

# energetic self-starter /2/ raising the bar

Benson's positive, **go-getter attitude** has earned him not only the **hostility** of his coworkers, but of their family members, as well. "My Howie **has done his best** in that **thankless** job for 17 years, and he has a very **stressful** position. It was **bad enough** before. The poor man, he **would** come home and have to sit in front of the TV for hours just to **let off steam**," said Iris Petersen, wife of **longtime** Williams & Broderick employee Howard Petersen. "But **ever since** this new character **showed up**, he stays up nights unable to sleep, **thinking about how** this kid is **angling for** his job. We don't have a lot of **savings**. It's hard for a man **his age** to **start over** in a new career. He can't digest his food, and **he's been drinking** more, too. I don't know who this Timothy Benson person **thinks he is**, but he **must enjoy making** a good man suffer. **If you ask me**, he's **some sort of a monster to torment** my husband this way."

Benson **insists** his positive, **can-do approach** not only **benefits** the company directly, but is also a great way to motivate other staff members. "**By raising the bar** and doing the best job I can," Benson said, "I show my co-workers that they, **too**, can do their jobs better. And **by setting a good example** for management, I show the **top brass** that they can **expect more out of** their other employees, as well. **That way**, everybody wins."

Benson's co-workers agreed with his higher-expectations theory. "If that **brown-nosing bastard** doesn't **knock it off**, those **greedy asses** in management are going to get the idea into their **evil pea-brains** that all of us should work **just as hard as** him," Richelieu said. "I hate him. **One of these days**, a couple of **fellows** ought to **put on** ski masks, **corner** him in the parking garage some night when he's just **put in** five hours **overtime working late**, and work the **overachieving** little bastard **over** with a couple of goddamn baseball bats." "My ulcers were bad enough before he showed up," Richelieu added, "but that **smug prick** is going to **drive** me to the grave."

Benson, however, remains optimistic **about** his future at Williams & Broderick, **saying** he is "**eagerly** looking forward" to his first quarterly employee **evaluation**. "**The sky's the limit!**" Benson said. "**Look out**, Williams & Broderick, **there's a new kid in town!** Just think: **In** five to ten years, who knows where I **might be** in this company?" Benson **is expected to burn out** into suicidal depression **in approximately** one-fourth that time.