

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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All work and no play

Students share good and bad experiences when starting a new job

By Bethany Brown
THE BATTALION

For many Texas A&M students, the summer is more than just a time to bask in the sun, swim in the local pool and take easy courses at Blinn — it is the time to find a new job. Many Aggies find that new jobs are often very beneficial, but sometimes require adaptation.

One of the toughest parts of starting a new job can be learning the tasks that the job require and learning how to perform their duties well.

Joel Copeland, a senior history major, recently began working at a local law firm.

"[My first day] was busy, a stereotypical Monday," Copeland said. "My first task was to move the boss's daughter out of her dorm."

As a runner for the firm, Copeland basically does whatever the lawyers need him to do, from making copies to getting them lunch.

"I perform many personal errands ... lawyers are the busiest people I've ever met, so when runners do their personal errands, they are given that much more time with their family, or on the golf course," Copeland said.

Copeland said he has already met some challenges in the brief period he has worked for the firm and that he has encountered problems that many students have to face in whatever job they hold.

"I have to ignore occasional fits of anger that consume co-workers because deadlines cannot be met do to circumstances that they cannot control," Copeland said. "Usually a couple of hours later they have cooled off and are the same, nice person."

In addition to the frustrating situations, Copeland endured some of the bizarre occur-

rences that can come with any job.

"A secretary sent me into the bathroom to search for a lawyer," Copeland said. "And let's just say I found him and he was not too happy to be summoned."

Valerie Monk, a senior industrial distribution major, had to face her new job in Houston where she had to learn to simplify her usual practices, like her sleeping habits, to perform her new job.

Monk recently started a job at a gasket and polymer company, a far cry from the restaurant where she previously worked. Monk said adapting to the early mornings has been a challenge.

"It is an eight-to-five, five-days-a-week job; up until now, I've only had part-time jobs," Monk said. "(I have had to) learn how to get up early and fight Houston traffic."

Monk had a typical first day of training and about the company she would be working for, but the information turned out to be even more important than basic training.

"(My first day was) long, but it really gave me an insight into the type of job I will have when I graduate," Monk said.

Another tough part of starting a new job is meeting and getting along with co-workers.

Marcus Brown, a senior industrial engineering major, found his new job at a local country club where numerous other A&M students work. Brown had to get to know, as well as work with, many of his fellow Aggies.

"It was pretty easy to get to know my co-workers because we had to spend a lot of late nights at the club," Brown said. "Sometimes we're there until one or two in the morning."

Brown and his co-go places like Lake Conroe and to the local bars in the area.

"We all go to The Tap every Thursday night," Brown said. "And we have an

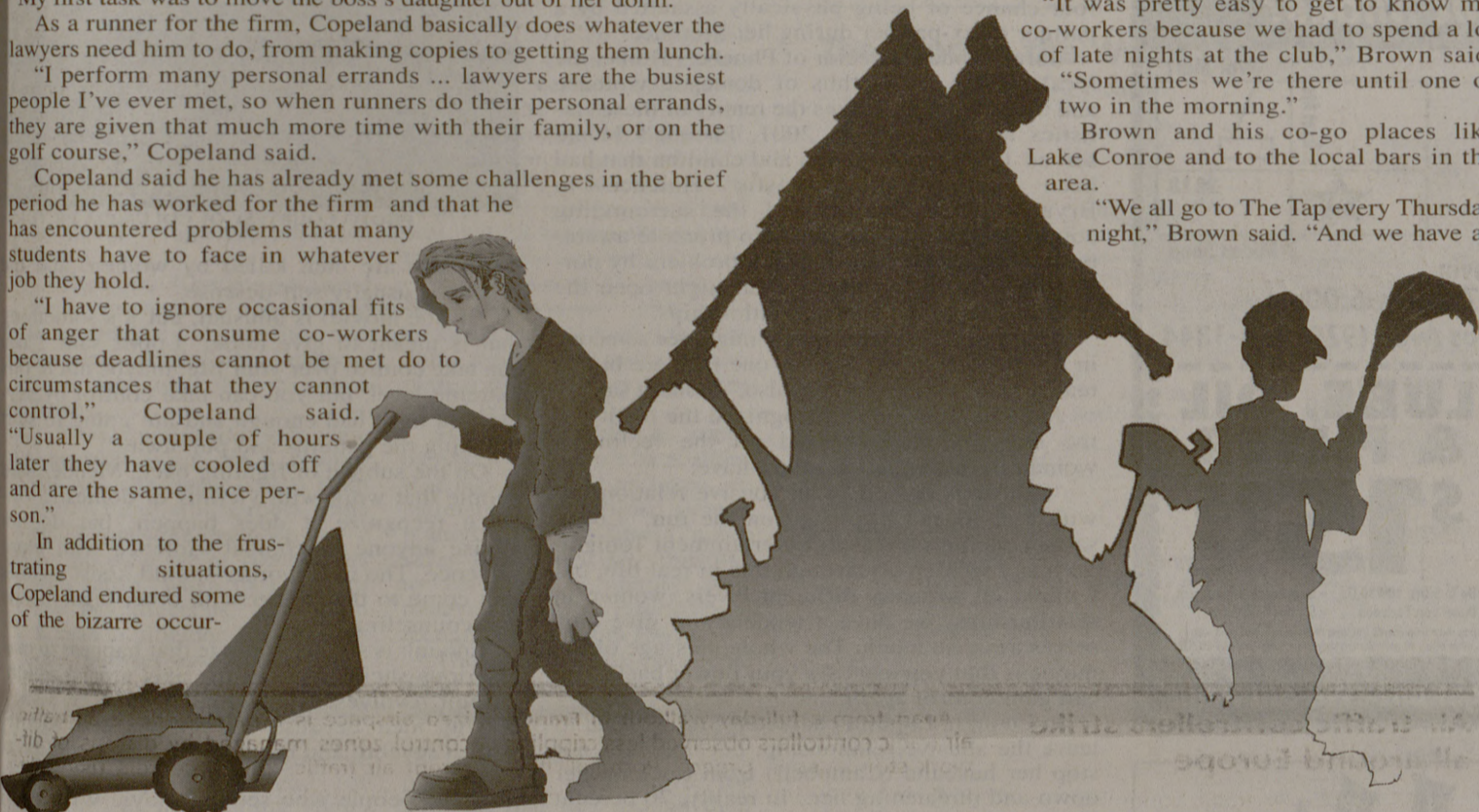
'after hours' tradition of spending time at someone's house."

Brown said that he definitely enjoys his job, and that makes it easier to enjoy the people he works with.

"I love my job," Brown said. "I get to play free golf, I get free food and I get to meet a lot of good looking girls."

An important thing to remember when starting a new job is that hard work is the best way to make a smooth transition to a new company and keep employers and co-workers happy.

"If you are on the bottom of the ladder like I am, accept any task tossed up in the air, and do it right," Copeland said.



LUKE CARNEVALE • THE BATTALION

REEL CRITIQUE

Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood
PG-13

Directed by Callie Khouri
Warner Bros. Pictures

Staring: Sandra Bullock, Ellen Burstyn, Fionnula Flanagan, James Garner, Cherry Jones, Ashley Judd, Shirley Knight, Angus MacFadyen, Maggie Smith



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. FILMS

Ya-Ya!

Everyone has a secret or two (or three or four or...). Sometimes, though, those secrets need to be revealed, and it takes those closest to us to reveal them.

This is the case in Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, when a secret kept by Vivian Walker (Ellen Burstyn) threatens to tear apart her relationship with her oldest daughter, Siddalee (Sandra Bullock), who is a New York City playwright with a chip on her shoulder. It takes Vivian's friends, the Ya-Yas, to bring the two back together again, as well as make this movie entertaining.

Based on the self-titled novel by Rebecca Wells, Divine Secrets is a delightful movie that makes viewers laugh just as it makes them cry.

It is the cast that shapes the movie more than the script. The four friends — Vivian, Caro, Necie, and Teensy — played by Ellen Burstyn, Maggie Smith, Shirley Knight and Fionnula Flanagan are the best foursome since Sally Field, Dolly Parton, Shirley MacLaine and Olympia Dukakis in Steel Magnolias.

Smith, however, steals the whole movie as the oxygen toting Caro. Known mostly for her serious roles in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, The First Wives Club and Sister Act, Smith proves herself quite the comedian with great timing and a flare for being over-dramatic.

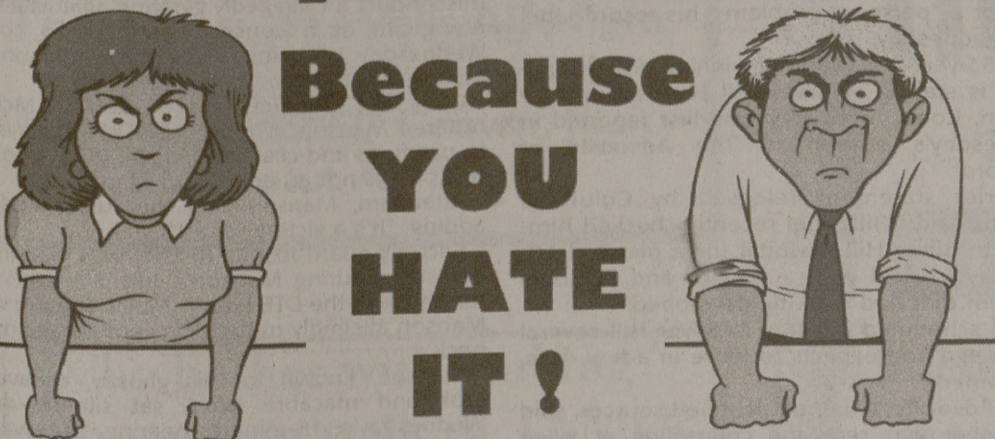
Despite being primarily a comedy, the seriousness behind much of the story should not be lost. While the women in this story are eccentric, the events in Vivian and Siddalee's lives are serious and are given the respect they require.

Divine Secrets celebrates the relationships all women have. It leaves the viewer with a new respect for their mother, daughter, sisters, friends, and even the men that live with them. In the end, however, it is indeed an "all girl production."

- ☆☆☆☆ Avoid at all costs
- ☆☆☆☆ Wait for the edited TV version
- ☆☆☆☆ Rent it
- ☆☆☆☆ One time trip to the theater
- ☆☆☆☆ See it, love it, see it again

—Denise Schoppe

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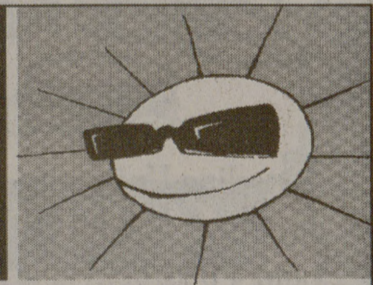


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