

» earned money to go unreported. People do place more value on what they work hard for, and they'll fight to keep it. But they're also less

### Unexpected gains end up on the gambling table more than other earnings.

likely to put it at risk; unexpected gains end up on the gambling table more often than other earnings. And tempting an audit is indeed a gamble. In the end, Erich

Kirchler of the University of Vienna and collaborators found that taxpayers in business simulations were less compliant with the law when money came easy.

So how should victors of lotteries and IPOs escape temptation? "Keep separate mental accounts" for take-home earnings versus income tabbed for the IRS to avoid the sense of losing what's yours, Kirchler says. "Further, consider what you receive for your money." Who do you think pays for research like this? —Matthew Hutson

### A CURE FOR CRIME

*When pills help police*

ACCORDING TO FBI reports, crime rates around the country are steadily dropping. Can we thank increased law enforcement? Tougher crack cocaine laws? *Roe v. Wade*? A recent study by two economists sheds light on an unacknowledged hero.

The recent decline in crime may in part be the result of psychiatric medication, according to Dave Marcotte of the University



of Maryland and Sara Markowitz of Emory University. Because many violent criminals suffer from severe mental illness, they argue, increased treatment and awareness have helped prevent crimes.

Over a 10-year survey period, drops in violent crime followed increases in psychopharmaceutical prescriptions even after controlling for income and

### Increased psychiatric treatment has helped prevent violent crimes.

education levels (but not for rates of talk therapy).

Markowitz advocates increasing access to antidepressants and stimulants (such as Ritalin). She estimates that just a 10 percent increase in prescription rates for these drugs could decrease the national violent crime rate by 0.6 and 0.7 percent respectively, which would prevent close to 10,000 violent crimes nationwide.

—ChiChi Madu

## Lovesick

*Secret romances are unhealthy.*

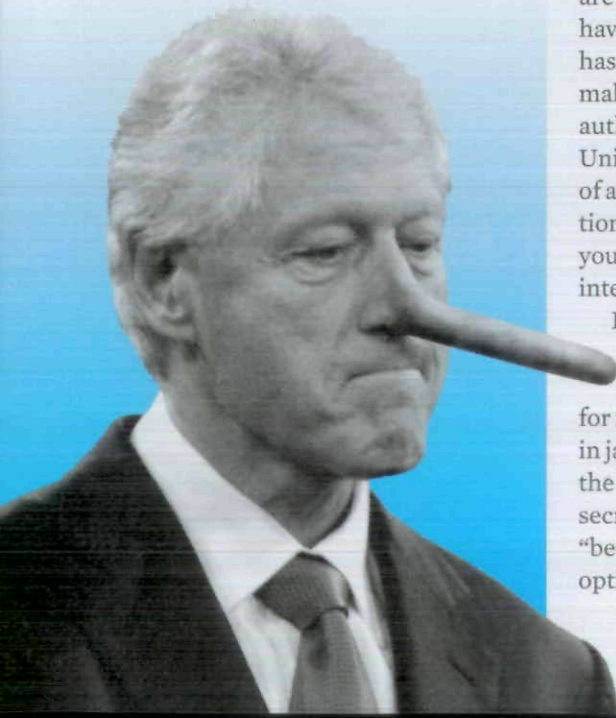
THE NEW BOOK *Game Change* reports suspicions about Bill Clinton's post-Lewinsky affairs—trysts especially ill-advised given his history of heart problems. Researchers have now found that those who keep covert

companions suffer health problems, including headaches, nausea, and fatigue, more than couples inclined to publicly display their affection.

The study also found that those who prefer to keep their love on the down-low are less committed to one another and have lower self-esteem. Previous research has suggested that keeping a flame secret makes it burn hotter, but the study's author, Justin Lehmler of Colorado State University, says secrecy can act like more of a wet blanket. "Keeping a secret relationship limits the degree to which you see yourself and your secret partner as being interconnected—being one larger entity."

But Lehmler noted that secret relationships are not inherently bad. In some parts of the world, for instance, same-sex couples are thrown in jail or put to death. "For some people, the benefits of keeping a relationship secret outweigh the costs," Lehmler says, "because they just don't have any other options."

—Ariki Millikan



Copyright of Psychology Today is the property of Sussex Publishers Inc. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.