

Kokomo "Castaways"

Have you ever imagined you were a castaway on some gorgeous tropical island with nothing to do other than enjoy the adventure with your very best friend?

Well, there was no shortage of imagination at AFI's summer Christmas Party this July. For one evening, we all got to put ourselves into that very scenario as we *invented* the Mythical Island of Kokomo.

This year, instead of planning our annual summer shop party for the entire family, each employee was asked to select only one guest with whom to spend the evening. All were encouraged to dress in tropical attire and meet at a little supper club in Cleveland, MN called (you guessed it!) KOKOMO'S!

This eatery features a huge charcoal grill upon which AFI Survivors were encouraged to prepare their own evening meals. Later in the evening, we were joined by another survivor of "The Perfect Storm" which had stranded us upon Kokomo Isle. Musician, Brad Sullivan, had miraculously managed to save his banjo when his sailboat capsized in the deluge. Thankful to be alive and still able to feel hungry, "Mr. Banjo" willingly agreed to entertain us in exchange for food and the warmth of our fire.

The only 'party pooper' in the whole evening's pretend was an annoying army officer, General Nuisance, who barged into our company insisting that our *island refuge* was, in fact, a military training ground being used by U.S. Special Forces for bombing exercises. Nuisance had taken the liberty of personally arranging for our safe evacuation from the premises—"to begin immediately!" Well, almost immediately. First, he felt it his official duty to help "lighten the load" on each government life raft by consuming his fair share of our perishable supplies. Beer, he assured us, was never allowed on life rafts.

By midnight, all AFI employees had managed to return to the *here and now*, refreshed, ready for their respective weekends, to be followed by another work week.

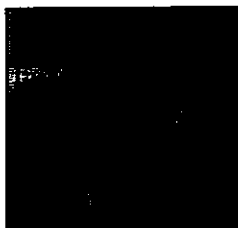
Hmmm, I wonder where we'll be going for next summer's Christmas Party..... Aruba? Boundary Canoe Country? One of our local lakes? Or, perhaps, deckside of LeHillier's famous Goldfish Pond. (But that, my readers, is another story!!)



Our mythical Island of Kokomo



Sampling the island cuisine are: Ryan Kapsner (AFI intern), his mom Donna, & materials handler, Vicki Schreyer.



"Dr. Banjo" (Brad Sullivan) offers to sing for his supper while we all await our rescue



Powdercoater, Terry McMichael and wife, Sarah



Alan Baer (Quality Assurance) and his wife, Becky (Materials handler)



Hula girls: Material handlers, Kelly Stevens, Leah Ellsworth (guest); & Teresa Stevens



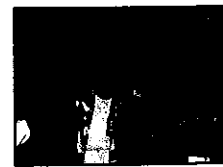
Silkscreening's Terri Panitzke with her very own Pirate, Ben Werner!



Island Dance Instructors: Jamie Burges (S&R), Bonnie Smith (JCI line), Bette Schweim (silkscreening)



Ken Wikre (metal Prep) and his wife, Terry



L. Pfeffer (Maint); Alan Baer (Quality Assurance); CEO Chuck Klammer; Joe Appelhof (VP Engineering)



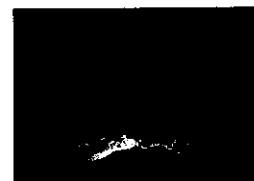
"Attention all Civilians! I need to know who is responsible for this noisy, undisciplined, rabble!"



General Nuisance explains that the AFI Castaways are trespassing on a secret military training ground and must leave the island, pronto! (Larry Pfeffer (Maint) & CEO, Chuck Klammer)



"WILSON !!!"
"Where are you, Wilson!"
Painter, Collin Burk with Miranda Andrews holding "Wilson"



All good things must come to an end. We bid a fond farewell to Kokomo.

Powder Coating — Liquid Coating — Pad Printing
Paint Stripping — Silkscreening — R.F.I. Shielding

Through Free Exchange of Many Ideas Comes the Final Solution to Our Mightiest Problems



Like most businesses, AFI is always looking for new ways to conserve natural resources and cut fuel costs. Occasionally, one of our employees will come up with an innovative idea to help us advance along that continuum. Our truck driver, Reginald Williams, seemed to think something along this line (left top) might bear further consideration.

Way to go, Reggie! (Just keep in mind, there were those who scoffed at Edison and Einstein's genius, too)



The idea which got the most votes, however, is pictured beneath. Here you see Ted Schreyer and Jamie Burgess (shipping & receiving), showing off the newest member of our transportation fleet. It's a shiny new 2005 International Diesel, with AC for the comfort of our drivers, and air suspension for the comfort of your parts! The van body is just 24 foot long, so it'll be perfect for those smaller shipments we so often need to haul.

See? A little brainstorming can produce the most amazing results. We can conserve fuel and give Reggie and Jamie all the leg room they require. (P.S. Reggie says he'll keep his little bug available.....just incase we need a back up!)

From the Desk of Scott Niss

Many of you are probably aware of our recent computer upgrades at Associated Finishing. I'm happy to report that the transition was smooth and that we are already benefiting from the many improvements our new system has to offer. One of the most recent applications has been in the way we collect our data on the orders being finished out in the shop.

In the past we have relied upon our time clocks to assist employees in recording the beginning and completion of a particular order. Office staff would tally up all the time logged in on each job on the following day. As you can imagine, this process was very time consuming and meant our information was always one or two days old by the time it was available to us.

Now, employees clock in and out of orders through computer terminals located at their worksite. This gives us live, up-to-the-minute information on what is happening with each order being processed throughout the plant. It is easy for us to access should any questions from our customers need to be answered.

However, we are going to need your help for this system to be effective. Each order must be entered into the system BEFORE any work is begun on it! It is imperative that we get advanced notice from each customer on all orders coming into AFI. The information we receive will make it possible for us to have all needed data in our computer, so that work can begin on your parts as soon as they enter our plant.

A simple fax to: **(507) 345-5828** OR an e-mail to **tschreyer@associatedfinishing.com** containing the specifics of your order will do the trick.

When we strive to help one another in these small matters, we can't help but ALL be successful in our respective endeavors. Questions? Give me a call. I'm **Scott Niss (507) 345-5861 Ext. 203.** (**sniss@associatedfinishing.com**)



*Scott Niss (Estimating)
and his wife, Kathy*