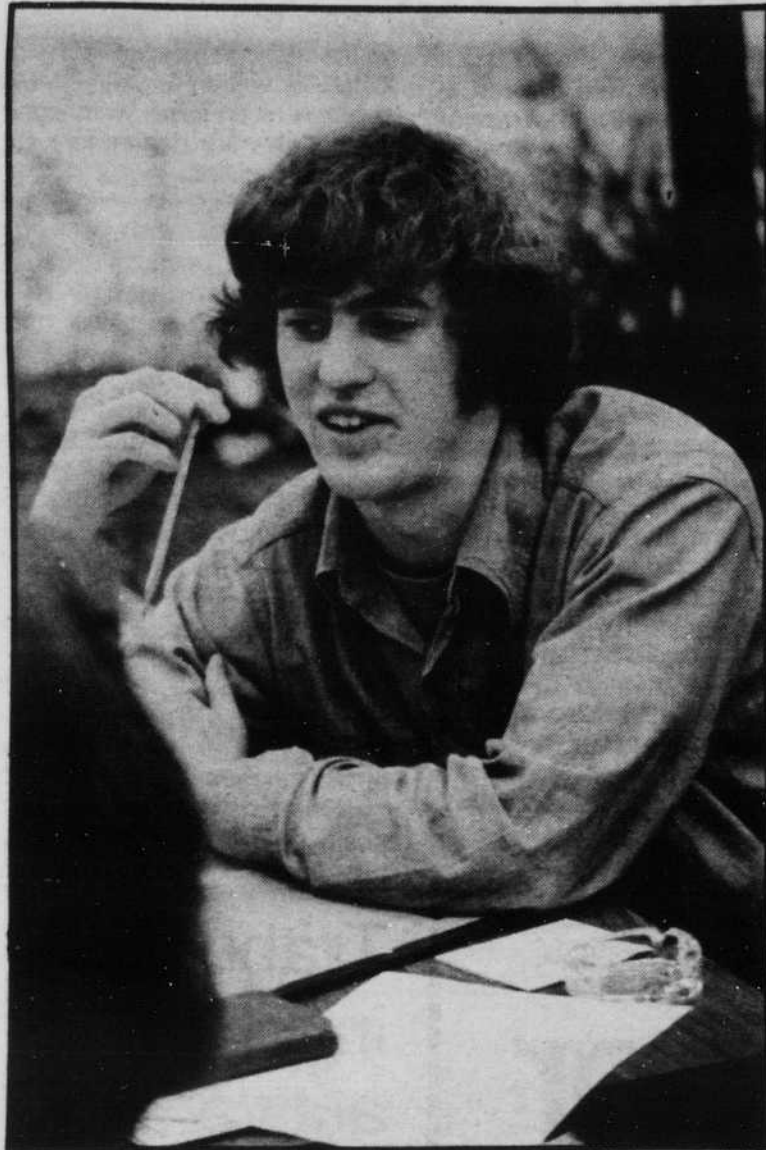


# Freshman president active, happy

By MARY DON  
Of the Emerald



Chester Trabucco

Photo by Greg Clark

"The first two weeks, I'd leave the house and walk across the campus to the bookstore and never see anyone I recognized. When I first got here I'd walk and walk and walk all over the place. And then I'd go home and if the few friends I had then weren't around I wouldn't have anyone to talk to."

"It was lonely. I kept wondering, what the hell am I doing here?"

That's Chester Trabucco describing the freshman experience. You know how it goes. The first month or so in a new place you feel pretty alone. The campus doesn't seem particularly friendly then.

But Trabucco did change his mind — probably most new students do. For him, the way around freshman isolation was getting involved.

"I started to make friends in the house, to meet people at functions. Playing football on the intramural team helped a lot. And I really met a lot of people when I was campaigning door to door.

"Right before Thanksgiving I realized, it's going to be easy staying here."

Trabucco is the freshman class president and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He is fairly happy with his decision to come to the University.

Trabucco is from Astoria. He says he didn't give much thought to college until late in his senior year when a home-town friend invited him to Eugene to visit the University and his fraternity.

And Trabucco liked what he saw. In September he moved to Eugene, pledged Sigma Chi, and enrolled in classes. Right now he says he can see himself double majoring in sociology and some area of business, maybe accounting.

"In my sociology classes we've talked about social strata, levels of society with their own roles and

rules. In business, it's concentration of wealth, the abuses that can happen in a capitalist economy. It makes you want to say, that can't happen to me. It's a whole awareness that's interesting. I think you have to be aware of the patterns, to watch out that you don't just fall into them."

As freshman class president, Trabucco puts in office hours each week at the class office headquarters in Suite 5 of the EMU addition. Class office headquarters is a jazzy new desk with a push-button phone. The desk is crowded with tacks of manila folders, campus mail envelopes and memo pads.

This week Trabucco has been rounding up freshmen to canvass for food. The food drive, which is this Sunday, is a senior class project in which the other class councils are helping out. Trabucco thinks service projects are important.

"I hope to be involved in community service like this throughout my life. I enjoy working with people — that's why I ran for this office and it's why I'm here."

Trabucco seems to enjoy unusual fund-raising projects. In high school he raised the most pledges for a dance marathon benefit and then he and his partner won the marathon — they danced for 28 hours straight.

Last fall he ran a mile in the UO-OSU Muscular Dystrophy Run-a-thon, a marathon race from Eugene to Corvallis for the Civil War football game. "I didn't run too fast, though," he now says remorsefully, "only about 5:37. I was going to run the last mile too, but we were behind by that time and we had Prefontaine do it instead." Oregon won the event by five yards.

Trabucco was also instrumental in getting sponsors for the event. He and senior class president Jim Davis spent a day in Portland recruiting pledges from alums. They brought in nearly \$600, a fair portion of the total amount raised in the Run-a-thon.

(Continued on Page 6)

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