cancelled between 12 and 1 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29, to enable students to attend an urgent students' union general meeting on budget priorities and students' union fees. The meeting will be held in the U of A Ice Arena.

The meeting will be open to all students' union members but they must produce I.D. cards at the door.

If the necessary quorum of 1,800 students' union members (10 per cent of the membership) is reached the meeting will have the authority if it so decides to rescind the preliminary budget for next year which was introduced by the outgoing students' council two weeks ago and ratified by the new council last night.

Motion which will be presented at the meeting will include the following: "that CKSR receive an operating budget of approximately \$8,000 next year, that the SUB Art Gallery receive a budget of approximately \$16,000 next year, that Photodirectorate be maintained at the financial and organizational level of this past year and that the students' union become a voluntary union."

The general meeting was initiated two weeks ago when the outgoing students' council ratified a preliminary budget which axed the Students' union Art Gallery, and forced serious cutbacks in CKSR and Photodirectorate budgets.

The Students' Union constitution says that a general meeting must be called upon the petition of at least 1,000 students calling for such a meeting. Last Monday night petition organizers Don Ryane and Bob Beal dumped the signatures of nearly 3,000 students on the table in front of the new executive.

A meeting was called for Wednesday, March 29.

It's important that you be there.

A referendum on students' union fees and priorities will be held Thursday from 9-5 p.m. Polls will be located in the Ed building, CAB, Med. Sc. Tory,

### Summer session loans

The Students' Finance Board will make money available for students taking credit courses at any approved institution offering spring and summer sessions.

LOans will be funded on the same basis as for winter sessions. To qualify, a student must have lived in Alberta for at least one year and be enrolled in an approved course of studies at a university, college or institute of technology. LOans are awarded on the basis of financial need, as determined by tuition fees, books and supplies, living and incidental expenses.

Students wishing to attend an institution north of Calgary should write for application forms and general information to Students' Finance Board, Room 700, Devonian Bldg, 11160-Jasper Ave.

SUB, Engineering Phase I and Lister Hall. An advance poll will be held in SUB, Wednesday from 2-5 p.m.

The preferential referendum, in asking the question "what are your priorities" and "what amount, from zero to seven dollars would you choose to have your fees raised by" will determine whether students are willing to shell out the additional \$3 to \$7 which the students' union executive claims is necessary to meet existing services.

If the necessary 66 and 2/3 per cent majority of students vote for for an increase in students' union fees the fee structure could range from the present \$38.50 to anywhere from \$41.50 to \$45.50.

The referendum was originally slated for last Friday, but was cancelled when The Gateway containing a full-page ad for the referendum was delayed and did not appear until Friday. The by-laws say that at least one day's notice must be given to students on a referendum. No other publicity had been given the referendum.

## Edmonton Experimental Theatre hosts media forum

by Jonny Joint

Not five minutes ago, I got out of a taxi driven by an artist. I'll assume he was telling the truth — he had very little to gain by telling me he was an artist when he wasn't.

He said he was a painter — a realist — and he talked with an artist's anger about a number of things an artist — a realistic painter — has to put up with in Edmonton.

In particular, he wondered how an artist like himself would go about getting his name in the paper. Without one's name in the paper, he reasoned quite astutely, no one would know who you were and no one would be interested in your art.

He quoted an example to me — quite a typical example when I think of the litanies of disgust I've heard on other occasions from other artists.

An artist — another realist — an Edmonton fellow and a good friend of the cabbie's worked and lived in Edmonton for many years. The recognition he received was minimal. "He got writeups in the paper about

so big," gestured the taxidriver, his fingers very close together.

Just a few months ago, reconciled to the fact he would never be acknowledged in his own city, the artist moved to Vancouver. Within weeks, my cabbie told me, his voice just faintly tinged with incredulity, the artist had a writeup in the Vancouver Sun — "about so big" hands wide apart. His Vancouver art gallery started to promote his work — exhibitions were arranged across North America and then in London, England.

"Why doesn't that sort of thing happen here in Edmonton?" asked my cabbie.

"How does one get the paper here to interview you, or review your work or talk about you and... yes, advertise for you too?"

"Why don't local artists get their names in the paper?"

Isabelle Foord asked me essentially the same question a week or so earlier. But she asked as if she already knew the answer. And disagreed with it... violently.

Edmonton isn't a second-rate city. It's a sophisticated city with discriminating audiences who are really hip to goings on, she overstated to make her point.

The point, said Isabelle, is that the paper just isn't serving,

its purpose — telling the people about the good things happening here.

That paper, as we are all almost certainly aware, is the one produced daily in the ancient brick building located on that inestimably valuable piece of real estate across from the Chateau Lacombe.

Isabelle Foord, as director of the Edmonton Experimental Theatre, has her own beef about the daily's lack of recognition for local talent.

She is also in somewhat better a position to air her views on the matter than my cabbie whose opinions might never have seen the light of day but for the happy accident that I caught a ride with him prior to sitting down before this typewriter.

Isabelle is determined to have her say. Tuesday night at 8:30 p.m. in SUB Theatre, a four-member panel will sit down and discuss the state of Edmonton's press. The exact question before them is, "Does Edmonton need a second newspaper?"

The affirmative answer is a foregone conclusion and the debate promises rather to be a situation in which one can examine the rationalizations of Edmonton's daily paper representatives in defending their position of pre-eminence in the field of local journalism.

*This is probably the last picture you will see in The Gateway, at least this year. Last year's Students' Union Executive decided they didn't like the Gateway staff so they kicked the Gateway staff out by appointing an editor we wouldn't work for. Then they decided they didn't like CKSR, Photo Directorate or Art Gallery either so they kicked them out by cutting their budgets. Next year's Students' Union Executive and Council don't have to follow the precedents set by their predecessors. They can abide by your priorities — that is, if you show up at the general meeting tomorrow.*

The panel members are Don Smith, managing editor of the Edmonton Banal, Bob Beal, 1971 editor of the Gateway, Eddie Keen, editorialist for CHED and the Edmonton correspondent for the Toronto entertainment trade publication, That's Show Business.

The experimental theatre is putting on the do, and one of their chappies P.R.—ing the affair put the whole philosophy behind it rather neatly.

"We're going to nail the Banal to a cross!" he said pithily, although hardily with an eye to publication.

Which is all very well, but short consolation to my cabbie who is only trying to make a name in a small way, a few bucks and perhaps get a little self-gratification in the bargain.

But he'll get a chance to have his say too, as the debate will be followed by at least three-quarters of an hour of questions from the audience, who don't have to pay anything to get in in the first place.

Just hope that Isabelle — and my cabbie too — when they start talking about a new publication for the locals with plenty of coverage of all that artsy-fartsy folderol, spare a thought for a few families living in substandard housing north of the Calder freight yards.

They're local too, folks.