

# Heckel: Going ga ga

## Pregnancy - the new black

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'Tis the season to be pregnant.

The celeb B-list (baby list) is swelling quicker than a pair of third-trimester feet: Julia Roberts, Christina Aguilera, Jennifer Lopez, Halle Berry, Salma Hayek. Approximately 80 percent of my friends, plus my boss and quite possibly my cat are pregnant. (Cat seems inordinately interested when I eat ice cream.) I wouldn't be surprised to hear my brother and father are "with child" somehow.

Pregnant is so the new black. And I'm quite un-hip (read: boring hormone levels) for the season.

Apparently, my mother isn't taking it well. Her first symptoms of Grandmother Jealousy Syndrome started when she "adopted" a student in Africa about a year ago. Then she adopted five. Last week, I found out she had two teenage girls from church living with her.

And recently when I was visiting, I discovered that my mom had turned my old closet into a storage facility for fluffy baby dresses of various sizes — "in case you ever have a baby," she explained.

I took out the red-and-white lacy one and put it on my poodle.

He looked gorgeous.

**For those of us** (so far, I am the only person I know, but there might be one other empty-wombers out there) who are not pregnant, we have the fall 2007 clothing style: extra-long shirts, shirt dresses, leggings, tunics and oversized knit sweaters.

Indeed, you do not have to be pregnant to dress it this year. Which, likewise, means the prego masses are not stuck with maternity lines. Which is great for mothers-to-be and bad for maternity designers, who basically make extra-long shirts, shirt dresses, leggings, tunics and oversized knit sweaters and then charge double (or triple) for them because they bear the word "maternity."

Fall styles notwithstanding, my friend Jamie believes there is no such thing as "maternity fashion." She thinks that is where mom-butt jeans originated.

She also thinks there should be a sign on the entrance of maternity stores that warns: "We are not above exploiting the fact that you feel uncomfortable and disgusting. We have jacked up our prices because we know you have to buy new clothes and have no other option."

Jamie dumped more than \$100 on one pair of adjustable-waisted pants that she will only wear for a few months. Not to mention the \$100 Gap maternity pea coat that she bought, which immediately went from the shopping bag to eBay because she thought it made her look like she was trying to smuggle stolen goods.

She could have just borrowed my leggings and knee-length sweater, a \$20 total purchase from the sale rack at Urban Outfitters.

**Maternity fashion** (assuming that is not an oxymoron — I don't want to make my pregnant friends angry; that's scary) is one thing.

Then there is labor fashion. As in looking and feeling good while you are in the actual process of giving birth.

Carri Grimditch, a 31-year-old Fairview High School graduate, recently launched Binsi Labor and Birth Apparel, which sells skirts and tops designed to "modernize and beautify" the birthing experience.

You can buy Binsi clothes at [www.birthinbinsi.com](http://www.birthinbinsi.com) or at Mama Mama Maternity, 519 Main St., Longmont. And at \$55 for the skirts and \$38 for the tops, they are not the typical maternity price.

Grimditch, who now lives in Berthoud, isn't a fan of hospital gowns. She says the drapy, washed-out blobs of fabric bunch up, feel like wearing paper and flap open in the back if you have to get up and walk around. Plus, hospital gowns are associated with being sick.

"Birth is normal and natural, and you are healthy and active," Grimditch says. "In the pictures of my first birth, I look sick, just wearing a sick person's gown. I don't want that, but wanted something functional that wasn't going to be a hassle."

So before the birth of her second son, who is now 3, Grimditch decided to sew a special skirt and top for the occasion. So many of her friends and patients — Grimditch is also a doula — wanted their own outfit that Grimditch decided to make a business out of it.

In addition to coming in pretty colors, such as pink and purple, the skirts and tops are designed for easy removal and allow a lot of movement. The top snaps on the side and has clasps on the straps, so it can be removed in one piece without having to move the mom. The skirt has a drawstring waist with snaps or buttons down the front.

The drawstring also is decorated with little "blessing beads" that each stand for a specific prayer or blessing. You're supposed to focus on the beads during labor.

Now, I don't know about focusing on anything during labor, but I do believe looking good can make you feel more confident. I also know I'd rather wear pink cotton than hospital paper.

Not like I have any right to make labor-related recommendations. The closest I've been to motherhood is dressing up my male poodle in lacy baby girl dresses.