

UNL researchers discover executives' marriages blissful

It's harder for an executive to have a happy family life than for the proverbial rich man to get into heaven, according to early researchers who have declared the executive species highly stressed, lonely and unable to express tender feelings.

But the myth is disproved in a new national study on executive families by a team of researchers from UNL's department of human development and the family. Men happily married to their jobs overwhelmingly see themselves in loving, satisfying marriage and parent relationships.

"What's more," says Nick Stinnett, department chair, who led the study, "their families agree."

In fact, 86 percent of the executives rated their marital happiness high, and 90 percent of the husbands and wives said they thought that commitment to each other was high.

While 75 percent of the executives and their spouses were satisfied or very satisfied with performance on ability to express affection and dependency, and emotional closeness, 98 percent said the frequency they stand by each other when one of them is in trouble was high. And 91 percent said the male's role with the highest degree of satisfaction was "providing a feeling of security in me."

Even though 71 percent of the men typically worked nine to 12 hours and

another 18 percent about eight hours a weekday and almost half work another six to 15 hours on weekends, the majority of persons answering the questionnaire said loneliness was experienced rarely or never (82 percent). Only 1.8 percent felt more lonely than most people.

Stinnett theorizes that one reason for the discrepancy in results between this and earlier studies by other researchers is the difference in age of respondents. The mean age of earlier respondents was 37, while Stinnett's average age was 56. The average length of marriage in this study was 28.8 years, with 94 percent married only once. In this study, only 20 percent of the wives worked as much as six to eight hours a day outside the home.

Members of executive families identified consideration, love, communication and cohesiveness as the most important strengths of their families.

However, executives indicated that a majority of them spend a considerable amount (45 percent) or most (7 percent) of their spare time thinking about or engaging in professional matters. Only 24 percent of them said they spend equal time or more time on their family than their careers.

Thirty-two percent indicated a 60-40 distribution of time on career and family; 20 percent a 70-30 split and 20 percent an 80-20 distribution. When

asked how satisfied they were with the distribution of time and energy between career and family, 62 percent of the executives and 64 percent of their wives indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied.

The new study by Stinnett and UNL graduate students David Rucker, Robin Smith and Duane Shell, concurred with earlier studies about the high stress level in executive families. The majority (53 percent) of respondents said they experienced high degrees of stress. Major stressors were work (47 percent) and marriage or family (27 percent).

But 70 percent of the respondents said their families did help them with stress by talking it out, understanding/listening and being supportive. They noted physical activity and relaxation as the most frequent means of dealing with stress.

"Perhaps the family is most beneficial when it provides passive aid such as support and listening, and is less effective when more active intervention is attempted," Stinnett said.

"Ways of developing and fostering the positive family values and activities identified need to be incorporated into educational programs for executives," the report concludes. "At the same time, however, executives need assistance in dealing with work-related stress on the job to avoid negative 'spillover' into the family situation."

Exchange program offered in Japan

An agreement between UNL and the Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan, provides an excellent opportunity for students to study for a year in Japan. The exchange program allows UNL students to gain direct experiences in a cultural setting that coexists with the one in Lincoln. Students in this program will enroll in English-language courses at Nanzan University dealing with Japanese art, business, culture, economics, history, politics and language to obtain resident credits toward their degrees at UNL.

Students who are selected by the Asian Studies Committee and approved by the Executive Dean of International Affairs pay the normal charges for tuition and fees plus

board and room to UNL.

This payment then covers all the scholastic and living costs for the academic year at the Japanese university.

Any undergraduates in any college of UNL are eligible to participate in the study program at Nanzan University. However, students applying for the cost-reduction program should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and have a genuine interest in the program as evidence by course work in Asian studies or languages and/or international experience.

Since the UNL-Nanzan program agreement is on a one-to-one basis, the cost, payment and the number of UNL students enrolling in the program is uncertain.

Professor writes on military history

By Marc D. Seger
Staff Reporter

Lawrence J. Korb, assistant secretary of defense, said UNL's history department boasts a professor who has co-written a U.S. military history book that is "must reading" for people who want to understand the vital role of the armed forces in shaping U.S. history.

Peter Maslowski wrote "For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States of America" with Allan R. Millet of Ohio State University. Millet was Maslowski's mentor when he was working toward his doctorate there.

The book supports many theses. For example, Maslowski and Millet take to task the fallacy that the United States generally has not been prepared for war.

"We find, on the contrary, that policy-makers throughout history have done remarkably well in preserving the nation's security," Maslowski said.

Maslowski wrote the first nine chapters, which cover 1607 to 1902. Millet wrote the last eight, covering most of the 20th century.

The history ranges from the "soldier-settlers" of colonial Jamestown to President Reagan's defense policies.

The book expands largely on insights given in two earlier books, Walter Millis's "Arms and Men," (1956) and Russell M. Weigley's "The American Way of War," (1973), Maslowski said.

Weigley has said Maslowski and Millet's book "will be the pre-eminent

survey of American military history for years to come."

"For the Common Defense," a 587-page work published by The Free Press Division of Macmillan, Inc. of New York, has more than 9,000 copies in print and was a December selection of the History Book Club.

Although the book will be used as a textbook by the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado State University and Maslowski himself, it was written for general readers with very few footnotes.

"For the Common Defense" is not Maslowski's first book. He also wrote "Treason Must Be Made Odious: Military Occupation and Wartime Reconstruction in Nashville, Tennessee, 1862-1865." This work argues that reconstruction began right after Union forces defeated Confederate forces at Fort Sumter, S.C., rather than after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox.

Nor is "For the Common Defense" Maslowski's last book.

Maslowski, currently on leave, is finishing a book about the impact World War II photographs had on public opinion. Maslowski's father, Tech. Sgt. Karl H. Maslowski, was a military photographer in WWII and Maslowski himself has been a professional photographer.

Maslowski, who teaches mostly military history, joined UNL's faculty in 1974. Besides his books, he has written numerous articles on military history. A Cincinnati native, Maslowski earned his bachelor's degree at Miami University of Ohio and his master's and doctorate at Ohio State.

Volunteers help needy file taxes

The Internal Revenue Service, along with volunteer groups and tax advisers will help Nebraskans with their income tax forms.

Through a program called the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, volunteer groups and advisers will help low-income, elderly, handicapped and non-English speaking taxpayers file their federal and state individual income tax returns.

The volunteers will be experienced tax preparers and people

who have been trained by the IRS. They will help taxpayers file federal forms 1040EZ, 1040A and 1040 with Schedule A&B, and the Nebraska 1040N form. They also will help qualifying taxpayers take advantage of the Earned Income Credit and Credit for the Elderly.

People who need help in preparing their tax returns can call for information about locations available for VITA assistance. Call the IRS toll-free at (800) 424-1040 or, if calling from Omaha, 422-1500.



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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Music Score Composed and Performed by JACQUELINE DREAM Executive Producers SARA WILSON and ADAM PERLIT
Based on a novel by TERRY O'NEIL Screenplay by DANIEL FOLKMAN Produced by JOE PETERS and PETER GUBER
CASTING BY JANE WOODS COSTUME DESIGNER: JANE WOODS EDITOR: HAROLD BUCKER
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JANE WOODS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: SARA WILSON AND ADAM PERLIT
PRODUCED BY JOE PETERS AND PETER GUBER DIRECTED BY HAROLD BUCKER
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