

Local / State

Former policeman rejoins Corps of Cadets after 16 years

By LAURA YOUNG
Battalion Reporter
Back when J. Earl Rudder was president, Reveille II was mascot, and the "big game" was still on Thanksgiving, Jim Lawrence was a freshman in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M.



Photo by George Dolan
Jim Lawrence, 34, returned to Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets last summer after spending 12 years as a Houston policeman. He is a junior in Company K-2.

The scene today is drastically different, yet the 34-year-old junior Telecommunications major, hasn't yet left the Corps. He is a member of Company K-2 of the Corps.

No, Lawrence is not on the 16-year plan. After spending 12 years as a Houston policeman, Lawrence decided to return to Texas A&M last summer to complete his education.

He left school after his freshman year in 1964 for personal reasons. But when he tired of being a policeman, he returned to Texas A&M.

"I realized I was getting no place. My blood pressure was going up and my sanity was going down," Lawrence said.

Lawrence, tall and lean with a boyish face, said he hasn't had many problems being more than 10 years older than most of his classmates.

"If I was an old 34 I probably would have a lot more problems than I do," Lawrence said. "Most people guess I'm between 21 and 25."

Lawrence said the physical activity of the Corps was tough at first but he's gotten into better shape.

"I had to get my legs in shape to run and I had to practice a lot of push-ups," Lawrence said. "I've had to do a lot of push-ups this year for seniors. I guess as much as any other junior."

Lawrence was one of the participants in last Wednesday's water fight between members of the band and the rest of the Corps.

"I hadn't been in a water fight for 16 years, so I decided to go," Lawrence said.

Lawrence, in Company A-2 his freshman year at Texas A&M, said there's little difference in the Corps of 1964 and the Corps of today.

"It's much smaller, but outwardly the Corps looks pretty much the same," Lawrence said. "I still like it."

The cadet majored in electrical engineering when he was enrolled at Texas A&M in 1964 and upon returning last summer but changed to Telecommunications a few weeks ago. Grades were part of the reason, he said.

"It's very, very difficult to come back after so many years and try to get back into it," Lawrence said. "Grades don't come easy."

Even though Lawrence said he doesn't want to return to police work after he graduates, he is working on a reserve basis with the Bryan Police Department.

"I'm tired of it (police work)," he said. "Nobody likes police officers."

"I came back mainly because I was fed up with police work. I really love police work, except police work is so difficult to stay with. You really love the job and you want to do it right and you want to stay with it, but you keep getting slapped down," he said.

Yet, Lawrence said he's been pretty lucky.

"I've been a police officer for 12 years and been in so many shoot-outs I can't remember them all now," he said. "But I've never been hit."

Student to be appointed to UT Board of Regents

United Press International
AUSTIN — A student from one of the seven University of Texas system schools would be appointed as a non-voting member of the Board of Regents under a bill passed Monday by the House.

In a heated debate, the bill, which passed 71-57, was amended to exclude the student from discussion of litigation, investments and land acquisitions if a majority of the regents voted for the exclusion.

An attempt to also exclude the student regent

from personnel discussions was defeated by Rep. Gerald Hill, D-Austin.

"If you exclude them from investment, land acquisition and personnel, there isn't much left," Hill said. "Don't just invite him for coffee and doughnuts after the meeting."

Under the bill, the governor would choose the student from among one nominee offered by each of the institutions.

To be eligible, the student must be a resident of Texas and have taken at least nine credit hours during each year prior to his appointment.

Man pleads no contest

United Press International
HOUSTON — A man, who wanted to scare away the bill collector by shooting at the closed door, pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter charges involving the death of a 6-year-old youth who was hit by the bullet fragments.

Charles E. Mills, 45, entered the plea Monday for the shooting death of Brent Welden. The boy had been playing in the parking lot near Mills' apartment last Sept. 13.

Mills said he was angry with the bill collector who had knocked at his door earlier in the day. When there was another knock that

evening, Mills said he fired. However, it was his 26-year-old stepson at the door. He was hit but not seriously injured.

The fragments of the bullet hit Welden in the face and chest and arms. Mills will be sentenced July 9.

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