

*I was glad to leave high school. It was a drag and I never did connect with anyone. I guess I was kind of a loner. Since I was pretty good with numbers, I got a job in a local bank. Handling money was fun, but it was tough, demanding work. I had to account for every penny. I thought I had a*



*chance to improve my career at the bank so I took part in all the training programs the bank offered and I decided to go to college at night. I also read a lot of self-help books. All of this I thought would propel me up to the bank's head office. But I noticed that the men who had come to work in the bank spent a much shorter time in their positions before they were promoted. This really bugged me because I had really performed well during the training activities and was getting good grades in my accounting and financial planning courses. I decided to work harder. My choice didn't seem to work. Now when I saw others promoted over me, I resented them and my bosses. My attitude went down the tubes. I started to take more days off; after all, what good did it do to show up for work? Eventually I was laid off. Upon reflection I wish I had learned more about the problems women face in male dominated careers. I especially wish that I could have connected with a successful professional woman who had the savvy and experience to help me not be a victim.*

*S.B.*

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