

## Western self-awareness

Dr. David Bercuson of the University of Calgary spoke on national unity this Saturday at a conference sponsored by the Canada West Foundation.

Dr. Bercuson dealt mainly with the growth of Western self-awareness from a new found economic strength in the form of oil, coal, grain, and mineral wealth.

The West's lack of political power due to small population compared to the clout of Ontario and Quebec majority power was one of his major concerns.

He felt a Senate whose members were elected by each region, rather than appointed by the federal government, would help redress this imbalance. Dr. Bercuson has edited a book dealing with these concerns called *Canada and the Burden of National Unity*.

The Canada West Foundation was set up in 1973 by a group of 35 Western businessmen and administrators, including U of A president Dr. Harry Gunning

and former Alberta Premier Ernest Manning.

The Foundation has sponsored conferences in Brandon, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, and Edmonton, and goes to Kamloops next in an attempt to gain some impressions of Western ideas concerning National Unity.

In the past the Foundation has dealt mainly with industrial studies — like coal and water — but is now moving into historical and political questions.

They hope to hold a large Western conference on National Unity in January of 1978 in cooperation with the government.



## Minority language education crucial

by Sherry McCann

Minority language education is a crucial issue in the current debate on national unity, said Premier Richard Hatfield Sunday.

The New Brunswick premier was in Edmonton to address the 28th Council of Ministers of Education and elaborate on a resolution passed last month at St. Andrews by the premiers.

Excepting Rene Levesque, the premiers resolved they make

"their best efforts to provide instruction in education in English and French wherever numbers warrant."

In a press conference held after the closed meeting Sunday Hatfield said the ministers' reaction to the resolution was positive and denied suggestions the resolution was "too little, too late."

Hatfield was optimistic attitudes in Canada are changing regarding minority language

groups, but said the province must institute policies which will encourage these attitudes.

He said he expects the recommendations the Council of Education Ministers will make to the premiers five months from now will initiate such policies.

The premier said he expected no major resolution to come from the Council when it closes today, but stressed the ministers' concern is the first step toward changing the constitutional status quo.

## English Dept. offers literary aid

by Shawn McCarthy

Due to the glaring lack of writing proficiency among first year students, the department of English is offering a series of lectures on the skills of essay writing. The workshop is open to all students currently enrolled in junior level English courses.

The first lecture, *Finding a Thesis*, will be given today at 2 p.m. in Humanities Centre L-3.

The second lecture, *Structuring an Argument*, will be held Wednesday, September 28 at 4 p.m., and Thursday, September 29 at 2 p.m.

The third talk on grammatical problems is scheduled for Friday, September 30 at 4 p.m. and Tuesday, October 4 at 2 p.m. The final lecture on revising the essay is slated for Monday, October 3 at 4 p.m. and Thurs-

day, October 6 at 2 p.m. All lectures will take place in Humanities Centre L-3, and should last approximately 90 minutes.

Dr. K. Stewart, coordinator of the program, described last year's program as successful and a definite help to student in improving their writing skills. Approximately 100 students turned out for the lectures last year.

Stewart also mentioned a seminar will be held for students in first-year courses who are in danger of failing because of writing deficiencies. The classes will be divided into two hours of seminar and six hours of office time during which professors will be available for individual consultation.

For assignment to classes, students should bring their fail-

ing essays to Dr. Stewart during office hours, 10-12 a.m. Monday through Thursday, or make an appointment if necessary, by phoning 432-2437.

## Gunning to address grads

University president Dr. Harry Gunning will address the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) on any problems concerning students later this week, said GSA publications officer Rana Sodhi yesterday.

Sodhi said this will be the first general meeting of the GSA this year, and to his knowledge was the first one in history.

He said the meeting will take place Thursday, Sept. 29, 7:00 p.m. in Tory Lecture B2.

Other keynote speakers will be Dr. John Forster, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Mr. Larry Henderson.

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