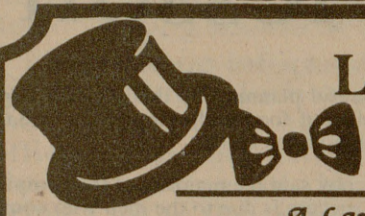


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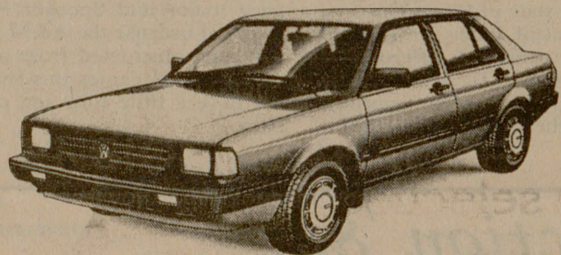
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Cronkite: Changes need to be made in next campaign

AUSTIN (AP) — Veteran journalist Walter Cronkite said Wednesday that this year's presidential campaign is one of the worst he's seen and recommended changes for the future, including more debates and limits on television ads. "I don't recall anything quite like this year," Cronkite told a news conference at the University of Texas at Austin, where he has been teaching a three-day seminar. "It's been, I think, a most unfortunate year for the American people, for our democracy."

administration takes office. He said it is proposed as a "crash program right on the heels of the disappointment of the American people expressed everywhere." "The people generally across the entire spectrum of political belief are unhappy with the way this campaign has gone," he said. For television and radio commercials, Cronkite suggested a requirement that they be at least two minutes long and that the candidate appear. "If you did that, they'd have to say something," he said. "You couldn't package them like soap. If they want to deal in a kind of below-the-belt, dirty campaign, they're going to have their face hanging out there saying it... it would purify the process considerably."

Cronkite suggested that interested groups — such as those representing voters and consumers, and "think tanks" — work together to begin a massive public information campaign that would create a demand on the American voters so strong that the political parties could not deny it. The call should be for at least six debates of two to three hours each, addressing major issues, Cronkite said. Candidates should be allowed to take sides and to have advisers present, he said.

Cronkite said although political parties likely would object to the proposal, negotiations should begin before the next

AUSTIN (AP) — A majority of Austin City Council members say they will reject a last-minute request by the managing partner of the South Texas Nuclear Project for more time to settle its lawsuit with the city.

The council's hard-line stance would all but eliminate the city's prospects for avoiding a court fight with Houston Lighting & Power Co., officials said.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from Oct. 10 through Tuesday: FELONY THEFT: A student reported that someone stole his 1988 Pontiac Firebird, which was parked on campus. An automatic balance was stolen from the Northside Parking Garage construction site. MISDEMEANOR THEFT: Five bicycles and three backpacks were reported stolen from various locations around campus. One bicycle reported stolen earlier in the semester was found. A student reported that someone stole her radio/cassette player from the Animal Industries building. A student reported that someone stole a check and two bottles of prescription medicine from her purse in the System Administration Building. A student reported that he saw two people take two sections of scaffolding from the Sterling C. Evans Library construction site.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY: A student reported that someone had forcibly entered his car. He said he could find nothing missing. FALSE ALARM: Someone pulled the fire alarm on Ramp E of Walton Hall on two consecutive days. HARASSMENT: A student reported that she has been receiving annoying telephone calls for about a month. PUBLIC INTOXICATION: After receiving a report that an intoxicated person was outside of Dunn Hall, an officer found a student in the Commons area who appeared to be intoxicated. The incident was referred to Student Affairs. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: A woman reported that someone put two wavy scratches on the door of her car, which was parked on campus. An officer caught two students who he saw pushing a car out of a parking space on campus. The officer found no damage to the car.

Austin council to reject request for more time

HL&P has requested that the deadline for notifying the city of HL&P's intent to terminate the settlement offer be extended from Monday to Nov. 8. According to a letter from HL&P general counsel Hugh Rice Kelly to the city, the company needs more time to resolve a related legal dispute with the state Public Utility Commission.

Under the terms of the proposed settlement, Austin would swap its share of

The Project with HL&P for partial ownership of a coal-fired power plant. On Oct. 10, HL&P sued the PUC to obtain an order forcing the agency to decide whether the swap is in the best interest of ratepayers. The council has voted 2-1 that such a declaration should be made only during a public hearing.

HL&P has insisted that the city declare in the public interest a portion of the settlement, although a declaration legally is not required. City officials have said.

Lawmaker: Property taxes too high, state should help

AUSTIN (AP) — Saying local property taxpayers are paying enough, a legislator promised Wednesday to propose a constitutional amendment requiring the state to provide the money when it forces local governments to undertake new programs.

State Rep. Dan Morales, D-San Antonio, vice chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee said, "Texas property tax rates are now arguably among the highest in the nation."

Morales said he thinks most lawmakers would agree property tax rates around the state have grown too high as the state government has bat-

tered budget problems in recent years. Morales said that during its 1.5 years of study, the Select Committee on Tax Equity has heard repeatedly that local property taxpayers are bearing an "unreasonably large portion" of the overall tax burden.

In recent months, the lawmaker said, there has been an "unprecedented" increase in property tax rates at the local level.

"Municipalities, counties, school districts and other local taxing jurisdictions have been forced to seek additional revenue due, in significant part, to state-imposed mandates," he said.

Morales said 14 other states cur-

rently have laws which require the state to pay for programs it requires of local governments.

At the present time, a number of counties are protesting that problems with overcrowded state prisons have forced them to house state inmates in their county jails — but the state pays nothing toward those costs.

Morales said his proposed amendment might address such a problem, but he also said he's not yet certain what form that amendment would take when introduced in the 1989 Legislature.

However, he predicted such a plan would be approved by both lawmakers and voters.

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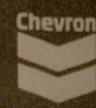
Some are trendy, some are traditional. Some find strength in established patterns, while others like to mix it up with the new and different.

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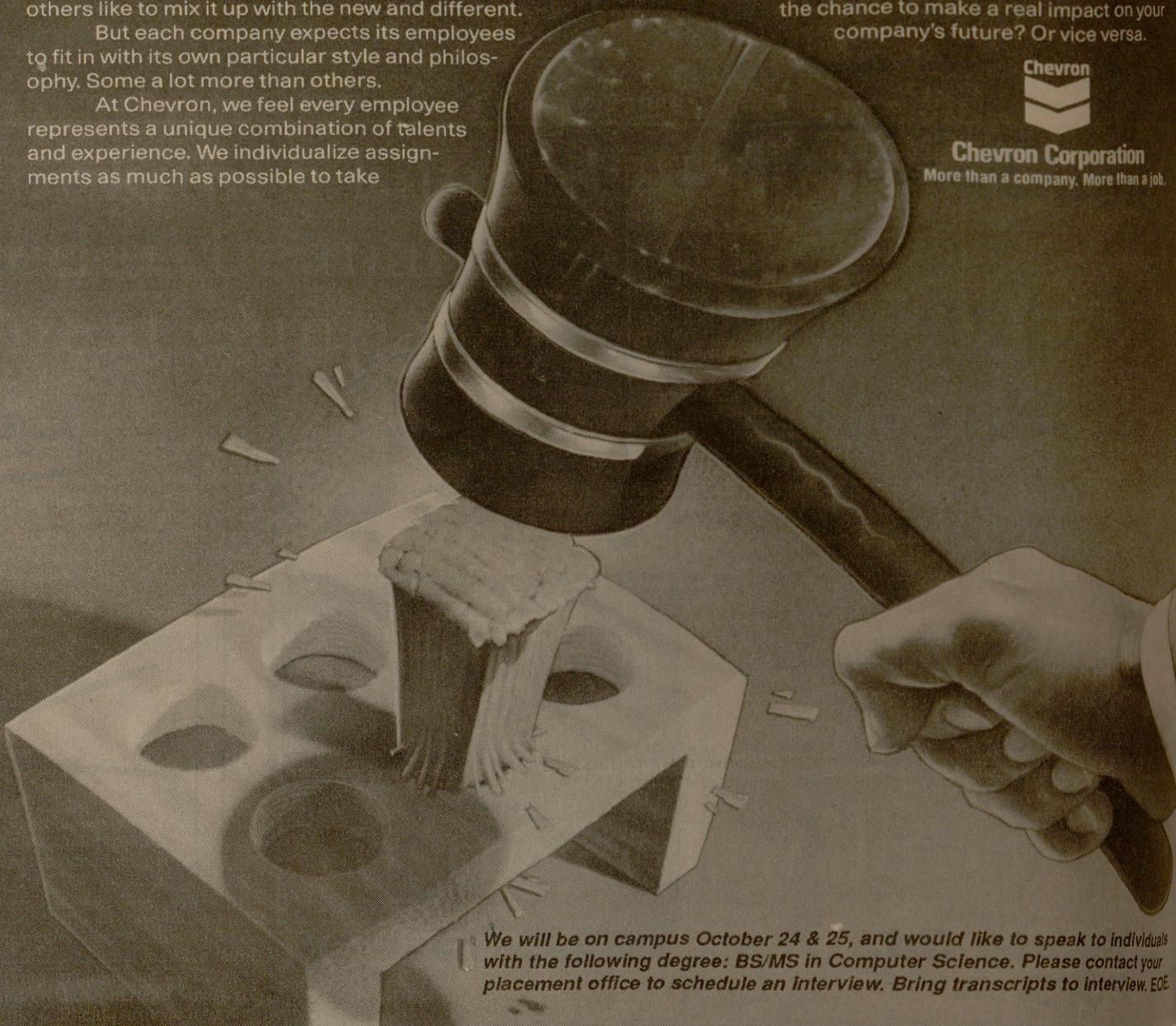
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