

State Senate confirms appointment of officials

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate unanimously confirmed John ... as secretary of state and ... Guerrero as a railroad commissioner Wednesday, taking swift action on Gov. Ann Richards' first appointments.

"We have deliberated only for a short while because we had such good quality," said Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, a Democrat from Austin who heads the Nominations Committee.

Guerrero, who resigned her House seat for the place on the Railroad Commission, is the first woman and first minority to serve on the three-member panel.

"I pledge to do my very best," Ms. Guerrero, of Austin, told the Senate. She replaces John Sharp, who was elected state comptroller.

Groups seek franchise bid for fast train

AUSTIN (AP) — Two investors' groups applied Wednesday for the state franchise to build a 200 mph railroad they said could be carrying passengers between Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston by 1998.

The groups paid \$500,000 in application fees and said their projects would add Austin and San Antonio lines in a second phase of construction.

Wednesday was the deadline for submitting proposals to the Texas High Speed Rail Authority. Authority officials said they would hold hearings on the plans and hoped to award a franchise in mid-May.

Both applicants said high-speed train travel would prove more convenient and more environmentally sound than other modes of transportation in the future.

"Texans are realizing, as Europeans have for some time, that high-speed rail — at speeds of up to 200 mph — is not only a viable alternative to our existing air and road transportation systems in Texas, but will offer a fast, safe and environmentally sensitive mode of transportation for the next century," said Glenn Biggs, president of Texas Fas-Trac Inc.

Fas-Trac, a Texas-German consortium, proposed a 200 mph, electric-powered train line between Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston, via Waco and College Station. It would add Austin and San Antonio in a second segment, with an east-west link from Houston "when growth warrants."

The Fas-Trac group includes three Texas-based contractors — Brown & Root, HCB Contractors and H.B. Zachry Co. — and a consortium of German firms, Biggs said.

The second proposal was submitted by the Texas TGV Consortium, which proposed a \$5.7 billion project with 590 miles of double track. Its first segment also would connect Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston.

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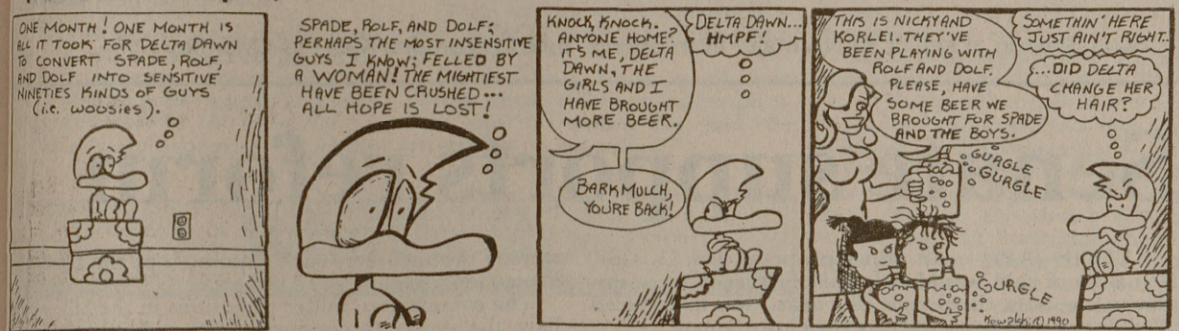
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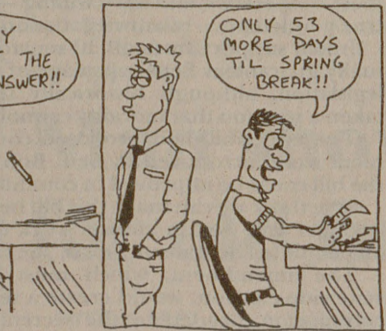
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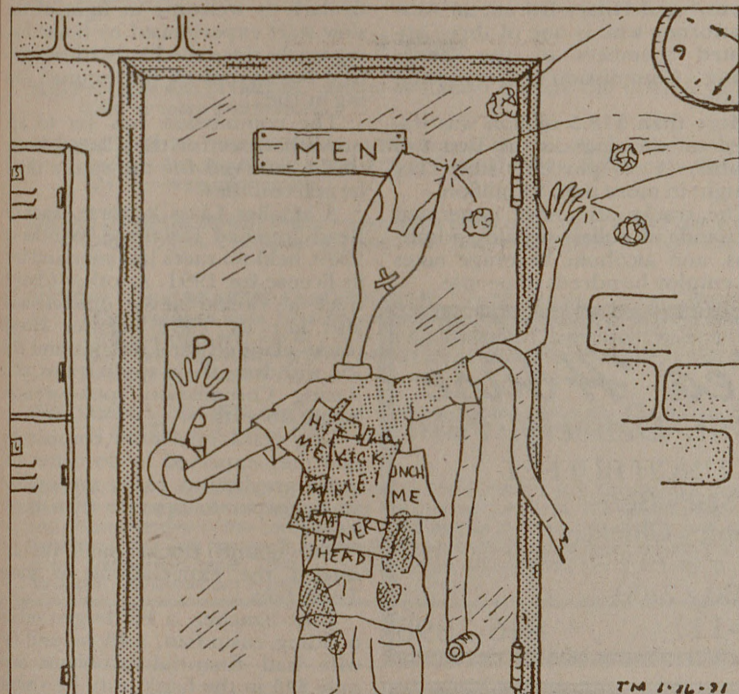
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Arlington assistant now city manager

ARLINGTON (AP) —Deputy City Manager George Campbell was promoted to city manager by the City Council to replace Bill Kirchhoff.

Campbell will take office Feb. 22. His appointment by Mayor Richard Greene was approved unanimously by the council subject to finalizing a contract.

Kirchhoff resigned Jan. 8 to accept a job as head administrator in Redondo Beach, Calif.

"I'm convinced this city's on the verge of a new era, and Saturday is the start of it," Campbell said, referring to an election that would increase sales tax by a half-cent. If approved, the money will help build a new baseball stadium complex for the Texas Rangers.

Campbell, 46, is an Arlington native and has worked for the city for seven years. He will draw a salary between his current \$90,000 and Kirchhoff's \$108,150 salary.

Campbell said he does not anticipate problems with Councilman Dick Malec, whom Kirchhoff cited as his primary reason for resigning. Kirchhoff accused Malec of incessant harassment.

"I think that was an unfortunate situation, and I hope it proves to be a unique situation," Campbell said. "I think we'll have differences, me and any member of the council, but it will be in a civil manner that Arlington is used to — a manner that

Greene and others echoed that sentiment, saying they will discuss writing a code of conduct for council members next week.

Councilwoman Paula Hightower said the council decided in closed session that it didn't need to conduct a national search for a new city manager.

"We had a man in the house who was more than capable," Councilman Bill McFadin said. "He's paid his dues."

One of three Arlington deputy city managers, Campbell supervises the police, fire, library, and parks and recreation departments, in addition to the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

He served as city manager in Weatherford and Coppell before accepting his Arlington post in 1983.

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Thursday Jan. 17	PIZZA PARTY 2nd floor of Flying Tomato	6-8 PM
Friday Jan. 18	CASINO NIGHT College Station Conf. Center	8:00 pm
Sunday Jan. 20	VOLLEYBALL TOURNEY Read Bldg. Room 404	1-3 PM
Tuesday Jan. 22	SOCK-HOP (date optional)-TBA	TBA
Friday Jan. 25	BID-HOUSE Bldg Building	5:00 PM

For more information call:
Jeff 693-0410
Stephen 696-6105