

Friday, January 18, 1991

The Battalion

Gliding high



KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Davide Finkes (left) and Jack Skidmore prepare one of their gliders for takeoff at the polo field. The two men took advantage of the windy weather to fly their radio-controlled gliders that depend on upward currents of air to keep altitude.

Lewis names first black woman as new speaker pro tempore

AUSTIN (AP) — Speaker Gib Lewis named the first African-American woman to be speaker pro tempore and put a reform-minded lawmaker in charge of the Insurance Committee in announcing House assignments Thursday.

State Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, is "a very able legislator" who will do a good job as his floor leader, Lewis said. Delco emphasized the importance of smooth communication between House members and Lewis.

The new Insurance Committee chairman, Rep. Eddie Cavazos, immediately declared, "It's time for reform."

"I'm not against the industry itself, but I think it needs to have a good overhaul," Cavazos, D-Corpus Christi, said. "We want to make sure they make a profit, but not on the backs of consumers."

Gov. Ann Richards is pushing insurance reform this legislative session.

Lewis, D-Fort Worth, gave eight of the 36 House committee chairmanships to Republicans, ignoring Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock's Senate example.

Bullock, also a Democrat, on Wednesday demoted the lone Republican Senate committee chairman, O.H. "Ike" Harris of Dallas.

"I try to utilize the talent that I have in the House regardless of what party they may be affiliated with," Lewis said. Just elected to his record fifth term as speaker by the House, he traditionally has included Republicans when handing out chairmanships.

The Republican chairmen are Reps. Robert Eckels of Houston, County Affairs; Jim Tallas of Sugar Land, Financial Institutions; Edmund Kuempel of Seguin, House Administration; Tom Craddock of Midland, Public Health; Bill Carter of Fort Worth, Public Safety; Nolan "Buzz" Robnett of Lubbock, Retirement and Aging; Ashley Smith of Houston, Science and Technology; and George Pierce of San Antonio, Urban Affairs.

Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield, remains chairman of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee.

Rep. James Hury, D-Galveston, retained his chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee, which handles tax measures.

They are experienced in budget battles at a time when the state faces a \$4.2 billion shortfall in money needed to meet its obligations.

Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, remains chairman of the Calendars Committee, which schedules bills for House floor debate.

One freshman lawmaker's appointments got particular scrutiny: Rep. Ted Kamel, R-Tyler, was the only legislator to vote against Lewis for speaker.

But Lewis gave him his first choice of committee appointments, as a member of the County Affairs and Liquor Regulations committees.

"I don't carry a grudge," Lewis said.

On the 15-member House Redistricting Committee headed by Rep. Tom Uher, D-Bay City, Lewis included four Republicans, two African-Americans, three Hispanics and no women. The committee will work on drawing new legislative and congressional district lines.

Delco said she was concerned about the absence of women on the panel.

Lewis said, "That was possibly an oversight."



Gib Lewis

Fowler to become men's dormitory

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's Fowler Residence Hall will become a men's hall because of an increase in requests for on-campus housing.

Tom Murray, associate director of Student Affairs, said Fowler Hall's status will change in fall 1991 because applications for on-campus men's housing surpassed women's applications for the first time in years.

However, more women's rooms presently exist on campus.

Murray and John White, assistant director for Housing Administrative

Services, said surveys and research revealed Fowler Hall was the best choice for additional men's housing.

According to results, balcony-style halls like Fowler are the second most requested by men and least requested by women.

There also is a 60 to 70 percent annual turnover of students in the Fowler-Keathley-Hughes women's complex.

In a memorandum sent to the Fowler Hall president, Murray wrote: "Fowler has traditionally had the highest turnover rate, which would make the relocation of remaining residents easier."

Southside halls Spence and Briggs, presently under renovation,

"It would be better than building more halls on campus."

— Shari Hunt,
Fowler Hall Council

will be open in the fall to women in the same price range as balcony-style halls.

Murray said the housing department will place women in the two southside dorms on the Corps of Cadets Quadrangle because locating male civilians near Corps members might cause problems.

Murray said he does not expect any problems with Fowler Hall being

near Keathley and Hughes, two women's halls.

"We've had a few complaints," he said. "But last summer we tried it and it was successful."

Members of the Fowler, Keathley-Hughes councils also participated in trying to find possible alternatives for the on-campus housing problem, Murray said.

Shari Hunt, a member of the Fowler Hall Council, said she believes Fowler's conversion is the most practical option to solve the lack of spaces for male students.

"Basically, if they need the room, they can do it," she said. "It would be better than building more halls on campus."

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