

# Oxford Dream Comes True For Thompson

"Oxford!" wrote English essayist, critic and cartoonist Max Beerbohm. "The very sight of the word printed, or sound of it spoken, is fraught for me with most actual magic."

Sharing Beerbohm's fascination with one of the pillars of Western learning is a 1978 St. Andrews graduate, Lin Thompson, whose lifelong dream of studying at Oxford will come true in October. Son of Tommy and Margaret Comer Thompson (Flora MacDonald, '52) of Shelby, North Carolina, Lin will spend the next two years there, reading for a degree in politics and philosophy.

Founded in the twelfth century, the university has about eight thousand students and is a collection of thirty-nine semi-autonomous colleges and halls, each with its own faculty, library and residences for students, in the center of the ancient city. A major auto manufacturing center, Oxford has a population of about 100,000.

Thompson will attend one of the newer colleges of the

university, Mansfield College. Founded in 1886 as a training school for Congregationalist ministers, Mansfield has, over the last three-quarters of a century, expanded its offering beyond theology and now accepts students reading for degrees in English, Geography, Law, Modern History, Oriental Studies, Human Sciences and P.P.E. (an abbreviation for Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Thompson explained in a recent telephone interview. At Oxford, "the three subjects are grouped together and one must either study all three or a combination of any two of the three.") Thompson will be one of four students admitted to study P.P.E. at Mansfield, which has a total student population of about 100.

"I've wanted to go to Oxford for as long as I can remember," Thompson says. With its resources, traditions and faculty, it's simply the best there is for a liberal arts student." His chance to go came in January when he was chosen over eleven other candidates for a



LIN THOMPSON

Chan Gordon Memorial Scholarship, given annually for overseas study at the institution of the recipient's choice by the Rotary Clubs of western North Carolina. Applying to Oxford in the spring, he "practically camped out at the mailbox" until word came this summer that he had been accepted first by the University and then by one of its

colleges.

Thompson, who graduated in May with a B.A. in politics has high praise for his St. Andrews education. He credits it with making the difference in his post-graduate efforts. "All the other people who came out for the scholarship were from schools much bigger and better known than St. Andrews—Duke, Dartmouth, UNC and the like. I think I was better prepared academically.

Once accepted at Oxford he found more proof. "To applicants from big, established schools Oxford grants what they call 'senior status', allowing them to complete work for their degree in two years instead of the usual three." St. Andrews, he found, is not on the list of such schools, but the faculty at Mansfield found his preparation strong enough to seek senior status designation for him from the University shortly after accepting him.

An Anne Blue Tucker Distinguished Scholar during his time at St. Andrews, Thompson was active in a variety of aspects of campus

life. He edited the school newspaper for two years, was program director and later general manager of WSAP, St. Andrews' radio station, was an officer in two dorms and served two terms in the student association senate. He did a turn on the college golf team, directed the College Union Board Film Series his senior year, and sat on a number of faculty, administrative and trustee committees. In the summer of 1976 he served as a legislative intern for North Carolina congressman James T. Broyhill and then as a press release editor for the President Ford Committee at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City. He is currently an associate editor of the St. Andrews Review, and was honored this spring for his contributions to journalism at St. Andrews by being named recipient of the first Sam Ragan Award for editorial writing. He plans to attend law school upon his return to the United States in 1980.

Thompson says he hopes his acceptance will help lay to rest the myth that a degree from a small college is a handicap in the competitive world of post-graduate work, and as an advertisement for St. Andrews itself. "There's a lot more here than people are aware of," he declares. "It's a pretty good little school."

## Booking Error Results In Two CUB Films This Week; Both To Be Shown Sunday

### "Paris 1900"

Directed and written by Nicole Vedres; English adaptation by John Mason Brown; music by Guy Bernard. Narrated by Monty Woolley.

This is a compilation of precious documentary footage and silent movies made in Paris between 1900 and the outbreak of World War I. The first part of the film lightheartedly evokes "la belle époque" through its fashions, its oddities and its celebrities. Among the most remarkable segments are those showing a gentleman who hurtles to his death from the Eiffel Tower in an unsuccessfully designed "flying suit," and the capture of two anarchists. Sarah Bernhardt, Enrico Caruso, Leon Blum, Jaures, Colette, Andre Gide and even Buffalo Bill make appearances, and the camera miraculously captures Claude Monet painting his water lilies. The preparations for war, the flag-waving and the departing recruits provide an ironic conclusion to this record of years in which Paris was the intellectual and artistic capital of the world.



### "Citizen Kane"

Orson Welles produced, directed, wrote and starred in "Citizen Kane", one of the most precisely-constructed

films of all time. It is a compelling and fascinating study of the powerful recluse Charles Foster Kane. Welles, who was a newcomer to the cinema, created a completely fresh and original screen masterwork. Utilizing "newsreel" footage and the divergent perspectives of five of Kane's intimates, Welles tantalizes the audience with glimpses of the inscrutably tycoon's career and eventual mysterious withdrawal to his opulent retreat, Xanadu. Patterned on the life of William Randolph Hearst, Kane is a man whose influence extends far beyond his publishing empire. As Kane, Welles evolves from a young, energetic and ambitious man to the aging, declining exile. Gregg Toland's deep-focus camera

### Firestone Lobbyist

which have not been widely publicized, or at least paid attention to. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, he noted, held its last set of hearings in early August, promising a decision in a month. No decision had yet been issued, and in the intervening eight weeks semi-independent reports have come out to weaken the NHTSA's case against the 500. But Hagel also predicted that action would probably occur this week, most likely a voluntary partial recall of some four to five million tires by Firestone.

Candidly, Hagel observed that Firestone had handled the

situation less capably than the corporation might have, suggesting that such a voluntary recall a few months ago might have considerably aided the company's image. He also suggested that the problem should have been not straight on, arguing that if you look guilty or defensive people are going to automatically think you're guilty.

He finished out on an optimistic level, saying that the present crisis might well cost Firestone as much as \$200,000,000, but that the company was financially sound enough to sustain the loss. "It may take us years to get back to where we were before all this, but we'll make it."

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