

ROCK CLIMBING. PARASAILING.  
SWIMMING WITH STINGRAYS.  
NOT PAYING A LOT.  
ALL THINGS YOU NEVER EXPECTED ON A CRUISE.

Cruise the Caribbean with Doug's Group.  
Set sail November 15, 2003 roundtrip from New Orleans on a 7 night  
Western Caribbean Cruise starting at \$880. Including Airfare from Charlotte.

Come Join Charlotte's Gay community for a great fall getaway!



Like no vacation on earth.\*

\*Prices are per person, double occupancy, cruise and airfare from Charlotte. Government taxes and fees are included. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars. Price is based on interior stateroom and space is limited. Oceanview and Balcony staterooms also available at additional charge.

©2002 Royal Caribbean Cruises LTD. Ships registered in Norway and the Bahamas.

CALL BETH TODAY AT 704-532-9991

## Candidate Kerry criticized for support of DADT

*Historically supportive of gay rights, Presidential candidate, Sen. John Kerry still says gay Don't Ask, Don't Tell military ban "Could work"*

by Nathaniel Frank  
Center for Study of Sexual Minorities

SANTA BARBARA, CA. — A Military Scholar who studies the US military's ban on openly gay soldiers raised concern recently over remarks by a leading Democratic presidential contender, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, about the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Harass, Don't Pursue" policy. In an interview with *In Los Angeles* magazine, Sen. Kerry expressed opposition to the policy on gay soldiers, but stopped short of a promise to work to end the ban if he were elected President.

When asked if he would "challenge" the policy, he said, "you can't do it right now because it's an Administrative issue, an executive issue." He also said the ban "could work if it's applied properly — they're simply not following the policy." When asked if he would

"act to eradicate the policy," he said he would "take steps to try to guarantee that we have fair access to service in the military for everybody in America with no holds barred."

Dr. Aaron Belkin, Director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, questioned the meaning of Sen. Kerry's assertion that the ban could work if it were "applied properly." He said that whether the ban "could work" depends on what the goals of the ban are. "What it has clearly worked to do," he said, "is to swell the number of discharges and encourage anti-gay harassment by discouraging victims from speaking out for fear of reprisals." In some instances, a report of harassment has prompted an investigation into the victim's sexual orientation instead of the behavior of the accused.

Belkin disputed Sen. Kerry's contention that the gay ban was an administrative issue. He explained that the current policy, implemented in 1994, was passed by Congress and

see **KERRY** on 26

## Gen. Clark declines invitation to AVER conference

*Convention honored by attendance of murdered PFC's parents*

SAN ANTONIO, TX — Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark, President George W. Bush's controversial nominee to command the Fifth United States Army, has declined an invitation to attend an April conference organized by American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER).

President Bush recently re-nominated Maj. Gen. Clark for promotion to Lieutenant General, the Army's second highest rank. His nomination had been derailed by the Senate Armed Services Committee in 2002.

Maj. Gen. Clark, former commanding general of Fort Campbell, KY, where Pfc. Barry Winchell was murdered in 1999 by fellow soldiers who believed Winchell was gay. Winchell endured constant anti-gay harassment leading up to his murder and reported the harassment to Maj. Gen. Clark's Inspector General, who failed to act.

Pfc. Winchell's parents, Patricia and Wally Kutteles attended the conference. Other guests included Rep. Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX) and representatives from Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military and the Human Rights Campaign.

In a letter to AVER, Capt. Matthew R. Moore of the Fifth US Army noted Maj. Gen. Clark "will be happy to meet with [AVER] at a later date when his schedule permits."

"Maj. Gen. Clark has a long record of silence regarding the anti-gay environment so prevalent in our armed forces," said Lt. Col. Nancy Russell, USA Ret., AVER's conference organizer.

"AVER has offered a unique opportunity for Maj. Gen. Clark to denounce anti-gay prejudice and to clarify his stance regarding the service and safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military personnel. We fully expect that he will keep his word and meet with us soon."

info: [www.aver.us](http://www.aver.us)

## LASER HAIR REMOVAL

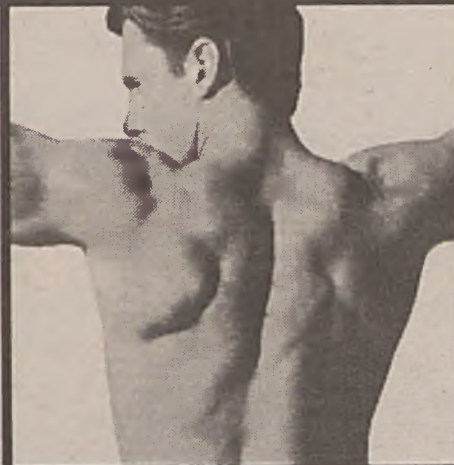
**BUY 1,  
GET 1 FREE!**

Purchase a treatment package for any body area and add an additional area of equal or lesser value for **FREE!**

Women: Treat legs and add bikini or underarms Free!

Men: Treat back and add chest or neck Free!

Expires 4/30/03



**REMOVE IT...JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER!**

*Experience smooth, hair-free skin...Sōna Smooth*

- Sōna treats all skin types and hair colors including white, grey, and blonde hair
- Medically Supervised
- For men and women
- Safe and affordable
- Effective on all areas of the body
- Lasting Results



(704) 364-3600  
[www.sonalasercenters.com](http://www.sonalasercenters.com)

309 S. Sharon Amity Rd., Suite 202  
Cotsworld Plaza II - Charlotte, NC 28211  
Open Monday - Saturday  
Evening Hours Available

**sōna**  
laser center  
Laser Hair Removal Specialists

**Connie J. Vetter**  
Attorney and Counsellor at Law

LGBT Legal Services  
including  
Mediation for Break-ups,  
Property Division, etc.



704-567-5530