



The OUTRider

A Newsletter from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Student Resource Center

Profiling Community Supporters

by: Holly Swanson



Mayor Bill Welch

Penn State has grown during the past few decades in both size and demographics. In keeping pace with that growth, the greater University community has developed accordingly. One of the most obvious trends of this progress is in the diversity of the population and the support of this evolving community. A growing number of diversity supporters continue to emerge. Among them is State College Mayor and Penn State graduate Bill Welch.

As a lifelong resident of State College, Bill has seen his share of changes to Penn State. When he enrolled in the University in 1959, Beaver Stadium (then known simply as Beaver Field) seated only a few thousand spectators. The HUB, now an on-campus focal point serving more than 25,000 people a day, was just being built to allow a capacity of 800 occupants. In the early 1960s, a small handful of diversity-related student associations existed, mostly in the form of minority Greek organizations. Today, there are well over fifty multicultural student groups, ranging from Allies to the Vietnamese Student Association.

After graduating in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in arts and letters, Bill joined the *Centre Daily Times* as a reporter. He worked his way up through the paper until he was named executive editor in 1980.

Combining his lifelong love of stamp collecting with writing, Bill left the *CDT* in 1985 to become editor of both *The American Philatelist*, a monthly magazine published by the State College-based American Philatelic Society, and *Philatelic Literature Review*, the American Philatelic Research Library's quarterly journal. Under his editorial supervision, the

publications were honored with international awards, including a gold medal at the CAPEX World Philatelic Exhibition in Toronto in 1996. Bill is a Fellow of the

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The Book That Should Be Visible on Everyone's Bookshelf

by: Crystal Andrews

I'm a book aficionado and will read almost anything (except those incredibly *cheesy* romance novels), but last winter break I was discussing with my mother and my best friend how bored I was with the books I usually read. Then I noticed E. Lynn Harris' *Invisible Life* on my mother's bookshelf and asked what the story was about. Well, I opened a floodgate when I did that. She and my best friend talked non-stop about how good the book was and then my mother practically screams, "and can you believe how he came out or how dumb his boyfriend is?"

My jaw dropped about a foot and I lost all control over the plates in my hand and they shattered on the floor, I was that shocked. Was this my mother talking about a gay book? Sure, my mother

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E. Lynn Harris

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