

STYLE FILE: JAY BILAS
Sports commentator and lawyer has committed fashion fouls, but now is at the top of his game. **3E**

Style
CAROLINA LIVING

COMING THIS WEEK

fri Charlotte Femme Fest makes its musical debut. **CLT**

sat Buyers are cautious about their green home investments. **Carolina Living**

Test Drive: How do lids handle mineral eye shadow? **2E**

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IF THE SHOE FITS



RACHEL SUTHERLAND

At last – he reveals shopping potential

I was recently reminded why, after 11 years together, my husband and I don't go shopping as a couple.

It started innocently enough: Patrick mentioned he wanted me to go with him to pick out some new basics.

I tried to temper my enthusiasm: Maybe my job was rubbing off on him! Perhaps he'd finally realized the joy that is clothes shopping!

But it didn't take long to realize I had been duped. Our shopping foray was a rerun of trips from our early, young-love days when we were too sweet to tell each other "No." He wasn't going to buy anything.

That is not shopping in my book. Or at least, for our purposes that day, not the kind of shopping I had in mind.

I'm not opposed to browsing, but when I am led to believe we'd be making some wardrobe changes (bless his heart, when we met, Patrick wore Snoopy ties – proudly), all bets are off.

My disappointment manifested itself passionately (read: loudly) in me lecturing Patrick on the merits of square-toed shoes. What was it about that boxed toe that prevented him from realizing the stylish potential?

We both left frustrated, but oddly nostalgic. We rehashed our previous unsuccessful shopping strategies: splitting up at the mall, finding a seat for him inside individual stores, shopping with the children in tow – all failed miserably.

According to my husband, our shopping problem begins before we set foot on the sales floor. He says I am too anxious to buy at any moment, in just about any store.

I say he needs to be more open to a year-round, constantly aware attitude. I have a running mental list of what I'd like to find/update/replace. Any wife or mother will tell you advice from an outside source is always more valued than any that originates from you (even when solicited).

I handed him "Details: Men's Style Manual," and went about my business.

The next thing you know, Mr. I-only-shop-when-my-clothes-are-threadbare is admiring Patek Philippe watches and tentatively asking questions about how to mix prints.

Mission accomplished.

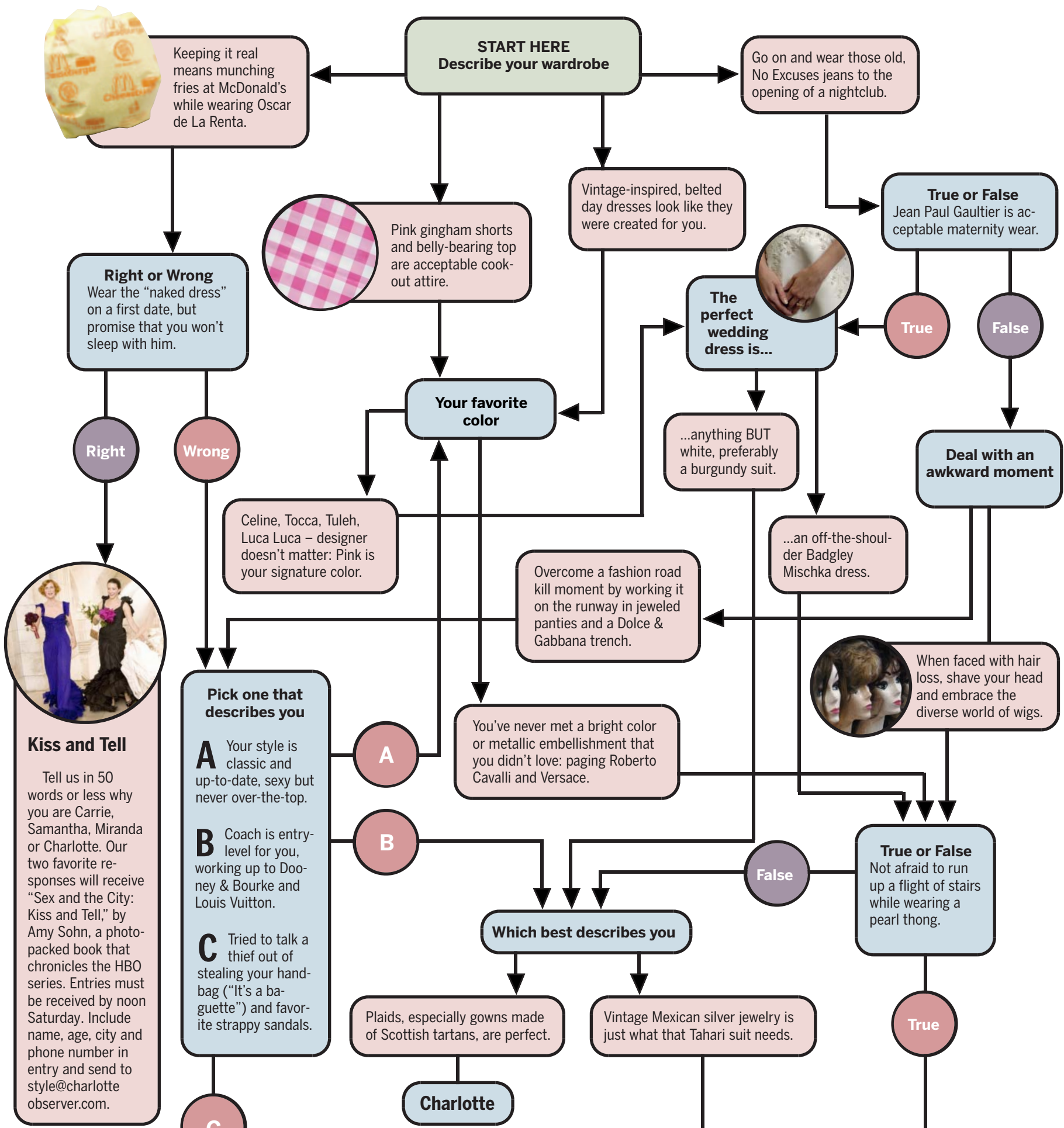
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Are you game?

See which 'Sex and the City' femme fits you best

Fashion's Fab Four is back: Carrie, Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte make their big-screen debut Friday in "Sex and the City: The Movie." The characters talk frankly about being single and having sex, and look fabulous doing so. Some say the fifth character is New York City. But we're honoring the HBO series' real No. 5: the fashions that have launched many a trend. Swing through our game board and find out which character you resemble. — STYLE EDITOR RACHEL SUTHERLAND

IN FRIDAY'S CLT
Read Lawrence Toppman's review of Sex and the City: The Movie.



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