

Two-career couples avoid job secrets in bedroom

Years ago, a university president was asked why he no longer ranted and raved about the radical student groups that had been disrupting his institution. The eminent scholar paused, thought for a second, and said that his daughter had graduated and was no longer on the campus. Now his troubles were strictly professional.

It goes without saying that all public events have their personal side. The agony of Geraldine Fer-

raro is no exception. Others may see her as the first woman to run for national office or maybe merely as Walter Mondale's running mate. I, though, see her as something else — a spokesperson for two-career marriages. Her troubles have been my own.

For almost 16 years now the Cohens, Richard and Barbara, have been a two-career marriage like Ferraro and her husband, John Zaccaro. They have been involved in politics and real estate while our business has been journalism. Both my wife and I work at that trade, occasionally in direct competition with one another.

As a result, it came as no surprise to learn that the Ferraro-Zaccaros had filed individual tax returns, paying more in taxes simply to keep their two careers separate. And it came as no surprise to me, either, when Ferraro said she had cultivated an ignorance of her husband's business affairs — once again to avoid a conflict of interest.

I am sure other two-career couples do similar things to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest — and often to no avail. It was interesting to me, for instance, that some of the same newspapers that wrote of the problems of two-career couples when it came to Ferraro treat those in their own shops as an affliction second only to labor agitation. Not only do spouses complicate transfers, but they are seen as corporate security risks. The operative cliché is, "There are no secrets in the bedroom."

To an extent there aren't, and in the case of Ferraro she cannot be both an officer of her husband's company, a recipient of its profits and still claim total ignorance. But it is not surprising to me that where their two careers clash, where for instance she and her husband might have a conflict of interest, they keep each other in the dark.

Nevertheless, over the years two-career couples have always been on the usual list of suspects whenever a corporate secret leaks out. Lovers or mere friends are never suspected — always married couples who have the most to lose by indiscretion. Once, an edi-

tor led to me about a story in progress. I think he feared that I would tell my wife. (His name will remain a secret until Ferraro becomes president, and then I will recommend him for deportation.)

Anyone who's involved in a two-career marriage has to admit that sometimes they are not easy. Things can get complicated for the couple and for the people they work for. It was certainly a far easier era for executives when they could transfer an employee and not have to worry about a spouse: Will he or she be happy and (often more to the point) will he or she wind up as a competitor?

There are no simple formulas for these situations. Just about all that can be said is that these couples are the wave of the future and that they know better than the people who employ them that career conflicts can tear asunder what God has put together. In fact, they — we! — know something that American business does not: Our rules are a lot stricter than theirs. We have more to lose.

So here's to Ferraro-Zaccaro and to Mondale for choosing a career woman for his ticket. In November, they might lose. But simply because they made the race, some of us will win. The ultimate secret of the two-career bedroom is out: There are secrets after all.

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Richard Cohen

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Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials represent official policy of the summer 1984 Daily Nebraskan. They are written by this summer's editor in chief, Chris Welsch.

Other staff members will write editorials throughout the semester. They will carry the author's

name after the final sentence.

Editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the university, its employees, the students or the NU Board of Regents.

The Daily Nebraskan's publishers are the regents, who estab-

lished the UNL Publications Board to supervise the daily production of the newspaper.

According to the policy set by the regents, responsibility for the content of the newspaper lies solely in the hands of its student editors.



Letters

Obscene language needless in article

The obscene language in "King, The Crowns rock against Reagan" in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan, page 16, was not necessary or pertinent to the article.

What was the matter with the editor? Was he sleeping? Little of importance is ever published in the Daily and this article simply proves it. No reputable newspaper I have ever read prints such language. If the Daily Nebraskan wants to be considered a bona-fide newspaper, instances such as this should not occur.

Daniel Choat
senior
agriculture economics

Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Requests to withhold names from publication will not be granted.

THE NATIONAL RESIDENCE HALL HONORARY

Congratulations to the following UNL students who attended the 1984 FALL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP, August 25:

- | | | |
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| Dave Edwards | Teresa Schimonitz | Ken Libby |
| Steve Hahn | Patty Sokolik | Vince Macklin |
| Matthey Hruska | John Danforth | Chris Nebower |
| Jodi Kessler | Kristin Estes | Paul Shavlik |
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Also a special thanks to our featured speakers:

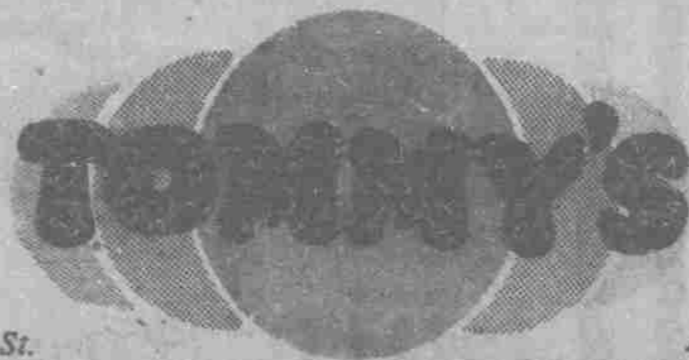
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