

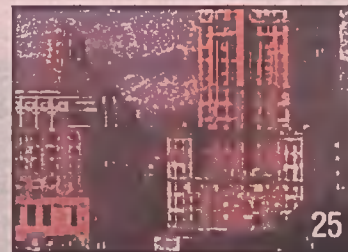
Celebrate diversity! Celebrate your life!

north & south CAROLINA

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If a ban was lifted on gays in the military and you were required to enlist, would you?

. yes . no

Next Issue: Valentine's Day Same-Sex Marriage

For Black History Month: Today's celebrated LGBT African-Americans

LGBT African-Americans active in pop culture, literature and politics

by Donald Miller

Throughout the month of February, Americans will celebrate Black History Month. In recognition of the contributions by LGBT African-Americans made to our culture at large, Q-Notes is proud to profile these select individuals.

Keith Boykin

Keith Boykin is a former White House aide to President Clinton and a *New York Times* bestselling author of three books. Born (Aug. 28, 1965) and raised in St. Louis, Mo., Boykin attended Countryside High School in Clearwater, Fla., before attending Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School.

After graduating from Dartmouth in 1987, Boykin spent a year and a half working for the Mike Dukakis for President Campaign and then entered Harvard Law School, where he was a leader in the campus diversity movement and general editor of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. He received his J.D.

from Harvard in 1992 and then joined the Clinton/Gore Campaign in Little Rock, Ark. After Bill Clinton's election, Boykin became a special assistant to the president and director of specialty media. Once the highest-ranking openly gay person in the Clinton White House, Boykin helped to organize and participated in the nation's first

meeting between gay and lesbian leaders and a U.S. president.

Boykin left the White House to



write his first book, "One More River to Cross: Black and Gay in



America," published in 1996. His second book, "Respecting the Soul," was published in 1999.

In 1997, President Clinton appointed Boykin to the U.S. presidential trade delegation to Zimbabwe, along with Rev. Jesse Jackson, Coretta Scott King and Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater. From 1999 to 2001, Boykin taught political science at American University in Washington, D.C.

Boykin's most recent book, "Beyond the Down Low: Sex, Lies and Denial in Black America," was released in Feb. 2005. Since Jan. 2004, Boykin has served as president of the board of the National Black Justice Coalition, a Washington-based civil rights organization dedicated to fighting racism and homophobia. Boykin lives in New York with his partner Nathan Hale Williams. He writes daily commentary on his website, www.keithboykin.com.

Angela Davis

Angela Davis, for many years, was thought of as specifically an African-American radical activist

see **CELEBRATING** on 12

Celebrating 30 years

St. John's MCC — one of the nation's oldest Metropolitan Community Churches — is in Raleigh, N.C.

by Mark Smith

Raleigh's St. John's Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) has the distinction of being one of the oldest churches in the denomination. Beginning Feb. 17, the church will offer a weekend-long series of events designed to celebrate 30 years in the business of teaching inclusive Christianity, which makes room for all in the LGBT community and more.

"I can't be any more proud of this community than I am," says St. John's MCC's Rev. Belva Boone. "In 30 years we've been here, there are still people that come through the door that didn't know we were here. As part of our 30th anniversary, I want to make sure St. John's MCC is no longer the best kept secret in Raleigh. I'm just so excited that the people are excited about what God has done here and what's going to happen in the future."

Boone came to St. John's in July of 2001, after working for an MCC church in Washington, D.C.. see **MCC** on 19



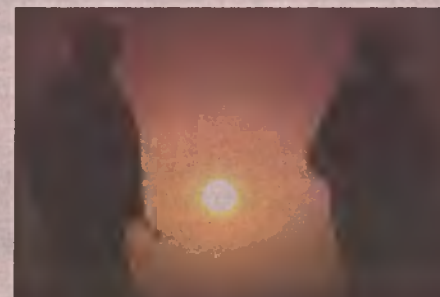
Belva Boone: 'I can't be any more proud of this community than I am.'

A soldier's story

Love and war

Editor's Note: These are the thoughts of a gay soldier — a North Carolina native — who has been deployed to Iraq. Because of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, he must remain anonymous.

Most people would laugh at this title, but relationships really can be like love and war. You can think the sweetest of thoughts and have great times with your partner, then fight tooth and nail over some trivial subject, argue, not speak, sleep in other rooms, all of which I have done, then to only to be sweet again.



I would say that my relationship has had both, lots of love and some war. The war part of the relationship seems insignificant when I think about the support my partner has given me during my military career and in our lives together as a couple.

We met a little over two years ago. We both hesitated over each other, because there was a lot of war (baggage) in our past relationships. When we got over ourselves and finally realized that love could conquer the past (wars) in one's life and relationships, see **SOLDIER'S** on 22