



fitting in with new friends

WHAT do you get when you try to stuff a size 10, fully-clothed female into a strapless size zero black spandex tube? A whole lot of moaning, that's what.

The creator's of a girl's best friend, the Hollywood Fashion Tape, has expanded their line to include Hollywood Fashion Shapes: a range of underclothing designed to smooth over all your lumps and bumps to give you a seamless appearance.

So when the Body Shaper (shaping bandeau dress) appeared on my desk promising to help me drop a size, I decided to put it to the test because what woman in her right mind would pass up the opportunity to lose a few kilos without the soul-destroying process of dieting?

Not wanting to take the time to go into the bathroom to undress, I decided to slip the little number on over my clothes while at my work desk.

It was all going smoothly. I had the dress over my head and was ready to start pulling it down my body when disaster struck.

I should have known better, really. Anything with a one-size-fits-all tag is destined for heartache and a sore back. Once the dress was over my head, it bunched up in a tight strangle-hold around my chest and I started to panic as my oxygen supply dwindled.

My colleague Nathanael must have seen the distress in my eyes because he began helping me unravel it – huffing and puffing

as he tried everything short of throwing his leg on to mine to get a better grip in an effort to release me.

Finally, the dress was over my bust ... then over my hips ... and eventually over my bottom. With little adjusting, I stood back to give everyone a better look at the new and improved me.

There I stood, red in the face and in a lather of sweat as I performed a little 360-degree pirouette.

I'm not sure, but judging by my workmates' smirks, the dress-over-clothes look wasn't going to hit fashion magazine headlines any time soon.

If I had tried the dress without clothes, however, I'm sure the results would have been different.

In fact, I'm sure I may have even have been impressed, provided my army was in the dressing room to help me get it on.

– HAYLEY NISSEN

