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No one can be brilliant at everything. In fact, success in one area often precludes success in others.

1. A famous politician once told me that his career has practically destroyed his marriage. “ I have

2. no time for my family, ” he explained. “ I travel a lot. And even though I am home, I hardly see my kids.

3. I've got power, money, prestige but as a husband or father, I am a flop. ” Certain kinds of success can indeed be destructive. The danger of earlier success is

4. particularly acute. I recall in my childhood a girl

5. whose skill on ice skates marked her as “ Olympic material. ”

6. While the rest of us were playing, bicycling, reading

7. and just loafing, this girl skated every day after school or all weekend. Her picture often appeared

8. on the papers, and the rest of us envied her glamorous life.

9. Years later, however, she spoke bitterly of those early triumphs. “ I never prepared myself with anything

10. but ice, ” she said. “ I peaked at 17 and it's been downhill ever since. ”

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