

I've thought a lot about what certified superintendent Pete Salinetti told me regarding his family life. "I don't enjoy life any *more* than when I'm in the presence of my family," said Salinetti, the warmth and self-assuredness evident in his voice.

What Salinetti, superintendent of Schuyler Meadows Club in Loudonville, N.Y., said is sincere and convincing. What he said is beautiful and joyous. But what Salinetti said also intimidates me and makes me question my commitment to my family.

I *think* I can say what Salinetti said, and I *want* to say it. But can I? Can you?

Like a lot of you, I have a passion for my career. My work is not only my job; it's my hobby.

"When you coming down?" I hear my wife yelling from the bottom of the stairs. It's late Saturday morning on a beautiful spring day, and I'm upstairs in my office. I'm seated at the computer working — and enjoying myself immensely. "I'll be right down," I say, my token response. "Give me a few more minutes."

An hour later, when I descend the steps, she's not happy.

I'm sure you can relate to this scene in your own marital melodrama. You were suppose to be home three hours ago, but you're still at the golf course. The phone rings, and it's your wife. You know the rest of the story.

There's another problem that comes with working too many hours. Eventually, we have to break from our work and rest, no matter how much we love it. That's when we crack a beer and sit in front of the TV to watch the *M*A*S*H* rerun we've seen 50 times before. Still, we don't want to be disturbed.

"Shhhhhh," we tell our kids because we can't hear Hawkeye berating Frank Burns, even though we know what Hawkeye is going to say before he says it. "Can it wait?" we tell our wives, who want to discuss important family matters.

We feel we deserve this downtime because we've worked so hard during the week. Yeah, we deserve it, but we've forgotten that we *haven't* spent time with our wives and kids because we were too busy working and unwinding.

It's easy to *say* that our wives and kids should

Who's No. 1 in Your Busy Life?

BY LARRY AYLWARD



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come before our careers. We may even believe they do. But do we *really* rank them No. 1?

I've talked with many superintendents the past few months about maintaining healthy marriages and family lives while chasing successful careers. Their collective response was: "(Deep sigh) It's difficult."

But it was evident to me that the superintendents I interviewed for our cover story this month (*see page 24*) are trying — and, more importantly — *want* to maintain healthy marriages and family lives.

Perhaps our discussions about marriage and family were therapeutic. Men, especially, need to talk about such things more, instead of only about "who won the game last night."

We need to realize what we need to do to improve our marriages and family because all of them can be better. We also need to appreciate our spouses, who are more understanding and supportive of us than they probably should be.

For me, and for many of the superintendents I spoke with, maintaining a healthy marriage and family life is about balance. While it sounds simple, balancing your job with your marriage and family life is not as easy as *Leave it to Beaver* implied.

The key is to adopt the philosophy that there's a time for our work, but we need to walk away from it when it starts to control us. We need to remember that we're married to people, not jobs.

We need to strive to feel how Pete Salinetti feels about his marriage and family life. Say it again, Pete, lest we forget: "I don't enjoy life any *more* than when I'm in the presence of my family."

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