

A comeback for the mini? Our knees aren't ready

Write an interview type story on the reaction to the return of the mini skirt. But how? Whom do you interview?

Consider the problem. For the past five years we've been getting used to longer skirts, boots, pant suits and designer jeans. Even Twiggy, the matchstick-thin British model on whom the mini was launched, has aged, gained weight, and is now wearing mid-calf-length skirts.

Would Twiggy consider climbing today's corporate ladder with her derriere in full view?

A recent sampling of a fashion ex-

the fashion plate/Rustle Shand

pert and four devotees of designer clothing during a committee meeting for the Detroit Historical Museum Costume Wing was typical of the subjective reaction one gets when asking what people think about the return of the mini.

When they tried on collectors item minis from the 60s which were about to

go to the costume collection, the women said in chorus: "Ghastly."

Even Women's Wear Daily, which is usually first to latch onto a trend, lampooned the mini with a double page photo spread of Joan Kennedy, sister-in-law Jackie O, and sisters Anne Ford Johnson and Charlotte Harris. The piece prompted another chorus of "Ghastly."

But wherever there is a question, there is usually someone willing to venture an opinion. One such person did appear to give the mini skirt question her careful consideration.

Never mind that it happened to be the very same person who was assigned to write the story. After all, if

Edwin Newman can sit in as the critic who critiqued his own book "Strictly Speaking," then strictly speaking, is there any reason the author cannot also be the interviewee?

"I AM conducting an informal survey for The Observer and Eccentric newspaper," the interviewer told her image in the mirror. "Will you tell me for the record what you think about the mini skirt and its return as an item of fashionable apparel?"

Hiking its skirt to survey the reappearance of the knee as a fashion item and sex object, the image grimaced.

"There is no such thing as a sexy knee. There are fat knees, knobby knees, knocked knees and droopy knees, but there are no sexy knees."

"There is no way a woman can gracefully bend over in a mini skirt and no way she can gracefully leave and enter an automobile in a mini

skirt." This comment followed an assortment of physical gyrations designed to confirm its suspicions.

Still, there is a certain amount of nostalgia in remembering the whistles of perfectly strange men who stationed themselves at street corners to watch the show," the image said wistfully.

"However, to wear the mini well," it continued sensibly after inching the skirt well beyond mid-thigh, "one must be almost perfect."

Twisting and turning to view all the angles, the image continued, "One cannot be fat and one cannot be too skinny. One must be tall, but not too tall."

Certainly a short person cannot wear the mini well. It makes her look as if her feet had somehow or other been implanted in four or five inches of cement."

BRUSHING back a few strands of gray hair, it noted somewhat sadly: "The age of the wearer is perhaps most important of all."

"You must be young and energetic and never sit down unless you are pre-

pared to bare the support portion of your panty hose. You must be prepared for the fact that business executives will credit you with having nothing more than a pair of legs to offer the corporate structure."

Sitting down to observe crossed knees, the image reflected, "The test to finally and for all time answer the real question is for women to ask themselves whether or not they dress for men. If they do, then there will be many a mini skirt on the streets by spring."

"However, if the answer is 'no,' then some ready-to-wear firms who have depended too heavily on the return of the mini will go bankrupt as women remind men that they've come a long way since the 60s."

"Personally, I believe we are tired of revivals and will wear what is most becoming to us," said the image as she rose and stood tall in her reflection. "We can always go back to trousers and tell men if they like the mini so much then they can wear the mini themselves."



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