

**3rd
Place**

**FAU AIDS COMMITTEE
2009 WORLD AIDS DAY**

**STUDENT LITERARY
EXPRESSIONS COMPETITION**

No Barriers

by: Lester Leavitt

The words from my past ring loud in my ears.
Mormon, the Bible, extremist, Christianist.

Gay.

Questions, yet more words ring loud in my ears.
Fourteen years old, small town, backwards school.

Barriers.

Still no answers, nobody must know.
Traditions, parents, gossip, embarrassment,

Rejection.

"Us" against "them." God against science.
Be strong. Have faith. Resist. Carnal flesh.

Trust God?

Married. Four children. No answers. Still gay.
Reject god. Reject church. Reject family.

No barriers.

Anger. Out of control. Taking risks.
Searching, finding, losing, still searching.

Lost.

Men like me. Friends? More men like me. Sex!
Forty six years old. Scarred. Wounded.

HIV?

Discover trust. Find knowledge. Seek help.
Friend. Lover. Partner. Husband.

Boundaries.