



# the Commentator

The Student Newspaper of the New York University School of Law

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## Annual Public Service Auction Raises \$95,000 for Public Interest

### Total Amount Raised Is Down From Last Year; Dean Revesz Loses in Straight Sets in Wii Tennis Showdown

By RUBEN LOYO '12  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Feb. 18, students, faculty, alumni and law school supporters came together for the 16th Annual New York University School of Law Public Service Action. The annual auction benefits the hundreds of NYU Law students who decide to pursue public interest internships each summer in government, public defenders offices, impact litigation organizations and other not-for-profit organizations. This year's auction raised \$95,000, slightly less than last year's total of \$100,000. Still, this year's Auction was by all

indications a success for everyone involved.

"We were extremely excited with the enthusiasm throughout the law school and beyond for the event," said Jeff Seddon '11, who co-chaired the Auction Committee with Alyssa Mack '11.

makes events like the PILC Auction "more crucial than ever," said Sara Rakita, Associate Director of the Public Interest Law Center.

"I'm grateful that PILC will continue funding public interest internships at the same level," said Carolyn Corrado '11, who will be interning at the Executive Office for Immigration Review of the United States Department of Justice. "It seems like many more 2Ls will be doing public interest work this summer," Corrado said. Second year students who pursue public interest summer internships receive \$6,500 for the summer while 1Ls receive a \$4,500 grant for such work.

Economic troubles aside, the PILC Auction has always been a reflection of NYU law students' resourcefulness and dedication to public service. Dozens of students coordinate all aspects of the event, from canvassing miles of New York City neighborhoods for donations from businesses to encouraging faculty members and fellow classmates to donate their time, talents and valuables.

"Alyssa and I are very proud of all our committee chairs and the committee members without whom

none of this would be possible," Seddon said.

Over 30 faculty members contributed auction items this year; one of the most popular items of the night was a weekend at the farmhouse of Dean Richard Revesz and Vicki Been, Director of the Furman

contributed "A Radical Walking Tour of Greenwich Village," a tour of local social justice landmarks including the birthplace of labor rights, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and the Stonewall Inn, which was important in the LGBT rights movement.

Another notable faculty contribution was "Dinner and a Bad Movie" with Professors Troy McKenzie, Oren Bar-Gill, Lily Batchelder and Florencia Marotta-Wurgler.

Of course, it wouldn't be the PILC Auction without Wii Tennis with Dean Richard "McEnroe" Revesz, which has become an annual PILC Auction tradi-

tion. Ian Herbert '11 won the best-of-three match against the Dean, who was dressed like tennis legend John McEnroe, in straight sets.



Stavan Desai

This summer, a record number of students are expected to receive PILC funding due in large part to a disappointing law firm-hiring season for the Class of 2011. This



Stavan Desai

Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy. The farmhouse retreat went for \$2,600. Deb Ellis, Assistant Dean for the Public Interest Law Center,

## Law School Participates In University Games

By DANIEL EVANS '11  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After the law school's surprising third place overall finish in the 2009

school's biggest competition at the 2010 Games.

A university-wide event, the Games pit each school against each other in team sports like basketball, volleyball, tug-of-war and dodgeball. The Games also feature a wide variety of curious individual events such as rock climbing, foosball, rock-paper-scissors and sumo wrestling (complete with fat suits). Creative contests involving banners and t-shirt designs are featured, as well.

Only 15 law students assembled to compete in the 2010 Games. This was a much smaller contingent of competitors than

last year when the law school surged to a third-place finish, trouncing all comers in volleyball and sumo wrestling. This year proved a different story, though the law school did improve its skills in the limbo competition, placing second overall. The law school also came away with



Daniel Evans

Daniel Novak '11 (left) and Jason Mollick '10 (right) swing away at table tennis.



Daniel Evans

Kathiana Aurelien '10 shows how low she can go in the limbo competition.

All-University Games, a contingent of law school competitors hoped to build on that success in the 12th annual contest of the All-University Games held at Coles Sports Center on Thursday, Feb. 18. However, the PILC Auction and not the Stern School turned out to be the law

place in the rock climbing event. The competitors also bumped long and hard to take a share of fourth place in sumo wrestling.

The law school contingent's organizers hope to return in force for next year's games — with another t-shirt design to boot.

## Commentator Candid



Ryan Kairalla

A snowman in Washington Square Park happily dons an NYU t-shirt last Friday, Feb. 26, when NYU cancelled classes for the day because of the snowstorm that hit the Northeast region of the United States. It was the second time in two weeks that at least part of the day was cancelled because of snow. No classes were held and the law library was also closed. All cancelled classes will have to be made up in the future.

<b>Infra</b>	Love crossword puzzles but hate the <i>New York Times</i> ? Well we have an original <i>Commentator</i> puzzle to suit your every need.	page 2
	Over one month after it began, the Lawyering debate continues.	page 3
	If you're wearing sweatpants right now, you should read this fashion piece.	page 4

## A Hammurabi's Code for NYU Law Professors to Follow

By MICHAEL MIX '11  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It is hard enough to pay attention to what is going on during class in law school, but it is even worse when my professors can't teach. This occurrence is common at NYU as I constantly see professors do things that drive me up the wall. Therefore, I am here to help. Let me proudly present my NYU Law Rules of Teaching. Don't think of this as a Constitution, a living breathing document; instead think of this as akin to Hammurabi's Code – I am posting it in the town square (sort of) and there will be dire penalties for noncompliance. In the interest of space, I am omitting some rules that have been covered *ad nauseam* elsewhere (like not hiding the ball) or that are painfully obvious (like don't accidentally show up at Columbia).

**Rule 1: Begin and End Class on Time** – this does not seem like a recondite skill to master but you will not believe how many of you professors are completely oblivious to what time class is supposed to begin and end. If you expect the students to know what time class is, what excuse do you have? You only teach one or two classes a semester while we take many more classes. Also, most four-credit classes at the law school are an hour and 50 minutes, not two hours. If a class begins at 9:00 a.m., it most likely ends

at 10:50 a.m., not 11 a.m. Please don't forget this.

Also, even if you know what time class actually ends, do not just ignore that time and keep us over. I understand that sometimes the class is engaging in a juicy debate about federal preemption of state law that you do not want to interrupt. But professors, fight this urge. If you expect us to attend your class on time, how can you justify keeping us over and making us late to our next class?

**Rule 2: Assign an Appropriate Amount of Reading** – I know that we are in law school and that we are supposed to get a lot of reading. But professors, do you honestly expect us to pay attention to the same amount of minutiae in 80 pages of reading as we would in 20 pages? I'd rather have a really detailed conversation in class about two cases than frantically racing through 80 pages.

In addition, keep the reading consistent. If we normally read about 25 pages a night, why would you randomly assign 50? Are you trying to pull a Nuke LaLoosh and announce your presence with authority? If so, it is not working.

**Rule 3: Manage Gunners** – this is mainly for 1L professors but I still cannot stress this rule enough: keep the gunners under wraps. I will freely admit that a lot of professors are good at this – they refuse to let the gunners dominate the conversation. But others are just too nice to tell the

gunners to shut up. This leads to a string of random hypothetical questions that don't go anywhere and cause everyone else in the class to stop paying attention. If a gunner asks whether Luke Skywalker has any defenses to the intentional tort of cutting the Wampa's arm off, kindly refrain from answering.

**Rule 4: Make the Panel System Fair** – in my opinion, the panel system is the greatest invention since the cotton gin. Well maybe that is hyperbole, but it is at least one of the greatest inventions of the last 100 years or so, a list that also includes the Internet, the electric guitar, craft beer, the shot clock and the first-down line on NFL broadcasts. That being said, don't misuse such a wonderful teaching development

First, no matter how big a class is, there should be no fewer than four panels. Having two or three panels is basically akin to having everyone on call every class.

Second, don't forget who is on call on a given day. There is nothing worse than when you mistakenly call on someone but that student does not have the gumption to correct you and say that you called on the wrong panel. The easiest way to remember who is in panel is to write it down. This may seem obvious but some

professors try to do it by memory which never works.

Third, try to maintain some kind of equality among the panels. I have had professors who for some unknown reason call on one or two panels way more than the others. This is completely unfair and leads to angry *West Side Story*-esque rivalries between panels (without randomly breaking into song).

**Rule 5: Breaks!** – I wrote about this in detail last year, so I will not go over it again. But I just want to reiterate that yes, NYU Law does require 10-minute breaks for one hour and 50 minute long (remember Rule 1?) classes,

and the ideal time to take a break is exactly 50 minutes into class. If you would like a more detailed argument about breaks, please let me know and I'd be more than happy to oblige.

**Rule 6: Read Your Evaluations** – it's amazing that whenever I look at online evaluations, professors consistently make the same mistakes year in and year out. For example, if year after year, you are getting reviews saying you are in violation of Rule 1, wouldn't you try and remedy that

for a future class? The answer is apparently no. I am sure there are professors who actually make a conscious decision to improve themselves based on evaluations, but too many seem to completely ignore them. I know that publishing may be more important to many professors than actual teaching but please at least pretend that you care about improving your teaching ability given the absurd tuition that we pay.

**Rule 7: Minimize Power-Point Use** – I go back and forth on this because I have had a couple of professors actually use PowerPoint very effectively. On the other hand, too many others just use it as a crutch. If you find yourself spending hours upon hours including nifty animations and clipart, you may need to re-evaluate things. Furthermore, don't just sit and read the PowerPoint; we can all see the slides behind you. Instead, use it to supplement your teaching; don't use your teaching to supplement the PowerPoint.

Well there you have it. I hope that this code does some good and inspires professors to improve on some of their teaching shortcomings. If it does not, well at least I probably set a record for the use of the second person plural in a column.

## Comment The Guy Behind the Guy Behind the Guy

# the Commentator

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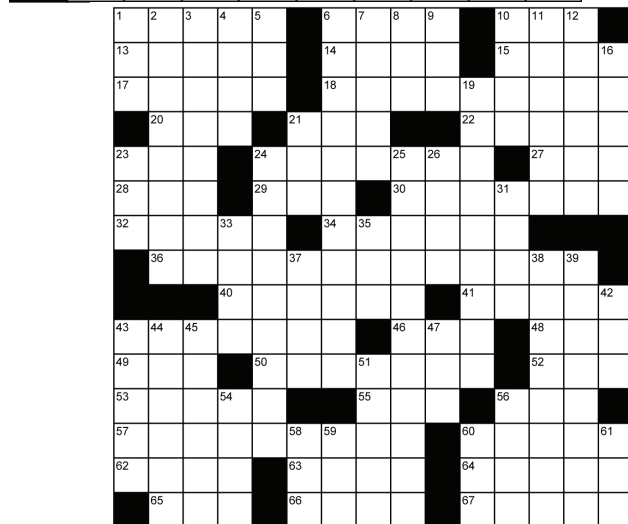
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## CROSSWORD BY CHRIS ROBERTSON '11 Solution on Page 4



- ACROSS**
- 1 Elemental power #1
  - 6 Ebb
  - 10 Words of commitment
  - 13 Frozen rain
  - 14 Crack pilots
  - 15 Elemental power #2
  - 17 Alan and Robert, for instance
  - 18 Answers
  - 20 7". 45 rpm disks
  - 21 Antiquated movie playback equipment
  - 22 Take a trip to
  - 23 Savings option
  - 24 Cavalry rifle
  - 27 Tokyo, formerly
  - 28 Function that determines whether a number is pos. or neg.
  - 29 Actress Larter
  - 30 One way to make a mobile billboard
  - 32 Irish name meaning "little fire," var.
  - 34 Breakfast cereal similar to granola
  - 36 That which is formed by combining the five elemental powers found in this puzzle
  - 40 Richard who has been cited more times in legal casebooks than any other judge
  - 41 Milk bag
  - 43 "\_\_\_ in the highest"; Mark 11:10
  - 46 Agency that represents Gisele Bundchen and Heidi Klum
  - 48 Individual field ration, for short
  - 49 Before, in verse
  - 50 Cubs' General Manager, 1994-2000
  - 52 Tolkien foe
  - 53 Pinnacles
  - 55 Play part
  - 56 Top spook, abbrev.
  - 57 Riesling or Spatburgunder, often
  - 60 Elemental power #4
  - 62 Yugoslav leader, 1943-1980
  - 63 Indiana's treasures?
  - 64 Love to death
  - 65 \_\_\_ Plains, Illinois
  - 66 Company that lent its colors to the New York Jets
  - 67 A bunch of wise guys?
- DOWN**
- 1 Continental gp. that's out of this world
  - 2 What many people are, vis-a-vis peanuts
  - 3 Small bamboo connoisseur
  - 4 Earl Greys and Greens, for instance
  - 5 Brooklyn \_\_\_, abbrev.
  - 6 Milosevic or Hussein, for example
  - 7 Bitter
  - 8 Mario Bros. platform
  - 9 Psychic power
  - 10 Former Spanish province in present-day Morocco
  - 11 One who puts another down?
  - 12 Heinz frozen-foods brand
  - 16 Bar in equity
  - 19 Chuckle too heartily, perhaps
  - 21 Actor Kilmer
  - 23 "That \_\_\_ lie!"
  - 24 Chinese dialect
  - 25 2005 Michelle Trachtenberg figure skating flick
  - 26 Org. that once employed Pele
  - 31 Elemental power #3
  - 33 Hall-of-Famer Rixey
  - 35 A, in Rouen
  - 37 Stock purchased by Lucent in 1999 for \$20 billion, abbrev.
  - 38 Alberta's capital
  - 39 Certain small, English hunting breeds
  - 42 Button on a 21-Across
  - 43 Elemental power #5
  - 44 "Blue \_\_\_"; White Stripes single
  - 45 One of the ancient Hebrew people?
  - 47 What certain JAG applicants must endure
  - 51 The Bombers
  - 54 Hall-of-Famer Slaughter
  - 56 Miami's counterpart in a county name
  - 58 When repeated, a guitar effect pedal
  - 59 Anger
  - 60 Encore's teen-focused channel
  - 61 \_\_\_ Sylvia, mother of Romulus and Remus (var.)

## Message to the SBA: Less Alcohol, More Coffee and Ice Cream

By JOSEPH JEROME '11  
MANAGING EDITOR

Several weeks ago, the Student Bar Association sent out its usual weekly email detailing its weekly sponsored party. Then, surprisingly, it sent another email the next day denying any part in sponsoring that party. Rumors started circulating around the school and reached my ears, and in turn, I sought out various parties to comment on the record. Everyone politely declined, and that's well within their right, but the whole mess got me thinking about the SBA's Thursday Night Parties in general.

Why does the SBA sponsor (or subsidize) weekly drinking exercises

by the student body? I realize I am speaking for the minority here, but from the first week of first year, I've found distasteful the prodigious amounts of money this school and the SBA in particular spend on student drink tickets and booze.

Virtually every Thursday evening throughout the semester, the SBA provides drink tickets for the student body to go out and enjoy libations. I certainly don't want to come down on letting loose or having a drink — since drinking is apparently the universal method of detoxing from the stresses of law school, but as I don't much enjoy going to loud Village establishments for overpriced drinks, I don't much like having any part of my tuition

funneled into this enterprise. More importantly, I don't much like having all this drinking officially sponsored by my student government.

Now, I admit my limited research into the issue has failed to uncover exactly how much money is being spent on these parties, but it strikes me that in a period where the school is budget-cutting, reducing student symposia and otherwise trimming expenses, axing students' free booze privileges could be one of the first things to go. I'm not silly enough to espouse getting rid of drink tickets at Fall Ball or any other honest-to-goodness "law school" activity, but do we really need to be funneling business into one Village bar after another?

The unfortunate part is that for all the good the SBA does the student body, it seems most well-known for these parties. I said earlier that I was in the distinct minority regarding my disdain for the Thursday night parties, but I often wonder if I'm really just in the silent majority. The SBA itself admits that attendance at the parties falls off from class year to class year, and anecdotally, I know a number of students who've never attended a single one. For us, what are we getting out of this exercise except curious rumors and the opportunity to out-gunner people on Friday morning classes?

I understand that the SBA's constitutional mission is to encourage the school's social life, and I

know there's something to be said for how per-capita student spending can boost a *U.S. News* ranking. But maybe the SBA can encourage other things?

So I propose a compromise: keep your parties but throw in the occasional ice-cream social, as well. Halve the number of drink tickets and replace them with free coffee.

I refuse to believe encouraging Thursday night drinking is the only way to encourage a social life at the university, and I would implore the SBA to look at other avenues for encouraging weekly gatherings at the law school. It'd give me more reason to review its emails for reasons other than suspiciously canceling a Thursday night drinking event.

## Parks and Recreation: A Show Worth Giving Up a Kidney For?

By MICHAEL MIX '11  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What will it take for you to watch *Parks and Recreation*? You want my lunch money? Done. You want me to do your chores for you? I can make that happen. You want a free ad in *The Commentator*? Hey, let's not get too crazy. In any event, I implore everyone at NYU Law to start watching the funniest show on TV in order to keep it from falling into the "brilliant but cancelled category" with such classics as *Arrested Development*, *Andy Richter Controls the Universe*, *Freaks and Geeks* and countless others. That's right, I said it — *Parks and Recreation* is the funniest show currently on television. Would I lie to you?

I know you are skeptical. Maybe you watched the first season when it premiered in early 2009 as an NBC midseason replacement. I'll be the first to admit that the first season was pretty bad. It was created by Greg Daniels and Michael Schur, the co-creator and an executive producer on the *American Office*. This initially hurt the show as it tried way too hard to mimic its predecessor. I don't mind using the same formula of a mockumentary in an office setting, but the main prob-

lem was that Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler), the main character, was basically a carbon copy of Michael Scott, albeit female. Furthermore, the first season was way too plot-heavy, focusing almost exclusively on Leslie's efforts to build a park in a pit next to the house of nurse Ann Perkins (Rashida Jones). The secondary characters had potential, but they weren't fleshed out at all.

The show had a couple good moments in its first season, but I was almost ready to give up on it. I

told myself that I would give it two or three episodes, and then dump it if it did not improve. Amazingly, though, the show did actually get better. I could sense it in the season's first episode, as the show's writers basically dropped the pit-into-park plot and instead focused more on the characters. The writers clearly realized that they had a lot of great stories to tell that weren't completely intertwined with the park. For ex-

ample, most of this season's best moments have come from Leslie's boss Ron Swanson (Nick Offerman), a bureaucrat who despises government, thinks that everything should be run by private corporations, and loves Bobby Knight, Steffi Graf and breakfast foods. He was the one supporting character who had any great moments in the first season, but this



season he has stepped it up a notch. In one of my favorite moments, the gang goes to a strip club, and Ron stews unhappily, until he notices a free breakfast buffet and hilariously devours pancakes like he was breaking a fast.

The other breakout supporting character is Andy Dwyer (Chris Pratt), Ann's unsuccessful musician ex-boyfriend, later given a job as a shoe-shine guy at the Parks Depart-

ment. Apparently Pratt was only going to be a supporting character in the first season, but he was so funny that they elevated him to full-time cast member. His childlike naiveté works well in contrast to Ann's serious nature, especially in one classic moment this season when he overzealously pretends to be an FBI agent to interrogate an adolescent whom Leslie believes has vandalized certain town landmarks.

Most of the rest of the supporting characters, including Tom Haverford (Aziz Ansari, who previously starred in *Human Giant*, one of the most underrated TV shows of the past decade) and April Ludgate (Aubrey Plaza), shine as well. However, the series' weak point is the pairing of Ann and her current boyfriend Mark Brendanawicz (Paul Schneider), a city planner. They are the two most serious characters on the show, and whenever they are paired together in plots, there are perilously few laughs.

That brings me back to Leslie. As I mentioned before, last season she was a clone of Michael Scott; she was completely oblivious to social convention and relatively inept at her job. This season though, the writers have really let her grow. It turns out that Leslie is just really idealistic about

small-town government, and her social quirks seem to come from inexperience, not total idiocy. In fact, Leslie has actually had two steady boyfriends already this season. Furthermore, Leslie is actually really good at her job, as evidenced by one episode when Ron has to fill in for his underling, and he has no idea how to do anything. In one of the season's best lines, Ron begins a town hall meeting (usually run by Leslie) with the classic, "My name is Ron. You don't need to know my last name. Whoever wants to talk, go ahead, and we'll be out of here in a tight 15."

I know it's hard to believe that *Parks* is actually that good. But just indulge me and watch one episode. I guarantee you it is about 10 times better than this season of *The Office*, which actually stooped to a new low by running a clip show, almost causing me to be as angry as Ron Artest at the Palace at Auburn Hills. If you are looking for a good *Parks* episode to try, watch "Ron and Tammy," my favorite 30 minutes this season. In it, the show actually made guest star Megan Mullally (Offerman's real-life wife) seem hilarious. If a show can accomplish that Herculean feat, you ought to be watching.

## Debate Heats Up in the Press: Lawyering Professor Fires Back

TO THE EDITOR:

I am sorry that Josh Levy '11 believes "the nontraditional elements of Lawyering are largely a waste of time." After 25 years of practicing law at a fairly sophisticated level, I joined the Lawyering Program last fall precisely because of the opportunity to teach the "nontraditional elements." It is those elements, in my view, that are most likely to help NYU students distinguish themselves in what Josh calls the "real legal world." In that world — my world, for most of my adult life — students with good legal research and writing skills are a dime a dozen. These skills are of course necessary for professional success but are by no means sufficient. What we look for in the hiring process, and what helps young lawyers get ahead in their careers, is the rest of the package. In the real legal world, lawyers need to push

themselves constantly. They need well-ingrained habits of hard work and personal responsibility; the self-confidence to plan and execute projects with no blueprints; the ability to work effectively in both highly collaborative and intensely competitive situations (sometimes both at the same time); the people skills necessary to connect effectively with an enormous range of personalities in widely varying settings; and the judgment — including the ethical judgment — to know where the line is without going to the library to look it up.

Yes, these are life skills but that does not mean they "cannot possibly be taught in the classroom." In kindergarten, children are not just taught to name the days of the week and recognize the letters of the alphabet; they are also prodded to share their toys and clean up after themselves. In junior high, adolescents dissect frogs, conjugate

French verbs, and — whether they want to or not — learn civics. In medical school, along with anatomy and pharmacology, first-year students are now routinely required to take a practice-simulation course designed (in the words of the Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons) "to provide medical students with strong skills in perception, communication and reflection so that they may establish therapeutic and trusting relationships with patients and families, and with the communities in which they live and practice." Most law schools do not provide a comparable grounding in the skills necessary to practice law at the highest level of professionalism. Perhaps that is why lawyers are held in such low public esteem compared to, say, doctors.

NYU students are luckier than most: they have the Lawyering Program. At most schools, legal research and writing is taught

in a single semester, typically by recent law school graduates with little real world experience. Such programs may include two or three research and writing projects plus a mock oral argument. Lawyering at NYU incorporates all of those elements and more. Students are required to turn in at least half a dozen writing projects ranging from research memos to affidavits to mediation and litigation briefs. The oral advocacy component, which takes up most of March, is a robust one, incorporating a formal moot session as well as the actual motion argument, often before a sitting judge. Unlike most first-year programs, however, Lawyering lasts a full year, is taught by experienced practitioners and goes beyond legal research, writing and oral advocacy to give students a grounding in what it takes to practice in the real world.

The Lawyering Program is

not perfect. We know that young associates do not routinely negotiate multi-million dollar pharmaceutical contracts. But the "soap opera plot" of the mediation exercise looks downright tame compared to some of the actual cases I have mediated, arbitrated and litigated over the past few decades. And the point of Lawyering is not make-believe; the payoff comes from the effort the students put into it. If the writer had taken the negotiation exercise seriously, rather than agreeing to "take the average on every figure to finish as quickly as possible," he might have learned something from it. And that, in turn, might save his client a few million dollars the first time — there is always a first time — he is actually entrusted with a commercial contract negotiation.

BARBARA MOSES  
ACTING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF  
LAWYERING

## You Can't Go Out Looking Like that; You're a Lawyer

*Undressing the Myths and Stripping Down to the Naked Truth About All Things Fashion Related*

By MARIJA PECAR LL.M. '10  
STAFF WRITER

Fashion. Oh, where to begin. I guess I should start by introducing you to some of my underlying assumptions and fundamental beliefs.

First: There is no correlation between vanity and IQ.

Being blessed with a high intellect, possessing spectacular analytical reasoning ability and having a broad range of extracurricular hobbies and interests (including a passion for politics and a yearning to combat global warming) does not render one immune from caring about shallow externalities and obsessing about whether one's checkered lumberjack shirt is better complemented by gray or black pants, or perhaps new "distressed" jeans (which the cute shop assistant insisted were, like, "tootally IN"). And this doesn't even touch on the flared/boot-cut/skinny/low-rise conundrum.

But, a little vanity never goes amiss.

In fact, these things can be enjoyable to think about, since pondering about the plight of the polar bear can get a little exhausting from time to time. Feel free to disagree, of course.

Second: Just because you are blessed with a brain that is capable of storing, processing and regurgitating mass amounts of information in a succinct, orderly and eloquent fashion (for reasonable remuneration) does not absolve you from your duty, as a responsible member of society, to look aesthetically pleasing. Or, at least, to attempt to do so. However, the scope and standard of this duty of care is low. We aren't asking for much. Just wear colors that don't clash and endeavor to look presentable. Being a lawyer does not sanction being unfashionable.

(N.B. reader: if you happen to be a dude, feel free to skip to the next paragraph — other than possibly providing you with a sprinkle of literary enjoyment, this one will be of limited relevance and utility.)

Third: Being fashionable does not equate to being anti-feminist, nor does it mean that you are betraying your "sistas" or perpetuating patriarchy. Similarly, looking like you got dressed in the dark this morning or like your outfit is the product of a raid through your grandmother's closet (and by the looks of it managing to pilfer only her throwaways), does not make you the next Betty Friedan. Giving off the impression that you (1) are colorblind; (2) do not own a mirror/iron/hairbrush; or (3) a combination of the aforementioned, will not do you or the "movement" any favors. There

is nothing wrong with being a Miracle-bra-wearing, rather than -burning feminist. Choosing to peruse a *Victoria's Secret* catalogue or relax with a copy of *Vogue*, instead of battling with *Gender Trouble* does not mean you are letting the cause down. That said, if you feel like carrying a copy of *The Feminine Mystique* in your handbag, by all means, go ahead. Just make sure there's room for your lipgloss in there too.

Fourth: there is no such thing as "effortless style" (and opting to sport your college hoodie on a daily basis may be the former, but it certainly lacks all trace of the latter). In fact, the more "effortless" the outfit looks, the greater the author's sweat of the brow. You can bet the bum sitting next to you in the library spent at least twice as long as you did that morning getting ready. Pulling off the "stylishly disheveled" look is quite the art form, and one that takes years to master. So, the next time you see someone looking particularly scruffy: look again. "Homeless chic" is all the rage. (However, that is no excuse for abandoning all standards of personal hygiene and teaming the unkempt look with musky *Eau de Vagrant*).

Right, now that the preliminaries are out of the way ... If you've read this far nurturing the belief that I'm going to give you the inside scoop on Fashion Week and wild after-parties with Lohan and Hilton, think again.

Alas, having realized that getting into Bryant Park would probably be more difficult than sneaking into the Pope's Vatican bedchamber ... I opted for the next best thing: an afternoon

by their chaperones: Think of the look in the deer's eyes as it stares into your headlights. Then amplify it. These poor men were kicking themselves for foolishly agreeing to attend what was beginning to resemble a Russian circus show, featuring a chorus line of hyenas.

So, what did I learn from this experience? Not a whole load, though I was reminded of the sheer brilliance of some fashion trends that have stumbled off the catwalk and into our closets.

History reveals that every *époque* has its own version of what I shall call the "Constriction Trend." The 19th century had the corset, which, although occasionally inducing bouts of fainting, guaranteed women a tiny waist — an essential accessory at the time. 10th-century China was a fan of foot binding, since miniscule feet are "intensely erotic" and give off the impression that one's chastity is intact, should any potential suitors be in doubt. On the other hand, Africa went through a long-neck fetish, facilitated by the elongating properties of brass neck-rings.

Now, jump ahead to the super-advanced, enlightened 21st-century Western culture and you get "skinny jeans." However, despite the suggestive name, this garment is worn indiscriminately, by people of all shapes and sizes, male or female. Finally, the egalitarian within you can be content: Equality all around! (For better or worse.)

The plus side to skinny jeans? Given their unisex appeal, you and your significant other can now share clothing, which will no doubt give your relationship the added intimacy it needs to take it to that next level you've been itching to get to. Having exchanged leg-wear (with you sporting a pair of "boyfriend jeans" and him wearing your jeggings), you can be confident that the vows are soon to follow, pending resolution of the inevitable confusion around who wears the pants in the relationship.

The downside? Apart from the latent aesthetic discomfort induced in onlookers, this item of clothing has the potential to wreak havoc on your bedroom

life. There are few bigger mood killers and few things more devoid of eroticism than getting frisky and then, just as you're about to seal the deal, wasting precious time, energy and enthusiasm peeling a pair of

result of being forced to listen to her incessant whining all the way home, he'll have lost all interest. And if, in your attempt to be ultra fashionable, you team them with a pair of skinnies, you've guaranteed yourself a decade of celibacy.

On another note: my mother owned/owns a pair. As, I suspect, did (does?) my grandmother. Need I say more?

Moving further north we stumble upon the *pièce de résistance*, your newest accessory: a pair of thick-rimmed glasses. Now, as a seasoned spectacle-wearer, I struggle to understand the fashion industry's attraction to what is essentially a functional item, designed to ameliorate your visual deficiency and put your ophthalmologist's children through grad school. Speaking from the (slightly blurry) perspective of someone who was regrettably been

sporting this trend through childhood, proudly shouldering nicknames such as "Four Eyes," I fail to see the appeal. For those of you who wear them yet are secretly blessed with 20:20 vision: (1) shame on you; and (2) you are misguided. For the rest of you, think about contrasting your daytime owl look with evening contacts, or re-evaluate how much you really need to be able to read every sentence of that book.

All bashing aside, fashion is fun, fearless and creative. Provided you keep things in perspective. So, next time you're walking back to your table in the library, why not let yourself go and imagine you're on that runway. Strut away. We promise not to judge.



Students and professors alike should follow the example of NYU Law Professor Samuel Rascoff, who has been quoted in the New York Times regarding his fashion expertise.



trip to Barney's Warehouse Sale.

This was a slick, well-run military operation, from which Obama's organizational people could learn a thing or two, while Freud would have a field day analyzing the hysterical (bordering on psychotic) behavior exhibited by the women involved, as well as the sheer terror experienced

leg-hugging jeans off. And if you both happen to be fashion-conscious (an attribute that initially attracted you to one another but will now prove to be your nemesis) and thus each sporting a pair, good luck to you. Add to that the effect these garments can have on circulation, and basically, skinny jeans are essentially fashion's prophylactic. Watch out Trojan.

Next are "knock me down and [rhymes with duck] me" heels designed to achieve optimal leg angulation. They sound salacious but don't let that fool you: in reality they're so painfully high that she will be complaining so much about the agony they've caused her that, come crunch time, she will no longer be in the mood. Or, as a

Commentator

### CROSSWORD Solution

A	S	N	M	S	H	S	D	E	S
R	O	A	S	K	A	R	O	T	I
E	R	A	T	E	N	I	N	E	H
I	N	D	A	C	S	M	E	A	C
C	O	H	C	N	D	L	E	R	E
R	E	M	G	I	M	A	N	A	H
D	E	R	U	D	R	N	S	P	O
T	E	N	L	A	I	N	A	P	C
L	I	S	E	M	N	E	N	A	I
P	R	A	R	C	A	L	I	G	S
O	E	N	E	B	A	R	C	R	A
T	S	I	V	C	R	V	S	P	E
S	S	E	S	P	O	R	E	S	A
R	E	F	I	R	E	S	A	C	E
O	I	D	O	E	A	N	E	H	A