

karl's going-away party /1/ a little too happy, if you ask me

The office **going-away party** for Karl Roberts, manager for the **past** five years **at** Ames Farm Products, was "**a little too** jubilant," the 38-year-old former boss reported Monday. "This **staff has been working** directly under me for a long time, so **it's only natural** that they'd want to show their **appreciation by throwing** a little party **on** my last day," said Roberts, who recently accepted a job **as** regional director of Quad-State Shipping in Rockford, IL.

"And it's only natural that the employees would want to **blow off a little steam at** the end of the week. **Even so**, I really wasn't **expecting much** more than cake, punch, a couple of warm wishes, and maybe a **card**. **Frankly**, I was surprised when I **found out they'd hired** a band."

Known for his by-the-book management style, Roberts said he worked **much** more closely with Ames Farm Products' 23 **staff members** than their previous manager. **While** he said he was **aware** that he had a reputation **for being "something of a hard-ass"** in his first months on the job, he **had** always **assumed** that the staff appreciated his **contributions** to increased productivity and professionalism in the workplace.

"After the party, **though**, I'm not sure what to think," Roberts said. "I know they were only joking **about wanting me to go**," Roberts added. "But **everyone sure** was **getting into the joke**."