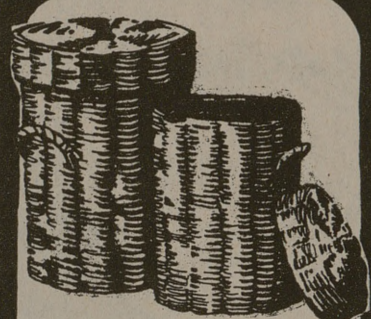




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People cause half of young bird deaths

Man helps birds of prey back to health

By STANTON RAY
Battalion Reporter

Few people probably understand the eagle as a symbol of freedom as John Karger does. For him, freedom is the most important thing, and birds are his symbol of freedom. Karger, a master falconer and one of the few people in Texas licensed to keep and rehabilitate birds of prey, discussed "Birds of Prey and Their Future" with an audience of about 100 Thursday at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University. Karger, 25, started working with birds when he was a child. He said he had a natural concern and desire to help injured small animals and, especially, birds. "I began to learn falconry when I was nine from an 86-year-old man

from England, named Johannsen Emery," he said. "I love falconry, but I don't push it; I don't think it is for everyone."

Karger said he is concerned with the attitudes of people, generally, towards the natural world and, specifically, towards birds of prey — eagles, hawks, owls and falcons.

"Eighty percent of all young birds of prey die every year," he said. "Forty percent are killed by man."

Most of Karger's time is taken with rehabilitating large birds that are recovering from surgery, often after having been shot by someone who sees no value in the bird.

He receives no financial support from any institution or government agency; therefore, all the expenses of his work are his own.

"I take the time because one bird is as valuable as a thousand, and there are not many people doing this kind of work," Karger said.

Karger works with 85 to 125 birds a year. This is an expensive business, so to supplement his income Karger does films, shows and any odd-jobs he can fit into his schedule. He worked awhile for Universal Studios in California as a bird trainer. Fred, the cockatoo on the "Baretta" television series, is one of his claims to fame.

Recently Karger has been going around the state giving educational demonstrations "I am doing educational programs for children and adults alike to keep them from shooting the hawks," he said. "Pellet guns and BB guns are the worst

weapons as far as birds of prey are concerned."

The first part of the program is a slide presentation showing birds in the wild for identification. The second half of the program was a demonstration and care of some of the birds that are being cared for. He brought with him a rooster, three hawks and a falcon. He demonstrated the method of handling the birds and showed them what injuries were recovering from.

Karger said that the birds, endangered species, are in danger because of man. "If we don't take care of the birds we live in, we soon won't have any to enjoy."

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Pemex calls price fixing 'speculation'

United Press International

MEXICO CITY — The director general of Mexico's state-run oil monopoly, Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), said Thursday there are no negotiations to sell gas to the United States, and another top official said the country has not considered hiking oil production.

In an interview published in the Mexico City daily paper, Uno Mas Uno, Pemex director general Jorge Diaz Serrano also said Pemex has not set a price for its gas.

"Any mention of a price (for Mexico's gas) is pure speculation at this moment. As long as there are no commercial transactions, there is no point of fixing a price," Diaz Serrano said.

Jose Andres de Oteyza, Mexico's secretary of national properties and industrial development, said a decision to increase Mexico's oil production to satisfy needs of other countries was not his to make.

OSA, Hassle-Free will sponsor contest to determine new name

By LORI SHULER
Battalion Reporter

Seven weeks ago representatives of the Off-Campus Students Association and Hassle-Free began meetings to map out a detailed plan for a merger of the two organizations that represent and provide services for off-campus students.

Thursday night the six-student committee took a step toward ironing out one of the biggest problems it has faced — a name for the new organization.

The students voiced reluctance in deciding upon a name. This contrasted with the early meetings when a name was such a hot subject that adviser Glenna Witt suggested it be left as one of the final decisions.

So, after weeks of merger discussions, the committee decided to let someone else help them make the decision by having a campus-wide contest.

The groups will begin taking suggestions for a name for the new organization on April 2 in the

Memorial Student Center and in the Off-Campus Center in Puryear Hall lounge.

The author of the winning name will receive a prize to be announced before the contest begins. Deadline for entries will be April 12 at 5 p.m., and the winner and the new name will be announced April 20.

Although the final decision will ultimately be left up to the committee, the group indicated they won't have the option of choosing either "Off-Campus Students Association" or "Hassle-Free."

The committee will review the suggestions they receive, choose one name and present it to each organization for approval.

In other action, the committee completed details of the constitution for the new organization. Bimonthly meetings will be held, along with weekly executive meetings.

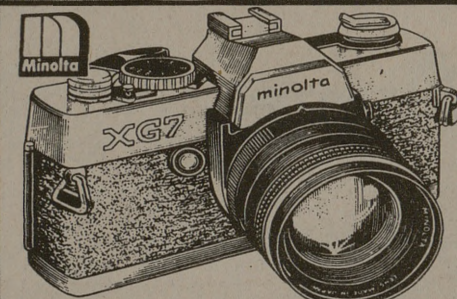
Also, all persons in elected positions must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.

The next meeting of the merger committee will be Thursday April

12. The committee will review and revise the constitution, before entering it to prospective organizations. The constitution must have two-thirds of each organization's approval for ratification.

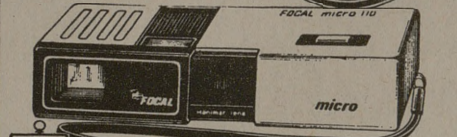
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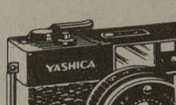
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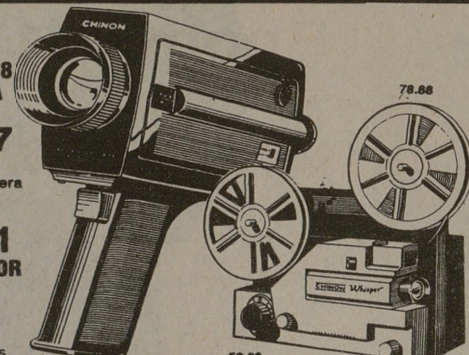
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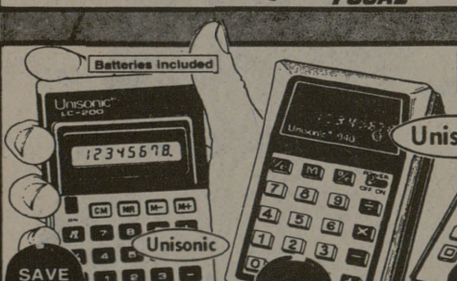
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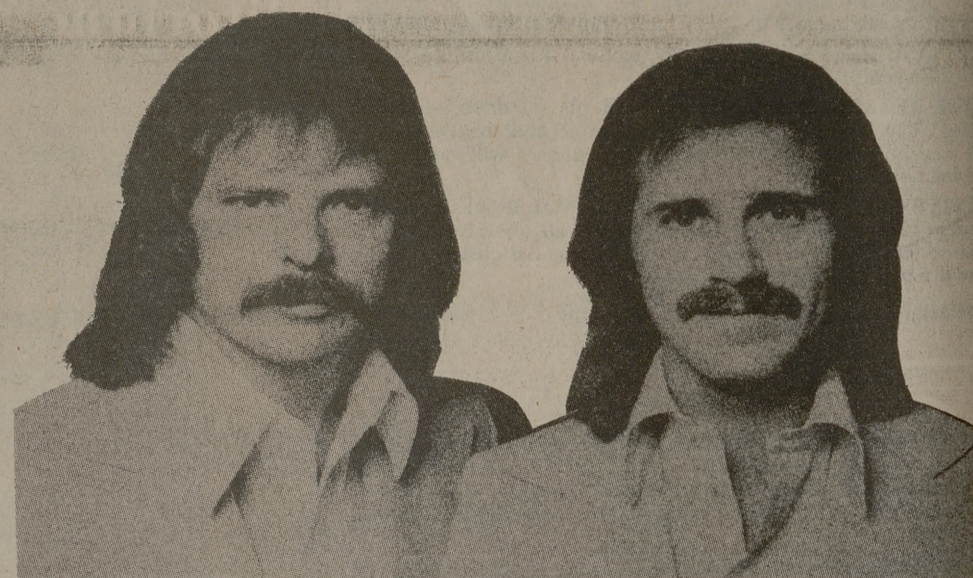
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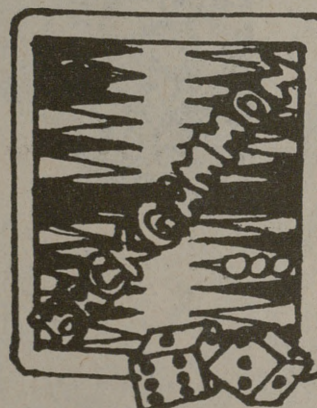
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