

Local



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

John Karger sees eye to eye with a Harris hawk, which he rehabilitated as part of his project, "Last Chance Forever," to help birds of prey.

## Falconer gives birds last chance at life

By GARY BARKER  
Battalion Staff  
The small, brown Harris hawk, with large eyes and sharply curved beak, flew from the gloved arm of his trainer to a helper about 50 feet across the room. Only a few months ago, such a flight would have been impossible.

John Karger, a professional falconer, rehabilitated the hawk as part of his project to help injured birds of prey. He showed the bird Tuesday night in the Brazos Center as part of his presentation entitled "Last Chance Forever," which was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Museum.

As a person who trains predatory birds (a falconer), Karger has been working for six years to help orphaned, injured and sick birds of prey including hawks, owls, eagles, falcons, and vultures. He is the key organizer of a San Antonio project called "Last Chance Forever" which receives about 100 such birds a year, rehabilitates them, and seeks to return them to their natural home.

"Education of the public on birds of prey is the most important part of what we do," Karger said. The falconer said members of the organization travel thousands of miles every year to present educational programs. They have presented falconry demonstrations for several years at the Texas Renaissance Festival in Magnolia and are presenting five shows a

day this year. Falconry is the sport of hunting birds or small animals with falcons or other types of predatory birds. The sport was known to the ancient Chinese, Persians, and Egyptians over 2,000 years ago.

"I feel it is my job to use the knowledge I have acquired in falconry to rehabilitate birds," said Karger, who is one of a handful of professional falconers.

He said many of the species of birds he tries to rehabilitate are in danger of becoming extinct.

"Admittedly, there are hawks

that kill chickens and eagles that kill sheep, but we shouldn't murder the entire species for the problem of a few," Karger said.

He also said that while he believes in the preservation of wildlife, he also believes in moderation.

"Many ecologists have gone so far to the extreme that people in industry won't talk to them," he said. "I support common sense and moderation. We've all got to work together."

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PRESENTS

# CHARLEY PRIDE

FRIDAY Oct. 30th 8 p.m.

— OPTION PASS PERIOD IS OCT. 12-16.

— GENERAL ADMISSION ON SALE OCT. 19-30.

TICKET PRICES:

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## New bills focus of SG meeting

Six bills are scheduled to be introduced at the Student Senate meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in 204 Harrington.

— **MSC Check Cashing Bill** — encourages the use of another teller or extended hours at the MSC Main Desk.

— **Sergeant-At-Arms Bill** — calls for the establishment of a sergeant-at-arms position in the Senate to establish order on the floor of the Senate.

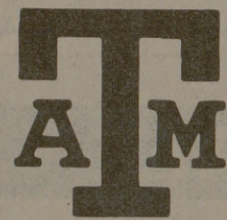
— **Diet Drinks Bill** — supports the selling of unsweetened soft drinks at all University events by Oct. 31 and the advertisement of

this addition.

— **University Press Location Bill** — recommends that an alternate location be considered for the University Press Building and no further construction be considered on Duncan Field.

— **Muster Bill** — recommends that Muster be included as a University-excused absence.

— **Library Task Force Bill** — calls for the establishment of a task force to seek out solutions to the problem of scarcity of source materials at the Sterling C. Evans Library the last 4 to 5 weeks of school.



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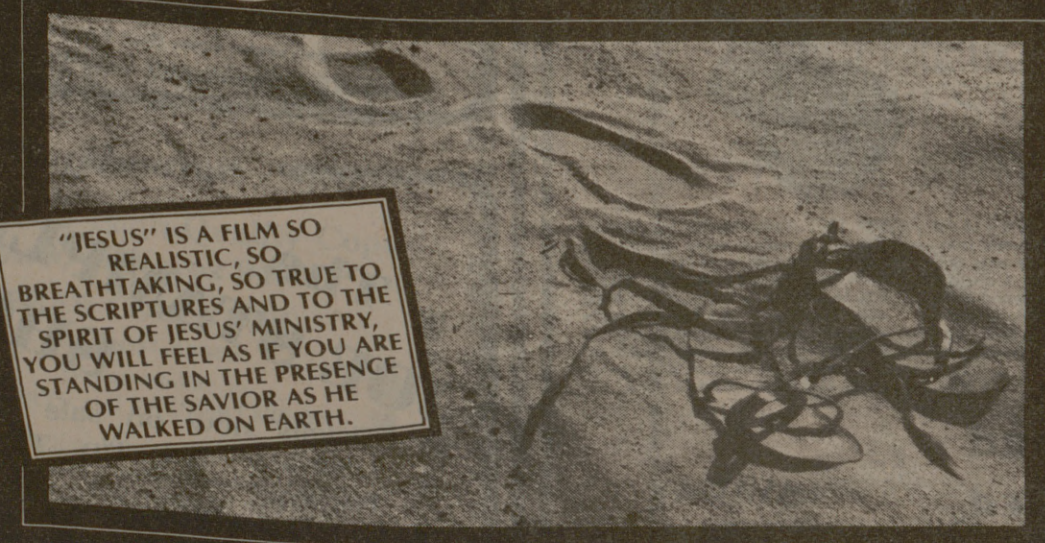
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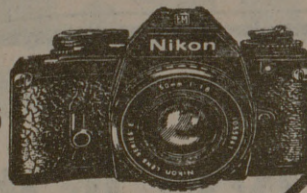
All Faith's Chapel  
7 p.m. Tues. & Wed.; Oct. 20, 21

## NIKON Cameras

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### NIKON FE

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## YASHICA/CONTAX Cameras

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### YASHICA FX3

With f/2.0 50 mm lens

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### YASHICA FR-1

With 50 mm f/2.0 lens

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### CONTAX 139

With Zeiss f/1.7 50 mm lens

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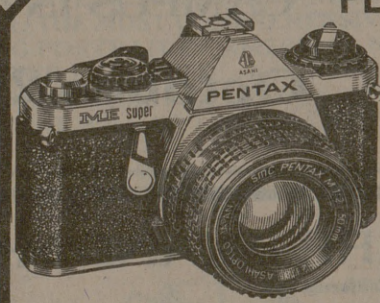
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