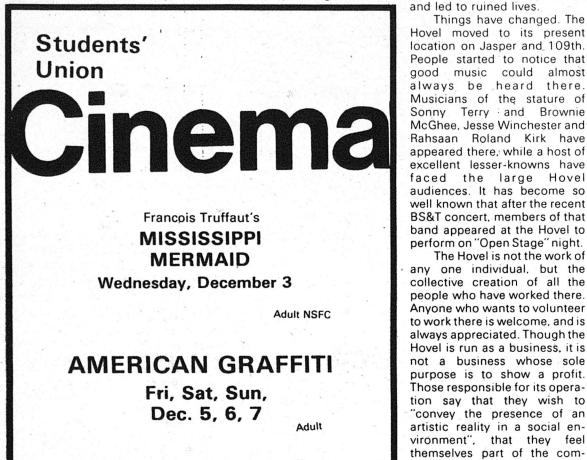
The Hovel:

There are not many ways to listen to live music in Edmonton. If you like hearing deafening rock'n'roll in the company of loud drunks and stoned out people, go to the bars, lounges, and concerts. If that's not your

bag you'll find that there are few places to go to in Edmonton. The only place that regularly presents a varied diet of music is the Hovel

The Hovel was founded almost five years ago. It then



Two shows nightly - SUB Theatre Doors open 6:30 - 9 PM Complete showing 7 & 9:30 PM

Tickets at the door \$1.50 SU members advance ticket \$1 Tickets available at SU Box Office HUB

"Best of its kind in Canada"

existed in a dingy hall just a

hole-in-the-wall away from a

pizza joint. It wasn't well known

in those days, and if it was known at all, it was considered a

shady institution. Like "Reefer

Madness", it caused insanity

Things have changed. The

The Hovel is not the work of

convey the presence of an

munity and want to act as such.

They sponsor occasional

benefits for worthwhile cuases,

and yet continue to make

enough money to stay above

they bring in are suggested to

them by members of their

audiences. Some of those

suggested are too high-priced

Many of the musicians who

water

- Mike Taylor of "Humphrey and the Dump-trucks"



for the Hovel, although they might fit in with what the Hovel wants in their performers. Where possible, they prefer to present artists who are expressive with their music, creative and sincere individuals. For many of these, especially those who are songwriters, the Hovel may well be their only Edmonton exposure.

For such musicians just starting out, a large-scale coffee-house audience is necessary for survival. Without the New York coffee houses, Dylan, Judy Collins, and others would have had a much more difficult time in reaching an audience. Joni Mitchell was launched in Canadian coffee houses.

In Canada, the number of coffee-houses is apparently chrinking, and before the Hovel opened in Edmonton there had been no coffee-house in the about a year. The Hovel, as a society with ru: ership open to the public, men ha ven despite its frequent financial problems managed to both please its audience and support the musicians. Without

it, both groups would be missing a great deal.

Over the years, the audience at the Hovel has changed. People have been attending it since it first opened, while new faces appear at every show. They still come when the Hovel presents unusual musicians, indicating an increasing sophistication in Ed. monton audiences. Hovel fans will be pleased to know that the Hovel plans to finish renovating its premises, updating the washrooms and adding a new sound system. An acoustic stage is also considered which would make any sound system unnecessary.

In the next few months the Hovel plans to present Paul Hann, Bob Carpenter, Brent Titcomb and Leon Redbone, as well as possibly bringing in Shirley Eikhardt and others. Jesse Winchester will be returning in several months, and other old favourites will most likely appear again. When they do, they will find both an audience and a stage in the Hovel

by John Owen Robert Ferris



