Bagging the knockoffs

A fashion mag declares cultural warfare on counterfeitors

Fighting fakes

To help combat counterfeiting of everything from DVDs to jet engines, Salembier recommends visiting the INTERNATIONAL ANTICOUNTERFEITING COALITION at www.iacc.org and reporting counterfeiting to iaccseleuth@iacc.org.

She also recommends visiting the following sources for more information:


The answer is that it is the youngest children who are employed by the counterfeitors — kids 7, 8 or 9 years old. In the past 15 years, at least in China, the use of child labor by companies has decreased, especially after companies like Nike got caught.

What is the overall cost of knockoff goods?

Globally, the sale of counterfeit goods is a $600 billion industry.

Department stores have had off-the-rack items from designers for years, and it only seems to degrade the status of the brand. What do you say to people who cite that? More people want the collection and, you're right, there is a cachet to owning the real thing. Until consumers really understand what the cash for counterfeit goods funds, there will still be talk of that.

What's the best way to avoid a fake?
The only place a consumer should buy a luxury product is at the brand's store. Anything else would be a fake. You have these people on the corners who call “sales associates” who sell fakes and say they have the “real thing” under the cart. No. Even if it's a $300 Gucci bag, it's just an expensive fake.