

Local

Aggie ring helps police solve robbery-killing

By TIM FOARDE
Battalion Staff

An Aggie ring stolen from a robbery victim has led police to four arrests in an Oct. 5 robbery-killing in Houston.

Richard Rosenbaum, 24, Class of '79, and his roommate, Jim Tillman, 41, were en route to Houston's Hobby Airport and decided to take side streets to avoid traffic and high water caused by the evening's rain, Rosenbaum said.

Their truck stalled, and they went to a nearby grocery store to wait for the rain to stop. Outside the store they met four men who asked them for cigarettes and if

they needed help, Rosenbaum said.

On their way back to the truck they were confronted by the same men about a block from the store, he said. One of the men fired two gunshots in the air as they approached.

Although Tillman offered no resistance, Rosenbaum said, one of the men pulled a knife and stabbed him twice in the back, once in the chest and stomach and in the leg.

The man then attacked Rosenbaum, who had been tripped by two of the other men, and stabbed him once in the side. Rosenbaum

said the men took his wallet, car keys and Aggie ring.

Tillman died the next day. Rosenbaum was treated at Memorial Southeast Hospital and released.

Homicide Detective J.C. Mosier said he had few leads until discovering that Rosenbaum's ring had been sold in a pawn shop near the site of the attack.

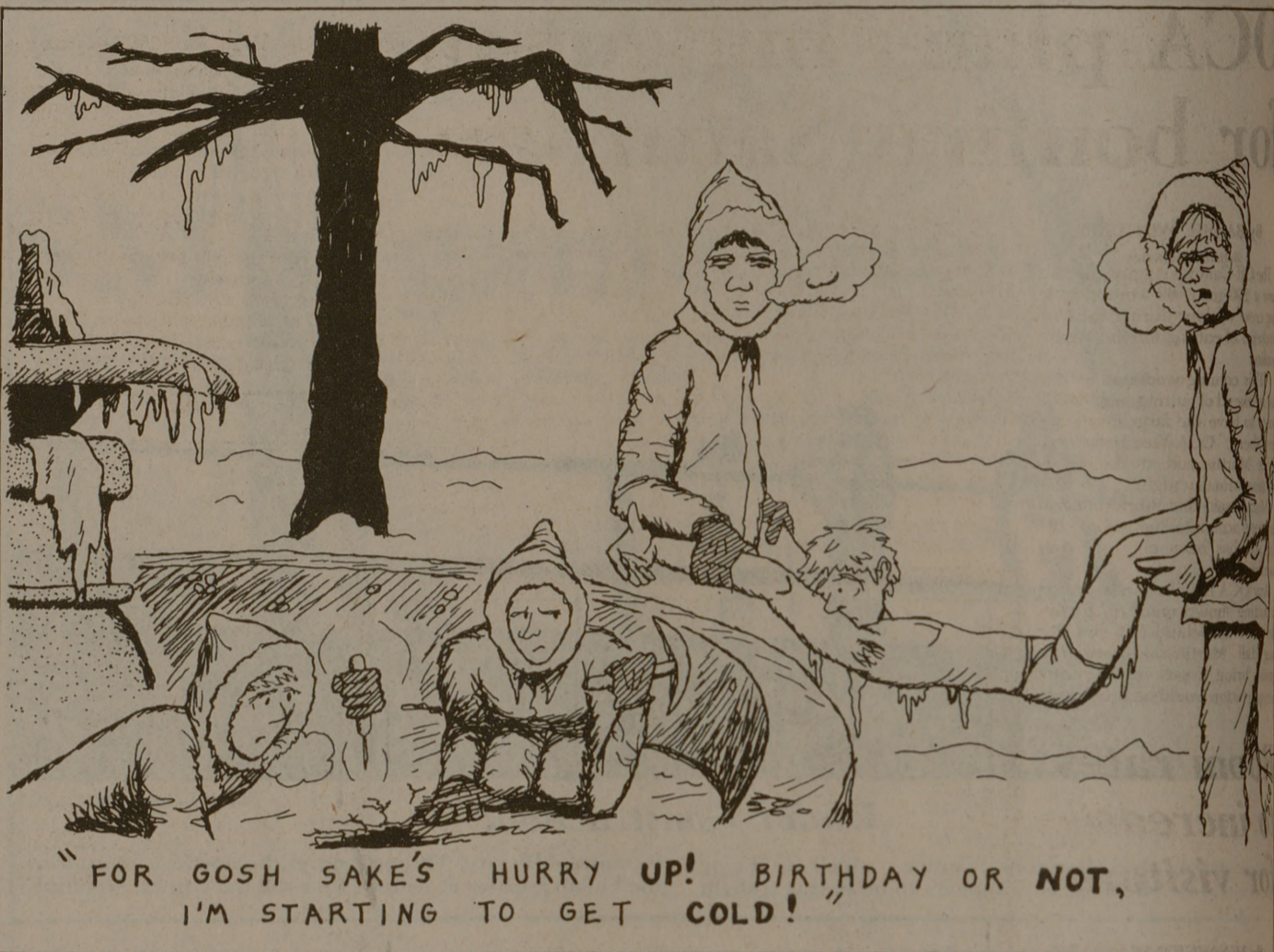
Mosier said if it had not been for the ring, the case could not have solved, since there had been no positive identification of the men.

When the ring was found, Rosenbaum's name was still readable on the inside, although the seller had tried to scratch it out, the detective said.

Mosier traced the ring to the seller, a man on probation for burglary.

"We kept the suspect under surveillance and waited for him to go to his regular probation session on Oct. 20," Mosier said. "I went to the probation office and arrested the suspect when he showed up for the appointment."

The arrested man then implicated three other men, Mosier said. Two were arrested Oct. 21 and the fourth turned himself in the next day.

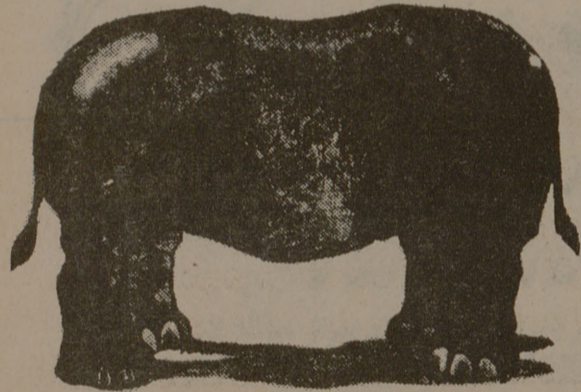


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Crisis Hotline listens; needs caring volunteers

By LISA DICKSON

Battalion Reporter

Volunteers at Crisis Hotline lend a sympathetic ear to people with problems — but they're listening for only nine hours each day.

"Crisis Hotline is for people that have problems and don't know where to turn," Frank Wurbs, Hotline coordinator, said. "Many aren't aware of their options and are just looking for a friend to listen and understand."

Crisis Hotline was created in January 1979 by the Brazos Valley Mental Health-Mental Retardation Foundation and is also supported by the Community Action Agency and the Greenleaf Hospital.

Volunteers answer the phone in three-hour shifts from 3 p.m. to midnight. The Hotline is unable to operate 24 hours a day because of the shortage of volunteers. The

Hotline currently has a staff of 21 volunteers and receives between 150 to 250 calls per month.

At 779-2000, Crisis Hotline volunteers hear a large variety of questions and problems.

"Depression and loneliness are probably the two most common types of emotional calls," Wurbs said. "We get calls in areas such as wife abuse, child abuse, drug addiction, rape, scholastic difficulties, marital problems and suicide contemplation."

"Quite often people call the Hotline because they are hesitant to talk about the problems with someone else. Perhaps they are wondering if they should go to a psychologist or counselor."

Crisis Hotline volunteers consider their services to be lay counseling, not professional.

"Our goal is to be understanding, not try to give advice or be

judgemental," Wurbs said. "We don't try to solve the person's problems, but to help them look at their alternatives."

Persons interested in volunteering are sent applications and are interviewed, screened and scheduled for training sessions. Classes last for 17 hours with eight hours of classroom training and nine hours of supervised telephone counseling. Volunteers do not need any previous training but should be willing to contribute at least three hours each week, Wurbs said.

"A counselor must be an emotionally stable, caring and concerned individual," Wurbs said. "A volunteer can't be someone who wants a pat on the back every time they do something good. It's something that is self-rewarding and self-motivating."

Tequila, beer warm up winning chili recipe

United Press International
INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Chefs worldwide gathered Sunday around bubbling pots of chili — many containing such exotic ingredients as raccoon, possum, armadillo and rattlesnake — in hopes of winning the world chili title.

But Fred Drexel, 42, president of Automated Telephone Corp., captured first place and took home \$20,000 in the 15th Annual World

Championship Chili Cookoff.

While Drexel's prize Butterfield Stagline recipe calls for 10 pounds of beans and two pounds of pork, insiders feel it was the can of Budweiser beer and ounce of tequila that won over the judges.

Nearly 12,000 people gathered in the blistering 100-degree sunshine to witness the annual chili cookoff. Some of the 63 contestants came from as far away as Australia, Tahiti and England.

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