

Family update

Every now and then, bankers at the trade shows I visit ask me about my children. I appreciate the questions and I particularly appreciate the fact that the industry meetings typically allow for social time in addition to the business agenda.

As you can see from the photo, the family has grown since the last time I wrote about my kids in this column. Paula, 12, is going into seventh grade this fall. A decade ago, we ran a picture of her in this space holding a copy of the *Wall Street Journal*. She's turned out to be a big reader, devouring a couple of books a week, even during the summer. John, almost 11, likes to draw and is honing his basketball skills as he prepares to enter fifth grade. Catherine, 8, likes gymnastics and is preparing for third grade. Although our Michael is about to turn 5, we will wait another year to send him to kindergarten. The children, with their energy, enthusiasm and hopefulness, are a tremendous blessing to Susan and me.



My peers who also are raising kids often talk about the difficulty of balancing their home life with their work life. I have found the key to achieving that balance. I don't separate my home life from my work life. By integrating my work life with my family life – as I am doing with this column – I don't have to worry about balance.

Business owners, entrepreneurs and, I suspect, bankers, have known this little trick for quite some time. If you love what you are doing so much that it seems like home when you are at the office, then you know you are in the right

line of work and the question of balance will never bother you.

My kids know what I do. For fun, I will show them a marked up guest column, pointing out all the deviations from AP style. Once, instead of a bed time story, I explained to the kids the differences between an OTS charter and an OCC charter. Sure, my kids think I'm nuts, but they know I love my work and I hope that sends a powerful subliminal message: *if you love your work, you'll never work a day in your life.*

In addition to the personal contentment it brings, I am convinced the harmony of an integrated home and work life also makes a solid foundation for building important social assets, such as good schools, honest businesses and useful community services. But that's another column. Thanks for caring about my kids enough to ask; be sure to give your own kids all the love they deserve. ❖