

ascending ducks

Daniel A. Williams, president of the ASUO, is one of the fastest rising Ducks on the horizon. Dan, a budding politician who has never lost an election, reports he was "frightened by the size of U of O" as an entering freshman from smallish Astoria High School. He had little need to worry for his natural political and organizational ability soon made itself apparent. He has held an elective position in the ASUO since he was a freshman, continuing the tradition he set in high school where he was also elected to many high posts including president of the student council. "This is the first spring in ten years that I haven't been running for something," Dan said.

Dan who emulates other leaders—in tacking up mottos around his office—has a strong mix of congeniality and perceptiveness that results in an astute political ability. "You must delegate authority in this job," Dan says. And in the eyes of observers he has delegated authority while retaining the needed spark to produce one of the finest ASUO's in the history of the University. A few of the tangible accomplishments under the Williams' regime have been longer library hours, combating the cheating problem at the school, an International Affairs Committee, anti-discrimination housing rules, plans to make a recreation park out of the Millrace, and sparking up the Rally Board.

"As the students realize that the ASUO is their voice in University affairs, I believe they'll develop an increasingly stronger interest in it," comments Dan. He believes that since he came to the school in 1958, there has been a "strong revival of interest in the group."

As president of the ASUO Dan is also chairman of the student Senate. He also is on a myriad of committees including Student Activities, Academic Occasions, The Budget Board, and Lectures and Assemblies. Dan joined Theta Chi as a freshman and has added several clubs and honoraries to his membership roster. He belongs to the Friars, the senior honorary, and last year received the Coyl Cup as the outstanding Junior man.

Dan who spends 35 to 45 hours a week on the job, also has found time to work his way through college. He has held several jobs, including working as a fish buyer this past summer in Alaska. "I believe working my way through school has been an education in itself," he said.

Dan who is a registered Democrat and an avowed Stevenson supporter is a Political Science senior who will say farewell to U of O this June. "I want to go on to grad school and get a Ph.D. and then go into college teaching and eventually college administration as perhaps a dean of men," he said. Queried about the chances of throwing his hat in the political ring he answers "I'll just see what comes along. I'm interested in politics, but my first interest is education and I desire that as a basis for any electioneering." He believes politics too "unstable" to constitute a career goal.

"I like Oregon a lot," he says, "but I plan on grad school at Northwestern or Yale and after I see other parts of the country, I might decide to settle there." As a political liberal he sees Oregon losing its "fundamentalist" character and eventually casting a tint favorable to his political slant.

On his philosophy of life Dan states, "people shirk their responsibilities to others when they don't maximize their abilities. Each one of us has a certain ability that others lack and it's our duty to develop that ability so we may serve others with it. A person who doesn't develop his abilities is not socially responsible."

Reflecting on U of O he said, "this school has been living down the country club image for years. Things are improving measurably now and the school is really a strong one academically. People here don't realize the national reputation the University has in many areas, such as history, liberal arts, medicine and architecture. The students are self-deprecatory often

dan williams



and they should come around to appreciating the fact that this is an excellent school and have more pride in it."

Dan's ASUO presidency leaves him little time for recreation but while relaxing he enjoys a game of touch football, softball or tennis. He also travels widely as ASUO head and last term flew to Ohio State for a conference. This week he visits the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs as one of the sixty students in the nation invited to participate in the American Assembly on Disarmament. He also travels around the state giving speeches on student government to high school groups.

"U of O has been much more than classrooms and books—it's been an exciting social experience that has made me want to learn much, much more, I feel I've just scratched the surface on education."

