

# 2012MCC Creative Writing Contest

## Nonfiction Category

First Place “In Favor of Same Sex Marriage,” by William Cromwell

As a gay male I am often posed with the question “Why is gay marriage and equality such a huge issue, and what does it have to do with who is president of the United States?” Marriage is a religious issue and not a rights issue. After being asked this so many times it seems like it wouldn't be so hard to answer, but I always have to sit back and think to myself what I need to say to get my points across. I always go into a kind of an outline in my mind and first, talk about the party the president belongs to and the stance of equality from both of the major parties: democrats vs. republicans. Next is the government benefits of marriage, and then there are religious points.

The thing to start off with is that when there is a democrat or liberal president, GLBT persons have a better chance of progression to obtain equality protection just like every other minority group of people such as women, African Americans, people with mental illness or handicaps and so on. Whereas if the president is republican or conservative, who often bring their religious beliefs to office with them, that president is more like to block bills or amendments that will include GLBT people in equality laws.

Married couples are allowed to make medical decisions should their spouse become unable to make the decision for themselves. They are also allowed spousal insurance, and to jointly file taxes to their benefit. This is discrimination against GLBT people as a result of not being legally recognized as spouses. To bring it into light, my partner and I have been together for eighteen years, in most states if something were to happen, I would not be allowed to know what is going on with him if something should happen, unless I have a power of attorney in place. Also, if I were to become unemployed, instead of being able to be allowed to be on his

goes with the first amendment of the constitution, which intended to be a barrier to separate church and state.

## **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**