



MARK HITCHCOCK GAZES at his pet predator before they go to hunt for its food.

Aggie Is Licensed Falconer

By PAULA STEPHENSON

Looking more like a Cuban revolutionary than a junior pre-vet student, long-legged and moustachioed Mark Hitchcock is a member of a select group of Texas bird lovers.

"Hitch," as his friends call him, is one of a dozen or so licensed falconers in Texas, and he just received his license in January.

Dressed in his "hunting clothes," blue jeans and a work shirt, and what looks like an ammunition cartridge belt around his chest, he goes tramping around College Station scaring up game for his red-tailed hawk to eat. The cartridge belt around his chest holds

gear used in caring for the hawk, and bait to lure it back after the hunt is over.

"I became interested in hawks in high school, after I read a book about falconry," he said. "So, I talked my mom and dad into giving me \$35 to buy a hawk through the mail. That was eight years ago, and the bird never has come.

"Then I got in touch with a guy who helped me trap my very first hawk. My parents thought I'd finally lose interest in falconry, but I never did."

Hitchcock went through several of the finer points of falconry, telling how he caught a bird, tamed it, and then gradually introduced it to a leash and a lure

in order to teach it to fly freely and then return. After this "conditioned response" process, the bird is ready to be freed to catch rabbits and small game, and then fly back to Hitchcock.

"The only time my hawking ever got out of hand was when I was in high school in Dallas," he said. "It was a windy day, and looked like it was fixing to rain—not good hunting weather—so I decided to exercise my bird in our back yard.

"Unfortunately, our next door neighbors decided to exercise their poodle at the same time. Well, my hawk flew over and picked up the poodle. The dog was too heavy for the hawk to

carry off, so they just kind of struggled on the ground. I yelled at my dad, and we caught the bird and he let go of the dog. The poodle wasn't hurt at all, but I don't think he ever went outside by himself anymore."

Hitchcock, as a licensed falconer, has to know about the medical care and owning of hawks, owls, falcons and eagles, most of which he has learned through reading books on his own. He has participated in the North American Falconer's Association (NAFA), once in South Dakota and once in Colorado. There are about 400 members of NAFA in the U.S. and Canada, and they meet around Thanksgiving to fly their birds in competition.

Texas Forms 'Government In The Sunshine'

By Texas Press Association

AUSTIN—The Texas Legislature swept away some of the clouds last week and made important moves toward "government in the sunshine."

In addition to passing the revised "open meetings" law—patterned after Florida's famous "sunshine law"—House committees approved a new "open records" law for Texas and placed on the House calendar a "free flow of information" bill.

Changes in the Texas open meetings law will allow the public and press to be informed of all "quorum" meetings of public bodies. It was approved 132 to 13 by the House of Representatives

and moved over to the Senate Jurisprudence Committee.

Closed meetings will be held to a minimum under the exemptions in the new law. It was authored by Rep. Carl Parker of Port Arthur and submitted as a part of House Speaker Price Daniel Jr.'s "reform package."

A marathon five-hour hearing by the House Judiciary Committee—chaired by Rep. DeWitt Hale—was held on the "free flow of information" measure. This proposal is H.B. 10, sponsored by Rep. Dave Allred of Wichita Falls.

It grants a "news source" confidential privilege, and allows Texas journalists to get more information about governmental,

law enforcement and other matters important to the public.

The House Judiciary Committee approved the bill 16 to 4 and sent it to the House floor for debate this week.

H.B. 6, the "open records" measure, will allow the public and press access to most all records of government, city, county and state, that are not closed by state statute. A few other restrictions were placed on the bill—sponsored by Rep. Lane Denton of Waco.

All of these "government in the sunshine" measures follow the pattern of new House rules which open committee meetings, and follow the trend toward "openness."

Aid To S. Vietnam Called A Necessity

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress' auditors say the United States, which has turned more than \$5 billion worth of weapons over to South Vietnam so far, will have to continue both materiel support and technical training "for the foreseeable future."

The ability of Saigon's fleet of some 600 helicopters to cope with an all-out North Vietnam attack "may be marginal" for example, the General Accounting Office said in a report released Monday.

GAO auditors also said U.S. turnover of jumbo C130 cargo planes to South Vietnam last fall because of heavy combat needs will require continued training of Saigon's pilots and mechanics on how to use them "for some time to come."

The agency's conclusion that some indefinite U.S. arms supply and training will be needed by South Vietnam was drafted before the Paris peace agreement was reached providing that all arms in Vietnam may be replaced only on a one-for-one basis.

The report said that because of the uncertainties of the peace negotiations and defenses that

might be required against potential renewal of hostilities after a ceasefire, it could not estimate the cost level of continued U.S. arms supplies that might be needed.

In greatest need, the report said, is South Vietnam's air force which was the last major responsibility turned over to Saigon and which was turned over ahead of schedule.

The auditors questioned the capability of Saigon's helicopter fleet on the basis of its size—550 to 600 helicopters compared to a U.S. force of more than 3,200 during the height of its involvement in Vietnam—and the fact that U.S. pilots had to take on 40 per cent of helicopter missions immediately after Hanoi's offensive last March.

This "suggests to us," the GAO report said, "that the VNAF helicopter fleet may be marginal at this time in its capacity to meet all the burdens which could be placed upon it."

The report said Pentagon officials disagree, however, and believe Saigon's fleet "is now adequate to meet any anticipated requirements."

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
Parents Without Partners will hold their organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the CNB Room of the City National Bank, 301 S. Texas Ave.

Air Force Corps Wives will meet at Accents Contemporary, 3219 Texas Ave. at 7:30 for a program on "Home Interior Decorating."

Wildlife Biology Association will meet in Room 113 of the Biological Science Building-East at 7:30. Speaker will be Don Frels, Assistant Director of Wildlife Restoration Region 1V, Laporte, Texas.

Agricultural Economics Club will meet at 7:30 in Room 112 of the Plant Sciences Building.

Student Senate Radio Committee will meet in the Student Senate Office at 7:00.

ASM and ASME will hold a joint meeting in lecture Room No. 1 of the Zachry Engineering Center at 7:30. Ed Bravenec from Armco Steel Co. will speak.

Engineering Technology Society will meet at 7:30 in Room 107 of the Mechanical Engineering Shops. Nominations for officers will be made.

WEDNESDAY
Phi Alpha Theta presents Dor-man H. Winfrey, Director of the Texas State Library in Room 226, Library Conference Suite at 7:30. He will speak on "The Texas State Library-Resources and Services."



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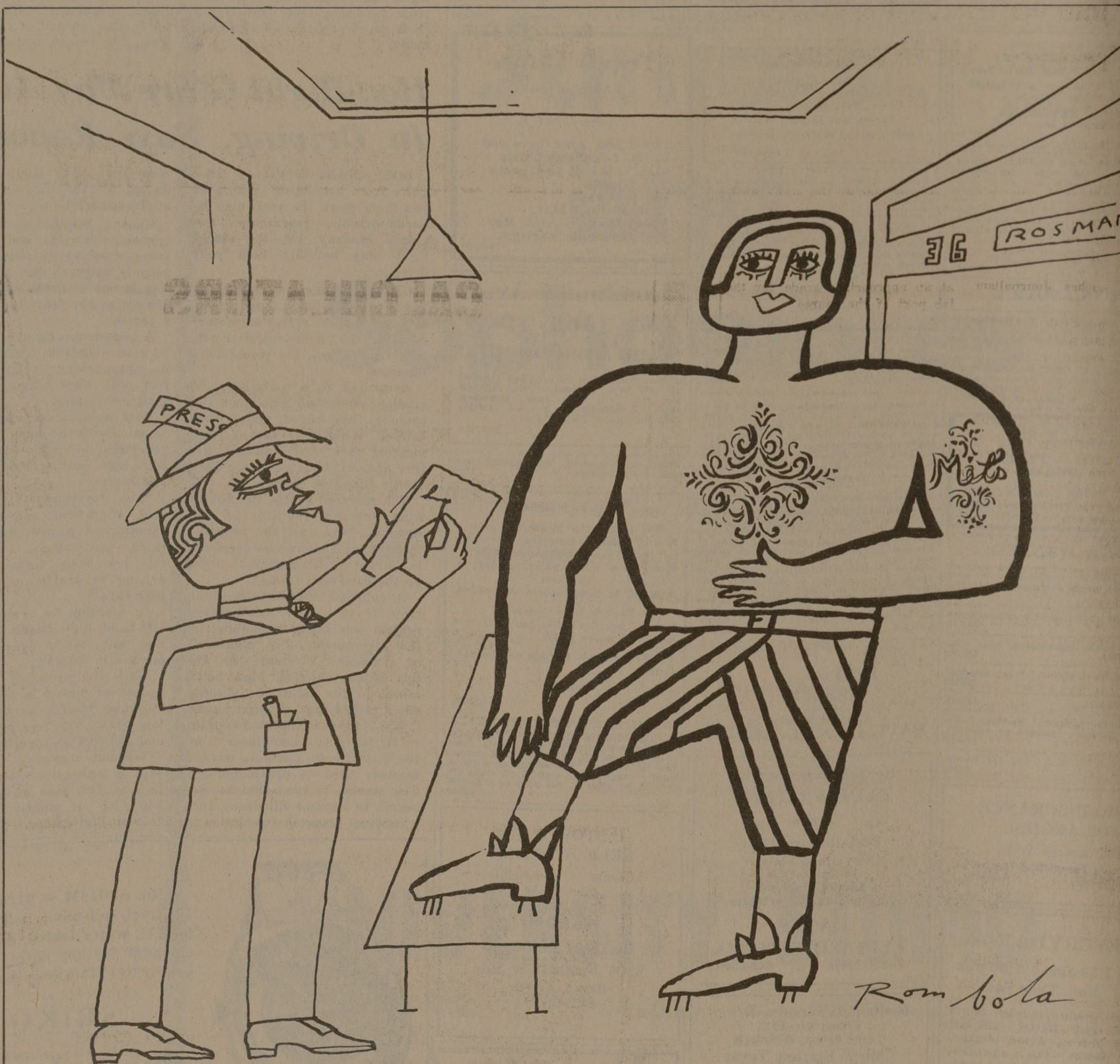
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