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Will go on Rhodes scholarship

Aggie to attend Oxford

By LISA JUNOD Battalion Campus Edit

Paul Hasse belies the traditional Aggie joke book image of a stoop-shouldered, flat-headed cadet. He's an easy-going, fun-loving guy, a typ-ical college student, yet his accom-plishments have earned him one of the highest honors accorded American scholars - a prestigious Rhodes scholarship.

Hasse, twenty-one years old, will sail for England after graduating from A&M in August. There he will spend two or three years in graduate study at Oxford Univer-

sity, all expenses paid, and will re-ceive a monthly allowance of \$250. Mention Oxford University, and immediately visions of ivy-covered walls, vaulted ceilings and carefully manicured lawns spring to mind. The university, founded in 1168, has long been considered one of the world's leading educational institu-

tions. When Cecil J. Rhodes in 1899 provided in his will for the scholarships he intended to encourage in American students "an attachment to the country from which

they have sprung." Hasse anticipates no difficulties in becoming attached to the spacious, high-ceilinged room he will occupy high-ceilinged room he will occupy at Pembroke College, the division of the university he will attend. Nor is he worried about weathering the chilling English winters, with his own fireplace in his private room and a butler to bring him steaming

hot tea each morning. As an Oxford scholar, Paul will not be required to attend any lec-tures, but must attend a weekly tutorial session. He will also be required to submit a paper each week to his tutor, who will examine it to insure that his studies are moving in the right direction. Other than the weekly papers, students are pretty much on their own, until the end of the two-year study period when a comprehensive 7 to 10 day exam is required before the bestowment of the Oxford B.A. degree.

Actually, students spend less than six months attending school at Ox-ford. During the rest of the year they are free to travel about as they please. Hasse believes that the \$250 monthly allowance he will receive will cover living expenses, but he doesn't think it will take him very

far when it comes to traveling. "I must be one of the first poor Rhodes scholars," Hasse said. "I didn't realize how poor I was until I got a letter from Oxford concerning proper modes of dress. The letter said I should of course bring several dark suits for meals and a tuxedo for occasional functions and more for-mal dining. Tuxedo! I had to buy a **suit** just to go for the interview. According to my calculations it's going to cost me at least \$2,000 before I ever get over there, and that's with transportation paid!" Hasse said. Hasse said that he comes from a hard-working family, but hasn't

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ever had much money for luxuries. When Oxford sent him a note suggesting that he forward \$600 to book passage on the Queen Elizabeth II for the trip to England, he immediately went to the bank and took out a loan.

"It's rather ironic



Paul Hasse

Hasse said that the interviews hotel rooms and had to sit with their were held on the Rice University suitcases piled around them awaiting the results. Once again, Hasse was very surprised to find himself a winner, and said that he went into the interview room to find a tele-phone so he could call his parents. campus in a cavernous building with huge wooden doors, polished mar-ble floors and a spiral staircase in the center. Two chairs sat at the top of the staircase, and as an applicant's name was called he would rise, climb the stairs, and take a seat in one of the stiff-backed chairs. There he would sit for more than an hour while two of the other candidates agonized through their interviews. Eventually the huge doors at the end of a long corridor opened, a booming voice called out his name, and he walked nervously toward the filmmaker.

conference room, his footsteps echoing down the empty hall. Yet Hasse remained very calm

about the interview; in fact, he said he didn't feel the least bit nervous. "Usually I'm a lump of protop-lasm in that kind of situation, but I didn't think I stood a chance. After the interviews I spent a few hours looking through an art museum, then I walked back over to the campus to find out who was chosen. Some of the guys who had really gotten tense during the interviews had been pacing the floors there for hours, but they froze in their tracks when our names were called out. The official congratulations I re-

ceived were very formal, almost cold. A gentleman with a briefcase in his hand walked up to me, shook my hand and said, 'See you in New

he universtity, and intended i parody of student films. "Everything bad I'd ever seen student films, I put into 'La Reve

Hasse said, chuckling. "I filmed it on the eighthfor hospital, and the final print black and white but with a blac cast to it. The title is French for dream" but the film was more li nightmare.

Hasse said that at the screenin the film he and his friends satin back row snickering before the even started rolling. But afterit ended there was complete sileno the theater.

"It was deathly still. I thought minute everyone would either out laughing or turn arou wring my neck, but they just there, spellbound, until one of professors rose, spread his arms declared, 'Brilliant!' "Hasse si The audience agreed, pra

Hasse for his inspired treatme the subject and brilliant symbol Hasse has also worked for Engineering making sales films.

boss at Otis was astounded by filmmaking skill while he wo there, he had to lay a Rus soundtrack over an American that he'd made. Hasse did w Russian interpreters termed and cellent" job, all without speakin word of Russian. The films were first two American sales films to

pear in Russia. Hasse worked for Otis Engue ing for nearly a year, after be forced to drop out of school a work because he could not ob financial aid.

Hasse said he came to A&M is several reasons, but mainly beau it was economical and offered one the best pre-med programs and Originally Hasse had planned tend med school, but rece switched his major to philos and intends to continue his wor Oxford

'Rhodes applicants are eit egomaniacs or totally naive. Iwa the latter category," Hasse sid "A lot of people don't know a Rhodes scholar is. It's sort of the Vice-President - I've never

one, I know they exist... In household, we sort of grew up the words echoing in the hal Hasse said.

How does Hasse fit in with image of a Rhodes scholar as an around athlete? 'I've jumped in the water al

times, and we've got a volleyhil in the backyard, but I'm cett no O.J. Simpson ," he said. "I think Rhodes stressed the

portance of physical fitness be he didn't want his scholars drop dead right after they got their

lomas, 'he said. Although Hasse has over a GPR, he claims he is one of world's worst studiers and is k for cramming the night be

"I'm famous for all-nighter used to worry a lot about ga while I was pre-med - my stor was tied in knots for two years. lately I'm not as tense..." Still, Hasse has made only two

"As part of our course requent we had to record an inter-

Ace

in his college career and vividy calls one of them that he made radio broadcast course at SIU

"I went my own way - I was de-termined that nobody could tell me me to watch my older films now that with someone. All the other some time has passed. I can watch them and say, 'Not bad for a 15were interviewing their mo them and say, 'Not bad for a 15-year-old kid...' But stuff I did last year, I can't even open my eyes when it's running," he said. One of Hasse's biggest projects was a film he made for the Clark Foundation on enzyme linkage. After high school graduation Hasse was hired by the University of Texas Hasse said that he really felt in-erior in New Orleans, where most and ballas on a research grant to make the film. The animated color film, which was produced with the aid of a computer, took nearly the entire summer to complete. While a freshman at Southern Illinois University, Hasse created the film "La Reve" which is still used by SIU as the exemplary student film and is catalogued in the Library of New Orleans took so long that the Congress. Hasse made the film after candidates were thrown out of their instructing a filmmaking course at

"The place was a mess. There were cigarette butts, shreds of paper and smoke all over the place -it looked like the party had been going on for three weeks," Hasse Hasse believes that one of the main reasons he was chosen as a Rhodes scholar was the skill and reputation he has developed as a "I've been making films since I was waist-high," Hasse said. "After graduating from Thomas

Jefferson High School in Dallas I enrolled in Southern Illinois Uni-versity, thinking I'd learn some-thing about filmmaking. I wound up - at 17 years old - teaching the

Hasse began his filming career with a neighbor's borrowed home movie camera back in 1967, and since then has won the Kodak Naexams tional Film Competition three

"I experimented; I did things that weren't being done at the time, especially by kids," Hasse said.

course," he added.

times

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years ago my great-great-grandparents arrived in America as deathly poor Irish immigrants after sailing over on a packet boat, and here I am sailing back on the Queen Elizabeth," Hasse mused.

Hasse said he first became convinced that he was out-classed when he met the other 11 Rhodes finalists from Texas at the interviews in Houston this spring.

'I was lucky to be chosen. I didn't think I stood the chance of the proverbial snowflake, and the more saw of the other candidates the more convinced I became that I was way out of my league," Hasse said. Firmly convinced that he didn't stand a chance, Hasse said that he attended the interviews in Houston 'only out of common courtesy" and stayed to hear the results out of curiosity.

Orleans next Saturday'." Hasse said

Two students were chosen in Houston to represent Texas in the regional competition, Hasse and Peter Larson, a TCU student. Win-ners from a six state region underwent more intensive interviewing in New Orleans, where the final Rhodes selections were made.

ferior in New Orleans, where most of the applicants had "resumes as long as your arm.

'Houston was a nightmare but New Orleans was worse. After meeting the 11 other candidates I had mentally ranked myself as about number 10," Hasse said. He added that the interviews in

and friends, so I decided to something different," Hasse sa Tee Tape recorder in hand, he wa into a crowded auditorium in Louis, Mo., approached enterta Vincent Price before a public pearance at a symphony there asked him for an interview P consented, and Hasse proceed fling 3 1/2 pages of questions a entertainer. Finally Hasse ran questions, thanked Price for interview and left. He found a ant seat in the auditorium, satd and recorded the entire sympl over the tape he had Price's view on. Hasse showed up in the next day without an interv

and received a B in the course. "But I still have Price's aut raph," he said.

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