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## A&M Frisbee champs plan local contest

Members of the Disc Association at Texas A&M University brought back a handful of awards from the Third Annual Texas State Frisbee Championships held Saturday and Sunday.

Kevin Sullivan placed fifth in disc golf with a four over par score. Jim Follin was 12th in maximum time aloft competition with a throw that stayed up for 7.5 seconds.

Jim Carollo made the finals of the distance throw contest with a toss of 211 feet.

Phil Stallings and Kent Dowden made the semifinals in double disc court, a game which resembles tennis.

The Disc Association will sponsor a tournament at the Texas A&M University Drill Field Nov. 4-5. Prizes will be awarded to winners in disc golf, double disc court and maximum time aloft competitions. Participants can also compete in freestyle, air brush races and field goal shot contests.

A novice category will be open for beginning Frisbee enthusiasts in

addition to the regular competition. "This is so everyone who'd like to get a taste of Frisbee competition can

get a chance to try," said Kent Dowden, president of the group.

Registration for the events will begin Nov. 4. Those interested should call Dowden at 693-2259.



Battalion photo by Susan Webb

"Kublin" is a Harris Hawk trained for the hunting sport falconry. Lenton, its owner, says

the thrill of the sport is being able to watch a hawk hunt the way it does in the wild.

### Hunting with a live weapon

## Falconry - a complex sport

By SUSAN WEBB  
 Battalion Reporter

Hunting usually requires firearms, bows and arrows or sling shots as weaponry.

Falconry is an exception to this rule, using animals as weapons.

One who participates in falconry hunts birds or mammals during any prescribed open season by means of a trained raptor, a migratory bird.

Lenton Rowland, a local master falconer, says falconry is a time-consuming and complicated sport.

"Expense comes in all the time, involving the feeding of the bird every day. A gun you can put up at the end of the season, but with a hawk you've got to keep it around all year," Rowland said.

Rowland was granted the title of master falconer by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The department requires at least five years' experience in hunting game, taking, possessing and transporting raptors for falconry purposes.

A falconer spends half an hour to two hours a day training the bird. "You train the bird on hunger, but you don't starve it," Rowland said. "If you don't feed it enough it will become weak, but you should withdraw just enough food so that the bird will become eager."

"If you train a dog, you train it by reward or punishment, but you can't punish a hawk—a hawk you can only reward," Rowland said that punishment to a hawk would eventually provoke the bird to fly away.

A falconer has a limited amount of time in which he can train a hawk.

"The only time to train is during feeding," Rowland said. The big secret of falconry, he said, is knowing how much to feed the bird and what kind of food to use. "If you feed the bird too much today, then he's not hungry tomorrow and that cuts down on your training time."

"Kublin," Rowland's Harris Hawk, is hand-fed raw rabbit and duck meat. The falconer occasionally supplements the hawk's diet with a road kill (whatever game a hunter cripples or a car kills) which Rowland refers to as "a little vitamin pill." He said that it is important to vary the bird's diet and feed him the same thing he eats in the wild.

To own a hawk for purposes of falconry, a state permit must be issued to the falconer by the Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department. "Before you can get a permit, a writ-

ten test given by the department must be taken," Rowland said.

"Questions usually include the general biology of a bird, migratory patterns, or anything pertaining to the health of the bird," he said.

A falconer must also provide certain facilities for the bird which have to be approved by the game warden. The facilities should be fenced in and shelter the bird from the outside elements.

"The fence is to keep predators out, not to keep the hawk in. Hawks are never kept in cages," Rowland said. The thrill of the sport, Rowland said is "observing a hawk hunting the way it does in the wild, but you are trying to control it, so you can participate in the hunt."

"The purpose is not to kill things. You are out for the chase and quite often you let the game go," Rowland said.

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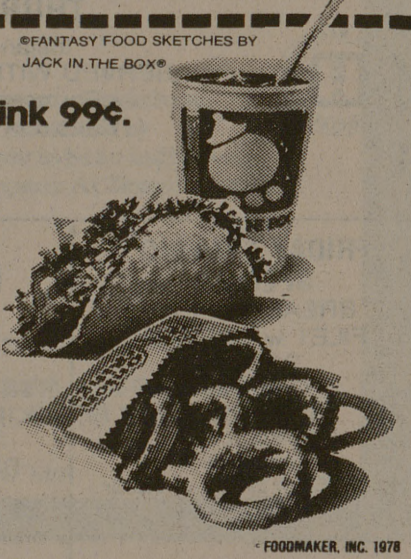
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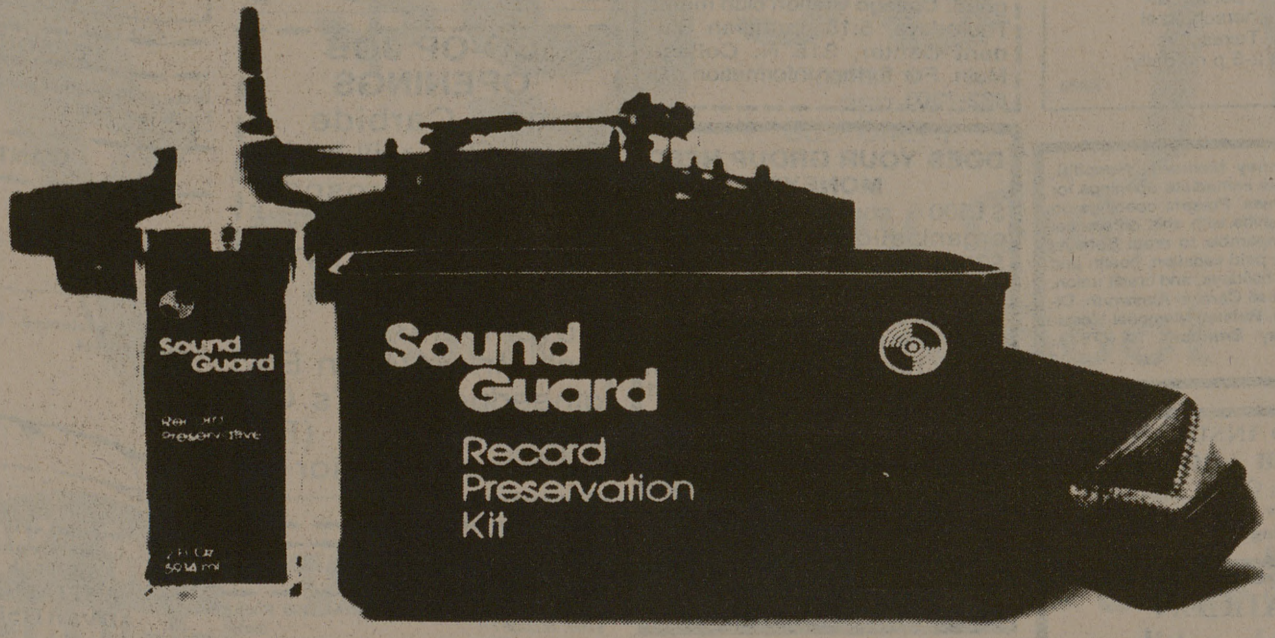
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