nately hardening like ice and softening like vapor. He told me to pretend I was a

...tact, or I would not be ... to tell this tale.

WHAT'S OFFLINE

Everlasting Retirement

HOW to make your money last forever is the cover article in this month's **Kiplinger's Personal Finance**. And **Money**. And **Smart Money**.

In what may be a first — or at the very least an extremely rare event — each of the financial advice publications at exactly the same time devotes scores of pages to "how to make money last a lifetime."

They all use virtually the same language to describe the strategies that can keep you from outliving your money once you retire.

At the core, the advice in each piece is sound — and similar. Mary Beth Franklin does the best job at laying out the basics in Kiplinger's:

¶Assume you are going to live a long time — at least 30 years — in retirement, so start saving as much money as you can today. "If you believe you can live comfortably in retirement on 85 percent of what you're making — a fair rule of thumb — then save and invest at least 15 percent of your gross income" today, Ms. Franklin writes.

¶When projecting how much you are going to need, do not forget to factor in inflation and the ever-rising cost of health care.

¶You will need to keep a significant portion — perhaps at least half — of your assets invested for growth, even after retirement. That means you still need to be invested in stocks as well as bonds and other fixed-income investments.

¶Limit annual withdrawals during retirement to 4 percent (up to 5 percent) of what you have saved. That withdrawal rate can be increased only by the rate of inflation. For example, if you saved $1 million for retirement, you could withdraw 4 percent, or $40,000 a year. If inflation averages 3 percent this year, you could withdraw $41,200 next year.

Money suggests that when you retire, you should think about using part of your savings to buy an immediate annuity.

"It's essentially life insurance in reverse," Pat Regnier writes. "You permanently hand over a lump sum, and in exchange the insurer promises you a regular check until you die."

A 65-year-old man who buys a $100,000 annuity would receive $713 a month, every month, until he dies, the magazine says.

Smart Money offers several rules of thumb for those considering ways to preserve wealth. For a rough estimate on how much money you will need, "multiply your expected annual spending, including taxes, by 20." To protect against rising health care costs, add $150,000 or more to the savings target.

It is easy to explain why we are seeing all these articles now. As **Kiplinger's** points out, there are now 41 million baby boomers who are 50 to 60 years old.

REVENGE OF THE AUTEURS The report in **Technology Review** sounds like something that would appear in **Mad** magazine's Spy vs. Spy.

You are in a theater watching a movie when suddenly a narrow beam of light shoots out from the front of the house and zaps the camcorder of the person sitting next to you who is trying to make a bootleg copy of the film.

"With the Motion Picture Association of America estimating that piracy of newly released movies involves in-theater camcorders 90 percent of the time, a counteroffensive is taking place," Kate Green writes.

The camcorder-zapping technology — the beam is invisible to humans — developed at Georgia Tech is one option. Another is technology that damages the illegal copy of the film itself, by digitally inserting flashes of flight or the words "illegal copy," if a bootleg version is made.

The chief technology officer of the association, Brad Hunt, says the industry wants to make sure the antitheft systems will not distract moviegoers before it gives the go-ahead to such efforts.

FINAL TAKE The conventional wisdom is that no one lying on a deathbed says, "I wish I had spent more time at the office." Maybe the conventional wisdom is wrong.

According to **For Me**, which was reporting on a University of Michigan study, 54 percent of Americans "are very satisfied with their jobs, while only 34 percent feel that way about their personal and family lives."

PAUL B. BROWN