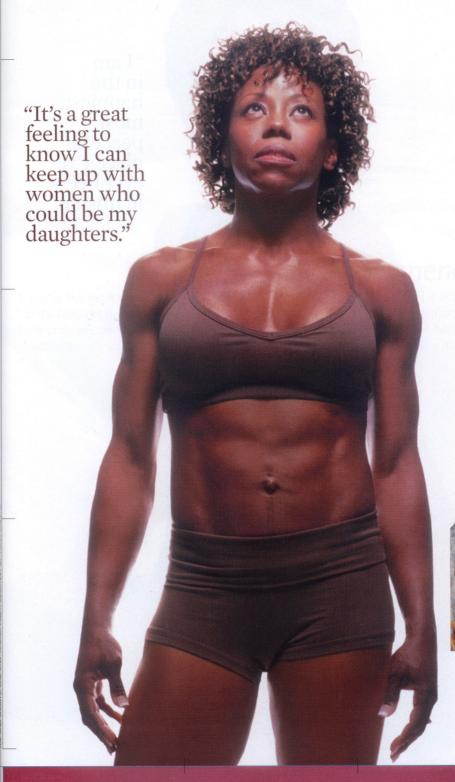


BODY ACCEPTANCE—AT LAST

SOON AFTER TURNING 40. THESE WOMEN LEARNED HOW TO WEIGH WHAT REALLY MATTERED. (HINT: IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH A SCALE)

O O AS TOLD TO BARI NAN COHEN

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SHAY PERETZ



The New Feminine

TRINA WIGGINS 46 PEDIATRICIAN, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

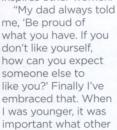
"In high school and college I never wore anything sleeveless. I was a competitive gymnast, but in the 1970s and 1980s my toned, athletic look was not considered attractive. Around more feminine women. I felt intimidated.

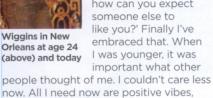
"When I met my husband in medical school, I was still of the mind-set that my body was not right. Sometimes people made comments, and I was very sensitive to them.

"I stayed in shape through my twenties and thirties, and I had twins at 33. When they were two months old, I would put my stationary bike next to the bed, feed one a bottle of breast milk and breastfeed the other while I rode the bike.

"Then, when I was 40, my sister encouraged me to enter an aerobics competition—a contest where you do a choreographed routine, make a speech and model an evening gown. I signed up for the 40-and-over division, but during warm-ups one of the organizers asked me to compete in the open division instead. I went for it, and I won. I'm

still competing. The average age of the competitors is 28 or 29, so it's rewarding. It motivates me-and inspires other women.





positive energy." ->