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Joan Luce is the lucky winner of \$15,000.

She won the money from an Ultramart promotion.

Assistant store manager Tom Spencer presented her with the cheque.

Photo by Steve Somerville

Brisk breeze destroys Scots mystique

The secret of the Loch Ness Monster may still be safe, but readers of newspapers world wide have finally had their wildest fantasies, or fears in the case of the faint of heart, confirmed as to just what is worn under the kilt.

Being of Scots heritage, proudly displaying on the wall my McLeod coat of arms with its yellow, black and red tartan, and 'Hold Fast' motto, I have both told and been told my fair share of 'What's worn beneath the kilt' stories. It goes with the heritage, contributing to the mystique we Scots have always managed to maintain.

But while the kilt and just what it does or doesn't cover up is usually the subject of mirth, wit and oft-times ribald humor, this renowned garment has also been associated with significant military victories throughout the ages. In fact, back in the early 1900's, so feared were the rugged Scots, who went to battle draped in the skirt-like kilts representing their particular clan, that they were dubbed the 'Ladies From Hell' by their trembling enemies.

So when newspapers everywhere recently published an Associated Press photo of a trio of killed soldiers from Britain's famed Black Watch lowering the Union Jack for the final time in Hong Kong, it was truly a momentous revelation indeed. For there with his kilt caught in a sudden updraft, exposing to the world for once and for all just what isn't worn underneath, was this seemingly nonplussed military man resolutely going about his official duties. Unlike Marilyn Monroe when faced with a similar situation over a subway grate, the otherwise occupied soldier was unable to prevent the baring of his backside by quickly dropping his hands to his sides.

For those who have known the secret all along, the whole thing will elicit nothing more than a knowing "I told you so." How else do you explain the fact of

kilt-wearing soldiers through the ages falling victim to a far lesser frequency of



From Where I Live
Bruce Stapley

conditions relating to the wearing of confining pants and undergarments which must go long periods without knowing the luxury of a machine wash? It's true. You can look it up.

Now there are those who might argue the entire thing was staged as a prank by the soldiers as a means of offering a final 'full moon salute' to Hong Kong's new masters. But that's doubtful in that the winds of change can never be counted on to blow at precisely the right moment in that part of the world.

No, what we had here, I believe, was an unintended revelation of one of the best kept and ultimately intriguing secrets the world has ever known. The poor soldier will undoubtedly become the butt end of much razzing at the hands of men in his platoon, as well as from kilt wearers everywhere. He'll be accused of opening up Pandora's Box for all to see, of reducing ages-old speculation to just another known quantity, like when the Americans landed on the moon and disproved the myth about its being made of cheese.

Nope, it's game over as far as the mystery of what lies beneath the kilt is concerned. Stand up comics everywhere will be forced to revise their material, inserting Jag Bhaduria and Preston Manning jokes where they once knocked 'em dead with hilarious tales of kilt capers.

As for we Scots who thrive on the attention derived from such timeless legends, we can only hope Nessie stays in hiding a while longer.



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