

GAO post office study on after Broomfield meeting

The General Accounting Office has agreed to review the Postal Service's investigation of the shootings in the post office in Royal Oak, according to Rep. William S. Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

At the conclusion of a meeting Monday with GAO officials, Broomfield said that the GAO would study both the Postal Service's recommendations for improved relations between management and labor, as well as its recommendations for improved postal service in the region served by the Royal Oak facility.

"What's going on in many post offices around the country is a time bomb waiting to go off," he said. "Already, I've gotten a number of calls from postal employees in other areas of the nation. In each call, the message is the same: working conditions are intolerable here, and what happened at Royal Oak can happen again — right here."

The management of the Postal Service needs to be more accountable to the people it employs and the people it serves. I am reassured

that the GAO has decided to conduct this study," he said. "What we need is an independent investigation by a tough watchdog. A study done solely for U.S. Postal Service management would simply not have any credibility — with postal employees or with me."

At the meeting, set up prior to the shootings last week at the Royal Oak post office, officials of the GAO also agreed to study the methodology of consumer surveys conducted by the Opinion Research Corporation for the Postal Service. The Postal Service has used these surveys to claim that the American people are generally satisfied with the postal service they are getting.

In addition, during the meeting with Mr. Broomfield the GAO agreed to begin a preliminary investigation into any existing nationwide surveys which study relations between Postal Service management and employees.

Broomfield is sponsor of a resolution that would create a bipartisan commission to study the U.S. Postal Service. The resolution has more than 100 cosponsors.

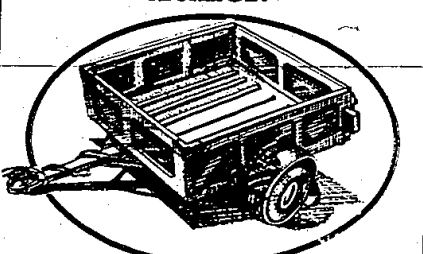
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First Night Buttons go on sale Nov. 29; volunteers still needed

First Night/Birmingham buttons — the gateway to a New Year's evening of entertainment — go on sale the day after Thanksgiving at a cost of \$5 per button, the same price participants paid for on New Year's Eve 1990.

First Night/Birmingham is an evening of the arts offered at a dozen locations in downtown Birmingham. Music, visual arts, drama and mime are included in the evening's agenda. Alcohol is not.

Buttons will be available at Crowley's, Fidelity Bank branches, Michigan National Bank branches, Deli

Unique, Morel's, The Community House, Tavern on 13 and Kroger's stores in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Button prices on the day of First Night — Dec. 31 — will be \$7.

THIS YEAR'S button has a black background. Last year's was white and we wanted to differentiate it from last year's so our volunteers could easily spot the new button," explained organizer Zina Kramer.

A full list of entertainers and entertainment sites will be unveiled in early December.

The New Year's Eve program, which runs from 4 p.m. through a special count-down program at Shain Park at midnight, still is in need of volunteers and sponsors.

"We still need volunteers," said Kramer. "It takes a small army of volunteers to put on a community event of this size."

THEY NEED only to volunteer for a three or four hour stint during the eight-hour-long program, Kramer said.

The First Night committee also needs both individual and corporate sponsors to help offset the cost of an entertainment-filled evening.

Anyone wishing to donate time or money should call Events Marketing at 540-6683.

Henry Ford Hospital's Maple Grove Center recently donated \$5,000 to sponsor the teen dance. The dance features live entertainment.

Other major sponsors include the City of Birmingham, The Community House, Booth Communications, D'Arcy Masius Benton & Bowles, The Junior League of Birmingham, The Kroger Co., Motorola, Northwest Airlines, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Olga's, TV-2, WJR and WTL.

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