



ROSWELL ANGIER PHOTO

■ During the 1970s, clubs like The Naked I were commonplace in Boston's Combat Zone.



1978 JOHN GOODMAN PHOTO

■ A streetwalker meets a john along Tremont Street in the 1970s. These images are part of the exhibit "Boston Combat Zone, 1969-1978."



EVERYDAY FEMINIST

DIANNE McDONALD

You, too, can earn a gold medal

The prize for winning the chariot race at the ancient Olympics was ... wait for it ... a woman.

Women were not allowed to participate in the Games until 1900. And from 1896 to 1981 there were no women members of the International Olympic Committee.

This is an Olympic-sized gender gap that, thankfully, dedicated female athletes did something to change. They trained, persevered and assimilated and, in 2008 at the Summer Olympics, more than 42 percent of Beijing's athletes were women — setting a record for women's participation in the Olympic Games.

Watching these talented athletes is awe-inspiring.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely I will ever be an Olympian, especially because I skate on a cranberry bog, haven't skied in 20 years and my run is more appropriately categorized as a stagger-jog.

We all desire to achieve a high level of greatness.

However, it doesn't have to be athletically. That prized Olympian spirit can be found within each one of us women.

We can still capture the passionate drive that Olympians have. We have to push further than you think possible, in every aspect of our lives.

We cannot get that dream job unless we apply ourselves and believe we are capable.

We cannot have a dreamy relationship unless we try.

We cannot achieve our optimal health and fitness goal until we, well, get off our butts and do something about it.

Create your own Dream Team. Your dedication to empowerment and commitment to striving for greatness can be your training.

Your gold medals will be the goals that you reach.

Dianne McDonald is a working mother who lives in Marshfield with her husband and five kids.

TALK TO US

■ To submit a column, 400 words or less, e-mail us at womynzone@ledger.com.

THE naked TRUTH

She saw the light in the dark underbelly of Boston

By **LUCY WIGHTMAN**
FOR THE PATRIOT LEDGER

The Naked I Cabaret's disembodied neon legs run like a hurried clock outside the Howard Yezerski Gallery on Harrison Avenue in Boston.

The Combat Zone's signature sign doesn't belong there and is out of time and place. It is as jarring and disconcerting as some of the images inside, where three very accomplished male photographers display their captured impressions of that lost, legendary corner of the city.

The work of Roswell Angier, Jerry Berndt and John Goodman flows together in an exhibit title, "Boston Combat Zone 1969-1978." The frames offer unrelenting lonely moments, untamed and grimy, of a world and time I knew well.

I began working in the Combat Zone, a downtown adult entertainment district, in 1976. My mind's eye camera never saw that kind of tragedy. My view from inside the Naked I saw a very different story.

I was a 17-year-old refugee from my social register Connecticut family. I had already found comfort in a commune and adventures on the road with Quincy lawyer Ed Webby, when I responded to a classified ad in the Boston Phoenix for "exotic dancers." Wearing jeans, a peasant shirt and Birkenstocks, I found the Anne Diamond Theatrical Agency, situated on the edge of the Combat Zone.

Ms. Diamond glanced at my application and then glared at me over her glasses while fiddling with



PHOTO BY JERRY BERNDT

■ Streetwalkers stand on Tremont Street in Boston. The photo is part of the "Boston Combat Zone 1969-1978" exhibit at the Howard Yezerski Gallery in Boston.

the cassette player on her desk. I began dancing barefoot on a piece of plywood as she evaluated my potential as a stripper.

"I don't want any trouble making a living," said Diamond, through plumes of smoke. "This is all I got. You hear that? I will never exist for the sake of a man. I make a living trusting you know you are a woman. So show me what you know and you got the job."

That same autumn afternoon, Anne Diamond, "theatrical agent", sent me through the protective double doors of the Naked I Cabaret at 666 Washington St. in Boston.

Over the next decade, the Naked I became a colorful cult phenomena. Patrons included the likes of Robert Parker, Jerzy Kosinski, Allen Ginsberg, Caroline Kennedy and Andy Kaufman. Lesser-known customers were often just as interesting.

As dancers we entertained by

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This 1978 photo by Carole Hollander shows the author as "Princess Cheyenne."



ON THE WEB

■ To see more of what women on the South Shore are thinking and talking about, go to tinyurl.com/womynzone

WINDOW DRESSING ■ By VALERIE A. RUSSO/ For The Patriot Ledger



◀ **EYE RELAX:** Enhance savasana at the end of your yoga practice with an eye pillow filled with organic flaxseed and aromatic lavender buds.

Made by Donna Wingate, owner of The Yoga Studio in Mattapoisett, the 9-inch-by-4-inch cotton eye pillows can be used at room temperature, cooled in the freezer or warmed in a microwave oven. They are available in several colorful patterns for \$16 each at Sail Away Studio, 251 Main St., Wareham. 508-291-4144.

▶ **PALM PRINT:** This cosmetic bag from Full Swing Textiles in Duxbury has a big bottom, so it won't fall over and spill its contents when unzipped. The lining is heavy waterproof nylon; the exterior is a cotton/linen blend — the same fabric used for drapes in "Shutter Island," the new Martin Scorsese film starring Leonardo DiCaprio. The machine washable Big Bootie cosmetic bag (\$29) can be ordered from the online fabric and accessories boutique FullSwingTextiles.com. Zippered tote bags in the same tropical palm print will be available in April.



◀ **I LOVE LUCY:** Shape up in style with fitness apparel and accessories from Lucy Activewear at Legacy Place, 950 Providence Highway, Dedham. 781-329-3085.

For Pilates, yoga and gym workouts, try the new Perfect Core Racerback Tank, featuring a mesh shelf bra with molded cups (\$64), and the Perfect Core Pant, available in three lengths (\$98).

Featuring mesh panels to support the core and ultra-compressive fabric to smooth and shape problem areas, both pieces are available in black and blue and sizes XS to XL.

▶ **HEADLINER:** This handmade stretch grosgrain headband with a sequin bow is one of the Ban.do hair ornaments worn by Grammy winner Taylor Swift. Available in several color combinations, the "C" headbands with bows are \$34.99 each at TraTutti.com, an online boutique that donates 20 percent of profits to Boston-area charities.



Come across any products for women that we should know about? Contact Valerie A. Russo for e-mail: varusso@earthlink.net. Please put "Window Dressing" in the subject line.