

Nuggets from the Past

By Norman McLeod

Down the memory path

Back in 1980, my wife and I published a local periodical, "Foresthill Divide Community Forum." On its pages, we strove for variety, history, local news and humor.

In one issue - June 6, 1980 - with tongue in cheek, we printed a copy of a catalog photo depicting a young, laughing model in a revealing pose, clad only in lacy bikini panties and bra, reclining on a sofa bed.

Beneath the photo I ran these comments (can't blame this on my wife):

"Hello there! I'm Lacy Lucy, and I'm a woman, as you can see.

"I like lace and the men in my life enjoy me in it. I like it on my underthings, my dresses and my nightgowns. It helps to keep me feminine.

"That's right, I'm a feminine woman. I don't go along with the gals who try to compete with men, to be like men. They weren't born men, they were born women, and the way I see it, women have a special place in this world.

"I'm very glad I was born a woman! That's why I like lace and perfume and moonlight - to keep me feminine - and desirable."

Well, I didn't quite expect the repercussions from this bit of fluff. Some women were offended, while others agreed. Our Letters to the Editor space became filled with responses from women on both sides of the fence. We printed all of them.

Some women were quite clever in funneling their thoughts into poetry. Our regular columnist, who signed herself as just "Max," had this to say in clever verse:

*"Show the man so straight and tall,
As he chops a tree or bats a ball,
But show a woman, no matter where,
And she will be in her underwear.*

*Show the man astride his horse,
Designed to show his male force.
Show the woman in hat and muff ...
The rest of her is in the buff.*

*Show the male so rugged and tough,
The set of his chin must be enough,
But winter, summer, spring or fall,
The distaff side must show it all.*

*Show the man, be he young or old,
He'll be dressed against the cold,
But show the woman, girl or granny,
And there will be a bit of fanny.*

*Miss Lacy Lucy was sent to be a
Shining example of femininity.
Before we rate a male's glance,
Must we strip to our underpants?"*

I think Max's point here is that most males are sexist - and lecherous? And, why not? Our American sub-culture is based on feminine allure and seduction. We see it all the time in our modes of entertainment. Which scenario do you think is the most appealing to men: a photo showing a woman dressed in men's clothing holding up a 15-pound fish, or one of a curvaceous blond clad in a bikini, standing on the end of a diving board?

Personally, as a young male, I was raised to believe that a young woman's body is the most beautiful object in the world - and to be respected as such. Isn't that the best compliment?

Another reader, Ms. Laura Jean Power of Palo Alto, wrote:

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"I am writing this letter in regard to your "Lacy Lucy" article. The picture caught my eye as an advertisement for underwear, but after reading the article I found myself very confused about its purpose. The only point brought out was a sexist opinion toward women, as I see it. I think everyone has the right to their opinions, but the article was tasteless and senseless in a community newspaper. I hope to see a bit more responsible journalism in the future."

Here's a letter from one of our own, Jan Shepherd:

"In glancing through the June 6 edition of your Forum, I read an article about "Lacy Lucy" and I find it hard to believe that you, as the editor, are so desperate for material that you print things like that.

"I can just visualize this "feminine woman" sitting around all day in her lacy whatevers telling herself how terrific she is. You bet we have a place in this world, but how sad it must be for any female to believe that a bunch of lace and perfume is going to make her a real woman and more desirable.

"Lacy Lucy - may the Bird of Paradise tint your tat!"

On our side was this perceptive poem written by a woman who signed herself "Fluffy Flossie" of Foresthill:

*"To me she has a point, this Lacy Lucy,
A gal who's desirable, loveable and juicy.
After looking at all the pros and cons,
She knows which side her bread is buttered on.
Our men work hard to provide for us chicks:
When they come home they deserve their kicks.
In looking at their wives' eyes, mouth 'n stuff,
And seeing pulchritude, lace and lots of fluff.
Life is tough no matter how you pull it.
At some time we all must bite the bullet.
We should try to give some pleasure to our head scout.
After all, isn't that what life is all about?"*

Not to be outdone, our own Katy Berger had this to say:

*"Lacy Lucy did come to the Forum;
Her appearance has caused quite a fuss.
In McCall's or on TV, she'd hardly be noticed,
So what's all the excitement for us?
Some say the lady's exposed and exploited.
There's skin that is showing a plenty.
That I don't look as (WOW!) as she does.
It's because she's a lady of twenty.
Exploited's a charge far from the truth,
Lacy's lying there smiling, a check in her purse.
She's doing this freely.
That's the point of this verse.
If variety's the spice of life,
Norm's hit upon the pepper
He's boiled the pot and stirred us up
And gave all of us a laughter."*

There you have it, end of diversion. Shows what a mischievous editor can do to spice up his newspaper. In the end, I think no one was hurt by it.

(Writer's note: Anyone interested in any old Forums for \$1 each should contact Norman McLeod at 367-2804. They're loaded with photos, history and humor.)

(Editor's note: The opinions are those of the writer, and not necessarily those of The Messenger.)