

# Summer fashions and Bari's Law

Our crack research department, the Googlamaniacs, dedicated hundreds of nanoseconds to gather statistics on laws that need to be written, but for unknown reasons have never been considered by a lawmaking body.



**You can't beat a system you can't understand**

By Sam Bari

We call the list "Bari's Law" because the ordinances, if passed, would make the world a better place to live according to me. The list has many categories so I can resort to it when I am at a loss for something to write, so we will not cover all of them in one column. Instead, we will begin with a timely subject that, if followed, will benefit all. This week's category is summer fashions.

Bari's Law states that people with a waist size greater than the distance from the floor to their navel should be severely punished for wearing revealing bathing attire in a public place. This includes human beings of any age or gender. We might add an addendum to that piece of legislation stating that the wearing of tight clothing by the same group should be similarly penalized.

According to Bari's law, people who are so old that their flesh resembles sagging elephant skin after said pachyderm has gone on

a hunger strike or participated in a severe and unnatural diet program shall not be seen in public when scantily clad. If caught with anything more than their head and hands exposed, they will be incarcerated for the remainder of their days in a facility without windows.

Any men, regardless of age or sexual orientation, whose protruding bellies obstruct their ability to see their toes, will be banned from public beaches for life if they are seen clad in anything bearing the name "Speedo." If they violate the ordinance for the second time, "I am an eyesore" will be permanently tattooed in large garish colors to their foreheads as well as their bellies.

Similarly, women wearing low-riders, hip huggers, hipsters, or whatever you want to call jeans, shorts, or pants that leave

the belly button exposed will be subjected to extreme and unreasonable punishment for wearing such attire in public view if over an inch of pulsating flab hangs over the top of said britches.

Bari's Law will allow local, regional, and national government agencies to award anyone wearing a T-shirt without a printed message, valuable prizes at taxpayer expense for setting a good example of acceptable summer attire.

The idea is to send a message to the delusional masses that nobody cares where they spent their vacation, who their favorite rock star, NASCAR driver or movie star is, who they do business with, or their favorite brand of beer. Above all - nobody cares about their philosophy on life.

Finally, retailers will be substantially fined for selling revealing or tight-fitting clothing to anyone whose BFI (Body Fat Index) is greater than their MMI (Muscle Mass Index). This will help to keep the acceptable attire standard at a reasonable level and encourage a movement to oppose sight pollution.

Bari's Laws are not designed to deny anyone the right to enjoy

summer or any other time of year. However, those who are not disciplined enough to get in shape, or those who have long surpassed the age when their bodies were attractive, should have the decency and consideration for others to "cover it up." It is not an unreasonable request.

I suppose there is a little bit of exhibitionist in all of us, with little regard for our appearance to others. But looking like ten pounds of fat in a five pound bag and flaunting it in public is part of that system I will never understand.

## Summer concert series scheduled

The Rhode Island Historical Society will begin their "Concert under the Elms," 2007 summer series on June 28, at 6 p.m., with a performance by the American Band.

"Concerts under the Elms" are held Thursday evenings through Aug. 9 on the sweeping lawn of the society's historical John Brown House in Providence, located on Benefit Street between Power and Charlesfield Streets. Shaded by a canopy of elms, the John Brown House's broad lawn is a delightful venue for a summer evening's entertainment. Adult admission is \$8 per person, with Rhode Island Historical Society members and children under 12 entering free.

For more information about the concert series, please check the Rhode Island Historical Society's website at [www.rihs.org](http://www.rihs.org), or call 331-8575 ext. 33.

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## History

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lating Massachusetts), so the 1st R.I. Regiment, the Black Regiment, composed of slaves bought with state money at market prices, plus a promise of their freedom if they fought, was formed and they won the Battle of Rhode Island in 1788. When Massachusetts was finally invaded by the British, General Nathanael Green (who went on to be George Washington's best general) arrived with 1,000 Rhode Islanders to defend them.

1790 was our big year; we ratified the Constitution when Moses Brown decided under pressure it was better to have a state that could fight for abolition of slavery, rather than no state at all. James Madison had come to Rhode Island and threatened military dismemberment of Rhode Island if the Constitution was not ratified within 60 days. The Country Party and the abolitionists united and got it done. Moses Brown, a Yankee

Congregationalist turned Quaker, headed up the abolitionists, and Stephen Hopkins was leader of the Country Party. They debated for three days, and then ratified by a vote of 34-32, when three abolitionists failed to show up on the fourth morning.

After ratification, because of Rhode Island's influence, the United States added paper money, a western boundary for the original colonies at the Appalachian Mountains, and a bicameral legislature and the Senate.

In 1790 Samuel Slater, an English technician, built the Slater Mills, with Moses Brown providing the money, thereby starting the Industrial Revolution. Rhode Island became rich as a state, or at least the mill owners got very rich. The textile trade sustained us through the 1920s, despite the Dorr Rebellion in 1842.


The Republicans ran the state politically until 1932, by excluding mill workers from voting through a \$135 property tax qualification for

voting, and malapportionment of the legislature. For example, Hopkinton, with a few residents had three representatives and Providence with 175,000 had four. In 1932 Democrat Theodore Francis Green was elected governor in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt landslide, and in 1935 the Bloodless Revolution straightened us out politically, and gave us a good cabinet-style government, which continues today. The Quinn-O'Hara Race-Track war attracted national attention in 1937. Since 1935 we have been relatively normal, 16 governors, five quite good, the others not worth too much comment, except one convicted and imprisoned. The Irish got to vote sooner because they enlisted and fought alongside the Yankees in the Civil War.

Eventually, over the years, Thomas Wilson Dorr's objectives of terminating the property qualification for voting and malapportionment were eliminated by legislation, and in 1920 women got the right to vote

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