

A Message from the Editors

Although this is our first issue in over a year, we are pleased to present four articles on varied subjects: identity fraud, gender and software piracy, illegal use of video poker machines, and self control and insurance fraud. These four are an indication of the wide range of topics with which we are faced as we study and work in the field of economic crime investigation and management. We believe that a considerable amount of research is being done and hope that we can reach out to those of you who are conducting it, so that you will consider submitting articles for publication.

The third in a series of white papers authored by Gary R. Gordon and Norman A. Willox, Jr., *The Ongoing Critical Threats Created by Identity Fraud: An Action Plan*, presents the plan for the Center for Identity Management and Information Protection (CIMIP). CIMIP is a research center, based at Utica College, which brings together an unprecedented alliance of corporations, government and law enforcement agencies, and universities to further a research agenda focused on identity management, information sharing, and data protection.

George Higgins' study, *Gender Differences in Software Piracy: The Mediating Roles of Self-Control Theory and Social Learning Theory*, investigates the effect of low self-control or social learning theory on the reduction of the gender gap in software piracy. Through his research, Higgins has learned that both theories must be considered in order to understand the crime of software piracy.

Timothy O'Boyle examines the illegal use of video poker machines in bars and social clubs in his article, *The Illegal Use of Video Poker Machines by Public Bars and Private Social Clubs in Pennsylvania: It's a Rational Choice*. Although Pennsylvania law prohibits the use of video poker machines in bars and private social clubs, O'Boyle found that the owners, members, and trustees are willing to take the risk of being cited and sanctioned. His study explores the reasons for this behavior.

Michele Ganon and James Donegan's article, *Self Control and Insurance Fraud*, reports the results from a survey investigating the effectiveness of measures of criminal versatility and self-control in explaining insurance fraud committed by exaggerating a legitimate claim. They found that, consistent with self-control theory, identifying persons with a history of reckless activities provides a means of separating many defrauders from their law-abiding peers.

We are actively soliciting articles for our next issue. The range of topics is wide and we hope that our readers will be willing to share their expertise and research with each other through this forum.

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