

NEWS ITEMS DATED 2106:

- The average life expectancy of American women is now 134, according to the Institute On Middle Age. 81 percent of all married women have been married more than three times. The life expectancy of men is 133. Men who've been married more than four times can expect to live to be 102.

- Congress today turned down President Rexford's request to paint the White House a different color. Members of the New Federal Party said that blue has been the traditional color of the White House for the past 35 years and it should remain blue.

- Two hundred million people watched the movie "Rocky XXXIX" on their electronic viewers Tuesday. The viewers, which replaced old-fashioned television sets, feed the signal directly into the brain of anyone who tunes in through electrodes in the headpiece.

In an effort to reduce the amount of money spent on salaries, the National Football League has decided that in the future, the game will be played with just nine men on a team instead of the 11 that has been traditional.

Baseball is expected to follow football's lead and reduce the number of players on a team to just eight. Shortstop will be eliminated as a position. "It has no business in the game," one manager, who spoke on condition that his name would be mentioned, said.

In defending the action, NFL president Geoffrey Noxon said nine players would make the game easier for fans to watch and, in addition to saving on salaries, teams would save more than \$5,000 per year on uniforms. A helmet alone costs \$900, and with the radio transmitter that allows conversation between the coach and the player, it runs \$1,400.

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because of HIPPA. "There's no reason to assume the patients ever find out," said Harvard University management professor Malcolm Sparrow, an expert on regulatory agencies who has written books on healthcare fraud. "The bulk presumably remains invisible."

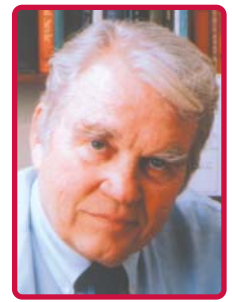
We have just skimmed the surface of issues concerning medical identity theft. To better understand medical identity theft the best place to go would be to the World Privacy Forum at <http://www.worldprivacyforum.org/medical.html>. The World Privacy Forum was established in 2003 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest research group. The organization is focused on conducting in-depth research and consumer education in the intersecting areas of technology and privacy. The World Privacy Forum focuses its investigations on a broad range of emerging and maturing technologies; specific areas the Forum is focused on researching and benchmarking include consumer data privacy, workplace privacy, job applicant rights and privacy, background checks and public records, identity issues, communications privacy, medical and financial privacy, and large technological infrastructures, including databases. The Forum also works to encourage collaborative efforts among non-profits working in the privacy arena. At their website you can read about Medical Identity Theft, NHIN, HIPPA, and electronic health records. Many of the reports are in PDF format. Some of the examples that I sited earlier are described at this site. There is a 56 page report entitled "Medical Identity Theft: The Information Crime that Can Kill You", summarized in 15 pages.

- A revolutionary new development in computer technology will make all computers made before the year 2098 obsolete. Government officials are pleading with computer owners not to throw their old equipment in the trash, as they did six years ago when all computers were made obsolete by new developments. There are more than 400 million obsolete computers in use, and most of the dumps in the country are already full. Congress may declare new developments in computer technology illegal, but meantime, Congress is looking into establishing another 100,000 dumps in space. There are now almost a million space dumps and a lot less empty space left in space than there used to be. It has been predicted that outer space could be full by the year 2200.

- In order to raise money to pay for repaving the main streets in major American cities, local officials are advocating the installation of coin boxes on every corner. It would cost \$1 to cross an avenue and 50 cents to cross a street.

- Officials at the U.S. Mint are debating whether or not to eliminate the dime. This 10-cent piece is almost useless because nothing costs that little anymore. Once upon a time, long long ago, there was both a five-cent piece, known as a nickel, and a one-cent coin known as a penny. The Mint stopped coining the penny 74 years ago and eliminated the nickel in 2079. Pennies are now sold by coin collectors for as much as \$27 each.

The dollar bill, another favorite of collectors, was discontinued 50 years ago because nothing sold for as little as a dollar and the paper was too coarse to be used for napkins.



Information on the NHIN such as current news events and a timeline of events is available. Information in regards to the Department of Health and Human Services and HIPPA is available.

As healthcare providers it is imperative to keep informed on issues that can so devastatingly affect our patients. Our simple awareness of the harmful potential may prove vital to a patient. Just by picking up clues in a medical record that may be faulty because of medical identity theft could save a life. And our collective voice in the development of laws such as HIPPA and the development of government electronic records systems could be vital to the future of healthcare.

*Lisa Rapple, RRT M.Ed is a veteran therapist, educator and manager. She is a Staff Therapist at Highland Hospital in Rochester, NY. She is a regularly appearing columnist writing on Respiratory Care on the Internet. She can be reached at [chinga78@yahoo.com](mailto:chinga78@yahoo.com).*



**"And I'll accomplish more than the other candidate. I'll spend less time in rehab."**