

**Pastor Kathy Tackett
The City Church, Portland**

*Openly Gay & Diversified
All Sexual Orientations & Gender Expressions Welcome
Services: Sunday 10:45am*

503-775-5024
available for commitment ceremonies

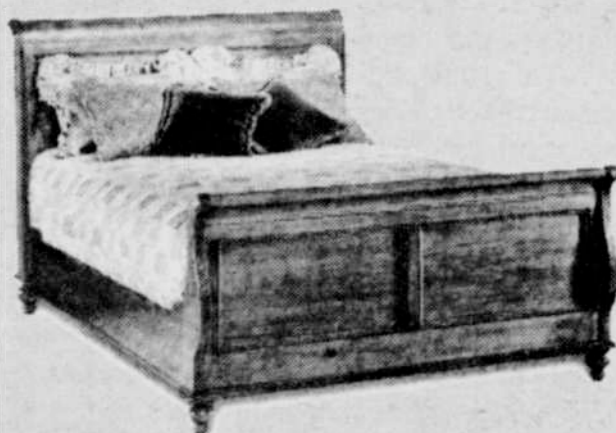
KAREN M. SWEIGERT, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology



Phone
503 274-9936
Fax
503 274-2660

Cascade Women's Health, PC

1130 N.W. 22nd, Suite 320, Portland, OR 97210



**CRAFTSMANSHIP,
TRADITION,
THE WARMTH OF
SOLID CHERRY**

Now on sale!

BRUNKE
FURNITURE
since 1946

5234 NE Sandy Blvd
(503) 287-6331



Lip Balm

Ladylicious Flavors

Aureola Apricot

Chocolate Nipple Ripple

Clitoris Citrus

Don't Need No MANGO

Labia Lemon

MuffBerry

Nice Melons!

Plain Ol' Prude

Shaved Peach

Strawberry Snatch

TaTa Tangerine

Vanilla Vulva

DAFRIDGE.COM

Dear
J.R.S.... I can
explain...



I spent it all at



Unique Shopping Experience

Shop, Dine and Play
at Orenco Station.
First Stop August Gardens!

Call 503-640-5833

Mon-Fri 11-6pm • Sat 11-5pm • Sun in Dec 12-4pm
6175 NE Cornell Rd • Hillsboro, OR • 97124
Just 2 blocks from Orenco Station Max Stop

Speak Out

Saddam and Gomorrah

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the decision by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to join a coalition opposed to the prospective war against Saddam Hussein: It is hard to take seriously a claim of patriotism by people who habitually blame the United States for everything.

Executive director Lorri Jean displays her partisan motivation when she makes President Bush sound like a greater threat to this country than a man who has used poison gas against his own citizens and who governs by terror and harbors terrorists. While I share some of her concerns about civil liberties, NGLTF's history of anti-American double standards gives it no credibility as a messenger.

An organization that decries racism while excluding people from meetings based on race makes a mockery of the progressive label. There is nothing progressive about a dogmatic refusal to acknowledge that there are criminals and madmen in the world who will not be deterred by appeasement and who must be fought if our freedoms are to be protected.

Saddam has violated 16 U.N. resolutions and responded to the latest one with a blanket denial believed by no one. In an effort to wrap his crimes in religion, he has built many mosques, including the Mother of All Battles Mosque with minarets shaped like Scud missiles and a Koran written in ink made from his own blood. This is not a man who can be reasoned with.

It is revealing that NGLTF cites the boundlessly naive Jimmy Carter, who has seldom met a brutal dictator he didn't like and who was much harder on our closest Middle East ally, Israel, than he was on her anti-democratic enemies. I respect and admire his humanitarian

efforts around the world, but his judgment on foreign policy is about as sound as Neville Chamberlain's.

In case the folks at NGLTF haven't noticed, the world has spent the past decade exhausting every peaceful recourse. As to what America is all about, I would remind the members of this foolish coalition that this country was founded by people who had to fight for their liberty and, in the words of the last stanza of our national anthem, stood "between their loved homes and the war's desolation." There is a price for liberty that these folks refuse even to understand, much less pay.

As was the case 12 years ago, most gay Americans appear to agree with the vast majority of their fellow citizens in supporting the president's position against Iraq. If there is any gay angle to the war facing us, surely it is that the removal of Saddam, which is not about to happen by peaceful means, would be the best thing that could happen to gay people in that part of the world. As the Stonewall rioters demonstrated 33 years ago, sometimes you have to fight back—and, contrary to the perpetually alienated among us, gays are citizens, too.

RICHARD J. ROSENDALL
Washington, D.C.

Private parts

TO THE EDITOR:

Does it concern anyone else the cost we are paying for safety?

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the reaction to terrorism has cost the American public not just our budget surplus and an increase in defense spending but the loss of cherished personal privacy and civil rights that many find dear. With the Bush blueprint for national security, and the ter-

transitions



**Herb Ritts,
1952-2002**

Celebrity photographer Herb Ritts died of complications from pneumonia Dec. 26 in Los Angeles. He was 50.

He was born in Los Angeles in 1952. In 1970, he left California to study economics at Bard College.

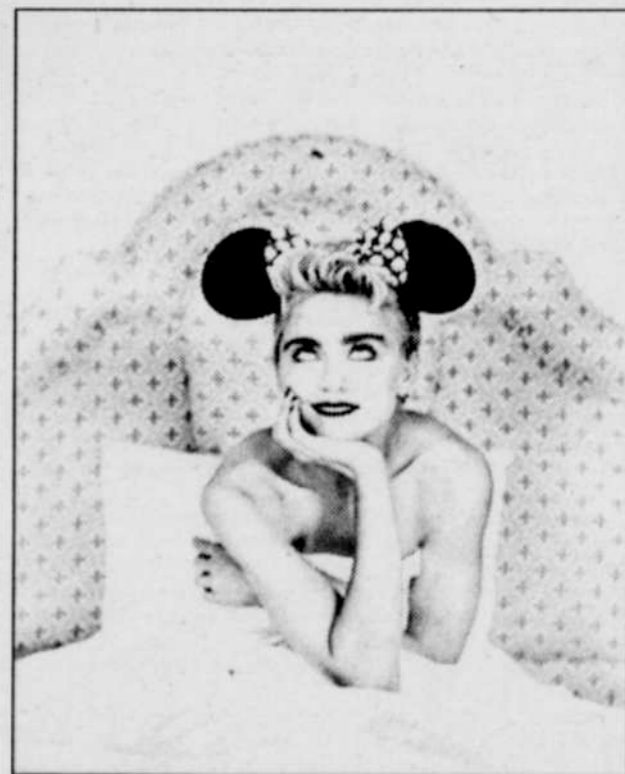
Ritts later returned to West Hollywood and worked for the family business selling rattan furniture, often to movie sets. This job allowed him to travel and to pursue one of his interests, photographing his friends.

Ritts' hobby soon became a self-taught career. His first success as a photographer came in 1978 on the set of *The Champ*. He quickly

posed actors Jon Voight and Ricky Schroeder and snapped a shot that was published in *Newsweek*. But it would be the raw sensuality and tender machismo captured in the photograph of young Richard Gere—rising star of 1980's *American Gigolo*—that launched his career.

Ritts later moved from fashion shoots for *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue* and *Elle* to album covers and music videos for Madonna, Elton John and Cher. Two of his creations—Janet Jackson's "Love Will Never Do (Without You)" and Chris Isaak's "Wicked Game"—won MTV awards in 1991.

Ritts is survived by his partner, entertainment attorney Erik Hyman; brother, Rory; sister, Christy Thrasher; and mother, Shirley.



Madonna mugs in 1987

PHOTO BY HERB RITTS