

# Coffey

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off the assembly line. The good news was that only 36 people died in traffic fatalities in 1900; almost 42,000 died in 1997.

The first automobile show was advertised, and the first automobile race was held on Long Island; an electric car won. President McKinley became the first president to ride in an automobile.

That was about all the campaigning McKinley did for his reelection; he "conducted a front porch campaign, never stirring from his home." The politicking

was done by his vice-presidential running mate, Theodore Roosevelt. Other presidential candidates represented the Populists, the Socialist Labor Party, the Prohibition Party and the Democrats, who nominated William Jennings Bryan for president and Adlai Stevenson as his running mate! McKinley would be assassinated early in 1901, and Roosevelt would be sworn in.

People worked longer and harder in 1900 for meager wages; the average work week was 70 hours. Only 800,000 women worked for wages in 1900, while today 34 million women are in the work force. Women, however, worked from their homes; women sewing at home for the

clothing industry made 30 cents a day. Unions were beginning to form, and violence between miners and owners frequently made headlines. Actors unionized, and in retaliation, many vaudeville theaters shut down, or began to show movies rather than feature live entertainment.

The government had receipts of 567 million dollars in 1900, while in 1998, it took in \$1.7 trillion, according to a recent Statistical Analysis. The Standard and Poor's stock index for 1900 was 6.2; it closed at 1,458.34 on Dec. 23, 1999.

And because some traditions cannot be improved upon: Peace on Earth, Good Will to All. Best wishes for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

# Martin

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Recently it is other candidates like George W. Bush and Al Gore whose resilience has been put to the test. After months of having everybody say that they were "sure bets" to win their parties' nominations, they are facing strong waves of criticism and doubt.

But Bradley's time is coming, too.

His flat rejection of Al Gore's invitation to debate regularly and give up the expensive 30-second TV spots raises all kinds of

question about his real commitment to campaign finance reform and a "better way of doing things." And it raises questions about Bradley's level of confidence that he could handle the debate format as well as Gore.

Gore's invitation may have been, as Bradley charged, just a "campaign ploy." But, whatever it was, it gave Bradley a chance to make a proposal that would show he was the aggressive candidate, one who was self-confident and ready to give the American people a good chance to see him and his opponent regularly and without the mask of 30-second TV ads.

Passing by that chance was a mistake.

As the consequences of

Bradley's mistake settle in, he will have to meet the challenge of a "down time."

And we will have the chance to see if he has the quality of resilience that he describes so well in his book.

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I hope you are watching North Carolina Bookwatch, the UNC-TV program that I host on Sundays at 5 p.m. My guest on Jan. 2 will be Shannon Ravenel, who will talk about "New Stories From the South: The Year's Best," an annual collection of short stories that she selects and edits.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

# Chowan COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Saturday - 1/1

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE

Be the first to explore Pettigrew State Park's forest in 2000. Join a park ranger for a leisurely hike on and off the trails. Wear comfortable shoes and dress warmly. Meet at the park office in Creswell on Jan. 1 at 2 p.m. For more info, call the park office at (252) 797-4475.

### Tuesday - 1/4

#### MUSTANG CLUB TO MEET

The Chrome Pony Mustang Club of Elizabeth City will meet Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. at 1949 N. Road St., US 17 North, Elizabeth City. For more info or directions, call Mark Cooper, (252) 331-1022 or (252) 264-3381, or Virgil Griffith at (252) 331-2210.

### Upcoming Events

#### BINGO NIGHT

American Legion Post 40 Family Relay for Life team is holding a "Special Bingo Night" in the back building of the American Legion in Edenton on Friday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Legion Family Relay team. Please come support this worthwhile en-

deavor. For more info, call Susan Campbell, 482-2386.

#### INTRODUCTION TO OILS

Artist Barbara Sant will hold an "Introduction to Oils" class starting Jan. 26. In order to help people who think they may be interested in working with oils understand the discipline of oil painting, she will hold a free "Working with Oils" orientation session Jan. 10 from 1-3 p.m. at the Chowan Arts Council in Edenton. For sign-up or more info, call 482-8005.

#### INTERMEDIATE STAINED GLASS

The Chowan Arts Council is offering an intermediate class in the art of stained glass with instructor J.E. Yates. This adult workshop will consist of five sessions — Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17 — from 7-9 p.m. Tuition is charged, plus a fee for materials. The class will be taught at the Chowan Arts Council. For more info, call the Arts Council office at 482-8005 at least two weeks prior to the class start-up date.

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# After Christmas

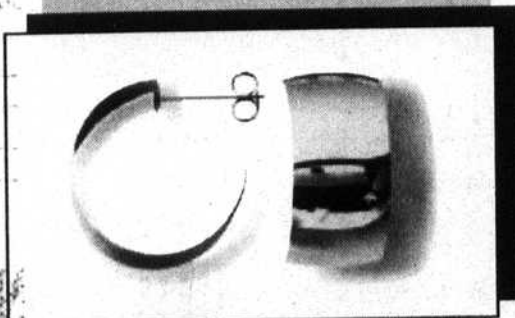
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